



Supplies
Stranded Cotton

Tools
Scissors

Stranded Cotton?

Stranded cotton is also known as 'embroidery thread', 'stranded thread' and 'embroidery floss'.

What is it?

It is a thread that is usually made up of six separate threads known as strands. It is usually made from cotton, although some stranded thread is made from silk, rayon, linen and other fibres.

What do you use it for?

It is usually used for hand stitched decorative (pretty) stitching or embroidery. If you want to stitch a picture or design onto fabric by hand, usually you would use stranded cotton.

How do you use it?

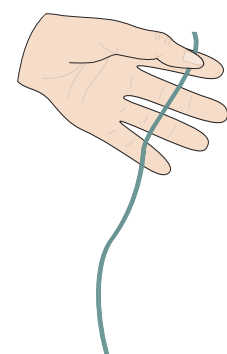
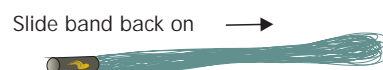
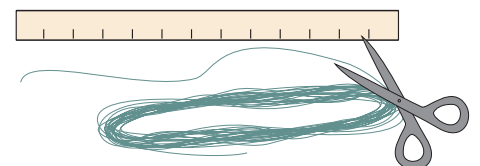
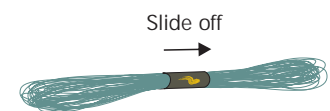
Sometimes you will need to use all six strands of thread together, as if they are one thread, and this will give your stitching a heavy look, which is sometimes what you want. Often though, you will want your stitching to look lighter or finer, and this is where you may only need 2 or 3 strands of thread. Here we show you how to separate your stranded cotton or thread, the easy way, with no tangles or knots!

Before You Start

Wash your hands so that you don't leave dirty marks on your thread or stitching.

Instructions

1. Slide the paper or plastic band off your skein (bunch) of stranded cotton.
2. Find the end of your skein (bunch) of stranded cotton and cut off 40 to 50 cm (15 to 20 inches). It is best if you don't cut thread longer than this, as it is likely to get knots in when you are stitching, although you can use less than this if you have only a small area to stitch.
3. Slide the paper or plastic band back on your skein of stranded cotton, to keep it neat and tidy. You will need to press the thread together to get the thread through the hole of the band.

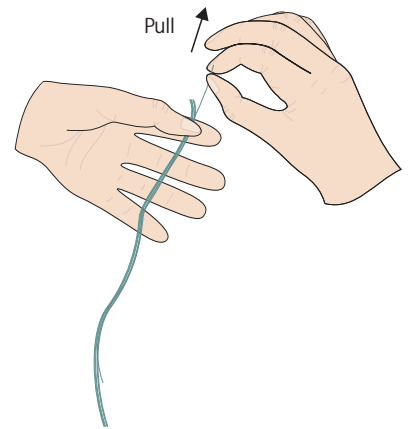


4. Hold the end of the cut piece of thread, as shown, with your first finger and thumb on the hand that you don't write or draw with.

How To Use Stranded Cotton? page 2



5. Gently pull one strand of thread out with your other hand, as you hold the other threads firmly between your fingers. The other threads may bunch up under your hand, but they should fall back down if you give them a little shake or pull them gently back down.



6. Lay the one strand of thread out straight on a flat surface.



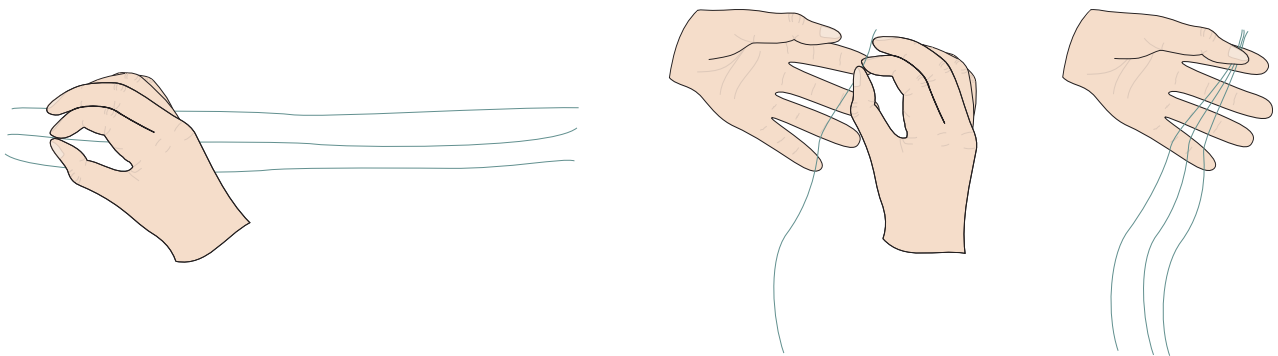
7. If you need 2 strands of thread for your stitching, you will need to pull another strand out and lay it down on a flat surface, next to the first strand, but not touching.



8. If you need three strands of thread, you will need to repeat step 5 and 6.

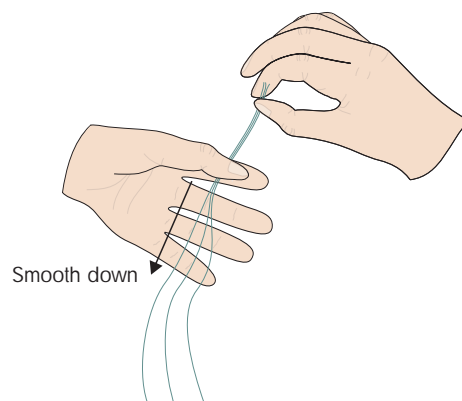


9. Once you have pulled out the number of strands that you need, take the ends of each thread and line them up in your fingers.



10. Smooth the threads together by gently running your fingers down the threads while holding the ends in the other hand.

11. Now you are ready to thread your needle! How To? instructions can be found on the website.



Extra Tip

It's never a good idea to pull out more than one strand at a time. If you pull two or three at a time, you are very likely to get knots and tangles in your thread.