

# Robyn Nichol Textile Artist

## Cornflake Tart Embroidery



Robyn Nichol is a twenty five year old artist from Keighley, West Yorkshire, and is now living and working five minutes down the road in Bingley. Within her practice, Robyn focuses on the themes of heritage, locality and industry, aiming to capture a sense of Northern identity. Yorkshire's historical textile industry acts as her main inspiration, and through her textile pieces she questions the relevance of industry in contemporary society. She focuses on the everyday, particularly the objects and brands around her that have shaped the aesthetic decisions in her work. For Robyn, producing work in the rural area where she was born allows her practice to flourish, and has enabled her to create her own identity outside of a metropolitan arts scene.

Find out more about Robyn:  
[www.robbynichol.com](http://www.robbynichol.com)  
[@robbynichol](https://www.instagram.com/robbynichol)

**You will need:**  
4 skeins of embroidery thread in 2 colours  
Embroidery needle  
A piece of plain fabric (I find calico best)  
An embroidery hoop (I've used a 7" hoop)  
A pencil for tracing the design

### Before you start:

- Trace the hoop design on to the calico fabric with a sharp pencil - Trace along the inside and outside of the black letter outline in the design template, so that your letters are double edged. You might need to sellotape the edges of the fabric down on to a surface to prevent it from moving. You can go over some of the lines to make them more precise after tracing.
- When the design is drawn out, lay the fabric over the part of the hoop without the metal screw. Make sure to line it up so that it's straight, ready for putting the other part of the hoop over the top. When you're happy with its position, push the other part of the hoop with the screw over the top (make sure that the screw has been loosened before doing this.)
- Then, carefully tighten the screw on the hoop, being careful to not let the sections of the hoop fall apart. This process can be made easier by using a flat headed screwdriver if you have one at home. The fabric should be tight in the hoop and not be saggy, as the stitches won't hold if the fabric begins to sag. You can also trim any big sections of excess fabric before you begin stitching.



### Ready to begin

- Start on the inner part of the letters using the yellow thread, you can use satin stitch to create solid block colours or you can use backstitch to trace the outline with small stitches. See the section on stitches or watch the video tutorial for more details on this!
- After you've finished the yellow section of the design, then start on the outer part of the letters using the pink thread. You can again use satin stitch to create solid block colours, or backstitch to trace the outline.
- When you've finished the design, trim the fabric at the back carefully until it touches the hoop. You can then display your hoop and also share it on your social media if you like! Tag @robynnichol and @thefold2020 on Instagram so we can see it.

Visit @thefold2020 on Instagram to watch Robyn's stitch tutorial!

### Stitch Types

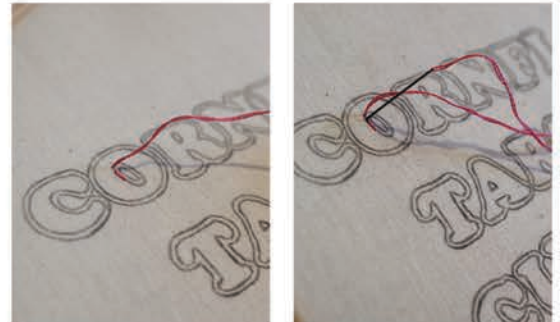
For both stitches, you need to start at the back of the hoop and bring the needle up through the fabric, and then down through it again, ready to push through from the back.

#### Satin Stitch

With satin stitch, you can cover larger areas, and also don't need to connect your stitch to the one that you've previously done. When using satin stitch, I build up stitches gradually so that eventually no fabric is showing through. I then begin a second layer of stitches over the top, however, this isn't compulsory and depends on personal preference.

#### Back Stitch

Backstitch is more simple but you need to make sure that you connect every stitch to the one that you've done previously, so they all follow in a line.



Design template

**CORNFLAKE  
TART WI  
CUSTARD**