

Home for Christmas

Spread seasonal cheer and positive vibes with Jessie Doughty's embroidered banner

COVER STAR





HOW TO MAKE AN APPLIQUÉ BANNER

MATERIALS

- 35 x 45cm (13¾ x 17¾") blue cotton fabric
- 31 x 23cm (12¼ x 9½") brown felt
- 5 x 5cm (2 x 2") pink felt
- Wooden dowel, 20cm (7⅞") long, 1cm (⅜") diameter
- Gold braided cord
- Embroidery thread in yellow, red, green, white, gold, light blue, pink and dark brown
- Erasable fabric marker
- Fusible webbing
- 15cm (6") embroidery hoop
- Card

Alternative Christmas decs are all the rage this year, from sparkly robots to tasselled llamas. So, we're channelling Nativity charm with this appliqué camel version, complete with starry night and festive message.

This seasonal banner is filled with extra-special details and decorative touches, but it's a bit of an embroidery hack that's easier than it seems. Both the camel and his saddle are created using simple felt shapes, meaning you can spend your time faffing with finishing touches and all things fun.

You'll find a guide to each of the stitches at www.gathered.how, and you can check out Jessie's Youtube channel for video tutorials too – just search Jessie Doe Designs.

01 Using the downloadable templates, cut **two banner shapes** from the blue cotton fabric and one saddle from the pink felt.

02 Place the brown felt between the inner and outer embroidery

hoops, **then tighten** the outer hoop to secure, pulling the felt taut. Using the template, trace the camel shape onto the felt with the erasable fabric marker.

03 Pin the saddle onto the camel, using the image **as a guide** and matching the top edges. Using one strand of red embroidery thread, blanket stitch around the outside of the saddle to secure it in place.

04 Next, decorate the saddle with embroidery, using the Step 10 image as a guide to stitch placement. Starting at the top left-hand side of the saddle and finishing at the top right, backstitch along the bars of blanket stitch in one strand of red thread, joining them up to create **square sections**. Couch these stitches by making tiny straight stitches just above the centre of each section to pull the thread up slightly, creating a curve.

05 Add two leaf stems to the top and bottom of the saddle using two strands of green thread and backstitch. Next, **add leaves** at the

end and along either side using the same thread and satin stitch.

06 Stitch a zig zag line along the top of the saddle using two strands of white thread and straight stitches, **then backstitch** two lines underneath in one strand of yellow thread. Work a line of dashes underneath those in one strand of white thread and running stitch.

07 Add six stars to the space at the centre of the saddle using two strands of gold metallic thread, working four straight stitches out from the centre **in a cross shape** to create each one.

08 Work three French knots in **every other section** created by the blanket stitch, using one strand of blue thread and keeping the French knots just inside of the thread border. Work the same blue French knots inside each zig zag at the top of the saddle.

09 In the space at the centre of the saddle, add **three French knots** in two strands of red thread, four French knots in one strand of blue



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thread and five French knots in two strands of pink thread.

10 Finally, **add vertical** straight stitches along the bottom of the saddle in two strands of red thread.

11 Next, decorate the camel with embroidery, using the Step 19 image as a guide to stitch placement. To create the row of bunting **either side** of the saddle, use whipped backstitch and one strand of yellow thread to stitch the string at the top. Add the three flags in satin stitch, then work three small straight stitches at the bottom to represent mini tassels.

12 For the tassels along the bottom of the saddle, thread the needle with six strands of blue thread. Knot the thread, then bring the needle up from the back, in between the first pair of vertical straight stitches. **Knot the thread** at the front to secure it in place, then trim the thread to roughly 2cm ($\frac{3}{4}$ "") and smooth it downwards. Repeat this step in between every pair of straight stitches.

13 Add the camel's eye and mouth using **curved backstitches** and one strand of black thread, then add a cheek to its face using pink thread and satin stitch.

14 Stitch a bridle around the camel's muzzle and head using backstitch and two strands of red thread, then add vertical straight stitches coming down from it, alternating the red thread and one strand of white thread. Add a **second bridle** around the base of the camel's neck in the same way, this time using green thread.

15 Backstitch two lines around the camel's neck, over the green bridle, using one strand of black thread. Work French knots over the top of these black lines in red, blue and white thread to **turn them into** mini flower garlands.

16 Below these, add a line of whipped backstitch going from the camel's chest to the first bunting flag in two strands of pink thread. Add **alternating tassels** in gold and pink thread as per Step 12.

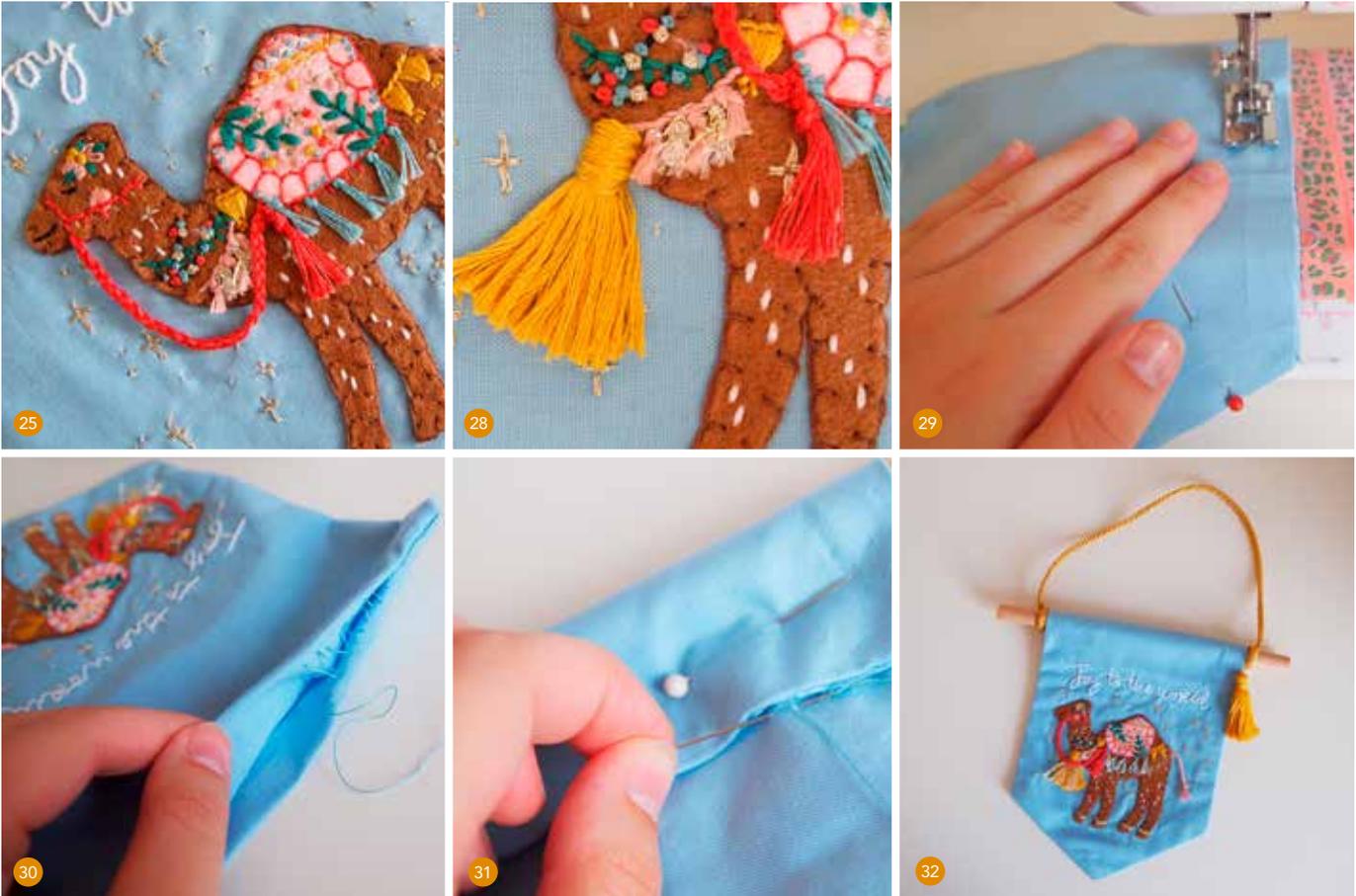
17 Next, stitch a flower onto the top of the camel's head using one strand of pink thread and lazy daisy stitch. **Add leaves** in between the petals using two strands of green thread and straight stitch, then work three yellow French knots for the flower's centre.

18 Stitch **one star** onto the camel's neck and three on the camel's body using two strands of gold metallic thread, working four straight stitches out from the centre in a cross shape.

19 To finish, work a scattering of small vertical straight stitches in any gaps on the **camel's legs** and body using white thread.

20 Trace the camel template onto one banner piece, using the image as a guide to placement. Next, copy the lettering on the template above it – the easiest way to do this is to hold both the template and the fabric **up to a window**, or a similar light source.

21 Take the brown felt out of the hoop and replace it with the



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banner piece, positioning the lettering centrally. Stitch over the lettering using whipped backstitch and **three strands** of white thread.

22 Using gold metallic thread, stitch stars all around the camel shape, as per Step 18. Use a variety of bigger and smaller stars, adding **tiny straight stitches** in between, then take the fabric out of the hoop.

23 Iron the fusible webbing to the reverse of the brown felt – the back of the embroidery – following the manufacturer's instructions. Cut out the **camel shape**, trimming slightly outside the outline so as not to snip the threads.

24 Peel the backing from the webbing, then place the camel in position on the embroidered banner piece. Appliqué the camel to the banner by ironing it in place, placing a tea towel over the top first to **help protect** the embroidery stitches.

25 Blanket stitch around the outside of the camel using dark brown thread. To make the rein,

bring three whole lengths of red thread, so **18 strands**, through to the front of the camel, just below the bridle by his mouth. Secure the strands at the back with a knot, then plait them together. Knot at the end, then trim the threads, leaving roughly 3cm (1¼") after the knot to create a tassel. Secure to the edge of the saddle with a few stitches, as shown.

26 Make a **plaited tail** as per Step 25, this time using pink thread, and bringing the threads through at the back of the camel.

27 Add a line of **gold French knots** on each of the camel's legs, just up from the feet, to create little anklets of bells.

28 Cut a 4cm (1½") wide piece of card, then wrap **yellow and gold** thread around it several times. Cut a length of yellow thread, thread it under the bundle, then tie it in a knot around the top of the bundle. Cut the threads at the bottom of the card, then wrap yellow thread around the top of the tassel and

knot to secure. Trim the tassel to neaten, then attach it to the pink bridle at the front of the camel with a few satin stitches, using the image as a guide to placement.

29 Place the **two banner pieces** right sides (RS) together and sew around the outside, 0.5cm (¼") in from the edge, leaving a 10cm (4") gap at the top.

30 Turn the banner through to the RS, pushing out the corners, then **fold the raw edges** at the gap to the wrong side (WS). Press in place and neatly stitch the gap closed.

31 Fold the top of the banner to the WS by 2cm (¾") and pin. Sew along the top edge to **secure in place**, making sure to only stitch through the back piece of the banner.

32 Insert the dowel through the channel at the top of the banner, then tie a length of gold braid to either end for hanging. To finish, **make a tassel** from yellow thread as per Step 28, this time using a slightly larger piece of card, and sew to one end of the gold braid.

MEET THE MAKER JESSIE DOUGHTY



Jessie is an embroidery artist and illustrator from Bristol where she runs Jessie Doe Designs, creating nature-inspired gifts. Visit her site for more patterns, and find her on Instagram @jessie.doedesigns. www.jessiedoedesigns.com

