



Haandarbejdets Fremme

HAPPY STITCHING

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MAKE A GOOD
START



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FIXING THE COLOURS:



1. The colours of cotton thread tend to rub off. Therefore, it is important to fix them before starting your embroidery. This is especially important if the embroidery is to be washed afterwards. Start by peeling off the paper label.

2. Tie a thread around the skein so that the thread doesn't tangle during the fixing. Dip the yarn in boiling water. You may want to add a few tablespoons of clear vinegar.



3. Place the thread to dry on a piece of paper towel. If there is colour residue, repeat the process. Particularly the red shades rub off and often need more than one treatment. Once the thread is dry you can begin the embroidery.



FINISHING:

When the work is washed and still completely wet you can either choose to blocking it up or to press it. Blocking is done on a plate covered with white canvas and plastic; you block your work with stainless steel pins. The pins should be snug. About 2 per cm. It is important that the fabric is tightened up both tightly and straight. Let the work sit tense until it is absolutely dry. When blocking, you need to ensure that all embroidered stitches still stand up from the fabric



Alternatively, to the blocking, you can press your finished work. This is ALWAYS done face down on multiple layers of white canvas. Between the iron and the work is laid an ironing cloth, which can also consist of a piece of white canvas. Press with heat until the work is crunchy. If the pressing is interrupted while there is still moisture in the fabric, it will contract and appear slightly uneven/curled again.

WASH THE FINISHED WORK:

1 good tbsp. of soap flakes, dissolve in a little boiling, preferably softened, water. Then add more water until it is "hand warm"

The embroidery is put in plenty of soapy water. There must be enough water to allow it to flow freely without being folded. The embroidery is covered in the water. Do not rub or twist, nor should it be soaked for long in the water.

Rinsing must subsequently be done in lukewarm water and rinsed many times, at least 3 times until the rinse water is completely without soap residue. Last rinse water may be added a little clear vinegar.

Put the embroidery on a dry towel and press it free of water. Don't hang it up.

PREPARATION OF FABRIC:

1. To prevent the fabric from unravelling, sew overcast stitches around the edge with sewing thread.

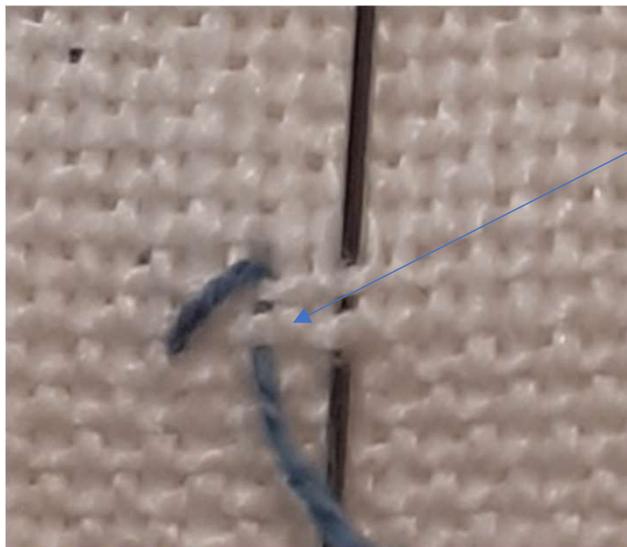
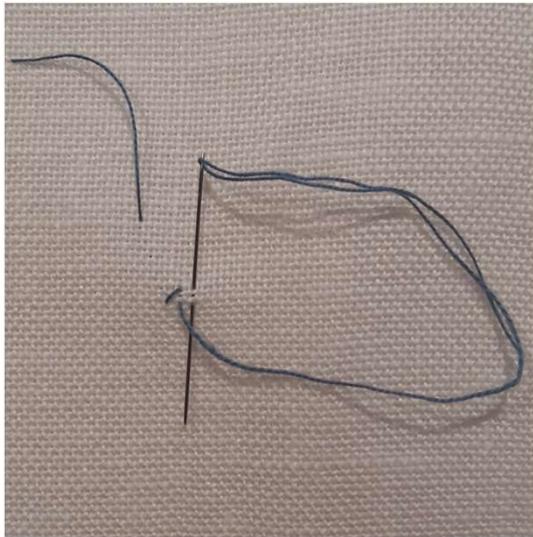


2. Sew with sewing thread along the middle lengthwise and crosswise. You must alternately sew over 2 threads and under 2 threads. That way you mark the centre of the fabric and can easily count out. It is important that the marking is correctly placed in relation to the fabric weave See next page.



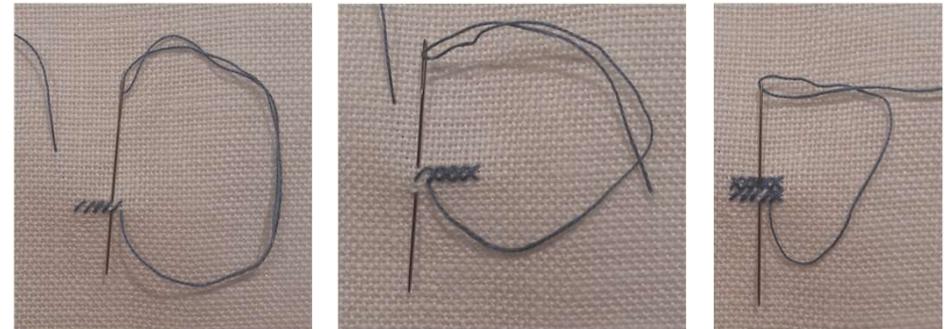
CROSS STITCH:

When you do embroidery with flower thread it is most common to sew with 1 or 2 strands of threads (which will be in the instruction) with a needle without tip. When you start your embroidery on the fabric, you won't be able to secure the end. Let the thread end hang freely on the back of the fabric and insert the needle up at the starting point.



Always start a cross stitch where the vertical thread on the right is at the top.

Cross stitch in horizontal rows. All cross stitches are started in the lower left corner of the stitch up to the upper right corner and finished with a stitch from the lower right corner up to the upper left corner.



In pattern stitching, never skip more than 1-3 stitches. If it is more, you need to secure it. Be aware that on light fabric, dark thread will shine through and the fewer stitches to jump the better. Pattern stitching is usually sewn in horizontal rows from top to the bottom.

Securing the thread ends with a pointed needle. Sew into the thread on the back over at least 4 threads.

