
Stitched Bracelets with Annabel Wrigley

Chapter 1 - Introduction

Overview

- I think my favorite type of jewelry has to be bracelets. My students can normally hear me coming from miles away because of the clanging of my bracelets. Right? (laughing) I think it's even more fun to make your own bracelets. They're way quieter. These ones are really really cute. We're gonna stitch them up on the sewing machine. We're gonna embroider them with some really fun embroidery floss. We're gonna explore some different stitches and different techniques. Then we're gonna make a few, take them home, give them as gifts. It's gonna be really fun. Are you excited? - Yeah. - Good.

Chapter 2 - Materials

Materials

- Here are the supplies we need to make our super sweet stitched bracelets. There's not much; it's just a few small things and you may have some of this stuff hanging around the house. And you may just need one little trip to the craft store. We need a tape measure, just to measure your wrist. We need some pins and we need a crewel needle, which is kind of like a tapestry needle with a really big eye. You're gonna need a sharp pair of scissors. You're going to need some pinking shears, which are scissors that have this jagged, zigzag edge. You're going to need an erasable pen and this is the Pilot FriXion pen and that comes off as soon as you hit it with the iron, so it's a really great thing. We're gonna need some embroidery floss, in a few different colors. We're gonna need some fabric. You don't need too much. Some fusible interfacing. This is called featherweight fusible interfacing. It's really easy to find at your fabric or craft store. We're gonna need a little snap gadget, which is this blue thing. It's a snap fastener and that usually comes with snaps and we only need one complete snap for each side of the bracelet, so two snaps per bracelet. We're going to need a hammer. We're going to also need an iron and of course we're gonna be using a sewing machine with a really fun neon thread.

Chapter 3 - Create Bracelet Base

Create base

- Before we even start making our stitched bracelet, we need to know how long to make it, right? Ava's got quite little wrists, don't you, so we want to make sure that we make the bracelet to the exact length because we don't want it to fall off. So we're going to take our tape measure and just loosely measure the wrist. We have that there, six inches. And then my rule of thumb, generally, is to add an inch and a half onto that measurement, so that would take it to seven and a half, and that's the length that I'm going to cut my fabric, which I've already gone ahead and done that. I've also cut it four inches wide, so it's seven and a half long by four inches wide. Just remember to measure your wrist and add an inch and a half before you cut your fabric. And this fabric is four inches wide and seven and a half inches long. And I've done that. I've cut these pieces of fusible interfacing to the same measurements, so they're seven and a half by four inches. I've got our two pieces of fabric here, so now we want to attach our fusible interfacing to the wrong side of this fabric, and I'm going to have you do that. Can you tell me which side of the interfacing to put on the fabric? - The interfacing side is the bumpy side. - Yup, the bumpy side is the side that has a little bit of adhesive

on it. You want to make sure that you don't iron on the bumpy side because what's going to happen then? - Um. - [Woman] It's going to stick. - It's going to stick. - Yeah, it's going to make a gummy sticky mess. So do you want to do this? Okay, just make sure that it's on top and it fits really well, and then grab your iron. Great, so keep ironing, go over that a few times. We want to make sure that it's really stuck down, so why don't you stop for a second because that looks really good, and we're just going to check it. We just might want to do a little bit more here, but the rest of it is looking really good, so let's just go over this area again. I think that one's pretty good. I think we should move on to the next one. What do you think? Let's move that one to the side. Going to take our other one wrong side up. Great job. That looks really good. The reason that we're putting the fusible interfacing on the wrong side of the fabric is we want to give the bracelet just a little bit more weight, we want it to be just a little bit stiffer on our wrist. So the fusible interfacing is just giving us that little bit extra, and it's still going to be able to bend really nicely. I think just a little bit more up there. Let me check it. That looks pretty good. So we're finished ironing the fusible onto the back of the fabric, it's time to fold the fabric in half and iron it. We're just getting it ready for the embroidery part now. I'm going to fold that in half. You could probably turn the steam back on for this part. So I've ironed it in half and then I'm going to bring the long ends in to the center, just like this, and I'm going to iron that again. Now for this part I'm only going to do one side because I'm just kind of creating my embroidery area and you'll see that I've created these two folds. I have a fold here and I have a fold here, and we're going to be doing our embroidery down the center of this one. So I think we've got this all here, I think we're ready to start with our embroidery.

Chapter 4 - Add Embroidery

Stitch design

- Our first bracelet that we're going to tackle is this really sweet snowflake or starburst pattern bracelet. We're going to draw the design onto our fabric piece, and then we're just going to do a really simple embroidery all over it, and then we're gonna finish it off and make an awesome bracelet. We're gonna start with a really simple starburst or snowflake, whatever you wanna call it pattern. It's really easy to draw, and I'm just gonna draw a few on the fabric. So we'll start here. I'm just gonna create a cross and then I'm gonna do a line in between. And you can make them all different sizes, I think that's really cute. They don't have to be in a line, it's up to you whether you wanna do that. I like them to be scattered around. Wanna try some? That's great. So Ava's finished her stars now, and we're gonna start embroidering them. So I'm gonna show you how to do that. I picked this blue because I think it looks really good on the pink. What do you think? - [Ava] Yeah. - [Instructor] Yeah. We're gonna really carefully pull the embroidery thread out from this bundle. You wanna be really careful 'cause it can get easily tangled, so I just pull it really really gently. I'm just gonna pull kind of a good length, about that much is good. We're gonna start by tying a knot in the end of the floss, this, then we wanna thread our needle. This is a little bit frayed on the end, so we're just gonna chop that off. Start with a nice clean-cut end. So let's grab a needle, and we're gonna thread that. I'm gonna show you how to embroider these awesome starbursts or snowflakes. It's really easy, how about I show you to do a couple, and then you can do the rest? So we're gonna bring our needle from behind the bottom of one of the stars, and we're gonna pull it all the way through like this. Then we're gonna take it down at the opposite end. Just like this. Your next one is going to be the line that completes the cross, so we're gonna come up in that end, pull it nice and tight, and we're gonna go down on the opposite side again. Then we're going to go on this cross line, we're always coming up from underneath and then going down from the top. Pull that through.

And our last one, it's that last line, crossing down here. And that's one done. So you don't need to tie off at the back of the work, you can just go to your next star, and do the exact same thing again. This one's a little bit smaller, coming up from behind, and down. And remember, it doesn't have to be perfect, you just need to do your best, that's all that's important. Bring it up here, and then down again. I think this kinda stitching is pretty relaxing, don't you think? - [Ava] Yeah. - [Instructor] And that's our second star finished, that fast. Doesn't that look great? - [Ava] Mm hmm. - So I think it's your turn to try. Think you're ready? - Mm hmm. - Okay great, here you go. You're pretty good at this, Ava. (both giggling) Ava's stitching away beautifully on her starburst bracelet, so I'm gonna let her finish that off, and I'm gonna teach you another stitch, which is just a really simple chain stitch. It's pretty simple once you've got hang of it, and it's pretty fun to do as well. So we're gonna start off with our erasable marker and I'm gonna be using this really fun green fabric for this one. I'm gonna be using my erasable marker just to draw some dots on the fabric, and that's gonna be my guide for my stitch. You'll see on this one, all my stitches are about the same length, and that's just because I used the dots. You don't need to use a ruler or anything, you can just eyeball it. So I'm gonna start here. It depends on how big you want your chain stitch to be, that's how far apart your dots are. I'm just gonna do mine about this far apart. I've drawn my dots here, and each one is going to be the length of each chain stitch. I didn't use a ruler for this at all, but I think it looks pretty straight, and I really don't think you need to use one at all. I'm gonna be using the same pretty red embroidery floss for this one. I think this color looks really great against the green. So we're gonna go ahead and pull off our length of floss. Remember we're going to be really careful pulling it off the little bundle. We'll cut that. I'm gonna tie a knot in the end of that. Got another one of my needles here, again I'm be using the crewel needle. Thread that. I'm gonna be coming up from behind the fabric, through where this first dot is, and pulling it all the way through. Then I'm gonna bring my needle down through the same hole, and then I'm gonna bring it up to where the next hole is. Gonna take my thread and just loop it behind. Then holding my fabric, I'm just gonna pull that to create my first chain stitch. I promise you're gonna get the hang of this really fast. It might seem a little bit complicated at first. We're gonna put our needle back down through that hole that we came through just before, and then bring it up through the next dot again. We're taking our embroidery floss and just wrapping it behind, and then we're gonna gently pull, and look at that, another part of our chain. It's looking really good. So let's do it again. Take our needle, take it down through the hole we just came through like this, bring it up through the next dot, we're gonna wrap our embroidery floss behind, and we're going to pull it through again. Let's finish off our last two stitches. Remember we're gonna go down where we came up last, we're gonna bring the needle forward to the next dot, wrap the thread around, and pull through, and then we just have one more. So we've finished all of our chain stitches, now we're just going to bring the needle down through to the back, and I'm just gonna bring it down over that last stitch right here, just to hold it in place, like that. Gonna turn it over, gonna unthread our needle, and we're gonna tie a knot nice and close to the fabric on the back. And Ava's doing the same thing too, which is great. We're gonna finish off the other bracelet that I taught you in the exact same way. And I just did a little double knot there, and that's nice and secure. We'll just clip that last bit of thread. And you're not gonna see the underside of this at all, so if it comes out a little bit messy, that's okay because you won't see it. So we've already ironed this side of our bracelet piece, and we need to iron the other side to get it ready to finish stitching. So I'm gonna fold this side in, and then I'm gonna grab my iron, and I'm just gonna give it a good iron like that. - Can you pass me the scissors? - Of course, here you go. I'm just gonna fold the entire thing in half again like this, and I'm gonna give that a good iron. It's not gonna

stay by itself, it may wanna flip open, which is why we grab our pins right here, and I'm just gonna put in just a couple of pins to keep it together, ready for us to sew. I'm gonna help Ava now get her bracelet ready to sew, and then we're gonna get started on the machine.

Chapter 5 - Sew Bracelet

Sew bracelet closed

- We finished pinning our really cute bracelets. I think they look pretty good, what do you think? Yep? They're gonna look even cuter soon when we've finished our stitching. We've threaded the machine with this really fun neon thread and we're gonna get started just stitching a really simple line all the way around. Let's put our bracelet piece under the sewing machine. And I think we're gonna line it up with the edge of the, the inside edge of the foot on the edge of the fabric. It's fun to do it nice and close to the edge, it's gonna look great. So put our needle down now. Yep! Excellent, and let's start sewing. - [Student Eva] My Backstitch? - [Instructor] Yeah, you could backstitch to start, that's a great idea. (sewing machine humming) Perfect. Remember to take your pins out as you go. Great. Just go nice and slowly. Make sure that you stop before you get to the end because we want to turn. I'd say stop. One more stitch. How about one more? Yeah, let's do it with the hand wheel, that's a great idea. Excellent, so let's lift the foot. And then we're gonna turn the bracelet. Perfect, and we're just gonna sew across the end there. Yep, perfect, I think you can turn it now. And, maybe one more? Great, lift your foot and turn again and when you get to the end, to the beginning stitches here, I want you to do a little backstitch again. - [Student Eva] Okay. - If you're worried in this project that you might stitch a little bit too far, it's a good idea to stop a little bit early, and use your hand wheel just to finish that last couple of stitches just like Eva did. You did a great job. So she's just gonna do her little backstitch and she's done! So let's take it out of there with some scissors. And now we've almost finished our bracelet, all we have left to do is trim the edges and add a snap, and it's gonna be on your wrist before you know it.

Add snap

- We're just gonna finish off the last two steps of our stitch bracelet. The first thing we're gonna do is get our pinking shears, which are these ziggity zaggy scissors, and we're just gonna snip off the end a little bit. And the reason that we're doing this, it's gonna help prevent fraying because our edges will roll right there, and I think it looks really cute as well. I'll do the other one. Make sure that you don't clip the stitching. And that's that. The final thing we need to do is add our snaps to the bracelet. And we're gonna be using this store-bought snap fastener, or I would call it a snap gadget. And it's really good to have a look and a good read of the package that it comes in because it is gonna give you the instructions. And you may be a bit nervous about this part, so you might want to ask for some help. We're gonna start with one side of the snaps. So we're gonna need one of these. One of these with the little spikes on them. We're gonna open up our little snap gadget. You're gonna see that, on this little part of the snap, that one side is more raised than the other, and we're gonna put that with the raised side up, right there. And then we're gonna decide which side this goes on. And this is going to probably go on the top side in the middle, just here on one end. So I'm gonna put that this way because that's the way we want it to be. And just remember, this could look confusing, so have a look at your instructions. We're gonna close this bit right here. And then we're going to put our little spiky bit down like this. And we're gonna close it up. And I'm gonna grab my hammer and I'm gonna give it a couple of little bangs just to make sure that it's in there and nice and secure. We're gonna open it up again, and you'll see it's attached. Both sides are

attached. So that's one side done. That's kind of a little bit like magic. Now we're gonna do the other side. It's a little bit different than the first one because the little snap pieces go in a different position. Again, we're gonna use this little spiky piece, and then we're going to use this one with the little raised center. And this part of the snap is a little bit different. So we're going to put this in the bottom to start instead this time. And then we're gonna put our bracelet in just like before, but we're gonna be working on the opposite side. We want it to be on the opposite so that your bracelet can actually close. So I have it in pretty good position. I can move this center one until I feel like I've got it in the perfect position, I feel like it's centered here. And then I'm going to put this one with the elevated part in the middle up like that. I'm gonna close the top. And then again, I'm gonna grab my hammer and I'm going to attach the other snap just like before. So we're just gonna hammer that just a few times. Then when we open it, we're gonna find that it's attached. And you'll see that this part of the snap is on one side, and the other half is on the other. So when we close the bracelet, the two pieces go together. And there you have it. It's a pretty gorgeous bracelet and it's just begging to be worn, I think by you. So let's put it on. And I think if you're like me, you can't really stop at one, so how about we add another? Because I think that'd look pretty great together. I love it. While you're making them, you might want to think of other ideas for your bracelets. For example, we used some big check gingham for this one, and we just did a simple cross stitch. And if you want to look at my cross stitch hoops project, that's gonna show you how to do a cross stitch. And you can do it the exact same way as we did these. And I think this looks pretty great. And we did another one with a smaller gingham check with a small cross stitch. Add a few different colored stitches. You can go pretty crazy, actually, and make a whole stack. You'll have them up your arm, looking great.