

Gwynnyd's All Thumbs Guide to Beginning Hand Sewing

Baroness Gwynnyd, OP made these notes and took these pictures. I can be contacted by emailing gwynnyd@gmail.com

Materials you will need

1 piece of **plain** material about a foot square - cotton, cotton blend, or linen

Sewing needle

Scissors or snips

Button (any size or style)

Needle threader (optional)

3 straight pins (optional)

Thread (using a contrast color at first will make it easier to see the stitches)

Piece of wax - smallish, a piece or stub of an old candle will do - use a real wax one or a **white** candle

Note - I am right handed so, in this time of quarantine, the pictures will all show that. However, I have written the directions in a way that works for anyone. If you are right-handed, your dominant side will be your right side. If you are left-handed, your dominant side will be your left side. Stitches are worked either from the dominant side towards the non-dominant side, or from the non-dominant side towards the dominant side and this will be indicated in the directions.

Stitches in this guide - a picture of the front and back of the finished piece is at the end.

Running

Back or Stem Stitch

Slip Stitch

Catch Stitch (the wiggle stitch)

Herringbone Stitch

Buttonhole Stitch

Sewing on a button

Hand sewing needles -

There are several different kinds of common needles that are made for different purposes.

Sharps - Most of the needles you see in stores will be 'sharps'. These needles are medium to long, with a rounded 'eye' end where the thread goes through. These are general purpose hand sewing needles. The tip is very pointed and sharp. In fabric with thick threads, it may poke through and split the threads instead of going around them. (This happens once in the video that goes with these notes.) There is also be a 'ball point' variation with a rounded tip that does not tend to break the threads in delicate or heavy fabric as it pokes through. For the most part, though, you will want a sharp tip on your needle.

Embroidery - The main difference between 'sharps' and 'embroidery' needles is the size of the 'eye'. Embroidery needle eyes are larger to be able to take several strands of embroidery floss. The eye is more elongated. If you have trouble threading needles, look for 'embroidery' needles.

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Between - These are shorter needles made for quilting or for use with heavier fabrics. (Personally, I like sewing with 'betweens', so try several kinds and see which suits you best.)

Tapestry - these are also called 'yarn needles' as they are much larger and thicker than regular needles and have a rounded point and a very large eye for threading yarn through.

There are many other specialized needles out there, but these are the common types.

If you look at the needles here you will see several different types. Look at the size of the 'eyes' and the length of the needles. The tapestry, or yarn, needle is in the center with the very large eye. The embroidery needles are to the left, notice the longer eyes. The rest are all 'sharps' or 'betweens' of different lengths. A very detailed guide to different needles can be found here: https://www.jjneedles.com/images/needles-guide/Hand_Sewing_Needle_Size_Guide_Type_Length.pdf

But don't worry about it - just grab any handy, not too big, sharp needle for this class. For this, they will all work.



NOTICE THE TAPESTRY NEEDLE IN THE CENTER - ANY OF THE OTHER NEEDLES WILL WORK FOR THIS CLASS.

Thread -

As with needles, there are many different types of thread - cotton, polyester, cotton wrapped on a polyester core, and more. For basic hand sewing, any of these will work. Most thread on spools is "all purpose" thread. If it is very glossy or metallic or stiff, it will not work as well for this class. Find a spool of plain thread. For this class it should preferably be in a contrasting color to the fabric you are using so you can see the stitches easily. For real garments, unless you are aiming for a decorative look, the thread should match the color as

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closely as possible so the stitches are invisible. Note - - I am using the button and carpet thread in these pictures to make the stitches very obvious. I do not recommend it for regular sewing.



FOR THIS CLASS, THE NYLON TREAD UNSPOOLING AT THE BACK RIGHT IS NOT SUITABLE, NOR IS THE BOBBIN THREAD, NOR THE BUTTON & CARPET THREAD. ALL THE REST WILL WORK FINE. CANDLES IN THE FOREGROUND ARE FOR WAXING THE THREAD.

Experienced hand-sewers swear by either waxed linen or silk thread, but unless you have some handy, any sewing thread will do. (If you were taking this class in person, you'd be provided with waxed linen thread to work with, so we can spoil you.)

More than you ever wanted to know about thread can be found here - <https://www.sewingpartsonline.com/blog/ultimate-thread-reference-guide/>

Fabric -

For this class I recommend a plain, tightly woven fabric. No knits or stretchy fabric. No patterns. Think 'basic tunic material' when you are choosing it. White will work if you have a darker thread.

Threading your needle -

First, cut a piece of thread no more than 3 feet long. Measure it between your outstretched hand and your nose. Longer than this and it tends to knot up as you work. Shorter than this, you may get frustrated having to stop so often to re-thread the needle as it runs out. You will discover a comfortable length for yourself as you work. Thread **will** knot. Long thread knots more. Shorter is easier and quicker to sew with than longer.

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Waxing the thread - Get your piece of wax. (see picture above for the two candles I am using.) Any small piece of real wax or white-ish paraffin candle will do. Holding the thread against the wax with your finger or thumb pull the thread over the wax. This will add a **very** thin coat of wax onto the thread making it glide through the fabric easier and be easier to thread onto the needle. Real wax or a white paraffin candle will put an invisible coat of wax on the thread. Using colored wax/paraffin may change the thread color. I won't always mention it in these instructions, but wax your thread **every** time you put a new length of thread into your needle.



**WAXING THE THREAD - LAY THE THREAD AGAINST THE WAX
PULL IT THROUGH UNDER YOUR FINGER/THUMB
COMPARISON OF WAXED AND UNWAXED THREAD ENDS**

Threading the needle - If you have a needle threader, push the wire loop end through the eye of the needle. Then take an end of your thread and push it through the big wire loop sticking out of the needle's eye. Pull the wire loop back through the eye, the thread will come with it. Remove the needle threader, leaving the thread in the eye of the needle. Pull **one** strand of the thread until the ends are almost even, being careful to not pull it out of the eye.

If you do not have a needle threader - Make sure one end of the thread is waxed enough to be firm, but not gloppy with wax. Roll the end of the thread in your fingers, or flatten it with your fingernail, to make it as thin as



**USING A NEEDLE THREADER
PUSH THE WIRE LOOP THROUGH THE EYE OF THE NEEDLE, AND PUT THE THREAD THROUGH IT
PULL THE WIRE LOOP BACK, TAKING THE THREAD INTO THE EYE OF THE NEEDLE**

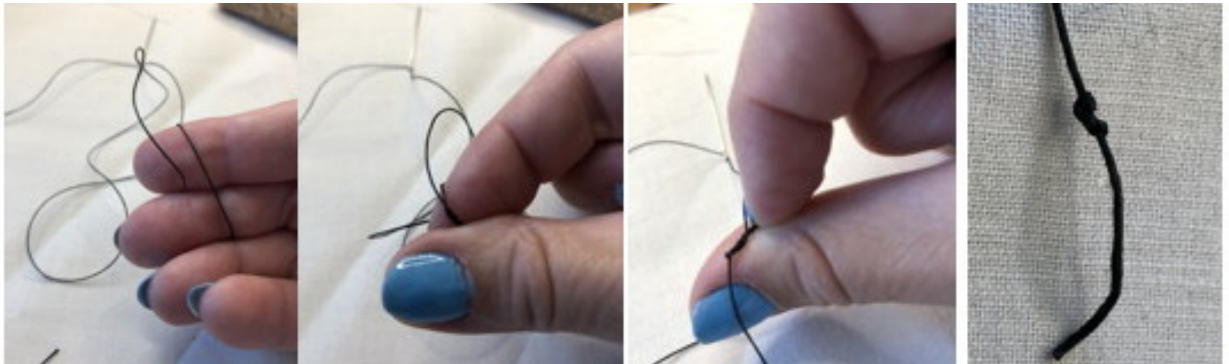
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possible. Insert the stiffened end of the thread through the eye of the needle. Pull the thread through until the ends are more or less even.

If you do not have wax - Lick the end of the thread. Slightly moisturizing the thread gives it some stiffening power. Then proceed as above. In the wax pictures, above, the last one shows waxed and unwaxed thread ends. Notice how fuzzy the unwaxed end is compared to the waxed end.

Knotting the thread -

Take **one** strand of the thread - the only place where thread is used doubled is in sewing on buttons - so yes, **one** strand of thread.



**STEPS TO KNOT THE END OF THE THREAD - MAKE A LOOP ON A FINGER
USING THE THUMB ON THE SAME HAND, ROLL THE LOOP DOWN OFF YOUR FINGER
SLIDE YOUR FINGERS DOWN THE THREAD TO SET THE KNOT
KNOT - THE TRAILING END CAN BE SNIPPED OFF TO MAKE IT NEATER**

Make a loop in the end around your finger and roll the loop on your finger until the thread is tangled. Then slide your fingers down the thread to tighten the knot you have made. This may take a try or two to get the hang of it. The thread can be clipped off close to the knot.

Starting to sew -

Adjust the thread so that the knot hangs down about 3 or 4 inches lower than the un-knotted end.

Running stitch - (it may help to look at the finished piece at the end to see the stitch completed)

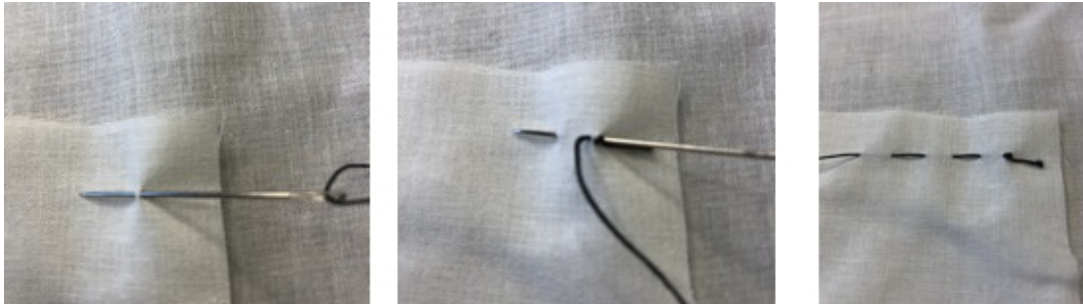
This stitch can be used to lightly sew two pieces of fabric together for checking the fit, for a seam that has very little pressure on it, to gather up fabric (to sew a gathered skirt into a waistband, for example), to sew on trim, or as a decorative top stitch.

Select one edge of your fabric, if you have shorter side, use that edge.

Hold the fabric towards the top on your dominant side. Starting at the same end as your dominant hand, insert the needle about a half-inch from the top edge and about the same distance from the dominant side. Gently pull the thread all the way through until it runs up against the knot. (Normally the knot would be hidden on the back side of the fabric, so the needle would be inserted from the bottom side and the stitch still worked from the top.)

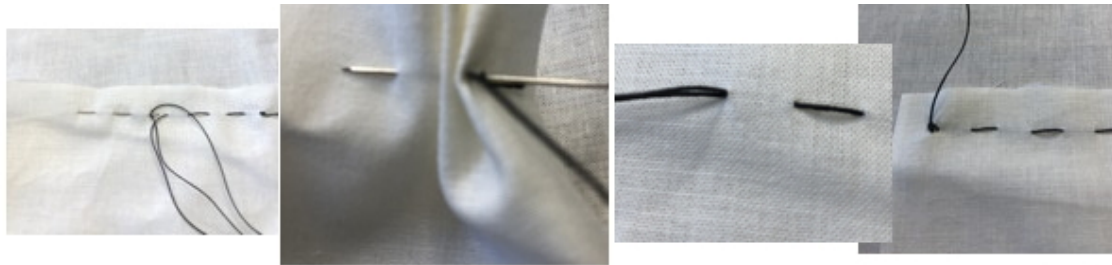
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The pictures show the knot on the top side because I took pictures before I wrote the procedure. Sorry. it is shown correctly in the video.)



**INSERT THE NEEDLE, PULL THE THREAD THROUGH
INSERT THE NEEDLE THEN ROTATE THE NEEDLE TO THE NON-DOMINANT SIDE, AND
STICK IT BACK UP THROUGH THE FABRIC
SEVERAL RUNNING STITCHES COMPLETED**

Insert the needle **down** through the fabric about a half inch from the where the needle came up towards your non-dominant side, stopping before it is all the way through. Rotate the needle so it points towards your non-dominant side and push it back **up** through the fabric keeping the needle lined up about a half-inch from the top edge. Gently pull the needle and thread all the way out until the thread runs out. Do not pull so hard that the needle comes unthreaded. Move the tip of the needle over another half an inch and repeat pushing the needle **down** through the fabric, rotating it, and pushing it back **up** an half inch further away on the same line. This motion - the push in and then up to the side - becomes one as you get comfortable with the stitch.



**SEVERAL STITCHES ON THE NEEDLE
PUSHING THE FABRIC TOGETHER ON THE NEEDLE AS STITCHES ARE TAKEN
THE THREAD IS DOUBLED COMING OUT OF A STITCH, TIME TO LENGTHEN IT BY
GENTLY PULLING THE NEEDLE TO SLIDE MORE THREAD THROUGH THE IT
ENDING THE ROW OF RUNNING STITCHES.**

Try and keep the stitches about the same distance apart and all in a straight line. When you see two strands of thread instead of one in the line of stitches, pull gently on the needle until the thread shifts through the eye and the short end of the thread moves closer to the needle.

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If your needle is long enough, you can do a couple-to-several down and sideways stitches before you pull the thread through. Keep trying to make them even. It's harder than anyone thinks it should be, so don't worry if your first stitches are rather crooked. Evenness and neatness comes with practice.

Now that you know how to do this stitch, I will let you in on a secret. You do not have to knot the end of the thread. The best hand sewing does not use knots at all.

Stop sewing. To end off a piece of thread, take two tiny running stitches on top of each other right where you did your last stitch. Once you have made those two little stitches, cut the thread fairly close to the last stitch, leaving only an quarter inch of thread tail.

To start up stitching again, do those same two little stitches on top each other about a 'stitch length' to the right then do your first **down/in** right on top of the two locking stitches.

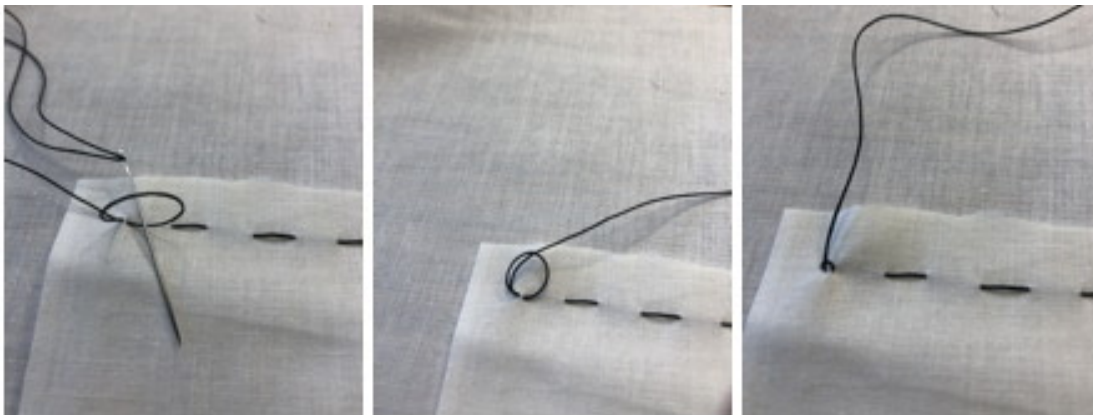
The running stitch can be done with big, wide stitches or down to little tiny stitches, depending on what you are sewing. The smaller and closer they are together, the stronger the seam will be. You can even do two lines of stitching right next to each other to use as a strong gathering method. If you are gathering, just be sure you use one really long thread that will go all the way across the piece of fabric, so there are no knots or thread ends in the middle to stop the fabric from sliding up the thread into gathers.

Stitch to the end of the fabric using the running stitch and tie off the last stitch.

Knotting the end -

Ok, I know you don't trust those two little stitches - they do work, trust me - and want to know how to knot off the thread as well.

At the end of the last stitch, on the back side, take a small stitch right on top of the last place the needle went through. Do not pull the thread all the way through, leave a loop. Take the needle and put it through that loop. Pull tight. Do another one the same way. Cut the end of the thread. You can cut very close to the stitch, there is no need to leave any tail of thread. (pic of the cut off knot is at the top on the first pic in the 'backstitch' section.)



KNOTTING THE LAST STITCH - MAKE A SMALL STITCH OVER THE LAST STITCH, LEAVE A LOOP, PUSH THE NEEDLE THROUGH THE LOOP, PULL THE KNOT TIGHT. DO THIS TWICE. THIS END CAN BE SNIPPED QUITE SHORT. SEE THE NEXT SET OF PICS TO SEE THE CLIPPED KNOT.

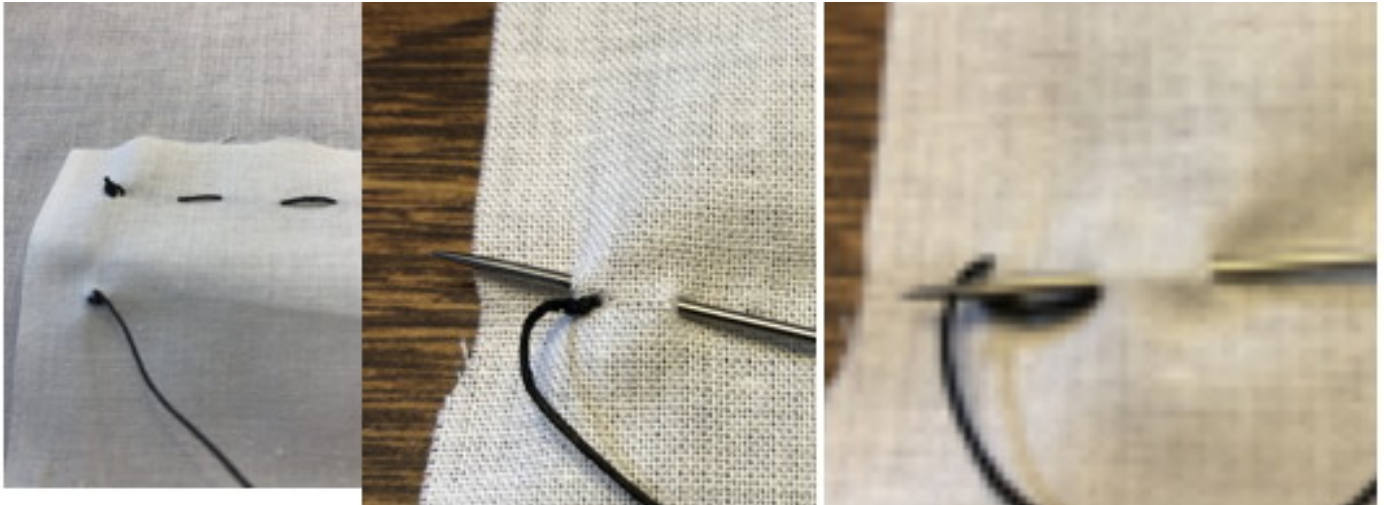
Back Stitch (also called Stem Stitch in embroidery)

This is a much stronger stitch for making a seam. It can also be used as a decorative top stitch.

Wax your thread and thread your needle. Move down an inch or so from the line of running stitch.

This stitch, as its name implies, is worked across the fabric backwards from the direction the running stitch is and over itself, so you will start on the other side, the side of your non-dominant hand and work it back towards your dominant hand.

Take the two little stitches to lock down the thread, again about an inch down from the line of running stitches and about a half inch from the edge on your non-dominant side. Keeping the thread down towards you - this is important - take a medium length running stitch, starting from the direction of your dominant hand, back towards the place where the locking stitches are. Come up in the same place the locking stitches are. Pull the thread all the way through. Making sure to keep the loop of thread down towards you, take another running stitch, starting away from the first stitch toward your dominant side and making it back towards the first stitch.



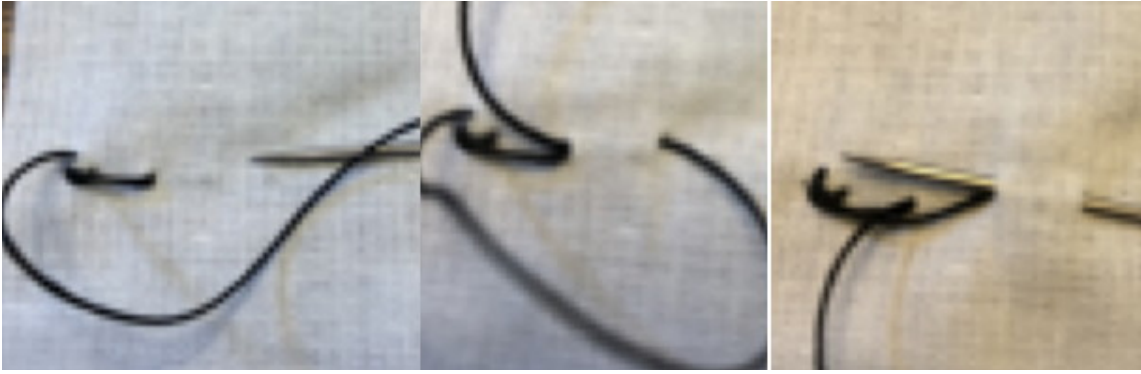
**THE FIRST THREE STEPS IN THE BACKSTITCH - FASTEN THE THREAD
TAKE A SMALL RUNNING-TYPE STITCH BACK OVER THE END, PULL THE THREAD THROUGH
TAKE ANOTHER RUNNING-TYPE STITCH FROM THE DOMINANT SIDE, COMING BACK UP IN THE SAME HOLE
AS THE FIRST STITCH WENT DOWN INTO. NOTICE THE THREAD IS ALWAYS DOWN**

Come up with the point of the needle through the same hole you went down in the stitch before and pull the thread through. The second stitch overlaps the first stitch, so the thread is doubled on part, and sticks out in a single thread about the same distance.

Do that stitch again - starting farther over to the dominant side and being sure to keep the loop of extra thread down towards you - coming up in the same hole you made before half way through the line of the stitch. Do this stitch again, each time starting each stitch a half stitch length farther along towards your dominant side and coming up in the hole at the end of the previous stitch.

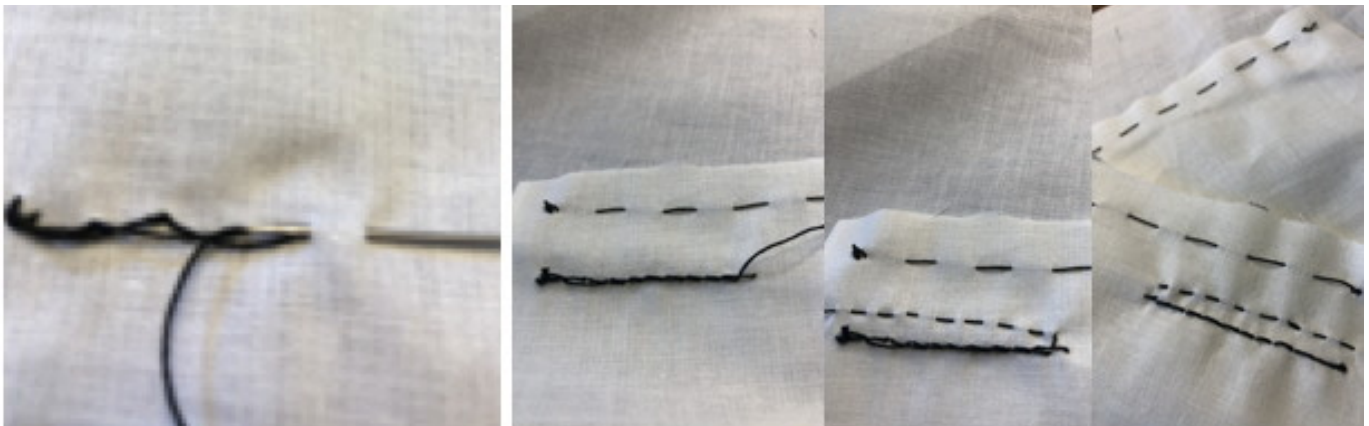
This is a strong stitch for a seam. As you can see, even when compared to a tight and close running stitch, see pic next page, the backstitches cover more fabric.

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KEEP REPEATING THAT STITCH, ALWAYS COMING UP IN THE SAME HOLE AS THE PREVIOUS STITCH'S DOWN AND KEEPING THE LOOP OF THREAD END DOWN TOWARDS YOU AS YOU SEW

Do this stitch all the way to the other side. This stitch also goes easily around curves, and when done in several strands of embroidery floss can be used to outline or fill in areas or as stems for leaves.



**A LINE OF BACKSTITCH, FRONT AND BACK OF THE STITCHES
NOTE THE COMPARISON TO A RUNNING STITCH DONE CLOSE TOGETHER**

Slip Stitch -

This stitch is used for hemming or could also be adapted to whipping the edge of a raw seam to keep it from raveling. Wax your thread and thread a needle.

Take your cloth, and going down about 3 inches, fold up a pleat under the lines of stitching, with the folded edge about a half inch under the line of backstiches. Finger press (or iron) it into place. If you have pins, pin the bottom edge of the fold so it stays in place. If you do not have pins, check as you sew to be sure the pleat stays level and in place.

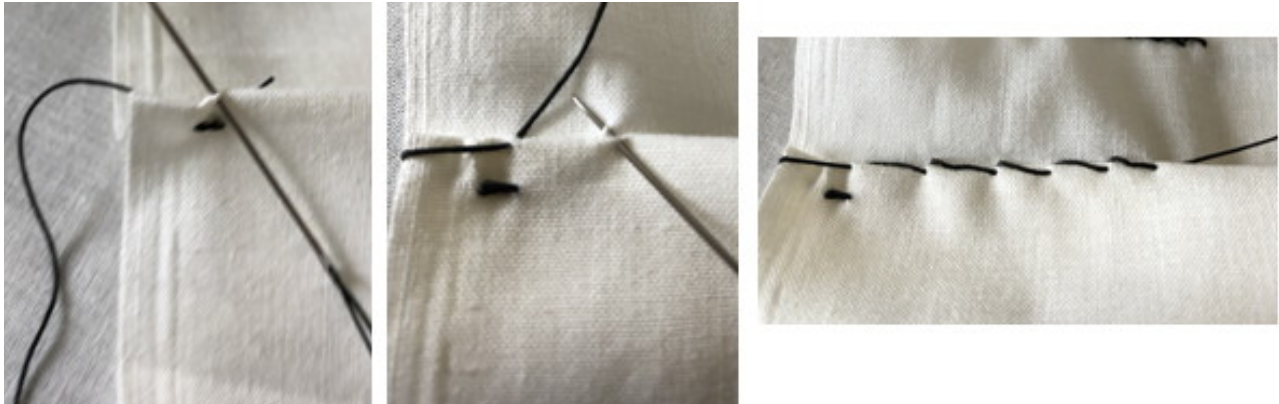
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PLEATING UP THE FABRIC TO SIMULATE A HEM

Slip stitch is also worked from the non-dominant hand side toward the dominant hand side.

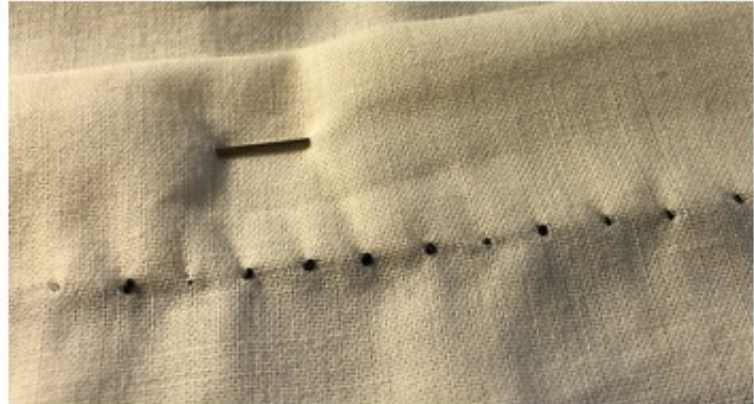
Fasten the thread onto the short folded side, quite close to the edge of the fabric. Moving the tip of the needle, and keeping it slightly slanted to the non-dominant side, pick up **one** thread from the fabric on the back side and pull the needle and thread through. Move the needle over a quarter to a half inch towards your dominant



STEPS IN MAKING THE SLIP STITCH
NOTICE THE NEEDLE CATCHING ONLY ONE THREAD ON THE 'FRONT' SIDE

hand side. Pick up **one** thread from the very edge of the short side of the fabric, then grab **one** thread from the other side and pull the needle and thread through.

If you pick up just one thread, and are using thread the same color as the fabric, the stitch will be invisible. The more threads you grab, the more visible the stitch will be. Your goal should always be to pick up no more than one or two threads from the fabric as you go along. Continue the stitch the same way, spiraling the thread over and through the two layers of fabric, working towards your dominant side.



BOTH SIDES OF THE SLIP STITCH - YOU CAN SEE THAT IF THE THREAD WERE A MATCHING COLOR THE STITCH WOULD BE ALMOST INVISIBLE FROM THE FRONT SIDE OF THE GARMENT

Catch Stitch - the wiggle way

This stitch can only be used for hemming or it can be used to fix a ripped out seam when you can't get to both sides, such as in a lined garment, where only one side has ripped, or to invisibly close up a 'turning' opening.



WIGGLING IN THE CATCH STITCH - THIS WAS VERY HARD TO PHOTOGRAPH, SORRY

This stitch is worked from the dominant side to the non-dominant side.

It's a running stitch worked alternately **between** the layers. Wax a length of thread and thread your needle. Take up another pleat as you did above. Pin it in place, if using pins. (You are going to need another pleat



**NEARLY INVISIBLE - IF THE THREAD MATCHED, IT WOULD BE COMPLETELY INVISIBLE
THERE ARE STITCHES ON THE FOLD ON THE SIDE WHERE NO THREAD SHOWS IN THE PIC**

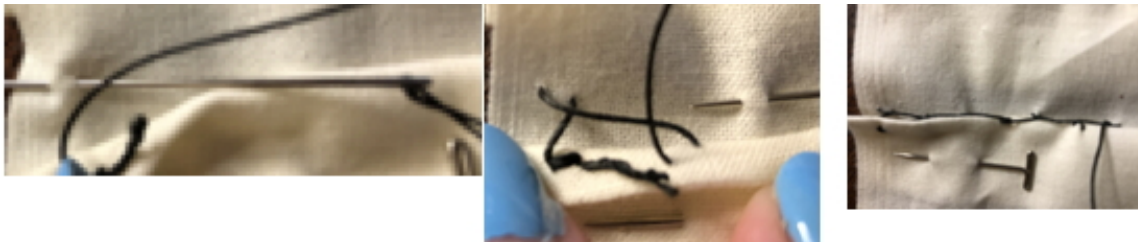
after this, so make them skinny). Fasten the thread close to the edge of the fold on your dominant side and ending up on the **inside** of the fold. Take the point of the needle and grab a thread or two from the inside fabric, then from the folded side, then wiggle the needle back into the main side, then wiggle it over to the folded side. Again, try to grab as few threads as possible from each side. I exaggerated the number of threads grabbed so they would show up clearly. Pull the needle and thread through when no more cloth will fit on the needle. Repeat to the end of the side. This stitch, done right, is invisible on both sides.

Herringbone Stitch -

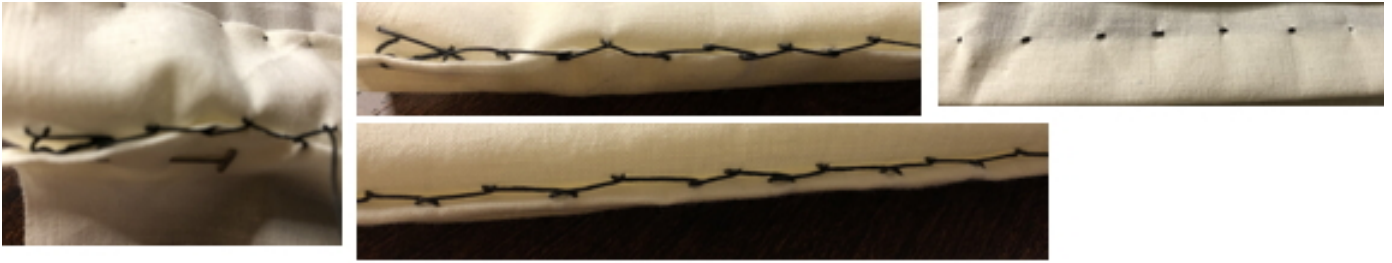
This stitch is used for hemming where you need a bit more give in the stitching. It can also be used as a decorative stitch if done on top of the fabric instead of along a folded hem.

When used as a hem stitch this is also worked from the non-dominant hand side towards the dominant hand side and is done **between** the layers of fabric, to make it completely invisible, or along the edge of the hem fold.

Fold over another pleat of fabric and finger press it into place. Pin it, if using pins. Wax a length of thread and thread a needle. Start a row of stitching along the edge of the folded over piece on the non-dominant hand

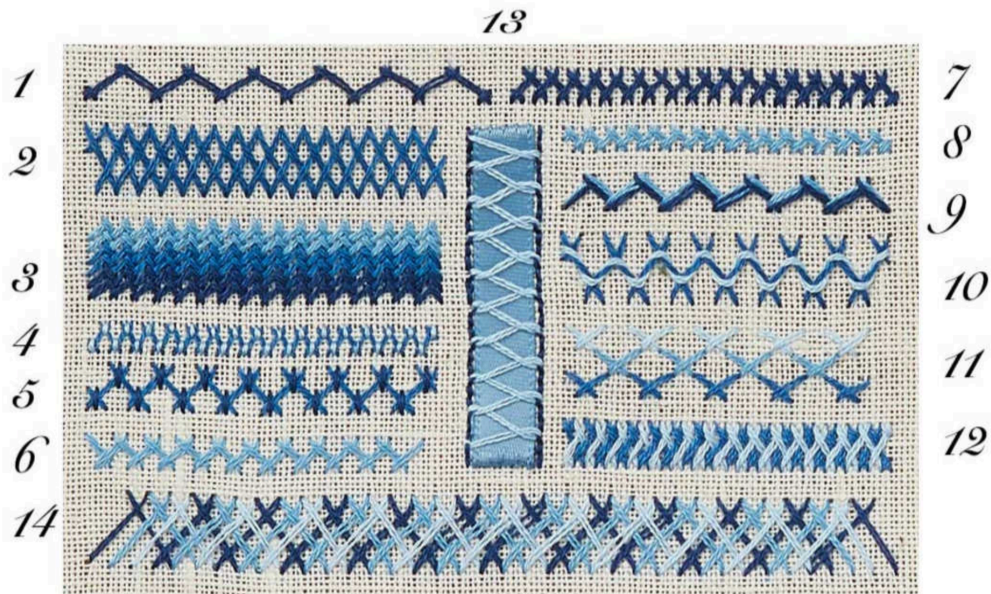


**HERRINGBONE STITCH - STARTING IT INSIDE THE HEM FOLD, TWO STITCHES TAKEN,
LAST PIC SHOWS IT BEING WORKED ALONG THE EDGE**



HERRINGBONE WORKED ON THE EDGE (TOP) AND INSIDE (BOTTOM), LAST PIC IS THE REVERSE SIDE

side where the needle ends up **between** the fold of the fabric. Move the point of the needle over about a half an inch towards the dominant hand side. Go inside the two pieces of fabric and using a running stitch, as you did for the backstitch, take a very small stitch, trying to grab no more than one or two threads, on the other side, with the stitch going from the dominant side to the non-dominant side. Pull the thread through. Taking the point of the needle another bit towards the dominant side, but on the fold, make another tiny running stitch, again in the dominant to non-dominant side direction. The stitches make an X on each side of the opening in the fold. These can be placed to be hidden invisibly inside the fold of the hem or done along the top of the fold.



SOME OF THE MANY WAYS TO USE HERRINGBONE STITCH IN EMBROIDERY

This stitch is very pretty when worked on the surface of a garment. Instead of working it along a hem, just work it between a top and bottom line. The herringbone hem stitch taught here can be worked flat, as in #1 in the picture below, but there are many ways to use this stitch decoratively. Some examples from <https://pieceworkmagazine.com/a-stitch-in-time-herringbone-stitch/>

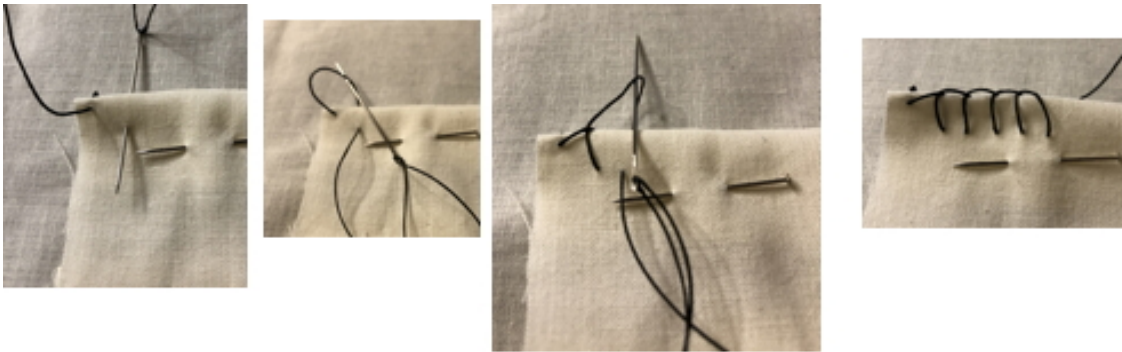
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Buttonhole stitch -

This stitch is used to stabilize and decorate the edge of a garment or, worked very close together, to keep a buttonhole from raveling. It can also be used as a decorative embroidery stitch.

Wax a length of thread and thread a needle. Flip your piece of fabric so the raw edge that was on the bottom is on top. Fold the raw edge over about an inch. Pin in place, if you are using pins. We will be working the buttonhole stitch over the folded edge.

Anchor your thread on the side of your non-dominant hand, right at the top and close to the non-dominant side. Move the needle over about a quarter to a half-inch. Taking the needle **behind** the folded edge, push the needle out to the front about a half-inch down. Do not pull it tight, leave a loop at the top. Take the needle and push it through the open loop of thread from front to back. Now pull the thread tight, leaving a flat piece of thread along the top of the folded edge between the place where the thread is fastened and the first stitch. Do not pull tight enough to pucker the top; it should lay flat.



STARTING THE BUTTONHOLE STITCH, FASTEN THE THREAD, MOVE OVER A BIT AND INSERT THE NEEDLE FROM THE BACK TO THE FRONT, LEAVE A LOOP AT THE TOP TO PUT THE NEEDLE THROUGH, THEN TIGHTEN SO THE THREAD LIES FLAT ALONG THE TOP OF THE FOLD, REPEAT

Move the needle over towards the non-dominant side the same distance you used for the first stitch. These stitches look much better if every stitch is the same or they follow some pattern; again this will come with practice. Don't worry too much about it now or feel free to draw a line about a half inch down from the edge and all the way across, where you want the bottom of the stitch to come out, to give you a guide where to poke the needle out in the same place every time.

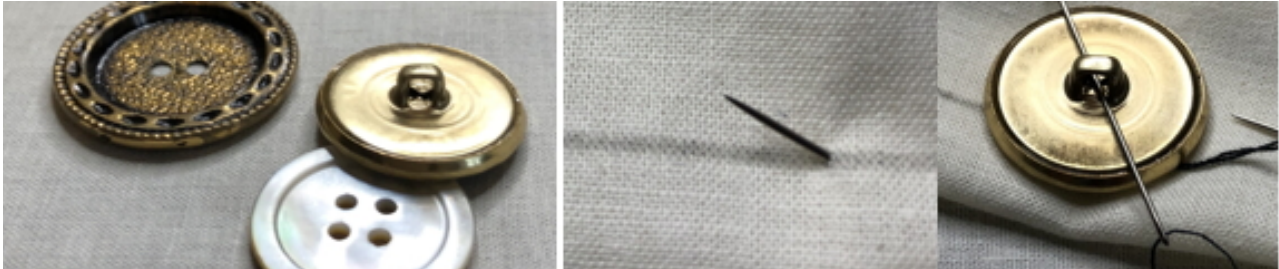
Put the needle **behind** the raw edge and out the same distance down as the first stitch. Pull the thread, again leaving a loop at the top. Put the needle through the loop and pull the thread to tighten it enough to leave a flat piece of thread again lying along the raw edge. Repeat until the end. If you need to add thread, fasten off the thread at the top at the end of a stitch and join on the new thread in the same place so the piece of thread laying flat along the edge is the same on every stitch.

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Sewing on a button

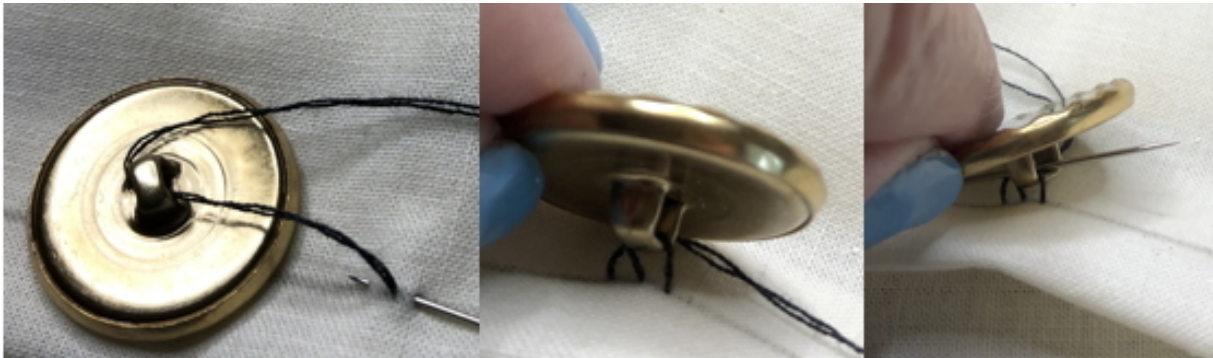
There are two main types of buttons;

- one has either two or four holes for thread
- the other has a metal loop, called a 'shank', on the bottom



**THREE TYPES OF BUTTONS, TWO HOLE, FOUR HOLE, AND BUILT-IN SHANK
NEEDLE COMING UP THROUGH THE MARK FOR THE BUTTON PLACEMENT
NEEDLE GOING THROUGH THE SHANK FOR THE FIRST TIME**

To sew on button with a shank - Mark the place where the button is to be sewn on. A dot of pencil, a mark of chalk, a pin, sticking the needle up in the right place - all work. Wax and thread a needle, this time leaving the thread doubled and, yes, here I always knot the end. Secure the thread on the back side of the fabric at the mark. Push the thread up to the right side of the fabric. Thread the needle through the shank. Taking tiny running stitches, make several stitches very close together by pushing the needle into the fabric under the shank, bring it out of the fabric on top, then put it through the shank and then back in again. Make at least four or five stitches.



**FIRST STITCH AFTER PUTTING BUTTON ON THE THREAD
SEVERAL STITCHES TAKEN
INSERTING THE NEEDLE BACK THROUGH THE SHANK**

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To end, push the needle in to the back of the fabric and fasten off the end, either with a knot or two or by taking several tiny stitches in the same place.



KNOTTING THE THREAD ON THE UNDERSIDE

To sew on a button with holes. The button cannot lie flat against the fabric. You have to sew it and make your own thread shank so the button can be pushed up into the buttonhole.

Two hole button - Start as with the shanked button by marking the placement and pushing uptake needle in the right place. Put the needle through one of the holes and put the button onto the thread. Put the needle back into the button in the hole below the hole you came out in. The holes should run parallel (or perpendicular, depending on what look you are going for) to the edge not catty-corner or twisted. Make sure all your buttons have the same orientation to the edge as you sew more on.

Pull the thread **almost** all the way through. Keep a finger or thumb between the button and the fabric to leave at least a quarter inch gap between them. The thicker your fabric, the more gap you need. Push the needle through the fabric to the back side. Bring it up again through the fabric into the first hole, and back down into the second hole again. Do this four or five times, being careful to keep the gap open.



**STARTING TWO-HOLE BUTTON
HOLDING THE BUTTON OVER THE FABRIC TO ALLOW FOR A SHANK
WRAPPING THE THREAD AROUND TO MAKE THE SHANK**

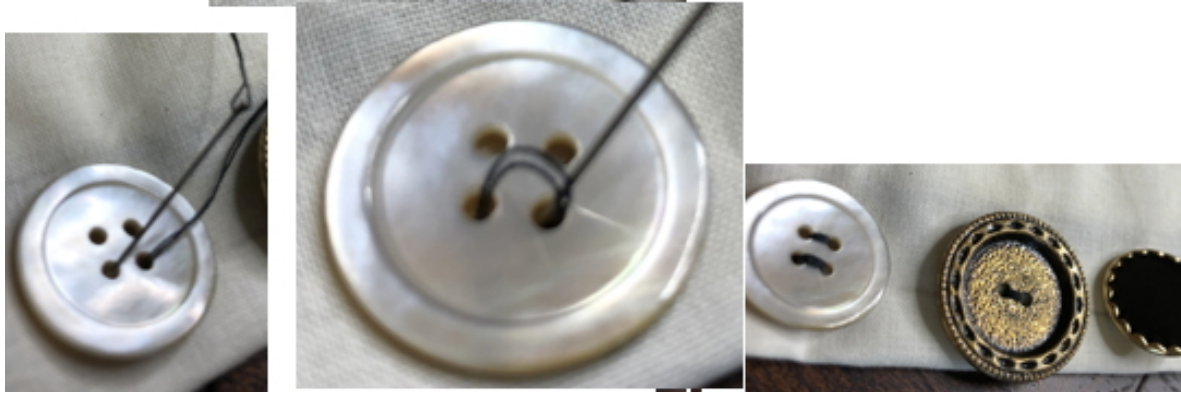
To make the thread shank, on the last stitch, come back up to the top side, then put the needle into the next hole only **under** the button, not back into the fabric, and pull the thread up, being very careful to not pull so hard that the gap goes away. Wrap the thread three or four times around the thread shank you have created in the gap. Pull the thread tight after each wrap. At this point there should be a thread shank between the button and the fabric. Push the needle back into the fabric under the button to the back side. Fasten off the thread.

Gwynnyd's All Thumbs Guide to Beginning Hand Sewing



**CLOSE-UP OF THE THREAD SHANK
FINISHED BUTTON**

Four-hole button - Do the first stitch the same way as for a two-hole button, leaving even more thread in for a shank. The thread will have to be gathered up in the center from four holes and it will need to be longer. The next stitch should come up into the third hole opposite the first hole and go down into the fourth hole. Alternate sides, keeping the stitches parallel, until there are four or five stitches in each set of two holes. For the last stitch, come back up to the top side, then go only **under** the button, not back into the fabric, and pull the thread out, being sure to not pull so hard that the gap goes away. Wrap the thread three or four times around the thread shank you have created in the gap. Pull the thread tight after each wrap. At this point there should be a thread shank between the button and the fabric. Push the needle back into the fabric under the button to the back side. Fasten off the thread.



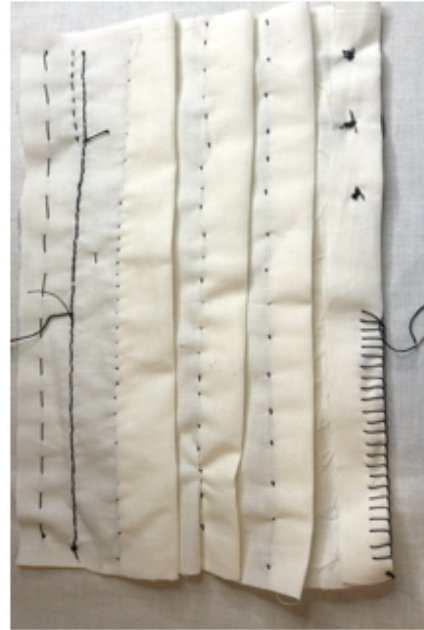
**FOUR-HOLE BUTTON START
FOUR-HOLE BUTTON SHOWING THE AMOUNT OF THREAD LEFT LOOSE FOR A SHANK
FINISHED THREE TYPES OF BUTTONS**

Many thanks to Mistress GraziaGeralda who many years ago asked me to be her - literal - right-hand(ed) demonstrator in her Pennsic class on hand sewing. This isn't exactly the same way Grace teaches it.

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The finished class piece. I hope yours looks more or less like this, too.



FINISHED PIECE FRONT
FINISHED PIECE BACK