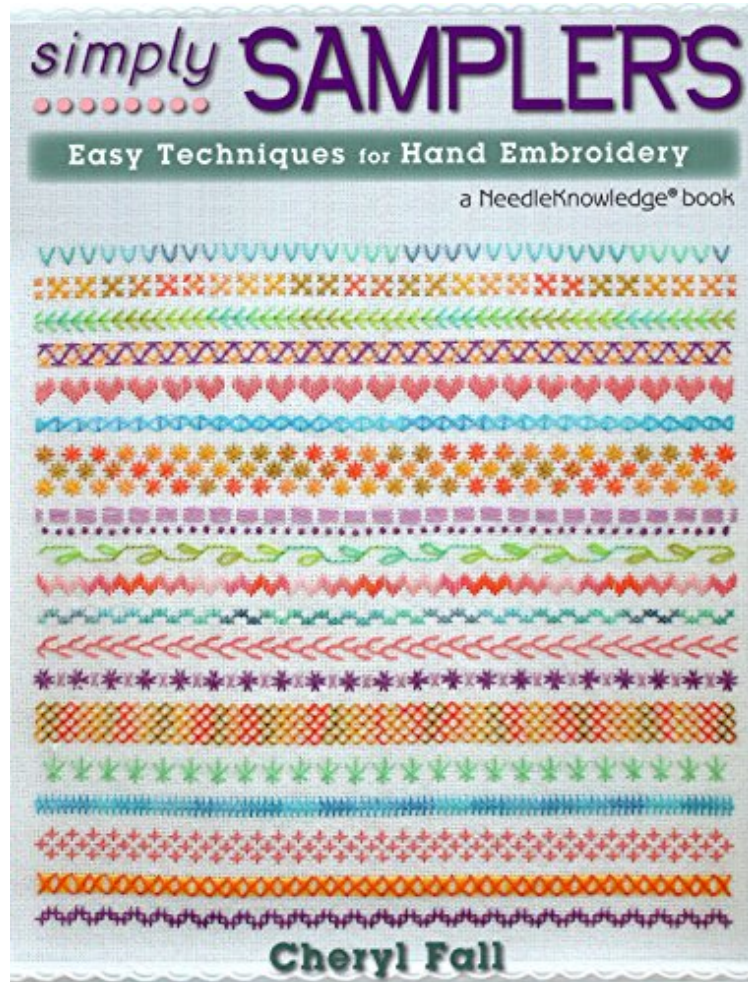


Simply Samplers: Easy Techniques for Hand Embroidery (Needleknowledge)

Cheryl Fall

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Cheryl Fall : Simply Samplers: Easy Techniques for Hand Embroidery (Needleknowledge) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Simply Samplers: Easy Techniques for Hand Embroidery (Needleknowledge):

17 of 17 people found the following review helpful. Hey! I pre-ordered this and just got it today. It's pretty good!By Jane in MilwaukeeI have one million stitch books and I need another one like a hole in the head. But a new one is published and *BOOM* I gotta have it. I love the cover of this paperback book. Very colorful and stitches that are easy to make out. I opened the book and the first thing I noticed was I never heard the difference between an "away" knot and a "waste" knot: they have the same purpose--to start your first thread--but have opposite application. The away knot is parking the thread out of the way so you do not catch it on your first stitches. Once you've made a short

row, you snip the knot, thread your needle and weaving it into the stitches on the wrong side of the fabric. Whereas with the waste knot, you carefully stitch over that thread to anchor it and then just snip the excess. You learn something new every day. The cover project is the Counted Thread Band Sampler one of the most complex designs. It calls for an 18 sq inch of 28-count Lugana and 6 different colors of DMC floss and 5 different skeins of DMC Color Variations floss for that variegated look. I made a band sampler with very similar stitches and a number with overdyed flosses and can attest it's interesting to see the patterns of color that result from certain stitches. The stitch guides are on very large grids, very easy to make out. If you can't figure it out from the chart by the project, you can see the even more explicit stitches in the back of the book. There are 27 different stitches including cross, Algerian eye, counted satin stitch, herringbone and fly stitch. Only six of the stitches seem to be shown exclusively for counted fabric and all can be for surface embroidery. One project that caught my eye is the unusual One-Off Sampler. This is a cross stitch alphabet with each cross isolated from the next by one thread. So the X's are very distinct. I've never seen that before and it's sort of a cool effect. There's also a versatile Nine Squares Sampler Pillow with matching ornaments and coasters. Then, it's nice to see a Hanukkah Sampler along side one with an alphabet of different colored Christmas ornament balls. A couple projects expand your repertoire and have you embellish the stitching with colored pencils. And there's talk of beads and charms and a good section on finishing. The glossary is interesting. I didn't realize there's a difference between overdyed floss and variegated...or between plainweave and evenweave fabric. And it's called "crocking" when colors from the floss bleed from washing or handling. In the back there is a conversion chart for DMC, Anchor and Sullivan's floss and, a nice way to finish, a Visual Index of all the projects that you can see on two open pages and showing the page numbers. The only chart I sort of question is for the Counted-Thread Square Sampler which utilized 7 stitches. It's labeled for intermediate and I think that's on the high end toward advanced because of how close the stitches are shown on the graph. This could have been expanded a bit. And, again, any book that just shows free hand drawing of designs on dense cloth for non-counted surface embroidery...without an iron-on transfer, I've always found them daunting even though I've stitched some. The projects are cheerful and most are small and less complicated enough for raw beginners to get started, especially if they can just ask a stitcher a question or two if needed. I'm more advanced than this book and want to start designing my own patterns. And I love the large complicated needlework pictures. But this is quite a serviceable book and just pretty to browse. I recommend it...and I may actually do that cover.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Very good book for beginning stitchers
By Frances R. Sowers
As a stitcher, this reference manual is very well set up and provides easy instructions for stitches. Especially handy if you want to design your own piece because it has many stitches to offer.
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. WONDERFUL BOOK! I BOUGHT SEVERAL FOR MYSELF AND OTHERS
By Marie Musawwir
WONDERFUL BOOK! I BOUGHT SEVERAL FOR MYSELF AND OTHERS.

Preview all 16 finished samplers in our exclusive Look Book! A sampler is a project made from a "sampling" of different stitches or different motifs. Once the learning tool that helped generations of girls master basic needlework skills, this traditional project is still a great way to learn and practice embroidery skills as well as a creative way to add color to a room or a fabric item. Covers samplers in several different styles: cross-stitch, counted thread, surface, and freestyle embroidery. Creative uses for sampler art beyond the basic wall hanging: gift bags, ornaments, scarves, tote bags, and more. Includes a how-to section with step-by-step instructions for basic embroidery stitches and sewing skills. 16 projects for decorative sampler designs plus creative variations.

"A delightful instructional book for hand embroidery and cross stitch, great for beginners! The book is suitable for adults...and I also found it perfect for handing off to youngsters, to give them a good foundation for stitchery with plenty of starter projects to embroider." (Mary Corbet needlenthread.com 2014-08-25) "I expected a book with cross-stitch alphabets and traditional motifs. What I found instead was a book that takes a much wider view of the idea of samplers, defining them as embroideries that contain a 'sampling of different stitches or different motifs stitched on fabric to form a pattern or learn a particular technique.'" (Funk and Weber Designs blog 2014-09-04) "The book is a wonderful mix of projects and tutorials for the beginner and advanced stitcher. The directions are easy to follow and I feel like she is right there with me, teaching me a new technique." (Craft Gossip blog 2014-09-12) "All of the patterns really showcase each of the stitches that are used very well. The patterns really pop. They are all very well thought out and have the perfect amount of function and whimsy...It has really reignited my love for embroidery work." (Life of the Domesticated Wife blog 2014-09-17) "Cheryl Fall has created a collection of patterns that you will treasure for a lifetime...You'll want to make every one, I know I do!...There is a complete section devoted to Supplies, Notions and even 'How To' photo tutorials in the back of the book so saying 'I don't know how' is no longer a valid reason as to why you aren't stitching too!!" (Amy Sessions peppermintmochamama.blogspot.com 2014-09-24) "As I began paging through the book, I was delighted with the options it offered, and excited to try one of her embroidery sampler patterns. Her sampler patterns are unique, and modern." (Inspire Wire blog 2014-09-29) About the Author Cheryl Fall has been designing needlecraft patterns professionally since 1986 and is the author of fourteen books, including *Embroidery Basics*, *Simply Samplers*, and three titles in the popular *Dummies* series. She has written more than 2,000

articles on how-to crafts and maintains her own Needleknowledge.com website. Fall was also the host of the nationally distributed PBS Plus series *The Creative Life*. She lives near Portland, Oregon.