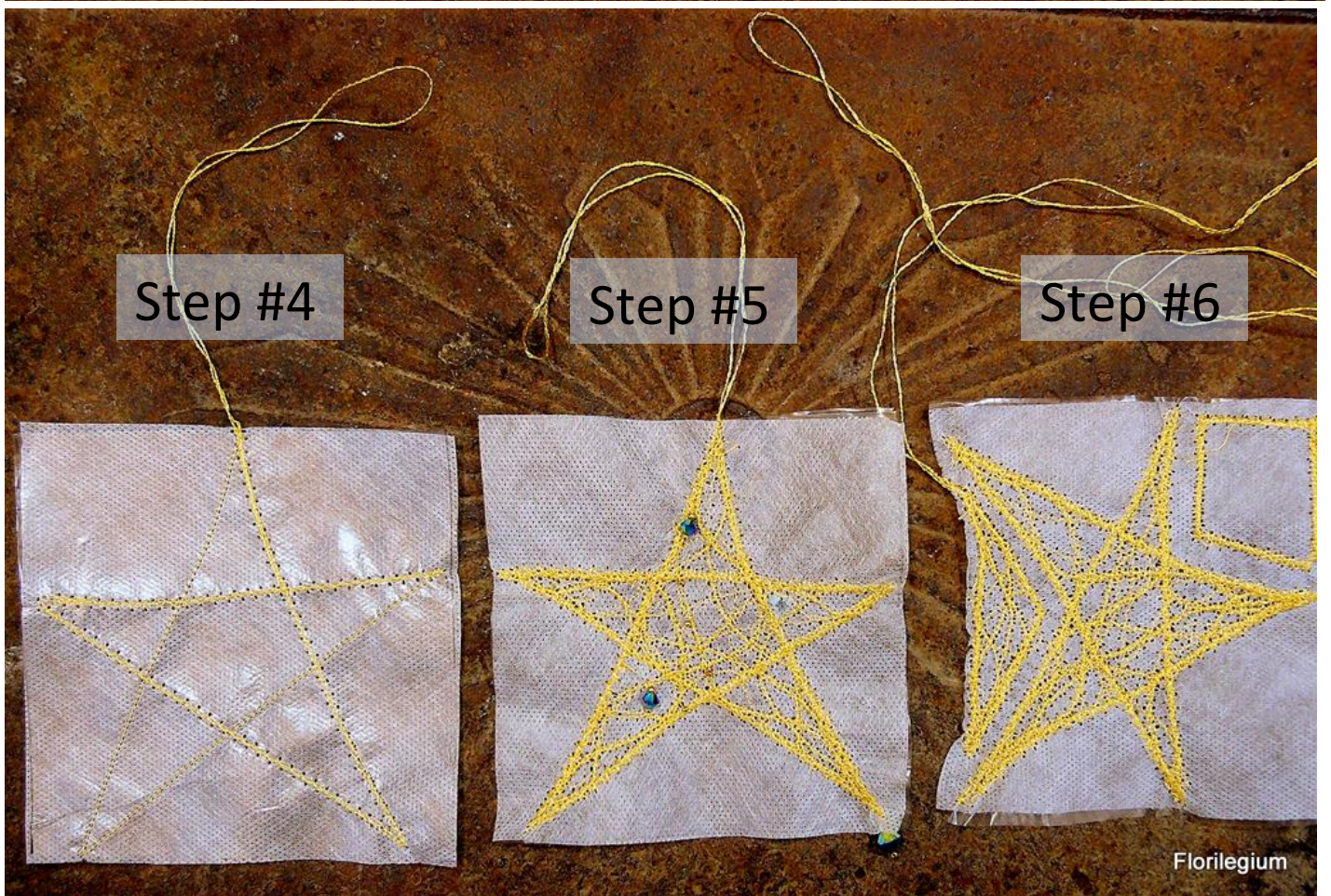
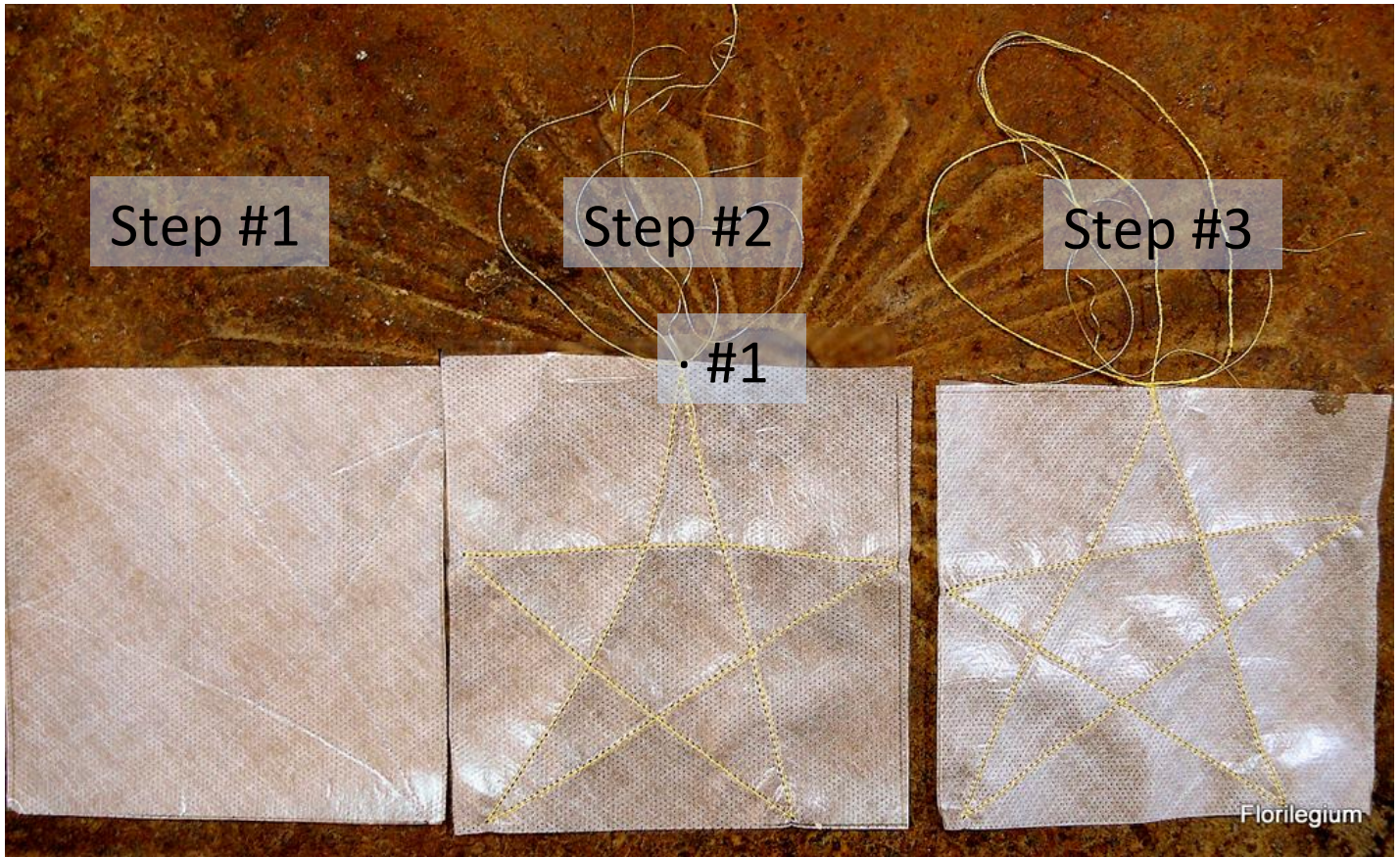


Free-lace Star Ornaments



Free-lace Star Ornaments

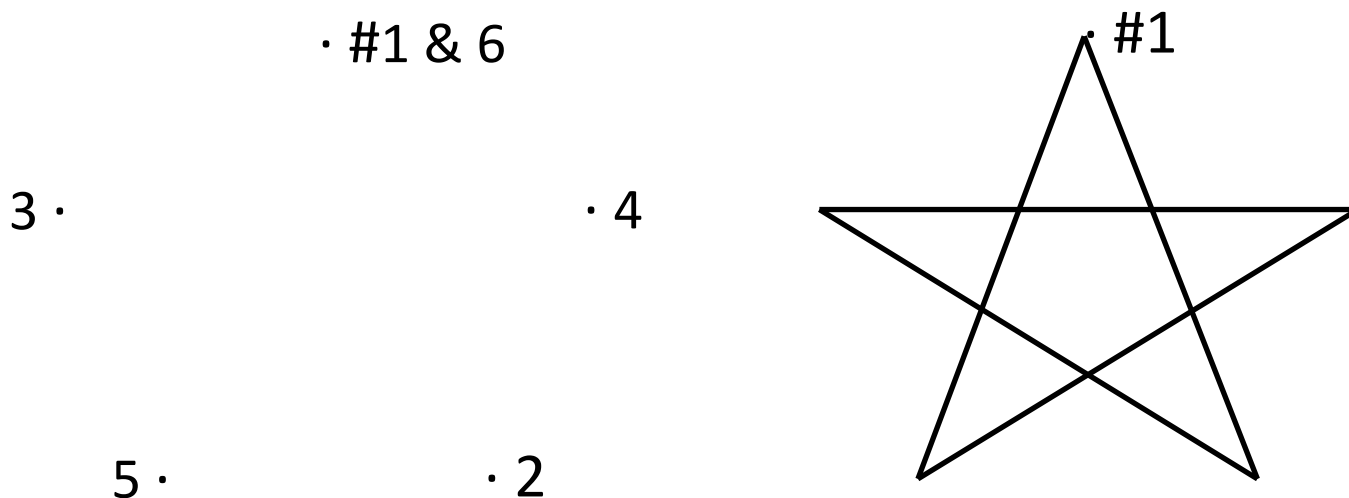
Your kit will include two pieces of Free-lace paper, about 4 inches square. One is a transparent film and the other is a piece of shiny brown paper with a white, fabric-like sheet stuck to the other side.

To begin, you must put the two free-lace sheets together, as follows: Carefully peel the white sheet off of the shiny brown backing paper, and lay it sticky-side UP on a dry surface. (Discard the brown shiny paper).

Carefully place the transparent sheet on top of the sticky sheet, matching up the corners so that the whole sticky sheet is covered. (Do not worry if there are a few wrinkles, or if the transparent sheet is larger than the sticky one.)

The photos on page one illustrate the rest of the process, from left to right.

Step 1: With the blunt tip of a crochet hook or pen, **impress the outline of your star** onto the free-lace paper. (This is the same star you drew in grade school.) – just connect the dots from 1 to 6, as in the drawing, below:



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Step 2: Leaving both thread tails at least 10 inches long, begin at #1 (the top point of the star) and straight-stitch the entire outline in the same order you drew the star in

Step 1, ending back at point #1.

Step 3: (Making the hanging loop): Your needle should be at the top of Point #1.

Change to a narrow zigzag (I used width #2), and stitch along the two thread tails to within one inch of the end.

Step 4: (Hanging loop, continued) Lift the presser foot, and position point #1 under the needle. (Be sure to keep the resulting hanging loop free of the needle.) Drop the presser foot and continue zigzagging the entire outline, as before, trapping the last inch of tails in your stitching.

Step 5: This step includes all the rest of the stitching. I zigzagged the outline 4 times, increasing the stitch width each time. Then I returned to #2 width and zigzagged from side to side and top to bottom in curvy lines that cross over each other and connect all the outlined edges. Stitch over each of your curvy lines once or twice, as you go. Leave small, open spaces, if you'd like your ornament to be lacy (like I did).

Once the machine-stitching is completed, sew on the beads and crystals by hand.

Hang the largest crystal off the end of one of the two bottom points, as follows: bring your needle through the threadwork and out at the very tip of one point. Strand 3 seed beads, the largest crystal and one more seed bead. Take the needle back up through all of the beads and crystals EXCEPT the single, stopper bead stranded last. Stitch the remaining crystals between two seed beads, suspended in some of the openings

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between threads, and sew on a few seed beads, here and there, on both sides. **Be Certain** to run your needle in and out of the machined threadwork so that your thread is securely trapped. **When the paper is dissolved, the threadwork is all that holds the piece together!!**

When you are happy with the piece, immerse it in a bowl of water for 10 minutes, then rinse under the faucet until it doesn't feel so "slimy". Lay on a paper towel, and gently blot. Then, lay flat to dry on a piece of waxed paper or a hard, waterproof surface (like the kitchen counter).

Step 6 (OPTIONAL): You can make 4 or 5 more ornaments on the same piece of free-lace paper. In the sixth picture on page one , I have begun to add smaller pieces all around the star. These pieces will be irregularly shaped, depending on whatever open space is available. Make hanging loops, first, just as above. **Be Certain NOT to stitch over any parts of the star!!** Dissolve and dry, as above.

