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An Educational Map for Needlepoint

Greetings, confreres in canvas –

Remember the MicroSoft Internet Explorer television ad that says "Where do you want to go today?" It reminds me of my early days as a member of ANG, when I was anxious to learn but had no idea what there was to learn, what I wanted to learn, or how to learn it. Through the years, first as program director for the Gateway Chapter and then as Director for Educational Services for ANG, members have approached me with the same sort of confusion. The fact is that we have a wealth of learning opportunities in ANG – in fact, almost too much.

Using the ANG definitions of stitching proficiency, my own ideas about what a stitcher should know, and the information available in the ANG Education Directory and Web site, I've attempted to lay out an educational plan. I haven't included the many opportunities in EGA's Education Directory and Web site or those listed on independent web sites that offer cyberclasses and the like.

I hasten to say that not all members will or should care about this "map". There are many reasons for joining ANG, and not everyone wants the pressure of feeling that they're in school again. For those who are so inclined, this table can help you sort through ANG's current offerings and to make sensible decisions based on what you want to learn. It might even help you assess if an opportunity not on the list would be of interest to you.

No curriculum can exist without controversy, and I expect that some of you will have better ideas about the content of this table. If so, please let me know! It can only improve with diverse input.

Denise Beusen

About the author: Denise has served on the Board of the St. Louis Gateway Chapter ANG as Newsletter Editor, Program Director, and President. In 2002, she chaired the ANG Workshop By Mail program, and in 2003-2004 served as the ANG Director for Educational Services. She is a contributor to the 2002 ANG Chapter Handbook, and the 2003 and 2005 ANG Chapter Project Books. She welcomes your comments and questions at denise@beusen.net.

Needlepoint Proficiency Levels	Example Activity	Example Source
Basic		
Can thread a needle, and begin and end threads correctly	<i>take a correspondence course</i>	ANG: First Steps
Works tent stitch (half-cross, continental, and/or basketweave)	<i>Read books</i> <i>View video tape*</i>	"The Needlepoint Book" by Jo Ippolito Christensen ANG: Basic Needlepoint
Can read and work from simple diagrams and charts	<i>take a correspondence course</i>	ANG: Mostly Milanese
Basic Intermediate		
Has had at least six hours of workshop** instruction	<i>take a Chapter workshop</i>	Nov: Dawn Donnelly workshop
Confidently works basketweave stitch and compensates curved shapes	<i>Read books</i>	"The Diagonal Basketweave" by Davie Hyman
Can work at least six (6) different decorative stitches	<i>take a correspondence course</i> <i>create a stitch notebook</i>	ANG: Appalachian Heritage ANG: Stitch of the Month projects - see website or SOTM book
Understands and works from stitch diagrams and charts with confidence	<i>work small charited projects</i>	ANG: Stitch of the Month projects - see website or SOTM book
Intermediate		
Has participated in at least three formal workshops	<i>take workshops</i>	Regional/National Seminars offered by ANG, EGA, or NAN Chapter: Betty Chen Louis workshop in May
Has stitched with a variety of threads both natural and manmade	<i>take a correspondence course</i>	ANG: Survey of Threads from Natural Fibers ANG: Survey of Manmade and Metallic Threads
Confidently works and compensates complicated stitches from diagrams	<i>take a correspondence course</i>	ANG: Marissa's Weathervanes
Has worked at least four of the following techniques on counted grounds	<i>take a correspondence course</i>	ANG: Log Cabin II
beading	<i>take a correspondence course</i>	ANG: Star Spangled Sampler
blackwork	<i>take a correspondence course</i>	ANG: Whooh?, Boundless Bargello
Florentine (Bargello)	<i>take a correspondence course</i>	ANG: Needle Arts Millennium #305 American crewel
free stitchery (crewel, shading, long and short)	<i>View video tape</i>	ANG: Olde Town Box, Heart Full of Jewels
hardanger	<i>take a correspondence course</i>	ANG: Silk Pageantry
introductory silk and metal thread techniques	<i>take a correspondence course</i>	ANG: Design Into Stitch
mixed media	<i>View video tape</i>	ANG: Darning Patterns and Filler Stitches
pattern darning	<i>take a correspondence course</i>	ANG: Pulled and Drawn Thread
pulled thread	<i>View video tape</i>	ANG: Silk Ribbon Embroidery
silk ribbon	<i>take a correspondence course</i>	October program: purse; Nov program: Bracelet Jan/Feb program: Brooch; Mar program: Pendant
Has finished some simple projects such as ornaments	<i>do a chapter program</i>	ANG: Bring your canvas to life
Can select threads and stitches for customization of painted canvases	<i>View video tape</i>	ANG: Needle Arts Millennium #307 Stitching a painted canvas

Needlepoint Proficiency Levels, continued	<i>Example Activity</i>	<i>Example Source</i>
Advanced Intermediate		
Has participated in at least five formal workshops or classes	take workshops	Regional/National Seminars offered by ANG, EGA, or NAN Chapter: Betty Chen Louis workshop in May
Has worked a wide variety of techniques on a readily counted ground	<i>View video tape</i>	ANG: Needle Arts Millenium #304 Appliqué
appliqué	<i>take a correspondence course</i>	ANG: Gingerbread House
attaching found objects	<i>Do a Workshop By Mail</i>	ANG: Angel of Love
couching	<i>Take a correspondence course</i>	ANG: Rhapsody
cut/drawn thread work	<i>View video tape</i>	ANG: Pulled and Drawn Thread
goldwork	<i>take a correspondence course</i>	ANG: English Goldwork Heart I or II
laid filling patterns	<i>do a CyberWorkshop</i>	ANG: "Pink Champagne"
laying silk and stranded threads	<i>take a correspondence course</i>	ANG: Quilter's Cross, Garden Path
needlelace	<i>View video tape</i>	ANG: Needlelace Medallions
needleweaving	<i>Read books</i>	"The Open Canvas" by Carolyn Ambuter
raised/stump work	<i>View video tape</i>	ANG: Needle Arts Studio #202 Stumpwork
silk and metal thread techniques	<i>take a correspondence course</i>	ANG: Quilter's Cross, Garden Path
Confidently stitches diagonal patterns	<i>take a correspondence course</i>	ANG: Peeping Tom
Understands finishing of more complicated projects such as stand-ups	<i>take a correspondence course</i>	ANG: Cottage Etui, Gingerbread House
	<i>do a chapter program</i>	May program: Box assembly
Advanced		
Has participated in a wide variety of formal workshops in different techniques	take workshops	Regional/National Seminars offered by ANG, EGA, or NAN Chapter: Betty Chen Louis workshop in May
has experience with many different types of grounds and thread	<i>take a correspondence course</i>	ANG: Heart of My Heart Sampler
has skills for pursuing solutions to problems in design, color, and techniques	<i>View video tape</i>	ANG: Needle Arts Millenium #303 Silk gauze
Is interested in developing original designs, colors, and/or styles	<i>Take a correspondence course</i>	ANG: Understanding Color; Understanding Design
	<i>View video tape</i>	ANG: Shady Threads
	<i>do a chapter program</i>	April program: Box top design
*most ANG video tapes include a project for hands-on experience		
**a workshop is a formal instructional setting led by an accredited needlework teacher or one who has taught previously at National Seminars		