

ABIGAIL MILL -WORKSHOP REQUIREMENT SHEET

The workshop is designed to give you newfound confidence in creative FM machine embroidery, which you can then take forward in your own work. The morning is spent running through a sampling different stitch techniques and tension tests, which I will demo, and then you follow, so that you can really get to grips with your machine.

With your newfound skills I will take you on a journey into building up your own embroideries through layering up fabrics. The aim is to make an embroidered picture, either Landscape or Seascape inspired, using layers of fabric and embroidery.

You will need:

1. SEWING MACHINE – These need to adapt to FM embroidery by dropping the Feed dogs and using either a Quilting Foot or Darning Foot. Some older machines have a plastic plate that clicks over the feed dogs.
2. EMBROIDERY HOOP- Between 9” – 12” This needs to be wooden, preferably birch and not the cheaper bamboo hoops, which are a bit rough round the edges, and difficult to achieve a good tension. The plastic ones aren’t up to this task either.
3. SEWING KIT – All the basics, Pins, machine needles, scissors, polycotton threads (I use cheap and cheery threads as they are uncoated and run well through the machine). Your own collection of threads, and pre-wound bobbins in an array of colours, to save time on the day. I also recommend fabric glue although I find that Pritt stick works too! Fabric pens might also come in handy to draw around shapes before cutting.
4. SAMPLE FABRIC- Cotton sheeting will do the job. We wont need anything fancy here...any left over plain fabric will as it’s for sampling in a hoop.
5. BASE FABRIC – This is for the finished picture. We will work on base of fabric sandwich made from a piece of felt, bonda web or fabric spayed in the middle, topped with plain cotton sheeting. Any other combo of fabric stiffener/ Vilene would also work. I’d encourage you to work up to A3, as it’s surprising how quickly you can fill a fabric picture.
6. RESOURCE PICTURE- These can be photos, sketches, holiday postcards, photos on an ipad...anything that inspires you to recreate it fabric.
7. FABRICS- Think about your final piece. You can use blues for the sky and sea, greens for gardens, sandy colours for seascapes. Anything and everything that you have at home from precious collections to quilting scraps. We all have a hoard and it will come in handy now!
8. TRIMMINGS - Your picture can be embellished with laces, hand dyed silks, buttons and beads and any other little finds that you might have.

I also sell a range of sewing and applique kits on my website at www.abigailmill.co.uk which you can buy directly if you feel that you need more of a “Sewing by numbers” experience. They contain a pattern, instructions and all of the fabric that you need to make up the picture, and come in a collection of designs.