



# Advanced Embroidery Techniques

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## *Objectives*

1. Use embroidery stitches to form attractive designs.
  2. Learn methods of needlework which will give professional results.
  3. Learn to recognize and use yarns and fabrics suitable for desired results.
  4. Use advanced embroidery techniques.
  5. Learn to identify local resources for embroidery.
- a. An article made with hardanger embroidery.
  - b. An article made with assisi embroidery
  - c. An article made with blackwork embroidery.
  - d. An article made with pulled thread embroidery.
  - e. An article made with raised embroidery work.
  - f. An article made with advanced needlework techniques (using decorative and/or tent stitches).
5. Learn to do at least two new embroidery techniques or a new type of embroidery and complete two articles using your new knowledge each year you complete this project.

## *Suggested Project Requirements*

Minimum requirements are suggested for the advanced embroidery project. Use the North Dakota 4-H Project Plan (PA095) to plan your project and record your progress.

1. Read through the project material.
2. Read the enclosed reference material.
3. Visit a local resource person, library or other reference source for information on advanced embroidery techniques.
4. Choose the type of embroidery you want to learn from the following list. Learn at least two new

techniques and complete two articles using those techniques.

Creative stitchery is free wheeling with the needle. It is not how you do a stitch, but what you do with it that counts. It's creating your own design and its color scheme. Let your imagination run free! Create designs-abstract or stylized-by hand combining a variety of stitches, colors and yarns.

### **Assisi Embroidery**

Assisi embroidery has the motifs worked onto the blank background. It leaves the motifs blank while filling in the background. It depicts animals and birds in the memory of Saint Francis of Assisi. The cross is found in many pieces of Assisi embroidery. An uneven weave fabric should be used because the embroidery is done over counted threads. The running stitch and the cross-stitch are used. A running stitch is worked along the outlines and the spaces are then filled by working back along the same outline running stitches. All threads must be counted as the background is then filled with cross stitches.

## Blackwork Embroidery

Blackwork embroidery uses only four basic stitches — back stitch, straight stitch, chain stitch and cross stitch. A fabric with an even weave should be used. All stitches are worked over counted threads.

## Hardanger Embroidery

Hardanger embroidery is done on a very even weave fabric. Stitches are counted exactly in both directions of the weave for a good quality finished piece. Stranded cottons are best for embroidered areas. The satin stitch is used to fill in areas. A fine stitch is used in cording for the drawn work.

Hardanger embroidery combines drawn work and cut work. It is easily and quickly done. Accuracy is important, both in counting threads and in counting stitches made in each section.

## Pulled Thread Embroidery

Pulled thread embroidery is a very old type of needlework. It was originally worked on linen fabric with matching threads. Most recently, it is being worked on needlepoint canvas with matching or contrasting threads.

No threads are removed from the background material. Instead, the threads are “drawn” or “pulled” together by various stitches to form lace-like patterns. These patterns can be adapted to wall hangings, pillows, purses, belts and many other items.

## Raised Embroidery Work

Contemporary raised embroidery or stump work can be done in several ways: appliquéd fabrics can be raised by padding; raised wool embroidery can be done with stitches such as Turkey work, buttonhole and trellis; and a variety of three-dimensional embroideries can be made from a combination of both of these techniques.

Raised embroidery or stump work has many uses. The techniques can be used when making pictures, wall hangings, mirror frames, handbags, eyeglass cases, or even as a covering for any sort of a box.

## Evaluation Standards

- Materials used need to be suitable for the design, type of stitchery and for intended use.
- Design suited to the item on which it is used and not to interfere with intended use of article.
- Design does not include too much detail or too many colors.
- Stitches and colors are arranged harmoniously.
- Enough different stitches used to give a variety.
- Tension even in stitches, no evidence of puckers in finished articles.
- General appearance is neat, workmanship on backside should be almost as neat as design side.
- Clean and has a pressed, finished look. Thread beginnings and ends are worked back under the stitches on the wrong side.

## REFERENCES

Coats Sewing Group Publications, Coats and Clark, Inc., Educational Bureau, 430 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10022

Hardanger for Today  
Hardange Motifs  
Modern Hardanger

The following magazines often contain good ideas:  
Family Circle, Woman's Day, Decorating & Craft Ideas.

Although these sources are good references there are many other sources available. Check your local library for more information.

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