



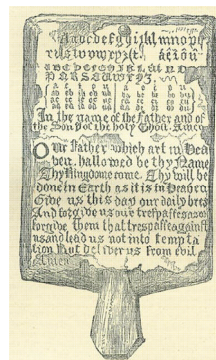
Hornbook Spot Sampler[®]

This project speaks to my love of alphabets and learning. The motifs represented in this small sampler reflect the value that was traditionally placed on education and learning in times gone by. The owl represents knowledge; the key, the role that education plays in a brighter future; the blue bird is the freedom to do what you want with your life; the crown signifies that learning is the highest goal you can seek; the squirrel is industriousness personified; and, the acorn that turns into the mighty oak signifies the value of lifelong learning.

I hope you enjoy stitching this as much as I did!



Laven



The project is stitched over one thread with one strand of floss. Each square on the accompanying charts represents one cross stitch over one thread. The project is stitched on 32 count Belfast “Vintage Country Mocha” from Whichelt.

Basting the outline is not only highly recommended, but will make stitching and finishing much easier.

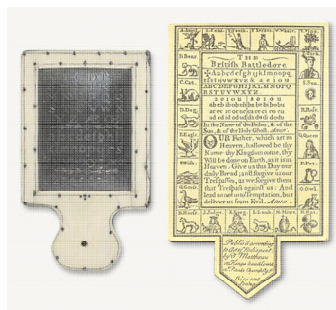
The model was stitched without a hoop or frame, paying close attention to tension (not too loose and not too tight). You can also use stretcher bars if you’re concerned about your tension. And, while not recommended, if you prefer using a hoop, stitch some muslin or like fabric around the linen and then hoop that before commencing stitching.

Note:

The linen used can be stitched on the overdyed side or on the reverse side which is not overdyed. Your choice.



And, most importantly, don’t forget to enjoy the process of stitching!





Basting Directions

Using any dark coloured sewing thread or leftover floss, baste the outline on to your piece of linen. Remember to leave 1½ inches from the top and side of the linen before starting to baste.

Refer to the chart for width and height counts and start basting in 10 thread increments (or whatever increment works for you) in an over-under running stitch.



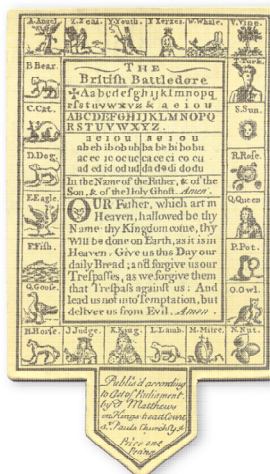
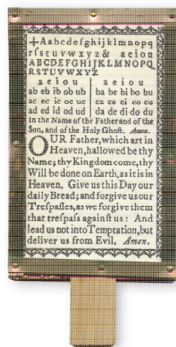
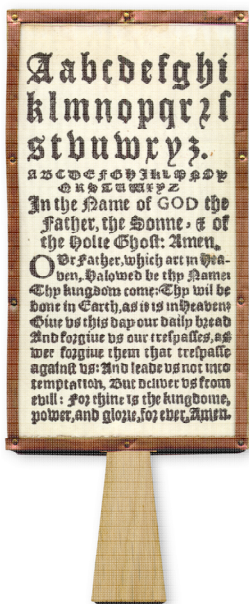
Depiction of Jewish hornbook (printed in Munster in 1598)

Stitching Directions

Cross stitches are done with one strand of floss over one linen thread.



tip: When stitching over one thread, you may find that your thread 'dives' out of sight. To solve this problem, try starting the cross in the other corner.



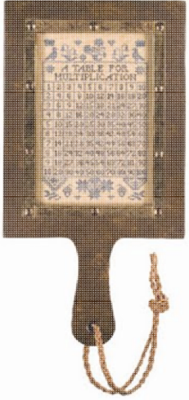
All motifs were stitched using a number 28 tapestry needle. These can be quite delicate and you may want to move up to a number 26 if you find the 28 too much trouble to use. The 4-sided hemstitch is worked using a number 24 tapestry needle.

When starting a new thread, always use an away knot. This really helps when sewing on this count of fabric as a knot can get in the way of completing adjacent stitches.



Using the colours indicated on the pattern, complete all stitching. Weeks Dye Works threads are used exclusively. These threads are overdyed and it is important that you complete each stitch before moving on to the next stitch or you can lose the effect of the colour shift.

After you've finished stitching a piece, please see the pressing directions. Also, **do not** remove your basting stitches - you'll need them left in to finish your piece.



Pressing Directions

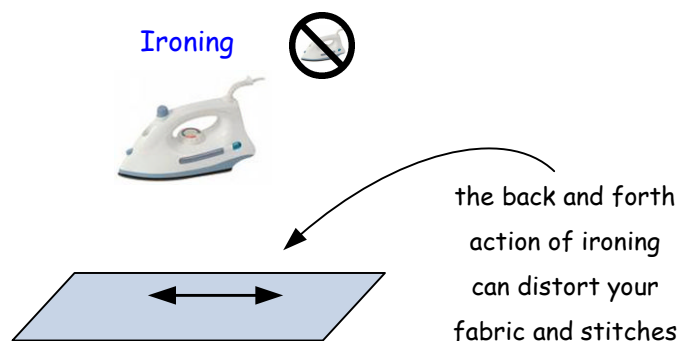
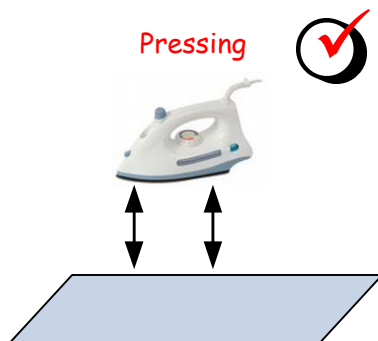


Once all stitching has been completed, press your piece with a dry iron. Do not use steam unless you are absolutely sure that all of your threads are colour fast:

- place your stitched piece face down on a fluffy towel
- using a hot dry iron, place the iron on your piece and hold it for a few seconds
- if your piece was not completely covered by the iron, pick up the iron and move it to an adjacent area – repeat until your piece has been completely pressed
- do not pick up your pressed piece until it has cooled (you can distort your stitching on bigger pieces)



There is a big difference between **pressing** and **ironing**.





Four-Sided Hemstitch

This first step of the hemstitch is worked on the outside of the basting lines, taking care to work the hemstitch with the right side of your embroidery facing you. Using sewing thread that matches your linen, complete **Step 1** of the 4-sided hem stitch, removing your basting thread as you go.

You will be using the 4-sided hemstitch to hem your embroidered piece.



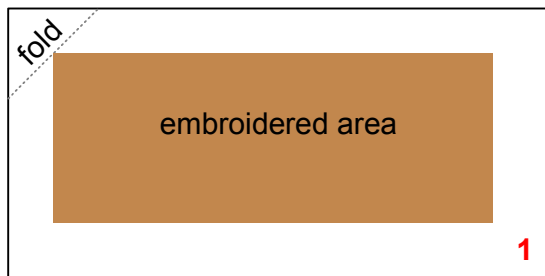
tip: In order to ensure that your hem stitch will 'work out' when you get to a corner, you have to start it in a place that is a multiple of 4 stitches from edge of your basting stitch (e.g., 40 stitches from the edge).



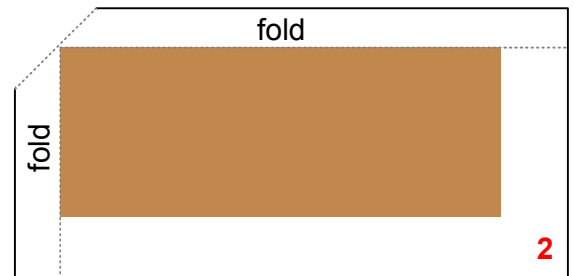
tip: The secret to a good 4-sided hem stitch is to use just enough tension - too much tension and you end up 'shrinking' the fabric - too little tension and you won't end up with nice 'holes'.

Step 2 involves withdrawing of threads from around the sides of your stitching.

Step 3 completes the 4-sided hemstitch. Make sure to fold your fabric before starting to stitch. Miter your linen as you get close to a corner.



how to miter



mitered corner





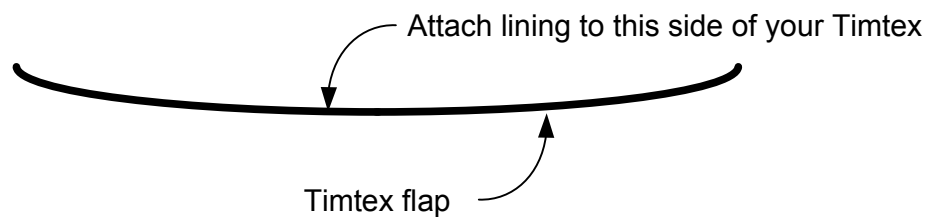
Project Assembly

1. The flap of the hornbook needlebook is constructed on a base of Timtex. Start with a piece of Timtex that measures about $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches high by about $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide. You will need to trim the Timtex to fit the dimensions of your flap by: measuring the width of your finished piece (after pressing and squaring up) and subtracting $\frac{1}{2}$ inch; and, measuring the height of your piece and subtracting $\frac{1}{2}$ of an inch.



tip: Timtex has a natural curl - you will want to use this to your advantage by attaching your lining to the inside of the curl

side view

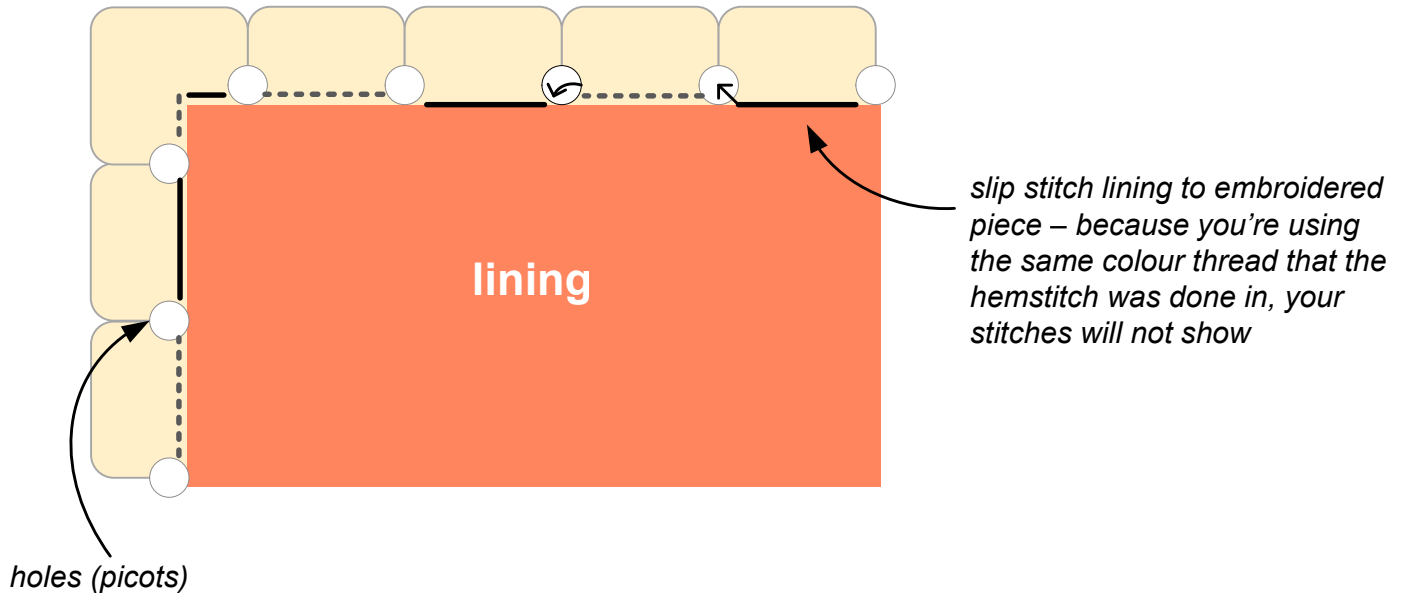


2. Cut a piece of your lining material that is a $\frac{1}{2}$ inch larger all around than your Timtex flap.
3. Position your Timtex flap on top the wrong side of your lining fabric.
4. Pin the lining fabric to the Timtex flap - making sure that the lining is pulled snugly and evenly. The lining covers the inside of your needlebook. Turn the excess fabric to the other side of the Timtex - miter corners. Stitch the lining to the flap - being careful not to go all the way through the Timtex - you don't want your stitching to show through the lining material. Set aside for the moment.
5. Press your embroidered piece and square up if necessary.
6. Cut a piece of Warm 'n White batting that is about $\frac{1}{8}$ inch smaller all around than the lining covered Timtex. Whipstitch the batting to the cover, being careful to just attach it to the folded over lining material.
7. Attach the embroidered flap to the lining-covered Timtex by pinning the embroidery to the cover - on top of the batting.

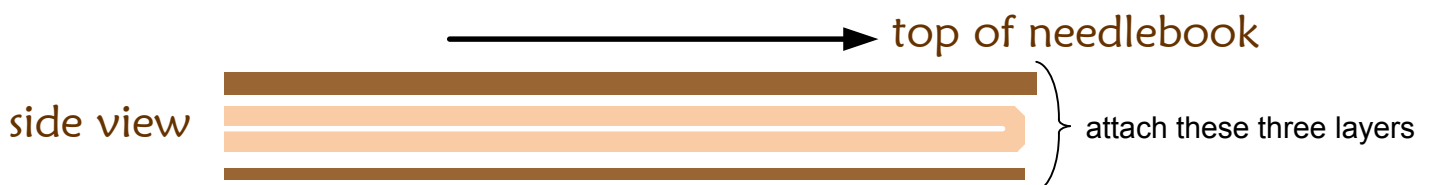


Project Assembly (cont'd)

8. Stitch the cover to the lining covered Tintex shell with sewing thread. Use the ladder stitch and go in and out through the picots. The lined Tintex flap is intended to fit so that it lines up with the holes of the picots.



9. Cut a piece of cardstock that is 3 inches by 3 inches square.
10. Cut a piece of your lining material that is a $\frac{1}{2}$ inch larger all around than your cardstock. Using acid-free double-sided tape attach lining fabric to cardstock.
11. Cut a piece of felt that is $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches by $5\frac{3}{4}$ inches. Fold in half and press. Trim the bottom of the felt so that both halves are even.
12. Attach the felt to the flap cover - aligning the fold of the felt to the top of the flap. Using sewing thread and the ladder stitch - going in and out through the picots.
13. Whipstitch the lining covered cardstock to the top edge of the folded over felt, by taking little 'nips' of the lining.





Project Assembly (cont'd)

14. Using your favourite method and some of the Chestnut floss, make two shorter lengths of twisted cording. Cording is attached roughly half way along the bottom edge of your needlebook flap. Tie together to close your needlebook.
15. Apply double-sided tape to the wrong side of your lining covered cardstock. After removing the tape's backing, carefully position your 'sandwich' on your hornbook. When you're satisfied with the look you want, press down firmly. It helps to place your completed hornbook needlebook under a heavy dictionary to help get a really good seal.

Congratulations ... You're Done!

