

Blanket Stitch

The Power of Pivoting

When stitching with the blanket stitch, you are usually following an edge – stitching around an appliqué shape, along the edge of a ribbon, or securing binding. You want the vertical part of the blanket stitch to be just outside of the edge while the horizontal part of the stitch falls on the appliqué, ribbon or binding. Pivoting is important for both corners and curves.

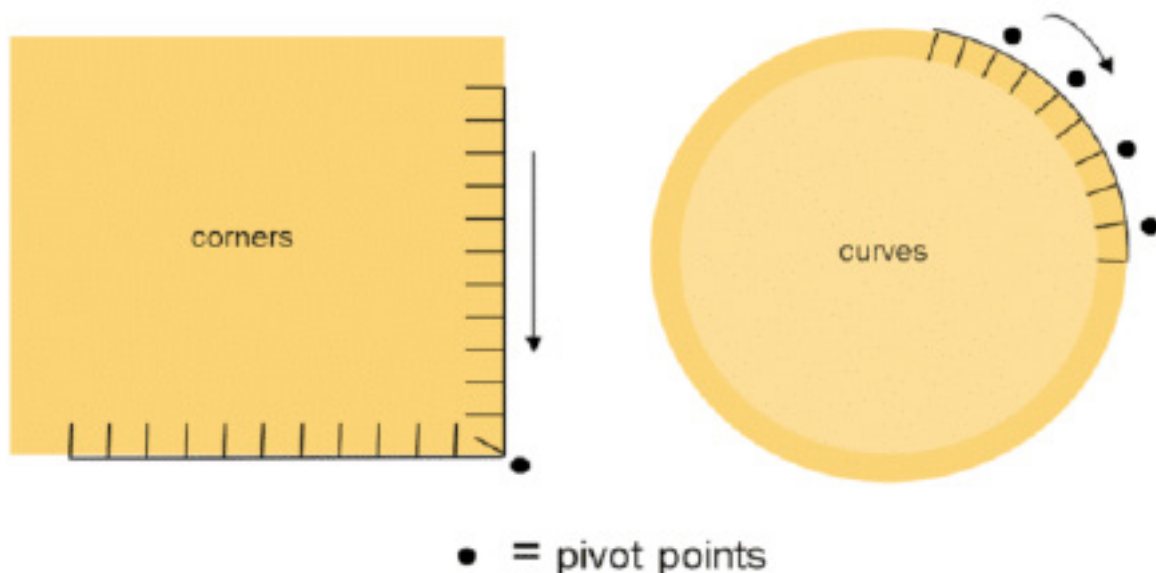
Corners

Stitching a corner with the blanket stitch is a lot like pivoting with a straight stitch, but it takes two pivots to get a 90° turn. Stop with needle in the fabric at the corner; pivot 45° and sew the first part of the stitch. Turn another 45° and continue stitching along the edge of the appliqué or ribbon. For out-side corners, pivot with needle in the outside edge and for inside corners, pivot with the needle in the inside edge.

Curves

It may sound counter-intuitive to pivot on curves because we associate pivoting with 90° turns that form corners. But, the best way to stitch a smooth curve is to stop and pivot slightly on a frequent basis.

Pivots should be made with the needle in the fabric at the outside edge of the curve. Use the Freehand System (knee lift) to barely lift the foot and micro-pivot as needed to follow the curve.



Tip

One of the best ways to practice blanket stitch appliqué is to cut a heart from fabric and fuse it to a background fabric.

Hearts have a combination of curved and straight edges as well as inside and out-side points that are similar to corners.

