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Botanical Stitch Along

Welcome!

This instruction guide has been designed for you to learn some embroidery stitches, experiment, and create a beautiful daisy embroidery piece. You can use your own materials, or purchase one of my kits. You don't need to follow the pattern exactly. Feel free to experiment.

Here are some of my favourite materials to use with this pattern:

Stranded cotton

This thread comes in an enormous range of colours, and can be divided into 6 strands. For satin stitch, I usually use 1-2 strands, to keep my stitches smooth. For Long and short stitch, French knots, seed stitch and most other stitches, I usually use 3 - 6 strands. Using all 6 strands will be faster, but will give you a chunkier look. Less threads take longer, but allow for smoother and more precise stitches. Both options can look really effective, and I use a mixture of each.

My favourite brands are DMC threads, threadworx and Weeks Dye Works

DMC Stranded Satin

Like the stranded cotton, this also divides into 6 strands. It gives a lovely shiny finish, and it's particularly good for satin stitch. I usually work with 1-2 strands at a time, to maintain a smooth finish, and stop it from getting tangled.



Seed Beads

I source beads from a variety of places, and when choosing beads, I look for glass, rather than plastic. My favourite brands are Miyuki and Toho, because of their amazing colour range, but I also source glass beads from a variety of other places, like spotlight, Arbee Craft, or I Love You Beads. You can attach beads using a beading needle, and any type of smooth thread. I usually use guttermans cotton or a single strand of DMC cotton.

Sequins

I buy most of my sequins in bulk from Arbee Craft. Spotlight or Sequin Bazaar also have a good range. I attach sequins using DMC thread in a complimentary colour, using a small embroidery needle, or anchor them with a bead using a beading needle

Fabric

I usually stitch on pure linen, and my preferred types are a vintage wash or heavy weight linen. If I can't get those, I use a mid weight suiting linen. If you don't have any, then you could use another type of non stretch fabric, like velvet or quilting cotton.

Perle Cotton

Perle cotton comes in a huge range of colours, and several different weights. I haven't used it in my sample piece, but if you would like to use some, I recommend size no. 8 or no. 5.

Yarn

I use a lot of yarn in my embroidery pieces, because I love the colour range and difference in texture it creates. I use knitting yarn that I buy as a skein, so any left overs you have would be perfect to experiment with. I usually use lace weight, 3 ply or 4 ply (fingering weight). Any of those would work well with this pattern.

Other materials

I am a big fan of mixing it up, and using what you have at hand. You don't have to stick with traditional colours or materials. If you have a favourite you want to use, go for it!

Seed stitch

French knots

Stem stitch

Satin stitch

Long and short stitch



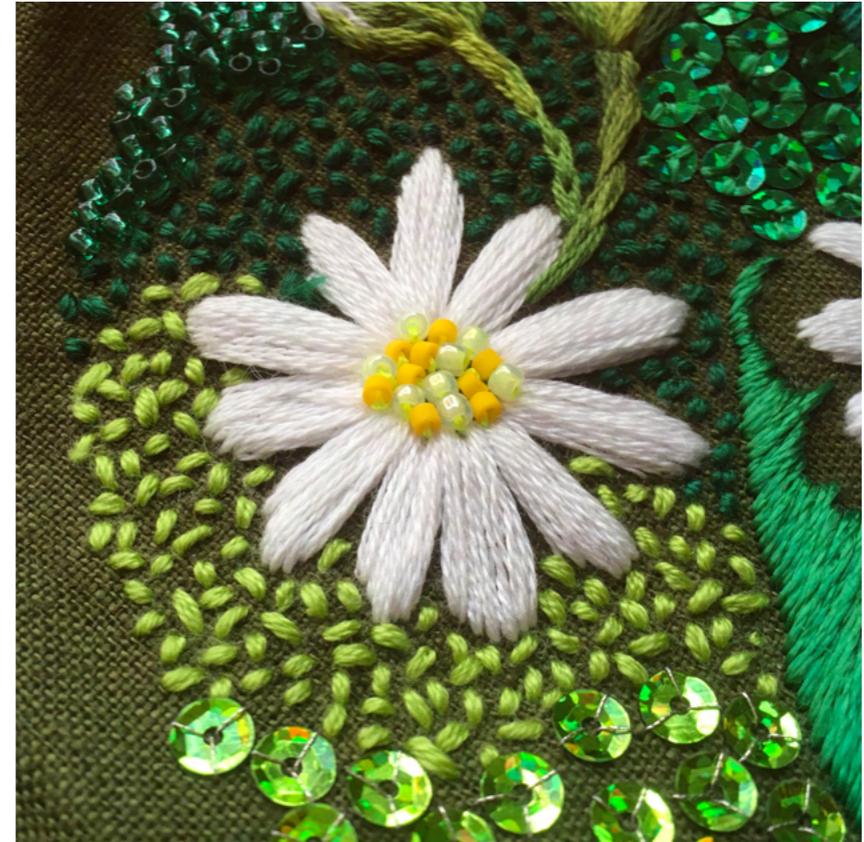


Seed Stitch

Seed stitch is just a collection of small straight stitch stitches scattered to fill an area, going in random directions.

It is a really simple stitch, that can be used to fill areas with colour or shading. You can vary the intensity of this stitch, by changing the distance between stitches, or changing the weight of the thread you are using.

In my sample piece, I used DMC stranded cotton, using all 6 strands, with stitches quite close together. Each stitch is approximately 1-2mm in size.



Long and Short stitch

Long and short stitch is used to fill areas with colour, and create shading. It can also be used to create direction in your piece.

- Row One: use a variety of stitch lengths, working across the area you wish to fill.
- Row Two and onwards: continue using irregular lengths, bringing the needle down through the preceding layer.

Creating direction using Long and Short Stitch

- Draw lines on the fabric to help guide you if necessary.
- Adjust the direction of your stitches as you progress through each row, following the lines you have drawn on your fabric.

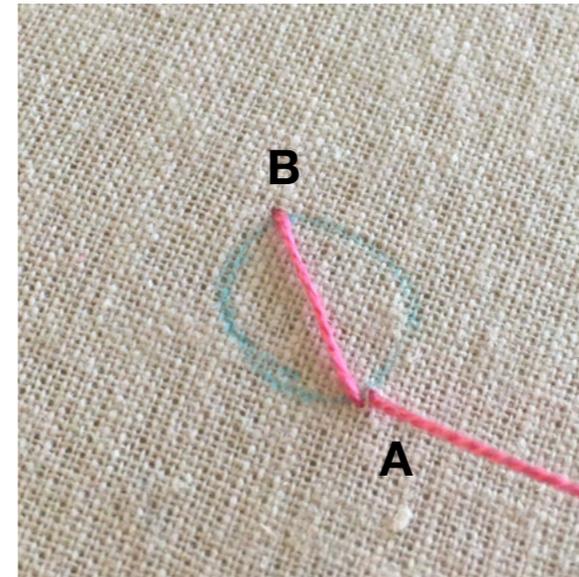


Satin Stitch

Satin Stitch

Satin stitch is used to fill areas with very smooth, flat stitches. It works best with single or double strand thread. You can use any type of thread for satin stitch, but thinner threads will produce more precise results.

- Draw the shape you wish to make onto your fabric. You can include directional lines to assist you with stitching.
- Bring the needle up through the centre bottom of the shape (point A), and down through the top (point B)
- Come back around to the bottom and make another long stitch, as close as possible to the first. For curve shapes, you may need to reuse the same hole for your next stitch. Continue until the shape is filled.

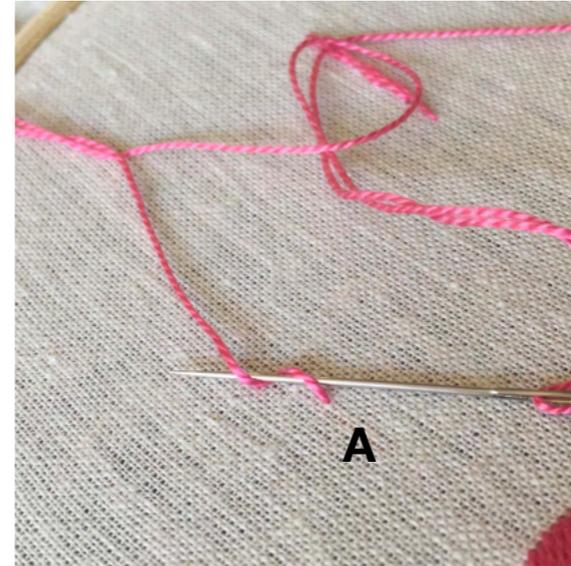


French knots

French knots can be used to texture to your piece. They can be used densely for large textured areas, to create spots, small flowers, or the centre of flowers.

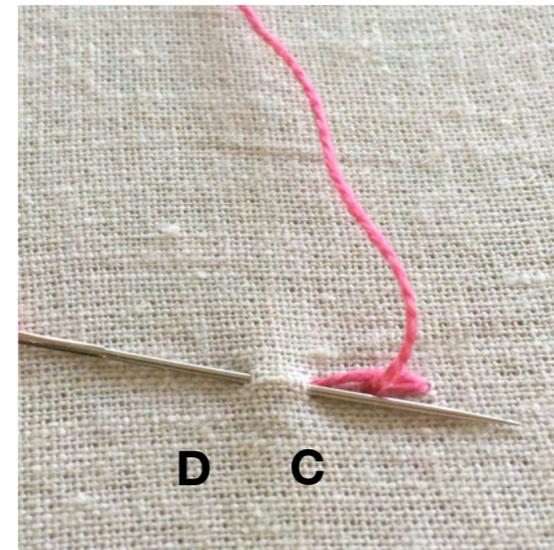
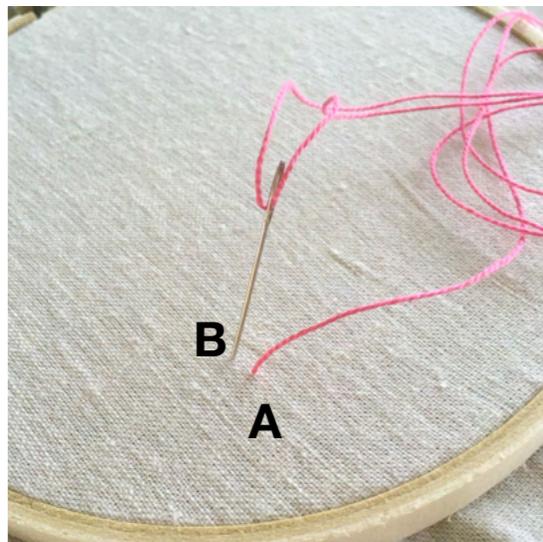
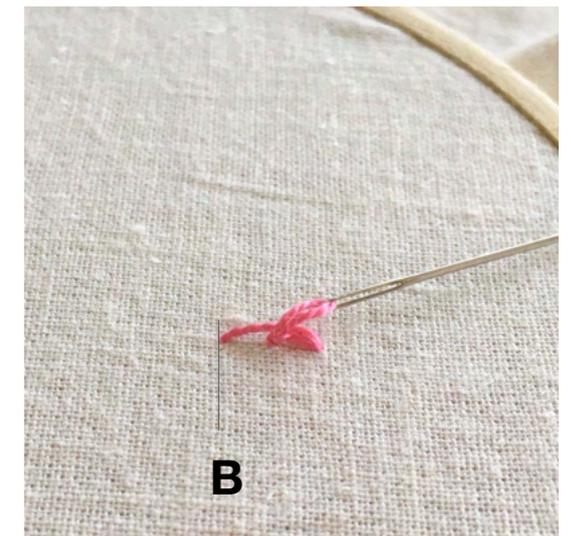
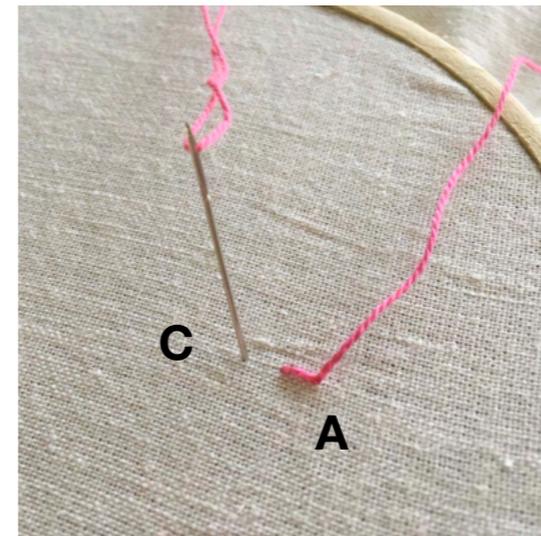
For small knots, wrap the thread around the needle once. To create larger knots, you can wrap it around several times.

- Bring thread up through point A.
- Wrap the thread around the needle once or twice.
- Pull loops around the needle, and gently hold the thread taut with one hand, a few centimetres away from the needle.
- Insert the needle just next to point A, keep thread taut.
- Gently pull the needle through to the other side, releasing the thread at the end to maintain tension.



Stem stitch

- insert the needle up through point A, and down through point B
- Bring needle back up through point A, and down through point C
- Bring needle up through point B, keeping needle to the left of the existing stitch, and then down through point D.



Finishing your piece

Displaying in a hoop

A popular choice for embroidery pieces, is to simply leave them in the hoop.

- trim the outer edges of your piece, to about 2–3cm around the hoop.
- Use running stitch, around the edges of the circle, then gently pull taut, so that it wraps around the inner hoop.
- You can leave it as is, or for a neater finish, cut a piece of fabric or felt to the size of the hoop. Stitch in place, or glue with fabric glue.

Framing

You can take your piece to a professional framer to be stretched and framed. Alternatively you can stretch it around a piece of foam core board yourself, pin around the sides, and then use a store bought frame. This is a bit fiddly, but significantly less expensive than a framer.

