

Straight Stitches

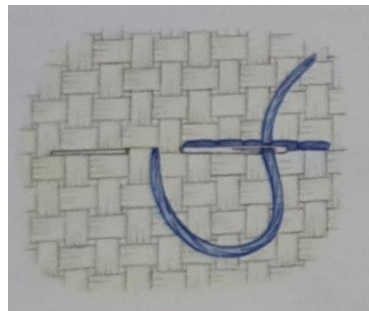
Straight stitches are easy to work for different effects. Individual straight stitches are sometimes used for motifs. Backstitch is a very simple straight stitch that is worked in lines. Use it for outlining a shape. The length of the straight stitch vary and it must not be so long that they sag or pull.

Whipped backstitch and whipped straight stitch make raised, solid lines and are ideal for curves, such as flower stem and tendrils. They are worked over foundation stitches, which determine their thickness.



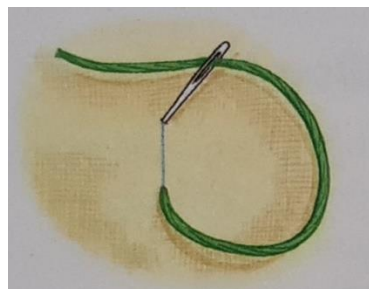
Backstitch

Work from right to left. Bring the needle to the front one stitch length to the left of the starting point. Insert it at the starting point and bring it out two stitch lengths away. Pull the thread through.



Straight Stitch

To work an individual straight stitch, bring the needle to the front. Push it through to the wrong side to make a single stitch of the required length.



Straight Cluster

To cluster straight stitches, do straight stitches of varying lengths and directions according to the design. Take care to keep the thread tension even, to avoid puckering.



Straight Flower

To create a simple straight stitch flower, do straight stitches as desired, working outward from a central circle or oval. Work each stitch in the same way.

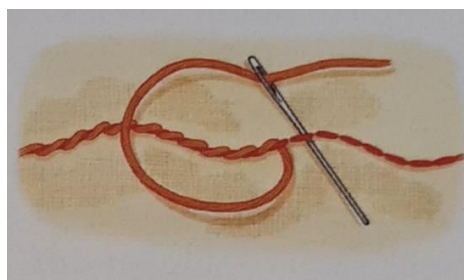


Whipped Backstitch

1. Do a foundation row of backstitches, a little larger than usual. Thread the whipping thread onto a tapestry needle, and weave it into the back of the first few backstitches.

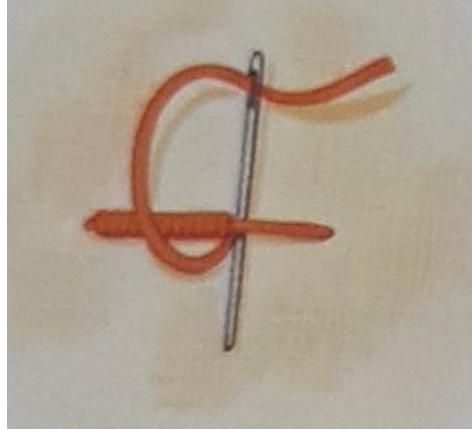


2. Bring the whipping thread to the front. Whip it over and under the backstitches without piercing the fabric. To secure the end of the whipping thread, take it to the back and do a few backstitches.

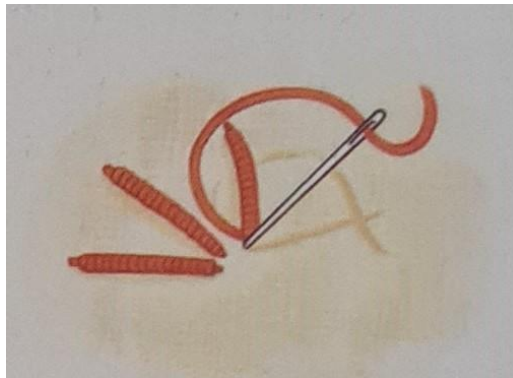


Whipped Straight Stitch

1. Make a straight stitch as shown below. Bring the needle out at the start of the stitch. Whip the thread tightly and evenly around the stitch without piercing the fabric.



2. Insert the needle at the end of the stitch. Continue working whipped straight stitches in the same way.



Information taken from Reader's Digest: The Big Book of Cross-Stitch Designs
The Reader's Digest Association, Inc. Pleasantville, New York/Montreal/London/Sydney/
Singapore