

SILK LUSTER LEAF

exercise

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Access Commodities

LEARN ABOUT THE VARIABLE TYPES OF LUSTER OF SILK

Try this simple exercise and educate yourself about the differences of silk luster. Luster or the shine of silk is variable depending on the type of silk, and the stitch used. Access Commodities has different sizes, types and twists of silks to cover all the needs of the embroiderer

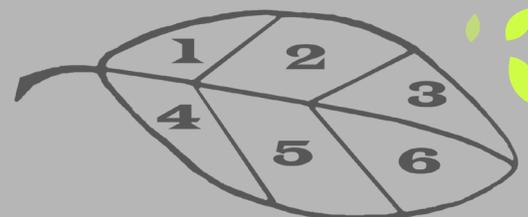
2 TYPES OF SILKS ARE USED IN THIS EXERCISE

1. **FILAMENT Silk** - The long, unbroken lengths of silk as it is unwound from the silk cocoon have the maximum amount of shine. Older pieces of embroidery using filament silk, even several hundreds of years old, still glow and twinkle in the light.
2. **SPUN Silk** - This is the term given to the shorter pieces of silk left after the filament has been unwound from the silk cocoon. This silk possesses a subtle gleam, and when it is used next to a filament silk—makes the filament even brighter, and more lustrous. Remember it is the contrast of the different luster of silk threads and their light reflection that makes an ordinary work extraordinary.

MATERIALS LIST:

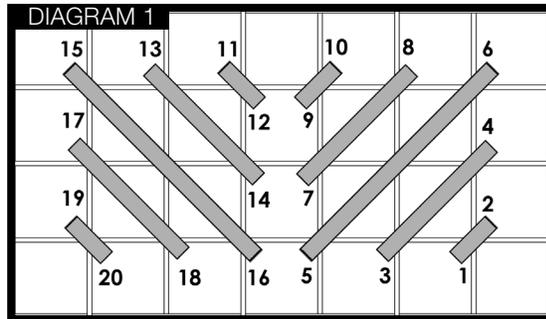
- Silk Luster Leaf Exercise Kit, which includes the following:
 - 1 spool of AU VER à SOIE® Soie 100/3
 - 1 spool of AU VER à SOIE® Soie de Paris
 - 1 spool of AU VER à SOIE® Soie Perlee
 - 1 spool of Trebizond Twisted Silk Thread
 - 1 skein of AU VER à SOIE® Soie d'Alger
 - 1 spool of AU VER à SOIE® Soie Gobelins
- S. Thomas & sons Chenille needle size 24
- Laying tool of choice
- 1 piece of 18-count canvas in white, cut 10 x 12 inches.
- Wooden stretcher bars, a pair of 10 and 12 inch and tacks.

ROAD MAP

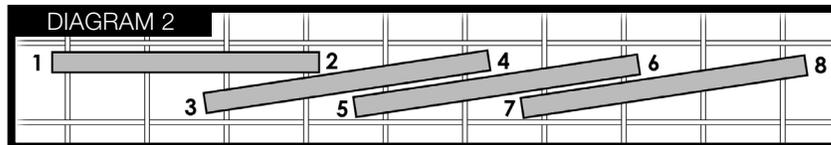


PROCEDURE

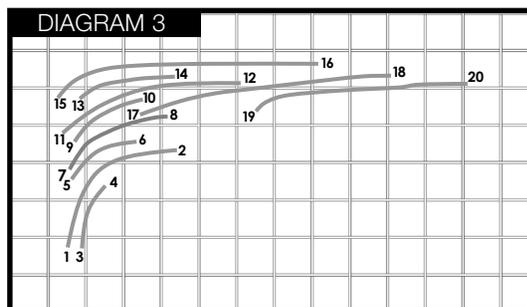
- STEP 1** Trace leaf onto canvas with a hard lead pencil. Mount canvas onto stretcher bars with thumbtacks, making sure working surface of canvas is taut.
- STEP 2** The entire design is stitched in a Reverse Scotch stitch. See stitch diagram #1. Compensate the stitch as you encounter the different lines dividing the areas. Use Road Map for description of the placement of the various types of silk. If you purchased the Silk Luster Leaf Exercise Kit, an S. Thomas & Son's Chenille Needle Size 24 is included. Try this and notice how the tapered sharp point makes it easier to stitch into holes already occupied with thread.



- STEP 3** Using stitch diagram #2, outline stitch the veins of the leaf and the outside of the leaf with Trebizond.



- STEP 4** Using stitch diagram #3 for the leaf stem with Trebizond.



1

A finely twisted spun silk that is presently available in 260 colors. For this exercise, 4 separate-plies were used with a laying tool. Compare how the luster is different from Soie de Paris. Notice how much smoother looking the same stitch appears in Soie 100/3 than the other silks.



SOIE 100/3

2

A six-ply filament silk that is presently available in 87 colors. Tony used 3 plies of Soie de Paris with a laying tool. Compare the luster of Soie de Paris and Trebizond. How does it differ? Do you see the perforations of the individual stitches accented more in Soie de Paris compared to Soie Perlee or Soie d'Alger?



SOIE de Paris

3

A three-ply filament twisted silk that is available in 145 colors on 16 meter spools. This has a different color system than Soie d'Alger. Two strands of Soie Perlee were used with a laying tool. How does the look of Soie Perlee compare to Soie de Paris or Soie d'Alger?



SOIE Perlee



SOIE Gobelins

4

A three-ply filament twisted silk that comes in 196 colors on 10 meters spools. This thread is "pliable" which means the plies can be separated and stitched individually, in pairs or all three together. For this exercise Trebizond was used just as it comes off the spool. Notice how much more raised and textural looking the same stitch is compared to Soie 100/3. Trebizond was used in this section of the design to make it look more lustrous. Notice how Soie 100/3 and Soie d'Alger contribute to the radiance of Trebizond. This contrast of matte and shine is an integral part of any beautifully stitched design whether on canvas or linen.

TREBIZOND



5

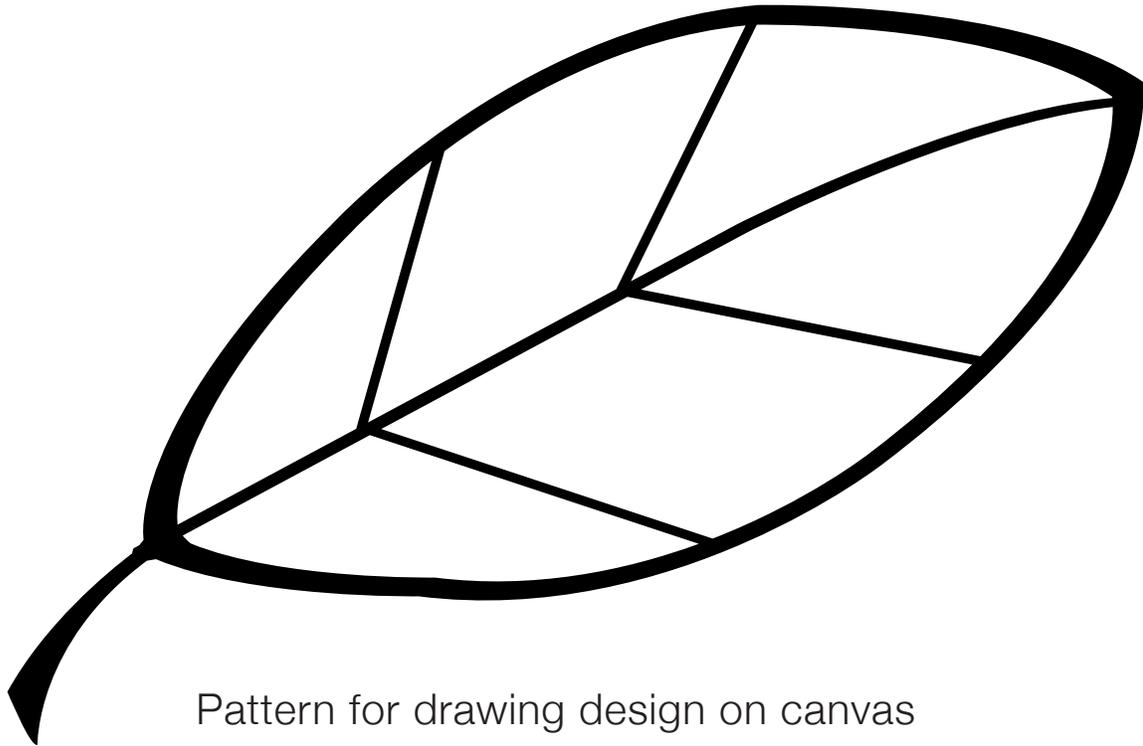
SOIE d'Alger

A seven-ply spun silk that comes in over 600 colors in 5 meter skeins. This thread is manufactured with specific characteristics for hand embroidery. Three plies were used. What is the difference of the luster between Soie d'Alger and Soie 100/3? Which has more luster?



6

This is a three-ply filament twisted silk, originally created for the restoration of medieval tapestries. There are 50 colors, and it has the same color system as Soie d'Alger. Three strands of this were used for the exercise. Compare and contrast the difference of luster between Soie d'Alger and Soie Gobelins. Notice the similarity between the luster of Soie Perlee and Soie Gobelins. Notice too, how when two highly lustrous areas are placed next to each other there is not as much contrast.



Pattern for drawing design on canvas

And a note for the Over-achievers out there... This can be the beginning of a “study board”, a tool used in Professional embroidery workrooms to illustrate and provide reference when selecting stitches for future pieces. Depending on your degree of over-achievement you can label the sections with a labeling machine like Brother makes, or if you are an extreme over-achiever may we suggest stitching the names of the thread next to the stitched areas.

CONCLUSION:

The luster of silk can be manipulated to highlight a specific area or focal point in the design. It is more interesting to the eye if variable types of luster are used, because it makes the finished work more appealing. To make an area extremely shiny, surround it with a more matte finish or quietly lustrous silk.

