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The New York Times Book Of Needlepoint



Synopsis

Whether you are a beginner or a veteran, if you were to choose on book on needlepoint of the scores available, this is the one to have. Elaine Slater is not just an expert on needlepoint; she is also a teacher, and stitches are not merely described, they are carefully taught. Her own experience in her classes in Toronto teaching hundreds of women (and numerous men!) has given her a clear view of the pitfalls and difficulties most frequently encountered. She does not abandon the student at the end of a row, or when a boundary appears. Each step is shown in a series of crystal-clear graphs--almost like a strip of movie film--illustrating just how a stitch is done. THIS and NOT THIS graphs show the mistakes most frequently made. As Mrs. Slater covers all the problems confounding the beginner, she also goes on to explain how each particular stitch may be used in simple and advanced design ideas. In this book, as in her classes, Mrs. Slater uses the time-honored teaching technique--the sampler. The student begins by ruling the canvas into 25 squares. Ten decorative stitches are learned and practiced. These are: Brick, Old Florentine, Hungarian Point, Encroaching Upright Gobelin, Hungarian Ground, Upright Cross with Back, Mosaic, Basket weave, and Continental. when the student finishes the book she or he has not only a thorough grounding in the craft, but a stunning piece of needlepoint. The student will be amazed and delighted by what she or he has invented by Chapter 2, the second lesson, For once a stitch is mastered, the fun begins in planning textures, colors, juxtapositions of stitches, and design ideas. The possibilities are endless and color photographs spur the imagination. Mrs. Slater's book is infused with her boundless enthusiasm for needlepoint, now reclaiming its place as the art form it was centuries ago.

Book Information

Hardcover: 247 pages

Publisher: Quadrangle; FIRST EDITION edition (1973)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0812903390

ISBN-13: 978-0812903393

Package Dimensions: 11.1 x 8.5 x 1.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.4 pounds

Average Customer Review: 3.8 out of 5 stars 10 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #393,353 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #38 in [Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Crafts & Hobbies > Needlecrafts & Textile Crafts > Needlepoint](#)

Customer Reviews

Whether you are a beginner or a veteran, if you were to choose on book on needlepoint of the scores available, this is the one to have. Elaine Slater is not just an expert on needlepoint; she is also a teacher, and stitches are not merely described, they are carefully taught. Her own experience in her classes in Toronto teaching hundreds of women (and numerous men!) has given her a clear view of the pitfalls and difficulties most frequently encountered. She does not abandon the student at the end of a row, or when a boundary appears. Each step is shown in a series of crystal-clear graphs--almost like a strip of movie film--illustrating just how a stitch is done. THIS and NOT THIS graphs show the mistakes most frequently made. As Mrs. Slater covers all the problems confounding the beginner, she also goes on to explain how each particular stitch may be used in simple and advanced design ideas. In this book, as in her classes, Mrs. Slater uses the time-honored teaching technique--the sampler. The student begins by ruling the canvas into 25 squares. Ten decorative stitches are learned and practiced. These are: Brick, Old Florentine, Hungarian Point, Encroaching Upright Gobelin, Hungarian Ground, Upright Cross with Back, Mosaic, Basket weave, and Continental. when the student finishes the book she or he has not only a thorough grounding in the craft, but a stunning piece of needlepoint. The student will be amazed and delighted by what she or he has invented by Chapter 2, the second lesson, For once a stitch is mastered, the fun begins in planning textures, colors, juxtapositions of stitches, and design ideas. The possibilities are endless and color photographs spur the imagination. Mrs. Slater's book is infused with her boundless enthusiasm for needlepoint, now reclaiming its place as the art form it was centuries ago.

This is a basic tutorial on making a sampler. Pretty much for beginners. The method she uses requires the student to learn basic stitches, and then practice them using different colors and patterns. If I were starting in needlepoint without a teacher, I would definitely start with this book. It is very project oriented--so you get some instant satisfaction from accomplishments and reinforce your new knowledge so it sticks with you. This is not the book to buy if you want to learn a lot of stitches. It is dated. However, needlepoint itself is not new. I am happy that I purchased the book, and found information that I consider worthwhile.

Wow there is a lot of information in this book. I would be surprised if it did not answer all your questions on needlepoint. I love craft books and am a collector. Thanks

Well laid out with helpful tips. Plenty of stitches to last a lifetime. The pictures are a great resource and inspirational.

Love doing needlepointed and cross-stitched patterns of quilts. This book has them all.

Loooooove it!! Great picture, great stitches. Book arrived in good condition.

I guess I was expecting a more professionally put together book of stitches and instructions of many needle point stitches. It could be the age of the book, but the pictures depict yarn being used to show the stitches. I envisioned wool thread, because that is what is used for quality needle point projects. Getting beyond that aspect, I like the explicit instructions for most of the stitches I was looking for. Very good pictures of step by step instructions is included.

Price tag on book reads \$2.00

It fascinates me that Elaine Slater is an interior designer whose Fla home was featured in Life magazine, is a mystery-story writer, has bachelor's and master's degrees, owns a needlework store and still has time to teach needlepoint. This book's designs and projects are dated but it deserves 5 stars for how cleverly effective her teaching is. You start to read the first chapter and you already feel like you're sitting in a class with a charming, attentive teacher who is all about imparting her skills to you. The terms used are basic: BNS = Basic Needlepoint Stitch: continental and basketweave (which are laid out well). CATS = CANvas ThreadS which form the mesh of the fabric you're working on. The End Hole is where you insert the needle from front to back and the Main Line Hole is where the needle emerges with the thread to the front of the work. Finally, the Track = the straight line of holes in fabric into which you're stitching. I love her conversational tone: it's infectious. For example, by page 36 you have been studying 3 diagrams, 28 graphs, 6 close-up color photos and a 1-page photograph of a dozen flower pictures all done in brick stitch. She then asks: "Now that you have mastered the Brick Stitch pattern, you probably wonder what you should do with it? How should you use it? Why the Brick Stitch and not another decorative stitch? Where does it show off to its best advantage as opposed to some of the other stitches?" She then answers these questions: the Brick Stitch is quick and easy; it covers large areas in short time; it can add a 3-dimensional look depending on the colors you choose; it compensates well (provides even background) around complicated areas; and it is the basis for Bargello. Most books don't give these

answers let alone ask the questions. It takes Ms. Slater exactly 227 large pages to demonstrate how to make just these 10 stitches: brick, Old Florentine, Parisian, Hungarian point, encroaching upright Gobelin, Hungarian ground, upright cross with back stitch, mosaic stitch, basic needlepoint stitch, continental needlepoint stitch and whipped flower. The only thing that new books have over this book is that in 41 years, publishing now allows for glossy, close-ups spreading out over entire pages. But for writing style and effectiveness of teaching, you'd be hard-pressed to find a more competent author.

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