



Kay Dennis Stumpwork Newsletter

Issue no 1

January 2006

Happy New Year to you all.

This is the first, of what we hope will be a series of newsletters from us. The aim of the newsletter is to inform you of developments, new products as we introduce them, techniques and tips used in the making of stumpwork and maybe a small project.



Photo Charlotte de la Bedoyere

We have just received the printers proof of our second book 'Stumpwork Figures' and we are pleased with the final result. We have also started work on the third book 'Stumpwork Seasons',. The process starts with an initial meeting with the publishers to discuss the layout and content, followed by the two of us working through various design stages ready for Kay to start stitching. Treat yourself and order your book now in time for Easter, after all it will be a lot less fattening than an easter egg!

At this time of the year Kay prefers not to teach and only has a few appointments and it gives her the opportunity to work on the book, while I can clean up the rough sketches and start work on the drawings and stitch diagrams. It is never really quiet in this household as there is always something to be done.

To reduce costs, many of these newsletters have been e-mailed. If you have received this newsletter by e-mail but would prefer a copy sent by post please let us know. If you do not want to receive the newsletter at all or be removed from our mailing list please also let us know.

Web site

The web site www.kaydennis.co.uk has been updated to reflect all of the changes outlined in this newsletter. As soon as possible we hope to include secure ordering through the web site. The hold up at the moment is finding the time to do the programming as there are other more pressing things that are needed.

Kay & Mike

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Stumpwork for beginners

Special classes in Uxbridge

Due to unforeseen circumstances we have had to cancel the class scheduled for April 29th. To compensate we have added an extra day on June 3rd.

★ 25th February 2006 ★ 3rd June 2006 ★

Each session will start promptly at 10am and finish at 4pm. Students can enrol on either of these days or come to both, however new students will have priority over those who have attended a previous session. The theme for each session will be the same.

All materials will be provided but please bring general sewing equipment (scissors, needles etc) if you have them. Bring your glasses, if you wear them, and a packed lunch.

The classes will be held in the Bailey hall, Redford Way which is part of the Christchurch complex. Redford way is directly opposite Uxbridge bus and tube station. There is limited parking at the Bailey hall. The hall is situated about two minutes walk from Uxbridge town centre where there are plenty of places to eat if you prefer lunch that way.

The cost of each session is £15 plus £5 for the cost of materials.

If you are still interested please send your details including your full name, address, telephone number and email to us with a deposit of £10 to secure your booking. The balance of £10 will be payable at the start of the day. Please make cheques payable to Kay Dennis Stumpwork

To ensure that each student gets as much out of the course as possible the numbers attending each day will be limited. Early booking is essential if you do not want to be disappointed.

The course aims to introduce students to the fascinating and intricate world of stumpwork embroidery by using traditional techniques but with 21st century materials.

During the course students will, through handouts, demonstrations and instruction both individually and as a group, learn to:

- make calico slips
- learn to pad and raise
- make free standing elements using wires and moulds
- construct component parts and apply them neatly
- incorporate embroidery stitches traditional to Stumpwork

To enrol for one of these classes please send your name, address and telephone number with a deposit of £10 to
Kay Dennis Stumpwork, 72 Hawes Close, Northwood, Middlesex HA6 1EW

Distance Learning

We have recently received enquiries from students who want to learn how to make stumpwork but cannot get to any of Kay's classes. We have also heard from students who have some experience but want to learn more about stumpwork.

Following the success of the City & Guilds Distance learning courses organised by the Embroiderers' Guild and using Kay as the tutor we thought we would offer something similar.

We have put together two course schemes, one for the beginner and a Masterclass for the more experienced. Both schemes are based on the distance learning system that enables the student to study at their own pace but there is no recognised certificate at the end of the course. Neither of the courses are accredited, but a certificate of achievement will be given to students who have reached the required standard upon completion.

The Beginners Distance Learning course will be a two year course. All instruction manuals, drawings and patterns will be supplied. There will be 6 modules and 4 projects to complete and towards the end of the course students will be asked to design and complete two embroideries from a design brief.

The Masterclass Distance Learning Course is for students who have either taken the above course, a Level 2 (7802 or 7822) City & Guilds Stumpwork course or can prove that they have who have a good working knowledge of stumpwork techniques. It is not for beginners to stumpwork as no patterns will be given, just a outline for each module and a brief for the projects.

This course will last for 3 years and students will be asked to build a portfolio of samples and notes as the course progresses. There will be 6 modules to complete and 3 projects from a design brief.

For further information and costs please contact us.

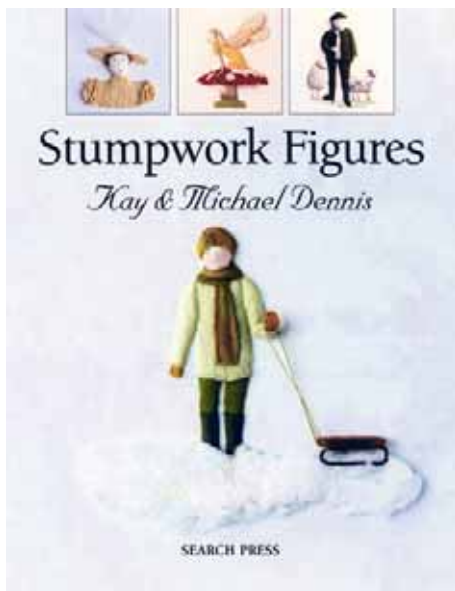
Project booklets

Through better and cheaper production methods we have been able to reduce the price of these popular booklets to just £3.50 each.

We have added another title and we are planning a fifth booklet at the moment.

The new booklet is Rockpools and as with all of our booklets they are suitable for the beginner or more experienced stumpworker.





Our New Book

Stumpwork Figures

Kay & Michael Dennis

Publication date April 2006

Paperback ISBN: 1 844480879

64 pages 210 Illustrations all in colour

Published by Search Press

Code BO2 Price £8.99 + p&p

Figures have been an important feature of stumpwork for hundreds of years, and in this book we explain in detail how to make all of the components of a figure - limbs, head, face, hair, body shape and clothes - as well as providing clear, step-by-step instructions for all of the needlelace and embroidery techniques you need to make clothing and to add details and embellishments to your designs.



Project No 1 A Boy Paddling



Project No 3 The Boy Fishing

There are three projects with detailed instruction on how each was made from the initial drawing to the finished design.

There are many other figures throughout the book, some of which appear on the front cover, where we have provided the drawings.

- Suitable for beginners as well as more experienced stumpwork embroiderers
- Highly illustrated with full-colour diagrams and photographs throughout
- Detailed instructions on how to make heads, faces, hair, limbs, hands, body padding and clothes
- Needlelace and embroidery techniques clearly explained



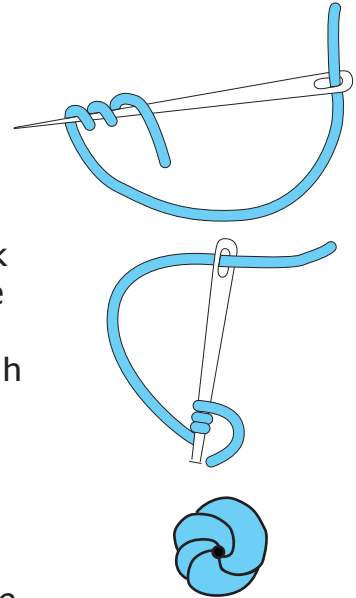
Project No 2 - The Fairy

Traditional Stitches

The French knot

One of the most versatile stitches used in stumpwork and one of the easiest to master. It can be used for so many applications, used on the background fabric or over padding of some description.

1. Bring the thread out at the required position, hold the thread between your thumb and forefinger and encircle the thread twice around the needle.
2. Still holding the thread firmly, twist the needle back to the starting point and insert it close to where the thread first emerged - not in the exact same place or it will simply pull through. Pull the needle through to the back leaving a small knot on the surface.



3. The finished knot
NOTE: I tend to wind the thread around the needle twice. Other embroiderers may only wind it the once. Depending on the application you may want to use from 1 to 3 strands of stranded cotton.



Using a space dyed thread french knots over stain stitch for the bottom of an acorn



Used over felt stuffed with toy filling form the seed pod of a flower



Used over layered felt for sheep bodies



Used over strands of thread that have been bound and French knots applied over the top for this catkin



Over layered felt to make Santa's beard



Using space dyed thread it is a useful stitch for making bushes

New products

Copper wire 0.02mm

Use this wire for the edges of elements where the wire does not have to be hidden ie dragonflies wings. Available in three colours Copper, Green and Ivory on cards containing 5 metres of wire.

Paper covered wire

We have found a finer paper covered wire. A 35 gauge wire in green or white. Please state when ordering wire if you want 33 or 35 gauge. Use the finer wire for making hands etc.

Beads

Pony beads for those limpets in your rockpools and gold petite beads for your strawberry pips are now stocked.

Calico Prices decreased by a massive 33%

As our experience grows we find suppliers of the products we use at better prices. These savings are all passed on to our customers. We can now supply the same fine calico we have always used for just £4.00 per metre.

For all you quilters out there we will be able to supply the same fine calico in a 95" width from late January.

Stumpwork Shoes

After many enquiries we have had some Stumpwork shoes made.

These are in exotic woods and available at a modest £4.00 each. Please state whether you prefer or rounded or more taper end.

You could of course get one of each.



Silk Fabrics

Dupion Silk

Would you like something different for your background fabric other than calico? Why not try dupion, we now stock this material in an ivory colour and is available in 1 metre, 1/2 metre and fat quarters. Width 54"

Organza Silk

We are also stocking silk organza which is very useful for making those delicate slips. Organza will be offered in an ivory colour and is available in 1 metre, 1/2 metre and fat quarters. Width 42"

Habotia Silk

This is a medium Habotia in white. Available in 1 metre, 1/2 metre and fat quarters. Width 36"

Mousaline Silk

Available in 1 metre, 1/2 metre and fat quarters. Width 45"

Silk Trial Pack

We have put together a trial pack of all these silks for you to try. The size of each piece is approximately 8" x9" £4.00