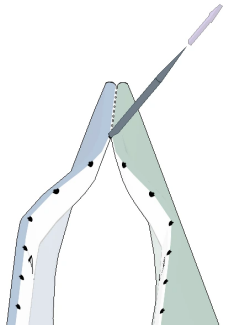
# Ladder stitch

Full guide

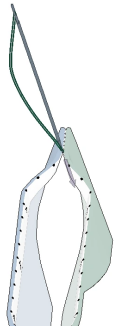
## 1 Pierce right start dot



**Step help**

Fold both allowances inward on the sewing line and finger-press. From inside the right fold, bring the needle out at the first dot; hide the knot inside.

## 2 Pierce left start dot

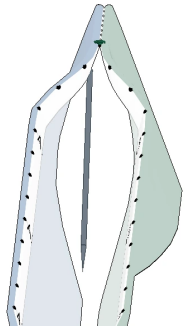


**Step help**

Cross the opening and pierce the matching first dot on the left, going from the printed outside into the fold.

# Ladder stitch

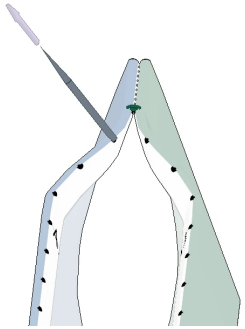
## 3 Pull taut



**Step help**

Pull the doubled thread snug. This first rung sits at the corner, so it may not visibly close much of the opening.

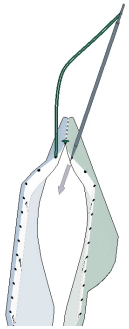
## 4 Pierce second dot on left



**Step help**

From inside the left fold, bring the needle out through the very next black dot, including the small unlabelled dots.

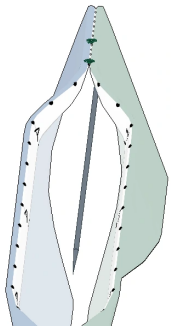
## 5 Pierce second dot on right



**Step help**

Cross to the matching second dot on the right and push the needle from the printed outside into that fold.

## 6 Pull taut again

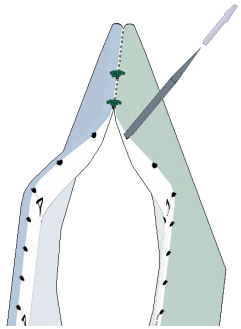


**Step help**

Pull gently until these matching dots meet. Remove slack without puckering the fabric.

# Ladder stitch

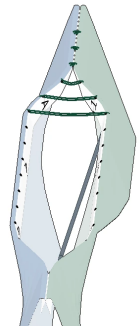
## 7 Pierce third dot on right



**Step help**

Come back out through the next black dot on the same right fold. After going into a fold, always come out at its next dot.

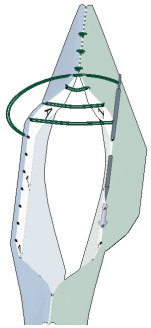
## 8 Continue the ladder



**Step help**

Alternate folds: travel inside a fold between consecutive dots, then cross to the matching dot. Tighten every few stitches; only a short ladder should remain loose. Refold and finger-press the next section as you go.

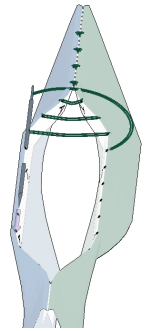
## 9 Slip through the right fold



**Step help**

Shortcut: enter one dot on the right fold and bring the needle out through the next dot on that same fold. Pull the thread through.

## 10 Slip through the left fold

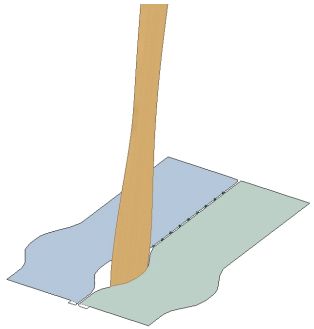


**Step help**

Repeat the shortcut on the left fold. Enter one dot and come out through the next dot on that same fold.

# Ladder stitch

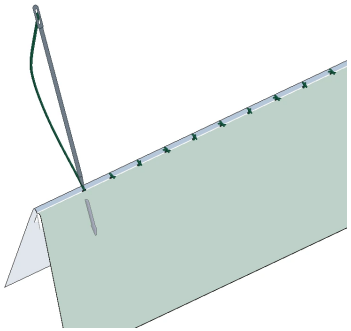
## 11 Finish creasing



**Step help**

Before the opening gets too small, ease the seam fully out from inside with the rounded bamboo spreader. Iron the edge, then finish closing it.

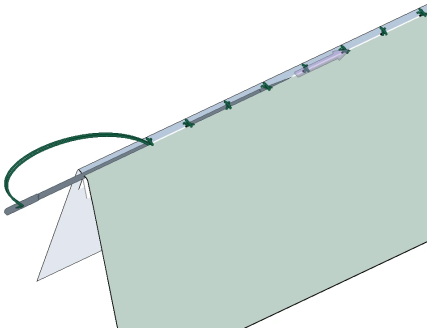
## 12 Make the final rung



**Step help**

Continue to the end and connect the last matching dots across the opening. Pull the final corner rung snug.

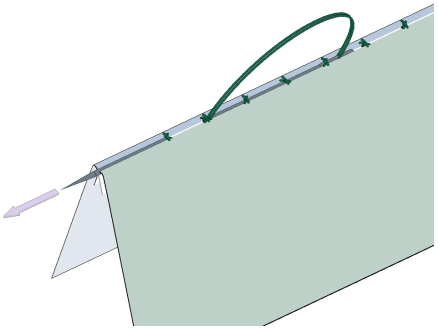
## 13 Backstitch inside the left fold



**Step help**

At the left corner, slip down through the final dot and back out through the second-to-last dot on that same fold. Do not pierce both layers together.

## 14 Make the hidden return rung

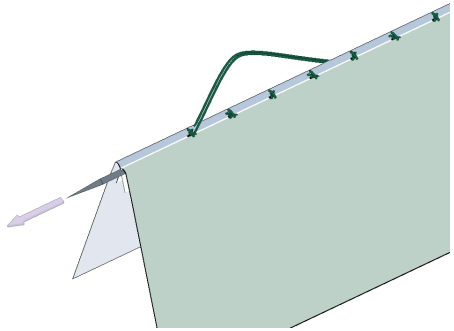


**Step help**

Cross to the second-to-last dot on the right, then slip inside that fold and out through its final corner dot. This secures the last corner with a hidden return rung.

# Ladder stitch

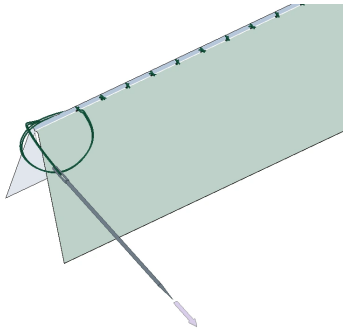
## 15 Slip under the corner stitch



**Step help**

Slide the needle underneath the tiny stitch at the closed corner, keeping the needle out of the fabric.

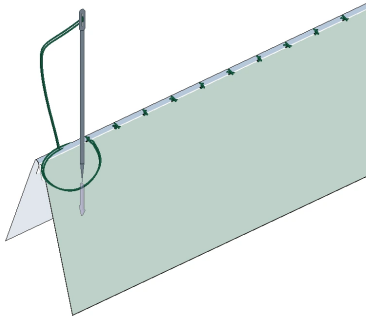
## 16 Leave a loop



**Step help**

Draw the needle and doubled thread under the corner stitch until a small loop remains. Stop before that loop disappears.

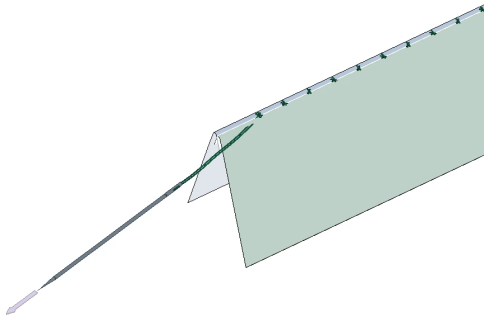
## 17 Pass through the loop



**Step help**

Pass the needle through the small loop at the end of the seam. Keep the loop open.

## 18 Tighten the knot

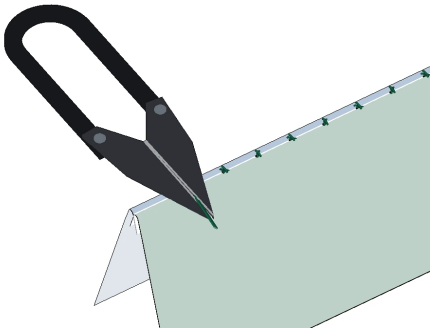


**Step help**

Pull the needle away from the pieces, along the end of the seam. Draw the loop into a snug knot at the final stitch.

# Ladder stitch

## 19 Trim at the knot

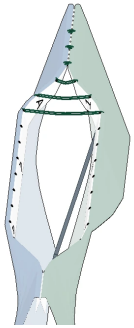


**Step help**

Use the clippers to trim both thread tails close to the secured knot, leaving the finished outside tidy.

# Ladder stitch · Tips

## 1 Tips 1



**Step help**

Stop every few stitches to tighten, refold and finger-press. Score from inside and iron near the end, before the gap becomes too small.