



# Hand Sewing

*Soft Fabrication Skills*

- low tech
- fast prototyping
  - connecting pieces various materials
- fastening different materials
  - soft to hard
  - weird shapes
- details and embellishments
  - final touches
  - fragile delicate materials
- repair work

# A Brief History



*bone needles, Cave of Courbet in France, ~13,000 years old*

- evidence from Paleolithic Age (~40,000 years ago):  
sewn hide, skin, fur, bark
- sewing needles: bone, wood → metal
- thread: catgut, sinew, veins, animal fiber/plant fiber →  
chemical fibers (polyester, synthetic silk, viscose)

Kayak, Nunivak, Alaska, 1930



Oglala Lakota tipi, 1891

# Embroidery

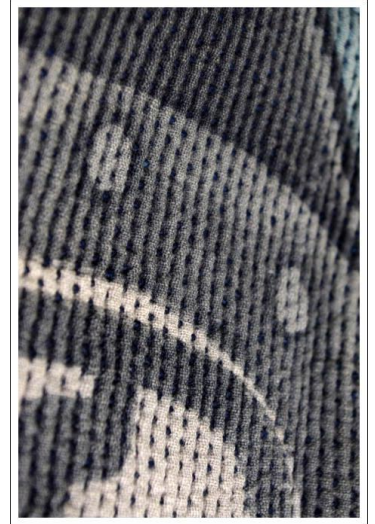
- decorating fabric/material with needle and thread or yarn
  - originally used for reinforcing cloth



Horse cover with metal silver thread, Morocco  
18th - 19th century



Sashiko stitched fireman's coat, Japan  
19th century



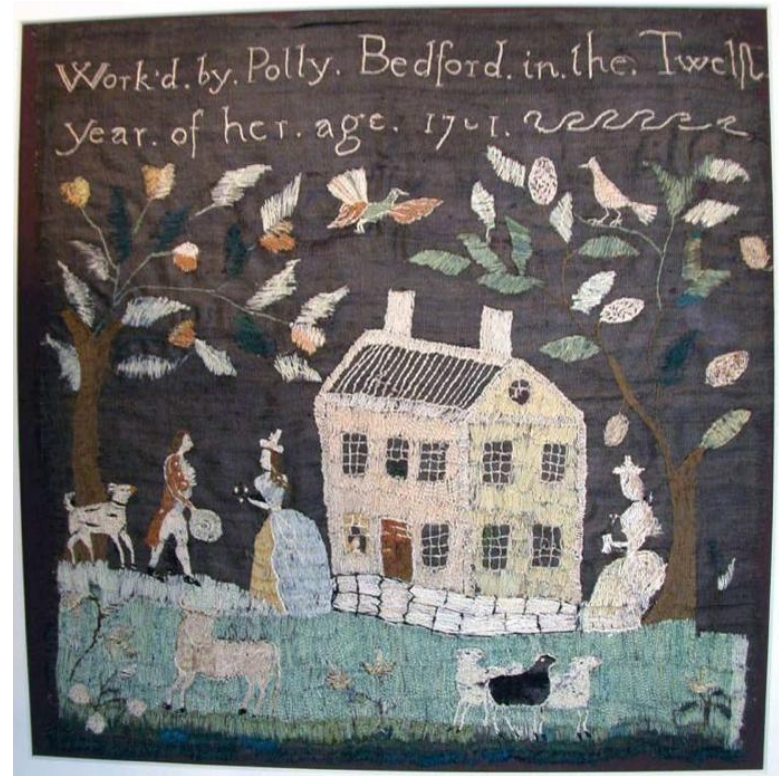
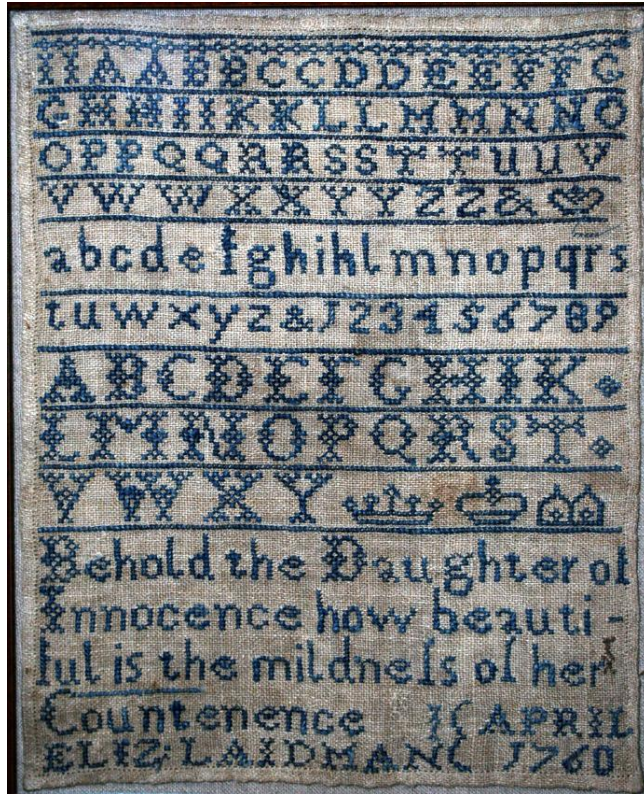


# Bayeux Tapestry, ~1077



- 230 feet by 20 inches
- first British comic strip?

Samplers: demonstration of skill or technique





EAAC

Edith-Anne did  
this in 1848  
and hated ev  
ery stitch \*



# Appliqué

- applying one material to another surface
  - surface patterning technique



heraldic flags,  
Knights of Thistle



Asafo flag, 20th c., Ghana

# Reverse Appliqué

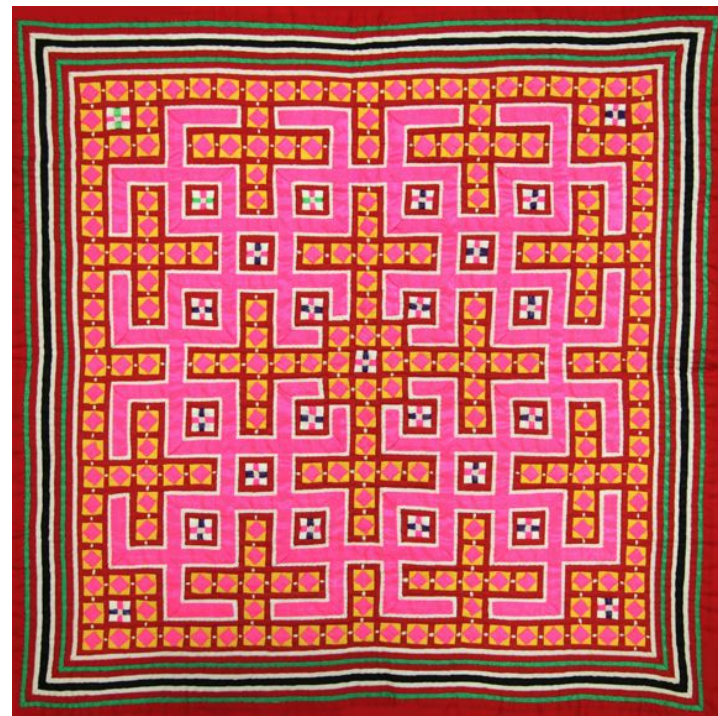


sewn layers that are cut away  
and then stitched down



Mola, Kuna people, Panama/Colombia  
150 - 170 years old





Examples of Hmong applique and reverse applique  
mountainous regions of Vietnam, Laos, Thailand and Southern China



# Beading

Attaching beads to a surface by stringing them together using thread.



12th c., Egyptian



Ethiopian beaded basket



Styles change among tribes on  
East Coast, Great Lakes,  
Plateau and Southwest.



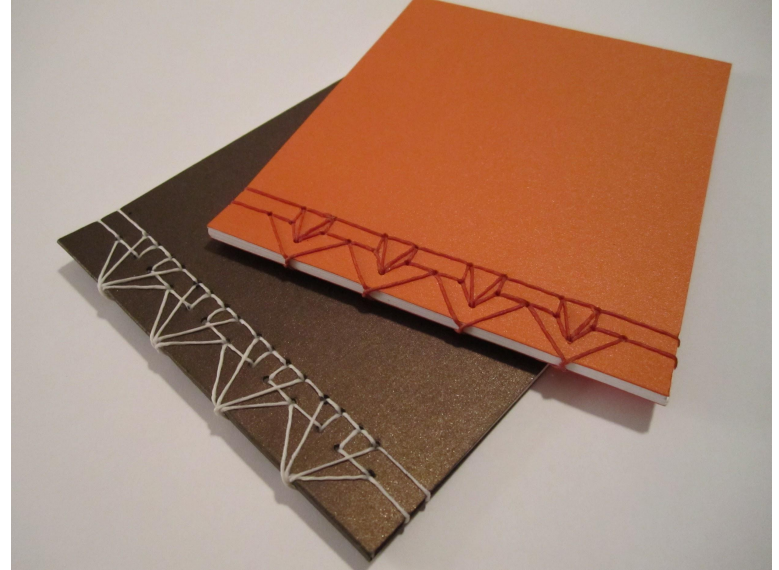
Teri Greeves



# Bookbinding



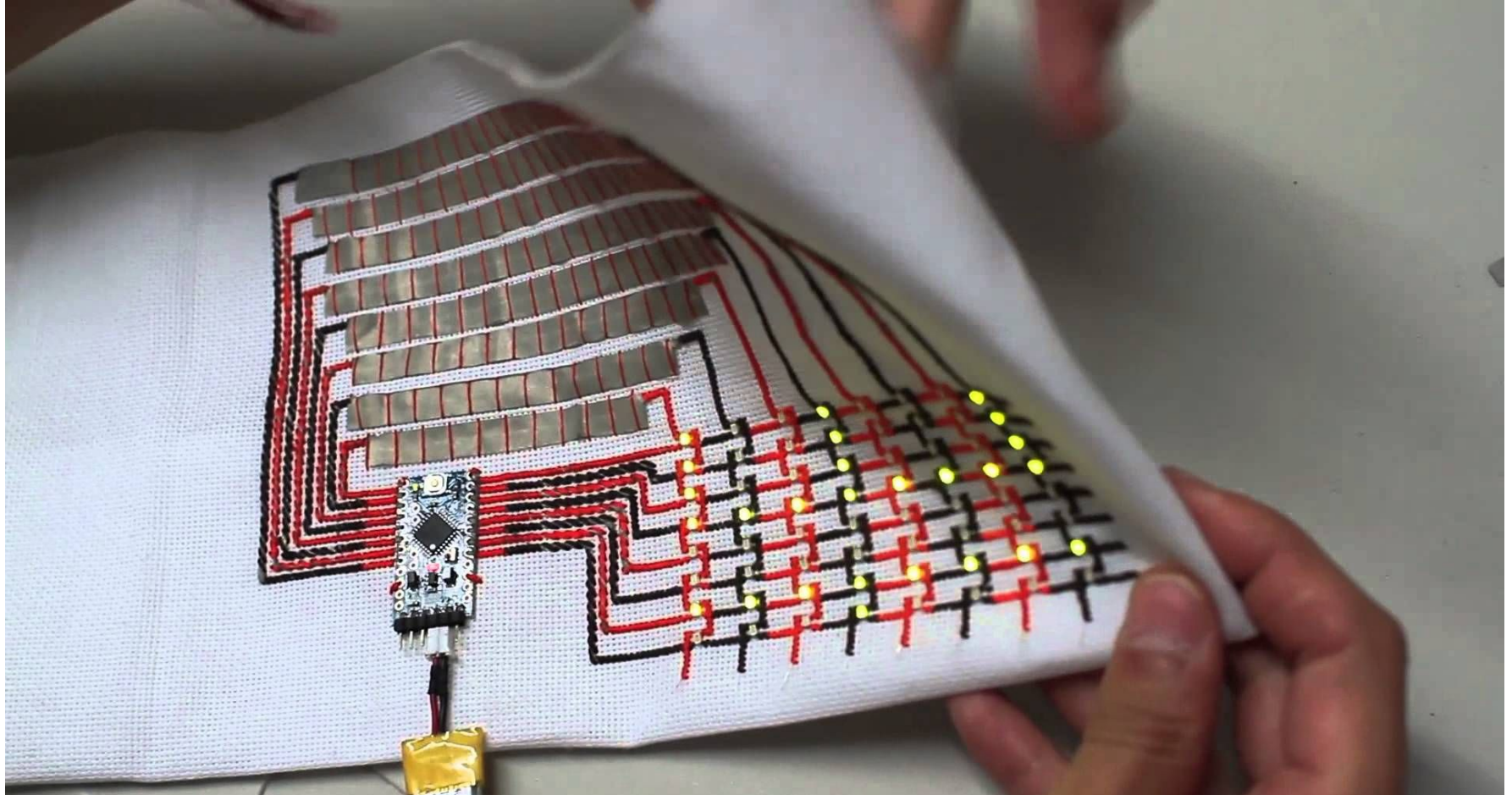
in process



variation on Japanese stab binding



# Sewing with Conductive Materials



# Overview of Tools + Materials



sewing needles



thread

+ whatever material you are going to sew!

## Other Tools



embroidery hoop



thimble



needle threader



fancy little scissors

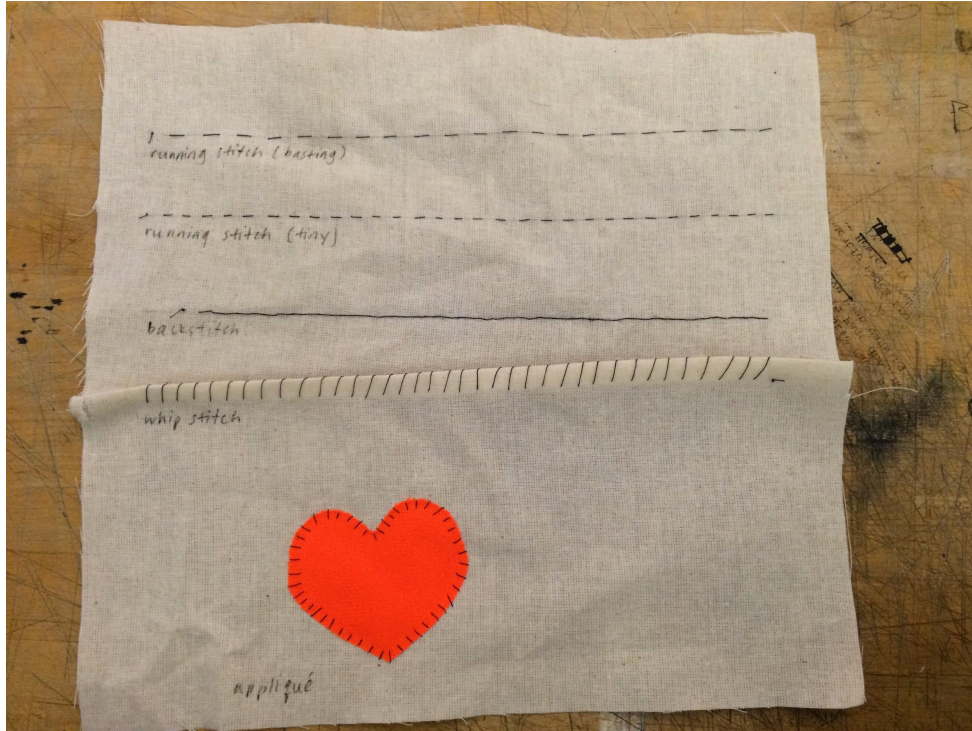


# DEMO :

## hand sewing sampler

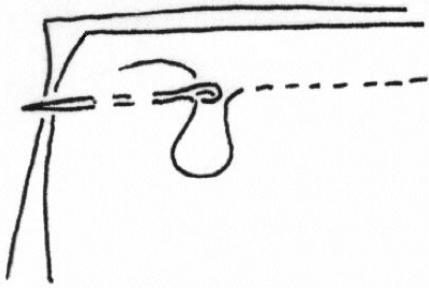


# DEMO + Lab: Hand Sewing Sampler



- Running stitch (basting)
- Running stitch (tiny)
- Back stitch
- Whip stitch
- Applique

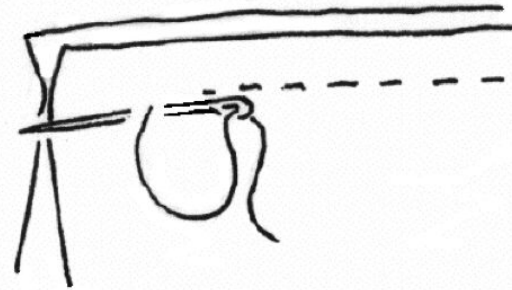
# Stitches for Sampler:



## **Running Stitch:**

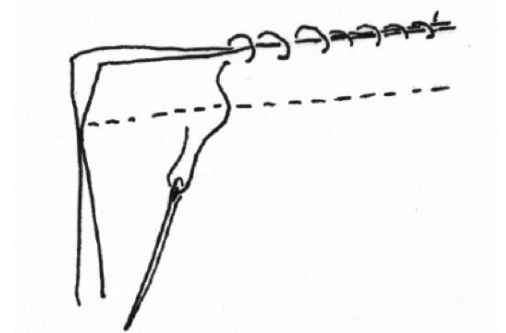
The thread runs through the fabric without doubling on itself.

Basting: stitches are about  $\frac{1}{4}$ " apart  
Tiny: stitches are about  $\frac{1}{8}$ " apart



## **Back Stitch:**

The stitch is formed by doubling back on itself. The needle emerges ahead of the stitch just made, and goes back to where the previous stitch ended.



## **Whip Stitch:**

This stitch goes "over and over" the edge of the fabric. It is used to sew two pieces of fabric together.