



## Town Clock Stitches

### Stumpwork Holly Christmas Ornament

By Jean Hughes

#### General Information

Stumpwork is a three dimensional embroidery technique.

This ornament is a very basic introduction to stumpwork. It introduces the use of wire. Two holly leaves will be stitched on a piece of green fabric, cut out and then applied to a white background fabric.

Choose an attractive background fabric and a backing fabric, such as muslin. These will be placed in a hoop and the stumpwork pieces will be added.

#### Materials:

1. Off white or white background fabric ( approx 6" X 6")
2. Christmas shade of dark green DMC floss
3. Lighter green shade of DMC floss
4. Three small red beads or red DMC floss
5. Muslin backing fabric ( approx 6" X 6")
6. Fine wire – either stainless steel or fine florists wire
7. Embellishments – gold metallic thread, beads, tassel or cord as desired

#### Stumpwork pieces:

Prepare 2 holly leaves on one piece of green fabric. Bend the wire into the shape of a holly leaf. Lay the 2 wire leaves on the fabric leaving some space between them. They should be able to fit into a 4 inch embroidery hoop.

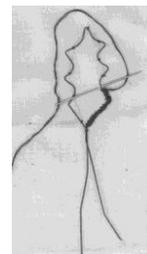


##### Step 1:

Using dark green floss, couch the wire to the fabric. Lay the wire on top of the fabric and tack it in place.

##### Step 2:

Using 2 strands of floss, cover the entire wire with buttonhole stitches. The stitches should be very close together so that the wire is completely covered.



**Step 3:**

Run a backstitch down the centre of the leaf. This will be used as a guide only.

Place single straight stitches at a slant from this centre line to the outside points. These will be used as guidelines for a satin stitch.

Using 2 strands of floss, stitch a slanted satin stitch down each half of the leaf. Follow the angle of the straight stitches.

**Step 4:**

Using 2 strands of lighter green floss, stitch the veins.

Use a stem stitch down the centre and straight stitches from the centre vein to the points.

**Step 5:**

Cut around the outside of each leaf. Cut very close to the buttonhole stitches - removing the fabric without cutting the stitching.



These two leaves will be applied to the white background fabric. Insert a needle through the fabric at the desired placement. Enlarge the hole with an awl. Very carefully insert the two pieces of wire for each leaf through the hole. On the wrong side, bend the wire back and tack in place. The muslin liner makes it easier to tack the wire into place without affecting the main fabric.

**Step 6:**

Embellish the ornament as desired. Add three red beads at the intersection of the two leaves or use French knots. Add some gold embellishments, a gold hangar, a gold tassel or a beaded tassel.