

Needlepoint for Beginners

Part I

of a three part program

Learning the stitches of:

Basketweave
Continental / Tent
Half Cross Stitch
and Kelley Stitch

2004 – 2005 © Peter Kelley

Basic Description

The program introduces students to the 7,000-year-old art form with the basic materials and techniques needlepoint is created [yarn, thread, canvas, and needle]. Starting with the very very elementary skills of canvas counting, canvas taping, and needle threading. The program stresses stitch counting, appearance of the work, and appearance of stitches; and develops the student's skills to do most basic kits found in stores, and the creation of their own simple designs on canvas.

This program is divided into 4 sub-projects.

This program can be attended at the following locations

Scheduling Disclaimer: This program curriculum was originally designed as 7 class session series. Some host sites offer scheduling which differ from this. Students who need more class sessions may re-register for more time at each of these sites.

St Paul Community Education

Contact: Com. Ed. Office: 651 – 293 – 8811
Program Length: 6 Sessions
Registration Fee: \$55.00
Registration Process:
Deadline: April 11th or June 15th
Start Dates: April 18th or June 23rd
Location: Como Senior High School
Age Groups: 11 years on up

St. Paul Parks and Recreation

Contact: Dir. James Banks: 651 - 298 – 5820
Program Length: 7 Sessions
Registration Fee: \$15.00 + Site Fee
Start Dates: As requested
Location: Scheffer Rec. Center
Age Groups: 11 years on up
This site provides my program on a per request basis.
Call Scheffer Rec. Center to arrange a class.

West Hennepin Pioneer Museum Association, Long Lake, MN

Contact: Museum Office: 925 – 293 – 8811
Program Length: 7 sessions
Registration Fee:
Registration Process:
Registration Deadlines:
Registration Start Dates:
Location: Long Lakes, MN
Age Groups: 11 years on up

This site is still being negotiated.
Contact WHPMA for scheduling developments.

Expectations

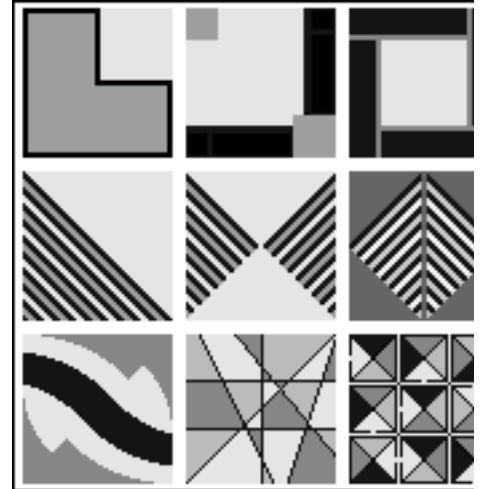
Attendees will be provided the chance to complete three patterns and create a design for a fourth over the period of 7 weeks. Sessions are divided between lecture, presentation, and personal work time. The time commitments may vary on how quickly the attendee stitches, however a reasonable rule of thumb is as follows:

Adults	256 to 291 stitches per day	or 2 ½ or 3 hours a day	and completing 3 sub-projects
Children			
Non-School Seasons	125 to 150 stitches per day	or 1 to 1 ½ hours a day	and completing 2 sub-projects
School Season	75 to 125 stitches per day	or ¾ to 1 ¼ of an hour	and completing 2 sub-projects

As found by the instructor, and if you watch TV, much of this time can be found if you stitch during commercials! The program offers nine projects from which 3 will be created (shown to right; completed colors may differ), and a fourth will be designed by the attendee with the assistance of the instructor.

Attendees must understand the following math concepts:

- Discern the difference between odd and even numbers
- Counting by 150 in units of 10
- Division
- Rounding a fractional remainder down or up



Program Syllabus

Week One [Two to Three Hours]:

Instructors Goals: Review of program objectives, the origins of needlework, differences in Masking Tape, terms, and basic canvass, thread, and needle control

Student Goals: Introduction of "Kelley" Stitch begins and starts of first project.

Week Two [Two Hours]:

Instructors Goals: Color Theory in regards to color choices of thread and optical illusions between colors.

Student Goals: Independent work on project

Week Three [Two Hours]:

Instructors Goals: Testing the work done against the pattern AND design

Student Goals: Independent work on project

Week Four [Two Hours]:

Instructors Goals: The Square vs. "Rhombic" outcome.

Student Goals: First project should be finished by the start of this session and the second project should be started during the session. Introduction of the Half Cross stitch begins.

Week Five [Two Hours]:

Instructors Goals: Thread tension and appearance of rows.

Student Goals: Independent work on project

Week Six [Two Hours]:

Instructors Goals: Design theories for Beginners; Second project should be finished by the start of this session and the third project should be started during the session.

Student Goals: Introduction of the Basketweave Stitch begins. In addition to these goals, design work for your fourth project should begin at this time as well.

Week Seven [Two Hours; length may vary due to students needs]:

Instructors Goals: Written Test, Work Evaluation, and Group Critique. Information about Part II Needlepoint for Beginners provided.

Student Goals: Third project should be finished by the start of this session and the fourth project's design should be completed and ready to go. Instructions for Continental Stitch presented.

Detailed Description for Needlepoint for Beginners: Part I

Attendees will meet for 7 weeks for two hours each session. The Attendees will achieve the following tasks as course objectives:

- ◆ To learn the Needlepoint stitches of Kelley Stitch, Half Cross Stitch, Basketweave, and Continental.
- ◆ To learn the following skills
 - Locating and indicating boundaries on canvas
 - Threading a needle
 - Starting work from the corner
 - How to read a pattern either in gray shades or symbols
 - How to work with “reassigned” colors
 - How to remove stitches if errors occur
 - How to turn corners and to continue to move in different directions while retaining the angle of the stitch in the same direction
 - How to jump canvas
 - How to work symmetrical and asymmetrical pattern types
- ◆ Other Optional Concepts
 - Taping of canvas edges (dependent on canvas brought in)
 - How to use an embroidery hoop (dependent if student or site provides embroidery hoops)
- ◆ To learn the following techniques and concepts which will improve their skill with this art form:
 - The correct tension of thread needed to achieve an even stitch
 - Working thread without leaving knots for anchoring
 - Dealing with thread snags and knots
 - Basic color theory in regard to appearance
 - Basic design theory in regard to appearance
 - Testing the stitch count against the pattern and work done
 - Understanding the “rhombic” appearance of a finished piece or work

Completion of for Needlepoint for Beginners: Part I

To successfully complete Part I, and continue on to Part II, the student must:

- ◆ Complete at least ½ of the Part I project and be able to discuss all issues from the list above
Please Note: The instructor encourages full completion of the Part I project so that the student gains the full technical understanding of the art form.
- ◆ Complete a 30 – 60 minute test which focuses on stitches, terms, and techniques used in needlepoint
- ◆ Participate in a discussion of the attendees work (professionally known as a critique) in a group setting to consider the work of the class.

Needlepoint Part I Supply List

If the training site does not provide materials, the following materials will need to be gathered for this program. The materials list below can be gathered from a variety of stores: embroidery, or yarn shops; quilting, or sewing shops; craft stores, or office supply stores; hardware stores or paint suppliers. Attendees are responsible for keeping track of their own supplies once they are acquired.

Adult Supply List

- ◆ Canvas that is between 7 to 12 count (count represents the approximate number of squares per inch)
 - If faced with multiple brands of canvas the manufacturer of this material does not matter for this program.
 - The canvas sheet must be able to hold 132 stitches x 132 stitches [see table below]

Canvas Count to Needle sizes

If the Canvas Count is then the canvas dimensions will be (in inches)		Needle Recommended
5	26 2/5	x 26 2/5	Children's Needle; and Tapestry Size 16
6	22	x 22	Children's Needle; and Tapestry Size 16
7	18 6/7	x 18 6/7	Children's Needle; and Tapestry Size 16
8	16 4/8	x 16 4/8	Tapestry size #16 or Yarn Darning Sizes #14 to 18
8.5	15 9/17	x 15 9/17	Warning: Canvas exists, size is very approximate
9	14 6/9	x 14 6/9	Tapestry size #16 or Yarn Darning Sizes #14 to 18
10	13 2/10	x 13 2/10	Tapestry size #16 or Yarn Darning Sizes #14 to 19
11	12	x 12	Yarn Darning Sizes #14 to 18
12	11	x 11	Yarn Darning Sizes #14 to 18

- ◆ 1 pair Scissors
- ◆ 1 pencil (#2 or harder)
- ◆ 1 Skein Yarn
 - This item maybe shared between attendees
 - Yarn must be 4 ply, worsted; a "standard" knitting type yarn
 - Yarn must be of a solid color. Not variegated or ombre type.
- ◆ #16 Tapestry Needles (these have larger eyes) ... **or** ... \$14 to 18 Yarn Darning Needles (these have smaller eyes)
 - Yarn Darning Needles may come several sizes in one package.
 - Persons choosing canvas that is more than 8 count should consider getting yarn needles.

Children's and Youth Supply List (Adjustments made to the above list)

- ◆ Plastic children's needle (with the smaller head; the larger size may tear the canvas)
- ◆ 7 count canvas which measures 18 6/7 x 18 6/7 inches.

Other Optional Equipment For Both Youth and Adults

- ◆ One 6 or 8 inch embroidery hoop. Not a hanging frame. These differ in that frames will have a slight lip on one exterior side. Hoops come on wooden (very functional and usable) or heavy plastic (long term durable)
- ◆ 1 roll of 1 to 1 ½ inch wide painters tape. This will LOOK like masking tape but the adhesive is not as strong. This permits easy removal for the washing and framing of canvas needlework. At all costs avoid the blue painters tape – this later tape will not adhere to the canvas.
- ◆ Thimbles for thumb and index fingers. The instructor suggests thumb grips that you purchase in an office supply store which come in tan and come in four different sizes. IF you are allergic to rubber, ... some sewing supply stores have cloth thimbles. Thimbles should be comfortable hence the recommendation of the rubber or cloth styles.