Cricut Crafts: Monogrammed Leather Keychain with Amber of Damask Love

Chapter 1 - Monogrammed Leather Keychain

Overview

(funky music) - Hey this Amber from Damask Love. I am going to show you how to take a plain piece of leather and turn it into a beautiful customized monogrammed key fob. It's a project that looks really really impressive and really really expensive but you're not gonna believe how simple it is to make. In this class you're gonna learn how to cut leather with the Cricket Maker, how to stitch leather by hand, and I'm gonna show you one of my favorite ways to add color to leather, with paint. Now I know you're thinking that crafting with leather has to be hard. Well it doesn't because the Cricket Maker makes it so easy to cut leather that you're gonna wanna craft with it all the time. (funky music)

Materials

- For this key fob, you're gonna need a laptop or a mobile device to access Cricut Design Space, a pair of scissors, leather glue, a leather hole punch, a Cricut Cutting Mat, and a sheet of tooling leather. Of course, you'll need your Cricut Maker loaded with a deep cut blade, leather paint, a paint brush, a Cricut Pen, embroidery floss, a key chain, and right over here, we have a tapestry needle for stitching.

Designing keychain and cutting on Cricut

- I've got my project open in Design Space. You can find it, I've already designed it for you, by clicking on the materials PDF. First we have to customize our project because we want it to have your monogram. My monogram, my first letter of my name is Amber, so I'm gonna change this letter. I already have it as A, but if you wanted to change it, all you have to do is double-click and add your monogram to whatever it might be. For this font, I'm using a font called Creative Memories Rubber Ducky. I think it's a bold font that looks really good when cut out of leather. That's what I would suggest you use. But if you have another font you love, use that one. I'm going to move my font on top of the key fob layer. Then I'm going to select all of them by dragging over the entire project. Then I wanna go down to the bottom right-hand corner and click "attach." Now all of those layers will cut out together so that they will cut from one piece of leather and they will also merge together to create one great key fob. You'll notice on the edge of my key fob I have little circles. Those are actually going to be drawn on with a Cricut pen. That way I'll know exactly where to punch using my leather hole punch. Now that I've got my key fob all designed I just have to go over here and click the green "make it" button. Here I'll be able to see my project on the mat. And because I'm working with an eight-and-a-half by eleven sheet of tooling leather I'm just gonna change my material size to make sure that it matches the material I'm using. Now I'm gonna go over and press "continue" connect my Cricut device. You see there's a little drop-down box next to the word "pressure." I'm gonna select more pressure. This way I'm really, really certain that the blade is going to go all the way through that thick leather material. You'll also see a notice here that says "move the star wheels to the right side of the machine." I'm gonna show you how to do that. These are the star wheels. And usually they're there to keep your materials in place. But with thicker materials, you wanna move them so that they don't leave any track marks on your thick material. So I moved them all the way to the right, and that's it. Now I'm gonna insert the pen so that we can

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make those dots on our leather key fob. Now we're ready to load the leather onto our mat and cut. Gonna place the mat onto the Cricut maker then I'll press that flashing arrow to load it in. You're gonna press the flashing arrow light to unload the mat. Now here comes the fun part. I love peeling off the materials from the mat. And look how perfectly this peels back from the mat. Just like that. If you have any areas that kind of snag or catch on the corners, just take a pair of scissors or use a little bit of elbow grease to pull it away. There we go. I've got all my pieces of my key fob here ready to go. Don't forget, keep all the pieces, even this little bit right here. They're all gonna fit together like a puzzle to make the perfect monogram key fob.

Assembling keychain fob
- The first thing I like to do is paint the monogram. I like to use Angela's Paint. It is, I think, one of the best leather paints. It dries really quickly, and I've had leather projects that I've dropped in the washing machine and it comes out beautifully. I like to do the painting first on a piece of scrap paper so it has a second to dry while I assemble the rest of the key fob. While my monogram dries, I'm gonna go ahead and assemble the rest of my key fob. I've got a key chain. I've got my leather key fob and a leather punch here. I wanna roll the leather just enough so the key chain will kind of slip into place. You wanna have the key chain on there before you start assembling, just like that. I can fold my key fob over. I'm gonna add the glue to the monogram side of the key chain that way I don't have too much excess glue flooding out all over the place. You don't need a lot of this stuff. It's strong and it has a tendency to seep. I'm gonna fold this back down into place. Make sure the edges are nice and even. Hold it in place for just a second so it kinda gets a grip. And once it's held in place we're gonna grab the leather punch. See all those holes that we drew with the cricket pen? Now I know exactly where to place my leather punch to punch all the way around my key fob. I'm using the smallest setting on my leather punch. It gives me a nice size hole to be able to stitch through but not so bit that it starts to fall off the edge. It's time to start stitching. I have a needle threaded with embroidery floss. It's doubled, and you wanna have about an arm's length to give yourself enough to stich all the way around. I'm gonna start stitching from the back of the key fob and pull my embroidery thread all the way through until I have about a six-inch tail at the back. It's just a matter of stitching in and out all the way around. Now that I've reached the end of one side I'm gonna go back all the way around to create a full coverage of embroidery floss around the edge of the key fob. This makes it look super finished, super expensive, but you made it yourself. I'm going to knot off right here on the back. I'm gonna make the knot pretty tight because I kinda want it to sink down into that little hole there. I'm gonna add just a teeny dab of glue to make sure that knot stays in place. And then I'm gonna use my finger to just kinda dab it in. I can use a pair of scissors to snip off the excess. That stitching is done. I love the way it turned out. Of course you can customize this anyway you want, any color. Of course I love pink, shocker. But you can make it any way you want. Now it's time for our final step. I'm gonna take a little bit of glue, and not too much. Again, this stuff likes to seep. Just enough to hold the monogram into place. I'm gonna place it in there just like a puzzle. Then remember that little guy that I made sure you saved? We're gonna stick him right in the center. Wipe of any excess glue, and oh, it's done! That key fob is so cute! And I'm pretty sure you'd pay like $150 for this. We made it ourself.

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