

HOW TO MAKE A FISHY NEEDLEPOINT CUSHION:

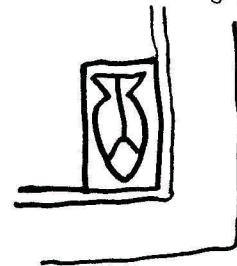
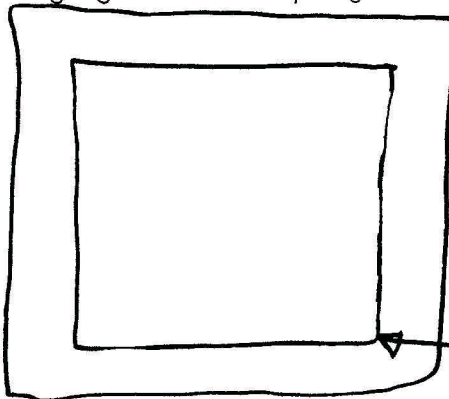
You'll need

A piece of 10-hole needlepoint canvas at least a good 5cm larger all round than your finished cushion.

Assorted tapestry wool and a blunt tapestry needle

Backing fabric and polyester stuffing

A tiny fishy cushion measures approx 21.5cm x 19cm when finished, while a larger, more conventional size measures approx 33 x 35cm. The size of the cushion can be increased by simply adding more borders. You're going to begin stitching in the bottom right hand corner. Work out roughly where the outer edges of your cushion will be on the canvas. Lightly mark it out with a very pale highlighter or felt tip if you like.



start stitching here

Work the first fish as shown. Now that's in place it's easy to work out the position of the others in this simple repeat design.

Once a few rectangles of the design are in place you can see clearly where the outer edges of the cushion actually are. The pattern looks even better with an edging of one or more colours. It frames the design very effectively. Once the needlepoint's finished you simply make up a cushion in the usual way. Use any backing fabric you have to hand, and don't shy away from a patterned material. The backing doesn't have to be plain or dull. Let it be as lively as your fishes.

These cushions are very hard wearing. If you need to wash them just remove the stuffing and gently handwash. Part of the beauty of needlepoint is the way it ages and colours gently fade, so don't get too precious about it.

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(You're welcome to make up this cushion for your own personal use, but - please - not for commercial sale.)