

Finishing Instructions for The Frog Prince



While this piece would look lovely placed in a frame, I designed it to be finished as a miniature storybook. Below you will find step by step instructions on how to complete this finish. You can also visit the Sapphire Mountain Handcrafts Youtube page to watch a video of my finishing.

Because all cross stitch fabrics vary slightly, exact measurements may not be correct. You will need to adjust the sizing to fit your finished cross stitch's size.

Required materials:

2 finished cross stitch pieces

White lining fabric (approximately 7 X 12 inches)

Decorative fabric (approximately 7 X 12 inches)

Cardboard (2 pieces, approximately 5.375 X 6.125 inches)

Quilt batting

Cording (2 pieces, approximately 18.5 inches each)

Ribbon (2 pieces, approximately 9.5 inches each with treated ends)

Tacky glue or other adhesive for batting and cardboard

Needle

Sewing thread

How to create a miniature storybook:

1. Measuring from the outer edge of the brown border on your cross stitch, cut both pieces with a 0.75 inch margin. Mine ended up being approximately 6.25 X 7 inches.
2. Sew the pieces together with a 0.25 inch seam allowance. To do this, place the title piece face up on your work surface. Next, place the poem piece face down on top of it. Pin together, being careful not to place pins into the cross stitch and sew either by hand or on machine a 0.25 inch seam on the right side.
3. Once the pieces are sewn together, press the seam open carefully with an iron on medium heat.
4. Next, measure your full cross stitch piece now that it has been sewn together and cut your lining fabric and your decorative fabric to the same size. Mine ended up being approximately 7 X 12 inches.



5. Place your lining fabric on your work surface and the cross stitch face-up on top of it.
6. Now, find the center of each of the shorter sides and place one ribbon on each side so that they will be sewn into the seam with the long end going in toward the center of the book.
7. Place the decorative fabric face-down on top of the cross stitch and ribbons.
8. Pin everything in place being careful not to put pins into the cross stitch.
9. Locate the center seam where you sewed the two cross stitch pieces together and **starting just to the side of that center seam**, begin sewing with a 0.25 seam allowance.



10. Continue sewing around, making sure that the ribbon gets sewn in as you pass over it, and stop when you reach the half way point just before the center seam of the cross stitch on the opposite side that you started.
11. Take up one piece of cording and at the center seam, insert it between the cross stitch and decorative fabric layers so that only a small tail sticks up above your seam allowance, the rest is inside between the layers of fabric. Do the same with the second piece of cording so that they sit side-by-side at the center seam. You may need to remove some pins to accomplish this and then replace the pins once the cording is in place.

12. Continue sewing at your 0.25 inch seam allowance over the two pieces of cording, locking them in place. You may need to do this by hand if it is too thick for your sewing machine to process.
13. Keep sewing around the piece until you reach the last corner making sure to catch your second ribbon in the seam. Stop at the last corner. One half of your starting side should now be unsewn and open.
14. Through the unsewn hole, turn the work right side out. Press with an iron if wrinkled.
15. Set this aside and take up your cardboard and quilt batting.
16. You will need to cut your cardboard based on the unique size of your piece. You will be cutting two pieces and each should be just slightly smaller, approximately 0.375 inch, than each half of your book. Mine ended up being 5.375 X 6.125 inches.
17. After cutting the cardboard, insert them into the book through the turning hole **between the lining fabric and the decorative fabric layers**. Slide the first piece over into the completely enclosed side and then place the second one in the open side.
18. Test the book to make sure that the cardboard piece are the correct size and the book can close properly. If the book cannot close, or is almost unable to close, you will need to cut some off of each cardboard piece. Each piece should fill its half with no large gaps except between the two pieces of cardboard at the center seam. They should also not be really snug because we will be adding batting to the cardboard which will take up even more space inside.
19. Once you have determined that the cardboard is the appropriate size, remove both pieces from the book.
20. Cut one piece of quilt batting for each piece of cardboard, the same size as the cardboard, and glue the batting to the cardboard. Make sure not to leave any large collections of glue that will dry into hard pieces. I spread my glue across the cardboard with a paint brush.



21. **Let the glue under the batting dry completely** then reinsert the cardboard into the book with the batting facing the cross stitch side of the book rather than the back side of the book.
22. If everything is satisfactory with the book, turn in the unsewn portion of the fabric by the 0.25 inch seam allowance and begin sewing it closed by hand. **Stop before you reach the center seam where we started, making sure to leave a hole open which we will use later to insert the other ends of the cording into.**
23. Your two pieces of cording are currently dangling from the center seam on the opposite side of the book. With a whip stitch, attach each of them around the book along the fabric seams.
24. When you reach the end, cut off any excess cording leaving approximately 0.5 inch to tuck into the book.
25. Push the cording into the hole you left at the center seam and sew the cording into place and the hole closed by hand.
26. Finally, sew all of the layers of fabric together at the center seam of your cross stitches, between the two pieces of cardboard.



You're done! This was such a fun project to create. I hope that you enjoyed working on it, too. If any of these steps are confusing, please feel free to reach out to me and I will try to help explain things more clearly.

