

on the underfilling, which is indeed one half the work. The first step of this preparatory work should always be done in the direction of the length of the bar, or line, or form, whatever it may be. The stitches should be long and the final covering stitches should be at right angles to this work. How many times a form shall be covered depends entirely upon how high one wishes to raise it, but it is necessary to cover it at least once in the direction of the length (see Fig. 28) and then to bind these stitches somewhat so they will be firm and not looping. See Fig. 29. One might contend that the overwork would bind them sufficiently, but this is not the case. The overwork will never be firm if the underwork is not made hard and firm first before a single overstitch is laid. The first row of binding-in stitches should be placed at a decided slant over the long straight stitches of the first layer of the filling. See Fig. 29. This will be sufficient for slight raising, but, for higher, another row of binding stitches should be laid at an opposite angle from the first. See Fig. 30. When the letter or device is made up of curves, as in Fig. 30, the first row of understitches must be something of the nature of overlap work in order that the line shall keep the center of the form, instead of long straight stitches as on forms made up of straight lines.

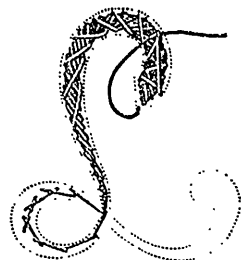


FIG. 30.

This is all the underfilling one should place for ordinary work, and if an equal tension has been maintained and the work as carefully done as though it were to show, instead of being only preparatory, the raised letter or ornament will be hard and indeed very presentable in itself. For further raising place more long stitches in the same direction as the first row, and bind these again. See Fig. 31. The wider the form the more raising one may venture upon within a certain limit, but a difficulty arises at once in regard to keeping within the outline of any form.

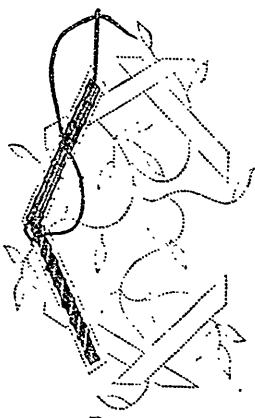


FIG. 31.

It will be noticed in Figs. 28, 29, 30 and 31, that the underfilling in no case extends to the outline on either side. The more layers of filling stitches one intends to have the farther from the outline must the first of these be kept. The outline itself is the guide to the *covering layer*. The reason for this care is obvious. If the underfilling approaches too near to covering the entire width of the form the result will be an increase of the original width. Often the proportions are quite spoiled in this way and a very awkward letter or device is the result. It is difficult to keep the outline perfectly in raised white work, but perfect outlines and clear cut edges are the chief beauties of this kind of embroidery. Very often it is possible to place the over-

stitches so that all on a bar will come between the same two threads of the woof or warp. This is a great help and can often be made use of if such designs as initials are stamped perfectly straight on the ground material.

The importance of the underfilling cannot be too strongly insisted upon.

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