

# Embroidery Stitch Sampler

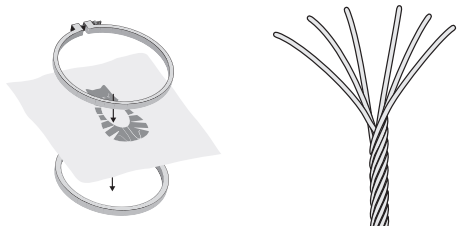




## TIPS & TRICKS

### EMBROIDERY HOOP

Center the fabric over the inner hoop and press the outer hoop down over fabric. Carefully pull the fabric taut without distorting the pattern. Tighten the nut.



### EMBROIDERY FLOSS

DMC embroidery floss comes in six strands. This pattern requires only one to two strands of thread to be used at a time. Gently separate the number of strands needed before threading the needles by gently pulling apart from the top. Set aside the remaining strands.

### FLOSS LENGTH

The floss in this kit comes pre-cut to 20" in length. When cutting your own floss lengths from a skein, 16-22" is ideal because lengths that are too long will tangle, while 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.

### THREADING NEEDLE

Once you've separated the number of strands you need from the six strands, thread the needle, leaving a 3" to 4" tail on one end and knot the longer end.



### STARTING A STITCH

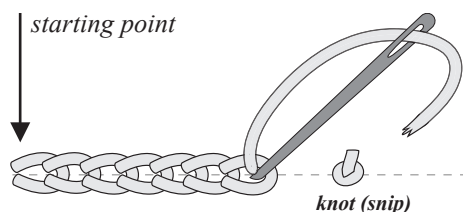
The back of an embroidery is just as important as the front! A back side filled with knots and tangled threads makes it very difficult to produce neat and

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.

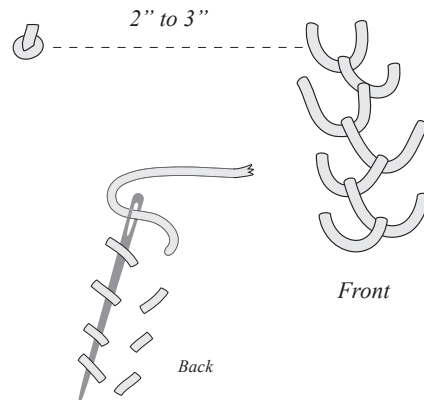
To begin, take the needle from the front to the back about 1" from your starting point, leaving a knot on the front side of your fabric. Take the needle through the start-



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.

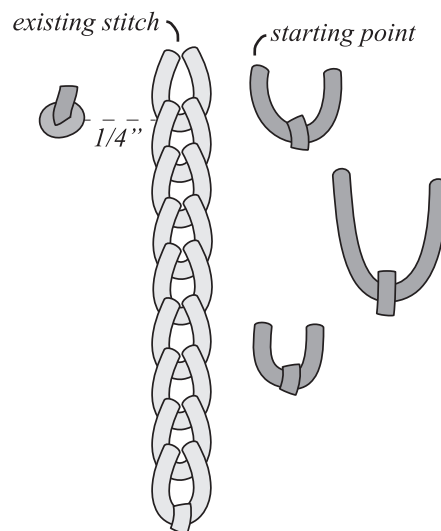


#### Anchor Stitch

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

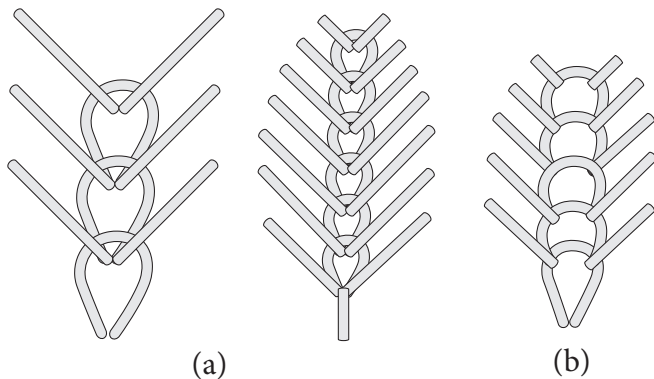
When you are getting close to the end of your thread leave enough so that it is easy to secure by weaving through several stitches on the back side of the embroidery. If you are halfway through a stitch do not attempt to tie on a new thread and continue stitching. Treat it as a finished stitch and commence anew with a new thread using one of the methods described in the previous section.

## Wheat Ear Stitch

Commence with two straight stitches at opposing angles. Most commonly, the stitches meet at the bottom (like a 'V' in fig. a) but they can also be open (fig. b).

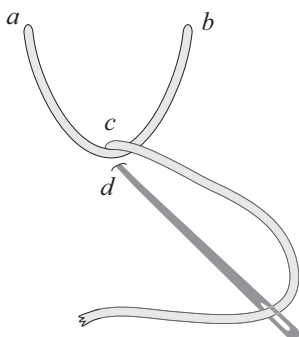
Next, come out at the base of the next V and loop it behind the previous V, creating a chain stitch.

Continue the stitch in this manner, ending with a final closed chain or straight stitch.



## Fly Stitch

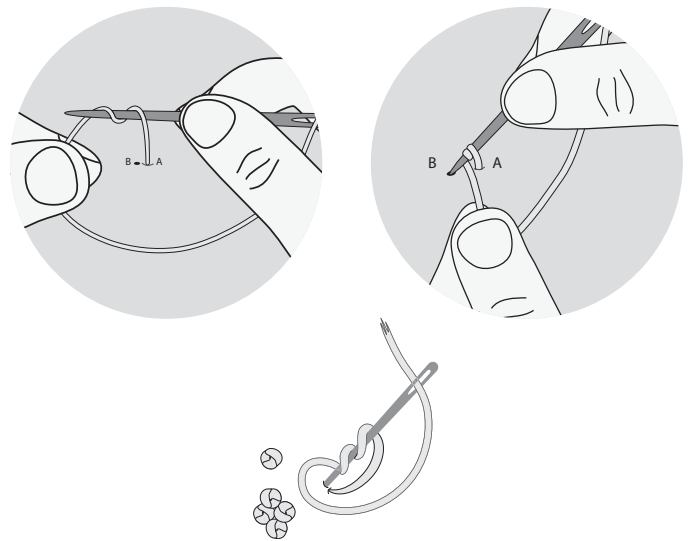
Bring the needle through the top left at (a). Catch the thread with your thumb and insert the needle to the right (b) at the same height, a short distance away. Keeping some slack in the working thread - like a "U" hanging between (a) and (b) - take a small stitch downwards and to the centre (c) and keeping the working thread below the needle, pull through and insert the needle below the thread to anchor it (d). Varying the distance between (c) and (d) will result in a longer or shorter tail (a "Y" look versus a "V" look). Repeat in the next location.



## French Knot/Pistil Stitch

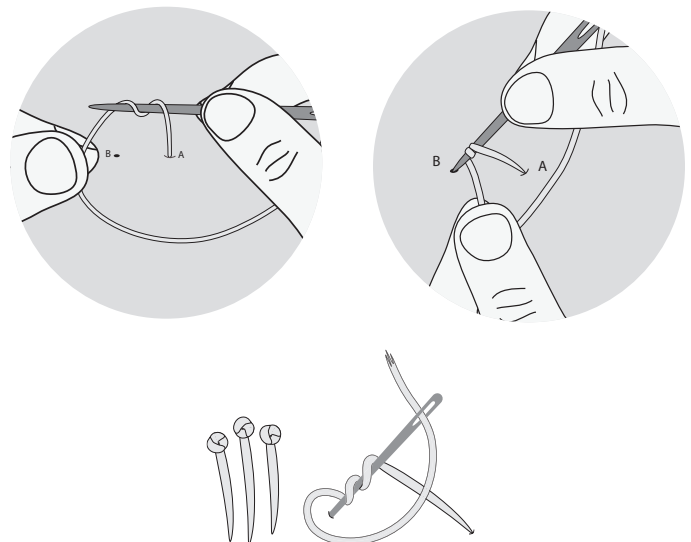
If you know how to do a French Knot, then Pistil Stitch will be a breeze. If not, it's best to practice a few French Knots, first:

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.



## Pistil Stitch

Follow the same directions as the French Knot, but place the 'b' point at a greater distance, creating a tail between the entrance point and the knot.

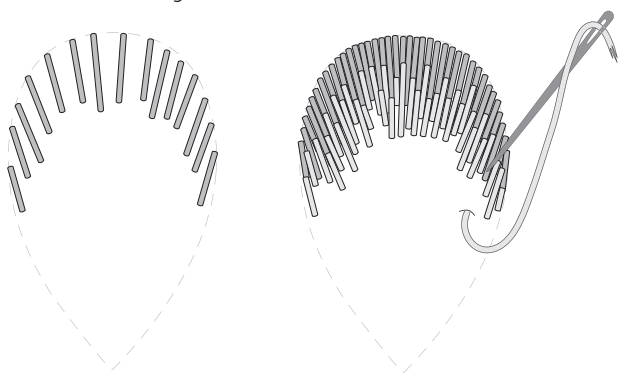


## Long & Short Stitch

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.



## 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.

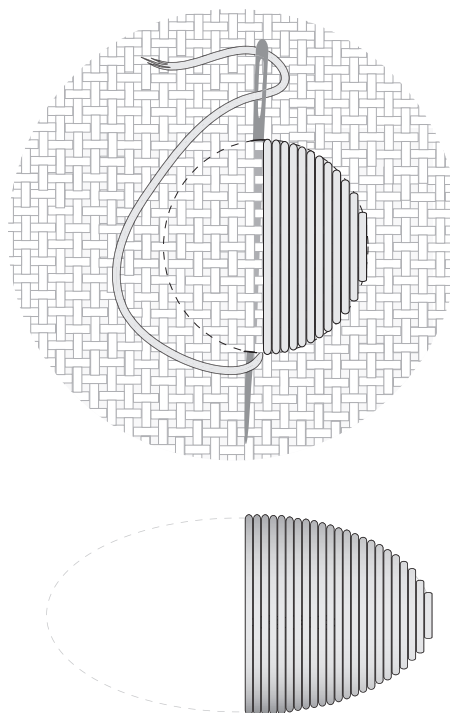
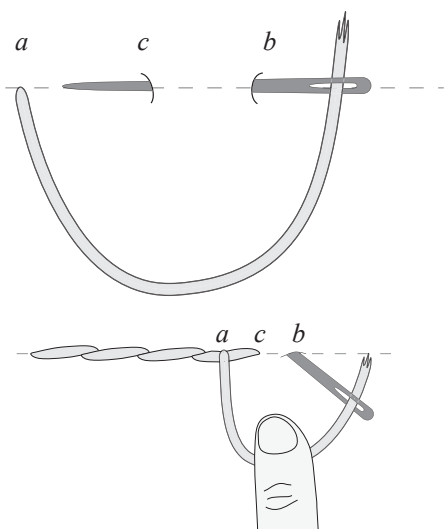
Here are a few rules to live by:

- 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.

## Stem Stitch

The Stem Stitch creates a twisted rope effect, perfect for filling in straight or curved lines. It can be used to fill an area by stitching parallel lines very close to one another. To begin the Stem Stitch, come out at your starting point (a). Bring the needle out a stitch length's away (b), keeping the working thread below the needle (you can use your thumb to hold the thread down). Come out halfway between (a) and (b) at (c). Repeat these steps along the path you are stitching.



### CATTAILS

Leaves: Long & Short/581 & \*831/1  
Cattails: Satin/918/1  
Stalks: Straight/938/1

(Stalks are unmarked on the pattern.  
Use 2 strands for the three stalks  
in the foreground)

### FOXTAILS

Wheat Ear/834/1

(Use 2 strands for the two  
in the foreground)

### SHORELINE

Stem/938/1

(before stitching shoreline, fill in gaps  
between vegetation with 1-strand Straight  
Stitch grasses in DMC 581 & 831)

### SWAN

Stitch in order, overlapping  
where indicated:

**Tail:** Closed Fly/3865/2

**Wings:** Pistil Stitch/3865/(see #)

**Neck/Breast:** Long&Short/3865/1

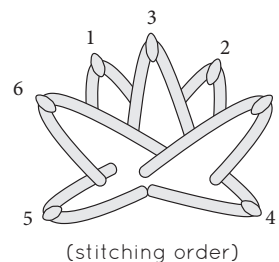
**Beak:** Satin/720/1

**Eye:** Satin&Straight/310/1

### LILYPAD (FOREGROUND)

**Lily pad:** Satin/699/1

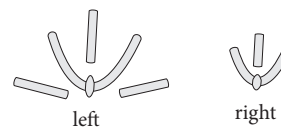
**Lotus:** Fly/894/3



### LILYPADS (BACKGROUND)

**Lily pad:** Satin/699/1

**Lotus:** Fly & Straight/894/2



(unmarked on pattern. Center the  
flowers over lily pads, extend above so  
they overlap the water)

### FOREGROUND GRASSES

Straight/581 & 831/2  
(unmarked on pattern)

EMBROIDER THE ELEMENTS IN THE FOLLOWING ORDER:

- 1) BACKGROUND CATTAILS, FOXTAILS, GRASSES
- 2) SHORELINE
- 3) SWAN
- 4) LILYPADS
- 5) FOREGROUND CATTAILS, FOXTAILS & GRASSES

### Key for Stitch Diagram:

Open Fishbone/778/2

type of stitch

colour

# of strands

### COLOURS:

Gold: 834

Mustard Green: 831

Grass Green: 581

Dark Green: 699

Reddish Brown: 918

Dark Brown: 938

Pink: 894

White: 3865

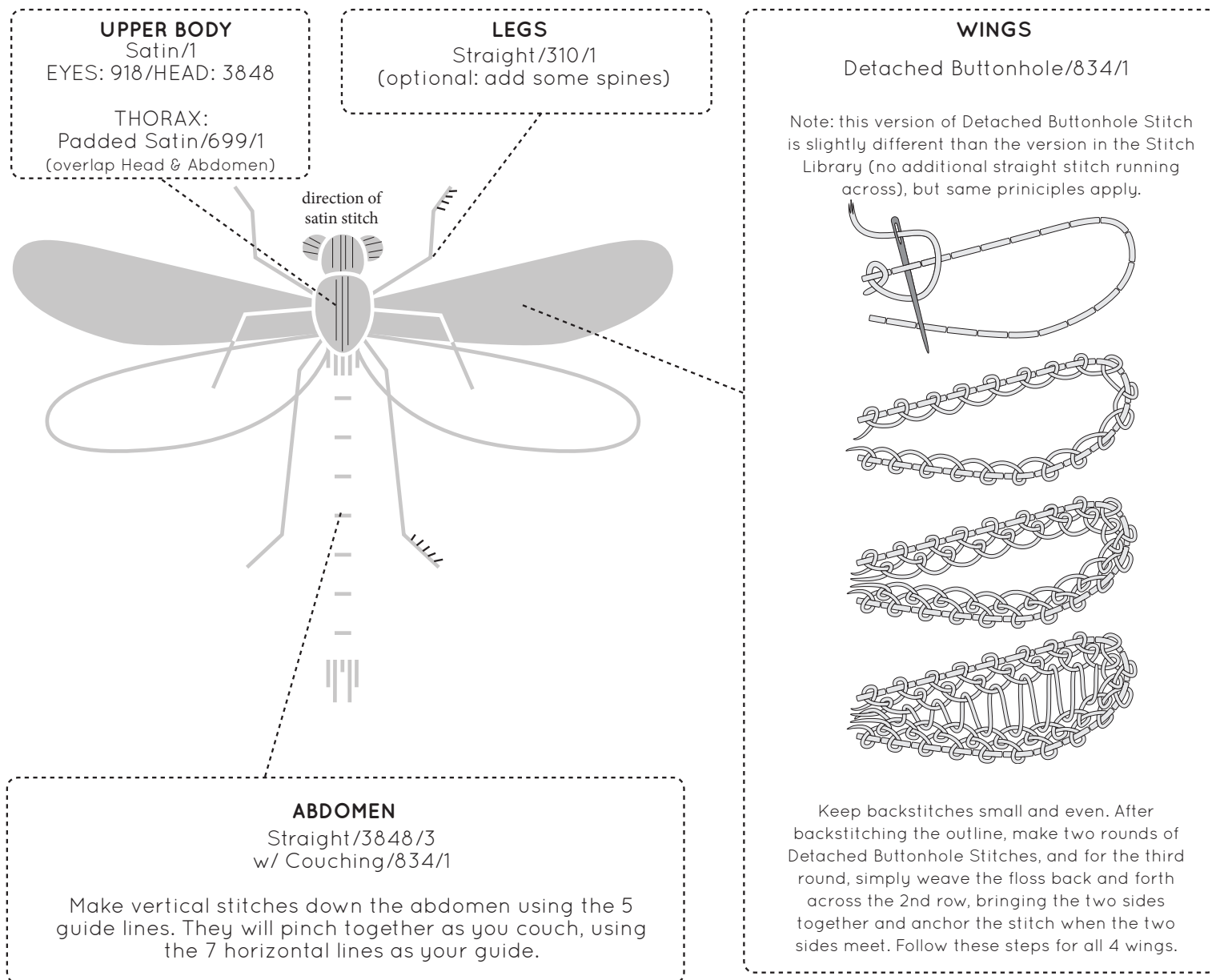
Black: 310

Orange: 720

# Sampler Club Bonus Print!

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

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



**EMBROIDER THE ELEMENTS IN THE FOLLOWING ORDER:**

- 1) LEGS
- 2) WINGS
- 3) EYES
- 4) HEAD
- 5) ABDOMEN
- 6) THORAX

**COLOURS:**  
Gold: 834  
Dark Green: 699  
Reddish Brown: 918  
Teal: 3848  
Black: 310

