

# The Fashion Archaeologist

## Free PDF Pattern #FP-05 – 1901 Embroidered Book Cover

### *“Couverture de Livre”*

This pattern is offered free of charge to give you an opportunity to try PDF printing and assembly before purchasing a full-size pattern. The pattern and translated instructions are copyright, for your personal use, not to be copied, re-sold, or used for commercial garment production purposes.

Below is some information to help with constructing the patterned item, including a copy of the original French sketch and text, as well as my translation.

#### General Guidelines:

- These PDF patterns are not “full service” patterns, they are taken directly from the antique pattern sheets as free trial patterns. They do **not** include seam allowances – you will need to add your own allowances appropriate to the fabric and item type. The lines shown are the seam lines only.
- On some patterns, the garment or item pieces may be superimposed, to make the best use of the relatively small space on the scan. Where this is so, you will need to trace off the pattern pieces separately after printing the PDF pattern out on paper. Pieces are marked with the original Figure numbers, to match the antique French text.
- Some lines on these patterns may need to be “trued up” slightly before cutting out. Also, the antique sizing may not be what you might expect -- allow for this when cutting out. It’s always best to make a mock-up out of inexpensive fabric before cutting the pattern from your fashion fabric.
- Other than translations of any existing antique sewing instructions, you may need to work out the order of construction and sewing methods on your own. Bear in mind that some patterns may only need to be cut once; others may have to be cut twice. This may not always be clear from the antique text.
- Pay careful attention to any letters or numbers marked at corners, etc. on the patterns – these show which edges are to be matched up when sewing, or they will relate to something mentioned in the antique text.
- Watch for additional notations on the patterns themselves which will assist in construction or finishing.

#### Notes for This Pattern:

The free pattern given here is for the embroidery to be done on a 1901 fancy book cover. Instructions for making the cover itself are included below. This book cover could be made larger if desired, by enlarging the rectangle of fabric used, as well as enlarging the PDF embroidery pattern.

My translation of the 1901 French text is also included below. My own explanatory notes are in square brackets. The original French text is on the following page, along with a copy of the 1901 fashion sketch of this item. The original directions called for silk faille, but any crisp, medium weight fabric with a close weave that can easily take embroidery and stand up to the wear a book cover will get, would be appropriate. A closely-woven linen with a smooth surface would work as well. The embroidery is described as being done on olive-coloured silk faille in soft green and olive colours, the wild rose in the centre in red tones, but any colour combination you wish can be used. The embroidery can either be done in silk floss (as in the original), or in a quality cotton floss.

### My Translation of French Description:

#### “*Couverture de Livre* --

Our model represents a book cover in olive silk faille, embroidered on one face according to the design given in the pattern. Trace the design from 6-1/2cm [about 2-1/2 inches] from the bottom edge of the outside front section of the cover. (The cover is made up of two pieces of fabric, each 48cm [about 19"] long and 28cm [11"] wide. [NOTE: You may need to adjust these measurements, depending upon your book – if so, adjust the placement and size of the embroidery as well.]

The embroidered “bands” are worked in modern style, using a stem-stitch in two colours of olive green. The leaves are filled in with satin stitch in light green, with stems and veins in stem-stitch of a harmonizing green colour. The edges of the rose petals are worked in satin stitch in 3 colours of red, and filled with “point lancé” [NOTE: This means literally “thrown-stitch”, i.e. long stitches -- See antique sketch.] The centre [of the rose] is worked in satin stitch in light olive silk, with highlights in golden yellow. The stamens are worked in stem-stitch, with ends in French knots in yellow-gold silk.

Once the embroidery is completed, assemble\* the two pieces of the cover, including sewing a red silk ribbon-loop into the upper edge, to which a reading-tool can be attached [NOTE: this can be omitted, or the ribbon used as a place-marker]. The two ends of the completed cover are turned in to slip the cover over a book. ”

\*NOTE: There are no specific sewing instructions given in the 1901 text; however, in 1901, all the edges of the outside and inside layers would have been turned inward to neaten, and hand hemmed in place (or sewn by machine near the edge – see antique sketch). It appears that this book cover does not have fitted ends, but the finished ends are simply tucked inside the front and back covers of a book. You can certainly reconfigure the ends of the cover to more securely fit over your chosen book if you wish.

### Original (1901) French text:

NOTRE modèle représente une couverture exécutée en reps de soie vert olive et ornée, sur un côté, d'une broderie; on reporte celle-ci d'après la fig. 110 à 6 centimètres 1/2 du bord inférieur du dessus. (La couverture est composée de deux morceaux ayant chacun 48 centimètres de longueur et 28 centimètres de largeur.) On travaille les bandes de style moderne au point de tige en deux nuances de vert olive; les feuilles sont encadrées au point plat en soie vert clair avec les tiges et les nervures au point de tige en soie verte nuancée. Les pétales brodés en trois teintes de rouge sont encadrés de points plats et remplis de points lancés; le cœur est travaillé au point plat en soie vert olive clair avec les lumières en jaune d'or; les étamines sont exécutées au point de tige et au point noué en soie jaune d'or. Lorsque la broderie est terminée, on assemble les deux morceaux en cousant en même temps au bord supérieur un signet en ruban de soie rouge auquel on rattache une liseuse en ivoire ou en celluloid blanc. Ensuite on replie les deux côtés longs à l'intérieur pour y glisser le livre.

1901 Fashion Sketch

