

Tutorial - Dalarna Horse Cushion

A whimsical and fun project to add a Scandinavian touch to your home!

What you need:

1 square of low volume, light coloured fabric for the background approx 18" square.

Two pieces of fabric for the envelope back of the cushion:

- 16.5" x 10"

- 16.5" x 13"

One piece of muslin or plain fabric for the back of the quilted cushion front (this will not be visible so anything will do - old sheeting etc.)

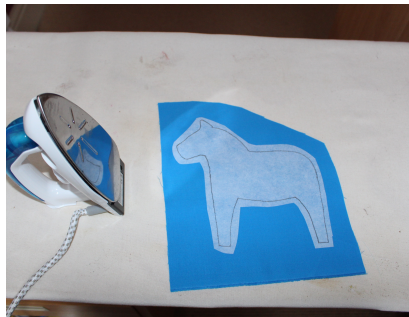
One piece of batting/wadding about 18" square

Scraps of fabric for you horse (Solid colour) and the Broderie Perse (Kaffe Fassett fabrics work well with this - but any fabric with brightly coloured flowers that you can cut out).

A small piece of iron-on fusible web - the size of the horse.

Begin by downloading and printing out the outline for the Dalarna Horse.

Trace the outline on to your fusible web, and cut out about quarter of an inch all the way around the shape. Lay this with the fusible side down on to the solid colour fabric for your horse and iron. Trim neatly along the traced lines. Peel off the top layer of the fusible web paper and position your horse on to your background square - slightly up of centre, so that you have room for some flowers around his feet. Press your horse to affix him to the background. Mark on with an erasable pencil the outlines for embroidery.



Next take your flowered fabrics and pick a selection of brightly coloured flowers to cut out. Cut, leaving about a quarter of an inch around each flower for the applique process.



Choose one flower to form the saddle on the horse and a smaller one for the bridle rosette.

With the Saddle flower - press under one edge so that it fits neatly along the top of the horse in the right position. Pin the saddle flower in place and then arrange all the other shapes. Place a small pin in the centre of the flower to hold it in place and begin to appliqué the shape with a matching thread colour. Using your needle to tuck under the edge to form the shape of the flower. Use a small hemming stitch to affix the shape in place and press. Arrange all your flowers and appliqué in the same way.

If you have a flower that has very distinctive petals make a cut in the quarter inch seam allowance to enable you to needle turn the edges of the petals easily. When all the flowers are appliquéd, press your work flat.



Next work the embroidery on the horse and be creative.....you can add bells or beads or buttons too. Don't forget to give him an 'eye' so that he can check out his new surroundings. For this stage, you can download my ['Stitch Directory'](#) in the tutorials section, if you need some help with the embroidery stitches.

Once you have completed all the colour work on your cushion front, it is time to quilt it. Layer the appliqué top with the batting square and a fabric for the back. Press to make sure it is all smooth and pin if you wish. Quilt as desired.

Then trim to 16.5" square. If you want to add the pom-pom trim, now is the time to stitch this on. I like to use the zipper foot for this and just stitch it around the edge as in the photo, with the trim facing inwards.



To make up the cushion. Take the two back pieces. Fold over one long edge, about half an inch, on each piece and press and then fold over again and press again. Stitch 2 lines to secure this fold and make a neat opening for your cushion insert.



Place the pieces right sides together on to your cushion and pin around the edge carefully. Secure with the sewing machine. Trim the corners and clip the seams and turn inside out.... Voila!

Happy Stitching Ruby x

Template

