

Buttonhole stitch

RIGHT-HANDED



1 Bring the needle up where the looped edge will be, go in right beside it and come up the length of the stitch away. Form an anticlockwise loop with the working thread as shown.



2 Pull the needle through, keeping it over the thread loop, and a twisted loop will form at the starting point. This loop is what sets the stitch apart from blanket stitch.



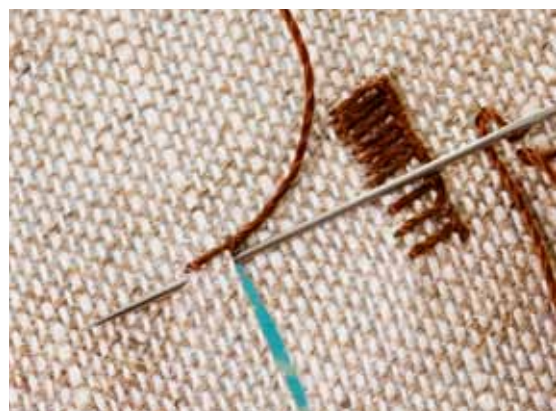
3 Pull the thread all the way through so that the stitch sits snugly on the fabric and the loop tightens around it, but without distorting the fabric.



4 Insert the needle at the edge beside the first loop and repeat Step 1, ensuring you have the anticlockwise loop of thread in place as before.



5 Worked close together, this is the stitch used for buttonholes and the edgings of whitework as it's durable. Spaced apart, it is more decorative.



6 This example shows the stitch starting on a cut edge instead of the middle of a piece of fabric. Slide the needle under the fabric at the edge and come up as before.



7 Several stitches on a cut edge, showing the ridged effect that forms. It can be worked tiny or in larger scale with various types of thread and is a very versatile stitch.