



Kay Dennis Stumpwork Newsletter

Issue no 3

October 2006

Hello

Would you believe that this newsletter was started in August and here we are at the beginning of November and it has only just been completed. This is because we have been so busy that some things had to be put on the back burner. Unfortunately the newsletter was one of those items.

We hope you all had a good summer. We had a very successful summer school week in Uxbridge and Kay had two separate weeks of summer school at Missenden Abbey during August. We were invited to Northern Ireland in September where we held two workshops at the Glen Gallery in Ballymena. Both workshops were fully booked and we even had the local press come and take a photograph of one of the workshops. We stayed on for another 10 days for a short break. Next year we have been invited to hold workshops on the Isle of Man.

Since then we have had a 2 day photo shoot for the third book 'Stumpwork Seasons' with another 2 days coming up when we hope to complete the photography. In the meantime Mike is busy with the drawings while Kay spends as much time as possible on the stitching. The photo sessions are extremely hard work and very tiring. Kay has to keep perfectly still while the photographs are being shot. With our editor and photographer we are constantly thinking of how best to show the reader the techniques and the best way to portray these things in words, pictures and drawings. Fortunately we have an excellent photographer in Lotti and in our editor Katie.



Kay keeping very still while Lotti focuses the camera watched over by the eagle eye of Katie



Mike at our stall as trader at a recent venue

We have been asked to be traders at several events in the coming months and Mike has been busy sourcing new products and getting better prices on those we already stock. The new products can be seen on the back page and you will notice from the new catalogue that things like needles and embroidery rings have come down slightly in price. If you want us to be a trader at an event you are organising please contact us.

PTO

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Stumpwork for beginners

Despite the gloomy forecast expressed in our last newsletter, these classes, held in Uxbridge, went extremely well and were well attended. Those who came, went away inspired and all enjoyed their first steps into stumpwork. There are no plans at the moment to run any more of these classes in the foreseeable future as the diary is quite full but we probably will organise something for next year.

New postage rates

From August 21st the Royal Mail changed their system of paying for postage. The new system takes account of the size as well as weight of all packages. Basically there are three levels of postage: letter, large letter and packet. Indications are that postage will be slightly cheaper for most things except for heavier items like books and some fabrics. It has made it a lot harder to devise a formula for postage based on price and some orders come in where the postage based on our old formula look excessive. **As a result we decided to try for a limited period a system of free postage on all items.** We will review the situation in the new year.

Distance Learning Courses

More students have signed up for these courses. Many of them do not have Stumpwork Classes near them but want to learn. These courses are ideal because they can learn at home at their own pace. Students who want a structured course but do not want to be bothered with all of the paperwork and other stages of doing a certificated course are also signing up. For more details including a Course Information Sheet please contact us.

Special Courses at Missenden Abbey

Two special courses have been arranged at Missenden Abbey, Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire in 2007

The Highlands of Scotland 10th – 13th April 2007

The Highlands of Scotland are rich in history, wonderful scenery, flora and fauna. The heather covered mountains, glens with a rocky, silvery stream running through, castles, thistles, highland cattle, deer, red squirrels, a Scotsman with his traditional kilt and bagpipes, the list is endless– and all are a stumpwork embroiderers paradise!

A Spot Sampler 11th – 13th May 2007

From the 16th – 18th centuries 'Spot Samplers' were a popular and useful embroidery to make, often used as a reference for stitches and techniques. The samplers would include examples of stitches along with small motifs showing different techniques. All the techniques used on the sampler are traditional but with a 21st century twist. Choose from a variety of techniques and stitches to make your own 21st century spot sampler. All abilities are welcome on both courses but the spot sampler is a wonderful introduction to this fascinating and intricate form of embroidery.

For more information or to book a place on either of these courses please phone 0845 0454040

Kay & Mike



*We would like to take this opportunity to wish all of
our customers and students a
Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year*

Traditional Stitches

Up and Down Stitch

Embroidered version

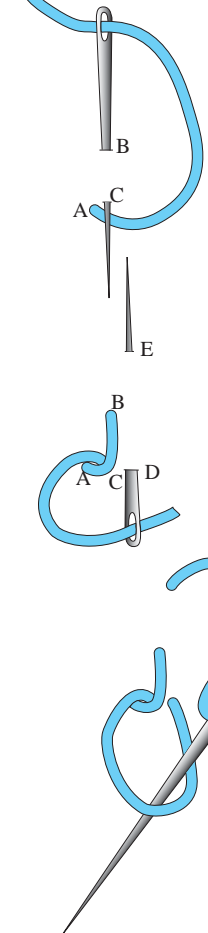
The stitch consists of a long and short stitch secured by a back stitch.

Come up through the fabric at A, and down at B and back out at C. Pull the needle and thread through the loop and pull taut.

Go back through the fabric at D and come out of the front at E. The distance between D and E can be as long or as short as you want it to be.

After pulling your needle and thread through go down through the resulting loop between C and D.

Finish the stitch off by taking the needle and thread through at F.



Up and Down Stitch used to give

Needlelace version (also known as Ardenza stitch)

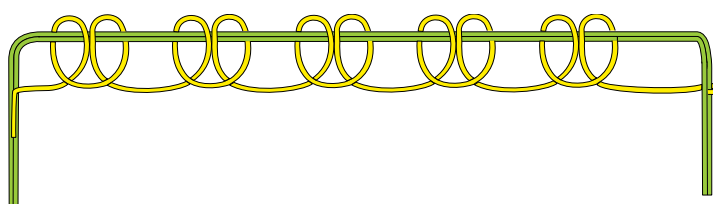
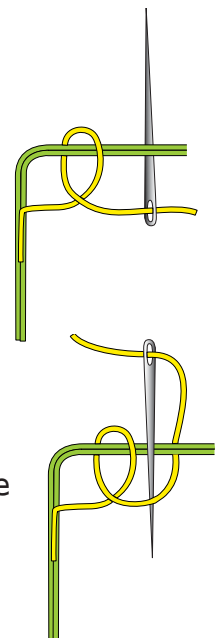
This stitch is made up of groups of two stitches. Can be worked with a cord.

Secure your thread by taking the needle and thread under the couching stitches on the left hand side.

Row 1 *Make a normal buttonhole stitch into the cordonnet
Pull the needle and thread through the loop and down under the loop formed between the two stitches.
Leave a space for 2 stitches. Repeat from * across the row.

You can either lay a cord across the space and repeat row 1, making the pairs of stitches into the loop and under the cord of the previous row.

OR Work across the row from right to left, making the first group of stitches into the first loop of the previous row starting with a normal buttonhole stitch.



Up and down stitch (needlelace version) worked with a cord and used to good effect on this tree trunk



Product News

New Kits

Following on from the success of the first four beginners kits two new ones have been designed.

The Dragonfly is a very simple kit for the beginner. The Fuschia, has a lot of needlelace but full instructions are included for the beginner who wants to try making needlelace.

As usual both kits contain all of the materials you need to complete the design. Both of these designs are also available in project booklet form for those who already have the materials.



Embroidery Rings

The rings we stock are the British made Elbesee range. They are the finest-quality embroidery/quilting hoops on the market today.

We can supply embroidery hoops in sizes from 4" to 12" and quilting hoops from 14" to 18".

Unfortunately we cannot supply the quilting hoops by mail order.

Needle Necessities floss overdyed

Kay has used these threads for some years now and likes the way they handle. We have decided to stock these beautiful threads for you to enjoy using as much as Kay has. Needle Necessities Floss Overdyed is a fine Egyptian cotton (Anchor embroidery cotton) that has been overdyed by hand to create subtle shading. Each skein contains 18.30 metres.

Maderia No 40 Metalic Threads

In addition we are also stocking the Maderia range of No 40 metalic threads in the Astro shades, gold 3 and silver. These threads look really good on Dragonfly wings as well as many other applications.

More colours in copper wire

Two new colours, Bright Violet and Supa Blue have been added to the three existing colours.



Medium Calico

This is no longer available in 54" so we are now stocking this material in 36" width and the prices reflect the narrower width.

Gloving Leather

Due to popular demand we have increased the number of colours being stocked in this range. Apart from the Black and Ecrú that we originally stocked we now have two shades of blue, a green and an off-white.

New Notelets

Three new cards have been produced to add to the collection of these popular products. We are dropping the card with the beetles on it when current stocks are exhausted. The new designs are The wall, The Coral Reef and the Fuschia.

Boullion wire

This wire is spiralled and twisted and is great for the abdomen on Dragonflies. There are many other uses for this fascinating product. Sold in a mixed pack of colours and sizes.



Filigree beads

These beads are made from sterling silver and are available in 6mm and 4 mm. They are expensive but the 6mm makes a super head for a dragonfly. The smaller size can be used as insect heads. We are sure that other imaginative uses can also be found for these wonderful beads.

