

Stitch Away Stress Week 2020 "Virtual Tour"

Our **Stitch Away Stress Week** event is a 3-part study of *Burnett and Bradley's* **Yellowstone National Park** ornament. We will explore color, texture and dimension to provide you with some fun and easy techniques to use on any canvas. So kick back and join us for the ride!



When you have a canvas with such beautiful color and shading that you don't want to cover it - don't! These areas are perfect for open stitches:

- Sky Darning Stitch with only 2 ply of floss on 18 mesh. Use one strand each of two colors to graduate color, as we did where the blue and green meet. We blended coral and pink to create a matching shade.
- Field *T-Stitch* with 2 ply of overdyed floss on 18 mesh. The ground was painted with yellow and dark gold, but by using one color of overdyed thread on the entire area, we managed to gently blend the two paint colors while adding subtle texture.



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Let's explore some great ways to add texture to your projects:

- Hill Nobuko is an easy to use stitch that lends both texture and movement while the overdyed floss gives a realistic look. Chosen stitches represent a variety of directions that strive for replication of nature. (Note the hill is angled away from center, the sky is horizontal, trees are vertical, and the field is non-directional, resulting a balanced mix.)
- **Trees** *Long Stitch* crossing from left to right over one thread the full tree height with overdyed Boucle'. Its bumpy nature makes it a little odd to stitch with, but Boucle' does all of the work adding awesome texture.
- Sign Seldom do we recommend *Continental Stitch*, but by using an overdyed thread and stitching horizontal rows, we've given the sign board some interest and softened the color with grain. In addition, we've used *Diagonal Satin Stitch* with overdyed thread to replicate wooden sign posts. This can also be accomplished by combining two colors in your needle.

Now for some dimension:

- **Bison** *Slanted Encroaching Gobelin* is a terrific little stitch for this hairy guy. The heaviness of Alpaca 18 against the lightly-stitched field lifted the bison and brought him to life. For further dimension, we padded his shoulder hump with Perle Cotton before over-stitching with Fuzzy Stuff. Simply lay long stitches of Perle or other thread in one direction, then long stitches of Fuzzy Stuff in the opposite direction. Gently rub with fingernail or needle to fluff fibers when completed.
- **Geyser** For the billowy top and base, we ruched Frosty Rays Petite very slightly. Come up through the canvas, gather the nylon tube on the metallic filament, and stick down into canvas over multiple canvas threads. (Google "ruche frosty rays" and you'll find a number of videos for demonstration.) It was necessary to tame the straight mid section to keep the emphasis on the top. W cutting a length of Frosty Rays Petite, we pulled out the filament, made long stitches using the remaining nylon thread, then couched each stitch with the filament. This compacted the "spout" while adding some sparkle.
- Cloud Outline To illuminate the clouds, we Couched #12 Kreinik Braid along the edges. Instant highlight and dimension!



We hope you enjoyed our tour of Yellowstone National Park and that it provided a little escape during trying times. We all need less stress in our lives - let's stitch it away!

Your continued support has allowed us to give over **\$3.8 million** to local St. Louis charities. Thank you for helping us in our mission!