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89
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PLUS
FRIENDSHIP
MOTIFS P47



BY JOAN ELLIOTT

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Spring joy



* Try 3D makes * Easy bunting * Pretty ABC * Garden pixies *



Winners: revealed!
British Craft Awards 2015

"I'M A TATTOOED STITCHING MAN" P78

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Welcome

The longer days with more sunshine are oh-so-welcome this month, as we've been enjoying **more stitching** time. And our bumper selection of projects will be ideal for making the most of the daylight!

Especially since we're debuting some very special project exclusives for you, this issue. Find **two luxury gifts**, firstly in the shape of an adorable Tatty Teddy kit, from DMC. I'm so very excited that we can bring you this sweetie for the first time in a magazine kit!

Plus, we've award-winning designer John Clayton's fab new project for Heritage Crafts, **Lavender Fields**. It's such an atmospheric and timeless piece – I can't wait to stitch this one. See your chartbook to get started!

Inside, **Joan Elliott's bunny** (p10) will win your

heart, (or maybe that of a green-fingered loved one?), and you'll have fun with our quick-stitch 3D makes (p74) – garden sheds to dream of! Happy stitching,



Ruth

Editor
The World of Cross Stitching

PS Get set to celebrate with us too, as there'll be a new arrival to the **Royal household**. Join in on page 85 and stitch a card, which you can send to William and Catherine!

Meet some of our designers...



HELEN PHILIPPS

Any new parent will treasure a cross stitched card on the arrival of their baby – Helen's special design (p85) for the Royal prince or princess is perfect!



JENNY BARTON

She never fails to rise to your challenge! Jenny's new 'Wishes Granted' chart is on page 35... Plus, see her Design Library of fast-make friendship ideas (p47).



JOHN CLAYTON

John's wowing us with 'Lavender Fields' – a stunning new addition to his Internationals collection for Heritage Crafts. Enjoy the chart book with this issue!



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- ✕ On Twitter? To catch all of our behind-the-scenes info, follow @WOXScrossstitch



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Contents

We bring you all the best projects, advice, news and offers for the month ahead!

YOUR FAB GIFTS!

An adorable Tatty Teddy kit, plus a luxury 'Lavender Fields' chartbook

Turn to page 8



Gifts available with print edition only



56 STITCH A MAGICAL SCENE WITH WEE FOLK

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Turn to page 44



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Projects

- 10 Let's bee friends**
Bring the joys of spring to life
- 18 Time to stitch**
Enjoy every minute of the day with this floral clock
- 26 You're so punny...**
Raise a smile with these cute cards
- 38 Indulge yourself**
Celebrate your favourite hobby with stitchy-themed bunting
- 47 Design Library: Friendship**
Show loved ones that you care
- 56 A perfect property**
Discover a magical pixie house
- 65 Spring has sprung**
Love this fresh alphabet set
- 74 Down in the shed...**
Delight everyone with 3D makes
- 80 Pet of the month**
Our new series, featuring your pets
- 85 A royal affair**
Welcome a very special new baby

47 DESIGN LIBRARY: FUN FRIENDSHIP MOTIFS



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74 EASY-MAKE 3D
FINISHING IDEAS

89
NEW
DESIGNS



Fun & advice

26 CARDS THAT'LL HAVE
THEM IN STITCHES



65 FRESH SPRING ABC
AND NUMBERS SET



80 CROSS STITCH
YOUR BELOVED PET



Win!

See page 83 to
enter & be lucky

OVER
£1,019 OF
PRIZES
WILL BE
WON!



6 Meet our guests

Say hello to this month's panel

14 Your letters

Stitchy gossip & photos from you

24 Best buys

The latest products, kits & offers

30 How to decorate your cards

Part one in our tips series

33 Ask the experts

Our pros solve your queries

54 Out & about

Stitching events, clubs & causes

62 Designer profile

Hear from Monkey Boo Designs

63 Back issues

Missed a copy? Order it today!

71 British Crafts Awards 2015

All the winners, as voted by you

78 A labour of love

Meet Tattoo'd Cross Stitch Man

79 Online news

Click for the latest from the web

82 Crossword

Win exclusive Furry Tales prizes

90 Stockists

Suppliers of everything in the mag

94 Next month

Sneak a look inside issue 229

96 How to stitch

Beginners start here

98 Ruth's stitching world

Catch up with our editor!

- ✕ Get a sneak preview
- ✕ Appear in the magazine
- ✕ Receive a stichy gift

Meet our guests

Get to know this month's reader panel, and look out for their favourite projects throughout the issue



Jan Wells

is a teaching assistant from Hertfordshire

How long have you stitched?

I've been stitching for 24 years. I started as I wanted to give my parents something different for their 40th wedding anniversary, and have been hooked ever since.

What are you working on?

A Siamese cat face for a friend's 60th birthday card as she loves these types of cats.

Who do you like to stitch for?

Mostly for myself, friends and family, especially my granddaughters.

What's a favourite recent design?

'The roaring Twenties' from issue 225. I love Art Deco, and this pattern shows the glitz and glamour of the 20s.



"I love how projects come to life with every stitch"



Louise Mitchell

is a carer from Gloucestershire

First cross stitch project?

I started off doing lots of cards that I gave to friends and family.

What is your idea of cross stitch heaven?

I would love a craft room where I could go and close the door and stitch away forever.

Who are your stitching buddies?

The members of the swap groups I am involved with. We share ideas and help each other out.

A favourite recent design?

I adore the dream-catcher by Amanda Gregory, which was in issue 224. It's so pretty.



"Cross stitching is a great way of expressing yourself"



Dagmara Jakubowska

is a HR manager from Poland

How did you start stitching?

In elementary school I tried different things in the "techniques" class, but only cross stitching stayed with me.

Who's your favourite cross stitch designer and why?

I love Ursula Michael for her amazing projects and the ingenuity of her designs.

Who do you like to stitch for?

Family and friends, and especially for those who appreciate and understand how much heart and love I put into each stitch.

Favourite design from a recent issue?

Definitely my favourite is the 'Holly word-art' from issue 223. I stitched it twice and gave it to friends.



"Stitching is a wonderful escape from everyday life"

We need you!

To be on the panel, email readerpanel@cross-stitching.com – tell us your name, where you're from and include a good-quality photo of yourself. Every panellist gets a preview of the magazine and a gift worth at least £30!



Gift worth £30!

THANKS! This month's panel members each get a bundle of Madeira goodies worth £30. It includes 25 thread packs plus a box of accessories filled with gold-plated needles, scissors and more!

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VANILLA

WHITE

OAK

MAPLE

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4 CRAFTS

Your TWO gifts!

Make the most of our two fab gifts – a cute Me To You kit and stunning 'Lavender Fields' luxury chart

GIFT

1



Inside your kit...

To help you sort your threads, here is a list of the colours and number of lengths inside your stitch kit:

White x1

Grey x7

Light grey x3

Blue x1

Pink x2

Yellow x1

Dark grey x2

Total: 17 lengths

Factbox

- ✕ **Stitching Time**
Approx. 4 hours
- ✕ **Type of Stitches**
Cross stitch, backstitch, French knots
- ✕ **Ease of Stitching**
Beginner

Perfect for beginners

Tatty Teddy key

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	
○	blanc	white
e	318	grey
I	415	light grey
◇	519	blue
♥	603	pink
☀	744	yellow

✕ Backstitch in one strand

—	413	dark grey
—	519	blue

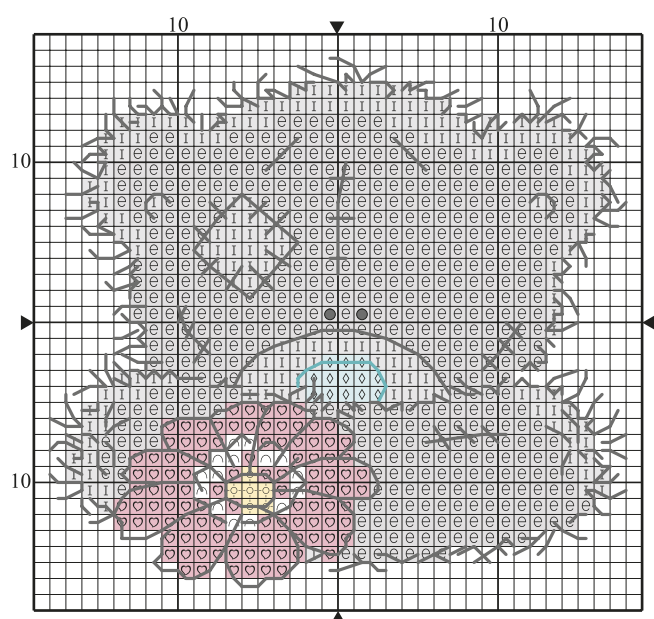
✕ French knots in two strands

●	413	dark grey
---	-----	-----------

STITCH COUNT 34 high x 36 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 6.5x6.5cm (2½x2½in)

This design was stitched using DMC stranded cotton



metoyou.com

The Me to You oval, Tatty Teddy signature and Bear logo are all registered Trade Marks of Carte Blanche Greetings Limited



www.dmccreative.co.uk

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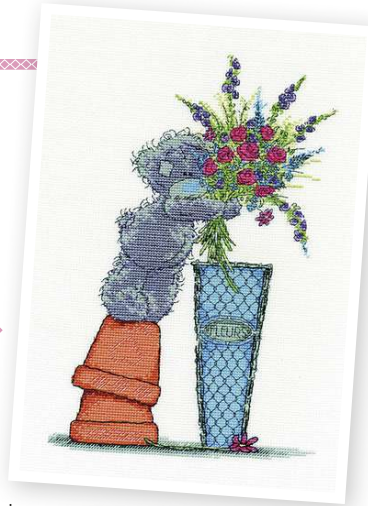
carte blanche

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There's more!

Love the adorable Tatty Teddy? Then check out these other kits and mini kits available from DMC stockists*

'Fresh Bouquet'
(BL1078/72), £26.99 ▶



◀ 'Time to Bake'
(BL1070H/72L),
£2.99



'Pink Fairy'
(BL1071/72),
£28.99 ▶



▶ 'Love Bears'
(BL1075/72), £28.99



◀ 'Pink Rose'
(BL1070D/72L),
£2.99

Where to buy *For stockists see page 90

How to...

use your picture mount

1 Cute Tatty Teddy's frame is pre-cut in your mount (included in your kit, on the back of the kit packaging) to make the aperture for your stitching. Gently pop out the central piece to make the aperture, taking care not to damage the mount – use sharp paper scissors if you need to, for a really neat finish.

2 Pop your finished Tatty Teddy stitching in your mount. Take care to space the edges of the stitching evenly within the curved shapes of the aperture for a seamless result. Secure your stitched piece in position on the back with tape, and finish in a frame of your choice, all set to display in pride of place!



Luxury chartbook

Cross stitch this exclusive and gorgeous 'Lavender Fields' design from John Clayton for Heritage Crafts

GIFT

2



John Clayton

HERITAGE
Crafts

Louise READER PANEL



“ Oh wow, 'Lavender Fields'! I am so excited and cannot wait to make this as my favourite flower is lavender, so this would look really beautiful stitched and hung up in my house. ”

DESIGN BY **JOAN ELLIOTT**

Let's bee friends!

Add this cute, green-fingered bunny to your must-stitch list today and bring the joys of spring to your home



Designer Joan Elliott's stunning projects never fail to bring a smile to our faces, and this colourful outdoor scene is no exception. Merrily tending to her beautiful garden, Joan's charming bunny can't resist picking a handful of those sweetly-scented flowers – after all, they do match the pattern on her dress! And, with her friendly bumblebee helpers buzzing round her head, this pretty project is the perfect way to brighten up your day.

You'll love bringing her to life as much as you'll love the end result, too. Packed full of delightful details, from the flowers on bunny's hat to the tiny little snail among the flowers (have you spotted him yet?), you'll

Factbox

- ✕ **Stitching Time**
Approx. 35 hours
- ✕ **Type of Stitches**
Cross stitch, fractionals, backstitch, French knots
- ✕ **Ease of Stitching**
Advanced beginner

Fab
stitch
detail

use a variety of stitching techniques to create this design. Plus, with plenty of shading to breathe life into your picture, there are lots of colour changes to keep you on your toes!

Whatever the weather, this springtime sweetie is the perfect way to fill your life with sunshine. ➤



Meet the designer

Joan Elliott

"There's nothing more enjoyable than being outside in the spring sunshine, surrounded by the beauty of nature, so I loved working on this sweet design while looking forward to the warm weather arriving!"

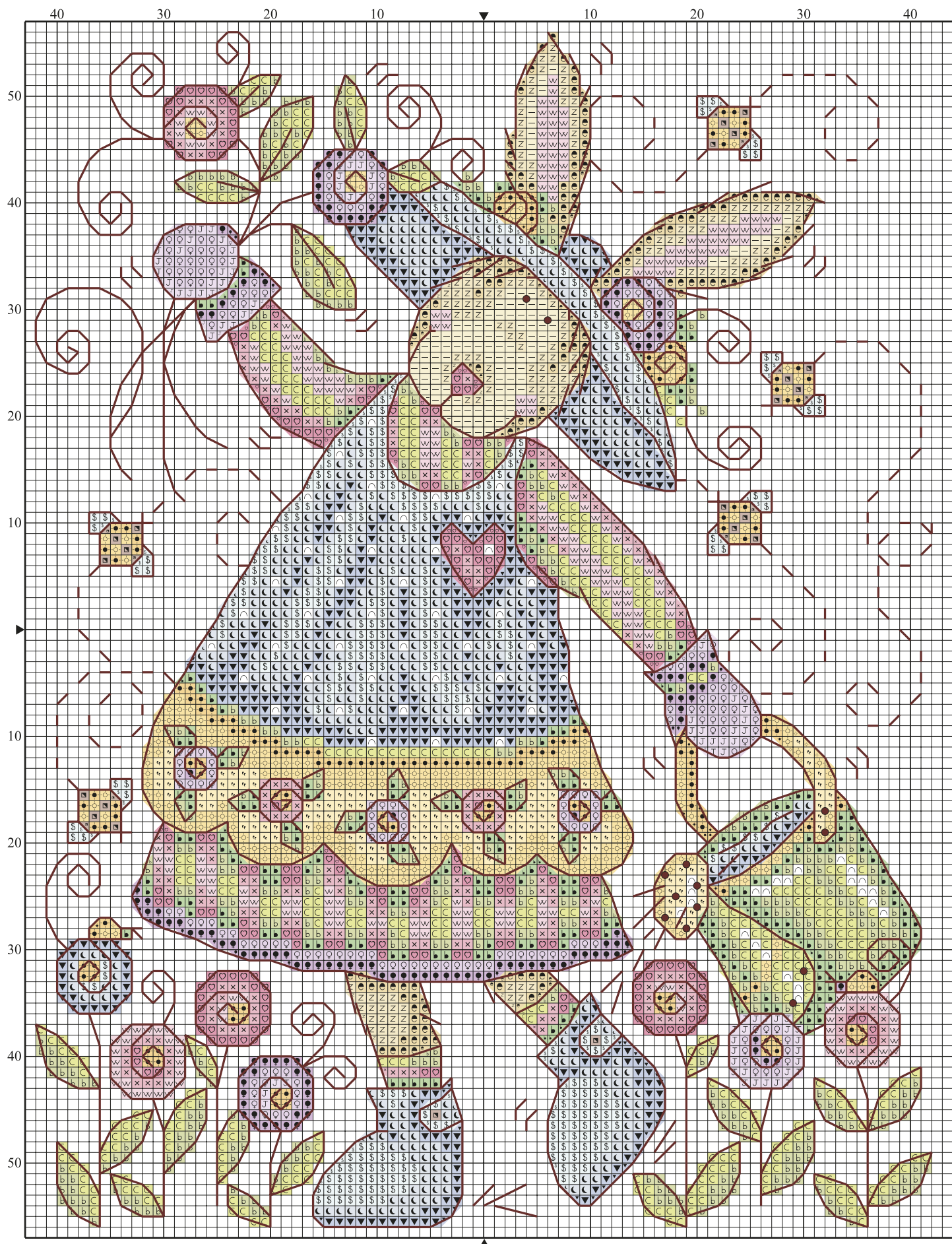


GREAT
AS A GIFT
STITCH



Stitch Joan Elliott's
gorgeous design
to show somebody
special just how much
you love them!





TOP TIP

Help prevent knots forming by letting your needle hang down from your work, to untwist, every few stitches



Gardening Bunny key

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	blanc	2	2402	white
●	208	99	804	dark lilac
♀	209	98	803	lilac
J	210	108	802	light lilac
▼	334	977	1004	blue
♥	602	57	702	dark pink
×	603	55	505	pink
w	604	1094	614	light pink
Z	676	891	2208	sand
—	677	886	2207	light sand
●	729	890	2209	dark sand
●	742	303	114	tangerine
●	743	302	113	yellow
●	744	301	112	light yellow
\$	800	144	908	light blue
■	905	257	1412	dark green
■	906	256	1410	green
■	907	255	1308	light green
■	938	380	2005	dark brown
●	3755	140	1013	blue

✕ Backstitch in one strand

—	938	380	2005	dark brown
---	-----	-----	------	------------

✕ French knots in one strand

●	938	380	2005	dark brown
---	-----	-----	------	------------

STITCH COUNT 112 high x 85 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 20.5x15.5cm (8x6in)

This design was stitched using DMC stranded cotton

Louise READER PANEL



“I love this gardening bunny design. I think I would stitch this for my grandma, who lives in Crete, as her hobby is gardening. This is so cute and I’m sure she would really appreciate it.”

French knots

Head over to Cross Stitch TV and follow our guide



French knots are easier than you think with some practice. Simply watch our easy ‘How To’ video tutorial on www.cross-stitching.com. Our Editor, Ruth, talks you through the process, so you can be sure of a professional finish every time.

Shopping list

- ✕ Zweigart* 14-count white aida measuring 30x25cm (12x10in)
- ✕ Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- ✕ Size 24 tapestry needle
- ✕ Frame of your choice with a minimum aperture measuring 23.5x19cm (9¼x7½in)

Thread & fabric cost
Approximately £22

*For stockists see page 90

LAVENDER HEART Tapestry Kits



Heart Tapestry Kits include canvas, wool, backing calico, linen ribbon, needle, instructions and of course, lavender sachet. 15 x 13cm all on 12ct printed canvas. More designs online. Please note filling not included.



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Your letters

We love to see what you've been stitching and hear your news, so send in your photos, letters and tips



Star Letter

BRILLIANT BUNNY

Just wanted to share my completed bunny kit from issue 227. I could not wait to stitch this cute bunny! My mother passed away last October, so it will not be a Mother's Day card, but my best friend has had a hard time recently so I will give it to her to cheer her up. Thanks for always sending such lovely free gifts!

Patricia Bentley-Ivens, via email

Ruth: Thanks Patricia, it's always great to hear you are enjoying the gifts.



✉ **Brilliant bunny**
Patricia stitched up the free Be bunny card kit from issue 227 in no time at all!



Journey in stitches

After a visit to my brother in New Zealand, I embarked on my most complex project yet. I found a map of the country I liked and used a software program to create a cross stitch pattern. This project has reflected the ups and downs of my life since.

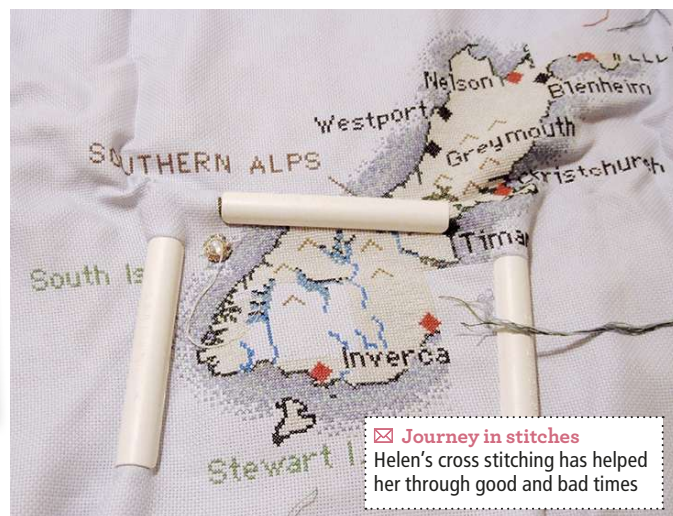
I used it as an escape during a bad relationship. I had it mounted on a large frame so that it had to be set-up in my sewing room, which meant I didn't have to spend endless evenings in the company of my partner at the time. It proved to be my sanity-saver until I was able to make an escape for real.

It then sat idle for quite a

while as I was so busy living life, catching up on things I hadn't been doing the previous several years. The project is now on a much smaller frame so that I can do my sewing while in the company of my lovely partner doing their own thing. The deadline to finish it is my brother's 50th birthday next year. Whatever the circumstances in the rest of my life, cross stitch has been there for me.

Helen Billings, Wilsden

Fiona: We are so glad cross stitching helped you get through some tough times, and now you can enjoy it during the good times!



✉ **Journey in stitches**
Helen's cross stitching has helped her through good and bad times

Win!

The writer of our Star letter wins both of these Paddington Bear kits – 'Baking Sampler' (£19.99) and 'Sports Sampler' (£19.99) from Bothy Threads!

MORE:

For stockists, email info@bothythreads.com or call ☎ 01900 828844



Prize worth £39!

WRITE TO US AT: Letters, The World of Cross Stitching, Immediate Media Co, Tower House, Fairfax St, Bristol BS1 3BN

Making music together

I'm currently stitching a large project (my largest one to date!) and it's always nice to break up the big designs with some small ones. I searched my supplies and came across these Musical Moggies charts in an old issue of the mag, (issue 148). They were just what I was after and once they were stitched, I decided to finish them off a bit differently than my usual "stick-it-in-a-frame" approach.

Having used coloured aida, I picked out matching cards and ribbons and turned them into hangings, which are now up on the wall facing the piano. I get to look at them every time I practise and can imagine these talented felines being my musical accompaniment!

Ella Mitchell, Rotherham

Sue: *We love breaking up big projects with smaller ones that are quick to stitch and give you that finished feeling of satisfaction Ella! For more quick and easy projects, check out our friendship motifs in the Design Library on page 47, the new shoots ABC on page 65 and our fun 3D hanging sheds on page 74 for something a little different to make for your home.*



✉ **Making music together**
Ella stitched up these small designs while taking a break from a bigger project

GROWING STITCHES

My stepdaughter and I have just taken up cross stitch, and we absolutely love it! I made the lovely rose sachet that came free with issue 226 and she liked it so much, she actually improvised her own. She chose a pattern of a cat, did it all by herself and stuffed it! She's only 11, we are very impressed by her delicate work. She now attends textile club after school, and is enjoying it very much.

Sarah Jagger, West Yorkshire

Rachel: *Hope your stepdaughter likes the Tatty Teddy kit that comes with this month's issue of the mag, Sarah.*



✉ **Growing stitches**
Sarah and her stepdaughter have found a shared love of stitching



✉ **Winning stitch**
Melissa's daughter proudly shows off her medals and skating bag

Winning stitch

Here is a picture of my figure-skating daughter with her silver and bronze medals she won at a recent competition, and the cross stitch I made her from issue 222 of your mag. As soon as I saw the design I knew I had to make it for her!

I stitched on 32-count black linen, which is by far the hardest fabric I've ever stitched on – my iPhone flashlight shining under the fabric proved instrumental in being able to see the holes and get the counting right!

Melissa Dowson, via email

Ruth: *The chalkboard design looks fabulous as a bag, and how perfect is it for your daughter Melissa! Check out the pixie hideaway on page 56 as another design she might enjoy!*

Perfect Present



✉ **We love that pug!**
Angela and her husband with the personalised pug design she stitched for him

WE LOVE THAT PUG!

Thank you so much for the Pet of the Month series, especially the pug in issue 225. My husband loves pugs, so I stitched this one for him as it was nice and easy – not too many colour threads. It took me two days to do and I added my husband's name on it. I used beads instead of French knots for the pug's eyes.

He keeps it in his study room, so when he comes home and sees this pug cross stitch in the frame he smiles. It makes me feel so good that he loves my stitching. He wants to name the pug Norman!

Angela Godwin, Australia

Fiona: *The Pet of the Month series is really proving popular, Angela. And we're delighted to hear your husband likes it so much – we think Norman is a good name for this pup! Find this month's pet design of a shih-tzu on page 80.*

EMAIL US AT: letters@cross-stitching.com or join our Facebook group at www.facebook.com/TheWorldofCrossStitching



✉ **Stitching is my life**
Sharon does her beloved stitching while receiving medical treatment

Stitching is my life

Your magazine is always packed full of helpful insights, tips and articles. I retired after 35 years in special education as a teacher and an educational diagnostician. Cross stitching became my therapy. Every school I have ever been at has found the principals, secretaries, nurses and teachers with cross stitch gifts from me. Every doctor, dentist and vet has received a cross stitched gift. They hang not only in their offices, but in the halls for others to see. I cannot tell you how many have been donated to use in charity auctions.

So I am constantly cross stitching. Yes, even when I have an IV in my hand I can cross stitch, like in this photo. I'm having gamma globulin infusions, which take four hours, to help improve my immune system.

Sharon Noblit,
Texas, USA

Ruth: *It's great to hear that you can carry on enjoying stitching, even while receiving your treatments Sharon. Hopefully the designs in this issue will put a smile on your face, and we might even tempt you to make one or two as gifts for your carers.*

Fairytale finish

Here is the Disney Dreams 'Pinocchio Wishes Upon A Star' cross stitch kit I got for Christmas 2013 and I've just finished it (I've done a few other smaller projects in-between though)! It's the largest and most challenging cross stitch I've done so far – as well as whole cross stitches it contained fractional stitches, backstitch, French knots, sparkly threads and I also learnt what blending was (using two colours for one stitch). I've framed my finished piece, it's on my wall and I've already started another project!

Sophie Dauod, via email

Sue: *You should be really proud of your finish Sophie, it's a lovely design. If you love fantasy-theme designs, then check out our project by Monkey Boo Designs on page 56, filled with adorable details and quirky magical characters.*



✉ **Fairytale finish**
Sophie is proud to have finished this Disney design that was a Christmas present

Fab flowers

Looking back through old issues of my cross stitching magazines, I came across the pink posy in the Breast Cancer feature in issue 214. I thought this would make a lovely Mother's Day card for my mother-in-law. It was even more pleasing to make as she is a breast cancer survivor.

Jainie Jolliffe, Surrey

Rachel: *What a fitting card for your mother-in-law Jainie. It's lovely, and we're sure she'll appreciate your hard work.*



✉ **True heart**
We love how Margaret has finished the heart hanging sachet from issue 226

TRUE HEART

This is a picture of my latest finish, which I call the Romantic Valentine's heart. The pattern was free in issue 226 of *The World of Cross Stitching*. I changed the finish slightly, adding beads, embroidery and lace. I hope you also enjoy my metamorphosis of your free gift.

Margaret, Ireland

Fiona: *It's great seeing how everyone gets creative with our free kits and stamps their individuality on them Margaret. It'll be so lovely hanging in any home – whether you kept it for yourself or gave it as a gift to be treasured.*



✉ **Fab flowers**
This design was perfect for Jainie's mother-in-law

Subs Stars



Each month we randomly select three subscribers to win a prize as a thank you

This month's winners are:

- ▶ Mrs L Longhurst, Brackley
- ▶ Mrs Lauren Hockaday, Exeter
- ▶ Mrs P Colley, Wolverhampton

Prizes every month!

These three lucky winners will each be receiving a beautiful DMC 'Mill on the Pond' stitch kit worth over £24.99! The finished kit measures 20x30cm (7¾x12in) and includes 16-count antique aida and DMC cotton threads.

To subscribe turn to page 44

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For you



✉ **For you**
Hanna adores Somebunny to Love designs, like this one from issue 218

Somebunny To Love is one of my favourite characters to stitch. I really like the ballerina bunny from issue 218. I made it as a birthday present for my daughter's friend. I love the effect given by the Satin, Color Variations and metallic threads.

Hanna Retecka, Edinburgh

Sue: *We think this design is perfect for girls of all ages Hanna, it's just so cute!*



✉ **Sent with love**
Jenny has made good use of the Valentine's Day cards in issue 225 to make these cards for family



SENT WITH LOVE

Here are two Valentine's cards I made. One for my husband and one for my dad to give to my mum. I used the designs featured in issue 225 but changed some colours. I'm really pleased with how they've turned out and am definitely going to be making more cards from now on, starting

with a Mother's Day card for my mum!
Jenny White, via email

Fiona Durene Jones' cards are adorable, and we've had so many letters about them. Your husband is a lucky man to be receiving such a lovely card made with so much love Jenny – as is your mum.

Homeware

When we had our cloakroom re-tiled, my humorous cross stitches were being made homeless. I stitched three together and stuffed them to make a 'sausage', which I hung from the door handle. They look quite good and there is no chance of the door banging on the tiles. Now, what do I do with the others?

Reida Willman, St Helens

Fiona: *What a fun idea – we love it and it's practical too!*



✉ **Homeware**
Unique finish – perfect for Reida's 'homeless' pictures



Celebrity

My eldest son is a great David Bowie fan, so I thought I would do this as a Christmas present for him. Unfortunately, it took me longer than anticipated and wasn't finished until February. Hope you like it.

Lyn Gray, Southampton

Ruth: *Better late than never Lyn! Our sister mag, Cross Stitch Crazy, has a regular feature called Celeb Stitch, so if you've other stars you'd like to stitch, email to celebstash@cross-stitching.com.*

Like magic

Here's the 'Fantasy Unicorn' I stitched for my cousin's baby. It took me quite a while to do because it was the first time I ever stitched on evenweave – I used Lugana 28-count 'Jubilation' by Silkweaver hand-dyed fabrics. Here's Audrey standing with it.

Alisha McClary, Cincinnati, USA

Sue: *Well done on such a fab finish Alisha – we recognise this design from our issue 189.*



✉ **Like magic**
Little Audrey loves the unicorn stitch done for her by Alisha!

SEND US YOUR NEWS

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DESIGN BY **LESLEY TEARE**

Time to stitch

Remind everyone to enjoy each day by cross stitching this beautiful clock to decorate your home



Be it savouring the bright sunshine of a glorious spring morning, or just getting away from it all with a relaxing cup of tea, designer Lesley Teare's uplifting pattern is a great way to add positivity to your daily routine. Just think – next time you're rushing around and look up to check the time, you'll be greeted by a selection of sunny blooms, and a poetic prompt to appreciate all those little things we take for granted.

With a soft, muted colour palette worked in simple whole cross stitches and backstitch, you can relax and unwind as you bring each pretty flower to life. And, as you work your way round the sweet selection of

Factbox

- ✕ **Stitching Time**
Approx. 30 hours
- ✕ **Type of Stitches**
Cross stitch, backstitch
- ✕ **Ease of Stitching**
Beginner

All easy stitches

flora, decorated here and there with contented bumblebees, your stitching will blossom before your eyes.

Whether you're a beginner or an expert, this project is such a joy to stitch that you'll be finished before you know it, so make time to start this uplifting clock today and create a special timepiece for your home. ➤



Meet the designer

Lesley Teare

"Although it's lovely to be able to hang a stitched picture on your wall, sometimes it's nice to try something new, like this charming clock. Don't forget, you could also pick out individual motifs to stitch for cards or tags, too."



A SIMPLE
STITCH,
FOR ANY
HOME



Let the beauty of
nature and its array
of floral delights
cheer your home
and your heart

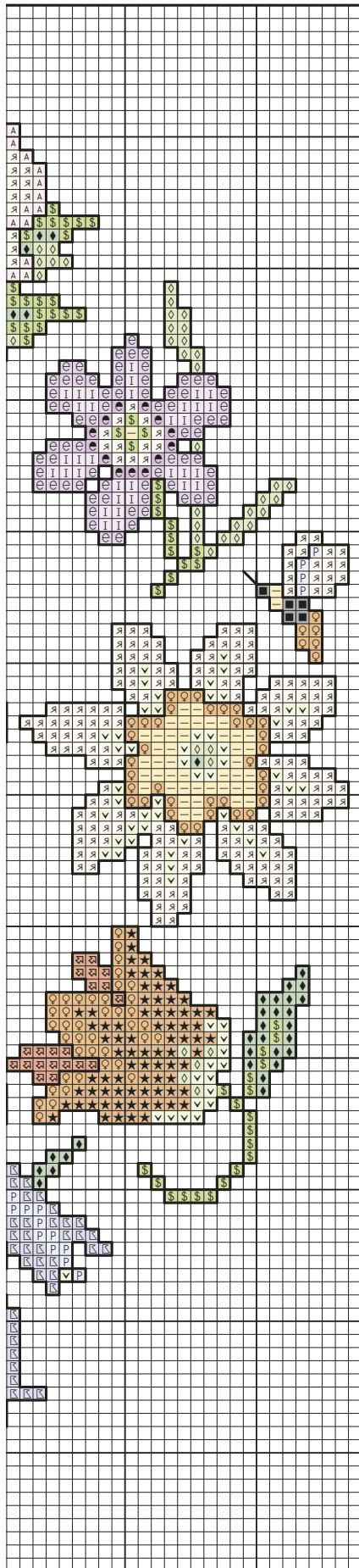




Flower Clock chart (left)

40

50



Flower Clock chart (right)

Flower Clock key

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
я	ecru	926	2404	cream
К	156	939	2702	lavender blue
P	157	120	907	flax blue
◇	164	240	1209	light green
e	209	98	803	lilac
I	211	342	801	light lilac
■	310	403	2400	black
♥	326	59	508	rose pink
✱	349	1098	212	red
\$	703	238	1307	green
★	720	326	309	burnt orange
♀	740	316	204	orange
—	744	301	112	yellow
✓	772	259	1604	grass green
A	818	23	502	light pink
◆	911	205	1214	mint green
w	3689	49	607	pink
●	3837	111	713	dark lilac

✕ Backstitch in one strand

—	310	403	2400	black
---	-----	-----	------	-------

STITCH COUNT 117 high x 115 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 21.5x21cm (8½x8¼in)

This design was stitched using DMC stranded cotton

How to...

make a clock

1 When you've finished stitching, iron some lightweight interfacing onto the back of your design and trim to a circle measuring 29cm (11½in) in diameter.

2 Place your stitched piece inside your hoop with the screw at the top – ours is 23cm (9in) in diameter.

3 Snip a tiny hole in the centre of your design and feed the clock movement through. Follow the manufacturer's instructions carefully to ensure it is secure and turning smoothly.

4 Back with a circle of fabric or felt, sewing in place with small stitches. If you want to hang it, add a ribbon loop to the top and now it's ready to display!

Shopping list

- ✕ Zweigart* 14-count white aida measuring 33x33cm (13x13in)
- ✕ Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- ✕ Size 24 tapestry needle
- ✕ Iron-on interfacing and backing fabric of choice
- ✕ Wooden hoop measuring 23cm (9in) and 'Clock Mechanism' (87204), both available from Sew and So*

Thread & fabric cost
Approximately £20

*For stockists see page 90

Jan READER PANEL



“I have always wanted to cross stitch a clock for myself and this floral one looks perfect.”

TOP TIP

- Trimming your aida will be easy, by drawing round a dinner plate as a template! Measure your plate then mark your cutting line in pencil on the back of the fabric



NEW!

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**Cross
Stitching**
PICK OF THE
MONTH

Cat and mouse



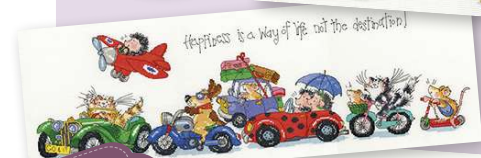
£29.99

MARGARET SHERRY IS BACK

Just like you, we are huge fans of the fabulous designs by Margaret Sherry. So we were delighted to see she has released a set of new and oh-so-cute kits, available from Bothy Threads*. There's 'Sugar and Spice' (XMS3) measuring 19x40cm (7½x15¾in), 'Happiness Is A Way Of Life' (XMS2) measuring 20x60cm (8x23½in), 'Kitty Knit' (XMS4) measuring 22x52cm (8¾x20½in), and 'Are We There Yet?' (XMS1) measuring 28x36cm (11x14¼in) when worked on the 14-count aida provided.

All star the beloved cuties that Margaret's so well known for. These fun designs will not only be loved by us stitchers, but also by anyone lucky enough to receive one as a finished gift.

Margaret Sherry is back
Get your paws on these new designs by Margaret Sherry



£31.99



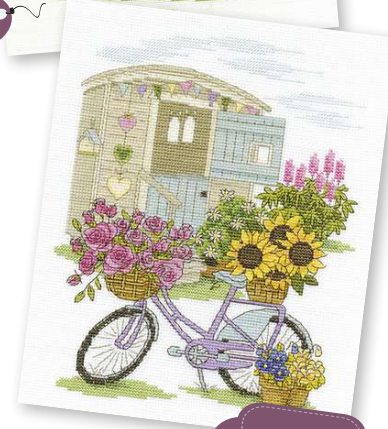
£29.99



£31.99



£28.99



£16.99

FLORAL DISPLAY

With the weather warming up, these gorgeous new designs by Jane Prutton and available from DMC* are just perfect to brighten up any day. We love 'Les Fleurs' (BK1547) measuring 25x25cm (10x10in), and 'Flowery Bicycle' (BK1549), measuring 25x20cm (10x8in) when worked on the 14-count aida in each kit. That colourful campervan and bicycle surrounded by the prettiest blooms are just the thing to welcome the season!

Trendwatching... Purple passion Immerse yourself

Flower power, purple power
Cushions from George at ASDA* are an easy way to play with this trend



From
£5



£25.99

Pretty purple
Stitch a Gorjuss kit 'We Can All Shine' (XG26) by Bothy Threads*



From
£16.99

Colour me happy
Try working on hand-dyed fabric from Polstitches Designs*

CAT'S WHISKERS

STUNNING SIAMESE

Looking for a modern and funky cross stitch kit featuring everyone's favourite furry friend? Then 'Siamese If you please' is just what you're after! From the new and updated range by Kerry Beary and available from Gecko Rouge*, this design, which measures 36x36cm (14¼x14¼in) when worked on 14-count aida, also comes with pre-sorted DMC stranded cottons, black-and-white pattern, a glossy cover for reference, needles and full instructions, plus your choice of fabric. Pick from 14- or 18-count aida or 25-count magic guide evenweave for your perfect finish.

£43.40
for 14-count
aida kit



TREASURE HUNT

New from Goldleaf Needlework* is this fun kit, 'Sam and Peeps – Pirate Island'. Included is 14-count vintage sky blue aida, DMC threads, chart and needle. With a finished design size of 15x20cm (6x8in), it's also available as a chart for £7.50.

£25



£6.90

WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED

We can't wait to try Crafter's Easy See Removable Craft Tape. Use it to mark off what you've stitched on charts, then, when you're done, simply remove from the chart and reuse. Available in a variety of colours from Carole's Crafts*.

NAME IT!

It's never been so easy to personalise presents and clothing with initials and monograms thanks to the new 72-page book from Search Press*, *Lovely Letters: 9 Cross-Stitch Alphabets & Monograms*. With alphabets divided into three categories: Clean & Classic, Elegant & Exquisite and Fun & Funky, you'll find three alphabets in each category, so stitchers of all abilities are sure to find something they can make.

Letters can be easily combined to create names and words, colours altered and the fabrics changed to create projects that are functional, beautiful and unique. The finishing on every project is simple, with easy-to-follow instructions which are addressed step by step in the 'Finishing' chapter. So go on, create one-of-a-kind items that are sure to be treasured for years to come.

READER OFFER



Set sail
Save 25% off all stitch kits from Emma Louise Art Stitch

Brighten up your stitching with contemporary designs. Emma Louise Art Stitch* is giving a 25% discount off any of her designs, including the 'Campervan', which can be personalised, and 'Padstow Harbour', both shown here. Enjoy this offer, using the discount code **WOXS25** at www.emmalouiseartstitch.co.uk. Standard delivery charges will apply on orders below £10 after the discount has been applied. Orders over £10 after discount will include free postage! Offer valid from 20 March to 27 April 2015 and can only be used once per customer.

in this gorgeous tone – hot for 2015!



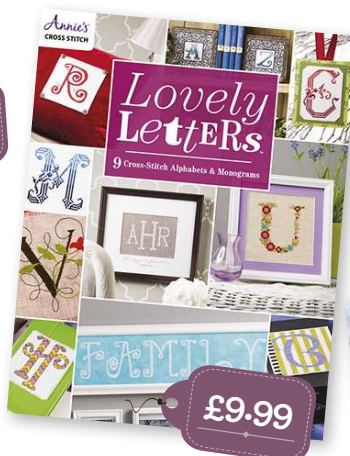
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per skein

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stranded cotton in a variety of tones

Beaded delight
Add texture to projects with
Mill Hill* seed beads



£1.35
each



£9.99

*For stockists see page 90

SAVE
£££s!

DESIGNS BY **KAREN BRITTAN**

You're so punny...

Send these sweet, quirky cards to someone you love and you'll be sure to have them in stitches!

Be it for a birthday, anniversary or just to say hello, these joky greetings are guaranteed to put a smile on someone's face. Not only will designer Karen Brittan's combination of clever puns and cute characters be a hit with friends and family, but they're perfect for all ages too. We think it'll be ideal to make these so you have them on hand, whatever the occasion.

You'll easily finish these mini makes over a weekend or a few evenings during the week, and they're as fun to stitch as they are to receive. Using whole cross stitches, fractionals, backstitch and French knots, each one will keep your needle busy from start to finish, so they're a great way to

Factbox

- ✕ **Stitching Time**
Approx. 8-10 hours each
- ✕ **Type of Stitches**
Cross stitch, fractionals, backstitch, French knots
- ✕ **Ease of Stitching**
Advanced beginner

Give French knots a go

show off your stichy skills!

They can be used for more than just greeting cards, too. Why not frame one of the more general sentiments, such as 'owl always love you', and give as a sweet gift? We're sure you'll use these designs over and over again, so stitch a set for your stash! ➤



Meet the designer

Karen Brittan

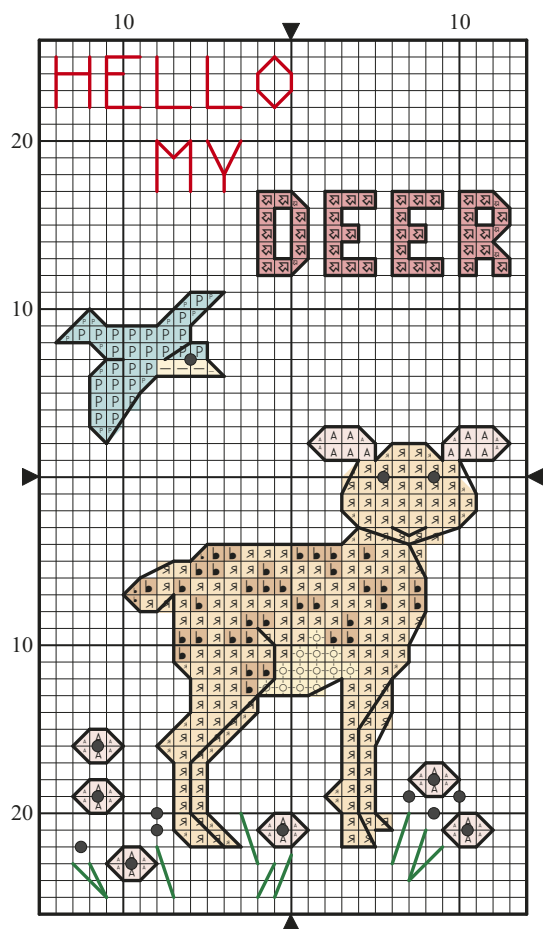
"Designs that'll appeal to all ages, both male and female, and that work for lots of different occasions are always in demand, so I enjoyed coming up with these ideas. Hopefully you'll love them as much as I do."



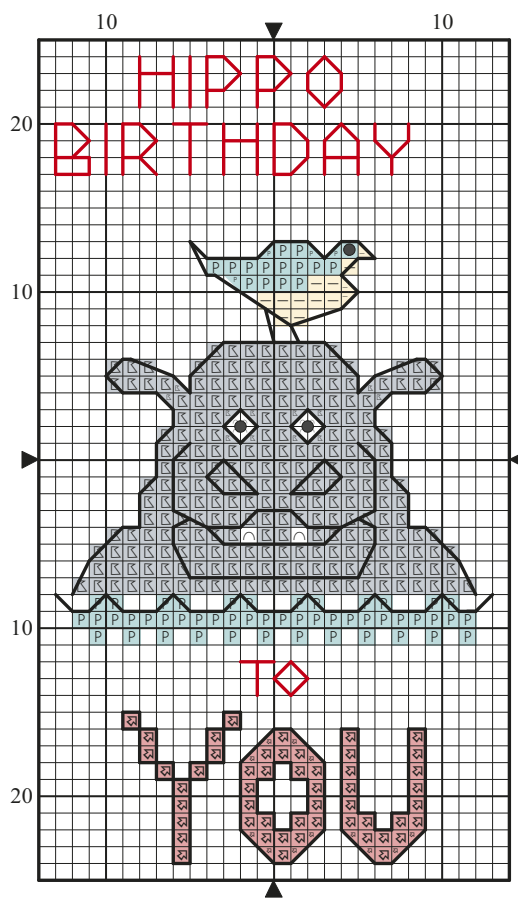
CARDS
TO MAKE
YOU
SMILE

Quick-to-stitch and brilliant to receive, this cute set of animal cards is the perfect go-to for all your special occasions!





Deer Card chart

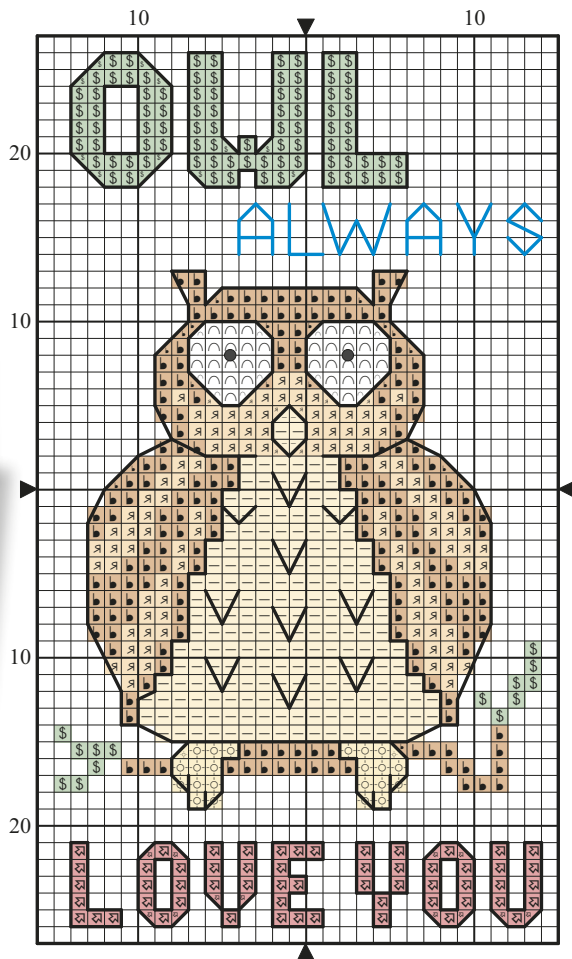
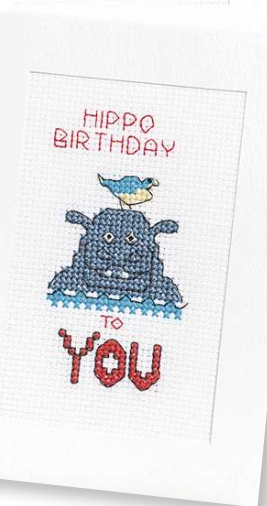


Hippo Card chart

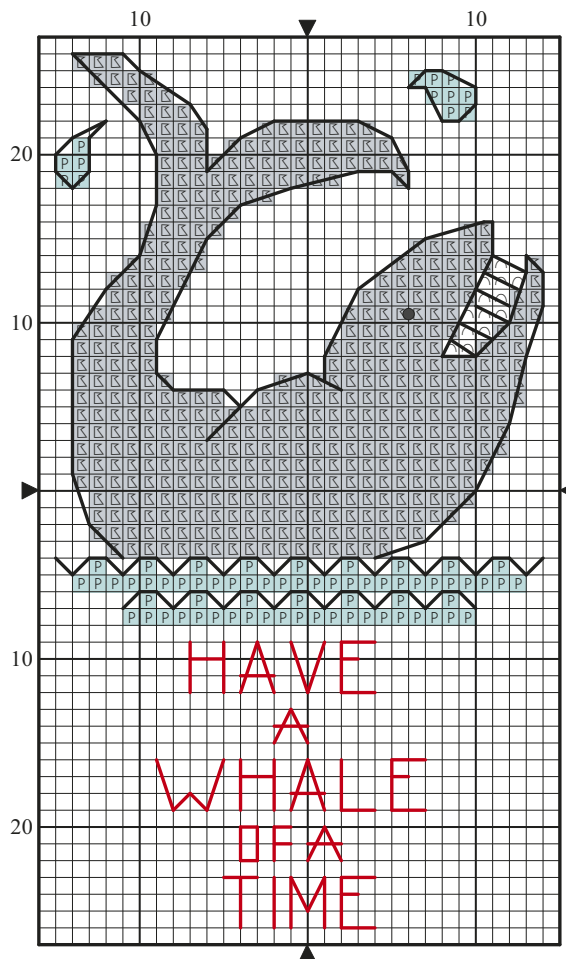
Dagmara READER PANEL



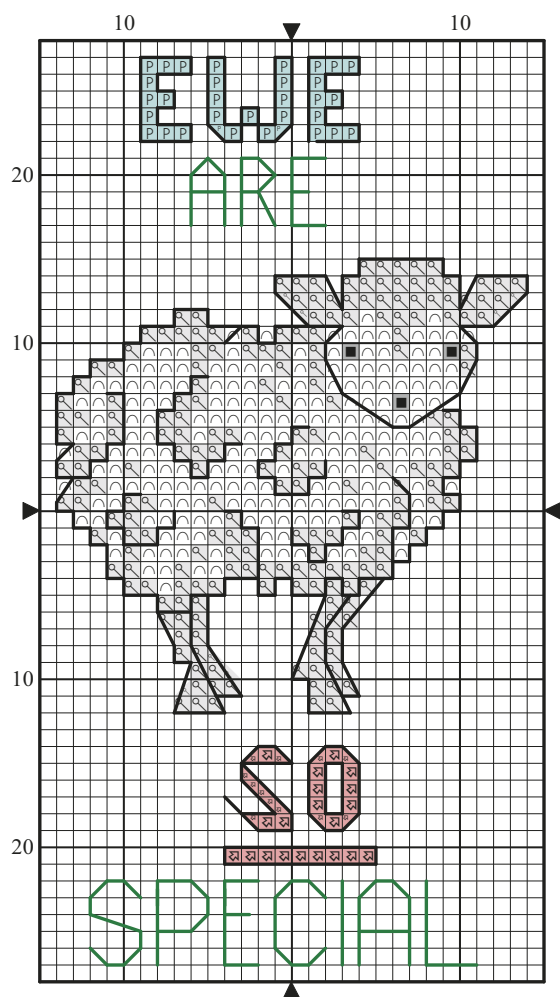
“Animals are great to stitch and I love these cards. I think I will adapt a few designs to sew onto clothes bags for baby gymnastics. Then the children will easily know which bag belongs to them, even if they can’t read yet!”



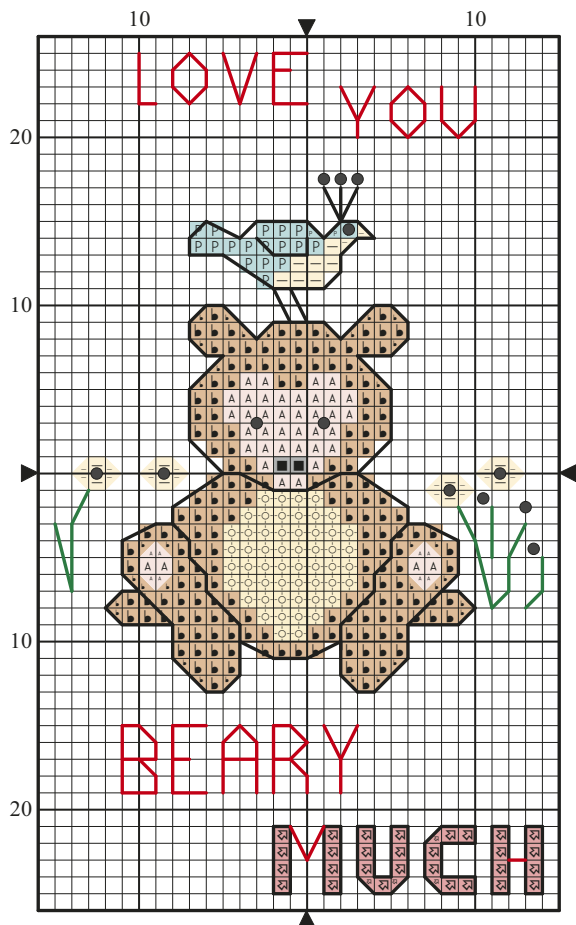
Owl Card chart



Whale Card chart



Sheep Card chart



Bear Card chart

Animal Cards key

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
○	blanc	2	2402	white
■	310	403	2400	black
■	402	1047	2307	light ginger
■	415	398	1802	grey
■	745	300	111	light yellow
■	761	1021	404	pink
■	911	205	1214	green
■	931	1034	1711	petrol blue
■	3801	1098	411	red
■	3826	1048	2306	ginger
■	3845	1089	1102	electric blue
○	3855	311	2513	yellow

✕ Backstitch in one strand

—	911	205	1214	green
—	3799	236	1713	dark grey
—	3801	1098	411	red
—	3845	1089	1102	electric blue

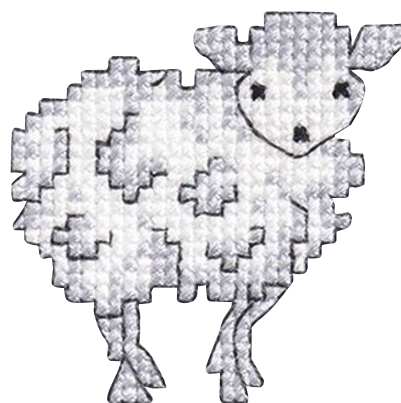
✕ French knots in one strand

●	310	403	2400	black
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MAXIMUM STITCH COUNT 54 high x 29 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 10x5.5cm (3¾x2in)

These designs were stitched using DMC stranded cotton



TOP TIP

Even when stitching small designs such as these, use an embroidery hoop to keep an even tension and get a neat finish!

Shopping list

- ✕ Zweigart* 14-count white aida measuring 15x10cm (6x4in) for each design
- ✕ Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- ✕ Size 24 tapestry needle
- ✕ Craft Creations* oblong aperture cards (AP08U) in Textura 50% Recycled bright white

Thread & fabric cost
Approximately £15

*For stockists see page 90





Ideas to decorate your cards

Part ONE



Start here for our top advice on embellishing your cross stitched cards, to make them stand out in style. Plus see more tips next month!



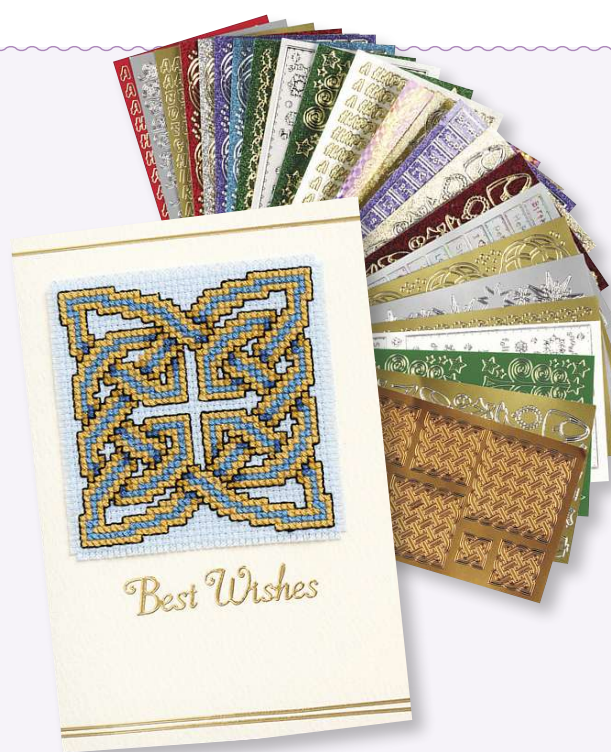
Say it with a sticker

Stickers are surely the fastest and easiest way to add that extra something to any card – whether you're using an aperture card or patching your stitching onto a plain card, the addition of a greeting or a sticker accent to enhance your project is so simple.

And the best thing about stickers is how easy it is to make your greeting extra personal... you may already have chosen a stitched motif that'll be a perfect match for the lucky recipient, but what if you can also add a monogram initial sticker, or include a greeting sentiment in

their favourite colour too? That's what will raise your card to the next level! Just take care not to over use stickers on your card though – it can be all too easy to add too many, and then they will detract from the effect of your stitching and that would not be ideal. Think... "less is more!"

Peel-offs are available in metallic shades, plus often in colours too (we love the selection at Craft Creations*), plus look out for other small decorative stickers in craft shops as well. Flowers, butterflies and hearts are icons that are very versatile!



Make it ravishing with ribbon

A simple length of ribbon brings interest and flair, thanks to all the colours, widths, textures and even prints that are available these days. Add an easy border strip – perfectly attached with narrow double-sided tape, like the high-tack 'Redline' tape, available at craft stores. Just apply the tape to your ribbon, peel away the backing film and fix in place on the card, taking care to make sure the ribbon is straight. Trim away the excess and stop messy frayed edges with a tiny

dab of wet glue, like PVA, which dries clear. See page 80 for our sweet shih-tzu card, which we've decorated with ribbon like this.

Or apply it just by tying the ends together in a bow like ours here (or a knot for a more manly finish) to secure it in style! You can buy a variety of ribbons at local craft stores and haberdasheries, plus online at sites like Etsy, or look out for a super selection at Fantastic Ribbons*, including spools and discounted grab bags.





So charming

You may have tried adding charms directly to a stitching project before, but have you thought about using them to decorate your card mounts? They can be easily and, most importantly, securely fixed to a card front as well as sewn to fabric, so make the most of this idea by checking out the range of charms available.

These pretty heart charms by Beads Unlimited* are available

singly for 25p each, or in a pack of 20, priced £2.50 for better value: 'Made For You Heart Charm Antique Silver 15x15mm' (MTMJ-20). You can either sew one in a corner of your finished cross stitching before mounting on your card or use a 'Micro Glue Dot' by Glue Dots*, £3.99 per box, for a firm stick-on fix to your card. We made ours extra special by tying a coordinating coloured thread to the charm.

Use patterned papers

With so many beautiful papers especially made for cardmakers, this idea is so easy to bring a professional, coordinated look to your designs. Show off your stitching as a patch, using the paper as a pretty backing: trim the fabric to size, leaving at least three aida blocks all around your design. Carefully fray one row of the aida blocks at the edges, using your fingers or a pair of tweezers to pull the threads, one by one, to create a fringe.

Now choose your card blank and patterned paper. Use a single-fold card, rather than an

aperture card, either making your own from a cardstock sheet or buy from Craft Creations*. Look for a paper with a small-scale print to coordinate with your project, but not dominate the stitching which you want to shine. Buy a pad of different papers by suppliers like Papermania* or Trimcraft*, sold as 6x6in selections for great value, or look out for downloadable papers to print your own.

For free patterned papers to download for every occasion, visit our sister website www.cardmakingandpapercraft.com



Cute as a button

In a similar way to sequins and gems, buttons can be great for adding an accent onto your cards, with a vibe that's less about the shimmer and more about the 3D. You'll need to factor this in, as your card is likely to need more postage if it has a button, but it's certainly a sweet decoration to use – so this idea's definitely one to remember for cards you want to hand-deliver. Glue Dots* 'Mini Glue Dots', £3.99 for a roll, are the adhesive we recommend

to make sure buttons stay secure. This pretty mixed pack '20g Pack Pastel Mix Buttons' (5/2PAST) to buy at The Ribbon Girl* is just 95p and has a selection that'll be great on cards for all occasions.

Also, we love using darker colours of buttons on greetings for men, as these are the perfect masculine accent. Simply knotted with a bit of hemp twine or natural-colour stranded cotton before you stick them on, they make a fab decoration!



*For stockists see page 90

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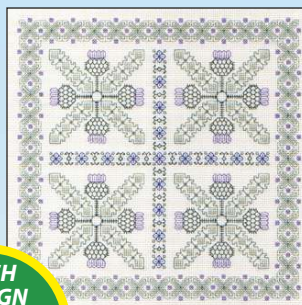
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Colour and black & white charts in the pack together with full instructions.

Design size: 132 x 132 stitches

The models shown were stitched on 16 hpi Antique white Aida

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The Patchwork Rabbit

Seek inspiration, find joy...

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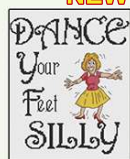


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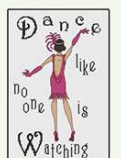
8" x 10", 14hpi
CHART £5.00 KIT £15.00



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Ask the experts

Our panel of professionals are here to help you with your cross stitch dilemmas – however large or small



Ruth Southorn

Ruth, our Editor, has been a cross stitcher since she was tiny and is ready to share everything she knows



Anne MacGregor

Anne can answer even the most difficult technical questions with her encyclopedic knowledge and skills



Jenny Barton

Design pro, Jenny has been creating projects for us for years and is ready to take on your design challenges



Fiona Smith

With her ears to the ground for the hottest stitching merchandise, Fiona's all set to search out the stash you need



Katriel Costello

Stitching guru Katriel has worked in the industry for years, so has ample knowledge to answer any queries

CONTENTS

34 IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Carol Solyst has tips on Mill Hill seed beads

35 WISHES GRANTED

Jenny's created an archaeology design

36 FRIENDLY ADVICE

Help from fellow stitchers on working large projects

36 TECHNIQUE FOCUS

"I'm not used to using fabric which isn't printed!"

37 DESIGN ROUND-UP

Find fab elegant ladies in our design collection

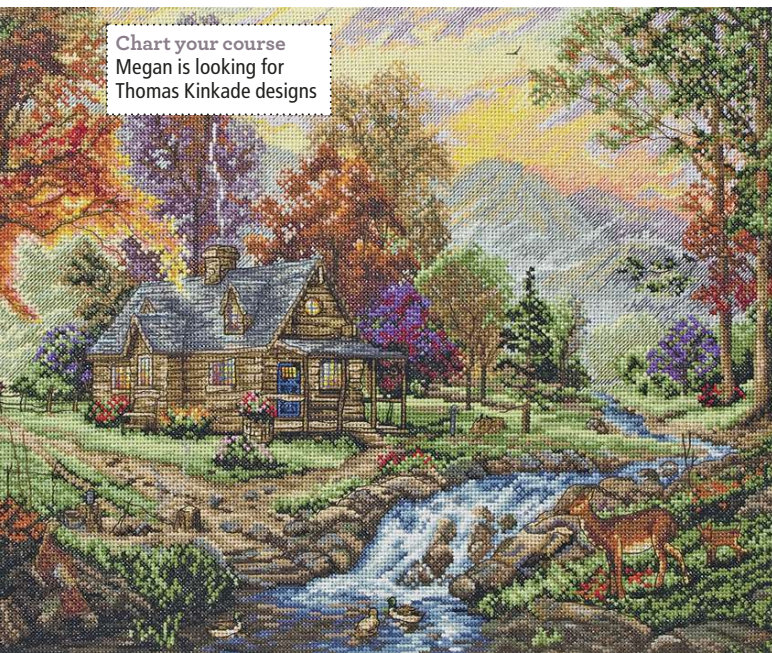


Chart your course

Q I was wondering if you could help me? I'm looking to make a special project for my mum, and I'm specifically looking for a Thomas Kinkade pattern, but just the chart and not a kit? I'd really appreciate it!

Megan Brown, via Facebook

A Katriel says: The artwork by Thomas Kinkade converted to cross stitch is so beautiful, so it'd certainly be a special gift. Unfortunately, we're not aware of any chart-only designs – we've hunted high and low and can only find kit ideas. Like this one from the maia collection, 'Mountain Retreat', which is a very atmospheric scene. The kit (5678000-01223) is complete with 16-count cream aida, for a detailed finish which'll measure 27x34cm (10½x13¼in), for £47.70 from Anchor*. ➤

Shine on

Q Do you have any suggestions for working with DMC's Light Effects thread? I am finding it hard to work with. My pattern says to use two strands.

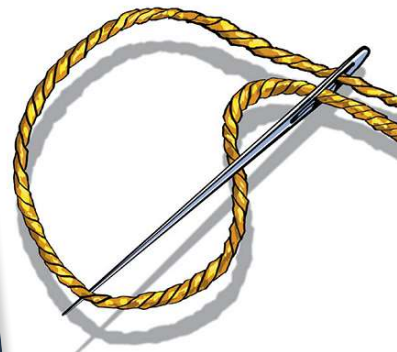
Judy Little, Michigan

A Anne says: When using any metallic threads, cut a shorter length of thread than you would normally use for stranded cottons. If you're using two strands, secure the thread on your needle by doubling the thread to make a loop, then pass the loop through the eye of the needle. Take the loop over the tip of the needle, then pull the thread

to form a small knot right at the needle's eye, as seen in our diagrams.

Use a needle one size larger than you'd normally use, as the larger eye helps to open up the fabric hole slightly, letting the thread pass through with less fraying. Secure the thread at the back of your stitching by leaving a slightly longer tail than normal – metallic threads are springy, so a firm fix is especially important to prevent them slipping free.

Also, use a thread conditioner like Thread Heaven (available from Sew and So*) to also prevent the thread from fraying.



Shine on
Metallic thread needs to be treated differently to stranded cotton

In the spotlight

CAROL SOLYST, DESIGN DIRECTOR, MILL HILL

Beautiful beads

Q I love to use beading to make my designs special, but I've realised over the years that I have accumulated quite a few packs of part-used beads. They are by Mill Hill, which is the brand you seem to feature in your designs, but my question is, how come some of them are just called Seed Beads and some are called Antique Seed Beads? What is the difference?

Bharti Manuptri, via email

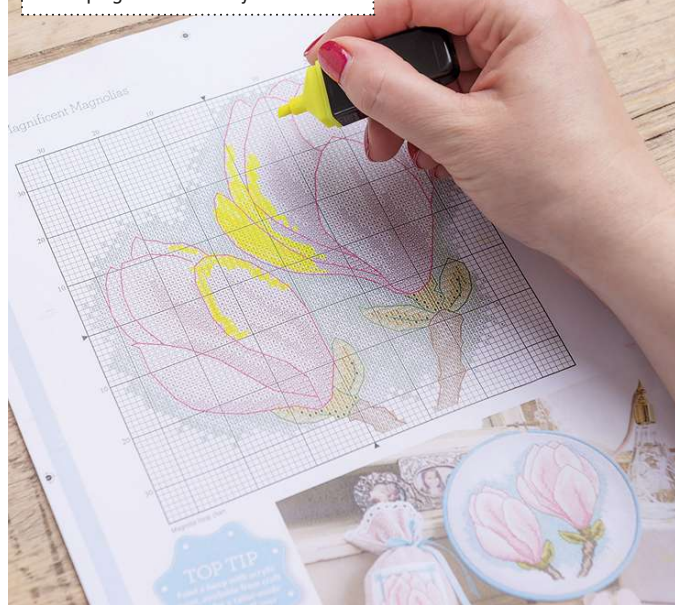
A Carol says: Good question Bharti. In fact, this is a historical difference and now the ranges have been simplified. The Mill Hill* antique seed beads beginning

with the 03 number once had an antique finish. Nowadays that finish is no longer applied, which means there is no difference between the antique beads (beginning with 03) and regular seed beads (beginning with 02).

I'd focus on the different styles applied to the beads, such as crystal, lined or opaque. Understanding the characteristics of these styles will help determine which beads you choose to get the desired effect for your project. This is the method used by designers when selecting bead types to use in their designs.



Highlight of the day
Using a highlighter on a copy of the chart is the easiest and cheapest method for keeping track of what you've stitched



Highlight of the day

Q I am kind of new to cross stitch... when you are stitching, do you cross off what you have done on your pattern sheets, so you know where you are up to?

Sue Howe, via Facebook

A Ruth says: One way is for you to take a photocopy of your pattern before you start stitching and then you can use a highlighter pen to cross off the stitches you've worked, as you stitch. I find this is an easy option – a very inexpensive and quick solution – to keep track of what's next and where I've already been. Or, check out page 25 for removable highlighter tape to use on charts! There are also products on the market like the 'Magnetic Board' with ruler by DMC*, which holds your chart on a magnetic sheet and helps you keep your place.

Do the 'floss toss'!

Q What methods do people use to determine what colour aida to use for a project? I recently purchased a pattern and want to make sure the finished item will not be spoiled by a hideous background!

Jodi Cartlidge, via Facebook

A Anne says: Don't worry Jodi, this is easily solved by trying out the threads needed for your project laid out on top of the fabric before you stitch. It's sometimes called a "floss toss", a phrase used widely by American stitchers (who often use the term floss for their stranded cottons). Stand back a little from the colours to see if the overall effect is complementary, and try out a few different fabric options to see what the finished effect will be like.

Chalkboard-chic designs

Q I just loved the chalkboard ice-skate design by Helz Cuppleditch in issue 222. Can you tell me where I can find others like it?

Nadine Boudreau, via email

A Fiona says: I'm sorry to say that this ice-skates design was an exclusive created especially for us here at *The World of Cross Stitching*.

We are aware of other chalkboard theme kits produced by US-based manufacturers, so you could look out for those. Some festive ones by the company Dimensions* and some with a floral theme, like this one

Chalkboard-chic designs
Nadine is looking for more 'chalkboard-style' cross stitch charts

'Welcome Friends Chalkboard' by Design Works, which is available to buy at I Love Cross Stitch*. The kit is complete with 14-count black aida and the pretty finished design will measure 35x25cm (14x10in) so look out for it, priced £21.99.



Wishes granted



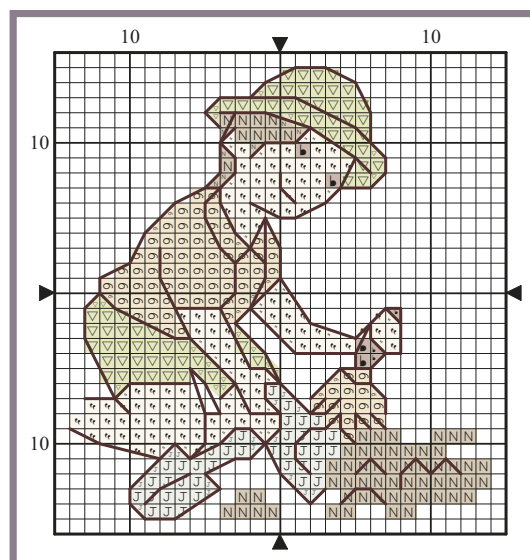
Request a design and our resident design expert, Jenny, might just chart it for you...

The big dig!
Patricia is looking for a quick and easy archaeology design

Q My granddaughter is studying archaeology at university. I'm looking for a quick, simple design incorporating something to do with this for a card. Can you help me, please?

Patricia Fortune, via email

A Jenny says: What a lovely idea for a card Patricia. I've come up with this design of an archaeologist hard at work with the tools of the trade. Hopefully it is just what you are looking for, to make for your granddaughter!



Archaeology key

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
o	437	362	2012	tan
J	648	900	1814	grey
N	840	1084	1912	brown
e	948	892	306	peach
▽	3348	264	1409	green
b	3371	382	2004	dark brown

✕ Backstitch in one strand

—	3371	382	2004	dark brown
---	------	-----	------	------------

STITCH COUNT 30 high x 28 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 5.5x5cm (2¼x2in)

This design was stitched using DMC stranded cotton

Please note: Jenny can only fit in fairly small designs and for copyright reasons she is unable to chart logos, or characters from films and TV.



Special thanks

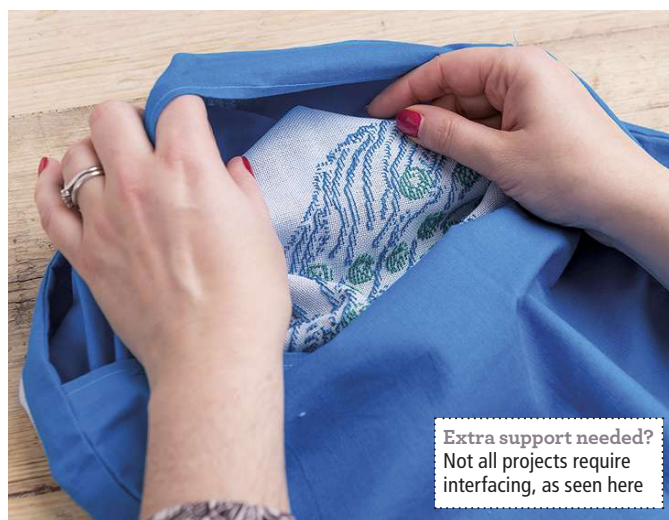
Q I'm getting married in October and wanted to do a cross stitch gift for my bridesmaids to keep. Any suggestions?

Rhian Lewis, via email

A Ruth says: What about making pretty gift bags? You could pop in some jewellery or chocs and they can keep the bags afterwards. 'Echinacea and Butterflies II' by Vervaco (113541) is £15.60 for the kit to make all three bags. Order it at Sew & So*.



Special thanks
Pretty gift bags will make unique pressies – these use 18-count aida



Extra support needed?

Q I'm currently stitching a cushion. Should I put a light-weight interfacing on to stabilise it once finished? Any help would be appreciated!
Donna Vickers was Bannon, via Facebook

A Ruth says: Adding an interfacing to back your design before you make it up into a cushion shouldn't be particularly necessary Donna.

Really, it would only be a concern, and therefore worth adding the interfacing, if you envisage taking the cushion pad in and out a lot, for example, to wash the cushion cover. In this case, the interfacing would act as a protective layer reducing the amount of rubbing on the back of your stitches by the removal of the cushion pad.

STITCHING HELP!

Don't forget to send all your stitchy questions and design requests in to us!

Email us at:
experts@cross-stitching.com

Write to:
Ask the Experts, The World of Cross Stitching, Immediate Media, Tower House, Fairfax Street, Bristol BS1 3BN

Send in queries via Facebook too:



We will try and answer your questions as soon as we can, but if you're working to a specific deadline then do let us know!

Friendly advice

We asked our Facebook fans what were their tips for stitching large projects? Here's what they said...

facebook



✖ **Malvina Yock:** I make sure I photocopy the pattern and use a highlighter to mark off where I've stitched. If I miss out a stitch I can circle it with a pen, so I can go back and restitch.

✖ **Lisa Masterson:** I use a working copy of my chart, then I break it into blocks of 10x10 stitches marking off blocks as I do them.

✖ **Diane Stone Gullett:** I thread three needles of the same colour when working on a bigger piece that uses lots of the same colour.

✖ **Erika Disher:** I laminate the pattern and then use

a whiteboard marker to mark off the areas I have completed. This way I can also wipe the marker off to check my work.

✖ **Samantha Campion:** Gridding, and park-and-stitch methods help me. But I find having small projects to break up the monotony is the thing that really helps keep me going.

✖ **Chel VanDeau:** I make sure I get plenty of sleep when tackling big projects. I find when I'm tired I make more mistakes and get more frustrated with trying to fix them. Plus I pick a time when it's quiet so I don't lose count.

✖ **Leigh Neri:** I make an enlarged copy of my chart and use a different colour gel pen everyday to mark off what I've stitched so I can see my progress quickly. I also take a photo each night.

✖ **John Thompson:** I use soft rubber jawed pegs to gather up excess fabric around the hoop to stop it getting in the way.

Find us on Facebook and join in with the chat. If you're lucky, your tip might appear here! Just log on to www.facebook.com/TheWorldofCrossStitching and hit 'like'!

QUICK Q&A

I 'm looking for someone who can make a cross stitch chart for me from a photo of my little schnauzer, called Sam. Can you help me?
Carole Jarvis, via email

Fiona says: *I think your best plan to capture Sam in stitches is to use the DMC* pack, called Stitch-a-Photo. When you buy the pack, it has all the details of how you can send off your photo to the DMC team who will create the chart for you. You can customise what size of design and number of threads you'd like to use. Order the pack for just £20.99.*



Photo finish
Well-known brand DMC can convert photos to charts

I 'm looking for an alternative to framing my cross stitches. I wonder if there are trays available that cross stitch pictures can be put in? Thank you
Jill Martin, via email

Katriel says: *I can definitely suggest a company which produces trays for mounting cross stitch. Look out for Fireside Reflections*, which produce square, rectangle and octagonal trays to display your work.*

TECHNIQUE FOCUS

Easy as 1, 2, 3...

Q I have done several tapestries over the past few years. For Christmas I was given a cross stitch kit. But when I opened it, I found the fabric is blank – there is no picture printed on it. Instead the picture is printed on paper. How do I get the design from the paper onto the fabric?

Sandra Noble, via email

A **Anne says:** Most cross stitch kits these days – and of course designs we feature here in the magazine, too – are counted cross stitch. Some manufacturers still produce kits with a design printed onto the aida or evenweave (called stamped cross stitch designs) and also cushion cross stitch kits using printed canvas, but counted cross stitch is more usual.

The latter uses the fabric, unprinted, plus a chart with key, for you to translate this into the finished design. You simply follow the chart grid, as each symbol on the chart corresponds to one stitch on the design. You don't transfer the pattern onto the fabric but count each stitch in turn, so if you can count to 10, then you'll be fine with your new kit!

Hopefully there's also an instruction sheet on the stitches needed – since of course the basic stitches needed are different to those for tapestry, and it should give details about following the chart.



Easy as 1, 2, 3...
Unlike tapestries, or stamped cross stitch (like this cushion kit) with the pattern printed on the fabric, counted cross stitch uses a chart. See our guide (p96) on how to work counted cross stitch

Design round-up

We've hand-picked a selection of kits & charts of the most stylish women you can find in stitches

Elegant Ladies

READY-SORTED THREADS

A WALK IN THE 20TH CENTURY



This kit (PCE950) by Anchor shows us just how much styles have changed through the decades. The chart is printed over four A4 pages and two sets are provided, one with and one without backstitch. There's plenty of depth, through the shading and the variety of stitch techniques. Available from Arts and Designs* and Anchor* stockists.

Stitch count – 161 high x 273 wide, finished size 25x42.5cm (10x17in) on 16-count white aida

£32

ART DECO CHIC

EVELYN

There's much to enjoy about this glamorous kit (XTR1) by Bothy Threads*, and available at Arts and Designs*... this beauty oozes style and colour and the clean, flowing lines of her dress are elegance itself. Seed beads and metallic threads are used to depict the 20s style, while salmon, dusty pink and cranberry add rich colour. Two needles are included with the kit, one to use when working whole cross stitch and a finer needle for the beading.

Stitch count – 190 high x 137 wide, 34x24.5cm (13½x9¾in) on 14-count white aida



£29.99

ALL SIMPLE STITCHES

THE BELLES OF THE BALL

This chart download (MHD 97011) from Stitch Direct* comprises eight pages of black-and-white chart and 43 thread colours. The large-size design will give you many pleasurable stitching hours, but won't pose too many technical difficulties since it's created in whole stitches and backstitch only, and the background is minimally worked.

Stitch count – 214 high x 332 wide, 38x59cm (15¼x23¾in) on 28-count evenweave



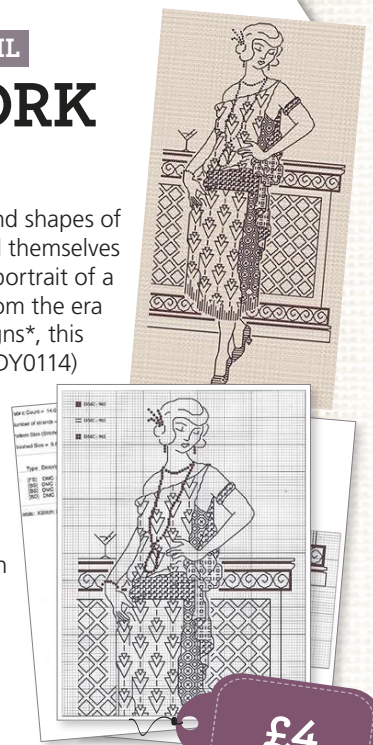
£8

SEED BEADS ADD DETAIL

BLACKWORK LADY

The geometric patterns and shapes of the Art Deco period lend themselves to blackwork, as this elegant portrait of a beautifully-dressed woman from the era proves. From Maria Diaz Designs*, this downloadable chart pack (LADY0114) includes the easy-to-use chart pdf, printed in black and white, over two pages. Blackwork is an effective technique using intricate repeat patterns of double running stitch (or backstitch) in a single colour – here in a rich burgundy, to stand out on a neutral fabric.

Stitch count – 163 high x 79 wide, 29x14cm (11½x5½in) on 14-count aida



£4

*For stockists see page 90

DESIGN BY **DIANE MACHIN**

Indulge yourself

Decorate your crafty corner with this oh-sew-pretty bunting, the perfect way to celebrate your hobby

There's always an occasion to stitch for, be it a birthday, a new baby or a special anniversary, so fitting in a project you've had your eye on isn't always an option. That's why we want you to promise that you'll take time out from that hectic stitching schedule to make this beautiful bunting, just for you! With a mix of pretty roses and cross stitch-inspired motifs, it's a great way to add a vintage-style feel to your home, while showing off your passion for stitching.

Worked in just a few soft shades, each triangle is easy to finish using only simple stitches – no French knots here! It'll be the perfect project if you're a beginner looking to stretch

Factbox

- ✕ **Stitching Time**
Approx. 25 hours
- ✕ **Type of Stitches**
Cross stitch, fractionals, backstitch
- ✕ **Ease of Stitching**
Advanced beginner

Stitch in a fortnight

your skills with an exciting new making up idea. If you've a bit more experience, you'll be sure to whizz through it in no time at all.

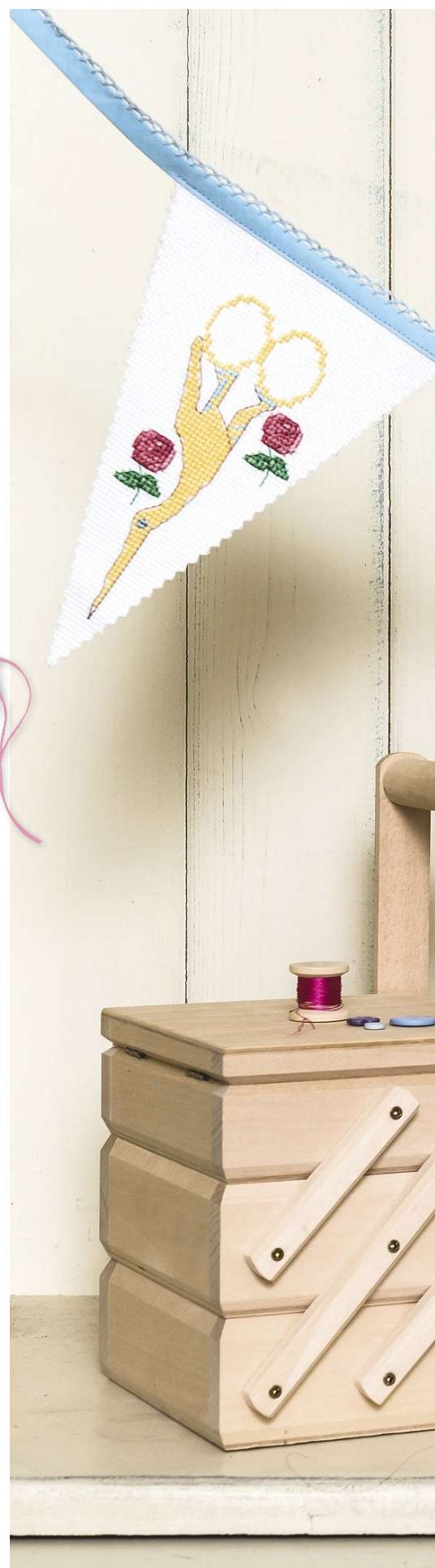
Simply follow our step-by-step instructions on page 43 to finish up your bunting, and you'll be brightening up a plain wall in style. ➤



Meet the designer

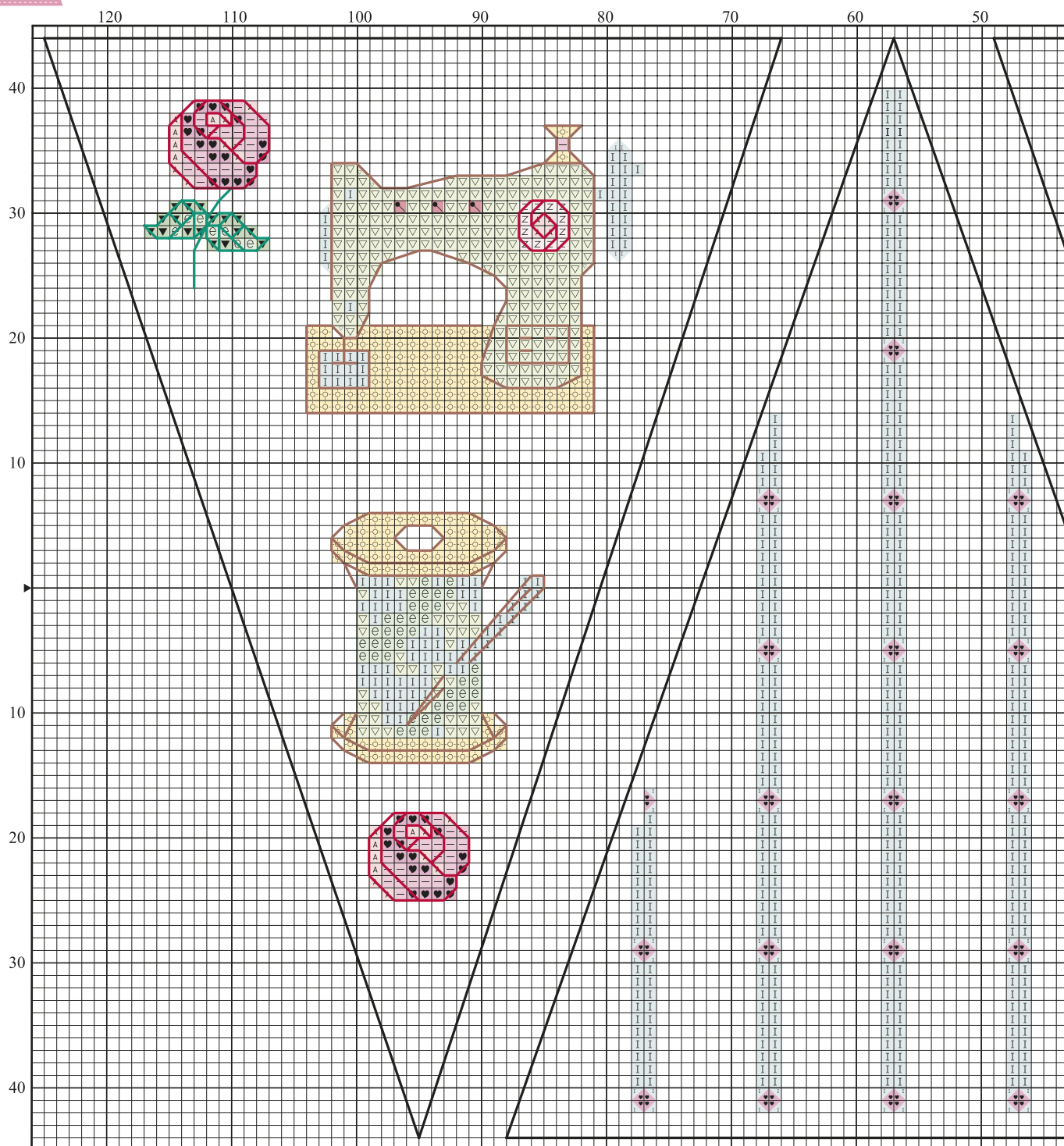
Diane Machin

"I love pretty floral patterns and all things vintage, so it was a real pleasure to combine them with cross stitch accessories for this clever bunting! I hope you enjoy stitching it as much as I enjoyed designing it."



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Adorn your home
with a string of stylish
cross stitch-themed
bunting – a must for
anyone who's nifty with
needle and thread!



Decorative Bunting chart (left)

Decorative Bunting key

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
▽	369	1043	1309	almond green
■	451	233	1808	shell grey
⊙	744	301	112	yellow
z	818	23	502	baby pink
▼	912	209	1213	green
e	954	203	1207	light green
q	961	76	610	dark pink
—	962	75	609	pink
■	3350	42	603	dark rose pink
A	3716	25	503	light pink

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
♥	3731	39	506	rose pink
I	3761	928	1001	turquoise

✕ Backstitch in one strand

—	451	233	1808	shell grey
—	910	228	1302	dark green
—	3350	42	603	dark rose pink

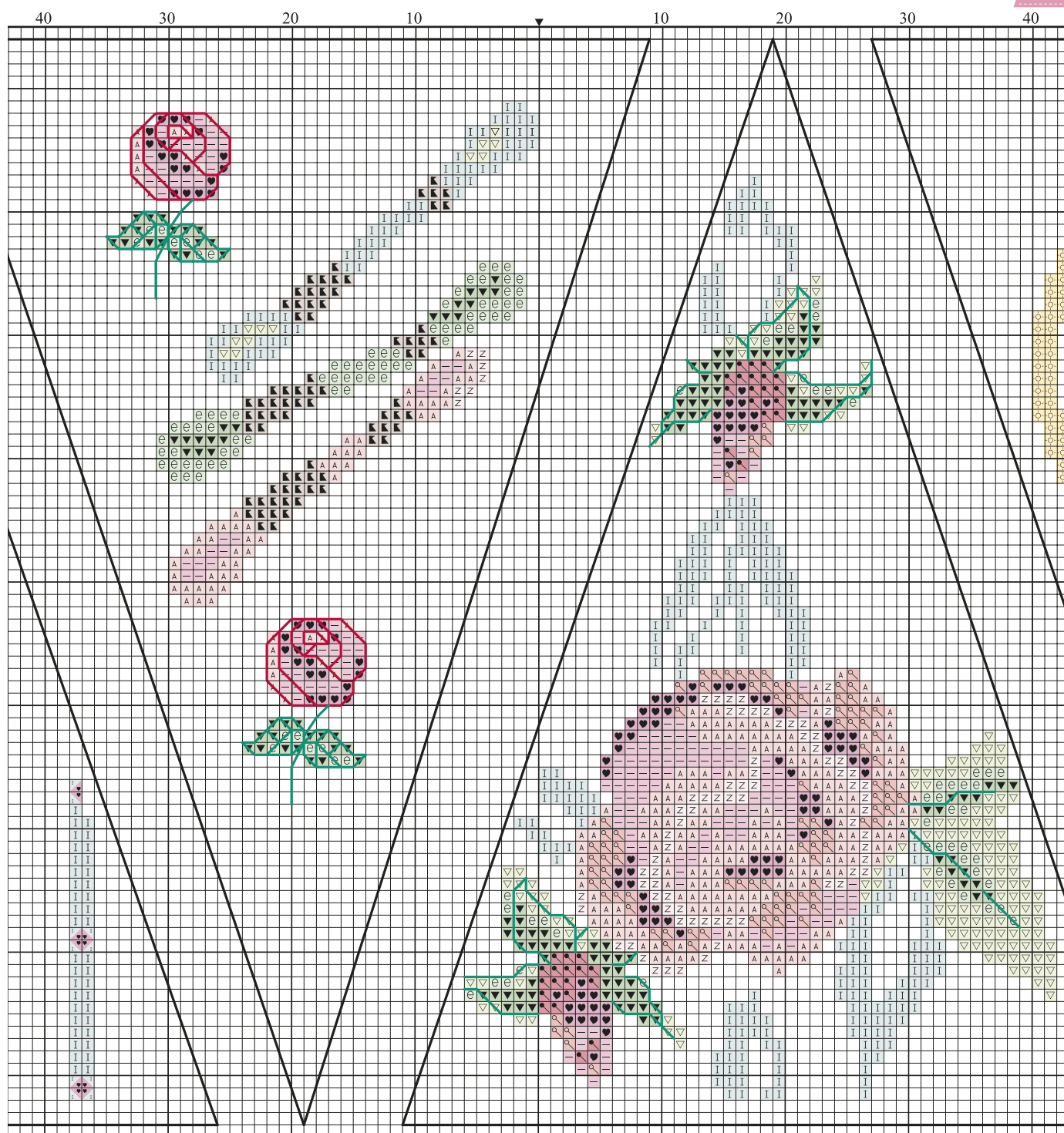
✕ Cutting line, do not stitch

—				
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STITCH COUNT 84 high x 56 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 15x10cm (6x4in)

These designs were stitched using DMC stranded cotton



Decorative Bunting chart (middle)

Shopping list

- ✂ Zweigart* 14-count white aida measuring 25x66cm (10x26in)
- ✂ Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- ✂ Size 24 tapestry needle
- ✂ Iron-on interfacing and bias binding or trim of choice

Thread & fabric cost
Approximately £15

*For stockists see page 90

Louise READER PANEL

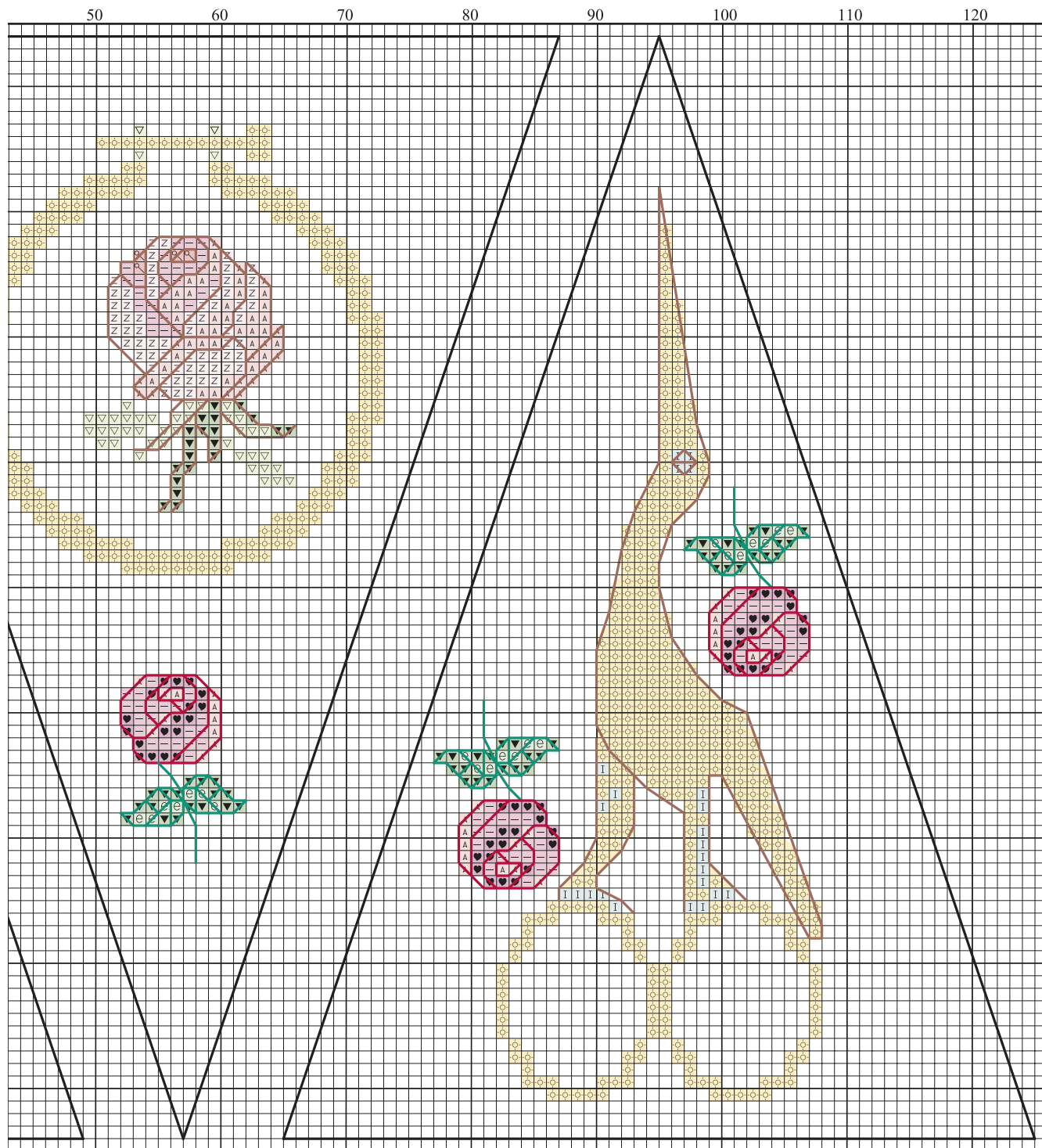


“This stichy bunting would look fab finished and hung up in my house. I just can’t wait to get stitching on this.”

TOP TIP

- To make the bunting longer, either repeat some of the pennants or add triangles of pretty patterned fabric between your stitched designs





Decorative Bunting chart (right)



How to...

stitch your bunting

We've charted Diane's designs so that you can make best use of the fabric area and minimise wastage. Use 14-count aida as detailed in the Shopping List, leave the gaps indicated on the chart between each triangle, then you can easily trim between them without wasting any fabric.

If each pennant is being stitched separately, then use a 25x20cm (10x8in) aida piece for each one. Follow the same steps on page 43 to make up your bunting.

How to...

create the prettiest stitched bunting around

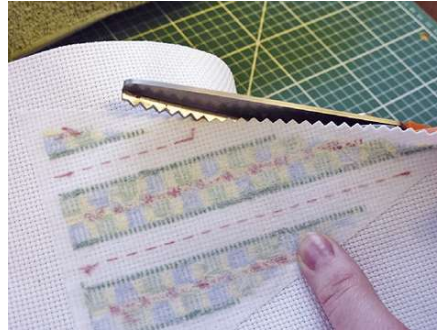
With Diane's charts and our easy guide, you'll have a sweet decoration to last all year...



1 Stitch all the pennants – either together on one fabric piece and then cut out along the cutting guidelines, or on individual aida pieces (as shown here). Then the finishing process is the same – for each pennant, cut a triangle of lightweight, iron-on interfacing, available from sewing shops. It gives your aida stability and also prevents fraying. Apply it to the back of your stitching with the 'glue' side down. It is better to iron a smaller piece to your larger base fabric, to avoid fusing the edges to your towel!

Technical Tip

Iron down on to a towel to avoid squashing the stitches.



2 Trim away the excess aida fabric and interfacing from the edges of your stitched triangle shape. We used pinking shears to cut around our bunting flags, following the basic outline of the stitching, but leaving a border of around 1cm (½in). Pinking shears are widely available in haberdasheries and sewing shops; ours are by Fiskars*. This will give a pretty finish to the pennant edges, but you can use regular, sharp fabric scissors if you prefer. Repeat these steps for all the triangle pennants.

Technical Tip

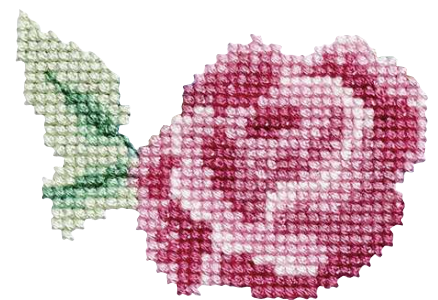
Use a paper template to cut out your triangles, so they're all identical.



3 Pin the top edges of your triangles along the length of a bias binding strip, inserting the triangle tops inside the bias binding fold, taking care to keep the spacing even. For an even easier option (as seen in our main project photo!) use a pretty trim and pin each pennant at the back. Leave a good length at each end to hang up your bunting, and check before you start sewing that you're happy with the spacing. Machine- or hand-stitch to secure the pennants in place.

Technical Tip

Make longer bunting by using patterned fabric triangles in-between.



“ I love making handmade decorations for my home, and this bunting is perfect, as it captures my love of all things stitchy so well. I will definitely be stitching some to go up in my craft corner! ”



FIONA, PRODUCTION EDITOR

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Friends till the end

STITCH UP A BATCH OF THESE MOTIFS
FOR ALL THE PALS IN YOUR LIFE

31
FUN
IDEAS



Make these designs by Jenny Barton
that celebrate everything to do with friendship

- ✕ 31 quick-and-easy motifs
- ✕ Jenny Barton's design inspiration
- ✕ Stitches for every skill level
- ✕ Helpful tips and advice
- ✕ Unique present ideas for the special people in your life



FRIENDS FOR LIFE

Friendships *do* improve with time, so stitch this design (20) for a longtime friend! Mount in a square aperture card from Craft Creations* (AP53U) in marine blue.



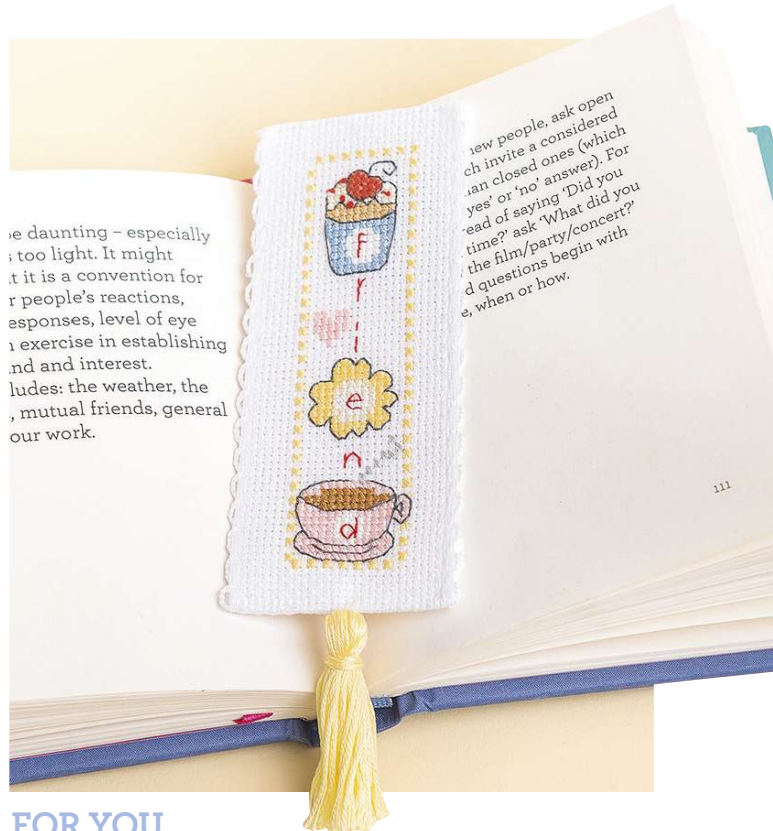
WHAT A HOOT

This owl design (30) is perfect for a friend with wisdom and always a kind word for you! Ours is mounted on a mini canvas available from high street stores.



SWEET TWEETINGS

Let a friend know they have a special place in your heart with this sweet motif (6)! Ours is made into a hanging with backing fabric, wadding and cord of choice.



FOR YOU

Stitch this bookmark (31) as a great gift idea for friends or fellow book club members. Stitch onto 5cm (2in) wide white aida band and add a homemade tassel.



BREWED TO PERFECTION

Tea supping friends will love this design (2)! Mount in a square aperture card from Craft Creations* (AP10U) in creative hamper white and decorate with twine.



A TOAST TO YOU

Sharing a glass of bubbly is always more fun with friends (11)! Ours is patched onto a homemade gift tag and attached to a gift bag from high street stores.



WITH LOVE

Whip up this heartfelt design (13) in no time at all for last-minute gifts! Patch onto a gift tag from high street stores and attach with ribbon or cord of choice.



MAGICAL FRIENDS

Perfect for little friends who love anything to do with fairies (28)! Mount in a 10cm (4in) wooden hoop from your local craft shop for a cute decoration.

*For stockists, see page 90

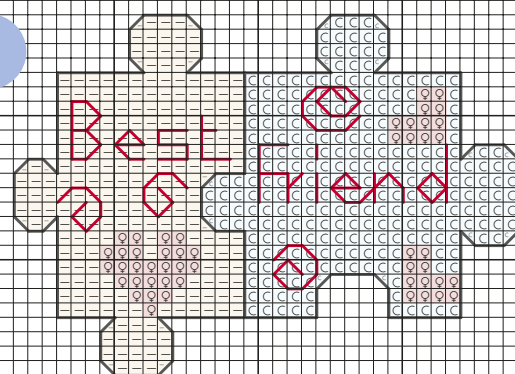
My inspiration

“I’ve included designs that should appeal to everyone in this set. There are funny, light-hearted motifs celebrating the joy of friends and the beauty of friendship. Stitch one or all, and show someone special how much you appreciate them!”

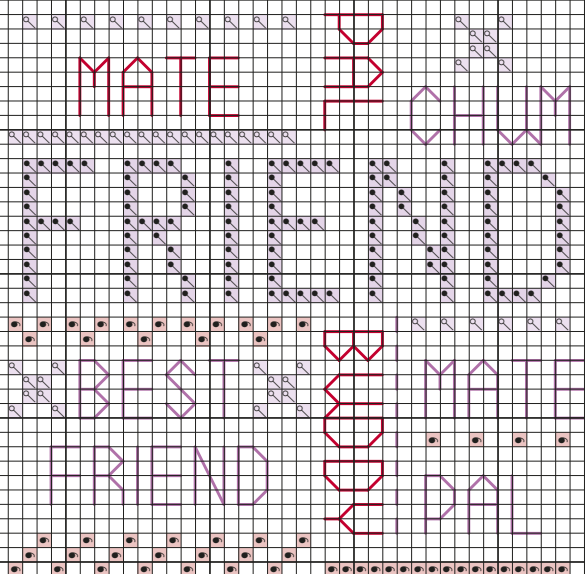
JENNY BARTON, DESIGNER



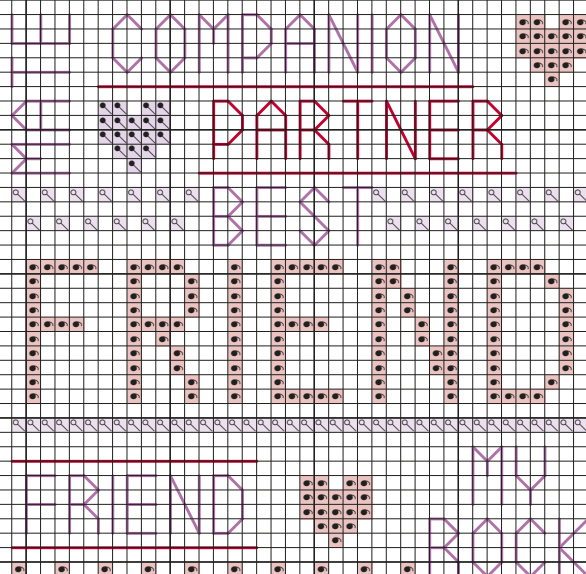
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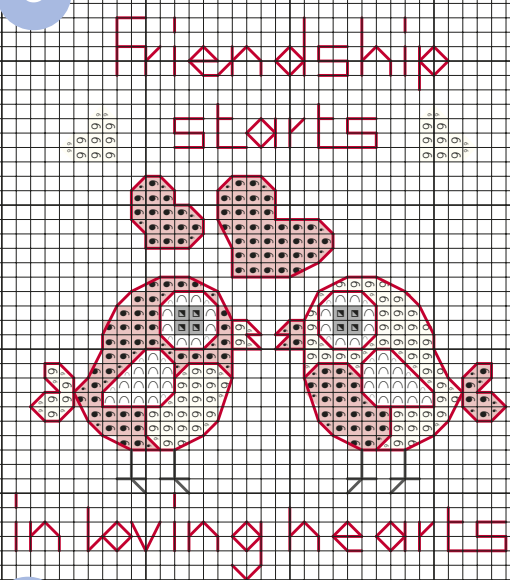
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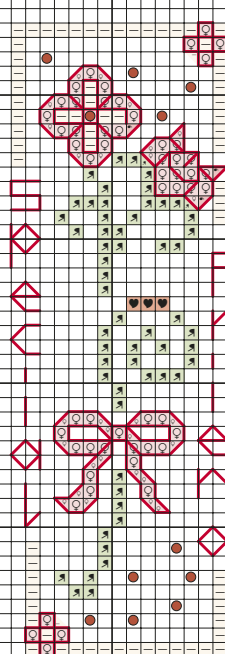
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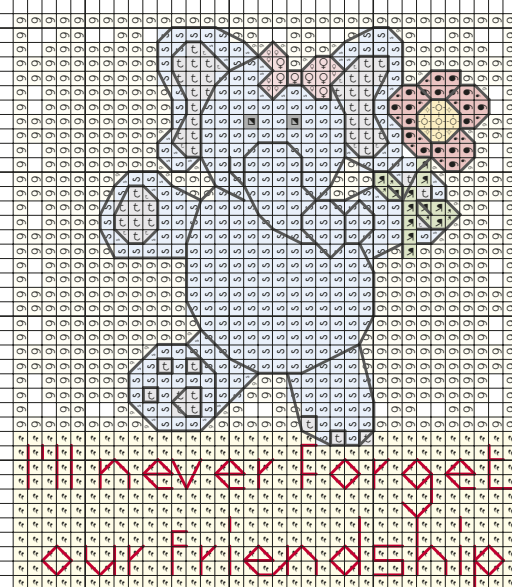
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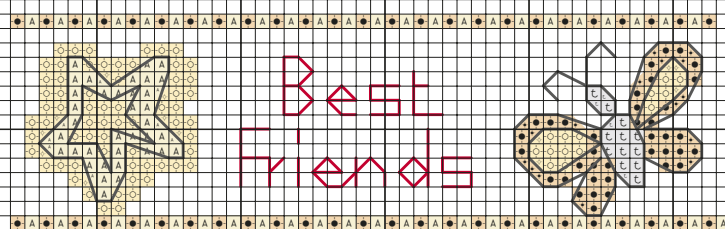
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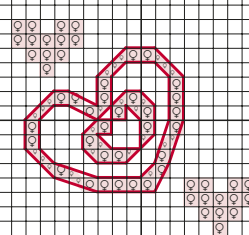
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12



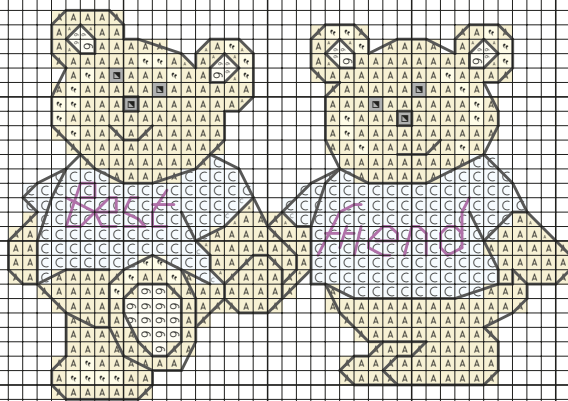
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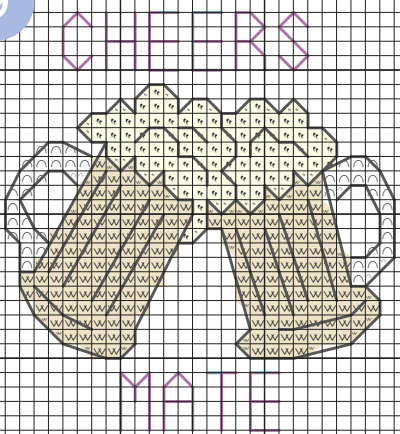
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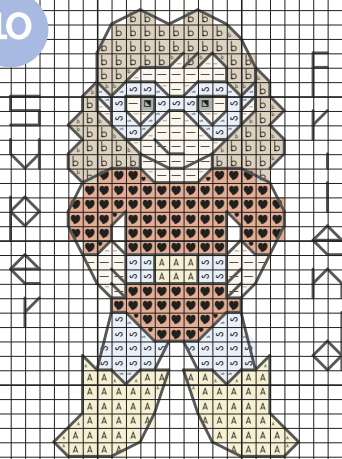
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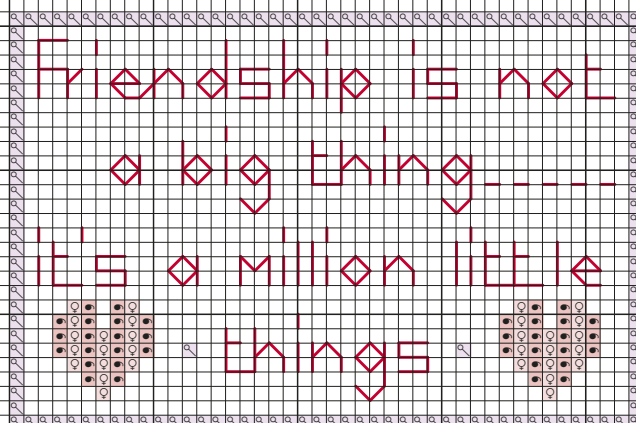
9



10



14



Friendship key

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
⌒	blanc	2	2402	white
t	168	1096	1708	light grey
●	209	98	803	lilac
●	210	108	802	light lilac
●	350	11	213	red
●	368	214	1310	green
●	435	1046	2010	tan
●	519	1038	1105	sea blue
A	677	886	2207	sand
w	738	367	2013	light tan
●	744	301	112	yellow
●	746	275	2511	cream
b	841	1082	1911	brown
—	948	892	306	peach
●	961	76	610	dark pink
o	963	73	502	light pink
s	3325	129	907	blue
Q	3716	25	503	pink
C	3756	1037	2504	light blue
■	3799	236	1713	dark grey
●	3854	313	114	apricot

✕ Backstitch in one strand

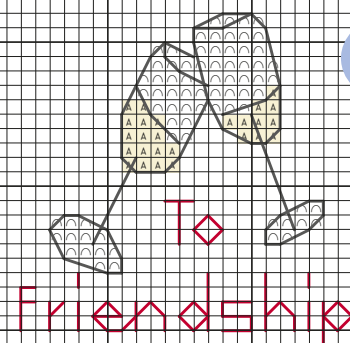
—	208	99	804	dark lilac
—	349	1098	212	dark red
—	413	235	1714	grey

✕ French knots in one strand

●	350	11	213	red
---	-----	----	-----	-----

These designs were stitched using DMC stranded cotton

11



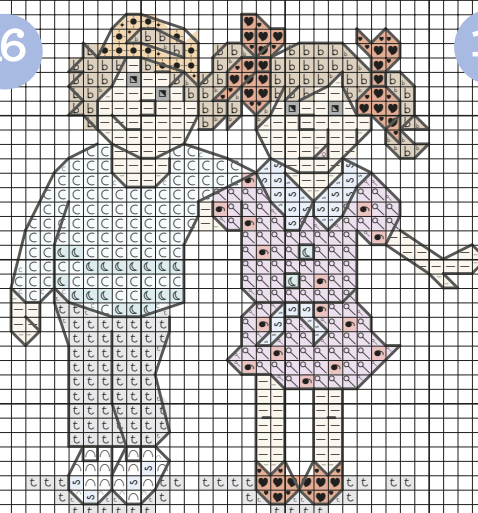
TOP TIP

Quick to stitch, these designs are a great way to experiment with different colour fabrics – save your scraps from larger projects!

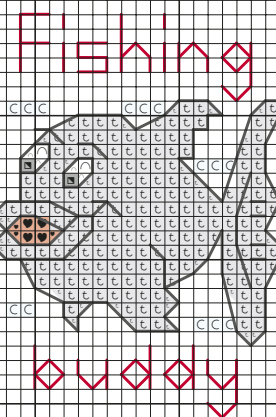
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16

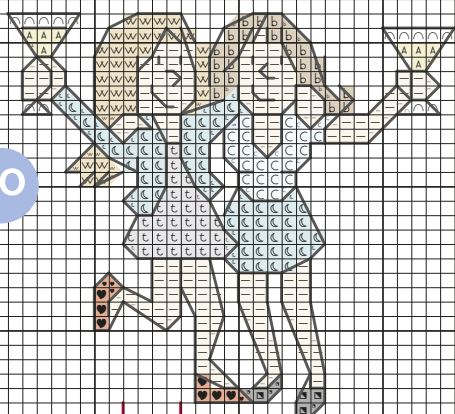


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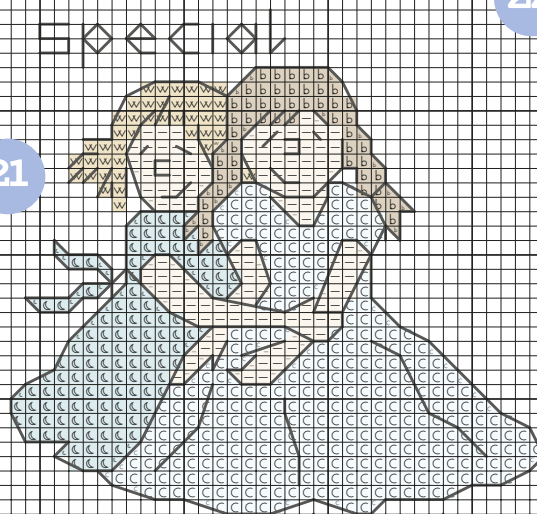


Friendship is like

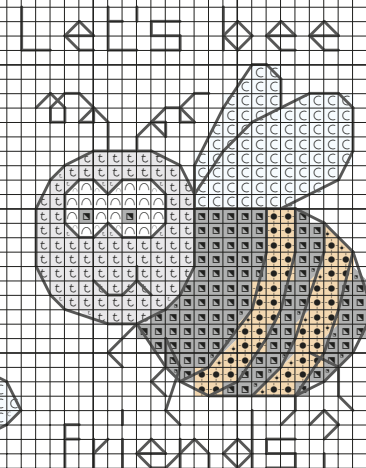
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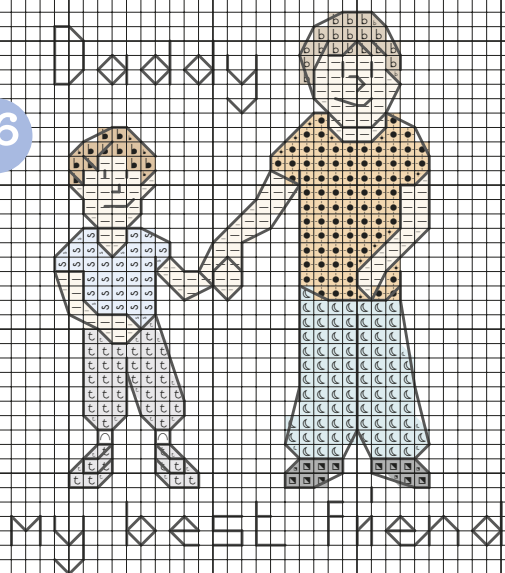
21



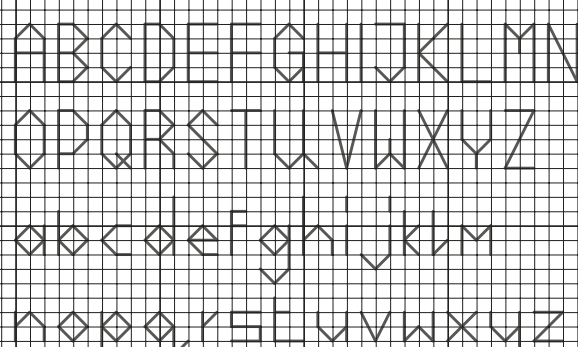
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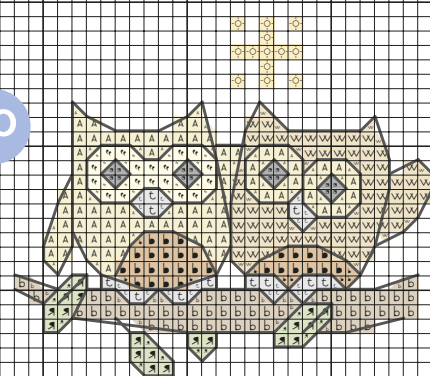
26



27



30

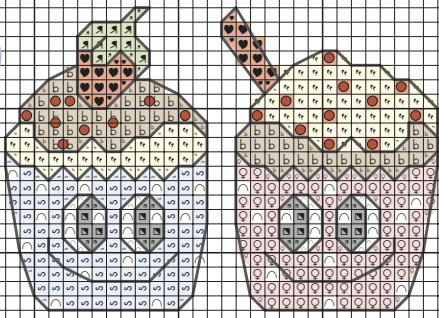


Jan READER PANEL

“These motifs are great – I love the friendship fairies. They’ll definitely be on my list to stitch for my granddaughters. I like the idea of displaying it in a hoop too, something I have yet to try.”

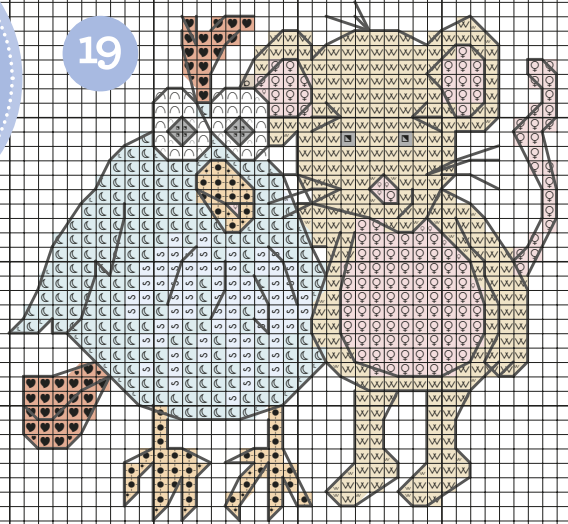
STITCH A
PERSONAL
MESSAGE
USING THE
ABC

18

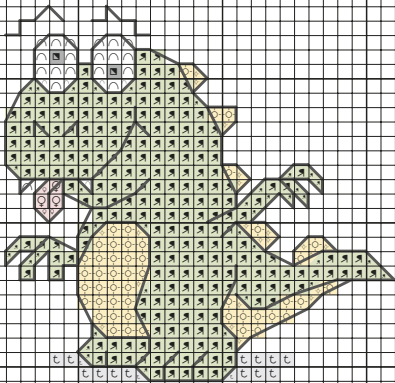


Best
Friends

19

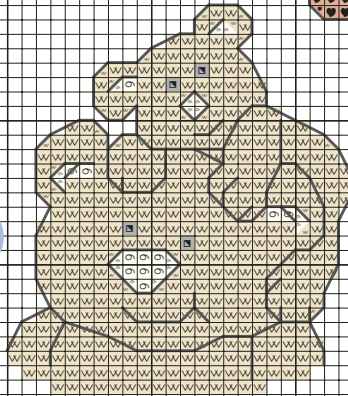


23



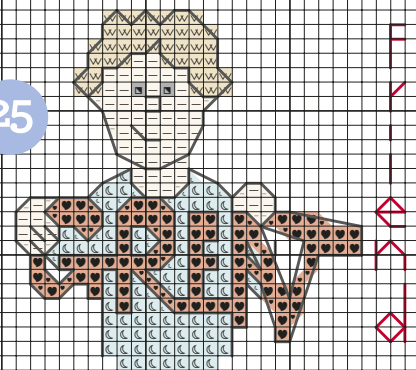
my Silly Friend

24

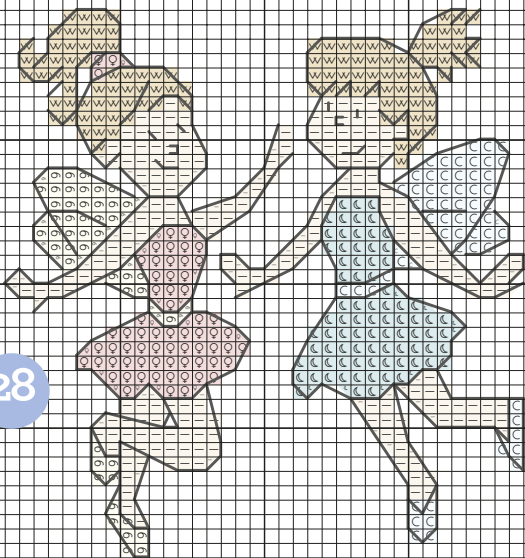


my bestest
Friend

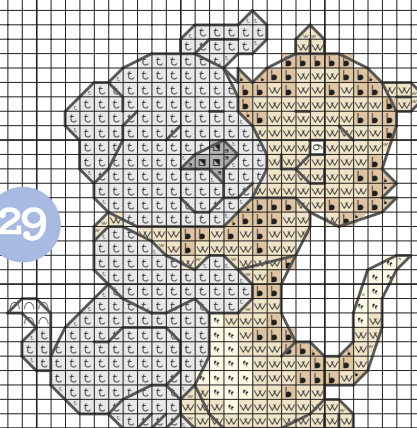
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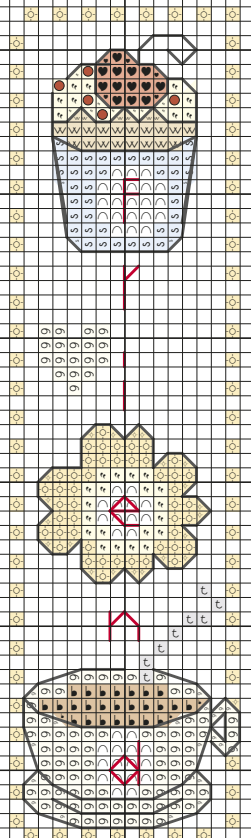
28



29



31



NEXT MONTH: AROUND THE WORLD!

Take a journey in stitches with Maria Diaz's fabulous travel designs that will take you around the world. Head down to the shops on 23 April to pick up your copy of issue 229, or subscribe and the issue will be delivered to your door. Find this month's fab money-saving subscription offer on page 44.



Turn to
page 44
to subscribe



Out & About

Get involved in the stitching fun this month – we've rounded up the most exciting campaigns, clubs and events so that you can join in with them all!

THE WORLD OF Cross Stitching CLUB OF THE MONTH

EMERALD ISLE CROSS STITCHERS CLUB

This group mostly chat and get together online as members are based across Ireland, so they don't often meet up, although it's fun when they do. They always have some kind of stitching exchange, round robin (RR) or Stitch-A-Long (SAL) on the go. Although they mostly are a 'virtual' club, "it's wonderful to know that we have stitching friends all over the country just a click of a mouse away". For more info, email lanybleu@gmail.com.

APPLY: Want to tell us about your club? Write to the address (p17) or email letters@cross-stitching.com



Stitched Memories

This exhibition features thirty rare samplers, which often include the alphabet, numbers, motifs, decorative borders, a verse, the name of the person who worked it and the date it was completed. The earliest sampler on show was made by Elizabeth Anna Maretz who proudly declared that she was seven years old when working the piece on 22 April 1736. Mary Laffoley, aged 10, made the sampler shown here in 1829.

MORE Visit **Hamptonne Country Life Museum, Jersey** **23 May to 3 September 2015.** For more info, visit www.jerseyheritage.org/whats-on/stitched-memories



Dates for May

23 APRIL

ON SALE: THE WORLD OF CROSS STITCHING

Issue 229 is filled with new designs, like fab Fizzy Moon, a folksy fox, gorgeous hydrangea cushion, fun word-art sayings, a chickens chefs set and a colourful cottage scene. Plus, three free gifts: a chartbook & two Madeira stranded cotton packs!

6, 13, 20 MAY

HAND STITCH BASICS

WESTHOPE COLLEGE, CRAVEN ARMS, SHROPSHIRE

Enjoy an introduction to hand embroidery, where you'll learn common stitches on an evenweave fabric, to create a sampler (like the one seen below). The three-session course costs £150, light lunches included on each day (10am-4pm). Find out more: www.westhope.org.uk/courses/embroidery.html

9 MAY

HISTORY OF BLACKWORK IN ONE EMBROIDERY

BASING HOUSE, BASINGSTOKE

Learn how to embroider like a Tudor lady – follow the history and developments of Blackwork embroidery in this beginner-friendly workshop, 11am-4pm. Costing £15, please email deborah.neubauer@hampshireculturaltrust.org.uk to book.

22 MAY

RENAISSANCE HAND EMBROIDERED NEEDLE CASE & SCISSOR FOB

ELLINGTON, CAMBS

Make a gorgeous holder for your needles and fob for your scissors! Day workshop costs £40, including kit of materials. Visit www.beeingcrafty.co.uk for more info.

Stitch by stitch! Create a stunning sampler design using basic embroidery



Answer: South Sumatra, Indonesia

WHERE AM I?

The monument behind me is called Monpera (Monumen Perjuangan Rakyat). It is placed in the centre of Palembang city. I visited it with my best friend and it became special because I brought my favourite cross stitch magazine with me.

Helna Desiana, via email



Send in your travel snaps!

Send us a photo of yourself with a copy of your favourite mag to 'Where Am I?' at our usual address, on page 17. If you're featured, you'll win a John Clayton kit from the Internationals range by Heritage Crafts*, worth £29.99.

* For stockists see page 90





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DESIGN BY **MONKEY BOO DESIGNS**

A perfect property

Usually hidden away from the prying eyes of us big people, you'll love stitching this magical miniature pixie house!



Everyone knows pixies live in the depths of forests and at the bottom of leafy gardens, but there are only a tiny handful of people who have ever actually seen them. Protected by special spells and clever disguises, they're almost invisible to the human eye, so we're thrilled to bring you a sneak peek into their world! Obviously we couldn't take a picture, as the pixies' magic means they wouldn't show up, but we have managed to replicate them in stitches just for you.

And what a project it is! Densely stitched and brimming with details galore, this insight into a land of folklore will keep you and your needle and thread busy. But, if you do take

Factbox

- ✕ **Stitching Time**
Approx. 85 hours
- ✕ **Type of Stitches**
Cross stitch, backstitch
- ✕ **Ease of Stitching**
Intermediate/ advanced

Fractional free!

on the challenge, you'll be rewarded with a wonderful treasure to display proudly in your home. Plus, it's not as technically difficult as you might think – worked in whole cross stitch and backstitch only, it's plenty of colour changes that'll help you bring the magic of this world to life! ➤



Meet the designers

Monkey Boo Designs

Say hello to our designer duo... Monkey Boo Designs is a card design company run by Angela Wells with illustrator partner Emma Vallis. We love their whimsical images! Read more on page 62.

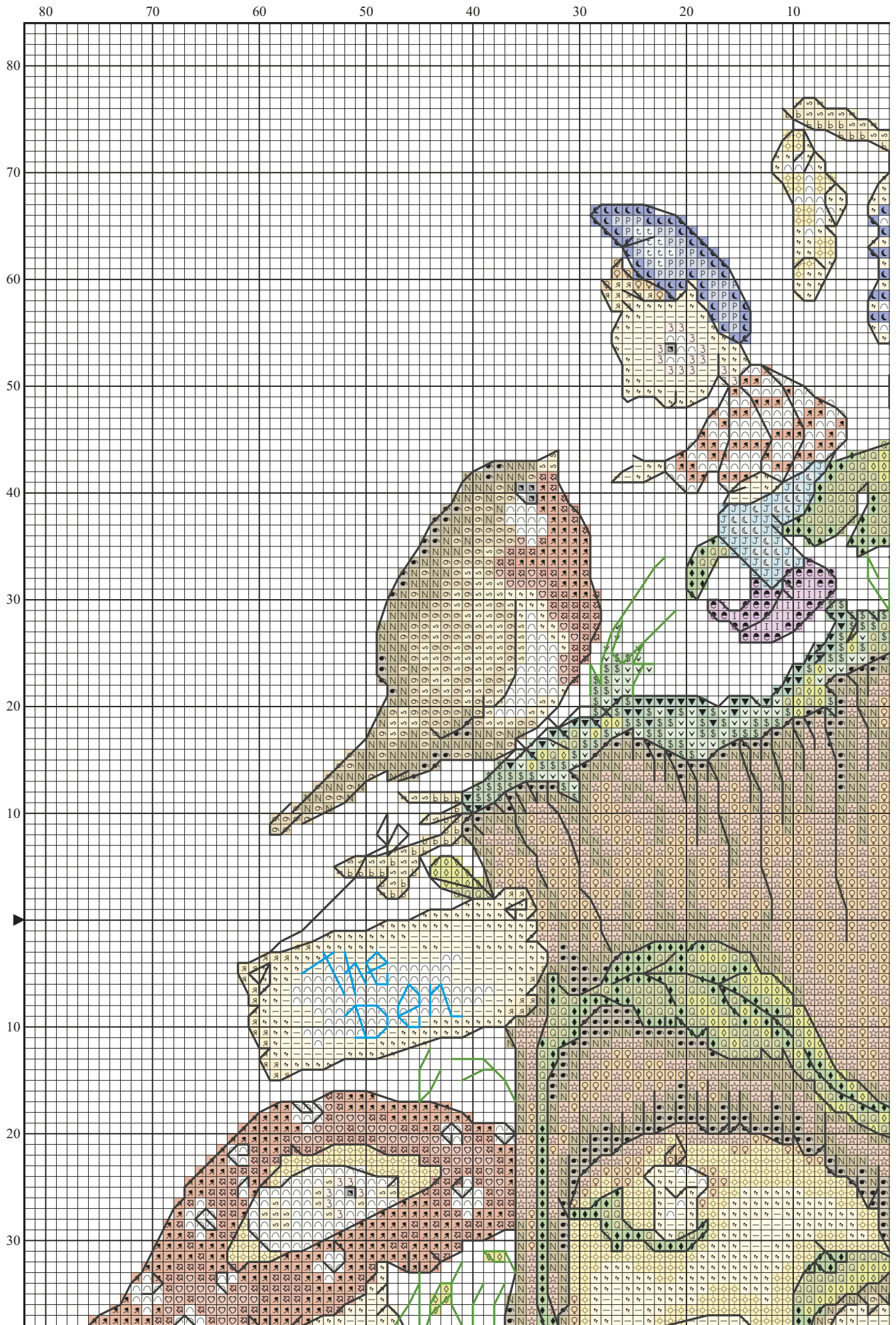


THE WORLD OF Cross Stitching

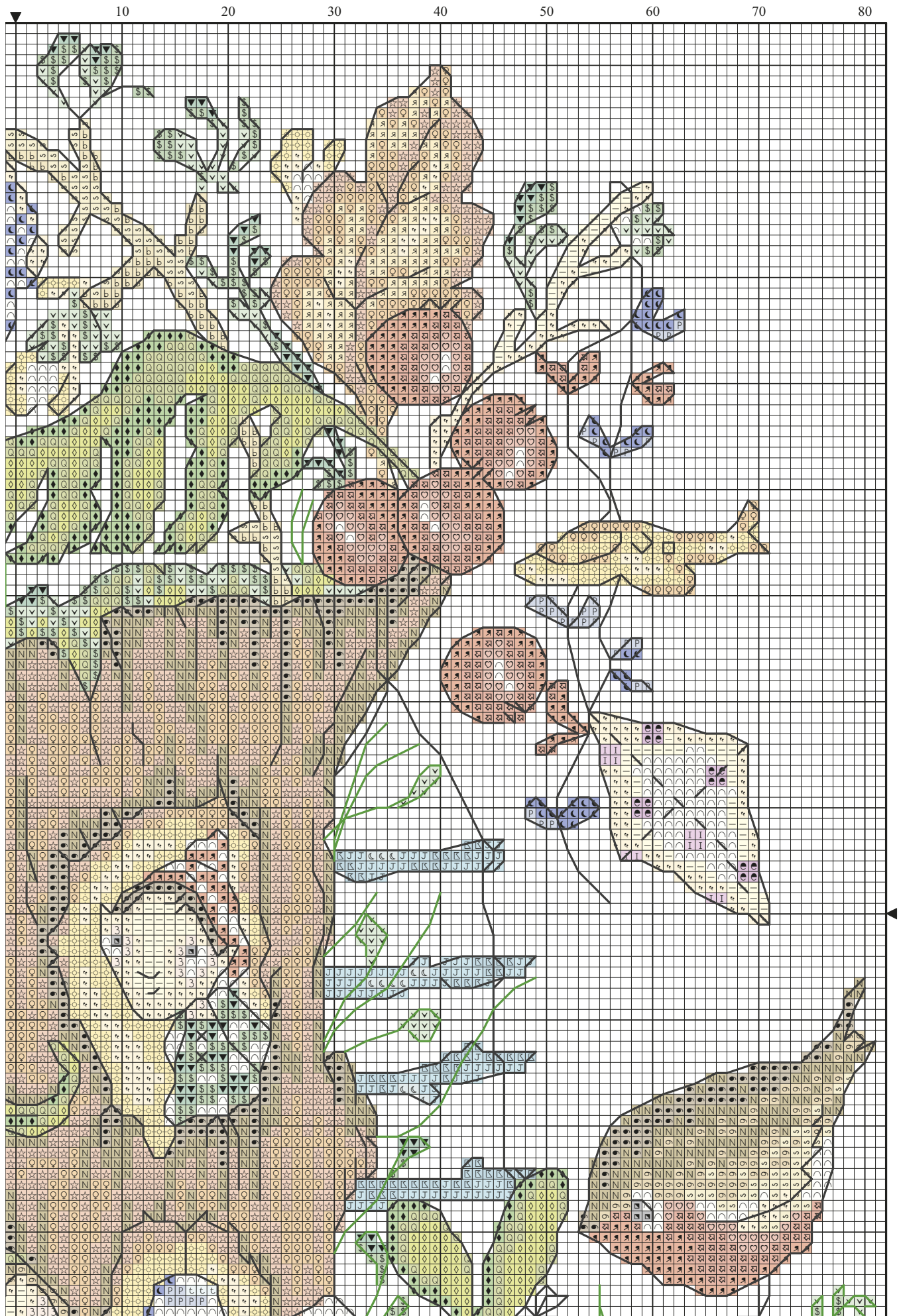
STITCHER'S CHALLENGE



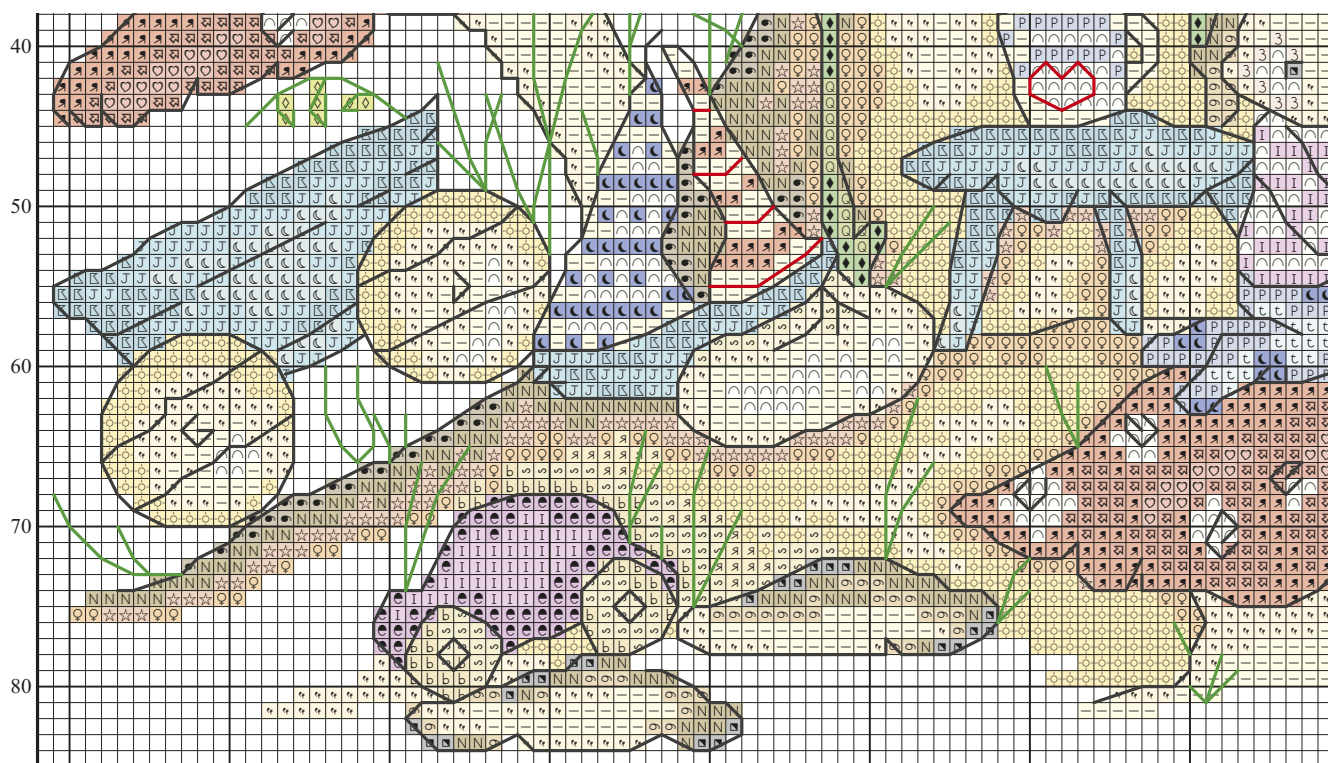
Enchant your needle and thread with a world of magic and wonder – once you start stitching, you won't be able to stop!



Pixie House chart (top left)



Pixie House chart (top right)

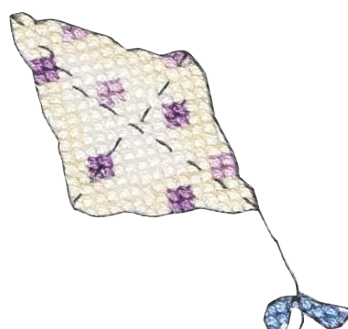


Pixie House chart (bottom left)

How to...

look after your eyes

Stitch in good daylight or with a craft lamp to keep your eyes healthy. A magnifier will also help you to see your fabric clearly. Take regular breaks from your stitching – pop the kettle on for a brew or busy yourself with another five-minute task – to give your eyes a rest. On top of this, every ten minutes or so, focus on a distant object for a few seconds and take several long blinks to keep your eyes hydrated.



Shopping list

- ✕ Zweigart* 14-count white aida measuring 41x41cm (16x16in)
- ✕ Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- ✕ Size 24 tapestry needle
- ✕ Frame of your choice with a minimum aperture measuring 34x33cm (13½x13in)

Thread & fabric cost
Approximately £36

*For stockists see page 90

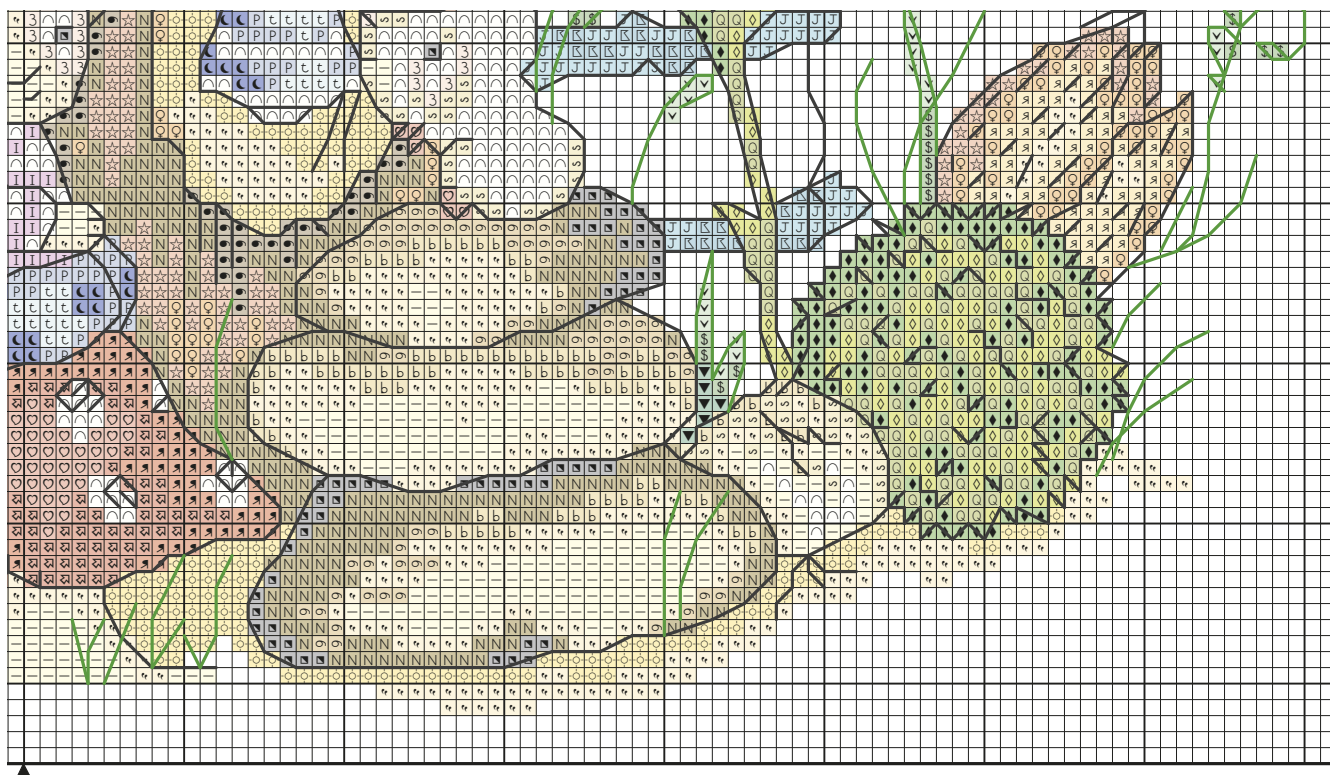
TOP TIP

Take care when working the backstitch in this project, as different shades are stitched using two strands for extra standout!

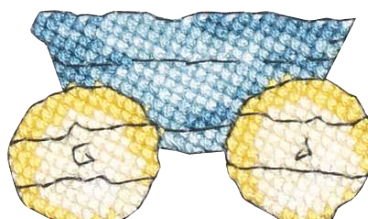
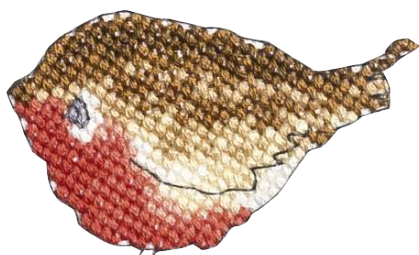


Louise READER PANEL

“This pixie design will look amazing in my partner’s daughter’s bedroom. She is only six and I think she will love looking at it. Especially with all the details like the pixies and birds.”



Pixie House chart (bottom right)



Pixie House key

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
350	11	213	red	
351	10	214	coral	
352	9	303	light coral	
414	235	1714	grey	
420	374	2104	brown	
422	943	2102	light brown	
553	98	712	dark mauve	
554	90	711	mauve	
676	891	2208	sand	
677	886	2207	light sand	
726	295	109	yellow	
746	275	2511	cream	
798	131	912	dark blue	
799	145	910	blue	
800	144	908	light blue	
807	168	1108	dark turquoise	
869	375	2105	dark brown	
905	257	1412	dark green	
906	256	1410	green	
907	255	1308	light green	

910	228	1302	dark mint green
912	209	1213	mint green
951	1010	2308	peach
954	203	1207	light mint green
3761	928	1001	light turquoise
3766	167	1106	turquoise
3823	386	2512	light yellow
3853	1003	311	dark copper
3854	313	114	copper
3855	311	2513	apricot
3865	2	2403	white

✕ Backstitch in one strand

413	236	1713	dark grey
-----	-----	------	-----------

✕ Backstitch in two strands

350	11	213	red
413	236	1713	dark grey
905	257	1412	dark green

STITCH COUNT 167 high x 162 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) –
30.5x29.5cm (12x11½in)

This design was stitched using DMC stranded cotton



In the spotlight

Monkey Boo Designs

We chatted to the designer duo behind this company, Emma Vallis and Angela Wells...

Can you tell us what are your backgrounds?

EV: I took a two year general Art and Design diploma at college when I left school. I picked up my brushes again after having my three daughters and did a short refresher course, which really renewed my passion for drawing.

AW: My background has always been sales and marketing and still is.

How did you come to meet and set up Monkey Boo Designs?

AW: A mutual friend introduced us via social media. I'd been a fan of Emma's work for a while and had thought that the images would make amazing cards. You could say we clicked and the rest is history.

How long have you been running the business, and

where's the name from?

AW: We've been running the business a little over two years. The name comes from my daughter. Monkey Boo is her nickname!

As the illustrator in Monkey Boo Designs, have you always loved painting, Emma?

Yes, I've been painting and drawing since I was tiny and it is a huge part of my life. Not only as a job, but it's become the way I view the world and express myself.

Your designs have a sweet, whimsical style. Tell us about your inspiration...

EV: As a child I loved reading and re-reading my favourite picture books, especially the Richard Scarry series with all the tiny details and things to spot. I also love Kate Greenaway and

Hilda Boswell for their nostalgic scenes of childhood. I find myself endlessly inspired by the changing seasons.

What is your process for creating designs and how long does it take?

EV: I sketch scenes with basic lines, but most colour decisions come as I paint. Watercolour's the perfect medium to capture subtle changes in colour and tone. A simple illustration might take around two hours, a detailed one would be three or four.

How long does the process take so that a piece is ready for a retail launch?

AW: The new range we have just launched took a total of 18 months to complete from initial items to a shelf-ready product.

What's the best thing about having your own design business? And the worst?

AW: The best is the freedom that it gives you. Working for yourself is an amazing feeling. The worst is that you are responsible for everything! It's been a huge learning curve.

Can you share future plans?

AW: We have lots of ideas of what we want to do next. Party and Occasion invitations are our next goal, although we do have some seeds of ideas for a new range... Watch this space! ✕



On a whimsy: Monkey Boo Designs artworks are full of charm, fab shading and details!

MORE: Turn to page 56 now, where you can find the gorgeous 'Pixie Property' cross stitch chart. Visit www.facebook.com/MonkeyBooDesigns for more news.

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Last month we gave you lots of fun and cute stitching, including a playful kitty, sweet springtime teddy, adorable Tom Mouse from the Country Companions, and colourful bookmarks for the whole family. Plus a magnolias gift set, elegant carousel horse cards, a vintage-style Grand Prix poster and plenty more. **TWO FREE gifts: Bebunni card kit and fancy floral bookmark**

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Fizzy Moon Christmas card kit festive Country Companions hedgehogs, pet stockings, gingerbread train, cookies sampler, wintry cards

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Margaret Sherry hedgehog card kit cute Forever Friends, glam Art Deco lady, stunning space-theme design, baby sampler

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Luxury Xmas chartbook & Madeira threads The Snowman & The Snowdog, Gorjuss, chalkboard ice-skate, snowmen decs, robins ABC

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✕ Issue 224

Joan Elliott 2015 desk calendar Cookie bear, boho dreamcatcher, pretty wedding sampler, colourful robots, Michael Powell exclusive

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✕ Issue 221

Bebunni calendar & Madeleine Floyd robin chart Margaret Sherry's sledging cats, Furry Tales, winter forest, Halloween ABC

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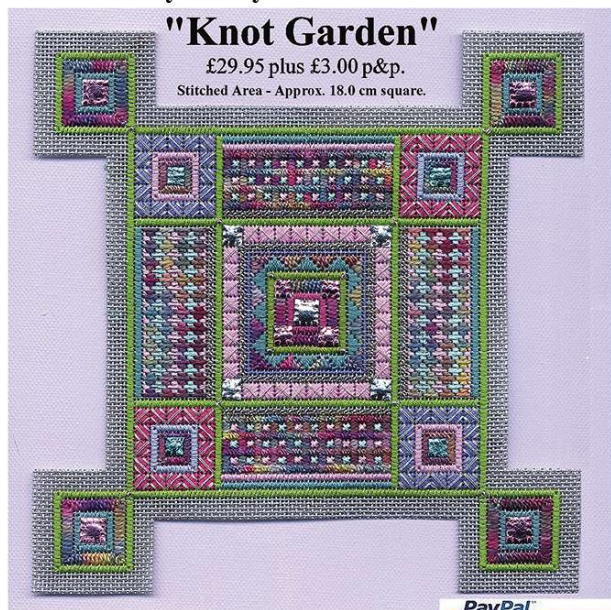
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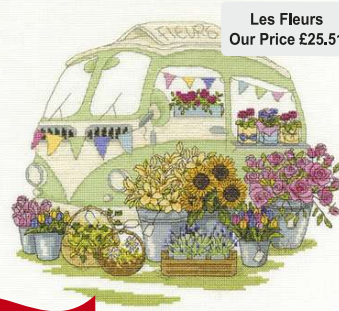


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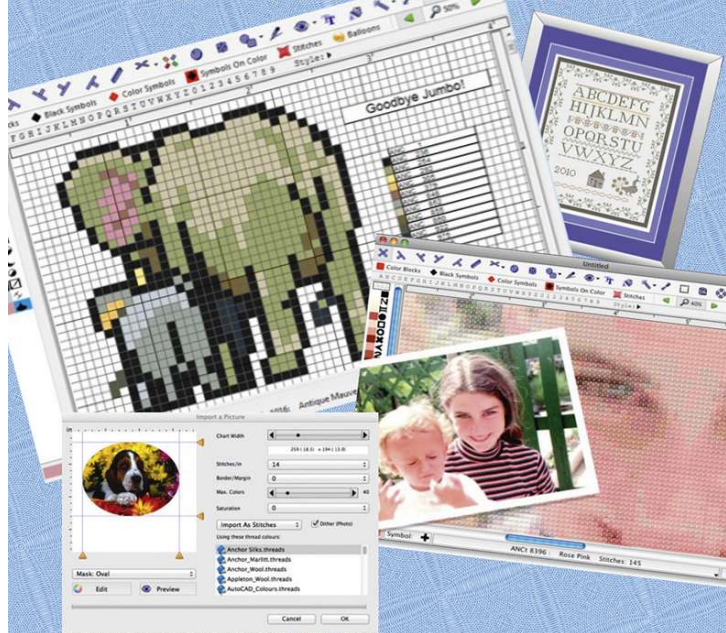
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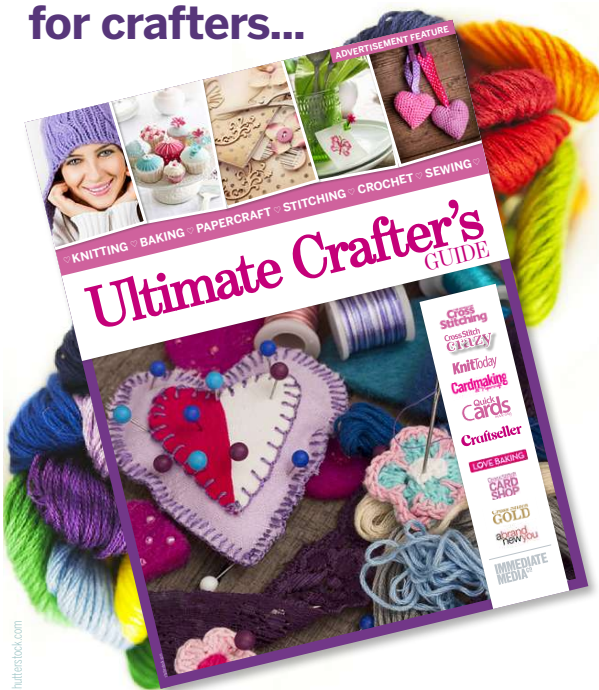
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Shopping list

- ✕ Zweigart* 14-count white aida measuring 8cm (3in) x required length for the name, and 10x15cm (4x6in) for the card
- ✕ Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- ✕ Size 24 tapestry needle
- ✕ Backing card and ribbon of choice
- ✕ Storage basket of choice. Ours is 'Small Faux Rattan Storage Basket' (23881), £1.99, from Lakeland*
- ✕ Craft Creations* oblong aperture card (AP08U) in Textura 50% Recycled bright white

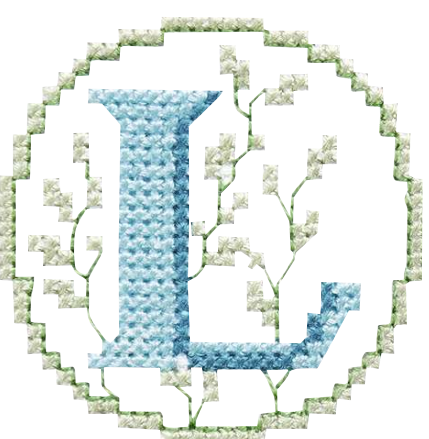
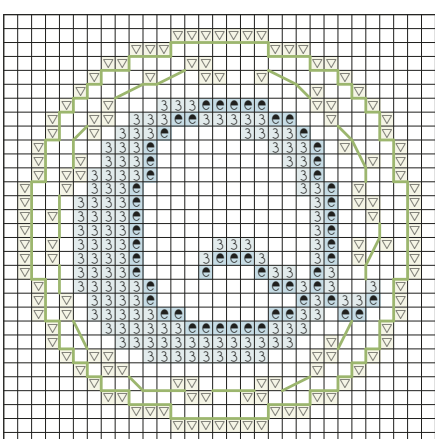
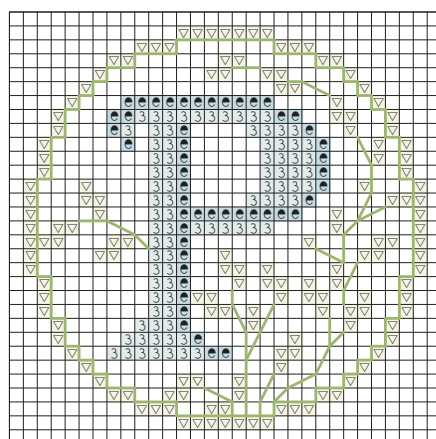
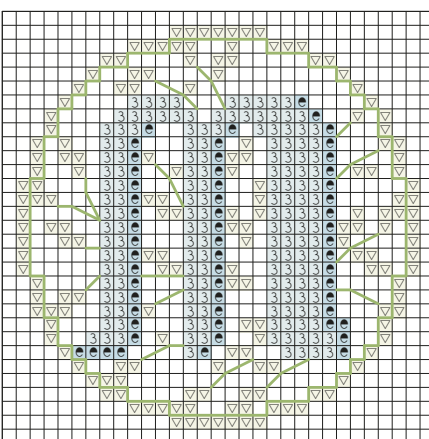
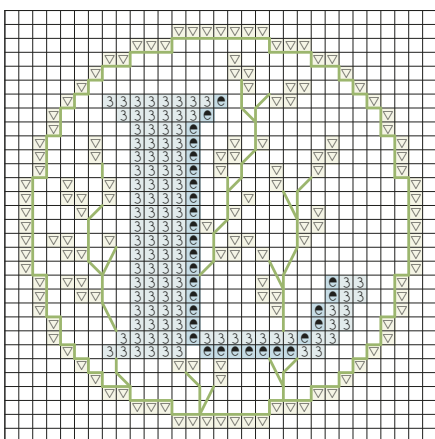
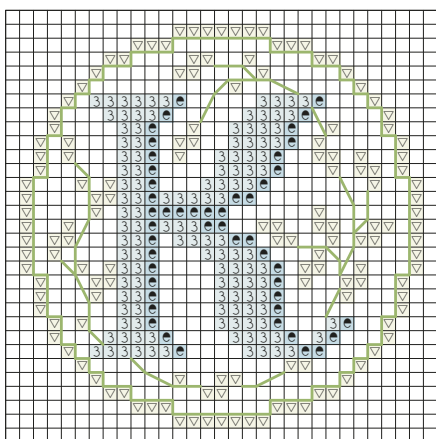
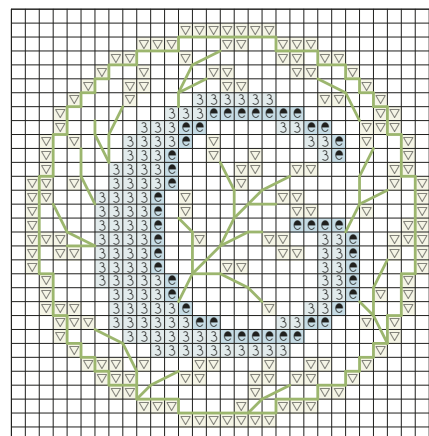
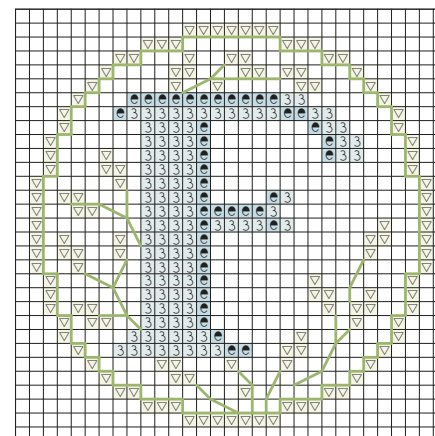
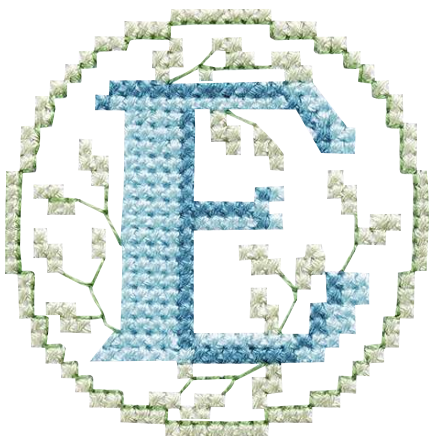
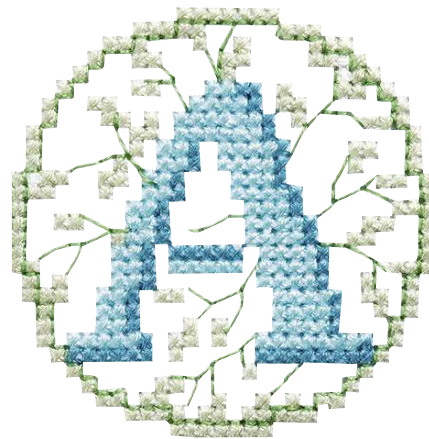
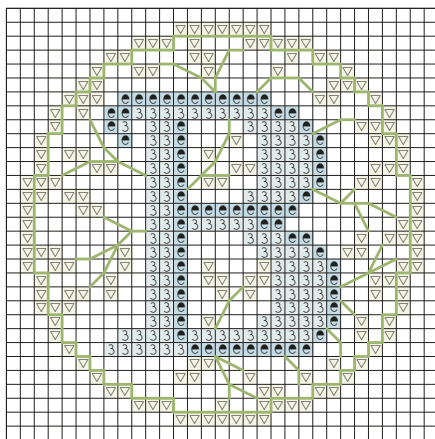
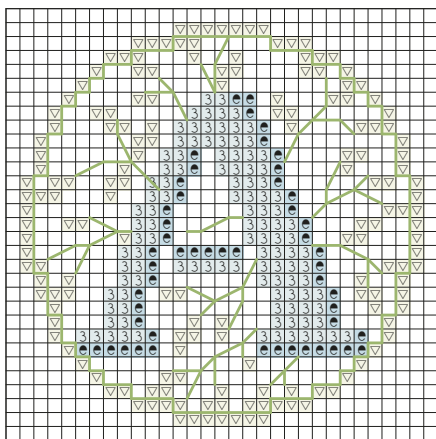
Thread & fabric cost
Approximately £6

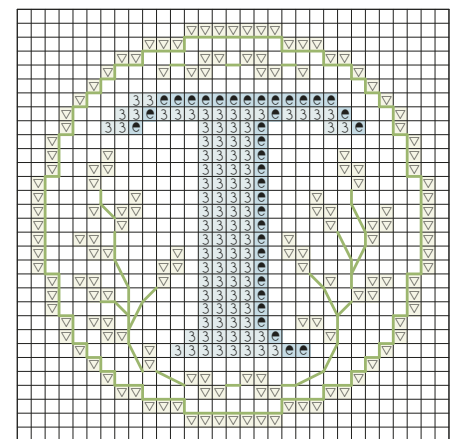
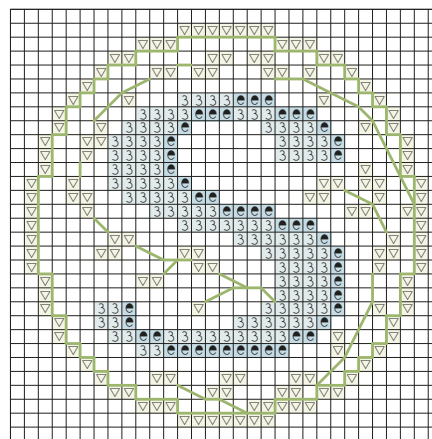
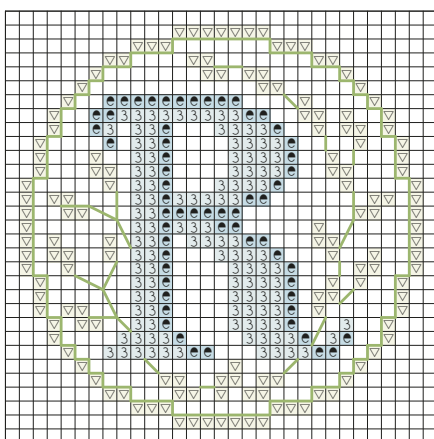
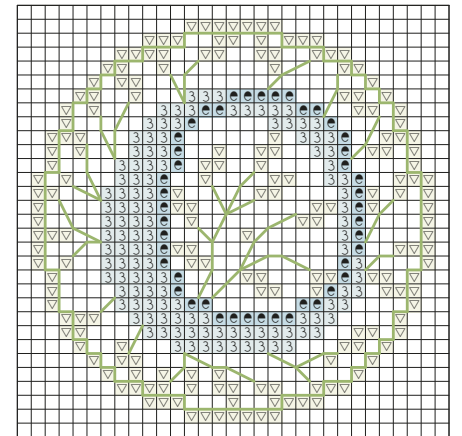
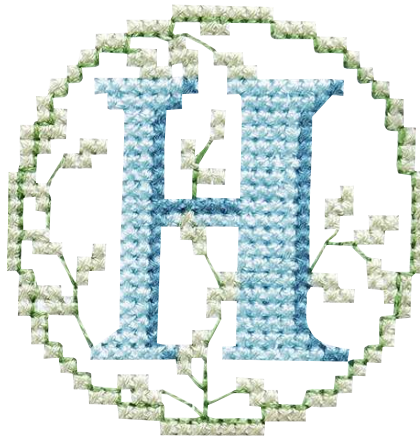
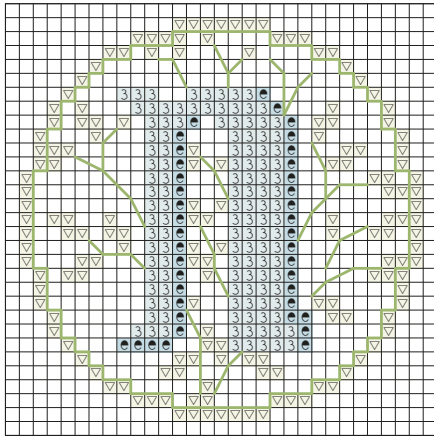
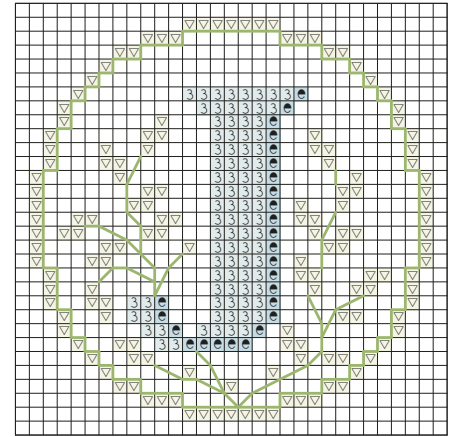
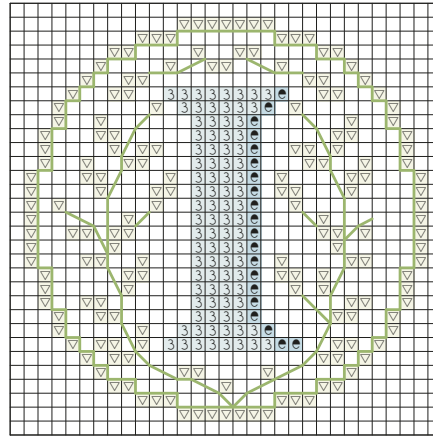
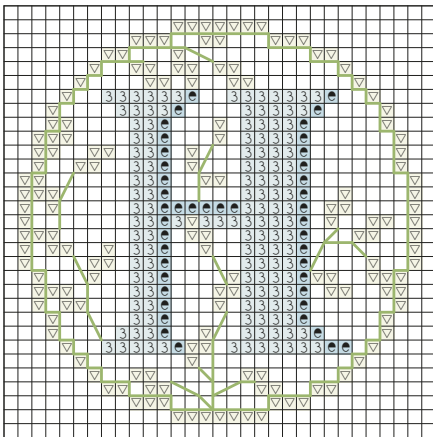
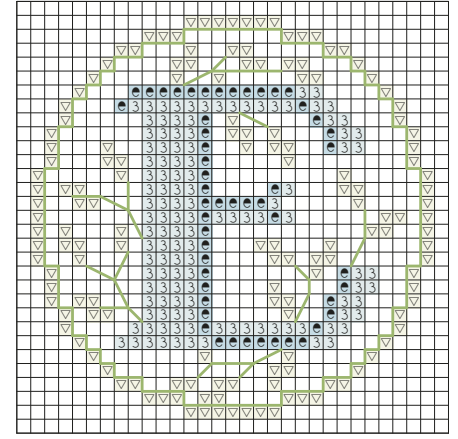
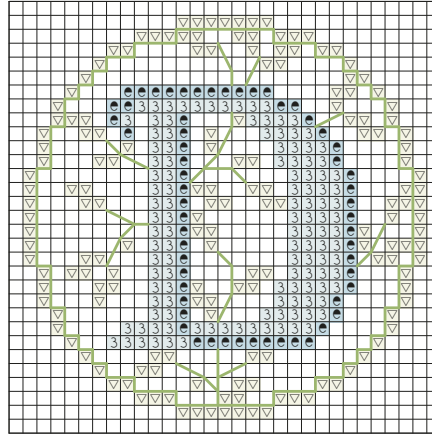
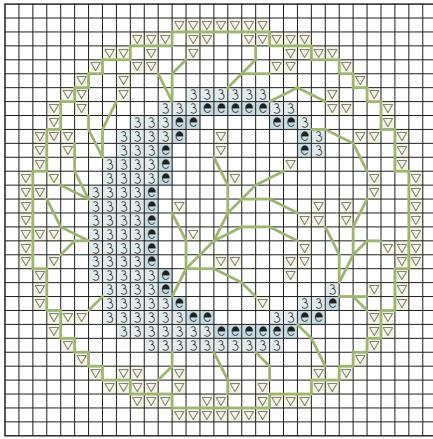
*For stockists see page 90

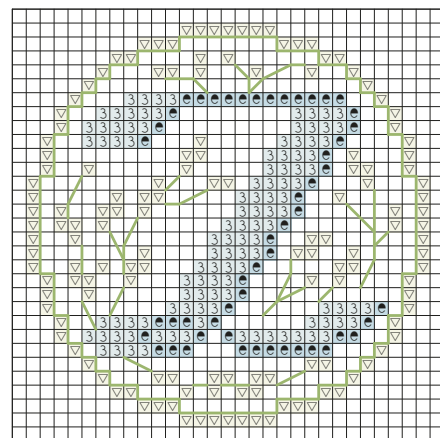
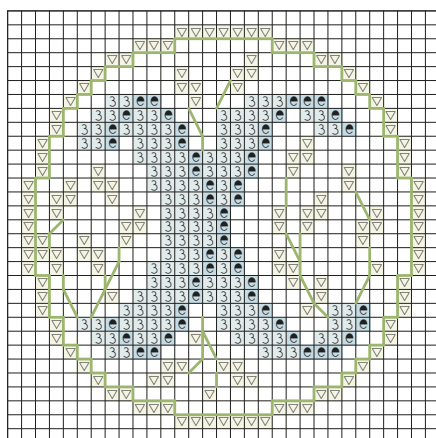
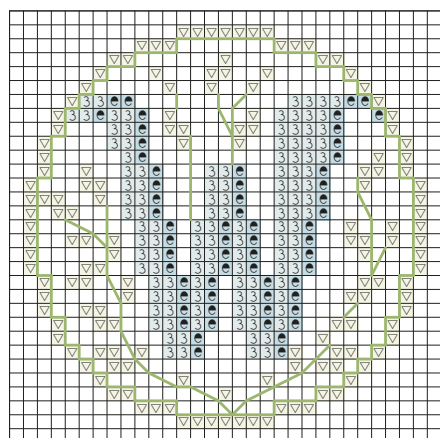
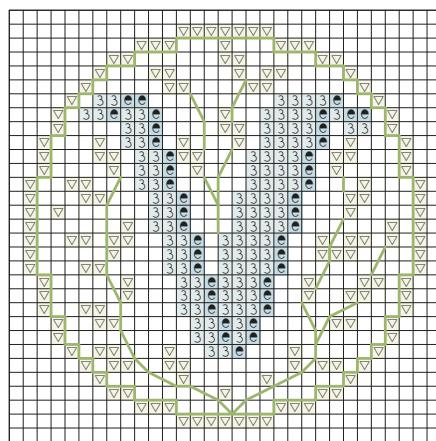
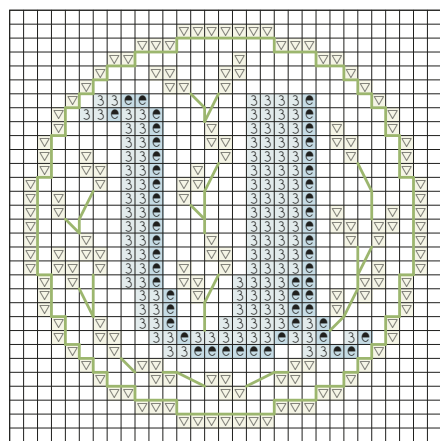
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Factbox

- ✦ **Stitching Time**
Approx. 2 hours each
- ✦ **Type of Stitches**
Cross stitch, backstitch
- ✦ **Ease of Stitching**
Beginner

Fab for an afternoon in the sun

New Shoots ABC key

✦ Cross stitch in two strands

	Anchor	DMC	Madeira	
■	168	807	1108	dark turquoise
▽	213	524	1701	light green
3	928	3761	1014	turquoise

✦ Backstitch in one strand

—	242	989	1209	green
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STITCH COUNT 29 high x 29 wide

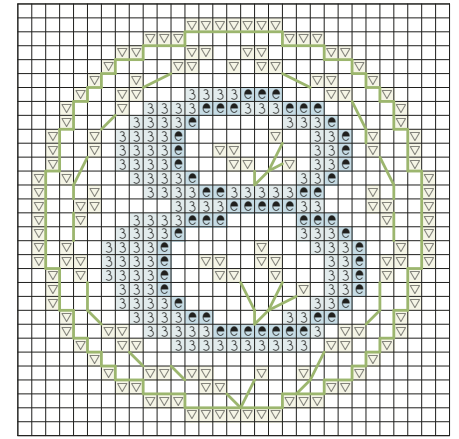
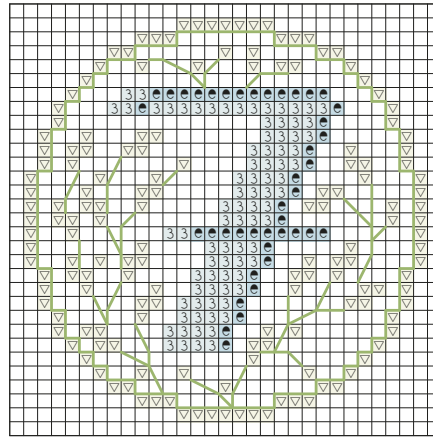
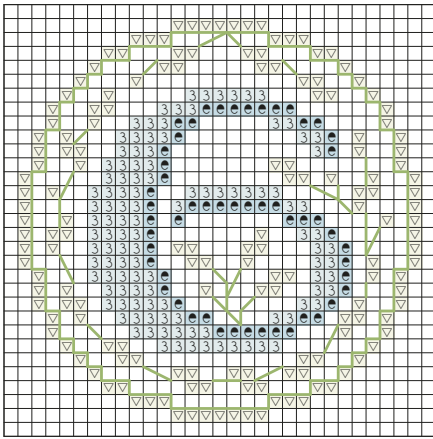
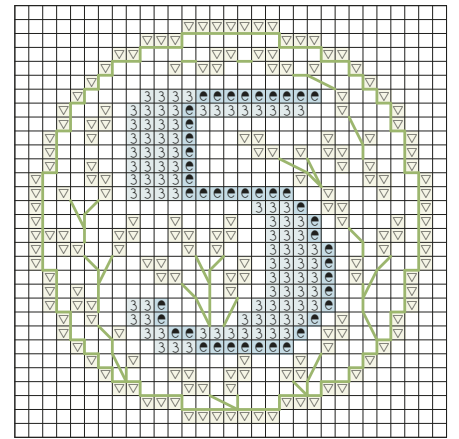
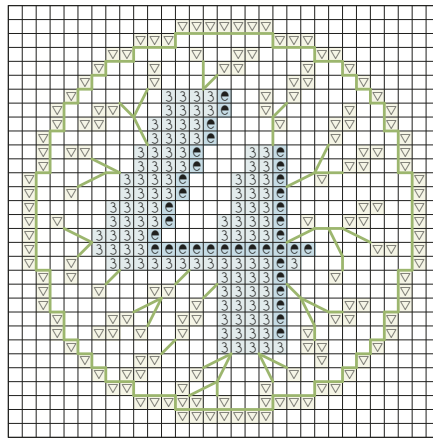
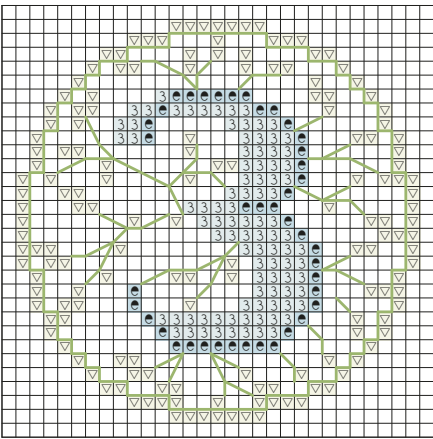
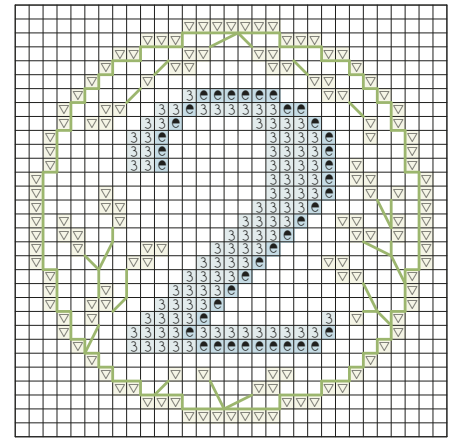
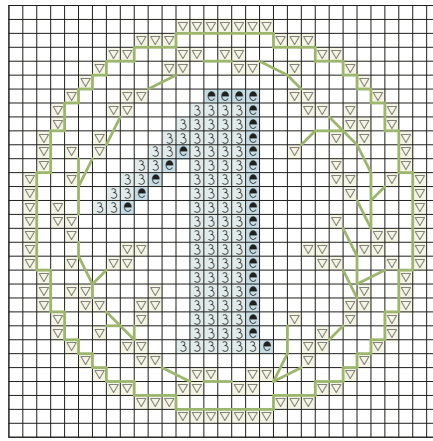
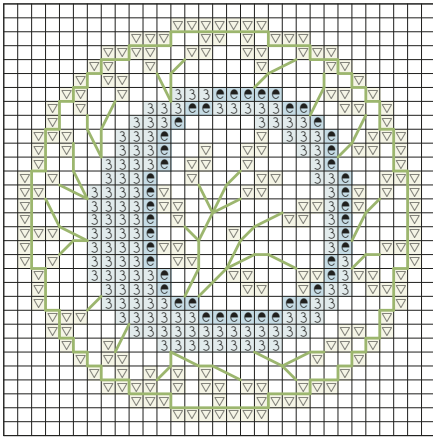
DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 5x5cm (2x2in)

These designs were stitched using Anchor stranded cotton



TOP TIP

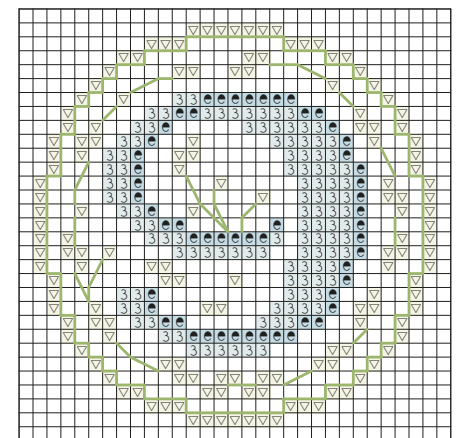
Make sure your spacing is even between each letter and if you're planning on stitching a name, plot out the letters on graph paper first



Jan READER PANEL



“I love making personalised cards, so this 'New Shoots' alphabet is great, and looks so charming.”



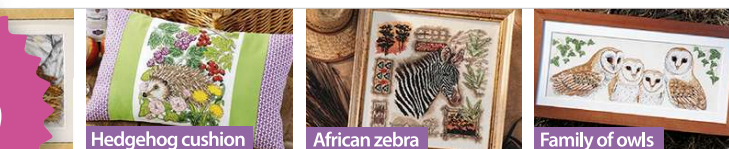
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Celebrating a win: The ICHF team won the award for Best UK Stitching Show with their Hobbyscrafts Show

Meet the winners ...chosen by you!



We've counted the votes for The British Craft Awards and are delighted to reveal this year's worthy winners. Drum roll please!

After several nail-biting months for craft companies and designers the length and breadth of the country, the time has finally come for us to reveal the winners in the prestigious British Craft Awards 2015! To celebrate, we held a fabulous awards ceremony where nominees enjoyed a drink plus entertainment from The Singing Waiters before finding out the results. Turn the page to see all the winners, and to read their messages of thanks. An unbelievable number of you cast your votes, so thank you so much for sharing your favourites with us. And, if you were one of the voters, turn the page now to see if you're the winner of an amazing prize worth £200! ➤



Your number's up: The World of Cross Stitching Editor, Ruth, hosted the hugely popular raffle at the awards ceremony



Eat, drink and be merry: Nominees enjoyed food and drinks at the event

RETAILER: NORTH EAST

The Viking Loom, York

"We're really overwhelmed to have won! We're always trying to improve how we work and this award gives us confidence that our customers feel we're moving in the right direction."

Romy Cordingley, Director



RETAILER: SOUTH WEST

Material Needs, Somerset

"We do try our best for our customers and appreciate their support. This award is a great compliment to the town of Burnham-on-Sea, so thank you to everyone who voted for us!"

Katherine and John Edwards, Owners



RETAILER: MIDLANDS

Wye Needlecraft, Derbyshire

"With so many votes for Wye Needlecraft, they're definitely a worthy winner of this award for Stitch Retailer of the Year for the Midlands!"

Ruth Southorn, Editor, The World of Cross Stitching



RETAILER: SCOTLAND

Nifty Needles, West Lothian

"Thank you to everyone who voted for us. It's a lovely pat on the back for all the staff in the shop and we really appreciate people taking the time to show it in this way."

June Stevenson, Owner



Celebrating stitching: Team members from your favourite cross stitching mags had fun at the awards

RETAILER: WALES

Michael Powell Cross Stitch Art, Cardiff

"I'm absolutely thrilled to win this award again, and I'd like to say thanks so much to everyone who voted for me to win in the British Craft Awards 2015!"

Michael Powell, Owner



RETAILER: NORTH WEST

Black Sheep Wools, Warrington

"It's always a great honour for us to win this award as it means a lot to us, so I'd like to say thank you so much to everyone who took time out to vote for us again this year."

Carol Mulvey, Managing Director



RETAILER: EAST ANGLIA

Threads and Patches, Bletchley

"We are just overwhelmed at being voted for the third year in a row. Our customers make us what we are. My fantastic team of staff also need a huge cheer!"

Sally White, Owner



RETAILER: SOUTH EAST

Faye Whittaker's Pier Shop, Brighton

"I'm thrilled that my shop has won this retail award for the South East. Thank you to everyone who voted for us in the British Craft Awards 2015!"

Faye Whittaker, Owner



FAVOURITE DESIGNER

Joan Elliott

"This is such an honour. Thank you everyone who voted, and thanks to all the other nominated designers for their beautiful contributions to the stitching world."

Joan Elliott Designer



ULTIMATE LICENSED CHARACTER

SANTORO'S Gorjuss from Bothy Threads

"It's fabulous to win this award for Gorjuss again."

Kate Golby, Bothy Threads, Owner





THE CROSS STITCH KIT COLLECTION YOU CAN'T RESIST

Gold Collection by Dimensions

"It comes as no surprise to us that this fab collection of gorgeous and incredibly detailed stitch designs got your votes!"

**Ruth Southorn,
Editor, *The World
of Cross Stitching***



BEST UK ONLINE RETAILER

www.sewandso.co.uk

"F&W Media are delighted Sew and So have continued to demonstrate their focus on their customers with this award." **Bel Youldon, Business Development Director, F&W Media International**



BEST UK STITCHING SHOW

Hobbycrafts, NEC from ICHF

"I'd like to thank all of the voters, plus everyone at ICHF. Also, I'd like to say a special thank you to all of the contractors who work so hard to make the show such a success."

Adam Elkins, ICHF



RETAILER WHO WENT THE EXTRA MILE

Material Needs, Somerset

"It's wonderful to win the 'Big One'. It's a great honour for us and particularly for our staff and for Burnham-on-Sea."

**Katherine and John Edwards,
Owners**



SMALL BUSINESS YOU LOVE TO SUPPORT

Historical Sampler Company

"We're delighted to receive this award – it's the first time we've won anything! Thank you to everyone who voted for us."

**Joanne Stellig,
Director**



FAVOURITE THREAD

DMC Stranded Cottons

"As always, it's a real privilege for DMC to win an award voted for by stitchers, especially one as prestigious as 'Favourite Thread'."

**Jonathan
Thompson, Exec.
Director, DMC
Creative World**



BEST STITCHY NEWCOMER

Siobhan Harrison

"This is fantastic! It's been great working with Immediate Media and seeing my artwork translated into cross stitch, and I'm glad the readers love bringing it to life."

**Siobhan Harrison,
April Rose
Illustration**



Sing along: The Singing Waiters provided the entertainment during the evening!



Have you won this year's brilliant prize bundle?



Everyone who voted in the 2015 British Craft Awards was entered into a draw for the chance to win a stash of stichy goodies worth £200. A huge congratulations to this year's lucky winner, **Susan Howorth!**

TRY
CHARMING
3D MAKES

The garden shed
will be the place
to be this summer
with these
delightful designs



DESIGNS BY **SHANNON WASILIEFF**

Down in the shed...

These pretty garden outbuildings are sure to be the envy of your neighbours this year

As the weather warms up and we head out into the garden more, who wouldn't want a lovely, tidy shed to enjoy? That's why we asked designer Shannon Wasilieff to create these gorgeous ideas for you. Worked on 28-count Cashel linen evenweave for that rustic look, and then made into delightful 3D hanging decorations, you'll be proud to let visitors see these sheds!

They use a perfect colour palette of 13 skeins for just the right amount of shading, and we've chosen fabric in matching colourful stripes to make 'roofs' for the hangings, plus lace trim as a pretty accent. All in all, they have a fabulously coordinated finished look. Surprisingly easy to make, turn

Factbox

- ✦ **Stitching Time**
Approx. 8-10 hours each
- ✦ **Type of Stitches**
Cross stitch, fractionals, backstitch, French knots
- ✦ **Ease of Stitching**
Intermediate

Pretty as gifts or for your home

the page for our step-by-step guide to making these decorations.

These designs are also ideal to stitch for cards for any green-fingered friends you have, but we've fallen in love with the charming hangings. So get started and grow something this season in stitches. ➤

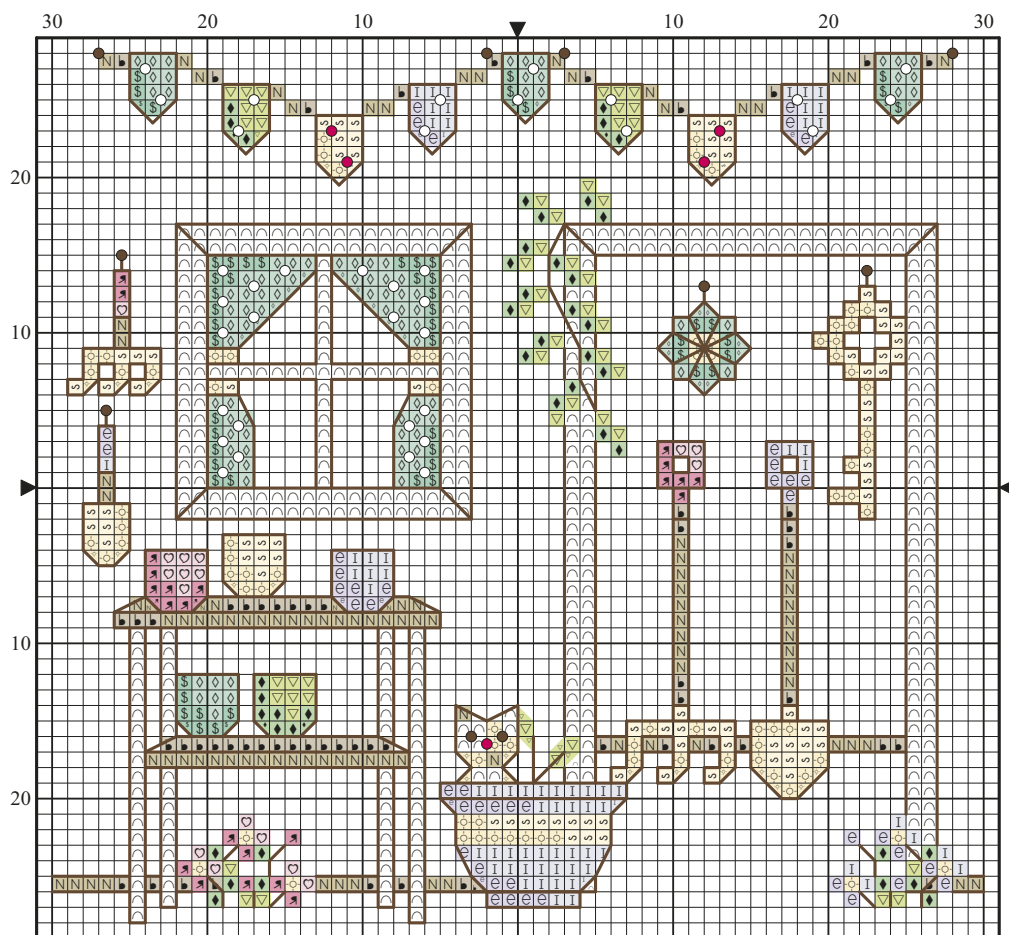


Meet the designer

Shannon Wasilieff

"I really enjoy being outdoors in the warm weather, and would love a pretty shed to spend time in. I had great fun coming up with these little designs for you, showing scenes of the garden throughout the spring!"

Project Garden Sheds



Potting Shed chart

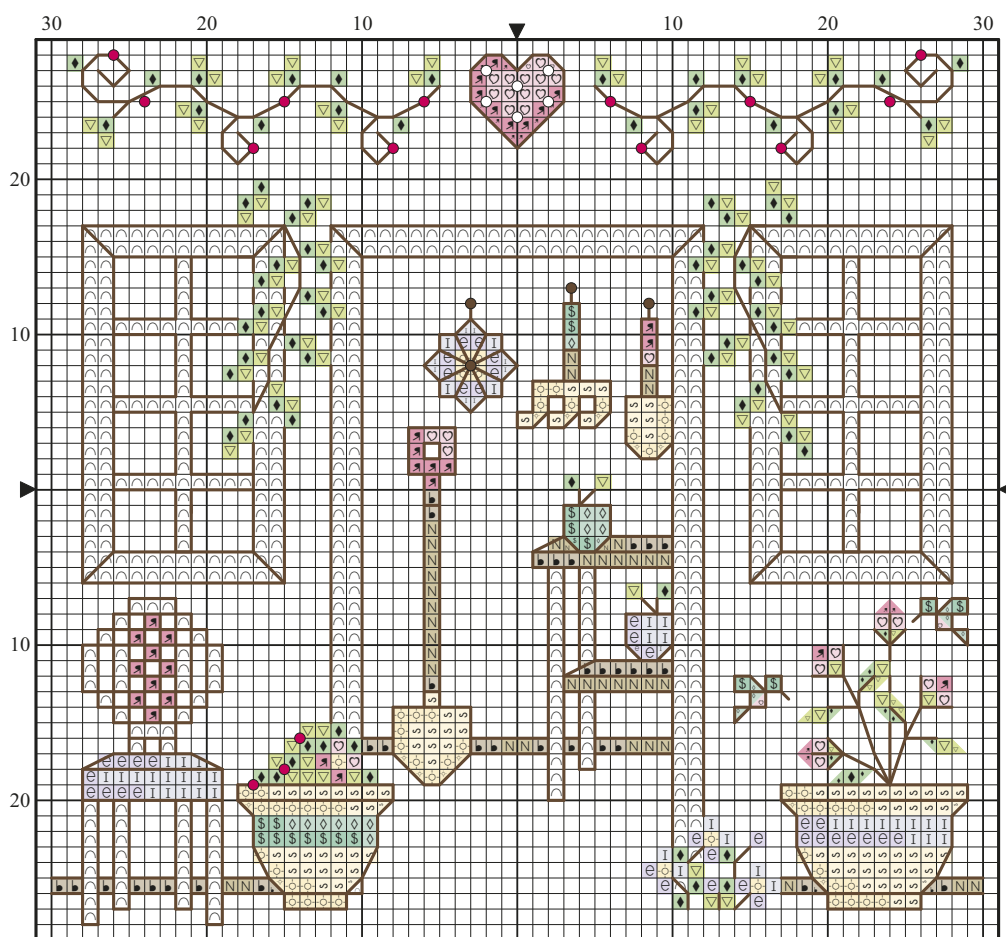


Shopping list

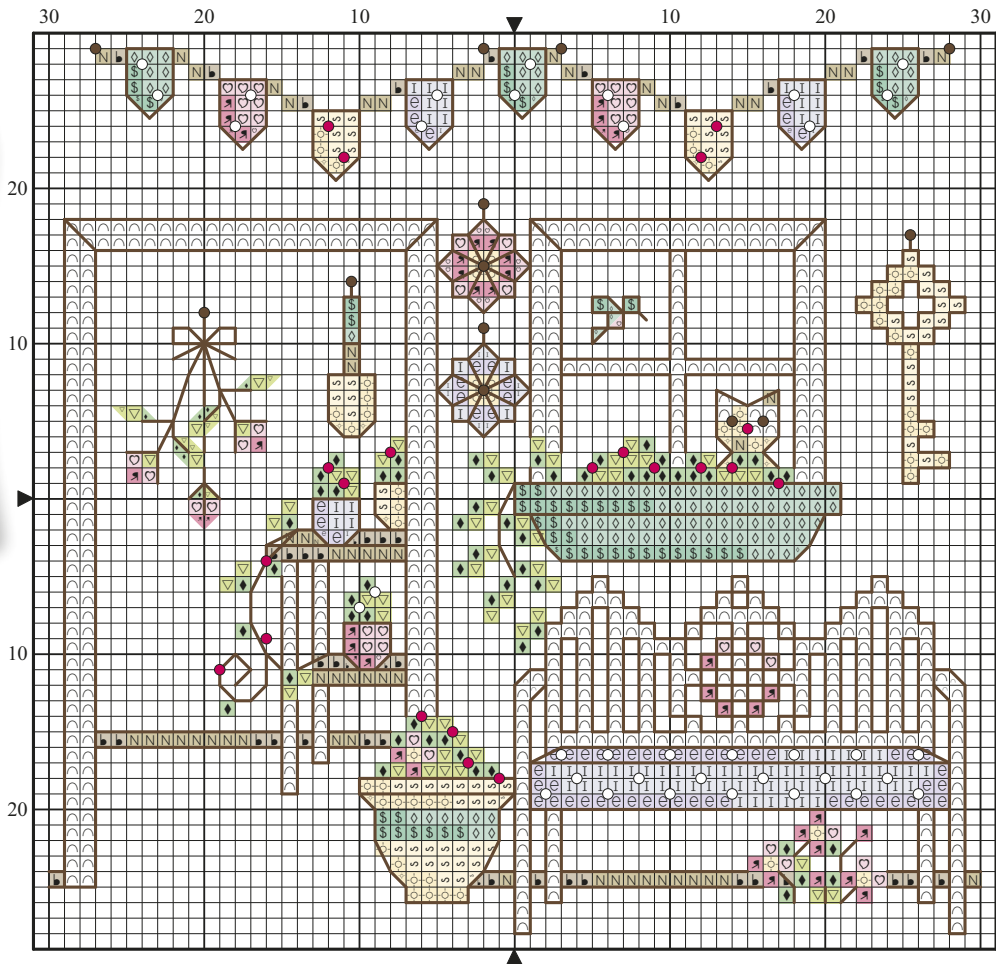
- ✕ Zweigart* 28-count Cashed raw linen evenweave, measuring 20x20cm (7¾x7¾in) per design
- ✕ Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- ✕ Size 26 tapestry needle
- ✕ Pastel cotton fabric. Ours is 'Fat Quarter Fabric Bundle – Stripes Pastel' (147500), available from The Craft Department*
- ✕ Lace trim, ribbon and wadding

Thread & fabric cost
Approximately £15

*For stockists see page 90



Heart & Flowers Shed chart



Pretty Bench Shed chart

TOP TIP

If you always stitch on aida, then try evenweave for a change; if you normally work on evenweave, then try a design on linen like this project

Dagmara
READER PANEL

“These designs are amazing. I like that the roof can be made of a material that matches the specific design, thus, each house is unique.”

Garden Sheds key

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	B5200	1	2401	white
e	155	1030	902	purple
I	159	343	1710	lavender blue
N	420	374	2104	brown
↗	602	57	702	dark pink
♥	604	55	614	pink
♦	701	227	1305	dark green
▽	704	255	1308	green
■	869	375	2105	dark brown
◇	993	1070	1111	emerald
§	3812	188	2706	dark emerald
S	3823	386	2512	cream
☀	3855	311	2513	yellow

✕ Backstitch in one strand

—	869	375	2105	dark brown
---	-----	-----	------	------------

✕ French knots in one strand

○	B5200	1	2401	white
●	604	55	614	pink
●	869	375	2105	dark brown

MAXIMUM STITCH COUNT 57 high x 60 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 10.5x11cm (4x4¼in)

These designs were stitched using DMC stranded cotton on 28-count linen evenweave over two threads of the fabric

How to...

make a shed hanging

1 Gently wash and press your stitching. Trim away excess fabric, leaving a 2cm (¾in) border all around.

2 Cut out a triangle of coordinating cotton fabric, measuring 14x11cm (5½x4¼in). Click our 'Charts & Patterns' section at www.cross-stitching.com for an easy-to-use triangle template download.

3 Pin with right sides facing, the top edge of your stitched shed design with the bottom edge of the roof. Machine- or hand-sew together.

4 Press the seam flat. Pin in place a length of lace trim and topstitch along the seam to secure it.

5 Fold a ribbon loop, pin the ends at the top of the roof piece, making sure the loop points downwards.

6 Using the front as a template, cut a piece of backing fabric. Pin them together, right sides facing.

7 Sew around the edges with a 1cm (½in) seam allowance, and leaving a 2cm (¾in) opening for turning.

8 Turn through and stuff with wadding. Slip stitch the gap closed for a neat finish.



A labour of love

READER STORY

Scott Shepherd is passionate about three things – stitching, tattoos and a special little girl called Grace. We just had to find out more...

We love hearing about extraordinary stitchers, particularly guys who buck the myth that stitching is a female pursuit. A shining example is Scott Shepherd from Havant, near Portsmouth, who has used his needlecraft skills to raise money for a very special cause.

It was pure accident that Scott discovered cross stitch... He wanted something to keep his two boys occupied while he decorated his bedroom. So off he went to the local Hobbycraft store and found himself in the needlecraft section. Scott laughingly says that, "After a panicked look around to see if any of my mates had seen me, I saw a kit that would be perfect in my room." The kit was 'Rag Time' in Anchor's maia collection, and so began his love affair with stitching.

Scott was persuaded by his girlfriend to join a cross stitching group on Facebook. He created the profile 'Tattoo'd Cross Stitch Man' in the hope

of avoiding grief from his friends for doing a "girly" hobby. Seeing what other stitchers were doing only fuelled his passion for the craft.

The story doesn't stop there. One night Scott saw a Facebook post by a lady called Helen White in Cheltenham who was trying to raise money to buy a highly-specialised trike for Grace, her seriously disabled daughter. Grace can't walk, eat or talk. When Scott read the post it was a life-changing moment for him. "I clicked the link and instantly fell in love with the picture of a beautiful little girl, and knew that I had to do something," he explains.

As Scott racked his brains to think of a way to raise money towards the

"I got through the 36 hours and the cash was flowing in!"

trike, he came up with the idea of a 36-hour sponsored stitchathon. He says, "It felt a bit lame, but I thought it might raise a bit towards the £1,800 amount needed." He put a status on the social media site and, much to his surprise, cash started coming in. He says, "the pressure was on!" He decided to stitch 'Snow Angel' by Paine Free Crafts, a design chosen by Helen, so little Gracie would have an angel watching over her.

Scott decided to watch all the *Lord of the Rings* and *Harry Potter* films to help pass the time, but what really kept him going were the messages of support. "People started sending pictures of them stitching and watching the same films, and

not just from the UK but all over the world." Amazed, he



Amazing Grace: Scott aka 'Tattoo'd Cross Stitch Man' (above) is now hooked on stitching. Here he is with Grace, when they met for the first time



adds, "I got through the 36 hours and not only raised some of the money, but managed to get all of it!" Helen was able to order the new trike for Gracie the next day.

Scott says that Helen and Grace have become part of the family. He even designed a tattoo with the words 'The thread that binds us' as a tribute to Grace: "I truly love her to bits." Scott's tattoo design is also available as a chart from Paine Free Crafts, with all profits going to Grace's activities fund.

Looking to the future, Scott says he'd love to do more writing about stitching from a bloke's point of view, and is working on a stitching blog. In the meantime, he has plenty of unfinished projects to get his teeth into. It's no surprise they are all large charts, "I don't mess about when I do something – it's all or nothing!" ✕

ONE-OVER-ONE STITCHING

Many of Scott's designs are stitched over one thread of evenweave fabric, giving amazingly intricate and detailed results. He has recently started cross country stitching where you stitch one colour at a time across a section of the chart. "Cross country stitching is so much quicker for me as I used to just sit and stare at my chart trying to pick where to go next. What I do with this is mark one symbol on the whole page in a light-coloured highlighter and once I have stitched it, I mark it off with a darker one," says Scott.

Heavenly: 'Snow Angel' is the design Scott chose for his stitchathon (below). His stitchy-style tattoo has been made into a chart, also sold to raise money for Grace. Buy from Paine Free Crafts* under the artist "Tattoo'd Cross Stitch Man".



Online news

Explore a world of cross stitching without leaving the house – we've found the websites, communities and charts you'll love!

Join us on Facebook

Chat 24/7 on our Facebook page – here's what you've missed!

Find us online



www.cross-stitching.com



www.facebook.com/theworldofcrossstitching



www.twitter.com/woxscrossstitch



www.pinterest.com/worldofxs



www.youtube.com/crossstitchtv

Blogger of the month



15 FEBRUARY 2017

THE COPPER FOX

OUR FAVOURITE POST

Samantha Birtchnell "My 18-month old checking out what's in your magazine." We recognise that froggie ABC from issue 225 Samantha. Looks like you might be stitching some of these jumping fellows!



54 people like this

YOU LIKED

Joanna Morton "I finally completed this the other night – It's called 'Holly Lane' by Derwentwater Designs." We love this project from 'The Lanes' collection, designed by Rose Swalwell, too Joanna.



100 people like this

And the winner is...

We asked you on Facebook: Where do you like to stitch?

Whether you have a room dedicated to your craft, or are just lucky enough to get a minute to yourself to stitch, we all have favourite spots we like to craft in. It seems most of you are happy just to be able to stitch, but no matter where you craft, you'll love our stitchy-themed bunting on page 38.

IN MY CRAFT ROOM/CORNER

47%

OUT IN THE GARDEN

2%

AT MY CRAFT CLUB

1%

I CAN STITCH ANYWHERE

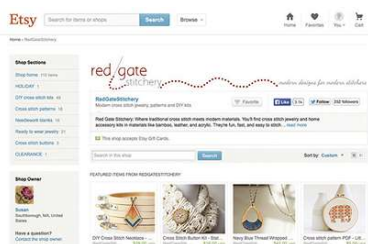
50%

Married stitcher and "personal assistant" to her cat Tiger Lily, "Honeybee" lives on the East Coast of America and has been blogging since 2012. With regular updates on her site, you can follow her progress on projects she is working on (currently a cute advent calendar), read about stitchy discoveries she finds and the delight of discovering stitchy uses for unexpected items.

MORE Visit her blog for more info at www.thecopperfox.blogspot.co.uk

Websites you'll love

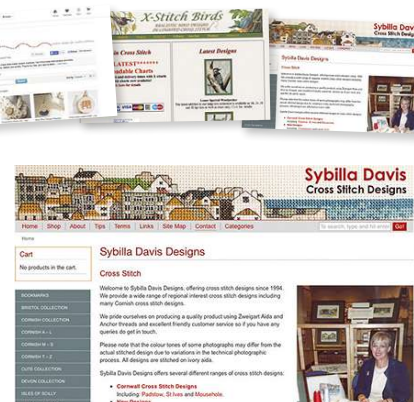
Next time you log on, check out these amazing stitchy sites



Find a variety of modern cross stitch jewellery, patterns and DIY kits (you can buy ready-made jewellery/buttons, or the kits to make them yourself) at www.etsy.com/shop/RedGateStitchery. We particularly like the necklace pendants and keyrings!



Passionate about our feathered friends? Then www.xstitchbirds.com is the site for you. Realistic bird designs are available as kits and charts, in an easy-search index. So if you're wanting to stitch a particular bird, then you'll find it in this impressive collection.



Specialising in regional, especially Cornish, stitches www.sybilladavisdesigns.co.uk has kits of scenic views found in many different UK regions, including Bristol, Devon, Somerset, Surrey, Wiltshire, Wye Valley and of course plenty of Cornish designs.

Pet of the month

We know you're huge fans of pets, so why not have us design a cross stitch of a beloved animal?



Design my pet!



Q Please can you design me a chart of a shih-tzu dog? We've looked everywhere for one – I'd like to make this for two good friends of mine.

Anthea Barnes, Beeston

A Durene says: These small, sturdy dogs with dark eyes have been prized companions for many years. Their sweet-natured temperament also makes them a delight to be around.

As I have not had a lot of contact with shih-tzus, I had to do some research on these toy breed dogs, to make sure I got the colouring and hair correct, and what gorgeous coats they have!

We've made ours into a card by mounting it in a white card and decorating with a coordinating ribbon, but you could frame it if you want to hang it on a wall. Just make sure to allow for some extra aida fabric onto the measurements to ensure enough for framing. Also, when choosing a mount for your stitching, try and pick out a colour that already features in the design, as you will find this helps lift it once it's framed!

Shopping list

- ✕ Zweigart* 14-count white aida measuring 13x13cm (5x5in)
- ✕ Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- ✕ Size 24 tapestry needle
- ✕ Craft Creations* circle aperture card (AP09U) in creative smooth white
- ✕ Ribbon of choice

Thread & fabric cost
Approximately £10

*For stockists see page 90

Fun facts about shih-tzu

- **Unlike nearly all** animals other than primates, the shih-tzu has hair rather than fur.
- **Shih-tzus are** often called chrysanthemum dogs because of the way their hair grows up from the nose and around the face in all directions.
- **Shih-tzu literally** means 'Lion Dog'
- **They were bred** for centuries to be a companion dog. They can't hunt, can't protect farm animals. They can just be your friend!

More pet ideas

Jacked up!

'Jack Russell' (BK138), designed by Mike Sibley and available from DMC* for £13.99, features a Terrier Jack Russell. With a

finished design size of 18x13cm (7x5in) when worked on 14-count aida, we love how this design captures the nature of this pooch so perfectly.



Pretty parrot

Capture the richly-coloured feathers of this exotic bird in this 'Parrot Cross Stitch Kit' (5678000-01226). In the maia range for Anchor, buy it from Past Impressions*. At 40x28.5cm (15¾x11¼in) when worked on the 16-count pale blue aida provided, the kit costs £46.10.



TOP TIP

- A card sorter with punched holes for your threads is especially handy when stitching a design like this – it'll help avoid mix-ups with the similar shades

Factbox

- ✦ **Stitching Time**
Approx. 5-6 hours
- ✦ **Type of Stitches**
Cross stitch, fractionals, backstitch, French knots
- ✦ **Ease of Stitching**
Advanced beginner

Only two French knots

Shih-tzu key

✦ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
	310	403	2400	black
	413	236	1713	grey
	813	140	910	blue
	839	1050	1913	dark brown
	840	1084	1912	brown
	842	1080	1910	light brown
	3865	2	2403	natural white

✦ Backstitch in one strand

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
	310	403	2400	black
	839	1050	1913	dark brown

✦ French knots in one strand

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
	B5200	1	2401	white

STITCH COUNT 43 high x 43 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 8x8cm (3x3in)

This design was stitched using DMC stranded cotton



YOUR VERY OWN PET DESIGN

Furry, feathered, scaly? Send all your animal design requests in to Durene!

Email us at:
letters@cross-stitching.com

Write to:

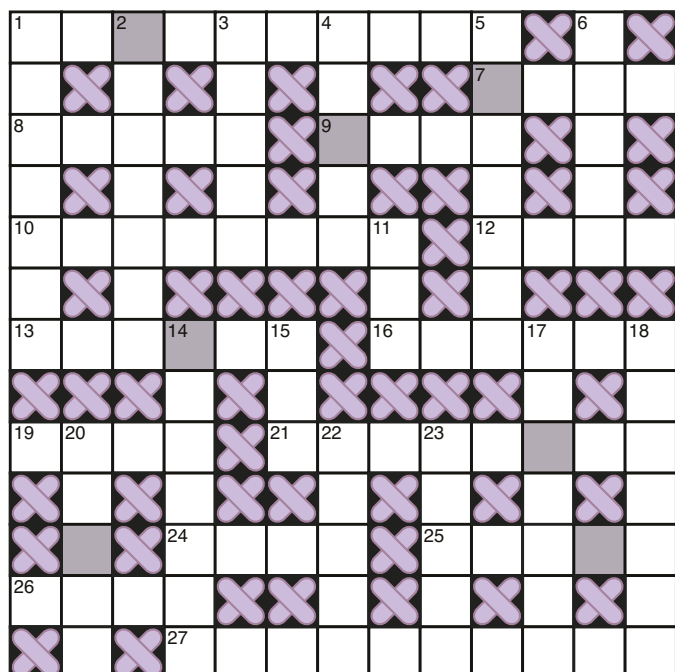
Pet of the Month, The World of Cross Stitching, Immediate Media Co, 2nd floor, Tower House, Fairfax Street, Bristol, BS1 3BN

Durene will try get to everyone's requests in turn, but if you're working to a specific deadline then do let us know!

Enter to win!

With our crossword and freebies there are loads of prizes up for grabs

Enter by text, postcard or online for the chance to be lucky in our amazing giveaways



ACROSS

- 1 Say the opposite, deny (10)
- 7 Thick hemp cord (4)
- 8 Go into (5)
- 9 Nil, nought (4)
- 10 Fixed time limit for completion of an activity (8)
- 12 Soak in a large tub of soapy hot water (4)
- 13 Give an account of, describe (6)
- 16 Gentle wind or current of air (6)
- 19 Additionally, along with (4)
- 21 Adventurous stunt (8)
- 24 Lazy, inactive (4)
- 25 Conductor's stick (5)
- 26 Fewer (4)
- 27 Concerned with past events (10)

DOWN

- 1 Hard smooth English cheese (7)
- 2 Team game often played by women (7)
- 3 Connected with the countryside or agriculture (5)
- 4 Group of twelve (5)
- 5 Difficulty, bother (7)
- 6 Divide in two (5)
- 11 Flow back, recede (3)
- 14 Do away with, put an end to (7)
- 15 Female sheep (3)
- 17 Stretchy, flexible (7)
- 18 Lasting forever, never-ending (7)
- 20 Light beer (5)
- 22 Pleasant perfume (5)
- 23 Brownish-yellow colour (5)

TO ENTER Use the letters in the shaded squares to spell out a fabric you might use when making a fairy costume (7)

WIN! Furry Tales Prize

Parisian mouse key

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
○	blanc	2	2402	white
■	322	131	1004	dark blue
■	349	1098	212	red
■	414	235	1714	grey
■	436	1045	2011	dark tan
■	437	362	2012	tan
N	739	366	2014	light tan
w	754	1012	305	dark peach
■	844	1041	1809	dark grey
■	948	892	306	peach
■	3755	140	1013	blue

✕ Backstitch in one strand

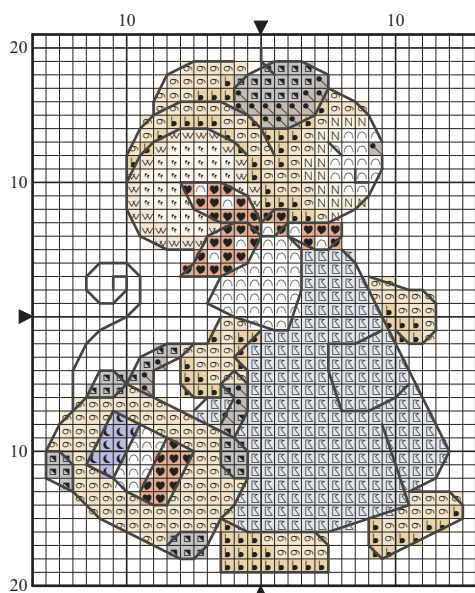
—	844	1041	1809	dark grey
---	-----	------	------	-----------

STITCH COUNT 39 high x 31 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 7x5.5cm (2¾x2¼in)

This design was stitched using DMC stranded cotton

Each month one crossword winner gets an original print of Monty Mouse plus a limited-edition Titch chart, both by Lucie Heaton. To find more adorable Furry Tales designs, check out www.lucieheaton.com!



PRIZES WORTH £259

Fab fabric

Sew it All* is offering eight readers the chance to win a fabric bundle worth over £32, including 14-count 'Fairy Dust Cloud Lilac' aida, 14-count 'Snowflake with Silver Sparkles' aida, both measuring 50x45cm (19¾x17¾in), 16-count antique white aida measuring 1m x 90cm (39½x35½in) and a thread organiser with cutter. These fabrics and many more unique designs are available in a variety of counts.

TO ENTER To enter by text message use keyword 'WOXS228FABRIC' or if you're entering by post, please label your entry 'Sew It All giveaway (WOXS228)'.



PRIZES WORTH £250

Pretty City

The 'Pretty City' range of stitching patterns by Satsuma Street* are fabulous representations of iconic cities. We are giving away three city PDF patterns, worth £10, to 25 lucky winners! Winners can choose their three favourite cities from the selection that includes London, Paris, Sydney, Little Italy, Tokyo, San Francisco, New York, Amsterdam, Chicago and Barcelona. Visit the Satsuma Street shop on the Etsy site to view all the 'Pretty Cities'.

TO ENTER To enter by text message use keyword 'WOXS228LITTLE' or if you're entering by post, please label your entry 'Satsuma Street giveaway (WOXS228)'. Please supply your email address to receive your PDF charts if you win.



PRIZES WORTH £260

PRETTY STORAGE SOLUTIONS

We've teamed up with the folks at MIC* to offer 16 lucky readers the chance to win these beautiful storage boxes (GBA810), worth £16.25 for the set of three. These elegant boxes make a great decorative storage solution for your cross stitching accessories or current project.

TO ENTER To enter by text message use keyword 'WOXS228BOX' or if you're entering by post, please be sure to label your entry 'MIC storage boxes giveaway (WOXS228)'.



PRIZES WORTH £250

Flower power

Creative Poppy* are giving away 25 vouchers, worth £10 each. Lucky winners will be able to use the vouchers against any of the floral patterns ordered on their website.

TO ENTER By text message please use keyword 'WOXS228POPPY' or if you're entering by post, please label your entry 'Creative Poppy giveaway (WOXS228)'. Please supply your email address to receive your digital voucher if you win.



CROSSWORD

By text: Text FURRY228 followed by the mystery word, your name and postal address to 87474 eg. FURRY228 Mystery, Name, 123 Any Rd, Anytown AB1 C23. Texts will be charged at 50p plus your standard network tariff rate.

By post: Write your name, address and the mystery word on the back of a postcard or stuck-down envelope and send it to: Crossword WOXS228 Immediate Media Co, 2nd Floor, Tower House, Fairfax Street, Bristol BS1 3BN.

Terms & conditions as far right except for: closing date for entries is 27 April 2015. One winning entry will be chosen at random from all eligible entries.

GIVEAWAYS

By text: Text the giveaway's keyword (see above) followed by your name, email and postal addresses to

87474 eg. KEYWORD Name email@email.co.uk 123 Any Rd, Anytown AB1 C23. Texts will be charged at 50p plus standard network tariff rate.

*To enter all four giveaways with one text charged at £1.50 (plus your standard network tariff rate), use keyword 'ALL228' followed by the details stated above.

Online: Enter on our website at www.cross-stitching.com
By post: Write your name and address on the back of a postcard or stuck-down envelope and send it to: *The World of Cross Stitching*, Immediate Media Co, 2nd Floor, Tower House, Fairfax Street, Bristol BS1 3BN.
Closing date for all entries: 27 April 2015. Call ☎ 0117 314 8755 if you have a query. Full terms & conditions below.

TERMS & CONDITIONS: Promoter: Immediate Media Company Ltd. Promotion excludes promoter employees, contractors & anyone connected with the promotion or their

direct family members. Closing date for entries is 27 April 2015. By entering, you agree to be bound by all the rules of the promotion. Only one entry per person, per giveaway. Open to UK residents only. No responsibility accepted for lost, delayed, illegible or fraudulent entries. Winning entries will be chosen at random from all eligible entries. Winners will be notified within 28 days of closing date. The draw is final & no correspondence will be entered into. For winners' details send an SAE within two months of closing date. If a winner is unable to be contacted within one month, the Promoter may redraw. Promoter reserves the right to substitute the prize with one of the same or greater value but there is no cash alternative. By entering you agree to receive details of offers & promotions from Immediate Media Company Ltd & related third parties. If you do not want to receive this information, add the words 'NO INFO' at the end of your text or write 'NO INFO' on your postcard.

*For stockists see page 90

TEXT ALL228 TO 87474 TO ENTER ALL FOUR GIVEAWAYS FOR £1.50!*

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crazy**



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stitch, from all your favourite designers. With fun stories, great competitions and a fab free gift with every single issue, you'd be mad to miss it! Plus, with our special offer, you can **subscribe today and try five issues for just £5!**

Yvette

Yvette Streeter, Editor

ORDER FORM

C779

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INSTRUCTION TO YOUR BANK OR BUILDING SOCIETY TO PAY BY DIRECT DEBIT



To: The Manager/bank/building society

Name of bank

Address

Postcode

Name(s) of account holders

Bank/building society account no.

Branch sort code

Instruction to your bank/building society

Please pay Immediate Media Company Bristol Ltd Direct Debits from the account detailed in this instruction subject to the safeguards assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee. I understand that this instruction may remain with Immediate Media Company Bristol Ltd and, if so, details will be passed electronically to my Bank/Building Society.

Signature(s)

Date

OFFICE USE ONLY

Reference Number

Originator's Identification Number

8 3 6 8 3 9

Banks and building societies may not accept Direct Debit instructions for some types of accounts

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DESIGN BY **HELEN PHILIPPS**

Shopping list

- ✕ Zweigart* 14-count white aida measuring 15x15cm (6x6in) for each design
- ✕ Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- ✕ Size 24 tapestry needle
- ✕ Craft Creations* square aperture cards (AP53U) in pink and pale blue

Thread & fabric cost
Approximately £10

*For stockists see page 90

A royal affair

Welcome the newest member of the Royal family in stitches with this versatile card design



Royal Baby Card chart



Dagmara READER PANEL

“This is a great design not only for the Royal birth, but for use on cards to celebrate any new baby. Also, if you do not know what sex the baby will be, you can easily use neutral colours like yellow or green.”

Helen's designed this chart so it can be stitched in pink or blue, depending if a little brother or sister is born for Prince George.

Once stitched, you can send your cards and congratulations to:

*The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge
Clarence House
London, SW1A 1BA*



Meet the designer

Helen Philipps

“I'm getting excited for the arrival of the new baby, so was delighted to create this card to celebrate such a special occasion. I've also come up with an alphabet so you can add the Royal arrival's name too, if you like!”



Prince of butterflies

To mark Prince George's first birthday, Prince William (L) and Catherine, Duchess of Cambridge visited the Sensational Butterflies exhibition at the Natural History Museum in London on Wednesday July 2, 2014



Royal Baby Card key – pink

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
■	413	236	1713	grey
▽	704	255	1308	green
—	744	301	112	yellow
b	834	874	2510	straw
■	3607	87	708	dark pink
A	3608	86	709	pink

✕ Backstitch in one strand

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
—	413	236	1713	grey

STITCH COUNT 50 high x 49 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 9x9cm (3½x3½in)

This design was stitched using DMC stranded cotton

Royal Baby Card key – blue

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
A	156	939	2702	blue
■	351	10	214	coral
■	413	236	1713	grey
▽	704	255	1308	green
—	744	301	112	yellow
b	834	874	2510	straw

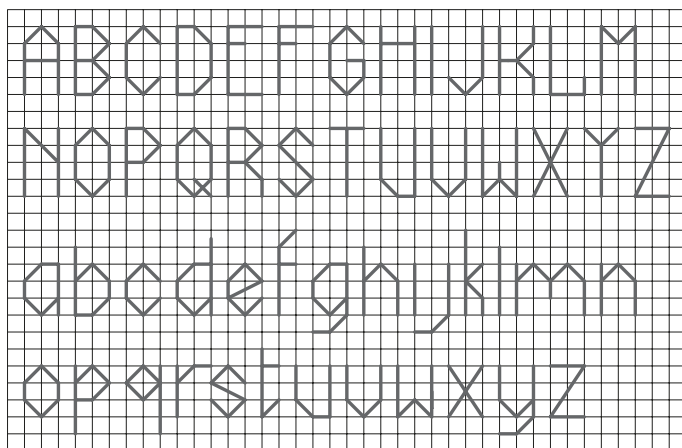
✕ Backstitch in one strand

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
—	413	236	1713	grey

STITCH COUNT 50 high x 49 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 9x9cm (3½x3½in)

This design was stitched using DMC stranded cotton



Alphabet chart

Stitch for princesses & princes

Factbox

- ✕ **Stitching Time**
Approx. 8-10 hours each
- ✕ **Type of Stitches**
Cross stitch, fractionals, backstitch,
- ✕ **Ease of Stitching**
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PAGES 24 & 37



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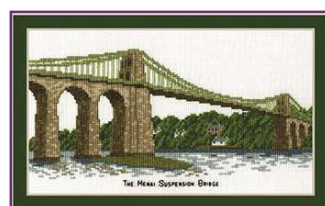
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Start stitching Kate Knight's stunning butterfly design

Kate Knight



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Stitching's a breeze!
Let Senior Technical Editor
Anne show you how it's
done, in this guide

CHOOSE YOUR ESSENTIALS...

Start with these must-have items

1. FABRICS

Begin with either aida or evenweave.

Aida is best for beginners, with regular woven blocks and obvious holes. It's stiffer than evenweave, but will soften slightly as you work. 14-count aida is the most common. It's harder to work fractional stitches on aida, as you'll need to make an extra hole in the fabric, in the centre of the aida block.

Evenweave is a lovely fabric to work on when you have a little more experience. The fibres aren't woven in blocks as with aida, so it's softer and the fine weave has more threads-per-inch – the most commonly used is 28-count. One stitch is usually worked over two threads of the fabric so it has an equivalent design size of 14-count aida. Cross stitching fractional stitches is easier on evenweave, as there's a central hole spare so you don't need to split a block as for aida.



to stitch with, and are colourfast to 95°C. Cheaper brands are available, but they're less durable and may not be colourfast.

3. NEEDLES

To cross stitch, use a **tapestry needle**, which has a blunt tip and larger eye than a regular sewing needle. It easily passes through the fibres of aida and evenweave. Different needle sizes are available, with varying lengths and widths, so choose the best for your fabric – see our handy guide. Other needles are useful too... try a fine beading needle for adding bead accents. You may also prefer a sharp-tipped embroidery (or crewel) needle to split aida blocks when stitching fractional stitches.

Tapestry needle	Aida	Evenweave
	6-count	
	8-count	
	11-count	22, 25 & 27-count
	14-count	28-count
	16-count	32-count*
	18-count	36 & 55-count



*Also includes 22-count Hardanger

START CROSS STITCHING...

Make sure you hit the mark first time, every time with our top tips!

✖ **Choose your project...** With our Factbox guide in every one of our projects, you can make sure you choose the right level for you. Absolute beginners should aim for a design without fractional stitches.

✖ **Buy your materials...** To make sure your design looks great, use our Shopping List for each project, which specifies everything needed, like size of fabric and finishing materials. Using another fabric with different HPI, will give a different finished size of design. Calculate your fabric requirements like this: Stitch count divided by HPI of 'new' fabric choice = new size in inches. Add at least 10cm (4in) on each dimension to allow for mounting, or less for cards.

✖ **Get ready...** We always recommend starting in the centre of a design and working outwards. Our charts are marked with two centre arrows so find a symbol close to the centre and begin there.

✖ **Get set...** Find the corresponding centre of your fabric by folding in half and half again. The point where the folds cross corresponds to the centre so this is where your central stitch should go.

✖ **Get stitching...** Begin your stitches in two strands of thread with a loop start for the neatest way to get going. It uses one double-length (80cm) strand with both ends threaded together. See our diagrams for how to stitch. Finish threads by weaving the left-over 'tail' under a few stitches at the back.



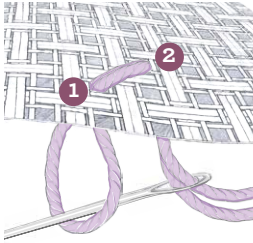
Fabric choices: Aida (left) with obvious holes is better for beginners. Evenweave (right) has a finer weave: see our video at www.cross-stitching.com

2. THREADS

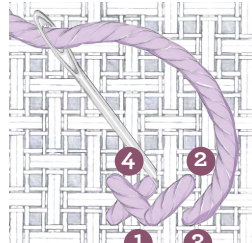
You'll need **stranded cotton** – this coloured thread comes in 8m skeins and is made up of six strands. The count of your fabric will determine the number of strands you use in your needle. Typically for 14-count aida you'll use two strands for cross stitch and just one strand for backstitch. This is indicated in the key or instructions for your project. There are three main brands – DMC, Anchor and Madeira – which are all smooth and easy

How to stitch

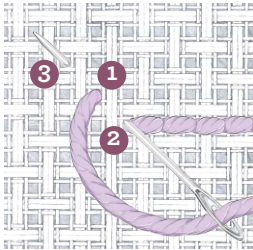
Tackle the basic stitches in our charts...



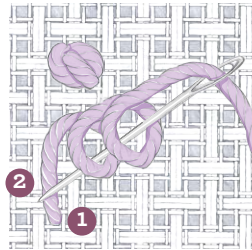
Loop start With both ends of a strand threaded, bring your needle up (1), leaving a loop at the back. Work the first arm of your stitch (2) & secure it by passing your needle through the loop.



Cross stitch Bring your needle up at the bottom left corner (1) & down in the top right (2) for the first 'arm' of your stitch. Work the second arm, coming up in the bottom right (3) & going down in the top left (4).



Backstitch Add detail and definition. Bring your needle up at (1) & down at (2), come up again at (3), then back down at (1) & so on, to direct each stitch 'back' towards the line of the growing backstitch.



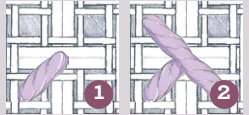
French knots Easy with practice – come up in the fabric (1), keep the thread taut & wrap twice around the needle. Push the needle down, close by, but *not* in the same hole (2). Split the aida block for a neat knot.

FRACTIONAL STITCHES

Fractionals let you create rounded edges



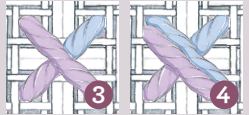
Quarter
The chart shows which corner has the fractional. Bring the needle up in that corner and down in the centre of the square, halfway across the diagonal (diagram 1).



Three-quarters
Work a quarter stitch, then, a half stitch across the other diagonal arm of the square as in diagram 2. Like quarters, three-quarter stitches can face any direction.



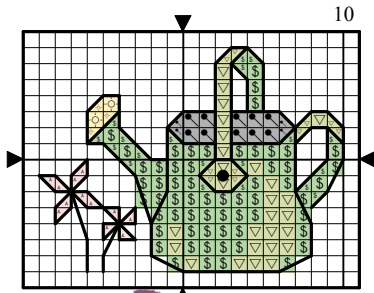
Two symbols
When two symbols share a square, work a fractional in each colour. Decide on the quarter stitch for the background colour, then a three-quarters stitch for the main one (diagram 3).



Back-to-back
For a stronger outline, work a three-quarter stitch in each colour, stitching them back-to-back (diagram 4). Make sure that the two half stitch arms lie neatly parallel to each other.

How to read our keys

Clear symbols, colours, & all the info you need!



Symbols

Look for a symbol close to the chart centre – the arrows on our charts easily show the centre so you won't need to count! Find this symbol in the key. The codes in that row show which thread shades to use for cross stitching blocks with this symbol.

Thread brands

The thread shades are listed in separate columns for the different manufacturer brands of thread. For best results, you should stick to one manufacturer for the whole of a design.

Backstitch & French knot shades

The shades used for these are listed under the cross stitch symbols. The number of strands needed for these can vary, so make sure you check how many to use, as specified in the key.

Watering Can key

× Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
☐	413	236	1713	grey
☐	726	295	109	yellow
☐	905	257	1412	dark green
☐	906	256	1410	green
A	3716	25	503	pink

× Backstitch in one strand

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
—	310	403	2400	black

× French knots in one strand

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
●	310	403	2400	black

STITCH COUNT 14 high x 19 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 2.5x3.5cm (1x1¼in)

This design was stitched using DMC stranded cotton

Stitch count & Design area

The finished size of your design – in stitches and on a particular fabric. HPI stands for 'holes per inch'.

Jargon buster!

Use our A-Z of cross stitch to know what's what...

Afghan – a woollen blanket with areas inset for cross stitching, often used for baby designs

Aida band – a narrow strip of aida, available in varying widths, and finished with a decorative edge

Aperture – a hole through which a design is seen in cards & frames

Backstitch – used to add detail & definition. See how to stitch it in our diagram above!

Beading needle – a longer, finer needle than a tapestry needle, used for adding seed beads to a design

Counted stitches – embroidery stitches worked on counted, or evenly woven, fabrics like aida & evenweave. Cross stitch is the most basic counted stitch

Floss – USA term for stranded cotton

Fractional stitches – made from either a

quarter or three-quarters of a cross stitch, these allow you to create 'rounded' edges. See how to make these in our diagrams above!

Half stitch – made up of only one half (one 'arm') of a cross stitch, it gives less dense coverage so an overall lighter effect in the design

Hoop – a wooden or spring-mounted plastic circular frame that holds your fabric taut while

working a design
Longstitch – long backstitches, crossing larger fabric distances

Metallic threads – similar to stranded cottons, these have a metallic finish for shine and sparkle

Perforated paper – toughened paper with a tiny grid of holes, which can be used for stitching instead of fabric

Plastic canvas – plastic alternative to

fabric which won't fray when cut

Skein – an 8m length of stranded cotton, divisible into six separate strands

Soluble aida – temporary fabric which, like waste canvas, is used to add cross stitching to non-counted fabrics, & then dissolved away in water afterwards

Stitching over two – term used to describe stitching over two threads of the weave of

an evenweave fabric
Variegated thread – specific type of stranded cotton, in which the colour changes along the length of the thread for a shaded effect

Waste canvas – loosely woven fabric, held together with soluble glue. Used to add designs to clothing & other non-counted fabrics before being moistened & the fibres withdrawn with tweezers

Ruth's STITCHING WORLD

For a place to put your feet up and find some fun & stichy chat, look no further...

While I'm writing this, summer holidays are a while away... (Thankfully, we've a few Bank Holidays squeezed in between now and then so I can fit in some bonus stitching days!) But what reminds me of happy holidays at this time of year are gorgeous projects to relive the memories. Our stunning 'Lavender Fields' chartbook project is just the sort of scene that I'd stitch as a beautiful reminder of French 'bonnes vacances'!

Have you ever made a design as a happy reminder of a holiday? I've done a few of these, to remember a Cornish harbourside, a scene of a Parisian bistro with the Eiffel Tower illuminated nearby, and even a Venetian-themed design with gondolas and Grand Canal bringing back the atmosphere of a special holiday.

With all the variety of charts, kits and even magazine projects out there, it's oh-so-easy to find something that suits, whatever trip you've been on. Or maybe even there's a holiday visit that's on your wishlist, and the chance to stitch it will let you live that dream, until the real thing happens! Let me know what stitching's been inspired by your travels... do email me and send your photos to ruth@cross-stitching.com

“I love projects that are happy reminders of holiday travels!”



My Pinterest Picks



Have you got the Pinterest bug yet? Here are three hot ideas I've spotted and pinned to our boards... Find these and lots more, when you visit us: www.pinterest.com/worldofxs



Souvenir chic: A Parisian memory – pretty Eiffel Tower scissors!



Sudoku

Fill the grid so each row, column & 3x3 box has numbers one to nine

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

WHAT'S HOT

Planning a trip and a new project to remember it by...

WHAT'S NOT

...a trip-of-a-lifetime turns project-of-a-lifetime. Not another UFO!

Coleshill Accessories

www.coleshillaccessories.co.uk



Pinking Shears

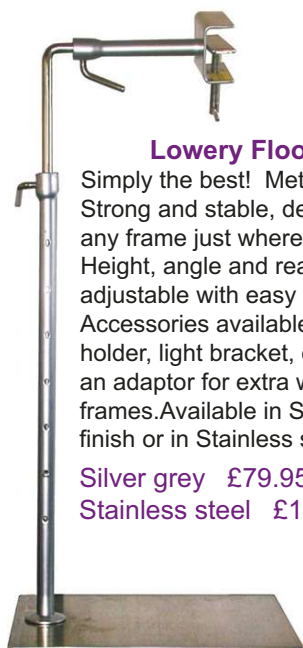
Lightweight, super sharp.
Best quality!
Best price!
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Magnifying Chart Aid

Keep your place on a cross stitch chart. Place the metal board under your chart and the magnifying clear plastic square on top. The red grid lines keep your place as you stitch. The corner magnets hold needles and scissors securely. Size 10cm x 8cm.

Complete Chart aid £15.95
Magnifying Top only £10.95



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Silver grey £79.95
Stainless steel £139.99



Handeze Gloves

Relieve pain from arthritis, tendonitis, carpal tunnel etc. while stitching or knitting.

Available in **beige** or **slate blue** with or without the extra wrist strap, which gives more support.

To measure for size place hand on piece of paper. Mark the paper each side of the knuckles, at the base of the fingers. Measure the distance between the 2 marks and select size.

2.0" - 2 1/2"	51 - 64mm	Size 2
2 1/2" - 3 1/4"	64 - 78 mm	Size 3
3 1/4" - 3 3/4"	78 - 91 mm	Size 4
3 3/4" - 4 1/2"	91 - 105mm	Size 5

Regular £19.95 Wrist Support £20.95



Needle Park Avenue

Stitch faster by parking your working threads on the Needle Park. Have more needles threaded and darn in your threads less often. Magnetic

£7.95



De Luxe set of Knit-Pro Interchangeable needles

in tough, rainbow coloured birch. The birch wood tips screw into the cables, enabling you to change size quickly and economically. You can knit round or straight. Great for arthritic hands. Has 8 pairs of needles sizes 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, 5.0, 5.5, 6.0, 7.0, 8.0mm. and 4 cables to make 60, 80, 100 and 120 cms circular needles.!

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Master Seat Stand

A sit-on stand to hold any type of frame up to 18". Does the job of a floor stand with the versatility of a seat stand. Height and angle fully adjustable. Folds flat for travel and storage.

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Tail Catcher

Secures the end of your thread when it is too short to use a needle. Thread the loop through your stitching, hook the short thread into the loop & pull through.

Not suitable for wool.

Choose from:-

Bee
Celtic,
Butterfly,
Tortoise,
Kingfisher

£21.95



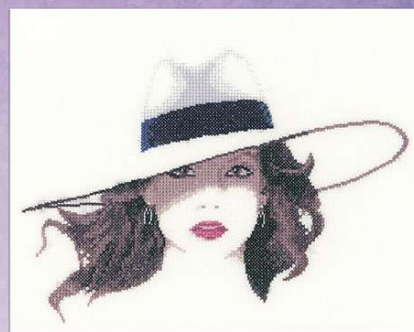
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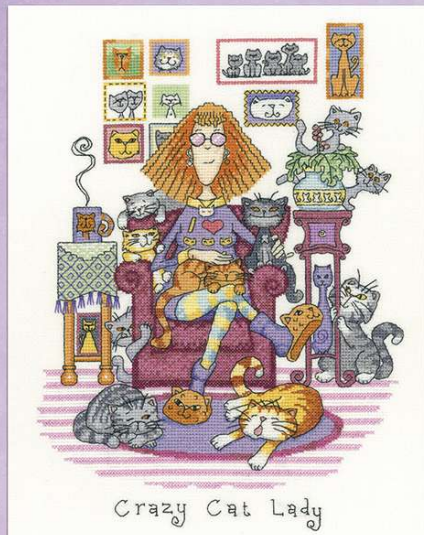


HERITAGE Crafts

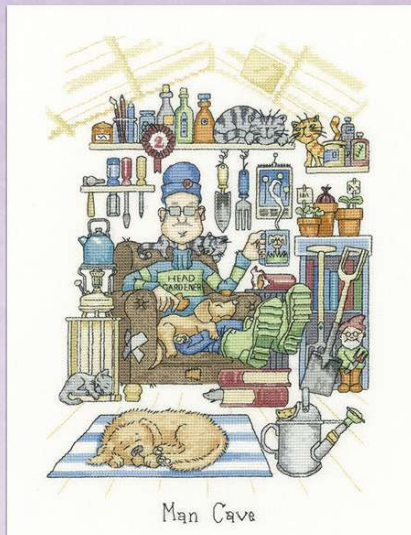
Working with talented artists to produce beautiful counted cross stitch designs



Roxy by John Clayton - 22.5 x 16cm



Crazy Cat Lady by Peter Underhill - 22.5 x 31cm



Man Cave by Peter Underhill - 20 x 30cm



Sarah by John Clayton - 18 x 25.5cm



Otter
by John Stubbs - 20.5 x 25.5cm



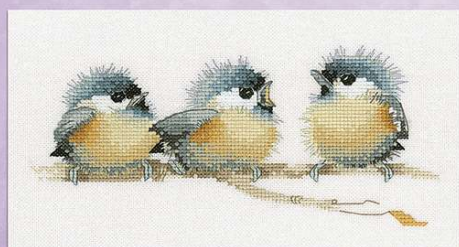
Brown Hare
by John Stubbs - 19 x 24cm



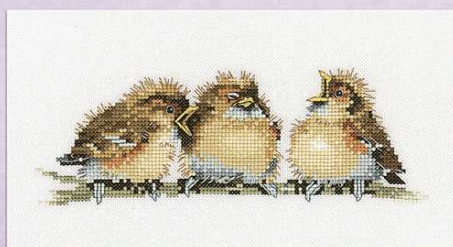
Harvest Mouse
by John Stubbs - 20.5 x 25.5cm



Red Squirrel
by John Stubbs - 19 x 24cm



Sitting Pretty
by Valerie Pfeiffer - 20.5 x 9cm



Three's a Crowd
by Valerie Pfeiffer - 20.5 x 9cm



Three Little Maids
by Valerie Pfeiffer - 19 x 9cm

Please contact us if you'd like a copy of our latest catalogue!

You can see our full range of cross stitch kits, charts & fabric at www.hcrafts.com

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