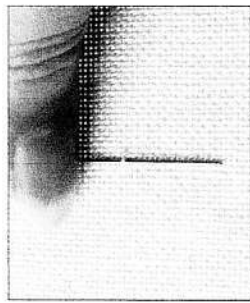


DRAWN THREAD STITCHES

The essence of drawn thread work is the removal of threads from the fabric. This alone can create useful effects. Drawn thread stitches are perfect for borders, and also make pretty patterns that you can use to fill shapes. The following pages give you a step-by-step guide to drawn thread work.

PREPARATION

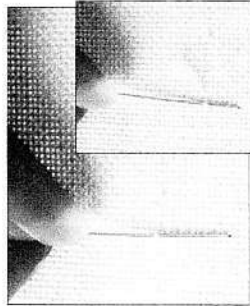
Before doing any drawn thread work, it is advisable to either remove your fabric from the frame entirely, or to loosen it so that it hangs slack in the frame. Then you can begin to remove threads. This method assumes that you are creating a border, or a line that does not meet any other stitching.



1 In the middle of the line you wish to remove, use a tapestry needle to hook up just one thread of the fabric and pull it up a little.



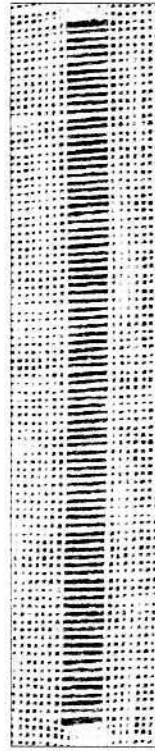
2 Slide the point of one blade of your embroidery scissors under the same thread, beside the needle, and snip the thread. It is very handy to have sharp-pointed curved scissors for this.



3 Move along the cut thread, using the needle to tease it free of the fabric. Continue this to the end of the line, and then do the same in the opposite direction.



4 Thread the needle with the unpicked thread and weave it back into the fabric by four or five threads to secure the end. Do the same at the other end. Do not cut the thread until all the necessary threads are removed, in case you need to adjust the tension. Then trim away all the excess thread.



This sample shows five drawn threads.

ALTERNATIVE PREPARATION

This method assumes that you are working your drawn thread up to other stitching. It works for any reasonably solid stitching including buttonhole stitch, satin stitch, close clustered French knots and trailing.



1 Before working your chosen stitch, work a line of double running stitch with lace thread, just inside the outline.



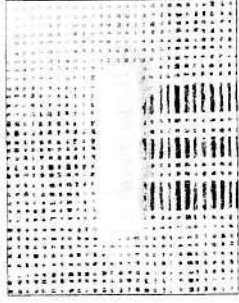
2 Work your chosen stitch along the line, covering the double running stitch. Here I have used buttonhole stitch (see page 78).



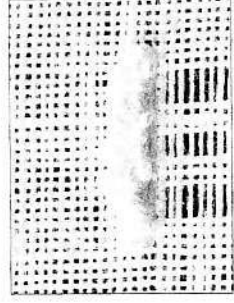
3 Remove the lace from the frame and follow steps 1, 2 of the standard preparation.



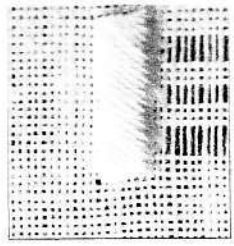
4 Once all the necessary threads are unpicked right up to the stitching, lift them all up, away from the fabric and slide one blade of your embroidery scissors underneath. Move the scissors so that the flat of the blade rests against the stitching and carefully snip the threads. By ensuring that the flat of the blade is against the stitching, you reduce the risk of cutting through your stitches.



The finished preparation using buttonhole stitch.



You can also prepare for drawn thread work using French knots, as shown here.



Alternative preparation for drawn thread work using satin stitch.

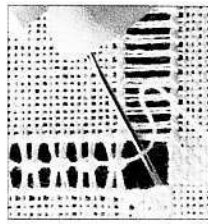
DRAWN THREAD CORNERS

When working a border, you usually have a corner to fill. To prepare a corner, follow the preparation steps (see page 66), making sure that the tension is even. For a large corner I advise working a line of buttonhole stitch along each edge.

Buttonhole corner



1 Work your chosen stitch down the length of the vertical border and with the same thread, begin the corner stitch. Bring the needle up two bunches into the horizontal border.



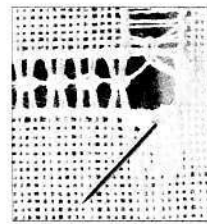
2 Take the needle down into the corner, catching the loop.



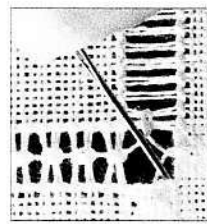
3 Bring the needle up two threads into the fabric.



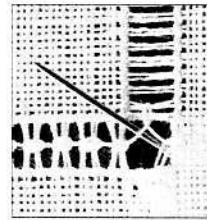
4 Take the needle down into the corner, catching the loop.



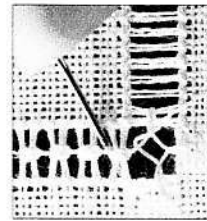
5 Bring the needle up two threads into the fabric.



6 Take the needle down into the corner, catching the loop.



7 Bring the needle up in the corner through the first loop.



8 To finish off neatly, take the needle down two bunches into the vertical border and run the needle through the stitching so that you can cast off on the edge.

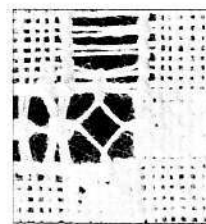
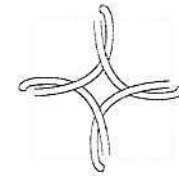


Diagram 1

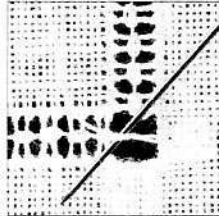
Diagram 2. This stitch can be worked in either direction, so long as you catch each loop.



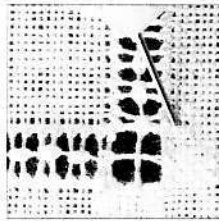
Woven wheel corner



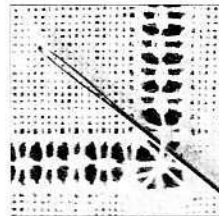
1 Work your chosen stitch down the length of the vertical border and then carry the thread across the corner, taking the needle two threads into the fabric opposite.



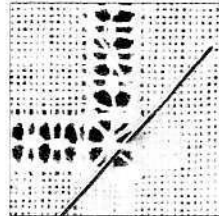
2 Use the needle to carefully wrap around the thread across the corner and then carefully run the needle through the stitching and cast off to the side. Repeat with the horizontal border.



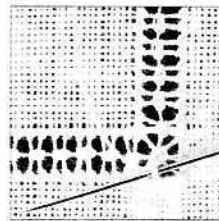
3 Bring the needle up two threads into the fabric in the top left and take it down at the bottom right to form a diagonal stitch, then wrap around this thread back to the start. Make a couple of small stitches to travel to the bottom left.



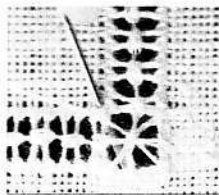
5 Wrap along the thread as far as the centre to complete the spokes of the wheel. Then begin to weave through the spokes.



6 Weave over and under alternate spokes all round the wheel, keeping the thread fairly tight the first time.



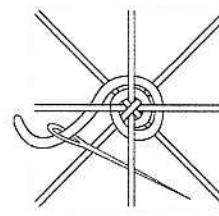
7 Weave round the wheel again, keeping the thread more relaxed for each subsequent circle so that it builds in size. Remember not to completely fill the corner.



4 Bring the needle up two threads into the fabric in the bottom left and pass the needle through the crossed threads in the centre before taking it down the top right.



8 After a few circles, the wheel is complete. To finish off, wrap around the last spoke back to the bottom left and cast off in the fabric.



Diagram



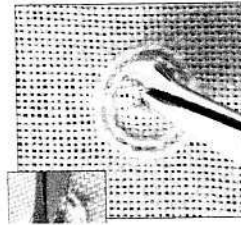
The finished woven wheel corner.

CUTWORK

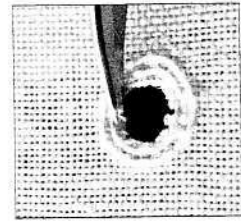
Cutwork removes part of the fabric, allowing the backing material to show through. Buttonhole stitch is the traditional stitch used for cutwork, and is the easiest way to get a neat finish, because the stitch forms a corded edge. Stranded cotton and coton à broder work well for cutwork stitches. There are two methods to consider, depending on the shape you are stitching. For small, simple shapes such as circles, ovals or teardrops method 1 can be useful, because you trim the fabric first and fully encase the edge. For larger and more complex shapes method 2 gives a neat finish and can be used with buttonhole stitch, satin stitch or trailing. You can also use these methods to create a pretty hem for your work, for example a scalloped border. Work the stitches the other way round so that the corded edge faces outwards.

METHOD 1, BUTTONHOLE STITCH

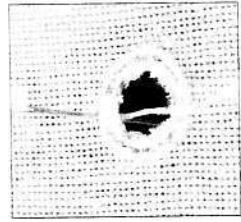
This method must be worked after everything else is complete. It is worked on a still-tight frame, so you must be very careful with your tension. This method is best suited to very closely woven fabrics.



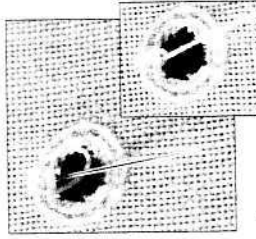
1 Work two lines of double running stitch around the shape and then begin to trim away the fabric by first cutting from the middle to each end, and then from the middle to each side.



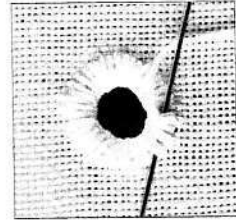
2 Carefully trim each tab away and gently remove any fluff.



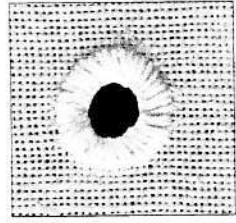
3 Cast on between the two running stitch lines. Bring the needle up through the hole and down just outside the outer line, leaving a loop.



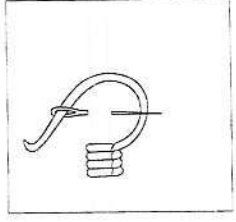
4 Bring the needle up through the hole again, inside the loop. Pull through to complete the stitch and repeat all around the shape, making sure that the two ends match up neatly.



5 Cast off by running the needle under a few stitches on the back.



The finished example of cutwork with buttonhole stitch.



Diagram

Note

With this method you must be very careful with your tension. Pulling too tightly on the stitches can cause the fabric fibres to pull through the running stitch, ruining the shape.

METHOD 2

This may be worked with buttonhole stitch, satin stitch or trailing (see the examples on page 80). Here it is shown with basic, narrow buttonhole stitch, but you could also try a wider line of buttonhole stitch, in which case you may find it useful to stitch a line of split stitch under the outer edge, just as you would for satin stitch (see page 50). The stitching may be worked at the same time as other core stitches, but the cutting away should be done at the very end.



1 Work a line of double running stitch just outside the outline. To begin buttonhole stitch, bring the needle up just inside the line and take it down just outside the line, leaving a loop.



2 Bring the needle up just inside the line, right next to the first stitch, with the needle inside the loop.



3 Pull the excess thread to the back and then bring the needle and thread through to complete the stitch.



4 Repeat around the shape, placing the stitches as close together as you can. Make sure that the two ends match up neatly.



5 Begin to trim the fabric away by first cutting from the middle to each end, and then from the middle to each side.



6 Insert the scissors so that the flat of the blade rests against the stitches; this way the stitches will not be cut. Use small snipping movements to gradually trim away the fabric. Sometimes it is useful to turn to the back.



The finished example of cutwork with buttonhole stitch.

Note

To change thread while working, finish the last stitch by making a tiny stitch over the loop. Start a new thread and bring the needle up between the last two stitches to form the next loop.