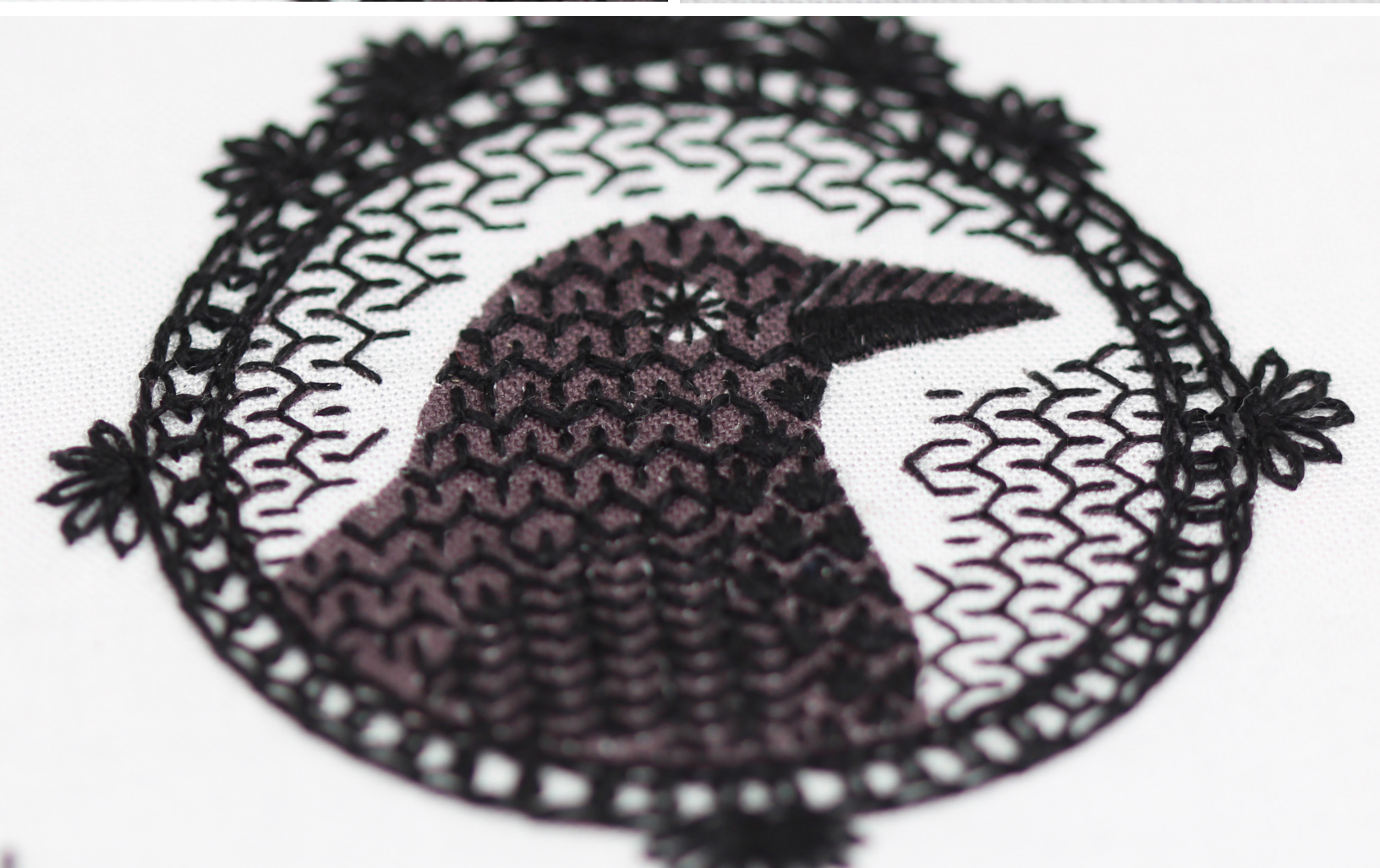
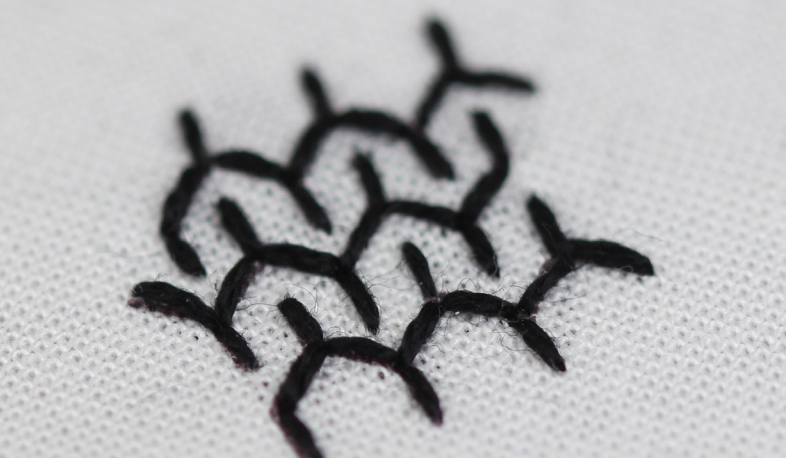


Embroidery Stitch Sampler





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

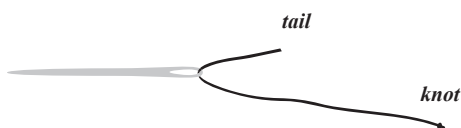
You don't want to use too much or too little thread. Use floss at about 14"-18" in length. The longer your floss is, the more easily it will tangle. At the same time, you don't want your floss to be too short or else you will constantly have to re-thread your needle. A quick and easy way to measure an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

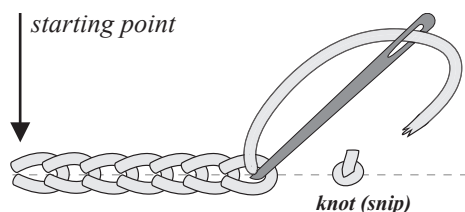
The back of an embroidery is just as important as the front! A back side filled with knots and tangled threads makes it very difficult to produce neat and

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.

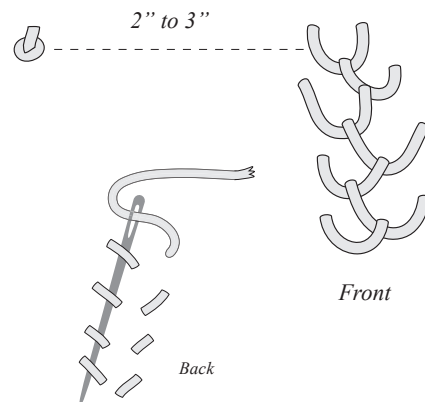
To begin, take the needle from the front to the back about 1" from your starting point, leaving a knot on the front side of your fabric. Take the needle through the start-



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.

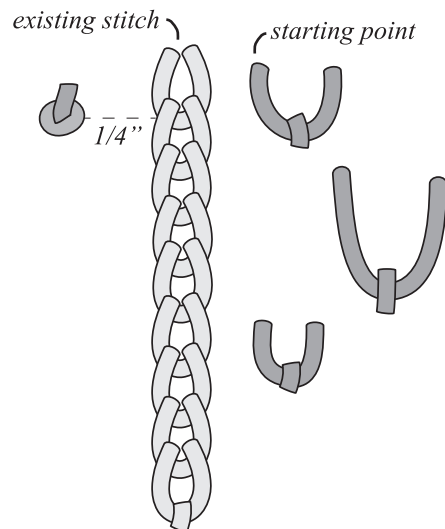


Anchor Stitch

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.

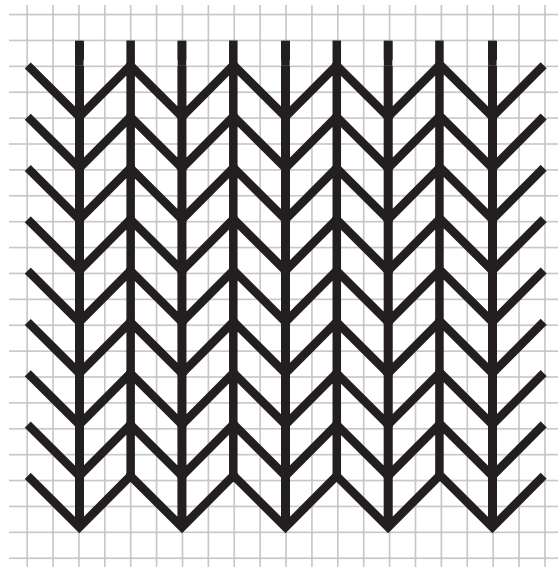
PRACTICE STITCHES: USE 2 STRANDS OF FLOSS

Blackwork is a form of counted-thread embroidery normally stitched on an even-weave fabric, like aida cloth. The diagrams below show how to execute the stitches on even-weave (without a pattern underneath), by using the thread count as your guide. On the Crow sampler you simply cover up the print (n.b. screen printing is magic!)

DIAPER PATTERNS

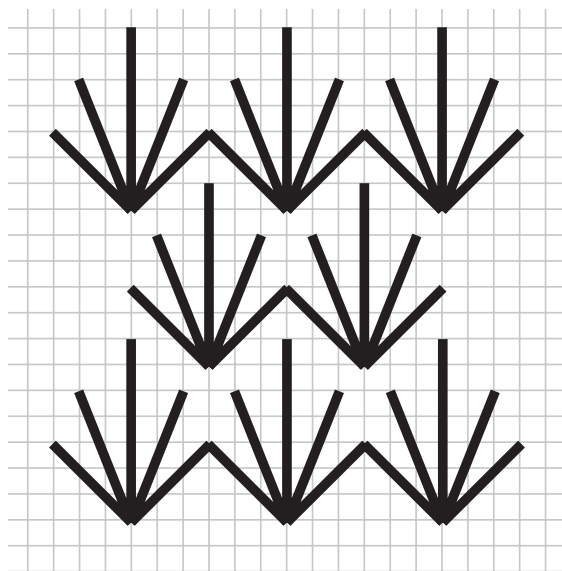
The word diaper originally meant a small pattern of repeating geometric shapes. Traditionally, baby nappies were made from fabric with these types of designs, hence the way we use the word in modern day.

Diaper patterns are the staple of Blackwork. They are created using a series of backstitches to fill out a shape.

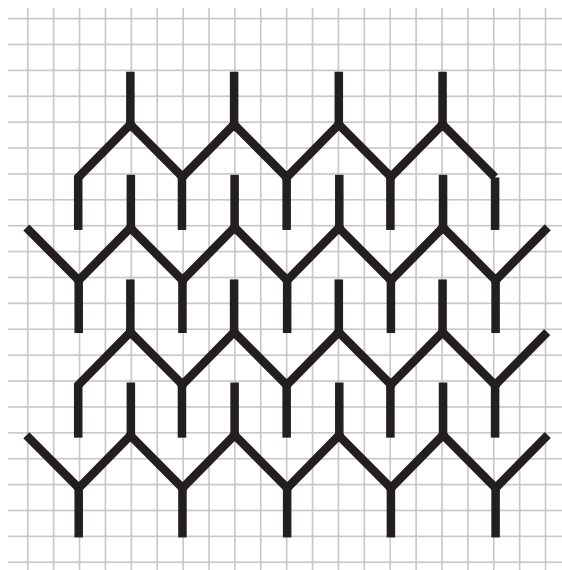


Chevron

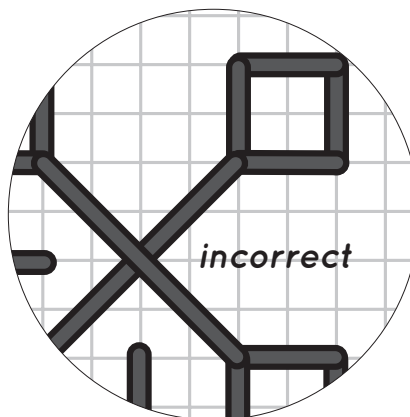
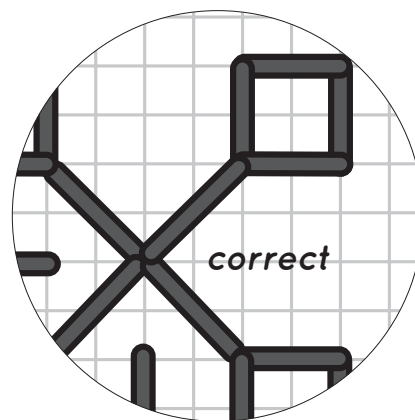
You are not crossing over any stitches, each part of the design is a backstitch.



Fan



Open Zig Zag

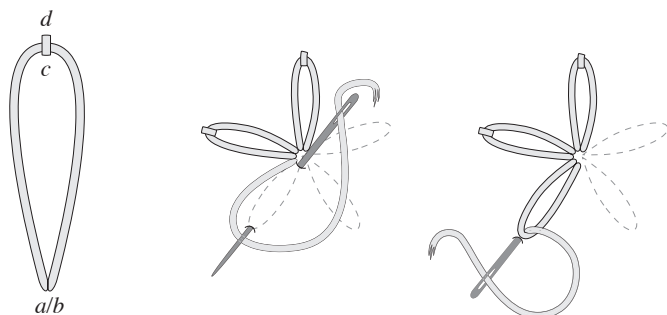
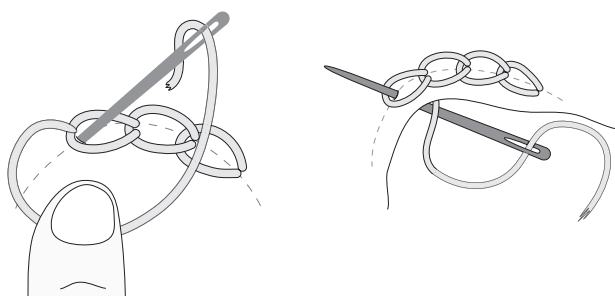


Chain Stitch

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. Generally, I recommend to use a Split Stitch padding under a Satin Stitch, but based on this embroidery pattern, padding is not necessary.

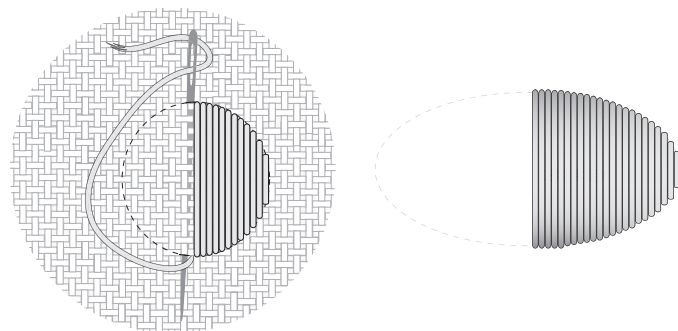
Here are a few rules to live by:

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

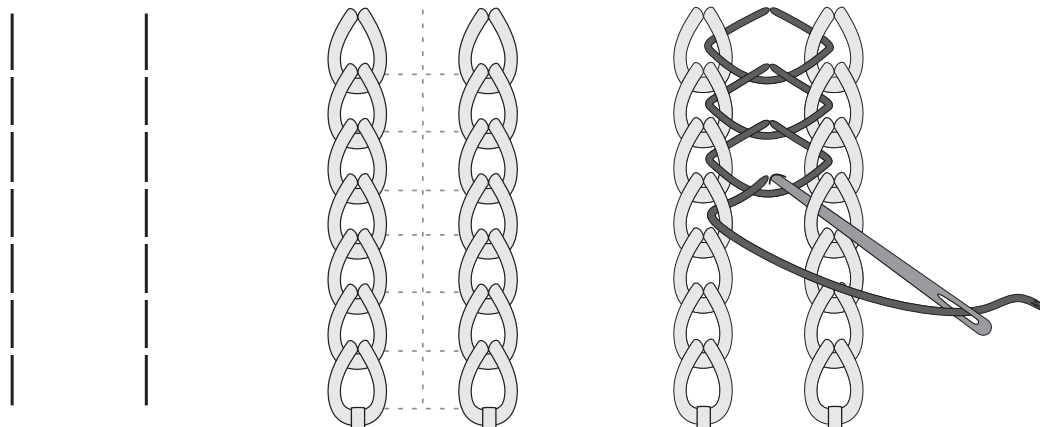
3) **Start from the widest point of a pattern and work to one end, before going back and working the stitch towards the opposite end**

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.

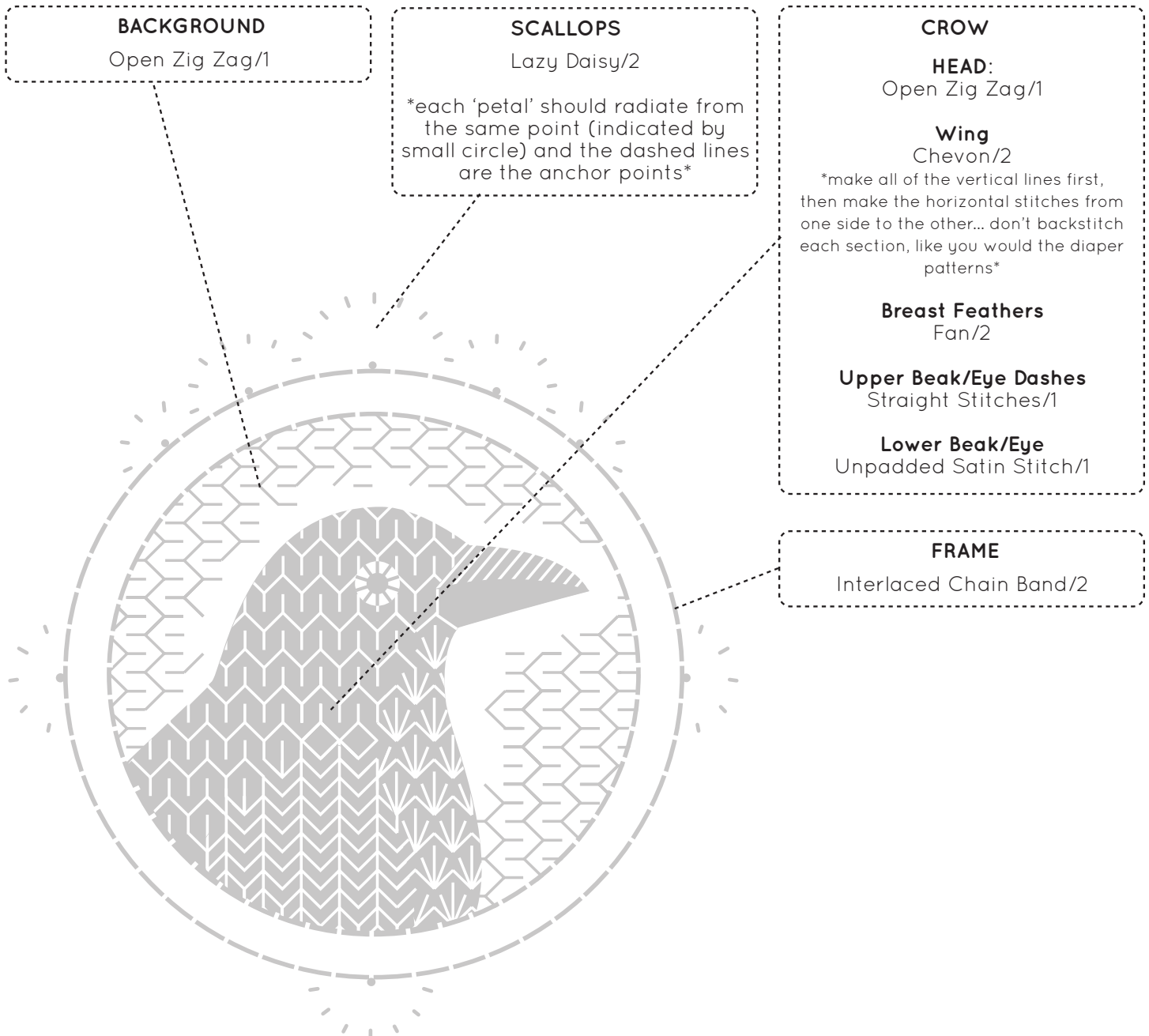


Interlaced Chain Band

Follow the directions for Chain Stitch and make two sets of parallel stitches. It's important to keep the same number of links on both lines to make the stitch even. On the Crow pattern, each dashed line in the FRAME is a guide for one chain link. Once you complete the two sets of Chain Stitches, locate the center between the two and commence another chain stitch in line with where the first two links emerge. Weave the floss around the inside of both chain lines and go back into the fabric in the same spot you first emerged. Continue all the way down the Chain Band and anchor with a single stitch once complete.



NOW PUT IT ALL TOGETHER!



EMBROIDER THE ELEMENTS IN THE FOLLOWING ORDER:

- 1) BACKGROUND
- 2) CROW (HEAD, WING, BREAST FEATHERS, EYE, BEAK)
- 3) SCALLOPS
- 4) FRAME

Key for Stitch Diagram:

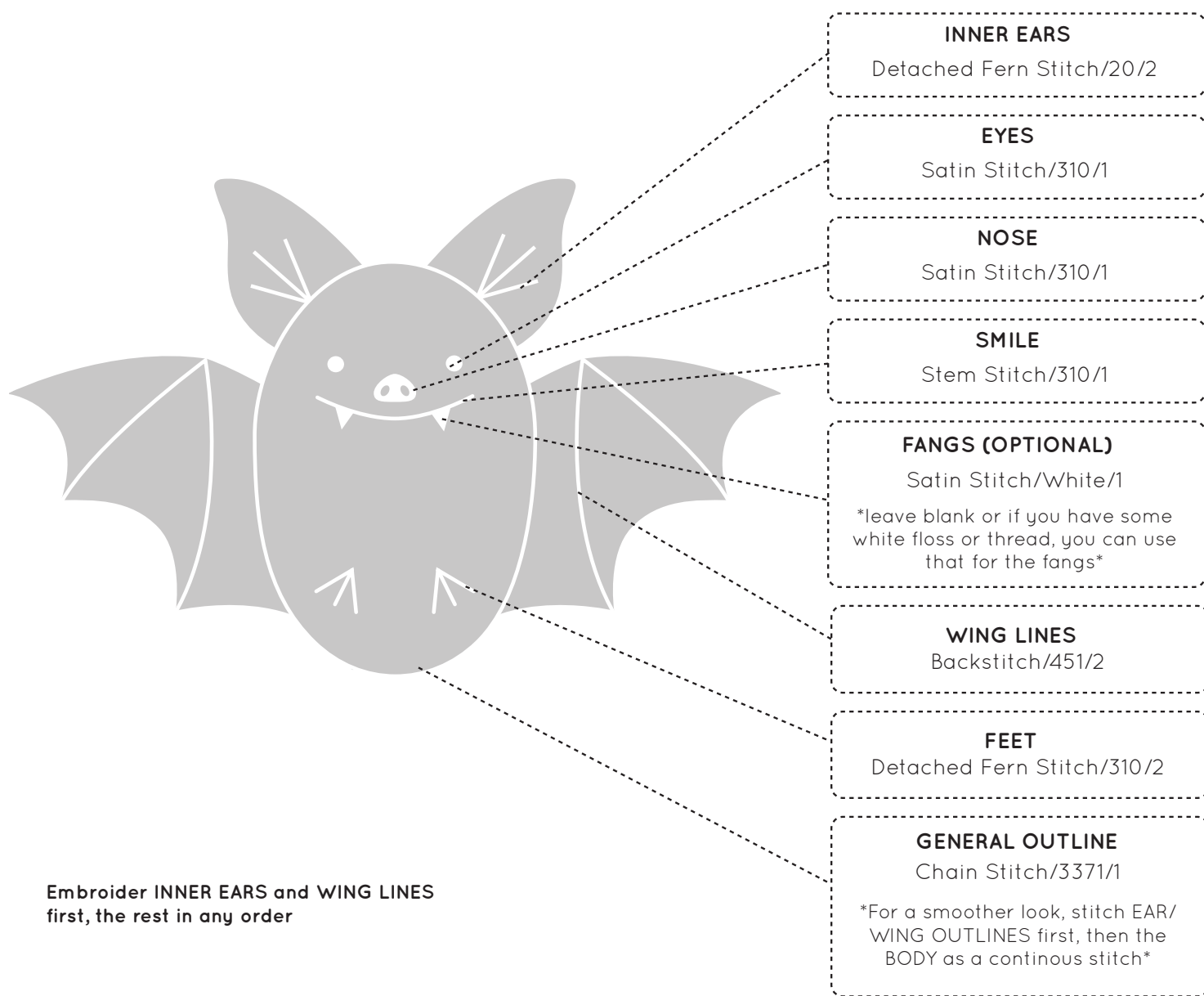


COLOURS:
Black: DMC 310

Sampler Club Bonus Print!

If you are part of Sampler Club you will have received this screen printed pattern along with the Crow sampler.

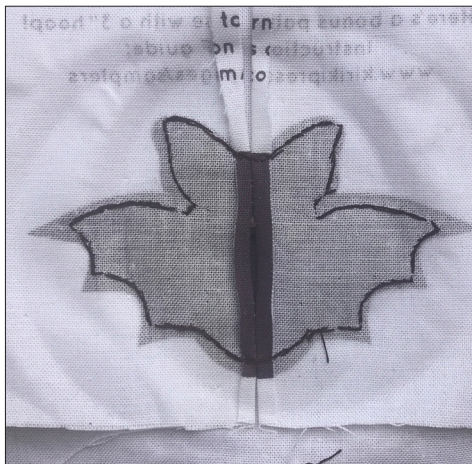
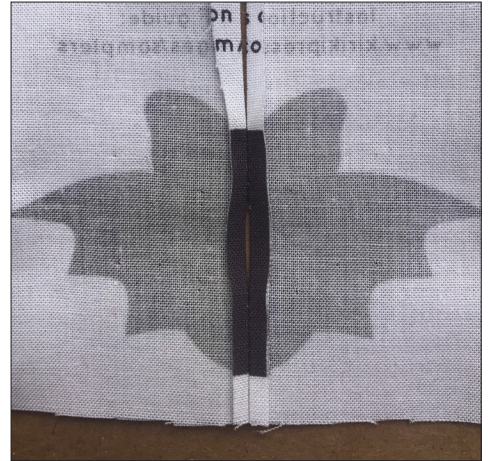
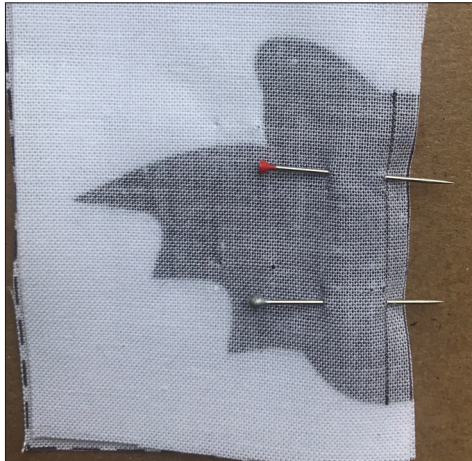
Any stitches not found on this instruction guide can be found in the [Stitch Library](#)



Embroider INNER EARS and WING LINES first, the rest in any order

COLOURS:
Black: 310
(Bonus Floss) **Pink:** 20
(Bonus Floss) **Taupe:** 451
(Bonus Floss) **Dark Brown:** 3371

PUTTING THE DOLL TOGETHER



1) After you finish embroidering Bat Pup, cut through the two halves of the backing pieces.

2) Draw a line 1/8" away from one edge and pin right-sides together along the straight edge, with the pins about 1" apart. Use a backstitch to sew along the line from the top and bottom, stopping at the pins so that you leave a gap for turning.

3) Press the seam of the backing piece and pin it to the front of the embroidery, right-side to right-side.

4) Sew around the entire shape using a backstitch.

5) Turn right-side out. Press the ears and wings and sew a small running stitch between the body and the wings/ears on the outside of the GENERAL OUTLINE Chain Stitch. Start from the inside to hide the knot and make small stitches. This will block the stuffing from entering the wings and ears. Use 3371 or a colour of thread similar to the fabric.

6) Stuff the doll. Sew closed using a ladder stitch.



