

Autumn Stitch Sampler



TIPS & TRICKS

EMBROIDERY HOOP

One side of the inner hoop reads **THIS SIDE UP**. Keep this hoop face up and place the fabric over top. Press outer hoop down over fabric and under the lip of inner hoop. Carefully pull the fabric taut without distorting the pattern. Tighten the nut.

CUTTING FLOSS

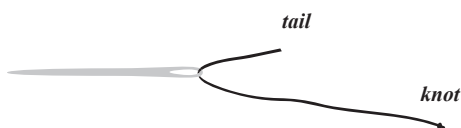
You don't want to use too much or too little thread. Use floss at about 14"-18" in length. The longer your floss is, the more easily it will tangle. At the same time, you don't want your floss to be too short or else you will constantly have to re-thread your needle. A quick and easy way to measure an ideal length of thread is to pinch the end of the thread between your thumb and index finger, extend your arm and measure to the crease of your elbow.

SEPARATING FLOSS

Most embroidery flosses, DMC included, are comprised of 6 easily separable strands that allow for various thicknesses of stitches by using a different number of strands. To separate the floss into individual strands, pull the number of strands you need until they are separate from the rest and smooth them out with your thumb and forefinger before threading them onto your needle.

THREADING THE NEEDLE

Before threading your needle make a knot on one end of your thread. Leave a 3" to 4" tail hanging as you work on the embroidery.



STARTING A STITCH

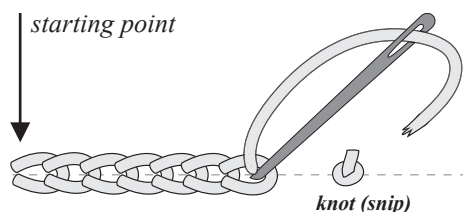
The back of an embroidery is just as important as the front! A back side filled with knots and tangled threads makes it very difficult to produce neat and

beautiful stitches. For this reason, I recommend starting and stopping stitches without leaving knots. There are several ways to achieve this:

Waste Knot

The Waste Knot works best when you are stitching a line and there are no previous stitches on which to anchor your thread.

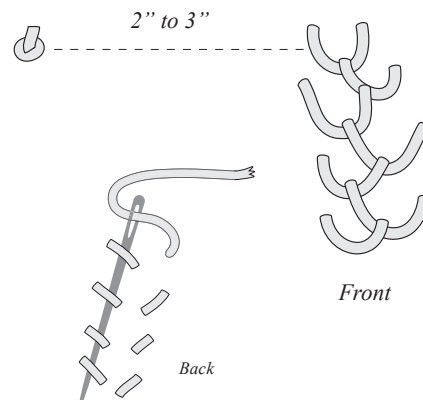
To begin, take the needle from the front to the back about 1" from your starting point, leaving a knot on the front side of your fabric. Take the needle through the start-



ing point and stitch towards the knot, ensuring that each stitch helps to secure the thread on the back. Snip the knot with scissors just before reaching it.

Away Knot

The Away Knot is a good choice when you are stitching detached stitches and there are no previous stitches on which to anchor your thread. To begin, take the needle a few inches from the starting point, leaving a knot on the front side of your fabric. When you finish stitching with your thread snip the knot. Turn over your hoop and re-thread the needle with the loose piece of thread, weaving it through stitches until it is securely in place.

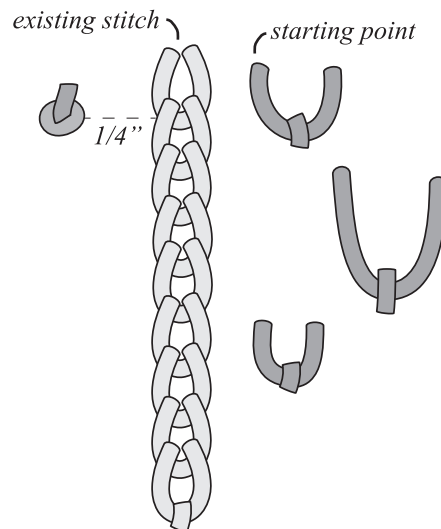


Anchor Stitch

If you are stitching over an area that will be filled (i.e. with Satin Stitch) you can make a Straight Stitch, then a perpendicular stitch into it, securing it in place (in the shape of a 'T').

Knot & Weave

Once there are stitches to which you can secure a new thread, you can commence a new stitch with a far shorter version of the Away Knot, placed 1/4" inch away from the anchoring stitches and close to your starting point. Weave into the back of these stitches and snip the knot away once the thread is secure. Begin your new stitch.

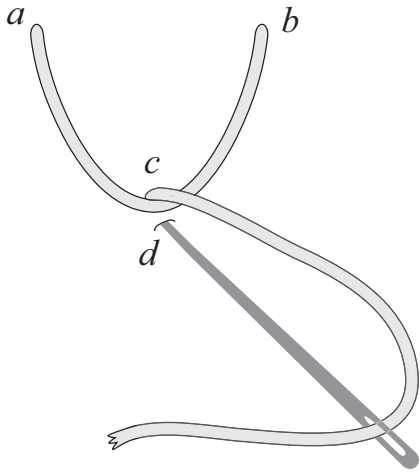


ENDING A THREAD

When you are getting close to the end of your thread leave enough so that it is easy to secure by weaving through several stitches on the back side of the embroidery. If you are halfway through a stitch do not attempt to tie on a new thread and continue stitching. Treat it as a finished stitch and commence anew with a new thread using one of the methods described in the previous section.

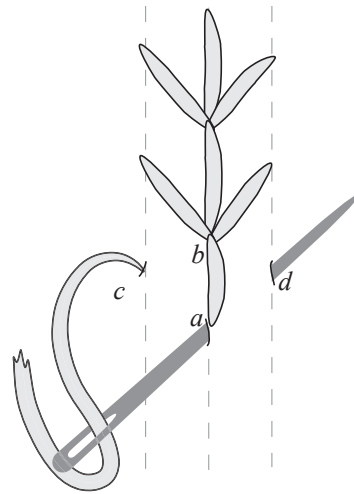
Fly Stitch

Bring the needle through the top left at (a). Catch the thread with your thumb and insert the needle to the right (b) at the same height, a short distance away. Keeping some slack in the working thread - like a "U" hanging between (a) and (b) - take a small stitch downwards and to the centre (c) and keeping the working thread below the needle, pull through and insert the needle below the thread to anchor it (d). Varying the distance between (c) and (d) will result in a longer or shorter tail (a "Y" look versus a "V" look). Repeat in the next location.



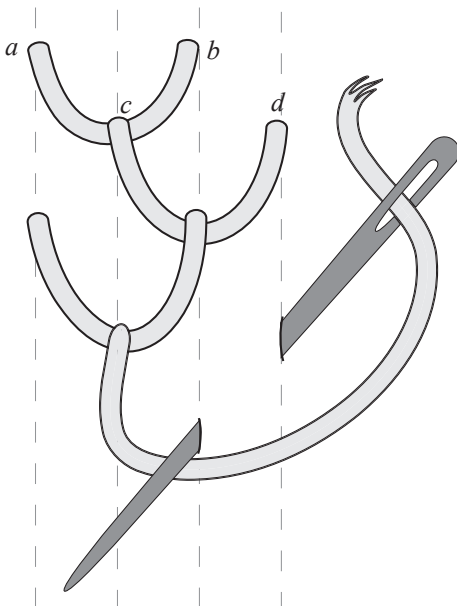
Fern Stitch

The Fern Stitch is a simple stitch comprised of three straight stitches that radiate from a central point. To begin, make a straight stitch from bottom (a) to top (b). Exit to the left (c) and re-insert your needle at (a). Exit to the right (d) and re-insert your needle at (a). Repeat until your line is complete or move to the next location if you are making a series of Detached Fern Stitches



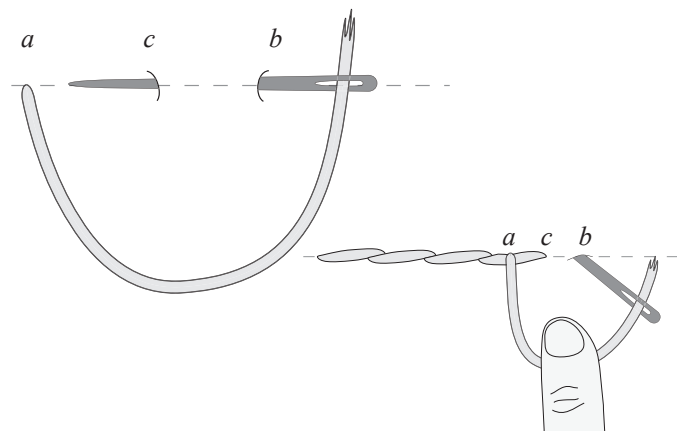
Feather Stitch

Follow the directions for the Fly Stitch, but instead of anchoring the stitch, move (d) to the right/left and continue catching the working thread in this manner as you move down the line.



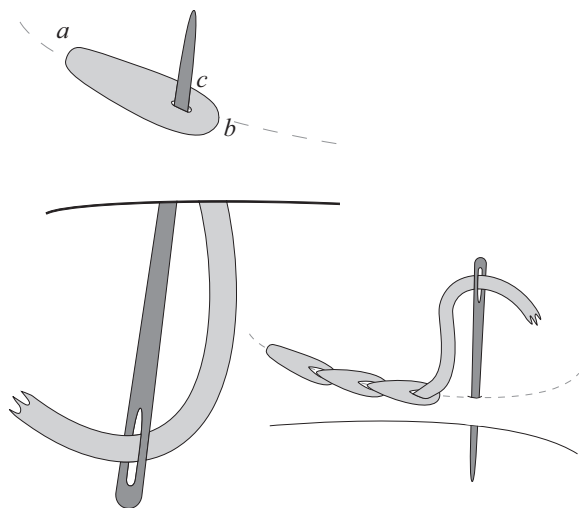
Stem Stitch

The Stem Stitch creates a twisted rope effect, perfect for filling in straight or curved lines. It can be used to fill an area by stitching parallel lines very close to one another. To begin the Stem Stitch, come out at your starting point (a). Bring the needle out a stitch length's away (b), keeping the working thread below the needle (you can use your thumb to hold the thread down). Come out halfway between (a) and (b) at (c). Repeat these steps along the path you are stitching.



Split Stitch

The Split Stitch is used for thin outlines and as padding underneath a Satin Stitch. Make a straight stitch along your line from (a) to (b). Bring the needle back through at (c), which is slightly closer to (b) than to (a). This will split the thread in half as the needle pulls through. Repeat until you come to the end of your line, finishing with a normal straight stitch.



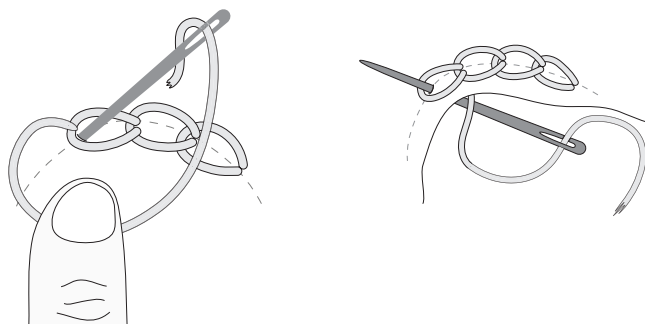
Chain Stitch

The Chain Stitch is great for lines and curves. It's very versatile, creating not only detailed outlines, but dense fills that have a beautiful texture.

To make this stitch, bring the thread through the fabric and hold down with your left thumb. Go back through the same hole, still holding down the thread, and bring the needle back through a short distance away (1/8" or less). Once the needle is through the loop you can remove your thumb and give a light tug to tighten up the chain. Repeat.

Shorten the distance between chain "links" when going around curves for an even smoother line.

To make a Lazy Daisy (a.k.a. Detached Chain Stitch), simply follow the directions for Chain Stitch, but instead of repeating each step to form a chain, anchor each "link" with a single stitch.



Satin Stitch

Mastering the Satin Stitch is essential. It is one of the most straight forward stitches - straight stitches parallel to one another - yet possibly the most difficult to perfect. Trying to cover too large of an area as well as not padding will result in a loose stitch. Skipping over a thread in your fabric will result in crooked stitches. Using multiple strands looks messy.

Here are a few rules to live by:

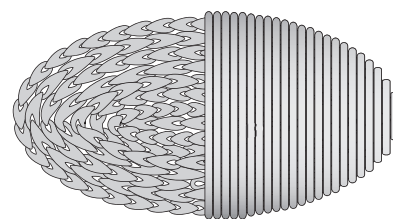
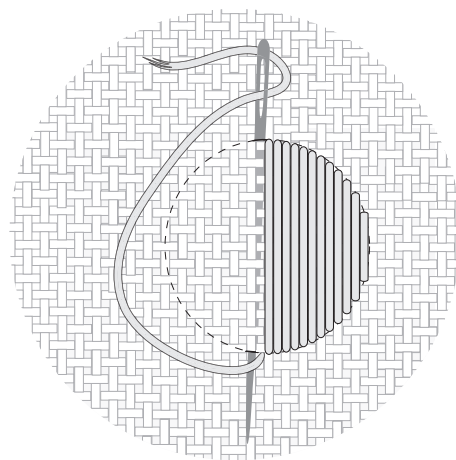
1) **Use only 1 strand of floss at a time.** It will take longer to cover the area, but will result in the smooth texture and sheen that give the stitch its name

2) **Use a split stitch fill as padding.** Many diagrams show seed stitches or zig zag stitches as padding, but a 1 strand split stitch gives the support and friction necessary to ensure that no stitch comes out of place.

3) **Use the fabric's woven texture as your guide.** Move through the fabric one thread at a time - this will keep the stitches perfectly parallel.

The satin stitch requires patience, finesse, and an observant eye, but once you perfect this stitch the quality look of your embroideries will increase exponentially.

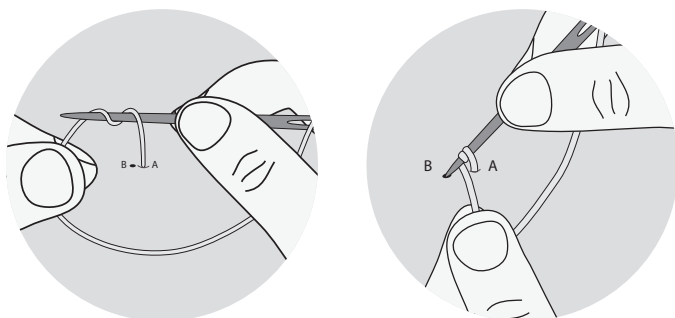
I only recommend an unpadded satin stitch if you are covering a very small area with no room for padding.



*Padded Satin Stitch
(over Split Stitch padding)*

French Knot

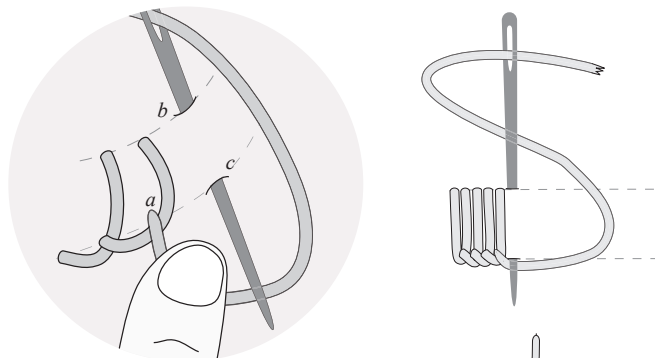
Bring the thread out where you want to place your knot. With your left thumb and index finger pull the thread firmly to the left. Wrap the thread around the needle twice, and angle the needle close to where the thread first emerged (but not in the exact place or it will pull through) slightly piercing through the fabric. Give the thread a tug, tightening up the coil. Slide the coil down towards the fabric and, keeping the tension, pull the needle through to the back, leaving a small knot on the surface. You can make single knots or clusters of knots by placing them close together.



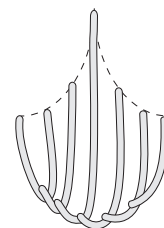
Buttonhole Stitch/ Buttonhole Scallop

The Buttonhole Stitch (a.k.a. Blanket Stitch) creates a rope-like effect that's ideal for finishing edges of a design (you see this stitch on the edges of fleece blankets). Worked as a wheel or in scallops, it is a beautiful decorative stitch. Stitches can be made very close together or spaced out.

Bring the thread out on the lower line at (a). Insert the needle on the upper line one space to the right at (b). Catch the thread with your thumb and take a straight downward stitch to (c), ensuring that the working thread is under the needle. Repeat.



Follow the same directions for Buttonhole Scallops but the lower and/or upper line will follow a shape



Fishbone Stitch

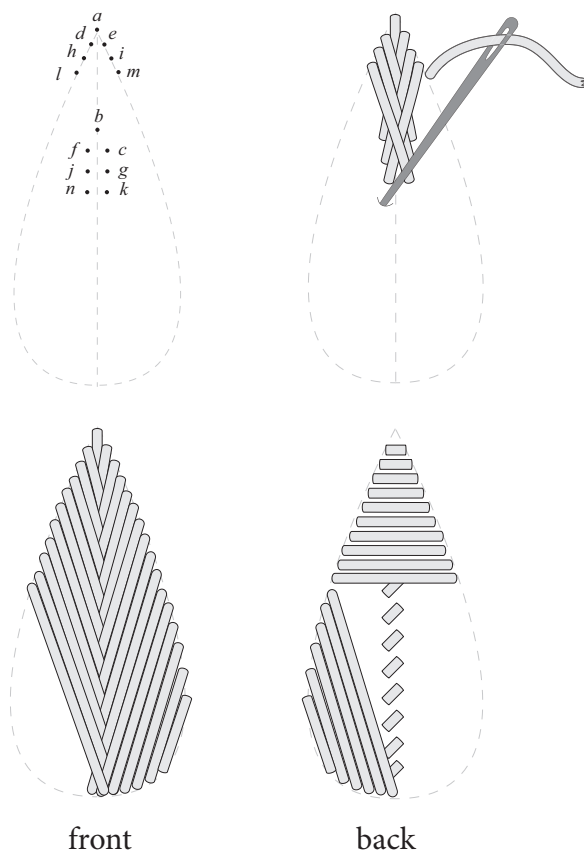
The Fishbone Stitch is a series of straight stitches that cross over one another, creating a plaited line down the center of a shape. It is a fantastic stitch to use for leaves and feathers.

Begin by making a stitch from (a) to (b), about 1/4 of the way down the shape. Come up at (c), just below and to the right of (b), and go back through (d), which will cross over to the center line, up and to the left. Come out at (e) and cross over the center line, down and to the left at (f). Continue to fill out the shape following this pattern, ensuring that there is no fabric showing through between the stitches.

To keep the stitch direction parallel, and avoid overlapping, the points of entry down the center line should be spaced out more than the stitches around the perimeter of the shape.

Eventually, you will run out of room to cross over down the center line. Round out the shape using straight stitches (unpadded Satin Stitch).

The diagram to the right shows the front and back of the stitch, with only one side completed with straight stitches.



NOW PUT IT ALL TOGETHER!

ACORN

Top: Chain Stitch (Fill)/DMC 938/2
Bottom: Padded Satin Stitch/DMC 3776/1

TWIGS

Berries: French Knot/DMC 741/2
Stem: Fern Stitch/DMC 165/2

MAPLE KEYS

Fly Stitch/DMC 938/2

OAK LEAF

Leaf: Buttonhole Scallop/DMC 165/1
Stem: Chain Stitch/DMC 165/1

TRI-LEAF

Leaves: Fishbone Stitch/DMC 918/2
Branch: Split Stitch/DMC 938/1

EMBROIDER THESE ELEMENTS IN THE FOLLOWING ORDER:

ACORN	TRI-LEAF
1) Bottom	1) Leaves
2) Top	2) Branches*

OAK LEAF	TWIGS
1) Leaf	1) Stem
2) Stem	2) Berries

* Stitch branches up to halfway up leaves

Key for Stitch Diagram:

Chain Stitch/DMC 738/1

type of stitch

colour

of strands to use

COLOURS:

Dark Brown: DMC 938
Rust: DMC 918
Tan: DMC 3776
Orange: DMC 741
Yellow: DMC 165