

# Autumn Windbreak Huck Embroidery Towel

Sue Meier, designer

A note from the designer: "I grew up in rural Minnesota and have lived the last 34 years in North Dakota in the heart of the Red River Valley. Those of you who know this part of the U.S. know that the topsoil is very precious and the wind rarely stops **blowing**. In order to prevent wind erosion, many farmers plant rows of trees to protect their fields. This huck embroidery pattern reminds me of two different fields separated by a row of trees, a windbreak. Depending on whether you are viewing the scene in the autumn, at sunrise or at sunset, the colors will vary from rich golds, rusts and burgundies to beautiful greens and blues, to lavenders, pinks and blues. **Enjoy!**

Materials Needed: 26" of white huck toweling, approximately 16" wide (#9151)  
Tapestry needle size 22  
1 skein DMC Color Variations six-strand floss  
**1 skein each DMC six-strand floss in light solid and medium solid coordinating colors**  
Chart and stitch instructions

<b>Three colorways:</b>	<b>Autumn Windbreak</b>	<b>Sunrise Windbreak</b>	<b>Sunset Windbreak</b>
Fabric & Thread Pack	#990-590-0035	#990-590-0036	#990-590-0037
DMC Color Variations	4130 Chilean Sunset	4030 Monet's Garden	4215 Northern Lights
DMC Medium Solid	782 Topaz Medium	993 Aquamarine Light	3836 Grape Light
DMC Dark Solid	920 Copper Medium	793 Cornflower Blue Medium	793 Cornflower Blue Medium

Working instructions: Huck embroidery is easily accomplished by sliding the threaded needle under the pairs of threads (called floats) on the surface of the fabric. Huck embroidery is a repeating geometric design which can be continued for any width of fabric. You will be working on the smooth side of the fabric where the floats are vertical (parallel to the selvage). **The needle and thread never pierce the fabric, so none of your work will show on the back of the fabric. Use all six strands of floss as they come off the skein. Do not separate.**

Thread lengths: Rows 1, 2 and 3	48" Medium Solid	Row 8	<b>54" Color Variations</b>
Rows 4 and 5	<b>34" Color Variations</b>	Row 9	54" Light Solid
Rows 6 and 7	<b>44" Color Variations</b>	Row 10	64" Light Solid

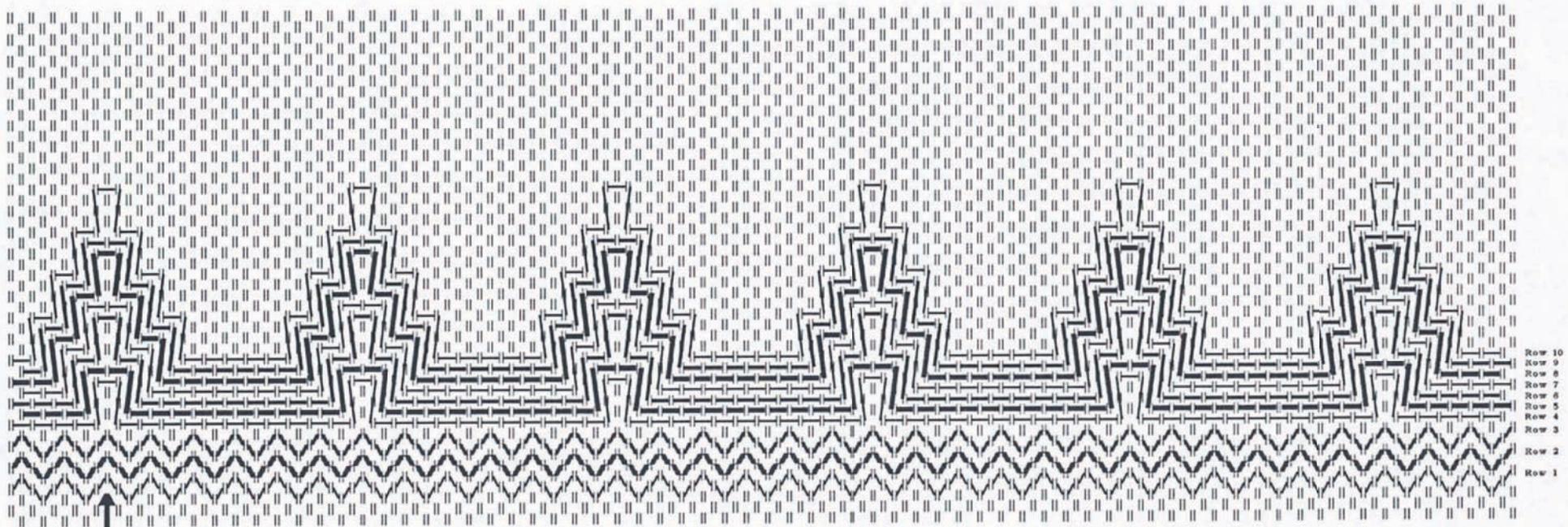
To begin: You will start stitching in the center of Row 1. Fold the towel in half lengthwise to find the center line of the fabric. From the bottom edge measure up *1-3/4"* to find the starting point, which is the center of Row 1 (see arrow on the chart). Thread the needle with 48" of six-strand floss. Slide the threaded needle under the pair of floats that mark the center of Row 1. Center your thread so you have 24" on one side of this pair of floats and 24" on the other. Following the charts, work Row 1 from the center point to the left edge of the towel, continuing to repeat the pattern until you reach the edge of the towel. Then turn the towel 180 degrees and work the other half of Row 1 to the right edge of the towel. Repeat this process with Rows 2 and 3.

When the pattern is worked in a diagonal line (like rows 1-3) you should work only one stitch at a time (one pair of floats). When the pattern goes under several pairs of floats in a straight line, you can slide under multiple pairs of floats with your needle. **If you have trouble with the thread tangling while you work, drop your needle every few stitches to let the thread untangle.**

Work the remaining rows 4-10. Because the lengths of thread for this design are so long, we recommend working all rows from the center. Notice that while the charts do show the right edge of the towel, your design may go longer or end sooner if your towel is slightly different width. The rows are shown in different thicknesses on the charts only to help you follow their paths.

**After a row is completed, finish both ends of the row by weaving the "tail" of thread over the end pair of floats and under 4-6 more pairs of floats. Snip the end of the thread closely. The end of each row will have double thread, which will not be very noticeable. None of your work should show on the back of the fabric.**

Finishing the towel: After all the rows are stitched and you have finished all the ends of the rows, you are ready to fringe the towel. **Use a sewing machine and white sewing thread to sew across the end of your towel approximately 1" from the edge.** Fringe away the huck fabric up to this line to create the fringe. Repeat on the opposite end of the towel.



Center

Autumn Windbreak Huck Embroidery Towel  
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Design by Susan L. Meier

Row 10  
Row 9  
Row 8  
Row 7  
Row 6  
Row 5  
Row 4  
Row 3  
Row 2  
Row 1