

## GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

### Transferring the Design

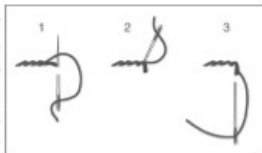
- ♥ Always cut the fabric larger than your finished block size. Embroidery stitches will sometimes shrink measurements if your stitch is too tight.
- ♥ Sometimes you can see the pattern through the muslin or similar light fabrics. If you cannot see through your fabric, then place your design on a light box and tape securely. Place the background fabric over the design and tape securely. If you do not have a light box, a sunny window or a light under a glass table will work as well.
- ♥ Lightly trace the design with a mechanical pencil or a Sakura Micron Pigma ink, size .01 or .05. For a thinner line, use a Sakura Pigma Pen .005 size. I prefer to use the same color pen closest to the color of my floss since the stitches will cover the line. If various colors is not an option, I recommend using a brown pen. A Sakura Pigma Pen is permanent ink. Do not make the traced line very thick.

### Stitching the Design

- ♥ Even though red is the traditional color for Redwork embroidery, any other solid color may be used.
- ♥ I recommend you cut the floss or Perle cotton to an 18" length. Anything longer will begin to fray from being pulled through the fabric. Use sharp embroidery needles.
- ♥ I prefer to stitch without a hoop. Many friends prefer to stitch with a hoop. This is your choice. Since an embroidery hoop is inexpensive, I suggest you try it both ways to see which you prefer. I first began stitching with a hoop.

### Things to remember

- ♥ Always bring the needle back through the same hole that you went down in on the previous stitch.
- ♥ Don't pull the threads too tight or your design will pucker.
- ♥ Keep stitches small for the best look.
- ♥ Do not carry your thread across the back from one part of the design to another. This will show through on the front.
- ♥ When going around a corner, it can be tricky to get a sharp edge with the stem stitch. I like to fudge a little and do a sort of buttonhole stitch, then continue on with the stem stitch. Sometimes I switch to an outline stitch and back to a stem stitch to make it a pointed corner.



## THE STITCHES

The main stitch used in Redwork designs is the stem stitch. However, the outline stitch is sometimes used. The difference between the stem and outline stitches is in the direction the thread is held. On occasion, other stitches are used thus, they are shown below.

