



Crewel twists

Whether you refer to it as crewel or Jacobean, this free form of surface embroidery has been around for centuries and is still popular amongst needle artists today. Because of the nature of the fanciful objects and the tradition of using a large variety of stitches in one project, it lends itself to endless creative expression. In this book **Hazel Blomkamp** uses a wide selection of materials to update techniques and inspire embroiderers to explore whilst working loosely within the confines of crewel work styles. She shows needle artists how to be creative with fabric, threads, beads and alternative stitches, borrowing techniques from other forms of needlework, and still producing a product that is typical of the crewel or Jacobean style of embroidery. The original designs include

- Projects including beads and metal threads to add sparkle and texture to your work.
- Monochrome embroidery making use of a variety of threads and beads, all within the same colour range.
- Techniques employed in needle-made laces with designs defined by means of texture.
- More traditional embroidery including shading and satin stitch and the many variations of trellis couching to provide texture and interest.

The completed embroideries are displayed in ways that are not only decorative, but are useful in the home.

Crewel twists

Fresh ideas for Jacobean embroidery



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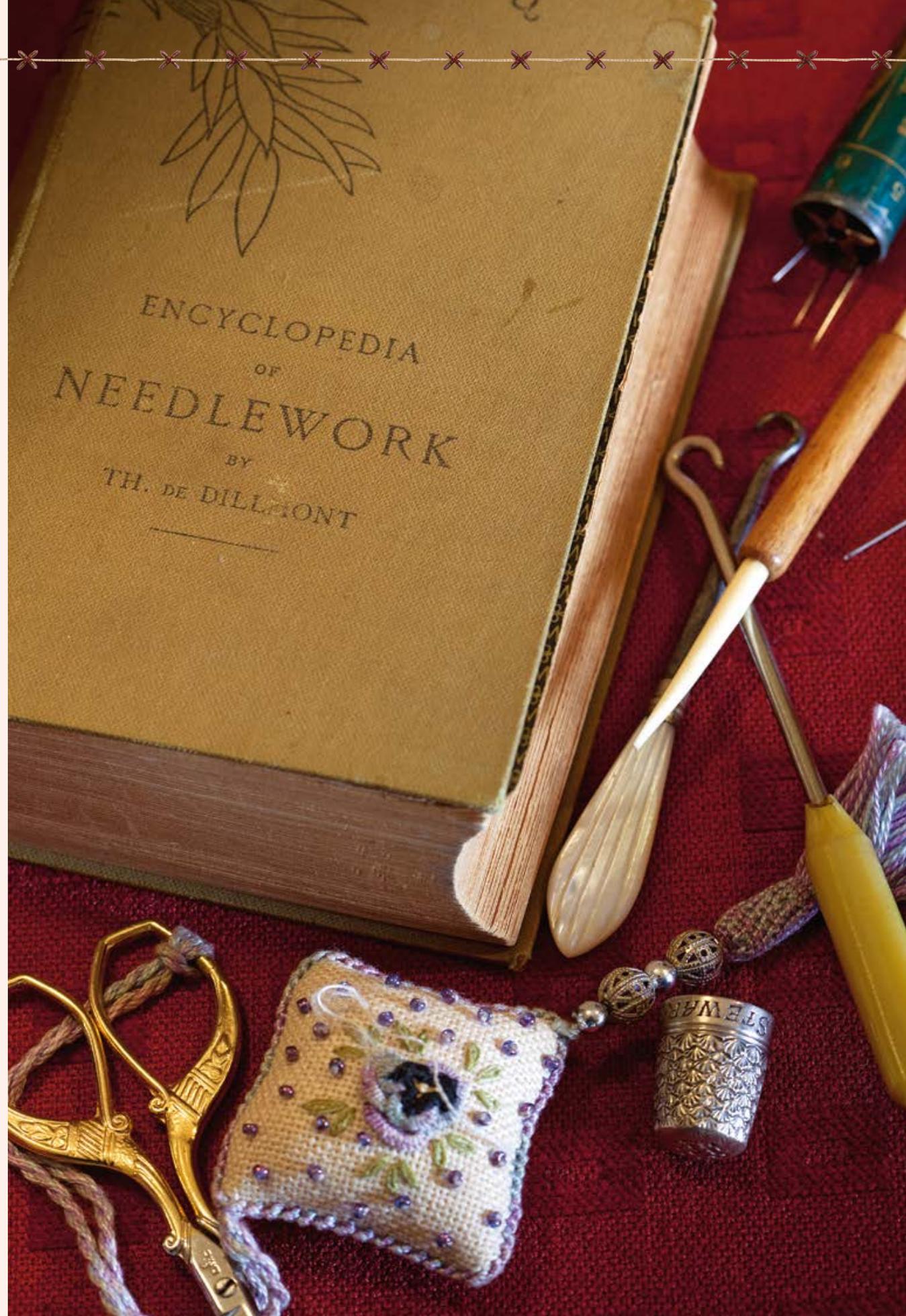
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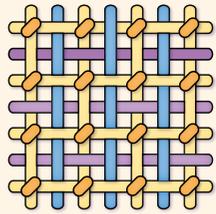
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Woven trellis (2)

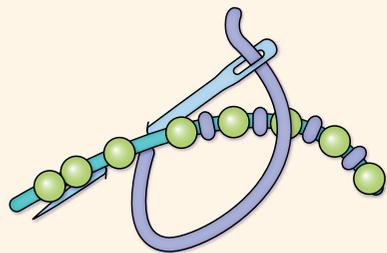


Using thread shade no. 1 (yellow), work a layer of long straight stitches across the area. These can be horizontal or diagonal. Work another layer of long straight stitches that are placed at right angles to the first layer. Using thread shade no. 2 (orange), work small, straight couching stitches over the intersection of the stitches. Using thread shade no. 3 (purple), weave over and under the shade no. 1 lines. Using thread shade no. 4 (blue) and working at right angles, weave under the first layer of trellis (yellow) and over the weaving that you have just done (purple).



BEAD EMBROIDERY STITCHES

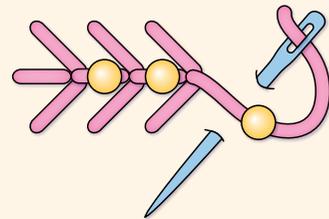
Bead couching



Pick up at least two, but not more than five beads. Lay them along the line that you need to follow, estimate about the width of a bead and go through the fabric. Push the beads to the beginning and couch over the thread after each bead, pulling the line into place as you go. Bring the needle up immediately after the last bead and pick up the next group of beads. Keep going in this way. When you reach the end of the line, go through the fabric, catch the thread in the voile backing

fabric and return through the same hole. Run the thread through the whole line of beads, going into the fabric at the beginning and tugging the thread to tighten. This pulls the line of beads neatly into place.

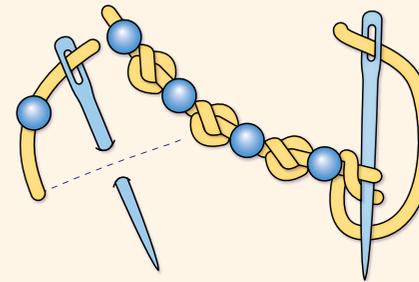
Beaded fly stitch



Start at the tip with a 4 mm ($\frac{1}{8}$ ") straight stitch. Come up on the left and go down on the right of the straight stitch, leaving a loop. Come up at the bottom of the straight stitch, catching the loop before you tighten.

Pick up a bead and go into the fabric below it, leaving enough room for the bead to sit happily. Leaving a space of about 1 mm ($\frac{1}{32}$ "), start the next fly stitch on the left.

Beaded Palestrina stitch



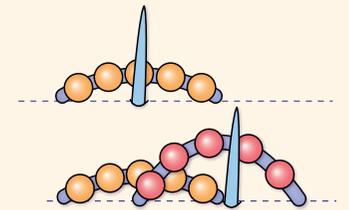
Working from left to right, come up at the beginning of the line. Pick up a bead and leaving sufficient space for the bead, go into the fabric on top of the line, coming out below the line. Pull through. Go over and under the thread. Go over and under the thread again in the space between where you went in and came up through the fabric. Make sure the loop of thread is under the needle. Pull through and tighten the knot that forms. Repeat as required. End on a knot and take your thread to the back to end off.

Bead seeding



Bring the needle up through the fabric, pick up a bead and go back into the fabric, leaving sufficient space for the bead to sit happily. Work in any and all directions, making sure that beads that are close do not run parallel to one another. The beads should not touch.

Bead stem stitch



Pick up five beads. Go through the fabric, leaving a loop. Come up halfway back, tighten the loop. Pick up five more beads and go through the fabric, leaving a loop. Come up halfway back and just past the final bead of the first loop you have made. Keep going in this way, making sure that you always come up on the same side of the loop.



Jacobean tangle

RECTANGULAR JACOBAN PANEL

Dimensions: 210 mm (8.26") x 165 mm (6.49")



The original of this design has been used as the side panel in a cushion. It is also a good shape to frame or use as the centre of a crochet runner. The line drawing for this design is on page 141.

3. Fill the body of the flower with twisted long and short stitch using the threads listed before.
4. Using the colour image as a guide, do intermittent outlines at the top with twisted couching using 926.
5. Work the stems of the stamens with twisted couching using the same thread.
6. Using a single, doubled-over strand of 926, come up through the dot at the end of the stamen. Pick up a Medium Vitrail fire-polished bead and bead 15°360. Return through the fire-polished bead and the fabric.

CALYX



1. Fill the body of the leaf with even weaving using Special Dentelles 369 for the warp threads and Special Dentelles ecru for the weft. Repeat for the other leaf.
2. Using 369, work horizontal satin stitch to pad the bottom circle of the calyx. Using the same thread, cover the padding with vertical satin stitch.
3. Using Special Dentelles 369, outline with fine backstitch, placed right next to the satin stitch.
4. Starting at the top, work needle-lace stitch no. 2 over the entire circle.
5. Outline the bottom of the circle with stem stitch using 368.
6. Now outline both side leaves with twisted couching using 368.

Small peach flowers

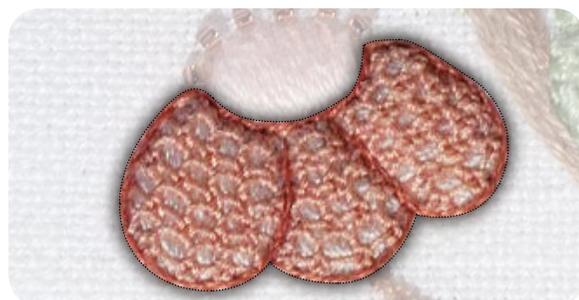


CENTRE



1. Pad the circle that forms the centre of this flower with horizontal satin stitch using 948.
2. Using the same thread, work vertical satin stitch over the padding.
3. Stitch six or seven 15°197 beads at evenly spaced intervals right next to the top of the circle.

PETALS



1. Pad each petal with horizontal satin stitch using 948.
2. Using the same thread, work vertical satin stitch over the padding.
3. Using Special Dentelles 754, outline with fine backstitch, placed right next to the satin stitch.
4. Starting at the top, work needle-lace stitch no. 7 over the entire space.
5. Outline each petal with stem stitch using 3778.

Peach flower bottom left



CENTRE



1. Pad this section with horizontal satin stitch using 948.
2. Using the same thread, work vertical satin stitch over the padding.

3. Using Special Dentelles 754, outline with fine backstitch right next to the satin stitch.
4. Starting at the top, work needle-lace stitch no. 7 over the entire shape.
5. Once the side petals have been completed, outline the shape with twisted couching using 758.

PETALS



1. Pad each petal with vertical satin stitch using 948.
2. Using the same thread, work horizontal satin stitch over the padding.
3. Using one strand of 758, do diagonal trellis couching over the satin stitch.
4. Using the same thread, make a small, barely visible couching stitch over each intersection.
5. Still using the same thread, outline the outside edge on each side with stem stitch.



The golden pomegranate



OUTER SKIN



1. Fill both sides of the outer skin of the fruit with raised stem stitch starting in the centre and doing four to five rows of each of the following thread combinations:

- two strands 885
- one strand each 885/ 886
- two strands 886
- one strand each 886/887

- two strands 887
- one strand each 887/888

2. Outline the outside edges of the outer skin with stem stitch using 888.

3. Fill the bottom, centre section with raised stem stitch using 888. Outline with stem stitch using 889.

PIPS



1. Pad each of the circles with horizontal satin stitch using 827. Using the same thread, cover the padding with vertical satin stitch.

2. Using 895, do trellis couching between the circles.

3. Place a cross stitch over each intersection using 1022.

TOP LEAVES



1. Fill the centre of each leaf fruit with satin stitch blocks using the threads indicated in the tables. Change the direction of the satin stitch every time you move to the next block, placing the stitches at right angles to the previous block. When moving to the next row, ensure that the direction of the stitching in each block is placed at right angles to the row above.

Centre leaf (left)

843	905	
1022	830	850
842	42	832
851	945	1022
830	843	850

Centre leaf (right)

830	851	842	905	843	830	1022
842	1022	832	850	42	945	905
850	945	830	843	832	851	
	843	42	1022	830		

Far left leaf

843	905	830	850
	1022	832	42

Small centre leaf

42	945	905
1022	843	42
850		

Far right leaf

905	945	842	1022
843	42	832	851

2. Outline each leaf with rows of rope stitch. Start adjacent to the blocks using 846. The next row should be stitched on the edge of the leaf using 844. Fill in the remaining space with rows of 845 and 844. Outline the outside row of rope stitch with fine stem stitch using one strand of 846.



BOTTOM LEAVES

Fill the inner section of each leaf with rows of whipped chain stitch as listed below, then fill the outer section with diagonal satin stitch using the thread number in brackets.

- Left leaf: 1022, 830, 851, 42, (845)
- Centre leaf: 905, 1022, 843, 42, 945, (846)
- Right leaf: 830, 42, 843, 1022, 851, (843)

