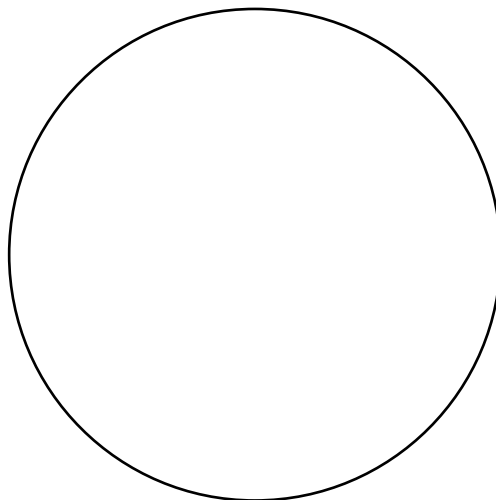




## Random Freestyle Embroidery Filler

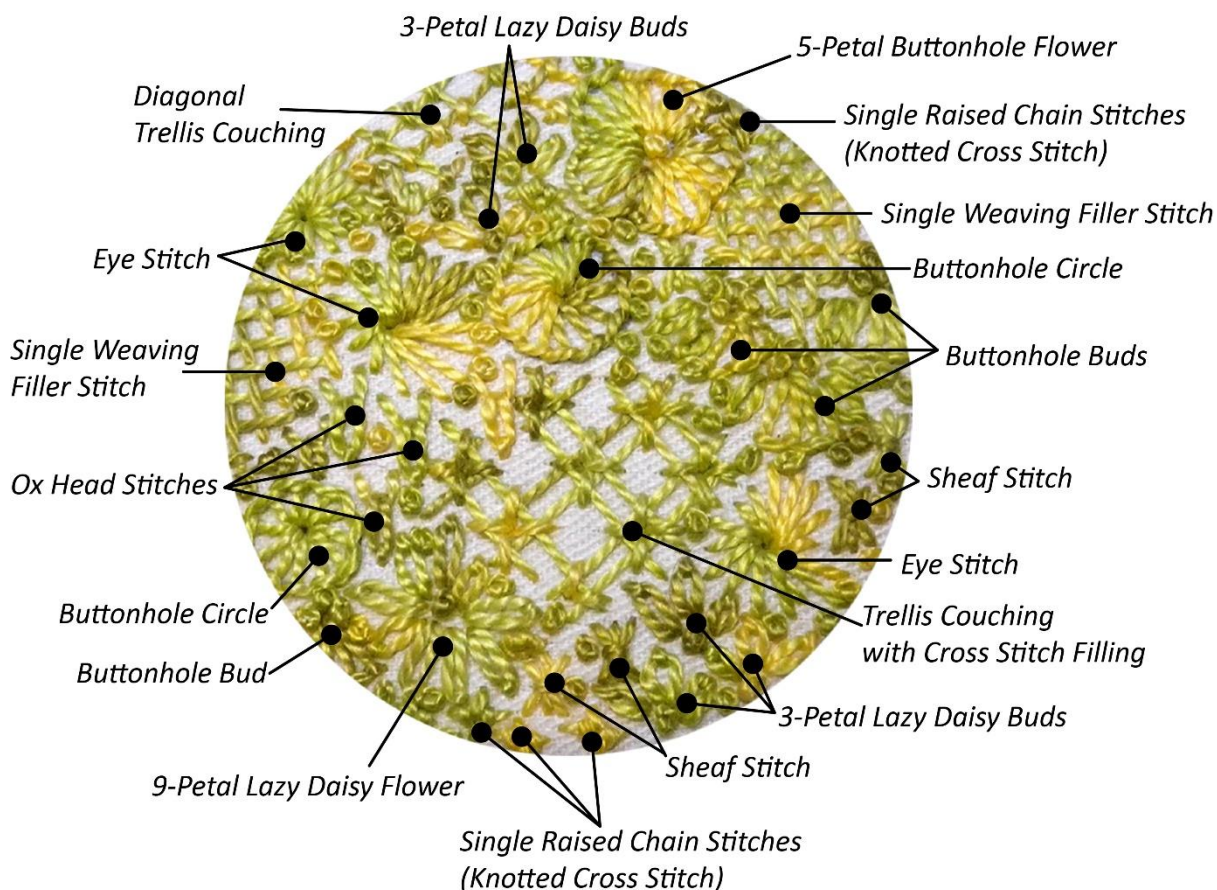


*In the video clip on the tuition page, the sample was worked with variegated perle #5 thread circle that measure 65 mm in diameter. If you wish to experiment with the stitch before you work it onto your project, the template below applies, and you should work with similar threads.*



- *With a heat erasable pen, trace the template onto your working fabric.*

Random Freestyle Embroidery filler uses a variety of stitches, and the image below is labelled with the stitches that have been used in the video clip on this page.



Instructions for each individual stitch appear below. These stitches have been demonstrated individually at the start of the video clip as under:

<i>Buttonhole stitch 5-petal flower</i>	<i>9 seconds</i>
<i>French knots</i>	<i>1 minute 19 seconds</i>
<i>Buttonhole circles</i>	<i>1 minute 39 seconds</i>
<i>Sheaf stitch</i>	<i>2 minutes 23 seconds</i>
<i>Buttonhole stitch bud</i>	<i>2 minutes 38 seconds</i>
<i>3-petal lazy daisy bud</i>	<i>3 minutes 27 seconds</i>
<i>Ox Head stitch</i>	<i>3 minutes 57 seconds</i>
<i>Eye stitch</i>	<i>4 minutes 20 seconds</i>
<i>Single weaving filler stitch</i>	<i>5 minutes 3 seconds</i>
<i>Diagonal trellis couching</i>	<i>6 minutes 37 seconds</i>
<i>Trellis couching with cross stitch filling</i>	<i>7 minutes 43 seconds</i>

In addition to the above stitches, single raised chain stitches (knotted cross stitch) are interspersed throughout the embroidery within the large circle. When you have mastered the stitch, consider that there are many other small, simple embroidery stitches that can be included in this technique. Fly stitch, Cretan, and Breton are a few that spring to mind.

The technique is best worked with a single strand of thread and whilst it is often hard to find variegated threads that include colours that you need in any particular area, they do give the most interesting effect. I use them where I can but will also use solid colours if I can't find a variegated thread with the colours I want.

*It is important to note that the shape of the areas filled with specific stitches should be irregular, no squares or circles, and that other than at the edges, the areas filled should not line up with any other areas that have been filled with different stitches. Intersperse your stitching with single-wrap French knots to soften the effect and, also, to fill up spaces that can't be filled with the recommended stitches.*

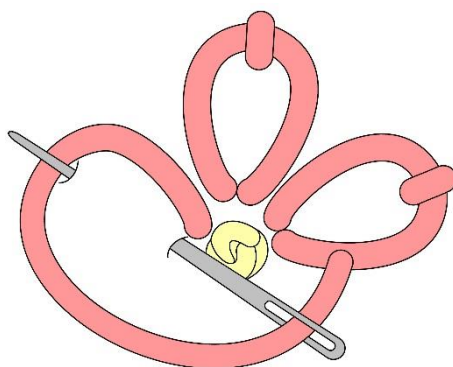
*You are aiming to create an overall texture and to this end it is worth noting that you don't leave definite spaces between the groups of specific stitches. If you do, you won't achieve the look of an overall texture. You try to transition smoothly between the stitches with no large gaps – as if you were just continuing with the same stitch but, of course, working the next stitch you choose to use.*

*On the one hand, you try to work an odd number of each specific stitch – so 1, 3, 5, etc. – but on the other hand, it doesn't necessarily work out that way. You aim for odd numbers but if you end up with the an even number here and there, it doesn't really matter and you can balance it by repeating that stitch somewhere close by.*

### **The Stitches:**

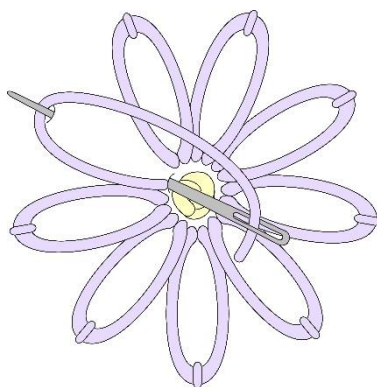
*(in alphabetical order)*

#### **3-Petal Lazy Daisy Bud**



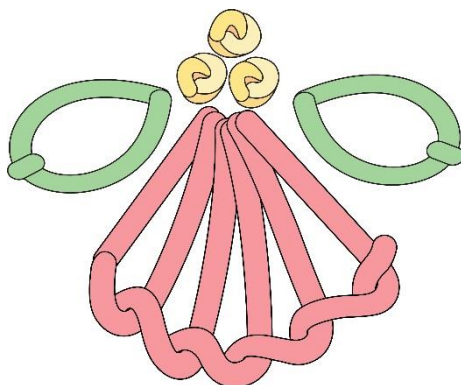
*Referring to the instructions for detached chain stitch, work 3 stitches in a trefoil shape. Work a French or colonial knot in the centre and at the base of the chain stitches. This can be made into a sweet flower by couching a stem going down from base of the French knot.*

#### **9-Petal Lazy Daisy Flower**



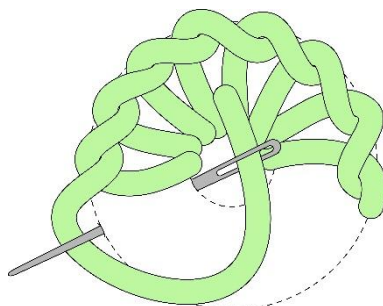
Referring to the instructions for detached chain stitch, work 9 stitches in a circle. Work a French or colonial knot in the centre and at the base of the chain stitches. You can increase or decrease the number of detached chain stitches in the circle.

### **Buttonhole Bud**



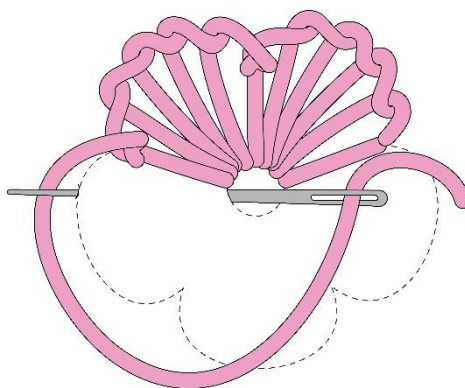
Work three to five French knots in a bunch at the tip. Thereafter, as depicted in pink above and starting with a straight stitch on the left, work groups of four or five buttonhole stitches in a fan shape, finishing each group with a couching stitch on the right. Work a detached chain stitch on each side of the buttonhole flower, starting close to the French knots at the top and working diagonally out to the side of the flower.

### **Buttonhole Circle**



Come up on the outside circle. Take the needle down on the inside circle, and out again on the outside circle, with the loop of thread under the needle. Pull through and repeat, keeping the stitches close on the inner circle and further apart on the outside. When you meet up with where you started, complete the circle by catching the last buttonhole stitch with a couching stitch and going down where the first buttonhole stitch started.

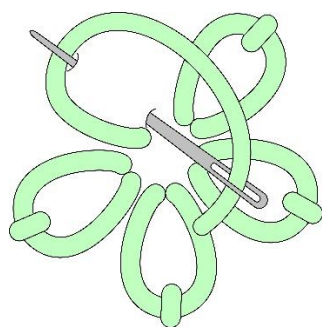
### **Buttonhole Flower**





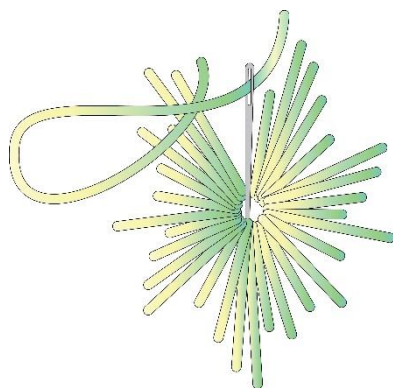
*Come up on the outside in one of the valleys of the line of the flower. Take the needle down on the inside circle, and out again on the outside line, coming out of the same hole as the straight stitch you have just made. Take the needle down on the inside circle, and out again on the outside line, with the loop of thread under the needle. Pull through and repeat, keeping the stitches close on the inner circle and further apart on the outside line. When you reach the bottom point of the next valley, do a small couching stitch over the buttonhole stitch you have just done. Come up again inside the buttonhole stitch in the same hole as the beginning of the couching stitch and continue working the buttonhole stitches that form the next petal. Work the small couching stitch at the bottom of each valley as this helps to define each petal. When you meet up with where you started, complete the circle by catching the last buttonhole stitch with a couching stitch and going down where the first straight stitch started.*

### **Detached Chain (Lazy Daisy)**



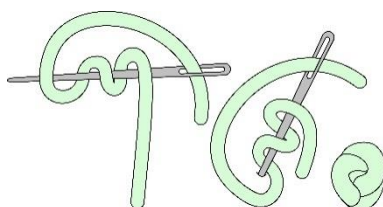
*Bring the needle up on the line and pull through. Take the needle back into the same hole and come up again where you want the stitch to end, loop the thread under the needle and pull through. Catch the loop with a small couching stitch.*

### **Eye Stitch Variation**



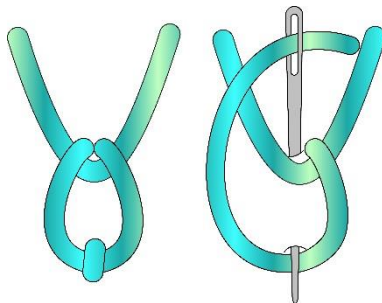
*Come up on the outside and working in a clockwise direction, do straight stitches of varying lengths into the same hole in the middle. Pull reasonably tight so that the hole in the middle becomes a proper, visible hole that creates the 'eye'.*

### **French Knot**



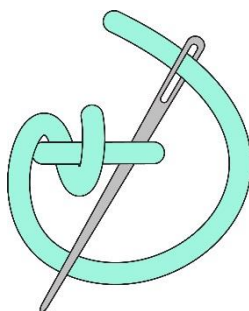
Bring the needle up through the fabric, twist the thread over the needle once or twice and tighten. Go back into the fabric just next to where you came out. Pull the twists that are around the needle down to the bottom. Hold the thread and pull the needle through to form the knot.

### **Ox Head Stitch**



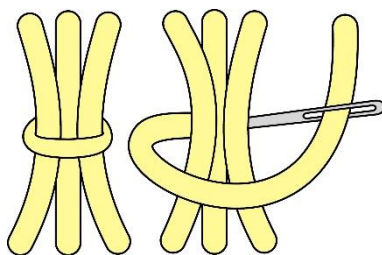
Also called *Tête de Boeuf* or *Bull's Head* stitch, bring your needle up on the left, take it down on the right and before pulling through, come up in the centre a little way below and catch the loop as you would for fly stitch. Pull through. Take your needle back into the same hole and before pulling through, come up below the previous stitch and catch the loop as you would for a detached chain or lazy daisy. Finish with a small couching stitch to catch the loop.

### **Raised Chain Stitch – Single (Knotted Cross Stitch)**



Work a horizontal straight stitch. Now working vertically, come up a little way above the centre of the horizontal straight stitch. Go over and weave under the bar to the left. Bring the thread around the front and to the right, go under the bar and over the thread. Pull through to form a small knot. Go into the fabric below the horizontal stitch, in line with where you came out at the top and about the same distance away from the horizontal stitch at the bottom.

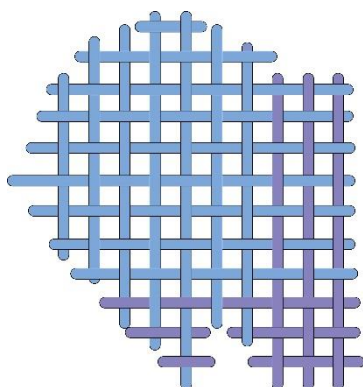
### **Sheaf Stitch**



Consisting of three vertical straight stitches, start with the middle stitch. Place a straight stitch to the right of that stitch. Do a stitch to the left of the middle stitch, but before you tighten it, bring your needle up adjacent to the centre of the middle stitch. Pull through, tightening the

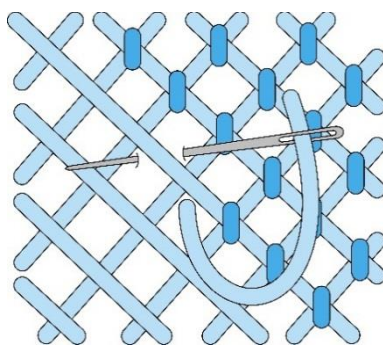
*left hand straight stitch. Do a straight stitch over the middle of the 3 stitches, tucking it under the right-hand stitch, going in adjacent to the middle stitch to pull the 3 stitches together. You can do a second stitch over the middle if you wish.*

### **Single Weaving Filler Stitch**



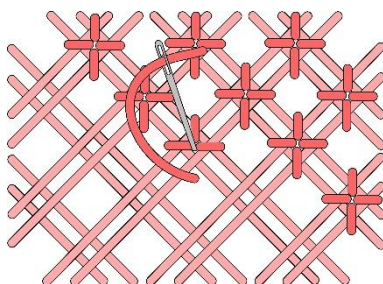
*Working with a single strand of stranded cotton, create the warp working long straight stitches from top to bottom, making them between 1 and 2 mm apart. Working horizontally, the weft stitches are spaced about the same distance apart. Work these long stitches going over one and then under one warp stitch, continuing this sequence until you have gone over and under all of the warp stitches in the space. The next weft stitch is worked going under the weft stitches you went over and over the stitches you went under in the previous weft stitch. Continue alternating the stitches in this way until you have woven all the warp stitches that fill the space.*

### **Trellis Couching — Basic**



*Work a layer of long straight stitches across the area. These can be vertical or diagonal. Work another layer of long straight stitches that are placed at right angles to the first layer. Work small, straight couching stitches over the intersection of the stitches.*

### **Trellis Couching — Cross Stitch Filling**



*Using thread shade no. 1, work a layer of pairs of long straight stitches across the area. These can be horizontal or diagonal. Work another layer of pairs of long straight stitches that are placed at right angles to the first layer. Using thread shade no. 2, work small, straight couching stitches over each thread of the Intersections. Work from the outside into the middle of each intersection, each stitch going into the same hole.*