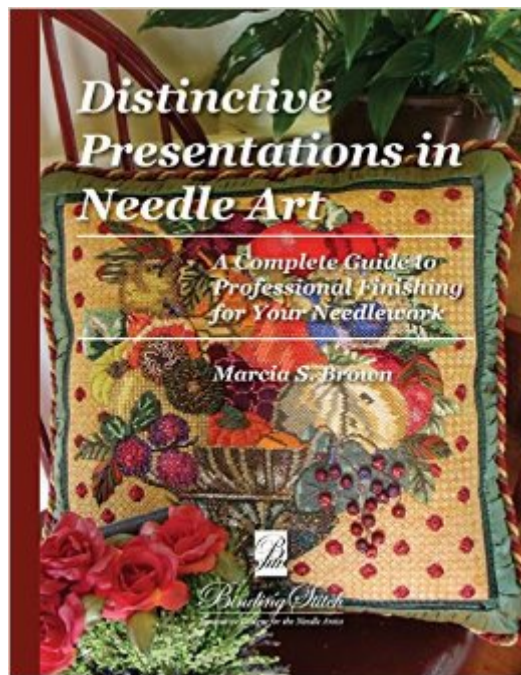


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# Distinctive Presentations In Needle Art: A Complete Guide To Professional Finishing For Your Needlework



## Synopsis

Marcia Brown-Smith has been serving the needle art industry since 1979 providing finishing services for retailers, private clients, students and designers throughout the United States and internationally. With an average of 500-700 canvas and linen needle art pieces completed each year, she has developed finishing techniques that easily offer professional results. Marcia has been special editor for major needlework publications and has been a teacher on the national level for a variety of mainstream needlework venues since 1991. She has lectured and exhibited for needlework seminars, museums and guilds nationwide and has run The Binding Stitch, a successful finishing business, for 35 years. She is now creating her own needle art designs and teaching them nationally while continuing to provide finishing services to private clients and students.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The book is so detailed and wonderful that after weeks of owning it, I am only about half way through. This truly is a book that should be in every needleworker's library. I have seen other reviews of the book that say they wish she had used more recent pieces for models, but truly its about the finishing technique. Those of us that are creative can always adapt a piece we have to her style of finishing. I am working on two stockings right now to finish that I have had issues with for too long - very frustrating. I am already having an easier time just by following her very well laid out instructions.

While there are several books out there on finishing, few are as in-depth as this new book from Marcia Brown, the owner of The Binding Stitch. Previously many of her techniques were only

available on DVDs. I like that they now are in book form. There are many things to like about this book. First it has step-by-step illustrated instructions for making different types of pillows. If you are a seamstress, this is nothing special but many folks who stitch haven't done this before so having these basic instructions there is fantastic! Second it has finishing techniques for both stitching on linen (i.e. cross stitch) and needlepoint. While many of the techniques are the same I like that each is treated separately and that the differences and extra steps are included. Third it covers in separate chapters many aspects of finishing I have wondered about. There are chapters on making fringe, on different kinds of weights, on making tassels and several kinds of cords, and one on blocking. A particularly useful chapter is the one of finishing rugs, which describes several ways to join pieces of canvas. If you are considering making a rug, look at this before you finish your project. Even so, the book has some defects, mostly small. Tips, highlighted information, and some captions are in white type on colored boxes and photos. Often this is too low-contrast to be read. While pretty when done in large type on the first page of each chapter, the rest of the time it ends up hiding useful information. While the book is extremely detailed, I wish it had more up-to-date ideas for finishing. Most notably needlepoint purses or totes were not included. But bell pulls and brick covers were, even though these are less popular than purses these days. This book is very rigorous and easy to follow. You'll learn techniques used by professionals for finishing. If you want to finish your own projects, I recommend it.

I have too many needlework books to count on every possible technique you can imagine (though I steer clear of knitting, crochet and the like) and do a great deal of counted stitch work like cross stitch, hardanger, canvaswork, blackwork; as well as surface stitchery including goldwork. I'm so tired of the ubiquitous pillows and have filled my walls with framed pictures. Framing is really expensive. To get a book that gives me alternatives to these...or how to do it myself...or how to tell my framers how to do a better job is marvelous. I got this at my library and am just waiting for the price to go down so I can get my own. The reviewers who complain about his book: have you really read it? You prospective buyers simply need to view the Look Inside feature at the top of the page to see if the writing is clear enough to you, if this book covers enough of the information that suits your needs. I have many, many books, including Jo Ippolito Christensen's referenced here, which have a smattering of finishing techniques and this book far excels. Compare this book to: Interweave's Compendium of Finishing Techniques and you'll see it's head & shoulders above it in practical value. For heaven's sake: Marcia Brown has finished THOUSANDS of needlework pieces. She owns a BUSINESS doing that. She's been doing it for DECADES. She clearly knows

what she's talking about because it shows on every page. Even if you're not interesting in making a Christmas stocking, don't you think you could, if you so chose, because her directions and illustrations are so clear? And maybe you're inspired to create something that otherwise you wouldn't have considered. Just her clear instruction on hemstitching linen is valuable, the best I've seen. And I have many, many books on linen techniques and hemstitch, both as a sampler technique and for finishing a project. In fact, I finished Cross 'n' Patch's Emie Bishop's linen bellpull from her Unfinished Sampler booklet which incorporates over 100 different stitches. It is a very long, narrow piece stitched on a 28-count linen strip and lined and bordered with a complementary 32-count linen piece. It is hemstitched in such a way as to look 3-dimensional and to have the back of the work covered by the liner. It's deceptively easy but my friends can't figure out how I finished it till I explain and even then it's hard to get. That technique is discussed in the book at the end in the chapter on bellpulls. I have many resources that cover cording but this book has the most variety of shapes to craft. Just about all the other needlework finishing books cover only knitting or needlepoint. This book covers more that is about the threaded needle and covers it better.

This was recommended in a Facebook group I'm in and the folks were right. What an amazing book! Great illustration in both the photography and the drawn illustrations. Excellent text. An amazing variety of finishing techniques made very approachable and "do-able." Excellent descriptions of materials used and suggested, "how-to" descriptions for making your own cording. A superlative resource book. So grateful everyone shared. Just wish I could have gotten it in a hard bound version altho the paperback is fairly strong Hardbound or even spiral bound would extend the book's life.

Thanks Marcia Brown for finally consolidating your wonderful finishing techniques into a book. Exceptional reference--clear diagrams and instructions provide all the needlewoman needs to know to finish her project. My only criticism --just wish the needlework examples were more recent projects.

Great book for ideas for finishing needlepoint Lots of ideas and clear directions

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