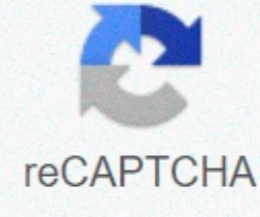




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Cross stitch embroidery stars

In hand embroidery, when you're embroidering outside the grid, sometimes it's hard to sew a geometric shape like a star, without a weird finish. Today, as part of the Stitch Play series, I'll show you how to use this star stitch to make some perfect little stars and snowflakes, just in time for the winter and Christmas seams. The good thing about this stitching technique is that it's very simple. It's just a matter of straight stitches after a specific sequence. The result? Perfect 6-pointed stars (or snowflakes). The technique can be used for multiple number of points in the stars, but since I was looking for something that would serve as snowflake too, I kept the 6-pointed technique at first. Later, I tried 8 points, and I'll show you the results of that experiment below. The tutorial seems long because there are lots of photos, but once you get the concept, you will see exactly how easy this is! Let's go! The materials I played with this technique will be different types of yarn. The thread I like most for this so far - it gave beautiful results every time - is Soie Perlee. It's a non-divisible filament silk that has a beautiful glow. It's perfect for stars and snowflakes! For the gold star here, I'm #149 color display. You can also use a cotton perle (#5 works well). I'm using linen as a ground fabric, and because of the traction that continues with this as the star takes shape, it's helpful to have your fabric drum tight on a hoop. Method To get started, you'll need to mark 6 perfectly spaced points in a circle on your fabric. The placement of these points will determine the size of your star, each point will be the outer extremity of a point. You can take a look at this tutorial on how to achieve perfect spacing for petals and radia, if you need help with point design. It is important that your points are as light as possible, so that they are not visible when the star is finished. Take the needle to the front of the fabric at any point. Move around the circle of clockwise points, skip a point, and take the needle to the back of the fabric at the next point. Then go back to the point you omitted, and bring the needle to the front of the fabric at that point. Then advance again, jumping one point and going down on the next, bringing the needle and thread to the back of the fabric. You can see in the photo above that the point you omitted is the one at the end of your first straight stitch. Now go back to the point you omitted (the end of the first straight stitch) and take the needle to the front in the same hole. Advance again, jumping one point and going down to the next point. Proceed all the way around the star in this way, advancing two points and back one, forward two and back, until you have created the first layer of the star. This is what the of the first layer will look like, and once you get to this point, you're ready to start the second layer. Raise the needle right next to where the first stitch in the first layer. You will want to climb just to the bottom left of the point that marked the tip of the star. Use the line created by the first layer of dots as a guide, and climb right next to it (as in, touching the thread) or under the stitch of the first layer, fishing the needle out so you don't cut the previous stitch. The needle should be rising on the outside of the first layer of dots, as you can see in the photo above. Now, working on exactly the same movement as the first layer of points, skip a point on the star, and lower the needle on the other side of the next point of the star, as shown in the photo above. Remember to use the lines of the previous stitch layer as your guide, and go down just across that stitch line. You can tilt the needle a little so you can move to the fabric just below that stitch. Return to the point of the omitted star, and carry the needle up on the fabric on the left side of the point, and then repeat the same instructions around the star. The second layer of stitches will look more or less like this when completed. Now, it's just a matter of repeating this sequence around the star in the same way, always moving a little down from the point of the star and going up and down on the outside of the lines created during the first sewing layer. Just remember forward two and backward one, forward two and back one, all around the star. Switching to a different sample here, to show you more progress around the star. The blue star above has three layers of full seam. Notice that as the lines move down at each point of the star, the threads pull from the sides of the star inwards. Eventually, you'll end up with the final thread crossing horizontally over the center of the star, and no more space to move around the sides of either point. At this point, the star is finished. The blue star is made using the blue Pipers Silks silk gimp that I showed you the other day. The yarn is not as plump as Soie Perlee – it's twister and a little stiffer – so it doesn't fill the star as well as the Soie Perlee, but it still looks good. This is the star made with the Soie Perlee. I really like it! The red star is also made with Soie Perlee. Both stars are approximately 3/4 point-to-point. Testing MetalZaide I also tested the star using a metal braid. This is a pretty thick metal braid, and I found it difficult to work such a small star with it. It worked, but it would probably work better with a larger star or a much thinner braid (or both). You can see how high the metal star is from the fabric, compared to the relatively flat white silk star in the background. Metal was also somewhat resistant in the fabric again, problem using too heavy a thread in too small a space. On the left, a white star (makes a big snowflake!) made of next to the finished metal star. Other embroidery threads and sizes You can adjust the weight of your threads and the size of your stars to get a different effect. I found Trebizond and Soie Perlee worked well on these 3/4 stars (I liked Soie Perlee better), just like a cotton perle #5, but the latter misses the bright silk shine (a good effect on the stars and snowflakes!). The best yarns I've tried so far have been non-divisible and twisted yarns (Trebizond, Soie Perlee, cotton perle and the like). Regular floss works, but it doesn't look the same: you lose the texture that comes with a more twisted thread. If you want to go even smaller – with 1/2 stars, for example – you can try finer threads. Fine sedes of twisted filaments (like Soie de Paris) create flatter tiny stars with fantastic shine. Testing an 8-pointed Star I also tried an 8-pointed figure, just to see how it would turn out. For this test, I'm using a heavier white silk (like Trebizond) and a thin strand of White Core White Gold Bijoux blend filament. Just to see, you know... With a larger figure of 8 points, the star doesn't fill up all the way! As you move down the dots to pull the sides on, the dots end up building on themselves - they never cross close enough to close it. A good place for a big gold account? Or you could work the 8-star shape on a shisha mirror. Hmmmm.... Possibilities! Notice that the more points accumulate over that first layer of stitches that makes the base of the star, the more the fabric pulls around the points of the stars. This problem can be solved by loosening the stress on that first layer of points. I know I'm going to play with all this star stitch/snowflake concept a little more, to see what other combinations I can think of. I hope you have a chance for some stitching game, too, and enjoy making your own variations! If you like this Stitch Play tutorial, feel free to check out my other articles in the Stitch Play series, where you'll find instructions for a variety of stitching techniques and combinations to bring your embroidery to life. Have a great weekend! The star dot can be used as a combination stitch, or as a fill stitch in your embroidery projects. This stitch consists of a double cross stitch with a third small cross stitch worked on each side of the vertical stitch. It is a member of the embroidery stitch cross stitch family that can be used individually in random designs, or together in rows. The stellar stitch begins with straight stitches combined with a minimum of 8 ends. The ends can be 8 points ending in the same center, or 4 longer stitches in the same center. There are a lot of variations at this point, I'll want to play with! The star embroidery stitch can be used as a filler or decoratively. It has a minimum of 8 points and is secured in the middle with a few points. Star dots can have the same length, length, lengths – some short and some long. Play and see what you love most for your star embroidery stitches! Embroidery thread or floss embroidered fabric embroidered needle embroidery embroidery scissors Embroidery scissors With an invisible square on your fabric. I'm making stars with 4 longer points in this sample. Climb the thread in the center of the outer line of your invisible square, and return to the center of the other side of your invisible square, and raise the needle to the center of the side of your invisible square. I'm using the marks for the outer corner of my 4 x 4 sample that I'm doing to start my first star. You'll see you have a line of your star, with two ends. Then lower the needle again in the center of the other side of its invisible square. Now we have 4 of the 8 lines we need for the star. Then bring your needle back between two of the star's spokes. Then insert the opposite needle to where you pulled it out, and then bring it in the middle of an empty quadrant. Then make the same diagonal stitch in the other direction. Now we have 6 of our lines for the star. For the last stitch, insert the needle into the empty quadrant and bring it in the center. There are many ways to handle the last points. I like this method that really makes the center pleasant and tense, making the last two points closer to the center of its invisible square. This keeps all the central threads together. See how it went up very close to the first thread, and then I locked all the threads down to the other side of the center. My Star Stitch embroidery sampler! This is a fun point to make. You can see that I have tried different stitch lengths, sizes and more. I used #8 of variegated pearl cotton in this star embroidery stitch sampler, and my favorite Bohin needles. Check out all the embroidery projects in Create Capricho! Banal!

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