



Embroidery Review of Threads for Weavers bazaar

Crewel embroidery

Crewel embroidery is one of the oldest forms of embroidery used in English embroidery. Many of the stitches are familiar to embroiderers and are very versatile in the way that they can be used to embellish fabrics.

Threads used

18/2- Coral (180035) 25g- a lovely crushed strawberry pink

18/2- Red (180018) 25g- a brighter red with a tinge of raspberry

18/2- Maroon (180024) 25g- a deep burgundy red

18/2- Light Sage (180010) 25g- a soft sludgy green.

Thread quality

The threads are of a good quality and are strong enough to be stitched without the thread snagging, tangling, or becoming worn or frayed along the length as it is pulled through the fabric. The thread runs smoothly through the fabric. The thread was used double for all of the pieces; the 2 strands seemed to give the best stitch form.

Fabric

Soft linen and cotton blend backed with muslin to support the stitches.

Crewel stitches used

Chain stitch	Buttonhole stitch
French knots	Pekin knot
French knots with stalks	Stem stitch
Coral stitch	Cross stitch
Fly stitch	Buttonhole stitch
Basque stitch	Running stitch
Seeding	

Size of work

A- 10 x 10cm, B- 9x11cm

Canvas Work

After working the crewel work pieces tested the threads out on some canvas work; the technique that is often called 'tapestry' by non-weavers!

Canvas size;

12 holes to the inch, this is a relatively small gauge canvas.

Threads

I used 3 strands through out the work. 2 strands did not give a good coverage of the canvas and looked mean.

Stitches

I used tent stitch, it gave good coverage of the canvas and if worked diagonally it does not distort the canvas, however it does use more thread. I tried half cross stitch but this did not give a good coverage but is more economical with thread

Size of work

10.5 x 10.5 cm

Blending

As I used 3 strands I was able to use a variety of colour blends without having an equal number of each colour.

The design for the canvas work was very suitable for the blending to develop a sculptured effect in the shading, from one red through to the next and back again.

Designs

The designs I used are based on some research I did into Indian designs used on wood carvings at the Durbar Hall at Hastings Museum and Art Gallery.

Summary

I used 25g of the threads in total for all of the work I stitched. I had very little waste thread due to the high quality; therefore I had most of each ball left over. I wonder if you might consider selling the threads in smaller quantities for embroidery. To avoid having a lot of thread left over; it would also encourage the purchase of more colours to add interesting effects to the embroidery.

The threads are a pleasure to use and I would happily recommend them for embroidery. The thread worked equally well for all of the stitches and gives an excellent quality of stitch.

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