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Hip to Stitch: Embroidery Back in Vogue for a New Generation

“The homespun craft of needlework is getting awfully chic...instead of cross-stitching throw pillows, [women] are creating fashion accessories such as belts, purses and bracelets, often decorated with their names or cutesy icons.” —*Newsweek*

Loveland, Colo.: Needlework is making a comeback and for good reason: it's fun, easy, and a great way to add personal touches to just about anything. **HIP TO STITCH: 20 CONTEMPORARY PROJECTS EMBELLISHED WITH THREAD** (Interweave Press, April 2005) by Melinda Barta features fresh, creative embroidery projects to bring style and wit into your home and wardrobe.

Not hip to what stitching entails? With only a needle, thread, and cloth you can embellish beautiful garments and décor for yourself, friends, and family. **HIP TO STITCH** does more than scratch the surface of embroidery. It explains the basic elements of the craft and offers a comprehensive beginner's class (or refresher course, for lapsed stitchers) with step-by-step instructions for 38 different stitch techniques—from the whip stitch to lazy daisy stitch. Barta encourages beginners to create a clever little stitch reference book to learn and practice the 12 basic stitches, including the simple bookbinding stitch. Made of wool felt, the stitch reference also comes in handy for storing needles, as the lanolin in the wool keeps them from corroding.

Then it's on to the projects: “*For Keeps*” are items you'll want for yourself, “*For Gifting*” are meaningful gifts that will be appreciated by friends and family, and “*For the Home*” are projects to personalize your home décor. Individual projects in **HIP TO STITCH** include stitched patterns and motifs to dress up your favorite shirt or jean jacket, hair ties, a guitar pick case, a whimsical baby bib, a butterfly picture frame, an heirloom scrapbook, embroidered pillows, gift tags and ribbons to

personalize presents, party invitations, tea towels, a cocktail party apron, napkins rings, and plenty of monogramming.

More than just a source for embroidery motifs, **HIP TO STITCH** shows you how to create the entire object—a handmade original from start to finish. Each project is presented with clear instructions and illustrations, and can be made as simple or ambitious as you like by experimenting with stitches and the number and placement of motifs. Even advanced stitchers are sure to find renewed inspiration in this fresh approach to embroidery.

Sidebars throughout **HIP TO STITCH** are teeming with helpful tips and hints and tricks-of-the-trade such as hiding knots and thread tails, how to sew a pocket, choosing durable stitches, and working with silk and wire. Also covered in detail are the basics of fabric stamping and dyeing, reverse appliqué, strip quilting, photograph transfers, sewing machine maintenance, hemming, and monogram design. Rounding out the book is a resource list for embroidery supplies.

PUBLICATION INFORMATION

HIP TO STITCH will be available in bookstores and craft shops nationwide in April 2005
Or order online at www.interweave.com, toll-free 1-800-272-2193
Published by Interweave Press, distributed to the book trade by IPG
\$19.95 U.S., \$27.95 Canada, £10.66 UK, ISBN 1-931499-60-8, 8 ½ x 9, 128 pages
Paperback original, 45 color photographs, 31 stitch illustrations, 46 pattern illustrations

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Melinda Barta received her BFA in fiber arts with a minor in apparel design from Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colorado. She is the projects editor of *PieceWork* magazine and her designs, which combine her love for historic textiles with contemporary needlework projects, regularly appear in the magazine.

ABOUT INTERWEAVE PRESS

In business since 1975, Interweave Press publishes magazines and books related to fiber, thread, needlework, beads, and natural living. Throughout Interweave's evolution, its publications have focused on natural materials and processes, a respect for "doing," and an appreciation of the fine, simple things in life. Interweave publishes seven magazines including *Beadwork*, *Handwoven*, *Interweave Knits*, *Natural Home & Garden*, *PieceWork*, *Spin•Off*—and its newest publication, *Fiberarts*, acquired in February 2004. Interweave is dedicated to creating a resource for its readers to find the best information in their field of interest—the latest news, the best products, the newest techniques, and the history behind the techniques.

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