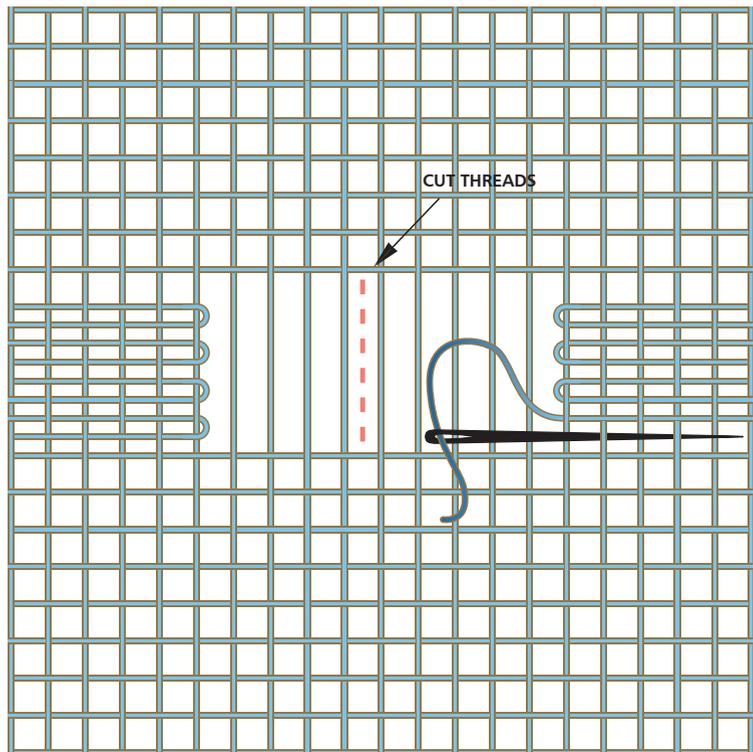


DRAWNWORK INSTRUCTIONS

Preparing the Gap

1. Before you begin your drawnwork, you have to get a section of your fabric ready by removing the horizontal threads and leaving the vertical ones behind. This is sometimes called “preparing the gap,” where the gap is the section of fabric you’re removing the threads from. To begin, find the middle of your gap. Snip each horizontal thread that you want to cut one at a time, taking care to count your threads and double-check that you’re cutting the correct ones. Pick each thread out of your gap one at a time until you reach the end of the gap. After you’ve pulled all your threads from the gap, take one thread at a time and thread it onto a needle. Weave this thread back into the fabric at the end of the gap, either until you reach the edge of your fabric or until the end of your thread. Repeat with the rest of the threads. This weaving process will create a denser fabric at the ends of your gap because the thread is doubled up, and this helps stabilize the fabric, making it more durable for projects that may need regular washing, like placemats and tablecloths.

Don't let drawnwork intimidate you. Simply grab a scrap piece of fabric, an embroidery hoop, scissors, needle, and thread and start experimenting. Before you know it, you'll get the hang of it, and then you can start on a project in earnest.



Basic Hemstitch

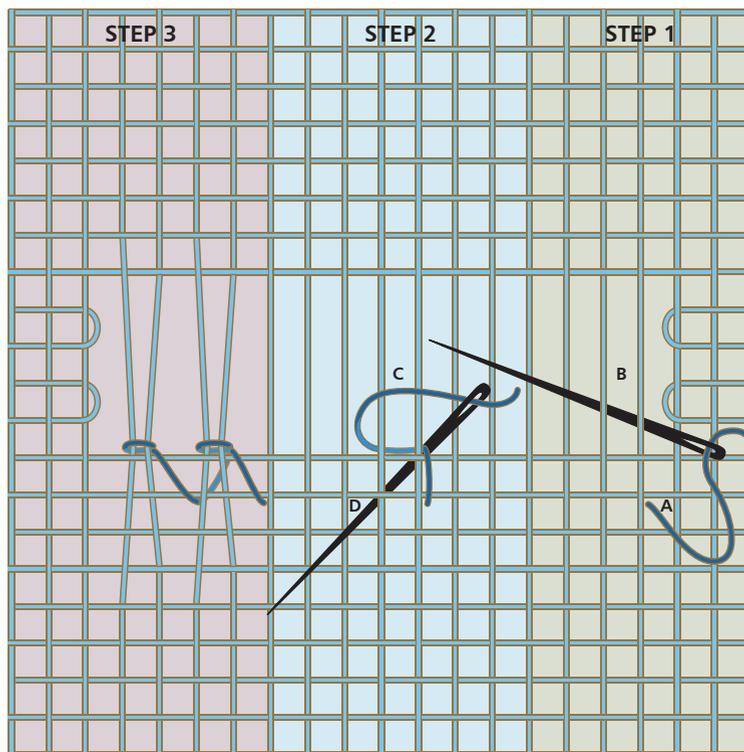
This basic hemstitch can be used on pretty much anything: placemats, tablecloths, hankies, clothing, or anything else with a straight edge. The fact that you have to pull the threads out of your gap ensures that your hem will be very straight; in fact, that may have been what the hemstitch was invented for!

1. Remove two or more threads from your gap, depending on how wide you would like your hemstitched section to be. (For the edge of a hankie, you may want to remove only two threads, but for something that might be a little less delicate, you could certainly remove more threads.) Complete the gap as described in the “Preparing the Gap” section.

2. Thread a needle with the thread you are going to use and tie a knot in the end. (If you want to use an embroidery hoop, clamp a section of the gap on your fabric with the right side of the fabric facing you.)

Step 1: Working from right to left and starting from the backside of the fabric, push your needle up through the fabric as shown in the illustration (A). Weave it under the first two threads in the gap (B). Step 2: Pull the thread and needle back across the two threads you just went under (C), and push the needle to the back and up through the front of the fabric as shown in the illustration (D). Tug down on the needle to make the thread rest against the edge of the gap. Step 3: Repeat this stitch along both edges of the gap.

3. When you get to an end, finish as if you were embroidering something: just weave the needle in and out of your previous stitches a few times, tie a tiny knot, and trim the rest of the thread off.

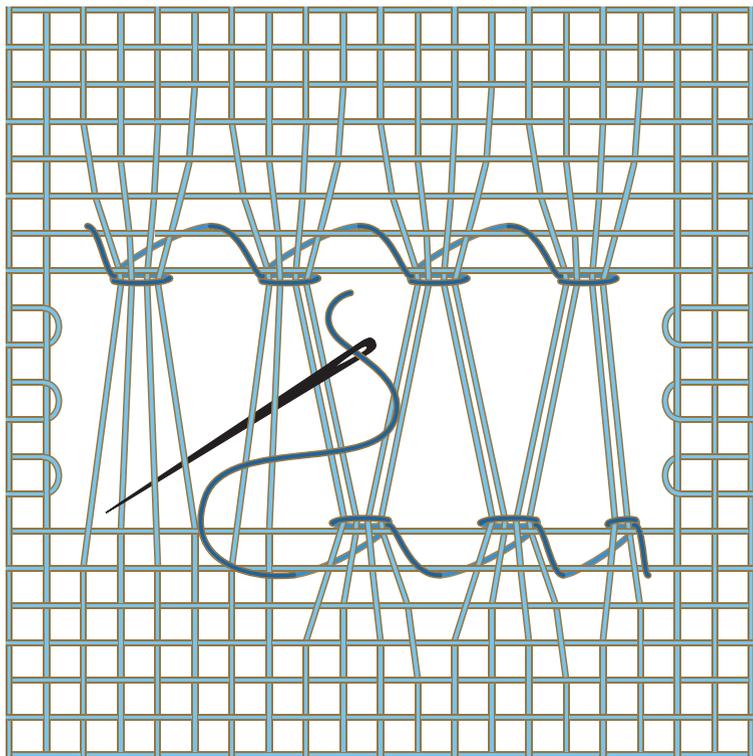


DRAWNWORK INSTRUCTIONS (continued)

Zigzag Hemstitch

This stitch is just a simple variation on the basic hemstitch.

1. On the first side of the gap and working from right to left, work just like the basic hemstitch but bundle four threads together instead of just two. On the second side of the gap, start by bundling just two threads together for the first hemstitch, and then four for each one after that.



Interlaced Hemstitch

This is another variation on the basic hemstitch. This one adds a little bit of decoration to the threads crossing the gap. Once you master the interlaced hemstitch, you can get creative with the number of threads you bundle, like the example at right.

1. Work a basic hemstitch on both sides of the gap, bundling two threads together at a time. At the right edge of the gap, bring the thread up from the back of the fabric very near the side of the gap. Pull the thread to the left across two bundles. Turn the needle back to the right and weave under one bundle and over the next one.

2. Flip the needle over so it points back to the left (this may be slightly

tricky to figure out at first, but you'll get it!) Pull the needle and thread firmly through the two flipped-over bundles and proceed to the next pair of bundles. Repeat until the end of the gap and secure your thread on the left edge of the gap.

