

Level 1 Experimental Hand Stitch

Color and Stitch as a Creative Experience



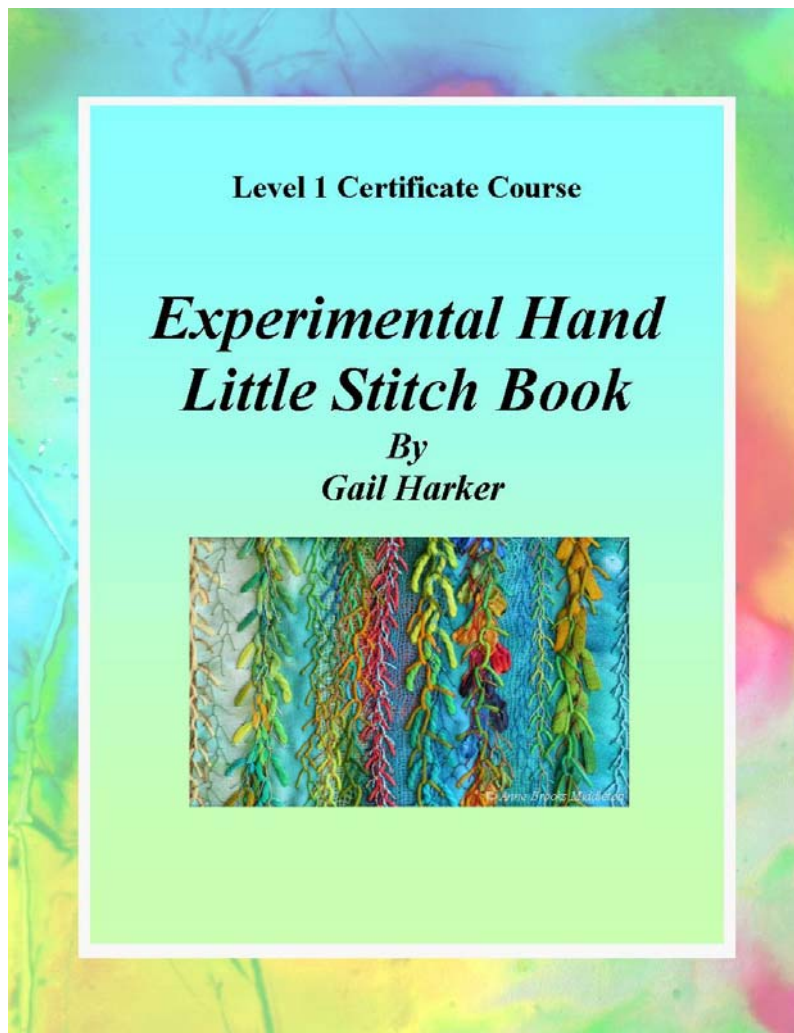
The Creative Experience

Many of our students tell us that they find it a challenge to be able to describe to their friends what it is that they do on any particular course at our center. I compiled this short visual presentation about Level 1 Experimental Hand Stitch for this very purpose. I hope that it will give you an idea of the aims, objectives and the accomplishments that students have within this five day course. Send it on to anyone who may enjoy looking at beautiful things.

It's Never too Late

We work from basic patterns of nature, color, line shape and texture. Our conversations about dyed fabrics and threads, the movement of the dye, how colors mix to create new colors, shades or neutrals are part of the dialogue that begins in this class. We dye fabrics and threads to get more than just *nice colors* but to begin to understand the messages that can be told through the medium of color itself. We stitch, not to recreate the perfect stitch but to create a line, mark or textural quality to express the essence of an idea, mood or thought. We are fuelled with the knowledge that it is never too late to create original work regardless of life circumstance.

- *Gail Harker*



A **workbook** of notes written by Gail awaits each student. It contains student notes about fabrics, threads, needles, frames, color, dyeing fabrics and threads. There is also a section covering each of the samples and how to do the stitches. This workbook is full of original illustrations and colorful photographs. The student notes are only occasionally used as a reference in the classroom. They are really intended to be a reminder and reference for students working at home.

Working at the Studio



Color is an inspirational starting point for paper, fabric and threads.



There are typically five to fourteen students in a class. It's always interesting to see how different people interpret ideas.

Preparing to Stitch



Sketchbook pages are painted, threads and fabrics are dyed in preparation for stitch.



© Karen Mason

Dyeing Threads

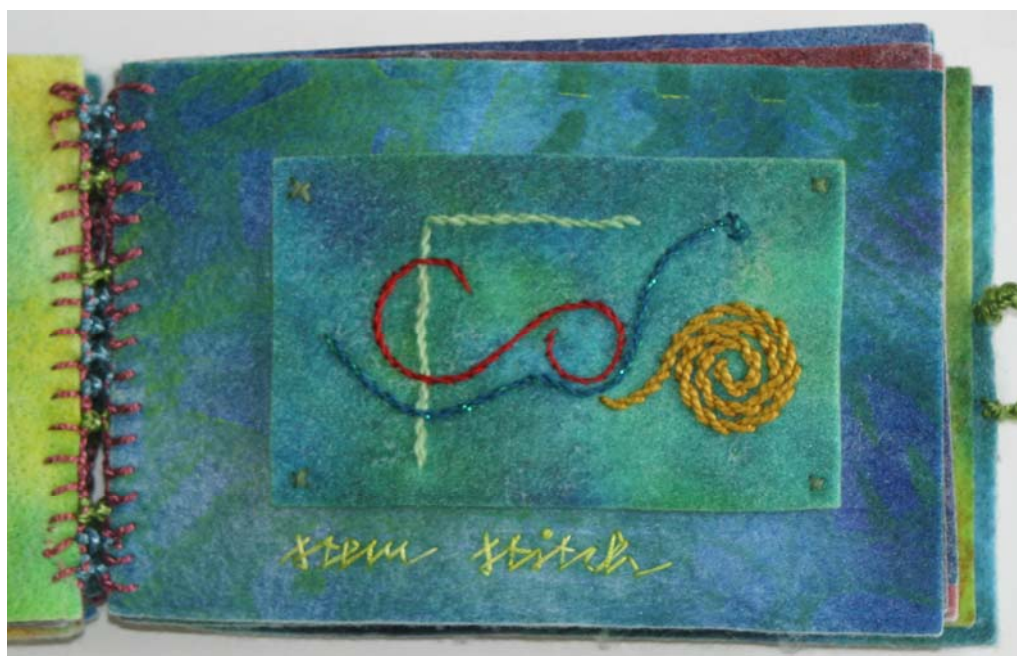


Students typically dye threads and fabrics on the first day. How can an artist begin to create until a palette of colors has begun? Students dye luscious colors of threads for stitching.

Stitch Samples for Little Fabric Books



Just enough fabric is dyed to make pages for a Little Stitch Book. Photo on left: © Karen Mason



The stitch sample pages have been designed to give students a broad experience with a variety of stitch types. We work with: line, shape, pattern and texture. Many demonstrations of stitches are shown throughout the session. Samples are small, and each has a different learning focus. Page above: © Maria Winner

Stitch Samples for Little Fabric Stitch Books



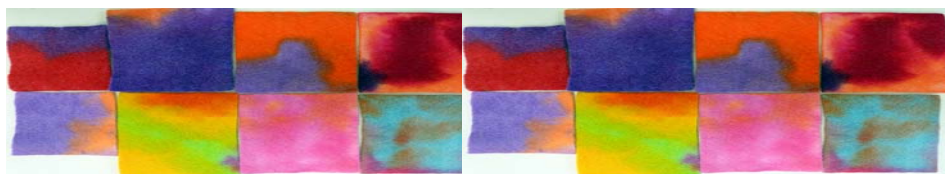
Stitch Samples for Handmade book by © Bonnie Rozander. Stitch samples are showcased in a small hand-bound, hand dyed book.

A Shared Experience

At the end of the session, students walk away with a number of samples ready to place in a handmade book. Their library has begun. They have new knowledge about how they can work in their own homes to achieve all that was done in class. A few new samples are set for homework. The samples are mailed or brought to the center to be reviewed. Whether the student is a beginner or someone who has stitched before, there is always a new challenge in this class. This is a taster class and a foundation for Level 2 Studies in Design and Experimental Hand and Machine Stitch.



Sharing the experience with like minded people can be a lot of fun.



Dyed fabrics