

### Introduction

Stencilling, fabric pens and machine embroidery were investigated. The purpose of the investigation was to find out which kinds of designs they are suited to and how difficult they were. The investigation provided information to help decide which technique to use and how the technique would influence my design.

### About the investigation

The techniques were tested to see if they were suitable for designs with fine lines and different colours, how long they took and how easy they were. They were tested on calico because I intend to use the chosen technique on a calico beach bag.

### Analysis

#### Technique 1: Stencilling

Stencilling was suitable for medium and thick lines and large sections of one colour. It was difficult for fine lines and using more than one colour. It was easy to cut the stencil for large simple shapes but difficult to cut fancy designs. It was quick to do once the stencil was cut and only one colour was used.

#### Technique 2: Fabric pens

Using fabric pens was suitable for fine and medium lines, medium-sized blocks of colour and using many colours. The technique was quick and easy to do and dried quickly.

#### Technique 3: Machine embroidery

Machine embroidery gave beautiful fine lines. The look was beautiful because the threads were very silky. However, it was difficult to keep changing colours and not very good for big blocks of colours. I found the technique difficult and I was not very accurate with my stitching.

### Conclusion

Not all techniques are suitable for all designs. For very fine lines, machine embroidery was best because the thread is so fine but fine fabric pens also worked well.

For more than one colour, fabric pens were best because they dried quickly. Stencilling was messy and for machine embroidery it took too long to change the threads.

For large blocks of colour stencilling was best because it was much faster than the other methods, especially for only one colour.

### Recommendation

The technique of fabric pens is recommended because they were quick and easy to use, did not need much cleaning up and dried quickly. For this technique, my design should have fine-medium lines and medium blocks of solid colour with as many colours as I like.

386 words