Simple Heart Make-Do

Free Pattern by Cindy Markovcy
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Supplies Needed:
1/4 yard ticking fabric, red
Fiberfill stuffing
6 inch scrap of vintage lace
Vintage decorative button
Small manila tag
Stamp set
Thread and needle
Instant tea and sponge brush
Optional, cinnamon
Rusty old bed spring

Instructions:
Begin by transferring pattern to cardstock to create a template (the easiest way is to print that page right onto cardstock). Cut that pattern from the cardstock and you have a template. Trace around the template onto the wrong side of a doubled layer of ticking fabric. Make sure you mark the openings. Sew on the traced line; cut 1/4 inch away from sewn line and clip the inside of the heart so it won't pucker when you turn it. Turn the heart right side out and stuff firmly; whipstitch the opening closed with quilting thread.
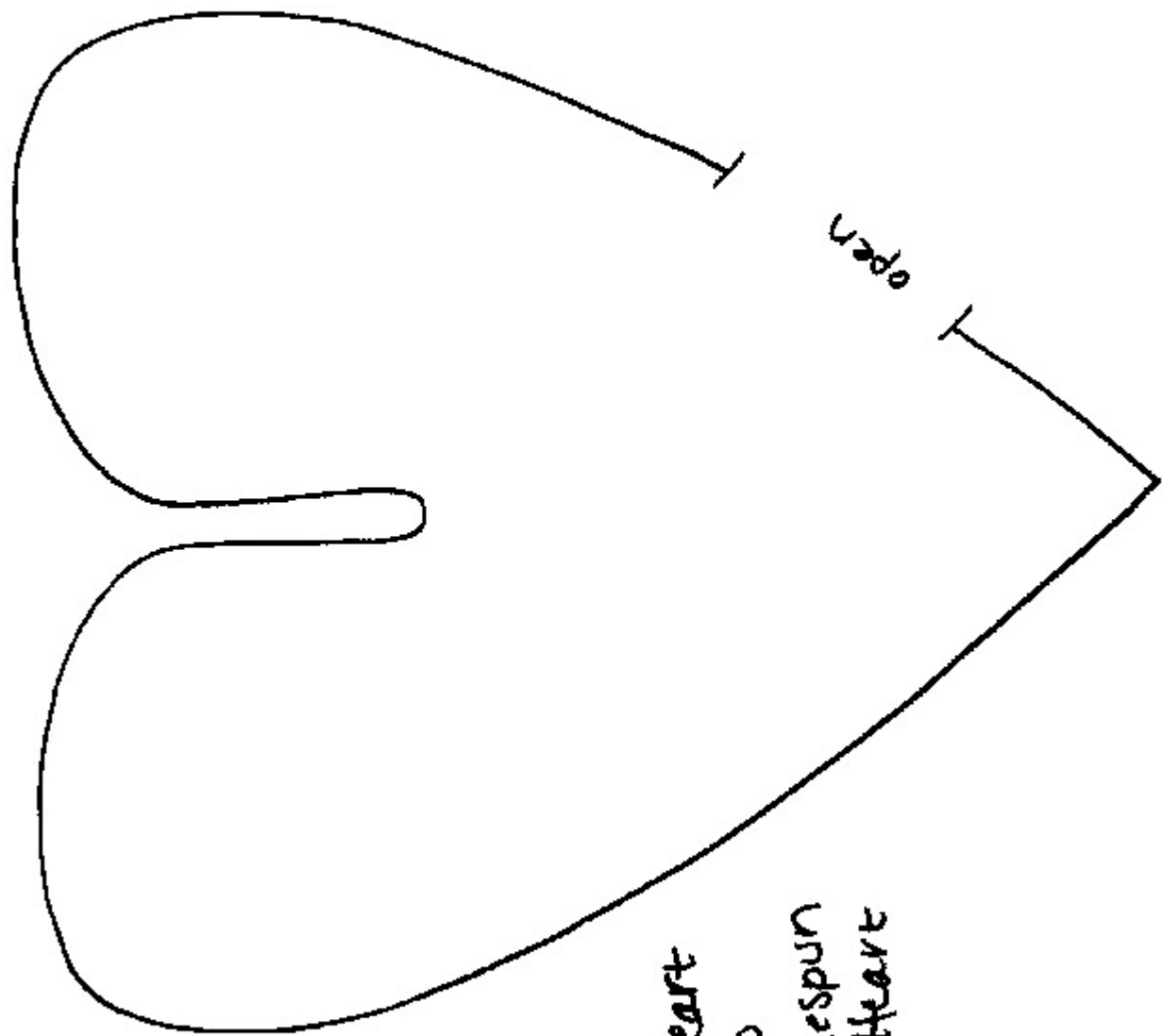
Mix 1/4 cup of instant tea with some hot water – I use only a few tablespoons because I like my mixture dark. Use your sponge brush and "paint" the heart, both sides with the tea mixture. Also stain your lace and tag now too. I let mine sit on a paper towel lined baking sheet in front of a fan to dry. When the heart is dry, give it another round of tea stain but this time sprinkle some cinnamon on it and rub it in with your fingers. You can do this in just a couple spots to give it an uneven primitive appearance.

Embellishing:
Lay the lace going across your heart diagonally. Tack stitch it on either side (in the back) of the heart. Use heavy duty thread to stitch your button in place, going from the back of the heart to the front and back again – this will create a slight indent for the button.

Let your imagination go – you can use a rusty key, piece of old piano paper, old valentine's cards, buttons, scraps of homespun or wool, anything you wish to embellish your heart.

I used my capitals stamp set and stamped a simple XO on my tag. Tie it around the spring where you wish; place heart inside rusty spring and you are done!

open

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