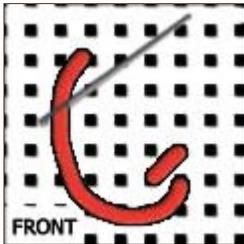


Floss Lasso: Anchoring at the Beginning of Stitching

A Scarlet Quince™ Tutorial

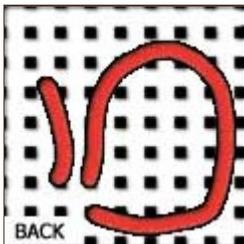
The floss lasso is a technique for anchoring floss at the beginning of stitching. It works on aida, linen, or any other type of fabric, stitched over 1 or 2, with any number of strands of floss, blended or not. It makes for a less congested back than running floss under existing stitches. It has become our favorite starting anchor — it's quick, easy, neat, and holds well, yet is easy to remove if you have to.

Here's how to do it.

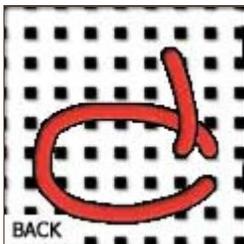


1. Holding the tail end of the floss (1/2" to 3/4", or 1-2 cm), make the first leg of the cross as usual. Come up for the second leg of the cross, but **don't pull the floss all the way through**. The **top** of the work looks like this.

You may like to tie a small knot at the tail end before you start to make it easier to hold on to the tail. (The knot will be cut off later.)

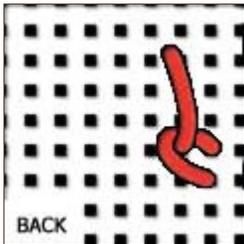


2. Leave a loop on the back which is 1-2" (2-4 cm) long. At this point, the **back** looks like this.

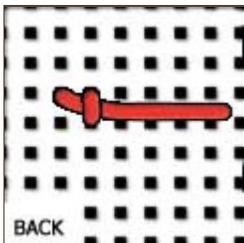


3. Still looking at the **back**, let go of the tail, and **drop the loop over the loose end**. (If you have pulled the floss too far and the loop is too small, just pull the needle and the floss will come right out of the fabric and you can start again.)

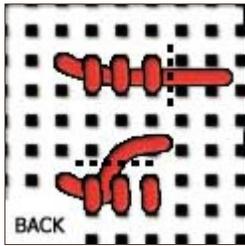
If you made a knot in the tail, you can pull the tail through the loop with a fine crochet hook.



4. Grab the tail again, and pulling from the needle end, **pull the loop snug against the tail** (the **back** looks like this)



5. Now let go of the tail and pull the floss just a little more. The **loop flips down** to hold the tail securely (the **back** looks like this). Don't pull **too** tight or the loop will pull the tail through to the top of the fabric.



6. Brush the tail so that it lies either along the direction of stitching, so you can stitch over it, or brush it out of the way. Take a few stitches. You can either complete the first cross or go on to make the first half of the next cross. If the next cross is not directly to the right of the first, you **must** complete the first cross before going on. After you've made a few stitches, snip off the tail. If you have not stitched over it, don't cut it too short -- leave something for the lasso to hold onto.

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