

Spring 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

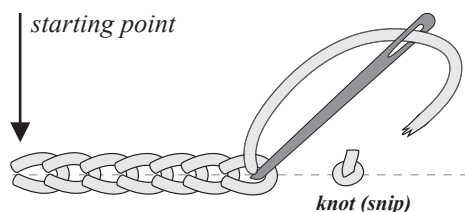
The back of an embroidery is just as important as the front! A back side filled with knots and tangled threads makes it very difficult to produce neat and

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.

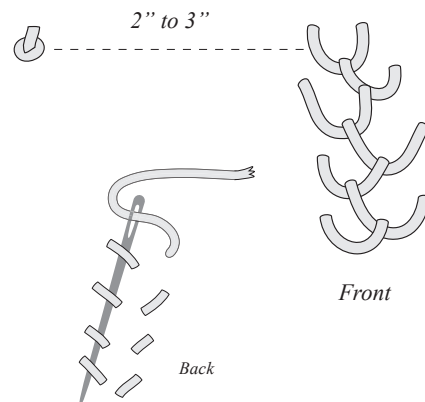
To begin, take the needle from the front to the back about 1" from your starting point, leaving a knot on the front side of your fabric. Take the needle through the start-



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.

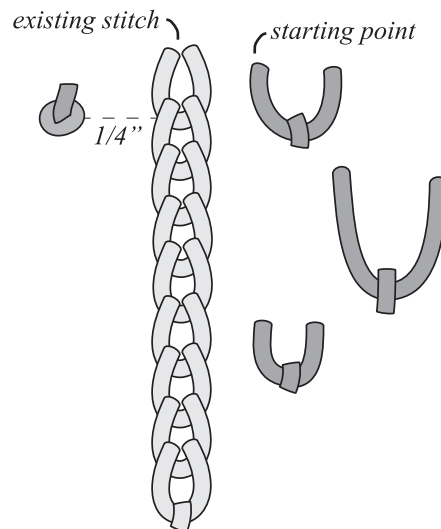


Anchor Stitch

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.

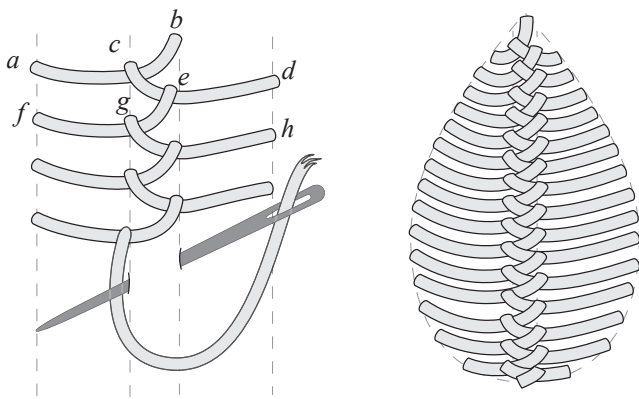


ENDING A THREAD

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.

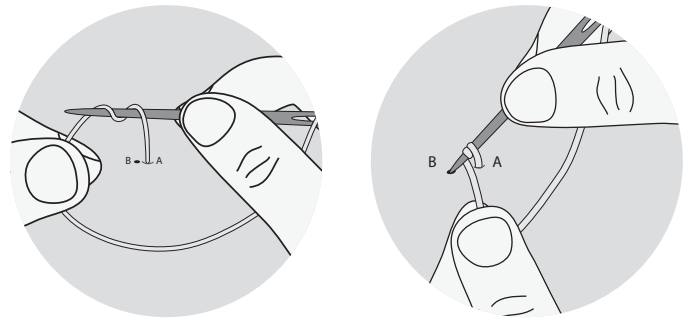
Cretan Stitch

The Cretan Stitch creates a plaited line down the center of a shape. The stitch can be imagined along 4 parallel lines, with the two central lines set closer together. Bring the needle out on the first line at (a). Catch the thread with your thumb and insert the needle slightly higher at (b), on the 3rd line. Keeping some slack in the working thread and catch on the 2nd line at (c). Keep the working thread below the needle, pull through and insert the needle to the 4th line at (d). Repeat the process all the way down the line.



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.



Satin Stitch

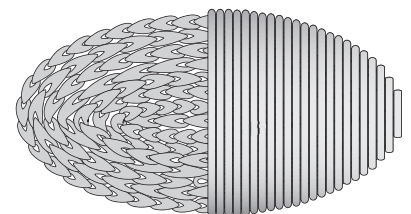
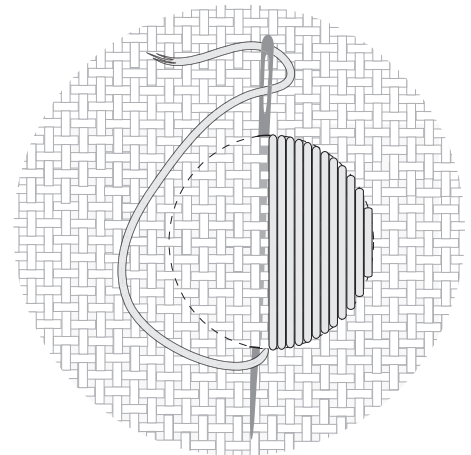
Mastering the Satin Stitch is essential. It is one of the most straight forward stitches - straight stitches parallel to one another - yet possibly the most difficult to perfect. Trying to cover too large of an area as well as not padding will result in a loose stitch. Skipping over a thread in your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



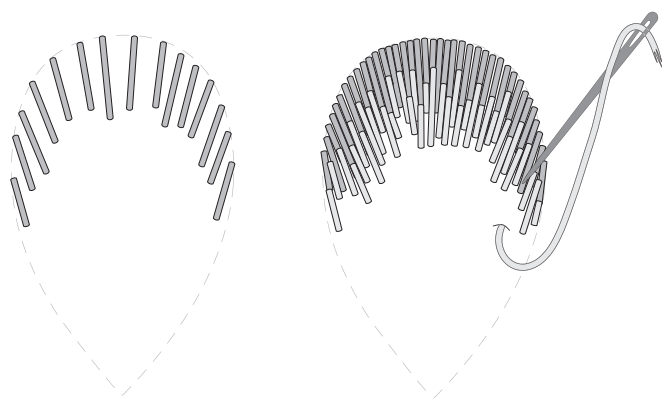
*Padded Satin Stitch
(over Split Stitch padding)*

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.

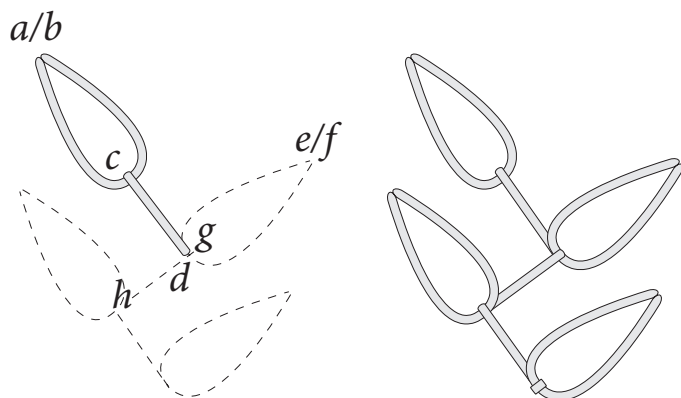
Begin by creating a set of “directional” long stitches which follow the contour of the area you need to fill in. Similar to a Satin Stitch, lay additional stitches parallel to the directional stitches, filling the area without leaving any fabric showing through.

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.



Feathered Chain Stitch

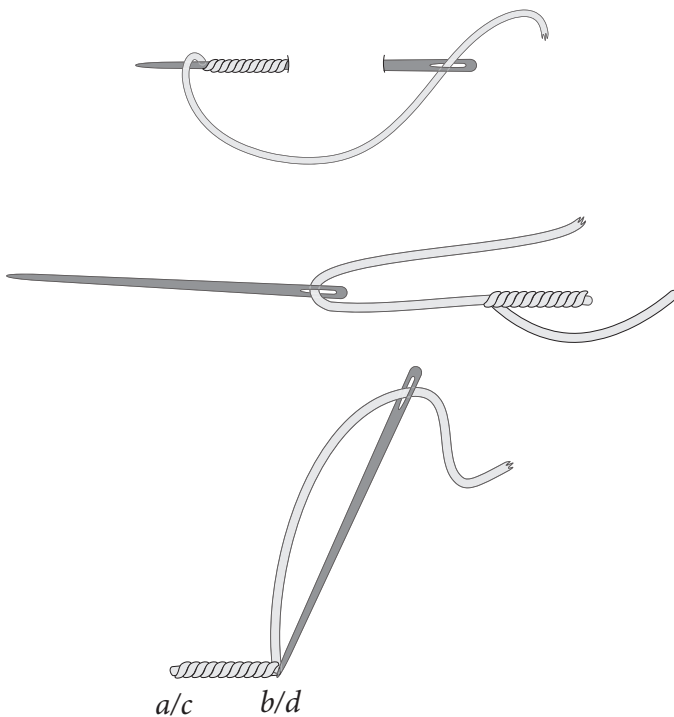
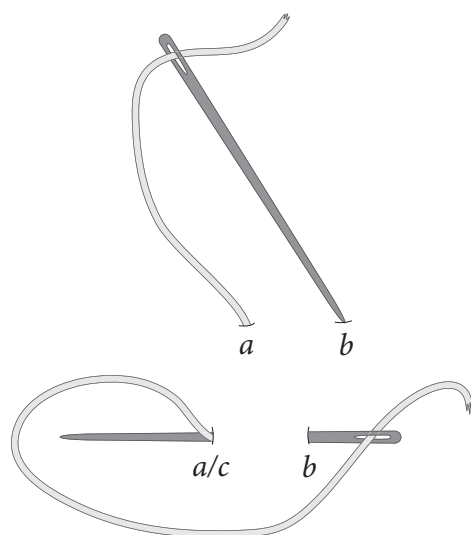
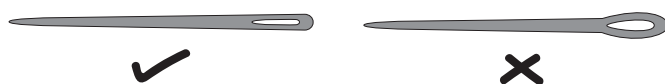
This stitch is essentially a series of Detached Chain Stitches with long anchors that are laid perpendicular to each other. Bring the thread through the fabric at (a) and catch with your thumb. Go back through the same hole (b), still holding down the thread, and create a loop. Bring the needle up where you want to anchor the loop (c), and make a long stitch to (d). Repeat down the line, angling each Feathered Chain Stitch in the opposite direction as the stitch before.



Bullion Knot

Come out at (a) and go back into the fabric at (b): the space in between these two points will be the length of your knot. Come back out at (a) and wrap the needle with the floss until the coil is the same length as the distance between (a) and (b). Use your finger to push the coils down as you wrap. Gently hold the coil in place as you slide the needle through. Go back in at (b).

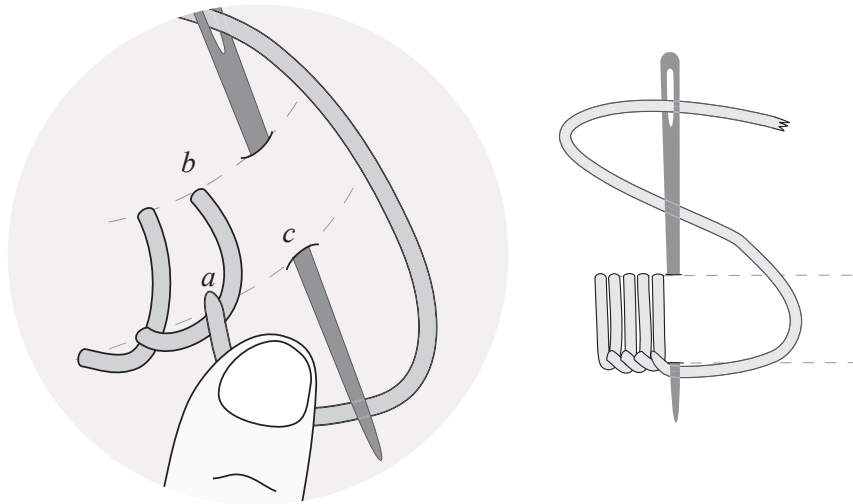
Note: only use a needle with an eye that is similar in width to the shaft of the needle



Buttonhole Stitch

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.

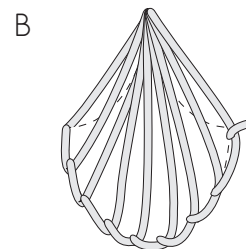
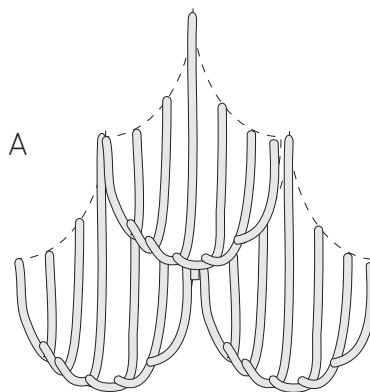
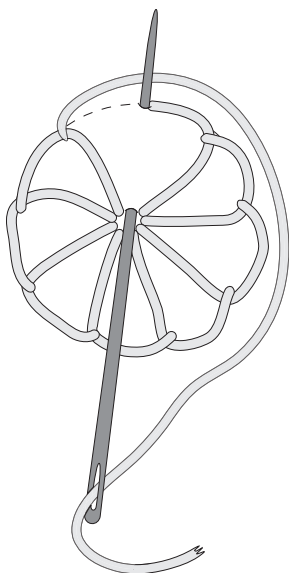
Bring the thread out on the lower line at (a). Insert the needle on the upper line one space to the right at (b). Catch the thread with your thumb and take a straight downward stitch to (c), ensuring that the working thread is under the needle. Repeat.



Follow the same directions as the Buttonhole Stitch but use the outer edge of the circle as your “lower line” and a single point in the centre as the “upper line”

Buttonhole Scallops can either be worked like a Buttonhole Wheel, forming a semi-circle or quarter circle (B), or with vertical stitches that follow a shape (A).

Work rows of scallops from bottom to top.



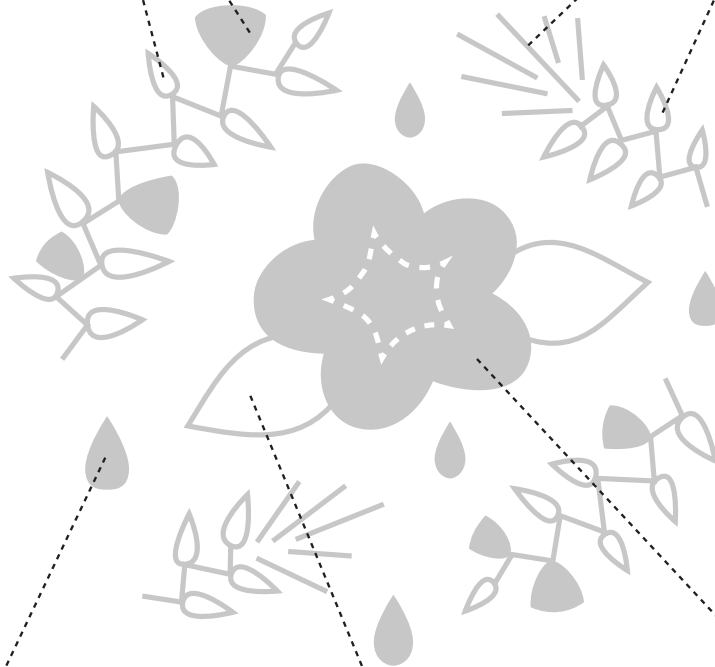
NOW PUT IT ALL TOGETHER!

BOUGH (LONG)

Leaves: Feathered Chain Stitch/DMC 3851/2
Flowers: Buttonhole Wheel (as a scallop)/DMC 742/2

BOUGH (SHORT)

Leaves: Feathered Chain Stitch/DMC 3851/2
Flowers: Bullion Knot/DMC 3805/2



RAINDROPS

Satin Stitch/DMC 747/1

FLOWER

Petals: Long & Short Stitch/DMC 967 & 3805/1
Center: French Knots/DMC 742/2

LEAVES

Cretan Stitch/DMC 966/2

EMBROIDER THESE ELEMENTS IN THE FOLLOWING ORDER:

BOUGHS
1) Leaves
2) Flowers

FLOWER*
1) Petals
2) Center

*Stitch LEAVES first

Key for Stitch Diagram:

Chain Stitch/DMC 732/1

type of stitch

colour

of strands to use

COLOURS:

Light Green: DMC 966
Dark Green: DMC 3851
Light Pink: DMC 967
Dark Pink: DMC 3805
Blue: DMC 747
Yellow: DMC 742

Sampler Club Bonus Print!

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

Use the stitches you learned in the Spring Sampler, plus some of the stitches in the [Winter Sampler](#), listed below



Lazy Daisy Stitch

Ermine Star Stitch

Cross Stitch

Detached Chain
Stitch

Stem Stitch