

# Berries 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

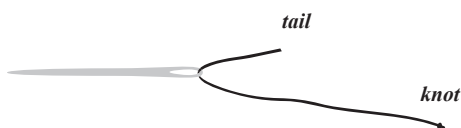
You don't want to use too much or too little thread. Use floss at about 14"-18" in length. The longer your floss is, the more easily it will tangle. At the same time, you don't want your floss to be too short or else you will constantly have to re-thread your needle. A quick and easy way to measure an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

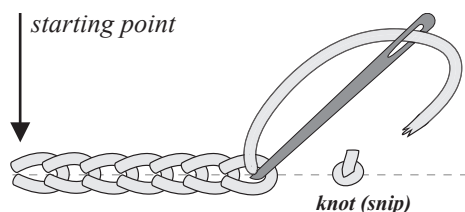
The back of an embroidery is just as important as the front! A back side filled with knots and tangled threads makes it very difficult to produce neat and

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.

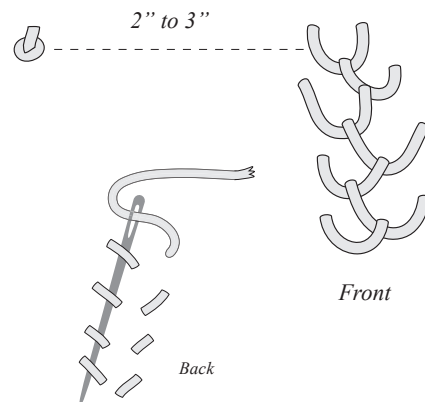
To begin, take the needle from the front to the back about 1" from your starting point, leaving a knot on the front side of your fabric. Take the needle through the start-



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.

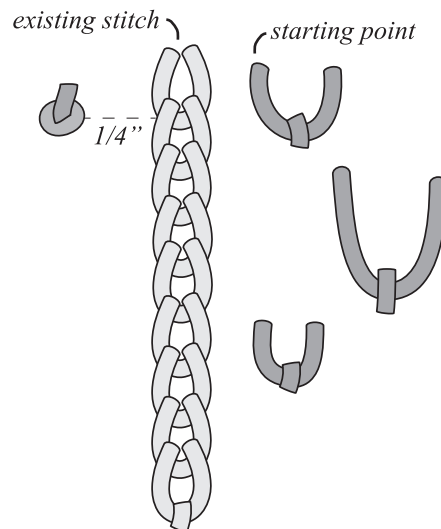


#### Anchor Stitch

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.



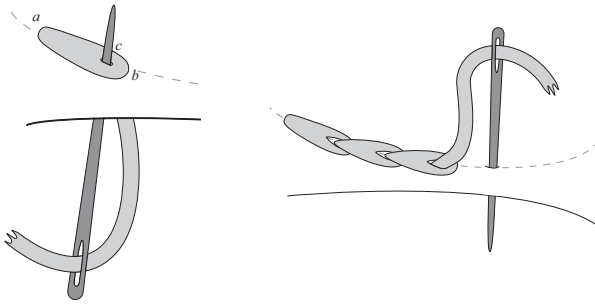
#### ENDING A THREAD

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.

## PRACTICE STITCHES: 1 STRAND FOR SATIN, LONG & SHORT, 2 STRANDS FOR ALL OTHERS

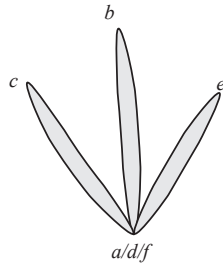
### Split Stitch

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.



### Detached Fern Stitch

The Detached 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). Make two more stitches from the left/right into the same central point.



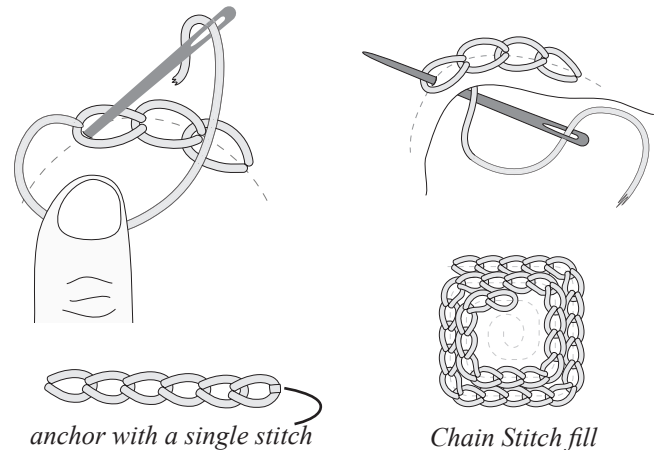
### Chain Stitch

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.

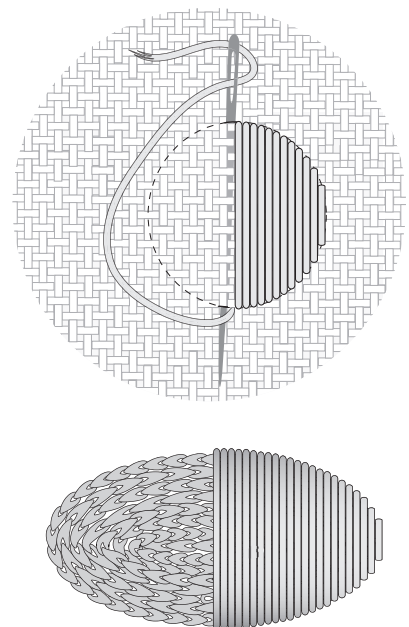


### Satin Stitch

The Satin Stitch 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 or chain 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.
- 5) **Start at the widest point and work towards the edge.** Once you've reach the edge, re-start at the widest point and work in the opposite direction



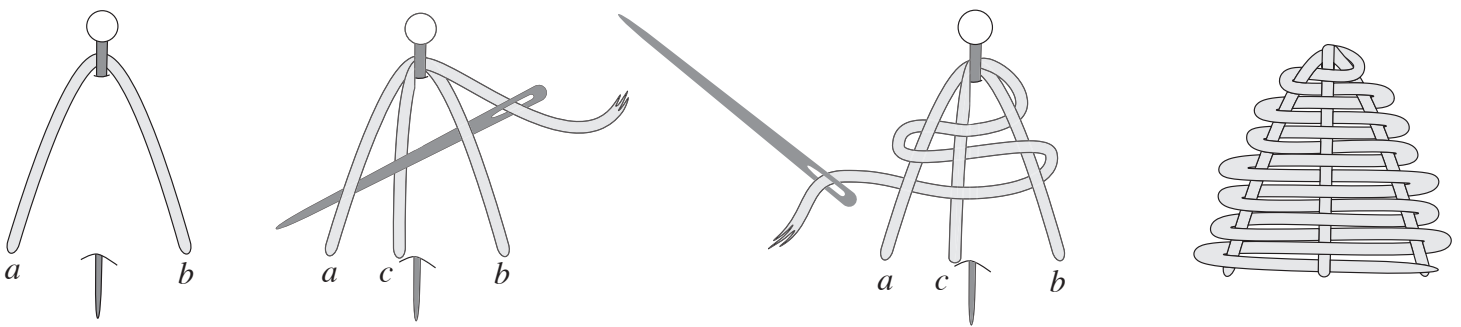
*Padded Satin Stitch  
(over Split Stitch padding)*

## Woven Picot

The Woven Picot is a detached stitch made by needleweaving with the assistance of a pin. To begin, determine how long you want the stitch to be and place a pin (or a needle if you don't have a pin) vertically through the fabric along the length. Determine the width you want and come up at (a). Wrap the floss over the pin, re-entering the fabric at (b).

Next, come out at (c), just to the left of where the pin emerges at the bottom. You can switch to a tapestry needle at this point or use the eye of the needle to weave so the sharp end doesn't catch on the floss or fabric. Wrap the floss around the top of the pin again and go under the floss on the right-hand side, over the center and under the floss on the left. Continue this pattern of weaving the floss under/over. Maintain an even tension and push the floss up towards the tapered tip as you weave to tighten up the shape.

Once you get to the bottom of the shape, re-enter the fabric to tack it down. Remove the pin and you should have a detached triangular shape that is only attached at the bottom.



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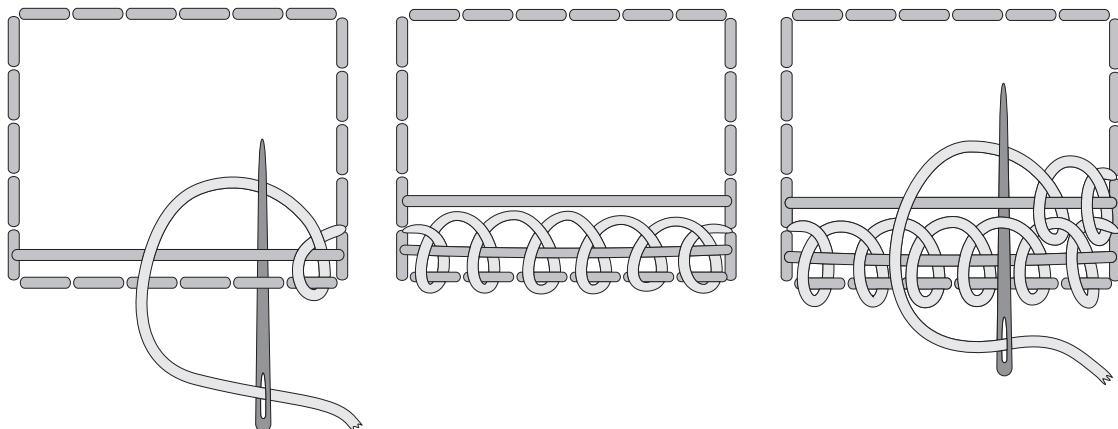
## Detached Buttonhole Stitch

Make a backstitch around the outline of the shape you want to fill.

Starting on the bottom left, split through the center of the first backstitch and go back through the center of the corresponding backstitch on the opposite side. Come out in the space between the backstitches and begin making your buttonhole stitch around both the bottom backstitches and the straight line (not through the fabric.)

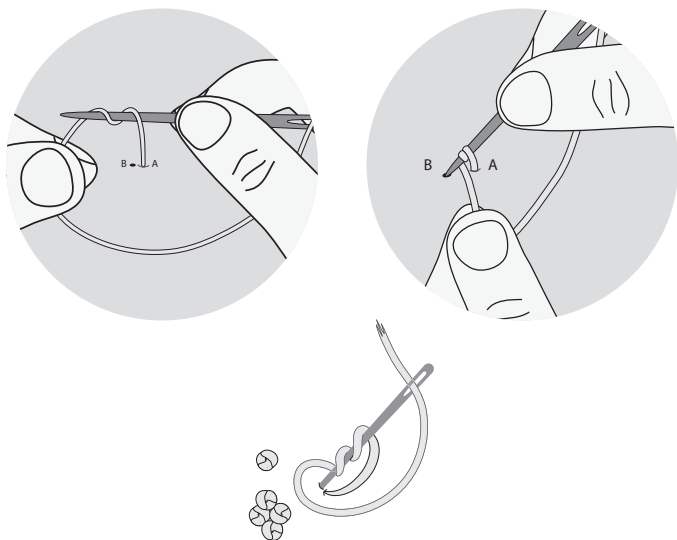
Once you reach the end of the row, go through the space between the backstitches (opposite side), and make another straight line from left to right. Repeat the previous step, but this time going through the loop of each buttonhole stitch (+ straight line) instead of the backstitches on the bottom. Repeat until the space is filled up. Make the final row through the backstitches on the top.

*Tip: Use the eye of your needle and a thimble or switch to a tapestry needle when making the buttonhole stitches*



## 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.

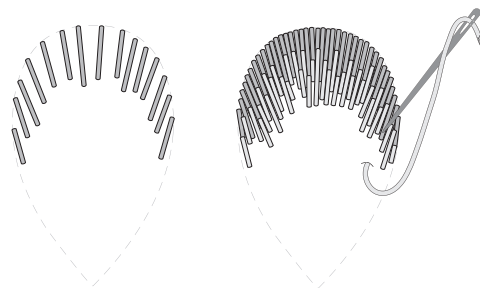


## Long & Short Stitch

The “needlepainting” stitch, the Long & Short creates gradients and colour blends. It is particularly useful to fill in areas that require realistic shading, and often used for flower petals and leaves, or to create naturalistic animal fur.

Begin by creating a set of “directional” long stitches which follow the contour of the area you need to fill in. Similar to a Satin Stitch, lay additional stitches parallel to the directional stitches, filling the area without leaving any fabric showing through.

Stagger these stitches and alternate between shorter and longer stitches at random. Switch to the next shade, and proceed in the same manner, stitching up into the previous row, to create a natural-looking blend.



# NOW PUT IT ALL TOGETHER!

## SMALL BLUEBERRY

**Crown:**  
Detached Fern/ DMC 823/2

**Body:**  
Padded Satin/DMC 3838/1

## LARGE BLACKBERRY

**Stem:**  
Chain/ DMC 502/1

**Leaves:**  
Unpadded Satin/DMC 502/1

**Body:**  
Satin/1  
a: 3835 b: 154 c:823  
X: Padded with Chain Stitch fill  
—: Padded with Split Stitch fill  
blank: no padding

## LARGE STRAWBERRY

**Stem:**  
Chain/ DMC 502/1

**Background Leaves:**  
Unpadded Satin/DMC 502/1

**Body:**  
Detached Buttonhole/  
DMC 3832/2  
\*After making the backstitches  
all around the shape, commence  
with a straight stitch that splits the  
backstitches with the arrows\*

**Foreground Leaves:**  
Woven Picot/ DMC 502/2

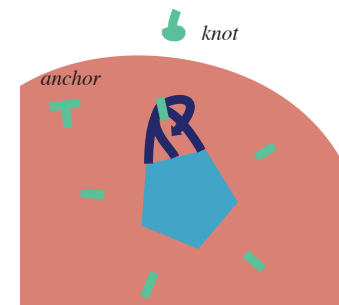
\*the colour-coded dots represent the  
approximate location of the points of  
the Picot. Stitch the yellow and blue first  
before overlapping them with the red\*

## LARGE BLUEBERRY

**Pentagon:**  
Unpadded Satin/3838/1

**Crown:**  
Woven Picots/823/1

\*the five lines around the pentagon are  
**temporary stitches** to be used in place of a  
pin. Use a floss colour that contrasts well. Make  
a knot close to where you will make the first  
stitch, and anchor in place once the straight  
stitches are complete (see 'Tips & Tricks'  
section to see how to anchor). Snip the knot  
and remove the temporary stitches once the  
picots are in place\*



**Body:**  
Long & Short/DMC 3838/1

\*outline with Split Stitch, and work from outside  
towards the center, under the picots\*

## SMALL STRAWBERRY

**Body:**  
Chain Fill/ DMC 3832/2

**Leaves:**  
Detached Ferns/DMC 502/2

## SMALL BLACKBERRY

**Leaves:**  
Straight Stitches/DMC 502/2

**Body:**  
French Knots/2  
\*use same colours as LARGE  
BLACKBERRY, distribute colours  
evenly\*

## Key for Stitch Diagram:

Chain/732/1

type of stitch

colour

# of strands

## COLOURS:

Green: DMC 502

Dark Purple: DMC 154

Light Purple: DMC 3835

Dark Blue: DMC 823

Light Blue: DMC 3838

Pink: DMC 3832

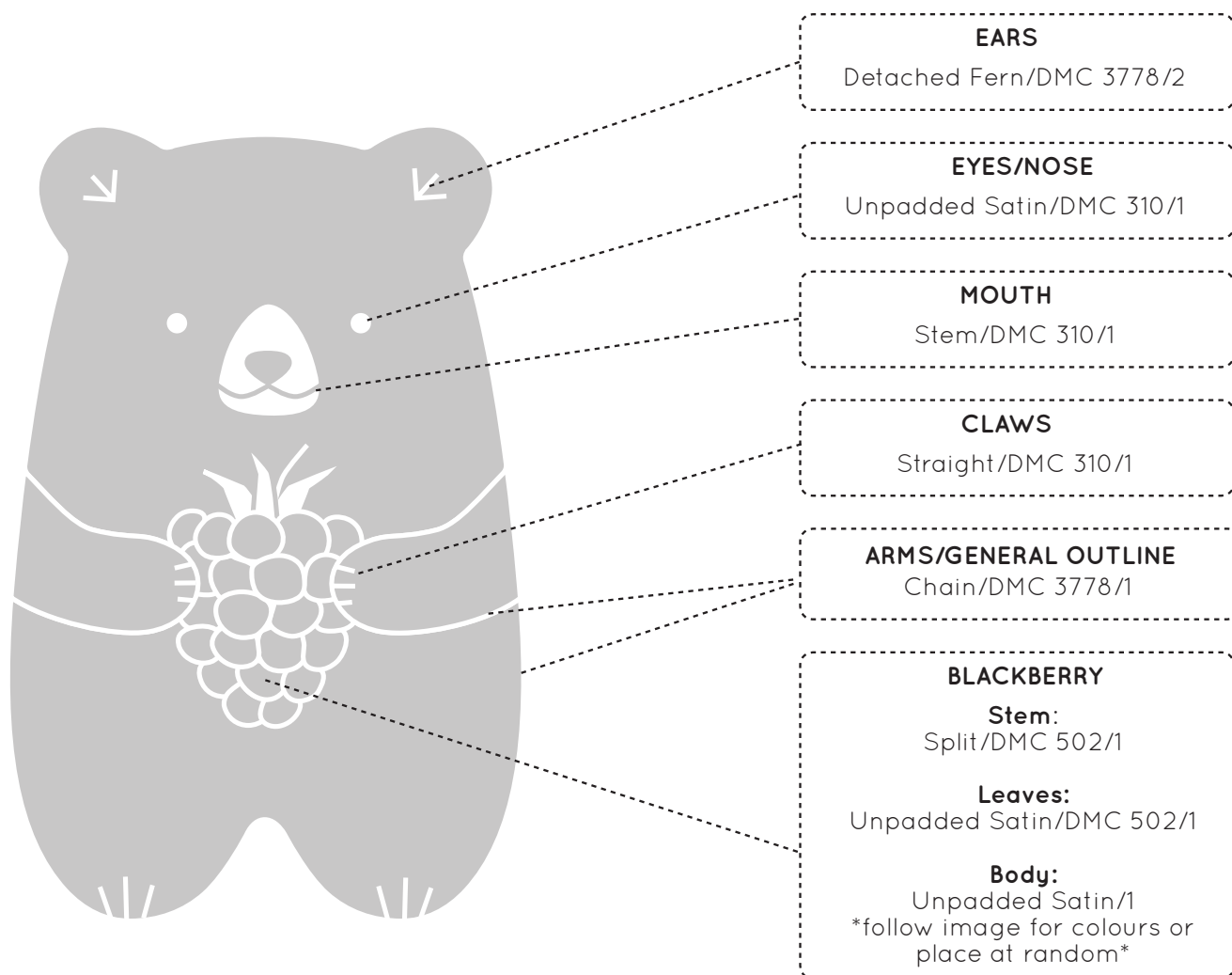
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BERRY IN THE ORDER WRITTEN

# Sampler Club Bonus Print!

If you are part of the [Sampler Club](#) you will have received this screen printed pattern along with the Berries sampler.

Any stitches not found on this instruction guide can be found in the [Stitch Library](#)

Stitch the facial features in any order. Overlap the CLAWS and BLACKBERRY with the ARMS/GENERAL OUTLINE.



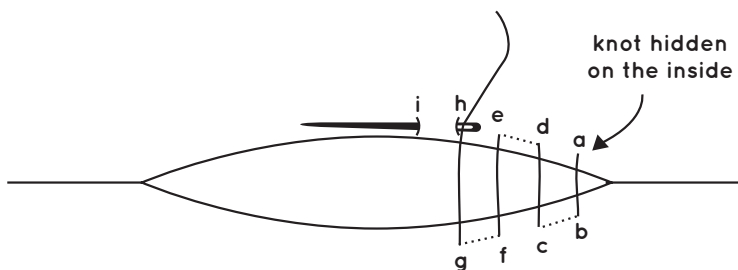
Bonus Floss: DMC 3778 = Terra Cotta / DMC 310 = Black



## PUTTING THE DOLL TOGETHER



- 1) After you finish embroidering Blackbeary, place the printed side of the backing to the embroidered side. Put the pieces back into the hoop before stitching, or else use pins to hold together so the pieces don't move around once lined up.
- 2) Use a backstitch to sew along the pattern, using the General Outline as your guide.
- 3) Cut around the shape, clipping between the ears and legs and notching all around.
- 4) Use a sturdy straw and something thinner (like a paintbrush handle) to help turn the doll right-side out
- 5) Stuff the doll. Sew closed using a ladder stitch.



**Ladder Stitch**



