

# Bee Faithful Pillow

by Raven's Thyme

Welcome spring and summer with this small garden themed pillow. This pillow works up quickly. It measures 9" x 8", the perfect size to fit in a cupboard or set in a favorite indoor garden vignette.



## Bee Faithful Bee Skep Pillow, by Raven's Thyme

### Supplies Needed:

Your choice of fabric to stitch on; such as muslin or cotton 6" x 7"

One fat quarter of coordinating cotton print for the border and backing

DMC Embroidery floss #938 brown, #310 black, #780 deep gold, #732 green

Embroidery hoop, needle, rotary cutter, ruler & cutting mat, sewing machine, thread to match, stuffing, iron and ironing board, and scissors

Optional: To antique, as shown in the photograph, you will need instant coffee, cookie sheet, parchment paper, and oven.

Center the design, trace or transfer to your stitching fabric, using your desired method. Place in hoop and stitch as follows.

The bee's (x's) are each two simple stitches which look like an uneven X, they are stitched in black #310.

Everything else is stitched using the primitive backstitch.

Stitch the words "Bee Faithful" in brown #938.

The bee skep is stitched in the deep gold #780.

The grass is stitched after the bee skep has been finished. It is stitched in green #732.

When you have completed the stitchery design, remove from hoop and press.

This will now need to be trimmed using your cutting mat, ruler and rotary cutter.

First, you will need to determine where the center of the design is, and trim so that the cut size measures 6" wide by 5" high.

Next press the cotton border fabric if necessary.

Cut two strips 2 ½" wide. From each of these two strips- cut a piece 2 ½" x 5" long.

Take these two pieces and sew, one to the left side and to the right side, using ¼" seams. Press.

With the remaining strips repeat this step for the top and bottom. Press.

For the backing of the pillow, cut a 10" x 9" rectangle.

To antique: place about 3 cups of very hot water into a pot, add about 4-6 heaping tablespoons of instant coffee, stir until dissolved. Carefully submerge the stitchery and the backing fabric with a wooden spoon. This can now sit for a few hours, or overnight.

Line the cookie sheet with parchment paper. Set the oven to a low temperature (250° – 300°.)

Gently squeeze out the coffee – do not wring or twist.

Lay the stitchery onto the parchment. Here's your tip, if you want a lot of tones when dried, do not smooth the pillow out; leave some little hills & valleys. Do the same for the backing.

Keep a watchful eye on your oven, drying time may take from six to fifteen minutes, depending on your oven.

### **Finishing the pillow**

Press the stitchery and backing. With right sides facing together, pin. Sew together with a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam, leaving an opening at the bottom for stuffing. Trim away any excess fabric, and corners. Turn right side out. Stuff and sew opening shut.

