

## TRAPUNTO

**Note:** This is an optional step — the pink roses and their leaves are dense enough not to be trapuntoed, but if you would like the section to be rounder or fatter, the steps below will be useful way of doing this.

Trapunto (from the Italian word *trapungere* meaning to embroider) is a form of padded quilting where a shape is first outlined with rows of stitches through layers of fabric. The back layer is then cut open and padded to form a raised pattern.

### Method

**Step 1:** First complete the embroidered picture. Remove work from the hoop. Use the white cotton voile supplied, the same size as the embroidered cloth

**Step 2:** Take this block of fabric and lay it flat on a table. Centre the embroidered design on top of this fabric. Place all the layers back in the hoop, pulling all the layers as taut as a drum (especially the back layer) tighten the hoop and roll and pin the corners out of the way.

**Step 3:** Thread up with one strand of the pale green thread and use tiny back or stem stitches along the edges of the pink roses (see top picture) until the entire shape is encircled and you are back where you started.

**Step 4:** Still working on the hoop, turn your work to the wrong side and see how the roses are outlined at the back. Use small sharp scissors or a “quick unpick” and very carefully cut a slit at the back of the work. Hint: insert the point of the scissors and lift the back fabric off the stitches before cutting further. Be careful not to cut the stitches. The slit is about 1.5 cm (5/8”) in length in the centre of the shape (just long enough to use the points of your scissors to push the wadding into the shape.

**Step 5:** The best padding to use is polyester toy filling or shredded batting or wadding. Insert small pieces of filling at a time, right up to the edge of the shape. Hint: be careful not to over stuff. Trapunto should be a subtle enhancement where it is not noticeable at first glance. Position the wadding evenly— as soon as the background fabric starts to pucker, it is too full.

**Step 6:** Take the design out of the hoop; lay the work flat on a table and check to see whether you are happy with the raised sections. If too thick, take some filling out, if not noticeable enough – add some wadding, and if you don't like the padded section at all remove the wadding entirely. Close the gap with cross stitch or slip stitch.

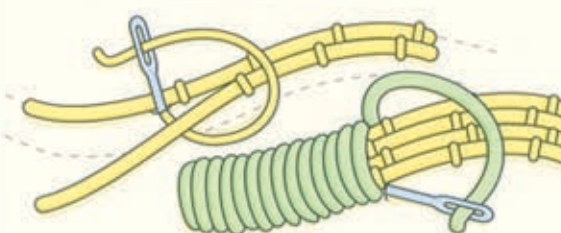


### Gathered leaves

Gathered leaves work well with ribbon when larger leaves are required. The 4 and 7 mm silk or 6 mm organza ribbons are ideal for the designs in this book. Use 1 or 2 strands of matching thread and gather the required length of ribbon (usually 3 or 4 cm long) as shown. Pull the thread to gather the leaf and insert both needles to the back of the work.



28. Satin couching



30. Satin stitch for leaves