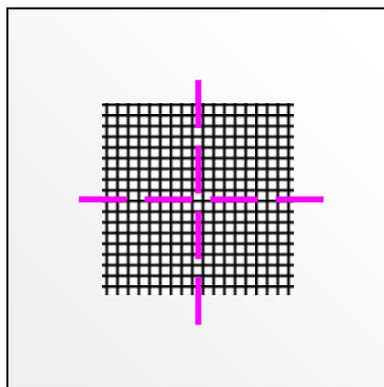


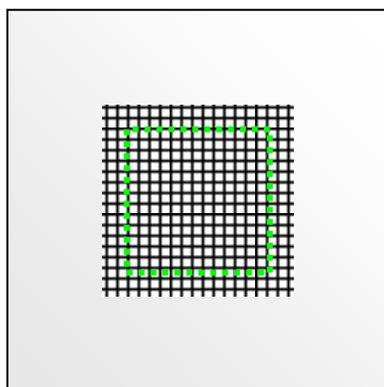
Preparing the Gauze Fabric

You will sometimes see gauze mounted onto a piece of mat board cut with a “window” to allow for stitching. This method works perfectly well, but if you don’t have mat board handy – try the following:

Cut a piece of sturdy woven fabric about 5-6” larger than your gauze (I use weaver’s cloth – but any sturdy woven fabric will do.) Hand-baste the gauze to the center of the fabric to hold it in place (pink lines in diagram), lining the two up so the direction of the grain in each is aligned as much as possible.

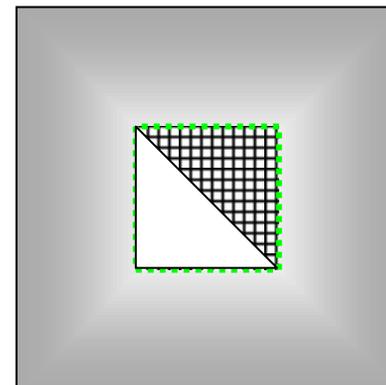


Now, sew around the perimeter of the gauze through all thicknesses to secure it in place (green lines in diagram.) I used a zigzag stitch on my sewing machine, but you can also hand stitch it in place with small sturdy stitches.

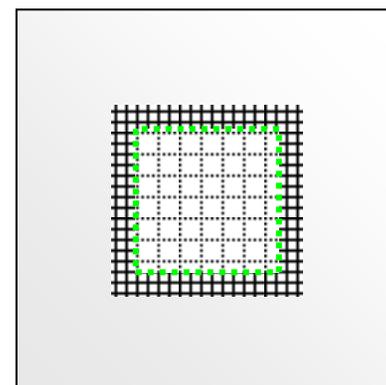


Remove your initial hand-basting stitches.

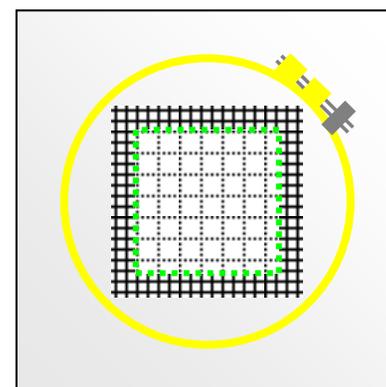
Next, flip everything over and carefully cut away a “window” in the woven fabric to expose your stitching area on the gauze. Don’t cut too close to your stitching to prevent the gauze from coming loose while you are stitching.



Flip everything back again and this is what your piece will look like. If you like to stitch from the center of the design as I do, now is a good time to mark the center of your stitching area with a light pencil mark. With a straight edge or ruler, mark a small faint “x” - lining up from corner to corner – the point where they intersect is the center.



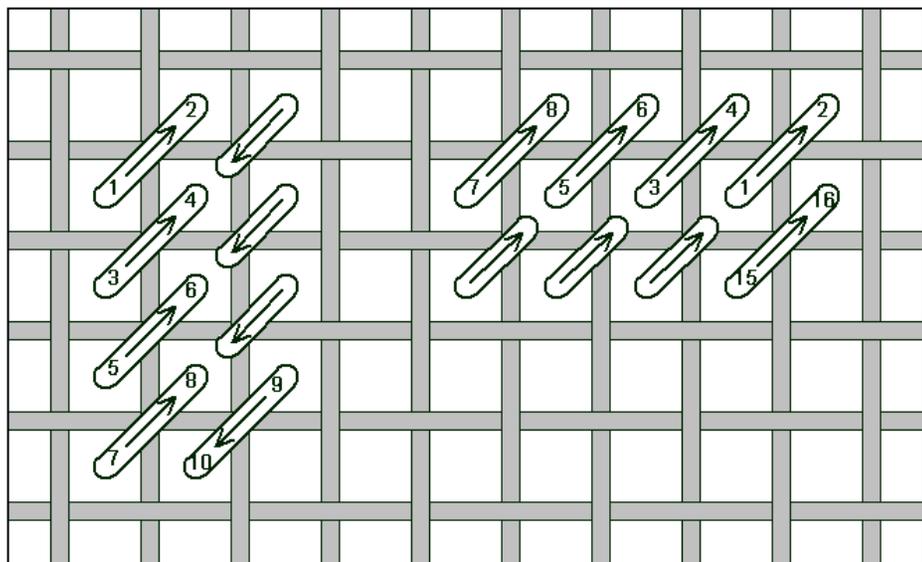
The assembled piece is now ready to place into an embroidery hoop. You will want to keep your stitching fairly taut while working.



You may find it easier to see the holes in the gauze if you work with something dark in your lap. The beige threads of the gauze tend to “disappear” against a lighter colored background. I use a size 28 tapestry needle on the 40 count silk gauze; size 26 on 30 or 32 count.

Continental Stitch

I like to use the continental stitch for all the small areas and design elements - use just one ply of floss for all stitching. This stitch results in a greater amount of thread on the back of the piece, but I find the stitch to be more stable.



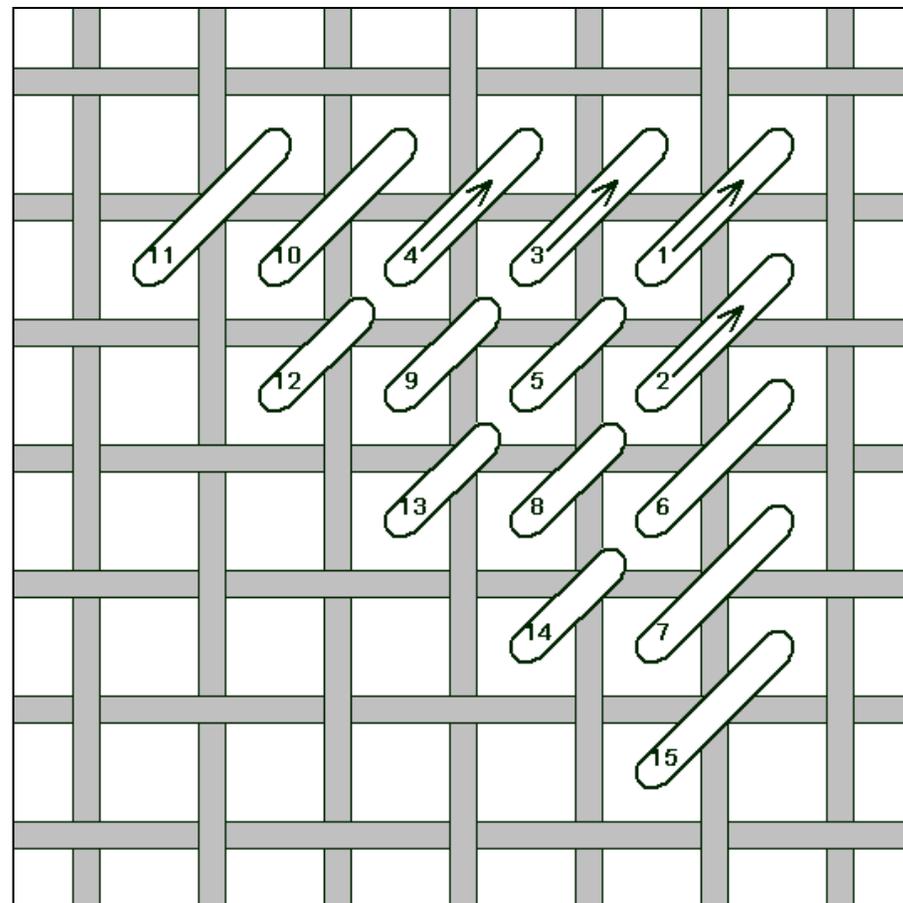
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There are many good books and online sources for additional stitch diagrams and explanations. Please refer to these other excellent sources if you need further information.

Basketweave Stitch

The basketweave stitch is sometimes referred to as a “diagonal tent” stitch because it is worked diagonally across the stitched area.

To make the chart easier to read, the large background areas are not always charted with symbols. Individual patterns will have specific instructions as to what colors are used to fill background areas.



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