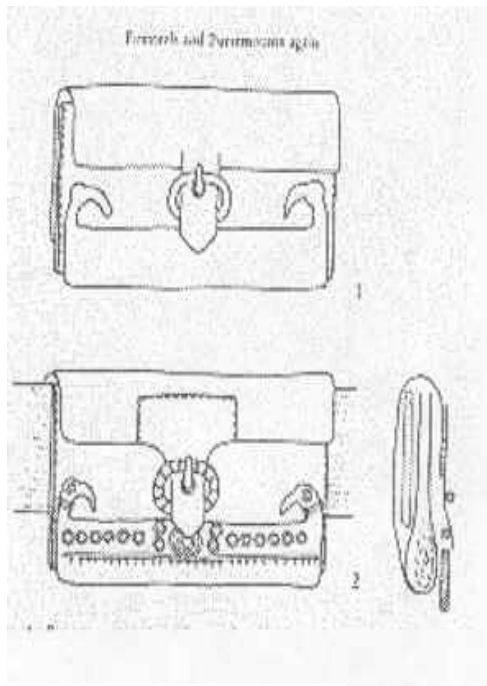


Viking chainstitch



There is very limited information available on Viking embroidery, and similarly on Viking pouches. I would welcome an alternate design from someone who knows more about this area than I do!

This example is based on a firesteel pouch, which is postulated in **. The materials for the pouch are not known, but wool was the most common textile available and so this seems a suitable ground for an embroidered pouch. The pouch could be lined in linen to provide stability, or with another layer or wool

Viking embroidery stitches included chainstitch and stem stitch and wool was a common medium.

Materials:

- Fine red wool for pouch
- Natural fine woven linen for lining (or use calico or wool)
- Appletons crewel wool or similar in medium and deep yellow (deer), off-white (star), and black (outlines)

Firesteel Pouch (*Brown n*)

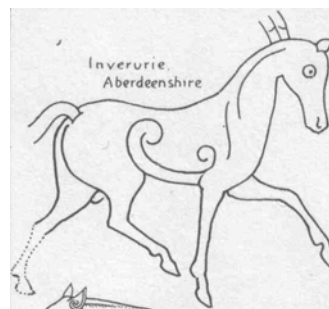
Notes:

The design shows the finished pouch. Imagine this is an envelope and unfold it to get the pattern. Cut a pattern for an extra panel at the back for the belt.

This could be worked in the hand or a frame. The deer is worked in rows of fine chainstitch, following the shape of the deer and swirls using colour for emphasis (eg use lighter yellow for face, chest, belly, and distant fore and back legs). Outline the deer and swirls in stem stitch. Work the antlers and the stars in stem stitch.



Pictish Cross 8th c



Zoomorph from Scottish stones

Finishing:

Line the piece while still flat, then oversew the sides to complete the pouch, or use a fine buttonhole stitch. Add the belt loop panel likewise. A buckle on the tag would be a useful addition (bronze, iron or brass).

Viking design:

