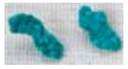
Listing of stitches

This listing groups all the stitches together in their category, but as there are many that overlap, it also conveniently lists the styles within which each stitch is often used. The photographs are a great quick reference – so you are instantly able to recognise stitches in a piece of work, or compare your own embroidery to make sure you are on the right track.

Stumpwork

Half hitch



Ghiordes knot
Alternative name: turkey stitch

Also used in: Freestyle

Picot

Also used in: Hardanger
Hedebo
Cutwork

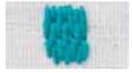
Raised chain band

Also used in: Freestyle
Crewel work
Canvas work

Trailing

Also used in: Freestyle
Cutwork

Long and short



Also used in: Freestyle
Crewel work

Needleweaving

Also used in: Freestyle

Needlewoven bars

Also used in: Drawn thread
Hardanger

Raised stem band

Also used in: Freestyle
Crewel work

Stab

Blackwork

Double running
Alternative name: Holbein

Also used in: Freestyle
Crewel work
Stumpwork

Holbein

Also used in: Freestyle
Crewel work
Stumpwork

Stem
Alternative name: crewel stitch

Also used in: Pulled work
Freestyle
Crewel work
Canvas work
Stumpwork
Smocking
Drawn thread
Broderie anglaise
Hedebo
Cutwork
Mountmellick

Whipping

Also used in: Freestyle
Crewel work
Stumpwork
Insertion stitch
Cutwork
Mountmellick

Threading

Also used in: Freestyle
Crewel work
Mountmellick

Pekinese
Alternative name: Chinese

Also used in: Freestyle
Crewel work
Canvas work
Mountmellick

Coral
Alternative name: German knot, beaded stitch, snail trail

Also used in: Freestyle
Crewel work
Drawn thread
Mountmellick

Chain

Also used in: Freestyle
Crewel work
Canvas work
Stumpwork
Broderie anglaise
Mountmellick

Indian chain
Alternative name: broad chain

Also used in: Blackwork
Freestyle
Crewel work
Mountmellick

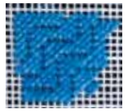
Canvas work

Algerian filling

Cashmere

Linked

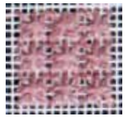
Milanese



Leviathan variation
Alternative name: double straight cross

Balloon satin

Leviathan
Alternative names: double cross, Smyrna cross, railway

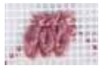


Also used in: Blackwork
Freestyle
Mountmellick

Double leviathan

Also used in: Freestyle

Velvet
Alternative names: rug, tassel, raised, Astrakhan, plush, Berlin plush, Rya

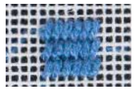


Also used in: Freestyle
Stumpwork

Ray
Alternative name: fan

Also used in: Pulled work

Gobelin



Encroaching Gobelin
Alternative names: interlocking Gobelin

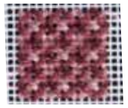
Wide Gobelin

Upright Gobelin

Gobelin filling

Plaited Gobelin

Rice
Alternative names: William & Mary stitch



Also used in: Freestyle

Byzantine

Hungarian

Jacquard

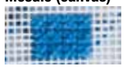
Knitting
Alternative names: kelim, tapestry

Lozenge satin

Milanese straight

Moorish

Mosaic (canvas)



Also used in: Pulled work

Reversed mosaic

Also used in: Pulled work

Brick

Also used in: Freestyle
Pulled work

Fancy bricking

Florentine
Alternative names: Bargello, flame, Irish

Tent
Alternative names: Needlepoint, Continental, Petit point

Oblong cross
Alternative names: long cross stitch, economic long cross, czar stitch

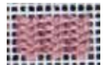
Also used in: Freestyle
Crewel work

Oblong cross stitch with backstitch

Star

Also used in:
Pulled
Freestyle
Crewel work

Plaited
Alternative name: herringbone

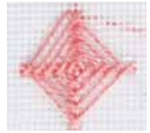


Also used in: Freestyle
Crewel work

Herringbone

Also used in: Freestyle
Crewel work
Stumpwork
Insertion stitch
Drawn
Thread
Broderie
Anglaise
Mountmellick

Square herringbone
Alternative name: Multiplait



Spanish
Alternative name: plait

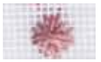
Rhodes

Also used in: Freestyle
Stumpwork

Half Rhodes

Also used in: Freestyle

Octagonal Rhodes



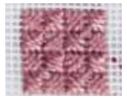
Also used in: Freestyle

Plaited Rhodes

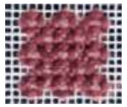
Also used in: Freestyle

Captive rice

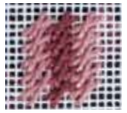
Triple rice



Upright rice

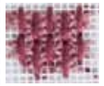


Ridge stitch



Rococo
Alternative name: queen

Dutch
Alternative name: Dutch cross

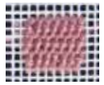


Double Dutch
Alternative name: Double Dutch cross

Greek cross

Also used in: Pulled work

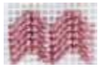
Knotted
Alternative names: Persian cross, Pangolin



Fern

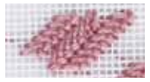
Also used in: Blackwork
Freestyle
Mountmellick

Fishbone



Also used in: Freestyle
Crewel work
Mountmellick

Diagonal fishbone

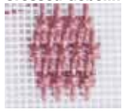


Also used in: Freestyle

Horizontal fishbone

Also used in: Freestyle

Crossed Gobelin



Slanted and tied Gobelin

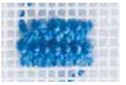
Sloping and reversed satin

Square satin
Alternative name: flat square

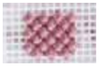
Twill

Double twill

Plaited Algerian



Upright cross
Alternative name: straight cross stitch, St George's cross

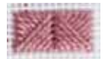


Also used in: Pulled work
Freestyle
Crewel work

Woven cross
Alternative name: cross plaited

Also used in: Freestyle
Crewel work

Crossed cornered cushion



Double
Alternative name: alternating cross stitch

Cushion

Also used in: Pulled work

Criss-cross

Also used in: Freestyle
Crewel work

Broad cross

Also used in: Freestyle
Crewel work

Broad diagonal cross

Also used in: Freestyle
Crewel work

Chained cross

Also used in: Freestyle
Crewel work

Diagonal cross

Also used in: Freestyle
Crewel work

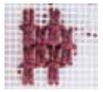
Linen

Long

Diamond straight

Encroaching
Alternative name: half-drop

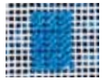
Encroaching tied



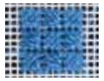
Eyelet
Alternative names: Algerian eye, star stitch, star eyelet stitch

Also used in: Pulled work
Hardanger
Broderie anglaise
Hedebo
Cutwork
Freestyle

Cashmere straight



Cushion reversed



Also used in: Pulled work

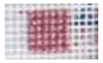
Diagonal

Also used in: Pulled work

Double and plaited cross

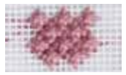
Also used in: Freestyle
Crewel work

Half cross



Also used in: Freestyle
Crewel work

Double cross

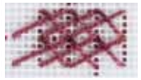


Also used in: Freestyle
Crewel work

Italian cross
Alternative names: two-sided Italian cross stitch, arrowhead cross stitch, Italian stitch

Also used in: Freestyle
Crewel work

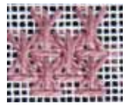
Long-armed cross
Alternative names: long-legged cross stitch, Slav stitch, Portuguese stitch, twist stitch



Also used in: Freestyle
Crewel work

Norwich
Alternative name: waffle

Cross stitch plus two



Also used in: Freestyle
Crewel work

Reversed cross

Also used in: Freestyle
Crewel work

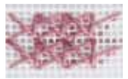
Underlined cross

Also used in: Freestyle
Crewel work

Leaf

Also used in: Freestyle
Crewel work
Mountmellick

Montenegrin
Alternative names: Montenegrin cross, two-sided Montenegrin cross



Oriental

Chessboard filling

Also used in: Crewel work

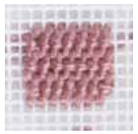
Parisian

Double Parisian

Rep
Alternative name: Aubusson

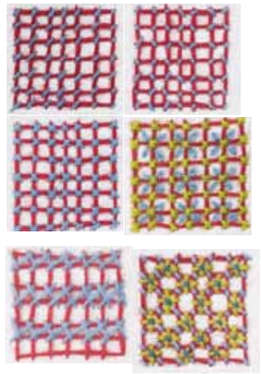
Reversed tent

Knotted
Alternative name: Persian Cross, Pangolin



Crewel work

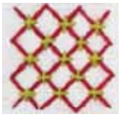
Square trellises



Also used in:
Mountmellick

Double trellis

Diagonal trellis



Also used in: Mountmellick

Weaving

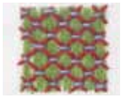
Twisted lattice

Also used in: Freestyle
Mountmellick

Battlement couching

Also used in: Freestyle
Mountmellick threads

Diagonal trellis on laid



Block filling

Also used in: Canvas work

Diamond filling

Japanese darning

Shadow trellis

Also used in: Freestyle

Hollie point
Alternative name: holy point

Also used in: Stumpwork
Hedebo

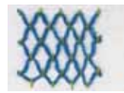
Ceylon

Also used in: Freestyle
Stumpwork
Hedebo

Burden

Also used in: Freestyle
Stumpwork

Cloud filling



Also used in: Freestyle

Wave filling

Also used in: Freestyle

Buttonhole filling

Also used in: Pulled work
Mountmellick
Freestyle

Overlapping buttonhole
Also used in: Freestyle

Canvas work
Mountmellick

Back-to-back buttonhole
Alternative name: back to back blanket
Also used in: Pulled work

Mountemellick
Insertion stitch
Canvas
Freestyle

Interlocking buttonhole
Also used in: Freestyle

Canvas work

Triple buttonhole

Also used in: Freestyle
Insertion stitch
Drawn thread
Mountmellick

Up and down buttonhole

Also used in: Freestyle
Stumpwork
Insertion stitch
Mountmellick

Basket

Also used in: Freestyle
Canvas work

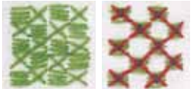
Block shading

Also used in: Freestyle
Canvas work

Bricking

Also used in: Freestyle

Chessboard filling variations

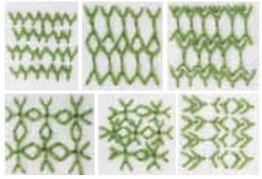


Also used in: Pulled work
Freestyle
Canvas

Cretan

Also used in: Freestyle
Canvas work
Stumpwork
Smocking
Insertion stitch
Mountmellick

Fly

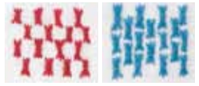


Also used in: Pulled work
Freestyle
Crewel work
Hardanger
Stumpwork
Mountmellick

Bokhara couching

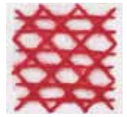
Also used in: Freestyle
Crewel work
Canvas work
Mountmellick

Wheatsheaf
Alternative name: sheaf



Also used in: Freestyle
Crewel work
Canvas work
Insertion stitch
Mountmellick

Brussels net



Also used in: Freestyle
Mountmellick

Freestyle—Straight stitches

Seeding
Alternative name: speckling, powdering

Also used in: Blackwork
Crewel work
Stumpwork
Mountmellick

Arrowhead

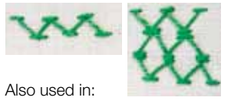
Also used in: Crewel work

Split backstitch

Backstitch

Also used in: Pulled work
Blackwork
Crewel work
Stumpwork
Broderie anglaise
Mountmellick

Chevron



Also used in:
Crewel work
Smocking
Drawn thread
Mountmellick

Darning

Also used in: Crewel work

Damask darning

Also used in: Crewel work

Dot

Also used in: Crewel work
Canvas

Feather

Also used in: Crewel work
Stumpwork
Mountmellick
Smocking

Outline
Alternative name: Kensington

Also used in: Blackwork
Drawn thread
Broderie anglaise
Crewel work
Canvas work
Hedebo
Stumpwork
Cutwork
Smocking
Mountmellick

Couching

Also used in: Blackwork
Crewel work
Stumpwork
Mountmellick

Single-sided feather

Also used in: Stumpwork
Crewel
Mountmellick

Chain feather

Also used in: Crewel work
Smocking
Broderie anglaise
Mountmellick

Tufting

Wheatsheaf

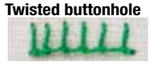
Braid

Also used in: Crewel work
Canvas work
Stumpwork
Mountmellick

Closed buttonhole

Also used in: Crewel work
Insertion stitch
Drawn thread
Mountmellick

Twisted buttonhole



Also used in: Crewel work
Insertion stitch
Hedebo
Mountmellick

Sawtooth buttonhole

Also used in: Crewel work
Insertion stitch
Drawn thread
Mountmellick

Triple closed buttonhole

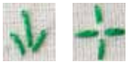
Also used in: Crewel work
Insertion stitch
Drawn thread
Mountmellick

Up and down buttonhole

Split

Also used in: Crewel work
Stumpwork

Straight



Also used in: Blackwork
Crewel work
Stumpwork
Mountmellick

Buttonhole wheel

Also used in: Crewel work
Canvas work
Mountmellick

Chain

Broad chain
Alternative names: Indian chain, reversed chain

Also used in: Blackwork
Crewel work
Mountmellick

Cable chain

Also used in: Crewel work
Mountmellick

Heavy chain

Also used in: Crewel work
Stumpwork
Mountmellick

Open chain

Also used in: Crewel work
Mountmellick

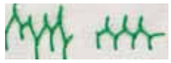
Twisted chain

Also used in: Crewel work
Mountmellick

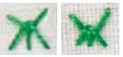
Zigzag chain

Also used in: Crewel work
Mountmellick

Cretan



Crown



Also used in: Crewel work
Mountmellick

Ladder-decorative

Lazy daisy

Also used in: Crewel work
Hardanger
Stumpwork
Mountmellick

Lock

Also used in: Crewel work
Drawn thread
Mountmellick

Buttonhole

Also used in: Pulled work
Crewel work
Canvas work
Hardanger
Stumpwork
Insertion stitch
Drawn thread
Broderie anglaise
Hedebo
Cutwork
Mountmellick

Buttonhole knotted

Also used in: Crewel work
Stumpwork
Insertion stitch
Drawn thread
Hedebo
Mountmellick

Loop

Also used in: Crewel work
Mountmellick

Running

Also used in: Blackwork
Freestyle
Crewel work
Hardanger
Stumpwork
Broderie anglaise
Hedebo
Cutwork
Mountmellick

Satin

Also used in: Pulled work
Crewel
Canvas
Hardanger
Stumpwork
Broderie anglaise
Hedebo
Cutwork
Mountmellick
Drawn thread
Mountmellick

Mountmellick

Also used in: Crewel work
Stumpwork
Mountmellick

Petal

Also used in: Crewel work
Mountmellick

Sorbello

Also used in: Mountmellick

Sword

Also used in: Crewel work
Mountmellick

Vandyke

Also used in: Crewel work
Canvas work
Mountmellick

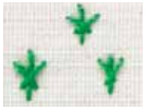
Wheatear

Also used in: Crewel work
Mountmellick

Cross

Also used in: Pulled work
Blackwork
Crewel work
Canvas
Mountmellick

Ermine

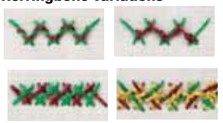


Also used in: Blackwork
Crewel work
Mountmellick

Fishbone

Herringbone

Herringbone variations



Leaf

Thorn

Also used in: Crewel work
Mountmellick

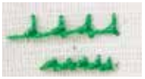
Zigzag

Also used in: Crewel work
Mountmellick

Bullion

Also used in: Crewel work
Stumpwork
Insertion stitch

Double knot

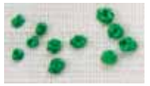


Also used in: Crewel work

Four-legged knot

Also used in: Crewel work
Mountmellick

French knot



Also used in: Blackwork
Broiderie anglaise
Crewel work
Canvas work
Hardanger
Stumpwork
Mountmellick

Pearl

Also used in: Crewel
Stumpwork
Mountmellick

Pistil

Also used in: Crewel work
Stumpwork
Mountmellick
Cutwork

Portuguese stem

Also used in: Crewel work
Mountmellick

Scroll

Also used in: Crewel work
Mountmellick

Sienese

Also used in: Crewel work

Square boss
Alternative name: raised knot

Also used in: Stumpwork

Backstitch chain

Also used in: Crewel work
Mountmellick

Threaded detached chain
Alternative name: lazy daisy

Also used in: Crewel work
Stumpwork

Interlaced herringbone

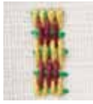
Tête de boeuf

Also used in: Crewel work
Mountmellick

Interlaced band

Also used in: Crewel work

Woven band



Also used in: Stumpwork

Maltese cross

Portuguese border

Also used in: Crewel work

Step (freestyle)

Also used in: Crewel work

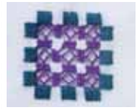
Hardanger

Kloster block

Wrapped bars

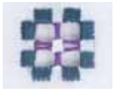
Also used in: Cutwork

Woven bars and Dove's eye



Woven bars Also used in:
Stumpwork
Drawn thread
Cut work

Overcast
Alternative name: wrapped bars



Also used in: Stumpwork
Drawn thread
Broderie anglaise
Hedebo

Twisted picot

Dove's eye filling
Alternative name: lace stitch filling

Diagonal dove's eye

Spider's web

Also used in: Stumpwork
Drawn thread
Cutwork

Spokes

Also used in:
Drawn thread

Cable stitch
Alternative name: Reversed diagonal faggotting

Also used in: Pulled work
Drawn thread

Backstitch picot with open-sided square edging

Pin stitch

Pulled work

Reed

Satin triangular variation

Diagonal satin blocks

Diamond line

Step (pulled)

Crossed stitch window

Also used in: Crewel work

Eyelet with double cross

Square eyelet

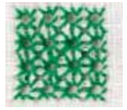
Also used in: Canvas work
Hardanger

Diamond eyelet

Off-centre eyelet

Eyelet with single cross

Star eyelet



Also used in: Canvas work
Hardanger

Backstitch wave

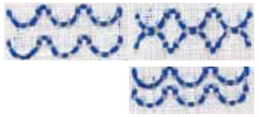
Rings of backstitch

Also used in: Blackwork

Diagonal in columns

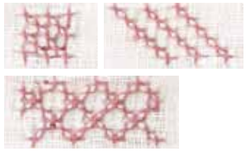
Diagonal in rows

Festoon



Also used in: Pulled work

Greek cross stitch variations



Also used in: Freestyle
Crewel work
Canvas work
Mountmellick
Pulled work

Four-sided

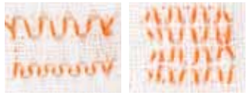
Also used in: Blackwork
Hardanger
Drawn thread

Three-sided

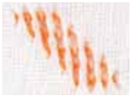
Also used in: Canvas work

Waffle (pulled)

Wave



Indian drawn ground



Also used in: Smocking

Back-to-back blanket
Alternative name: back to back buttonhole

Also used in: Crewel work
Mountmellick

Back-to-back blanket variations

Mosaic (pulled)

Thicket

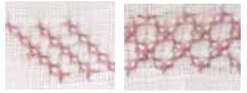
Cushion

Chessboard variations

Spaced star eyelet

Cross stitch variations

Upright cross stitch



Stumpwork dragonfly

Wire detached petals, lily pads edged with needlelace and detached dragonfly wings.

Materials & threads

- Ivory coloured cotton 25 x 25 cm for background fabric
- 2 pieces of medium weight calico 25 x 25 cm, and 20 x 30 cm
- 2 pieces organza 15 x 15 cm, 1 in white metallic and 1 in petrol blue
- Tracing paper
- Lily pads and flowers: stranded cottons in mid yellowish-green, pale yellowish-green, yellow
- Reeds: stranded cottons in mid greyish-green
- Bulrushes: stranded cottons in mid fir-green, pale fir-green, very pale silvery green, pale yellow, light brown, mid beige, dark brown chenille thread
- Bank: stranded cottons in mid beige, grass-green
- Dragonfly: stranded cottons in mid petrol blue, mid petrol blue chenille thread, petrol blue soft cotton, 2 × size 11 beads
- Two reels metallic machine embroidery thread, 1 in silver/black and 1 in gold
- Fine uncovered wires (silver)
- Fine white-covered and green-covered floral wires
- Paper-backed fusible webbing 15 x 15 cm
- Tapestry needles sizes 24/ and 26
- Embroidery needles size 10
- Chenille or large eyed needle
- 10-cm and 15-cm hoops

Size of finished design: 17 × 12 cm

Instructions

1 Press the 25 × 25 cm background and backing fabric.

2 Zigzag the edges of each piece of fabric to prevent fraying.

3 Place the background fabric on top of the calico and stitch together with small running stitches 6 mm from the edge using sewing thread, in the following order: left side, right side, top, bottom.

4 Trace the skeleton outline (see below) onto tracing paper.

5 Place the tracing paper centrally onto the background fabric and, using machine thread, work running stitches to attach the tracing paper to the fabric around the edges in a similar way as before.

6 Mount the fabric in a hoop.

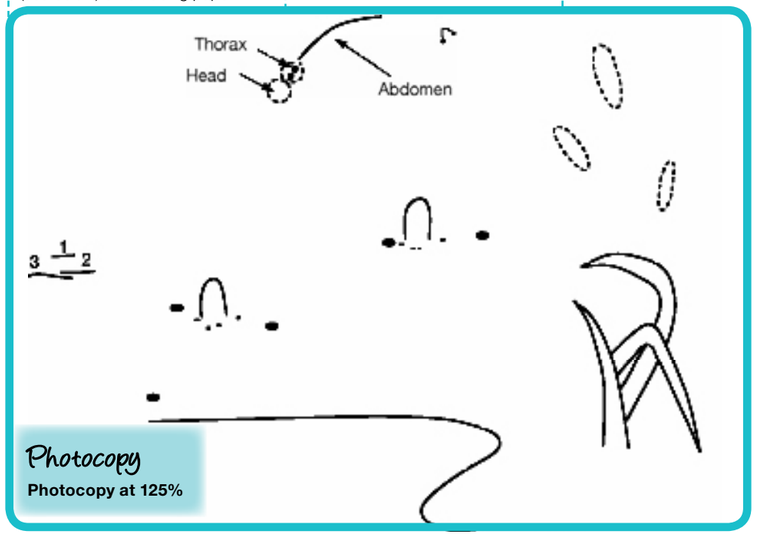
7 With machine thread, work small stitches around the design, keeping as much detail as possible.

8 Score along the tacked lines with a needle point and carefully tear the paper away.

9 Remove the tacked lines as you work.

Stitches used

- Buttonhole stitch, *page 101*
- Closed buttonhole stitch, *page 101*
- Couching, *page 98*
- Feather stitch, *page 104*
- Fly stitch, *page 105*
- Long and short stitch, *page 100*
- Satin stitch, *page 98*
- Split backstitch, *page 49*
- Stem stitch, *page 54*
- Straight stitch, *page 98*



Photocopy
Photocopy at 125%

Background embroidery

Use a single strand unless stated otherwise.

1 Outline the lily buds in split backstitch in yellow.

2 Pad the bud using closely spaced straight stitches across the bud (see diagram above).

3 Fill the bud with long and short stitches (see diagram above).

Bulrushes

1 Outline the leaves in split backstitch using very pale silvery green as shown in diagram. For the rest of the outline use pale fir-green.

2 Fill in with long and short stitches in mid fir-green and very pale silvery green as shown in diagram above right, following the stitch directions shown.

3 Cut 6.5 x 2 cm lengths of brown chenille thread.

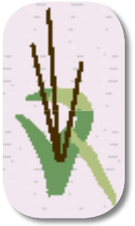
4 Using a chenille or large-eyed needle, work 2 straight stitches side by side, going into the same hole top and bottom to make the bulrush. (Do not pull tight.)

5 Fold the thread back on itself on the backing fabric and secure in place. Trim away the ends.

6 Using pale yellow, work 3 small straight stitches into the top of the bulrushes (see diagram below).

7 With light brown, work 2 straight stitches (bent) to one side of the yellow stitches (see diagram below left).

8 From the base of the bulrushes take 1 long straight stitch into the leaf base using mid beige, shown in diagram, right.



Bank

1 Using grass-green, work 2 rows of stem stitch around the curve, making shorter stitches where the curve is most severe.

2 Using mid beige, make vertical straight stitches for the river bank.

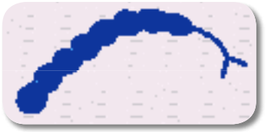
Dragonfly

1 Pad the abdomen with 2 strands of soft cotton thread going into the same hole top and bottom. Oversew the ends to the backing fabric and trim.

2 Couch the soft cotton in place using mid petrol blue, taking care not to pierce the padding thread.

3 Work rows of stem stitch over the couched soft cotton, always working in the same direction.

4 Couch over the stem stitch again firmly to form segments.



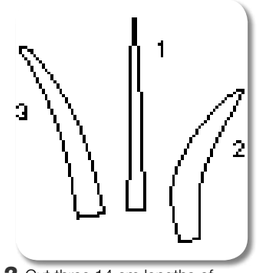
5 Embroider the tail in backstitch and finish with a single fly (see diagram above).

Detached elements

Cut the 30 x 30 cm calico in half.

Reeds

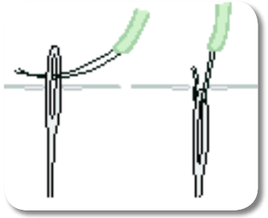
1 Draw the reed outlines onto one of the pieces of calico and place in a 10-cm hoop.



2 Cut three 14 cm lengths of green-covered wire, bend into the leaf shapes and couch down using mid greyish-green for the leaves, leaving the 2 tails loose.

3 Overcast the wire to the calico using mid greyish-green.

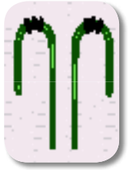
4 Fill with long and short stitch starting at the reed tip using mid greyish-green.



5 With small sharp scissors cut out the reeds close to the worked edge.

6 Attach the leaves to the fabric: attach the leaves in the order 1, then 2 then 3 (see picture P153) so that they overlap a little. Using the large chenille needle, pierce the fabric and slide the needle through so that half of the eye is showing. Slide the wire tails through the eye and pull to the back of the fabric.

7 Bend the wires back on themselves, oversew the wires to the backing and cut away the excess wire (see diagram, right).



Lily pads

1 Draw the outlines of the lily pads and lily petals on the other piece of calico and place in a hoop. The diagram above right, is to scale.

2 Cut five 8 cm lengths of green-covered wire and bend into the lily pad shape. The lily pad has only 1 tail.

3 Couch with pale yellowish-green thread. When halfway around pass the wire tail through to the back of the fabric and finish couching, leaving the tail free, see diagram below.

4 Using pale yellowish-green, work a row of backstitch for the central vein and close buttonhole stitch around the wire to attach it to the calico so that the buttonhole edge lies on the outside of the lily pad.

5 Using mid yellowish-green, fill the pad with satin stitch worked either side of the vein.

6 Work a row of stem stitch over the central vein and straight stitches for the side veins in pale yellowish-green.

7 With pale yellowish-green in a tapestry needle, attach the thread at the back of the pad and bring the needle through a buttonhole loop close to the start of the wire. Work 1 row of buttonhole stitch around the pad going into every other loop, except at the rounded ends where you should work into every loop. Do not pull too tightly.

8 Work a second row into the loops of the first row and secure the end of the thread into the back of the lily pad.

Flowers

1 Cut four 6.5 cm lengths of white-covered wire and bend into shape.

2 Couch the wire down onto the outline using yellow, leaving the tails unstitched.

3 Work close buttonhole stitch to attach the wire to the calico, with the buttonhole edge on the outside edge of the petal.

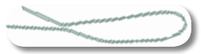
4 Fill with long and short stitches.

To finish

Cut out the lily pads and petals, taking care not to catch the edges, and attach to the background in a similar way to the reeds. The small dots show the petal positions and the large dots show the pad positions (see diagram, page 150).

Dragonfly

1 Iron fusible webbing onto one piece of organza. Remove the paper backing and iron the second piece of organza to the other side of the fusible web.



2 Cut four 6.5 cm lengths of uncovered wire and bend into the wing shapes, leaving 2 tails (see above diagram, which is to scale).

3 Couch the wire to the organza using mid petrol blue, then overcast.

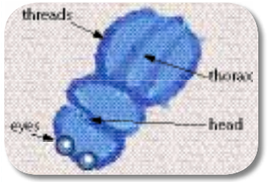
4 Work the wing veins in feather stitch using gold machine thread (see diagram below).

To finish

1 With sharp scissors carefully cut out the wings close to the worked edge.

2 Attach the wings to the background fabric in a similar way to the reeds with both front wings going through a single hole and both back wings going through a different single hole.

3 With petrol blue chenille thread work 3 straight stitches to cover the place where the wire enters the fabric. Do not pull tightly.



4 Work 2 straight stitches for the head using petrol blue chenille thread (see diagram left).

5 Using mid petrol blue, pick up 2 seed beads together and stitch them down with 2 straight stitches across the top of the head for the eyes. Work a single stitch between the beads pointing towards the head to separate the beads.

6 With 2 strands of machine sliver/black thread work 3 stitches.

7 With 1 strand work fly stitch for the feelers (see diagram below).