



# EMBROIDERY STITCHES

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## Foreword

There are many considerations involved in the decision to republish a book and I would like to explain my considerations in the republishing of EMBROIDERY STITCHES.

30 years have now elapsed since the first edition of EMBROIDERY STITCHES from the Danish publishers, Borgens Forlag, and during this period, embroidery has changed significantly.

In the late 1960's when I was studying embroidery at the Danish college, Håndarbejdets Fremmes Seminarium, where I later became a teacher, there were clearly defined regulations regarding the knowledge and skills required to master the craft. One of the essential abilities was to become familiar with a wide spectrum of stitches that were considered fundamental knowledge for embroidery.

Today, an education in embroidery has changed radically in Denmark, and nowadays it is more or less the responsibility of the individual student to seek relevant information. The same applies to anyone else interested in embroidery.

In the 1970's, when I was gathering material for the first publication of my book of embroidery stitches, BRODERISTING, I systematically searched all relevant literature, most of which was found in libraries. Some of the literature was available to loan for private study at home, but some had to be studied in the library. Of particular interest were the pre 1950 publications.

Over the years, many of the publications have disappeared and several libraries have disposed of important publications, because they did not comply with present day expectations regarding paper, quality and colour. There are of course adequate books available today, but the comprehensive expertise encountered in my old favourites will never be seen again.

EMBROIDERY STITCHES is a comprehensive encyclopaedia of embroidery stitches, with a range of content that is quite unique and can be of significant importance to all who are involved with embroidery.

The first edition of embroidery stitches, BRODERISTING, has been sold out from the publisher for many years. I have often been requested to publish a new edition and therefore, I realise that there is a demand for the book. Embroidery is a niche, the magnitude of which is unknown. It is my wish that those who are associated with this niche should not be deprived of information and so for their sake, the Danish reprint and English version of EMBROIDERY STITCHES.

Jytte Harboesgaard 2010

## Introduction

Embroidery stitches can be divided into 2 groups. One group contains stitches that are sewn on counted threads and the other group contains stitches with a specific structure or a feature that forms a pattern.

The latter group is used to embroider contours on a drawn pattern.

My book proposes to document this latter group of stitches.

The stitches are accounted for systematically and whenever possible, they are presented in groups throughout the book.

Each stitch is illustrated to demonstrate the direction of sewing: upwards, downwards, right to left etc. The book begins with the most elementary stitches and as the technical difficulty increases, more illustrations and text are provided.

When information is provided regarding the properties of the stitch, its ability to cover a marked line is mentioned. This property is only of importance when the line is drawn with a colour that cannot be washed out of the fabric. If the colour cannot be washed out then the stitch has to cover the marked line.

Each stitch has clear instructions for sewing, but the size of the stitch can vary from the instructions. All the stitches can be made longer or shorter, wider or narrower than described.

For some of the stitches, a specified thread is recommended and this is essential for a satisfactory appearance of the stitch.

Instructions for sewing a corner are provided for some of the stitches. This information is not provided for all the stitches, partly because of lack of space and partly because it is impossible to illustrate the technique.

Should a stitch be required to edge an item such as a napkin, it requires an invisible join of the round of stitches. The method is described on page 188 in the final section of the book

An example of the correct method of starting and ending a row of stitches is described for fishbone stitch, raised.

The system used to select the correct method is described on page 187.

Fillings for leaf forms are included in the instructions when the specific stitch is considered suitable.









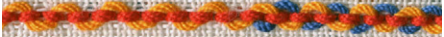






The numerous knots described in the book can be sewn as described or enlarged in different proportions to those illustrated. In this way they can form individual stitches, similar to the stitches in the final section of the book. They can be used in various ways: they can be sewn as individual stitches in a row, or they can be placed at random as a filling for large or small areas.

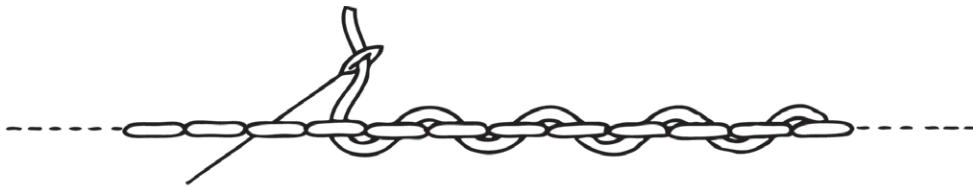
## Register of embroidery stitches

In the register, the stitches are listed in their order of appearance throughout the book with an embroidered example of each stitch. Each stitch has a page reference, where there can be found instructions in the form of text and diagrams.

With a left click on the stitch or the embroidered example, sewing instructions appear on the screen. Another left click on "back," will remove the instructions and return to the specific stitch in the register.

The register is not as extensive as the alphabetical list, because not all the variations of each sewing technique are mentioned in the register.

BACK STITCH, CONTINUOUS	page 37	
BACK STITCH	page 38	
BACK STITCH, CONTINUOUS, GROUPED	page 39	
ZIGZAG STITCH	page 39	
ZIGZAG STITCH, DOUBLE	page 40	
ZIGZAG STITCH, THREADED	page 41	
HEM STITCH, "SHAM"	page 42	
CHEVRON STITCH, RAISED	page 42	
BACK STITCH, CONTINUOUS, THREADED I	page 44	
PEKINESE STITCH	page 44	
BACK STITCH, DOUBLE, THREADED	page 45	
BACK STITCH, DOUBLE	page 46	
FOUR-SIDED STITCH I	page 47	
FOUR-SIDED STITCH II	page 48	
THREE-SIDED STITCH	page 49	



**BACKSTITCH, CONTINUOUS, THREADED I**

After sewing a row of continuous backstitch, the work is turned and the row is threaded from right to left.



The second row of threading is also made from right to left, filling the spaces from the first row and using another colour if required. It is the opposite of the first threading.



**PEKINESE STITCH**

This threading is also sewn from right to left and the needle points alternately towards and away from you.

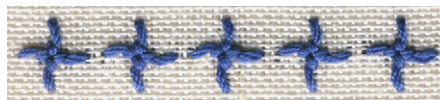
In all three examples of threading, the needle is only taken under the backstitch and not into the fabric.

Each of the three rows can cover a marked line.



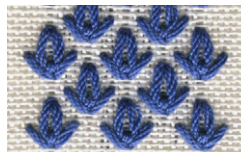
CROSS OF 4 BUTTONHOLE STITCHES

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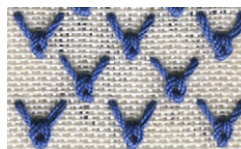
CHAIN STITCH, TACKED, WITH EXTRA STITCHES

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Y-STITCH

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ERMINE FILLING STITCH

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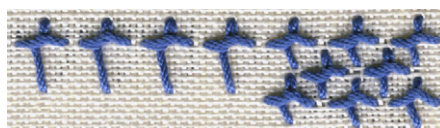
SHEAF STITCH

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SWORD EDGING STITCH

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CROSS STITCH, DOUBLE, TACKED WITH UPRIGHT CROSS

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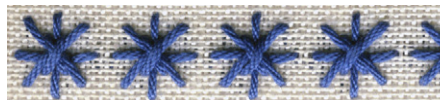
CROSS, UPRIGHT, TACKED WITH CROSS STITCH

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STAR STITCH

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CROSS STITCH FLOWER

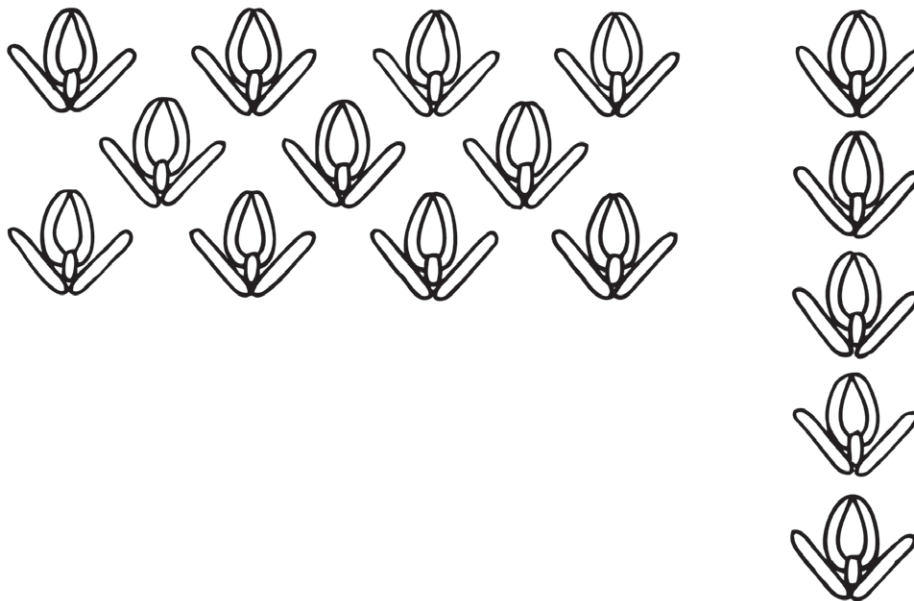
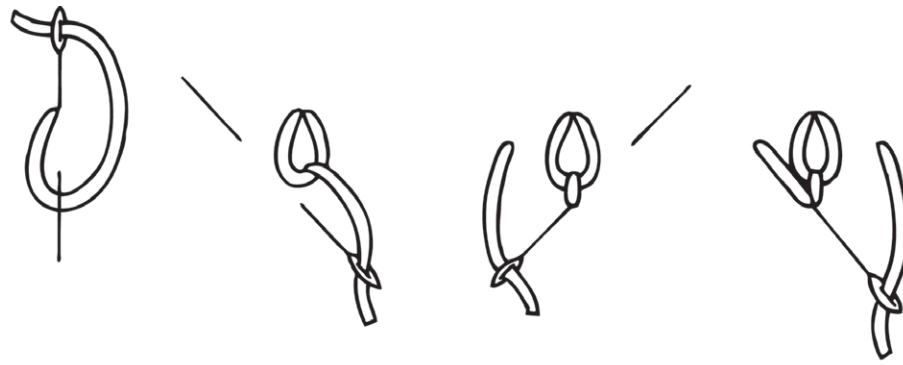
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NEEDLEWEAVING, RAISED

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**CHAIN STITCH, TACKED, WITH EXTRA STITCHES**

Firstly sew a tacked chain stitch. Sew 2 diagonal stitches out from the tack, as in the diagram.

See *Chain Stitch, tacked*.