

Ribbon Embroidery Stitch Guide

from
Debbie Cripps

Begin by reading through this Stitch Guide and take note of the following **stitching tips**:

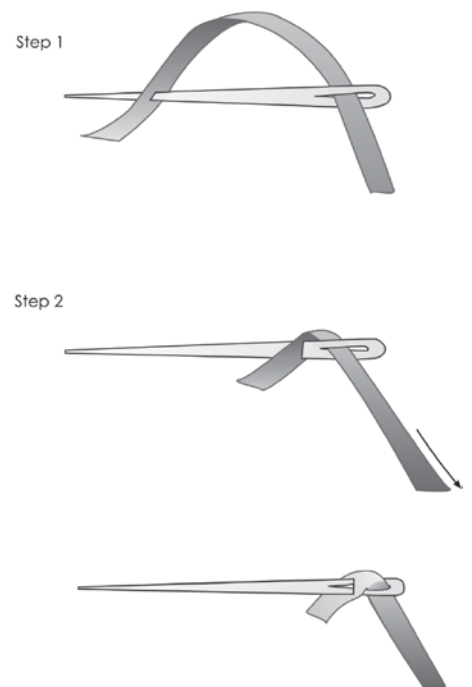
- If there are stitches you have never done before you may like to practice them first.
- You will get a much better tension on your stitches if you work with an embroidery hoop. Use a hoop larger than the image area for ribbon embroidery as pushing a hoop over the stitched areas can spoil them.
- If you are left handed a good tip is to photocopy the stitch diagram onto tracing paper and turn the paper over - this makes it the right way round for you.
- To begin you can either tie a small knot at the end of your ribbon or leave a short tail at the back of the work which can be carefully stitched to the back of the work using a fine needle and cotton.
- To finish off your ribbon you can either weave your needle over and under a few stitches on the back of your work, taking great care not to pull on the existing stitching, or leave a tail of ribbon and stitch it to the back of your work.
- When the ribbon is pulled through the fabric note how it has emerged. One side of the ribbon will look more puckered than the other. If you try to keep the puffy side uppermost when forming your stitch your petals and leaves will have a fuller, more three dimensional appearance.
- Pull the ribbon through using your fingers close to the fabric, rather than pulling on the needle, as this gives you more control when forming a stitch.
- Try to keep the ribbon untwisted on the back of the work for a neater finish. Avoid pulling on existing stitches as you work the next stitch, as this can distort them.

Threading the Needle

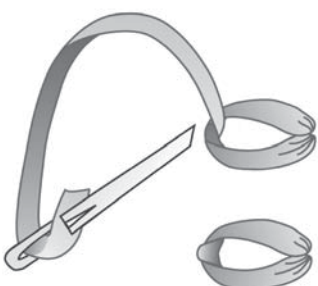
To avoid the ribbon coming out of the needle while stitching and to get maximum use of the length of ribbon, it is attached to the needle as follows:

Step 1: thread enough ribbon through the eye of your chenille needle to enable you to pierce through the end of the ribbon with the needle tip.

Step 2: hold the tip of the needle and pull on the long end of ribbon to secure it to the eye.



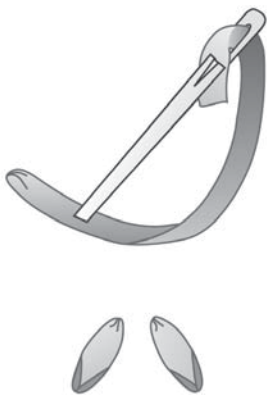
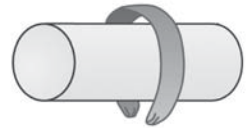
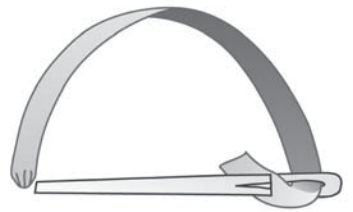
Lazy Daisy Stitch



Bring your needle up at the base of a petal. Push the needle back into the fabric close to where it first emerged. Pull the ribbon through to create a smooth loop of the desired size. Bring the needle up through the loop at the tip of the petal and back over the loop to anchor it to the fabric.

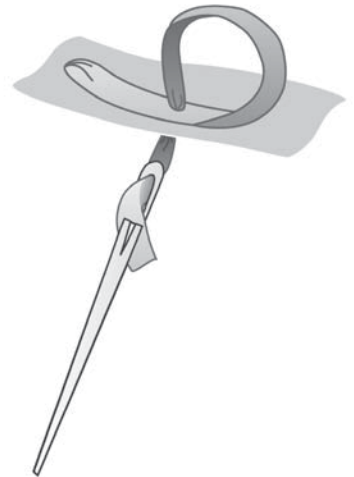
Loop Stitch

Bring the needle up where you want the loop to be and back through the fabric close to where it emerged. Pull the ribbon through to create a smooth loop of the required size (to unify your loops you can insert a round object such as a straw through the loop before pulling snug). Take care not to pull out the first loop when forming the next!



Ribbon Stitch

Bring the needle up at the position for the base of your leaf or petal, note how the ribbon has emerged (see Stitching Tips). Lay your ribbon on the surface of your fabric and insert the needle through the ribbon at the point where you want the tip of the leaf or petal to be. Pull the ribbon very gently through itself until the tips of the ribbon begin to curl inwards to form a point. Don't pull too tight or the curls will pull through completely.

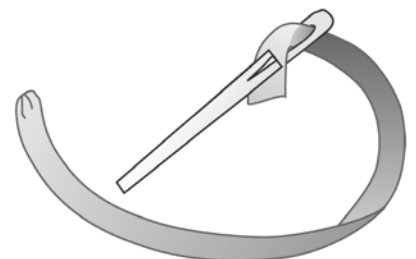


Modified Ribbon Stitch

This is worked in the same way as ribbon stitch, however you don't pull the ribbon completely through. Leave a loop of ribbon at the end of the stitch.

Straight Stitch

Emerge at the base of your stitch noting how the ribbon looks (see Stitching Tips). Re-enter at the tip of your leaf or petal, pulling the ribbon through until the stitch sits gently against the fabric. Don't pull too tight or the stitch will shrivel up.



To "couch" a Straight Stitch

emerge at the base of the stitch and lay the ribbon in the direction of the bottom section of the leaf or petal. Using one strand of matching stranded cotton stitch over the ribbon to attach it to the fabric and fasten off securely. When you then finish your ribbon stitch by re-entering the fabric at the tip of the leaf or petal, it will fold at the point where it has been stitched over, or "couched". This creates natural looking leaves.

