

March Sisters' Craft Corner: Meg's Embroidered Goldfinch

Embroidery is a time-honored art, often practiced by women. It's a bit like creating a painting with thread! We celebrate Meg from *Little Women* with a beautifully embroidered goldfinch. Watch the video for instructions: [Embroidered Goldfinch](#)

Supplies Needed

- Square piece of light colored cotton fabric, about 10-12 inches square
- Embroidery floss – off white, light gray, light yellow, dark gray, black
- Embroidery hoop
- Embroidery needle
- Scissors
- Goldfinch design template
- Tissue paper
- Pen
- Permanent marker



Instructions

1. Place your fabric in the embroidery hoop and set it aside.
2. Place the tissue paper over the printout of the design (found at <https://crystallake.librarycalendar.com/events/month/2021/11> on 11/2/21)
3. Using a pen, carefully trace all the lines of the design onto the tissue paper.
4. Place the tissue paper with the penned design over the center of the fabric in the embroidery hoop.
5. Using the permanent marker, make small dots on all the lines just drawn with the pen. The permanent marker should bleed through so that the design is transferred to the fabric.
6. Start with a threaded needle of 4 strands of off-white embroidery floss and satin stitch the main stomach area. When you get near the top, be sure to leave a space between the neck and the front portion you are stitching.
7. After finishing the main front area, go back and stitch the sliver of stomach lower on the bird with 4 strands of off-white floss.
8. Using 4 strands of light gray floss, satin stitch the head of the bird along with the top of its back. Start the satin stitch by stitching between the outer edge of the head and its eye. Once past the eye, stitch all the way across.
9. Using 2 strands of light yellow, sporadically stitch over the main section of the front side of the finch. Avoid the tiny lower area. Increase the number of stitches as you get closer to the head so as to make it yellower.

10. Once you are happy with the look of the yellow stitching on the bird's belly, repeat this process over the stitched gray section on the back.
11. Using 4 strands of the yellow floss, satin stitch the small neck section between the head and the lower part of the bird.
12. Next, sporadically stitch around the head with 4 strands of the yellow. Make the stitches smaller than the original gray.
13. Using 4 strands of black, stitch a French knot for the bird's eye and then satin stitch the wing. The bottom of the tail is more of a back and forth, rather than a satin stitch.
14. Using 4 strands of off-white, texture the wings by stitching several long stitches and some shorter sporadic stitches at different angles.
15. Using 4 strands of dark gray floss, satin stitch the beak. Use a back stitch for the legs and then a satin stitch to fill in a bit near the top of the legs.
16. Watch the video as the goldfinch is created and stitched by Jessica:
<https://youtu.be/4Hxe0GTHmL8>