

Reversible Blackwork Bookmark

By Jean Hughes



Materials:

1. 14 or 16 count strip of “Ribband” aida (finished on each side) approx 9” x 2”
2. Black perle cotton #8 - 36” completes 2 trips - 4 lengths of 36 inches each
3. Kreinik #4 gold braid – 36” will complete 2 trips -3 lengths of 36 inches each

Optional Tassel:

1. Gold DMC
2. Black #8 Perle cotton or DMC floss
3. White #8 Perle cotton or DMC floss

Instructions:

Stitch a basting thread lengthwise down the centre of the bookmark.

Follow the attached diagrams to stitch two columns of 8 or 9 motifs starting at the bottom of the bookmark. Allow at least ½ inch at the top and 1 inch at the bottom for the hem.

Use black perle cotton for trips 1 to 4.

Use gold Kreinik for trips 5 and 6.

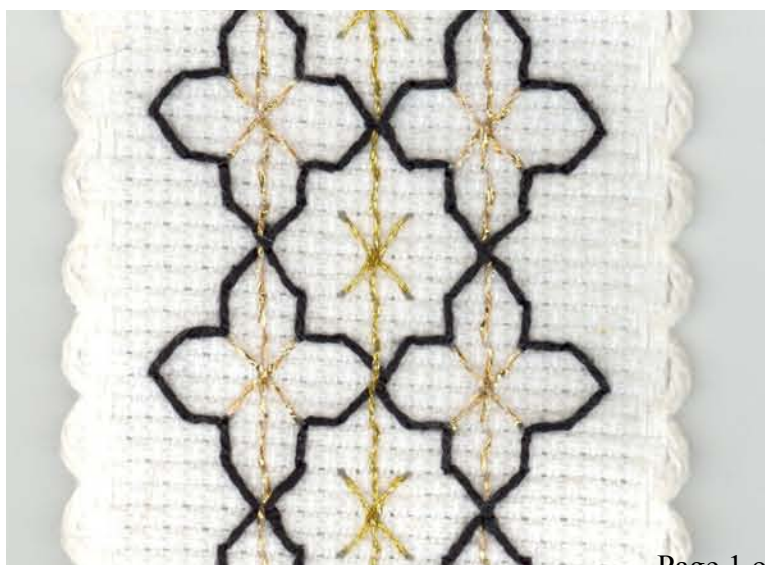
Optional: Use gold Kreinik to fill in the spaces between the two columns.

Trips 1 to 4 complete one column of black motifs. Trips 5 and 6 fill in the centre of the motifs.

To Finish:

Fold the top edge under ¼ inch twice and hem.

Finish threads according to the instructions under “General Information” or fold the bottom of the bookmark in the shape of a “V” and hide the threads in the hem.



General Information

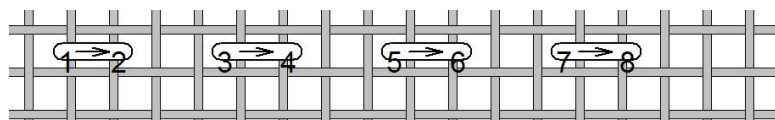
Blackwork was most popular in England in the 1600's. It was an alternative to lace, which was extremely expensive.

Some blackwork is reversible but not all. Reversible techniques should be used if the wrong side will be seen – table linens, book marks, etc.

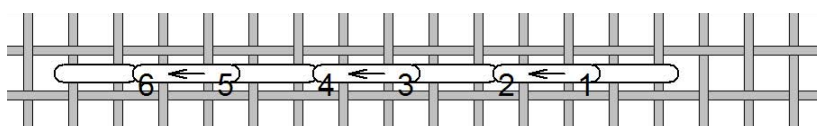
Blackwork patterns can be stitched using the following:

1. Backstitch
2. Double – running – reversible
3. Running backstitch

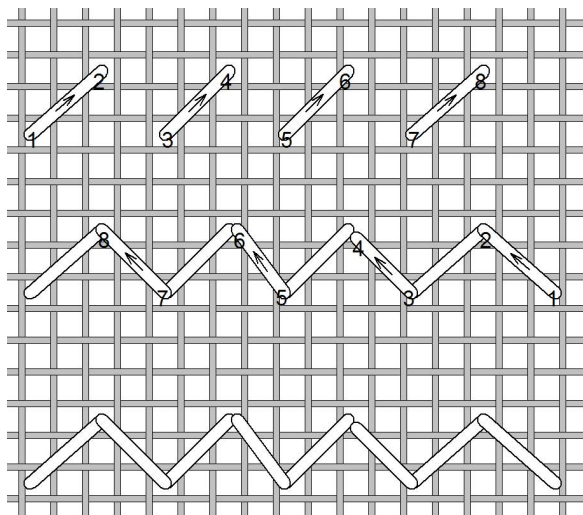
Double – running - reversible requires 2 journeys. The return journey requires piercing the thread from the first journey. For this reason, a sharp needle is preferable and will create a straighter more even line of stitching.



Straight line working from left to right - standard running stitch.



Return journey from right to left, completes the line. This creates a reversible solid straight line.



This is an example of a zigzag line. The first journey from left to right looks like 4 slanted lines. The pattern is not obvious until it is completed with the return journey. The result is a reversible zigzag line.

To create a reversible pattern using the double running stitch you must anticipate the next stitch so that you are travelling under the stitch that will be created on the return journey.

Start

Start with an away waste knot 1 to 1 ½ inches away from the starting point – at least twice the length of the needle.

Finish

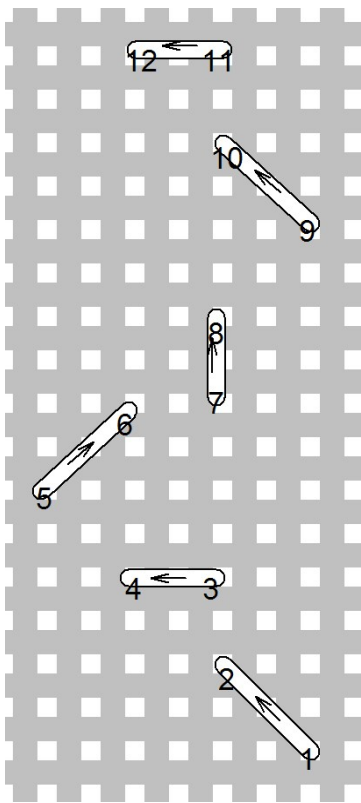
For Blackwork on fabric:

Use a sharp needle. On the wrong side of the fabric – using left thumb pull the last running stitch away sideways, exposing the fabric beneath the stitch. Take 2 tiny stitches catching the fabric beneath the stitch. Release the running stitch and repeat for at least 3 stitches. Cut the thread close to the fabric. The ending tail of your thread should lie between the fabric and your last blackwork stitches.

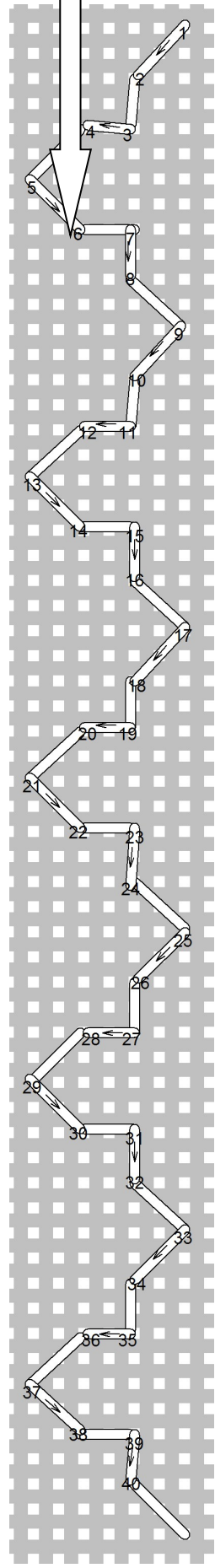
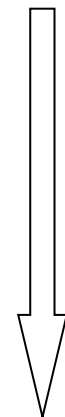
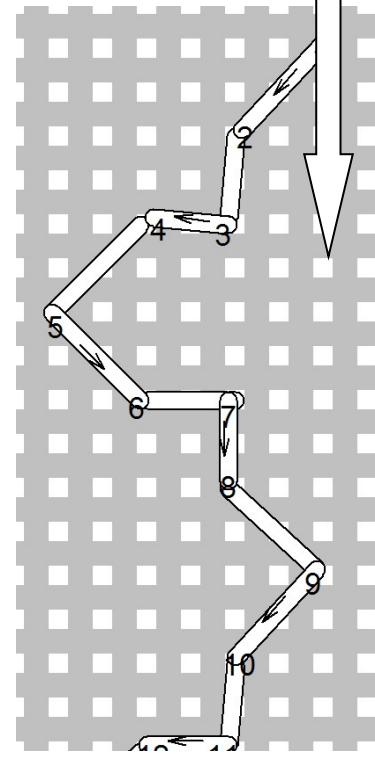
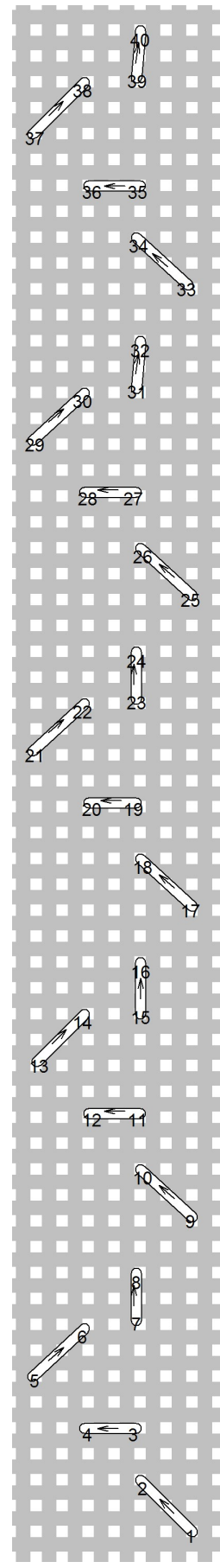
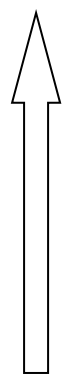
For Blackwork on canvas:

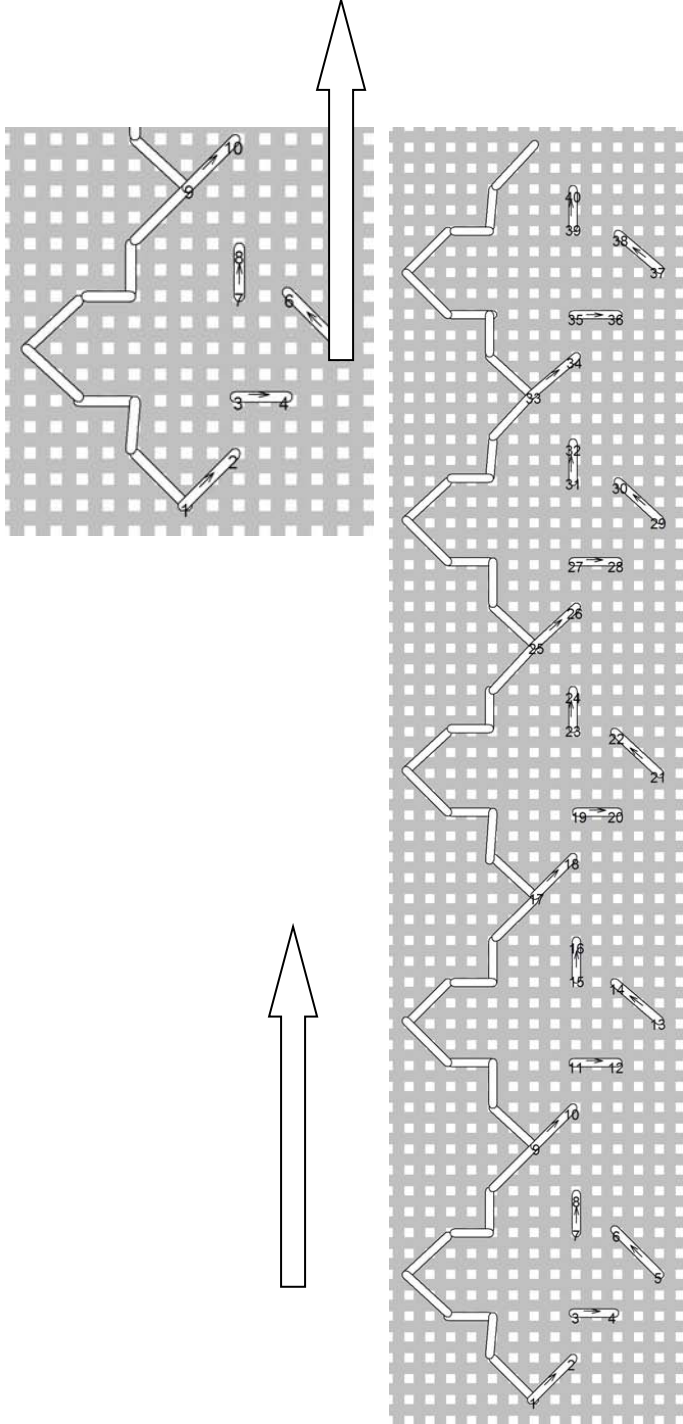
It is not possible to stitch through the threads of canvas, so the end of your thread must be anchored in your stitching.

Use a sharp needle. Take 2 tiny stitches through at least 3 consecutive stitches. This section will appear slightly thicker than the remaining stitches.

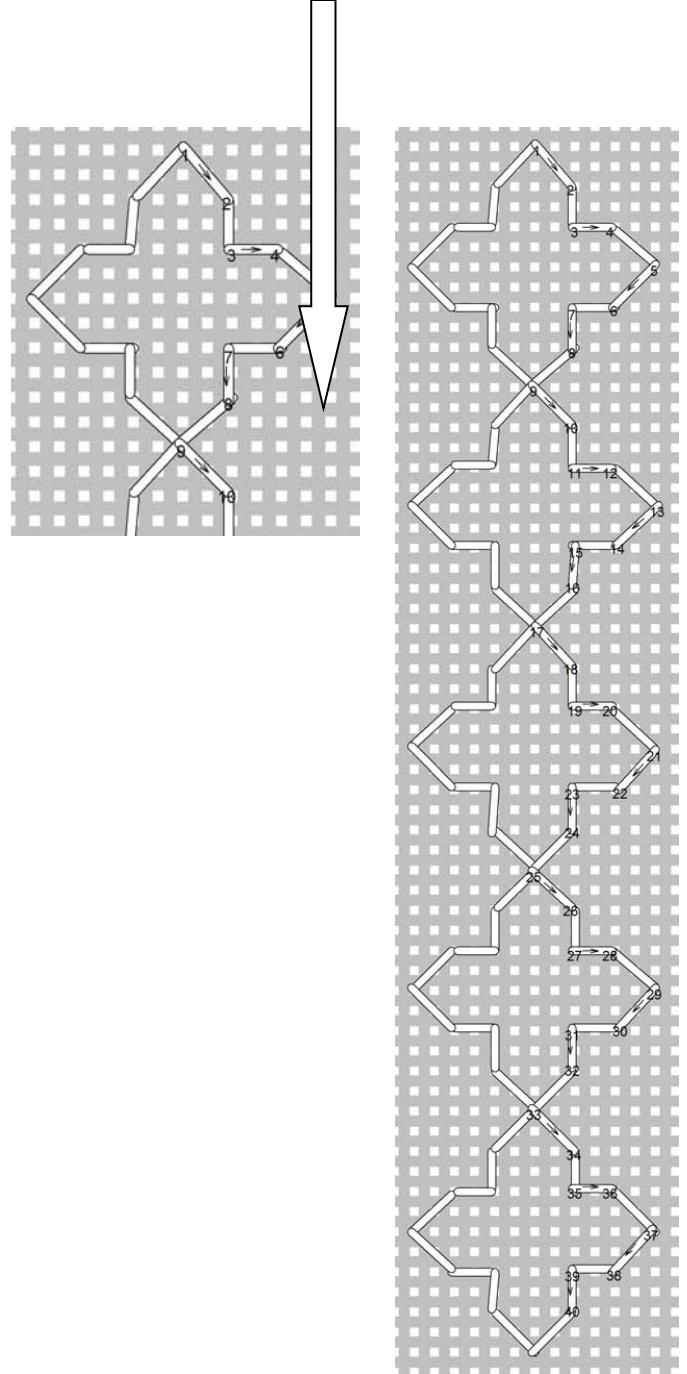


Trip 1
Trip 2

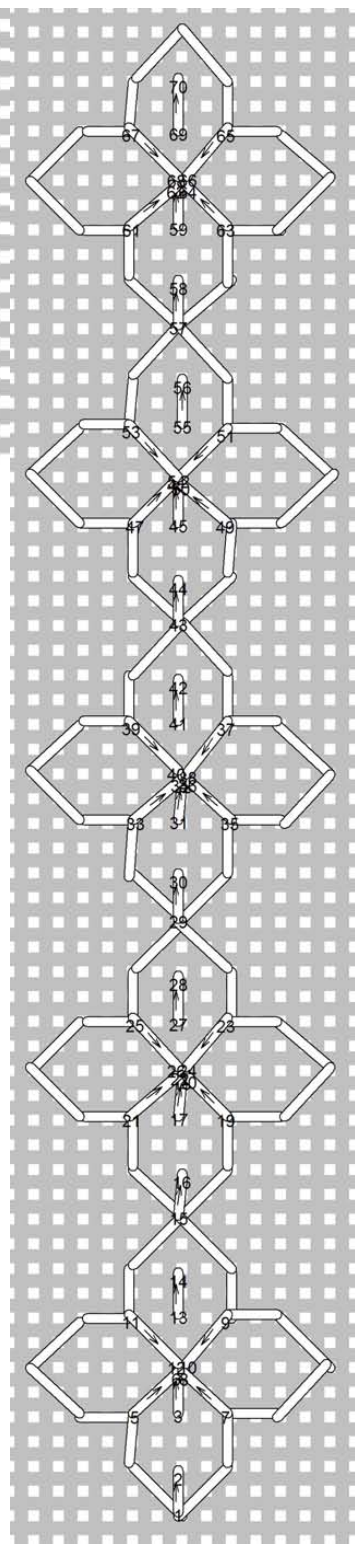
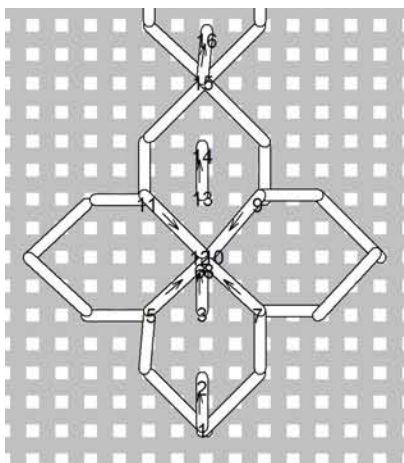




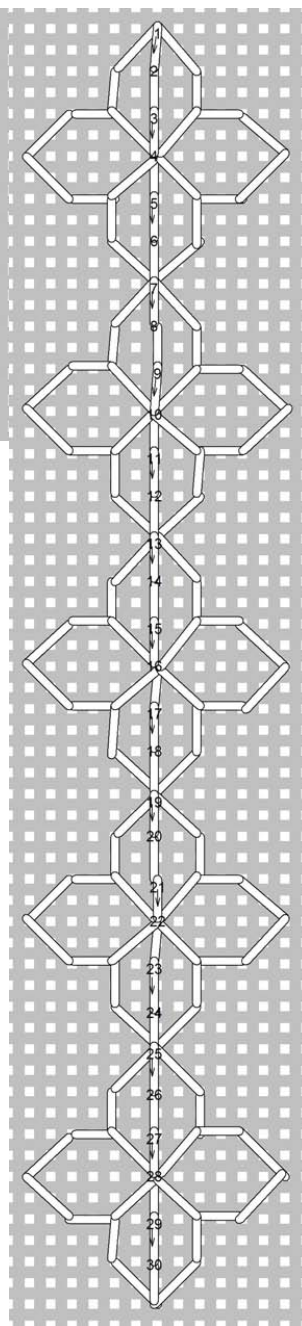
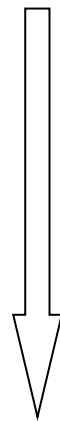
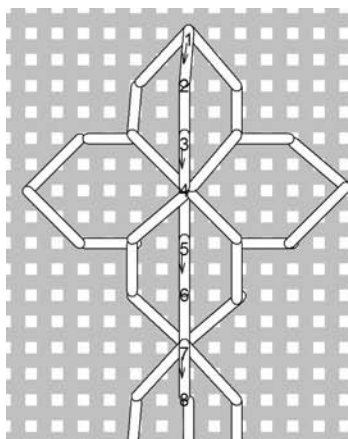
Trip 3



Trip 4



Trip 5



Trip 6