

Split stitch two ways

RIGHT-HANDED



1 Split stitch is worked left to right. Bring the thread to the front at the start, insert the needle a stitch length to the right, bring the point up halfway along and split the thread.



2 Pull the thread right through. You should have one stitch on the surface with the thread emerging halfway along the stitch. (Four strands of thread are being used here.)



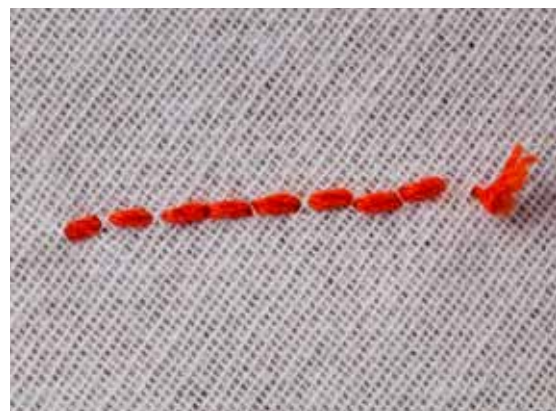
3 Sew another stitch to the right, bring the needle up at the end of the previous stitch and split the thread with the point of the needle. Aim to split it in half exactly.



4 Pull the thread right through to complete the second stitch. You can use an even number of strands or a thread such as perlé to do this stitch.



5 Repeat until the line is the required length. It resembles very fine chain stitch and is great for lines – a little heavier than backstitch but finer than stem or chain stitch.



6 The reverse side of the work for the traditional split stitch should resemble backstitch or double running.



7 You might find it easier to do the stitch this way. It's a variation that's also known as split backstitch. Working right to left along the line this time, sew one running stitch.



8 Go back and insert the needle through the centre of the first stitch, aiming to split the thread in half.



9 Bring the needle up one stitch length to the left along the line and pull the thread through.



10 Insert the needle in the middle of the previous stitch and come up another stitch length to the left.



11 Continue until the line of stitches is the required length. The stitch looks very similar to the previous version of split stitch on the front – like a fine chain stitch.



12 However, on the wrong side, it looks like the reverse of backstitch. Both versions of split stitch can also be stacked to form heavier lines or for filling. Try them both!