



Shaggy Dog (Dandy Dog) Inspirations Magazine issue 51 By Di van Niekerk

Dandie Dog by Di van Niekerk (C) 2017 www.dicraft.com



A Dandie Dinmont. Lilian Cheviot (Op.1895-1911). Oil on canvas. Copyright ©
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"My goal in life is to be as good of a person my dog already thinks I am." ~Unknown

Requirements

Printed panel on pure linen or cotton (size of image 20.5 x 23.5 cm or 8 x 9.25") available from Di van Niekerk on [this page](#) or you could draw your own favourite little pooch onto cotton or linen or silk fabric and embroider it using the ideas that follow.

Backing fabric to fit the embroidery panel - soft cotton lawn or muslin is good.

Supplies

Embroidery or quilting hoop to fit the embroidery panel into

Pins or sewing thread

Small embroidery scissors with fine, sharp points

Four or five cream oval wooden beads for the nails, about 3 or 4 mm long

Needles

Mixed pack crewel/embroidery size 5/10

No 13 Tapestry needle to form the loops

Threads

Note: some of the threads below may have been discontinued. Use a similar thread instead.

White and off-white

- A. Chameleon pure silk-spilt milk
- B. Chameleon rayon-snowy mountain
- C. Chameleon like silk-spilt milk
- D. Kreinik blending filament-032 pearl
- E. Rajmahal artificial silk-96 white

Cream and light brown

- F. DMC stranded cotton-ecru
- G. Chameleon stranded cotton-sea shells
- H. Chameleon stranded cotton-marigold
- I. Chameleon stranded cotton-baobab
- J. Chameleon stranded cotton-desert sands
- K. DMC linen floss-L.ecru
- L. DMC linen floss L.739 darker ecru

M.DMC linen floss L.437- tan

Green/purple/gold

- N. Chameleon stranded cotton-blackberry
- O. Chameleon pure silk-autumn leaves
- P. Chameleon like silk-moss
- Q. Chameleon stranded cotton-green olives
- R. Chameleon pure silk- granite
- S. Chameleon like silk- goldrush
- T. Gumnut Aztecs-ruby light

Grey/black/dark brown

- U. Chameleon pure silk-thatch
- V. Chameleon pure silk- rustic brick
- W. Chameleon stranded cotton-mahogany
- X. Chameleon pure silk-burnt cinnamon
- Y. Chameleon stranded cotton-scottish heather
- Z. Rajmahal artificial silk-25 black

This design uses the following stitches, which you will find in my books. Some of these you may find on my blog [here](#).

Long and Short stitch, loose French Knots, Stab stitch, Stem stitch, attaching a bead, Turkey stitch (modern and conventional) Straight stitch, Satin stitch, Turkey stitch (modern and conventional) and Single Knotted stitch, Pistil stitch.

Preparation for embroidery:

Lay the embroidery panel (right side up) on top of the backing fabric. Insert both layers in the hoop and tighten the hoop halfway. Pull both layers as taut as a drum. Tighten the hoop. Roll up the four corners and

pin then tack in place. This prevents the corners from getting in the way as you work.



Embroidery

Refer to the close up photograph and use one thread throughout. Choose needles from the mixed pack according to the thickness of the thread.

Hint: the needle must thread easily, if it does not, change to a larger needle in the pack.

Order of work

Eyes

Start with the eyes first. Thread up with thread Z (see numbered list on page 2 and 3) and fill in the black part of the eyes with long and short stitch. Use thread D and one French knot (3 wraps) to form the pupils. Add a few small stab stitches alongside. Change to thread X and use stem stitch for the outer edges of the eyes. Make a second row alongside the first for the thicker lines. Change back to thread Z and form the black lines under the eyes in two rows of stem stitch. Use thread D and stem stitch to add a row of white above the black line for highlights on the left eye.

Front legs

Embroider the front feet first. Use thread K to attach an oval bead for each nail. Change to thread F and starting at the nails, working upwards; use Turkey stitch to form the hair. **Hint:** As each loop is made, use the tapestry needle to pull it down towards the nails so that the hair looks life-like. Make the first row, and alternate with thread K every now and then for an interesting effect. Do not make the rows too close together as the texture will be too heavy. Cut the stitches after two or three rows to get an idea of how full the texture is. Do not fluff the stitches at all, as the hair needs to be straight. At the top of the left leg change to thread J to form a tiny piece of brown shadow. At the top of the right leg, use thread L between thread K and thread F for the darker shadows.

Chest

Proceed up the chest as before alternating between thread A and thread C for the white parts and threads K, F and L for the darker patches. On the far right, just beneath the ear, use thread T and G for the darker shadows. Stop stitching just beneath the neck and beard, as this will be filled later.

Shadows between feet and legs:

Thread up with thread R and use short Turkey stitch close to the white edge of the legs to form the shadows. Change to thread V then J and use short straight stitches to add more shadows.

Use the same three colours and do the same for the dark shadow at the back leg and under the tail. Finally, use thread Q and add a few dark green straight stitches in-between for an interesting effect.



Ears and forehead

Start with the dark grey tips of the ears. Use the same stitch and thread U, form the dark grey tips. Move upwards with thread Y to form the

lighter grey patches. Thread up with thread F, alternating with thread A and form the lighter part of the ears and forehead. Add white in thread B and E above the eyes.

Hint: pull the loops sideways towards the ears with the tapestry needle. Just above the eye use thread M to add the tan coloured shadows, keeping the stitches quite long and pulled sideways towards the ear.

Face and Nose

Still using thread M, make the tan patch on the right side of his nose, proceeding to the beard and add two or three single knotted stitches at the tip. Change to thread E form the white part of the lip just beneath the nose in vertical satin stitch. Use thread Z and outline the nose in stem stitch. Fill in with satin stitch, working from the centre toward the side of the nose. Use thread D and a few straight stitches to add the white highlight on the left side of the nose. Change to thread G and outline nose in stem stitch. Use the same colour and form horizontal straight stitches above the black nose. Add a few long, single knotted stitches in threads A, E and F between the eyes, pulling the loops sideways towards the ear. Use threads A, B, C, E, and F to complete the face, pulling the loops downwards towards the chest.

Mouth and beard

Use thread Z and vertical satin stitch to form the black mouth. Change to thread X and add the tan shadow beneath the nose in straight stitch. Form the beard in thread O adding a few single knotted stitches along the side of the beard in U for shadows.

Rest of body and back foot

Add the brown patches close to the front right leg and the back foot first in threads V and J, pulling the loops towards the tail. Add the tan patches in threads M and H. Complete the lighter patches in thread F, alternating with threads A, K and L.

Hint: do not cut some of the loops — the hair is curlier this way.

Tail

Make the tail with thread G and a few patches of thread H. Cut and trim the loops to form a sharp point. Add a few more dark loops between the tail and the back foot with thread R to complete the dog.

Hint: Use a small sharp pair of embroidery scissors to trim the edges of the legs, feet, beard and face and ears. Add background shadows with thread Z on the edge of the ears in straight stitch.

Foreground

Embroider the green detail in the foreground as shown in the picture with thread Q and use Turkey stitch (some loops are not cut, others are trimmed quite short and fluffed) and straight stitch. Change to thread H for the golden detail. Use straight stitches, some close together, others further apart. On the far right, use thread W for the dark brown patches and thread R for the dark plum detail. Use single-knotted stitch, leave them looped for an interesting effect. Finally add the cinnamon patches with thread X and make loose French knots (2 or 3 wraps). Make the dark brown tufts on the left in single-knotted stitch and use thread W, trimming some stitches short and leaving others quite long.

Long Grass on left and right

Start at the top and work downwards. Alternate between the colours and textures using threads F,G,H,I,J,M,N,O,P,Q,R,S,V,W and thread X. Refer to the photograph and note how the colours are blended to create the backdrop.

Hint: Long single-knotted stitches, about 2 to 4 cm in length, are used throughout. The stitches are made close together, but the rows are further apart so the texture is not too heavy. Use the tapestry needle to pull each loop up towards the sky, as you make each stitch.

Complete the grass on the ground with thread W, and thread J, trimming stitches quite short and fluffing others for an interesting texture.

Optional: If you like, use an ordinary shaving razor and **carefully and carefully! and lightly** shave the grass starting at the bottom shaving upwards each time. This results in a flatter texture without losing the richness of the grass. To complete, use thread Q and make loose French knots (2 or 3 wraps) and pistil stitches along the left-hand side of the dog to form deeper shadows.

"Dogs are our link to paradise. They don't know evil or jealousy or discontent. To sit with a dog on a hillside on a glorious afternoon is to be back in Eden, where doing nothing was not boring - it was peace." ~ Milan Kundera