

Bear in Mind

An electronic newsletter from Bear Threads Ltd.

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From The Editor –

Summer is about to come to an end, the leaves will soon be falling, and yes, as every year, Christmas is coming! But for now, there is still nearly 4 months to sew, sew, sew for cherished gifts and cute Holiday clothing. Last month – August issue of *BEAR IN MIND* - we shared some trims and ribbons for your holiday projects. I am hoping you have some projects well under way!

Also, coming soon is the Birmingham Market. It is a one day show, Sunday, September 11. That is one week after Labor Day weekend. We will bring with us some of our sale merchandise, and as usual we will take orders for other items. Remember it is a **CASH AND CARRY MARKET**. We do NOT take credit cards, so come prepared accordingly!

Further to squash any rumors, **we are still in business**. We started the liquidation SALE because we had such a huge inventory. Of course the benefit to you is that we have always been 'in stock', and you get your orders in just a few days. Unfortunately, there are those folks who are vicious and malicious, and are spreading rumors that we are 'gone'. That is simply not true! We are for sale, and will be around for a long time.

Now, to our current issue: Whenever I say 'well' as I formulate a thought with my husband, his reply is 'That is a deep subject'. Well.... I am starting a two part series on color in embroidery.

THAT is a deep subject and one I cannot cover in one issue. When I first started doing embroidery and other needle arts there was Bates and DMC embroidery floss, and Appleton wool. OK, I have just dated myself! We have come a long way from those days with so many more options of fibers, thread sizes, and shades of colors. I sincerely hope this series opens some new doors for your creativity. Read on as we get started.

Hoping to see you in Birmingham, and as always,

Happy Stitching,

Sheila



COLOR IN EMBROIDERY

PART I

“THE PANTONE SYSTEM”

Color is everywhere and affects everyone. With the technology we have today, we have a greater awareness of the value of color in our lives. High definition TV's, phones, and computers, allow the color rendition and replication to be nothing short of amazing. We are naturally far more aware of the shading of colors than our ancestors.

In our everyday lives we are affected by color without even realizing it. For example, posters and street signs attract your attention by the use of color, not by the subject matter. Color is symbolic, especially in the Church where red, white, green and gold represent specific feast days, festivals, celebrations, penitence and mourning. In the environment, red means danger, the Red Cross means medical aid, green means safe to proceed, yellow and black are warnings, etc. There are also the metaphoric symbolisms of 'green with envy', 'green thumb', and 'green' as in inexperienced!

Even the sky we hardly notice on a daily basis, shows all colors from deep black, to royal purple, red, apricot, pale pink, green, light blue and bright blue. As we enter the fall season, we will be surrounded by glorious color. I think there are almost more color and variations of color in the fall season than spring. There is no season that nature can provide us with such vivid 'metallic' colors than the golds, oranges, and yellows of autumn.

One source of color study is Pantone. Pantone is a company headquartered in New Jersey and best known for its Pantone Matching System (PMS); a color system primarily used in the printing industry, but also used by paint and fabric companies. They produce the Pantone

Guide which consists of a large number of small color cards bound into a deck of cards. PMS colors are almost always used in branding by governments, military, state flags, etc.

The Pantone color system of solids consists of 1114 colors identified by 3 or 4 digits. The Process palette consists of more than 3,000 color variations. There is also a textile palette of 1,925 and a plastics palette which consists of 735 transparent and 1,005 opaque plastic color chips.

Available to all at your local home improvement store are paint chips. These are invaluable for not only decorating, but planning embroidery projects. They are a great way to start a piece of work before buying many unsuitable skeins of thread.

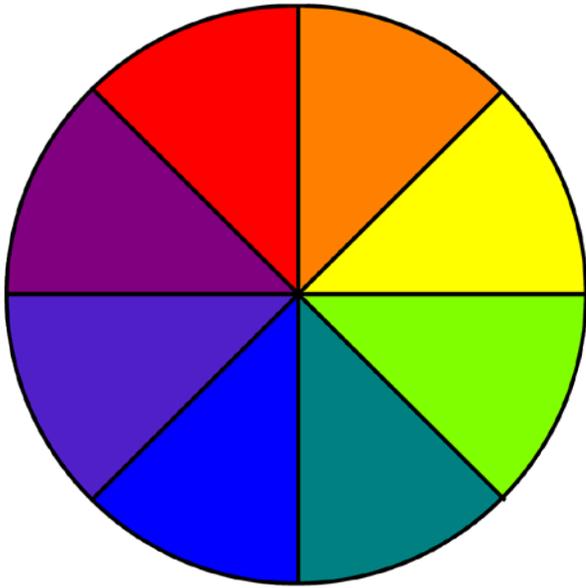
However, it is important know that there is a relationship between fabric, embroidery thread, and stitches used. Your specific idea could be interpreted quite differently by differing threads, stitches and ground fabric. Next month we will continue with this color and fiber relationship.

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Color Blindness

Approximately 8% of all men and only about 0.5% of all women suffer from color blindness

A **color wheel** or **colour circle**^[1] is an abstract illustrative organization of color hues around a circle, which shows the relationships between primary colors, secondary colors, tertiary colors etc.



FYI

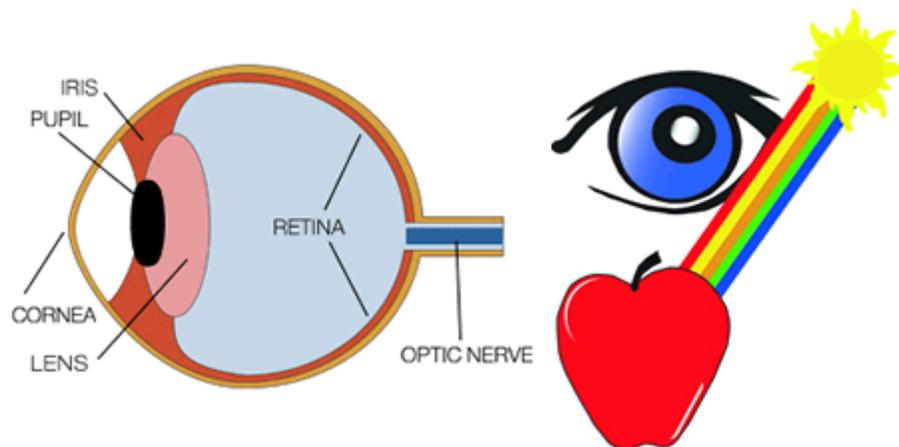
The government regulatory organization SOLAS (Safety of Life at Sea) has always required cruise ship lifeboats to be bright orange so as to be seen easily at a distance. Disney Cruise Lines petitioned the government to be allowed to have their lifeboats a particular yellow to match Mickey Mouse's shoes. They won special permission and now Pantone 99 is a patented color only to be used by Disney. All Disney Cruise Line lifeboats are now yellow!

And Now You Know!

How Do We See Color?

An introduction to color and the human eye.

The human eye and brain together translate light into color. Light receptors within the eye transmit messages to the brain, which produces the familiar sensations of color.



Newton observed that color is not inherent in objects. Rather, the surface of an object reflects some colors and absorbs all the others. We perceive only the reflected colors.

Thus, red is not "in" an apple. The surface of the apple is reflecting the wavelengths we see as red and absorbing all the rest. An object appears white when it reflects all wavelengths and black when it absorbs them all.

From <https://www.pantone.com/how-do-we-see-color>

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