

Folding Screens: Three Options for Presentation/Finishing

This is a sample project. Your results will differ, depending on the choices you make. The following basic instructions will give you some options for presenting the folding screen.

Materials:

These will vary, depending on the approach you choose to take. At the very least, you will need basic sewing supplies. Specific suggestions and options will be noted in the different parts of the lesson.

When we left off in the first lesson, the screen was joined at the vertical edges with a wide stitch.



This is fine. It works. Sometimes though, we want the piece to have more presence, or to stand off the surface. Also, there may be structural issues. For example a folding piece that is bigger than about 5x7" may not be strong enough to support itself - or if the core material is not substantial enough, the piece may be floppy.

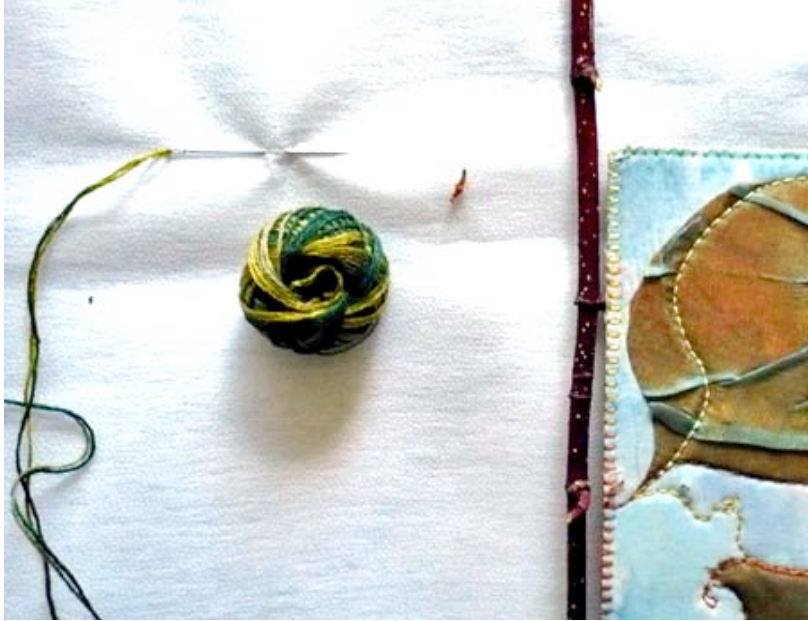
Using upright supports can help with these issues.



Twigs are used here. They are stitched to the sides of each panel.



Supplies are heavy embroidery thread and a suitable hand needle and interesting twigs.

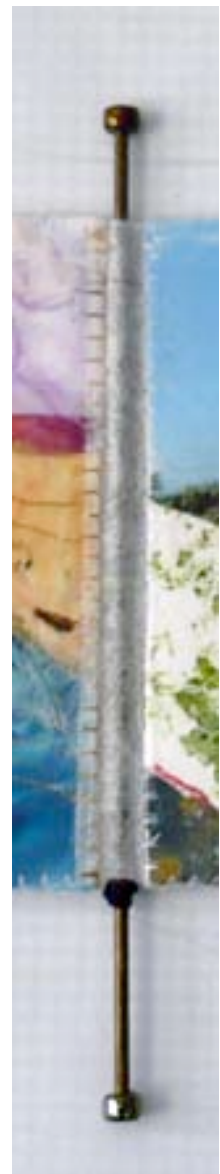


An overcast knotting stitch is used. Once you have the twigs in place, pull the stitch snug but leave enough space for the units to fold easily.

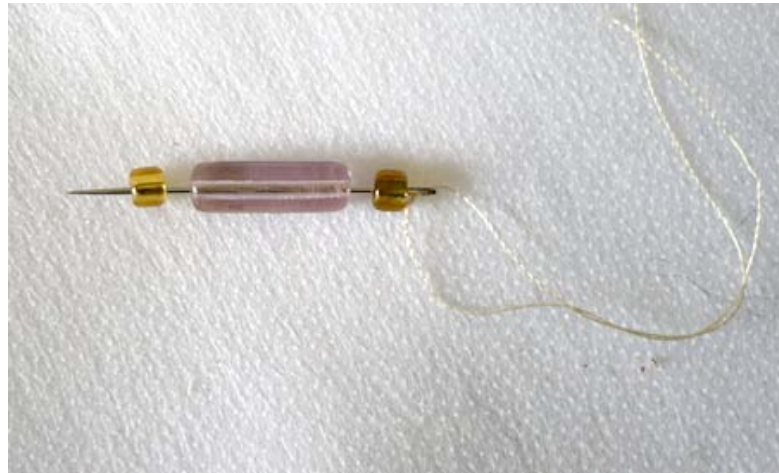
Another option with uprights is a “sleeve” or tube to encase the uprights. This is effective if dowels, chopsticks, rulers or other uniformly sized supports are used.



This sleeve is made from an interfacing material that cuts clean. You can use anything you want for this purpose but finish the edges accordingly. Cut the long rectangle the length of your panels, fold in half lengthwise, stitch each edge to a side of the panel. The width of your sleeve depends on what you are using for the supports. In this example, beads were used at each end of a ¼” dowel. A drop of white glue secures the bead. A wrap of embroidery floss (also sealed with white glue) is placed at the bottom of the sleeve to keep the panel in position.



Yet another option is to stitch your panels together and make “feet” to keep the screen off the surface of the table.



Use any long bead or button, with spacer beads to either side. The foot should be placed to the side of the fold.

Your choices on presenting the folding screens can be made based on the materials you have available and what suits the screen you are finishing. The method and effect can be fun, whimsical, understated or very sophisticated.

The next lesson will explore embellishment and oddball approaches to the surface of the panels.

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