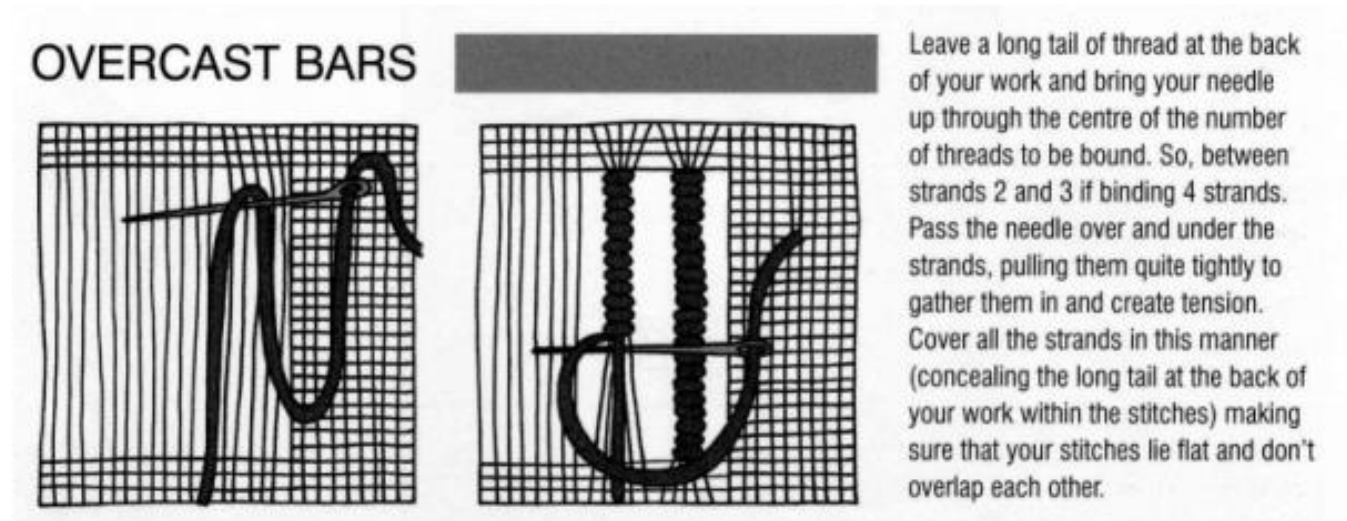


# Needle-weaving

This relatively easy type of drawn thread work is created by weaving (or darning) the embroidering thread into the warp or weft threads to create patterns of light-colored threads and dark openings in the drawn-thread cloth. Needle-weaving is most often used for decorative borders. It is nearly always used in combination with other types of embroidery stitches. Together they create a complete design and, historically, in ethnic embroidery, distinctive embroidery styles, also known as "needle-darning."

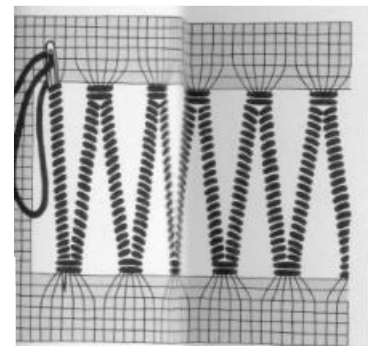
## Basic Overcast: Bars



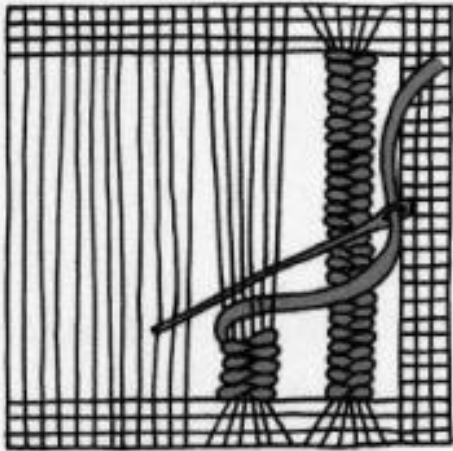
When bar is completed, run needle through it to secure your thread. Change to a thinner needle if it is too tight a fit. Cut off excess thread.

## Variation: Serpentine

1. Prepare drawn border with total threads a multiple of 3. Work one basic overcast bar over three threads.
2. Just above the bottom edge of border, overcast twice over six threads. Pulling first and second bundles together.
3. Work upward over the second three thread bundle. At the top edge, overcast twice over six threads pulling second and third bundles together.
4. Continue this way to end of border, creating a zigzag effect. Run needle through it to secure your thread. Change to a thinner needle if it is too tight a fit. Cut off excess thread.



# WOVEN BARS

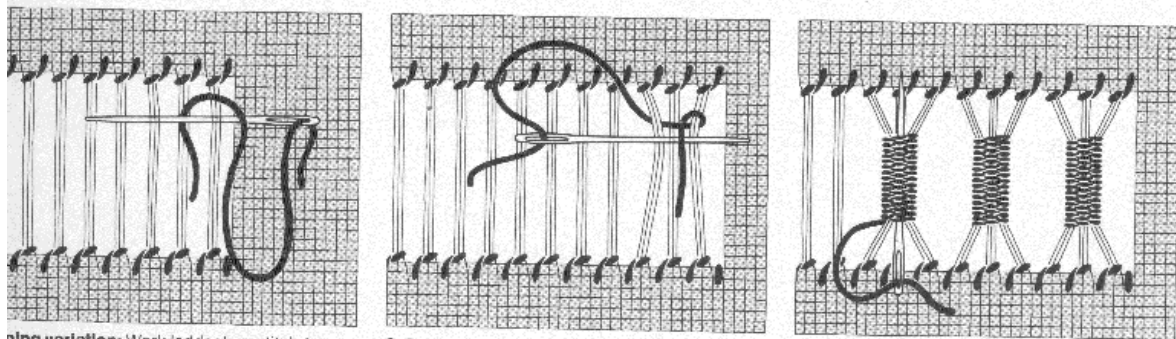


As with overcast bars, leave a long tail at the back of your work that you can cover with stitches as you go. Bring the needle up between the central strand of a group of strands, in this case between strands 3 and 4 of a group of 6. Take the needle over and under strands 1, 2 and 3. Bring the needle up between strands 3 and 4, then over and under strands 4, 5 and 6. Again, bring the needle up between strands 3 and 4; repeat until the threads are covered.

Continue weaving needle over and back, keep thread taut until bar is covered. To secure thread, run needle through woven bar. If fit is tight, change to sharp, thinner needle. Trim excess thread.

## Variation 1:

1. Work a ladder hemstitch with ladder bundles a multiple of 3. Begin the darning by positioning the needle and thread, a  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the way down the first bundle.



2. Darn three bundles together along centre half, moving needle right to left, left to right until centre half is darned. Pull thread taut as you weave.
3. As each bar is completed run the needle up through it to secure yarn. Trim excess.

## Variation 2

1. Bundles multiples of 4; three threads each bundle. (ladder hemstitch is helpful).
2. Overcast down the first bundle  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the way.
3. Change to darning stitch and darn over and under first and second groups of threads until  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the depth is covered.
4. Change back to overcasting and wrap the remainder of the first group of threads to the bottom edge.
5. Slip needle up through these last overcasting stitches to get into position for next step.
6. Darn second and third groups together to bottom edge. Run thread through just darned area; Trim thread close.
7. Turn work upside down and using new length of thread repeat entire sequence to fill in other half of pattern. Turn right side up of next one.
8. Continue working individual units by halves, the first half right side up. Turn work upside down to do the second half.

