

Satin stitch with variations

LEFT-HANDED



1 To begin, bring the needle up on the edge of the shape and go down on the opposite side. It's a good idea to start in the centre and work outwards on most shapes.



2 Bring the needle up again immediately beside the starting point and go down beside the first stitch. The stitch spacing should match the width of the thread.



3 Continue placing stitches side by side until one half of the shape is filled. The stitch direction should suit the motif: echoing the lie of fur or leaf veins for example.



4 When one side of the shape is filled, return to the centre and stitch outwards to the other side in the same way.



5 The completed circle filled in simple satin stitch. This example is worked in three strands of embroidery floss.



6 You can further enhance the shape with an outline of backstitch if you wish.



7 These outlines give a different effect to the stitch, but can also be used to conceal slight flaws in the stitching to give a smooth edge to the shape.



8 For padded satin stitch, fill the shape with stitches such as running, chain or an under layer of satin stitch. The filling stitches should be at 90 degrees to the top layer.



9 Work satin stitch over the filling stitches as before. Padded satin stitch gives a more pronounced effect than regular satin stitch.



10 A third variation also results in a more defined finished stitch. To begin, work a line of backstitch just inside the edge of the shape.



11 Next, work satin stitch over the backstitched outline, taking the needle up and down just outside the stitches.



12 The slightly raised edge gives more definition to the stitch. You can work filling stitches inside the shape as for padded satin stitch to add further to this effect.