



Master Needlepointer and Senior Master Needlepointer Program

Purpose

The Master Needlepointer Program is a qualification process for needle workers wishing to demonstrate their technical excellence using needle and thread. The Master Needlepointer level may be achieved by obtaining satisfactory evaluation of the first four stages. These stages begin with basic techniques and progress to intermediate and advanced stitches and the use of textural stitches and color to produce depth. ANG defines needlepoint as "any counted or free stitchery worked by hand with a threaded needle on a readily countable ground." This progressive definition encourages creativity through a traditional and contemporary approach to needlepoint. The program participant may use supplied designs or create their own for the Master Needlepointer level. A painted canvas is allowed in the third and fourth stages. To fulfill the Senior Master Needlepointer level requires two additional stages that require the creation of original designs, application of color theory and advanced stitching techniques. Each stage will be evaluated according to the best practices of needlepoint. Stage submissions will be evaluated twice a year.

Acceptance into the program will begin with the receipt of the registration form and the program fee of \$250. Upon entry in the program, all instructional materials regarding the requirements for the first four stages of the Master Needlepointer level will be provided to the program participant. Submission of the first stage must be made within 18 months following entry to the program.

The four stages for the Master Needlepointer designation must be completed within five years. Those continuing to the Senior Master Needlepointer level must complete the final two stages within an additional two years. All postage costs will be paid by the program participant. Participants who complete the program will be recognized at an ANG Seminar and in *Needle Pointers* magazine.

Participation in the Master Needlepointer program is an individual undertaking. Although the participant may consult others while fulfilling the requirements for each stage, the submitted work must be that of the participant only.

Guidelines for submission – all stages

Each submission must include a list of the stitches used, the stitch source and a sample of the thread used for each stitch. The submission form has a table for this information; it also must be included. In the case of participant chosen designs, the design source must be documented. If the design is an original design, the preliminary sketches and drawings must be submitted.



Master Needlepointer and Senior Master Needlepointer Program

Master Needlepointer stages:

Stage 1: Covers technique and stitch basics including but not limited to beginning and ending threads, ground coverage, stitch compensation and knowledge of basic stitches.

The candidate will have a choice of one of two geometric designs or one of the candidates choosing. A chosen design may be an original or adapted design or a commercial design that fulfills the requirements of this stage. In the case of an adaptation or the use of a commercial design, documentation of the design origin must be provided.

Eight of the 20 provided stitches must be used, one of which must be a pulled thread stitch. The color scheme must be monochromatic or analogous. Thread type for the supplied designs is a floss type thread. The number of strands will be that which will provide sufficient coverage of the chosen ground fabric for the chosen stitch. The candidate may select the type of fiber (cotton, silk, etc.).

Stitches that may be used are: tent, upright Gobelin, cross, Smyrna, slanted Gobelin, mosaic, brick, Scotch, upright cross, Byzantine, Parisian, cashmere, T-stitch, pavilion, Milanese, nun, eyelet, cable, fagot, and 4-sided. Instructions for most of these stitches are available on the ANG website, in the Stitch of the Month section. Those are included in this packet for convenience. You may need to refer to other stitch books. Please check the bibliography for suggested titles.

Stage 2: Beyond basics: composite stitches and intermediate techniques. All considerations from Stage 1 continue for this stage, including the stitched area criteria. Shapes other than square or rectangular are encouraged. The area of a circle can be determined by the following formula: $\text{Area} = 3.14 \times \text{radius}^2$.

There is a choice of two organic designs. Here the term organic refers to designs comprised of segments with curved boundaries (not straight lines). Alternatively, the candidate may choose to create an original design, adapt a design or use a commercial design that meets the criteria of this stage.

For this stage, the design must have 12 stitch areas, half of which are bounded by at least one curved edge. The stitch area edges may not be covered with couching or by other means.

The supplied designs should be scaled to meet the area requirement for the chosen ground as indicated on each design. Each submission must contain 8 of the 12 supplied stitches, including at least one diaper pattern. Stitches may be used individually or in combination. The color scheme must be either complementary or split complementary. Thread selection is the choice of the candidate but must include stranded threads to demonstrate the ability to properly lay threads with good coverage of the ground fabric. The 12 stitches for this stage are: rice, plaited herringbone, leviathan, Rhodes, sprat's head, waffle, Nobuko, burden, French knot, Turkey work, darning pattern, and Jessica. Some of these stitches are available on the ANG website. For those that are not, you will need to document your source.

Stage 3: Intermediate techniques: texture and color to achieve depth, use of pulled and drawn thread techniques and edge finishing.

All considerations from the previous stages continue for this stage. There is a choice of two designs. Alternatively, the candidate may choose to create an original design, adapt a design or use a commercial design that meets the criteria of this stage. For this stage, the use of a painted canvas is acceptable. Interpretation of the chosen design with respect to stitch texture and color must give depth to the image being created. Eight stitches must be included with at least two stitches being pulled or drawn thread techniques. These may be chosen from the lists included for stages 1 and 2 or from other sources. Each stitch used must be documented regarding its source. Additionally, two edge finishing techniques must be included in the design or submitted in separate samples. Possible edge finishing techniques are: nun stitch, basic hemstitch, drawn thread hemstitch, and hemstitch with picot edge.

Stage 4: Advanced intermediate: added dimension. All considerations from the previous stages continue for this stage. There is a choice of two designs. Alternatively, the candidate may choose to create an original design, adapt a design or use a commercial design that meets the criteria of this stage. For this stage, the use of a painted canvas is acceptable. This stage includes canvas applique. There must be at least one design element appliqued using the traditional applique technique. Other dimensional design elements based on stumpwork techniques (bas-relief or stitched separately and then attached) are also required. There must be at least one attached found object of the candidate's choosing. There can be no glue and the stitching must be more than simply attaching a charm or bead. Shisha is permitted. The stitches and number of stitches will be chosen by the candidate and must be documented.

Senior Master Needlepointer stages:

Upon successful completion of the Master Needlepointer level, the two stages of the Senior Master Needlepointer Program offer the opportunity to demonstrate advanced skills in needlepoint design as well as technique. All skills demonstrated in the four stages of the Master Needlepointer level are required for these stages.

Stage 5: Original geometric design of at least 12 components demonstrating color, texture and balance. The overall stitched area must be at least 144 square inches on #18 ground. This corresponds to a 12" square or a 13.5" diameter circle, for example. On #24 ground, the required area is 81 square inches, corresponding to a 9" square or a 5.1" diameter circle. The design will include oblique design lines and curves. The design may be three dimensional.

Stage 6: Original organic design of at least 12 components. May be a still life, landscape, etc. For this stage, an organic design will contain curves or shapes found in nature. The design may not be a band or spot sampler. The overall stitched area must be at least 144 square inches on #18 ground. This corresponds to a 12" square or a 13.5" diameter circle, for example. On #24 ground, the required area is 81 square inches, corresponding to a 9" square or a 5.1" diameter circle. The design must include oblique design lines and curves. The design may be three dimensional. Stitches used for this stage must include silk and metal techniques plus laid fillings and couched metals.

Bibliography

This bibliography is not intended to be an exhaustive list of available references. It will provide the range and scope of techniques needed to complete the Master Needlepointer Program. Other references used to complete the stages in this program should be documented in the submission materials.