

Stitching a Story Picture Directions

Arpilleras are colorful sewn patchwork pictures that are traditionally created in a country called Chile in South America. “Arpillera” means “burlap” in Spanish. Burlap is a kind of rough cloth that the artists usually start with. Almost forty years ago in Chile, it was really terrible and sad time for people. Women started sewing pictures that illustrated their stories about what was happening. Through their pictures, the world saw what they were going through. What memory from this time will you choose to make in cloth? It can be a happy memory or a sad memory.



1. Picture the memory you choose
2. Choose your fabric
3. Cut a big piece of fabric for your background/tapestry square
4. Cut pieces of fabric for the different parts of your picture
5. Arrange your pieces, starting with the background. Make the pieces overlap!
6. Begin sewing using a simple stitch (up and down) The stitches will be decorative as well as holding your patchwork picture together
7. Glue on any small pieces