FLOWERS in SPRING

Tennyson may have said "In the spring a young man's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of love," but for the rest of us, spring brings thoughts of something else: a fresh and clean start! With this tutorial, we'd like to help you freshen up by offering your dining room a new wardrobe, complete with floral designs and monograms, that you can customize for your home and family. This project is also great gift for a house warming or a spring wedding.

Materials:

Corel DRAWings

CorelDRAW Clipart CD (CD 2)

Enough cloth to make the Tablecloth and Napkins. (See below for measurements)

Thread to complete the project

Stabilizer to complete the project

In Advance:

Install the Flemish_.ttf (Flemish Script) font from CD 3 to your fonts folder. See the Windows Help files under "To add a new font to your computer" for instructions.

Measuring the Table Cloth & Napkins:

1. Measure the length and width of your table. Be sure to differentiate between the two measurements with "L" and "W."
2. Determine the desired "drop" or overhang of the tablecloth. This is the length of the tablecloth that hangs over the table edge.
   - Casual or everyday tablecloths: the drop is 10-12" or about above the chair seat.
   - Formal dining tablecloths: the drop is 16-24".
   - Floor-length tablecloths: the tablecloth reaches to within 1/2" of the floor (about 28-29").
3. Double the drop and add to both the length and width.
4. Napkins can be from 12" to 16" square.
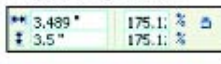5. Finish the edges and corners of all pieces.

Napkins:

For the napkins, we are going to create a customized monogram using both a floral design and an initial. You may choose to use the first initial of each member of the family, or the first letter of your family surname. Of course, you can add multiple initials if you choose, but for this project, we will only be using one.

1. Open Corel DRAWings. From the **New Design** dialog, select **Create New**. Click **Next**.
2. From the **Artwork Source** dialog, select **New CorelDRAW Graphic**. Click **Next**.
3. From the **Fabric** dialog, select the fabric you will be using. We are using a light-weight cotton for that 'spring fresh' feel.

4. Select the color you will be using from the Color selection palette. If you don't see your color, simply double click on any color on the palette to open the **Color** dialog. You can then select your color from there.
5. Click **OK.**

We are going to be using some clipart to start our design. The beauty of Corel DRAWings is that it allows us to edit the clipart to get just the right look.

6. Click the **Import** button [icon] on the toolbar .
7. From the CorelDRAW Clipart CD (CD 2), browse to **Clipart/Flowers**.
8. We will be using flowers from series **G0474268.cdr** to **G0474286.cdr** (9 different flowers in all). Select one that appeals to you. For this project we suggest selecting a different flower for each napkin
9. We will continue this project using **G0474269.cdr**. Select it and click **Import**. Hit **ENTER** to center the image.
10. Resize the image to make it larger using the Property bar. Ensure that the image is selected by clicking on it.
11. Ensure that the **Non-proportional Scaling/Sizing Ratio** button is locked (it looks like a padlock and for this step it should be LOCKED). This will force the height and width of the object to remain in the same proportion, regardless of how it is resized.
12. For these exercises, we are going to resize all of our flowers to **3.5"** in height. Type **3.5** in the height box and hit **ENTER** to set it.
13. From the **Zoom** drop down box, select **To Fit,** so that you can view the entire diagram.
14. There is too much detail for our purposes, so we are going to simplify this image. Click the **Ungroup** button [icon] in the **Property** bar to separate the objects.
15. Click in a blank area to deselect the image, then select only the background pattern. Hit the **Delete** key to remove it.
16. This image has some interesting shading in it, which looks great for print, but for this project we will need to eliminate the shading to create solid color areas.
17. Using the **Zoom tool** [icon] from the toolbox, focus in on one of the larger flowers. You will see two color shades making up the flower.

18. Hit the **SPACEBAR** to switch to the **Pick** tool.
19. Click on the inside color to select it.
20. Hold down the **SHIFT** key and click on the outside color (not the black border) to add it to the selection.
21. On the **Property** bar, select the Weld button to create a single object out of both colors. The entire flower will change to a single color.
22. With the flowers still selected, on the **Property** bar click the **Break Apart** button to make each flower a separate item.
23. Now repeat steps 19 - 22 for the leaves, stems, and any other flowers in the image

The clipart includes a large black area that serves as a border over which all of the other piece lie. This is intended for printing, but when used for embroidery, it will cause entire image to first be stitched in black, then all of the other colors stitched on top. We'll need to eliminate this black area and create borders of our own.

24. Select the black area using the **Pick tool**. Hit **DELETE** to remove it.
25. **Zoom to Fit**. Use **CTRL + A** to select all of the pieces of the image.
26. Click the **Outline tool** to open the **Outline Flyout**. Select a **1 point** outline for the entire image.
27. Click the **Stitch** tab to view your progress.
28. Depending on the flower you selected, you may have some extra pieces that were not visible on the white page background. You will be able to see them in the **stitch** view. To remove them, click on the **DRAW** tab to return to the graphic, select the piece you want to remove and delete it.
29. If necessary, click on the **DRAW** tab.
30. Now it's time to add the Monogram. For this exercise, we are going to use **Flemish Script** for its sweeping curves and flowing lines. You can, of course, vary the font you use for each of the monograms.
31. Select the **Text tool** and click in a blank area on the page. Type the initial you wish to use for this Napkin. Click the **Pick** tool to select the letter.

32. With the letter selected, use the **Font** drop down list to select the **Flemish Script** font. Change the **Size** to **200**.
33. Reposition the letter so that it intertwines with the flower design.
34. Click on the **Stitch** Tab to view your progress.

For this design we started with all of the items as Step stich then modified the Letter and the Stems of the flower to Satin stitch.
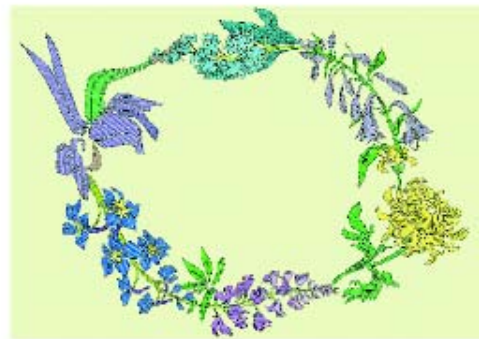
35. Use **CTRL + A** to select all of the objects.
36. Click the **Step stitch** button to change all of the objects.
37. Click on the letter and select **Satin stitch**. Click on each of the stem parts and select satin stitch.
38. When you are satisfied with your design, select **File/Save As** from the menu bar and change the **Save as Type** to match your machine.

The Table Cloth:

The table cloth design is created by using the flowers (without initials) as described above. The final layout is up to you. We have stitched it in the center of the tablecloth.

For the following example we used six different flowers, all resized to 6 inches in height and sewn, one by one, in a circular pattern. You can choose to use a single flower motif, or include a large monogram in the center. Design anything you like!

To accommodate most machines, we recommend stitching each flower and then resetting the hoop to the following position after each flower. Above all, we hope you have a great time doing this project!

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