

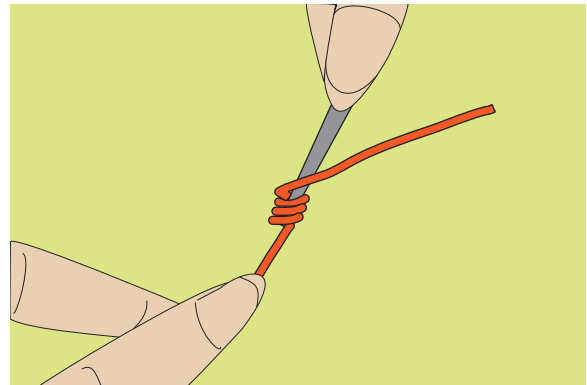
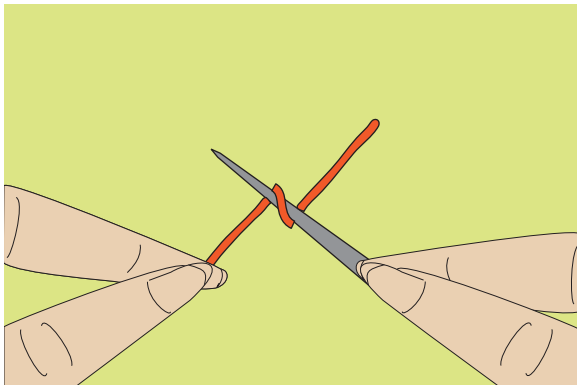
Embellishment Stitches on Leaves

Sue Spargo www.suespargo.com

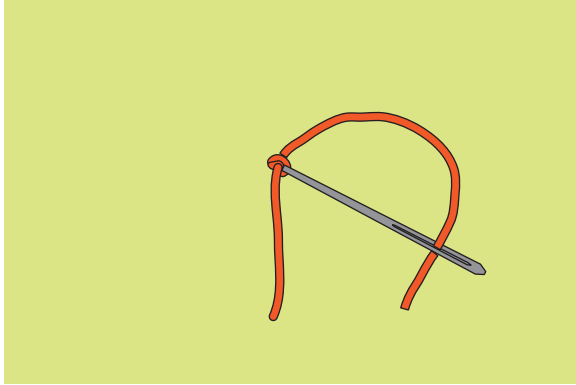
Pistil Stitch



I stitched the Pistil Stitch down the center of the leaf using a green variegated Valdani #8 Perlé cotton and a #1 Milliners needle.



Bring the needle up from the back at the edge of the half leaf. Lay the needle on top of the thread and wrap 5 times around the needle.



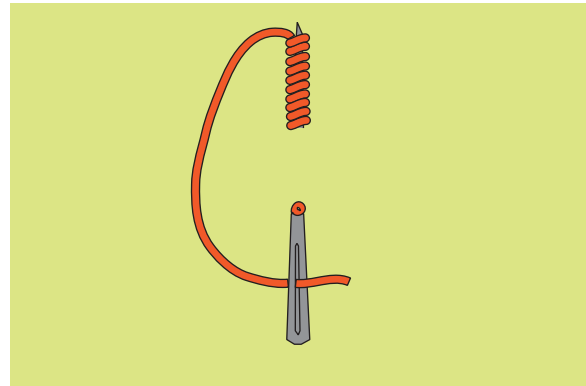
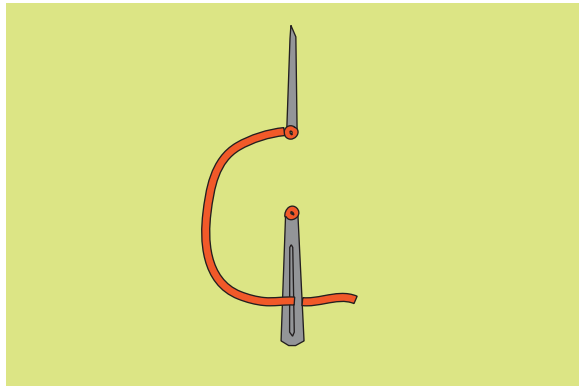
Insert the needle between a 1/4" and a 1/2" away from where the thread comes through the fabric. Hold the thread taut in your left hand and bring the thread to the back of your work. This will form a textural knot at the end of the stitch. Repeat up the edge of the half leaf center varying the length of the stitches to add texture.

Bullion Knot

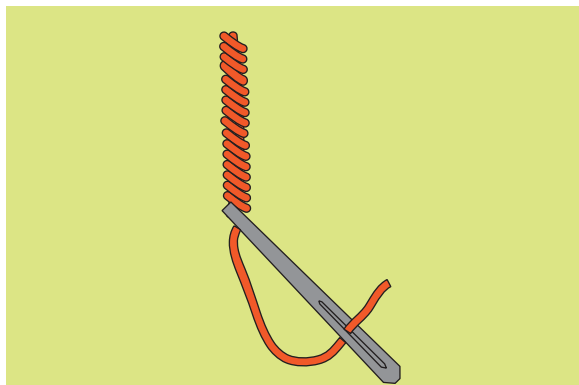


I use hundreds of these little knots on my work. Many as edging stitches, as well as filler stitches. I used a #8 Valdani Perlé cotton and a Silken Perlé with a #1 Milliners needle to make these variations of the Bullion Knot.

I like to use a Milliners needle because the needle has a uniform thickness and slides easily through the wraps, as the eye is big enough to take thicker threads.



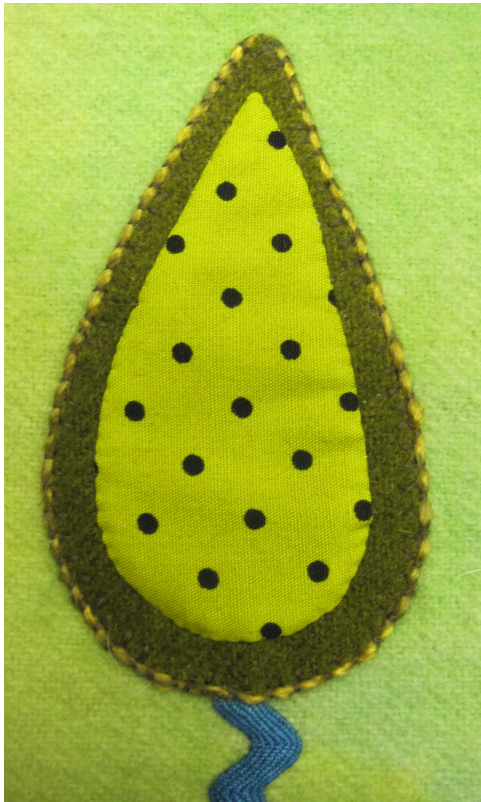
For 1/4" Bullion Knot use an 18" piece of thread and bring your needle up from the back of your work at the edge of your leaf layer pulling your thread through to the top. Take a 1/4" backstitch leaving your needle in the fabric. Wrap your needle 9 times with the thread closest to the tip of the needle.



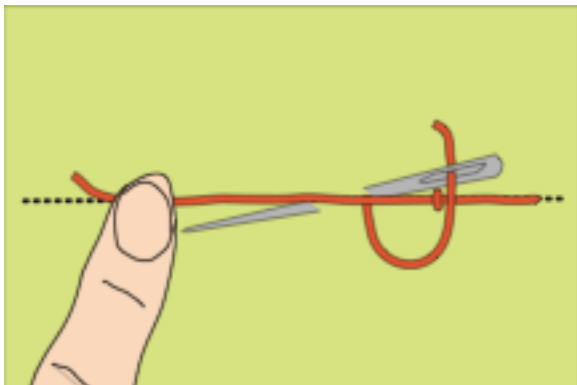
Pull your needle out of the fabric holding the wraps in place with your left thumb. Now pull the wraps towards you so they lay neatly on the 1/4" backstitch. Take your needle to the back of your work at the end of your wrap and now come up 3/8" ahead to start the next Bullion Knot. I come up 3/8" ahead so when I do a 1/4" backstitch I will have an 1/8" gap between the stitches. Repeat the Bullion Knots all the way around the leaf layers. These knots take practice so persevere until you master them. They are really worth the effort as they are very textural on wool.

For the Bullion Loops around the outside of the leaf you will need to take a small backstitch and then wrap the needle 20 times

Couching



Couching is a fun embellishment to do. I use this often to highlight the edges of my appliqué. I used this stitch around the outside edge of the leaf. Thread a #18 Chenille needle with a length of hand-dyed silk yarn and a #24 Chenille needle with Genziana wool thread to match.



Bring the #18 Chenille needle with the yarn up from the back of your work on the outside edge of the leaf, leave a 1/4" tail. Keep the needle on the end of the yarn. Using the #24 Chenille needle with the wool thread stitch over

the tail securing it to the back of the block. Bring this needle to the front of your work at the edge of the leaf and the yarn. Lay the yarn around the leaf. Stitch over the yarn with the wool thread securing it to the edge making sure that your stitches are parallel and evenly spaced.

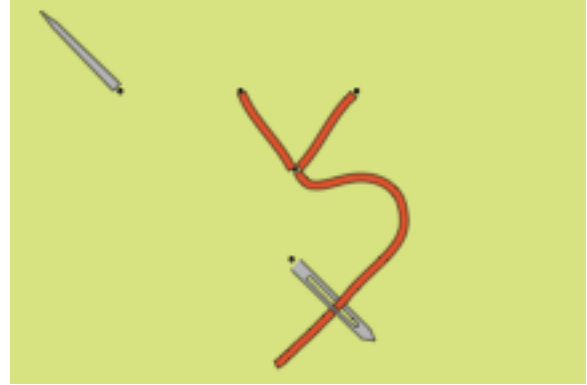
At the end take your needles to the back of your work and stitch over the yarn several times with your wool thread to secure the end to the back. Cut the threads. With heavier yarns I like to use this method of finishing off the ends instead of using knots. It is less bulky.

Fly Stitch

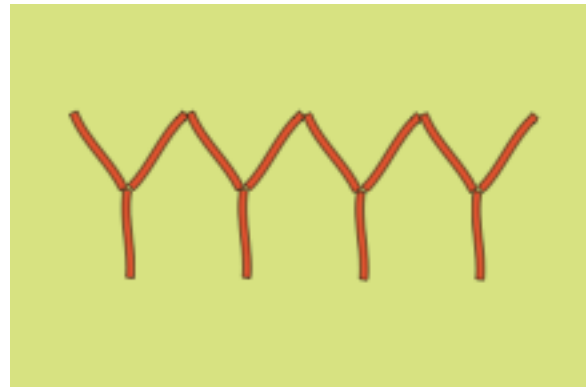
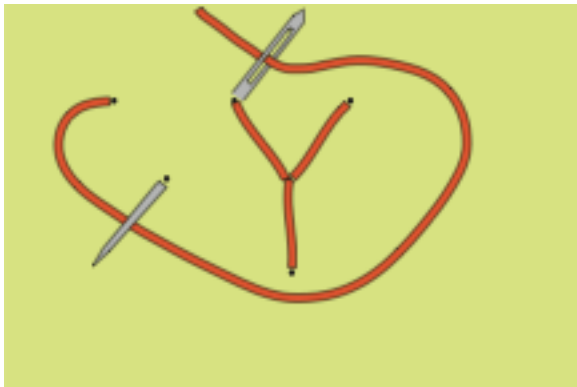


I stitched the Fly Stitch around the leaf using a #8 Valdani Perlé cotton and a #24 Chenille needle. This stitch can be worked in either direction, but I like to stitch it right to left.

Knot an 18" piece of thread and bring your needle up from the back of your work at the edge of your leaf. Take a stitch straight across to the right taking your needle down and then bringing your needle up in the center of the stitch with the thread under the needle.



This will form a 'V'. Now bring your needle straight down into the applique of the leaf forming a 'Y'.



Bring your needle back up on the left a stitch length from the previous stitch and continue stitching fly stitches until you have stitched around the whole leaf.

I teach Nationally and Internationally and can be reached via email at sue@suespargo.com

I offer a comprehensive website devoted to the use of hand dyed wool, textural fabrics and embellishments www.suespargo.com

I also have a blog www.suespargo.blogspot.com where I feature my students' work from my classes.