

CONEFLOWER



FLOWER COLOURS: CORAL/ORANGE/YELLOW/DEEP PINK

Coneflower is the name used to refer to Echinacea and Rudbeckia, both of which derive from the Aster family. Echinacea is typically pink and black, or purple and black, whereas Rudbeckia is typically vibrant orange or yellow. These beautiful medium to tall, perennial flowers have a distinctive shape and are easy to stitch effectively. The petals hang outwards or downwards and the centres stand proud.

Embroider all the stems first in stem stitch or whipped backstitch. Stitch three to five detached chain stitches all radiating from the centre of the flower, outwards and downwards. The centres are brown with touches of yellow or black (use charcoal colour thread) so try combining a strand each of yellow and brown and embroider a prominent French knot. Add straight stitches and detached chain stitches for the leaves.



DAFFODIL

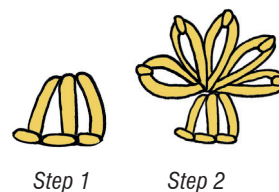


FLOWER COLOURS: YELLOW/ORANGE/WHITE

The daffodil belongs to the Narcissus family of flowers and is known for its proliferation of colour in spring, common in many gardens but also in the wild. It comes in a number of shades of yellow, white and orange and combinations thereof. It is perhaps one of the best-loved and known of all the spring flowers.

Buttonhole stitch is used to form the cup (trumpet or corona) of the flower. Complete three to five stitches as depicted in step 1.

Then complete the petals of the flower, stitching roughly four to five stitches in detached chain (lazy daisy), and working from the same hole in the centre of the flower outwards – step 2.



Experiment with a variety of colour combinations. Add a row of detached chain to the edge of the buttonhole stitch for variety.

This flower has long blade-like leaves which lend themselves to a long, narrow detached chain stitch filled with a long straight stitch.





Gloves

CREAM/BEIGE/GREEN/BROWN/YOUR OWN CHOICE

In every gardener's trug of gardening implements will be at least one pair of gardening gloves.

These can merely be outlines in backstitch or whipped backstitch, stem stitch or split backstitch.

Alternatively, they can be filled in with split stitch or long and short stitch.

Another alternative is to fill them in with continuous chain stitch or continuous stem stitch, as you can see here on the gloves on the thimble pip.

What looks very effective though, is to find a piece of very fine and soft kid leather (recycle old kid gloves, found in charity or thrift stores). Trace the shape onto the back of the leather and cut out with a very sharp pair of scissors. Attach these to your work using an invisible applique stitch (see below).



Hat

BEIGE/STRAW/YOUR OWN CHOICE

The hat can simply be outlined with stem stitch or whipped backstitch. Use trapunto methods (optional) to stuff a little bit of wadding (also known as batting) or stuffing behind the crown to give a more three-dimensional look. This is done after the brim and the crown are outlined with stem or backstitch. See stumpwork techniques on page 38.

Alternatively, it can be filled in with split backstitch or continuous chain. Work in a circular direction so that the roundness is emphasized. Make the brim slightly darker (or the crown) so that the crown is clearly defined, or change your stitch used. I used a fine continuous chain stitch for the brim and changed to continuous stem stitch to fill the crown of the hat of the thimble pip. Then embroider a circlet of flowers around the crown, using French knots for flowers and detached chain stitch for leaves, or tie a ribbon around the crown of the hat – use one to two strands of thread for best effect.

SEWING BAG

The Vintage Gardener

Finished size of design

13 × 18cm (5½ × 7in) approx. embroidered area

Finished size of bag

18.75 × 28cm (7½ × 11in) not including handles

The embroidery pattern for tracing this design is on page 153.

I designed the sewing bag with the crinoline lady on it to give a slightly different twist to what was a very popular design style for embroidery in the 1930s and 1940s.

The piece was created to store all your needlework accessories created in this book.

If you would prefer to design a garden without the lady on your bag, use one of the suggested patterns, or create your own garden. Likewise, the writing on the second side could be replaced with a garden design. *Under the Arches* (see page 102) and *An Abundance of Flowers* (see page 94) would make ideal garden designs for your bag too. The bag itself was designed by Jennifer Jones of Alton, Hampshire.

A lightweight linen/cotton blend was used for the lining of the bag, which makes for easier sewing when constructing the bag and completing the seams. There are two size buttons that can be used for the bag: either 29mm (1in) or 39mm (1½in). If you prefer to use the larger button, then the button tab needs to be wider. For this you would use the entire tab as is and add on a seam allowance. If you use the smaller tab for the 29mm button, then use the tab and seam allowance as supplied in the pattern. The smaller button was used on the prototype, whereas the larger button was used on the finished bag (see the photograph on page 108).

In my prototype, I only added the one pocket, as in the
You will need box, but in the actual embroidered
piece, I inserted two pockets.

Prototype of my sewing bag.



You will need

- One 40 × 140cm (16 × 56in) piece of linen/cotton blend fabric, suitable for embroidery.
- One 40 × 140cm (16 × 56in) piece of lining – any suitable fine linen or cotton.
- Two 35 × 45cm (14 × 18in) pieces of muslin for backing (see page 32).
- One 13cm (5in) square of muslin for the button.
- Two 20 × 31cm (8 × 12in) pieces of interlining – wadding/felt – lightweight for interlining the front and back panels.
- One 45 × 90cm (18 × 35in) piece of lightweight iron-on Vilene (stabilizer) for the pockets, the tab and the handles.
- One 10 × 22.5cm (4 × 9in) piece of pelmet Vilene (stabilizer) for the base.
- Five metal electrical washers for the dress – size M2.
- One metal button for covering: 29mm (1in) or 39mm (1½in).
- 10cm (4in) embroidery hoop/frame – for the button.
- 20cm (8in) embroidery hoop or a 30cm (12in) Able frame, Millennium frame or a slate frame.
- Matching sewing machine thread.

TAPE MEASURE COVER

Bee Alert

Finished size of design

3 × 4cm (1¼ × 1¾in) approx. embroidered area for the watering can;
5cm (2in) diameter, approx. embroidered area for the insects;
Side panel 2 × 16.5cm (¾ × 6¾in) embroidered with bees

Finished size of tape measure cover

5.5cm (2¼in)

The embroidery pattern for tracing this design is on page 155.

A retractable tape measure is a tool I always carry on me, both in my embroidery toolbox and in my handbag. The measurements opposite are for my tape measure, which is a common size – 5cm (2in), but make sure you measure the diameter of yours first before making your templates. Neither of my two tape measures are exactly the same in size.



You will need

One 18 × 28cm (7 × 11in) piece of linen/cotton blend fabric.

One 18 × 28cm (7 × 11in) piece of muslin for backing.

One 18cm (7in) square of felt/wadding.

One 3 × 18cm (1¼ × 7in) piece of linen/cotton blend fabric.

One 2 × 18cm (¾ × 7in) iron-on Vilene (stabilizer).

Threads: As well as the suggested threads on page 21, you will also need one skein of pale green hand-dyed stranded cotton for edging.

Cardboard or a thin template plastic for creating the design template, as well as for making the inserts.

13cm (5in) embroidery hoop/frame.

Glue stick or glue gun.