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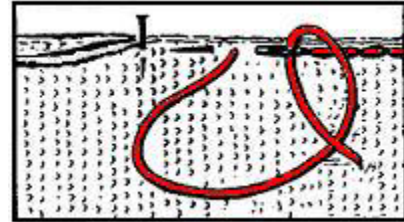
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Hand Stitching How-To

The following sections provide detail instructions on the various hand stitching methods referenced in HelloKnitty patterns. All of these stitches are simple to learn and are good skills to master!

Backstitch Instructions

The backstitch is often used to sew knitted or fabric pieces together. It is a very strong seam, since each stitch overlaps the last stitch. The seams are sewn together using the yarn used for knitting the piece as thread or sewing thread. You should use a blunt tipped, large-eyed needle, such as a tapestry needle or the plastic needle sold for the purpose of sewing knit ware together. For sewing fabric together, use a regular sewing needle.



Materials:

- Appropriate needle
- Yarn or thread to sew with

- Step 1** Pin the two knitted or fabric pieces together with right sides facing. Make sure rows and/or patterns are matching. For instance, if your 2 pieces have stripes. Make sure they line up when both pieces are pinned together.
- Step 2** Make back stitches through both pieces as shown in the picture. Insert your needle a little before last stitch and push the point beyond the last stitch and pull through your thread. (Picture 1-3).



Picture 1.



Picture 2.



Picture 3.

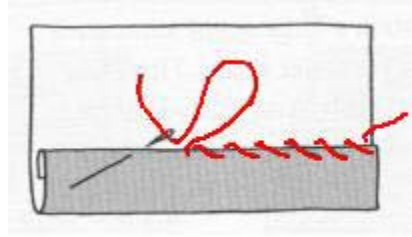




Picture 4. Reverse side of the back stitch.

Slipstitch Instructions

The slipstitch is a stitch used to sew a seam between two pieces of fabric. It is often used to sew a hem. The stitches on the right side of the fabric are small and therefore make a nice hem. This picture here shows the wrong side view of the slip stitch.



Materials:

- Sewing needle
- Thread (matching color or transparent thread)



Picture 1.



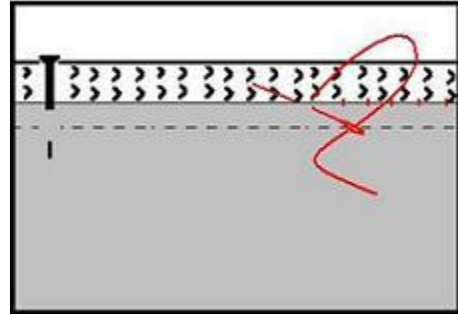
Picture 2.

- Step 1** Thread your needle. You can use single or double strands of thread. I prefer single strand because it looks better since it is smaller.
- Step 2** Turn your piece to the wrong side since we will be stitching on the wrong side.
- Step 3** Insert needle above the folded material and work the point through a small amount of the folded fabric, at a slight angle. (Picture 1) Pull all the thread through to make a snug stitch but not too tight or else it will pucker. Only work through a small amount since this is the amount of thread that will be showing on the front side. (Picture 2)
- Step 4** Now insert the needle about ¼" forward and work the point through a small amount of the folded fabric, at a slight angle.
- Step 5** Repeat steps 3 and 4 until you are finished. If you run out of thread, just rethread your needle and pick up where you left off.
- Step 6** Repeat steps 3 and 4 until you are finished. If you run out of thread, just rethread your needle and pick up where you left off.

Reverse Slipstitch

Instructions

The reverse slipstitch is used to stitch two pieces of fabric together. More importantly this stitch is used when you only have access to the right sides of the two pieces. For this reason, the stitch has to be small and attractive. This stitch is typically used to attach lining to a felted purse. You will be making neat stitches through the felted purse and the lining material.



Materials:

- Sewing needle
- Thread (matching color or transparent thread)



Picture 1.



Picture 2.

- Step 1** Thread your needle. You can use single or double strands of thread.
- Step 2** Start by inserting your needle into the back side of the lining. Pull the thread through and tuck the end of the thread in the back side. This way the thread tail will be hidden and not sticking out on the right side!
- Step 3** Now position the point of the needle at the very top of the lining fabric, about 1/16" down from the folded edge of the lining.
- Step 4** Push the needle through the lining material and the felted purse at an angle, so that the needle point comes out about 1/4" forward. (Picture 1) The needle point should be coming out of the felted purse, not the lining. Pull all thread through to make a nice stitch. (Picture 2)
- Step 5** Re-insert the needle directly below into the lining material, catching only about 1/16" of the lining material. Push the needle through at an angle; once again, just catching the felted bag and emerging 1/4" forward.
- Step 6** Repeat these stitches until you are finished. If you run out of thread, just rethread your needle and pick up where you left off.
- Step 7** NOTE: Take care to not push the needle all the way through the felted piece. If you did this, the stitches would appear on the outside of your felted piece and may not look as attractive. Also, avoid any puckering in your stitching. You can pull the pieces in opposite directions to help relieve any puckering.