

# THE WILTSHIRE GUILD OF SPINNERS, WEAVERS & DYERS

NEWSLETTER - SUMMER 2021



SUMMER - JUNE 2021

THE WILTSHIRE GUILD OF SPINNERS, WEAVERS & DYERS NEWSLETTER  
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1168349



## NEW MEMBERS

Watch this space for new members in the coming months.

## WEBSITE

Wiltshire Guild of Spinners, Weavers & Dyers

[www.wiltshireguildswd.org](http://www.wiltshireguildswd.org)

National Association of Guilds of Weavers, Spinners & Dyers

[www.wsd.org.uk](http://www.wsd.org.uk)

## CONTACT

To submit content for the newsletter please contact the editor Victoria Ross using [WGSWDnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:WGSWDnewsletter@gmail.com)

All submissions welcome.

Deadline for final submissions to the Autumn newsletter is Friday 10th September 2021

Cover image curtesy of Kathy Davis. Image description: different colour Alpaca fleece stored in paper bags. The fleece is from Alpaca Adventures.





# EDITOR'S LETTER

Hi All,

Welcome to the June edition of the Wiltshire Guild of Spinners, Weavers and Dyers newsletter. As I type it's 26°C and sunny and I hope you all have a chance to get out and enjoy the lovely weather.

We have some lovely pictures of members work this issue and a few technical bits on choosing colours for projects and how to do an Andean Plying bracelet. Excitingly there is also a YouTube video now live on the Guild channel for this tutorial. Please let us know if you found this a helpful addition to the tutorial and if there are any further techniques that members might like to see broken down into steps.

Thanks to May's change of Government guidelines our annual fleece sale can now take place in person and I am very much looking forward to attending and seeing people again. Kathy Davis and Janet Milner have been hard at work organising this event for us and I am sure you will join me in extending our thanks to them both.

As always the newsletter is very much a collaboration between us all and I would like to thank our contributors to this issue as well as Harriette Dottridge for her proofreading skills.

All the best

*Victoria*



# GUILD PROGRAMME

Please note due to the ongoing Covid-19 restrictions Guild meetings will take place online unless stated otherwise, members will be updated with any changes to this via e-mail.

## **19TH JUNE 2021**

Fleece Sale - with talks on different fleeces and their uses. (IN PERSON EVENT)

## **17TH JULY 2021**

Indigo Vat Demonstration - Liz McCarron Heal. Q&A Session included and kit offer to try yourself.

## **21ST AUGUST 2021**

'Inspiration Pack' with accompanying challenge.

## **18TH SEPTEMBER 2021**

'In the Dye Garden' with Kath Steggall.

# GUILD ACCESS

The Guild buildings have now re-opened! Although exciting news to once again be able to meet in person it is important that we comply with Covid-19 guidelines. Part of this is ensuring we limit and keep track of those who are using the facilities.

If you would like to attend any of the in-person events please contact the daily coordinator for the session you would like to attend.

**Weaving Studios 3 & 4** - If you would like to use the weaving studios please contact Susie Collyer (susierichardson7@aol.com) for Tuesdays and Helen Robinson (membershipwiltsswd@gmail.com) for Thursdays

**Studios 1 & 2** - The Guild will be open on Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday each week.

- Monday: Sewing Bee (
- Wednesday: Patchwork
- Friday: Mixed use
- Saturday: **1st** - Craft and Chat, **2nd** - Natural dyeing & gardening



# FLEECE SALE

**Saturday June 19th 10.30am-1pm**

Every year local fleece suppliers are invited to come to Guild and sell their fleece, so not only do you get to see a wonderful array of locally grown fibre but you have the opportunity to learn about the different breeds and the characteristics of their fibre. All of our sellers are Guild members and they will be delighted to share their passion for sheep and fleece with you!

Wool fibre has a myriad of uses and this year, alongside the sale, we have invited members to demonstrate a range of different crafts, which don't necessarily involve being able to spin fibre on a spinning wheel. We shall have people demonstrating weaving wool locks on a rigid heddle loom, wet felting and needle felting, spinning on all types of spindles (drop and supported) and locker hooking using wool locks.

It's a brilliant opportunity to get hands-on experience with raw wool material (from both sheep and alpaca) and talk to the people who breed and raise the animals. Not only that, it's our very first (outdoor) event in over a year! It'll be fantastic for us to see each other again, so please come along and support the Guild!

The Guild's already established Covid secure practices will remain in place on this date; directional signs will be in place, plus hand gel and hand washing opportunities, along with the 2 metre social distancing rule. Please bring a face covering for entering studio 3. Further details will be posted by email nearer the event date.

We look forward to seeing you there!

*See you there!*



# GUIDES ON BUYING RAW FLEECE


Sometimes buying raw fleece can be a bit of a daunting prospect especially those who are new to the idea.

For those who would like to read up on tips regarding purchasing fleece Kathy Davis has put together a useful guide titled [Raw Fleece - A Buyers Guide](#) and is located in the members area of the Guild [website](#).

If you're considering buying Alpaca, the slides from Manda Rawlings' March [talk on Alpacas](#) are available and have some useful tips for when buying their fleece and products.

Spin off magazine also has some helpful articles on fleece, particularly Emonieiesha Hopkins' article on how to deal with a more 'troublesome' fleece.

- [You've Got Wool Mail: Buying Sheep's Fleece Online](#) by Beth Smith (May 2020)
- [The Great Fleece Makeover](#) by Emonieiesha Hopkins (August 2020)
- [Navigating Online Fleece Sales: Tips for Buyers and Sellers](#) by Elizabeth Prose (March 2021)



If you have any tips that would be useful to members for purchasing fleece, please feel free to share these on the members Facebook group or e-mail them to [WGSWDnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:WGSWDnewsletter@gmail.com)

Image (right): courtesy of Kathy Davis.





# GUILD CLEAN UP DAY

The committee would like to thank all those that gave up their time in May to come and help spruce up the Guild buildings and outside spaces. It was lovely to see members at the buildings once again and much progress was made.

Image right courtesy of Kathy Davis; spade and broom leaning against a lush green bush in the Guild garden.

Image below: Young Madder plant about to be planted in the Guild dye garden.



## NEW PLANTS IN THE DYE GARDEN

Some new dye plants have recently made their way into the Guild dye garden. When I popped in after Craft and Chat earlier this month Kath Steggall and Harriette Dottridge were hard at work installing them in their new homes.

Being planted were;

- Madder
- Woad
- Dyes Coreopsis
- Weld
- Dyers Chamomile

The gardens are looking lovely with many flowers in bloom. If any one would like to have a look at the work being done on the garden, the new plants are located in the area round the back of the studios 3 & 4.



# GUILD YOUTUBE CHANNEL

Did you know the Guild now has a YouTube Channel? Well it is now live with content being added all the time.

If you have a video you would like to contribute or ideas for future videos for the channel please get in touch with Susie Collyer at [wiltshireguild@gmail.com](mailto:wiltshireguild@gmail.com).

## GUILD SOCIAL MEDIA


We have a members only Facebook group for sharing work, resources, talks and articles of interest. As well as a useful space for keeping in touch outside of Guild meetings.

If you haven't already joined but would like to, the group is [Guild Members Only Wiltshire Guild of Spinners, Weavers and Dyers](#)

As well as the members only spaces we have our public accounts;

- Instagram: [@wiltshireguild](#)
- Facebook: [Wiltshire Guild Spinners, Weavers and Dyers](#)

If you use these platforms don't forget to tag the Guild in your posts using **#wiltshireguildswd** so we can see all your lovely creations.



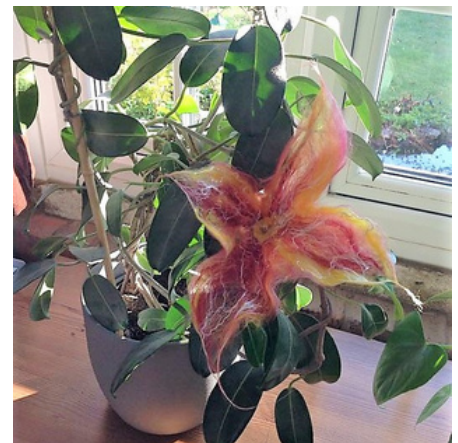
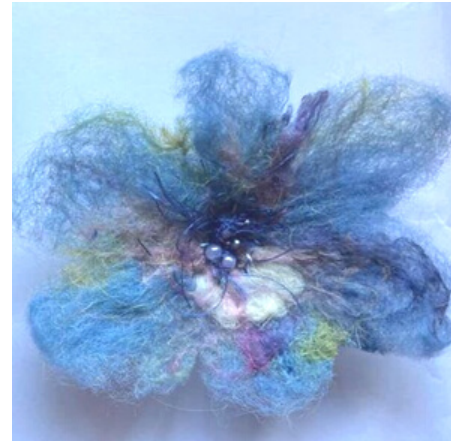
If you or a member you know would like additional help with using any the options listed above please feel free to contact the Editor or a member of the committee.





# MEMBERS WORK

The last few months have seen Guild days on felted flowers and eco dying along with members personal project. These are just a few of their wonderful creations.



Description of images:

Top: Amy Mutton (felted flower), Julia Shahin (felted flower) Sarah Bond (felted flower)

Middle: Ruth Hayman (felted flower), Eileen Broadley (felted flower), Janet Milner (felted flower)

Bottom: Julie Holmes (handspun jacket), Julie Holmes (felted flower), Sue Vince (Polar Bear made from a felted cashmere sweater)

# News Sheet of the Guild of Weavers & Dyers

ISSUED QUARTERLY FROM THE HEADQUARTERS, 16, VINCENT SQUARE, WESTMINSTER, S.W. 1.

No. 2.

SEPTEMBER, 1932.

## ARCHIVED NEWSLETTERS

We are now lucky enough to have piece of Guild history accessible to all members thanks to the efforts of Harriette Dottridge and Susie Collyer.

In the newsletters section on the Guild website are newsletters and news sheets kept by Anne Lander dating from 1932-1939 which were passed to Harriette for safekeeping before her death.

Harriette initially responded to a request from the National Association for copies of old Journals and newsletters, then arranged scanning of each of the documents. Once completed the originals were sent to the National Association for archiving, along with digital copies. We also retain the digital files for the use of the Wiltshire Guild. She says that Anne Lander would be very happy that these are now made publicly available.

I'm sure we can all extend a big thank you to Harriette for undertaking this task and preserving a piece of Guild history. We should also thank Susie for formatting the files and ensuring they are available to us.

Background Image: September 1932 News Sheet of the Guild of Weavers & Dyers

Several members want addresses of people who make up hand-woven dress material really well—if anyone can supply some for the next News Sheet we shall be grateful.

It was suggested that the next Summer School would most conveniently be held again during the first fortnight in August.

It was also suggested that members might like to make up a party and visit the International Craft Exhibition that is to be held in Stockholm next June. Particulars will be obtainable later on.

We received a good many enquiries for the "Handicrafter" Magazine—an American publication dealing largely with weaving. If ordered through the Guild it can be had for a yearly subscription of 7s. 6d. It is issued six times a year.

### Some Addresses of Spinners.

#### WOOL.

Mrs. Clark, 17, Elleswick Road, Harpenden.—Marvellously fine soft welt, 1 lb. sufficient for 5 yds. of 36 ins. material, 21s. 1b.

Miss Fraser, Stromferry, Rosshire, has a large class of excellent spinners.—Good even thread for tweed warp, 4s. 6d. to 6s. 6d. per lb.

Mrs. Butler, 242, Franklin Road, King's Norton, rather coarse spinning—no price sent.

Miss Margaret Murray, Tressidy Hall, Lairg, Sutherlandshire—Good even strong fine-ish thread, 4s. 6d. to 5s. per lb.

#### FLAX.

Miss Salaman, Rose Cottage, Bythorn, Huntington.—Fairly fine even spinning—spinning only 8s. 6d. per lb.

Mary Ruglen Gregory, 11, Shrubbery Road, Weston-super-Mare.—Very fine even strong thread—spinning only, 5s. per lb.

Miss Hope Scott, Atholfield, Cressington Park, Liverpool.—Write for particulars.

Miss Thurstan, Dragon Cross, Washford, Somerset.—Swedish plied yarn suitable warp, 11s. per lb. and tax.

#### CARPET AND RUG WOOL.

Mr. Messenesi, Staplands, Neston, Cheshire.—Supplies natural white to dark brown specially selected yarns. Prices on application.

Mrs. Orage, 49, Church Street, Chelsea.—Has many small quantities of coloured rug wool from 3s. to 6s. per lb.

Mrs. Nobel, Naes yr Haf, Trealaw, Rhondda, supplies natural handspun rug yarn at 5s. 6d., dyed at 8s. 6d. per lb.

#### CARPET WARP AND WEFT.

Messrs. Hawkins Tipson, Ltd., Rope Manufacturers, 2 Hilliter Square, E.C. 3.—Ask for seaming twine.



# CHOOSING COLOURS THAT GO!

VICTORIA ROSS

I'm not ashamed to admit I used to find colour intimidating for a variety of reasons but one of those was because I couldn't decide whether the colours I'd chosen went together, I kept second guessing and changing my mind. Now there is a school of thought that some people have an 'eye' for colour, some magical ability that not everyone has to make it all work. It is true that everyone sees colour differently, it is true that some people can't see colour and you could say some people may have a more 'artistic' view. However colour is a science and some clever people have done all that hard work for you. We just need to figure out the rules.

## VALUE FIRST

When choosing colour's 'colour' could be seen as a secondary consideration, what makes it all work is a colour's 'value'.

Value is a colour's degree of lightness or darkness and the easiest way to see this is in greyscale. When choosing colours their value is a good starting point as the greater the difference in value the more visual the contrast.

*Value Scale*



Image: Value scale in greyscale, taken from Brooklyn Tweeds article ['Colour Theory for Stranded Colourwork'](#)

I'm primarily a knitter so when choosing yarn for a project a trick I use is to take a picture of the yarns I'm thinking about using. Then I change this picture to black and white, this shows me the values in the yarns I'm looking at. I can then move the yarns into their value order, from light to dark. It entirely depends on the look you're going for but generally if it's a 2 colour project you want 1 light one dark. If it's a 3 colour project 1 dark, 1 medium and 1 light. If you have more than 3 colours then start looking at colours that are 'in between', these won't stand out as much but can blend and help smooth out colour changes.



Left: Skeins of handspun yarn. Possible colours choices. Right: The same skeins in black and white.

From this image I can see that there are 2 dark skeins, 1 medium and 1 light. Therefore if choosing 3 yarns only one of the 'dark' colours should feature.

## NOW THE COLOUR

After you've considered the value from the possible options, we can look at colour and for this we can roll out the trusty colour wheel. It's a handy piece of kit and if you're stuck can really make sense of whether something will go or not.

Colour wheel basics:

- Monochromatic: a single base colour which can be extended by using its different values.
- Complementary: these are colours that sit directly opposite each other on a colour wheel. Different values of these colours will also work together. For example red and green are complementary.
- Split complementary: Choose one colour on the wheel and cross the wheel to the opposite complementary colour, split complementary is where you use the 2 colours either side of this opposite colour. For example, if I chose yellow as my colour, its complementary colour is purple but I would use blue and red.
- Triadic: colours are those that are evenly spread at three points on the colour wheel. For example, Purple, orange and green are triadic.



Image above: Colour wheel. Image taken from [Dulux: How to use a colour wheel](#)

## TIPS FOR CHOOSING COLOURS

Here is a summary of some of my tips for choosing colours;

- Shade cards/ samples – a lot of yarn brands and fabric manufacturers have shade cards or samples that you can purchase. This is especially useful if you use a particular range a lot in your work or the materials are particularly expensive.
- Swatch – I'm a big advocate of the swatch, it tells you a variety of different things but is really worth doing if you want to see how the colours work together. If you want to swatch before purchasing the full amount, see if a brand does mini skeins. Alternatively, if you are working from your stash, then sample away.



- Online – as many of us will have discovered over the last year buying materials online can be difficult. It's worth being aware that our computer/ phone/ tablet screens are all a little different and can show colours differently. You can always use the trade images to try and piece together what a colour combination might look like. I sometimes do this by adding all the options to my basket and then discarding the ones I don't like from there.
- Take pictures – if you have a smart phone or digital camera take pictures both full colour and black and white. I use this method all the time and it's by far my favourite. It is particularly helpful for working through all the variations of a colour combination. I then make a collage of all the images.
- Ask a friend – if you've taken images or in person with the materials, ask someone else what they think.

Have you got some tips for  
choosing colours and materials  
for projects?

Send them to  
[WGSWDnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:WGSWDnewsletter@gmail.com)



# PATCHWORK BABY BIB

SUGGESTED BY VICTORIA ROSS

I'm really interested in 'scrappy' projects at the moment, ideally using up fabric and yarn that I already have to create something new. This project is a fairly straightforward free pattern that is great for using up any fabric remnants lurking in your stash.

## SUGGESTED FABRIC

Cotton, poly cotton etc. Any suitable fabric that will withstand regular trips through the washing machine!

## MATERIALS REQUIRED

Chosen material (I used 100% cotton)  
Printed pattern  
Sewing machine & thread  
Hand needle (for finishing)  
A snap, button or Velcro for the neck closure.

I also included a thin batting later between my fabric layers to bulk it out a little as the cotton I used was very thin.

## PATTERN

The pattern is a free online template by [Nana Company](#) the direct download for the pattern is linked below, please note it is a 2 page print at home pattern.

[The pretty little Baby Bib Pattern by Nana Company](#)

Instructions are included in the pattern download. If you are making a patchwork version this top fabric layer will need to be created prior to cutting out.

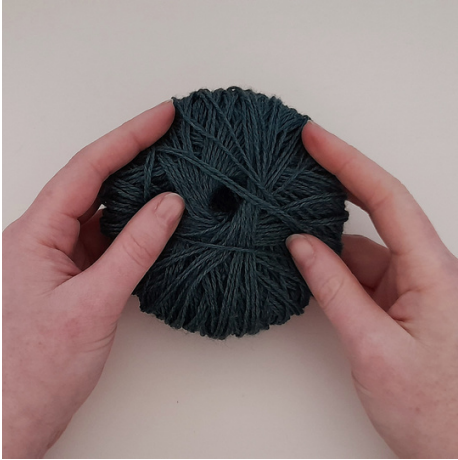


Baby bib by Victoria Ross using the 'pretty little baby bib' pattern. Material for the bib was used by piecing the fabric for the top layer together using fabric remnants from Indian block printed fabric. The fabric for the reverse (not pictured) was a floral cotton sheet. Final closure was a circular Velcro patch.



# ANDEAN PLYING BRACELET

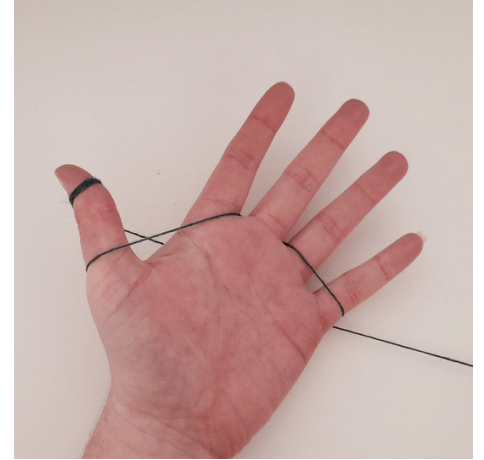
The Andean plying bracelet can be used to create a 2ply yarn from one source of spun singles. It is most commonly associated with spindle spinning but can also be used for spinning on a wheel. It is a method best suited to smaller amounts of yarn like the end of a bobbin or a spindle. The following is a step by step guide on how to set up the bracelet ready for plying.



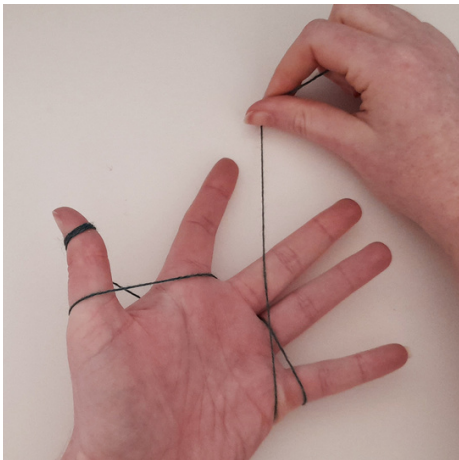
If you're attempting this method for the first time try practicing using some waste yarn first. That way if you end up in a tangle you haven't wasted any of your precious singles.



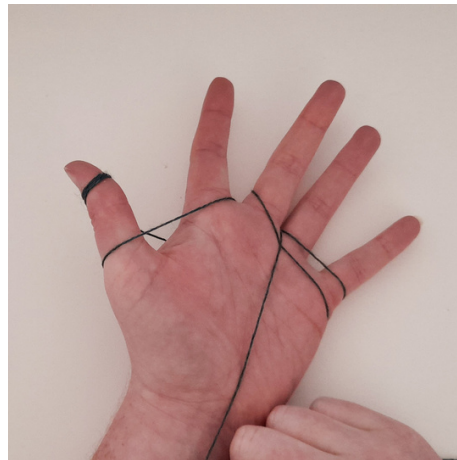
1. Wrap the end of the yarn around your thumb 2-3 times. It is important that it is secure but not too tight. Then bring the yarn behind your hand.



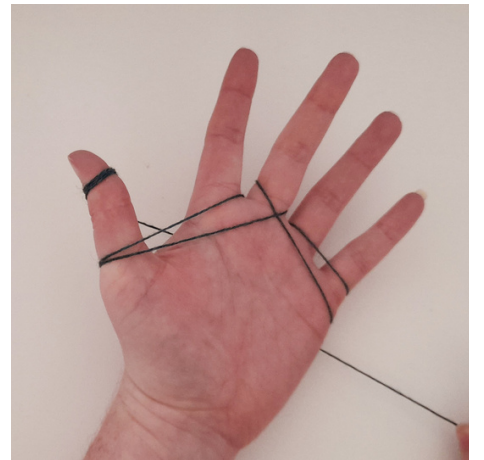
2. Bring the yarn to the front and across your palm, passing it **behind** your middle finger. Then lay the yarn over the thumb and around the back of the hand.



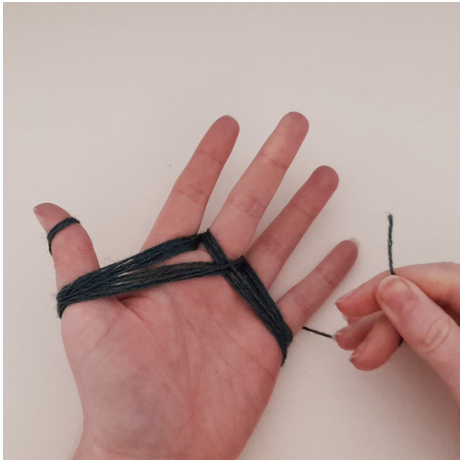
3. Bring the yarn back to the front and across your palm, passing it to the back in between the index and middle fingers.



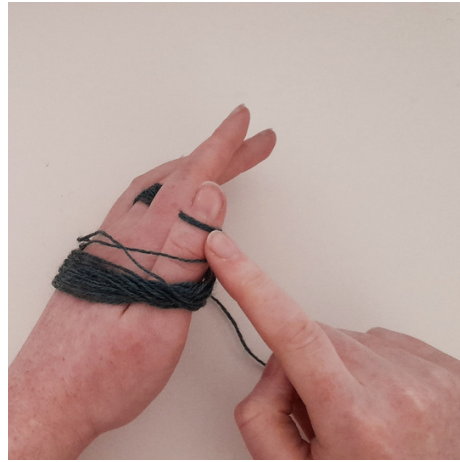
4. Bring the yarn **around** the middle finger so it is now at the front of your hand. You will have formed a loop around your middle finger.



5. Then pass the yarn across the palm and across the thumb to the back to the hand.



6. Repeat steps 2-5, passing **first behind and then around** the middle finger, until you reach the end of your yarn. Or until your hand is full.



7. Undo the yarn wound around the top of your thumb so you now have 2 ends.



8. Turn your hand palm down and gently remove the yarn from your middle finger so it lies on the palm side of your hand. (see step 9)



9. The wound yarn should now form a loop around your hand with 2 free ends.



10. Gently shift the yarn loop so it is now sitting on your wrist, this is your bracelet.



11. Pick up the two ends. You can now attach these to a leader on a spinning wheel or spindle for plying.

#### TIP

Don't wind around your hand too tightly, otherwise it will become uncomfortable and difficult to remove the bracelet.

If you would like to see a video tutorial on how to do this technique we now have a 'how to' video on the Guild YouTube channel.

[Andean Plying Tutorial](#)



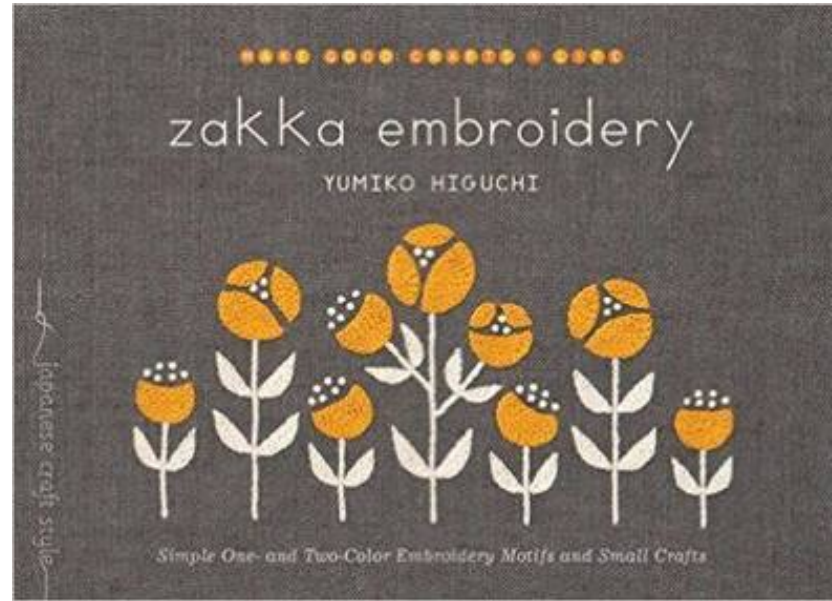
# ZAKKA EMBROIDERY

BY YUMIKO HIGUCHI

REVIEW BY VICTORIA ROSS

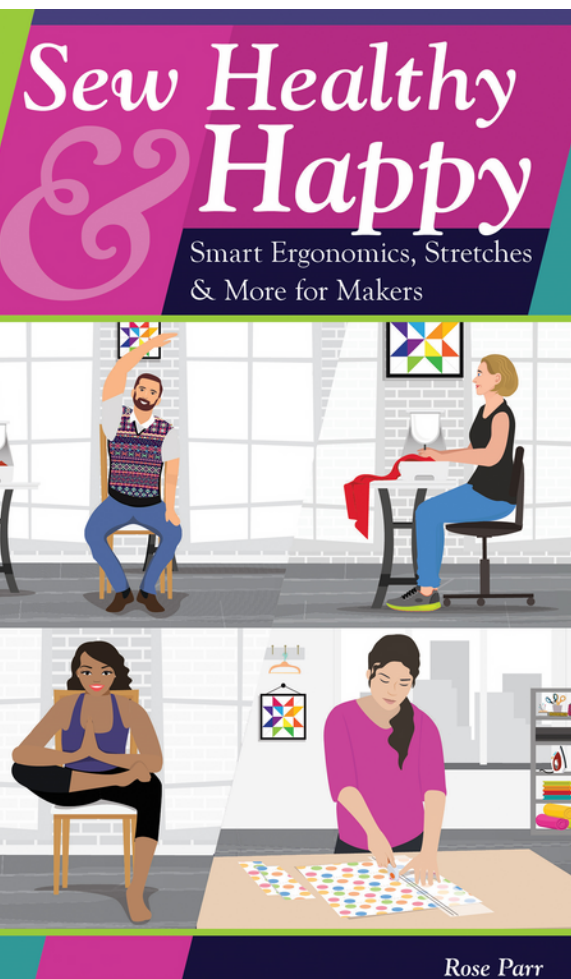
About two years ago I embarked on my first embroidery project and it is now firm favorite in my craft arsenal. What I like about this book is that the designs are generally simple and straightforward to replicate, which makes them perfect for using with wool which is my preferred thread.

There aren't a great deal of instructions but for most of the designs these are not required. There are several projects included and instructions on these are located at the back of the book, these are also supplemented with pictures.



Book image from: <https://www.waterstones.com/book/zakka-embroidery/yumiko-higuchi/9781611803105>

I have used many of the designs in the book for gifts and I find myself coming back to this one again and again.



## SEW HEALTHY & HAPPY

BY ROSE PARR

As recommended in Stitch Magazine. As many of you will know ergonomics while crafting is so important for our well being, Lyn Pybus thought that this book may be of interest to members.

"Primarily aimed at quilters, there is still plenty for embroiderers to glean from this practical guide. Learn how to get the ergonomics right in your sewing area and follow the exercises to optimise enjoyment when dedicating hours to your hobby." Available to purchase from: [www.searchpress.com](http://www.searchpress.com) and [www.waterstones.com](http://www.waterstones.com)

Image from; <https://www.searchpress.com/book/9781644030714/sew-healthy-happy>

As the weather warms why not try this homemade and refreshing summer drink. Perfectly paired with sparkling water and a slice of lemon.

# ELDERFLOWER CORDIAL

## INGREDIENTS

30 large Elderflower heads (aprox.)  
The rind of 4 lemons, peeled  
2lb granulated sugar  
3 pints boiling water



1. Shake the Elderflower heads gently to remove insects and place in a preserving pan or bucket.
2. Peel the lemons using a vegetable peeler. Ensure that there is no pith (white layer just under rind) as this can make the cordial bitter. If there is some on your rind, just scrape off with a sharp knife.
3. Place lemon rind and sugar in the pan with the Elderflower heads. Then pour over the boiling water. Stir until the sugar is dissolved.
4. Leave for 24 hours and then strain through a sterilised muslin or other clean cloth.
5. Pour into sterilised bottles. Once opened store in the fridge.

## FORAGING GUIDELINES

- Always know what your picking! If your not sure about the plant don't eat it.
- Don't take more than you need. If your making a big batch, take a few heads from a variety of different plants.
- Don't trespass. As Elderflowers grow wild we can take these for private consumption but it is illegal to trespass on private land. Always be aware of where you are foraging and ask permission for access where appropriate.
- Try to avoid picking Elderflowers from busy roads and areas with high pollution.





**CREATIVITY DOESN'T  
WAIT FOR THAT  
PERFECT MOMENT. IT  
FASHIONS ITS OWN  
PERFECT MOMENTS  
OUT OF ORDINARY  
ONES.**

BRUCE GARRABRANDT

