

# 3D SHELL FINISHING GUIDE

by Fire and Iris Designs

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## 3D Shell Finishing Instructions

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**General Information:** *I would recommend reading these instructions prior to starting to stitch your canvas.*  
Welcome! So glad you chose this as one of your next projects. Below we've included everything you'll need to know to stitch and finish your 3-D shell project!

### **Supplies for Stitching:**

- #22 Tapestry Needle
- Threads – I recommend *Vineyard Silk Natural (2 skeins), Buttercream and Conch.*

### **Supplies for Finishing:**

- Cording\*
- Clear Thread\*
- Curved Needle\*
- Craft glue

*\*denotes supplies included with the Fire and Iris Shell finishing kit. The finishing kit includes cording made with DMC 948 and DMC ECRU, which are based on the fibers as recommended above. If you use different fibers, or wish for different color cording, you will need to make your own.*

**Note: Please read instructions all the way through once, prior to starting the finishing process**

### **Step 1: Make the cording and block your canvases (if needed).**

If your canvas needs to be blocked, make sure you do this *prior to continuing on*. While you are waiting for your canvas, you can make your cording. You'll need enough to use around the edge of both of the shell canvas pieces.

If you purchased the finishing kit, your kit includes already made cording. (*Note: the cording color provided in the kit is made under the assumption that the recommended fibers were used to stitch the canvases. If you used different fibers, the included cording may not match and you may need to make your own.*)

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### **Step 2: Cut your pieces.**

You'll want to separate your canvases so that you have a total of 2 pieces (2 shells. This is shown below). You'll want to leave a few rows to be able to do a binding stitch on all your canvases.



1. How your canvases will look once you are done stitching



2. How they will look once they have been cut into their respective pieces.

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Since your shell pieces will be folded over on themselves, you may also want to cut back the corners of the pieces (shown below). This will make binding your canvases a bit easier.



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### Step 3: Fold and bind your canvases.

Begin by folding your canvases back to prepare for the binding stitch. For the **shell pieces**, you will fold back **all** of the sides of the blank canvas, so that no blank canvas is showing next to the stitched canvas. (This is shown below)



1. (Front View) Shows how the blank canvas will be folded back

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For each of the **shell pieces**, you are going to want to do a **double binding stitch**. To do this, fold your canvas over along the center line so that the two stitched pieces are back-to-back, with the stitching facing out (as shown below). Perform a double binding stitch making sure to attach both pieces of canvas together. Work this stitch all the way around until you have your binding stitch completed around the edge of the entire piece.



1. Shows how the shell pieces will be folded on itself while doing the binding stitch

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Below is a photo demonstrating how your pieces will look after all the binding stitches have been completed



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### **Step 4: Assemble the bottom shell piece**

Using your curved needle and clear thread, sew the cording into the bottom shell piece. (Since both pieces are the same, the bottom shell piece is whichever one you decide).

You'll want to create two pieces of cording (if you purchased a finishing kit you will have to split the cording in to two sections). One piece of cording should cover the curved edge of the shell and the other piece of cording should cover the entire edge, all the way around the shell. If you are including a loop, make sure to factor that amount into your measurement for the second piece of cording. Once you have the piece measured, take your craft glue and place a dollop on your cording. You use your fingers to work the glue in to the cording. Let this dry. Once dried, you can cut the cording.

For this step, you'll only sew cording around the curved edge of the shell. Next, sew the pearl into this same bottom shell piece. To do this, you'll use a needle and clear thread. When you're done with this step, your piece should look something like this:



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### **Step 5: Sew the shells together**

With the other, longer piece of cording you made, first anchor that cording on the bottom shell piece, just behind the pearl (photo below).



Place your top shell over the bottom one so the two flat edges are together and there is a “tail” of cording coming out the back.

Using your curved needle and thread, attach each of the shell pieces using a *running stitch* along just the flat edges. To do this, you use your needle and clear thread to make a stitch in to one of the pieces. When you pull up your thread you will then make a stitch right next to where your needle came up *but in the other piece, so that they become connected*. You will continue to do this back and forth, alternating stitches in each piece until you’ve sewn just the flat edge together (do not go all the way around).

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Photo: sewing the two shell pieces together

### **Step 6: Sew in your cording.**

Next, you are going to sew a piece of cording into the binding stitch of the top shell using your invisible thread and curved needle by performing a *running stitch over the cording*. To do this, you will use your needle to sew the thread into one side of the cording, and then do the same on the opposite side of the cording, so that the clear thread is placed over the cording, holding it in place. (Photos below) You will continue to do this back and forth, making stitches in either side of the cording, until you've gone all the way around and have sewn the entire cord around the piece.



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Photo: Sewing cording into the top piece of the shell

If you are making this into an ornament, I recommend making the loop for this on flat edge of the shell, where they are connected.



Photo: Top view of the ornament, with the cording sewn in, and a loop

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