

# Blanket stitch & pinwheels

LEFT-HANDED



**1** Working top to bottom, bring the needle up and keeping the thread under the needle, insert it one stitch width down and to the left. Come up again on the line.



**2** Pull the thread through to form the first L-shaped stitch. The two arms are typically about equal in length, but the stitch can be worked longer or shorter in either direction.



**3** Repeat Step 1 to form the next L-shaped stitch along the line. Blanket stitch can also be worked right to left on a horizontal line or at an angle if you prefer.



**4** Continue forming the stitches in the same way until you reach the end of the line (or the thread runs out).



**5** To finish, form a tiny holding stitch over the bottom corner of the last stitch by inserting the needle in the same hole it emerged from. Secure the thread at the back.



**6** These straight or curved lines of stitches can be part of a embroidered design, or are very commonly used to appliqué fabric shapes to a background fabric.



**7** For a blanket-stitch pinwheel, bring the needle up at the edge of the circle and insert it in the centre. Keeping the thread under the needle, come up again on the circle.



**8** Pull the thread through to form the first stitch – this time the L is quite elongated.



**9** Repeat Step 7 to form the second stitch. Decide at the start whether to work the stitches so close together that the circle appears solid, or spaced closely or far apart.



**10** Pull the thread through to complete the second stitch. Each stitch should go down in the same hole at the centre.



**11** Continue working your way around the circle, turning the fabric as needed so you are stitching comfortably.



**12** As you approach the start, adjust the spacing of the stitches if needed to give an even look all the way around.



**13** When you've made the last stitch, work a tiny holding stitch over its base just inside the starting point so that the finished circle looks continuous.



**14** Completed blanket-stitch pinwheel with medium stitch spacing. Widely spaced stitches can mimic the effect of petals, but the circle becomes less smooth.



**15** As a variation, you can work the stitches outwards. Still bring the thread up on the circle, but then insert the needle to form the stitch outside the circle instead.



**16** Continue forming spiky stitches around the perimeter of the circle, choosing the spacing and length of the stitches to give the desired effect.



**17** When you're approaching the start, adjust the stitch spacing if needed for an even overall look.



**18** To finish, work a tiny holding stitch over the base of the last stitch. These pinwheels can be filled with French knots or satin stitch for an interesting flower centre.