



ADDING DETAIL WITH FIBERS

Sometimes you create an embroidery or other project and it's just missing something. Or, it doesn't quite fit the background and needs something else. Sometimes you might have a design that can fill the spot. But if you don't digitize and don't have the right one; you need to find another method. I like the method described below because it solves this problem but also adds a lot of texture and interest to project.

I did this on Fred's set BFC1378 Large Kingfisher. The bird is gorgeous, but he is sitting on a very small branch. You could add some fabric on the lower section of branches and foliage so the little branch would blend in. But Fred stitched him on a blue background and I didn't want to frame him like a cameo. I wanted a branch! Here is how it looked before I added the branches:



To begin, lightly sketch where you want the branch (or tree or whatever element you will make). You can see my pencil mark a little in the above picture. I just wanted a line to follow when I added the fibers.

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Apply the fibers

You can either glue the fibers on or stitch them on. I chose to stitch these. I chose two thin Chenille Fibers that were similar in color to the embroidered branch on the bird. Petite Chenille-0081 Brown and Petite Chenille-0083 Light Brown. You can find these by going to www.BFC-Stash.com and clicking on Start Shopping. Then click on Embellishments on the left hand side, choose Fibers, then Chenille.

I chose a brown thread that was in between these two colors. You can get different effects by using different colors of thread with your fibers. Choose thread that matches as close as possible to highlight just the fiber. To add more texture, choose a contrasting color. In this case I could have chosen a dark brown.

Start closest to your design. In this case, I started an inch or so on the branch under the bird. Place the first fiber beyond where you want it to be (you will trim the ends later). Set your machine for a narrow, long zig zag stitch. (If using a fatter fiber choose an appropriate width so it will cover most of the width). Start stitching where you want the branch to start.

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You can see where I started on top of the existing branch. . Guide the fiber along your line and stitch. You can use a couching foot to get the fiber exactly in the middle and have the zig zag cover it as you stitch. I prefer a regular foot as I get a more random effect that blends well with the next row of fibers. It also leaves parts without any stitching which adds texture. When you reach the end of your branch, secure your stitching and cut the fiber leaving a couple of inches.

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Take your next fiber and start it a little past the first one. (This will blend it in with the existing branch) The following picture shows two rows of the light brown.

For the next rows I used the darker fiber and I did several rows. If there are any gaps, you can take a small piece of fiber and stitch it down.

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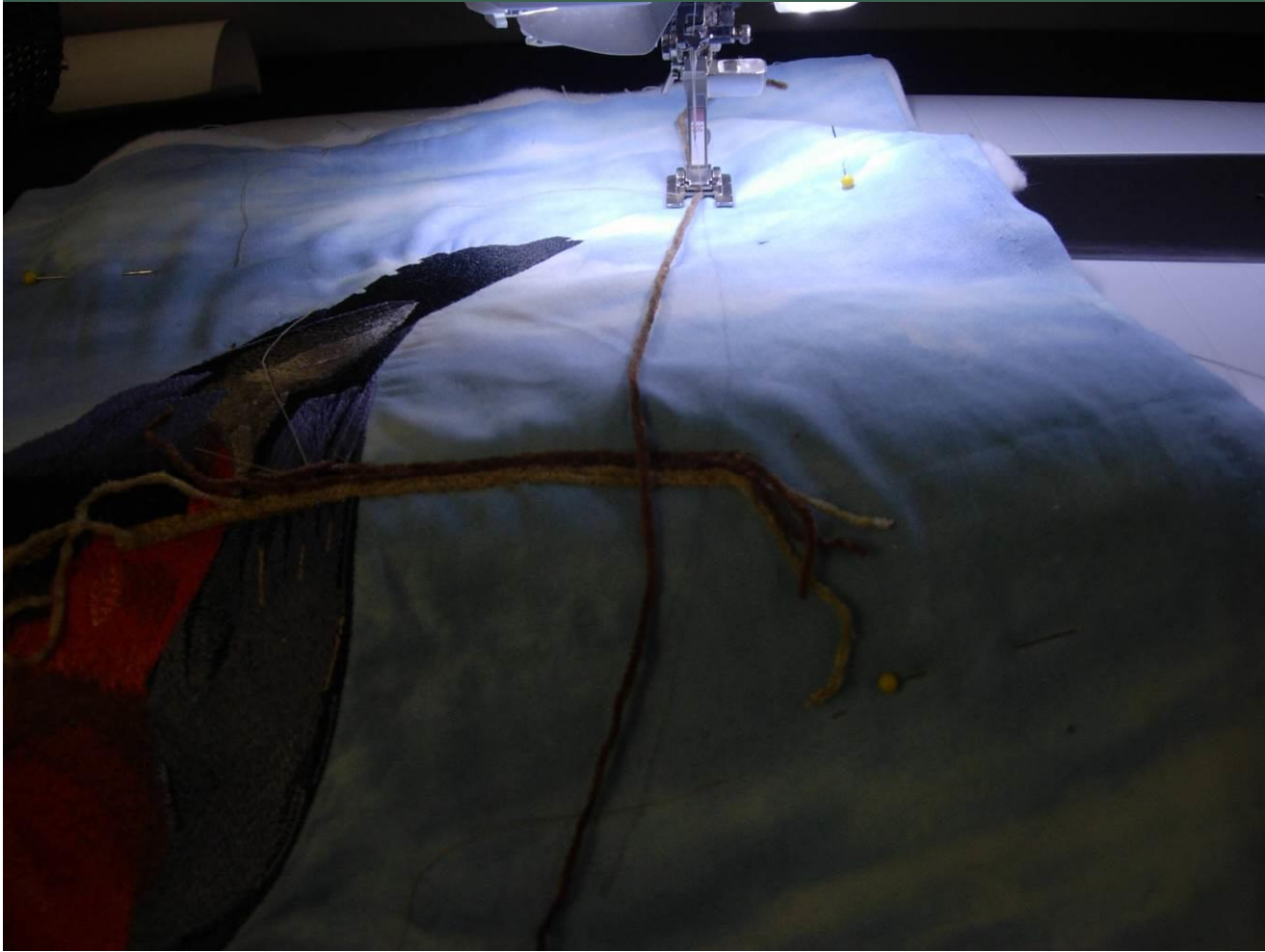


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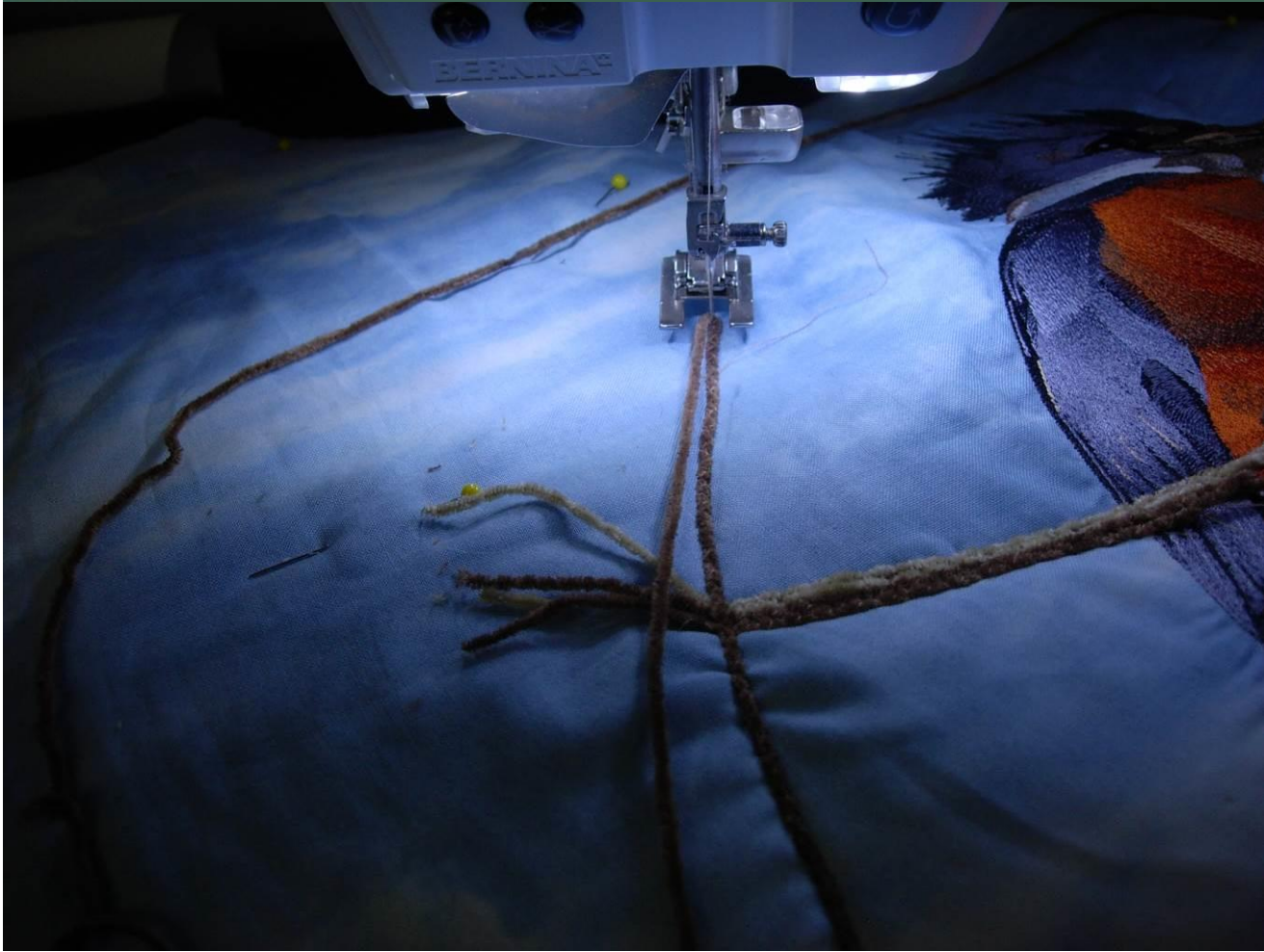


Now we will work on the large branch. Start at the bottom of your line and stitch a fiber as you did above. When you come to the top end of the branch, don't cut it, but fold it down and stitch down back to the beginning. This prevents having raw ends sticking out of the top of the branch. Though – there may be times when you want that look – for example a broken limb. Once you have these two rows stitched, trim the ends of your other branch.

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I added several rows of the Brown, stopping each row a little different height than the others as you can see in the photo below. I had a couple of small gaps so I stitched a row of the lighter brown over them. Then I stitched a Brown so it would cover some of this lighter fiber. You can build up rows of fibers as much as you want! Here is my finished branch. I could have added a lot more branches and foliage but I wanted the Kingfisher to really stand out.

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And the finished picture:

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Don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions – Suz Suz@BFC-Creations.com

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