



The Golden Cedar

Old tall cedars, or Sugi, are the symbol of power and longevity, which is now more about the memory of the once powerful samurai clans, but in general, since ancient times, wood has been regarded with reverence in Japan. Even after being cut, it was considered as a living being.

Shinto, the country's original religion, viewed trees as deities, a means by which the gods descended to earth.

Traditional Japanese attach great importance to natural objects, and this attitude to wood continues today to both the source of building material and its spiritual aspects.

The embroidery design you are working on includes the symbol of mighty cedar.

It must be contoured with a Split stitch (so that the edges are even), filled with a series of long horizontal stitches in Satin stitch. Use Madeira Rayon 40 col. 1053. The diagram below shows the direction and position of the stitches.

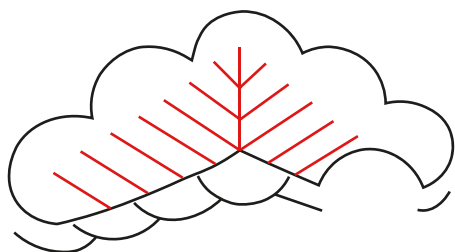


▲ The stitches in the golden cedar

Now the base for setting the twigs is ready. All of them are marked (red) in the diagram and they need to be set in an equal step to one another at some angle, descending to the sides of the element. You may find it helpful to use pins for marking the twigs before sewing them, just pin the pin where the twig starts and then where it ends, so after to make an even parallel stitch.

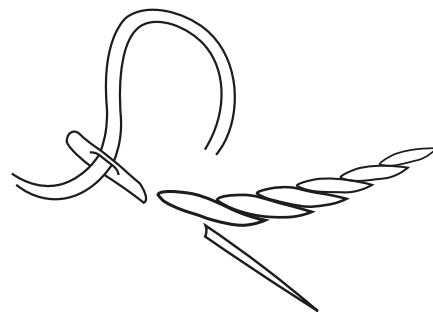
I used one strand of Madeira Metallic 40 col. 422 Golden Dust, because it has a gentle shimmering effect, not as bright as ordinary golden thread. I secured (couched) the longest stitches with a strand of Madeira FS Metallic 40 gold 6.

See the diagram below, and start stitching with a long vertical stitch in the centre of the element. Then stitch a few short twigs on either side of the first stitch. Fill one half of the tree then the other with parallel gold stitches in four millimetres step.



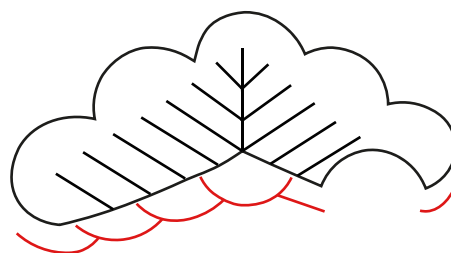
▲ The twigs in the golden cedar

It is high time to practise a Stem stitch embroidering the branches of the cedar.



▲ Stem stitch

Use a familiar thread Madeira Rayon 40 col. 1053, and arrange the stitches below the tree crown. In the diagram you can spot the branches, they are indicated in red.



▲ The branches in the golden cedar

Start with a small stitch at the end of each branch and slightly change the length and the angle of the stitch on going down. Decrease stitch length when raising.

