# Intermediate Level Hardanger Needlework Counted Embroidery Design "Noelle"

Hardanger embroidery, a traditional Norwegian needlework technique, is renowned for its intricate geometric patterns and elegant openwork designs. Among the different levels of Hardanger embroidery, the intermediate level presents a delightful challenge for needleworkers seeking to expand their skills. One such captivating design within this level is "Noelle," a counted embroidery masterpiece that showcases the artistry and precision of Hardanger needlework.

#### **Historical Origins**

Hardanger embroidery originated in the Hardanger region of Norway during the 17th century. Initially crafted using linen or cotton threads on handwoven wool or linen fabric, Hardanger embroidery adorned traditional garments and household items. Over the centuries, the technique evolved, and today, needleworkers worldwide appreciate its timeless beauty and versatility.



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Frances Design) by Noelle Frances Ferry

★★★★★ 4.5 out of 5
Language : English
File size : 25868 KB
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Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Print length : 33 pages
Lending : Enabled



#### **Understanding the Design**

The "Noelle" design is characterized by an intricate geometric pattern featuring a central diamond motif surrounded by rows of alternating openwork and satin stitch bands. The design incorporates a variety of Hardanger stitches, including satin stitch, kloster blocks, and pulled work, creating a harmonious interplay of textures and depths.

#### **Materials and Preparation**

To embark on the "Noelle" design, gather the following materials:

- Hardanger embroidery fabric (28-count or higher)
- Embroidery hoop (6-inch or larger)
- Embroidery needles (size 24 or 26)
- Cotton embroidery threads in white and a contrasting color (e.g., red, blue, or green)
- Scissors
- Pattern and instructions

Before beginning, transfer the design onto the fabric using a lightbox or tracing paper. Secure the fabric tautly in the embroidery hoop to prevent puckering and ensure even stitches.

#### **Step-by-Step Instructions**

Follow these step-by-step instructions to stitch the "Noelle" design:

#### 1. Satin Stitch

Outline the central diamond motif and the surrounding bands with a double row of satin stitch. Bring the needle up from the back of the fabric, insert it one thread away, and bring it back up two threads away, creating a diagonal stitch. Repeat this process, alternating the direction of the stitches to form a solid, even band.

#### 2. Kloster Blocks

Create the kloster blocks within the openwork areas. Start by stitching a small cross-stitch in the center of each block. Then, work four satin stitches around the cross-stitch, forming a square. Repeat this process for all the kloster blocks in the design.

#### 3. Pulled Work

Create the openwork areas using pulled work. Cut small slits in the fabric along the designated lines in the pattern. Carefully pull out the horizontal and vertical threads to create the openwork effect. Secure the remaining threads with a small stitch to prevent fraying.

#### 4. Additional Stitches

Incorporate additional Hardanger stitches as per the pattern instructions. These may include diagonal satin stitch, eyelet stitch, and running stitch.

#### 5. Finishing

Once all the stitching is complete, secure the threads on the back of the fabric and trim any excess. Press the embroidery gently to flatten it and enhance its appearance. Frame or display your finished "Noelle" design to showcase its intricate beauty and craftsmanship.

#### **Tips for Success**

To achieve a stunning finished piece, consider the following tips:

- Use high-quality materials to ensure durability and a professional finish.
- Maintain even tension throughout the stitching process to create consistent stitches.
- Refer to the pattern and instructions carefully to avoid mistakes.
- Practice the different stitches on a scrap piece of fabric before starting the actual design.
- Take your time and enjoy the process. Hardanger embroidery is an art form that requires patience and precision.

The Intermediate Level Hardanger Needlework Counted Embroidery Design "Noelle" offers an engaging and rewarding challenge for needleworkers seeking to elevate their skills. By mastering the intricate stitches and techniques involved, you can create a stunning piece of embroidery that will be cherished for years to come. Embrace the historical origins and timeless beauty of Hardanger embroidery, and embark on the journey of creating your own "Noelle" masterpiece.



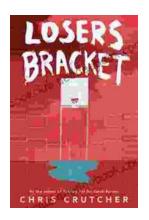
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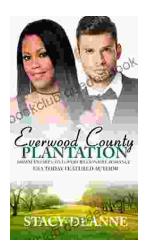
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