

Do-it-yourself Finishing of your Tree Jewels ornaments

Kreinik's beautiful Tree Jewels series of needlepoint ornament kits are instant heirlooms, whether adding elegance to your own holiday decorations or creating a meaningful gift. You can finish your ornament by sending it to a professional finisher, but it can also be finished with a less expensive, do-it-yourself method producing high-end results. Detailed instructions in the kit and these photos will show you how to finish your ornament easily, inexpensively, at home.

Use these finishing instructions for our...



Star Pattern



Florentine Pattern



Candy Stripe Pattern

Kreinik

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Once both halves of the ornament have been stitched, the canvas must be molded over a styrofoam ball to set its shape. Each half will need to be molded separately using the one ball included in the kit. (If you have a spare 3" ball you can speed up the process.)

1. Run the canvas under cool water so that it is soaked through evenly. You will notice that any masking tape you may have used to bind the edges will come away from the canvas and that all the lines drawn with the washable marker will disappear. Neither of these is necessary from this point on.



2. Once the canvas is thoroughly wet, block on a towel slightly just to keep it from dripping. Blot it with a towel to remove excess water.



3. Lay your stitching over the styrofoam ball, right side up, making sure that the design is centered vertically...



4. Slightly stretch the canvas vertically, then horizontally, and place a wide rubber band over the canvas, around the center of the ball. Begin stretching the canvas first vertically, then horizontally, then in all directions, gently coaxing all the gathers from the stitched area of the canvas above the rubber band. Set aside and allow to dry thoroughly overnight.



5. Repeat with the second piece of canvas on the styrofoam ball, making sure that all design lines are blocked in the same position and are the same width as those on the other half of the ornament.



6. Once the two halves of the ornament have been blocked, molded and are perfectly dry, the ornament is ready for beading.

Adjust the position of the rubber band holding the canvas onto the styrofoam ball so that it lies along the center of the ball. With a washable marker, draw a line on the canvas, following the outer edge of the rubber band. Remove the rubber band and gently ease the styrofoam ball from the canvas.



7. The beads are laid in rows in the space formed between the rows of stitches. All beading is worked from the bottom of the row to the top, starting and stopping approximately 1/8" from the line drawn (note: you don't want your bead line to go past the line you will be cutting later). Couch or glue your beads as directed in the Tree Jewels instructions.

(Note: Star Pattern Tree Jewels do not include beads, so this step may be skipped if you are working the Star Pattern kit.)



Once all the beading has been completed, slip the canvas back onto the styrofoam ball and check that it has not been stretched out of shape as you were beading. The molded canvas should still fit snugly around the ball. If it has stretched, simply dampen the area around where the rubber band was originally placed, slip the rubber band back on, stretch slightly and let dry thoroughly.

8. The next step is to remove the excess canvas and stitches and to trim the two halves so that they will fit snugly and evenly onto one styrofoam ball.

Find the center of your styrofoam ball by taking a long piece of medium weight thread and positioning it around the center of the ball, dividing it visually in half. Twist the two ends of the thread together so that they start to cut into the styrofoam, making an indentation that is easily visible. Remove the thread and outline this indentation clearly with a pencil.



Pick up one of the molded pieces of canvas and hold so that the embroidery is cradled in the palm of your hand. Gently insert the styrofoam ball, centered within the molded canvas. Take several straight pins and insert them along the center demarcation line on your styrofoam to mark the center of the molded canvas and therefore, the cutting line.

9. Carefully place the rubber band back onto the right side of the canvas, directly over the stitches, about 1/8" up from the line of pins marking the cutting line. Remove the straight pins. Run a thick bead of clear drying glue around the outer edge of the rubber band. Work the glue around the rubber band so that the stitches are covered and the glue is worked well into the canvas. Allow to dry thoroughly.



10. Remove the rubber band. With the styrofoam still inside the canvas form, begin to cut away the excess canvas, using the center demarcation line of the styrofoam as a guide. At this point you will be cutting through the line of dry glue holding the stitches securely in place, removing the excess canvas and stitches. Take care that you do not cut through any beading. Check the cut edge and gently re-glue any stitches that may have been cut past the glue line.



Repeat with the other half of the ornament.

11. Place both halves of the ornament on one whole styrofoam ball so that all design lines meet as closely as possible. Check that the two halves fit snugly on the ball. The cut edges should fit evenly together without overlapping. Carefully trim away any canvas that tends to overlap the opposite edge. When you are satisfied that you have a good fit and all the design lines match up, pin the two halves to the styrofoam ball using no more than six to eight straight pins per half.



Here is a look at what your finished ornament should look like.



Looking for items to finish your ornament? Try our:

- Kreinik Custom Corder
- Treasure Tape
- 1/8" & 1/16" Ribbons
- Heavy #32 Braid

