

# Cyber Workshops: An Overview

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A Cyber or Online Workshop is an exciting form of instruction that offers you the opportunity to participate in seminar level classes taught by a professional needlework teacher without having to travel further than your computer. Using simple email technology, you as a student, can take part in a class that may include participants from such countries as Canada, the United States, Italy and Australia, all linked together through the marvel of the internet.

The projects presented in a cyber workshop are designs that were taught at national and regional seminar levels. Taking a class at seminar class involves the time and expense of traveling to a host city, staying in a hotel or on a university campus during the course of the seminar and packing your list of stitching supplies. If you were fortunate enough to get the class of your choice, you had only two to four days to work small areas of the project under the guidance of the instructor. Once the seminar ended and you returned home, the project had to be completed without further guidance.

Cyber workshops and computer technology have changed all that. Students who do not wish to travel can still take exceptional classes without leaving home. Computers, scanners and digital cameras allow a teacher to prepare course material and visual aids that are sent directly into the students' home. Using a private, dedicated e-mail list, the teacher will post instructions, stitching hints and visual aids that will supplement the course materials sent to the student prior to the beginning of class.

The cyber projects are divided into a series of lessons sent by e-mail on a regular basis. Depending on the type or length of project, lessons can be posted every two weeks or only once a month, allowing a student ample time in between lessons to fully complete one step the project before going on to the next. The online lesson contains written text that will supplement the instruction booklet as well as a series of visual aids that will help explain a stitch or technique in a step-by-step sequence of images. For the visually impaired or for those who just want a closer look at a small detail, these images can be enlarged to full screen size by simply clicking on the image.

As in a traditional seminar class, students can ask questions at any time through the dedicated e-mail list. A question or comment sent to the instructor is automatically transmitted to the other students in the class and the process is repeated when the teacher sends a reply. This can sometimes generate an interesting and lively e-mail conversation between students and the instructor, especially when the class includes students from around the world.

If a student has access to a digital camera or scanner, they can capture problem areas of their work and send the image electronically to the instructor for critique. This is a wonderful learning tool, especially for other students in the class who may be experiencing the same problem. Is there supposed to be a gap between these stitches? Is my tension too tight? Why do my leaves look so narrow? An image will allow the instructor to see exactly where the problem is and provide specific instructions on how to correct it, just as though she were looking over your shoulder in a traditional workshop setting. It is also a tool that I use on my web site to showcase a student's work. Images showing color changes or creative ways in which a lesson has been worked are posted through the online lessons and students can send images of completed works to exhibit in my Student Gallery.

There is no pressure in a cyber workshop to keep up with the lessons. Each student sets the pace for his or her own learning experience. Many students will complete each lesson as they are posted and have a finished or nearly finished piece by the end of the cyber workshop, while others may take a little longer to reach their goal as they work around family and work responsibilities. All posted lesson material can be printed, so those students needing more time to complete a project can refer to the material once the class has ended and the lessons go offline.

Information on current and upcoming Cyber Workshops, as well as information on registration, can be found on my website at [www.annamariewinter.com](http://www.annamariewinter.com) and at [bedeckedandbeadazzled.com](http://bedeckedandbeadazzled.com).

I look forward to the opportunity of working with you .....