

# EMBROIDERY PROJECT

## Feather name badge

This project is for a small badge worked in gold (or other bling-y thread) and will fit into a name-badge holder or can be wrapped around a piece of card and a pin added. If you put your mind to it you can make it in a day.

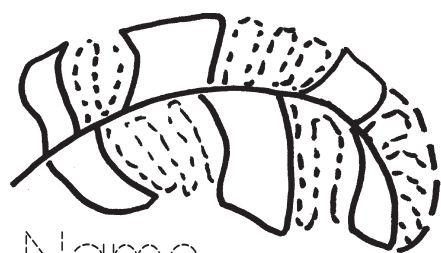
**DESIGNS:** You can search online for a different outline feather design, but I recommend you keep the outline simple for this project. You are welcome to use this as a class project – and/or modify with another basic shape, like a heart.



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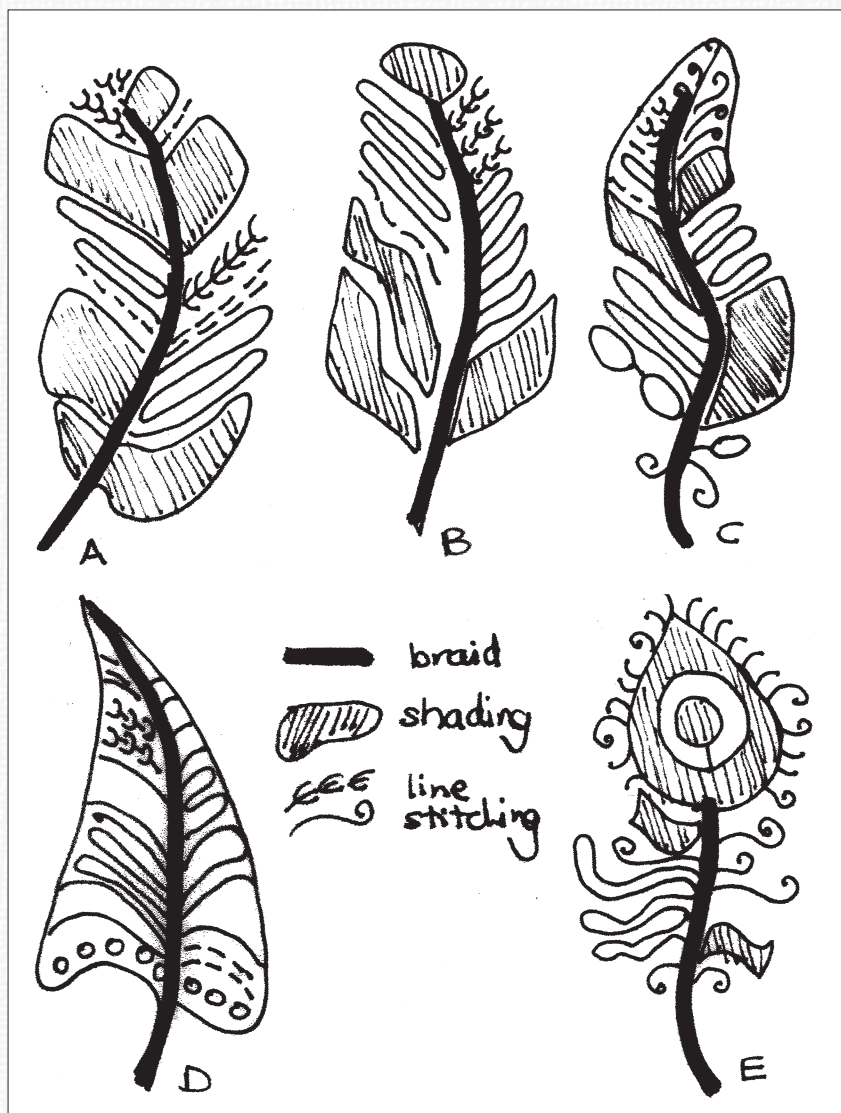
FIG 1



50mm (actual size)

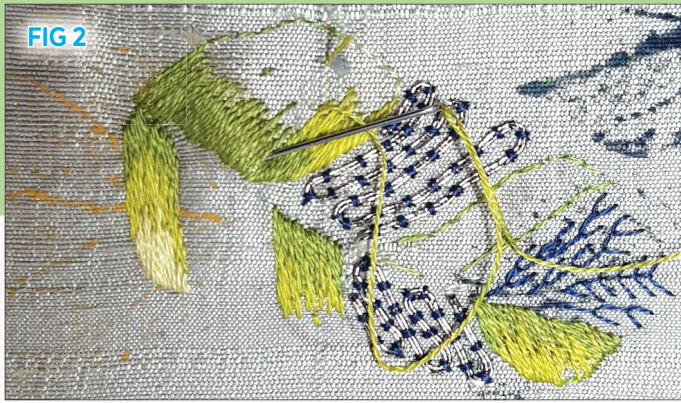
### MATERIALS and TOOLS

- A piece of silk or smooth weave linen or cotton for the background fabric – 90x60mm for a badge + turning allowances;
- Calico or cotton backing fit a 100-150mm embroidery hoop;
- Three graduated shades of stranded cotton of one hue;
- Bling – about 500mm of bling-y fine braid, T70 gold or silver metallic, other metallic trims;
- Sewing thread to match your bling (will be used for couching);
- [Old scissors](#) for cutting metallics; [embroidery scissors](#) for thread.
- [Needles](#): Your favourite for thread; medium chenille needle for braid.
- A [wax block](#) is useful for metal threads.
- A pencil or marker pen.
- A plastic name badge holder; or cardboard and a sew-on brooch pin.



### INSTRUCTIONS

1. Tack the piece of silk to the middle of the calico.  
Tack a 85x55mm stitching area (this is slightly smaller than the badge itself as the fabric takes up space).
2. Select the design you want to stitch and draw the solid lines on the badge area – allow space for your name as well. For these instructions I have used **FIG 1** (option A in the design sheet at left).  
The dashed lines are an indication of where to place the looped and feather stitch lines, do not draw them on the fabric.
3. Mount the fabric in the hoop and stretch tight.



4. **FIG 2 (above) Shaded areas:** Select the darkest of the three threads and, starting next to the shaft of the feather, stitch one third of the wide areas in long and short stitch; repeat, working towards the edge of the block with the medium and then pale shade.

5. **FIG 2/3 (above/below) Feather stitch areas:** Using one of the shades and a single strand - stitch one or more rows of feather stitch, starting at the outside of the feather and working towards the shaft. For a more regular stitch you could use a ladder of fly stitch. *Note: It is best to do the shading and embroidered areas before the metallic threads to avoid catching the embroidery thread on the metallics.*



6. **FIG 3 (above) Looped areas:** Use the metallic braid or T70 metallic. Thread no more than 10mm of the T70 through the end of your chenille. Plunge this carefully through the fabric at the shaft, from the front and remove the needle. (If you are using a double strand of T70 repeat with the second strand, so they are parallel). Secure the end(s) behind the work. Couch down the T70 using a matching waxed strand of sewing cotton, working to the edge of the feather, loop and back to the shaft (repeat as required ending at the shaft). Cut the T70 with about 20mm left and carefully plunge this end through the fabric and secure. Wax a single strand of embroidery thread (probably the dark shade) and couch over the T70 with paired stitches. For a denser appearance you can use more stitches – but do them one at a time rather than doubling the strands.

7. **Outlines (optional):** Outline the shaded areas or connect them with a single strand of metallic braid.



8. **FIG 4 Shaft:** (Do this last) With either a thicker metallic braid or two strands of T70 couch the centre shaft of the feather (using a single strand of waxed matching thread). This can be used in conjunction with the outlining. *Note: Pearl purl, bright check or smooth purl are not so good as they crush within the plastic holder or can catch on your clothing for an exposed badge.*

9. Print or script your name in the remaining space and outline in backstitch or chain stitch.

10. **Assembly:** Cut a cardboard shape\* 85x55mm (or a bit smaller than the holder). Press the work around the edge of the cardboard. Trim excess, especially the backing, tidy the corners and stitch or fuse a backing fabric to tidy. Insert into the badge holder (I put my name, guild name and phone number in case I lose it).

*\*If you are using the badge holder, use a thin card. For a stand-alone badge wrapped around a card + a pin use card at least 1mm thick.*