

A Sewing Presentation

*Stitches and Sewings
for
Bookbinding Structures*

*GBW/CBBAG
Standards Seminar
Toronto
2008*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This booklet was designed as a handout for the Sixty Sewing Structures presentation session at the GBW/CBBAG Standards Seminar held in Toronto in October, 2008. It is based on the digital images of the demonstration boards originally prepared for the Designer Bookbinders conference in Oxford in 1994, which in turn stemmed from a sewing workshop given at the Book and Paper Intensive in Seattle in 1991.

The work was the result of a project begun in the early '90s to try to assemble a compendium of sewing techniques from the different bookbinding traditions. The variety that emerged was amazing: some common, some rare, some historic, some new. It provided a smorgasbord of techniques from which a binder could choose. The particular strengths and weaknesses of the techniques made them suitable for different situations, whether in fine binding, conservation, or artists' books. Workshops based on these sewing variations have sparked a widespread interest in using alternative structures. Occasionally interesting variations have continued to appear.

Many people have contributed to this project. A huge debt is owed to the illustrations in the classic German textbooks written by Fritz Wiese, "*Der Bucheinband*", and "*Der Bucheinband: Historische und Neuartige Einbände*." Special mention also must be made of the continuing interest and contributions of Hedi Kyle and Pamela Spitzmueller, whose work on sewing terminology has been invaluable. The search for other sewing techniques, new or old, remains a work in progress and an ongoing challenge.

Betsy Palmer Eldridge was introduced to the book arts by Hannah French at Wellesley College in 1957. Subsequently she trained in bookbinding in Germany at the Metz Bindery in Hamburg and in France at the Ecole Estienne and with Jules Fache in Paris. Later she worked in book and paper conservation with Carolyn Horton & Associates in New York. Since moving to Toronto in 1973 she has maintained a private conservation workshop there, and since the founding of CBBAG in 1983 has designed and taught their training courses and workshops. She joined GBW in 1960 and served as president 2000-2006, receiving the Laura Young Award in 2007.

SEWING DEFINITIONS

SEWING

METHODS BY WHICH GROUPS OF SINGLE LEAVES OR FOLDS,
GATHERED INTO SECTIONS, OR SIGNATURES,
JOIN TOGETHER TO FORM A BOOK-BLOCK
BY ATTACHING EITHER
TO EACH OTHER OR
TO A COMMON SUPPORT OR
TO BOTH

ATTACHING STITCHES

LAP STITCH - A RUNNING SLIP STITCH
PASSES OVER A SUPPORT OR UNDER THE PREVIOUS SEWING
EXITS - NEAR SIDE (BACKWARD)
ENTERS - FAR SIDE (FORWARD)
THREADS DO NOT CROSS - LIE SIDE BY SIDE
QUICK BUT NOT SECURE

LOOP STITCH - A LOCKING STITCH
PASSES AROUND A SUPPORT OR THE PREVIOUS SEWING
EXITS - FAR SIDE (FORWARD)
ENTERS - NEAR SIDE (BACKWARD)
THREADS CROSS
SECURE BUT SLOW

JOINING STITCHES

LINK STITCH - DROPS DOWN TO ATTACH TO THE PREVIOUS SECTIONS

SPAN STITCH - CLIMBS UP TO ATTACH TO THE NEXT SECTION

KETTLE STITCH - LINKS DOWN & SPANS UP

TRUE KETTLE - 3 ELEMENTS

LINKS DOWN

SLIPS UNDER

SPANS UP

FALSE KETTLE - 2 ELEMENTS

LINKS DOWN

SPANS UP

STRAIGHT STITCH - ATTACHES ONLY TO THE COMMON SUPPORT
(DOES NOT DROP, SLIP, OR CLIMB)

SEWING STATIONS

PLACES WHERE A SEWING STOPS TO MAKE A CONNECTION, ATTACHING
EITHER TO ANOTHER SECTION, A COMMON SUPPORT, OR BOTH

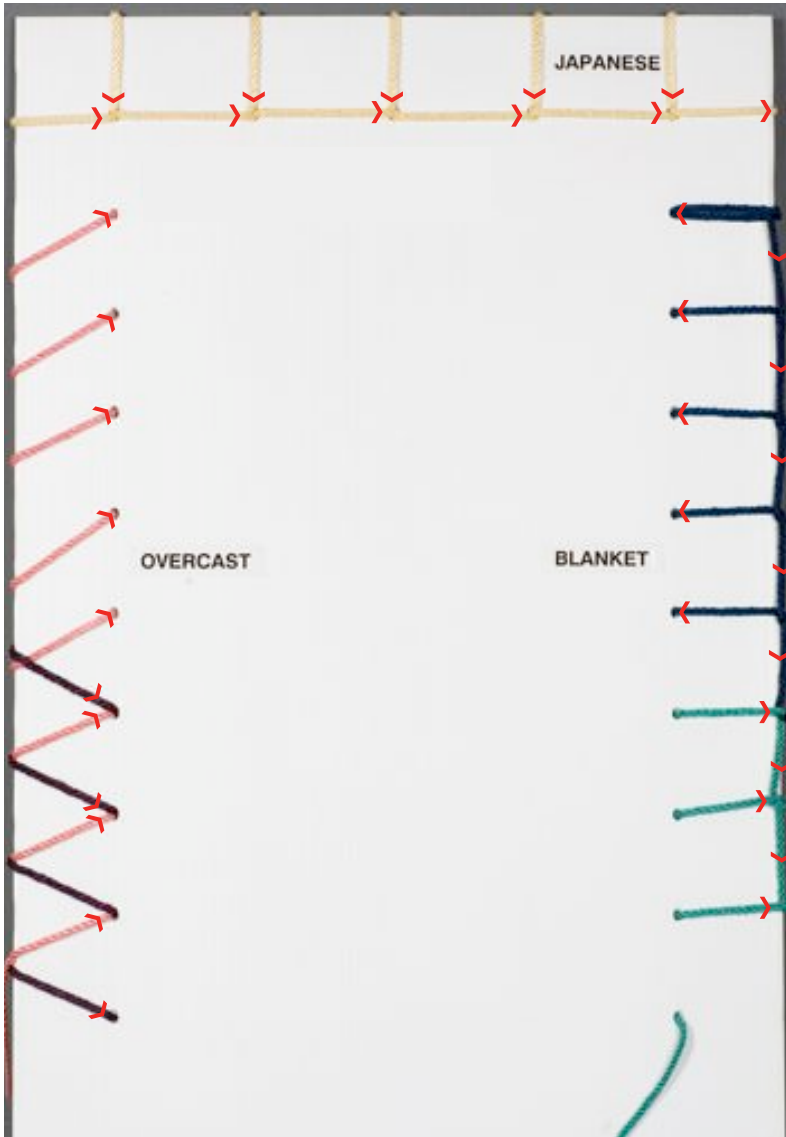
A SEWING PRESENTATION BY BETSY PALMER ELDRIDGE

ALONG THE SPINE: NO SUPPORTS (OR CONTINUOUS SUPPORT)

STABBED THROUGH THE SIDE

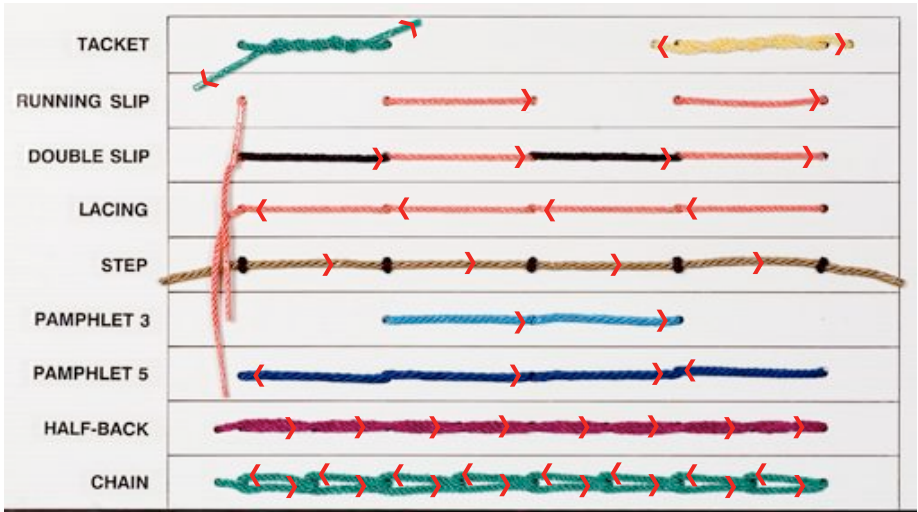
MULTI-STATIONS: SINGLE HOLES

WHIP/OVERCAST STITCH, BLANKET STITCH, AND JAPANESE STITCH



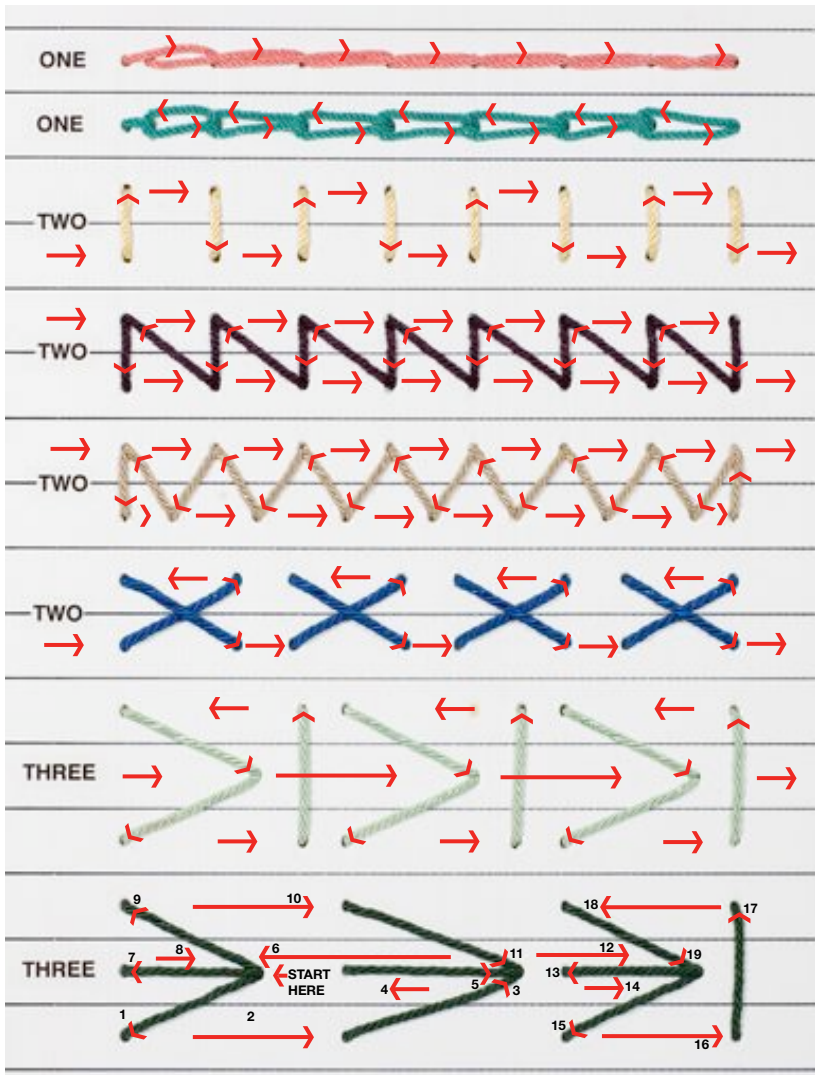
GBW/CBBAG STANDARDS SEMINAR, TORONTO 2008

ALONG THE SPINE: NO SUPPORTS (OR CONTINUOUS SUPPORT)
SEWN THROUGH THE FOLD OR THE SIDE: SINGLE SECTIONS
MULTI-STATIONS: SINGLE HOLES
TACKET, SLIP STITCH, STEP STITCH AND PAMPHLET STITCH

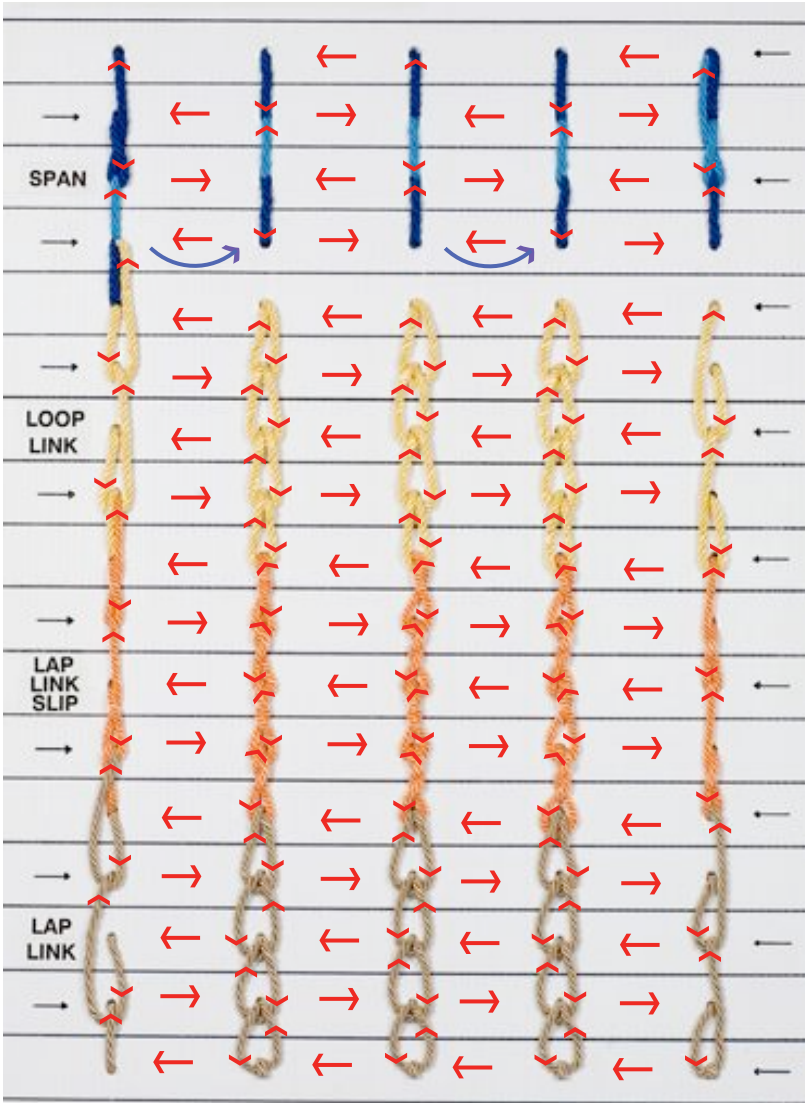


A SEWING PRESENTATION BY BETSY PALMER ELDRIDGE

ALONG THE SPINE: NO SUPPORTS (OR CONTINUOUS SUPPORT)
SEWN THROUGH THE FOLD: ONE, TWO, OR THREE SECTIONS
MULTI-STATIONS: SINGLE HOLES
DECORATIVE SPINE STITCHES

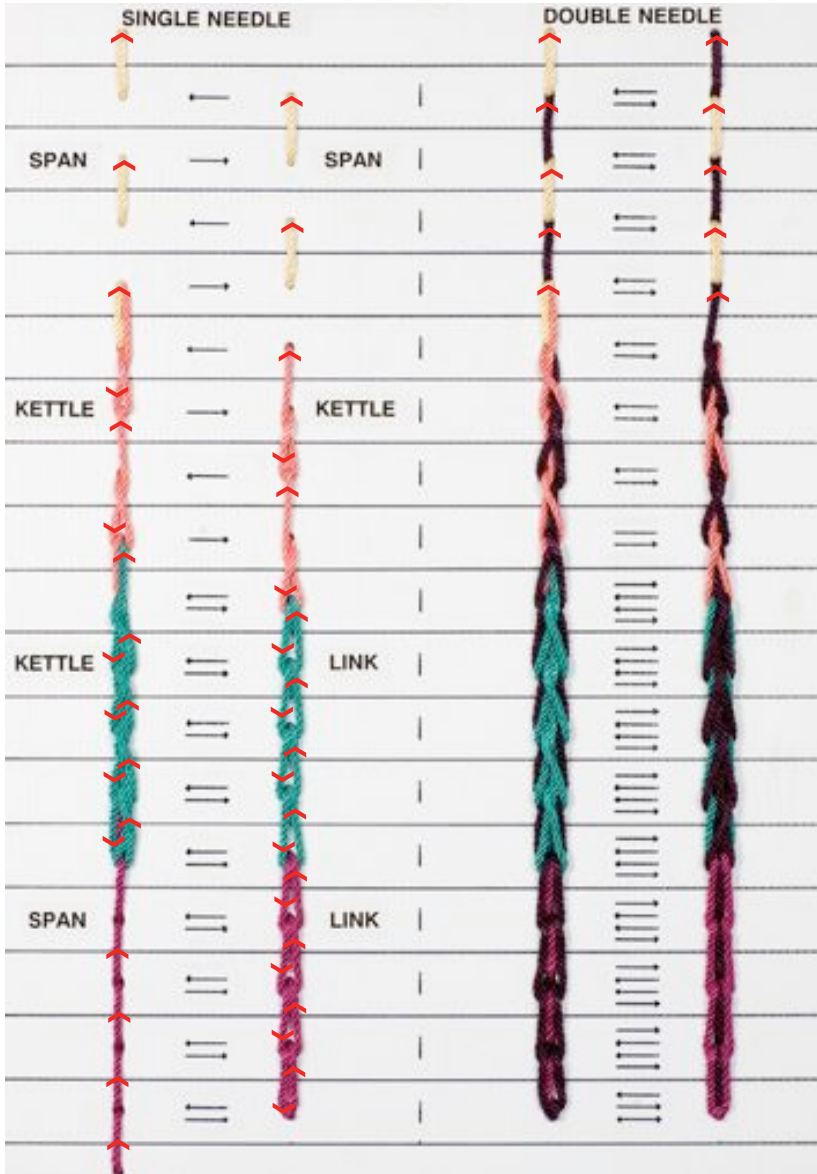


ALONG THE SPINE: NO SUPPORTS (OR CONTINUOUS SUPPORT)
SEWN THROUGH THE FOLD: MULTI-SECTIONS
MULTI-STATIONS: SINGLE HOLES
LAP AND LOOP STITCHES; LINK AND SPAN STITCHES

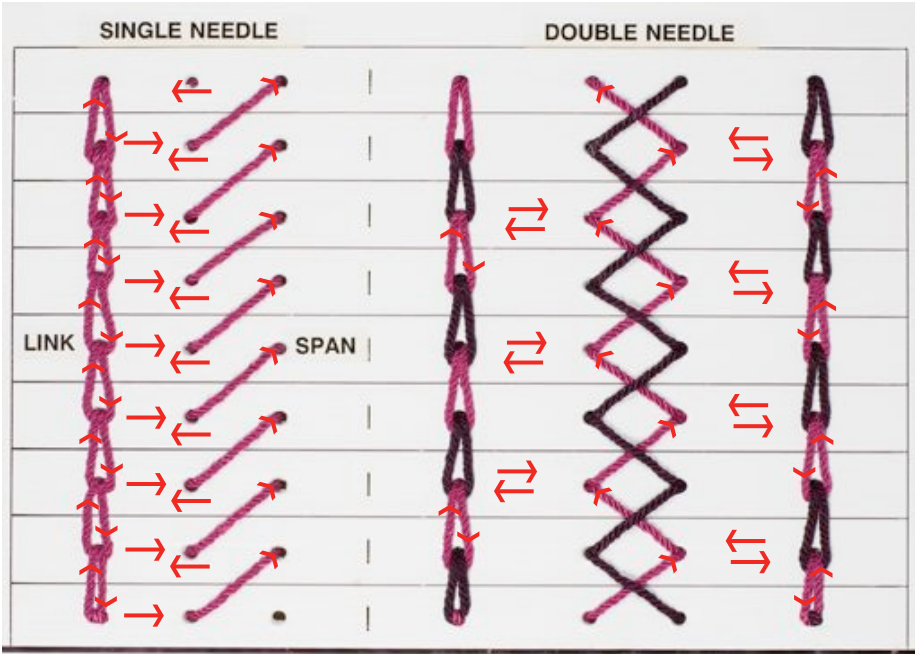


A SEWING PRESENTATION BY BETSY PALMER ELDRIDGE

ACROSS THE SPINE: NO SUPPORT (OR CONTINUOUS SUPPORT)
 SEWN THROUGH THE FOLD: MULTI-SECTIONS
 PAIRED STATIONS: SINGLE HOLES
 LINK, SPAN, AND KETTLE STITCHES

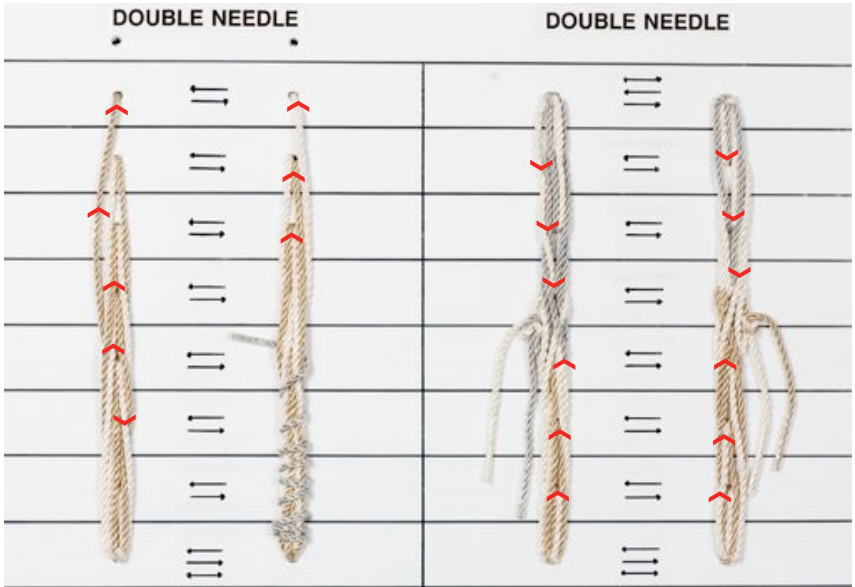


ACROSS THE SPINE: NO SUPPORT (OR CONTINUOUS SUPPORT)
SEWN THROUGH THE FOLD: MULTI-SECTIONS
PAIRED STATIONS: SINGLE AND DOUBLE HOLES
LINK AND ANGLED SPAN STITCHES

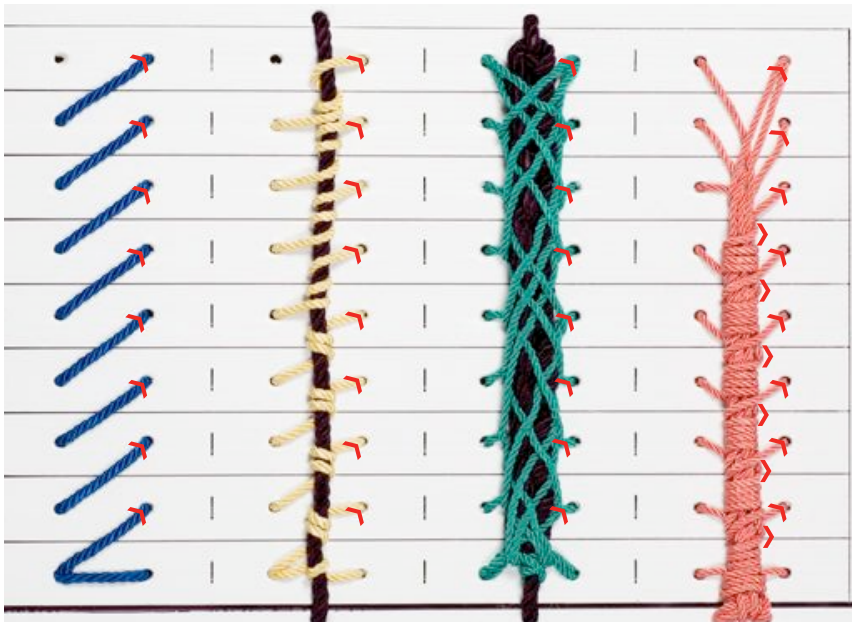


A SEWING PRESENTATION BY BETSY PALMER ELDRIDGE

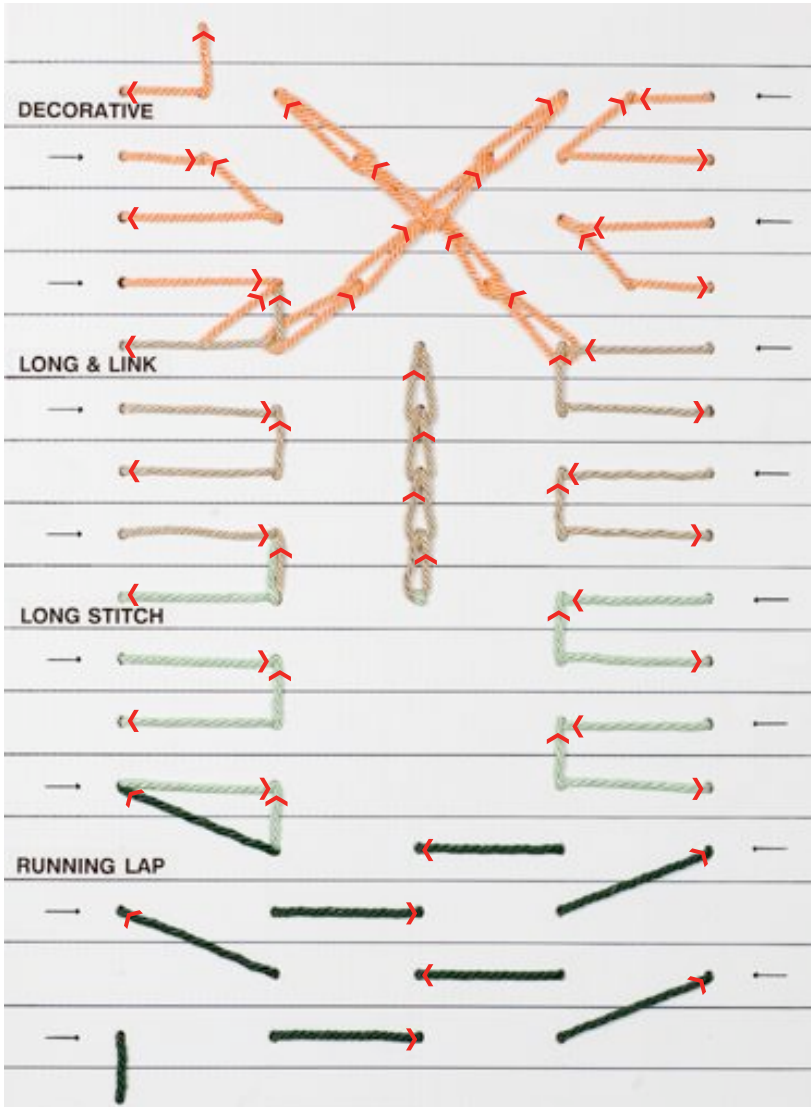
ACROSS THE SPINE: NO SUPPORT (OR CONTINUOUS SUPPORT)
SEWN THROUGH THE FOLD: MULTI-SECTIONS
PAIRED STATIONS: SINGLE HOLES
STEP DOWN STITCHES



SINGLE STATIONS, DOUBLE HOLES
ANGLED SPAN, LAP, LOOP, AND STEP DOWN STITCHES



ALONG THE SPINE: CONTINUOUS SUPPORTS
SEWN THROUGH THE FOLD: MULTI-SECTIONS
MULTI-STATIONS: SINGLE HOLES
LONG, LINK, AND ANGLED SPAN STITCHES



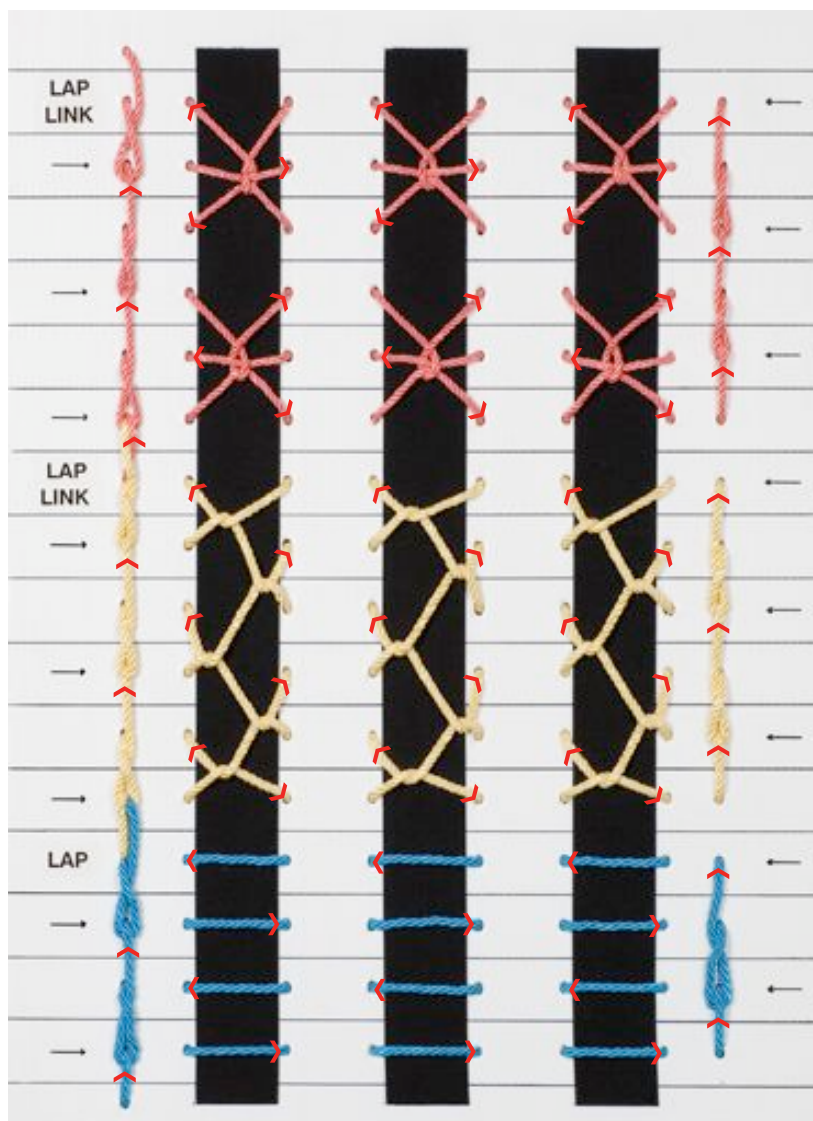
A SEWING PRESENTATION BY BETSY PALMER ELDRIDGE

ALONG THE SPINE: FLAT SUPPORTS

SEWN THROUGH THE FOLD: MULTI-SECTIONS

MULTI-STATIONS: DOUBLE HOLES

LAP AND LAP-LINK STITCHES

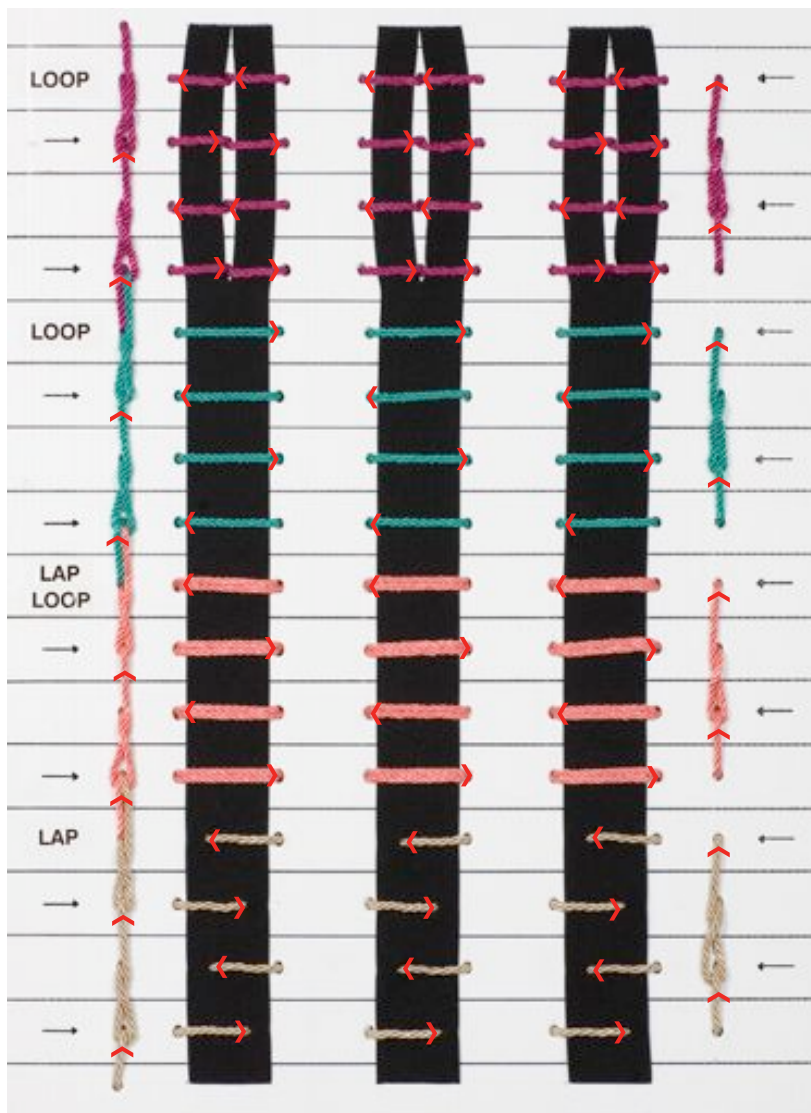


ALONG THE SPINE: FLAT SUPPORTS

SEWN THROUGH THE FOLD: MULTI-SECTIONS

MULTI-STATIONS: DOUBLE AND TRIPLE HOLES

LAP AND LOOP STITCHES



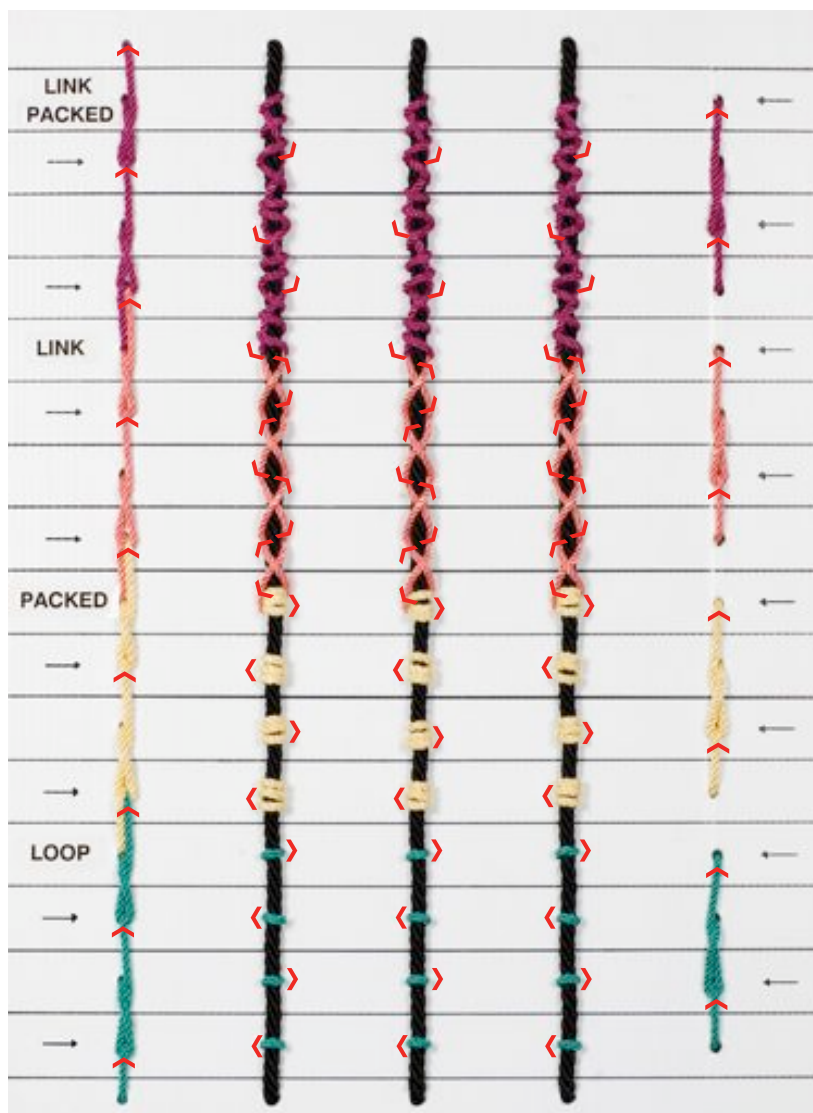
A SEWING PRESENTATION BY BETSY PALMER ELDRIDGE

ALONG THE SPINE: SINGLE RAISED SUPPORTS

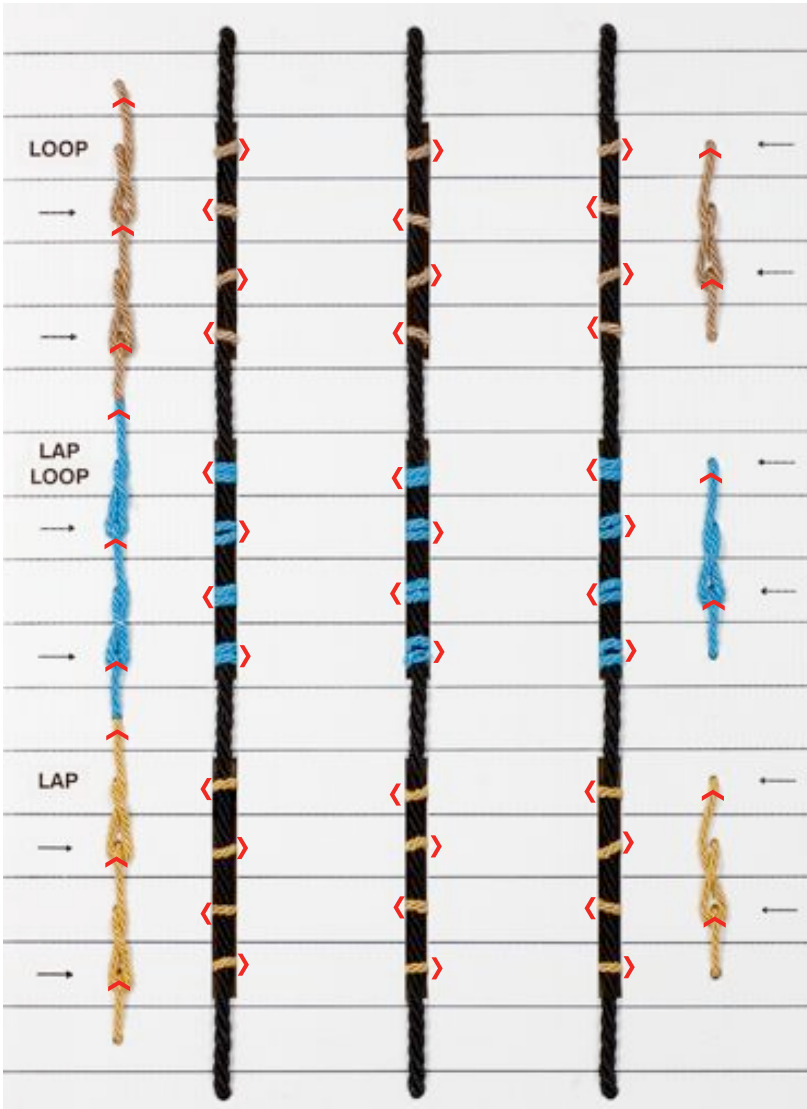
SEWN THROUGH THE FOLD: MULTI-SECTIONS

MULTI-STATIONS: SINGLE HOLES

LOOP, PACKED, LINK AND LINK-PACKED STITCHES



ALONG THE SPINE: RECESSED SUPPORTS
SEWN THROUGH THE FOLD: MULTI-SECTIONS
MULTI-STATIONS: RECESSED GROOVES
LAP, LAP-LOOP AND LOOP STITCHES



A SEWING PRESENTATION BY BETSY PALMER ELDRIDGE

ALONG THE SPINE: DOUBLE RAISED SUPPORTS

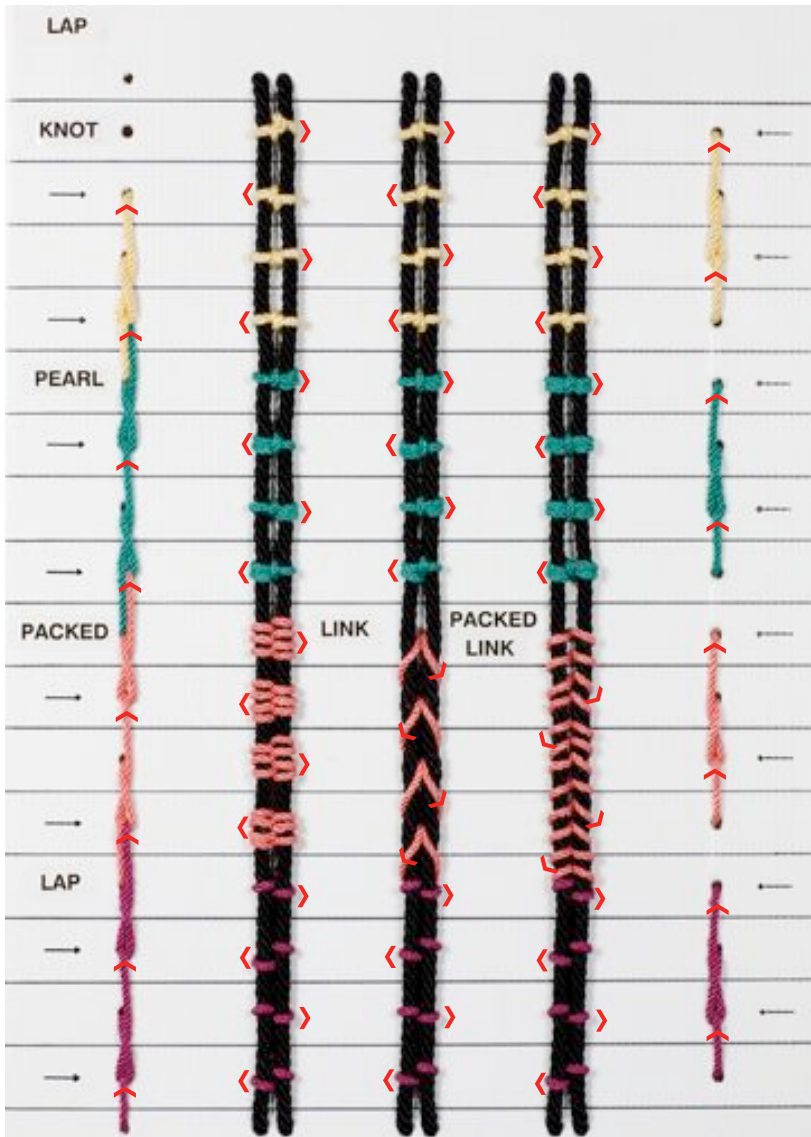
SEWN THROUGH THE FOLD: MULTI-SECTIONS

MULTI-STATIONS: SINGLE HOLES

LOOP, PACKED, LINK AND LINK PACKED STITCHES

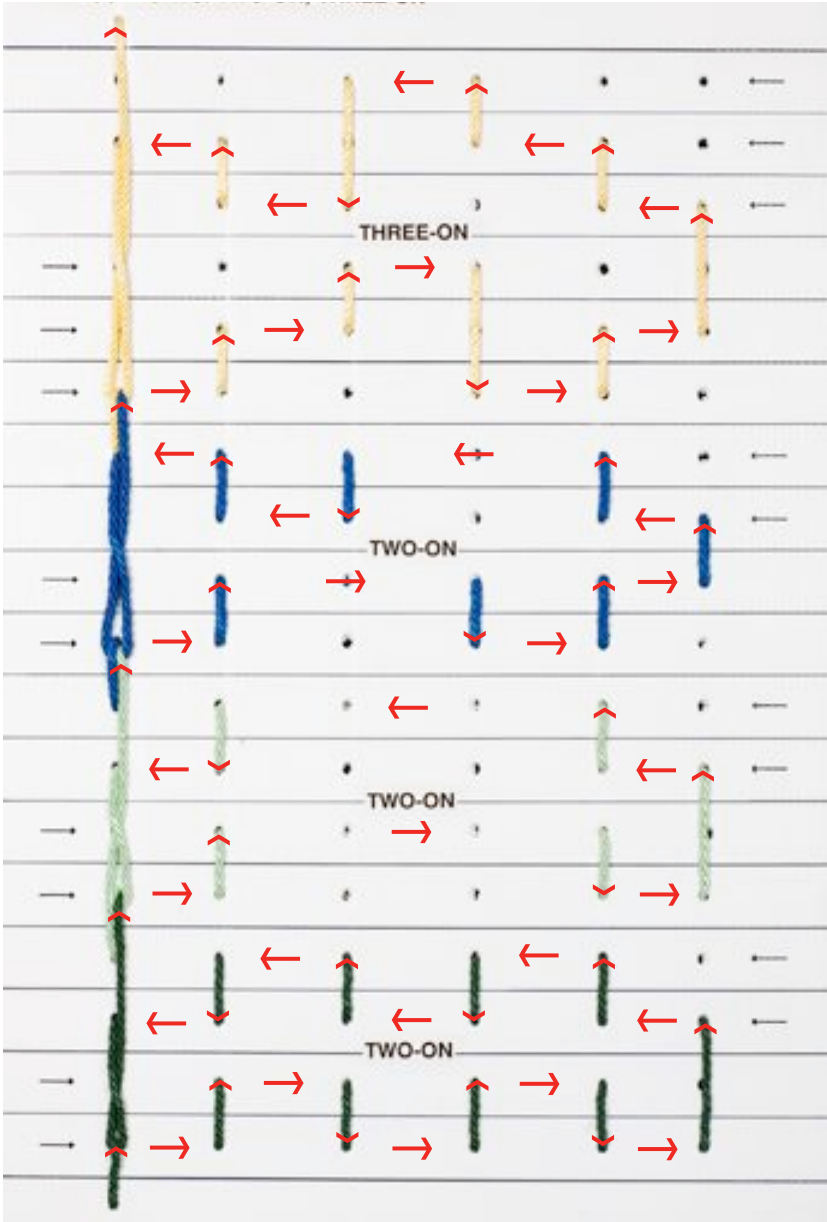


ALONG THE SPINE: DOUBLE RAISED SUPPORTS
SEWN THROUGH THE FOLD: MULTI-SECTIONS
MULTI-STATIONS: SINGLE HOLES
LAP, PACKED, PEARL, AND KNOT STITCHES



A SEWING PRESENTATION BY BETSY PALMER ELDRIDGE

ALONG THE SPINE: ANY SUPPORTS
SEWN THROUGH THE FOLD: MULTI-SECTIONS
MULTI-STATIONS: SINGLE HOLES
LAP, LOOP OR PACKED STITCHES



NOTES

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