

15th c German Brickstitch

This version is based on two extant drawstring bags found in Germany, dated to the 14th-15th c, embroidered in brick-stitch. This type of embroidery appears peculiar to Germany, especially Westphalia and Lower Saxony. Most examples are embroidered in an all-over geometric style, but other styles can be seen in



related pieces. The hanging shown here uses the geometric stitch used to fill roughly drawn figures, with the brickstitch providing a smooth background for contrast. Brickstitch hanging (detail) German, Late 14th c Metropolitan Museum of Art, NY (*Cavallo*, p42)

Angular deer can be seen in contemporary whitework

pieces (also employing brickstitch). My deer for this design comes from a 13th c dalmatic from Austria.



BAG, GERMAN, 14th-15th century. Filled white linen thread and coloured silks in satin stitch on linen. From the Beck collection. 659-106. © 1995 Timothy Mitchell. Courtesy Victoria and Albert Museum, London

Dalmatic, Goss Convent, Styria, Austria, mid 13th c. Silk thread on linen ground (*Mitchell*)



Swiss 14th C whitework in satin, plait, eyelet and brick stitch. Linen on linen ground (*Brid & Drury* p219)

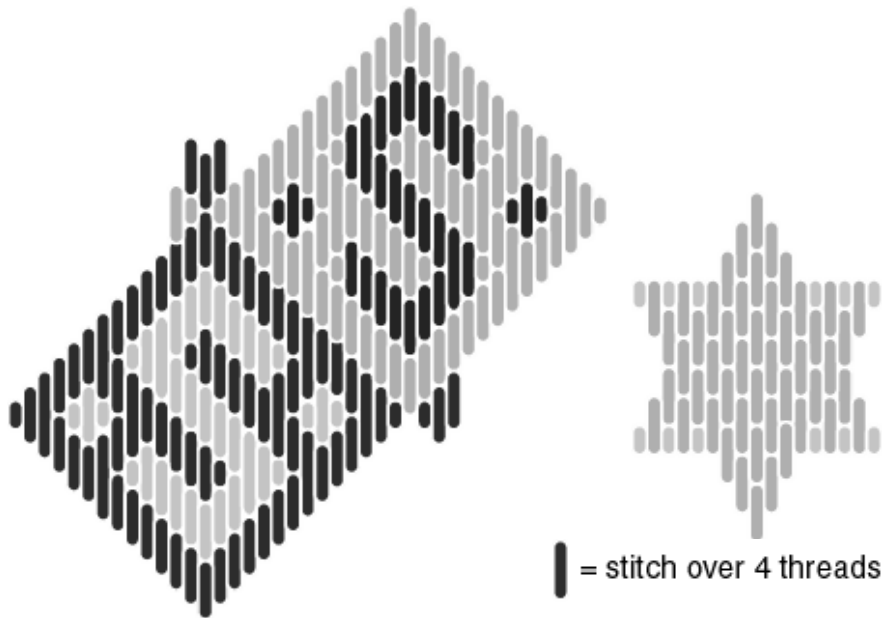
A 15th c panel in Hamburg shows figures filled with brickstitch on a dyed linen ground and also includes some small deer. Although linen does not dye as well as silk and wool, it is a good ground for this pouch.

Materials:

- Red linen, 28 count or finer is better (it need not be true evenweave)
- Linen for lining
- Madiera silk thread in yellows (0105, 0113), silver greys (1803 and 1804) and black, or equivalent silks
- Silk or silk-like woven cords

Notes:

This must be worked in a hoop or frame. Draw the deer on the ground, then start the fill stitch (centre in body) and work to the lines. When complete, outline with backstitch in black silk. Work the stars in counted brickstitch. See Wymarc for more details on the technique.



Finishing:

The holes for the draw cords may need strengthening with embroidered eyelets to avoid wear, since we are not embroidering the entire surface. Alternately, a twill woven band could be sewn to the top and the cords passed through this. The sides of the bag are simply sewn together, with the hanging cords sewn at the sides of the opening. Three tassels would be perfect along the base and the draw cords could also end in tassels.

15th c Brickstitch design

