FREE EMBROIDERY TUTORIAL + PATTERN

Satin Stitch Embroidery

How to satin stitch, fixes for gaps and puckers, and a lemon slices pattern for a 5 in hoop

SKILL LEVEL	HOOP	DESIGN
Beginner	**5 in**	**3 lemon slices**
FLOSS	**STITCHES**	**TIME**
DMC 444 + 445	**Satin, split stitch**	**About 4 hours**

Materials

- DMC stranded cotton: 444 dark lemon, 445 light lemon (1 skein each)
- 8 × 8 in white cotton, a 5 in hoop, a size 7 embroidery needle, a water-soluble pen

Key

up needle comes up on the near side

down needle goes down on the far side

3 strands separate 3 of the 6

split stitch outline worked through the last stitch

Keep every satin stitch under 0.45 in (11 mm). In this pattern the longest segment stitch is 9.6 mm.

Satin stitch

1	Outline the shape with small split stitches just inside the line.
2	Come up just outside the outline on one side, go down just outside it on the other.
3	Come up right next to the start of the last stitch and repeat, keeping the stitches parallel.
4	Fill from the middle to one end, then from the middle to the other end.

The lemon slices

Segments	DMC 445: 10 segments per slice, stitches across each segment, middle out.	**(510 sts)**
Rind	DMC 444: short stitches from the inner rind line to the outer one, all the way round.	**(508 sts)**
Finish	Leave the pith and the centre bare. Rinse out the pen, press face down on a towel, frame.	

How to Do Satin Stitch

3 strands · stitches no longer than 11 mm · always come up on the same side

1 · Outline



Split stitch round the shape, just inside the line. It gives the edge a crisp, raised lip.

2 · First stitch



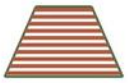
Come up just outside the outline on one side, go down just outside it on the other side.

3 · Lay them side by side



Come up right next to where the last stitch started. Keep every stitch parallel.

4 · Fill the shape



Work from the middle out to one end, then back to the middle and out the other way.

5 · Keep it flat



Let the thread untwist and lie flat. Don't pull hard: the fabric should not pucker.

cozymakery.com

Satin Stitch: Problems and Fixes

The five things that make satin stitch look messy, and what to do

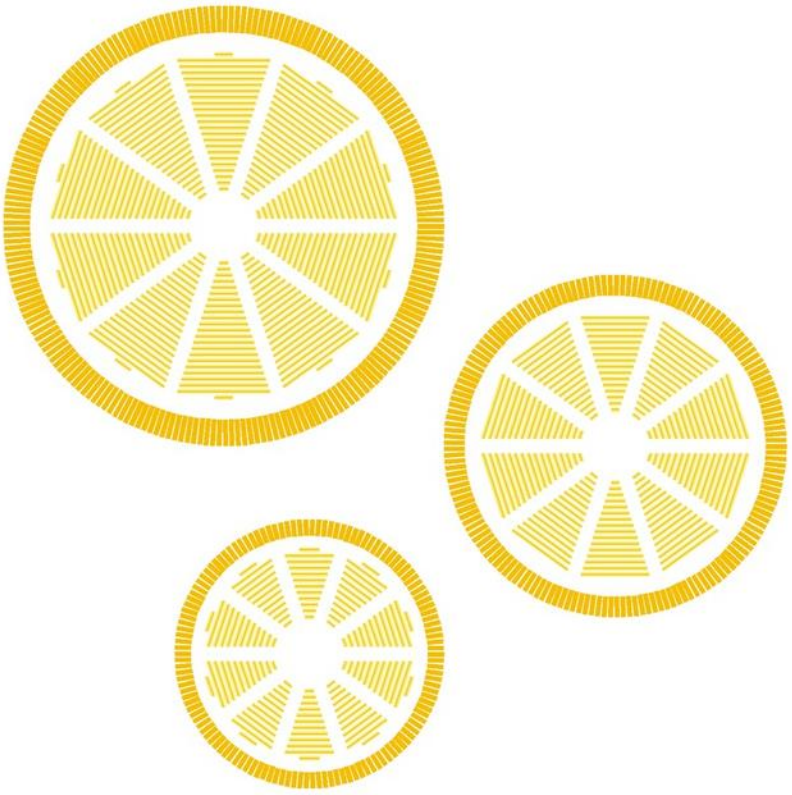
Problem	Fix
Gaps between stitches	Come up right against the last stitch; use more strands
Wobbly edge	Outline in split stitch first and go just outside it
Long loose stitches	Keep stitches under 0.45 in (11 mm); split wide shapes into sections
Puckered fabric	Use a hoop, keep it drum-tight, don't pull the thread hard
Twisted, dull thread	Let the needle hang to untwist every few stitches

Padded satin: fill the shape with a layer of running or seed stitches first, then satin over them for a raised look.

cozymakery.com

Lemon Slices · Satin Stitch Plan

Every stitch drawn from the pattern geometry, enlarged · 1018 satin stitches · 3 strands



DMC 444 dark lemon · rind **DMC 445 light lemon · segments**

White = bare fabric (the pith). Stitch every segment across its width, starting in the middle of the segment.

Lemon Slices · Floss

3 strands · each satin stitch uses its length on the front and about the same again on the back

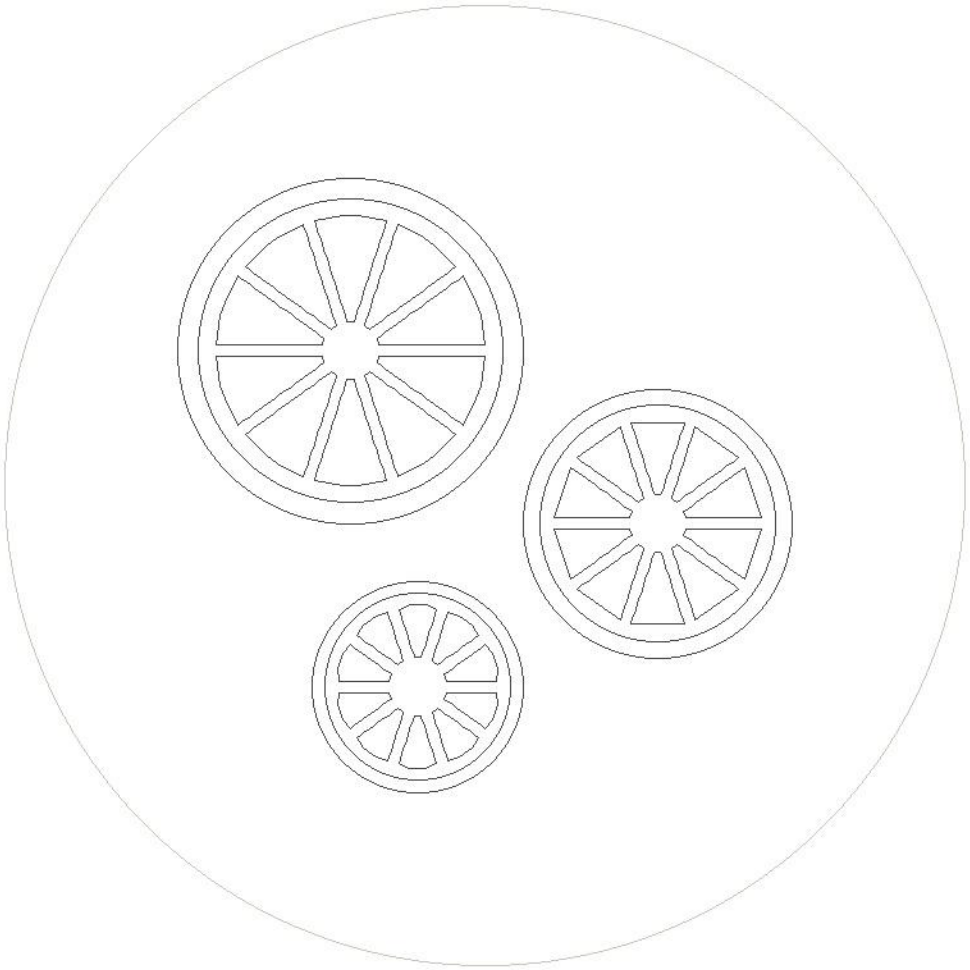
DMC	Colour	Part	Stitches	Longest stitch	Thread (3 strands)
DMC 444	dark lemon	rind	508	2.7 mm	3.9 yd
DMC 445	light lemon	segments	510	9.6 mm	6.9 yd

One skein of each colour is plenty. Fabric: white cotton, 8 × 8 in, in a 5 in hoop. Time: about 4 hours.

cozymakery.com

Lemon Slices · print at 100% (actual size)

Trace the rind circles and the 10 segments of each slice onto an 8 × 8 in piece of white cotton. Stitch in a 5 in hoop.



grey circle = inside of a 5 in hoop (don't trace it) · the space between the rind and the segments stays bare

1 in check bar: measure it after printing