

2005 SAGA Glossary

Smocking Terms

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Accent Stitch An independent, free-standing stitch that highlights or adds detail to a smocking design.

Accent Color A thread color that is highly contrasted to the color of the fabric and/or other thread colors used in the design.

Alternating Cable Pattern A series of three cable stitches alternating above and below a base row of cable stitches.

American Smocking Synonymous with **Counterchange Smocking**.

Attached Lazy Daisy Stitch See **Chain Stitch**.

Baby Diamond Pattern Two or more rows of baby wave stitches worked in mirror image and touching each other so as to form a diamond pattern.

Baby Wave Stitch See **Chevron Stitch**.

Backsmocking One or more rows of smocking on the wrong side of fabric in the same color as the fabric. May be used to (1) invisibly maintain or stabilize pleats in areas where there are no surface stitches or (2) to create texture or a shadow pattern.

Barbed Trellis Stitch A variation of the trellis stitch; adding level stitches as the steps are made going up or down the wave.

Bars Three or more satin stitches wrapped around one or two pleats to form narrow columns of color.

Base Row(s) The first row(s) smocked within a design to establish the basis for the overall pattern.

Basket Pattern Multiple rows of cable stitches worked adjacent, each row worked in mirror image of the previous one so that alternate cables touch.

Binding Row See **Holding Row**.

Braid Pattern See **Wheat Pattern**.

Bridge Stitch See **Closure Stitch**.

Broken Wave Stitch See **Barbed Trellis Stitch**.

Bullion Stitch A stitch created by the wrapping of thread around the needle, enough times to cover the length of space desired, then passing the needle through the fabric to anchor the thread. This stitch has a coil-like effect.

Cable and Loop Stitches Made with a cable stitch, followed by a loop wrapped around a pin at the desired distance from the cable, and followed by another cable stitch. This can be done as individual accents or across an entire row.

Cable Stitch A row of smocking formed by alternately placing the thread above the needle (up) and below the needle (down) for each successive stitch. A row of cables should have little or no fabric showing between stitches.

Cable Diamond Pattern Two or more rows of cable stitches and wave-shape stitches that are worked in mirror image so that **opposite rows** touch at the cable, forming a diamond shape.

Cable-wave Pattern A wave-shape stitch that has more than one cable stitch at the top and/or bottom of each wave.

Canadian Smocking Synonymous with **Lattice Smocking**.

Cardigan Stitch See **Extended Cable Stitch**.

Cell The pulled-open valley between pleats of a honeycomb pattern.

Chain Pattern See **Double Cable Pattern**.

Chain Stitch This stitch is adapted to smocking where one pleat is picked up for each stitch. The needle points forward in the direction to be stitched. It resembles a continuous attached lazy daisy stitch.

Chevron Stitch One step wave, similar to cable but travels anywhere from ¼ space to 2 spaces.

Closed Herringbone Stitch See **Double Herringbone Stitch**.

Closure Stitch The top or bottom cable of a wave-shape stitch. The purpose is to reverse direction of the thread.

Colonial Knot An alternative to a French knot using a figure-eight wrap to make a somewhat larger knot.

Counterchange Smocking A technique of manipulating striped, dotted or checked fabric to form a pleated or smocked pattern.

Cretan Stitch Similar to herringbone except only one new pleat is picked up for each stitch. The needle is held parallel to the gathering threads.

Crisscross Pattern See **Crossover Waves**.

Crossover Waves Two or more rows of the same or similar wave-shaped stitches which cross over each other, usually in different colors.

Curved Stitches A row of stitches or stitch pattern where each stitch is made on succeeding pleats slightly higher or lower than the preceding stitch. Used in free-form smocking and template smocking and also to form curved lines and shapes.

Daisy Stitch See **Lazy Daisy Stitch**.

Decorative Stitch See **Accent Stitch**.

Detached Chain Stitch See **Lazy Daisy Stitch**.

Diamond Pattern Two or more rows of wave-shape or trellis stitches with the same number of steps that are worked in mirror image so that opposite rows touch at the cable.

Dot See **Seed**.

Dot-to-Dot Smocking Smocking done on flat fabric. Fabric is dotted, checked or with a pattern smocking dot transfer applied. As the dots are picked up and pulled together a mini pleat is formed by the stitch.

Double Cable Pattern Two rows of cable, the second worked opposite and adjacent to the first so that alternate stitches touch.

Double Flowerette See **Flowerette**.

Double Herringbone Stitch A variation of the herringbone stitch with an extra stitch taken at the top and bottom. It has the appearance of a herringbone stitch enclosed by two rows of backstitches.

Double Outline Pattern See **Wheat Pattern**.

Echo Row A row of smocking which duplicates the preceding row.

English Smocking Decorative stitching worked on pre-pleated fabric.

English Smocking Dots Uniform dots in transfer form usually ironed on the back of a piece of fabric. A separate thread is used for each row and each dot is picked up with a running stitch. When all the dots have been picked up, the fabric is gathered into pleats.

Extended Cable Stitch Following a down cable, two or more evenly spaced whipped stitches are taken over the final pleat of the down cable, moving up. A closure stitch connects the next pleat and whipped stitches (on that same pleat) are taken down to the original cable line. This may also be worked down from an up cable.

Extended Trellis Stitch See **Barbed Trellis Stitch**.

Feather Stitch An open looped embroidery stitch worked through two pleats where needle points forward parallel to the pleating threads in the direction to be stitched.

Single Feather: Each stitch alternates direction.

Double Feather: Two stitches are made before altering direction.

Triple Feather: Three stitches are made before altering direction.

Slanted Feather: Each stitch is worked through two pleats where the needle points forward at a 45-degree angle to the pleating threads in the direction to be stitched. When traveling down, the needle slants down. When traveling up, the needle slants up. Three stitches are made before altering the direction of travel.

Feather Wave Feather stitch is used to travel up and down in a wave formation. There may be 3, 4, or 5 stitches between two pleating threads.

Fill-in Stitch See **Accent Stitch**.

Filling Stitch See **Independent Stitch**.

Flat Project A smocking project which lays in a flat plane during stitching. Flat projects can be flared or rectangular in shape. Smocking must be centered.

Flowerette Three cable stitches worked over four pleats with a fourth cable below the middle stitch forms a single flowerette. A double flowerette is formed by working three cable stitches over four pleats with an additional three cable stitches worked in **mirror image** and below the preceding three cables.

Flowerette Point A single or double flowerette incorporated into the closure stitch at a point of a wave-shape stitch.

Free-form Smocking The placement of stitches with little or no regard to the gathering thread guidelines to form a smocked picture or design.

French Knot A stitch formed by wrapping the thread around the needle once. Larger knots are formed by using more strands of thread.

French Smocking A type of smocking performed by pulling fabric into pleats following an ironed on dot pattern. A type of dot-to-dot smocking.

Gathering Threads The threads used to gather fabric by hand for smocking, which then serve as an aid in lining up the elements in a smocking design.

Graph A drawing that indicates the placement of stitches for a design.

Grub Knot See **Bullion Stitch**.

Guidelines See **Gathering Threads**.

Hearts Two small waves matched to an adjacent larger trellis to create the heart shape.

Herringbone Stitch A back stitch that creates a crossover pattern. One new pleat and one old pleat is used for each stitch.

Holding Row The row of pleating threads above and below the actual smocking thread rows used to control the pleats for improved stitches on the first and last smocking row and to aid in construction.

Also see **Binding Row**.

Honeycomb Pattern A pleat formation of open cells created by multiple rows of honeycomb, surface honeycomb, herringbone and Van Dyke stitches.

Honeycomb Stitch A stitch connecting two pleats at a time and worked alternately between two rows. The thread connecting the upper and lower stitches is carried on the back of the pleats.

Independent Stitch A single stitch not connected to others on the design surface. Unlike accent stitches, this does not necessarily highlight or accent the design.

Intervals The needle entry point(s) within the space between gathering threads. Stitches may be taken at 1/2, 1/3, 1/4, 1/5, etc. intervals between gathering threads.

Laced Stitches A length of thread looped over and under a line of smocking stitches to enrich the pattern. This length of thread does not enter the fabric. Also called **Whipping Stitches** and/or **Wrapping Stitches**.

Ladder Stitch A vertical stitch using four pleats. It gives the effect of steps on a ladder.

Lattice Smocking A fabric manipulation technique in which small, regularly spaced diagonal tucks are **made on the wrong side of the fabric**. These produce lattice-like configurations on the right side of the fabric.

Latticework Pattern Multiple rows of trellis stitches laid adjacent and opposite each other to form an interlocking pattern.

Lazy Daisy Stitch A detached loop or a single unit of a chain stitch used as an accent.

Level A horizontal plane or line.

Level Stitch An up or down cable stitch parallel with the gathering threads at the top or bottom of a wave-shape stitch or between traveling stitches in a barbed trellis stitch.

Link Two rows of cable wave pattern that are adjacent and in mirror image to each other, having an uneven number of cables at the top and bottom of the wave.

Mirror or Mirroring A row of smocking which is the reverse or opposite of the preceding row.

Mock Chain Stitch See **Wheat Stitch**, N^o 1.

Motif A major design area.

Open Herringbone Stitch See **Herringbone Stitch**.

Opposite Combination See **Mirror**.

Outline Stitch A row of smocking that forms a downward slant of the stitch to the left. The thread is usually held above the needle on each stitch.

Parallel Combination See **Echo Row**.

Parallel Pleating The same two pleats are fastened together by a down cable in one row and an up cable in the following row. The pleats remain parallel to one another.

Pattern 1. A design element made up of stitch or row combinations. 2. Instructions for sewing a certain design, cutting directions, pleating instructions, and pieces to cut out necessary to complete the design.

Pattern Smocking Dots A transfer usually found with a pattern for the technique that is commonly called dot-to-dot smocking. The stitches are limited to the ironed on design.

Peak Top surface of the pleat.

Picture Smocking The use of any stitches (stacked cable stitches used most often) to form a recognizable image. Houses, figures, trees, animals and simple objects are some of the items frequently depicted.

Plaid Smocking Crisscrossing multiple rows of trellis stitch each of which is a different color to create a diagonal plaid effect.

Plaits An older, English term for **Pleats**.

Plate A smocking design with diagrammed and/or written instructions on how to stitch the design.

Pleats The vertical ridges of fabric formed by the gathering rows. Each pleat has a peak and a valley on each side.

Pleating Machine A hand-cranked device containing sixteen or more needles used to prepare fabric for English smocking.

Pleating Threads The threads inserted for smocking by a pleating machine that help draw the fabric into pleats, which then serve as an aid in lining up the elements in a smocking design.

Ply Individual threads that make up a strand.

Point See **Closure Stitch**.

Pyramid The stacking of stitches to form a triangular shape.

Quarter Diamond Pattern Two or more rows of quarter wave stitches worked in mirror image so that opposite rows touch at the cable forming a diamond pattern.

Quarter Wave Stitch A trellis stitch worked in two steps that is one half-space high from top closure stitch to bottom closure stitch.

Raised Chain Stitch A variation of the chain stitch, worked right to left. It appears as an open loop with a level stitch in center. (Also known are the "Y" stitch or "Fly" stitch.)

Reeds An older, English term for **Pleats**.

Reverse Outline Stitch See **Stem Stitch**.

Reverse Smocking Any series of stitches worked on the reverse of the fabric as in backsmocking to create surface texture on the front of the fabric.

Reverse Stem Stitch See **Outline Stitch**.

Rolled Rose See **Bullion Rose**.

Rope Stitch An older English term for **Stem** or **Outline Stitch**.

Round Project A smocking project in which rows of smocking are joined together to make a continuous circle. Stitch centering

is NOT required because there is no beginning or end to the row. (Synonymous with "tube style" smocking.)

Row 1. A line of gathering thread. 2. A continuous series of stitches smocked across the width of the pleated fabric.

Running Stitch Small, forward-moving stitches taken by evenly weaving the needle in and out of the fabric. Also a basic sewing stitch.

Satin Stitches Side by side straight stitches solidly covering a given motif.

Seeds An accent stitch formed by two satin stitches wrapped over one or two pleats to form a dot of color.

Shadow Smocking Textured surface design created by stitching a pattern on the reverse of the fabric using a sharply contrasting color thread which shadows through to the front.

Shoulder The side of the pleat between valley and peak.

Single Flowerette See *Flowerette*.

Smock Gathering Machine See *Pleating Machine*.

Spools Three or more satin stitches wrapped around three or more pleats to form a column of color.

Spread Pleating Two or more consecutive rows of cable stitches stitched in the same sequence. The pleats between the two rows form a "V" or spread apart.

Spruce Stitch See *Extended Cable*.

Stacked Cable See *Stacked Stitches*.

Stacked Stitches Alternating mirror image rows of cable stitches next to each other, forming a solid block or a band of color.

Stem Stitch A row of smocking that forms a downward slant of the stitch to the right. Usually the thread is held below the needle.

Steps See *Interval*.

Straight Stitches Stitches smocked on one level to form a straight line.

Strand A length of thread used for stitching.

Stranding See *Stripping*.

Stripping Separating the plies of floss to prepare for smocking.

Surface Honeycomb Stitch A wave-shape stitch worked between two levels with the thread carried on the surface of the same pleat.

Template Smocking A design that is stitched by filling in an outlined area drawn onto pleats using a pre-cut shape or template. Any smocking stitch can be used.

Three Cable Crown An accent made of 3 cable stitches in which the two outer stitches often match up with level stitches or backstitches of some previously stitched motif.

Travel Stitches The diagonal stitches between the level or closure stitches in a wave-shape stitch.

Trellis Stitch A stitch that travels between two or more levels to form a zigzag line. It consists of a top and bottom closure stitch connected by a series of interval stitches, or steps.

Two-step trellis: One interval stitch is made between the top and bottom closure stitches.

Three-step trellis: Two interval stitches are made between the top and bottom closure stitches.

Four-step trellis: Three interval stitches are made between the top and bottom closure stitches.

Tubes An older, English term for **Pleats**.

Turkey Work A cable stitch in which alternating cables are left in a loop, thereby forming a pile.

Turret Pattern A stitch pattern that consists of a row of surface honeycomb between two parallel and adjacent rows of cable stitches.

Twisted Cretan Stitch A variation of the **Cretan Stitch**. A twist is added by passing the needle under and around the thread being crossed.

Valley The space between the peaks of two pleats.

Van Dyke Stitch A wave-shape stitch worked between two or more levels picking up two pleats that are stitched into twice before carrying the thread vertically between the level stitches. It is worked with the needle pointing forward in the direction yet to be stitched. It is worked in the opposite direction of most stitches (i.e., stem, outline, cable, trellis, etc.), usually right to left.

Van Dyke Wave Van Dyke stitch is used to travel up and down in half-space increments, creating a wave form. These waves may travel over 1, 2, 3, or more spaces.

Vertical Smocking A stitch design worked over a set number of pleats for the entire vertical depth of the gathering rows.

Wave Stitch A stitch that travels directly between two or more levels to form a zigzag line. It consists of a top and bottom closure stitch.

Wave-shaped Stitches Any stitch smocked between two levels to form a zigzag line. Includes wave/trellis, chevron/wave, Van Dyke, surface honeycomb, honeycomb and herringbone.

Weaving 1. See *Basket Pattern*. 2. See *Laced Stitches*.

Wheat Pattern 1. Outline and stem stitches worked adjacent to each other. 2. As in N° 1, with baby diamond pattern evenly spaced along the width of the row.

Wheat Stitch See *Wheat Pattern*, N° 1.

Whipping Stitches See *Laced Stitches*.