



Blackwork *Journey Blog*

May 2012

Colour dynamics
Workshops why?



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Talks and workshops on embroidery can form an important part of an embroiderer's development and are often attended by students with a wide range of skills and abilities, from complete beginners to experienced embroiders. They not only provide an opportunity to share ideas and expand on previous knowledge, but also provide both students and teachers the opportunity to work together in a convivial and constructive atmosphere...

New students are not only motivated by the tutor, but by the work of other students and whilst it is fun, the participants usually want to achieve something worthwhile and as the day progresses, I have often found that silence reigns as embroiderers concentrate on their individual projects. At the end of the day, everyone looks at each other's work and for me the most satisfying comments are "I didn't think I could do that!" or "I could get hooked on this!" and to be asked back again the following year makes it very rewarding and I know then that I have achieved my objective!.

If you have never participated in a needlework group, investigate your local area or consider joining a "virtual" needlework on-line class. These can be a wonderful experience linking people around the globe with a common interest. I cannot stress highly enough the importance the Internet can play in connecting individuals and expanding knowledge and friendships. There are so many excellent web sites available at the click of a mouse and a wealth of information available from highly experienced tutors who are willing to share their expertise.



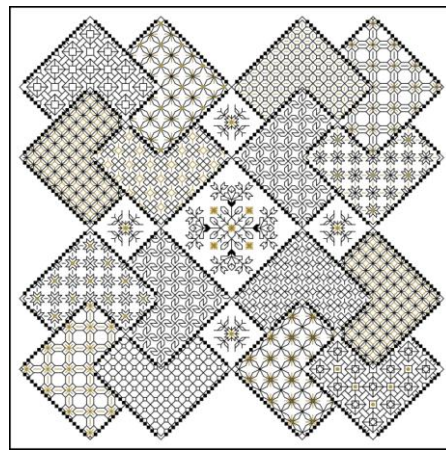
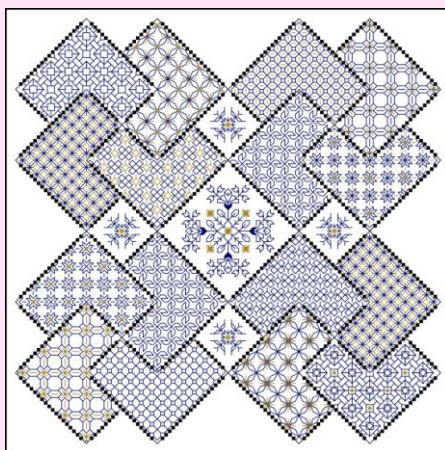
Workshop in progress!

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For example, Cathy in Canada is stitching CH0269 Ciara Blue for her shop and sent me some pictures of work in progress. (See below) She is using Vikki Claytons hand dyed silk in black and Indigo Ocean. CH0268 Ciara Rose is worked in a variety of pinks. I also love to see the magnetic needle holder and the scissor magnet. They are such useful tools helping to keep equipment safe and visible



Changing the colours changes the dynamics of the design totally and opens up new possibilities. It is great fun to see what other people do with the designs and how they adapt and alter them to suit their requirements. I specify materials and threads that are easily available worldwide, but there are so many exciting threads and fabrics to explore and they are easily available via the Internet.



CH0321 and CH0322 are the same pattern worked in different colours!

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Visiting craft outlets is very tempting for a needlewoman and I am no exception. I went to purchase some mountmellick fabric the other day and just had to buy this little needlecase, not that I will ever use it, but it just called out to me!! You know the feeling...???



French replica needlecase found a new home.

In June, July and August I will be adding something totally different to my site.

I use lettering in many of my projects, from quilting to hand embroidery and whilst there are many cross stitch alphabets available, there are very few letter fonts of a suitable size which can be used for free style, monograms or formal embroidery, so I'll be setting about designing a series of letters in different fonts which can be used for a variety of craft projects.

These are large enough to be used individually or suitable for grouping together to create something special and different. Each font pack will also include a blackwork design.

Instructions about transferring designs onto material are already on the 'Blackwork Journey' web site in the 'Techniques' section and in next month's Blog I will outline step by step how the fonts can be stitched for maximum effect using simple embroidery stitches.

I hope you will find them a useful addition to your library?.

Happy stitching!

Liz