

BEADS EAST

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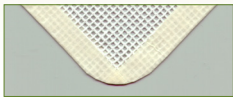
BASIC NEEDLEPOINT

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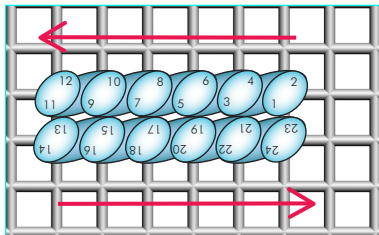
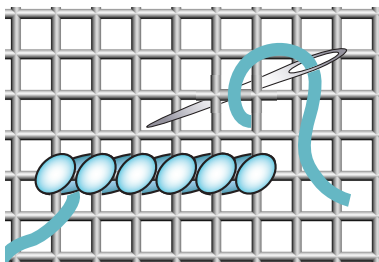
WHAT YOU'LL NEED:

Needlepoint canvas, 3" larger than your desired finished size; fiber appropriate to the gauge of the needlepoint canvas (in our tutorial we'll assume you're using 14-to-the-inch interlock canvas and a full strand of embroidery floss or tapestry wool); #10 embroidery needle or size 24 tapestry needle; masking tape; scissors

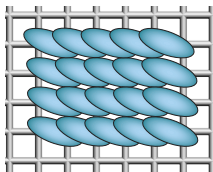
Before beginning, tape the edge of your canvas with masking tape and round the edges (photo, above) to minimize tangling or catching. Secure threads by holding one inch on the back of the canvas and catching the thread end in the first few stitches; end a thread by running it under stitches on the back of the canvas, one or more times until secure. When deciding where to start, allow a margin of about 1.5" all around, which will allow enough margin for blocking should it be necessary.



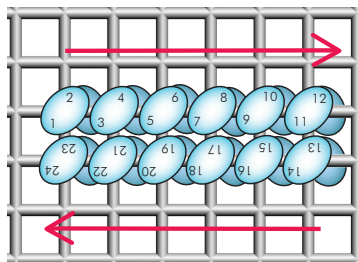
There are three basic stitches used in traditional needlepoint: Continental stitch, half-cross stitch, and basketweave stitch. You'll probably use all three within each project.



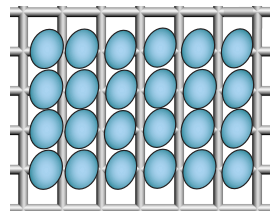
CONTINENTAL STITCH is worked in rows back and forth. This stitch yields excellent coverage, but it can cause significant distortion of the canvas as the stitches on the back are long and pull on the diagonal. Try to keep your stitch tension even and light. As shown in the diagrams above, bring the threaded needle up through the canvas hole at odd numbers and down through the canvas hole at even numbers. The stitch sits diagonally over the intersection of the canvas threads. Rotate the work at the end of each row to begin the next row.



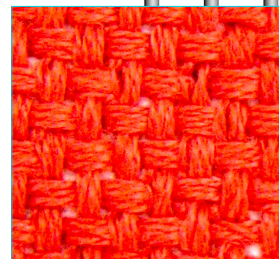
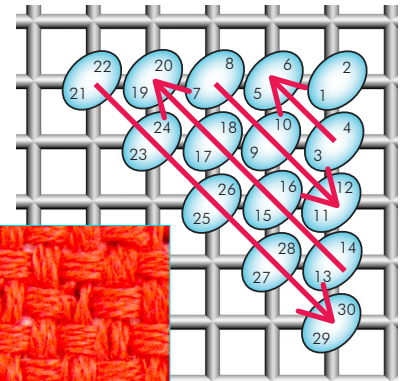
CONTINENTAL STITCH BACKTHREADS



HALF-CROSS STITCH is also worked in back and forth rows with a rotation of the canvas at the end of the row. As in Continental stitch, the thread comes up at odd numbers and goes down at even numbers. The threading on the back of the canvas is very short and does not distort the stitching much; however, the coverage is not as good as in Continental or basketweave stitches.



HALF-CROSS STITCH BACKTHREADS



BASKETWEAVE STITCH is worked in diagonal rows. The canvas is not rotated at the end of

the row. The back of the work takes on a woven look with straight backthreads overlapping each other as shown in the photo. This stitch causes very little distortion and is the preferred stitch for large areas and backgrounds. Anywhere basketweave can be used, it SHOULD be used, as it makes finishing easier because of the minimal distortion.

Blocking

If your finished piece is distorted, you can straighten it by blocking. If you know your threads and the colors on your canvas to be color-fast, you can wet-block. Saturate the piece with clean water, then towel off the excess. Square the work back to its original shape, then secure it to a clean wood surface with non-rusting fasteners. When dry, remove the fasteners carefully.

