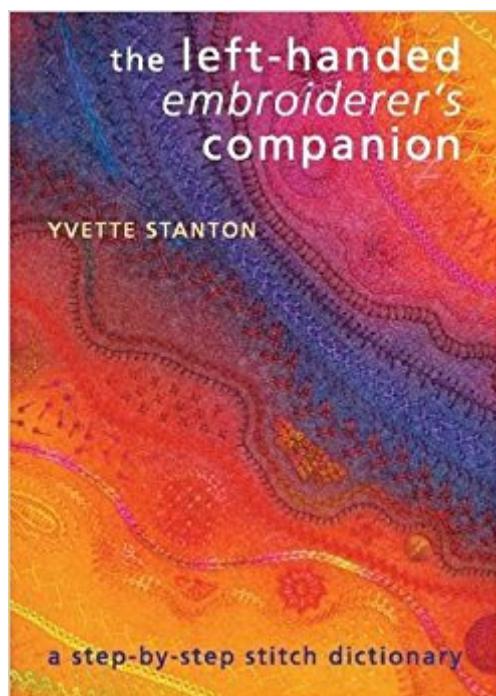


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# The Left-Handed Embroiderer's Companion: A Step-by-Step Stitch Dictionary



## **Synopsis**

Are you frustrated by right-handed embroidery instructions and having to mentally flip them, use a mirror, or substitute right for left and vice versa? Be frustrated no more! Written by a left-hander, this stitch dictionary shows you the LEFT way to do embroidery. Written in Yvette Stanton's clear, step-by-step style, this book will be your constant embroidery companion as it shows how to do over 170 stitches comfortably and sensibly, for you as a left-hander. Surface stitches and counted thread stitches are carefully explained, with many helpful diagrams and photos. Right-handed teachers will appreciate the right-handed diagrams showing the difference between what they and their left-handed students do.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Jun/Jul 10 Are you frustrated by right-handed embroidery instructions, by having to mentally flip them over, use a mirror or substitute the right for left in all instructions? Here is the very solution to the problem as written by a left-handed teacher. The text gives clear step-by-step instructions and illustrates how to do over 170 stitches comfortably and sensibly for the left handed stitcher, using the method which has obviously been tried and tested by a proficient left-handed embroiderer.

Fabrications July/Aug 10 "I've packaged myself up in a book so that all left-handed stitchers can have their own left-handed teacher." Thus embroidery instructor Yvette Stanton introduces fellow lefties to her consummate guide to mastering 75 embroidery stitches in 170 variations. Not simply a set of directions for flipping stitch diagrams from left to right, the Companion includes guidance on how to hold the needle comfortably, turn the fabric to its best advantage, choose needles and thread, and much more. Full-color photographs, clear and concise text, and step-by-step color illustrations make

stitch instructions easy to follow. This classroom-in-a-book is bound to be the embroidery reference that left-handed embroiderers will want to keep close at hand - the left-hand! Piecework Jan 10 Ok, all you left-handed stitchers out there! Here's the book you've been waiting for - and guess what? If you're a right-handed stitcher, you'll be interested in this review, too! When Yvette Stanton set out to create a left-handed stitch dictionary this past year, I never expected anything less than another excellent book. But you know what? She's outdone herself on this. I think this is her best book yet. Yvette's other embroidery books are very topic-specific, Mountmellick, Ukrainian Drawn Thread and Hardanger. All of them are thorough and excellent instructional books in their specific categories. But the Left-Handed Embroiderer's Companion is in a different category, and this is why I think it catapults to the top of the list. It is a book for everyone! Yvette's stitch dictionary, while written for left-handed stitchers, is so thorough. So totally instructional. So clear. So... Everything you want a stitch dictionary to be! Her diagrams feature step-by-step movements of each stitch she covers. Under each diagram, she meticulously and clearly explains the step of the stitch. On each stitch page, she includes colorful photo examples of the stitch worked on fabric or felt (some gorgeous felt photos in here!) in various threads. Many embroidery stitches have variations - and many embroidery stitches have many variations. Yvette covers variations on stitches that have them, so that you can experiment all kinds of ways of using the stitch. The book features 74 stitches, and that does not include their variations! It is an amazing stitch dictionary that I know left-handers especially will appreciate because they've waited a long time for a book written for them with this kind of quality content. But it is not limited to left-handed stitchers. As a right-handed stitcher, I am certain this is going to be one of my "go to" reference books for stitches. Furthermore, as a teacher, I know it will be invaluable in the classroom and at workshops for instructing lefties! [needlenthread.com](http://needlenthread.com)

June 10 As a left-hander myself, I was very interested to see if this book would improve the constant struggle with learning and implementing new stitches that is present in a world of right-handed instructions. It is a colourful and comprehensive stitch dictionary of 170 stitches, with step-by-step instructions, full descriptions and photographs of the finished stitches (so that you can see how they are supposed to look, and other stitches they go well with). I had a go at a few stitches, armed with stitch books that I have used up until now when needing to tackle a new stitch. I used both to compare the instructions. I was very impressed with the clarity of instruction and the detail given. I found it very easy to create new stitches and was impressed at how well they turned out (especially compared to my attempts following my other books). The book is far superior to my existing 'stitch bibles' (which are admittedly from the 1960s) because it contains many more stitches, the visuals are clearer, and you are able to see each step of the way without necessarily having to read the

instructions (not always easy mid-stitch). The number of stitches contained in this book also exceeds the selection of either of my older books, so as it stands, it's a great reference book on many levels. And as it's targeted at left-handers, that's an added bonus. **Workshop On The Web** June 10 The trouble with most embroidery books is that all the diagrams are for right-handed people. Here at last is a book filled with diagrams for over 170 different stitches that left-handers can use without the aid of a mirror. It's a simple enough idea, but how useful. I am amazed that I have not seen another book like this before, but I haven't. All the diagrams are in color too, which avoids the problem a lot of black and white diagrams have which show threads...often they look like a bowl of spaghetti or mazes in a puzzle book. Every stitch has several captioned diagrams which also avoids the problem of having to guess what happens between one part of the stitch and the other. There is certainly an impressive list of stitches, many of which I have not previously encountered myself and which had me wishing for a companion volume for right-handers. Each stitch also has a small photograph of a piece of embroidery showing the relevant stitch which is useful, plus a few hints of what the stitch is used for. Variations are shown too, with diagrams on how to achieve this alternative look, as well as a page of instructions for starting and finishing work and tying knots. What you won't find are any patterns which is perhaps a pity, but there are many other books which have these. If you or somebody you know is left-handed and keen on embroidery then this is the book for them. **Myshelf.com** Mar 10 I wish I was left-handed, no really I do. This book; 'The left handed embroiderer's companion' by Yvette Stanton is a BRILLIANT stitch dictionary. The illustrations are crystal clear and interspersed with peeks of contemporary embroidery illustrating the stitches. The nicest bit is that although the book is all laid out for the much neglected left hander the book is inclusive with a note and illustration with each section to tell how a right hander would work the stitch. How magnanimous, no really I am pathetically grateful that I can keep this book in my collection and go bonkers trying out the hundreds of different stitches. I reckon this book is a must for every teacher of stitching and every left handed sewer and ...yes actually anyone who owns a needle and thread and might one day feel like picking them up. If I am ever on Desert Island disks I am taking this book! At GBP19.99 it might seem steep for a soft back but believe me, I reckon this is worth its weight in gold. **Jennyflowerblue.blogspot.com** May 10 Yvette Stanton is a renowned embroidery teacher and author, plus she is also left-handed. Realising the deficit in diagrams explaining stitches for left-handers, Yvette has created this comprehensive stitch dictionary. Each of the stitches is explained step-by-step with clear diagrams and explanations. The range of stitches is astounding with over 170 included in the book. At the end of each there is a diagram and note comparing how right-handers would work the stitch. An excellent reference for embroiderers and

invaluable to anyone who teaches embroidery classes. NEW STITCHES Winter 10 At last, an embroidery stitch book for left-handed stitchers. Having struggled for a long time reversing, flipping etc., and producing my own version of the more complicated twisted stitches, this book is really inspiring. It contains clear step-by-step instructions for over seventy stitches, including some canvas stitches, with variations of the stitch under the same heading. This book is already on my shelf and one that I would definitely recommend to any left-handed stitcher. It would also be a useful teaching aid to tutors when they have a left-handed stitcher in the class. West Country Embroiderers June/July 10 This is the book that all left-handed embroiderers have been waiting for. Containing step-by-step stitch instructions, it has been written specially by a left-hander for left-handers. It explains, clearly and simply together with diagrams, how to stitch over 170 different stitches, including some unusual stitches such as nun stitch, parma stitch, spiral trellis and Breton stitch. Right-handers needn't feel left out as there is a right-handed version for each stitch too. A stitch dictionary for left-handed embroiderers is long overdue - but this one was worth the wait. Stitch

Yvette Stanton is the publisher, author, and designer behind Vetty Creations. She has a passion for embroidery stitches in general (the more obscure the better!) and whitework embroidery, and a passion for sharing them with others. Yvette is an accredited tutor with the Embroiderers Guild of NSW, and teaches embroidery classes, specialising in whitework at shops and guild groups around Australia. Yvette lives in Sydney. Visit Yvette's blog at [vettycreations.com.au/white-threads](http://www.vettycreations.com.au/white-threads)

I'm a lifelong lefty who wasn't forced to use my right hand for anything. I taught myself to knit, lefty style. That means I have trouble with patterns because "k2tog" looks different if a left hander does it. I didn't want to try the self-teaching method with embroidery. BTW, I bought this book to teach me just a couple of embroidery stitches... I'm hand-sewing some of Natalie Chanin's awesome garments.

[http://www..com/Alabama-Studio-Sewing-Design-Hand-Sewing/dp/158479920X/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1394201566&sr=8-1&keywords=natalie+chanin](http://www..com/Alabama-Studio-Sewing-Design-Hand-Sewing/dp/158479920X/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1394201566&sr=8-1&keywords=natalie+chanin) The borders (skirt waists, bolero edges, etc.) need elastic (stretchy) stitches, and Natalie offers embroidery stitches for that - right handed style, of course. This book not only taught me the stitches I needed, it gave me a gazillion ideas for things I'd love to be able to do if I had any time. The photos and drawings are great - pretty colors, on nice paper, and the images are LARGE so you can see what you're doing and follow along. I strongly recommend this book.

I've been waiting since a young child for a book like this! Now I'll be able WITH EASE to do the kind of embroidery work that I've always wanted to do. All the instructions in this book are clear and precise and each of the stitch directions has a photograph of the completed stitch worked in various ways that inspire the embroiderer to be creative, helping to realize that there is more that you can create, and that the possibilities are endless. I am making memory quilts for my granddaughters with their photographs in the blocks in the colors that they love. I have the 70 blocks constructed and have 30,000 seed beads to use in embroidery on them, but being left handed I have been stressing over working the embroidery until I found this book by Yvette. Now I'm excited to get started knowing that I will be able to accomplish the task at hand. Thanks Yvette for such a wonderful book. It's beautiful!

Other embroidery books MIGHT have a section for left handed embroiderers, but usually only basic stitches are presented. This book is a treasure trove of stitches that we left handed stitchers can now learn to do the correct way. It is the best embroidery book that I own. The steps are all pictured clearly and are easy to follow. THANK YOU Yvette Stanton for recognizing the need and creating this embroiderer's bible.

So glad I found this book! I am the only left-handed student in a decorative stitching class and was having a difficult time figuring out how to do some of the stitches as I was having difficulty turning the right-handed diagram around in my head. This book was written by a left-hander for left-handers and gives detailed directions for 170 embroidery stitches. Decorative stitching is so much easier for me now.

Amazingly detailed and lavishly diagrammed - and for the first time, we Leftys don't have to turn diagrams upside-down and hope for the best! Perfect for Beginners or the highly experienced, plus quite a few unusual stitches. It is also arranged Alphabetically, by stitch name, as opposed to the common approach of beginning with basics and moving towards the complex, an approach that is far more logical, IMHO. This is a must-have, for those like me who have stitch book libraries and also essential for the stitcher who just wants one solid reference. Pick up a copy, most definitely!

I have thoroughly enjoyed past books by Yvette Stanton. I bought this book as a gift for someone who is a lefty. Her first comment was "I've been using the Wrong Needle incorrectly all these years?" The needle section was in the very opening pages of the book. Other responsibilities have

kept my friend from sitting down and learning from The Left-handed Embroiderers Companion. I have personally read the book through the French Knot section. I received a much better taste of what it is like to be a lefty by trying to do the steps as a lefty would do them instead of my normal orientation as a righty. My brain processes in one direction, but not the other. I am counting down the days until I get the privilege of purchasing my own copy of The Right-handed Embroiderers Companion because of the stitches Yvette has illustrated and demonstrated that I have never seen in my other stitch dictionaries.

This book is super handy as a beginner in embroidery. I decided to buy it after not finding a lot of material on left handed embroidery.

Being left-handed, and an avid stitcher, this is just what I need. This book gives excellent, diagrammed instruction. I wish i had gotten it years ago. I recommend this book to every left-handed embroiderer/cross stitcher who are tired of trying to translate right-handed instructions to suit lefties. Remember--If the right side of the brain controls the left side of the body, than only left-handed people are in their right minds.

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