

cicada pattern instruction booklet

Thank you for downloading this pattern and doing some making! Wishing you a joyful process and if you have any questions or want to get in touch please do... rabbithatdesigns@gmail.com

about your cicada

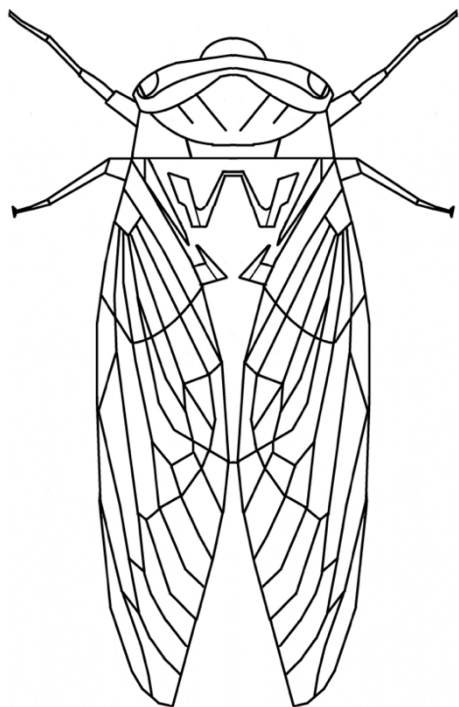


Your embroidery is inspired by the cicada, an insect that spends a long time underground before emerging into its adult form, leaving it's shell behind. Cicadas are found on every continent apart from Antarctica so they and their rhythmic song are well recognized around the world.

about this booklet

This booklet is designed to guide you on your cicada-stitching journey every step of the way! There are directions on each stage for you to follow as you gather your materials, transfer your pattern, set up your hoop, stitch your embroidery and finish your embroidery by ruching the back of your fabric. To be sewing like a pro in no time, have a quick look through all the steps before you start stitching. You'll find your embroidery pattern template on the next page.

This is your pattern template. Print this, see Step 2 for directions on how to print and transfer...

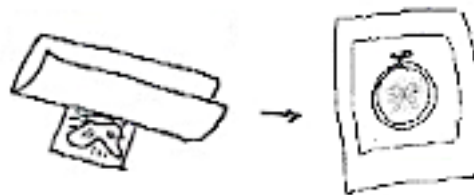


step 1 materials

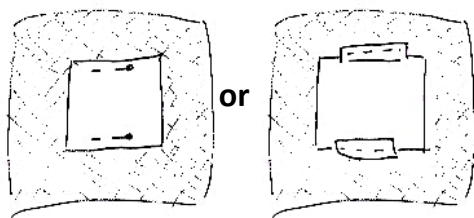
All of the materials you will need for your embroidery should be available at your local craft/art/ sewing store or online. You will need: 1 x embroidery needle (size 1-5, whichever you like to use best), one 6.3 x 4 inch oval embroidery hoop or a 5 inch circular hoop, embroidery floss (thread) colors 1. Black (310) 2. Grey (645) 3. Pale Orange (437) 4. Light Orange (783) 5. Dark Orange (720) 6. Orange (3853) 7. Brown (869) 8. Light Brown (167) 9. Cream (746) 10. White (B5200) and this booklet! You will need some sharp scissors to cut the floss and fabric. The small numbers in brackets next to the thread color names here help you to find the exact thread colors that you need. For fabric if using an oval hoop you need a 9 x 8 inch rectangle of light colored embroidery linen, muslin or cotton or for a circular hoop you'll need a 8 x 8 inch square of fabric. Consider using organic, natural or reclaimed fabric as an eco-friendly choice.

step 2 transfer your pattern

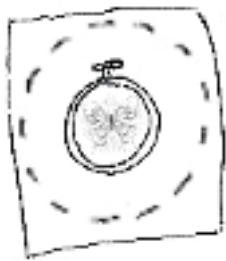
Download this pdf booklet. Print out the pattern template sheet on page 2, ideally on thick white paper (enter page 2 in the pages to print selection to only print the template). The format is A4 letter paper format printing at 100%. Then follow these steps...



- 1** Cut the template out so that you can still see all of the details on your pattern template. Then use sharp scissors to cut out your fabric (use the guidance in Step 1 for sizing).
- 2** Lay your fabric over your pattern template. You want your pattern to be in the middle of where your embroidery hoop will be, adjust the fabric over your template until you find the best fit. At this point it can help to take your hoop and lay it over the top of your fabric where your template is to check positioning.



- 3** You can then attach your template to your fabric with pins or masking tape at the top and bottom of your pattern template.
- 4** Take your fabric with template attached, hold it up to a bright sunny window and use a thin black pen to trace the pattern onto your fabric. You could alternatively use a washable fabric pen or sharp soft pencil B-2B.



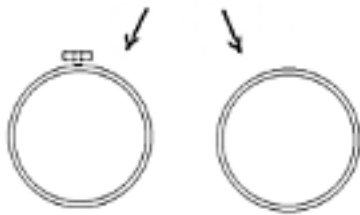
5 When you have finished tracing the pattern onto your fabric remove the paper template from the back of your fabric, at this point you can go over your pattern template with your pen or pencil to make it clearer. Then prepare your fabric and hoop for stitching by loading your fabric into your hoop (see Step 3 below for how). Then trim the fabric around your hoop making sure that you still have at least a 1 inch width skirt of fabric all around your hoop. Dashed lines in the diagram give you an idea of where you can cut your fabric.



setting up your hoop

It's time to set up your hoop! Follow the steps below for how to load your fabric into your hoop and keep it nice and tight as you stitch.

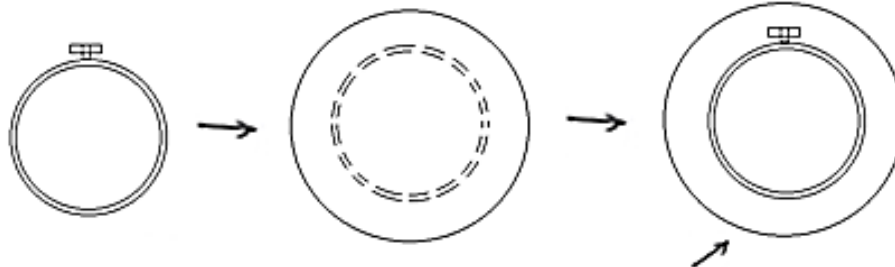
1. Start by loosening the screw at the top of your hoop. Take your embroidery hoop apart. So that you have one hoop with a screw (outer) and one without a screw (inner).



2. Lay your fabric over the inner hoop (without the screw). Dashed lines in the diagram show where the inner hoop would be under your fabric.

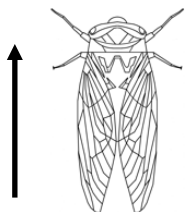


3. Place the outer hoop over the fabric and inner hoop, so that the fabric is caught between the hoops.



4. Tighten the screw at the top so that the fabric is stretched flat. Make sure that there is at least 1-2 inches of fabric all the way around the outside of your hoop. ↓

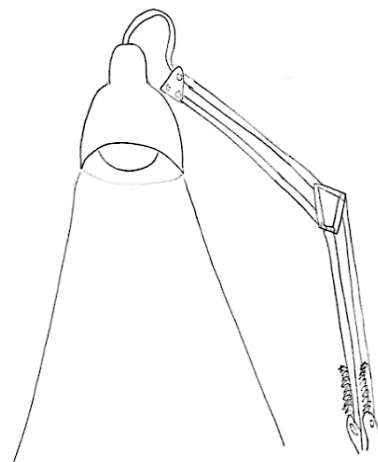
If there are parts of your fabric that are wrinkled, pull firmly but gently on the skirt of the fabric outside your hoop near the wrinkle until the fabric is flat. As you position and tighten your fabric you may find it easier to tighten and loosen the screw as you adjust the fabric and pattern template to where you want it to be.



Remember to place the fabric so that your pattern template is this way up with the screw at the top of your hoop. You want your cicada's nose to be facing upwards.

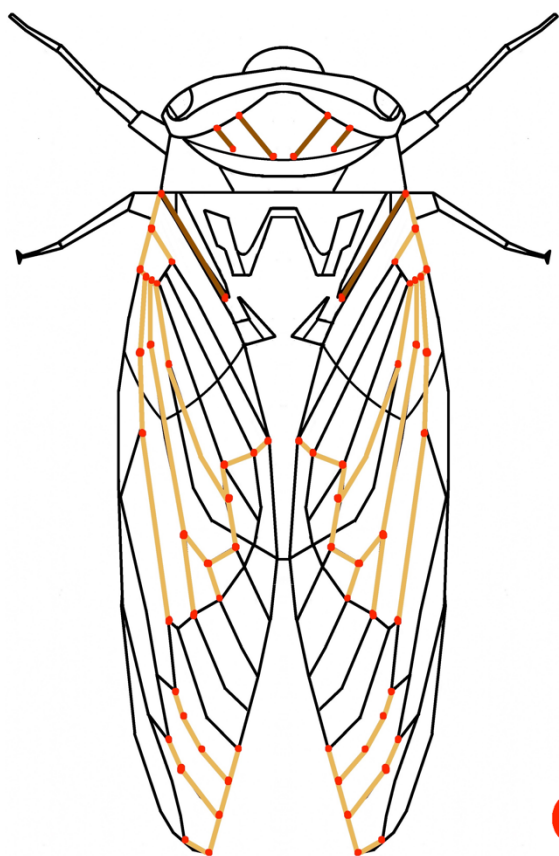
step 4 settle in for stitching

Use the diagrams on the following pages to guide you with stitching. For each new piece of thread you want about an arm's length. When you've chopped the chosen length of thread tie a double knot about 1 inch in from one end, to stop the thread slipping through your fabric when you do your first stitch and guide the other end of your thread through the eye of your needle. It can help to wet the thread a little at the end if it is being tricky and won't go through your needle. At the end of each piece of thread, after a series of stitches, tie it off by running your needle and thread through your latest finished stitches on the back of your embroidery 2-4 times then cut the end of your thread close to the fabric, being careful not to cut any stitches or your knot. When coming to the end of each piece of thread after finishing a series of stitches remember to leave a few inches of thread spare so that you can tie it off with the extra stitches on the back. **For all of this kit you'll be using thinner thread of 2 and 3 strands.** To make this, take a length of full thread and rub one end between your fingers until the thread separates into 6 strands, pull 2-3 strands away from the rest to stitch with.



don't forget the double knot

step 5 stitching the wings and thin lines



For your cicada, start with stitching the thin lines and wings. Over the next couple pages there are diagrams that guide you step by step through this part. For all of these stitches you'll only need 2 strands of thread, see how to make thinner thread in Step 3. Each of these stitches are straight stitches. At this point you can zoom into this document to get a closer look at stitches.

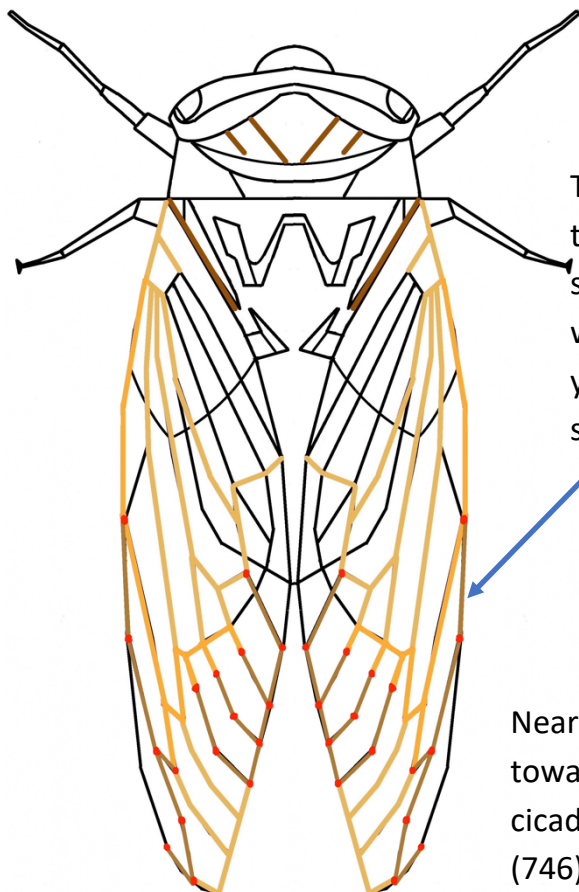
Start with the 4 brown (869) stitches on your cicada's head and then the two brown (869) on your cicada's shoulders shown in the diagram.

The next stitches are on your cicada's wings using pale orange (437). The pale orange stitches are shown on this diagram. This may look overwhelming at first, but just take the stitches one at a time and you'll be there in no time!

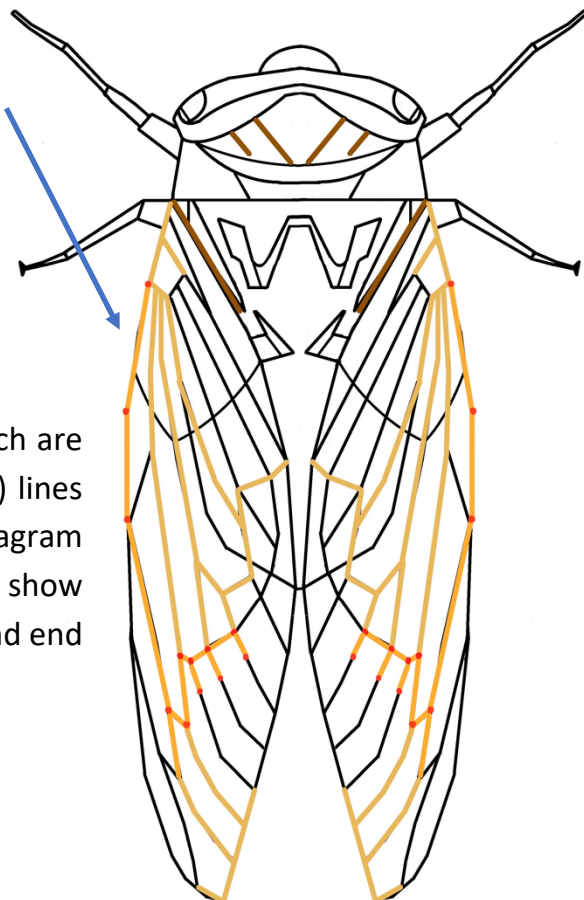


Red dots show where to start and end stitches as you work your way around the wings.

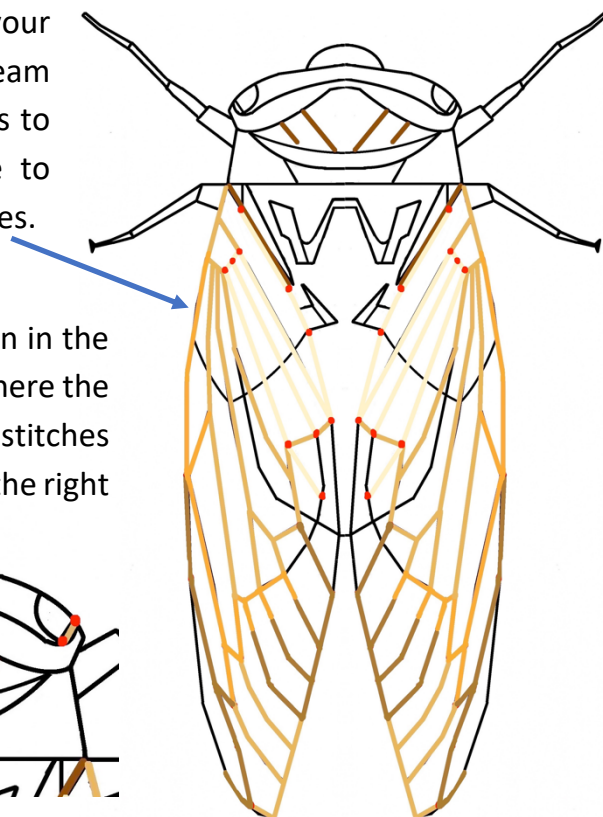
When you have finished stitching the pale orange wing lines, stitch the light orange (783) wing lines shown here using the red dots to show you where to start and end these stitches.



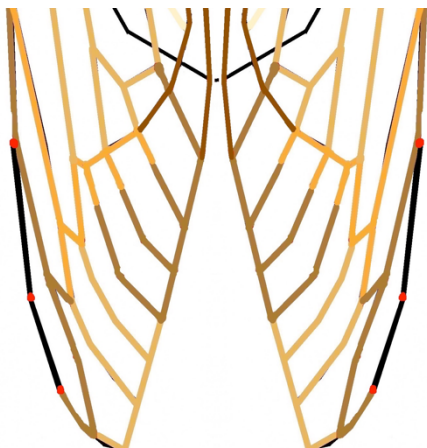
The next lines to stitch are the light brown (167) lines shown in this diagram where the red dots show you where to start and end stitches.



Nearly there! The stitches towards the middle of your cicada's wings are in cream (746). Use the red dots to guide you with where to start and end the stitches.



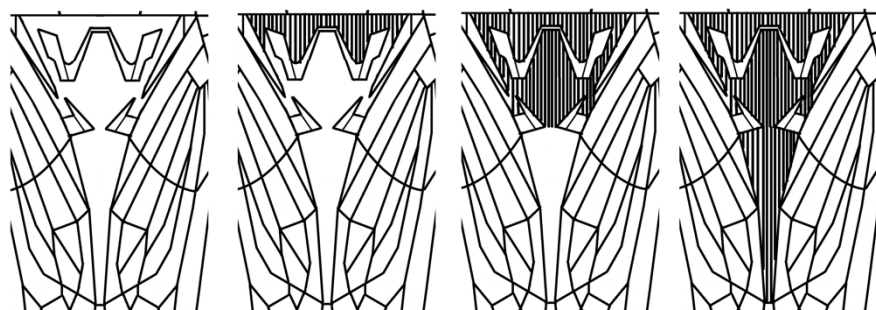
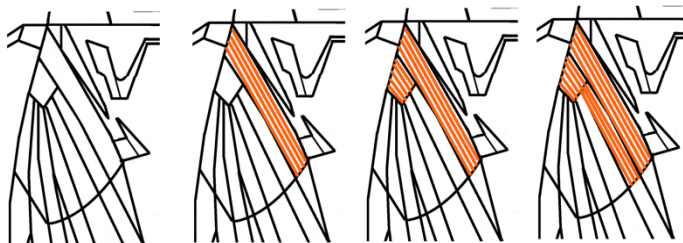
The last stitches for your cicada wings are black (310) shown in the diagram to the left below, using the red dots to show you where the stitches start and end and then the tiny pale orange (437) stitches on either side of your cicada's eyes shown in the diagram to the right below.



Hooray! Well done for stitching the wings and thin lines! Now you're ready to stitch the rest of your cicada.

step 6 stitching the sections

Hooray! You've finished the wings and thin lines. Now it's time to stitch the sections. 'Sections' means all of the shapes that make up your cicada pattern template. For all of the sections you'll be using 3 strand thread. For some sections you'll be working around the wing lines that are already there, try not to cover these up. For sections where there are wing lines, fill in the spaces in between wing lines as you stitch working your way around the template...



For larger sections divide the section into series of stitches as you go, using the edges of your pattern template to guide you with where to start and finish stitches.

For your actual stitches you're aiming for no gaps between stitches, these diagrams just give you an idea of orders of stitches. At any point you can use thinner thread, so where it is feeling too fiddly to fill in any areas with 3 strands, try using 1-2 strands of thread.

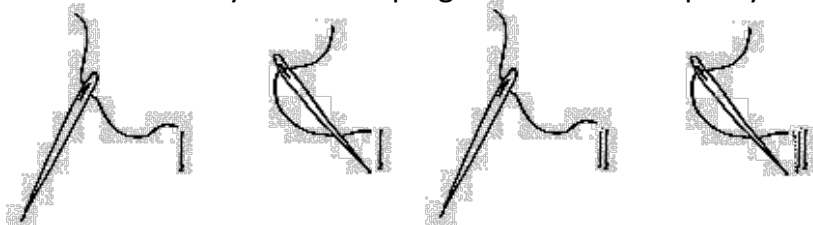
how to satin stitch

For stitching the sections you'll be using satin stitch which is a great way to stitch smooth blocks of color, here's how...



To satin stitch, start with a straightforward stitch, where you come up through the fabric at the top or bottom of where you want your stitch to be and end your stitch by guiding your thread and needle back through your fabric at the opposite end of your stitch.

Then for your following stitch you want to come up right next to the top or bottom of your first stitch, so that you create a row of stitches nice and tight together with no gaps. Follow this sequence of stitches where you come up right next to the top of your previous stitch.

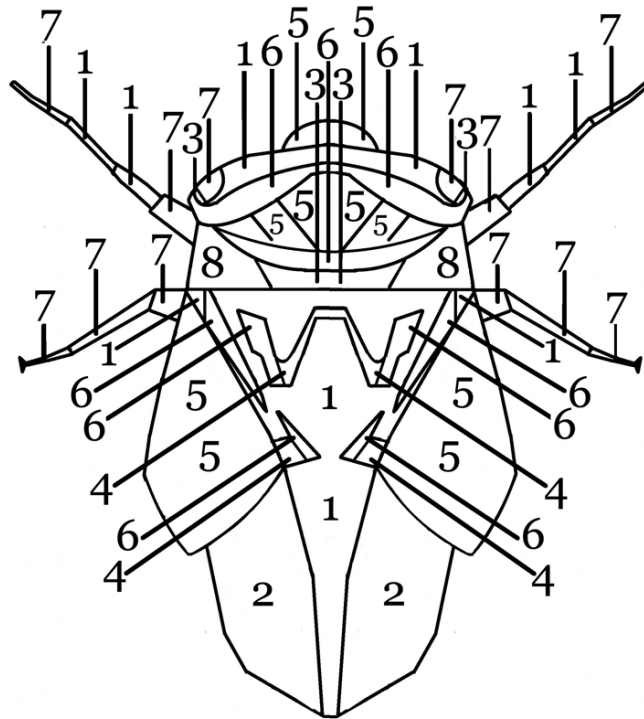


As you stitch you'll find that you create a whole row of stitches on the back of your fabric too.



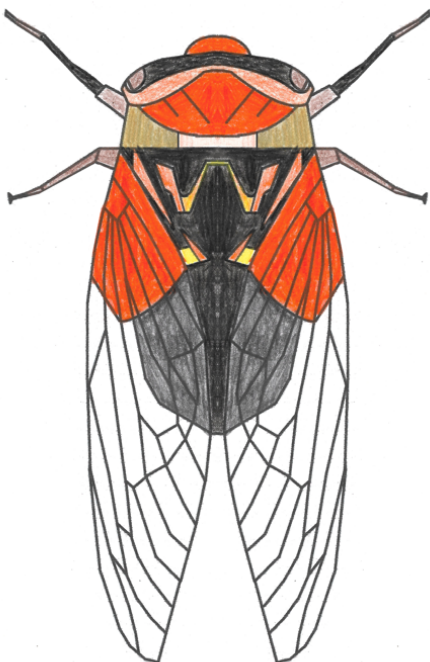
As a great way to save thread, you can start alternating top and bottom with following stitches, starting your next stitch right next to the point where you finished your previous stitch at the same end like so...

color by numbers guide



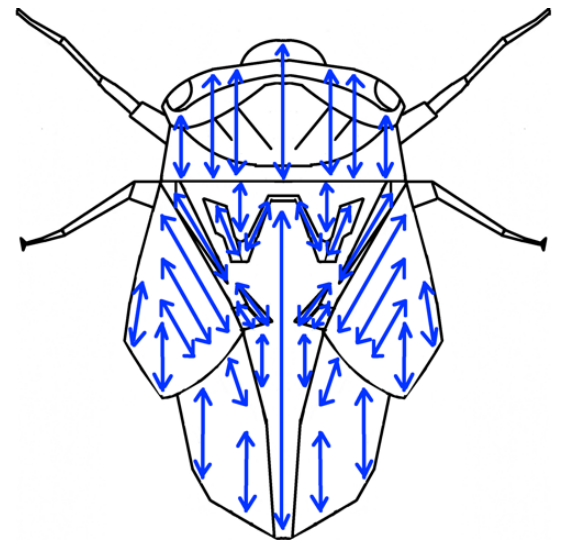
1. Black (310) 2. Grey (645) 3. Pale Orange (437) 4. Light Orange (783) 5. Dark Orange (720) 6. Orange (3853) 7. Brown (869) 8. Light Brown (167) 9. Cream (746) 10. White (B5200). In a couple of the diagrams I've removed the wings so it's easier to see the sections that make up your cicada's body and legs.

color guide and stitching directions



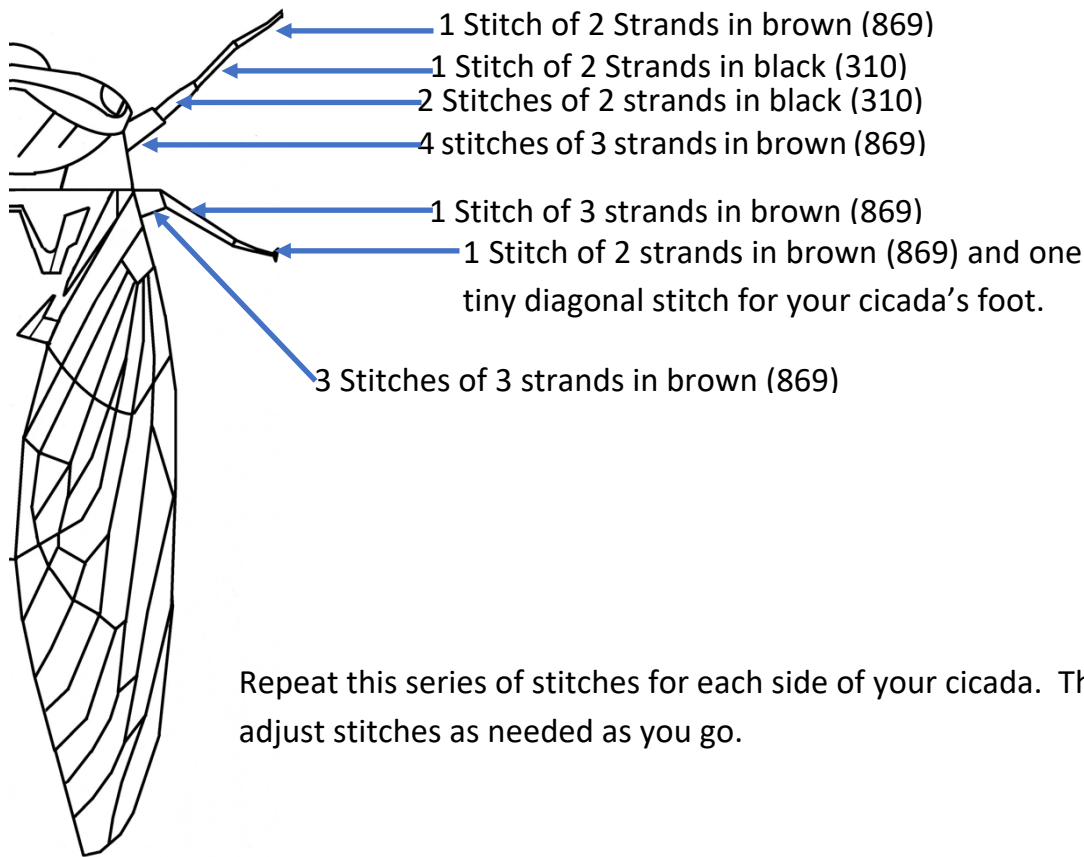
This color guide gives you an idea of the overall colors you are aiming for on your cicada's body and legs.

Use the blue arrows in this diagram to guide you with which direction to stitch in for different areas of your cicada's body. These are a rule of thumb, feel free to adjust stitches as needed as you go.



step 7 stitching the legs

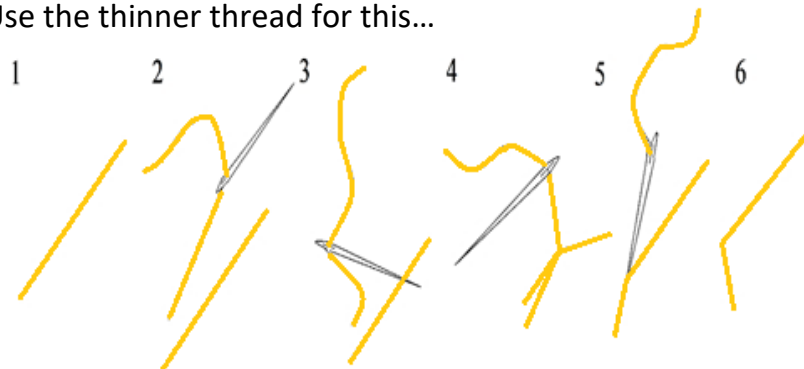
Now it's time to stitch your cicada's legs. Your cicada's legs are made up of series of stitches of mixed thinness of 2 or 3 strand thread. Use the diagram below to guide you with which stitches go where. Where it says 2 or more stitches, these are alongside each other nice and snug together.



Repeat this series of stitches for each side of your cicada. These are a rule of thumb, adjust stitches as needed as you go.

step 8 fixing stitches

Don't worry about getting your stitches perfect! This step is totally optional! Just like everything in life cicada's have their own unique imperfections. If you're feeling happy with all your stitches, skip this step and go straight to Step 9. But if you feel like some stitches just won't do, here are some tricks that might help you to fix them. If there are any longer stitches that you want to adjust, you can use an adjustment stitch. Use the thinner thread for this...



Find the spot where you want to adjust the middle of your stitch to, then run your needle and thread through the fabric from underneath the embroidery at that point. Use your needle to catch the thread of the stitch you want to change by threading your needle under it. Then return your needle through the point where you came up through the fabric to bend the stitch to the new position. Remember to use the same color thread as the stitch that you are correcting. If there are any areas where stitches are crowded and you can't see the details, use the point of your need to nudge your stitches until you can see the details you want to see.

step 9 final touches

Just one more step to go! Tidy up the back of your embroidery by carefully chopping off any loose ends of thread sticking out, without cutting your knots. Then follow these diagrams to ruche the fabric at the back...



1. Turn over your finished embroidery, so that you can see the back of your stitches. You may want to trim a centimetre or so from the edge of your fabric at this point, remember to leave at least an inch of skirt all around the edge of your hoop.



2. Take a long, white (B5200) or light colored piece of thread (enough to go all the way around your hoop with an extra 4-6 inches) and tie a double knot at the end. Thread it through the back of the fabric skirt around the edge of your hoop, starting at the top near the screw.



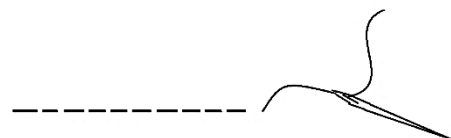
3. Use a simple running stitch in the skirt of fabric around the outside of your hoop. Keep at least half an inch away from the hoop edge.



4. When you reach the knot where you started, pull the thread tight so that the fabric gathers up in the middle and tie it off with a few extra stitches over the knot where you started.

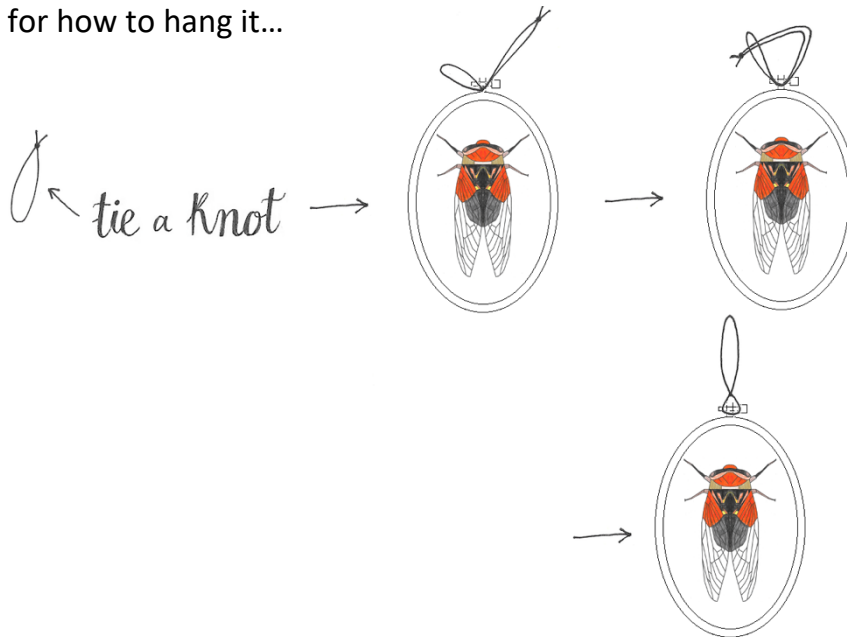
Running stitch is a straightforward stitch made with several simple stitches that creates a dashed line across fabric like so...

running stitch




Congratulations!

You have finished your cicada! Thanks so much again for giving this pattern a spin, I hope you've enjoyed it. Due to the size of these little beauties they are great for hanging, follow the diagram and instructions below for how to hang it...



Take a small loop of ribbon or wool and knot it at one end. Take the end of the loop without the knot and thread it through the gap under the screw at the top of your hoop, halfway through take the end of the loop with a knot and feed it through the loop on the other side of the screw and hang it up to enjoy. For lovely embroidery frames I'd recommend Kate at Modernhoopla.co. I always love to see what people have made, please do share your makes if you feel like it.

As a mini business every order means a lot ♥ I hope you enjoy your pattern! If you need any extra help with it, have any thoughts or feedback or you just want to get in touch please do reach out Rabbithatdesigns@gmail.com.

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Rabbit hat
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