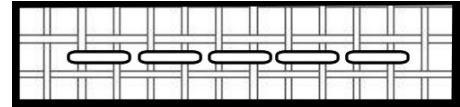


Lines in Needlepoint: Part One - It's All Relative

by Diane Snyder

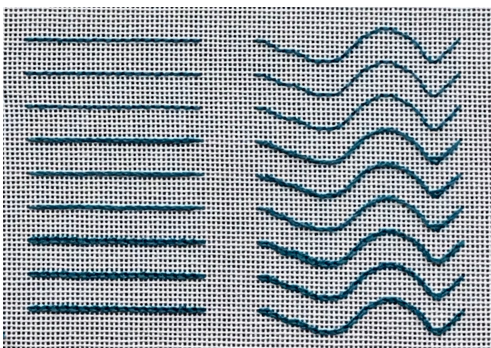
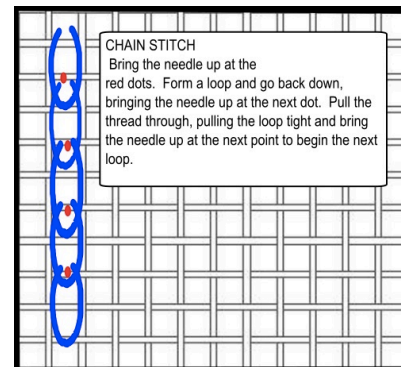
This month I'd like to show you three basic stitches you can use to work outlines, both straight and curved. While you can always use continental stitch, sometimes this results in lines that are jagged along one axis. In order to get a smooth line, I suggest using one of these stitches instead.

The first stitch is a simple backstitch. For consistency, make all your stitches an equal length. For working curves, adjust the angle of each stitch to match the curve. If needed, you can use a sharp needle to pierce a canvas thread for a more precise placement. This line is the thinnest width.



The second stitch is stem stitch. In the sample below, the stem stitches are over 4 threads, with a 2-thread overlap. This stitch is a little harder to work in tight curves, but once again you can use a sharp needle to pierce the canvas for a more precise placement. This line is slightly wider than backstitch.

The third stitch is chain stitch. This line is the widest of the three basic stitches. Once again, try to keep the length consistent. When working chain stitch, watch your tension so that the chains are the same size. This stitch is the widest of the three.



In the sample, I've used 1 strand of Caron Impressions to stitch each line. The top 3 lines are backstitch over 2 threads, the next three lines are stem stitch over 4 threads as discussed above. The last three lines are chain stitch. You can see how each stitch progresses from narrow to wide. Of course, changing the thread type would also effect how wide your line will appear.

Next month, I'll discuss how adding elements to these stitches further affects the relative widths of each different stitch.