

# Crazy Quilting Lessons / Challenge 2008

## HGTV Quilting Needle Arts Board

Presenter: Carolyn Phillips (hgtv board name: DecPainter)

### Lesson 8: Flowers - Hollyhocks and Larkspur

#### Hollyhocks

It's hard to think of hollyhocks without a smile on your face, and for those of us who grew up in the "Happy Days" era, it's probably hard not to feel nostalgic and a little wistful, too. My Grandmother had a towering row (At 5, everything towers over us) of these larger-than-life flowers along her backyard fence. In those days, the hollyhock's flowers weren't just pretty to look at, they were our initial foray into the world of fashion. With tiny palm-sized rubber dolls in tow, my cousin and I spent many summer days lolling in the sunshine and fashioning hollyhock blossoms into circle skirts for our tiny dolls.



Photo #1

Hollyhocks shown on a dark background.



Photo #2

The hollyhock is not a difficult plant to embroider, and it can add a lot of interest to an otherwise ordinary CQ block. The flowers are arranged sort of haphazardly along the tall, straight stalks, with the larger flowers at the bottom, and then getting progressively smaller toward the top, and finally capped off with a cluster of buds.

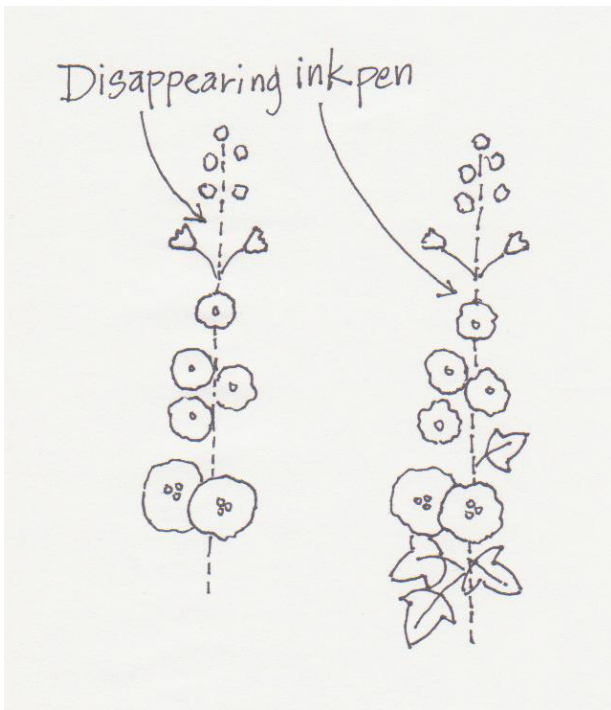


Illustration #1

Using a disappearing ink pen (not the blue water-soluble type pen), draw a line for the stalk, which will guide you in the placement of the flowers. Then draw the circular shaped flowers, remembering to keep the larger flowers toward the bottom.

The three-lobed leaves are easy to work up with just a few straight stitches, or with satin stitching.



Photo #3

Using pink floss, the flowers are embroidered with simple buttonhole/blanket stitches worked in a circle. I embroider the flowers first, and then use a stem stitch and medium green to work the stalk afterward. This allows me to arrange the flowers in any position that suits me, without having to worry about the green stalk showing through the flowers.

Using pink floss, the larger flower buds are worked in a little fan shape using about 4 or 5 buttonhole stitches. The slightly smaller buds are worked using two or three buttonhole stitches, and the smallest buds are done with French knots in pink.





Photo #4

After the flowers are finished, the stalk and leaves can be worked in medium green using either a straight stitch, or satin stitch. Some darker green leaves can be worked at the bottom of the stalk, if desired. See photo #4, above. Illustration #2, below, shows the direction the leaf stitches are to be worked.

Make three bright yellow French knots in the center of each of the larger flowers, and one bright yellow French knot in the center of the medium-sized flowers. The larger buds have a green daisy-stitch on each side of their bases, or you can use a fly stitch, if desired. The smaller buds are worked with a single pink French knot, and their calyxes are made with a medium green fly-stitch at their bases. See Illustration #2, on the next page, to see how a fly stitch is made.

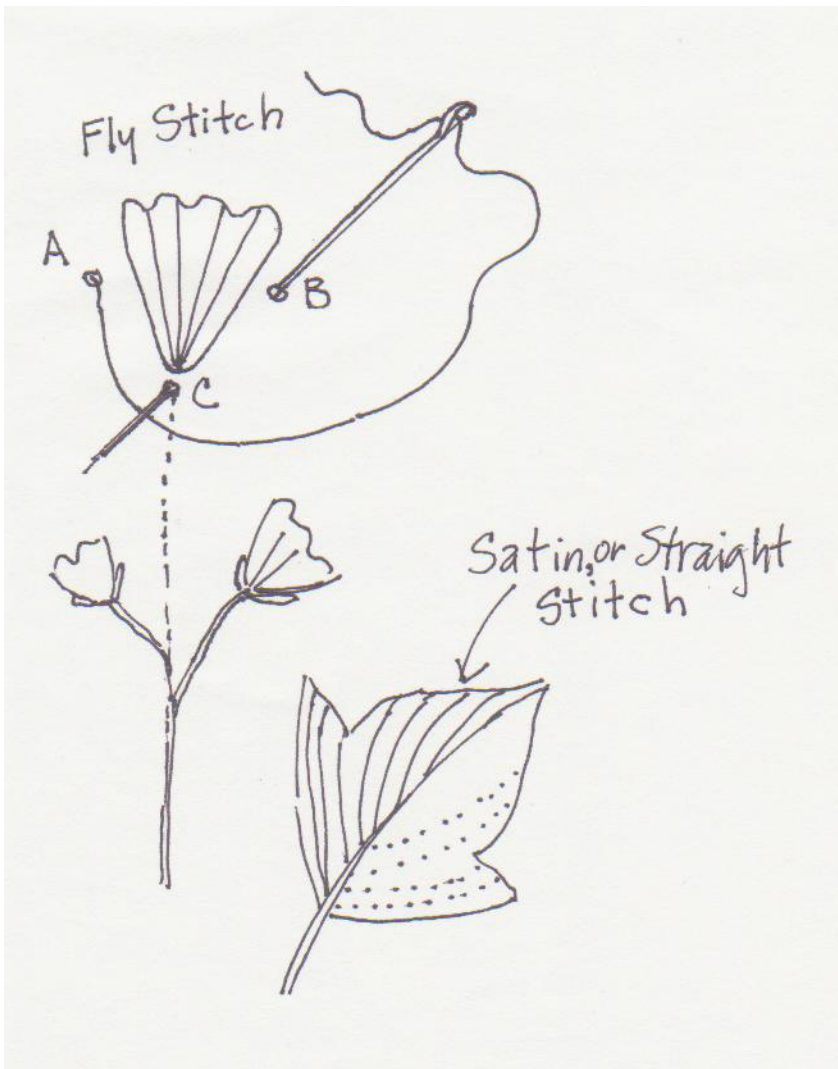


Illustration #2 - Fly stitch

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#### Larkspurs

As you can see in the photograph below, the larkspur plant, at the left, looks very much like the hollyhock plant. Because of this similarity, I'll just explain the differences between stitching the two



Photo #1

Because we are working with opaque beads for the larkspur flowers, there is no need to be concerned about the green stalk showing through the beaded flowers. The stalk is stem-stitched in a medium green. The leaves are worked in medium green daisy stitches that get progressively smaller as they ascend the stalk. Make four or five green French knots at the top part of the stalk to represent tiny unopened buds.

The leaves at the base of the stalk are worked in fanned-out layers of daisy stitches. These leaves are worked a little longer than the others. Please refer to photograph #1, above, and photo #2, below.





Photo #2

The individual larkspur flowers are made with small periwinkle (purple-blue), seed beads. The really tiny, #11 or smaller, beads really look nice. The beads are, as much as possible, sewn on in clusters of three. As you can see in photo #2, above, the flowers are crowded closely together at the base of the stalk, and they begin to grow a little sparser as they get toward the top. Sew 5 or 6 individual beads at the tip of the stalk to represent the tiny blue flower buds that are just starting to open.