



Handicraft

For our handicraft lesson, we will be doing a shamrock tea towel. This is a lovely pattern created by Lara for older kids to enjoy. But she's also included a simplified version for your younger children.

This is fun way to decorate your home for St. Patrick's Day or to use while you're baking your Irish teatime treats!

"I've filled him with the Spirit of God, giving him skill and know-how and expertise in every kind of craft to create designs ... he's an all-around craftsman."

~ Exodus 31:3-5

Handicraft Lesson

Shamrock Tea Towel Embroidery



Supplies

- Embroidery floss in shades of dark and medium green
- Embroidery needle
- Cotton (flour sack) or linen tea towels
- Embroidery hoop
- Scissors
- Shamrock template
- Little stitchers will need green buttons

Sketch your design in water soluble pen, transfer paper, or lightly with pencil. (Pencil is more difficult to wash out)

You can use 2-3 strands of thread for a more delicate look or all 6 strands for a heavier look.

For younger stitchers, back stitching is the easiest.

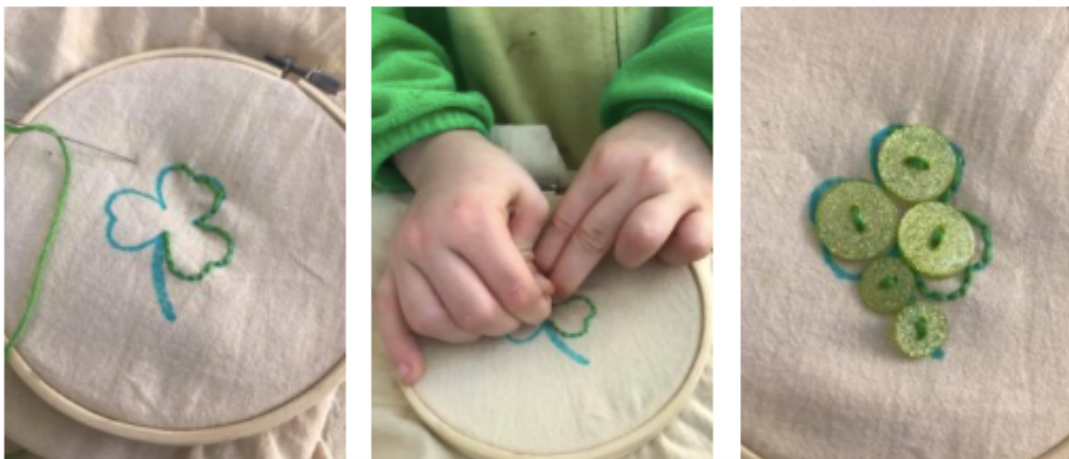
How to transfer embroidery patterns

For lightweight and light colored fabric, use a water soluble embroidery transfer pen. For this method, tape the printed pattern onto a window or lightbox then tape the fabric over the pattern. The design should show through the fabric. You can then trace the pattern directly onto the fabric. Pencil may also be used, but does not come out of the fabric as easily.

When marking on darker colored or heavy fabric, I like to use white wax-less transfer paper to trace the design. Working on a hard surface, place a square of transfer paper (inky side towards the fabric) between your printed pattern and the fabric. Using a ball point pen, trace over the design on the pattern, pressing down hard to ensure the markings are visible on your fabric.

For more detailed patterns, you can also use printable transfer paper. It dissolves in water after you've embroidered your design.

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For little stitchers

For little stitchers, depending on their ability and desires, you can help them transfer the pattern and backstitch the outline if they want and then "fill in" the color with the green buttons OR you can show them how to create the shamrock pattern with just the buttons.

For more advanced stitchers

- Transfer the pattern with text or without to your tea towel. Slainte is the Irish greeting that means "to your health".
- Backstitch the border of your shamrock in your darker green floss.
- Satin stitch in the filling of half of each leaf toward the center vein in the darker green and the other half in the lighter green.
- Split stitch your shamrock stem in the lighter green floss. Use your dark green or another darker color to backstitch the Slainte text.
- Enjoy your new tea towel!

