

31



Notes

EMBROIDERY STITCHES

Embroidery is decoration worked on the surface of the fabric using thread. You can do this by careful selection of design, embroidery stitches and colours and a very striking effect can be created. Old clothes can get a new lease of life by adding just a dash of embroidery.

All basic embroidery stitches are easy. What may appear to be a difficult or complicated work is a result of a well thought out plan. Several basic stitches can be combined to produce a rich embroidered piece.

Once you have successfully gone through the earlier lessons of this module, you should be able to answer the following queries in the affirmative.

- Is my embroidery piece complete?
- Have I selected an appropriate design for the article to be embroidered?
- Has the design/motif been appropriately enlarged or reduced?
- Have I selected the right transfer technique?
- Is the selection of embroidery threads in accordance with the principle of colour schemes?

Once all these questions are answered with a firm yes, your work of selecting the correct embroidery stitch begins. Let us now learn about the different types of embroidery stitches.



OBJECTIVES

After studying this lesson you will be able to:

- demonstrate the correct method of starting an embroidery;
- execute the basic ten stitches;
- give the right finish to the embroidered article;



Notes

If you are planning to start on a big piece of embroidery, it is advisable to buy all the embroidery threads beforehand as even a slight change of shade can spoil the effect.

- demonstrate the correct method of working each embroidery stitch;
- select appropriate stitches for embroidering the design selected.

31.1 STARTING THE EMBROIDERY

Once you have put together a complete embroidery kit, decided on the fabric, design and colours for the embroidery threads, you are ready to begin. Before starting the embroidery, remember to wash and wipe your hands. This would help in keeping your embroidery clean and fresh. If your hands have a tendency to perspire, you may wash your hands repeatedly. While working on the embroidery you may notice that the thread twists and knots. In this case you can turn the needle in the opposite direction till the thread is smooth. In case the thread does not run smoothly, it will be better to use a fresh length of thread. Always start an embroidery with a back stitch. Never start your work with a knot.

Back Stitch: It is a very strong stitch. It is worked from right to left on the wrong side of the embroidery. Thread a needle. Insert the needle from where the embroidery is to begin, pick a few threads of the fabric and pull the needle and thread through. Repeat this process again at the same place picking a few extra threads of the fabric.

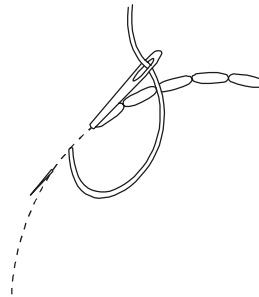


Fig. 31.1: Back stitch

31.2 BASIC STITCHES

In this lesson we are going to learn the ten basic, most commonly used stitches of embroidery. These stitches have been used for many centuries all over the world. However, the changing fashion scene influences the way in which they are used.

- (i) **Stem Stitch :** Stem stitch is basically an outline stitch. This stitch makes a fine line and is used around edges and for making veins in leaves, stems etc.

In this, the needle is inserted to the right of the line and brought up to the left of the line, making a thick outline. The stitch may be used as a filling by working rows alongside each other.

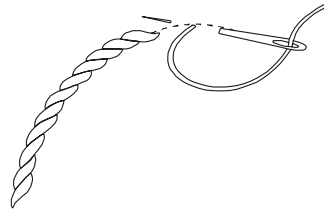


Fig. 31.2: Stem stitch

- (ii) **Satin Stitch** : It is basically a filling stitch. The thread is taken out in front and back equally. It gives a very smooth finish to the embroidery. These are straight stitches worked slantwise. For straight areas, work slantwise from top to bottom; for a small circle, work long stitches vertically, centre first, then fill each side; for leaf shapes, work diagonally, starting from the left edge.

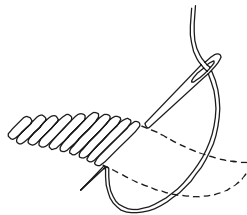


Fig. 31.3: Satin stitch

- (iii) **Long and Short Stitch** : This is used to fill areas in solid and shaded colours. The first row is alternating long and short stitches. The following rows are stitches of equal length worked at ends of short and long stitches. Regularity of the following rows depends on the shape to be filled. Plan the stitches in an area so they fill it naturally and gracefully. It is helpful to mark with pencil the direction of some of the stitches. Here also, the needle works equally in the front and back of the fabric.

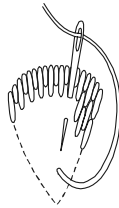


Fig. 31.4 : Long and short stitch

- (iv) **Chain Stitch** : This stitch appears like a chain on the face of the fabric. It is worked from top down. Bring the needle up through the fabric; hold the loop with your thumb and insert the needle again at the same point. Bring the needle up a short distance away, with the thread looped under needle; repeat. It is used for heavy outlines or as a filling, making rows of chain following the outline of the shape being filled.

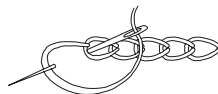


Fig. 31.5 : Chain stitch



Notes



Notes

- (v) **Darning Stitch** : It is also a filling stitch where the stitch is visible only on the face of the fabric.

The needle is taken out in front, one float is taken then the needle goes down and is taken out from the back through the very next yarn in the same row unlike in the satin stitch where floats of thread are the same in front and back. Here only the front has floats.

- (vi) **Herring Bone Stitch** : Also known as Machali Tanka in Hindi. It is worked between the lines. Bring the thread up through the lower line, insert the needle in the upper line, a little to the right and take a short stitch to the left. Insert the needle on lower line a little to the right and take a short stitch to the left. May be used for thick seams or to connect two solid areas for softening the effect. It finally seems that the lower and upper threads are interlacing with each other.

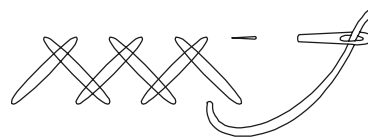


Fig. 31.6 : Herring bone stitch

- (vii) **Button Hole Stitch** : The most common identification of this stitch is the opening into which the button of a shirt is closed. The edge of that opening is finished using a stitch known as the button hole stitch. It is worked from left to right. Bring the needle up through the fabric. Holding the thread under the left thumb, form a loop; then pass the needle through the fabric and over the looped thread; repeat. These stitches are made very close to each other.

This stitch may be used for filling an area or finishing edges and specially the edges in a patch work.

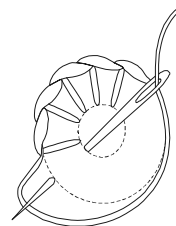


Fig. 31.7 : Button hole stitch

- (viii) **Blanket Stitch** : This stitch is very similar to the button hole. The only difference is that the stitches are a little distance apart. The edges of blankets carpets, etc., are finished by this stitch.

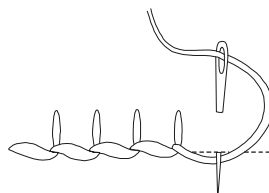


Fig. 31.8 : Blanket Stitch



Notes

- (ix) **Cross Stitch** : These are stitches which form x's on the face of the fabric. They are worked from top to bottom - with the needle pointing left, make a row of small horizontal stitches spaced as far apart as they are long. Pull the thread firmly, this produces diagonal floats between stitches; when the row is finished, reverse, working stitches from bottom to top - still with your needle pointing left. Thread floats should cross in the middle forming an "x".

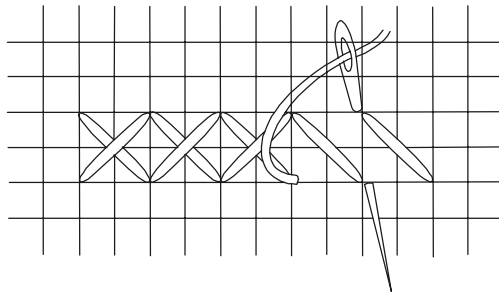


Fig. 31.9: Cross stitch

- (x) **French Knot** : For making a French knot bring the thread up through the fabric, wrap the thread over and under the needle, crossing the beginning thread, insert the needle into the fabric close to where it came up. A double thread may be used to make larger knots if desired.

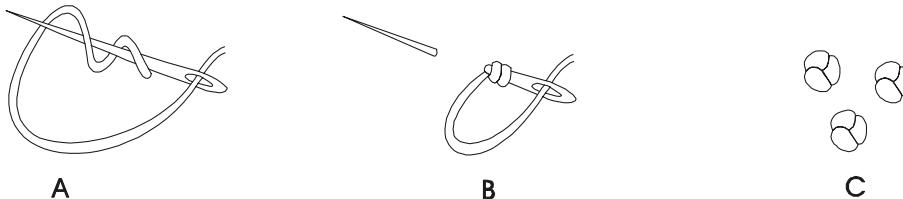


Fig. 31.10 : French Knot

31.3 FINISHING OF THE EMBROIDERED ARTICLE

During the embroidery and once it has been done, a final finish has to be given to the embroidered article, to make it look neater and presentable. For this, you can observe the following points:-

- i) Do not end the embroidery in a big knot. Keep the back of the embroidered article as neat as the front.
- ii) Clip the extra threads at the back.

**Notes**

- iii) Wash/dryclean the article after embroidery as handling during embroidering makes it dirty.
- iv) Starch and then iron the article well.
- v) Finish the edges of the article appropriately by hemming, picotting, etc.
- vi) If your article is heavily embroidered, store after folding it in mulmul cloth.

Activity 31.1

- I. Take a rectangular piece of a cotton fabric, needle, cotton thread (2 to 3 ply), scissors, paper and pen.

Execute all the stitches explained to you in the lesson, on the fabric and name each stitch. Maintain this fabric sample as a reference for future use.

Activity 31.2

Once you have executed all the stitches on this sample piece, pick up any five stitches and make a beautiful sample or select stitches and execute them on two handkerchiefs.



I. Think and list under each category, one thing that begins with every letter. For example to answer to first one is Design. See if you can name the others.

- (a) To begin your, embroidery you must have
 - i) D _____ ii) F _____ iii) T _____
- (b) These are filling stitches.
 - i) S _____ ii) L _____ iii) D _____
- (c) Careful selection of these will give striking results.
 - i) D _____ ii) E _____ iii) C _____



TERMINAL EXERCISE

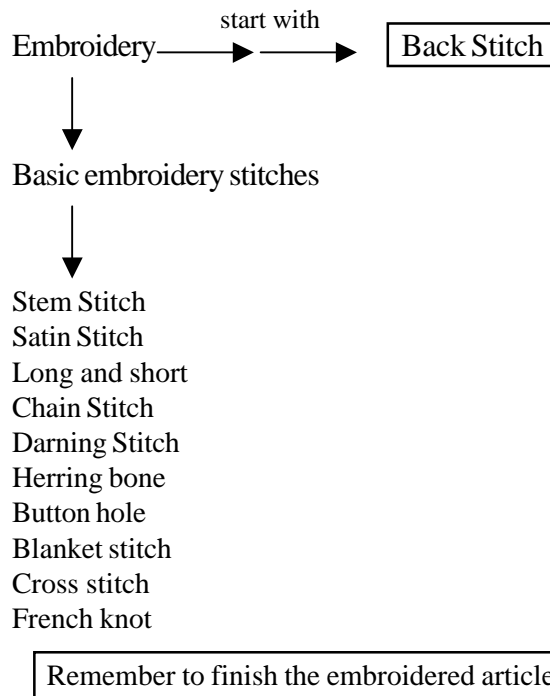
1. Uma is embroidering a baby blanket with butterflies in multicolour.
 - a) Suggest two stitches that she can use to fill up the motif of the butterfly. Give reasons for your choice.
 - b) Which embroidery stitch should she use to finish the edge? Why?
2. You are making a shopping bag in matte. Which stitch would you see in the embroidery? Why?



Notes



WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNT



ANSWERS TO INTEXT QUESTIONS

- 31.1 (a) (i) Design (ii) Fabric (iii) Threads
- (b) (i) Satin Stitch (ii) Long and Short Stitch (iii) Darning Stitch
- (c) (i) Design (ii) Embroidery stitch (iii) Colors