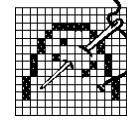


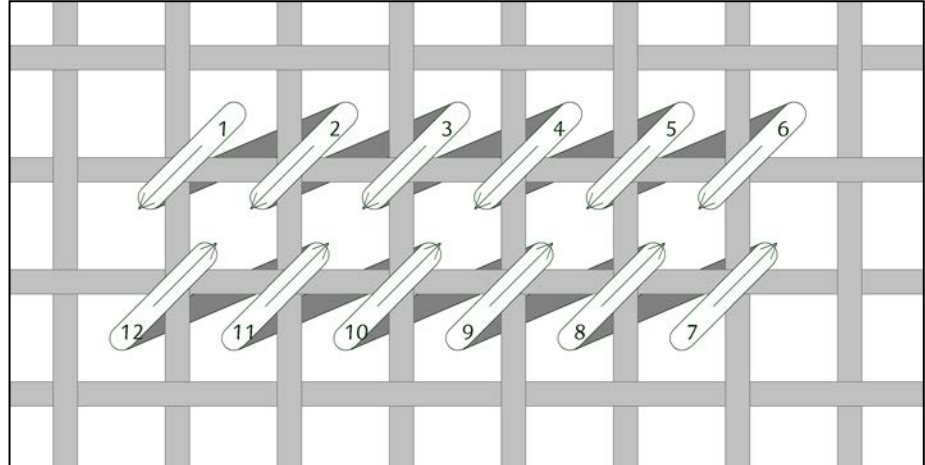
# Needle In A Haystack

Purveyor of fine needlework supplies



## Tent Stitch & Basketweave Primer

Tent, aka Continental, is the primary stitch used in needlepoint. It is worked so that the back of the work has a diagonal line (the dark gray lines in the diagram to the right). This gives better coverage and tends to torque the fabric less than a half cross-stitch would (which would have straight lines on the back). Your tension should be such that the threads lay flat and do not distort the fabric.



Numbers 1 through 6 in the diagram above show the progress stitching left to right. The numbers 7 through 12 show stitching right to left. If you find that you can keep track of where to go better working a particular direction, you can rotate your canvas to always work that direction.

Basketweave is the same type of stitch only worked as diagonal rows. It's called Basketweave because on the back you end up with horizontal and vertical threads that overlap, making the back look like a woven basket. It's more stable for larger areas and is generally used as a background stitch.

To keep track of where you need to travel up and down the diagonal rows take a look at the fabric and you'll notice that on mono canvas you'll have a surface fabric thread that's vertical then one that's horizontal. Travel down the vertical fabric threads (poles) and up the horizontal fabric threads (steps). This will help you keep track of where to go next, especially when you put your work down and come back to it.

