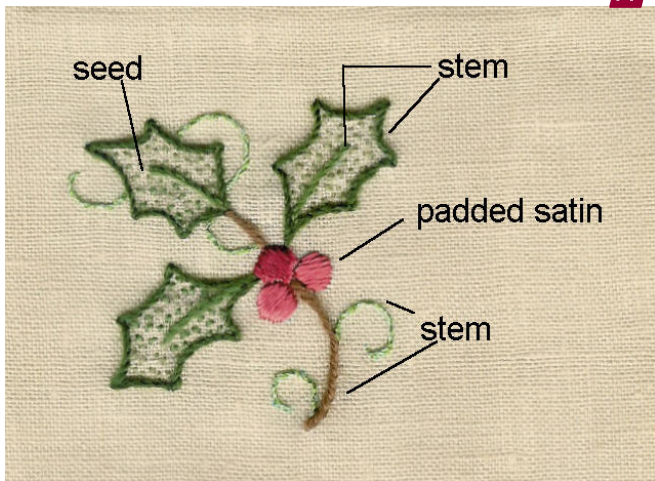


HOLLY HO

A LOVELY LITTLE CREWEL EMBROIDERED ORNAMENT
BY BARBARA JACKSON



Holly Ho!

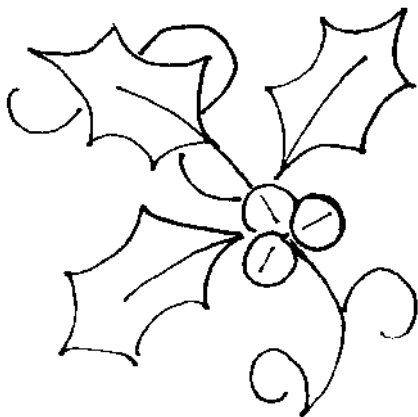


Materials needed:

- Threads: *Appleton Crewel or other crewel weight wool:*
- ⇒ **Three Green colors** in the same family; light, medium and dark
- ⇒ **Two Pink colors;** medium and medium-dark
- ⇒ **One medium Brown**
- Linen: 6"x6" piece of plain weave linen or linen-type fabric
- Needles: #6 crewel
- 4" or 5" embroidery hoop

General instructions:

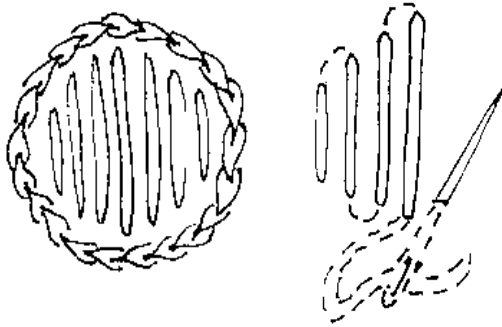
- Trace the design, below left corner, onto the linen using a pencil. First tape the design onto a window, then tape on the fabric centered over the design, and trace.
- Remove fabric from window, center on the embroidery hoop, and tighten fabric in hoop.
- Use one strand of the crewel wool in your needle.
- To begin, make a knot on the top of your work and then 2 pin stitches in the path of your upcoming stitches.
- To end a thread make 2 pin stitches underneath previous work or turn work over and slide thread under previous stitches. Make sure the silk is securely tied off.
- Make sure your linen is taut in hoop or frame. You might as well be working "in hand" if it is not tight. Watch your fingers on the hand holding the work. It is very easy to start pushing them into the underside of the linen, causing fabric to loosen. If fabric loosens, take hoop off and re-apply.
- "Stab" stitch when you stitch. If you are able to "sew", your fabric is not taut enough!



©Copyright 2003
Barbara Jackson
All rights reserved

Order of Work

1. Holly leaves - work outside edges with darkest green followed by veins in medium green. Fill in shapes with seed stitch in light and medium green. I worked one leaf entirely with the light value, worked the second leaf with a small bit of medium added and then did the last leaf with a 50/50 combo of light and medium seed stitches. You could also use the light green only at tips or vary the number of the seed stitches to give the illusion of shading.
2. Berries - work the darker berry first as it appears to be behind the other two berries. Notice the direction that the satin stitch will be. After working the split stitches add a padding layer of satin stitches on the inside of the split stitch area. Work these stitches at a right angle to the final, top layer of stitches. Work padding stitches from side to side. Otherwise, you will end up with as much padding on underside of linen as on the top. For the top layer of satin stitches start in middle



of berry to set angle. Take your time when working circles to get the precise stitches needed to end up with a circle and not an egg! Work the other two berries in the lighter red. Again, notice the direction of the top layer of satin and plan accordingly.

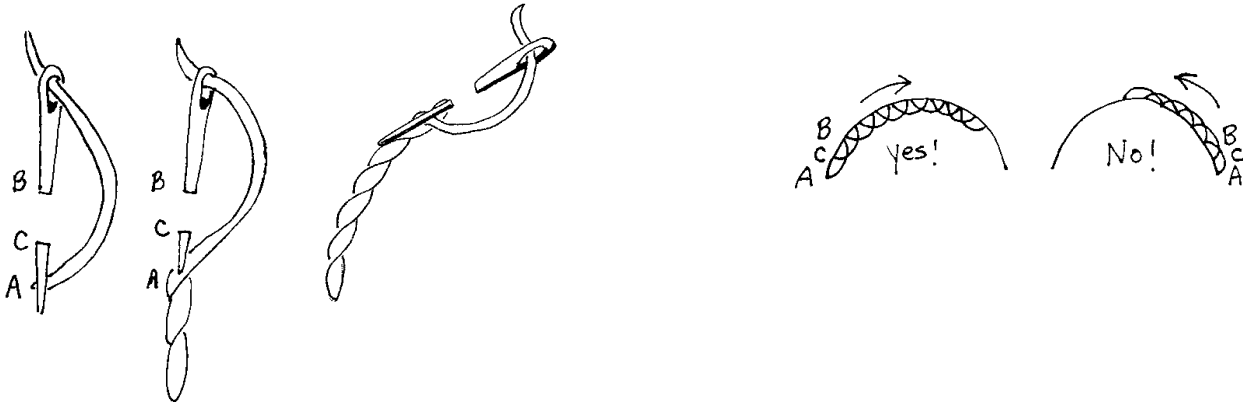
3. Stem - start at top and work downward, being careful to keep the continuity of the stem as it passes under the berries.

Tendrils - these are worked in the metallic. Plan ahead to take into consideration all the curves. I did some careful weaving on the back to minimize the number of times I had to tie off.

Stitches

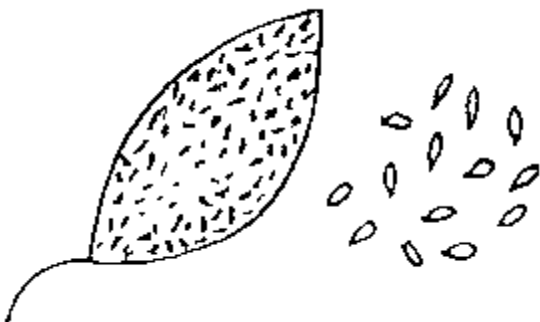
(Diagrams show "sewing" method of stitching for ease in following stitch direction. In reality, use stab stitches.)

Stem



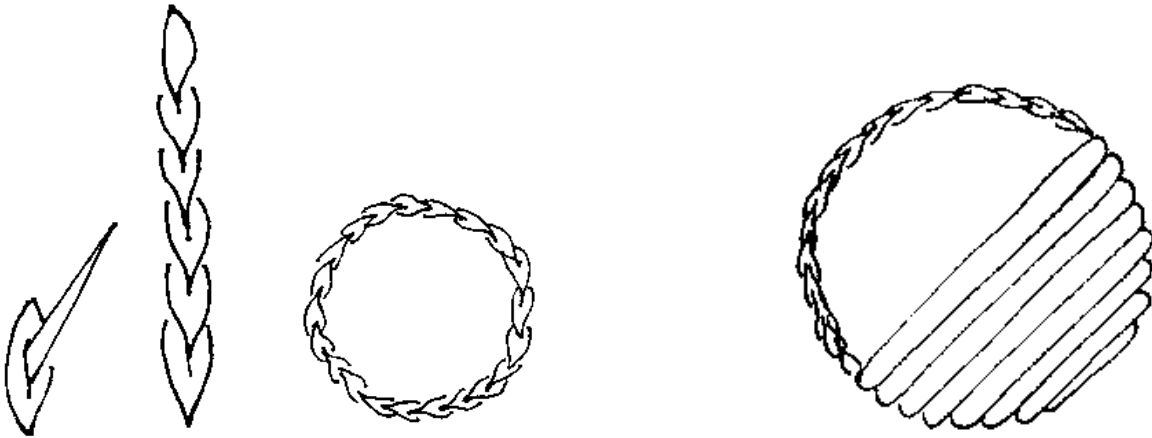
Come up at A and go down at B. Come up at C and repeat, pushing previous stitch to the right to keep it out of the needle's way. Stitches should be approximately 1/8" long, slightly shorter on tight curves. Always stitch so you are pushing previous stitch to inside of a curve. (See diagram above.) Before working your first stitch, make a compensating stitch that will go from A to C. Then start the A-B drill. This tiny stitch will keep the first stitch from looking skimpy. Do the same thing at the end of a row. Always push the previous stitch to the right as you go down a line; don't push some to the left as it will show in your completed work.

Seed



Make tiny stitches facing in many directions to give the illusion of filling. There are two ways to shade with this very simple stitch - use more than one color value or vary the closeness of the stitches.

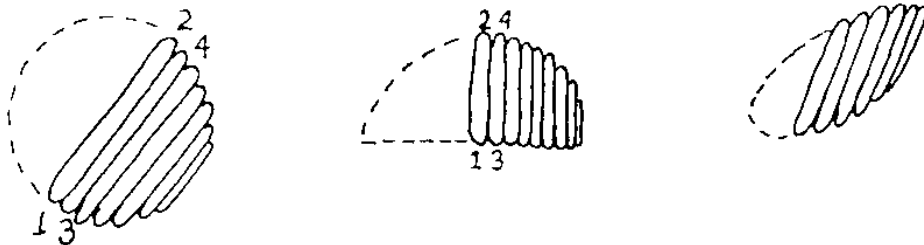
Split Stitch



As the name implies, this stitch is formed by bringing the needle up through the middle of the previous stitch. It will look like a row of miniature chain stitches. This stitch is used to pad and smooth the outside edge of a shape that will be covered in satin stitch, in this case, the holly berries. Make the stitches as small as possible and be careful not to lose the round shape.

Padded Satin Stitch

Stitches should just touch, except on edges where they can be tucked under to get a rounder or sharper point. Start in middle to set angle. On circles I always make at least the first two or three stitches in the middle the same length. This avoids "points" in the middle of a circle.



To contact:

Barbara Jackson
email - trisbrooks@comcast.net