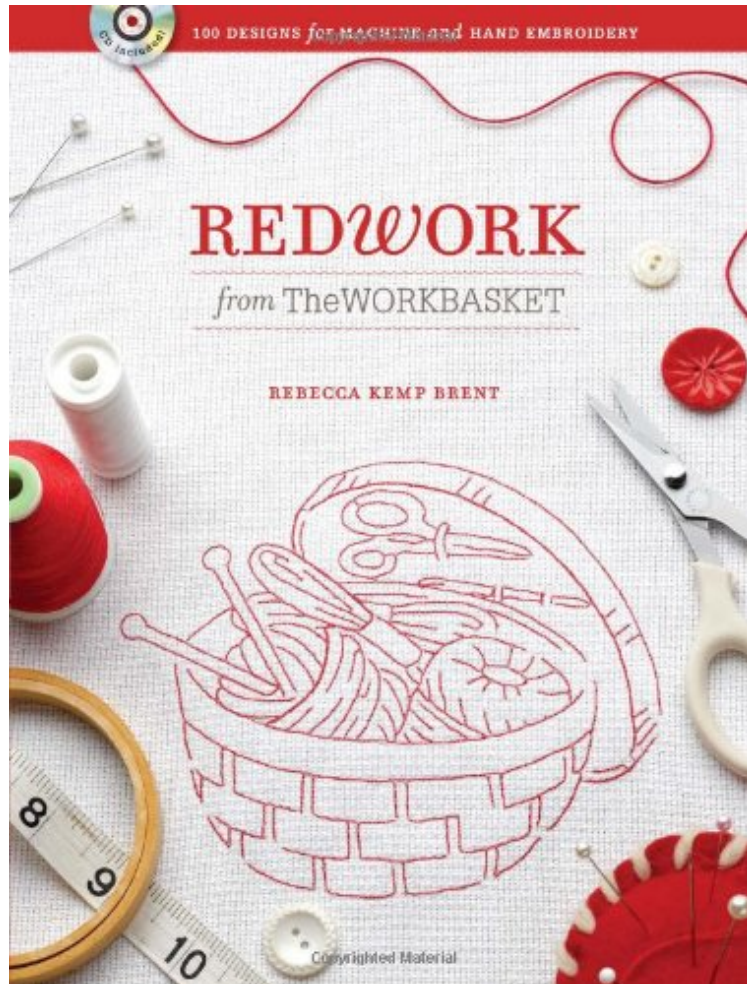


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Redwork from The WORKBASKET: 100 Designs for Machine and Hand Embroidery

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From F+W Media : Redwork from The WORKBASKET: 100 Designs for Machine and Hand Embroidery before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Redwork from The WORKBASKET: 100 Designs for Machine and Hand Embroidery:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Both authentic and fresh new designs...the CD makes it a great bargain By Jane in Milwaukee I am teaching a 3-hour class at a quilt museum in May, the project being a little bookmark which is a sampler of a dozen stitches for hand embroidery. I chose red DMC pearl cotton on white 25-count evenweave. As I was designing and stitching it, it brought to mind the first embroideries my mom put in my tender little hands as a kid: pillowcases with stamped outlines of flowers--lazy daisies and stem stitch in red. I also saw a lot of Sun Bonnet Sue redwork embroidery which was so popular 100 years ago. So I shopped around and found this

book to supplement my design range for redwork. Such a deal: \$5 plus shipping for a great book and accompanying CD. I dispute some of what the most helpful review says. First, right in the title it states that these designs are from "The Workbasket" magazine which originated in 1935 with John and Clara Tillotson producing it from their home, under the originally cumbersome title: "Aunt Martha's Workbasket: Home and Needlecraft, For Pleasure and Profit." That last word addressed being in the depth of the Depression when jobs--especially for women--were too scarce. Also, the top line of the book cover says "100 Designs for Machine and Hand Embroidery." The word Machine comes first. While, like that reviewer, I exclusively do hand embroidery, just about every design in the book (or on the CD) can be transferred to any number of ground fabrics and worked by hand. I wonder how thoroughly that reviewer read the section "A Brief History of Redwork." It may be brief, but it's pithy; and that review states that redwork was most popular during "the early to mid 20th century" whereas the book states that it reached its peak of popularity "during the 19th and early 20th centuries." The main thing we need to know is that it was when "Turkey" (bold red) thread was finally made colorfast even after multiple washings that redwork took off as the technique for marking household textiles and soon after, general embroidery on those textiles. It's interesting to me that this is not exclusively about red thread on white fabric: there are projects showing red thread on black or patterned fabric as well as white thread on red fabric. For hand embroiderers like me, the stitches shown are well-diagrammed. These are the most popular stitches (with the exception of cross stitch): outline/stem stitch, backstitch, French knots, satin stitch, lazy daisy and blanket stitches. (If you make blanket stitches more condensed you create the buttonhole stitch which is great for hemming in addition to the decorative purposes this book covers.) The Table of Contents is thus: Introduction (including the history of the magazine and of redwork, threads, fabric, blanks and novel ideas) Section One: Working the Designs (discussing how to do machine and hand embroidery) Section Two: Redwork Projects (which include pillows, quilts, aprons, banners, bath and table linens, ornaments and framed pictures) Section Three: The Designs on the CD-ROM Editor Rebecca Kemp Brent seems to know what she's talking about. She has also written: Machine Embroidery Wild Wacky: Stitch on Any and Every Surface Fill in the Blanks with Machine Embroidery The Complete Idiot's Guide to Sewing plus dozens of articles for magazines and contributions to other books. I think this book is an excellent choice to introduce yourself to these historic yet modern designs. 34 of 35 people found the following review helpful. Fun, but not a good value By GTappan The first thirty-three pages of this book include very brief descriptions of Redwork and The WORKBASKET Magazine plus the usual discussion of threads and techniques for both machine and hand embroidery. The next section has a dozen projects: two quilts, two totes, pillow case, pillow, apron, banner, towel, Christmas ornaments, a table runner and framed sentiments. The last section is a discussion of the included CD-ROM that contains 100 designs that can be used for hand embroidery and for a number of different machines. I embroider by hand, so the emphasis on machine embroidery was of little interest to me. Regardless, each project seemed to have some handy little tidbit: Turkish corners, heirloom hemstitching, recycling commercial tote bags. But there were also clunkers that seemed to be included only to cut down on the white space: "Add more squares to make a larger quilt." I was intrigued by the illustrations of finished projects. I'm not sure the simple outline aspect of redwork design is the best way to use machine embroidery. The thread sinks into the material and so the designs don't stand out the way they do if done by hand. I was disappointed that there wasn't more history of this embroidery style that was so popular during the early to mid 20th century. I know items with redwork are still readily available at antiques stores and online auctions. I would have loved to have seen pictures of vintage work. So for hand embroidery, the designs on the CD-ROM are easy to use but probably available cheaper through other sources. For machine embroidery, outline stitchery doesn't seem an attractive use for an expensive machine. For textile history lovers, the history portion just isn't there. I bought my copy from so I'm pleased with what I got for the money I spent. If I'd paid the full \$32.99 (USD), I think I'd feel cheated. 13 of 13 people found the following review helpful. Enjoyed this book By nana claus I would rather have all the Workbasket Magazines through the years, but that isn't to be. I liked the book and enjoyed the reading, the patterns look nice but have not used any yet. Does come w/ a CD to use but I do my embroidery by hand. There are 100 patterns of line drawings to trace. It has instructions on thread, tracing, use (rather hand or machine) plus history of the Workbasket Mag. It would be a good beginner book bec' of the well written instructions.

100 Vintage Designs to Embroider by Hand or Machine! Redwork embroidery, long admired for its simple, homey designs, is more popular than ever. And what better source for great redwork designs than "The WORKBASKET" (r), a classic magazine with a 60-year tradition of providing readers with great, do-able crafting projects. Now "Redwork from The WORKBASKET" makes it easy to re-create the warm, nostalgic feel of vintage redwork designs on your linens, aprons, even quilts, whether you embroider by hand or machine. With "Redwork from The WORKBASKET" you get: A CD-ROM containing 100 vintage designs digitized for machine embroidery in seven common machine formats All designs in JPEG and PDF formats so hand embroiderers can create their own transfers 12 projects, from an apron and wall art to a bed quilt, presented in easy-to-follow steps How-to basics for both machine and hand embroidery, a design index plus features on the history of redwork and "The WORKBASKET" (r) See for yourself 100 embroidery designs mean 100 reasons to love "Redwork from The WORKBASKET"! Please note that the digital version of this book does not include the accompanying CD-ROM.

About the Author Rebecca Kemp Brent is a freelance writer, educator and designer who specializes in creative uses of computerized sewing and embroidery machines and software. A regular contributor to *Creative Machine Embroidery*, *Quilting Embroidery*, *Paper Embroidery* and *Holiday Embroidery*, her titles for Krause Publications (an imprint of F+W Media, Inc.) include *Fill in the Blanks with Machine Embroidery* (2007) and *Machine Embroidery Wild and Wacky* (2006), which she co-authored with Linda Turner Griepentrog.