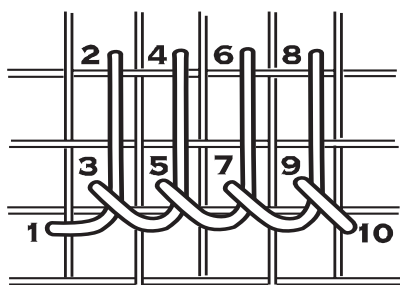
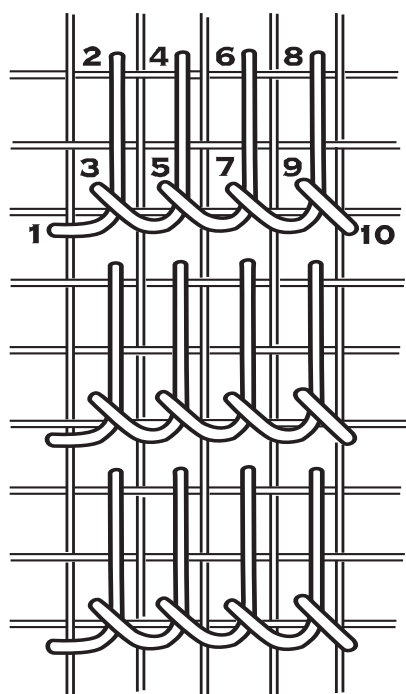


Buttonhole Stitch



The Buttonhole Stitch is a great stitch to have in your repertoire. It is a long stitch, so it covers ground quickly. You begin with a basic long stitch for your first stitch. With each subsequent stitch you bring your needle up moving the previous stitch to the side (see diagrams above). This moving and overlapping of stitches creates a beautiful raised edge.

Don't take the stitch count shown in the diagram too seriously. Buttonhole Stitches are really crewel embroidery stitches so they are meant to be adjusted. You can adjust the length of the stitches to accommodate the shape of the area you are stitching, you can also adjust the angle of the stitches to move more easily around a curve.

Stitch a single row of Buttonhole Stitches to give definition to a leaf, a flower petal or a little girl's dress. Stitch multiple rows of buttonhole stitches to create a layered look. This is a great stitch for the center of a flower. Work Buttonhole Stitches forming a complete circle; fill the center with beads and you have the most awesome beginnings to a garden.

For another look, work rows of Buttonhole Stitch in different colors, different shades or different textures. Also consider, overlapping your rows of stitches for an even fuller look. The possibilities are endless!