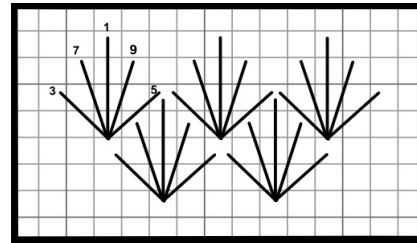


Stitch Spotlight: Diamond Ray
by Diane Snyder

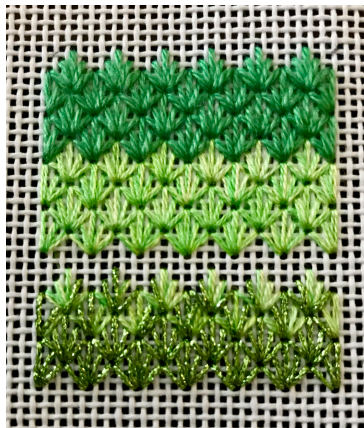
The shape of each individual group or motif resembles a small leaf. This makes it an obvious choice for any type of leaf; you can vary the lengths and the angles of the individual stitches to fit the painted canvas. It can also be combined in a repeating pattern and used for other areas of greenery, such as bushes, garlands, trees, and large areas of open landscapes.



This stitch is a repeating pattern of 5 individual stitches all sharing the same bottom hole. Start by placing the center stitch straight from the top to the bottom. Next, place the two outer stitches which will be on a true diagonal. Finally, place the in-between stitches, which are at oblique angles. Notice that the outer stitches of two neighboring motifs will share the same top hole; in addition, the top of the center stitch in the row below also shares the same canvas hole.

This stitch is not limited to just leaves and trees. It can also be used as a filling stitch, with the overall pattern being a series of interlocking diamond shapes with small areas of open canvas showing through between the individual stitches. The pattern can also be worked horizontally or diagonally, or with the points of the stitches facing up or down.

Your choice of thread textures and weights will also have an impact on how smooth or dense the pattern will appear when stitched. A thinner thread or fewer strands will highlight the individual stitches. A thicker thread or more strands will hide the open areas giving a denser coverage in the pattern. An overdyed thread will add some color contrast and gradation; in greens (such as sample below) it gives a more natural look to an area of greenery, as an overall pattern it breaks up the visual density, appearing lighter and adding more movement. Combining different weights and textures of threads adds even more movement, gradation, and contrast which breaks up the visual density even more.



The sample was stitched using 1 strand of Caron Impressions #5086 for the top 4 rows. The next 4 rows were stitched with 2 strands of Caron Waterlilies #201.

The bottom section was stitched combining 2 strands of Waterlilies #201 with 1 strand of #8 Kreinik Braid 015. At the upper edge, most of the individual stitches were done with Waterlilies, adding single stitches of #8 Braid. As the pattern progressed downward, more of the individual stitches were done with #8 Braid until the bottom row which is all done in #8 Braid.

Think of this stitch as more than just leaves and greens. Imagine using different shades of blues, overdyes and metallics to create a sky or sea. Angle the stitches to create movement of wind or waves. Pull out your doodle cloth and have fun experimenting!