



# Finishing 2-Sided Embroidery

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## Finishing a Happel Heart as a 2-Sided Ornament

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### Introduction

Happel Hearts are named for their designer Luzine Happel. Luzine is an artist, author, and a teacher *extraordinaire* of Schwalm Embroidery.

These little hearts are a perfect way to learn and practice the art of Schwalm Embroidery. Each heart is outlined with Coral Knot and Chain stitches, and surrounded with half-eyelet scallops — three basic techniques that are common in Schwalm Embroidery. The fillings in the hearts are all different with the possibilities seemingly endless! *And they are very fun to do.*

Be sure to visit Luzine's website: [luzine-happel.de](http://luzine-happel.de) where you will find lovely pieces, instructive blog posts, and many books and patterns for purchase to help you on your journey in learning Schwalm Embroidery.

Luzine presented a way to finish these hearts as (lovely!) filled, puffy ornaments, but I wanted an additional way to display the hearts that lets the *light shine through* the hearts, highlighting the details. And I also wanted to have the option of seeing — and inspecting — the back of my work, since this is a learning project. And finally, I wanted this to have a bit more substance than a cut-out, starched piece. This two-sided method satisfied all those requirements.

The steps I take are detailed starting on the following pages, but here is a brief overview:

### Order of work summary:

1. Complete your Happel Heart and wash it and block it as usual.
2. Prepare 2 cardboard rings and 1 cord for hanging (make your own twisted cord, or use purchased cord).
3. Glue one cardboard ring to the FRONT of the ornament. Let dry overnight (weight the ring if possible with a jar).
4. Glue the hanging cord to the other cardboard ring. Let dry overnight.
5. Cut away the excess fabric from the ornament.
6. Glue the two cardboard rings together, sandwiching the stitched piece in the middle. Let dry overnight (weight, if possible with a jar).
7. Wrap the cardboard ring using the thread of your choice.



**Steps:**

1. **Prepare 2 cardboard rings.** I use Magazine Board (or Comic Book Backing Board), available from Amazon. The magazine boards are a little thicker and stiffer than cereal box cardboard, but not nearly as stiff or as thick as mat board. Use whatever you can find — and *what you can cut*. Plastic would be ideal —since it would also result in a washable finished project, but I haven't found plastic rings (yet!).

Cut 2 rings sized to fit around your heart. My rings have an outside diameter of 3.5 inches and an inside diameter of 3 inches, resulting in a .25-inch thick ring. *Note that your ring may need to be larger to fit around your heart. Measure carefully.*

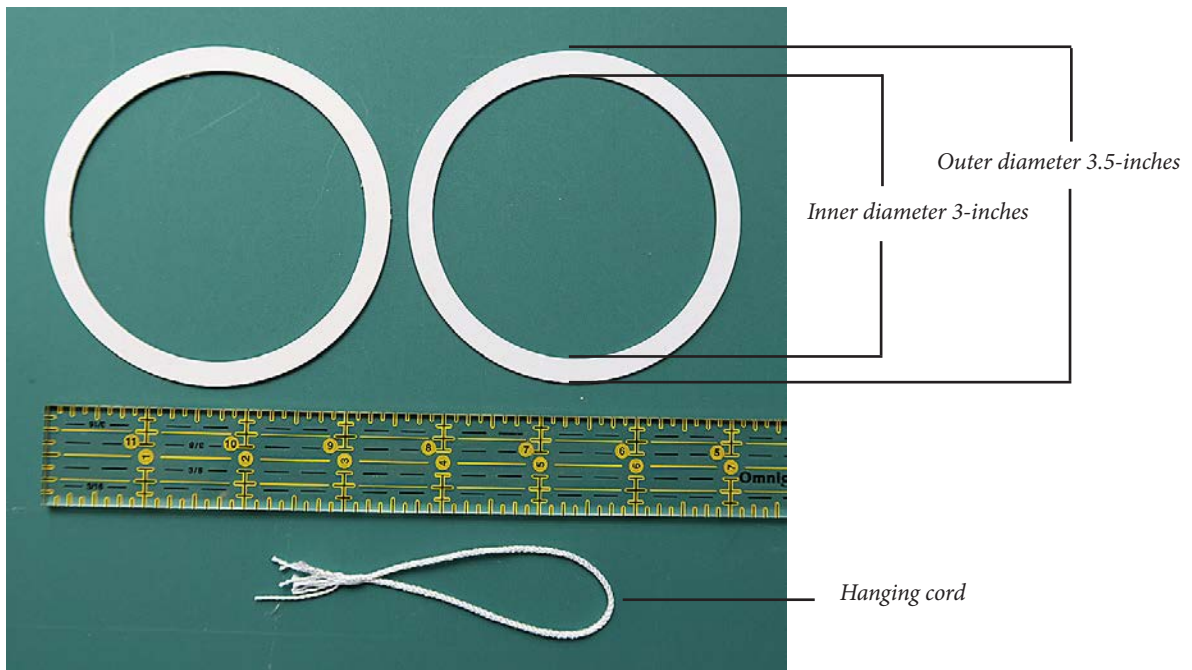


*EK Tools Scissor Pro Circle Cutter*



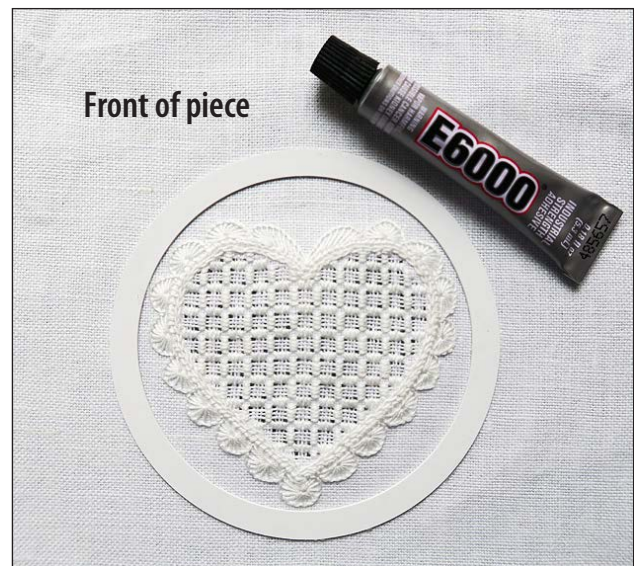
To cut the ring from the cardboard I've used a circle cutting tool (*EK Tools Scissor Pro*, pictured above) available in the scrapbooking section of your local hobby store (or on Amazon). I've also used a Cricut® cutting machine that works very well. If you have strong hands you can perhaps cut out the disc with paper scissors, and clean it up with an X-Acto® knife.

2. **Prepare 1 hanging cord.** Make the cord yourself, or use some pre-made cording. (Instructions for making twisted cord can be found in many places. It is beyond the scope of these instruction to describe the process here.) Make the cord as long as you would like. I make mine so that the finished loop is approximately 3 inches. Do not trim the ends, as you will attach those to the rings.



3. **Glue one cardboard ring to the front of the piece.** I use E6000 glue which is a clear, permanent glue that is usable on jewelry, fabric, wood and ceramic. Use whatever permanent glue you are used to.

Let the glue dry completely, usually several hours or overnight. If possible, weight just the cardboard ring. I find that a jar with an opening the size of my ring works well for this. I upend the jar onto the ring, and weight the jar. The advantage of this is that the cardboard disc gets a firm hold without squishing or flattening the embroidery.

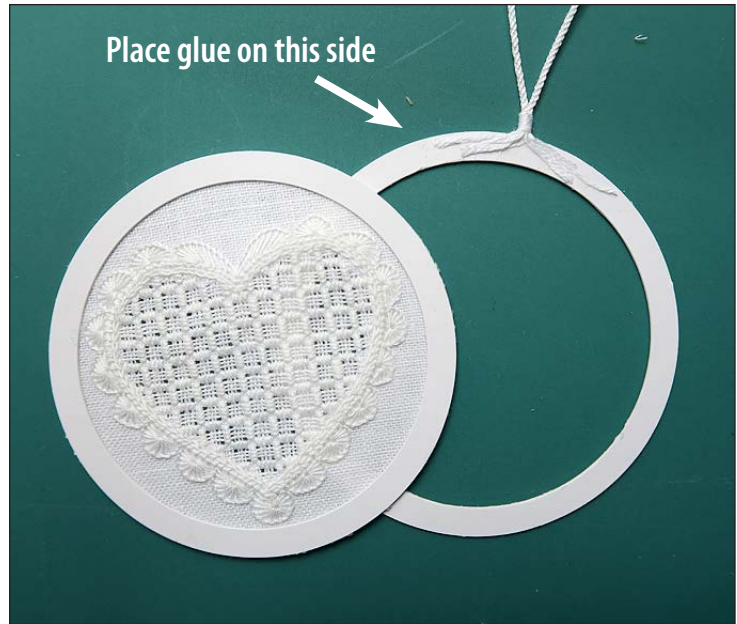


4. Glue the hanging cord to the *other* (second) ring. Use the fringe of the cord to attach it to the disc, keeping the bulky part outside of the ring. Use the same glue, pressing firmly and let the glue dry overnight.

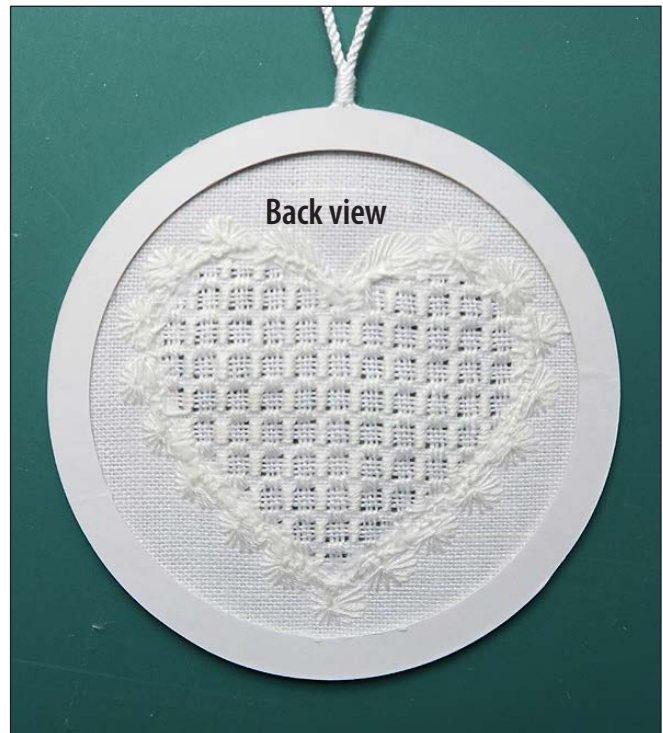
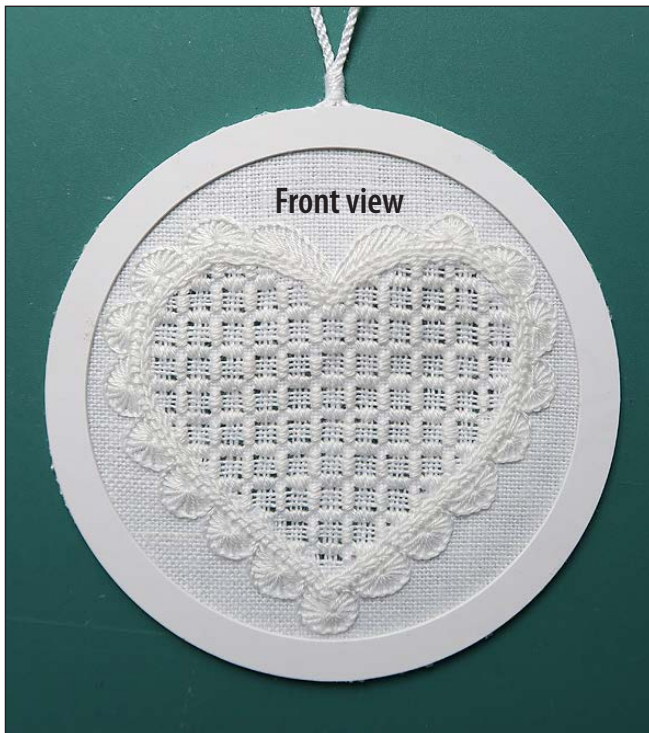




5. When the glue is completely dry, **cut away the fabric**. Use small, sharp scissors. Work carefully. You want to cut close to the outside edge making sure that the fabric remains firmly attached to the cardboard ring, but you don't want to leave any extra threads that will poke out around the edges.



6. **Glue the two rings together**, again using your permanent glue. Put the glue on the back ring (the one with the hanging cord), and carefully place the front disc on top *being careful to orient the front and back rings so that the hanging cord is centered*.





Again place a weight on the ring and let the glue dry completely — several hours or (best) overnight.

- When the glue is set, cover (wrap) the framing ring with thread. I use #16 Coton a Broder thread and a crewel #7 needle, but you may find other thread that you prefer. There's nothing wrong with using gold thread or red thread or even sparkly thread [see page 10 for a colorful example]. I use white on these Schwalm hearts because I think it doesn't detract from the embroidery.

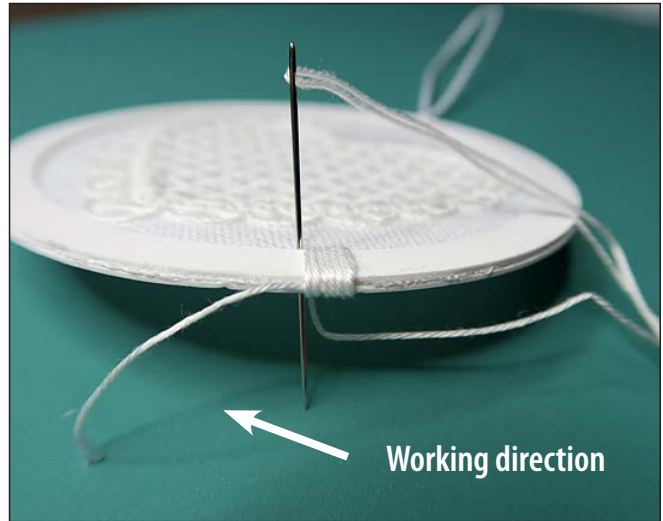
Starting and stopping the thread can be a bit tricky, but you'll get the hang of it with practice. Tweezers can be helpful when ending threads.



Start the *first thread* by holding the tail along the outer rim of the ring and cover the tail as you go along with the wrapping. [See next page for additional photos.] Put the needle in from the front side to the back side each time. This will help keep the front neat, and will ensure consistent thread placement. It will also help you get into a rhythm of stitching.

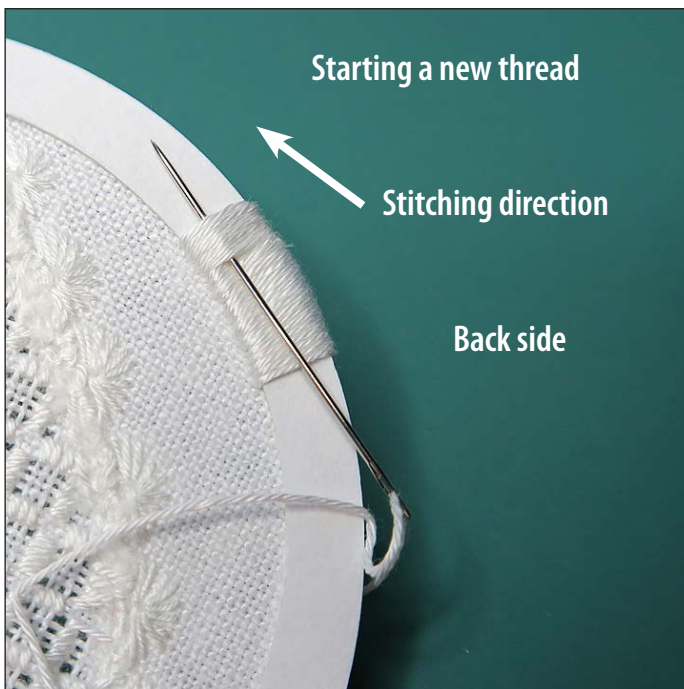
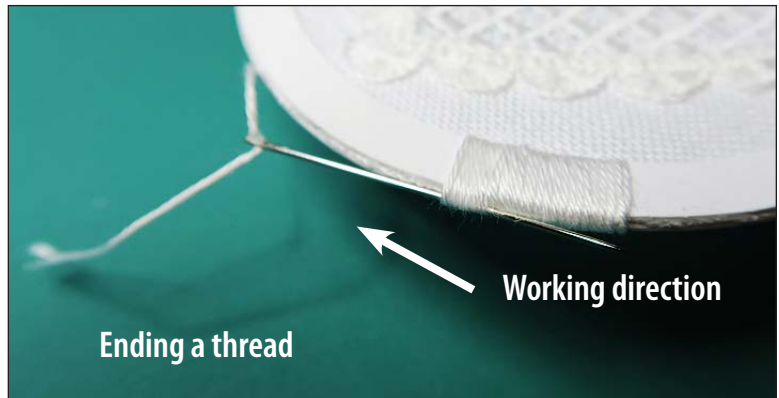
Go around the ring either clockwise or counterclockwise. Pick which direction is most comfortable for you, and stick with that. I tend to go clockwise so I am holding the cardboard ring instead of the recently-wrapped thread. If you are left-handed, you might go the counter-clockwise for the same reason.

Start somewhere around the 5:00 position on the ring (going clockwise) so that by the time you get to the top of the ornament you are stitching consistently, your tension is even, and the front is smooth.



To start your first thread, lay the tail of the thread along the outside of the ring, and cover it with your initial stitches.

To **end a thread**, run the needle under the stitches along the outside edge of the ring snip off the thread close to the edge. Tweezers might be helpful to pull the needle through if your stitching is very tight. Be as careful as you can to keep the wrapping threads smooth on the front of the ornament. Some lumps and bumps are inevitable, but they should be on the back side if possible.



To **start a new thread**, anchor the new thread at the bottom (or inside) of the ring and continue stitching. Slide the under a few stitches, then grab both the working thread and the tail and pull it firmly down to the inner side of the ring. [See next page.]



When starting a new thread, pull on the thread firmly (holding both the tail and the working thread) so the tail sits close to the inner side of the ring. You may find it helpful to use a tapestry needle to help move the tail into place.

Take the first wrap with a new thread carefully so as not to pull out the thread, or to draw it up the face of the ring. After a couple of wraps with the new thread, you can pull taut and adjust the tail of the new thread if necessary.



Snip the threads as you go along, or do several at a time, neatening the wraps with the help of a tapestry needle.



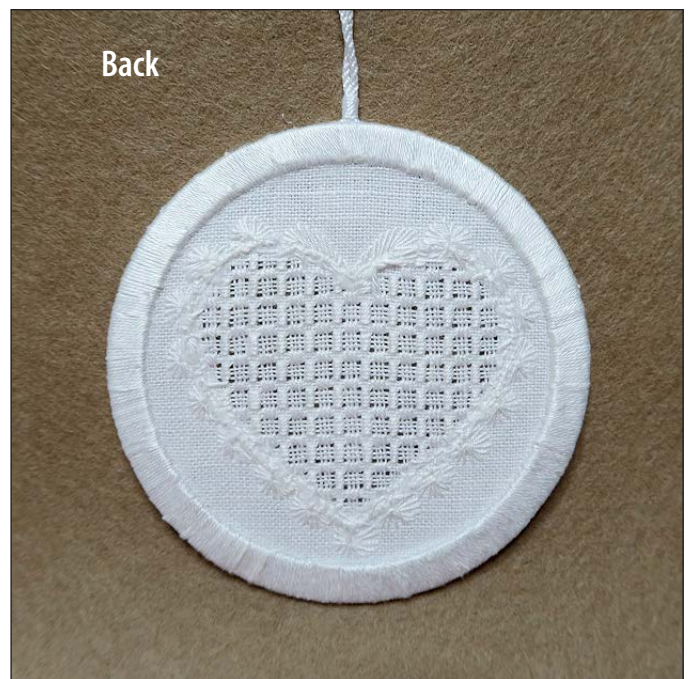
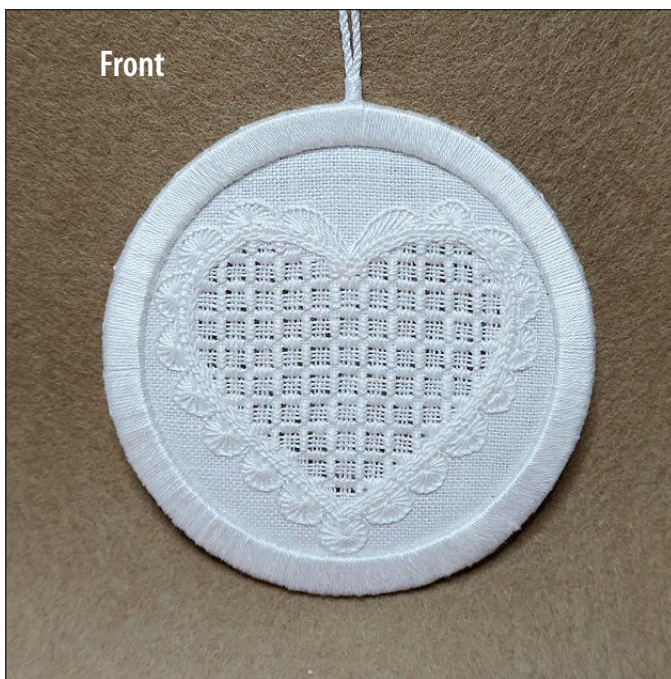
When you get to the top of the piece, just keep going — right through the base of the cord, and over any extruding cord tails.





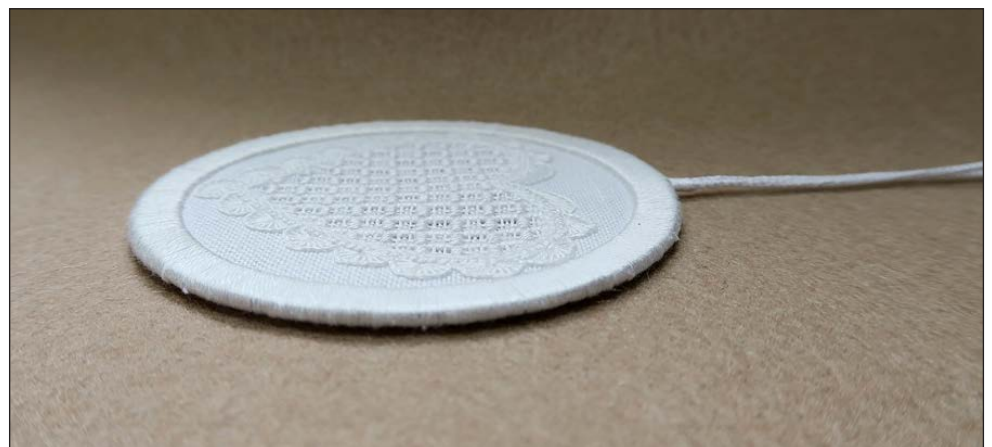
The last stitch is finished just like the others. Make sure there is no gap in the stitches then run the thread along the outside of the ring and snip off.

For this wrapping I used 20 18-inch lengths of thread, for a total of 10 yards (or half of a 20-meter skein). If you use longer lengths of thread, this particular thread tends to wear and fray.



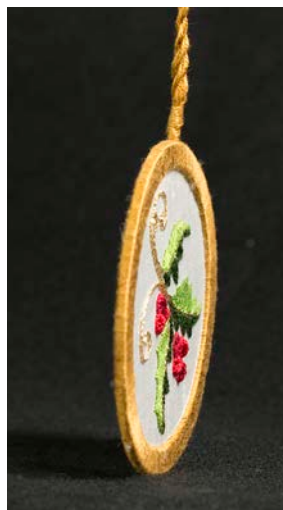
You now have a lovely compact ornament that allows light to shine through, and lets you inspect the back so you can study the pattern that you stitched in the center of the heart.

Note that this type of finishing is appropriate for any double-sided stitching.





A growing collection of Schwalm ornaments, and an example of a colorful 2-sided embroidered piece.



*Happy stitching!* — Cindy Russell, CRR@QRV.com