

Lesson Number	Title of the Lesson	Skills	Activity
31B	Embroidery Stitches	Creative thinking Decision Making	Embroider a set of six handkerchiefs/table mats using different kinds of embroidery stitches
		Problem solving Critical Thinking	

## Summary

Embroidery is decoration work done on the surface of the fabric using thread and specific stitches. Using different stitches and complimentary colours, you may create a really eye-catching impression on the fabric. In fact, embroidery can give a new life to old clothes by adding colour and novelty.

## Principal Points

### Steps to start an Embroidery

- Put together the entire Embroidery kit
- Decide the fabric, design and colours of threads
- Wash and wipe hands
- If there is a tendency to perspire wash hands repeatedly
- Unknot the thread by turning the needle in the opposite direction
- Start the embroidery with a backstitch rather than a knot

## Build your understanding

### Importance of Backstitch

- Very strong Stitch
- Worked from right to left on the wrong side

#### Method

- Thread the needle and insert in the fabric from where the embroidery begins
- Pick a few threads of the fabric and pull the needle and thread through
- Repeat the process at the same place picking a few extra threads of fabric

## What is Important to Know

### Salient Features of some Basic Stitches

#### 1. Stem Stitch

- Outline stitch
- Makes a fine line and is used around corners

#### Method

- Needle inserted to the right of the line and then to the left of the line
- Used as a filling by working several rows

## 2. Satin Stitch

- Basically, a filling stitch
- Gives a smooth finish to the embroidery

### Method

- Thread taken out in front and back equally
- Stitches worked slantwise
- For straight areas stitches to start from top to bottom
- For circle long stitches vertically, center to be filled first then sides
- For leaf shape work diagonally, starting from the left edge

## 3. Long and Short Stitch

- Filling stitch in solid and shaded colors

### Method

- First row alternating long and short stitches
- Following rows stitches of equal length worked at ends of short and long stitches
- Front and back alike

## 4. Chain Stitch

- Appears as a chain on the face of the fabric
- Worked from top-down
- Used for heavy outline or as a filling

### Method

- Bring the needle up through the fabric
- Make a loop with the thread and hold with the thumb, insert the needle in the loop and pull
- Bring the needle up a short distance away, with the thread looped under the needle
- Repeat

## 5. Darning Stitch

- It's a filling stitch
- Stitch visible on the face of the fabric

### Method

- The needle is taken out in front, one float is taken, then the needle goes down
- It is taken out from the back through the very next yarn in the same row
- Appears as if the lower and upper threads interlace with each other as in a weave

## 6. Herring Bone Stitch

- Known as 'Machli Tanka' in Hindi
- Worked between the lines
- Used for thick seams or to connect two parts

### Method

- Bring the thread up through the lower line

- Insert the needle in the upper line a little to the right and take a short stitch to the left
- Repeat

### **7. Buttonhole Stitch**

- The edge of the buttonhole is closed with this stitch
- Worked from left to right
- Used for filling or finishing edges

#### **Method**

- Bring the needle up through the fabric
- Holding the thread under the left thumb, form a loop
- Pass the needle through the fabric and over the looped thread
- Repeat
- Stitches are made close to each other

### **8. Blanket Stitch**

- Very similar to buttonhole stitch
- Stitches are a little distance apart
- Edges of blankets, carpets finished with this stitch

#### **Method**

- Worked from left to right
- Bring the needle up through the fabric
- Holding the thread under the left thumb form a loop
- Pass the needle through the fabric and over the looped thread

### **9. Cross Stitch**

- Stitches that form 'X' on the face of the fabric
- Worked from top to bottom

#### **Method**

- Pointing the needle to the left make a row of small horizontal stitches spaced as far as they are long
- Pull the thread firmly producing diagonal floats between stitches
- When the row is finished, reverse working stitches from bottom to top
- The needle should point left always
- Thread float should cross in the middle forming an 'X'

### **10. French Knot**

- Used as a decorative stitch to make elevated rounds

#### **Method**

- Bring the needle with the thread up through the fabric
- Wrap the thread over and under the needle
- Insert the needle into the fabric close to where it came up
- Double thread to be used to make larger knots

## **Did you know**

### **Finishing of the Embroidery Article**

- Embroidery never to be ended with a knot
- Back to be as neat as the front
- Clip the extra threads at the back
- Wash/Dry clean the article after the embroidery
- Starch and iron the article
- Edges of the article to be finished by hemming or pivoting
- Embroidered cloth to be stored in a mulmul cloth

## **Extend your Horizon**

### **Precautions for Embroidery Work**

- Advisable to buy all the embroidery threads beforehand so that the shade does not vary
- Wash hands before starting the embroidery
- Always begin with a backstitch
- Avoid knots at the back
- Select stitches according to the design

## **Evaluate yourself**

- Name two filler stitches and write their method
- Which stitch would you use to make a sunflower? Give reasons why?

## **Maximize your marks**

- Attempt all the exercises given in the lesson
- Which stitch is called 'MachliKanta'? Write its method step-wise.