

IS IT EMBROIDERY?

As with most specialties, in needlework circles, terminology can be both loose and specific.

My old, old volume of the Oxford Dictionary defines "embroidery" as "to ornament as with needlework, to work needlework," and, of course, "to embellish rhetoric". The more modern Wiktionary similarly defines "embroidery". The Embroiderer's Guild of America (EGA) limits embroidery to needlework done with a needle with an "eye", omitting knitting, crochet, bobbin lace, shuttle tatting, weaving and other fiber arts. Non-decorative sewing is not an embellishment so it is not "embroidery". Embroidery can include fancy sewing, couture, quilting, as well as a multitude of ethnic techniques such as Hardanger, Casalguidi, Montmellick. (See the list below.) "Needlepoint", the American term for "canvaswork", is a sub-group of embroidery. Generally, needlepoint is embroidery done on heavier grades of mesh or canvas rather than on fabrics such as silk, linen or even-weave blends. Traditionally, the entire background canvas mesh was covered. Modern styles frequently leave portions of the mesh showing. Modern "needlepoint" has progressed beyond the classic "tent stitch" and now includes a variety of decorative stitches. Embroidery is done on any type of cloth (and some non-fabrics). Counted techniques are typically done on specially woven fabrics ("even-weave") to make counting easier. Surface techniques don't require the special weave. The very popular "cross-stitch" is one simple, basic counted stitch - a series of X's. The basic cross-stitch is used, along with other stitch patterns, in many embroidery styles. Like using tent stitch (which can be rendered in several methods, "continental", "half-cross" or "basketweave"), "cross-stitch" is a method or stitch pattern. Cross-stitch is most commonly done on linen, Aida cloth or various even-weave blends. Many popular modern designs are done exclusively in cross-stitch. Whether doing canvas work, counted or surface, work embroidery often includes a variety of stitch patterns or techniques such as stem stitch, Queen's stitch, Rhodes stitch, bullions, satin and so forth.

Sub-categories of embroidery: *Appliqué * Armenian needlelace * Ayershire white work * Carrickmacross * Ayershire white work * Bargello * Battenburg lace * Crazy Quilting * Madeira * Redwork * Silk Ribbon * Beadwork on Needle & Loom * Blackwork * Bobbin Lace * Brazilian Embroidery * Candlewicking * Canvaswork * Casalguidi * Duplicate Stitch * Chinese double-sided * Clothing Embellishment * Contemporary * Counted Thread * Crewel * Crochet * Cross stitch * Cutwork * Drawn Thread * Ecclesiastical * Fabric Manipulation & Texturing * Faggoting * French

Goldwork * Hardanger * Hedebo * Hemstitching * Japanese Traditional *
Knitting * Knot Work * Kogin * Kumihimo * Lace Beadwork * Lacework *
Lagaretra * Loom work * Machine * Metal Thread * Mixed Media *
Mountmellick * Needle Darning * Needlelace* Needle Painting * *
Needlepoint * Net Darning * Or nué * Paper-surface * Patchwork *
Perforated Paper * Fabric Manipulation & Texturing * Faggoting * Fine
Hand Sewing * French Hand Sewing * Goldwork * Hardanger * Hedebo *
Hemstitching * Innishmacsaint * Knot Work * Kogin * Kumihimo * Lace
Beadwork * Lacework * Lagaretra * Machine * Madeira * Metal Thread *
Mixed Media * Mountmellick * Patchwork * Petit Point * princess lace *
Pulled Thread Work * Punch work * Punto in aria * Punto Tagliato * Quilting
* Redwork * Reticella lace * Reverse Appliqué * Rhodes Embroidery *
Romanian Point Lace * Rozashi * Sampler work * Sashiko * Schwalm *
Sewing * Shadow Work * Shisha * Silk Ribbon * Smocking * Souzhou *
Stumpwork * Surface Stitchery * Swedish Huck Weaving * Tambour *
Tassel Making * Tatting * Temari * Tenerife * Traditional Japanese *
Trapunto * Wessex Stitchery * Russian Punch Needle *Tambour * Wessex
Stitchery * Whitework * Yugoslavian embroidery *

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Rebecca

Rebecca E. Wardlaw
505-255-6852 (H)
505-249-8689 (C)