Zen Doord

stitching primer

BY MELISSA DAVISON



See Melissa's full article, "Embroidered 'Home' Wall Hanging: Learn to doodle with stitch" in ZEN DOODLE WORKSHOP Summer 2015, page 76.

note: When working with thick felt it is better to do each step separately so that you are sure you have left enough wool fibers in between the holes made with the needle. Always insert your needle into the felt straight up and down, not at an angle .



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Lazy Daisy

Zen Doorksho

- Bring the needle and thread through to the front of the fabric and then back down through the same spot you came through, creating a loop. (Figure 1)
- 2. Tighten the thread to get the size loop you want and then push the needle through from the back, making sure the needle comes out inside the loop. **(Figure 2)**
- Insert the needle just outside the loop (Figure 3) to complete the petal, and then bring it back up next to the starting point (center of the flower) to begin the next stitch.

note: To make scallops, use the lazy daisy stitch, but when re-inserting the needle to make the petal in step 2, insert it farther away. **(Figure 4)**

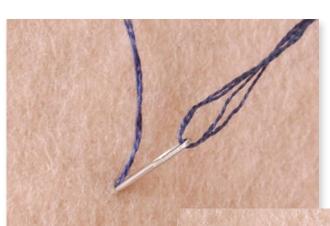




Figure 2

Figure 3

Figure 1



Figure 4

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Backstitch

Zen Dood

- Bring the needle and thread through to the front of the fabric, then insert the needle back into the fabric a stitch length behind the starting point. (Figure 1)
- Bring the needle up in front of the starting point a stitch length away (Figure 2), pull the thread through, and then re-insert the needle at the starting point. (Figure 3) Pull the thread through and repeat until your design is complete.
- 3. You may need to adjust your stitch length to accommodate narrow and wide curves. (Figure 4)





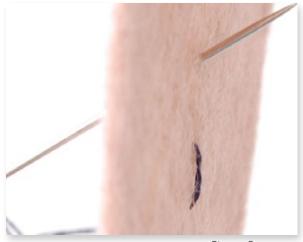


Figure 2

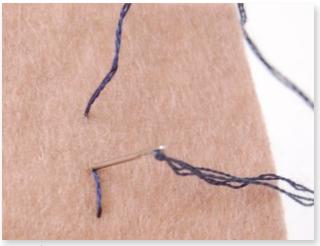
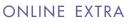


Figure 3







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French Knot

Zen Door

- Bring the needle and thread through to the front of the fabric where you want the center of the knot to be.
- 2. Wrap the thread around the needle once or twice, being sure to hold the thread securely. **(Figure 1)**

note: It's important to wrap the needle twice at the most. If you want a larger knot, use a thicker thread.

 Take the tip of the needle back through the same hole where you started, keeping the wrapped threads in place next to the fabric as you pull the needle all the way through the wrapped thread to form the knot. Knot the thread on the back of the fabric, or come up from the back of the fabric again for the next knot. (Figure 2)







Figure 2



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Weaving

Zen Doord

- Make a desired number of parallel stitches, spacing them as you'd like, depending on the look you want. (Figure 1)
- 2. Insert the needle from the back and through the top of the last stitch, pulling the thread through to the front. Weave the needle over and under the parallel stitches. **(Figure 2)**
- 3. Count over three stitches to the left, and insert the needle though the bottom of that stitch, pulling the thread all the way through. Re-insert the needle from the back at the top of the second-to-last stitch and weave it through the parallel stitches. Count over three stitches to the left again, and insert the needle in the bottom of that stitch. If there is no stitch there, insert the needle at the bottom of the first stitch. (Figure 3)
- 4. Make weaving stitches all the way across the first set of stitches to fill an area. **(Figure 4)**



Figure 1





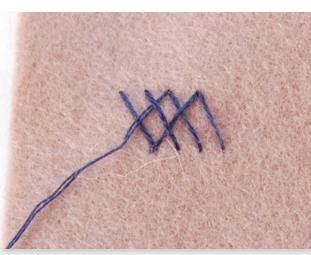


Figure 3



Figure 4



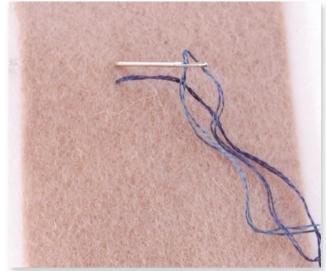
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Satin Stitch

note: You may want to outline a shape with a backstitch or a similar stitch and then fill in with satin stitch, or freehand a shape with no pattern or outlining.

- 1. Bring your needle and thread through to the front of the fabric.
- 2. Working from the front of the fabric, stitch through to the back of the fabric (Figure 1) on the opposite side of the shape, and then come back up to the front, right next to the beginning stitch. (Figure 2)
- 3. Continue in this manner, laying the stitches right next to each other until the shape is filled. **(Figure 3)**
- 4. When you reach the end, knot the thread on the back of the fabric.





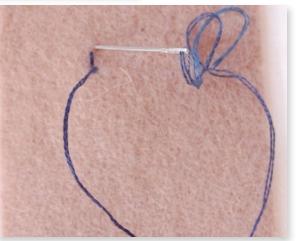


Figure 2



Figure 3



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Finishing a Stitch

- To end your stitching, turn your work to the back side and run your needle through a few tufts of felt, close to your stitches. (Figure 1) Be careful to not insert your needle so far into the felt that the thread shows through on the right side.
- 2. Make a few shallow stitches in both directions, and then trim the thread tails. (Figures 2 and 3)



Figure 1



Figure 2

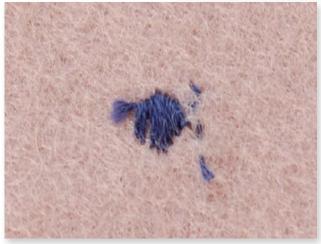


Figure 3