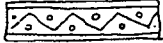


# DIAPER AND BAR PATTERNS

by Mistress Rowena Axeldottar

[The following article is presented in its original (multiple-generation copied) format. It was originally written in A.S. XVI. I found it to be an invaluable tool when planning scrolls. I hope you find it useful, too. -Conna]



A Collection of Diaper and Bar Patterns for The  
Medieval Illuminator, Presented this 10th day  
of February, A.S. XVI in the Barony of Forgotten Sea,  
at the Third Calontir Scribes Symposium by   
Rowena Axeldottar for the greater glory of Calontir.

I am presenting here a randomly gathered collection of diaper and bar patterns used by medieval illuminators in Europe. The collection is arranged by country and the patterns are dated where possible. The scale of the diaper patterns approximates what appeared to be the size of the pattern in the original illumination.

The diaper patterns which are shown here are ones that have a geometric grid. I have not included any other type of diapering. The bar patterns are ones that are executed with clean lines. I have not included any of the painterly patterns.

Because many of the sources that I worked with were black and white reproductions, I could not always indicate the colors. However, because of its luminosity, often a pattern appeared to have gold worked in it. Therefore, many references are made to a pattern that "seems to be gold work." I also use the phrase "on a color ground." This means that the background of the pattern is of some color.

The books used in preparing this collection are as follows.

Mediaeval Book Illumination in Europe, by Edith Rothe, 1966.

The Illuminated Manuscript, by Janet Backhouse, Phaidon Press, 1979.

Miniatura a Piacenza, by Arturo Quintavalle, Neri Pozza Editore, Venezia, 1963.

English Illumination, by O. Elfrida Saunders, Hacker Art Books, 1969.

The Très Riches Heures of Jean, Duke of Berry, George Braziller, Inc., 1969.

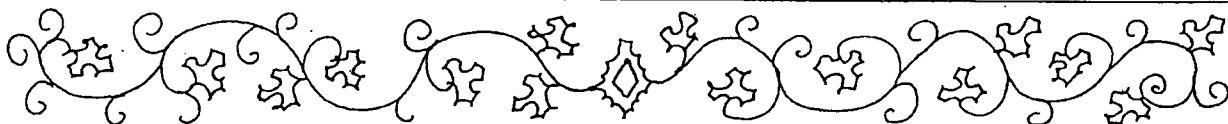
The Visconti Hours, George Braziller, New York, 1972.

Illuminated Manuscripts in the Bodleian Library Oxford, Oxford University Press, 1966.

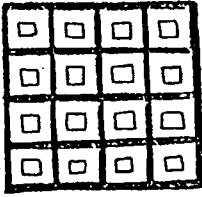
Illuminated Manuscripts from the Bibliothèque of Their Highnesses the Dukes d'Arenberg, Jacques Seligman and Company, 1951.

The Book of Hours of Catherine of Cleves, John Plummer.

Studien zur Buchmalerei und Goldschmiedekunst des Mittelalters, Marburg an der Lahn, 1967.

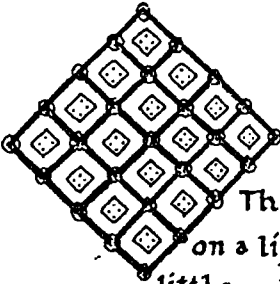


# English Diaper Patterns



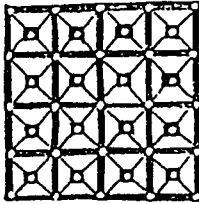
Oscot Psalter c.1170

This pattern is bands of dark color on a light color ground with white little squares (outline only - not solid).



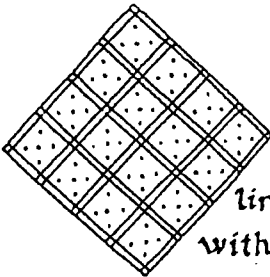
Oscot Psalter c.1170

These are dark blue bands on a light blue ground, with little white squares and white dots. There are gold circles at the intersections of the dark bands.



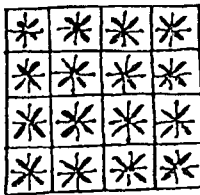
York Psalter 1150

This pattern is dark bands of color on a light color ground with little dark squares and diagonals, and white dots on the squares.



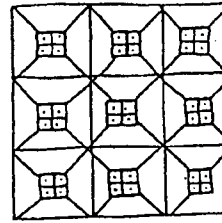
De Brailles Hours c.1150

This is double gold (?) lines on color ground, with dots, white or gold.



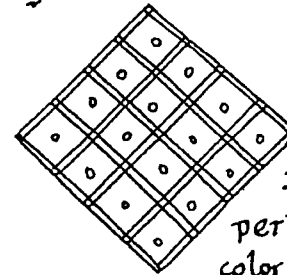
Winchester Bible 1100's

This pattern is gold (?) on a color ground.



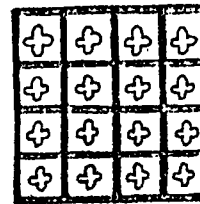
Psalter c.1160

This pattern has a dark grid and dark little square/dots motif. The diagonal lines are white, on color ground.



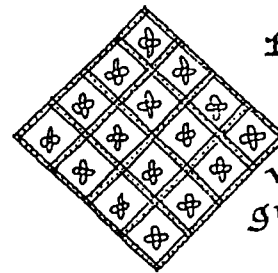
Chicle Breviary early 15th C.

This pattern is perhaps gold on a color ground.



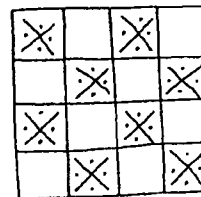
Psalter of Alphonso 1285

This pattern is bands of color on a color ground with gold (?) motifs (outlines, not solid shapes)



Psalter c. 1150

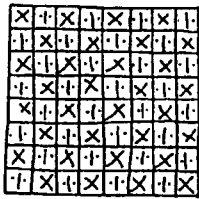
Apparently all gold work on a colored ground.



Book of Hours 14th C.

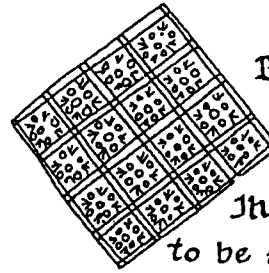
Dark grid on colored ground, white X's and dots.

# English Diaper Patterns



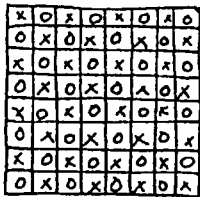
Sc. Omer Psalter  
1322-25

This pattern has a dark grid with white motifs (x and +) all worked on a color ground.



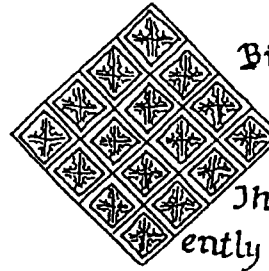
Bible of Richard II  
end of 14th C.

This pattern appears to be all gold work on a colored ground.



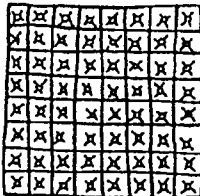
Petersborough Bestiary  
c. 1325

This pattern is a dark grid with white x's and o's all worked on a colored ground.



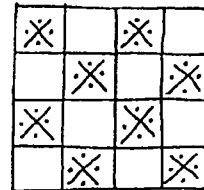
Bible of Richard II  
end of 14th C.

This pattern is apparently all gold work on a color ground.



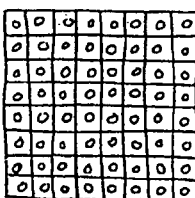
Petersborough Bestiary  
c. 1325

This pattern has a dark grid with white motifs (x) all worked on a color ground.



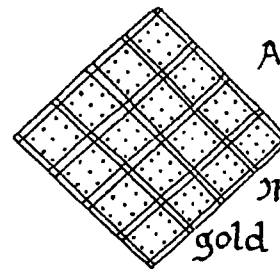
Book of Hours  
14th C.

This pattern has a dark grid with white motifs (x).



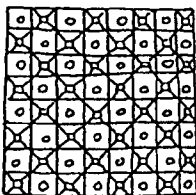
Peterborough Bestiary  
c. 1325

This pattern has a dark grid on a color ground with white o's.



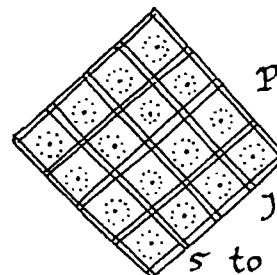
Alphonso Psalter  
1284

This appears to be gold lines and dots on a color ground.



Alphonso Psalter  
1284

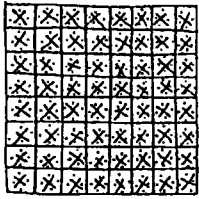
This pattern appears to be all gold work on a color ground.



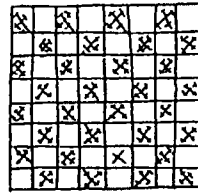
Petersborough Psalter  
early 14th C.

This pattern appears to be gold work on a color ground.

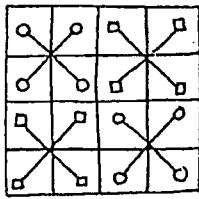
# English Diaper Patterns





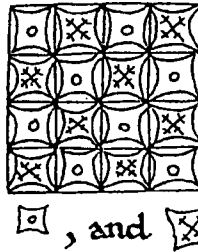
Arundel Psalter  
pre-1300  
Dark grid on a color  
ground with white  
motifs (x).





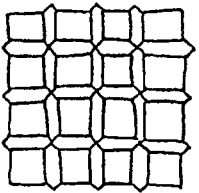
Arundel Psalter  
pre 1300  
This pattern is a dark  
grid on a color ground  
with white motifs (x).



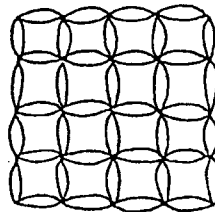
Arundel Psalter  
pre-1300  
This pattern is a dark  
grid on a color ground.  
One motif -  is light and the  
other one  is dark.



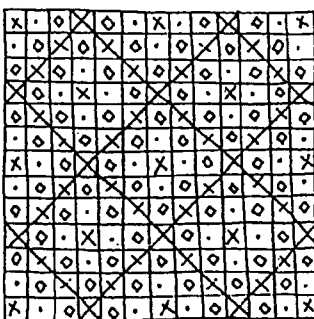
Arundel Psalter  
pre-1300  
This pattern has a dark  
grid and white motifs:  
, and .



Arundel Psalter  
pre-1300  
This motif appears to  
be gold lines on color  
ground.



Arundel Psalter  
pre-1300  
This pattern seems to  
be gold lines on a color  
ground with a darker color in the  
petal shapes.



This pattern is  
somewhat differ-  
ent from the other  
English patterns  
shown here. In-  
stead of a solid  
color ground

St. Omar Psalter this one has a  
c. 1330 ground of al-  
ternating light and dark colored  
squares. Worked in white on top  
are the diagonals, X's, O's and dots.

