
This book describes the weaving traditions of Southwest China, and places them within the wider context of weaving traditions in Asia. Our particular focus is textiles. The weavers of Southwest China are exclusively female, and they traditionally produced textiles mainly for their own use or the use of their families. This follows a general pattern. Elaborate geometric cross-stitch patterns are also common. The braid-stitch is a difficult stitch that is achieved by braiding different colored threads together and affixing them to a background in various patterns. Different stitches have different purposes, depending on the formality of the clothing and the function of the garment. Miao embroidery involves several different unique and complex stitches that give it a special look, very different from traditional Han Chinese embroidery. The most common stitch is the satin stitch, which gives a shimmery effect from tightly woven threads of the same color. Elaborate geometric cross-stitch patterns are also common.