



Embroidered Patch



CYANOTYPE

SPRING 2021

Suggested age group: 13 years and up!

BIG IDEA

Demonstrate willingness to experiment, innovate, and take risks to pursue ideas, forms, and meanings that emerge in the process of art-making or designing.

EMBROIDERED PATCH

STEP ONE

Have a pen and paper handy for this exercise! Whether you are experienced in embroidery or you've never picked up an embroidery needle before, I am going to guide you through creating a 100% unique patch that you can put on an item of clothing using your beautiful cyanotype fabric and embroidery thread. Let's get started! First, think of a wish you have for yourself, your community, or the world. How does this wish make you feel? How does it feel in your heart, in your gut, through your fingertips and in your feet? Whatever you are feeling, can you express that via lines? Don't think too hard; just get those lines down on paper.

STEP TWO

Jumping in with some quick logistics! There are so many ways to transfer your drawing to your fabric. For this exercise I would recommend drawing your work onto the fabric with a ballpoint pen—your stitches will ultimately cover the pen. If you are someone who fears that level of commitment I would recommend drawing with pencil, chalk, or drawing on the back of the fabric, but being mindful that you will still be stitching on the front while you look at the back for guidance. I am not going to recommend anything you need to buy for the transferring process, but I will leave this handy article here if you are wondering what other methods there are to transfer your art (or pattern art) to fabric:

<https://www.thesprucecrafts.com/markin-an-embroidery-pattern-on-fabric-1177380>

STEP THREE

Get the piece of cyanotype fabric you would like to work with. When you hold it in your hands reflect on the walk you took to forage for plants. Was any part of the wish you just made present on your walk? Think about more than just physical objects on your walk; maybe tie in how your wish makes you feel to any feelings you noticed while you were foraging. Use this to guide how you begin to arrange your shapes on the fabric itself. For instance—if I felt a sense of peace at the middle of my walk I might place the shape that represents peace near the center of my work.

STEP FOUR

Stitch your pattern. The easiest stitch to start with is a straight stitch which is created by bringing your thread up from the back of the fabric and then inserting your thread back into the fabric, any length away from where it came out. It is simple, but it has so many possibilities based on the SIZE of your stitch the DIRECTION you orient your stitches and the amount of SPACE you leave between stitches. You could stitch your entire design this way!

STEP FIVE

Stitch the patch to a piece of clothing so your magical wish can stay close to you. I like to stitch my wishes on jackets because that is something I wear a lot, and likely am going to wear when I get out into nature. You can also use your beautiful patch to mend a piece of clothing. It is fun to extend the lifecycle of a beloved shirt or pair of pants by patching it, and you will likely get lots of compliments on your original art if it is stitched visibly to something you like to wear!