

Friendship Stitch

Linda's Gateway Chapter Stitched Collage

Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

In the spirit of our Program Chair's idea for a Friendship Stitch, I've come up with the idea of asking the Gateway Chapter membership to help me with a "Stitch Collage", a collage not of newspaper and string, but of small stitched elements provided by Gateway Chapter members. I'll add my own elements, such as the Gateway Chapter stitched logo, and arrange and stitch together to form a unified piece.

While thinking about participating in my project (and I hope you do), feel free to borrow, adapt, or use this idea as a springboard to come up with your own ideas for a Friendship Stitch. I'm developing a "brainstorming list" of ideas for the Friendship Stitch to present at the November meeting, so please email or phone ideas to me to add to the list, or ask me to send you the list by email or mail if you want to see what I've come up with before November.

Each member who chooses to participate in my "Stitch Collage" produces a small (no larger than 3 by 3 inches) stitched sample. The ground may be any counted ground: canvas of any count, congress cloth, aida, linen, rug canvas, perforated paper, plastic canvas, window screen, and so on. Please include an unstitched margin of about 1 _ to 2 (or more) inches. (I can be flexible on size and margin requirements if you have something you'll really like to donate.) You may add your initials or name, but this is optional. The sample may be something you stitch for this project, or something you already have in your stash. The sample does not have to be a square, all shapes are encouraged. Please attach a label with your name and a brief statement of why you stitched what you did. The statements will become part of the provenance of the piece. I'll provide some squares of various ground fabrics if you want, or you may provide your own. I'm asking that you supply your own thread from your stash.

Examples of what to stitch (you are not limited to something from this list):

- A small motif in tent stitch or cross stitch
- A "Jean Hilton" type stitch or other decorative stitch
- A square, rectangle, or irregular-shaped sample of a stitch, *for example*:
 - A one inch square of Basketweave in a solid color
 - A two by three inch rectangle of Byzantine done with a variegated thread
 - A one or two inch sample of a border
- A blackwork motif or pattern
- A Hardanger square
- Couch some unusual threads
- An example of shading
- Something "off the wall"
 - Stitch something with string
 - Stitch strips of cloth on rug canvas (it's ok if it ravel)

- Add a large button from a discarded coat with shisha embroidery technique (or attach a shisha mirror)
- Add found items such as small giveaway toys or plastic flowers
- An example stitching the same stitch in 3 sizes
- An example stitching the same stitch in 4 different threads
- A single leaf stitch inside a backstitched border
- Something else you think up.

Your statement may be as long as you want, but a single sentence is fine.

Examples of single sentence statements:

- This teddy bear head is from a Christmas stocking I stitched for my grandchild.
- Scotch stitch is the first stitch I learned besides tent stitch.
- This is a stitch I learned from my favorite teacher.
- I love stitching with Silk'n ivory.
- I have a lot of navy blue Medici left over from a project and I want to use it up.
- I was introduced to this thread on a Gateway Chapter project.
- This little cardinal reminds me of St. Louis.
- I stitched this golf ball motif on a belt for my husband.
- I've never added beads to canvas work and I wanted to try it.
- This is my favorite background stitch.
- I use mosaic stitch a lot for small spaces.
- I love stitching composite stitches.
- I stitched a leaf stitch because I live in the "Greentree City".
- I wanted to try something new for the collage.
- I stitched this last year for the stitch of the month and don't want to keep it.
- I cut this stitched square out of a project I'll never finish.
- I don't know why this was in my stash but you can have it.
- Some other reason of your own.