

Slow-stitch Christmas

COTTAGES

Have yourself a merry Christmas with these lovely little stitch projects

Make these utterly charming slow-stitch cottages using reclaimed fabrics, with sprinkles of ricrac, fabric yo-yos, buttons and simple stitching. You can embellish the cottages as much – or as little – as you like. Try out a few new techniques and follow our easy-to-use instructions to create a whole village! They make great gifts, too.



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EASY STEPS TO YOUR SLOW-STITCHED CHRISTMAS COTTAGES

Size 20cm high x 22cm wide

Here's how

STEP 1 Spread out your piece of calico backing fabric, lay out a mixture of your vintage textile on top of the calico (ensuring they overlap by at least 1cm) before pinning them securely in place.

STEP 2 Using running stitch (in a complementary tone), stitch around the perimeter of each piece (about 1cm from the edges so as to stitch down where they overlap).

STEP 3 Use scraps of lace or old doilies to embellish your stitched-down background at this stage. However, do keep these quite simple and choose things that tone in with your chosen colours, because

Gather your supplies

- A large piece (about 45 x 45cm per cottage) of calico backing fabric
- BHG slow-stitch kit, which includes an array of scrap and vintage fabrics, 3 skeins of thread, Bohin #22 chenille needle, paper templates and buttons

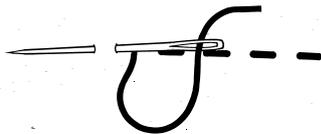
You'll also need

- Pins; sewing scissors; extra embellishments such as lace, ricrac, ribbons and buttons; cushion or toy fill

STITCH GUIDE



FRENCH KNOT



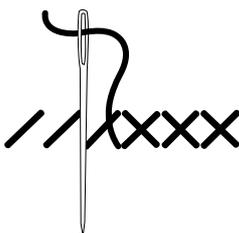
RUNNING STITCH



CHAIN STITCH

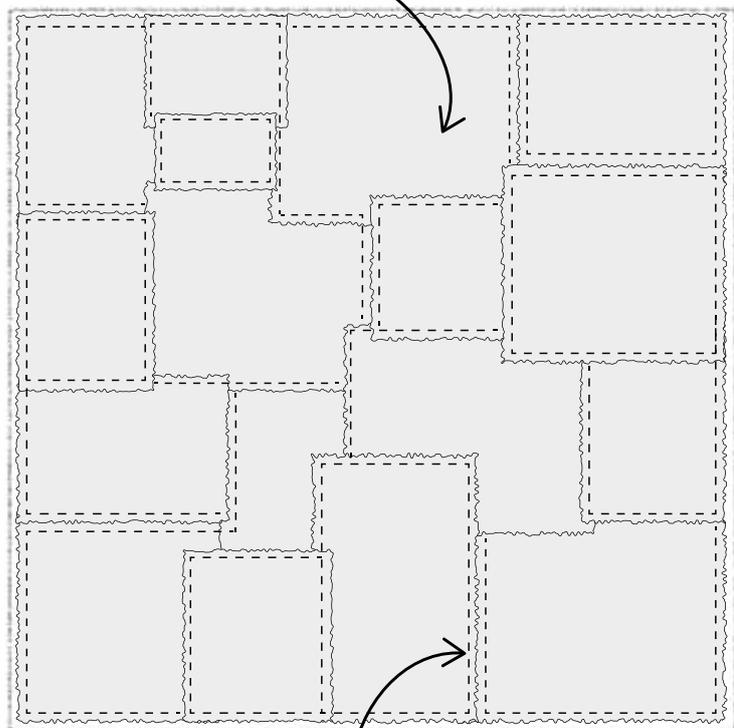


BACKSTITCH



CROSS-STITCH

vintage textile pieces



running stitch around edges

you will be adding further embellishments to the cottage panels once you have cut them out of this main piece.

STEP 4 Cut out each of the paper cottage templates and pin to your stitched panel. From your fabric, you will cut out: 2 x front/back walls, 1 x base, 2 x side/end walls, 2 x roof panels.

STEP 5 Embellish the individual panels.

FOR THE ROOF: Use pieces of ricrac and/or lace running lengthways. You may want something dripping off the eaves to mimic icicles, or stitched reindeer hoof tracks for a cute touch.

FOR THE FRONT WALL: To create doors/windows/window boxes, cut out different shapes from contrasting fabric for variety. Use pieces of doily above the doorway to represent a half moon lead light window, and a mini wreath stitched in French knots hanging on the front door.

FOR THE BACK AND SIDE WALLS: Perhaps a series of Christmas trees in various heights and widths cut out of felt, or a glittery snowman with beads for eyes and a ribbon scarf stitched in place around

EXAMPLE 1



FRONT



BACK

EXAMPLE 2



FRONT



BACK

EXAMPLE 3



FRONT



BACK

EXAMPLE 4



FRONT



BACK

“
 Make a
 handmade gift
 this Christmas –
 one your friends
 will cherish!
 ”

the neck, or a draping garland of forest greenery that extends around all sides of the cottage to lend a feeling of Scandinavian simplicity.

This is where you can truly let your Christmas spirit loose and your imagination run wild. Be as creative (or restrained) as you like to really give this little cottage a touch of your own personality.

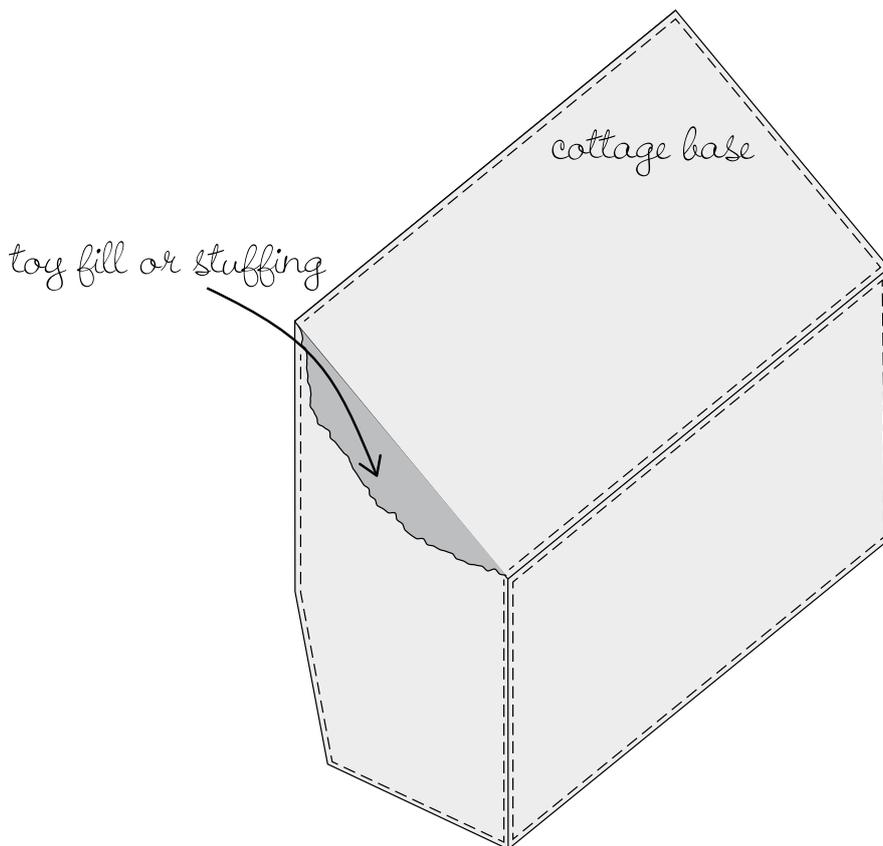
ASSEMBLING THE

COTTAGE: Use running stitch to connect all the panels, keeping the edges raw out – not turning them in.

Begin by placing the wrong sides (calico backing) of the 2 roof panels together, and along the long side stitch together using running stitch.

Now attach the front panel of the cottage along 1 of the unattached long sides of the roof and then the back panel to the other. Next, line up the pitch of the roof with the pointy top of the side panel and stitch together.

The base is attached last. Stitch 3 sides to the unattached 4 edges at the base of the cottages, then fill with soft toy stuffing. Once full, stitch along the remaining open side. ■



EXAMPLE 5



FRONT



BACK

EXAMPLE 6



FRONT



BACK



Be as creative or restrained in your embellishment of the slow-stitch cottages as you like!

