Be a Hero Embroidery Hoop Art Tutorial
#ComicConAtHome

Thank you for doing your part to make Comic-Con @Home the Best digital Convention yet! This quick tutorial will show you how to create a fun piece of wall art you can hang to remember your #ComicConAtHomeExperience

My name is Meg Howell, I have been a volunteer with Comic-Con for 18 years and love seeing my Con friends every year. I am a seamstress and love to draft patterns and sew cosplay for myself and my husband. If you come through Check-In at the Volunteer desk chances are we have met! Some of my Geek interests are Star Trek, Harry Potter, Disney and CLAMP!

Supplies needed -
- Embroidery floss 1 or 2 colors as desired
- 1 Embroidery needle
- 1 Embroidery hoop
- Fabric (light in color for tracing)
- Paper with your design - can be printed or drawn
- Scizzors or snips
- A pencil or light pen
To start you will want to print or draw your design. If you would like to use our design you can print it from this tutorial. Make sure your artwork will fit inside your embroidery hoop.

Hold your fabric over your design to a bright window. Trace your design lightly with pencil or pen. You will be covering up your marks with thread, but take care to try and stay close to the lines. Do not use a felt tip pen as it may bleed out in the fibers of your fabric.

Feel free to combine any text or image of your choosing. Share your family friendly design using #ComicConAtHomeExperience

Once traced, take apart your embroidery hoop. To do this, loosen the metal screw and the two rings should come apart. You do not need to remove the metal screw. With the inner ring on the table, center your design on fabric in your embroidery hoop. Lay the inside circle on the table, then lay your fabric, design side up, on the ring. Place the top ring over and push it down so the fabric is snug. Pull the edge of the fabric tight so there are no wrinkles. Once satisfied, tighten the screw on the outer ring.
Now take your embroidery floss and cut a length as long as your arm. You do not want too much thread as it will get tangled while you work with it. Once cut, divide the 6 strands in half, we will be working with 3 strings for the first stitch.

Thread your needle with the 3 strands and tie a knot in one end of the thread. Leave a tail hanging out of the needle.

The Back Stitch

Come up from the back of your fabric through spot A, your knot should catch and prevent your thread from slipping through. Make a single, straight stitch (A-B) as long or short as you want. (I make mine approx 184" or a bit shorter.) Continue along your pattern line, but come up a space ahead (C) and bring your needle back down into the same hole at the end of the last stitch you made (A) from here you come out (E) and piece back under (C) and so on to create a line with no breaks.
Start with your lettering and use the back stitch to trace the text you have selected. Your stitches may not be perfect, but will get more even with practice.

Continue to use the back stitch to trace all the lettering and the outline of any image you may have selected. Once you get the hang of the stitch it can be fun to have a movie running to watch while you work. When you get down to 3 inches of thread be sure to tie a knot on the back of your work and get a fresh piece. You don’t want to have a thread too short to tie left over.

This stitch is one of my favorites for embroidery and hand sewing because it is strong and also looks nice and clean with practice. You can use it to fix a popped seam in your jeans or to write a fun slogan on a ball cap.
The Long and Short Fill Stitch

This fill stitch will use all 6 strands, so you will need to cut a new length of thread. Knot one end and thread the needle leaving a tail like before. Like the Name suggests we will be making very close together long and short stitches.

You will start on the back side of your fabric, and pull your needle up through (A) you will go through the fabric and make one stitch (B-C) with C being very close side-ways to A. There is spacing in my example but you want these stitches right next to and almost on top of each other.
Only the first row will be both long and short stitches. When you move to the next row, you'll only make long stitches to interlock with each open space (making more open notches for your next row after that).

Once completely filled, tie off on the back side. Trim and extra thread and check that your fabric has not gotten loose and pull all edges and re-tighten the screw on your embroidery hoop. From the back side trim your excess fabric close to the hoop. Turn over and find a new place to hang your Comic-Con@Home Art Work.
Be a hero. Wear a mask.