



Skating Polar Bear Hoop

Skating Polar Bear

Notes:

This project is suitable for confident beginners. Stitches used are basket weave stitch, satin stitch, split stitch, turkey knot stitch.

Shown mounted in 5" hoop.



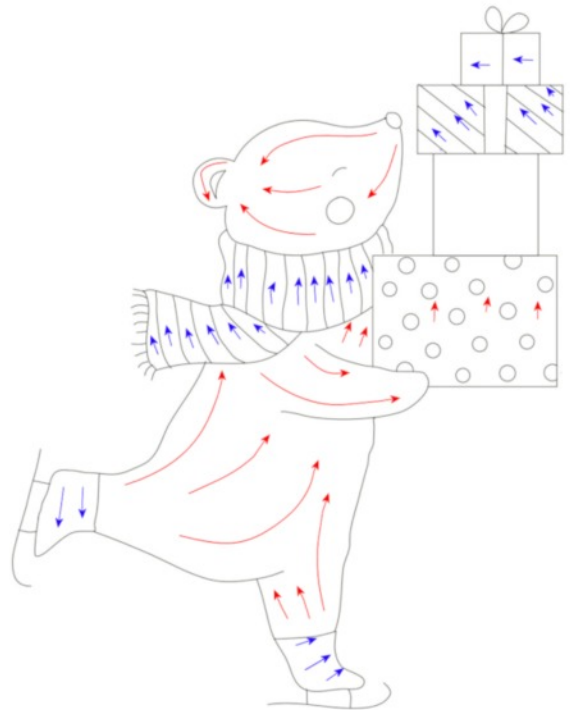
Materials

- 9" square fabric suitable for embroidery, ie non-stretchy. I used a soft blue pure linen fabric.
- DMC stranded cotton floss in colours 164, 310, 321, 963, 3072, 3865, E3821

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 in hoop for display.



Stitching Guide

- Work the bear in the colours shown above.
- The stitches used are as follows:

Bear body split stitch

Scarf satin stitch

Cheek and eye satin stitch

Skates satin stitch and blades back stitch

Bottom parcel split stitch with satin stitch spots

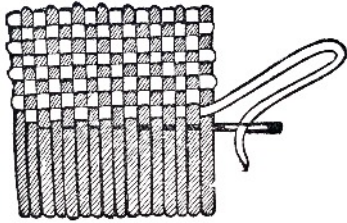
Middle parcel surface darning (basketweave) stitch using 164 for the vertical stitches and 963 for the horizontal stitches.

Top two parcels satin stitch, with added bow in bold back stitch

The direction of the split stitches are shown in by the red arrows in the diagram above and direction of the satin stitch by the blue arrows.

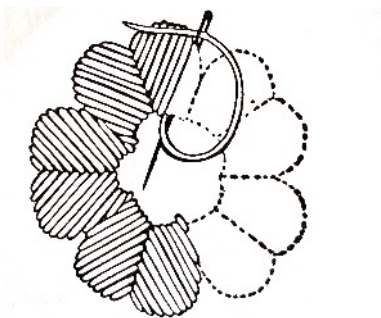
Stitch Dictionary

Surface Darning (Basketweave) Stitch



The dark vertical threads should cover the shape to be filled evenly and close together. They can be made either like ordinary satin stitch or, if you want to avoid using too much thread, like surface satin stitch. The light coloured horizontal threads are then woven regularly in and out, only leaving and entering the fabric at each side. I find it easiest to turn my needle around and pass the eye through the vertical threads first to avoid accidentally splitting the vertical stitches or catching the tip in my fabric.

Satin Stitch



This looks like a very simple stitch but is one of the most difficult to work correctly (I still struggle with this). Satin stitch consists of carrying the thread under the space to be filled and returning underneath the fabric to the starting point again. The whole art lies in making the stitches lie evenly and closely together and keeping a neat firm edge to the shape that is being filled. Satin stitches can be worked in any direction and be of any length, although the longer it becomes the more untidy it's likely to appear.

Split Stitch



This is an easy, but very useful and stable (ie the stitches stay put!) filling stitch. Bring your needle out at the end of the line to be covered. Bring it out again a short distance along from the spot where it first entered and take it down again right through the initial stitch. (When using two strands of floss simply insert the needle between the strands thereby “splitting” the width of the thread).



Skating Polar Bear

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





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

