



Hello everyone!

Here is my table ready to get darning! I have my diet cokes, and the ladder is what I use to clip the phone to, so I can take the photos of the darning on the table.

Im wearing a 1940s vintage hat made from felt. The polka dots are just glued on and the bow is a strip of felt stitched in place. It's something you could feasibly make if you like.

My dress is a vintage Laura Ashley one, probably early 1980's.



This is a darn I did on a pair of French work pants from the 1940s. They are a bit like jeans. This plaid (check) effect is from using two different coloured threads.

Darn It! by Sally Turner



You will need some thread or yarn of any kind. Darning is a good way to use scraps of thread. You will also need a needle that fits your thread; I use Darning needles which are bigger than ordinary needles. But any needle will do. You will also need scissors to snip your threads. You can use various objects to stretch your fabric over. Best with smooth surfaced hard objects.



If you use different coloured threads, you can create all kinds of plaids and patterns in your darn. Experiment! Sometimes the outcome is a nice surprise.

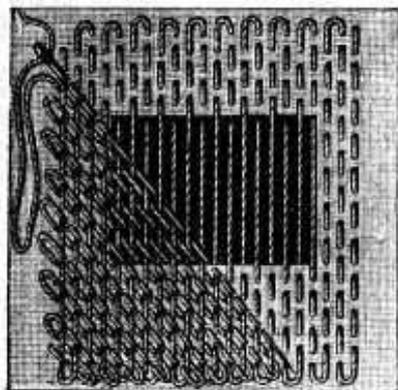
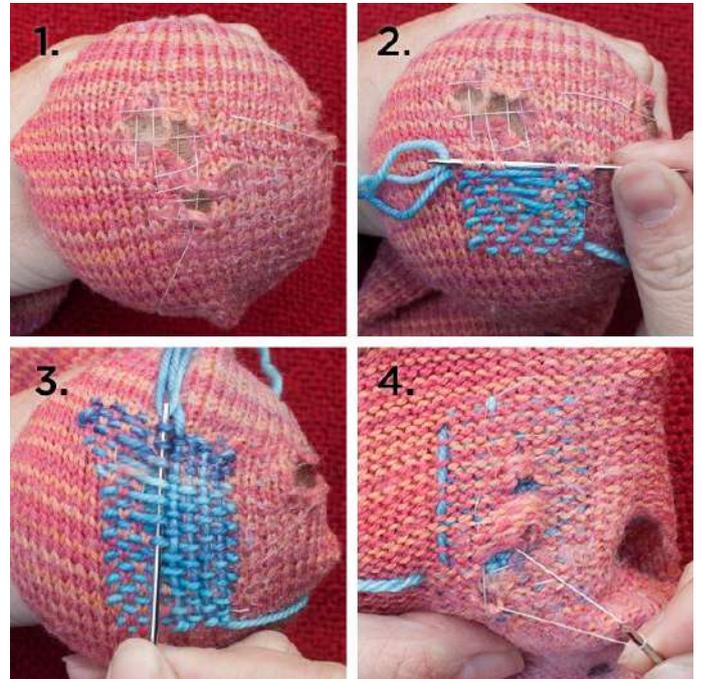
Darning is a way of repairing holes in fabric using only stitching. The idea is to make a weave affect with the stitching so that it becomes part of the fabric. It can also be used decoratively if your fabric does not need repairing, by 'floating' the woven section of the darning over the fabric.

Darning can be made very obvious, with contrast stitching, larger stitches, more freehand looking, or it can be very subtle and fine if you make the stitches closer together and use a fine, matching thread.

Here are some images for inspiration. Experiment freely! You may be pleasantly surprised at the outcome



Try Mixing colours and textures, and direction of stitches. Incorporate patches or blanket stitch



To Darn:

First you will need to make the fabric taut (but not over tight, its a bit like stretching a canvas for a painting):

1: Use any kind of hard smooth object to mount your work. This tin of hair grease, or a diet coke can, is perfect for a sock.



2: This is now a makeshift "darning mushroom". You can buy specially made ones, but all kinds of objects will do. If it helps, secure with a hair elastic. While stitching you hold the "stem" in one hand, and stitch with the other



3: A small plate makes a perfect darning mushroom for this blanket!



4: hold by the "stem" of the mushroom. If it helps, you can stitch it roughly in place, or wrap with yarn or ribbon to secure it



A knot at the beginning and end is not strictly necessary for darning, because the technique means that your thread becomes woven into the fabric. If you prefer to make a knot this is a way to do that:

5: To make a knot at the beginning, first take a small stitch



6: and stitch around once again so you form a loop



7: Then needle through the loop

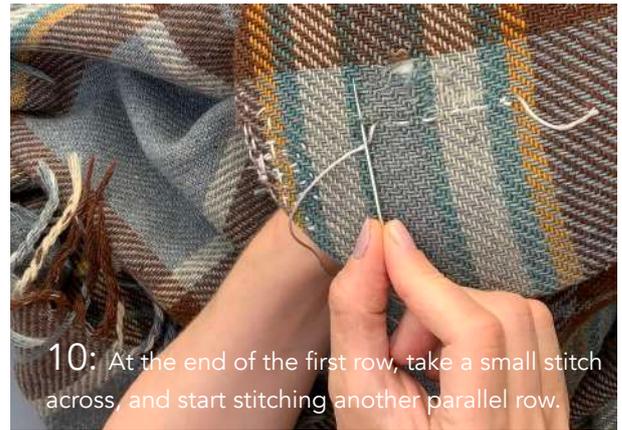


8: and pull *just* tight enough to form the knot. Now you are ready to darn.



To start the anchor stitches

9: Take a few small stitches through the fabric. Make these a little way away from the damage on the fabric



10: At the end of the first row, take a small stitch across, and start stitching another parallel row.

11: it can be easier if you turn the mushroom around so you can stitch in the direction you prefer



The start of the mend

12: When you get to the edge of the damaged part, take a BIG stitch over that whole area



13: Make a few anchor stitches after the big stitch



14: Change the colour thread if you like. A way to hide the end without making a knot is to start the stitching in the middle of the row and snip the end of the thread off.



15: Keep going making more stitch rows.



16: You are now ready to startle weave stitches



To weave the darn. This is the fun part of the darn



17: Just like step 9, make a row of anchor stitches, this time going across your first stitches



18: Repeat until you have several rows



19: Work across the big stitches, weave your needle under and over, until you reach the other side



20: Some of the big stitches might be shorter than others. Just stitch through these areas as normal



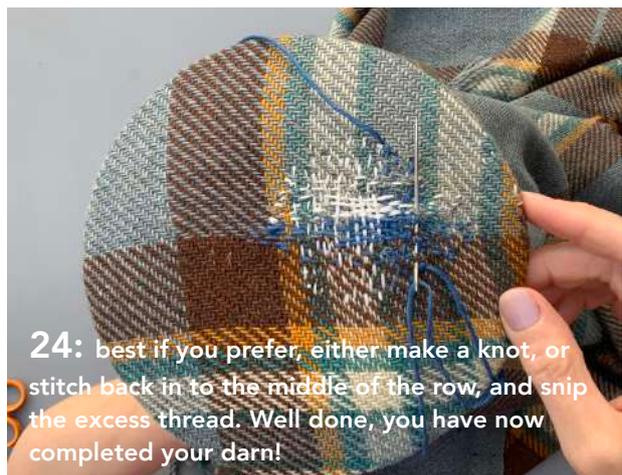
21: at the end of the row, turn the work around and start another row. When you get to the big stitches, take the needle under and over, the opposite of the thread next to it, to start creating the weave



22: keep going, under over / over under, and your weave will start to take shape! Change thread colour if you want. Or texture. You might find that you skip the occasional stitch, and go under instead of over in places. Try not to worry, we all do it! It doesn't have to be perfect. Try to make up for it in the next row.

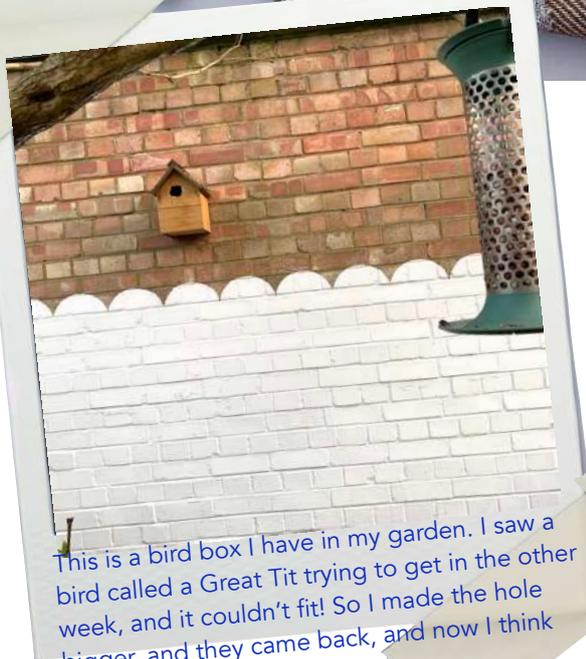


23: You can just snip the thread at the end if you prefer. A knot is not essential because the thread is woven in



24: best if you prefer, either make a knot, or stitch back in to the middle of the row, and snip the excess thread. Well done, you have now completed your darn!

Have fun with your darning! I'll be making more worksheets for you soon. If you have any thoughts or ideas, questions or comments, or things you'd like to learn, please do ask the Core staff team to pass on a message to me. Thank you for reading! Sally.



This is a bird box I have in my garden. I saw a bird called a Great Tit trying to get in the other week, and it couldn't fit! So I made the hole bigger, and they came back, and now I think they are building a nest :D



A Primrose I planted a few weeks ago. Fashion and Accessories is my Department rather than Horticulture. But I like to have a few flowers in the garden. I tend to be from the plant and hope for the best school of gardening!