



Week 7 - Owling Around

*Howdy, and welcome to WEEK 7 of our Weave & Stitch Along! This week, we will be learning the **Padded Satin Stitch**, a stitch to cover areas, and the **Couching Stitch**, a stitch to “tie things down”.*

When I first asked people on Facebook if there is interest in doing a Weave & Stitch Along, fellow weaver Amber Vigil posted a picture of one of her creations, a little owl, embroidered on a Zoom loom. I just couldn't get that cutie out of my mind, so I asked Amber if we can use that owl in our WSAL. She said yes!

Thank you, Amber, for letting us use your design to learn the Satin and the Couching stitches, and thank you for some really cool tips and tricks on top of that!

For instructions, read on and/or [watch the video for Week 7 on YouTube](#).

Goals

- Learn the Padded Satin Stitch.
- Learn the Couching Stitch.
- Use a template to copy a pattern.

General Materials

- A pin loom (either the original TURTLE Loom™ or a 4” square pin loom with 31 x 31 threads, like the Schacht Zoom loom), readily woven. Consider **weaving with a different color** this week! Amber also suggests that you can optionally weave a pattern like o1, u3 to add structure to the owl's belly.
- A tapestry needle, size 16, or any other needle of your liking (metal or plastic).
- Scissors
- A ruler or measuring tape to measure the thread/yarn.

Materials Needed for This Week

Note: You don't have to use the same yarns/threads that are used in the demonstration. Use your own stash or choices for both the canvas weaving and the embroidery. The yarns used in the video and in this worksheet are used to demonstrate variety and serve as reference.

You will need **4 colors, about 2 yards or less each, of thick yarn (or thinner yarn hold double)**. For this demonstration, I used Lion Brand bonbons in color 610 BRIGHTS.

You will also need a **fabric marker**. The **templates** are below: Cut the square shape for the Zoom/square loom, or the hexagon shape for the original TURTLE/hexagon loom.



This Week's Stitches

Note: For these stitches it would be ok to use an embroidery needle with a sharp tip. Also, it is ok to pierce the fabric. If you don't have a needle with a sharp tip ... whatever you've used so far will do the job just fine!

The **Satin Stitch** is commonly used to cover areas. Flowers, graphic elements, borders, ... there are many applications. We will be working a variation, the **Padded Satin Stitch**, to achieve a raised look. Work vertical stitches first, as padding, then cover those with horizontal stitches for the final looks. Amber suggested that you can also cut a small piece of shaped felt as padding.

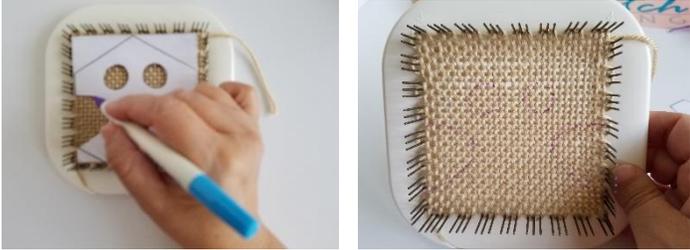


Couching means to “lie down”, so the **Couching Stitch** makes things “lie down” on the fabric. I prefer to say that with this stitch you “tie down” anything you want. It’s a great way to add decorative elements to your embroidery.

A graphic explanation chart for the **Padded Satin Stitch** and the **Couching Stitch** can be found in the online [DMC Embroidery Stitch Guide](#).

How-To Instructions

The instructions are the same for both looms. The sample used here is worked on the Zoom loom.

<p>Instructions</p>	
<p>Cut the template for your loom (square or hexagon). Cut out the wings and eyes areas.</p>	
<p>With a fabric marker, trace the outline of the wings and the eyes.</p> <p><i>Instead of using a template, Amber drew the first wing and eye freeform, then count the threads to copy them to the other side for the second wing and eye.</i></p>	
<p>Measure about 36” of yarn for the first wing, twice that much if you work with a double strand. Make a slip knot on one end, thread the needle at the other end.</p>	

Instructions	
<p>Anchor the yarn near the bottom left (left bottom black nail on the TURTLE loom), bring the yarn to the back of the fabric.</p>	
<p>Bring the needle up on the inside of the traced wing, one thread away from the pins.</p> <p><i>Leaving one vertical thread on the left of the fabric unused will make joining the motifs easier later on.</i></p>	
<p>First, work the “padding” layer with long vertical straight stitches. Work one large stitch after each thread. Come up and go down just inside the marked area.</p>	
<p>Next, cover those stitches with a final layer of horizontal straight stitches.</p> <p>This time, work the stitches on the outside of the marked area.</p> <p>Near the pin side on the left, always leave the last thread uncovered.</p> <p>Work one large stitch in every row. Add another stitch once or twice if needed to achieve a nice cover.</p>	
<p>The first wing is now complete.</p> <p>Guide the yarn to the outside of the loom (you want to keep the back of your work free of extra yarn ends while you continue to work).</p>	

<p>Instructions</p>	
<p>Repeat those steps to work the second wing on the right.</p>	
<p>Measure about 48" of yarn for the eyes, twice that much if you work with a double strand. Make a slip knot on one end, thread the needle at the other end. <i>This is enough to work both eyes at the same time. You can use half the amount and work each eye individually.</i></p>	
<p>Anchor the yarn near the top of the head. Guide the yarn to the back of the loom, then come up on the inside of the left eye marking, near the top.</p>	
<p>Make four "helping" stitches in the form of a cross with an opening in the center. We want two rounds of yarn for the eye outline. Instead of laying out the small circles and then couching them, we make those helping stitches first, ...</p>	

Instructions	
<p>... then go under those stitches to start forming the two circles.</p>	
<p>Now make couching stitches all around, about 1 thread apart from each other, to complete the first eye.</p>	
<p>Work the second eye the same way.</p>	
<p>When the second eye is complete, bring the yarn end to the outside of the loom.</p>	
<p>Measure about 16" of yarn for the pupils, twice that much if you work with a double strand. Make a slip knot on one end, thread the needle at the other end.</p>	

Instructions		
<p>Anchor the yarn near the top of the head, bring it to the back.</p> <p>Come up inside the green ring of the eye on the left.</p>		
<p>Work about three straight stitches within the green ring, first a short one, then a longer one in the middle, then another short one to the right. This will look a little bit like a circle.</p> <p>Add another stitch or two if needed to fill that area.</p>		
<p>Repeat for the second eye, and bring the yarn to the outside of the loom.</p>		
<p>Measure about 24" of yarn for the pupils, twice that much if you work with a double strand.</p> <p>Make a slip knot on one end, thread the needle at the other end.</p>		

<p>Instructions</p> <p>Anchor the yarn near the top of the head. Bring the yarn to the back of the loom.</p> <p>Think of a line going across at the bottom of the eyes. Find the middle of that line, and bring the needle up.</p>	
<p>Count about 4-5 rows down to make the first padding straight stitch.</p> <p>This will be the longest padded stitch for the beak.</p>	
<p>Add two shorter stitches to each side as shown to complete the padding layer.</p>	
<p>Now work horizontal straight stitches that cover the padding stitches.</p> <p>Skip one thread between stitches.</p> <p>Your owl embroidery is now complete!</p>	

Instructions	
Carefully remove the fabric from the loom and weave in all ends.	
Front view. Please take a picture of your front view work and post it on either Facebook or Ravelry.	
Back view.	

Exit Strategy ... Make a Pocket Pal

The story: Your uncle Henry is getting married in three weeks and realizes that he forgot wedding favors which he had promised to get. His fiancée says she will not marry him without wedding favors. You offer to help ... the fiancée's family is HUGE! You sign up for Amazon's "Delicious food every day" delivery service and get right to work - using your newly acquired embroidery skills - to make an owl pocket pal for each of the wedding guests. You miss the rest of the Weave & Stitch Along, but ... they lived happily ever after.

The owls make great "pocket pals" for children of all ages. Make plenty! And if you have some to spare ... I checked with Cindy ... you can send those to the [Stitches of Love Charity Project](#).

How to Make an Owl Pocket Pal



- Make an owl motif according to the instructions above.
- Weave one plain motif as “back”.
- Holding the two motifs together, right sides facing out, sew the sides together, leaving a small opening.
- Stuff lightly, using a stuffing of your choice. Close completely.
- For the square Pocket Pal you may want to sew in the ears with a few stitches, see photo.
- If you don't have to be concerned about safety (you are the judge), you can add some fringes to the ears, head, and tail. Here's how:
 - o Cut 15 strands of purple, about 5" long. Holding 3 strand together each time, attach a fringe to the tip of the ears, and three fringes to the back as a tail (see picture).
 - o Cut one strand each of green/yellow/orange, fold in half, and attach to the center top of the head.



Resources

The **video instructions for this week** are on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/0NksLT4k4tc>

Information about this Weave & Stitch Along can be found on our blog at www.turtleloom.com

Pictures of the Weave & Stitch Along on Pinterest are at <https://www.pinterest.com/TexasGabi/weave-stitch-along/>

DMC Embroidery Stitch Guide <https://www.dmc.com/us/p-uncategorizedembroidery-stitches.html>

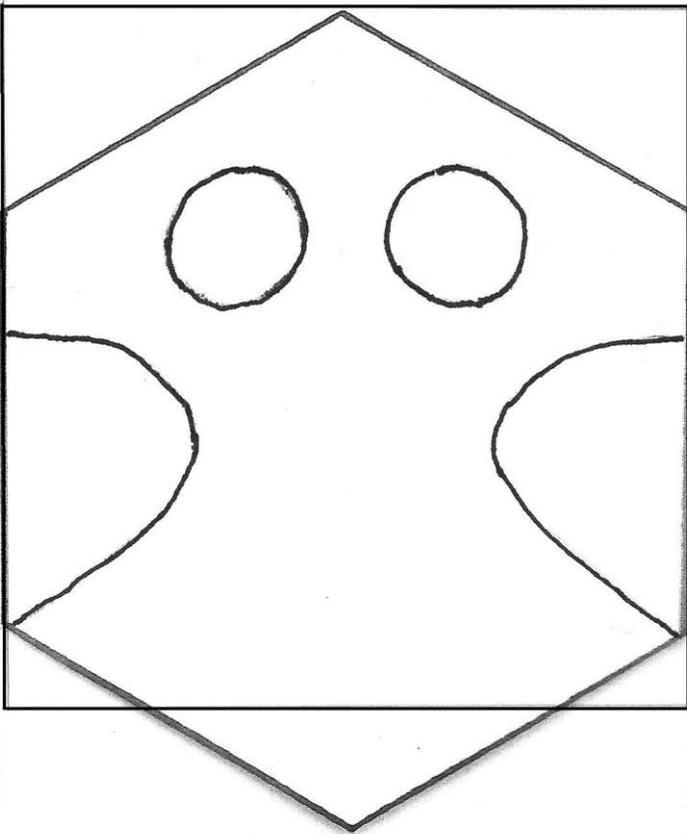
You can find **Amber Vigil** on Facebook ([ambervigil](#)) or on Ravelry ([AmberShrugged](#))

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Owl Template



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