

Celtic Thistle

by Janice Blair

Thread - Gutterman silk 100/3 (or equivalent cotton)

Order of work:

Most of the stem and knot are worked in one piece until reaching the temp. hold position.

Sewings are only made where mentioned. The knot is formed after the lace is removed from the pillow.

- Stem 1 - Hang 6 green prs on top pin, hang 1 purple worker pr at pin "a". Cloth stitch (ctc) through to next pin, ctct with edge pr to keep purple as wkr, pin under 2 pr, ctct following rows working edge pin as above until reaching "b". Discard purple wkr and add new green worker pr. Continue working in cloth stitch with pin under 2 edge, until you reach the temp. hold position and lay pairs aside. DO NOT make any sewings within the bottom knot until you reach the point where stem 1 crosses itself, which will be at the base of stem 2. Sew at this crossing.
- Stem 2 - Hang 7 green prs at bottom of flower working in cloth stitch to knot, making sewings at the first crossing of stem 1, and where it meets stem one at the base of stem 2, tie and cut off prs.
- Stem 3 - Work similar to stem 1 making sewings at first crossing of stem 1 and at end where it meets stem 1, tie and cut off prs.
- Stem 4 (continuation of stem 1) - pick up temp. hold pairs and work to meeting point of stem 2, sew and cut off prs.
- Stem 5 - Hang 6 green prs at leaf point, increasing to 9 prs. DO NOT sew at first crossing of stem 1, sew into stem 2 and cut off prs. (easier to start at a point and hide ends)
- Flower - Using doubled thread on each pr, hang 6 lilac prs along top of stem 2, 1 pr purple to the left of the lilac prs and 2 purple prs to the right of lilac prs. Cloth stitch first few rows increasing at the sides to 10 prs lilac passives, working pin under 2 pr. edging. Make occasional twists on worker to create an uneven effect in cloth stitch. At the top, use both wkr prs to make a small, tight plait (ctct). Work 4 way crossing using 2 passive prs and wkr prs, use a support pin to pull up tightly, continue making small tight plaits and crossings to opposite end. Make small half hitch roll with one purple thread over other purple prs. Oversew ends down across top of flower, knot and cut off.
- Cut off lilac passive pairs about ½ inch from top. Hold down plait with one thumb and fluff thread ends with other thumb nail to separate threads into single pieces.
- Take thistle off the pillow and pass loop A through loop B, and loop C through loop D. Flip tip of leaf on stem 5 under stem 1.

I used two shades of green for the workers and passives but they were so similar it is hard to see the difference in the printed copy. Use whatever greens and purples appeal to you.

