

Simple and Plaited Braids

Fall Captaincy
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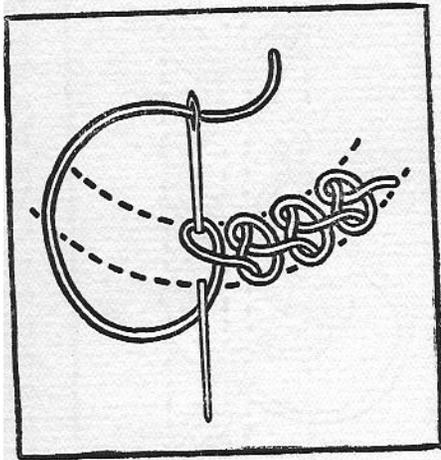


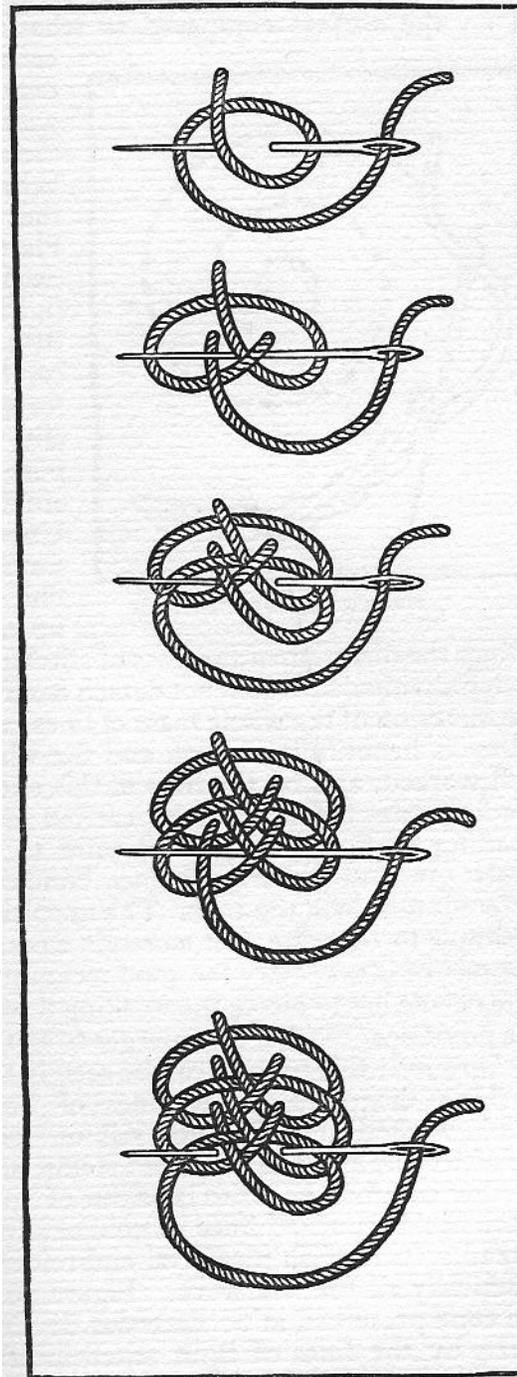
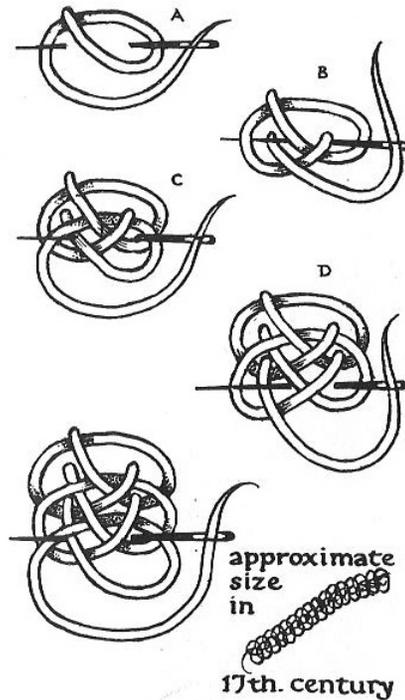
FIG. 69. BRAID STITCH.

Simple Braids and Plaited Braids are used in Elizabethan embroidery primarily as coils and stems. They are usually done in metal thread a thin sheaf of metal around a silk core.

According to the Royal School of Needlework, the traditional thread to use for Plaited Braid is Benton and Johnsons #371 (gold). These stitches will work with smaller diameter metallic threads. To make these stitches work well, it helps to have the metallic content in the thread to give it stiffness.

Above (Fig. 69) is a Simple Braid as diagramed on page 49 in *Samplers and Stitches: 2nd Edition Revised*, by Mrs. Archibald Christie, Batsford: London, 1929. Simple braid is in effect a single braid which is repeated over and over again. Plaited Braid in contrast is layered upon itself.

In making any of these braid stitches the braid needs to work along parallel lines. When learning this stitch, drawing out these lines may



help. Also it may help to hold the stitch "in place" with your thumb when drawing the needle and thread through the stitch.

Here are 2 examples of diagrams for Plaited Braid. The left one is from Barbara Snook's *Embroidery Stitches*, published by Batsford: London, 1963, page 31. Immediately left is the diagram from Mrs. Christie, page 51, that has been considered the source on how to do this stitch for many years. On the next page is a recent alternate interpretation by Leon Conrad.

Below is a diagram, also from Mrs. Christie, page 31, of Ladder or Plaited Trellis Stitch. Due to the space between the sides, the width can be varied to produce shapes in addition to straight or curved lines. This stitch may be later than 1600.

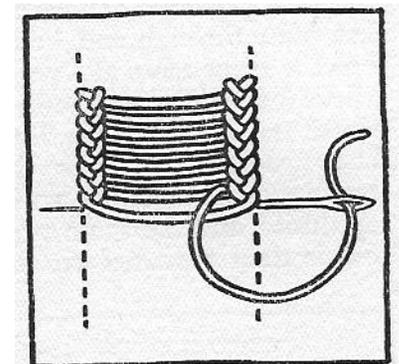


FIG. 37. LADDER STITCH.