

salt marsh moth embroidery pattern

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... rabbit hat designs@gmail.com

about your moth

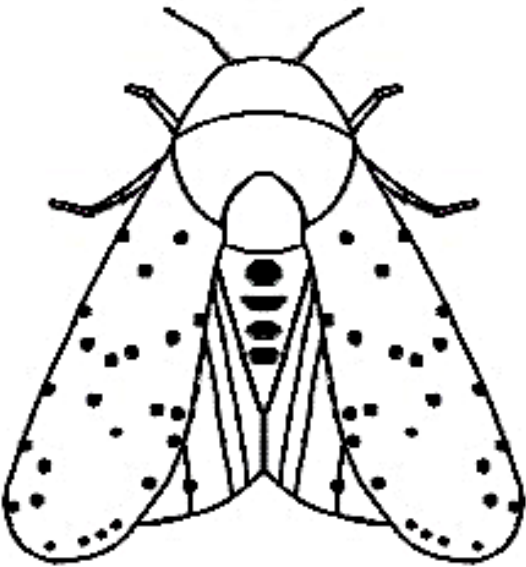


Your moth embroidery pattern is inspired by a beautiful salt marsh moth with its polka dot wings. This moth's Latin name is *estigmene acraea* and it's found in North America, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Columbia and Mexico. This moth was given its name because it is often found in coastal marshes.

about this booklet

This booklet is designed to guide you on your moth-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 page, see Step 2 for directions on how to print and transfer...

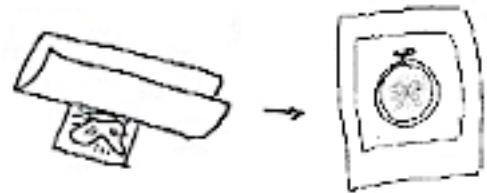
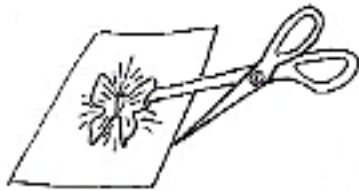


step 1 materials

All of the materials you will need for your moth pattern 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 4-inch embroidery hoop (ideally bamboo – the most eco-friendly option ☺), embroidery floss (thread) colors **1** White (B5200) **2** Black (310) **3** Grey (645) **4** Orange (3853) **5** Dark Orange (720) **6** Yellow (743) 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 you will need a 7 x 7 inch square of light colored embroidery linen, muslin or cotton. Consider using organic, natural or reclaimed fabric as an eco-friendly choice.

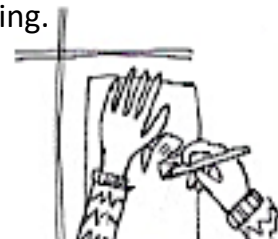
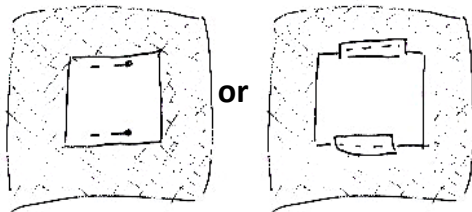
step 2 transfer your pattern

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 if you only want to print the template). The format is A4 letter paper format printing at 100%. Then follow these steps...



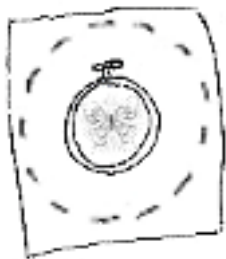
1 Cut the template out so that you can still see all of the details on your pattern template. Then use sharp scissors to cut out your fabric, use the sizing guidance in Step 1.

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 and 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.

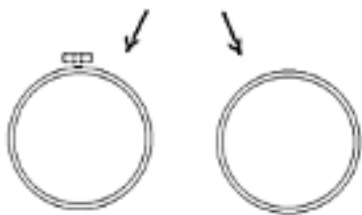


5 When you have finished tracing the pattern onto your fabric remove the paper template from the back of your fabric and prepare your fabric and hoop for stitching by loading your fabric into your hoop (see Step 3 below for how). Then trim the fabric around your hoop so that you have at least a 1-2 inch width skirt of fabric all around your hoop. Dashed lines in the diagram give you an idea of where you can cut your fabric.

step 3 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.

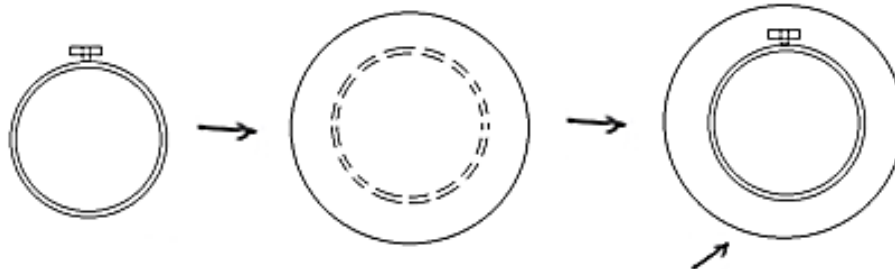
1. Start by loosening the screw at the top of your hoop. Take your embroidery hoop apart. So that you have one hoop with a screw (outer) and one without a screw (inner).



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.

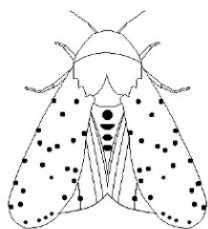


3. Place the outer hoop over the fabric and inner hoop, so that the fabric is caught between the hoops.



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. ↓

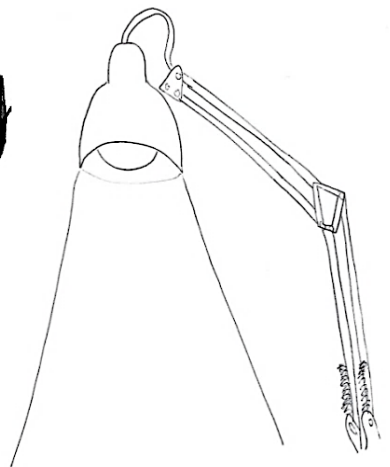
If there are parts of your fabric that are wrinkled, pull lightly on the skirt of the fabric outside your hoop near the wrinkle until the fabric is flat. As you position and tighten your fabric you may find it easier to tighten and loosen the screw as you adjust the fabric and pattern template to where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



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

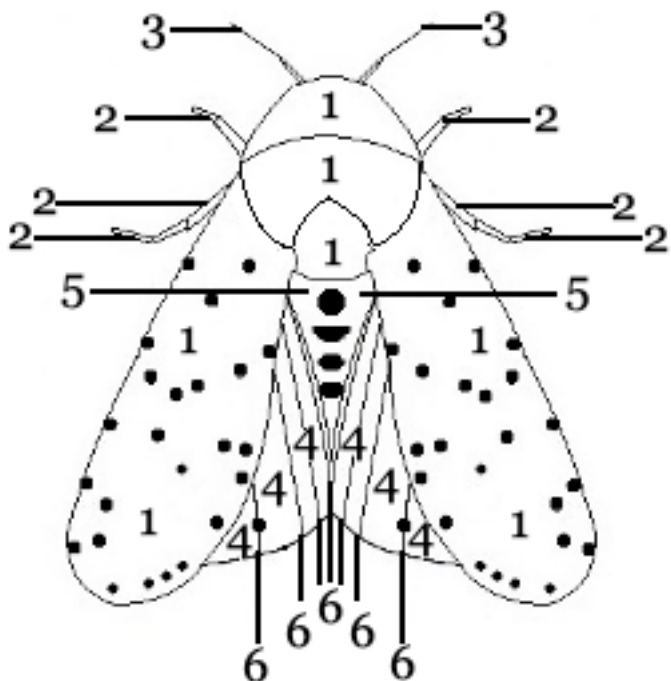
step 4 settle in for stitching

Find a comfy spot with plenty of light so that you can see your thread colors well and don't strain your eyes. 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 the 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 and squeeze it to a point with your fingers if it is being tricky and won't go through your needle. Or you can use a needle threader tool. 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 stitching this pattern, you will be using the full 6 strands of thread for most of the pattern. The only time you need to use thinner thread is when you stitch the antennae in Step 6. Having said that if you'd rather use thinner thread for all or parts of your moth pattern feel free, see Step 6 for how to stitch with thinner thread.



don't forget the double knot

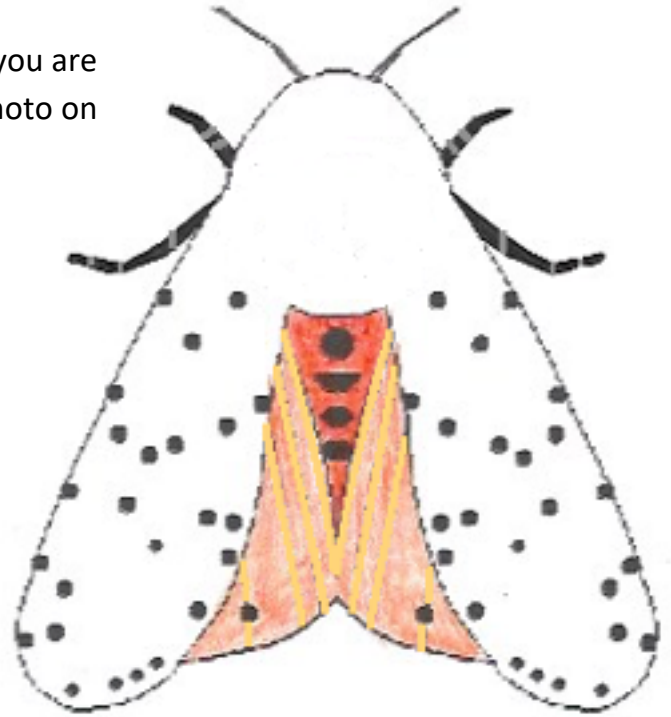
color by numbers guide



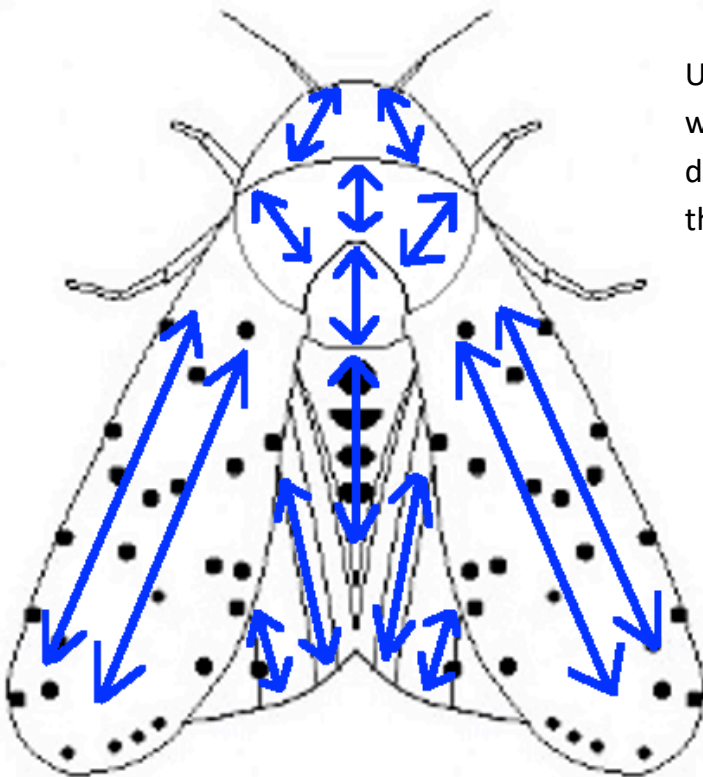
1 White (B5200) 2 Black (310) 3 Grey (645) 4 Orange (3853) 5 Dark Orange (720) 6 Yellow (743). This color by numbers guide gives you a detailed look at the overall colors you are aiming for as you stitch your moth. All of the black (310) markings are shown in black on your template. The 6s at the bottom of the color diagram show the stripes on your moth's wings which will be yellow (743) see page 8 for how to stitch these. For now, leave stitching your moth's legs and antennae until Step 6.

color guide

This diagram gives you an overview of the colors you are aiming for on your moth. You can also use the photo on page 1 to guide you.



stitching directions



Use the blue arrows in this diagram as a guide for which directions to stitch in as you work on different areas of your moth. These are a rule of thumb, adjust stitches as needed as you go.

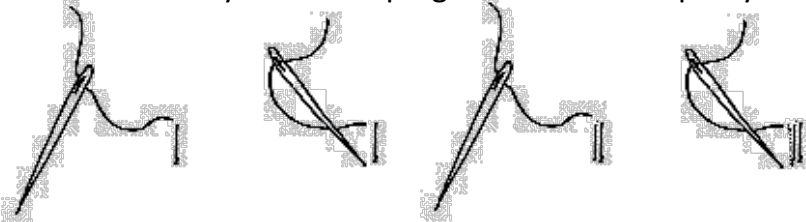
how to satin stitch

For stitching the sections (all the small shapes that make up your pattern) you'll be using satin stitch, which is a lovely way to cover areas with smooth blocks of color on your embroidery.



To satin stitch, start with a straight 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...



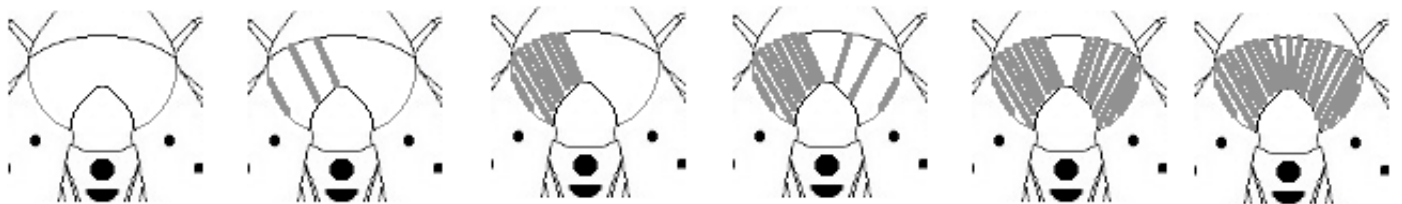
stitching tips

Here are some tips that will help you with your stitching, on your actual moth you're aiming for no gaps between stitches, these diagrams just give you an idea of orders of stitches.

stitching the sections



'Sections' are all the shapes that make up your pattern template. When starting each section, stitch one line down the middle and two on either side hugging the edges of the section shape, before filling in the gaps. You can break up each shape into a series of stitches in your mind, using the edges of the template, Stitching Directions diagram and Color Guide diagrams to help you.



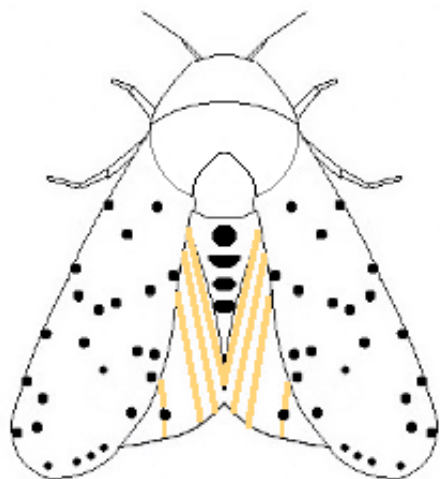
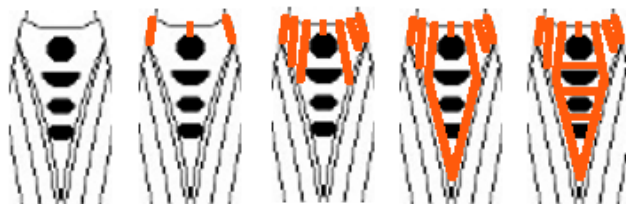
This diagram of the rounded section in the center of your moth's head shows how each section shape can be stitched with a series of straight stitches working around the section. Use the Stitching Directions diagram to guide you with placement of stitches as you work on different areas of your moth.

For circular or semicircular shapes, like the black markings on your moth's body, you can use a row of straight stitches of varying lengths like so...



For these markings you will just need a row of 1-3 very short stitches.

The dark orange (720) section around the markings has a couple of different directions to stitch in, starting with diagonal and then add some horizontal lines to make it easier to stitch. This diagram shows you how you can break this section up into series of stitches...



When a part of your moth has small sections and larger sections next to each other, it can help to start with the smaller sections and details first before stitching the larger sections. For example, on your moth's lower wings there are some thin yellow (743) stripes that just need one stitch for each line, apart from the bottom line where it breaks into two small yellow stitches on either side of the black dot. So you can stitch these first before stitching the orange (3853) sections on either side of these lines. The stripes are marked on your moth template and shown here. Hooray, you are ready to start stitching!

step 5 start stitching

For this moth you need to start with stitching the black (310) circular markings on your moth's wings. These are all marked with tiny black dots on your fabric template. You can either stitch these with a very short row of tiny stitches (some may only need 1 stitch) like so...



Or another way to stitch these is by using a stitch called a French Knot. These create lovely bobbles on the top of your fabric. If you've never tried a French Knot before, you may want to practice a few times on another piece of fabric before stitching your moth. Here's how to do a French Knot...

how to do a french knot



Start a stitch by threading your needle up through one of the black dots on your embroidery with one hand and hold the bottom of the thread tight with the other hand.

Place your needle over the thread that you are holding tight with your other hand.



Wind the thread around your needle once like this (a full French Knot is two times, but I find that one wind is easier).



Thread your needle back down through your fabric right next to the point where you came up, keeping your thread taut but letting it run through your fingers.

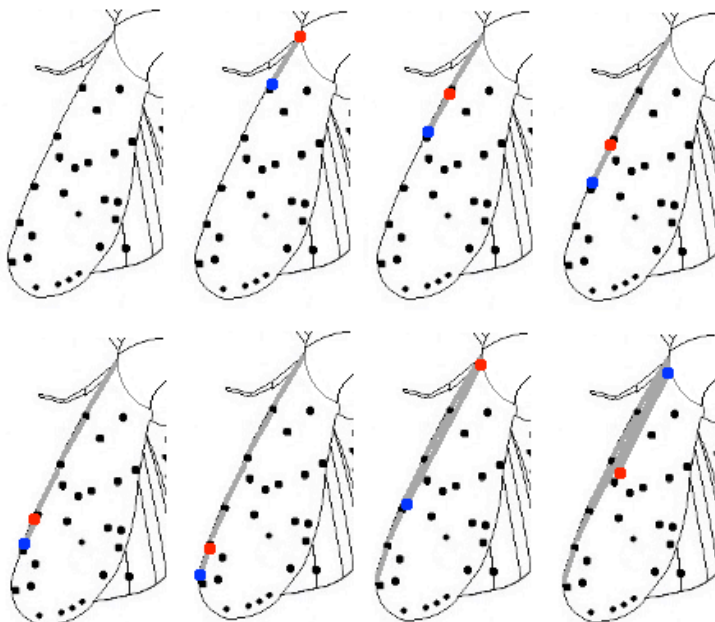


Pull your needle and thread down through your fabric gently but firmly.



Guide your needle and thread all the way through your fabric, allowing the knot to form a bobble-shaped knot above the fabric. Tie off your stitch on the back of your fabric before stitching your next knot.

If you're struggling with these stitches it may help to look up how to do a French Knot on YouTube for free tutorials. Once you have finished all of the dotted markings on your moth's upper wings and the two dotted markings on your moth's lower wings, take the white (B5200) thread and stitch the rest of your moth's upper wings using the Stitching Directions diagram to guide you with placing stitches. As you stitch your moth's upper wings you can work around the dots you've just made with series of stitches of varying lengths filling in the section shapes bit by bit, like so (I've used grey lines to illustrate where white stitches will be)...



When you've finished your moth's upper wings you can stitch the other sections in any order you like. It can help to pick a color, finish all of the sections of that color then choose another color and stitch all of the sections of that color and so on.



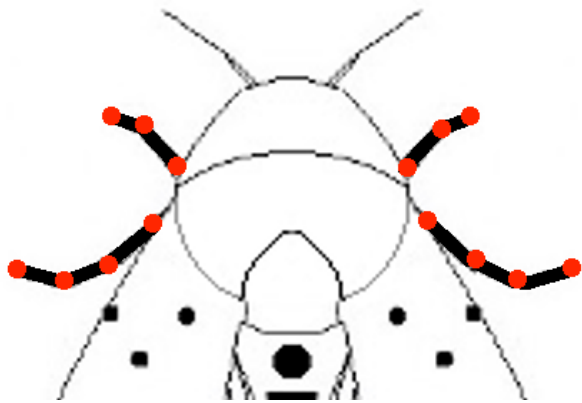
Red dots show where to start stitches.



Blue dots show where to end stitches.

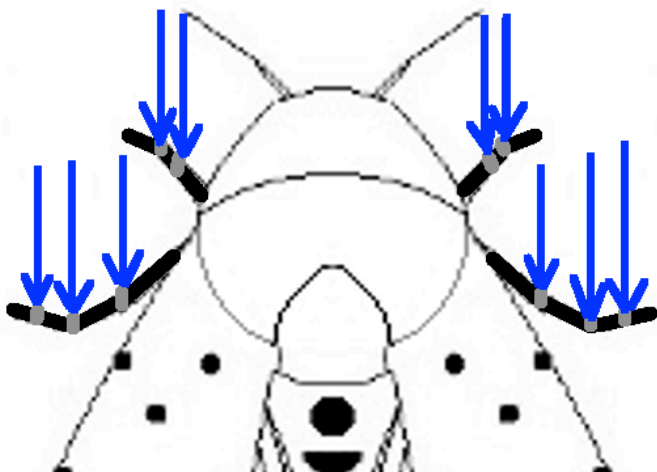
step 6 stitching the antennae and legs

For stitching your moth's antennae, you will need thinner thread. To make this, cut a length of thread and rub one end between your fingers until it separates into 6 strands. Pull 3 strands away from the rest and use these to stitch with. Each of your moth's antennae are made up of just two stitches following your pattern template. The red dots in the diagram show you where these stitches start and end. Tie your thread off at your moth's head after each antenna, starting and ending each antenna at your moth's head.



Your moth's legs are made of a series of stitches with the full 6 strands of threads in black (310). Your moth's top legs are made up of 2 stitches and your moth's bottom legs are made up of 3 stitches. The diagram to the left shows the placement of the stitches, using the red dots again to show you where to start and end stitches. The stitches start and end where the legs bend.

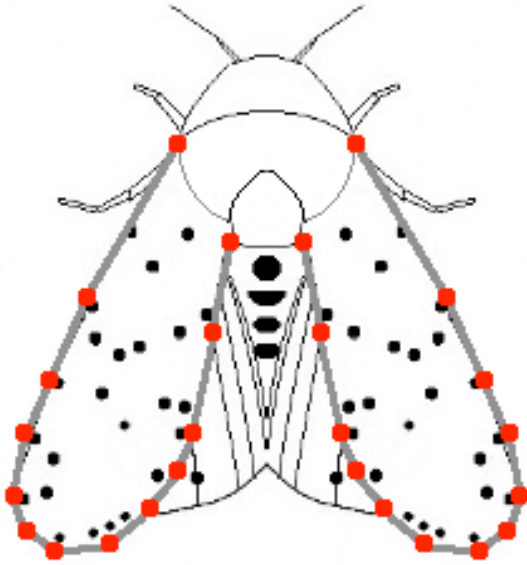
After you've finished the black stitches of your moth's legs there's some tiny grey (645) stitches to add across your moth's legs.



For these grey (645) stitches you'll be crossing over the black (310) stitches that are already there, creating little stripes on your moth's legs. Use the edges of the black (310) stitches to guide you with where to place these tiny grey stitches. For the top legs, place one grey stitch on where the second black leg stitch starts and the first black leg stitch ends (in the middle of the leg) before adding another tiny grey stitch just under the grey stitch you just made, leaving a slither of black thread showing through, creating the first set of stripes.

For your moth's bottom legs place one stitch at the end of both the first and second black leg stitches as you move away from the moth's body then a final stitch halfway between the second stitch and the end of your moth's leg. Hooray! You've now added your moth's little leg stripes, there's just 3 small steps left to do!

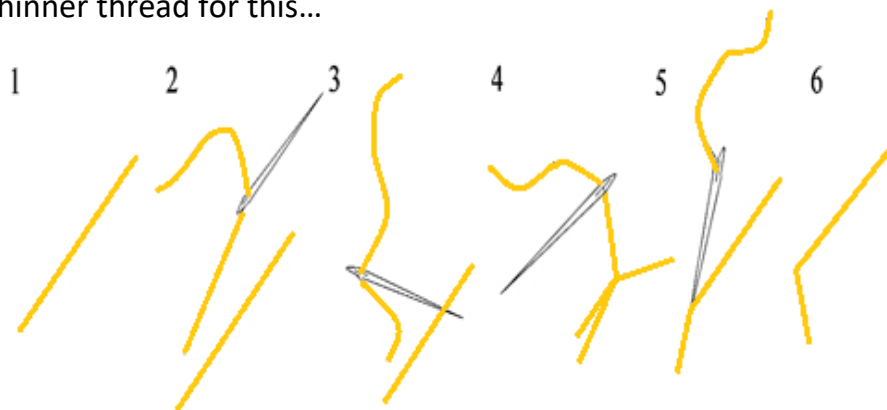
step 7 adding thin lines



To tidy up the edges of your moth you can add some thin stitches around the outline of your moth's wings. For these stitches use the thinner thread of three strands, separating the thread in the same way as you did for the antennae. The diagram here shows where to place these stitches (I've used grey again to show where the white (B5200) stitches will be) red dots show where to start and end stitches...

step 8 fixing stitches

Don't worry about getting your stitches perfect! This step is totally optional! Just like everything in life moths 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. At this point you can also use the thin thread to fill in any unwanted gaps. For any baggy stitches use your needle to pull them tight from the back of your fabric, before anchoring them with a few extra stitches on the back.

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 the 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.

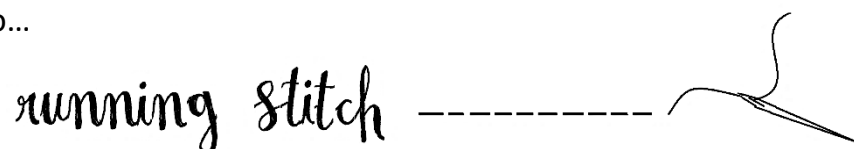
2. Take a long, white (B5200) piece of thread (enough to go all the way around your hoop with an extra 4-6 inches) and tie a double knot at the end. Thread it through the back of the fabric skirt around the edge of your hoop, starting at the top near the screw.



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.

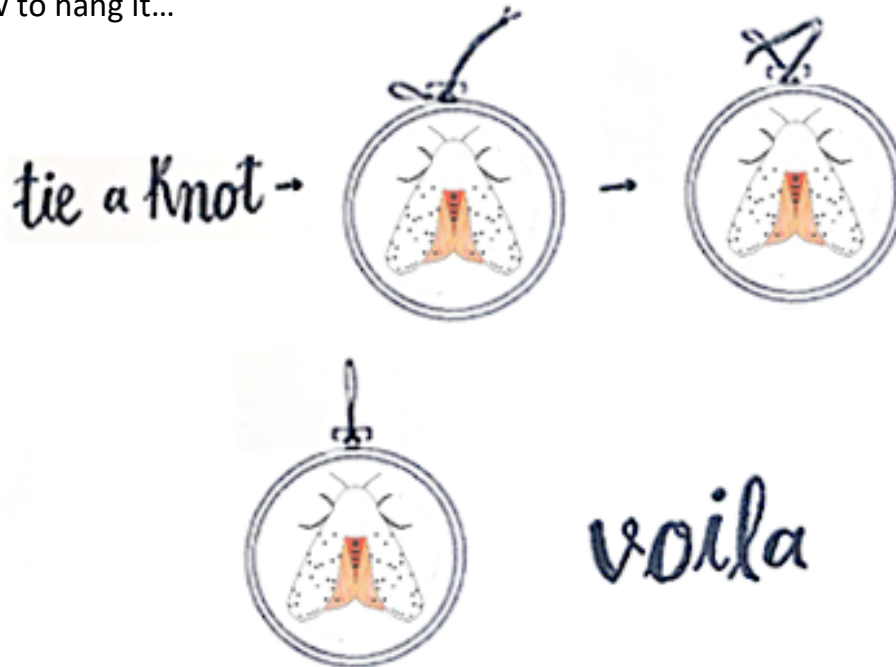
4. When you reach the knot where you started, pull the thread tight so that the fabric gathers up in the middle and tie it off with a few extra stitches over the knot where you started.

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



Congratulations!


You have finished your moth! 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. Alternatively, you can just pop your hoop straight up on a wall nail, with the nail underneath the screw on your hoop, making sure the nail is about an inch out from the wall. 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. I am passionate about making kits and patterns that others can enjoy, sharing the love of learning how to stitch creatures and plants.



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