

*A Sewing Presentation*

*Stitches and Sewings  
for  
Bookbinding Structures*

Presenter    BETSY PALMER ELDRIDGE  
Photos       ANNA PRIOR  
Layout       BRIAN MALONEY



*GBW/CBBAG  
Standards Seminar  
Toronto  
2008*

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

## NOTES

This booklet was designed as a handout for the Sixty Sewing Structures presentation session at the GBW/CBBAG Standards Seminar held in Toronto in October, 2008. It is based on the digital images of the demonstration boards originally prepared for the Designer Bookbinders conference in Oxford in 1994, which in turn stemmed from a sewing workshop given at the Book and Paper Intensive in Seattle in 1991.

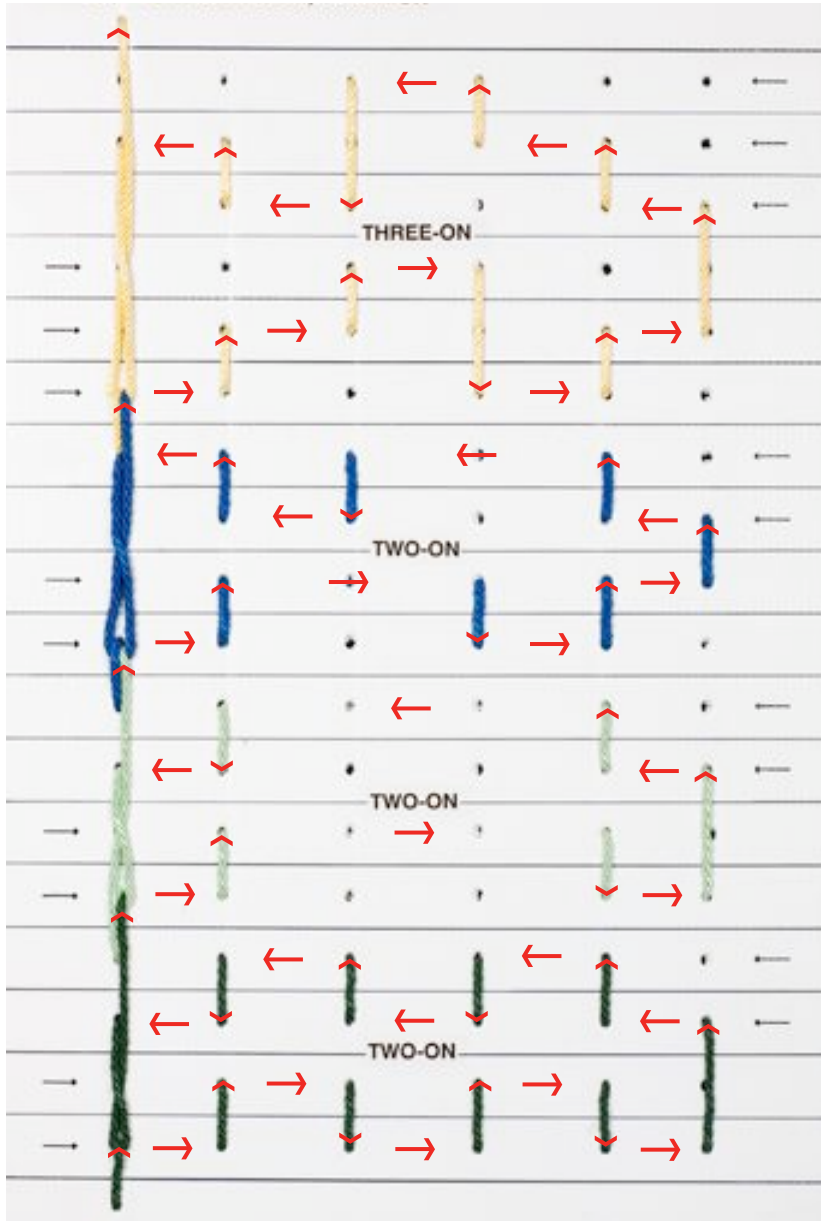
The work was the result of a project begun in the early '90s to try to assemble a compendium of sewing techniques from the different bookbinding traditions. The variety that emerged was amazing: some common, some rare, some historic, some new. It provided a smorgasbord of techniques from which a binder could choose. The particular strengths and weaknesses of the techniques made them suitable for different situations, whether in fine binding, conservation, or artists' books. Workshops based on these sewing variations have sparked a widespread interest in using alternative structures. Occasionally interesting variations have continued to appear.

Many people have contributed to this project. A huge debt is owed to the illustrations in the classic German textbooks written by Fritz Wiese, "*Der Bucheinband*", and "*Der Bucheinband: Historische und Neuartige Einbände.*" Special mention also must be made of the continuing interest and contributions of Hedi Kyle and Pamela Spitzmueller, whose work on sewing terminology has been invaluable. The search for other sewing techniques, new or old, remains a work in progress and an ongoing challenge.

Betsy Palmer Eldridge was introduced to the book arts by Hannah French at Wellesley College in 1957. Subsequently she trained in bookbinding in Germany at the Metz Bindery in Hamburg and in France at the Ecole Estienne and with Jules Fache in Paris. Later she worked in book and paper conservation with Carolyn Horton & Associates in New York. Since moving to Toronto in 1973 she has maintained a private conservation workshop there, and since the founding of CBBAG in 1983 has designed and taught their training courses and workshops. She joined GBW in 1960 and served as president 2000-2006, receiving the Laura Young Award in 2007.

ALONG THE SPINE: ANY SUPPORTS  
SEWN THROUGH THE FOLD: MULTI-SECTIONS  
MULTI-STATIONS: SINGLE HOLES  
LAP, LOOP OR PACKED STITCHES

### SEWING DEFINITIONS



#### SEWING

METHODS BY WHICH GROUPS OF SINGLE LEAVES OR FOLDS, GATHERED INTO SECTIONS, OR SIGNATURES, JOIN TOGETHER TO FORM A BOOK-BLOCK BY ATTACHING EITHER TO EACH OTHER OR TO A COMMON SUPPORT OR TO BOTH

#### ATTACHING STITCHES

**LAP STITCH** - A RUNNING SLIP STITCH  
PASSES OVER A SUPPORT OR UNDER THE PREVIOUS SEWING  
EXITS - NEAR SIDE (BACKWARD)  
ENTERS - FAR SIDE (FORWARD)  
THREADS DO NOT CROSS - LIE SIDE BY SIDE  
QUICK BUT NOT SECURE

**LOOP STITCH** - A LOCKING STITCH  
PASSES AROUND A SUPPORT OR THE PREVIOUS SEWING  
EXITS - FAR SIDE (FORWARD)  
ENTERS - NEAR SIDE (BACKWARD)  
THREADS CROSS  
SECURE BUT SLOW

#### JOINING STITCHES

**LINK STITCH** - DROPS DOWN TO ATTACH TO THE PREVIOUS SECTIONS

**SPAN STITCH** - CLIMBS UP TO ATTACH TO THE NEXT SECTION

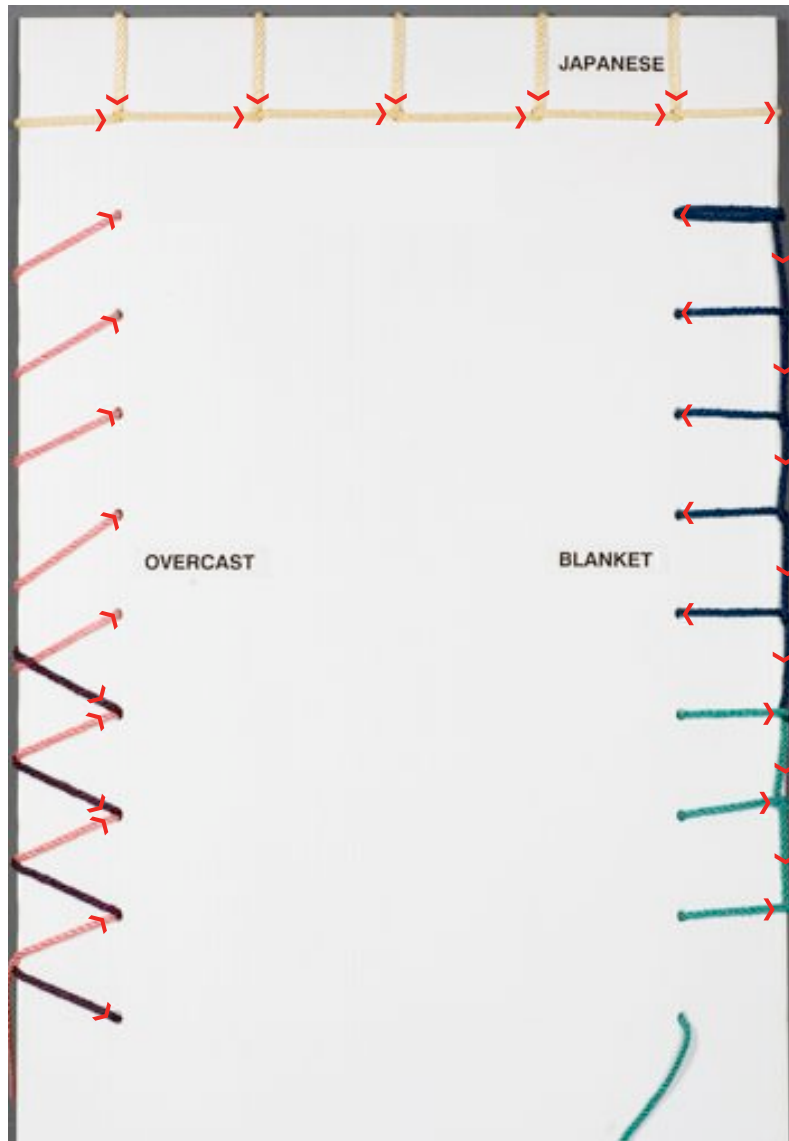
**KETTLE STITCH** - LINKS DOWN & SPANS UP  
TRUE KETTLE - 3 ELEMENTS  
LINKS DOWN  
SLIPS UNDER  
SPANS UP  
FALSE KETTLE - 2 ELEMENTS  
LINKS DOWN  
SPANS UP

**STRAIGHT STITCH** - ATTACHES ONLY TO THE COMMON SUPPORT (DOES NOT DROP, SLIP, OR CLIMB)

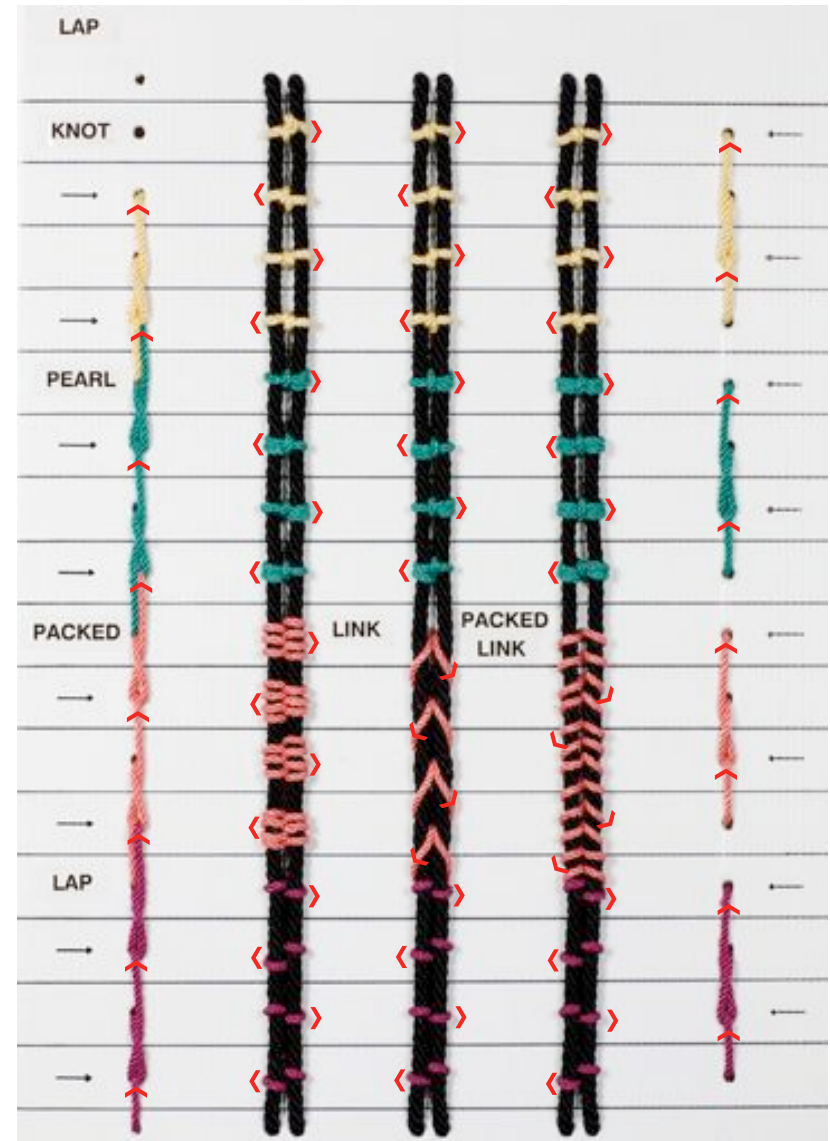
#### SEWING STATIONS

PLACES WHERE A SEWING STOPS TO MAKE A CONNECTION, ATTACHING EITHER TO ANOTHER SECTION, A COMMON SUPPORT, OR BOTH

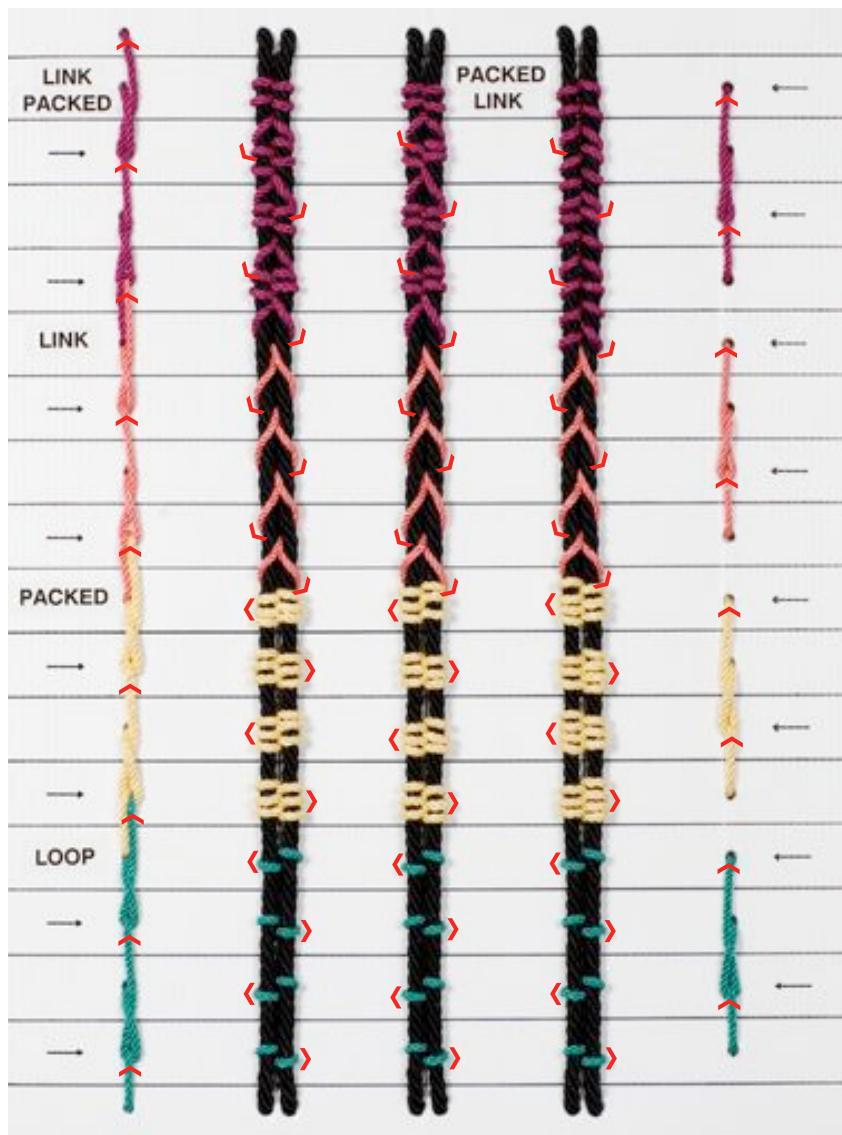
ALONG THE SPINE: NO SUPPORTS (OR CONTINUOUS SUPPORT)  
 STABBED THROUGH THE SIDE  
 MULTI-STATIONS: SINGLE HOLES  
 WHIP/OVERCAST STITCH, BLANKET STITCH, AND JAPANESE STITCH



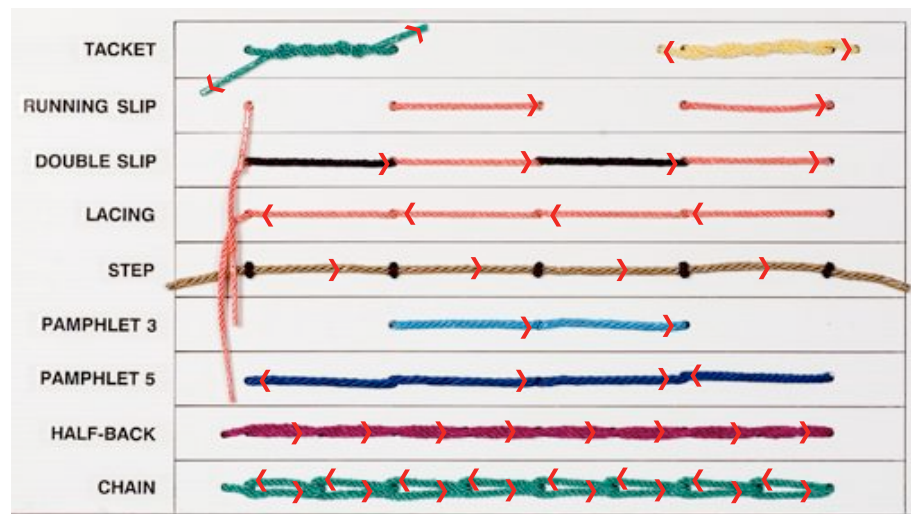
ALONG THE SPINE: DOUBLE RAISED SUPPORTS  
 SEWN THROUGH THE FOLD: MULTI-SECTIONS  
 MULTI-STATIONS: SINGLE HOLES  
 LAP, PACKED, PEARL, AND KNOT STITCHES



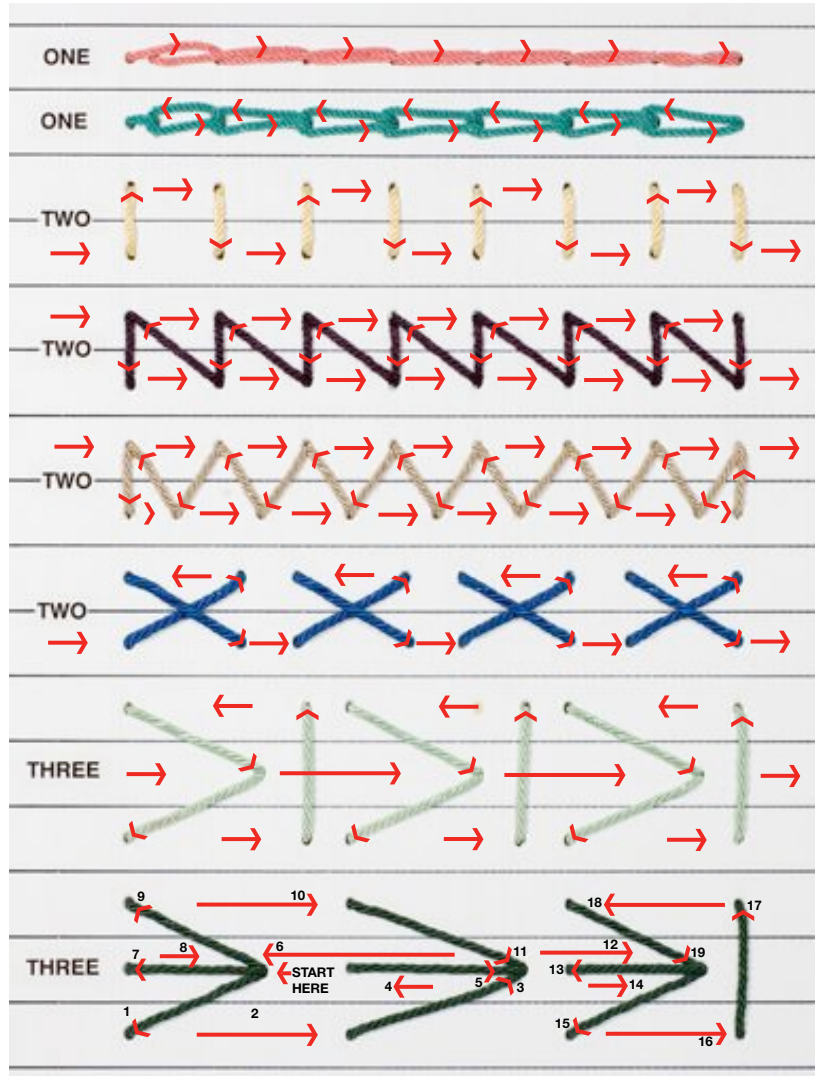
ALONG THE SPINE: DOUBLE RAISED SUPPORTS  
 SEWN THROUGH THE FOLD: MULTI-SECTIONS  
 MULTI-STATIONS: SINGLE HOLES  
 LOOP, PACKED, LINK AND LINK PACKED STITCHES



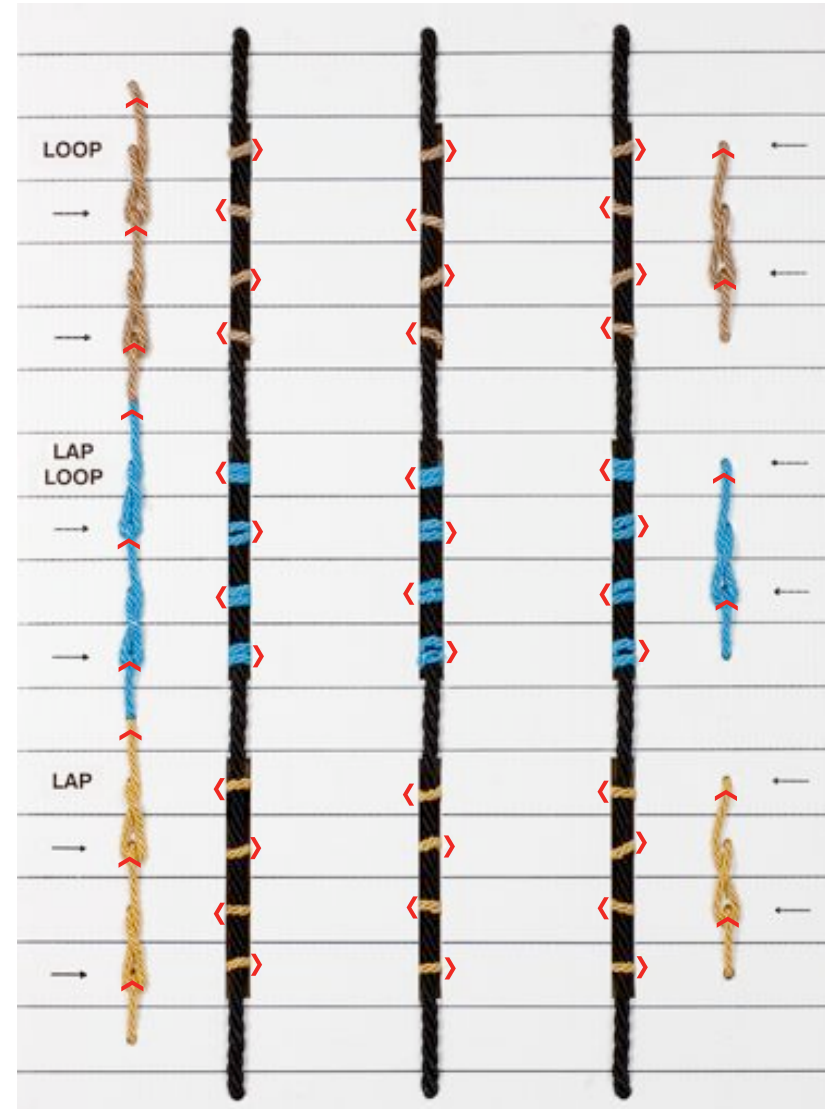
ALONG THE SPINE: NO SUPPORTS (OR CONTINUOUS SUPPORT)  
 SEWN THROUGH THE FOLD OR THE SIDE: SINGLE SECTIONS  
 MULTI-STATIONS: SINGLE HOLES  
 TACKET, SLIP STITCH, STEP STITCH AND PAMPHLET STITCH



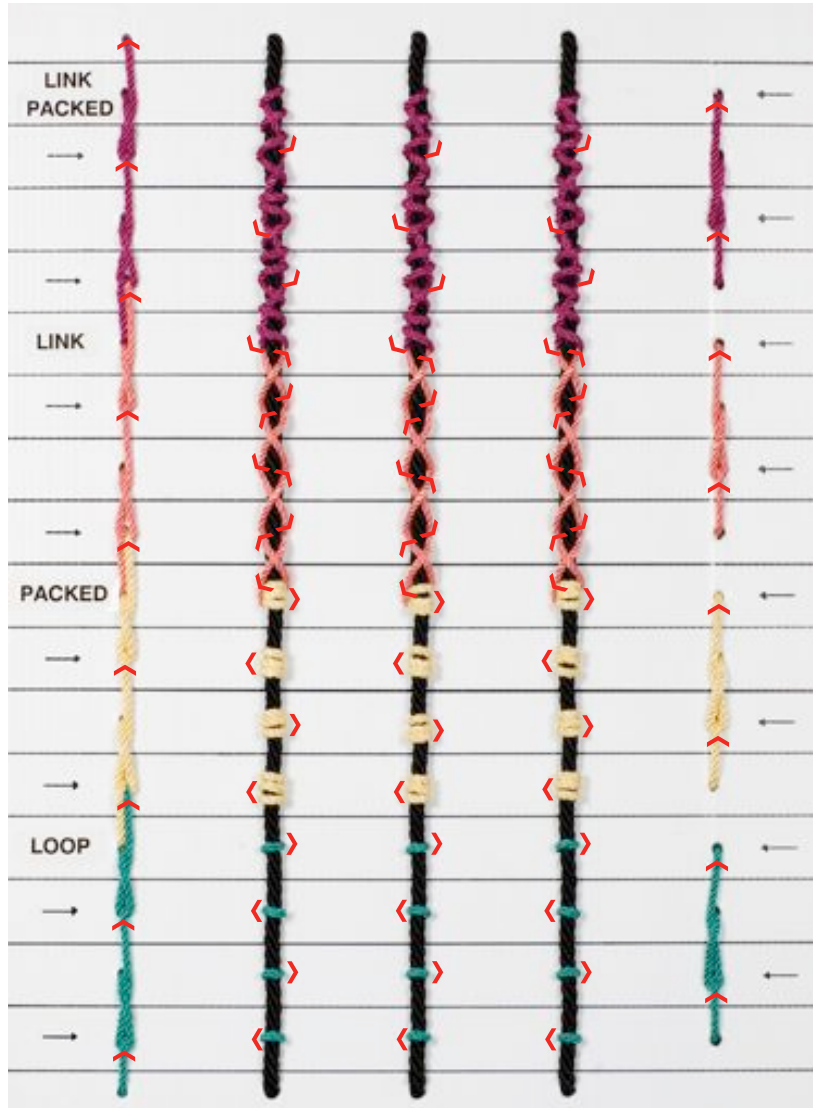
ALONG THE SPINE: NO SUPPORTS (OR CONTINUOUS SUPPORT)  
 SEWN THROUGH THE FOLD: ONE, TWO, OR THREE SECTIONS  
 MULTI-STATIONS: SINGLE HOLES  
 DECORATIVE SPINE STITCHES



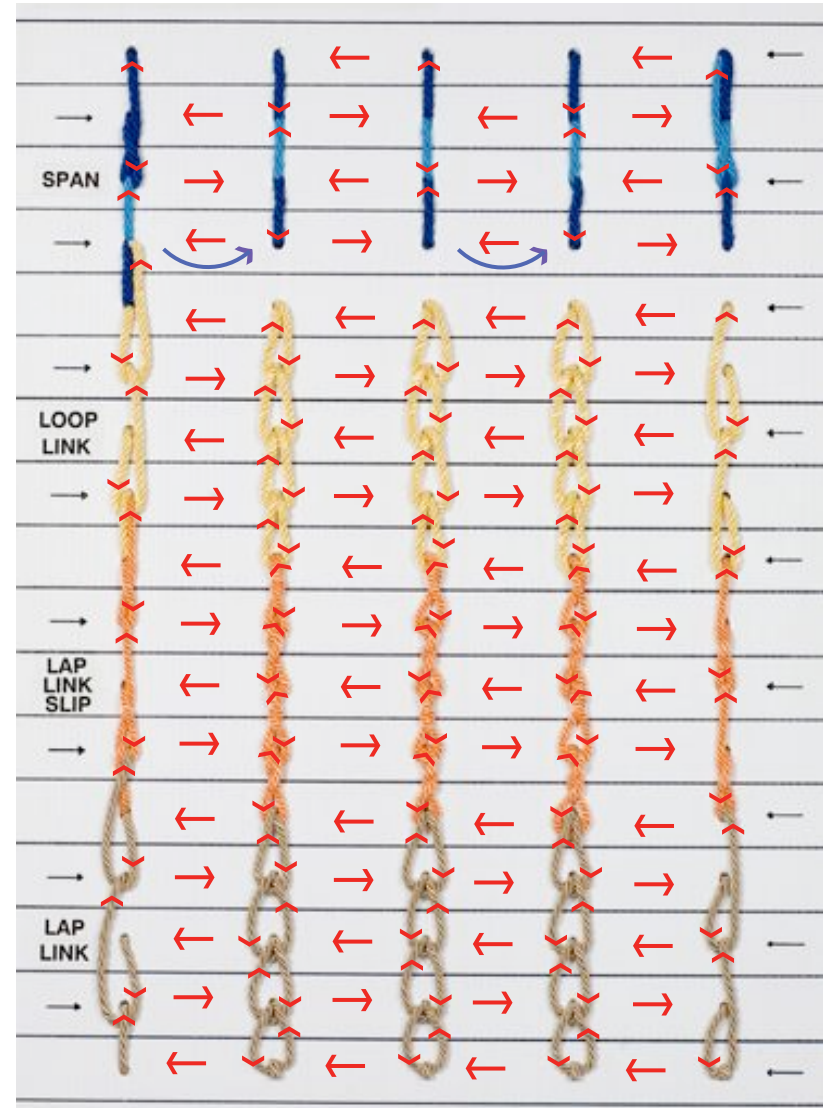
ALONG THE SPINE: RECESSED SUPPORTS  
 SEWN THROUGH THE FOLD: MULTI-SECTIONS  
 MULTI-STATIONS: RECESSED GROOVES  
 LAP, LAP-LOOP AND LOOP STITCHES



ALONG THE SPINE: SINGLE RAISED SUPPORTS  
 SEWN THROUGH THE FOLD: MULTI-SECTIONS  
 MULTI-STATIONS: SINGLE HOLES  
 LOOP, PACKED, LINK AND LINK-PACKED STITCHES

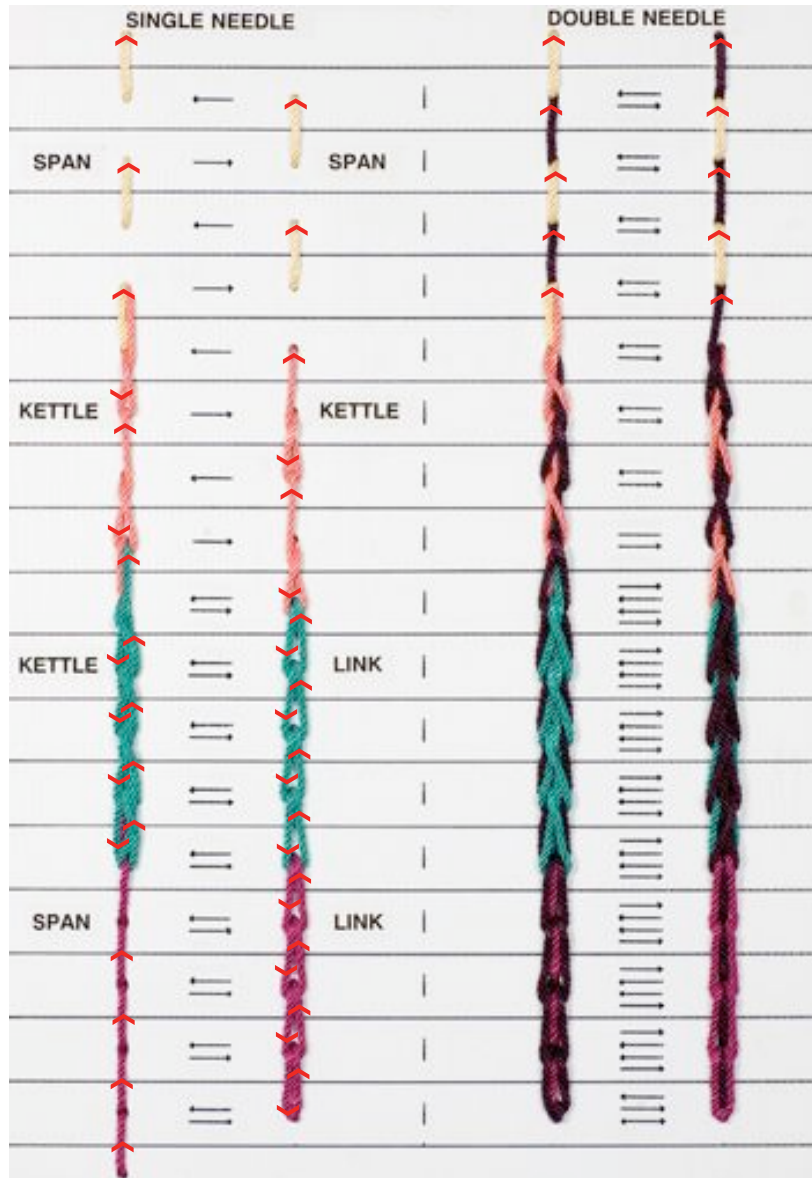


ALONG THE SPINE: NO SUPPORTS (OR CONTINUOUS SUPPORT)  
 SEWN THROUGH THE FOLD: MULTI-SECTIONS  
 MULTI-STATIONS: SINGLE HOLES  
 LAP AND LOOP STITCHES; LINK AND SPAN STITCHES



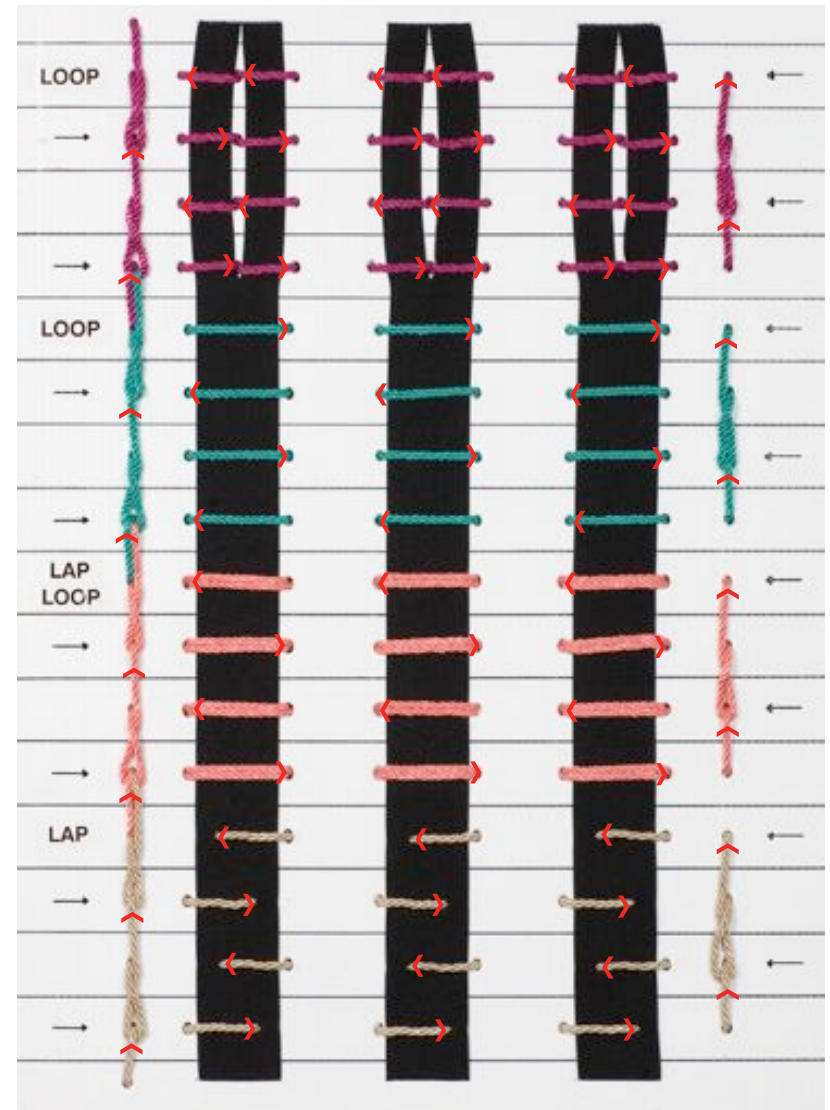
A SEWING PRESENTATION BY BETSY PALMER ELDRIDGE

ACROSS THE SPINE: NO SUPPORT (OR CONTINUOUS SUPPORT)  
 SEWN THROUGH THE FOLD: MULTI-SECTIONS  
 PAIRED STATIONS: SINGLE HOLES  
 LINK, SPAN, AND KETTLE STITCHES



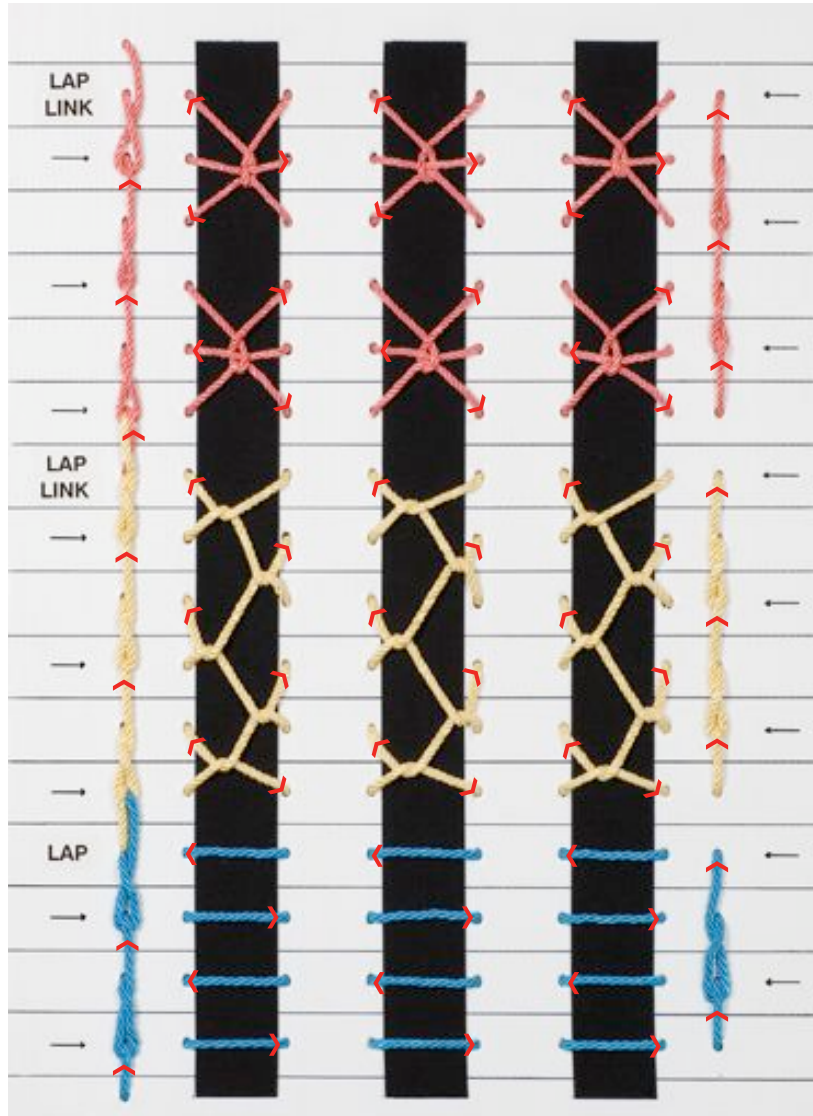
GBW/CBBAG STANDARDS SEMINAR, TORONTO 2008

ALONG THE SPINE: FLAT SUPPORTS  
 SEWN THROUGH THE FOLD: MULTI-SECTIONS  
 MULTI-STATIONS: DOUBLE AND TRIPLE HOLES  
 LAP AND LOOP STITCHES

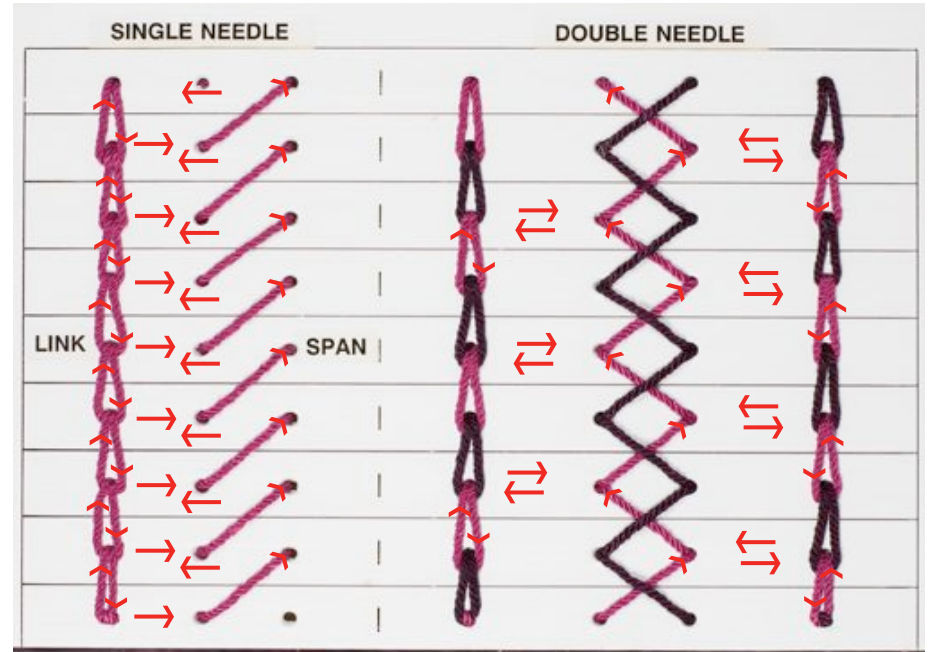




ALONG THE SPINE: FLAT SUPPORTS  
 SEWN THROUGH THE FOLD: MULTI-SECTIONS  
 MULTI-STATIONS: DOUBLE HOLES  
 LAP AND LAP-LINK STITCHES

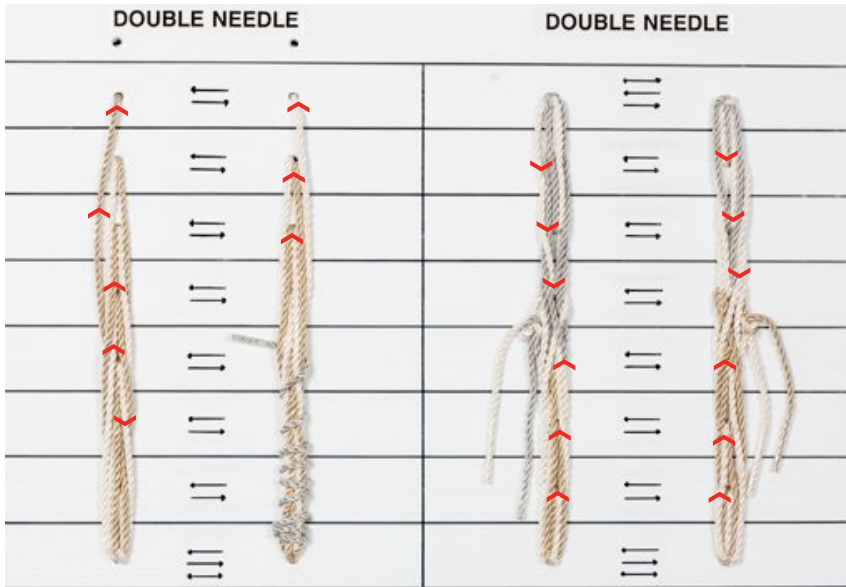


ACROSS THE SPINE: NO SUPPORT (OR CONTINUOUS SUPPORT)  
 SEWN THROUGH THE FOLD: MULTI-SECTIONS  
 PAIRED STATIONS: SINGLE AND DOUBLE HOLES  
 LINK AND ANGLED SPAN STITCHES

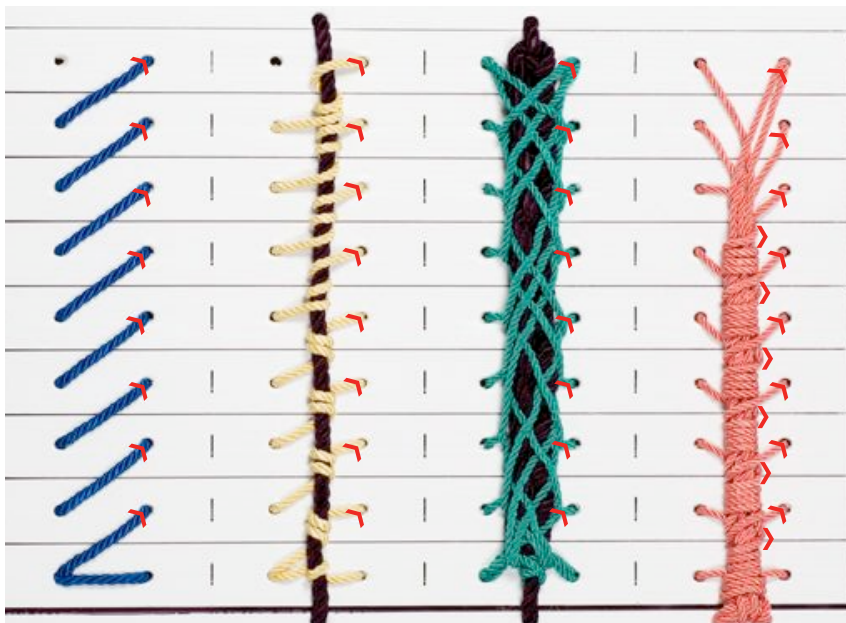


A SEWING PRESENTATION BY BETSY PALMER ELDRIDGE

ACROSS THE SPINE: NO SUPPORT (OR CONTINUOUS SUPPORT)  
 SEWN THROUGH THE FOLD: MULTI-SECTIONS  
 PAIRED STATIONS: SINGLE HOLES  
 STEP DOWN STITCHES



SINGLE STATIONS, DOUBLE HOLES  
 ANGLED SPAN, LAP, LOOP, AND STEP DOWN STITCHES



GBW/CBBAG STANDARDS SEMINAR, TORONTO 2008

ALONG THE SPINE: CONTINUOUS SUPPORTS  
 SEWN THROUGH THE FOLD: MULTI-SECTIONS  
 MULTI-STATIONS: SINGLE HOLES  
 LONG, LINK, AND ANGLED SPAN STITCHES

