

Pining to Stitch: The Biscornu

designed by Denise Harrington Pratt

MATERIALS

9" x 13½" 28-count Zweigart
Cashel® Linen: Cream
DMC® stranded cotton:
154 grape very dark
3031 mocha brown very dark
3371 black brown
898 coffee brown very dark
902 garnet very dark
934 black avocado green
936 avocado green dark
3790 beige gray dark
Kreinik Very Fine (#4) Braid
202HL
#26 tapestry needle
Two antique brass pine cone
beads
Fiberfill or wool roving for
stuffing

Stitch count: 52W x 52H
Approximate design size on
28-count: 3½" W x 3½" H

By: Denise Harrington Pratt

facebook.com/amaryllisartworks

dcpratt@maine.rr.com



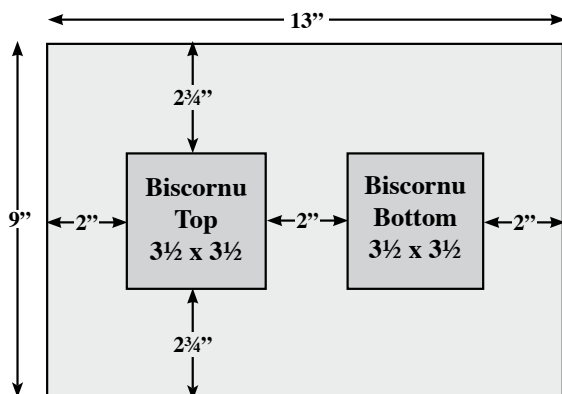
GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

The *Pining to Stitch* biscornu design is stitched in counted thread embroidery. The stitches include cross stitch, straight stitch, backstitch, and a variety of specialty stitches. Embroiderers are encouraged to use linen; Aida is not suitable for this project.

Use the layout map on this page to place the designs. For stitch placement and thread colors, follow the instructions in the symbol and stitch keys in the sequence shown. Begin stitching the center of each design and work to the outer edges. The stitch symbol is located at the left in each entry. To the right of the symbol are complete instructions for stitching that portion of the biscornu. Refer to the appropriate stitch diagram on pages 20–21 for actual stitch construction. The white lines represent the stitches, and the gray lines represent linen threads.

In the charts, one square equals two threads except in the name and date area. In the smaller charts focusing on these areas, one square equals one thread. Cross stitch one over one.

Because many embroiderers like to mark the charts, permission is granted by the designer to photocopy the charts for personal use only.



Biscornu Linen Layout Map

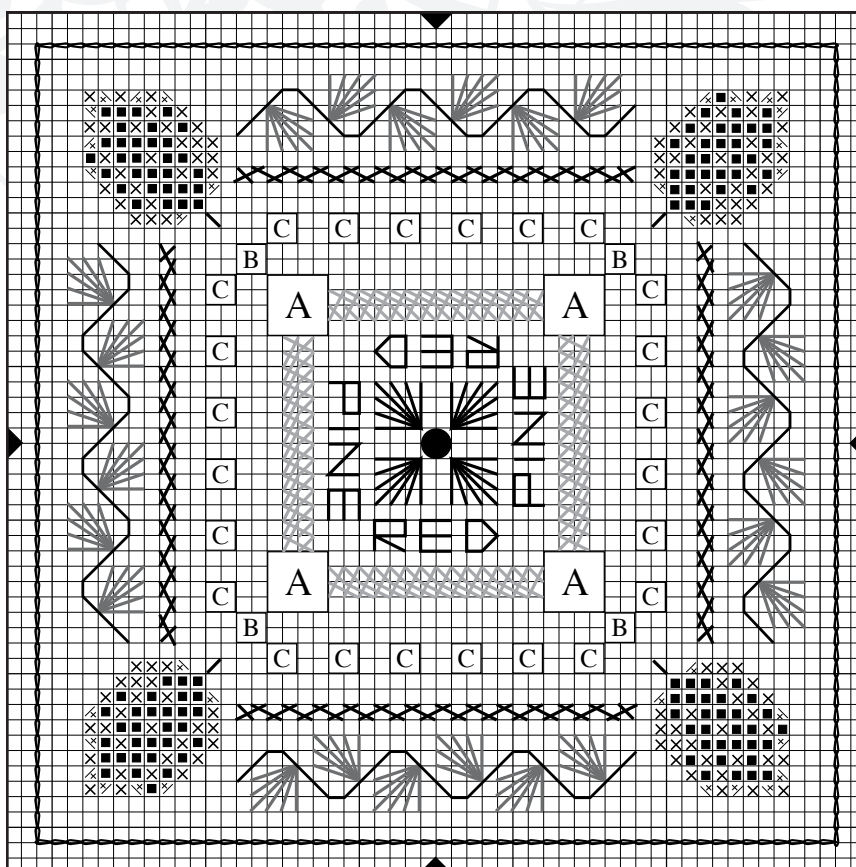
















Chart for Top of Biscornu

Symbol and Stitch Key for Biscornu Top

-  **Ray Stitch** Stitch the center pine needle clusters with one strand of 936 avocado green dark. Note that these central ray stitches have one extra pine needle that is not shown on stitch diagram. Refer to chart for placement of each ray.
-  **Backstitch** With one strand of 934 black avocado green, backstitch the words RED PINE.
-  **Herringbone Square** Stitch with two strands of 154 grape very dark.
-  **Triple Back** Stitch with two strands of 3031 mocha brown very dark.
-  **Algerian Eyelet Variation** Stitch with one strand of 202HL Kreinik Very Fine Braid.
-  **Algerian Eyelet Variation** Stitch with two strands of 936 avocado green dark.
-  **Tacked Herringbone** Stitch with two strands of 902 garnet very dark.
-  **Backstitch** Stitch the wavy line with one strand of 3031 mocha brown very dark.
-  **Ray Stitch** Stitch the pine needle clusters in the border with one strand of 936 avocado green dark. Note that these clusters differ from the central clusters. Work them as shown in the stitch diagrams.
-  **Crossstitch over Two** Stitch with two strands of 898 coffee brown very dark. The small stitches represent three-quarter stitches. With the same thread, work a straight stitch for the pine cone stem.
-  **Crossstitch over Two** Stitch with two strands of 3371 black brown.
-  **Buttonhole Bar** Stitch with two strands of 3790 beige gray. Lay one foundation stitch (two strands) and then work buttonhole stitches over this foundation stitch. Refer to Buttonhole Bars Chart on page 18, using it only as a guideline. Place the buttonhole bars in a way that is pleasing to your eye.
-  **Chain Stitch** Stitch with one strand of 934 black avocado green.
-  **Brass Pine Cone Bead** Shows location of the central bead. Refer to finishing instructions.

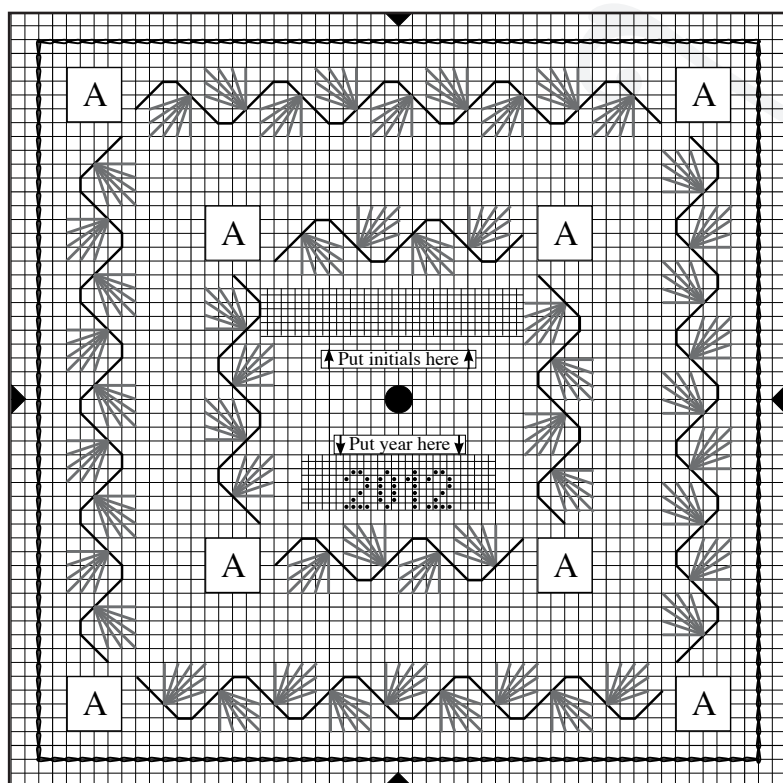


Chart for Bottom of Biscornu

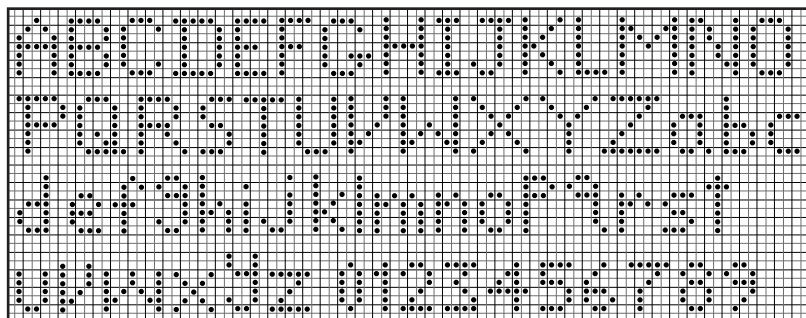
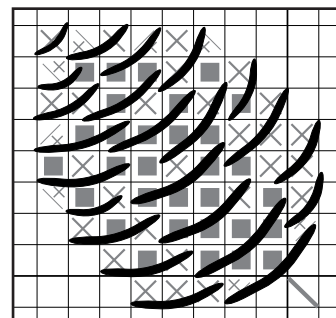


Chart for Personalizing



Buttonhole Bars Chart. The heavy black lines indicate suggested placement of buttonhole bars.

Symbol and Stitch Key for Biscornu Bottom

Begin with the central vine motif and herringbone squares. Then, stitch the outer vine motif and herringbone squares. Stitch the initials and date. Finish with the chain stitches.

✓ **Backstitch** Backstitch the wavy lines with one strand of 3031 mocha brown very dark.

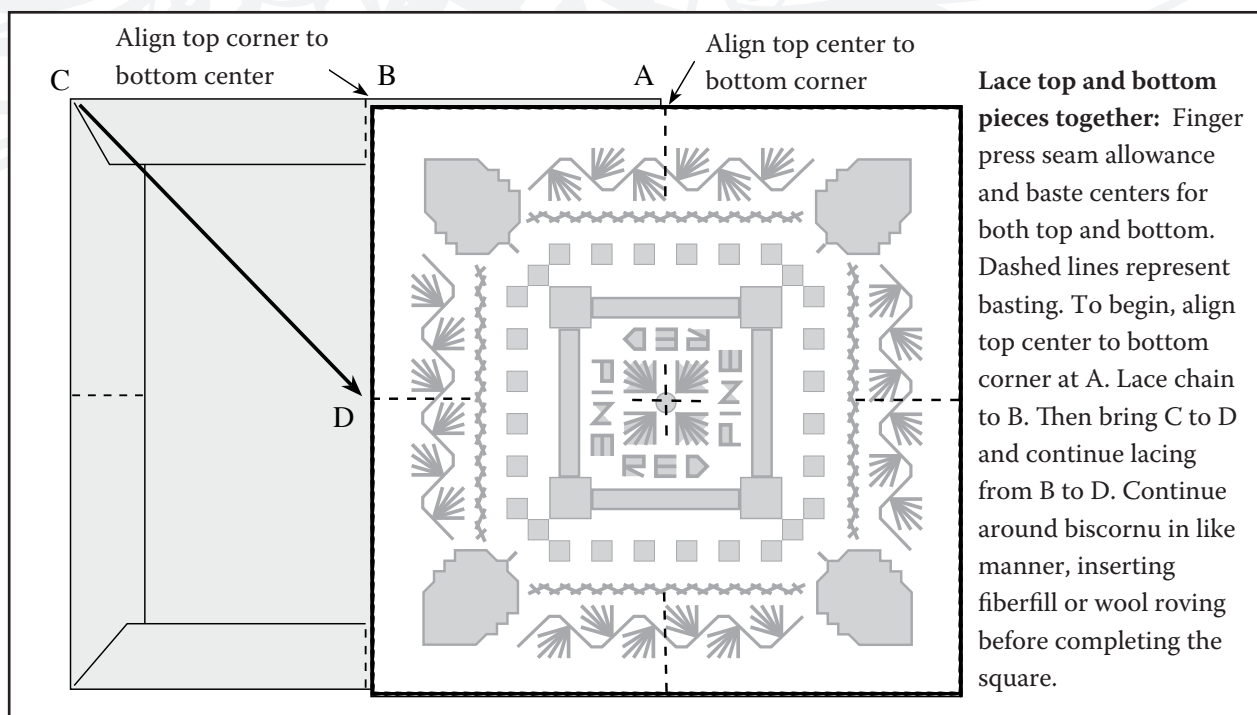
A **Herringbone Square** Stitch with two strands of 154 grape very dark.

☞ **Ray Stitch** Stitch the pine needle clusters with one strand of 936 avocado green dark.

• **Cross Stitch over One** Stitch initials and date in designated locations, with one strand of 934 black avocado green.

☞ **Chain Stitch** Following the chart, which matches the count and position of the chain stitch border on the biscornu top, work with one strand of 934 black avocado green.

● **Brass Pine Cone Bead** The symbol on the chart shows the location of central bead. Refer to finishing instructions.



Construction Diagram

CONSTRUCTING THE BISCORNU

A biscornu is made by sewing the corners of the top to the center sides of the bottom. This biscornu is put together by lacing the chain.

To begin, find the center of each side and mark it with a bit of basting that goes out to the edge. Also mark the very center of the biscornu with basting threads for later placement of the bead.

Securely attach a single strand of 934 black avocado green to the back of the chain stitches on the bottom of the biscornu, attaching it at the corner. Bring the thread through to the right side, coming out at the corner.

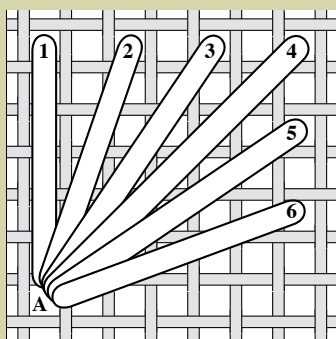
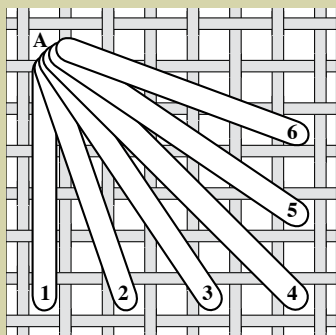
Refer to the Construction Diagram when joining the top to the bottom. All corners will match up with the centers, making the biscornu a fun shape. Fold and finger press the seam allowances along the line of chain stitches to the wrong side of each piece. With wrong sides together, align the side center of the biscornu top piece to the corner of the biscornu bottom piece (A in Construction Diagram). Lace the chain stitches, keeping them lined up. When the corner of the top piece is reached at B, turn the bottom piece, matching up the bottom corner C with top center D. Continue to lace the chain. At the next corner, bring the top piece corner around to match the side center of the bottom piece.

Continue lacing the biscornu sides, stopping before stitching the last section to stuff the biscornu with fiberfill or wool roving. Wool roving is good if the biscornu is going to be used as a pin cushion. Fill the biscornu firmly but not to the point of hardness. Stuff the corners more firmly, leaving the center slacker, so the final trims can be drawn together in the last step.

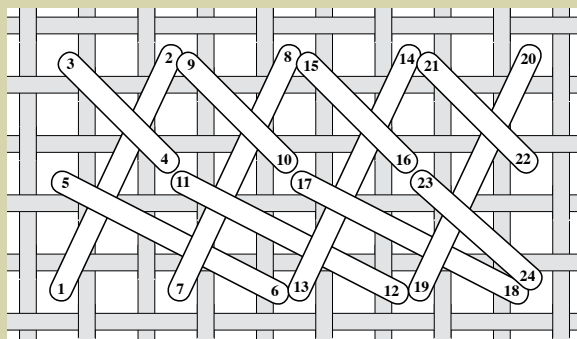
When satisfied with the stuffing, finish lacing the chain to close the biscornu and tie off the lacing thread.

To attach beads to the centers of each side, thread up a new length of stranded cotton. Fold it in half, and thread the tails into the needle, forming a loop at one end. Stitch through the biscornu at the center from one side to the other (see large dot on chart), leaving the loop hanging on one side. Bring the needle back through the biscornu at the other side of big dot. Catch the loop, fastening the thread. Go through the biscornu two more times, pulling each stitch to tighten center. Thread bead on and go back through the biscornu. Thread on bead for other side, go back through the biscornu again, and pull to tighten. Slide the needle through bead, being careful not to catch any stitching. Go down through the biscornu again, passing the needle through the bead on the opposite side. Repeat three or four times until the beads are secured. Fasten off.

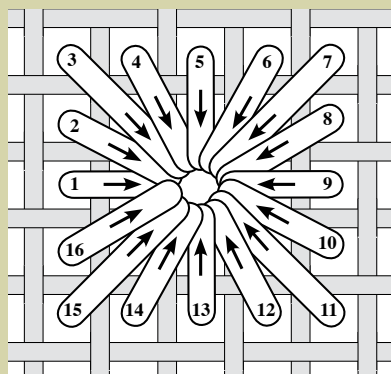
Stitch Diagrams



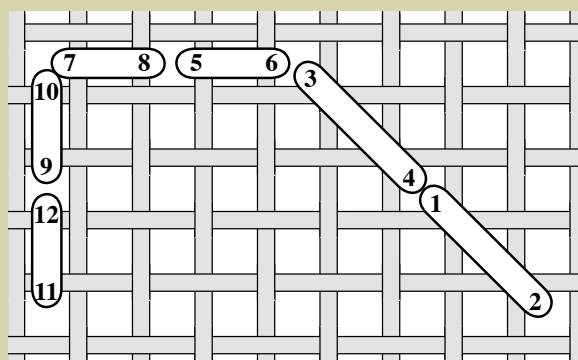
Ray Stitch To stitch, come up at numbers and down at A.



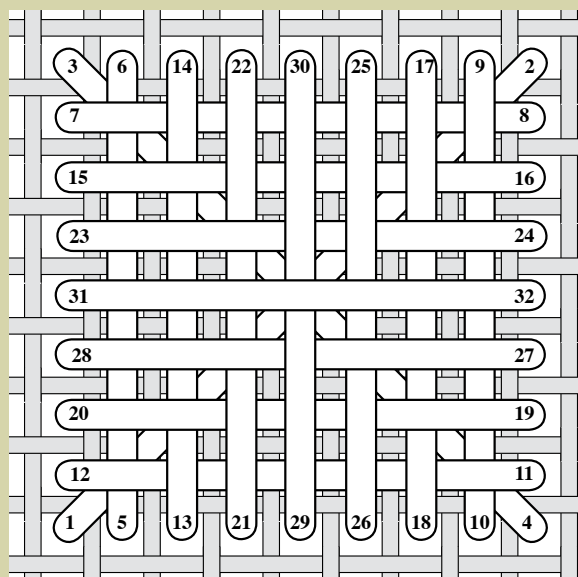
Triple Back Stitch Follow number sequence. Stitch 23–24 is a compensating stitch at end of row only.



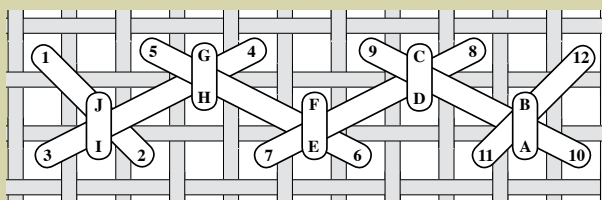
Algerian Eyelet Variation Bring needle up at numbers and down at center.



Backstitch Backstitches may be worked vertically, horizontally or diagonally over two fabric threads, but over more if necessary.

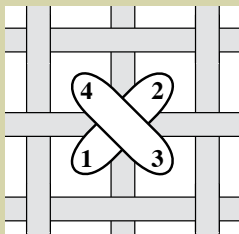


Herringbone Square Carefully follow the number sequence.

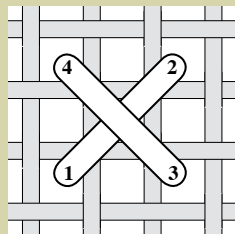


Tacked Herringbone Stitch This stitch is worked in two journeys. On the first journey work the herringbone (designated by numbers). On the return journey tack the herringbone (designated by letters). Note that stitches 1–2 and 11–12 are compensating and are worked only at the beginning and end of the row, respectively.

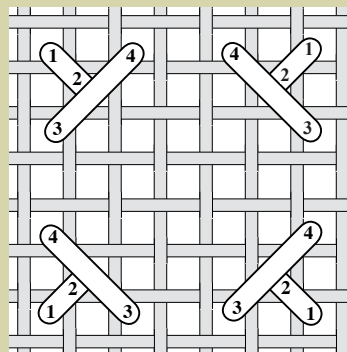
Stitch Diagrams



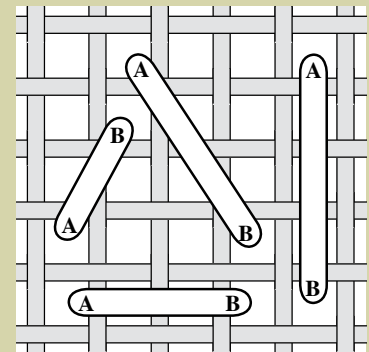
Cross Stitch over One



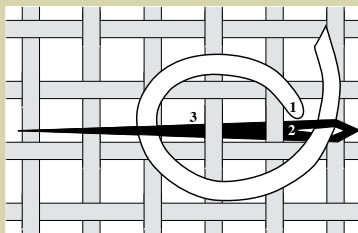
Cross Stitch over Two



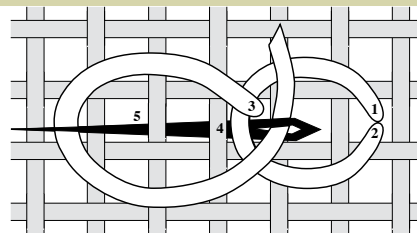
Three-Quarter Cross Stitches over Two



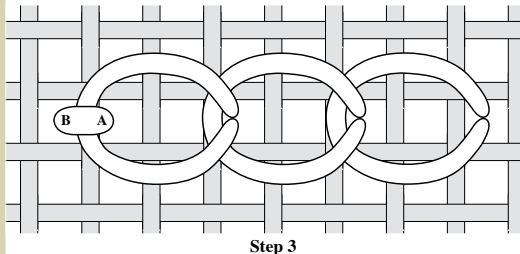
Straight Stitch



Step 1



Step 2



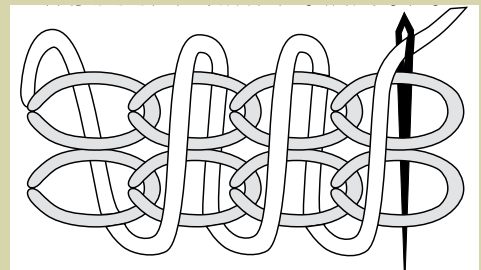
Step 3

Chain Stitch

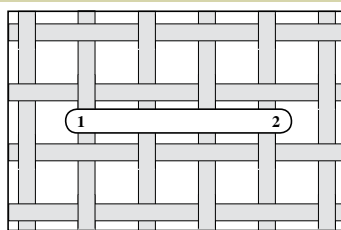
Step 1 Bring needle up at 1, and circle thread counter-clockwise. Keeping the loop loose, take needle down at 2 (shared hole with 1). Bring needle up again at 3, pulling needle through loop. Adjust tension of loop, elongating stitches more than shown in diagram.

Step 2 Continue as in Step 1.

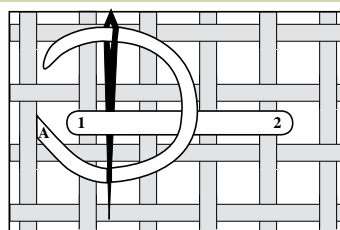
Step 3 At end of row, tack chain with stitch A/B over one thread.



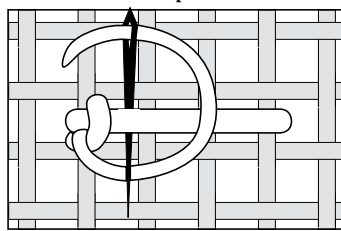
Lacing the Chain Stitch Line up chain stitches on top and bottom stitched pieces. Chain stitches DO NOT need to lie in same direction as shown in diagram. They may be aligned in opposite directions. Lace two pieces together by sliding needle under both chain stitches being careful not to pierce fabric. Bring thread across front of chain stitches and slide under next two chain stitches. Continue in same manner to completion.



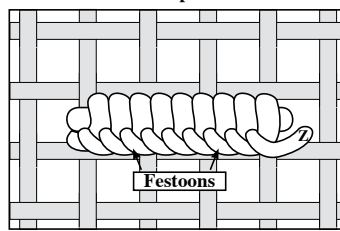
Step 1



Step 2



Step 3



Step 4

Buttonhole Bars

Step 1 Foundation To define the pinecone, lay foundation stitches over desired number of threads by bringing needle up at 1 and down at 2. The foundation may be one or multiple threads. In the sample, each foundation stitch was worked with two strands (plies) of thread. The stitch diagram shows only one foundation stitch. Foundation stitches can be horizontal, vertical, or diagonal.

Step 2 First Stitch To work buttonhole stitches over bar, bring needle up at A. Without piercing fabric, take thread under the foundation bar, and pass over the working thread brought up at A. Pull thread downward to snug up the bottom loop.

Step 3 Additional Stitches Continue across bar until it is fully covered but still lays flat. Add more stitches to cause the bar to twist or curve, if desired.

Step 4 Completed Bar This bar has nine buttonholes, but the number will vary depending on the length of the bar. End stitch by taking needle to back at Z.