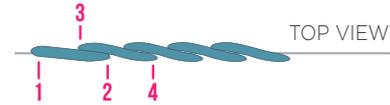


STEM STITCH

This stitch looks like a rope!

The Stem Stitch is almost the same as the Split Stitch, except that when you bring your needle up between points 1 & 2, instead of splitting your thread with the needle, you keep the needle to the side of your thread.

Make a small stitch (1-2) about 1/4" long. Next, bring your needle up between 1 & 2 just beside your previous stitch. Come down again for a second stitch the same length as your first stitch, working at a slight diagonal across your pattern line (4). Repeat this stitch, keeping your stitches going in the same diagonal direction each time. *If you bring your #3 point up half way between 1 & 2 your stitch will look more like a rope. If you bring #3 up closer to your #2 point it will be a thinner line.



FINISHING YOUR HOOP

Once you are finished stitching your design...

To finish your piece you will need to trim and gather the edges of your fabric to hide behind your frame. First, trim the fabric to about 3/4" around the outside of your hoop. Next, make a simple running stitch all the way around the loose fabric, making sure it is not too close to the edge. Once all the way around pull the thread tight to gather the loose fabric in towards the center of the hoop and tie a knot to secure.



CACTUS HUGS EMBROIDERY HOOP

AGES
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ASSEMBLING YOUR HOOP

STEP 1 Separate the two hoops and place the inner hoop on the table in front of you. Place the printed fabric over the inner hoop, making sure the printed design is centered on the hoop.

STEP 2 Next place the outer hoop with the screw top over the fabric, making sure to center the open screw part with the top of your design. Press the hoop down over the fabric so it pulls it taut. If this piece is too tight to go over the inner hoop, loosen the screw at the top to open the hoop up wider.

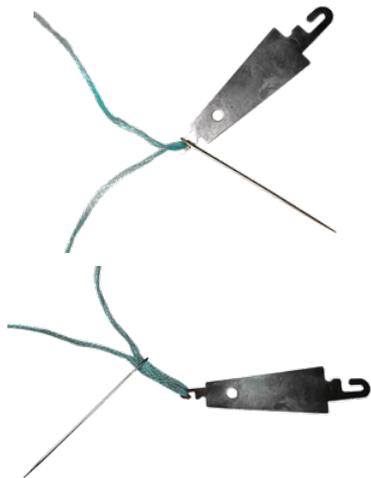
STEP 3 Tighten the screw closure to secure your fabric between the hoops. If the fabric bunches when you tighten the hoop, gently pull the fabric edges towards the back of the hoop to make it smoother.



BEGINNER EMBROIDERY STITCHES

STARTING YOUR STITCH Thread your needle using the metal threader. To use the threader poke the small hook through the eye of the needle, grab the thread with the hook and pull back through. Hook and pull the thread through the eye and tie the end of your thread in a knot. You will begin stitching in the back of the fabric, pulling up through to the front to make your first stitch.

TIP When stitching, the longer you make your stitches the faster your project will go. If you make short stitches it will take longer to finish your project. Remember to take your time and have fun with your project!



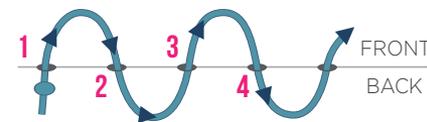
RUNNING STITCH

Use this stitch to make what looks like a dashed line.

To begin your running stitch bring your needle up from the back of your fabric on the pattern line (1). Poke the needle back down through the fabric next to where you just came up, and pull the thread down and tighten to make your first stitch (2).

Start your next stitch by coming up from the bottom of the fabric again like in step 1 but make sure you leave a little space from the previous stitch (3). Poke the needle back down through the fabric again to finish your second stitch (4).

TIP Make sure you pay close attention to the size of the stitches and the amount of space you leave between each stitch to create a more even and straight looking dashed line.



STITCHES ARE EVENLY SPACED

BACK STITCH

This is a simple straight line stitch.

Pull your needle up through from the back of your fabric (1), then go back down through the fabric about 1/4" behind, or to the left, of where you started (2). Next you will bring your needle back up through the fabric about 1/4" PAST, or to the right of, your first stitch (3), and back down again in the same spot as stitch #1. Follow this pattern so you are always coming back up through the same hole that was the end of the last stitch you made.

