



**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. Designs should not be directly copied from other sources; referencing, interpreting or stylising shapes or designs is acceptable however designs should be original you, which your tutor will encourage you to do.

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.

**2024-2025**  
ACADEMIC YEAR

**ROYAL SCHOOL OF NEEDLEWORK**

**DIPLOMA**

**CREATIVE BOX**



Patron: HRH The Duchess of Cornwall  
President: HRH The Duchess of Gloucester



**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

**STOCKISTS**

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