

A Flow'ret Bright

An evergreen and candle crown to lighten winter's darkest days



This lovely crown is decorated with hellebores, mistletoe, and holly. With removable candles and an elastic inset in back, it can be made to size and worn for different wintry occasions throughout many years.

Finished Size: To fit a 22" (56cm) head, but can be customized to any size



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To make A Flowret Bright Crown, you will need:

For Crown:

- Two 6" x 18" (23cm x 30cm) piece of felt in Very Dark Green for Crown
- Two 2" x 8" (7.5cm x 10cm) pieces of felt in Very Dark Green for Elastic Inset
- One 6" x 18" (23cm x 30cm) piece of medium- or heavyweight fusible interfacing

For Hellebore Flowers, Leaves, and Berries:

- Small amounts of felt in the following colors:
 - Dark pink, Medium Pink, and Light Pink for Petals
 - Light Green for Carpel (middle part of flower)
 - Gray-Green and Olive Green for Mistletoe Leaves
 - Medium Green for Holly Leaves
 - Cream and Pale Gray (or White) for Mistletoe Berries
 - Bright Red for Holly Berries

For Candles:

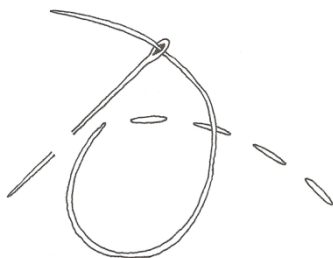
- Five 1 3/4" x 4" (10cm x 15cm) pieces of felt in Cream for Candles
- Small amount of felt in Bright Gold for Flames
- Three light-colored paper or plastic 8" drinking straws (you'll cut them in half for the Candles)

Along with:

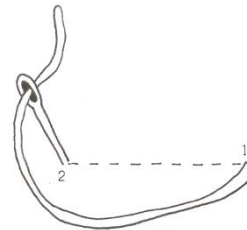
- 6-ply DMC cotton embroidery floss in Dark Mauve, Medium Mauve, Yellow, Cream, Light Brown, and Dark Brown
- 1/4 yard 3/4" non-roll elastic
- Paper scissors, sharp fabric scissors, and sharp-tipped embroidery scissors
- Dressmaker's chalk in a light color
- Water-erase fabric marker
- A bit of batting to stuff Berries with
- Dark pink stamp pad
- Spray bottle with water and small, stiff paint brush
- Size #5 embroidery needle
- Sewing machine and dark green thread

Some stitches you'll need to know:

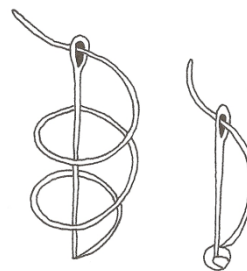
Running stitch: Working from right to left, weave the needle in and out of fabric, then pull thread through.



Straight stitch: Working from right to left, come up at 1 and go down at 2 to create a straight stitch.



French knot: Bring the needle up through the fabric where you want the knot to be. Holding the needle in your right hand, wrap the thread around the needle clockwise twice. Insert the needle into the fabric close to where it just emerged. Holding the thread tight against the needle with your left thumb and forefinger, gently pull the needle and thread through the knot.



Let's get started!

Note: Be sure to test your fabric marker on a scrap of felt to make sure all traces of it can be removed with a spritz of water before starting. The felt will ruffle (and discolor) a bit after getting wet, but a warm iron will smooth it right back into shape.

- Carefully cut out all paper templates on solid black lines (and dotted lines).
- Trace the templates onto the felt with marker or chalk and cut out all of these pieces as follows:

For Flowers:

- 5 Small Petals in Light Pink
- 5 Small Petals in Medium Pink
- 5 Large Petals in Dark Pink
- 3 pieces 3/4" x 1 1/2" in Light Green for Carpels

For Leaves:

- 2 Mistletoe Leaves in Gray Green
- 2 Mistletoe Leaves in Olive Green
- 5 Holly Leaves in Medium Green

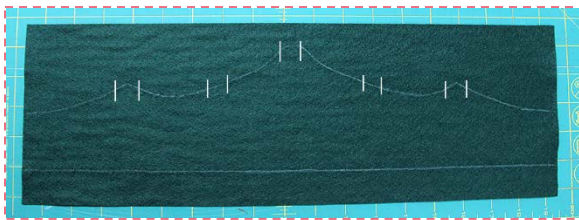
For Berries:

- 5 Berries in Bright Red
- 2 Berries in Pale Gray (or White)
- 2 Berries in Cream

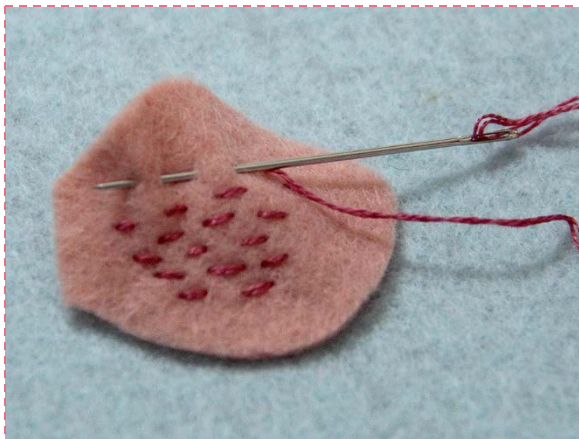
For Candles:

- 5 pieces 1 3/4" x 4" of White for Candles
- 5 Flames in Gold

3. Trace* the left half of the Crown on the Dark Green felt then flip the template and trace the right half. Add markings for Candle openings. **DO NOT CUT THE CROWN OUT.** *If you're using a 12" x 18" piece of felt for the Crown, make sure that you'll be able to get 2 (2" x 8") pieces out of the scraps for the elastic inset. It's a tight fit but it's possible. Iron the interfacing onto the other piece.

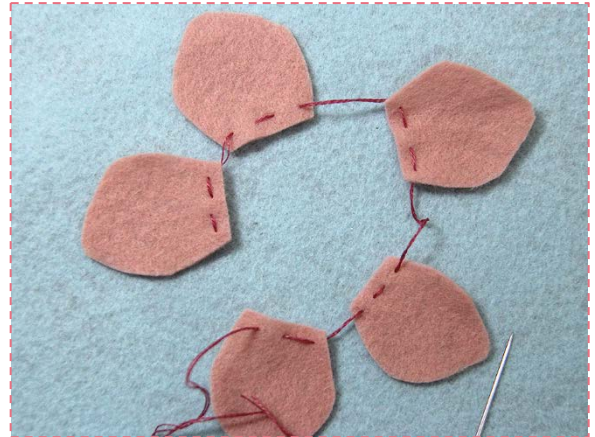


4. Let's start making the Flowers first. Gather the Petals for the Dark Pink Flower. (I forgot to take a picture of it but you can run the edges of each Petal along a stamp pad to give them some color.) Thread #5 needle with 2 plies of Dark Mauve floss. Tie a knot at the end of your floss and make small running stitches vertically up the length of each Petal.



5. Thread #5 needle with 2 plies of embroidery floss and tie a firm knot in the end of the length of floss. To make a Flower, bring needle up from bottom of Petal close to lower right corner and take a couple of running stitches across the bottom. If you want a Petal to overlap the next make sure your stitches start and stop from the back; if you want the edge of a Petal to go

under the one previous, push your needle down from the right side of the Petal (look closely at photo below). Continue stringing Petals in this way until you have strung all five on floss.



6. Bring needle up in the corner of the first Petal. Pull floss tight, gathering Petals around center.



7. To make Carpel, fold small piece of Light Green felt in half lengthwise and make small snips through both layers along folded edge.



8. Holding cut edges together, roll the Carpel up.



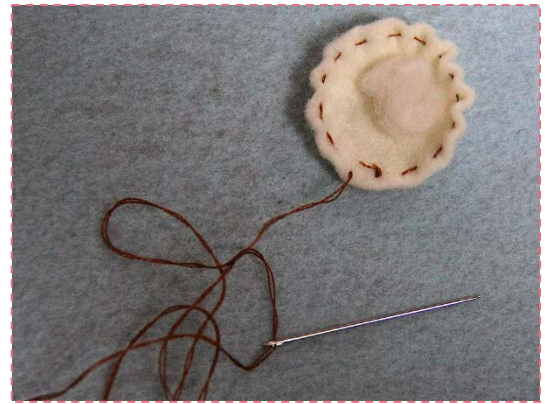
9. Place Carpel on top of a Flower and use the long tail you left in step 7 to stitch Carpel to Flower Petals. Stitch from several places to make sure it really stays on there.

10. Use 2 plies of Yellow floss to make long stitches topped by French knots for the stamens.



11. Repeat steps 4-10 to make the other two Flowers.

12. To make Berries, use 2 plies of floss - Light Brown for white Berries and Dark Brown for red Berries - and make a French knot in the center of Berry piece. Using same floss, make running stitches around the outer edge of Berry circle. Push circle in with knot to the inside and add a bit of stuffing to plump Berry. Pull running stitches tight and secure at back with knot. Make stitches across the back of Berry to keep tight and secure. Keep long tail attached so you can use it to stitch the Berry to the Crown. Repeat for each Berry.



13. Stitch Flowers to Crown as shown below, being careful not to stitch Petals to felt between notches, since those will be left open for Candles. Use small stitches and make sure they don't show from the front.



Lay out the Leaves as shown and use 2 plies of Cream floss and running stitches to secure to Crown.

14. Add red Berries at corners of Holly Leaves and white berries at the crux of Mistletoe Leaves and stitch to Crown.

15. Place the second piece of Very Dark Green felt behind the Crown piece and pin pieces together. Using thread that matches felt color, machine stitch along chalk outlines, backstitching at each edge of Candle openings as indicated by marks. Be sure to leave right and left edges and Candle openings OPEN. If anything, make Candle openings a bit too big rather than too small, or you'll never get the Candles in there. Trim excess felt away from seams, leaving about an 1/8" seam allowance.



You can brush out any lingering chalk marks with a stiff-bristled paintbrush and a bit of water. Mist off any lingering fabric marker with a spritz of water.

16. Now let's make the elastic inset. Measure your Santa Lucia's head and subtract the length of the Crown (18") from that number. Let's say what remains is 5". Make 2 marks on your elastic that are 5" apart but do not trim elastic. Lay the elastic down the length of one inset piece. Top it with the other and machine stitch close to both long edges, leaving left and right sides open with elastic ends sticking out.



17. Place a pin at right mark and scrunch felt down so that left mark is at the edge of left opening. I don't really understand why it looks like I cut the right edge of the elastic off before I stitched the edge closed over the mark, so ignore that. I don't know exactly what's happening in this picture but basically you are trying to stitch the ends of the Inset closed on top of the marks you made. This way, when she puts on the crown, the Inset will stretch to fit comfortably over her head.



18. Pin and stitch opening closed, catching edge of elastic in seam.



19. Stick that edge of the inset into the edge of the Crown and pin. Machine-stitch opening closed over inset. Repeat for the other side of inset.



20. Okay, Candle time. To make a Candle, cut each of your straws in half. Tape a White felt piece to a straw along the long edge.



21. Roll the felt around the straw and use some more tape to hold the felt on. Using 2 plies of White floss, make straight stitches as below along entire length of Candle, removing tape as necessary. Secure with a knot at the end.



22. Fold the long end of the Flame into a tight spiral and insert it in the end of the straw. Repeat for all 5 Candles.

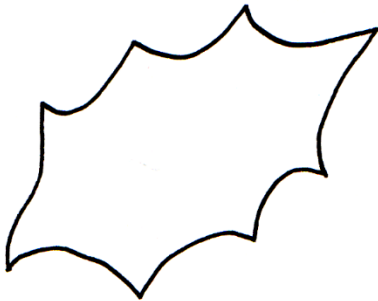


23. Insert Candles into openings in the top of the Crown and light up the darkest days of the year with sparkle and shine.

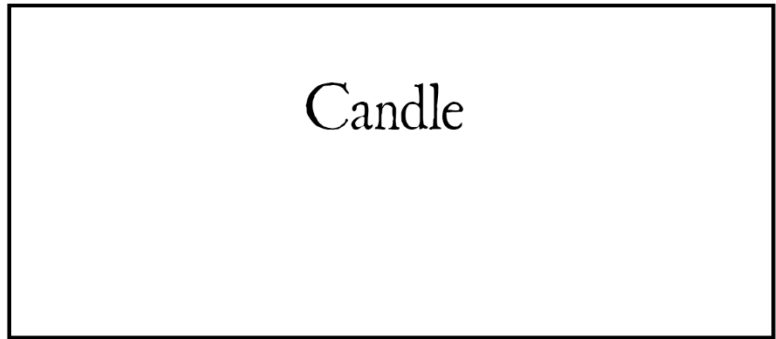


My Lucia-descended-from-Vikings is giving me the stink eye because she's freezing.

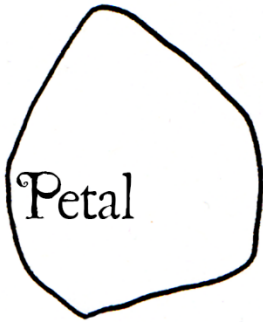
A Flow'ret Bright Pattern templates



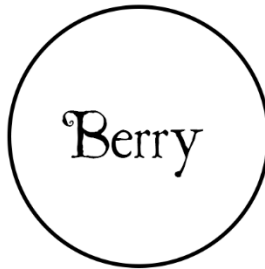
Holly Leaf



Candle



Large Petal



Berry



Carpel



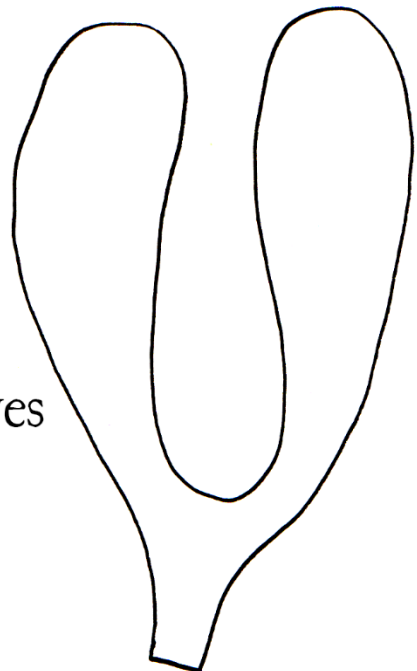
Small Petal

For instruction on how many of which colors to cut these pieces, refer to Step 2.

Flame



Mistletoe Leaves



Elastic Inset

Cut 2 of Very Dark Green Felt

Crown

Trace onto Very Dark Green Felt, then
flip it over and trace the other side but DO NOT CUT OUT.

When stitching leave spaces between marks open as per instructions.

