

## Hungarian Queen and Hungarian Smyrna Variations

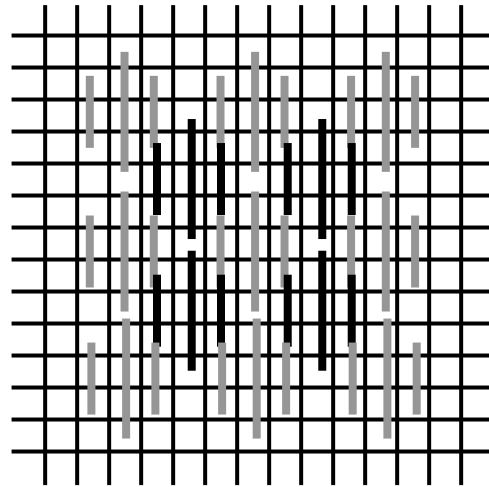
*This note first appeared in the 2003 ANG Stitch Book II, which is available from their website, [www.needlepoint.org](http://www.needlepoint.org).*

The Hungarian stitch (Diagram 1) is one of my favorites because it offers infinite possibility for variations. In fact, one of the first things I do with a new stitch book is look for any Hungarian variations I haven't seen before. It's relaxing to sit down with some graph paper and a doodle canvas and create some variations on your own. The variations in Diagram 2 are the result of such experimentation.

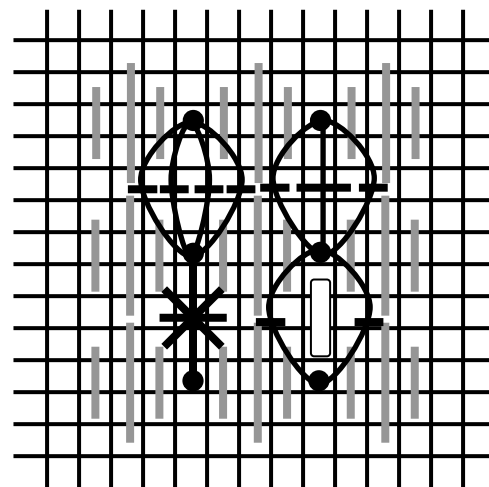
Despite being a vertical stitch, the Hungarian stitch has a pronounced diagonal appearance with a smooth surface. One way to add more texture to it is to combine it with the Queen stitch. Recall that the Queen stitch consists of four vertical elements, each tied down over one canvas thread. The upper left hand variation in diagram 2 shows how the Queen stitch can precisely nestle into the Hungarian pattern, replacing one of the rows. A simpler version (Diagram 2, upper right) has only three elements with the outer two tied down over one thread and the center one tied down over two threads. My personal favorite is in Diagram 2 (lower right) using only the two outer elements of the Queen stitch and placing a bead vertically over two canvas threads in the center. All three of these variations break up the strong diagonals of the Hungarian, strengthen its horizontal presence, and give it more texture. Another way to introduce texture into the Hungarian stitch and to give it a more open appearance is to replace one row with an elongated Smyrna stitch, shown at the lower left in Diagram 2.

I hope these ideas will lead you to take up graph paper and canvas and begin experimenting!

Denise Beusen  
[denise@beusen.net](mailto:denise@beusen.net)



**Diagram 1. The Hungarian stitch**



**Diagram 2. Hungarian Queen and Hungarian Smyrna variations**