

# The Techniques of Indian Embroidery

Anne Morrell

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**Anne Morrell : The Techniques of Indian Embroidery** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Techniques of Indian Embroidery:

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. A welcome, innovative approach to embroidery studies. By CAYU This book closely reflects Professor Anne Morrell's particular interest in the development of stitches. Too often, books are crammed with fascinating historical facts about embroideries, but frustrate the embroiderer by making little attempt to analyse how they are made, or to work out the individual stitches. Here the various stitches are closely examined, showing working examples of them, including how they look on the back, so that one can take the photographs and compare them with an actual piece of embroidery - to 'put it under the microscope' and work out precisely how it was done. This exercise in itself teaches a great deal about the Indian approach to embroidery and helps to identify antique pieces. These stitch samplers indicate the detailed analysis Anne Morrell has done of Indian work, and set a wonderful example to all students of historical embroidery. India is an enormous country, so it is perhaps surprising to learn that embroidery is concentrated in certain areas. The wide variety of techniques used illustrate vividly India's position on trade routes from East to West, with strong influences from China, Persia and Europe. Embroidery varies from the opulent articles for imperial courts to the vivid folk embroidery that reflects the religious beliefs and symbolism of the Indian tribes and still plays an important role in the way of life. This is amplified in the historical background. Each technique is then considered in detail, each section being well illustrated, often with very clear close-ups of the embroidery to show the stitches. Techniques covered are stitches, quilting, darning and pattern darning, counted thread work, whitework, mirrorwork, metal work, embroidery with a hook, applique and

patchwork, the breadth of which indicates the rich heritage of India. This book makes an invaluable addition to the corpus of work on Indian embroidery. 19 of 19 people found the following review helpful. An innovative and welcome approach to embroidery studies. By CAYU This book closely reflects Anne Morrell's particular interest in the development of stitches. Too often, books are crammed with fascinating historical facts about embroideries, but frustrate the embroiderer by making little attempt to analyse how they are made, or to work out the individual stitches. Here the various stitches are closely examined, showing working examples of them, including how they look on the back, so that one can take the photographs and compare them with an actual piece of embroidery to 'put it under the microscope' and work out precisely how it was done. This exercise in itself teaches a great deal about the Indian approach to embroidery and helps to identify antique pieces. These stitch samplers indicate the detailed analysis Anne Morrell has done of Indian work, and set a wonderful example to all students of historical embroidery. India is an enormous country, so it is perhaps surprising to learn that embroidery is concentrated in certain areas. The wide variety of techniques used illustrate vividly India's position on trade routes from East to West, with strong influences from China, Persia and Europe. Embroidery varies from the opulent articles for imperial courts to the vivid folk embroidery that reflects the religious beliefs and symbolism of the Indian tribes and still plays an important role in the way of life. This is amplified in the historical background. Each technique is then considered in detail, each section being well illustrated, often with very clear close-ups of the embroidery to show the stitches. Techniques covered are stitches, quilting, darning and pattern darning, counted thread work, whitework, mirrorwork, metal work, embroidery with a hook, applique and patchwork, the breadth of which indicates the rich heritage of India. This book makes an invaluable addition to the corpus of work on Indian embroidery. 19 of 19 people found the following review helpful. Rich, diverse, exploratory, fascinating. By Fitzhardinge For centuries, India has been renowned for the richness and diversity of its embroidered textiles. Embroidery is part of the Indian way of life, and is in evidence everywhere: on clothes, adorning animals, in temples, homes and other buildings. In this book, Anne Morrell explores the many traditions of Indian embroidery, and its many techniques. She builds up a fascinating picture of the evolution in India, exploring the local traditions that make the work of each area unique, and looking at the way in which innovative stitches and designs have been added to those traditionally used to create new techniques and creative possibilities. She discusses the many different stitches and techniques in detail, including quilting, pattern-darning, counted-thread work, whitework, the enrichment of embroidery with mirrors, gold, silver and other metals, and applique and patchwork. Many of the historical and contemporary embroideries illustrated are accompanied by clear worked samples showing exactly how the different stitches can be achieved and then used to create exciting effects. A final section includes twenty individual stitches and the method of working them, so that the techniques explored throughout the book can be put into practice. This is an invaluable working guide for anyone interested in drawing on the wealth of Indian embroidery techniques for use in their own embroideries or in the study of ethnic textiles. Anne Morrell was born in Madras and has long been interested in the embroidered textiles of India. She was a lecturer at Goldsmiths' College in London before moving to the Manchester Metropolitan University, where she became a Principal Lecturer in the Department of Textiles and Fashion. In 1992 she was appointed Professor. She is the author of a number of books and articles on embroidery, [...] under the names Anne Butler or Anne Morrell. She has held exhibitions of her work in many different countries.

For centuries India has been renowned for the diversity, quality and richness of its embroidered textiles. This book explores the traditions and development of Indian embroidery techniques, showing how they can provide inspiration for Western embroiderers today. An introduction to the historical development of Indian textiles, including the influences of local and regional traditions, is followed by chapters exploring individual techniques, such as quilting, counted-thread work, shisha (mirror) work, metal work, beading, applique and patchwork. A useful list of suppliers and embroidery collections to visit completes the book.

From Booklist Detailed instruction is not Morrell's forte. Instead, as befits her scholarly training, she traces the origins and evolution of a variety of Indian stitcheries, noting influences from many parts of the globe. Included in her discourses are examinations of traditional embroideries, from applique and quilting to white work and counted threadwork, as well as the fabric embellishment most associated with Indian mirror or shisha work. Also included are a verbal description of the how-tos, occasional illustrations of the actual stitches, and color photographs of finished garments and accessories. Best consult general dictionaries of stitchery or specific books on Far Eastern embroidery for general education. Barbara Jacobs Interweave Press is the premier publisher of needlecraft reference books. Beautiful color close-ups of Indian embroidery samples garland a rich exploration of the techniques of Indian stitchery. Enjoy a working guide for any who would draw on these techniques for their own art, and appreciate the Madras-born author's special expertise. -- Midwest Book