

1971

EC71-473 Custom Touches

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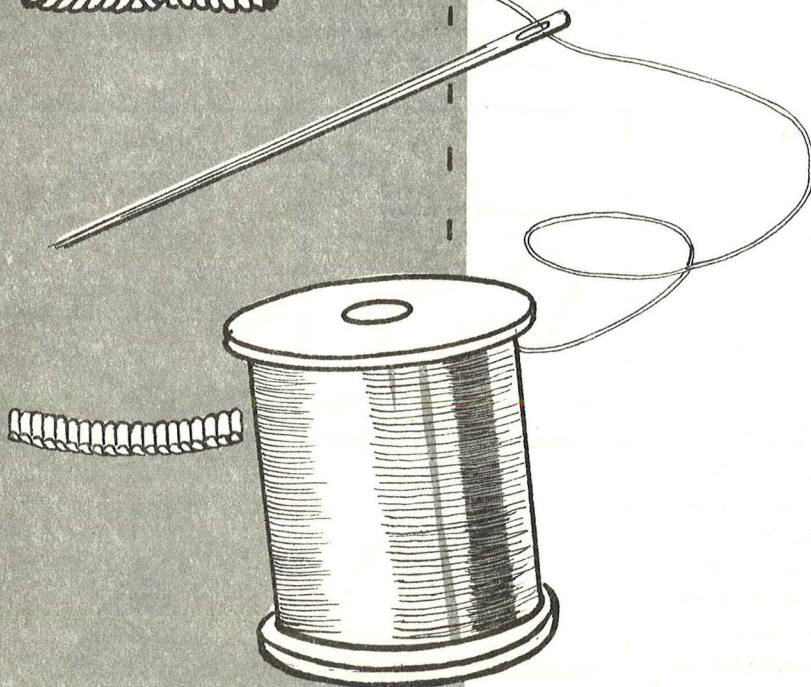
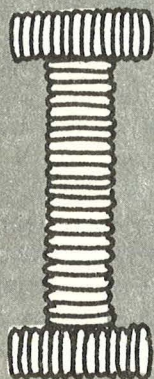
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CUSTOM TOUCHES



Extension Service

University of Nebraska-Lincoln College of Agriculture Cooperating with the
U. S. Department of Agriculture and the College of Home Economics
E. F. Frolik, Dean J. L. Adams, Director

CUSTOM TOUCHES

by Jane Speece
Extension Specialist (Clothing)

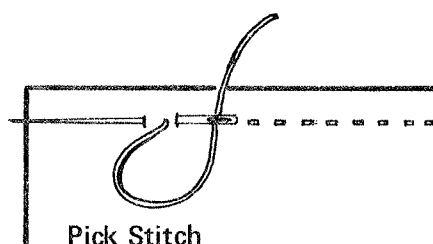
Fine handwork in a garment is a quality touch that many women want in this age of mass-produced clothing. A woman may enjoy adding her own creativity to a garment she has purchased.

Handstitches found in high-quality clothing can be duplicated easily. Once they have discovered the fine handstitches, most women find pleasure and satisfaction in adding these custom touches to their garments.

Hand Picking

Hand picking, also called the prick stitch, half-back stitch, or seed stitch, is an edge finish used on lapels, collars, pockets, or on the entire front of tailored suits and dresses. The stitch runs from $\frac{1}{4}$ inch to 1 inch from the edge; garment style and fabric dictate how close the stitch is from the edge. Experiments with a line of basting thread can help determine the best proportions of distance from the edge.

A single strand of buttonhole twist is usually used, but excellent effects may be achieved by using embroidery floss, self-fiber from the fabric or a single strand of knitting yarn. Color may match or contrast, depending upon the desired effect.



The right-handed needlewoman moves from right to left as she works. To begin the stitch make several tiny back stitches to hold the end of the thread on the wrong side of the garment area. Bring the needle through to the right side of the fabric. Take the needle back for two or three fabric threads. Insert and run the needle between the fabric layers before bringing the needle out to the topside again. The stitch should pick up the interfacing, but it need not pick all the way through to the underside. Spaces between the stitches on the top side should be spaced evenly $\frac{1}{8}$ inch to $\frac{1}{4}$ inch apart.

Make sure that the topside stitches will lie flat by gently pulling the thread after each stitch. Every few inches wrap the thread in the needle around a finger held close to the garment and firmly pull the thread. This will give the stitching additional flatness.

If the pick stitch is used for a lapel, be sure to reverse the stitching procedure at the roll line to ensure the decorative stitch shows on the top side.

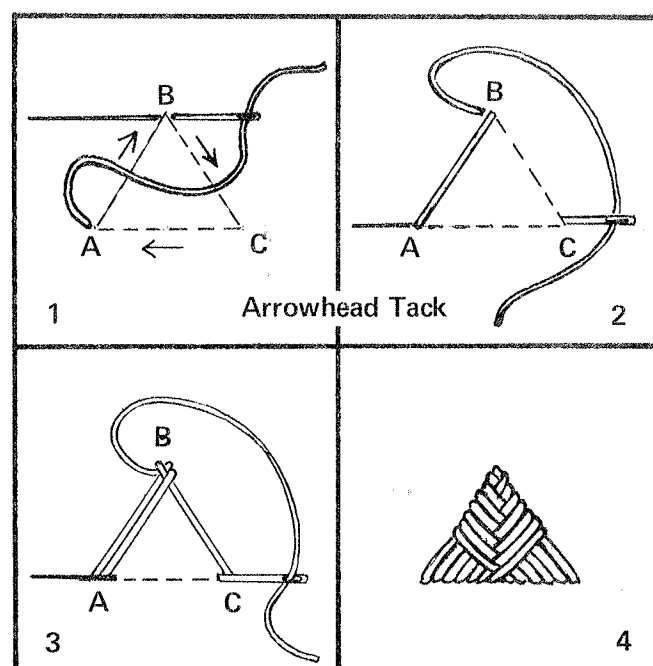
The pick stitch is also used for hand application of a zipper to give a quality, professional touch to a garment. Directions for installing a lapped zipper apply, but the topside of the lap is basted along the stitching line. A pick stitch rather than a machine stitch is used. The basting thread is used as a guideline when the handstitches are taken. Matching color thread is used for the zipper pick stitch in silk buttonhole twist or heavy-duty thread.

The stitching line begins at the lower edge of the zipper. Secure the end of the thread to the zipper tape on the underside before bringing the needle through for the top stitch. Follow the basted stitching line until the top of the zipper is reached. Secure the thread to the zipper tape as at the bottom. Stitches also run $\frac{1}{8}$ inch to $\frac{1}{4}$ inch apart as in the purely decorative pick stitch.

Hand picking, using regular sewing thread, may be substituted for machine sharp stitching around collar and sleeve facings.

Arrowhead and Crow's Foot Tacks

The arrowhead and crow's foot tacks are the decorative finishes used on tailored clothes to emphasize and reinforce structural points. The tacks are used at the tops of inverted pleats, points of darts, corners of slot and welt pockets and at the top of a slit in a dress or skirt hem. Buttonhole twist is ordinarily used, but embroidery floss may be substituted. Thread should match the garment's color.



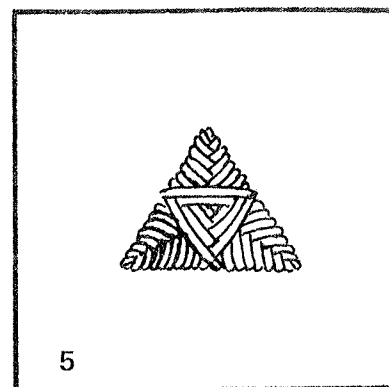
Arrowhead

1. Mark an equal-sided triangle with thread or chalk of a contrasting color. Using the finishing thread, take a few stitches from the center of the triangle to the lower left-hand corner (A). Take a short stitch at the upper point (B), passing the needle through from right to left.

2. Insert the needle from the right in the lower right-hand corner (C) and bring it out on the line just to the right of point (A).

3. Continue to work from point (A) to (B) to (C) until the arrowhead is completed. Stitches should be close together and the needle always inserted from right to left. Fasten the thread on the wrong side when the arrowhead is completed.

4. Completed arrowhead should have straight sides.



Crow's Foot

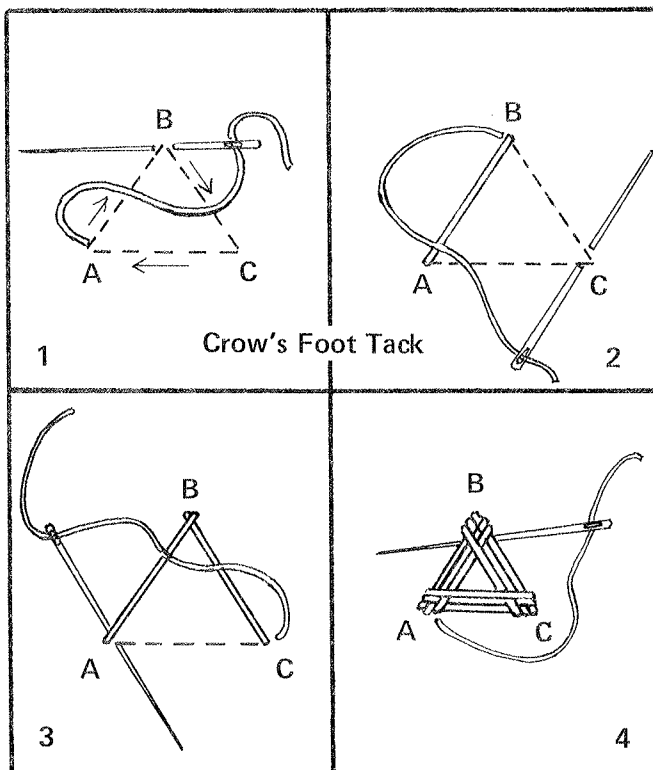
1. Mark the outline of the triangle in the same way as the arrowhead. Fasten the end of the thread in the same manner and bring the needle out at the same point (A). A short stitch is taken at the upper point (B) from right to left.

2. Insert the needle at the lower edge of point (C) and take a stitch at the corner.

3. Pull thread through and insert the needle from the top point (A) as the stitch is taken.

4. The next stitch is taken across point (B). Continue to work from point (A) to (B) to (C) until the crow's foot is completed. Each stitch will be taken just inside the previous stitch.

5. The completed crow's foot will show slightly concave sides.



Bar Tack

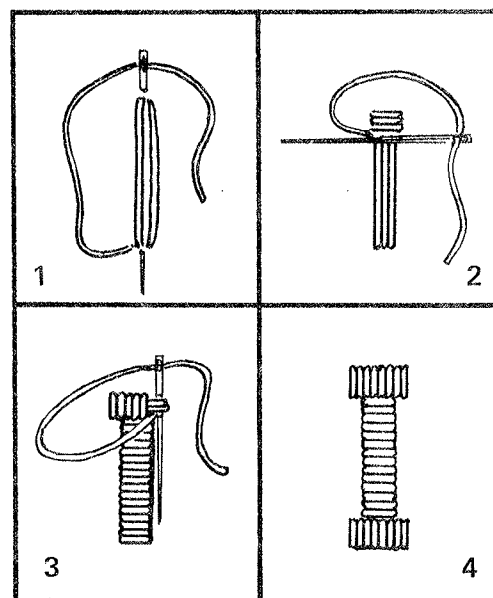
This tack is used in a decorative manner to reinforce ends of pockets, plackets, stitching lines or pleats or ends of worked buttonholes. The kind of thread may vary. Silk buttonhole twist, embroidery floss or regular sewing thread may be used, depending upon the area where the bar tack is placed. Matching silk twist or embroidery thread will emphasize the decorative aspect; regular thread will tend to blend into the fabric and not show.

1. Take 3 or 4 stitches across the ends of the opening to be reinforced.

2. Cover these threads with close-together overhand stitches, catching a few threads in the fabric as the needle passes under the lengthwise strands.

3. Each end of the long bar tack is then finished with a small bar tack, using the same method.

4. The finished bar tack looks like a capital "I".



Bar Tack

French Tack

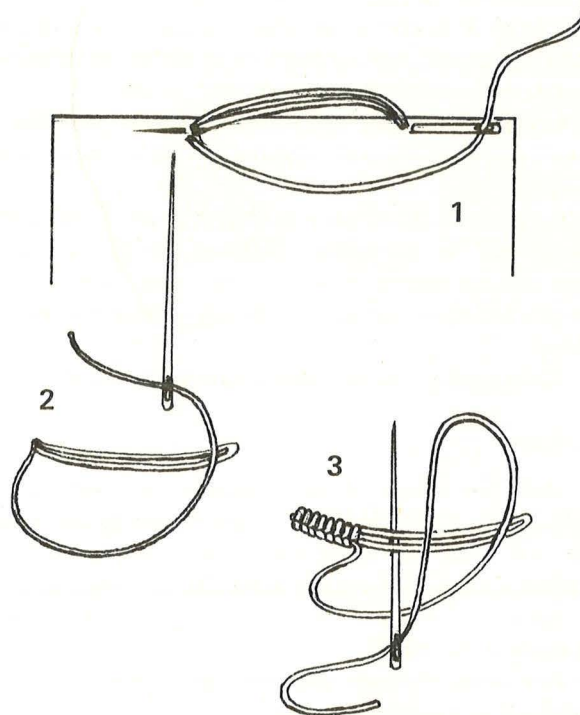
The French tack, sometimes called a swing tack, is commonly used to hold fabric pieces or two sections of a garment together while allowing some ease. It serves as an anchor to hold lining hems to coat hems, to keep large collars and cuffs in place or to hold the back pleat of a coat or suit lining. The French tack is also used for belt loops, button loops and for link buttons in French cuffs.

A core of several long stitches is covered with blanket stitches to form a strong and attractive tack. The blanket stitch for a French tack differs from the usual blanket stitch in that the needle is used eye first. Regular heavy-duty or silk sewing thread may be used for the tack. Thread color matches the fabric color.

1. Using a single strand of thread, take several loose stitches. Securely fasten the end on the underside.

2. Fasten another long strand of thread on the underside, and bring it out at the left on the top end of the core threads leaving a loop. Thread should be unusually long in order to complete the entire tack.

3. Make blanket stitches over the entire length of the core thread, making sure that the needle passes—eye first—under the core threads and over the loop thread. Fasten securely on the underside.



French Tack