

## EMBROIDERY

---

Simple embroidery stitches can be applied to knitting for a wide variety of decorative effects. The free-form embroidery I applied to the Mountain Hare costume and the mermaid's purse works on knitting when the piece is felted beforehand, because the process closes up the fabric so that it becomes a solid surface. Applying embroidery to knitting that is not felted is more limited as there are tiny gaps in the knitted mesh. Therefore it is important to ensure that when you draw the needle through the knitting, you do so through the yarn and not through a clear gap between stitches. For example, a French Knot will disappear and become a knot in the embroidery yarn if you attempt to work it through a gap, whereas it will sit right on the surface if you ensure that you pass the needle through a strand of yarn

in the knitting. If you have not attempted to embroider on knitting before, I recommend that you experiment with a swatch before working on the garment. I do this in any event as I always experiment with size of stitches and colours on the swatch.

For all embroidery stitches worked on knitted fabric, begin by lightly working the threaded needle through the knitted fabric for a couple of centimetres on the wrong side, to secure the yarn end. This should be done close to the point where the embroidery is to be worked, and make sure that the fastened end does not show through on the right side. Then take the needle through to the right side, through a strand of yarn, at the point where the stitch is to begin.

## Stars

---

Stars are easy to work and versatile. Each star consists of three sets of cross stitches worked one on top of the other.

Work an upright cross of your chosen size as shown in diagram A.

Then work a diagonal cross directly over the upright cross as shown in diagram B.

Then finally work a small diagonal cross on top as shown in diagram C.

You can vary the overall size and also vary the lengths and widths of the individual crosses as I have done in the Mountain Hare Hat. I worked a number of the stars with a longer vertical stitch on the upright cross, then I worked a shorter horizontal, placing it above the centre line of the vertical so that the lower part of the vertical upright is longer.

I prefer to vary the stars so that they are not all exactly even and centred, as I think the effect is more organic.

