

Preservation
&
Revival

OF THE ARTWORKS BY
ALEX HUG

*Remember to always add a little piece of you
while repairing the artworks.*

This will add a piece of you to the story.

This will make you part of its life.

You will become part of the sculpture.

Index

Preservation

Introduction	8
Environmental Control	9
Handling	10
Proper Wrapping for Storage	11
Pest Prevention	12
Active Cleaning and Preservation	13
Record Keeping and Documentation	14

Revival

Sewing Tools	17
Sewing Basics	24
Seams (Our Essentials)	
Basting	30
Side Stitching	38
Narrow Sideway Stitch	46
Backstitch	54

Repairing Sculptures // Getting into the mood

Hug Stations Series

No Name	66
Joy in Pink is Contagious	70
I Need a Hug When I Feel Blue	74
It Is OK To Feel Red	78
The Trap Of Black	82
A Tender Yellow Touch	86
Freude mit Freunden	90
Beige Encounter	94
Fernweh	98
Neuanfang	102
Der Kleine Neuanfang	106
Can't Get Enough Of You	110
Social Anxiety	114

War Hits All	118
---------------------	-----

Armadura de Sol	122
------------------------	-----

Touching Flowers	126
-------------------------	-----

Preservation

Introduction

Proper conservation of textile artworks is essential to preserve their integrity over time.

These works are particularly susceptible to damage due to environmental factors, improper handling and natural deterioration.

This document provides detailed guidelines on the principles and recommended practices for the conservation of textile sculptures.

Environmental Control

Temperature and Humidity:

Maintaining a stable environment is essential.

We recommend a temperature between 8-22°C and a relative humidity of 40-60% to prevent the proliferation of fungus and to avoid sudden changes that may cause shrinkage or expansion of the fibers.

Avoid Direct Sunlight:

Exposing works to direct sunlight can fade the colors and weaken the fibers.

Limit exposure to light and use curtains or UV filters.

Handling

Hand Cleaning:

Handle work with clean, dry hands.

Cotton or nitrile gloves may be used if necessary.

Suitable Support:

Use media and storage materials that are acid free and do not contain substances that can migrate/damage the textile.

Proper Wrapping for Storage

Proper Wrapping:

Store works in acid-free cloth or paper wrappings to prevent dust accumulation and ensure air circulation.

Horizontal Storage:

Preferably, store pieces horizontally rather than vertically to minimize stress on fibers.

Adequate Space:

Provide sufficient space between works to prevent dust transfer and accidental damage during access.

Pest Prevention

Regular Inspections:

Conduct regular inspections for signs of insect or rodent infestation.

Isolation:

Store works in areas isolated from potential pests and use safe methods to deter insect proliferation to deter insect proliferation.

Active Cleaning and Preservation

Avoid Excessive Cleaning:

Limit cleaning to dusting with soft brushes and avoid using abrasive chemicals.

Professional Repair:

Any extensive repair work or cleaning should be performed by professional conservators with textile experience.

Record Keeping and Documentation:

Maintain detailed records of the work, including its history, previous treatments, and any significant changes.

Document high resolution photographs before and after any intervention.

Sewing Tools

Sewing Tools Kit



The sewing tools to be used are: Scissors, thick threads (30) and standard threads (120), thimbles, needles of different sizes, pins & fabric glue.

Threads // Standard



*Threads like Gütermann Mara 120 N° 890
or Murofil Conos 200 black can be used..*

Threads // Twine



Twine threads like Gütermann Mara 30 N° 893 and 106 or Kaplan N° 50, Rubí N° 12 can be used.

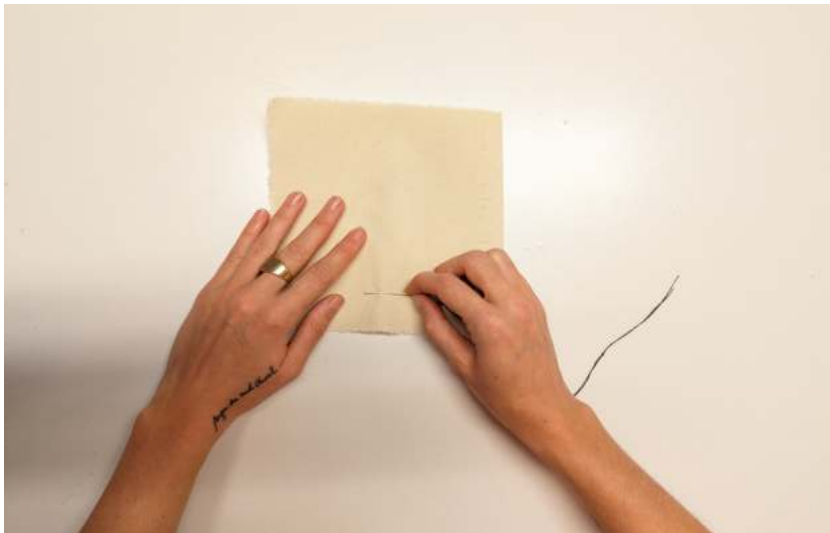
Sewing Basics

Threading the needle



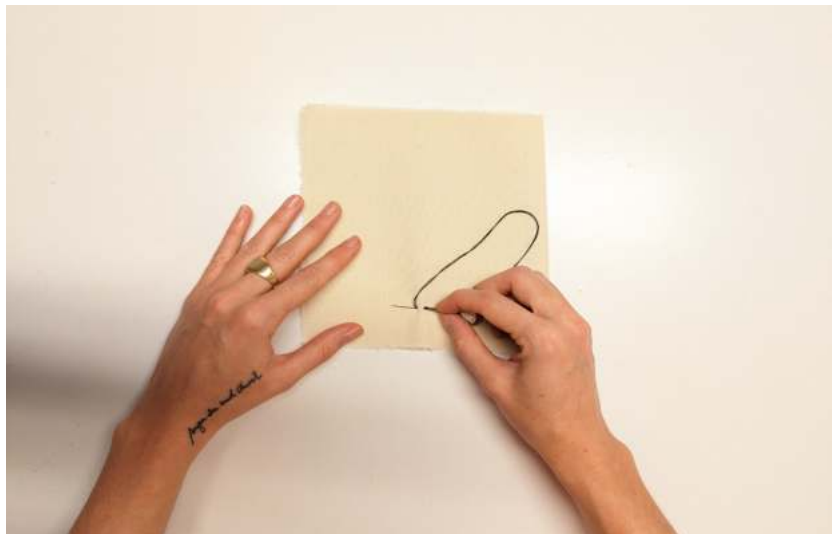
First, the thread needs to be threaded by passing it through the needle. Pull the thread so that the extremes are at the same height.

Starting to sew



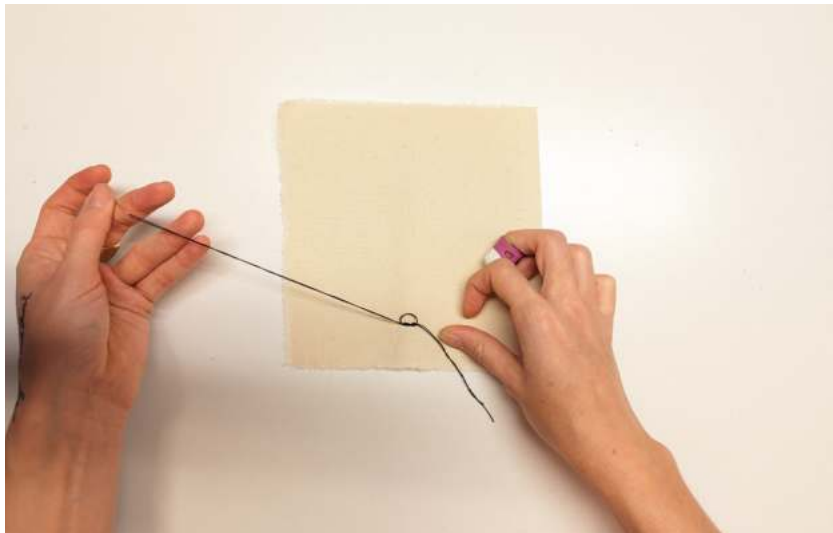
Then, a knot will be made in the thread before passing it through the fabric, where the knot serves as a stopper.

Knotting



Then, subsequently, proceed to execute the backstitch.

Knotting



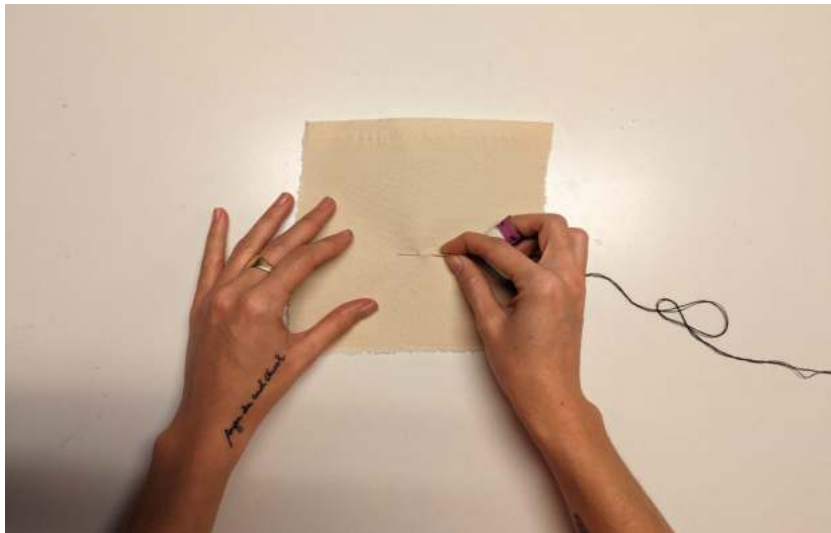
The final of the backstitch.

Seams

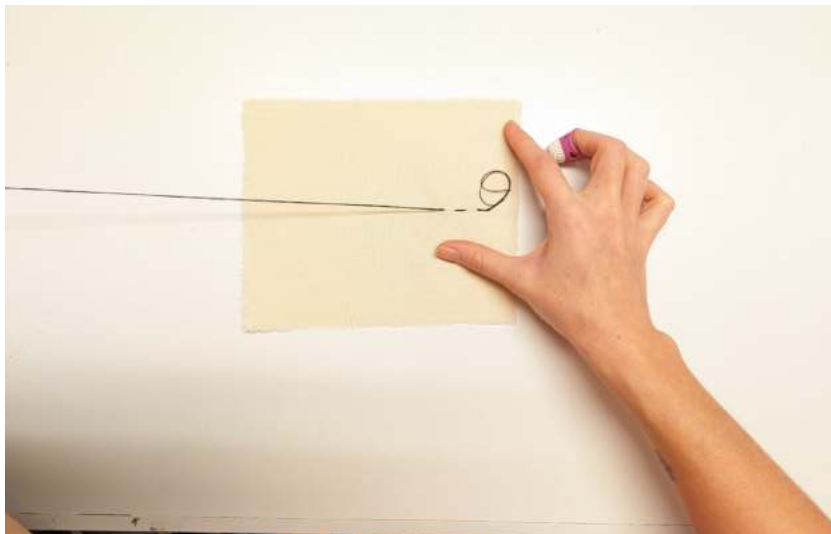
Our Essentials

Basting

Basting

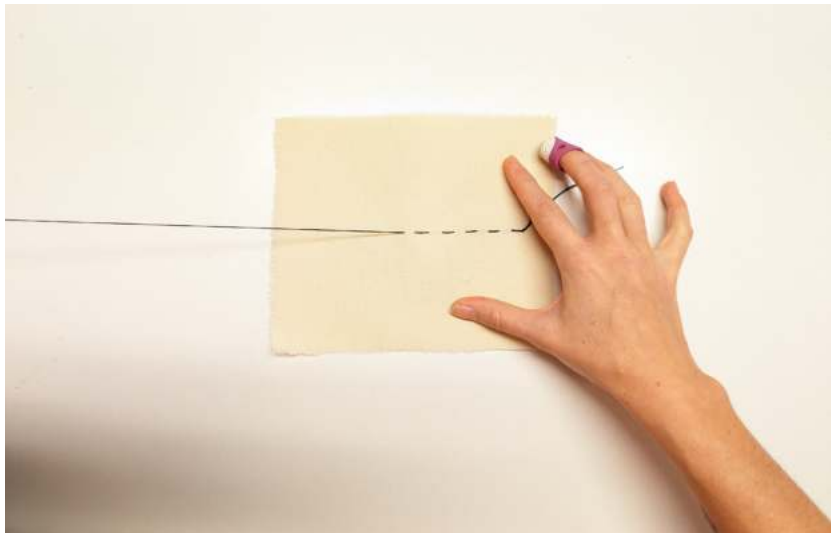


Go through the threading process to start our basting stitch. Pass the needle through the fabric and pull it up until the knot stops you. Then, pass the needle through the layers to make a single stitch.

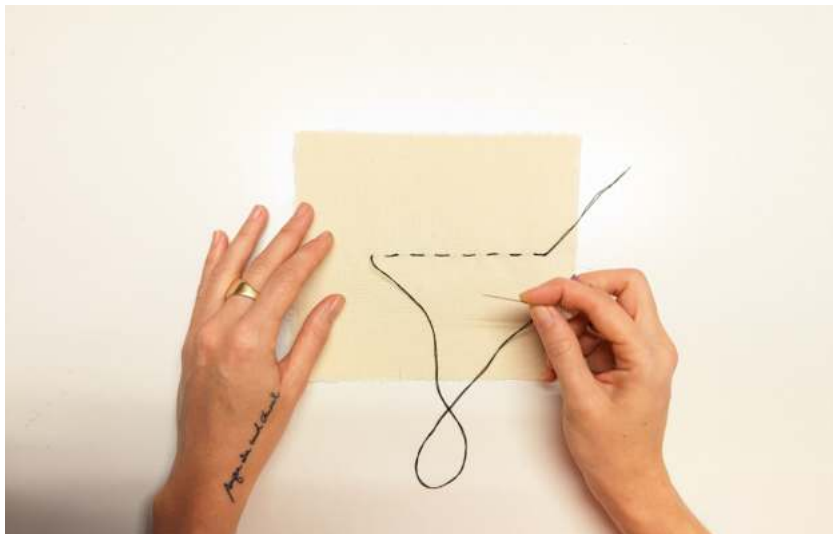


Basting stitches are used to temporarily hold fabrics together. Continue sewing straight with the running stitch technique. Pull the needle firmly, but not too tightly because the fabric may pucker.

Basting



Repeat the stitches until you reach the end of the fabric or pattern. Keeping in mind that the stitches should be at least one finger wide.

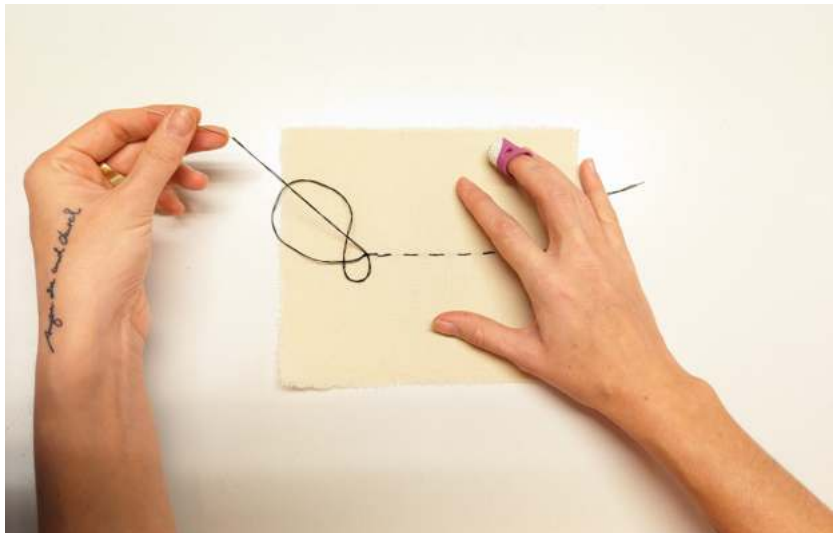


If you have reached the end of the fabric or pattern, it's time to tie a few safety knots to finish the stitch.

Basting

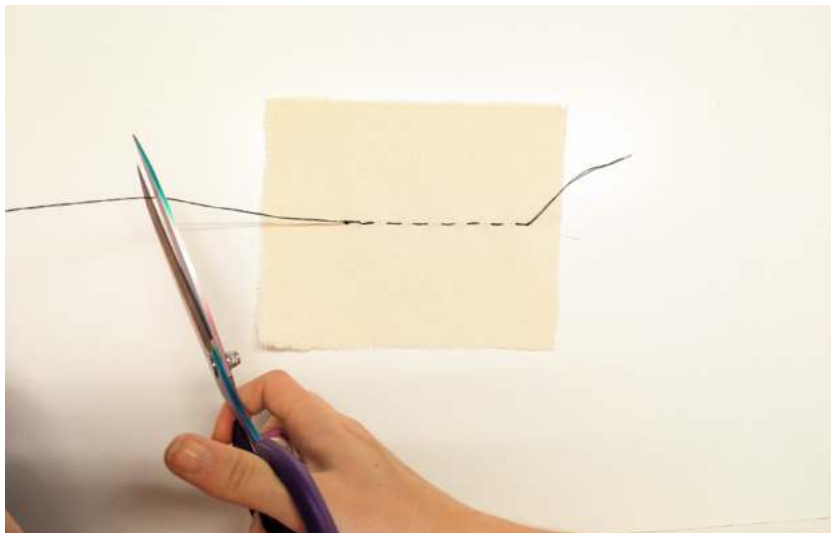


Create a loop with the thread to create the final knot.



Create the secure ending with the final knot.

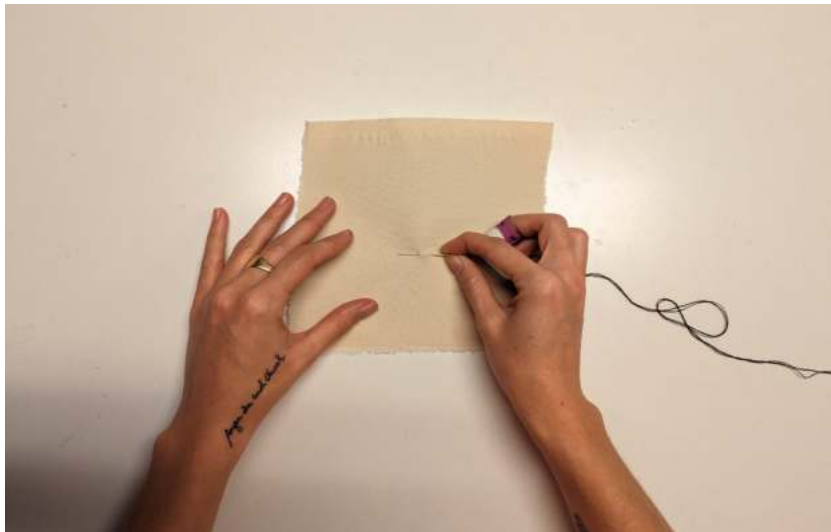
Basting



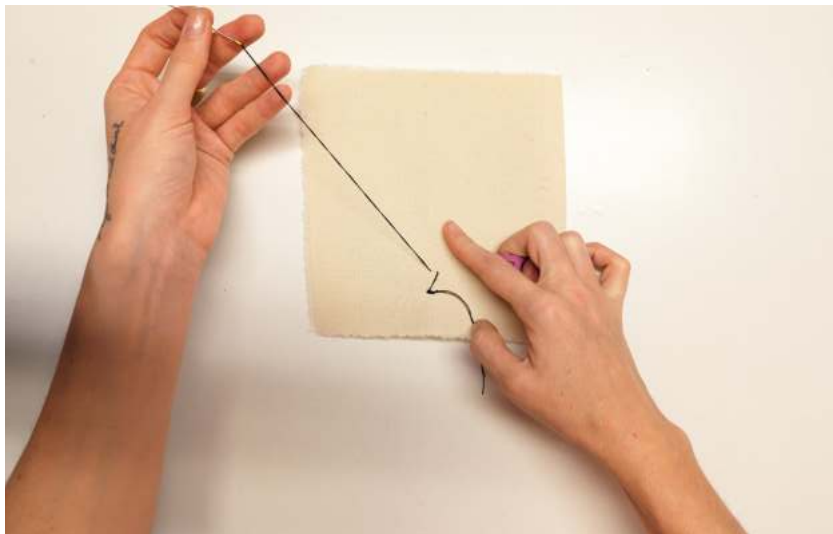
Cut the thread close to the needle.

Side Stitching

Side Stitching



Go through the threading process to start our Side Stitching stitch. Pass the needle through the fabric and pull it up until the knot stops you. Then, pass the needle through the layers to make a single stitch.

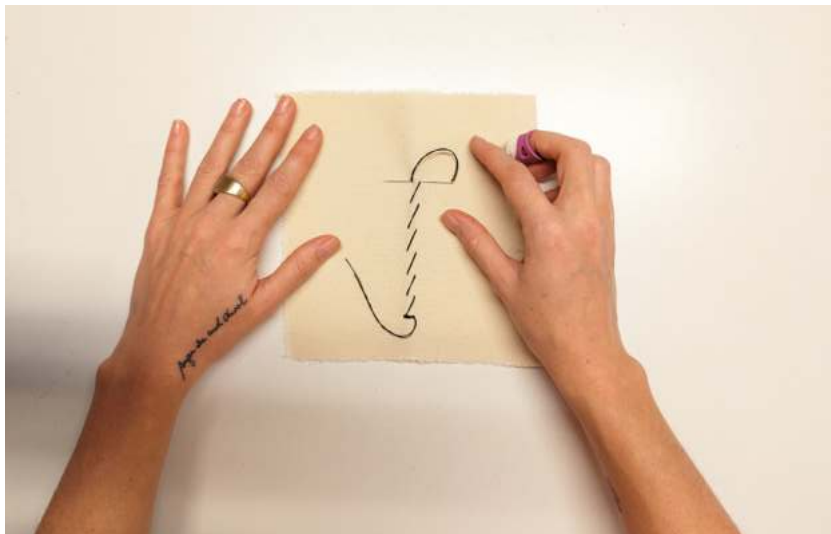


Making a similar process to the previous stitch, but changing the direction of it. This time it will be done diagonally.

Side Stitching



Continue with the direction maintaining an equal distance between the yarn entry and exit.



At the end of the pattern, the safety knots will be tied.

Side Stitching

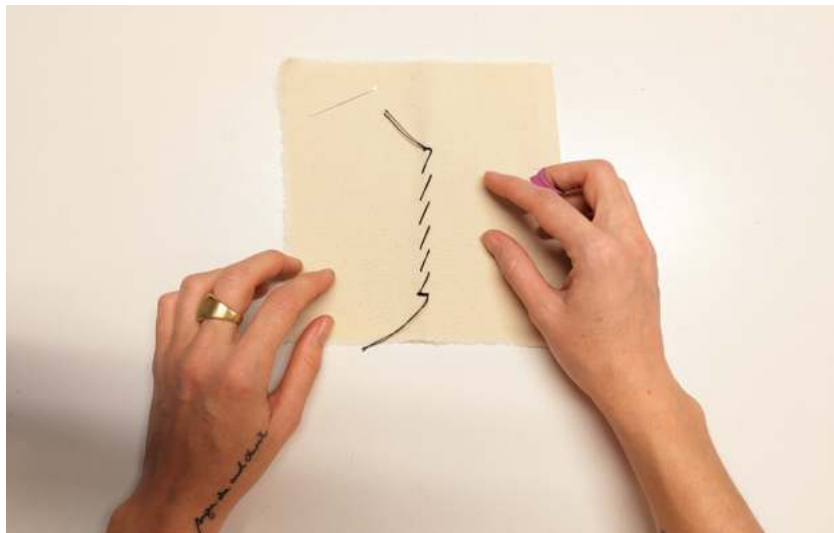


It's advisable to tie about three final knots.



Making a final loop by passing the needle and the thread into it to finish the stitch, making a knot.

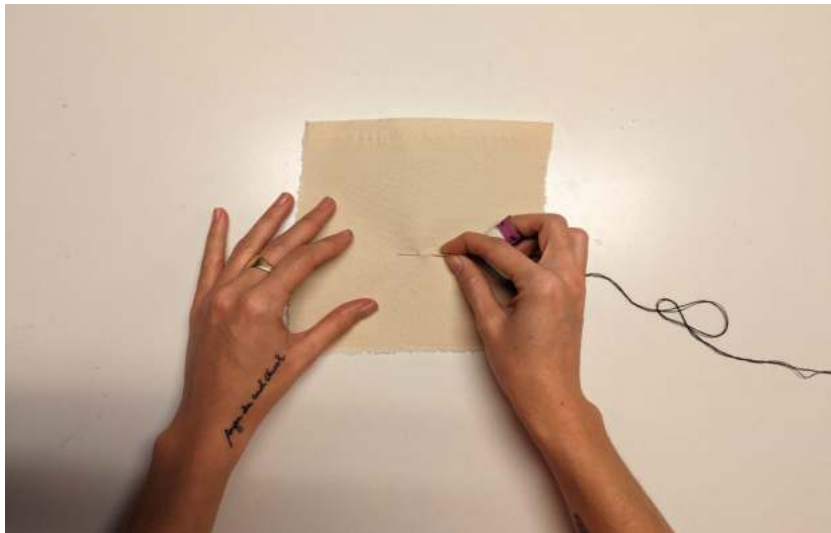
Side Stitching



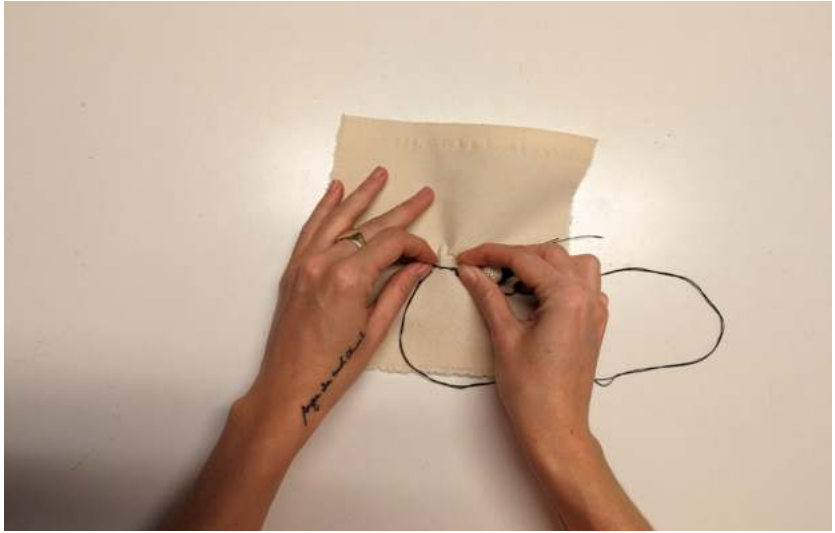
Cut the thread close to the needle.

Narrow sideway stitch

Narrow Sideway Stitch

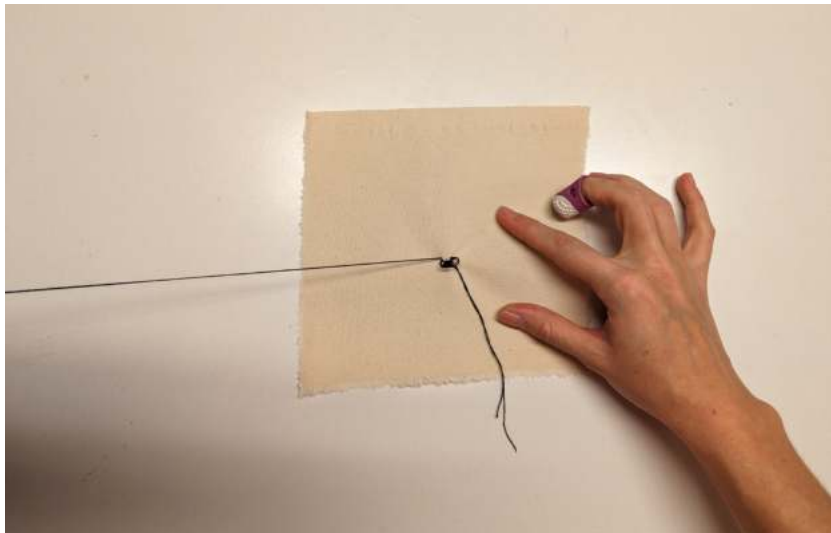


Go through the threading process to start our Narrow Sideways Stitch. Pass the needle through the fabric and pull it up until the knot stops you.

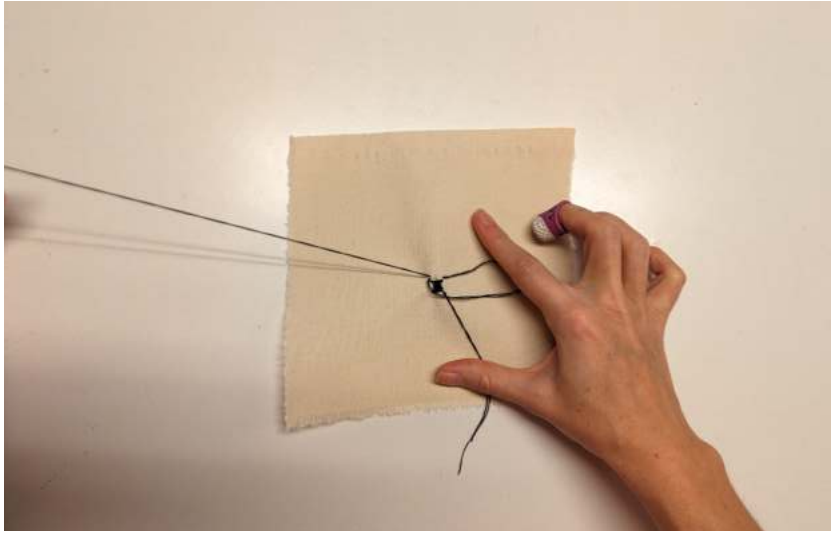


This stitch is identical to the previous one, but with the difference that the distance between the exit and entrance of the thread on the fabric must be extremely narrow.

Narrow Sideway Stitch

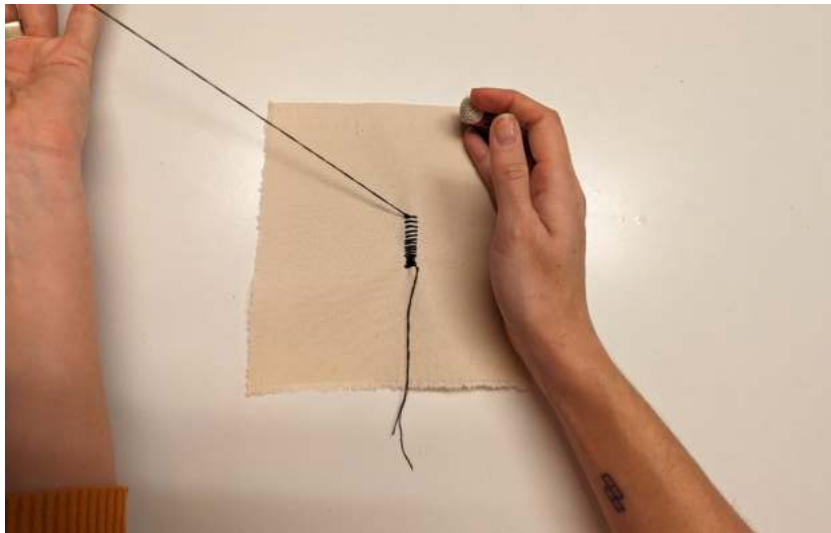


The diagonal stitches will be made by this way.

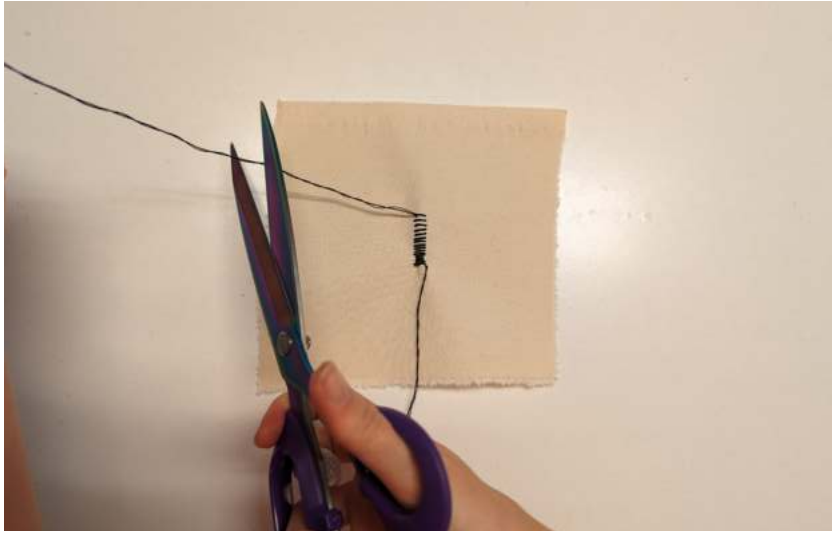


Make sure that the distance is the same for all stitches.

Narrow Sideway Stitch

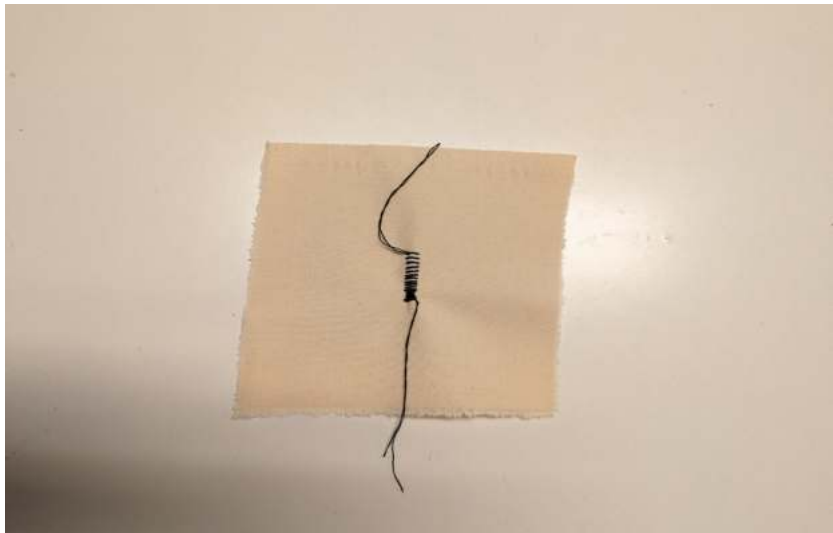


The distance between exit and entry may vary depending on the part being restored.



Make the safety knots and cut the thread close to the needle.

Narrow Sideway Stitch



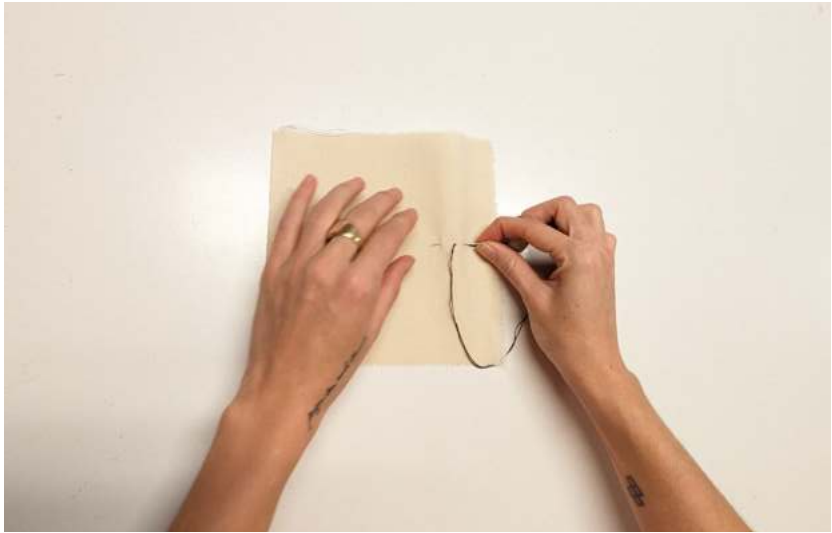
As you can see, depending on the space between the stitches, the seam will be narrower or wider.

Back Stitch

Back Stitch

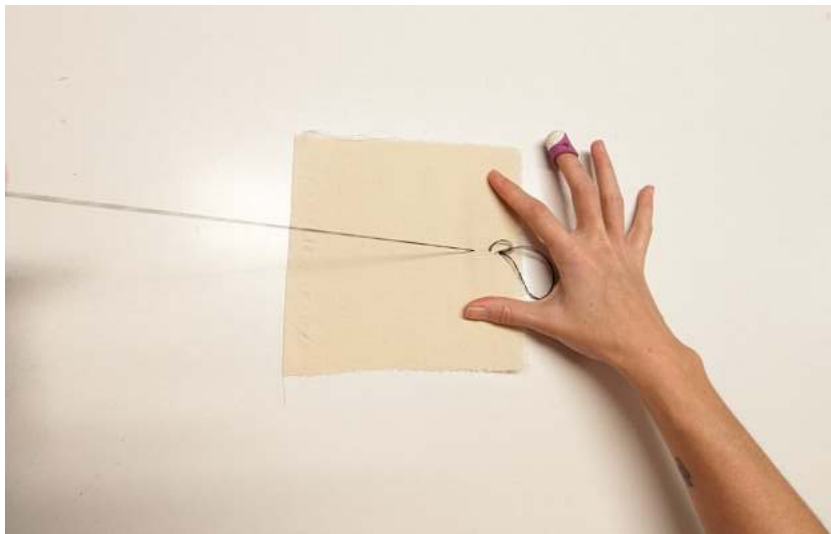


Go through the threading process to start our BackStitch. Pass the needle through the fabric and pull it up until the knot stops you. Then, pass the needle through the layers to make a single stitch.



The backstitch is the strongest stitch of all and is used to join pieces firmly. Pull the needle and thread through the top of the fabric. Insert the needle about 1.5 to 3mm behind the thread exit point.

Back Stitch



And then pull the thread

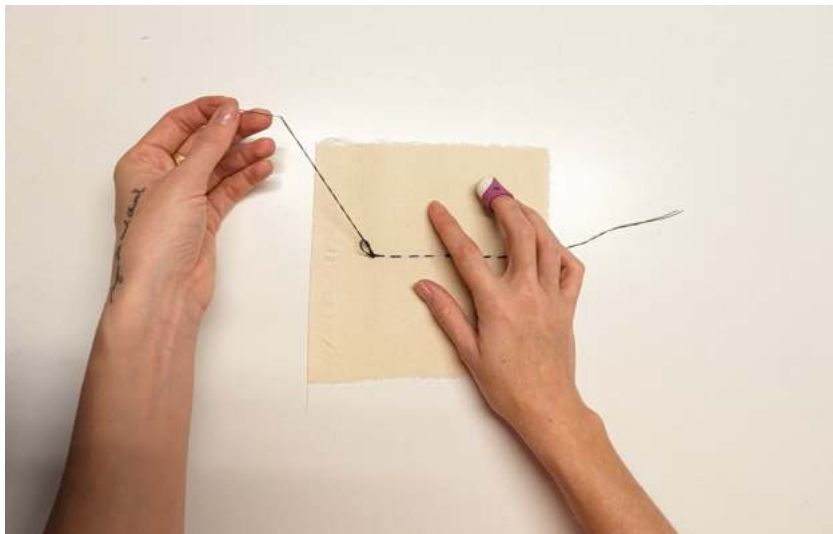


Bring the needle forward and outward at the same distance in front of the stitch and continue bringing the needle in and out at a distance of half a stitch behind and in front of the previous stitch. The bottom stitches should be longer than the top stitches.

Back Stitch

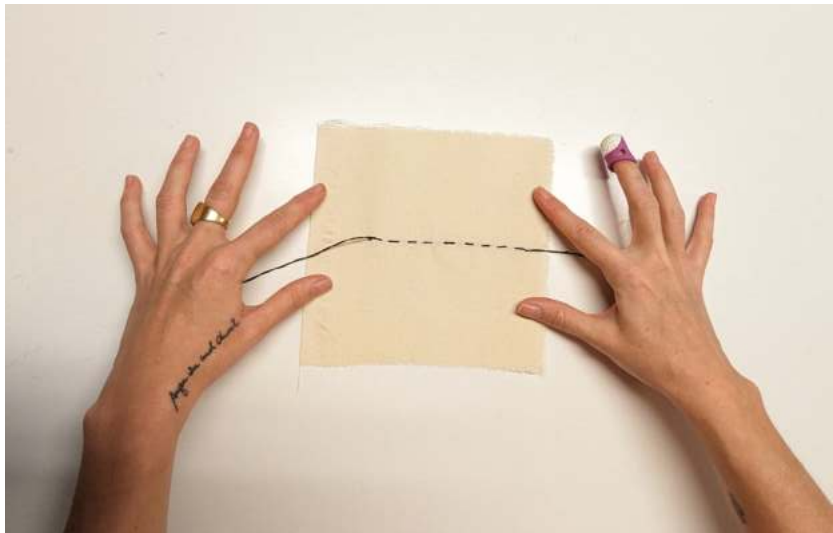


To finish, perform the safety process by making a loop through which the needle and thread will pass.



Tie a last knot in the loop.

Back Stitch



Cut the thread close to the needle and tie a knot to secure the stitch.

Repairing Sculptures // Getting into the mood

Each artwork has soul, character, and thoughts. The most important thing when repairing them is to connect with them on an energetic level so as not to interfere with their personality. In the following pages, you will find clear instructions for channeling these moods and interacting with them.

HUG STATIONS

No Name
Hug Station #1



Hug Station #1

*Find a good friend,
take him by the hand and,
the moment you feel that special connection,
feeling his body close to yours,
immerse yourself in the task of restoring
and sewing the work,
strengthening each stitch
with the valuable company he gives you.
Consolidate emotional ties
and share a meaningful moment
with your friend,
turning the experience
into something more than a simple labor.*

Joy in Pink is Contagious

Hug Station #2





Hug Station #2

*Do you know how it feels
when you live in your dreams?*

*Feel the peace,
embrace the warmth,
wishing never to wake up
cause you have everything you wish for
everything you need, everything surrounds you.*

Grasp the artwork as if it were your biggest dream, your biggest urge, the biggest goal in your life.

Start repairing the artwork infusing it with all your hopes and wishes, so even if they are not fulfilled, they live eternally within it.

I Need a Hug When I Feel Blue

Hug Station #3





Hug Station #3

*Lock yourself at home,
in a room,
and embrace the solitude.*

*Think of something sad,
very sad,
cry, scream and tremble,
you are almost there.*

*When the feeling is unbearable
and only touch can soothe away the sadness,
the momentum to seize the feeling has come,
the momentum to translate it into stitches,
unburdening yourself little by little thread by thread.*

It's OK To Feel RED,
Hug Station #4



79



80

Hug Station #4

*Do you remember all those times
when you could have done something
and didn't do it?*

*When you wanted to act and you weren't allowed?
When your wings were cut, when your will was diminished.
Frustration and anger hits in.*

*Search within yourself for everything that
ignites you,
connects you
with rage.*

*And let all the smoke you've been holding in your ears
come out.*

And it will be then, when you can start sewing.

PS: if you grunt, the stitch will be more perfect.

The Trap Of Black

Hug Station #5





Hug Station #5

Take a piece of paper and write down all your fears in a list.

Fear of heights.

Fear of riding a horse.

Fear of the dark.

Fear of the ocean.

Fear of spiders.

Fear of losing yourself.

Fear of finding yourself.

And just then, when you feel fear paralyzing you, coming all upon you, tear up the list and start sewing.

A Tender Yellow Touch

Hug Station #6





Hug Station #6

*Look directly at the artwork
and picture yourself in it.*

Now feel everything the canvas feels.

How would you like to be treated?

Gentle.

Very soft.

With delicacy, pamper it, take care of it.

And then start sewing.

Freude mit Freunden

Hug Station #7





Hug Station #7

Tuck in with your loved ones.

All together locked in a room.

*Find a happy memory you have shared together
and embrace the nostalgia of friendship and love.*

And then, start sewing.

Beige Encounter

Hug Station #8





Hug Station #8

Take the artwork with you to your favorite place.

A bench in your favorite park.

Your mother's room.

The field full of sunflowers where you usually lounge.

Your family's farmhouse.

The theater where you saw your favorite show.

Make the artwork part of your safe place.

Create together an aura of comfort and security.

*When you feel as comfortable as if you were on a cloud...
start sewing.*

Fernweh

Hug Station #9





100

Hug Station #9

*They say home is where the heart is.
Where has your heart belonged?
Think about those places,
your past,
your love,
your happiness,
and treat the piece as if it's one of them.*

Neuanfang

Hug Station #10



103



104

Hug Station #10

Take the piece and get away from home.

*Runnin away,
so far away.*

*Take the risk to start from scratch
and leave everything behind.*

*Take the risk until you feel the vertigo of falling.
Then you can start sewing.*

Der Kleine Neuanfang

Hug Station #11



107



108

Hug Station #11

*Go with the artwork to a place you don't usually go,
out of your comfort zone
(but still close to it).
Then you can start sewing.*

Can't Get Enough of You

Hug Station #12





Hug Station #12

Look through the fabric.

What do you want the most?

Do you feel the passion?

The urge,

the desire...

everything that is out of control wells up inside you.

The flame,

The love.

Take the piece...

Treat it like it's the only thing you want in life.

It's your turn to feel the passion of love.

Start sewing.

Social Anxiety

Hug Station #13





Hug Station #13

*Go to the most crowded mall,
go to the most crowded street,
and when you feel you can't take it anymore,
go back home and lock yourself up
with that social anxiety
who has invaded your body
Let this feeling to drain your breath
the only way to escape it's to sew.
So, you should start sewing now.*

War Hits All

2023



119

War Hits All

*It's in human nature to avoid war,
and not only armed conflict...*

*In order to fix this artwork you must immerse yourself in such
situations of struggle*

in order to face the discomfort of the subject:

*Pick a conflict,
near... or far away.*

*But that one that makes you uncomfortable, that overwhelms
you, that maybe you are unaware of its depth and in which
the abyss of the problem makes you feel vulnerable to the
point of wanting to escape from it.*

*Don't you dare to face it? Observe what you feel.
Understand your mood.*

Armadura de Sol

2023



Armadura de Sol

Welcome.

This is a sanctuary.

Enter into it

and become a yellow person.

Let yourself be eradicated by the positivity of the piece.

Smile.

Show your teeth well.

Bigger.

BIGGER!

Well done...

*Now feel how happiness enters from one side of your body
and projects from the other and start sewing.*

Touching Flowers

RE-CONNECT, 2023



Touching Flowers

We are like flowers:

We come to the world, we live in, and we die for.

Life is about losing parts of ourselves as we grow.

Think about your changes, about what you left and will never come back.

Take all that waste that was lost, withered away.

And with that feeling, start sewing.

If you have any more questions, I suggest reaching out to a friendly conservation expert like Julia Betancourt (IG @ juliabetancourtconservationist). She'll surely be able to assist you with whatever you need!

