

Materials List -

Here's what I used but of course you can make your own substitutions.

DMC embroidery floss:

310 black - whiskers

445 yellow - flower centers

453 gray - body outline

905 green - carrot leaves

906 - flower leaves

971 orange - carrot

3705 pink - flowers

3708 pink - flowers

embroidery needles

5" hoop

scissors

9" narrow ribbon - I used silk

100% cotton fabric to trace or print the rabbit on - see inside for more on this

optional - acrylic spray

coloring :

black micron pigma pen marker

orange, green, and pink color pencils

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Heisler's ♥ Creative Stitches



April Stitch - a - long
Spring Rabbit

Since you are printing this pattern I thought I'd let you know how it should be printed. First think how a book is printed. That's how this pattern is meant to be. Pages will be printed on both sides of the paper.

For right now forget about the page numbers at the bottom of the directions. Instead pay attention to the numbers of each page the PDF file shows. That would be a total of 8 sheets of paper IF you printed each but you don't want to do that! Printing it correctly means you should have 3 pages printed front and back and 1 or 2 pages just printed front.

Here's how the pattern should be printed:

Page 1 (Cover) will have this page (2) on the other side.

Page 3 will have page 4.

Page 5 will have page 6.

Pages 7-8 are the pattern pages so they are printed one side only. You may want to print a few copies of them.

Disclaimer:

I have edited the copyright free drawing of the rabbit. It is from a Dover Publication book. I recommend their books for copyright free drawings and pictures. I've found some pictures on the net that say they are copyright free but after doing some research find they aren't. Dover makes them safe to use at a good price.

So this means that although the original drawing of the rabbit is copyright free, what I've done with it is not. The embroidery design is my own. I have not knowingly copied anyone else's work.

If you want to make the embroidery to sell it's ok with me as long as you follow these few rules:

1. Please put a hang tag on the design stating that it is my pattern. Changing a few things does not make it your design. I encourage you to experiment with different trims but don't try to pass it off as your design. Be honest!

example: Made by your name
From a Heisler's Creative Stitchery Pattern

2. You can't hire people to make them for you to sell. You may only sell as many as you can make. If you can make 100 or more on your own a month, that's fine. Please don't hire people to help you make them so you can sell even more.

Please be kind and follow these 2 rules. There are designers out there who don't want you selling anything you make from their designs. I'm more realistic, I know many of you are looking for things to make to sell online, at craft shows, and in consignment shops. Have fun with the pattern but don't claim it as your own design.

Keep on Sewing!
Billie

You can buy a small catalog for \$1.00 printed or free as a PDF to see all of my patterns. Contact me using the email or house address on the cover.

Look for my crochet, tatting and sewing patterns for sale at Esty (1creativestitches), Patternmart (Billie Heisler), Ebay (creativestitches), and my web site.

Thank so much!
Billie

5. Cut a 1” piece of ribbon. Tuck the ends under and sew at the neck. I only tacked the ends. You might want to do French knots down the ribbon to hold it in place. Tie the rest of the ribbon into a bow and sew over one of the ends of the 1” piece of ribbon. I preferred it at the back of the rabbit so I could put a flower at the front. You may prefer to switch them.

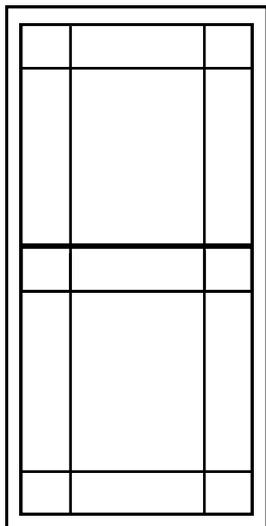
6. This step is optional. You can add some color to the inside of the ears, the carrot, even the carrot leaves.

You can also color in the eye with a pencil or marker like I did.

7. Also optional is to add seed beads, charms, or other beads to embellish the finished piece.



Now you can decide what you’ll do with it. Think about turning it into an Easter card for someone you know who will love it. Do you know someone who collects rabbits? Sew it to a pre-made tote bag for a perfect gift.



As for me I’ll be doing it in a wall hanging to put on my door for the spring season. This is how I plan on sewing 2 together for the wall hanging. I think I’ll use a big ribbon to hang it. It might be fun to add small foam or wood eggs hanging from the bottom or clustered at the ribbon. I found some foam carrots I think I’ll add, too :)



up for sale at my Etsy store.

Welcome to the first design in my stitch-a-long. I hope you will enjoy working on the projects I’ll be putting here on my blog each month. I plan on doing one design per month till next March. They will be free until March 31, 2020. After that I will combine them into one large PDF file and put it

For this first pattern I decided to do simple embroidery but you can do whatever you like. Brazilian, silk ribbon, and bullion stitch embroideries would also work. I also chose to only outline the rabbit body but go ahead and fill it in if you want to!

If you look at the photo below you can see that the one on the left is slightly smaller than the one on the right. You should be able to change the size when you print the rabbit pattern with your printer settings. I printed directly on the fabric. You can do this or trace the pattern. You’ll find tips on the next page. Ok, let’s get started :)



The stitches you need to know-

I don't give directions on how to make the embroidery stitches. There are many books, web sites, and videos where you can learn how to make them if you are a beginner.

back stitch - the rabbit and carrot (Use very short stitches)

lazy daisy - the flowers and leaves

French knots - centers of the flowers

Getting the pattern on fabric & tips -

1. You have a choice to make. Will you trace the pattern on the fabric or use your printer to print directly on the fabric?

I printed on the fabric by cutting a piece of freezer paper the same size as the paper I use in the printer. I then ironed it onto the fabric, let it cool, then cut the fabric along the edge of the paper. Next I put it in the paper tray, making sure I had the correct side up, and printed the pattern. I have a Canon printer and have had no trouble printing on fabric. There are packages of fabric ready to be printed on but I prefer to do it myself.

One thing I do because I've found the ink will run out into the fabric when wet is to spray the printed fabric with an acrylic spray. I learned this the hard way when I decided to put lightweight interfacing on the back of the fabric. It had to be steamed to get it to stick and the steam caused the ink to creep into the fabric as this picture shows. Now I always lightly spray the fabric. Another bonus is that the fabric becomes a little stiff so no need for the interfacing.

Tip: You may want to make 2 or more sheets for printing in case of mistakes.



4. Note that I used 2 colors for the flowers. Use as many or few as you want. Use 2 strands of floss for the embroidery. There are 3 circles at the ears. Make 3 lazy daisy flowers here. Fill the centers with 445 yellow French knots. You can use seed beads instead. Add leaves where you want them using 906 green.

Before you do the flower at the neck you can sew on the ribbon or wait until step 5.

Finish with the flowers and leaves at the bottom.



Let's Embroider!

1. Start with the rabbit. Use 2 strands of DMC 453 gray to do a back stitch. Follow the pattern lines. Don't do the circles. These are marks for the flowers.

Use 1 strand to outline the eye with a very short back stitch.

Tip: If you are using the black printed rabbit you may want to increase the amounts of threads to cover the ink.



2. Use one strand of 310 black for the back stitched whiskers and French knots in the nose/mouth area.

3. For the carrot use 2 strands of 971 orange to back stitch the outline and short lines inside the carrot.

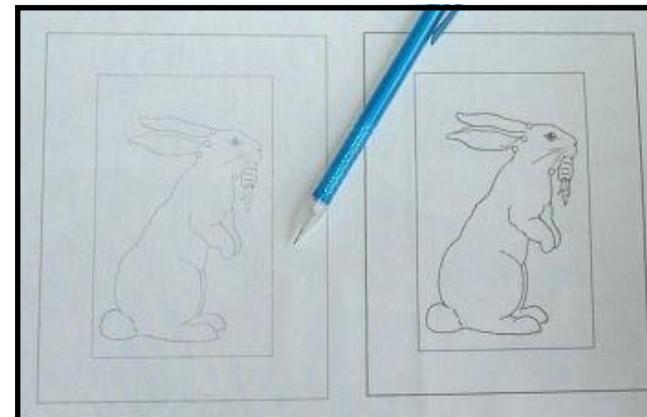
For the leaves use 1 strand of 905 green to back stitch the leaves.

If you decide to trace the pattern onto your fabric I suggest you use a fine tip permanent marker like the Micron pigma pens. Don't use one that will run if wet. There are pens that wash away and ones that fade but I've never had any luck with these so I can't suggest any brands.

When I trace patterns I tape the pattern to a window then tape the fabric over it. I don't have a light box so this is an easy substitution.

2. Now you need to decide what size you want the rabbit to be. Hopefully your printer has a setting that allows you to choose the size. You may even be able to print a series of small ones on one sheet of fabric.

3. I've included the rabbit pattern in black and in gray so you can choose which you prefer. The smaller rabbit in the photo on page 1 is black while the larger one is gray. I prefer the light gray because it blends better with the gray floss I used.



4. I printed 2 of the rabbits on the fabric, one gray and one black. I like that I don't have much waste fabric but this leaves me with the problem of it being too small for the embroidery hoop I like to use.

My solution is to baste strips of fabric around the edges to widen the piece. Removal is easy if you use long basting stitches.



More Tips -

1. I use a round 5" hoop but use what works for you. Stretcher bars would be great, too. No hoop marks. Don't leave the fabric in the hoop if you don't do all the embroidery at one time. This can make the hoop marks harder to iron out and stretch the fabric.

2. I used DMC floss because it's what I have. The same for the silk ribbon at the rabbit's neck. Maybe you'd like a lace "collar" instead of ribbon. Have fun with the pattern and do what you like. I used colors that matched the fabric in the photos. These are 2 of the ones I'll be using when I make my wall hanging.

3. The pattern has 2 frame lines around it. I did this so you can sew fabric along the lines quilt style, sew on trims, or even embroider on them. They will also help you cut out the rabbit. I plan on embroidering a second rabbit and then bordering them with fabric to make a small wall hanging.

4. You can color in the eye, carrot, and the inside of the ear or not. I used colored pencils and a pigma pen but you may prefer people make-up. Think about what you plan to use and if you will want to be able to wash it.

5. Instead of the yellow floss to make French knots you could use small beads. Sew some clear ones among the flowers to look like dew.

You'll find more tips through out the rest of the directions.

