



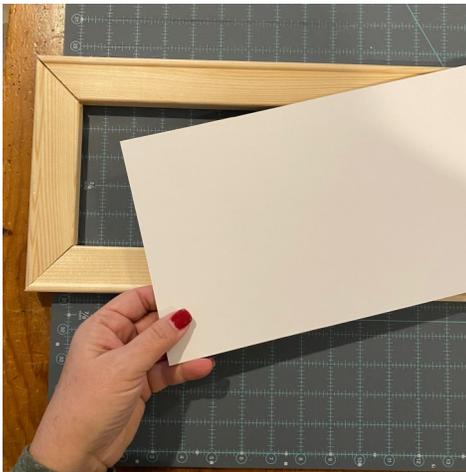
1. Gather supplies: 2—8" stretcher bars, 2—22" stretcher bars (the wide kind with the outside lip), stitching, mat board, double sided (DS) tape, batting, paint (Anita's acrylic 11119 Olive Green), rotary & exacto cutters.



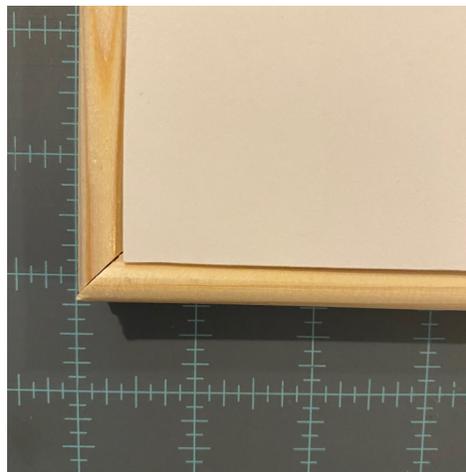
2. Assemble the stretcher bar frame & measure the width & length of the bars just inside the lip of the frame.



3. Cut a piece of mat board to match the measurement using an exacto blade & straight edge ruler. (I show how I cut mat board & foam core in FlossTube #23)



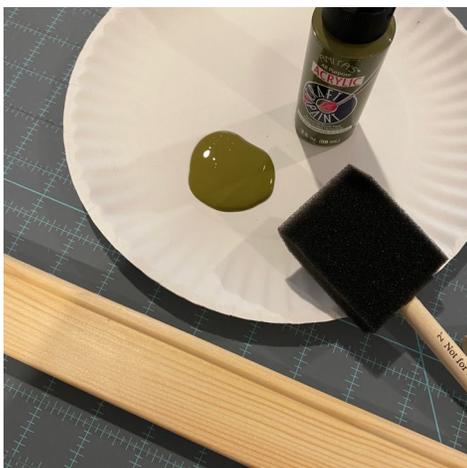
4. Double check to make sure that the mat board fits. Trim if necessary: remember you will have a layer of fabric as well.



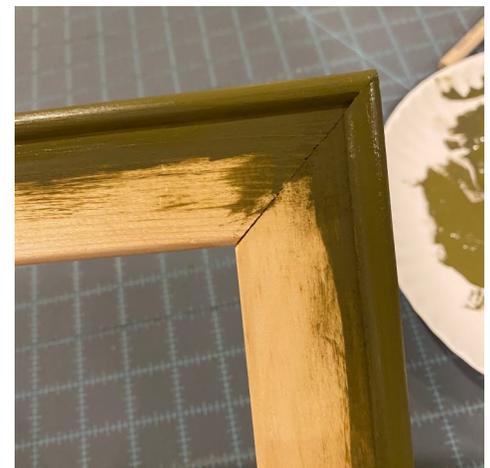
5. A close up of what the mat board should look like when fitted properly.



6. Cut a second piece of mat board to match for the back side of the finish.



7. Paint your frame! I like to use a foam brush and apply several light layers of craft paint. Let the paint dry between coats. Paint only the areas that will show once the covered mat boards are in place (see photo). Move forward with the next steps as you wait for the paint to dry in between coats.





8. Place several pieces of DS tape on one of the mat boards. Remove the paper backing & place sticky side down onto batting (I use Warm & Natural). Trim the batting to fit the mat board.



9. Cut a piece of cotton fabric to cover the mat board (the size of the mat board plus approx 1 1/2" on all sides). Always take care with directional prints so that they lay straight on your mat board.



10. Place the mat board, batting side down onto the back of the cotton fabric. Cut & place a piece of DS tape on the short ends of the mat board.



11. Remove the paper backing from the DS tape & fold the fabric over to adhere to the tape. You can see that I took care to make sure that my striped fabric was straight.



12. Cut & place DS tape on the long edges of the batting. I trimmed some of the excess fabric out of the corners. Please not that I taped over the fabric that was folded over in the previous step.



13. Remove the paper backing from the DS tape & fold the fabric over to adhere to the DS tape.



14. The photo to the left shows what your fabric covered mat board will look like once you have attached the fabric. Pull tight enough so the fabric is smooth but not too tight to distort the mat board.

- Cut a piece of matboard to fit your stitched piece (mine measured 3 x 17". Attach 1 or 2 layers of batting as you did before.





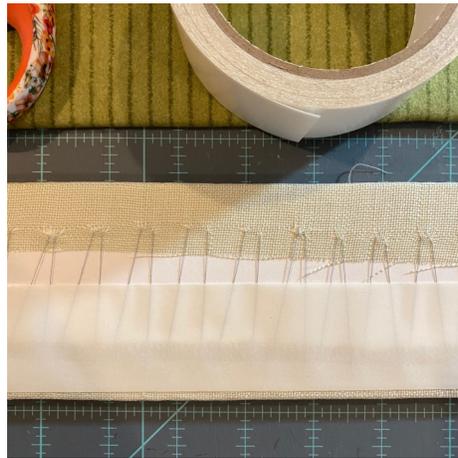
15. Center your stitching on the batting covered mat board. Thread up a sharp needle with lacing thread (I use upholstery weight thread available at most craft stores). Knot the end of the thread. Lace back and forth as you see in the photo. (I have other photos & examples of lacing in Flat Finish tutorials on this website)



16. Be sure to check the front of your stitching as you lace to check that the design is still centered. Lace across to the other end of your stitching. Make any adjustments on the front to keep centered. Pull thread tight & end with a knot through the linen (don't trim the thread just yet if you have enough to keep going).



17. Fold the short ends over & lace these down through the linen that has already been laced. Since this is so long & narrow, it is difficult to lace the center section of the short end. I placed a small piece of DS tape to hold that section down (see next photo.)



18. After lacing your needlework to the mat board, cover the back side of laced piece with DS tape. (photo shows one half covered in tape: I removed the paper then added more DS tape to the other side).

Place the needlework, sticky side down on the center of the fabric covered mat board.



19. I made a twisted cord out of a skein of DMC floss. I like doing this so I can customize the color to coordinate with my stitching. I recommend The Twisted Stitcher's tutorial for making twisted cord. I folded my skein over 1x and then twisted.

20. I 'measure' how much of the cord I will use by pinning it into place around the needlework. I place the folded, 'clean' end of the cord at a corner and wrap around from there. Pin at the corners.





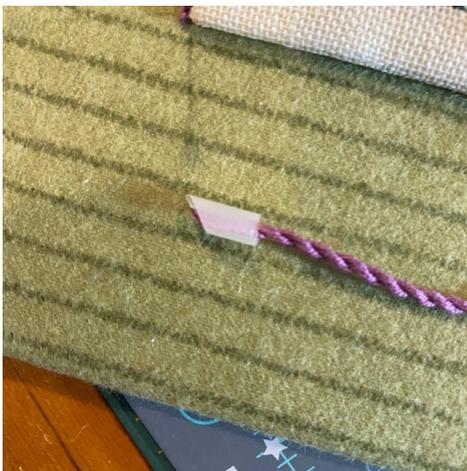
21. A closer look at where I started & ended with the cording placement.



22. I use my nail to pinch the end of the cording where I will need to trim to fit.



23. Cut a small piece of scotch tape & place the edge of it right at the spot where my nail was previously. Unwind a bit of the cord after that spot to flatten it out (the spot where the tape begins & the cord unwinds is where my nail was.)



24. Wrap the scotch tape around to secure the end of the cord & trim in half with a scissors. I like to cut at an angle in case I need the point to help bury this end.



25. Tuck the taped end just under the stitched piece. I hold that in place with a straight pin through the next steps.



26. Run a thin bead of glue (I use Aileen's clear tacky glue) around the stitching. The glue is on the cotton fabric, NOT the stitching.



27. I glue one side at a time & place a pin at each corner to help keep the cording in place as it dries.

- Cut & place DS tape on the flat portion of the painted stretcher bars (all 4 sides—I did the long side 1st, removed the paper backing & then taped the short ends.





28. Place the prepared mat board in the exposed DS tape on the painted frame.



29. A peek at what the back will look like at this point.



30. Cover the remaining mat board with fabric as you did in previous steps. I did not attach batting to this piece. Attach the covered back to the frame as you did before. Enjoy!



Enjoy this fun, economical finish for any of the Block Party designs. Change up the stretcher bar size & try it for any of your fun stitched pieces!!

Check out the Block Party line-up on [www.handsondesign.biz](http://www.handsondesign.biz)

Please credit Hands On Design, LLC & this tutorial if you use this tutorial in a design or finish.

Enjoy the stitch,

Cathy—Hands On Design, LLC