

THREE DIMENSIONAL ORNAMENT

Read Directions Through Before Starting Work

Constructing this ornament consists of stitching six different colored squares, cutting out unworked corners, and assembling in the shape of a cube. The centers of all six sides are worked in the same three golden colors, palest (#1) in the center, medium (#2) in the middle and darkest (#3) outside. The next three rows are worked with a color family, with lightest shade (#4) closest in, then medium (#5), to the darkest (#6) for the outside border. Gold cloisonne is then couched onto the paper. The unworked corners are cut out and these corner edges whipped with floss. The six sides are assembled in the shape of a cube, and then hung from a corner with three strands of gold thread.

PAPER: The perforated paper should be handled with a gentle touch. Whenever possible, use just the fingertips to hold and handle the work. Too firm a grasp will spoil the paper's rigidity and finish.

THREAD: The six ply cotton floss is already cut in appropriate lengths for stitching.

Run thread through thumb and forefinger to determine the smoother direction, and work with that direction.

It is best to strip thread, that is, separate floss into individual strands (plies) and then put back together the number of plies needed for stitching.

FLOSS: USE FOUR PLYS OF FLOSS FOR ALL STITCHING EXCEPT:

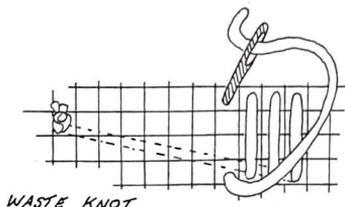
1. Couch cloisonne with one ply of the lightest shade (#4) of the color for each particular side.
2. Whip corners and join sides with three plies of the medium gold color (#2).

STITCHING: Lay flat stitches in gently, taking care to keep thread smooth and untwisted, having the plies of each stitch lying parallel to each other. Try not to pull stitches tight; allow a natural loft.

Work each stitch in two separate operations. First poke needle up and then down.

STARTING and ENDING THREAD: Start thread with a waste knot, taking care to cover the tail of thread in back of the work with several stitches.

Finish off work by weaving thread through the backs of worked stitches, taking a backstitch in the process.



ORDER OF WORK

To make one side of the ornament:

1. Check the black dot on the paper with the dot on the diagram to orient where the center square should be worked. This square is worked in diagonal stitches with color #1.
2. Work second round (row) with color #2 according to diagram. These diagonal stitches slant in the opposite direction from the center square.
3. Stitch round three with color #3.
4. In the fourth round, first a zig zag border is formed (on the principle of double running stitch) and then at the completion of stitch 20 (see diagram), fill the little triangles with the graduated straight stitches shown with the same thread. Use color #4.
5. The fifth round is made up of the 12 little squares worked on the diagonal. Note direction of slant in each square, and that these stitches do not share holes with any other stitches.
6. Sixth round is the outside border. These stitches don't share holes with the previous round. Note change of slant direction in center of each side.
7. Couching the gold thread. Remove cloisonne (heaviest gold in two yard length) from cardboard. Crush both ends to prevent fraying. DO NOT CUT. Knot one end, thread other through needle. The diagram shows where to bring the needle up. Pull thread through to the knot and lay the gold on the narrow channel between the last (border) and second last worked rounds. Couch the gold down with one ply of color #4. At completion, pull the gold to the underside of the paper and fasten a short end of the gold to the back of any stitches handy with the one ply couching thread. NOW CUT the gold cloisonne, and then immediately knot again to prevent fraying, and to be ready for the next couching task.
8. Cut Out Corners. Check diagram. With sharp paper scissors and cutting across holes only, trim perforated paper away from unworked portion of the corners to within one 'thread' (crossbar of paper) of stitched area. Avoid closing scissors completely while cutting paper. Cut close to blade points but don't snap shut. Hold work over a dark surface to facilitate seeing holes.
9. Finishing corners. Whip the cut corner edges with a simple overcast stitch through each hole using three ply #2 floss. When a corner is whipped, run thread through backs of border stitches to be in position to whip the next corner.
10. One side of the ornament is now completed. Stitch five more, each in a different color.

THREE DIMENSIONAL ASSEMBLY

1. Lay out the six finished sides as shown in Figure A.

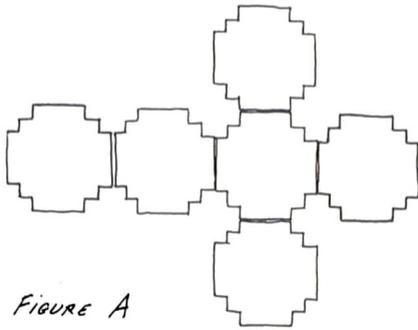


FIGURE A

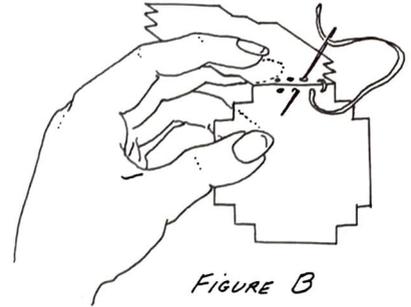


FIGURE B

2. Join all the sides shown touching. With three plies of #2 thread use an overcast stitch to join. Take two stitches in the first pair of holes, and two in the last pair.

A good way to hold work is with the forefinger balancing one 'square' on top of the middle finger, and the thumb and ring finger gently holding the second 'square' in place. See Figure B. The joined sides usually won't stay at right angles until more squares are joined, but holding them at right angles while stitching helps insure a decent tension; not sloppy and not too tight.

3. Continue to stitch sides together in the order suggested in Figure C.

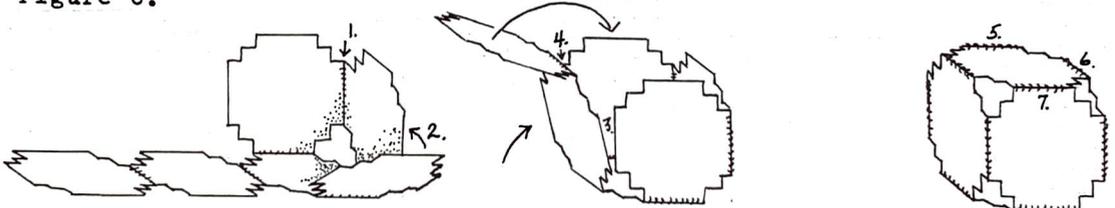


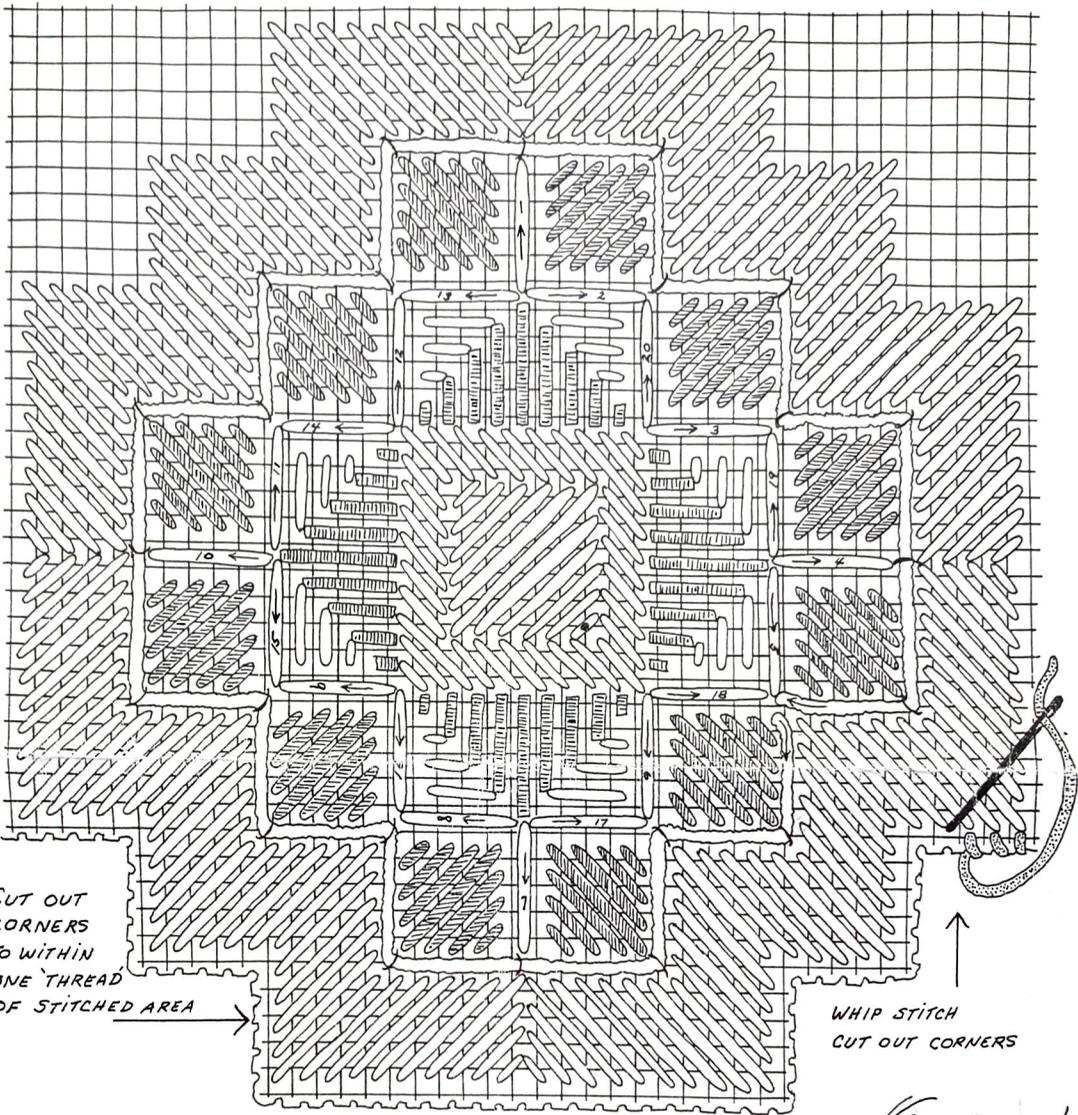
FIGURE C.

4. Stitching the last 'square' in place is the most difficult. For these last joinings, knot the end of the thread to anchor it on the wrong side; stitch, and then run thread under backs of border stitches to get in position for the next joining. Finish off with running stitches and back stitches (will have to be done blindly) in the back of the last join.

TO HANG: Cut the thin gold thread into three equal lengths. Make a large knot at one end of each. Thread needle and bring up at the 'corner' of the ornament through the threads of a seam (not through the paper) between the first and second holes. When all three threads have been pulled up through the three seams at one 'corner' of the cube, loop them together into a simple knot. Knot again a few inches from the thread ends. See Diagram sheet.

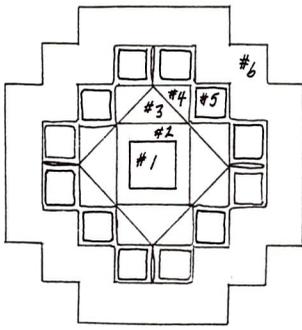
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EACH SQUARE REPRESENTS ONE HOLE ON PERFORATED PAPER.



CUT OUT CORNERS TO WITHIN ONE THREAD OF STITCHED AREA

WHIP STITCH CUT OUT CORNERS



- # 1 PALEST GOLD
- # 2 PALER GOLD
- # 3 PALE GOLD
- # 4 LIGHT COLOR
- # 5 MEDIUM COLOR
- # 6 DARK COLOR

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