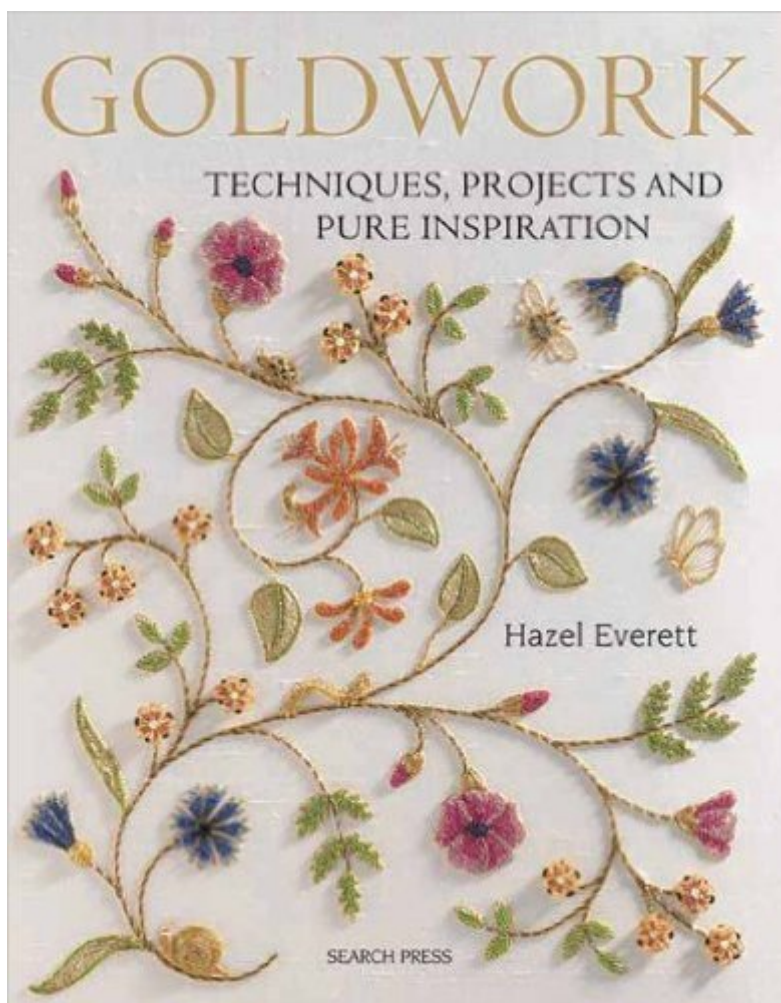


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Goldwork: Techniques, Projects And Pure Inspiration



Synopsis

A unique source of information and inspiration for anyone interested in goldwork embroidery.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Hazel Everett's new book is simply one of the best I've seen on goldwork. While it doesn't knock the greats by Jane Lemon, Beryl Dean, Valerie Campbell-Harding, and others out of the box, it certainly belongs in there with them. I was wary about ordering it sight unseen and without reviews, since I have an excellent collection of gold/silver/metalwork books already, and this book isn't cheap. But boy, I'm glad I did. It's worth every penny and then some. It's not a pattern book; however, Everett has designed several pieces which are suitable for anyone who wants to get started in this fascinating subgenre of surface embroidery. Her brother, she writes, is an entomologist; thus, she's designed more than a dozen delicate "bugs" to be done in gold thread. They're delightful--even whimsical--and I plan to try several, perhaps in a sampler (she illustrates one) or simply adding a few bugs to another work. There are three dragonfly designs, although one is actually a piece of jewelry, not embroidery. The large one, not part of the bug section, is a perfectly elegant interpretation of these fascinating insects. She also has two butterflies, a spider (with gold kid leather, too), a cricket, beetle, ant, hoverfly, bumblebee, shield bug, ladybug, weevil, caterpillar, and two views of a snail. She's taking liberties by putting snails in with bugs, but they look good together. Lest you think she's bug-happy (or I am), there's a dragon, seahorse, two lovely needlebooks (and how to fabricate them once the needlework is complete), a beautifully-realized fritillary, a butterfly, six simple designs for hanging ornaments which would look lovely on a tree or in

a slightly shady window, and what I believe to be one of the ugliest samplers I've ever seen, titled "Cornucopia."

I have bought almost all of the books on goldwork embroidery and have also gone to classes with Hazel. (if you can, take a class with her). But this book surprised even me. It begins with loads of information for the beginning goldwork student and is also useful for someone coming to it again. A lot of this material is not covered in any other book. The style of writing is lively and enjoyable as is the author. A short introduction of the history is followed by equipment all in color photographs. Needles and frames and how to dress a frame. Working with hoops and mounting the finished piece are also well covered. Another page just for the fabrics. Two pages on transferring a design and two on designing a motif. Order of work with illustrations of a tulip and a 3 dimensional beetle. Felt padding, methods of applying bump or soft cotton, string, basketweave patterns. One page on the golden rules of goldwork embroidery including threading a needle with illustration. Four pages in color of the metal and other threads. The techniques section covers pearl purl, purls, purl chippings, shading with chippings and order of work, stem stitch formation, purl loops, embellishing beads and stones with purls, graded and geometric cutwork, plunging threads (unpleasant task), couched threads, or nue, twists, broad plate and also whipped and crimped, milliary, kid, spangles, Elizabethan twist, flatworm, embroidery stitches, applique. All of these topics covered in at least two pages each with ample color photographs. Then come the projects. The cover photograph, four different flowers, 15 assorted bugs. Fritillary, butterfly (4 pages), sampler (I did this one) of 6 pages. Hanging decorations, needlebooks, dragon and seahorse. All of these covering many pages. Book ends with glossary and index.

I never review a craft book if I haven't tried the instructions myself. I bought two other books on goldwork in my quest to add this technique to my repertory and finally sprung for a new copy of Goldwork. I have yet to look back. Hazel Everett's Goldwork has the best instructions for both traditional and modern techniques that I was finally able to draw up a quick little sampler on my doodle cloth and incorporate several types of metal threads and techniques, including the japan threads, purls and bullions. I will now try a more complex design for this wonderful technique. In addition to including wonderful instructions on the stitches and techniques, Hazel Everett's book includes a thorough review of the threads, fabrics, tools and history of goldwork. The review of threads is especially valuable as there is a lot of variety in materials, weight and technique and some of them are hard to find and a thorough understanding of what you are looking for is essential.

Everett also provides technique and inspiration to expand the application of goldwork from its traditional element of ecclesiastical embroidery to jewelry, boxes and modern household items and artwork. Most of the projects are small and intended to teach the techniques, but they include florals and wheat, an entire selection of insects and critters that could be jewelry or adorn a larger embroidery and a couple of lovely needle cases. Boxes are a staple of goldwork both traditional and modern and while this book doesn't provide instruction on box construction, that information is available elsewhere and the designs in the book could be easily applied to boxwork. The sampler, Cornucopia, is as another reviewer noted, underwhelming, but that is the single flaw in this excellent book.

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