



ANGEL Stitched, styled and photographed by by Melanie McDonough (@mcdonoughmelanie) following a workshop with Caroline Zoob in 2019. Hand-written tag by Kate @Oysterbridgeandco; paper stars by Lynn Barron @seaangelsvintage.

ANGEL *appliqué and embroidery*

YOU WILL NEED

- Plain linen fabric
- An assortment of lace/ broderie anglaise / delicate whitework (see image with fabrics and wings cut)
- A selection of embroidery threads (see below)
- Bondaweb
- Sewing machine with feed dogs down (you can make this project without one, but it takes longer)

Press your piece of base linen.

Choose some fabric for the wings and apply Bondaweb to the reverse, leaving the paper side in place. Trace the template of one wing, and reverse trace it onto a piece of card or, even better, stiff transparent plastic. Position the wing onto the papery side of the wing fabric, making the best use of any decoration, and trace. Repeat. The decoration on each wing does not have to be identical. Remember, too, that not all of the wings



will show (see opposite). You can, of course, make your wings plain and embroider them yourself. Trace the template of the angel and then reverse trace it onto card to make a template. Take the linen for your angel and apply Bondaweb to the

reverse side.

Place your angel template onto the papery side. Draw carefully around her, and then cut her out. Now peel the paper off the wings and angel. Position the wings onto the base fabric, right side up, and lay the angel against ➡

them. When you are happy with the arrangement of these (tweezers can be helpful for minor tweaks here), take the piece of muslin or cotton and place it gently over the arrangement and press to fuse the angel to the base cloth. Never press your work without a cloth between you and the iron!

At this stage, I like to nibble around the edges of the angel and her wings using free-motion machine embroidery, feed dogs down, with a very slight zig-zag setting. I prefer this to a stitched line or zig-zag with the feed dogs up, but do what you feel most comfortable with. If you opt for the latter, use a fine zig-zag.

Once she is all stitched down, find an appropriate piece for her bodice and apply with Bondaweb as above. How you finish her robes is the fun part. You could have one flat layer of whitework that just covers the dress shape and hand apply

something fine and floaty over the top, creating and pressing folds before stab-stitching them into place. Remember to cover her little feet if you plan to do this. I tend to leave my angel faces blank, but if you decide to stitch them, keep them very delicate and think good thoughts as you stitch. Work her garland, the flowers and add any text or stitched stars, or even a patchwork frame made from different pieces of lace or whitework to create a hanging, perhaps even quilting it, to display each Christmas. ➡



THREADS If you have been inspired to add a touch of lustre to your angel, try deconstructing a piece of vintage sparkle and using the tiny beads or sequins. The DMC Light Effects threads are created by lightly twisting two very fine metallic threads together. You can use them as found, but I prefer to untwist them and use the fine threads individually, just weaving them through my stitching, or creating tiny French knots here and there.

HAIR The hair (left) can be stitched with free-motion machine-embroidery, using a colour of your choice. Not all angels have blonde hair. Or you can embroider the hair by hand, although achieving 'bows and flows of angel hair' is a little easier with the machine.

GARLAND In this stitched version (left) the garland has been worked in Straight stitch and Pistil stitch. In the image on page 56, Melanie has used Lazy Daisy and French knots. If you don't want to stitch the garland, I sometimes make a little garland of stars (far left), made from card covered with antique papers, threaded together with some very fine string.

