



Kay Dennis Stumpwork Newsletter

Issue no 4

September 2007

Hello

We were amazed that the last newsletter was way back in November last year. We have been so busy that we have just not had the time to pen to paper (or should I say fingers to keyboard) to compile one.

We spent a really good week in Wales in March, 2 days with those delightful ladies in Aberystwyth and the rest of the week in a nearby Farmhouse. We then had a wonderful week in the Isle of Man, just after the TT races. We shall remember that trip for some time to come, the island is lovely with nice freindly people. Many of you know that, when we can, we like to do a spot of birdwatching and the Isle of Man was wonderful in that respect. We have been invited back to Northern Ireland in September where we will be holding three one day workshops at the Glen Gallery in Ballymena.



The class at Aberystwyth. Notice Kay in the corner keeping one step ahead of the students

In between the trips away and our regular workshops we have completed the third book 'Stumpwork Seasons'. This is due for publication in October and promises to be a popular book judging by the reaction we have had so far. More details on the book are outlined in subsquent pages.

We have been busy sourcing new products and developing some new kits. New products have been added to the range but sadly some prices have had to go up. We have been invited to a number of events this year as traders which gives us the opportunity to meet new people and introduce Stumpwork to a wider audience. If you want us to be a trader at an event you are organising please contact us.

At the moment Kay is busy with Summer schools which this year have stretched over 5 weeks. As many of you know Mike used to be a woodturner and was still involved with the Association of Woodturners of Great Britain up until the middle of August. For the last few months he has been heavily involved with organising an International Woodturning Seminar held for 3 days in August at Loughborough University. The seminar involved bringing demonstrators in from Japan, USA, Canada, France, Norway, and the UK to show their skills to some 200 delegates. This was his swansong for the Association and now looks forward to developing the business, increasing his photographic skills and getting his allotment sorted out.

PTO

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Postage rates

In the last newsletter we told you that we would review our policy of free postage in the new year. We have looked at this problem long and hard and have come to the conclusion that trying to formulate a postage strategy is too complicated. We have therefore decided that we will continue for the time being the free postage in the UK on all orders except for books. For books we will have to charge £1.00 per book. Overseas postage will be charged at cost.

Customer Database

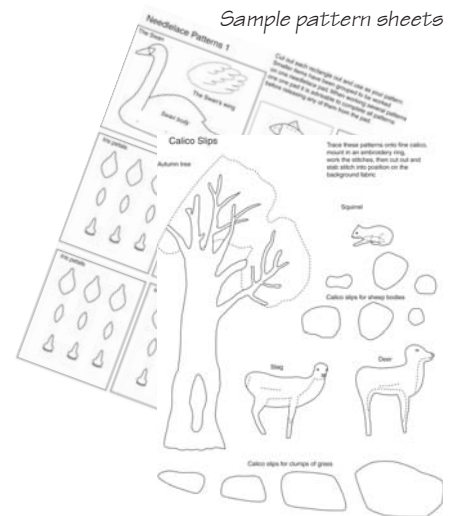
If you received this newsletter through the post, it is because we do not have an e-mail address for you. If you have an e-mail address please let us know what it is so that further newsletters can be sent via the internet. If you no longer wish to receive any newsletters or information from us please let us know.

Stumpwork Seasons

As mentioned earlier our new book is due for publication in October (fingers crossed). With this newsletter is an order form to make sure you get your copy as soon as it is published with the option of a signed copy if that's what you want.

With this book we are also offering full sized printed pattern sheets. These pattern sheets will save you having to trace off the shapes from the book to use as templates, to complete the whole embroidery some 180 tracings would have to be made. All of the felt, leather and card patterns will be on thin card which you can cut out and use as a template to cut the shapes out of the relevant material. The needlelace patterns will be printed in such a way that you can cut these out and use directly on your needlelace pad. The gold outline for the whole project will be printed full size as will the other bits that are shown as half size in the book.

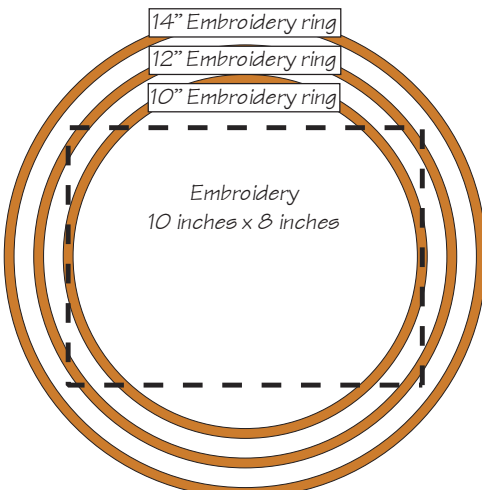
The pack consisting of 9 pages of patterns will cost £2.50 per pack.



Plea from a framer.

Two things that often crop up when I am asked to frame someones work is, either the painted background is too small or the backing fabrics are not large enough.

With any embroidery please think about the finished piece of work when you are planning a design. If the finished piece is going to be framed ensure that there is sufficient material to wrap around the backing board to enable the framer to lace the work properly. This is particularly important if a mount is required around the work.

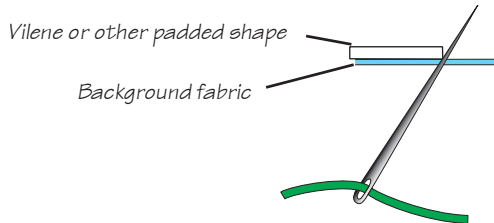


In the drawing opposite an embroidery that is 10" x 8" needs a 14" ring if a painted background is required. If a 10" ring were used the corners would not get painted, you could just about get away with a 12" ring but even then the corners are hidden.

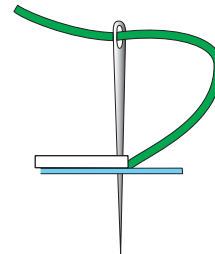
Taking the same example of a finished embroidery measuring 10" x 8", the size of the background fabric needs to be at least 14" x 12" to allow 2" either side on the back for lacing. If a 2" wide mount were required around the embroidery, the background fabric would need to be 18" x 16"

Stab Stitch

Stab stitch is one of the easiest of stitches to work but if not done properly can lead to a disappointing result. Stab stitches should be very small, neat and tidy with each stitch approximately the same length.



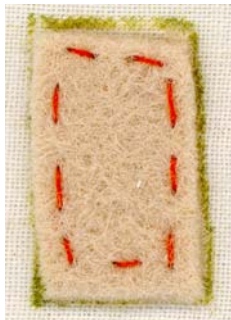
Always come out of the background fabric at an angle under the shape.....



..... and go back into the fabric through the fabric being applied.

Following this advice you can see where the needle is going through the material being applied. Coming up through the material being applied means you are constantly trying to find the edge of the material and this can fray the edge, particularly felt. When applied leather, following this advice means only one hole being made in the leather. When stab stitching the top layer of padding (usually felt) bring the needle and thread up on the inside of the design line. When applying the final layer bring the needle up on the outside of the design line.

Examples of stab stitching



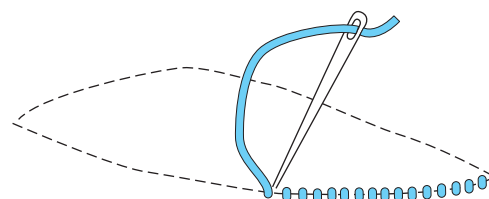
In this example the edges are not secure and there are not enough stitches to ensure that the shape keeps to the design line.



The stitches in this example are outside of the design line and there should be more stitches.



In this example, although not perfect has plenty of stitches and they are all within the design line



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Product News

New Kits

We have two new kits.

The Acorns is a very simple kit for the beginner.



The Catkins, it seems everybody wants to know how to make catkins. Both kits contain all of the materials you need to complete the design.



Both of these designs are also available as project booklets.

Tailors Awl

We have for some time tried to find a suppliers of stiletto's at a reasonable price. We were recently at our suppliers open day when we spotted these tailors awl's. They are very sharp and just right for making holes in the background fabrics to poke your wires and threads through.



Needle Necessities floss

We have been experiencing some difficulties in supplying some of the shades of these threads in particular No. 130. We have had these on order now for three months, we are told that the manufacturers are waiting for the base threads to come from Germany. The latest news is a delivery is imminent. We shall see.

Gloving Leather

We now have a pillar box red leather to bring the number of colours now available to 8.

New beads

We have altered slightly our Blackberry mix to include those pips in a blackberry that are not quite ripe. We are also stocking a pink bead for those unripe blackberries and the tips of stamens in Fuschia's and other flowers. We also have a pure white bead petite bead for use in flowers and other things.

Long Darner Needles

These needles are straight shank needles with no taper. They are ideal for making bullion knots and drizzle stitch. They come in packets of 5 for just 50p.

Flower and berry head pins

We now stock these pins which are useful for holding elements in place before finally stitching in place. We also have some longer dressmakers pins.



Gloving Leather

We now have a pillar box red leather to bring the number of colours now available to 8.

New Notelets

Three new cards have been produced to add to the collection of these popular products. We are dropping the 'Peewit Cottage' card and replacing it with



One Way Traffic

'Catkins'. The new designs are 'One Way Traffic' and 'Just another Blackberry'



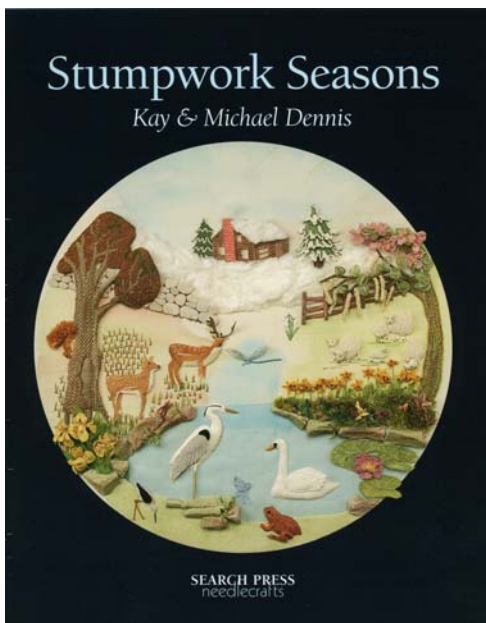
Just another Blackberry

Felt

The white and beige felt now comes in handy packets of 4 pieces each measuring approx 140 x 200 (5¹/₂" x 8") for £1.00. We found that mailing out the 12" squares was difficult and often ended up creased and folded when it reached the customer.

Brown paper covered wire

It is a thicker wire at 26g and is ideal for making the tree branches and twigs as used the Catkins kits. 20 x 6" lengths for 50p.



Our New Book Stumpwork Seasons

Kay & Michael Dennis

Publication date Autumn 2007

Paperback

ISBN-10: 1-84448-041-8

80 pages

250 Step by step photographs

Published by Search Press

Code BO3 Price £8.99 + £1.00 p&p

This beautiful book contains everything you need to produce an exquisite stumpwork embroidery depicting the four seasons. The finished piece, measuring 41cm (16 1/2ⁱⁿ) across, is achievable by both experienced embroiderers and beginners, although you may prefer to produce a smaller embroidery based on one season only, or to extract different elements to create gorgeous embroideries of your own.

© Search Press



- Suitable for beginners as well as more experienced stumpwork embroiderers
- Highly illustrated with full-colour diagrams and photographs throughout
- Full details of all the materials and techniques required
- Needlelace and embroidery techniques clearly explained
- Overflowing with information and useful tips

