

Layer 3: Balls and bells

The balls and bells are worked as individual elements and then attached to the foundation.

BALLS

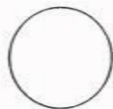
1. The foundation shapes for the balls are cut from a heavyweight paper such as cartridge or 110 gsm office paper. You will need six large, seven medium and seven small circles. Cut as accurately as possible keeping the edges smooth. If you do not have access to a small compass from a geometry set, trace the shapes from figure 21.
2. Cut a circle of silk to cover the paper circle, adding a seam allowance all round of about 6 mm ($\frac{1}{4}$ in). To prevent excess fraying, cut with pinking shears. Make sure the seam allowance is within the zigzag edge (figure 22a).



large — 20 mm ($\frac{3}{4}$ in)



medium — 17 mm ($\frac{11}{16}$ in)



small — 14 mm ($\frac{9}{16}$ in)

Figure 21: Tracing outlines for ball foundations

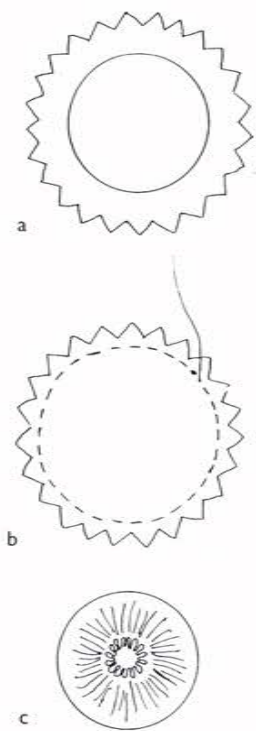


Figure 22: Covering ball foundation

3. With right side of silk facing, and starting with a knot, stitch a row of very small gathering stitches around the entire outside edge, about 2 mm in, finishing one or two stitches past the knot (figure 22b). Keeping your stitches small will give a better result in the next step.
4. Place foundation shape on the wrong side of the silk, pull gathering stitches up firmly so that the shape is covered and the edges are smooth (figure 22c). I find it easiest to do this by stabilising the silk and paper shape on the table with my left index finger while pulling the thread up with my right hand. Adjust gathers evenly around the circumference and secure the end of the thread.
5. Complete embroidery and beading for each ball as described below. Note that the finishing off of each ball is done after it has been appliquéd to

the tree, as described on page 63.

Ball 1



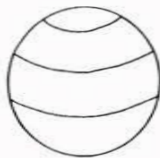
Cover a 20 mm ($\frac{3}{4}$ inch) shape with red silk. Mark the lines of the bands around the ball onto the front of the silk (figure 23a). A fabric-marking pen can be used, but dressmaking carbon paper gives a better result. Using one strand of R44, work one row of tiny stem stitches along the top line. Continuing with the same

thread, fill the space between the second and third lines with double buttonhole stitch (figure 23b).

The zigzags are worked by stitching three straight stitches evenly spaced across the ball from bottom to top and left to right, then returning with three stitches from bottom to top, right to left. Sew one Old Gold bead in the spaces adjacent to the central band as shown.

Finishing Following application to the tree, DG thread is couched around the shape with G. A detached chain stitch at the top makes a tiny hanging loop. A 3 mm gold pearl bead is stitched at the base at this later stage.

a



b



Figure 23: Ball 1

Ball 2



Cover a 20 mm ($\frac{3}{4}$ inch) shape with yellow silk. Mark the centre and six points spaced evenly around the circumference of the circle (figure 24a). Working around the centre point, and sewing in a stab stitch manner through all layers, work a lazy daisy in DG. Continuing with the same thread, stitch a second petal inside the previous ones, taking the anchoring stitch of this over both stitches and insert at the outer

edge of the daisy (figure 24b).

Sew a 3 mm gold pearl bead in the centre of the motif and red seed beads in the spaces between each of the petals.

Finishing The ball is outlined in gold and a 3 mm gold pearl bead is attached to the bottom once it has been attached to the tree.

Ball 3



Cover a 20 mm ($\frac{3}{4}$ inch) shape with bottle green silk. Mark six points spaced evenly around the

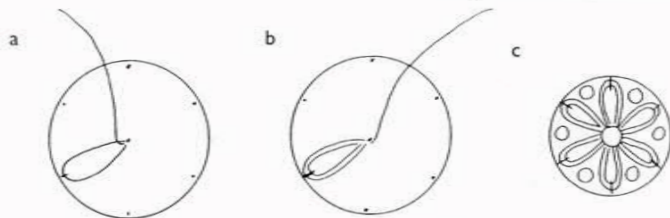


Figure 24: Ball 2