

## Stitch Magic: Ideas and Interpretation

*Jan Beaney, Jean Littlejohn*

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**Jan Beaney, Jean Littlejohn : Stitch Magic: Ideas and Interpretation** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *Stitch Magic: Ideas and Interpretation*:

35 of 35 people found the following review helpful. Find a used copy if you can!By Ruth Henriquez LyonThis elegant book will appeal to stitchers who want to experiment with cloth and thread as a fine art medium. The authors have organized the book as a course you can work through on your own, with exercises which really help you to loosen up and start exploring with your needle and thread.They start you out with some basic stitches with variations to play around with, then move on to cover paint and dye techniques for creating interesting background cloths. Next they explore more complex stitch ideas, design integration, and combining hand and machine stitching. Finally they investigate mark making and image making as a fine art process.Even without the exercises and the instructive text, the photographs themselves are worth the price of this book. There are beautiful full-color photos on almost every page. The book was published in 1999, and the work is contemporary enough to still be visually interesting. It's a shame this book did not stay in print, since it is one of the best contemporary stitching books I've seen.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Inspirational Guide 4 Contemporary Textile ArtistsBy Carola J.Received this book yesterday and haven't put it down. I'm in a state of "stitch" ecstasy! Perfect book for anyone interested in creating modern art quilts.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. *Stitch Magic*By Susan A.I bought this book for my wife. She loves the book, "It's amazing." Very detailed photographs. The only problem is that it has a very musty smell. She is waiting and hopes that it will disperse with time.

Stitch Magic is an animated celebration of the magic of hand stitching by two internationally renowned embroiderers. Using the wide range of fabrics, threads and materials now available, Jan Beaney and Jean Littlejohn give aspiring and knowledgeable embroiderers alike the inspiration to experiment with the basic hand stitches to create infinite stitch interpretations. Over 100 sumptuous photographs of stitched pieces introduce a breathtaking range of new work by the authors as well as stitching from different cultures and a selection of other contemporary work. These examples are accompanied by detailed captions explaining the working methods. Complete with stitch diagrams showing the different design applications of the stitches and a comprehensive glossary, this is a colourful sourcebook of ideas for embroiderers wanting to exploit the compelling texture of stitch.

About the Author Jan Beaney has been involved in the world of embroidery for over thirty years as a designer, tutor and author. Jan presented the successful BBC TV series Embroidery and has appeared more recently on ITV's This Morning and BBC's Good Morning Anne and Nick. Her previous books include A Complete Guide to Creative Embroidery (co-authored with Jean Littlejohn) and Stitches: New Approaches, also published by Batsford. Jean Littlejohn is a highly experienced embroiderer, teaching widely in the UK, USA, Canada, New Zealand and Australia. Having worked with embroidery for over 20 years, she is a verifier for the City and Guilds examination board. She has exhibited her work on both sides of the Atlantic and contributes regularly to embroidery magazines. Her book Fabrics for Embroidery is also published by Batsford.