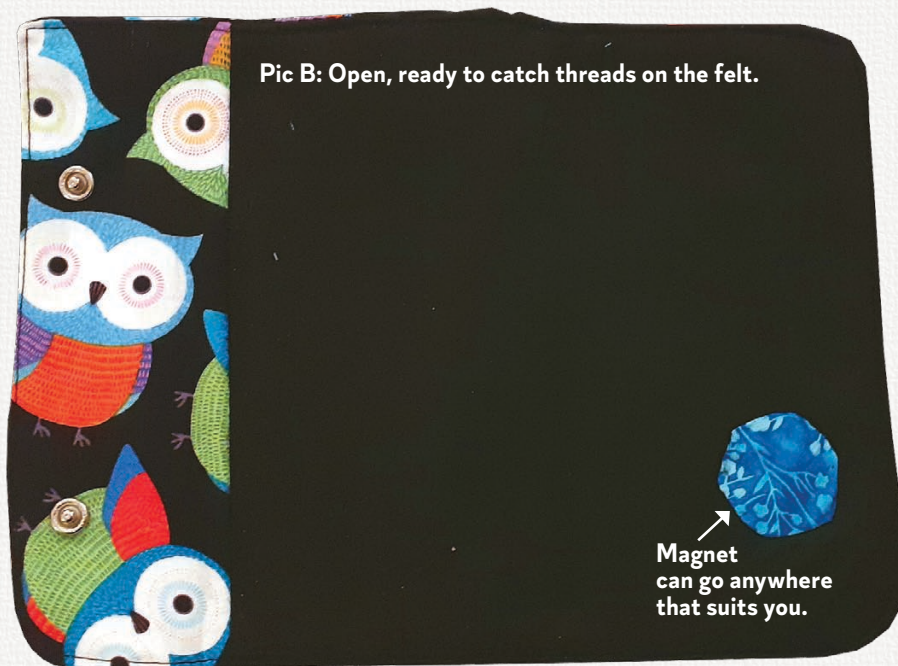


EMBROIDERY PROJECT: Thread catcher

Ngara-Ann showed us this nifty little mat last year, which works so well that several of us made up copies immediately. It catches those pesky bits of threads that otherwise get on you and on the carpet, you can park your needle and pins on the magnet, or into the felt, and it folds up and weighs nothing. I thought the patterned fabric Ngara-Ann used was fun but you can make it as fun or as elegant as you like. You can even use a piece of embroidery (eg hardanger mat) as the outside. -Ed

The mat was inspired by a product featured on That's-so-Kelly, but this simplified version is quick and easy to make in an afternoon. More elaborate and fabric-specific products can be ordered on: thats-so-kelly-co.myshopify.com/



MATERIALS:

- Main fabric – cotton in any colour or pattern
- Any coloured felt to match or contrast
- Domes (or decorative press snaps and press snap tool, optional) or small pieces of velcro
- Piece of flat magnet (optional but very useful)
- Sewing thread
- Sewing machine (it can be hand-sewn)
- Scissors or rotary cutter and mat

CUTTING:

For a finished size of about 20 x 8 cm folded (pic A), cut:

- Main fabric (back), one piece 28 x 21cm.
- Main fabric (top inside), one piece 8 x 21 cm.
- Piece of felt, 22 x 21 cm.
- Cut a small shape (I've used a hexagon) of the main material or a contrasting piece of fabric big enough to cover the piece of magnet, plus turnings.

Note: I have rounded the corners of the fabric.

SEWING TOGETHER:

1. I hand-sewed the hexagon shape onto the felt piece and added a magnet underneath the fabric shape and above the felt, for a needle minder. I used a rolled hem stitch. The needle takes a stitch of the top fabric and pull the thread, then take a little of the felt fabric and pull through. Do this very close under the shape so that the stitches are invisible (or you can use a blanket stitch or another decorative stitch around the shape).
Iron. (See small blue hexagon on pic B).
2. Sew the top inside fabric to the felt. With the right sides together stitch a narrow seam along the longer edge of the top inside fabric so that the joined fabrics are 28 x 21 cm. Iron open the seam.
3. At this time add the domes or velcro to the top of the inside (see left of pic B).
4. Add the domes or velcro to the bottom of the outside back fabric. At equal distances, they should match up when folded in thirds together.
5. Place the back piece and felt pieces together with the right sides facing each other. The domes or velcro should be on the opposite end and sides of the fabric.
6. Sew around the outside of fabric, and leave a gap, so you can turn the fabric out.
7. Using a crochet hook or the end of your scissors (nothing sharp) turn the corners out. Fold the open part of the fabric shut. Iron flat.
8. Top sew around the edge of your thread mat, tucking in the open edge and sewing it closed. Project complete!

Ngara-Ann Jones-Bowker, Upper Hutt Embroiderers' Guild

EDITOR'S REQUEST: CALL FOR SMALL PROJECTS

ANZEG Executive has requested a small project be included in each issue. If you (or a guild friend whom you would like to nominate) has a suitable project, please let me know. Next issue will be Christmas coming up so has anyone got a (we could do two) small decorations that would be suitable? Criteria: Suitable for all levels, takes minimum of materials and time and it must be your own design that you are willing to share, not copied from any copyrighted source.