

Beginning and Ending Threads Securely

There is nothing more frustrating than when a thread comes loose and drifts to the front of a canvas or loosens up enough to destroy the tension of our stitch. In this article, we cover Some of the knots and stitches used to begin and end threads securely. Each is useful in a different way. For help in visualizing the stitches/knots, check out the illustrations below.

Inline Waste Knots — Inline waste knots are commonly used when there are enough stitches to cover the thread and secure it on the back. The knot is placed on the top of the canvas in the direction you will be stitching. The thread is covered on the back as you stitch. When you reach the knot you can cut it away. It helps to put a little tension on the knot when cutting; the thread will then shrink back and be covered more thoroughly after cutting.

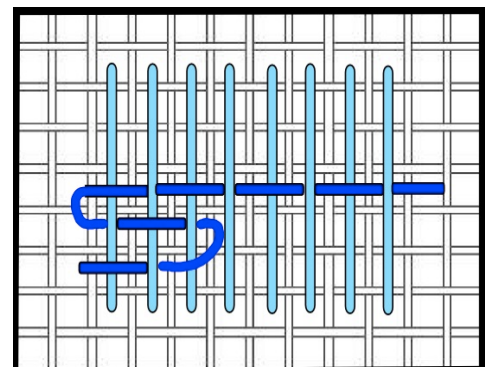
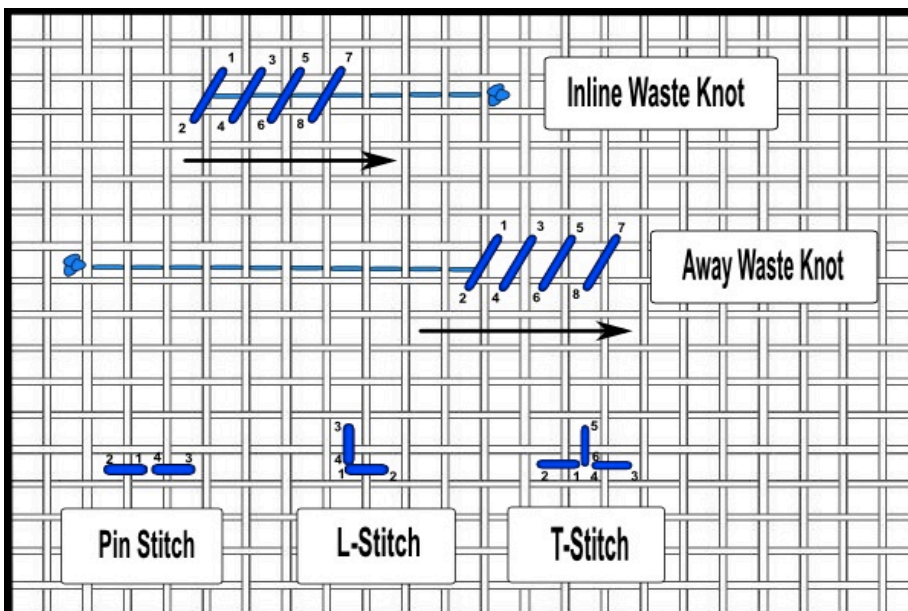
Away Waste Knots — Away waste knots can be used when working an open thread pattern or when the line of stitches is not going to be large enough to secure the thread. Leave a long enough tail to cut and rethread the needle after stitching to work the thread under the stitches on the back of the canvas. If there aren't going to be enough stitches to cover the thread, or if it will show through open areas, the away waste knot can be anchored outside the design area and left there to be secured by the finishing.

Pin Stitch — A Pin stitch hides under stitches in the design area and is a great choice for isolated stitched. It can also be used to secure a thread outside the design edge wither when beginning or ending a thread. In this stitch, you come up in one hole (step 1), down in the hole immediately to the left (step 2), come up two holes to the right (step 3) and back down in the first hole (step 4). To really secure the thread it helps to pierce the thread as it goes from 2 to 3 when going back down in 4. Then you stitch right over the pin stitch. The stitch becomes invisible under your stitching.

L Stitch — The L Stitch is used the same way as a Pin stitch. Instead of going in a straight line, the stitch is done in the shape of an "L".

T Stitch — The T Stitch is a combination of the Pin and L stitches. It really secures the thread and is appropriate for all threads, including those that are slippery.

Bargello Tuck — The Bargello Tuck is useful in ending a thread when your stitches are long or the thread you are using is slippery and may not stay buried by just weaving the thread under previously stitched threads. After weaving your ending thread under several stitches, come up at the end, go over one stitch and then weave under your threads in the opposite direction.



Bargello Tuck