

# Soldier Beetle

Cantharis fusca

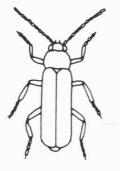
Order: Coleoptera

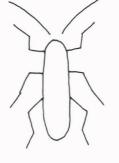
Suborder: Polyphaga

Family: Cantharidae

# Requirements

- 10 cm (4 in) embroidery hoop
- black silk ottoman, 15 cm (6 in) square, or any fine-ribbed fabric or grosgrain ribbon
- · black organza and Vliesofix, 15 cm (6 in) square
- · dark orange-gold fabric or ribbon, small piece
- quilter's muslin or calico, 15 cm (6 in) square
- · orange felt and fusible web
- · orange stranded thread (DMC 900)
- · dark orange stranded thread (DMC 919)
- · black stranded thread (DMC 310)
- · copper/black metallic thread (Kreinik Cord 215c)
- gold/black metallic thread (Kreinik Cord 205c)





skeleton outline



abdomen padding

- nylon thread (Madeira Monofil No.60, clear)
- · Mill Hill petite beads (42014 black)
- 28-gauge uncovered wire

# Order of work

Trace a skeleton outline of the soldier beetle onto the backing fabric. The abdomen and thorax are worked on the background fabric of the specimen box (silk or the fabric of your choice, backed with muslin or calico).

#### ABDOMEN

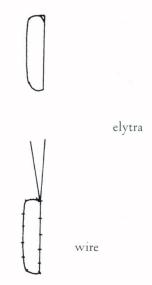
Apply one layer of felt to pad the abdomen then cover with satin stitch, worked horizontally, with orange thread.

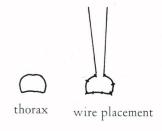
## ELYTRA

- 1. Fuse a layer of organza to the back of the black ribbed fabric (for support) and mount into the hoop. Using a paper template for the elytra outline (make sure the straight edges of the elytra are parallel to the ridges of the fabric) and black thread, couch the wire around the outline, leaving two tails, then overcast the wire to the fabric. Work a few diagonal stitches at each upper corner for the scutellum.
- 2. Cut out the elytra and catch both inner wires together. Apply over the abdomen, inserting the wire tails at the point indicated. Secure the wires at the back and trim.

### THORAX, HEAD AND EYES

- 1. Stitch the orange-gold fabric to the centre of the muslin, mount into the hoop and trace the thorax outline (or use a paper template). Using orange thread, couch the wire around the outline, leaving two tails, then buttonhole stitch the wire to the fabric.
- 2. Cut out the thorax and apply at the top of abdomen, inserting the wire tails at the points indicated (it slightly overlaps the elytra). Secure the wires at the back and trim.





- 3. Using dark orange thread, work the head in satin stitch, covering the raw edge of the elytra and the wire insertion points.
- 4. Using nylon thread, apply a petite bead on either side of the head for eyes. Secure the corners of the elytra with two small (invisible) stitches.

## ANTENNAE

With one strand of copper/black metallic thread, work 11 chain stitches for each antenna. Use two strands to work two straight stitches for the mouthparts.

#### LEGS

Using two strands of gold/black metallic thread, work two chain stitches and a long tie-down stitch for each leg, following the outline on the back.