

Flat Finish Directions

This technique works well for flat finishing any ornament, but is especially good for finishing unusual shapes as well. There are some limitations to how closely you can finish some shapes. Pointy or very complex shapes don't work well. Also, if you're finishing a canvaswork ornament - there will be challenges with corners and points and you may want to go with more traditional shapes like circles.

Assemble:

- Comic board or heavy cardstock - large enough for the front and back of your ornament
- Foam sheet - at least a half inch larger all around than your ornament
- Push pin - or a fine awl
- Batting - thin works best
- Acid-free double-sided tape
- Painter's tape - optional, but recommended for larger ornaments

1. Create cardstock templates

- Place foam sheet on solid surface
- Place cardstock on top of foam sheet
- Place stitched design on top of cardstock - making sure that the outer edge of the stitched design is still on top of the cardstock
- Hold in place the layers with painter's tape if necessary (essential for larger ornaments)
- Using a push pin (or awl) - carefully poke through your fabric and push down until you've pierced the cardstock - you should do this about 2 or 3 fabric threads away from your stitched design
 - Carefully remove the push pin before moving on - you don't want your layers to shift
- You're piercings should be quite close together - the more complex the shape - the closer your holes should be
 - Using your pencil **label the cardstock as the front**
- Cut out template just inside of the piercings - you shouldn't be able to see any holes when you're done
- Using the front template - create the back template by tracing the front onto to the cardstock
- Label the cardstock as the back
- Cut out the back template by cutting on the **outside** of the pencil tracing
 - You will have two templates - the front slightly smaller than the back (this is to allow for covering the front template with thin batting)

2. Cover back template

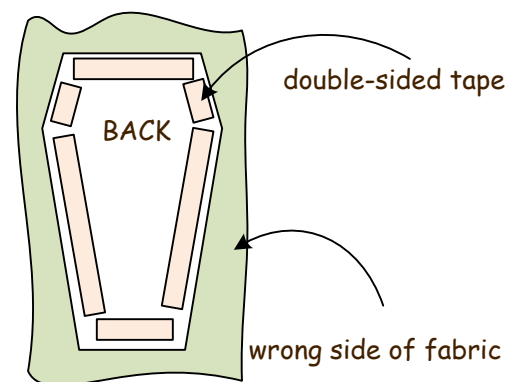
- Apply a $\frac{1}{2}$ inch of double- sided tape to the center of the reverse side of **BACK** marked cardstock
- Apply double-sided tape right to the edge of your cardstock on the side marked **BACK**



It's critical to keep track of the front and back of your templates – especially if you're covering an asymmetrical shape!

- ❑ Remove the covering of the double-sided tape in the center of the reverse side of the BACK marked cardstock and place template on the **wrong side of your backing fabric** - making sure there is an inch of fabric all around
- ❑ Trim the backing fabric to about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch away from your back template
- ❑ Turn over the cardstock and now remove the covering of the double-sided around the edges of the cardstock
- ❑ Fold over the fabric to attach - bit by bit - on to the tape - be firm but not too firm as you don't want the cardstock to curl
- ❑ If you have an inside corner - make a snip in the fabric quite close to the edge of the cardstock - do these one at a time and immediately press the fabric onto the double-sided tape
- ❑ If you have a point - mitre the corner and then attach the fabric on the sides (add more double-sided tape if necessary)

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3. Cover front template

- ❑ Apply an inch of double-sided tape to the center of the FRONT marked cardstock
- ❑ Apply double-sided tape right to the edge of your cardstock on the reverse side of the FRONT marked cardstock
- ❑ Remove the covering of the double-sided tape on FRONT marked cardstock and place template on the thin batting - ensuring that the batting extends outside the template by a $\frac{1}{4}$ inch
 - ❑ Trim the thin batting until it is just barely wider than the cardstock
- ❑ Position your stitched piece on the batting - adjusting so that the edge of stitched design matches up with the edge of the cardstock - the great thing about doing this is the batting will actually hold your stitched piece in place (if ever so lightly) - you may also want to pin your stitching in place through the batting
- ❑ Turn over the FRONT cardstock and trim your stitched piece to about $\frac{3}{4}$ inch from the edge of the cardstock - snip your fabric into inside corners as per what you did on the back
- ❑ Remove all the coverings of the double sided tape and gently bend the fabric over and adhere to the double-sided tape - pulling firmly, but gently - careful not to curl the cardstock

4. Assemble front and back

- ❑ Apply a length of double-sided tape down the center of back of the BACK cardstock and remove covering
- ❑ Match the front to the back and adhere the front to the back - using a ladder stitch and sewing thread to match your stitched piece - stitch the front to the back along the edge
- ❑ Apply cording to the edge using an overcast stitch - don't forget to form a loop for hanging