

# TENTMAKERS OF CAIRO

## Stitch Like an Egyptian

### SUPPLY LIST

- Firm Brown Paper** – This paper is available at *Staples* and is a thick paper which is firm, not flimsy. It must be strong enough to fold accurately without it ripping. The tentmakers draw on it with chalk as they create their design, so the brown colour is necessary. The chalk rubs off easily until they are happy with it – and when they are happy they outline it in pencil.
  - 1 square 18 inches x 18 inches
  - 1 square of 36 inches x 36 inches. Available at Staples. IF you fold your piece to carry it, try to fold very accurately on the half way points so it is a square measuring half a yard.
- 100% Cotton Canvas** – 10 oz weight textile (weight 295grams per square metre). This should be available as a 160cm wide fabric. Cream or natural colour is best.
  - 1 square cotton canvas 18 inches x 18 inches
  - 1 square cotton canvas 1¼ yards on each side
- A small container of **talcum powder** (like baby powder). We will use only a little – a filled salt shaker would be adequate if you are travelling.
- Scissors for fabric and scissors for paper
- Notebook for taking notes
- Pens and graphite pencils (lead pencils)
- White chalk like school chalk
- Awl or an seam ripper with a sharp point and firm handle. This will be used to prick holes through multiple layers of paper to make your pattern
- Your usual hand sewing kit with needles (the men use big heavy needles like Milliners or Straw needles), pins and thread snips.
- A thimble – the men use a topless tailor's thimble
- A white wax pencil or white Clover marker for marking your design.
- Cotton threads to match your fabrics
- A cushion for your chair, if you wish, as you will spend a lot of time sitting and sewing.
- You will do a lot of handwork in this class – so if you have aids like lights or magnifiers to help your eyesight – bring them.

### FABRICS

All fabric colours are solid colours – Kona cotton or homespuns – in keeping with the Egyptian style. The Michael Miller Cotton Couture Range probably is the closest to the Egyptian Cotton the men use in softness and drape.

For ease of transfer of the design in class we use baby powder which is sprinkled through the holes in the paper design in class rather than the messy bag of loose

charcoal which the Egyptians use in Cairo. This means your background colour needs to be dark enough to show a dot of baby powder or talc. Mediums or dark values might be best.

A selection of contrasting plain colours to applique down as your design. You might want up to twelve colours but the complexity of your design is up to you, so bring a good selection of yard, half yard, and smaller pieces.



### SESSION II

Friday to Wednesday, February 26 – March 3, 2021

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