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March 2021

Richard Box' talk on the 6<sup>th</sup> of March was very interesting and informative. We had a record number of members attending and it proved to be a very informative and entertaining morning. Richard explained how he used fabric, colour, thread and beads to create his beautiful pictures. He uses hessian as a backing fabric, adding other material and then gluing small pieces of coloured fabric with dabs of PVA glue, gradually building up the flowers and background. He then machine embroiders, first lowering the dog feed and adding a darning foot but using a large zig-zag stitch. Richard also spoke about the importance sketching and painting an initial idea, which he uses as a template.



As you can see we have a new header, and logo. Your committee continue to plan for the setting up of the new Brighton Embroidery Group. We are discussing a new constitution, fees, public liability insurance, a new bank account and probably more importantly, a possible meeting at Patcham in September 2021. We will keep you informed. Discussions have also been held with Heather Starbuck, the Chair of the new S.E. Region 'Stitchers Together' and the Bexhill, Sussex Stitchers.

Those that joined the Embroiderers Guild General Meeting, which was run on a professional basis, realised that the Guild have monetary difficulties, but they plan to continue without the branches. Without these changes the Guild will become insolvent.

We have successfully moved to using Zoom during the covid restrictions and plan to continue as a Group for many years.

The password remains the same **llove sewing2** ( a capital I at the beginning) don't forget we sign into zoom via the website [brightonembroidery.org](http://brightonembroidery.org) We will change the password next month. Please let me know if you will be joining us.

Our next meeting is 'Jigsaw Tessellation' on the **Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> April, 10.30am to 12.00pm**. Using Zoom. This is a week later than usual, as Easter is late this year. Frances, who is currently studying a City and Guilds course with Sara Cook, will explain how to use up all those 5 inch squares hiding in your stash. Plus she will also be explaining how useful bondaweb, paper piecing and explain the usefulness of invisible thread. Full instructions are below.

## **Make your own Jigsaw –Tessellation**

**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2021 10.30a.m.**

Tessellation: An arrangement of shapes closely fitted together, in a repeated pattern without gaps or overlapping. Sounds complicated but actually quite simple when you know how. Examples are all around from Roman mosaics and tiled floors to the London Gerkin.

A simple process that can give very effective results. It is ideal for using up all those 5” squares lurking in your stash. There are lots of ways of joining the pieces including, Bondaweb, paper piecing and machining with invisible thread.

We will be exploring different designs and finishes.



### **Requirements**

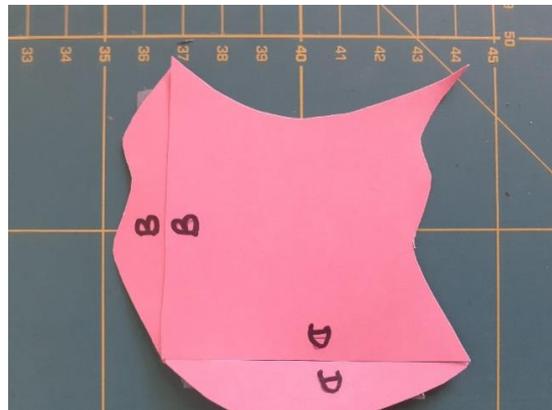
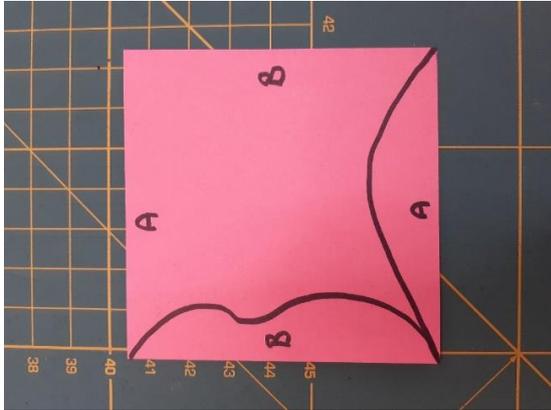
A collection of small pieces of fabric or felt, preferably something that does not fray easily and all of similar weight.

- Several pieces of thin card cut in squares anything from 3” to 5” depending on whether you are planning a book cover or a quilt!
- Couple of sheets of A4 paper to test your design
- Small sharp scissors.
- Bondaweb.
- Backing fabric cut to a bit larger than your planned finished product. We will be using A4 but it is up to you.
- Sewing machine (unless you are hand paper piecing)
- Sewing kit

## Instructions

This is the basic method, but we will be looking at different designs and picking up some tips.

Mark A and B on your card as below:



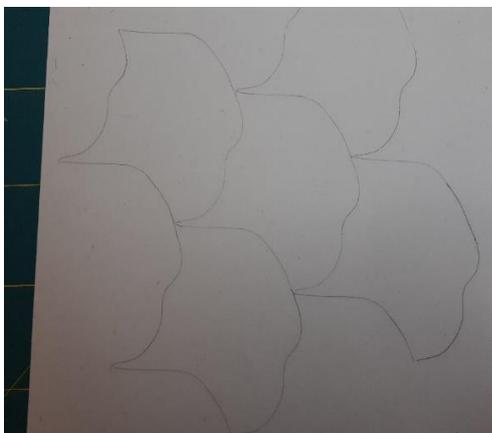
Draw a line on one side from corner to corner.

Draw a line on the adjoining side from corner to corner.

Don't make the shape too complicated.

Cut out shape A, slide across and tape to the other side A

Do the same with B



Now trace round the template about four times onto a piece of paper

Fitting together like a jigsaw just to make sure it all works. Put it to one side.

## Next

If you are using bondaweb draw round you cardboard template

onto the smooth side. If you are paper piecing draw round your template

on the matt side of the paper.

Position Bondaweb or freezer paper onto the wrong side of each piece of fabric and iron on, cut out the pieces remembering to add ¼” turning allowance if you are paper piecing.

Lay the cut fabric pieces on the backing fabric to make sure they all fit together with no gaps and you are happy with the colour sequence. You may have to do a bit of ‘tweaking’ if your cutting wasn’t very accurate.

Peel off Bondaweb and adhere pieces one at a time, a small Clover iron works well to get them in position before giving them a final press. Don’t forget to protect your iron with baking parchment

If you are paper piecing turn the ¼” allowance over the paper, tack all round and then join the pieces by placing two adjacent segments right side together and using matching thread or invisible thread, sew on the very edge joining the pieces together. When all joined together, take out the tacking, remove the freezer paper and press.

At this stage you can sit back and admire your work or you can go on to embellish it in the picture I machined satin stitch over the joins. You can add beads, hand stitch, machine stitch a design – whatever you feel would work. We will be exploring some fish swimming under water!

### A request from Frances Lindsay-Hills

I am doing a two year City & Guilds Diploma course in Textiles. This involves producing a huge number of samples to prove one understands the technique. We are about to study collage and landscape. My fabric stack is fast running out. If anyone has some spare cotton fabric (not furnishing) I would be really grateful. They can be very small pieces it all helps as we have to do a lot of colour and design matching. In return I will make a donation to the Brighton Embroidery Group. I can collect in the Brighton area, just email me on [fmlindsayhills@gmail.com](mailto:fmlindsayhills@gmail.com)

Frances