



BUSTLE & SEW
LOVE TO SEW AND SEW WITH LOVE



Comfortable Cushion



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I love the current trend for combining colourful florals with distinctive text. It's most usually seen in hand embroidery, but I thought it would be fun to try a different approach by scaling up my design and combining it with some freestyle machine applique using cheerful coloured felt, and just a little simple hand stitching.

British readers of a certain age will recognise the text from "Listen with Mother!" It's embroidered in split stitch whilst the floral garland uses chain stitch and French knots.

Cover fits 16" square pad



Materials

- ½ yard taupe gingham medium weight cotton fabric (mine was from Clarke and Clarke)
- Whole skein black stranded embroidery floss, as well as dark purple, red, light green and dark brown
- Felt in assorted greens and colours of your choice for flowers and berries. I used a light, medium and dark green, then terracotta, gold, pale yellow, cerise, pale pink and turquoise colours
- Bondaweb/temporary fabric adhesive spray
- Embroidery foot for your sewing machine.
- Cream and dusty green sewing thread
- Temporary fabric marker pen



Method

- From your gingham fabric cut one 16" square and two 12" x 16" rectangles. Put the rectangles to one side for the moment. (I always make my covers the exact size of the pad - they are a little snug to begin with, but as the cushion is used and the filling compacts, they end up fitting perfectly and the cushion holds its shape much better too).
- Transfer the text to this square, positioning it centrally vertically and with the top of the "A" 3" down from the top edge.
- Work the text. Outline in back stitch then fill with split stitch using 3 strands of floss. Black floss is very forgiving as you can't see the individual stitches very well, however do try to follow the shapes and curves of the letters with your stitching.
- Press your work lightly on the reverse.
- Using the reversed template, trace the flower and larger leaf shapes onto the paper side of your Bondaweb. You can also do this with the smaller leaf shapes, however I simply cut pointy ovals freehand and used spray adhesive to keep them in place while stitching - I found Bondaweb a bit fiddly for this - it's just a matter of choice though.
- Using the template as a guide position the shapes for the flower and leaf cluster, positioning the top flower approx 1 ½" below the "o" in comfortable. (1) Work from the bottom upwards - so start with the turquoise leaves, then the yellow flower, oak leaf, pink flower and finally the reddish brown flower. Don't fuse the shapes into place until you're totally happy with their positioning. Be sure to protect the felt from your hot iron with a cloth when fusing.

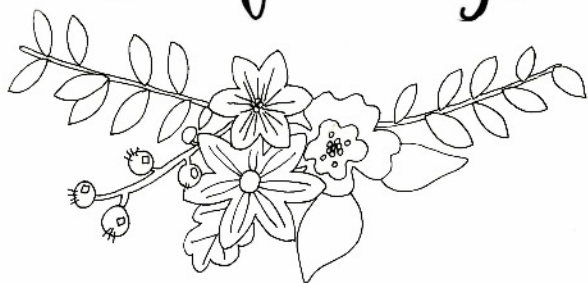
- Draw in the lines for your stems with your temporary fabric marker pen. They are just simple curves. Then position your leaves and pink berries along the lines. Just randomly mix the greens for the leaves. Again fuse into place.
- Fit the embroidery foot to your sewing machine and drop the feed dogs.
- With dusty green thread in your needle and a paler colour in your bobbin machine stitch around the edges of the felt shapes. Go around twice - don't be too neat, you're aiming for a sort of scribbled effect. If you're confident work the veins on the leaves (3) by machine too.
- Now embroider the hand stitched details (4)
- Add details using all six strands of floss as follows:
 - ❑ Reddish brown flower has closely worked radiating long straight stitches in red floss, with a cluster of French knots in dark purple at the centre.
 - ❑ Pink flower has two long straight stitches in red floss down the centre of each petal.
 - ❑ Yellow flower has a cluster of purple French knots at the centre
- Add details using three strands of floss as follows:
 - ❑ Pale pink berries have three or four straight stitches in dark brown floss at the top ends. Then a few purple stitches.
 - ❑ Stems are worked in chain stitch using dark brown floss.
 - ❑ Veins on oak leaf are long straight stitches in green floss.
- When your embroidery is finished press lightly on the reverse. Now make up the cushion cover.
- Turn over and hem one long edge on each of your rectangular pieces. This will form the two back parts of a simple envelope closure.
- Place your front panel right side up on a clean flat surface. Place the two back panels on top, right sides down aligning side edges so they overlap at the centre. Pin or baste.
- Machine around the edge of your cushion using a ½" seam allowance. (I usually go around twice for added strength and durability). Zig-zag, serge or cut raw edges with pinking shears.
- Turn right side out. Insert cushion pad and relax!

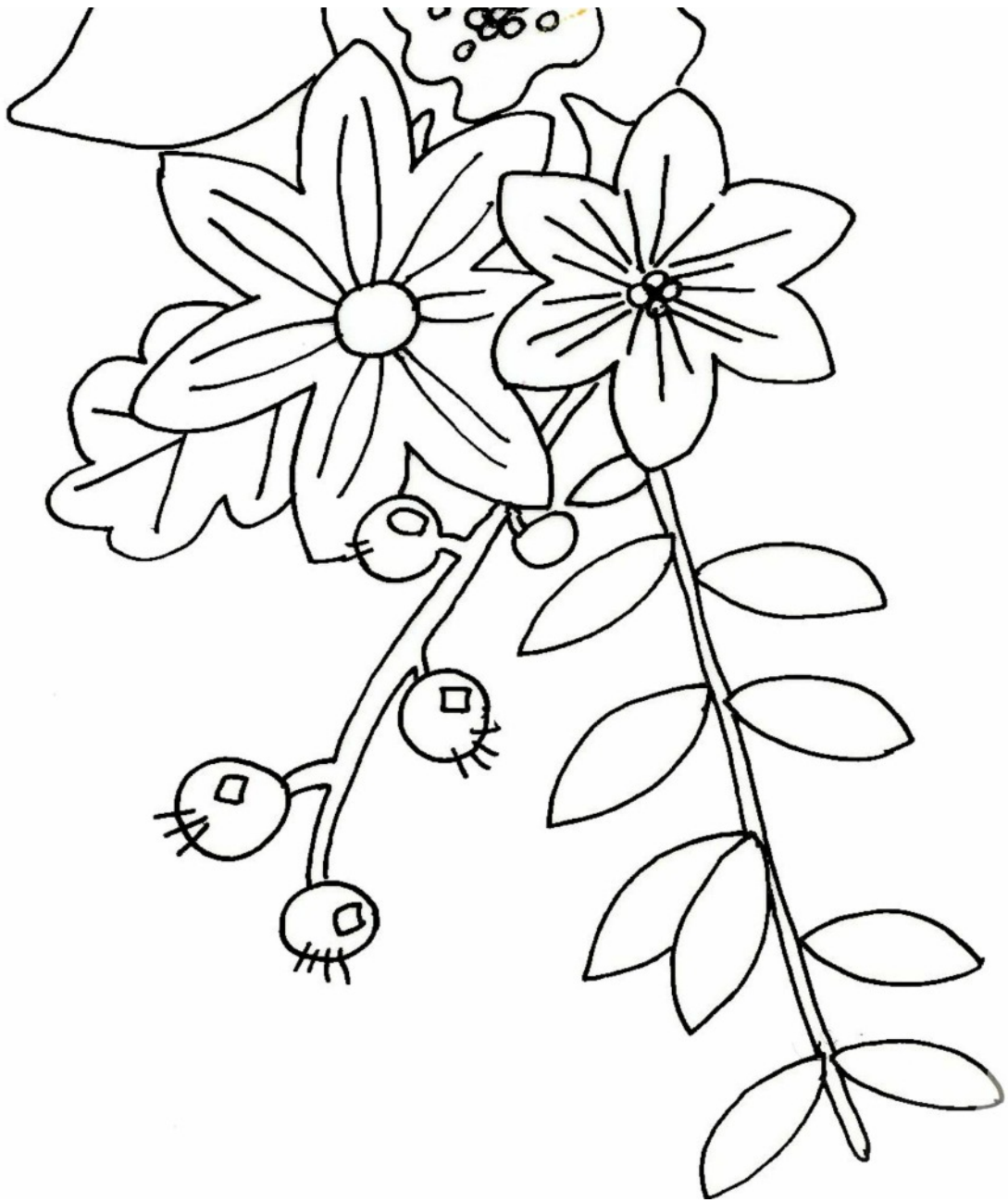


Comfortable Cushion Template

Text is full size and also reversed to suit your preferred method of transfer. The flowers are reversed to trace onto the paper side of your Bondaweb. The small picture is for ease of reference when joining your templates together.

*Are you sitting
Comfortably?*





Are you
sitting
Comfort
ably?

Are you
permitted
to perform
this?



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Why do we love to stitch? After all you can purchase mass-produced textile items at many high streets stores for very little cost. These days handmade means something special - a unique item created with love, a gift from the heart, not one that can be bought. Hand stitching is also a great way to personalise an item, or perhaps to breathe new life into an old favourite that has seen better days.

[Bustle & Sew](#) offers my own unique patterns, designed to appeal to all skill levels and bring out all your natural creativity. And you can keep up to date with all the latest news from Devon where I live as well as the newest patterns and much more over on the [Bustle & Sew Blog](#).



PS If you love stitching, then you're sure to enjoy my Bustle & Sew Magazine. It's delivered by email to your in-box each month and is crammed full of ideas, projects, features, articles, patterns and more to inspire you. Your family and friends will soon be queuing up to take delivery of your new Bustle & Sew creations. To learn more please visit the [Bustle & Sew website](#).

Helen xx



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