

Discovering Stitches

3. Cross stitch

What is cross stitch?

Cross stitch is used to fill in areas with colour on material. It can be small Xs and make a solid coloured area or large Xs and be used for decorative stitching like these gloves from the Fashion Museum.



It is always in a X shape and normally uses material that has an even weave so the stitching can be made even. As long as you create a grid to work on you can cross stitch any shape and on most materials.

How to cross stitch:

You will need: Felt cut to shape, needle, thread, scissors, pencil and ruler.

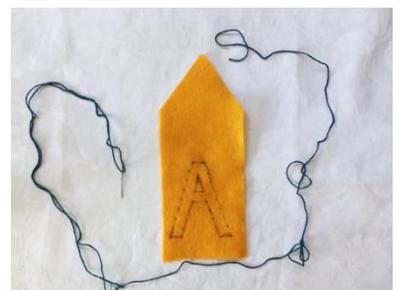


Use a ruler to draw a pattern that will be filled in with the cross stitch.

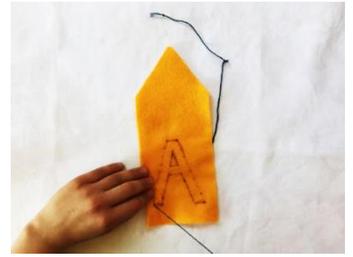
Here we are making a felt bookmark with the letter A on it.



Mark the points, evenly along each line so you have a series of grids with 4 points.



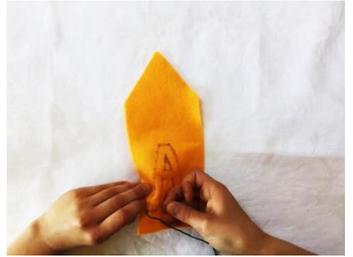
Start by pulling the needle from the back to the front of the fabric in the bottom left hole.



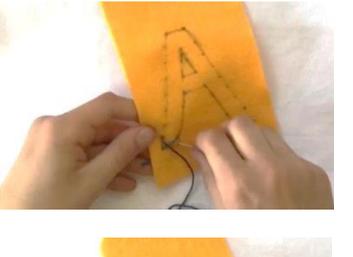
Cross over to the top right diagonal corner and push from the front to the back.



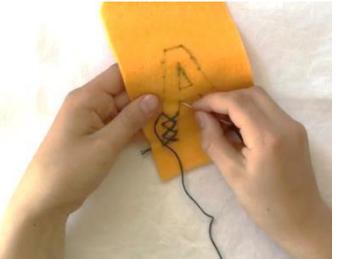
At the back of the fabric push the needle from the top right to the top left hole and pull through to the front of the fabric.



Cross back over to the bottom right hole and push the needle to the back of the fabric. This is the first X of the stitch.



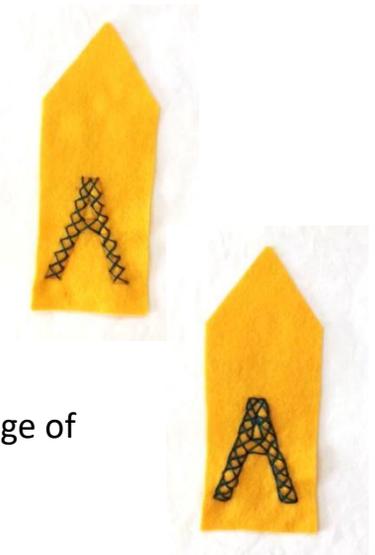
Start the next stitch in the top left hole of the previous cross.



Pull the needle from the back to the front of the fabric. This is now the bottom left starting point of your next cross.

Repeat the pattern along your drawn shape and you will create a series of Xs. When they are small Xs they fill in colour, when they are big Xs they will create decorative stitching.

Do you want to try cross stitching the first letter of your name?



When you are finished you could back stitch around the edge of your letter to finish it.