



BUSTLE & SEW
LOVE TO SEW AND SEW WITH LOVE



Geometric Bear Hoop



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This little bear (I think of her as Ursula) is deceptively simple in appearance. She's not actually very hard to stitch, being worked almost entirely in satin stitch - if you're good at satin stitch that is! It's not one of my best stitches, but I am glad I practised and persevered as I am very pleased with the end result.

Ursula is shown mounted in a 9" x 5" oval hoop. I worked her on dusty purple linen, but she'd look good on a white background too I think.

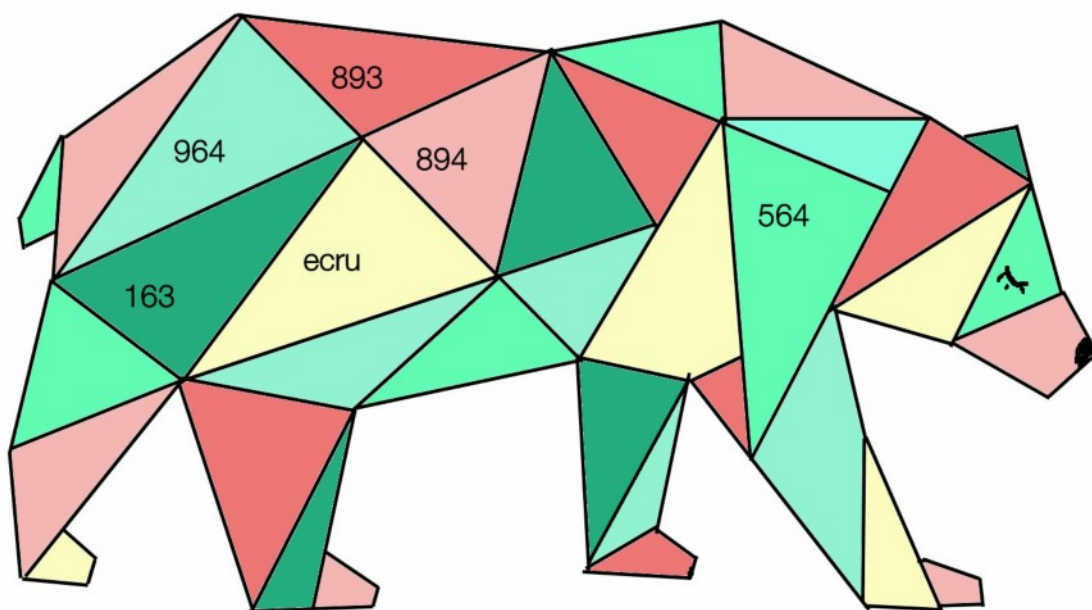
Geometric Bear Hoop



Materials

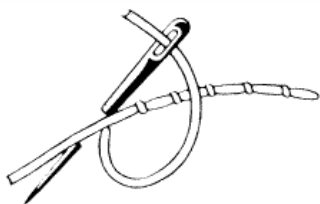
- 12" x 8" background fabric: cotton, linen or cotton linen blend- choose a fabric with a firm weave to support the satin stitching
- 9" x 5" oval embroidery hoop
- DMC stranded cotton floss in colours ecru, 163, 310, 564, 893, 894, 964





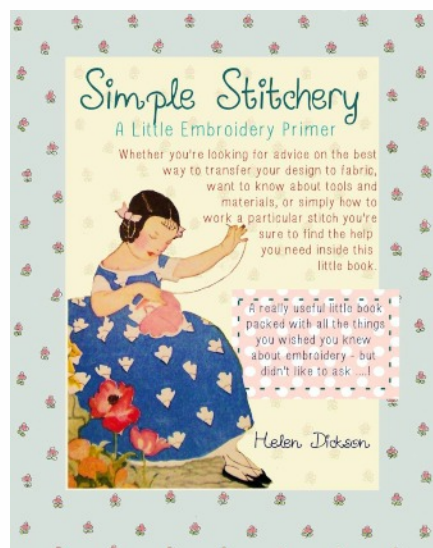
Method

- Transfer the design to the centre of your background fabric. It's included full size and also reversed to suit your preferred method of transfer. You can resize if you wish, but please do be aware that if you go much larger then it will be extremely difficult, not to mention costly in terms of floss used, to work your satin stitch effectively.
- All the triangles are stitched using two strands of floss following the colour guide on the previous page. I didn't pad my satin stitch due to time constraints, but if you want really nice finish then it's certainly worthwhile considering doing this. It sounds a bit complicated but isn't really. First you work the shape in satin stitch in one direction - then return and cover the shape again in satin stitches worked at right angles to your original stitches. That's it! Doing this means that the background fabric is less likely to show through any slightly widely spaced stitches and the whole bear will look smoother and more luxurious.
- If you decide not to pad that's fine, but do be very careful with the spacing of your stitches so they lie neatly alongside one another. Mine have a tendency to "creep", that is to say the angle of my stitching changes, and if that is you then please consider a very useful tip from one of our lovely blog readers, Julie, and draw in two or three guidelines to follow - this is sure to keep you on the right track!
- When your satin stitch is finished press lightly on the reverse to make sure everything is lying how it should. Then overstitch the eye and nose using two strands of black floss.
- Finally, using one strand of black floss make long straight stitches along the sides of the shapes. These stitches should be the whole length of each shape - bring your needle up and down at the points where the shapes meet. To keep these very long stitches lying nicely, couch them in place with tiny tiny stitches again worked in just one strand of floss.
- Press again and mount in hoop. FINISHED!



Couching is a technique for attaching a length of thread to a base fabric by taking tiny stitches over it at regular intervals.

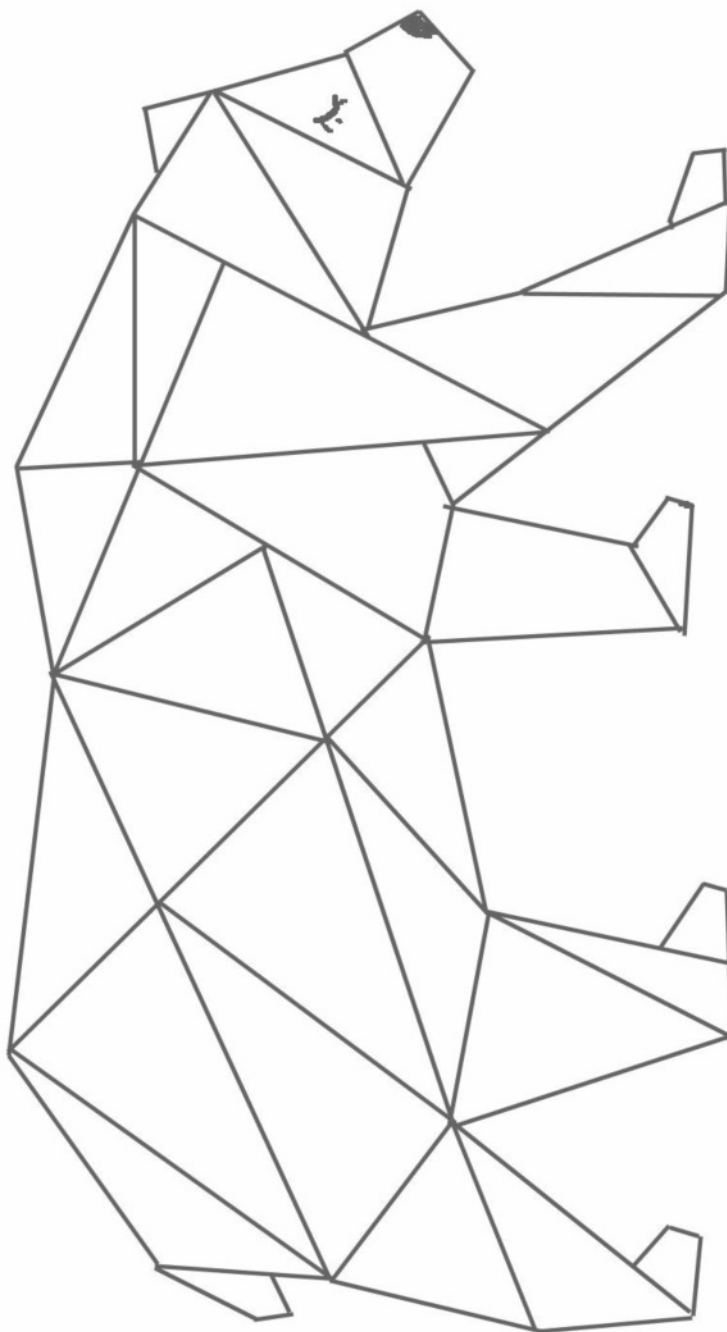
The word couch comes from the French verb "coucher" which means to lay down, so it really applies to attaching just about anything (embroidery floss, thin cord, wool, or even ribbon) as long as it uses stitches over or on top. You can couch a length of ribbon with a row of French knots running down the center or by laying a row of herringbone stitches over the top.

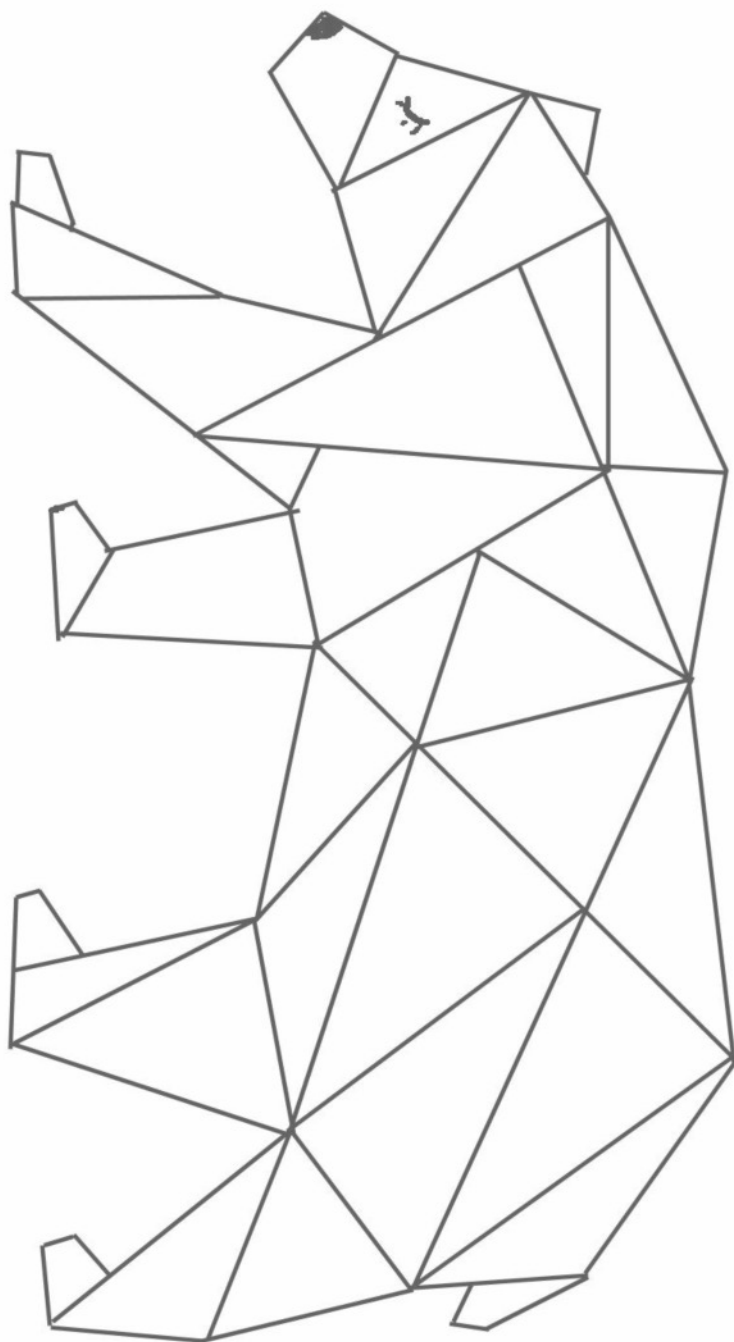


[CLICK HERE](#) to download your free Bustle & Sew stitch primer

Geometric Bear

Pattern is full size and also reversed to suit your preferred method of transfer.







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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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