

2022 AQS Christmas Countdown with Janome



Block Twenty-five: Two Ornaments

Finished Block Size: 8½" x 8½" Unfinished Block Size: 9" x 9"

By Sarah Ann Smith

Materials and Equipment

Fusible web - *I prefer a very lightweight fusible to keep things soft and not gunk up the needle*

Thread - *I used white, gold, and green 40wt shiny polyester, but you could also use cotton or rayon. I did not use metallic for the gold color, but instead a shiny 40wt polyester that looks like gold.*

Choose thread colors that help the ornaments stand out, not blend in, with your background fabric.

9½" square of stabilizer sturdy enough for dense embroidery

Your favorite Janome sewing machine

F2 open toe applique foot

Cutting Instructions

From the Round Ornament fabric, cut:

(1) 4" x 4" square

From the Drop Ornament fabric, cut:

(1) 4½" x 6" rectangle

From the Drop Ornament Small Circle fabric, cut:

(1) 3¼" x 3¼" square

From the Background fabric, cut:

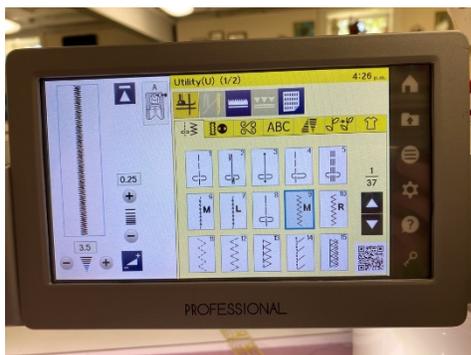
(1) 10" x 10" square (This will be trimmed down later to 9" square.)

Assembly Instructions

1. Apply fusible web to the wrong side of your ornament fabrics, but *not* the background fabric.
2. Use the templates to precisely cut the three ornament shapes.
3. Center the small circle on the Drop ornament using the block photo as a reference.
4. Using the block photo as a guide, position the ornaments on the background square and fuse into place following manufacturer's instructions.

Satin Stitch Instructions

You will be satin stitching around the edges of the three shapes. I used the F2 open-toe applique foot which has an area on the bottom that permits the bulky stitching to flawlessly feed under the foot. I used the zigzag stitch set to 3.5 width and .25 length, a very tightly packed stitch. Adjust the stitch length to suit your thread and personal preferences.



Use a scrap of background fabric with stabilizer underneath to audition stitches and various width settings. Write your preferred settings on the scrap.

As you zigzag around each ornament, note that you will want the swing of the needle to drop just over the edge of the applique so that the stitch is almost, but not quite, on top of the applique. That way if your mind wanders you won't have an uncovered edge or gap.



I like to emphasize the outer edge of the satin stitch with the straight-stretch stitch.



Finishing the Drop Ornament

Sew the zigzag to the bottom of the ornament until the inside edge touches the other side. Then you will sew one repeat of the football shape to create a perfect point on your ornament.



I modified the stitch default settings to 6.5 stitch width and .50 stitch length. Test on a scrap of fabric with stabilizer underneath to get the shape you prefer.



To begin the football shape, place your needle where the satin stitching meets. In the photo below, I have the fabric swung around for the sake of visibility. You will want the football to stitch out pointing down from the bottom of the ornament.



To sew just one repeat, once the stitch begins, take your foot off the pedal and touch the **Lockstitch** button. Press down on the pedal again and it will complete the football shape, then sew the lockstitch at the end of the shape.



Use your thread cutter to have the machine snip the threads on the back side.

Adding the Snowflake Decoration on the Drop Ornament

Use the snowflake stitch to decorate around the center ring.

I used a stitch width of 7.5 and 5.0 for the length.

When you get one or two snowflakes away from completing the circle, you may wish to stop and carefully put the needle up, then position the last flake or two so they will close the circle neatly without an overlap. Use the lockstitch to secure at the end of the ring.



The Caps and Hanging Rings

Begin with the hanging ring. I used a circular buttonhole or eyelet stitch. Stitch a row of scallops (see settings below), and finally stitch two or three rows of satin stitch overlapping them slightly so they cover the bottom of the hanging ring and the top of the scallops.

Once the eyelet is stitched for the hanging ring, sew the row of scallops. As you can see in the photo below, I seriously tweaked the default setting to 6.2 stitch width and .15 stitch length. This shortened the motif so that I could fit 4-5 scallops in the available space.



Next, return to your satin stitch settings and sew two or three rows of tight satin stitch to create the rest of the metal cap at the top. I spaced mine so that the top row covered just a tiny bit of the eyelet and the second row covered up just enough of the scallops to make the stacked stitching look like those metal caps.

Hint: You may want to add a second and/or third layer of stabilizer under this area as this is quite dense stitching. I did not and mine distorted a bit. Learn from my mistake! See photo below where the instructions are for adding the date.

Use the straight stitch or the triple-stitch-straight stitch to create the hanging cords.

Alternative: You can also use paint, fused fabric or hand embroidery to complete the metal cap for each ornament!

The Date Embroidery

Embroider the date as you choose using the built-in numbers on your machine or with freemotion. I chose freemotion.

Mark a horizontal line under the round ornament so you don't tilt the numbers, then begin stitching.





Trim the Block

Center the applique and trim the background fabric to 9" square, making sure to leave about equal distances to the sides so the block looks balanced.

