

Good Embroidery Practices for C and D students

Try to incorporate the following good practice into your work. If these actions become second nature they will enhance the quality of your work.

- Always ensure fabric is on the grain when attaching it to the slate frame.
- The slate frame should be drum tight except when applying one fabric to another. It is good practice to tighten the frame prior to each session of work.
- Protect your work and keep it clean using acid-free tissue paper.
- Take time to do the preparatory work as well as you can. It will support your learning and it may save time later.
- Take time to sample stitches and techniques. This can be done on the side of the frame or on a separate ring frame. Make sure you sample on the right fabric for the technique, otherwise the results may not be accurate.
- All design lines (whether paint, blue pencil, fine liner etc.) should be as fine as possible. Practise painting lines on scrap fabric. All design lines need to be covered by stitch.
- Every time a thread goes through fabric it gets worn away a little. For this reason it is best to use short threads and refresh them frequently. Threads should be no longer than finger to elbow length to ensure they remain in good condition. Discard any threads that look uneven, lumpy etc.
- Starting and finishing stitches should be as small as possible and hidden in areas to be stitched over e.g. areas to be filled with solid stitch or design lines. If no such areas are available threads can be woven securely into the back of the work.
- If using more than one needle, e.g. when shading, bring the needles and threads not in use to the top of the work. This avoids creating tangles underneath. Park them in areas that are still to be stitched.
- Do not park any needles in fabric that is not to be covered by stitch. If a mark is made it can be hard to disguise.