heirloom — hemstitching

Create a classic open-look stitch using any of the heirloom stitches to mimic hand stitches.

Single Wing Hemstitch

1. Select a stitch of choice from the many hemstitches on your machine. Test sew samples on scraps of starched fabric to determine the stitch you want to use. With a single wing or topstitching needle, begin stitching. Some hemstitches often used are Parisian, Venetian, Turkish, Rhodes, and the Daisy stitch. (#1)

Zigzag Stitch

2. For a more traditional hemstitching technique, select a zigzag on your machine. Insert a single wing needle and stitch a row as long as desired. At the end of the row stop with the needle in the left zigzag swing. Using your presser foot lifter, raise the foot and pivot 180° positioning the first row of stitches in front of the foot. (#2)

3. As you sew the second row, make sure the needle falls into the holes made by the needle on the previous row. Sew slowly to keep the rows straight. Keep the fabric taut in front and the back of the needle. (#3)

Double Wing Hemstitch

4. Prepare your fabric with spray starch and insert a double wing needle. Thread your machine following the manufacturer’s instructions. Sew the desired length. Using your presser foot lifter, pivot the fabric so the wing needle falls into the hole just made. Continue sewing making sure the wing needle falls into the previously made holes. (#4)