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## Stitches: New Approaches (Batsford Classic Embroidery)

Jan Beaney

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## STITCHES: NEW APPROACHES

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**Jan Beaney : Stitches: New Approaches (Batsford Classic Embroidery)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Stitches: New Approaches (Batsford Classic Embroidery):

28 of 28 people found the following review helpful. An embroidery book with NO color photos?By Susan W. SwartzFirst of all, this is a reprint of a 1985 book, which should be clearly stated in its description. Secondly, have you ever seen an embroidery book without a single color photo? And with hardly any explanation of stitches? The entire book consists of black-and-white photos of different embroidery stitches in use in finished works. The book has scant text, most of it descriptions such as "Blocks of detached buttonhole worked in thick, thin, shiny and matt threads," which might be helpful if the photos were in color and you could see the difference. The book also has such "useful" suggestions as "Try working the stitch very tightly or in a loose manner."Jan Beaney is a master but this 20-year-old book is an anachronistic dinosaur compared to the newer books available, including Jan Beaney's own Stitch Magic and her series of booklets published by Gemini Press.I'm going to return this book, as I find it of no use at all.3 of 3

people found the following review helpful. Stitches: New Approaches By Helene Knott I am surprised this book did not get better reviews from others. As a fiber artist and teacher I found it to be an extremely comprehensive book on stitchery and design as are all the books authored by Jan Beaney. As the title suggests, it covers 'new approaches' to traditional stitching celebrating the new without scorning the old. In addition to showing contemporary manipulations of traditional stitches, it has a tutorial on design inspirations, observing the world around you to glean ideas to interpret in stitching. There is a section on rendering a design using only one kind of stitch and the reader is challenged to create a piece of stitchery in this fashion; the various examples of this are shown in a wide range of solo stitch designs to open your mind to the possibilities one technique can offer. It is a book worth reading cover to cover. If there is any single detractor perhaps it is that it is not a 'stitch encyclopedia' that gives step-by-step instructions for creating the stitches themselves but anyone with a basic familiarity with embroidery will already know most of the stitches and if not, a basic 'how to' booklet on working basic stitches can be used to help the inexperienced embroiderer interpret the methods. I already own several of those types of books, what I am interested in now are books to inspire me to explore my own design possibilities, not copy other people's patterns or learn how to embroider. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Stitching By Trina CI was disappointed in this book. There was very little hands on technique for each stitch. Which left me with very little enthusiasm to figure out on my own how to execute the stitches.

An amazing range of textures and effects can be produced through the creative use of stitches. The author begins by analysing in detail the effects that can be achieved by using different background fabrics, threads and needles and moves on to explore all the possibilities offered by a range of 40 different stitches. She asks questions such as 'Can the stitch be worked in circles?', 'Can it be worked upside down?' and illustrates some possible answers. She encourages the embroiderer to go beyond the 'correct' or conventional method of working, towards new approaches. There is also a valuable section on design which, by the use of sketches and photographs, introduces the principles of observing people, buildings, trees, flowers and landscapes and translating them into designs suitable for embroidery.

'...opens one's eyes to the great scope in approaching stitchery...' - Constance Howard '...a standard reference work for all serious students of embroidery' - Audrey Walker, Head of the Textile Department, Goldsmith's College  
About the Author  
At art college Jan Beaney discovered an enthusiasm for stitching which led her to study and later teach embroidery. She has been involved in the world of embroidery for over 30 years as a designer, tutor and author. She teaches extensively around the world and is a member of the prestigious 62 group. She presented the successful BBC TV series, Embroidery and is co-author with Jean Littlejohn of A Complete Guide to Creative Embroidery and Stitch Magic, both published by Batsford and regularly reprinted.