

Strawberry Pincushion

FOR THE QUEEN'S TREASURE CHEST

Materials (* = included in kit)

- * 5-inch square of 12/16-inch interlock canvas, cut on the bias
- * Paternayan yarn in white, green, and assorted motif colors
- * Green wool backing & * Green cord for edging
- Stuffing for pincushion
- * Tapestry needles (and you'll need scissors)

Instructions

This Elizabethan-style pincushion is worked on needlepoint canvas in a simple tent stitch.

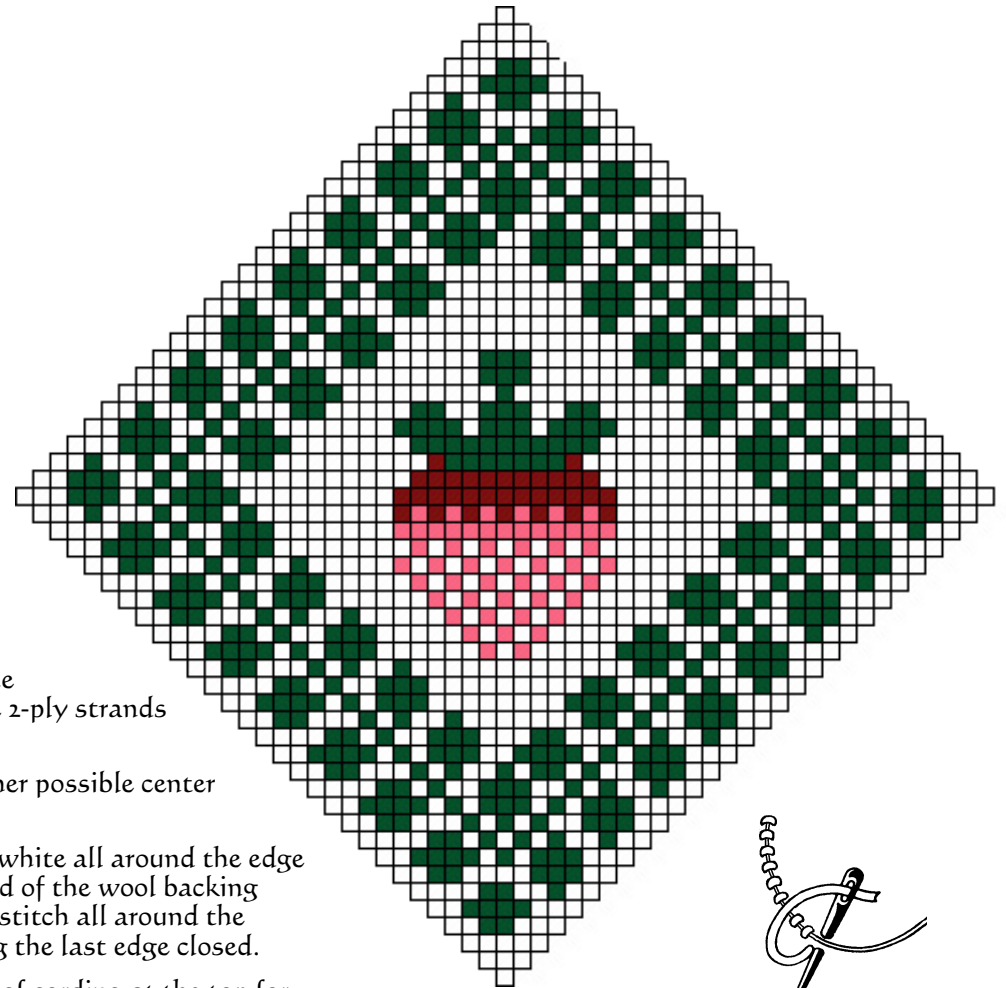
Before you start, overcast, buttonhole or tape the edges of your canvas to prevent raveling.

Work this pattern on the canvas in tent stitch, according to the chart. The Paternayan yarn comes in groups of three 2-ply strands; use only 2 of the 2-ply strands in your needle.

The "strawberry" version with the complete border is at right; several other possible center motifs are on the back of this page, or make up your own!

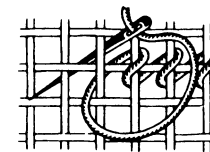
When the tent stitch is done, work (as on the chart) another two rows of white all around the edge of the diamond, beyond the border. Fold under the edges of the canvas and of the wool backing fabric, and sew this backing securely to the canvas diamond with a whip stitch all around the edges. Insert some stuffing (batting, carded wool, et cetera) before sewing the last edge closed.

Sew cording all around the edges of the pincushion, leaving a 6-inch loop of cording at the top for hanging. Add tassels to the bottom and side corners.



Sources

Small decorative pincushions like this were made and attached by a long cord to matching draw-string bags, also worked in tent stitch or other stitches on linen canvas. They may have been worn by women over the belt as a decorative and practical accessory.



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Motifs for your pincushion

The “strawberry” version shows the entire cushion with its leaf border. If you prefer, you can work (as the color charts show), an acorn, a pomegranate, a pansy, a rose or a bunch of grapes instead of the strawberry — or indeed, any small Elizabethan motif that will fit into the space. The cushion is worked in a diamond shape on square canvas and will attach to your scissors to make them easy to find, or hang decoratively from a belt or purse.

