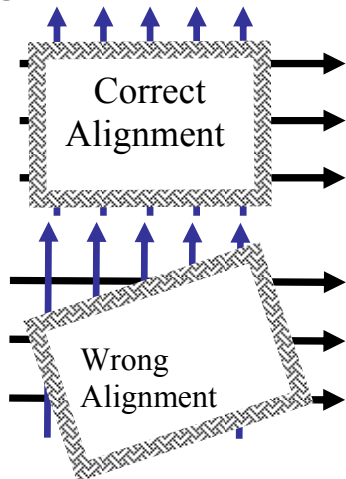


Sunshine's Laundering Recommendations

1. Every completed project should be laundered.
2. Hand washing is recommended.
3. Soak in room temperature water with mild detergent for 15 to 30 minutes to get the hand oils and other dirty spots started on their way out.
4. I use "Orvus" that is recommended for antique quilts for any stained or dirty area. Dissolve the Orvus in water first.
5. I personally use inexpensive shampoo for oily hair with no additives for general cleaning of the embroidered piece – for stains-Orvus. The hand, face and hair oils are what will attract the dirt or dust later. Also, I soak for several days, changing water often if I have really gotten it dirty. Every time I go by the basin I give the piece a little swish in the water. - Sunshine
6. Then rinse and place the embroidered piece in room temperature water again with detergent recommended for colored clothes for at least a couple of hours.
7. The blue lines **do** wash out.
8. For exceptionally soiled areas, gently rub with your fingertips.
9. Avoid bleaches or stain removers for they may whiten your threads or leave a lighter spot on your fabric.
10. Soaking and rubbing gently with your fingertips will remove most stubborn stains.
11. This is when I use a "Color Catcher" (made by the Shout company) if I have a lot of bright, dark or brilliant colors. When soaking in the rinse water the color catcher will help with the removal of excess dye. (Small pieces – use half a sheet)
12. Rinse in cold water, swish, drain.
13. Rinse in cold water, swish, drain.
14. Rinse in cold water, swish, drain.
15. When you think you have all the detergent out of your piece, rinse in cold water again.
16. Do you think the water is clear enough to drink? If not, rinse again.
17. To help make your threads bright again-you can mix about two tablespoons of **white** vinegar to one quart of water in this rinse. *I do not leave the embroidered piece in the vinegar water. I just give it a quick swish.*
18. Flush with water again (*I use distilled water for a final rinse to remove the vinegar*).
19. Roll your piece in a large absorbent towel and squeeze, press, what ever it takes to get the water out, but NEVER wring.
20. *Then I use a "flour sack" dishtowel to roll my piece in to test to see if the colors are running.*
21. The faster that you get your piece dry the less likely that your thread colors will run.
22. I recommend putting you piece into a q-snap frame while it is damp.
23. Stretch it in the frame until the puckers and wrinkles are gone.
24. Using stainless steel very fine stickpins, pin/lift your petals into place. Also lift/brace the petals away from the fabric a bit.
25. Dry quickly with a blow dryer.
26. Using a blow dryer on the front and the back of the piece helps, especially with those reds.
27. Concentrate on the very thick, padded flowers with the dryer.
28. If you dry the fabric first, the fabric will act as a sponge and suck the color and moisture from the flowers onto the fabric
29. If they still run.... start washing again- it is worth it.
30. Make sure that you look at your finished piece under several different lights to make sure you have got the soil and blue lines out before continuing.
31. Make absolutely sure that your piece is dry before storing.

Sunshine's Stringing/Stretching Recommendations



- Make sure that you have the piece absolutely dry!
- Make sure that all of your "run-able" colors are thoroughly dry before you stretch your piece. I like to leave it to dry in the q-snap frame.
- Make sure that you look at your piece under several different lights to make sure that you have not missed any "runs" or soiled areas. If you have.... start over.
- Stitch in those errant threads on the back.
- I use "T" pins and acid-free foam core board (with a very light weight cotton batting or felt over it) for stretching my piece for a framed picture.
- Start at the middle-top and middle-bottom and stretch gently until that area lies flat. Place the T-pins into the core of the foam core

board.

- Then place T pins in the center-left side and the center-right side stretching gently until that area lies flat.
- Now start working from the centers out to the corners on all four sides.
- Keep working evenly or you will make your piece askew.
- You can adjust the pins if the piece still tends to have a pucker or a wrinkle.
- Usually, if you stretch your piece properly, no ironing needs to be done.
- When I have finished doing all the pinning you can use one of the following methods to ready your piece for framing.

Stringing:

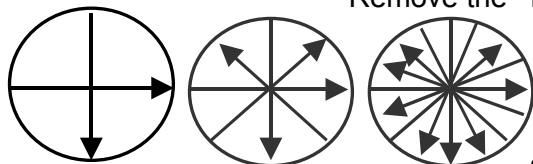
I "string" my piece if I am going to use it as a wall hanging/picture. Stringing is using a durable thread, (I use crochet thread) and sew back and forth in the same manner as I placed the pins. Starting at the centers, working directly across, stitch the two edges together on the backside. Pull thread snug. Work out from the centers. Tie off your strings frequently. Do not remove the pins until you have completely "strung" your piece. Remove pins and if there are still a pucker or wrinkle they can usually be removed by stringing a little tighter in that area.

Stainless steel pinning:

After talking to many a frame shop owner I have found a consistent recommendation on using stainless steel pins instead of stringing. It is much quicker and it is easier to take the piece out and launder it when needed.

Stretch the piece over the foam core board as before, using "T" pins. When the piece is lying flat with no puckers you can start pinning with the stainless steel pins. Do not remove the "T" pins until you have completed this step. Push the stainless steel pins straight into the edge (inside waffles) of the foam core board at about $\frac{1}{4}$ " intervals. Make sure that they are not slanted. Take your time and get them in straight. When you have them pushed in all you should see is the little silver head of the pin.

Remove the "T" pins and replace them with the stainless steel pins.



I hope that my suggestions will help you in making your end results as spectacular as your stitching!

The diagram at left is for round frame stringing. Also see the alignment diagram – it applies to using your hoop and stringing also.