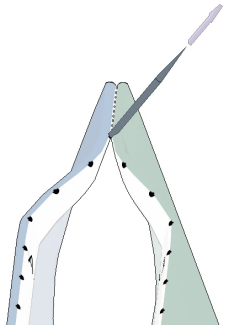
Ladder stitch

Full guide

1 Pierce right start dot



Step help

Fold both allowances inward on the sewing line and finger-press. From inside the right fold, bring the needle out at the first dot; hide the knot inside.

2 Pierce left start dot

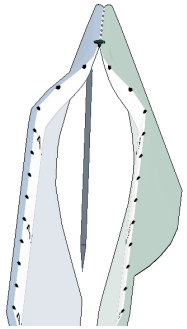


Step help

Cross the opening and pierce the matching first dot on the left, going from the printed outside into the fold.

Ladder stitch

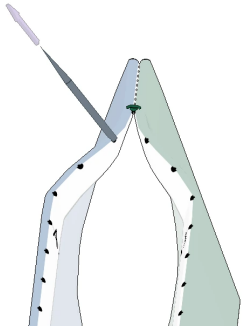
3 Pull taut



Step help

Pull the doubled thread snug. This first rung sits at the corner, so it may not visibly close much of the opening.

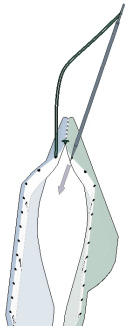
4 Pierce second dot on left



Step help

From inside the left fold, bring the needle out through the very next black dot, including the small unlabelled dots.

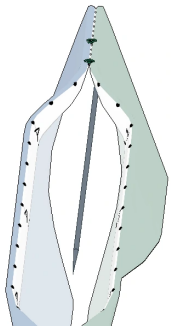
5 Pierce second dot on right



Step help

Cross to the matching second dot on the right and push the needle from the printed outside into that fold.

6 Pull taut again

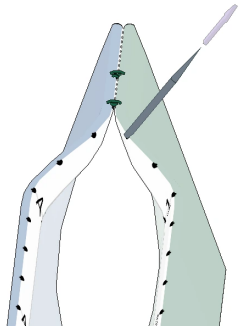


Step help

Pull gently until these matching dots meet. Remove slack without puckering the fabric.

Ladder stitch

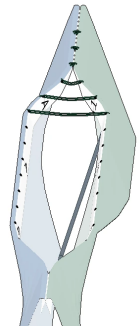
7 Pierce third dot on right



Step help

Come back out through the next black dot on the same right fold. After going into a fold, always come out at its next dot.

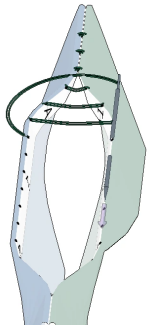
8 Continue the ladder



Step help

Alternate folds: travel inside a fold between consecutive dots, then cross to the matching dot. Tighten every few stitches; only a short ladder should remain loose. Refold and finger-press the next section as you go.

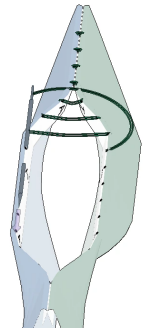
9 Slip through the right fold



Step help

Shortcut: enter one dot on the right fold and bring the needle out through the next dot on that same fold. Pull the thread through.

10 Slip through the left fold

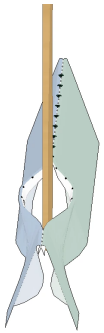


Step help

Repeat the shortcut on the left fold. Enter one dot and come out through the next dot on that same fold.

Ladder stitch

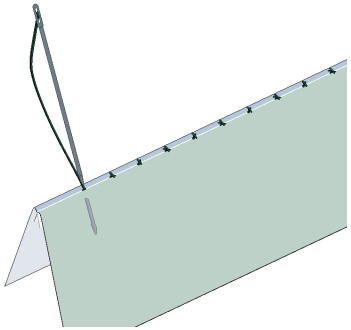
11 Finish creasing



Step help

Before the opening gets too small, ease the seam fully out from inside with the rounded bamboo spreader. Iron the edge, then finish closing it.

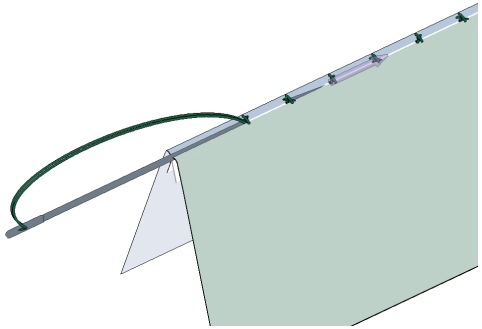
12 Make the final rung



Step help

Continue to the end and connect the last matching dots across the opening. Pull the final corner rung snug.

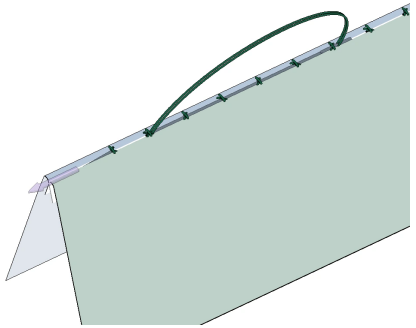
13 Backstitch inside the left fold



Step help

Slip backward by one small dot inside the left fold. Pierce only this fold.

14 Make the hidden return rung

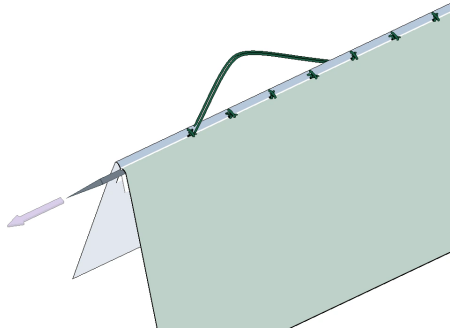


Step help

Cross to the matching dot on the right. Slip forward by one small dot inside that fold, returning to the final dot.

Ladder stitch

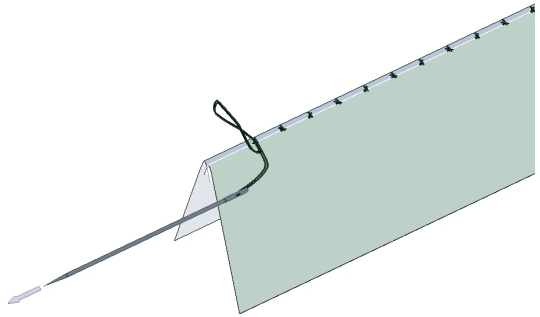
15 Slip under the corner stitch



Step help

Slide the needle underneath the tiny stitch at the closed corner, keeping the needle out of the fabric.

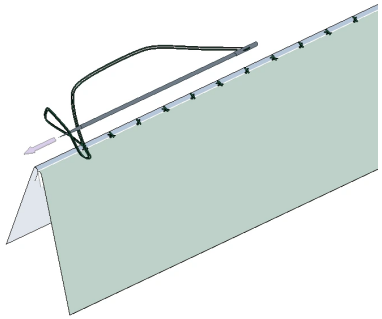
16 Leave a loop



Step help

Draw the needle and doubled thread under the corner stitch until a small loop remains. Stop before that loop disappears.

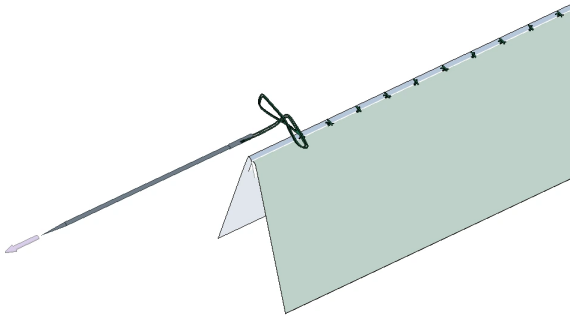
17 Pass through the loop



Step help

Pass the needle through the small loop at the end of the seam. Keep the loop open.

18 Draw the needle through

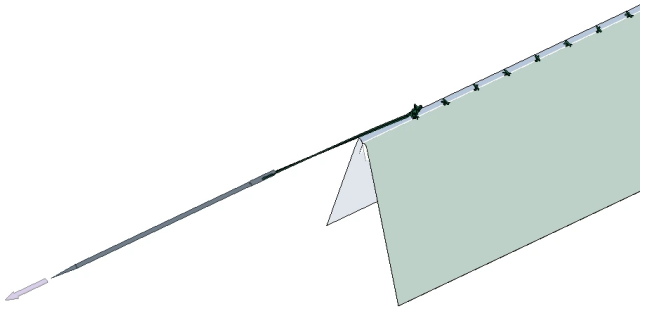


Step help

Bring the whole needle through the loop. Keep pulling toward the end of the seam.

Ladder stitch

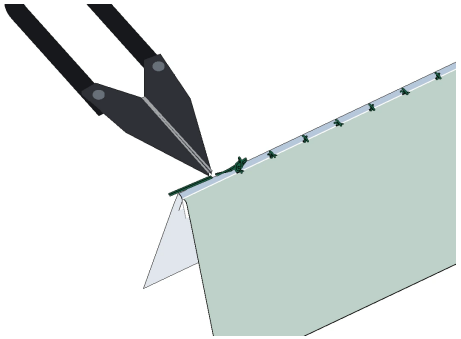
19 Tighten the knot



Step help

Pull past the last dot, along the end of the seam. Seat the knot on the final stitch.

20 Trim at the knot

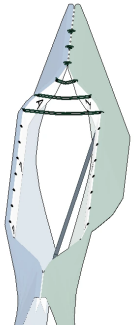


Step help

Use the clippers to trim both thread tails close to the secured knot, leaving the finished outside tidy.

Ladder stitch · Tips

1 Tips 1



Step help

Stop every few stitches to tighten, refold and finger-press. Score from inside and iron near the end, before the gap becomes too small.