

Turkey stitch & tufted knot

RIGHT-HANDED



1 If you're aiming for a fluffy look to this stitch, use six strands of thread, separated and threaded together in the needle. Insert the needle from the front and come up nearby.



2 Pull the needle through, leaving a tail of thread at the start. It should be at least 10mm (3/8in) long – it can be trimmed to a shorter length later if needed.



3 Insert the needle again as close to the starting hole as possible and bring it out at the same place as before. Pull the thread through without dislodging the first stitch.



4 If you're doing a single Turkey stitch, for flower stamens for example, trim the thread tail to match the starting tail or both of them to the desired length.



5 Separate and fluff the strands with the eye end of the needle to enhance the hairy effect of the stitch. If you use indivisible threads such as Perlé, omit this step.



6 At the back of the work, there is just a small, double, isolated stitch. Single Turkey stitches can also be used for strands of grass, a tuft of hair or fur, or textural effects.



7 A related type of isolated stitch is the tufted knot, which is often used in tied quilting. It begins exactly the same way as an individual Turkey stitch.



8 This time, make the second half of the stitch at 90 degrees to the first. The needle crosses over the previous stitch on the back. Keep the thread loop under the needle.



9 As you pull the thread through, make sure that both tails are caught within the loop as shown. Here the thread is not yet pulled right through to show the loop and tails clearly.



10 When the loop is tightened and the tail is trimmed, you can see that this stitch lies down on the fabric more than the single Turkey knot. Bunny ears perhaps?



11 At the back of the tufted knot, you can see that a small cross stitch is formed. Tufted knots can be spaced over a puffy quilt to maintain the loft of the batting.



12 Turkey stitch can also be worked continuously to create a line of loops or trimmed tails. This time, start with a knot at the back, come up and make a backstitch.



13 Bring the needle out halfway along the stitch, not at the entry point. Keep the thread below the needle for this part of the stitch so the tail emerges above it.



14 For the loop part, keep thread above the needle, make another backstitch and come up at the end of the previous stitch, halfway along the loop stitch.



15 Depending on how big you want the loops or tails to be, use a round object like a pencil to set the loop size and pull the thread so it sits around the object.



16 Slide out the pencil but don't pull the thread. Make another backstitch with the thread below the needle. It should end half a stitch width past the base of the loop.



17 Pull the thread through. These stitches anchor the loops (or tails if you cut the loops). Again the thread emerges halfway along the stitch ready for the next loop.



18 Continue to make backstitches and loop stitches alternately along the line for the desired length. You could work in a circle around a flower centre instead of a line.



19 The back of the work after doing one line of loops looks like a single line of backstitch.



20 To fill an area, work subsequent rows of continuous Turkey stitch one under the other. Stagger the stitches of alternate rows so the loops overlap.



21 Two rows of continuous looped Turkey stitch. Staggering the stitches means the loops alternate. This stitch could be used for short curly hair on a doll.



22 Continuous Turkey stitch with the loops trimmed and fluffed. This can be used for flower centres, gum blossoms, grassy fields, manes and so on.