

# 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

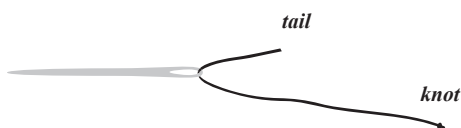
You don't want to use too much or too little thread. Use floss at about 14"-18" in length. The longer your floss is, the more easily it will tangle. At the same time, you don't want your floss to be too short or else you will constantly have to re-thread your needle. A quick and easy way to measure an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

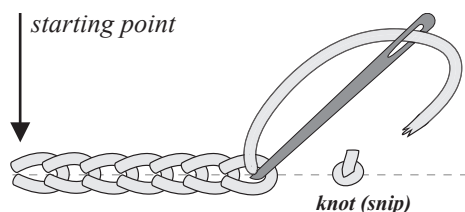
The back of an embroidery is just as important as the front! A back side filled with knots and tangled threads makes it very difficult to produce neat and

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.

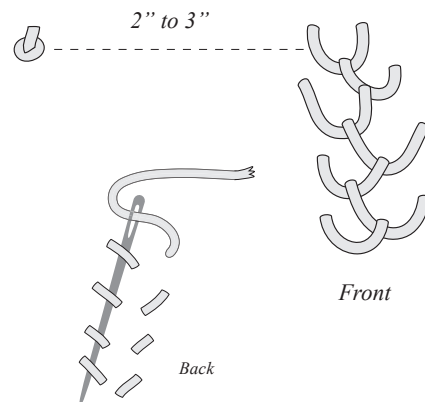
To begin, take the needle from the front to the back about 1" from your starting point, leaving a knot on the front side of your fabric. Take the needle through the start-



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.

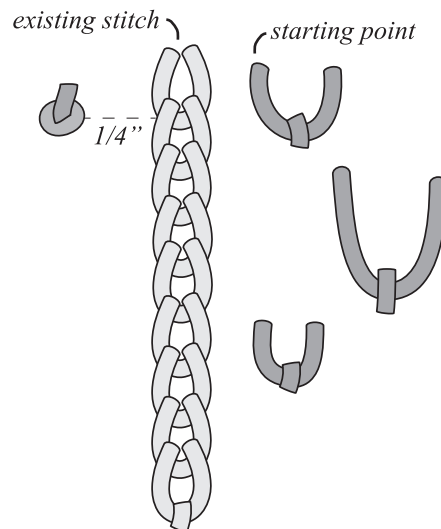


### Anchor Stitch

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

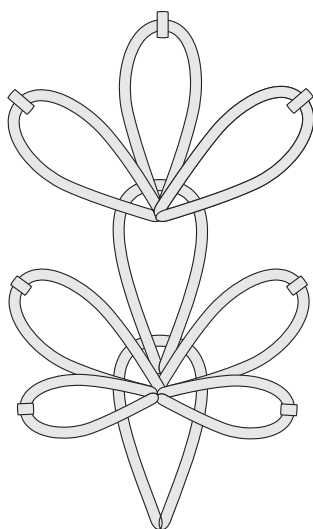
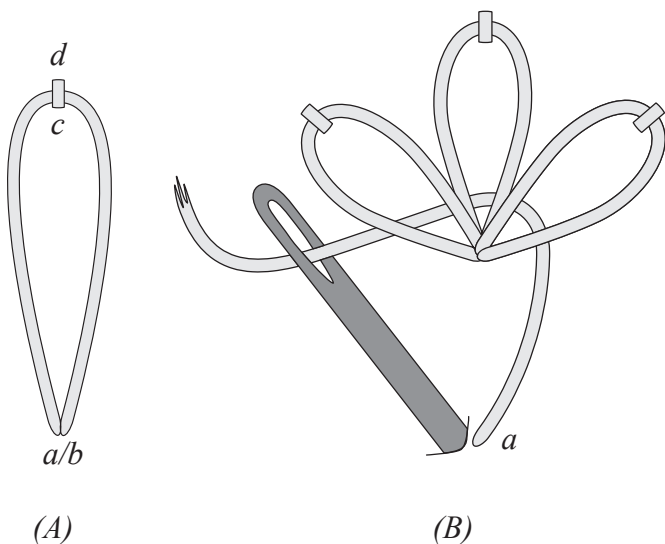
When you are getting close to the end of your thread leave enough so that it is easy to secure by weaving through several stitches on the back side of the embroidery. If you are halfway through a stitch do not attempt to tie on a new thread and continue stitching. Treat it as a finished stitch and commence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

## Daisy Chain Stitch

If you know the Chain Stitch or Lazy Daisy/ Detached Chain, this stitch should be very familiar.

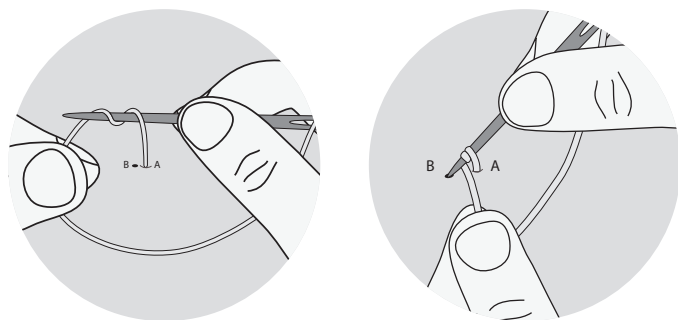
To make this stitch, commence with three Detached Chain stitches that all emerge from a single point (diagram B). As seen in *fig. A*, each Detached Chain is stitched as follows: bring the thread through the fabric (a) and catch with your free thumb. Go back through the same hole (b), still holding down 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.

Once you complete the three stitches, emerge from the fabric a stitch length below [*fig. B, (a)*], and weave the floss under the stitches, re-entering in the same hole as (a). Make four more Detached Chain stitches, fanning out from the same point (this point will need to be slightly below the central stitch, not in the exact same hole or the



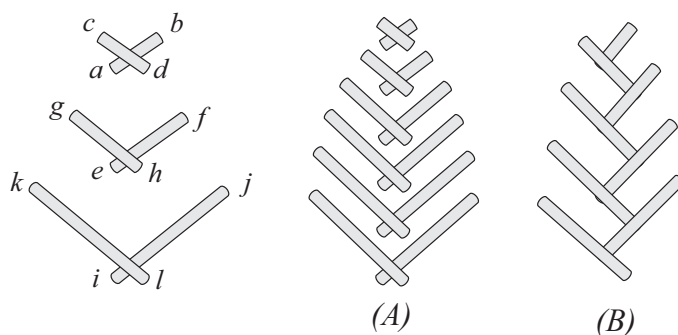
## French Knot

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.



## Open Fishbone Stitch

The Fishbone Stitch is a series of parallel, angled straight stitches that cross over one another on either side of a central line. You can make the stitch with or without a vertical line running through the center, or even minimize the overlap (fig B)



## Fishbone Stitch

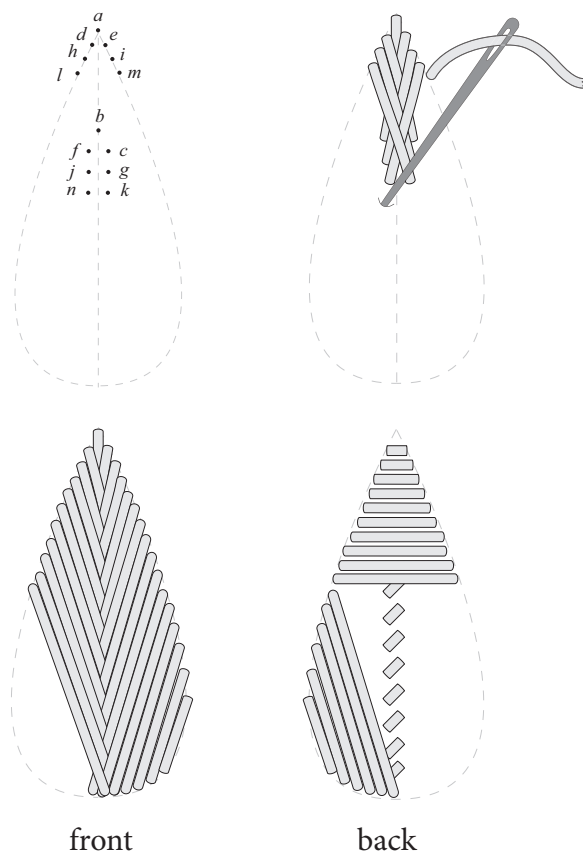
The Fishbone Stitch is a series of straight stitches that cross over one another, creating a plaited line down the center of a shape. It is a fantastic stitch to use for leaves and feathers.

Begin by making a stitch from (a) to (b), about 1/4 of the way down the shape. Come up at (c), just below and to the right of (b), and go back through (d), which will cross over to the center line, up and to the left. Come out at (e) and cross over the center line, down and to the left at (f). Continue to fill out the shape following this pattern, ensuring that there is no fabric showing through between the stitches.

To keep the stitch direction parallel, and avoid overlapping, the points of entry down the center line should be spaced out more than the stitches around the perimeter of the shape.

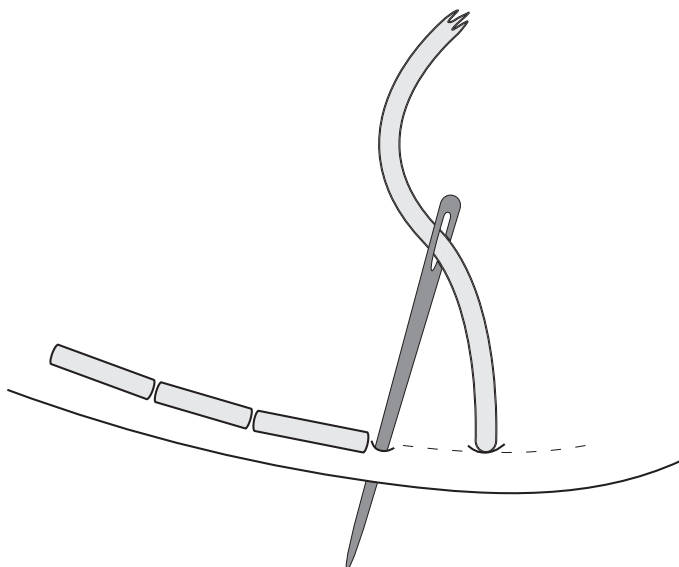
Eventually, you will run out of room to cross over down the center line. Round out the shape using straight stitches (unpadded Satin Stitch).

The diagram to the right shows the front and back of the stitch, with only one side completed with straight stitches.



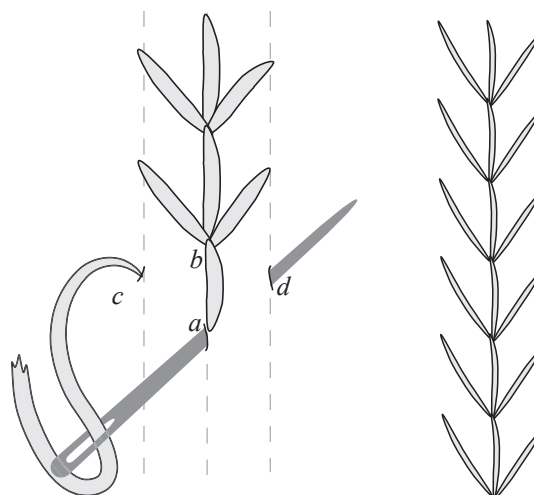
## Backstitch

Start by making a single straight stitch along your line. 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. Keep each stitch length consistent.



## 14 • Fern Stitch

The Fern Stitch is a simple stitch comprised of three straight stitches that radiate from a central point. To begin, make a straight stitch from bottom (a) to top (b). Exit to the left (c) and re-insert your needle at (a). Exit to the right (d) and re-insert your needle at (a). Repeat until your line is complete.



**SOLID LEAVES**

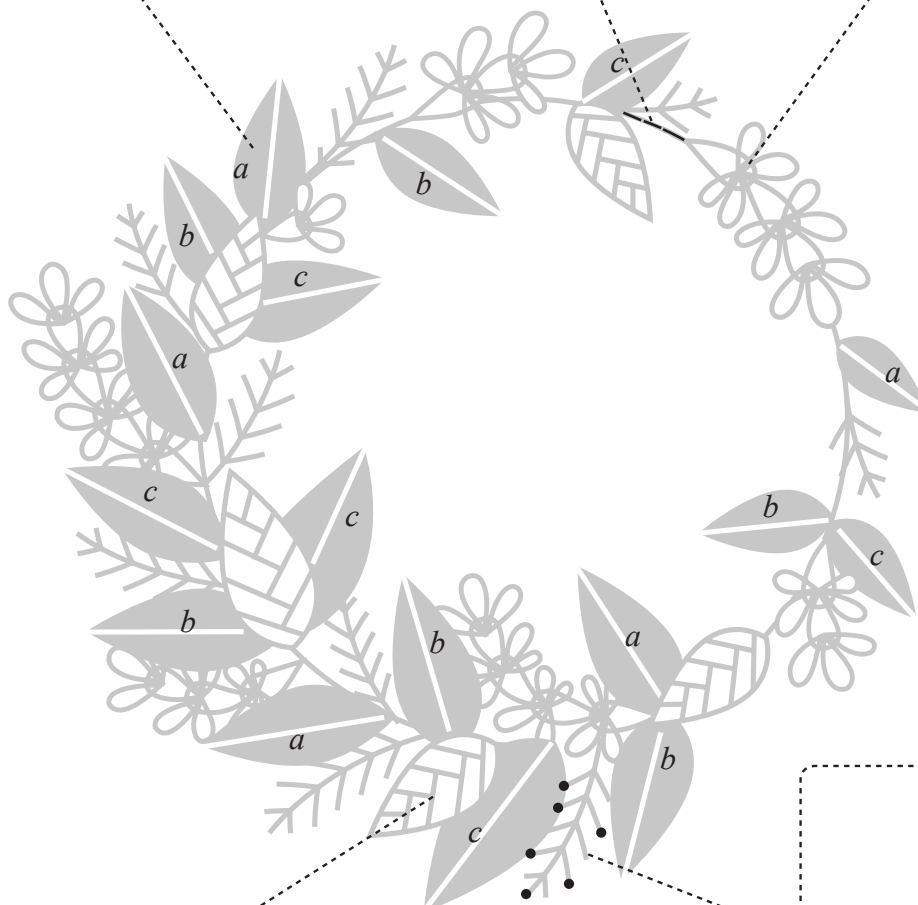
Fishbone/2  
a: 3325 b: 322 c: 336

**EXPOSED CIRCLE**

Backstitch/3046/2

**FLORAL BRANCHES**

Daisy Chain/3046/2

**OPEN LEAVES**

**Fill:**  
Open Fishbone/778/2

**Outline:**  
Backstitch/778/2

**TWIGS**

**Branch**  
Fern/815/2

**Berries**

French Knots/962/1  
\*unmarked on pattern,  
stitch on the tips of  
the branches\*

EMBROIDER THE ELEMENTS IN THE FOLLOWING ORDER:

- 1) SOLID LEAVES
- 2) OPEN LEAVES (FILL, OUTLINE)
- 3) TWIGS (BRANCH, BERRIES) - EXTEND BRANCHES TO OVERLAP LEAVES
- 4) FLORAL BRANCHES - EXTEND DETACHED CHAINS TO OVERLAP LEAVES

\*COVER UP ANY EXPOSED AREAS OF THE CIRCLE WITH A BACKSTITCH\*

**COLOURS:**

**Gold:** 3046  
**Light Blue:** 3325  
**Medium Blue:** 322  
**Dark Blue:** 336  
**Dusty Rose:** 778  
**Medium Pink:** 962  
**Burgundy:** 815

**Key for Stitch Diagram:**

Open Fishbone/778/2

*type of stitch*

*colour*

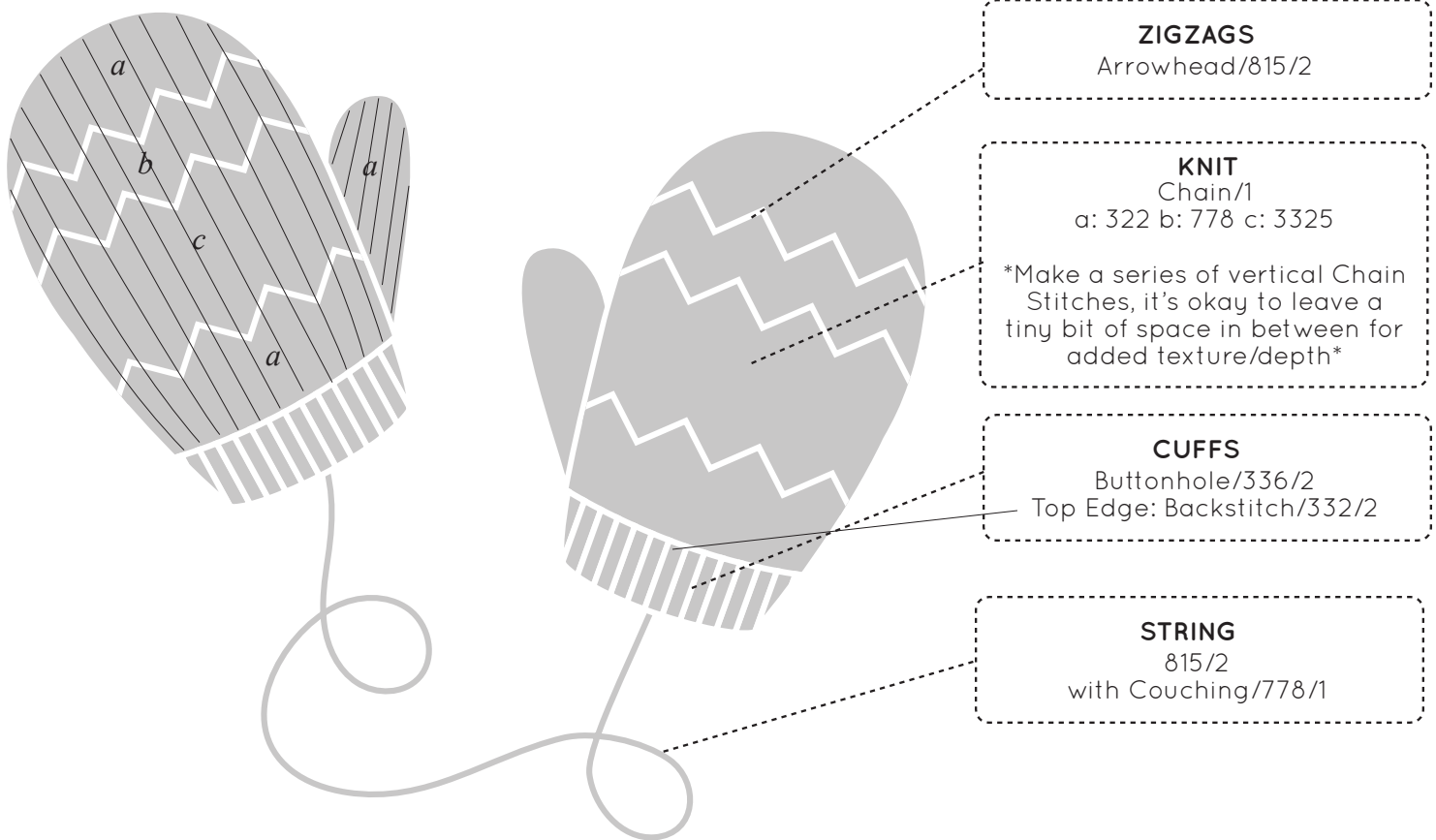
*# of strands*

# Sampler Club Bonus Print!

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

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

Stitch direction & colours for Chain Stitches



EMBROIDER THE ELEMENTS IN THE FOLLOWING ORDER:

- 1) ZIGZAGS
- 2) STRING
- 3) CUFFS (BUTTONHOLE STITCHED EDGE SHOULD RUN ALONG THE BOTTOM AND SLIGHTLY OVERLAP STRING)
- 4) KNIT

**COLOURS:**  
Light Blue: 3325  
Medium Blue: 322  
Dark Blue: 336  
Dusty Rose: 778  
Burgundy: 815



