



How To Do Blanket Stitch:

Sewing Along Edge: Two Layers

Beginning Your Stitches:

1. Thread your needle and knot the tail end. Start between the two layers and poke your needle down through the bottom layer. This will put your knot in between the two layers. This should be done about 1/4" in from the edge, or at whatever length you want your stitches to be.
2. To get the stitch anchored, poke your needle down from the top layer so that the needle comes out the bottom at the same spot where you started, basically making a loop.
3. Send your needle under the loop stitch you just made. To do this, poke the needle under the stitch going sideways along the crack of the two layers. This gets your thread anchored, but it is not a true first stitch.
4. To start your first true blanket stitch, poke your needle down from the top (#2 in photo D). This should be about 1/4" over from where the thread first came up, and about 1/4" up from the edge. To complete your first stitch, bring your needle up from the back, and through the loop of thread (#3 in photo D). This should create a straight line down from # 2 in the photo. Before pulling this stitch tight, be sure that your needle is in fact through the loop of thread, as shown in photos D and E.
5. This photo shows several stitches, and how the loop should be underneath with the thread coming out over the top. Now continue each stitch like this and you are on your way. Now you know how to do blanket stitch when sewing two layers together.

When You Run Out of Thread:

1. Poke the needle down as if you were starting another stitch, but only go through the top layer. Pull the thread all the way through, but do not pull it tight yet. Leave enough of a loop, and only enough, so that later with your new piece of thread you can catch this loop and then pull that stitch tight into place. So to determine how loose to leave this last stitch before the knot, just lay the loose loop of thread across as if you had properly finished the stitch.
2. Cut your thread and knot it off with the knot tight against the felt so your loose loop of thread stays the length you want it.

3. Now thread your needle and knot the tail end. Just like when you started, poke your needle down and out the bottom layer a 1/4" up from the edge.
4. To complete this stitch, slide your needle under the loose loop you left and then pull your stitch tight into place.

To End Your Stitches:

1. To connect your last stitch to your first stitch, slide your needle sideways underneath your first stitch, and pull your thread tight.
2. Now loop your needle through that stitch again, but before pulling it tight, send your needle through the loop to make a knot. Then pull it tight to complete the knot.
3. To hide the knot and the tail ends, send your needle between the layers of felt about an inch, and then out through one side.
4. Pull the thread tight, as shown in this photo. Then cut the tail off as close to the felt as possible. The tail should then disappear between the layers.

YAY! YOU FOUND ME! →

Ready to try embroidery? This STARTER KIT SHIPS FREE



How-To: Fool Proof French Knot for Hand Embroidery

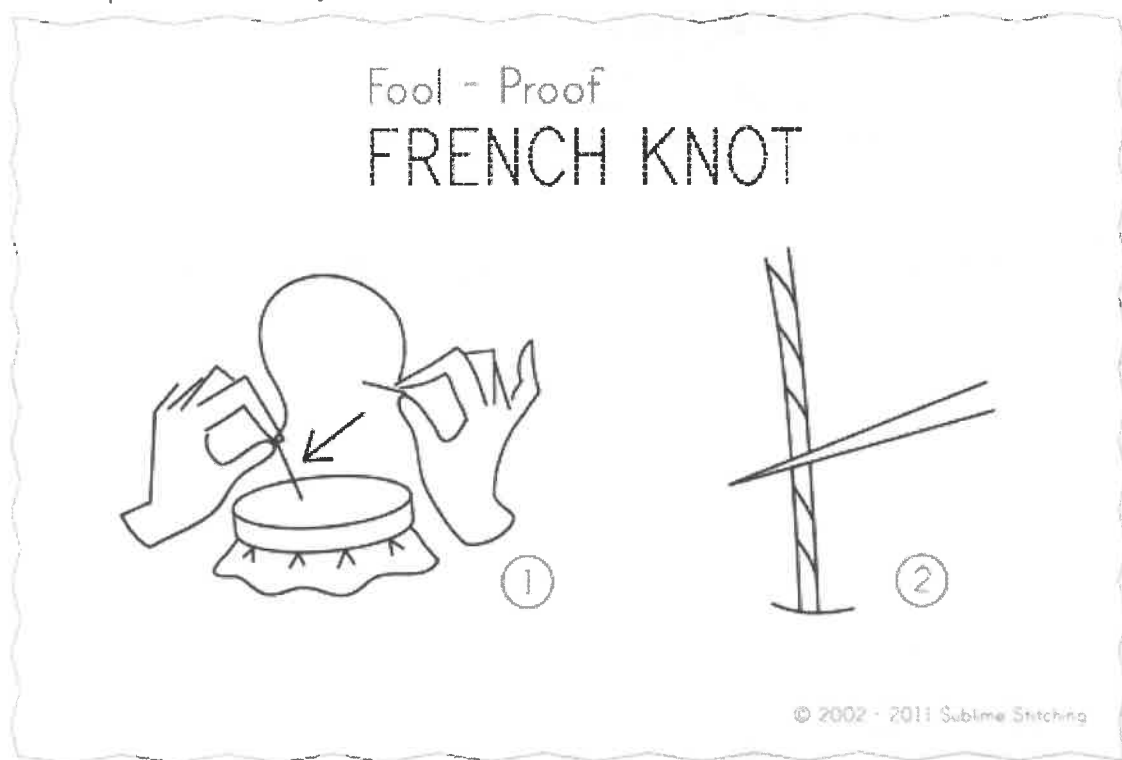
by Jenny Hart



The most feared and equally adored embroidery stitch. The trick is in really understanding how it works instead of just hoping it will turn out right. You can do it. So why is it so difficult to learn? It's not. It's difficult to *teach*. Usually, I encourage you to read stitching instructions with needle and floss in hand. Instead, this time I suggest you read through all the steps first

and then try it while going through the instructions again. I've broken down each tricky bit that finally clicked with me after lots of practice.

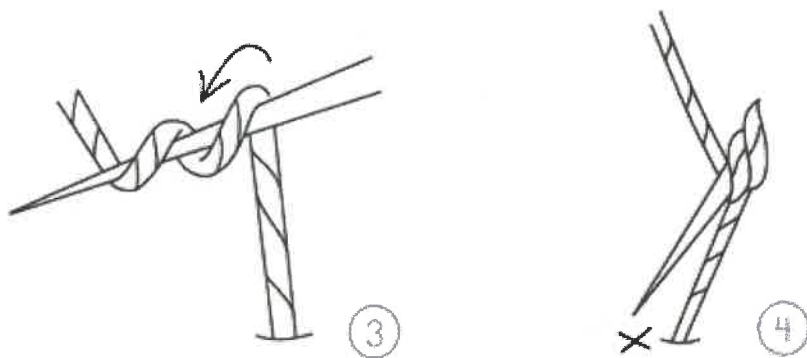
Don't be scared off by all the steps, once you get the hang of it, they will all blend together with a petite flick of your wrist! Let's start *chéri*...



Step 1: You will need both hands (at least I do), so set your hoop in your lap or work surface. With your non-needle hand pinch the floss a few inches from where it exits the fabric (where arrow is pointing). Hold it taut with your hand not holding the needle (that's important).

Step 2: Place your needle in front of this stretch of floss. Notice the needle is in front of the floss, not coming from behind it. This will make the next step easier, and will prevent the knot from going all wonky later on.

Fool - Proof FRENCH KNOT



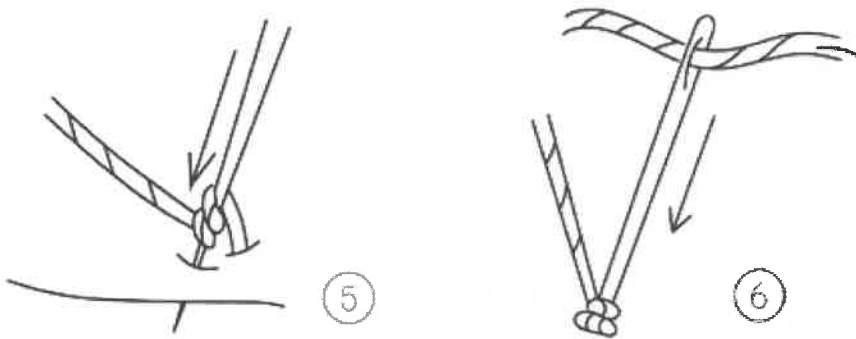
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Step 3: Wind the floss around the needle once or twice (shown winding twice), depending on if you want a bigger or smaller knot. Continue the tension of the floss with your left hand (non-needle hand) to prevent it from uncoiling.

IMPORTANT: Keep your hand holding the needle still while winding it with the floss in this step. Meaning, don't try to use your needle hand to do the wrapping by getting all twirly with your wrist. This is the first way your knot can go wrong!

Step 4: Okay, you've wound around the needle, the coil is pulled nice and taut. Next, (this is an important one) re-insert the tip of your needle just next to, but not into the same exit point on your fabric. If you enter the same hole, your knot may pop all the way through and disappear when you finish (and you say "wha?"). So, simply return at a point a little bit away from the exit point. And hold it right there! Keep your needle in this position. Don't push it all the way through juuust yet. The next step is an even more important one...

Fool - Proof FRENCH KNOT

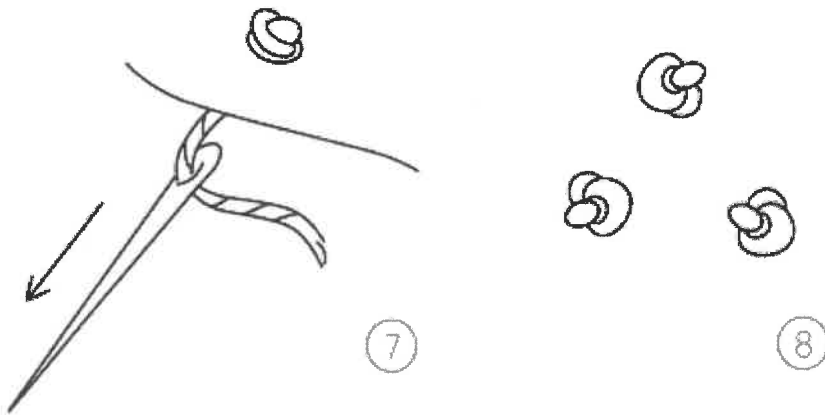


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Step 5: Remember your non-needle hand pinching the length of floss? Remember? Wake it up! This is when it goes to work. Give the floss a little downward tug with that hand, so that the coil will tighten up, and slide down your needle to make a little bundle against the surface of your fabric.

Step 6: With your coil snugly held in position against the surface, *now* push your needle all the way through!

Fool - Proof FRENCH KNOT



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Step 7: See? You've just pulled your needle, and the floss trailing behind it, down through the center of the coil that was wrapped around the needle. (Didn't work? Go back to step one and we'll go over it again.)

Step 8: Voilà! I knew you could do it!

Keep practicing and you won't even have to think about the steps. Once you get the hang of it, I bet it will become one of your favorite stitches to use. You'll start thinking of all sorts of neat ways to use it. If it didn't turn out just right the first time, don't worry- try it again and you'll eventually get the feel for it. I know you can do it.

Now that you adore French knots, here's a great pattern for using them:

YAY! YOU FOUND ME! →

Ready to try embroidery? This STARTER KIT SHIPS FREE

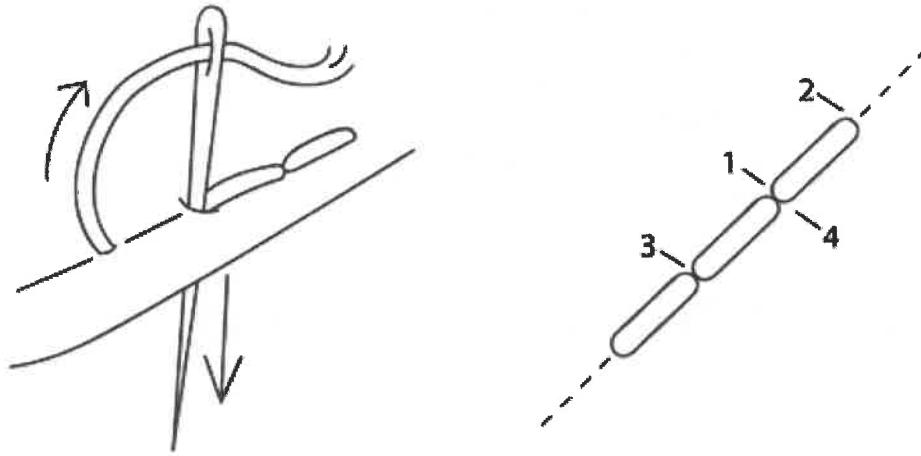


How-To: Back Stitch for Hand Embroidery

by Jenny Hart



BACK STITCH



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"1" is where your needle comes up through the fabric, "2" is where it goes down again.

Give this simple stitch a try! It's a total cinch to work. Make a single, straight stitch (1-2) as long or short as you want. (I make mine approx 1/4" or a bit shorter.) Continue along your pattern line, but come up a space ahead (3) and bring your needle back down into the same hole at the end of the last stitch you made: Get it? You are bringing your stitch back to the end of the last one. Now you know what to do to make a neat, clean line. This is also useful to create a crisp corner. For example: make a back stitch whenever your pattern takes a quick turn, even if you're working in another stitch. Wanna see what it looks like? Here you go!

Looks like this:

YAY! YOU FOUND ME! →

Ready to try embroidery? This STARTER KIT SHIPS FREE

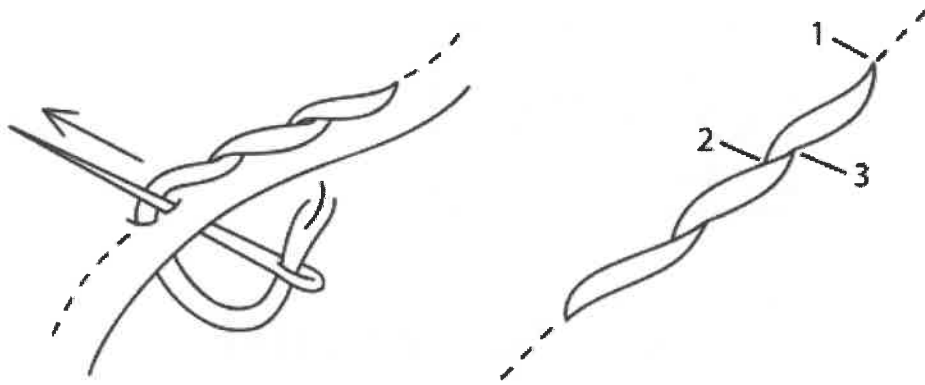


How-To: Stem Stitch for Hand Embroidery

by Jenny Hart



STEM STITCH



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"1" is where your needle comes up through the fabric. "2" is where it goes down again.

You can do it. Work this almost like a split stitch. The difference? Instead of splitting the previous stitch, come up beside it. Repeat with your following stitches, working at a slight diagonal across your line, and keeping to the same side of your stitches (you can choose which side that will be). This stitch is great for curvy lines like vines and plant stems. (Maybe that's why it's called a stem stitch? Ya think?) This is also the most traditionally used stitch you see on vintage linens for outlines. Usually, those are stitched with just verry few strands. I like to use all of 'em! Wanna see what it looks like?

Looks like this: