



Picture of Finished Project: Sealife Porthole

Bring a piece of fabric to life with stitches and beads! This fabric had a pretty scene of a percula clown fish, a butterfly fish, a starfish, and various invertebrates. It made me immediately think of a view via a porthole! So, voila, this little design blossomed. Using a reverse hoop finish, paint the hoop battleship gray, add some naval rope (linen cording), and you have a fast gift. You could easily choose a floral or animal scene, turn the porthole into a window and add curtains. So come on and give this a try and spread your stitching wings!

Supply List

ITEM	DESCRIPTION
Needles:	Tapestry Size 28 and Sharps to accommodate my threads
Hoop:	4" cheap wooden hoop
Ground Fabric:	6" or 8" square of printed cotton fabric; I bought a fat quarter from a quilt shop, or you can buy a 1/4 yard piece which will get you a 9-inch (around 22cm) length. Be sure you get the scene you want in the cut section of the fabric! Nice cotton muslin backing to make the fabric "thicker" to work on Many people ask what exact fabric I used. I apologize, I bought this as a fat quarter from a quilt shop, so I don't have the manufacturer info.
Threads:	Match the colors in your fabric, then go a little lighter and a little darker. I chose some red for the starfish, some orange for the clownfish, yellow for the butterfly fish. I chose a red Fyreworks for the seahorse. I used a linen thread in the sand as well as DMC cotton floss.
Button Set:	No buttons in this project
Bead Set:	If you like beads, add them I used size 11 Delica beads in blue b
Paint	Battleship Gray (if doing a porthole); or any window frame color
Cording	Linen Thread – the same I used in the sand, I used to make enough cording to hide the line between the inner and outer hoops. I this case, I used 8 lengths of linen thread, made the cording, so the cording is 16 strands thick. The Linen thread is fairly thin.
Glue	I used Aleen's Tacky Glue exclusively on this project—see Finishing instructions below
Felt	Battleship Gray or Slate Gray to match paint for backing

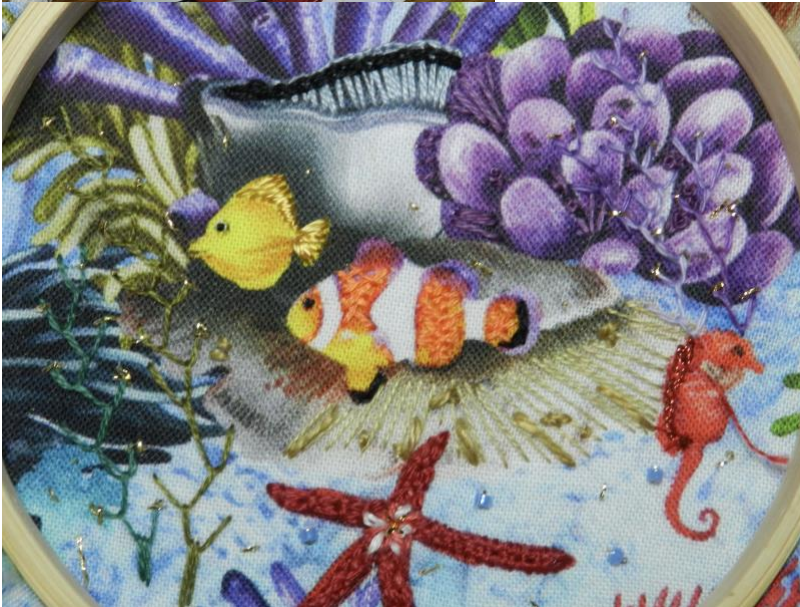
INSTRUCTIONS



COLOR & THREAD AUDITION: Chaotic, isn't it?

1. First audition your colors of threads with your fabric. Match the colors in your fabric, then go a little lighter and a little darker. I chose some red for the starfish, some orange for the clownfish, yellow for the butterfly fish. I chose a red Fyreworks for the seahorse. I used a linen thread in the sand as well as DMC cotton floss!
2. I added size 11 Delica beads to add some water sparkle, as well as Kreinik Balger Blending Filament in a shiny high-luster gold and just stitched it here and there.

STITCH AWAY



Overall Stitch Layout for my fabric



Starfish Closeup



Seahorse (note excess untrimmed fabric to right of hoop) and Fish Close Ups



Featherstitch Close Ups. Note Sand in varied fibers.



Blanket Stitch

I used a combination of cross stitches, fishbone, blanket stitch, straight stitch, and French knots to enhance the fabric with threads from 1 strand to 3 strands, thick and thin. Then I added feather stitching for more seaweed. I added beads for sparkle. Then I needed more sparkle, so I took Kreinik high-luster gold and just put little short stitches all over, plus I stitched little stitches at the end of each feather, putting two stitches in when 1 didn't sparkle enough. I stitched until I said "Finished!". Keep stitching your piece until you feel happy with it!

Finishing Instructions for your project



**Note (1) Your fabric is in the hoop at the BOTTOM of the hoop
(2). Note the excess showing on the outside of the hoop while adding stitches to keep project taut**

Materials Needed To Make a Porthole:

Completed Embroidery

Wooden Hoop

Battleship Gray (or Slate Gray or Add a little black to white to get a gray) Acrylic Paint

Small flat brush for painting

Cording

1. Paint the inside of the inner hoop gray (I forgot this step and had to do it after I glued everything—definitely a mistake!)
2. And I guess you could paint the outside of the outer hoop gray.
3. Let the paint dry (in FLA it takes about 10 to 15 minutes).
4. If you've been using this hoop to stitch your piece, then you have a handle on exactly where your piece will be placed in the hoop. You want the embroidery to be at the BACK of the bottom hoop, so that both the inner hoop and outer hoop are visible from the front. Does that make sense? If not, look at the pictures. Normally you want the raw edges of the embroidery to be facing the back; in this case you want the raw edges of the material to be facing up between the two hoops.
5. THIS IS THE FIDGETY PART OF THE FINISHING, so if in doubt, relax, take a break, get a drink and prepare your materials:
READ ALL THE INSTRUCTIONS TWICE!
 - a. Get your glue
 - b. Get a dry paper towel
 - c. Get a damp paper towel
 - d. Get some plastic wrap.
 - e. Get a sharp pair of scissors that MIGHT get glue on them (the reason for the damp towel). You will need them to trim the fabric around your embroidery.
6. Do a test run: put your embroidery into the hoop so the fabric edges are up between the 2 hoops
7. BE SURE TO ORIENT YOUR PORTHOLE SCREW (i.e., the hoop screw) so the screw is pointing down on the right (or the left, whichever you'd like)! Check out completed design pictures at top and bottom of project.
8. Now you are ready to start gluing.
 - a. Place a line of Tacky Glue along the INSIDE of the OUTER hoop, and the OUTSIDE of the INNER HOOP. Spread it out with your finger (wipe fingers off on damp towel).
 - b. Place your fabric between the 2 hoops, pushing the inner hoop a bit UP and TRIM the EXCESS FABRIC (good fabric and liner fabric) with your sharp scissors. Then push the inner hoop down to match the outer hoop. Hold or clip until dry. Really just a few minutes. You have a little time to make adjustments, but this is the worst part. DO NOT WORRY IF YOUR EMBROIDERY FEELS A LITTLE LOOSE, this can happen. When you put your backing on, it won't make any difference.
 - c. Wait until dry.
9. O.K. the worst part is over, now we can continue painting.
 - a. Paint the front of both hoops
 - b. Paint the outside of the outer hoop.
 - c. Let a & b dry, then turn over and paint the back of both hoops (this could be skipped, if you are covering the back, but I did it anyway..
 - d. Do touchups or second coast as needed.

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10. Make the rope cording.
11. Determine middle of cording and align it to the bottom of your porthole. It is always better to start with a light layer of glue (i.e. don't be heavy handed; it can get away from you easily!). Glue from this point up both sides to the top pushing the cording into the groove between the hoops. I had to hold this a bit to make sure it dried nicely. I didn't want to turn it face down with a book on it, because I felt it would crush the cording, but do what you'd like. No one will know but you!
12. At the top of the cording, I did an overhand "knot" plus another slide under (like a surgeon's knot) and added a touch more glue. Make a loop for hanging.
13. I glued a piece of battleship gray premium felt to the back and trimmed all around the hoop.
14. And you're finished! Congratulations!

