

Threads

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There are a many threads on the market both natural and man-made fibres but we are only going to talk about some of the most readily available. I have included the web address for each company and a list of web sites with other good information.

General Terms

Fibre	Fibres for plants, animal, wood and minerals can all be processed into filaments .
Filament	A single thread. Spun from natural or man-made fibres. All threads and yarns are made from filaments.
Twist	Fibres are made into filament-yarn by turning the fibres around each other so that they start to interlock. If you twist the thread a lot a <i>hard yarn</i> will result, with less twist the thread remains supple. Threads which are twisted to the right (clockwise) results in a S-twist.. Turning anti-clockwise will produce a Z-twist. You can see “S's” or” “Z’s” in the thread.
Thread numbering	The higher the number the thinner the yarn. So a low number is a thick thread.
Mercerize	The process by which the thread becomes shiny in appearance (after the inventor Mercer). This treatment increases lustre, strength, affinity to dye, resistance to mildew, and also increases affinity to lint.
Plies	The numbers of filament yarns bundled together to form a thread. The more plies the stronger it is.
Twisted Thread	A thread that has several plies twisted together to form a thread. Pearl cotton, tapestry wool, etc fall into this category. They are twisted clockwise “S” twist. Brazilian threads are twisted counter clockwise “Z” twist
Stranded Thread	Usually referred as Floss. These are manufactured with a various number of strands. It is separated into required thickness by the stitcher.
Braids	There are two types of braids: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. a nylon core with a synthetic metallic filament twisted tightly around it2. several stands of synthetic filament braided together
Chainette	A loop wale-yarn that is created by knitting a fabric that is narrow enough to have the appearance of a yarn. Examination reveals the successive interlocking loops typical of knit construction.
Tubular yarn	It is yarn made on a circular knitting machine that is 1.5 to 2 mm wide when pressed flat.
Overdyed	A process of hand dying that works color into a base colour. Usually unevenly space and often with a variety of colours. Allows the base colour to become an integral part of the colour scheme.
Variegated	Dyed with even coloration from dark to light in a given colour.
Filament silk	It is made from long lengths of silk and has a higher sheen.
Spun silk	Threads are made from short lengths of quality spun silk (called strusas) that gives it an unequalled regularity, lustrous and softness.

Comparison of cotton threads to silk threads

Cotton	Silk
Vegetable fibre	Animal fibre
Takes fast dyes	Takes acid dyes which are not colourfast
Stiffer texture	Softer texture
Short fibres spun	Long fibres spun together or continuous fibres laid parallel or twisted
2 ½ times the weight of silk	
Opaque	Translucent

Choosing your thread:

There are two types of threads; those that pass through the fabric; and those that are laid on the fabric. The most common thread type passes through the ground fabric. When choosing there are some things to be considered.

- **Evenweave fabric** the thread should be approximately the same diameter as the ground threads. This is not a hard and fast rule it depends on the effect you require.
- **All other fabrics** you have lots of scope. Your choice is dependant on the effect required.

Colourfastness test

All thread manufacturers attempt to make their product colourfast however, changes in the dying process and the way the dyed floss is washed leaves an area of doubt. It is recommended to test the individual floss first.

You spend a lot of time on a piece; a little extra assurance is wise:.

- Place wet floss or fabric between sheets of paper towel.
- Place a weight on top (i.e. cutting board) and let dry.
- If there is staining on the towel it is not colourfast

Preparing the threads

Skeins

- Most skeins of floss are “pull skeins” simply pull the floss from the skein
- You can wind it on a bobbin. Several companies sell their product on bobbins

Pearl and Overdyed skeins etc

- You can leave it in the skein. See ”DMC Learn to stitch in half the time handout for keeping in the skein
- You can braid it. This works best for pearl cotton and overdyed threads. Not practical for floss skeins
 1. Find the knot and cut it off
 2. Straighten the skein and cut the loops at one end
 3. Thread one end of the bundle of threads back through the label with the information
 4. Divide the thread in three and do a loose braid
 5. To use the threads pull one strand from the top of the braid

Balls

- Pearl cottons most often come on ball simply use from the ball.
- To keep the ball from unravelling use a small elastic band

Spools

- Most spools have a snap on top where the end of the thread is wound.
- Unwind the length you require
- Rewind the thread under the cap to keep it neat

Controlling threads

To have best results in your stitching you need to straighten your threads. Multi-ply skeins of floss are tangled around each other in the skein. Separating the floss into single plies allows for smoother stitches and better fabric coverage.

Stripping, Separating floss, prevent knots and tangling by following these tips.

See “**Kreinik Silk Serica, Silk Mori, Silk Bella colour chart and usage guide**” for diagram.

- Decide how many strands you will need for your stitching, It may be some or the entire bundle.
- Take your length of thread in one hand.
- With the other hand, take one strand Always pull in a straight line, not at angle. Repeat this process for all the strands you need for your stitching bundle.
- Take the number of strands you need and put them back together, so that the top ends are even. Use lengths approx 12 inches long this reduces knots

Stroking this is the second step in straightening floss.

- Run your fingers along the new bundle to make sure the threads are even and straight.
- Repeat this after every few stitches to keep the thread bundle smooth and straight.

Conditioning threads

Thread conditioners particularly useful for specialty flosses such as metallic and rayon flosses. Whether you prefer to use a synthetic conditioner or natural beeswax, thread conditioners reduce tangling and fraying. There are several kind on the market two examples are :

1. **Bees Wax** (Natural example) To use simply pull the thread across the wax, then through your fingers. The heat from your fingers will melt the wax into the fibres of the thread or floss and you are ready to sew with 'gold quality' results
2. **Thread Heaven** (synthetic example) is made of neutral compound that will not damage floss or fabric of almost any type.

To use

- Open the box of Thread Heaven.
- Cut a length of floss and draw it across the Thread Heaven.
- Draw the floss between your thumb and forefinger. This coats the floss and creates a slight static charge, to reducing tangling.

Working with Rayon threads

- Strip and stoke a you would any floss (see above)
- Use short lengths 12 inches to avoid knotting
- Dispose of thread if it becomes fuzzy
- Using a small damp NOT WET sponge (i.e. makeup sponge) and run the threads over it
- Railroading will help preserve the shine (slip the needle through the strand before sinking it)
- Dangle the needle often to allow the thread to untwist and relax

Working with metallic threads. Metallic threads are hand washable and dry cleanable. When ironing a finished piece containing metallic threads don't iron directly on the metallic. Use a press cloth. Do not use steam.

Blending Filament

- Every fibre has a different degree of elasticity or tension, when using two different fiber types together or simultaneously control is essential.
- In order to achieve this control and insure uniformity in stitching, knotting the metallic blending filament on to the needle is recommended. **See handout "Kreinik Metallic Colour Chart "for threading techniques diagrams and usage chart"**

Braids, Ribbons etc

- Use as a single ply
- Use shorter lengths to avoid abusing the thread
- Discard if thread becomes fuzzy or unravels

Working with overdyed and variegated threads

- Make sure that you buy enough at one time to complete your project as the dye lots do vary somewhat. The dye lots change because these threads are hand dyed and variations do occur.
- Find the repeat and cut the thread just before the repeat
- When using overdyed threads, you need to match up the ends in the same order that you stripped the thread.
- Tie a knot in the end where you will start on the next thread.
- Always thread the end that is opposite the cut as you continue with additional lengths of yarn. This will ensure that the run of colors remains the same.
- When you stitch with the second length you removed from the card, or skein thread the needle on the end opposite the cut (or the end left on the card or skein, not the end that you cut).
- It is also a good idea to stitch having as much thread as possible on the back of the canvas as this will help you go through the color runs much more quickly.
- Do not leave long ends when beginning or ending off the thread, as this will interrupt the color run.

Tip *diffusing the colour of overdyed flosses. Double it over in your needle this will diffuse the colours*

Working with Chainettes:

This construction gives them a soft hand but makes them a bit difficult to work with at first.

There are several things to do to gain control of these yarns.

- Snap the thread gently to tighten the chain
- You can use a larger than normal needle and come straight up and down through the canvas, being careful not to drag the yarn on the canvas. The larger needle makes a bigger hole for the yarn to pass through and there will be less friction on it.
- You might also try a smaller than normal needle as this tends to set the yarn in the needle and it will not run beyond the small eye of the needle. The yarn that is the tail will be lost.
- Make sure that small pieces of any unravelling yarn do not get buried in your work. It will be very difficult to get these out and your stitches will look fuzzy.
- Some people say to break the end of the yarn rather than to cut it. If that works for you, do it. In addition, a very small amount of Fray Check or clear fingernail polish applied to the end of the thread after it is in the needle will help. Let dry thoroughly before stitching.
- It is not the end of the world when the yarn unravels. Cut ahead of the unravelled part and rethread your needle. Chainettes are softer and less expensive than braids.

Working with Tubular Yarns

- Use a larger than normal needle coming straight up and straight down through the canvas, being careful not to drag the yarn. If possible come up in a “dirty hole and down on a” clean” hole.
- Use shorter lengths
- Cutting tubular yarns on a severe diagonal can help. Also piercing the threads with the needle has been suggested. After you thread the needle, pass the needle through the yarn near the end. This makes a small knot that tends to hold the yarn together. A small amount of Fray Check or clear nail polish on the end after you thread your needle is another way to solve this problem
- Remember to lay tubular yarns, as you do not want it to twist. The effect will be well worth the effort. Other yarns may be inserted inside most tubular yarns that will change its look. A strand of floss can change the color just enough to give unlimited shading.
- Couch larger diameter yarns

Thread Descriptions from the their manufacturer

DMC

Embroidery Floss --also know as stranded cotton (mouline). This thread is double mercerized Egyptian cotton in finest quality long staple cotton fibres. The thread consists of 6 separable plies available in 454 solid colors and 18 variegated colors.

Color Variations Embroidery Floss is a blend of a soft multicolour that flows seamlessly into one another. The subtle color changes reveal themselves every few stitches. Six-strand divisible thread on an 8.7-yard pull-skein. This size 25 thread is available in 36 tone-on-tone multicolours. Each skein of "Color Variations" is a combination of current DMC colors. Color Variations provides the look of hand-dyed floss.

Light Effects is a glistening collection of 36 specialty threads that will add light and reflective qualities to any needlework or craft project. Six-strand divisible thread on an 8.7-yard pull-skein. Light Effects color numbers correspond to popular DMC cotton Embroidery Floss colors. Each strand is a size 25. 36 brilliant colors in 6 thread families.

Linen Embroidery Floss Made with 100% western European linen fibres with a rustic matte finish. Six-strand divisible thread in 24 beautiful colors ranging from naturals to shy pinks, summer blues and mystic greens

Perle cotton: a highly mercerized, twisted, non-divisible, lustrous 100% cotton thread. The filaments are twisted together to give it a cord-like appearance. Pearl Cotton comes in four sizes - 3,5,8, and 12, in skeins and balls. The number of filaments determines the diameters a rule of thumb the higher the number the finer the thread. It is available in several thicknesses 3 being the thickest 5 and 8 thinner, and nr 12 the thinnest. Available in skeins and/or balls.

Pearl Color Variations, DMC's new specialty thread with an over-dyed look. Available in 36 beautiful shades with 27 yards per twisted skein each skein in a combination of DMC colours.

Metallic pearl Cotton A non-divisible, polyester metallic and viscose blended thread on a twisted skein. Available in brilliant Gold (color 5282) and Silver (color 5283). A size 5 thread on a 27-yard skein.

DMC Broder Special/Cotton consists of a single mercerized cotton thread. It is smooth like stranded cotton. Available in several thicknesses (number 12 and 16 being thickest, number 35 thinnest).

Rayon Embroidery floss is an artificial filament that has a strong sheen to it. It consists of separable plies, which are rather slippery. For this reason the thread can be difficult to work with. It is available in 100 brilliant solid colors on an 8.7-yard.

Satin Floss This thread is as soft and shiny as satin. It glides through fabric and brings an exceptional sheen to all stitchery projects. Available in 36 striking colors that follow the same numbering system as the original Rayon Floss. Six-strand divisible thread on an 8.7-yard pull skein

Tapestry wool. This is a thick, dull yarn. Specially suited for needlepoint on canvas, but also for other types of needlework. DMC makes Laine Colbert in skeins of 8 meters. Available in many beautiful shades.

Crewel wool. This is a thin wool thread. The thickness is comparable to two stands of stranded cotton. Several colors can be used in one needle for work on coarser canvas or it can be used as is.

ANCHOR

Anchor embroidery floss is also Egyptian cotton and comes in 360 colours in an 8m /8.8-yard pull-skein.

Anchor Pearl cotton highly mercerized, twisted, non-divisible, lustrous 100% cotton thread available in sixes, 5,8, and 12, and balls.

Anchor Tapisserie Wool-Laine this wool used to know as Patons Beehive but the factory was taken over by Anchor. It a little thinner than DMC it come in skeins Anchor makes in skeins of 10 meters and in larger hanks (50gr.) and cover canvas (4/cm or 10/inch)

AU VER SOIE

The Au ver Soie company has been making silk threads in France since 1870. The name au ver Soie translates to “at the silk worm”

Soie perle is twisted 3-stranded filament silk made of the best qualities of raw silk that give it an unrivalled brightness and softness. The weight of perlee does not compare to any other product. Unlike pearl cotton it expands to fill the area when stitched with light tension. It is perfect for cross-stitch is more durable on canvas work than cotton pearls it has a nice play of light on hardanger. It is available in a range of 365 colours

Soie goblins is a 2 ply fine high twisted filament silk that is smooth, soft, and lustrous. It is available in a range of 104 colours It is made of the best qualities of raw silk which give it an unrivalled brightness and softness. The thread does not snarl in the needle and has a good tensile strength. It resists also very well to abrasion.

Soie de Paris 6 strand filament silk that is smooth, soft, and lustrous. Available in 77 colors It is made of the best qualities of raw silk which gives it an unrivalled brightness and softness. it does not snarl in the needle and has a good tensile strength. It resists also very well to abrasion..

Soie d'Alger 7 strands, in a palette of 605 colours for embroidery and tapestry, This silk is loosely plied and can be split easily. It doesn't come from Algeria. The name "Alger" refers to a special domestic process.

Soie 1003 is a 3 ply spun silk with a moderate lustre, smooth, soft. It is available in a range of 780 ideal for ; Cross stitch, counted thread, needlepoint, embroidery, Hardanger, lace making, blackwork, ribbon embroidery, stumpwork, Smocking, quilting, crazy quilting, crewel and Miniatures.

TREBIZOND is wonderful! A shiny, twisted silk, about twice the weight of soie perlée (similar in weight to size 5 pearl cotton), this thread is supposed to be colorfast (of course it's always advisable to test any thread for wash ability under your own conditions). One strand of Trebizond is a very good fit on 18 mesh needlepoint canvas

CARON COLLECTION

Wildflowers A single strand hand-dyed cotton in overdyed colours. When stitched it has a more matte finish than Watercolours. One strand is similar in weight to flower thread, between perle #8 and #12. It is available in the same colours as Watercolours and the two threads can be used together very successfully, especially in Hardanger embroidery. Available in 36, 120, and 400 yd skeins.

Watercolours A three-ply hand-dyed pima cotton in overdyed colours. It has a silky sheen, especially when used with long, flat stitches. One ply is about perle #5 thickness, with the same versatility as Persian wool. It can be used for all forms of needlework including needlepoint, cross stitch, tatting, Hardanger, darning patterns, knitting, crochet and crewel embroidery. Available in 10, 40, and 100 yd skeins.

Waterlillies A twelve-ply hand-dyed 100% silk in overdyed colours. It gives a subtle sheen when stitched and has particularly good light refraction qualities. The strands are easily separated, making it fit easily on any size fabric or canvas. The best light refraction occurs when strands are completely separated and then put together again. Many of the colours match Watercolours and Wildflowers, but because the silk fibres take the dye differently, they may be more subdued Available in 6, 40, and 100 yd skeins.

Soie Crystal 100% silk 12 stranded spun silk floss coordinates with Waterlillies. 128 solid colours in 33 yd skeins.

Impressions A 50% wool, 50% silk blend. It comes in solid colors that coordinate with other Caron products. Available in 36 and 120, yd skeins.

Rachel A tubular nylon thread. It compresses or expands to accommodate a large variety of canvas or fabric sizes. It has a shimmery, wet look and when stitched flat, it has a transparent appearance; compressed, it is more opaque. In addition to using it for traditional stitching, other fibres can be threaded through it or it can be stitched on top of other needlework. Great for crazy quilt stitches. There are 55 colours Available in 10, 40, and 100 yd skeins.

Rachelette Rachel with a fine metallic threaded through it. The sparkle of the metallic combined with the shimmer of the Rachel can give your work a truly dazzling effect. It is usually best for counts of fourteen or coarser but long stitches will work on eighteen or on twenty four-count. It is also wonderful on crazy quilts. There are 63 colours available in 5yd skeins.

Antica A heavier metallic thread in antique shades. The effect is more of a soft glow than a shiny sparkle. It ravel easily, but can be controlled by a dab of Fray check or clear nail polish at one end. Before threading the needle, snap the length of floss gently to tighten the chainette and make the stitching easier. It is a little bit thicker than #5 pearl cotton, but not as thick as #3 pearl. Use on eighteen or fourteen count. Fine for Bargello stitches on twenty-four count Congress cloth. There are 11 colours available in 10, yd skeins.

Snow A synthetic metallic thread. It is very easy to work with and in weight is similar to #5 pearl cotton, six strands of floss or one ply of Persian wool. White tends to reflect the colors used around it. Although it has lots of sparkle, decorative stitches look well worked with snow. It also comes in a variety of colors.

KREINIK

Kreinik Blending Filament One ply metallic threads may be used alone or combined with other threads and yarns. Perfect for enhancing needlepoint, cross stitch and embroidery designs. Blending Filaments are also popular for punch embroidery, lace making, weaving, knitting, and crochet and machine sewing. 65 colors.

Kreinik Metallic Braids- Used alone for a more defined look. They will not ravel and are strong, soft and lustrous. Braids are round in shape to offer textured dimensional effects and are available in Very Fine (#4), Fine (#8), Tapestry (#12), Medium (#16) and Heavy (#32) weights. 120 colors

Kreinik Metallic Ribbons- Use alone for a more defined and textured style. Ribbons are flat in appearance, soft and very flexible. In addition to stitching easily, they are popular as trims as they do not buckle. Ribbons are available in 1/8" and 1/-16" sizes and 120 colors.

Kreinik Cord- One ply, tightly wrapped metallic threads perfect for outlining, back stitching or adding "lacy" effects when cross stitching also ideal for machine embroidery, quilting, and smocking. Available in 24 colors that coordinate with Blending Filaments, Braids and Ribbons.

Kreinik Cable A 3 ply, gently twisted cord used to create a heavier outline for exacting definition in hand embroidery. Available in gold and silver.

Kreinik Japan Threads- Synthetic non-tarnishing gimps available in Gold, Silver and Copper. These threads are excellent for fine stitching, outlining, and couching and laid work. They give the appearance of stitching with real gold, silver or copper. They are available in Super Fine #1(which is a passing thread), Fine #5, and Medium #7 weights (couching Threads), also in Very Fine, Fine, Tapestry, and Medium Braids, 1/16" and 1/8" Ribbons.

Kreinik Ombre A softly twisted 8 ply metallic thread. They are available in 9 variegated colors as well as solid Gold, Silver and Pearl. Ideal for knitting (machine or hand), needlepoint, crochet and cross-stitch.

Kreinik FACETS This "Multi Dimensional bead-like yarn" can be easily couched by hand or machine to create texture and dimension. Facets truly give a "bead-like" appearance. Wonderful for wearables and home decoration. FACETS are excellent for adding a touch of elegance and sparkle. Available in Red, Green, Silver, Sky Blue, Sapphire Blue, Antique Gold and Black.

Kreinik Torsades- (Twisted Cords)-These rope style trims are perfect for home decoration, fashion, and surface embellishment. Choose from solid metallic shades or combinations of colourful solids blended with metallic fibres. Each color selection is available in a variety of thicknesses. Simply couch or stitch in place. Torsades will lend an elegant touch to pillows, stockings, ornaments and eveningwear. Simply couch to accent your needlework.

Kreinik Silk the following three silks create a trilogy of design and texture options:

Kreinik Silk Mori® is a premium 6-strand, 100% pure SPUN SILK with a delightful softness and creamy lustre. Available in skeins, it can be plied for a wonderful variety of stitches. Silk Mori is easy to use and ideal for beginners in silk thread needlework. Available in 2.5 meter (2.75 yard) skeins.

Kreinik Silk Serica® is a 3-ply, 100% pure FILAMENT SILK with a magnificent, rich sheen. It is a versatile silk thread that can be used singly as a fine twisted silk, or it can be separated for use as a highly reflective flat silk for more advanced stitching techniques (like Japanese embroidery, canvas work, laid work).

Kreinik Silk Bella This 3-ply finely twisted filament silk is dyed to match colors in the Kreinik Silk Mori® and Silk Serica® line.. Available on 20 meter (22 yard) spools.

RAINBOW GALLERY

All of Rainbow Gallery's Threads are made to be colorfast. However, if you are going to wet block or wash a piece it is recommend testing the individual yarns first. Even though a manufacturer states that the fibre is color fast, changes in the dyeing process and the way the dyed yarn is washed leave an area of doubt. With time spent on a piece, a little extra assurance is wise.

NOPPEE SILK and should be stitched using shorter than normal lengths, 12" or so. It will fray rather easily, so come straight up and straight down through the canvas. It will also help to use a needle that is slightly larger than you would normally use. Do not drag the silk across the canvas, as this will tear it apart. Its nice shine and glorious texture will make the extra effort worthwhile.

NATURAL LINEN will tend to untwist. Turn your needle as you stitch to maintain the twist of the fibre. It will also twist back on itself as you stitch and will knot easily. Turning your needle also helps to control this problem. (*BG1 1 strand on 13-18 count, long stitches on 18 count*) (*BG3 - 1 strand on 12-14 count, long stitches on 18 count*) (*BG4 - 1 strand on 18 count*) (*BG5 & 6 - 1 strand on 18 count*)

ALPACA 18 Use this as you would any normal yarn. It is strong and will not fray easily. If desired, you may brush it with a Bunka Brush or toothbrush to fluff it up to maximize the furry effect. (*1 strand 13-18 count*)

PETITE ALPACA 100% Baby Alpaca. It's finer and more delicate than Alpaca 18. It is wonderful for cross-stitch, especially for animals. For 18 mesh canvas use 2 strands for full coverage. It can also be brushed up for an even furrier look. Longer straight stitches are best for needlepoint. Available in limited colors.

ARCTIC RAYS This yarn can best be described as a wispy fringe. It has pieces of transparent fibre that give a glistening effect. Do not drag this yarn across the canvas. Use a larger than normal needle to prepare the canvas holes to accept the Arctic Rays without pulling it apart. The glistening effect of this yarn is more pronounced with long stitches, as less of the fringe is pulled into the canvas. Arctic Rays also makes wonderful French Knots. (*1 strand 14-18 Long Stitches*)

ALABASTER This is an iridescent shiny metallic that is great for snow, ice or anything where you do not want to overpower your other stitching. It is a chainette, so use the above-mentioned care when stitching. This has a rather loose construction to allow some of the color of your canvas to show through the metallic. (*BG7 - 1 strand on 13-18 count*)

BRAVO! This yarn is cotton floss with each of its four strands is equivalent to pearl cotton size 12. (Each ply is slightly larger than a strand of DMC floss.) It should be stripped and put back together when stitching so that it will lie smoothly. *Bravo! Encore!*, and *Overture* are dyed to match. However, not all colors are made in all lines (*2 strands on congress cloth, 3 strands on 18 count, 4 strands on 16 count, 5 strands on 14 count*)

RAINBOW CASHMERE is a very soft, luxurious fibre. It is made from 100% cashmere, the same as the soft, subtle sweaters that we all admire. It is a dream with which to stitch and glides through the canvas. It is a strong fibre; however do not use overly long lengths, as the fuzzy appearance will wear as you stitch.. A single ply as it comes off the card will work on 18-count canvas. For 13 or 14 count double the yarn in your needle, but use a slightly larger needle so as to push the canvas threads slightly apart. This will prevent wearing of the Cashmere as you stitch. For a furrier appearance you can use a Nap Brush to pull out the individual fibers to give your stitching a furry, hairy appearance. (13-18 counts canvas with long stitches on 13 & 14 count)

CORONET BRAID metallic comes in three different sizes, #4, #8 and #16. . All sizes are sturdy enough to pass through the canvas and can be used for tent stitches. Coronet Braid is made with the metallic part tightly warped around a rayon core. This is not just a filament that is braided. Thus, unlike other braids, none of the core shows through. Its stitched appearance has the richness of real metal thread. When stitching come straight up and straight down as you do not want to cause wear on the thread from dragging it at an angle through the canvas. This is a great fibre to use for outlining and bends rather well around curved shapes. All sizes are excellent for couching. (Size #4 - Cross Stitch 11 - 18 count, congress cloth and all couching) (Size #8 - 18 count and all couching) (Size #16 - 12 - 14 count and all couching)

CRESTA d'ORO Is a Chainette (1 strand on 18 count, 2 strands on 12-14 count)

CRYSTAL BRAID has a unique icy pearl look that shimmers. There are 3 golds and 7 pastel colors. This braid is a number 12, or tapestry weight. This means that there are 12 strands of metallic braided together. It is a very sturdy yarn and will not unravel or fray easily. There are no special cautions you need to take with this yarn and it can be used wherever you would use any #12 braid (needlepoint 18 count, long stitch 22 count, cross stitch 11 & 14 count)

DESIGNER'S DREAM A single strand wool yarn that may be plied up to fit a variety of canvas sizes. It is a very strong yarn and may be used with other, weaker yarns to give strength. (1 strand on Congress Cloth, 2 strands on 18 count, 4 strands on 13-14 count)

ELEGANCE is a tightly twisted silk that is dye matched to many of the colors of Splendor and the colors of Grandeur and Subtlety. It is roughly equivalent to a size 8 pearl. It is very strong, wear resistant, and is perfect for pulled work and hardanger. There is a nice shine to Elegance that is perfect for areas where you want a rich shine. Do not use long strands as the shine does eventually wear off as the thread goes through the canvas. (Over 2 on 25 to 32 count, over 1 on 11 to 18 count)

ENCORE! Each of the four strands of Encore! is about the size of Pearl Cotton #8. Work with it as you would Pearl Cotton (1 strand on Congress Cloth, 4 strands on 12-13 count, 3 strands on 13 count, 2 strands on 18 count)

FANCY FUR a nice furry yarn with a hint of shine that does not over power the fur part. This thread is best used for long stitches and does not need to be fluffed up or brushed, however if you feel that you need to brush the Fancy Fur use a very gentle brush, like a tooth brush. Make sure that you come up in a used or full hole and go down in the empty holes. (needlepoint 13-18 count, cross stitch 7-10 count)

FLAIR® Flair has a nice glimmer that will not overpower the other fibers in your work. Its very subtle shine will add interest to your work. On painted canvasses it reinforces the color underneath. Flair is a tubular nylon netting that will unravel. There are several ways to control this. Use a rug needle turned upside down to slip a fibre inside the Flair. (14-18 counts canvas with long stitches on 16-24 count)

FLUFFY FLEECE This fibre is wonderful for beards and fur. It is a blend of superfine Alpaca, Wool and Nylon. What makes this unique is that it is couched on your design, whether it is on canvas or fabric. Couching makes the areas you are filling work up quickly. It comes in 10 great animal colors and 4 novelty ones. Fluffy Fleece has large and small slubs and works best on 14, 13 and 12 mesh canvasses and 14 count and larger count fabrics.

BABY FLUFFY FLEECE This is the same as Fluffy Fleece except it is finer which makes it better for 18 mesh canvas and 18 count fabrics, and even finer lines as well.

FROSTY RAYS & PETITE FROSTY RAYS Stroke the yarn as you stitch with it. The Tiara metallic inside the Frosty Rays will tend to meander. If you pull the whole bundle, Flair and Tiara metallic together, it will straighten out and lay much nicer. Be careful not to pull the metallic all the way out as it is difficult to put back. Also, the use of a laying tool will help. It starts to get a bit tight on 18 count so be careful that small pieces of the nylon do not get stuck in your work. The Frosty Rays with the white pearl metallic inside is slightly heavier than the others. A little trick that gives interesting effects is to bring the thread up through the canvas, remove the needle, and then slide the Frosty Rays down the Tiara to form a clump. Rethread your needle, go back through the canvas at a point of your choosing and couch down the bunched up Frosty Rays. This gives the effect of a crinkly bullion knot or chenille and makes three-dimensional fur, hair or ruffles. Use Petite Frosty Rays for lighter coverage. (10-18 Count Canvas with long stitches on 12-22 Count)

FUZZY STUFF fuzzy with a shinny glint. Use short lengths and bring straight up and straight down through the canvas. Do not drag or pull diagonally. There is really no need to brush this yarn, as it is fuzzy all by itself. The shinny hairs do not overpower the rest of the yarn; they just add a nice hint of sparkle. White Fuzzy Stuff is great for snow and snowmen. Fill in areas with split stitches or long stitches. Ignore the rule of going down into a full hole and up in an unused hole. If you come up in a hole that already has the Fuzzy Stuff stitched in it you will be pulling the hairs up to the front of the canvas to add a little more fuzziness. There are good animal colors and some very wild and funky colors that are great for Halloween designs, wild hair or outlandish garments. (2 ply-14 count, 1 ply-18 count, cross stitch 1 ply-9 to 10 count)

FYRE WERKS is a beautiful shiny metallic ribbon that will add glitter and glitz to your work. While not a delicate yarn, it does tend to fray at the ends and anything past the eye of the needle will be lost. Do not use overly long pieces and be careful to lay Fyre Werks. A laying tool usually is not needed; I use my finger to give it the right direction and prevent twists. I also watch how it is laying when doing tent stitches. Twisted Fyre Werks will not work, so keep it flat. Fyre Werks is pronounced "Fire Works"

SOFT SHEEN: Fyre Werks with less of a shine, more of a glint of metallic, rather than a very bright shine. It is stitched the same way as the regular Fyre Werks.

HOLOGRAM: Fyre Werks with even more of a shine. There is a depth to the shine that the Hologram Fyre Werks gives. The metallic is a hologram that is cut into thin strips and then braided. It is slightly heavier than the regular Fyre Werks so stitches a little tighter on the canvas. (13-18 counts canvas with long stitches on 18-22 count)

GOLD RUSH The Gold Rush Family: The four sizes of Gold Rush are all chainettes. See the previous discussion on chainettes. The number after the Gold Rush logo denotes the size of canvas for which the yarn is best suited. A word about Gold Rush XS, try this on both 11 count Aida and 18 count canvas. It is a very versatile yarn. This metallic can be used to replace 4-5 strands of blending filament for those who do not like to ply up. (Gold Rush 12: -10-13 count canvas) (Gold Rush 14: and Variegated Gold Rush 14: - 13-18 count canvas) (Gold Rush 18: - 18-22 counts canvas) (Gold Rush XS: - 18-22 count canvas)

GRANDEUR™ Grandeur is dye matched to many of the Splendor colors. It also matches all colors of the thinner weight Elegance and the #12 pearl silk, Subtlety. It is a twisted silk that is about the size of a #5 pearl. It is a very strong fibre that will lose its shine if you use too long of a piece. It is soft and will spread a little on the canvas to give excellent coverage. Maintain the twist as you stitch so that the Grandeur does not untwist and give a flat appearance.

HI-LIGHTS™ Do you hate to add blending filament to a yarn? Well, here is the answer. Hi-Lights has the sparkly blending filament already added. All you need to do is take it off the card and begin stitching. The metallic that is pre-blended into the thread will not separate when you stitch. This is a thin thread that may be plied for use on larger count canvas. It is also very good for cross-stitch. Do not double the thread over in your needle, as you want the metallic filament wound in the same direction when you are stitching with more than one strand. Make sure that you bury the thread on the back very securely or use a waste knot. It is slippery and will pull out easily. Use shorter lengths to prevent wear and unravelling. (2 Ply 18 count, 1 ply 22 count, Cross Stitch 22 to 32 count)

MANDARIN BAMBOO FLOSS is beautiful and easy to use 100% bamboo 6-strand floss. Use wherever you would a cotton floss, strand for strand. Ply up or down to suit your needs. It lays better than cotton because it is softer and yet is still quite strong. You can use slightly longer stitching lengths since it wears better too. It is less costly than silk but has many silk-like properties. Its semi-matte finish doesn't overpower your other stitches. Most matte threads lines have gone off the market and Mandarin floss works well as a substitute. Blends well with metallic filament for cross-stitching. Great for French Knots, Turkey Work, tassels and twisted cords..

NEON RAYS & NEON RAYS PLUS When doing any stitch other than a tent stitch, the kinks in the ribbon could be removed if desired. There are several ways to do this, one of which should be right for you. The easiest way is to wet the working length of the ribbon. Use a damp sponge, white paper towel, cloth or whatever, running the Neon Rays through. It is best to use water, as opposed to any other liquid, to remove the kinks. Let the Neon Rays dry before stitching. Another method is to pop Neon Rays as you would Rozashi Silk. Wrap it around a finger on each hand and snap it. The problem with this is that it will thin your length of fibre. If this is not a concern, go ahead. If it is, use a different method. Two other methods are steaming or ironing. That seems to be too much effort for most people. A clean, hot light bulb is a handy substitute. You must lay Neon Rays or you will lose the beauty of this yarn. A laying tool is needed and there are several different ones on the market, all of which work well.

Also, note that stitching tension will have an effect on the coverage of Neon Rays. A tighter tension will thin this yarn out and a looser tension will allow it to expand on the canvas. Also, try stabbing Neon Rays with the needle after it is threaded. By piercing the ribbon with the needle, you will avoid it slipping out of the needle. This will help you control your tension. Bury the Neon Rays well when you begin and end, as it will slip out easily. A Bargello tuck is recommended. (14-18 counts canvas, long stitches on 18-22 count)

NEON RAYS PLUS Neon Rays Plus even easier to stitch and has a special subdued elegant sparkle. Some of the rayon strands have replaced with metallic ones. This gives it a little more body. Works well for tent stitch, longer straight and diagonal stitches and even French Knots. Follow the stitching tips for the regular Neon Rays. Its colors begin with NP and the numbers following correspond to regular Neon Rays. NP22 =N22, etc. However not all colors are available in Neon Rays Plus.

NORDIC GOLD® Nordic Gold is a very fine metallic that is excellent for needlepoint and hardanger. It also works well on 18 count Aida fabric. It is a chainette,. If you hate to ply-up blending filament this will work well and you will not have the trouble with it curling and fighting you while you stitch. It is about the size of 2-3 plies of filament. (1 strand 18-24 count)

OVERTURE Each strand of Overture is about the size of Pearl Cotton #5. See Bravo! and Encore!.(2 strands on 12-14 count canvas, 1 strand on 18 count)

PANACHE is twisted rayon with a high sheen that is perfect for 18-count needlepoint. Use as it comes off the cards. It has beautiful jewel tone colors and may substitute for Fiesta! Use shorter lengths or let your needle dangle to untwist if you're are using a normal length. Makes wonderful twisted cords that can be couched down on your canvas or used for finishing. Also great for tassels. Use a bargello tuck to tie off, or tie off normally once, and then again in the opposite direction. Its tight twist makes it easier to handle than most rayons.

PATENT LEATHER The most important thing about working with Patent Leather is to make sure that you lay it front and back. Keeping it laid on the back will make it much easier to work with and make the front lay perfectly flat. Patent Leather may be tent stitched on 18 count with difficulty, but is easier to use long stitches. (12-14 counts canvas and long stitches on 14-18 count)

PATINA Patina may be used as it is or plied. If you use Patina as it comes off the card, make sure you maintain the twist as you are stitching. Wetting Patina helps, using the same method as with Fiesta! (also, see Neon Rays for other suggestions.) Patina is somewhat more difficult to separate. It is a three-ply yarn and you need to untwist it slightly, about an inch from the end and pull out one of the plies very carefully. What you have will look almost like Japanese flat silk. Wetting it will remove all the uneven kinks and makes it easier to lay. Double Patina over in your needle once it is plied and this will help you control it and get it to lay flat. Begin and end your stitches carefully so that the Patina will not pull out. A Bargello tuck is recommended. (14-18 counts canvas as is, or stranded, 2 strands on 22 count)

PEBBLE PERLE This yarn can be used as it comes or it may be plied. It is a four-ply cotton yarn with a cabled appearance. Try to maintain its twist as you stitch. Your work will look uneven if you let Pebbly Perle unwind as you stitch. If you strip it you may double the plies over in your needle for more control even though this is a natural fibre and we have been taught not to do this. Wetting this yarn also helps to get the kinks out after plying. (As is on 14-18-count canvas, 2 strands on 22 count Congress Cloth)

PETITE FROSTY RAYS This is a thinner version of Frosty Rays. It works better when you are doing a tent stitch on 18 count. It will also work fine for longer stitches on 18 count so you do not need to switch between the two types while stitching. Petite Frosty Rays is made from Flair and has Treasure Braid Petite inside (which is thinner than Tiara.) All the hints for Frosty Rays apply to the Petite also. (Needlepoint 14 to 18 count, Long Stitch 14 to 24 Count)

PETITE SPARKLE RAYS® A thinner version of Sparkle Rays. This is a 1.5mm Ribbon so that it works better on 18-count canvas. There are fewer colors than the regular Sparkle Rays. You might find that this works better for tent stitches and the other is better for the long stitches. At present there are 24 colors of Petite Sparkle Rays that match 24 of the regular Sparkle Rays colors. (needlepoint 18-count canvas, cross stitch 11-14 count)

PRECIOUS METALS This is mini-garland metallic chenille. It is surprisingly strong. Very little of the metallic will flake as you are stitching. It may be passed through canvas and works on almost any size canvas including 18 count. On fine canvas it is hard to find the right hole, as it is so fuzzy it hides the adjacent holes. It might help to outline the area that you are going to stitch and then fill in. If you miss a stitch here and there, it will not show. (1 strand on 12-18 count)

RAINBOW ANGORA A luxurious furry yarn that is 100% Angora. You must use pieces that are no longer than 20 inches. While not a fibre that will fall apart, you do not want to cause it to wear as you stitch. Come straight up through the canvas and straight down, being careful not to drag it along on top of the canvas or pull it on an angle. Rainbow Angora can be brushed carefully to bring out a more pronounced furry effect. Long stitches are preferred if you want a furry effect as fewer of the hairs of the fibre will be pulled into the canvas. (1 strand 13-16 count, long stitches to 18 count)

RAINBOW LINEN This linen comes in a wide color range and is very strong. It is great for all kinds of needlepoint, including pulled work. It can be used as you would any other yarn. Some stitchers run this yarn over their fingernail to smooth it, but be careful you do not dull the fibre. (18-24 counts canvas)

RAINBOW TWEED Rainbow Tweed has a wonderful soft hand. It is a blend of cotton, wool and acrylic that absorbs the dyes unevenly. This gives it a soft heathery look that is wonderful for stitching large areas such as sky, water, mountains and greenery. It is 4-ply divisible yarn that can be used on any count and comes in "solid" colors and gentle overdyed colors. Some of the overdyed colors match the Overture, Encore! and Bravo! colors. (4 strands "as is" on 13-16 count, 2 strands on 18 count) (Cross Stitch 1 strand on 18 count, 2 strands on 11-14 count)

RAZZEL-DAZZLE 6 Use this metallic on 13-14-count canvas. For 18 count it is best used couched. Its rough texture is what gives the wonderful shine and sparkle. It shows up best when used in long lengths couched with other fibbers. It will pass through the canvas if you are careful but tends to walk up on itself. It can be plied; however, this takes an experienced hand. When passing Razzle-Dazzle 6 through the canvas, stitch straight up and down. (13-18 count, long stitches on 18 count)

RIBBON RAYS This is a very versatile, high lustre metallic. I have used it on 10 to 18-count canvas and it covers well. It makes an excellent trim to cover seams. (10-18 count, long stitches on 18 count)

SILK & CREAM This is a soft twisted silk and wool combination with a wonderful buttery hand. It is great for backgrounds and areas that use a lot of thread. There is a nice shine to this yarn, which requires you to use shorter lengths so the shine does not disappear. The soft twist must also be maintained as you stitch by rotating your needle as you go in and out of your canvas or fabric. (13-18 counts canvas)

SILK LAME BRAID This now comes in three sizes: Silk Lame' Braid #18 consists of four fine strands of silk and four metallic filaments braided together to make one larger strand that works perfectly on 18 count canvas. The wonderful mix of silk and metallic together gives your design a soft, elegant sparkle. You use it as is off the card for stitching, no plying necessary. A shorter length and larger needle (#22) works best to prevent tangles. It also works well for open stitch on larger mesh, especially for water or skies. It makes beautiful tassels and twisted cords for finishing.

- **Silk Lame' Braid #13** is a larger version with the same uses. It's a braid of 8 strands of silk and 8 of metallic. Use it off the card for 10 to 14 count canvas. If you find it a little heavy for your canvas just pull out one strand of the silk. It will come out easily. This size works well on large count cross stitch fabrics such as Klostern.
- **Petite Silk Lame' Braid** is the newest size. It's two strands of silk and one of metallic. Perfect to give light coverage to let the paint on the canvas show. It's also ideal for cross-stitching on fine fabric counts.

SPARKLE BRAID is a tightly twisted 4-strand metallic that is very easy to use. It can replace troublesome blending filaments since it is much easier to control. One strand equals about two strands of blending filament. It is an excellent carry along thread to use with cotton and silk flosses. Use two strands for 18 ct needlepoint. It has a wonderful two-tone sparkle that shows up well alone or combined with other threads. Makes beautiful French Knots and twisted cords too.

SPARKLE RAYS® Sparkle Rays is a neon ribbon that glows in the light rather than the dark. It is stitched the same way that Neon Rays is stitched but it is not as slippery. There are small speckles of metallic along the length of the neon colour ribbon. It will unravel past the end of the needle so short tails are called for. Be careful to lay Sparkle Rays as it is a ribbon and any twisting will detract from its appearance. (Needlepoint 13&14 Count canvas, long stitches on 13-18 Count, Cross Stitch 7 to 10 Count)

SPLENDOR 12-ply silk floss with an unusual construction. It has three bundles of four strands each. It is easiest if you pull the bundles out first and then take out each strand. The twist of each individual strand is tighter than most silks. This makes Splendor easier to use. It will not snag on all but the roughest hands. Be careful to ply and lay the silk to keep the nice shine. I have also stitched with each bundle as it comes. This silk is perfect for people who have been afraid of silks. Many of the usual problems experienced with silk will not occur with Splendor. Anyone that stitches with cotton floss will have no problem with it. Dyed to match many of the Splendor colors are Grandeur, a silk pearl #5, Elegance, a silk pearl #8 and Subtlety, a silk pearl #12. (6 strands on 14 count, 4 strands on 18 count, 2 strands on Congress Cloth)

SPLENDOR SILK RIBBON® If you have used silk ribbon before you will love Splendor Silk Ribbon. If you have never stitched with ribbon a whole new world of texture awaits. This silk ribbon is dye matched to the colors of Splendor Silk (as well as Grandeur, Elegance, and Subtlety.) It is 4mm wide and is generally used for embellishments on the top of the canvas. One advantage to the Splendor Silk Ribbon is that it is colourfast (always test first.) Solid colors are great for flowers and gardens and there are overdyed colors that shade themselves. It is best to use a needle with a long eye so as not to bunch the ribbon up in the eye of the needle. You may also set the ribbon in the needle by first threading it through the eye and then piercing the ribbon with the needle and pulling tight. This will prevent the ribbon from slipping out of the eye of the needle as you stitch. Use short lengths, as ribbon will fray easily. Splendor Silk Floss can also be used to attach the ribbon and create the effect you want. Since the ribbon is dye matched to Splendor there will be no trouble matching colors.

SUBTLETY® Subtlety is a very tightly twisted silk pearl that is close in size to pearl cotton #12. The tight twist gives it a very sharp and crisp appearance. Maintain the twist as you stitch so that it does not knot up on the back of the canvas. Subtlety is dye matched to colors of Splendor, Grandeur and Elegance. It is a great fibre for stitching fine counted work and for use in Hardanger. Since it is dye matched to the other silks Subtlety can be used in conjunction with them to give even more texture. The color numbers are the same across the lines, but the prefixes are different. This is a very strong fibre that can be used in pulled work without breaking.

SUPER SUEDE This is an extremely strong suede-like yarn that stitches like Ultra Suede. It has a core that is a little darker, so be very careful to lay Super-Suede. The surface is fuzzier than Ultra Suede and you can see the nap. You also can use very long pieces and do not have to worry about it breaking. It wears very well. (1 strand 12-14 count, 14 to 18 count long stitches)

TIARA is a metallic that is twisted, not braided. This makes it softer and somewhat easier to use. It will fray at the ends so anything past the eye of your needle will be lost. Do not use very long lengths and be careful not to drag Tiara on the top of the canvas.

BLENDED COLORS: Several colors have been twisted together for unusually gorgeous combinations. (2 strands on 14 count canvas, 1 strand on 18-count canvas, and long stitches on Congress Cloth)

TREASURE BRAID Treasure Braid is a very shiny metallic that comes in size #4, #8, and #16. All are braided and therefore will not unravel as you stitch. It is very durable and you may use long lengths when stitching. It is made in England and Japan and is softer than similar metallics. Because of this, it covers the canvas well. In many applications Size #4 is a good substitute for several plys of blending filament (Also see Petite Braid below.) When using this size you will no longer need to ply up several strands of filament. Size #8 is twice the size of the #4 and #16 is again twice the size of the #8. Colors are consistent between the different sizes.

HIGH GLOSS: There are several colors of high gloss colors available for the extra shine and lustre when using the size #8 and #16.
(Treasure Braid #4: 14 to 22 count cross stitch, 22 to 36 count needlepoint) (Treasure Braid #8: 14-18 count cross stitch, 14-18 count needlepoint)
(Treasure Braid #16: 7-14 count cross stitch, 7-14 count needlepoint)

TREASURE BRAID PETITE This is our newest size in the Treasure Braid family. It is a three ply braided metallic that is extremely versatile. It can usually replace a #4 braid, however, at half the cost per yard. It is very durable and should not present any problem when stitching. In fact, you might try using it where you would use two-ply of blending filament. It would give the same look and you would not have the bother, or mess, of stitching with blending filament that you would need to ply up. It is great to use when you want to add a glimmer of metallic without overpowering the rest of your stitching. You also may double or triple it in the needle when you want braids that are equal to a #6 or #9 weight. (For very fine work when doing needlepoint) (14-36 counts cross-stitch or combined with other threads)

TREASURE CHEST This is very similar to Gold Rush 14. However, it has a variegated synthetic with the metallic filament so that it looks like an overdyed or variegated yarn. It has all the properties of chainettes discussed above. However it is a littler thinner than Gold Rush 14 and works a little better on 18 count canvas. (See section on chainettes) (2 ply-14 count, 1 ply-18 count)

TREASURE RIBBON & TREASURE RIBBON PETITE Stitch these high gloss metallic ribbons as you would Fyre Werks. Use a laying tool. Treasure Ribbon is designed for 13-14-count needlepoint. Use Petite Treasure Ribbon for 18 count.

ULTRA-SUEDE use short lengths! This fibre will tear easily if you are not careful. Use a larger than normal needle and come straight up and straight down, being careful not to drag the Ultra Suede across the canvas. When you start a length, bury it in stitching already done and then change your needle to the other end. Do not pull the whole length through the threads on the back of the canvas. You can also use an away knot, without the knot. Come up from the bottom and then change your needle to the other side of the length of fibre. Stitch over it later in your work. It is best to keep the Ultra Suede at room temperature and away from moisture. Make sure that you lay Ultra Suede, as it tends to twist. Laying it on the back of the canvas will also help to keep the front looking good. Ultra Suede can be tent stitched on 18-count canvas with great difficulty; however, long stitches are best. When you purchase Ultra Suede, make sure you get enough to finish your project. Many colors are fashion colors that are available only for a limited time.. If you want a yarn that is much stronger, try our Super Suede (see above). (12-14 counts canvas, long stitches on 14-18 count)

VERY VELVET This is a fuzzy, beautiful velour yarn. It maintains its shape and thickness throughout its length. Use a rather large needle and a short tail. It does not come apart while stitching, but it may shred behind the eye of the needle. If this happens move the needle forward a half inch or so and it will not unthread. This size is a little tight on 18 count when doing a tent stitch. You might want to use the Petite Very Velvet for basket weave and this size for any long stitches. When preparing this fibre to be stitched, take a length off the card and run your fingernail over it a couple of times. This should remove any kinks and any excess flakes. Come straight up and down through the canvas and guide the Very Velvet with your free hand. (Needlepoint 13-18 count) (Cross Stitch 7-9 count, half crosses on smaller count fabrics)

VERY VELVET PETITE The Petite size of Very Velvet comes in the same color range as the regular Very Velvet. This size is better for doing basket weave or tent stitches on 18 count canvas. The regular size Very Velvet was a bit hard to manage on 18 count when doing tent stitches and they looked a bit packed. You may also use this size for longer stitches or use the regular size for satin stitches. The colors march. The hints for the Very Velvet apply here also. (Needlepoint 18 count, Cross Stitch 9 & 10 Count and over two on 18 count)

WATER N' ICE Water N' Ice WT1 is a loosely braided translucent ribbon. It is fantastic for painted canvas where you want some of the color to show through. It is also great for any reflecting surface such as water, ice, mirrors, dewdrops, and frost. It comes in other colors too. Most are also "see through" but some, the dark ones, are not. Those have a glossy "wet" look. Water N'Ice is a strong metallic that will not wear while stitching, but anything past the eye of the needle will unbraided and be lost. Long stitches give the best effect; so make sure that you lay this fibre so that it is flat on the surface of the canvas. This will give the best shine. Water N' Ice can also be used in geometric designs where you would like a frosted look over other stitches. (13-18 counts canvas with long stitches on 18-22 count)

WINTER is another chainette that is great for snow or ice. When stitched there is sparkle that looks like real snow. It will not overpower your other stitching. This fibre is about the same size as Gold Rush 14

WISPER a very fine fuzzy single yarn. It is usually necessary to ply up to a thickness that will cover your canvas. It is OK to double this yarn over in your needle. It may also be brushed to give a fuller effect. Combine it with another, stronger yarn such as Designer's Dream to give it even more strength. (4 strands on 13-14 count canvas, 2 strands on 18 count and 1 strand on 22 count)

ZOO EYES a 65% Polyester and 35% Viscose chainette that glows in the dark. Works best for spooky ghosts or animal eyes in cross stitch 7 to 11 count or needlepoint 13 to 18 count. It can also be used for a twisted cord for that special Halloween piece. Available in two colors, Eerie Ecu and Watchful White

24 KARATS this is chainette metallic with a high lustre effect. (12-18 counts canvas)

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