## IN A CORAL GARDEN

The underwater world of a coral reef comes to life with striking colours, many varied stitches and the optional addition of a little seahorse.

Embroidering this colourful underwater scene gives a greater understanding and appreciation of the many different effects that can be achieved when working with the punchneedle embroidery technique.


## Requirements

small and medium punchneedles
20 cm (8 in) lip-lock embroidery hoop
two 30 cm (12 in) squares of fabric
iron-on transfer pen
seahorse charm (optional)
iron-on rainbow paper, pencils or fabric paints
You Can Wash It craft glue
2 mm piece of plastic to fit on the small punchneedle (see Pile Depth)

## Threads

Some Madeira colours have no direct match with DMC colours. I have chosen colours from the DMC range which will work well together.

|  | Madeira | DMC |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| pale grey | 1804 | 762 |
| orange | 207 | 946 |
| chartreuse | 1308 | 704 |
| blue | 906 | 793 |
| purple | 2710 | 333 |
| sea green | 1204 | 991 |


| musty yellow | 2513 | 972 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| burgundy | 2608 | 3685 |
| medium pink | 411 | 3801 |
| green | 1612 | 732 |
| dark purple | 714 | 550 |
| burnt orange | 407 | 498 |

Madeira Glamour, a metallised effect yarn:
turquoise 2466
sea green 2465
purple 2412
This glitter thread can easily be substituted with any metallic thread in similar colours.

Needle Necessities overdyed cotton:
floribunda 1791
mayflowers 180

Note For this design any colour can be substituted and virtually any thread can be used so long as it flows freely through the eye of the punchneedle you have chosen.



## Preparation

Iron the rainbow paper onto the front of the two pieces of fabric (see Chapter 3 Techniques); alternatively, softly colour the fabric with pencils or paint.

Transfer the main design from Tracing Guide 1 onto the back of one piece of fabric.

Use Tracing Guide 2 as further reference. There are areas of this design, indicated on the pattern, which need to be worked from the front. These lines need to be marked on the front by holding the fabric to a light source or using a light box and tracing over the lines. These are shown on the pattern as lines of dashes and ' $v$ 's.

Assemble the fabric for the major design into the hoop. Ensure that the fabric is extremely taut and the hoop nut is done up very tightly.

Transfer the design from Tracing Guide 3 onto the second piece of fabric, marking the lines of dashes to be embroidered from the front onto the front of the fabric. Put this piece to one side for now.

## Embroidering the major design

Follow the Stitch and Colour Guides in conjunction with the Symbols Chart. Each symbol is numbered, but not necessarily in order of embroidering. Written instructions follow for each number.
1 This is the large sea-green feathery sea fan. The centre line is marked onto the front of the fabric and the sea fan is embroidered from the front, with the loops being made on the back of the fabric. Thread one strand of 1204 in the small punchneedle set at No 3 and embroider with closed feather stitch (see Stitch Glossary, sample b). Vary the length of the outward stitches between $3-5 \mathrm{~mm}$ ( $1 / 8-3 / 16 \mathrm{in}$ )
2 This is the burnt orange gorgonian coral. Thread six strands of 407 in the medium punchneedle set at No 1 and follow the markings on the pattern.
3 Set the small punchneedle at No 1. Use three strands of 407 and from the front of


the piece work reverse punchneedle embroidery (see Stitch Glossary, Figure 3).
4 This is the orange coral. Set the small punchneedle at No 1, threaded with three strands of 207, and from the front of the piece work reverse punchneedle embroidery following the marked lines on the pattern.
5 Use six strands of burgundy 2608 in the medium needle. Set the punchneedle at No 1 and fill in the area.

6 There are four purple areas to fill in following this striped symbol. Use six strands of 2710 in the medium punchneedle and fill in each area either at No 1 or 2 as indicated on the pattern.
7 Rope sponge. Set the punchneedle at No 1. With six strands of 1612 in the medium needle, work the areas shown on the pattern for the sponge.
8 Hot pink mushroom coral. Set the medium
punchneedle at No 12. With six strands of 411 fill in this area, then cut each loop open to give a plush velvet appearance to the coral.
9 Thread the three metallic colours, turquoise, sea green and purple, together through the medium punchneedle set at No 12. Stitch along the two wavy lines shown on the pattern.
10 Use the three colours as in No 9. Set the medium punchneedle at No 12 and work 6 stitches in a circle.
11 Use the three colours as in No 9. Remove the casing from the medium punchneedle and store it and the spring carefully. Work 6 stitches in a circle, ensuring that the needle tip is punched through the fabric up to the blue hilt of the needle. This will make a very long loop on the front of the embroidery.
12 Feather star. These loops are made extra

