

Dolphin Pattern for
The Drowning Spool
by Monica Ferris

Photocopy the pattern. (A copy shop can make your photocopy larger or smaller to fit the size you want. Edges are rough in punchneedle work – the larger you make the pattern, the smoother the result will be.) Tape it to a window at eye level, and over it tape a piece of white weaver's cloth (or any thin, tightly-woven fabric) at least three inches larger in all directions. Trace the pattern onto the cloth with a soft pencil. Punch needle work is a mirror image of the pattern -- if you want the result the same as the pattern, turn the photocopy over before tracing.

This pattern can repeat to give a continuous band of dolphins and waves. Move the weaver's cloth left or right until the pattern on the photocopy butts up against the pattern on the cloth, and trace again. Stretch the cloth into a really good hoop that will hold the fabric tight.

You will want white, dark blue, and light blue floss, DMC 825 and DMC 813, for example. (Any two similarly-related colors of gray, green, or aqua will work. Number of skeins needed depends on the size you make the pattern.) Use the lighter color on the belly of the dolphin. Fill the space around the wave and dolphin in white.

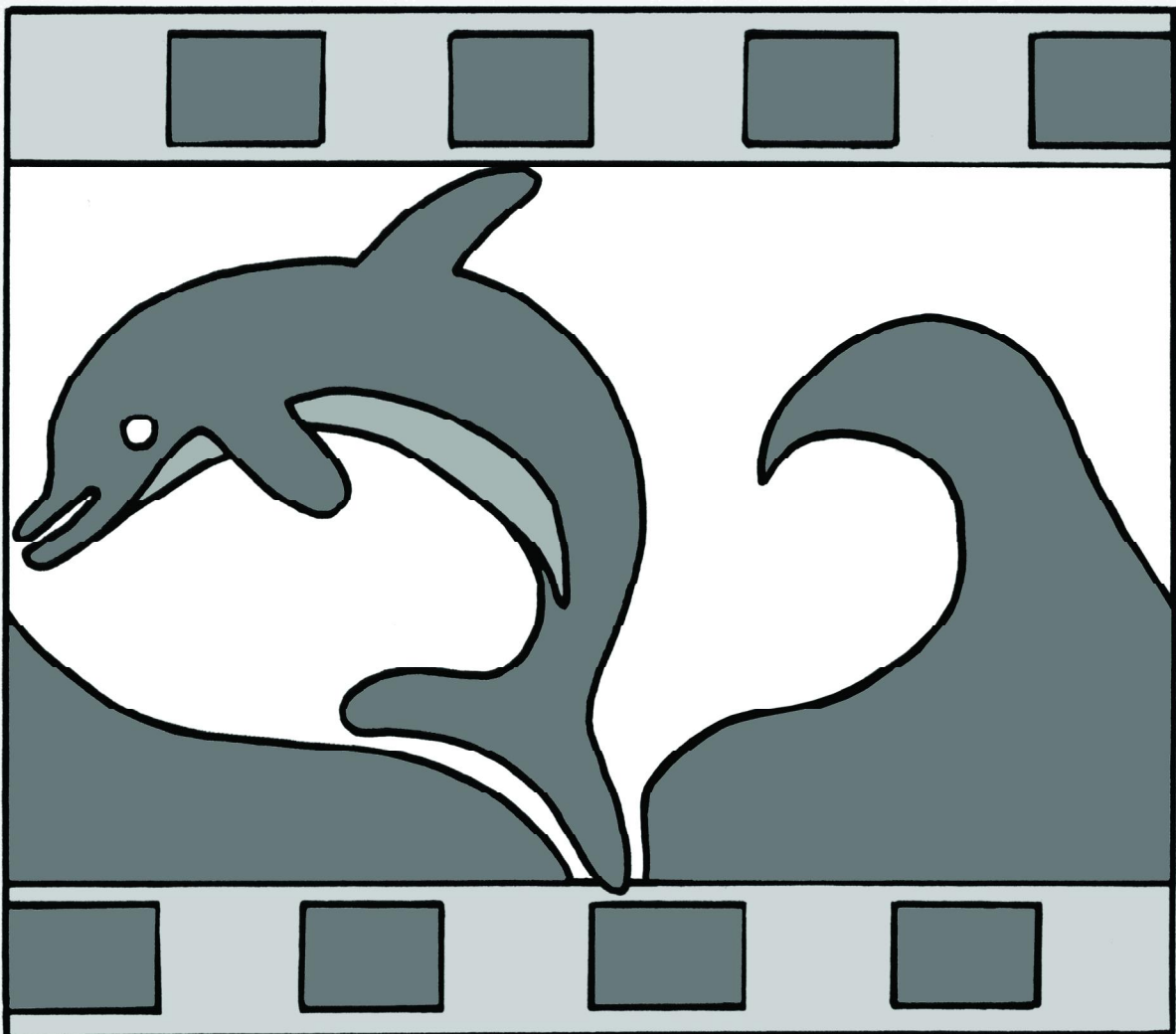
Optional instructions for use of punch needle:

Cut about a yard's length from one of the skeins, and pull three threads from it.

Turn the needle so the beveled edge faces up. Push the threader through the needle toward the handle until it extends beyond the end of the handle. Pull a couple of inches of the three threads through the looped portion of the threader, then draw the threader back down the punch needle and out the beveled end. Pass the threader, with the thread still attached, through the eye of the punch needle. Slip the threader from the thread. Pull the thread back until only about a quarter-inch is coming out the end.

Hold the punch needle's handle like a pen and keep the beveled portion of the needle turned toward the direction you are going. Work on the outline of your pattern first. Punch through the fabric and pull it back up so it barely clears the surface. Make your stitches small and make the lines close together.

The nap of the pattern forms on the underside of your fabric. Check it now and again to see how you are doing. When you near the end of your floss, lift the needle so the end is on your working side. Refill the needle and continue. When you release the fabric from the hoop, it will close around the stitches, keeping them in place.



Ellen Kuhfeld