Welcome to SAGA's Silk Ribbon Embroidery (SRE) Smock-Along!

Over the next four weeks we will be making the cover for a travel pack of tissues as pictured below.

Week 1- Silk ribbon basics; design layout and the spider rose.

Week 2 - Rosebuds and Forget-Me-Not

Week 3 - Leaves and Baby's Breath.

Week 4 - Construction of the case.

So let's get started.

Some things to remember with SRE:

• We do not knot the end of our ribbon

• Only work with 11" or less of ribbon (the ribbon gets worn).

• Your thumb and pressure are important "tools" as is the tension on the ribbon.

• If available you may find A to Z of Silk Ribbon Embroidery a great reference book. There's also visual help to be found on Pinterest and YouTube. I am only a Private Message or email (time4te@me.com) away.
Laying out your design:

We will be working with the 6" x 7" solid color piece of silk fabric (the outside fabric).

On one of the 6" edges find the middle point, which will be 3" from the side edges (the longer edge). Measure up 1 1/2" from that point and center a 2 1/2" x 1" rectangle. Do not mark with pencil but with basting thread. This marks our "canvas" area for our SRE.

In the center of your basted rectangle lightly mark a 3/8" circle, then one on either side of that giving you 3 circles.

Thread the #10 embroidery needle with one strand of floss the color of your rose and knot the end of the thread.
You are going to divide the circle like a pie into 5 sections with a fly stitch and a straight stitch.

**Threading the Needle with Ribbon:**

Thread the ribbon through the eye of the #26 crewel needle.

Pull through a couple of inches and pierce the ribbon end with needle point and pull ribbon back on needle. This locks your ribbon in place so it will not come unthreaded as you work.
Constructing the Rose:

Thread your #26 crewel needle with the darker of the rose colors. The rose will have the darker color in the center and the lighter on the outside.

From the back of the design bring your needle up in the center of your "pie".

Draw the ribbon up leaving about 1/4" tail to the back.

Make a tight French knot and take ribbon through to the back, piercing the 1/4" starting tail as you go.

Next bring your ribbon back through to the front. You will want to come up in the point of one of your pie wedges.

With the needle you are going to weave over one spoke then under the next, completely around the circle once with the darker ribbon.
Take the needle to the back and cut leaving a 1/4" tail.

Thread your #26 crewel needle with your lighter color.

Piercing the tail of the darker ribbon, bring your needle to the front of your work right where you left off with your darker color leaving a 1/4" tail of the lighter ribbon on the back of the work.

Continue to weave over and under with the lighter ribbon color until you have filled "the pie".
Take your needle the back, piercing the 1/4" Ighter tail you left earlier.

Cut the ribbon leaving a 1/4" tail. This tail will be secured as you stitch other flowers or when you use floss accents.

A hint about stitching the rose:

The inner petals are stitched with more tension than the outer.

As you weave the outer petals the ribbon will tend to curl a bit which gives the petals some definition. You want the ribbon tight enough so fabric does not show through, but not so tight that it's all packed together in a ball.

Visualize what a rose looks like. You may want to do a practice rose on a scrap of fabric.

Finish your three roses, grab a cup of tea, sit back and admire your work!

Remember, if you need help I'm a message or email away!

See you next week for rosebuds and forget-me-nots!

Happy stitching.
Wanda.
Welcome back for Week 2.

Hopefully everyone has returned 😊!

This lesson focuses on rosebuds and forget me nots.

(Please refer to the photo of the finished project above for placement of flowers).

**Rosebuds:**

There are several methods for making a rosebud, but this is my preferred method for making a closed rosebud. It's simply one lazy daisy stitch.

Thread your #26 crewel needle with the darker rose color silk ribbon.

Bring needle up at the place where you want the base of your rosebud to be. Remember to leave a 1/4" tail to the back.
Insert needle at the same point making sure to slightly catch the tail at the back but do not pull through. Bring needle point to front making that stitch as long as you want your rosebud to be. Again do not pull through.

As you wrap your ribbon between fabric and needle point be sure to watch your ribbon. Make sure the ribbon on the left of the needle shaft is laying flat as you wrap it under the needle point. The ribbon will bunch a little or even twist once and that's okay.

Now flatten the ribbon as you bring it down, laying flat to the right side of the needle. Pull through.

Insert the needle point a scant 1/8" up from where your needle came up, pulling through to the back of your work. You have looped over the tip of the bud tip. (Photo 4)
You have completed the base of your rosebud.

At this point (or later when you've completed all three of your rosebuds) thread the #10 embroidery needle with 2 strands of green floss.

Make a fly stitch around the base of the rosebud.

Then a straight stitch from base of the rosebud 1/2 to 2/3rds up the bud. Make sure the two sections slightly overlap as you pierce both ribbons and pull the floss to the back.

At the tip of your bud make an uneven fly stitch.
Give yourself a hand—you've made a pretty rosebud!

**Forget-Me-Not:**

The forget-me-nots for this project are made of 5 French knots (1 wrap).

Thread your #26 crewel needle with the blue silk ribbon and make your 5 French knots.

I've had students frustrated (myself included) with floppy French knots. The key to happy French knots and stitchers is that after you have wrapped the ribbon around your needle make sure the wrapped ribbon is tight against your base fabric. If wrap is sitting a little up the needle shaft you will end up with a floppy knot.

For the placement of the 5 knots you can mark 5 little dots so every French knot lands where you would like it to be. If you are into shortcuts like me, stitch 3 knots in a "Y" formation then stitch the last two French knots on either side of the "Y" tail.
To finish off the flower, using one strand of floss matching the color of the bead, stitch a bead in the center.

To secure the bead I like to bring the needle up through the center of the flower.

Thread one bead onto the needle and then onto the floss.

Take the needle to the back, making the bead sit in the center of the flower.

Then I like to bring the needle back up to the front, pass through the bead again and then take the needle to the back and tie off.

![Image of completed flower](image.png)

We have now completed Lesson 2.

Have a great week and we'll see you next time!!

Wanda.
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Lesson 3

This week we will stitch our leaves and Baby's Breath, adding beads if you would like a little bling.

Please refer to the photo of the finished case for placement.

Remember that tension and thumb pressure will be important when making leaves.

Leaves:
Begin by threading your chenille #24 needle with your green ribbon.

Bring ribbon to the front of your work leaving 1/4" tail at the back.
Where ribbon comes out of your fabric you may need to take the needle shaft and "tease" it flat.
Lay ribbon flat but not tight against fabric and pierce ribbon with the needle.

As you pull ribbon to the back, tightly hold the leaf with your thumb close to the point of entry then pull through.

Pull till you have a nice point on your leaf.
You can make a single or three leaf group as your space allows.

Now thread the embroidery needle with 2 strands of matching floss and come up at the base of the leaf. Pierce the leaf 3/4 way up towards tip to form the leaf vein. This also secures the leaf as well as catches the tails on back to secure.
To make a shaped leaf:
For straight leaf, as just taught, pierce in the middle of the ribbon.

To shape the leaf, pierce in the left or right edge and leaf tip will roll in that direction.

Baby's Breath:
You may want to tuck a couple branches of baby's breath in your design as I have.

With one thread of green floss make a series of fly/feather stitches or some random straight stitches, then randomly add a few beads. Please refer to the photo of the finished case for placement.

Now your design is complete and we'll see you next week to finish your case.
Happy stitching!!

Wanda.
Welcome to SAGA's Silk Ribbon Embroidery (SRE) Smock-Along!

Welcome back for the last lesson- Lesson 4.

Today we will assemble your case!

Make piping with the plaid bias strip(s) and piping cord.

Trim seam allowance to ¼ inch.

On the 6” edge, where you have finished your embroidery and using 6 ½ inches of the piping, lay the piping piece on right side of fabric aligning raw edges and stitch 1/4” seam.
Lay one of the plaid lining pieces on top and again stitch 1/4” seam.

Repeat on the opposite 6 inch edge of fabric

You will have a rectangle stitched on the two short sides and open on both longer sides.

Turn right side out and press being careful not to press the silk ribbon embroidery.

Lay on cutting mat and using a ruler and rotary cutter trim to square up the ends.
Measure down 1 1/4" from the piped edge on the end without the embroidery and mark both sides with a pin.

Fold up, right sides together and pin.

Bring the opposite piped edge up so both piped edges meet. Pin. You now have a tube that's pinned on both edges.
Sew a 1/4" seam on each edge and then trim and zig zag.

To make corners, working on the wrong side, refer to photo below.

Fold as in photo and sew 1/4" seam securely.

Repeat for all four corners.
Press corners and turn to the right side and you are done!!

If you are enrolled in SAGA's Artisan program, (and I hope you all are), send me an email (time4te@me.com) with your information and photo of completed case by May 1 to receive your Artisan points.

Thank you for participating and I hope you will continue to enjoy silk ribbon embroidery!!!

Wanda DeWitt