

A Tri-Lobed Needlebook Design
from Ladies' Handbook of Fancy and Ornamental Work, 1859

Please refer to *Fanciful Utility* by Anna Worden Bauersmith for specific and detailed construction techniques to complete your project.

From the original 1859 text accompanying the diagram:

Bead Needle Book. This little article is simple and useful, and makes a pretty present without any great expenditure of time. It may be made of velvet, cloth, or silk, the first of these being very much the most handsome. The color is quite optional, but scarlet brings out the ornamental part the most effectually. The beadwork is in white, crystal, and gold. The shape of the Needle-book is to be cut in card-board, according to our design. The two sides are in one piece, being only folded at the back. The central ornament must first be worked in. The chain work which forms the border should be strung before it is fastened down. When the cover has been well-stretched over the cardboard shape, and the lining put in, being neatly sewn all around the edge, a little loop of small gold beads is to be added, taking care that these do not project too much. A few leaves of fine cloth or cashmere are to be fastened inside with a ribbon, which passes through and comes out with a bow in the center of the back. Ribbon strings to match complete the Needle-book.



While Florence Hartley's original project was embellished with beadwork (small rounds formed into circlets and loops; thin cylinders for leaf and bloom details) and embroidery (stemstitch, backstitch, or cordonet for stem and vine details), the same shape works well with appliqué, braidwork, or embroidery of your own choosing.

We share here the original embellishment design, and a template to use for your own copy or variation. Please note that the original calls for the outer fabric to be cut in one piece. If you choose to do this, trim the template to the inner straight line and cut it on a fold of fabric for the exterior and lining. Cutting a front and back pasteboard allows you to trim the straight edge slightly, creating a small gap between the two when covered, which makes a flexible spine you can pull a ribbon through (as mentioned in the original description). Alternately, cover the front and back individually, and use a ribbon or whipped spine. The needle pages could be identical, or graduated.

We love to see pictures of our friends' projects! If you want to share what you've made (either for modern use or historical settings), please drop Liz a line at elizabeth@escpublishing.com

