

# MAKE YOUR OWN: MEXICAN STYLE EMBROIDERY



These motifs have been inspired by a group of Mexican embroidered samplers in our collection. Embroidery has a long history in Mexico. In the 19th century, decorative stitches were used to create colourful animal, bird and plant motifs in silk, cotton or linen threads. Samplers were a popular way to practise needlework skills and adapt different designs. The motifs could be applied to a range of textiles, from household linen to traditional clothing.

Use the stitch-guide and motifs provided to create your own embroidery design. Or follow the instructions to create an eye-catching embroidered bag, big enough for a wallet, keys and mobile-phone.

## TO MAKE THE BAG

You will need:

- Fabric – two rectangles measuring 16 × 23cm each
- Embroidery threads – our example uses a colour scheme including black, bright green, dark blue, lime green, orange, red, turquoise and yellow.
- Material for strap (e.g. ribbon)
- Needle
- Pins
- Water soluble fabric pen
- Sewing machine + thread

## STEP 1: PRINT THE PATTERN

Print both front and back bag pattern pieces in full colour and ensure your printer is set to 'full scale', '100%', 'actual size' or equivalent according to your printer software.

## STEP 2: PREPARE YOUR FABRIC

Cut ×2 rectangles of fabric measuring 16 × 23cm including seam allowances, or draw around the printed pattern. Finish the edges with pinking shears, overlocker or a small machine zig-zag stitch.

## STEP 3: TRANSFER YOUR DESIGN

Trace the design onto your fabric using a water soluble fabric pen – try taping it up to a window to help you see the design through the fabric.

## STEP 4: EMBROIDER YOUR DESIGN

Use the stitch guide to identify the different stitches and colours in the design.

## STEP 5: MAKE UP YOUR BAG

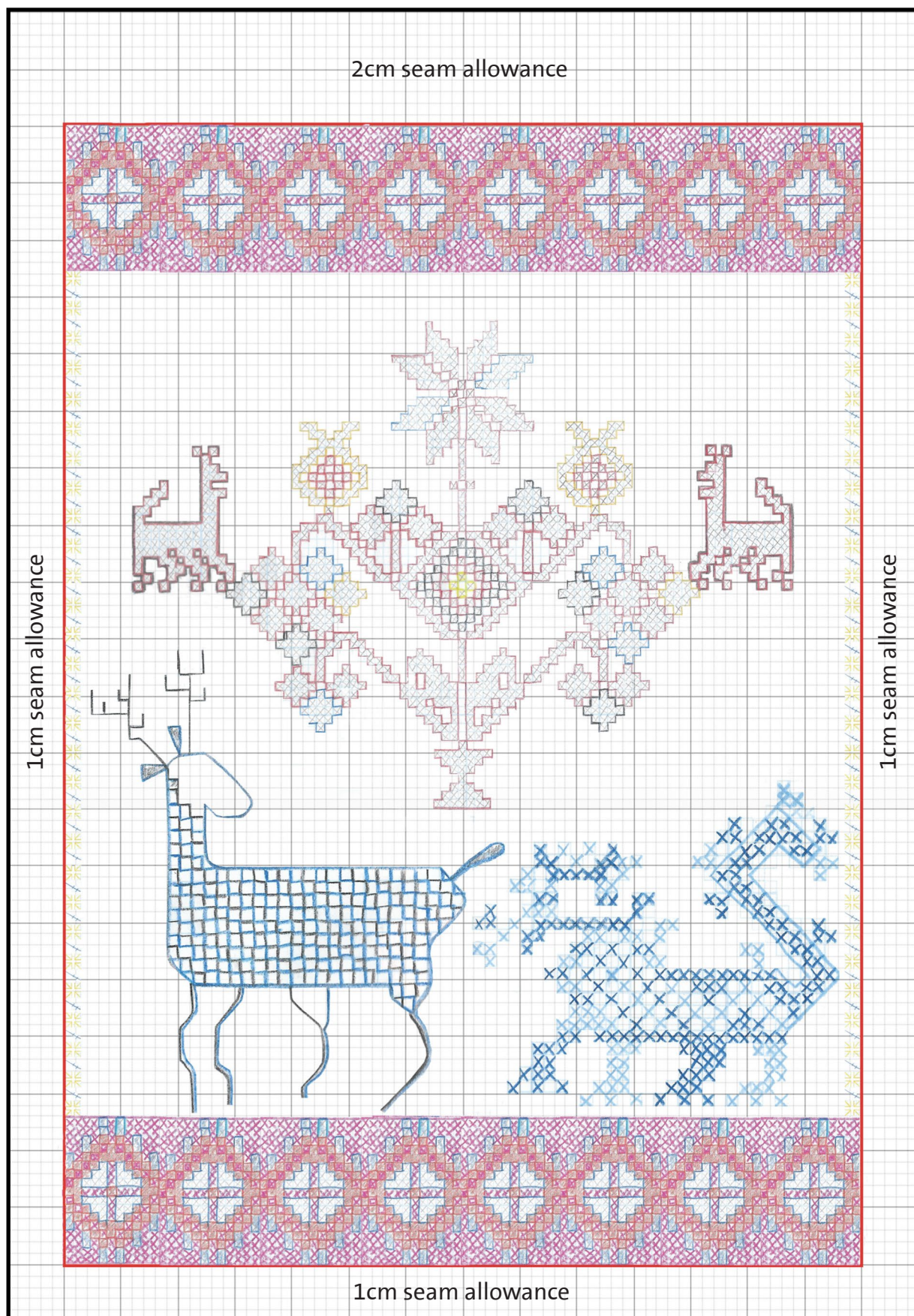
Match up the front and back pieces, with right sides together and pin to hold in place. Machine stitch around the two long sides and bottom of the bag, 1cm from the edge.

Still with right sides together, double turn the 2cm seam allowance around the top edge of bag. Press and pin to hold in place, before slip stitching to hold down the folded edge on the inside. This means you will have a nice neat finish at the bag opening.

Turn the right way out and add a strap to the top corners of the bag.

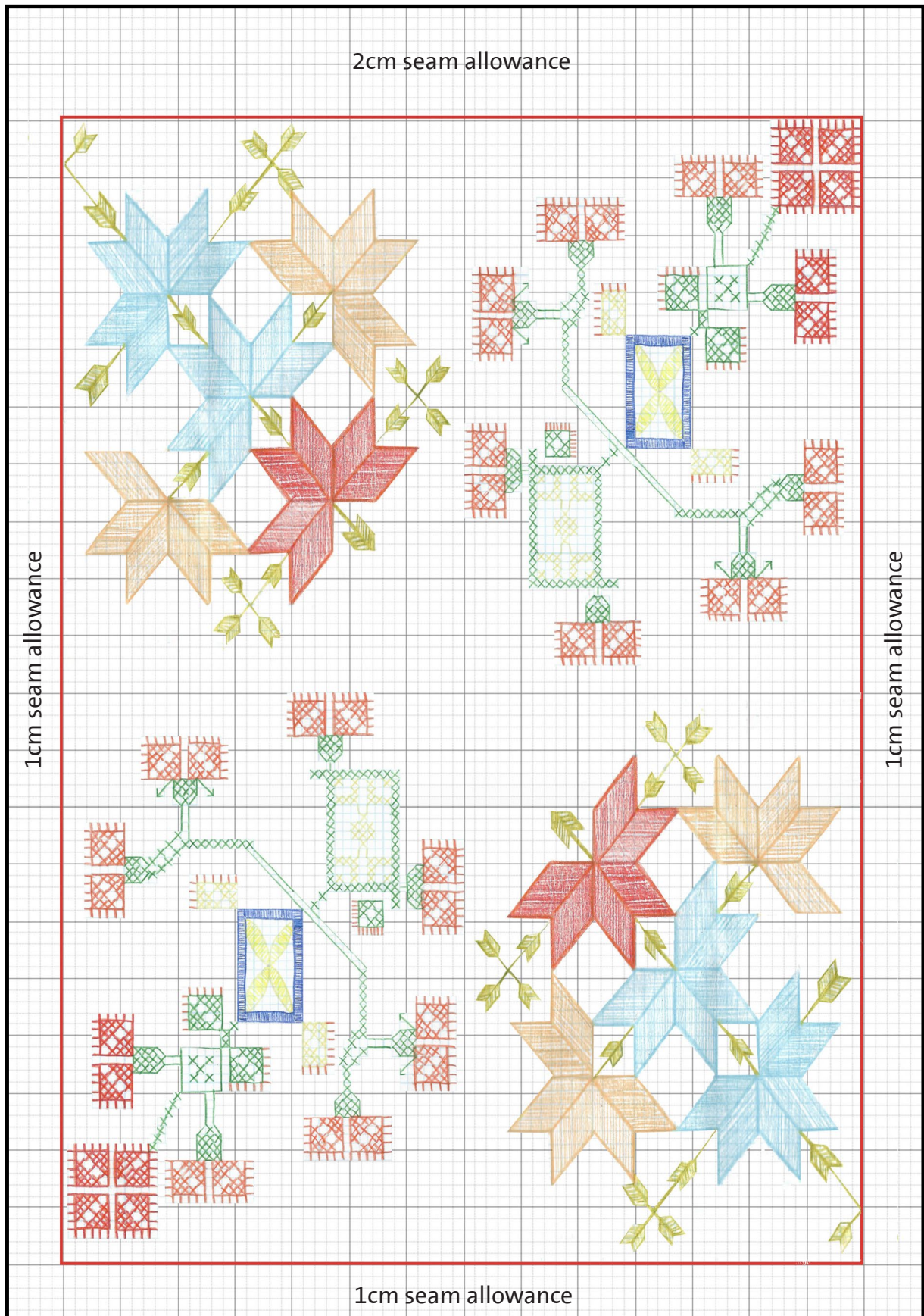
# BAG: FRONT PATTERN

Embroidery designs by Xinyi Li



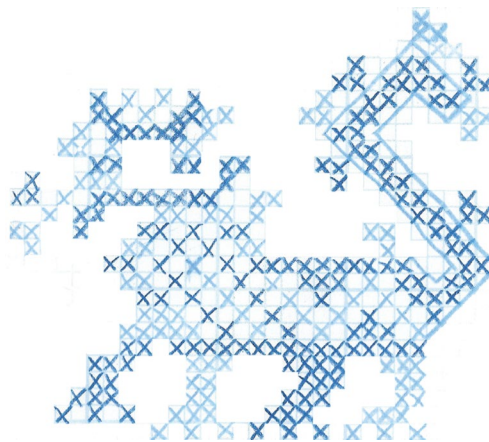
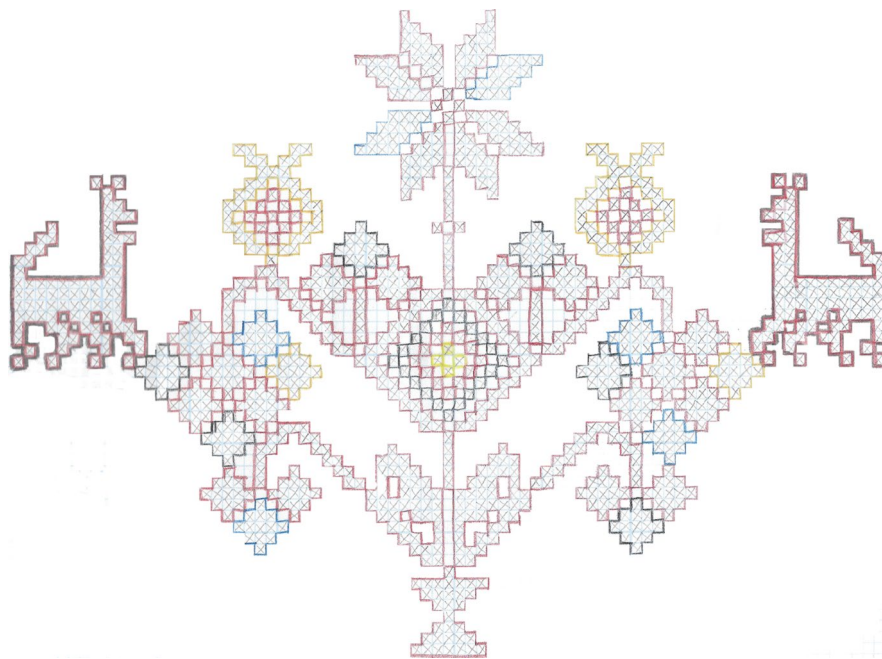
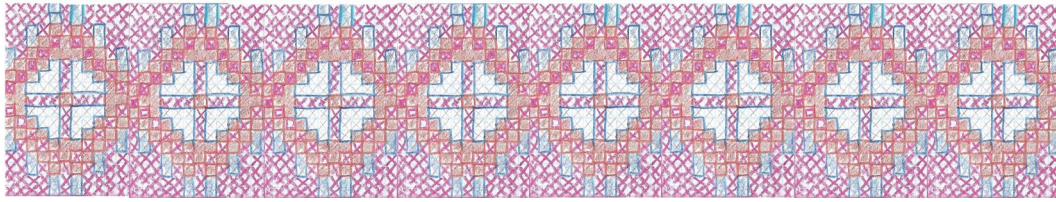


# BAG: BACK PATTERN



# SAMPLER MOTIFS

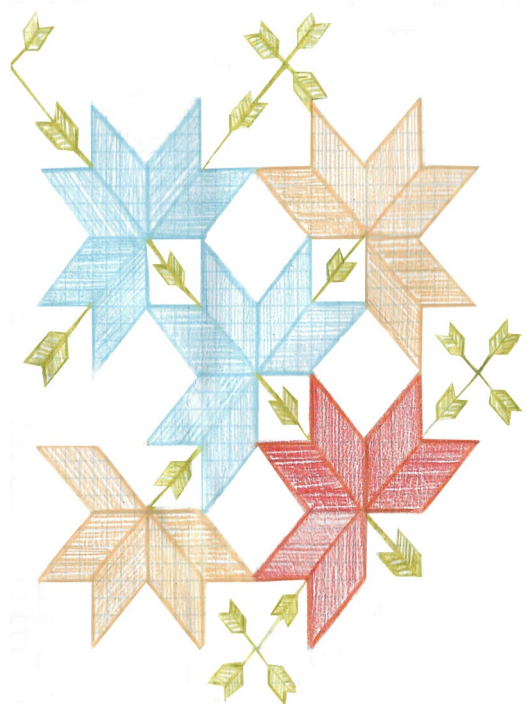
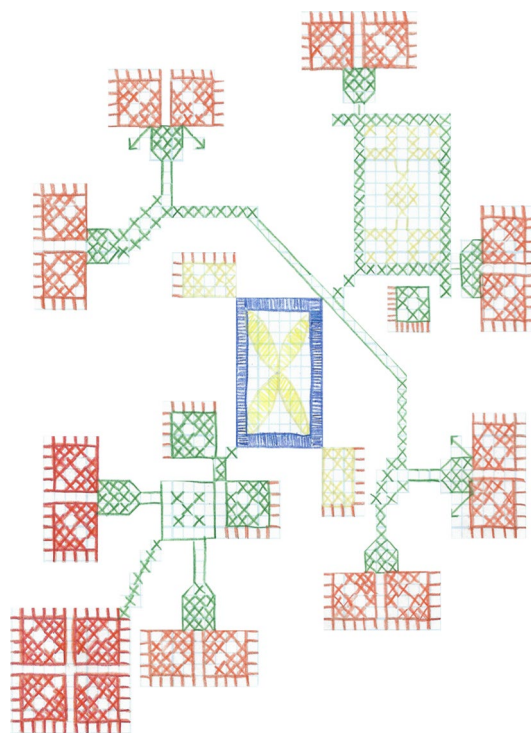
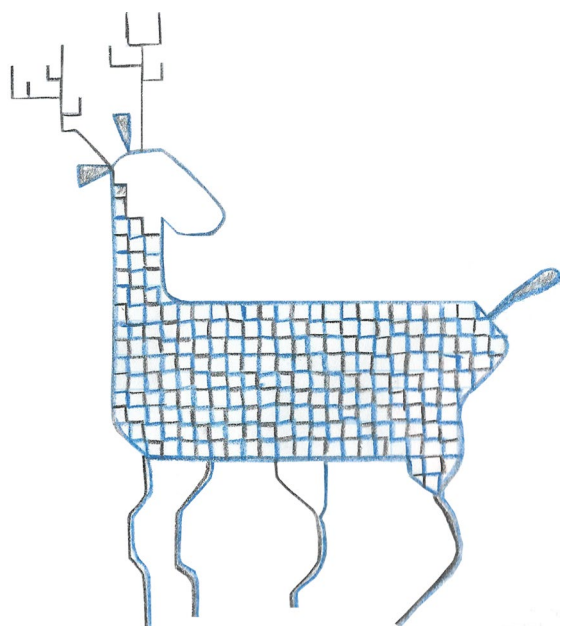
Stitch key provided on page 6 - use cross stitch unless otherwise specified



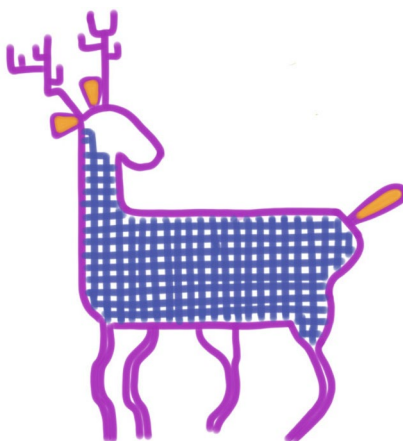
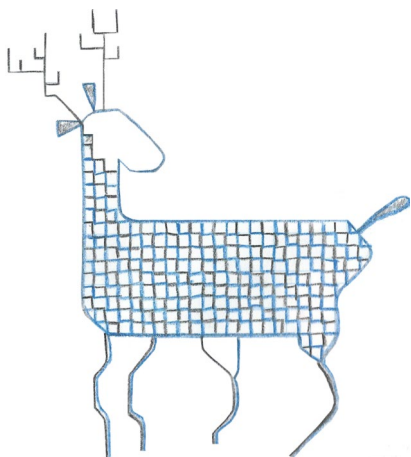





# SAMPLER MOTIFS

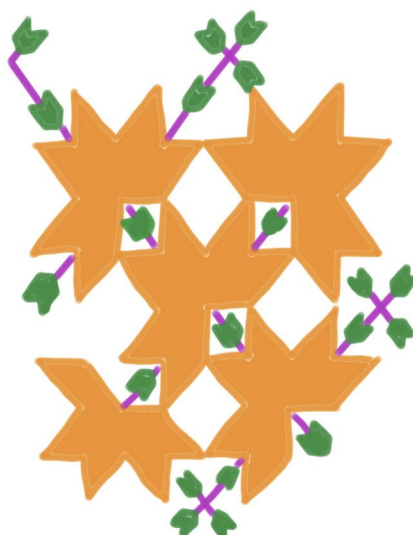
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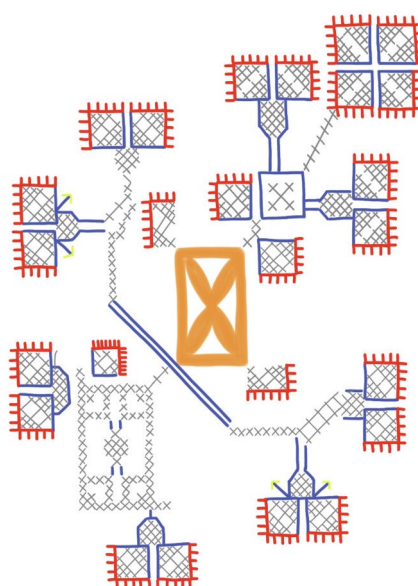
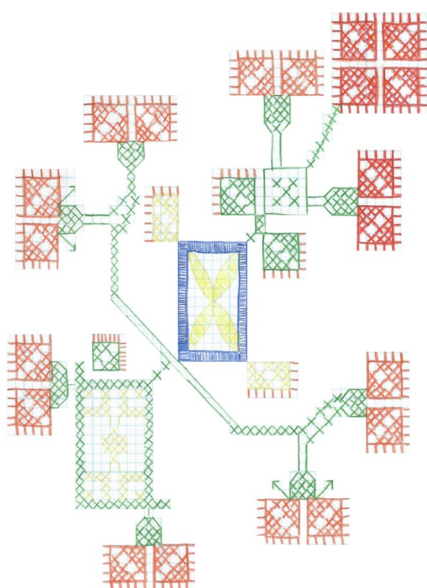
# STITCH KEY








-  chain stitch
-  back stitch
-  satin stitch



-  chain stitch
-  satin stitch
-  fishbone stitch

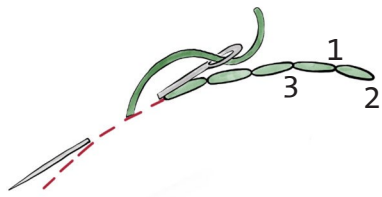


-  back stitch
-  satin stitch
-  blanket stitch
-  french knot
-  cross stitch

# STITCH GUIDE



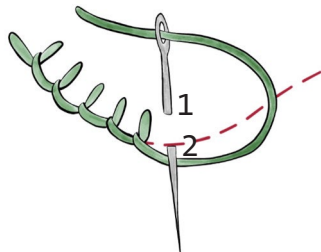
back stitch



Bring the thread up through the fabric at 1 and back down at 2 (working right to left). Bring it up again at 3, then back down at 1, and so on. Aim for a continuous line of stitches with no gaps. Make shorter stitches for curved lines.



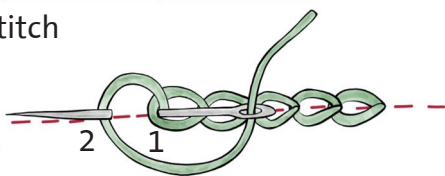
blanket stitch



Take the thread down through the fabric at 1 and up at 2 (working left to right), keeping thread looped under the needle. Pull the thread through.



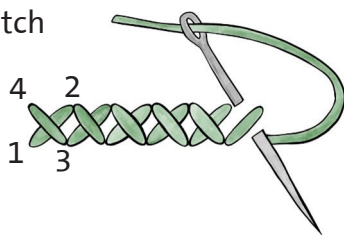
chain stitch



Bring the thread up through the fabric at 1, then back down into the same hole, forming a loop. Bring up at 2, keeping looped thread behind the needle. Pull the thread to tighten loop until desired shape is achieved.



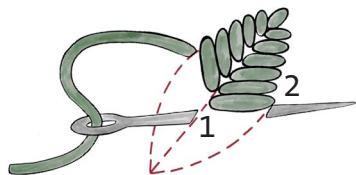
cross stitch



Bring the thread up through the fabric at 1, down at 2, back up at 3 and down at 4. Repeat again from 3 to complete crosses individually. Alternatively stitch all ground stitches in one direction (1-2) and then return to complete the crosses (3-4).



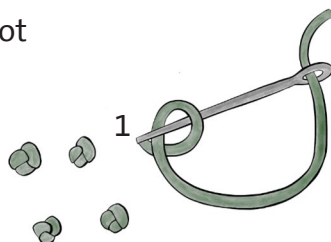
fishbone stitch



As Satin Stitch (below) but reverse direction of stitches along the centre-line of the shape.



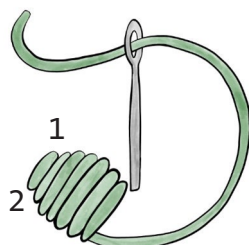
french knot



Bring the thread up through the fabric at 1, hold thread taut with other hand and wrap once around the needle. Pull the thread to tighten and take the needle down just next to 1. Pull thread through until knot formed sits on the surface.



satin stitch



Bring the thread up through the fabric at 1, down at 2, then back up right next to 1 and down right next to 2, filling in the required area with flat stitches that are very close together.