

Santa's Pack Crazy Quilt Ornament

designed by J. Marsha Michler

J. Marsha Michler has written extensive, informative and inspiring books on crazy quilting, so we asked her to design a special ornament for our web site visitors. You will be delighted at the effects of Kreinik metallic and silk threads for crazy quilting; for many projects, they're the only decorative threads you need to create beautiful work. The light-catching metallics and smooth, rich silk threads dance off the medley of fabrics and help you achieve exciting results. Use them in all kinds of stitches.

Use this project as an introduction to crazy quilting, which is becoming increasingly popular again (as it has over and over for centuries). You'll find crazy quilts in Pottery Barn catalogs, Martha Stewart, LL Bean, and many more home dec areas. If you've inherited an antique crazy quilt, hang on to it and enjoy its diverse beauty and the sense of fun that went into every stitch.

Materials for Santa's Bag, by J. Marsha Michler:

For crazy patching:

- scissors, dry iron, spray bottle of water, pins, ironing board
- 1/2 yard of 100% cotton unbleached muslin fabric, pencil, ruler
- Silk fabric scraps such as jacquard, crepe de chine
- 1 1/2" x 10 1/2" piece of silk fabric for shoulder strap
- 100% cotton sewing thread, size 12 Sharp needle for basting

For embroidery:

- Embroidery hoop, scissors, needles in various sizes
- Kreinik Silk Serica in 8-10 shades of red, gold and green, such as: 3017, 1119, 1098, 4077, 1092, 4163, 4164, 2026, 2016
- Kreinik Heavy (#32) Braid or Medium (#16) Braid for couching in 202HL and 5982, or any shades of gold and green, size 18 Chenille needle
- Kreinik Silk Bella in gold, green (such as 2016 and 4164)

For assembling the pack:

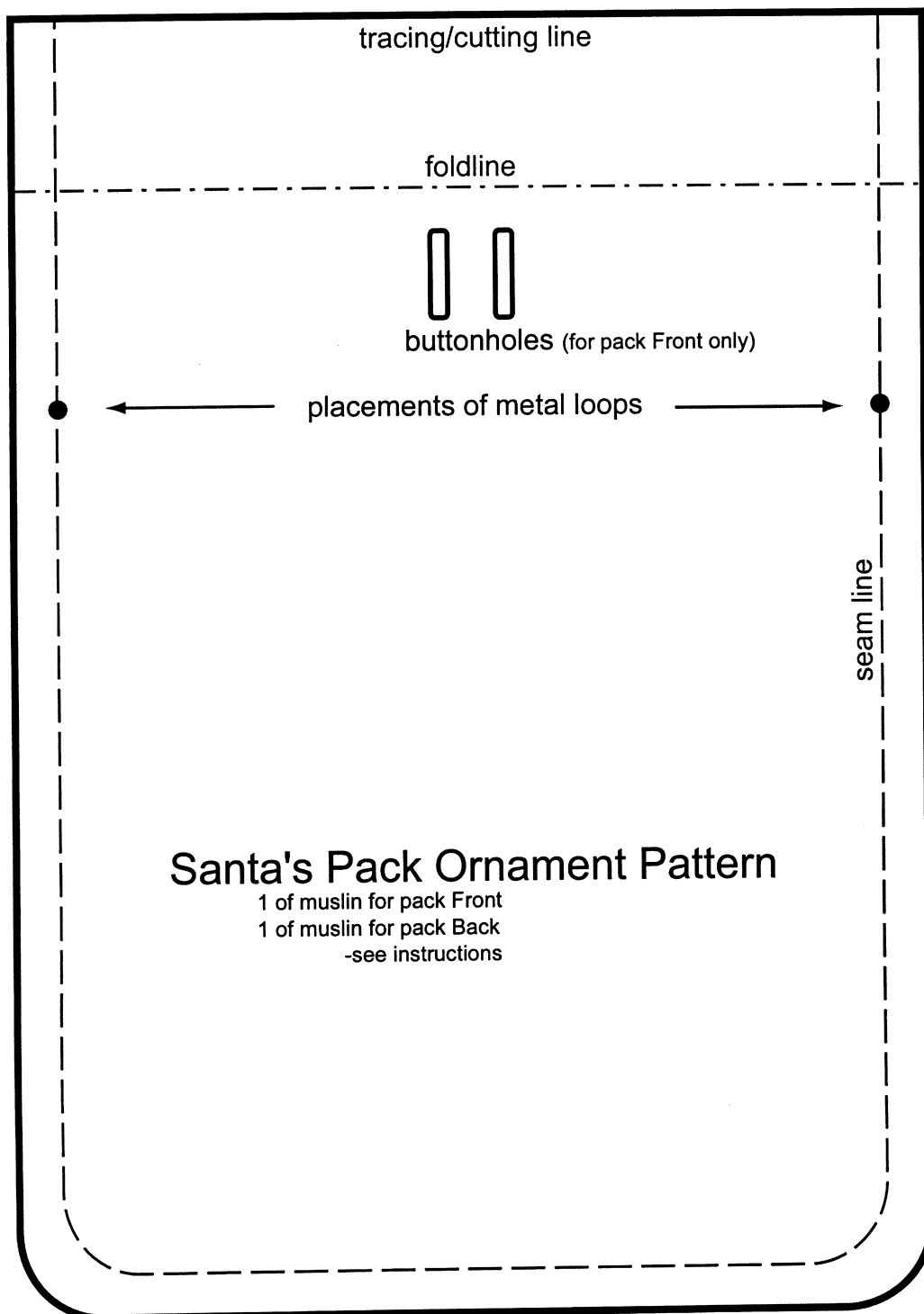
- 100% cotton sewing thread, any color that blends with the fabrics
- two 1" metal rings (the type used for cafe curtains)
- 24" soft 1/2" rayon ribbon, deep red
- small amount of poly stuffing
- miniature toys and other small objects
- sturdy wire (I used paper clips bent open), pliers
- white glue
- fine beading needle, white beading thread
- 18-inch length of Kreinik's Medium (#16) Braid, any shade of gold such as 202HL or 221

1/4-inch seam allowances used throughout.

Instructions are written for piecing and finishing with a sewing machine.

Crazy Patching:

1. Cut the muslin to have two pieces, each larger than the pattern and large enough to fit into your embroidery hoop (I use a 14-inch lap hoop in order to have both hands free for embroidering).
2. Lay one of the muslin pieces over the pattern and trace over the tracing/cutting line. Draw firmly so that the pencil can be seen clearly. Also indicate placements of buttonholes and the foldline. Lay the second muslin piece over the pattern and trace along the tracing/cutting line and foldline for the back of the pack.
3. Working on an ironing board, follow instructions to lay patches onto the two muslin pieces. Have the patches go up to or slightly over the pencil lines. In the area of the buttonholes, lay one large patch that covers both buttonholes and the area above the foldline. Patch one of the muslin pieces, then the other one.
 - a. Beginning at one corner, cut out and lay a patch of fabric, and pin. See the photo for approximate shapes to cut out the patches.
 - b. Cut and lay the next patch, having it over- or underlap the first patch by at least 1/2'-inch. Pin.
 - c. Continue to cut, lay, and pin patches so they over- and underlap at least 1/2" on all sides of each.
 - d. Begin pressing the overlapped edges under. Use a dry iron, misting the patches with a spray bottle as needed. I find it works best to unpin one patch, press the edges, then lay it back onto the muslin, repin and go on to the next.
 - e. After all patch edges are either pressed or overlapped, check that no muslin is showing. Once the muslin is completely covered, baste all patches in place and remove pins.



Embroidery:

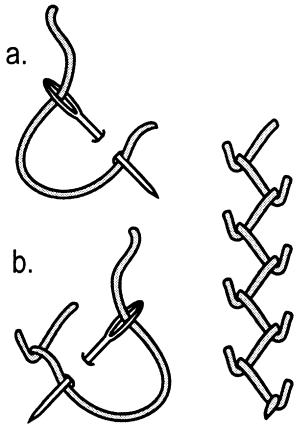
1. Couch Kreinik Braids in patterns along some patch seam edges, using the Chenille needle to bring the ends to the back. Use Bella thread to stitch the Braids in place (or a matching color of Kreinik Cord).
2. Work embroidery stitches along the edges of the patches and along the couched braids using Silk Serica. Bella thread should be used to add star stitches, Algerian eyelets, etc. to a patch to embellish the fabric, and for adding embellishing stitches to the Serica threads. Use the stitches and colors of your choice.

Pack Assembly:

1. Machine sew around the outer edge of each patched piece keeping within the seam allowance (approx. 1/8" from the pencil line). Cut out each piece along the pencil line.
2. Machine or hand-sew a buttonhole at each of the two buttonhole placements. (Bella thread is excellent for hand-embroidered buttonholes, use a tightly spaced Buttonhole stitch)
3. Machine sew sides and bottom of pack in one continuous seam along the seamline. To make a casing, turn the top of the pack 1-inch to the inside, and stitch by hand along the raw edge to fasten in place. Make the stitches into the muslin foundation only so they do not come through to the front. Turn the pack right side out.
4. Hand sew the metal rings to the side seams of the pack.
5. Make the shoulder strap as follows: Press all edges of the shoulder strap fabric under 1/8" and press. Fold strap in half lengthwise, press and pin. With Silk Serica thread, embroidery around the outer edges of the strap using Running Stitch or the stitch of your choice. Fold each end 3/4" over a metal ring and invisibly hand stitch in place using sewing thread.
6. Place stuffing into pack, filling it to the top. Attach a sturdy wire to each of the miniatures using pliers to tightly twist the wires around the objects. One at a time, arrange the miniatures in the pack, pushing the wires down inside the stuffing. Drip glue in along each wire to fasten the wires to the stuffing (do not glue the stuffing to the fabric of the pack: it could bleed through).
7. To make the hanging cord, knot the ends of the 18-inch Medium (#16) Braid together. Attach a wire to the knot, then glue the wire into the stuffing. Set aside and allow the glue to dry.
8. Thread the ribbon through the casing. Pull up on the ribbon to slightly gather the top of the pack, and tie a knot, then a bow.
9. Thread the beading needle with the bead thread and run needle back and forth entirely through the pack and stuffing along the lower edge of the casing a few times. Be careful to keep these stitches hidden under the edges of patches. This secures the pack to the stuffing. Fasten off securely.

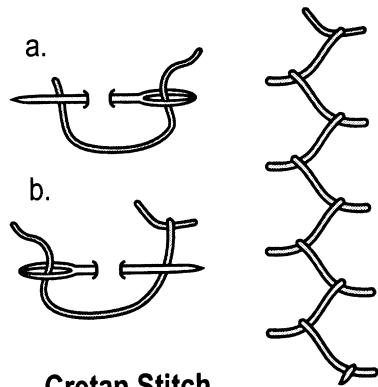
Embroidery Stitches for Crazy Quilting

Here is a selection of embroidery stitches to use for crazy quilting. For many more stitches, please refer to *The Magic of Crazy Quilting*, Krause Publications, 1998.



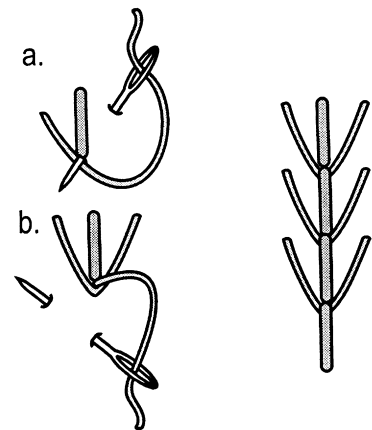
Feather Stitch

Make slanting stitches working downwards.



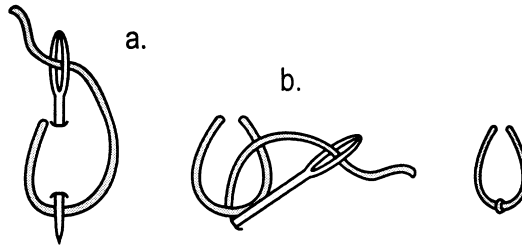
Cretan Stitch

Very similar to Feather Stitch. Make horizontal stitches working downwards.



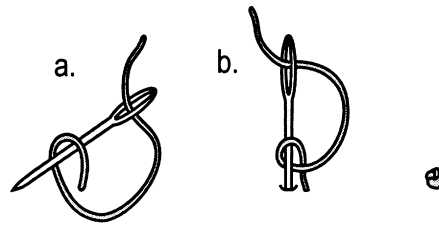
Fern Stitch

Begin with a Straight Stitch, then make a series of Fly Stitches working downwards.



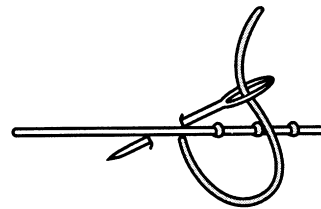
Lazy Daisy Stitch

Follow the diagram to make individual stitches.



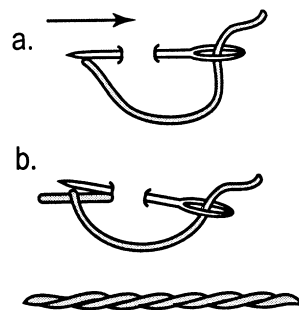
French Knot

Twist thread around needle, pull snug and pull through.



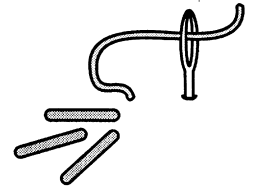
Couching

Make tiny stitches to fasten a thread or trim in place.



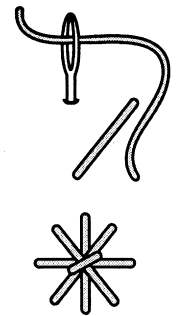
Outline Stitch

Follow the diagram, working towards the right.



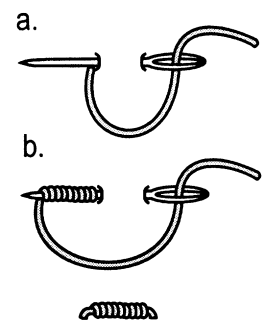
Straight Stitch

Make stitches individually.



Star Stitch

Make crossing stitches, then one small stitch at center.



Bullion Stitch

Insert needle as shown, wrap thread around needle, pull needle through wraps, and sink needle where stitch began.