



BUSTLE & SEW
LOVE TO SEW AND SEW WITH LOVE



Three Little Piggies

Three Little Piggies

Notes:

Stitches used are split stitch.

Shown mounted on 5" x 7" artist's canvas block

Design worked on soft white linen from [Wild Linens](#)



Materials

- 12" x 9" rectangle of fabric suitable for embroidery, in soft white from [Wild Linens](#) (UK based)
- DMC stranded cotton floss in colours 152, 223, 310, 317, 433, 435
- 7" x 5" artist's canvas block
- Staple gun
- Freezer paper
- Inkjet printer

Method

Use two strands of floss throughout.

- Iron your background fabric well before beginning.
- Stitch design in accordance with guide on following pages.
- When finished press lightly on the reverse being very careful not to flatten your stitches and mount on block for display.

Transferring your Pattern with Freezer Paper

I had read about this method in the past but hadn't tried it until recently, having mostly used Sulky Sticky Fabri Solvy or similar papers to transfer my patterns.

Two things prompted me to give it a go - firstly, no matter how accurate I tried to be, I was experiencing problems with stitch placement, especially when working text and was feeling disappointed after soaking away the pattern to discover small gaps in the line of stitches.

The second factor was the ever-increasing cost of Fabri Solvy, and increasing difficulty in getting hold of it here in the UK. In contrast freezer paper is inexpensive and easy to purchase, and I have achieved excellent results when using it.

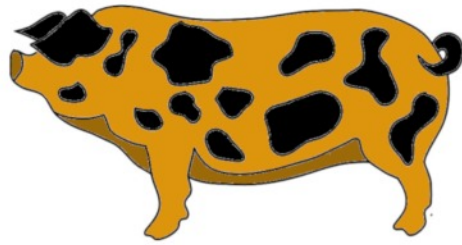
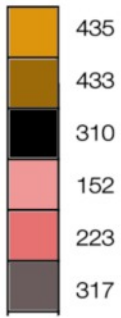
- Purchase pre-cut freezer paper sheets. These are available online from craft websites and cost around a third of the price of Sulky Sticky Fabri Solvy. If you can't get precut sheets then you could cut a larger piece to size, depending on how temperamental your printer is.
- Cut your fabric a little larger than the freezer paper and iron the wrong side of the fabric to the wax coated side of the freezer paper. Don't use steam as this will prevent the paper sticking. Your iron should be set to hot and you should hold it in place for ten seconds or so to make sure the wax has adhered to the paper. Pay special attention around the edges, especially the leading edge when you put it in the printer as if the fabric and paper separate your printer will jam.

- Trim your fabric along the sides of the freezer paper. Make sure there are no little frayed threads sticking out - again this may jam your printer. Iron once more to make sure everything is secure.
- Place in your printer tray with the fabric side ready to be printed - yes, you are going to print directly onto the fabric. You **MUST HAVE AN INK JET PRINTER** for this to work.
- Once the page is printed, peel away the freezer paper and you are left with a printed pattern to stitch.

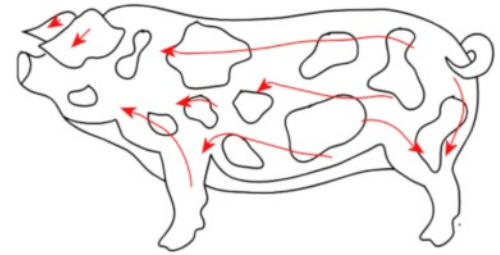
There are limitations to this method:

- you can only use a fairly lightweight fabric.
- A4 is the limit of the size of design (and surrounding fabric) you can put through the printer,
- the pattern is permanent so you need to be careful when stitching over the lines.
- You must have a fairly tolerant (ie not too temperamental) printer that doesn't mind taking the fabric/paper sandwich.
- I have a fairly old and definitely rather basic HP inkjet printer which has (so far) worked perfectly for this technique using a light to medium weight linen fabric. I then back the linen fabric with a plain quilting weight cotton to give it a bit more body to carry what is usually quite dense stitching.

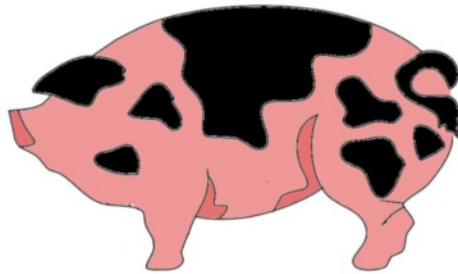
Note: the template for the pigs is ready for printing - the pigs are centred on the page and the title has been omitted.



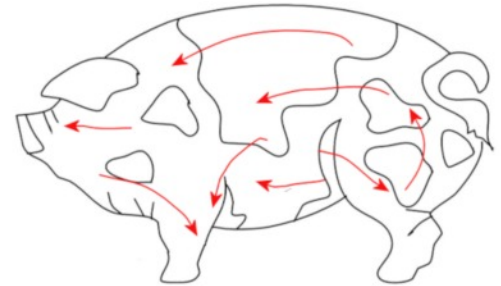
Oxford Sandy and Black



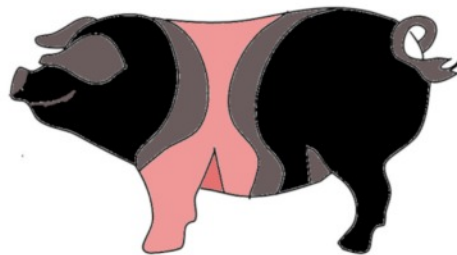
Oxford Sandy and Black



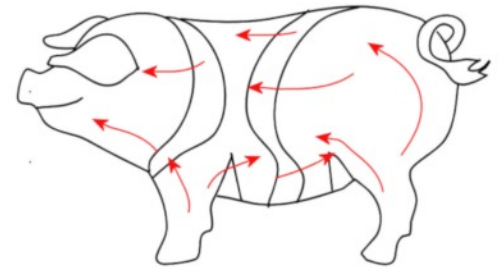
Gloucestershire Old Spot



Gloucestershire Old Spot



British Saddleback



British Saddleback

Stitching Guide

- Using the guide on the previous page print the design onto the centre of your linen fabric. If you don't want to do this, then you could print the breed names onto paper and attach them to your piece at the end, embroider them in a simple text or else omit them altogether. I must admit I think these pigs would look great if stitched a little smaller onto napkins - a humorous talking point perhaps!
- Stitch the pigs using split stitch. The direction of stitching is shown by the red arrows in the diagram above. To work split stitch using two strands of floss simply insert your needle between the strands thereby equally splitting the width of the thread.
- When finished place upon the canvas block ensuring the design is central and straight. Turn the fabric over the edges to the back beginning at the centre of each side and working outwards. Keep the fabric taut but don't over stretch it. Secure with staples. Mitre the corners trimming away any excess fabric.



Oxford Sandy and Black

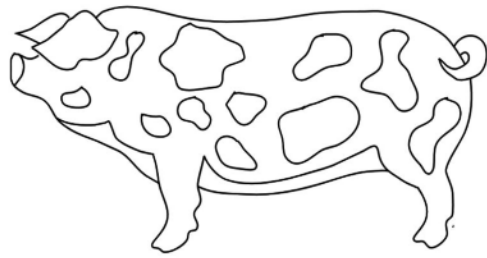


Gloucestershire Old Spot

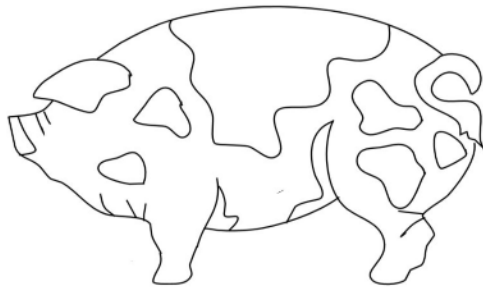


British Saddleback

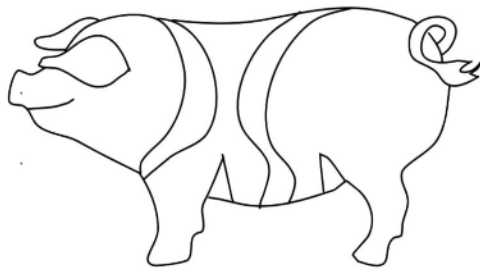




Oxford Sandy and Black



Gloucestershire Old Spot



British Saddleback



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 Somerset where I live as well as the newest patterns and much more over on the [Bustle & Sew Blog](#).



You might also enjoy our monthly [Bustle & Sew Magazine](#). There's no advertising whatsoever, just lots of lovely pages of content celebrating life here in the English countryside - with sewing very much at its heart of course. And here's our guarantee.... if after you've tried our magazine you decide it isn't for you, then all you need to do is drop me a quick email to unsubscribe, there's no tie-in and no penalty at all. If you'd like to continue then you don't need to do anything, your subscription will continue until YOU decide to stop - it's completely up to you.

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Helen xx

