

## **Jacobean-Styled Flower**

I like Jacobean-styled embroideries, but I seldom work with wool threads. They often make me sneeze as the fibers tickle my nose. I much prefer the shine and shimmer of pearl cotton, rayon, and silk thread. So, deciding that I needed a small, portable project to work on at Guild meetings, and during found moments here and there, I sketched a little design of my own.

To challenge myself, I decided to work in a colour that I seldom use, and therefore chose yellow. I selected a warm palette of greens, reds, and oranges to accompany the yellow.

### **Supply List**

1 piece of fabric of choice, 12" square (fine, white cotton was used in the sample)

1 piece of backing fabric of choice, 12" square (fine, white cotton was used in the sample, but muslin could also be used)

1 10" hoop prepared for embroidery

1 pair of embroidery scissors

Assorted needles (Embroidery, Sharps, Darning and Milliner's). The size will depend on the type of thread you choose to use.

Pattern transferring supplies of choice

Assorted threads in your chosen colours

Beeswax Thread Conditioner, if desired

13 different threads\* were used in the sample as follows: 1 skein of each of the following:

Embroidery Floss- pale yellow DMC 745 (1), yellow DMC 744(2), variegated green(3)

Perle Cotton size 12 in multi-coloured autumn tones (4)(gold, orange, greens, red, and burgundy)

Yellow Petite Very Velvet thread (5)

Sparkle Chainette in gold lurex (6)

Flat Ribbon in yellow/orange/ brown (7)

Perle Cotton size 5 in yellow/ orange/ brown (8)

Rayon thread in yellow/orange/pink/red/brown (9)

Perle Cotton size 5 in yellow/gold (10)

Rayon thread in yellows/golds (11)

Edmar Nova Rayon Viscose in yellow/orange/red (12)

Silk Perle in yellow/orange/red) (13)

## **Embroidery Stitches**

The following embroidery stitches were used to create the Jacobean-Styled Flower:

Outline Stitch (a), Buttonhole Stitch(b), French Knot (c), Bullion Knot (d), Turkey Stitch(e), Drizzle Stitch (f), Chain Stitch (g), Long and Short Stitch (h), Straight Stitch (j)

Procedure (as stitched according to the sample)

- 1) Using your preferred method, center, and then transfer the flower design onto the stitching fabric.
- 2) Place the stitching fabric design side up onto the backing fabric, and center both pieces in your embroidery hoop, tightening until the fabric is taut.
- 3) Refer to diagram 2 for a guide to stitch and thread placement.
- 4) Begin with the leaf on the left side and embroider in Long and Short Stitch with the variegated green floss, 2 ply. (3)h
- 5) Complete the leaf on the right side in Long and Short Stitch. (3)h
- 6) Chain Stitch the 3 stems in the variegated green floss, stitching over the section where the two leaves join for the left stem. (3)g
- 7) Outline stitch around both leaves with the autumn-coloured perle cotton.(4)a Using the same thread, Straight Stitch the leaf veins as shown in the photo. (4)j
- 8) Straight Stitch the receptacle and the sepals on each flower in the variegated green floss. (3)j
- 9) Use an angled Outline Stitch for the flower bud in the variegated rayon thread, and stitching each section separately. (9)a
- 10) On the left flower, use Outline Stitch to fill the center section in light yellow floss, 2 ply. (1)a

- 11) Using a Milliner's Needle, fill the smaller sections on each side of the center in French Knots with the darker yellow floss. (2)c
- 12) Fill each of the larger side sections of the left flower in Outline Stitch using the yellow/gold rayon thread. (11)a Then outline each section of the flower with the same stitch and rayon thread. (11)a
- 13) On the large flower, using a Milliner's Needle, stitch the center in Drizzle Stitch, 12 wraps, in the yellow velvet, (5)f, then surround the velvet with 1 row of Drizzle Stitch in the gold lurex. (6)f
- 14) Fill the upper left flower petal in French Knots using the flat ribbon thread and a Milliner's Needle. (7)c
- 15) Draw a guide line down the center of the upper right flower petal. Using a Milliner's Needle, create Bullion Knots from the outside edge of the flower, angling to the center line, working from the left side of the petal using the Edmar Nova thread. Stop at about 2 rows from the top edge. (12)d
- 16) Work from the center line to the outside edge of the right side of the petal, angling the Bullion Knots to mirror those on the left. Then add 2 rows of curved Bullion Stitch in the same thread to fill in the top of the flower petal. (12)d (see photo)
- 17) Fill the bottom petal with Drizzle Stitch (8-9 wraps) in the Silk Perle using a Milliner's Needle. (13)f
- 18) On the left middle flower petal, beginning in the center, create several rows of a continuing spiral in Straight Stitch, filling the petal, single ply (1)j. Using a Darning Needle, make multiple Buttonhole Stitches into each Straight Stitch, in 6 ply, starting in the center, and working around the spiral until you complete the outside row of the petal. (1)b The stitch length of each circle of Buttonhole Stitch should slightly increase in size until the petal is full. It will look like a rose.
- 19) Fill the right center flower petal with Turkey Stitch, in 6 ply. (2)e. Once the petal is full, cut through the loops of the thread and fluff. Trim and angle the edges, if desired.
- 20) If desired, add French Knots in assorted threads, in a random manner, to the background.
- 21) Congratulations on completing your embroidered Jacobean-Style Flower!

## **Finishing**

There are many ways your Jacobean-Styled Flower can be finished. Some ideas include: a framed picture, appliqued or sewn onto a cushion cover, stitched onto a fabric bag, appliqued or embroidered onto a jean jacket, made into a pouch or small purse, a banner for your flower garden. I'm sure you'll have many wonderful ideas.

You may wish to create your own version of this design using different types and colours of thread. If you do, I hope you enjoy embroidering this project. Happy Stitching!

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{\* Please note that some of the thread types listed may not be available at your local sewing shop. It would be fun, perhaps, to try unusual or one-of-a-kind threads for special effects. You might also wish to add a metallic thread with another to create a little more bling and sparkle on the finished project. However, should you wish to replicate the type of threads I used, I purchased all but the embroidery floss online from ColourComplements.com, a Canadian company in B.C. I used two of her Sampler Threads packages, plus additions in a similar colour combination.}