

## Folded Fabric Ornaments

(directions provided by quilt guild from Warner Robbins, GA)

Supplies:

4 squares of fabric ( 2 times bigger than finished ornament, pin, pillow, etc.)

Matching thread

2 beads, buttons ( depending on what size you're making)

10" length of ribbon ( for hanging ornament)

Working with one square of fabric at a time, steps 1-15 will be completed on each of the four squares of fabric.

1. Thread needle with matching thread and knot end.
2. Place fabric square in front of you, wrong side up. Fold the square in half, from top to bottom, matching Corners. Finger press a crease in the fold.
3. Open square back up, and turn  $\frac{1}{4}$  turn. The crease you made should be going from top to bottom. Again Fold the square in half, from top to bottom,, matching corners. Finger press a crease in the fold.
4. Open square back up. You now have creases that run perpendicular to each other, crossing at the center of The square. Fold top raw edge of the square down to the horizontal crease. Hold in place.
5. Starting on the side closest to you, insert threaded needle and take a small stitch through both layers at the Center of the square (where the creases meet).
6. Fold the bottom raw edge of the square up to the horizontal crease. Hold in place.
7. Take s small stitch through both layers at the center of the square.
8. Turn fabric piece  $\frac{1}{4}$  turn. Pull back the top two corners of the fabric square so that the vertical crease is Visible. Fold the top edge down, meeting the crease to the center of the square . Hold in place.
9. Take a small stitch through both layers at the center of the square.
10. Repeat steps 8 & 9 with bottom two corners.
11. This step is much easier once you've seen it demonstrated. Set the fabric piece down, with the raw Edges facing up. Pull the loose corners up out of the way. Finger press the folds by sliding a finger and thumb Along the folds on adjacent sides, creating a new "corner". Pinch at this new corner to set the creases. Repeat along all four folds to form a smaller base square with the four flaps of the original corners Standing up.
12. Working with one flap at a time, open the flap while bringing the raw edges of the one original corner to the Center of the square. Take a small stitch at the center to hold in place. Repeat with the 3 remaining flaps.
13. Knott off the thread on the top side of the fabric piece.
14. You now have a folder square approximately 3" ( if you started with a 6" square) with 4 smaller squares Folded on top. Finger press the new folds to crease.
15. Working with one of the smaller squares at a time, fold in the 2 free corners to the center of this smaller Square and take a small stitch or two through all thickness to hold in place. It will form a dimensional Triangle shape, similar to a swaddled baby. Repeat with the 3 remaining smaller squares . It's not necessary To knot off the thread until all 4 corners have been stitched down. One unit is complete.
16. Repeat steps 1-15 on your remaining three fabric squares so that you have four units. Decide which color Fabric you would like to be the centers of your ornament and which will be the background. Set aside the Background units.
17. Working with one of these two remaining units at a time, place the unit with the folded side down and the Smooth side up.

18. Thread your needle with matching thread and knot. Bring needle up from the back through the center to the Top side. Insert your needle into the fabric at one corner, catching just the top layer of fabric and pull through. Insert the needle back through the center of the square. Fold in the corner and pull up the thread so that the tip Of the corner meets the center of the square. Bring the needle up through the square so it is again on the top Of the unit.
19. Repeat step 18 on the four remaining corners. This completes a center unit. Repeat steps 17 & 18 to Complete the second center unit.
20. Hold one background unit with the folds and raw edges facing you. Place a center unit on top of the background unit so that the raw edges of the two units meet. Using thread that matches your center unit, Insert the needle from the back of the background unit through the center of both the background and Center units. Slide a bead onto your needle and down the thread to the fabric, and then insert the needle back Through the center of both units. Take another stitch or two through the bead to secure in the center of both Units. Take another stitch or two through the bead to secure in place. End with the needle on the back side And knot off.
21. This forms a motif with the center unit on point.
22. To keep them from shifting, and to keep the raw edges hidden, the center and background units must be Tacked in place with small stitches taken at each of the triangular folds and near the corners of the center Units. Hold the background slightly away from the center unit so that you can see where your stitches will be Going. The idea is make stitches that do not show from the front. Again using thread that matches your Center unit, bring the needle up from the back of the background at a point near the raw edges of one of the Folds With the needle take a bit into the center unit near the raw edges of the corresponding fold. Before Pulling the needle all the way through, check from the front that the stitch doesn't show on the front. Push The needle back through the background to the back side. Bring the needle up from the back near the corner Of the center unit. With the needle, take a bite into the center unit near the corner, catching only the first layer Of fabric. Insert the needle back through the background unit. Repeat this process to stitch the other three folds And corners. It isn't necessary to knot off the thread between these stitches, just don't pull the thread too Tight and distort the motif.
23. Repeat steps 20 - 22 to complete the second motif.
24. Fold ribbon in half and knot the ends together. Lay the ribbon diagonally on the wrong side of one motif, With the knot at the center and the folded end extending out over one corner. Thread needle with thread Matching your background unit. Tack the ribbon in place at the knot and at the corner, with several stitches, Making sure not to go all the way through to the front.
25. Place your second motif on the first, with the wrong sides together. The ribbon will be sandwiched in between. Keep the folded end of the ribbon free, as this will be your ornament hanger.
26. Using thread that matches your background fabric, stitch the two motifs together using your favorite Method of blind stitching.

\*These directions are meant as a supplement to the class and will hopefully jog your memory when you decide to Give this technique another try. Without the demonstration, these may not be enough to master this technique. Feel free to take pictures of the samples in class. I also suggest to the students that they make samples of each step to keep for future reference.

The basic motifs can be made in any other size you choose. Start with a fabric square twice the size of the desired Finished motif. Other than ornaments, these motifs can be used as appliqués, pin cushions, sachets, or Embellishments on purses, totes, and hats. As single motifs they aren't washable as in. The exposed raw edges will ravel. To use as an embellishment, I suggest adding a pin back and removing for laundering, or sewing a square of felt on the back to cover the raw edges.