



Cherry Parker's August Newsletter

Pansies are cheerful, bright, happy little things.

The legend of the pansy says the flower was originally pure white. When pierced by Cupid's bow it bled bright purple. Legend didn't go on to say how the other wonderful colours came about. The flower's name comes from the French pensee meaning 'thought.'

Although I don't keep a large stash of fabric, cottons or felt I do keep the scraps of any hand dyed felt. These small odd shaped offcuts are ideal for making pansies.

The little pansies above are 4cms square and can be used for to decorate cards and invitations, clustered around a stitched quote as in my latest design, enhance a store bought frame, made into magnets, stitched onto cloth bags or attached to bookmarks, bag labels or key rings.

The new design 'Make Every Stumbling Block, a Stepping Stone' is available at <https://www.etsy.com/nz/shop/CherryParkerPatterns> but you can easily make the pansies using the pattern below.



Each pansy is made from scraps of hand dyed felt, although of course you can use plain coloured felt. I always use wool or a wool blend felt for all my felt designs as it doesn't stretch when stuffed and is lovely to sew with.

Cutting out:

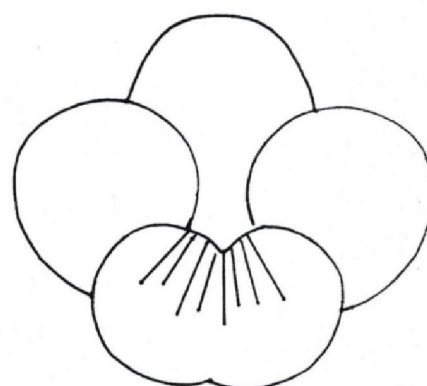
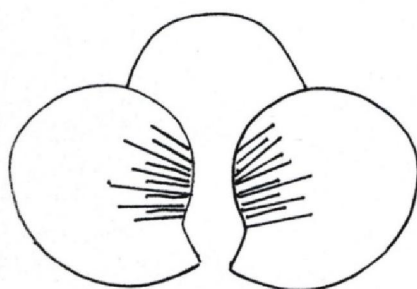
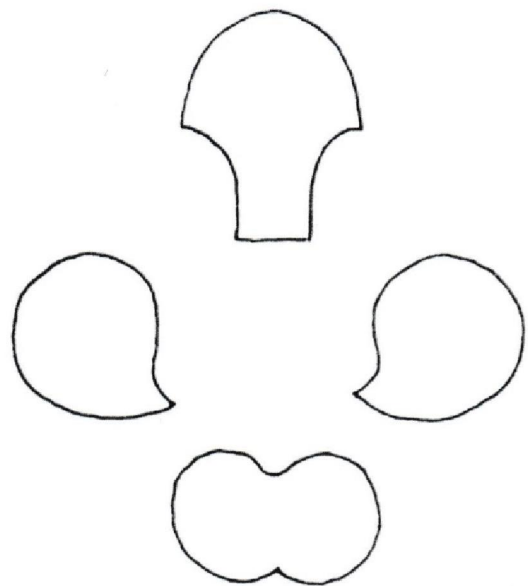
Look at the hand dyed pieces of felt to see where it is best to cut the petals. Each pansy consists of 4 petals and can all be the same colour, three the same and one different or two of each. Pansies come in many colours so any combination of colours will work.

Construction:

Stretch a piece of calico or cotton fabric onto a 6" hoop. Stitch each pansy onto this fabric using two strands of embroidery cotton of your choice and approximately 30 straight stitches as shown in the diagram below.

Once all the pansies have been stitched cut them out from the piece of calico. Cut quite close to your embroidery stitches.

Using this method you can move the pansies around to suit. Attach by using glue, double sided tape or stitch the pansies if you have a fabric base.



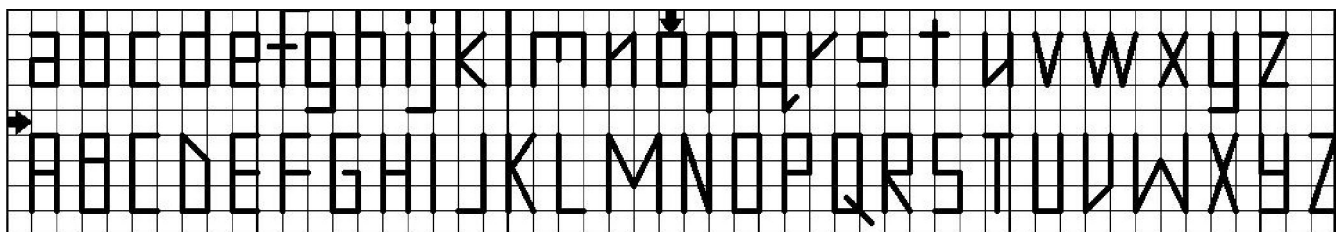
Stitching words is easy to do. I always sketch my designs on graph paper and words are no exception. Easy to erase if needed or to literally cut and paste onto another piece of graph paper or into a picture.

There are many patterns on line for stitched lettering so have a hunt around. The small letters I often use are the ones below.

As with the saying on the first page, you will see I have used lower case and upper case just for fun!

Play about with the letters and words after you decide what it is you are going to stitch.

Make some letters can be wonky. Change the size or the colours of the words. They don't all have to be on the same line. Endless options.....



The big tip when stitching words is to:

Always stitch each word separately. Sounds a pain but it is worth it in the long run.

Each word is neat and tidy with the ends of the cotton sewn in behind individual words.

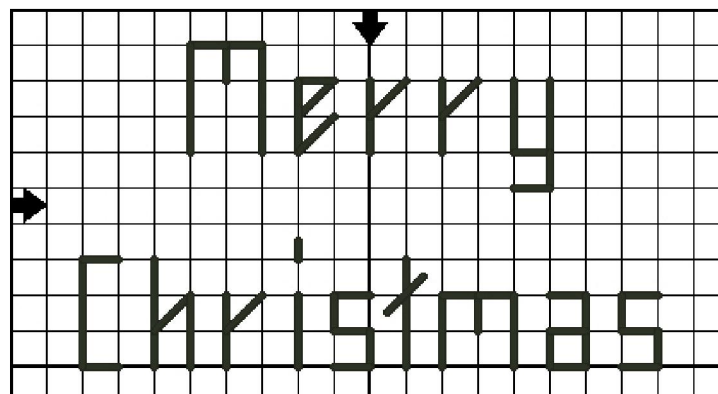
When you look at the completed stitching no shadowy threads will be evident jumping from one word to another.

Lettering is often stitched in dark thread so carrying threads from one word to another can ruin a design.

Sometimes words look better centred or other times better to the left or a mixture of both. It is a matter of drawing it and seeing how it looks.

If you want the words centred draw them on graph paper.

- Count how many stitches across, the words have taken and mark the centre point.
- Fold your fabric in half to find the centre point.
- Match these two points and your words will be centred.



The number of birds coming to the feeder and the sugary water are increasing. The shopping list now includes birdy type items that are definitely on the unhealthy list for people, although the birds are having a great time.

Much experimenting has taken place. The feeders available in pet shops are made from fat and peanut flour and are extremely solid. The birds have quite a job getting a mouthful. After all they are not woodpeckers, but sparrows, blackbirds, silver eyes and finches.

Some research and many trials later eventuated in a good recipe that the birds love.

I used the empty coconut shell from the first commercially purchased one, as well as a margarine container and some other shallow plastic containers.

Favourite Bird Food

- 1 container of dripping or lard
- 1 cup cheap unsalted peanut butter
- some sultanas
- 1 handful bran flakes
- 1 handful wild birdseed

Cut the dripping into large chunks and soften by putting into a bowl which is standing in hot water. It is easier to put the finished mixture in containers if the dripping is not fully melted. Stir in all the other ingredients. Spoon into containers and leave to set in the fridge. I keep the surplus containers in the garage freezer.



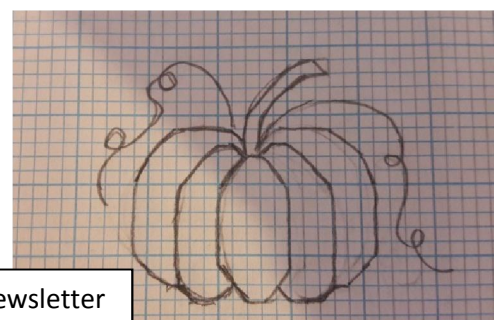
Until next time have fun with the pansies, experiment with your own bird food recipe and be ready to part with your most favourite ever cake recipe. More about that next month!

My patterns can be seen by clicking on –

www.cherryparker.co.nz
www.nzcrossstitch.co.nz

If you wish to unsubscribe from this newsletter email me at cherry.parker@xtra.co.nz with unsubscribe in the subject line.

Happy stitching,
Cherry



September newsletter