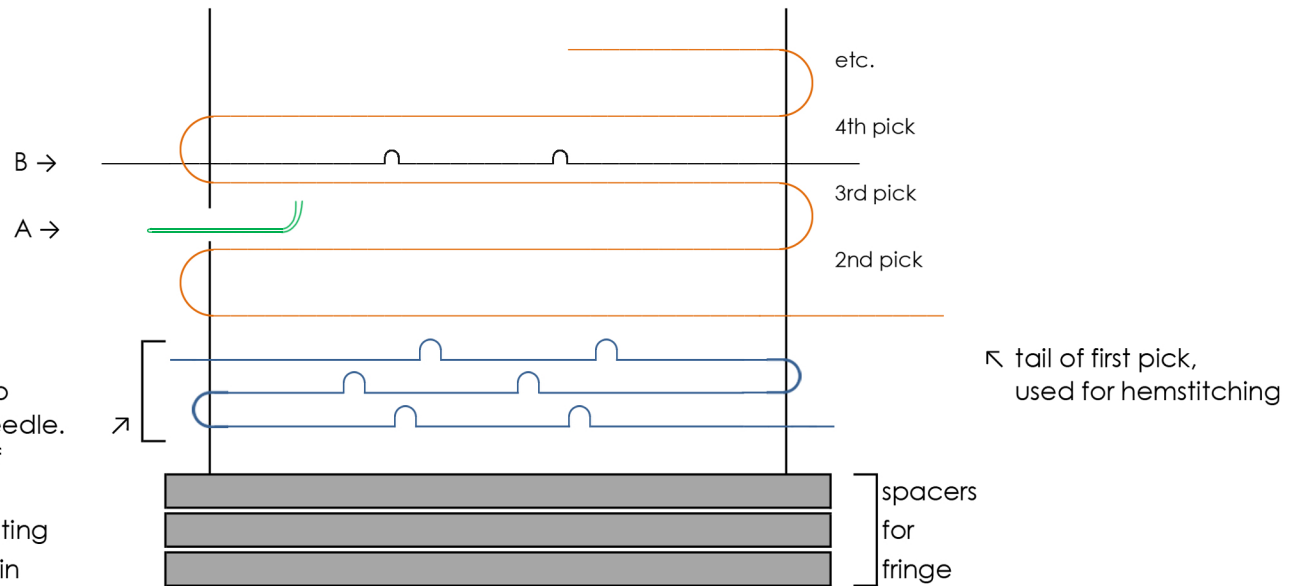


Tips to Make Hemstitching Easier

by Chris Hammel

To make it easier to weave the hemstitching tail back into the cloth at the left edge, insert a piece of sewing thread, folded in half, into the same shed as the second pick for the distance of approx. one inch (**see A**). The loop should extend beyond the edge of the cloth, and the tails should extend above the cloth.

Imagine that you are going to hemstitch three picks up into the cloth. To make it a little easier to identify the space between picks 3 and 4, insert a fine thread of a contrasting color into the same shed as pick 3, but after pick 3 has been woven. Before beating the fine thread in, pull long loops of it out above the cloth (**see B**). Later on, you can cut the loops thereby creating shorter lengths that will be easier to pull out. When you are hemstitching, gradually pull out the section of fine thread where you are hemstitching. A small space between picks 3 and 4 will appear, making it easier for you to identify where the sewing needle should emerge from beneath the cloth. I do not recommend removing the fine thread all at once because the small space is likely to close up.



If the spacers are staying in the cloth, weave 3 or more picks of scrap yarn to provide space for the hemstitching needle. Leave long loops of the yarn on top of the cloth. When you are ready to hemstitch, remove the yarn by first cutting the loops and then pulling them, now in shorter lengths, from the cloth.