

ROYAL SCHOOL OF NEEDLEWORK
ADVANCED DIPLOMA
ADVANCED CREATIVE BOX



AIM

To design and construct an original fabric-covered box with a range of moving parts and appropriate embroidery/embellishment which 'travels' successfully from one side of the finished box to at least one other side.

Students **must** make the preliminary 5 x 5cm box and the Diploma Box before attempting this module as this gives you a good idea of how the construction works. Assessment focuses on the **design, construction, embroidery/embellishments and assembly** of the box.

Please note: All preparatory work (e.g. drawings, mock-ups, stitch plans, original source material) **MUST** be handed in for assessment.

DESIGN

The box must include all of the following*:

- Lids
 - hinged with fabric
 - fitted (over or flush (can be inset flush))
 - lift-off (flat)
- Moving Parts
 - Door(s)
 - Drawer(s)
 - Tray(s)
- Hidden Element - for example:
 - Secret drawer
 - False bottom compartment
 - Concealed item

*Any aspects of construction which are impossible to incorporate into the design must be worked as a separate sample/teaching aid and handed in with the main project. You will need to discuss the size and proportions with your tutor; however we suggest the box is not made too large.

PREPARATION

Before your first class, your tutor will need to have an understanding of your design choice. Be prepared with a first, second and third choice so that you can both negotiate the best option during scheduled initial discussions. Once you have agreed your design, please complete all of your preparatory drawings to the highest accuracy you can and ensure you have a notebook, pencil and calculator in readiness at all times during class. Your tutor will review your drawings and may make suggestions at this stage.

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

ADVANCED CREATIVE BOX

Assessment is on the **design, construction, embroidery/embellishments and assembly** of the box.

MATERIALS

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

TO BE HANDED IN WITH FINISHED BOX:

- Original source image(s)
- Design sketches/drawings (for box and embellishment)
- Preliminary 5 x 5cm box
- Timesheet
- Materials list
- Self-evaluation form
- Individual Learning Plan

TIPS

- Complete the small preliminary box and the Diploma box before completing your plan for the more comprehensive 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 Güttermann 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.

BOOKS

RSN: Embroidered Boxes Techniques, projects & pure inspiration by Heather Lewis

Embroidered Boxes & Other Construction Techniques by Jane Lemon

2023-2024
ACADEMIC YEAR

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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)

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ADVANCED CREATIVE 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.

BOOKS

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

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