



Great Australian Craft Show
LIVE in the classroom:

What Needle? Which Thread?

2 May 2020

Welcome to Olive Avenue!

These notes will accompany the one hour online class 'What Needle, Which Thread', which will be played live through the Craft Alive website as part of the Great Australian Craft Show. The two videos compiled to complete this class are 'World of Threads' and 'What Needle? Which Thread?'. What Needle? Which Thread? includes our x most popular needles, utility threads and textiles.

World of Threads can be found here: <https://www.facebook.com/TheOliveAvenue/videos/209718350447376/> It would be great if you have time to watch this before you watch *What Needle? Which Thread?*.

What Needle? Which Thread? is scheduled for May 2nd, 2020 live on the Craft Alive Classroom Group. (Link to come once video is available)

It's fine to watch and take notes but I find I 'get it' when things are tangible - this led us to compile a kit of everything in the videos with comprehensive notes to explain all the bits and pieces. The kit includes explanations, the needles, utility and decorative threads on a thread card and fabric swatches.

Treat this pack as a learning tool, designed to extend information to the novice sewer or the patchworker, that may have not tried a lot of stitching beyond the the skill set required for patchwork. You will have the opportunity to trial and learn about different fabrics using different threads and needles without purchasing meterage and multiple needle packs.

World of Threads

Threads included are:

Stranded Floss - Cotton and silk
Perle 2 ply twist - Sizes 12, 8, 5 and 3
Cotton, rayon and silk

Lame silk

Wool - Crewel and mohair

Metallic thread, blending filament and gimp

Sari silk ribbon and thread

Sashiko thread

Utility Threads

Gütermann - 50 wt

Deco-Bob - 80 wt

Nymo - Beading thread

Elastic thread (Shirring)

NEEDLES

- Originally made from bone or wood
- Now made from carbon steel and nickel
- Some are gold plated
- Higher quality needles are plated with platinum and titanium alloy
- With better quality coating, the needle moves through the fabric with less resistance
- Some are only polished around the shaft
- Tulip needles for example are polished to the tip
- Sharper tips can pierce through fibres

SHARPS

- Sizes 2 - 12
- General purpose sewing needle
- Short round eye
- The lower size numbers are for medium to heavy
- Larger eye is easier to thread
- From size 5 for medium to lightweight fabric. Lynette uses a size 9

CREWEL / EMBROIDERY

- Sizes 2 - 12
- Longer shaft than a sharp needle
- Larger eye than a sharp needle
- For embroidery including crewel
- Manufacturers use both names
- Crewel is named after the embroidery style

STRAW / MILLINERS

- Sizes 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 15, 18
- Traditionally used in hat making where it got the name Milliners
- The name straw also used as many hats were made out of straw
- Long, round eyes
- The eye width is no wider than the shaft
- Used for larger beads
- The higher the size number the shorter shaft and smaller eye

TAPESTRY

- Sizes 13, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28
- Most common for cross-stitch is 22, 24, 26, 28
- Has a large eye
- The blunt round tip slides easily in-between the linen / aida fibres

CHENILLE

- Sizes 13, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26

- Has a large eye
- Has a sharp tip
- The higher the number the finer the needle

SASHIKO

- Similar to a chenille needle with a longer shaft
- Longer shaft allows more stitches on the needle
- Smaller eye than chenille

BEADING

- Sizes 10, 11, 12, 13, 15
- Fine, long and thin
- Will bend easily
- The eye is within the width of the shaft
- Only use for small beads, pearls, sequins, etc.
- If the beads you are using can take a stronger needle, use a straw/milliner

THE WEAVING PROCESS AND TERMINOLOGY

- Weaving turns thread or yarn into fabric
- The loom is what supports the threads vertically & horizontally throughout the weaving process
- There are different types of looms that produce variance in fabrics. Example: Jacquard is not a fabric. It is a loom type that produces Damask and Brocade
- The warp is the lengthwise or vertical yarn secured across the top
- The weft is horizontal. It is inserted over and under the warp
- Selvage is parallel to the warp. It is on the left and right edges
- If the fabric is on a roll, the selvage is at the top and bottom
- It stops the weaving from unravelling
- The nap is the raised surface on fabric
- Woven fabric is two yarns making a warp and weft
- Knitted fabric is interlocking loops
- Non-woven fabric is mixing fibres to form a layer
- Fabric is divided into natural man-made fibres
- Natural fibre examples are animal coats, silkworm cocoons, plants
- Man-made fibres are either natural polymers where a natural fibre has been chemically changed such as rayon, viscose etc
- Or a synthetic polymer is completely man made such as polyester, nylon, acrylic, spandex, latex and vinyl
- Upholstery is a term for the fill, foam, padding in furniture, cushions etc.
- Upholstery fabric is fabric sturdy enough to use on furniture

TEXTILES

WOOL - Strong and durable. Felt has been made from wool for over 12,000 years old from sheep and goats.

CHIFFON - A plain-weave sheer fabric made from silk, polyester or nylon. What it is made from is reflected in the price.

LEATHER

HESSIAN - Jute, flax, hemp

COTTON - Made from the seedpod of the cotton plant. Many fabrics are made from cotton such as: calico, corduroy, denim, gingham, drill, terry toweling, chintz, lawn, gabardine, poplin and velvet.

CORDUROY - Has a lengthwise pile measured in rows per inch.

VELVET - Can be made from cotton, silk, wool, linen, mohair. A drawloom is used to create the pile. The pile on a fabric is called a nap and is directional.

VELVETEEN - Is a velvet imitation. Not as soft as velvet, has a shorter pile and colours are not as deep.

BROCADE - Made on a jacquard loom. Highly decorative surface embroidery. Appears embossed and raised. Can be purchased as a ribbon.

DAMASK - Made on a jacquard loom. The pattern is within the weave and appears flat, not raised. Reversible.

DRILL - A durable cotton with a strong bias in the weave.

DENIM - 100% cotton strong durable twin weave, indigo and white yarns (indigo is warp).

CHAMBRAY - Constructed as denim but a straight weave. A soft cotton. The white yarn is woven with a colour. The white fleck (weft) is what gives chambray its distinctive flat look.

SHOT COTTON - Constructed as a chambray but two colours are woven. It is the mix of the two colours that gives the shot cotton a sheen.

BATIK - Printing process using wax. The fabric is over dyed.

GAUZE - Scrim, cheesecloth and muslin are open loose weave cottons

CALICO - Unfinished cotton contains flecks of seeds etc.

NETTING + TULLE - Both are mesh but tulle is finer. The warp and weft are looped which creates the hole. The yarn of tulle has a lower denier (like stockings) and the fibres are thinner therefore the holes are smaller.

AIDA - 100% cotton. Has a wide open weave. The holes make it easy to stitch, commonly used for cross stitch. The size is referred to as a 'count' and the squares per lineal inch indicate the size. The larger the square, the bigger the cross, the larger the design will be.

LINEN - The first linen, called Osnaberg, dates back to the feed sacks of the 17th Century. From the flax plant. Varies from course to almost polished surface finishes. The weave varies from open and uneven to even. Costing varies according to the quality.

JAPANESE COTTON

LIBERTY TANA LAWN - Fine high quality cotton originally from Lake Tana in Ethiopia.

SILK - The strongest natural fabric. It is very soft and has a unique sheen.