

Finishing a Kite Ornament

These instructions have been written to aid in finishing the kite ornament shown in *Needlepoint Now*, September/October 2017, Volume XIX, No. .5

Materials

Stitched kite ornament
Fabric for the back of the ornament - Ultrasuede™ or other woven fabric, white or black Ultrasuede™ used in the models
Fabric to underline the canvas - satin to match the canvas
This fabric is optional. Refer to the General Information on page 2.
Pellon™ fleece - non-fusible
2 skeins of embroidery floss or other uncut thread for cording
Option: #8 metallic braid to match the metallic braid used in stitching the kite. This is to be used if a two-color cording is desired.
Acid-free mat board
Rubber cement
Several clothes pins
Tapestry needle for lacing
Embroidery needle (sharp point), size 7 or 8
Carpet weight or buttonhole thread for lacing ornament onto the mat board
Sewing thread to match the backing and the stranded cotton

Materials for kite tail

If the kite has been worked with the materials used for the models, two of the beads have already been used in the kite designs, so you already have them. Feel free to substitute stash materials for the kite tail. The materials list simply lists the materials used in finishing the models.

White kite

Beads – Miyuki Delica 11mm
DB0141 – Trans Crystal
DB0703 – Trans Orange Beads
DB 0053 – Soft Yellow Transparent
DB1226 – Crisp Green Apple
Swarovski crystals –
5328 3mm faceted bicones – Amethyst (6)
5328 6mm XILION bicones - Crystal (3)
6000 13 mm teardrop pendant – Crystal (3)

Black kite

Beads – Miyuki Delica 11mm
DB0010 – Opaque Black
DB0703 – Trans Orange Beads
DB 0053 – Soft Yellow Transparent
DB1226 – Crisp Green Apple

Swarovski crystals –
5328 3mm faceted bicones – Amethyst (6)
5328 6mm XILION bicones - Jet (3)
6000 13 mm teardrop pendant – Jet (3)

Clear quilting thread, Coats and Clark - Art.D67-L6
or clear polyamide thread, Guttermann
Beading needle, size 10

General Information

Rubber cement is normally acid-free. Read the label when you purchase it to be sure. The rubber cement will not secure the fleece or ornament backing into position for a long period of time, but will secure them until the ornament front and back are sewn together.

Since the back of the ornament isn't visible when the kite is viewed from the front, many different fabrics may be used for the backing. However, a color drawn from the colors used in the kite is generally preferred. Any woven fabric may be substituted for the Ultrasuede™. Knits fabrics tend to stretch and sag over a long period of time and are not recommended.

An underlining may be used between the stitched kite and the fleece so that the interior of the ornament does not show through. This is generally necessary when the stitched piece has open canvas showing through the stitching patterns. This is a personal decision.

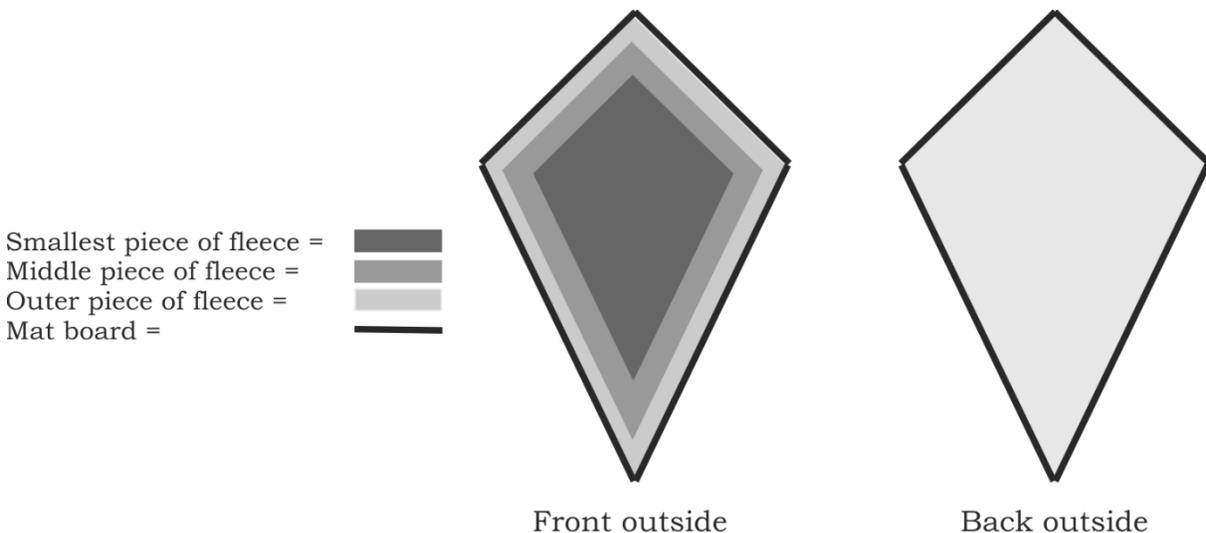
It is helpful to have a sewing machine to sew around the edge of the stitched kite. This procedure is done to secure the unstitched canvas threads in the border of the design so that they don't fray when the kite ornament is assembled. If a sewing machine isn't available, a product such as FrayChek™ may be used. This step can be disregarded if care is taken when the stitched kite is laced to the mat board.

The beaded tail has been worked with clear polyamide quilting thread available in the quilting or thread departments in most fabric stores. I used Guttermann.

Delica beads were used in the design and the kite tail because they are cylindrical and nest together nicely. However, any size 11/0 glass bead may be substituted. The Swarovski crystal bicones and pendant are available at bead stores or from an internet source such as Artbeads.com or Fire Mountain.

Procedure

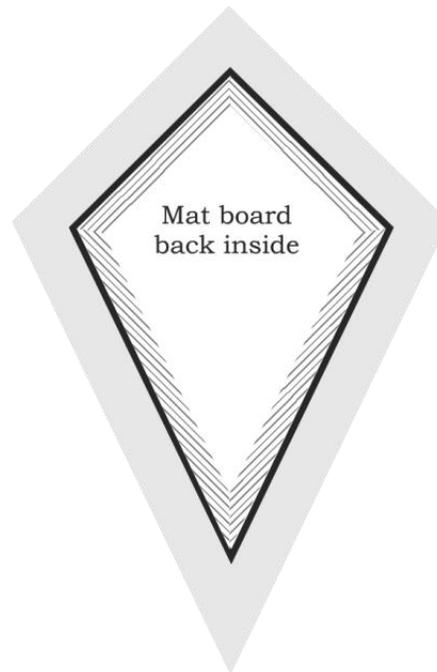
1. Before removing the kite from the frame, lightly steam the stitching and surrounding canvas. This will refresh the sizing on the canvas and allow the threads in the stitching to “fluff up” slightly. Do not touch the stitched piece with the iron. Use the lowest temperature on your iron that will produce steam. Hold the iron about an inch above the canvas and allow steam to penetrate the canvas slightly. Do not allow the canvas to become wet or damp. It will take a few minutes for the canvas to dry.
2. Remove the canvas from the frame. Use a copier to make a copy of the canvas or trace the outline onto a piece of paper in order to create a pattern for the mat board. Draw a line $\frac{1}{4}$ ” inch inside the outline on the pattern. Trim the pattern to this size.
3. Cut two pieces of mat board to the size of the pattern. Make sure that they are the same size. Mark one piece “front outside” and one piece “back outside”.
4. Cut two pieces of Pellon Fleece to the size of the mat board. Cut a third piece of fleece about $\frac{1}{4}$ ” smaller than the pattern and a fourth piece that is $\frac{1}{2}$ ” smaller than the pattern.
5. Lay the two pieces of mat board next to each other with the outside pieces facing up. Spread a light coat of rubber cement on each outside surface. On the “front outside” piece, center the smallest piece of fleece, cover it with the middle-sized piece, then top it with one of the two pieces of fleece cut the size of the mat board. On the “back outside” mat board, lay the remaining piece of fleece. Use clothes pins or a book to hold the fleece in position while the rubber cement dries.



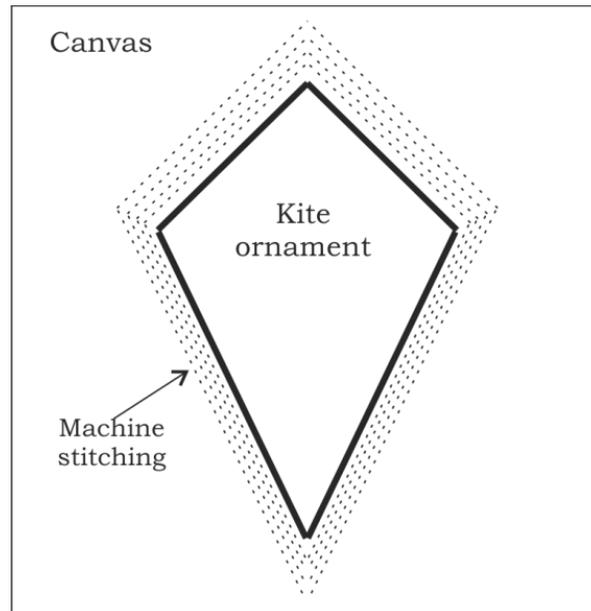
6. Cut a piece of the backing fabric approximately 1” larger on all sides than the piece of mat board. Spread a line of rubber cement around the inside edge of the “back” mat board. Place the wrong side of the backing fabric against the fleece side of the “back” mat board. Fold the edges of the backing fabric to the opposite side of the mat board, mitering the corner angles. *Do not pull the fabric too tightly when mounting it on the mat board.* Use clothes pins to hold the fabric in position while the rubber cement is drying. If the clothes pins leave marks on the backing fabric, they can be removed with a small amount of steam after the ornament is completed.

Hint: Clothes pins can be padded with a small piece of white fun foam glued to the gripping part of the clothes pin. This will help to eliminate pressure marks on the ornament.

Mat board = 
Backing fabric = 
Rubber cement = 



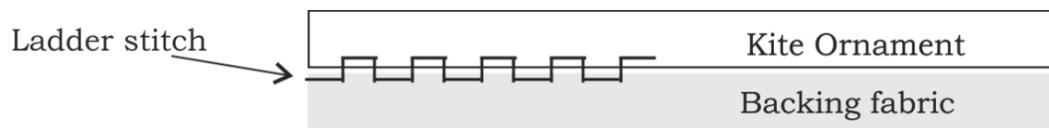
- Using the sewing machine, sew several rows of stitches around the kite ornament next to the stitching. Since beads or bicones have been used close to the edge of the stitched kite, use a zipper foot to prevent damage to the beads. This stitched area will become the seam allowance. Cut the ornament out, allowing a $\frac{3}{4}$ " seam allowance around the ornament. *If you don't have a sewing machine, place a line of FrayChek™ close to the stitching.*



- Optional step. If desired, cut a piece of underlining material and adhere it to the “front outside” piece of the mat board following the instructions for mounting the backing fabric, step 6. This underlining should be mounted tightly to the fleece and mat board as it will be covered by the kite canvas.
- Place the wrong side of the stitched kite against the right side of the underlining, if used, or the fleece on the piece marked “front outside”. Fold the seam allowance to the back of the mat board. Lightly steam it so that the seam allowance lays flat against the mat board. Miter the corners, trimming the canvas where necessary. Steam the mitered corners lightly, in order to flatten them. Hold the canvas in position with clothes pins. Lace the stitched kite into position, paying special attention to the mitered corners. Use the heavyweight thread and the tapestry needle.

10. *Note: Before sewing the back and front of the ornament together, read the choices for cord attachment, step 12, page 6.*

Place the front and back of the ornament together, with the backing and stitched kite facing outwards and the raw edges of the backing fabric and canvas inside. Make sure that the two pieces match in size. Because rubber cement was used to hold the backing fabric to the mat board, it can easily be loosened, adjusted, and repositioned to fit the stitched kite. Hold the two pieces together with clothes pins while the front and back are hand stitched together, using a ladder stitch. Use a sharp-pointed embroidery needle with a doubled sewing thread. *Note: If Ultrasuede™ has been used as the backing fabric, consider strengthening the sewing thread with beeswax. Otherwise, use shorter lengths of sewing thread as it will fray quickly.*



11. Create the twisted cord.
- Use 3 - 3½" yard lengths of embroidery floss. Place together.
 - Knot both ends of the embroidery floss using an overhand knot. Tighten the knots.
 - Attach one end to a secure place. This can be a cup hook in a wall or loop the end over a pencil and have a second person hold the pencil.
 - Use a hand drill fitted with a cup hook in place of the drill bit. Twist the lengths in a clockwise fashion until the cording is extremely tight but not buckling. *This end of the cord can also be looped over a second pencil and then hand twisted.*
 - Fold the cording in half and loop the end (either over the cup hook or the pencil, so that both ends of the cording are close together. *Do not allow the cord to buckle and keep the cord under tension.*
 - Holding the folded end opposite the knotted end, twist the cord counter-clockwise until it no longer twists on its own. When the folded end is released, the cord will adjust itself to its natural twist.
 - Remove the knotted end of the cord from the pencil or the cup hook. Do not allow it to untwist. Knot the end.

Option: Twisted cord with a gold metallic braid overlay (shown in the models).

H. Cut a length of the #8 gold metallic braid that is double the length of the previously made cord, plus 12”.

I. Loop the knotted end of the previously made cord over the cup hook or pencil.

J. *Thread the metallic braid through the **folded** end of the cord and knot the ends of the metallic braid together.* Adjust the entire length until it is straight and smooth with no wrinkles.

K. Place the knotted end of the metallic braid over the cup hook in the drill. **Twist the cord counter-clockwise.** Twist until the cord is extremely tight but not buckling.

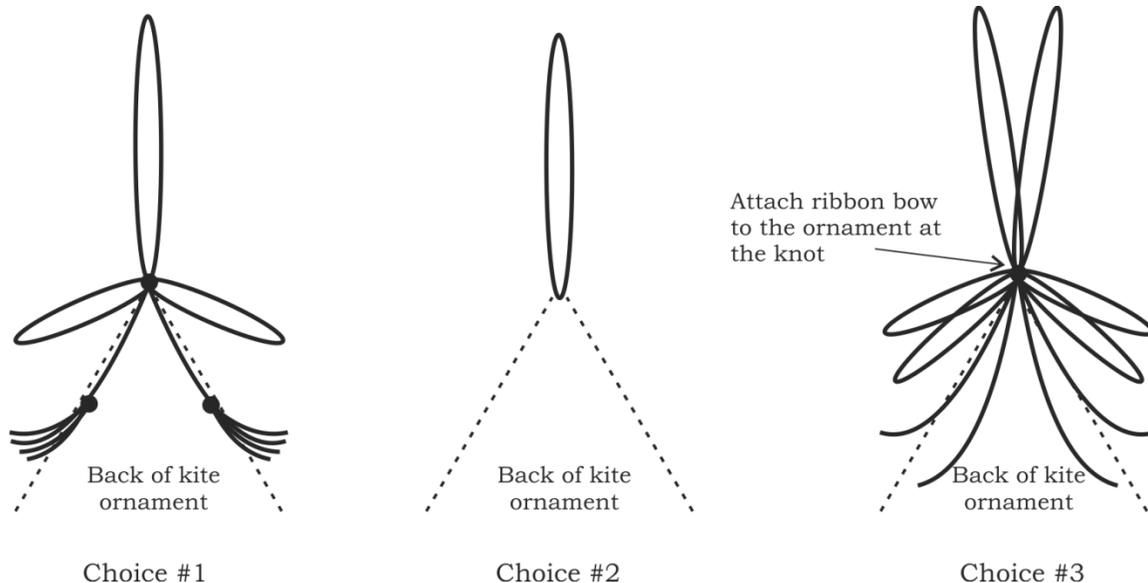
L. Keeping a tight tension on the cord, fold it in half and loop the folded end over the cup hook or pencil. Twist the cord clockwise until it no longer twists on its own. When the folded end is released, the cord will adjust itself to its natural twist. Notice that the ends are probably uneven, and either the metallic braid or the embroidery floss will be longer. This is due to the fact that the two materials have a different composition. This unevenness can be adjusted when the cording is attached to the ornament.

12. Attach the cord using one of the following methods. Always stitch through the cording, not over it. If the stitches are worked over the cording, dimples will be created and the stitches attaching the cording will be visible. Use the sharp-pointed needle and a single strand of sewing thread.

Choice #1. Begin at the center top of the ornament. When attaching the cord, begin several inches from the end of the cord. Sew the cord into place around the ornament. When the cord completes the border and returns to the top, form a hanger. This can be created with a simple loop or with an overhand knot. Stitch into position securely. A 2”-3” hanger is often a good length, but this is a personal preference. The two remaining ends may be brought up to form a bow, with hanging ties. Stitch into position, then knot the ends of the ties and trim the ends to approximately ½”.

Choice #2. *If this choice is selected, leave a small opening at the top of the kite when the front and back are stitched together.* Begin at the center top of the ornament. Place the folded end of the cording at the top point of the ornament. Attach the cording around the ornament. Form a 1”-3” loop and attach it at the top of the ornament. Secure the end of the remaining cord about 2” down from the loop. Cut away the excess cording and insert the raw end into the ornament under the loop.

Choice #3. A four inch long, $\frac{1}{16}$ th or $\frac{1}{8}$ th inch wide ribbon may also be used for a hanger if cording is not desired. Simply fold the ribbon in half, insert $\frac{1}{2}$ " into the ornament at the proper location and secure into position. Two ribbons may be used to create a fancier hanger. The ribbons may be the same color and thickness or may be varied. Take two 12" lengths of ribbon, fold in half and create an overhand knot approximately 3" from the folded edge. Attach the ribbon to the proper location on the ornament. Then create a bow and loose ribbon ends. Experiment and create your own hanger using these ideas.



13. Kite tail. These instructions duplicate the kite tails on the models and complete the tail of one kite. A different beaded strand could be created or ribbons could also be used to create a tail. Note: Clear quilting thread was used to create the tail of the kite so that it is invisible in the finished tail. A white beading thread may also be used.

- A. There are three identical beaded strands that create the tail of the kite.
- B. Thread the beading needle with a single strand of the clear quilting thread. An option is to cut the thread approximately a yard long and work all three strands with the same length of thread. Each strand may also be worked using separate eighteen inch lengths of the quilting thread. This is a personal decision.
- C. Anchor the thread in the backing fabric at the base point of the kite ornament. Bring the needle out right behind the cording at the base point and begin stringing the beads. *Note: Be careful of the tension when adding the beads, crystal bicones, and pendant. It is easy to allow the tail to buckle if the thread is too tight or allow the thread to show if it is too loose.* The columns on the next page list the order in

which the beads are strung. Once the pendant has been added at the bottom of the string, take the needle back through the column and anchor it in the backing of the ornament. Repeat the process for two more strings of beads.

Black kite tail

- 6 – black Delica 11/0 beads
- 3 – yellow Delica 11/0 beads
- 3 – orange Delica 11/0 beads
- 1 – amethyst 3mm bicone
- 3 – orange Delica 11/0 beads
- 3 – green Delica 11/0 beads
- 6 – black Delica 11/0 beads
- 1 – black 6mm bicone
- 6 – black Delica 11/0 beads
- 3 – yellow Delica 11/0 beads
- 3 – orange Delica 11/0 beads
- 1 – amethyst 3mm bicone
- 3 – orange Delica 11/0 beads
- 3 – green Delica 11/0 beads
- 2 – black Delica 11/0 beads
- 1 – black 13mm teardrop pendant

White kite tail

- 6 – crystal Delica 11/0 beads
- 3 – yellow Delica 11/0 beads
- 3 – orange Delica 11/0 beads
- 1 – amethyst 3mm bicone
- 3 – orange Delica 11/0 beads
- 3 – green Delica 11/0 beads
- 6 – crystal Delica 11/0 beads
- 1 – crystal 6mm bicone
- 6 – crystal Delica 11/0 beads
- 3 – yellow Delica 11/0 beads
- 3 – orange Delica 11/0 beads
- 1 – amethyst 3mm bicone
- 3 – orange Delica 11/0 beads
- 3 – green Delica 11/0 beads
- 2 – crystal Delica 11/0 beads
- 1 – crystal 13mm teardrop pendant

Finishing is now complete. Enjoy!