

BLUES VARIATIONS – EAC/ACB-OWNED PROJECT

BEGINNER/INTERMEDIATE - DEERFIELD STYLE

by Barbara Gilbert, Peggy Kimble and Helen McCrindle

Embroiderers' Association of Canada, Inc./Association canadienne de broderie, Inc.

Rooted in the needlework traditions of 18th century Massachusetts, Deerfield embroidery is known for its serene blues, crisp whites, and elegant, stylized florals. This project draws on that legacy, inviting stitchers to experience the hallmark techniques that made Deerfield so distinctive. A wide repertoire of stitches, both simple and intricate, come together to echo the movement and refinement of early American embroidery, making this piece a beautiful study in history, craftsmanship, and artistry.

Project Details

Techniques: Deerfield embroidery style

Stitches: buttonhole, buttonhole wheels, chain, snail's trail (coral knots), darning, feather, fly, French knots, New England laid stitch (Roumanian), outline or stem, herringbone, Deerfield herringbone, cross-stitch, latticework, satin stitch, spike stitch, and speckling

Kit: none

Supplies Needed:

- 38cm x 45cm (15" x 18") densely woven linen such as twill
- 38cm x 45cm (15" x 18") stretcher bars and tacks
- Appletons crewel wool in colours 744, 746, 746 and 992, or your choice of three values of a blue range, such as Dull marine blue (320 range) or Bright China blue (740 range) and one white or saffron (555)
- #5 or #6 crewel or #22 chenille needle
- extra piece of fabric and small hoop to practice stitches (recommended)
- hard pencil (such as F) and light source to transfer design

Member pricing: digital file \$25
printed document \$73 + shipping

Non-member pricing: digital file \$45
printed document \$93 + shipping



A celebration of Deerfield's iconic palette and expressive stitchwork

About the Artist

Barbara Gilbert, a lifelong embroiderer trained at the Royal School of Needlework and the London City and Guilds Institute, is a former EAC/ACB president and longtime educator. **Peggy Kimble** was a gifted and versatile stitcher whose creativity spanned many techniques, and she remained an inspiring member of the association until her passing in 2022. **Helen McCrindle**, a respected crewel specialist, is also a former EAC/ACB president, the author of the Association's crewel courses, and the leader of the Canadian Embroidery Tapestry project. Together, they embody an incredible legacy of skill, leadership, and dedication to the art of embroidery.