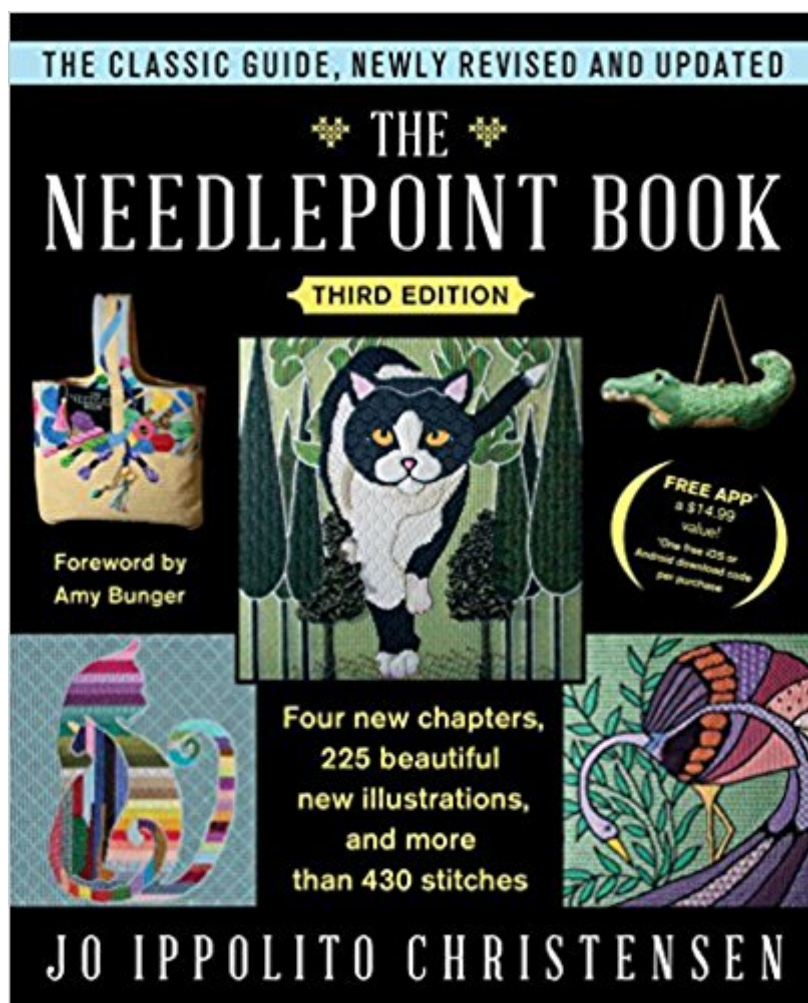




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# The Needlepoint Book: New, Revised, And Updated Third Edition



## Synopsis

The Needlepoint Book is the only needlework guide you'll ever need – now including 436 stitches and 1,680 illustrations. Since its original publication in 1976, The Needlepoint Book has become known as the bible for all stitching enthusiasts – the one resource for every needlepoint aficionado. Whether you're new to the craft or have been practicing for years, this guide covers your stitching journey from inspiration to achievement with specific guidelines on how to make the painted canvas yours. Featuring all-new projects and stitch patterns for every level of expertise, you will learn practical skills, such as how to: - Choose your project with purpose - Tell its story with stitches and fibers - Create mood with color and texture - Fill that blank background - Select and use embellishments such as beads and sequins Included in this revised and expanded edition is a crash course on how to use new fibers; updated information on materials, as well as how to work with and care for them; dozens of new stitches; and diagrams and stitch guides for select projects included in book. Also featured are thirty-two pages of color photographs with all-new projects; dozens of new stitches explained with photos and drawings; and a new ribbon stitch chapter. The Needlepoint Book is the one book to own on the topic. In one comprehensive volume, it has everything you'll need to create your own artistic, high-quality heirloom.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Even though the book is a reference, the text is enjoyable to read. Sage advice from Christensen

and a variety of other needle artists can be found throughout. Any crafter who loves needlepoint should have a copy of this work on their shelf. This is a welcome update to an excellent resource. An essential purchase for handwork collections." (Library Journal (starred review))

Jo Ippolito Christensen has been needlepointing for more than thirty years. She is the author of Teach Yourself Needlepoint, Needlepoint: The Third Dimension, The Needlepoint Scraps Book, and others. She lives in Alexandria, Virginia.

Before we get into a review of the contents, which are amazing, let's talk about the book itself. Yes it is over 500 pages, but the second edition was 428. Yes it is a hardbound book. You might be thinking that this would make it harder to use than a paperback. I did too. But actually it opens more completely, has a more flexible spine, and sits open perfectly flat. To get my paperback second edition to do this I had to have the spine cut off and a comb-binding added. This book is bound far better than most books these days and should hold up for years of regular use. Finally yes if you do buy the book, you will get a download for a free app that runs on iOS or Android. The app includes features the "Stitches," "Color," and "Ideas" sections from the book. If you look on at least it appears there are hardcover, paperback, and Kindle versions of the book currently available. This is not true. The only edition out currently is the hardcover, the other links point to the second edition. I thought there would never be a needlepoint book to take the place of my beloved first edition of The Needlepoint Book, but the third edition is, hands down, the best & most comprehensive needlepoint book I have ever seen. From start to finish it's amazing. It is well-written and full of the kind of practical advice you would get from a stitching friend. No matter how long you've been stitching or how excellent a stitcher you might be, you'll find plenty to love in this book. The Needlepoint Book has always been more than just a bunch of stitches, with so much information about how to do needlepoint, but now it has changed into something really special. Jo has seen how we stitch now, i.e. painted canvases, and given us the most comprehensive guide in print on how to pick them, as well as how to approach and plan our stitching of them. Those are difficult concepts to convey, even more so to systematize into an approach that makes as much sense for a beginner as it does for an old hand. The first section covers the basics of needlepoint: materials, tools, and uses. For many items there are tables and lists that summarize information clearly. These summaries appear for many things in the book. They not only present the information clearly but they create a valuable

general reference to needlepoint; something our art mostly lacks. The second chapter in the first section covers basic procedures. In it you'll learn good habits for preparing your canvas, handling threads, and stitching. More advanced topics such as setting up the direction of your work properly and compensating stitches are not neglected here. Nor is the often ignored plastic canvas, you'll find good information for using this useful ground. The wonderful section on stitching your canvas is the second section of the book. Jo reorganized the book's chapters since the second edition and added four new chapters to create this new section. It takes you step by step through this process, beginning with a chapter on choosing a design. In seven chapters, you'll cover each aspect of the canvas from color to embellishments. While it's great to have this information laid out for you, it's far better to see the concepts in action. Throughout this section of the book Jo refers to the color plates of stitched needlepoint so you can see how these ideas and principles work out in real life on, mostly commercially painted canvases. Even so after reading the section I kept thinking that it was too much to keep in my head. And here's another place where Jo's analytical genius helps • she's added an eighth chapter to the section, "Putting It All Together," that has questions for each of the other chapters to help you work through the process for a canvas. After a short section on blocking and finishing that's full of useful advice, we get to the nearly 300-page stitch dictionary. Although there is only one additional chapter, on ribbon stitches, and only 60+ new stitches, the stitch dictionary feels greatly expanded. In some cases there is more explanation, but I think mostly it's in the layout. The diagrams in the third edition do not have borders around them while those in the second edition did. I don't know why, they are the same diagrams (I checked), but it makes them easier to read and understand. While the charts of stitch characteristics still appear at the beginning of each chapter, the stitches are listed in alphabetical order in the third edition, but were listed in order of appearance in the second. In both cases you will need to consult the stitch index to find where a stitch actually appears. New stitches are integrated nicely into the existing stitches so they appear with related stitches instead of at the end of each chapter. The chapter on ribbon stitches is new to this edition. Many of the stitches that appear are stitches you've already seen in other parts of the book, maybe even with the same stitch diagram. But stitches look different when you use ribbon. In this chapter the pictures of stitched samples really bring this home and will make it easy for you to find the right ribbon stitch. A big emphasis in the second edition was the small stitch maps for every color plate that were in the back of the book. In the third edition, far fewer get this treatment.

Because the emphasis in the second section of the book is on teaching you how to pick the stitches, threads, and so on, this makes good sense. It gives you enough of an idea to start you thinking about how you can apply this process. Quite simply I'm blown away by this book. If my arms would reach across the country, I'd give Jo a big hug. Since they don't I will just do this: Buy this book! Even if have to save up or not buy that canvas you had your eye on, you won't regret it one bit.

I have been enjoying needlework as a craft for almost 40 years and have, in fact, been made my living in the craft for more than 15 years. I have many books about needlework (with more of an emphasis on cross stitch as that is the medium I design in) and I have never seen a book more inclusive of such useful information. This book is truly a definitive work on stitches and materials. With all the many years that I have been working with needle and thread/yarn, there was so much in this book that was new and that I could use to learn and grow with. Once I was able to actually pre-order the book, I did so immediately. The author's foreword is extremely touching and explains why it has been quite a long time since this book was revised and updated. As a person with much more minor eye issues of my own, I could really feel for Ms. Christensen. On a personal level, I am thankful that her eyesight has improved enough for her to update this master work to include new information in the craft. The book itself - what can one say that has probably not already been said before. The book is exhaustive in its information: materials, stitches, techniques, etc. Some of the illustrations are not the best but they are all useable and show how long this book has been around in its prior revisions. It appears that the author wisely provided her additions in text to new information that would be helpful to needleworkers. I received a digital Advance Reader Copy of this book from the publisher via Netgalley. The copy that I received did not include the 32 pages of color photographs that are referred to in the blurb on . I have already pre-ordered a hardcopy of the book and will update this review regarding those photographs once I have received it. UPDATED: 4/28/15: I had pre-ordered the hardcopy and received it this afternoon. The color photography makes quite a statement as it is in a single area. The insert is between Chapter 3 Blocking and Finishing and Chapter 4 The Stitches. Towards the end of the book, there is an Appendix which discusses each of the photographed projects and identifies information pertinent to the project - when applicable, it identifies the stitch as well as the type of yarn/floss used in each segment of the project. When both the photograph and information are utilized together, it becomes a wonderful tool to show how stitch, fiber, and especially color make a difference in a project. It is a wonderful edition to a fantastic book. The hardcopy book is very nicely book together. It is quite sizable, as would be expect in a

book over 500 pages in length. I'm thrilled to have received my purchased copy so quickly and I plan to begin utilizing it in my up and coming projects.

Amazing! After being enchanted by Kaffe Fassett's "Glorious Needlepoint" book, I wanted to know more so I bought both this and "Donna Kooler's Encyclopedia of Needlework". They are both excellent but this book is specifically about needlepoint and serves up the subject like a great banquet. I don't know if I'll be able to work through all the carefully presented, well illustrated stitches in my lifetime, but I'm going to try. The color plates in the center of the book delight and amaze the onlooker with creativity and talent. They are truly works of art to aspire to. For added value and delight, the breakdown of each illustration can be found in the appendix, if one should aspire to produce similar works of art. There are no charted, "handed to you on a platter" projects but the author has presented you with a complete recipe and all the parts to enable you to create your own masterpiece from the bottom up. I'm so glad I got this.

If you want a pretty o.k. needlepoint stitch book, get the hardback. The Kindle version (which I bought, sadly) is nearly impossible to navigate. There are no page numbers, which makes the index completely useless. You can't turn back and forth to compare stitches either, unless you are very patient. You MUST use "location" to find anything in the index, and even then it's pretty much guessing. I'm keeping mine, because once I find the stitch I'm searching for, I can leave it open (until the Kindle turns itself off) to stitch by. Not a good match between product and person.

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