

gathered flowers Simple but effective flowers can be made from ribbons or strips of fabric using this method. We used contrasting thread for photographic purposes.



1. Cut a length of ribbon or fabric.



2. Knot the end of a matching sewing thread. Fold one end of the ribbon to the back and take the needle through the fold to the front.



3. Work small even gathering stitches along one side of the ribbon.



4. Place the opposite end of ribbon behind the folded end and take the needle to the front through all layers.



5. Pull the thread firmly to gather the ribbon tightly at the centre.

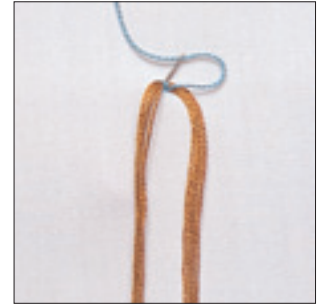


6. Secure the gathers with two or three tiny stitches at the centre. Leave the thread tail on the back to secure later.

plaiting



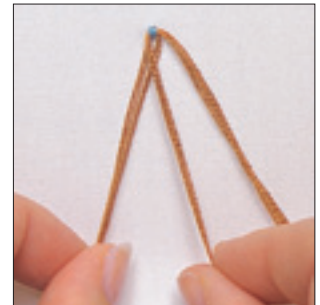
1. Fold the thread bundle in half to find the centre.



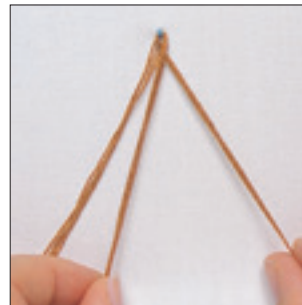
2. Secure the folded end temporarily.



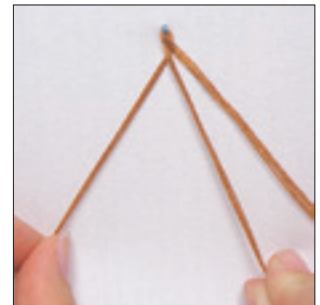
3. Separate the strands into three equal groups.



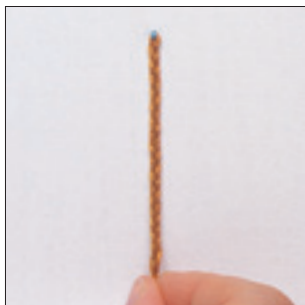
4. Take the left hand group of threads over the middle group. The left hand group now becomes the middle group.



5. Take the right hand group of threads over the middle group. The right hand group now becomes the middle group.



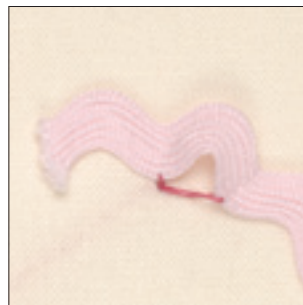
6. Take the left hand group of threads over the middle group.



7. Continue in this manner, alternating from side to side until reaching the end of the threads.



8. Knot the threads to secure the plait.



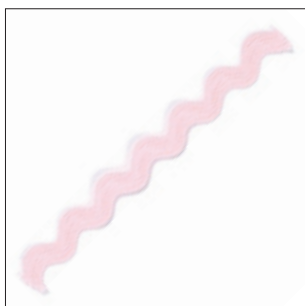
5. Take the needle to the back at the centre and begin to pull the thread through.



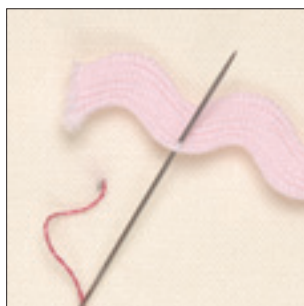
6. Pull the points of the ricrac together to form the first petal.

ricrac flower

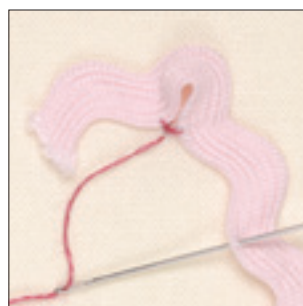
The waves in the ricrac braid are pulled together to form the petals of these decorative little flowers.



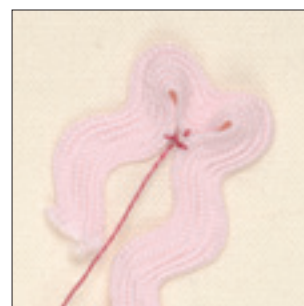
1. Cut a length of ricrac so there are seven full curves on one side.



2. Bring the thread to the front through the fabric at the marked flower centre. Take the needle through the first point on the inside edge of the ricrac.



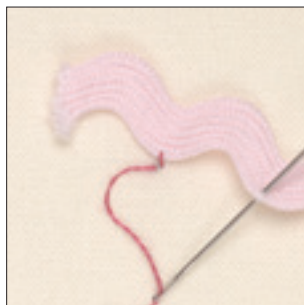
7. Re-emerge at the centre. Take the needle through the third inside point of the ricrac.



8. Take the thread to the back at the centre and pull the stitch taut, pulling the points together to form the second petal.



3. Take the needle back through the marked centre.



4. Bring the thread to the front just next to the first stitch and through the second inside point of the ricrac.



9. Stitch another two points of the ricrac in the same way to form petals three and four.



10. Stitch into the next inside point of the ricrac. Trim the ricrac a short distance from the point.



11. Fold the raw edge to the back and pull the stitch taut, placing the fold over the starting point.



12. Bring the needle to the front at the outer edge of the ricrac between petals one and five.



13. Take the needle through all layers at the outer edge to secure the fold.



14. Finishing. Bring the needle to the front inside the fold in the fifth petal, through the raw ends of the ricrac underneath.



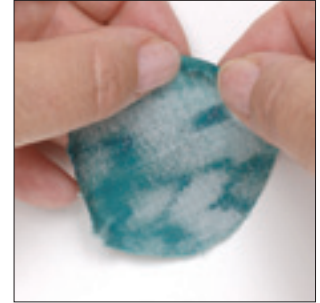
15. Take the needle to the back at the same point to catch the ends in place under the petal.



suffolk puffs Suffolk puffs are made from a circle of fabric that is hand gathered around the outer edge. The longer the running stitches used for the gathering, the smaller the opening at the centre will be. Using tiny running stitches will result in a larger opening at the centre.



1. Using a circular template of the required size, cut out a circle of fabric. Thread a needle with matching machine sewing thread.



2. With wrong sides together, fold under 3mm (1/8") around the entire edge of the circle and finger press.



3. Beginning on the wrong side and using running stitches, stitch along the folded edge.



4. Firmly pull up the running stitches to gather the fabric.



5. Secure the thread with 2 - 3 tiny back stitches. Take the thread inside the puff and re-emerge a short distance away.



6. Flatten the puff, keeping the gathering at the centre. Gently pull the thread and snip it close to the fabric.