

## Supply List and Instructions for Making Chili Pepper Ristras

For questions, contact Liz Macijeski at 825-2937 or [LounLiz@wbhsi.net](mailto:LounLiz@wbhsi.net)

### Materials Needed:

- BSS
- 2 ½ yds dark to medium mottled red fabrics
- Loose batting
- Raffia to make the hanger & fluff piece for the top
- One pattern for the base pattern
- One pattern for the 60 small peppers
- Red sewing machine thread
- Hand sewing needle

1. Transfer the pattern of the small pepper to file weight cardboard or x-ray film to ease the tracing of the pattern.
2. Lay the fabric right sides together, trace the base pattern and then trace 60 small peppers very close together, put a pin in each to help keep them ready to sew.
3. Sew the base pattern starting at the right side of the opening at the top. Use a ¼ seam allowance, and sew around to the other side of the opening, locking stitches at both sides.
4. Chain sew the small peppers in the same manner but use a 1/8" seam allowance.
5. Leave the top of the base and small peppers open, turn inside out, using a chopstick, or other tool. Push the seams outward to create the shape, stuff the base pepper firmly, but stuff the small ones just enough to keep them from being flat. A large pinch of batting may be enough. When the peppers are stuffed, turn the hem of the openings inside. Stitch across the top of each of the small peppers, stitch some from one side seam to the other, stitch some by matching the seams and stitching, so they are in a variety of positions for sewing to the base pepper.
6. Twist the small peppers to wrinkle them a little bit to make them look natural.
7. Cut 3 or 6 strands of the cord/raffia 12 inches long, line them up and stitch across one end to secure for braiding, place the stitched portion under the presser foot, lower it and put the needle thru it to hold it while you braid.
8. Braid the length of the cord/raffia, stitch across the other end of the cord, this will be used to make the loop that lets you hang the pepper ristras. If it is too long, shorten it by stitching across the cord to make the desired length. Place the stitched braid ends inside the middle of the opening of the base pepper, pin and then hand stitch it in place using at least two threads, to make sure it is strong enough to hold the ristras.
9. Beginning at the bottom of the base pepper, hand sew a small pepper at the center of the bottom, placing the flat seam that you made to close the pepper, flat against the base pepper. Continue sewing the peppers to the base, moving around the base pepper in a random pattern, moving upward, and making sure the flat portion of the top of the small pepper is sewn in a way that the curve of the small pepper faces out and away from the base pepper. Use your eyes to tell you where a pepper is needed to fill in a space.
10. To make the fluffy piece at the top, braid some of the cord to make a ring that will slip over the loop you made to hang the ristras and make it long enough allow for the bulk of the cords that will be attached, plus enough to make the knot, and also leave a tail that will be as longer than the final length of the "fluff" you are going to make. (You can cut the excess off the match the fluff when you are finished.)
11. To make the "fluff" cut strips of cord double the desired length of the fluff, plus add an allowance for the loop you will need to loop the cord/raffia over the ring.
12. To loop the cords over the ring, fold the cord in half, put the loop end thru the ring, then put the two tails thru the loop, and tighten against the ring, keeping the tails even.