

## **How to do Silk Embroidery**

When doing silk embroidery, it is advised that you choose tightly woven fabric for the best results. Then draw a pattern with a charcoal pencil. Put your thread through your needle, keeping one side short and put a knot in the end of your thread. Following that you must select a type of stitch to complete your work.

Three common stitches used in silk embroidery are the satin, buttonhole, and stem stitches. The satin stitch is smooth and simple and is made by piercing the fabric from its backside. A thread is then carried across the fabric's top, and then is pierced, and finally is anchored on its underside. This type of stitch is commonly used to fill in large areas. When filling in these areas, keep the thread down. The buttonhole stitch, also called the blanket stitch, is a reinforcing stitch used to secure the cut edges of woven material to prevent unraveling. Although it is normally used for this utilitarian function, in Métis silk embroidery this stitch is purely decorative. The buttonhole stitch's pattern is defined by its backbone, which is on the outer edge of the stitch. It is created when the thread is looped under the point of the needle to form half stitches. The stem stitch is used simply for outlining things such as stems and vines. For this type of stitch, the embroiderer stitches a little ahead, and then goes backward, repeating this process down the outline until the design has been stitched.

**Reference:**

*Mashnikwawchikun avec la sway di fil: Métis Silk Embroidery.* (Video) Gabriel Dumont Institute: Saskatoon, 2003.