Lines in Needlepoint: Part Two - Wrapping, Weaving and Width
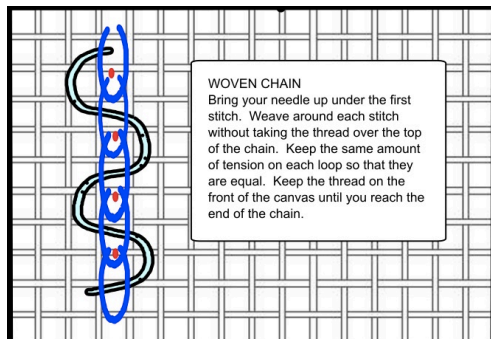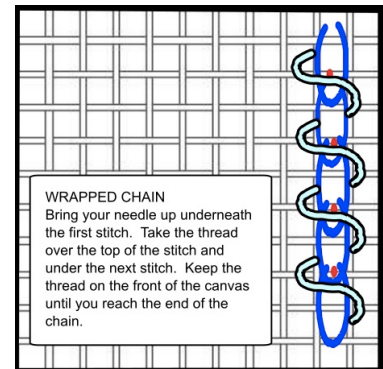## by Diane Snyder

Last month I showed you three different ways to stitch straight and curved lines and how each method gave a different width relative to each other. Those lines were backstitch, stem stitch, and chain stitch. This month I'd like to show you how adding elements to those basic stitches will also add relative width and more dimension to the line.

The first element is a wrapping stitch. This diagram shows the wrapping stitch over chain stitch, but the concept is the same for all three stitches.

WRAPPED CHAIN
Bring your needle up underneath the first stitch. Take the thread over the top of the stitch and under the next stitch. Keep the thread on the front of the canvas until you reach the end of the chain.

Working a wrapping stitch adds some dimension to the backstitch line without adding too much width. Working a wrapping stitch over a stem stitch line accomplishes the same effect; in addition, the wrapping stitch can be further used to refine placement in the curved areas of the stitch. Working a wrapping stitch over chain stitch can achieve two different looks. The wraps will pull the loops of the chain together if you use more tension, thinning the width slightly. Using a looser tension will add width as long as you do not pull the loops together.

WOVEN CHAIN
Bring your needle up under the first stitch. Weave around each stitch without taking the thread over the top of the chain. Keep the same amount of tension on each loop so that they are equal. Keep the thread on the front of the canvas until you reach the end of the chain.
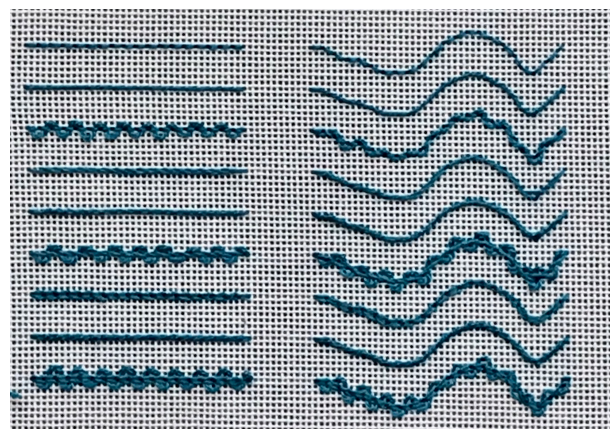
The second element is a woven stitch. Once again the diagram shows the stitch being worked over the chain stitch line. This weaving adds width to all three lines. Since the weaving remains underneath the line stitches, they do not draw the line stitches tighter or together. For the best look, try to maintain your tension so that the woven loops are all the same size.

For even more width; you can also work another line of weaving in the opposite direction so that you have loops on both sides of the line.

In the stitched sample, you can see how adding these elements affects the lines. All lines and elements were stitched using 1 strand of Caron Impressions.
Top to bottom: Back Stitch, Wrapped Back Stitch, Woven Back Stitch, Stem Stitch, Wrapped Stem Stitch, Woven Stem Stitch, Chain Stitch, Wrapped Chain Stitch, Woven Chain Stitch.

Your stitching tension and thread choices can all affect the width of the line as well, but this is a basic way of using different stitches and elements to control the widths of lines in needlepoint.

Happy Stitching!