

SWEDISH WEAVING

INTRODUCTION AND WEAVING PATTERNS

SWEDISH WEAVING, also known as huck embroidery, is a type of embroidery that creates a surface design by weaving floss or yarn under raised floats on a woven fabric. This needle art became popular in the 1940s.

Artisans use Swedish weaving on various items including throws, baby blankets, pillows, table runners, wall hangings, placemats, hand towels, and bread cloths. Embroiderers create patterns by using the threads or “floats” on even weave fabrics such as monk’s cloth, huck toweling, Aida cloth, or huck cloth.

HUCK TOWELING, also known as huckaback fabric, is 14- to 16-inches wide and comes on a bolt. It is available by the yard or by the inch. Huck toweling has threads that run lengthwise on the surface of the fabric called floats. Embroiderers create patterns by weaving under the floats with a needle carrying floss.

Huck toweling has a rough side and a smooth side to the touch. The smooth side, or the right side, of the fabric is the side on which the design is placed (woven onto); the floats run parallel to the selvage edges. Embroiderers typically use six strands of embroidery floss to embroider the design, but they can also use craft floss or pearl cotton to create beautiful design formations.

Embroiderers can also use monk’s cloth to complete designs created for huck toweling or other even-weave fabric. With **monk’s cloth**, embroiderers use a 4-ply yarn and a size #13 yarn needle.

Monk’s cloth is 100% cotton fabric and very loosely woven, therefore, you must zigzag or serge the raw edges of the fabric to keep it from raveling. Zigzagging twice over the raw edges works best.

Before using, wash monk’s cloth in detergent and warm water, then dry in the dryer. Monk’s cloth will shrink quite a bit after washing. Iron the cloth, removing all the wrinkles. With a dark basting thread, find the center of the monk’s cloth by folding selvage to selvage, and then baste the centerline. Fold end to end and baste that centerline. The fabric is now ready for weaving the design. Begin by moving the needle under the threads that run parallel to the selvage.

Monk’s cloth comes in a variety of colors: white, natural, red, pink, blue, purple, green, yellow, wine, navy blue, and black. Intensities that look nice together. Generally speaking, the brighter the intensity, the smaller the amount of the color needed. Example: bright pink (bright intensity), dusty rose (dull intensity), and leaf green (semi-dull intensity).

Even weave: Any fabric with evenly spaced rows, such as monk’s cloth, Aida cloth, huck toweling, or huck cloth. It is the type of weave of the fabric. This can also refer to linen fabric or hand-crocheted afghans that have an evenly repeated stitch.

Selvage: The finished edge of the fabric. It does not ravel, but you need to cut it off after completion of the design so you can hem or bind the edges.

Raw edge: The cut edge or end of the fabric piece. On loosely woven, even-weave fabrics, you must zigzag or serge this edge to prevent raveling.

Row: How you count each part of the design. It can also refer to rows on your fabric, such as up three rows and over one.

Floats: The raised threads running parallel to the

selvage on the topside of huck toweling. On even-weave fabrics, floats are the strands of thread that run vertically or parallel to the selvage crossed by thread running horizontally or in the crosswise direction.

Split float: Also known as half float. This is when you pick up and stitch only the middle two strands of a 4-thread even weave.

Worsted weight 4-ply yarn: The most commonly used yarn on monk's cloth to create the designs. Specialty yarns, baby weight yarns, or cotton yarns can be substituted as a person becomes more creative with his or her designs and more skilled at weaving.

There are many books on Swedish weaving available as well as free patterns on the internet to help you get started.

JEAN'S JAGS

The following directions are designed to be used on huck toweling, but can be used on any even-weave fabric.

Equipment or supplies needed

- 18 inches huck toweling (enough to make a finger towel)
- 3 colors embroidery floss (floss can be different shades or tints of the same color)
- Charted design (at the end of this publication)
- #24 embroidery needle
- Safety pin
- Scissors

Instructions

Read all the instructions before starting the project.

1. Start the first row at least 4 inches from one end. (The design should be positioned at one end of fabric, not in the center of the towel.)

2. Fold fabric in half, selvage-to-selvage. Find the center (the center floats), and mark it with a safety pin.

3. To determine the amount of floss to cut:

- On the rows with a straighter design, cut floss 4 inches longer than width of fabric.
- On rows with more intricacy, cut floss at least 2 times the width of fabric sometimes longer.

HINT: If possible, you want enough thread to complete the design across the width of the fabric.

4. Thread the needle with one of the colors.

5. Study the charted design — see attached. Find the center of the design. Stitching begins in the center and is worked toward each side.

6. For the first row, slide the threaded needle under the (marked) double floats in the center of the towel. Pull *ONLY HALF* the length of the thread through the floats. The other half of the thread is reserved to work the other (right) side of the towel. (You will go back and rethread the needle with this half of the thread and work the pattern toward the edge in the opposite side).

HINT: Most pattern charts will include 2 to 4 motifs that will be repeated across the fabric.

7. At the end of the row, rotate your work 180 degrees so that you can now comfortably stitch back in the opposite direction (do not flip to the underside of fabric), slide your needle over the first set of floaters and then slide back under the next 3 or 4 sets of floaters. Pull taut and cut your thread close. This locks your thread in place. See examples on page 3.

8. After finishing one side of the first row, thread needle with the floss left at the center, and begin working design on the opposite side of the towel.

HINT: If it is necessary to join thread or floss in the middle of a row, cut another piece of floss and thread the needle. Insert needle under some of the floats previously stitched, running the thread on top of the first thread

for several stitches. Leave a tail of thread so you can cut it off even with the fabric.

9. After finishing the last row (row 5), go back and repeat the design in the opposite direction to create a complete motif. Refer to charted pattern design. It is the same design, but worked upside down from the first. When repeating in the opposite direction, the first row is woven over the top of the first row you did to start. In other words, there will be two strands of floss in the same row except for the peaks in the first row (see chart that follows).

Altogether, there will be 10 rows for *Jean's Jags*.

You are ready to begin. Good luck and happy weaving!



As described in Step 7 of Jean's Jags: At the end of the row, slide your needle over the first set of floaters and then slide back under the next 3 or 4 sets of floaters. Pull taut and cut your thread close. (Note: this technique is shown on ME's Jags pattern.)



At the end of a row, run the thread around and under a yarn in the selvage and slide the needle back under a few floats. (Note: this technique is shown on ME's Jags pattern.)

- Mary Hixson, County Extension Agent for Family and Consumer Sciences
Jean Mlinar, Boyle County Extension Homemaker
Patterns used with permission.

- Revised by Marjorie M. Baker, M.S. Extension Associate for Clothing and Textiles February 2019

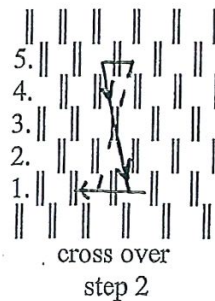
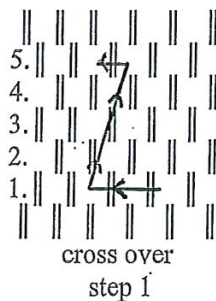
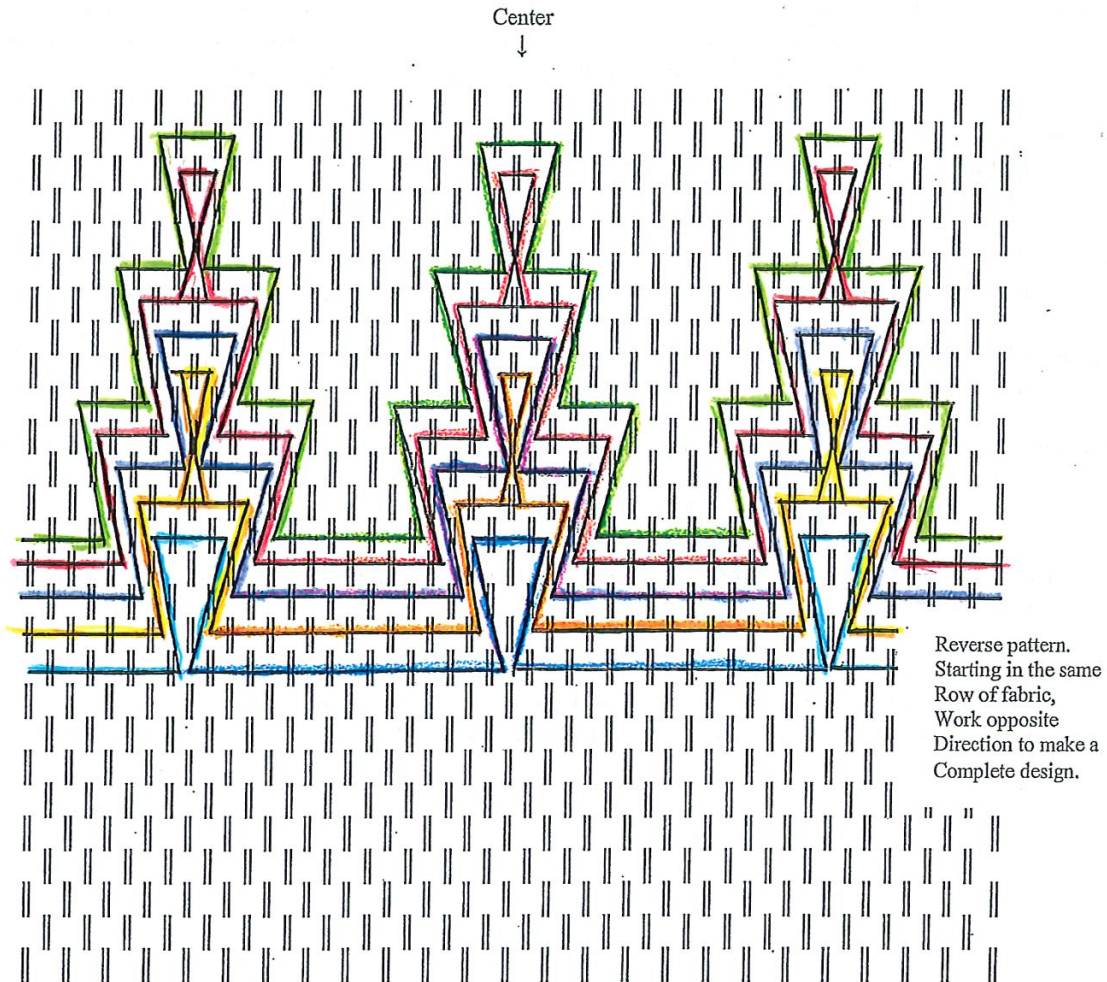
- Current Contact
Jeanne Badgett
Senior Extension Associate for Clothing and Textiles
May 2020

Educational programs of Kentucky Cooperative Extension serve all people regardless of economic or social status and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, creed, religion, political belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, marital status, genetic information, age, veteran status, or physical or mental disability.

JEAN'S JAGS

Swedish weaving chart design to be used with huck toweling
created by Jean Mlinar

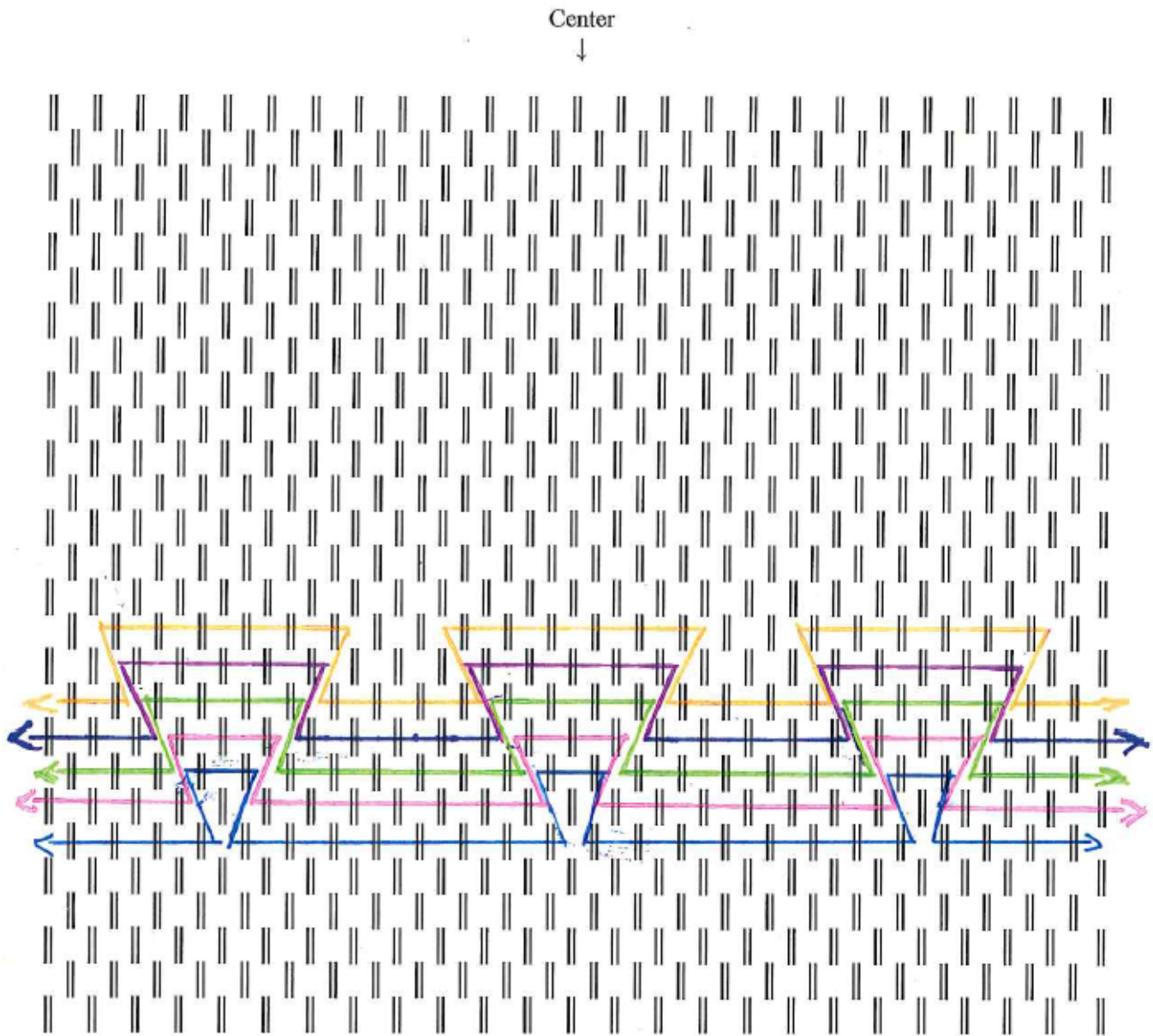
Huck Embroidery on Huck Toweling
 Jean's Jags Pattern – More Embroidery 201
 Intermediate Level



Educational programs of Kentucky Cooperative Extension serve all people regardless of economic or social status and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, creed, religion, political belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, marital status, genetic information, age, veteran status, or physical or mental disability.

ME's JAGS

Basic huck embroidery on huck toweling
created by Mary E. Hixson, 2019



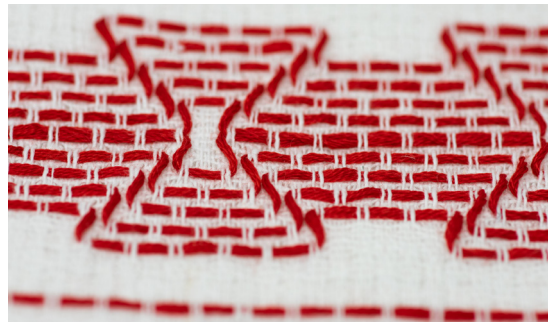
Optional: Do this pattern going in one direction and then start on the same beginning row and repeat in the opposite direction to create a design. The beginning rows are in the same space. This is what creates the mirror image.



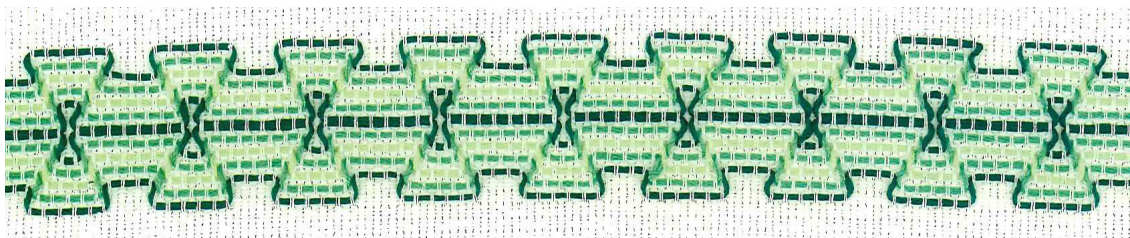
ME's JAGS



One skein of embroidery floss will complete a 15" wide section of ME's Jags (includes 10 rows of the pattern and the border)



Close-Up of ME's Jags pictured above



ME's Jags with 3 shades of green