

# Hemstitching



Hemstitching is a popular type of ornamental needlework. One learns, through hemstitching, to arrange and group threads in interesting ways. In this type of openwork, the warp or woof threads are drawn from the fabric and the remaining threads are drawn together by various stitches forming open patterns.

The various ways of grouping the threads and sewing over them with different stitches give many combinations of design. Hemstitching can be the sole decoration on an article or it can

easily be combined with other types of embroidery.

The hem is usually turned to the wrong side; some people however may prefer to turn it to the right side. Contrasting thread may be used to work the hemstitching for added decoration.

For simple hemstitching, draw out threads above the edge of hem that has been basted in to any desired width. Two different ways of making the simple hemstitching are given.

Hold the wrong or right side of fabric toward you and the open space made by drawn threads over index finger of left hand, throw thread to the left forming a loop as shown, then pass needle from right to left, behind desired number of threads (usually 3 or 4 threads) as shown in Figure 1, draw thread close to edge of hem, fasten with a small stitch through hem (Figure 2).

Hemstitching can also be worked from left to right. Hold hem at the top, fasten thread, then pass needle from right to left under 3 or 4 threads, draw needle out, then take a small stitch in hem as shown in Figure 3.

Double hemstitching (Figure 4) is worked the same as single hemstitching, only on both edges of drawn threads. Pass needle back of the same number of threads, so as to form straight bars.

The first row of diagonal stitching (Figure 5) is worked the same as single hemstitching. Turn and work second row by passing needle under last 2 threads of first group and 2 threads of

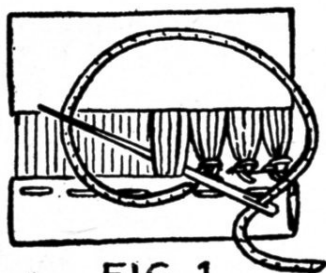


FIG. 1

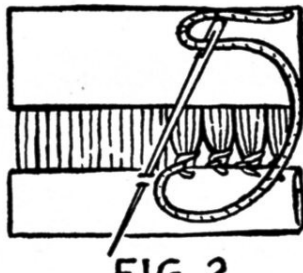


FIG. 2

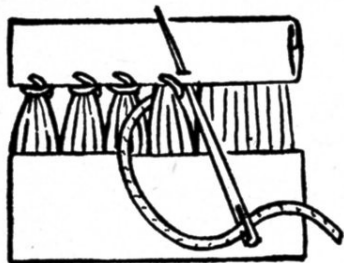


FIG. 3

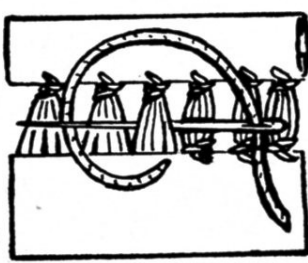


FIG. 4

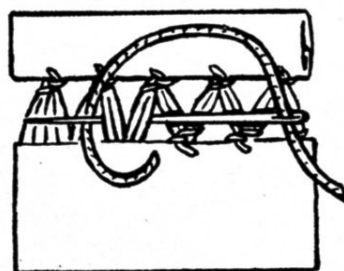


FIG. 5

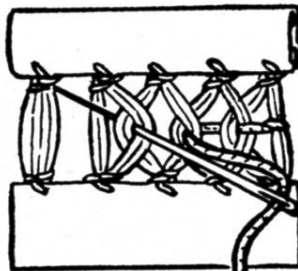


FIG. 6

next group, thus forming a cluster. Continue to divide each group of threads in like manner, making a zig-zag line of bars. This may also be called *Serpentine* or *trellis* hemstitch.

There are various ways of crossing the groups of threads. In Figure 6, both sides of fabric are hemstitched, then fasten thread over first 2 threads of first group, pass needle from front to back under first 2 threads of next group, then slip needle back over and under last 2 threads of preceding group, pulling needle out toward you, thus drawing the thread between the groups. Here you have groups of threads divided and crossed.

You may also cross groups of threads, by slipping the second group of threads over the first. This is not shown in sketch.

Groups of threads can be knotted together as shown in Figures 7 and 8. Fasten thread to first group, a third of the length of the bar, with a chain stitch and draw together. Pass needle under the first two groups, an equal distance from other edge and form a chain stitch as shown in Figure 7, draw groups together. Repeat on other side (Figure 8). Continue drawing groups together in this fashion, making a zig-zag line of knots.

Figure 9 shows three groups of threads knotted in the center, using the chain stitch. To do this, fasten thread in the middle of first 3 groups with a chain stitch and draw together. Pass under next 3 groups, make a chain

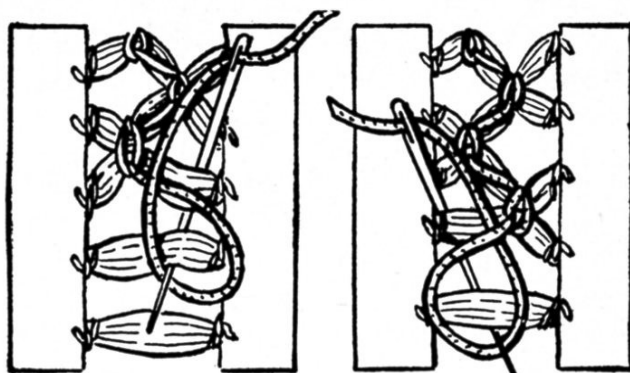


FIG. 7

FIG. 8

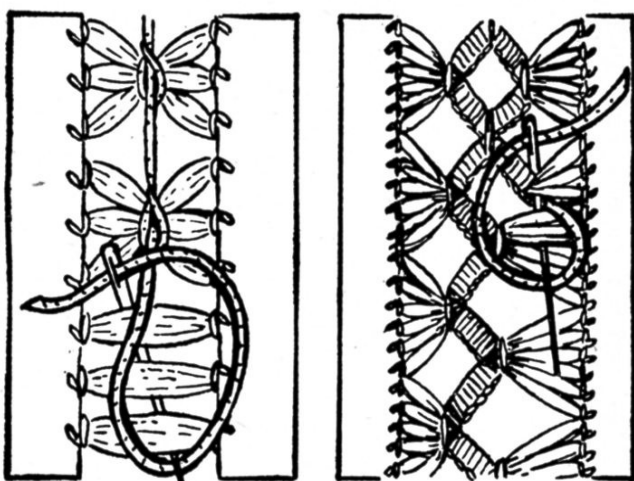


FIG. 9

FIG. 10

stitch and draw up. Be careful and do not pull the thread too tight through center between groups.

The openwork shown in Figure 10 is worked in two rows. The groups are knotted together in groups of six bars. The bars in the center are covered with buttonhole stitch and form a diamond pattern. A pair of embroidery hoops would be helpful to hold your work when doing this kind of openwork.

There are many other patterns in openwork that we have not shown nor described, and only your imagination need limit you as to what can be done.