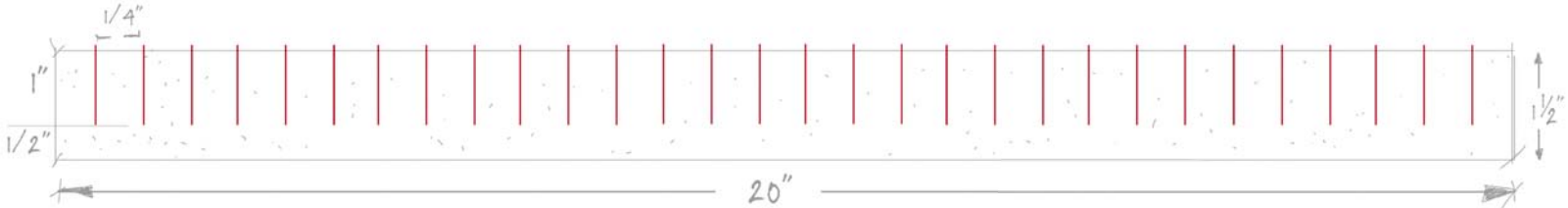
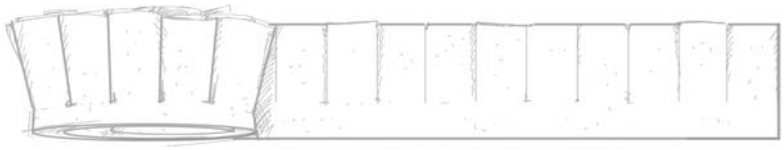


1. Cut chrysanthemum strips We created six large chrysanthemum for our bouquet, with each bloom made up of five small flower heads. For each small flower head, you'll need two strips of cotton jersey. Sixty strips in different colours make six large chrysanthemums. Cut strips 1 1/2" x 20". Switching to your embroidery scissors, cut slits about 1/4" apart along each strip, stopping 1/2" from the bottom edge.



2. Roll pair of chrysanthemum strips and stitch. Select two of the fabric strips, align their edges and roll them together along their uncut edge (see above). Thread your needle and knot off. Secure the uncut, rolled bottom edges of the two strips making up a small chrysanthemum by stitching through all layers several times to join them. Repeat the process to create four more small chrysanthemum.

3. Make florist wire stems Make a stem for each large chrysanthemum by cutting a piece of florist wire to the desired length and twisting a loop in one end of the wire by rolling it around your finger

4. Attach chrysanthemum to stems Attach the five small chrysanthemum to each stem by sewing them through and around the stem's loop.

5. Cut flat leaves Fold the green jersey in half. Using the Flat Leaf pattern (right), cut out the two leaf pieces you will need to make one finished leaf. Repeat to make additional leaves for each flower.

6. Stitch flat leaves Align each pair of leaves, with the wrong sides of the fabric together, and pin them in place. Stitch around the leaf 1/4" away from the cut edges, using a straight stitch to join the two layers.

7. Attach leaves Sew one or two finished flat leaves to each completed chrysanthemum where the stem and flower meet.

Robert Rausch

Alabama Stitch Book, Natalie Chanin Stewart, Tabori & Chang, ISBN: 9781 5847 96381, £19.99

Supplies

- Four jersey T-shirts in different colours
- One jersey T-shirt in green (for leaves)
- Garment scissors
- Embroidery scissors
- Needle
- Thread
- Florist wire
- Vase

Cut flowers

AN EXTRACT FROM THE ALABAMA STITCH BOOK*

* see page 56 for a full article on Natalie Chanin

Actual Size