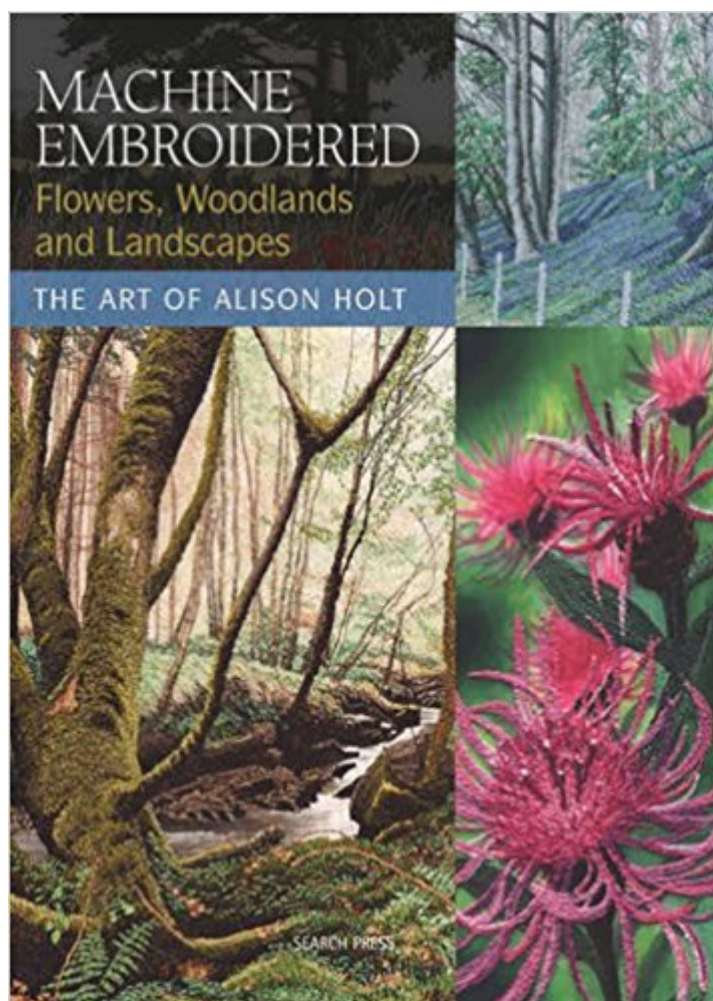


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Machine Embroidered Flowers, Woodlands And Landscapes: The Art Of Alison Holt



Synopsis

Drawing on material previously published as *The Beginner's Guide to Machine Embroidered Flowers*, *The Beginner's Guide to Machine Embroidered Landscapes* and *Machine Embroidered Woodlands*, this book provides a showcase of Alison Holt's exquisite machine embroideries. Learn how to create beautiful machine-embroidered pictures of gardens, flowers, landscapes and woodlands using various combinations of just two simple machine stitches. All the techniques are broken down into clear, step-by-step instructions, with numerous helpful photographs and a great range of inspirational pieces. Alison 'paints' her threads on to hand-coloured backgrounds, blending her stitches and achieving stunning results. The raised effects of the embroidery produce a beautiful three-dimensional look and her clever use of perspective is effective and easily achieved. This book covers everything, including the materials required; how to compose a picture from photographs that have inspired you; achieving perspective; light and shade; painting backgrounds; and all the basic stitch techniques you need to know. Detailed instructions explain how to create realistic flowers, trees, foliage and much more, and there are eight stunning step-by-step projects so that you can put into practice your newly acquired skills. This is a must-have instructional and inspirational book for anyone interested in free-motion embroidery.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"This wonderful book provides a showcase of Alison's exquisite machine embroideries and teaches you how to create beautiful pictures of your own of gardens, flowers, landscapes and woodlands using various combinations of two simple machine stitches." *Sewing World* (May 2012)

Alison Holt is a machine-embroidery, silk-painting, and surface-decoration instructor. She is the author of "Beginner's Guide to Machine Embroidered Flowers," "Beginner's Guide to Machine Embroidered Landscapes," and "Machine Embroidered Woodlands." Her embroideries have been exhibited in the United States and the United Kingdom, and her work is sold to private collectors worldwide.

Alison Holt is new to me and I am simply beside myself with the glee that comes from discovering a rare artist and her stunning creations. But if you are already an Alison Holt fan and own her previous books, you may very well have seen much of the material that is presented in this new compendium. Technically speaking - and quoting from the publication page - this book is "based on" these 3 books: 1. Beginner's Guide To Machine Embroidered Landscapes 2. A Beginner's Guide to Machine Embroidered Flowers 3. A Machine Embroidered Woodlands. There is some reformatting of text, but many of the photos are identical to those previously published. (I used 's Search Inside function, since I do not own any of the earlier books; my "research" on this is not exhaustive by any means!). So please take note of this so that you are not disappointed. Now on to the gushing and oohing and ahing ... Ms. Holt paints her inspirations on silk, then uses mostly straight and zig-zag stitching to build up the texture and detail, with feed dogs dropped and presser foot removed. Her favorite thread is fine (no 50) cotton. She does alter the screw on the bobbin, so if you are very particular about doing this, you might want to invest in a separate bobbin (keeping the other in its pristine unaltered condition). She also uses silk paints as instrumental portions of the background, using a hot iron to fix the colors. She provides excellent verbal instructions and detailed photos for every step of this intricate process; she is also the model in every photograph. I have trouble formatting even a complete sentence when trying to describe the results here: staggeringly beautiful, sublime, richly textured, supra-realistic, drop-dead dioramas. To call this "thread painting" simply does not convey the sheer artistry Ms. Holt portrays. She raises the machine embroidery bar for thread artists everywhere. There seems to be a trend in crafts publishing to reissue previously published books into re-editions. I am not critical of this, per se, but I do wish authors and publishers would be up front or simply focus on new content only. I have read many reviews by faithful fans and crafters who were sadly disappointed to spend good money on these re-editions, only to learn they already own the same material in a different format.

This book is wonderful to look through and very inspiring. I am not a machine embroiderer but this

book makes me want to learn how. The work gives so much dimension to the pieces, they go from a beautiful picture to stunning with great depth. What the other "gushing" reviews said is all true and more. It is beyond words to describe the intriguing quality of the work here. The instructions are very good, clear, and understandable. The work is very different from Annamieke Mein or Jane Hall, but just as beautiful. I have books by all 3 and they just make me want to create. Each one lends itself to creativity, but this book gives you the knowledge of how to go about doing this. The other 2 just make you drool and leave you wanting more knowledge. Now to learn how to use that machine! If you know how, I highly recommend getting this book and beginning to create your own beautiful art creations.

Very worthwhile purchase!

Nicely organized and inspiring.

Alison Holt is a true artist. This book is amazing. The things she can do with thread are incredible. It makes you want to try and her efforts. I have tried her examples with some success. I recommend this book to anyone who is interested in thread art.

I brought the book because I like the cover and I was happily surprised at the contents. The book shows great techniques in stitches, wonderful photographs, the supplies you need, and great instructions. A wonderful and great book to have.

Anybody doing free motion embroidery or using photos for scrapbooking or on fabric. I have a new sewing machine and software for doing embroidery and would advise people to buy the same books.

Alison does an excellent job of presenting her method, including the tools/supplies she uses and step by step of her process. The photos are great, as well as her instruction. A must have book for those doing nature thread art.

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