

Butterfly Brooches

By Vikki Lafford



Materials:

- Silk dupion
- Beads
- Machine embroidery thread
- A beading needle
- Sharp pencil
- Sheet of paper
- Marker pen
- Silk paints
- Embroidery hoop
- Backing fabric
- An iron
- A sewing machine with darning foot
- Paint brush
- Wire
- Brooch pin

Step 1:

Fold the sheet of paper in half. On one half, draw a butterfly wing with the body of the butterfly on the fold.

Step 2:

Using either a sharp pencil or a needle, make small holes along the drawn lines. Make sure that you punch the holes through both sides of the folded paper. Open out the paper and you will have the full butterfly design punched in tiny holes.

Step 3: Lay the sheet of paper over the fabric. Using a marker pen, draw over the holes, using reasonable pressure so that the pen transfers through the tiny holes, leaving dots on the fabric below (I suggest that you test this on a scrap of fabric first). The dots should give a faint outline of your design.

Step 4: Frame up your fabric in an embroidery hoop, making sure that the design is central in the hoop. Use several layers of backing fabric and ensure that the fabric is taught.

Step 5: Set up the sewing machine with a darning foot and lower the feed dogs. Set the machine on run stitch.

Step 6: Sew along the marked lines in run stitch, moving the frame to guide the stitching.

Step 7: When the run stitch is complete, finish the wings by sewing around the edges in a fairly narrow satin stitch.

Step 8: Sew the body of the butterfly in the centre, varying the width of the satin stitch and building up the stitching to create a raised body.

Step 9: Keeping the fabric in the frame, paint the design with silk paints. Leave the design to dry.

Step 10: Fix the paints using an iron and following the instructions of the manufacturer.

Step 11: Embellish the butterfly using a variety of beads.

Step 12: Carefully cut around the edge of the butterfly, ensuring the embroidery is not snipped.

Step 13: Make the butterfly antennae using wire.

Step 14: Sew the antennae and a brooch pin to the back of the brooch.

