

Machine Embroidery is Just the Start

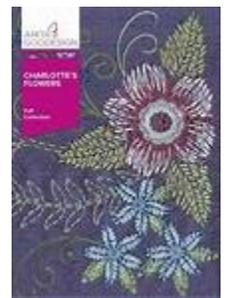
July 10th, 2024

Supplies

- Embroidered Design of Your Choice (the “hand stitched” design shown in the video is Charlotte’s Flowers by Anita Goodesign 2014 and is currently still available at anitagoodesign.com)
- Hand Embroidery and Beading Needles
- Hand Embroidery Threads such as Floss, Metallic Threads and Perle Cotton
- Small Scale Beads and Charms
- Nylon Beading thread (such as Nymo)
- Hot Fix Crystals and Hot Fix Crystal Applicator
- Small Scale Ribbon for Bows (silk or silk-like ribbon is ideal)
- Dinner Fork for making Tiny Bow
- Silk Ribbon for Embroidery and Chenille Needle for Silk Ribbon Embroidery
- Quilters Select Para Cotton Poly 80-wt or Mono Filament Invisible Thread
- Small Amount of Fabric and Batting for Trapunto
- Fabric Ink

Add Dimension and Sparkle to Any Embroidery Design

Machine embroidery is beautiful and there are many designs available that mimic handwork. Some designs even have larger stitches that really look hand sewn and dimensional. Adding handwork to a machine embroidered design creates extra dimension and certainly “bling”. Replace some of the machine embroidery with hand embroidery or embellishments. After embroidery, try a few simple techniques to punch up the design. The addition can be as simple as a ribbon bow, coloring in an outline or hot fix crystals. The add-ons can also be as elaborate as

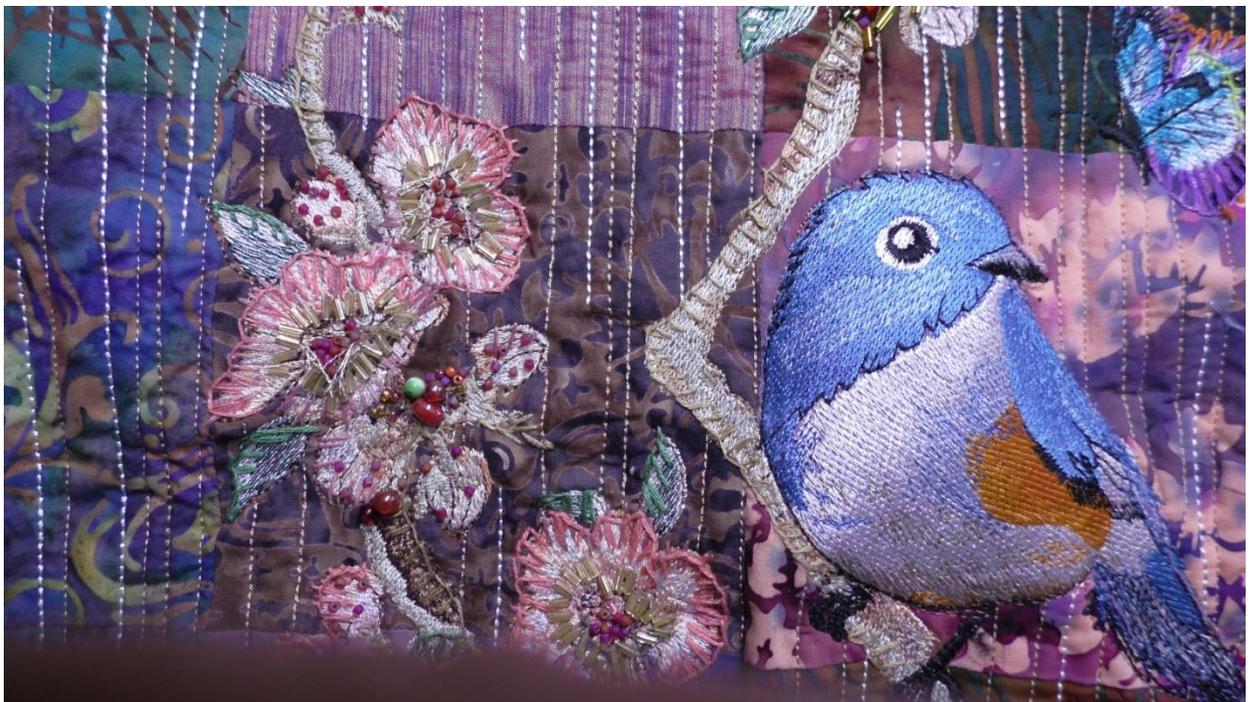


extensive beading and embroidery stitches. Look over some of the options below and then see your embroidery design collection in a new light.

Modify the Embroidery Design

Most embroidery designs are ready for embellishment, but sometimes modifying the design will make the process easier.

- If a design is dense, handwork through the tight stitches can be difficult. Use the Density feature in the Embroidery Edit screen to lighten up the design. To reduce the density on the Brother Stellaire as shown in the video, select the size icon and then the recalculate stitches icon. The message on the screen will indicate that the embroidery will revert to original positioning and size, so perform this editing before placing the design. Use the slider to reduce the stitch count. Resize the design to a scale suited to the embellishments if necessary.
- Eliminate some of the color changes of the design to make room for embellishments. Replace some of the fine detail with hand embroidery or embellishments. Use the “No Sew” feature to visualize the design without color changes. In the Embroidery Edit screen on the Stellaire, select the No Sew icon. Select a color of the design and the No Sew icon on the bottom of the screen to toggle off those stitches in the design. The stitches will not show nor be sewn, but they are still there and can be re-activated by selecting the No Sew icon, selecting



the missing color and the No Sew icon at the bottom of the screen to toggle them back on.

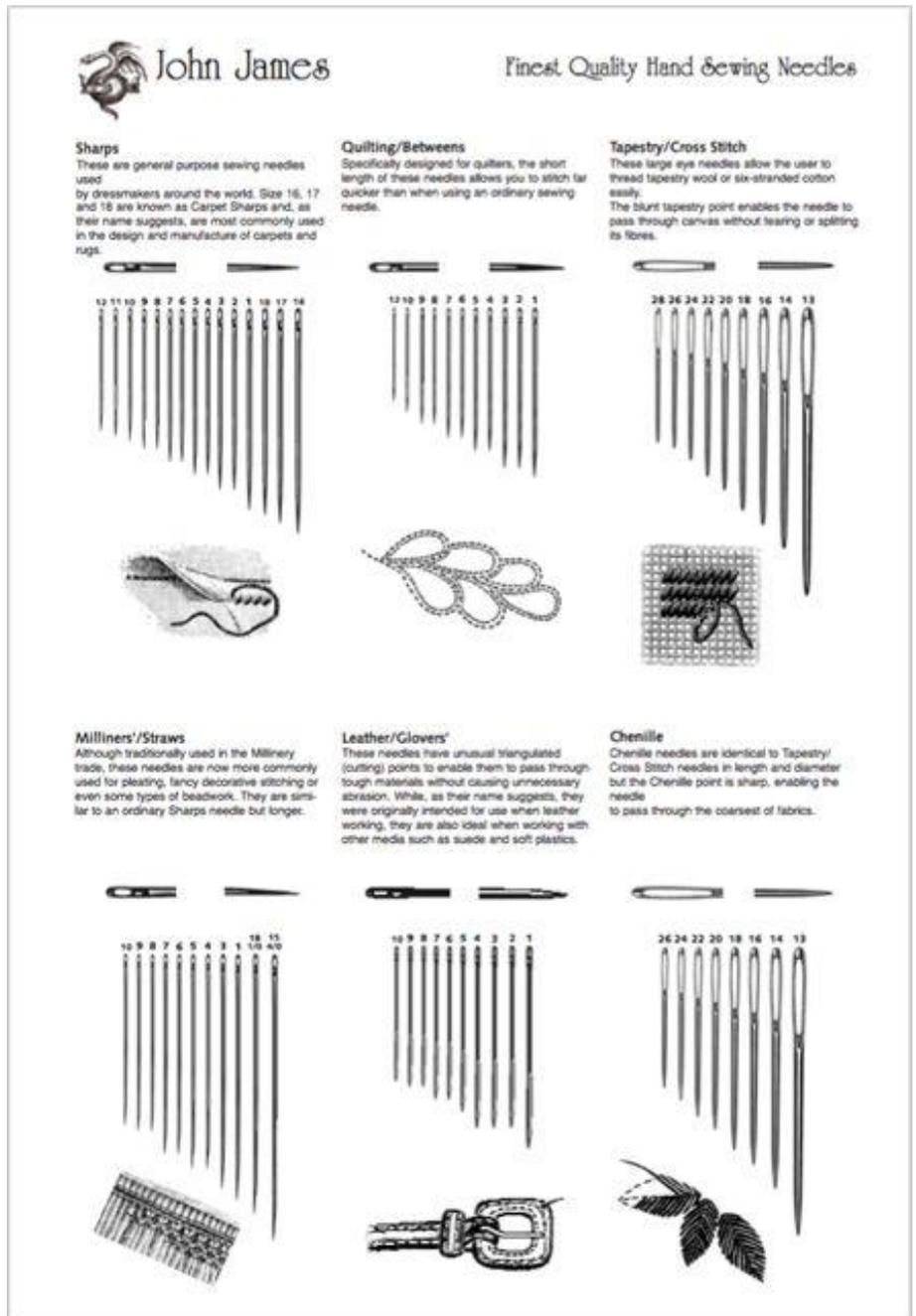
- Extra stuffing added behind a design element is Trapunto. Fabric is placed behind, then stitched around the edge of the design to create a pocket. Use My Design Center to add a pocket for stuffing behind the embroidery. Before stitching the design, use the Outline design icon to create an outline of the embroidery. If only a portion of the design will be stuffed as in the video, save the outline of the entire design. Select Add and then My Design Center. Select the No Sew option from the Line Properties menu and then the saved shape of the embroidery from the tab in the shapes menu. Use the Eraser icon to remove a part of the line to create an opening for stuffing or connected lines that will not be part of the pocket. Use a drawing tool to close up the missing connected lines. Select the double run icon and touch the lines of the design that will form the pocket. Send the new pocket design to join the original embroidery as the final “color”. Before stitching the final “color”, remove the hoop from the machine and place a scrap of fabric behind the pocket area. Tape the fabric in place and return the hoop carefully to the machine. Check that the fabric is still positioned correctly. Use very fine thread or invisible monofilament thread to stitch the outline. Stuff the pocket with batting and sew the opening closed using a straight stitch and a zipper foot to get close to the raised area.

Embellish the Embroidery Design with Hand Embroidery

Hand embroidery can be quite relaxing. If you are new to handwork embroidery there are many videos and instruction books available. See the image below for some basic stitches in a leaflet by DMC. DMC is a very old company that has been making quality embroidery supplies since 1898. There are really no limitations to the additional handwork that can be added to machine embroidery, but keep in mind the following considerations.

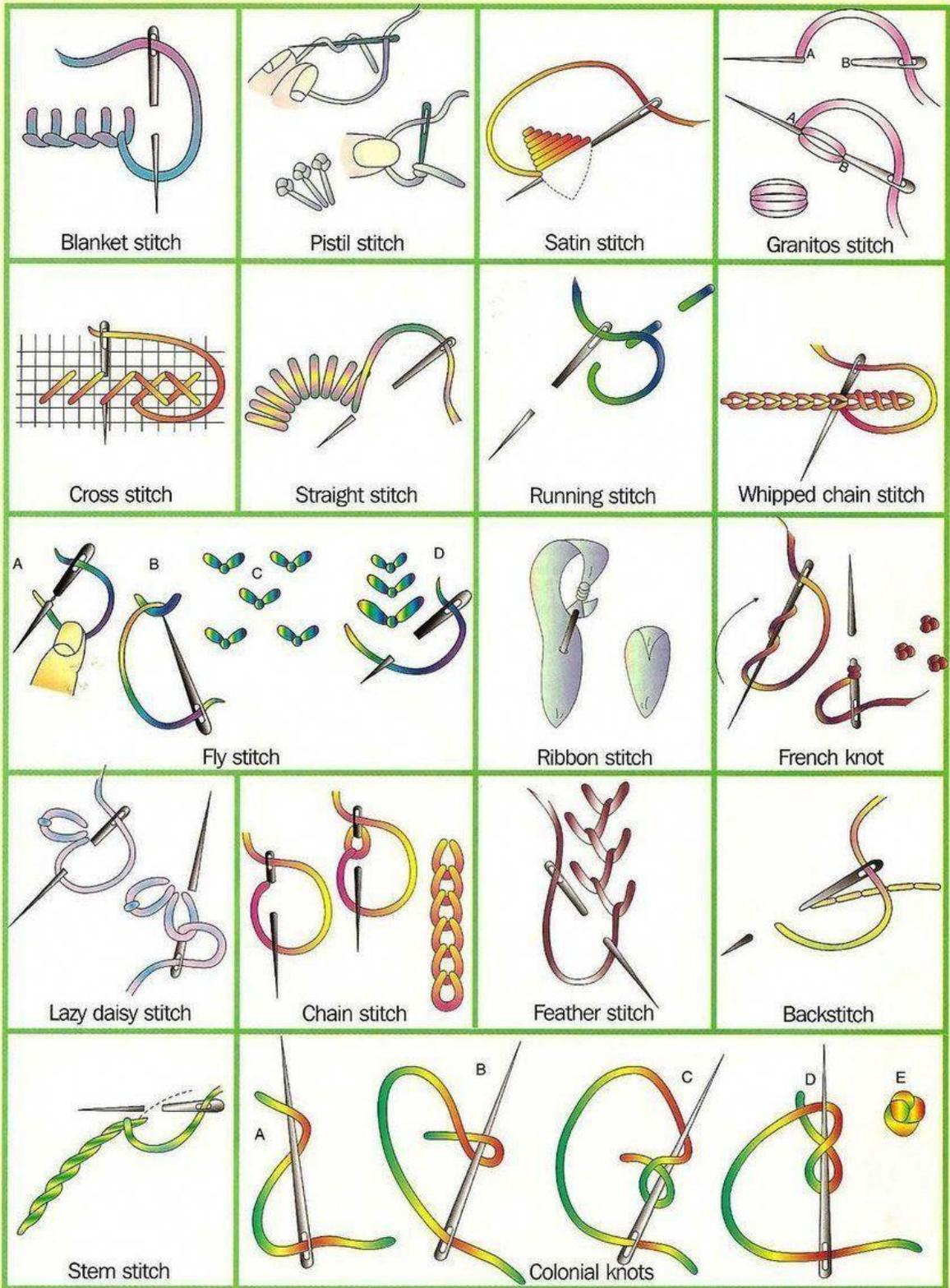
- When embroidering on a fabric the material is held in a hoop or frame to keep it taut. (Hmm... sounds familiar to machine embroiderers.) When embroidery is added to an already machine embroidered piece it is usually backed with a stabilizer. The stabilizer will work to keep the material flat with handwork as easily as it does with machine embroidery so a hoop may not be necessary.

- If the stabilizer is left in the project pushing a needle through several layers of material, stabilizer and thread can be very tough. Use a sharp needle and thimble to encourage the needle to penetrate the layers. Many embroidery stitches can be stitched on the surface of the design. For example, stitch into a few of the threads of a design and don't push the needle all the way to the back of the work unless absolutely necessary.
- Choose a needle with a larger eye than usual. The larger eye will open up the fibers and allow the thread to pull through. When making specialty stitches or using ribbon for embroidery, special needles are available to work with these situations. For ribbon embroidery, select a Chenille needle. For Colonial, French or Bullion knots a straw needle is very helpful. A Millner's or straw needle has the same diameter the length of the shaft without a bulge where the thread passes through the eye and works well for beads.



stitch guide

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Embellish the Embroidery Design with Beads, Bows and Charms

Embellishments add an extra layer of dimension to any embroidery. Attach beads with a beading needle and very strong, thin thread such as Nymo. Check that the needle will pass through the eye of the bead. Pass through the bead twice when the bead is large to add extra security. Tie off the beading thread well in the back of the work with extra stitches and a knot.

Make a tiny bow using a dinner fork as a support. Wrap the ribbon around the tines of the fork as shown in the photo. Pass the tail that lies under the crossed tails up through the center space between the tines and around the middle of the bow. Pass the tail under the bow and through the center below the bow from back to front. Tie the two tails together to secure the bow. Slide the bow off the fork and gently adjust the loops as necessary.

