

USING THE DESIGN PROCESS

THERE ARE MANY DIFFERENT WAYS TO BEGIN A TATTING PROJECT. MANY DESIGNERS START WITH AN IDEA THEN LOOK FOR PHOTOS, PICTURES, ETC. OF THE SUBJECT; OTHERS JUST RELY ON THEIR MEMORY OR IMAGINATION. SOMETIMES A NEW DESIGN COMES FROM A PREVIOUSLY DESIGNED PATTERN. AND SOME DESIGNERS JUST PICK UP THE SHUTTLE(S)/NEEDLE AND THREAD THEN BEGIN TATTING. OTHERS MAKE SKETCHES FIRST, THESE ARE OFTEN VERY ROUGH, AND OFTEN INCLUDE NOTATIONS, IDEAS.

IF YOU ARE A BEGINNING DESIGNER YOU MAY WANT SOME STRUCTURE TO HELP YOU GET STARTED; USING A DESIGN PROCESS CAN HELP WITH THIS. LATER THROUGH EXPERIENCE YOU WILL LEARN YOUR OWN PREFERRED METHODS.

THE STEPS OF THE DESIGN PROCESS ARE USUALLY VERY SIMILAR, BUT NOT ALWAYS CATEGORIZED THE SAME DEPENDING UPON THE FIELD OF STUDY AND THE SOURCE OF INFORMATION.

FOR TATTING DESIGNERS, WE WILL USE THIS VERSION I HAVE COMPILED FROM MANY SOURCES; I FEEL IT WILL WORK VERY WELL FOR TATTING DESIGN.

THESE STEPS AND SUB-STEPS ARE **ONLY GUIDELINES** WHICH MAY HAPPEN IN A DIFFERENT ORDER OR SOME MAY NOT BE USED AT ALL; IT DEPENDS UPON THE INDIVIDUAL DESIGNER'S PREFERENCES AND THE SPECIFIC PROJECT. THIS IS NOT USUALLY A STRAIGHT-LINE PROCESS.

- A. DURING THIS ENTIRE DESIGN PROCESS **DOCUMENT** EVERYTHING IN DETAIL. WITH SKETCHES, NOTES, THOUGHTS, IDEAS, STITCH COUNTS, PATH POSSIBILITIES ETC.
- B. **KEEP ALL YOUR TATTED BITS & PIECES** AND THEIR DOCUMENTATION - THEY MAY BE USEFUL IN FUTURE PROJECTS. YOU CAN KEEP THEM IN A NOTEBOOK, BINDER (PUNCH HOLES IN BAGGIES TO ADD THESE INTO THE RINGS), LABELED ENVELOPES OR BAGGIES OR YOUR FAVORIET STORAGE METHOD.

MEMORIES TEND TO FADE AND THERE MAY COME A TIME WHEN YOU THINK "OH WHAT WAS THAT THAT I TRIED ON MY WHATEVER PROJECT THAT DIDN'T WORK, IT WOULD BE PERFECT NOW IN THIS DESIGN BUT- HOW DID I DO IT! ADD THOUGHTS, STITCH COUNTS, PATH POSSIBILITIES AND REASONS WHY THIS DID OR DIDN'T WORK.

- C. **INCUBATION** TIME IS IMPORTANT MAY BE NEEDED MORE THAN ONCE THROUGHOUT THE DESIGN PROCESS. SOMETIMES YOU NEED TO STEP BACK FROM THE DETAILS AND THINK ABOUT THE WHOLE DESIGN AGAIN. MAYBE EVEN SET IT ASIDE FOR A WHILE.

D. **EVALUATION** IS CONSIDERED A STEP ALSO BUT IS ALSO MAY BE NEEDED THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE DESIGN PROCESS.

NOTES:

<p>1. CONCEPT/IDEA - A TIME OF PREPARATION</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• WHAT/WHO IS THE PROJECT FOR? A NEW IDEA, A TECHNIQUE, A CHALLENGE OR ASSIGNMENT OR FOR TEACHING ETC.• WHAT IS THE FUNCTION? USEFUL, DECORATIVE, FOR A CLASS• BRAINSTORM: LISTS, MIND MAPS & VERY ROUGH SKETCHES OF POSSIBILITIES ON A DESIGN TEMPLATE, PLAIN OR LINED PAPER, GRAPH PAPER, POLAR GRIDS FOR CIRCULAR DESIGNS, IN SKETCH BOOKS OR EVEN ON NAPKINS.• RESEARCH & COLLECT IDEAS, PICTURES, SAMPLES.• SORT, CATEGORIZE, EDIT IDEAS & MATERIALS
<p>2. PLAN</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• SELECT THE BEST IDEA, EXPAND IT, SKETCH, REFINE IT• CONSIDER THE DESIGN DETAILS SUCH AS: SIZE, SHAPE, COLOR, TATTING PATH, TATTING TECHNIQUES, STITCHES THREADS & COLORS• SELECT THE BEST POSSIBILITY & MAKE A COUPLE COPIES OF IT TO USE FOR MARKUP AND CHANGES IN THE NEXT STEP.
<p>3. CREATE</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• BEGIN A PROTOTYPE - THIS IS THE TRIAL STAGE SO:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ EXPLORE, EXPERIMENT, PLAY○ STOPS AND NEW STARTS USUALLY HAPPEN WITH LOTS OF RETRO TATTING (UNDOING STITCHES) AND RE-TATTING.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ NOTE PRELIMINARY STITCH COUNTS (THIS CAN BE EASIER IF YOU HAVE SAMPLE PIECES IN DIFFERENT SIZES OF THREADS. ○ THIS CAN BE A GOOD TIME TO BEGIN YOUR INSTRUCTION DOCUMENT.
<p>4. EVALUATE</p> <p>Q & A</p>	<p>ARE THERE ANY SPECIFIC PROBLEMS: DESIGN, TECHNIQUE, PATH, THREADS, COLORS, ETC.? IF SO BRAINSTORM POSSIBILITIES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • REVIEW DESIGN ELEMENTS & PRINCIPLES • RESEARCH OTHER TECHNIQUE & STITCHES TO USE • REVISIT PREVIOUS STEPS FOR POSSIBLE CHANGES TO HELP. • COLLABORATE • EXPLORE, EXPERIMENT, RETRO TAT & REDO • REFINE, IMPROVE, ADD DETAILS • REPEAT LAST 2 STEPS UNTIL THERE IS A VIABLE PROTOTYPE • OR SET PROJECT ASIDE FOR INCUBATION TIME, THEN REPEAT
<p>5. TEST</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HAVE THE PATTERN TEST TATTED BY OTHERS • EVALUATE • COLLABORATE • REFINE, IMPROVE
<p>6. PRODUCE FINAL VERSION</p>	

NOTES: