

## Rusting Fabric and Trims

Do you have a vintage style, a pioneer spirit, and love for remembrance? Allow Chrissie Grace to introduce you to Heather Sleightholm and her aged and weathered aesthetic creation.

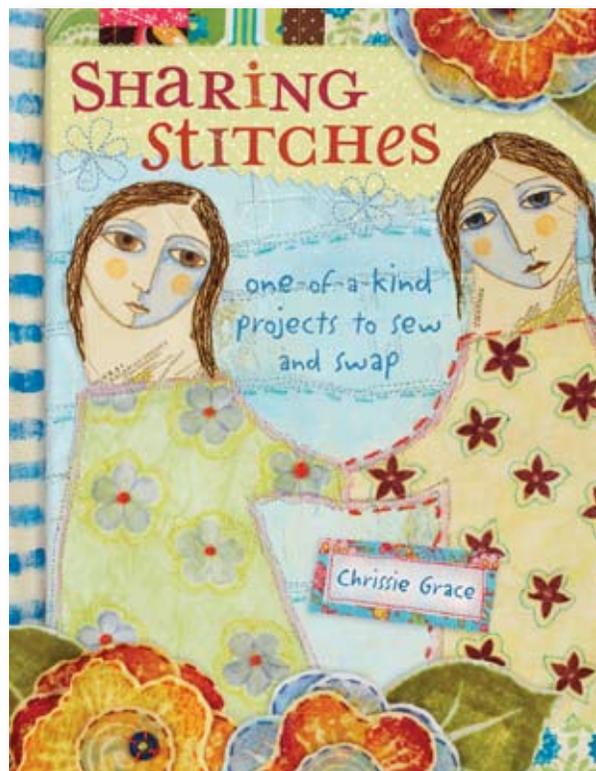
Have you ever wanted to paint rust on something to give it the illusion of the best antique treasure that you have ever found? Heather Sleightholm in *Sharing Stitches*, by Chrissie Grace, can teach you just the trick. Learn how you can "rust" fabric, ribbon, metal and more to make the most beautifully aged remembrance piece that you could ever imagine.

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To learn more about or purchase *Sharing Stitches* by Chrissie Grace [click here](#).

[www.CreateMixedMedia.com](http://www.CreateMixedMedia.com)

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## RUSTED REMEMBRANCE

Designed by Heather Sleightholm

The first time I came across folk artist Heather Sleightholm's work, I was smitten. Her vintage style focuses on the pioneer spirit. In her own words, she is inspired by "the beauty of her prairie home, a good ghostly tale and details from a time long ago." The technique of rusting objects to age them fits her style perfectly. Rusted items appear to be aged and weathered and can add a lot of aesthetic appeal and vintage charm to your artwork. You can find rusting kits at craft stores; however, you can create your own rusty items at virtually no cost by following Heather's tutorial.

### materials

- batting
- fabric for quilt top and backing
- fabric glue
- metallic acrylic paints
- muslin
- personal or copyright-free image
- sewing thread
- transfer paper
- various fabrics to be rusted: ribbons, upholstery fabric, lace and crochet doilies
- various metal objects to be rusted: antique buttons and a locket

### tools

- hot glue gun and glue sticks
- ink-jet printer
- iron and ironing board
- large plastic bag
- rotary cutter and mat
- rusty can
- scissors
- sewing machine
- sewing needle
- straight pins
- toothbrush
- transparent ruler
- vinegar
- water (for rusting objects)



**1** Cut out 2 10½" (26.5cm) squares of fabric for the quilt top and backing. Gather fabric bits such as ribbon, upholstery fabric, lace and crochet doilies. Gather a few metal objects as well, such as antique buttons and a locket.



**2** Follow the instructions on the next page to rust the gathered items.



## Transferring Rust

In a bowl mix three parts vinegar with one part water and soak any cloth items you are planning to rust for a few minutes. (I recommend doing this step outside because of the strong smell of the vinegar.) After wringing out the excess liquid, place the cloth items, as well as any metal items, in a large plastic bag with a rusty can. Any rusty item will serve well for the transfer, and the rustier the better!

Drape the cloth items around the can; the metal items can sit in the bottom of the bag. Set the entire bag in the backyard in full sun. Keep the bag open to aid the oxidation. For a good dirty rust, leave the items in the bag with the rusted can for about 24 hours.

If you find that you want more rust on your cloth items, rewet them in the vinegar/water mixture and return them to the bag with the rusty can. Remember, the more direct contact the cloth has with the rusted object, the more rust it will absorb.



**3** When the fabric is rusted to satisfaction, lay it flat to dry (preferably outside). Iron the wrinkles out of the fabric elements.



**4** Print a personal painting or a copyright-free image onto transfer paper, following the manufacturer's instructions. Remember to print the image in reverse. Cut out the image and iron it onto a piece of plain muslin. Let the paper cool and then carefully peel off the transfer paper.



**5** Snip the edges of the muslin and carefully rip with your fingers to create a ragged effect.



**6** To create the illusion of rust on the painting, lightly splatter the image with metallic copper and bronze acrylic paint by flicking your thumb across a paint-soaked toothbrush.



**7** Arrange the rusted fabrics, ribbon and the transferred painting on the quilt top fabric as desired. Once arrangement is decided, lightly adhere the pieces to the quilt top with fabric glue and then stitch them down.



**8** Hand sew the rusted locket and a small piece of ribbon to the quilt block.



**9** Layer the quilt backing, a 10" (25.5cm) piece of batting and the quilt top to make a sandwich. Pin the square together. Sew the fabric squares and batting together with a straight stitch. Use hot glue to adhere the rusted antique buttons.