

Information presented by "Sunshine" of JDR Brazilian Elegance

What is Brazilian Embroidery?

So many ask what is the difference between Brazilian Embroidery and surface embroidery. The following is the definition according to the BDEIG. – Brazilian Dimensional Embroidery International Guild.

Brazilian Embroidery is hand stitchery done predominantly with dimensional stitches using the Z-twisted rayon threads; with the original Fine Growth/Field Flowers encouraged.

Brazilian Embroidery is a wonderful 3 dimensional stitchery technique that can be used alone to create wonderful pictures, pillows, linens, wearable art, personal accessories and what ever else your needle can stitch through. Other stitching projects can be "spruced up" with the addition of some 3 dimensional flowers. Quilts can be embellished with the wonderful Brazilian stitches. Absolutely beautiful floral sprays can be added to clothing and you won't have to worry about the fibers withstanding the frequent washing. "Brazilian threads" are 100% rayon Z-twist threads that withstand even boiling water. Brazilian Embroidery, raised embroidery can be incorporated into your Cross Stitch, Hardanger, Silk Ribbon Embroidery, Quilting, Craft Projects and other Embroidery, Clothing Embellishments and Other Stitching techniques.

Embroidery, in its most basic terms, has been with us since the beginning of civilization. Over the centuries, basic stitches have evolved into the more complex and elaborate needleworks we know today. Embroidery of any kind uses stitches known and used for hundreds of years in countless ways and for many different purposes. Brazilian Dimensional Embroidery is no exception. The difference is that it doesn't limit itself to specific stitches: it uses stitches from all types of needlework. Brazilian Dimensional Embroidery is a style of embroidering where you can choose from the whole palette of stitches and knots you know.

Another difference in this style of embroidery is the thread. Rayon was introduced in the mid 1800's and by the turn the century, was the first man-made fiber in full production. Although it is man-made, rayon is not a synthetic fiber but regenerated natural fiber (cellulosic material, generally wood pulp). Rayon has long been the preferred thread for this style of embroidery because of its sheen and smoothness. Most stitches, especially bullions (which are used extensively for their dimensional effect), are much easier to make because of the thread's smooth texture.

Now we come to the question if the stitches aren't Brazilian and rayon isn't Brazilian, what does Brazil have to do with Brazilian embroidery? Well, many times throughout history, credit goes not to the inventor, but to the ones who popularize an item. Brazil started producing multicolored rayon threads in several weights. The popularity of the thread spread rapidly throughout Brazil to the point where variegated rayon embroidery became know as Vari-Cor embroidery. It wasn't long before the rest of the world noticed its popularity and immediately adopted it as "Brazilian".

The EdMar Company started manufacturing rayon thread here in the U.S. and has witnessed its steady growth in popularity. The DyePot, of New Zealand also produces the rayon "Z" twist thread. It is known for it's variegated colors.

Today the Brazilian Dimensional Embroidery International Guild is exclusively dedicated to the art and advancement of Brazilian Dimensional Embroidery.

www.bdeiq.org

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