

**SMALL HIBISCUS PURSE
FROM KERI DESIGNS**

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MATERIALS NEEDED: #22 TAPESTRY NEEDLES

**OPTIONAL: BEADS AT PISTIL TIP, SWAROVSKI CRYSTALS OR FACETED BEADS ON
BACKGROUND**

River Silks Ltd. 100% silk, hand dyed ribbon

Information (877) 944-7444

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4MM	COLOR	SPOOLS	7MM	COLOR	SPOOLS
99	ODYE CREAM PUFF	1	189	BLACK	4
172	HUNTER GREEN	2	107	OVERDYE BUBBLEGUM	1
			225	LOBSTER BISQUE	1
			13MM	COLOR	SPOOLS
			170	BOYSENBERRY	2

BACKGROUND: Color 189

LEAVES: Color 172

CENTER: Color 225

PISTIL: Colors 225 and 99

PETALS: Colors 107 and 170

GENERAL PLANNING

You will use 4mm, 7mm and 13mm Silk Ribbon.

There is no need to ply the silk ribbon. You will want to work with 2 to 3 foot lengths of ribbon. The ribbon won't show wear so don't worry.

THREADING THE NEEDLE: Cut the ribbon on the diagonal. Insert point of the ribbon through the eye of the needle. Then insert the point of the needle through the ribbon cut end about 1/2" from the cut. Pull the long tail to secure the ribbon to the needle.

SECURING THE RIBBON TO THE CANVAS: We have chosen not to use an “away knot” as it is unnecessary with River Silks ribbon. **There is an easier way.** Bring the needle up through an empty hole where you want to begin. Pull the needle and ribbon through the canvas leaving about a one-inch tail of ribbon on the back of the canvas. With a finger press that tail flat against the canvas. Go back down through an adjacent hole passing through both the canvas and the ribbon tail. Try not to stitch through your finger! With your finger still pressing on the tail pull the needle and ribbon through the canvas and keep pulling until the ribbon is secure on the canvas. Check the back of the canvas to see that there are no loose ends. This is called the “Canvas Lock Stitch”.

HELPFUL HINTS: The ribbon does not need to be pulled tightly. Untwist the ribbon as you stitch and lay the ribbon with a laying tool to show the surface. Stitching style will affect the number of spools required. The “economy stitch” is quite acceptable if you are pleased with the look. With shorter stitches this is not always the best.

I RAN OUT OF RIBBON. NOW WHAT? When you need to add more ribbon to continue stitching or to change color or width of ribbon use this easy technique. Select your new piece of ribbon and secure it to a new needle using the “Needle Lock Stitch” described previously. On the wrong side of the canvas cut the ribbon you had been using (removing the old needle) leaving about a 1 1/2 inch tail. Hold that tail and pierce it with your new needle and ribbon very close to the surface of the canvas, keep pulling the new ribbon leaving another 1 1/2 inch tail. Put that tail over the next hole that you want to stitch and put the needle through that new tail and the canvas. Keep on pulling until secure. Turn the canvas to the right side and continue stitching. You may trim those tails to a half-inch as desired.

CANVAS MANAGEMENT

We like to say “It ain’t your grandma’s needlepoint anymore”. With modern fibers and equipment that is usually the case. With this canvas you’re likely to be nestled in an armchair with your stitching on your lap. There are no stretcher bars (although there are ways to use them with this project). So go ahead and stitch freehand for a new experience. Be careful not to stick yourself!

Stitching with a black ribbon on a black background is a challenge best avoided as designer Keri Duke discovered. After attempting a black on black canvas she switched to a white background for her hibiscus design. This works very nicely if you are careful with your stitch tension. This is just as important in needlepoint as it is in knitting. Keep your tension a bit on the loose side and coverage will be just fine. Should a bit of white canvas show through just put in another stitch right over the existing one for complete coverage.

This project is best done by stitching the background first. Later on you’ll want to have portions of the flower overlap the background for an effect like appliqué.

BACKGROUND: Stitch with SCOTCH STITCH over a 3 X 3 hole square. Start at the bottom edge and work up to the flower pattern. You can stitch the edges of the petals last to overlap the background.

GREEN LEAVES: These are stitched in a LEAF STITCH. First lay a rib down the center of the leaf with a straight stitch. Begin stitching the tip of the leaf working side to side and stitching into the rib. A covering rib can be stitched down the center of the leaf if desired. Petals will overlap the leaves.

CENTER : The deep center of the flower is done in a directional TENT STITCH or STRAIGHT STITCH radiating from the center and becoming longer.

PISTIL: Do either a long LAZY DAISY or a CHAIN STITCH wrapped with ribbon for the stamen. Use double wrapped FRENCH KNOTS or COLONIAL KNOTS in a contrasting color (99) for the tip of the pistil.

PETALS: Choose color 107 in 7mm for the beginning shading of the petals again using a directional TENT STITCH. Color 14 in 13mm is used for the outer petals with STRAIGHT STITCHES. Then end the petal with a longer RIBBON STITCH* to make the edges curled.

FINISHING: 1) Optional crystals can be attached to the background or faceted beads can be sewn in place.
2) BEADS can be sewn into the pistil example: 11/o size beads
3) SEW the canvas flap to the backing with hidden stitches around the edge.

HAVE FUN!

www.riversilks.com

ribbons@riversilks.com

* Come up through the canvas as though you were doing a six hole Satin Stitch. To go down the needle should pierce the ribbon before going through the canvas. Pull the ribbon through and you have a classic Ribbon Stitch which looks a lot like a pointy Satin Stitch. Do another Ribbon Stitch but this time keep the ribbon flat and don't pull tight as you come down through the ribbon and canvas. A needle or laying tool sometimes helps here. This leaves a little loop at the end which is the looped version of the ribbon stitch. Do another of these piercing the ribbon at the right hand edge. Note the different effect for the loop. Do the same piercing the left hand side. These are perfect stitches for many flowers.