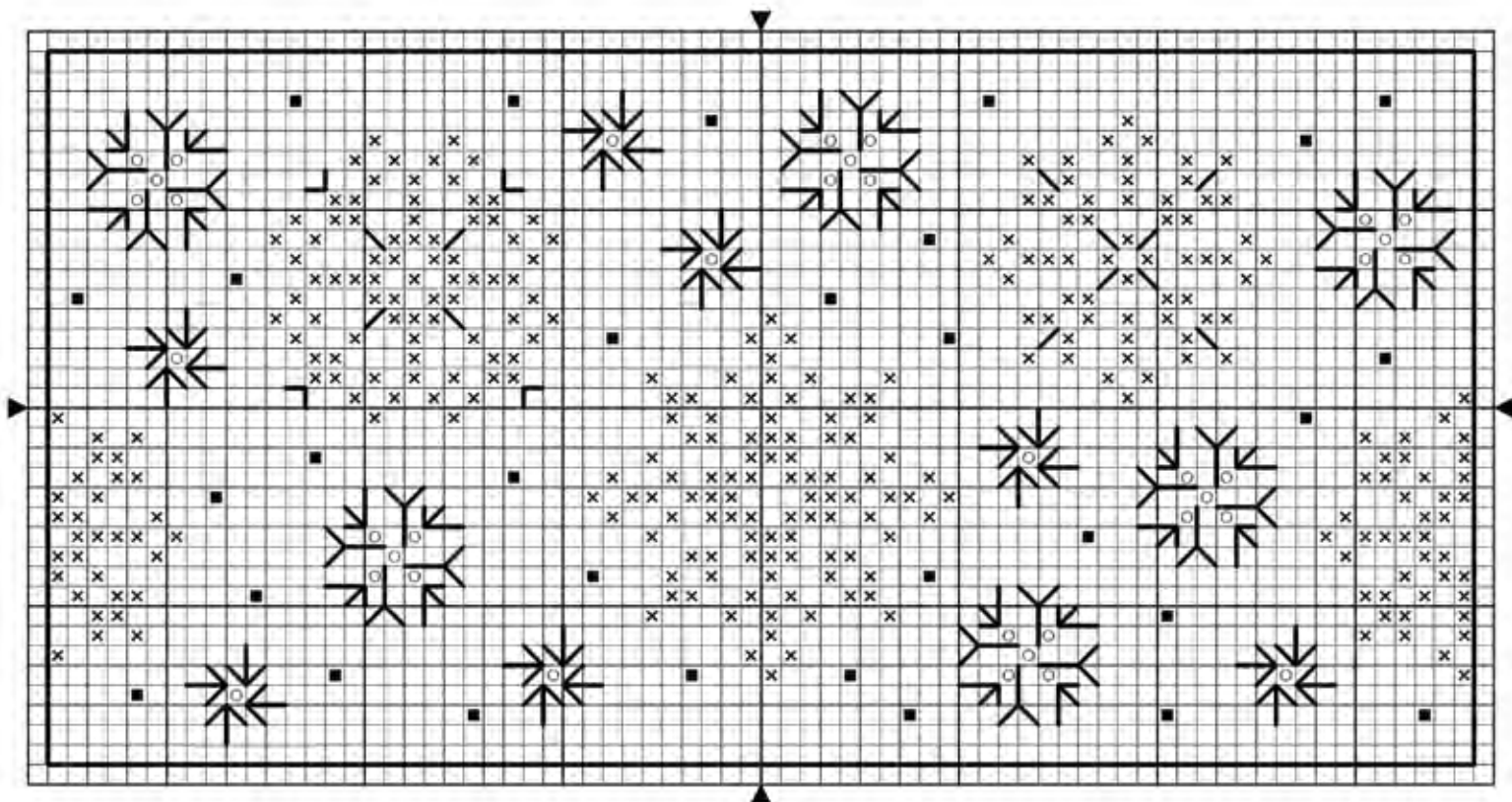


Star Light Star Bright Humbug

PATTERN



Fabric used is a 14/28 count evenweave, white.

- ✕ 35708 Spring Rain (Overdyed Embroidery Floss) Use two strands for cross stitches; use two strands to backstitch border of design.
- 35275 Lt. Antique Blue (Pearl Cotton) Use one strand for cross stitches.
- 44067 Azure Blue (Metallic Floss) Use two strands for all backstitching in snowflakes
- 35545 Twilight (Overdyed Pearl Cotton) Used in cording and tassel (see tutorial on line)
- 00161 Mill Hill Seed Bead, Iridescent



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Star Light Star Bright Humbug

CORD & TASSEL

Things you will need: 35545 Overdyed Pearl Cotton Thread, Scissors, Small Paper Clip, Tape, 2" x 3" piece of cardboard, glue (optional)

Note: Create your twisted cord first. You will need it when making your tassel.

TWISTED CORD

1. Cut 3 – 20" lengths of the pearl cotton thread.
2. Gathering all 3 lengths together, tie a knot at each end.
3. Secure one end to a paper clip. Tape down the paper clip to a table top. Using the opposite end (non-paperclip side) twist the cord in one direction until the threads are taut (before the threads begin to twist or kink).
4. Find the center of your twisted cord. While keeping the cord stretched, gather both ends together and carefully fold twisted cord in half allowing. SLOWLY release the middle of the cord and allow it to twist back onto itself.
5. Once your cord has finished twisting, tie the knotted ends together. Do not remove the paperclip yet.

TASSEL

You will be using the remaining 35545 Overdyed Pearl Cotton Thread.

1. Make a template out of a piece of cardboard 2" wide and 3" long.
2. Cut a 3" piece of thread and set aside.
3. Place your twisted cord on top of the longer length of your card board.
4. Begin wrapping the thread around the wide side of the cardboard template wrapping over the twisted cord until you reach the desired thickness for your tassel (anywhere from 100 wraps to the end of the skein). Make sure you consider the treads on both sides of the cardboard to determine your thickness.
5. Create a small open loop on the non-paperclip side of the cord by twisting the cord in the opposite direction of its twist and hold open. Take the paper clipped ends and slip it through the open loop. Gently pull the cord through the loop until it fits snug against the wrapped threads.
6. Gently slip the wrapped ends off the cardboard template. Take the 3" piece of thread and wrap it around the top of the threads (side closest to the twisted cord) 4 times to make a "head". Double knot the thread and cut close to blend in with the other threads. You may want to put a small drop of glue on this knot to assure it will hold tight.
7. Cut the unbound loop ends at the bottom. Fluff out and cut the ends to an even length.

And there you have it! Your very own Twisted Cord and Tassel for your Humbug!



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ASSEMBLY

To assemble your humbug, read through the instructions at the right for the ladder stitch and practice on a scrap fabric so you can see what an easy method of assembly this is.

Step 1: Trim your needlework about 3/8" inch on the outside of the backstitching around the humbug, then trim the corners at a diagonal to reduce some of the fabric bulk during construction.



The backstitch line was enhanced here to make the actual white backstitch line easier to see for the instructions.

Step 2: Use one strand of white floss for this design to join the backstitching border lines on the sides of this humbug. Finger fold (or use your iron at low setting) to fold the excess fabric to the back and get them out of the way. Secure your thread and begin the ladder stitch at the bottom and work up to the top. (Diagram 1)

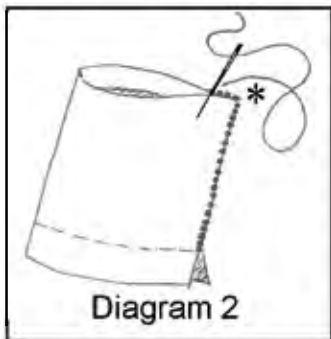


Diagram 2

Step 3: Continue stitching to the top of the humbug. At this point consider how you will use the humbug (hanging ornament? scissors fob?) and insert your cording, ribbon, or desired trim at the point the asterisk is shown (Diagram 2) and secure it with a few extra stitches and end your thread. Turn the excess fabric inside the top of the humbug and start another line of ladder stitching across the top, securing your thread at the end.

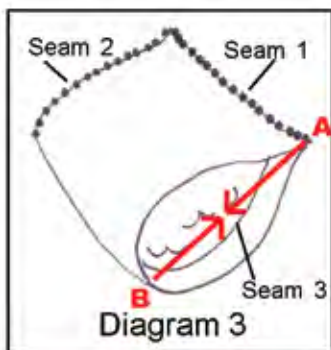


Diagram 3

Step 4: At this point you will have a small envelope. (Diagram 3). Turn the raw edges to the inside and begin to fill your humbug with fiberfill. Use a chopstick to poke small clumps of the fiberfill into the corners. It works best to use smaller chunks rather than large amounts of the fiberfill. You will need to poke and prod until your humbug has a pleasing triangular shape to it. Your last seam will be going in the opposite direction of the top seam. (Diagram 3)

Step 5: The first seam you made will now be the center of the bottom seam. Draw point A to point B. The bottom seam (seam 3) will be going perpendicular to seam 2. Use the ladder stitch to close up the bottom, and stitch to about 1/2" to the end. Check to make sure you have enough fill, and then close it up. Add a tassel, hanger, charms, or whatever pleases you. Enjoy!

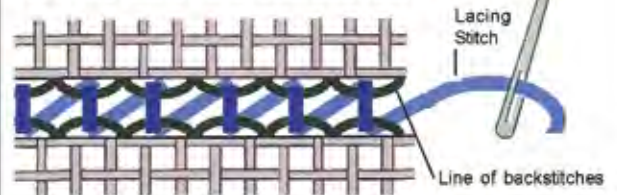
LADDER STITCH

(also known as an "outside join")

The ladder stitch is used to join two sides without overlapping. Also known as an "outside join," it can be used on fine table-linens and clothing as an invisible join; or you can use it as a decorative stitch by using a thread color contrasting the fabric.

For the humbug assembly, you will be connecting the backstitched perimeters of the design by simply lacing the backstitches together as shown in the diagram.

Generally, the number of floss strands for this process is one strand unless otherwise stated.



The finished side of the stitching is always on the outside of the humbug during all construction!



Diagram 1



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