

# Backstitch

RIGHT-HANDED



**1** Bring the needle to the front of the work one stitch length to the left of the start of the line.



**2** Insert the needle at the start of the line, one stitch length to the right of where the thread emerged.



**3** Pull the thread through to complete the first stitch, then bring the needle up one stitch length to the left of the previous stitch.



**4** Insert the needle in the same hole as the start of the previous stitch.



**5** Continue in the same way along the line. Each stitch should share holes with the previous and subsequent stitches and be about the same length.



**6** The reverse side of the stitch should resemble stem stitch – as each stitch is worked behind where you start, there is a double line of thread on the back.





**7** To turn a corner, bring the needle up one stitch length from the corner and insert it in the same hole as the last stitch before the corner.



**8** Backstitch can be worked along any sort of line – straight, angled or curved.



**9** The smaller the stitches, the smoother the curves can be, especially if they are tight curves.



**10** Backstitch can be worked in parallel rows, straight or curved, to fill an area or to make a wider line. It's best to stagger the stitches in a brick fashion for a unified effect.