

Tutorial - Woven Winter Topiary Cushion

This woven cushion is a great way to use up some left over fabric and experiment with some fun embroidery and maybe make a christmas present or two.....

What you need:

A piece of polystyrene or some sort of foam or cork board (basically anything you can stick pins in) approximately 25" x 15". If you have something bigger than this it is fine.

Pins

Wool for the tassels (optional) - see separate tutorial on how to make these if you need some help.

Red Fabric: approx 16.5" x 3.5"

Green Fabric: approx 16.5" x 9"

For the woven panel

Cut 9 strips of fabric for the horizontal lines: 1.5" wide by 20"

Cut 12 strips of print fabric for the vertical lines: 1.5" x 9"

Cut 12 strips of plain fabric for the alternating vertical lines: 1.5" x 9"

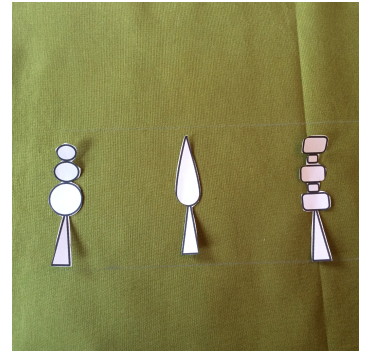
For the Cushion back

1: 10" x 16.5" and 1: 13" x 16.5"

First of all, work the embroidered topiary trees onto your green piece of fabric. The little trees are 3" high, so I recommend drawing a line 3" from the top of your green piece of fabric and 3" from the bottom of your fabric as guide lines for stitching. Use the templates and either trace or make a template by sticking them on to a piece of card and cutting the shapes out and then drawing around them onto your fabric with a marking pencil. I used chain stitch for the tree trunks and colonial knots for the tree tops. See the 'Stitch Directory' if you need help with this. Press your work carefully once it is embroidered.

To make the woven panel take all your cut strips of fabric and press these in half and then open up and fold the edges into the crease line in the middle of the strip and press firmly again. Spray on starch is really helpful here. You will end up with strips that look like bias binding.

Now place your horizontal strips along your polystyrene base. Line them up next to each other and put a pin in either end to secure. Those large flower headed quilting pins are excellent for this.



Now take your first vertical strip and weave it through the horizontal strips. Place your second vertical strip (print fabric) through the strips the alternative way to create the woven effect. Build up your woven panel like this, butting up the strips and easing them together to form a sturdy grid like piece of fabric. Keep all the strips as straight and tight as you can.

Once you are happy with your weaving, tack all around the edge with thread to hold it in place. Remove the holding pins and press the panel.



Carefully pin in place the top and bottom pieces of fabric for your cushion. I think it is better to trim the ends of the woven strips after you have sewn these in place. Stitch alongside the top edge of top strip using a quarter inch seam and do the same on the bottom edge. Trim off the excess fabric strips and press your front panel open. Trim the sides too and run a line of machine stitching just to reinforce them if you wish.

If you want to add the line of red running stitch along the edge of the woven panel, you can do this now or at the quilting stage.

Layer your cushion top with some wadding and backing and quilt as desired. I quilted a straight line along one edge of each horizontal strip to be sure it is held in place and then along the top and bottom of the woven panel along the seam line. Choose a decorative quilting pattern for the top part of the cushion. I used Leah Day's design 'Icicle Lights' pattern from her book '365 Free motion Quilting Designs'

Now you are ready to make up your cushion. If you need help with this step or with how to make tassels there are tutorials on the website.

Happy Stitchin'

Ruby

