

Bear in Mind

An electronic newsletter from Bear Threads Ltd.

Volume 8 – Issue 1 January 2016

From The Editor –

Difficult as it is to believe we are into another year and another Easter Season! Our website finally is back up and hopefully you have all had a chance to visit it.

We welcome Joy Welsh as our guest this month. She has a long and deep rooted passion for all types of needle arts and she shares very graciously with us this month. You will find her website both inspiring and intriguing. And there are even some free downloads for your winter sewing projects. Her Shadow Work by machine is the best and the most like hand embroidery that I have ever seen.

I hope you enjoy my 2 part series on Featherstitching. The feather stitch is both decorative and utilitarian, and one you can easily master. There will be more examples of clothing and other items embellished with this stitch next month.

All good things must come to an end and it is time to begin saying goodbye to the 'Good Ship Lollipop'. We will be beginning our Inventory Liquidation sale on January 5. If you need more information, give us a call, and we will E-mail the details to you.

And of course we hope to see you at the Creative Sewing Market in Birmingham on Sunday, January 10. With our sale in progress, and quantities of some items limited, you will want to make your selections early. It is a **1 DAY MARKET** only, and there will be lots for you to see. In spite of our liquidation sale, we will have some new fabrics, and lots of vintage and 'one of a kind' items, so plan to arrive early for the best selections.

As I close for the month we wish you all a most Happy, Prosperous and Healthy New Year. And I hope you have, or are in the process of gathering, your supplies for some lazy winter stitching by the fireplace.

Happy Stitching,

Sheila



"Falling Snow"

See the pretty snowflakes,
Falling from the sky;
On the wall and housetops,
Soft and thick they lie.

On the window ledges,
On the branches bare;
Now how fast they gather,
Filling all the air.

Look into the garden,
Where the grass was green;
Covered by the snowflakes,
Not a blade is seen.

Now the bare black bushes,
All look soft and white,
Every twig is laden,
What a pretty sight!

Author: Caitlyn Turner

INVENTORY LIQUIDATION SALE

First, we are thrilled to say that Santa is going to leave a great package for you at your door if you take advantage of our INVENTORY LIQUIDATION SALE starting January 5. Our Swiss fabric inventory will be marked down 40% with only a few exceptions. Our Swiss embroideries will be marked down 40-50% with only a few exceptions. **DON'T WAIT TO SEE WHAT IS REMAINING IN A FEW WEEKS AS THESE WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE AGAIN.**

**This sale is for the trade only with qualifying credentials.
All sales are final. No returns or exchanges.**

If you would like more information, pricing and exclusions please send us your E-mail address and we will forward the details to you electronically.

Sales starts January 5th – NO PREORDERS!

We highly encourage you to plan on attending the Creative Sewing Market in Birmingham January 10th.

See other side for Lace Liquidation information

All laces with the prefix 'AB' will be reduced 40%. This prefix indicates they are Antiques. In addition the following laces will be reduced by 40%.

L-215 W&E	L-670 – L-671
L-307	L-21 – L-24
L-314	L-320 – L-325
L-4692 – L-4696	L-26, L-27
L-80 – L-85	L-86 & L-89
L-92 – L-97	L-136, L-137, L-138
L-71, L-72, L-73	L-1252 – L-1256
L-75, L-76, L-77	L-187 – L-188A
L-5435	L-805 Childs' Guipure Lace Collar

Mother of Pearl Button Liquidation 40% Discount

2-Hole Flat	¼", 5/16", ½", 9/16" and 1"
4-Hole Flat	½", Fancy Filigree 3/8"
Ball Shank	5/16"
Shank	¼", 5/16", 3/8", ½" and 3/8" and 3/8" Fancy Cut
Heart	½"
Ribbed	½"
Shank Square	5/8"

Meet Joy Welsh

“I have always had a love for sewing. As far back as I can recall in my life, I have had a needle in my hand or the sewing machine humming along. My Barbie doll was very well dressed and I made the clothes that I wore in high school.”

“I started crocheting for a shop in my late teens and by age 20 I was sewing for a children’s clothing store. I had my own brand of appliqué clothing for toddlers and the shop owner asked me to start a line of Sunday best clothing. She sent me home with a dress from Ance’K, which was a brand of early heirloom garments. I closely studied the dress and how the laces and embroidery insertions were put together, thus I consider myself ‘self-taught’ in heirloom sewing. Back then, there was no Martha Pullen from whom to learn and no Bear threads for me to purchase the supplies. And there certainly was no internet. I depended on the yellow pages and calling information! I would call a company in New York and they would send me a box of laces and embroideries from which to choose. Luckily we now have both the internet and Bear Threads to quench our thirst for supplies.”

“For twenty five years I sewed for shops and the public. Then when digitizing programs became available, I set my sewing aside to learn to digitize. I now have my own website – www.appliqueforkids.com. I still have a deep love of smocking and heirloom sewing and try to sew as much as I can while maintaining the website.”

From the editor:

Joy’s website is a delight and she has hundreds of designs and ideas, many of them free! She is located in Houston and you may contact her at welshjoy@gmail.com .

White Dotted Swiss with machine shadow long bow
and embroidery flowers, blue slip.

The pattern is a free download on the website

www.appliqueforkids.com

Click on free designs.





The white dress is trimmed with Bear Threads, Ltd. vintage black and white lace nick-named 'The ants'. There is not an insertion to this lace family, but Joy creatively made the insertions from 2 rows of edgings.

White Swiss round yoke with blue machine shadow work bows and flowers on yoke and hem. Pattern is Mamie by Children's Corner



**A style of embroidery worked
with loosely twisted yarn
and traditionally using flower, leaf
and bird motifs is known as:**

**Oriental
Amish
Jacobean
Tudor**

Feather Stitch I By Sheila T. Nicol

The Feather stitch is one of the oldest and most widely used of embroidery stitches. Also known as single coral stitch and briar stitch, it is often used by both smockers and quilters. The feather stitch is actually a member of the buttonhole family of stitches, and its' many variations have as many varied names. Its' uses are both utilitarian and decorative. In its' basic form it looks like a vertical line with alternating v's, but it also makes beautiful borders, horizontal and vertical fillings, and even curves and circles. It is often used in crazy quilting to join oddly shaped pieces of fabric. Let's spend some time familiarizing ourselves with this useful stitch. Never fear, if you have ever worked lazy daisy, chain, buttonhole or blanket stitches you are a good candidate for beautiful featherstitching execution!

As with many embroidery stitches, feather stitching lends itself to a sampler on which to practice and later to use as a reference. White is the best color for this sampler as you can draw pencil lines to use as a guide. Draw 4 lines parallel to one another and about 1/4" apart. Make them about 4-5" in length to give yourself plenty of practice room. We will call these parallel lines A-B-C- and D. Next using dashed lines perpendicular to the parallel lines mark the fabric at 1/4" intervals about half way down your parallel lines. At the halfway point change your dashed intervals to 1/8 inch. This will allow you to practice a smaller stitch after becoming comfortable with the 1/4" length.

As an alternative to the above method of drawing, if you have in your fabric scrap bag any gingham checks or stripe fabric, you could use these for practice and save some time! Start with checks that are 1/4" or stripes that are 1/4". As your practice progresses move down to 1/8" gingham and stripes that are 1/8" apart - same principal, but no grid drawing!

Let's start stitching!

Following is a simple sketch to get started. It is not complicated to see the direction the needle goes. Practice on your marked fabric or gingham and then try the same straight lines on plain fabric. Remember, as in ALL embroidery tension is important. If you pull too tightly, the fabric will pucker and the embroidery will not lie flat.

Read this month's FYI - and join me again next month for more intricate Featherstitching projects...Till then

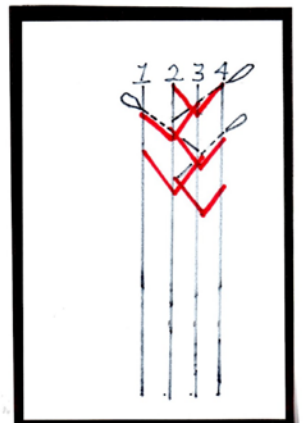
This graph is based on lines or stitches that are 1/4" apart.

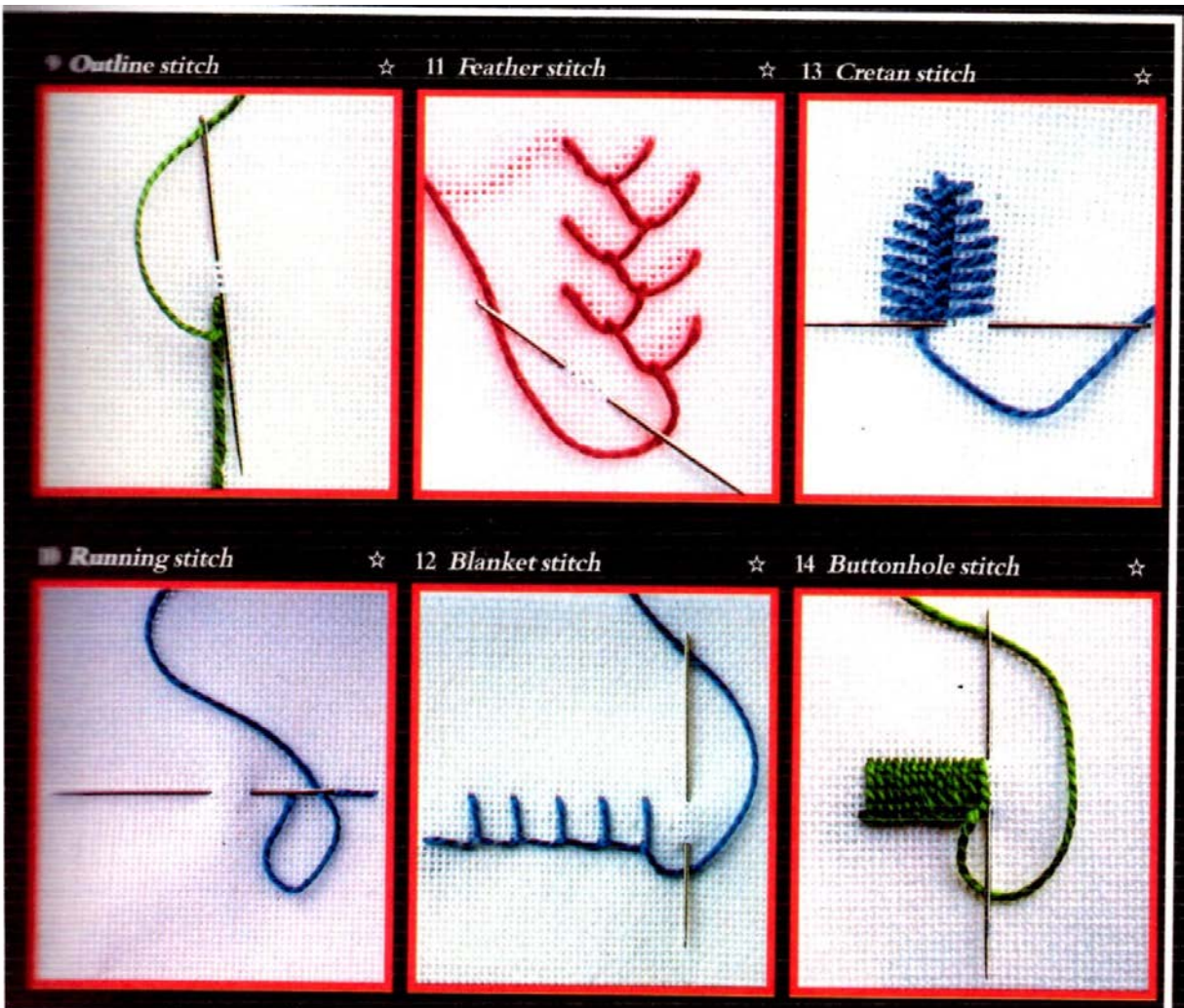
- 1) The needle first comes up from the back of the fabric on the second line. (#2) The first stitch enters the fabric from the top on line #4 and exits on line #3 at an angle from 2 o'clock to 8 o'clock and 1/4" down. In other words the exit is 1/4" both horizontally and vertically apart.**
- 2) For the second stitch, the needle will turn to angle from 10 o'clock to 4 o'clock and will enter the fabric from the top on line #1 and exit on line #2 this being both 1/4" horizontally and vertically away from where the needle entered.**

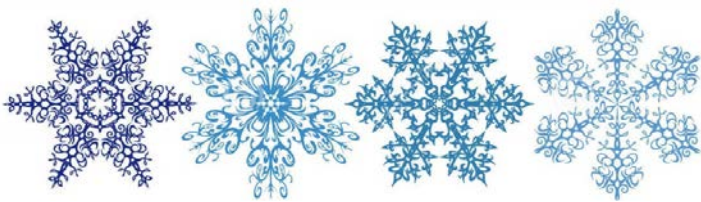
Note that the solid lines of the needle are on the top of the fabric and the dashed lines are on the underside of the fabric. Also, note from the graphs that all 6 of the stitches photographed are from the buttonhole family.

Copyright 2015

Sheila T. Nicol Designs







Answer:

Jacobean

Generally referred to as crewel embroidery, this was very popular in England. One of the most famous patterns is the 'Tree of Life' believed to have inspired some of the work later done in India.





FYI “The Moody Needle”

Embroidery can be an intricate and tricky pastime, but it is susceptible to mood swings. Now I am not suggesting that you take Prozac before stitching, but be aware that if you are tired, sleepy or tense it certainly can affect the consistency of your stitches. Beautiful embroidery is based on consistent stitching and even tension, so try to be aware of these when doing embroidery.



"Bear in Mind" articles are available on our website. Encourage your customers to check out our website for information and inspiration.

Visit us on the web at www.bearthreadsLtd.com
To place an order contact us at 404-255-5083 or 404-255-4001 fax