



AIM – To design and construct an original fabric-covered box with at least one moving part and a small amount of embroidered embellishment. Acid free board is covered with fabric and stitched together to create a box with a lid. The focus is on mastering the construction of a box.

Students must make the preliminary 5 x 5cm box first; this will be started in the first lesson. Assessment is on the **construction and assembly** of the box and on the quality not the quantity of the embellishments.

Please note: All preparatory work (e.g. drawings, mock-ups, stitch plans, original source material) MUST be handed in for assessment or the work will not be marked.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA: Please see *Project Evaluation* sheet for details

DESIGN

- The box must include a lid, either hinged or lift-off.
- The box must include at least one other moving part, eg. a door or drawer.
- You will need to discuss the size and proportions with your tutor; **however we suggest the box is not made too large.**
- It is important to focus on the construction of the box and a minimal amount of appropriate embellishment.

TIPS

- Complete the small box before completing your plan for the large box; this gives you a good idea of how the construction works.
- Choose fabrics that are not too thin, as the corners of the card may show through.
- Card must be cut accurately. It is best to use a sharp knife.
- Cover the board with fabric on the grain.
- Stitching needs to be small, tight and secure using a single Gütermann polyester thread and a curved needle.
- Label each piece of board clearly (on the back with pencil) so there is no confusion when making up.
- To help with sizes and proportions, a thin cardboard mock-up must be constructed.
- Areas that are stitched, especially if heavily embellished will probably need to be laced around the card, tape will not be secure enough. By lacing you should ensure all areas of the fabric are pulled tight.
- A layer of padding underneath bulky embroidery will give a smoother effect.
- Wadding or felt may be used for the inside of the box for a cushion effect. This must be cut smaller than the card to avoid extra bulk when constructing the box.

MATERIALS

- Mountboard (usually grade C, supplied by RSN)
- A medium fabric such as cotton or silk dupion
- Gutermanns polyester thread in a matching colour
- Craft felt, wadding (optional)
- Strong double sided tape, (approx 10mm wide)
- Curved needle
- Other fabrics, threads, beads, ribbons, etc. which may be needed for embellishment.

2019-2020
ACADEMIC YEAR

ROYAL SCHOOL OF NEEDLEWORK

DIPLOMA

CREATIVE BOX



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BOOKS

- Jane Lemon 'Embroidered Boxes and Other Construction Techniques' IS
BN: 0-571-11606-x

STOCKISTS

- The Royal school of Needlework
- MacCulloch and Wallis. Dering St, London. (nr Oxford St) www.macculloch-wallis.co.uk
- The Silk Route (Silk dupion) www.thesilkroute.co.uk
- Creative Quilting, East Molesey (good range of fabrics) www.creativequilting.co.uk
- EKA, East Molesey (Double sided tape, thinner card for mock- up)
- Stef Francis 01803 323004 www.stef-francis.co.uk (space dyed threads and fabrics)



NAME.....

DATE.....

As you work your embroidery, please think about and record how you achieved the various assessment criteria listed below, and record why you made various decisions affecting your embroidery. These questions ask you to reflect on your embroidery work, which helps you gain a deeper understanding of what you have learned in class.

Please sign and date the form and hand it in with your work for assessment.

Assessment Criteria:

1. First Impressions

- The work is well presented and clean with no alien fibres /10
- Design lines and tacking threads are not visible/10
- The threads and fabrics are in good condition throughout and do not appear worn or distressed/10

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2. Design

- The design is appropriate to the technique /30
- The fabric choice is appropriate for the technique and does not cause distortion to the construction /20
- Any embroidery is worked appropriately for the technique and overall design; it should not detract from the construction of the box /15

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3. Construction

- The card is cut accurately and neatly with smooth, square edges /30
- The sides and base of the box fit together neatly /20
- The lid and any moving parts fit together neatly and work smoothly /20
- The slip stitches are small, secure and invisible /30
- The fabric is on the grain, taut and smooth throughout /20
- The fabric fully covers the card (no card shows at the corners due to over stretching the fabric or cutting fabric too small) /15

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The following questions encourage you to reflect on your embroidery work and your experience at the RSN. They provide helpful feedback so that we may continuously improve what we do. In order to provide anonymity, the following page is separate. Please sign and date the bottom of this page and hand in with your work.

Embroidery

What did you enjoy most in stitching this piece? Why?

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Did your decisions work well and are you satisfied with the results?

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What did you find most challenging in working this piece? Why?

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What, if anything, would you do differently in the future?

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Did the design evolve over time and were you influenced by your tutor, fellow-students or other source to develop your original ideas?

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The next time you employ this technique, what aspects of the design and/or embroidery will do you differently?

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Signed.....Date.....



Teaching & Environment

Which aspects of the teaching were particularly helpful to you in working this piece?

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Was any part of the teaching advice confusing or unhelpful in any way?

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Is there any advice or instruction that would have been helpful to you if it had been given during your classes?

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What is your opinion of the materials provided by the RSN for this project?

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Do you know of any additional resources (books, textiles collections, websites etc.) that will help future students in this technique?

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Did you enjoy the learning environment at the RSN? Is there anything we could improve?

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