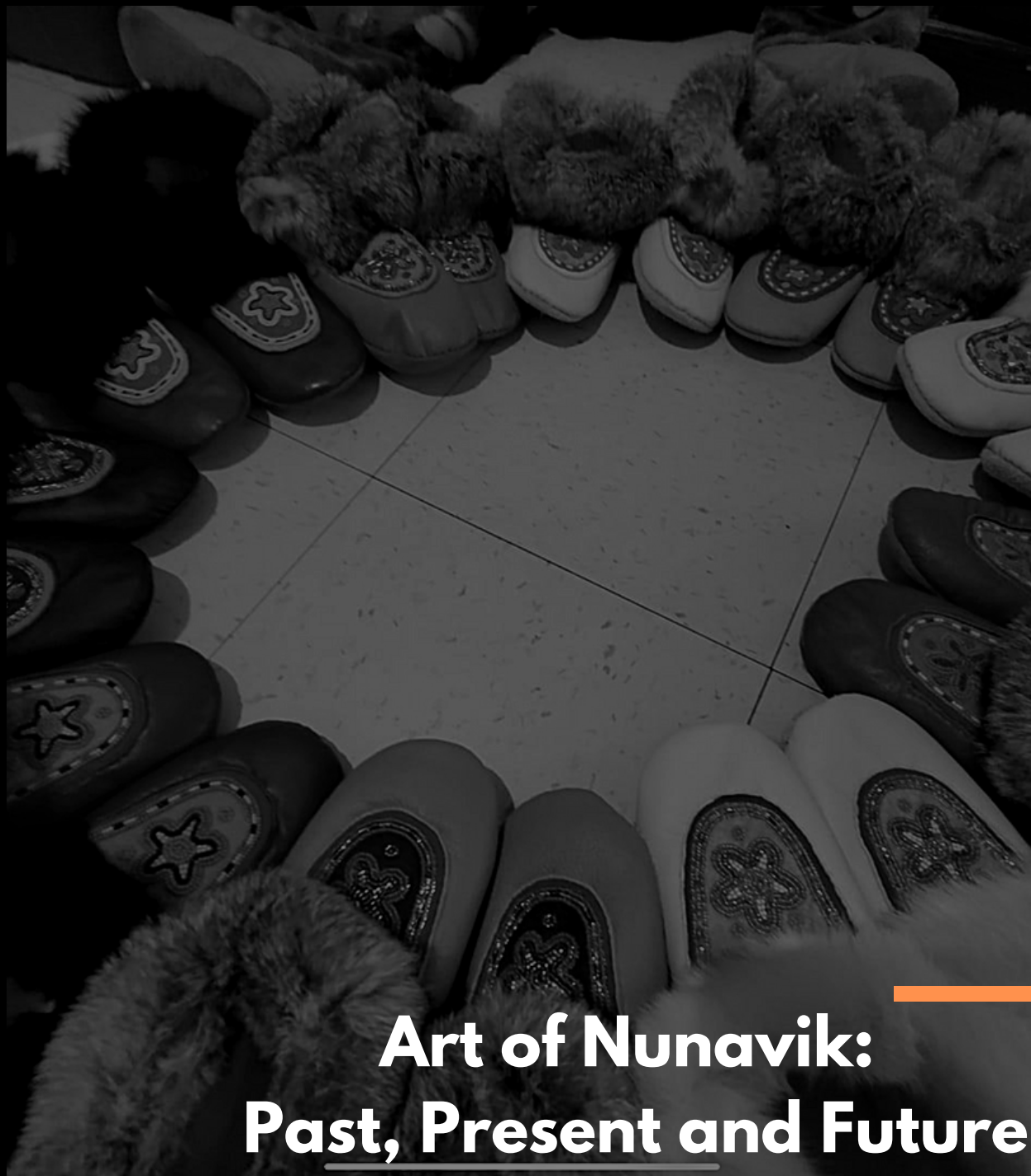


Beadwork

Reference
Document

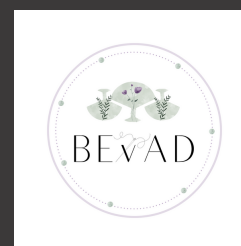


Beaded slippers made by Elisapee Peters

**Art of Nunavik:
Past, Present and Future**



Eva Saunders, a beadwork artist from Kuujjuaq, was consulted in the development of the step-by-step instructions provided in this document.



Instagram: "xBEvADx"



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Beading on vamps at the elementary and
secondary level

Beading supplies



Storage box

Canvas

Beads



Bias tape



Felt



Needles



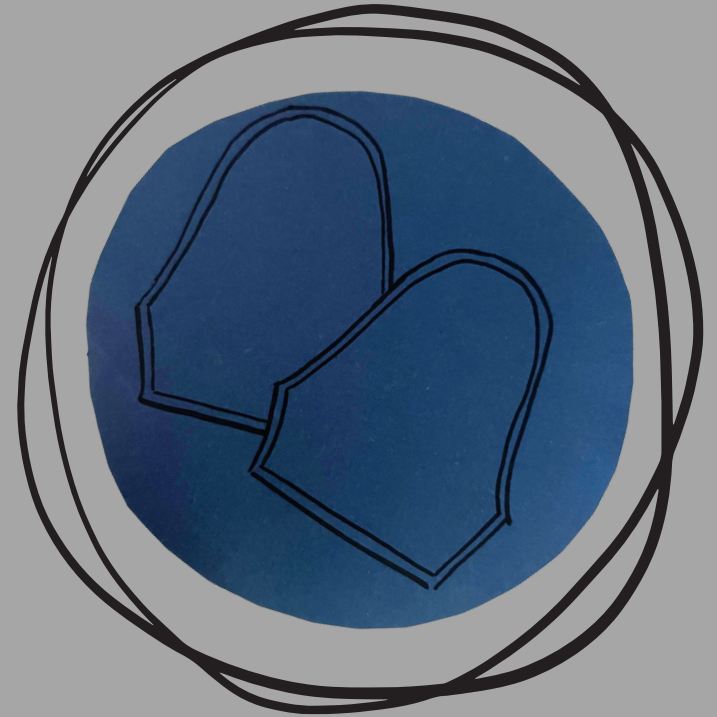
Thread



Thimble

Additional supplies needed

- Pattern for vamps
- Permanent marker
- Pen
- White paper (computer paper)
- Scissors



Tips for beading successfully

Use the cap from the tube to pick up beads.

Make small, tight stitches.

You can use fishing line instead of thread to make your project stronger, and you won't see the thread!

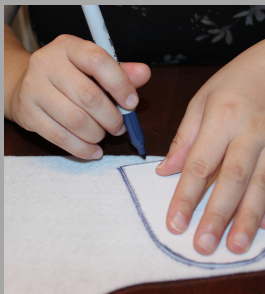
To make knots, you can twist the thread several times on the end of the needle and then roll it towards the end of the needle, towards you.

Keep your beads on a square of felt, while beading. This will keep them from rolling away.

You can also use 2 needles to bead so that you place your beads exactly where you want them (but you are not obligated to do so).

Preparing vamps: Using a pattern

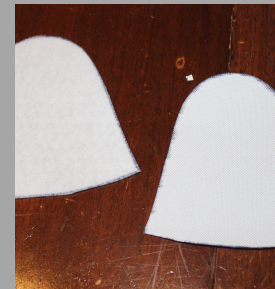
If you decide to do a vamp beading project, you will need to prepare the vamps first. You will need to find a pattern that will work for your project. You can ask a family member, an elder or your culture teacher or you can attend a sewing workshop offered in your community. Follow the steps below to learn how to prepare your vamps.



1. Take the pattern of your vamp and draw it on your felt using a permanent marker.



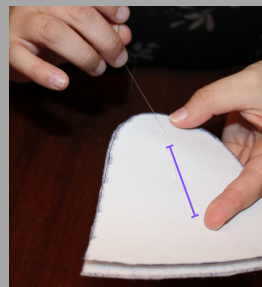
2. Using scissors, cut out the piece of felt.



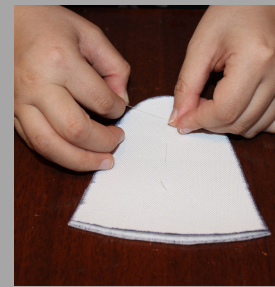
3. Repeat steps 1 and 2 but using canvas.



4. Once you have both pieces, place one on top of the other to make sure they are even.



5. Thread your needle (Appendix 1). Stitch your needle from the side of the fabric, towards the felt and make a long stitch, bringing your needle down towards the fabric. You can make this stitch anywhere as it is temporary.



6. Make a few knots behind the vamp (on the canvas side) and cut your thread.

7. Repeat steps 1 to 6 for the second vamp to make the pair.

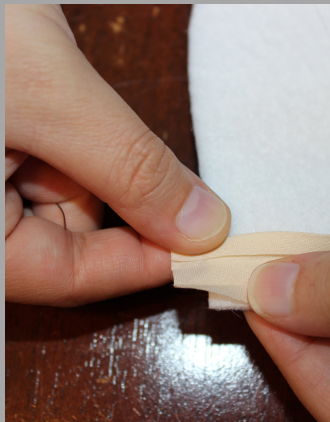
Preparing the vamps: Attaching bias tape



1. Take the tape and unfold it to get 2 parts.



2. Open one part of the tape, be sure to keep the other part closed.

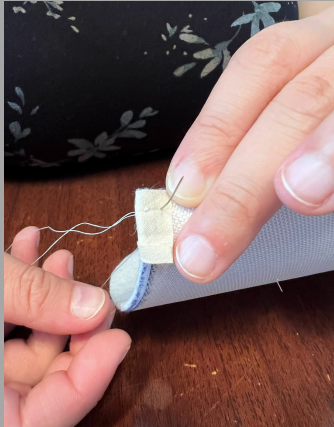


3. Place the tape flat (upside) on the side of the felt, lining up the open side with the right edge of the vamp and making sure the tape and the vamp are even (aligned).



4. Leave about 2 cm of tape coming out of the end of the vamp and fold the end over the canvas.

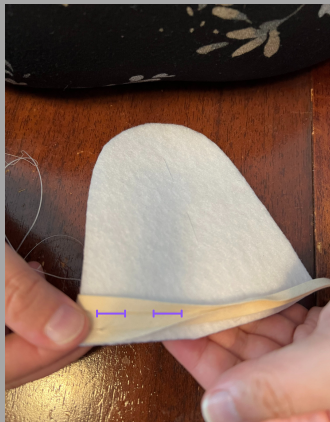
Preparing the vamps: Attaching bias tape (continued)



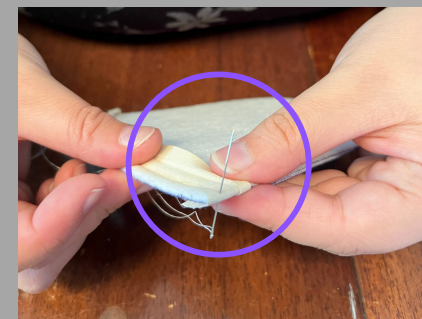
5. Using the threaded needle, make a short stitch on the end of the tape, from the fabric to the felt, making sure to sew all 4 layers of fabric.



6. Be sure to have enough tape to go all the way to the end, leaving another 2 cm, then cut the ribbon.

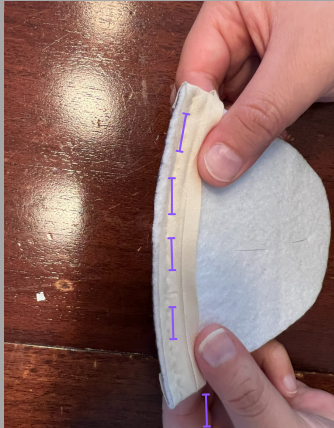


7. Use the fold created in the tape as a guide to make your stitches to the end of the tape. Make front stitches (see Appendix 2).

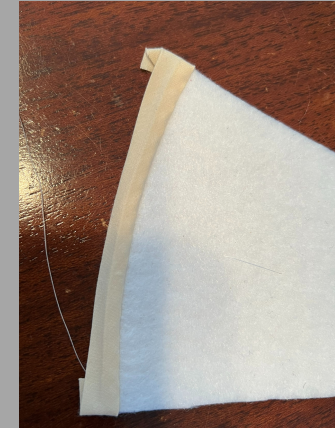


8. When you reach the end of the vamp, turn the tape over to the canvas and finish your stitches. Tie a knot on the side of the fabric once you reach the end of the ribbon.

Preparing the vamps: Attaching bias tape (continued)



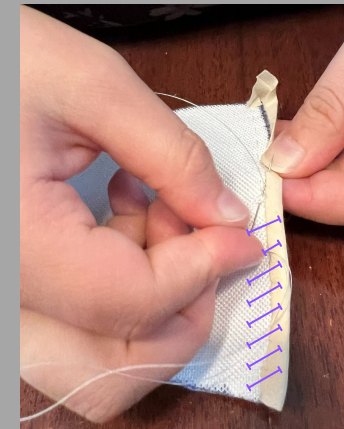
9. Take the vamp from the felt side and the side of the ribbon that is not sewn.



10. Fold the tape over the canvas.

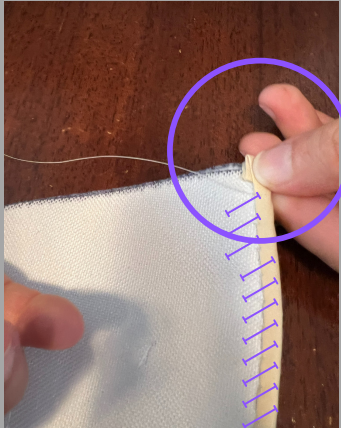


11. The thread should end up between the 2 pieces of tape. Bring the thread back to the canvas by passing the needle through the ribbon, then pulling the ribbon back. Be sure to bend the corners as needed.



12. Make sure the tape stays folded, without pulling, make diagonal hem stitches (see Appendix 3), taking the tape and canvas only.

Preparing the vamps: Attaching bias tape (continued)



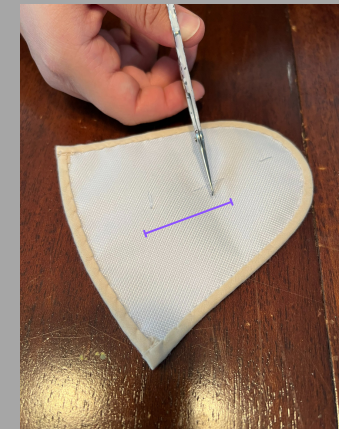
13. When you reach the end, make sure to properly place the protruding part of the tape and make a final stitch.



14. Make a few knots in the thread on the canvas side, then cut the thread. This part of the vamp is now finished.

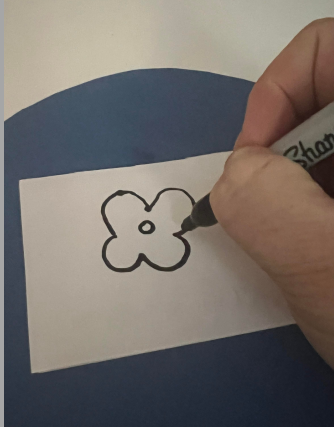


15. Repeat steps 1 to 14 to attach the tape on the rounded part of the vamp.



16. Remove the stitch you made to hold the felt and canvas together.

Creating a model or drawing



1. Find an image you like on the Internet or draw your own design on a white sheet of paper.



2. Cut out the design leaving a border around it.



3. Place your image on the vamp (felt side). Thread your needle and make long stitches inside the design to set it in place. Make a knot on the canvas and cut the thread.



4. If you chose 2 or 3 images to integrate on the vamp, repeat step 3 for the other designs.

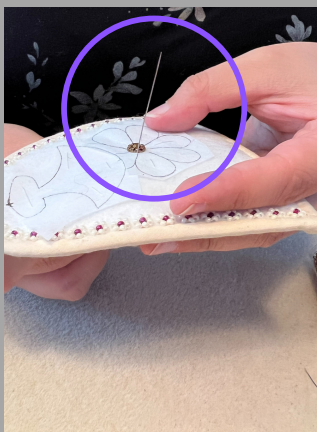
Beading vamps: Outline



1. For the next step, we suggest using 2 needles: a short standard needle and a long needle to bead. Thread both needles.



2. Take out your beads and place them on a small square of felt to keep them from rolling away.



3. Take the already threaded long needle and place it where you want to start beading (at the beginning of a line is easiest); push the needle through the canvas towards the felt.



4. Thread a bunch of beads (about 5) along the length of the needle and lower the beads on to the thread.

Beading vamps: Outline (continued)



5. Place the thread so that you can follow the design with your beads, making sure that the beads do not move.



6. Take the small standard needle, stitch it into the fabric towards the felt, between the first and second bead. Attach each bead by stitching from one side of the thread to the other using a front stitch (see Appendix 2)



7. Once the beads are securely attached, add beads on the long needle until this part of the outline is complete (repeat step 6 to secure all beads).



8. Pass the long needle through the vamp to secure it, then reposition the long needle where you want to continue beading the design. In this case, at the beginning of the next petal.

Beading vamps: Outline (continued)



9. Repeat steps 3 to 6 until the outline of the design is completed.



10. If you run out of thread to finish the outline, attach it to the side of the fabric with knots. Then thread the needle again. When the outline is finished, tie a knot with the 2 threads and trim them.



11. Once you have finished beading your outline, use scissors to cut the stitches made to secure the design.



12. Use the needle to cut the paper near the beads, then use your fingers or eyebrow tweezers to remove the white paper before beading the inside of your design.

Beading vamps: Filling



1. To fill in your design, repeat steps 1 to 9 in the previous section, using the inside of the outline as a guide.



2. To bead the design outline (the empty part of the vamp), thread the needle and place it very close to the tape on the flat part of the vamp.



3. Repeat steps 1 to 9 in the previous section, working your way around the vamp to the other side of the flat part.



4. Repeat step 3 to fill the design until you can no longer see the felt.

• Throughout the process, you can change your mind! In this case, the artist thought the white flowers around the vamp were too bland, so she replaced them with blue ones. She also added small flowers but kept the original design. You can change the design until the end of the project.

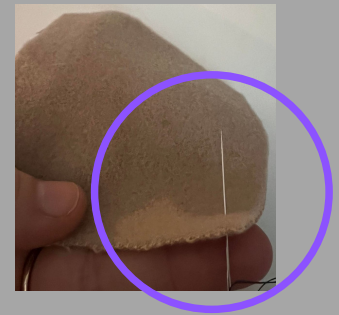
Beading vamps: Small flowers



1. Choose 2 different colours to create your flowers. One colour for the petals and one for the centre of the flower.



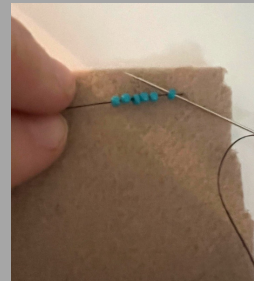
2. You can place the beads on a piece of felt to keep them from rolling around.



3. Thread the long beading needle and find the place where you want to make your flower. Poke the needle through the fabric towards the felt.



4. Take the first colour and insert 6 beads to make the petals.

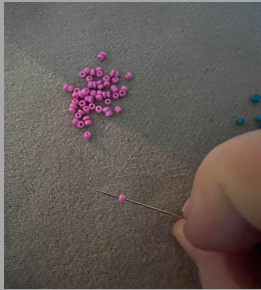


5. Pull the beads to lower them on to the felt, then insert the needle into the hole of the first bead

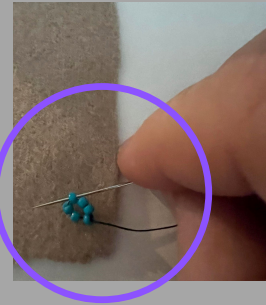


6. Pull on the thread so that the beads form a circle.

Beading vamps: Small flowers (continued)



7. Take a single bead from the second colour and lower it on to the thread.



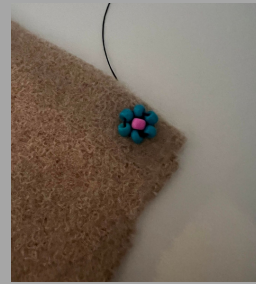
8. Count 3 beads of the first colour and prick the needle inside of it to insert the second colour bead in the centre.



9. Pull the thread so that the flower is securely placed on the felt, then prick the needle towards the fabric to secure the thread.



10. Thread the needle back through the felt, placing it neatly between the middle of the flower and the third petal. Make a small stitch from one side of the thread to the other to secure the bead. Count three more beads and repeat this step to secure the other side of the flower.



11. If you feel that some of the beads are not secure, you can restart step 10 with these beads. Make knots on the side of the canvas and cut the thread.

Using the beading technique in other projects

Inspired by Inuit culture



Bib (savviguti) for amautik
by Susie Saviadjuk

Vamps (qalliniit)
by Elisapee Peters



Appliques on different objects



Applique on a purse
by Louisa Assapa



Appliques on mittens (pualuuk)
by Jeannie Nayoumealuk



Applique on jeans
by Annie Hickey

Beaded works of art



Beaded Sedna frame
by Annie Hickey



Part of the Sydney Biennale 2019
Apirsait
by Taqralik Partridge

Beaded accessories



Beaded earrings
by Julie Grenier



Beaded earrings
by Alacie Lucassie



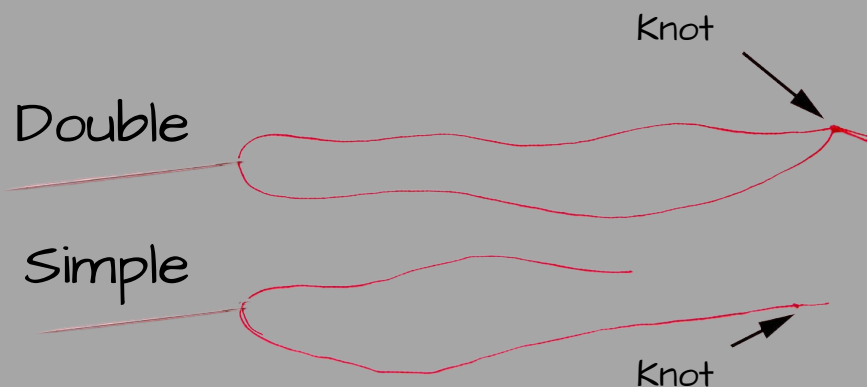
Beaded necklace
by Amilia Fréchette-Tunig

Appendices

Appendix I

Threading a needle

- Unwind a long piece of yarn and cut it. The desired length is about 50 cm; this way, the thread does not get tangled during the project.
- You can wet one end of the thread to help it pass through the eye (hole) of the needle. Hold it between your thumb and forefinger, then push it towards the eye of the needle. Grab the thread on the other side and pull a little.
- You will then need to tie a knot at the end of the needle to keep it from coming out of the piece of fabric you are sewing. For beading, do not double your thread.

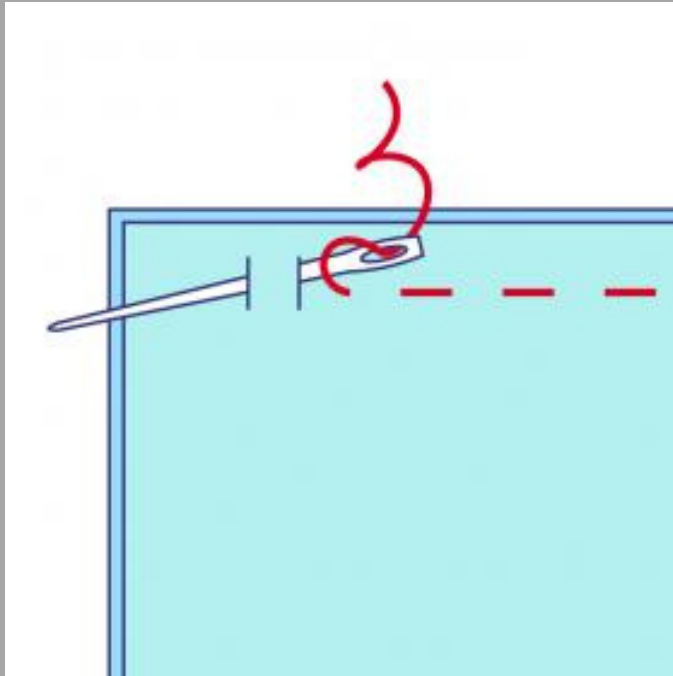


Prefer watching a video?

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xM5n_gmplrY

Appendix 2

Front stitch



- To make this stitch, you must first thread the needle.
- You must stitch the fabrics to be joined from the back to the front (so that the knot of your thread is on the backside).
- Stitch a few millimeters away (stitches should remain short), towards the back.
- Repeat, maintaining the same length between two stitches.
- Stop on the backside once you have finished joining the 2 pieces of fabric. Make a few knots to secure the thread.

Prefer watching a video?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nbtapXA44AY>

Appendix 3

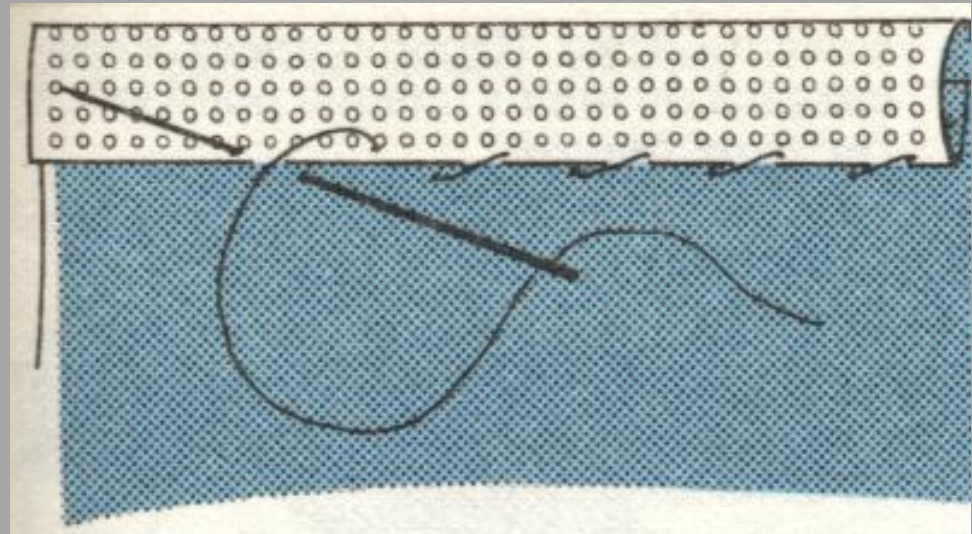
Diagonal hem stitch

The purpose of this stitch is to attach a piece of fabric to the backside, without seeing the stitches on the frontside of the project.

- To make this stitch, you must first thread the needle.
- Turn the fabric over to work on the backside.
- Take the needle out of the hem (for vamps, you must take the needle out of the bias tape). Insert the needle back into the bottom of the hem (on the backside of the fabric only).
- Then, push the needle back towards the hem and so on. When you reach the end, tie a few knots to secure the thread.

Prefer watching a video?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QdxPSyGyTO8>



Images taken from the website moreaugilbert.free.fr

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Beading technique bibliography (continued)

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Sewn Company. (2021). Lean to Hand Sew! (RIGHT HANDED): Easy Running Stitch Tutorial. Downloaded from: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nbtapXA44AY>

StitchLabSewing. (2008). How to Tie a Knot for Hand Sewing. Downloaded from: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xM5n_gmplrY



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Kativik Ilisarniliriniq