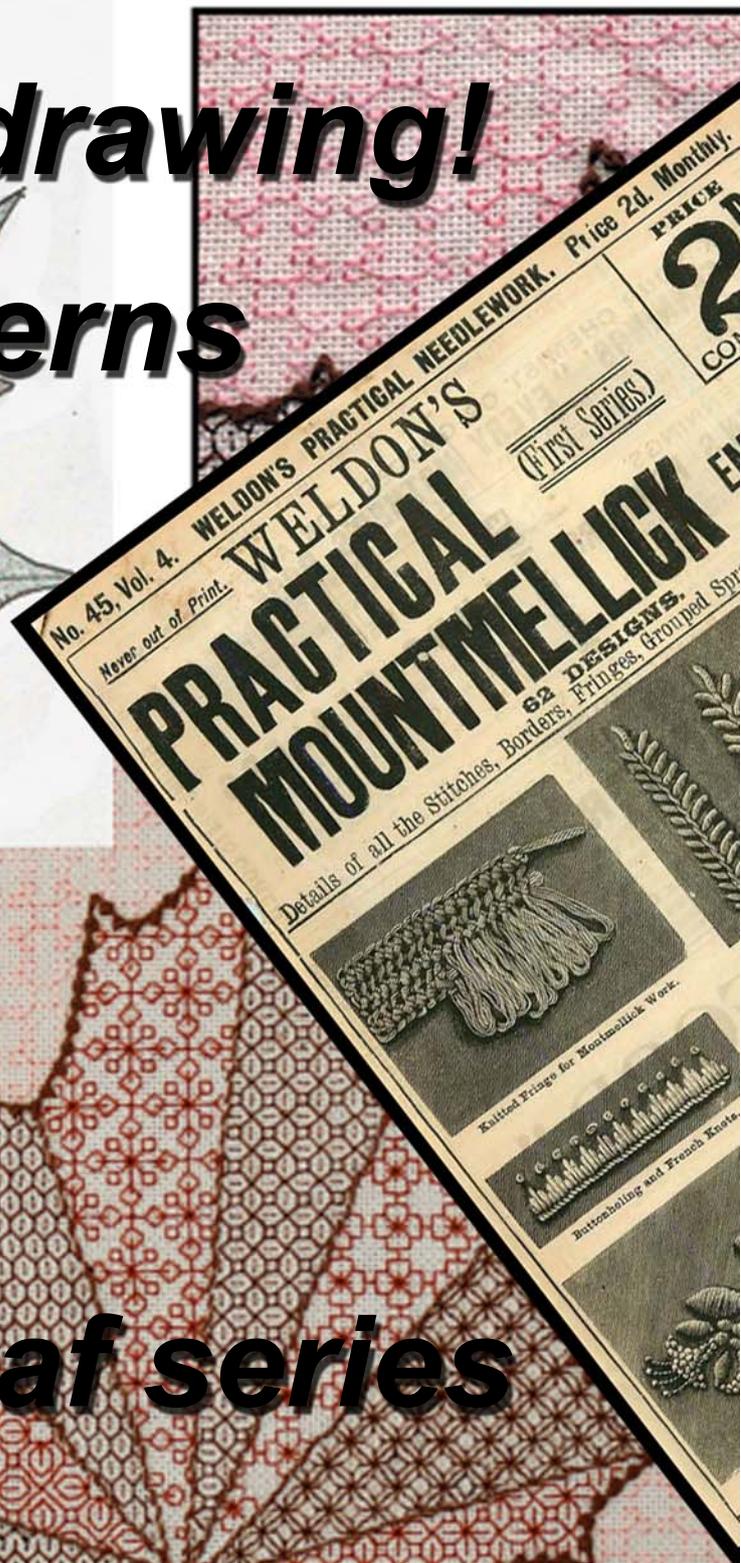




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Line drawing! Antique Patterns



Autumn leaf series

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Creating a Line Drawing out of a Photograph

Changing a photograph into a sketch for use in embroidery is a simple process if you have the right software.

I use Adobe Photoshop to turn my photographs into ink style drawings, but if Adobe Photoshop is not available, there is a free programme called Gimp.

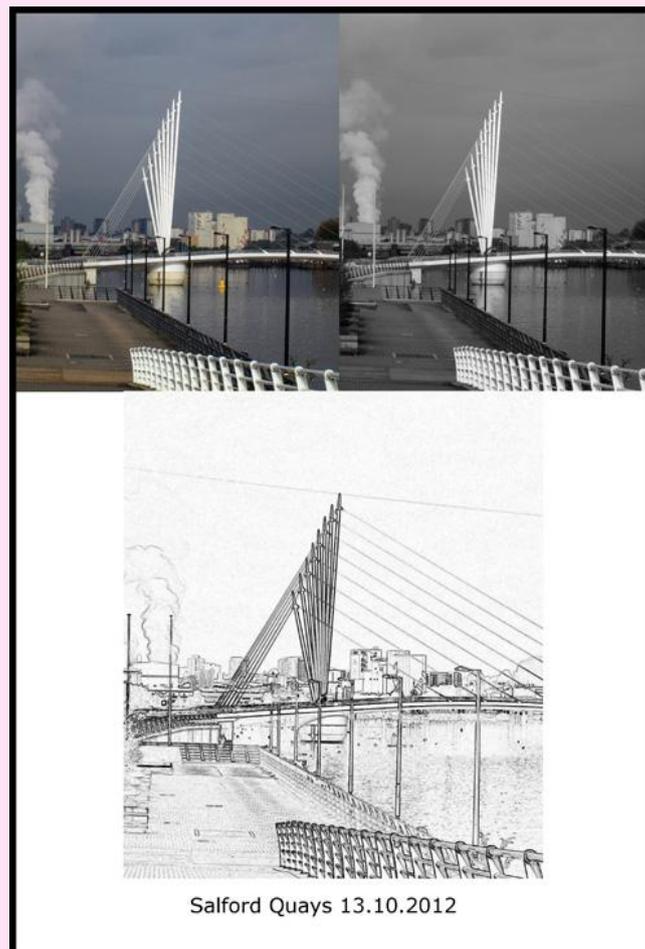
www.gimp.org

This can be downloaded and works in a similar manner to Adobe Photoshop.

Tutorials for both Gimp and Photoshop are widely available on the internet and by clicking on to www.youtube.com

How do you make a start on changing a photograph into a line drawing?

Let's follow the process in simple stages to turn a photograph of a bridge in an industrial area into a line drawing suitable for blackwork embroidery.



a. Import the photograph into Photoshop or Gimp

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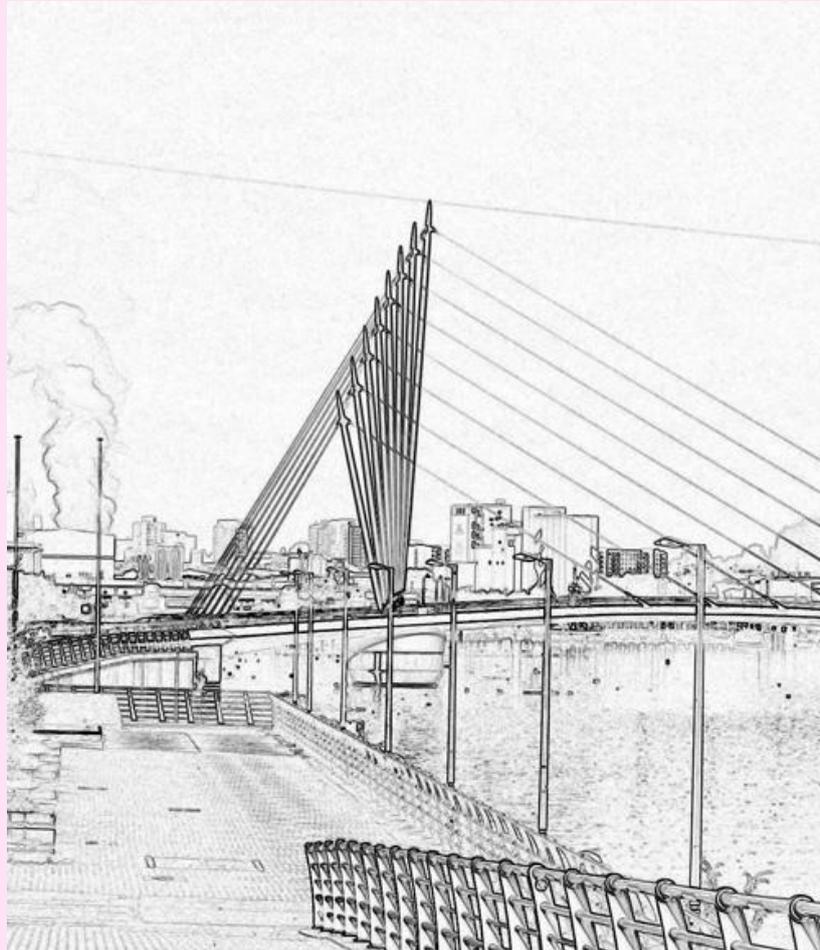


- b. Using the toolbar at the top of the screen go to Layer > Duplicate layer. Work on the duplicate layer to keep the original image intact.
- c. Next to the Layer button is the Image button. Click on: Image > Adjustments > Desaturate. and the photograph will become black and white.



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d. Next go to Filter > Stylize > Fine edges
This will create a “pencil drawing”.



e. Now improve the effect by going to: Image > Adjustments. Go to Brightness/Contrast
f. The next stage is to adjust the Brightness to 20 and the Contrast to 80+
Filter > Sharpen > Sharpen More
Move the slider to create the effect required.

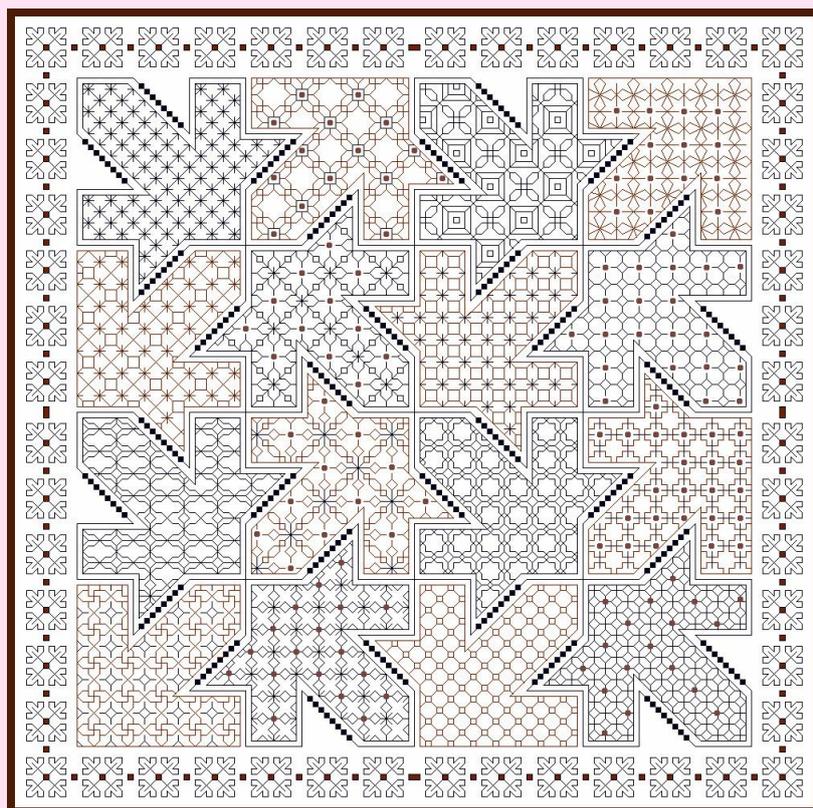
The process is both simple and effective and produces a drawing which is suitable for blackwork embroidery.

Autumn Leaf Series

Moving once again to the theme of autumn leaves and new threads, CH0310 Maple Leaves and CH0312 Acer Leaf have been added to my site this month. The maple leaf is part of the national flag of Canada and is a feature of the "Fall" in the eastern states of America when the leaves can be seen in their full autumn splendour.

Scarlet swamp maples and purple sumac, crimson dogwood and golden ginkgo, bright yellow hickory and purplish viburnum, the wave of colour starts in Canada, moves into New England and across the Great Lakes and continues down into the mountains of the South. Warm days followed by chilly nights provide the catalyst and the transformation can be startling. One day leaves are green, the next day they are transformed into muted golds and browns.

CH0310 Maple Leaves is a geometric counted thread blackwork design worked in two autumnal colours. The pattern could be altered for any season by changing the colours. Each leaf could be different to reflect the different seasonal tones and whilst I created the design, it is your personal imagination that defines the finished embroidery!

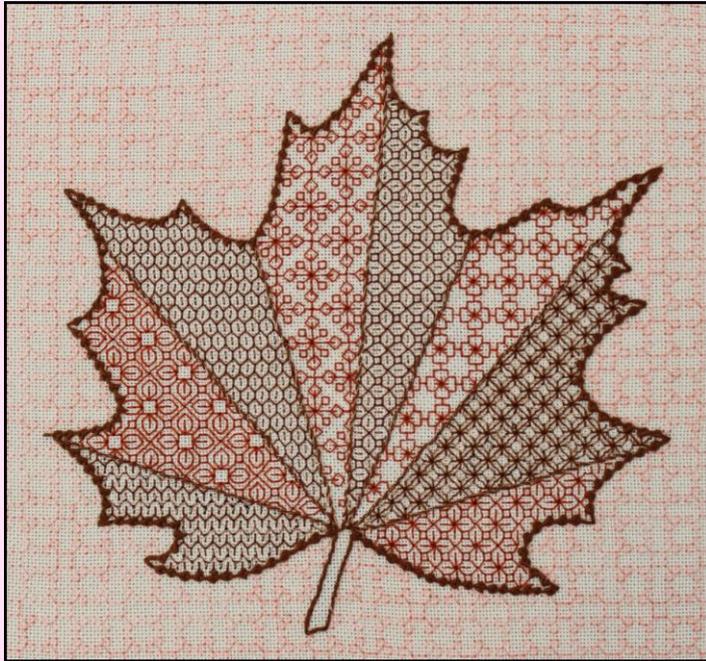


CH0310 Maple Leaves geometric blackwork

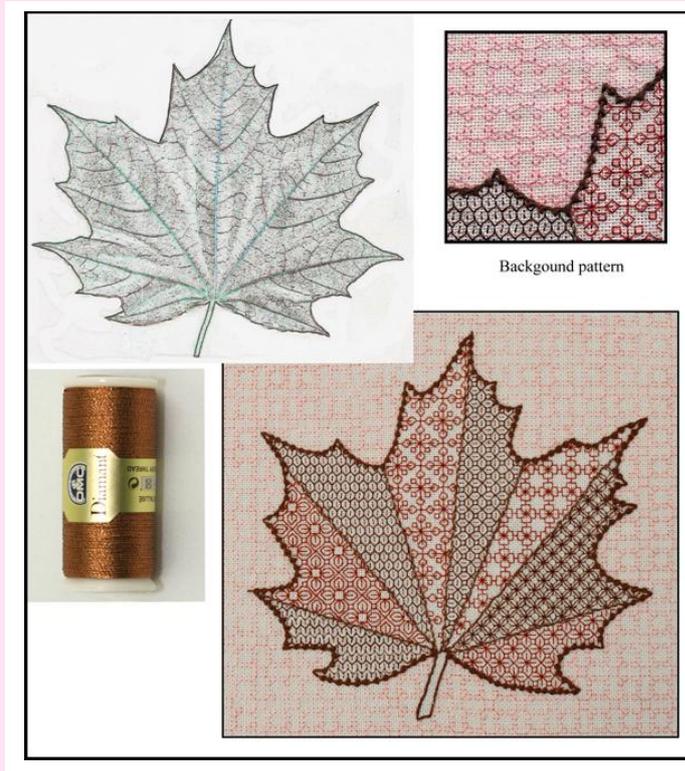
CH0312 Acer Leaf is a freestyle blackwork design worked on 28 count ecru evenweave using DMC and Dinky Dye threads and Diamant metallic in copper. The leaf was picked from the tree in a garden, scanned into the computer and used to create the line drawing. The outline of the leaf was worked in double knotted stitch to create texture and the veins were worked in whipped back stitch. Once the outline was stitched the eight different fillers were

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added. The delicate background pattern was worked in one strand of Dinky Dye pure silk which added lustre and interest to an otherwise plain area.



CH0312 Acer Leaf – delicate background emphasises the textured leaf edge which is worked in double knot stitch.



I have really enjoyed the freedom of working this series of freestyle designs. Areas are drawn, outlined and filled rather than counting the stitches on the pattern. Stitching curves, circles and arches are much simpler to do in this manner and more accurate. The secret is to follow the line of the drawing exactly with the needle, splitting threads if necessary and for this reason; it is not usually worked on Aida because it would mean splitting the blocks!

Antique patterns

These are always interesting to look through to compare the materials and threads used with those available today. Weldon's magazines have always provided a wealth of information on different techniques and since I possess a number of them I thought I would do a little research into their founder and share one of the magazines with you.

Walter Weldon (1832–1885) was an English chemist, journalist and fashion publisher. He founded Weldon's Fashion Journal, Weldon's Patterns and Weldon's Household Encyclopaedia.

His publications in the late 1800's were through Weldon & Company, a pattern company who produced hundreds of patterns and projects for numerous types of Victorian needlework. Weldon's Ladies' Journal (1875–1954) supplied dressmaking patterns and was a blueprint for subsequent "home weeklies".

Around 1888, the company began to publish a series of books entitled Weldon's Practical Needlework, each volume consisting of the various newsletters (one year of publications) bound together with a cloth cover and costing 2 shillings and 6 pence. Paper editions on different techniques became very popular and I have collected a number of them. The Practical Needlework Series included one on Mountmellick Embroidery.



Practical Mountmellick Embroidery

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The contents of Weldon's Practical Needlework provide a fascinating insight into the world of the Victorian needlewoman. She was expected to be proficient in many of these skills as well as managing a household!

Weldon's Practical Needlework Volume 1 - practical knitting, patchwork & crochet, stitches explained.

Volume 2 - stocking knitter, cross-stitch embroidery, crewel work, bazaar articles, knitting, crochet, smocking, appliqué work, netting, lace, crochet edgings, knitting edgings.

Volume 3 - lace shawls, crocheted evening bags using macramé cord (corday).

Volume 4 - knitting, crochet, Mountmellick embroidery, smocking, tatting, decorative needlework, beadwork, macramé lace.

Volume 5 - knitting, Mountmellick, crochet, drawn thread work, netting.

Volume 6 - crochet, knitting, ivory embroidery, canvas embroidery, jewelled embroidery, patchwork, linen embroidery, Mountmellick embroidery, macramé lace.

Volume 7 - crinkled paper work, knick-knacks, ivory embroidery, knitting, crochet, church embroidery, Mountmellick embroidery, Japanese curtain work.

Volume 8 - crochet, Hungarian embroidery, church decorations, crinkled paper work, Mountmellick embroidery, knitting, Bulgarian embroidery.

Volume 9 - plain needlework, stock knitting, Mountmellick embroidery, crinkled and crepe tissue paper work, knitting, monograms & initials.

Volume 10 - appliqué embroidery, crochet, knitting, leather work, pincushions, point lace, ribbon plaiting.

Volume 11 - bent iron work, crochet, knitting, macramé & bead work, point lace, stocking knitter, torchon lace.

Volume 12 - crochet & knitted waistcoats, drawn thread work, knitting, Mountmellick embroidery, smocking, stocking knitter.

Weldon's

Practical Mountmellick Embroidery can now be found in 'Techniques' TQ0017

I hope you enjoy exploring this month's blog and find time to sit in the garden and stitch whilst the sun is shining!

Happy stitching!

Liz