



Classic Humbug Tutorial

You will need:

- ▶ 1 rectangle of stitched linen
- ▶ some stuffing
- ▶ some matching beads or some 5mm wide ribbon

Step 1 : getting ready.



Iron your stitched design (on the back of the work).

Allow an extra 1cm around all the sides of the stitched design to allow for the seams, then trim off the 4 corners so that you don't end up with a build up of fabric. Fold back the hems and iron them down into position.

Step 2 : putting it together.



Assemble the sides of your humbug by whip-stitching** the backstitched borders together. Start with the bottom corners of your design and stitch your way up towards the top.

When you reach the corner, keep going until the end of the seam. Watch out: do not cut the cotton you used to stitch your seam! (Unless you prefer to hang your

humbug with a ribbon, in which case you can stitch the ribbon in place now.)



You should now have a little pocket. You need to shape the last side in order to get a humbug shape (see the photographs), otherwise you'll end up with a simple cushion. Before you stitch up the last

seam, fill in your humbug with polyester stuffing.

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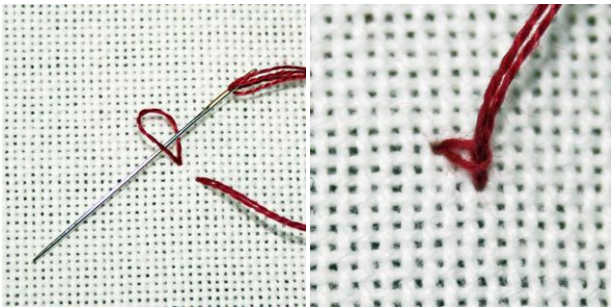
Finish your last seam and this time, stop and cut your excess cotton.

Step 3 : adding the finishing touches.



Now you need to turn to the cotton we left hanging from the first seam: use it to string beads (matching the colours of your humbug) and make a hanging loop.

Technical tips:



Start your first stitch, turn your fabric over so you're looking at the wrong side, and thread your needle through the loop to secure it. Pull to tighten (see the pictures above – note that the photos are showing the **wrong side** of the fabric).

* *Loop Method:*

Use this method when you need the start of a seam to be as “invisible” as possible. Take a longer length of thread than usual, and double it up. Thread your needle so that the loop is at the bottom of your length of thread.



** *Whip Stitch:*

You can use this method to assemble 2 pieces of outlined fabric together. (The stitched pieces must have been outlined with backstitch prior to this.) You can then stitch each pair of opposite backstitches together, as shown on the picture.

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If you enjoyed stitching this humbug, you may like the following designs:



Frosty Humbug



Poppy Humbug



Christmas Rose Humbug



Lavender Humbug



Holly Humbug



Poinsettia Humbug

These designs, and many more, are available on

www.fabyreilly.com