

Blowing in the Wind

By Ali Maleski

Make a cute little wind chime for yourself or a friend. Hang it in or outside.

Supplies

- ◆ 1/3 yard of solid color oilcloth
- ◆ Scraps of coordinating oilcloth
- ◆ One 2 3/4" x 7 1/8" x 3/16"-thick wood slat (available in craft aisles)
- ◆ Adhesive tear-away stabilizer
- ◆ Embroidery and bobbin thread
- ◆ Multi-purpose spray paint for outdoor items, such as wood and metal
- ◆ Drill and bits
- ◆ Sand paper
- ◆ 20-gauge craft wire
- ◆ Assorted beads to fit over wire
- ◆ 1/4" silver liberty bell
- ◆ Jewelry and wire tools, such as crimps, cutters and tweezers
- ◆ Permanent glue
- ◆ Fishing line, ribbon or embroidery floss to hang

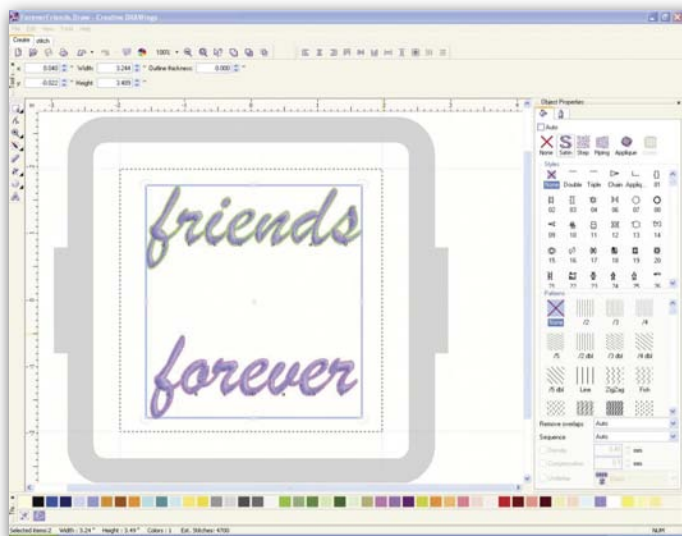
- ◆ Embroidery lettering or software of your choice

Embroidery

- ◆ In software or at the machine, spell out the letters "friends" and "forever" in one or two hoopings using the font of your choice. Most software will allow for two line or individual words to be added on-screen. Depending on your embroidery machine capabilities, it might require individual hooping or needle adjustment to get two words into one hoop. The lettering "friends" and "forever" should fit into a standard size 4"-square hooping to fit this project (A).
- ◆ Save the design if using software, and load the design onto the embroidery machine.

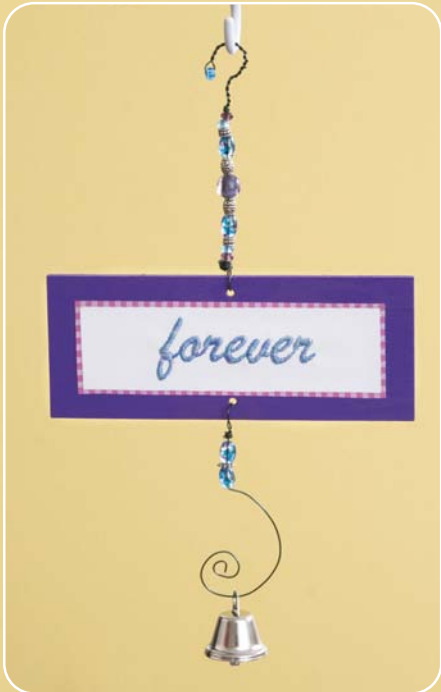
- ◆ Cut a piece of adhesive tear-away stabilizer larger than the hoop.
- ◆ Cut a piece of oilcloth larger than the design.
- ◆ Remove the paper from the adhesive and place the paper adhesive side up onto a flat surface.
- ◆ Place the inner hoop onto the stabilizer to secure, and then place the inner hoop into the outer hoop to hoop the stabilizer.
- ◆ Secure the oilcloth right side up onto the stabilizer, centering it in the hoop.
- ◆ Embroider the words "friends" and "forever."
- ◆ Remove the hoop from the machine; un-hoop the fabric and tear away the stabilizer.
- ◆ Cut each embroidered word down to 1 5/8" x 6" and cut a piece of coordinating oilcloth 1/8" larger on all sides (or 1 7/8" x 6 1/4").
- ◆ Use permanent glue to adhere each of the two layers together—the words to one coordinating oilcloth background; set aside to dry.

A



Construction

- ◆ Drill a small 1/8" hole in the center at the upper and lower edges 1/2" from the wood slat edges.
- ◆ In a well-ventilated area and on a protective surface, spray both sides and the edges with paint, following the





To store oilcloth,
roll it up and tie
with a ribbon to
eliminate fold
lines.

manufacturer's directions several coats may be needed. Sand the wood between coats if desired. Allow to dry after the final coat.

- ◆ Cut two 12" lengths of wire. For the upper edge, begin with a bead 5" down and twist to make the hanger. Hand twist until a sufficient length is desired to curl a hanger (approximately 1½"). Twist the excess tightly in place and snip with a wire cutter; flatten the sharp edges with a needle-nose pliers. Add beads and findings as desired; set aside.
- ◆ For the lower wire, use curling pliers to begin a swirl. Continue the swirl until it's the desired diameter. Make a sharp right angle and add beads and findings as desired; set aside.
- ◆ Using permanent glue, adhere the oilcloth word layers one to each side; set aside and allow to dry.

- ◆ Feed the bell into the center swirl at the wire lower edge. Feed the same wire (top edge) into the hole in the wood slat lower edge. Bring the wire around to meet the beads, and wrap the wire near the beads to form a circle. Twist the excess tightly in place and snip with a wire cutter; flatten the sharp edges with needle nose pliers. Repeat for the upper-edge wire.
- ◆ Hang the wind chime from fishing line, ribbon or floss inside on a curtain rod in front of an open window or outside in front of an open window under a covered porch. ☘

Ali Maleski is the inventor of creative embroidery projects. She loves to sew and embroider and has been doing so for more than 25 years.

Lettering created in Creative DRAWings embroidery software: www.creative-drawings.com