**Fabric Postcards**

**Materials**

* Stiff Vilene some sort of stiff interfacing, pelmet or Craft Vilene
* Felt or similar – wadding, will do
* Fabric for your picture
* Threads, both standard and decorative.
* Beads, buttons and other embellishments.
* Adhesive spray, Gluestick, or Bondaweb

**Stitching**

* Pieces can be stitched down using the ‘Stitch and Flip’ method – lay two pieces down, right sides together matching the cut edges. Stitch a narrow seam, flip upper piece over and press flat. Pin in place to keep flat while adding the next piece. This method covers the raw edges. You can use a standard sewing thread as it won’t show.
* Keep the raw edges by overlapping two pieces, both right sides up and stitching through the overlap. A decorative stitch can be used to hold it together and embellish at the same time.
* Butt the edges up together and use a running stich to hold edges down then cover with ribbon, braid or similar.
* Threads, stitching has two functions, to hold pieces together and to decorate. Decide which it is and choose threads accordingly. Raw edges can be covered with e.g. buttonhole, herringbone…

**Basic construction method**

1. Accurately cut out a rectangle of stiff Vilene 6” x4”, the finished size of the postcard.
2. Cut out a piece of felt 7” x 5” of thereabouts. It needs to be bigger than the Vilene, so that you can trim it back to the exact size after the stitching is complete.
3. Lay the Vilene in the middle of the felt and draw round it. This shows the area to work in to create the finished card. Do not trim back the felt at all while working on it. Although you can trim your fabric bits back to the edge of the felt so that they don’t flap about.
4. Create your design with chosen fabrics, stitching the fabric down on to the felt. It’s best to allow fabric to overlap the frame so that you don’t risk having a bare patch when all is trimmed down in step 7. If doing hand stitching that must all be within the drawn frame, including fastenings on and off. With machine stitching it isn’t necessary to keep to this rule.
5. Add decorative stitching, beads, buttons, sequins, whatever trimmings desired. If machine stitching the edges don’t sew beads or buttons too close – allow presser foot clearance.
6. When you have done all the stitching you want lay the piece face down and line the Vilene on the drawn rectangle. If you have Iron-on Vilene press it into place. If not you will need to stick the Vilene to the stitched felt in some way. This is just to hold it in place while you finish the card off. If you put pins in the holes will show. Either use a spray glue, a few swipes of a glue stick on the Vilene or a piece of Bondaweb or similar, if using Bondaweb it should be smaller that your postcard so that you don’t have to stitch through it doing the edges.
7. Carefully trim the felt back to the Vilene. Hopefully all your stitching is inside the area.
8. Sew the edges. Buttonhole, Overstitch, Couch a yarn or cord, machine Satin stitch or Zig-zag, or a pattern stitch, or whatever you like.