

Bug Hat and Bug Vest Project by Mary Jane Allen
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Supplies for vest:

Fiberglass screening fabric 45" x 24" (or as required by your pattern)
Vest pattern with no darts or front seams (such as See & Sew 4988)
Bias strips of fabric 5 yds x 1-1/2" (or more depending on the pattern and size)
Embroidery designs from Perfect Little Stitches: Bugs 1, Bugs 2, Insects (and Bat), Grass Strips and Tufts, Green Frogs and Poison Dart Frogs
Sewing thread to match screen
Embroidery threads
Water-soluble stabilizer

Adapt your vest pattern to eliminate the side seams: place vest back and vest front with side seams overlapping. Trace on tissue paper to create a one-piece pattern, tracing along sewing lines to eliminate seam allowances, except at shoulders. Cut out vest as a single piece. Do not use your best scissors! Fill the bobbin with thread to match the screen.

Decide where you want the frogs to go. Embroider the frogs at the lower edge of the vest first. Hoop two layers of water-soluble stabilizer very tightly. Pin the screen fabric securely to the stabilizer, aligning the lower edge of the vest with the inside edge of the hoop. Before embroidering, move the design within the frame as far as it will go toward the bottom of the vest (there should be about 3/4" of screen below the design). Move back three clicks. Embroider a frog.

When the frogs are done, embroider the grass as a continuous strip along the lower edge of the vest. Start at the left front and position the screen over the stabilizer as you did for the frogs. Move the grass design as far as it will go toward the lower edge of the vest. Be sure to position the screen so that the grass will embroider all the way to the front edge of the vest. Embroider the grassxl design. Re-hoop, allowing for a bit of overlap from one grass strip to the next.

Decide where you want other frogs to be placed and embroider in the same way. Embroider a dragonfly or butterfly according the text files that comes with the design. You may wish to tack the ends of the wings in place or allow to fly free.

Decide where you want your bugs (I pinned little scraps of paper with each bug's name until I had them arrange the way I wanted). Embroider the bugs.

When all the embroidery is completed, rinse away the remaining stabilizer with warm water in the bath tub. Allow to dry. Pin together the shoulder seams, but overlap the seam allowances instead of making a conventional seam. Stitch down the middle of the overlap. Trim either side of the stitching to 1/4". Cover the seam with bias strips inside and out.

Finish the armholes and outer edge with bias strips.



Bug Fiberglass Screen Hat Supplies:

Fiberglass screening fabric 45" x 24" (or as required by your pattern)

Hat pattern

Bias strips of fabric 2 yards by 1-1/2" (or more depending on your pattern)

Embroidery designs from Perfect Little Stitches:

Bugs 1, Bugs 2, Insects (and Bat)

Sewing thread to match screen

Embroidery threads

Water-soluble stabilizer

Cut out the hat pattern using fiberglass screen instead of fabric. Embroider the bugs on the screen. Hoop two layers of water-soluble stabilizer very tightly. Pin the screen fabric securely to the stabilizer. Embroider a Daddy Long-Legs to the crown of the hat. Embroider smaller bugs on the top of the brim. Embroider a butterfly and dragonfly to the sides of the hat. You may wish to tack the ends of the wings in place or allow to fly free.

When all the embroidery is completed, rinse away the remaining stabilizer with warm water in the bath tub. Allow to dry. Sew the crown and sides as if it were fabric. For the brim, sew wrong sides together. Trim away the seam allowance on the outer edge. Cover the edge of the brim with bias strips. Stitch inner edge of brim to the hat.

Keep the bugs off your head when you garden or walk the dog. Enjoy the way people stare!



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