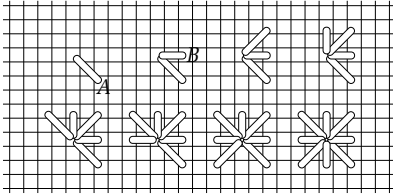




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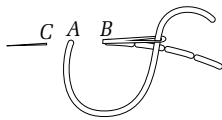
Stitch Guide

The hand embroidery and construction stitches used for the projects throughout Homespun are illustrated below.



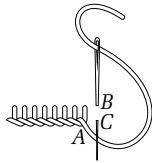
Algerian eye stitch

Bring your thread to the front of your work at A, ensuring it is two fabric threads below the centre. Take it to the back of your work through the centre. Pull the thread tightly to open the centre and then count another two fabric threads above A. Bring the thread to the front in this hole, being B. Repeat this until you form an eight-pointed star, making sure you take the thread back through the centre to finish off the stitch.



Back stitch

Bring the thread up at A, about 1.5mm (1/16in) from the beginning of the line. Take the needle back to the start of the line marked B, and then slide the needle towards the point marked C, ensuring your stitches are of equal length. When the project instructions specify whipped back stitch, work a whip stitch over the top of the back stitches.



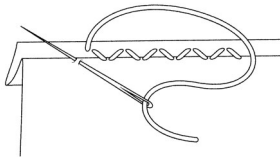
Blanket stitch

Bring the thread up at A, take the needle back at B and bring it back up at C, ensuring the thread is under the needle. Pull the thread through to form a loop and repeat the process.



Blanket (pinwheel) stitch

Worked in a similar manner as blanket stitch though you need to make sure you work your stitches closely together in a circle.



Blind hem stitch

Most sewing machines include this stitch in their gallery but if you wish to work it by hand, then follow these instructions. Fold over the hem, wrong sides together, from 1/4in to 1/2in, depending on your preference. Press in place. Fold the body of the project up to the scant edge of the first fold so that you have approximately 1/8in to 1/4in sticking out. Work your stitches in a zigzag fashion.



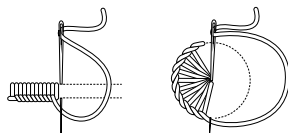
Brazilian stem stitch

Brazilian stem stitch is very similar to stem stitch, except the thread is always held above the line of sewing. This takes into account the 'z' twist of the Brazilian thread. The stitches should be about 3mm (1/8in) long.



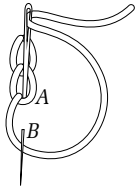
Bullion knot

Bring the thread to the front of your work and take the needle back at A, ensuring you leave a thread loop on the right side of your work. Bring the needle back up at your entry point ever so slightly and make as many wraps of thread around the needle as required. Draw the needle through the wraps gently, making sure you hold the bullion against the fabric as you pull the needle. Take the thread back to the back of your work and pull firmly to secure the knot.



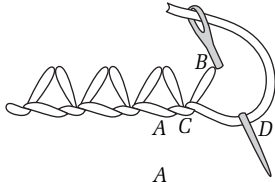
Buttonhole stitch

Worked in a similar manner as blanket stitch though you need to make sure you work your stitches closely together.



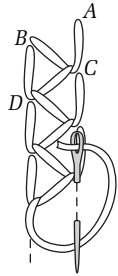
Chain stitch

Bring the thread up at A, take the needle back through the same point and bring it up at B, ensuring your thread is under the needle. Pull the thread until the loop tightens and then repeat this process to form a row of the required length. When the project instructions specify 'detached chain stitch', work each chain stitch separately.



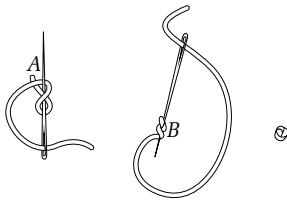
Closed buttonhole stitch

A variation of buttonhole stitch, closed buttonhole stitch is worked in multiple rows often to create a patterned border. Bring the thread through at A, insert the needle slightly to the right at B, and with the thread looped under the needle, pull it through the fabric at C. Reinsert the needle at B and pull it through the fabric again at D.



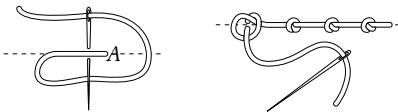
Closed feather stitch

Bring the thread to the front at A and pull it through. Take the needle from B to C, looping the thread under the needle tip. Pull the thread through in a downward motion until the loop lays neatly on the long thread. Take the needle from A to D, using the same hole in the fabric as you did previously, and making sure that the loop is under the needle tip. Pull the thread through as before. Continue to work the stitches in the same manner, working from side to side.



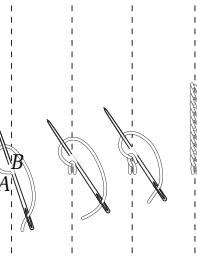
Colonial knot

This knot, worked singularly or to fill in a shape, is slightly larger than a French knot. Bring the thread up at A and, holding the thread loosely to the left of the needle, move the needle so the thread wraps over it. Continue to wrap the thread under, over and then under it again to form a figure 8. Pierce the fabric again at B, ensuring it's as close to where you brought it through at A. Pull the wraps firmly around the needle and, holding the knot in place with your thumb, pull the thread through to the back of your fabric to form the knot.



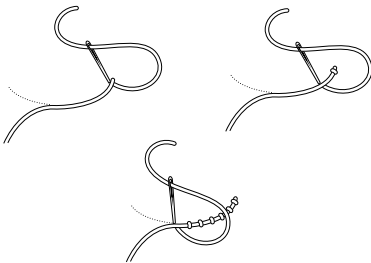
Coral stitch

Bring your thread to the front of your work at A and, holding it tightly along the line to be embroidered, catch the fabric by working a small stitch, ensuring you pass the needle under the thread to form a loop. Take the needle through the loop and pull it taut to form a knot. Repeat along the desired length, working the knots at equal distances.



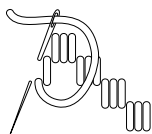
Cording stitch

Bring the thread up at A, take the needle back through the same point and bring it up at B, ensuring your thread is under the needle. Pull the thread until the loop tightens and then repeat this process to form a row of the required length, making sure that instead of inserting the needle into the previous chain stitch, insert the needle just beside it.



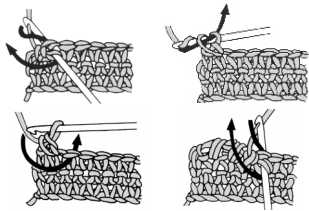
Couching stitch

This stitch is used to work outlines or fill in shapes with a thread or a group of threads that are often too thick to stitch through the fabric. Bring the thread that's to be couched from the back of the fabric through to the start of the stitching line, remove the needle and lay the thread along the line. Thread the needle with the couching thread, bringing this up at the stitching line as before. Work a short straight stitch over the laid thread and bring the needle back up to repeat the stitch, ensuring your couching stitches are balanced. When nearing the end, take the laid thread to the back, finish off the couching stitches and secure both threads at the back of your work.



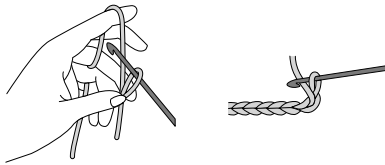
Counted satin stitch

Also known as block satin stitch or geometrical satin stitch, counted satin stitch is a variation of satin stitch where the stitches are worked by the counted thread to make a regular pattern, either as a border or as a filling.



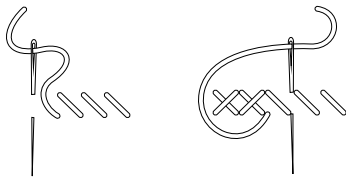
Crab stitch (Reversed double crochet)

Used as a decorative texture or edging, crab stitch consists of working double crochet stitches in the 'wrong' direction (from left to right for right handed crocheters). After a right side row, **do not** turn. With the hook facing downwards, insert the hook into the next stitch to the right. Wrap the yarn around the hook and draw it through to the front of the work. Wrap the yarn around the hook and draw it through both loops on the hook. Repeat across the row.



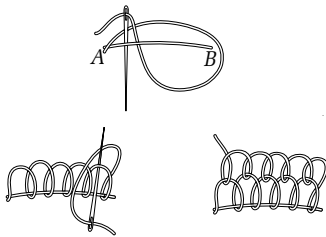
Crochet chain stitch

Hold the hook between the first finger and the thumb of your right hand and letting the second finger rest near the point of the hook, work a slip loop and pass it on to the hook. Pass the hook from left to right under the yarn being held in the left hand, drawing this yarn through the loop already on the hook. Continue to pass the hook through in this manner until you have worked the number of chains indicated.



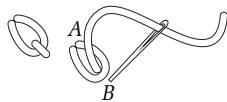
Cross stitch

Worked on even-weave fabric using a tapestry needle. Bring the thread up at the lower right hand side and take it through to the back of the fabric up and across the same number of threads. This is usually worked as up two and across two. Work the stitches to the end of the row to form the first row of half-crosses. Work back in the same manner to complete the cross. You may work this stitch either from left to right or right to left, but it's vital that the top stitches sit in the same direction.



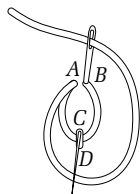
Detached blanket stitch

This stitch is formed in the same way as buttonhole stitch but is worked into itself rather than the foundation fabric. Come up at A, down at B, back up at A and pull through to make a bar. Slide the needle under the bar and over the thread to form a loop. Do not pull the loop tight against the bar. Continue in this manner to produce a row of stitches. If more rows are required, make each loop on top of the one below.



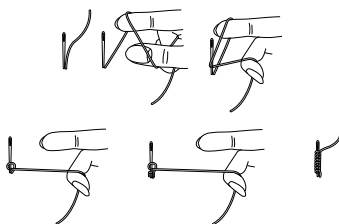
Detached chain (lazy daisy) stitch

Bring the thread to the front at A and then take it back as close as possible to A, resurfacing at B and taking the tip of the needle over the thread loop that has formed. Keeping your thumb over the loop, pull the thread firmly but not too tight to form a loop. Anchor the stitch by taking the thread through to the back of your work to form a holding stitch.



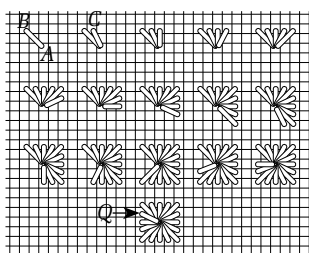
Double detached chain (lazy daisy) stitch

Work this in the same manner as detached chain (lazy daisy) stitch, only work another stitch over the top of the previous one.



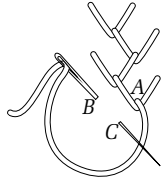
Drizzle stitch

Bring your thread to the front of your work, unthread the needle and replace the point in the fabric only a thread's breadth from where you came up. Loop the thread around your finger and case the loop from your finger over the needle eye. Slide the loop to the needle base, keeping the thread taut. Form as many loops over the needle as required, rethread the needle and push it back down through the loops to the back of your work. Continue to pull the thread down until the loops disappear but do not pull tightly as the stitch will bunch up.



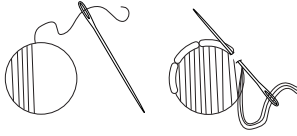
Eyelet stitch

Using the centre as the starting point, bring the needle up at the centre at A and take it to the back of your work at B, working over two fabric threads. Bring the needle back up through the centre and take it back down at C. Continue these steps until you finish at Q.



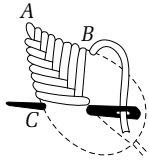
Feather stitch

Bring the thread to the front of your work at A, loop the thread to the right of the needle and take it through to the back of your work at B, making sure that you are level with your entry point. Bring the thread back up again at C with the loop of the thread under the needle and then pull the thread downwards firmly to complete your first stitch. Repeat this process, alternating the stitches and making sure you keep the needle angle and the stitch length uniform.



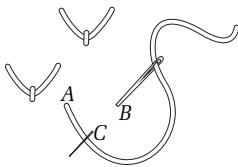
Filler stitch

Fill the area using one strand of thread, then outline the shape using two to three strands.



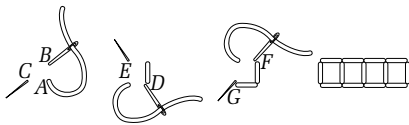
Fishbone (alternating satin) stitch

Bring your thread to the front of your work at A and form a small straight stitch along the shape's centre line. Bring the thread back up again at B and form a sloping stitch across the central line at the base of your previous stitch. Bring the thread back through at C and repeat the previous sloping stitch. Continue working in this manner until you cover the shape.



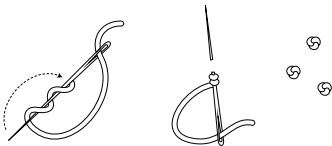
Fly stitch

Bring the thread to the front at A and then take it back down at B, making sure it's to the right and level with A. Before you pull it through, bring the needle up again at C so the first stitch sits snugly under the needle. Take the needle back down over the first stitch to form a short or long anchor stitch.



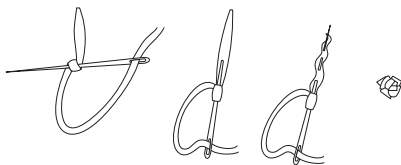
Four-sided stitch

Bring your thread to the front of your work at A and work a vertical stitch, taking the thread through at B. Bring the needle back up at C and make a horizontal stitch, taking the thread through at D. Bring the thread back up at E and make another horizontal stitch, taking the thread through at F. Bring the thread back up at G and repeat the sequence to create another four-sided stitch.



French knot

Bring the thread to the front of your work and wrap it around the needle a couple of times or follow the instructions given if necessary. Hold the thread taut and turn the point of the needle back towards the fabric, taking it to the back of your work as close as possible as to where you came through initially. Hold the knot firmly in place until the needle and loose thread are pulled completely to the back of your work.



French knot ribbon rose

Bring the ribbon to the front of your work and wrap it around the needle the same as for the French knot. Keep the wrap on the needle, turning it towards where you initially brought the needle through and then pierce the ribbon evenly to create a gathering stitch until you reach the end. Take the needle back through the fabric as close as possible to the entry point and pull the ribbon through carefully. The French knot will tighten as the gather pulls up to form the rose.

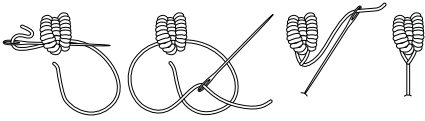


Granitos stitch

This stitch is worked using the same two fabric holes. Work a small straight stitch, making a further few straight stitches in the same two holes you took the needle in and out of.

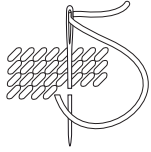
Ghiordes knot

See Turkey work.



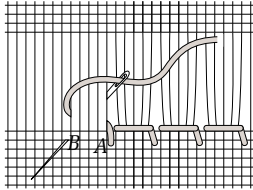
Grab stitch

Bring the thread to the front of your work, slightly to the right of the base of the flower. Take the needle through the back of the flower, making sure you don't insert it into the fabric, and pull the thread through to form a loop. Take the needle and thread through the loop to form a knot, then work a straight stitch to create a stem. Take the needle to the back of the work and secure.



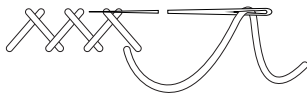
Half cross stitch

Work this stitch in the same manner as cross stitch, eliminating the final stitch that makes the cross.



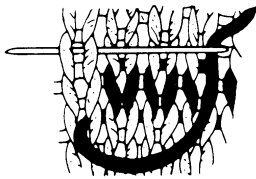
Hem stitch

This stitch can be worked to group threads together into a bundle to finish off the fabric edge. Bringing the needle up at A, wrap the needle and thread around four strands at the back and take it around the front, inserting the needle back into the fabric at B. Ensure you are working from right to left on the right side of the fabric and grouping the threads into bundles of four.



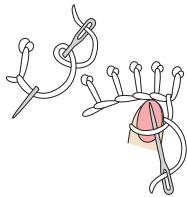
Herringbone stitch

Bring the thread to the front on the left-hand side of the lower line and take the needle from the right to the left on the upper line, creating a small stitch on the back of the fabric. Pull the thread through and take the needle from right to left on the lower line, once again creating a small stitch on the back of the fabric. Continue working these stitches, alternating between the upper and lower lines.



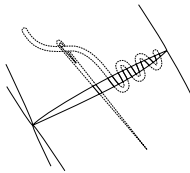
Knitting stitch embroidery

When working from right to left, bring the needle out in the centre of the stitch and take it up and around the head of the stitch from right to left (under the stitch above) as shown. Take the needle back through the centre of the original stitch and out through the centre of the stitch on the left. When working from left to right, bring the needle out in the centre of the stitch and take it up and around the head of the stitch from left to right (instead of from right to left).



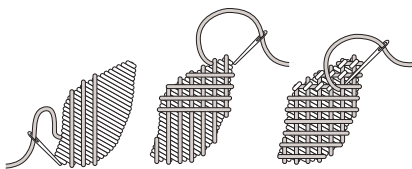
Knotted buttonhole stitch

Start the stitch as you would regular buttonhole stitch, but wrap the thread around the needle, making the wrap with your fingers or twisting the thread around the needle. Insert the needle into the fabric, making sure the thread is under the needle. Then pull the thread taut as you draw the needle through the fabric.



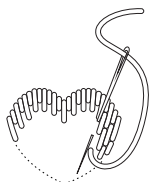
Ladder stitch

Bring the needle to the front of your work and cross the thread over the opening of the fabric, repeating this process to begin closing the seam. Continue stitching along the opening, making sure that those stitches you can see are positioned at right angles to the opening.



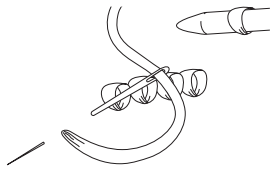
Laid work

Work padded satin stitch first to create the base of the image. To work the trellis, change your thread to a new colour and bring it to the front of your work, starting at the widest edge. Take the thread across the base to form a diagonal stitch, then bring the thread back up again at the front a short distance away and form another diagonal stitch. Continue working the diagonal stitches until the base is covered and you have formed the bottom layer of the trellis. Work the top layer of the trellis in the same manner, working the stitches in the opposite direction.



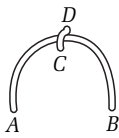
Long and short stitch

Work the first row in straight stitches, alternating between a long and a short stitch and angling them to follow the shape. The second row of stitches and subsequent rows if necessary are worked in the same manner until the shape is completely filled.



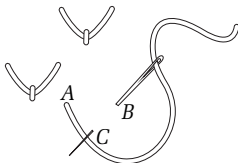
Loop ribbon stitch

Bring the ribbon to the front of your work and, holding it against the fabric, take the needle through the same entry point to the back of the fabric, leaving a ribbon loop on the right side. Make sure the ribbon does not twist and it remains smooth. A knitting needle can help to keep all your loops the same size by sitting it inside the loop while you tighten the ribbon.



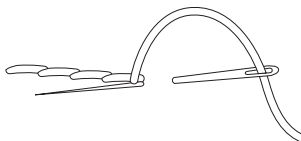
Open detached chain (lazy daisy) stitch

Bring the needle to the front of the work at A, taking it to the wrong side of your fabric at B to create an arch. Carefully take the needle back to the front of your work at C and then make a small straight stitch, similar to that when working detached chain (lazy daisy) stitch, taking the needle back through at D.



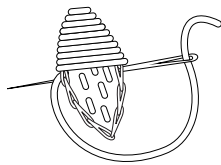
Open fly stitch

This is worked the same as fly stitch only with one single fly instead of a group on top of each other.



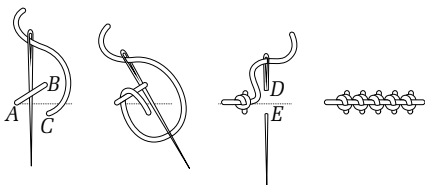
Outline stitch

Bring the thread to the front of your work at the left end of your drawn line. With the thread above the needle, take it along the line a short distance and then reemerge where you initially brought the needle through. Pull the thread tight and work another stitch in the same manner. Continue working the stitches along the line.



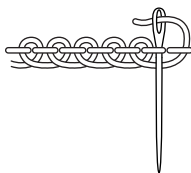
Padded satin stitch

Work back stitch or split stitch around the shape and then fill it with small straight stitches, making sure they lie the opposite direction from the way the satin stitches will lie. Work the satin stitches by beginning at the widest area of the shape and cover the shape, including the outline stitches. Cover the remainder of the shape in the same manner.



Palestrina (smyrna) stitch

Bring the thread up at A, go down at B and come up again at C. Without piercing the fabric, slide the needle down under the stitch between A and B and pull it through, then loop the thread and go under the stitch again with the needle tip over the thread. Pull it through gently to form a knot, then take the needle down at D and come out at E to start the next stitch. Work the knots close together and evenly to create a beaded look.



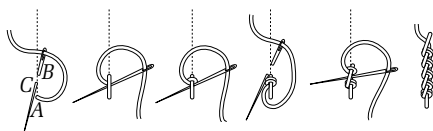
Pekinese stitch

Insert the needle at the front of your work and then work long and loose back stitches for the required length. Then, using a blunt needle, work it through the back stitches to lace the stitches, working two stitches and then back one stitch to form a chain of loops. Don't pull the thread too tightly as you work as it will be harder for the loops to sit flat on your fabric.



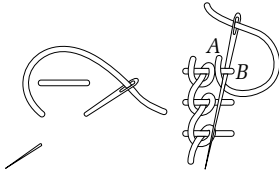
Pistil stitch

This is a French knot on the end of a straight stitch. Bring the thread to the front of your work at A and, keeping it taut, wrap the thread around the needle the same as for a French knot. Take the needle to the back of your work at B, ensuring you create the desired length for your 'stem' and hold the knot in place as you pull the thread tight.



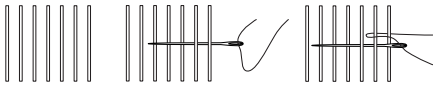
Portuguese stem stitch

Work a stem stitch from A to B and then bring the needle to the front at C on the left-hand side of the stitch just created. Slip the needle under the thread from right to left, without catching the fabric, and pull the thread through to form a wrap. Keeping the thread above the needle, slip the needle back under the first stitch again, below the wrap, to create a second wrap. Create another stem stitch as before and pull the thread through and work the two wraps as before on this new stem stitch.



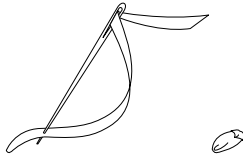
Raised blanket stitch

Work a line of horizontal stitches down the length of the stitching line, then bring the needle up at A. Pass the thread over the first horizontal stitch and slide the needle under the stitch at B. Do not pierce the fabric. Form a blanket stitch. Continue in this manner, working down the line of horizontal stitches.



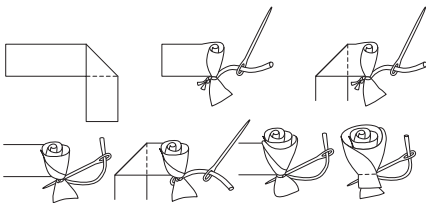
Ribbed back stitch

Lay a foundation of straight stitches. Work from right to left across these straight stitches by passing the needle under two stitches, then back over the last stitch. Pick up the next straight stitch to create a loop around each straight stitch with a horizontal bar/straight stitch to create a ribbed look.



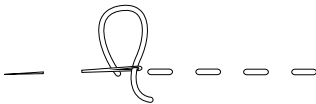
Ribbon stitch

Bring the ribbon to the front of your work at the base of your stitch. Lay the ribbon flat on the fabric, pierce it through the middle with your needle at the position for the top of your stitch. Take the needle through the ribbon and fabric to the back of your work without pulling too tight until the ribbon starts to curl along the edges.



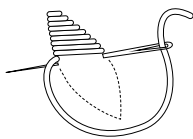
Rolled ribbon rose

Fold down one end of the ribbon diagonally so that a tail of approximately 2cm (3/4in) extends below the edge. Tie a knot in your thread, roll the ribbon to form the centre of the rose and wrap the thread around the base to secure. Holding the ribbon at the bottom, continue rolling the rose until you are happy with the size and shape, constantly wrapping the base with your thread to keep the ribbon in place. Diagonally fold the ribbon back to form a 2cm (3/4in) tail below the lower edge and then roll this folded end onto the rose. Wrap the thread tightly around the base as before and tie off. Trim the ribbon tails close to the base to prevent fraying.



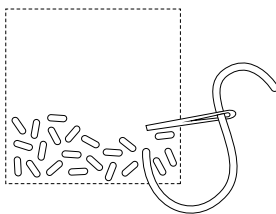
Running stitch

Work this quick and easy stitch by passing the needle over and under the fabric to form stitches of equal length on both the right and wrong sides of the fabric. The stitches on the underside should be half the length of those on top. When the project instructions specify primitive running stitch, work your stitches larger and less even than usual.



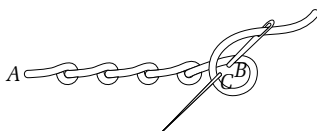
Satin stitch

Work the satin stitches by beginning at the widest area of the shape and cover the shape, keeping your stitches close together. Cover the remainder of the shape in the same manner. If working a straight shape such as a rectangle or square, you can work your stitches from one end to the other.



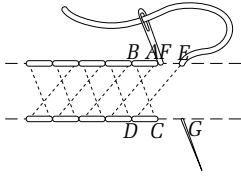
Seed stitch

Also known as speckling or isolated back stitch, seed stitch is used as a filling stitch, either scattered irregularly on a background fabric or used as a filler stitch. Firstly, bring your needle to the front of your work and then take the needle to the back of your work to form a small straight stitch. Pull the thread to the front again, just next to your former stitch and then take the thread to the back of the fabric to form a seed stitch. Continue in this manner working the stitches at varying angles.



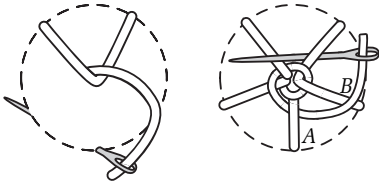
Scroll stitch

Bring your thread to the front of your work at A and make a loop to the right in a clockwise direction. Insert the needle into B and bring it back out at C to create a tiny stitch along the embroidery line. Before pulling the thread tight, make sure the thread loop lies under both ends of the needle. Pull the thread so the loop tightens around the needle and pull the thread through. Continue in this manner until you cover your embroidered area.



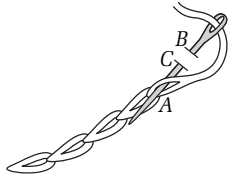
Shadow work – double back stitch

This stitch is worked between two lines using a back stitch on the front of the work and a herringbone stitch on the back. Bring the needle up at A and take a back stitch to B on line 1. Bring the needle up at C on line 2. Take a back stitch to D. Bring the needle up at E on line 1, a full back stitch to the right of A. Make a back stitch from E to F. Bring the needle out on line 2 at G. Continue in this manner until the desired area is covered.



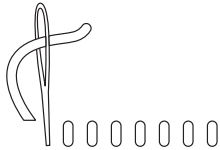
Spider's Web stitch

Use a fly stitch and two straight stitches to make five 'spokes' that will form the structure of the Spider Web. Starting with a new thread, bring the needle up through the fabric, slightly off the centre of the web. Slide the needle over one of the spokes (A) near the centre of the web and pull the thread taut. Slide the needle under one spoke (B) and pull the thread taut towards the centre of the web. Continue by sliding the needle over and under the spokes, filling the web from the centre out.



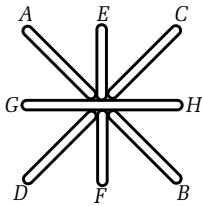
Split stitch

Bring the needle to the front at A and then take the needle to the back at B, approximately 3mm (1/8in) away. Pull the thread through to the back of the work and then take the needle back up to C in the centre of the first stitch, splitting the thread with the needle. Pull the thread through to the front of the work to complete the first stitch. Continue working the stitches in the same manner.



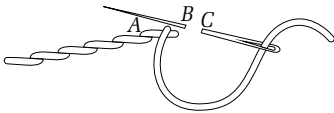
Stab stitch

Stab stitches are usually worked to secure pieces of embroidery to a background fabric. They are very small straight stitches.



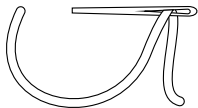
Star stitch

Star stitch is often worked scattered on background fabric to add interest. Using a water-erasable pen, mark the star stitch on your fabric and then bring your needle to the front at the position marked A. Take the needle to the back of the fabric at B and then bring it back up again at C. Take the needle to the back of the fabric at D and then bring it back up again at E. Continue in this manner to complete all spokes of the star, working a small stitch at the centre to secure your stitches.



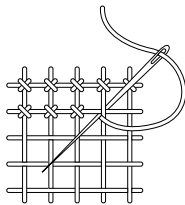
Stem stitch

Bring the thread up at the left-hand side of your work. With the thread below the needle, come up at A, take the needle back into the fabric at B and come back out again at C.



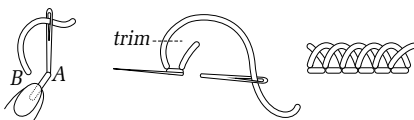
Straight stitch

Bring the thread up at the left hand side of your work and take it back down again to make a straight stitch, ensuring that the stitch is not too long and that it's firm so it lies flat against the fabric. When the project instructions specify primitive straight stitch, work your stitches larger and less even than usual.



Trellis stitch

Work long evenly spaced stitches horizontally and then vertically, weaving the vertical stitches under and over the horizontal ones if desired. Cross these threads at all intersecting points, either with a slanting stitch or a cross stitch.



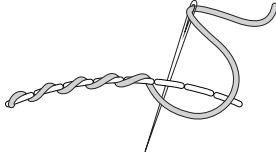
Turkey work (Ghiordes knot)

Holding a short tail of thread at the front of the fabric, go down at A and come up at B. Go down again at A, emerge at B once more and trim the second tail to match the first. For a continuous row of stitches, don't cut the first stitch at the dotted line and repeat the sequence, sliding a pencil inside the loops to keep them consistent. The loops can be left uncut or be trimmed to give a furry effect.



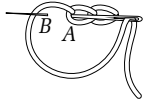
Whip stitch

Whip stitch helps to close a fabric opening with small 'concealed' stitches. Bring the thread to the top of your work, loop the thread to the left and around the outside opening of the fabric and take the needle through to the back of your work to begin closing the opening.



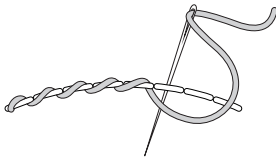
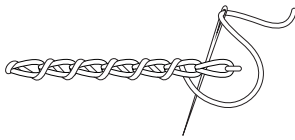
Whipped back stitch

Work this in the same manner as back stitch to create the foundation stitching. To whip the stitch, bring the thread up on the left-hand side, ensuring it's in the centre of the stitch. Take the thread over the foundation stitch and back under the next stitch. Continue working it over and under the foundation stitches, making sure you don't pierce the fabric.



Whipped chain stitch

To form the chain stitch, bring the thread up at A, take the needle back through the same point and bring it up at B, making sure your thread is under the needle. Pull the thread until the loop tightens and then repeat this process to form a row of the required length. This forms the foundation row. Another thread, usually of a differing colour, forms the whipping. Bring the needle up at the front of your work to the left and midway of the chain stitch. Pull the thread and take the needle from right to left under the next chain stitch, making sure you don't penetrate the fabric. Pull the thread tightly and continue covering the chain stitch.



Whipped stem stitch

Work this in the same manner as stem stitch to create the foundation stitching. To whip the stitch, bring the thread up on the left-hand side, ensuring it's in the centre of the stitch. Take the thread over the foundation stitch and back under the next stitch. Continue working it over and under the foundation stitches, making sure you don't pierce the fabric.