

Stumpwork Plumeria

a project for stumpwork beginners



designed and
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Materials List

- 1 six inch square (or larger) white 100% cotton fabric
- 1 four inch embroidery hoop
- 1 skein: DMC 22, 154, 550
- 1 skein: Cosmo 287A
- 6 six inch pieces of floral wire, 24 gauge

Preparing to stitch

- Print out the template on the last page of these instructions.
- Trace the six petals onto your piece of fabric.

** If you stitch the petals as close as they are on the template, you may get frustrated when your thread gets snagged on the wires as you complete each petal. If you think that'll be an issue, you may want to do one or two petals in a four inch hoop at a time. If you plan to do that, make sure you have enough fabric to stitch a total of six petals.



Gently bend a piece of floral wire so that it roughly follows the shape of your leaf. It doesn't have to be perfect, as you can adjust it as you couch it down to the fabric.

Once it's in a shape you like, use 1 strand of DMC 550 to couch the wire to the outline of the petal. Make sure the wire is shaped so that you have two "tails"...which will become the stem of the petal.

Make your couching stitches about 1/4 inch apart. Add a few stitches where the tails cross to reinforce them so they don't move.



Using 1 strand of DMC 550, start at the bottom center of the petal and work a buttonhole stitch all the way to the other end of the wire.

You're creating a wired slip. It might be helpful to [watch this video](#) so you can see the method before attempting it.

This step covers the wire and provides a nice edge to the petal.

Once you're done covering the entire wire (not the tails, just the wire that is the border of the petal), you can begin filling in the top half of the leaf with a single strand of DMC 550 in long and short stitch.

If needed, you can stitch a few guidelines (pictured here) to ensure your stitches stay straight.



Once you've filled the top 1/2 to 1/3 of the petal with long and short stitch in DMC 550, you're ready to work the middle section of the petal.

Thread your needle with 1 strand of Cosmo 287A. Using long and short stitch, fill the middle of the petal, making sure to stagger the length of your stitches.

Remember to vary the length of your stitches. It's okay to come up deep into the DMC 550 you've just stitched and go down into the bottom of the petal.



Once you've filled the top 1/2 to 1/3 of the petal with long and short stitch in DMC 550, you're ready to work the middle section of the petal.

Thread your needle with 1 strand of Cosmo 287A. Using long and short stitch, fill the middle of the petal, making sure to stagger the length of your stitches.

Remember to vary the length of your stitches. It's okay to come up deep into the DMC 550 you've just stitched and go down into the bottom of the petal.



With the middle row done, work the third and final row with a single strand of long & short stitch in DMC 154.

Again, make sure your stitches vary in length and dip deep into the row of Cosmo to ensure the colors blend.



Now that the purple is done, use one strand of DMC 22 to stitch a few rust accents into the base of the petal.

Leave the leaf attached to the fabric now and begin creating a second leaf, following all the same steps.

If the wire for this leaf are getting in your way, use washi tape to secure them to your fabric so your thread doesn't snag.



When you're done, you'll have 6 petals fully stitched. Good for you!

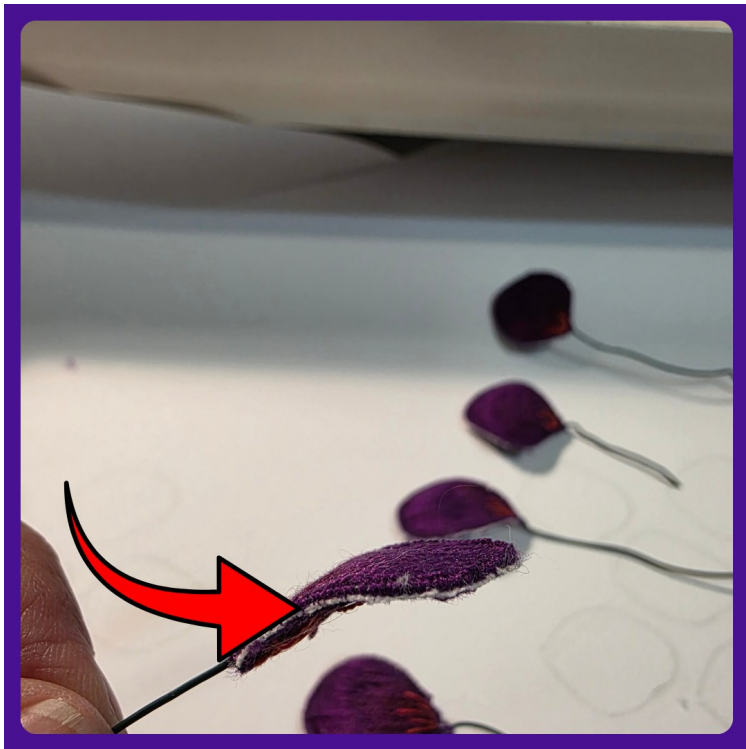
Remove the fabric from your hoop.

Using fabric scissors, carefully cut the leaves from the fabric. Just cut them apart, don't worry about getting up close and detailed right now.



Now you have six petals cut apart.

Using fabric scissors, CAREFULLY cut the extra fabric away from the petal. Be very careful not to cut the stitching...only the fabric.



It is perfectly fine if you see white sections of fabric under your stitches. This is unavoidable. Just cut as close as you can so you see as little as possible.

Get a purple or black Sharpie marker and carefully tint the white fabric to camouflage it. Voila!



When you're done trimming, you'll have 6 single petals.

Using a wire cutter, snip one of the tails off so that each tail only has one wire. Be careful not to cut too close.

Now you have 6 petals with a wire stem and you're ready to assemble your flower!



Bring all the petals together, facing inward as follows:

Pinch two in your fingers facing inward toward each other so they're right side to right side (ugly/under side of the petal should be face up toward you).

Stack another petal behind each of these petals...still facing inward.

Add the third set of petals in the same way.

The picture at the left shows what your gathered petals should look like. All petals are facing inward, 3 on top and 3 on bottom.



Using a spare piece of wire about 3 inches long, twist it around the group of petals as high and tight as possible. Use a small pliers if you need to. You can also just use a bread tie from a loaf of bread.

Once the petals are tightly bound together, twist the petal stems into one single stem to make everything more secure.

Once that's done, you're free to gently fan out the petals into the flower shape. Don't forget to gently curl the petals as well...and you're done!

Enjoy your stumpwork plumeria!

