

SMOCKING

Smocking is a decorative method of gathering fabric. It is very satisfactory for children's clothes and is also used on yokes of women's dresses. The thread used for smocking should be about the same thickness as a thread of the fabric. Embroidery floss is often used. The width of the fabric required is about 3 times the width of the finished piece.

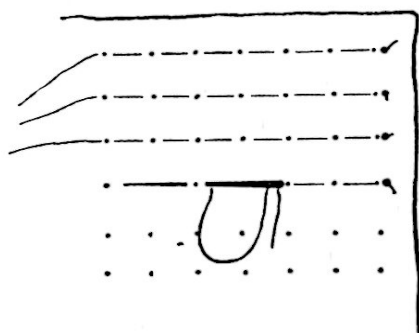


Diagram 11a

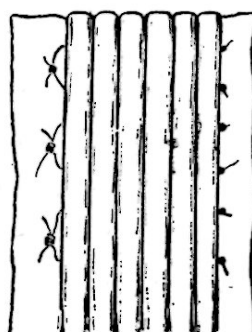


Diagram 11b

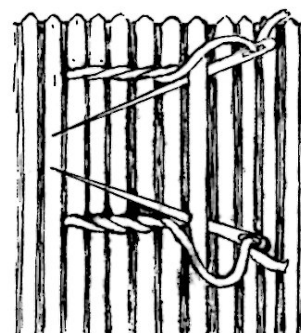


Diagram 11c

Foundation Steps

1. With a ruler and a sharp pencil, mark dots on the wrong side of fabric at equal intervals both horizontally and vertically (*diagram 11a*), allowing $\frac{1}{2}$ " between each dot on heavy fabrics and $\frac{3}{8}$ " to $\frac{1}{4}$ " on finer fabric.
2. Thread a needle and make a large knot at one end. Foundation stitches are made from right to left on the wrong side. Make a small straight stitch under each dot horizontally across each row (*diagram 11a*), leaving a long end of thread at end of row.
3. Draw up the long ends of thread, making even folds on the fabric and having them lie flat (*diagram 11b*). Tie ends of two rows securely together.

Smocking Patterns

Smocking is worked from left to right on the right side of fabric. Always start with a knot. Several patterns are given, and these patterns may be combined any number of ways.

Rope Pattern — Insert needle from wrong side through the center of first fold and in line with foundation stitches of row. Keeping the thread above the needle, make a stem stitch (*diagram 11c*) at center of each fold across top row. Fasten end securely on wrong side. When two rows of rope pattern are made, work the following row in the same manner but keep the thread below the needle, instead of above the needle (*diagram 11c*).



Diagram 11d

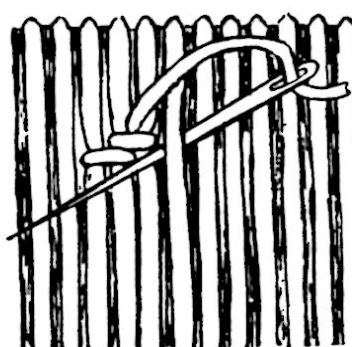


Diagram 11e

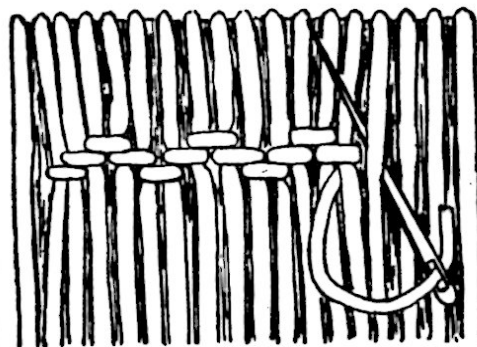


Diagram 11f

Chevron Pattern — Insert needle from wrong side through the center of first fold and in line with foundation stitches of row. Keeping thread below needle, insert needle in next fold and bring it out about $\frac{1}{8}$ " above point where needle was inserted (*diagram 11d*). Repeat. Keeping thread above needle, insert needle in next fold and bring it out $\frac{1}{8}$ " below point where needle was inserted (*diagram 11e*). Repeat. Now repeat from beginning and continue in this manner to end of row (*diagram 11f*). If two rows of chevron pattern are made, work the next row in the same manner, reversing the position of the stitches (*diagram 11g*).

Honeycomb Pattern — (This pattern has more elasticity than any other, and 2 rows are worked at one time.) Insert needle from wrong side through the center of first fold and in line with foundation stitches of row. Keeping thread below the needle, insert needle in second fold and bring it out at center of first fold (*diagram 11h*). Make a similar stitch directly above previous stitch. Insert needle in same place as before on second fold and, leading it through center of fold, bring it out in line with next row of foundation stitches on second fold (*diagram 11h*). Keeping thread above the needle, make 2 stitches as before, joining second and third folds together. Then insert needle on third fold and bring it out on line with top row of horizontal stitches on third fold (*diagram 11i*). Repeat the last two groups of stitches alternately, always joining the next fold to the previous one as others were joined before. Make as many rows as desired.

Diagram 11g

Diagram 11h

Diagram 11i

