

Sampler Pillow

Materials

- ♥ Embroidery/sewing machine with decorative stitches and 100mm x 100mm hoop
- ♥ Design software and transfer device
- ♥ *Silk Ribbon Floral Fantasy* design CD (#3728D) by Michelle Griffith
- ♥ *Flower Scallops* design (free download from Michelle's Designs website)
- ♥ ¾ yd peach silk dupioni
- ♥ ½ yd white cotton for embroidery
- ♥ ½ yd 1/8in wide peach ribbon for embellishments
- ♥ ½ yd 5/8in wide cream or beige lace edging
- ♥ 8 small buttons
- ♥ Machine feet: embroidery foot, bridging foot and guide (see your dealer), couching foot, 5 groove pintuck foot, decorative stitch foot, open toe foot
- ♥ Machine needles: 80/12 embroidery needle, 90/14 sewing needle, 120 wing needle, 2.0 or 2.5 twin needle
- ♥ Hand sewing needle
- ♥ Threads: Robison-Anton poly 40 embroidery threads: Beige Delight (No 9024), Ice Blue (No 5600), Cristy Blue (No 5683), Russian Sage (No 9016), Violet (No 5585), Mountain Rose (No 5795), Petal Pink (No 7701), Carnation (No 5537), Mosstone (No 9150), Bonaire Green (No 9152), Coronation Gold (No 9014), Star Gold (No 5708)
- ♥ White construction thread for needle and bobbin
- ♥ Sulky 12wt cotton thread for decorative stitching
- ♥ #8 pearl cotton thread for corded appliqué
- ♥ Bobbin thread for embroidery
- ♥ Rotary cutter, self-healing cutting mat and quilting ruler
- ♥ Water/air soluble fabric marking pen
- ♥ One bag polyester fiberfill
- ♥ Small sharp scissors to cut out scallops
- ♥ Fray Block or Fray Check
- ♥ Sticky back stabilizer
- ♥ Tear-a-way stabilizer
- ♥ Spray adhesive (optional)
- ♥ Heat activated pearls and heating wand (optional)
- ♥ General sewing supplies

Preparation

1. Use the rotary cutter, self-healing cutting mat and quilting ruler to cut:

From the peach silk:

- one 12in square for the back of the pillow
- two 4in x 7in pieces for Sampler Block #1
- one 14in x 5in strip for buttonhole block
- one 7in square for Sampler Block #2
- two 7in x 37in strips for ruffle

From the white cotton:

- one 7in square for *Half Circle* embroidered block

- one 5½in x 4½in piece for lining on back of Sampler Block #1
 - one 7in square for *Heart* embroidered block
 - one 6in x 8in piece for *Bouquet with Little Flowers* embroidered block
 - two 4½in x 37in strips for embroidered ruffle
2. Use the design software and transfer device to copy the following designs from the *Silk Ribbon Floral Fantasy* CD to your sewing machine: *Half Circle*, *Bouquet with Little Flowers*, *Heart*, *Lace Buttonhole* and *Flower Scallops*.

Embroidery

3. All embroidery uses the 100mm x 100mm hoop, sticky back stabilizer, tear-a-way stabilizer, an 80/12 embroidery needle, the embroidery foot, and embroidery bobbin thread.
4. For best results, follow directions for hooping techniques by referring to the helpful stabilizing information in the PDF file on the CD with the Michelle's *Heirloom Essentials* project.
5. Use the color charts in the PDF file on the *Silk Ribbon Floral Fantasy* design CD.
6. After completing each embroidery, clip all threads, remove stabilizer, remove any marks from the fabric marking pen, and press on the wrong side.
7. For the *Half Circle* block:
- Center and embroider the *Half Circle* on one 7in white cotton square.
 - Trim the block to 5½in wide x 3½in long, centering the *Half Circle*.
8. For the *Heart* block:
- Center and embroider the *Heart* on one 7in white cotton square.
 - Trim the block to 5½in wide x 5in long, centering the *Heart*.
9. For the *Bouquet with Little Flowers* block:
- Center and embroider the *Bouquet with Little Flowers* on the 6in x 8in piece of white cotton.
 - Trim the block to 4½in wide x 6½in long, centering the *Bouquet with Little Flowers*.
10. For the *Lace Buttonhole* block:
- Embroider eight *Lace Buttonholes* horizontally down the center of the 14in x 5in piece of peach silk.
 - Start two inches from the top edge.
 - Space each buttonhole 1 3/8in from center to center.
 - Do not cut open the buttonholes.
11. For the *Flower Scallops* on the ruffle:
- Sew the two 4½in x 37in white strips together to create one long strip.
 - Embroider the *Flower Scallops* 1in from the long edge of the strip.
 - Apply a small amount of Fray Block or Fray Check just outside the scallops so that it bleeds towards the scallops. Allow fabric to dry or iron the fabric dry on the wrong side with a pressing cloth.
 - Carefully cut away the excess fabric around the scallops.
 - Trim ruffle strip to 3in x 37in.

Decorative Stitching

12. For Sampler Block #1:
- Fold back ½in on one of the 7in sides of each piece of the 4in x 7in peach silk.
 - Connect the two pieces using a feather or bridging stitch. Check your machine manual or with your dealer for the best foot to use for this technique. See the video at www.michelles-designs.com for easy instructions.
 - Sew a fancy decorative stitch of your choice 1/8in away on each side of the bridging stitch using the decorative stitch foot.
 - Apply the 1/8in ribbon on both sides and 3/8in away from the decorative stitch using the couching foot and a decorative stitch.

- On both sides and 3/8in away from the ribbon, use a pintuck foot to sew two pintucks 1/8in apart.
 - Trim block to 5½in wide x 4½in long, centering the decorative stitches.
 - Back with the 5½in wide x 4½in long piece of white cotton. Either baste into place along the edges or spray the lining with spray adhesive and press into place.
13. For Sampler Block #2:
- Satin stitch across a cord down the center of the 7in square piece of peach silk, using a couching foot and setting the satin stitch to approximately 2.0mm wide and .6mm long.
 - Sew a fancy decorative stitch of your choice 1/8in away on each side of the cord appliqué using the decorative stitch foot.
 - On both sides and ½in away from the decorative stitch, use a wing needle and open toe foot to sew an entredeux stitch.
 - Adjacent to the entredeux stitch, use a twin needle to sew a scallop stitch so that the scallops touch the entredeux stitch at their points.
 - Sew a single flower decorative stitch along the inside points of every other scallop.
 - Trim block to 4½in wide x 6in long, centering the decorative stitches.
14. To complete *Lace Buttonhole* block:
- Center a button on each closed buttonhole and sew into place.
 - Cut two 14in pieces of lace edging.
 - Draw guidelines on both sides and ¼ in away from the ends of the buttonholes with the air/water soluble fabric marking pen.
 - Pin the lace with one edge along each guideline.
 - Sew along both edges of each piece of lace with a narrow zigzag stitch or a hemstitch.
 - Trim the peach silk along the lace to 1/4in. Turn under along the edges of the lace and press.

Pillow Top Construction

15. Use ¼in seam allowance on all seams unless otherwise specified.
16. Arrange the blocks as per the illustration.
17. Left section:
- Sew the *Half Circle* embroidered block to the top of Sampler Block #1. Press the seam towards Sampler Block #1.
 - Sew the *Heart* embroidered block to the bottom of Sampler Block #1. Press the seam towards Sampler Block #1.
 - Draw a guideline on the right side of the section ½ in from the edge, using an air/water soluble fabric marking pen.
18. Middle section:
- Line up the fourth buttonhole from the top of the *Lace Buttonhole* block with the center of the bridging/feather stitch of the left section.
 - Place the lace edging of the *Lace Buttonhole* block on top of the guideline on the left section and pin.
 - Sew the edge of the lace to the left section, using a zigzag stitch set to 1.0mm wide and 1.5mm long.
 - Trim the middle section ends to match the left section at the top and bottom.
19. Right section:
- Sew Sampler Block #2 to the top of the *Bouquet with Little Flowers* embroidered block. Press the seam towards Sampler Block #2.
 - Draw a guideline on the left side of the section ½ in from the edge, using an air/water soluble fabric marking pen.
 - Place the lace edging of the *Lace Buttonhole* block on top of the guideline on the right section and pin.
 - Sew the edge of the lace to the right section, using a zigzag stitch set to 1.0mm wide and 1.5mm long.
20. Square up and trim the pillow top to 12in x 12in.

21. Attach heat-fix pearls as pictured (optional).

Ruffle Construction

22. With right sides together, sew the two ends of the embroidered ruffle strip together to create a continuous loop.
23. Peach silk ruffle:
 - With right sides together, sew both ends of the two 7in x 37in strips together to create a continuous loop.
 - Press seams open.
 - With wrong sides together, fold in half lengthwise and press.
24. Match the raw edges of the peach silk ruffle to the raw edges of the embroidered ruffle and pin. The peach ruffle will be ½in wider than the embroidered ruffle.
25. Fold the ruffles into quarters by folding in half and then in half again. Mark the folds with the fabric marking pen.
26. Using a long gathering stitch, stitch ¼in from the raw edges between each mark. Leave the thread ends long to be able to pull for gathering.
27. Sew a second row of gathering stitches 1/8in away from the first row, also stopping at each mark. Again leave the thread ends long for gathering.

Pillow Completion

28. Attach the ruffle:
 - With right sides together, place the ruffle around the pillow top with the marks and thread ends at the corners. Pin at each corner.
 - Find the middle of one side of the pillow top and the middle of the ruffle on that side. Match and pin. Repeat for the other three sides.
 - Gather the ruffle by pulling the threads and spreading the ruffle evenly towards the centers of the sides. Pin into place. Add extra gathers in the corners so the ruffles will spread evenly around the corner when the pillow is turned to the right side.
 - Sew ¼in seam around the pillow top. The corners will be slightly rounded.
 - Check for uneven gathers or puckers in the pillow top and fix if needed.
29. Attach the pillow back:
 - With right sides together, place the 12in square piece of peach silk on top of the ruffle and pillow top. Pin into place.
 - Sew ½in seam around the entire pillow, leaving an opening on one side for turning.
30. Turn the pillow right side out.
31. Stuff the pillow with polyester fiberfill.
32. Pin the opening closed and slip stitch together.

Half Circle Embroidered Block	Lace Buttonhole Embroidered Block	Sampler Block #2
Sampler Block #1		
Heart Embroidered Block		Bouquet with Little Flowers Embroidered Block

Wasn't that fun? Look at how many new techniques you learned and all the decorative stitches you discovered on your machine. Many of these techniques and more can be found in Michelle's *Heirloom Essentials: Decorative Zippered Pouch & Heart and Lace Jewelry Bag*. All of Michelle's projects help you learn more about your machine and its capabilities, with detailed directions and many photos and graphics. Go to Michelle's website at www.michelles-designs.com to see all of the beautiful design sets and projects. And while you are there, sign up for her monthly newsletter, so you can keep informed about her new products.