

HARDANGER INTERMEDIATE GROUP SAMPLER EAC-2005-10



Description: This delicate looking, yet structured sampler featuring an array of techniques and threads was specifically designed for students wishing to enrol in a Hardanger Intermediate Group Correspondence Course. A variety of counted satin stitch techniques and motifs, faggot stitches, Maltese Crosses, spiders, eyelets and woven bars all inspire and challenge the stitchers. Creamy pearl beads provide extra highlights throughout this exacting embroidery. While much of the sampler is worked in an antique blue number 5 perle cotton and variegated *Waterlilies* thread in peach and blue silk threads, the more intricate, open areas are embellished in the antique blue number 12 perle cotton. Worked on an evenweave blue linen with a count of 28 threads to the inch, this EAC student stitchery is finished as a mini bell pull with open, lace-like embroidery creating a deep V-shaped lower hemline. All sides are stitched in the buttonhole technique and a handcrafted cord in the perle cotton threads mentioned above blends well with the turned ends of the little hangar. The sampler measures 15.5 centimetres by 46.5 centimetres at its longest point.

The upper portion of this Hardanger sampler features several bands. The first band comprises two rows of counted satin stitch with stitches over two, three, four, five and six threads in a repeat pattern, whereby the longest stitches in each row share the same holes. Tiny pearl beads are stitched in the opening between the shortest and the longest stitches, all of which are worked in the variegated peach and blue two-ply silk thread.

The second band consists of two identical rows of counted satin stitch in kloster block step variations as follows: The pattern begins with eight stitches over four threads, then four stitches over eight threads, five stitches over twelve threads, four stitches over eight, four stitches over four, all of which are repeated until eight stitches over four threads—like the beginning—end both rows. All of the embroidery is executed in the antique blue number 5 perle cotton.

The third band, stitched in the same two-ply variegated silk thread, is a solid band of counted satin stitch. Stitches are worked over four, five, six, seven and finally eight fabric threads and then repeated to form a continuous row of oval shapes.

Five eight-pointed stars, embroidered in number 5 antique blue perle cotton, enhance the fourth band. Each ray comprises 13 stitches, the widest being over eight threads, the narrowest over two threads at the top and bottom of each point. Pearl beads decorate the centres of the stars.

Located below the stars are two tulip motifs and accompanying leaves, one on either side of the tulips stitched in the two-ply variegated silk thread. These attractive and popular symbols that frequently enhance Hardanger embroidery are each composed of two diamond shapes sitting side-by-side, making a square corner at the bottom of the motif. The top of the motif is open with each point of the respective diamond extending into tiny outward curls which are stitched over two threads. The widest part of each diamond is stitched over 10 threads; it narrows to over two threads at each end (Love. p. 34).

Directly below the tulips is a band of 19 tiny diamonds with no spaces between the shapes. All are embroidered in counted satin stitch over two, four, six and eight threads in number 5 antique blue perle cotton thread.

The next area is filled with a large diamond outlined in faggot stitches over four threads. The faggot stitches are stitched as a double row, thereby creating 21 squares on each side of the diamond. The inside top area of the diamond is embellished with four tulip motifs, exactly like those mentioned above. They are placed so that the bottom of each motif makes the centre of one large floral motif, which is also stitched in the two-ply variegated silk thread. Three pearl beads decorate the centre of the motif. This tulip motif is then encased in its own smaller diamond shape with 12 more squares in faggot stitches, comprising

each of its two lower sides that join with the same number of squares in the outer sides of the main or large diamond (Scoular, p. 11).

Five kloster blocks fill the sides and point of the lower half of the large diamond. They are all worked in number 5 antique blue perle cotton thread. The blocks are a step variation with four stitches worked over four threads, then over eight and finally twelve, then eight and four again at which point the pattern is repeated. All five of the kloster blocks are the same (Bright, p.7, fig. 18). Some fabric threads in the centres of each of the blocks have also been removed and the remaining threads wrapped and woven in a particular sequence with number 12 antique blue cotton, to create Mosaic Crosses (Anna, p. L214, fig. 7).

Finally, on each of the four sides of the diamond a tulip motif is embroidered in the variegated silk, exactly like those mentioned above. The bottom of each flower points into its respective corner and the top faces the corresponding side of the diamond.



Directly underneath the large diamond with the tulip motifs are two rows of zigzag counted satin stitch. All stitches are over three threads, with each of the first five consecutive stitches moving up one thread from the previous stitch to form the peak of the zigzag at which point the next five consecutive stitches, one by one move down one thread to the bottom point. The pattern is then repeated. Both rows are exactly the same with the highest stitch in the bottom row sharing the same hole as the lowest stitch in the top row; all stitching is worked in two-ply variegated silk thread. The same tiny pearl beads, as mentioned above, embellish each of the open spaces in the zigzag rows of stitching.

Three kloster blocks ornament the area just above the deep V-shaped, lace-like hem. Two of the small blocks adorn each side of the hanging, while the third, larger block is centred in the point of the V. The small klosters are worked in a step variation with four stitches over

four threads, four stitches over six threads, one stitch over eight, four stitches over six threads and four stitches over four threads at which point they are repeated around the block. Some of the centre threads have been removed to create Mosaic Crosses as mentioned above. The third kloster block, which is considerably larger, is also worked in a step variation with four stitches over four

threads, then four stitches over eight threads, four stitches over twelve threads, four stitches over eight threads and finally four stitches over four threads at which point the pattern is repeated around the block. As with the other kloster blocks, some of the fabric threads in the centre of the block have been removed to create a spider with twelve wrapped spokes or bars (Love, p. 31).



Finally, a double row of cable stitch in the peach and blue variegated silk thread outlines the sides and top of the deep lace-like V-shaped hem (Merritt, p. 14). Two rows of counted satin stitch in a repeat pattern, whereby stitches are over four threads, then six, eight, six and four in alternating horizontal and vertical groups, completely outline the V. The placement and gradation of these satin stitches automatically create small flowers with four petals. All told, 36 little flowers outline the top, sides and bottom of the V shape. Just beyond the counted satin stitches, around the lower edge, is a row of 19 tiny eyelets, all embroidered in two-ply variegated silk thread (Love, p. 9). The outer edge, in diagonal step fashion, is completely buttonholed in antique blue number 8 perle cotton, which joins the straight sides of the sampler that are also worked in the same buttonhole stitch, colour

and thread (Love p. 8, fig. 1; Merritt, p. 15). The centre section of the V-shaped hem is filled with three rows of woven bars, one row of which is filled with tiny spiders, and the other rows are embellished with Dove's Eyes, all of which are worked in antique blue in number 12 perle cotton (Love, 20-21, 26).

History: Carolyn Mitchell, a correspondence course counsellor in Hardanger and Canvas work classes in the Embroiderers' Association of Canada, designed this Hardanger sampler in 1998 for embroiderers wishing to enrol in a group Intermediate Hardanger course. Janice Routley, a charter member of the Regina Stitchery Guild and an appointee of the Embroiderers' Association of Canada, enrolled in the above course and completed this sampler in 1999; in 2005 she donated it to EAC's Heritage Collection.

Materials: Blue linen with a count of 28 threads, *Waterlilies* variegated peach and blue silk thread, number 5, 8, and 12 perle antique blue cotton thread, tiny pearl beads and a wooden hangar.

Condition: This sampler is in excellent condition.