

Nurge Newsletter

June 2024

How time flies, the months just seem to zoom by! We do apologise again for the length between Nurge Newsletters. It has been 'all hands-on deck' here, we are seeing big growth in our North American market with over 125 Retailers in the States and Canada now, plus some more in Europe, New Zealand & Australia, making it easier for more lovely stitchers to find and use Nurge.

We have also been working with more designers who love using Nurge products, three of which are launching books and expressing their love of Nurge products, we are so proud! It never ceases to amaze us where so many different unique ideas come. We do try to give a wide selection of these over the months, hopefully to give everybody inspiration.

We hope you find something interesting in our Newsletters. If you have any ideas or techniques you would like covered or have content you would like to share, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Contact info@nurge.net



One of our favourite pictures, Hannah at Needle Or Thread with her completed

26" Nurge Quilt Hoop, what a beast!!

Technique of the month

Bringing Embroidery to Life: The Art of Stumpwork

Step into a world of dimension and delight with Stumpwork embroidery, a captivating technique that transforms flat fabric into stunning 3D art. Originating in 15th century England (and before this in ecclesiastical garments), stumpwork adds a layer of captivating texture and realism to embroidery projects.



A Textured Tapestry

Unlike traditional embroidery where threads lie flat, stumpwork utilizes padding, raised stitches and even separate, pre-stitched pieces to create a raised effect. This meticulous technique can be used to craft a variety of elements, from delicate flowers and foliage to intricate figures and even miniature buildings. Imagine a vibrant butterfly with wings that seem to flutter, or a majestic stag with antlers that proudly project from the fabric – these are just a few examples of the captivating scenes brought to life through stumpwork.

*Below are two lovely examples of a Butterfly and a Mouse by Megan Zaniewski, details of how to create the butterfly is in her book, **'Stumpwork Embroidery & Thread Painting'**, see her designer profile on where to order it.*



Beyond the Basics

While stumpwork may appear intricate, the beauty lies in its versatility. Basic embroidery stitches like satin stitch and back stitch form the foundation and, with a little practice, you can create stunning textures.

For added dimension, wires are often used to shape elements like leaves and petals, which are then padded with materials like wool or felt before being meticulously covered in thread.

More advanced techniques like beadwork and goldwork can also be incorporated to add a touch of luxury and shine.

A World of Inspiration

Stumpwork embroidery offers endless possibilities for creative expression. Floral designs are a popular choice, allowing you to recreate a blooming garden or a favourite flower in exquisite detail. Insects, bird, and other wildlife add a touch of whimsy, while figures dressed in period clothing or miniature houses transport you to another time and place.

Themed projects around holidays or personal interests allow you to create truly unique pieces.



*A lovely example of Stumpwork Embroidery from **Megan Zaniewski's** book **Stumpwork Embroidery & Thread Painting**.*

Embark on Your Stumpwork Journey

Ready to delve into the world of stumpwork embroidery? With a little patience and the guidance of numerous resources available online and in libraries, you can be well on your way to creating your own dimensional masterpieces. Starter kits are available for purchase, and online tutorials guide you through essential stitches and techniques.

*There are books on Stumpwork including one by our featured Designer this month **Megan Zaniewski**, see her profile to find where you can buy it, she also sells her lovely creations on her Etsy site <https://www.etsy.com/shop/megembroiders/>*

Online Courses

*You can also find Online courses on how to start Stumpwork, below is a link to the Royal College of Needlework page, **An Introduction to Stumpwork, with Jen Goodwin***

<https://www.rsnonlinecourses.com/collections/introduction-to-stumpwork>

This introductory course, is suitable for confident beginners or intermediate level stitchers

The fee includes a kit that accompanies the course and all the materials you will need to create this exclusive contemporary design with Jen, following along at your own pace.

So, why not add a touch of texture and storytelling to your embroidery projects? With stumpwork, your imagination is the only limit!



Two examples of Megan Zaniewski's Stumpwork using her Nurge Embroidery Stand.

DESIGNERS SHOWCASE

Each newsletter we like to present designers who use Nurge products for some of their work. They are creative and demanding, so like to use quality hoops and frames to showcase their projects.

We enjoy it when we are tagged by them on social media as we get to see how varied their work can be. This can be with top quality classical embroidery stitching, or mixed media creations involving new ideas for stitching, cross stitching or punch work.

This newsletter, we would like to show you work by Megan Zaniewski and her business Meg Embroiders. Megan is based on the Gulf Coast in Mississippi.

She specializes in Stumpwork Embroidery & Thread Painting, and has recently published a book on the subject.

In the article below, Meg talks a little about her artistic journey and her book.

We also have included some photographs from the book to show case her work.

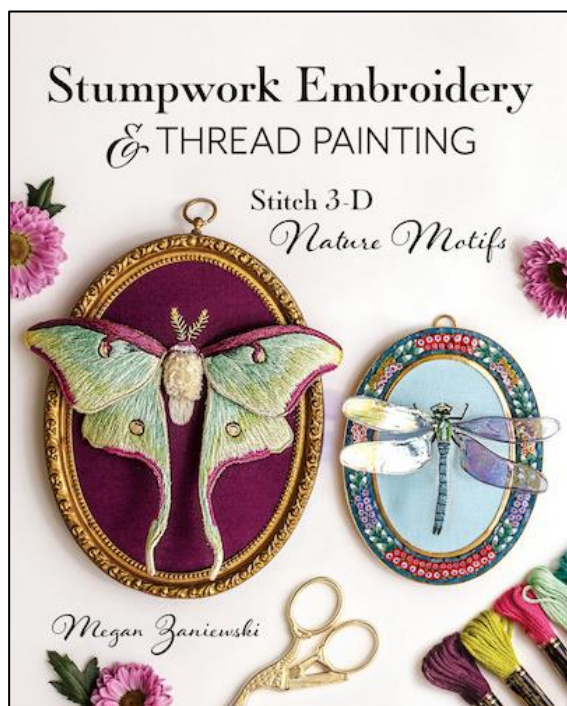


Megan writes;

"Hello!

My journey with fiber art began early. My mom, aunt, grandmother and great-grandmother were all skilled quilters, sewists, and embroiderers, and their love of all things fiber ignited my own interest at a young age.

I began embroidering in earnest in 2013 shortly after my oldest daughter was born. As a portable craft, embroidery was a creative outlet that fitted my on-the-go parenting lifestyle well. I was immediately drawn in by the slow and quiet pace of it and the reward of seeing a design emerge stitch by stitch. More than ten years later, I am still hooked!



*In January of this year, I published my first book with C&T Publishing called **Stumpwork Embroidery & Thread Painting: Stitch 3D Nature Motifs**. It's a celebration of the natural world and of everything I love about embroidery: color, texture, stitch, and dimension. The book teaches thread painting and a few beginner-friendly stumpwork (3-dimensional embroidery) techniques such as raised stitches, padding, and wireslips to create realistic animal and botanical embroideries that escape the hoop or frame.*

The book includes 15 step-by-step patterns but readers will also learn how to apply these techniques to their own designs, as the book covers topics such as materials, design and composition, and finishing/display methods. Cont'd

Nurge hoops are featured in my book among my recommended materials for stumpwork and thread painting projects. The dependable high-quality design of Nurge's beech wood hoops offers consistently drum-tight fabric tension, which ensures a better stitching experience and neater-looking results. Nurge's flexi-hoops are another favorite of mine. They're an easy and beautiful way to display your finished projects. I especially love how the faux-wood finish complements nature-inspired designs.

Thanks for allowing me to share a bit about my art, my book, and my appreciation for a well-made hoop! If you'd like to learn more about my work.

Happy Stitching, Megan!"

Megan's work can be found online at:

Instagram @megembroiders

Etsy shop: <https://www.etsy.com/uk/shop/MegEmbroiders>

Megan's book can be bought on Amazon find the link on her [Linktr.ee](#) via Instagram

Some fine examples of Megan's work using Nurge Hoops:



Stitch of the month:

LAID STITCH

Following on from our Basic Stitches which included Satin Stitch and Long Stitch, Laid Stitch is also classed as an 'easy stitch', but like every stitch, the tension and accuracy make a difference. These stitches are good for filling big spaces and are useful in our featured technique this month, Stumpwork.

What is Laid Stitch?

Laid stitch, sometimes referred to as "laid work," involves laying down a series of long, parallel stitches that are secured with small anchoring stitches. These securing stitches, called couching stitches, hold the longer threads in place and can be arranged in various patterns to create different visual effects. The laid stitch is different from the Long Stitch as you go back up through the fabric to come down in the opposite direction.

To get a better idea, (with photos, take a look at the RCN Stitch Bank here <https://rsnstitchbank.org/stitch/laid-work>



Photograph from the Royal College of Needlework Stitch Bank (link above)

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The Rich History of Laid Stitch

Laid stitch has deep roots in embroidery traditions around the world. It was a prominent feature in Opus Anglicanum (English work), the fine needlework produced in England from the 12th to the 14th centuries. This period saw the laid stitch used extensively to fill large areas with rich, vibrant colours, often forming the backdrop for religious and heraldic scenes.

In Japanese embroidery, particularly in traditional kimono designs, laid stitch is employed to create flowing patterns and textures that mimic natural elements like water, clouds, and foliage. The meticulous placement of stitches in these designs highlights the stitch's capacity for both precision and fluidity.



Examples of ancient and Japanese Laid Stitch

Applications in Modern Embroidery

While laid stitch has its roots in historical and traditional embroidery, it is far from being outdated. Modern embroiderers have adapted this versatile stitch for contemporary designs, from minimalist art pieces to bold, abstract patterns. Its ability to create different textures and depths make it a favourite for adding dimension to everything from fashion accessories to home décor.

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Types of Laid Stitch

Simple Laid Stitch: *The basic form involves laying parallel stitches over a fabric surface and securing them at intervals. This method creates a smooth and even texture, perfect for filling large areas with colour and sheen.*

Patterned Laid Stitch: *By varying the direction and spacing of the couching stitches, embroiderers can create intricate patterns within the laid work. Examples include diamond shapes, zigzags, or more complex motifs that add depth and interest to the design.*

Diagonal Laid Stitch: *In this variation, the laid threads are placed at an angle, often intersecting in a lattice-like structure. This technique is commonly used in blackwork and other historical embroidery styles.*

Open Laid Stitch: *Instead of covering the entire surface, this approach leaves spaces between the laid stitches, creating a lighter, more airy effect. It is often used in decorative borders and for adding delicate details to a design.*

Techniques and Tips for Mastering Laid Stitch

Choosing the Right Materials: *The type of thread and fabric significantly affects the final appearance of the laid stitch. Silk threads offer a luxurious sheen and are ideal for intricate designs, while cotton or wool can provide a more robust texture. For the fabric, a tightly woven ground cloth is preferred to support the tension of the laid threads.*

Securing Stitches with Precision: *The couching stitches that anchor the laid threads should be consistent and evenly spaced. Using a contrasting thread for couching can create an additional design element, while matching the colours can blend the stitches seamlessly into the background.*

Experiment with Patterns: *Don't be afraid to play with the direction and spacing of the laid threads and couching stitches. Experimentation can lead to unique textures and patterns that add personal flair to your projects.*

Practice Patience and Precision: *Laid stitch, especially when used to cover large areas or create intricate patterns, requires a steady hand and careful attention to detail. Take your time to ensure that each stitch is placed accurately and that the tension is even throughout the work.*

So, pick up your needle and thread, and let the laid stitch weave its magic!

PRODUCT HIGHLIGHT

Nurge Lap Stitchery Stand

This beautiful and versatile needlework stand works for a variety of projects- whether your passion is cross-stitch, needlepoint, crewel, embroidery or small-piece quilting.

These wooden stands are finely sanded and hand polished for a super smooth natural wood finish. Nurge products are the crafter's choice for quality.



Design by Emily Peacock <https://www.emilypeacock.com/> where the tapestry & Stitchery stand are available. Emily has a lovely selection of modern cross stitch designs, worth a look!

The Nurge Stand allows easy embroidering, cross-stitching, or tapestry using both hands and can be used as a tabletop stand or it will sit neatly on your lap to allow you complete comfort whilst creating your next masterpiece!

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Assembly

The stand requires simple assembly by inserting the rods into the end frames and tightening up the 4 wing nuts.

The red clips then clip-on and are used to clamp your material in place, then rotate the rods until your fabric is taut, and finally tighten up the wing nuts to hold it in place.

Spare stretchers

Spare rods are available, that fit the stand, to increase the width of the working area:

Three size options are available in **30cm, 40cm & 60cm** widths.

The 30cm width gives you a free working area of 30cm x 32cm. The 40cm width gives you a free working area of 40cm x 32cm and the 60cm width gives you a free working space of 60cm x 32cm.



Available at Retail Stores, Online or via the Nurge website. If you are unable to find what you are looking for, email sales@nurge.net , let them know your location and what products you are looking for. They will reply with a suitable stockist.

Nurge[®] Newsletter

We'll here in the UK we are starting to enjoy our summer holiday season. There is no better way to relax than reading a good book or taking your latest Embroidery, Cross Stitch or Needlework project to one of your favorite spots and spending time in your own world!

We appreciate it's winter in the Southern Hemisphere, (Nurge is sold all over the world), so we hope you can cosy up in the warm and relax with your hobby or craft.

In the meantime.....

Happy crafting!

We hope you have enjoyed the content of this Newsletter.

If you have any thoughts, photographs or content of that include using Nurge products, we would love to hear from you.

We only post on social media with your permission.

Thank you for subscribing to Nurge newsletters, product updates or offers.

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