

There are 4 types of stitches in Kasuthi which is a 1000 years old art originating in the Chalukyan times in North Karnataka. This is counted [thread embroidery](#) done on even weave fabric.

Materials needed for learning Kasuthi

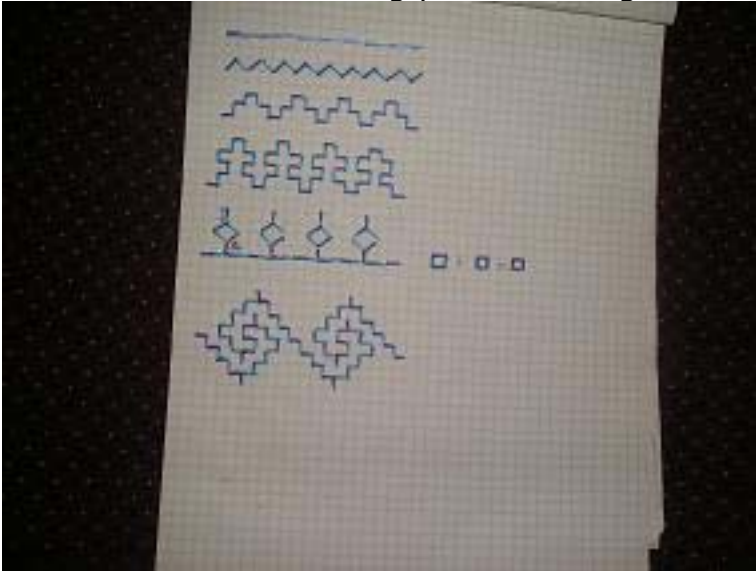
Half meter Aida matty cloth, tapestry [needle](#) and Anchor embroidery threads or DMC skeins. 3 strands are used when working on the sampler in cross stitch fabric but later when you work on plain fabrics, a single strand of thread is used to work the designs and this gives a delicate finish to the designs

Stitches used in Kasuthi

1. Gavanthi. This is the plain double running stitch also called the Holbein stitch where the work is done by using 1 sq as the base unit.
2. Murgi or the zigzag stitch.
3. Negi is the weaving stitch
4. Menthe, which is the simple, cross-stitch. Care must be taken to finish all the \ stitches are done first and the / stitch later.



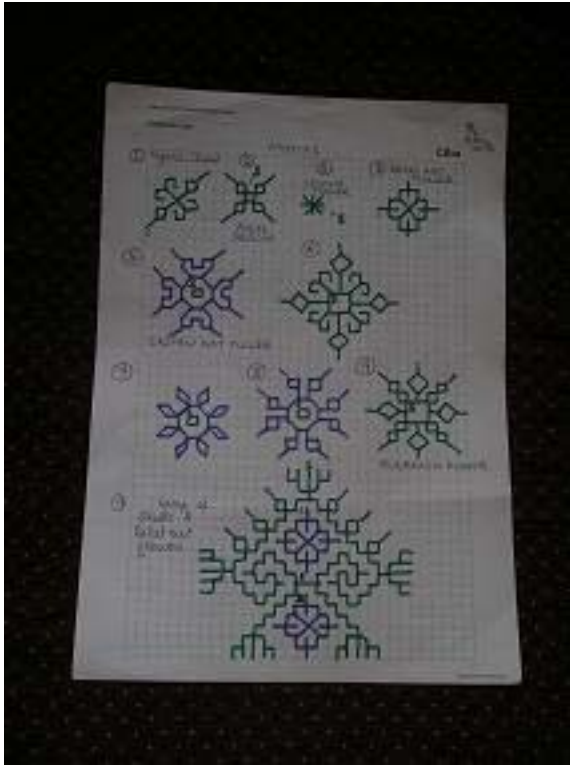
The 1st design sheet has different borders and the stitch in purple is worked till the required length of the border is done and then you have to work back to the starting point working the stitches in blue.



Kasuthi is a reversible type of embroidery by and large and the designs with the Holbein stitch and the zigzag stitches are identical on both sides of the work. The weaving stitch looks like a mirror image on the reverse of the fabric. In the cross-stitch, the reverse has only vertical and diagonal stitches.

The next set of designs has motifs.

1. Tiger's claw
2. Pulse design
3. Sesame flower
4. Betal nut flower
5. Cashew nut flower
6. Floral design
7. & 8 are variations of the cashew motif.
- 9 Rudraksh flower
10. Lamp of shells and betal nut flowers.



In all 4 sided symmetrical flowers except 1, 4 and 10 start the design in the center and use 2 colours where indicated

In the lamp start the design in the center line and work one half of the design and then return to the top and reverse and work the other side.

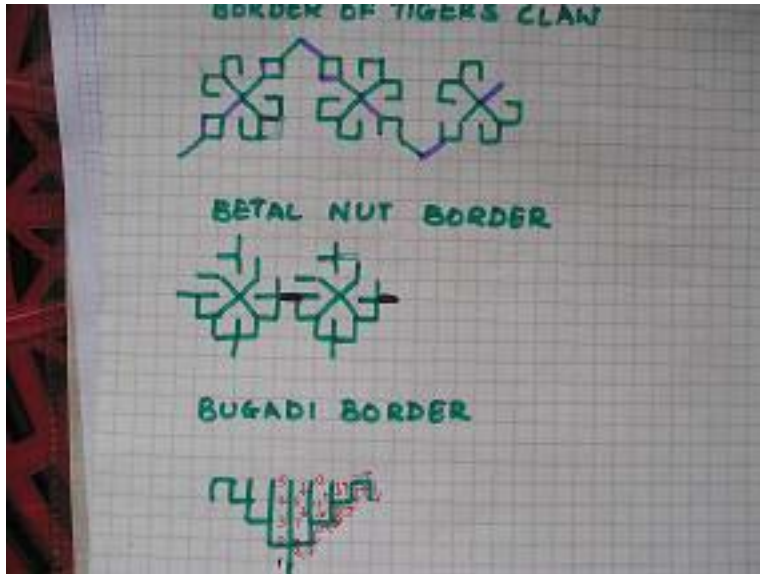
Also the betal nut flower at the top is completed on one side and then you can take the thread at the bottom to come to the point where the other flower begins so that the gap shows on the right side of the work. That is a jump from 1 to 2

The stitches in green are the stitches done when the work is started and the rest are finished on the return.

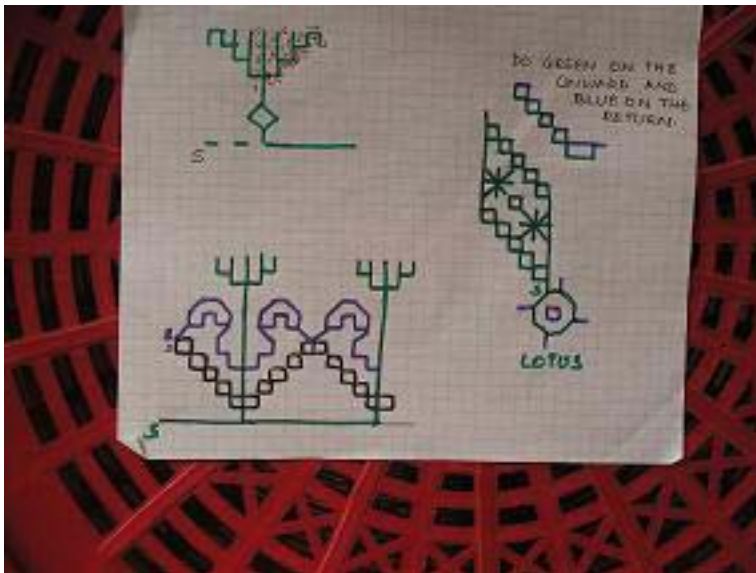
Tigers claw border where only the central line including the squares are completed on the return.

Betal nut border where either the upper half or the lower half of the main design (structure) is completed on the return

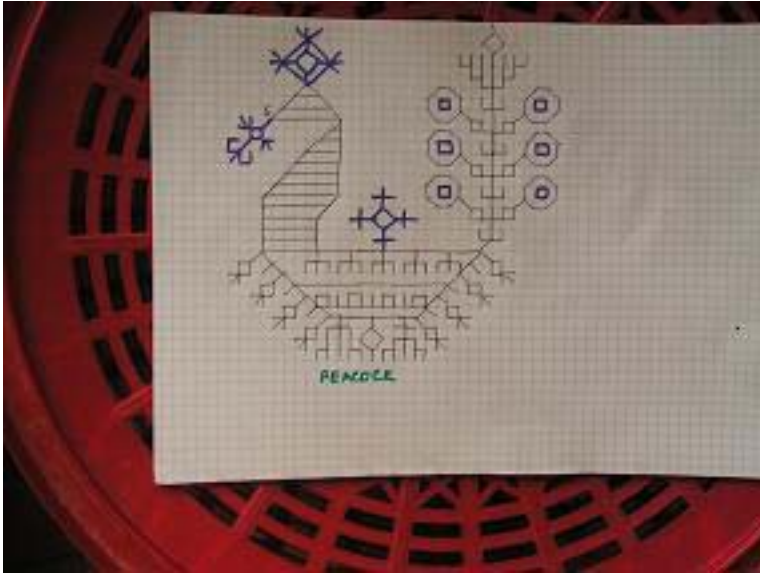
Bugadi border is treated like a 2-sided symmetric figure where you go up the central line and complete the line till you can turn either right or left and finish the design according to the number and the arrows indicated.



1. 3 colored border where the starting points are indicated for all 3 colours.



2. Lotus motif where the 1st of the 8 petals is drawn. This is done in 2 colours and they are used alternately. Please draw the other petals on your sheet before commencing the pattern, as I cannot upload a complete lotus.
3. Peacock- The work is done in a single colour and the embellishments are added later.



The last 2 types of stitches are
Negi which is the weaving stitch which is the purple bird design on the sampler
Menthi which is the simple cross stitch design in green in the upper right hand corner of the sampler. Care must be taken that all the crosses in \ direction are done 1st and then the crosses in the / direction is completed.



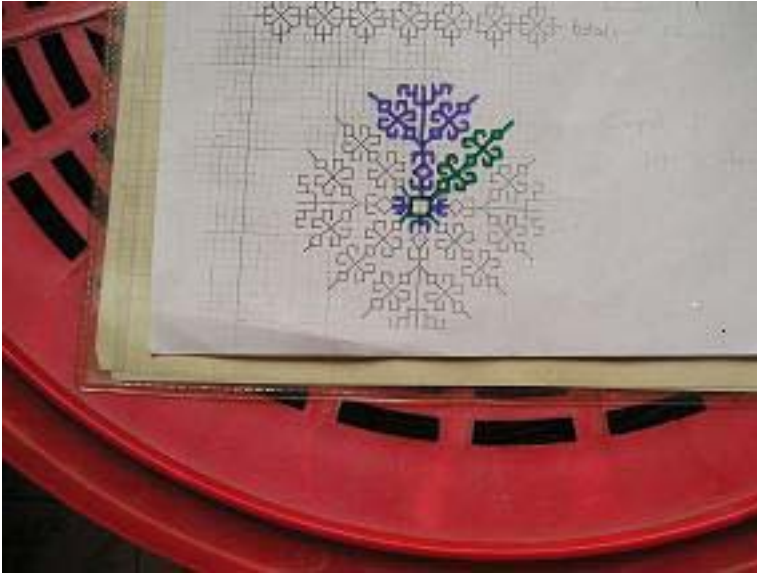
A stylized peacock design where the work is started at the beak and the body line is completed before going on to the outer square line and the bugadi design for the feathers is done before coming to the inner square line



4. Pedestal or Palana: This is done in 2 colours and started at the top of the bugadi attached to the shell and the outer line is finished before coming to the inner design in a different colour. The center betal nut is in the outer colour.



5 Carpet of tiger's claw is a 4 sided symmetric figure started in the center with alternate branches in the same colour



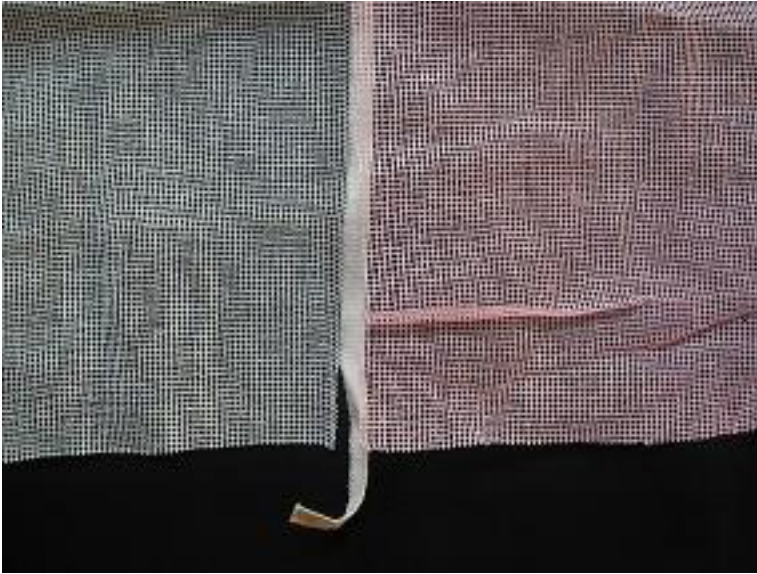
Remember,

1. The right side and the reverse must look exactly the same in all these designs

Kasuthi is a type of counted [thread embroidery](#) usually done on any even weave fabric. In the past the weft and the warp were counted to do the embroidery but of late, the [mosquito net](#) is used to create the grid to do Kasuthi.

The net used is the Calico mosquito net which is square I mean each mesh must be square. The trick is to use a [measuring tape](#) and check that the number of meshes per inch in the warp and weft is the same. A count of 13 in one and maybe 14 in the other is also acceptable. The design is done in the center and then the mesh is removed.

The net eliminates the need to use a hoop or frame and the work is done with just the fabric and the net which acts a grid line. Coloured net can be used if white is the colour of the embroidery thread



Another thing is to try and see that the threads do come out in a single piece when you pull them out along the breadth. Check before purchasing.

The net has 2 threads in the vertical direction and 1 in the horizontal. This is a point to be noted since the selvage must be exactly like you would keep for tailoring and the net must be cut in the same direction for the entire work.



I cut small pieces for the motifs with 2 to 3 squares extra all around for stitching.

The net method differs from the matty cloth because in the matty the stitch is counted from 1 hole to the next. In the net the stitch is counted from the center of 1 square to the next.

I have attached the picture of yet another peacock where in I have drawn the diagram because the actual net will be very small to demonstrate. The stitch moves in the center of the square to the center of the next square. This is used for both straight and diagonal stitches.



The next picture shows the same peacock worked on a sari and gives you an idea as to how small the finished piece will be. I have focused more on the running stitch done in pink to high light how close the stitch must be done to anchor the net to the base fabric.



Once the entire design is finished, take off the tacking stitch gently and pull the threads in the horizontal direction gently. This is a single thread and will come off easily after which the vertical threads are removed.

CAUTION must be exercised to take the net out a little at a time to avoid damaging the design.

In case the design thread is somehow interspersed with the net do not panic but gently cut the free thread at the top and the bottom and slowly remove the net while not pulling the design for those who are outside India and are stuck w/o the [net fabric](#), this is the best net you can get - the correct name of this net fabric is "scrim" it is available in bolts in the drapery section of any fabric store that sells [drapery fabrics](#). In the U.S. it is available in Hancock fabrics store. Just make sure it is a square mesh net made of cotton or flax and each thread can be easily pulled out.