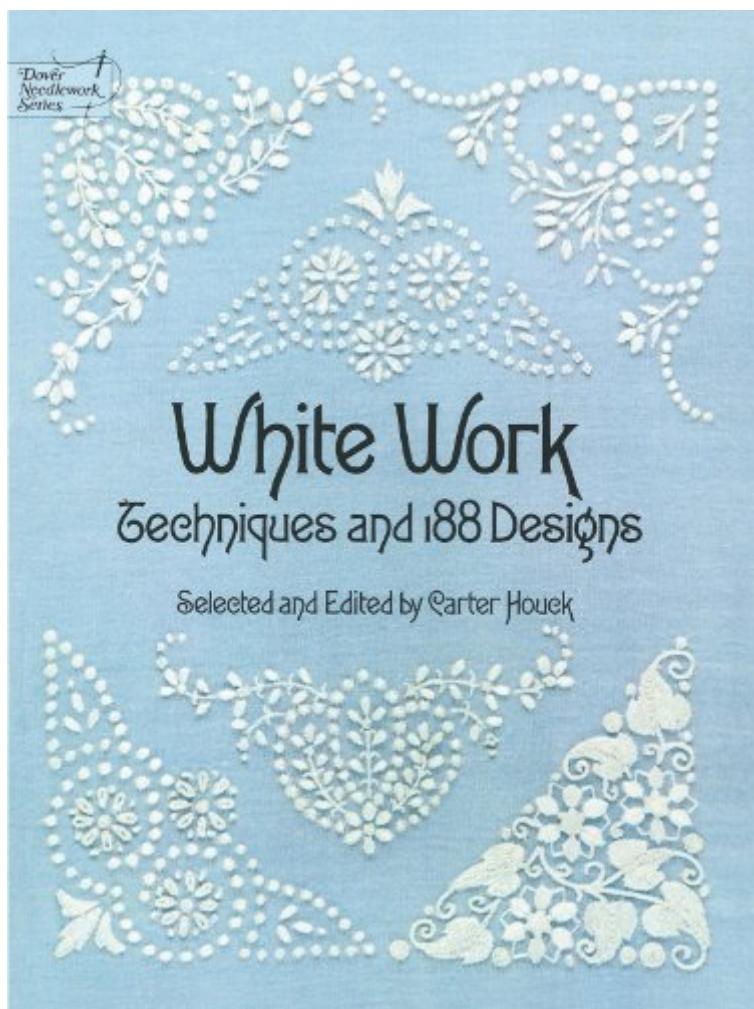


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# White Work: Techniques And 188 Designs (Dover Embroidery, Needlepoint)



## **Synopsis**

In dozens of countries and in hundreds of varieties, the venerable craft of white work has become a byword for the ultimate form of needlework elegance. Its 3,000-year history encompasses every conceivable form of garment and decorative linen, from peasant blouses to papal vestments and the bridal gowns of queens; it appears in many guises as the favored embroidery of needleworkers from Denmark to South Africa, from England to the Philippines. Unfortunately, white work has frequently been neglected in the United States because of its underserved reputation as a difficult form of embroidery — the type of work that, as author Carter Houck states, is never seen "beyond the glass cases of a museum." In reality white work can be performed at all levels of expertise; even more important, Ms. Houck shows that superb results can be achieved without laborious practice and prodigious technique. From these pages white work emerges as a vibrant and continually evolving form of contemporary embroidery that is both beautiful in itself and valuable for its myriad uses. Ms. Houck assumes no previous knowledge of white work and provides complete information on materials, pattern-transferring techniques, and instructions and diagrams for over 20 stitches: the simple chain stitch and running stitch; satin stitches and French knots; and more difficult "virtuoso" techniques like the Star and Shadow. Following the instructions are 40 pages of magnificent patterns, including florals, repeats, abstract designs, spot and corner decorations in a wide variety of sizes and moods, and two complete sets of alphabets for use as monograms. For each design Ms. Houck has suggested a stitch or stitches that produce optimal effects. As a result, the book acts as a self-contained guide to white work that can transform blouses, cuffs, collars, scarves, place settings, curtains, or any embroidery medium into treasures of heirloom quality.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

This book has surprisingly large number of patterns. I bought a Kindle edition. It allows the ability to enlarge on the screen. From here you can take an iPad picture then print it on your printer. From there you are able to transfer pattern to a grid using paint or your favorite paint program. Now you can easily complete your project using the weave of your fabric to match the grid. Nice!

I love this book for the designs! If you are looking for White Work eye candy you will be disappointed it has no photographs of white work other than the front cover. This is a simple book and if you look at the price it reflects that as well. Still it is a wonderful book just for the designs alone, which can be used with any embroidery not just in white work. I enjoyed reading about the history and how stitches are used for white work. The only thing that really makes white work any different is that it is done in all white thread on white fabric and when you work in 1 color you need to use different stitches to create texture and make your embroidery interesting. The author suggests stitches for use with the patterns but they are only recommendations. I do wish there was a few examples to "see" what has been explained but that is not needed in order to use the patterns or to try creating your own white work. Overall for the price this book is worth it for the patterns and a little bit of white work history and ideas.

Very nice reference for doing historical designs in whitework.

There is not enough instructions and pictures showing each technique. There are plenty of designs but the comparisons between the stitching technique and the patterns are not complete. This book would be okay for intermediate white work embroiders.

So many designs allowing you to create your own arrangements and motifs. Very helpful in planning new projects. This is not a book of instructions although there are the obligatory pictures of various embroidery stitches to help the novice. I bought this because I want to do a large candlewicking project and wasn't having any luck with designing it and I'm very well pleased with this book.

Very pleased with this book.

These patterns are much clearer and nicer than I expected. I have paid a good bit more, for a good bit less. They also do not have to be done in all white, although white on white and white on pastels is lovely, I did some of the corner patterns in colors, and they were nice too.

The only difficulty this book would present would be transferring the patterns given by Carter Houck from one page of paper to tracing paper. I would have loved to see perforations along the spine of the book to ease the tearing out of the patterns I would trace. And I would have appreciated mention of such transferring materials as the widely available transfer pencils. Apart from those considerations, the patterns were lovely, and I can hardly wait to get to work on them.

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