

# Bustle & Sew



Love to Sew and Sew with Love .....



## Marching Elephants Applique

This is a really easy, but amazingly effective design to make for a child's room, or simply for yourself if you love cheerful colours! The pattern is taken from a mid-century colouring book - it's simple machine embroidery, with a few hand-stitched details. I have created my elephants on a 12" square panel, but you can resize the pattern to whatever size you want ... a cushion would look great - or why not trim some bedding or a blanket with these cheerful pachyderms?



### You will need:

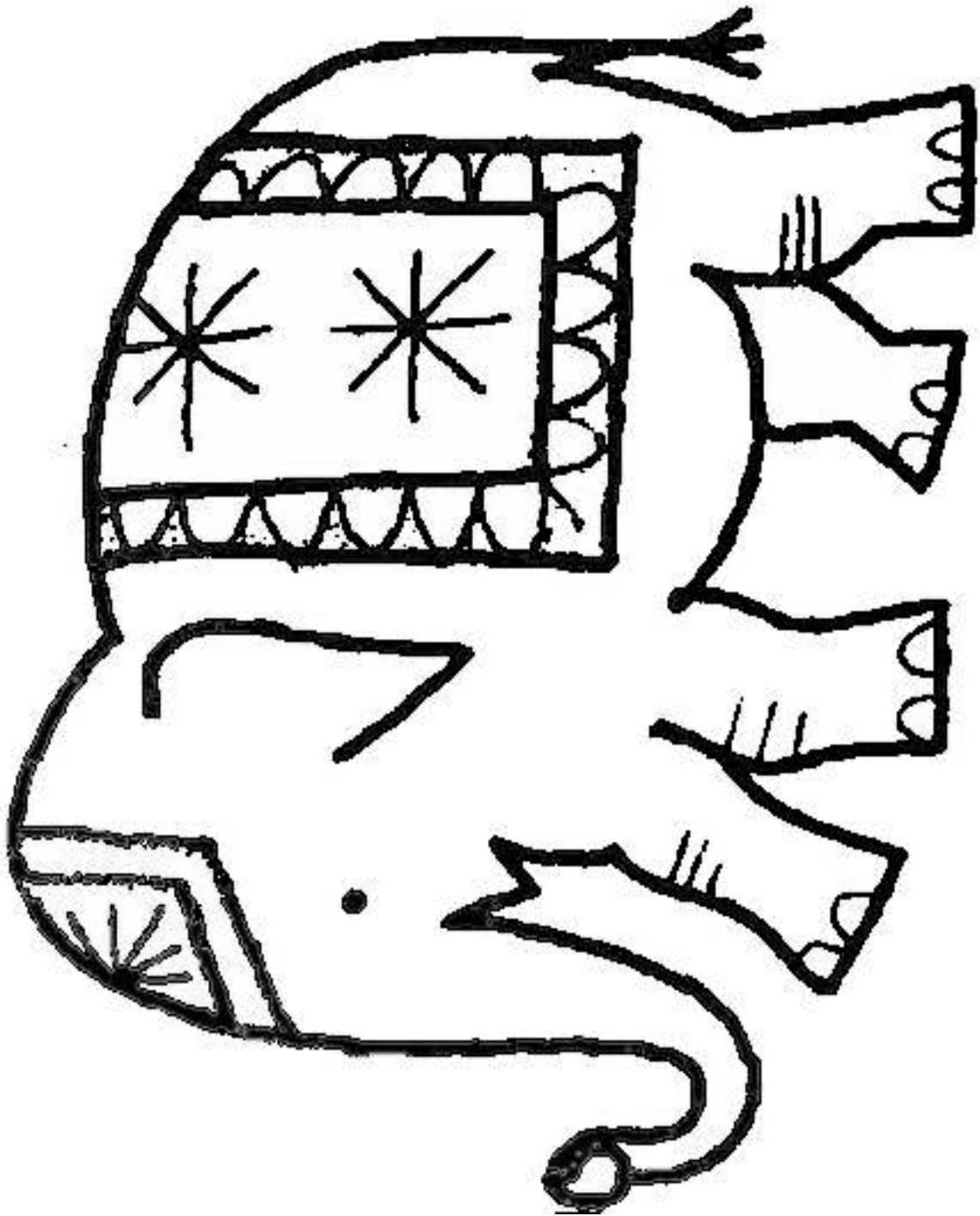
- 15" square panel of backing fabric - any fabric will do as long as it is smooth and not stretchy. The actual design measures about 12" square, but if you're planning to mount your design, or make a cover from it, then you'll need a little extra for borders.
- 4 x 8" squares felt for elephants in greys, beiges or other suitable colours
- Scraps of fabric for head-dresses and saddle-cloths
- 4 buttons for head-dresses
- Black and a lighter colour thread suitable for your sewing machine. Black for the needle and a lighter colour in the bobbin.
- Small amount black embroidery floss
- Small amount brightly-coloured embroidery floss
- Bondaweb
- 12" square artist's canvas block
- Staple gun
- Temporary fabric marker pen
- Embroidery foot for your sewing machine

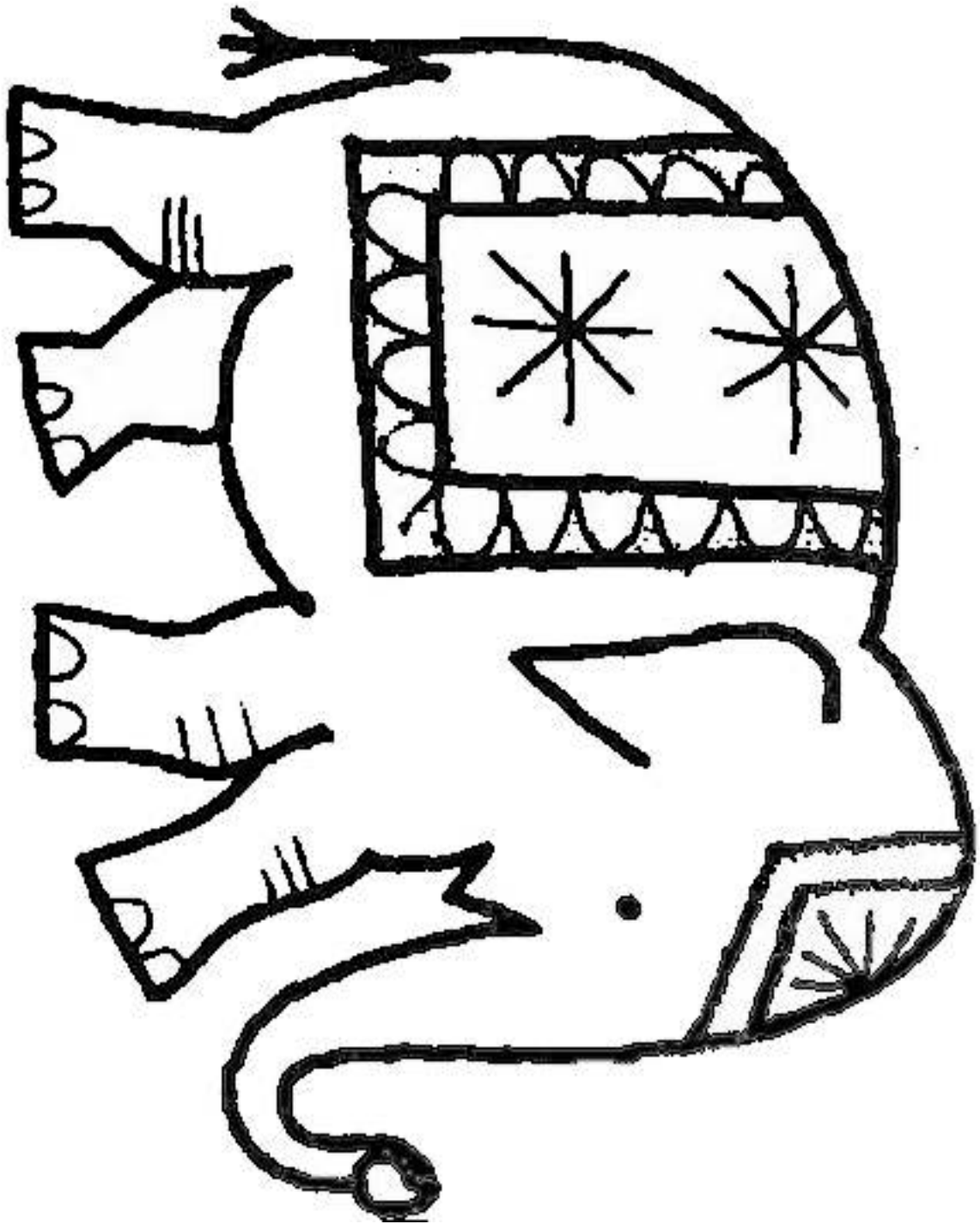
### Directions:

- Place your fabric right side up on a clean flat surface. Place your canvas block in the centre of the fabric and draw around it with the temporary

fabric marker pen. This will help you position your elephants.

- Using the templates (actual size) trace two left-facing and two right-facing elephants on to the paper side of your Bondaweb. Cut out roughly and fuse to the felt, then cut out your elephants. Make long smooth cuts to avoid jagged edges.
- Fold your fabric in 4 and, using the creases as a guide, position your elephants. When you're happy with their positioning, fuse into place, protecting the felt with a cloth.
- Cut, position and fuse head-dresses and saddle-cloths in the same way.
- Drop the feed dogs on your sewing machine. Using black thread at the top and grey or another dark coloured thread in the bobbin, stitch around the edges of each elephant and the head-dresses, saddle-cloths. (Note: using light thread in the bobbin gives a less solid line - using black in both makes your line too solid and heavy)
- Now stitch around again, but this time stitch the tummies, knees and toenails using the picture as a guide. Remember that with this kind of applique your stitching doesn't have to be too neat. In fact, it's nicer if it isn't (up to a limit of course).
- Using the marker pen, mark in position of eyes and ears. Stitch ears using two lines of machining as before, and work eyes as French knots (2 strands of floss and two twists). If you don't like working French knots, then you could always work two small satin stitches instead. Work stars on saddle-cloths.
- Press your work on the reverse, then secure buttons in place using bright coloured floss.
- Mount your work on the canvas block. Align the line you drew with the top edge of the block, turn the fabric to the back and working from the centre outwards staple into place with your staple gun. Repeat along the bottom edge making sure the fabric is taut but not tight. Staple the sides in the same way, mitring the corners and trimming away excess fabric.
- FINISHED!!







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<http://bustleandsew.com/magazine>

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Why do we love to stitch? After all, you can purchase mass-produced embroidered items at many high street stores. 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 personalize an item, or even 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 your natural creativity. And you can keep up-to-date with all the latest news on the [Bustle & Sew Blog](#).

But none of this would mean anything without you, the stitcher.

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Best wishes

Helen xxx

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