

No.1 for trends

CrossStitcher

IDEAS • STYLE • INSPIRATION

66

BRIGHT NEW
PROJECTS

Christmas
CLASSICS



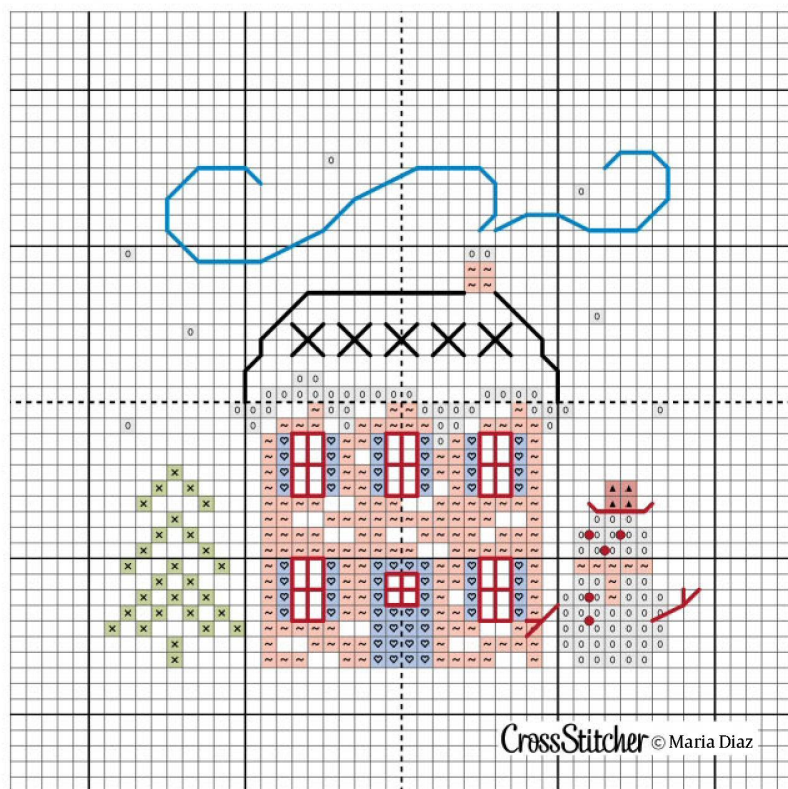
❄️ **FESTIVE
MAKES**

❄️ Start stitching your **first**
❄️ **Christmas** cards today!

MAKE of the month

Your Christmas stitching starts here!
Choose one of our three festive charts
to make a cosy cottage decoration

Designed by: Maria Diaz Max. stitch count: 33 high x 38 wide
Max. design size: 6x7cm (2½x2¾in) Stitch time: 2 hours each



Stitch and frame
all three designs
together in a row to
make a charming
festive scene

How to... make your little house decoration

Step 1

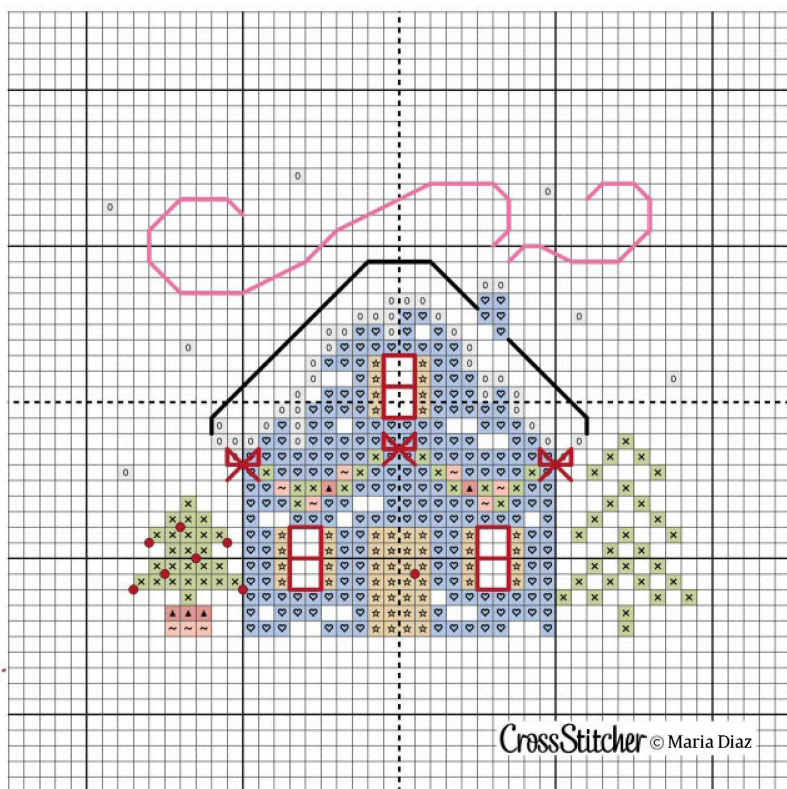
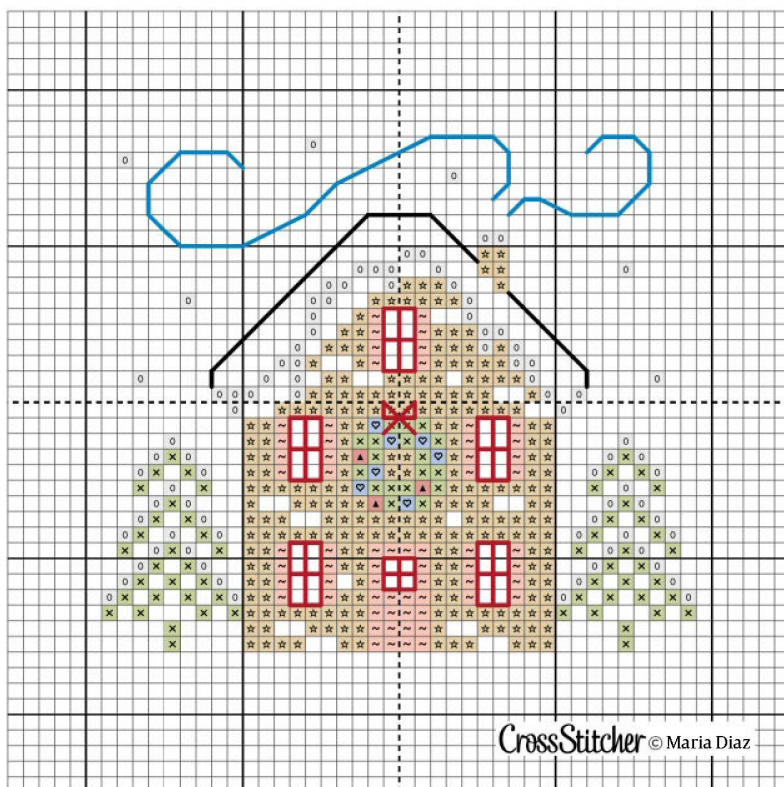
CUT a 10x10cm piece of 28 count evenweave fabric and stitch your chosen house using two strands of stranded cotton for the cross stitch, one and two for the backstitch and two for the French knots over two threads of evenweave.

Step 2

SNIP a 10cm length of white ric-rac trim and place on the front of the stitching just under the design. Sew it in place by machine or hand.

Step 3

PLACE the front and a 10x10cm piece of white felt right sides together. With a length of cord for hanging between the layers, and the ends pointing out, sew around the edge leaving a gap for turning. Turn, stuff and then sew up the gap.



	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
	470	267	1502
	777	065	513
	3832	028	506
	3839	176	902
	3863	379	1912
	blanc	001	white
Backstitch in two strands			
	777	065	513
smoke			
	3839	176	902
smoke			
	blanc	001	white
thatch			
Backstitch in one strand			
	777	065	513
window frames, snowman			
French knots in two strands			
	777	065	513
tree, snowman, door			

YOU'LL FIND
YOUR BONUS
LILI OF THE VALLEY
2016 CALENDAR
AT THE END OF THE
MAGAZINE!



NEXT MONTH

FESTIVE MINI BROOCH PROJECT

Carry on your Christmas
stitching with our merry
brooch designs with
four fabulous charts to
choose from!



ISSUE 298
NOVEMBER 2015

On sale
16 October

Welcome

The stitcher's favourite season...



OCTOBER IS ONE of our favourite months. With Bonfire Night just around the corner, close on the heels of Halloween, the air is full of aromatic smells; from pumpkin carving, to jam making and baking. The weather can be unpredictable but any extra time spent indoors is a bonus for stitchers, as it just means more time for WIPs!

This month we reflect the season in our selection of projects, with our cute woodland animals, a folksy apple tree and colourful Halloween cake toppers, to name just a few. However, the main focus of this issue has to be our festive projects, and boy do we have lots to get you stitching, from our stunning cutlery placemat to our iconic Morris Minor carrying the Christmas tree home.

We must also share with you a little gem from our own family life. Recently our youngest lost a tooth, and due to us working late, the tooth fairy didn't come, and the tooth remained beside her bed. Then she lost a second tooth and was very upset with the fairy.

We had a brainwave, and loaned her the tooth fairy cushion from this issue. The next night the fairy *did* come, leaving her two shiny 50p coins. Unfortunately in the dark, the fairy only took one tooth, and so our daughter simply placed the cushion beside her bed for the fairy to visit a second time! This project is a real memory maker, so if you have children or grandchildren, do take time to stitch it.

Enjoy this wonderful stitching season.

Susan & Martin Penny

SUSAN & MARTIN PENNY
EDITORS

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twitter.com/XStitchmagazine



www.crossstitchermag.com



Add a little
animal magic
to a nursery!



Snow stylish!

Don't miss our snow
globe picture next
issue. Out 16 October!

CrossStitcher Contents

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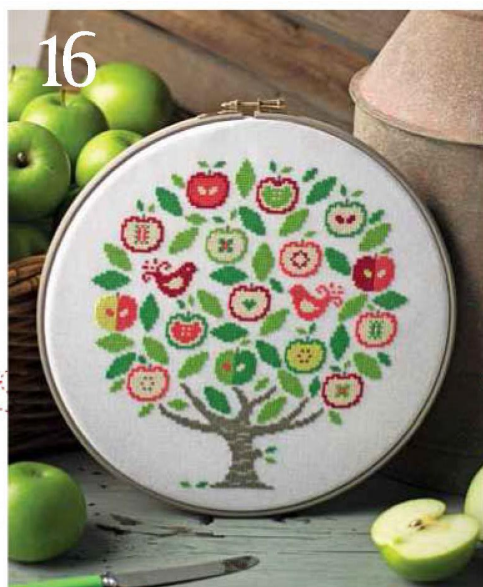


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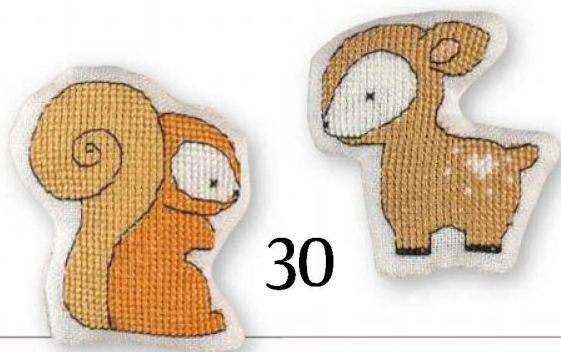
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THE SAVVY
STITCHER
LACY LOOKS

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THE SavvyStitcher

Try something new every issue

73 Add lacy looks

Get that luxurious lacy look using our expert's clever ideas and advice with three pretty projects to try your hand at.





For a girl, use aida
colour 313 pink,
changing the
thread colours to
match the fabric

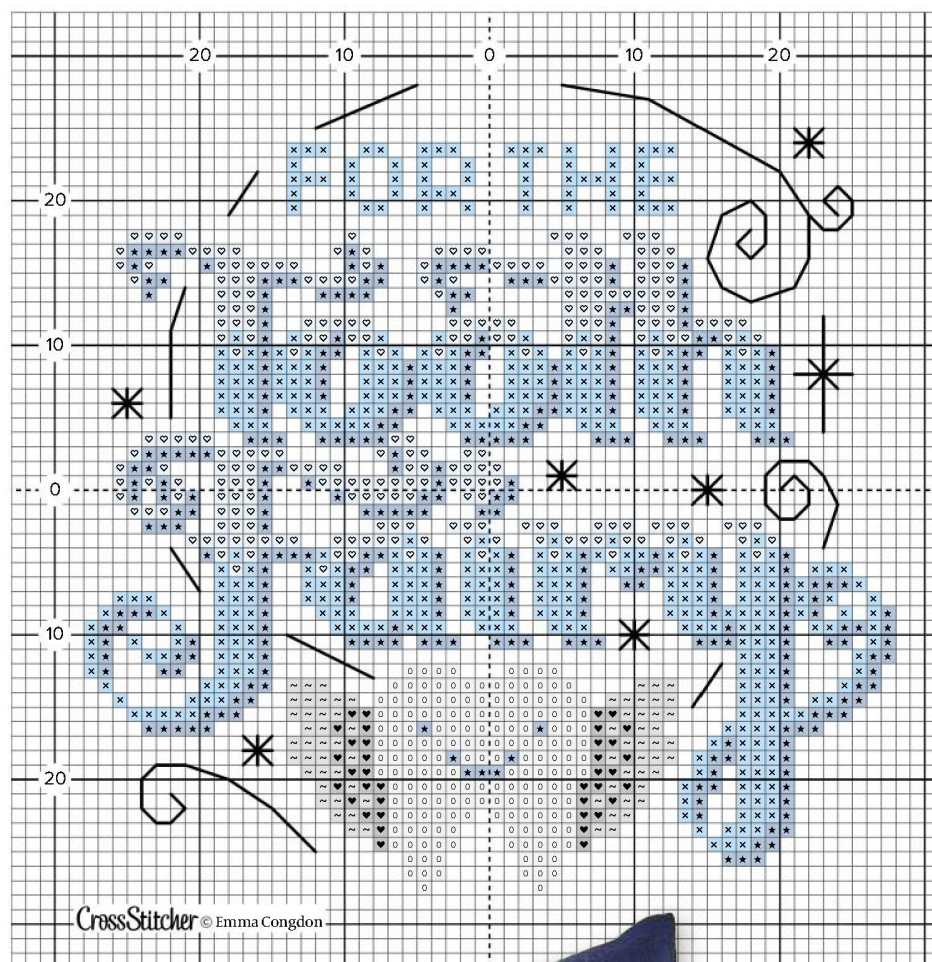
Materials

- Zweigart 28 count Brittney navy evenweave, ref: 3270/589, 18x18cm (7x7in) for the pocket
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Size 26 tapestry needle
- Toy stuffing
- Fabric for the pillow, two pieces 25.5x30.5cm (10x12in)

For stockist details see page 84

Dear tooth fairy...

Make a childhood milestone extra magical! Stitch our pocket pillow to hold a baby tooth safe for the tooth fairy's next visit



Designed by: Emma Congdon

Stitch count: 56 high x 56 wide

Design size: 10x10cm (4x4in)

Stitch time: 6 hours

This design was stitched on 28 count evenweave over two threads of the fabric.

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in three strands			
♥ ♥	414	235	1801
~ ~	415	398	1803
★ ★	825	142	1011
× ×	996	433	1103
♡ ♡	3841	159	1001
0 0	3861	378	1912
Backstitch in two strands			
—	415	398	1803
all details			

Make a... pocket pillow

Step 1

TURN over top edge of stitched fabric twice to wrong side. Press, then machine stitch or catch stitch the turning in place.

Step 2

FOLD under bottom and sides of stitched fabric so it measures 12x14cm (5½x4¾in), to make pocket front. Press.

Step 3

PLACE stitched pocket face out in centre of cushion front fabric. Machine stitch round three sides, leaving the top open. Place pillow front and back together, right sides facing, and machine stitch around edge, leaving a gap for turning. Turn and fill with toy stuffing. Sew up gap with neat stitches.



TURN TO
PAGE 50
FOR OUR PENGUIN
POCKET CUSHION
PROJECT!

Amber

Transforming young lives



Amber transforms lives by offering a fresh start to unemployed, homeless young people seeking direction in life.

Amber builds confidence, motivation and self-belief.

Amber works



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Outthere

Every month we showcase the latest high street trends, new ideas and inspiring personalities for today's stylish cross stitcher



Harvest festival

Autumn's such a magical time of year. Christmas is just around the corner, Halloween's nearly here – but right now we're dreaming of cosy country cottages (like our festive houses on page 2) and all the lovely fruits and colours of autumn (see our folk art apple tree picture on page 16). We're also loving this owl kit from DMC – New Dawn (BK1468). Each kit measures 20x20cm (8x12in) and is worked on 14 count aida, so it's perfect to stitch as the nights draw in. www.dmccreative.co.uk



INTO THE WOODS

THIS MONTH the countryside is rapidly changing colour. The remaining bright hues of late summer have turned into the lovely browns and golds of autumn. Fox and deer break cover in their hunt for food, as the landscape shuts down for winter. This Autumn Woodland scene by Eva Rosenstand can be found in the October issue of our sister magazine *Cross Stitch Collection*, out now.



Feeling foxy

How adorable is this little fox gift tag? Stamped by hand, it's the perfect accompaniment to our foxy make on page 30 and a super-cute finishing touch for any handmade present. www.etsy.com/shop/SammysCraftShop



WEB SIGHT

WHAT COULD be spookier than giant spiders at Halloween? This scary silhouette kit from Lizzy & Izzy is sure to create some spine-tingling shivers. The kit also comes with designs for the words 'Boo' and 'Eek'. Turn to page 68 for our terrifying Trick or Treat motifs! www.etsy.com/shop/LizzyandIzzy



CHINA GIRL

OUR FAVE designer, Cath Kidston, has done it again. Her gorgeous Woodland Rose teacups are perfect for a pot of tea while you enjoy stitching your autumnal projects. Available in a set of four, the teacups are accompanied by matching crockery, a diary and even a craft bag. www.cathkidston.com

GO RETRO

WE'RE BIG fans of maker Stephanie Cole and this sweet design is the perfect birthday card for a special stitchy friend. Featuring a retro sewing machine, it's designed and printed by hand on recycled card and comes with a recycled kraft-coloured envelope. Look closely and you'll see that nature-lover Stephanie has included a few flower details too. www.stephaniecole.co.uk



Home sweet home

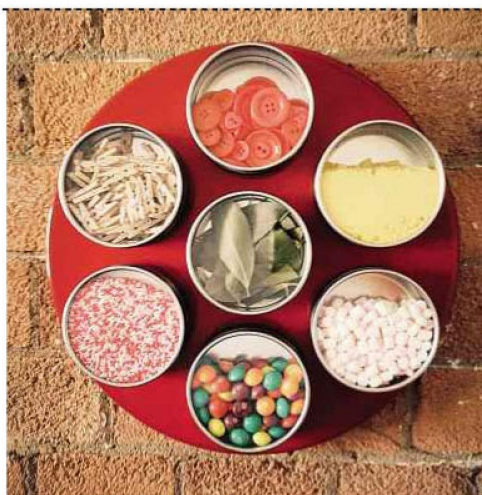
HAVE WE mentioned our love of cosy cottages this month? These cute heat pads are the ideal accessory for any kitchen – wherever you live. Just the thing for getting hot pans out of the oven – we think they look sweet hanging in a row on your wall. Don't forget to make our little house decoration on page 2, too! www.tigerstores.co.uk



METAL GURU

WE'RE ALWAYS looking for ways to keep our crafty bits tidy and these tins are the perfect size for looking after buttons, beads, threads and even needles and pins. They are also handily magnetic, giving you more options for where to stick them. We think they'd be ideal for keeping Trick or Treaters' sweets in too!

<https://folksy.com/shops/TheTinMan>



Sew Scandi

FOR A WONDERFUL book to have on your shelves as we approach Christmas, try *Sew Scandinavian* by Kajsa Kinsella.

Packed with hand-stitched projects inspired by her Swedish childhood, Kajsa uses Swedish values, memories and traditions to create extremely elegant projects. You will find some lovely seasonal crafting ideas, such as a Forest Friends Christmas stocking and a stunning winter mobile.

www.amazon.co.uk



THREE OF THE BEST

An apple a day...

Apples aren't just for teacher! Stitch our folk apple tree on page 16 or pick these Etsy finds.



DREAMZZZZZ

Make every dinner a fruity feast with this lovely apple-print tablecloth. Dreamzz also make napkins, runners and curtains in this fabric.



RETROMAMA

Use up scraps with Retromama's sweet apple pincushion project. There's another pattern size for making an ornament if you prefer.



ANETTEERIKSSON

Try some Scandi style with this burlap needlepoint cushion kit. Made using chunky half cross stitch, it's also available just as a chart.

TREND SPOTTING

with writer and crafter
Katie Allen



ICE, ICE, BABY

NOTHING'S AS cute as a little penguin!

Pick up one of these finds or make your own perfect pair to cuddle on page 50.



WHO

This little chap just can't wait for it to snow! He's the perfect choice for a tree with homespun style.

www.etsy.com/shop/SandraLee

WHAT

We think this lovely tote's just right for Christmas shopping – we love the penguin's festive knit!

<https://folksy.com/shops/minifelts>



HOW

Make your very own penguin pet with this oh-so-cute feltie kit from Threadfollower.

<http://threadfollower.com>





Inside the mind of

MR X STITCH

Our manbroiderer realises that the fun really begins when you add those final backstitch touches



Lucy Hayward's striking stag is all about the backstitch.



Backstitch is great for adding fun 3D effects to my work



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www.facebook.com/MrXStitch
www.twitter.com/MrXStitch

A couple of months ago I did a presentation and workshop at Sew Sociable, a great stitch-based monthly get-together in Leicester. (Find them on Facebook to get involved!) It was the usual combination of my 'View from the Cutting (& Stitching) Edge' presentation, which is a dazzling showcase of fantastic embroidery from around the world, and then a fast and furious cross stitch workshop.

At the end of the session, a young lady called Lucy Hayward presented me with a cross stitched card featuring one of her designs, a stag. It's a good design, but the thing that struck me about it was how cleverly Lucy had

design is going to crisp up and come to life when the single or double threaded little lines are added. When you're using characterful designs, like the ones that are often featured in this fine magazine, it really brings the images to life.

I try to get my backstitches to sit in a specific way, making sure that the stitches lie on each other in a slightly diagonal position (see diagram A, bottom left) rather than stitching them any old how (B), as it gives the illusion of a straighter line. I'm pretty sure that's the best way to do it, but I'm always open to correction.

I've played with backstitch a bit in my designs, particularly using it to

“ It's that more thoughtful application of backstitch that really makes the difference ”

used backstitch to enhance the design. It got me thinking...

Backstitch is the common partner for cross stitch, being used to provide outline and detail to the otherwise pixelated format that we're familiar with. I find that designers often overlook the power of backstitch to finish off the design. It's easy for a designer to use backstitch to outline a piece, but it's that more thoughtful application of backstitch that really makes the difference.

I don't know about you, but I like the anticipation of backstitch. Getting all the Xs stitched, knowing that the

create 3D effects, and I think that there's a ton more space to play with these little stitches. I'm contemplating using them to create texture and contrast on top of existing cross stitches, not sticking to just outlines, but adding layers to the work, almost like the trash polka tattoo style.

What are your feelings on backstitch? Who are your favourite designers that make great use of the stitch that goes backwards? Are there any techniques you use that I should be paying attention to? Get in touch with the mag and let me know!

Until next time, happy stitching!

TAKE BETTER PHOTOS

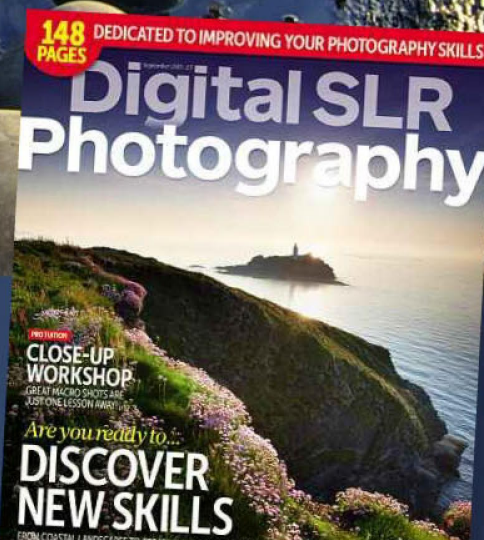
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TAKE YOUR PICK





TAKE YOUR PICK

Celebrate the season with a design that's ripe and ready for stitching. Our folksy apple tree picture is pip perfect!

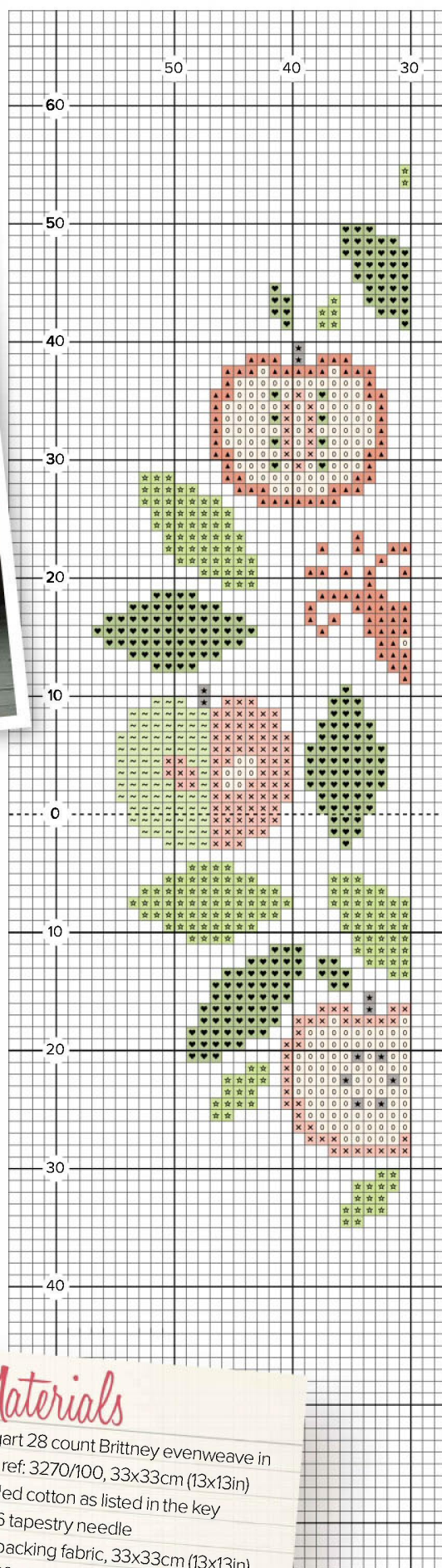
TAKE YOUR PICK



Designed by: Lucie Heaton
 Stitch count: 122 high x 115 wide
 Design size: 22x21cm (8½x8¼in)
 Stitch time: 28 hours

This design was stitched on 28 count evenweave over two threads of the fabric.

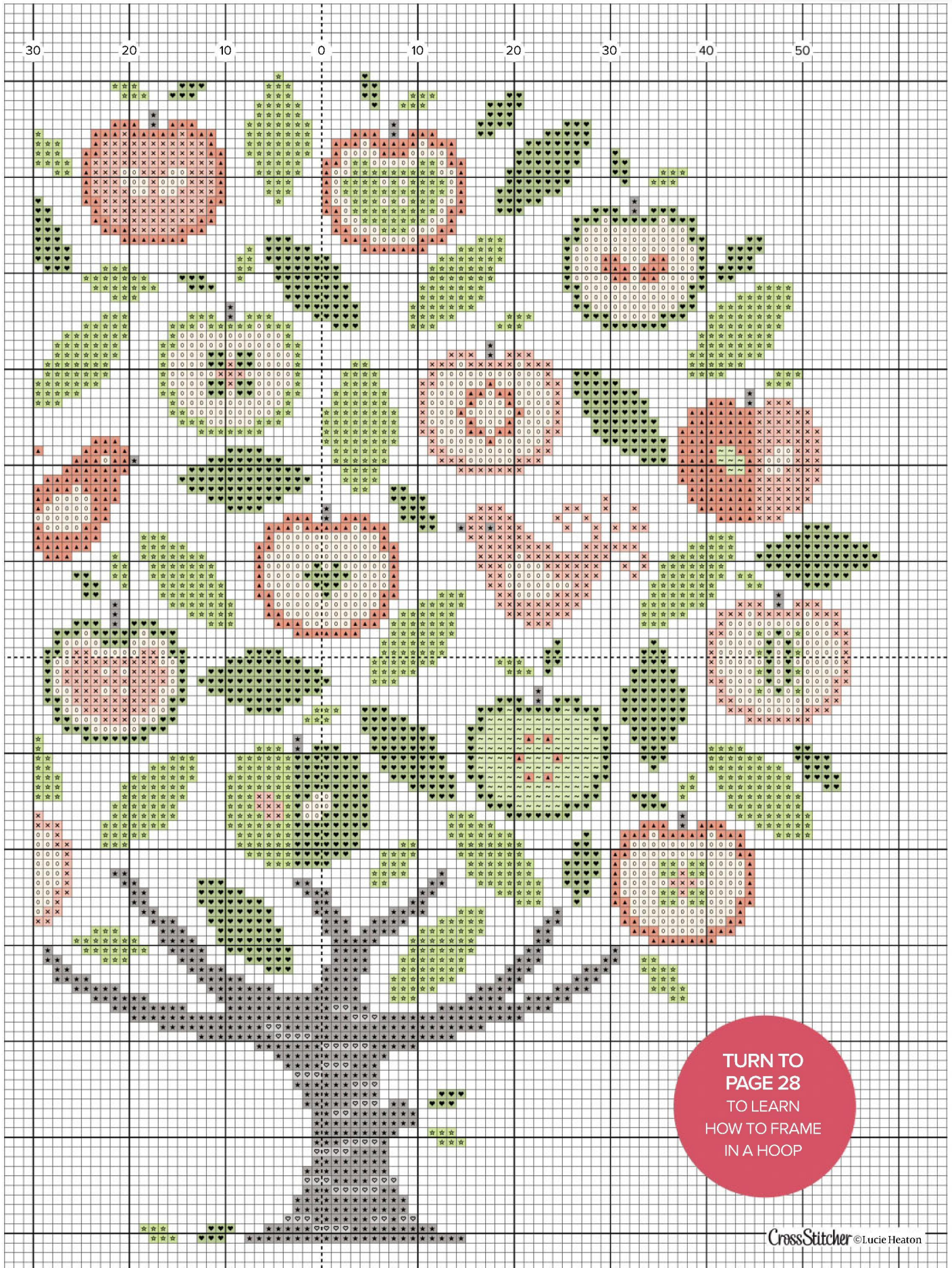
	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
▲▲	347	1025	407
★★	646	8581	181
♡♡	648	900	1814
♥♥	702	239	1306
☆☆	704	256	1308
00	712	926	2101
××	3705	035	410
~~	3819	278	2703



Materials

- Zweigart 28 count Brittny evenweave in white, ref: 3270/100, 33x33cm (13x13in)
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Size 26 tapestry needle
- White backing fabric, 33x33cm (13x13in)
- 25cm (10in) wooden embroidery hoop

For stockist details see page 84



TURN TO
PAGE 28
TO LEARN
HOW TO FRAME
IN A HOOP

CROSS STITCH *Collection*

The most beautiful cross stitch designs



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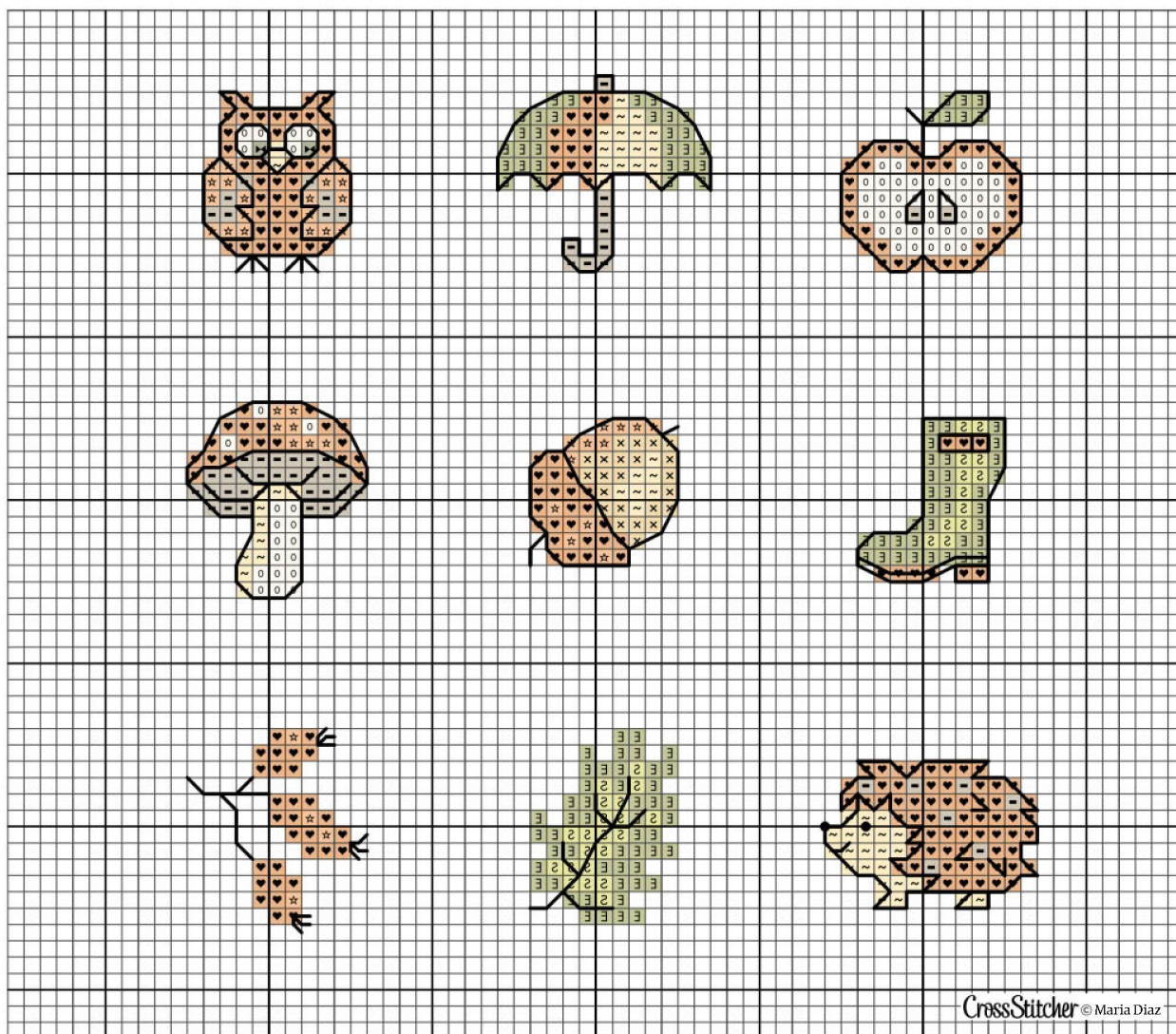
*Calls will cost 7p per minute plus your telephone company's access charge



Shades of Autumn

As the leaves change colour and the nights draw in, capture the sights of the season in stitches with our beautiful button set





CrossStitcher © Maria Diaz

Designed by: Maria Diaz

Max. stitch count: 13 high x 13 wide

Max. design size: 2.5x2.5cm (1x1in)

Stitch time: 1 hour each

These designs were stitched on 28 count evenweave over two threads of the fabric.

Materials

For each button

- Zweigart 28 count Brittny beige evenweave, ref: 3270/264, 10x10cm (4x4in)
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Size 26 tapestry needle
- 30mm self-covered button

For stockist details see page 84



	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
	470	267	1502
	640	903	1905
	676	891	2208
	712	926	2101
	729	890	2209
	921	884	311
	922	1003	310
	3787	273	1810
	3819	278	2703
Backstitch in one strand			
	3787	273	1810
all outlines			
French knots in one strand			
	3787	273	1810
hedgehog face			

Make a... covered button

Step 1



USE the template provided with your self-covered button packaging to cut your fabric into a circle, with your stitching in the middle. Alternatively, you can simply cut your fabric into a 4cm circle.

Step 2



CHOOSE either metal or white plastic self-covered buttons, it's up to you. Pull your fabric around the button front as tight as you can. If you like, use a small piece of double-sided tape to help you hold your fabric in place.

Step 3



USE your fingernail to tighten and smooth any lumpy areas around the perimeter of your button. Once you're happy with it, pop the backing into place.

Pop a safety pin
into the button
shank to turn it
into a badge!



SHIP AHOY



SHIP AHOY!

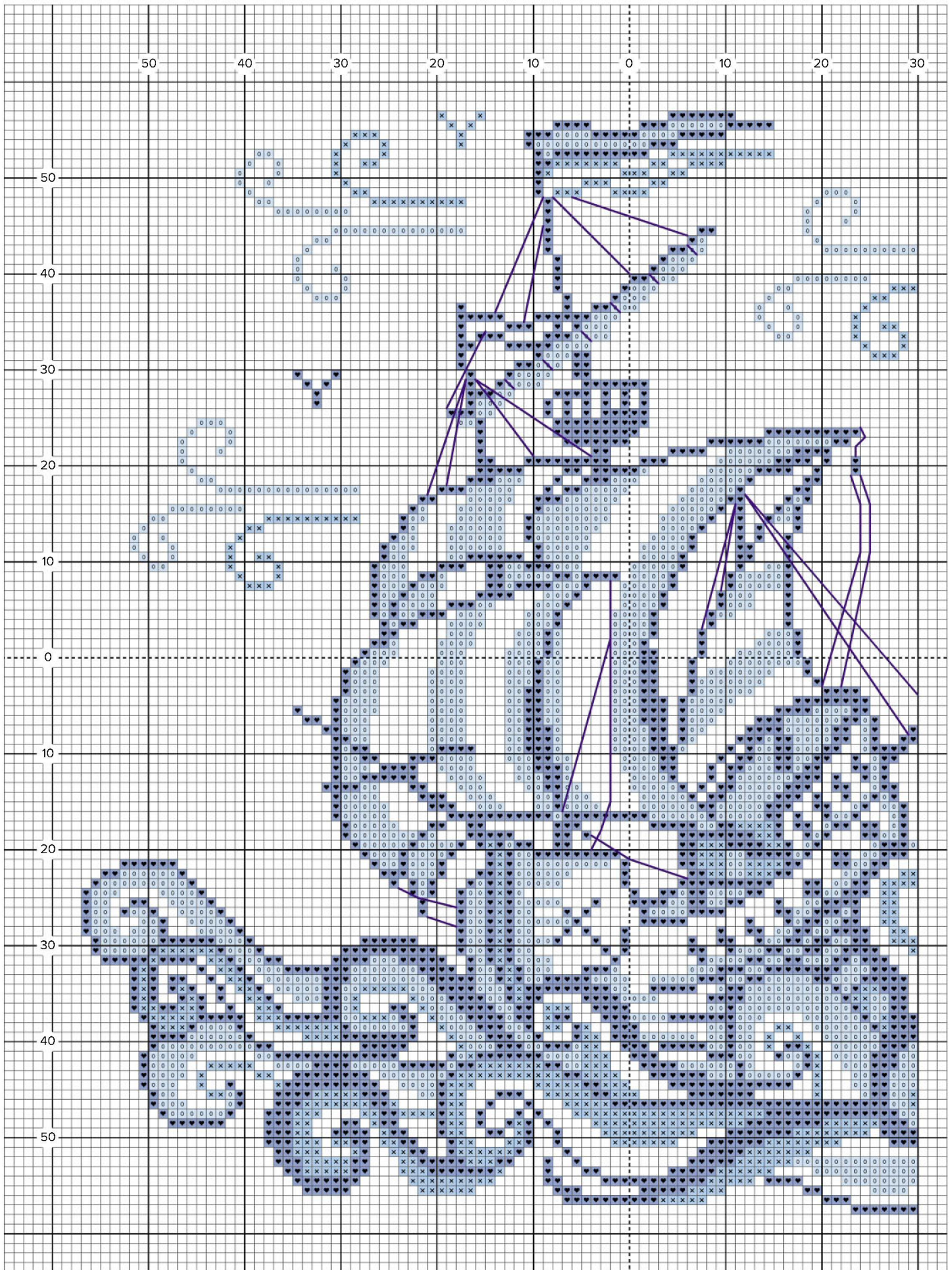
Set sail for some classic stitching
with our magnificent maritime design
in vintage blue and white colours

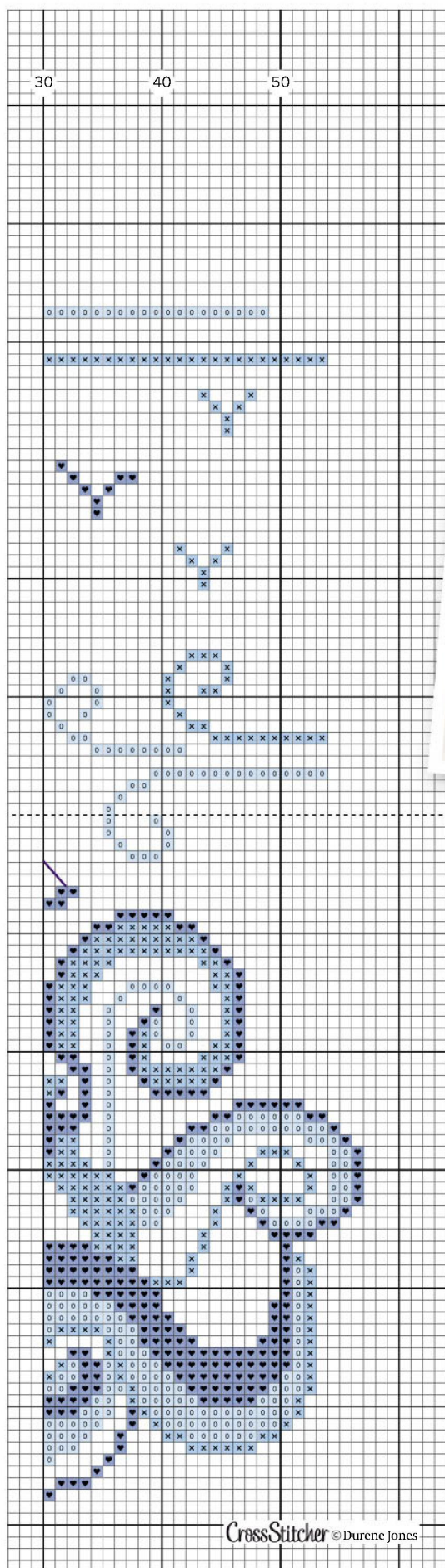


FOR YOUR HOME



SHIP AHOY





Designed by: Durene Jones

Stitch count: 115 high x 114 wide

Design size: 21x21cm (8¼x8¼in)

Stitch time: 30 hours

This design was stitched on 28 count evenweave over two threads of the fabric.



CrossStitcher © Durene Jones



	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
♥ ♥	824	143	1010
✕ ✕	826	161	1012
0 0	3325	129	1002
Backstitch in two strands			
—	824	143	1010
all details			



Materials

- Zweigart 28 count Brittney evenweave, white, ref: 3270/100, 33x33cm (13x13in)
- White backing fabric, 33x33cm (13x13in)
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Size 26 tapestry needle
- 25cm (10in) wooden embroidery hoop

For stockist details see page 84

Paint your hoop using a match pot of emulsion paint. Apply two coats to the outer section of the hoop only, then allow to dry thoroughly

How to... frame your work in a hoop

Step 1



TRIM your stitching and a fabric piece into a circle slightly larger than your hoop. Place the inside hoop beneath the two pieces and the outer hoop on top. Centre and press over your work. Pull taut and tighten the screw.

Step 2



TURN your stitching to the reverse and cut a piece of felt to fit the inside the inner circle. Place the felt inside the hoop. You can use a bit of PVA glue to keep it in place. The felt will keep your work nice and fresh.

Step 3



USE a glue gun or double-sided tape to begin attaching the first layer of fabric, pulling taut as you go. Repeat for the second layer. Cut a second felt circle to fit over the back of your hoop and secure in place to finish.

Your stitching

Drop us a line to pin your projects into our album!
Email your photos to crossstitcher@dennis.co.uk or write to us at CrossStitcher, PO Box 172, Northam, EX39 9DY



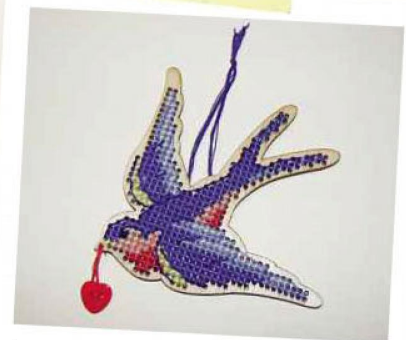
The cupcake kit with issue 295 was a must-make for me. I made a hanging ornament with it, then thread it through the card!
Barbara McCauley, Australia



I made this from issue 288 as a gift for my cousin. I added an anchor and coral to go with the wedding's nautical theme and colour!
Lauren McGonigal, by email



My middle son is a real 'full-of-beans' character, so I thought of him as soon as I saw this bold design from issue 290.
Rosie Daniels, Luton



I made the free swallow brooch kit (issue 292) into an ornament and added a bead to the eye. I'm very pleased with the result!
Pamela Rae Tarasiewicz, USA



For the opening of my niece's cake boutique I stitched an inlay for a tray for her shop using various patterns from CrossStitcher.
Annemarie Sluijmers, Netherlands



I did this from issue 278 for my niece and her fiancée for their wedding earlier this year - it made a unique wedding gift.
Paula Grant, Glasgow



The free biscuit coaster kit from issue 293 brought back memories of happy times at birthday parties; they were the best treat!
Sandra Spinks, Hertfordshire



I made this cute little card (from issue 182) for my doctor, to thank her for her kindness to me recently.
Sara Lugnani, Switzerland

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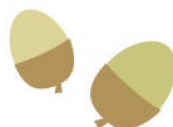
FOREST FRIENDS



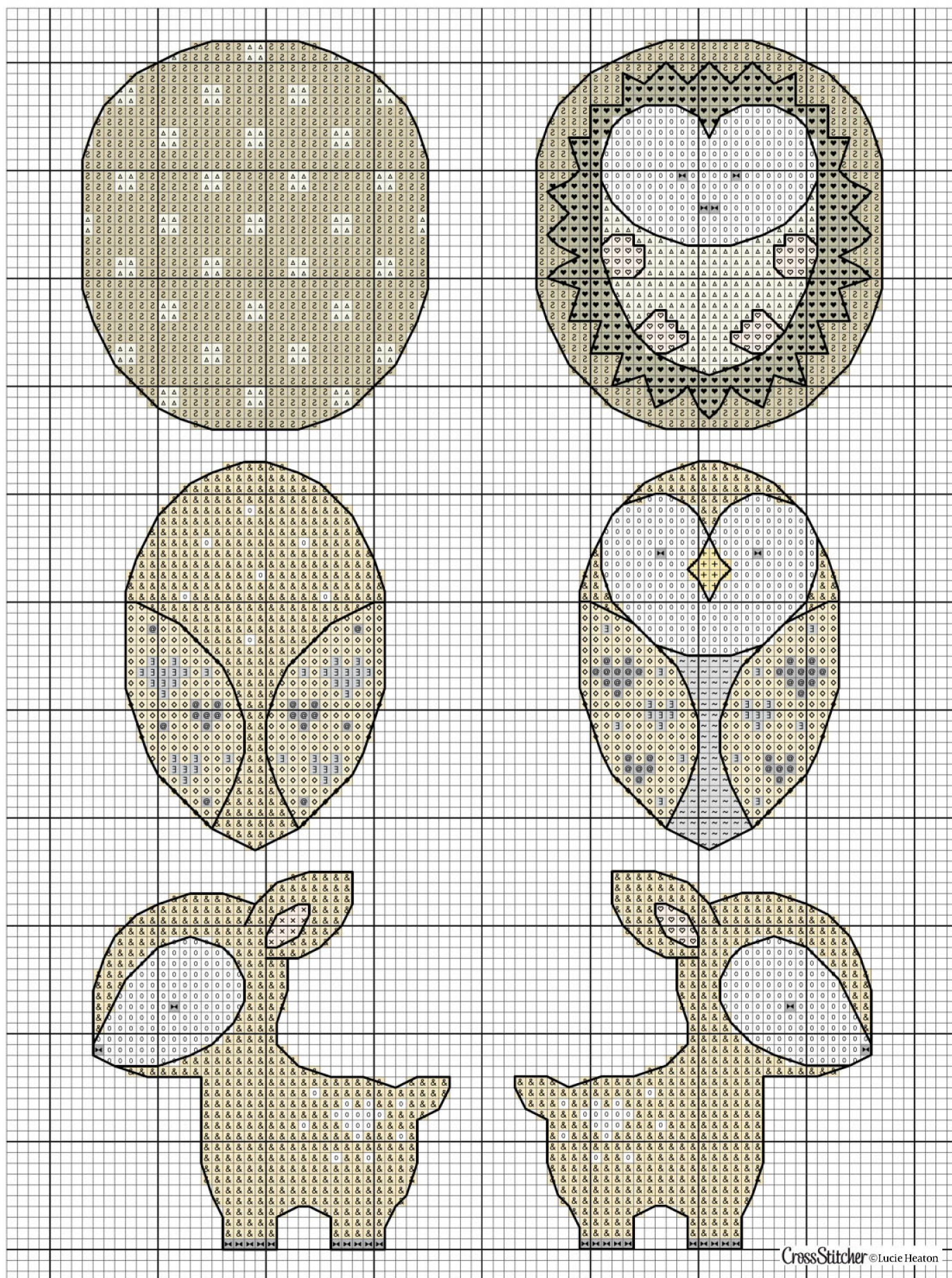


Forest Friends

If you go down to the woods today...
Stitch our adorable animals as a cute
mobile or individual hanging decorations



FOREST FRIENDS



CrossStitcher ©Lucie Heaton



These cute woodland critters would make a lovely picture for a nursery wall if stitched in a row!

Designed by: Lucie Heaton

Max. stitch count: 36 high x 34 wide

Max. design size: 6.5x6.5cm (2½x2½in)

Stitch time: 6 hours each

(front and back)

These designs were stitched on 28 count evenweave over two threads of the fabric.

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
☐ ☐	318	399	1802
@ @	414	235	1801
~ ~	415	398	1803
& &	437	362	2012 (2)
▲ ▲	722	323	307
++	725	306	808
◇ ◇	738	361	2013
× ×	754	336	305
♥ ♥	948	1011	306
♥ ♥	3022	8581	1903
2 2	3032	903	2002
△ △	3033	391	2001
▶ ▶	3799	236	1713
☆ ☆	3856	368	2309 (2)
0 0	blanc	001	white

Backstitch in one strand

— 3799 236 1713

all details

(2) indicates more than one skein is required



Materials

- Zweigart 28 count Brittney white evenweave, ref: 3270/100; two 10x11.5cm (4x4½in) pieces for each animal
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Size 26 tapestry needle
- Toy stuffing
- Ribbon or string for hanging

For stockist details see page 84



Make a... cute mobile

Step 1

STITCH a front and back for each animal. Place the two parts right sides together, matching the stitched outlines. It will help if you hold the stitching up to a window and then use pins to secure the front and back together.

Step 2

USE a sewing machine to stitch the rough shape of the animal, 1cm ($\frac{3}{8}$ in) outside the outer edge of the design, and leaving the bottom open.

Step 3

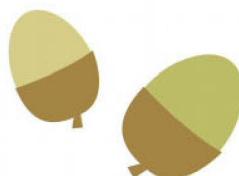
TRIM off some of the seam allowance and then turn the animal through to the right side.

Step 4

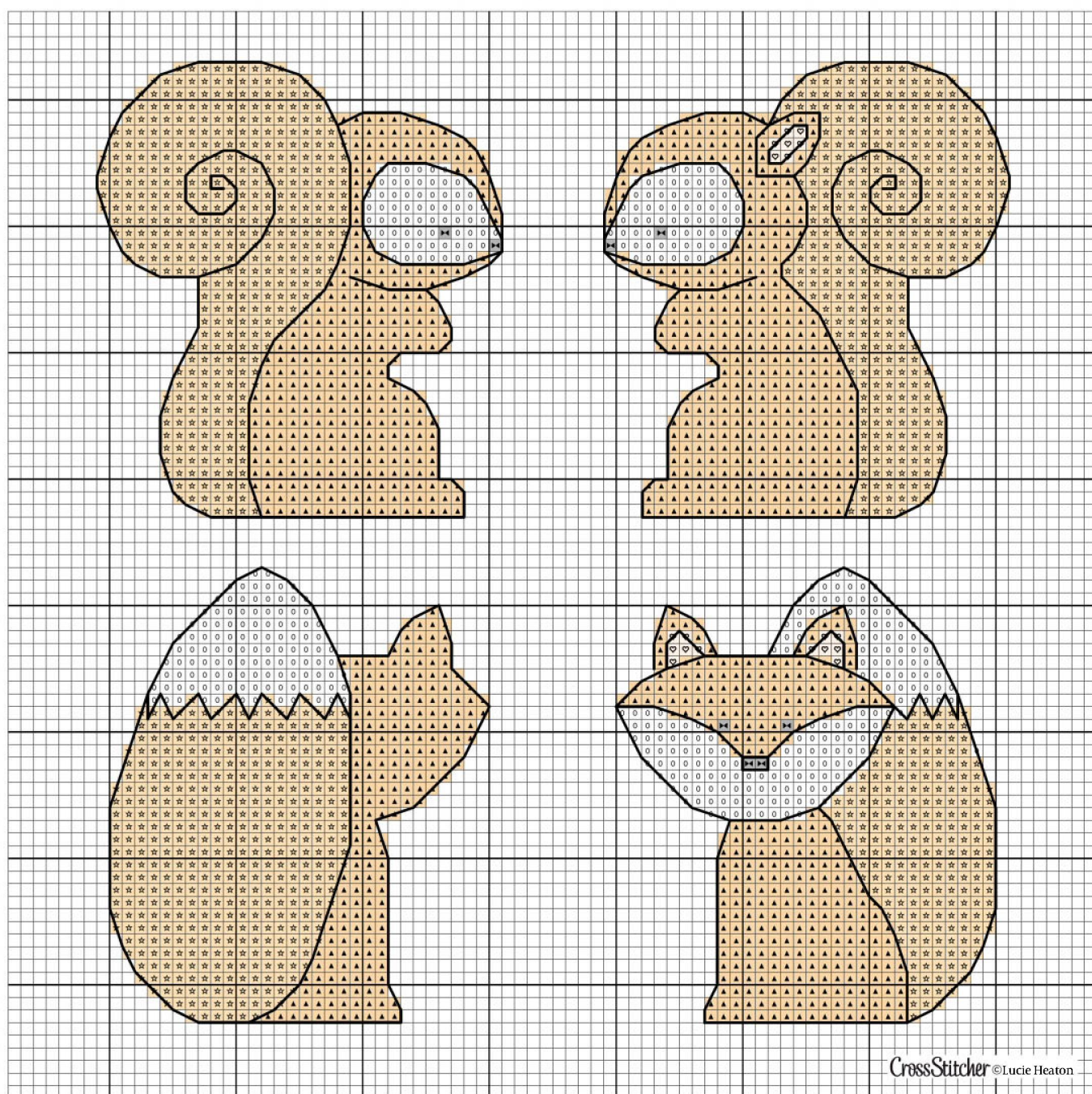
THREAD a needle with a length of ribbon and make a large stitch at the top of the animal for the hanger. Tie a knot in the ends.

Step 5

FILL each animal with toy stuffing through the gap left at the bottom, and then fold in the fabric and close the gap with small neat stitches.



Make a lampshade mobile;
attach the animals by punching
holes in the edge. Thread each
hanging ribbon end through a
hole before tying in a knot



CrossStitcher® Lucie Heaton



Colleen's new book features no less than 15 charts of Benedict!



Above: Colleen works on her designs from home. Below: The weather is a favourite source of inspiration.



Sherlock fans will love bringing their sleuthing hero to life in stitches.

An interview with...

Colleen Carrington

We caught up with the author of *Benedict Cumberbatch* to find out how her mission to put Sherlock into cross stitch came about

Interview by **Katie Allen**

Whether or not you're a fully-paid-up Cumberperson, there's no denying that a certain actor has caught the imagination of the nation. In fact Colleen Carrington's love for Benedict Cumberbatch is so great that she has dedicated an entire book to cross stitching her favourite star. We caught up with Colleen to talk Sherlock, stitching and what it was like to meet the man himself...

How did this amazing stitching book come about?

It was completely out of the blue. One Monday morning I opened my emails and there was one from Kyle Books editor, Tara O'Sullivan, saying, "I've got an idea for a book." She'd seen a blog post I'd written about my love for Benedict Cumberbatch. We met up the same week, discussed



designs and I dropped everything and went for it.

You've always loved cross stitching?

I've always liked cross stitch, it's always been a hobby – it's only in the last few years that I've thought there was something in it. When I was about eight I became obsessed with the *Country Companions* patterns –

I think I did every single one. By the time I was a teenager I was making up my own patterns based on the house, the shed, my family, the cat... I nearly studied architecture – it lends itself to the precise 'pixely', charty nature of cross stitch.

And then you started your own business, *The World In Stitches*?

Cross stitch was a background hobby for me, fitted around my work in a supermarket. I was designing patterns for friends and then began selling my own cross stitch kits and patterns online. I opened the Etsy store in October 2012 and exactly a year later I went for it. Quitting my other job was the best decision of my life. In the last 18 months I've had about 1,000 sales. Now I do what I love, all day every day.

My style is very much about British culture – my new ranges are



“ I love Benedict’s charisma and personality... I studied his face a lot – you have to get those cheekbones right ”

inspired by weather and biscuits, which is all you need to know. Lots of modern colours and outlines.

Is that what you love most about cross stitch?

Yes, that’s what’s so exciting about cross stitch. All the pop culture and modern designs. Cross stitching is definitely cooler now. It seems obvious to me that you’d want to cross stitch something that you like!

Which brings us to Benedict. Why do you love him – and what was it like stitching him?

I love his charisma and personality. He’s the most magnetic actor of our age – and it’s his devastating good looks as well! I studied his face a lot – you have to get those cheekbones right. I never got sick of looking at his face. My other half did though – every time I opened my computer with my sewing in hand, there he was!

I spent about a week designing and then it took me another month to stitch up all fifteen patterns. I pulled a couple of overnight shifts to complete it all. I couldn’t face stitching for two weeks after that and my arm ached!

And we’ve heard that you met him?

I met him at a Sherlock convention, just after the book was finished. I couldn’t bring myself to say, “I’ve been staring at your face for the past month.” But I think it’s quite flattering... I think Una Stubbs, who also stars in Sherlock, cross stitches. So maybe she would do a project!

Is there anyone else you’d really like to stitch?

I could do a complete Sherlock book! Or Tom Hiddlestone. I’m quite into films so maybe I could do Simon Pegg and Nick Frost.

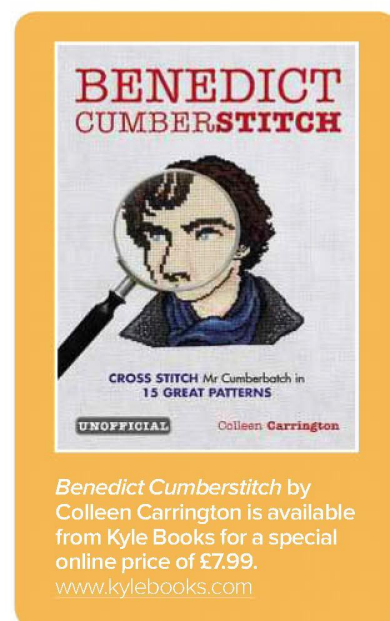
What’s a normal day in the life of The World in Stitches like?

I get up and write a to-do list, with things like ‘shop maintenance’, ‘cut fabric for kits’ or ‘take photos’. I do some designing. I have two hours of stitching at the end of the day. I’m a quick stitcher (I can stitch 1-2,000 stitches in a day). After dinner I do social media – I’ve started adding free patterns on Twitter and Tumblr. The book taught me that if I focus on one area at a time, I’m more productive. I still get a zen feeling when I’m designing and stitching.

What’s next for you?

I’ve got new eight-colour beginner packs coming out to help people get into cross stitch, featuring simple designs like a windmill and heart. For Christmas, I’ve got some deluxe sets including the threads, scissors and so on. I’m opening a new Folksy store. I get so excited when I sell a kit or pattern and the fact there’s now a whole book of my designs is mind blowing! It’s a mixture of extreme nervousness and anticipation.

<http://theworldinstitches.tumblr.com>
www.etsy.com/shop/theworldinstitches

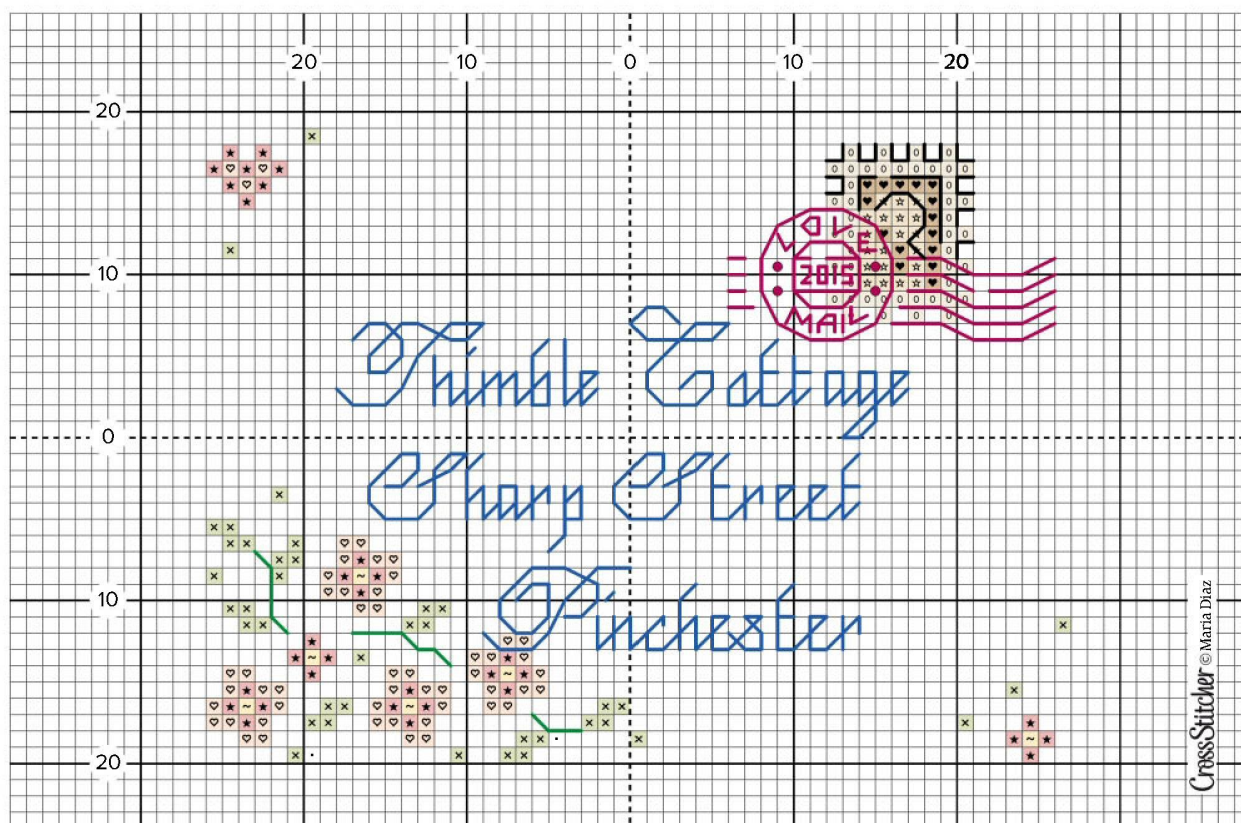


SIGNED, SEALED, DELIVERED

Signed, sealed, delivered...

A needlecase pretending to be a letter, what could be sweeter? The perfect gift for a special stitching friend





	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
★ ★	223	895	812
♥ ♥	224	893	813
~ ~	676	891	2208
x x	3053	858	1510
o o	3782	899	1911
♥ ♥	3862	358	1913
★ ★	3864	376	1910
▪ ▪	5200	001	white
Backstitch in two strands			
—	930	1035	1712
words			
Backstitch in one strand			
—	3052	262	1509
stems			
—	3721	896	810
postmark			
—	3862	358	1913
stamp			
French knots in one strand			
●	3721	896	810
postmark			

Designed by: Maria Diaz Stitch count: 39 high x 53 wide

Design size: 7x9.5cm (2¾x3¾in) Stitch time: 3.5 hours

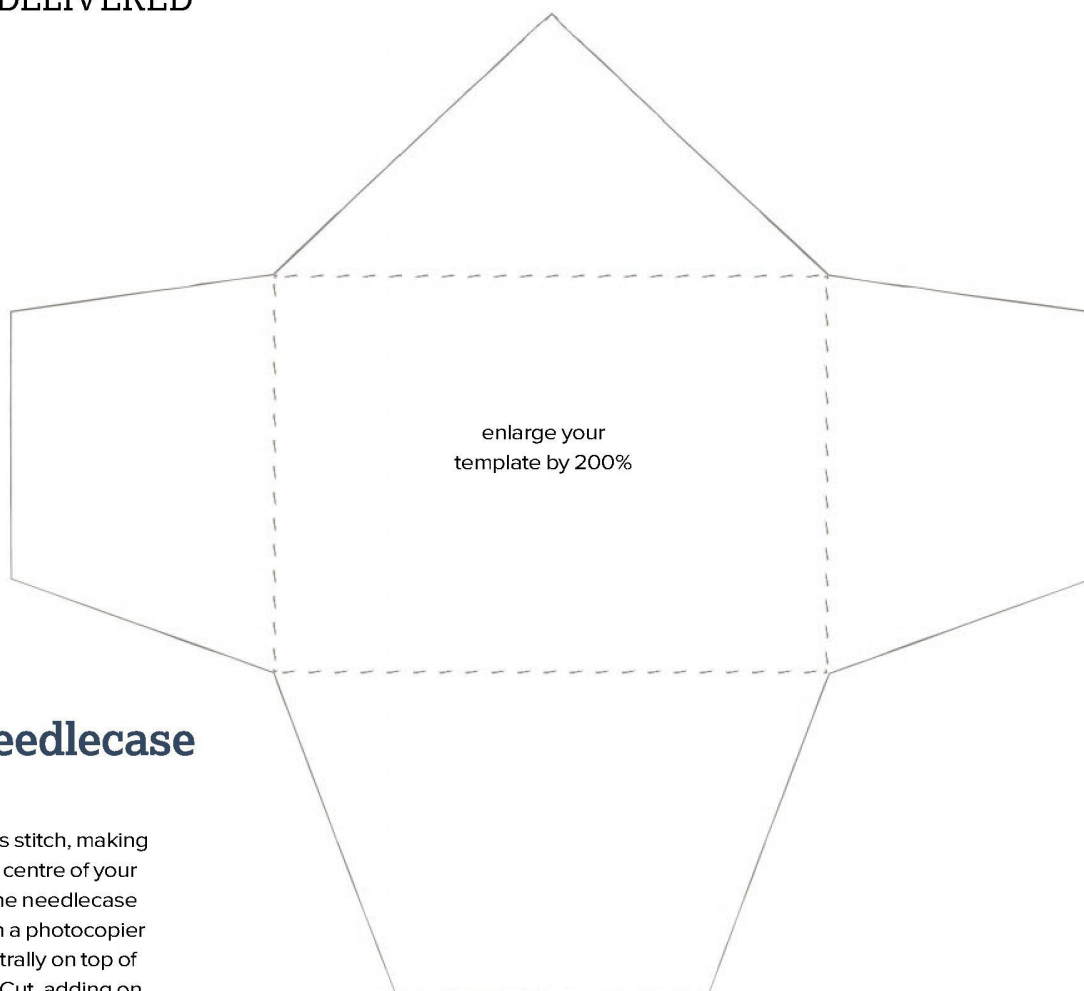
This design was stitched on 28 count linen over two threads of the fabric.

If you know someone who is moving house, stitch their new address on the design and then mount it in a card!

Materials

- Zweigart 28 count Cashel cream linen, ref: 3281/222, 33x35.5cm (13x14in)
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Size 26 tapestry needle
- Cotton fabric for lining, 33x35.5cm (13x14in)
- Iron-on interfacing
- Felt for holding needles, 8x11cm (3¼x4¼in)
- Button

For stockist details see page 84



Make a... needlecase

Step 1

COMPLETE all the cross stitch, making sure the design is in the centre of your fabric. Make a copy of the needlecase template, enlarging it on a photocopier by 200%. Place this centrally on top of your stitching, then pin. Cut, adding on a 1cm ($\frac{3}{8}$ in) seam allowance outside the outer template line.

Step 2

USING the template again, cut the same shape from the lining fabric, again adding on the seam allowance. Apply iron-on interfacing to the back of your lining.

Step 3

TURN over the outer edge on both the fabric and the lining fabric, and then iron on to the wrong side of the fabric. Clip the corners so that the fabric sits comfortably.

Step 4

WITH the right side of the lining fabric facing up, place the felt rectangle in the centre, then using a machine or by hand, make a row of stitches down the centre of the felt to attach it to the lining.

Step 5

PLACE your needlecase front and lining wrong sides together, and then machine stitch just in from the edge of the fabric, sewing through both layers, or catch stitch the lining to the needlecase front at the outer edge. Press carefully.

Make a... buttonhole loop



Step 1

THREAD your needle with all six strands of stranded cotton and then anchor your thread end between the layers of fabric at the top point of the needlecase. Bring the thread through at the point where you want the loop to begin.

Step 2

LOOP the thread so that it is big enough to slip your button through. Use trial and error to judge the correct loop size, but it is important to get it right at this stage of the stitching.

Step 3

TAKE the needle back into the fabric where you want the buttonhole to end, then between the fabric layers and out through at the starting point again. Repeat a couple more times to make a sturdy loop.

Step 4

WITH the needlecase held in your left hand, push the needle through the loop from back to the front, leaving a thread loop at the back.

Step 5

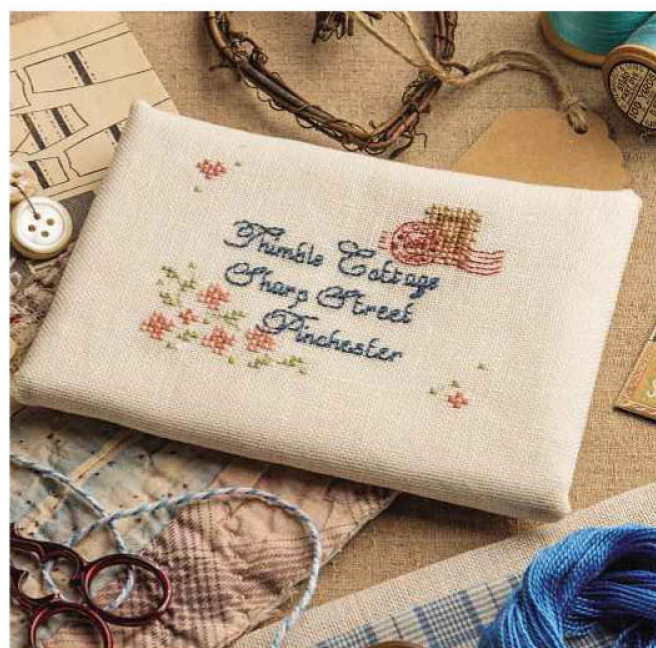
TAKE the needle over the buttonhole loop and through the loop at the back.

Step 6

PULL the thread tightly, sliding the stitch along until it is up against the fabric. This is your first buttonhole stitch. Repeat until the whole loop has been snugly covered. Fasten your thread between the fabric layers and then add a button to correspond with the loop on the opposite flap.



“ Store your needles and pins safely in the centre of the envelope of this charming stitched letter ”



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Overseas readers see page 87

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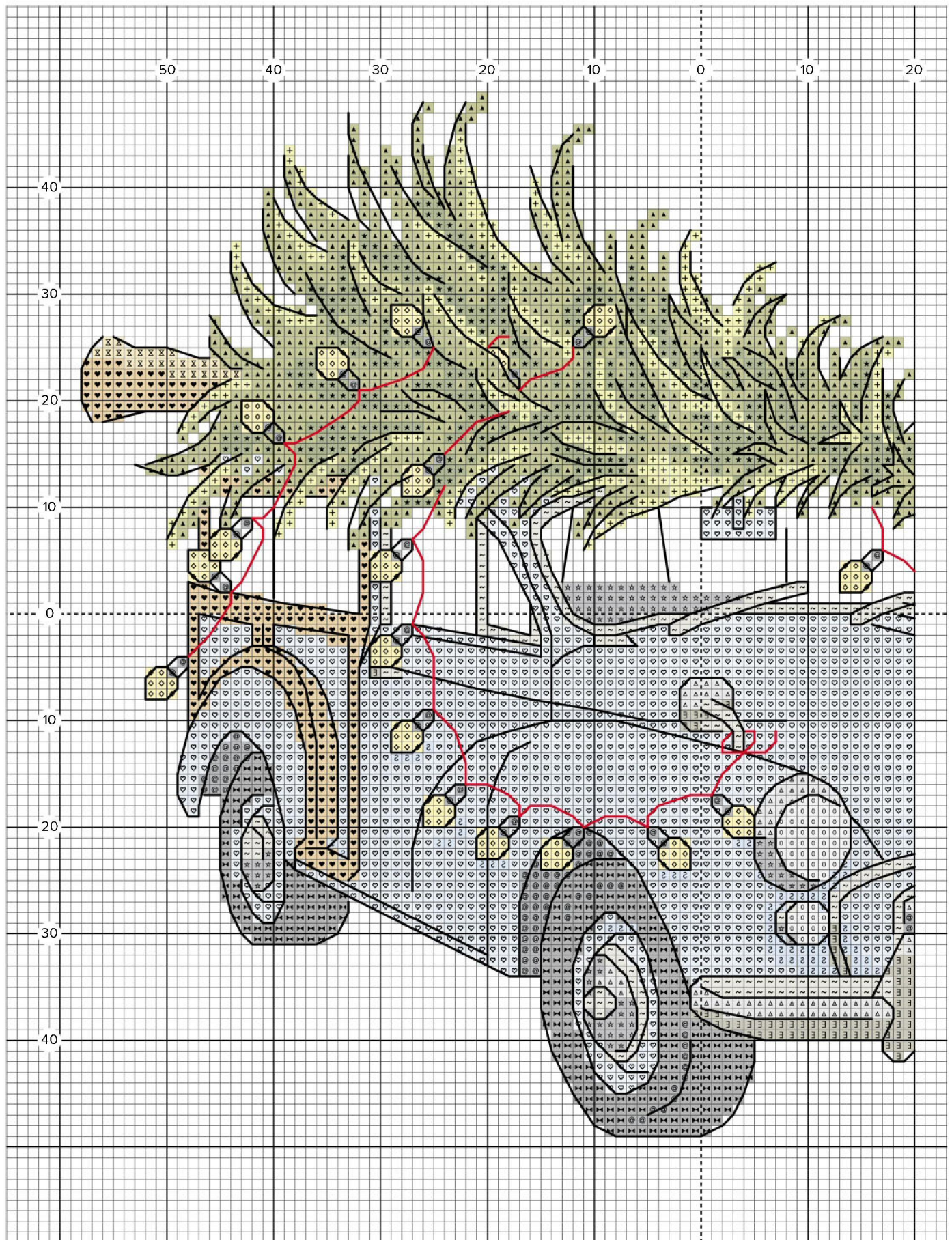
Calls will cost 7p per minute plus your telephone company's access charge.

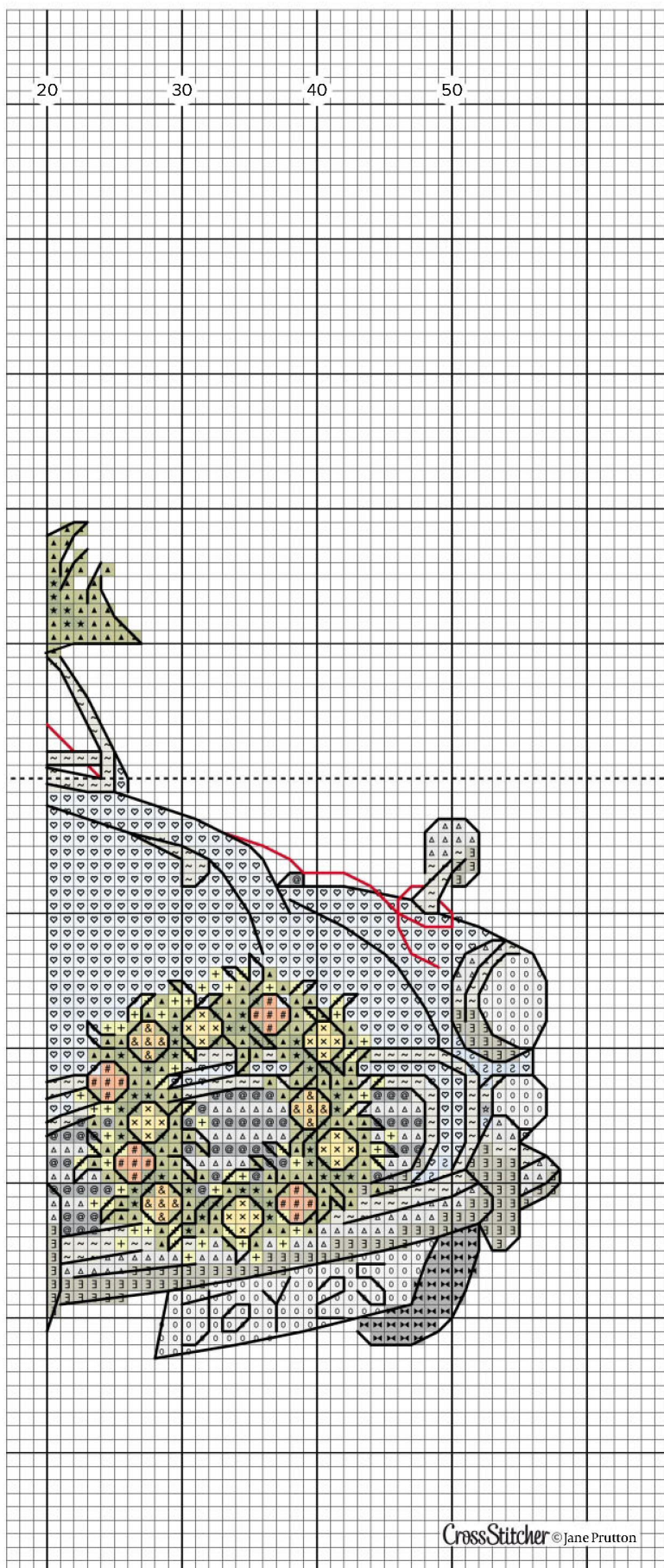


Christmas Classic

Beep, beep! Get set for the festive season with our merry Morris Minor bringing home this year's tree

CHRISTMAS CLASSIC





CrossStitcher ©Jane Prutton

Designed by: Jane Prutton

Stitch count: 96 high x 106 wide

Design size: 18x19.5cm (7x7¾in)

Stitch time: 57 hours

This design was stitched on 28 count evenweave over two threads of the fabric.

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
♥ ♥	162	159	903
~ ~	168	274	1803
3 3	169	849	1802
@ @	317	400	1714
# #	350	011	213
☆ ☆	414	235	1801
♥ ♥	436	1045	2011
✕ ✕	437	362	2012
▲ ▲	470	267	1502
++	472	253	1414
✕ ✕	725	306	808
◇ ◇	726	305	109
△ △	762	234	1804
2 2	813	161	1013
♥ ♥	827	160	1014
★ ★	937	268	1504
◀ ▶	3799	236	1713
& &	3854	313	2301
0 0	3865	002	2402

Backstitch in two strands			
—	350	011	213
xmas light wire			

Backstitch in one strand			
—	3799	236	1713
outlines			

Materials

- Zweigart 28 count Brittney white evenweave, ref: 3270/100, 33x 35.5cm (13x14in)
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Size 26 tapestry needle
- 25x28.5cm (9¼x11¼in) wooden frame
- Mount board to fit your frame

For stockist details see page 84

CHRISTMAS CLASSIC

THE MORRIS MINOR, A REAL ENGLISH ICON

First revealed at the Earls Court Motor Show, London, on 20th September 1948, the Morris Minor was designed under the leadership of Alec Issigonis, later responsible for the more famous Mini. More than 1.3 million Minors were manufactured between 1948 and 1972, and it was the UK's first million seller.

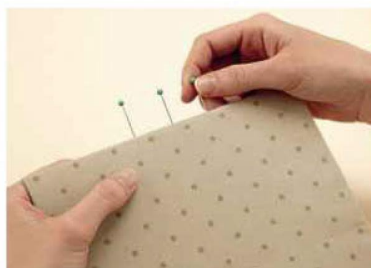
Initially available as a two-door saloon and convertible, the range was expanded to include a four-door saloon in 1950, and the famous wood-framed estate (the Traveller), a van and pickup were added in 1953.

Our Traveller is a Minor 1000 from the 60s, when British cars were in their heyday. Production of this iconic Morris ended before the decline of the UK motor industry.



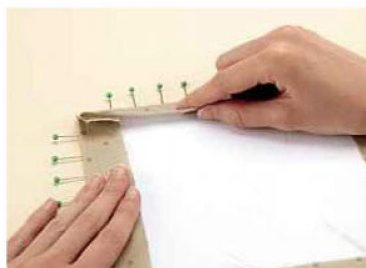
How to... frame a picture

Step 1



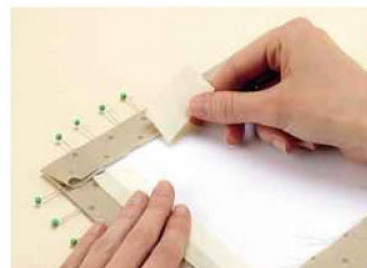
CUT a piece of white mount board to fit inside your frame. Place your design centrally over the mount board and pin the fabric around the board to secure, starting at the centre of each side and working outwards.

Step 2



PIN around the entire perimeter and check you are happy with the positioning of your design, then turn over to the reverse. Use double-sided tape to secure the fabric excess around all four sides.

Step 3



SECURE the fabric edges with masking tape and remove the pins. Position your stitching in the frame and back with a second piece of mount board. Seal the edges with more masking tape to finish off.

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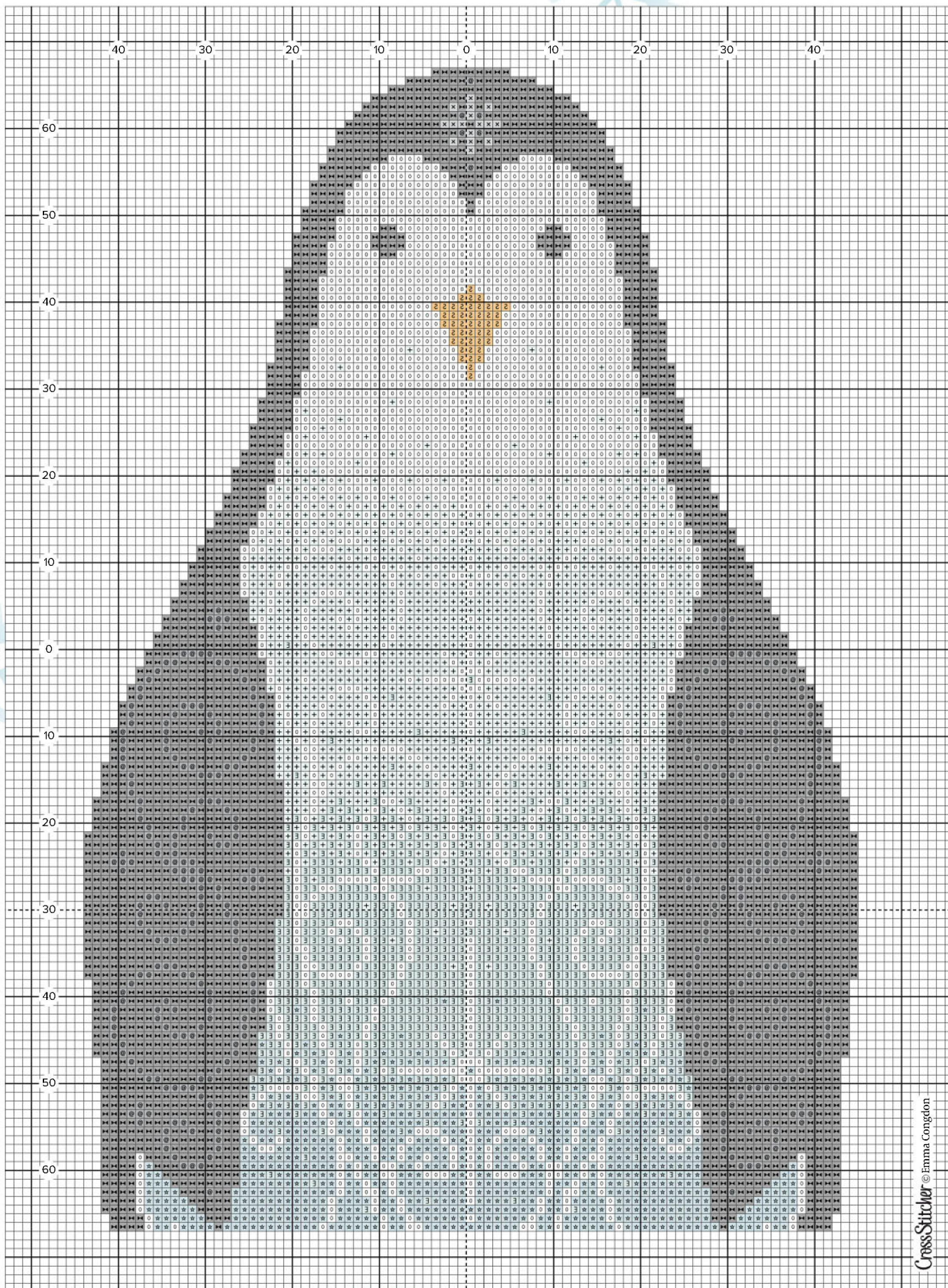
SNUGGLE UP...

Say aah... Our penguin pair are inseparable; use the pocket in the mummy cushion to pop baby inside!

Designed by: Emma Congdon







Stitch count (top): 134 high x 89 wide

Stitch count (pocket): 46 high x 83 wide

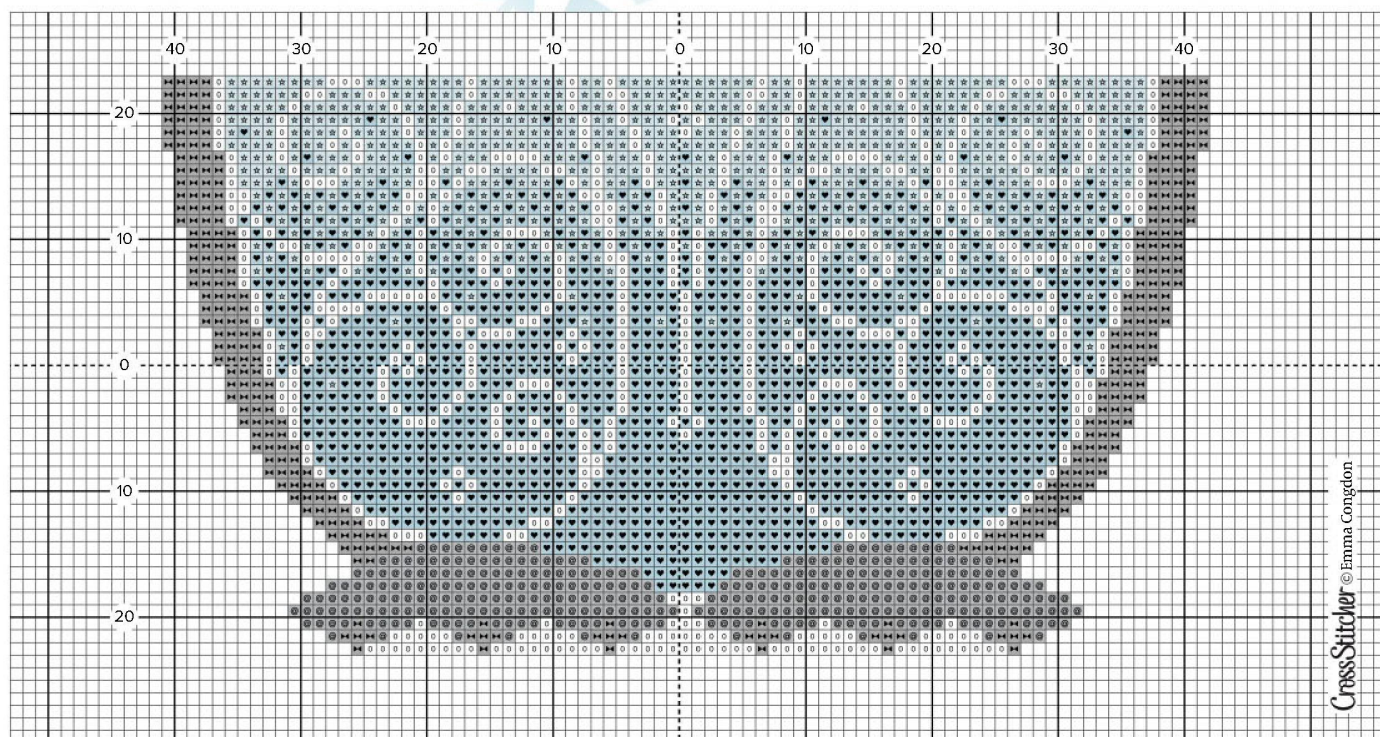
Design size (top): 24x16.5cm (9½x6½in)

Design size (pocket): 8.5x15cm (3¼x6in)

Total stitch time: 41 hours

These designs were stitched on 28 count evenweave over two threads of the fabric.

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
⬅ ➡	310	403	black
@ @	317	400	1714
x x	318	399	1802
~ ~	415	398	1803
♥ ♥	597	1064	1110
☆ ☆	598	1062	1111
2 2	740	316	202
+ +	747	158	1104
Δ Δ	3753	1032	1001
E E	3811	1060	1101
0 0	blanc	001	white



If you would prefer to make the mummy penguin without the pocket, just stitch the two parts of the chart as one



STITCHING LOCATION

It's important to start stitching at the correct location on the fabric to make sure the pocket is correctly positioned. The bottom row of the mummy penguin top should be 17cm (6¾in) up from the bottom of the fabric. The bottom row of the mummy penguin pocket design should be 9cm (3½in) up from the bottom of the fabric.

Make a... mummy penguin cushion

Step 1

FOLD the stitched mummy penguin pocket in half, so that the top of the design is right on the fold. Press.

Step 2

POSITION the folded mummy penguin pocket on top of the mummy penguin top, so that you have a complete penguin. Tack down both side seams to hold the pocket in place.

Step 3

PLACE the mummy penguin cushion front with the pocket attached on top of the cushion back, with right sides together.

Step 4

MACHINE stitch around the edge of the cushion, with a 2cm (¾in) seam allowance, leaving a small gap for turning. Now trim away some of the seam allowance.

Step 5

TURN the cushion to the right side, fill with toy stuffing and then sew up the gap with small neat stitches.

Materials

- Zweigart 28 count Brittney white evenweave, ref: 3270/100, 47x33cm (18½x13in) for mummy penguin top; 34x33cm (13¼x13in) for mummy penguin pocket; 21x16cm (8¼x6¼in) for baby penguin
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Size 26 tapestry needle
- Backing fabric, 34x33cm (13¼x13in) for the cushion back; 21x16cm (8¼x6¼in) for baby penguin back
- Toy stuffing

For stockist details see page 84



Stitch count: 75 high x 45 wide

Design size: 13.5x8cm (5¼x3¼in)

Stitch time: 7 hours

These designs were stitched on 28 count evenweave over two threads of the fabric.

Make a... baby penguin

Step 1

PLACE the stitched baby penguin and backing fabric right sides together. Using a sewing machine, stitch around the penguin about 5cm (½in) outside the design area, leaving a gap for turning. Press.

Step 2

TRIM the excess fabric from the edge of the baby penguin, leaving a seam allowance of 5cm (½in).

Step 3

TURN the baby penguin to the right side and fill with toy stuffing.

Step 4

SEW up the gap with small neat stitches to finish.



Such an Angel

Send seasonal best wishes with our sweet little festive angel, complete with seed bead embellishments

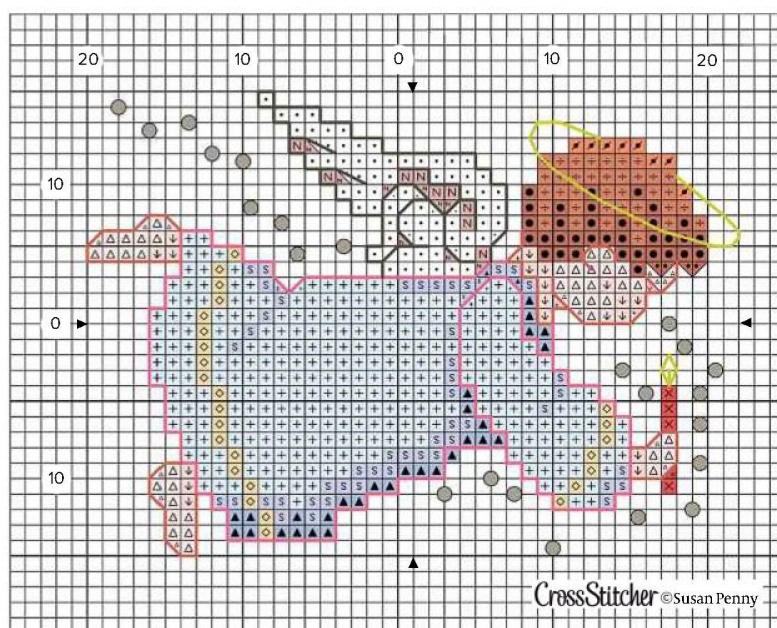


Materials

- Zweigart 32 count blue Belfast linen, ref: 3609/578, 12.5x17.5cm (5x7in)
- Stranded cotton as listed on the key
- Gold thread – divisible
- Pearl white seed beads
- Pale blue card with a 8x10cm (3¼x4in) oval aperture

For stockist details see page 84

DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands		
• •	blanc	001 white
✕ ✕	666	046 210
◇ ◇	676	891 2208
↓ ↓	754	336 305
∨ ∨	758	868 403
N N	778	969 808
▲ ▲	799	136 910
+ +	800	159 908
S S	809	130 909
● ●	920	1004 312
÷ ÷	921	884 311
✂ ✂	922	1003 311
△ △	948	1011 306
Backstitch in one strand		
—	356	338 402
face, hands, feet		
—	778	969 808
wings		
—	961	076 610
body		
—	gold divisible metallic	
halo, candle		
Seed beads		
●	white	
decoration		



Designed by: Susan Penny Stitch count: 29 high x 42 wide

Design size: 5.5x7cm (2¼x2¾in) Stitch time: 7 hours

This design was stitched on 32 count linen over two threads of the fabric.

Even though the fabric is blue, use white stranded cotton to sew on the seeds beads, so the thread will not show through the beads

Make an... aperture card

Step 1

WORK all the cross stitch in two strands of stranded cotton over two threads of the linen, and the backstitch and gold backstitch in one strand.

Step 2

TRIM the stitched linen to fit your card with the design placed centrally behind the aperture.

Step 3

ATTACH double-sided tape to the inside of the card around the edge of the aperture.

Step 4

PLACE the stitching on the table right-side up, and then place the card on top, pressing down firmly.

Step 5

CHECK which flap will fold over onto the back of the stitching, then add strips of double-sided tape and press firmly in place.

MORE TO ENJOY...

Over the next two issues we'll be featuring more of Susan's fabulous festive card designs.



November issue 298
Snowy tree top



December issue 299
Christmas wreath

SEASONAL SETTINGS





★ Seasonal Settings

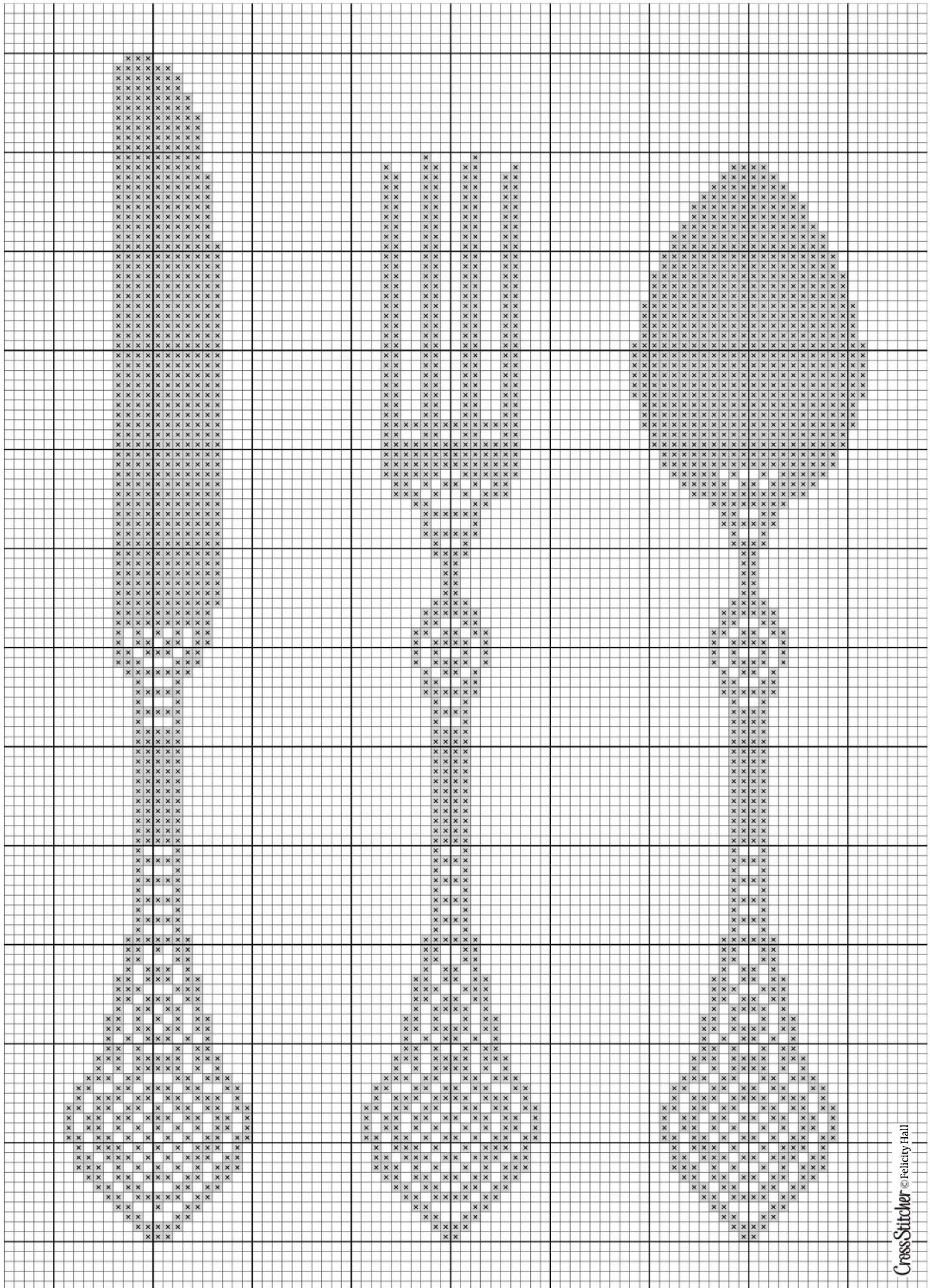
Dress up your festive table in style! Our cutlery design is worked in white on red fabric for a classic Christmas look

SEASONAL SETTINGS



“ Our chart features three items to mix and match – we chose to stitch just the fork and spoon ”





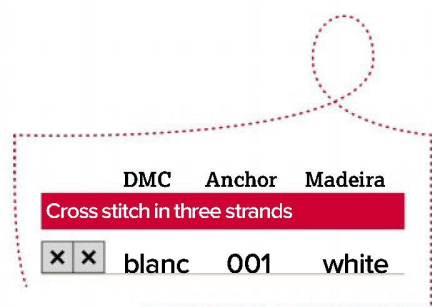
CrossStitcher © Felicity Hall

SEASONAL SETTINGS



Designed by: Felicity Hall
Max. stitch count: 120 high x 78 wide
Max. design size: 21.5x14cm (8½x5½in)
Stitch time: 10 hours

These designs were stitched on 28 count evenweave over two threads of the fabric.



Make an extra set of settings for everyday use using a different colour fabric for the mats

Make a... placemat

Step 1

TURN over the edges of the stitched fabric on to the wrong side, twice. Press.

Step 2

FOLD the fabric at each corner to form a mitre. Press, then machine stitch around the edges of the placemat.

Step 3

USE a needle and thread to catch stitch the mitres between the placemat points and the machine stitching. Press.

STITCHING LOCATION

The bottommost stitches of the spoon should be positioned 7.5cm (3in) up from the bottom edge and 9.5cm (3¾in) in from the right-hand edge.

If you wish to stitch a knife and fork instead or even all three pieces of cutlery, just take care to make sure that your stitches line up at the bottom.

Materials

- Zweigart 28 count Trento red evenweave, ref: 3453/9036, 35x51cm (14x20in)
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Size 26 tapestry needle

For stockist details see page 84



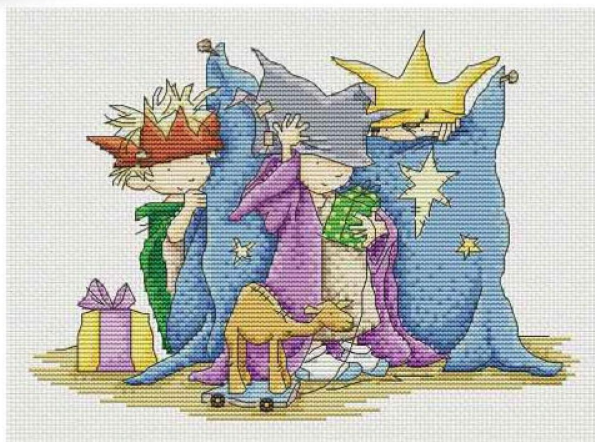
More treats from Lili of the Valley...

Our exclusive calendar features Lili of the Valley's cute fairy designs, and they have plenty more crafty ideas for you...



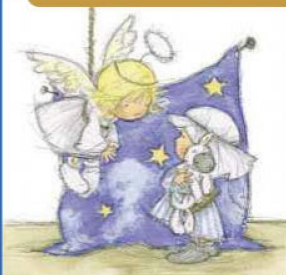
Now you've enjoyed our exclusive calendar, you'll be pleased to know that Lili of the Valley have plenty of other crafting treats to offer. From papercrafting products, such as the fun Art Pads filled with card toppers for you to colour and get creating with, to fairy stamps which match our 'calendar girls' – we know you'll love what's available, including several pretty cross stitch charts...

Buy the Art Pads for £6 each – each pad contains 30 excellent quality toppers. The rubber stamps are £4.50 each. All Lili of the Valley designs are only available at www.liliofthevalley.co.uk



These cute Three Wee Kings designs are available both in an Art Pad and as cross stitch charts too!

MORE TO CHOOSE FROM



LET IT SNOW



Let it Snow

Shake things up with our fun festive snow jars!
Stitch them to create your first set of season's greetings...

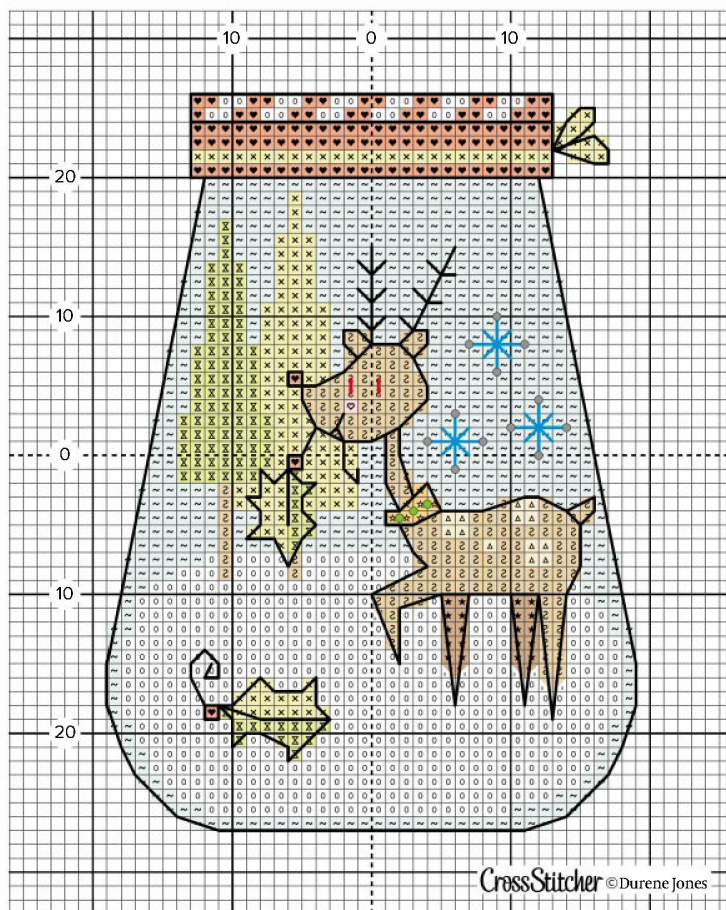
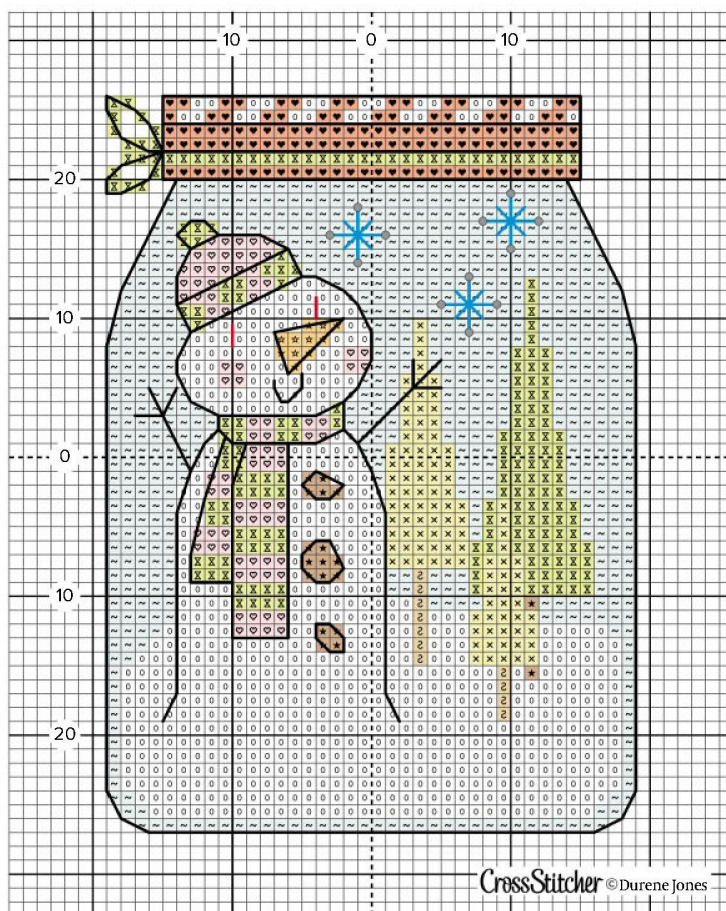


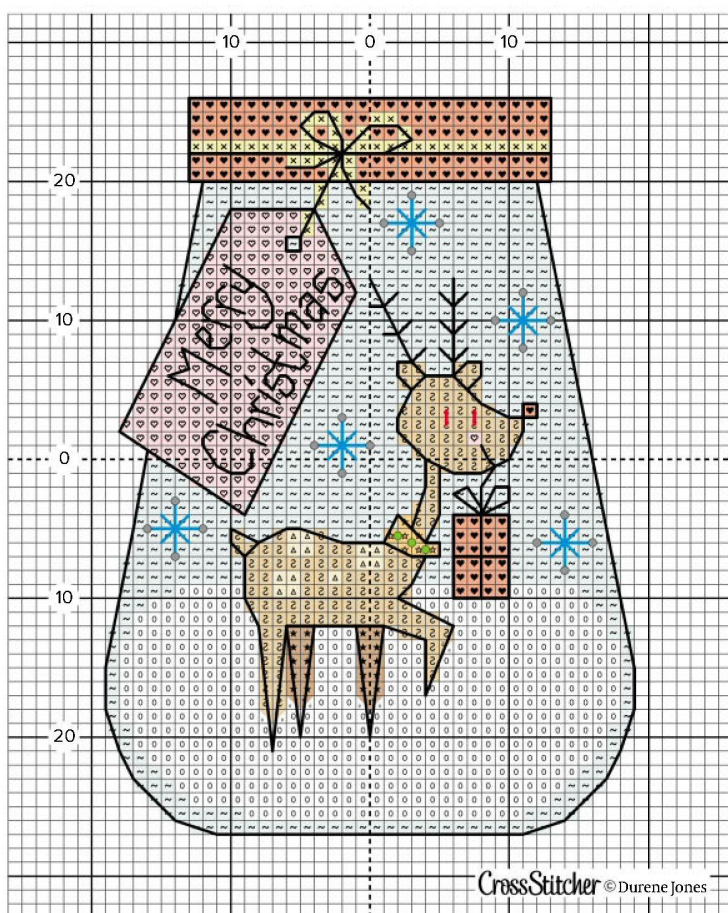


Designed by: Durene Jones
 Stitch count: 53 high x 38 wide
 Design size: 9.5x7cm (3¾x2¾in)
 Stitch time: 40 hours (all four)

These designs were stitched on 28 count evenweave over two threads of the fabric.

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
✕ ✕	165	278	1414
♥ ♥	349	013	212
★ ★	434	310	2009
2 2	436	1045	2011
♡ ♡	604	055	614
△ △	738	361	2013
☆ ☆	741	304	201
⌘ ⌘	907	255	1410
~ ~	3761	928	1014
0 0	blanc	002	white
Backstitch in two strands			
—	blanc	002	white
	stars		
—	3799	236	1713
	eyes		
Backstitch in one strand			
—	3799	236	1713
	all outlines		
French knots in one strand			
●	blanc	002	white
	stars		
●	165	278	1414
	collars		





Make a... patch card

Step 1

PRESS the iron-on interfacing centrally over the back of your stitching to stop it fraying.

Step 2

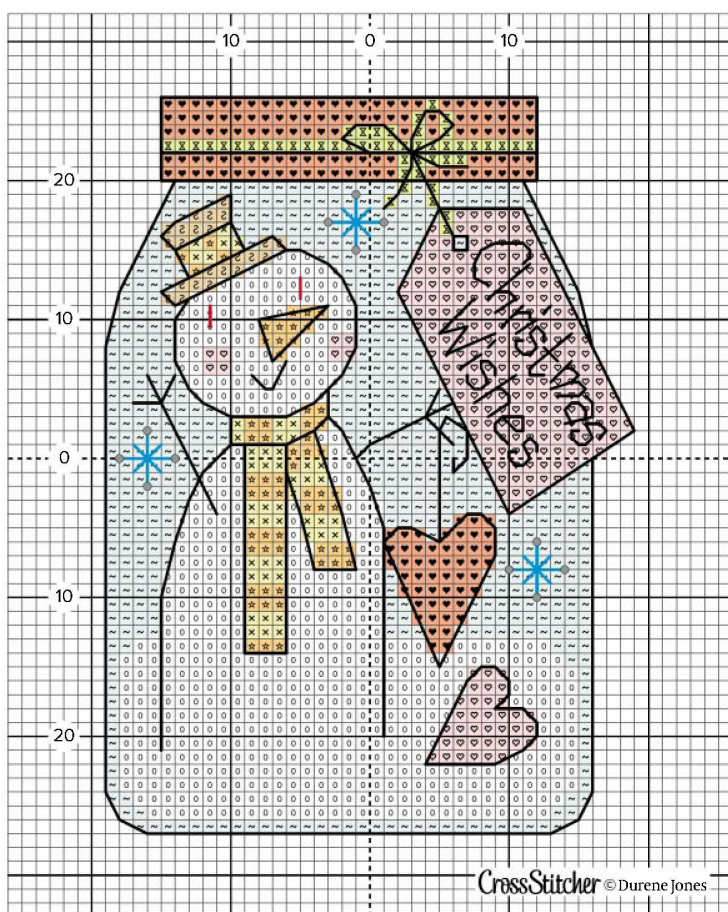
TRIM your fabric 2cm ($\frac{3}{4}$ in) outside your stitching all the way round, following the outline of the jar.

Step 3

FOLD your card in half widthways and place your fabric centrally on the front section of your card. Machine stitch in place all the way round, close to the edge but following the jar's outline.



Make up into pretty tree decorations, with Christmas material for the back and a loop for hanging



Materials

For each card

- Zweigart 28 count Brittney evenweave in white, ref. 3270/100, 15x11cm (6x4 $\frac{1}{4}$ in)
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Size 26 tapestry needle
- Iron-on interfacing the same size as the designs
- White card, 15x21cm (6x8 $\frac{1}{4}$ in)

For stockist details see page 84



Let's get
inspired

FRIGHT NIGHT

Boo! Ready for your best ever Halloween? Take your pick from our spooktacular collection of chilling charts

Designed by: Diane Machin

Try stitching these designs using glow-in-the-dark threads!

MATERIALS

Pumpkin cake toppers

- Plastic canvas pieces; one 9x7.5cm (3½x3in); one 6.5x6.5cm (2¼x2¼in)
- Two wooden skewers
- Orange ribbon

Trick or treat bag

- 14 count black aida, ref: 3706/720, two pieces 17.5x15cm (6¾x6in), one for the bag back and one for the front; two pieces 28x5cm (11x2in), for the handles
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Size 26 tapestry needle

For stockist details see page 84

Make a... pumpkin cake topper

Step 1

STITCH the pumpkin shape on to plastic canvas. Carefully cut around the design one square outside the stitching.

Step 2

SEW the wooden skewer on to the back of the plastic stitched pumpkin, then make a ribbon bow and attach to the skewer just under the pumpkin.

FREEMAGS.CC





Make a... **trick or treat bag**

Step 1

STITCH your motif on a piece of aida. Fold the two bag handles in half lengthways. Machine stitch down their long edges, then turn through to the right side. Press the handles flat, with the seam at the centre back. Push the handle ends up inside the fabric tube. Press.

Step 2

TURN over the top twice on the front and back bag pieces. Press, then machine stitch both in place. Place the two ends of one bag handle on the top edge of the bag front. Use a pin to hold in place. Machine stitch the handle ends to the bag. Repeat for the bag back.

Step 3

PLACE the bag front and back right sides together. Machine stitch around the three sides of the bag, leaving the top open. Turn to the right side. Take with you trick or treating to be filled with sweets, or fill it yourself to make a cute party favour.





CrossStitcher © Diane Machin



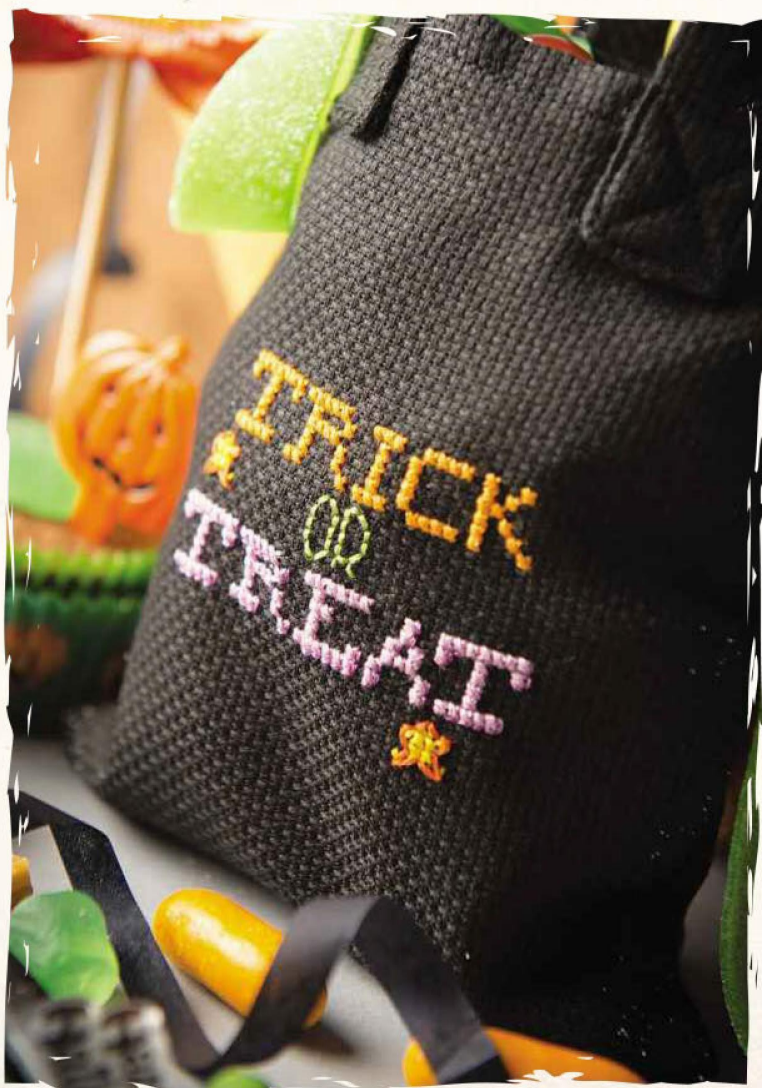


What to make

These frighteningly fun motifs can be used in all sorts of ways. Try these ideas to get you started...

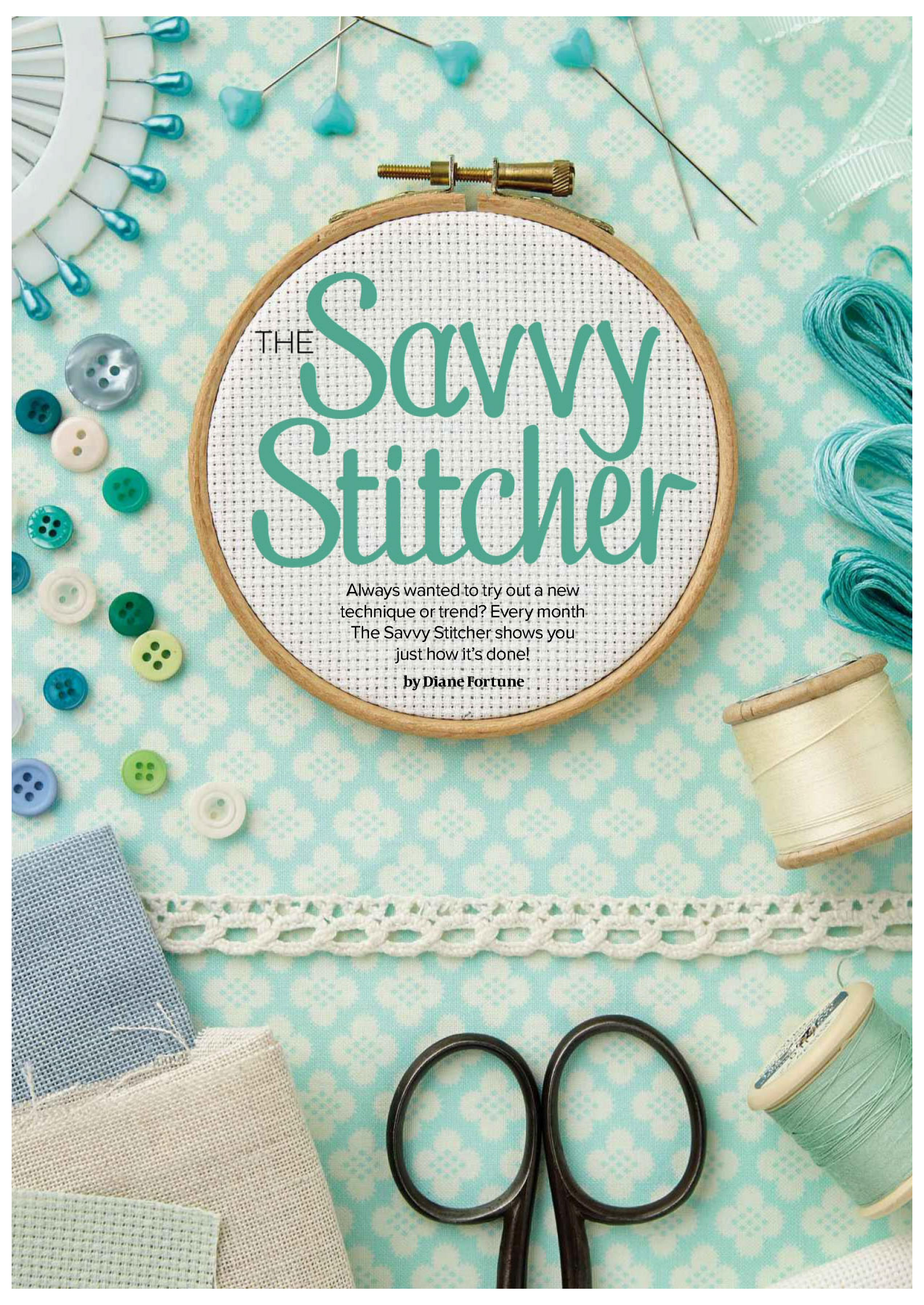
- 1** Use plastic canvas to stitch more scary motifs and then hang them on lengths of fishing line for your Halloween party.
- 2** Make a banner using several of the Halloween motifs and hang it above your front door.
- 3** Stitch several of the Halloween motifs together to make a spooky sampler.

If you struggle when stitching on black fabric, try this handy tip: place a torch between your knees to help highlight the holes or lay a white cloth on your lap below your stitching



	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in three strands			
	310	403	black
	444	297	106
	553	098	712
	554	097	711
	704	256	1308
	741	304	201
	947	330	205
	370	031	408
Backstitch in two strands			
	310	403	black
black details			
	553	098	712
mauve details			
	704	256	1308
green details			
	947	330	205
orange details			
	blanc	001	white
white details			





THE Savvy Stitcher

Always wanted to try out a new technique or trend? Every month The Savvy Stitcher shows you just how it's done!

by Diane Fortune

Yes you can!
Create luxury
lacy looks

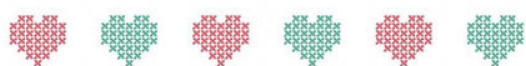
Want to add a touch of lacy texture to your projects? We've got all the expert advice you need to stitch these pretty projects...



PRETTY PINCUSHION
Combine real lace fabric with a stitched lace panel to make a mini patchwork pincushion



PICOT EDGING
We'll show you how to add a woven picot edge to this mini bunting project



Lace has had a bit of a revival recently; there are plenty of pretty lace edgings in most fabric shops as well as vintage lace on specialist websites. But how can we use it to complement our stitching? Here we have three projects that show off the use of lace, plus you can learn a new stitch too! Choose from a pretty pincushion using vintage lace and lacy cross stitch. Try our fun mini bunting with a woven picot edging. Or have a go at our sweet makeup bag with its lace 'shelf' and little lace zip pull.



LACY MAKEUP BAG
Give your makeup bag an elegant finishing touch with clever lace embellishments

MAKE... LACE PANELS

Cross stitch a lace-effect panel and create another using a real lace scrap

Step 1



WORK all the cross stitch using the chart on page 78 and two strands of stranded cotton. Create the lace effect using backstitch; thread your needle with one strand of stranded cotton and work the outline first, then fill again with backstitch.

Step 2



CHOOSE the piece of lace that you would like to use. Cut a piece of backing fabric to a 7x7cm square. Position the lace on the backing fabric, making sure that any torn or stained lace is not prominent. Pin and trim to fit the backing fabric.

Step 3



THREAD a sharp needle with matching thread and use it to catch down any borders – these need to be secure, especially if they are not going to be caught in the stitching of the patchwork when you come to complete your pincushion.

Step 4



USE more thread to work blanket stitch where the lace has been cut and a raw edge is showing, to make sure that the lace doesn't unravel. Make sure you catch down any tears or broken parts of the lace. You're now ready to make the pincushion.

FINISHING YOUR... LACE PANEL PINCUSHION

Create a patchwork pincushion using your lace panels

Step 1

CUT all your fabric panels to the same size. Working on two patches at a time, place two panels right sides together and sew in place. Repeat with the other two panels.

Step 2

PLACE your pairs of panels right sides together, making sure that the centre seam matches and then sew together.

Step 3

PUT your stitched piece and backing fabric right sides together and sew, leaving a gap for turning. Turn out, stuff and slip stitch gap closed. Sew a button in the pincushion centre.



TURN TO
PAGE 78 TO
FIND YOUR
CHARTS

IF YOU LIKED THESE, YOU'LL LOVE...



POCKET & PIN

www.pocketandpin.co.uk

There is a wonderful selection of lace trims to be found on this haberdashery site, in a variety of colours. Check out the traditional and more modern lace and crochet laces available.



THE VINTAGE FABRIC MARKET

www.vintagefabricmarket.co.uk

Visit this website for a wide variety of vintage fabric, haberdashery and antique accessories and collectables. You're sure to discover an interesting piece of antique lace here, too!

HOW TO... WEAVE LACY PICOT EDGING

Use picot edging to edge your lacy look bunting flags

Step 1



WORK the stitched bunting using the chart on page 78, then neaten the fabric edges. Thread your needle with Cotton a Broder and secure at the back. Holding the fabric edge away from you, bring the thread through the fabric and make a loop.

Step 2



ADJUST the loop to the size you would like. Insert a pin over it and into the fabric to help keep it firm while you work the picot. Pass the thread behind the top of the pin, then slip the needle through the loop. Tighten the stitch gently to form the top of the picot.

Step 3



CHECK to see that the thread is now on the left side of the loop. Pass the needle under the central thread to start the weaving of the picot. Pull tightly to help form the shape of the stitch. Leave it looser for a rounded stitch and tighter for a triangular stitch.

Step 4



TAKE the needle under the two outside loop threads for the second row of the picot; again pull the thread to form the stitch shape. Continue weaving until you reach fabric edge, secure thread end at back and remove pin. You can start the next picot.

MAKE... A LACE-TRIMMED MAKEUP BAG

Use a length of lace to add texture to a sweet stitched makeup bag

Step 1



WORK all the cross stitching using the chart on page 78. Cut your stitched fabric to the right size for the makeup bag you'd like to make and then position the lace trim where you would like it to go (in this case under the row of stitched vases). Pin in place.

Step 2



USE a sewing needle and length of thread that closely matches the colour of the lace trim. Carefully catch down the lace using small stitches so that the lace will be secure, but the stitches invisible. Finish neatly on the back.

Step 3



MAKE the zip pull for the bag. First, neaten both the raw edges of a short piece of lace trim with small over sewing stitches, this need to be very secure to stop the lace from fraying. Position over one end of a short length of ribbon and over sew in place.

Step 4



THREAD the lace topped length of ribbon carefully through the hole in the zip pull, then fold the ribbon in half and fold the neaten lace over the ribbon ends and over sew into place to finish neatly and securely. Your lacy zip pull is now complete.



THE BUTTON COMPANY

buttoncompany.co.uk

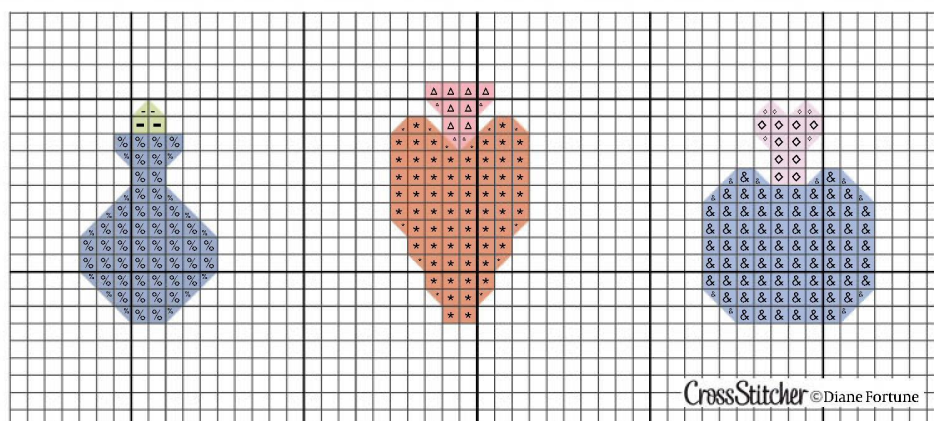
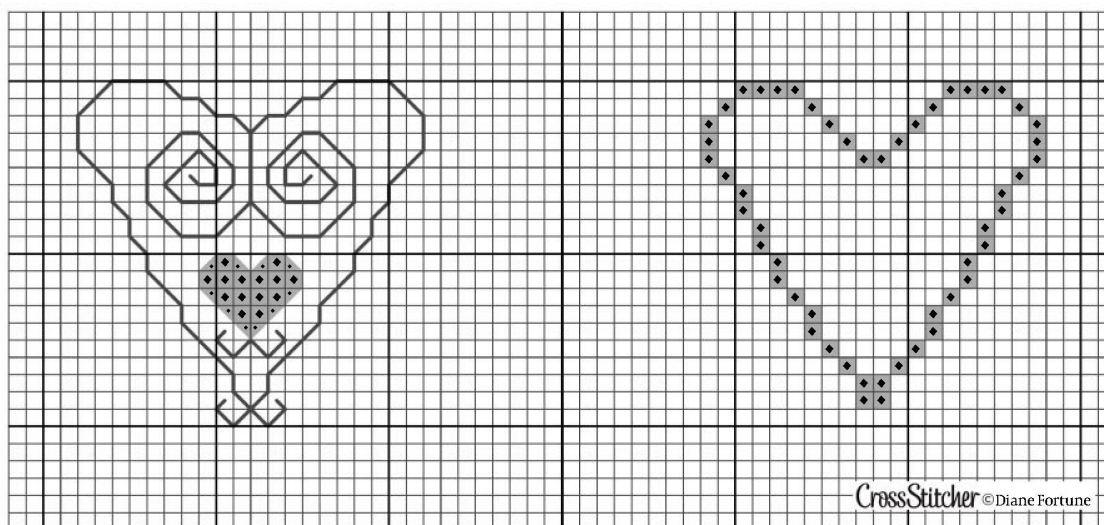
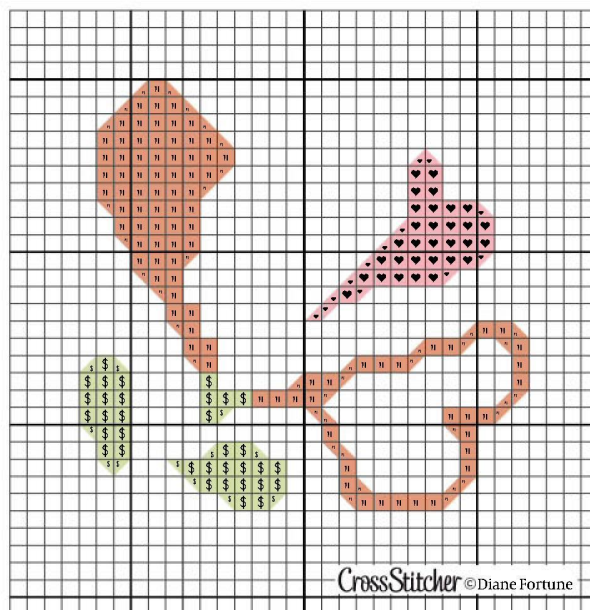
We love the fantastic range of buttons including shell, fancy buttons and flowers, hearts and other shapes to be found here. Visit to pick up the perfect button to finish off your patchwork pincushion.

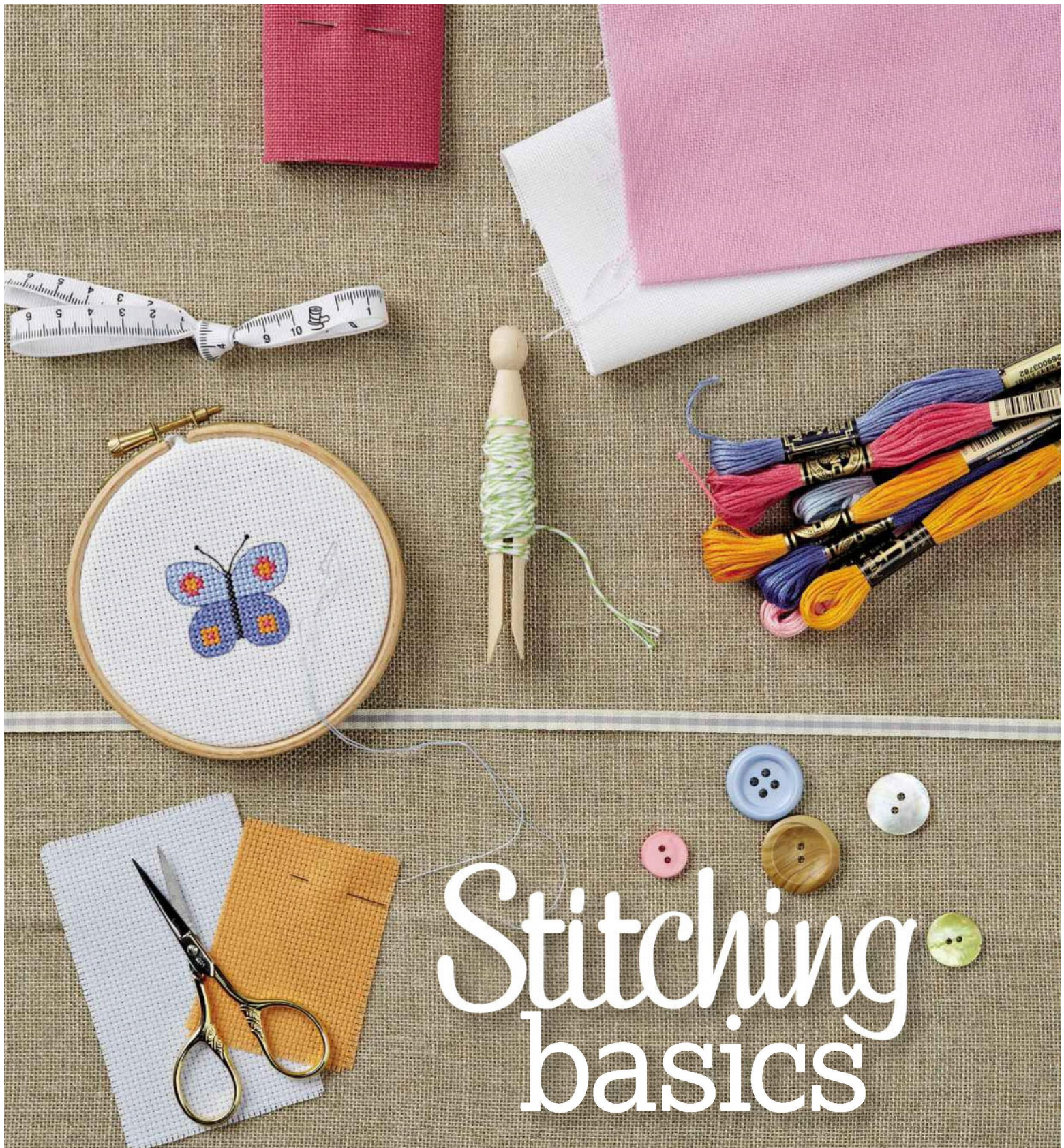


OUR PINTEREST BOARD

www.pinterest.com/xstitchmagazine

Visit our Pinterest board to find a special board dedicated to *The SavvyStitcher*. You can pin all these designs and find inspiration for more!





Stitching basics

TOOLS OF THE TRADE

NEEDLES

For basic stitching you'll need a tapestry needle that has a blunt tip and large eye. Use a size 24 needle for most aidas, and a size 26 for evenweaves and linens. Use a sharp embroidery needle for finer details such as backstitch and French knots.

EMBROIDERY SCISSORS

Embroidery scissors are an absolute must-have for stitchers and can be picked up for just a few pounds. Keep yours sharp by only using them to cut threads – that way a decent pair should last you a lifetime.

STRANDED COTTON

Embroidery thread is also commonly referred to as stranded cotton. Each thread length is made up of six strands of cotton twisted together. The chart key will indicate how many strands you'll need to stitch your design with.

HOOPS AND FRAMES

Though not absolutely essential, we do recommend using an embroidery hoop or frame to keep an even stitching tension. Just make sure it's big enough to fit your entire design.

AIDA

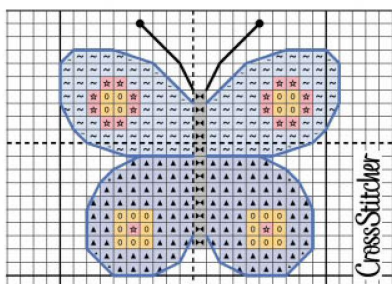
Aida is an ideal choice for cross stitch beginners. 14 count is the most common, although it's available in a huge variety of colours and counts. Each cross stitch is worked over a single aida block, making counting and keeping your place a cinch.

EVENWEAVE

Evenweave is much simpler to work with than you might think. Start with a 25 or 28 count evenweave, such as Zweigart Lugana. Once you're confident, try your hand at a linen version.

THE CHART

START stitching from the centre of the design and your fabric. The centre of our charts are indicated by dotted lines. To find the centre of your fabric, fold it in half and then into quarters.

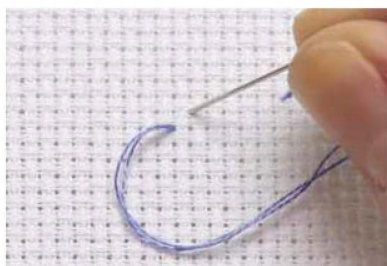


Reading the chart

EACH square on the chart represents a single cross stitch. Fractionals are half filled squares or squares filled with two different colours.

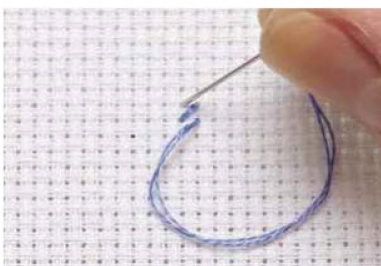
Start stitching... on aida

Step 1



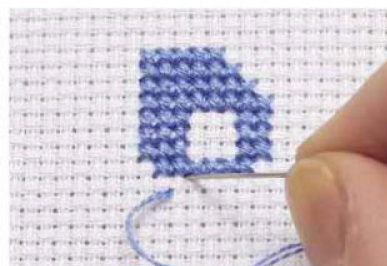
CUT a 40cm thread length, and thread your needle with two of the six strands. Knot one end and start with a waste knot (opposite). Make a diagonal half cross stitch across a single aida block.

Step 2



MAKE a second diagonal stitch to complete your first cross. Alternatively, you can work a row of half cross stitches first, then work back on yourself to complete the stitches.

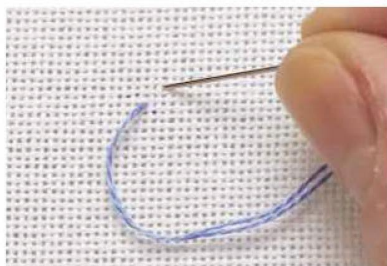
Step 3



THE direction of your diagonals is up to you, just be sure all your stitches cross in the same direction. Otherwise, your design will look uneven. Continue working from the centre outward.

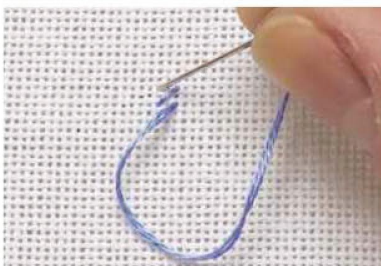
Start stitching... on evenweave

Step 1



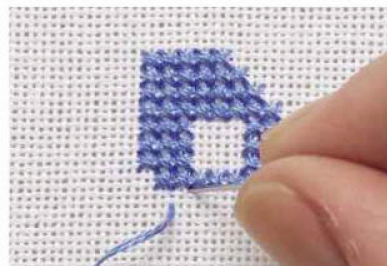
INSTEAD of taking your needle diagonally across a single aida block, take your needle diagonally across two evenweave threads, creating a half cross stitch as before.

Step 2



MAKE a second diagonal stitch to complete your first cross stitch. Work each stitch individually or work a row of half cross stitches, then work back on yourself to complete the stitches.

Step 3



CONTINUE working from the centre of your design outward. If you find the extra counting a bit daunting at first, don't give up. We promise it'll become second nature in no time.

THE KEY

ALL THE symbols that appear on the chart are listed in the key with their corresponding thread codes beside them. The key also tells you the different stitches used in the design.

Colour match

IN THE key, the closest column of thread codes listed next to the chart symbols is the thread brand that's used in the design. Similar colour matches are listed alongside it.



	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
	602	057	0611
	741	314	0202
	3799	236	1713
	3839	176	0906
	3840	120	0907
Backstitch in one strand			
	3799	236	1713
	butterfly antennae		
	3838	940	0905
	all other details		
French knots in one strand			
	3799	236	1713
	butterfly antennae		

BACKSTITCH

Use this easy stitch to give a neat outline and add details

Step 1



WORK your backstitch using a sharp needle, once you've finished the cross stitch. To secure your thread, weave it through the back of your stitches, then bring your needle up to the surface.

Step 2



WORK your backstitch over about 1-3 chart squares at a time, making sure to closely follow the chart. Any longer and your stitches could end up becoming loose and pulling out.

Step 3

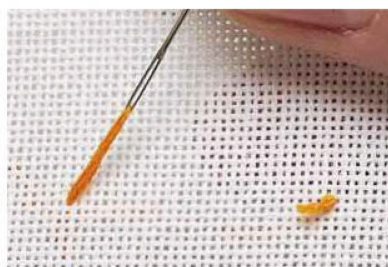


FOR each additional stitch, bring your needle up 1-3 chart squares away from your previous stitch. Then pass it back through the fabric at the same point as your previous stitch.

WASTE KNOT

A simple way to get started stitching

Step 1



KNOT one end of your thread and take it down through the front of your fabric, about 2cm from your starting point. Then bring it back up to the front of your fabric to make your first stitch.

Step 2



BEGIN stitching your design, making sure you're stitching over your starting thread with each stitch. You can work whole stitches or work half stitches then come back on yourself.

Step 3

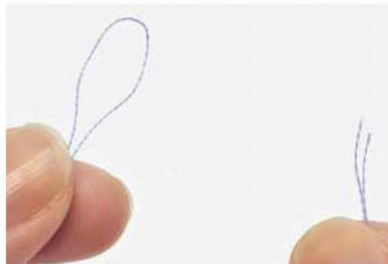


ONCE you're happy that your starting thread is secure, snip off the knot. To secure your thread when you've finished stitching, weave it through the back of your stitches as shown here.

LOOP KNOT

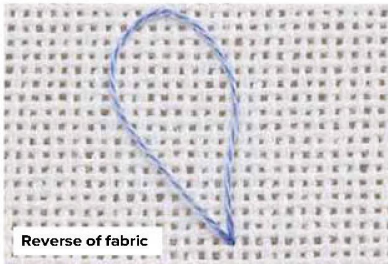
This easy start to your cross stitch is brilliantly neat

Step 1



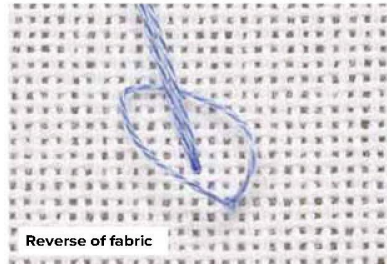
IF YOU'RE working in two strands, a loop knot is the easiest and neatest method. Cut a single length of thread, twice as long as normal. Fold it in half to create a loop at one end.

Step 2



THREAD your needle with the two tail ends, just as you normally would. Bring your needle up to the front of your fabric, leaving a small loop of thread on the reverse.

Step 3

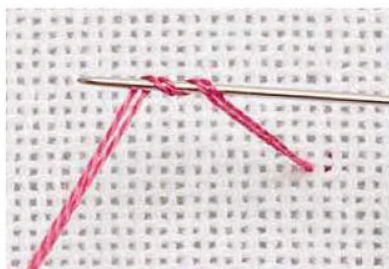


MAKE a half cross stitch, passing your needle through the loop on the reverse as shown here. Pull all the way to secure the thread. Now continue with your stitching as normal.

FRENCH KNOTS

Go dotty with this simple way to add neat knots to your designs

Step 1



USE a sharp embroidery needle to help pierce the fabric. Bring your needle up at your starting point and wrap your thread once or twice around the needle. Use one strand for a small knot and two for a slightly chunkier knot.

Step 2



HOLD your thread end firmly and take your needle down, ever so slightly over from where you came up. Slide the twisted thread down the needle, so it rests on the fabric's surface, and gently feed the needle through the fabric.

Step 3

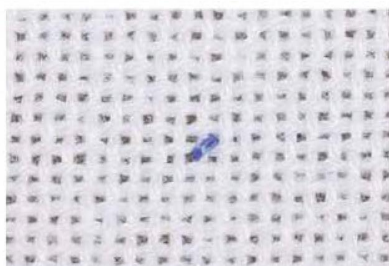


KEEP your thread as taut as possible to prevent the knot becoming loose. Gently pull your thread through to tighten the knot, so that it sits neatly on the surface. And remember, if you don't get it right away, keep practising!

FRACTIONALS

These little stitches are great for adding a bit more detail to your work

Step 1



START with a quarter stitch, working from one corner into the centre. For evenweave, there is already a hole in the centre to stitch into. With aida, you'll need to pierce the centre of the block.

Step 2



MAKE your next quarter stitch in your second colour, coming up from the opposite corner and back down through the centre. You've now created a half cross stitch.

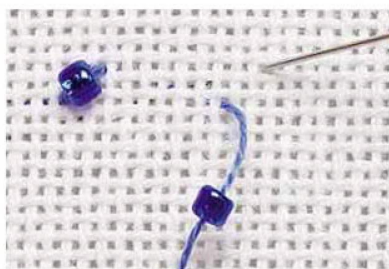
Step 3



FINISH your stitch by making a half cross stitch. Fractionals are shown in the chart either as two symbols opposite one another in a chart square, or by a symbol opposite an empty space.

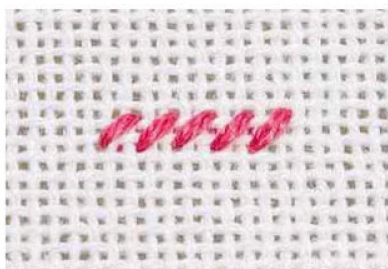
BEADING

TO ATTACH beads, you'll need a thin, flexible beading needle. Thread with one strand of cotton. Bring your needle to the front of your design, thread on a bead and make a diagonal stitch to secure the bead. If you like, stitch through again for added security.



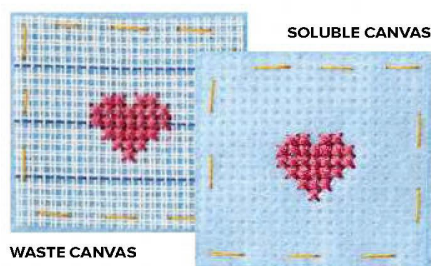
HALF CROSS STITCH

HALF cross stitches are exactly what they sound like – half of a cross stitch. Each diagonal stitch is worked across two evenweave threads or one aida block. They're most often used to create a subtle background in a design.



WASTE AND SOLUBLE CANVAS

WASTE and soluble canvases are used when stitching on plain fabrics and felts. Tack onto your fabric and stitch as normal. Soluble canvas dissolves in water. For waste canvas, soak in water then remove each thread individually.



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HOBBYCRAFT

www.hobbycraft.co.uk

0330 026 1400

For cardstock, paper, paint, glue and general crafting supplies

Your projects

You can make our projects using any materials you like, but if you need help tracking down specific items here are a few hints. Contact details for the suppliers are above or on the opposite page.

DEAR TOOTH FAIRY

Zweigart 28 count Brittney

navy evenweave,

ref: 3270/589: Willow Fabrics

Cotton backing fabric: Cotton Patch

Toy stuffing: Hobbycraft

TAKE YOUR PICK

Zweigart 28 count Brittney

white evenweave,

ref: 3270/100: Willow Fabrics

Cotton backing fabric: Cotton Patch

Wooden embroidery hoop: The Makery

SHADES OF AUTUMN

Zweigart 28 count Brittney beige

evenweave, ref: 3270/264: Willow Fabrics

Self-covered buttons: Seamstar

SHIP AHOY

Zweigart 28 count Brittney

white evenweave,

ref: 3270/100: Willow Fabrics

Cotton backing fabric: Cotton Patch

Wooden embroidery hoop: The Makery

SNUGGLE UP...

Zweigart 28 count Brittney

white evenweave,

ref: 3270/100: Willow Fabrics

Toy stuffing: Hobbycraft

FOREST FRIENDS

Zweigart 28 count Brittney

white evenweave,

ref: 3270/100: Willow Fabrics

Toy stuffing: Hobbycraft

Ribbon: The Makery

CHRISTMAS CLASSIC

Zweigart 28 count Brittney

white evenweave, ref: 3270/100:

Willow Fabrics

Wooden frame: eFrame

Mount board: Fred Aldous

SIGNED, SEALED, DELIVERED

Zweigart 28 count Cashel cream linen,

ref: 3281/222: Willow Fabrics

Cotton lining fabric: Cotton Patch

Felt: Cotton Patch

Iron-on interfacing: Hobbycraft

Button: The Makery

SEASONAL SETTINGS

Zweigart 28 count Trento red evenweave,

ref: 3453/9036: Willow Fabrics

LET IT SNOW

Zweigart 28 count Brittney

white evenweave, ref: 3270/100:

Willow Fabrics

White card: Craft Creations

SUCH AN ANGEL

Zweigart 32 count

Belfast blue linen,

ref: 3609/578: Willow Fabrics

Seed beads: Similar available from Bijoux Beads

Pale blue aperture card:

Craft Creations

FRIGHT NIGHT

14 count black aida,

ref: 3706/720:

Willow Fabrics

14 count plastic canvas:

Willow Fabrics



CrossStitcher

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shopbeyondmeasure.co.uk

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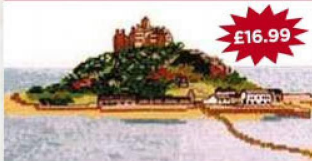


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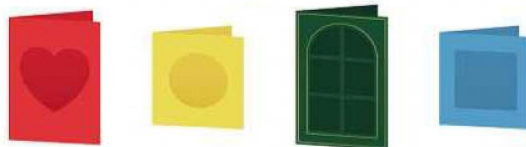
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CrossStitcher MARKETPLACE

Welcome to the *CrossStitcher* reader ads page. Here you can post pleas for help, find a home for your spare stash, or track down pen pals and clubs in your area – all absolutely free!

Desperately seeking

Hi, My name is Bex, and I enjoy stitching the Anchor Tatty Teddy, and Forever Friends kits. I wish to eventually stitch and frame them all, so I'm looking for someone who also loves stitching them to swap charts. Thanks!

Rebecca Kimber
Email: beckykimber@yahoo.com

Hello, my name is Adelaide. I am looking for issue no. 247 that has the charts for the Christmas tags in it. If any one is willing to let me have that issue or the chart I need, I am willing to pay all costs.

Adelaide Bunker,
86 Deepfield Road,
Bracknell,
Berkshire,
RG12 2NX
Email: a.bunker@btinternet.com

Up for grabs!

I have various cross stitch pattern booklets and due to a house move they have to go! I've had them for ages so I only want the cost of the postage. Please email me for a list and pictures.

Nichola Weatherspoon
Email: njweath@gmail.com

Get in touch

My name is Robbi, I'm a 53-year-old married breast cancer survivor. I work from home, have a houseful of pets and would love to correspond with ladies from anywhere. I cross stitch, crochet, read and love to watch movies.

Robbi Hess,
444 Oak Orchard Estates,
Albion,
NY 14411, USA
Email: robbi.editor@gmail.com

Hi I would love to have a cross-stitch penpal. My name is Julie Waterhouse and I love cross stitch and other crafts when I get time to do them. I have three sons so they take up a lot of my time. I have made a few cross stitched presents and also a few for myself. I live in Warwickshire. Thanks, Julie.

Jules Waterhouse,
Email: julesmw@btinternet.com

I would love to have a penpal. I've been cross stitching nearly my whole life! I also knit, crochet and sew. I look forward to meeting fellow crafters!

Amelia Frost,
11428 10th Ave Ct E,
#E304, Tacoma,
WA 98445, USA.
Email: owner.sewnerdy@gmail.com



MAD FOR MOD

PAGE 18 ISSUE 296 SEPTEMBER.

Thank you to the readers who spotted an error in the key for our Vespa scooter – on the tyres the vertical bow symbol for colourway DMC 844 should be a solid horizontal bow. So if you are a fan of the swinging sixties, the correct key is printed below, which will allow you to start stitching this very British design without delay.

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in four strands			
	168	274	1709 (2)
	169	849	1710
	350	011	213 (2)
	351	010	214 (2)
	420	375	2104
	645	273	1811
	646	8581	1812
	712	926	2101
	739	366	2014
	762	234	1804
	775	1031	1001
	813	140	1013
	817	013	211
	824	143	1010
	826	161	1012
	844	1041	1810 (2)
	869	944	2105
	3756	1037	2504
	3828	373	2104
	3865	926	1402 (2)

Backstitch in two strands

	168	274	1709
mirror and aerial stems			
	844	1041	1810
all other details			
(2) indicates more than one skein required			

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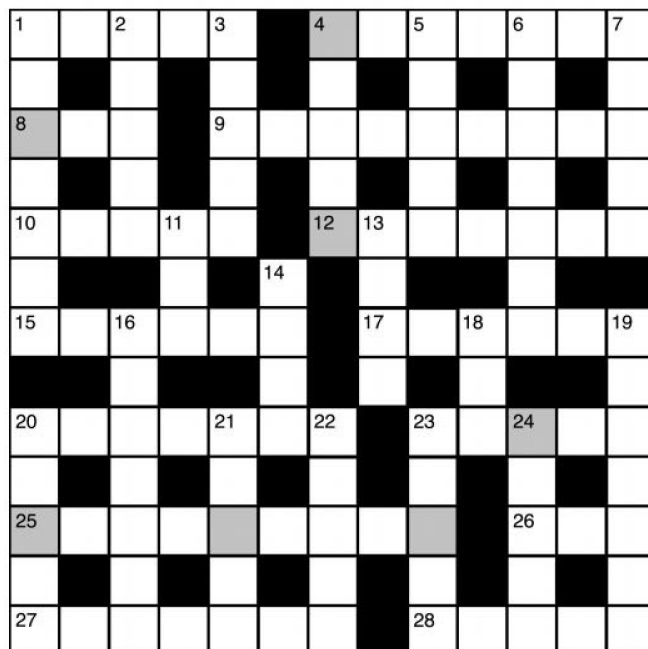
Prize crossword

Across

- 1 Long lock of hair (5)
- 4 Set of colours on a board (7)
- 8 Thread from a strand of floss (3)
- 9 Significant stage in life (9)
- 10 Metric unit of capacity (5)
- 12 Anxious (7)
- 15 Leather seat on a horse (6)
- 17 Iron-on -----, backing material (6)
- 20 Hereditary rulers from one family (7)
- 23 Grown-up (5)
- 25 Perform several jobs at once (9)
- 26 Swindle (3)
- 27 Pudding (7)
- 28 Force (someone) to leave (5)

Down

- 1 Removes from power (7)
- 2 Land of the Pharaohs (5)
- 3 Northern France WWI battle (5)
- 4 Electricity tower (5)
- 5 Intense beam of light (5)
- 6 Duo (7)
- 7 'Double-your-money' betting odds (5)
- 11 Danger colour (3)
- 13 Jealousy (4)
- 14 Threads interlace through the warp (4)
- 16 Hangs or swings loosely (7)
- 18 Young man (3)
- 19 Died out (7)
- 20 Shaped with a rounded roof (5)
- 21 Paris river (5)
- 22 Brewing ingredient (5)
- 23 Joint connecting the foot with the leg (5)
- 24 Father's brother (5)



Winning word clue: **It's big, it's orange and tastes great in a pie? (7)**

HOW TO ENTER

COMPLETE the crossword and rearrange the letters in the shaded boxes to make up a winning word. Write your winning word and Crossword 297 on the back of a postcard or stuck-down envelope, adding your name and address, and post it to: *CrossStitcher*, PO Box 172, Northam, EX39 9DY. Competition open **18 September – 15 October 2015**.

For full terms and conditions, see page 85.



YOUR PRIZE Five winners will receive goodies from Madeira worth approximately £30. For stockist details, contact EQS on **0116 271 0033** or visit www.eqsuk.com

SUDOKU

USING logic and a process of elimination, fill the blank boxes with numbers so that each row, column and 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9 only once.

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

Issue 295's winning word **SANGRIA**

In your November

CrossStitcher

Festive makes and fabulous gift ideas!

No.1
FOR DESIGNS



Inside this month

- ♥ Whip up a White Christmas with our **snow globe** picture
- ♥ So cool! Mini ice skate **hanging decorations**
- ♥ Yummy **hot choc treats** to give your home a cosy touch
- ♥ Stitch a **stylish present sack**, ready for Christmas Eve!

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