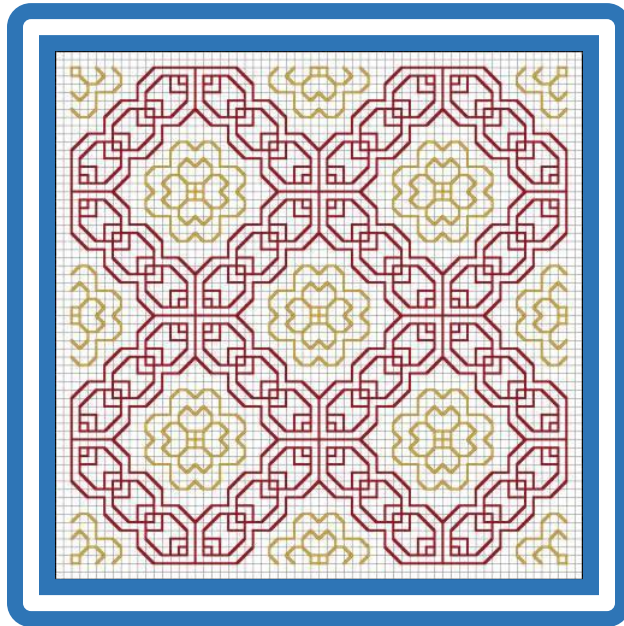


Blackwork Embroidery pattern

By: Lady Thalia Papillon

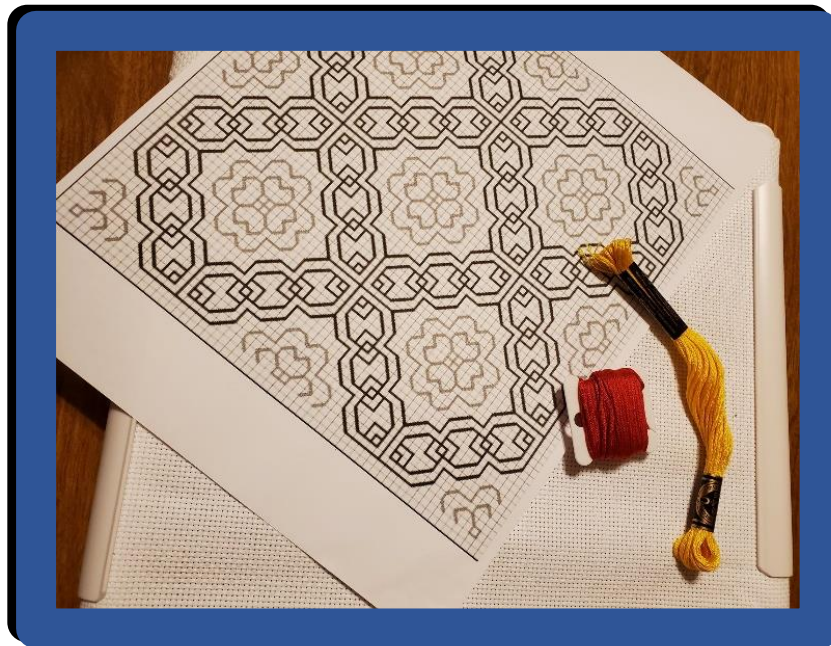
This piece that is being documented below is the second piece of blackwork that I have worked on. I recently started branching out doing blackwork over the past 5 months. I have been doing mainly cross stitch for the most of my life since I was a kid when my Aunt taught me how to cross stitch.

The piece I have been working on is the Polychrome counted thread embroidery from the Jane Bostocke sampler, year 1598. I chose one portion of the sampler to work on.





The sampler was stitched in polychrome silks on linen using silk thread in colors of blue, brown, green, pink, red, yellow and white, metal thread, as well as beads, and pearls. The sampler included various types of stitches including cross stitch, backstitch, chain stitch, and English double running stitch.

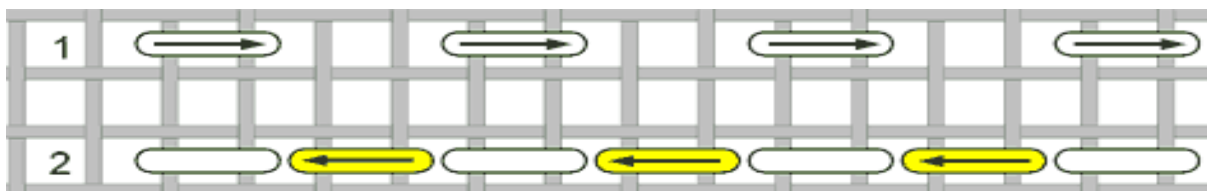


The materials I have used to create this piece which are shown below include 14 count Aida fabric, red, and yellow DMC thread which is made from 100% Egyptian cotton material. I chose to use Aida fabric as it has more defined blocks which helps with stitches being even and uniform in size throughout the piece which is helpful as being a beginner in doing blackwork.

The reason I chose to DMC thread instead of silk thread is because it is more accessible and easier to find and have been accustomed to using it from doing cross stitch. I am not familiar with silk thread and the accessibility of acquiring silk thread would require trying to order it online and it could potentially be more costly and unsure how easy it would be to find and the availability of being able to order online.

The difference with Aida cloth is that it is a cotton, even weave fabric that has a mesh which allows enough stiffness in the fabric that does not require the use of an embroidery hoop. Also, this type of fabric comes in different size spaces and / or holes between the warp and weft which helps with the thickness of different kinds of thread that may be used. The difference with linen fabric is that it is a woven fabric with reflects an over and under pattern of warp and weft threads. In comparison to Aida cloth, linen fabric is made from flax fibers.

The method that was used to create this piece was done with a type of stitch known in period as the English double running stitch which is now referred as the Holbien stitch which are the same stitch. The English double running stitch was changed to Holbein stitch during the reign of Henry VIII (1509-1547). The Holbein stitch was named after Hans Holbein the Younger, a 16th-century portrait painter best known for his paintings of Henry VIII and his children, whom are shown in artwork as wearing clothing adorned with blackwork embroidery.



The picture below is the first portion of the piece which was started in the center of the fabric by folding the fabric in fours to determine the center point which is how I would normally start a cross stitch piece as well.



The picture below is my finished piece.



Bibliography

- 1) <https://web.archive.org/web/20030218065810/costume.dm.net/blackwork/bostocke.html>
- 2) The Jane Bostocke Sampler, England, 1598. Copyright Victoria and Albert Museum, London, acc. no. T.190-1960.
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