



pincushion petit fours

No more lost needles and pins in your couch cushions (ouch!). Patterned after sweetly decorated cakes, these pincushions look almost good enough to eat.



you will need

- * Motifs
- * 2 pieces of fabric, 9 inches (22.9 cm) square
- * Jello molds, 3 inches (7.6 cm) in diameter, or other cup or small bowl
- * Stuffing
- * Small bits of felt
- * Glue that will bond the materials together (glue stick will not work for this)
- * Embroidery floss, 1 skein each: yellow, light orange, dark bubblegum pink, pink

I used DMC embroidery floss colors 307, 741, 956, and 604.



instructions

1 In the middle of the piece of fabric, draw a circle by tracing around the top of your mold. Draw another circle inside the first one, about $\frac{3}{4}$ inch (1.9 cm) smaller in diameter.

2 Transfer a motif inside the smaller circle. Making the motif smaller than the diameter of the mold will prevent the stitches from being dragged down the sides too much.

3 Stitch the pattern and rinse off any transfer lines if necessary.

4 Draw and cut a large circle that just touches the sides of the fabric square. Hand-sew or machine-stitch basting stitches $\frac{1}{3}$ inch (.8 cm) from the edge. Leave long tails at either end, and do not knot or fasten the thread at either end. If using a sewing machine, make another circle of stitches just inside the first one, taking care not to stitch into the first one. This will give you a better result.

5 Gather the circle by grabbing the thread ends and gently pulling. Adjust the gathers toward the middle as you go; they need to be evenly spaced. If you used a sewing machine, only pull the two spool threads.

6 When the fabric circle has become bowl-shaped, start stuffing it. Then pull it tighter still, adding more stuffing as necessary. Stuff it firmly, but not too firm, because it will be squeezed slightly when placed in the mold. Pull the threads tight, leaving a small gap in the center. Tie the threads together, and cut off the ends.

7 Test the pincushion in the mold. You may need to add more stuffing to make the gathers less pronounced. Don't worry if you can't get rid of all the creases completely—they just add character!

8 When you're happy with the pincushion, sew a small circle of felt over the hole. This will prevent the stuffing from falling out.

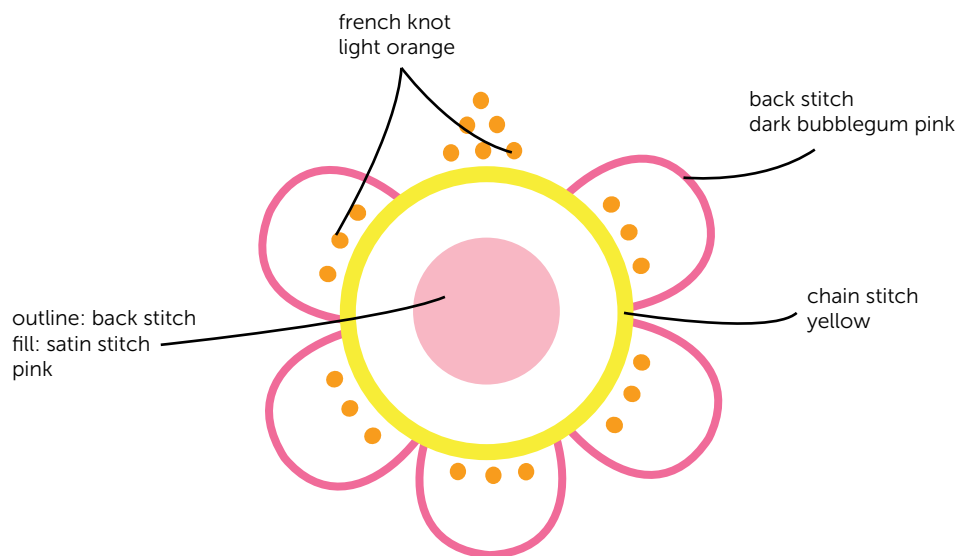
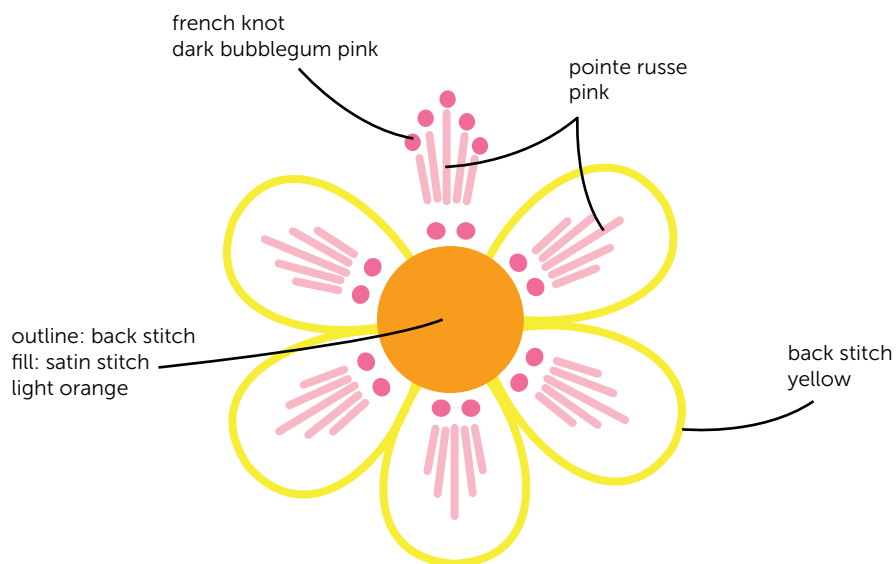
9 Glue the pincushion into the mold, following manufacturer's directions for the glue you're using.

Adapting the Design

If you want to make pincushions in vessels with different measurements, this is how you calculate how much fabric you'll need: Measure the diameter of the vessel and then multiply by 3. This is the length of the sides of the fabric pieces. If the vessel is very deep, compared to the diameter, then add another inch (2.5 cm) to each side.



les motifs



PDF of motifs available on CD

