

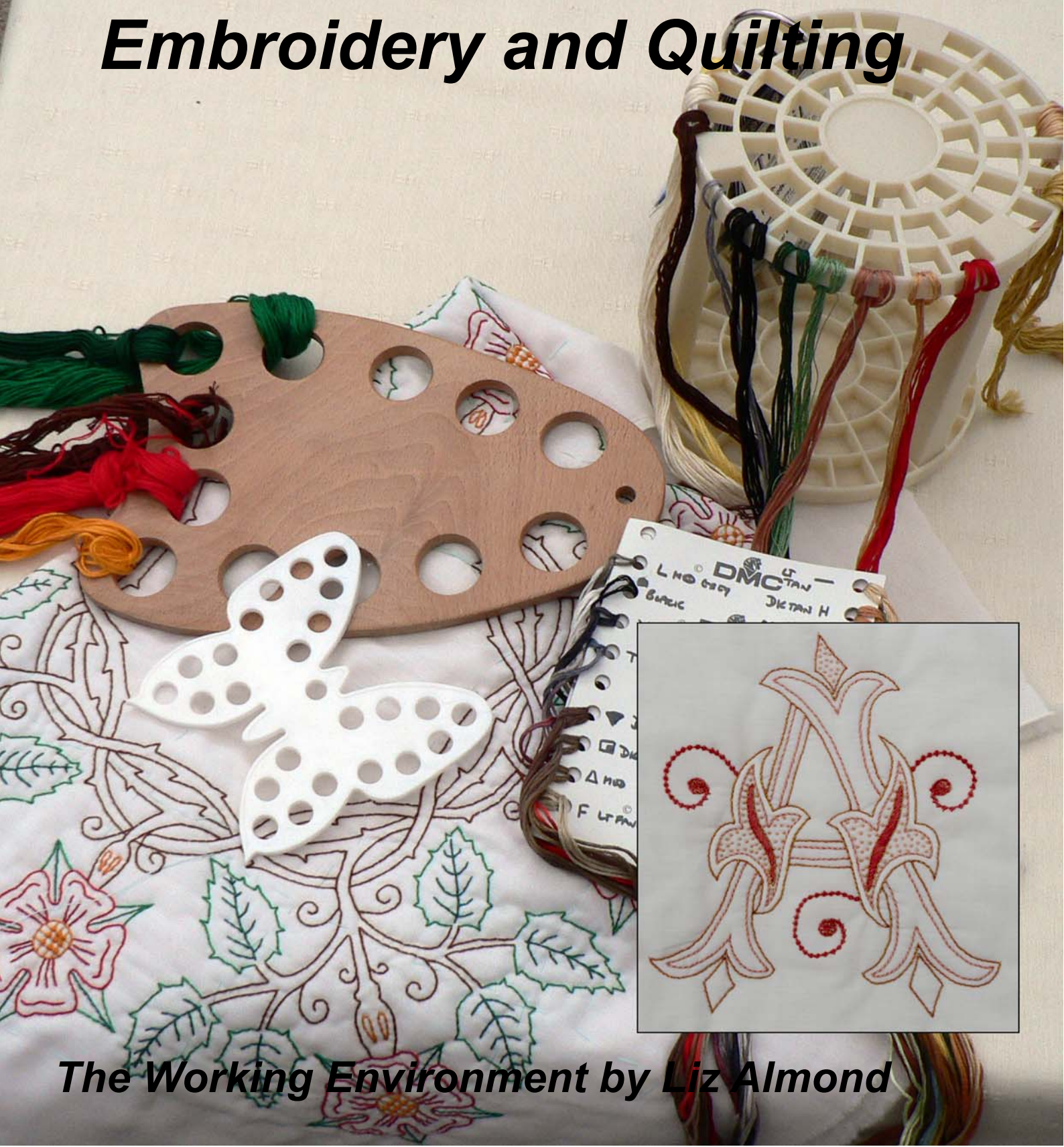


# *Blackwork Journey*

## *Techniques*

TQ0015

### *Embroidery and Quilting*



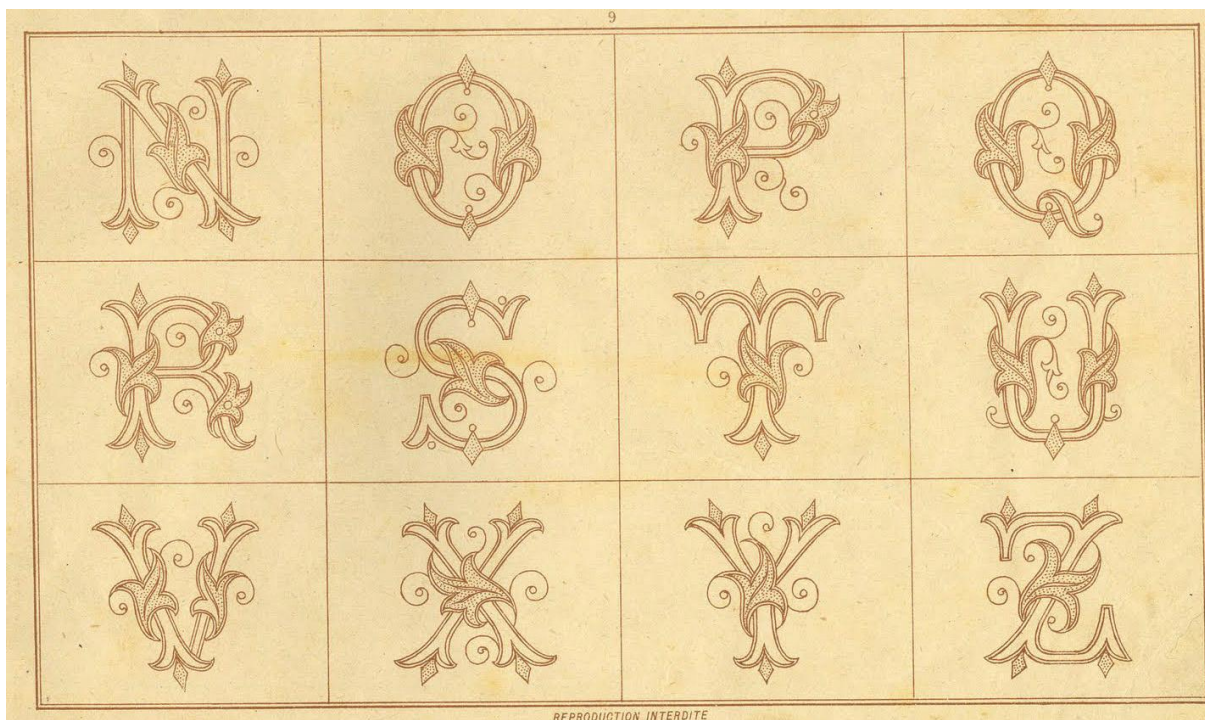
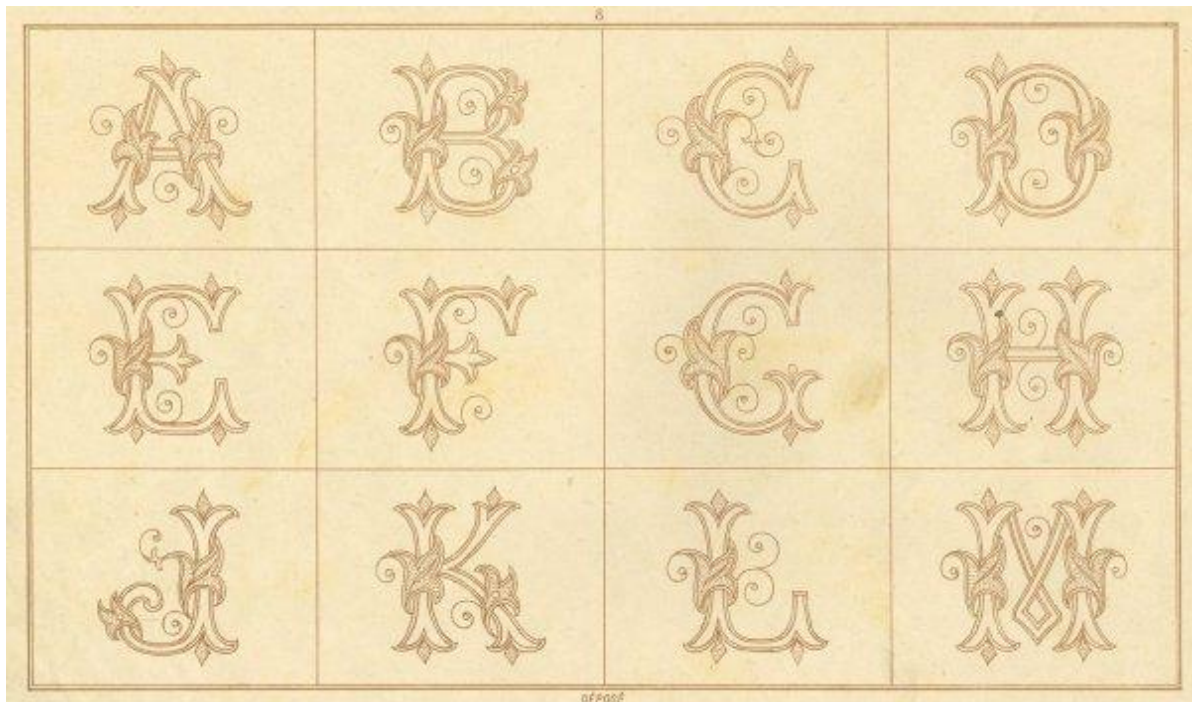
*The Working Environment by Liz Almond*



## Embroidery and Quilting for Pleasure – a simple project

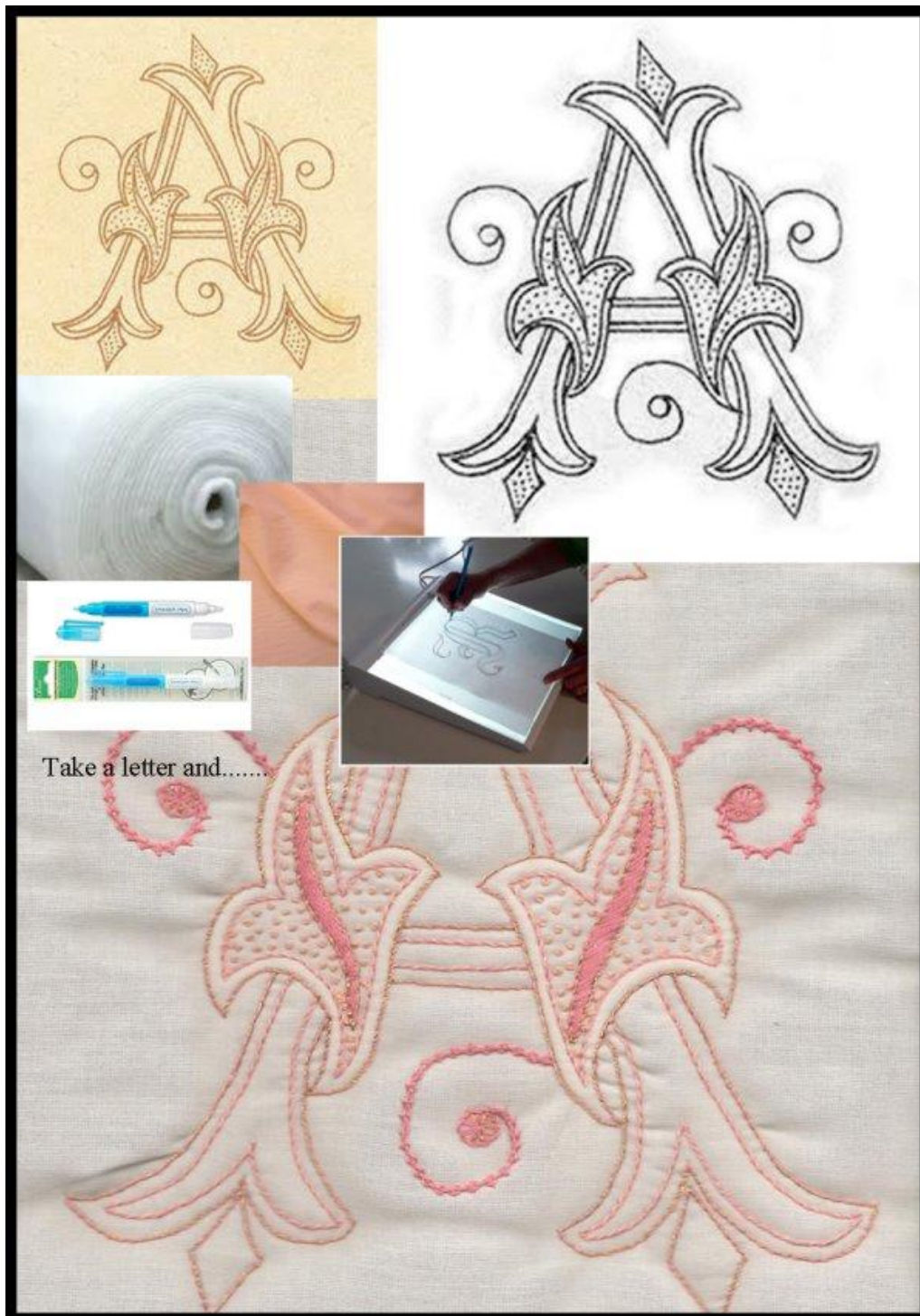
It is easy to look at techniques in isolation, but it is very satisfying to unite them. As an example, I took a letter "A" from an 18th century French alphabet and decided to develop it in a different way rather than just embroidering it as a monogram.

### Sajou 486



Sajou was one of the great French embroidery houses of the 19th century. Alexandre & Co and Rouyer were some of the others. The alphabets were often presented in small blue booklets for the embroiderer to enjoy and they lend themselves to use in other than the traditional manner. You will notice that the letters "I" and "W" are missing. In the modern English alphabet there are 26 letters but this was not always the case. As English evolved so did the addition of letters but it was not unusual for some letters to be considered interchangeable.

### Project "A"





To get from the outline to the finished letter follow the steps below:

**Materials:**

Piece of polycotton or cotton fabric, 12 x 12 inches

2oz terylene wadding, 13 x 13 inches

Muslin backing, 13 x 13 inches

Wash fabric beforehand if there is a likelihood of the fabric shrinking.

**Threads:**

DMC stranded cotton 3341, one skein

DMC stranded cotton 3824, one skein

DMC Diamant gold, one reel or DMC Light Effects metallic gold, one skein

Tacking thread – light colour

Use a light thread to avoid leaving traces in the fabric when the threads are removed.

Embroidery needle No 4, quilting needle (see Techniques Part 3 Needles)



**Stitches:**

1. Double knot stitch, three strands

2. Buttonhole ring, three strands

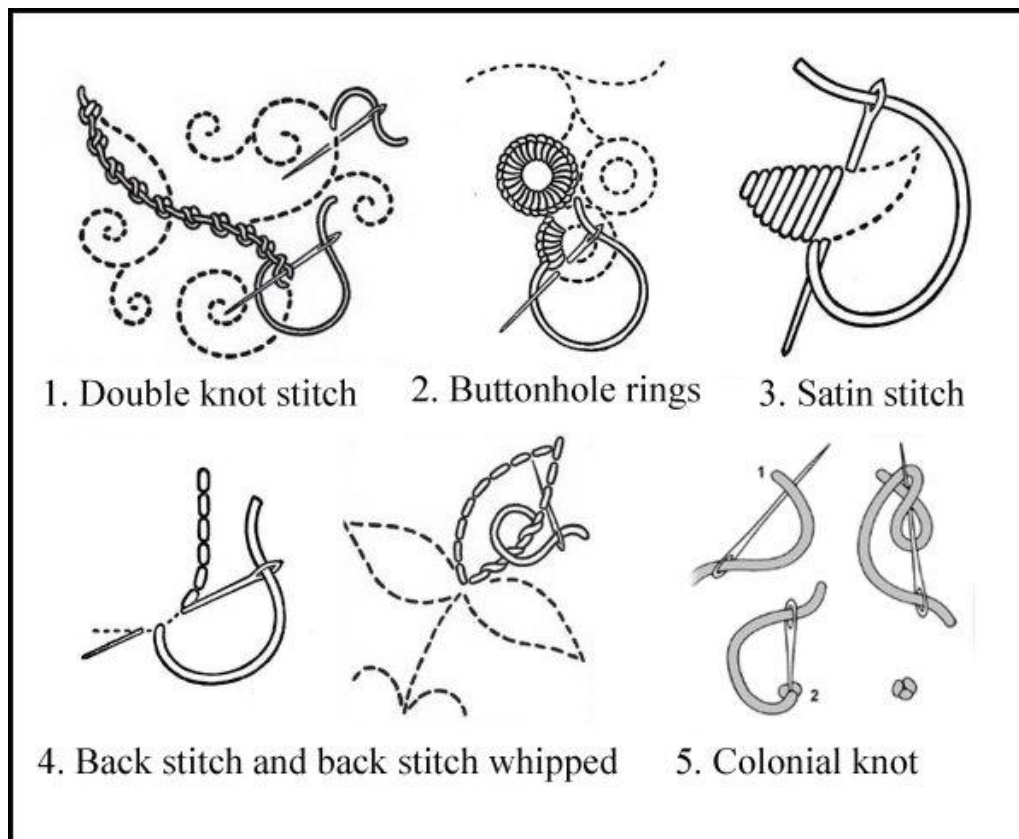
3. Back stitch whipped using 3341, two strands, whipped with two strands of 3824 (Internal lines of the "A")

4. Satin stitch, two strands 3341

5. Colonial knots, three strands 3341

6. Back stitch two strands of DMC 3341 whipped with Diamant gold straight from the reel

(See stitch diagrams)



**Method:**

Take a letter - any letter can be worked in this method!

1. Enlarge the letter "A" to fit to an A4 sheet of paper.
2. Use a water soluble pen and a light box to draw the design onto a piece of pre-washed fabric. See "Techniques Part 8 Transferring a Design"
3. Threads chosen were suitable for both embroidery and quilting and could be divided into different thicknesses.  
DMC stranded cotton and DMC Diamant metallic gold thread can be used throughout the project to create the different effects required.
4. Some of the stitches need to be embroidered **before** the polycotton is tacked to the wadding and muslin
5. Double knot stitch, the buttonhole rings and the satin stitch are worked before the top layer, wadding and muslin are tacked together to form a quilt layer.
6. Baste the three layers (top, wadding, backing) together using a contrasting tacking thread. Start in the middle and work outwards in each direction, smoothing out any wrinkles or creases. When the basting is complete, mount the fabric in a quilting hoop. The fabric should be taut.

7. Work the inside back stitch lines using two strands of 3341, then whip the interior lines of the "A" with two strands of 3824. Do not make the back stitches too small since the needle will need to pass under the stitches to whip. Once started, do NOT change direction if the twist of the whipping is to lie in the same direction.
8. Work a row of back stitch round the satin stitch and whip with Diamant.
9. Work a row of back stitch round the outside of the letter "A" and whip with Diamant,
10. Add the colonial knots after working the quilting. Use three strands of cotton. French knots could
11. Remove the tacking threads, place face down on a towel and press lightly.



The letter "A" is now ready to be added to a quilt or made into the centre of a cushion.

Happy stitching,

Liz

