

Double cast-on stitch

EITHER HAND



1 Using doubled thread, bring the needle up at the top of the stitch and insert it at the bottom. Bring the tip up again at the starting point and leave it there.



2 Separate the threads so one loop is to the left and the other is to the right of the needle. (Make sure you are familiar with the single cast-on stitch.)



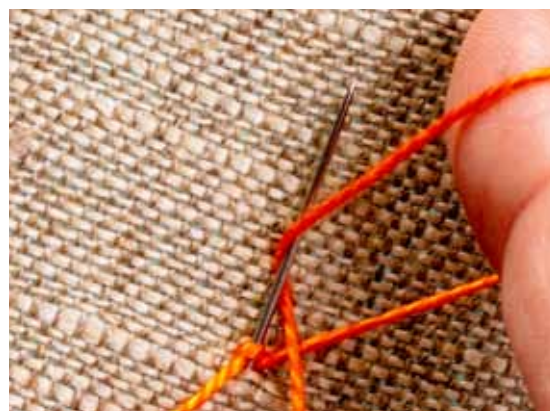
3 Working with alternate threads, form a cast-on loop around the tip of one index finger. A milliner's (straw) needle is recommended for this stitch.



4 Twist your finger so the needle tip can hook the loop of thread, keeping tension on the thread. These examples are worked in Perlé 5 thread.



5 Slide the first cast-on down the shaft of the needle so it is sitting snugly against the base of the upper part.



6 Leave that thread and make another cast-on loop with your opposite finger and the other thread. This stitch is worked the same way by right- and left-handed stitchers.



7 Slide it down the shaft of the needle so it is sitting snugly against the previous one. Don't confuse the threads – keep them on the same sides throughout.



8 Continue forming cast-on loops on the needle with alternate threads, left and right, until the section of the needle that is covered is about the same length as the stitch.



9 Hold the wraps with your thumb against the fabric and pull the needle through the stitch. Twist the needle back and forth as you pull it through if it is stubborn.



10 This shows the stitch when it is almost pulled through. You can see the doubled threads at the base of the stitch.



11 Continue pulling the thread through until the stitch is lying flat against the fabric. To finish the stitch, insert the needle at the base and take the thread to the back.



12 Completed double cast-on stitch. They make lovely leaves, petals, caterpillars, butterfly bodies and so on.



13 To make a wider double cast-on stitch, begin the same as described in Steps 1-2. Before forming any of the cast-ons, insert a needle or pin either side of the needle.



14 Form the cast-on loops alternately with the left and right hands as before. Ideally, the three needles should remain parallel, but here the top few loops are a bit too tight.



15 When the cast-on loops cover the stitch length, hold them with your thumb and index finger instead of just your thumb if that works better for you.



16 Here is the wide double cast-on stitch after the needles are pulled through but before the thread is pulled right through.



17 Keep pulling the thread through until the stitch lies flat on the fabric. For a more 3D stitch, make more cast-ons than the length so it sits up in a bit of a curve.



18 The completed (slightly deformed) wide cast-on stitch. Whether narrow, wide or raised, it's a versatile and textural addition to your library of stitches.