

# BRENDA RYAN EMBROIDERY DESIGNS<sup>© 2009</sup>

There are many ways of colouring fabric for embroidery/stitchery.

Here are two of the simplest and some tips from my own experiments with this technique.

\*Try out the technique with scrap fabric first.

Requisites:

To draw the design:

Uni-pin .01 or fine Pigma pen.

Or if permanent outline not required sharp HB pencil.

To colour the resulting image:

Newsagents and Art suppliers are places to look for these.

Watercolour Pencils. Common brand names are “Derwent”<sup>TM</sup> Watercolour and Derwent “Inktense”<sup>TM</sup> (Inktense is semi permanent on its own without any setting but will wash some of the colour out initially.) and

“Albrecht Durer” watercolour pencils by “Faber-Castel”<sup>TM</sup>. (These are all excellent pencils)

Firm small Water colour Brush ..not too soft..ie -Windsor and Newton<sup>TM</sup> One Stroke - Size 3mm 1/8" – 5186770 is a good choice .

Optional -Textile medium) ...or three to four drops of water based PVA glue diluted in half a cup of water.

100% cotton fabric ..mottled or tone on tone.

1 Cup clean water and sheets of clean paper towel.

Very warm to hot Iron

Method. Draw the design onto the fabric with Pigma or Uni –Pin pen and **press** to set the ink.

\*This will give a black outline up to which to stitch later...if you don't want a fine black permanent outline use sharp HB pencil.

#Try the fine black line technique as it gives a very painterly look to the finished product.

\*The textile medium and a hot iron will help to set the colour but even without this process even plain water colour once pressed is pretty much permanent when hand washed in warm water.

Add 4 drops of glue or textile medium to the ½ cup of water.

Put a sheet of clean paper under the fabric...paper towel is thick enough to stop slipping and is absorbent. All the techniques below need to be tested by you on a scrap of fabric...everyone can find their own “best way”

Brush the barely damp brush onto the marked design ...not to saturate ...just dampen.

Take a pencil and *very lightly* stroke into the area to be coloured.

Add another colour in a similar shade (i.e. a light and dark pink)

Brush again with a damp brush to disperse the colour.

A light colour wash is all that is required; the outline stitchery will make most of the statement!  
If you don't want the colour to wash into the surrounding fabric work the process dry first and then just dampen at the end to smooth the wash into the surrounding area gives a good background effect to the fabric.

Press: using a soft cloth under the fabric. The resulting print will be lighter than when the fabric is wet.  
Stitch the design using darker shades of the colours you have used for colouring. Backstitch, Stem stitch etc.

Another technique is to use wax **Crayons**...these are available in many grades from inexpensive children's crayons to high quality artists crayons.

Simply colour the area with a very small soft circular strokes and press from the back onto clean paper. The paper will take up the wax in the crayon and leave the colour behind.  
You can of course use one of my iron on transfers as the basis for colouring as these are permanent.

Happy experimenting...Brenda



Stitched by Miriam from Saskatoon in Canada . Coloured using **crayons**



Stitched by Margaret from Leongatha Victoria. Coloured using **Water colour only**



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