Oak Leaf Needlebook

designed by Suzanne Bruno



Size:

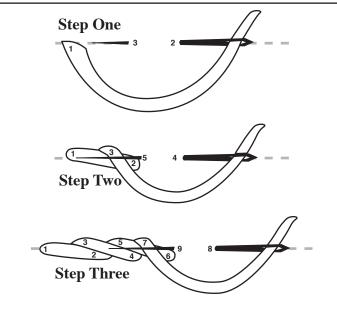
The needlebook measures $2^{1/2}$ " x 4".

Materials:

- Small amount of wool felt or felted wool for the front, back, and center "page". You may use a traditional white wool or another color for the center of the needlebook (where the needles will be kept) or keep all the pages the same. It is stitcher's choice.
- Embroidery threads of your choice. Variegated Silk Pearl, Watercolors Handpainted 3 ply pima cotton (use only one of the three plies) or DMC #5 Pearl Cotton are some options.
- Charm, Beads, or a Button to embellish the top of the leaf.

Instructions:

- Trace the leaf patterns onto the wool you will use for the front of the needlebook. Do not cut out.
- Using stem stitch or the stitch of your choice, embroider the leaf shape, approximately 1/4" inside the cutting line and beginning at the top of the leaf (the point). Using the pattern for a guide, stitch the leaf veins. These can be free form or you may draw them on if you choose. Leave long thread tails of approximately 5" when you start and stop your embroidery. You will use these "tails" to stitch the three leaf pieces together and to sew on the bead or charm.
- When embroidery is complete, stack your embroidered leaf wool piece, the center page wool piece, and the back leaf wool piece. Cut out all three together on the drawn line on the stitched piece.
- At the top of the leaf, sew on the bead or charm with one of the thread ends, and stitch the three leaf pieces together so creating a "hinge".



Stem Stitch

Step One: This stitch is worked on a line, which may be straight or curved. Bring needle out at #1. Loop thread **below** the design line. Insert needle at #2 and up at #3 in one motion, which brings the thread out midway between #1 and #2. Pull thread through, laying first stitch.

Step Two: Loop thread **below** design line again and insert needle at #4. This will be one half the length of the stitch. Bring needle up at #5, which is very close to #2. Pull thread through.

Step Three: This diagram shows several stitches completed. Be sure to loop the thread below the working line each time.

Note: The Outline stitch is done with a similar technique, except that the working thread is looped above the design line.

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Stitch Diagram courtesy of Denise Harrington Pratt.

