

BRODERIE PERSE

Broderie Perse is French for Persian embroidery. It was most popular in Europe in the seventeenth century. Earlier forms of this needlework have been found in India so it probably traveled to Europe and was adopted by needleworkers there.

A fabric called "chintz" was made in India. It was cotton, heavily patterned with stylized birds, flowers and animals. It was richly colored using beautiful dyes. It was also very expensive. In order to use this fabric and save some cost, women bought a piece and cut out the motifs, leaving a small allowance around the designs, they chose to work into the quilt. Then using a whole cloth approach, laid out the motifs in a pattern or a scene on the background until they were pleased. Then they would tack/ baste the motifs in place. Lastly, they would fold under the excess fabric around each piece using a form of embroidery that they preferred. Examples of embroidery stitches could be Herringbone, Satin, Buttonhole, and Slipstitch.

You will need a background fabric cut 13" x 16" (this will trim up to 12 ½ x 15 ½"

A piece of "Chintz" The fabric you will cut your motifs, flowers.

If you want you may glue in place, use fusible web to fix to the background (follow fusible web directions), or pin in place until embroidered down.

For those of you who CANNOT do handwork, I recommend the fusible method.

