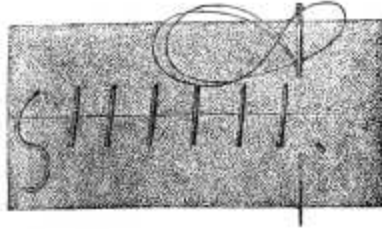


Fine Drawing

An invisible darn: useful, nearly forgotten, and not for the impatient.



From Encyclopedia of Needlework (de Dillmont, 1886) · public domain

"Hair for thread, razor for edges, out where it went in."

1

Choose and Clean Hair

Use as fine a needle as possible, and thread it with hair rather than silk or any other fibre. Red and white hair is the strongest, stronger than the ravellings of the stuff. The hair has first to be carefully cleansed from grease.

2

Pare the Edges

Pare the edges of the rent clean and even on the right side, using a razor rather than scissors. Scissors don't cut as closely and can disturb the nap, making the darn more visible.

3

Fit and Overcast

Fit the edges of the tear exactly together, then overcast them.

4

Slip the Stitches

Thread a needle with a hair by the root, then slip it in 2 or 3 millimetres from the one edge and out through the other, pointed towards you, so that neither needle nor hair is visible on either side. Set the stitches slightly slanting, lost in the thickness of the cloth.

5

Keep an Even Tension

Always put the needle back in exactly where it came out, and don't draw the hair too tightly.

Practise until your fingers remember it. — Widow Maker · wmc.penguinboisoftware.com · a PenguinBoi Network show