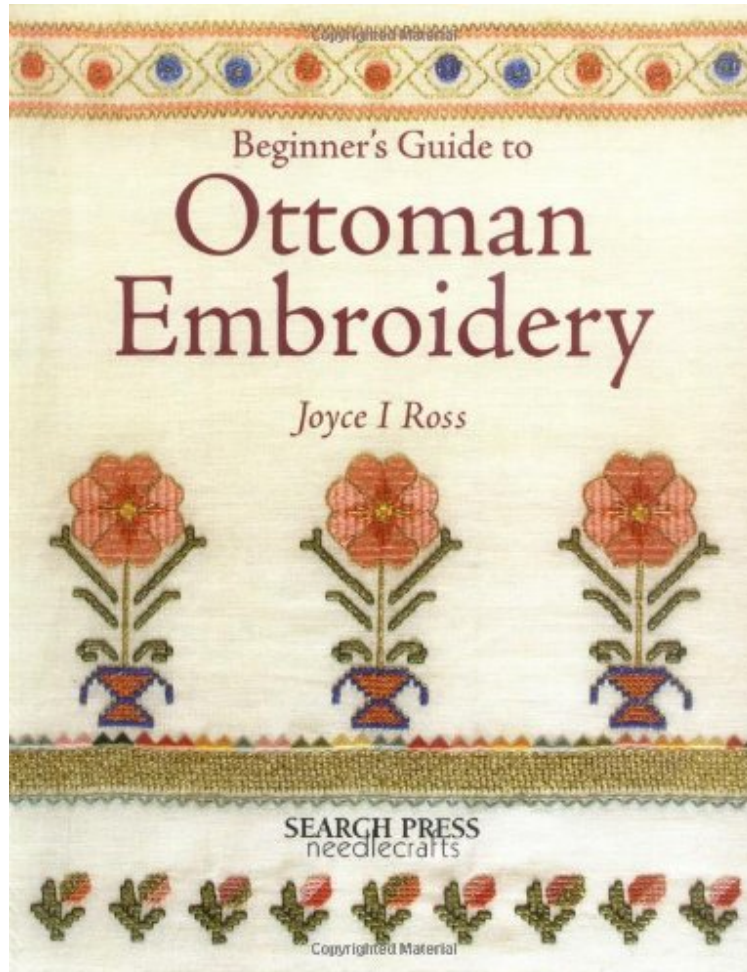


Beginner's Guide to Ottoman Embroidery

Joyce I. Ross

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Joyce I. Ross : Beginner's Guide to Ottoman Embroidery before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Beginner's Guide to Ottoman Embroidery:

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. It is not quite what I was expecting. Not ...By Jessica CordrayIt is not quite what I was expecting. Not really very much history, more a book of projects using Ottoman motifs.3 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Ottoman EmbroideryBy Patricia A. JayThis book is very heart warming. Story tells how the Ottoman peoples ventured from place to place taking only things of importance until they created their own empire. They taught themselves to embroidery using examples from their surroundings. Super great book with color photos of their gorgeous embroidery. Check out numerous books on Ottoman Embroidery.4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Excellent beginner's guide to the lovely embroidery of an ancient cultureBy Jane in MilwaukeeI'm stunned at the negative review: this person really hates this book! I find it charming. The publisher, England's puts forth hundreds of books on crafts and I own many, many on embroidery including:The Embroidery

Stitch Bible: Over 200 Stitches Photographed with Easy-to-follow Charts
Beginner's Guide to Blackwork
Canvaswork (Essential Stitch Guide)
I paid \$1.47 for a used copy of this book. What is this negative reviewer whining about? There are dozens of MUCH more extensive and MUCH more expensive ones than this pleasant book. This small book of only 72 pages is not meant to be an exhaustive research tome about this enormous region of central importance with its multitude of cultures and embroidery styles over the centuries. Rather you see from the first words of the introduction that this is a more intimate book about the personal investigation and discovery of SOME parts of Ottoman embroidery. In fact, Ms. Ross specifies that she and her husband visited Turkey in 1997 to search for his uncle's grave from the WWI battle of Gallipoli. Upon finding it she was so struck with the set-up of the cemetery and designs she saw in all the surrounding architecture, textiles, flowers, etc. in Turkey that she became interested in the appealing embroidery. She acknowledges the various cultures and nations that have dominated this part of the world for centuries so she honed her research and coverage to Turkish Ottoman embroidery and specifically the Greek designs she learned about from before 1920. She identifies that one of her first sources of information is the excellent: *Flowers of Silk and Gold: Four Centuries of Ottoman Embroidery*, written for an exhibition at the Washington D.C. Textile Museum. I also don't know what the negative reviewer is talking about that this book is fit for neither beginners nor expert stitchers. It's designated in the title that it's geared to beginners, hence the relative simplicity of the designs themselves. I am an expert stitcher and find the chapter, *Dictionary of Stitches* to be excellent. I'm very familiar with cross stitch, buttonhole, double-running, herringbone and hem-stitches and I have done some needleweaving and pattern darning. But I've never heard of Bukhara self-couching, Merver, Musabek or Atma stitches. You can see from the one on the cover that the projects are small and doable. You can easily do a small band sampler from the single rows of each stitch shown in great color close-up. Or you can make up the small projects like the bookmark, card, small cushion or coaster. Of the 15 books in the excellent Bibliography, I own and can recommend these, in addition to *Flowers of Silk and Gold*, which will suit people who want more in-depth information: *Embroidery -- Traditional Designs, Techniques and Patterns from All Over the World* *Drawn Fabric Embroidery (Batsford Classic Embroidery)* These are other books on the subject you might enjoy; beware--they're rare and expensive: *Ottoman Embroidery (Victoria and Albert Museum Studies)* *Ottoman Embroidery* *Islemeler: Ottoman Domestic Embroideries* *Floral messages: From Ottoman court embroideries to Anatolian trousseau chests*

Inspired by the author's visits to Turkey and all that she experienced there, this guide to historic embroideries explores in-depth a wonderful range of stitches, images, and designs. Particular focus is given to the techniques of Ottoman embroidery, as well as the fabrics, threads, and colors that were used. A dictionary of stitches describes a whole range of stitches from Bukhara self couching to needleweaving and Turkish punch stitch. Projects offer inspiring ideas for samplers, cards, coasters, bookmarks, and more. A wonderful section on borders and motifs includes attractive border patterns used in 18th and 19th century Ottoman embroideries and motifs adapted from the pieces the author has studied. It will encourage embroiderers and textile artists everywhere to look at the historical treasures we have around us, and inspire them to create their own original works of art.

About the Author
Joyce Ross was a member of the Auckland Embroiderers' Guild and studied at the Whitecliffe Art School. She has exhibited her work, received awards, and taught various forms of embroidery extensively in New Zealand, the U.S., and Canada.