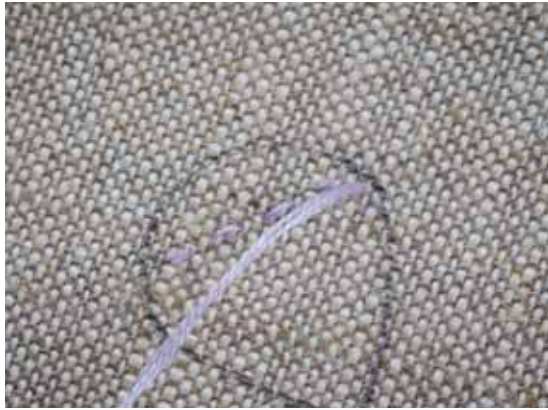


Long and short stitch

LEFT-HANDED



1 This example is being worked with three strands of embroidery cotton in three shades of the same colour on coarse linen. However, it's often done in one strand of thread.



2 Come up inside the shape and insert the needle on the line, making a short straight stitch. Come up below and beside the first stitch and repeat to make a longer stitch.



3 Continue working varied long and short straight stitches around the edge of the outline, slightly angling the stitches if needed to suit the shape.



4 For the second journey, bring the needle up below the lowest stitches and insert it between the first line of stitches – don't try to share holes with the other stitches.



5 Continue working across below the first row, making stitches of varying lengths interspersed with the previous stitches so the rows become merged.



6 If desired, change to a deeper shade of thread and work another row of stitches into the previous one, again ensuring they not lining up along the top or the bottom.



7 After two journeys of the second colour, the stitches are still various lengths along the bottom and the rows are merged with each other for a blended effect.



8 Changing to the deepest shade, repeat the process. For this petal shape, the stitches are increasingly angled towards the bottom point.



9 Continue stitching rows of straight stitches into the previous rows, covering the edge of the shape neatly as you go with stitches of various lengths.



10 Try to fill any gaps as you go to give an even coverage. If the stitches are too closely spaced, they don't sit flat, but too sparsely leaves the fabric exposed.



11 The completed petal. The overlapping of the stitches creates a gradual colour change. Long and short stitch is used for filling shapes that are too large for satin stitch.



12 The back of the work shows a few short diagonal jumps where extra stitches were added to merge the colours better or to give denser coverage.