

Preparations for Learning about 'Crayoning on Fabric'

January 29, 2023

Before you come to this workshop, you need to set up your working tools.

If you are using a CrabApple Hill pattern, they give you the crayon colours that you will be using and which part of your pattern it applies to. Since I first made these patterns they references conversion chart from Cosmo to DMC has changed. I've made a quick chart with the conversion of the threads.

Once you have traced your picture and applied the freezer paper to the back, you're now ready to apply the white crayon using a circular motion. Come as close to the lines as possible. I've included pictures of not applying enough crayons in certain areas. You will notice that the lower leaf was not covered entirely, therefore I needed to apply more white.

Before applying your colours, have the coloured picture on hand. This will guide you on where to shade the colour. Start lightly, and if you need more depth this is a good time to darken your area. It's much easier to darken slowly than to remove the excess colour. Then you can use a Q-tip to blend you colour. This also removes excess crayon.

Once you're finished your colouring, use a Q-tip to smooth out your piece. Use a different Q-tip for each colour.

Once you're finished colouring, take a soft paper towel, lay over top of your piece and press with a hot iron. I've included a picture of was residue once I pressed my piece. Take another piece of soft paper towel and press again to ensure that there's no more wax on the towel.

Now you need to baste a piece of white fabric or a cotton weight fabric you prefer to the back. (I've included a picture of this).

The pattern is stitched entirely using the backstitch using two strands of floss. (I've included a picture showing how this stitch is made).

TIP:- before threading two strands of floss onto your needle, separate your two strands and flip one strand opposite the other. This helps the strands from twisting and knotting together.

The French knots mentioned in this pattern, I used beads and also a few micro-mini sequences. (I'm including a picture of the type of beads that were used).

Crayoning on Fabric Instructions

January 29, 2023

1. Wash fabric and do NOT add fabric softener.
2. Trace pattern on washed fabric using your favourite method. My preferred tracing pencil is Papermate #2 disposable mechanical pencil – available at Staples
3. After you have traced your pattern onto your background fabric, you could apply freezer paper to the wrong side of your piece. You might find it is easier to colour
4. Once you have decided which pattern you wish to colour, I pull the crayons for each individual area that I will colour. For example- Christmas winter—holly leaves you will need the following colours:- 1-green, 2-forest green 3-shade with burnt sienna. Christmas Rose (leaves & stems) you will need 1-yellow green 2-olive green 3-forest green. As you seen, using the Crab Apple Hill patterns, it takes the guess work of choosing the appropriate colours.
5. When ready to colour, 1st colour with white Crayola crayon or a fabric crayon. Cover all the areas you will be applying your colour crayons
6. Once you have added the white Crayola crayon or a fabric crayon, start applying your colours. Start with your lightest colour using small circular strokes. Heavy strokes won't blend out with the iron.
I also use a Q-tip to blend some of my colours.
Add white if you want more blended tones.
If you want a bit more shading, use black very sparingly, it tends to bleed
7. Once you're finished colouring, put your work between paper towels and heat set with a hot iron and it also will remove the excess crayon. Repeat until no colours appear on your paper towel
8. You are now ready to start embroidering your piece.
9. There are free downloads at:-
[HTTPS://www.crabapplehillstudio.com](https://www.crabapplehillstudio.com); go to: Other Stuff, than down to Downloadables.
10. Or you can choose a pattern of your liking. Free clip art is also a great place to download.
11. If using the Crab Apple Hill patterns, they work with the Cosmo embroidery floss. I used the 'backstitch on all of these embroideries.
12. You might want to bring a pencil sharpener for your crayons and cell phone to see how your white crayoning looks on your piece.

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Requirements for Crayoning on Fabric

1. White fabric – my preference is cotton used for dyeing as it has a tighter weave.
2. Crayola crayons work best, make sure a white crayon is included. Also when using the Crab Apple Hill patterns, their patterns include the name of the Crayola colour they reference in their instructions. It takes the guess work of choosing the perfect colour.
3. I use a Paper Mate mechanical pencil #2 for tracing. They are available at Staples, and should you need to erase a line or two, they erase the line easily. If you prefer to use a different pencil, it should be a soft lead HB2.
4. A piece of white freezer paper cut the same size as your pattern piece. You will need to iron it on the back of your pattern. This makes life easier to colour your piece.
5. Q-tips for blending your colours.
6. Paper towels to heat set your work.

I will be working on the Winter pattern, but you may choose the design you wish.

After you are finished colouring your piece and the embroidery I like to embellish my work with beads. I use seed beads for the French knots and dots, bugle beads for embellishing some branches and also adds sparkles. When I made the autumn pattern, I used only black and copper beads for the center of the sunflower.

