

FINISH THAT STITCH #2 ©2024

Available Exclusively Thru Crazy Annie's Stitchin 2024 Club
Techniques, Tips & Tricks by Lois Mouriski Bear



Chapter Two – March/April 2024 – NYTT – Not Your Typical Tomato

- 9” square of Moda quilting cotton
- 5” square of freezer paper
- 4.5” square lime green felt
- #5 DMC 209 perle cotton
- Paper templates for tomato pieces
- “Box of Blooms” embellishments
- Ribbon Accent for tomato top: pink & mint ribbon, lime/white bakers twine

You will need long doll needle, sheer weight interfacing, button & carpet thread, sewing pins (I like quilting pins which are longer and have a big ball top so I can find them and grab them easily), poly stuffing, sharp embroidery needle (many in your Chapter #1 package) as well as usual sewing supplies and about a half cup of ground walnut shells if you wish to weight this cushion. Another **QUICK TIP** – if you have trouble grabbing the long needle (or any needle) because it's buried, you don't have the hand strength or it's just **STUCK** – any hobby store has very reasonably priced small needle nose pliers in the jewelry section – I have many pairs in my finishing supplies.

Cut 9” square of fusible sheerweight interfacing, with **shiny/bumpy side up** on ironing board, place fabric square **wrong side down** on shiny/bumpy side of interfacing. Hot iron on fabric side and bond interfacing to cotton fabric.

Circle template/tomato top template are on single sheet. Cut around solid line of circle, pin circle to fabric, cut out. Before working with the fabric circle, take template sheet and using a light box or the nearest window, lay the freezer paper piece shiny side down on template and trace the tomato top on freezer paper. Shiny side down, with a hot steamy iron, iron freezer paper template to the green felt. Now, **ANOTHER TIP** – easiest way to get good sharp points is to cut into **all** inverted “Vs” to their intersection and then cut from tip of leave points **into** the center inverted V that you have sliced to. It will give you incredibly sharp and precise points.

Thread up embroidery needle with a good length (36+ inches) button & carpet thread with a good nasty knot at the end – single strand in needle. Starting approximately 1/8” from the edge, knot on the wrong side, gathering thread around the outside edge of the circle – approximately 1/4” length stitches all around the circle ending at the originating knot, ending on right side.

If adding walnut shells – this is the time. I always weight my pincushions so they sit flat and solid and don't become cat toys. If no walnut shells, skip this section. If yes, lay the circle wrong side up on a flat surface and pour in about half a cup of walnut shells – then start pulling gathering thread and ease gathers to make a bowl shape. Once the bowl is formed, start adding poly fluff and using the metal chopstick provided in this kit and your fingers – stuff the fluff around all the edges of “bowl” and finally in the center. When it feels full – **cardinal rule** – always add more, especially in the center. Pull gathering thread and if need be – add more fluff to center. The circle “hole” after gathering and knotting off should be about an inch across.

Thread up long needle with purple perle cotton – knot in the end and anchor in the top gathering thread on a side of the hole – take a stitch across the other side and then back where you started and secure it but do not cut thread. This technique gives a solid base because you are now going to section the tomato. From top to bottom – go down thru the hole straight out thru the center bottom, back around to the top and back down thru the hole thru the same hole on the bottom. I have 6 sections in my tomato but if five works for you: no rules how many sections a tomato should have. You will end with the needle/thread sticking out the bottom – easy finish here – turn the needle around and go right back up from bottom to top this time and anchor off your final thread in the gathering

edge where you anchored originally. Stuff the left over perle into the hole. The “sectioning” really creates a crater in the top of your cushion – we’re going to take care of that next.

Grab green felt tomato cap and more fluff and about 10 pins. You are going to make a mound of fluff stuffing in the center of that hole – it will stick up a bit; you are going to cover the “hill” of fluff with the tomato cap. Stuff a wad of fluff in the hole so that it sticks up – you’re filling that crater and preventing that tomato cap from falling into the crater. Using pins – stick a pin at each inverted “V” and at each leaf point to hold cap in place while stitching it down. Thread doll needle with purple perle cotton, knotting end and starting with the inverted V first – work all the way around the “Vs” with a straight stitch (about .25”) from green felt into the fabric. Now, if you like French knots (I do) make a 2 wrap French knot at the point of every leaf. If French knots give you hives – use a straight stitch like you just did on the inverted Vs... either way will be terrific!

Decorating with bows and bakers’ twine: Finally thread up with perle cotton – and double it so you have 2 strands. Find the center of the green cap and go thru the wool and about .25” away – come up and then back thru original entry point and back out exit hole creating a thread loop that will secure your ribbons/twine. Layer pink and seafoam ribbons and tuck them under the perle cotton loop, stick a pin in the center of the ribbons to hold them in place. Grab ends of perle and pull hard securing ribbons. Tie a knot with the pink ribbon and another knot with green ribbon over the top of the first knot.

Don’t cut perle cotton –same perle cotton ties on bakers’ twine bow. Loop the bakers’ twine into 4 loops lay on bows and tie a very tight double knot. Cut ends about an inch long, put a knot in ends of bakers’ twine and trim then cut an inverted V in each of the ribbon ends – trimming to the length you wish.

The little white box holds 3 hand-made paper flowers to decorate your cushion...each combination is different and a surprise.

Remember – a few ideas – those old WIPs that you will never finish, a well loved quilt that is in bits and pieces, a favorite piece of fabric that isn’t big enough for anything much... these are all perfect tomato candidates...you can take that felt top template and reduce/enlarge it to match whatever size circle you start with... the world is your “tomato” so have fun and make wonderful things!!!

Hopefully – if the gods are smiling upon my head – there will be a PDF with pictures on my website – www.ladydotcreates.com with a title of Chapter Two before or right when you receive your kits.

Any questions – contact me at email below – put “Finish That Stitch” in the subject line so it doesn’t get lost in the insanity that is my life. See you all again in May will be a good teach too... and you just never know when an extra “treat” might be tucked inside your next chapter...

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