

DESIGN GUIDELINES

1. Each bookmark must be created to one of the following sizes:
18ct – 36W x 144H These sizes provide a
14ct – 28W x 112H design area 2"W x 8"H.
2. Materials used may include perforated paper, plastic canvas, Aida, evenweave, or linen fabric, as long as the stitch count is adhered to.
3. Any layout is acceptable, though you may want to consider designs that run vertically, since that is how bookmarks are used!
4. Once the design is stitched, cut the bookmark material 2.5" x 8.5". This allows a .25" minimum around the design, for finishing. If your design requires additional seam allowance, be sure to note it on your pattern.
5. Any needlework may be used – cross-stitch, Hardanger, needlepoint, etc. Just be sure to include instructions with the design, for all specialty stitches.
6. Use one of the finishing techniques provided below, complete the paperwork as indicated, and send the completed bookmark(s) to X's & Oh's at the address provided.

FINISHING:

The main thing is to finish the edges, so they don't unravel when used! There are several techniques for this.

PAPER / PLASTIC: Of course, if you use perforated paper or plastic canvas, the edges won't fray. Just be sure to leave a border of paper/plastic around the stitched design – you never want to cut in to a hole containing stitching. Finish by gluing the stitched and trimmed design onto a piece of felt or fancy paper (don't glue on the fancy side!), and when the glue is dry, use a small sharp pair of scissors to trim as close to the paper/plastic as possible.

FUSIBLE WEB: This is a fast easy finish. Trim the stitched bookmark to the desired size, cut a piece of decorative fabric and a piece of fusible web to the same size, and follow the manufacturers instructions to fuse the three pieces together. If desired, finish the edges with 1/4" double-fold seam binding in a co-ordinating color. You will need about 25-26" of seam binding for this.

When you get to the corners, pretend you're wrapping a present, and fold the edges neatly at an angle. If you're using a sewing machine, leave the needle in the DOWN position at the corner turning point, then carefully lift the presser foot, and turn the bookmark, to continue sewing down the next side. You don't really need to fold the raw edge under (when you get back to the starting point). Just overlap the start of the seam binding and stitch it flat.

SEWING: Of course, if you're going to use a sewing machine, you can always cut the bookmark doublewide (plus a seam allowance – so for a 2.5" wide finished bookmark, with 1/4" seam allowance, cut the fabric 5.5" wide). Just be sure to centre the stitched area in the width. Allow an extra 1/2" at the top and bottom for fraying, or tuck the raw edges inside and slip stitch the opening closed.

Fold in half vertically (with the design on the inside, run a seam down the long raw edge, and carefully turn the 'tube' inside out. Use a fray fixative to secure the top and bottom edges (1/2" from the top and bottom), and pull away the horizontal threads until you have a 1/3" 'tail'.

FRAYING: Or use the same fraying technique to fray all the way around the design, trimming the fringe to 1/2" at the sides and top, though it can be longer at the bottom. I suggest using a decorative stitch (such as buttonhole –also known as blanket stitch), or the zigzag stitch on your sewing machine, right at the border of your bookmark edge. Fray back to this stitched line, and trim as necessary. Of course, if you do use a decorative stitch all the way around, you can trim the sides and top of the bookmark, and just leave the fringe at the bottom.

To make your bookmark extra special, try adding a tassel, or beads. You can also make the top and bottom triangle shapes instead of straight lines (note that this requires extra fabric on the height of the fabric). To make a pointed tip, fold the fabric in half lengthwise (as if you were going to sew it), but this time, just stitch across the narrow bottom (or top) edge, using 1/4" seams. When the fabric is opened up, and the seam turned inside, a perfect point is created!

We'll allow some flexibility in the finishing, but would prefer to keep the finishing instructions (in the bookmark leaflet) limited to those listed above, so designs which use a finish provided will be given precedence over specialty finishes.