

Skill of the Reign - Goldwork

TRM Murdoch I and Rioghnach I
(Opened April 2024)

1. Explain how to care for your metal threads both before and after they are applied to fabric.
2. What tools and materials are needed for Goldwork?
 - a. Show that you can dress a frame into the correct tension in preparation before you start stitching.
3. Discuss the history of Goldwork. Where and when was Goldwork first done? What significant developments changed the type of Goldwork thread that was available for use?
 - a. What types of metal thread can be used for Goldwork?
 - b. What types of backing fabric are appropriate for Goldwork?
 - c. Explain couching of Gold thread.
 - d. Why is treating the sewing thread with beeswax important when working with gold thread?
4. Explain the similarities and differences between:
 - a. Outline work
 - b. Laidwork
 - c. Raised Work
 - d. Mixed Work (with beads, sequins and/or gems)
5. Create one or more pieces demonstrating the following skills:
 - a. Outline in Goldwork
 - Show sharp corners
 - Show outlining round or curved shapes
 - Show plunged ends
 - Show turning rows
 - b. Show two types of couching
 - Show Surface couching using metal threads
 - Show underside couching using metal threads
 - c. Flatwork where the couching stitches create a pattern
 - Show Patterns/
 - Diapering
 - d. Padding or Raised work
 - Show that you can Incorporate some padding under the metal threads
 - String
 - Felt
 - Other period material
 - e. Mixed work
 - Show the use of at least one of the following:
 - beads, sequins, chips, pearls, etc.
6. After completing all previous requirements, discuss with your counselor how your persona might have experienced Goldwork in their life.

NOTES for Goldwork Counselors:

- Goldwork threads can be cost prohibitive for some Guild members, substituting alternative threads that are similar in weight and behavior is acceptable. Guild members should still show an understanding of the various types of Goldwork threads that are available, even if they cannot afford to use them in their sampler(s).
- Previous experience with embroidery is helpful, but not required to complete this badge.
- For those with previous experience in Goldwork, guild members can simply complete the requirements and meet with a Goldwork Counselor to show that they are complete.
- For those new to Goldwork, they should attend an in-person or virtual class with a Guild Goldwork Counselor (or other experienced Goldwork artisan) to receive instruction and feedback as they learn this skill.

Sample of stitches that can be used in projects demonstrating Goldwork skills

<https://rsnstitchbank.org/technique>

Extant 14th Century Stole showing Goldwork techniques.

<http://medievalbeads.com/tag/italian/>

Shopping and Resources:

<https://www.ecclesiasticalsewing.com/>

<https://www.needlenthread.com/2008/12/goldwork-supplies-plenty.html>

Use for Resource, maybe not for purchasing supplies - Company is moving to a different state and orders may be delayed.

<https://www.kreinik.com/store/shop-needlework/metallic-threads/>

Out of Country

Canada

<https://berlinembroidery.com/product-category/hand-embroidery-supplies/goldwork-supplies/metal-threads/>

India

<https://embroiderymaterial.com/embroidery>

<https://www.eshwarshop.com/collections/zardhosi>

<https://www.eshwarshop.com/collections/zari-thread>

** Remember Rupees (India) to Dollars (USA) is 1 to 0.012 (AKA 1\$ = 83.50 in Rupees) but shipping may cost as much as the original order.

Search Online for:

Zardhosi

Zari Thread

Pearl Purl

Purl bullion
Gilt Check/Smooth
Jap 5 or Jap 7

Common and Cheap options - Guterman, Coats and Clark, DMC. Can be made to look better/more real, takes some practice/trial and error. Synthetic will not lay or stitch the same way that real metal does.
image.png

Current List of Goldwork Advisors:

People who have agreed to check your work and answer questions.

Still taking volunteers! Contact the Deputy Guild Mistress, Ethne an Locha (mka: Jeannie Peters at clothiersguilddeputy@aethelmearc.org) to sign up.

THL Margareta le Sayre, email: meganbrainard@gmail.com

Goldwork classes will be announced via the usual Clothier Guild channels.

- St Clare VII - Friday, May 31 - Sunday, June 2, 2024
 - Beginning Goldwork, Boyarynya Zaritsa Zavodchikovna, 2 hours.
 - Padded Goldwork, Masteritsa Valya Kadaseva Zhena Kadalova, OL, 2 hours.
 - Goldwork, for a Couched Pouch, Mistress Rowena ni Dhonnchaidh

Special Thanks to the following Æthelmearc Clothiers Guild Members for their help in designing this program:

Magnifica Fede di Fiore
Baroness Yvianne de Castel d'Avignon
Boyarynya Zaritsa Zavodchikovna
THL Margareta le Sayre
Lady Ethne an Locha