Winter 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 OF FLOSS FOR THE SAMPLER STITCHES

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.



Feather Stitch

Follow the directions for the Fly Stitch, but instead of anchoring the stitch, move (d) to the right/left and continue catching the working thread in this manner as you move down the line.



Cross Stitch

Very simply, 2 straight stitches that cross over one another.



Ermine Stitch

Very simply, 3 straight stitches that cross over one another.



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.



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.

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





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С

Spiderweb Stitch

Begin by crossing over three sets of Straight Stitches, as in the Ermine Stitch. Switch colours if you prefer, and emerge from the center, in between two of the "spokes". Switch to a (blunt) tapestry needle, or use the eye of your needle for the next steps. Wrap around the first spoke and go back underneath it as well as the next spoke. You should now have a wrapped spoke and a straight line connecting the two spokes. Go around the wheel, repeating the process until the web is filled in. You can use your fingers or the needle to gently push the wraps so that they sit neatly against the previous row of stitches.



NOW PUT IT ALL TOGETHER!



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 Winter Sampler.

