Get the Message

By Ann Ryan

Keep your family organized and display favorite photos with a message board that’s as pretty as it is functional. We covered a purchased cork bulletin board with embroidered fabric and added decorative flat gimp.

Supplies

Note: Our board measures 24” x 36 1/2”. Adjust supplies for other sizes.

- 24” x 36” x 1/2” cork-covered bulletin board
- 1 yard of 45”- to 54”-wide suede-look fabric
- 7 yards of 1/2”-wide flat gimp or ribbon
- Low-loft batting
- Embroidery, bobbin and sewing thread
- Permanent fabric adhesive
- Transparent or masking tape
- Chalk marker
- Temporary spray adhesive
- Embroidery designs of your choice
- Light-duty staple gun
- Upholstery tacks and hammer
- Safety glasses and wire snips
- Sawtooth picture hanger

Organize your paper stacks with a decorative message board. Place it in a community area of your home and encourage each family member to place notes, invitations and
Cutting & planning

- Cut a 30” x 42” rectangle from the batting and fabric.
- Center the bulletin board, cork-side down on the batting. Wrap the batting edges to the back and glue in place 1” from the board edges. Trim the excess batting.
- Center the board, batting-side down on the fabric wrong side. Wrap the fabric edges to the back and temporarily secure in place with tape.
- Turn the board over with the fabric side up. Use the chalk marker to mark the edges of the board on the fabric. Measure from the corners and mark the sides into 12” segments (A).
- Draw lines to connect the marks. Mark the center of each resulting diamond as shown (B). This will be the trim and motif placement.
- Remove the fabric from the board.

Embroidery

- Thread the needle and bobbin; hoop tear-away stabilizer. Spray with temporary adhesive and center and adhere one marked diamond on top.
- Embroider a design at the placement mark.
- Re-hoop and embroider the remaining marked diamonds, alternating designs as desired. Remove the excess stabilizer.

Assembly

- Center the stitched fabric over the padded side of the bulletin board, aligning the board edges with the trim marks. Wrap the fabric edges to the back. Carefully turn upside down, keeping the marks aligned with the edges.
- Glue, then staple the fabric edges to the back of the board.
- On the board right side, cut and apply lengths of flat trim over the marked lines. Wrap the ends of each length to the back and staple in place.
- Hammer an upholstery tack into the board at the trim intersections and into the trim at each corner. Note: If the tack pokes through the back of the board, wear safety glasses and use wire snips to clip the tack even with the board.
- Nail a sawtooth hanger to the upper edge of the board back for hanging.

Ann Ryan is a freelance designer and writer who resides in the Midwest.

Paisley designs: Cactus Punch, #cpl3505, #cpl3507, #cpl3508

Credits

Fairfield Processing Corp. provided the Poly-Fil Low-loft polyester batting.
Beacon Adhesives provided the Fabri-Tac permanent fabric adhesive.