

FUCHSIA RED HIBISCUS

Designed by KERI DESIGNS

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ADDITIONAL MATERIALS NEEDED: 9 X 9 STRETCHER BARS, #22-24 TAPESTRY NEEDLES And BACKGROUND FIBER OF YOUR CHOICE.

RIVER SILKS LTD. 100% SILK, HAND DYED RIBBON

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7mm	COLOR	Spools
#47	Yellow cream	1
#163	Fuchsia red	1
#197	Emerald sparkle	1
#55	Ibis rose	1

YELLOW SPOT: COLOR 47 **PINK PISTILS:** COLOR 55
GREEN LEAVES: COLOR 197 **FUCHSIA PETALS:** COLOR 163

GENERAL PLANNING

Attach the canvas to the stretcher bars preferably using tacks.

There is no need to ply the silk ribbon. You will want to work with 2 to 3 foot lengths of ribbon. The ribbon won't show wear so don't worry.

THREADING THE NEEDLE: Cut the ribbon on the diagonal. Insert point of the ribbon through the eye of the needle. Then insert the point of the needle through the ribbon cut end about 1/2" from the cut. Pull the long tail to secure the ribbon to the needle. This is called the "Needle Eye Lock Stitch".

SECURING THE RIBBON TO THE CANVAS: We have chosen not to use an "away knot" as it is unnecessary with River Silks ribbon. **There is an easier way.** Bring the needle up through an empty hole where you want to begin. Pull the needle and ribbon through the canvas leaving about a one-inch tail of ribbon on the back of the canvas. With a finger press that tail flat against the canvas. Go back down through an adjacent hole passing through both the canvas and the ribbon tail. Try not to stitch through your finger! With your finger still pressing on the tail pull the needle and ribbon through the canvas and keep pulling until the ribbon is secure on the canvas. Check the back of the canvas to see that there are no loose ends. This is called the "Canvas Lock Stitch".

HELPFUL HINTS: The ribbon does not need to be pulled tightly. Untwist the ribbon as you stitch and lay the ribbon with a laying tool to show the surface. Stitching style will affect the number of spools required. The "economy stitch" is quite acceptable if you are pleased with the look. With shorter stitches this is not always the best.

I RAN OUT OF RIBBON. NOW WHAT? When you need to add more ribbon to continue stitching or to change color or width of ribbon use this easy technique. Select your new piece of ribbon and secure it to a new needle using the “Needle Lock Stitch” described previously. On the wrong side of the canvas cut the ribbon you had been using (removing the old needle) leaving about a 1 1/2 inch tail. Hold that tail and pierce it with your new needle and ribbon very close to the surface of the canvas, keep pulling the new ribbon leaving another 1 1/2 inch tail. Put that tail over the next hole that you want to stitch and put the needle through that new tail and the canvas. Keep on pulling until secure. Turn the canvas to the right side and continue stitching. You may trim those tails to a half-inch as desired.

CANVAS MANAGEMENT

YOU SHOULD START THIS CANVAS WITH THE LEAVES. THIS ALLOWS THE RIBBON STITCHES FOR THE FLOWER TO LIE ON TOP OF THE LEAVES GIVING A MORE NATURAL EFFECT. THE RED PISTILS THEN APPROPRIATELY LIE ON THE FLOWER PETALS. FINISH OFF WITH THE YELLOW SPOT.

GREEN LEAVES: STITCH WITH LEAF STITCH PLACING A RIB DOWN THE CENTER INTO WHICH YOU STITCH FROM THE OUTER EDGE OF THE LEAF.

FUCHSIA PETALS: STITCH WITH STRAIGHT STITCHES OR RIBBON STITCHES* OR A COMBINATION OF THE TWO STITCHES.

YELLOW SPOT: STITCH WITH KNOTS OF CHOICE: FRENCH, COLONIAL, OR BEIJING.

RED PISTILS: STITCH WITH PISTIL STITCH AND COLONIAL KNOT AT END. THEN COUCH STEM WITH LONG SLANTING STITCHES COMING UP AND GOING DOWN UNDER THE STEM.

* To do a Ribbon Stitch bring your needle and ribbon up through the canvas. Move in the desired direction about 4-10 holes. Lay the ribbon out flat to that point and put the needle through the ribbon before passing through the canvas. Instead of pulling the ribbon all the way through, leave a small loop at the end. A laying tool is useful for this. Depending on the size of the loop you can create different effects. Continue doing several of these stitches. You begin to realize that this can be a somewhat fragile stitch. Any pulling or catching of the ribbon will cause the previous loop to disappear. Be particularly aware of any loose ribbon, fiber or needles on the back of the canvas. When you do pull a loop through just stitch over it with another Ribbon Stitch.