

Needlework Book Recommendations

New York Capital District Chapter, EGA

Our members have recommended this list of their favorite and most helpful needlework books. They include general handbooks and stitch guides, books specific to a particular style of embroidery, needlework history, and beautiful books that offer inspiration. Please note that some of these books are privately printed or small-press gems that may be found only at needlework shops, so some online hunting might be needed. However, most of the books on this list are currently available in libraries, bookstores or online.

GENERAL HANDBOOKS and STITCH GUIDES

Complete Encyclopedia of Needlework, 3rd ed., Therese de Dillmont. Originally published in 1884, this is a comprehensive volume of all kinds of needlework, including some nearly forgotten. Note that it is densely written with no glossy pictures.

The Complete Illustrated Stitch Encyclopedia, Eaglemoss Publications Ltd.
Features detailed stitch diagrams

The Complete Stitch Encyclopedia, Jan Eaton
Over 700 unique, full-color step-by-step photographs

Elegant Stitches, Judith Baker Montano
Includes silk ribbon, crazy quilt stitches, left-handed stitches

The Embroiderer's Handbook, Margie Bauer
An essential step-by-step photo guide to creative stitches and versatile techniques

The Embroiderer's Little Book of Hints & Tips, Alison Cole

The Embroidery Book: Visual Resource of Color & Design, Christen Brown
Step-by-step guide to 149 stitches

Encyclopedia of Embroidery Stitches, Including Crewel, Marion Nichols

Encyclopedia of Embroidery Techniques, Pauline Brown
Includes all major embroidery techniques plus inspirational examples of traditional and innovative finished work

Encyclopedia of Needlework, Donna Kooler

Floral Stitches, Judith Baker Montano
Colorful detailed illustrations and diagrams. Includes stitches for surface embroidery, silk ribbon cross stitch, needlepoint, punchneedle, beadwork

A Little Book of Embroidery Basics, Patricia Lufholm, EGA publication

Mary Thomas's Dictionary of Embroidery Stitches, Jan Eaton
Organized by type of stitch, includes color-coded stitch photos and clear directions

The Royal School of Needlework Book of Embroidery: A Guide to Essential Stitches, Techniques and Projects

Royal School of Needlework: Embroidery Techniques, Sally Saunders

Stitch Sampler: The ultimate visual dictionary to over 200 classic stitches

Lucinda Ganderton

ASSISI EMBROIDERY

Assisi Embroidery, Pamela Miller Ness

Punto Assisi, Silvana Toppetti

BEAD EMBROIDERY

Bead Embroidery: The Complete Guide, Jane Davis

Bead Embroidery Stitch Samples, CRK Design/Yasuko Endo

Beaded Embroidery Stitching: 125 Stitches to Embellish with Beads, Buttons, Charms, Bead Weaving and More, Christen Brown

Beadpoint, Ann Benson

Bead stitching on canvas

BLACKWORK

Blackwork and Holbein Embroidery, Ilse Altherr

Blackwork Made Easy: Techniques, Patterns & Samplers, Lesley Wilkins

The Heart of Blackwork, Ann Strite-Kurtz

RSN Essential Stitch Guide: Blackwork, Becky Hogg

Reversible Blackwork, Ilse Altherr

BOOKS FOR INSPIRATION

The Art of Annemieke Mein: Wildlife Artist in Textiles, Annemieke Mein

The Art and Embroidery of Jane Hall: Reflections of Nature, Jane E. Hall

A Passion for Needlework, Inspirations Press

BRAZILIAN EMBROIDERY

A Beginner's Guide to Brazilian Embroidery, Brazilian Dimensional Embroidery International Guild Website

COLOR

Colour Companion for Stitchers, Peppermint Purple

Features ninety 3, 4, and 5-color combinations on four different backgrounds.

Includes color codes for DMC, Anchor, Madeira and Sulky. Wire-bound

Colour Confidence in Embroidery, Trish Burr

CRAZY QUILTING

Crazy Quilting: The Complete Guide, J. Marsha Michler

Stunning Stitches for Crazy Quilts: 480 Embroidered Seam Designs,
Kathy Seaman Shaw

Treasury of Crazyquilt Stitches, Carole Samples

CREWEL and SURFACE EMBROIDERY

The Art of Crewel Embroidery, Mildred J. Davis

Beginner's Guide to Crewel Embroidery, Jane Rainbow

Crewel Embroidery: With Texture and Thread Variations, Audrey A. Francini

Monograms: The Art of Embroidered Letters, Susan O'Connor

Fabulous for monograms!

RSN Essential Stitch Guide: Crewelwork, Jacqui McDonald

The Stitching Book: A Step-by-Step Guide to Surface Techniques, Search Press

Note: a new edition is titled **Hand Embroidery: Timeless Techniques For
Beginners & Beyond**

CROSS STITCH

**Everyday Folk: Over 175 Folk Embroidery Designs for the Home, Inspired by
Traditional Textiles**, Krista West

CUTWORK

Cutwork Embroidery, Oenone Cave

Cutwork Heirloom Sewing IV, Margaret Pierce

A Special Touch of Cutwork, Kathy Ghorashi

Traditional Cutwork, Darlene Geisendorff Guillory

FIBER ARTS

**Fibreart Montage: Combining Quilting, Embroidery and Photography
With Embellishments**, Judith Baker Montano

Folded Flowers: Fabric Origami, Kumiko Sudo

**Freeform Embroidery with Judith Baker Montano: Transforming Traditional
Stitches into Fiber Art**, Judith Baker Montano

Kokoro no Te: Handmade Treasures from the Heart: Kumiko Sudo

Omiyage: Handmade Gifts from Fabric in the Japanese Tradition, Kumiko Sudo

GOLDWORK

A-Z Goldwork with Silk Embroidery, Inspirations Books

Good for inspiration!

Beginner's Guide to Goldwork, Ruth Chamberlin

Goldwork: Techniques, Projects and Pure Inspiration, Hazel Everett

HARDANGER

Classic Hardanger, Gina Marion

Decorative Designs in Hardanger, Gina Marion

Hardanger Basics & Beyond, Janice Love

Hardanger Embroidery, Jill Carter

Hardanger Filling Stitches: A Step-by-Step Handbook, Yvette Stanton

Hardanger Fundamentals Made Fancy, Janice Love

NEEDLE PAINTING

Needlepointed Plants and Pollinators: An Insect Lover's Guide to Silk Shading Embroidery, Victoria Matthewson

Needle Painting Embroidery: Fresh Ideas for Beginners, Trish Burr

NEEDLE LACE, NEEDLEWEAVING and OPENWORK

50 Heirloom Buttons to Make: A gallery of decorative fabric, needle-lace, crochet and ribbon & braid closures you can create, Nancy Nehring

Needle Lace and Needleweaving: A New Look at Traditional Stitches, Jill Nordfors

Needlelace: Designs & Techniques, Classic & Contemporary, Catherine Barley

A good reference, but only for the serious

The Open Canvas: An Instructional Encyclopedia of Openwork Techniques, Carolyn Ambuter

Ruskin Lace and Linen Work, Elizabeth Prickett

Old fashioned book with good instructions and photos

NEEDLEPOINT

Architectural Stitches for Needlepoint, June McKnight

Carolyn Ambuter's Complete Book of Needlepoint, Carolyn Ambuter

Desert Island Stitches, vol. 1 and 2, Carole H. Lake & Michael E. Boren

Four Way Bargello, Dorothy Kaestner

Master Stitches from the Squad, vol. I and II, Suzanne Howren, Tony Minieri, and Meredith Willett
Monograms, Jim Shore
More Backgrounds for Needlepoint, June McKnight
The Needlepoint Book, Jo Ippolito Christensen
People refer to this book as the “Needlepoint Bible”
Shading Needlepoint, Janet M. Perry and Art Needlepoint
Stitch Ins & Outs, Little Shoppe Canvas Company
Stitch Landscape, Little Shoppe Canvas Company
Stitches for Effect, More Stitches for Effect, and Even More Stitches for Effect, Suzanne Howren and Beth Robertson
Stitches to Go, Susanne Howren and Beth Robertson
Transformative Stitching: Needlepoint on the Diagonal, Dawn Donnell

NEEDLEWORK HISTORY

18th Century Embroidery Techniques, 19th Century Embroidery Techniques, and Early 20th Century Embroidery Techniques, Gail Marsh
Early American Embroidery Designs, Mildred J. Davis
Includes traceable designs
Elizabethan Stitches: A Guide to Historic English Needlework, Jacqui Carey
The Embroiderer’s Story: Needlework from the Renaissance to the Present Day, Thomasina Beck
Royal School of Needlework Book of Needlework and Embroidery, ed. Lanto Synge
Stitches in Time: The Art and History of Embroidery, Hilda Kassell
Tapestries, W. S. Sevensma

SASHIKO

Kake-Jiku: Images of Japan in Applique, Fabric Origami and Sashiko, Kumiko Sudo
Sashiko, Ai Takeda
Japanese Country Quilting, Karen Kim Matsunaga
Sashiko and Beyond, Saikoh Takano

SHADOW WORK EMBROIDERY

Mastering Shadow Work Embroidery, Wendy Roche Schoen
Shadow Work Fun & Fancy, Martha Pullen
Shadow Embroidery, Marion Scoular

SILK RIBBON EMBROIDERY

The Art of Silk Ribbon Embroidery, Judith Baker Montano

The Handbook of Silk Ribbon Embroidery, Ann Cox

Silk Ribbon Embroidery: Designs & Techniques, Ann Cox

The Silk Ribbon Embroidery Bible, Joan Gordon

STUMPWORK

Beginner's Guide to Stumpwork, Kay Dennis

Stumpwork & Goldwork Embroidery Inspired by Turkish, Syrian & Persian Tiles,
Jane Nicholas A nice book for inspiration

Stumpwork Embroidery: A Collection of Fruits, Flowers & Insects for
Contemporary Raised Embroidery, Jane Nicholas

WESSEX STITCHING

Wessex Stitchery, Gay Eaton

SWEDISH WEAVING

Huck Adventures, Michiko Kuge

Swedish Weaving & Pattern Directory, Katherine Kennedy

WHITEWORK

Beginner's Guide to Drawn Thread

Frisian Whitework: Dutch Embroidery from Friesland, Yvette Stanton

Mountmellick Embroidery: Inspired by Nature, Yvette Stanton

Portuguese Whitework, Yvette Stanton

Sardinian Knot Stitch, Gioja Ralui

Sardinian Knotted Embroidery, Yvette Stanton

Schwalm Embroidery: Techniques & Designs, Christine Bishop

 You can teach yourself Schwalm with her instructions

Ukrainian Drawn Thread Embroidery, Yvette Stanton

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