



THE WHITE CLOVER FLOWERS

Taken from the White Clover Fairy pattern

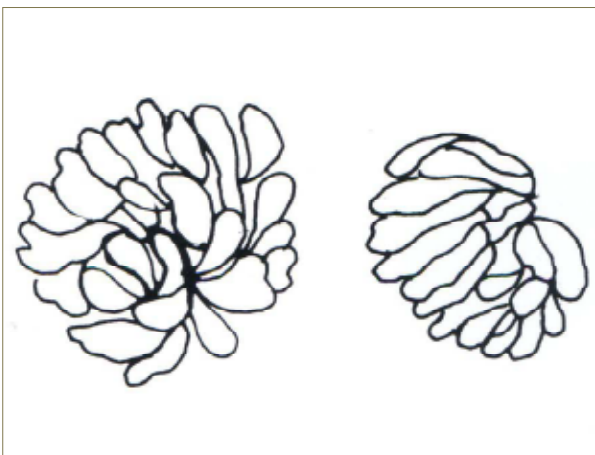
You can embroider the flowers straight onto the design, but it is also a good idea to treat them as stumpwork shapes. The embroidered shapes are cut out and attached to the design for a life-like effect. An added advantage is that if you make a mistake at this late stage, it will be easier to make another shape than to unpick the stitches, which could damage the background fabric of the design.

Materials

25 x 25cm (10in.) block of fine cotton lawn
 Small embroidery hoop
 4mm silk antique ribbon – colour Brown
 Art Silk thread – colour Fresco Oil
 4mm silk ribbon – colour White Clover
 Chameleon stranded silk – colour Elephant
 Gumnut stranded silk – colour Rainforest Light
 Chameleon stranded silk – colour Camellia
 Wadding

Step 1:

Trace the flower patterns provided below onto 25 x 25cm (10in.) block of fine cotton lawn or interfacing with the black Pigma Micron pen. Trace all the detail as this will help you with the placement of the stitches. Allow sufficient space between the flowers (at least 1cm) for trouble-free cutting and stitching.



Step 2:

Place the fabric into the small embroidery hoop. Thread the antique brown ribbon and start with the smallest flower. Use loose, puffed ribbon stitch to form the brown petals at the base of the flower; work from the centre towards the outside. To make raised petals, add another stitch on top, allowing the stitch underneath to protrude a bit. Work over a large tapestry needle to keep the petals loose and puffed.

Step 3:

Thread up the Fresco Oil thread and anchor the tails of the ribbon at the back. Use the same thread and small stab stitches to secure the brown petals in place along the base of each stitch. This will prevent the stitch from pulling out of shape as you form the subsequent petals. Use a gentle tension to avoid flattening the stitches. Come up, place the needle and thread on top of your work.



Step 4:

Thread up with the White Clover silk ribbon and form the white petals using the same technique. Work the petals that are underneath the others first; stitch from the centre towards the outside. Refer to the picture as a guide and work over the previous stitches in loose, puffed ribbon stitch. Use the brown thread to end off at the back. Come up between the white petals and use tiny stab stitches at the base of the ribbon stitch to secure each petal in place; use a gentle tension and do not flatten the stitches. Lay the needle and thread on top of your work.



Step 5:

Form the remaining white petals in the White Clover silk ribbon. Stitch over the brown petals in loop stitch, working over a spare tapestry needle. Pull the tapestry needle towards you, or away from you, as you form the loop over it so that the petal faces in the right direction, down or upwards, depending on the petals in the painted picture. Hold the tapestry needle in place until you have anchored the loop with tiny stab stitches.

**Step 6:**

If you wish, cut a loop to form two petals from one loop.

**Step 7:**

Use the same brown thread as before to secure the tails of the ribbon at the back. Come up alongside the white petals and form the brown shadows between the white petals. Make a few French knots, wrapping the thread loosely around the needle two or three times. Change to the Elephant coloured thread and add a few French knots to form the dark shadows on the flower. Change to the Rainforest Light thread and make a few loop stitches between the white petals to add the pale yellowish-green shadows. Work over a spare tapestry needle. Thread up with the Camellia thread and add the pink detail on the flowers with a few French knots. Wrap the thread around the needle twice.

**Step 8:**

Repeat the steps for the second larger flower.

**Complete and attach the stumpwork flowers****Step 1:**

If you have opted for stumpwork flowers, cut out the flowers, leaving a 4mm seam allowance. Make small slits in the seam up to the edge of the embroidery. Split the slits every 1-2cm. Thread up with the Fresco Oil thread and make a knot at the long end. Come up between the stitches at the back of the flower, turn the seams to the back and secure them loosely in place with tiny stitches.

**Step 2:**

Attach the flower to the design with the same thread and tiny stab stitches spaced 1-2cm apart. Leave a gap along the top edge of the flower to fill it with wadding in the next step.



Step 3:

If necessary, thread up with the White Clover ribbon and add more petals at the top of the flower, working directly on the design and just underneath the embroidered flower.



Study the flower on the stem and if you wish to raise it even further on the design, insert a tiny ball of wadding (or toy filling) into the gap at the top of the flower. Close the gap with a few stab stitches.

**Step 4:**

Reshape the flower by pressing it between your fingertips. Use the same Fresco Oil thread and tiny stab stitches to restyle any petals on the flower, referring to the unembellished picture as a guide.

