
A Banner for the Worshipful Company of Broderers

Background

The Company needs a banner to mark our presence in court during presentations, for procession at Guild events and on other such occasions requiring suitable panoply.

Design

The design is based on the banner of an Italian merchant town, probably mid 15th c, depicted in Neubecker. The finished banner will be approx 60cm wide x 1m high.



Italian Banner
Neubecker, p 243



WcoB Design

The centre rondel has been appropriated for the badge of the Company; the supporters replaced by two patron saints of embroidery and our founders; the text replaced by the Company name; the background devices have become the devices of the members of the Company of apprentice and journeyman rank; the border devices have become the devices of our masters of the company and of Lochac; and the crowned “liberatis” of the Italian free states has become the crowned “Lochac”.

Materials

- The field is blue silk brocade with a border of blue, edged and fretted with gold braid
- The text and device are in gold silk and gold jap, couched directly onto the red silk
- The devices and figures are in splitstich in silk, worked separately, then appliquéd onto the silk
- The banner is edged on three sides with bicoloured fringing in red and blue
- The banner will be backed with a simple version of the badge, to provide stability and finish.

Production

The banner will be divided up into sections, so that many people can work on the project in different areas. Although less common than counted work, the laid gold and splitstich techniques are not difficult, and should be possible for people of moderate skill and experience to undertake the very small sections this project provides!

To maintain consistency, kits have been prepared for each section.

Lochac device kit (15):

- White silk, with device details drawn on, applied to backing linen
 - Set of working instructions (stitch technique, etc)
 - Madiera threads list
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Personal device kit (5 large Master's devices, up to 50 small for Journeymen and Apprentice):

- White silk, with device shape drawn on, applied to backing linen (if requested, full drawing of device can be supplied)
- Set of working instructions (basic heraldic shapes, stitch technique, etc)
- Madiera threads list

Supporters kit (4):

- White silk, with figure drawn on, applied to backing linen
- Set of working instructions (stitch technique, etc)
- Madiera threads list for major colours
- Madiera silk for small areas, and special over-dye lots

Lochac text kit (20):

- Red silk, with text and crown drawn on, applied to backing linen
- Set of working instructions (stitch technique, etc)
- Gold jap, gold twist and beads

Badge and Name kit (1 of each)

- Red silk, with details drawn on, applied to backing linen
- Set of working instructions (stitch technique, etc)
- Gold jap

Completed pieces should be returned to:

Robyn Spencer
85 River Rd
Greenwich NSW 2065

Bibliography

Coss, Melinda *Reader's Digest Complete Book of Embroidery* Readers Digest Association, NY: 1996

Cavallo, Adolphus A *Needlework* Smithsonian Institute: USA: 1979

Fox-Davies, Arthur Charles *Complete Guide to Heraldry* Bonanza Books, NY: 1909 Reprinted 1978

Lemon, Jane *Metal Thread Embroidery* Batsford, London: 1987 Reprinted 2002

Neubecker, Otfried *Heraldry Sources, Symbols and Meaning* Macdonald & James, Great Britain: 1977

Mistress Rowan Perigryne

Robyn Spencer 2003

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Lochac Device Instructions

The devices form the border of the banner, applied to the red silk in between the laid gold “Lochac” symbols.

You should receive:

- White silk, with Lochac device details drawn on, applied to backing linen

You will need the following Madiera silk threads:

- Red 0511
- White 2401
- Blue 1005

The work must be held in a hoop or frame to ensure there is no puckering.

The technique is splitstich, using a single silk thread, as shown in Fig 1.

The direction of the stitches changes how the light catches the silk, so refer to Fig 2 for directions.

The suggested sequence of work is as follows:

1. White stars and crown, working from the outside in on each charge (smooth off the corners as you go)
2. Solid blue and white quarters (we’ll add the wreath last, over the top of the solid blue), spiralling in from the outside (smooth off the corners as you go). (Blue is top left and bottom right)
3. Red cross – vertical stripe first, then the horizontal arms
4. White wreath – the stalk in splitstich, then detached chain to form the leaves (Fig 3)

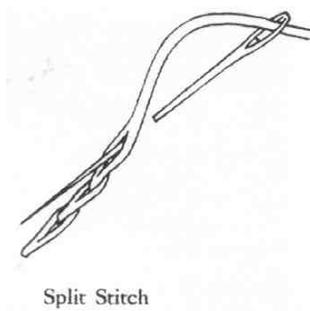


Fig 1 – Splitstitch

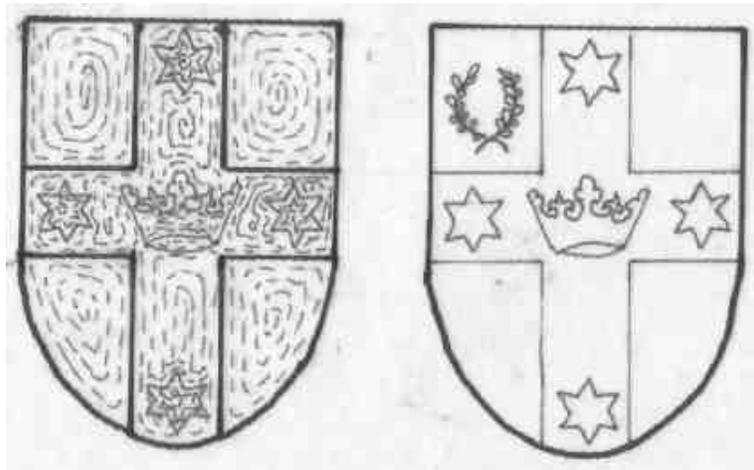


Fig 2 – Lochac device, showing stitch direction

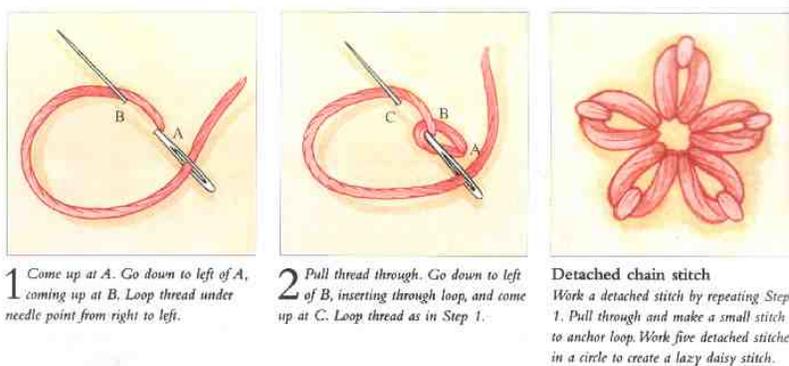


Fig 3 - Detached Chain stitch

Personal Device Instructions

The devices of the Company Masters form part of the border of the banner, applied to the red silk in between the laid gold “Lochac” symbols, in place of the Lochac devices. As more Masters are created, we will remove the Lochac devices and replace them with the Master’s devices.

The devices of the Apprentices and Journeymen fill in the gaps in the gold fretwork on the main field of the banner. These will be removed as people are promoted to Master. Note that only registered devices should be used!

You should receive:

- White silk, with device shape drawn on, applied to backing linen.

Draw the details of your device on with fine pencil. Draw them on paper first, then trace through over a bright light source. The shields below in Fig 1 give some guidelines (Fox Davies is a useful reference here).

NB: If you would prefer us to draw your entire device, let me know.

You will need Madiera silk threads in your own heraldic colours:

- | | | | |
|--------------------|------|------------------------------|-------------|
| • Gules (red) | 0511 | • Argent (white/silver) | 2401 |
| • Azure (blue) | 1005 | • Or (yellow/gold) | 2211 |
| • Sable (black) | 2400 | • “Proper” (natural colours) | as required |
| • Purpure (purple) | 0903 | | |
| • Vert (green) | 1214 | | |

The work must be held in a hoop or frame to ensure there is no puckering.

The technique is splitstich, using a single silk thread, as shown in Fig 2.

The direction of the stitches changes how the light catches the silk. The suggested sequence of work is as follows:

- Charges, starting at the edges and work in (smooth off the corners as you go), or following the natural lines of the shape (see fig 2).
NB: For very small charges (or semé fields etc), it may be easier to embroider these over the top of the field.
- Ordinaries (border, chief, bend, etc), following the direction of the long edge, and rounding the corners
- Main field areas, spiralling in from the outside of the shape or section
- Semé charges and details (eg eyes, mouth etc)

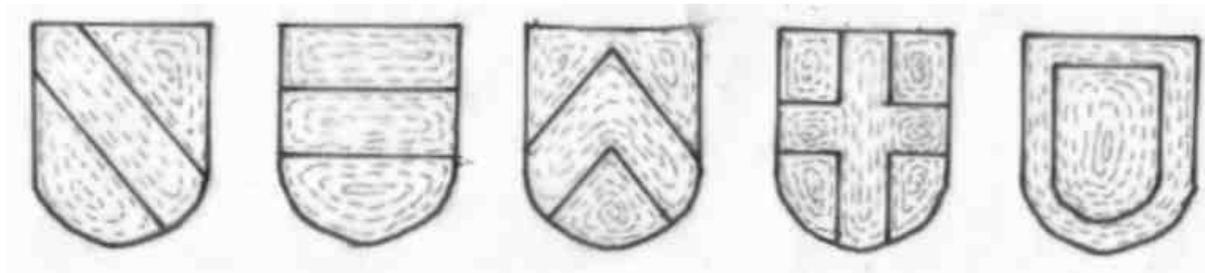


Fig 1 – Stitch lines follow the shapes (note that on the cross, the vertical stripe is worked first, then the ends of the arms).

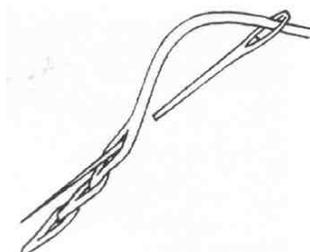


Fig 2 – Split stitch

Split Stitch

Supporters Instructions

The four supporters surround the central rondel showing the Company name and device. The supporters represent two of the Patron Saints of embroidery (there were several to chose from!) and the two founders of the current version of the Company. The figures are based on images from the Manesse codex, modified to suit our needs and the required iconography.

- St Francis of Assisi bears a dove and is dressed in red, with a green cloak lined in fur
- St Claire of Assisi bears a monstrance and is dressed in blue, with a blue undergown
- Mistress Bess Haddon, founding Guildmaster, is dressed in her favourite blue and bears a quatrefoil, the main charge from her device.
- Viscountess Keridwen the Mouse, founding Patron, is dressed in her favourite red and bears a cross botany, the semé charge from her device.

You should receive:

- White silk, with image drawn on, and backing linen.
- Outline of design, with colours noted
- Picture from Manesse Codex to assist with planning folds of cloth, etc
- Cards with less common silks (silks NOT supplied are marked with an asterisk below)

You will need the Madiera silk threads in reds or blues, plus black and white. A full list of shades used is given below:

	St Francis	St Claire	Bess	Keridwen
Face & hands	Cream 2014 Pale pink 0306 Pink 0305 Rose (mouth) 0214 White (eyes) 2401*	Cream 2014 Pale pink 0306 Pink 0305 Rose (mouth) 0214 White (eyes) 2401*	Cream 2014 Pale pink 0306 Pink 0305 Rose (mouth) 0214 White (eyes) 2401*	Cream 2014 Pale pink 0306 Pink 0305 Rose (mouth) 0214 White (eyes) 2401*
Hair	Dk Gold 2213 Brown 2113	Brown 2113 Black 2400*	Brown 2113 Black 2400*	Dk Gold 2213 Brown 2113
Headdress	Gold 2211 Red 0511*	Gold 2211 Red 0511*	Gold 2211 Blue 1007*	Gold 2211 White 2401*
Main garment	Rose 0214* Bright Red 0210* Red 0511* Dk Red (overdyed)	Lt Blue 1107* Bright Blue 1005* Blue 1007* Dk Blue 1008* White 2401*	Lt Blue 11107* Bright Blue 1005* Blue 1007* Dk Blue 1008* White 2401*	Rose 0214* Bright Red 0210* Red 0511* Dk Red (overdyed) White 2401*
Under garment (Cape for St Francis)	Lt Green 1407 Green 1405 Dk Green 1314 White 2401* Grey 1803* Dk Grey 1802* Black 2400*	Rose 0214 Bright Red 0210 Red 0511	Rose 0214 Bright Red 0210 Red 0511	Lt Green 1407 Green 1405 Dk Green 1314
Collar & cuffs	Gold 2211	Gold 2211	Gold 2211	Gold 2211
Symbol	White 2401* Grey 1803*	Gold 2211 Dk Gold 2213	White 2401*	White 2401*
Shoes & outlines	Black 2400*	Black 2400*	Black 2400*	Black 2400*

* You'll need to buy these shades – others supplied

The work must be held in a hoop or frame to ensure there is no puckering.

The technique is splitstich, using a single silk thread. The direction of the stitches changes how the light catches the silk.

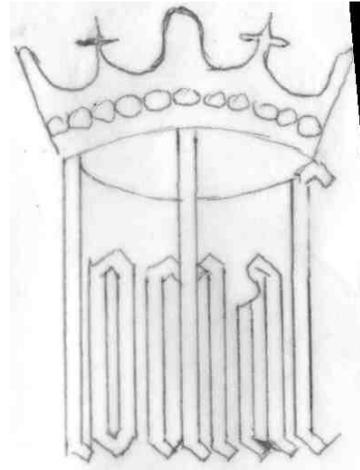
- Try and keep a smooth outer line – we need to appliqué the completed figure!
- For faces, follow the natural lines of the face
- For clothing, follow the lines and folds of the cloth
- For the symbols, start at the edges and work in (smooth the corners as you go), or follow the natural lines of the shape.
- Add details over the top if required. Face details and other definitions should be added in black.
- (We'll add halos etc in gold jap once the figured have been applied to the ground fabric).

Lochac Text Instructions

The laid gold “Lochac” symbols form the border of the banner, sewn directly on the red silk in between the Lochac and Masters’ devices.



“Liberatis” design
from Italian banner (Neubecker)



“Lochac” design
adapted for WcoB banner

You should receive:

- Red silk, with Lochac details drawn on, applied to backing linen
- Gold jap thread – 1m and 1.5m
- Gold twist thread – 40cm
- Brown silk couching thread – 2.5m

You will need:

- Needle for the couching silk
- Stiletto or awl to make holes in the ground fabric
- Fine crochet hook or latch hook to pull the gold through

Notes:

- The work must be held in a hoop or frame to ensure there is no puckering.
- Do NOT iron the fabric – the design is done in water-vanishing ink, which will set if you iron it.
- The technique is couching, using a single silk thread to sew down a double thread of gold jap or twist, as in Fig 1.
- Ensure that the two threads always lie side by side and never cross – take care of corners.
- The couching stitches should be about 2-3mm apart, at right angles (not slanted) and alternating (like bricks).
- The corners are the tricky bits – to get a nice angled corner, you will need to sew the threads separately – first the outer thread, then the inner one. see Fig 1. Kink the thread against the needle or stiletto for a sharp corner.
- The gold threads should lie hard against each other, with no red silk showing in between.
- All ends of the gold jap and twist must be pulled to the back of the work and sewn off there – use a stiletto to make a temporary hole and pull the threads to the back using a threaded needle or hook. Stitch to backing linen with silk.

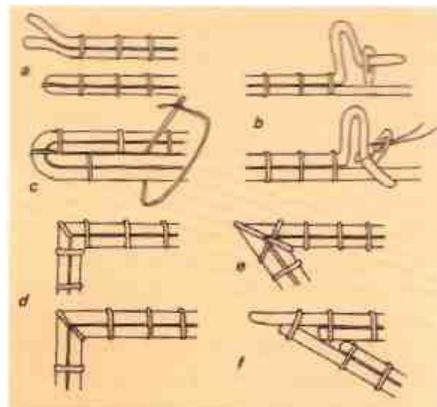


Fig 1 – couching technique.

(continued over...)



Fig 2 – the completed goldwork

The suggested sequence of work is as follows:

1. Main crown.
 - Start at the bottom right corner. Fold the 1m length of jap in half and pull loop to the back – secure with the silk. Hold the jap taut against the silk to ensure straight lines, covering the line. Couch down, take the couching thread from outside in. You need 3 hands, so prop your frame against a table, or use a hoop stand.
 - Couch around the edge of the crown. The outer spikes are simply doubled back (see fig 1c). The crosses use the outer thread only – loop out and couch down left, top and right, then rejoin inner thread and continue as normal. The centre projection will be filled by the next layer – judge your spacing carefully!
 - Start the next layer in, couching from the inside out, to ensure the jap lies hard against the previous line. On the inside corners, couch each thread separately for a tighter result
 - Continue to spiral in, keeping the lines hard against each other.
 - You will not be able to fill the centre completely – you may find a single thread helps at the end. Take the ends to the back and sew down.

 2. Long letters – work these so that the line is the centre – one row each side. Use the 1.5m length of jap.
 - Start the ‘l’ at the top, burying the jap hard under the left corner of the crown. Couch down the L, ensuring a straight line. Turn the angle at the base, the double around with a square end – like Fig1d and then again. Couch back up the line and bury the ends at the top.
 - Start the ‘h’ at the top, burying the jap under the centre of the crown. Couch down the left/back of the letter, ensuring a straight line. Turn the square end at the base, then work up to the break point. Turn the angles and work down the short leg, then back again. Ensure the jap is tight into the corner, then back up the line and bury the ends at the top.
 - Start the ‘c’ at the kick-up end at the base, burying the end directly in the ground fabric. Angle down, then up and work up the back/left to the top. Turn the top of the c, then turn a square end. Couch down the inside of the letter, to the base. Turn the first angle, then stop and bury the ends, leaving the kick-up as a single set of threads.

 3. Base of crown. This uses the gold twist, which frays easily – don’t remove the sticky tape until you have to!
 - Start at the top, on one side of the H ascender. Fold the twist exactly in half, then take the free ends to the back and secure well. Couch the twist around the ring, to the base. Make a hole hard against the H and pull the loop to the back (easy with a crochet hook or similar). Pull all the free twist through to the back. Then make a hole on the other side and pull it all through to the front. Continue to couch around back to the top, then bury the ends as usual.

 4. Short letters – these need to be carefully spaced – use the lines, but improve the spacing where possible!
 - Start the A at the top, burying the jap one row down from the top of the letter. Couch down inside right of the A, ensuring a straight line. Turn a square end and up the outside right to the top. Turn the angle and then couch the curve in and out. Work down the outer left to the base, turn the square end, then work up to the top. Stop at the base of the curve and bury the ends.
 - Start the C at the base and work it just like the long C.
 - Start the O at the base, burying the jap at the base of the letter. Couch up outer left outside, turn the top and back down. At the base, start the inside row and work all around. Bury the end at the inside base.

 5. Admire your effort...
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