



Prestoungrange Arts Festival  
The Prestoungrange Gothenburg  
227-229 High Street  
Prestonpans  
EH32 9BE

Dear Stitcher

## Scottish Diaspora Tapestry

Thank you for helping us create this lasting legacy, Scotland's Diaspora Tapestry.

Information about the kit as well as guidelines for stitching is attached. If you think anything about the design should be different or want to add something to the design, such as a name, date or motif, please get in contact with us.

Please return your embroidered panel to the above address, marked for the attention of Gillian Hart.

Please take photographs of yourself/group at work and send these as high-resolution jpegs or prints with any stories/comments you may wish to add. Space permitting we may include these in future publications and we will also be looking forward to seeing and hearing how you are getting on.

Thank you for taking part in this exciting project and have fun!

Prestoungrange Arts Festival  
[www.prestoungrange.org](http://www.prestoungrange.org)  
[www.scottishdiasporatapestry.org](http://www.scottishdiasporatapestry.org)

## The Kit

The kit includes the following:

1. Linen panel with design
2. Full-size copy of the design
3. A4 colour copy of the drawing indicating the colours for the design. The colours are numbered for easy reference and these numbers should be used if you have to order more wool.
4. Wool

## Guidelines

In order to keep continuity throughout all the tapestry panels, we have some basic rules:

Please sew heavy chain stitch along the grid on the sides of your panel using dark grey wool (968) wool. Outlines should be done in stem stitch using the same colour grey. This should be done before you get creative with the rest of the panel. Smaller shapes need not necessarily be stitched with a dark grey outline.

The design has been drawn on in soft pencil (use 2B), so it's a good idea to stitch in the outlines before filling in. When the pencil fades, you must only use a 2B pencil to replace the lines. Do not use a fabric, transfer or any other kind of pen. Use the black and white full-size design as a reference to draw in any lines as they begin to fade. The A4 colour design is a colour reference.

Please only use the wool provided as again the colours tie the finished panels together and we can send out more on request. The wool is numbered for ease of reordering.

The main stitches are; stem, running, back and filling stitches such as couching, satin, basket. Be adventurous with your stitches if you're an experienced embroiderer. Please do not do any appliqué or add any embellishments.

If using knots to start your work please start the knot further away on the surface then bring the needle up in the area you want to work in, snipping the knot away later preventing a build up of threads on the back of your work.

When finishing, sew three seeding stitches in the area embroidered, then bring thread to the front and trim so there are no hanging threads at the back to tangle.

All the panels must be sewn in an embroidery hoop (also called a ring or tambour frame). Please do not use a frame.

Use sharp crewel needles to sew with (size 7 - 9). A needle threader can be useful if you find the 'eye' is too small to thread the wool easily. A quick and easy way to measure a manageable length of wool to work with is to cut the wool the approximate distance from your wrist to your elbow.

Please do not iron, spray, dampen or block the panel.

Please do not use stiffener /starch on the panel.

We want you to "sign" your panel and the small blank squares are intended for this purpose. You may choose to stitch your initials or design a motif. If the squares are not traced on the linen then this is because we are not sure how many stitchers will be embroidering the panel. We suggest that the squares are placed towards the bottom edge of the design and they should be 25 x 25 mm square. Before you begin, please show us on the design where you want to place the squares.

Apart from these guidelines, Andrew is happy for you to interpret his designs using the given wools. If you have any queries about the design contact Andrew at

[andrewcrummy@scottishdiasporatapestry.org](mailto:andrewcrummy@scottishdiasporatapestry.org)

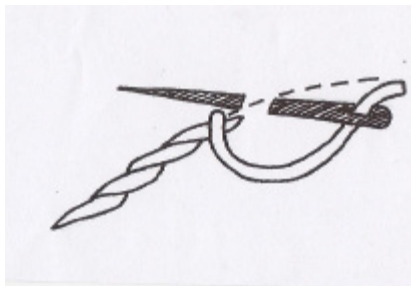
If you have any concerns/questions about stitching contact Yvonne or Gillian at

[yvonnemurphy@scottishdiasporatapestry.org](mailto:yvonnemurphy@scottishdiasporatapestry.org) / [gillianhart@scottishdiasporatapestry.org](mailto:gillianhart@scottishdiasporatapestry.org)

## The Scottish Diaspora Tapestry – A Few Stitches

### **Stem stitch** (Work from left to right)

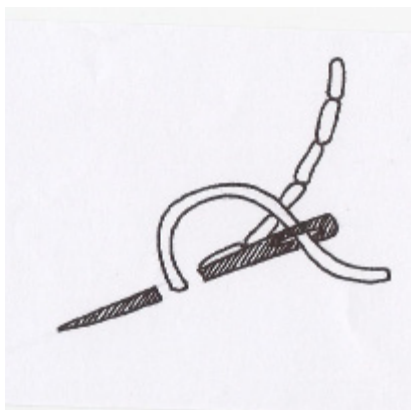
To start the stitch, bring the thread up from the back of the fabric. Make a forward stitch through the fabric. Bring the needle up through the fabric emerging at the end of the previous stitch. Always keep the working thread below the needle. Take regular small stitches along the line of the design each time taking a stitch length forward and bringing the needle up at the end of the previous stitch. The thread always emerges on the left side of the previous stitch. This stitch works very well for outlines. It can also be worked as a filling stitch if worked closely together within a shape until it is completely filled.



### **Back stitch** (Work from right to left)

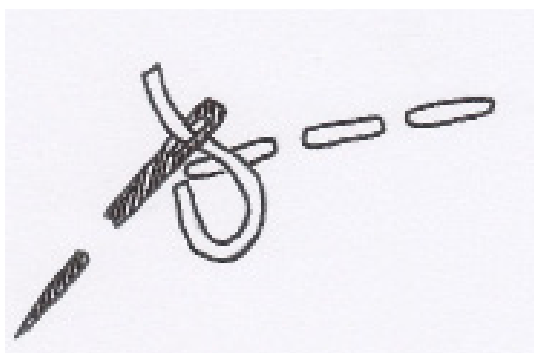
This stitch follows intricate curves well if the stitches are worked in a small and in an even manner in order to follow the flow of the curve. Back stitch is useful for outlining areas to be filled with satin stitches.

To start the stitch, bring the thread up from the back of the fabric. Make a small backward stitch through the fabric. Bring the needle through the fabric a little in front of the first stitch and pull the thread through the fabric. Make a second backward stitch inserting the needle at the point where it first came through the fabric. Bring the needle out a little in front of the second stitch. Repeat.



### **Running stitch** (Work from right to left)

To start the stitch, bring the thread up from the back of the fabric. Pass the needle in and out of the fabric, making the surface stitches of equal length. The stitches on the underside should also be of equal length, but half the size or less than the upper stitches.

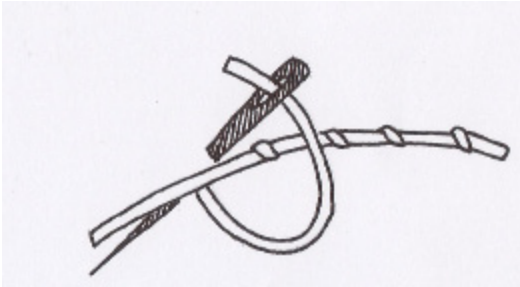


## Couching

*Version 1:* Bring the laid thread to the front of the fabric and lay it on the surface. Bring the anchoring thread to the front below and near the end of the laid stitch.

Put the needle in just above the laid thread and bring it out below it. Work along the laid thread until you have completed the line. Take the laid thread to the back of the fabric and secure.

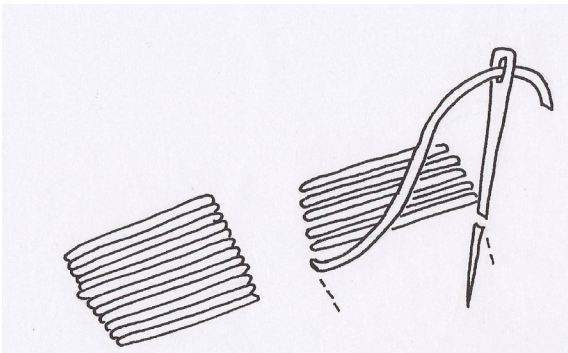
Using a different colour couching thread is very effective.



### Version 2

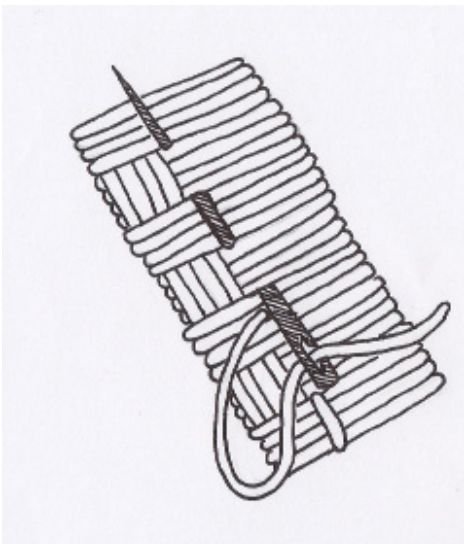
a. To start the stitch, bring the thread up from the back of the fabric and stitch across the design. Pull the needle back up through the fabric leaving enough space for one thread and stitch across the design to one thread away from the first stitch.

b. When the design has been filled work your way back to the beginning filling the single thread spaces. Make sure the threads do not overlap and only fill in spaces where necessary. The back of the work will look like tiny running stitches.



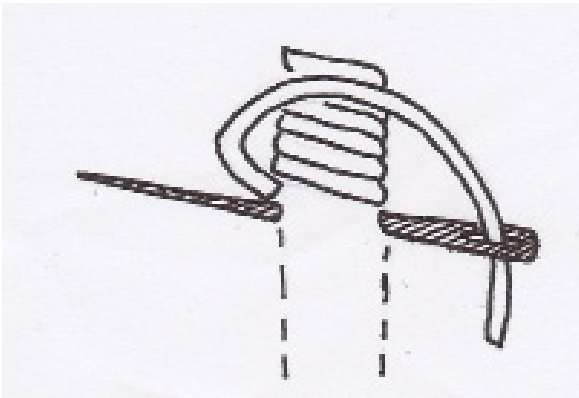
c. Attach a new thread to a tapestry needle and come out perpendicular to the ground threads. Go over 4 threads, under 4 threads, over 4 threads etc. to the opposite end. Bring the needle to the back of the fabric and again to the front next to the thread previously laid. Repeat the pattern.

This stitch is suitable for basket and cloth textures.



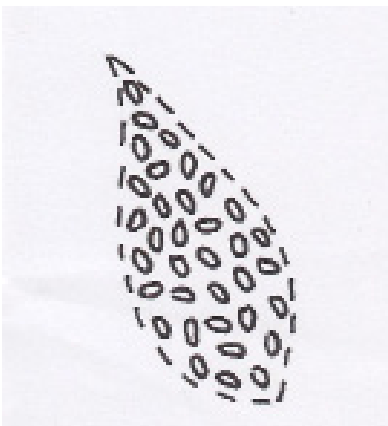
## Satin stitch

This stitch should not be used on an area over approximately 10mm. Work straight stitches closely together starting at the middle of the shape and working to one end. When complete go back to the middle and work to the other end. Take care to keep the edge even, and if you are following an outline marked on the fabric, take your stitches to the outside of the line so that the marked line does not show.



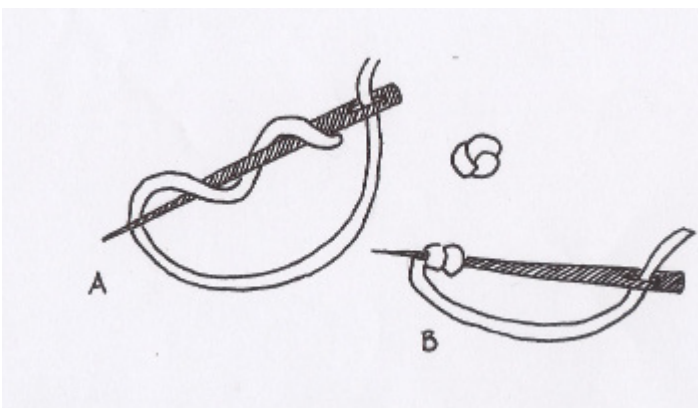
## Seeding

To start the stitch, bring the thread up from the back of the fabric and then make small straight stitches of equal length at random over the surface.



## French knots

Bring the thread out at the required position, hold the thread down where it emerges with the left thumb and encircle the thread twice with the needle (see A). Still holding the thread firmly with your thumb, twist the needle back to the starting point and insert it close to where the thread first emerged (not in the exact place or it will simply pull back through). Pull the needle through to the back, leaving a small knot on the surface, as shown, or pass on to the position of the next stitch as at B.



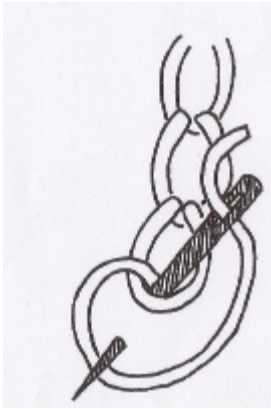
### **Split stitch** (Work from left to right)

Use a double thread (or two threads of different colour) and start by bringing the thread up from the back of the fabric. Make a back stitch and bring the needle back up through the fabric as well as between the two working threads midway to the first stitch. Make another back stitch and repeat the process.



### **Chain stitch**

Bring the needle up through the fabric and make a loop of thread and hold it down with the left thumb. Insert the needle back into where it first came out. Take the needle through the fabric bringing the point of the needle out a short space along the line to be stitched. With the thread wrapped under the needle point, pull the needle through the fabric. Repeat



### **Heavy Chain Stitch**

Work from the top. Bring the needle to the front of the fabric at A and put it in at B to make a small stitch. Bring the needle out at C and take it under the small stitch from right to left, slipping it along the top of the fabric. Then put it in at C.

Bring the needle out at D and take it under the small stitch in the same way and put it in at D.

Bring the needle out at E and now take it under both the chain stitches from right to left before putting it in at E.

Continue, always taking the needle under both the previous two stitches at the same time.

