



Hi Bettye,

I apologize for the delay writing. We lost power for 27 hours and the cable just came on during the night. We missed the 140+ mile an hour winds that went 30 miles above us. We had water damage from defective sliding glass doors so Fire Water was here a few hours after the hurricane tearing up the carpeting. The fans have been going since then. Monday the rugs should be dry so I hope to be back to a full work schedule early in the week. We really feel blessed to have such minor inconveniences given all the devastation throughout Florida.

Your stitching is so much better! Keep practicing having tension on the silk until you set each stitch. As you done so many hours not using this process, it will take a little while to have it as natural as before. I know you can tell the difference in the sheen as much as I can.

1. **Chrysanthemum leaves:**

A. It appears you are treating each section of the leaf as a separate entity. This is not the case. The stitches should match as you turn the corner closest to the vein. Please look at the page of macro images of the chrysanthemum leaves for *Cascading Chrysanthemums*. As you study the images, you will see that all the stitches connect for each section.

B. You should always have your stitches 2 mm or longer. (See the image arrow I am sending back) To achieve this, your angle must be longer or you need to change the design slightly to allow it. Before I

stitch this type of leaf I always make a tracing of it (or use my design pattern) and pencil stitch every section. Then I use it as a reference when I am stitching. You may not have the same number of stitches but you will certainly know that the angle is correct.

C. The short stitches next to the turn (by the vein are too far apart as well. Although you must leave space at the edge of the leaf, fabric shouldn't show all the way to the vein. The way to avoid that is to add a sleeper stitch. Please review page 6 of the *Seasons* instructions for the Maple stem.

D. Be conscious of the spacing so that the stitches don't overlap. The silk will not be really shiny if the sugars overlap.

2. **Chrysanthemum:**

A. The stitching of each petal is excellent! The curves at the edges are excellent too. Please review page 8 of *Seasons* just to refresh your mind as to the angle of the stitches at the center. The very last stitch at the center should be parallel to the outline of that petal. It appears you have done it with most of the petals.

B. The spacing of the stitches is excellent. Again try to keep the stitches at least 2mm long. Do you remember me telling you how to round the last edge stitch by coming out at a angle and going in at an angle? That will help round that last stitch.

C. The gold center appears lovely

Believe me, I am nitpicking this image, and I am seeing it magnified. You are doing a superb job of stitching. Keep up the excellent work and let me know if and when you want me to review additional images. Please ask your husband to make the image a slightly higher resolution. That will help when responding with the text & arrow overlays.

3. **Chrysanthemum stem:**

A. It appears that the line of staggered diagonals is too thick. As this is a macro image, it may not be the case. If upon looking at it you agree, please ply down a little.

Have a great stitching week Bettye.