

Long & Short Stitch

Lesson 2: Inside the Box

Objectives:

- To understand the techniques involved in basic long and short stitch shading
- To practice basic long and short stitch shading by filling in Element One: Boxes, working vertically and diagonally

Materials:

- Project in hoop or frame, with Element One: Boxes centered in hoop (top left corner of design)
- #9 or #10 crewel needles
- Small, sharp embroidery scissors
- DMC stranded cotton in the following colors: 814, 347, 349, 351, 353, 3855, 745, Ecrú

NOTE: A

Procedure:

To Begin:

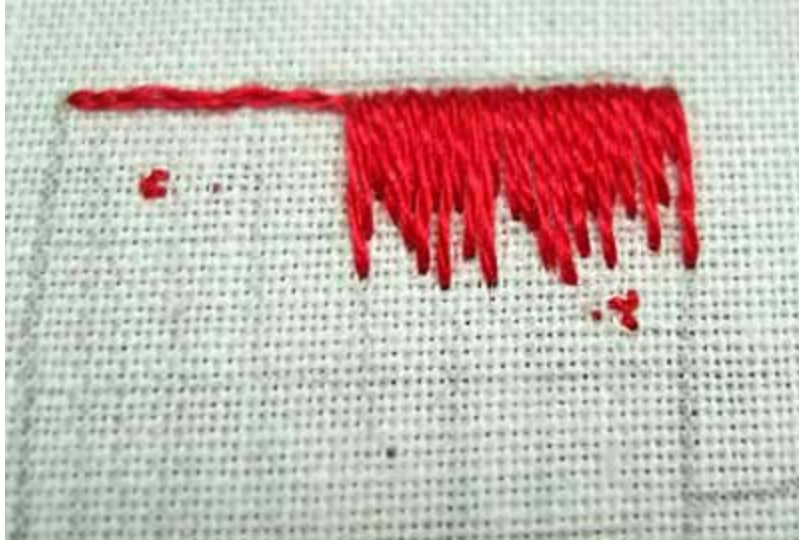
- Begin with the smallest box.
- Anchor your thread according to your favorite method, or use the method demonstrated in the video tutorial, part 1.
- Work a split stitch line across the top of the box in bright red (349)
- Draw vertical lines, from the center to each side, up and down across the box, to mark your stitch direction. Use a regular pencil for this. The vertical lines will help keep your stitches straight up and down.

BOX 1

First Row – Bright Red (349)

- Bring your needle up through the fabric, about 3/8” below the split stitch line, in the top center of the box. Take your first stitch over the split stitch line and back into the fabric. Now, working down the row to the right, space about six directional stitches more or less the same length all the way to the right edge of the box. This is illustrated in the video, part 1. After placing in your directional lines (which are “long” stitches, go back to the center and work to the right, filling in “short” stitches of varying lengths, moving down the row.
- You want your stitches to lie right next to each other, as they would in satin stitch, so make sure that you space them correctly – not too close that they bunch up, but not too far apart that you can see any fabric between them.

- Continue working across the fabric to the right side of the box, alternating the size of your stitches between long and short. Vary their lengths. For a natural-looking long and short stitch (less formal and rigid-looking), stagger the length of your stitches between several lengths – some long, some a little shorter, then a bit longer, then shorter again, then shorter yet, then a little longer, then long, then short, then slightly longer, etc. You want the bottom edge of your stitched row to be jagged, but you still want to keep an overall consistent length across the longest points of the stitches.
- When you reach the right edge of the box, end with a long stitch on the pencil line. This is approximately what your progress should look like so far:



- Now move back to the middle of the box and work from the center to the left side of the box, doing the same thing.



- If you're like me, one side will look better than the other. I don't know why this is! For me, the second half always looks better than the first, even if I switch directions and begin from center to left.

- You can refer to the Basic Long and Short Stitch Video, part 1, on Needle 'n Thread (www.needlenthread.com) to see this technique worked out.

Second Row & Subsequent Rows (up to, but not including, the last row)

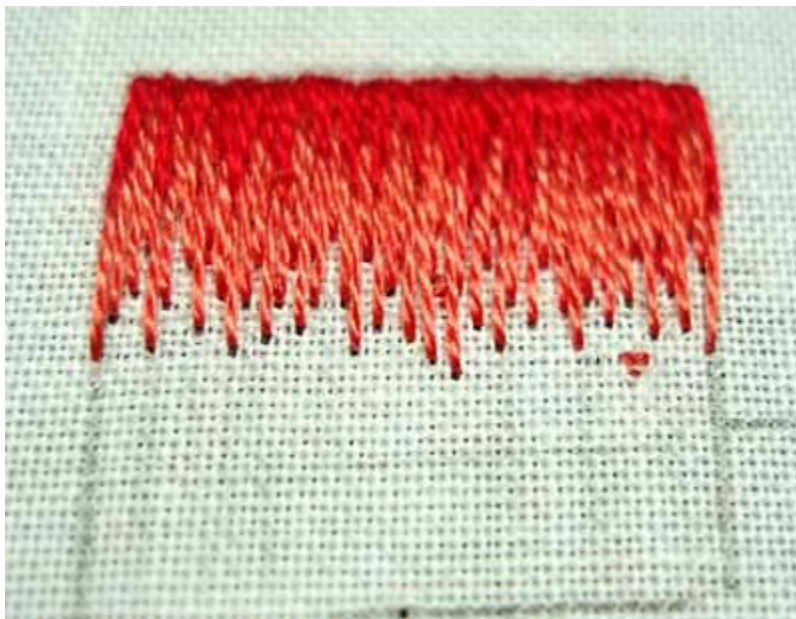
- After the first row, each row is worked in the following sequence of colors:
 - Row 2: 351
 - Row 3: 353
 - Row 4: 3855
- For subsequent rows, after the first row, bring your needle up from the back of your fabric into the first row of stitches, in the center.

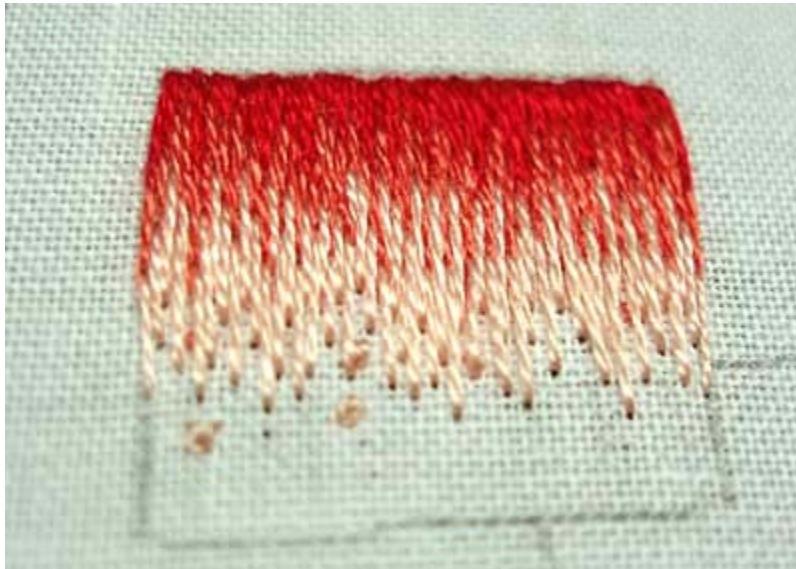


- Stitch some longer directional stitches from the center towards the right edge, dividing up the stitching area as you did with the first row.
- Stagger the entry point at the top of the stitches, so that some begin higher and some lower than the others. Work into the long stitches of the first row, about 1/3 the length up into the long stitches.
- Work the short stitches of the second row high up into the first row of stitches, bringing the needle back down into the fabric to make a “short” stitch in the second row. Again, stagger your stitches, varying their length by varying where the stitches emerge in the previous and where they go down into the fabric.



- Continue from the center to the right edge, and then work from the center to the left edge of the box. You can find this technique demonstrated in the Long & Short Stitch Video, part 2, on the website.





Last Row

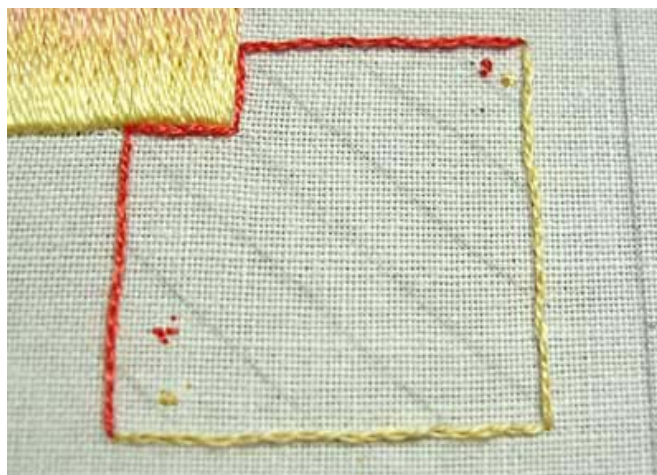
- Before stitching the last row, work a split stitch line in the lightest shade of yellow, 745.
- Beginning in the middle and emerging in the previous row of stitches, work from the center to the right edge, taking the needle down into the fabric over the split stitch line.
- Return to the center and then work in the same manner to the left side of the box.



BOX 2

- Box 2 is worked in the same manner as Box 1, but it is worked on the diagonal. Begin with the dark burgundy-red (814) and work rows of all colors to Ecu, in the following sequence of colors:
 - Dark red – 347
 - Bright red – 349
 - Salmon – 351
 - Light salmon – 353
 - Light yellow – 745
 - Ecu
- Begin by split stitching the left side and top of Box 2 in Salmon (351) and the base of the square and the right side in light yellow (745)

Note that Medium Yellow (3855) is not used in Box 2



- Draw stitch directions with a pencil across the diagonal of the square.



- Begin stitching with the dark burgundy (814) on the diagonal. Work in directional stitches before filling in, then go back and fill in with varying lengths of long and short stitch. Work 814 on the diagonal to about halfway down the left side of the square and halfway across the top of the square, as shown in the photo. Work from the center to the top line of the square (diagonally) then from the center to the left side of the square.



- Finish filling in between the directional stitches, then move on to the second row.



- Begin the second row (dark red 347) in the middle of your first diagonal row, bringing the needle up into the first row of stitches, as explained in the directions for Box One.



- Work the second row on each side to fill about half the distance remaining on the top edge and on the right side of the box.



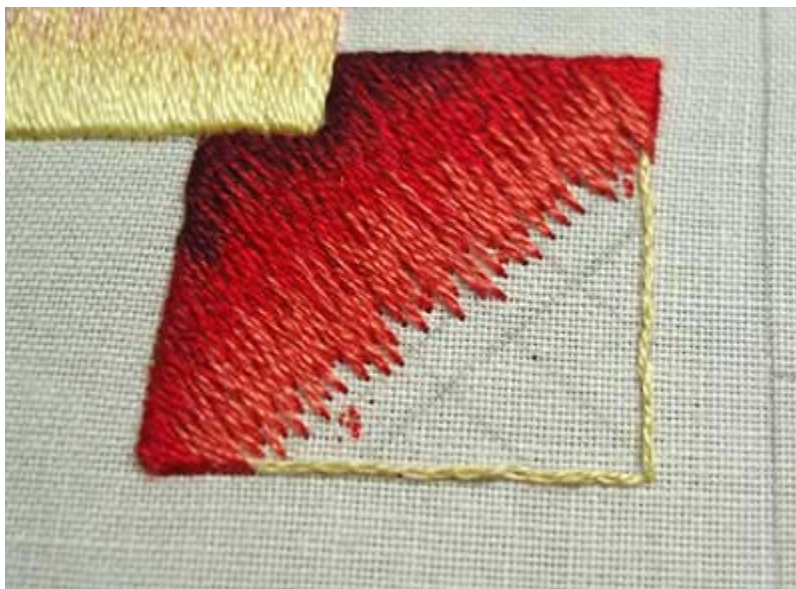
- Work the third row on the diagonal in bright red (349). As you approach the corners, take your stitches over the corners and finish the very corner in satin stitch, as illustrated in the photo above and in the photo below:



- Finish filling the third row with bright red, making sure to stagger your stitch lengths and to keep the direction of the diagonal lines.



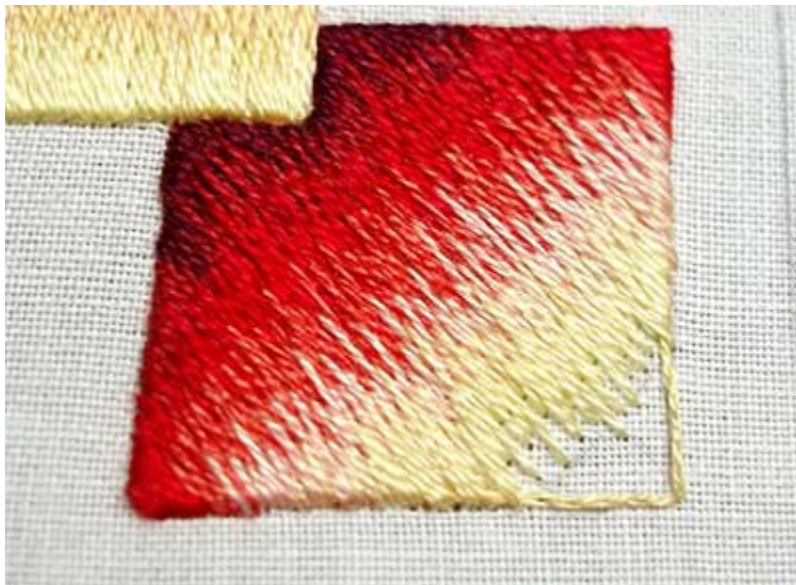
- Continue filling the box to the tip, adding each subsequent row of color, as shown in the photos below. Follow the same methods demonstrated in the first box and in the videos on basic long and short stitch, parts 1 – 3. End at the tip of the square (diagonal) with Ecrú.



Row 4, complete



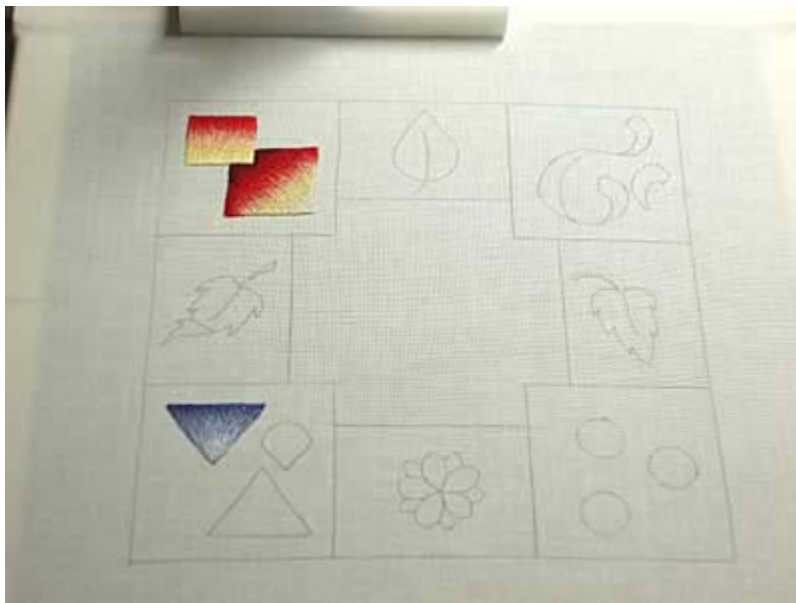
Row 5 underway – note how the stitches are taken over the split stitch line as the row extends to the edge of the box.



Row 6 complete (light yellow, 745)



Last row, in Ecru, is worked into the point of the square.



The finished boxes on the sampler!

Coming up: Lesson 3 – Triangles – Shading at an Angle!