

Enchanted Lavender Clearing

by Erica Broecker

This project started creating itself in my mind, almost without my conscious help, the minute I saw the *Enchanted Fairy Treasures* designs by Carolyn Lorking, digitized by Sue Box.

I started with Weaver's Cloth, cheesecloth, silk ribbons, and two dye colors - . I mixed the two dyes with water and dyed the Weaver's Cloth and the silk just lightly to give a brownish avocado cast to it. I used more dye on the cheesecloth still mixed with water, to make it darker. The silk ribbons were already green, but I spotched them with the two dyes to have a mottled, softer look.

I chose the designs I wanted to use, editing some of them for size, or to get just parts, and printed out templates to figure out my placement, marking where I wanted them to be.



Using spray adhesive, I adhered the Weaver's Cloth to Warm and Natural cotton batting. Laying the cheesecloth in an oval to make the clearing, I pinned it in place and added the silk ribbons with a glue stick, coming out from under the cheesecloth above where the fairies would be. I covered the whole thing with a layer of water soluble stabilizer, and did the embroideries. I used Yenmet purple/silver for the fairy wings, hologram silver Glitter thread for the spider web, gold Glitter thread around the unicorn, and Isacord and Poly Sheen for the other stitching. For the grass stitches I used a 90 topstitching needle and two colors through the needle at the same time.



Decorative machine stitching accented the grass areas. I used a leafy stitch to cascade down the sides, helping hold the cheesecloth in place. At this point, my daughter, Cathy came over and saw it, and I told her I was going to glue beads on and she screeched "No! tell me where and I'll sew them on!" So she shamed me into hand stitching (mostly because I was going out of town and could do it in the hotel room). I sewed an amethyst heart to the unicorn's collar, and a glass dragonfly flying near the spinner. I still glued the brown beads on the grass, though. By doing it that way, some of the holes showed, and they gave more of a seed-like appearance that I liked.



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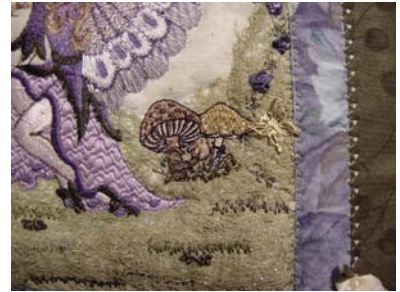
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The silk ribbons roses are French Knot Roses that I was shown by Kathryn Thompson (of Judith and Kathryn Embroideries), and one of their excellent stitchers, Jane Ellis, and instructions will be in a new book, *Beautiful Embroideries with Judith and Kathryn*, which will have hand and machine embroidery projects.



I cut the inner border 1½" and the outer border is 4" though I started with 5" so I'd have room to square it up. I added these borders, mitering the corners, used a decorative stitch over the edge, helping hold the cheesecloth down. Then I put a layer of heavier batting behind the whole thing, larger than the inner border, and stitched though it all as I did the feather again. I trimmed off the excess. This gave the design area more depth, because after I put the backing on (with spray adhesive), I stitched in some places to make them recede and others stand out more. I cut my binding 2¼", folded and pressed, and sewed the raw edges to the back, sewing from the back, with fusible thread in the bobbin. Then when I turned the binding to the front, I could fuse it down to make it easier to do the feather stitching over the edge. I used the feathery stitch in these places because



it fit the theme, and it also covered any unevenness there happened to be. It's taken me years to wean myself from perfectionism! Now I just try to hide the imperfections when I see them. That's the reason I decided to add the carnation roses in the upper left. (There must have been a cat sitting on my project when I started at that corner. It just couldn't have been my steering that made it so uneven!) But "fixing" it, with the carnation roses worked out so well that I added more on the lower right.

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To finish it up, I glued the gold butterflies on, and added a clear glitter paint all around on the cheesecloth and over the carnation roses to add the final sparkle to my Enchanted Lavender Clearing.



I made a label to put on the back, using another of the beautiful fairies, Vanity. I used lightweight vinyl as the "mirror".

As you can see, I have help with my projects! Tchaikovsky especially appreciates the things I create and always wants to be an integral part of them. His fur is a special embellishment in everything I do.

I'd love to see any of the ways you use these ideas, and hope you find them helpful in creating your own masterpiece.



I've attached a list of the items I used, with the item numbers so you can order them from our web site if you need them.

www.ericas.com

Items used in Erica's Enchanted Lavender Clearing

Note: I did this in 2001, and we no longer have some of the items available, but I'm listing the order numbers for those items we carry, or are similar.

Design Disk:

Enchanted Fairy Treasures 72634

Paints and Glitter:

The paints that can be used now are 20890 Old Brass, and 12611 Olive
So Soft Glitter 76838

Special Fabrics:

1 yard cheese cloth 96031
Weaver's Cloth 92048

Silk Ribbons:

4mm silk ribbon light olive 95349
4mm silk ribbon fern 18721
7mm silk ribbon dark lilac 73923
7mm silk ribbon medium lilac 73922

Special Threads

Yenmet Purple/silver 57402
Glitter gold 67699
Glitter Hologram Silver 54792
Wonder Invisible Thread 50553
Fusible Thread 84990 164 yards
Size 90 Topstitching Needle 55312

Fun Embellishments:

Amethyst Heart 26343
Dragonfly 64596
Thistle Carnation Roses
Ivory Carnation Roses

Glass Beads and Needles:

Mocha seed beads 76637
Green bugle beads 96285
Royal Amethyst Antique Bead 76647
Crayon Purple Seed Beads 26215
Frosted Glass Seed Beads 96983
Beading Needles 96328
Easy Threading Needles (great needle to run ends in) 72128



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