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THE WORLD OF Cross Stitching

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Make summer bags: we show you how!



Funky fruit designs

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*UK ONLY

FAB CHARTS FOR BEGINNERS & ADVANCED

84 STUNNING patterns!



PLUS WILD WEST MOTIFS P.47



NEW DESIGN!

Time for a TEA PARTY!



Caravan cards ❀ Sweet lilacs ❀ Retro cushion ❀ Seaside village ❀



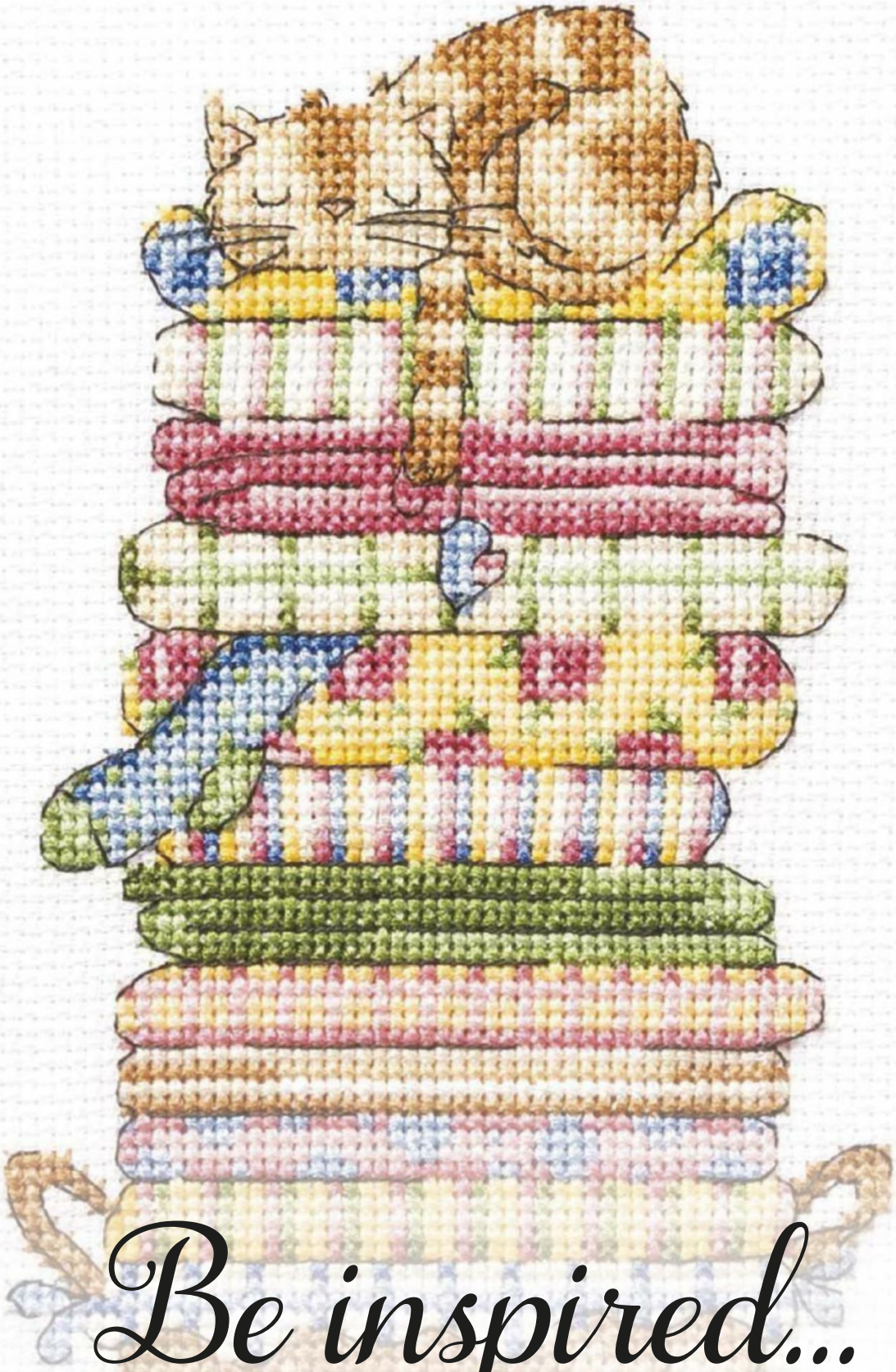






Bold & blue! P.59
Stitch our kingfisher ABC

GREAT ADVICE – OUR EXPERTS HELP YOU!



Be inspired...

Thread up your needle and delight in our easy-to-use patterns, perfect for beginners or more experienced stitchers alike

Welcome

Say hello to our June issue! We've got heaps of new patterns and inspiration on offer that'll put you in the mood for summer holidays. Jenny Van De Wiele's **Cornish village scene** (p38) will bring some sunshine into your home, celebrate the classic British holiday with our collection of **retro caravan cards** by Rhona Norrie (p28) and Amanda Gregory's **two fruity bag designs** (p76) are just perfect for taking on a picnic. We've included a simple step-by-step tutorial for making the bags, too.

Our cover star this month is Lucie Heaton's adorable **Furry Tales** design (p10). Created in whole stitches only, it's a fantastic project for beginners who are ready to tackle something bigger. For another cute design, we love the **cheeky cat** perched atop the fresh laundry pile by Durene Jones on page 70. Ideal for cat-loving friends or family.

Don't say we don't spoil you – your free gift this month is a **bumper collection of ABCs** to enjoy using with the free 16m of raspberry and teal stranded cottons. The **78 inspiring designs** in the ABC chart book will be so handy for those fast-fix projects. You can choose monograms or chart names and greetings – all perfect for customising your makes. Enjoy,



Hannah

The World of Cross Stitching









Meet some of our designers...



LUCIE HEATON

If you love Lucie's Furry Tales mice, then you're in for a treat this issue! Stitch her adorable design (p10) for a special tea or coffee drinker in your life!



AMANDA GREGORY

Turn your cross stitch into a useable item with Amanda's fruity bag designs on page 76. They're the perfect way to show off your stitchy skills this summer!



MARIA DIAZ

Enjoy stitching Maria's stunning kingfisher alphabet collection (p58). Use the bright and beautiful designs to personalise cards and gifts for all occasions.

Your chance to win!

See page 83 to enter our competitions & be lucky



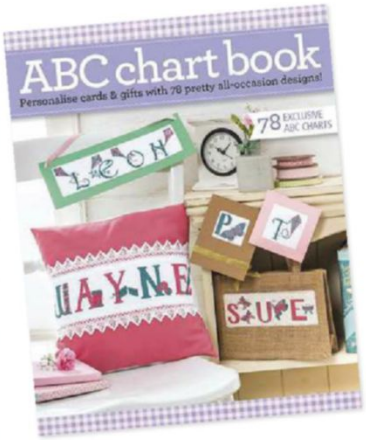
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We bring you all the best projects, advice, news and offers for the month ahead!

YOUR BONUS GIFT!

Turn to page 101

Find your fabulous free chart book at the end of this edition. It's packed with 78 ABC charts to stitch now!



Bonus gift available with print edition only. Overseas gift(s) may vary



COVER STAR!

10 GET TO WORK ON THIS 'FURRY TALES' SCENE

Subscribe and save money

Turn to page 44

Receive a beautiful Karen Carter cross stitch kit, plus **save 29%** off the shop price!



Subscription offer available to new UK subscribers only and with print edition only

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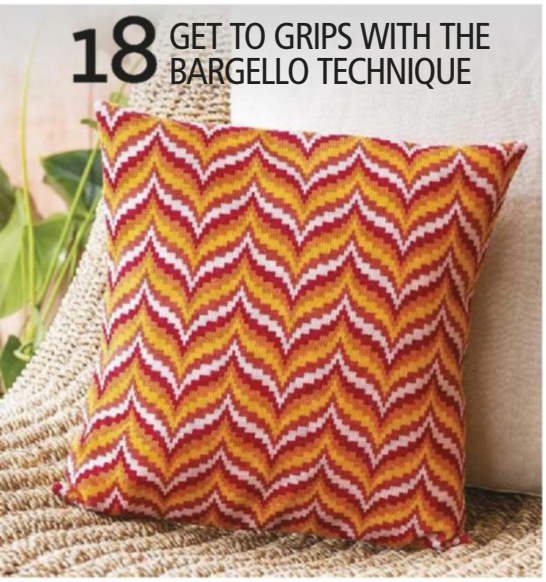


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Much more than a magazine…

APPS TO GO!

Here at *The World of Cross Stitching* we're proud to be online! Download our apps at the Apple newsstand, Google play, Zinio and Amazon for Kindle Fire.



Be on the panel!

- Get a sneak preview
- Appear in the magazine
- Receive a stitchy gift

Meet our guests

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

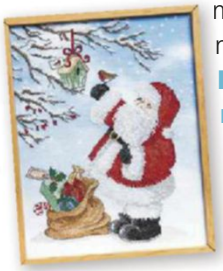


Jennifer Sladek

is a personal support worker from Ontario

How did you start stitching?
When I was in high school my mom taught me. I was going through her old binders with all her patterns and I was intrigued.

What do you love to stitch?
I love Halloween and Christmas projects as these are my favourite times of the year. I also like florals – mostly lilies, as they are my favourite flower.



Fave design from a recent *WOXS*?
I liked the detail in the Santa Claus design in issue 262 – it was a beautiful pattern.

What do you love most about cross stitching?
I love how it allows you to be creative and also provides 'me time'. It makes me focus on what I'm doing, and not what's happening around me.

What's your top stitching tip?
Print a copy of your chart and mark what you do, as it can be confusing to pinpoint where you left off.



Laura Perkins

is a waitress from Billericay

What was your favourite ever project?
The 'Wedding Sampler' from issue 224 – I stayed up all night to finish it, just in time for my brother's wedding… I knew it would be worth it.



What's your fave design from a recent *WOXS*?
The teacup bookmarks from issue 263. I made one for a girl at work for Christmas.

What's your most memorable stitching moment?
It has to be the time I finished a 'stitch-a-photo' for my brother. It was a photo of him and two of our other brothers. It took three months, but the end result was brilliant and no-one could believe how it looked just like the original picture.

What's your latest project?
I've been trying to get all the birthday cards done for the year ahead, so I can start on bigger projects for gifts.



Alison Lubbe

is a stock system controller from South Africa

What's your fave design from a recent *WOXS*?
The seahorse in issue 259. I love the colours, metallics and sparkly beads. I also class myself as a proper Pisces – I love the oceans and all sea creatures.

What do your family think of your hobby?
My friends and family think I am very talented and creative. My husband is very interested in what I do – he knows all the stitching terms! My mum has recently been bitten by the cross stitch bug, too.



Any stitching buddies?
I sometimes sit and stitch with my youngest daughter, Keira.

What's your fave project style?
I love all kinds of fantasy designs, but mostly fairies.

Is there a technique you've never been able to master?
I am left-handed so I have never been able to do a French knot.

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 £33!

THANKS! This month's panel members each get a bundle of thread goodies from Madeira. Each bundle includes a Thread Cutter worth £6.70 and five Value Packs of metallic threads and braid worth £5.30 each, making a prize total of £33.

Order your copy today!

Your fantastic cards collection

Ultimate CrossStitch Cards

Only £8.99 inc p&p





This gorgeous collection features 201 irresistible designs to stitch and send for every occasion, from birthdays and anniversaries to Christmas and Valentine's Day.

With 201 charts inside, you'll discover fabulous motifs which you can stitch to celebrate all the important dates throughout the year. There's a card for every occasion, for weddings and new babies as well as cards for children, for mum and dad and seasonal events such as Easter and Halloween.

Inside this issue:

* Stitch beautiful floral designs for any occasion
* You'll love our summer themed cards
* Celebrate a milestone birthday
* Send a 'home sweet home' greeting, a 'thank you' message or a 'get well soon' card
* Cute animal couples to stitch for loved ones

Your favourite designers

* Fiona Baker * Lucie Heaton *
Jenny Barton * Emma Congdon *
Durene Jones * Jayne Schofield *
Rhona Norrie * Debra Page *
Maria Diaz * Lesley Teare
And more!

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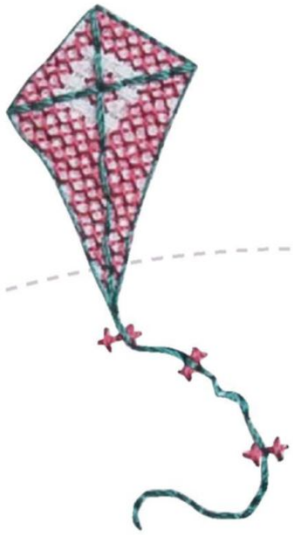
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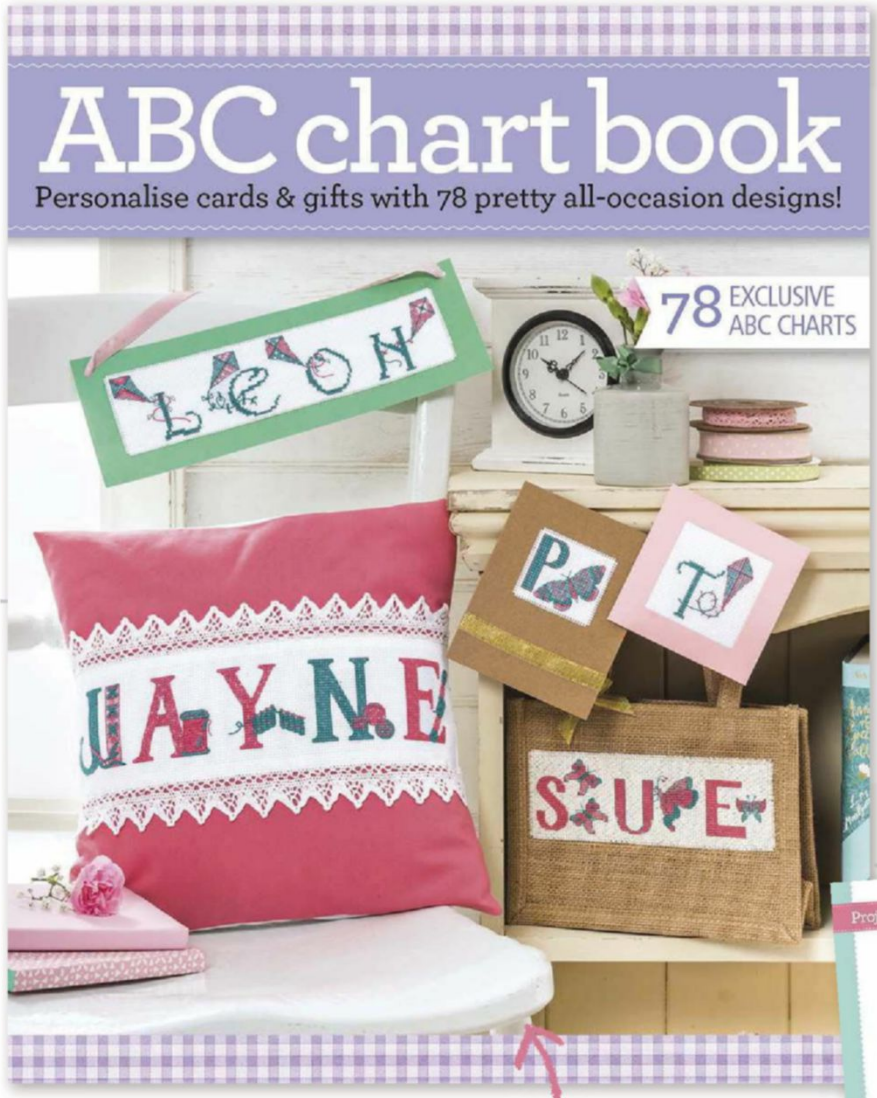
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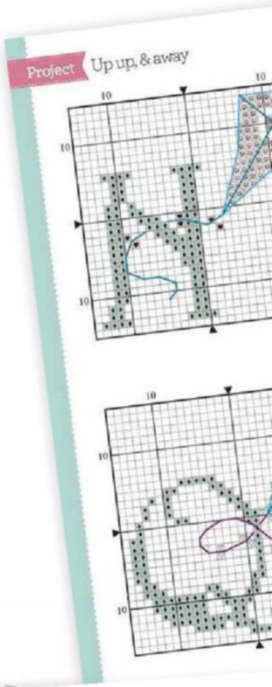
FREE chart book!

Find your free 36-page alphabet chart book at the end of this edition!











Bonus threads gift available with print edition only.

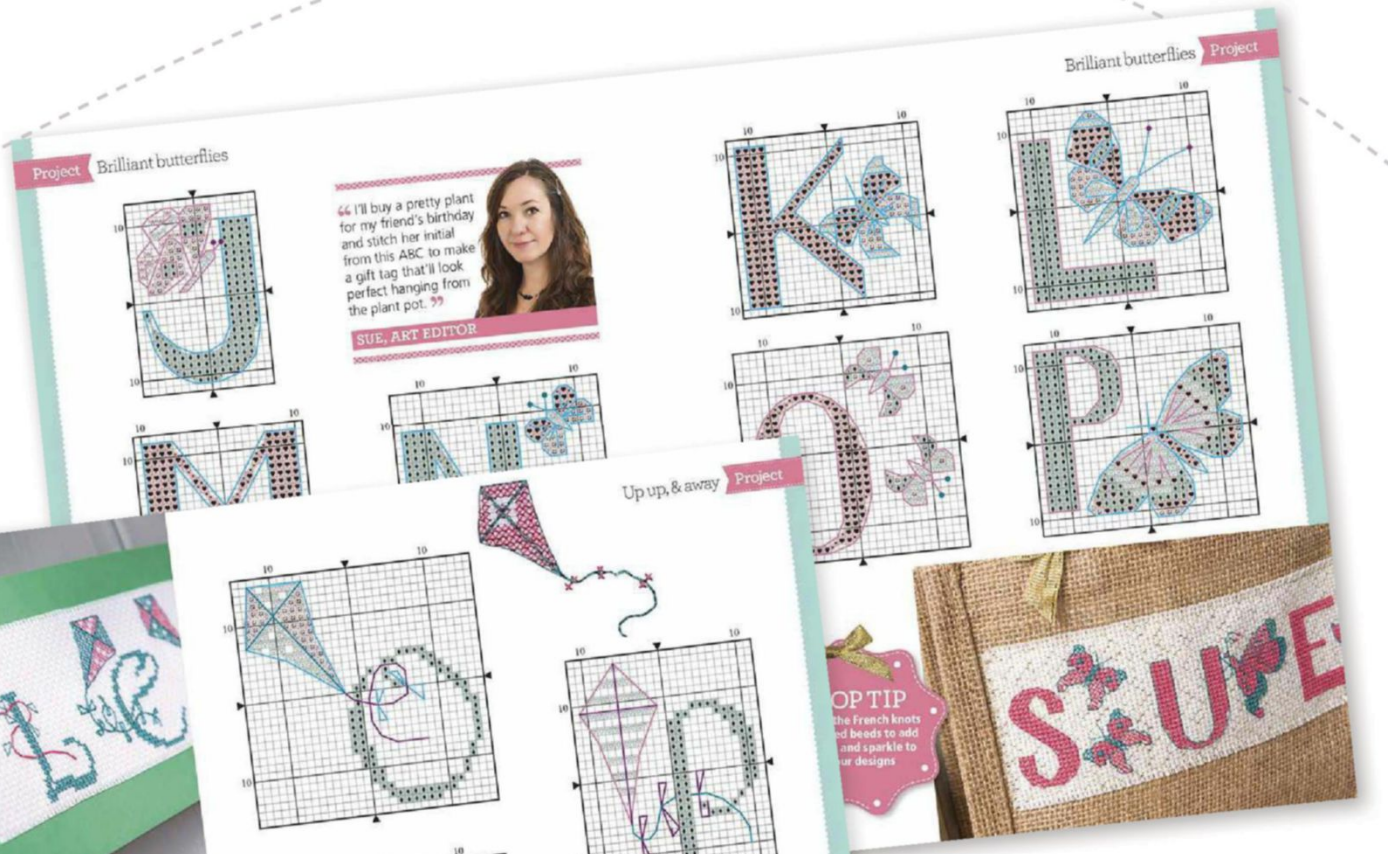


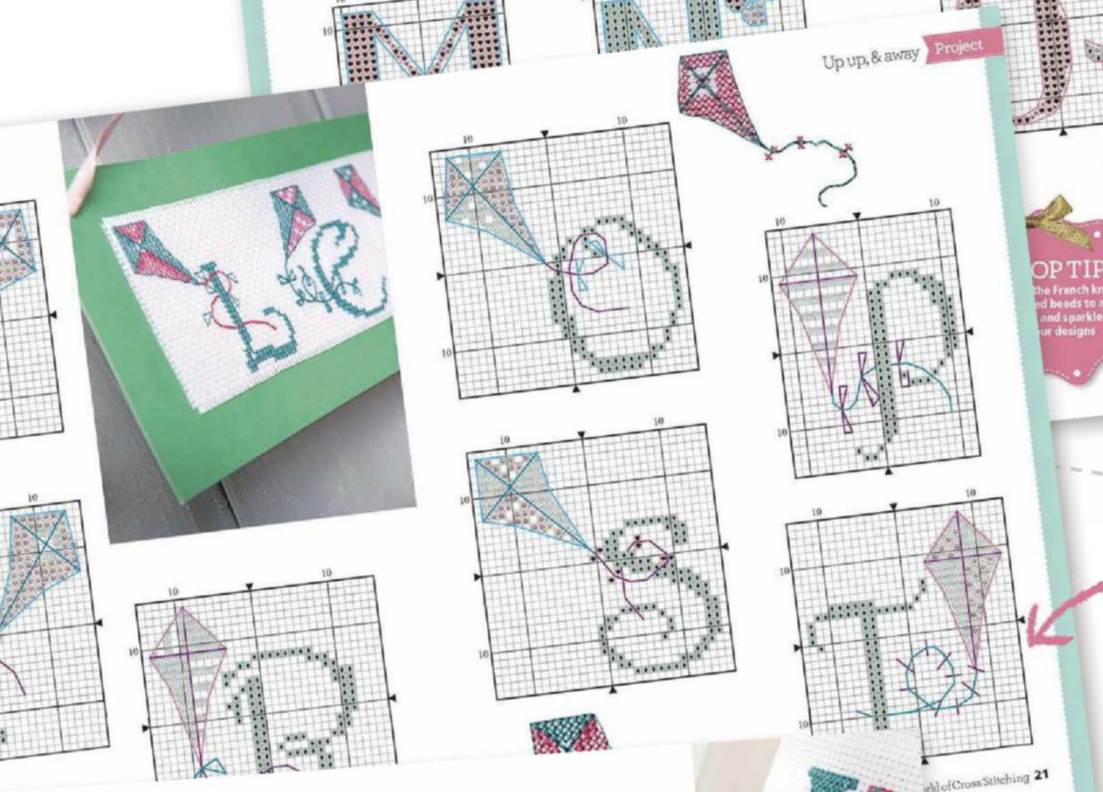
SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

There are three different themes and styles for the ABC charts, so you're sure to find something you like!





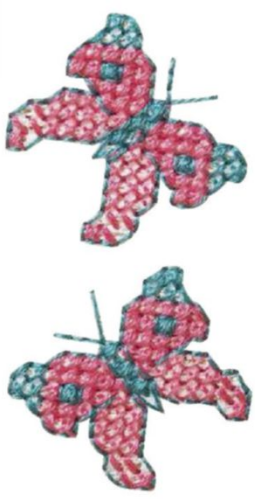






PERSONALISED GREETINGS

You'll never be short of a card idea again – choose from our cool kites, beautiful butterflies or colourful craft motifs





LEELA, DEPUTY ART EDITOR

"I love the colour of these teal and raspberry threads – they really make our ABC designs 'pop'… and the charts themselves are so versatile!"

DESIGN BY **LUCIE HEATON**

Time for a tea party!

Grab a cuppa and settle down to stitch Lucie's adorable design – the latest in her super-cute Furry Tales collection



There's one thing we love almost as much as stitching, and that's taking a little break to enjoy a restorative cup of tea or coffee. If you're anything like us, this project is the ideal way to combine your two passions – once this design is complete it will look right at home in your kitchen, ready to accompany you on your next tea break!

Lucie's cute mouse characters are created in whole stitches, with some backstitch in dark grey thread to outline and define the scene. It's a great design for beginners who are ready to tackle a larger project, or for experienced stitchers who'd like a satisfying and enjoyable break from working on more complex designs.

Factbox

Perfect for beginners

- **Stitching Time**
  Approx. 45 hours
- **Type of Stitches**
  Cross stitch, backstitch
- **Ease of Stitching**
  Beginner/advanced beginner

The 22 bright thread colours stand out beautifully against the crisp, 14-count white aida, but if you fancy experimenting with coloured fabric, feel free to get creative. Whatever you decide, this design makes a wonderful gift for a special friend – if you can bear to part with it, that is!



Meet the designer

Lucie Heaton

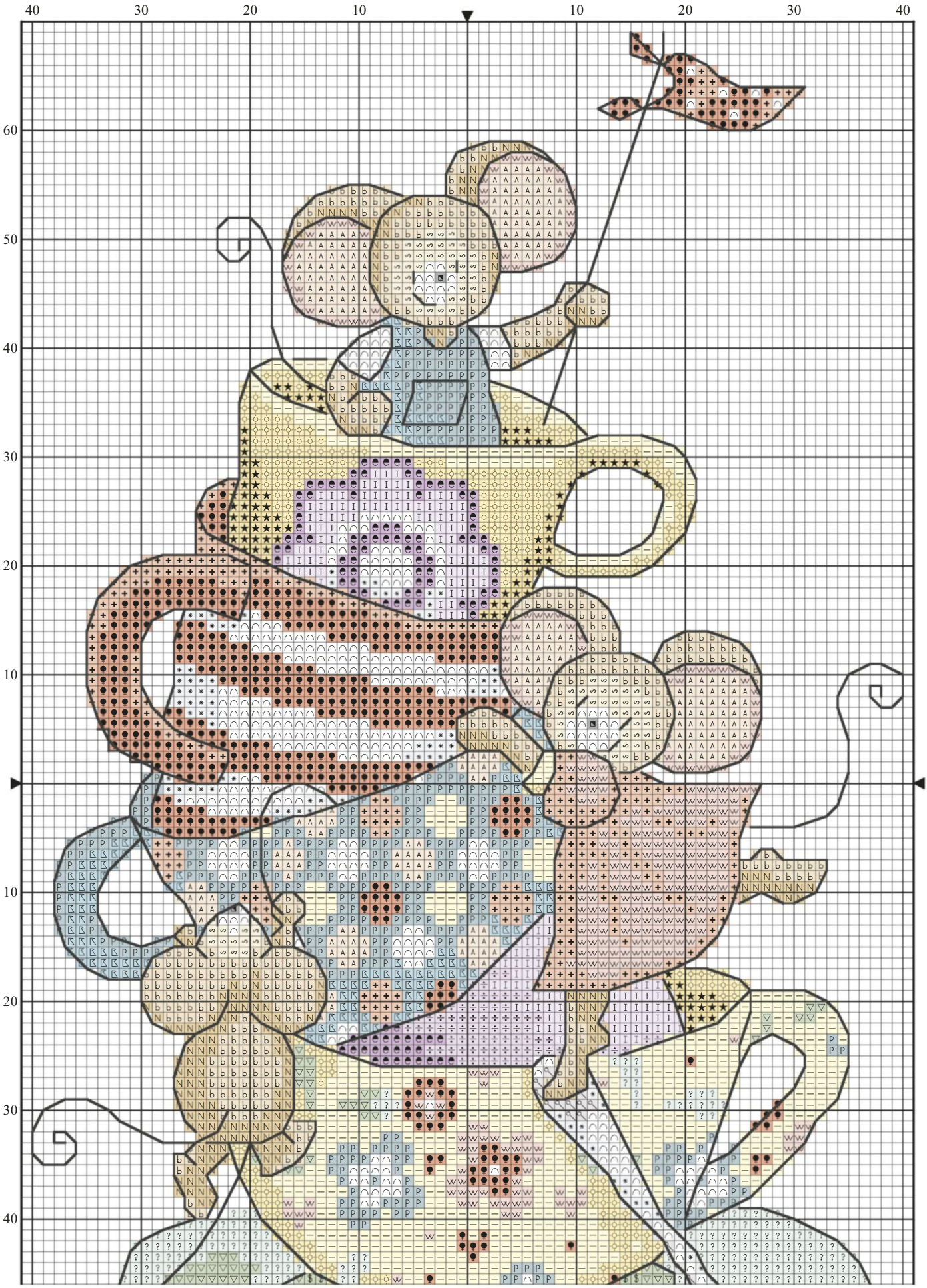
"In this new 'Furry Tales' design I've used a bright, bold colour palette for the teacups, which contrasts well with the soft browns of the mice's fur – I hope you'll enjoy stitching it as much as I enjoyed creating it."

EASY & FUN TO STITCH

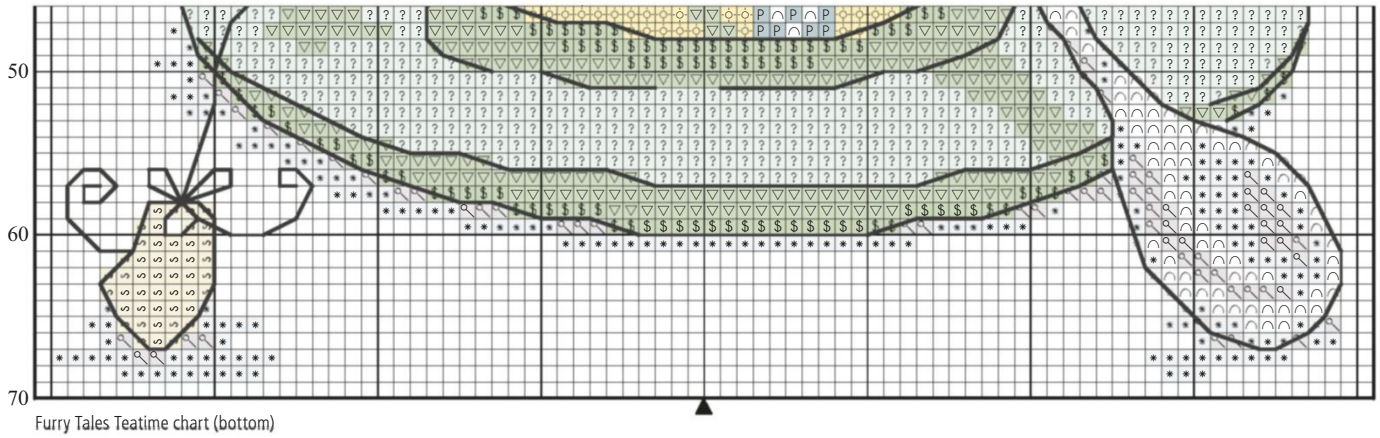




Stitch this for a special tea or coffee drinker in your life – it will brighten up any kitchen wall



Furry Tales Teatime chart (top)



Furry Tales Teatime chart (bottom)

Teacups Mice key

Cross i h in two rands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	blanc	2	2402	white
e	208	99	804	dark lilac
÷	210	108	802	lilac
I	211	342	801	light lilac
`	415	398	1802	grey
N	436	1045	2011	tan
b	437	362	2012	light tan
$	562	210	1205	dark green
▽	563	208	1207	green
?	564	206	1208	light green
♀	606	334	209	orange
★	725	305	113	dark yellow
☼	726	295	109	yellow
s	739	366	2014	cream
*	762	234	1804	light grey
◹	807	168	1108	blue
A	967	6	304	light peach
–	3078	292	102	light yellow
+	3340	329	301	dark peach
P	3766	167	1109	light blue
◥	3799	236	1713	dark grey
w	3824	9	2605	peach

Backstitch in one strand

——	3799	236	1713	dark grey

STITCH COUNT 138 high x 80 wide
DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 25x14.5cm (9¾x5¾in)

This design was stitched using DMC stranded cotton

Alison READER PANEL



"I love these cute little Furry Tales mice climbing in teacups – they are just so sweet! I think this design will look fabulous displayed on my dining room wall with the rest of my cross stitch projects."

Shopping list

- Zweigart* 14-count white aida measuring 40x30cm (15¾x11¾in)
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Size 24 tapestry needle
- Frame of your choice with a minimum aperture of 27x17.5cm (10½x6¾in)

Thread & fabric cost
Approximately £26

*For stockists see page 90

TOP TIP
If you're giving this as a gift, why not sign your work with tiny stitched initials and date in the bottom corner?

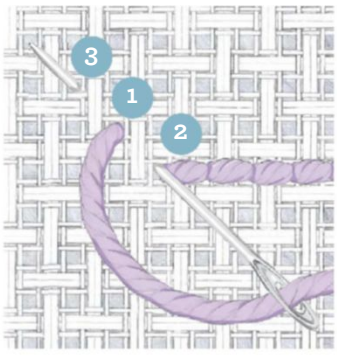


HANNAH, DEPUTY EDITOR

"I'm so excited about this new Furry Tales design, which is just as adorable as you'd expect from Lucie's range – those cheerful colours and sweet mice are sure to put a smile on your face as you stitch."

How to... add backstitch to your design

When you've finished all the cross stitches, load your needle with one strand of dark grey thread. Following the backstitch line on the chart, make your stitches as in this diagram. Bring your needle up at 1, down at 2 then back up at 3, stitching in a two steps forward, one step back motion. Keep it neat by using short lengths, to prevent them fuzzing up with wear.



Your letters

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



Star Letter

THIS IS YOUR LIFE

Hello! I thought you would be as impressed as I was with the creation my daughter stitched for me of 'My Life' for my 60th birthday. When my three children reached their 18th birthdays I secretly made them samplers. On the samplers I included obvious and not-so-obvious memories of their lives so far. I never expected my daughter Jen to do the same for me! It is far larger than the ones I made them (as she explained, there were a lot more years and events to include!). Family trees, hobbies, my career in farming – even a set of stairs that I had recently told her I used to slide down as a child – were included.

Her dilemma came on getting it mounted, as for all her other projects she had made good old mum help her to lace the work. This time she faced the challenge on her own and did a beautiful job. I am very proud of the picture and that I have a daughter who is able to achieve such wonderful work.

Helen Butland, via email

Hannah: *You must be so proud of your daughter, Helen! It's clear that a great deal of hard work (and love) has gone into this unique and detailed piece of work, and I have no doubt that you will treasure this forever. Will you be sharing the Star Letter prize with Jen, or keeping it for yourself?!*



✉ **This is your life**
Helen's daughter Jen created this for her mum's 60th birthday

King of the castle

I had to send you this photo of my lovely three-year-old great-nephew Robert with the castle picture by Jenny Barton that you featured in issue 187 (March 2012). As soon as I saw it, I knew I'd have to make it for him, then when my niece and her son moved house I decided that it would make a great house-warming present for Robert's new bedroom.



✉ **King of the castle**
Robert loved his house-warming present!

I framed it rather than making it into a cushion as suggested, and it now has pride of place on his bedroom wall. It's such a super picture, with lots of detail and inspiration for making up stories. Thank you for such a great magazine with a wonderful variety of projects – never a dull moment!

Angela Jones, Great Bookham

Leela: *This is great, Angela! I also love that Jenny's design is being used to inspire all that creativity in making up stories.*

Win!

Our Star Letter writer wins these three fantastic kits by Genny Haines – 'Home Sweet Home', 'On Top of the World' and 'Bruce's Garden'.

MORE: For more details visit www.goldleafneedlework.co.uk



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

Fabulous feathers

Thank you so much for the lovely owl pattern in issue 256 (July 2017). As soon as I saw the design, I knew I had to stitch it. I changed the pattern a bit and used sparkly thread instead of beads. I also did part of it in blackwork. I am going to frame it and keep it. I love seeing your magazine coming through my letterbox each month. Many thanks.
Gillian Alborough, Crewe

Sue: *I'm not surprised you've decided to keep this – I'd be reluctant to give it away if I'd created anything so beautiful!*



Fabulous feathers
We love Gillian's adaptation of our owl design from issue 256



Baby blanket beauty
Carson will be able to treasure his gorgeous stitched afghan forever

BABY BLANKET BEAUTY

In issue 224 (January 2015) you kindly printed the photo of our first grandchild Blaine on his afghan blanket. I mentioned that I had another afghan with nursery rhymes for our next grandchild. Well here he is – Carson – and his big brother Blaine loves helping with his baby brother. I am now looking through back issues for ideas for another baby afghan just in case it's needed. Fingers crossed!
Janet Smith, Glenrothes

Hannah: *What a cutie! And such an obliging baby to pose so nicely with his brilliant new blanket! These afghans make perfect birth gifts that will be treasured – and can even be passed down the generations in future.*

REGALING ROYALTY

Greetings from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. I finally managed to get my 'Kings and Queens of Britain' framed and thought you might like to see it. I added the dates, which were not on the original chart and so it's bigger than the original design – it now measures 66x43cm (26x17in) not including the frame.

Cross stitch as a hobby is still small in Malaysia, but it has a dedicated following. There is no shortage of stitchers – just a big shortage of shops and outlets, and so your magazine points the way for new designs and outlets in the UK for us to buy from. Keep up the good work.
Karen Woon, Malaysia

Leela: *What a brilliant design – there's so much detail in there, and I love that you've included the dates of each monarch too.*



Regaling royalty
This humorous, intricate design depicts the kings and queens of England – what a lot of fantastic stitching!

Perfect Present



Purrfect painter
This is the ideal gift for anyone who loves cats and art!

PURRFECT PAINTER

I just wanted to share this gift that I made for my best friend some time back. She loves cats and is also into art, so I thought this Margaret Sherry picture from issue 192 (August 2012) would be perfect for her.

She has recently started doing a few cross stitch projects of her own – I think she's caught the bug! We both find cross stitching a great way to wind down after long days at work.
Aimee Hardman, Stockton-on-Tees

Sue: *How fantastic that you found such a perfect design to give your cat-loving artist friend! I'm glad we could help. And I'm so pleased that Margaret Sherry's funny feline design helped to inspire your friend to get into stitching too – I think that cross stitch is even better when you have someone to share your hobby with.*

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

Beautiful butterflies

I just finished my butterfly quilt as a Christmas gift for my best friend. I enjoyed stitching the butterflies and the colours were fabulous. Your magazine has such great projects – I always find something to make as a gift. Keep up the good work!
Barbara Crispano, Florida

Leela: *What a glorious piece of work, Barbara. It must have taken you ages to stitch all those butterflies. I hope your friend was thrilled with this special gift.*



Beautiful butterflies We bet Barbara's friend loved this present!



Race to Nanna's house Cross stitch as a family board game!

Race to Nanna's house

Hello! I wanted to write in and show you a picture of my beautiful mum on her birthday with the cross stitch project I have been working on for the past year and few months. This is by far the biggest project I have ever worked on but I'm so proud of the end result and my mum was thrilled to receive it.

I found the 'Fairytale Board Game' chart in issue 242 (May 2016) and straight away knew I had to stitch it as my mum has always wanted grandchildren and now she has three (Lauren, Jamie and Ross). When we all go round and visit her, we find some spare buttons and play this stitched game. It makes me so happy to think that a stitching project can bring us all together so we can laugh and have fun. Thank you, and I look forward to seeing what other projects your amazing magazine has in store.
Sarah Procter, Worksop

Sue: *Brilliant work, Sarah! It's fantastic to see how your finished stitching has turned into something that can be enjoyed by three generations of the family in this way – and it will no doubt be in action for many years to come.*



Joys of harvest Alison's pictures were the perfect gift for her parents

JOYS OF HARVEST

I wanted to show you my 'Autumn Posies' stitching from issue 260 (November 2017). I knew they'd make a great Christmas present for my mum and dad, as the colours match with the colours in their home. Although recommended to be stitched on evenweave I've never tried it and I had a stash of cream aida fabric, so used this. I'm really pleased with the results and copied your mounting suggestion, which sets the designs off really well. These are the first proper pictures I've stitched for my parents as I usually stitch card-size designs. Thank you so much for producing a great magazine. My 'to do' list is ever growing – I just need more hours in my days!
Alison Greaves, East Yorkshire

Hannah: *Your parents must have been thrilled, Alison. Top stitching and framing! I hope you'll find more in this issue to add to that to-do list!*

Stitching as therapy

I'm 32 years old and have a rare condition called acute hysterical psychosis, which means that I can regress into a five-year-old-like state, which can last anything from hours to months. Cross stitching has been a form of therapy and I can stitch in my regression state. This is my second ever project that I stitched for my nan's 90th birthday. She was so proud of what I achieved, and how cross stitch helps me to de-stress and keeps me busy.
Hannah Gibney, via email

Sue: *What an inspirational letter, Hannah – and wonderful stitching for your nan. No wonder she was so proud!*



Stitching as therapy Hannah finds cross stitch therapeutic, and made this fab pic for her nan

Subs Stars



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

This month's winners are:
- Revd. Sr. E M Shearcroft
- Rachel Sinton
- Joanne James

To subscribe turn to page 44

Prizes every month!

The lucky winners will each be receiving this adorable Pollyanna Pickering 'Prickly Pot' hedgehog cross stitch kit. Complete with pre-sorted threads, chart and instructions, needle and 14-count light blue aida. A fab stitching project!

Immediate Media Co., publishers of World of Cross Stitching. Subs Stars giveaway Terms and Conditions: Prizes were dispatched before the on sale date of this issue. There are no cash alternatives. Winning entries will be chosen at random from all current subscribers. The draw is final and no correspondence will be entered into.

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



Elegant ladies
What a wonderful collection! Mrs Smith has been busy working on John Clayton's fabulous designs

ELEGANT LADIES

You published my letter in issue 238 (February 2016) when I sent in my sunflower picture. My husband died in March 2016 and I couldn't get back into cross stitch until I used part of the cross stitch prize from my letter submission to make my friend's 80th birthday card later that year. Since then I've bought some of John Clayton's 'Miniature Ladies' from Heritage Crafts. I like these because the detail is in the cross stitching, not relying on backstitch. I've also enclosed a photo of my completed 'Elegant Countess' from issue 254 (May 2017).

Mrs R Smith, Essex

Leela: *I'm so pleased that your prize from us helped get you back into stitching, and you've made a lovely job of this collection of designs. Thanks for sharing them!*

Full bloom

Here is my rose card from issue 256, all finished. This was lovely and I found it quite easy to stitch. I'm now looking forward to doing the gift tags as well!

Michelle Holigrocki, via email

Hannah: *So pretty, Michelle! Enjoy those gift tags, and do send us a pic.*



Full bloom
This card is bursting with the joys of spring

A special day

I couldn't wait to show you my latest project, which I designed myself. My husband Sean and I finally got married (after a 17-year-engagement!) in 2016 and I wanted to commemorate the day – including my tea length wedding dress, bird cages and my homemade bunting – in the best way I know how… good old cross stitch!

It was a pretty tough task charting it all up, creating a design that included French knots, beads and blending filament. Although I got off to a good start I didn't quite get to finish it on time because I fell pregnant and the morning sickness stopped me in my tracks. Six months after the birth (my little cutie Reuben is fit and well!) I returned to finish the job and I'm so satisfied with it. I'd love to design a birth sampler next! I hope you like my pictures, I've included a close-up of my sampler too. Have a lovely day!

Becky Connolly, North Yorkshire

Hannah: *I am so impressed by this, Becky: beautiful cross stitching, and the fact you created the design yourself makes it all the more special. Do keep us posted on how you get on with the birth sampler!*



A special day
Talented Becky designed this personalised wedding sampler herself!

SEND US YOUR NEWS

Don't forget to send all your letters and photos in to us!

Email us at:
letters@cross-stitching.com

or write to:
***The World of Cross Stitching*, Immediate Media Co, Tower House, Fairfax Street, Bristol BS1 3BN**

Get in touch on Facebook, too!



Each letter printed only in *The World of Cross Stitching* and not in any other cross stitching magazines will win a crafty mystery prize!

*For stockists see page 90

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

DESIGN BY **HEATHER NUGENT**

Bold and beautiful

If you're seeking to refresh your interior style, look no further than Heather's striking Bargello cushion design…



There's so much to love about this striking cushion, from its bold shapes to its zingy thread colours. It's worked in Bargello style, a traditional technique with a long history – though thanks to its revival over the past 50 years, today Bargello makes for a really contemporary-looking needlework style, with huge possibilities for adapting its colourways and patterns.

This design calls for just five shades of thread, which give it that wonderfully striking effect. Just make sure you count your stitches carefully as it's vital that you get the repeating patterns of the Bargello design right.

This project is worked in whole stitches only and would be best suited to confident beginners. It is large and dense so it requires a good deal of concentration and plenty of breaks to prevent aches – and to stop you getting tired and making mistakes.

Once you've finished stitching, this makes a fab cushion (see page 23 for instructions) and will be a colourful statement in any home.

Factbox

Bold repeating design

- **Stitching Time**
  Approx. 70 hours
- **Type of Stitches**
  Cross stitch
- **Ease of Stitching**
  Advanced beginner



Meet the designer

Heather Nugent

"My vibrant Bargello design is right on-trend and its bold patterns make it perfect for adding a splash of colour to any plain room – find it a home on your sofa and it's sure to be a talking point with all your guests!"

BRIGHT HOME DÉCOR



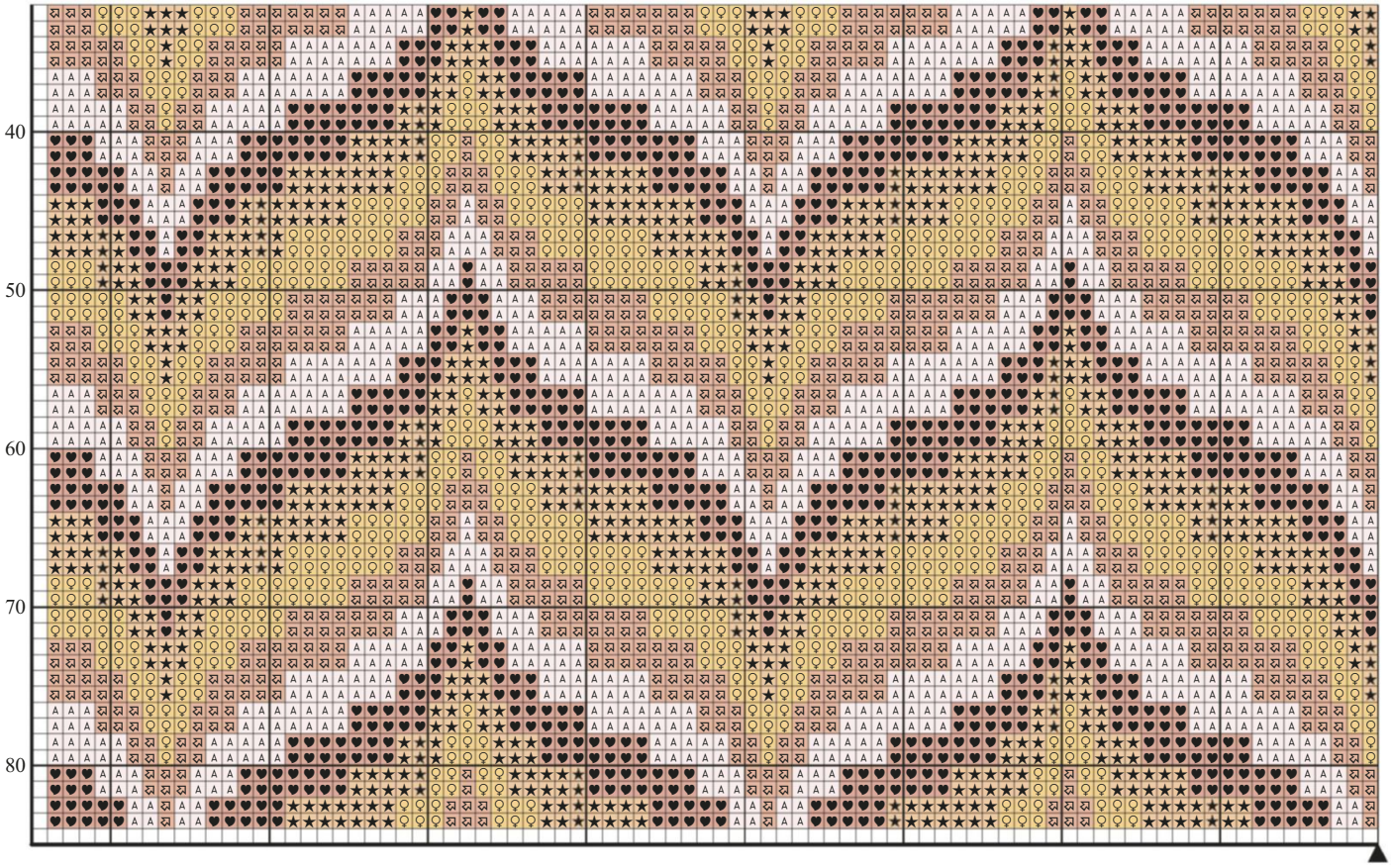
Show off your cross stitching skills with this fab pattern and give your living room a unique make over



Bargello Cushion chart (top left)



Bargello Cushion chart (top right)



Bargello Cushion chart (bottom left)

What is Bargello?

Discover the history of this stitching technique



This striking style of embroidery – also known as Florentine stitch or Hungarian point – consists of stitches worked in a repeating pattern to create distinctive motifs. It is thought that the style originated from embroidery that was found in the Bargello Palace in Florence, Italy (hence the name!). It was traditionally stitched in wool on canvas, but has evolved over recent years and since the revival of Bargello in the 1960s various designers have expanded the technique's possibilities with myriad new styles and techniques.

Bargello Cushion key

Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
♥	321	9046	510	red
✕	350	11	213	coral
★	721	324	308	orange
♀	972	298	107	tangerine
A	3713	1020	502	pink

STITCH COUNT 168 high x 168 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 30.5x30.5cm (12x12in)

SKEINS NEEDED **4x321** (red), **4x350** (coral), **4x721** (orange), **4x972** (tangerine), **4x3713** (pink)

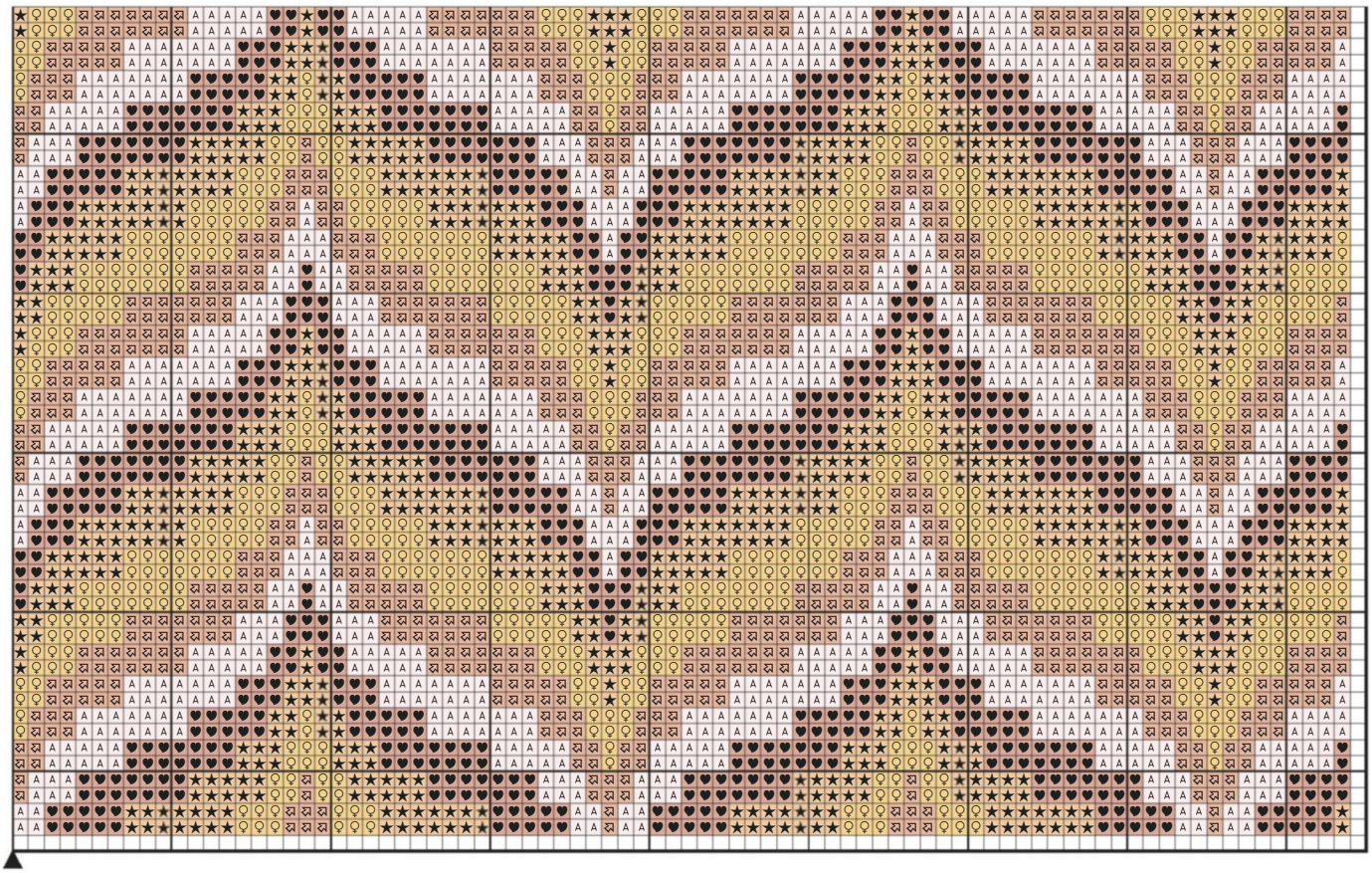
This design was stitched using DMC stranded cotton

Shopping list

- Zweigart* 14-count white aida measuring 40x40cm (15¾x15¾in)
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Size 24 tapestry needle
- Backing fabric of your choice and 30cm (12in) cushion pad to fit from local stores

Thread & fabric cost
Approximately £24

*For stockists see page 90



Bargello Cushion chart (bottom right)



TOP TIP

This project offers a chance to customise the design with your own choice of thread colours to match your own décor

How to... make a cushion

1 Trim your finished stitching, leaving a 1cm (½in) border around the sides.

2 Cut two pieces of backing fabric measuring 33x21cm (13x8¼in) for the envelope-opening back panel. Sew a 2cm (¾in) double hem along one long edge of each piece.

3 With right-sides facing, place these two panels over the front, so that the raw edges match and the hemmed edges of the panels overlap in the middle to create an envelope opening.

4 Pin and sew all the way around the edge of the cushion, using a 1cm (½in) seam allowance. Trim the corners, and then turn through to the right side and press.



Jennifer READER PANEL

"I love this funky, unique and retro cushion design by Heather! It would be perfect in any room in my house and it's definitely something different that would catch anyone's attention when they visit me."

Our Best Buys

All the hottest cross stitch must-haves for your shopping list, plus an exclusive offer to make your pennies go further...

Glow-in-the-dark

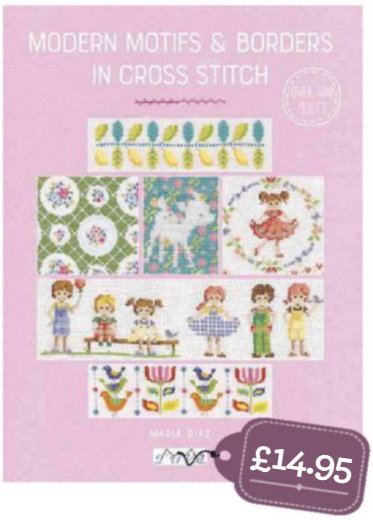
THE WORLD OF Cross Stitching PICK OF THE MONTH



Get glowing
In the dark you'll see these designs in a whole different light!

GET GLOWING!

The contemporary cross stitch designs from Bobo Stitch* are always on our radar, and this month we're loving the brand's fabulous glow-in-the-dark range – perfect for anyone seeking an innovative project. The collection includes two skull clothes patch kits as well as cute picture kits, so there's something for all the family! Skull kits include dissolvable canvas, DMC stranded cotton, iron-on interfacing, needle, instructions, chart and guide (you just need to supply your own item of clothing). Picture kits include chart, aida, threads, needle and guide. Glow-in-the-dark threads are carefully integrated into each design, so you'll get a completely different look from day to night!



BRILLIANT BOOK

Take a peek at the latest great cross-stitch book from designer Maria Diaz. *Modern Motifs & Borders in Cross Stitch* contains a fantastic collection of bright and cheery designs, with stylish folk influences. The charts are quick to stitch and so versatile – making this title the perfect choice if you're seeking a failsafe source of inspiration for card, gift and border ideas. The designs are suitable for all abilities and you can either stitch each design alone, or build bigger scenes or samplers using a selection of motifs. This book from Tuva Publishing* is definitely one for any stitcher's Amazon wish-list!

Trendwatching... Wild jungle

We're all about rich shades



Indoor jungle
Add this stylish and vibrant vinyl floor mat to your home from Amara*



Prints charming
We heart these animal print buttons from JustCreateCraft* on Etsy



Keep track
The 'Nocturnal Jungle' notebook by Nikki Strange* is ideal for jottings

ENCHANTING CHART

FABULOUS FAIRY MAGIC

We can't get enough of the enchanting designs by Bella Filipina* on Etsy. 'Reina Mariposa', pictured here, is one of our favourites in the range for its graceful lines, rich colours and intricate, delicate features. It is available as a printed chart and makes a stunning project, which is best suited to confident stitchers. The design includes whole cross stitches, backstitch and long stitch, and a host of sparkling seed beads to create a truly glamorous finish that's teeming with wow-factor.



POSITIVE VIBES

We'd be amazed if you ld find a more uplifting design than this one from The Make Arcade* – 'Make Today Amazing' is brimming with positivity. It measures 10x10cm (4x4in) and the kit even includes a wooden hoop for mounting.



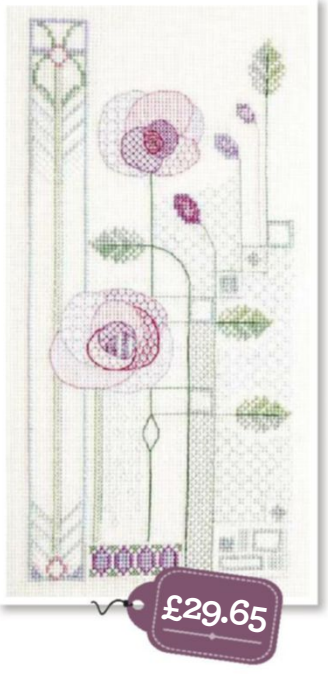


ON THE ROAD

The new Campervans' range from Textile Heritage* is a real treat for travellers who love heading out on the open road. The stylish collection includes all sorts of great gift items, from keyring and bookmark kits to coasters, greeting card and even a needlecase kit. If you love the look of these cute, contemporary designs, turn to page 83 for your chance to win the whole set!

COMING UP ROSES

This design is tailor-made for anyone who loves the Art Nouveau style of Scottish artist, Charles Rennie Mackintosh. 'Mackintosh – Evening Rose', from Bothy Threads*, is worked in sophisticated pastel thread shades and measures 13x27.5cm (5x11in) when finished. The kit contains 14-count Zweigart aida, pre-sorted cottons, metallic thread, needle, diagram and instructions. When finished, this will make a fine work of art for your home – why not stitch its sister design 'Mackintosh – Morning Rose' too, for even greater impact?



*For stockists see page 90

READER OFFER

The Peter Underhill Collection by Heritage Crafts* is a wonderfully sweet range of 14 cross stitch kits. Each kit contains 14-count Zweigart fabric, DMC stranded cottons sorted on to numbered cards, a needle, and clear charts and instructions. You can also choose to have 27-count evenweave if preferred. The kits range in price from £17.07 to £28.95 but we have a special discount of 20% off for readers when using the discount code **WOXS268** at www.hcrafts.com until 31 May.



Super sweet
Save 20% off these kits from the Peter Underhill Collection

and exotic patterns this month



Cat eyes
We're going wild for this gorgeous 'Out of Sight' kit from Stitcher*



Totally tropical
Get creative with the 'Tropical Leaves Decopatch' paper from Hobbycraft*

Pet of the month

We know you're huge fans of pets, so have us design a cross stitch of a beloved animal!





Design my pet!

Q Dear Durene, Is there any chance you could design my hamster, Castiel? He is two years and two months old – very old now for a hamster. I would love to cross stitch him, as he is getting frail now. Please make my dream come true. Thank you!

Alyson Rowlands, via email

A **Durene says:** Hi Alyson, I hope you like my cross stitch design of Castiel. He is such an adorable hamster – so fluffy! I have used a lot of white thread to bring out the texture of that lovely fur, with a little grey for definition, and some grey and blue backstitch for his outline. Pale pink threads are used for his ears, nose and paws, while a deep red, garnet shade makes his eyes stand out (with a couple of French knots in white to add depth and realism).

Mount your completed design in a card or in a small frame, perhaps in a similar shade of red used in the design.

I hope you will enjoy stitching your delightful pet. I love hamsters – they are such characterful little rodents, though I haven't come across many albino hamsters like Castiel. He has such a striking and unusual look, and I think it works really well in stitches.

Fun facts about Hamsters

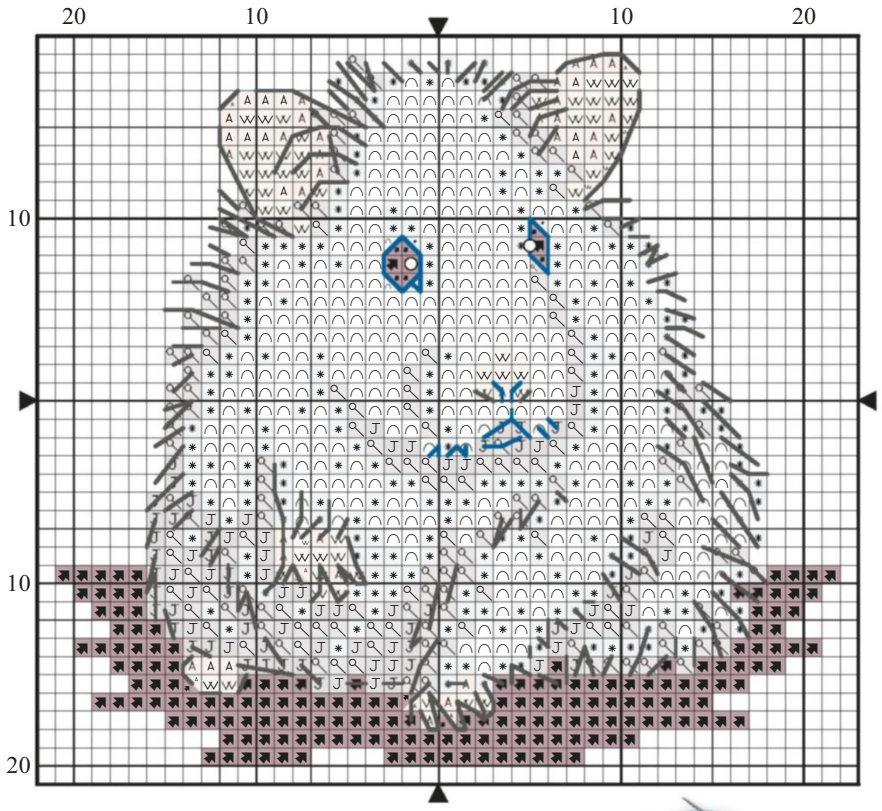
- **Hamsters store food in their** cheek pouches – full pouches can make their heads up to triple their normal size
- **They are born blind** and babies can't open their eyes until around a fortnight after birth
- **Hamsters' incisors never stop** growing
- **Hamsters can be trained** to respond to their names when called
- **Hamsters are colour blind**

Shopping list

- Zweigart* 14-count white aida measuring 15x15cm (6x6in)
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Size 24 tapestry needle
- Craft Creations* square aperture card (AP53U) in Ribbed Kraft (99)

Thread & fabric cost
Approximately £12

*For stockists see page 90





Factbox

Expand your skills

- **Stitching Time**
  Approx. 7 hours
- **Type of Stitches**
  Cross stitch, fractionals, backstitch, French knots
- **Ease of Stitching**
  Advanced beginner/ intermediate

Hamster key

Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	blanc	2	2402	white
A	225	892	814	shell pink
J	318	399	1801	dark grey
↖	415	398	1802	grey
*	762	234	1804	light grey
w	819	271	501	pink
◪	902	897	601	garnet

Backstitch in one strand

—	646	8581	1812	ash grey
—	931	1034	1711	petrol blue

French knots in one strand

○	blanc	2	2402	white

STITCH COUNT 39 high x 43 wide

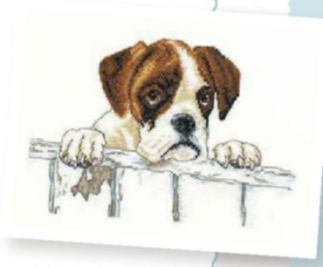
DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 7x8cm (2¾x3in)

This design was stitched using DMC stranded cotton

TOP TIP
Invest in a thread organiser system to avoid confusion when using similar shades of white and grey in this design

More pet ideas

Pensive pup



The new 'Bailey' design from Heritage Crafts* is based on the photography of Villager Jim. This gorgeous boxer puppy is watching the world go by while he waits for his master to take him for a walk. The kit costs £21.95 and includes pre-sorted DMC threads, Zweigart fabric, needle, chart and instructions.

Fish for compliments



We've found just the thing for anyone who loves pets that are more fin than fur. This gorgeous contemporary 'Goldfish' PDF chart from Leafblowndesigns* on Etsy is available as a download for £7.15. It measures around 33x20cm (13x8in) when stitched on 14-count aida and makes an eye-catching piece of art!

Blue is the colour



Fans of felines will love this soulful 'Russian Blue' cross stitch kit from Riolis – it's hard to resist those big blue eyes! The 10-count black aida background makes the design stand out beautifully, and the kit contains fabric, woollen and acrylic threads, needle, chart and instructions. Order for £14.50 from Past Impressions*.

DESIGN BY **RHONA NORRIE**

Home from home

Spread sunshine and joy with this set of colourful caravan cards, the perfect make for any occasion



There's no feeling quite like hitting the road for a holiday, be it a weekend away, or a fortnight-long adventure with family. With your bags packed and nothing but blue skies and lazy days ahead, the only way that moment could be improved is if you were towing one of these retro beauties behind you!

Each of these six cool caravans has been lovingly designed with the utmost attention to detail, from the cheery exteriors to the curtains and bunting hung with care. So, whether you're congratulating friends on their new home, wishing a pal 'bon voyage', or sending extra-special birthday wishes, Rhona's cards are just the ticket.

Quick to stitch

Factbox

- **Stitching Time**
  Approx. 6-7 hours each
- **Type of Stitches**
  Cross stitch, fractionals, backstitch, French knots
- **Ease of Stitching**
  Advanced beginner/ intermediate

Each chart uses a combination of whole cross stitches, fractionals, backstitch and French knots in a range of pretty threads shades. So while they'll only take you a couple of evenings to complete, these small scenes are packed with interest.



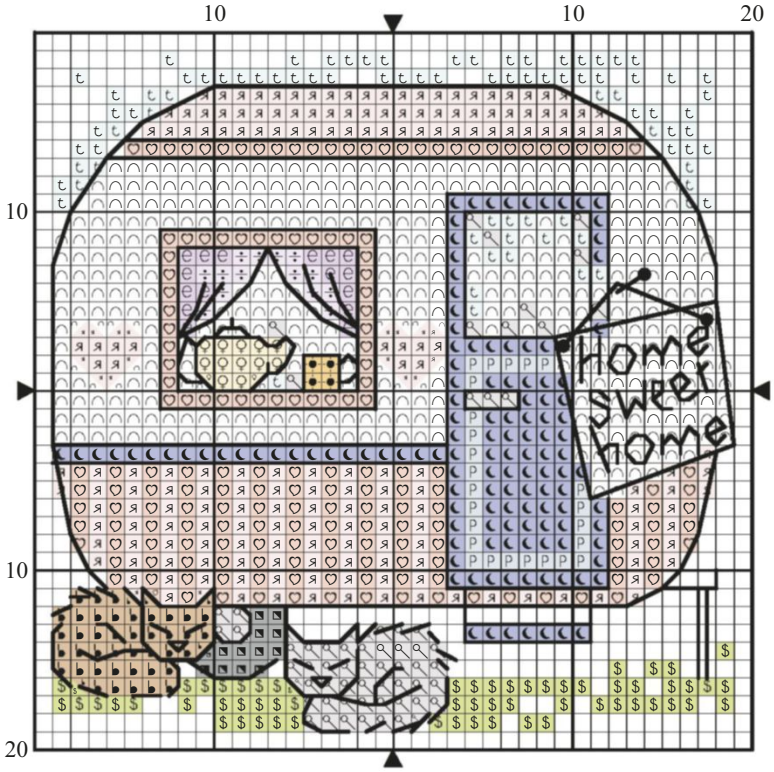
Meet the designer

Rhona Norrie

"There's something about caravans that is just so fun – a mini holiday home parked on your drive, ready and waiting to whisk you away. I loved designing these versions, with their jolly décor and jaunty colours!"



Celebrate the classic British holiday with one of these funky retro caravan cards!



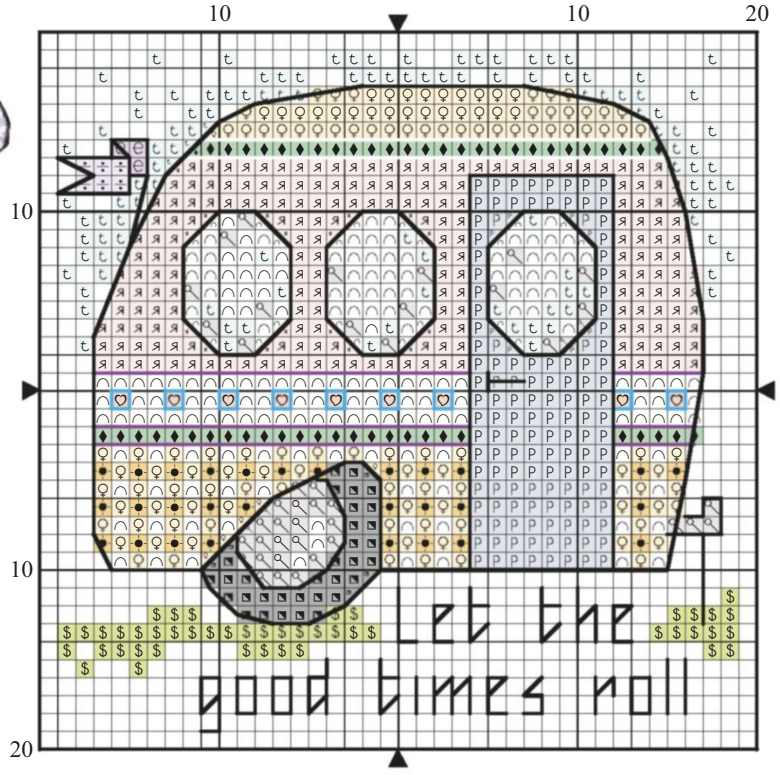


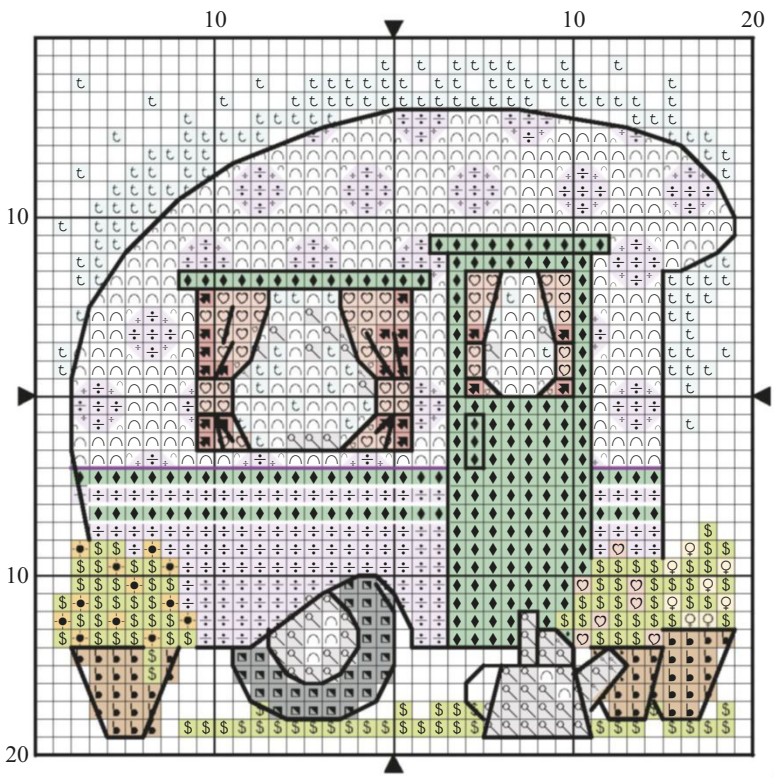


"I can't wait to take a mini break of my own, stitching one of these funky caravans! I have a campervan so I'm always off on an adventure, so I'd stitch one of these designs to mount it in a frame and display in my van."

LEELA, DEPUTY ART EDITOR



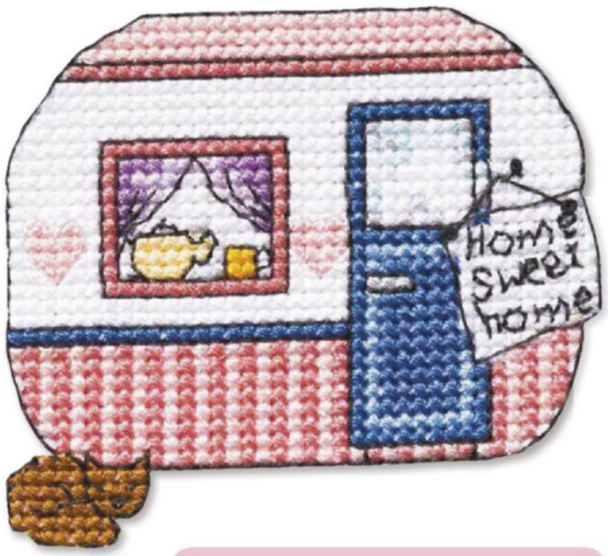






TOP TIP

Be adventurous and try different coloured aida to see how different your stitching can look

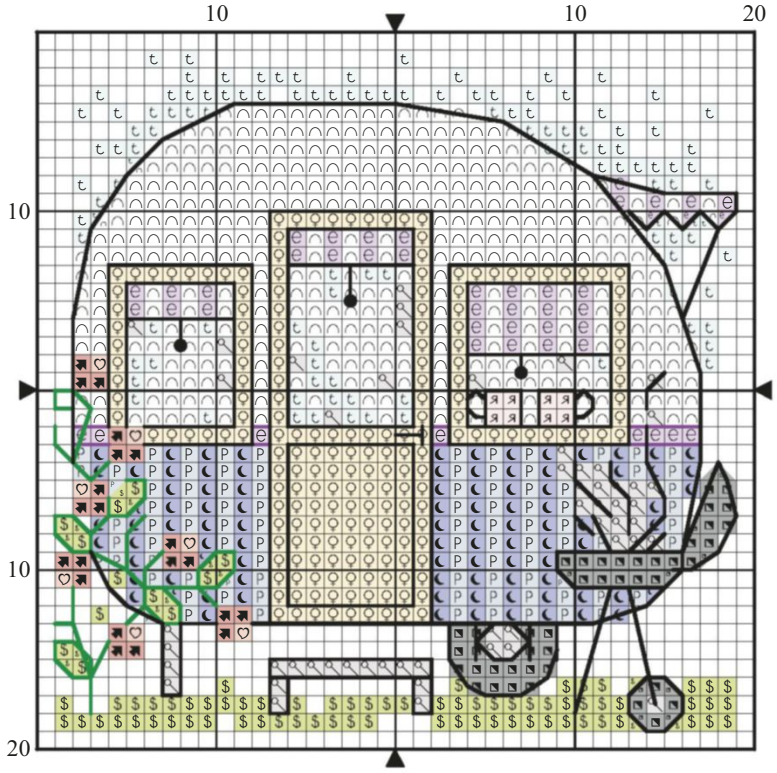


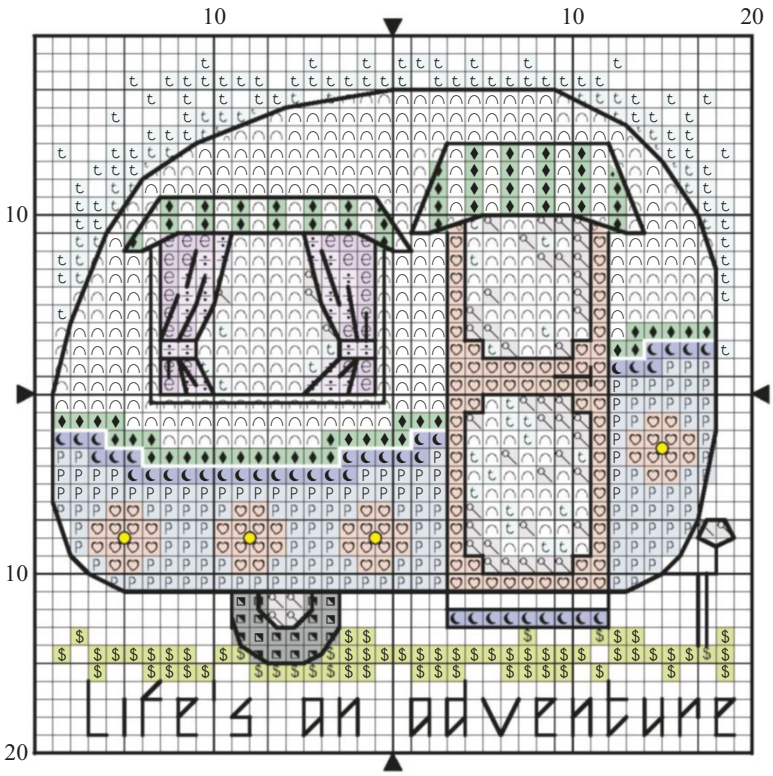
Shopping list

- Zweigart* 14-count white aida measuring 12x12cm (4¾x4¾in) for each design
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Size 24 tapestry needle
- PDA Card and Craft* cards measuring 120x120cm, with 76mm square apertures in Colorplan azure (203) and candy pink (208)

Thread & fabric cost
Approximately £20

*For stockists see page 90









Caravan Cards key

Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	B5200	1	2401	white
⊖	209	98	803	lilac
÷	211	342	801	light lilac
☾	322	131	1004	dark blue
✎	415	398	1802	grey
♭	435	1046	2010	tan
$	704	255	1308	green
●	742	303	114	tangerine
♀	745	300	111	yellow
t	747	158	1104	light blue
♡	760	1022	405	pink
◥	3328	1024	406	dark pink
я	3713	1020	502	light pink
P	3755	140	1013	blue
◪	3799	236	1713	dark grey
♦	3851	187	1202	emerald

Backstitch in one strand

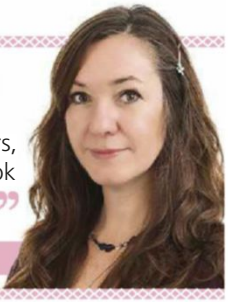
—	B5200	1	2401	white
—	209	98	803	lilac
—	704	255	1308	green
—	3755	140	1013	blue
—	3799	236	1713	dark grey

French knots in one strand

●	745	300	111	yellow
●	3799	236	1713	dark grey

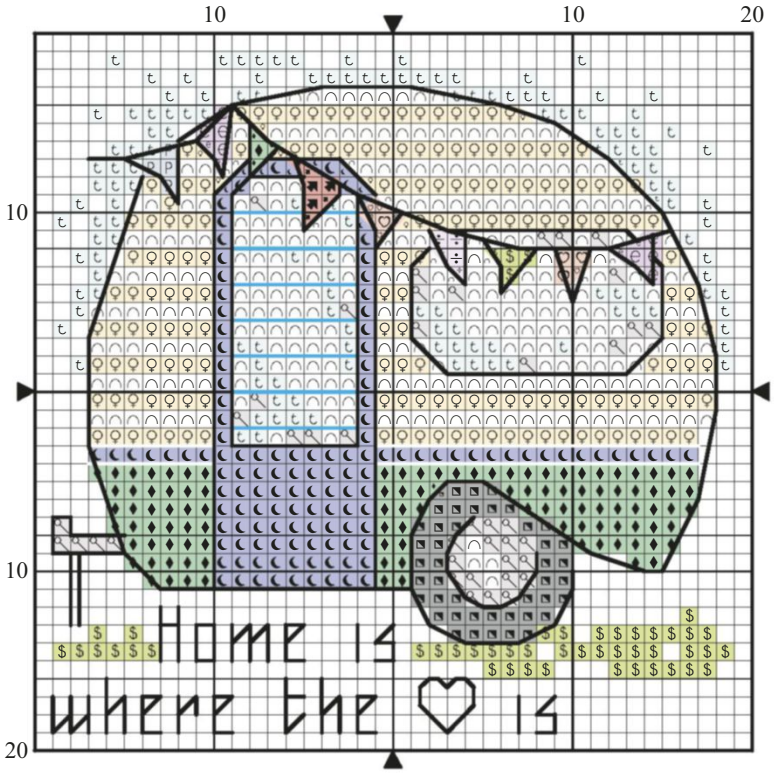
MAXIMUM STITCH COUNT 38 high x 38 wide
DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 7x7cm (2¾x2¾in)

These designs were stitched using DMC stranded cotton



"It's so handy to have a set of card charts that suit any occasion, and these fit the bill perfectly. With their sunny, summery colours, they're brilliant for birthdays, and would look just as lovely displayed in mini frames, too."

SUE, ART EDITOR



Ask the experts

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



Fiona Baker
Fiona is our Technical Editor so she's all ready to answer your problems on all things stitch and chart related



Heather Nugent
Heather is our Charting Editor and is on hand to answer any technical stitching questions that you have



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



Hannah Kelly
All set to hunt down those elusive charts and products, Hannah's here to find shopping answers that you need



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

CONTENTS

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Maria Diaz seeks out a great book for travellers

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Jenny has designed a very special cat for Linda

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Keeping fabric clean and orderly during big projects

37 **DESIGN ROUND-UP**
Beautiful British scenes in cross itch



So many beads
Our owl design from issue 256 calls for lots of sparkle!

So many beads

Q I'm planning on stitching the owl in issue 256 twice, and I was curious as to how many packages of seed beads and spools of Kreinik I would need? The craft store is about 45 minutes away, so I want to make sure I get enough.
Shelley Fulmizi, via Facebook

A **Heather says:** Mill Hill* seed beads come in a variety of different sized packs, including 2.85g (approx. 250 beads) and 4.54g (approx. 500 beads), so check the details carefully before buying. This highly embellished owl uses a whopping 276 individual beads of Mill Hill 00020, 686 of 002011 and 224 of 03049, so remember to double these for your two owls. Kreinik* #4 braid is trickier, as there's 11m per spool, but they don't split in the same way as stranded cotton. You'll probably need at least two to three spools of each colour (gold and pearl) per owl, but it's best to buy extra as you go, to avoid wasted threads – you could order online to save the extra journeys, too!

Home sweet home

Q I'm hoping that you can help me find a chart or kit for a new home please – but it has to be quite small as it's for someone who is moving fairly soon, and I'm not a very speedy stitcher! Many thanks in anticipation.
Anna Baynton, via email

A **Hannah says:** The Nutmeg Company* specialises in 3D cross stitch designs stitched onto perforated paper, and could have just the thing for you. This small 'New Home' kit measures 9cm (3½in) high, and should be quick to stitch using whole stitches and backstitch only – especially as you won't need to buy a separate card to make it up; simply back with the supplied paper, then cut and fold where indicated on the instructions. An ABC chart is included too, so you can even personalise it. All Nutmeg's card kits include 14-count perforated paper, a needle, threads, backing paper, envelope and instructions, and best of all, no fiddly construction required.



Home sweet home
This kit makes an easy but effective greeting

In the spotlight

MARIA DIAZ, CROSS STITCH DESIGNER



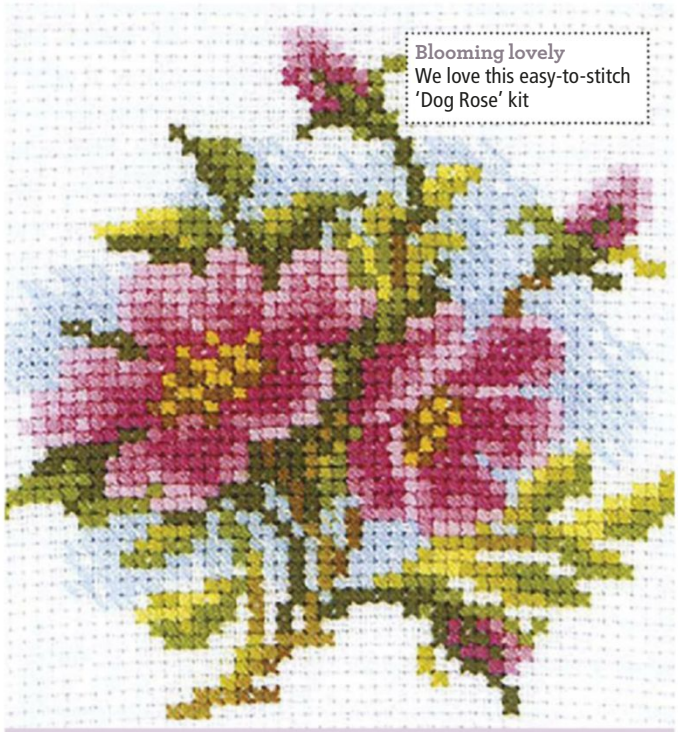
Around the world
Maria's book offers the chance to travel the world in cross stitches

Around the world

Q I saw a book regarding cityscapes in cross stitch that I would like to receive as a gift. I cannot find it, however, as I don't know the title. Could you help please? Thank you very much!
Joseph Bordelon, via Facebook

A **Maria says:** I reckon the book you're thinking of sounds like my *Stunning Scenery in Cross Stitch* title for Tuva Publishing* (ISBN 978-605-9192-12-5). I am thrilled with this 128-page collection of scenery from around the world and hope you will be too! All the designs are based on actual landmarks and places. I am not widely travelled so cannot profess to having experienced them all first-hand, and it was tricky trying to filter down an endless list of wondrous scenes to decide what to include.

The collection features easy-to-follow colour charts and keys, with designs in a range of sizes, so there should be something here for all levels of stitching ability. I hope you will enjoy a taste of the world we live in, including some amazing sites of breathtaking natural beauty. Happy stitching!



Blooming lovely
We love this easy-to-stitch 'Dog Rose' kit

Blooming lovely

Q I'm looking for a pattern of a pretty dogwood rose, and wondered if you know where I can find one please?
Lynne Poole, via email

A **Hannah says:** This 'Dog Rose' cross stitch kit (994475) by RTO, is available from SewandSo* for just £5.50, and it features a beautiful rose in pretty pink shades. At just 10x10cm (4x4in) the design is also perfectly sized to fit in a card, and it won't take long to stitch. The background of bright blue sky is created in half stitches, which makes for an even speedier finish! The kit contains 14-count white aida, pre-sorted DMC stranded cottons loaded onto an organiser, as well as a needle and full instructions.

Tracking down Anchor

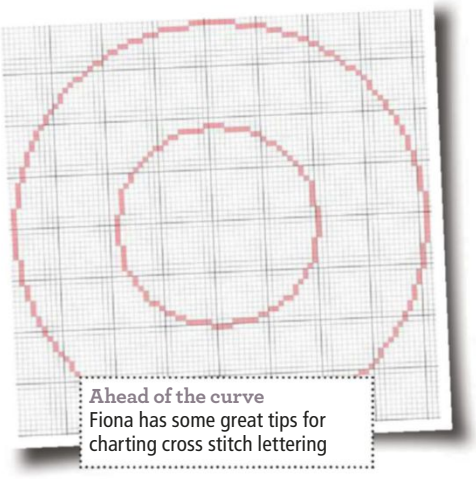
Q I have been doing cross stitch cards for many years and I have always used Anchor threads. I went into my local Hobbycraft store to buy some but I couldn't find any, and they said they no longer stock them. I was hoping that you might be able to tell me where else I can still buy Anchor threads?
Linda Lee, via email

A **Katriel says:** Anchor threads are more difficult to come by lately, but you might have more luck online. SewandSo* currently has one of the largest selections, as well as Hobbycraft* online. It could be that the stores have had supply problems, or demand is simply lower than for other thread brands.

Ahead of the curve

Q I am interested in designing my own patterns, but the thing that eludes me is the skill to design lettering to curve smoothly around a circle or oval shape. I use Ilsoft software, and although I can create circles, I struggle to position lettering neatly around the edge. I'd be so grateful for any advice.
Nikki Desborough, Peterborough

A **Fiona says:** A trick to this is drawing two circle outlines on Ilsoft, one larger than the other, and then move one inside the other. This creates a guide to help draw the letters between the two circles, ensuring each letter sits on the inner circle, with the tops touching the outer one. If you're still struggling, you could try sketching it out on graph paper first, then scan and bring it in as an image behind the grid, which you may find easier for tracing over on screen.



Ahead of the curve
Fiona has some great tips for charting cross stitch lettering

Wishes granted



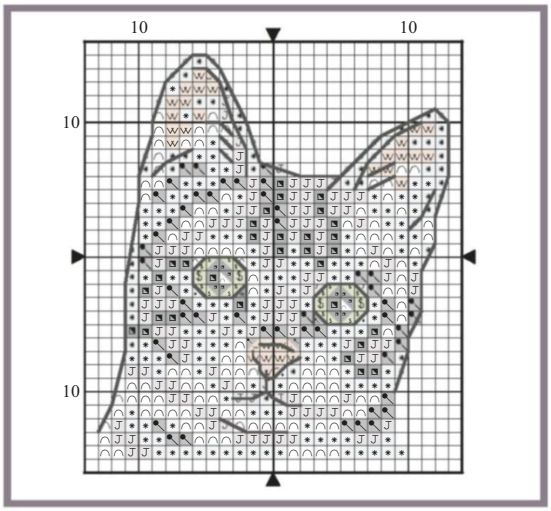
Request a design and our resident design expert, Jenny, might just chart it for you…



Feline friend
Jenny's created a super-cute chart to commemorate Linda's cat

Q My Egyptian Mau cat has sadly passed away. Could you please design one for me in memory of him? Thank you.
Linda Berners, Ontario
nada

A **Jenny says:** Thanks for your request, Linda – I hope you'll like my design. It's simple to stitch, worked in whole stitches and fractionals in just seven shades of thread, plus a little backstitch outlining too. I hope you will enjoy stitching it and that it will remind you of your precious pet for many years to come.



Egyptian Mau Cat key

Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	blanc	2	2402	white
w	224	894	813	pink
◪	413	236	1713	dark grey
◥	414	235	1714	grey
J	415	398	1802	light grey
$	522	860	1512	green
*	762	234	1804	very light grey

Backstitch in one strand

—	413	236	1713	dark grey

STITCH COUNT 30 high x 26 wide
DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 5.5x4.5cm (2¼x1¾in)

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.

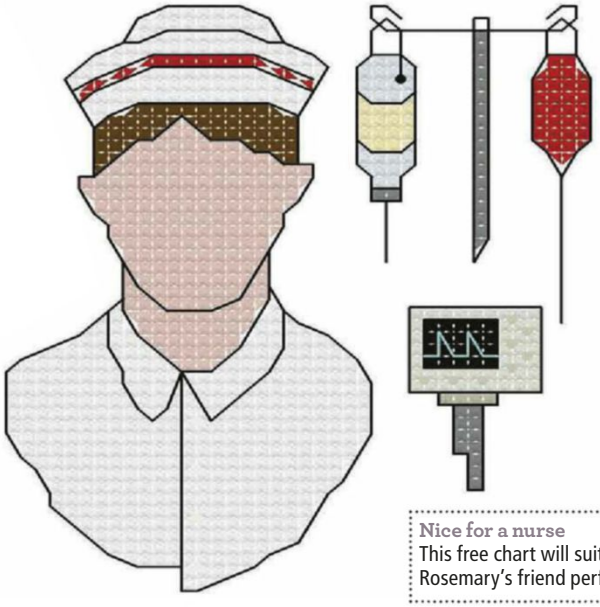
Baby gift

Q I want to make an afghan for a baby, but I'm worried the stitches will unravel over time. Also, is it hard to clean?
Kakada Tea, via Facebook

A **Heather says:** Most afghans can stand gentle hand washing, but to keep it 'baby clean' busy mums will value being able to machine wash it, so your stitches may be subject to more wear and tear. Fasten off ends securely, and add interfacing to the back of motifs, as extra protection.



Baby gift
Take extra steps to make sure your work is suitable for a baby



Nice for a nurse
This free chart will suit Rosemary's friend perfectly

Nice for a nurse

Q One of my best friends is turning 60 in May and I want to make her a card. She is a nurse, so I'd like to use this as a theme for the card. Do you know where I could find a pattern?
Rosemary, via email

A **Hannah says:** Cyberstitchers* has just the thing for your friend, Rosemary, and best of all, it's completely free! Just head on over to the website to download the PDF chart for this simple 'Nurse' pattern, which is perfectly greeting-sized, measuring 9x9cm (3½x3½in) when stitched on 14-count fabric.

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 Co Origin, 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

facebook

We asked our Facebook fans about their top tips for stitching while on holiday – here's what they said…



Linda West: I like to start a new project on holiday – something not too big or complicated, as you might not always have good light. Pack spare needles and a magnifying glass too.

Juliette Hill: I have a plastic tube with a screw-top lid, in which my holiday project rolls up neatly... the threads, needles and folding scissors all safely cocooned in the middle of it all.

Katie Gee: If you're lucky enough not to have to drive on road trips, you can get a *lot* done on the way... unless the view out the window is too magnificent!

Jainie Jolliffe: The free kits you get with magazines are perfect for holiday stitching as they contain all you need. I sort the threads, use a hole punch on the side of the chart to create a thread sorter, grab my needle threader and pencil, put it all in a plastic wallet and I'm set.

Deborah Preece: Make a copy of your paperwork – chart, symbols, threads, etc. Leave this at home, then if you lose the one you take with you, your project can still be completed.

Melvyn Thomas: Pack small kits, then when you've a few minutes to spare, stitch what you can – there's no point bringing a larger project with you.

Emily Tower: I keep all I need for any project I'm working on in one bag – fabric, chart, threads, needles and scissors. It means I can grab it to take anywhere – on holiday, waiting rooms, etc.

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' at the top of the page!

TECHNIQUE FOCUS

The World of Cross Stitching KNOW-HOW

In the frame

Q I've just started a large Bothy Threads design and it's quite fiddly with the long length of fabric. I like to use hoops, but can you place a hoop over stitches already done, or will it damage them? What would be the best thing to use?
Kayleigh Princess Weir, via Facebook

A **Fiona says:** Grime guards could be your answer, Kayleigh, though they can't be used well on round hoops – but how about trying one with a square or rectangular Q-Snap or rotating frame? Like hoops, these come in different sizes, and are available in plastic or wood as hand-held, lap or free-standing. A grime guard both offers protection for your stitching, and also allows you to tuck your fabric up inside it.

Lakeside Needlecraft* has a great selection of grime guards available in various pretty, patterned fabrics. They are available in a wide range of sizes, and they cost from £6.49 each.

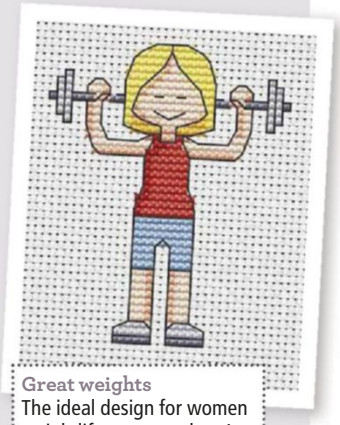


In the frame
Grime guards should help Kayleigh keep her fabric out of the way

QUICK Q&A

Q I'm designing a pattern that measures 7x5¼in – what size 14-count aida would I need?
Michelle Haseley, via Facebook

Heather says: *Fabric counts are based on the holes per inch (HPI), so the good news is you already have your required size of 14-count aida, with the pattern size in inches. To convert this to cm, simply multiply each value by 2.54 (approx. 18x13cm in this instance). Depending on the intended use, I'd always recommend then adding on at least 10cm for your cut aida size.*



Great weights
The ideal design for women weightlifters everywhere!

Q Where can I find a small chart of a weightlifter – in particular a lady, if possible?
Viv Threlfall, via Facebook

Hannah says: *It looks like Lucie Heaton's* Motif Library has the perfect pattern, with this 'Weightlifter Woman' (MW18). It's available as a downloadable chart for the bargain price of only 50p! With just nine thread shades, and measuring 7.5x6cm (2¼x2¾in), this lady can be ready to work out in no time.*

Design round-up

British scenes

We've been all around the country seeking out designs that celebrate the nation's finest sights

HISTORIC SCENE

HARBOUR LIGHTS

The Silhouettes series from Heritage Crafts* features sepia-toned designs of nostalgic scenes of a bygone British age. The atmospheric 'Harbour Lights' (PSHL973) is a great example, showing a small port and several docked boats. Whole stitches make up this small design, which is stitched on 14-count aida, with some long stitch and backstitch used for the boat detail. Two charts come with this kit (the second highlights the defining outlines).

Stitch count: *70 wide by 70 high, 12.5x12.5cm (5x5in) on 14-count aida*



£17.75



BRIGHT AND BOLD

LONDON ATTRACTIONS

A vivid display of patriotic colours greets you before you even open this kit. 'London Attractions' (BK1649) from DMC* is part of the Modern London Collection, and sees motifs inspired by the UK's capital city arranged in a contemporary sampler style. Build up the design one bit at a time, for a really satisfying stitch.

Stitch count: *110 wide by 130 high, 17.8x28cm (7x11in) on 14-count white aida*

£26.99

CHOOSE A CHART

NORTH EAST

If you've ever hankered to stitch your way around the British isles, you can do so with Susan Ryder's *The Cross Stitcher's Guide to Britain* series. 'North-East England' is represented in this chartbook (960040) from Sew and So*, featuring individual charts of Alnwick, Barnard and Lindisfarne castles, The Gatehouse at Durham Castle, St Mary's Island and the Tyne Bridge. The clear charts are printed with black and white symbols to help you on your way.

Stitch count: *Various*



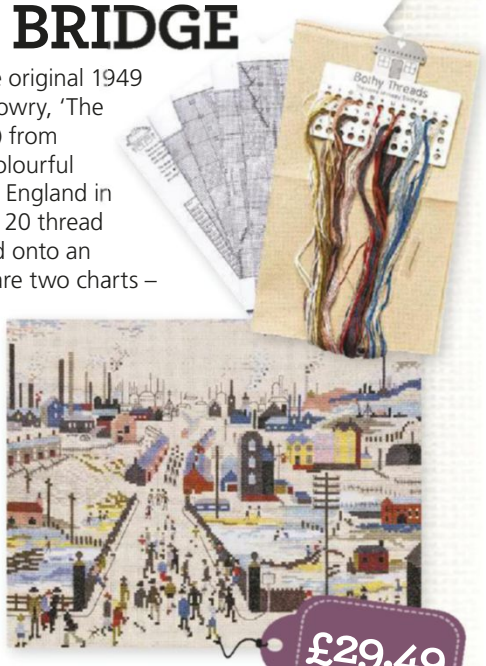
£7.92

GET ARTY

CANAL BRIDGE

Adapted from the original 1949 painting by LS Lowry, 'The Canal Bridge' (XLC10) from Bothy Threads* is a colourful rendition of industrial England in cross stitch form. The 20 thread colours are pre-sorted onto an organiser, and there are two charts – one with backstitch detail and one without. For a design packed with detail, there's not much backstitch: it's mainly whole stitches with a few half stitches.

Stitch count: *180 wide by 140 high, 33x26cm (13x10in) on 14-count aida*



£29.49

*For stockists see page 90

PERFECT SUMMER PROJECT



Stitching this beautiful beach scene is the next best thing to actually being beside the sea!



DESIGN BY **JENNY VAN DE WIELE**

Life's a beach

Bring some sunshine into your home with a gorgeous Cornish scene that's sure to get you in the mood for summer holidays

As the days continue to get lighter and brighter, our thoughts are turning to the holidays and long, lazy days by the sea. And if, like us, you're thinking ahead to the summer, this beach project is just the thing to get you in the mood for fun in the sun.

Jenny's bold, contemporary scene depicts a typical Cornish village by the sea. The chic colour palette uses only 16 shades of thread and the design is worked in whole cross stitches, fractionals and a little backstitch (to define the flowers in the foreground and pick out some detail in the background village).

This project also calls for some blending in the sand and sky, which helps add texture to the scene. Don't worry – it's not tricky: for blended stitches you simply need to thread your needle with one strand each of two different shades of cotton (you'll find instructions to help you on page 42). Once you've completed the design, mount in a whitewashed frame for a perfect finish.

Factbox

- **Stitching Time**
  Approx. 90 hours
- **Type of Stitches**
  Cross stitch, fractionals, blending, backstitch
- **Ease of Stitching**
  Intermediate

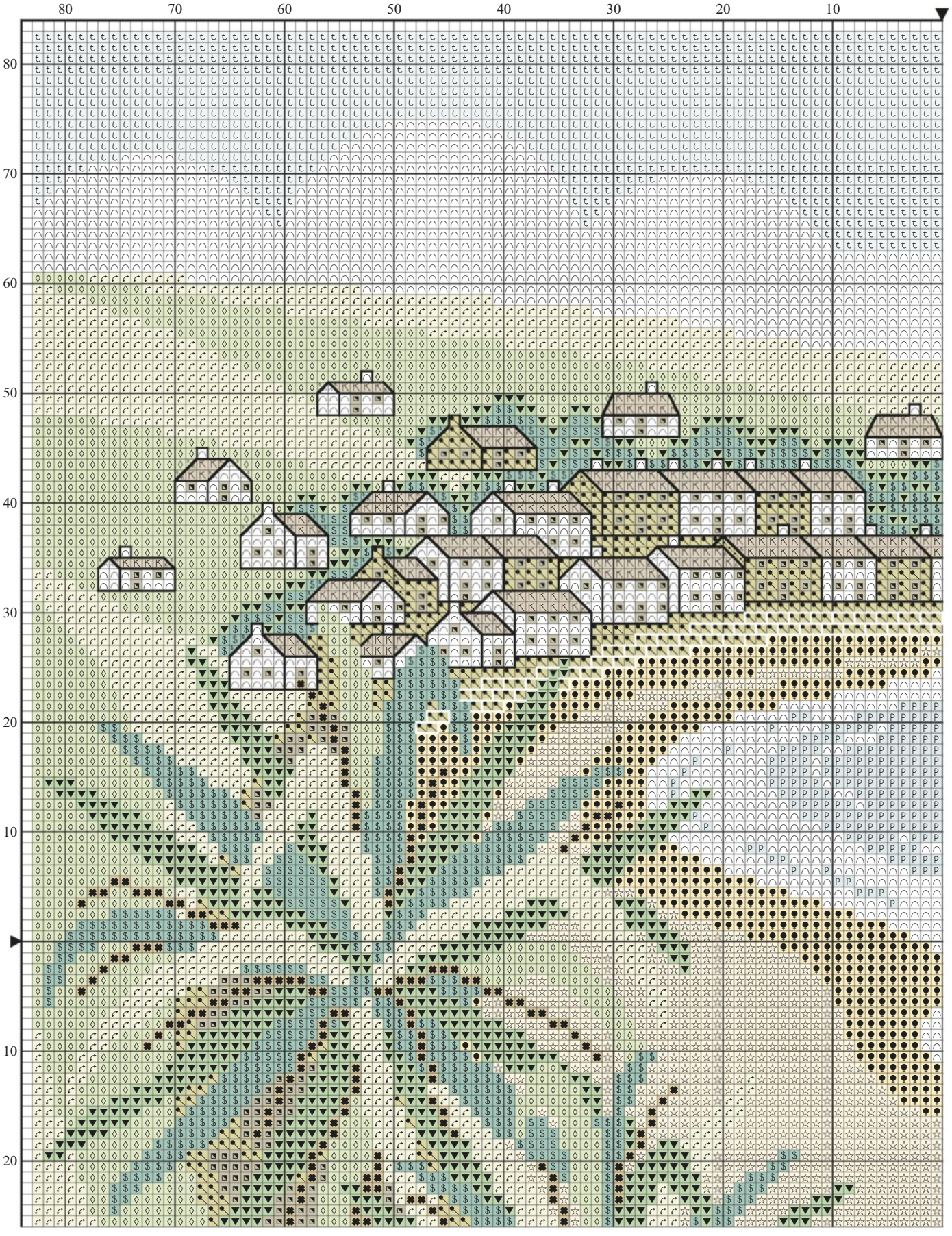
Try blended stitches



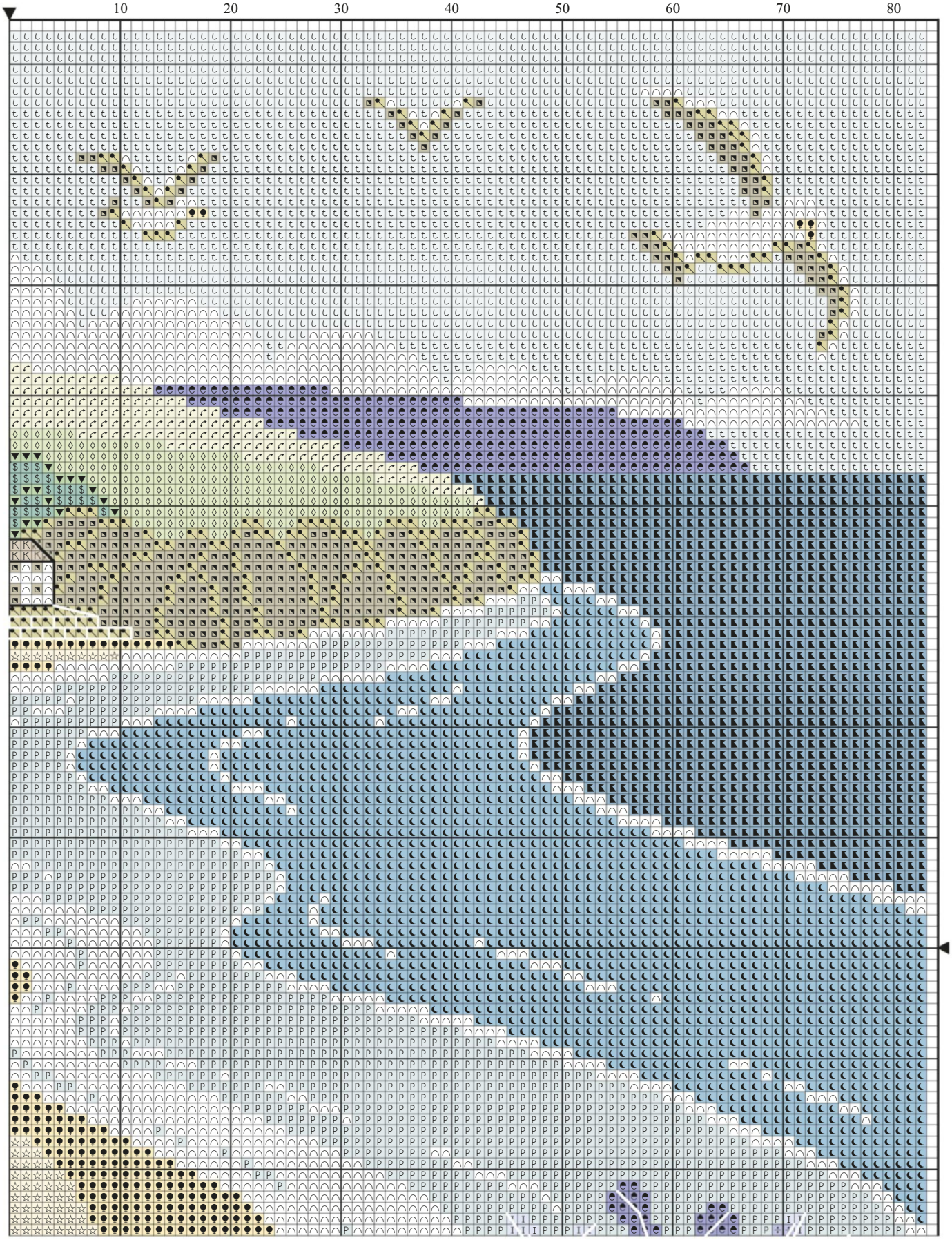
Meet the designer

Jenny van de Wiele

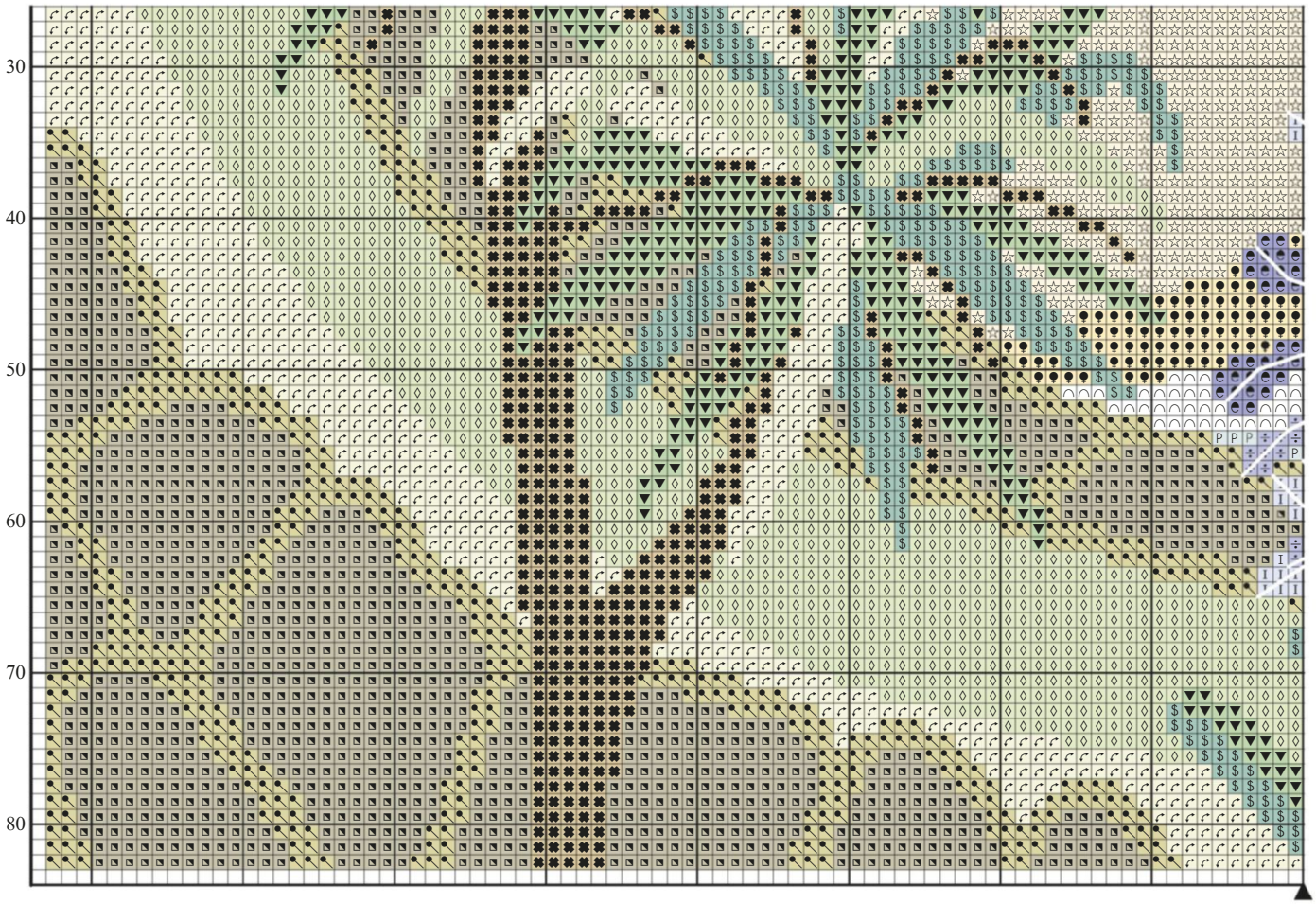
"For this design I took inspiration from the rural seaside villages that are typical of the Cornish landscape, and I placed palm trees and wild flowers in the foreground to add a sense of perspective to the scene."



Cornish Village chart (top left)



Cornish Village chart (top right)



Cornish Village chart (bottom left)

How to...

Stitch with blended threads

We've used the two-tone effect of blended stitches to add texture and movement to the blue sky and the sandy beach. Begin by checking on the key for how many strands of each different coloured thread you will need for your special blended stitches. Then thread your needle with the different-coloured strands and stitch the cross stitches as normal. The blended stitch will have its own symbol on the chart, different to the one indicating the shades if you needed to stitch them on their own.



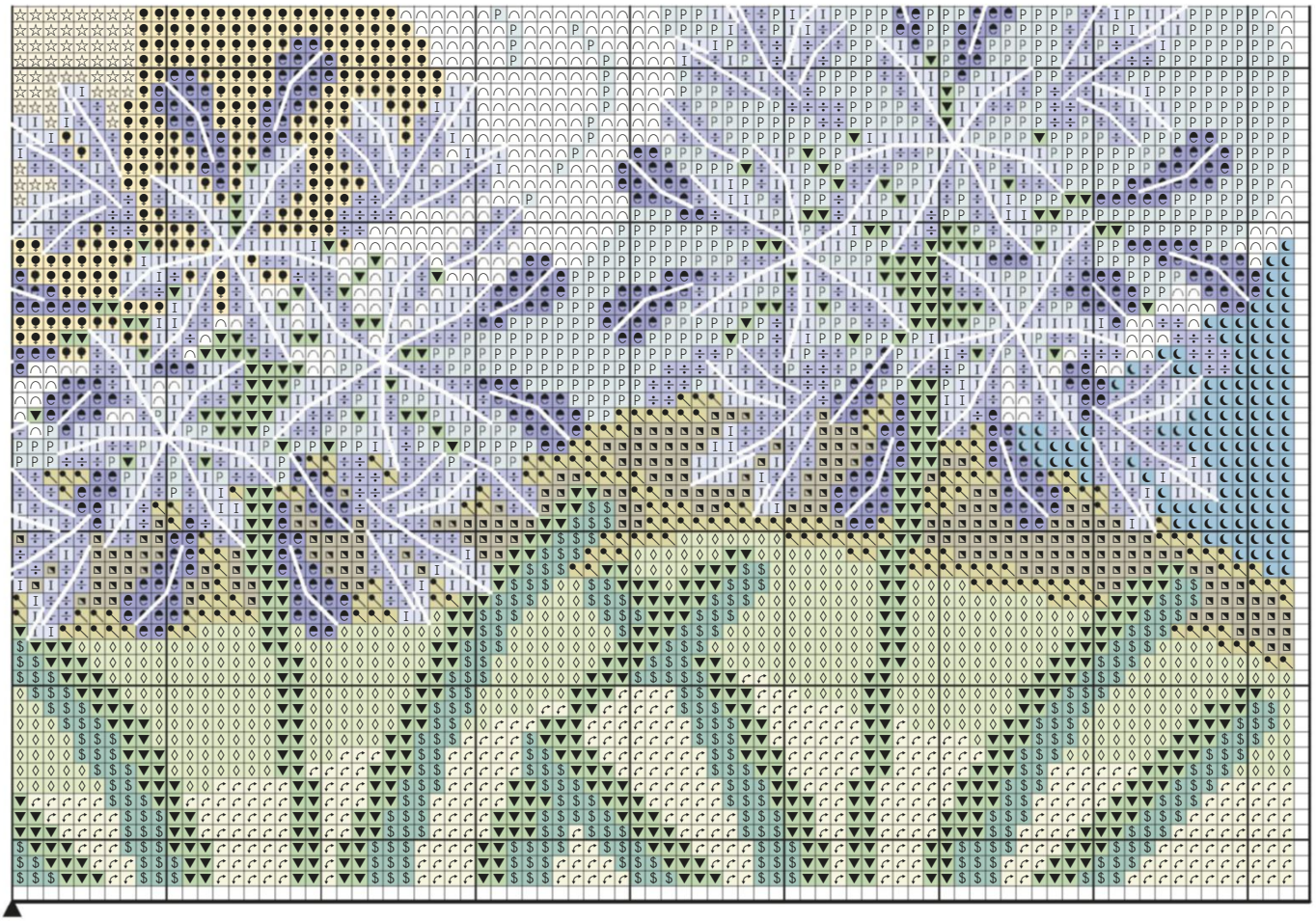


Shopping list

- Zweigart* 28-count white evenweave measuring 45x45cm (17¾x17¾in)
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Size 26 tapestry needle
- Frame of your choice with a minimum aperture of 30x30cm (11¾x11¾in)

Thread & fabric cost
Approximately £32

*For stockists see page 90



Cornish Village chart (bottom right)



Laura READER PANEL

"I love the detail of the village in the cliff rock and think the bright blues in this design will really brighten your day. I'd love to frame this and place it in my bathroom to add a little freshness to the room."

TOP TIP

This design calls for a lot of white thread – remember to check you have enough skeins before you start stitching!

Cornish Village key

Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	blanc	2	2402	white
◓	158	941	905	dk lavender blue
◊	164	240	1209	light green
◣	517	162	1107	dark sea blue
◖	518	1039	1106	sea blue
◹	645	273	1811	smoke grey
$	699	923	1303	dark green
▼	701	227	1305	green
●	744	301	112	yellow
◜	772	259	1604	lettuce green
K	841	1082	1911	beige
◥	3023	899	1813	lt smoke grey
✖	3045	888	2103	tan
P	3761	928	1001	turquoise
÷	3838	176	2702	lavender blue

Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
I	3840	130	907	lt lavender blue

Cross stitch in one strand of each

☆	blanc	2	2402	white
	744	301	112	yellow
t	blanc	2	2402	white
	3761	928	1001	turquoise

Backstitch in one strand

⎯	blanc	2	2402	white
—	645	273	1811	smoke grey

STITCH COUNT 166 high x 166 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 30x30cm (11¾x11¾in)

SKEINS NEEDED **4xblanc** (white), **2x164** (light green), **2x518** (sea blue), **2x645** (smoke grey), **2x701** (green), **2x772** (lettuce green), **3x3761** (turquoise)

This design was stitched using DMC stranded cotton on 28-count evenweave over two threads of the fabric

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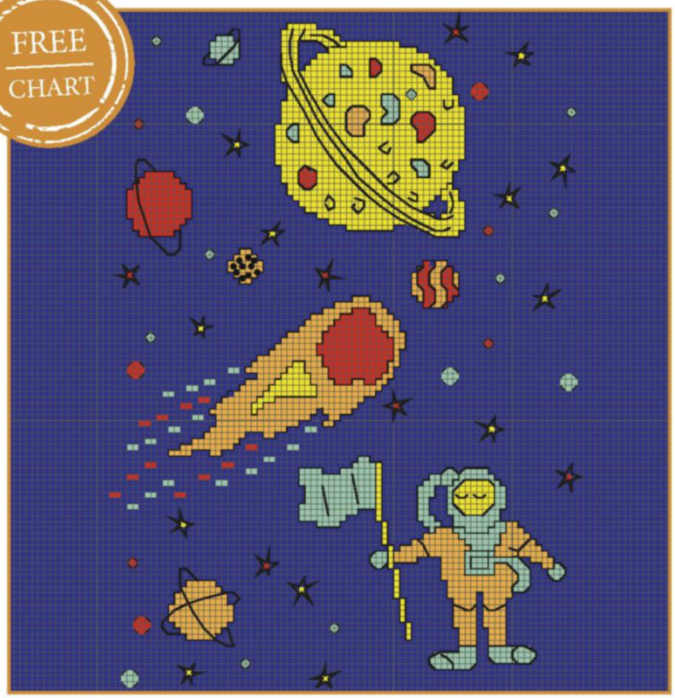
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Willow Fabrics I www.willowfabrics.com
Heritage Crafts I Tel: 01889 575 256

www.zweigart.com

The wild, wild west

YEE-HA! SADDLE UP AND SAY 'HOWDY' TO THIS COLLECTION OF FUN MOTIFS

38 WILD IDEAS



Set down your stetson and spurs and pick up your needle and thread for Durene Jones' wild designs

✖ 38 quick-and-easy motifs ✖ Durene's design inspiration ✖ Stitches for every skill level
✖ Helpful tips and advice ✖ Unique present ideas for your special someone



INTO THE SUNSET

Make yourself a miniature work of art in no time – all you need is a mini canvas and easel to display your classic western scene (27) in style.



STITCHY SHERIFF

This cowboy design (12) makes a mighty fine birthday greeting, mounted in a bright aperture card (AP12U) in Creative Linen Red (180) from Craft Creations*.



THE BEST OF LUCK

A horseshoe (35) patched onto a handmade tag is the perfect accompaniment to a good luck gift. Attach the tag with twine for a rustic finishing touch.



HOME SWEET HOME

We love this 'welcome' motif (28). It makes a brilliant handmade sign for a bedroom door – just patch it onto your choice of cardstock, and hang with twine or string.



A PRICKLY PROJECT

If you're seeking a bookmark design, this cactus (31) is ideal. We used a wool mix felt in Peony from Rickety Rose*, and added a suede fringe for a luxurious finish.



THIRST QUENCHER

This little ranch (2) is so sweet! Stitch a repeating pattern onto aida band, back with white paper and wrap around a plant jar for a great gift idea.



COWGIRL UP

Once you've stitched this stylish cowgirl (32), fray the edges of the fabric slightly, then stick onto coloured card. Attach to a gift bag in a complementary colour.



RIDE 'EM, COWBOY

Young cowboys in training will love this motif (11). Simply patch it onto a single fold card (SF17U) in Creative Linen Red (180) from Craft Creations*.

*For stockists, see page 90

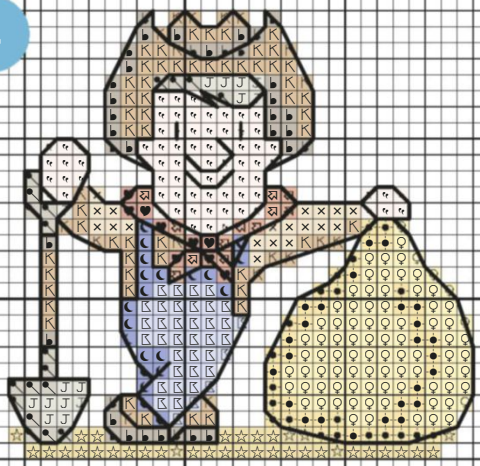
My inspiration



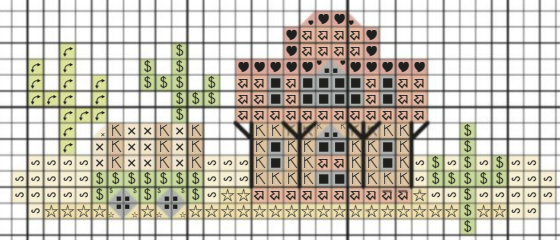
“These fun motifs would be fab for a Wild West themed birthday party – whether for children or grown-ups. There are plenty of accessory ideas for fancy dress or motifs to decorate a birthday table. Will you go as cowboy or sheriff?”

DURENE JONES, DESIGNER

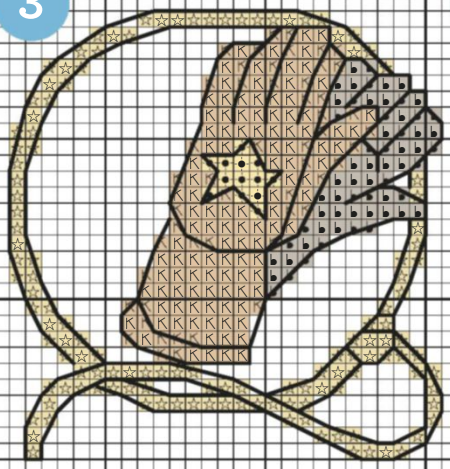
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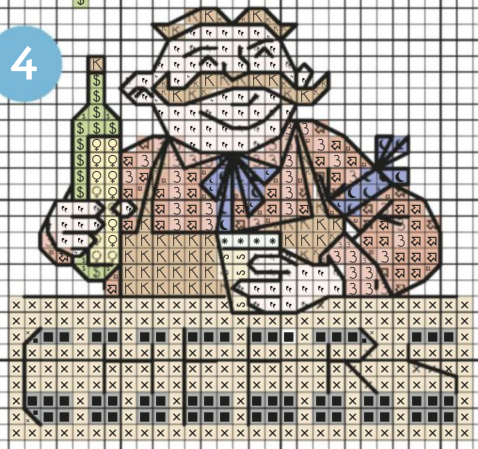
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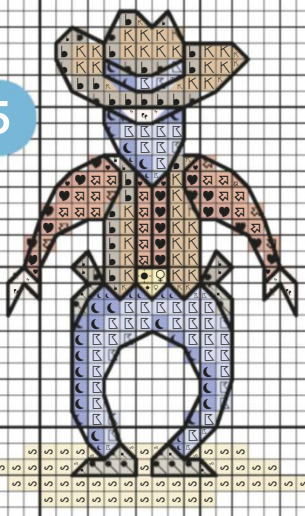
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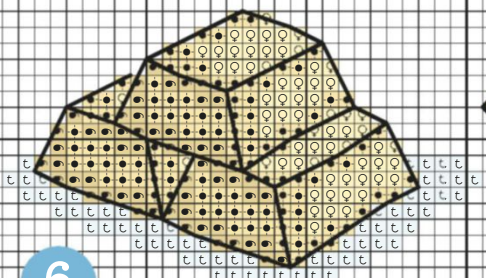
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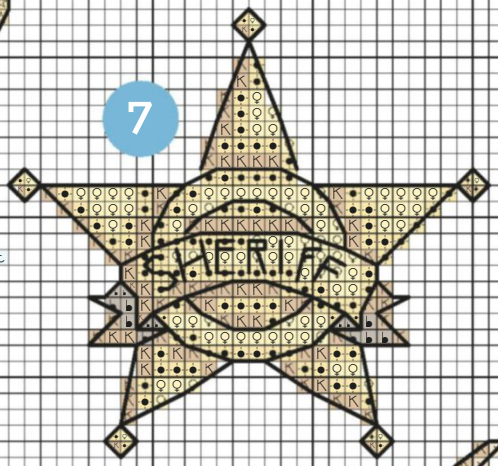
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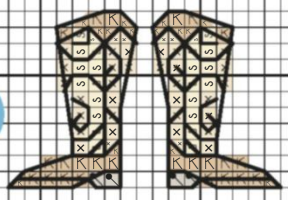
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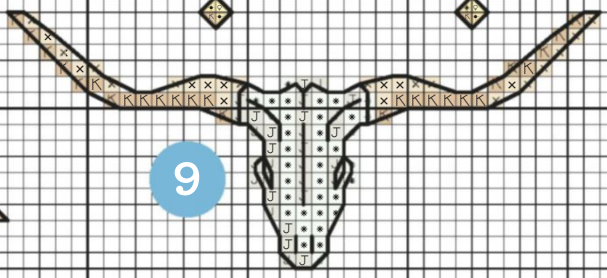
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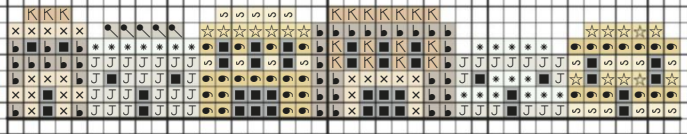
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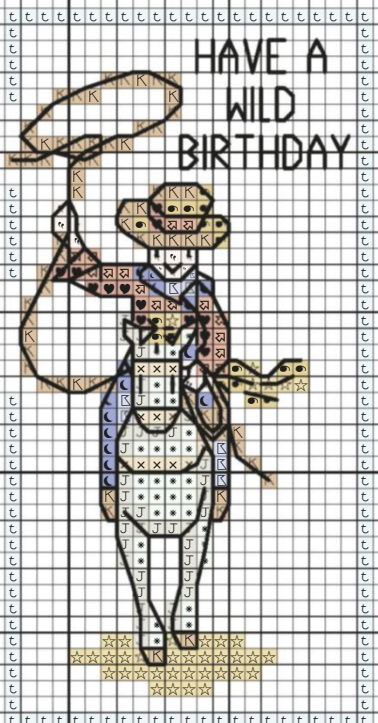
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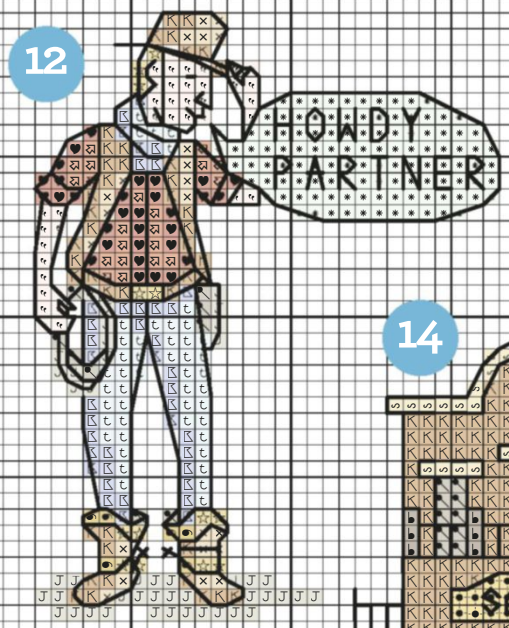


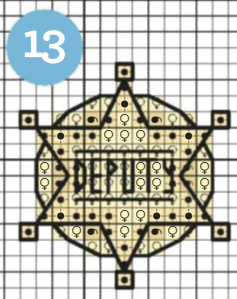
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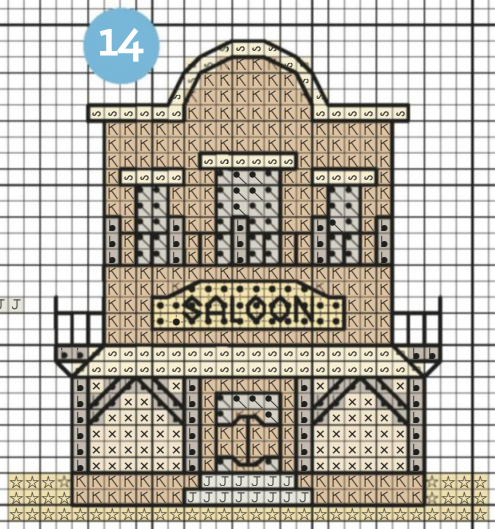


11









Wild, Wild West key

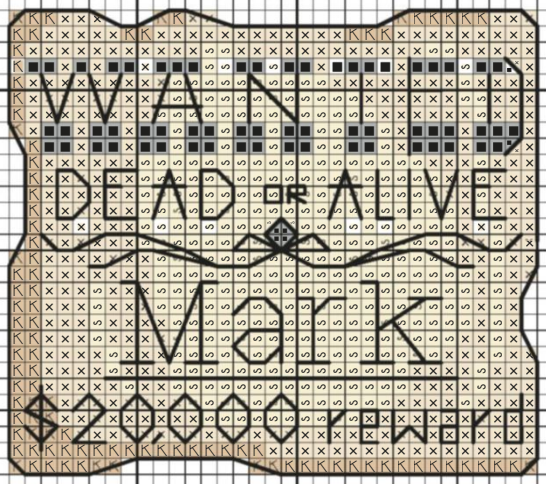
Cross stitch in two strands

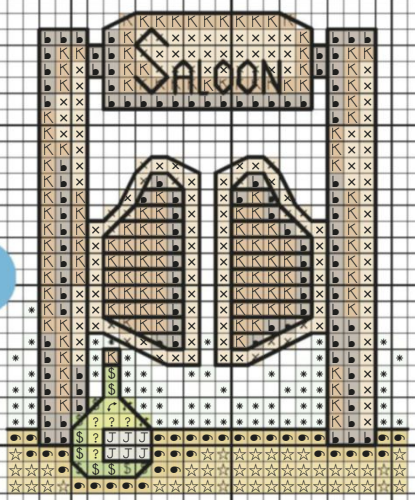
	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
♥	304	19	511	dark red
■	310	403	2400	black
✠	350	11	213	red
З	352	9	303	coral
b	433	357	2602	dark tan
K	435	1046	2010	tan
×	437	362	2012	light tan
↖	646	8581	1812	dark grey
J	647	1040	1813	grey
s	677	886	2207	sand
$	702	226	1306	green
↱	704	256	1307	light green
✹	725	297	113	dark yellow
♀	727	293	112	yellow
◖	798	131	912	dark blue
t	800	144	908	light blue
⍂	809	130	909	blue
?	907	255	1308	leaf green
♦	910	228	1302	dark mint green
▽	912	209	1213	mint green
*	3072	847	1805	light grey
↳	3770	1009	2314	peach
☆	3821	305	2510	gold
◗	3852	306	2514	dark gold

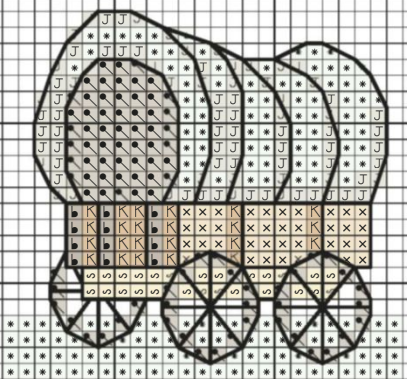
Backstitch in one strand

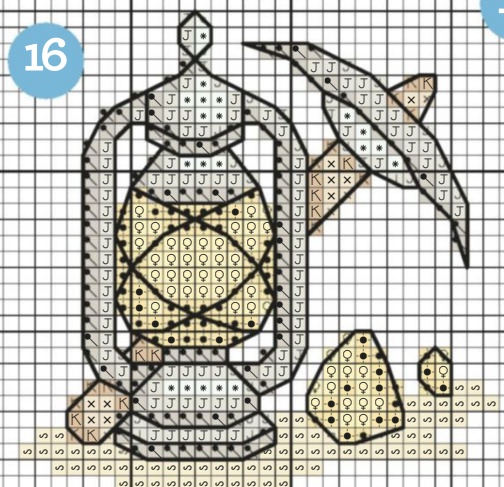
	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
—	310	403	2400	black

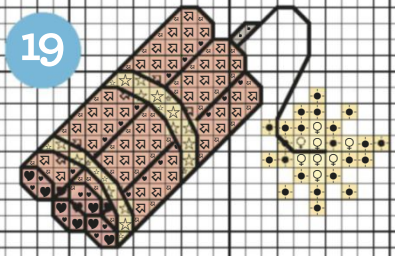
These designs were stitched using DMC stranded cotton







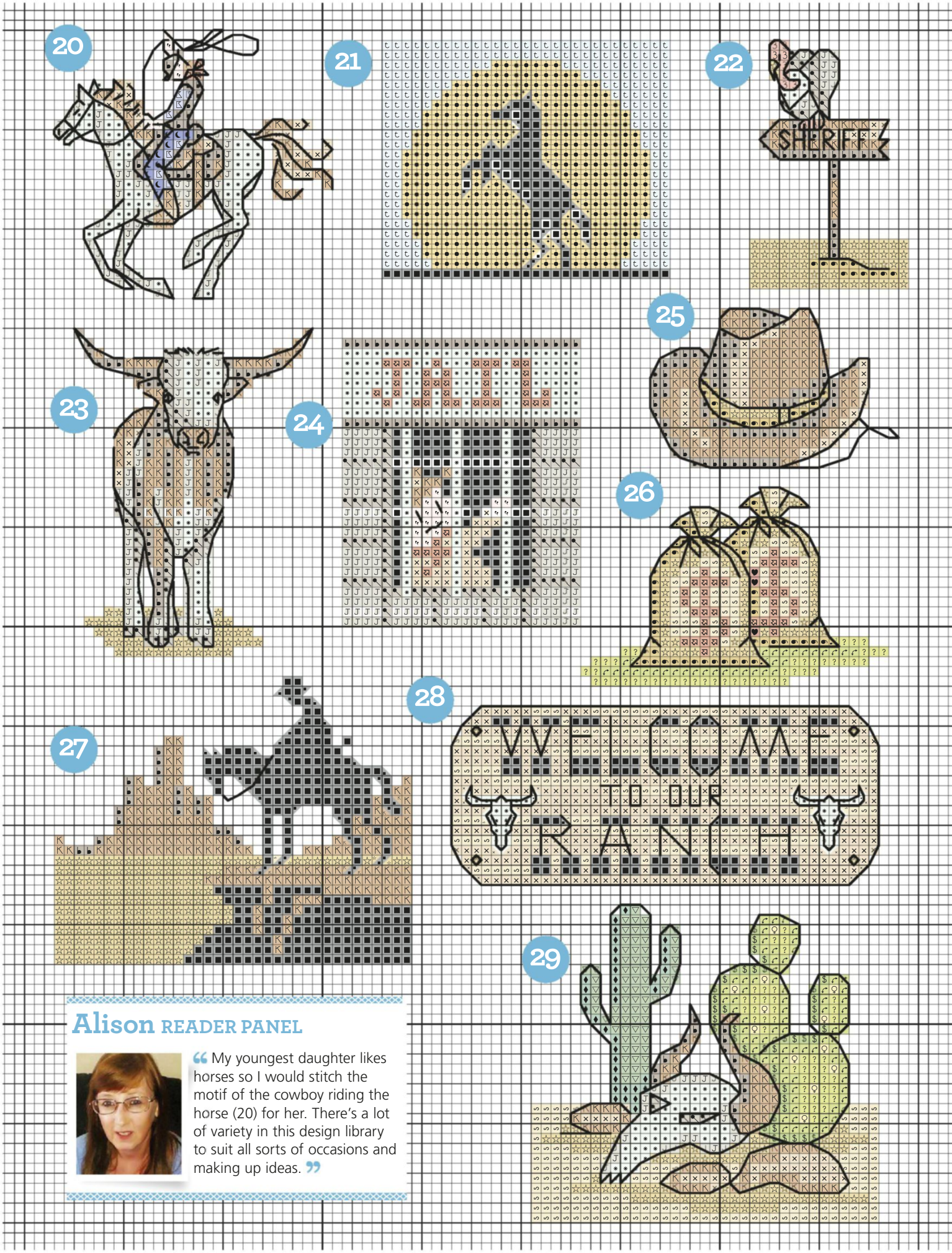






TOP TIP

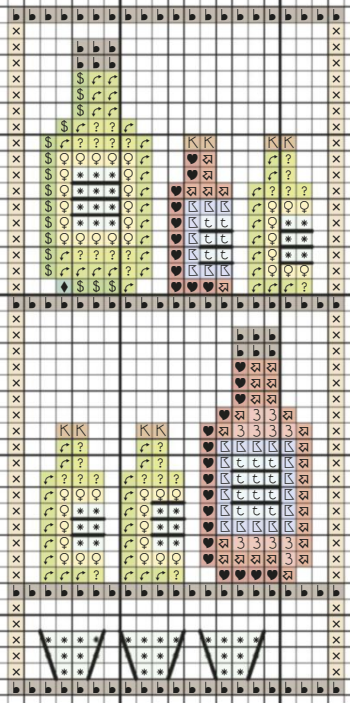
Stitch the sheriff badge (7) onto perforated paper and carefully glue a brooch pin to the back. Show the kids who's in charge!

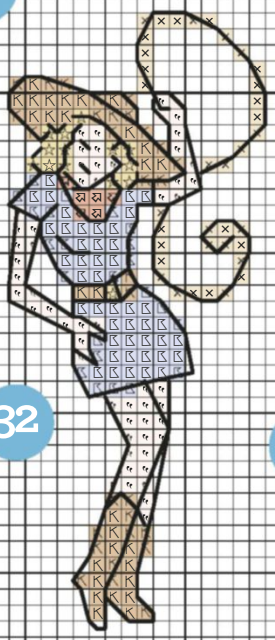


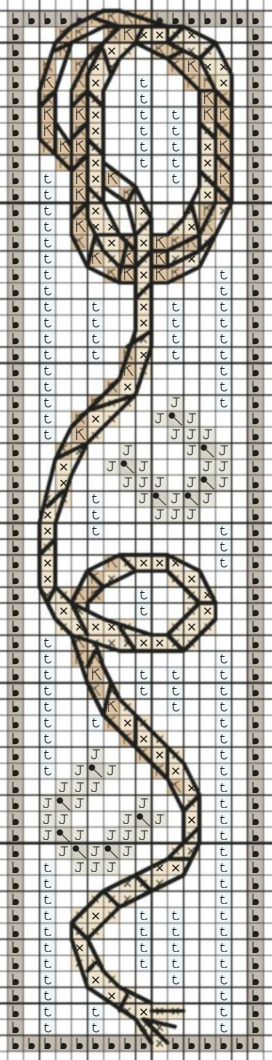
Alison READER PANEL

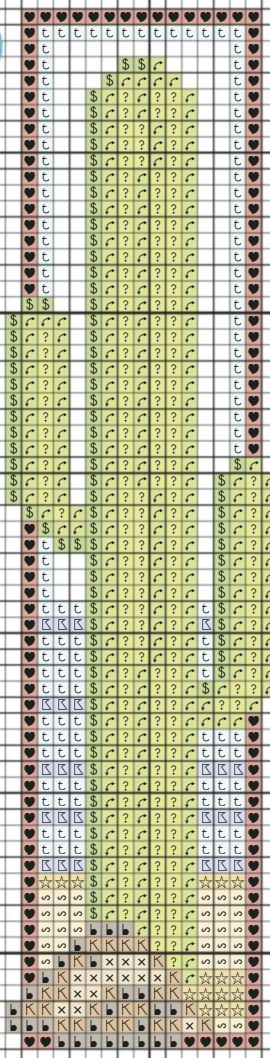
"My youngest daughter likes horses so I would stitch the motif of the cowboy riding the horse (20) for her. There's a lot of variety in this design library to suit all sorts of occasions and making up ideas."

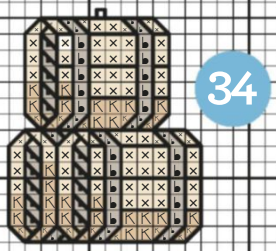
PERFECT SIMPLE MOTIFS FOR BEGINNERS

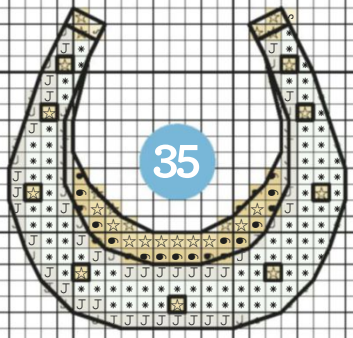


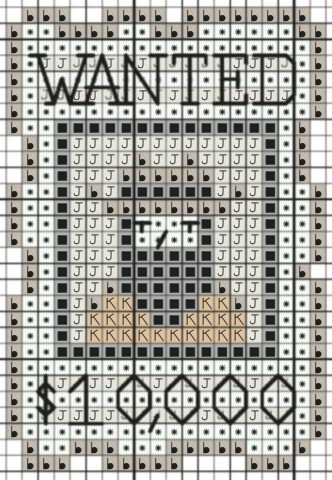


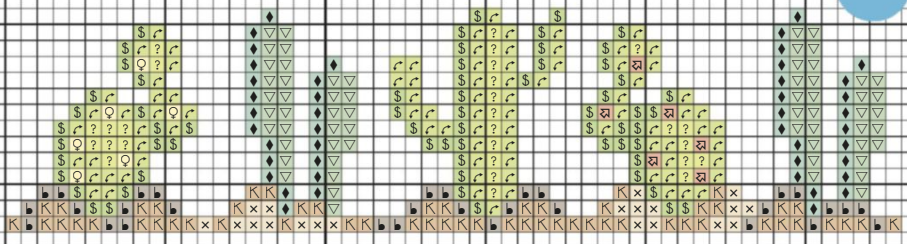














NEXT MONTH: UNDER THE SEA!

From mermaids and dolphins to shipwrecks and seashells, plus everything in between, your next Design Library is a real celebration of the magic found under the sea! Get to the shops on 17 May to pick up your copy of issue 269, or subscribe and the issue will be delivered to your door. Find this month's money-saving subscription offer on page 44.



Turn to page 44 to subscribe

DESIGN BY **SHANNON WASILIEFF**

Picture of elegance

Treat your needle and threads to this graceful beauty in the most sumptuous of ballgowns

Occasionally a design comes along that's just so enchanting you simply have to start stitching it right away. And this striking belle of the ball is one of them. Enveloped in rich, jewel-toned fabrics that drape exquisitely, you can easily imagine her gliding down a sweeping staircase.

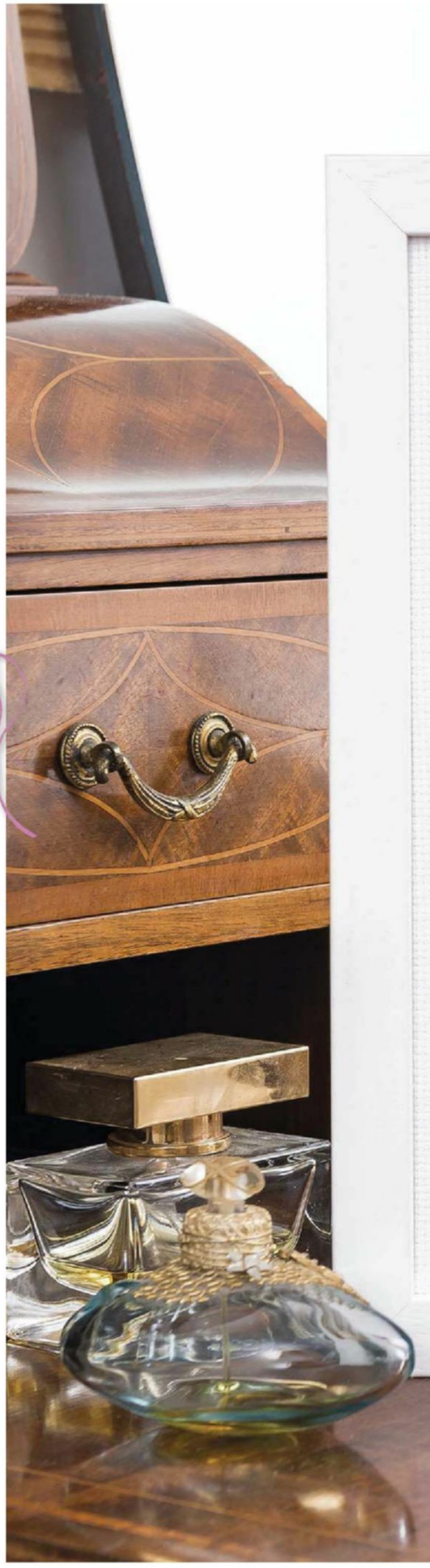
While this 1950s-style gown does draw on elements of historical grandeur, we love the way Shannon's kept a contemporary feel with little touches like the flowing wrap around her shoulders. Capturing every fold in the swathes of fabric with clever shading in similar tones, the sense of movement in this piece is almost as breathtaking as the portrait itself.

Factbox

- **Stitching Time**
  Approx. 40 hours
- **Type of Stitches**
  Cross stitch, fractionals, backstitch, French knots
- **Ease of Stitching**
  Intermediate

Perfect backstitch detail

Finished with delicate gold edging and the most perfectly placed backstitch, this dress may seem elaborate, but there aren't too many tricky techniques to master. Just take it section by section, and allow yourself to get caught up in its captivating charm.





Meet the designer

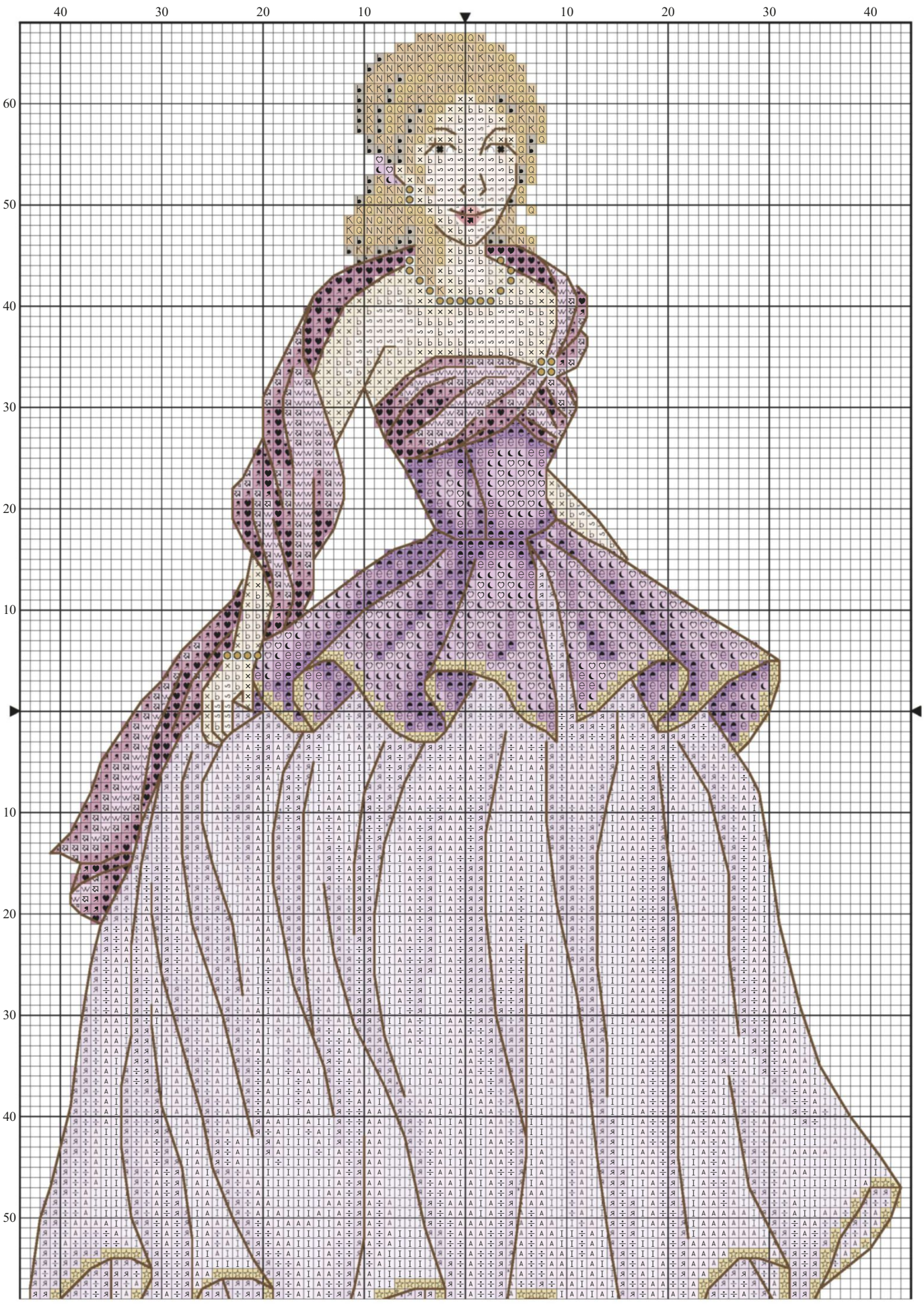
Shannon Wasilieff

"I've always been drawn to designing ladies in the most beautiful gowns – there's just something about bringing those sweeping dresses to life in stitches that I can't resist.They bring a touch of glamour to everyday life!"

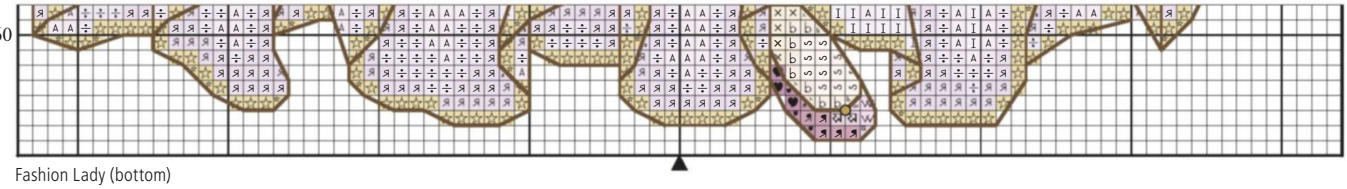
A TOUCH OF 50s GLAMOUR



You shall go to the ball! Hark back to an era of full-length formal gowns, dinner and dancing



Fashion Lady (top)



Fashion Lady (bottom)

Fashion Lady key

Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	B5200	1	2401	white
A	24	103	2712	mauve
I	25	342	801	very light lilac
я	210	108	802	lilac
÷	211	869	2611	light lilac
◪	326	59	508	dark pink
+	335	38	506	pink
b	433	357	2602	brown
e	550	102	714	dark purple
e	552	99	713	purple
☾	553	98	712	light purple
♡	554	90	711	very light purple
◪	718	88	707	magenta
☆	729	890	2209	sand
K	780	309	2214	dark tan
N	782	308	2212	tan
Q	783	306	2509	light tan
✱	801	359	2007	dark brown
♥	915	1029	705	dark magenta
×	945	881	2309	peach
b	951	1010	2308	light peach
◪	3608	86	709	light magenta
w	3609	85	710	plum
s	3770	1009	2314	apricot

Backstitch in one strand

—	801	359	2007	dark brown

French knots in two strands

●	729	890	2209	sand

STITCH COUNT 134 high x 86 wide
DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 24.5x15.5cm (9½x6¼in)

This design was stitched using DMC stranded cotton



TOP TIP
Always leave a 2-3in margin around the edge of the stitched design so you have enough room for framing



Alison READER PANEL

"This 'Fashion Lady' design is really beautiful. I have stitched many elegant ladies and I frame all of my work and display it in a special place in my dining room. This will be the perfect addition to my collection."

Shopping list

- Zweigart* 14-count white aida measuring 40x30cm (15¾x11¾in)
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Size 24 tapestry needle
- Frame of your choice with a minimum aperture of 26x17cm (10¼x6¾in)

Thread & fabric cost
Approximately £28

*For stockists see page 90



DESIGN BY **MARIA DIAZ**

Out of the blue

This kingfisher ABC offers inspiration for bright and beautiful personalised gifts and cards for all occasions



Quick-to-stitch motifs

Factbox

- **Stitching Time**
  Approx. 2-3 hours each
- **Type of Stitches**
  Cross stitch, backstitch, French knots
- **Ease of Stitching**
  Beginner/intermediate

What a rare joy it is, on a riverside walk, to glimpse a flash of blue and orange as a kingfisher darts past. With this alphabet collection we've aimed to recreate this magical sight, with 26 bright motifs that are just perfect for making stylish bespoke gifts.

The fresh green letters contrast beautifully against the orange and blue of the birds, while backstitch in cornflower blue and orange thread adds definition to each design. French knots in cornflower blue are used for the eyes – it's worth giving these a try, even if you're not a fan of French knots, as they help the eyes to stand out and add essential character to our vibrant feathered friends!

Choose your recipient's initial to make a monogrammed card, or if you're feeling confident, these kingfisher motifs would also make a brilliant hanging. The letters look wonderful mounted on bright blue fabric – we show you how to make your own over the page. ➤



Meet the designer

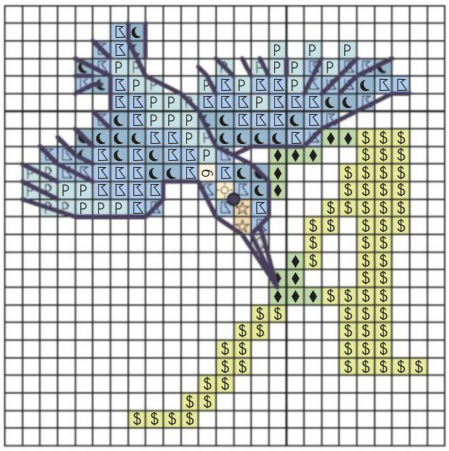
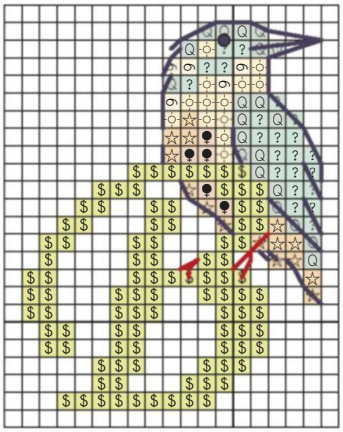
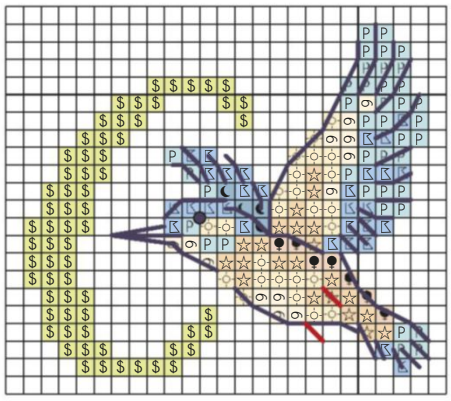
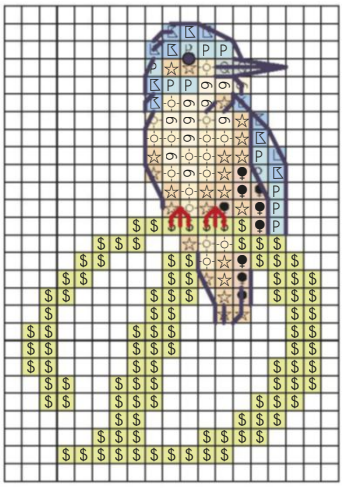
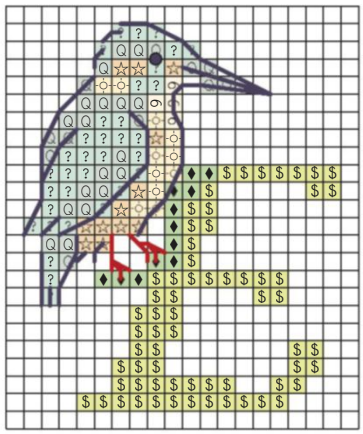
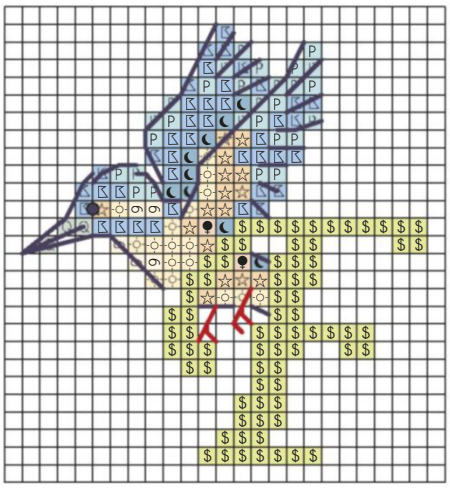
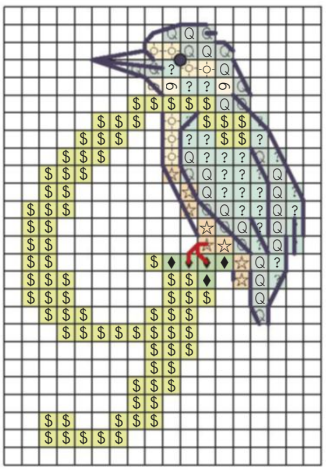
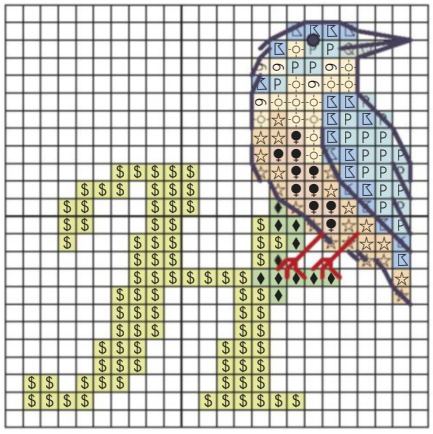
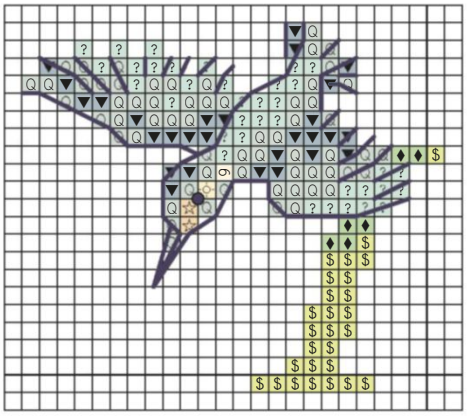
Maria Diaz

"I just love the electric blue shades of kingfishers – one of our country's most exotic-looking birds. It was a joy trying to create a naturalistic interpretation of these birds in stitches, but I'm so pleased with the result!"



GREAT GIFTS FOR NATURE LOVERS

Let these bold and beautiful kingfishers swoop into your home to create a fabulously striking hanging


Laura READER PANEL

"I love these designs as I have a few family members who love their birds, and having their initials stitched with these kingfishers on the front of a birthday card would just add that little extra personal touch."



Kingfisher ABC key

Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
☾	517	162	1107	sea blue
♦	905	257	1412	green
$	907	255	1308	light green
?	959	186	1114	emerald
▼	3809	1066	2507	turquoise
○	3823	386	2512	magnolia
◹	3843	410	1102	blue
P	3846	1090	1103	electric blue
Q	3849	1070	1109	teal
●	3853	1003	311	dark apricot
☆	3854	313	114	apricot
☼	3855	311	2513	light apricot

Backstitch in one strand

—	791	178	904	cornflower blue
—	900	326	208	orange

French knots in one strand

●	791	178	904	cornflower blue

MAXIMUM STITCH COUNT 25 high x 25 wide
DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 4.5x4.5cm (1¾x1¾in)

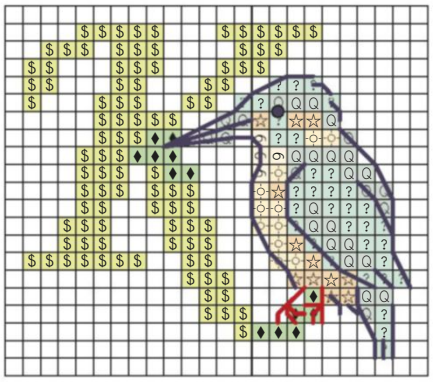
These designs were stitched using DMC stranded cotton

Shopping list

- Zweigart* 14-count pale blue (5130) aida measuring 10cm (4in) x desired width
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Size 24 tapestry needle
- Stiff cardstock, backing fabric and cord of your choice from local stores

Thread & fabric cost
Approximately £18

*For stockists see page 90



How to... make a hanging

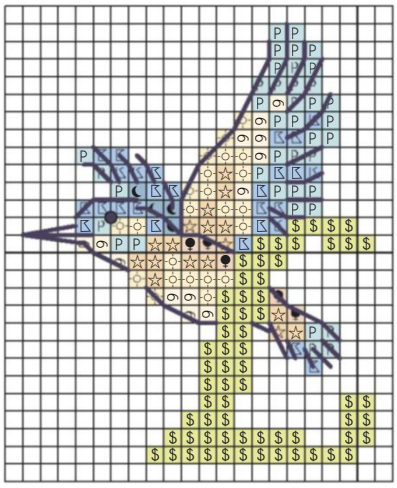


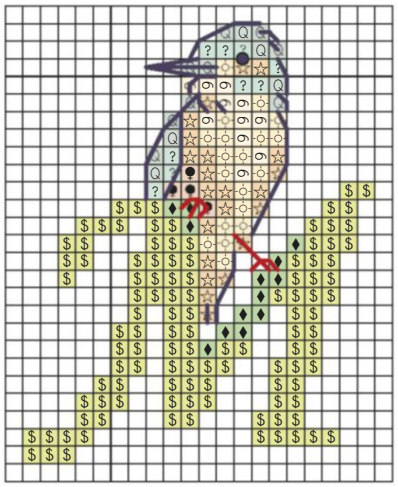
1 Trim your finished stitching, leaving a border of three squares of aida, and fray one square all the way around. Cut a piece of white paper slightly smaller than your stitched piece and attach to the back of your stitching, using double-sided tape.

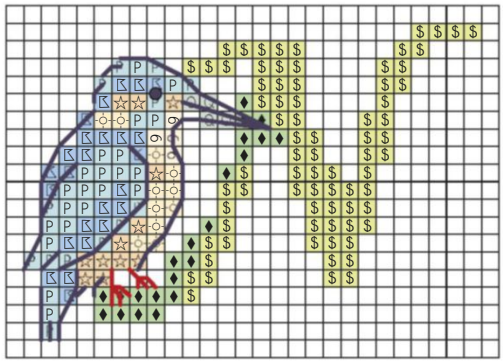
2 Cut out a piece of stiff card using a metal ruler and craft knife so that it measures 10.5cm (4¼in) x your desired length. Ours is 10.5x30cm (4¼x11¾in). Make two holes in the top corners of your piece of card, using a hole punch. Cover the card with coordinating backing fabric, sticking it down using double-sided tape.

3 Patch your stitching onto the front of your covered piece of stiff card. Make sure that it is centrally positioned, so the border around your finished stitching is nice and even. Secure it to the card with plenty of double-sided tape.

4 Finally, thread your cord through a large-eyed needle. Insert your needle into your backing fabric and through the holes in the card that you made in step 2. Tie a knot in either end to secure, and hang to finish!

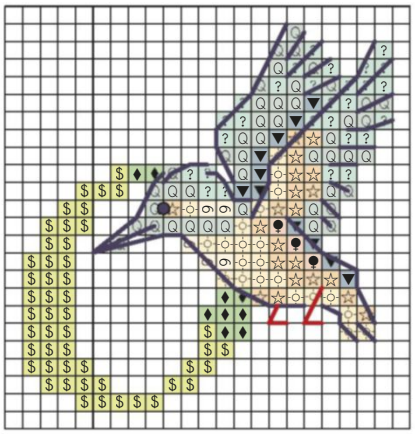


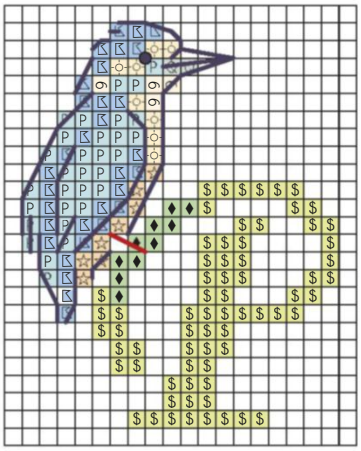


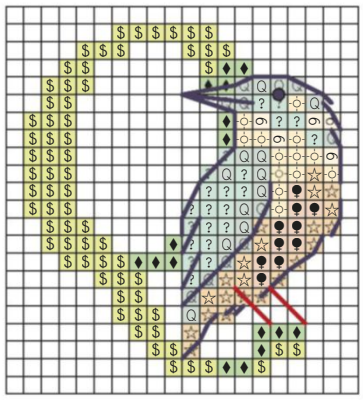


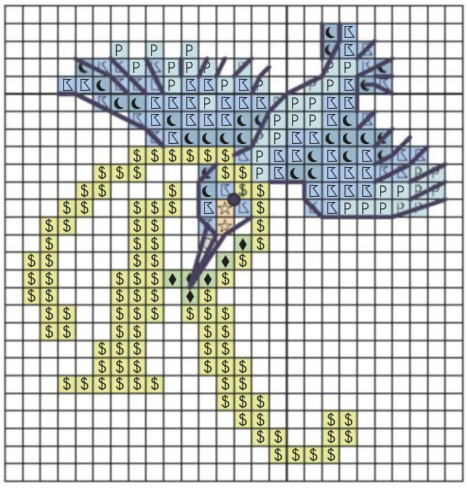
TOP TIP

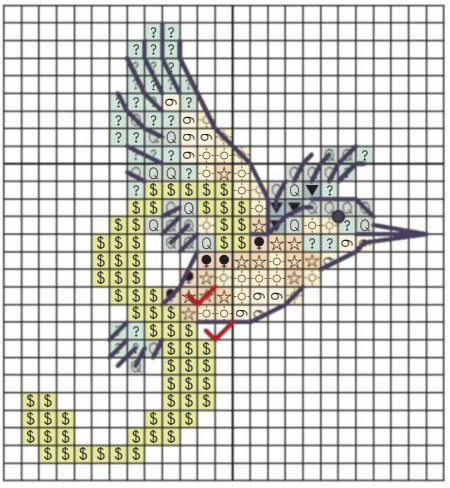
These kingfishers make great gift tags. If you don't want to personalise them, you could just stitch one of the birds on its own for extra speed!









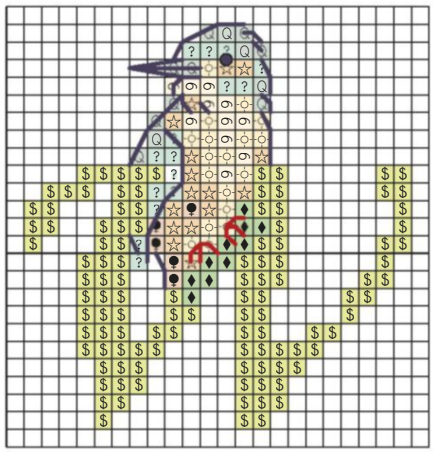


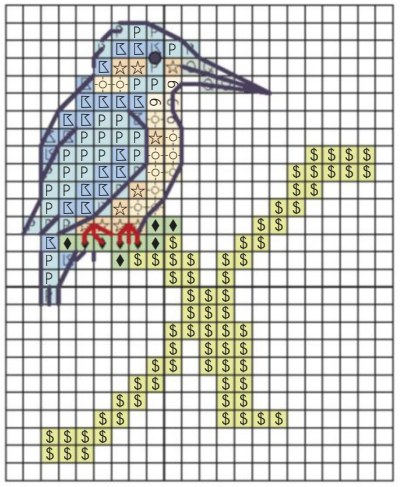




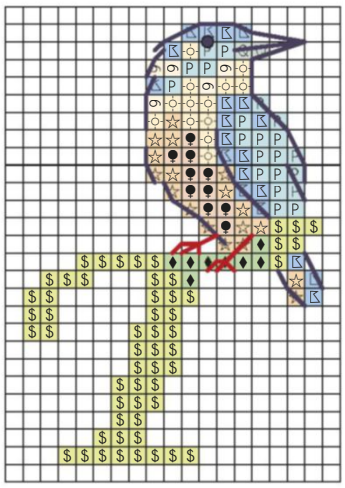
"These are such beautiful motifs, and they're really quick to stitch too. I think they're ideal for cards – the thread colours really 'pop'!"

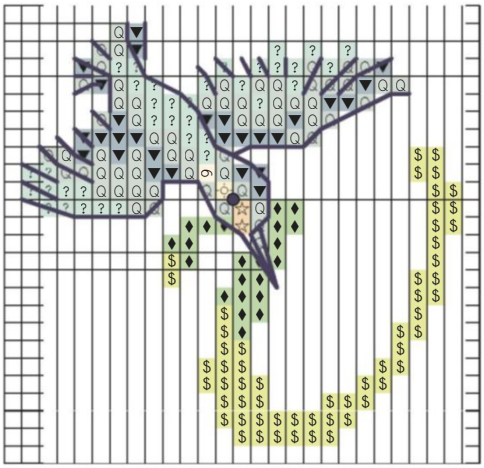
SUE, ART EDITOR

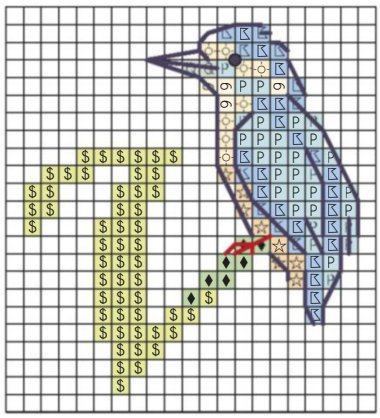


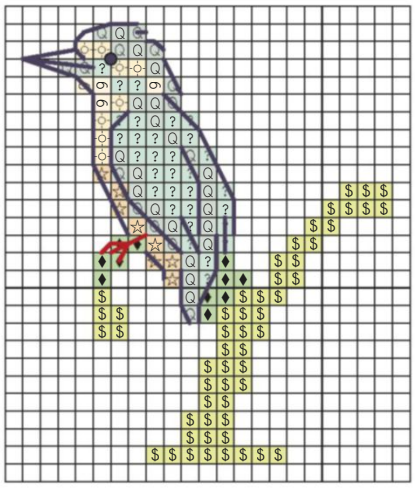


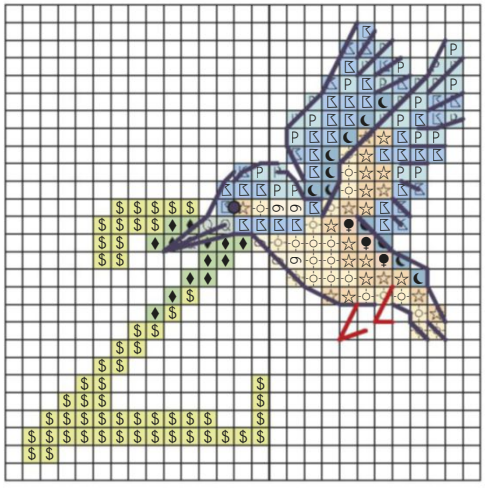












DESIGN BY **FABY REILLY**

The scent of summer

Evoke sunny days and the joys of being outdoors with this lilac-inspired set, rich in colour and detail



Try new techniques

One of the first summer flowers to come into bloom, the lilac heralds the new season's arrival each year with its clusters of tiny flowers and unmistakable scent. Bringing life to gardens with its vibrant purple petals, this much-loved plant is more than worthy of being captured in cross stitch.

Celebrating the pleasures that can be found both in nature and in cross stitch, this set uses a whole host of techniques, such as the rice stitch that creates the intricate woven detailing within the border.

Putting all your skills to the test, and introducing new skills to many, you'll find a handy guide to working rice stitch on page 69, plus step-by-step instructions on page 68 for making your biscornu, and both are easier than you might think! So, whether you're looking to expand your stitching abilities, or exercise not-often-used needlepoint, this delightful duo are a must. ➤

Factbox

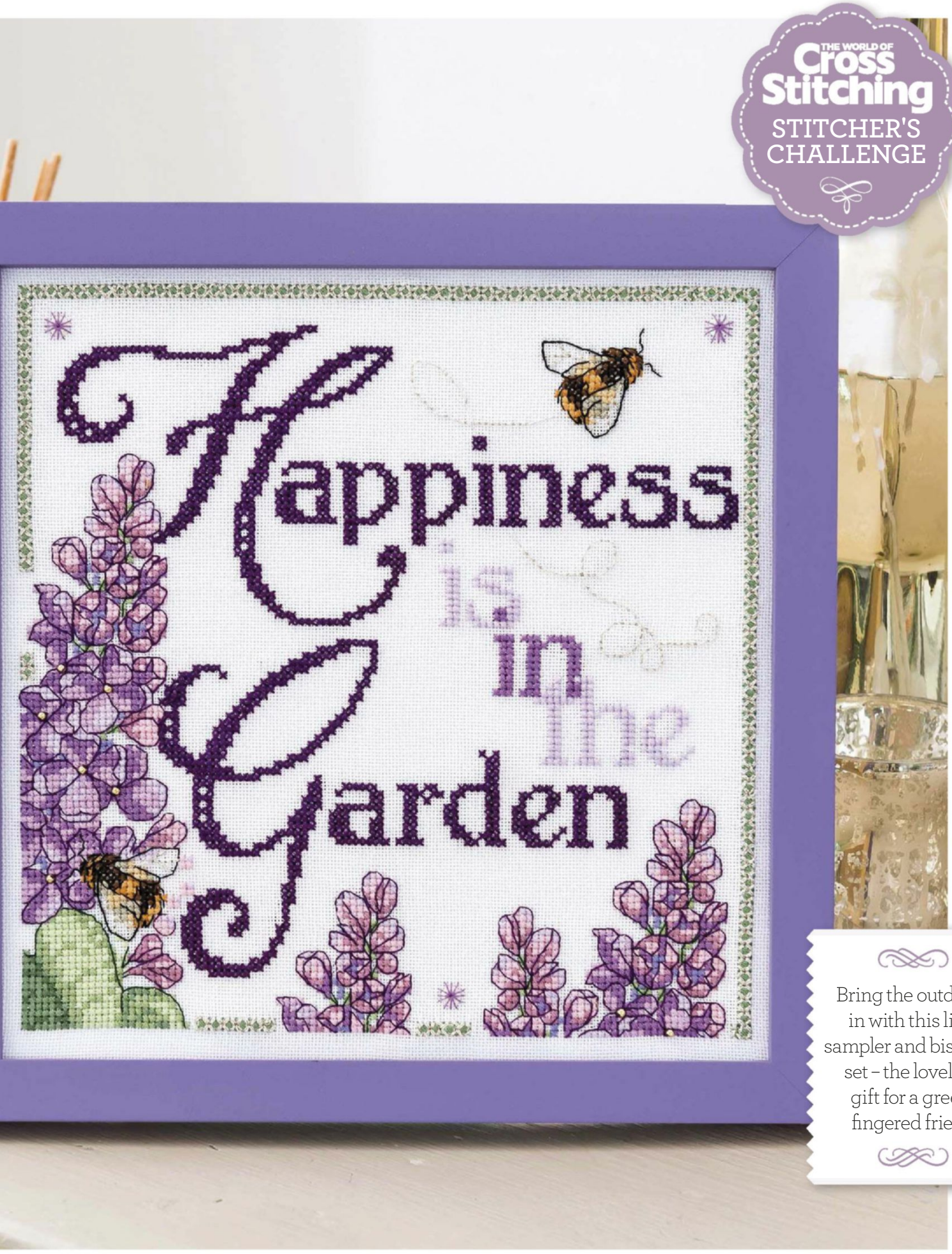
- **Stitching Time**
  Approx. 70 hours for the set
- **Type of Stitches**
  Cross stitch, backstitch, rice stitch, round eyelet stitch, French knots, beads, sequins
- **Ease of Stitching**
  Advanced



Meet the designer

Faby Reilly

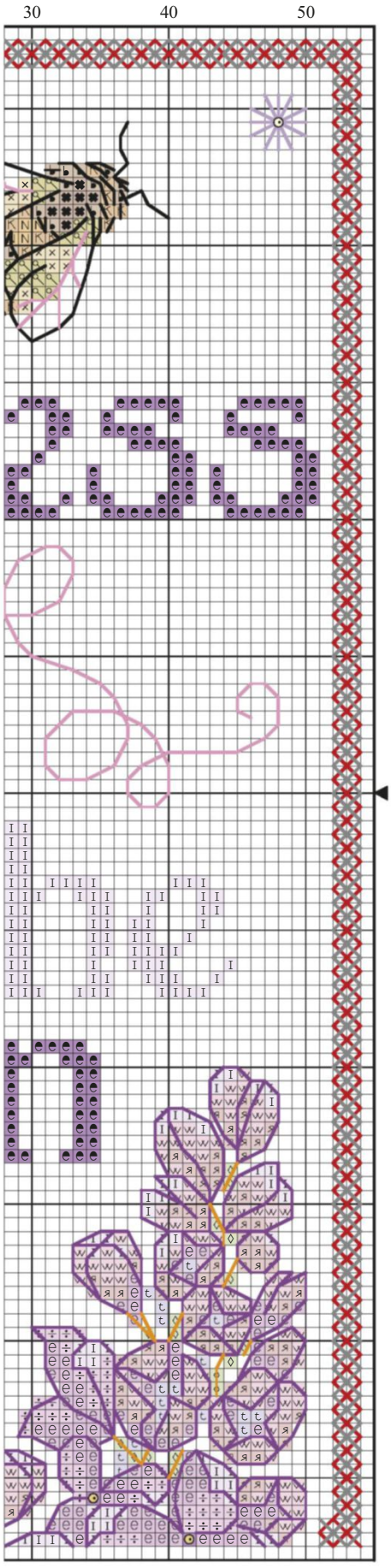
"There's nothing I love better than relaxing in the garden on a sunny day. I like to just close my eyes and take in the sounds and scents around me – although that does tend to end up in a snooze!"



Bring the outdoors in with this lilac sampler and biscornu set – the loveliest gift for a green-fingered friend



Lilac Sampler chart (left)



Lilac Sampler chart (right)



Lilac Sampler & Biscornu key

Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
t	155	1030	902	purple
I	211	342	801	lilac
я	316	1017	809	antique mauve
$	320	215	1311	green
▼	367	217	1312	dark green
◊	368	214	1310	light green
ŕ	369	1043	1309	very light green
e	550	102	714	dark mauve
e	553	98	712	mauve
÷	554	90	711	light mauve
×	738	367	2013	cream
b	801	359	2007	brown
K	976	1001	2010	ginger
N	977	1002	2302	light ginger
✎	3023	899	1813	grey
✖	3371	382	2004	dark brown
w	3689	49	807	pink

Backstitch in one strand

—	310	403	2400	black
—	550	102	714	dark mauve
—	553	98	712	mauve
—	890	683	1314	very dark green

Backstitch in one strand DMC Diamant

—	D168			silver

Backstitch in two strands

—	369	1043	1309	very light green

Rice stitch in two strands

—	320	215	1311	green

Rice stitch in two strands DMC Diamant

—	D168			silver

Mill Hill seed beads

●	00557			gold

Sequin placement with round eyelet stitch

○	*JR04284			glossy vanilla

MAXIMUM STITCH COUNT 110 high x 109 wide
DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 20x20cm (7¾x7¾in)

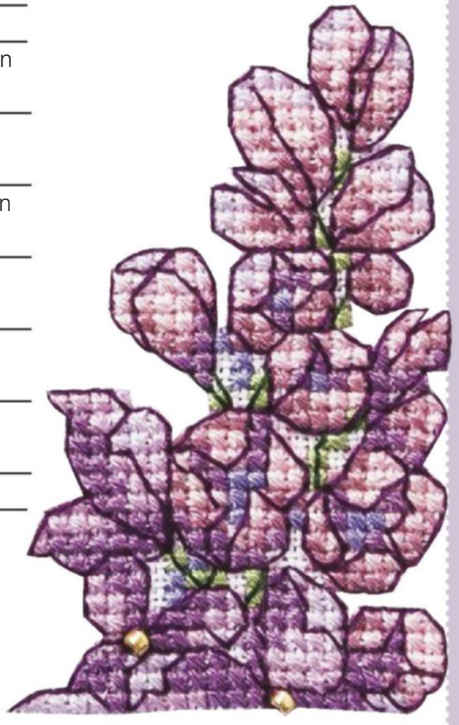
SKEINS NEEDED **2x550** (dark mauve)

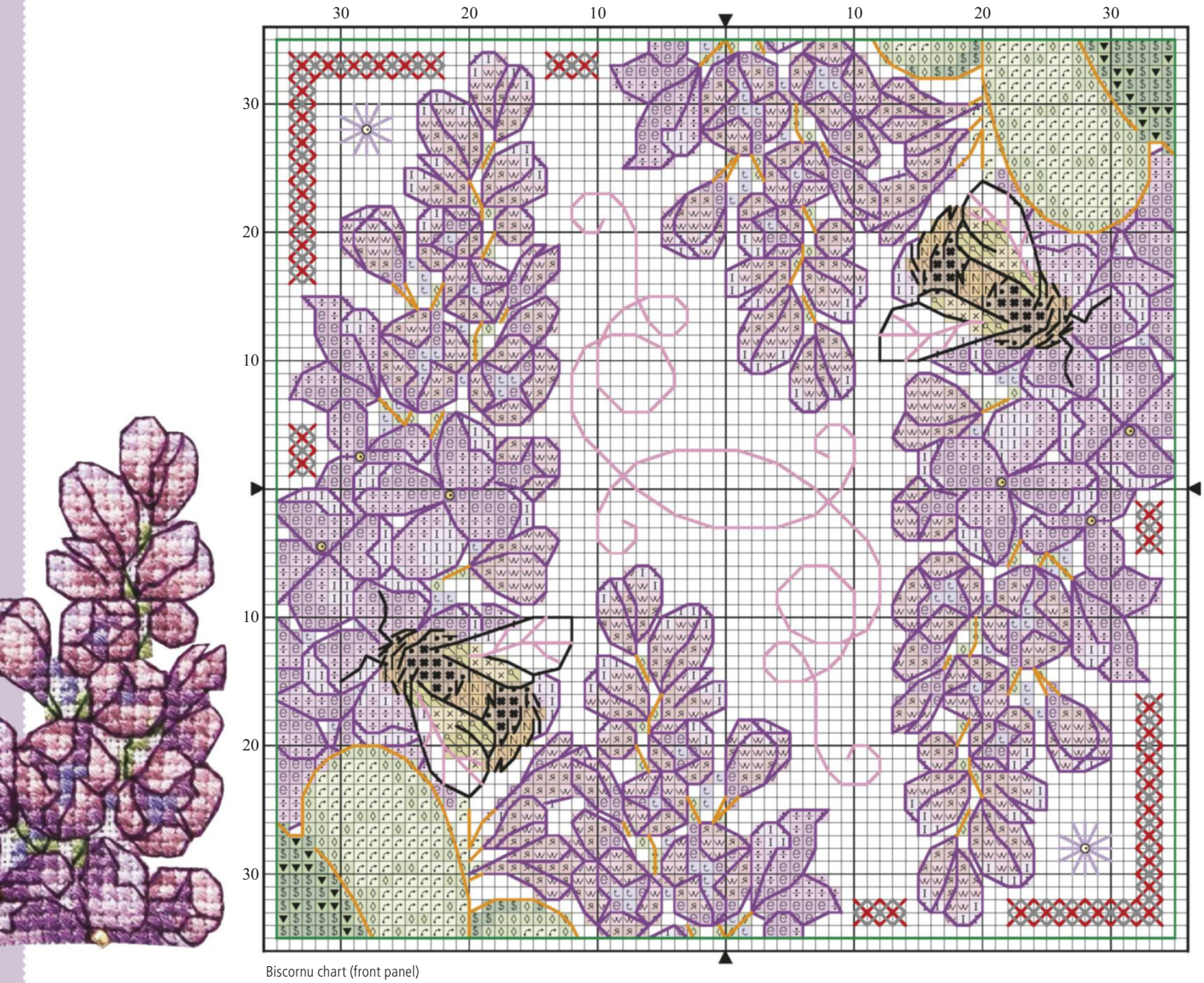
These designs were stitched using DMC stranded cotton, DMC Diamant, Mill Hill seed beads and Josy Rose* sequins on 28-count evenweave over two threads of the fabric



SUE, ART EDITOR

"This project is one you can really get your teeth into, with tons of shading, backstitched detail, and beading and sequins. If you're new to these more advanced techniques, give the biscornu a go first – these mini-makes are perfect pincushions!"





Biscornu chart (front panel)

How to... make up your biscornu decoration



1 Once you have stitched your two biscornu designs, gently wash and press as usual. Cut both pieces leaving a border measuring 1cm (½in) around the edge of the stitching. Fold along the square backstitch outline, towards the wrong side of your stitching, as this will make the next step much easier.

2 Use the backstitch borders to 'link' the two square pieces. Begin by using a pin to mark the exact middle of the front panel's backstitch border. With the stitching facing outwards, use the same colour thread used for the backstitch border to sew between the central backstitch of the front panel, and the pointed corner of the back panel. Take care to pass your needle carefully underneath the backstitch.



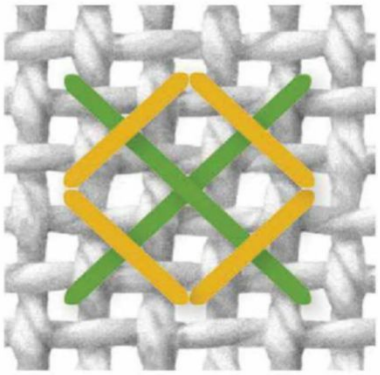
3 Using whipstitch, continue working all around the two squares, passing your needle through the backstitches on each of the pieces. Stop stitching when you come to the 7th side, leaving a gap of around 5cm (2in).

4 Stuff your biscornu, neatly filling it for a firm finish, then continue whipstitching to close the gap. Hide your secured thread ends inside. Form the dimple shape by sewing through the centre of the design. Keep your thread taut, stitching from front to back and when you're happy with the shape just secure your end to finish.

Rice stitch

Rice stitch is formed of one large cross stitch with its 'arms' crossed by a further stitch in each corner

1 Work one large cross stitch over two aida blocks (four threads of evenweave).
2 Work a stitch over each 'arm' of the large cross stitch over one block of aida (two threads of evenweave) to create diamond shapes. Don't stitch the second row of large cross stitch over the first one as the stitches won't be secured.



Shopping list

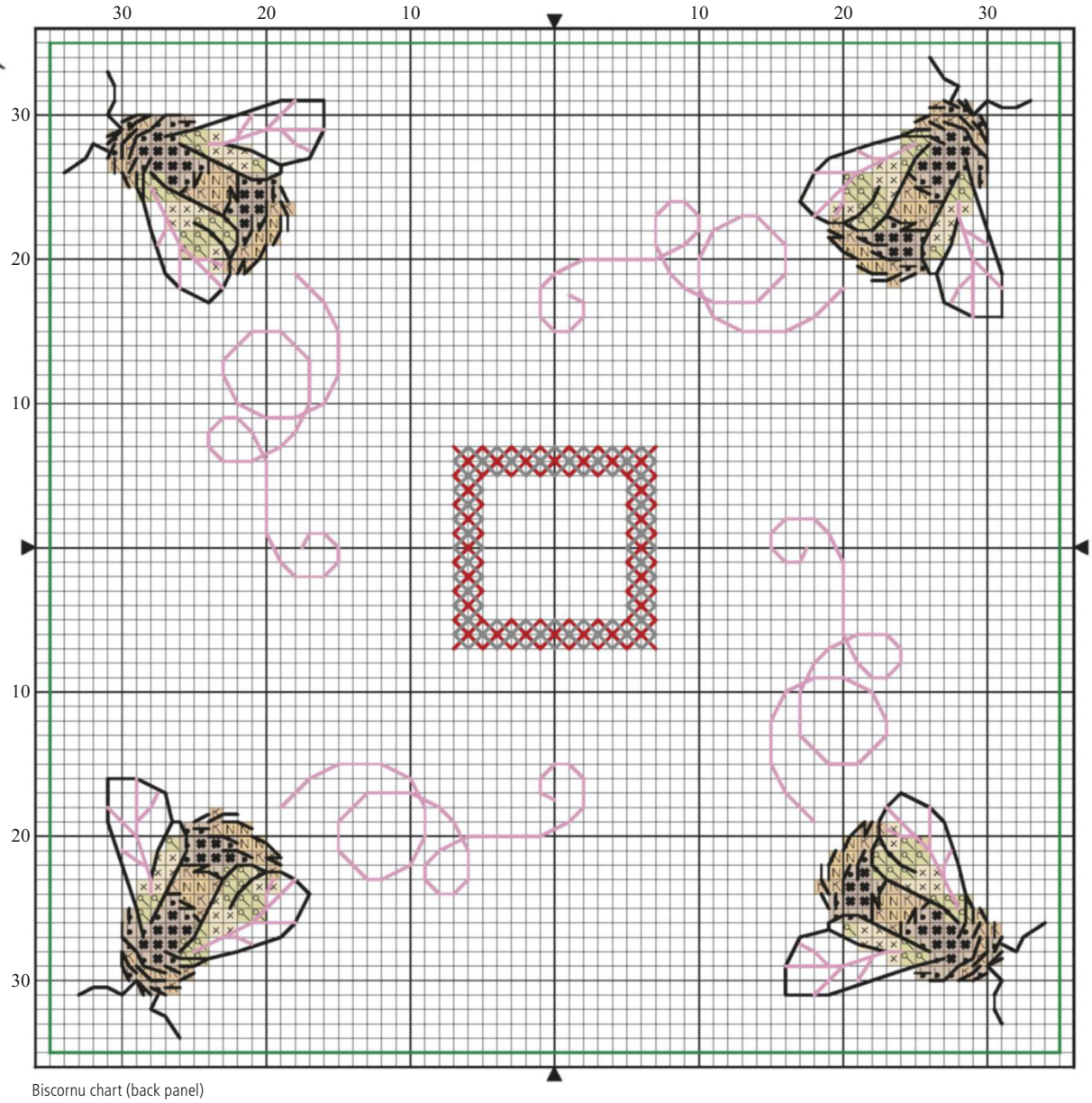
- Zweigart* 28-count white evenweave measuring 35x35cm (13¾x13¾in) for the picture and 20x20cm (7¾x7¾in) for each biscornu panel
- Stranded cotton and metallic thread as listed in the key
- Mill Hill* seed beads as listed in the key
- Josy Rose* sequins as listed in the key
- Size 26 tapestry needle; beading needle
- Stuffing of your choice from local stores
- Frame of your choice with a minimum aperture of 21x21cm (8¼x8¼in)

Thread & fabric cost
Approximately £28

*For stockists see page 90







Biscornu chart (back panel)

DESIGN BY **DURENE JONES**

Cats rule the roost

Capture this oh-so-sweet kitty doing what cats do best – combining maximum cuteness with extreme cheekiness!



Anyone with cats will know it doesn't matter how many cosy beds or secret dens they have, their favourite place to sleep will always be the one you don't want them to doze on! Left a magazine on the table? They're on it. Neatly folded pile of freshly-ironed washing? What could be more appealing?!

Durene's hilarious design is the perfect example of cat sassiness, and you'll love stitching her heartwarming scene and sentiment for your home, or for a feline-loving friend. Worked in a rustic country kitchen-style, the polka dots, stripes and gingham checks add plenty of interest to the main design, while the cute kitty's lifelike pose and markings are the cherry on top – quite literally!

Using mainly whole cross stitches and backstitch, this heartwarming chart is suitable for most stitchers. With no tricky techniques, all you need is a bit of experience, and a lot of love for cats! Mount in a rustic frame to complement the scene.

Factbox

Simple to stitch

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



Meet the designer

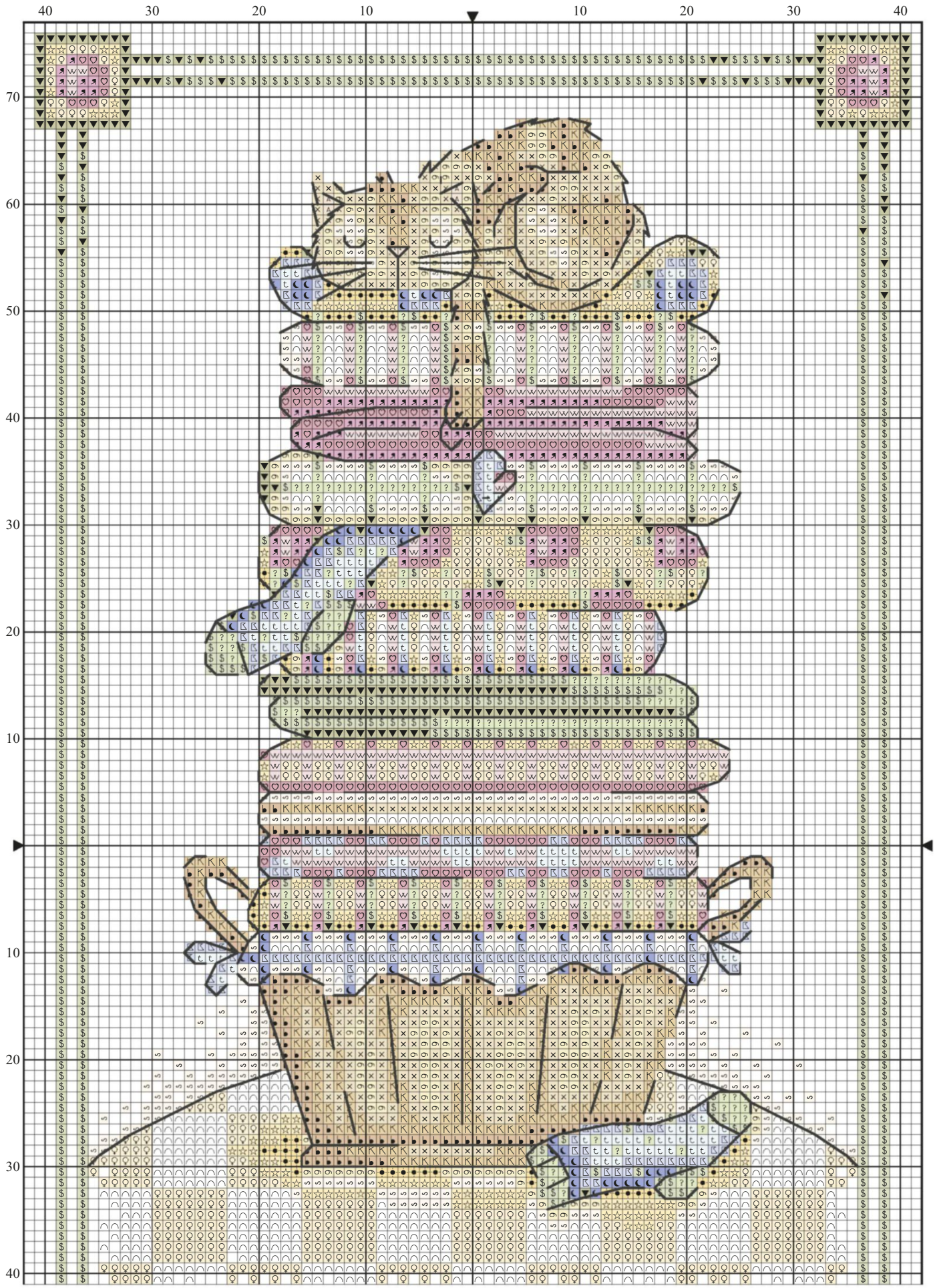
Durene Jones

"As a cat owner myself, I can confirm that this design was based on real life experience! I find them so interesting, as each one has their own little character. Cats have one thing in common though – they love a good snooze!"

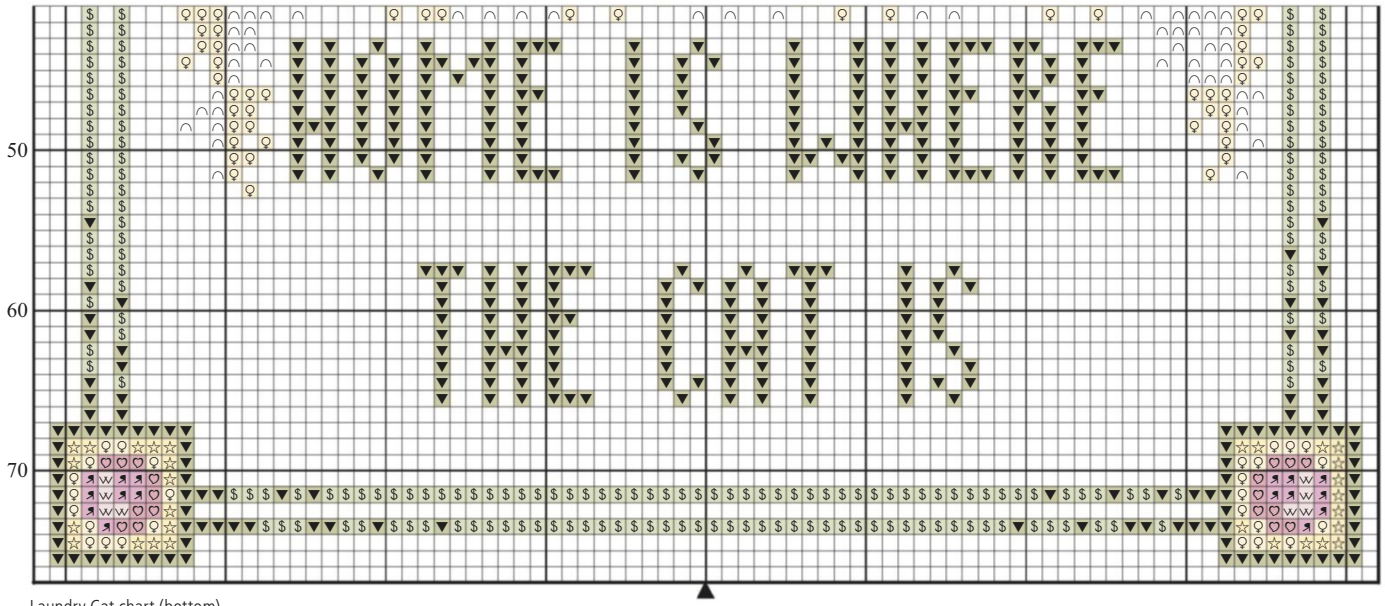


PERFECT 'NEW HOME' GIFT

Calling all cat owners! Show your pet some love with this playful tribute to their mischievous ways



Laundry Cat chart (top)



Laundry Cat chart (bottom)

Laundry Cat key

Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	blanc	2	2402	white
w	151	73	404	light pink
?	164	240	1209	light green
b	435	1046	2010	dark tan
K	436	1045	2011	tan
s	712	926	2101	light cream
×	738	367	2013	dark cream
o	739	366	2014	cream
✹	743	302	113	dark yellow
☆	744	301	112	yellow
♀	745	300	111	light yellow
A	754	1012	305	peach
☾	798	131	912	dark blue
t	800	144	908	light blue
K	809	130	909	blue
$	989	241	1401	green
▼	3346	267	1407	dark green
↗	3731	76	506	pink
♡	3733	75	605	dark pink

Backstitch in one strand

—	3799	236	1713	grey

STITCH COUNT 152 high x 82 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 27.5x15cm (10¾x5¾in)

This design was stitched using DMC stranded cotton



TOP TIP

Make a handy thread organiser by punching a row of holes into a piece of stiff card. Cut your threads into lengths and loop through the holes



Jennifer READER PANEL

"This design is incredibly adorable and would be perfect for any cat lover. I know a few friends who would love to receive this project as a gift. The detail that Durene has created within the pattern is amazing."

Shopping list

- Zweigart* 14-count white aida measuring 43x30cm (7x11¾in)
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Size 24 tapestry needle
- Frame of your choice with a minimum aperture of 30.5x18cm (12x7in)

Thread & fabric cost
Approximately £24

*For stockists see page 90

In the spotlight

Durene Jones

Durene Jones tells us about what inspires her, and her life as a cross stitch designer

How did you start cross stitching?
I've always been very arty, and creative subjects were my favourites at school. But cross stitch was never something we learnt at school – it was a craft that I discovered later in life, through a love of tapestry, and from there I progressed into finding out about cross stitch.

How long have you been a cross stitch designer?
The first design I did for a magazine was in 2004 – a design called 'Sleepy Cat' for *Cross Stitch Gold*, issue 23, so I've been a designer for 14 years. I got up the courage to send examples of my work and some ideas to the editors at Immediate Media. Deep down I didn't expect to hear anything back, so I was over the moon when they told me they were interested in taking one of my designs. That was the start of everything, and I knew that this would be the path to take for the next stage of my career.

Where do you find inspiration?
It can come from anywhere and often when you least expect it. I've learnt to write all my ideas down immediately – if I don't, by the time I manage to to sketch my idea it will be gone. So I always have a notebook and pen nearby. I have lists of ideas to refer to when I get time to sit and do some sketching. While I'm out I often see things that spark an idea, and I see potential in things that others may not – so an overgrown garden can become a spring sampler as I imagine it as it would have been new, with the garden shed and neat flowerbeds.







Cute & colourful
Durene loves being a cross stitch designer. To the left and above you can see her sweet 'Laundry Cat' design in progress

Do you stitch for pleasure or prefer designing?
I do stitch for pleasure. I find it relaxing and a nice way to wind down. I enjoy stitching other people's designs, and very rarely sew my own as the charts are too familiar to me, and I enjoy the surprise of discovering how others' work comes together, and seeing the picture form from the chart.

Tell us about your average day
My days generally start early, about 6am, but I try to stick to working hours, as I would if I were going out to work: it helps me separate work and home time. My first job of the day is to check my emails, to see if there is anything that needs attending to from the day before, or any questions from my Etsy customers. Once this is done, I can settle down to work. It could be a day with my sketchbook in front of me, designing or planning out new ideas, or a day in front of my computer charting commissions and finishing off designs to send off to whoever commissioned them. I'm usually busy through to around 5pm, which is the time I consider 'home time' when I can then do whatever I feel like for the evening.

MORE: Durene's 'Laundry Cat' is on page 70, or visit www.etsy.com/uk/shop/DureneJCrossStitch

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DESIGN BY **AMANDA GREGORY**

Pick of the season

Add a burst of colour to your accessory collection with these delectable sew-your-own berry and cherry bags



Plump, juicy and the perfect shade of red, these mouth-watering charts are ripe for the picking! One of summer's many delights is the abundance of sweet seasonal fruit, and Amanda's designs pay tribute to two of our favourites.

Treat yourself to a selection of classic English strawberries, best served with lashings of cream, or choose the succulent cherries, as delicious on their own as they are baked in a pie. Both designs are such fun to stitch, combining bold blocks of whole cross stitches with fractionals, backstitch and a scattering of French knots for a lifelike finish. And they make the loveliest motifs for sunny, summery carry-alls.

Try a new making up idea

Factbox

- **Stitching Time**
  Approx. 10-12 hours per repeat
- **Type of Stitches**
  Cross stitch, fractionals, backstitch, French knots
- **Ease of Stitching**
  Advanced beginner/ intermediate

You'll find simple instructions for sewing your bag over the page, and as the stylish handles are readily available from craft stores, you'll be ready to show off your home-grown accessory in no time at all!



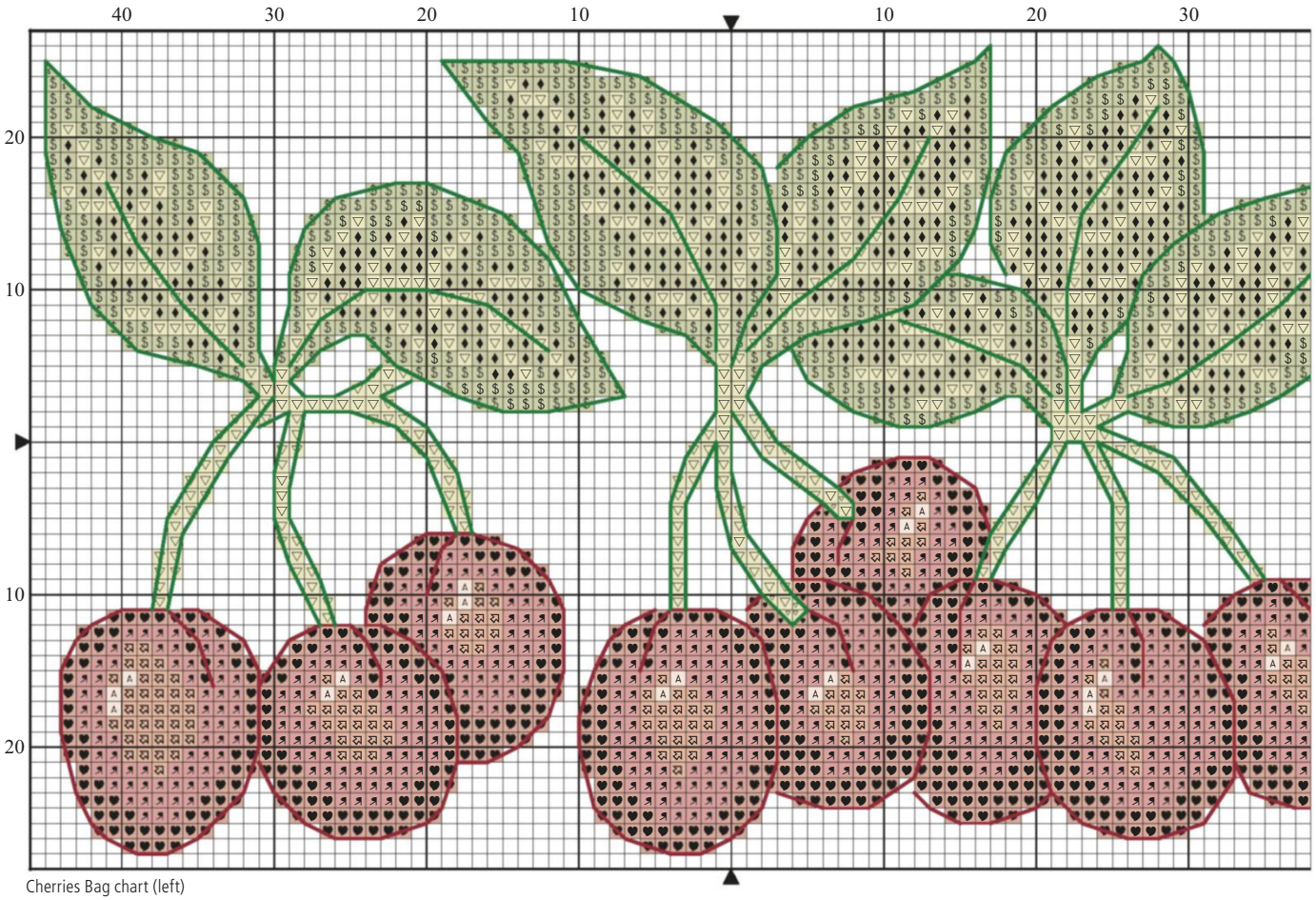
Meet the designer

Amanda Gregory

"Turning cross stitch into a useable item always brings me so much joy. These bags are such a fun way to show off your skills, and I guarantee everyone who sees them will be putting in requests for their own!"



Stitch your way to five-a-day with these oh-sew fruity handbags!



Cherries Bag chart (left)



Fruity Bags key

Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
♥	304	19	511	ruby
ম	350	11	213	red
A	353	6	2313	coral
♦	469	268	1503	dark green
$	470	267	1502	green
▽	472	253	1414	light green
♀	726	295	109	yellow
*	762	234	1804	light grey
৯	817	13	210	dark red
∩	3865	2	2403	natural white

Backstitch in one strand

—	814	22	601	dark ruby
—	936	269	1507	avocado green
—	3799	236	1713	grey

French knots in one strand

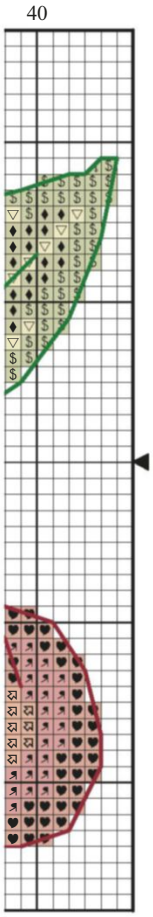
○	728	305	107	gold

MAXIMUM STITCH COUNT 53 high x 91 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 9.5x16.5cm (3¾x6½in)

SKEINS NEEDED **2x304** (ruby), **2x469** (dark green), **2x470** (green), **2x472** (light green), **2x817** (dark red)

These designs were stitched using DMC stranded cotton



Cherries chart (right)





How to... make a bag with wooden handles



1. Trim your stitched piece to 12.5cm (5in) high and 40cm (15¾in) wide. Cut out three pieces of backing fabric to 37x40cm (14½x15¾in) for the back panel, 12x40cm (4¾x15¾in) for the bottom front panel and 18x40cm (7x15¾in) for the top front panel.



2. Pin the bottom front panel of the bag along the bottom edge of your stitching, with right sides facing. Stitch together with a 1cm (½in) seam. Press the seam open. Then repeat with the top front panel of the bag along the top edge of the stitched piece.



3. Pin your front and back panels together, with right sides facing and stitch along the bottom and side edges leaving a 9cm (3½in) gap unstitched at the top of each side edge of the bag.



4. Fold over a 1cm (½in) hem on each of the top edges and then stitch along that edge and down the unstitched seams on the sides.



5. Box out the base of your bag by opening out the bottom right corner, aligning the seams and then stitching across diagonally. Repeat for the left-hand corner then turn through.



6. Insert the top edge of the front of the bag through the first handle. Using running stitch tack into position, pleating as you go. Then with the zipper foot on your machine, sew along the edge of the handle. Repeat for the back panel.

TOP TIP

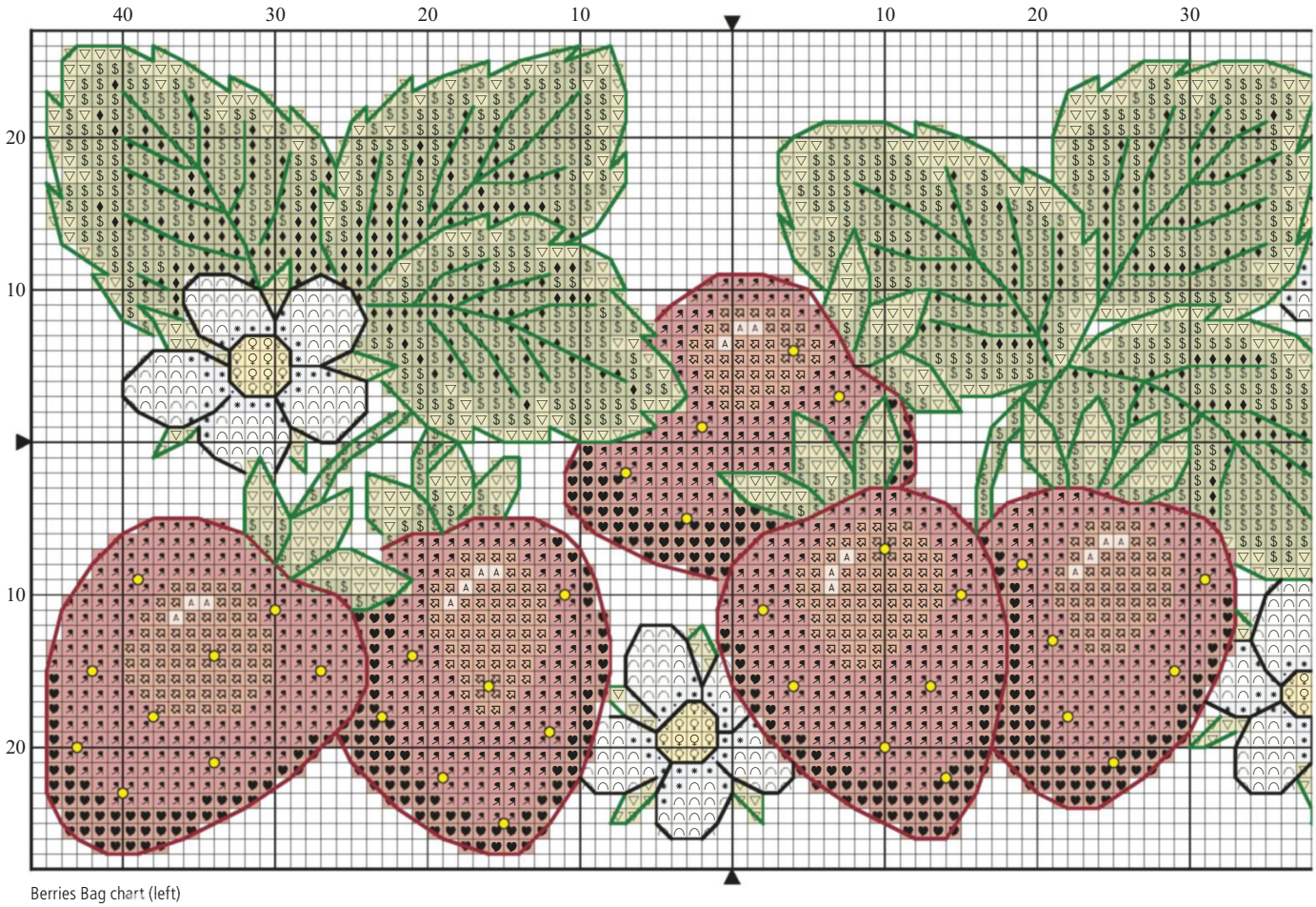
Repeat the design across your aida to fit the desired width of your bag – we repeated the design twice

Shopping list

- Zweigart* 14-count white aida measuring 20cm (7¾in) x desired width of repeats
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Size 24 tapestry needle
- Wooden Bag Handles 18cm from Hobbycraft online*
- Backing fabric of your choice from local stores

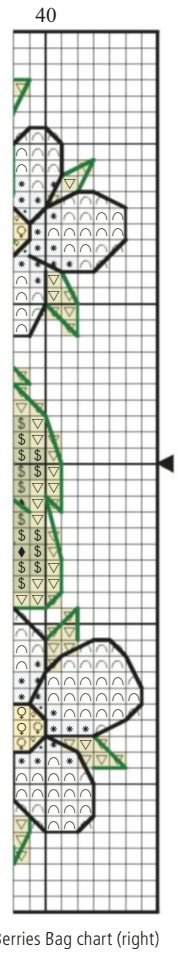
Thread & fabric cost
Approximately £18

*For stockists see page 90



Berries Bag chart (left)





Berries Bag chart (right)



Jennifer READER PANEL

"I can't wait to stitch and make up these fruity bags – they'll be perfect for when I go strawberry picking or for a picnic with friends. These are great designs for the summer."



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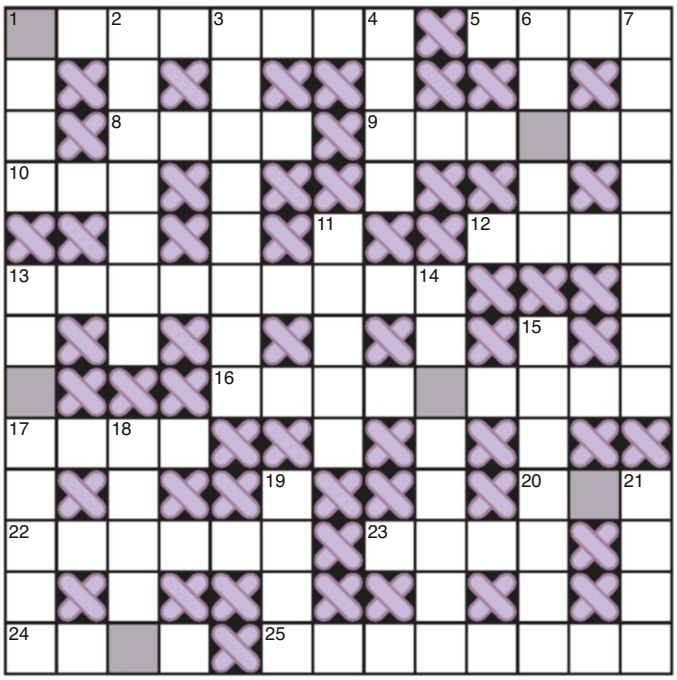
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ACROSS

1 Most cheerful and content (8)
5 Poke with a finger (4)
8 Large town (4)
9 Inessential but desirable item (6)
10 Another name for a moose (3)
12 Close by (4)
13 Jazz instrument (9)
16 Cooked chicken leg (9)
17 Try to persuade (4)
20 Flat hat (3)
22 Sewing implement (6)
23 Competent (4)
24 Simple (4)
25 Lowest floor of a building (8)

DOWN

1 Conceal (4)
2 Tool used to break up rocks or ice (7)
3 Courageous (8)
4 Roof slate (4)
6 Course taken (5)
7 Early morning (8)
11 Extra reward payment (5)
13 Particular order (8)
14 Group of musicians (8)
15 Genuine and heartfelt (7)
18 Estimate (5)
19 Pavement edge (4)
21 Flat-bottomed river boat propelled with a long pole (4)

TO ENTER **Solve the clues then rearrange the letters in the shaded squares to spell a sport (6)**

ISSUE 267 SOLUTION: ACROSS: 1 Passport, 5 Wise, 7 Caddie, 8 Absurd, 9 Challenge, 11 Shove, 12 Far, 14 Pitch, 15 Endurance, 18 Finish, 19 Sprint, 20 Shoe, 21 Retrieve. **DOWN:** 1 Peckish, 2 Sideboard, 3 Prince, 4 Trawler, 5 Waste, 6 Shrug, 10 Nectarine, 12 Feather, 13 Chortle, 14 Pepper, 16 Neigh, 17 Unite. **SOLUTION:** HAWTHORN

WIN! Furry Tales Prize

Cricket Mouse key

Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	blanc	2	2402	white
P	334	977	1004	blue
♥	349	1098	212	red
b	436	1045	2011	tan
9	437	362	2012	light tan
▽	564	206	1208	green
s	739	366	2014	cream
w	754	2012	305	dark peach
•	948	892	306	peach
K	3755	140	1013	light blue
◣	3799	236	1713	grey

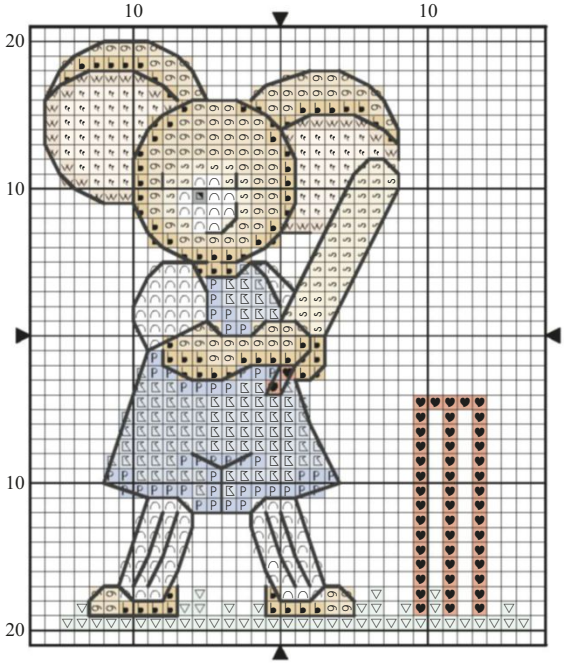
Backstitch in one strand

—	3799	236	1713	grey

STITCH COUNT 40 high x 33 wide
DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 7.5x6cm (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 over £1,073!

PRIZES WORTH £255

Flowery stitching



Our friends at Zweigart* are offering you the chance to win one of these fantastic fabric bundles, worth £17. Each bundle comes with a piece of Belfast linen fabric in fresh spring green measuring 48x68.5cm (19x27in), PLUS Zweigart's brand new 'Flowers' chart book. Get ready to start stitching a wonderful array of floral designs. We've got 15 bundles to give away to our luck readers!

TO ENTER **To enter text keyword WOXS268ZWEIGART or label a postcard 'Zweigart fabric bundle giveaway (WOXS268)'**

PRIZES WORTH £269

Birds of a feather



Heritage Crafts* are offering Karen Carter's latest 'Tottering Tower' (BFTT1442) cross stitch kit to give away to our readers! The kit contains Zweigart 14-count aida, DMC stranded cottons sorted on to numbered cards, a needle, and clear charts and instructions. The finished amusing owl design measures 12.5x26.5cm (5x10½in). We've got nine kits to give away, worth £29.95 each.

TO ENTER **To enter text keyword WOXS268HERITAGE or label a postcard 'Heritage Crafts kit giveaway (WOXS268)'**



PRIZES WORTH £280

CAMPERVANS

HIT THE ROAD...

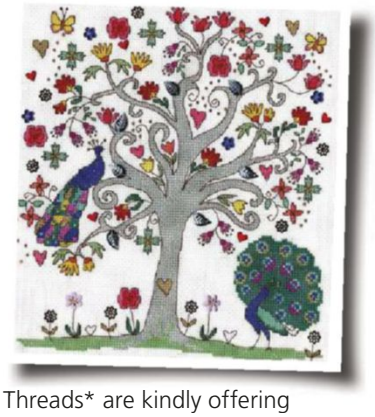


Who doesn't dream of escaping the mundane in a colourful campervan? Well, you can do just that while stitching the brand-new range of retro campervan cross stitch kits from Textile Heritage* (as featured in Best Buys on page 24). We're offering five lucky readers the chance to win the complete range of eight kits which includes a bookmark, needlecase, mini card, keyring and four coaster designs! So, enter today to be in with a chance to win!

TO ENTER **To enter text keyword WOXS268CAMPERVANS or label a postcard 'Campervan kits giveaway (WOXS268)'**

PRIZES WORTH £269

Summer loving



We love the bright colours and clever use of sequins and satin flowers in this 'Love Summer' kit by Kim Anderson. The kit contains 14-count white Zweigart aida, pre-sorted stranded cottons, metallic thread, ribbon, sequins, satin flowers, needles, clear stitch diagrams and instructions. Bothy Threads* are kindly offering these fabulous kits to nine lucky readers!

TO ENTER **To enter by text message use keyword WOXS268LOVE or if entering by post, please label your postcard 'Love Summer kit giveaway (WOXS268)'**

HOW TO ENTER

CROSSWORD

By text: Text FURRY268 followed by the mystery word, your name and postal address to 87474 eg. FURRY268 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 WOXS268, Immediate Media Co, 2nd Floor, Tower House, Fairfax Street, Bristol BS1 3BN.
Terms & conditions as far right except for: closing date for entries is 21 May 2018. 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.
Online: Enter on our site, 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: 21 May 2018. One winning entry will be chosen at random from all eligible entries. Call ☎ 0117 314 8755 if you have a query. Full terms & conditions below.

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*For stockists see page 90

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!



OUR FAVOURITE POST

Kristy Mccoombes says: "Night train is finally finished! Labour of love, 200x200 stitches for my train loving boys!" We hope your boys appreciated all of your hard efforts on this magnificent piece, Kristy! It'll look fab framed and hung somewhere you can all enjoy it.

Like
505 people like this



YOU LIKED

Sophie Elliot says: "Just finished this gorgeous glistening owl out of issue 256. I love all the seed beads and how sparkly they make him." We all agree with Sophie – this is a stunning shimmering project!

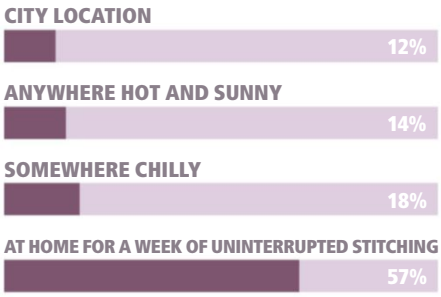
Like
912 people like this

And the winner is...

We asked you on Facebook: What's your idea of a perfect cross stitch holiday...



The results are in and most of our readers would prefer to stay at home and stitch in peace and quiet – we don't blame you! For those of you who dream of stitching somewhere sunny, take a look at the Cornish Village project by Jenny Van De Wiele on page 38.



Websites you'll love

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



Rachel from Fuzzy Fox Designs (**www.etsy.com/uk/shop/FuzzyFoxDesigns**) is a lover of all sorts of crafts but cross stitch is her obsession! Visit her Etsy shop for super cute cross stitch PDF patterns, covering a range of themes from woodland to whimsical.



Push your stitching skills with a visit to Ann's Orchard Needlework (**www.annsorchard.co.uk**). You'll find a wide range of traditional and unique needlework kits from fine beaded needlework to chunky cross stitch. There's also stitch supplies and free PDF patterns to enjoy.

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Blogger of the month



Carrie of The Stitching Corner blog shares her cross stitch projects, tutorials, free patterns and link to her stitching supplies shop (US-based but ships internationally). This blog was runner up at The British Craft Awards 2018 so you know you're in safe stitchy hands!

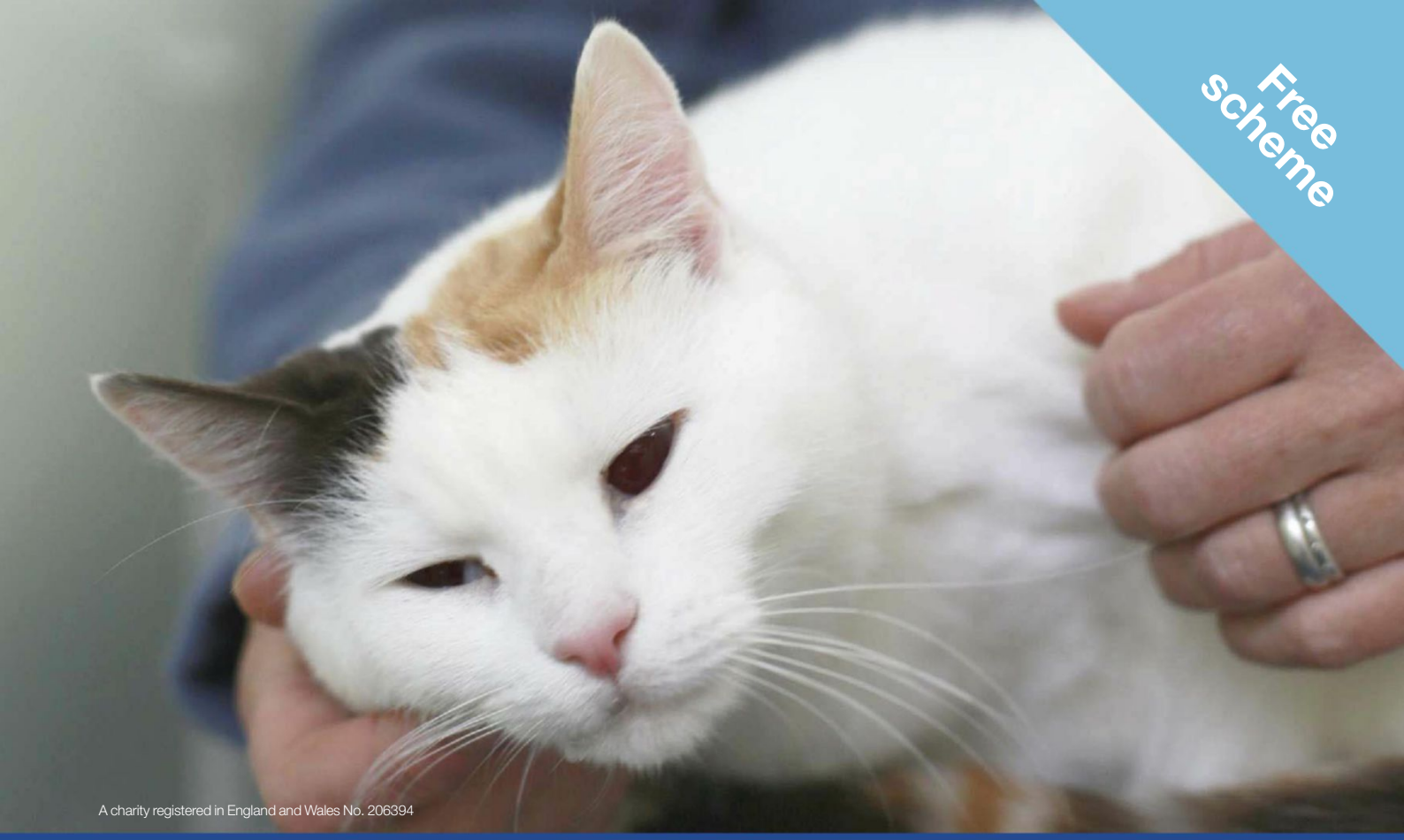
MORE **Check out Carrie's little piece of cross stitch heaven at http://stitchingcorner.com**

Free download

As part of DMC's '1000 Patterns Project' they bring you inspiration every Sunday with a free collection of exclusively designed patterns to download. Visit www.dmc.com/uk/ and choose from a range of categories, such as 'Flowers & Garden' and 'Animals & Pets', or browse their designer collections. You can filter by level and time to make so you'll be sure to find a project to suit your needs.



MORE **Find 100s of other free charts in the 'Charts & Patterns' section of our website at www.cross-stitching.com**



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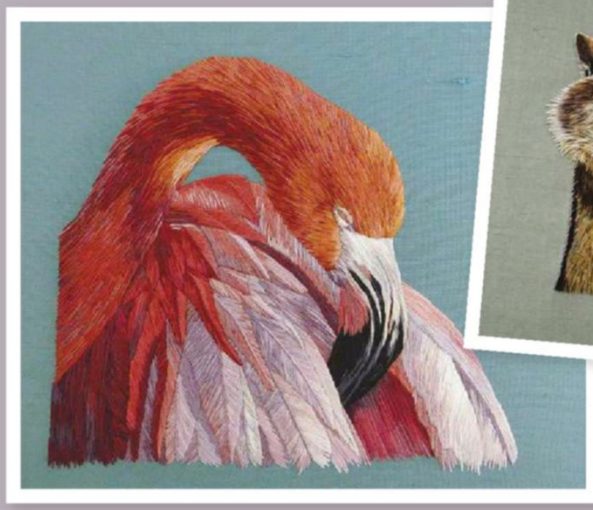
Out & About

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!

ANIMALS IN EMBROIDERY

The Royal School of Needlework's latest exhibition is a must for anyone who's mad about animals and stitching! 'Animals in Embroidery' runs until December at Hampton Court Palace in London, and includes a menagerie of creatures big and small, from a wild tiger and flamboyant flamingo to cute dogs and a peckish chipmunk, all beautifully rendered in various forms of needlework, from blackwork to silk shading, goldwork to Jacobean crewelwork. A talk and tour costs £16 and must be booked ahead – definitely something for your diary next time you're in the capital!

MORE: **For more details and to book visit www.royal-needlework.org.uk**





Animals in embroidery A stunning exhibition of cr res in a variety of styles

WHERE AM I?



I recently vacationed with my boyfriend at this beautiful lake in Europe. I made it my mission to get as close as we could to the village that's in the design I stitched last year (pictured with me and my magazine). It took us a whole day and two ferry rides with the car, but we did it! You can see it over my shoulder.

Amber Milland, Denmark

Answer: Varenna, Lake Como, Italy

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



Dates for your diary

17 MAY

ON SALE: THE WORLD OF CROSS STITCHING

Don't miss our July issue 269, packed with gorgeous, cheerful projects to inspire you. You'll find an adorable panda, stylish fairytake wedding sampler, fun projects for Father's Day and much more besides. See page 94 to find out more!

29 JUNE – 1 JULY

TOGETHER WE STITCH WEEKEND

SHEFFIELD

The Hilton Sheffield Hotel on Victoria Quays is the location for this fab crafty weekend. The weekend is designed to suit all skill levels, with experts on hand to guide the way. The only rule is that you love to stitch! The weekend costs from £330 pp, including two nights at the hotel, two drinks receptions, two nights' bed & breakfast, lunches, and two evening meals with wine, plus materials and tuition. For more information or to book visit www.thecrossstitchguild.com

29 JUNE – 1 JULY

THE CREATIVE CRAFT SHOW

NEC, BIRMINGHAM

The Creative Craft Show is a haven for fans of every craft technique under the sun. It offers the latest supplies, ideas and innovations and you'll find everything from kits, charts and patterns to fabrics, threads and buttons – plus opportunities to glean advice from industry experts. Tickets cost £8 in advance (or £10 on the door). For more info visit www.ichf.co.uk



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The awards were presented by the team at SewandSo and DMC at The Knitting & Stitching Show in London







Emily Peacock (left) and Victoria Matthewson (above) collect their awards



The UK's most talented needlecrafters were recognised at the first ever National Needlecraft Awards in March at the Knitting & Stitching Show. Organised by SewandSo, the awards saw nearly 500 entrants across eight categories shortlisted by public vote, with finalists selected by a panel of expert judges.

Among the highlights at the awards was the Young Needlecrafter of the Year, open to entrants under 16 and won by Jade Kingsman. Kirsty Gowton was the winner of Stitching Hero of the Year for her charitable work with cross stitch. The prize of Needlecrafter of the Year was awarded for design, complexity, technique and scale of the project. The winner of this flagship award was Victoria Matthewson.



Fiona Johnston won Best Use of Colour in Cross Stitch for her layered tree design (above right)

THE FULL LIST OF CATEGORIES AND WINNERS:

DESIGNER OF THE YEAR (Cross Stitch):
Genevieve Brading

DESIGNER OF THE YEAR (Other Needlecraft):
Emily Peacock

BEST USE OF COLOUR (Cross Stitch):
Fiona Johnston

BEST USE OF COLOUR (Other Needlecraft):
Emma A le

BEST CONTEMPORARY EMBROIDERER:
Eleanor Fredrick

STITCHING HERO OF THE YEAR:
Kirsty Gowton

YOUNG NEEDLECRAFTER OF THE YEAR:
Jade Kingsman

NEEDLECRAFTER OF THE YEAR:
Vi ria M hewson



Crafternoon

Gather your friends and family this spring for an afternoon of crafting. Your Crafternoon will help us give advice and support to even more people – because no one should have to face a mental health problem alone.

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Stockists

Buy your basic stitching stash and products we've featured

Ready, set, shop!

Getting started

Where to buy your cross stitch essentials.
Turn to page 96 to see what you'll need!

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For fabrics, buy in the UK from SewandSo, as above

Products to drool over!
Browse the latest stitching designs and ideas on **PAGE 24**

Your projects

Find all the charts, kits, threads & accessories featured in this issue

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www.amara.com
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Issue 267

Your latest issue is bursting with stitching treats. We have a sweet Bebunni exclusive, pretty girly dressing room design, stunning fairy silhouette, peacock-themed stitch accessories, Christening sampler, variegated thread cards and so much more. Plus, there's expert stitchy advice and prizes to be won! **2-in-1 GIFT: Vintage-chic card kit + floral chalk art chart**



Issue 266

Spring bird card kit, glam Margaret Sherry kitty, unicorn cards, Art Deco ladies, Venetian mask design, Easter baskets, Spring hanging



Issue 265

Cookie Bear card kit, spring blooms, Mittens & Cyril, ideas for Mother's Day, cuddly koalas, colourful fish, Chinese dragon, hoop art for kids



Issue 264

Pretty foxgloves bookmark kit, tropical kitchen collection, lion cushion, fruity sampler, cute kittens, Valentine's Day cards



Issue 263

Tatty Teddy 2018 diary, delicate snowdrops, hot water bottle, cute baby sampler, stylish all-occasion cards, fun robot ABC, beautiful fairy



Issue 262

Cute festive puppy card kit, traditional Santa, Nativity ABC, angel stocking, festive florals, Christmas campervan, sweet ice-skating animals



Issue 261

Christmas chart book & threads, Margaret Sherry mice, stag cushion, biscornus, festive food, holly ABC, snowy cards, gingerbread lighthouse

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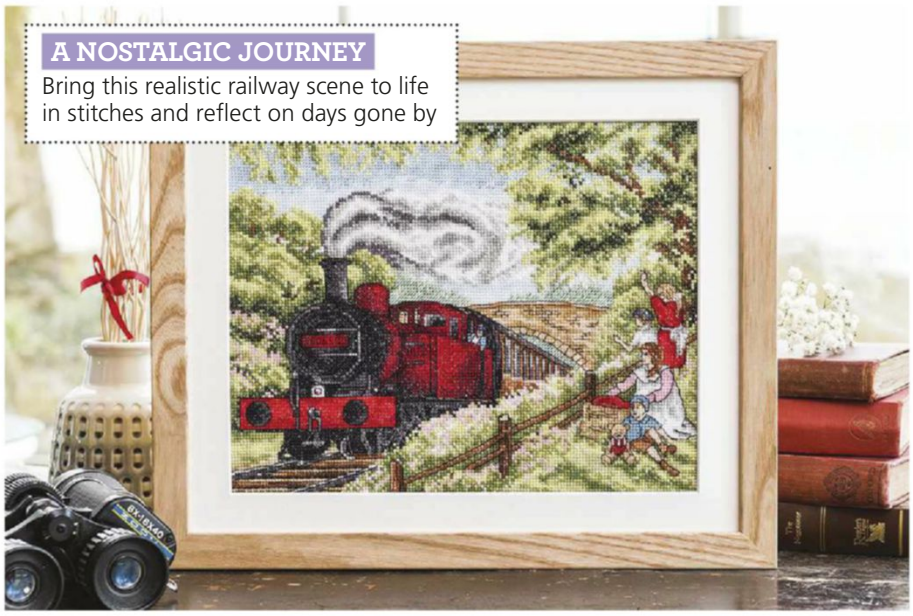
CATCH YOUR DREAMS
A whimsical dreamcatcher design to inspire yourself or gift to loved ones



HAPPILY EVER AFTER
Celebrate the royal wedding – or stitch for anyone else you know who's getting married!



BLACKWORK FLORALS
Stitch and send these wonderful blackwork floral greeting card designs



A NOSTALGIC JOURNEY
Bring this realistic railway scene to life in stitches and reflect on days gone by

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Our adorable panda pal is sure to bring joy to all!

The World of Cross Stitching EXCLUSIVE

Show someone special just how much you care by stitching this sweetest of scenes, perfect for any occasion



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Perfect patterns and gift ideas for the men in your life



SWEET AS CAN BEE

You'll love to stitch Emma Congdon's summery sampler to brighten the home

PLUS MUCH MORE

- Delve under the sea with the motifs in our Design Library
- Stitch a trio of prickly cacti designed by Angela Poole
- Head to the moon in Jenny Barton's space-themed ABC
- Your cross stitching queries answered by our experts
- Your stories, inspiration & letters… plus much more

FREE! SUPER-SWEET HUMMINGBIRD KIT

Everything you need to stitch this pretty all-occasion greeting card!

Your free gift includes:

- 14-count aida
- Stranded cotton
- Tapestry needle
- Colour chart & key
- Illustrated card & envelope





YOUR NEW FREE GIFT!

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How to...

Beginner? Follow Fiona's guide to instant stitching success!



Stitching's a breeze! Let Technical Editor Fiona show you how it's done, in this reference 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 iffer than evenweave, but will soften slightly as you work. 14-count aida is the most common. It's har r work fr ional 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.



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

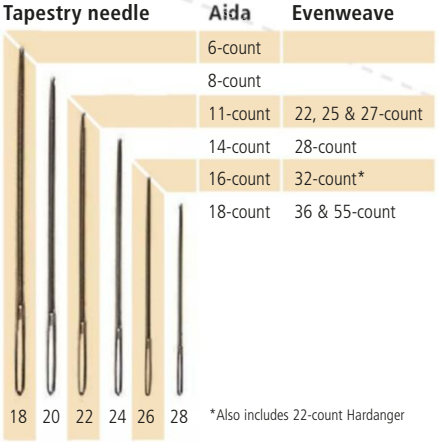




to stitch with, and are colourfast to 95°C. Cheaper brands are available, but they're less durable and may not be colourfast.

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.



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.

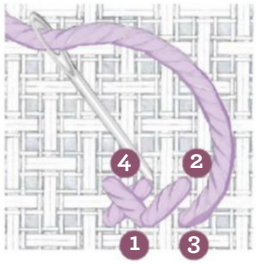
Get stitching... Begin your stitches in two strands of thread with a loop start for the neatest way to get going. It uses one double-length (80cm) strand with both ends threaded together. See our diagrams for how to stitch. Finish threads by weaving the left-over 'tail' under a few stitches at the back.

How to stitch

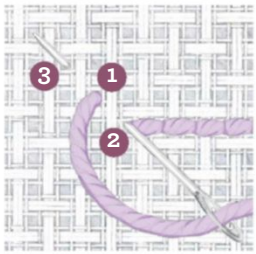
Tackle the basic itches in r char …



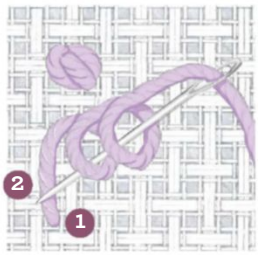
Loop start With both ends of a strand threaded, bring your needle up (1), leaving a loop at the back. Work the first arm of your stitch (2) & secure it by passing your needle through the loop.



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).



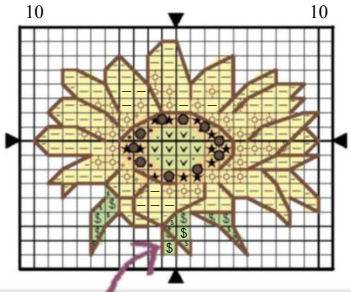
Backstitch Add detail and definition. Bring your needle up at (1) & down at (2), come up again at (3), then back down at (1) & so on, to direct each stitch 'back' war the line of the growing backstitch.



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

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 bran of thr . For 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.

Sunflower key

Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
v	166	280	1611	lime green
–	307	289	104	light yellow
☼	444	291	106	yellow
$	702	226	1306	green
★	972	298	107	tangerine

Backstitch in one strand

—	3031	360	2003	brown

French knots in one strand

●	3031	360	2003	brown

STITCH COUNT 15 high x 20 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'.

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).

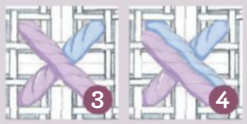




Three-quarters
Work a quarter stitch, then, a half stitch across the other diagonal arm of the square as in diagram 2. Like quarters, three-quarter stitches can face any direction.



Two symbols
When two symbols share a square, work a fractional in each col r. 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.

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 i h it in r 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 cir lar frame th hol 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 moi n & the fibres withdrawn with tweezers

Our STITCHING WORLD

For a place to put your feet up and find some fun and stitchy chat, look no further…

Although the summer holidays are still a while away we're eagerly awaiting the longer evenings and relaxing breaks to squeeze in some extra stitching time. And we've got plenty of inspiration for summer stitching in this issue, from the sunny Cornish village scene to the fresh ABC motifs in the free chart book. Have you ever stitched a design as a happy reminder of a holiday? There's such a variety of charts and kits out there, it's so easy to find a design that will evoke happy memories of a special trip whether it's in your own country or abroad. Or maybe there's even a dream holiday that you've not been on yet and stitching it will help you live that dream! Let us know what stitching has been inspired by your travels on our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/TheWorldofCrossStitching



Sudoku

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

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

WHAT'S HOT

- **Go on a craft retreat – spend time with fellow stitchers and needle and thread**
- **Test your sewing skills by making your own stitchy travel organiser to take away with you**
- **Choose your fave holiday photo and turn it into a cross stitch chart**

Our Pinterest Picks

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



Summer stitches: Stitching summery florals like this will brighten even the dullest day



Travel bag: Use a handy project case to take away with you on your travels



City escape: Keep holiday memories alive by stitching your favourite city skyline to display on your wall

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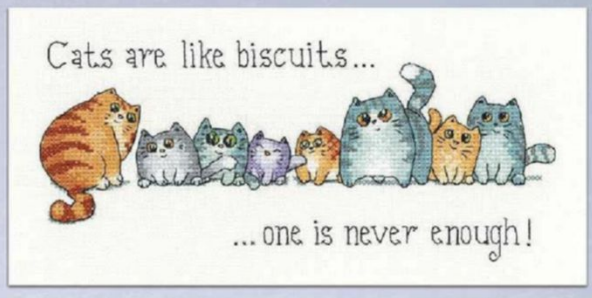
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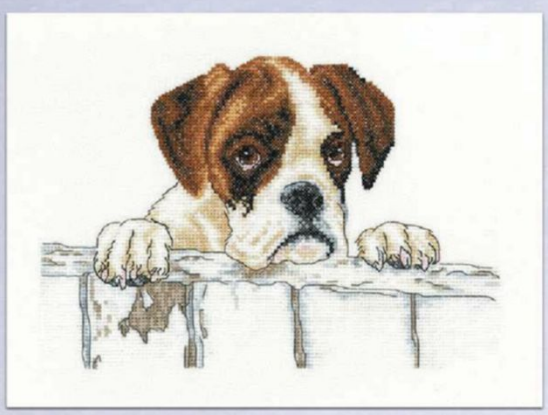
Available on the App Store

HERITAGE Crafts

Working with talented artists to produce beautiful counted cross stitch designs



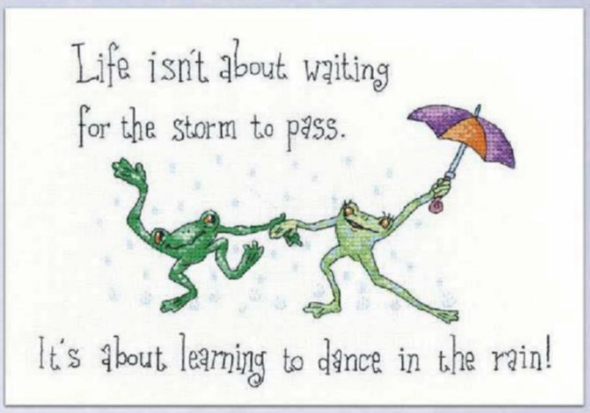
Cats and Biscuits *by Peter Underhill* - 22.5 x 10cm



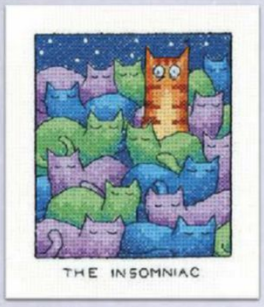
Bailey
based on a photograph by Villager Jim - 23 x 16cm



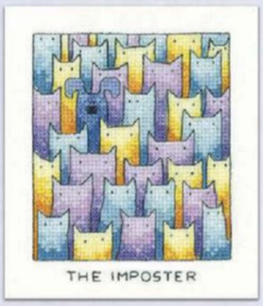
When Robins Appear
by Peter Underhill - 10.5 x 17cm



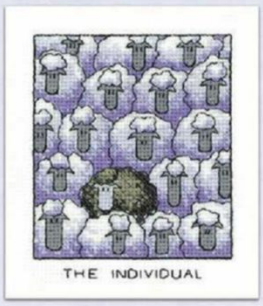
Dancing in the Rain *by Peter Underhill* - 22 x 15cm



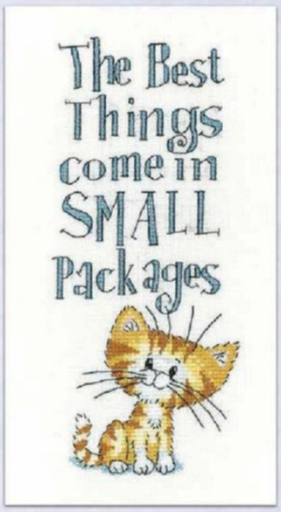
The Insomniac
by Peter Underhill - 9 x 11.5cm



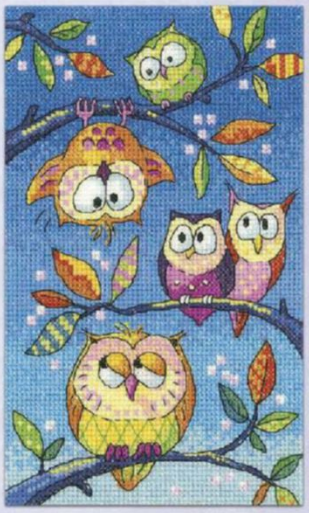
The Imposter
by Peter Underhill - 9 x 11.5cm



The Individual
by Peter Underhill - 9 x 11.5cm



Small Packages
by Peter Underhill - 8.5 x 20cm



Hanging Around
by Karen Carter - 12 x 19cm



Wedding Day *by Karen Carter* - 37.5 x 10cm



The Sewing Room *by Karen Carter* - 37.5 x 10cm



Berry Chick-Chat
by Valerie Pfeiffer - 11.5 x 11cm



Rose Chick-Chat
by Valerie Pfeiffer - 15 x 13.5cm



Fuchsia Chick-Chat
by Valerie Pfeiffer - 10 x 10cm



Bluebell Chick-Chat
by Valerie Pfeiffer - 10 x 10cm

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ABC chart book

Personalise cards & gifts with 78 pretty all-occasion designs!



Welcome

Choose from 78 exclusive alphabet charts to personalise cards, gift bags, pressies and more!





4 CREATIVE CRAFTER



14 UP, UP & AWAY



24 BRILLIANT BUTTERFLIES

Welcome to your fabulous ABC chart book, full of exclusive designs by some of your favourite cross stitch designers. Get creative with the patterns – you can stitch cards, a hanger, personalise a bag or even a cushion! Happy stitching!

Hannah

Deputy Editor
The World of Cross Stitching

CREDITS

Deputy Editor Hannah Kelly
Art Editor Sue White
Deputy Art Editor Leela Roy
Technical Editor Fiona Baker
Charting Editor Heather Nugent
Charting Assistant Hannah Erskine
Photography Steve Sayers
Designers Angela Poole, Diane Machin, Lisa Reakes

Your essentials

ABC Chart Book key

Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
♥	961	76	610	pink
♦	3848	1074	1108	teal

Cross stitch in one strand

Я	961	76	610	pink
▽	3848	1074	1108	teal

Half cross stitch in two strands

Я	961	76	610	pink
?	3848	1074	1108	teal

Half cross stitch in one strand

w	961	76	610	pink
v	3848	1074	1108	teal

Backstitch in one strand

	961	76	610	pink
	3848	1074	1108	teal

Backstitch in two strands

	961	76	610	pink
	3848	1074	1108	teal

Backstitch in three strands

	961	76	610	pink
	3848	1074	1108	teal

French knots in two strands

●	961	76	610	pink
●	3848	1074	1108	teal

MAXIMUM STITCH COUNT
30 high x 40 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 5.5x7.5cm (2¼x2¾in)

These designs were stitched using your free threads

Quick-to-stitch ideas

Factbox

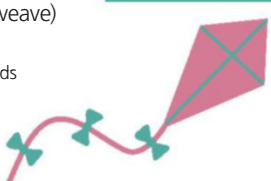
- **Stitching Time**
  Approx. 2-4 hours each
- **Type of Stitches**
  Cross stitch, fractionals, half cross stitch, backstitch, French knots
- **Ease of Stitching**
  Advanced beginner/ intermediate

Shopping list

- Zweigart* 14-count white aida measuring 10x10cm (4x4in) for individual letters, or 10cm (4in) x desired width
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key or from your covergift
- Size 24 tapestry needle
- Craft Creations* square aperture card (AP55U) in pink (16)
- Cushion pad to fit, backing fabric, ribbon, cardstock and hessian bag of your choice from local stores

Thread & fabric cost
Approximately £6

*For stockists see page 90 of your magazine



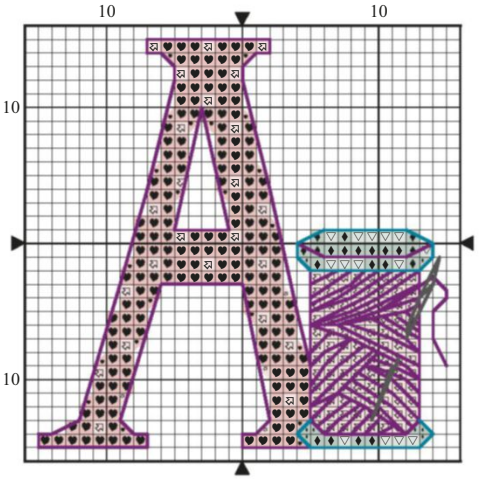
Creative crafter

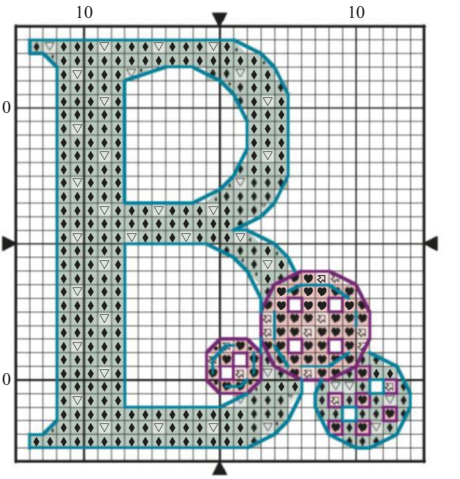
Enjoy stitching this ABC to personalise cards and gifts for your crafty friends and family

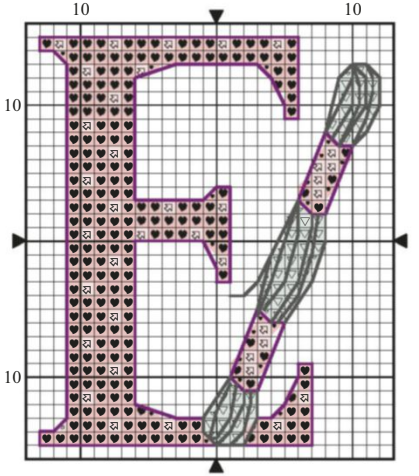
STITCH YOUR FAVE CRAFTS

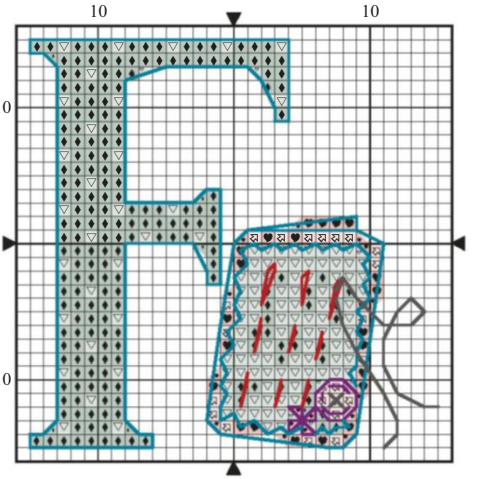


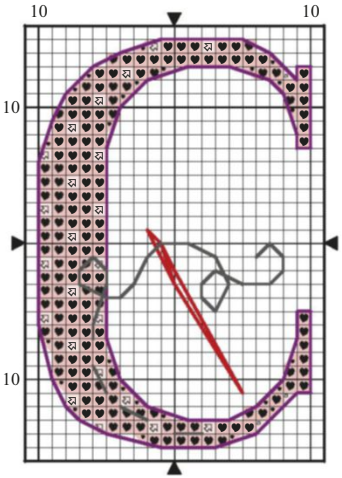


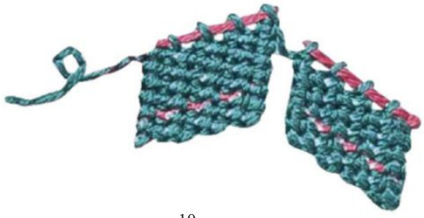

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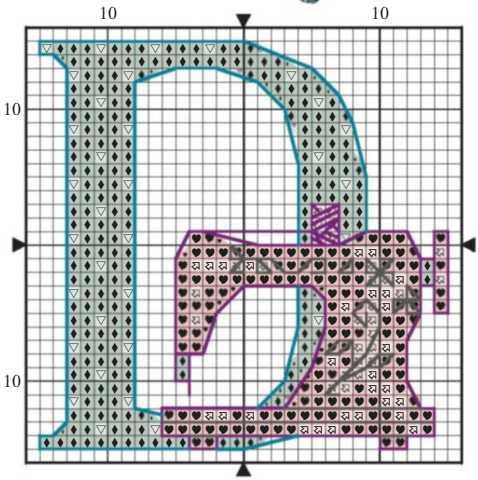

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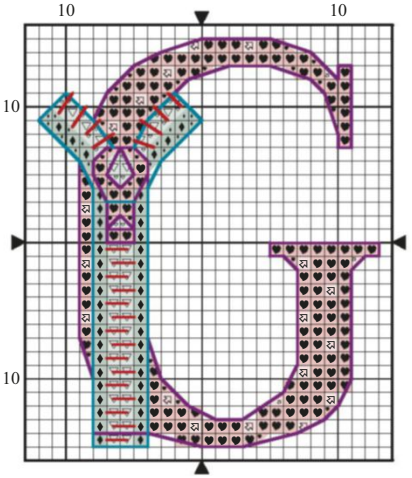


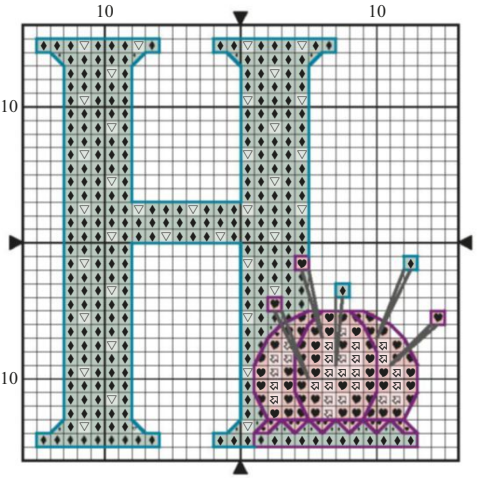
Meet the designer

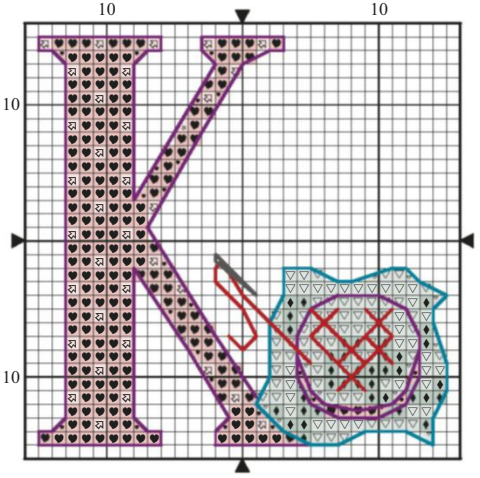
Angela Poole

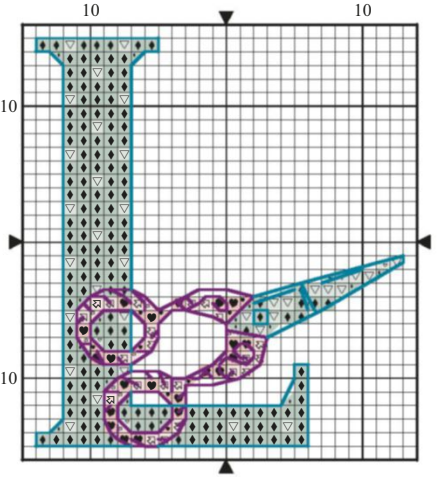
“This collection is a real celebration of all things crafty. From a sewing machine to a ball of yarn, you’ll find a motif to suit all interests. Why not show off your love of stitching by personalising something for yourself?”

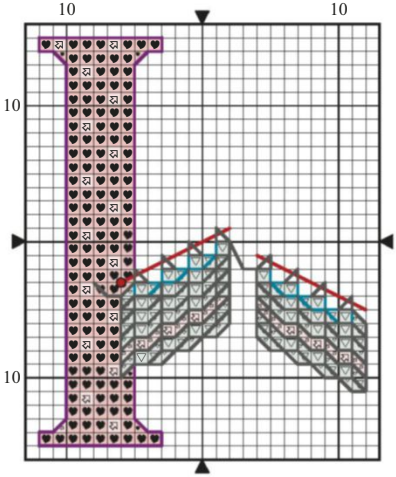


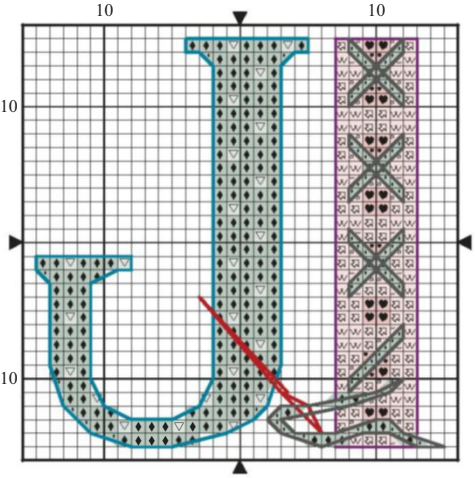

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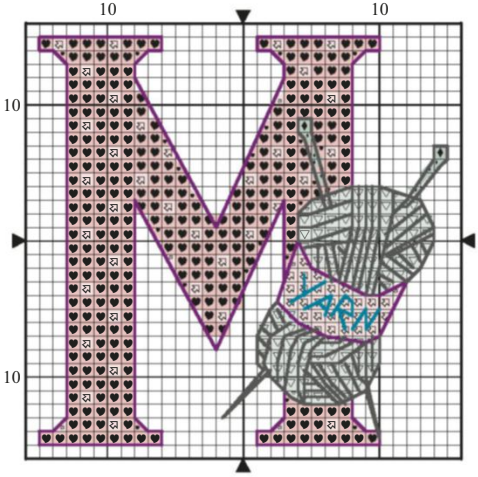

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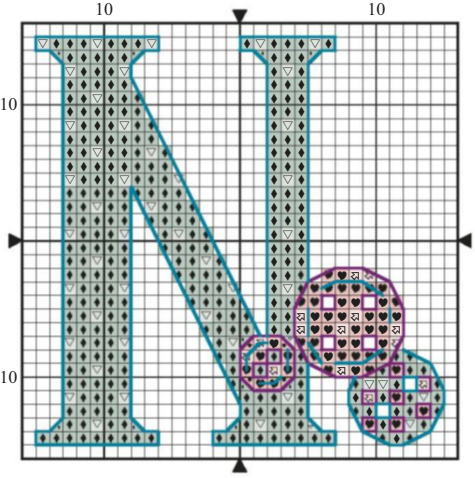

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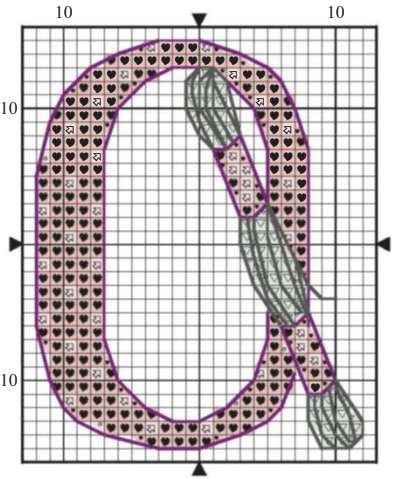

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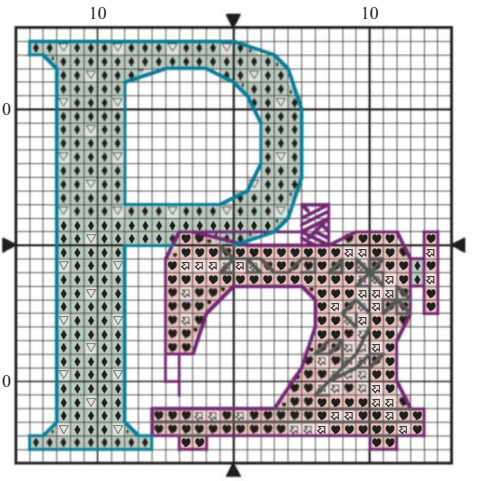

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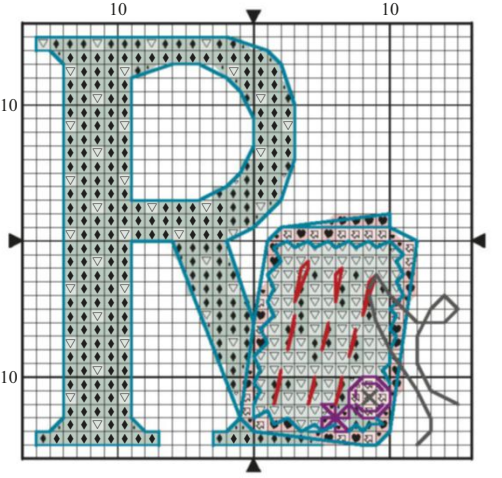

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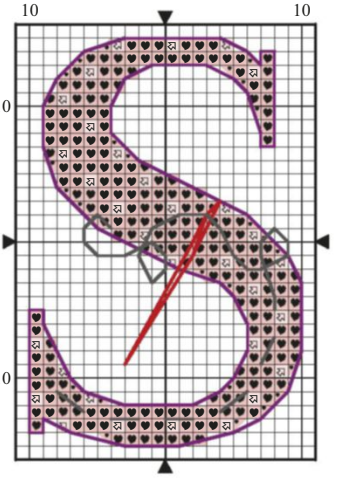

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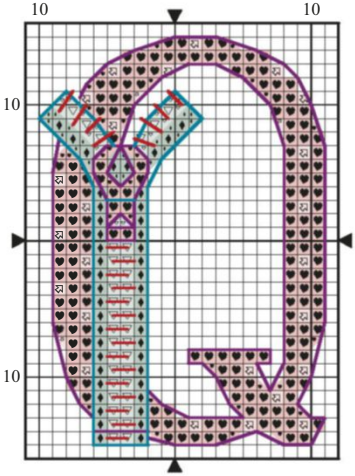


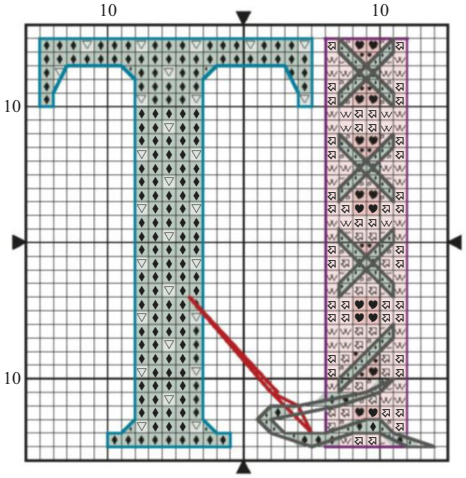

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How to... make a cushion

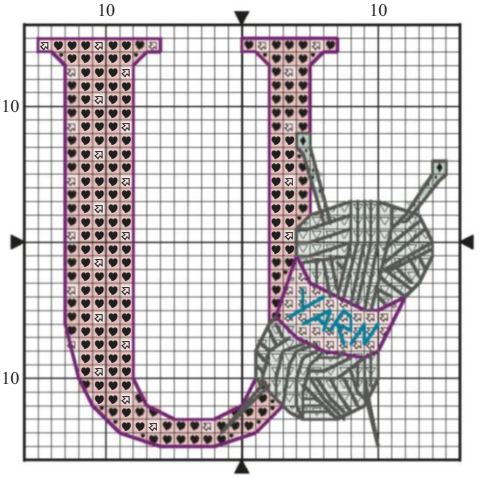
1 Trim your finished stitched piece to 11cm (4¼in) high x desired width, plus a 1cm (½in) seam allowance each end.

2 Cut two panels of backing fabric measuring 13cm (5¼in) high x the width of your stitched piece. Pin these to the top and bottom edges of your stitching, right sides together. Stitch with a 1cm (½in) seam allowance and press open.

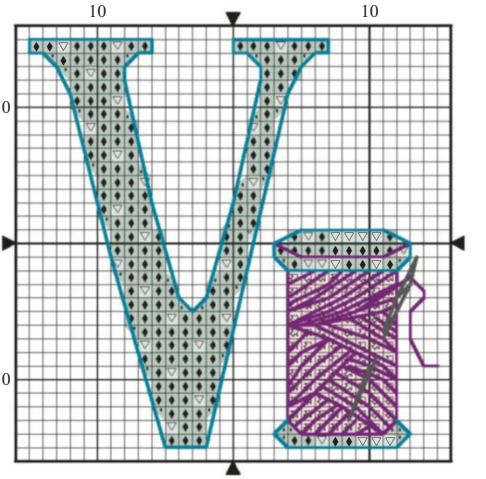
3 Cut two lengths of crochet lace ribbon to the width of your stitched piece and pin to the front along the joining seams. Stitch in place using a matching thread.

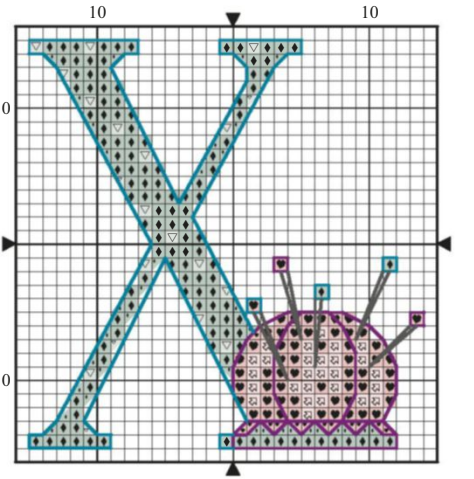
4 Cut two back panels measuring 20cm (8¾in) x the width of your stitched piece. Sew a 2cm (¾in) hem along one long edge of each, then, with right-sides facing, place these panels over the front, so the hemmed edges of the panels overlap in the middle, to create an envelope opening.

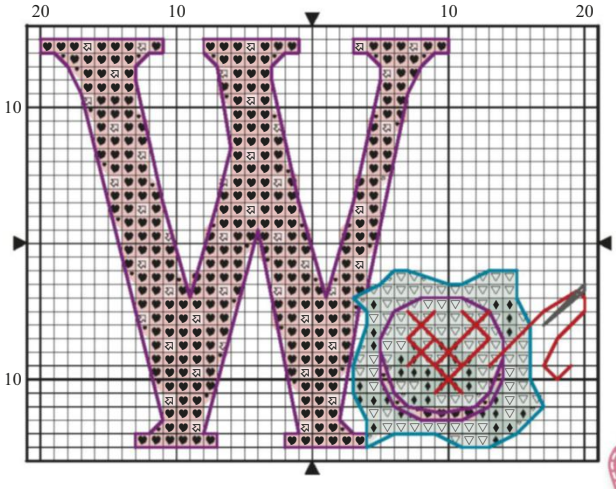
5 Pin and sew all around the edges. Turn through and press, then insert a cushion pad to finish.

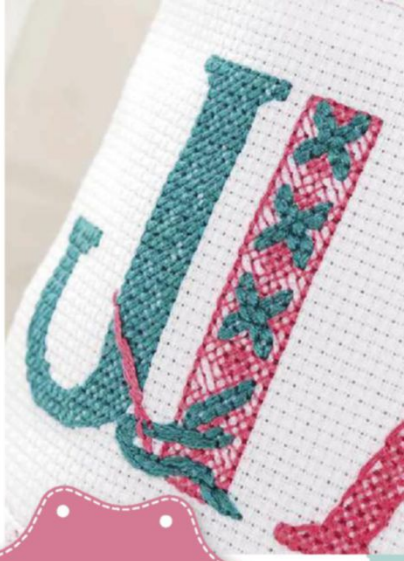

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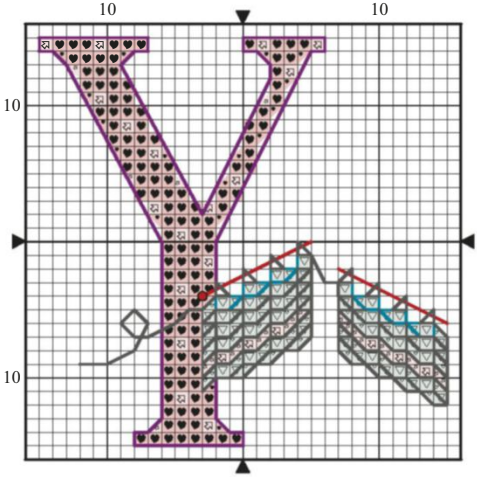

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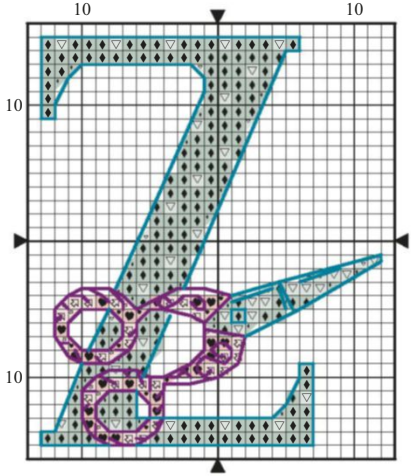




TOP TIP

Start stitching centrally on your fabric from the centre of the chart, to be sure it'll fit with enough space for finishing!





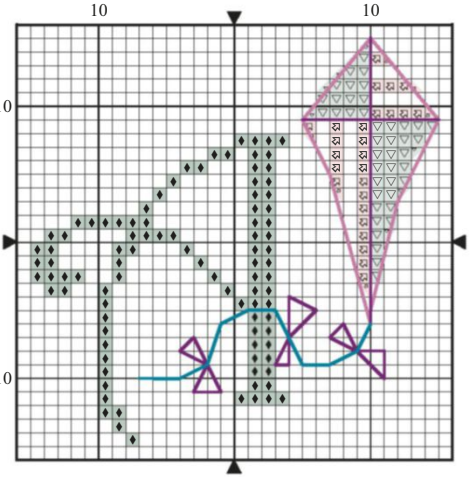
FUN FOR SUMMER BIRTHDAYS

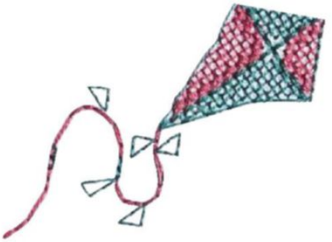


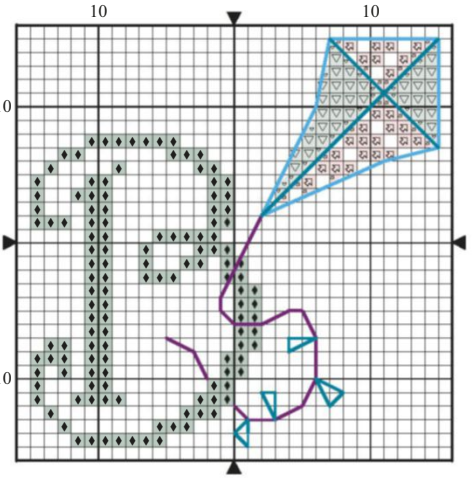
Up, up & away

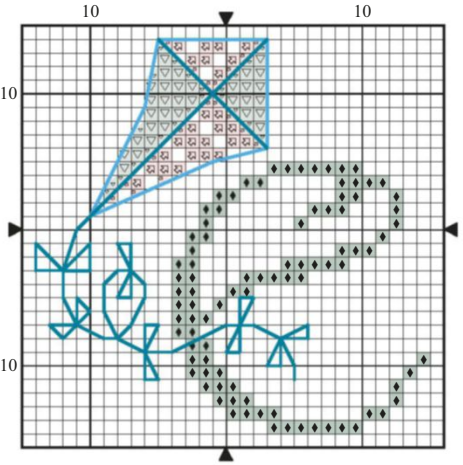
Let your stitching take flight with our bright and breezy ABC

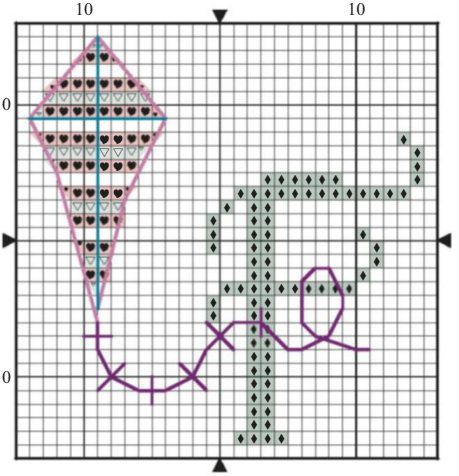


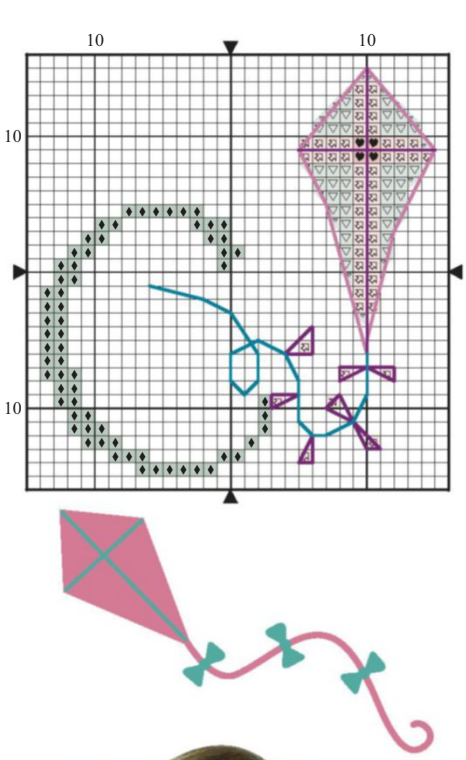

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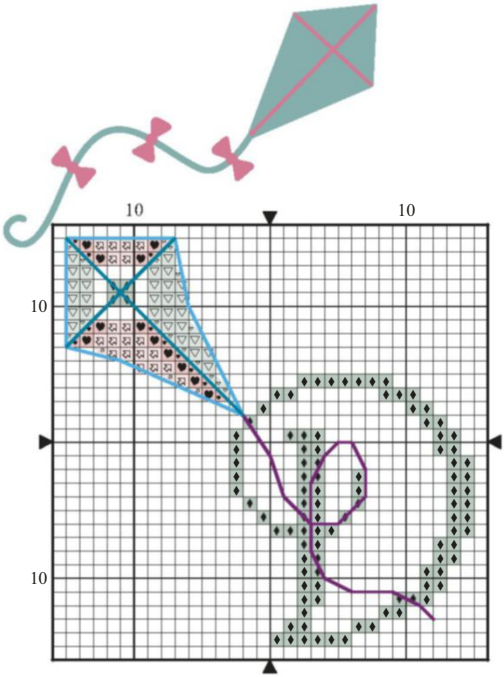



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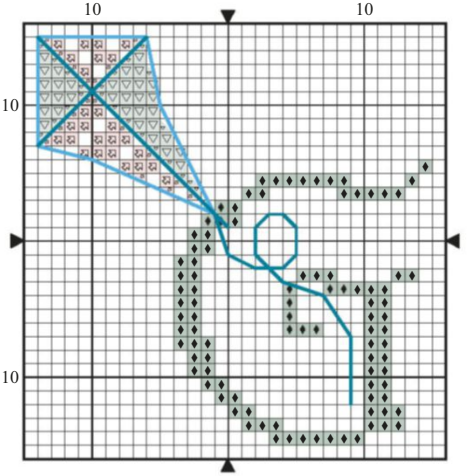


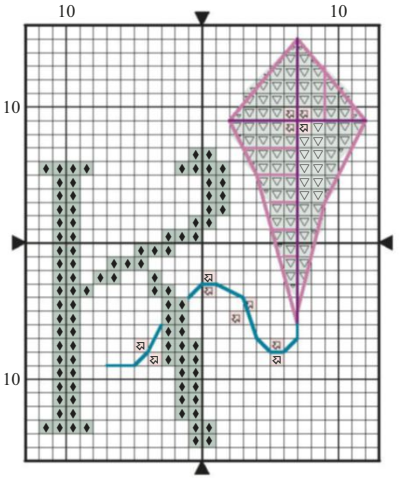


Meet the designer

Diane Machin

"You know it's summer when you spot kites soaring through the sky. And this ABC will be perfect to stitch for summer birthday cards and gifts. Add backstitch to create ribbons that look like they're dancing in the wind!"

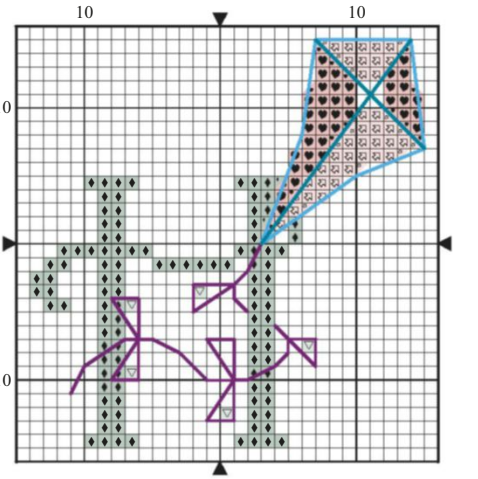


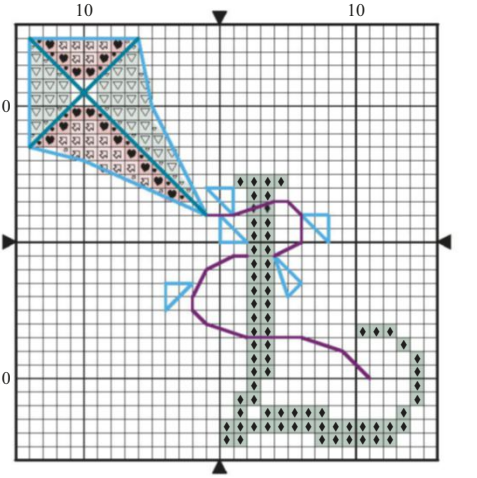


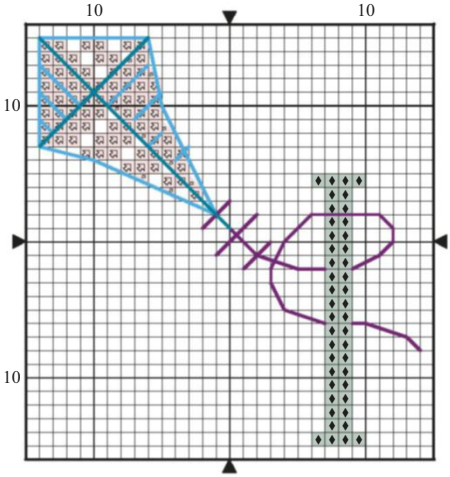


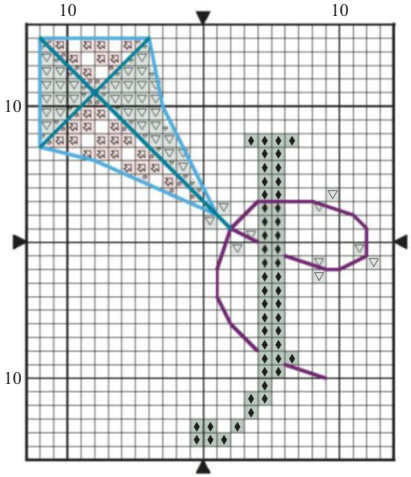
“I bought a kite for my niece for her birthday last year, so this year I’ll stitch the letters of her name to make a hanging for her bedroom door.”

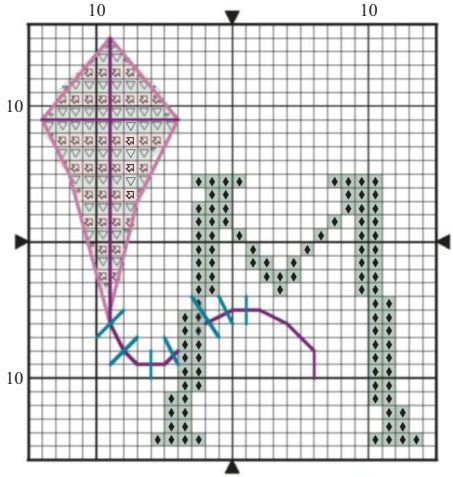
LEELA, DEPUTY ART EDITOR



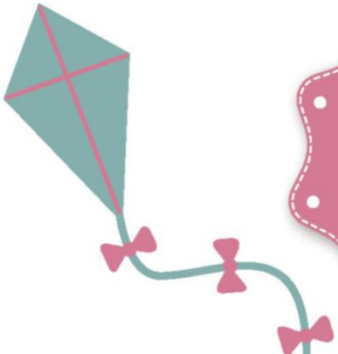






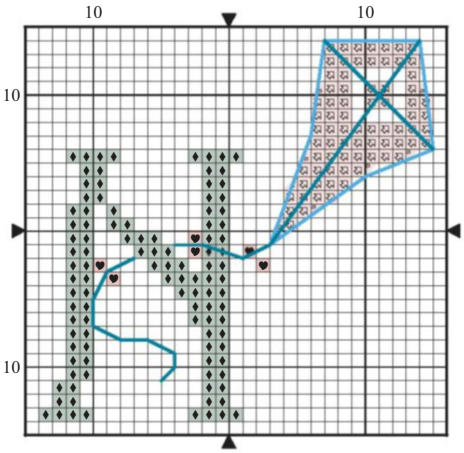




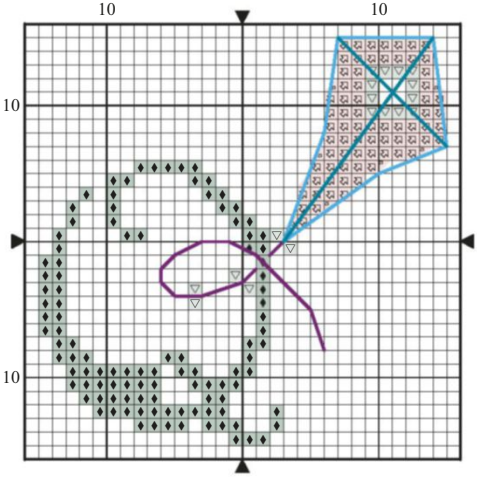


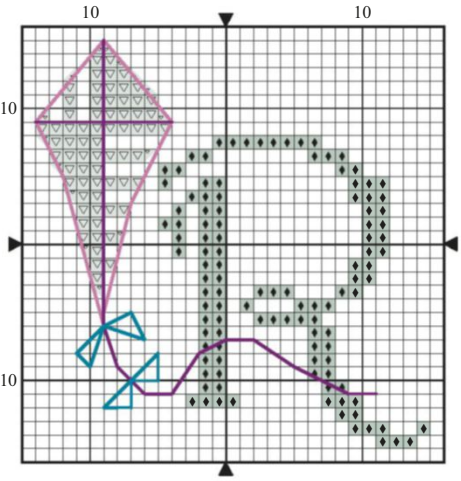
TOP TIP

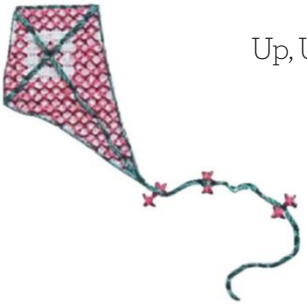
Backstitch is key for these kites so be sure to follow the chart carefully and keep your stitches taut

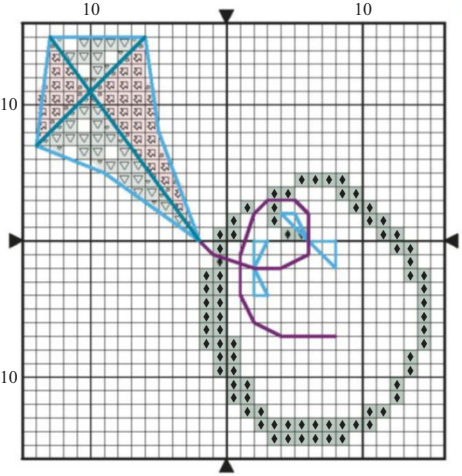

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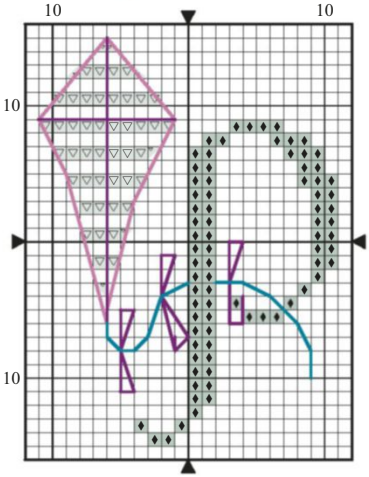


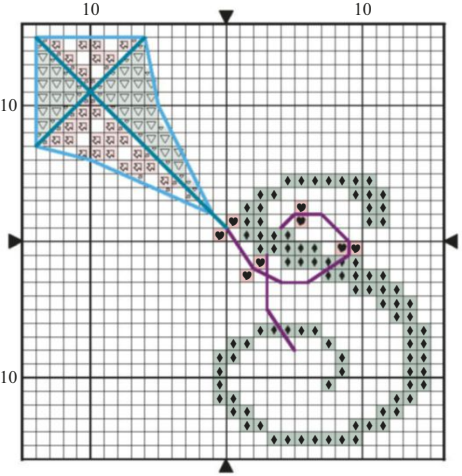

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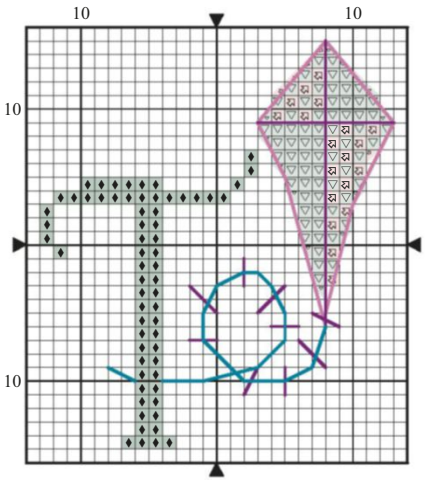

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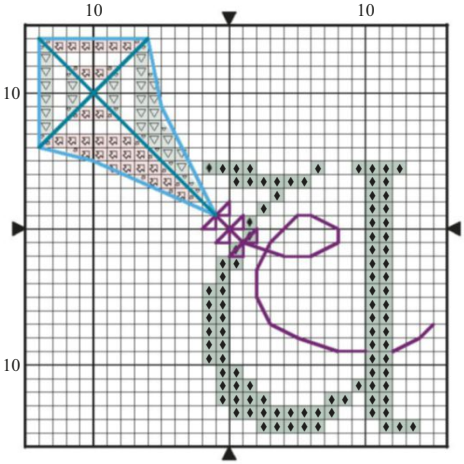

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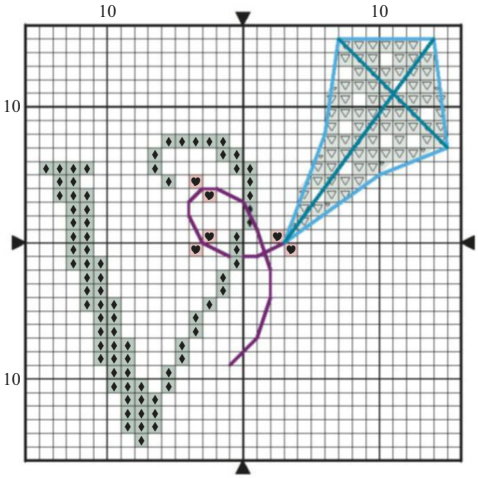

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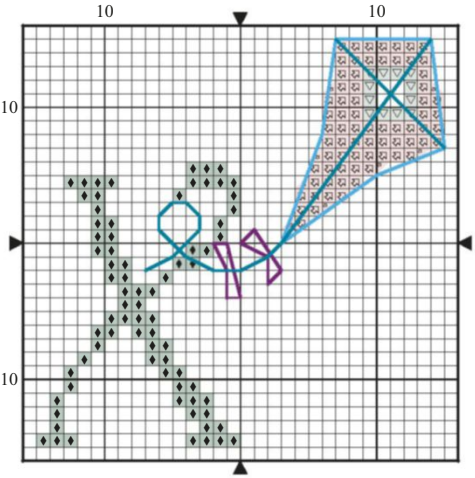

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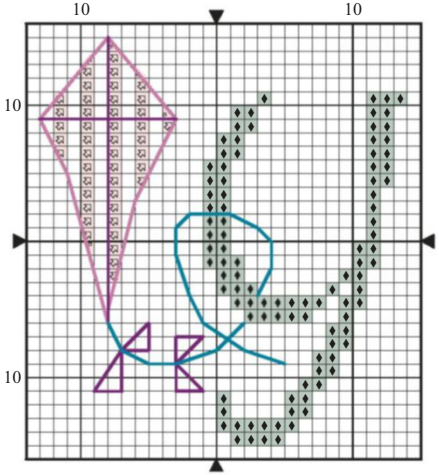




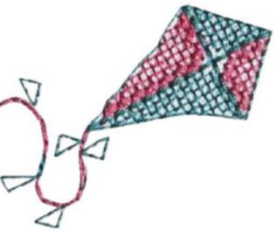

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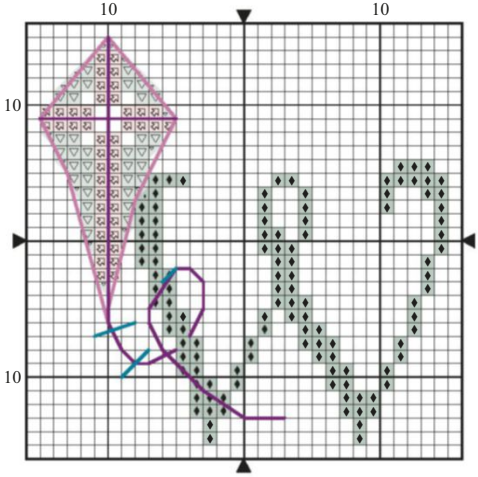

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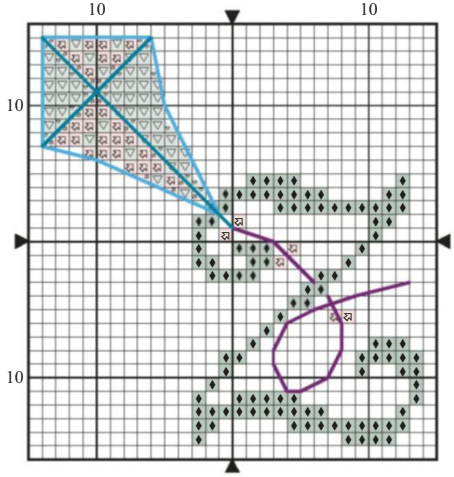

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How to... make a hanging

1 Gently wash and press your finished stitching, then trim leaving three squares of excess aida around the design. Carefully, using tweezers, fray one square all the way around on each side.

2 To prevent show-through, cut a piece of white paper slightly smaller than the size of your stitched piece, and stick it onto the back using double-sided tape.

3 Cut a piece of coordinating backing card 2cm (¾in) larger than your stitched piece on all sides. Measure the length of your backing card carefully to evenly space your chosen stitched name. Using double-sided tape, stick your stitched piece onto the colourful backing card, making sure it is positioned centrally.

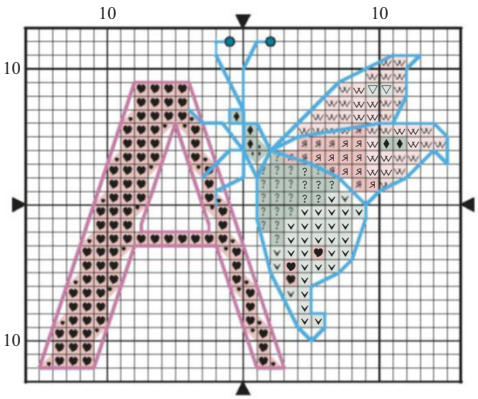
4 Use a hole punch in the top corners of your card, approximately 1cm (½in) in from the edges. Cut a length of coordinating ribbon and insert through the holes in your hanging. Tie a large knot at the back to secure in place. Hang to finish.

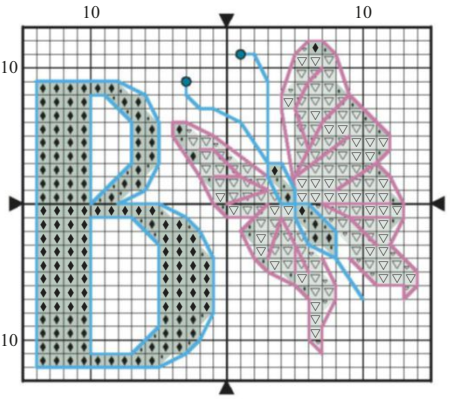
Brilliant butterflies

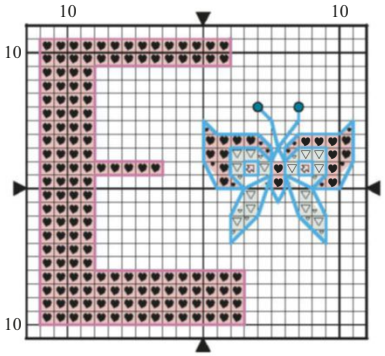
Celebrate the beauty of nature with this striking butterfly ABC collection

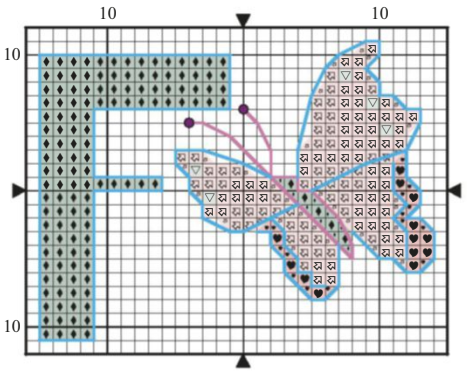


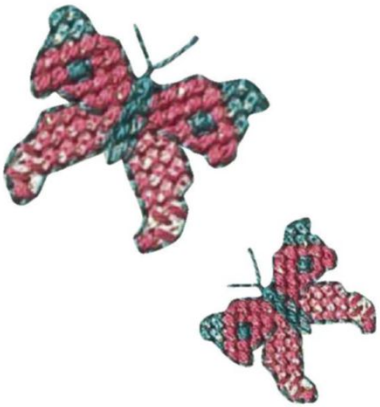

FLUTTER YOUR NEEDLE FOR ELEGANT STITCHES

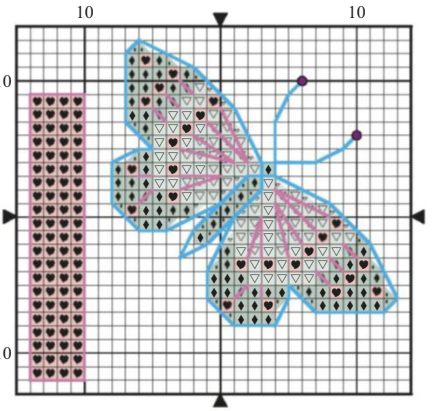

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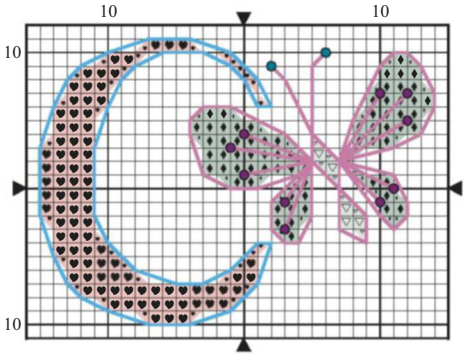

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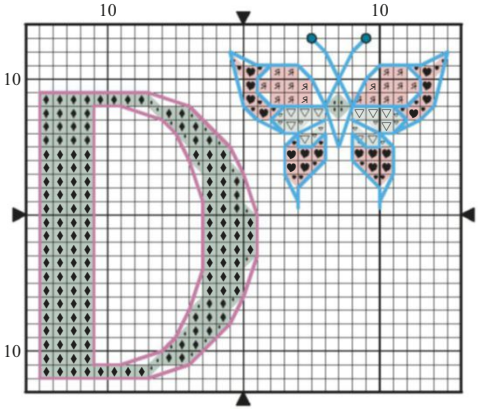

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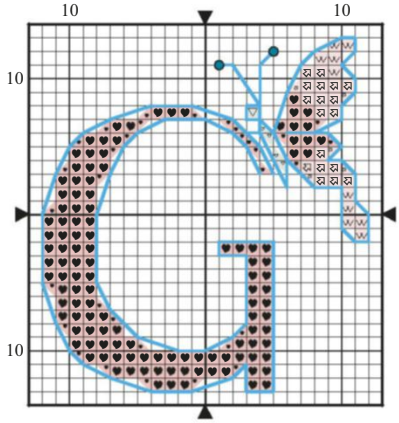

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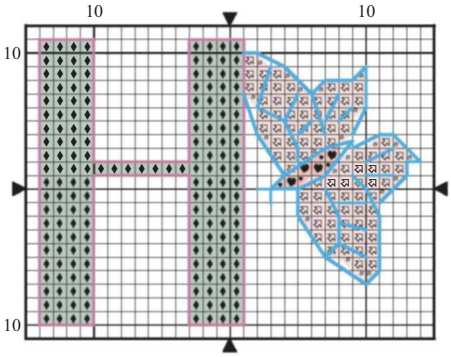



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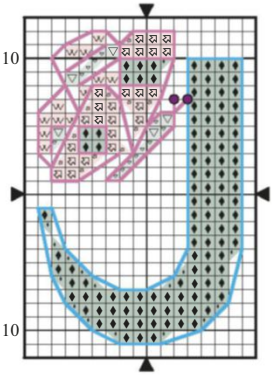




Meet the designer

Lisa Reakes

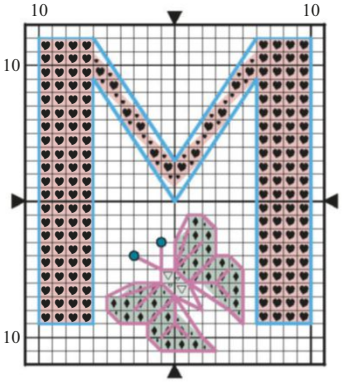
"I hope this pretty alphabet collection will send you into dreams of summer days filled with butterflies in the garden! I've included a range of different butterfly designs – you can mix and match them with the letters."

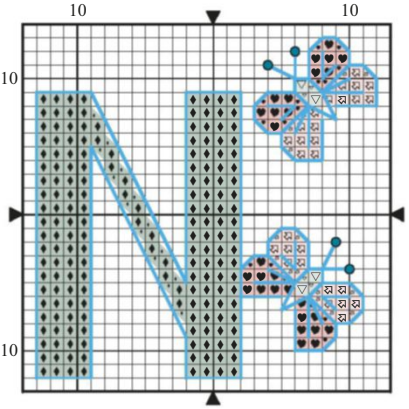


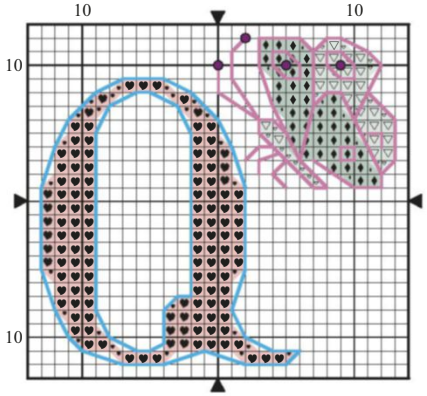


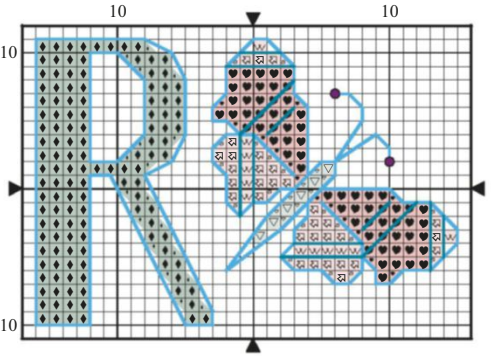
"I'll buy a pretty plant for my friend's birthday and stitch her initial from this ABC to make a gift tag that'll look perfect hanging from the plant pot."

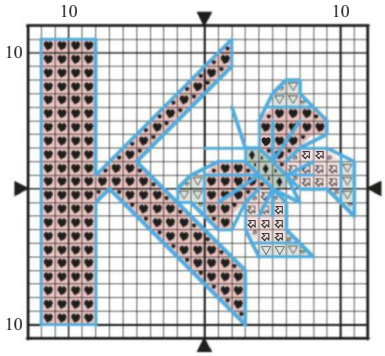
SUE, ART EDITOR

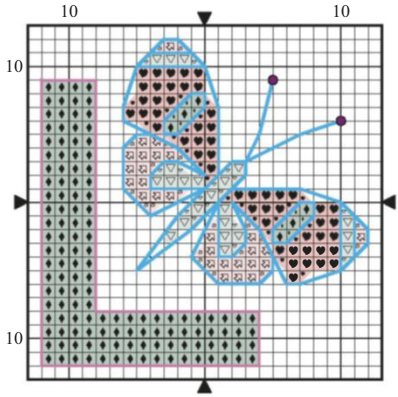


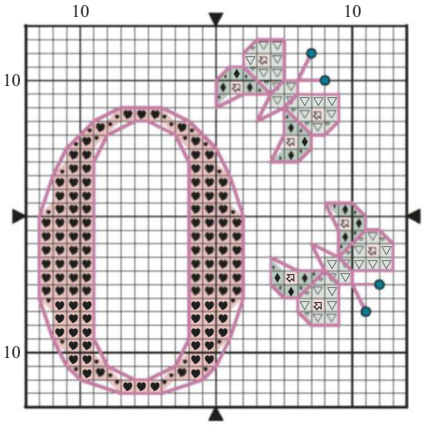


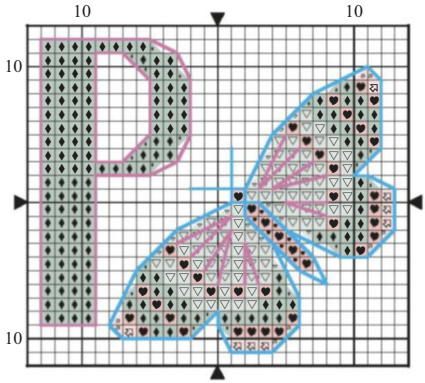










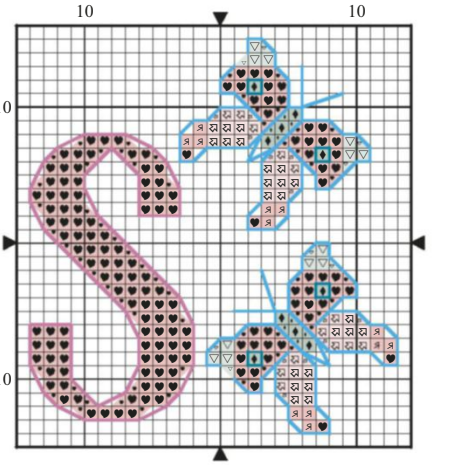


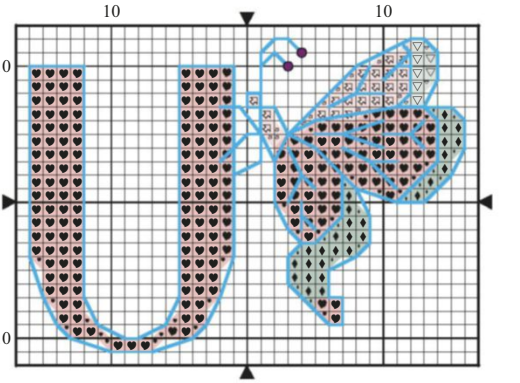


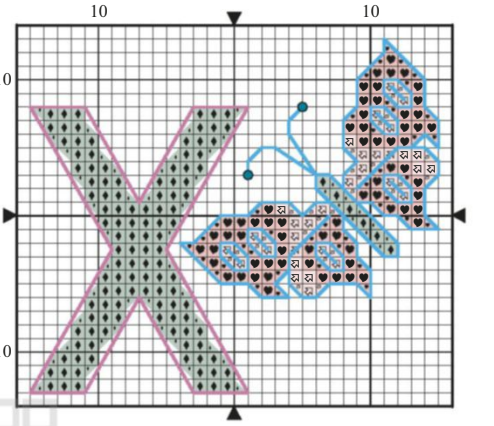
TOP TIP

Swap the French knots for seed beeds to add depth and sparkle to your designs









How to...

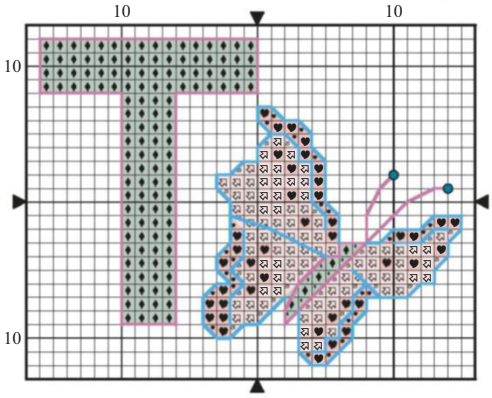
patch stitching onto a card

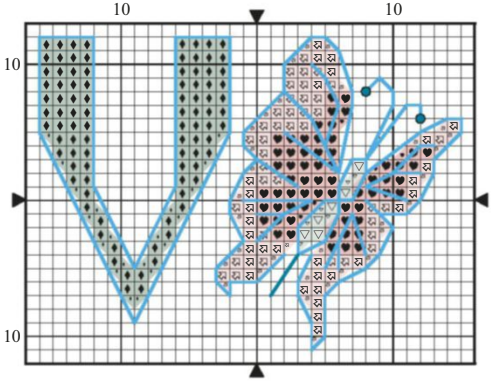
1 Once you've finished stitching your design, cut it out leaving two squares of aida all the way around the edge.

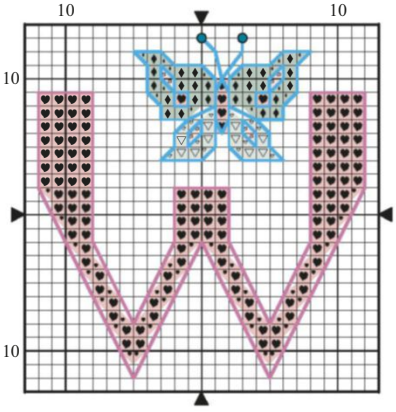
2 Carefully fray one block of the aida all the way around, using tweezers, to make the fringe. Then, using double-sided tape, attach a slightly smaller piece of white paper to the back of the aida to prevent show-through.

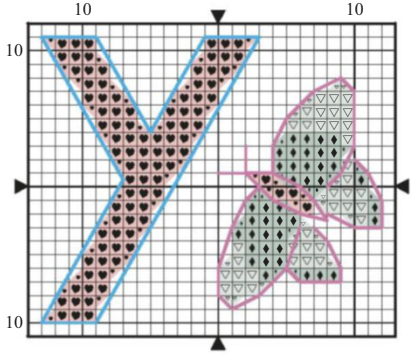
3 Stick your patch to the front of a folded card in a coordinating colour. Then, stick a strip of pretty ribbon below the patch, for a decorative finish.

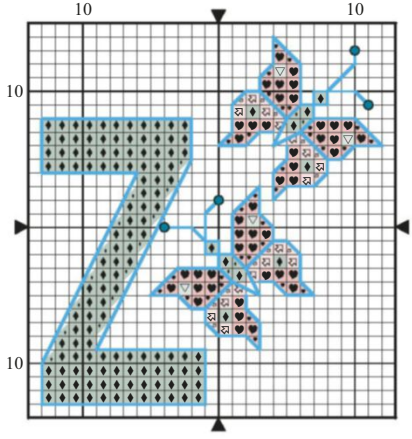

SUE


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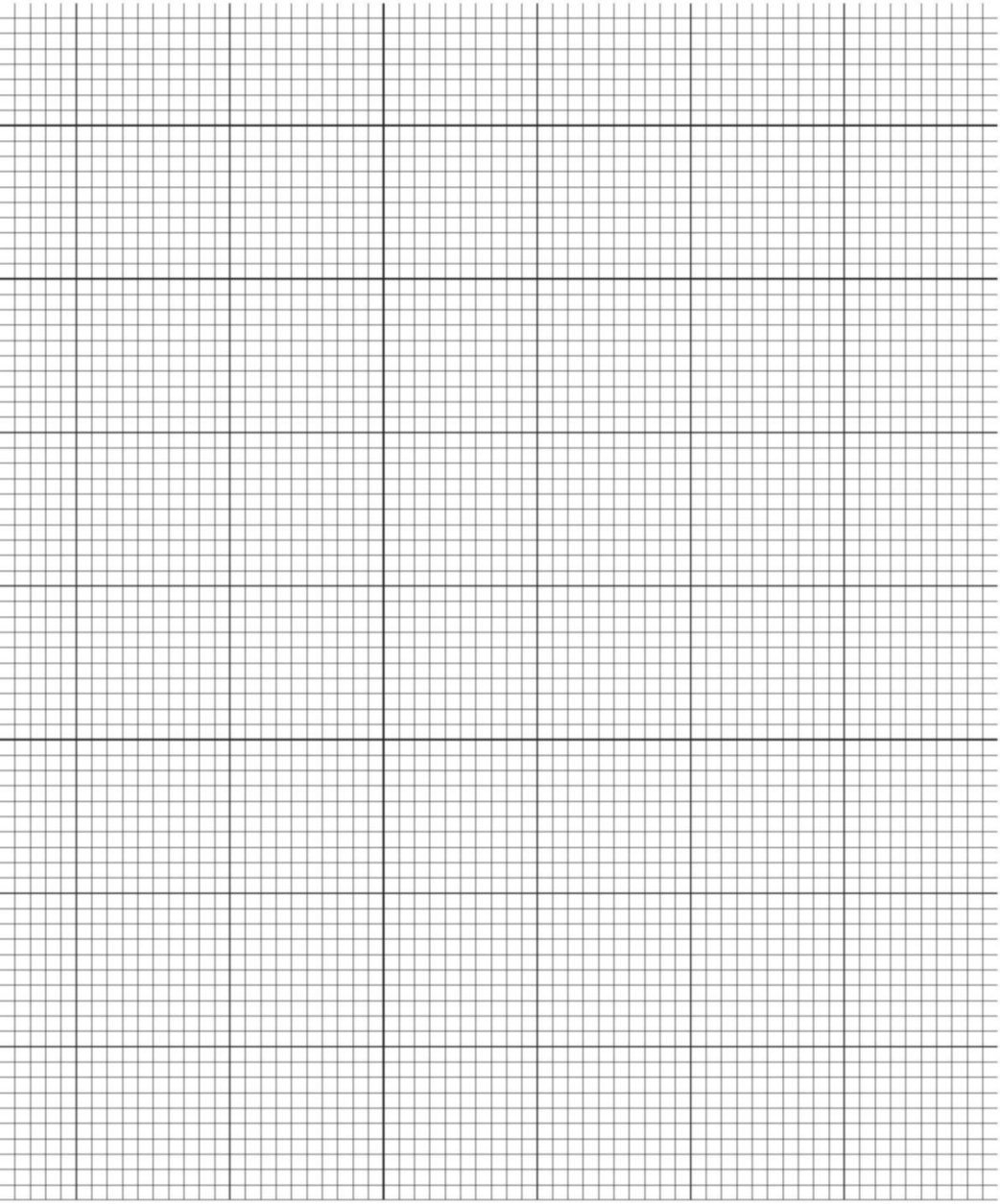

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HOW TO USE THIS GRID

Chart your own alphabet or name on this grid! Write it out below to check the spacing. For more tips about charting your own letters, turn to page 34.



How to... add a personal touch with charted names

Personalising your stitching is such a lovely way to make your work extra special. A great way to do this is to customise gifts with a chosen monogram, then add the rest of the lucky recipient's name in backstitch lettering.

1 Using the grid on page 32, or separate grid paper if you need more room, practise drawing out your chart with a pencil and eraser. Choose your desired monogram from any of the kite, sewing or butterfly designs, plus backstitch lettering (from a back issue or create your own) and combine to neatly plot out each name or message.

2 When creating your own backstitch alphabet, make sure all the letters are of a consistent size and that the style is similar throughout. We recommend making the letters approximately two squares wide and three to four squares high as this allows you to get in a good amount of detail.

3 Once you've charted the letters, check spellings carefully and make sure there are even spacings between the letters.

4 Then choose your colour for the backstitch to coordinate with your main monogram design and start stitching.



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