

Peppermint Candy Stocking

An Original Design by Shawn Miller



Materials Needed

8"x 8" 18 count canvas

8"x 8" stretcher bars

Tacks or staples

Assorted felt pads (These are the pads that you put on the bottom of your furniture legs to keep them from scratching your floors!)

- Ten (10) 3/8" diameter
- Four (4) 3/4" diameter
- Four (4) 1" diameter

Flair, white (1 full card) **Note: For those of you who "hate" Flair, I am convinced it's because you use a too small needle. I HIGHLY recommend you use AT LEAST a #20, if not a #18 needle!**

Flair, same color as the canvas (1 full card). If not white, an additional 1 – 2 yards may be needed.

Flair and/or Rachel and/or Frosty Rays, 3 – 4 assorted candy colors (12" – 20" per Peppermint)

Metallic ribbons 3 – 4 assorted colors and textures. (1/8" and/or 1/16" wide; 20" per small dot)

3 – 5 colors #5 Perle cotton, Kreinik, and/or Watercolours for plaid cuff (Class samples have 4 colors in a 3/1/5/2 pattern)

4 yards each for the 3 and 5 rows, 2 yards for the 1 row and 2 ½ yards for the 2 row.

Hard lead pencil or needlepoint marker to trace design on the canvas. If using black canvas, you may want to use a white or light gray marker.

A frame weight or stand, while not required, is very useful

Needles, laying tool and usual stitching supplies

If using black or other dark canvas, a white cloth to drape in your lap is helpful

Instructions

1. Prepare your canvas by taping, serging or sewing the edges.
2. Your canvas should be oriented with the weft horizontally or left to right. (An easy way to remember is "weft is left". (Get it?!) Three ways to determine the warp/weft are outlined below:
 - a. If your canvas has a salvage, the salvage side is always the warp; therefore, orient your canvas with the salvage vertically. In other words, it should form the left or right side of the canvas.
 - b. Run your hand up/down and right/left. The direction that feels smoother is the warp. Orient your canvas with the warp vertically.
 - c. Remove a thread from each direction. The warp thread will be straighter and the weft thread will be wavier. Orient your canvas with the warp vertically.
3. Center the stocking on the canvas and trace the stocking outline on the canvas with a hard lead pencil or your favorite marker. (See last page of instructions for outline.) Make sure the top and bottom edges of the stocking cuff are drawn on the canvas straight; even if the outline is not! Draw as thin a line as possible!

- It is highly recommended that you mount the canvas on the stretcher bars “in the well” using tacks or staples. This means the back of the canvas will be flat with the stretcher bars. By mounting your canvas in this manner, the three-dimensional peppermints will be protected when you are not working on the stocking. If you mount it on top, please be mindful of protecting your peppermints from wear!

Stitching the Plaid Cuff

- Select 4 colors of #5 Perle cotton and/or Kreinik #8 braid for the cuff. We will stitch the plaid in a 3/1/5/2 pattern. As drawn, the cuff should be approximately 22 threads tall. Using the 3/1/5/2 pattern, your cuff will have two repeats of the plaid since $3 + 1 + 5 + 2 = 11$. Enter your colors on the grid below. See pages 8 – 10 for colors used in the samples. Your colors may vary.

# of Rows/ Columns	Yards Needed	Your Color number	Your Color
3	4		
1	2		
5	4		
2	2 ½		

- The cuff will be stitched using Chottie’s Plaid.* Chottie’s Plaid was developed by Chottie Alderson, a needlepoint designer in the 70s and 80s. It is a very easy way to create a plaid. To stitch Chottie’s Plaid, thread your needle with approximately 24” of your 3 row color. We will start at the bottom of the cuff. This way, any compensating rows will be at the top of your stocking. Start (Figure 1) with an “in the path” knot on the right-hand side of the area you wish to fill in. **COVER YOUR DRAWN LINE!** Be sure to catch the tail. **Stitch in a straight line even if your drawing is not straight!** Come up at 1 and down at 2. Repeat by coming up at 3 and down at 4. You will be omitting every other intersection of the canvas. **This stitching sequence is NOT the same as a traditional continental stitch. The stitch sequence is like a half cross stitch. Be sure to follow the numbering sequence carefully!** Continue in this manner until you reach the end of the row. Look at the underside of your canvas. If it looks **EXACTLY** the same as the front, (you should see a skipped canvas thread between each stitch on the front AND back) you are making Chottie’s Plaid correctly. See Figure 2.



Figure 1

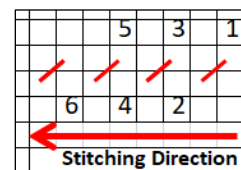


Figure 2

The second row is stitched left to right. Come up at 1 and down at 2. You will come up in a “dirty” (filled) hole and down in a “clean” (empty) hole. Again, be sure to omit every other intersection of the canvas. Check your back. There should be a skipped canvas thread between each stitch on the front AND back. See Figure 3. If you are



Figure 3

doing the stitch correctly, you should have “diagonal rows” running from the bottom left to top right.

The third row is stitched just like the first row. However, you will come up in a “clean” (empty) hole and down in a “dirty” (filled) hole. Continue in this manner until all horizontal rows are complete; changing colors in your prescribed pattern. When you reach the end of a color, park your thread. Then “travel” by tucking the thread under existing stitches on the edge to the next row for that color. When you reach the end of the thread or have completed all rows and columns for that color, tie off in the plaid either horizontally or vertically in the row/column of that color thread. **(Never tie off diagonally!)**

You are now ready to stitch the columns that will complete the plaid. Following the red stitches in Figure 4, come up at one and down at 2, then up at 3 and down at 4, etc; filling in the empty canvas intersections. The gray stitches are the horizontal stitches made in the previous step. Stitch in the same color pattern as the horizontal rows. The sample is 3/1/5/2. Figure 5 shows all horizontal rows completed and the start of the vertical rows.

When finished the front and back should be identical.

Note the sample in Figures 1 and 5 has two extra rows at the top for finishing purposes. They are optional.

Note: Stitches in grey have been previously stitched.

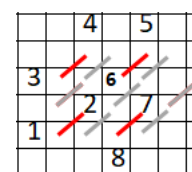


Figure 4



Figure 5

We will now create the “Peppermints”!

7. Arrange 6 – 8 large and medium felt pads in a pleasing pattern. Leave spaces to fill in with the 3/8” pads. The pads are easily cut, so you may “hang” some over the edge of the stocking. **DO NOT PLACE THE 3/8” PADS ON YOUR PIECE AT THIS TIME. THEY WILL FALL OFF!**

8. Peel paper from each pad. (Cut any pads before peeling paper.) Place lightly on the canvas. Adjust placement of pads as necessary. (See Figure 6)

9. Once you are satisfied with the pad placement, press firmly on the canvas.



Figure 6

10. *If you’ve never done so, measure the length of your arm to determine how much is 36”. It will make your stitching life so much easier!*

Thread your needle with 36” of white Flair. To minimize raveling, cut the Flair at a 45° angle. “Lock” the Flair on your needle by piercing the thread with your needle approximately ½ inch from the end. (See the red arrow in Figure 7.)

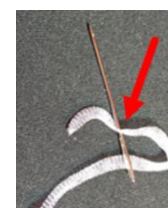


Figure 7

11. Start by using an away waste knot; approximately 4 inches from the first pad in the margin. Cover the pad by stitching over the pad. Come up at 1 and down at 2 (180° away). Then come up 90° from 1; splitting the distance in half. Continue in this manner, splitting the distance between each stitch in half, until the entire pad is covered. (See Figures 8 and 9) **Take care to not twist the thread on both the front and the back.** Be sure to slant your needle away from the pad when coming up and slant the needle towards the pad when going down. Place the needle as close as possible to the edge of the pad. Stitching in this manner will ensure each “peppermint” will be as round as possible. Small bits of adhesive may adhere to your needle as you stitch. Just wipe it off with your fingers. When you believe you have covered a pad, examine it from the side to ensure the entire pad is completely covered. When the pad is completely covered, **individually tie your thread off. Do not travel from pad to pad!**
12. Repeat until all pads are covered with the Flair. When covering a partial pad, cross all stitches over the original pad center. (See red dots on Figure 10 for illustration of original pad center.)

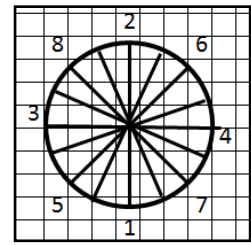


Figure 8



Figure 9



Figure 10

13. Select 3 – 4 colors of Flair and/or Rachel and/or Frosty Rays for the Peppermints and determine their placement. Thread and lock your needle with 20” of Flair or Frosty Rays. Again, to minimize raveling, cut the thread at a 45° angle. You may use your 8” frame to help measure; it will be 2 ½ times the width of the frame. Tie off on the back side of the selected Peppermint. Come up at 1 and down at 2. Continue around the Peppermint until you have completed stitches 1 – 8 and result looks like a bicycle spoke. (See Figure 11) **Individually tie your thread off. Do not travel from pad to pad!**

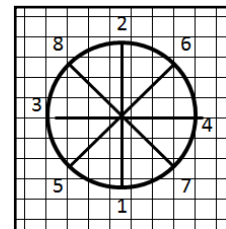


Figure 11

14. Repeat until color has been stitched over all pads. When covering a partial pad, use 12” of Flair or Frosty Rays and cross all stitches over the original pad center. (See red dots in Figure 10) When stitching the partial pads, you may not need to stitch all eight “spokes” of color. If using a light color, you may need to stitch twice to get the desired saturation.

We will now create the shiny “Dots”!

15. Arrange 7 – 9 small (3/8”) felt pads on the stocking in a pleasing pattern; tucking them into the spaces between the medium and large pads.

16. Peel paper from each pad. Place lightly on the canvas. Adjust placement of pads as necessary.
17. Once you are satisfied with the pad placement, press firmly on the canvas.
18. Select 3 – 4 colors of Ribbon for the dots and determine their placement. Thread and lock your needle with 20" of Ribbon. To minimize raveling, cut the Ribbon at a 45° angle. You may use your 8" frame to help measure; it will be 2 ½ times the width of the frame. Start with an away waste knot approximately 4" from the pad. Cover the pad by stitching over the pad. Come up at 1 and down at 2 (180° away). Then come up 90° from 1; splitting the distance in half. Continue in this manner, splitting the distance between each stitch in half, until the entire pad is covered. (See Figures 12 and 13). Take care to not twist the thread on both the front and the back. Be sure to slant your needle away from the pad when coming up and slant the needle towards the pad when going down. Place the needle as close as possible to the edge of the pad. Stitching in this manner will ensure each dot will be as round as possible. Small bits of adhesive may adhere to your needle as you stitch. Just wipe it off with your fingers. When you believe you have covered a pad, examine it from the side to ensure the entire pad is completely covered. When the pad is completely covered, **individually tie your thread off. Do not travel from pad to pad!** When completed, your pads will look similar to the dots in Figure 14.

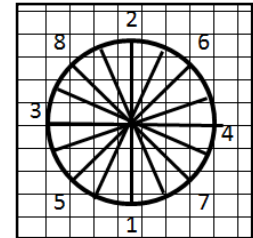


Figure 12



Figure 13

Stitching the background.

19. You will now stitch the background of the stocking using an Elongated Cashmere stitch. Thread and lock 36" of Flair on your needle. The Flair should be the same color as your canvas. Begin in the upper left corner below the plaid. Choose a spot where you will not have to do much compensating and where there is at least ¾" – 1" between the first peppermint or dot and the bottom edge of the plaid cuff. The top row of the background stitch will share a hole with the bottom row of the plaid. Start with an "in the path" waste knot approximately 1" down. Remember, there will be a canvas thread skipped in between each set of Elongated Cashmere columns; the column shown in Figure 14 will be three canvas threads in from the left edge of the stocking or pad, depending on how you placed your Peppermints and dots.



Figure 14

20. Come up at 1 and down at 2, then come up at 3 and down at 4, traveling towards the toe of the stocking and following Figure 15, taking care not to twist the thread on the front or back. Continue in this manner until you reach a dot, Peppermint or the edge of the stocking.

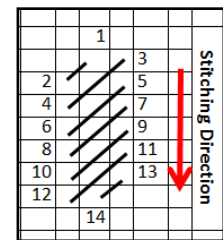


Figure 15

21. Then move over 3 canvas threads to reverse your stitching, traveling up towards the cuff and following Figure 16. Again, take care not to twist the thread on the front or back. A “set” of stitches will look like Figure 17.

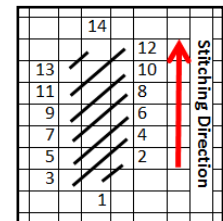


Figure 16

22. **REMEMBER TO SKIP A CANVAS THREAD BETWEEN EACH COLUMN OF ELONGATED CASHMERE STITCHES! (Represented by the red line in Figure 17)**

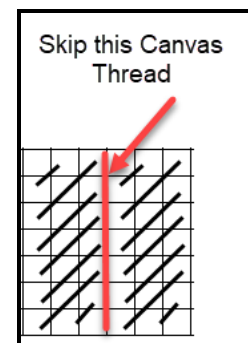


Figure 17

23. Continue in this manner until the entire background is stitched. See Figure 18. ***Be sure to carefully follow the stitch sequence in Figures 16 and 17. Otherwise you may not have enough thread!***



Figure 18

24. Your stocking is now complete and ready for finishing!

* Chottie’s Plaid instructions are from <http://needlepointteacher.com>

Threads used in Samples

Area	Thread	Color	Amount per Kit	Amount Needed for 10 Kits
Blue/White Stocking				
Background and Peppermint base	Flair (10 yds / card)	F502 – White	2 Cards	20 cards
Peppermint colors	Flair (10 yds / card) Frosty Rays (5 yds / card)	F559 – Dark Blue F561 – Light Blue F571 – Aqua Y043 – Very Dark Blue	40" each of four colors for a total of 160" OR 40" each of three colors and 20" each of two colors	Total 4 ½ cards of Flair OR Total 9 cards of Frosty Rays Mix and match your colors!
Small dots	Fyre Werks (10 yds / card)	F5 – Silver F36 – Royal Blue F42 – Pale Blue (Discontinued)	60" each of three colors for a total of 180"	Total 5 cards of Fyre Werks
Plaid	DMC Perle #5 (27 yds / skein) Kreinik #12 (11 yds / spool)	B5200 – Snow White (1 row) 519 – Sky Blue (3 rows) 825 – Royal Blue (5 rows) 001 – Silver (2 rows)	2 yds 4 yds 4 yds 2 ½ yds	1 skein 2 skeins 2 skeins 3 spools
Canvas	18 count mono (40" wide)	White	1 8x8 piece	Two 8" strips for a total 16"
Pink/White Stocking				
Background and Peppermint base	Flair (10 yds / card)	F502 – White	2 Cards	20 cards
Peppermint colors	Flair (10 yds / card) Frosty Rays Petite (5 yds / card)	F521 – Pale Fuchsia F529 – Dark Red F530 – Light Red PY334 – Rose Gloss PY071 – Christmas Red	40" each of four colors for a total of 160" OR 40" each of three colors and 20" each of two colors	Total 4 ½ cards of Flair OR Total 9 cards of Frosty Rays Mix and match your colors!
Small dots	Fyre Werks (10 yds / card) Kreinik 1/8" Ribbon (11 yds / spool) Ribbon Floss (15 yds / spool)	F2 – Gold F9 – Copper 002HL – Gold High Lustre 148F-21 – Gold/Gold Shimmer 148F-47 – Honey Copper Shimmer	60" each of three colors for a total of 180"	Total 5 cards of Fyre Werks OR Total 5 spools Kreinik 1/8" or 1/16" ribbon OR 4 spools Ribbon or shimmer blend Mix and match your colors!
Plaid	DMC Perle #5 (27 yds / skein)	321 – Red (1 row) 819 – Light Baby Pink (2 rows) 504 – Very Light Blue Green (3 rows) 605 – Very Light Cranberry (5 rows)	2 yds 2 ½ yds 4 yds 4 yds	1 skein 1 skein 2 skeins 2 skeins
Canvas	18 count mono (40" wide)	White	1 8x8 piece	Two 8" strips for a total 16"

Area	Thread	Color	Amount per Kit	Amount Needed for 10 Kits
Red/Green/Gold/Black Stocking				
Background	Flair (10 yds / card)	F501 – Black	1 Card + 2 yards	12 cards
Peppermint Base	Flair (10 yds / card)	F502 – White	1 Card	10 cards
Peppermint colors	Flair (10 yds / card) Rachel (10 yds / skein)	F529 – Dark Red F531 – Grass Green F534 – Christmas Green F599 – Brite Yellow F612 – Deep Orange B9 – Green	40" each of four colors for a total of 160" OR 40" each of three colors and 20" each of two colors	Total 4 ½ cards of Flair OR Total 4 ½ skeins of Rachel Mix and match your colors!
Small dots	Fyre Werks Kreinik 1/8" Ribbon (11 yds / spool) Ribbon Floss (15 yds / spool)	F2 – Gold 002HL – Gold High Lustre 002V – Vintage Gold 148F-47 – Honey Copper Shimmer	60" each of three colors for a total of 180"	Total 5 cards of Fyre Werks OR Total 5 spools Kreinik 1/8" or 1/16" ribbon OR 4 spools Ribbon or shimmer blend Mix and match your colors!
Plaid	DMC Perle #5	Blanc – White (1 row) 372 – Light Mustard (2 rows) 909 – Very Dark Emerald Green (3 rows) 606 – Bright Orange-Red (5 rows)	2 yds 2 yds 4 yds 4 yds	1 skein 1 skein 2 skeins 2 skeins
Canvas	18 count mono (40" wide)	Black	1 8x8 piece	Two 8" strips for a total 16"
Peach/Gold Stocking				
Background	Flair (10 yds / card)	F527 - Peach	1 Card + 2 yards	12 cards
Peppermint Base	Flair (10 yds / card)	F502 – White	1 Card	10 cards
Peppermint colors	Flair (10 yds / card) Frosty Rays (5 yds / card) Rachel (10 yds / skein)	F553 – Old Gold Y068 – Dark Peach B29 – Bare Beige	40" each of four colors for a total of 160" OR 40" each of three colors and 20" each of two colors	Total 4 ½ cards of Flair OR Total 9 cards of Frosty Rays OR Total 4 ½ skeins of Rachel Mix and match your colors!
Small dots	Neon Rays + (10 yds / card) Shimmer Blend (15 yds / card) Kreinik 1/16" Ribbon (11 yds / spool)	NP10 – Crème NP17 – Peach 047 – Honey Copper 021 – Gold / Gold 3270 Amber	60" each of three colors for a total of 180"	Total 5 cards of Neon Rays + OR 4 spools shimmer blend OR Total 5 spools Kreinik 1/16" ribbon Mix and match your colors!

Area	Thread	Color	Amount per Kit	Amount Needed for 10 Kits
Peach/Gold Stocking (Continued)				
Plaid	Watercolours (3 ply, 10 yds / skein)	166 – Creamsicle (3 rows)	4 yds	2 skeins
	DMC Perle #5 (27 yds / skein)	972 – Light Pumpkin (1 row) 922 – Light Copper (5 rows)	2 yds 4 yds	1 skein 2 skeins
	Kreinik #12 (11 yds / spool)	3202 – Cat’s Eye (2 rows)	2 ½ yds	3 spools
Canvas	18 count mono (40” wide)	Rose Blush	1 8x8 piece	Two 8” strips for a total 16”
Purple/Gold Stocking				
Background	Flair (10 yds / card)	F551 – Lite Tan	1 Card + 2 yards	12 cards
Peppermint Base	Flair (10 yds / card)	F501 – White	1 Card	10 cards
Peppermint colors	Flair (10 yds / card) Frosty Rays (5 yds / card)	F609 – Lite Lavender F516 – Dark Red Violet PY354 – Violet Sparkle Gloss PY054 – Dark Periwinkle Gloss PY386 – Mardi Gras	40” each of four colors for a total of 160” OR 40” each of three colors and 20” each of two colors	Total 4 ½ cards of Flair OR Total 9 cards of Frosty Rays OR Total 4 ½ skeins of Rachel Mix and match your colors!
Small dots	Neon Rays + (10 yds / card) Shimmer Blend (15 yds / card) Kreinik 1/16” Ribbon (11 yds / spool)	NP280 – Sand Gold NP81 – Nutmeg 048 – Ecru Gold 017HL – White Gold High Lustre	60” each of three colors for a total of 180”	Total 5 cards of Neon Rays + OR 4 spools shimmer blend OR Total 5 spools Kreinik 1/16” ribbon Mix and match your colors!
Plaid	Pebble Perle (10 yds / card)	P361 – Saffron (3 rows) (Note: Discontinued color)	4 yds	4 cards
	Very Velvet (10 yds / card)	V226 – Purple (1 row)	2 yds	2 cards
	DMC Perle #5 (27 yds / skein)	333 – Very Dark Blue Violet (5 rows) B5200 – Snow White (2 rows)	4 yds 2 ½ yds	2 skeins 1 skein
Canvas	18 count mono (40” wide)	Ecru	1 8x8 piece	Two 8” strips for a total 16”

Your Colors!

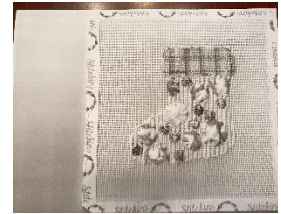
Area	Thread	Color	Amount
Background			
Peppermint base			
Peppermint colors			
Small dots			
Plaid			
Canvas			

Stocking Finishing Instructions

Materials needed:

- Your stitched piece
- Mat or comic board
- Material for backing
- Material to insert between batting and stitched piece (such as lame' or satin)
- Cording (approximately 3/8" inch thick)
- Your favorite batting
- Sewing thread same color as stitched background.

1. Make a copy of the back of your stocking. This will act as your template.



2. Cut out the copy like a paper doll. Trim to be 1/16" to 3/8" smaller than your piece. It is MUCH easier to trim the paper than the mat or comic board!



3. Trace two copies of your template on a piece of mat or comic board. Mark the copies front and back. (Mat board may be purchased at your favorite craft store; such as Michaels or Hobby Lobby. One piece will last for years! Comic board may be purchased at a comic book store or ordered online.)



4. Cut out both pieces of mat or comic board. Cut the front side on the inside of the line and the back side on the outside of the line. This way the back will be slightly larger than the front. Write "Front" on the **back side** of the front and "Back" on the **back side** of the back. **MAKE SURE THE FRONT AND BACK ARE MIRROR IMAGES SO WHEN THEY ARE PUT TOGETHER, THEY ARE IN THE CORRECT ORIENTATION!**
"Measure twice, cut once!"



5. Cut the desired thickness of batting using your mat or comic board as a template. (I used 2 pieces of fiberfill batting.)



6. Cut the “insert” material approximately 5/8” – 3/4” larger than the piece of mat or comic board. (This is the material that will go between the batting and your finished piece. Since the canvas is not completely covered, you will be able to see some of the fabric after the finishing is complete. I like to use a piece with a hint of glitz or shine like lame’ or satin.)
7. Sandwich the “insert” material, batting and mat or comic board. Double check that the mat or comic board is in the correct orientation! (Measure twice, lace once!)
8. Using a doubled piece of sewing thread, lace the fabric to the mat or comic board. You will want to clip the fabric at the inside curve. (Red arrow) Cut the excess fabric on the outside curve(s). (Purple arrow)
9. Continue lacing until the fabric is (mostly) smooth. Since your stitched piece will go on top, it does not have to be perfect!
10. Trim your stitched piece approximately 5/8” – 3/4” larger than the mat or comic board. Don’t be scared! It’s ok to cut it! 😊



11. Using a doubled piece of sewing thread, lace your stitched piece to the fabric covered mat or comic board. Cut any excess canvas on the outside curve(s).



12. Using a fine mister or a cotton swab, lightly mist/dampen the canvas on the inside curve. This will release the starch in the canvas and make it very pliable. Using your fingers, ease the canvas over the fabric covered mat or comic board and **let dry**.



13. Once dry, finish lacing.



14. Now, it's time to lace the back!

15. Sandwich the backing material, batting and mat or comic board. Double check that the mat or comic board is in the correct orientation! (Measure twice, lace once!)



16. Using a doubled piece of sewing thread, lace the fabric to the mat or comic board. Like on the front, you will want to clip the fabric at the inside curve and cut the excess fabric on the outside curve(s).



17. Put the front and back together like an Oreo™ cookie. Using a single strand of sewing thread, tack the two pieces together. **Be sure to leave a 2" – 3" gap at the bottom to tuck in the cording.** (Another option is to leave a gap where the hanger/loop will be.)

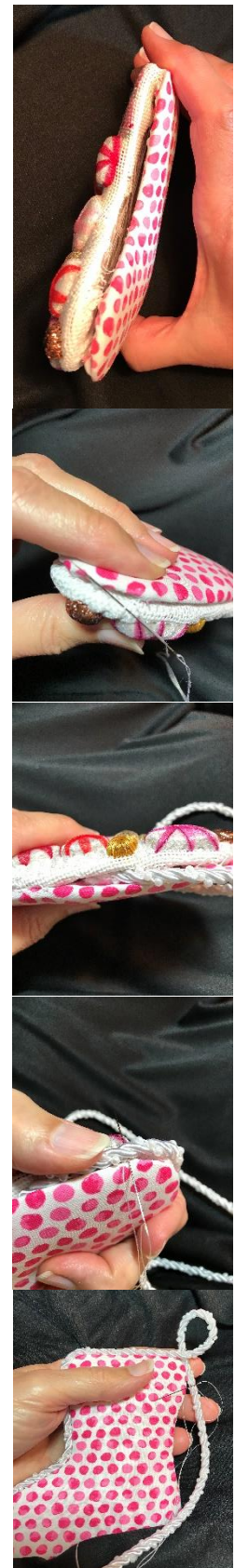
18. Prepare your cording by placing a small piece of tape on the end to prevent raveling. Also, compress the end between your fingers.

19. Insert the cording into the gap at the bottom of the stocking. Do not stick straight in, "lay" it just inside the bottom edge.

20. Stitch the cord to the stocking. With your needle, catch a few threads of the backing material then push the needle straight through the cord. Then, catch one thread of your canvas and return through the cord. Continue until you get to the top left corner of your stocking; where the hanger will be located.

21. Make a loop and tack in place. You may need to tack several times.

22. Continue tacking the cord around the stocking to the bottom.



23. When you reach the bottom, cut the cord. Ensure there is approximately 1 ½" – 2" of overlap. You may want to put a small piece of tape on the cord before cutting. Press the cut end with your fingers to flatten.

24. Cross the ends as shown and tuck into the gap.

25. Close the bottom of the stocking while tacking the cording down.

26. Your piece is now finished! Hang and enjoy!!!

