

## Sharing the Christmas Love with Caroline Sharkey and Elizabeth Dubbelde.

### Sewing Machine

Sewing machine in good working order with darning foot attachment and drop the feed dog's facility plus the table attachment for your machine will make it easier to stitch out the fabrics.

Spare sewing machine needles I suggest topstitch or jeans needles.

A water-soluble pen

Small sharp scissors.

20cm hoop

2 pieces of wash away water-soluble Vilene fabric.

Thread options...

Christmas green and red cotton thread

Light blue cotton thread

Multi-colour silver/pink/blue and a light green metallic thread

Red metallic thread

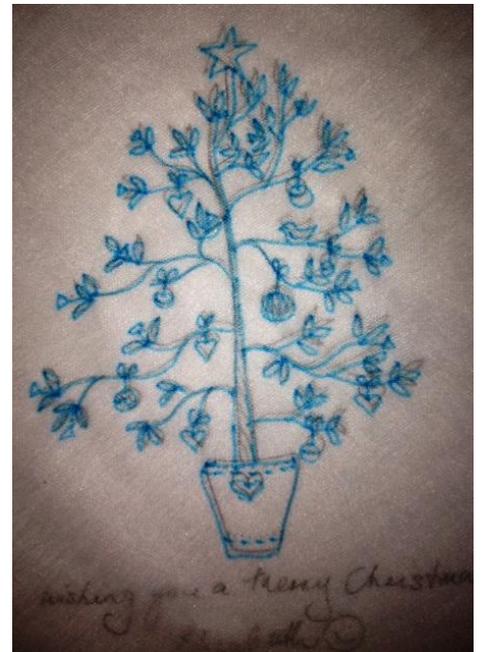
On 1 piece of the water-soluble fabric trace the tree design from the drawing with a water-soluble pen this gives you the basic sewing lines to follow.

Load the hoop with both layers of the water-soluble fabric with the traced piece right side up on top. Secure the hoop so that the water soluble is tight like a drum in the hoop.

With the green thread in the bobbin and on the top thread of the machine and start the back and forward movements along the tree structure and branches.

Once you stitch around the branches and trunk with a straight stitch and build up some layers of thread work you can then go over those straight stitches with a zig zag style movement of free motion stitching to help keep together any stray lines of the design.

Add the leaf shapes on the ends of the branches making sure that all the shapes are



connected back together in a weblike stitched design this will make sure they stay together.

Once all the green area of the tree is stitched and secure it is time to move to the Christmas balls and hearts.

Change the machine and bobbin threads to the red cotton. Heavily stitch around the shapes and connect the circles and hearts going over several times and building up the thickness and connectiveness.



Once the red is finished its time to add some metallic threads.

I prefer to run the metallic thread out of the bobbin but if you are confident to use a metallic needle and stitch as normal go for it and add the colours to the areas in the sample.

Otherwise take the water-soluble fabric out of the hoop and turn it over so you are now stitching onto the wrong side of the tree.

You will still see the remaining unstitched drawing through from the back.

Fill the bobbin with the metallic multi-coloured thread and put the light blue on top of the machine as this will compliment the metallic for best application.

(Remember you are stitching from the wrong side now) Stitch the pot, star and bird shapes, cut the thread off once you have started to stitch this stops it from catching in the design also check that the metallic is feeding freely from the bobbin. Again, make

sure that the design is stitched thoroughly and connected up well so it all holds together when washed away. Once the bird and pot are stitched move onto the light green metallic leaves. Fill a bobbin with the light green metallic thread and again use the light cotton blue thread as the top thread on the machine.

Stitch all the flower design ends of the branches and leaves on the tree in a back and forward movement to stitch these making sure that the stitching connects back to the leaves and branches.

Fill the bobbin with the metallic red thread and using the red thread on the machine top restitch over the balls and hearts and add the heart to the pot.

All the stitching should be very thick as this will hold the tree stiff to hang as a tree decoration.

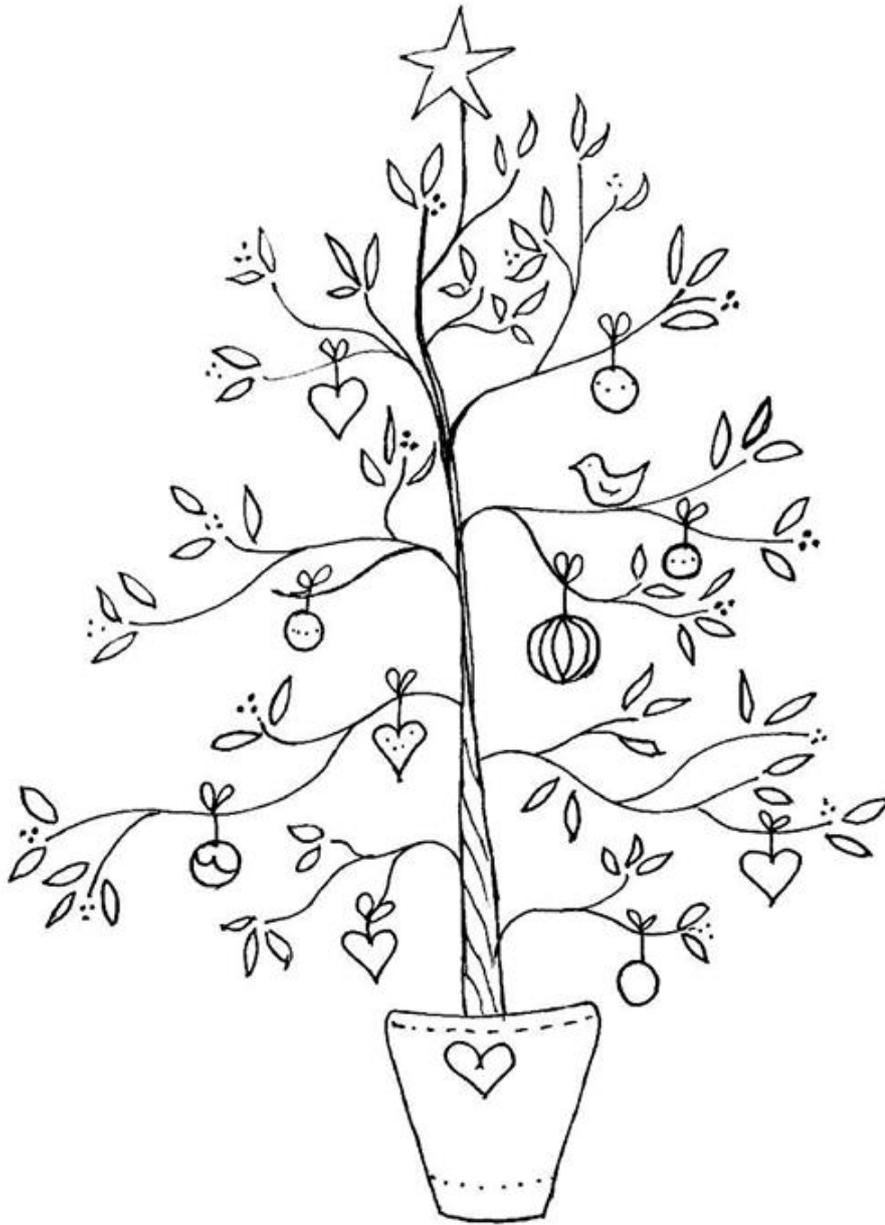
Cut away the outside excess water soluble and keep this for future small projects.

Now soak the stitched tree in warm water, changing the water 2-3 times as the glue will wash away. Some glue stays in the piece and this also helps the decoration to be stiff. Once dry it is ready to hang with a hook on the tree or in a garland.





The drawing to trace.



wishing you a Merry Christmas  
Elizabeth 😊  
2013