

Making a Fishing Boat Ornament

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When Louise asked me for a lobster boat ornament to add to this year's collection, my first move was to survey images to get a feel for how my ornament should look.



I found quite a few images, but the one that caught my eye most was this colourful painting. I wanted a similar look for my ornament.



Since Louise really likes felt ornaments, I decided to make an embroidered applique-style lobster boat, rather than a button or hardboard version.

I initially intended to stitch both sides of my reversible ornament at once, matching the bobbin colour for each thread change. I've used this method successfully before, but in this case the personalization was an issue.

The name obviously needs to be readable from both sides, but the stitch-through method would render it backwards on the one side.

In the end, I decided it would be easier to simply stitch out the two sides separately and join them after they were complete.



To make the ornament, I appliqued the coloured pieces onto a foundation of black felt, and when the stitch-outs were



complete, I trimmed all around both boats, leaving a narrow border of black.

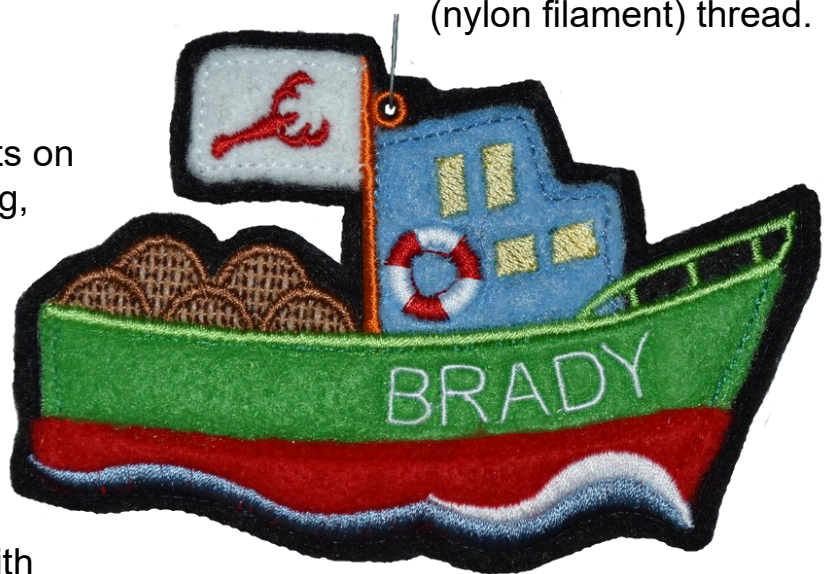


The resulting stitch-outs look great: I really like the black border effect, and will certainly use it again.

To make the pair into an ornament, I glued them back-to-back with tacky glue, taking care to line up the edges exactly, then finger-pressed them together until the glue grabbed. Once the glue had set, I stitched around the edge on the black border using invisible (nylon filament) thread.

I'm really pleased with some of the details: in particular, the lobster pots on the back of the boat, the lobster flag, and the tiny life preserver. I know Louise is going to love this ornament.

As a Maritimer myself, I really like it too.



For his part, DH was quite taken with that tiny lobster flag, and suggested that if I make one of these for our own tree, I should christen the boat "Jolly Lobster". I may just do that.