

Stitch and Sew Coracles

We would love to be running our stitch and sew sessions down at the New Coracle Shed but can't do so until Covid 19 restrictions are eased.

If you would like to keep your eye in and keep in contact with other coracle-inspired crafters why not have a go at some of our ideas?

Post your finished work on our website or on the Ironbridge Coracle Trust Facebook page.

We have produced a template of an Ironbridge Coracle for you to use for stitching inspiration, whatever rocks your boat, or coracle!!

It could be embroidery, cross stitch (we have provided a cross stitch chart too), needlepoint, quilting or whatever you like.

We would like to run a group project to create beautiful Coracle Bunting so please use the smaller templates for the coracle bunting.

The larger one is perhaps better for quilting or whatever technique takes your fancy.

The smaller one is to go on our communal coracle bunting, coracle quilt and cushions.

We will keep posting templates for you to sew and would love to see your own designs inspired by the Ironbridge Coracle Collection.

Post your finished work on the Ironbridge Coracle Trust Facebook page. Get stitching!

We look forward to seeing you soon.

Instructions on how to transfer the coracle designs to your fabric

You can mark or transfer the coracle design onto fabric in a variety of different ways. Whichever suits you best. The best choice of technique can also depend on the weight and colour of the fabric you use.

1 Tracing over a light source

If your fabric is fairly thin and pale you can transfer the design directly onto the fabric using a light source such as a light box or window.

Mark the lines with a chalk-based marking pencil or water-soluble transfer pen or pencil.

If you don't have either of these, a finely sharpened standard HB pencil will also work fine.

To transfer the design using a light source like a window or light box, tape the pattern to the glass and cover the pattern with the fabric.

Tape into place using masking tape.

You should be able to see the design clearly through the fabric and trace the lines with your marker pen or pencil.

Dress Maker's Carbon Paper

To transfer a design using carbon paper lay the fabric face-up on a hard surface, such as a desk, smooth table or kitchen surface.

Centre the carbon paper over the fabric with the waxy ink/carbon towards the fabric.

Place the coracle pattern on top of the carbon paper.

Transfer the coracle design to the fabric using a stylus or empty ball point pen.

Be sure to press hard enough to transfer the coracle design to the fabric through the layers of paper.

We have a limited supply of this carbon paper if you cannot get any (it is available online and at local craft shops, check whether you can buy it at Maws)

Tracing Paper

Another technique is to trace the coracle pattern onto lightweight tracing paper. Lightly tack (baste) the paper onto your fabric and then stitch through the paper and fabric.

When you've finished, carefully tear away the tracing paper.

Pouncing

Finally, if you fancy trying a traditional technique that would have been in use 300 years ago why not have a go at pouncing?

Before carbon paper and other techniques, pouncing was a common way to transfer embroidery designs onto fabric.

Using this method a paper pattern is pricked with a pin at regular intervals.

The pattern is then pinned or tacked securely to the fabric and a white powdered chalk (pounce) is worked through the holes by dabbing with a soft fabric pad.

Pouncing supplies are available from quilting suppliers and online.

When we start up our workshops again at the New Coracle Shed we will be trying out this technique and many others including simple net making.