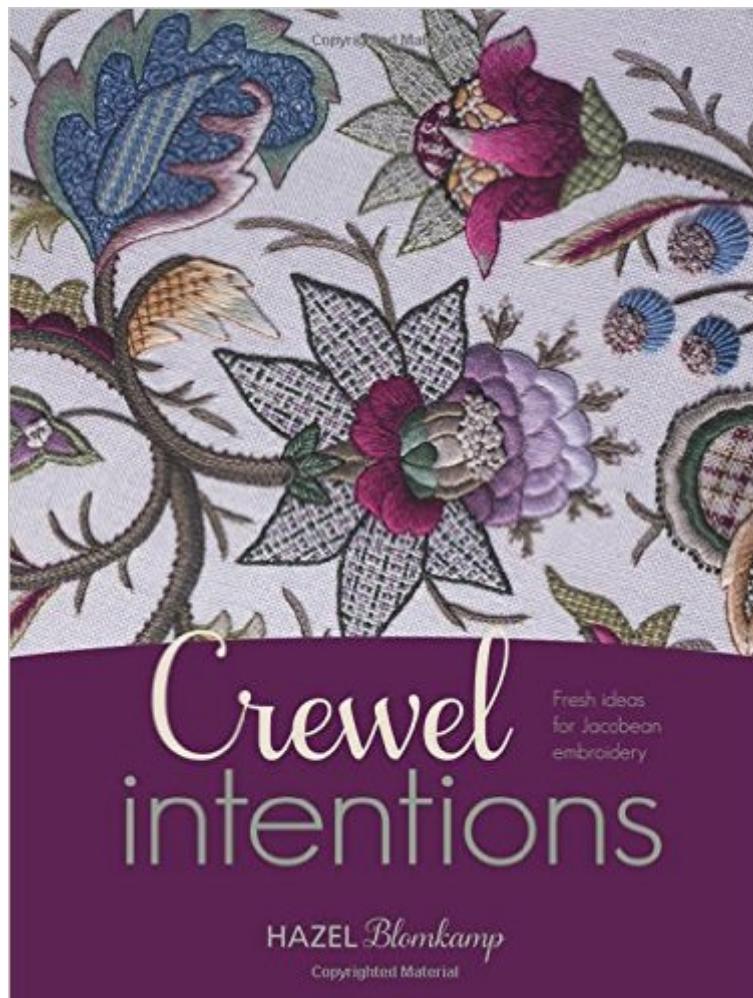


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# Crewel Intentions: Fresh Ideas For Jacobean Embroidery



## Synopsis

Keeping to a theme started in *Crewel Twists*, this book continues the concept of using non-traditional techniques and materials in crewel or Jacobean embroidery. It showcases four large projects, each with an accompanying small project similar in technique, and shows needle workers how to be creative with threads, alternative stitches and beads. Traditional techniques are explained but are extended with the use of bead embroidery, needle lace techniques, and stitches not normally used in crewel work. Many new needle lace and bead embroidery techniques are incorporated, and the book also explores weaving techniques used to create textures like twill and lace weaves, as well as patterns similar to tartan and houndstooth check. Every project is clearly explained with step-by-step instructions and lots of photographs, and the completed embroideries are once again displayed in ways that are both decorative and functional in the home. Templates of the original designs complete this magnificent source for creative embroidery.

## Book Information

Paperback: 160 pages

Publisher: Search Press (September 9, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1782211063

ISBN-13: 978-1782211068

Product Dimensions: 0.5 x 8 x 10.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars Â See all reviews Â (37 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #331,993 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #169 in Â Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Crafts & Hobbies > Needlecrafts & Textile Crafts > Embroidery

## Customer Reviews

What's "fresh" about Hazel Blomkamp's *Crewel Intentions - Fresh Ideas for Jacobean Embroidery*? The fact that it features crewel stitches at all is significant; there just aren't many crewel-based craft books published these days. Stylistically, the traditional designs here are revitalized, yet remain classic without being strictly Jacobean. However, despite being updated with today's materials and filler patterns such as checks and stripes, the resulting look is by no means fully "modern". Most refreshing is the attitude of both the author and her work. She's got a sense of humor: her previous book was titled *Crewel Twists*, after all. Blomkamp cares for her readers: the very first instructions involve eyesight and how to wrestle your optometrist (but only as much as needed) into giving you

what you might need. Some of us differently-sighted folks might benefit from a less-than-optically-ideal but dedicated set of bifocals specifically for chest-level arm's length needlework. It is suggested that you actually bring your hooped needlework to your next appointment, if applicable. (And perhaps for defense if your optometrist is a fighter.) Blomkamp's energized approach borrows from stumpwork, needle lace, and needle weaving. Not a single wool thread or fabric is used; instead, the projects use pre-washed Dupioni silk, hopsack, cotton/linen blends, and non-stretch taffeta. Novel yet tastefully restrained special effects are achieved with embellishments such as Miyuki beads, Swarovski rhinestones, and metallic threads. There are 7 lustrous and lovely projects with stitched areas ranging from about 3x5 inches to 10x8 inches. Some enlarging of the line drawings will be required.

I don't disagree with most of what the most helpful reviewer, Ms. Smith, says here. Yes, these designs are gorgeous. Yes the author shows a keen sense of humor and true caring for us humble stitchers. But...WOW...are these directions ever hard to follow!!! First off, you need to get this book, the precursor: *Crewel Twists: Fresh Ideas for Jacobean Embroidery* My review of that book applies to this one as well. As you can see from my profile pic, I adore the Tudors. Jacobean Embroidery followed quickly on the heels of Elizabethan embroidery and I'm a needlework fanatic, both in stitching and in reading about it. I adore reading about needlework history itself too. It's particularly exciting, then, to come across a beautiful book which, according to the dust cover, has as one purpose to bring Jacobean embroidery into the 21st century. Ya gotta love it. Any embroidery enthusiast who doesn't start drooling upon paging through the book is...well...I don't think that's available. The projects are just glorious, so colorful and wonderfully designed. Look closely at the cover to see the color gradations and symphony of flower design. But for your own sake (to save your sanity, really) hike right over the stitch gallery and look at the first project beginning on page 42. It's called "A Sherry for Jack" (???) and is labeled a "rectangular Jacobean panel." Except it's not rectangular at all--no corners--it's oval and is displayed in an oval tray. So right there...first pattern...not accurately described. Normally, I would not quibble about such a little detail.

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