



INSPIRE

ONLINE CRAFT & DECORATING MAGAZINE

EDITION 8
DECEMBER
2008

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FROM THE EDITOR....

We knew it was on its way, but it is officially here. December. Its time for the Christmas Parties, the chaotic trips to the shopping centre and the initial thoughts of what Christmas lunch might look like...also time to finalise Christmas letters for family and friends, and seasonal decorating.

This edition of Inspire is packed full of Christmas projects and ideas. We have a lovely Christmas card project by Alisa Tilsner to share with you, we finish our Christmas Block of the Month, offer another giveaway, provide you with some quick and simple decorating ideas, and much much more.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our readers and contributors for their support during our first 8 months of Inspire. We'd like to wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May 2009 be full of special times, good memories, and lots and lots of craft.

Merry Christmas...

*Nicole & the team at
Inspire Online Magazine*



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INSPIRE IN 2009...

Well we are up to Edition No 8 of Inspire already...I hope you have enjoyed reading it as much as I have enjoyed publishing it for you. 2009 is set to be very exciting...

One of the biggest changes for 2009 will be the addition of a BLOG for Inspire...

Readers will be able to participate in Polls, automatically enter competitions by leaving a comment.... share photos of finished Inspire projects for all readers to see, sign up to live feeds so you don't miss out on any news...plus much much more...

This is very exciting news...you won't want to miss out.

Inspire Online
BLOG ...

Inspire Subscription Service

Inspire Online is a FREE Magazine for download. But we have had some requests from readers for a subscription option.

Subscribing to Inspire means you will receive the magazine in your Inbox every month rather than having to download it from our website. This is a great gift for someone you want to Inspire, and is now available starting with the January 08 Edition. Subscribers will also be emailed projects in separate patterns, and special offers from time to time.

12 months subscription only \$19.95
Second Subscription (eg. Gift) \$15.95

Please [email](#) us for Form.

From January 2009 onwards we will be including a Business feature each month. There will be tips on running your business, tricks of the trade, articles on general business related topics, and much more.

If you are in the Business of supporting Businesses, or offering Business services, and would like to contribute to this section please email us we'd love to hear from you.

Inspire
Business
Feature

Continued page 7...

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CHRISTMAS CARD PROJECT...



'Season of Joy'
Designed by Alisa Tilsner
'Stampin Up' Demonstrator
Copyright 2008

You Will Need

- Season of Joy Stamp Set
- Always Artichoke Inkpad
- Purely Pomegranate Inkpad
- Holiday Harmony Designer Paper
- River Rock Card
- Always Artichoke Card
- Purely Pomegranate Card
- Whisper White Card
- Stylised Silver Hodgepodge
- 1" Circle Punch
- Sponges
- SNAIL
- Dimensionals

*Season
Of Joy*

Instructions

1. Cut the following sizes in your cardstock
 - River Rock 250mm x 125mm
 - River Rock 75mm x 80mm
 - Purely Pomegranate 65mm x 70mm
 - Purely Pomegranate 55mm x 85mm (x2)
 - Always Artichoke 80mm x 85mm
 - Always Artichoke 115mm x 30mm
 - Whisper White 60mm x 65mm
 - Whisper White Scraps
 - Designer Paper Purely Pomegranate 50mm x 65mm (x2)
 - Designer Paper Always Artichoke 110mm
2. Stamp the following:
 - Word stamp onto Whisper White with PP
 - Tree stamp onto Whisper White with AA

*Continued
Page 7.*



SHORTBREAD RECIPE...

Serves 24

Ingredients

225g Softened Butter

225g Plain Flour

115g Rice Flour

115g Castor Sugar

Pinch Salt

Instructions

1. Preheat oven to 150 deg
2. Sift dry ingredients together.
3. Add softened butter and mix together with hands until well blended.
4. Sprinkle some flour on a chopping board and flatten dough with hands until approx 1cm thick
5. Cut dough with cookie cutters and place onto a tray.
6. Bake in the oven for 35 minutes.
7. Cool on the tray for 10 minutes then place on a wire rack until cold to touch.



FREE CHRISTMAS PROJECT...SEASON OF JOY ...CONT

- Snowflake onto Whisper White with PP – Punch out with 1" circle punch
3. Sponge around the following:
 - Designer Paper PP with PP Ink
 - Designer Paper AA with AA Ink
 4. Layer the following
 - Season of Joy onto PP then onto RR, then onto AA
 - Designer Paper PP onto PP
 - Designer Paper AA onto AA
 5. Fold the River Rock card in half.
 6. Place the PP Designer Paper side by side on towards the top of the card front
 7. Place the AA Designer Paper underneath the PP so that all sides form a square.
 8. Place the Season of Joy panel in the centre of the card.
 9. Use dimensionals to attach the Tree to the left hand side of the Season of Joy panel.
 10. Attach a silver star brad.
 11. Place the snowflake at the bottom right hand corner of the Season of Joy panel.
 12. Attach a round silver book plate over the snowflake.
- NB: In my card, the backs of the brads are being seen on the inside of the card, if you do not like this look, simply use an insert to cover it.



New 'Stamps by Mail' Subscription Program begins December.
See Alisa's BLOG for details..

www.alisatilsner.com



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INSPIRE IN 2009...CON'T

Yes you heard it right. We will be opening a new Online Store for Inspire Online readers. You will be able to purchase subscriptions, kits of projects featured in Inspire, certain supplies used in our published projects, and specials from our advertisers, all in the one stop shop.

More on this in the new year.

Inspire
Official Online
Store ...

Inspire Online Bi-Monthly Embellishment Club..

In 2009, Inspire Online will be offering an Embellishment Club. Every two months you could be receiving a parcel in the mail filled with colorful embellishments sourced from across the world. You can either choose from Fabric Craft or Paper Craft options allowing us to cater for your preferred craft style.

Parcels will contain items such as ribbons, ric racs, buttons, stickers, brads and much more. Value of parcels will be around \$50.00.

Mail outs will be \$39.95 every two months.

We will be taking sign ups for this in the new year so stay tuned for more details.

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'Happy Handmade Christmas' Card Range

Happy
Handmade
Christmas



There is no
better
way to
celebrate
the year,
than with
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Handmade One...

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Handmade
Christmas



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\$7.95 each download.

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A Christmas Handmade

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GIVEAWAYS..



Congratulations to
S Palms and C Tanner
On winning last
months competition.
The Christmas Star
Candle Holder is on its
way to you!

Garden of Dreams Quilt, Runner & Cushion Pattern

Quilt 30.5 x 55 in
Runner 31 x 11.5 in
Cushion 15 x 15 in

Win one of three 'Garden of Dreams' Patterns valued at \$16.95 AU simply by emailing us with which of the three included projects you like the most. This Pattern includes templates and instructions to make the Quilt, Runner and Cushion. Email admin@inspireonlinemagazine.com with your name, address and favorite item.

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SEWING PROJECT prairie Houses CUSHION



What you will need:

- Embroidery Thread DMC 815
- Embroidery Needle, Hoop (optional)
- 1 x Fat Quarter Printed Fabric
 - Fusible Webbing
 - Polyester Stuffing
 - Sewing Cotton

Instructions

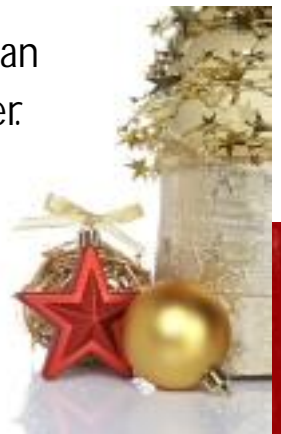
We have chosen red embroidery thread for this stitchery, however you may wish to change the colour of the thread or use a whole selection of multiple colours this is entirely up to you.

A reproduction vintage print was used in a dusty pink wide stripe. There are so many amazing fabrics to choose from these days, so choose one that suits your home & style.

FABRIC AGING

You may wish to age your fabric. Choose a method you are familiar with. I personally prefer to use parisian essence in warm tap water. However tea bags work well also. Use approx 8 tea bags in 1 litre of hot water. Let the fabric soak until you get a colour your happy with. Dry & press with a warm iron.

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BLOGS...

Are you a reader with a craft related BLOG? In January, we want to celebrate the international readership of this magazine, and feature your blog for our readers to check out. We'll feature a list of BLOG's and let our readers go on a craft tour around the world.

Simply email us with your BLOG's address during the month of December. Share the news about Inspire by featuring a link to the magazine, or by displaying our banner which is available from our website. The banner can be emailed to you on request.

STITCHING INSTRUCTIONS

- Use 2 strands of embroidery thread for the entire stitchery.
- Follow the directions below using the stitches quoted.
- If you're unsure with any of the stitches refer to the stitch guide provided.
- DMC NO: 815
- The majority of the stitching is done using back stitch.
- Use this stitch for the houses, roofs, doors, hill, stars, windows, trees, borders etc.
- Use french knots for the door handles.
- Use running stitch for the inside border.

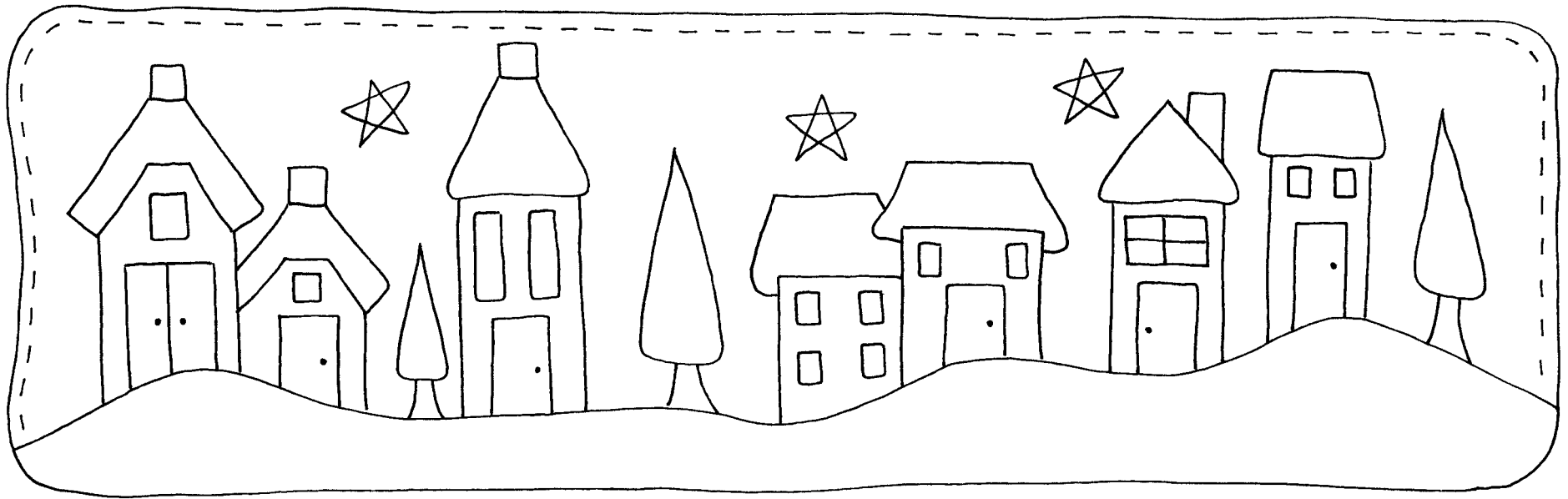


PILLOW ASSEMBLY

- Once all the stitching is complete press the stitchery to remove any creases. Ensure it's nice & flat. Do the same with the fat 1/4 of printed fabric.
- From the fat 1/4 cut 2 rectangles 10 x 17 inches. Now cut a piece of fusible webbing 7 x 13 inches. Iron to the back of the stitchery.
- Ensure the fusible webbing is placed centered & be careful not to get any creases. Trim the stitchery size down to 5 x 11/2 inches.
- Peel away the backing paper from the stitchery. Centre the stitchery onto one of the cut squares & iron into position.
- Now using 2 strands of DMC 815 (red) do a blanket stitch border around the stitchery.
- Place the squares with wrong sides together & sew a seam around the edge.
- Leave an opening in the side & turn right side out. Stuff with the polyester filling & stitch the opening closed.

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A wonderful line up of houses nestled on the Prairie.
Finished Cushion Size is 9.5 x 16.5in

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SIMPLE CHRISTMAS DECORATING...

Ever since I got married in a Silver Wedding Dress, silver has been my favorite Christmas color. My dress was an embroidered silver satin dress, and I had champagne pink bridesmaids to match. Silver is such a beautiful color and a very diverse color to work with. It is also a color used in many modern trends. Below are a few simple decorating ideas that can be created with items easily found around the home, in your Christmas stash, or craft cupboard.

Happy Decorating...



I have used a green tablecloth...one that I can use all year around. Using a favorite platter from the cupboard (mine was a wedding present!), use Ivy or an artificial flower or plant of your choice to lightly cover the platter. We have then simply placed 4 star candles evenly across the platter before adding in 3 silver Christmas baubles. The swirl runner underneath was a purchased one, but you could easily whip up a runner using some Christmas fabric from your local quilt shop....don't forget the tassels on the end. My table is a square one, so I have placed this setting approx 3/4 of the way across the table so there is still plenty of room for eating and creating. The Twig Star was purchased from Cheap as Chips for \$2.00.

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SIMPLE CHRISTMAS DECORATING...CONT



To go with my square table and silver theme, I have used one of my square dinner plates as the basis for a decoration. Simply place a small amount of Silver shred onto the plate, and add a selection of co-ordinating baubles. Of course mine are silver, but if you prefer to use gold as the basis for your decorating, then colors such as reds, greens, and other bolder colors go well. You only need a few baubles to create this look, and it's best to stick with a few colors. You could place a candle in the middle for extra decoration.

Using more silver shred and a different style of plate, I've added a few candles for decoration. Please don't light the candles as this craft shred is highly flammable! These are purely for decoration.



SIMPLE CHRISTMAS DECORATING...CONT



For a simple dinner setting, I have cut a 14 x14in square piece of white drill for the basis, added a square piece of decorative mesh paper on a diagonal to the drill placemat. On top of my plate, I have cut a small length from some felt ribbon then tied some silver ric rac around my knife and fork. There are lots of different things you can do with this idea. Add some handmade place cards, tie a mini bauble to your knife and fork, or stitch a running stitch around the outside of your placement, just to name a few.



Why not cut a 10 x 10in square from some drill, sew the edges under, and create your own napkins that can be used over and over again. Use some co-ordinating Ric Rac, or sew a jelly roll strip up as your napkin ring.



'INSPIRE' CHRISTMAS BOM

'The Spirit of Christmas'



*'There's much more to Christmas
Than candle-light and cheer;
It's the spirit of sweet friendship
That brightens all the year;*

*'Its thoughtfulness and kindness,
Its hope reborn again,
For peace, for understanding
And for goodwill to men'.
Unknown*

Designed by Nicole Jones of
Buzzy Bee Buttons.

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'INSPIRE' CHRISTMAS BLOCK OF THE MONTH Continued...

QUILT FINISH

This month we put the finishing touches to this Quilt. The instructions provided here are simple instructions. If you are an experienced quilter you may wish to finish this Quilt in a different way by using binding.

What you will need:

- 6 x Jelly Strips from a Jelly Roll, OR
- 13cm dark spot
- 13cm Red Spot
- 13cm Tan Spot
- 1 metre of backing fabric (dark preferably)
- 1 metre thin batting (optional)

Before you start:

NOTE: If you are using Jelly Strips, they can be simply used as is and just cut into the appropriate lengths and sewn in the order below. If you are using the 13cm lengths of fabric, please cut each of your fabric strips in half before sewing. USE A 1/4in SEAM AT ALL TIMES.

1. Locate all your Quilt Panels for finishing.
2. Take the first stitchery panel (The Spirit), and cut a strip of tan spotted fabric the same size as the bottom of the stitchery panel. Put the right side of the fabric strip down onto the right side of the bottom of the stitchery panel. Sew and iron
3. Sew the top of the Angel Applique panel to the other side of this strip of fabric, bringing the two left panels together in the one panel. Iron
4. Take the second stitchery panel (of Christmas), and cut a strip of tan spotted fabric the same size as the top of the stitchery panel. Put the right side of the fabric strip down onto the right side of the top of the stitchery panel. Sew and iron.



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'INSPIRE' CHRISTMAS BLOCK OF THE MONTH Continued...

QUILT FINISH

5. Sew the bottom of the wreath panel to the top of the dotted fabric and stitchery panel, bringing all the right side panels together. Iron
6. Measure the sides of the Christmas Tree panel, and cut 2 fabric strips to match. Sew one tan dotted strip to each of the sides of the tree panel. Iron.
7. Sew the Angel and stitchery panel to the left hand side of the Christmas tree panel. Iron
8. Sew the wreath and stitchery panel to the right side of the Christmas tree panel. Iron.
9. Measure the top and sides of your quilt panel. Sort your fabric strips and cut the lengths to match. We have used a dark fabric for the top and bottom and a red fabric for the sides of the quilt.
10. Sew the border strips of fabric to the sides first then to the top and bottom, ironing after each seam is sewn.
11. Measure your total quilt, and cut a matching piece of fabric for the backing.
12. Place right sides together (if you are using a thin batting, place the batting down on top of your two fabric panels), and starting 2/3rds of the way across the bottom, sew together using a quarter inch seam. Make sure that your corners are tidy, and that your seams are straight. Leave a 4 inch opening at the bottom of the quilt.
13. Pull the quilt through, ensuring the corners are pushed out properly, and you have run your fingers along the insides of the seams.
14. Satin stitch the opening closed, and iron the quilt closed.
15. Sit it over the top of your couch, or hang using a Christmas styled hanger.



You may wish to get your quilt professionally quilted, but if you would like to finish your quilt at home, check out the Quilting helps at www.quiltingmadeeasy.com

Have you been creating this Quilt over the last 6 months? We would love to see photos of finished quilts for our new Gallery. Email to Inspire Online...

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SUBMISSIONS

for projects, articles, and advertising are now being booked for the next 6 months. If you are interested in submitting something please email us at submission@inspireonlinemagazine.com.

EDITORS

This Magazine has been designed and published by Nicole Jones of Buzzy Bee Buttons. Project editing and management by Helen Henry.

ADVERTISE WITH US...

Are you a designer or do you own a Business? Why not throw your business into the spotlight with affordable online advertising. Not only is your ad published in our online magazine for a whole month, all our previous editions remain on the official Inspire Online website for readers to be able to look back through and refer to. Your advertising dollar remains active as long as your business does.

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Nicole—Inspire Online

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