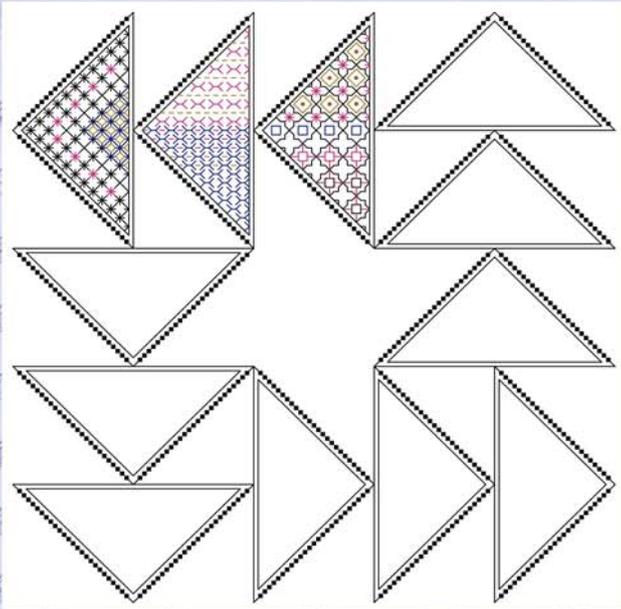




Blackwork Journey Blog

April 2024

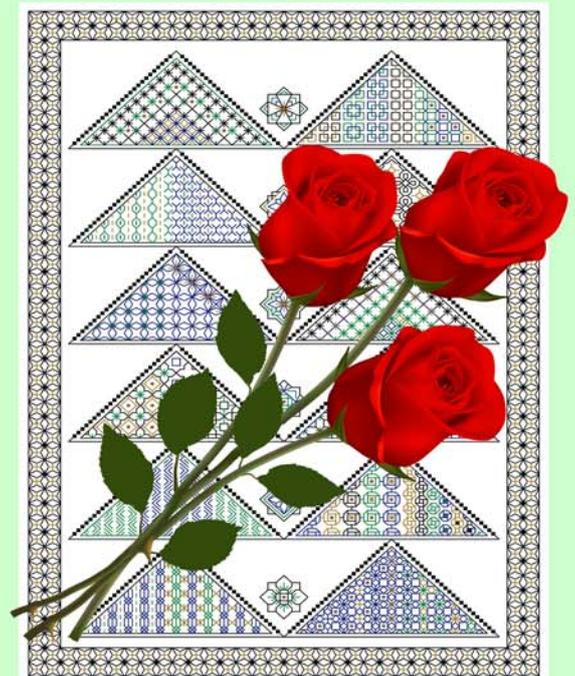
Flying Geese Part 2



6 Part free project
based on
EB0029 Triangle Trail

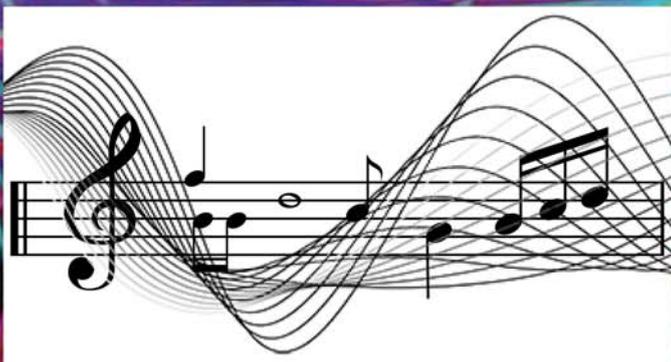


Blackwork Band Sampler Part 1



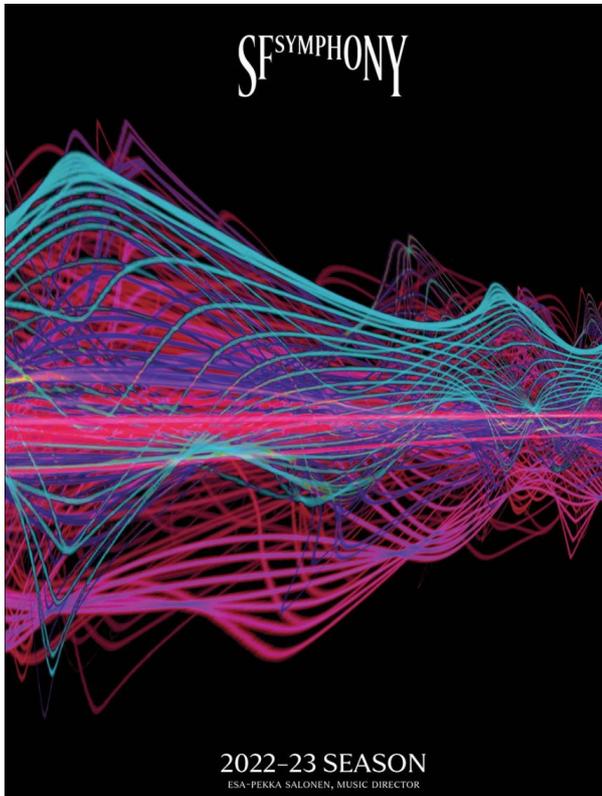
Blackwork Journey SAL

2024 ©



Looking back over the month of March and forward to Spring!

When I write my Blog for the month, I not only look forward to events in the coming month, but also look back at the previous month to see what has been achieved. March has kept me busy with teaching around the country and I have visited several very interesting exhibitions which have given me ideas and inspiration. My teaching will continue throughout April and the rest of the year, so I will keep busy preparing kits and designs for these enjoyable events where I will, no doubt, meet many new friends and see new ideas.



'Rhythm of Life' - Inspiration for an exhibition.

In April there will be an exhibition at Astley Hall in Chorley, Lancashire, UK called the 'Rhythm of Life' and member of my local textile group have been invited to submit work for the exhibition.

I have been working on two pieces for this event and found inspiration from the sound waves from this San Francisco Symphony Orchestra concert programme cover that reminded me of rhythm and warp and weft threads!

This brochure design featured on posters around the city and was particularly striking and I subsequently came up with this design to reflect the 'Rhythm of Life' theme of the exhibition.



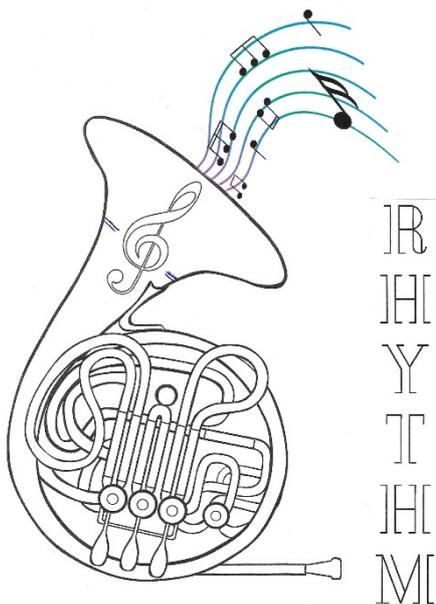
My initial thoughts were to superimpose sound waves over music and embroider the design on to linen fabric, but having tried a sample on linen I changed the fabric to a medium weight pre-washed calico in cream. The fabric weave was loose enough to allow the threads to pass through easily.

Medium weight pre-washed calico is a good base for free style embroidery which I am now using more and more as I like the texture and the way it handles.



Sound Waves 1

As you probably know, music is written over five lines and four spaces called a stave or staff and I stitched the lines first in stranded floss and whipped the lines. I then added the treble clef and the notes. Cotton P rle No.8 was used for the sound waves and I picked up on the colours from the orchestra program.



The second piece, Sound Waves 2 is a line drawing of a French horn emitting sound waves. I designed this as our son is a professional horn player and the instrument has some interesting shapes. I used white pre-washed calico for the background and a selection of different threads and beads to create the sound waves.

I started with a line drawing with the word 'Rhythm', treble clef and music notes to give me an idea, but then decided it was too fussy and settled for a simpler design.

The font in the original sketch is called 'London' which I often use in embroidery and quilting. The clean lines are easy to work in a variety of embroidery stitches both textured and smooth, but it was too dominant, so I settled for the horn and the soundwaves without the script.



Sound Waves 2



Coach House Gallery, Astley Hall, Lancashire, UK

THE RHYTHM OF LIFE

Textile Art Exhibition

26 April - 19 May 2024

Viewing each Friday
Saturday & Sunday
11.00 - 4.00pm

Coach House Gallery
Astley Hall Chorley

A joint exhibition of work from
Ribble Creative Stitchers
Bolton Stitch & Textile

FREE ENTRY

POP-UP SHOP

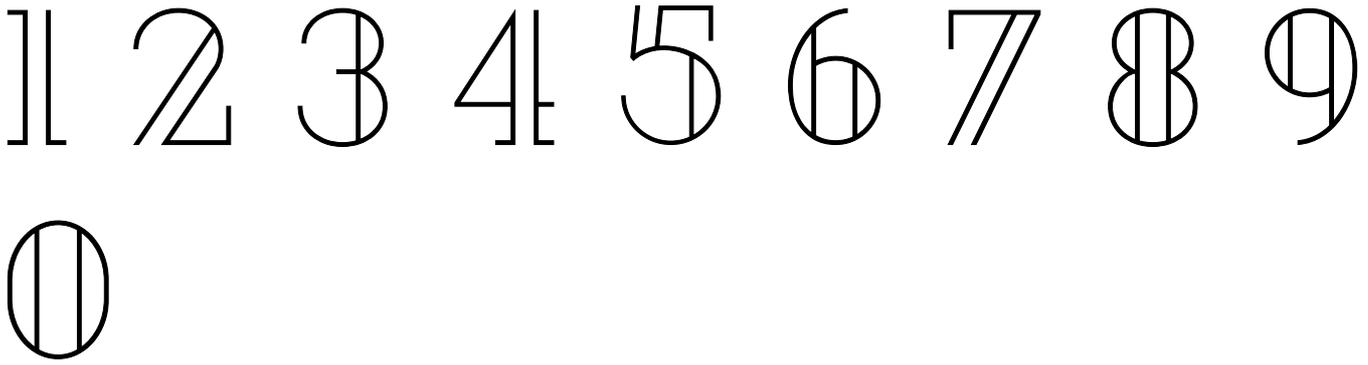
Lettering for Embroidery and Quilting

Looking at the font used in the poster 'Rhythm of Life' made me aware of how many different typefaces can be adapted for embroidery and quilting. Most of them can be downloaded to the computer and resized. There are numerous fonts already installed on computers.

Specialist fonts can also be downloaded free or for a small fee at www.dafont.com or www.1001freefonts.com/computer-fonts.php

London Font

Aa Bb Cc Dd Ee
Ff Gg Hh Ii Jj
Kk Ll Mm Nn
Oo Pp Qq Rr Ss
Tt Uu Vv Ww
Xx Yy Zz



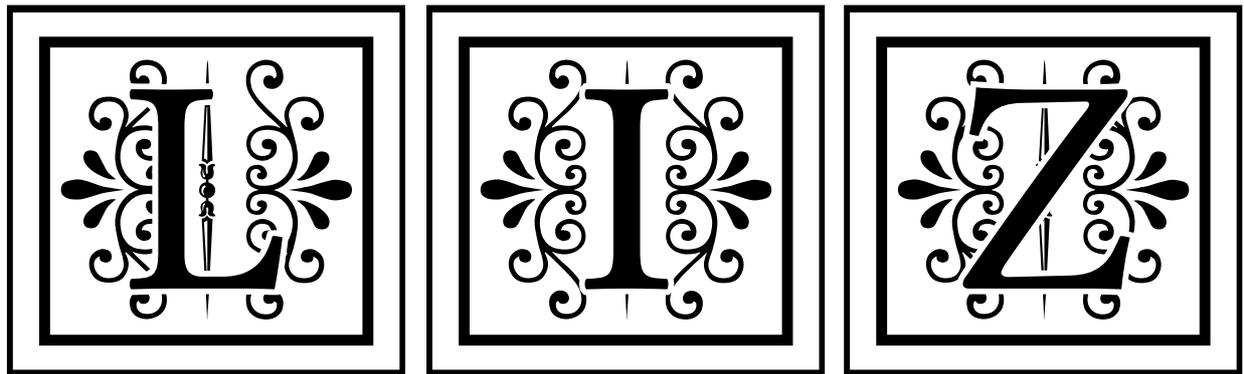
Adenium Monogram by Mozatype

24,141 downloads (80 yesterday) Free for personal use - 2 font files



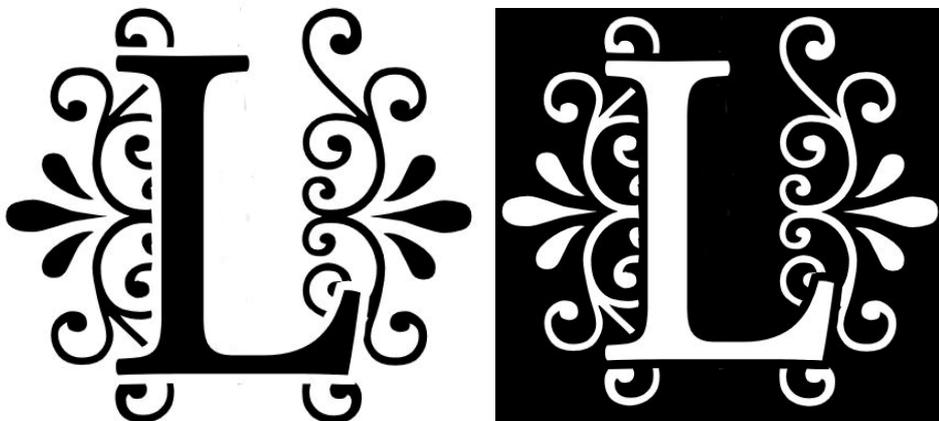
Download

Donate to author



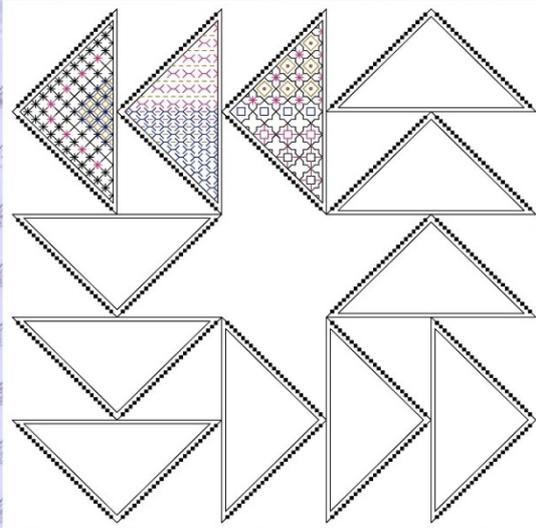
Apex Lake

For example, I often use these for initials and monograms:



Work the letter outline in back stitch and whip. Fill with satin stitch, seeding or beads or, work the letter outline and background and leave the letter void as in Assisi embroidery.

Flying Geese Part 2

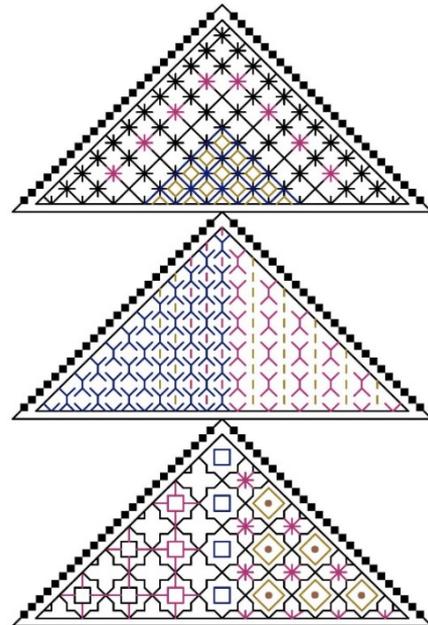


6 Part free project
based on
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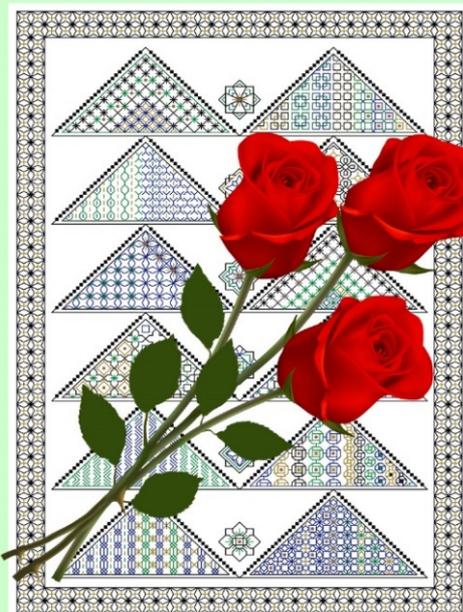
FR0193 Flying Geese Part 2

This is the second part of the free project for Blackwork Journey readers. You will find it in the 'Freebies' section, so just click on it to download in the usual way.

Follow the chart carefully to add the filler patterns.



Blackwork Band Sampler Part 1



Blackwork Journey SAL
2024 ©

Free SAL for Facebook Members

Take the challenge – a new free blackwork SAL starting 30th March 2024.

There has been so much interest in EB0029 'Triangle Trail' that I added a six-part free design in 'Freebies' on the Blackwork Journey website which started in March. However, I have also decided to add a Blackwork Band Sampler Sal for the Facebook groups starting at Easter.

There are twelve different blackwork triangles and six motifs to explore. Each triangle has two or more variations to challenge the embroiderer. No two pieces of embroidery will be the same. For those who want to follow the designs as they have been worked should just follow the instructions for the triangles. However, some may wish to make their own choices and decisions.

Blackwork Journey Blog, April 2024

How to join in the free project:

Each week, one triangle will be added to the 'Box of Delights' Facebook group. The first part and list of fabric and threads will be added on Saturday 30th March and every Saturday thereafter for 12 further weeks.

To access the SAL you will need to join the group. Just type this in into the address bar:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/blackworkjourney> and look for 'Box of Delights Stitch-A-Long'

Designed by Elizabeth Almond.

All the parts will be posted on the 'Box of Delights' Facebook site.

I would be delighted if pictures of your work in progress are posted on the site to encourage other readers to try this wonderful type of embroidery.

The first part of the 'Blackwork Band' Sampler SAL will be posted in the 'Box of Delights' Facebook group on Saturday 30th March just in time for Easter.

This will provide you with a list of what you will need and how the pattern will be positioned on the fabric etc. Go through your stash to see what you already have.



To save ink and paper only print the charts each week and try to keep the rest of the SAL on the computer or tablet.

Salford Museum and Art Gallery - 'A Fancy Dress Ball' a hidden Treasure by Perigal!



'A Fancy Dress Ball' 1828 painting by Arthur Perigal (1784 -1847)

Most towns and cities have museums and art galleries often financed by wealthy benefactors. Salford near Manchester in the UK is no exception and when I went to visit a textile exhibition there recently, I

discovered a wonderful painting which as lovers of embroidery and needlework, I am sure you would appreciate. The individual characters and the detailed costumes were fascinating.



Extract from the painting

The painting is called 'A Fancy Dress Ball' by Perigal and depicts a soirée at the Manchester Music Festival to raise money for local charities. It was held at the Theatre Royal on Peter Street in Manchester at the end of 1828.

This was one of the most extravagant fancy dress balls ever held in Manchester and possibly in provincial Britain and filled the Theatre Royal with the wealthy and fashionable people in the city and beyond. The 400 guests who attended the ball paid for their image to be added to the painting and included the first Lord Mayor of Manchester, Thomas Potter, the future first MP for Manchester, Mark Phillips, Iron-founders such as the Galloway family and the textile magnate families of the Behrens, Houldsworths, McConnells, Tootals and Watts. Some of these manufacturers still exist today.

The architect Richard Lane also attended as did the editor of the Manchester Guardian, John Edward Taylor. The guest of honour was the Home Secretary, Robert Peel, who was dressed in a fine French court dress. Perigal himself went rather humbly as an old gentleman of George II's time.



The Manchester Guardian report related that the dresses were almost without exception of the richest and most costly description. There was a preponderance of brilliant coloured silks, plumes of feathers, gold, silver and other things calculated to dazzle the eye.

The large oil on canvas painting was raffled and won by a local man, Mr Peacock, who appears dressed as the Knave of Hearts. In 1852 he presented it to Salford. The painting was conserved in 1994 and can now be seen hanging in the Museum.

I hope you have enjoyed this month's Blog.

If you have any queries, please contact:
lizalmond@blackworkjourney.co.uk

Happy Easter, *Liz*



Easter bunny by svstudioarton Freepik