Hanging Plant 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

Arrowhead Stitch

The Arrowhead Stitch is a simple stitch resembling a "V". To begin, make a straight stitch from (a) to (b). Come out through (c) and re-insert your needle at (b). A horizontal row of Arrowhead Stitches created a zig-zag pattern. Stack stitches close together vertically for a Closed Arrowhead Stitch.



Tassel Stitch

You can make detached looped stitches that look like mini tassels!

To begin, come out of your fabric and go back into the same hole, leaving a loop that is slightly longer than what you want your tassel to be. Make a small, straight

stitch just below where the loop goes in/out of the fabric (you want to pinch the top of the loop with this stitch). If you are making multiple tassels close together, move on to the next spot and repeat. When you are finished all of the tassels, snip the loops and trim to your desired length.

Note: The diagram below shows a single strand of floss, but use at least 3 strands



Detached Chain/Lazy Daisy

To make this stitch, bring the thread through the fabric (a) and catch with your free thumb. Go back through the same hole (b), still holding down the thread, and create a loop. Bring the needle up where you want to anchor the loop (c), and make a small stitch upwards, securing the thread. d

Three or more Detached Chain Stitches radiating from a central point make up a Lazy Daisy.



Unpadded Satin Stitch (Chunky Version)

The Satin Stitch is comprised of straight stitches parallel to one another. Generally, I recommend to use only one strand of floss at a time, but this pattern calls for 2 strands for a chunkier look.

Here are a few rules:

1) **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.

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



Half Square Knot

With a few simple tricks, you can incorporate macrame knots into your embroidery designs! A safety pin and piece of embroidery floss will act as a "rod" in the place of a wooden dowel or ring in an actual macrame hanging.

Prep the rod

1) From the back of your hoop, put a safety pin through the fabric at the top of the design (just below the RING)

2) Run a two-strand piece of embroidery floss (at least 8" long) through the same entrance/ exit points as the safety pin from the back of the fabric, knotting one end and leaving the other end loose

Make the knots:

1)Loop two lengths of embroidery floss (all 6 strands, full 20" pieces) around the rod from the top - you now have four "cords" of embroidery floss you will be working with. This is known as a Lark's Head Knot. Optional: tie a knot right at the bottom of each of the four lengths so the strands of floss don't separate.

2) Move cord 1 to the right (passing over filler cords 2-3) and under cord 4

3) Move cord 4 to the left (passing under filler cords 2-3) and over cord 1.

4) Pull both working cords to secure the Half Knot, while holding the fillers so they have tension.

5) Repeat the steps 2-4 down the length of the design (you will see a spiral starting to form after a few knots)

Finishing:

1) For this particular design, thread the needle with one of the two "filler" cords and secure it to the back of the hoop by weaving it through some existing stitches

2) Remove the safety pin and bring both ends of the embroidery floss that was running along the safety pin to the front of the hoop by snipping the knot (make sure the macrame loops are still through this piece of floss)

3) Thread the needle with one end and secure it onto the back (weave through the back of the RING design element). Repeat with the other end. The loops should now be completely secure.



Whipped Backstitch

Start by making a single straight stitch along your line, about 1/4" or less. Come back up with your needle one stitch length over and stitch back into the line towards the first stitch. Continue this with each stitch, forming a simple, clean line.

Using a different or same colour floss, come up with your needle at the beginning of the line. Do not go through the fabric, just slip the needle under each Backstitch as you move along the line. Go back through the fabric once you reach the end of the line.

Knotted Line Stitch

Making a straight stitch along your line (a) to (b). Come out at (c) and bring the needle under the straight stitch (only the stitch, not the fabric). Next, bring the needle through the loop you've created and tighten up the knot that forms. Repeat along the line, and anchor with a small stitch at the end.





NOW PUT IT ALL TOGETHER!



THE FOLLOWING ORDER:

1) FERNS (Center fern last)

2) BASKET

3) PHILODENDRON

4) RING

5) MACRAME SPIRAL

6) RADIATING CORDS

7) TASSEL

Key for Stitch Diagram:



COLOURS:

Beige: DMC 739 Greenish Yellow: DMC 12 Grasshopper Green: DMC 581 Emerald Green: DMC 699 Medium Bluish Green: DMC 561 Dark Bluish Green: DMC 500 Rust: DMC 920

Sampler Club Bonus Printl

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

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

EMBROIDER THESE ELEMENTS IN THE FOLLOWING ORDER:



PUTTING THE BROOCH TOGETHER



1) After you finish embroidering the Monstera Leaf, divide the backing piece along the cut line.

2) Draw a line 1/8" from one edge and pin right-sides together along the straight edge, and mark a 1" gap. Use a backstitch and sew from the outside of the gap and stop just before the edge of the design.

- 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, cut it out, clipping and notching where necessary
- 5) Turn right-side out and press. Sew closed using a ladder stitch.

6) Sew the brooch pin bar onto the back of the design (hide the knot behind the bar before coming up through the first hole)

