

BLACKWORK VEST

February 1996

Design Inspiration

The design for this vest originated in an Embroiderers' Guild of America (EGA) correspondence course on blackwork embroidery techniques. The goal of the course was to produce a sampler of blackwork embroidery patterns. I decided to showcase the many visual textures of these patterns in a vest. I adapted the design for the right front from the course materials and designed the left front to coordinate with the right, but to use different patterns and motifs.

Fabrics

36 count Edinburgh linen, 100% cotton (vest back).

Embellishments

Hand-embroidered traditional blackwork patterns using cotton floss and perle cotton.

Patterns

New Look 6113.

Special Sewing Techniques

The shape of the pattern pieces are basted onto the linen, but not cut out. The linen fabric is then framed and hand stitched. The stitching is designed to fit within the basted guidelines. After the stitching is complete, the vest is cut out and constructed as usual.

Exhibitions and Awards

1st place and Judges Choice, American Needlepoint Guild National Show, Memphis 1996.