

The Iron Reticule

Skill level:
Intermediate

by Rebecca Kemp Brent for Coats & Clark

Technique:	Embroidery, Embellishment, Needlefelting, Punchneedle
Brand:	Dual Duty XP
Crafting time:	Longer Term

Try a variety of embellishment and embroidery techniques when creating this lovely drawstring bag. It's perfect for storing jewelry or as an evening bag or special accessory for a bride. It is cleverly designed by using the soleplate of the iron for a pattern.

Finished Size of Project: 8" x 7"

Supplies

$\frac{3}{8}$ yard of wool felt

$\frac{3}{8}$ yard of lining fabric

2 yards of cording

$\frac{3}{4}$ yard of 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ "-wide lace edging

Coats & Clark threads: Dual Duty XP All Purpose, Machine Embroidery

Star Quilting Cotton

Lightweight tear-away stabilizer

Embroidery machine and accessories

Redwork embroidery designs (*Redwork from The WORKBASKET*, Rebecca Kemp Brent, Krause Publications)

Supplies as desired for embellishing: wool roving, silk ribbon, beads, printable adhesive water-soluble stabilizer, felting needle and pad, punchneedle, hand-embroidery hoop

Construction

1. Trace the soleplate of a full-size iron onto blank paper. Add 1" to the straight edge of the pattern to allow for the casing and ruffle. Fold the pattern in half lengthwise to be sure the two curved edges match, and make sure the straight edge is perpendicular to the fold; adjust the pattern if necessary.
2. Trace the pattern four times onto the wool felt with chalk or other removable tool. Work an embroidery design on each panel, placing the motif's upper edge about 2 1/2" below the panel's straight upper edge. Embellish as desired; see the notes below.
3. Replace the pattern on the embroidered felt. Make sure the embroidery is centered and retrace the pattern outlines to compensate for any distortion that occurred during stitching. Cut out each felt panel.
4. Place two panels with their wrong sides together and stitch 1/8" from one curved edge. Leave a 1/2" gap in the seam 1" below the straight edge to accommodate the drawstring. Repeat with the other two panels.
5. Position the two-panel units with wrong sides together, matching the raw edges. Sew 1/8" from the curved edges, continuing across the bottom of the bag.
6. Use the pattern piece to cut four panels from the lining fabric, adding 1/8" to the curved edges. Sew the panels together in pairs, right sides together, using a 1/4" seam allowance.
NOTE: The lining will be slightly smaller than the felt bag. Join the two-panel units, again sewing a 1/4" seam with right sides together.

7. Press the seams open from the straight edge of the lining, working as far as possible into the curved bottom. Press 1/4" to the wrong side along the straight upper edge.
8. Slip the lining into the bag, wrong sides together. Pin the pressed lining edge to the felt's raw edge; align the edges, but be sure the lining is not visible from the bag's right side.
9. Sew the lining to the top of the bag with a zigzag stitch (2.5 mm wide and 1.4 mm long), catching the upper edge of the lining as you sew and overcasting the felt edge. Attach the lace edging by hand or machine. Fold the lace raw edges to the wrong side and whipstitch them together.
10. Sew rows of straight stitches through the bag and lining 1" and 1 1/2" below the bag's upper edge (the base of the lace edging) to make the drawstring casing. Cut the cord into two 36" lengths and thread them through the casing, beginning and ending one cord at each panel-seam opening.

Embroidery and Embellishment

- If you prefer, the designs can be embroidered by hand. Use the water-soluble stabilizer technique under Needlefelting to transfer the design to the felt for embroidering.
- Needlefelting should be done before embroidering the panel. Other embellishment techniques are worked after embroidery.

Needlefelting

1. Print the embroidery design on water-soluble stabilizer. Be sure the centerlines for embroidery are indicated on the printout. Remove the paper backing and adhere the stabilizer to the right side of the wool felt.
2. Use a felting needle and wool roving to fill areas of the design with color. Examples are flower petals and centers, animal fur, background shapes, etc. Work through the stabilizer and felt.
3. Hoop the felt backed with a layer of lightweight tear-away stabilizer. Use the printed design guidelines to center the embroidery design over the felted area. Embroider the design. Tear away the excess stabilizer and remove the felt from the hoop.
4. Remove the water-soluble stabilizer.



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Punchneedle

1. Back the felt with woven fusible interfacing or a layer of weaver's cloth. Hoop the felt, backed with a layer of lightweight tear-away stabilizer, and embroider the design. Tear away the excess stabilizer and remove the felt from the hoop.
2. Place the embroidered felt in the hand-embroidery hoop, wrong side up.
3. Following the manufacturer's instructions, thread the punchneedle and fill areas of the design with loops of thread.



Silk Ribbon Embroidery and Beading

1. Hoop the felt, backed with a layer of lightweight tear-away stabilizer, and embroider the design. Tear away the excess stabilizer and remove the felt from the hoop.
2. Embellish the embroidered design by stitching over parts of the design with silk ribbon or beads. You may also want to add accent stitches outside the embroidered design; for example, adding extra flower blossoms to a bouquet or scattering beads over the background of the design.

Cord and Lace

- If desired, make two twisted monk's cords from various threads and use them as drawstrings. The sample bag's cord is made from 100 strands each of polyester machine embroidery thread and cotton quilting thread.
- Machine-embroidered lace can be created with matching thread for the bag's upper edge. Embroider enough lace segments on water-soluble stabilizer to match bag opening and join them end to end. If necessary, ease any extra lace length to fit rather than cutting the machine-embroidered lace to size. (The lace on the sample bag is a machine embroidery design from Criswell Embroidery & Design (K-Lace).)

