

# Embroidered Leaves on the Janome Skyline S7

By Sarah Ann Smith © 2015

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My final test of the Janome Skyline S7 was the **decorative stitches**. I've had fun being a part of Janome's 100 Blocks in 50 Days project (<http://janome.com/en/100quiltblocks/>). I liked the Moda fabric SO MUCH (silky, soft, glorious) that I made extra blocks for myself, and designed this embroidered block to go with mine. Blocks are designed to finish at 6 inches (6 1/2 inches including seam allowances).

## Supplies:

- 7 inch square of background fabric
- 7 inch square of tear-away or wash-away stabilizer
- Three needle threads. I used:
  - Stem: Superior Threads Magnifico (solid) 40-wt Poly in color 2098, a spring green.
  - Leaves: Superior Threads Fantastico (variegated) 40-wt poly in color 5007, blues and greens.
  - Flowers and snowflake dots: Superior Threads Magnifico in 2141 in aqua.
- Bobbin: The Bottom Line, a 60-wt (light) bobbin thread, in light green or light blue to blend with needle thread.
- F2 open toe embroidery foot

## Instructions:

1. Cut a 7 inch square of fabric and 7 inch square of stabilizer. On the fabric, mark a 6 inch square with a chalk pencil in the center of the block. Mark a 5 1/2" inch square centered inside the 6" square. Keep your stitching (other than the bottom of the stem) inside the inner square.

Hint 1: you want to cut large because stitching can shrink a block a bit. Basically, cut it big and trim to exact size when done.

Hint 2: Basically, select a stabilizer suitable for the weight of your cloth; the softer/finer your cloth, the sturdier you need the stabilizer.

2. Following the diagram on the last page, draw two stems. Satin stitch (a short zigzag) the stems in light green. On the S7, Utility Stitch 07. I used a 40-wt thread set at 2.4 width, .45 stitch length.

Hint: test your stem on a scrap of cloth to fine-tune width and length. If you don't like it, you don't have to pick it out.

3. Change to your variegated leaf thread. Space the leaves more or less as indicated. Keep the tips of the stems inside the inner 5 1/2" square so that nothing ends up in a seam allowance.

Using Satin Stitch 04, the leaf, follow the instructions in the manual to double (2x) the stitch length. My largest leaves were set at 9.0 stitch width, .35 stitch length; the slightly narrower large leaves are 7.5 width, .35 stitch length. For the smaller leaves, use the leaf at its default (1x) setting. I made my wider small leaves 8.0 width, .35 stitch length. The narrower small leaves were 6.5 stitch width, .35 stitch length.

Hint 1: PRACTICE a couple leaves on your scrap to see if you like the stitch density. I shortened my stitch length to .35, which shortened the leaf. As you stitch the leaf out, you can slightly pivot the block to make the leaf twist and turn. The leaves below the "Y" are at 2x length. Refer to your sewing machine manual to learn how to do that. The ones above the "Y" are at standard length.

Hint 2: As **soon** as you have begun stitching out the leaf, touch the **lock** button (a dot in a circle). This will tell your machine to stop at the end of a single leaf and not start another.

4. Stitch the blue flowers/buds using Satin Stitch 03 (an elongated football shape) set at 2.0 width, 1.8 stitch length. Start stitching the motif a scant 1/8" below the end of the stem so that the start of the bud covers the end of the stem.

5. Switch to Utility Stitch 14, which is a blind hem stitch (and standard on almost all machines). Shorten the stitch length and width until you get just the size of spikes you like.

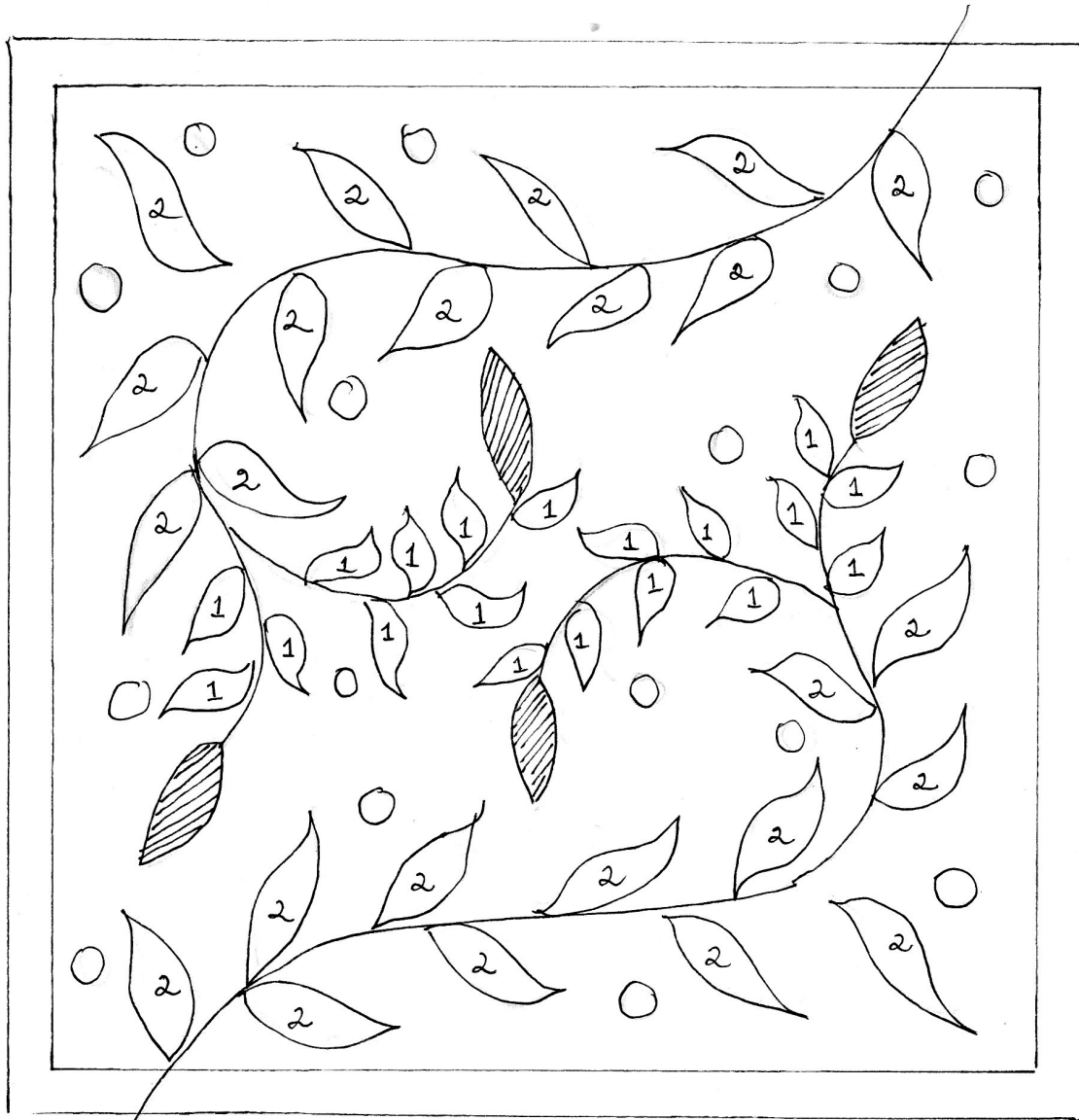
6. Select the snowflake, Decorative Stitch 35. Reduce the size to 5.0 width, 1.8 length.

Hint: Remember to touch the lockstitch as soon as you have begun stitching each snowflake so that you get only ONE stitch-out.

7. Remove stabilizer.

Hint: If your stabilizer is difficult to remove, spritz it with water or use a clean foam paintbrush with water to dampen the stabilizer. Let it sit a couple minutes, then remove.

When complete, trim to 6 1/2 inches to match your other "Janome 100 Blocks in 50 Days" project blocks. You can find this project here: <http://janome.com/100quiltblocks>.



- |   |              |   |                 |
|---|--------------|---|-----------------|
|  | Smaller leaf |  | Flower bud      |
|  | Larger leaf  |  | Snowflake / dot |

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Note: due to printing and layout, the design above may not print at the desired 6" finished block size on your printer. Please measure and adjust accordingly.