

Book Review



SURFACES FOR STITCH Plastics, Films and Fabrics

By Gwen Medley

B T Batsford London (2000)

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If you were lucky enough to go to the workshops run by Jean Littlejohn and Jan Beaney then you will enjoy the sections in this book on Tyvek, adhesive webbing and puff paints. This book will refresh your knowledge of the basic techniques and then take you through numerous exciting applications. For example, in the Tyvek section you can progress through the following techniques:

- Raised bubbles
- Stitching ideas
- Filigree and lacework
- Distorting an image
- Strips and stripes
- Making sculptural bead
- Making incised beads

Each of these Tyvek techniques (and there are many more described in the book) is accompanied by colour pictures of samples so it is very clear as to what the technique looks like. If you didn't go to the Beaney and Littlejohn workshops then you can catch up on these techniques because the instructions are very clear and easy to follow.

The section of the book that has really interested me is the section on using plastics. The book explains how to recycle all those plastic shopping bags that accumulate in the house for further use. It also explains how to use cling wrap and plastic file pockets – all items that you have on hand when the mood takes you to have a bit of creative time.

There is another section on Softsculpt but since I don't have any of this material I am not able to comment on this section but I

will be on the lookout to obtain some as soon as possible.

The main reason why I have found this book so exciting is that I have found the pictures and projects in the book have stimulated me to have a go. The instructions are very clear so I feel confident that I can do the task and most of the materials required are at hand. Normally, I am a vicarious reader of textile books, always thinking someday I will use that technique, but with this book I get up and I play! - Barbara Kelly