



WHIPPED BACK STITCH

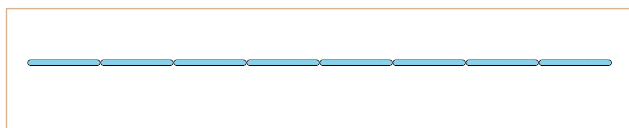
CREWELWORK; RIBBONWORK; SURFACE.

Whipped back stitch makes a heavier line than a back stitch. It gives a similar effect to a stem stitch but a touch finer with the added bonus that it can be stitched in two separate colour threads if required. This technique is useful when a raised line is required on a fabric which is too delicate for a heavy thread to be embroidered directly through the weave.

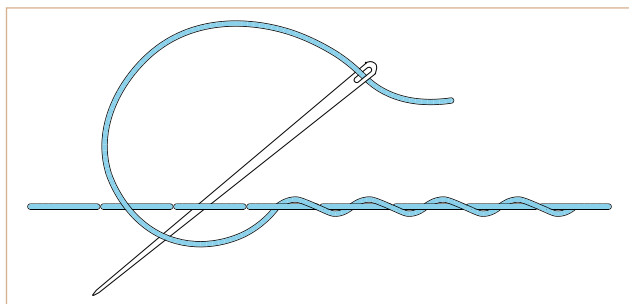
For more background see the entry for back stitch on page 16.



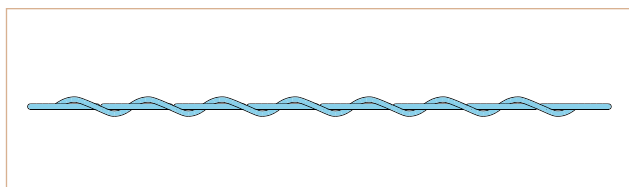
METHOD



1 Work a foundation row of back stitches, ensuring each stitch is equal in size and not too small.



2 Using a second thread, whip over this line from right to left, as shown, without picking up any ground fabric. Use a blunt-ended tapestry needle for the whipping thread to avoid splitting the foundation stitches.



3 Continue whipping along the line. Note the benefit of having slightly larger foundation back stitches, which allows the tapestry needle to pass easily under each stitch.

WHIPPED STEM STITCH

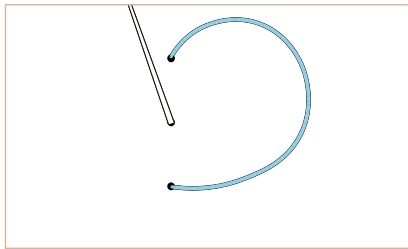
SURFACE.



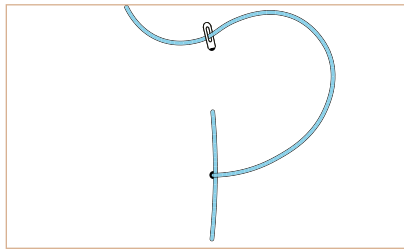
This is a variation on stem stitch: a line of stem stitch is worked, and then a thread is threaded through each stitch, always in the same direction to give a rope-like effect. The whipping thread can be the same as the stem stitch thread or a contrasting one.

Whipped stem stitch was certainly in use by the 16th century: it features on a 16th century border fragment of unknown origin and an ecclesiastical panel from the same era made in Switzerland. It also features on an English band sampler from the following century.

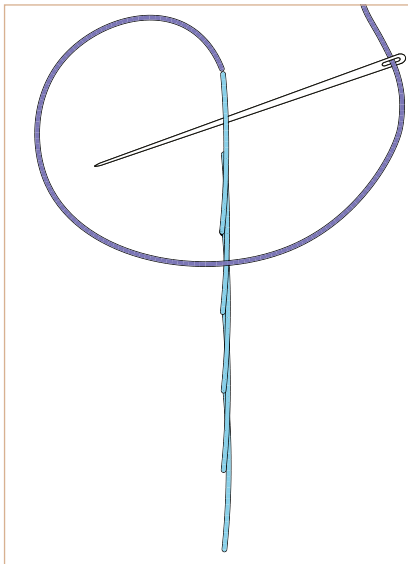
METHOD



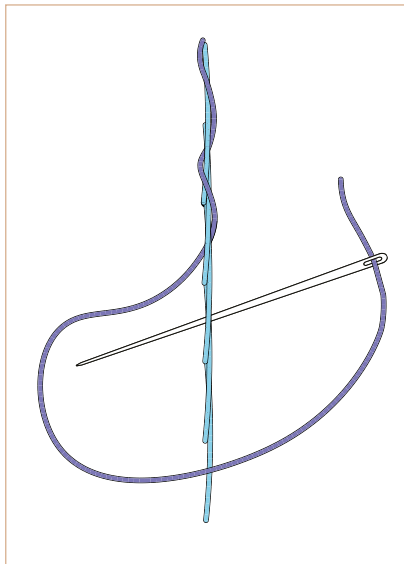
1 Working from bottom to top, make a first straight stitch, leaving a loop. Bring up the needle halfway, keeping the loop on the right-hand side.



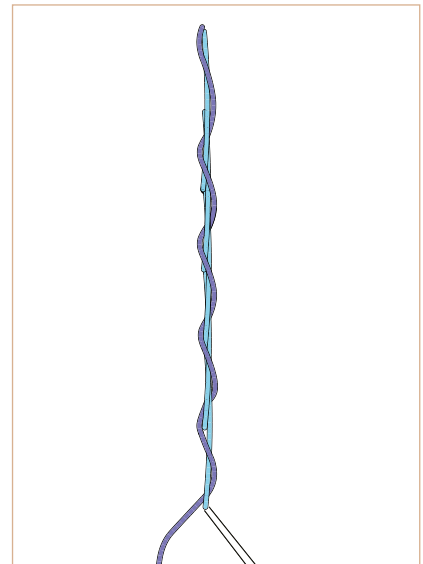
2 Continue the stem stitch as required.



3 Introduce a new thread in a contrasting colour, coming up at the end of the stem stitch.



4 Use a tapestry needle to pass the new thread under each stem stitch. Make sure not to pierce the fabric.



5 When you reach the end of the stem stitch, simply take the needle down through the fabric.

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