

How to Make a BELL Wall Hanging

Creative Gifts for Weddings or Christmas, © 2004 by Flora Joy

Note: This is the first draft of these instructions. I am still working out the kinks and the typos. If you notice any (or if you have any questions), thanks for contacting me at florajoy@comcast.net. I'll be adding line art illustrations soon in order to visually depict some of the steps in this wall hanging. However, there is no one "right way" to prepare this item. Whatever works for you, go for it! Above all, have fun!

Finished Size: Approximately 17" x 22"

Fabric:

- 18" x 24" piece of domestic for base design
- Four pieces of desired fabrics:
 - Color A (Green on sample design)— 4" strip (For 12 short diagonal segments.)
 - Color B (Purple on sample design)—1/2 yd (For entire back and some diagonal segments/edging.)
 - Color C (Silver on sample design)— 1/2 yd (For Section F and some diagonal segments/edging.)
 - Color D (White on sample design)— 1/3 yd (For Section E and some diagonal segments/edging.)

Note: Select red and green fabric combinations for Christmas wall hangings, and white/silver and the other event colors for the wedding wall hangings.

Prior Preparation:

- Trace the solid lines of the pattern onto the domestic with a permanent fine-point marker so the traced lines can be seen on both sides of the fabric.
- Prepare the following bias strips with the ¼" bias tape maker (or purchase Quick Bias):
 - 30" of Color B
 - 38" of Color C
 - 51" of Color D
- Prepare (or purchase) 64" of 3/4" bias tape with Color B.
- Cut several 1¼" diagonal strips of all four colors. (See attached organization page.)
- Print desired photograph on computer fabric.

Sewing Instructions:

TO SEW THE ROW OF DIAGONAL STRIPS:

Sew the cut diagonal strips onto the large fabric piece (onto which the design has been traced) in a manner of your choice. There are several methods to do this, and you will determine your own favorite one. Here's mine:

- At the bottom center of the bell shape containing the small diagonal pieces, position a small diagonal strip of Color A in the space with the numeral 1 (with a hem allowance on all sides). Place a diagonal strip of Color B atop the space marked "2" (again with hem allowances). Gently fold back the piece in position 2 (atop piece 1) so the right sides are together and piece 1 is in its marked place. Stitch on the solid diagonal line between 1 and 2. Flip Piece 2 to its right side and iron it in place.
- Place a diagonal strip of Color C atop the space marked "3." Gently fold back the piece in space 3 (atop piece 2) so the right sides are together and piece 2 is in its marked place. Stitch on the solid diagonal line between 2 and 3. Flip Piece 3 to its right side and iron it.
- Continue in this manner with fabric pieces 4-13.
- Sew together pieces 14, 15, and 16 AS A SEPARATE PIECE (not onto the traced design on the domestic). THEN align these three sewed-together pieces on the horizontal line connecting 13/12/14/15. Flip that 3-piece sewed fabric upward and iron. Position piece 17 atop 16—sew, iron, and continue through piece 27.

- Sew together pieces 28, 29, and 30 AS A SEPARATE PIECE (not onto the traced design on the domestic). THEN align these three sewed-together pieces on the vertical line connecting 1/2/28/29. Flip that 3-piece sewed fabric to the right and iron. Position piece 31 atop 30—sew, iron, and continue through piece 40.
- Sew together pieces 41, 42, and 43 AS A SEPARATE PIECE (not onto the traced design on the domestic). THEN align these three sewed-together pieces on the horizontal line connecting 39/40/42/41. Flip that 3-piece sewed fabric upward and iron. Position piece 44 atop 43—sew, iron, and continue through piece 51.
- Sew Piece 52 to 51 WITHOUT stitching onto the domestic. Attach piece 53 to 52, and 54 to 53 in the same manner (without stitching onto the domestic). Iron these pieces and fold back to match the vertical line at 26/27/54/53. Gently use a product such as “HeatnBond” to join 52/53/54 with 25/27/27. Carefully iron in place.

TO SEW SECTION F:

- Cut a piece of fabric (Color D) the size of Section F. (If this fabric is light or thin, use an extra piece of fabric as lining.) Pin these layers atop the base fabric with the diagonal strips sewn, and turn the entire item over to the back side. From the back side, sew a straight-stitch line exactly atop the **Bias Tape Line I** that outlines the bell in Section F.
- Flip over the complete piece to the top side and trim the excess fabric for Section F that you have just attached. (Trim very close to the stitched line without snipping any stitches.)
- Stitch the prepared or purchased bias tape (Color B) at **Solid Line I**. [Stitch once on the OUTER edge of the bias, and again at the INNER edge. This will completely hide the inside edges of the diagonal strips and the outer edge of the bell in Section F.]

TO SEW SECTION G:

- Place a piece of fabric (Color C) on TOP of the current wall hanging so the entire design is completely covered. Pin all layers in place, especially around the edges. Turn over to the BACK. From the back, *single stitch* atop **Bias Tape Line J**. Turn back to the TOP SIDE, and carefully cut out the INSIDE of this large bell—leaving fabric Color C only on the **OUTER EDGE** (all of Section G).
- Stitch the prepared bias tape (Color D) at **Bias Tape Line J** in a manner that will completely conceal both the outer edges of the diagonal strips and the inside edge of the bell in Section G.
- Trim the OUTSIDE EDGES of the **complete** design—LEAVING A ¼" ADDITIONAL SEAM ALLOWANCE past the **Bias Tape Line K**.

ATTACHING THE PADDING AND BACK LINING:

- Spray a large piece of quilt batting (enough to cover the complete design) with temporary adhesive. Place it on the back of the design and place a large piece of fabric (Color B) onto the back of the quilt batting. Trim these two added layers evenly with the stitched item.
- Stitch the ¾" prepared bias tape (Color B) around the outside edges at **Bias Tape Line K**.

THE CENTERED PHOTOGRAPH (SECTION E):

*Note: Some people will prefer to **begin** with this photograph—or to complete this step before adding the padding and back lining, but I like to save it until the last step so I don't do any damage to the picture in the process of making the remainder of the wall hanging.*

- Carefully cut the photograph (printed on computer fabric) into the small bell shape. Spray the back of the photograph with temporary adhesive (505). Very carefully place this at **Bias Tape Line H**. (This design can no longer be seen on the design, but your “eyeballs” can get it centered. If the design turns out to be slightly off, pull off the photograph and reposition it.)
- Stitch the prepared bias tape (Color B) at **Bias Tape Line H**.

FINAL OPTIONAL STEP: Stitch a circular buttonhole at the top nail position, and insert the nail through the hole and cover it with a freestanding embroidery design. Hang it with pride!

BELL Wall Hanging Grid

The reduced design shown on this page is intended to be used with the separate accompanying large shape and printed instructions. *Enlarging this page will not result in accurate sectional dimensions of the individual segments.*

Bold letters in the diagonal strips indicate the FABRIC choices. The numbers refer to the sequencing of sewing on these strips. See separate sheet for instructions.

