

Stitching Book Club

-----Presents-----

# *A Christmas Carol Finishing*

Fifth Edition • Designed by Kristin Ashley

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# Finishing Instructions:

## Supplies:

Finished cross stitch

12 X 12 inch decorative fabric

Floss (color of your choice)

Needle

Sewing pins for holding the fabric in place

Stuffing (poly-fil or other)

Shadow box or picture frame 10 X 10 inch

Cardboard cut to the interior size of your frame -

shave off just a sliver extra so that it will fit  
once the fabric is attached

4 inch piece of ribbon (optional)

Tacky glue and disposable glove (or sewing thread  
for lacing the back)

Short push pins for attaching the fabric to the  
cardboard (optional but highly recommended)



## Instructions:

1. Begin by ironing all wrinkles out of both your cross stitch piece and the decorative fabric.
2. Trim up all sides of the cross stitch making sure that there is an equal sized border all the way around.
3. Center the cross stitch (face-up) at the center of the decorative fabric (also face-up) and pin in place as close to the cross stitching as possible without putting the pins through the actual stitches.
4. Determine how far out you want your sewing line to be keeping in mind that you need to leave a small space between your sewing line and the edge of your frayed edges. I placed my sewing line 16 fibers out from the edge of my cross stitching on the 28 count evenweave (8 spaces on Aida).
5. Using your floss, sew around 3 sides of the piece making sure that all of your sides have the same spacing (16 fibers or whatever count you chose to use). I used a backstitch for this and stitched over 2 fibers on the 28 count evenweave.
6. Once you have reached the final side of the piece, sew in about a quarter of the way and stop.
7. Now take your stuffing and fill the pocket that you have formed between the cross stitch and the decorative fabric. This requires very little filling. **It's very important that you**

**don't over stuff.** You are looking to give it just a little bit of dimension; you are NOT filling it like a pillow. You can stretch the fabric across your cardboard piece to see how it will look once completed. The cotton fabric should be able to be stretched tight across the cardboard and remain relatively flat with only the cross stitch bubbling up from the stuffing.

8. Once the stuffing is to your liking, finish sewing the last side until it is completely closed and tie off your floss on the back side.
9. You can now fray the edges by pulling individual fibers off of each side. **Be very careful to stop at least 2 fibers away from your backstitching line (or one space away if on Aida) or the backstitching will not hold.**
10. You can now attach the decorative fabric to your cardboard.
11. With your fabric face-down, place the cardboard on the top and center by measure the margin of fabric on each side.
12. If you have short push pins, you can use them to attach the fabric to the cardboard so that it will not shift while you are gluing it in place; do this by folding the fabric over the backside of the cardboard and pushing the pin into the very edge of the cardboard and then out through the backside.
13. You want to pull the fabric tight against the cardboard so that there is no slack. Once you have several pins in place you can turn your work over to see how the cross stitch is sitting. Small adjustments can be made by pulling or loosening the fabric in certain directions and repining. Once everything looks straight and centered, place several more pins around every side so that it is held in place and will not move while gluing.
14. With your glove on, glue the fabric down to the back of the cardboard making sure that you are continuing to keep the fabric tight so that when the pins are removed it will stay in place. **To see how I do this, please watch my Flosstube video as it is a bit difficult to explain my exact processes.** Also, be very careful not to get stabbed by the pins.
15. If you are using a shadow box and think that you may like to remove this piece from the frame for different uses throughout the year, take your 4 inch piece of ribbon, fold it in half and glue it at the top of the cardboard on the backside with about half an inch able to hang over to the front side. This can be used to pull the cardboard from the frame easily. This step is totally optional.
16. Once the glue is all dry, remove the pins and place into your frame.

**That's it! You're done.**