STUMPWORK BUTTERFLY

By Judy Jeroy

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MATERIALS LIST

- Linen twill foundation fabric – or broadcloth, denim, or other firm fabric - 9" square is sufficient
- DMC Memory Wire or Kreinik Wired Braid (Judy also suggests that wrapped floral wire could be used, as could thin copper wire or silver wire. Or one could wrap a thin piece of chenille pipe cleaner with thread.)
- DMC Rayon thread – 7 or 8 colors
- DMC 6-strand Cotton – 1 color
- #26 chenille needles
- Beads for body of butterfly – one 7mm, five 3mm, and three #11s
- Sequins for spots on wings – 4mm and 6mm
- Presentation (mounting) fabric

ORDER OF WORK

1. Trace pattern of butterfly wings (back page) onto the linen twill fabric. Then place fabric into hoop.

2. Cut 9.5" length of DMC Memory Wire for top wings and 9" length for bottom wings. The antennae will require 4.5” of wire.

3. Cut 24" length of DMC 6-strand cotton and divide in half – three ply and three ply. Using three ply, tack the wire in the shape of a wing, using 8 to 12 tacks around the wing. Straighten out the leftover ends to keep them out of the way. These ends will be used to secure wings to presentation fabric.
4. Working buttonhole stitch with the loop INSIDE the wing, secure the wire all around the wing, placing stitches closely together.

CLOSED BUTTONHOLE - use hoop

Work left to right with needle pointing toward your left arm (if right-handed; otherwise, reverse.) First straight stitch A-B is only to eliminate the "hook" the buttonhole stitch makes when first begun.

Needle up at C and down at D, right beside first straight stitch, and up at E with yarn looped down under the needle. Repeat this step being careful to cover the fabric completely while not crowding the stitches. The looped edges of the stitch should form little "pearls" evenly on the edge.
5. Cut 20” length of Rayon Satin floss and use 2 ply in needle. Stitch irregular satin stitches about .5” in length from top edge of wing, angling toward the base. Using photographs as guides, change colors as desired.
6. About 1” from top edge of top wing, secure four (4) sequins to the fabric, using the same color as will be used to cover the sequins. Four stitches are adequate. Work satin stitch over each sequin in the desired color.
7. Fill the remaining area of wing with desired color.

8. With contrasting color, place three rows of detached chain stitches all angling toward the base.
9. Carefully cut around wing, taking care not to snag the buttonhole stitches. If necessary, you may use permanent marker in the appropriate color to hide fabric threads.
10. Stitch the remaining three wings, referring to the color pictures for placement of sequin/spots, detached chain stitches, stem stitch and chain stitch.

11. Determine placement of butterfly on presentation fabric and mark the spot for the butterfly head. With doubled thread and a knot, secure a 20” length of cotton floss and stitch down the largest bead for the head. Stitch down five more beads in your chosen colors for the body. Use the very smallest beads for the tail.

12. Sink the two upper wings behind the second body bead by making a hole in the fabric and inserting the wires from each wing. Sink the two lower wings behind the third body bead in the same fashion. On the back of the fabric securely whip the ends of the wire to the existing stitches

13. Curve the 4.5” piece of memory wire into an antennae shape and tack down just under the head.
Our test chart printed out at approximately 3 1/4 inches high by 4 3/8 inches wide. Measure from the outermost lines in each direction. This measurement is not critical since butterflies in nature vary in size. It could impact the sizing of sequins used for the spots if your printout varies greatly from ours. Just a "heads up."