Cardinal 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

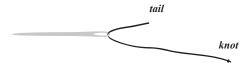
You don't want to use too much or too little thread. Use floss at about 14"-18" in length. The longer your floss is, the more easily it will tangle. At the same time, you don't want your floss to be too short or else you will constantly have to re-thread your needle. A quick and easy way to measure an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



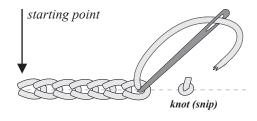
STARTING A STITCH

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 acheive 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.

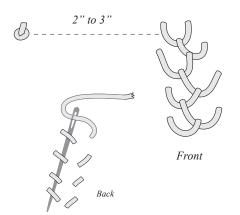
To begin, take the needle from the front to the back about 1" from your starting point, leaving a knot on the front side of your fabric. Take the needle through the start-



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.

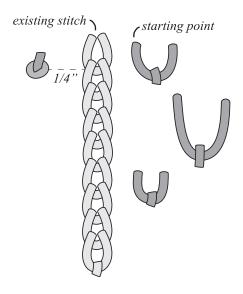


Anchor Stitch

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.



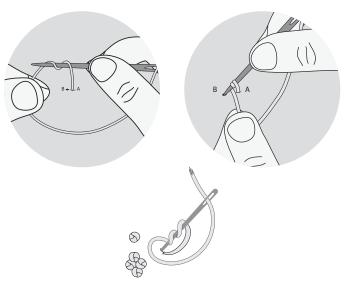
ENDING A THREAD

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.

USE 2 STRANDS FOR PRACTICE STITCHES, EXCEPT LONG & SHORT (USE 1)

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.



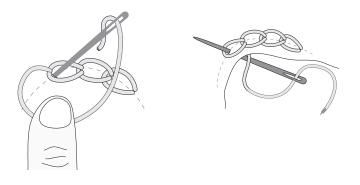
Chain Stitch

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.

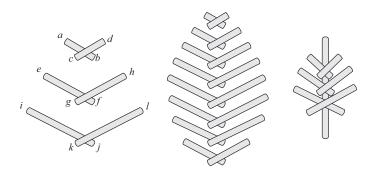
Shorten the distance between chain "links" when going around curves for an even smoother line.

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.



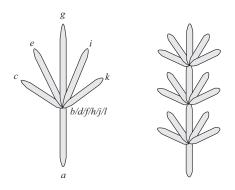
Open Fishbone Stitch

The Fishbone Stitch is a series of parallel, angled straight stitches that cross over one another on either side of a central line. You can make the stitch with our without a vertical line running through the center



Ray Stitch

The Ray Stitch is a simple stitch comprised of (usually) five straight stitches that radiate from a central point. It can be made as a single stitch, or in a line

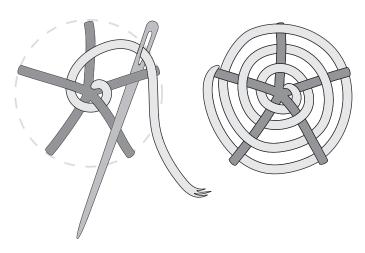


Woven Wheel Stitch

The Woven Wheel is a simple stitch which can be used very effectively to make beautiful flowers. Begin by making an odd number of Straight Stitches radiating from a central point, like a wheel's spokes (it helps to use a different shade of floss for



the spokes). Next, bring the needle out in the center and weave through the spokes - without going through the fabric - in an over/under sequence, until the circle fills in and the spokes are no longer visible. Once complete, stitch back into the fabric under the edge of the weaving. If you run out of floss, secure it by stitching back into the fabric and start in the same position with a new thread.



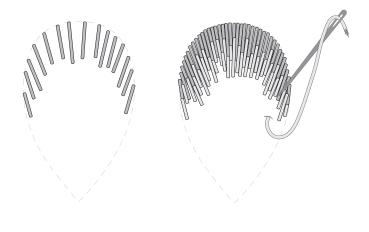
The diagram above shows a much looser version of the stitch to demonstrate the weaving, but the fill of the actual stitch will be much closer together.

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!

BERRIES

Twigs: Chain Stitch/DMC 3863/1

> Berries: Woven Wheel/2 a) DMC 815 b) DMC 606

SNOW

French Knots/ DMC Blanc/1&2

Make larger (2 strands) and smaller (1 strand) snowflakes and overlap the other design elements

PINE CONES

Open Fishbone /DMC 938/2

make a straight stitch down the middle first



CARDINAL

Long & Short Stitch/1

- a) DMC 606
- b) DMC 310
- c) DMC 815
- d) DMC 740

Follow the thin black lines for approximate stitch lengths and directions

PINE SPRIGS

Ray Stitch/DMC 504/2

PINE BRANCH

Main Branch: Chain Stitch/DMC 3863/2

Offshoot Branches: Chain Stitch/DMC 3863/1 *stitch over the CARDINAL (dashed white lines on diagram)*

Pine Needles: Straight Stitches/DMC 561/2 *stitch over the CARDINAL (black lines on diagram)*

EMBROIDER THESE ELEMENTS IN THE FOLLOWING ORDER:

1) PINE SPRIGS

2) BERRIES

- a) Twigs
- b) Berries

3) CARDINAL

- a) Head
- b) Face & Beak
- c) Tail
- d)Wing

4) PINE BRANCH

- a) Main Branch
- b) Offshoot Branches
- c) Pine Needles

5) PINE CONES

6)SNOW

Key for Stitch Diagram:

Chain Stitch/DMC 732/1
type of stitch colour # of strands to use

COLOURS:

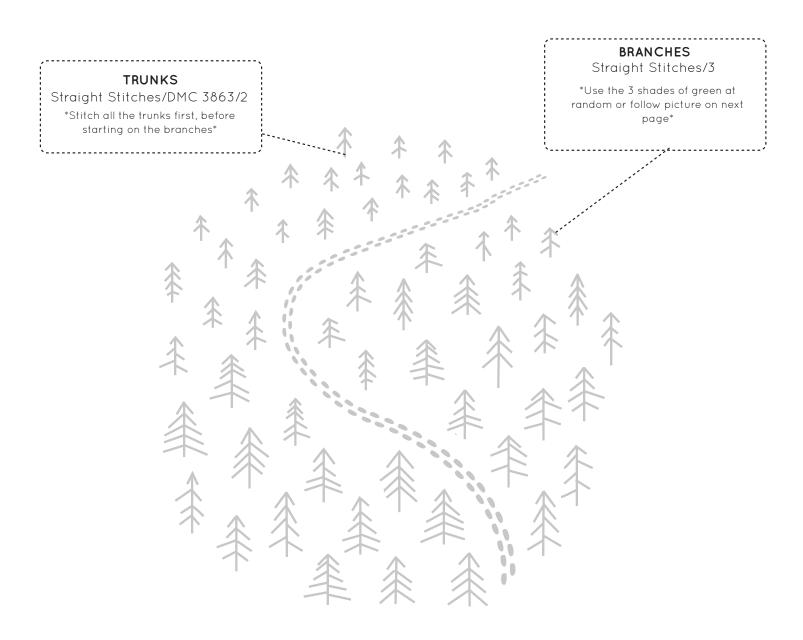
Darker Green: DMC 561 Lighter Green: DMC 504 Dark Red: DMC 815 Bright Red: DMC 606 Darker Brown: DMC 938 Lighter Brown: DMC 3863 Orange: DMC 740

White: DMC Blanc Black: DMC 310

Sampler Club Bonus Print!

If you are part of the <u>Sampler Club</u> you will have received this screen printed pattern along with the Cardinal Sampler.

Any stitches not found on this instruction guide can be found in the Stitch Library



Bonus Floss: DMC 732 = Olive Green

