

Embroiderers' Guild of America

Master Craftsman Program

Smocking

Step 1 Basic Skills

Purpose: A drop-yoke dress, blouse or nightgown will be worked to demonstrate knowledge and mastery of basic smocking stitches, color usage and clothing construction. The garment must have set-in sleeves, a collar and fasten with buttons and buttonholes. Candidates may use trim such as lace and piping as desired.

General Requirements: Please reread information packet.

Design: The design may be either original or an adaptation of a commercial pattern.

Design Size: The project may be any size from infant to adult.

Pleating: Any method of pleating that is appropriate to the fabric and for English smocking may be used. The method should not be apparent in the completed work. Please include in your documentation information regarding the method used.

Fabric: A cotton or cotton-polyester blend (such as Spechler Vogel Imperial batiste or broadcloth or Pima cotton).

Thread: Stranded cotton

Colors: Split complimentary color scheme.

Construction: French seams of ¼ inch finished width. Garment should be hemmed by hand. Heirloom sewing techniques may be used as desired.

Stitches: Include a smocking graph showing where each stitch was used. Cite the books used.

1. Five, and only five, of the following stitches must be used:
 - a. Cable
 - b. Wave
 - c. Trellis
 - d. Stem
 - e. Outline
 - f. Flowerette
 - g. Spool
2. One or more of the following surface embroidery stitches must be used:
 - a. French knot
 - b. Bullion
 - c. Lazy daisy
 - d. Chain

Judging: Your project will be judged on the following

1. Pleating on-grain with uniform depth
2. Stitching (smocking) technique
3. Color usage
4. Appropriate selection of fabrics and threads
5. Balance of stitches
6. Garment finishing techniques
7. Proper documentation of the above

Examples of successfully completed pieces:



Sandra Sackstedder Step 3



Kim Sanders Step 5