

PROJECT

The Birds And The Bees Punchneedle Keeper

To complement her stunning bag as featured on *Homespun's* 'The Art Of Punchneedle' DVD (distributed with *Homespun* Vol 8 No 2 in February 2007), Lynette Anderson has created a sweet little punchneedle keeper to ensure your needles are kept safe and sound. If you've had lots of fun creating her bag, then make sure you get to work on this extra project, which can be whipped up in an afternoon.

Materials

- 28cm (11in) square of weavers cloth (embroidery)
- 15cm (6in) square blue floral print fabric (backing)
- DMC Colour Variations Stranded Embroidery Cotton in Winter Sky (4010) and Mid Summer Night (4240)
- DMC Stranded Embroidery Cotton in Ecu and Medium Old Gold (729)
- Needle punch tool. Lynette used a Cameo brand
- (18cm (7in) locking lip embroidery hoop and embroidery scissors
- Water-erasable fabric marking pen
- Thin cardboard and HB pencil
- Craft glue
- General sewing supplies

Finished size: 4.5cm (1 ³/₄in) diameter

Stitches used: Herringbone stitch

Note: Please read all instructions before commencing the project. Careful and accurate cutting and sewing is essential to ensure success with this project. Embroidery is worked with three strands of thread unless otherwise stated and the needle is set at the smallest setting (#1).

Lynette's Tips For Working Punchneedle

- When you start to punch, the loops appear very loose. Once you have done a few rows, the loops will stand up more and hold each other together.
- When punching, do not lift the needle off the surface of the fabric. Move in the direction of the needle's bevelled edge, punching the needle down as far as it can go, lifting it up, dragging it along the fabric surface (about 1mm¹/₁₆in), then punching again.
- If you are punching and no loops are forming, check you haven't caught the end of your thread anywhere; it must remain free at all times.
- Outline the image first, then fill it in.
- Once the design is complete, clip the loose ends of the thread back to the height of the loops on the right side of your work. Make sure you leave the loose ends of the thread on the back of your work long.

Embroidery

1. Find the centre of the 28cm (11in) square of weavers cloth by folding the fabric in half and then half again. Find the centre of the design that you have downloaded from the Homespun website and match it to your fabric centre. (Note that it has been printed in reverse to assist you.) Lightly trace the stitchery design using the pencil onto the fabric. A light source such as a window, light box or glass-topped table with a desk lamp placed underneath will help to make the design more visible through the fabric.
2. Place the traced fabric into the embroidery hoop and pull taut so that the fabric is as tight as a drum, being careful not to distort the design. Stitch following the instructions that came with the punch needle, using the colours stated in the stitchery guide. Start by outlining the bird and then fill the bird in by working your way into the centre. Once the bird is complete, stitch the background. Then add the bird's beak, legs and eyes.
3. When you have finished punching, use your needle to move any loops to sharpen distorted lines. Remove the work from the embroidery hoop. Steam press your design face up to press the loops flat.

Stitchery Guide

Design area	DMC Thread
<u>Bird</u> Bird Beak, eyes and legs	Mid Summer Night (4240) Medium Old Gold (729)
<u>Background</u> Background	Winter Sky (4010)

Assembly

4. Using the pencil, trace two circle templates onto the cardboard and cut out. From each of the blue floral print fabric and the embroidered weavers cloth, cut one circle approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ in larger than the cardboard template.
5. Place a card shape onto the wrong sides of the blue print fabric and the embroidered weavers cloth. Carefully place some dots of glue around the edge of the cardboard and then bring the $\frac{1}{2}$ in seam allowance over the edge onto the glue, smoothing out any wrinkles around the edge as you go. Leave them to dry.
6. Glue the needle threader onto the back (wrong side) of the punchneedle circle, making sure that the bird is the right way up. With wrong sides together, glue the two circles together, then leave them to dry.
7. Using two strands of Ecru, work herringbone stitch around the outer edges of the circle to neaten the edge, as shown in diagram 1.

Diagram 1

For more information on other fabulous designs by Lynette Anderson, see the Stockists & Contacts list at the end of the magazine for business details. If you missed out on Lynette's fabulous DVD titled 'The Art Of Punchneedle', phone 1300 303 414 to find out how you can order a copy of the DVD accompanying Homespun Vol 8 No 2 (available for Australian and New Zealand customers only).