

Crazy Quilting Lessons / Challenge 2008

HGTV Quilting Needle Arts Board

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Stitches and Photos Courtesy of Kathy (hgtv board name: SHAWKL)

Lesson 10 Introduction to Motifs: Detatched Blanket Stitch creating fish net, tree moss, ground cover, etc.

Use this stitch/technique to create:

- the base for your seascape motif
- enhance/add texture to trees
- create a base ground cover for silk ribbon garden

Detached Buttonhole Stitch

The detached buttonhole stitch makes effective fish netting, ground cover, tree moss, and seaweed...among other things. It is also very easy to create.

The trick is to keep the stitches very loose

Instructions:

1. The DBS needs to be attached to a base stitch. A running stitch is common to use (figure 1), and gives the stitch an 'open' look on the base. If a more closed-in look is desired, a row of chain stitches can also be used.

2. Each row is finished off at the end by a small stitch and tying off on the back. Rows of blanket stitch are worked from left to right.

3. The blanket stitch is worked on top of the background...don't pierce the fabric. Slide the needle under the base stitch, from top to bottom, keeping the thread under the needle (figure 2). Pull gently! Allow the stitch to curl slightly, but not tighten up.

4. Continue in the same manner until you reach the end of the base row. End the row by taking your needle to the back at the end of the base stitches (figure 3), and come up in the last "loop" of the blanket stitch (figure 4). Take the needle to the back and tie off the end. Cut the thread, knot the end, and start the next row on the left side again.

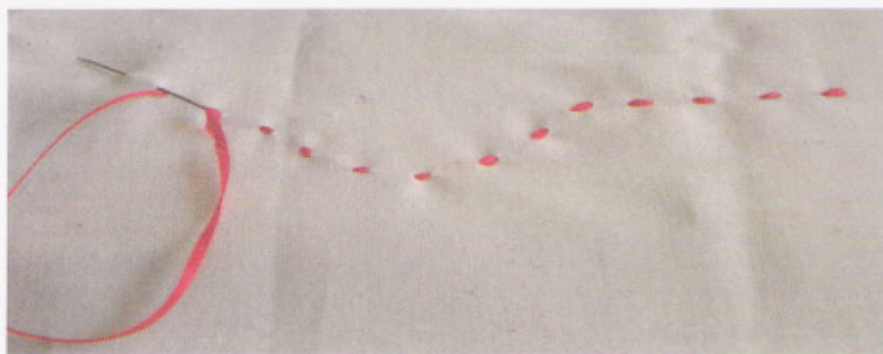


Figure 1, Running Stitch.

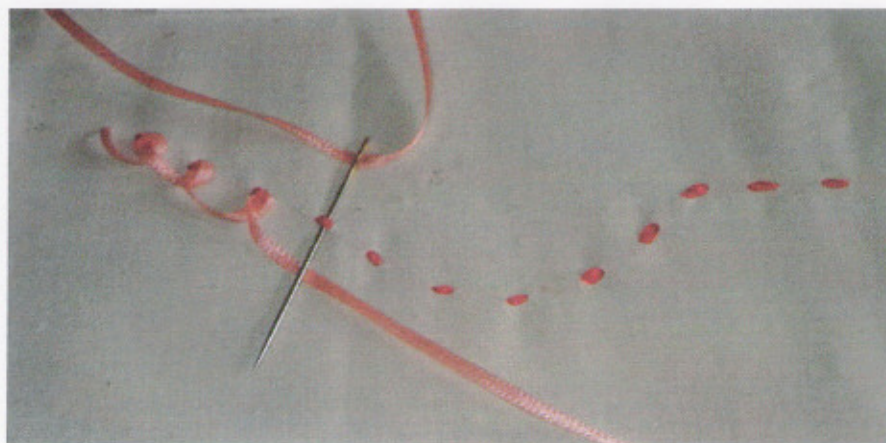


Figure 2, Loose Blanket Stitch.

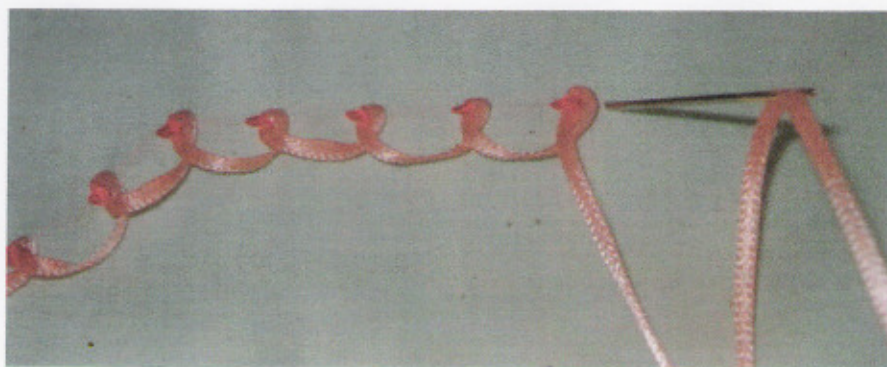


Figure 3, End off row.

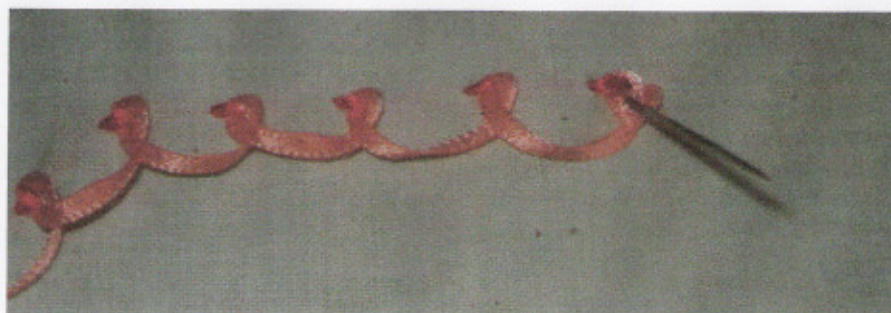


Figure 2, Secure loop.

5. Continue the rows by starting each on the left side, and working blanket stitches across to the right side. The loops of the previous row's stitches are used to support the next row just like the base running stitch was. Don't pierce the background fabric.

6. Rows can be shortened by starting further to the right of the previous row (figure 5).

7. Continue stitching rows until the desired length of the piece is achieved. Remember to keep the stitches loose, if you pull too tightly you can distort the prior rows. If you have difficulty with this, use straight pins in the previous row of stitches to hold them in place while you stitch the next row.

8. When you have stitched all of the rows the piece is finished. It can be left un-attached, which is useful for netting that will 'hold' items (see below photo). Or, you can secure the netting by small stitches in the loops (figure 7); this is helpful if you are going to embellish on top of the piece.

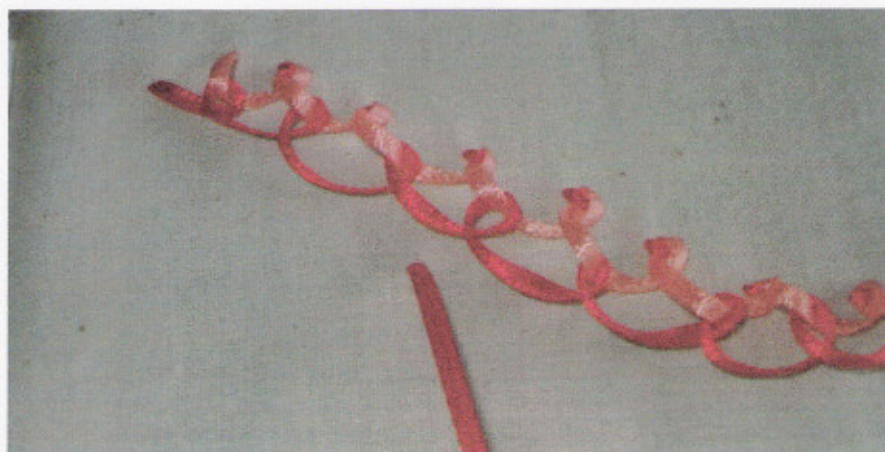


Figure 5, Start of Shorter Row

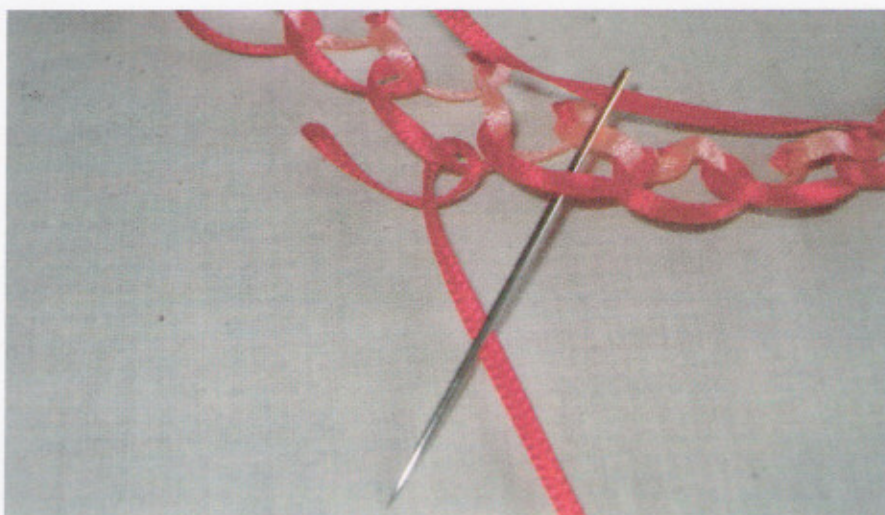


Figure 6, Continuing Rows of Blanket Stitch

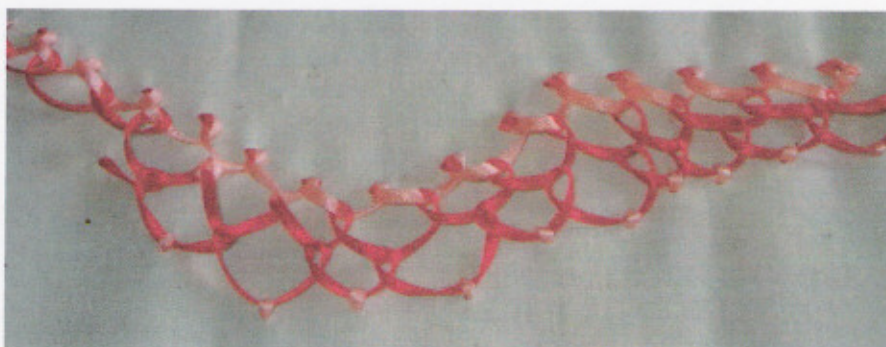


Figure 7, Securing the Piece

Hope you enjoy this stitch!