

Blue Waves

Here you are approaching the long-awaited part, which is almost the conclusion of the embroidery, meeting the Blue Waves. In my mind appears the haiku written by Taneda Santōka:

*Wind blows its way to sea
deep in night
alone*

These poetic lines perfectly explain what mood the embroidered waves should give to the design.

For stitching you need to use Madeira Silk Hand Embroidery Thread col. 1008 or any other suitable shade of dark-blue that you can find.

Among the technique, you notice familiar Stem stitch, which you have practised while working on Cedar. Now we will return to this stitch again.

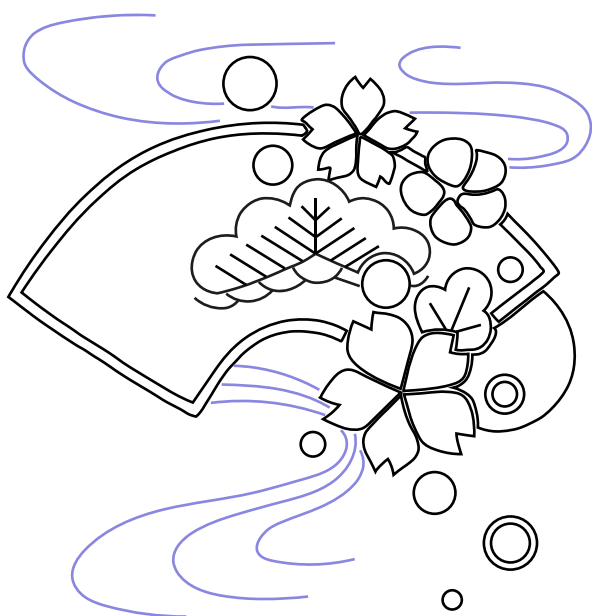
Use a single strand of embroidery floss, if needed, iron it gently in a moderate temperature, to make the thread less “hairy” and more flat.

As I have already told, applying some beeswax can be effective to “discipline” the thread. Pull it through the piece of wax and then iron between two paper towels.

These manipulations will help to lay out flat stitches and give them a subtle sheen.

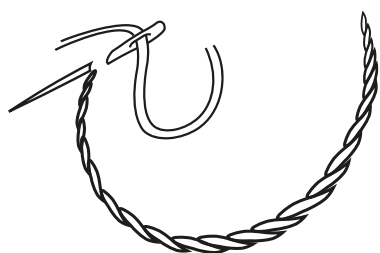
In the diagram below the location of the waves is marked in violet. Please check if the powder with which you transferred the lines of the design still is on fabric.

If needed trace again the position of the elements with a chalk pencil to stitch them correctly. Pay attention to the curves, how they are transferred with chalk – this is how they will be stitched with thread.



▲ Blue waves in the embroidery design

Just have a look below how the Stem stitch is like and how to arrange the stitches in the curve.

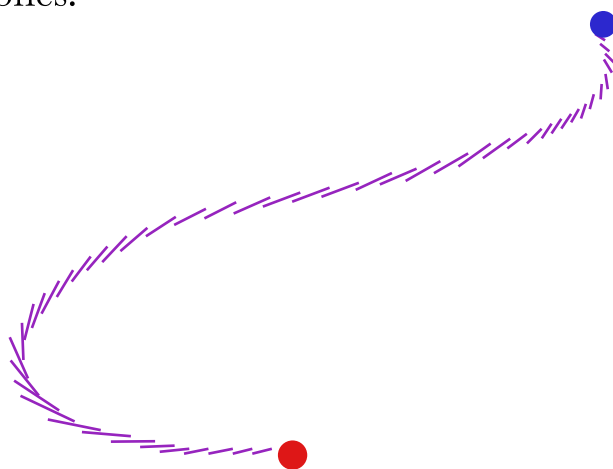


▲ The size and the angle of Stem stitches

I recommend starting at the bottom and working up to the top of the design in order not to erase the chalk lines with your hand movements.

Find the lowest wave and secure the end of the working thread (indicated in red). Stitch by stitch, like shown in the diagram below, move along the curve to the left, slightly changing the angle and lengthening the stitch. Having reached a big rounding – we put the longest stitches, at the smaller turn – we put shorter ones.

When approaching the end of the wave (indicated in blue), the stitches should be the same size as the initial ones.

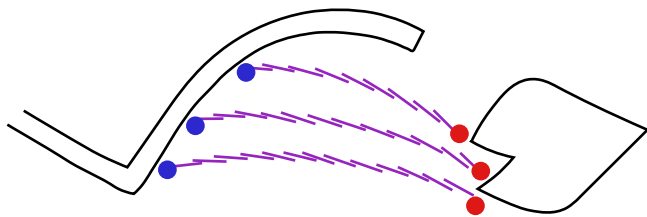


▲ The size and the angle of Stem stitches

Repeat the same for the neighbouring curves in the bottom of the design.



▲ The Waves in the bottom of the design



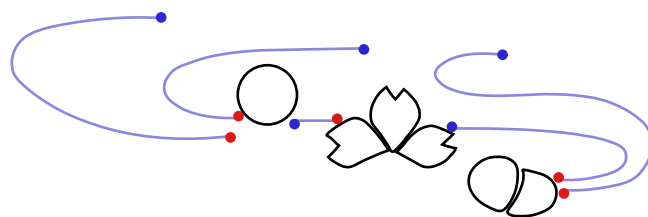
▲ The Waves in the centre of the design

Now switch to the central part of the design. There are three segments of the Waves placed between the Cherry blossom and the Fan. In the diagram they are indicated in violet, also there are shown the starting and the ending points.

All three waves are made with a series of short Stem stitches. Spread them accurately one after the other.



We have almost finished!
And, here goes the last part of the stitching exercise – the top side of the design where the Waves end. They are made very similar to what we have started with – the series of short and long Stem stitches.



▲ The the starting and the finishing points

In the diagram there are shown the starting points (indicated in red) and the ending points (indicated in blue). Embroider these waves right the familiar way. At the beginning of the curve set a series of short stitches and lengthen them on approaching to the rounding part, go along the curve and then shorten them again. Secure the ends of threads on the wrong side. Cut the excess.

Now the piece is ready for dressing up into a frame, which shall emphasise the charm and glossy texture of the embroidered elements. I do recommend using a passe-partout frame that is slightly bigger than the design. It gives work a spectacular look and makes it an expression of pure art.

