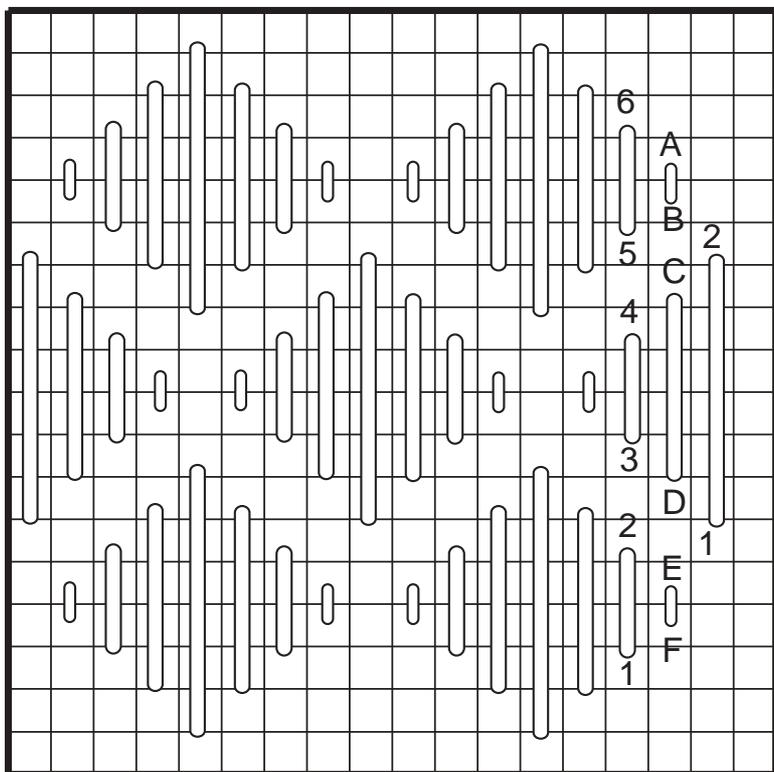


Darning Patterns



Darning patterns are quick and easy to do. The diamond pattern above is only one example in a world of stitches that will add new interest to your backgrounds.

Simply begin at one edge of your canvas and following the pattern above weave your thread over and under the appropriate number of threads until you reach the opposite side of the canvas. Begin again, following the next row and work back to your starting point. Remember to work with a long enough length of thread to reach your destination as there is no starting and stopping midway. You may anchor your threads in the outside margins of your canvas with a few tiny cross stitches.

Consider different weights of thread when working darning patterns. A heavy or wide thread will cover much of the canvas while a finer thread will allow more of the painting to show through. A fine metallic thread will add just a hint of shimmer to a background that has many shades and variations of color. Overdyes are another great option for darning patterns. Don't be afraid to let the open canvas show; it adds texture and dimension to your needlepoint.

If you would like to see more samples of darning patterns we have a great book available — *Suzy's Darn Stitches* by Suzy Murphy.