



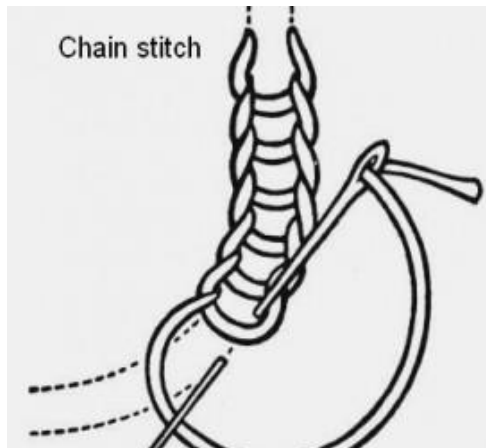
DARNING YOUR POINTE SHOES

The aim of pointe shoe darning is to help prevent the satin on the platform of the shoe tearing and to provide traction with the floor to reduce the risk of slipping when on pointe.

There are many different methods for darning shoes and you too will develop one that works for you.

Below are a selection of methods, or make one of your own! Generally we recommend using leather needles for around the edge of the platform and curved needles for the flat surface of the box.

For those of you who would like more help, we do offer a pointe shoe darning service for £20, plus postage.



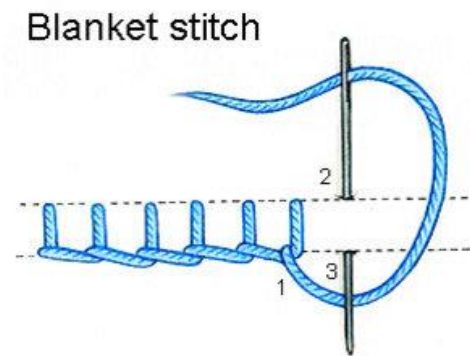
Lazy Daisy (Chain) Stitch

Using chain stitch (see picture), start at the *outer* edge of the platform (start a little further out than the soil mark, as that will help prevent the satin breaking away), and sew in *circles*.

Sew all the way around until you've completely encircled the platform, and then continue in ever-smaller circles until you've covered the whole toe.

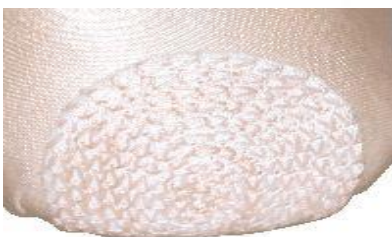
Blanket Stitch

"Blanket stitch" is sometimes called whip stitch. In this case you'll start at the *lower edge* of the platform and sew in *straight lines*, overlapping slightly each time. As you move down towards the sole, remember to adjust the width of your lines so you're covering the whole platform.



Combination Darning

You can use a combination of conventional darning and blanket stitch - start by sewing long bars of thread across the width of the toe, then blanket stitch over. Or mix chain stitch and blanket stitch.



Alternatives to Darning

If you don't fancy a couple of hours sewing, an alternative to increase traction is to stick suede patches to the platforms of the shoe, using a good quality haberdashery glue. Patches can be found in our "Help for Shoes" section. If your reasons for darning are to prevent the satin from tearing around the platform, some dancers carefully trim a circle of satin off the platform, carefully sealing the edge of the satin with glue, or a flame. Obviously this is a skilled job and should be done with extreme caution!