

Embroidery on Eighteenth-century Costume

Rose Motif



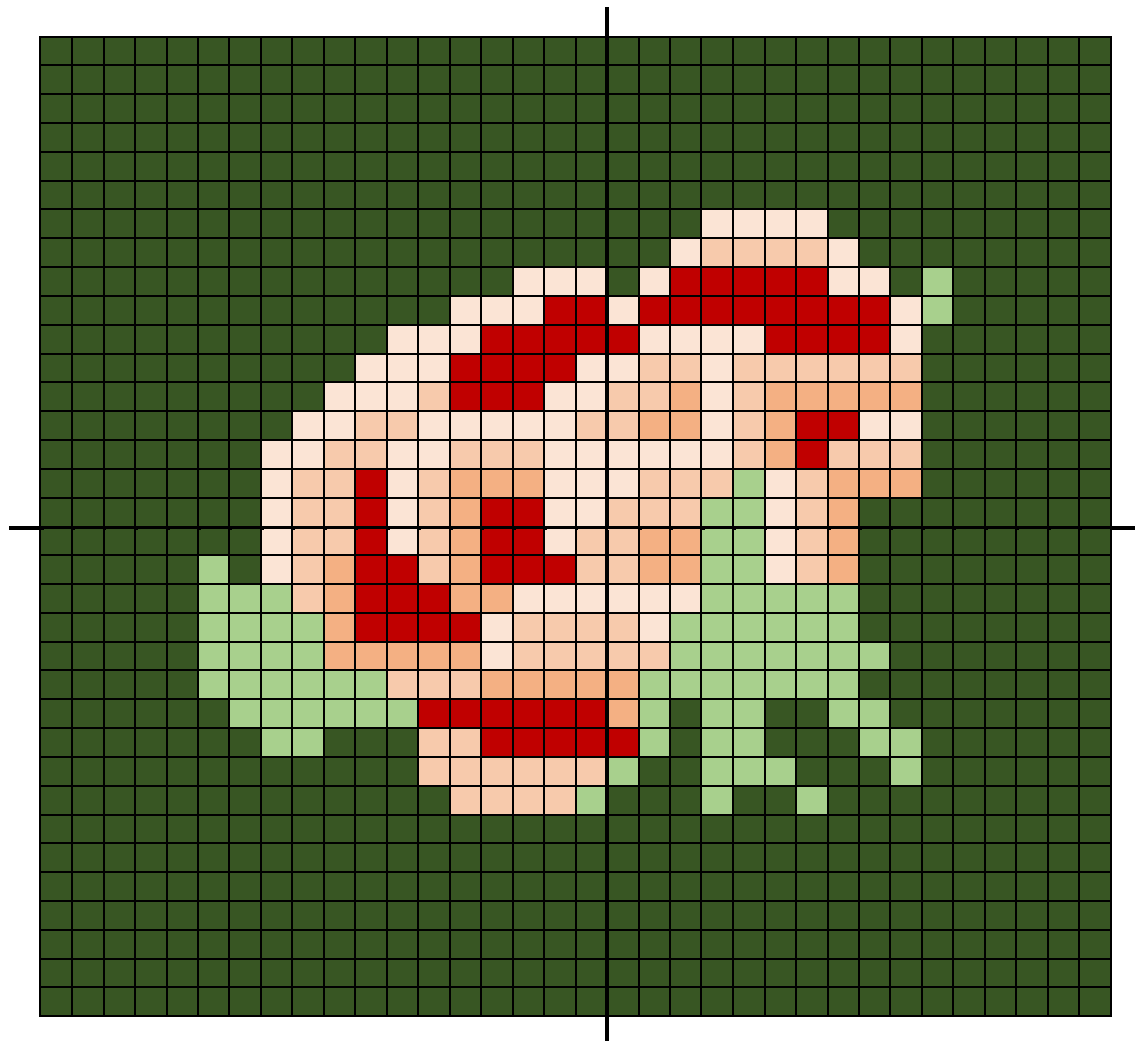
This rose motif is based on a pattern on a pair of women's shoes (29.146) in the Burrell Collection. The linen uppers that cover each foot are embroidered in rococo stitch with pink and red roses with a blue vase on each toe.

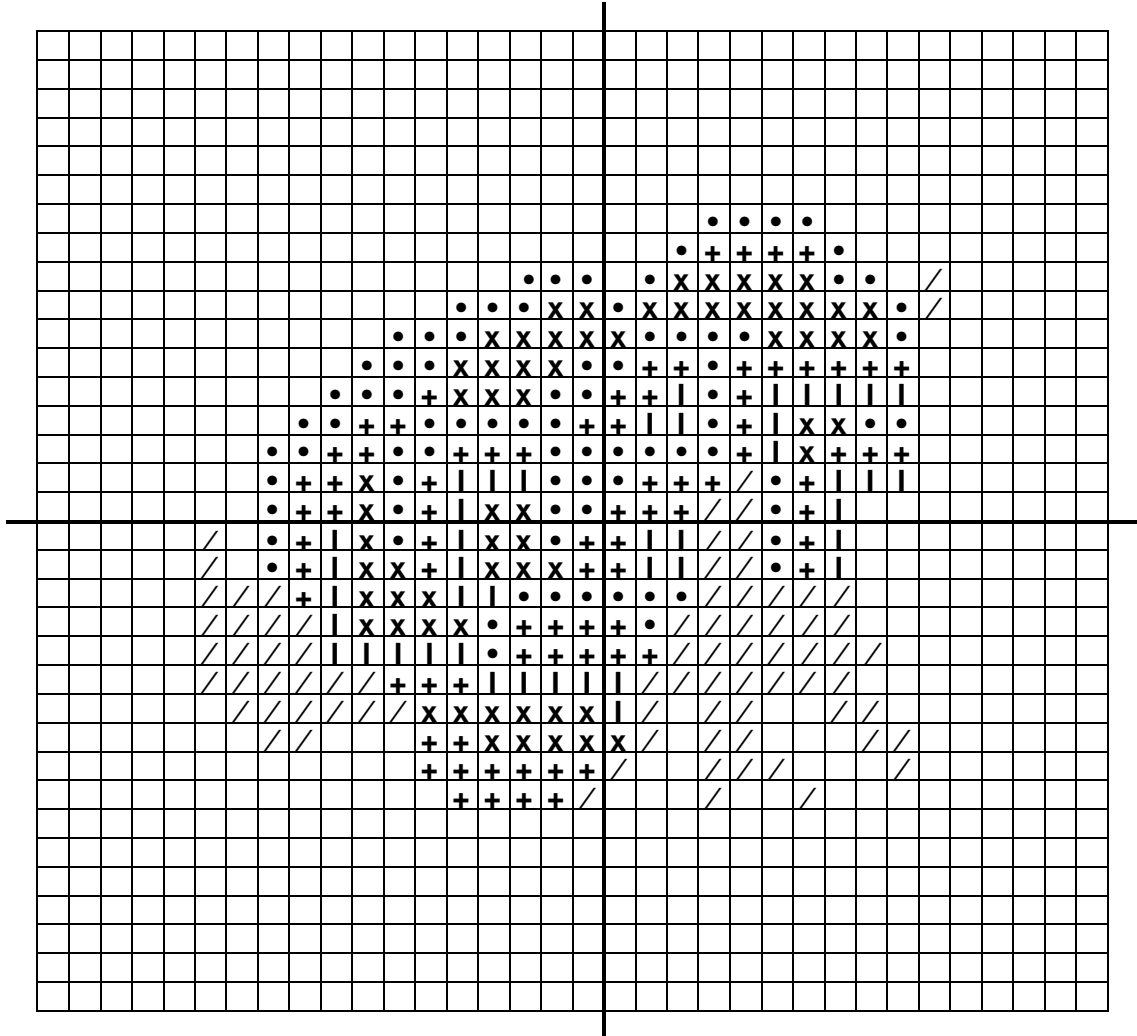
The rose is a common motif that has been used for many centuries, sometimes carrying religious, political and romantic symbolism. Tudor roses were popular during the 1500s, and in the early 1600s five-petalled sweet briar or eglantine roses (*Rosa rubiginosa*) were fashionable, appearing on men's nightcaps and women's bodices. By 1700, when these shoes were made, damask roses (*Rosa damascena*) with their many petals were preferred.

Materials required

- 6 strand cotton thread in three shades of pink, red and two shades of green
- Square of Aida fabric approximately 12 cm x 12 cm
- Needle
- Scissors

Chart





x cross-stitch in red

l cross-stitch in dark pink

+ cross-stitch in medium pink

• cross-stitch in light pink

/ tent stitch in light green

Instructions

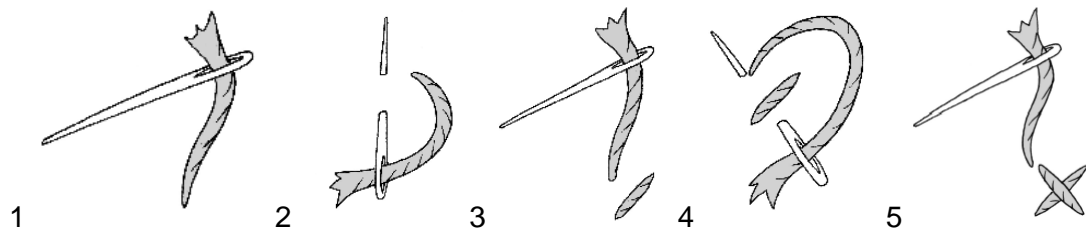
Separate two strands of cotton in your lightest shade of pink, cut the length to approximately 50 cm and thread your needle.

Find the centre of your fabric by folding it in half both ways and start stitching the design working from the centre out.

The shoe upper is stitched in **rococo stitch** – a stitch with a series of long stitches held in place with small tacking stitches.



However, this chart will also work for **cross stitch** – a double stitch in the shape of a diagonal cross.



Try to avoid knotting your thread to start. Instead hold 1 cm length on the back of the fabric and work your first few stitches over it. At the end of each thread run it behind several stitches on the back of the fabric and trim. This should give you a smoother finished piece.

Work light colours first and darker colours last.

When embroidering a large area work across in rows with the cross stitched in the same direction.

Try not to carry a thread on the back too far between one part of the design and another, as these can sometimes be seen from the front.