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Stitch, Fabric & Thread: An Inspirational Guide For Creative Stitchers



Synopsis

This inventive book is a treasure trove of over 40 inspiring practical exercises, a rich and creative exploration of fabric and stitch, and a fascinating all-round read. The exercises draw inspiration from around the world: create corded works of art inspired by Milton Glaser's iconic Bob Dylan album cover; create bold embroidered African masks; layer up and cut away to create Mola applique; use bleach and fabric paint to create Aboriginal dreamtime lizards; create knotted works of art inspired by ancient Mayan counting systems; embroider varsity cross-stitch letters or try out decorative Japanese book binding. Alternatively, try a host of other techniques such as quilting, printing, dyeing, couching tumbled crockery, creating pleats and puckers and needlelace. The book also contains 'behind the stitches' features: illuminating insights into sewing movements such as Boro textiles, Gee's Bend quilting and Dorset buttons.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is a lovely inspiring sewing book to relax with and absorb ideas from. The author has a particular style emulating nature and using soft subtle natural shades and ethnic inspiration, using traditional stitching techniques which becomes apparent throughout the book. It all makes for a very soothing and restful style which is nevertheless exciting and innovative. As well as lots of tips and techniques there are specific projects to try with step by step guidelines and templates. Techniques covered which I had not come across before include Boro stitching and Mola applique and there are

some great ideas for making and using Dorset buttons which I've already begun and find them fascinating. A must read for imaginative stitchers and would be textile artists, to add to your sewing library and gain insight and creativity from. * Jan Lambert * The illustrations in this book are really good and there are clear instructions to help you create some wonderful stitching projects. The layout of the book makes you want to try all the different techniques and overall, it's given me some new inspiration. * Joanne Crosby * An excellent, inspiring book that gives lots of photos to easily explain ideas, that covers lots of techniques. I felt like a child in a sweet shop, that got me straight in my craft room trying ideas out. I can recommend the book to anyone that is trying and playing with new inspiring techniques. * Karen Meakin * You only have to look at the cover of this book to feel inspired. With 160 pages of well illustrated information that can be difficult to find elsewhere this book is a must for every textile student, sewing enthusiast and mixed media artist. The book contained a wide range of textile techniques that have been explained well along with projects to try. Also included are answers to questions about how things work....for example...how a sewing machine works. This book contains more than the title suggests and is a joy to own. * Gaye Parker * We love this book, packed with stitch galleries and bursting with slow sewing ideas, the book also contains 'behind the scenes stitches' features; illuminating insights into sewing movements such as Boro textiles, Gee's bend quilting and Dorset Buttons. It is an absolute inspiration! * Hot Brands Cool Places * The title of this book says it all - Stitch Fabric & Thread 'An Inspirational Guide for Creative Stitchers' - and it certainly is just that 'inspirational'. This lovely book is packed full of techniques, ideas and instruction for the avid stitcher that are beautifully illustrated and clearly explained - including embroidery, quilting, fabric painting, dyeing and much much more. It introduced me to many techniques that I had never seen before, and I will look to this book for a wealth of ideas and for practical stitch reference for many years to come * Gaynor Lewis * I am an artist and do a bit of sewing in some of my artwork. I found this book inspiring. Lots of beautiful photos throughout the book. It is so creative and is definitely a book I will pick up time and again * Heather Graham * Elizabeth takes a slightly unconventional approach with her first book by presenting a range of creative and inspirational projects based around stitch types. The projects are of a somewhat random nature, but explanations are given for each, allowing flexibility for the reader to expand the idea in her own way. A charming ideas book perfect for anyone wishing to experiment with fabric and thread. * East Kent Embroiderers Guild * Elizabeth Healey's book is an inspirational book indeed. As an embroiderer who takes a very playful approach to her craft, looking at spontaneity and improvisation rather than following patterns or rules, what we have in Stitch, Fabric and Thread is a book full of new and exciting approaches within a framework of what most people

would feel comfortable with. Particular stitches are explored but go off on tangents. So with the running stitch, you look at the basics, then at a gallery of over 25 different ways of using straight stitch in your work. You then move onto a series of wildly different exercises or projects, all using running stitch. Chain and blanket stitches and later textured stitches are approached in the same way and you are moved far away from a pedestrian approach but taken on a roller coaster ride of stitching, stories and 'Behind the Stitches' which look more deeply into subjects ranging from Dorset Buttons to Boro Textiles or Mola Reverse Applique. It is an exciting book that feels like someone with a brain full of stitches and ideas has exploded onto the page. It is taken beyond the traditional book of stitches and goes one step further, moving from the stitch to all the different ways you could use it and making it a treasure trove of ideas. From making simple stitched forms to mini art forms, you have a really good book about making stitching fun and thinking outside the box. * Workshop on the web * I bet that gorgeous cover grabbed your attention. It gives you some idea of the inspiration this book provides through practical exercises. The many techniques explored in this book are quilting, shisha embroidery, printing, mola, dyeing, couching, Japanese bookbinding and needlelace. You'll discover stitch galleries and features on sewing movements such as Boro textiles. Subtitled 'An Inspirational Guide For Creative Stitchers' this book includes : Before The Stitches - all about research and preparation; Running Stitches explores straight stitches; Chain and Blanket Stitches is another exploration of stitches and includes creating penny mats, one of my favourite projects in the book as well as stitched memories; Raised Stitches has some nice experimental ideas including Dorset buttons and More Than Stitches including Shibori techniques and mola and gathered circles and stitches at the very back of the book. The book is a basic introduction to stitch with projects that you can follow. Since it covers a lot of things, it should have broad appeal. With over 40 exercises there is bound to be many things you will love. I felt that even if you encountered nothing new, you would still find value in the projects and expression in this creative book. So much to love for stitchers here. * yarnsandfabrics.co.uk * Yes, I know this is a papercraft blog - but the source of my inspiration is frequently needlecraft and this new title by Elizabeth Healey is an appreciation of many of the fabric manipulation techniques that kindle my creative fire. This lively new title covers many wonderful needlecraft specialities, including shisha mirror embroidery, Suffolk puffs, penny rugs, mola (reverse applique) and so much more. All interspersed with a dash of cultural and/or historical background and super how-to tips. This book provides exactly what is says on the tin, delivering on the promise of the title's strap line. The projects are delightful and the author successfully updates many techniques with time-saving tweaks (such as the cheat's molas worked with felt cut-outs - no edges to turn under). The fact that

many (probably all) creative endeavours are underpinned by mathematical principles strikes fear in the heart of many crafters - Elizabeth Healey proudly revels in this knowledge, and shares her wondrous discoveries. She says , "I was once told that sewing is basically applied mathematics. If maths was your most hated subject at school, don't panic". Another gem is citing that creating a seemingly random pattern is not as easy as it sounds. Yay. A weekend browse of this book could send your crafting off in splendid new directions. Would also make a fab Mother's Day gift.

<http://thepapercraftpost.blogspot.co.uk/2017/03/stitch-fabric-thread-by-elizabeth.html> * Papercraft Post * Wow! What a truly inspirational book. As soon as I opened the front cover I found myself itching to get started on another project inspired by this book. Elizabeth Healey has done an amazing job of drawing together ideas and inspiration from all over the world. Each chapter is based on one type of Stitch and shows you how you can expand on that type to create wonderful works of embroidery and textile art. All in all this book is definitely worth buying as I believe it is one you will go back to time and time again, for both reference and inspiration! * Sian Lawton * This new book by Elizabeth Healey headlines as 'an inspirational guide for creative stitchers' and is an experimental book for those - perhaps fairly new to stitching - who wish to develop and play with their creative ideas. The book is not strictly a project book but it does include templates for some of the ideas for you to have a go. The book's aim is to allow you to develop your own ideas from the wealth of techniques mentioned in the book, with the focus on different stitch types, both hand and machine. It begins with a back-to-basics look at tools, threads and material types that you can choose for stitching. It really assumes limited knowledge and is a very comprehensive introduction before you start creating. Then it leads into different stitch-based sections, starting with straight stitches. The first four pages of the section are a beautifully photographed visual exploration of different straight stitch techniques to whet your appetite before it focuses on more detailed techniques and ideas such as pojagi patchwork, kantha and creative darning. The book continues in a similar format with well-illustrated sections on chain and blanket stitches, textural raised stitches, fabric manipulation and embellishments. As before there is a quick visual overview followed by more detailed ideas. The author explores stitch ideas from around the World and the book is an interesting read too! It finishes with a very useful visual dictionary of stitches at the rear of the book and templates (not all at full-size) for some of the ideas to kick-start your creativity. You will enjoy this book if you want to stitch your own designs, but get 'stuck' coming up with ways to achieve your ideas. It is packed full of inspiring images that will help set you off on your creative journey. - See more at:

<http://www.thesewingdirectory.co.uk/stitch-fabric-and-thread/#sthash.H5eAb2gw.dpuf> * The Sewing Directory * July 2017 Pretty Patches contributor Elizabeth Healey brings her passion for textiles to

Stitch, Fabric & Thread an exploration of stitched work including over 400 practical exercises. The projects draw inspiration from around the world, from embroidered African Masks to Aboriginal dreamtime lizards and Japanese Bookbinding. * Pretty Patches *

Elizabeth Healey originally trained as a typographer and graphic designer at the London College of Printing, after which she worked in various design groups before defecting to the world of illustrated books. While working at Quarto Publishing (on both live titles and new ideas), she completed a degree, then an MA, in English at Birkbeck College. For as long as she can remember, she has made things – usually with yarn or cloth, but sometimes with paper and clay. She is particularly interested in utility stitching and tries to use recycled textiles wherever possible, in a way that looks, fresh, modern and urban rather than old and fusty. Elizabeth has contributed articles to the following magazines: Knitting, Making, Crafty, and Felt Matters. You can see examples of her work on her blog (elizabethsquarters.blogspot.co.uk) and also on her flickr page (flickr.com/photos/74396583@N02).

This book has more than fulfilled my expectations. If you are looking for a traditional embroidery book, this is definitely not it. If you are looking for inspiration and thinking out of the square, and open to the suggestion of mixed media, then this is one for you to consider! This is not a stitch dictionary either, although the necessities of a hand sewing basket are discussed, and stitches explained and shown, but most of us do not consider India ink a vital ingredient, until you see what you can do with it when you drop it into paint and then add bleach, before you start embroidering on the resultant background. This is a great introduction to hand embroidery as an essential part of modern textile arts and mixed media that can be used on its own, as part of another project like an art quilt, or even as part of art journaling on rag paper and so crosses into many other areas that are not always considered compatible. The author explains techniques and gives examples you can follow as you build your personal repertoire and suggests places to look for further inspiration ranging from art galleries to the latest fashion shows to your backyard. Anything that catches your fancy is fair game. She also includes chapters on traditional crafts like Dorset buttons, creating pleats in fabric to turn them into 3D pieces then doing the same in felt for a totally different take on the idea, and even Suffolk puffs and paper piecing get an airing, with a modern twist. But this is not a quilting book either. Its about what you can do with a base fabric, (which does not have to be store bought material for embroidery), anything that can either be threaded through the eye of a needle, or couched down by thread or yarn, which is a wide interpretation of all those words, and

embellishments made from things that often end up in the rubbish bin, such as useless wrappings, packaging or similar, can be re-used to make a unique piece of art. As someone who loves mixed media and textile arts along with painting and dyeing, and thinks recycling is a good idea, and enjoys working with her hands, this is right up my alley. From traditional work to the latest Indie ideas, there is plenty here to fill me with inspiration as I work out how to transpose those techniques onto another medium, combine them in a different way for a new twist, and then incorporate them into something else. Art feeds on inspiration, and once those creative juices get going, its amazing where they will take you. This book will get you started on that journey and take you down a few paths less travelled without the need to buy complicated and expensive appliances or brand name supplies. There are no major projects as such, its technique driven. Its up to you to what you do with the information the author shares, and the sky is the limit!

It is a good book, lots of information but a major drawback for me is the print is very hard to read, the ink is too light. It is extremely difficult to read.

Lots of inspiration here...

Lots of ideas.

Great information, excellent illustrations and photos!

inspiring...I have a lot of books with craft ideas...this is the best yet

Lots of great information. Very pleased.

This a glorious book which I am sorry to return. But the book is printed using a variety of type faces, and one of them is so faint as to be almost unreadable, especially when it is occasionally printed on a textured or multicolored background. Had I seen it in a store, I could have identified this glaring (or far from glaring?) flaw, and when, now, I look at the pages here on I can discern the confused typeface. I urge any potential buyer to look closely at the sample pages and decide how important the text is to ultimate enjoyment of the book.

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