

YOU CAN DO IT!

New event dedicated to simple projects, for those who want to approach embroidery and test themselves! Password: You can do it!

"It's impossible only if you think it is ..."

BISCORNU - PINCUSHION

Where did I put them? This is the question that haunts me when I design or create a job. The table is littered with paper, pencils, threads and fabric, and I need to take the references on the fabric, while confusion reigns supreme and I can't find the pins ...

Among the various types of pincushions I have used to overcome this drawback, this pincushion is one of the most interesting, due to its irregular shape and because it can be made with various embroidery techniques, from cross stitch to blackwork to basic stitches. What I am about to offer you is made with counted threads, a surely effective technique and one easy to perform, even for those who are always afraid of leaving their comfort zone. All we need, besides the frame, is a little patience (but not too much) in counting ...

Finished item size 10.5 x 10.5 cm

Stitches

Backstitch
Straight stitch with counted threads
Whipstitch

Materials:

Fabric: a strip of F.lli Graziano Valtopina linen of 12 threads, pearl gray, 40x20 cm

Thread:

- Basting thread
- Mouliné cotton, used in two plies for the backstitch outline and whipstitch, and three-ply for embroidery. In the example, we used DMC threads:
- dark petrol green 3808
- medium teal green 597 (3847 or 117)
- rust 919

Other material:

- 2 needles, one No. 22/24 with a rounded tip (for embroidering) and one No. 22/24 with a sharp tip (to secure the threads on the reverse side)
- 1 wooden hoop, diameter 12 cm.
- 2 pearls or 2 small buttons
- synthetic padding



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Preparation of the fabric

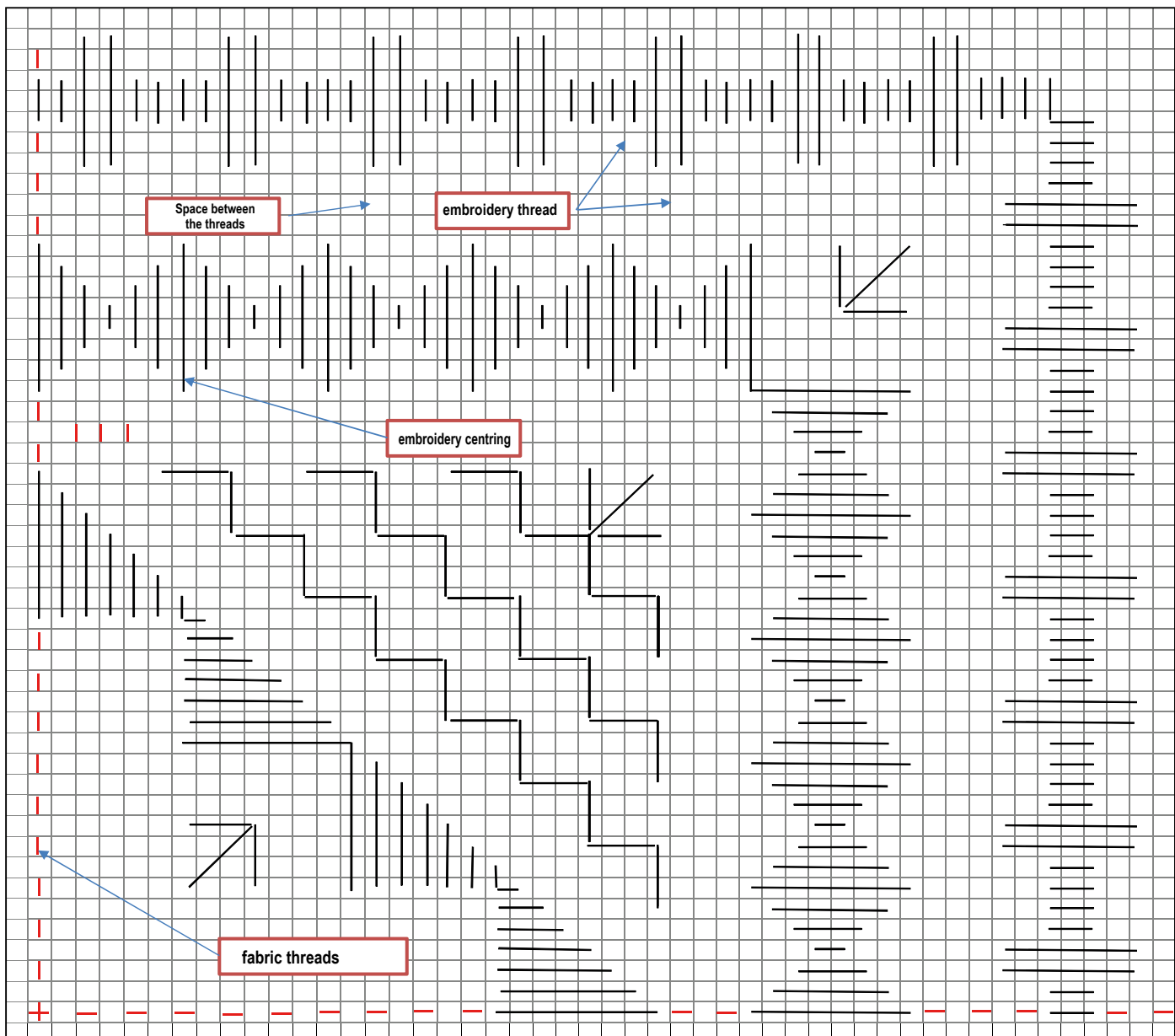
Divide the linen strip into 2 squares of fabric and centre the work on each square. Fold the fabric in 4 and work, with the basting thread, some running stitches in two perpendicular lines following the folds (fig. 1). For convenience, each running stitch will be worked on 4 threads.



Embroidery

Counted thread embroidery is done using the hoop. The two squares are both embroidered, so the explanations below apply to both squares.

The pincushion will therefore be double face.





In short, we can say that counted thread embroidery consists of a series of straight stitches, and their length and distance from the other stitches must be calculated by counting the threads of the fabric. It is therefore good that the fabric is regular, i.e., with the same number of threads per centimetre in the weft and in the warp. Use a diagram that guides you step by step.

To easily understand the pattern, imagine that the lines of the background squares are the threads of our fabric; each square must therefore be interpreted as the space between the threads, into which the needle must be inserted when you embroider. The vertical, horizontal or slanting strokes that cross the lines of the squares are instead the stitches of the embroidery (Diagram).

First trace with thread no. 919, the contour of the pincushion, in back stitches on 4 threads. Since Valtopina is a regular fabric with 12 threads per centimetre, each side of the outline will consist of 32 stitches: place yourself at 16 stitches from the centre of the fabric along the vertical thread (Fig. 2). Start working 16 back stitches (go to the left), and then rotate the work 90 degrees clockwise and proceed with another 32 stitches. Rotate again and embroider another

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32 stitches, then rotate and finish at the centre of the side with another 16 stitches, thus finding yourself at the starting point. (Fig. 3)

Now, observing the diagram, assemble the fabric on the loom and make the various details of the motif as follows:

- embroider the external frame with thread 597. Position yourself in the upper left corner, at 5 stitches from the external lateral edge and from the upper edge (i.e., 20 threads). Start embroidering towards the right, first 4 vertical long stitches on 2 threads and then 2 vertical stitches on 6 threads, all spaced from each other by 1 thread and then repeat the sequence 14 times (Fig. 4). Embroider the last 4 stitches on 2 threads and turn the work 90 degrees counter-clockwise (Fig. 5).

Repeat on each side.

- embroider the middle frame with the thread no. 3808, in diamond shapes. Always start at the top left, placing the 4-thread needle from the upper “long” straight stitches and 11 threads from the lateral “long” straight stitches. Trace a vertical long stitch on 7 threads, then one on 5 threads, one on 3 threads and one on 1 thread, thus creating the initial half rhombus (Fig. 6).

Then continue with a stitch on 3 threads, one on 5 threads, one on 7 threads and so on, until we obtain 9 complete diamonds and 2 half diamonds. Turn the work 90 degrees counterclockwise and repeat on each side.

- With thread 597 embroider the inner frame: position yourself at 4 threads from the end of the central rhombus of the median frame and perform a vertical launched stitch on 7 threads, then one on 6 threads and so on, decreasing each stitch by one thread in the upper part of the triangular pattern. The next motif is embroidered by sequentially embroidering a horizontal straight



stitch on 1 thread, a horizontal straight stitch on 2 threads and so on up to 7 threads (Fig. 7 and 8).

- The zigzag sequences are performed on 3 threads, alternating the colours 3808 and 597. The flames were embroidered with the colour 919 (Fig. 9).

Confectioning and finishing

Once both squares have been embroidered - as already mentioned - reduce them in size, cutting the excess fabric to 1 cm from the outer edge, for the hem (Fig. 10).

Fold each side inwards, along the embroidered outline and bring the reverse sides of the 2 squares together, so that the vertex of the side of the first square matches the half of the side of the second (Fig. 11).

With thread 597 make a whipstitch, joining each time the backstitch of one square with the corresponding backstitch of the other (Fig. 12).

Before finishing the closure, insert the padding inside the product (Fig. 13).

You just have to block the centre of the cushion with the 2 small buttons or the 2 pearls (Fig.14) and behold, the pincushion is completed! (Fig. 15).

