

Trick
Or Treat

KNOCK
KNOCK!!



Smell
My
Feet

KNOCK, KNOCK Who's There?

9" x 9" Block #8 – September 20, 2020
Spellbound Mystery Sew-A-Long
Designed by Glenda Sha
Liberty Homestead

This is your free download for my block for the Spellbound Mystery Sew-A-Long. 9" x 9" is the finished size of the block. I've combined wool applique and embroidery with lots of embellishments – we especially love little buttons! I hope you enjoy my design!

FABRICS, THREADS, EMBELLISHMENTS

This is a list of everything I used in my block, all of which are included in my fabric kit & my embellishment kit.

Background: 11" x 11" square.

Solid Color Cotton – 4 ½" x 5 ½", Signs

* Note – these come pre-printed in my fabric kit.

Wool: Purple – 5" x 10 ½", Spider

Yellow – 4 ½" x 6 ½", Mask

Brown – 1" x 6", Sign Posts

Red – 2" x 2", Lips

Ivory – 2" x 2", Eyes

* Note: I used wool felt for the lips & eyes because of the small pieces.

DMC Floss: Purple, Yellow, Blue, Orange, Green, & Red

Ric-Rac: Tiny Purple – 12"

Tiny Orange – 12"

½" Ivory – 24"

Buttons: (2) ¼" Red Button – Eyes

(20) Tiny Buttons – Red, Orange, Blue, Purple, & Yellow

Fuzzy or Nubby Purple Yarn (hairy spider legs) – 1 Yard

PREPARE YOUR FABRICS

First you'll need a background fabric square 10" x 10" or 11" x 11". When doing wool applique and embroidery on a square of fabric like this I found it helpful to use a stabilizer behind it. I drew a 9" x 9" square on my stabilizer and basted it to the background along these lines. This gave me the finished size of the block on the fabric so I could position my work within this space.

Also, I used an iron on fusible for my wool applique – I like Heat 'N Bond Lite or Featherlite. Not necessarily to fuse to the background – more to give my wool a little body when working with it. It

also helps to keep the cut edges clean while you work with it.

I used DMC embroidery floss for all my stitching. 3 strands for the embroidery work and 1 strand and a small overcast stitch for sewing on the wool. This little overcast stitch or whip stitch with 1 strand of a matching floss blends right in with the wool.

And another thing – I got a little "crafty" with some parts. To this end, you'll need a clear drying fabric glue and some toothpicks to apply it.

KNOCK, KNOCK !!

Begin with the embroidered Knock, Knock. I used 3 strands of the purple floss and a simple back stitch. Use whatever method you like to transfer the letters to your fabric in the upper right corner. Position this so that your stitching is about ½" away from your 9" x 9" basted lines on the top edge and the right side.

SPIDER

*Note: Before working with the wool pieces, iron on your fusible. Make templates of the pattern pieces as shown. Trace the patterns on the paper fusible and cut out along these lines. Remove the paper backing before working with the wool. I'm not familiar with other fusibles, but the Heat 'N Bond leaves a smooth finish on the back of the wool and is very easy to handle and work with.

From the purple wool make 1 spider body and 8 legs. The 3 shorter legs are the same on both sides – reverse your template for one set of these. The longer legs are different – make sure you have your legs facing the right direction when cutting. (If you're working with the fusible on the back of the wool, your directions matter!)

Position the spider's body on your background – about 1 ½" above the bottom seam line & about 2" in from each side. This overall design takes up most of the background – it's important to lay out your pieces within the 9" x 9" square. Fuse this piece in place (optional). Stitch all around with 1 strand of the purple floss and a small overcast stitch.

Put the legs aside for now.

MASK

From the yellow wool trace & cut out the mask. Remove the fusible's paper backing.

First, with 4 strands of the green floss, make a small running stitch all around the outside edges, about 1/8" away from the cut edge. Next, with 4 strands of the purple floss, use a small back stitch to make the solid lines around each eye. Use your favored method for doing this – I found it easiest just to stitch them free-hand.

Ric-Rac: Trim around your mask with the Ivory ric-rac. Let's say that ric-rac is made up of "hills" and "valleys". The ric-rac will lay under the mask so that only 1/2 of it shows. First cut a length to go around the bottom edges (see photo). Position the center of this piece so that a "valley" is in the center of the mask. This makes it easier to "bend" the ric-rac to follow the mask. Now – it's Glue Time! Use a toothpick to put a small drop of glue on each "hill" that goes under the mask. Do this along the whole piece. Trim the ends of the strip at the "peaks" of the mask and use a little glue to secure any loose threads. Now cut a second length of ric-rac for the top edge – between the 3 "peaks" on each side. Again position a "valley" at the center of the mask and glue the "hills" to the underside of the mask.

SIGNS

The two signs come pre-printed in my fabric kit. First cut out each sign along the dotted lines. Cut just inside the lines so that the dots are cut off. Iron a piece of fusible to the backs of each.

If you didn't buy the kit, you can make your own by stitching small straight stitches for the letters.

Cut the sign posts from the brown wool. Iron the fusible to the wool. Then cut the 2 sign posts. The trick-or-treat post should be 1/4" – 3/8" wide and about 4 1/4" long. The short post is about 1/2" long.

EYES & LIPS

Fuse, trace, and cut out the eyes and the lips. I used wool felt for these just because I found it easier for such little pieces.

EMBROIDERY

Time to embroider the feathers on the tips of the mask. In order to position them, use all the pieces you've already made. First lay the mask on the spider - temporarily. Position this so that the "dips" in the shortest "peaks" lay just over the top edge of the spider. Next lay out the legs and the signs to make sure everything is staying inside your 9" seam lines. When everything is fitting together use a pencil to draw the feathers on the background

fabric. You only need to draw the shafts of the feathers – you can free-hand the "fluff". Once you have the feathers where you want them, remove all the pieces. Stitch the shafts of the feathers with 3 strands of floss and a back stitch. Stitch the "fluff" with straight stitches. I used the orange, red, blue, and yellow floss for the feathers. Use the photo as a guide or make up your own.

SPIDER LEGS & SIGNS

Time to lay out your pieces again. Lay the mask over the body again. Remove the paper backing from the legs & the signs and sign posts. Position the legs on each side. The top legs should start right at the bottom of the mask, then down from there. You can trim the ends of each leg to fit inside your 9" block. The ends should lay right up against the body with no space showing.

Position the sign posts and signs as shown in the photo. Wrap the top leg on the left side under & around the post. If you need to lay the small sign over one of the small legs, trim the leg to match the edge of the sign – so it doesn't lie under the sign. Remember the 9" seam line!!

Now remove the mask and fuse all these pieces in place. Use 1 strand of the purple floss and a small overcast stitch to stitch the legs in place. Use a regular sewing thread in a matching color to stitch the sign posts in place. Again with a matching thread tack a few small stitches right at the edges of the signs to secure them.

FINISH THE MASK

Once again, lay the mask over the spider. Pin it in place. With 3 strands of the red floss make French knots on each of the "hills" of the Ivory ric-rac. Now, with 3 strands of the orange floss make more French knots around the eyes as shown on the diagram.

With 1 strand of the yellow floss make small overcast stitches around the eyes to keep the edges of the yellow wool secure.

Trace, cut, and fuse in place the 2 Ivory circles for the eyes and the lips. With matching threads stitch the eyes with 4 long stitches as shown, going up & down with your needle at the edges of the circles, not through them.



Stitch the lips in place with small overcast stitches.

EMBELLISH!

OK. Now's the fun part. Embellishments! (Hope you bought my kit!)

BUTTONS: Sew on the (2) ¼" red buttons for the eyes. Center them on the Ivory circles. Now sew the tiny buttons in and amongst the feathers. Use the photo as a guide or just wing it.

RIC – RAC: The tiny ric-rac is glued onto the edges of the signs. One side at a time. Cut a length to match one side and glue it in place so that the edges of the sign don't show outside the ric-rac. Keep going all around the sign this way. Use the purple ric-rac on the Trick-Or-Treat sign and the orange ric-rac on the Smell My Feet sign.

LEGS: Use the purple yarn to make the hairy spider legs. Lay the yard right over the wool leg and tack in place with 1 strand of the purple floss.

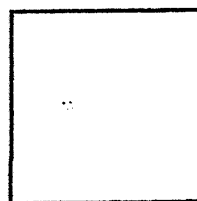
Now it's time to "tidy up" the mask. Get out the glue (!) again. If you have spots between the wool edges and the ric-rac trim that aren't lying flat or secure, add a tiny bit of glue & press them down. Also – check the ends of the ric-rac to see if there are any stray threads from your cut edges that need to be cleaned up. Finally, stick a couple drops of glue under the edges of the yellow wool on the "peaks" to secure it and prevent any fuzzy edges.

To finish, re-check the dimensions of your block. With all the hand work your block may not be quite 9" anymore. If so, make any necessary adjustments to make it a true 9" square, add ¼" seams, and trim your finished block to 9 ½" x 9 ½".

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Test Square
One Inch

