

Magic chain stitch

RIGHT-HANDED



1 For this novelty stitch, thread the needle with two colours of thread. They can be opposites, contrasting or coordinating colours. Come up at the start of the line.



2 Separate the two colours, insert the needle at the starting point and come up one stitch length down the line. Wrap only one of the threads around the needle point.



3 Pull the thread through fully to form the first stitch in one of the colours. Pull the threads separately because there is surplus thread of the unused colour at this stage.



4 Swap the threads around and make the second chain stitch in the usual way using the other colour. This time when you pull the thread through, they should both be even.



5 The second completed stitch. You now have one chain stitch of each colour on the fabric.



6 Return to the first colour once more and make a third chain stitch in the usual way.



7 This photo shows the thread partially pulled through. Don't panic about it looking a bit messy – just pull each thread separately until the stitches are sitting nicely.



8 The third stitch is completed and the white thread is in position to begin the fourth chain stitch.



9 Continue working chain stitches along the design line using each thread alternately.



10 At the end of the line, take the needle over the last thread loop and insert it into the same hole it emerged from.



11 The final tack stitch has both colours showing but this isn't very noticeable as the stitch is tiny.



12 Magic (or chequered) chain stitch can be used for borders, lettering and outlines where you want a fun look on your project. Try candy canes in red and white!