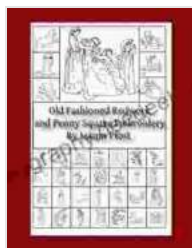


# Embroidered Elegance: Delving into the Timeless Art of Old Fashioned Redwork and Penny Square Embroidery

## A Journey Through Time and Stitches

In the realm of needlework, Old Fashioned Redwork and Penny Square Embroidery stand as enduring testaments to the power of simplicity and enduring beauty. These embroidery styles, rooted in centuries-old traditions, have threaded their way through generations, leaving an intricate tapestry of craftsmanship and charm.



## Old Fashioned Redwork and Penny Square Embroidery

by Kay Banks

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

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## Old Fashioned Redwork: A Tale of Simplicity and Symbolism

Old Fashioned Redwork, a rustic yet elegant embroidery technique, emerged in the 17th century and flourished throughout the Victorian era. Its name aptly reflects its signature feature: bold, crimson-hued stitching that evokes a sense of nostalgia and warmth.



Redwork's appeal lies in its straightforward nature. It utilizes a limited palette of red thread, typically worked on undyed linen or other natural fabrics. The simplicity of the stitches allows for a wide range of designs, from delicate flowers to geometric patterns to charming scenes of everyday life.

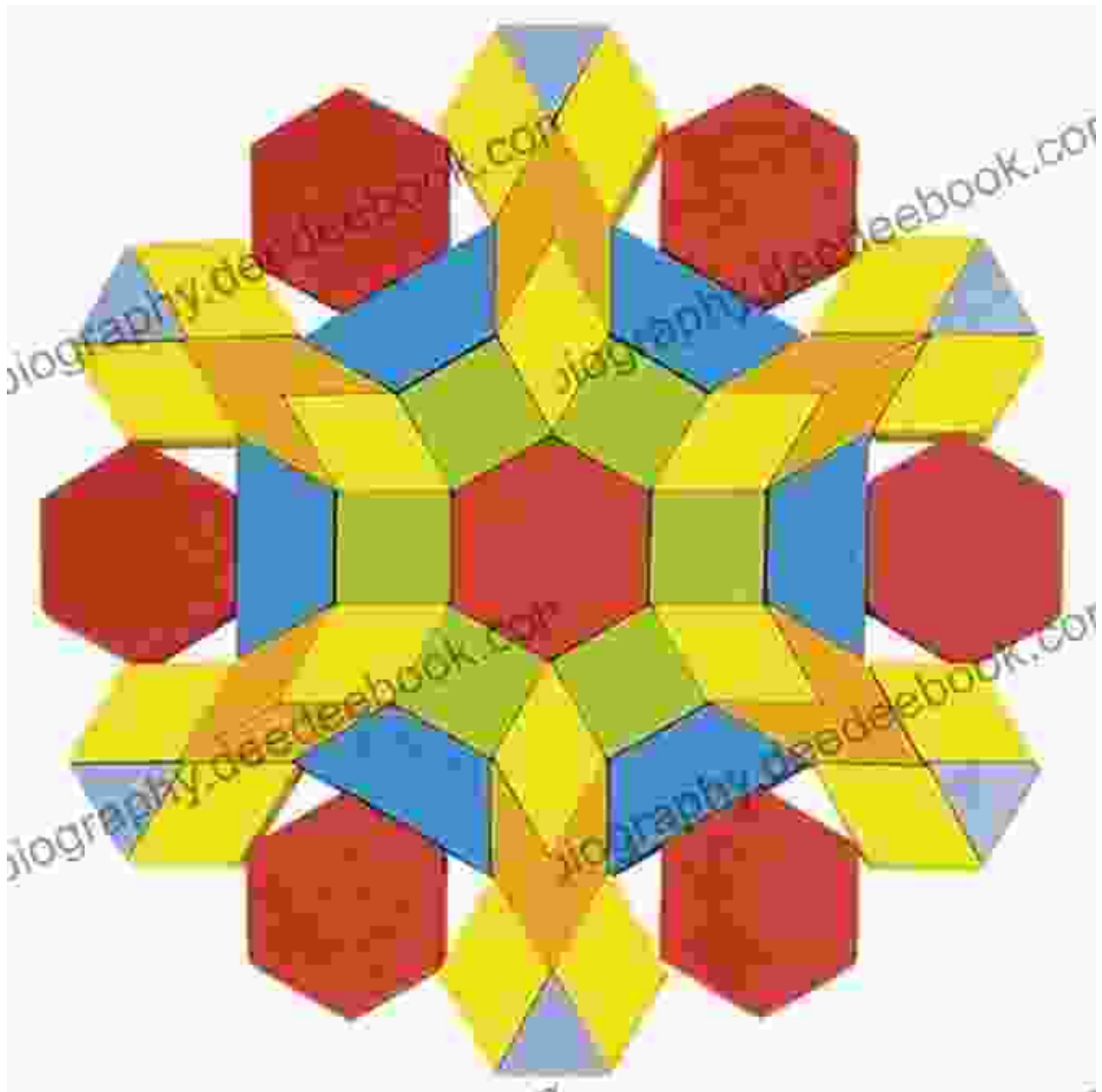


A Redwork sampler showcasing the versatility of the technique

More than mere decoration, Redwork often carried symbolic significance. Motifs such as hearts represented love, stars symbolized hope, and birds conveyed messengers of joy. Embroiderers imbued their creations with personal meaning, creating heirlooms that held both aesthetic and sentimental value.

## Penny Square Embroidery: A Canvas of Geometric Charm

Penny Square Embroidery, a close relative of Redwork, emerged in the mid-18th century. It takes its name from the wooden or metal templates used to trace the geometric patterns onto the fabric. These templates, known as penny squares, ranged in size from a penny to a farthing, giving rise to the embroidery style's name.



Penny Square Embroidery typically utilizes a monochromatic thread, although some variations incorporate a limited color palette. The geometric patterns, arranged in rows or blocks, create a mesmerizing visual effect that is both decorative and timeless.



The geometric precision of Penny Square Embroidery's patterns

Penny Square Embroidery adorned a wide range of items, from clothing and household linens to sampler-like pieces that showcased the

embroiderer's skill. Its adaptability and charming simplicity made it a beloved craft that continues to captivate needleworkers today.

## **The Techniques of Old Fashioned Redwork and Penny Square Embroidery**

Despite their distinct appearances, Old Fashioned Redwork and Penny Square Embroidery share fundamental techniques. Both styles employ a variety of stitches, including the satin stitch, the back stitch, and the chain stitch.



The satin stitch, with its smooth, satiny appearance, is often used to fill in shapes and create solid areas of color. The back stitch, consisting of a series of small, even stitches, provides a secure and versatile outline for designs. The chain stitch, with its looped appearance, adds a decorative element and can be used for borders or accents.

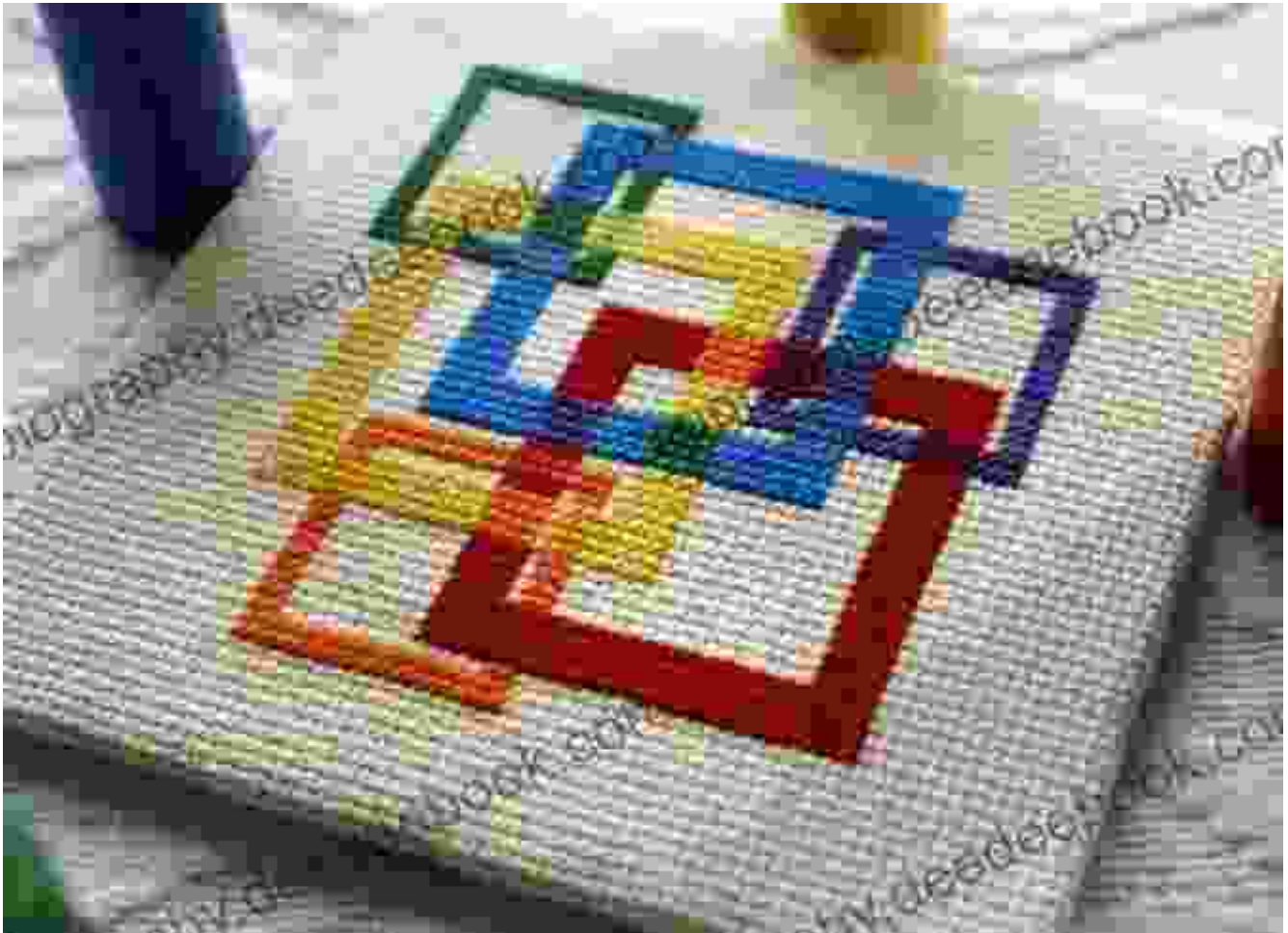
## Preserving the Legacy: Modern Applications of Redwork and Penny Square

In recent years, there has been a resurgence of interest in Old Fashioned Redwork and Penny Square Embroidery. Contemporary craftspeople are incorporating these traditional techniques into modern designs, creating a fresh interpretation of these timeless styles.

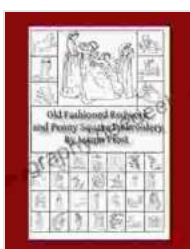




Contemporary Redwork embroidery, showcasing a blend of traditional and modern elements



Old Fashioned Redwork and Penny Square Embroidery are not just embroidery techniques; they are a testament to the enduring power of craftsmanship and the beauty of simplicity. Today, they continue to inspire and captivate needleworkers, offering a timeless connection to the past and endless possibilities for modern creativity.



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