



Star-Crazy Patch Journal

by Terry White, © 2010
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Exploring the decorative stitches on your sewing machine is fun when you can complete a project at the same time. Experimenting with stitches using gorgeous threads is wonderful fun! Here is a little project that is great way to show off the new Star® Cotton threads.

What to sell in the Star-Crazy Patch Class

Star® Cotton Multi-Color Threads
Sewing machines with great decorative stitch capacity
Novelty feet for the sewing machine:
 Open Toe Appliqué foot Edge-Stitching foot
 Edge-Joining foot Decorative foot
Fat quarter bundles in complimentary sets
Stabilizers
Embroidery snips
Machine embroidery needles

Supplies

Star® Cotton Multi-Color Threads:
 Citrus 814 Pink Passion 819
 French Country 824 Plum Shadows 810
 Spring Greens 855

TIP: *Blending the colors of the threads and fabrics create a lovely texture and color depth.*

Fabric

Five, 2 inch (5.08 cm) strips of cotton fabrics in a variety of prints
Six small yellow scraps

TIP: *Use spray starch to keep the small pieces more manageable.*

Stabilizers

Medium-weight fusible interfacing- cut 1 ½ inches (3.81 cm) bigger than your desired finished size.
Medium-weight stabilizer cut same as fusible.

90/14 machine embroidery needles

Fabric glue



Steps

Cut out star pieces and place them on the rough side of the fusible interfacing.

Cut the strips at odd angles and place on the interfacing. Cut the strips to fit around the star.

All the pieces should line up next to each other with no spaces in between.

When the interfacing is covered, fuse the pieces in place following the manufacture's instructions.



Place work right side up on the stabilizer.

Stitching

The idea is for the decorative stitches to join the edges of the pieces and stitch through the stabilizer at the same time. Because there is no piecing, the decorative stitches look better- the needle doesn't have to go through many layers.

When stitching between two fabrics, use a stitch that swings or stitches on both sides of center needle position.



TIP: Use a foot that indicates center needle position or try an open toe appliqué foot. Then, you only have to be sure that the center needle position is riding the line between the fabrics. This works great for curved work as well.

TIP: Lower the top tension on the sewing machine- this gives a fuller look to the embroidery stitches.

Stitch the star with Citrus 814 using a stitch that stitches on both sides of the center needle position.

Now, using different thread colors choose stitches you have never used on your machine- they are so pretty! Even basic utility stitches, can be decorative with the right threads. Try a reinforced zigzag or an overcast stitch.

After stitching all the fabric edges, stitch more rows and cover the fabric strips with stitching.

TIP: On the sample, I chose variations on the zigzag for all the stitches. The idea is to add some uniformity to the project. Try using all floral stitches, all leaf stitches or all square stitches for a different result.

When the work is finished, measure it to fit your journal, and mark. Edge-stitch along the markings. I used a stitch and a foot made for edge stitching and stitched along the edges twice for a fuller look. Trim excess fabric up to your decorative stitching, being careful not to snip into the stitching.

Use a good fabric glue to glue the work to the top of the journal cover.

Enjoy!



