Surprise Humbug Tutorial

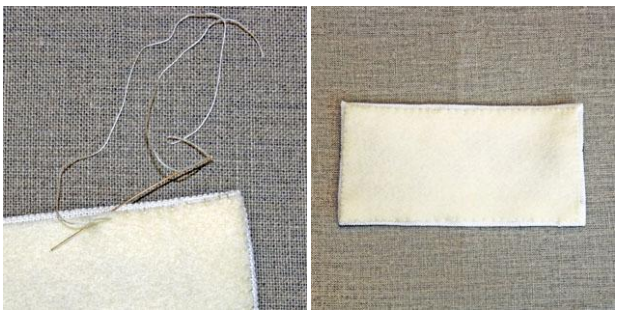
You will need:

- 1 rectangle of stitched linen
- some interfacing
- some felt
- some 5mm ribbon
- some matching beads (optional)

Step 1 : getting ready.

Iron your stitched linen (on the back of the work). Allow an extra 1cm around all the sides of the stitched design to allow for the seams. Cut a rectangle of interfacing to the same dimensions as the design, and iron it onto the back of it. Then fold back the hems and iron them down into position.

Step 2 : putting it together.



Place the felt rectangle over the back of the design, and stitch it in place, so that you hide the back of the design as well as the hems.

Stitch the ribbons in place (on the felt side), on both sides of the rectangle, making sure that they are aligned with the design.

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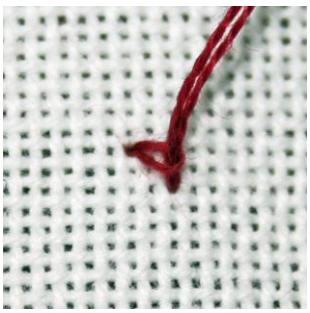
Roll up your rectangle so that the "ribbon" sides are touching. Start stitching them together, taking care to leave a large enough opening (roughly 2/3 up from the bottom of the design). Whip-stitch** your way up towards the top, around the corner and down until you can stitch no more. You can (if you so wish) add beads to your seam as you go. Then work on the opposite side, shaping it so that you get a humbug.

Step 3 : adding the finishing touches.

The ribbons should be facing each other, ready to be tied into a pretty bow.
Your surprise humbug is now to be filled with a "surprise" of your choice.

Technical tips:



* Loop Method:

Use this method when you need the start of a seam to be as "invisible" as possible.
Take a longer length of threat than usual, and double it up. Thread your needle so that the loop is at the bottom of your length of thread.
Start your first stitch, turn your fabric over so you're looking at the wrong side, and thread your needle through the loop to secure it. Pull to tighten (see the pictures above – note that the photos are showing the **wrong side** of the fabric).

** Whip Stitch:

You can use this method to assemble 2 pieces of outlined fabric together.
(The stitched pieces must have been outlined with backstitch prior to this.)
You can then stitch each pair of opposite backstitches together, as shown on the picture.

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If you enjoyed stitching this humbug, you may like the following designs:

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