

# In tribute to Elisabetta.... (English translation)



Do you know Elisabetta Sforza and her pretty blog, [Elisabetta ricami](#)? It is essential to discover it.

So much finesse, so much poetry, talent ...

A love at first sight, a source of inspiration, and the infinite pleasure of reading, day after day, her delicate, cultivated and humorous Italian, as refined and as nicely carved as her roses and lavenders ... Her blog is a Garden, a secret cloister, a wonder. A radical antidote to gloom and a generous fountain of inspiration.

Immediately charmed, I spent hours to contemplate, to study, to admire her delicate embroideries. I got the books she quotes from her sources, and I get passionate about her initials richly flowered, -really, she has the talent to make them so balanced and poetic.

I followed her advices, and when she published in the magazine "Inspiration", I obtained the digitized version of the magazine and delightedly embroidered two initials with roses, daisies and other wonders.

I chose to embroider a beautiful white linen (zweigart Kingston 22 threads white 100), and when the initials are finished (M and H, for Marie-Hélène), to sew a delicate pouch, lined with a pink striped cotton and decorated with lace, and to offer it to a beautiful

Lady, able to appreciate its delicacy and sophistication ...



On the fabric (washed and ironed before starting to avoid later shrinkage), I first draw the outline of each initial with an “embroidery pen” which writes blue (turquoise!) and fades with water, using my light table.



Separately, on a sheet of paper, with a pencil and an eraser to modify if needed the drawing, I draw the shapes of the flowers, and use this sketching as a reference (and scale) for the embroidery.

It allows to 'test' the arrangement of the flowers and directions to follow. For certain stitches, it will be easier to use a circular frame, large enough (25 cm) to contains both initials.... This embroidery frame is a pretty object, and it is necessary to take the time to "prepare" it, ie to surround it with a ribbon of cotton (inner circle) which protects the fabric and maintains

the tension better. Release the fabric every time you finish, to avoid marks on the fabric.

You will also need "crewel" needles and "straw" needles which are useful to facilitate the post point (in English bullion stitch, in Italian "punto vapore", so poetic!) (Roses, lavenders, French knot stitch). The specificity of this needle is that the eye has the same size as the body of the needle (no bulge) which facilitates the passage of the threads through the hole of the needle, without deforming the loops. (Originally, it is a milliner -hat maker tool). You can find it on Amazon (keywords: milliner straw needle). The different sizes will influence the size of the "roll", so it is useful to have several.

The threads used are the DMC threads (6 separable strands), two for embroidering, Remember to use threads short enough to avoid tarnishing and felting by too much friction crossing the fabric (25 cm).



Daisies and lavender, hollyhocks and myosotis ... Roses and cyclamen ....



The reverse of the embroidery is not the most aesthetic, so I decided to line the pouch with a pale pink striped cotton, which does not "struggle" with the richness of the embroidery.



You will have to wash the embroidery again (to remove all traces of blue pen!) and the lining too - to stabilize the possible shrinkage, you do not want it to shrink later, do you?

The Ironing is also important (respect the grainline, starch for a perfect touch, and iron the embroidery on the reverse on a fleece or a towel).

These additional steps are necessary and will give a perfect finish! And all these hours spent embroidering with love will not be spoiled by unpleasant impatience.

The lining is laid "right sides together", machine-stitched on three sides, then the two fabrics are ironed and turned over. Then you fold the rectangle into the envelop shape of the pouch and simply assemble the sides by hand using a hidden stitch, (without forgetting the side left open for turning).

A delicate lace is then sewn around the flap, also by hand, for invisible seam. (Nobility obliges ...!)

