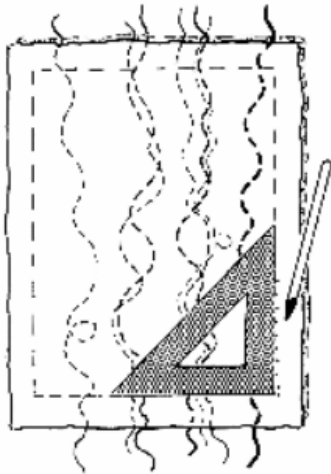


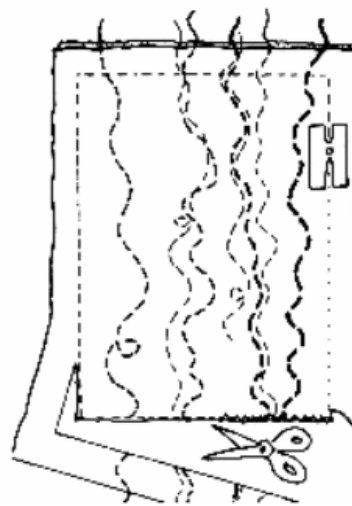
Finishing a Sample or Artwork

Coming to the end of an embroidered project can be an anticlimax. What to do now? The format in which almost any graphic work of art is presented may either enhance and complete it or visually diminish and dissipate its impact. Must it be matted or framed? No embroidery seems finished until some kind of complementary edge or border has been applied. Badly designed edges, however, detract from the work they surround. It is, therefore, vital to find the finish that will enhance the work. Try creating a few samples to retain as your basic edge vocabulary. Size, shape, and color are factors that must complement the work at hand. The examples are but the tip of the iceberg, so look in other needlework books and magazines. Be sure to allow sufficient time to give this all-important finish to a sampler.

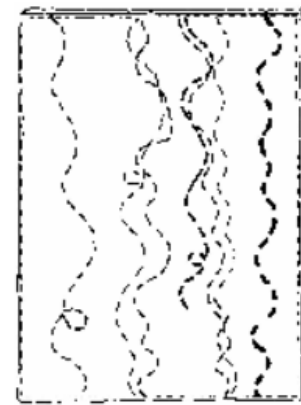
One of the advantages of the following method is that it secures the edges of the work. This finishing method is best facilitated if the directions on *Prepare A Sampler* (see page 119) are followed.



Step 1 - Using a right angle and pencil, mark off the perimeter of the work to its finished size. Keep the corners square and opposite sides of the same length



Step 2 - Using an automatic straight stitch, stitch along the marked lines, going twice around the perimeter. Carefully cut around the outside of the rows of stitching to remove excess fabric.



Step 3 - The sample could be left at this stage, or a narrow zigzag stitch could be sewn over the edges. Use a thread that is as near to the edge color as possible, or use nylon (invisible) thread. Avoid using satin stitch over the edges, it has a way of dominating the whole work.

Displaying Samples

When the sample is completed, it may be mounted on a card. Apply a few inconspicuous hand stitches through the fabric and mat card to secure it. Use very small stitches on the front and long stitches at the back. Choose as large a needle as you require to do the job and use a thread that blends into the fabric. Double-sided tape could also be used to fasten the sample to the card.