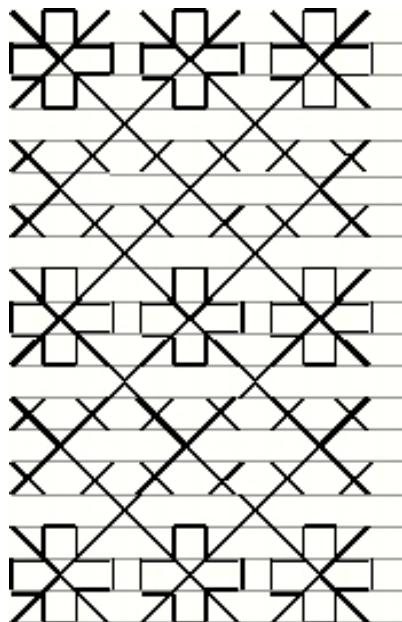


Blackwork Filling Pattern -- Suitable for Working as a Band

Prepared by Sabrina de la Bere

The Pattern:

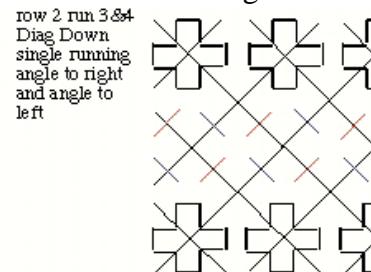
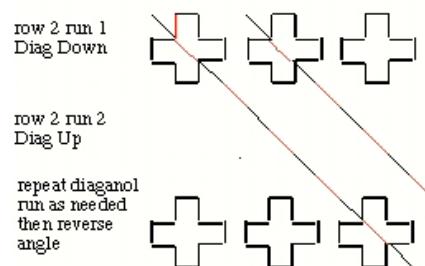
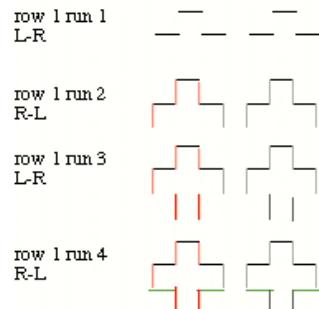


Pattern taken from the Chalice Veil, Emblems of Passion, from the late 16th/early 17th C. The original was done in red silk in stem, braided, double running and buttonhole stitches on linen. Charted from the original by Linn Skinner and used here with permission.

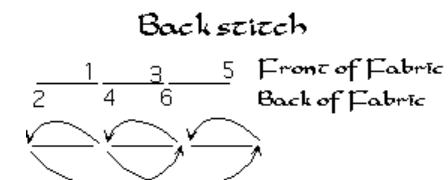
Additional Handout: Blackwork Books: A Partial Listing from the West Kingdom Needleworkers Guild Annotated Booklist, and List of Useful Websites

Diagrams and commentary copyright by Robin Berry. July 2002.

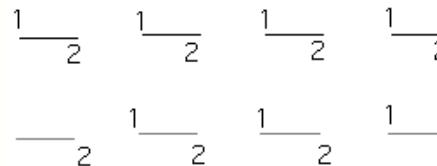
One Method of Working the Pattern in Double Running Stitch:



Stitches:



Double Running Stitch (also known as Holbein Stitch)



First Pass - running stitch
Up at 1, down at 2 - repeat in line of stitching.
Second Pass - come back along prior line of stitching using the same holes, but in reverse.

Hints and Techniques for Doing Blackwork:

Blackwork is about making lines that in turn form patterns. Therefore, the objective is to make the lines as clean as possible.

1. Keep your needle as perpendicular to the fabric as possible. Since your thread follows your needle, you want the thread as straight in the hole as you can get it.
2. Blackwork is not about pulling on the fabric or looping. Keep your tension even -- not too tight and not too loose.
3. Anchoring threads -- use an awl or waste knot to start and leave enough to weave the end in after. When using a single thread you can usually whip the

thread around prior stitches on the back side of the fabric. If the fabric is thin you will want to make your tails look like the line of stitching. For instructions on this technique see Marion Scoular "Why Call It Blackwork".

4. When determining how to work the pattern you need to break the pattern down into "runs". The objective is to do the pattern in the cleanest, neatest manner with the fewest overlap in threads or threads flowing on the back-side where there is no thread on the front side. Such threads tend to show through the fabric and detract from the crispness of the pattern.
5. Plan on doing any side trips on the first or outward run.
6. Determine if the pattern is linear, repeating, or diagonal in nature. The pattern here has both both linear and diagonal elements. This will help determine your runs. Remember there are many ways to work any pattern and no one right way.
7. Sharing holes - the debate is whether to use a blunt needle and not pierce the thread resulting in a slight offset of stitches or to pierce the thread and make the lines perfectly straight. Your choice.