**Hand Embroidery Stitch Guide**

**Blanket Stitch**
Working from left to right, bring the needle up at 1 and insert at 2. Bring the needle back up at 3 and over the working thread. Repeat by making the next stitch in the same manner, keeping the spacing even.

**Backstitch**
Working from right to left, bring the needle up at 1 and insert behind the starting point at 2. Bring the needle up at 3, repeat by inserting at 1 and bringing the needle up at a point that is a stitch length beyond 3.

**Blindstitch/Blind-hem Stitch**
Used mainly for hemming fabrics where an inconspicuous hem is difficult to achieve (this stitch is also useful for securing binding on the wrong side). Fold the hem edge back about 1/4”. Take a small stitch in the garment, picking up only a few threads.

**Blindstitch**
Working from top to bottom, bring the needle up at 1, loop the thread to the left, then down and to the right, inserting the needle from the wrong side at 2, keeping the loop of thread behind the needle at both the top and bottom. Pull the needle through, tightening the stitch so that the looped thread lies along the edge of the fabric. Do not tighten so much that the tops of the stitches pull together. When using the buttonhole stitch to finish a hand buttonhole, work the stitches so that they are very closely spaced.

**Basting**
Used to temporarily hold layers together, a basting stitch is simply a long running stitch. Stitches should be about 1/4” long and evenly spaced.

**Couching**
Working from right to left, use one thread, known as the couching or working thread, to tack down one or more laid threads, known as the couched threads. Bring the working thread up at 1 and insert at 2, over the laid threads to tack them down; repeat by inserting the needle at 3. This stitch may also be worked from left to right, and the spacing between the couching threads may vary for different design effects.

**Buttonhole Stitch**
Working from right to left and with the point of the needle toward you, bring the needle above the fabric edge at 1, loop the thread to the left, then down and to the right, inserting the needle from the wrong side at 2, keeping the loop of thread behind the needle at both the top and bottom. Pull the needle through, tightening the stitch so that the looped thread lies along the edge of the fabric. Do not tighten so much that the tops of the stitches pull together. When using the buttonhole stitch to finish a hand buttonhole, work the stitches so that they are very closely spaced.

**Chain Stitch**
Working from top to bottom, bring the needle up at 1 and then reinsert at 1 to create a loop; do not pull the thread taut. Bring the needle back up at 2, keeping the needle above the loop and gently pulling the needle toward you to tighten the loop flush to the fabric (leave a little slack in the thread to keep the loop round). Repeat by inserting the needle at 2 to form a loop and bringing the needle up at 3. Tack the last loop down with a straight stitch.
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**Fly Stitch**

Working from left to right, bring the needle up at 1, insert at 2, leaving the thread loose. Bring the needle back up at 3, keeping the needle above the thread and pulling the needle toward you gently to tighten the thread so that it is flush with the fabric. Tack the thread down by inserting the needle at 4. Repeat for the desired number of stitches.

**French knot**

Bring the needle up at 1 and hold the thread taut above the fabric. Point the needle toward your fingers and move the needle in a circular motion to wrap the thread around the needle once or twice. Insert the needle near 1 and hold the thread taut near the knot as you pull the needle and thread through the knot and the fabric to complete.

**Lazy Daisy Stitch**

Working from top to bottom, bring the needle up at 1 and create a loop by reinserting at 1, do not pull the thread taut. Bring the needle back up at 2, keeping the needle above the loop and pulling the needle toward you gently to tighten the loop so that it is flush with the fabric. Tack the loop down by inserting the needle at 4. Repeat for the desired number of stitches.

**Overcast Stitch**

Keeping your stitches at consistent depth and spacing, take a diagonal stitch by bringing the needle through the fabric at 1, wrapping the thread over the edge, and then bringing the needle through the fabric again at 2, to the side of the previous stitch. The result is a diagonal stitch that wraps around the edge.

**Prick Stitch/Pick Stitch**

Prick stitch is worked just like a backstitch, except that the stitches are spaced 1/16" to 1/4" on the right side (taking longer stitches on the wrong side). When used for topstitching, Pick stitch is worked only through the top layer of fabric so that the stitch is not seen on the interior or underlayer.

**Cross-Stitch**

Working from right to left, bring the needle up at 1, insert at 2, then bring the needle back up at 3. Finish by inserting the needle at 4. Repeat for the desired number of stitches.

**Ending Up**

At the end of a line of permanent handstitching, take a small stitch and pull the needle and thread through the loop. Take another short backstitch and repeat. Clip the thread ends close to the stitches. For basting or other temporary markings, make a single knot or simply leave a long thread end to allow for easy removal.

**Note**

Another option is to take a small stitch on the fabric’s wrong side, wrap the thread around the needle several times, then pull the needle through to secure the knot close to the fabric surface.
Small straight stitches worked in clusters or scattered at random. Seed stitches can also be worked tightly together and all in the same direction to uniformly fill a space.

**Straight Stitch/Running Stitch**

Working from right to left, make a straight stitch by bringing the needle up and insert at 1, 1/8–1/4" from the starting point. To make a line of running stitches (a row of straight stitches worked one after the other), bring the needle up at 2 and repeat.

**Split Stitch**

Working from left to right, bring the needle up at 1, insert at 2, and bring the needle up near the right end of the previous stitch (between 1 and 2, at 3), inserting the needle into the thread to split the thread in two. When you're working with multiple strands of thread, insert the needle between the strands.

**Standard Hand-Appliqué Stitch ▲**

Cut a length of thread 12"–18". Thread the newly cut end through the eye of the needle, pull this end through, and knot it. Use this technique to thread the needle and knot the thread to help keep the thread’s “twist” intact and to reduce knotting. Beginning at the straightest edge of the appliqué and working from right to left, bring the needle up from the underside, through the background fabric and the very edge of the appliqué at 1. Catching only a few threads of the appliqué fabric. Pull the thread taut, then insert the needle into the background fabric at 2, as close as possible to 1. Bring the needle up through the background fabric at 3, 1/8" beyond 2. Continue in this manner, keeping the thread taut (do not pull it so tight that the fabric puckers) to keep the stitching as invisible as possible.

**Slip Stitch**

Working from right to left, join two pieces of fabric by taking a 1/16–1/4" long stitch into the folded edge of one piece of fabric and bringing the needle out. Insert the needle into the folded edge of the other piece of fabric, directly across from the point where the thread emerged from the previous stitch. Repeat by inserting the needle into the first piece of fabric. The thread will be almost entirely hidden inside the folds of the fabrics.

**Split Stitch**

Working from left to right, bring the needle up at 1, insert 1/8–1/4" away at 2 (do not pull taut). Bring the needle up halfway between 1 and 2, at 3. Keeping the needle above the loop just created, pull the stitch taut. Repeat by inserting the needle 1/8–1/4" to the right and bring up at 2.

**Square Knot ▼**

Working with two cords (or threads), make a loop from the right cord (pinch the cords together at the base of the loop between thumb and forefinger), then thread the left cord through the loop from bottom to top. Bring the left cord toward you and wrap it under and around the base of the right loop and then thread it through the loop from top to bottom. Pull the cords tight.

**Uneven Slip Stitch / Slip-Stitch Hemming ▼**

After securing the thread in the fold, take a small stitch in the garment or outer fabric, picking up only a few threads of the fabric. Then, take a stitch, about 1/8" long, in the fold, across from the stitch in the garment/outer fabric. Continue, alternating between tiny stitches in the garment/outer fabric and longer stitches in the fold.

**Whipstitch ▼**

Bring the needle up at 1, insert at 2, and bring up at 3.