Jan's Ruched Rose

Ruching is an ancient sewing technique used to gather a strip of fabric or ribbon to form scallops or petals. In Jan’s Ruched Rose, the distances are varied between sections of petals allowing the flower to bloom as it is stitched. This flower can be made with both fabric and ribbon, offering endless possibilities.

A fabric flower is made with a 1¼” x 33” piece of fabric. Fold both lengthwise edges toward the center, wrong sides together, and press. The finished width of the strip is ⅝”.

A ribbon flower is made with a ⅝” x 33” piece of wired ribbon. Removed the wire from the bottom edge of the ribbon. The remaining wired edge will be the top edge of the flower.

1. Mark the top and bottom edges of the fabric or ribbon as stated below the diagrams.

2. Cut a 36” piece of cotton thread. Fold it in half and thread the needle. Knot the thread. Using the marked dots as a guide for stitching a “V” pattern, bring the needle and double stranded thread to the front at A and stitch down to B, up to C, down to D, and so on until five mountain tops are formed.

Tip

Looking at the first valley point (B), if the needle and thread go down to the back at the bottom of the valley, bring the needle and thread over the edge and resume stitching going down on the front and working up to the mountain top (C).

Looking at the first mountain top point (C), if the needle and thread come up on the front at the top of the mountain, bring the needle and thread over the edge and resume stitching coming up from the back and working down to the valley (D).

Making this loop over the edge of the fabric or ribbon at the peaks and valleys forms the petals when the thread is gathered.
3. Gently gather the fabric or ribbon on the stitches forming petals. Once gathered, the stitching line will run through the center of the fabric or ribbon, with petals on the top and bottom of the stitching line. Knot the thread at this point to secure the gathers.

4. Work four more mountains, gather, and knot; four more mountain tops, gather, and knot. You will notice the next 8 petals are slightly taller than the first five petals.

5. Continue working across the length of the fabric or ribbon until all the petals are formed.

6. Double thread a new needle. Bring the needle from back to front in the first five bottom petals.
Jan's Ruched Rose continued

7. Pull the thread through the lower five petals to gather. Knot to secure the gathers. Place the first and fifth petals right sides together. Tightly wrap the working thread several times between the petals and secure. Open the five petals flat revealing the flower center. DO NOT CUT the thread after knotting.

8. Continue to wrap the petals around and behind the flower center, trying to offset the mountain tops. Every two to three petals, secure the petals to the previous round of petals with tiny stitches, hiding the stitches in the folds of the gathered petals.

9. Continue working the petals around the flower to the desired finished size. Angle the end of the ribbon to the back of the flower and secure.