

Stir Crazy? Challenge #4

Handmade Bookmarks

Handmade Bookmarks by Mary Tabar - www.marytabar.com



The idea of this project is to use items that you have at home. In the past I have cross stitched Aida cloth for bookmarks, but you can use any fabric that you have at home. As I was looking around my fabric stash, I noticed linen that I had Eco dyed with Tara Ritacco. I have used rusted fabric and even ribbon that was wide enough to stitch on. These bookmarks make nice gifts to your friends and family and will also help your free motion stitching.

Enjoy the process and don't forget to share your projects on our Instagram and Facebook pages with the tag [#stircrazyvam](#) and [#vambookmarks](#).

SUGGESTED MATERIALS

- Fun fabric, scissors, printed words to trace, light box, wash away marker, regular marker, pencil (not ink), bright thread, sewing machine (for free motion stitching), tear away, wash away stabilizer, 20 lb paper or freezer paper.

INSTRUCTIONS

- Cut the fabric into 10 ½" x 3 ½".
- Fray the edges by pulling threads out.
- Print out some inspirational words in the font and size you like.
- Trace the word onto the fabric with a light box.
- Back the bookmark with paper or tear away stabilizer.
- Set up your machine for free motion stitching. Use bright thread.
- Follow your writing sample, I stitched the word three times.
- Take off any stabilizer from the back and lightly spray your bookmark with water and press to finish.

TIPS

- Using a straight pin will help to fray the edges.
- Putting some kind of stitching around the fabric prevents excess fraying. You can use fancy stitches that look very even - I like the organic look of my edges.
- And it's good practice for free motion stitching!