

**GEEK  
& CO.  
CRAFTS!**

INSTRUCTION MANUAL

# PIXEL STITCH EMBROIDERY



 THAMES & KOSMOS

Franckh-Kosmos Verlags-GmbH & Co. KG, Pfizerstr. 5-7, 70184 Stuttgart, Germany | +49 (0) 711 2191-0 | [www.kosmos.de](http://www.kosmos.de)  
Thames & Kosmos, 301 Friendship St., Providence, RI, 02903, USA | 1-800-587-2872 | [www.thamesandkosmos.com](http://www.thamesandkosmos.com)  
Thames & Kosmos UK Ltd, Goudhurst, Kent, TN17 2QZ, United Kingdom | 01580 212000 | [www.thamesandkosmos.co.uk](http://www.thamesandkosmos.co.uk)



## **SAFETY INFORMATION**

### **WARNINGS.**

Not suitable for children under 3 years. Choking hazard — small parts may be swallowed or inhaled. Strangulation hazard — long cords may become wrapped around the neck. This kit contains functional sharp needles. Do not injure yourself!

Keep the packaging and instructions as they contain important information.

### **Dear Parents,**

This kit will teach your child how to whip up one-of-a-kind designs out of thread and felt.

Handling needle and thread will not be easy at first, however. Read through the detailed manual together and be ready to offer assistance. With a little practice, stitching and sewing will soon become second nature.

In the third part of this booklet, you will find ideas for applying the techniques to yet more projects. Take a look through the project

instructions with your child, decide together which ones to do, and get the required equipment and supplies ready.

As a work surface, a well-lit, sturdy table with an easy-to-clean surface will be appropriate. Do not let the project materials get into the hands of small children!

**We wish you and  
your child a lot of fun  
in the colorful world  
of embroidery!**

# KIT CONTENTS



- |   |                              |   |                  |
|---|------------------------------|---|------------------|
| 1 | Embroidery needle            | 5 | Sewing needle    |
| 2 | Embroidery thread (4 skeins) | 6 | Sewing thread    |
| 3 | Red felt pieces (2)          | 7 | Green button     |
| 4 | Colored glass beads (10 g)   | 8 | Red elastic band |

**YOU WILL ALSO NEED:** Graph paper, pencil, colored pencils, bright plain-colored material for practice, scissors, fine black felt-tip pen, ruler, heavy cardboard, pins

**For extra cool embroidery ideas, you will need:** Paper, thin canvas shoes, chalk, light cardboard, clay that hardens in the oven, rolling pin, cookie cutters, photos, picture frames

## Dear Embroidery Pro,

This kit will not just help you embroider a cool little pencil case. It will also show you how to spice up your shoes and create your very own personal decorations. Make up your own designs and be prepared to decorate anything and everything that falls into your hands!



## PART 1

# PRETTY AS A Pixel

### What exactly is a pixel?

Quite simply, it is one of the many thousands of little dots composing a digital image. The best-known examples are the ones that make up photos taken with a digital camera. If you greatly enlarge a picture like that, you will see a lot of tiny colored squares.

**And a pixel design?** Pixel designs are ones that are deliberately created so that you can see all the individual squares of color. They look really cool. These designs are easy to embroider on cloth, using a technique known as **“cross-stitch.”** With this technique, you simply stitch a little cross to create each pixel.

### Ready to start stitching?

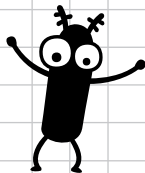
Before you actually start, you will need a design that you want to stitch. Draw the design on the graph-paper background on the opposite page. But first, take a look at the embroidery thread in the kit box. That will show you the colors that you will be able to use for your picture. Don't make it too small — 4 cm x 4 cm would be a good size to start with. And try to avoid drawing too many little details. They will just get lost and disappear in the design.

Now draw a frame just big enough to hold your design. The instructions starting on page 4 will show you how to continue with the actual stitching.





Let's go! Draw your embroidery design against the checked background!



## PART 2

# GRAB YOUR NeedLeS

### Stitching your designs

#### You will need:

Embroidery needle, embroidery thread, colored pencils, graph paper, bright plain-colored material for practice, scissors, fine black felt-tip pen, heavy cardboard, ruler, pins

#### Here's how:

- 1 Draw your **design idea** following the instructions on page 2. For ours, we decided to make a little cupcake.

For the next step, you will need another sheet of graph paper. Start by transferring the squares from your template onto the new sheet.

1







Examine your picture square by square and think about what **color** will make up most of each square.

For example, in square E4 there is **more white** than orange — meaning that you should draw a **white X** in the empty E4 square.

Proceed in this way until you have re-created the entire picture X by X, square by square.

Later on, you can add colored **beads** for decoration. Mark the locations where they should go — ideally right on the picture. Instructions on page 11 will show you how to sew them on.

## TIP!

*If you like, enter numbers and letters along the edges just like you would for a chess board.*

*If you don't have a white colored pencil, just use a regular lead pencil.*

2



- 2 Next, make a **black dot** at each corner of every box with an X in it. Then place your pixel design on a piece of **heavy cardboard** and use a pin to poke **little holes** through all the black dots.

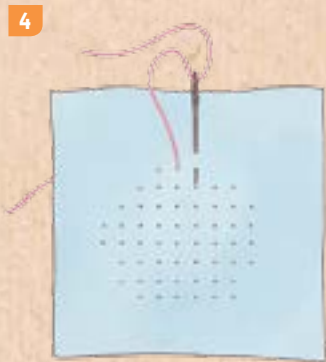


**3** Now it's time for the fabric. Stick your template to the fabric with **pins** so it won't slip. Grab the **felt-tip pen** and draw a **dot** on the fabric through each of the little holes. Now, all you have to do is remove the template and you're done! The **grid** for your design is ready.

**4** Now you can finally start stitching. Work from **top to bottom** and from **left to right**.

Select the thread in the first color that appears in your design. In our case, it's pink — for the raspberry on the cupcake. Cut off about 40 cm of thread and pass it through the eye of the **needle**. Tie a knot at the long end of the thread.

Find the first square and insert the needle from behind through the **bottom left corner of the square**. Pull the thread through until the knot arrives at the fabric. Now stitch





through the **upper right corner** toward the back.

Continue to the **bottom right corner**, pulling the thread back through to the front. You don't need to be told which corner to insert the needle through next — after all, it's called **cross-stitch**!

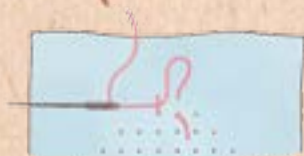


- 5** In our example, we just need to stitch one X with the pink thread. Now we'll show you how to bury the thread on the **back**.

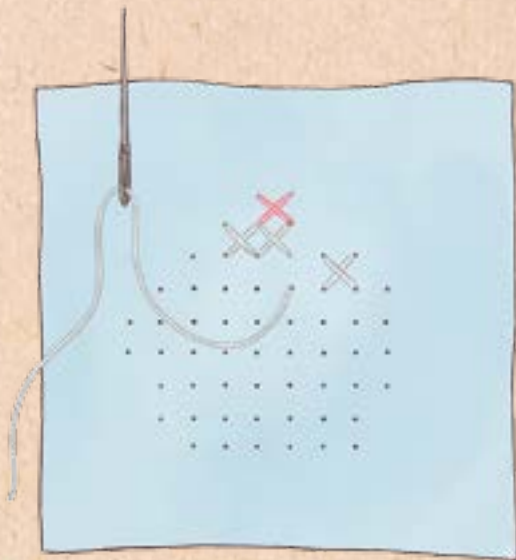
Guide the needle under the thread that runs from top to bottom. Then guide the needle a second time under the thread and pass it through the resulting **loop**. This will make a little knot to secure the end of the thread in place.

Cut off the thread and continue with the next color.

**5**



- 6** When you have stitched one row from left to right — in our example, in white — you can stitch the next row from **right to left**. That way, you avoid long stretches of thread on the back. Use this technique to proceed row by row until your design is done.



## **TIP!**

*When you pull the thread through, always be careful not to pull it too tight — which would cause the fabric to buckle. But also don't let it be too loose, which might leave a loop that could catch and pull out the thread.*



## Embroidering the pieces of felt

Now it's time to make something with your cool, custom-designed stitched pattern. How about a little case for your pens and pencils?

### You will need:

Embroidery needle, embroidery thread, 2 pieces of felt, graph paper, pencil, colored pencil, scissors, fine black felt-tip pen, heavy cardboard, pins, ruler

### Here's how:

- 1 Start by drawing an **embroidery template** on graph paper (see pages 2 to 5). Make sure that the template is not larger than your felt pieces. Also keep in mind that you will need some space to attach the fastener and sew together the felt pieces.

We have chosen to make a fox design. Take a look at the picture to see how our template looks. You will probably notice the heavy black dots. Those are where you will be sewing black **beads** for the eyes, nose, and feet. Proceed as described on pages 5 to 6 to transfer your template to the felt.



1



- 2** Now you can start stitching. Cut a piece of appropriately-colored thread — in our case, orange — about 40 cm in length. Thread it through the eye of the needle and tie a knot in the long end. Stitch row after row using the **cross-stitch technique**, until all the squares of one color are completely done. Finally, bury the thread on the back side and shorten the end.

Now it's the next color's turn, which in our example is white. Once all of this color's squares are stitched, bury the thread again on the back side and cut it off.

**2**



## **TIP!**

*You can also embroider the second piece of felt with a cool design.*

## Sewing on beads

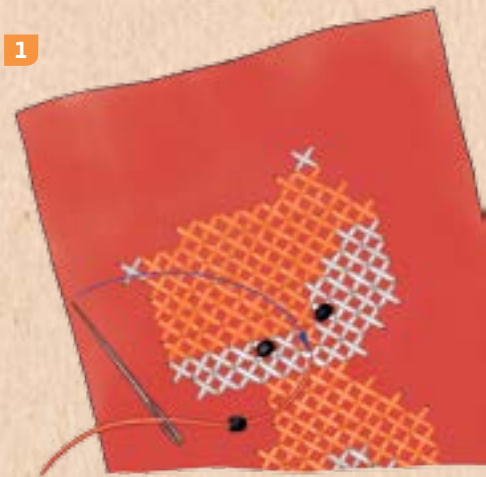
### You will need:

Colorful glass beads, sewing needle, sewing thread, *scissors*, *ruler*

### Here's how:

- 1 Our fox still need eyes, nose, and feet. We'll use **black beads**. Did you draw beads onto your template? To sew them on, grab the needle and sewing thread. Cut off 30 cm of thread, thread it through the needle, and tie a knot in the long end.

Place the first bead in the location where you want it. Insert the needle through the fabric **from back to front** and then through the hole in the bead. Then go back through the fabric to the rear. Do this about **four or five times** to hold the bead well. Finally, bury the thread at the back.



## Attaching the fastener

### You will need:

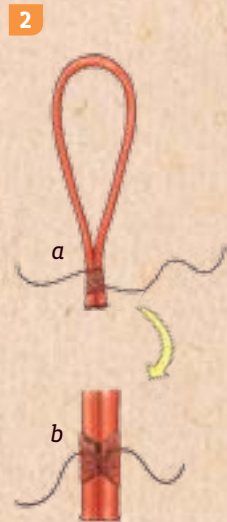
Embroidered felt piece, button, rubber band, sewing needle, sewing thread, scissors, ruler

### Here's how:

**1** First sew on the button tightly about 2 cm from the narrow edge of the felt. To do that, thread about 30 cm of sewing thread through the needle and tie a knot at the end of the thread. Place the button in the desired spot. Then stitch from **back to front** through the fabric and through one of the button holes.

Now stitch through the adjacent hole toward the back again. For the third hole, go back to front again, and then front to back for the fourth. Carefully pull the thread tightly and then repeat all the steps. Do the entire sequence about **four or five times** to hold the button well. Finally, bury the thread at the back and cut it off.

**2** Next, grab the **elastic band** and fold it in half to form a loop. Then take about 30 cm of sewing thread and wrap it tightly around the ends of the loop (a).





Then wind one end of the thread a few times very tightly through the ends of the elastic band. Tie the ends of the thread tight with a double knot (b).

- 3** Position the **loop** in the center on the narrow edge of the second piece of felt. Use the felt piece with the button to help you position the loop by making sure it lines up with the button. Use needle and thread to stitch beneath the location where you wrapped the thread around the loop, proceeding from back to front through the felt. Above the wrapped location, continue from front to back. Repeat the entire sequence of steps **four or five times** to make sure the loop is secure.



## Sewing together the pencil case

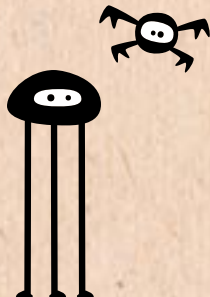
*Now comes the part where you combine the two pieces of felt to make a cool pencil case!*

### **You will need:**

Embroidered felt pieces with button and loop, sewing needle, sewing thread, scissors

### **Here's how:**

- 1** Grab the two pieces of felt and line them up so that one is placed precisely on top of the other. Then sew three



edges together. The narrow edge with the fastener should remain open. The thread will hold best if you use what's called a **backstitch**. Cut a piece of sewing thread about 40 cm in length, thread it through the needle, and tie a knot in the long end.

At the upper left corner, stitch from inside through the **back piece of felt**. That way, you won't be able to see the knot later on. Then move the needle half a centimeter farther along and stitch **through both pieces of felt** in that spot, so the needle emerges on the front side of the pencil case.

- 2** Now we'll move **backwards** a bit. Insert the needle into the upper left corner and push it through both felt pieces to emerge out the back side. Move the thread twice as far on the back side as you did the first time, before passing the needle through both pieces of felt again to emerge out the front. Continue like this. Finally, bury the thread on the rear side.



*Your brand new, one-of-a-kind pencil case is done! Fill it with your favorite pens and pencils and then slip the loop over the button. This unique pencil case is guaranteed to attract a lot of attention at school! You can also use it for your cell phone or sunglasses if you prefer.*

# PART 3

## THE COLORFUL WORLD Of EmbROIDeRY

### Chic designer sneakers

*You can use the backstitch technique to conjure up awesome designs, pictures, or letters quickly and easily. How about a pair of embroidered canvas sneakers?*

#### **You:**

Embroidery needle, embroidery thread, paper, colored pencils, thin canvas shoes, chalk

#### **Here's how:**

- 1 Start by brainstorming about what kind of cool design or picture you want to make. It should be composed of individual **fine lines**, so letters will work really well too. It's always best to make a **preliminary sketch** on a sheet of paper.

Then, draw your design with chalk directly on the shoes and stitch long the chalk lines using a **backstitch**. Follow the instructions on page 14.



## Garland of stars

Are you ready for another project idea? How about decorating your room with an awesome garland of stars you stitch yourself?

### You will need:

Embroidery needle, embroidery thread, thin cardboard, heavy cardboard, ruler, compass, corkscrew, pencil, fine black felt-tip pen, scissors, nail scissors, thin string

### Here's how:

- 1 Set the **compass** to a radius of 5 cm and draw a circle on a piece of cardboard. Take a look in the recycling bin — you could use a cereal box or something like that. Carefully cut out the circle.

Next, draw eight dots on the edge of the circle spaced exactly the same distance apart. To do that, start by placing your ruler on the point where you stuck the compass needle. Draw a light line there in pencil. Then, use the felt-tip pen to make a dot on the line 1 cm away from the circle's edge (both left and right).

Finally, rotate the ruler so that it is at right angles to the first line you drew and repeat as described above. You



have now divided the circle into four “cake slices.”

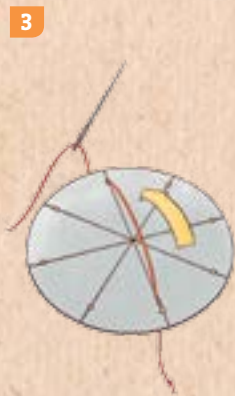
Next, you have to cut each “cake slice” in half. Make two new dots on each new line, as described above.

- 2** Insert the tip of the **corkscrew** through each of the eight dots. Use a piece of **heavy cardboard** as a work surface so you don't scratch or mar the table. **Ask a grownup to help you** if you're not sure how to handle the corkscrew.

Use the nail scissors to cut a 1-cm-long slit **from one of the dots** toward the center.

- 3** Now take the first color of thread that you want to use, cut off a piece of it, and thread it through your embroidery needle. Tie a double knot in the long end of the thread.

Guide the needle **from the bottom through the hole with the little slit** and slide the knot into the slit. That will hold the thread tightly. Stretch the thread once across the circle and insert the needle into the **opposite hole**. Now continue through the first hole toward the top. Repeat as often as you like. Each time, the line gets a little fatter.



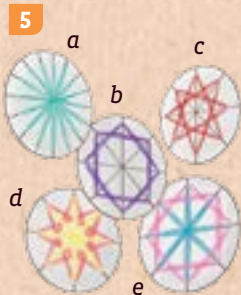
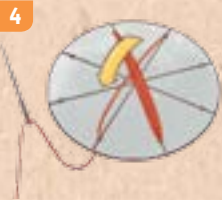


**4** When the first line is fat enough, proceed to **the next hole**, stretch the thread to the opposite side, and so on. Continue like this until your star is finished. Bury the thread on the rear and cut off any extra. Your first star is born!

**5** Try stitching a lot of different star types. For example, instead of eight holes you could try making **sixteen holes**. That will give your star twice as many points (**a**).

Or, instead of pulling the thread to the opposite side, try pulling it **two holes over (b)**, or **three holes over (c)**. That will create yet different star shapes. Of course, you can also combine **several colors and more than one pattern (d and e)**!

**6** Finally, bore little holes through the left and right sides of the cardboard disks. Grab a long piece of thread and guide the thread through all the holes to string up all the disks. Your garland of stars is done!



## TIP!

*If you run out of embroidery thread, you can also try using other kinds of thread or ribbon you might find around the house. Use whatever you like, as long as it passes through the needle's eye!*



## Cool hanging ornaments

*These ornaments are awesome decorations for the Christmas tree or an Easter arrangement. They also make great gifts or can be turned into a stylish necklace.*

### **You will need:**

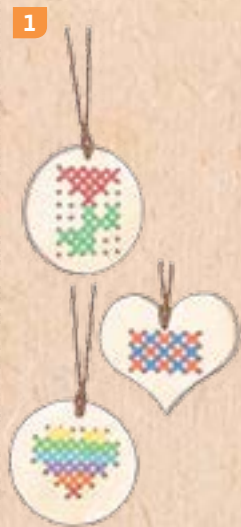
**Embroidery needle, embroidery thread, clay that hardens in the oven, rolling pin, cookie cutters, toothpick**

### **Here's how:**

- 1** Roll the clay out thin with the rolling pin (a smooth bottle or pencil will also work). Cut out various shapes with the **cookie cutters**.

Use the **toothpick** to create an evenly-spaced pattern of dots in the shapes. Don't forget to make a hole for hanging it! **Have a grownup help you** dry the shapes in the oven.

As soon as the shapes have cooled, it's time to start stitching. Grab your embroidery needle and thread and use the cross-stitch technique to embroider the ornaments however you like. Whether you prefer to stitch modest designs or bold, colorful patterns is completely up to you!



## Embroidering photos

### You will need:

Embroidery needle, embroidery thread, *photos (for example, of your parents, brothers or sisters, or friends), fine black felt-tip pen, picture frames*

### Here's how:

- 1 Select a few family photos from the past few years' snapshots. Pick ones that have nice large images of the people in them. **(But first ask your parents before plundering the family photo album!)**

Examine each selected picture carefully. What does it need to spice it up? How about a nice crown? Or a speech bubble? Use a **felt-tip pen** to add it to the picture on or next to the person. Once you are pleased with your additions, simply use the **back-stitch** technique to turn the drawing into stitching.

Some nice **picture frames** will give you something really fun to hang on your walls!

1





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**Design, project management, and editing:** Kristin Albert

**Text:** Jessica Stuckstätte, Hamburg

**Technical product development:** Elena Ryvkin

**Manual layout:** Michaela Kienle, Fine Tuning, Dürmentingen

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Translation: David Gamon; Editing: Ted McGuire; Additional Graphics and Layout: Dan Freitas, Ashley Greenleaf

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Phone: 800-587-2872; Web: [www.thamesandkosmos.com](http://www.thamesandkosmos.com)

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