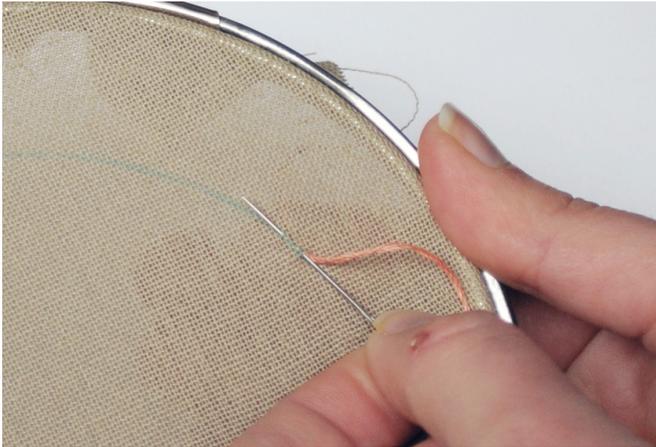


CHAIN STITCHES



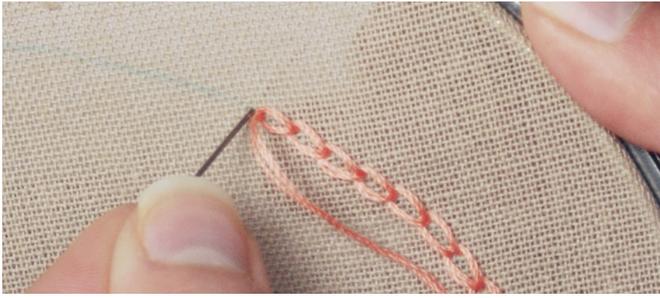
Today we're talking about chain stitches. Like the chains in crochet, these didn't come quickly for me. I still don't use the regular chain stitch too often, as it creates a relatively thick line, and I like to work small. But it is a beautiful thing when you are able to use it. Ready?

Come up from the back. Insert the needle just next to where you came up, then (using the sewing method) come back up a stitch length away.

Make sure that the loose thread gets looped around your needle that is coming up, and pull the thread. You don't want to pull it too tight, unless you want it look and straight and stretched. Traditionally, the stitches look a bit round...like a chain link.

Insert the needle just next to where the last stitch came up, and again, come back up.

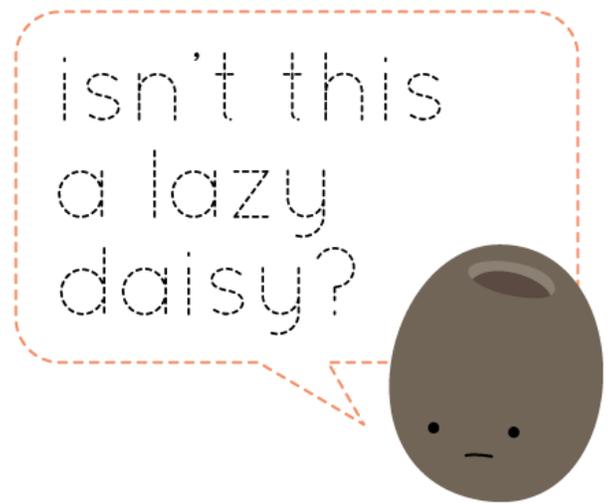
Keep on with this, making sure that the thread loops around the needle/thread. If you miss it and pull, you'll start pulling out all of your stitches. A single tug could undo a whole bunch of your work, so be careful. (This is handy, however, if you have to rip out some work!)



When you are ready to end a line of chain stitches, instead of inserting your needle next to where you came up, insert it on the other side of the loop of floss.

You'll have a nice little chain. One thing to watch for is twisty floss. It can make your chains frustrating, so try to let your needle/floss hang and untwist every so often.

Now, let's talk about detached chain stitches. This is when you create a single link, and it usually makes a little tear drop kind of shape that...



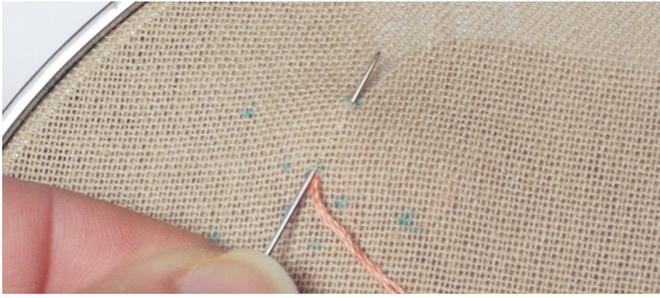
Why, yes, Olive! It is most often called a lazy daisy stitch! I like that name better, but the thing is, there are ways to change the stitch so that it no longer resembles a daisy petal. Detached chain is a less confusing name in those cases. Either way, this is a great stitch.

Today, I'll show the basic daisy petal type of detached chain.

Patterns may mark this stitch differently, and often they show the entire outline shape of the stitch. For my practice, I've marked it with two dots for each stitch. One is at the point, and the other is at the rounded part.

Come up where the point of the petal will be.





Like with the regular chain, insert the needle just next to where you came up. Using the sewing method, you'll come back up where the rounded part of the petal will be.

Be sure to loop the floss around your needle, and gently pull the floss. Remember, you want it to have a nice rounded shape, and you can alter the shape by how loose you keep the loop.

Just as you finished off the regular chain, insert the needle on the other side of the loop to finish off the detached chain.

Do this for each lazy daisy, and you'll have a nice little flower. Or you can make them all go the same direction and use them for raindrops.

Next time around, we'll stitch up some faces, and I'll show you how you can change up the detached chain for a sweet little smile!