

# Decorative Stitches

## Machine and Hand

### 4-H Design and Construction



Decorative stitches add interest to garments, home decorating items, and other articles. These stitches can be made by machine or by hand. There are several hand-stitching techniques. Cross-stitch and embroidery are two well-known examples. There are many excellent commercial publications to help you learn these techniques. This sheet will deal with only two techniques – decorative machine-stitch and cross-stitch by hand.

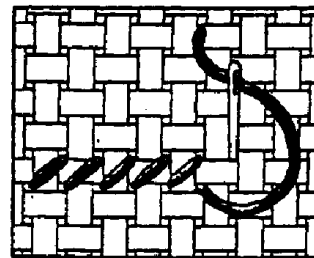
#### *Decorative Machine-Stitch*

In decorative machine-stitchery, thread or yarn is applied to the fabric by machine. There are endless possibilities for any design. You will need to read the instructions for forming designs on your machine. These designs are usually programmed, using built-in stitches or cams.

Thread is a very important part of decorative stitching. You must use a fine quality thread, because it will be the main feature of your design. Different effects can be produced, depending on the size of your thread. Check your machine guide book for suggestions. For best results use a firmly-woven fabric and make a test sample before you begin your project. Use decorative stitches for borders, to outline designs, to create geometric designs and for your own free-form designs.

#### *Cross-Stitch*

In counted cross-stitch, stitches are worked on even weave fabric, using embroidery thread and blunt needles. The stitches are formed over an exact number of threads which make up the design. There are several publications which give complete details for selecting fabrics, thread, needles and other supplies.



The cross-stitch is the basic stitch in counted cross-stitch. The stitch is usually worked in horizontal rows. The top half of each cross-stitch must always slant in the same direction. Additional stitches used in counted cross-stitch are the half cross-stitch and backstitch.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

County \_\_\_\_\_ Years of Work \_\_\_\_\_

### DECORATIVE STITCHES SAMPLES

Attach samples of decorative machine-stitching and counted cross-stitch. Finished samples should be four-inch squares.

Do your samples meet these standards?

	Yes	No
Suitable fabric is used	_____	_____
Appropriate thread is used	_____	_____
Machine stitching is smooth and even	_____	_____
Fabric is not puckered or pulled	_____	_____
Cross-stitches slant in same direction	_____	_____
Cross-stitches are even in size	_____	_____

**DECORATIVE MACHINE STITCH**

**CROSS STITCH**

Year \_\_\_\_\_