



Pattern Club

How to use your Motif Sheets



Getting Started with the Embroidery Pattern Club!

Welcome to the Mistress of Stitch Embroidery Pattern Club! Thanks so much for signing up! I hope that you're keen to get started but maybe you're not quite sure how to go about using the motif sheets to create your own designs. I've put together this tutorial to get you started. We'll be using the Under the Sea Motif sheet and I've also included a free 6" hoop design.

What you need:

- Tracing Paper
- Pencil
- Rubber
- Black Pen
- A printer (libraries usually offer printing services if you don't own a printer)
- Reading glasses and a good light!
- Sketch book, layout paper, or just some paper!



Pattern Club

How to use your Motif Sheets

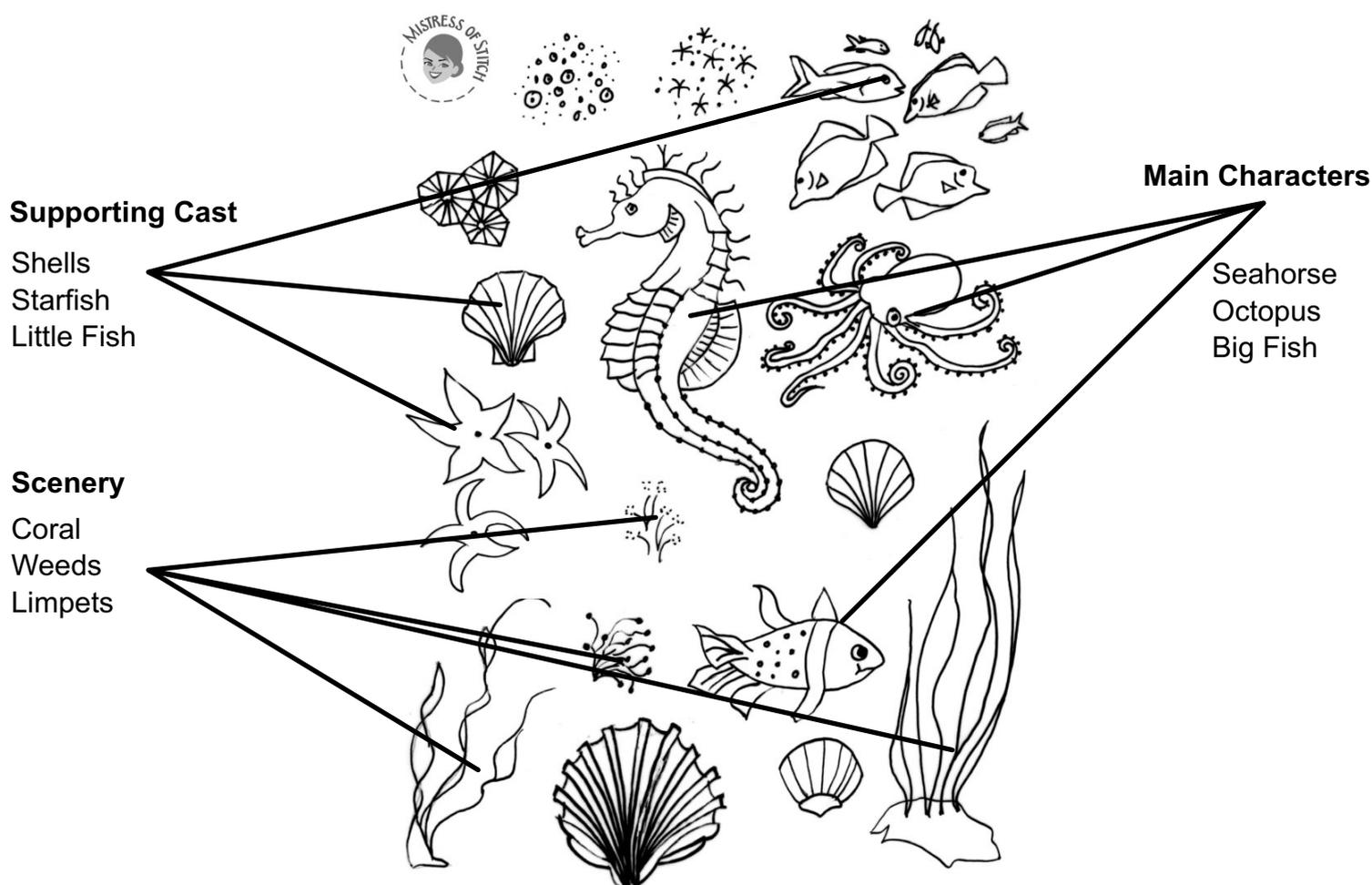
What's on your sheet?

Each month you'll receive an A4 sheet of designs as a PDF file to your inbox. Every month there will be a different, often seasonal, theme for the motifs. This month the theme is Under the Sea. The sheet will include motifs that fit into 3", 4" and 6" embroidery hoops and for some themes you'll be able to create your own composite designs from the motifs. In this tutorial we'll look at how to do that.

The Under the Sea motif sheet includes:

- Three main characters - Seahorse, Octopus, Big Fish
- A supporting cast - Shells, Starfish, Little Fish
- Some scenery! - Corals, Weed, Limpets

You can create your own design from the sheet, by selecting a main character, some supporting characters and some scenery! Read on to find out how to do this step by step!



© Tara Dakini 2020 - Not to be copied & distributed, or reproduced without permission. Finished items not to be sold without permission.



Pattern Club

How to use your Motif Sheets

Create your own design!

For this tutorial, I've created a design for a 6" hoop from the Under the Sea Motif Sheet. I've picked the following characters from the sheet. What would you choose?

- Main character - Seahorse
- Supporting cast - 3 Little Fish
- Scenery - Coral, Weed

1. Once you've decided which characters that you want to use, print out the motif sheet using your printer and then trace them off onto tracing paper.

2. Have a think about how you're going to arrange your characters, supporting cast and scenery. If you cut up the tracing paper you can play around with the arrangement. When you're happy with your arrangement you can start tracing off the motifs onto a piece of layout paper.

I've decided to place my seahorse in the centre with a large piece of seaweed behind. I've rubbed out part of the seaweed where it goes behind the seahorse. You can rub bits out and add bits in to make your design work for you.



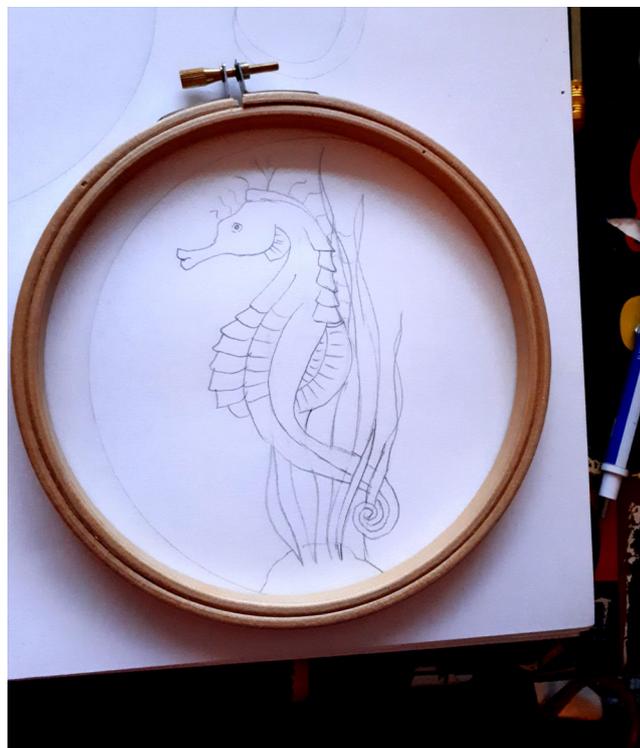


Pattern Club

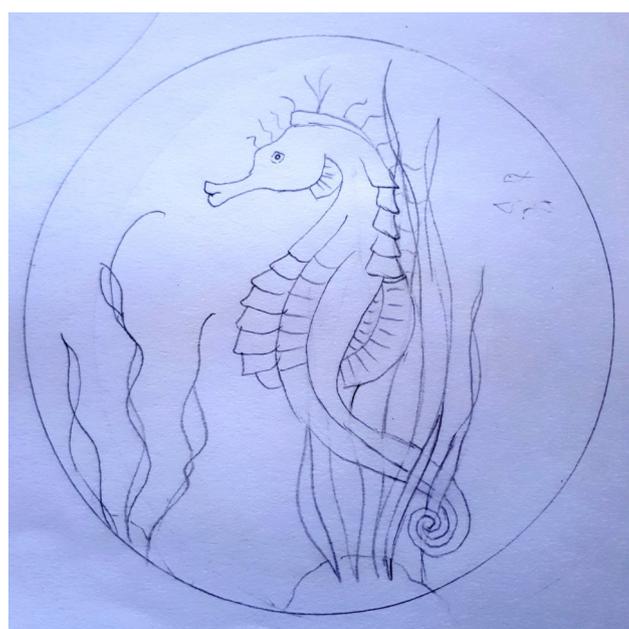
How to use your Motif Sheets

3. Don't forget to think about what shape your final piece will be - are you going to frame the piece into a hoop, or onto a square board, or onto a bag or garment? Draw a line around your design to mark the finished shape and size of your piece of work.

I'm using a hoop to frame my finished piece, so I'm using the hoop to mark the final placement of my seahorse.



4. Start adding in other elements to complete your composition. You want a nice balance of empty space and motifs, and you want your eye to flow naturally around the composition. If you add too many motifs then the finished piece will look busy and confused.





Pattern Club

How to use your Motif Sheets



a



b



c

5. I felt there was a little gap here at the bottom centre left. So I've decided to 'audition' some coral to go in that space. I've decided I like coral 'b' instead of coral 'a'. Adding a motif here leads the eye downwards from the seahorse's face giving the composition a sense of movement.

6. Don't forget you can position a motif however you like - you can turn it upside down, or flip the tracing paper over and reverse it, try it!

I've decided to change the angle of the motif in coral 'c' (it's the same as coral 'b')



7. I've added in some little fish to draw the eye around the composition, from the coral at bottom left and back up and across to the top right.



8. I've decided to change the way the fish are grouped. So I've repositioned the larger fish from the left hand side, and placed it underneath the 2 tiny fish instead.



Seahorse Pattern

Sized for a standard 6" hoop



9. Et voila! Here is the finished design!
How are you getting on with your own design?

10. This design is now ready to be transferred onto your fabric and stitched. You're more than welcome to use this design, or create your own from the motif sheet.

Please share your designs and finished embroideries with me on my Patreon page!



Transfer the Design

Dark Fabrics

It's easy to transfer the design onto dark (or light) fabrics, napped fabrics and felt, using Sticky Fabri Solvy - [click here](#) for a blog post about this.

You have to wash it off afterwards, so make sure the fabric is washable and you can iron it. Make sure neither the fabric or thread colours will run when washed.

1. Print the design onto a Sticky Fabri Solvy sheet.
2. Stick it onto the fabric, and work the design
3. Wash the Solvy off the worked design, by soaking for 20 mins in cold water
4. Dry carefully - roll in a towel, re-shape and leave to dry flat
5. Press carefully, put embroidery side face down onto a soft towel and gently iron back of work with steam

Caveat

The Solvy does make the stitching harder as it's a bit thick and sticky, so it's not great if you have arthritis/weakness in your hands.

Light Fabrics

It's easy to transfer the design onto light and medium weight pale fabric using a light box or window.

1. Tape the design to the glass, making sure there is a bright light behind it
2. Decide where you want to put the motif, then tape the fabric over the design so you can see the motif in your chosen location on the fabric.
3. Trace the motif onto the fabric using a pencil or pen - [click here](#) for a blog post on fabric markers

Finishing

Once you have finished working your embroidery, you can use the hoop to frame it.

1. Centre the work over the inner hoop and fit the outer hoop over it.
2. You can use Herringbone stitch to lace the fabric at the back of the work and keep it from sticking out. Or you could use masking tape... but don't tell anyone I said that!
3. If you want a super neat finish, cut a disc of felt and glue it to the back of the hoop, or stitch it to the back of the work if you prefer.
4. Use the ribbon to create a loop through the screw on the outer hoop.



Stitch Suggestions

