FREE! GIANT EXTRA CHART INCLUDED



HURRAH FOR HANDMADE!

CROSS STITCH Collection

August 2016 Issue 265

STITCHING FAVOURITES: SEASHELLS, ROSE SAMPLER

Stitch Summer Magic

BEST IN SHOW



Share some bunny hugs!



Stunning wildlife portraits

GIANT VENICE SCENE



DECO DELIGHTS

Save your place in style

PART ONE OF OUR BIGGEST EVER extra chart!

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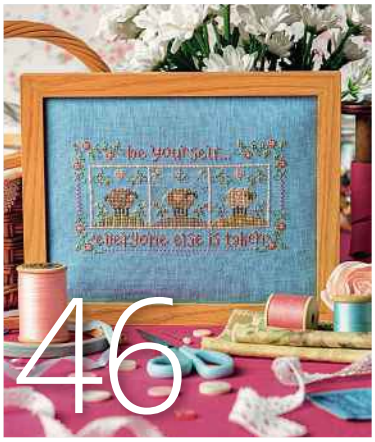
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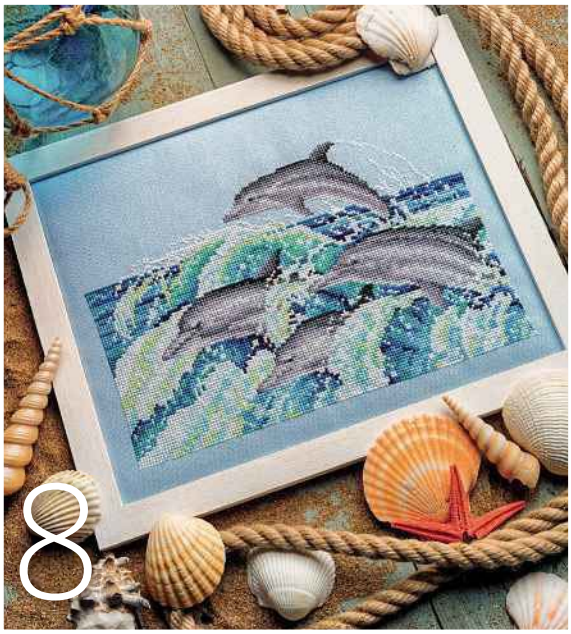


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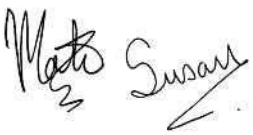


Welcome...

When the school holidays are nearly over, we'll be surveying the local lanes for a good blackberry hedgerow. The children love to pick them just as we did, and you still can't get the stains out! It's a bit early to be thinking about making that rich coloured bramble jelly, but if you are looking for an easy stitch to fill those holiday moments, then we have just the thing to pretty up a jam pot on page 30.

Jars feature again in our big project on page 32. Kilners have been a British staple since 1842, and the art of preserving was all the rage in post war Britain. Sadly, the home freezer soon changed our seasonal habits, but the lovely jars still have a place in our hearts.

Our giant chart is just half of a real epic design from Deb Lester, a name many of you will know from her wonderful Edwardian scenes. We are thrilled to have her back in Collection, don't forget part two is in the next issue.



Susan & Martin Penny
Editors

Make sure you catch every beautiful stitching project in *Cross Stitch Collection* by signing up for a subscription! Not only will you get 13 issues a year delivered direct to your door, but you'll also save 25% with our subscription offers – turn to page 44 to find out how you could save up to £32!



August Collection

Be inspired by new kits, great ideas and more from the vibrant stitching world



Zandra designs clothes for royalty and celebrities





© Coats Crafts UK



Native American clothing inspired the new collection

Kaleidoscopes **of colour**

Zandra Rhodes may be best known for her bold fashion designs and for sporting pink hair well into her 70s, but did you know she also designs textiles? Since 2014, Zandra has been working with the FreeSpirit fabric brand, owned by Coats Crafts, bringing out three collections in her trademark vibrant colourways. Zandra's latest stunning collection, called Feathered, is available now in UK shops.

"This collection was inspired when Zandra stayed in New York and visited the Museum of the American Indian back in the 1970s," explains Becky Clarke of Coats Crafts UK. "She was influenced by the amazing way that the Native Americans used feathers in their clothing."

Among the motifs in the new collection, look out for designs that pair feathered prints together with cross stitch patterns in a design called Feathered Scallops. We love the idea of making this beautiful fabric into a bright tote bag or cushion and embellishing with some real cross stitches on top! Other prints in the collection include Zigzag and Kaleidoscope, the first of which also draws inspiration from cross stitch techniques. We think they're gorgeous, and ideal for adding some extra flourish to your finished stitching projects!

Find stockists and free patterns at **www.makeitcoats.com**.

Meet... Online stitching stars!

Brenda Wilson shares her stitching starts and finishes, plus news from her stitching friends at her **Time 2 Xstitch** blog



Brenda has been cross stitching since high school

Tell us about yourself

I am a military wife of 23 years, and worked in retail until my children, a daughter and a son, were born. I love to sew and make matching clothes for my daughter and myself and matching ties for my husband and son. I also love to cross stitch, crochet and knit.

When did you fall in love with cross stitch?

I started this hobby when I was a senior in high school after seeing a teacher cross stitching on her lunch break. I fell in love with cross stitching more after my daughter was born. I've always been a crafter and seamstress, but cross stitching was an easy hobby to pick up and put down when you have small children. I stitch every day for pleasure.

What sort of things do you most like to stitch?

I stitch most anything but no wizards or gothic themes. I love band samplers, patriotic projects and religious designs such as those of My Big Toe Designs and the Lizzie Kate Inspirational Boxer designs. I also love to stitch cute and fun designs to make into pincushions, biscornus and fobs.

What's been your biggest stitching challenge or disaster?

My biggest stitching challenge was a design by Mystic Stitch called Jesus Walking on Water. It had 69 different colours, and it is stitched from corner to corner with no background fabric showing. There was a lot of shading in the piece and constant colour changing.

Do you have a piece that you're most proud of? What is it?

The piece I'm most proud of is a Shepherd's Bush Come Tarry sampler. It's a long sampler that incorporates Swedish pattern darning, Rhodes circles, satin stitches, Herringbone stitch, tall crossed cross stitch, woven stitch, Hungarian stitch and rice stitch. I loved the challenge.

Why did you start your blog?

I started my blog on Valentine's Day 2011, when we arrived back to the United States after being stationed in Germany for two years. I wanted a date I knew I'd always remember!



She likes to make cute projects and religious designs

Find Brenda at
www.time2xstitch.blogspot.com



BATH TIME

This bathing beauty looks utterly contented! Part of DMC's Shabby Sheep range, Time to Relax is sure to make you smile. The sunny design by Jane Prutton is available as a kit, complete with a chart, instructions, needle, 14 count white aida and pre-sorted DMC stranded cotton threads. The finished size is 20x18cm (8x7in). It's a moderate design, ideal for beginners seeking a slightly more challenging project to get stuck into. Find stockists at www.dmccreative.co.uk.

3 of the best... Summer views



Floral cross stitch pattern, £5.11
This beautiful bright design is sizzling with energy! We think it sums up the best of our hottest summer days, with butterflies, blooms and some retro-inspired squirly motifs thrown in for good measure. The design is simple enough, but with so many colour changes, you'll need to stay on the ball! It's available as an instant PDF download. You can find it at **www.Stitchery Stitch.etsy.com**.



Summer, £5.10
A sunshade, beach ball, deckchair, a jug of frosty juice, birdsong, and plenty of sunshine – what more could you want from an August afternoon? Well, a pretty work in progress, actually, and this one by Daria at B is for Bumbebee is ideal! Featuring only full cross stitches, it will be simple enough to complete on the drowsiest days. You can buy the chart from **www.Bisfor Bumblebee.etsy.com**.



Bright Summer Flowers, £6.40
Designer Maria turned this stitch into a handbag, and we can see it being your perfect summer accessory! The chart includes backstitching, French knots, petite stitches (1 over 1) and half cross stitches, as well as full cross stitches, making this a really satisfying stitch to complete. We adore the vibrant sunflowers, and the delphiniums with French knots for texture. You can download it as a PDF from **www.LittleRoomInTheAttic.etsy.com**.



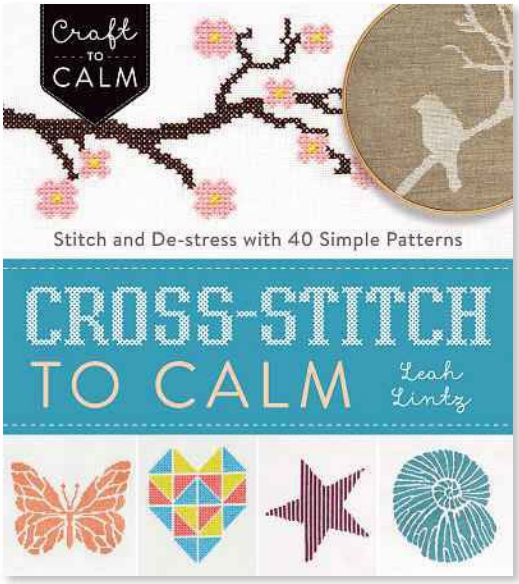
Exotic adornments

Add a dash of drama to your outfit with this pair of earrings and elegant bracelet designed and stitched by Carmel Dray of Palestinian Stitches, based in Bracknell, UK. You're bound to get lots of envious comments! The deep red of the DMC thread is stunning set against the silver-coloured metal of the jewellery bases, while the full cross stitches offer an opulent textured finish. The pieces are available separately, and you can also buy a matching necklace to complete the look, but we like the idea of getting this set, for yourself or as a gift. You can buy the earrings and bracelet for £20 from **www.PalestinianStitches.etsy.com**.

Take a breath

We've long known that cross stitch helps us to relax, and now author Leah Lintz has produced a book to help us make the most of quality time with needle and thread! Most of the patterns in the book can be completed in a single weekend, and are inspired by nature, modern motifs such as guitars and ice cream cones, plus a few carefully chosen words. There are plenty of clear instructions to prevent tensions arising, as well as simple finishing methods, and some truly beautiful, unfussy designs you'll love to hang on your wall to add some serenity to your home. Here's hoping, anyway!

Cross Stitch to Calm is available from www.stitchcraftcreate.co.uk.





Feeling fruity

How refreshing does this slice of watermelon look? Designed by Pam Millershaski, August Watermelon is the tastiest possible picnic treat, and would make a great gift for a summer birthday. Using only full cross stitches, it's a relatively speedy project. There are five thread colours stitched in three strands each, to make sure it looks utterly delicious. We think it is perfect as it is, but for a special gift, why not sew on a few beads to represent the seeds?

Pam also offers charts dedicated to the other eleven months of the year. You can download the chart and see the whole range at **www.wiredstitches.etsy.com**.

Competition *time*

We've got prices worth over £90 to give away to readers of ***Cross Stitch Collection***

Over £90 of prizes to be won!

Romantic **Moments**

Would you like to try another skill? This collection of 64 romantic motifs and accompanying embroidery transfers provides a great source of design ideas for anyone who enjoys stitching. The designs include hearts, flowers, swallows, wedding rings and butterflies and covers a range of sizes and styles. With just eleven simple embroidery stitches to choose from, all with clear, step-by-step diagrams, even those new to embroidery will be able to tackle any of the designs provided. Published by Apple Press, it's available from good book shops everywhere (RRP £12.99). We have one copy to give away.

Enter by post to the address below, labelling your entry Romantic Moments giveaway CSC265.



WORTH £12.99

Foxgloves

This lovely floral design by John Clayton for Heritage Stitchcraft is the first addition to John's flower panels for many years – we think the contrast between the vibrant colour of the flower and the greens of the background is truly striking.

We have one Foxgloves kit to give away, which has a design size of 31x11cm, and has either 27 count evenweave or 14 count aida, DMC stranded cotton and a numbered thread organiser.

Foxgloves (JCFG1330) is available from **www.hcrafts.com** (RRP £34.95).

Enter by post to the address below, labelling your entry Foxgloves giveaway CSC265.



WORTH £34.95

Cross **Stitch Mini Motifs**

Susan Bates has packed this book with 54 cross-stitch motifs all on the theme of flowers. The floral motifs, such as viola, pansies, poppies and roses are used to create traditional samplers, as well as keepsakes. You can try one out on page 14 of this issue. A lovely book for the gardening fanatic or anyone with a love of flowers.

We have three books to give away. The book is published by Tuva and available from booksellers (RRP £9.95).

Enter by post to the address below, labelling your entry Cross Stitch Mini Motifs giveaway CSC265.



WORTH £29.85

Geometric **Patterns**

If you love other hand crafts as well as cross stitch, this book of geometric designs could be a useful resource, but wait – you could use the charts to create your own cross stitch designs too! Tina Barrett has written six books and her latest will guide you to create your own patterns using repeats of both traditional and contemporary knitting styles.

It's published by Apple Press and in bookshops now (RRP £14.99).

We have one book to give away.

Enter by post to the address below, labelling your entry Tina Barrett giveaway CSC265.



WORTH £14.99

How To Enter

Write your name and address on the back of a postcard or stuck-down envelope and send to: Cross Stitch Collection Magazine, PO Box 172, Northam, EX399DY. Competition open 22 July – 18 August 2016. For competition terms and conditions go to page 59.
Please feel free to enter multiple draws on one postcard.



Meet the designer...

Jayne Netley Mayhew

"Dolphins are a delight, and it was not hard for me to come up with a design when I was asked for one. I have tried to convey the fun they seem to show as they race the breaking waves, leaping and rushing along with the breakers. We were lucky enough to watch some while we were on a boat off the coast of Africa. We laid along the bow watching them rush up from under the boat and race ahead, leaping beside us – for no other reason than the joy of it. My number one rule for stitching is always work from the centre outwards to give yourself space for the design. My second rule is check and check again the fabric size. Third rule, enjoy it! You are making something beautiful, which will hopefully outlast us all."

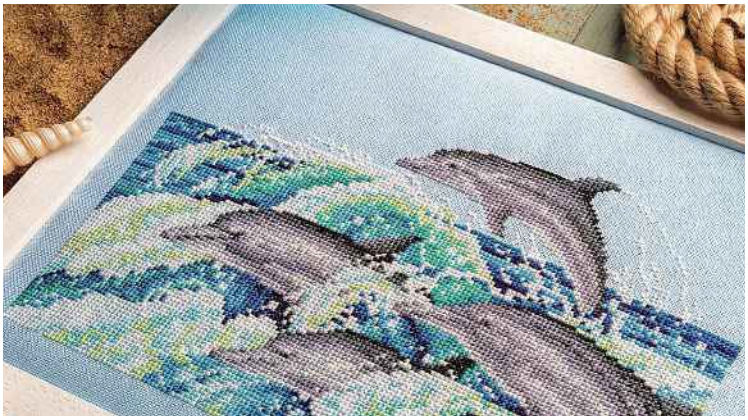
Leaping dolphins

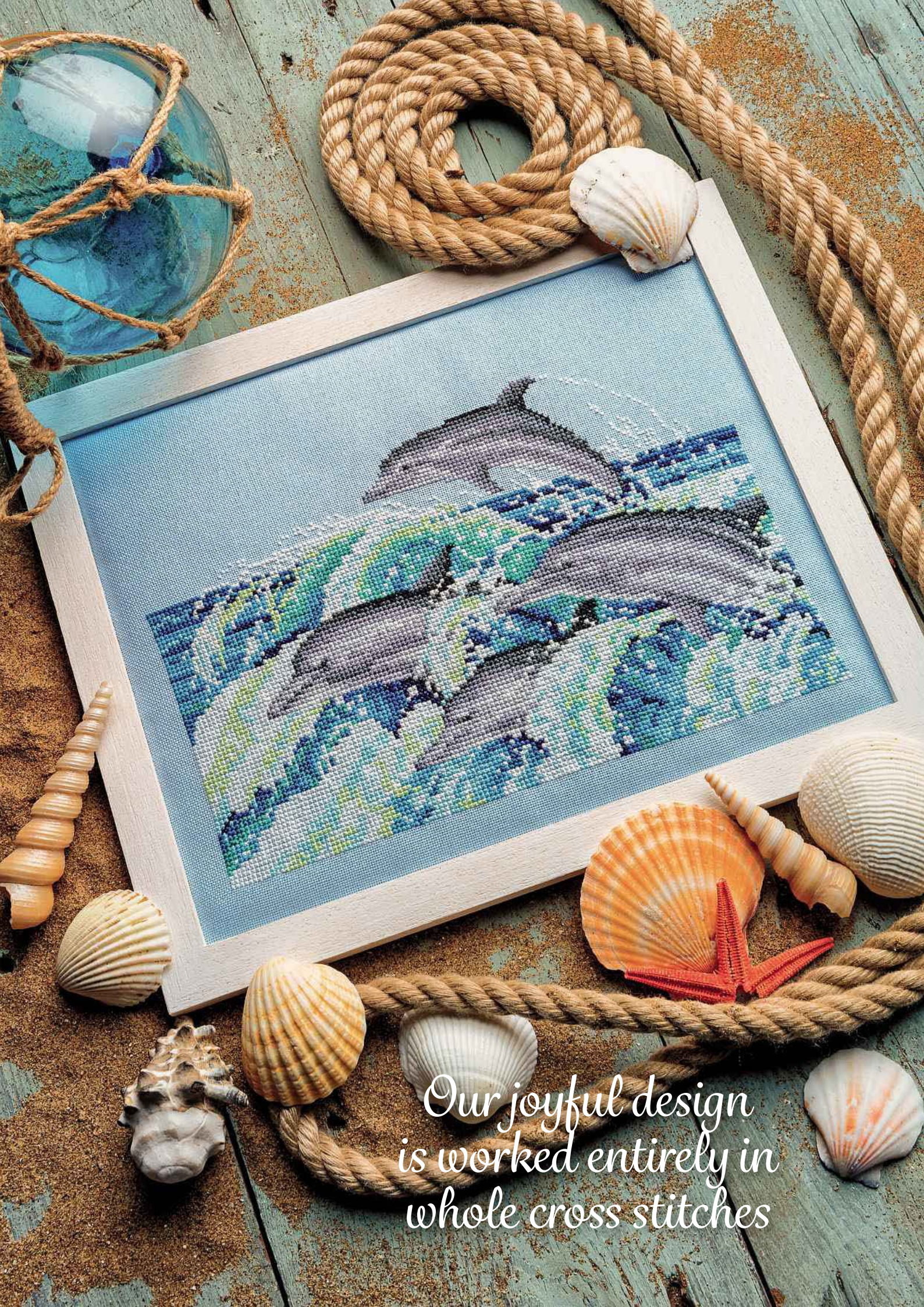
Capture the jumping joy of these charming sea creatures with our gorgeous picture designed by **Jayne Netley Mayhew**

We think Jayne's leaping dolphins design is a real work of art that you can take pride in once finished and will look wonderful hanging in any room.

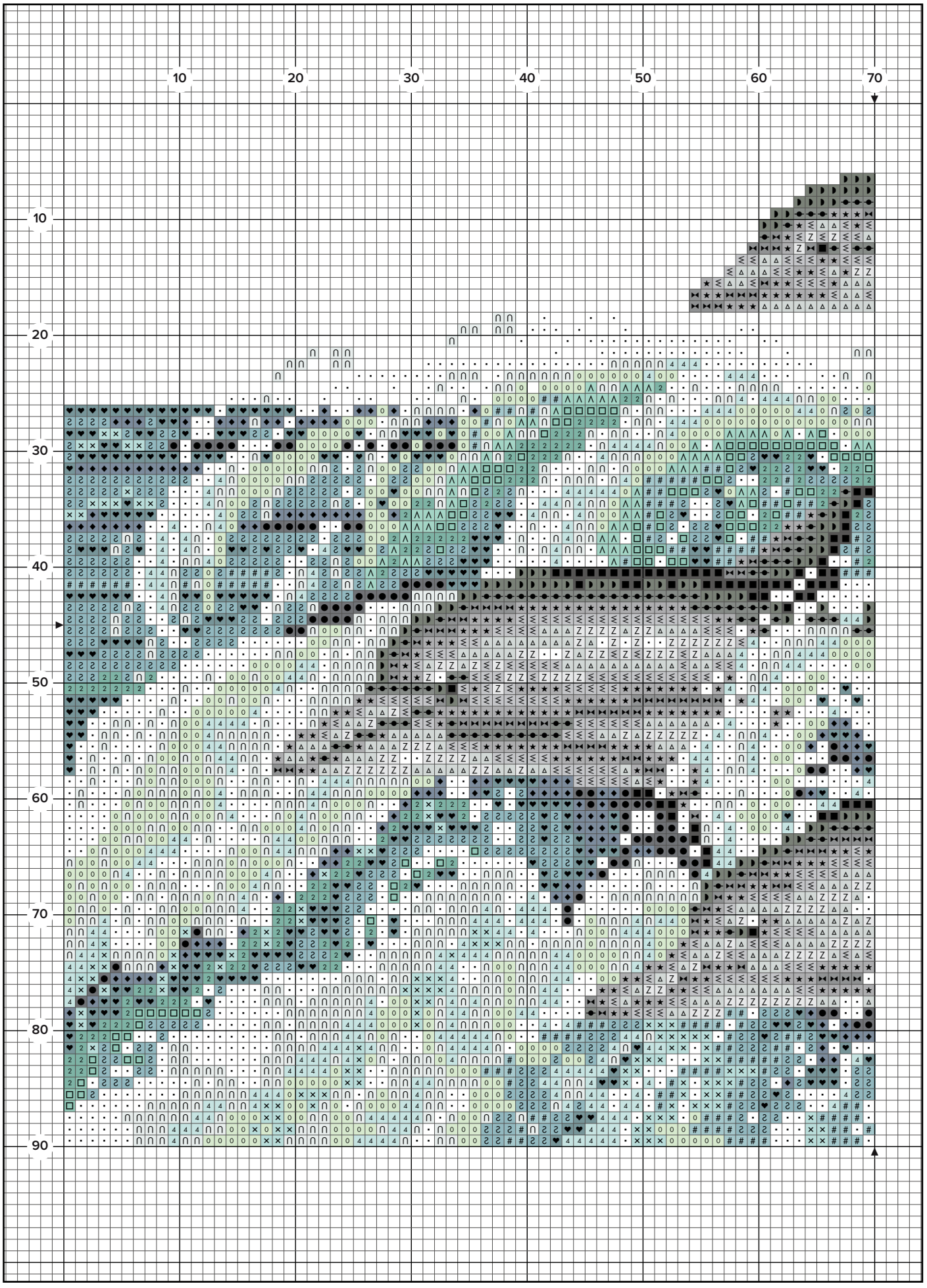
This is not a difficult design to stitch, as it is worked in whole cross stitch, so you just need to keep an eye out for the colour changes. All the blues are quite close in shade so you should sort your threads onto a strand organiser before you start.

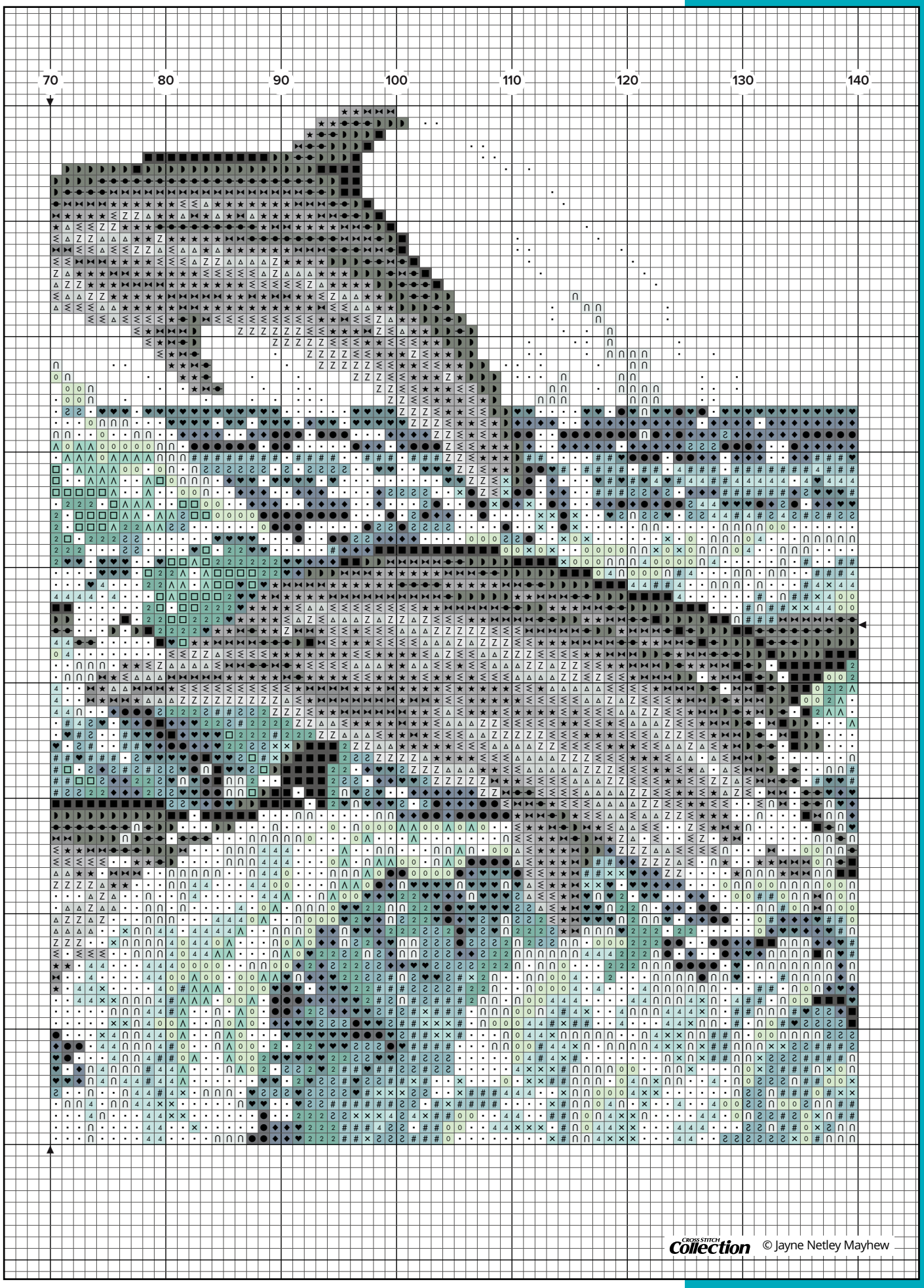
You could add a sparkle to the waves by replacing the white thread with one that has a metallic finish, like DMC's Light Effects Pearlescent E5200. You could even add pearlescent beads to the white tips of the waves to add dimension.




Our joyful design
is worked entirely in
whole cross stitches

Leaping dolphins





Cross Stitch Collection © Jayne Netley Mayhew



Stitch our design on a larger piece of Murano and back with blue fabric to make a cushion

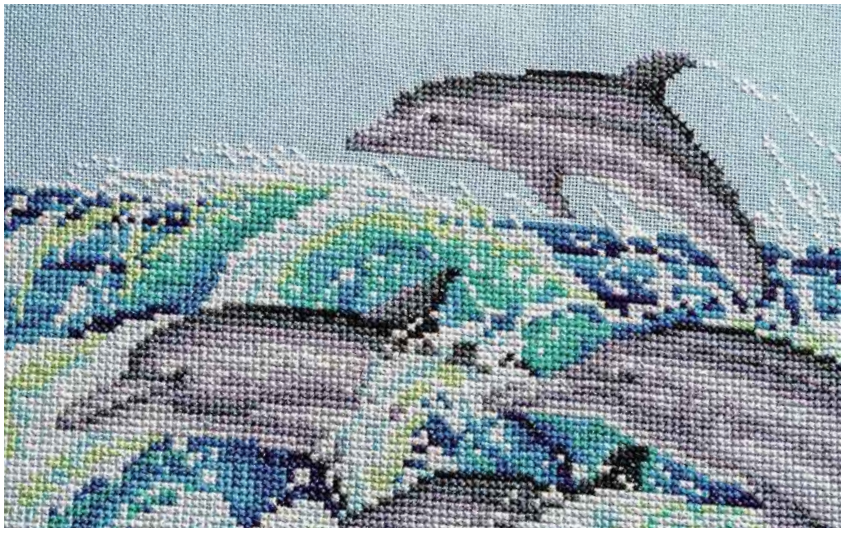
Make it yours

You will need...

Zweigart 32 count Murano pale blue, ref: 3984/0503, 35.5x43cm (14x17in)
Stranded cotton as listed in the key
Size 26 tapestry needle
Frame with a 21.5x26.5cm (8½x10½in) aperture
For stockist details see page 58.

Stitching **the design**

FOLD the fabric both ways to find the centre and start stitching here. Use two strands of stranded cotton for the cross stitch.



Leaping dolphins

Cross stitch in two strands

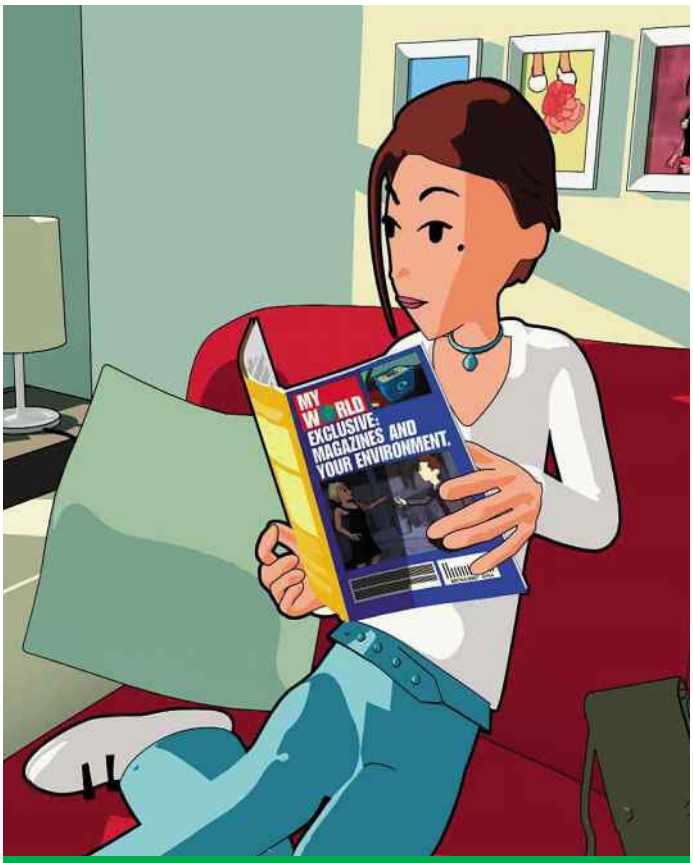
	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	Colour
■ ■	310	403	black	black
◆ ◆	311	148	1006	m navy blue
⋈ ⋈	317	400	1714	pewter grey
≲ ≲	318	399	1802	lt steel grey
0 0	369	1043	1309	lt green
●– ●–	413	401	1713	dark pewter grey
★ ★	414	235	1801	dk grey
△ △	415	398	1803	pearl grey
# #	597	1064	1110	turquoise
× ×	598	1062	1111	v lt turquoise
Z Z	762	234	1804	v lt pearl grey
● ●	939	152	1009	dk navy blue
□ □	992	1072	1202	m aquamarine
Λ Λ	993	1070	1201	lt aquamarine
∩ ∩	3756	1037	886	lt baby blue
◗ ◗	3799	236	1713	dk pewter grey
♥ ♥	3808	1068	2507	dk turquoise
Ƨ Ƨ	3810	168	1108	m turquoise
4 4	3811	1060	1101	lt turquoise
2 2	3814	1074	1203	aquamarine
· ·	blanc	001	white	white

Stitched using DMC threads on 32 count evenweave over two threads of fabric
Stitch count: 90hx140w
Design size: 16x24cm (6¼x9½in)
Stitch time: 40hrs

Modern Cross Stitch from The Nutmeg Company



Kits available on Aida fabric and 14 count perforated paper.
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DAINTY MAKES



We love this sweet floral design – it's just the thing to stitch now to keep the memory of summer blooms alive all year. As it's just the right size to be framed in a hoop, why not paint one in a rosy pink to match?

You will need...

Zweigart 28 count Cashel white, ref: 3281/100, 20x20cm (8x8in)
Stranded cotton as listed in the key
Size 26 tapestry needle
Wooden hoop 5.5cm (6in)
For stockist details see page 58

Our design packs lots of fun stitchy details into a small project

Stitching the design

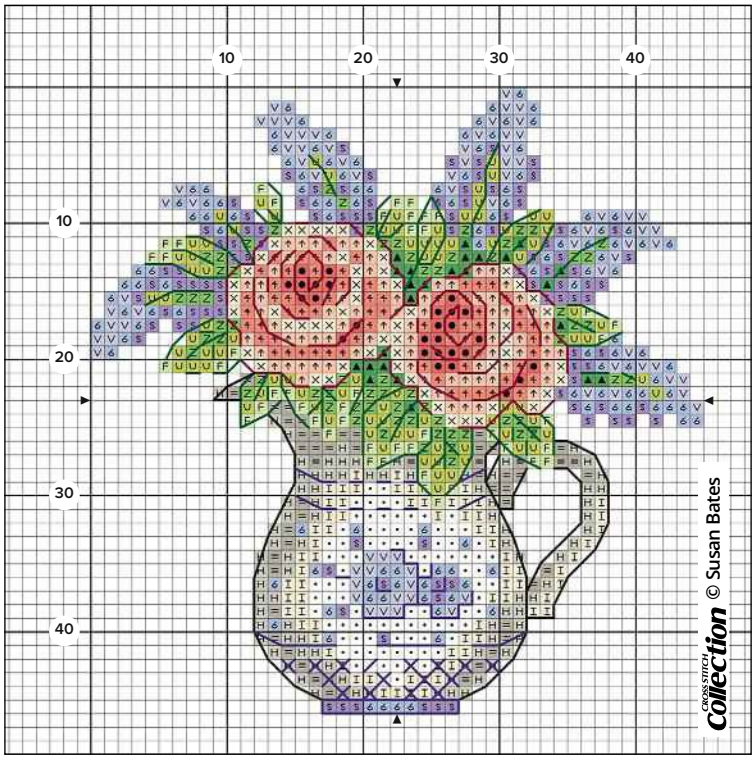
FOLD the fabric both ways to find the centre and start stitching here. Use two strands of stranded cotton for the cross stitch.

Adding the detail

USE backstitch to add detail to the flowers and jug in one strand of stranded cotton.

Tip... Make a trivet

Buy a blank trivet kit from **www.sewandsew.co.uk** and use it to mount this project for a unique kitchen tool.



Roses in bloom

Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	Colour
S S	340	118	902	blue violet
● ●	351	010	214	coral
4 4	352	009	303	lt coral
= =	648	900	1814	beaver grey
▲ ▲	702	239	1306	kelly green
Z Z	704	256	1308	bright lime
I I	712	926	2101	cream
F F	772	259	1604	lt yellow green
↑ ↑	967	1012	305	flesh pink
H H	3072	847	1805	light grey
V V	3747	120	907	lt blue violet
X X	3770	1009	978	v lt tawny
U U	3819	278	2703	lt moss green
6 6	3840	117	907	lt lav blue
• •	blanc	001	white	white

Backstitch in one strand

304 flowers	304	1006	509	xmas red
645 jug	645	273	1811	v dk grey
699 foliage	699	923	1303	xmas green
792 pattern	792	177	905	cornflower blue

Stitched using DMC threads on 28 count evenweave over two threads of fabric
Stitch count: 45hx45w
Design size: 8.5x8.5cm (3¼x3¼in)
Stitch time: 3hrs

Cross stitch flower motifs



If you enjoyed stitching this jug of flowers, you can find more than 50 floral cross stitch motifs designed by Susan Bates in her lovely new book, Cross Stitch Mini Motifs: Flowers, which is published by Tuva Publishing. It's available in book shops now (RRP £9.95), or turn to page 7 for your chance to win a copy in our giveaway.



Roses in bloom

Stitch our dinky picture designed by Susan Bates to add a little sweetness to any room in the house

Seashell wreath



Meet the designer...

Susan Bates

I live by the sea and I love walking along the beach. Although the beaches near me are mostly pebbles, there are often shells washed up along the shore. I love collecting any pretty shells and colourfully patterned pebbles.
My collection inspired this design, but I also drew inspiration from old scientific prints of shells.
For my design, having the shells arranged in a wreath gives a contemporary feel to a usually more 'classic' design layout. I wanted there to be some strong focal points to my design, which I why I've included the three large orange starfishes. I also added a couple of large conch shells, in pretty shades of coral and some spiralling and spotted shells, in blues and taupes.

Bring the joy of a summer stroll on the beach into your home with our seaside garland designed by **Susan Bates**



Our summery wreath is packed full of bright colours and stunning shell shapes. We hope it will remind you of long childhood afternoons poking about in rockpools in a craggy cove, although the bright starfish and coral conch shells suggest this treasure trove was gathered somewhere exotic!

Our design mixes bright corals and oranges with softer shades of taupe, grey, cream and powder blue for a palette of rich summer colours, that also feels light and airy. We love how Susan has used lots of different colours for the outlines. Check the chart and key to make sure you've got the right cotton in your needle before working each area of backstitch.


This design will appeal to
anyone who loves collecting shells

Seashell wreath

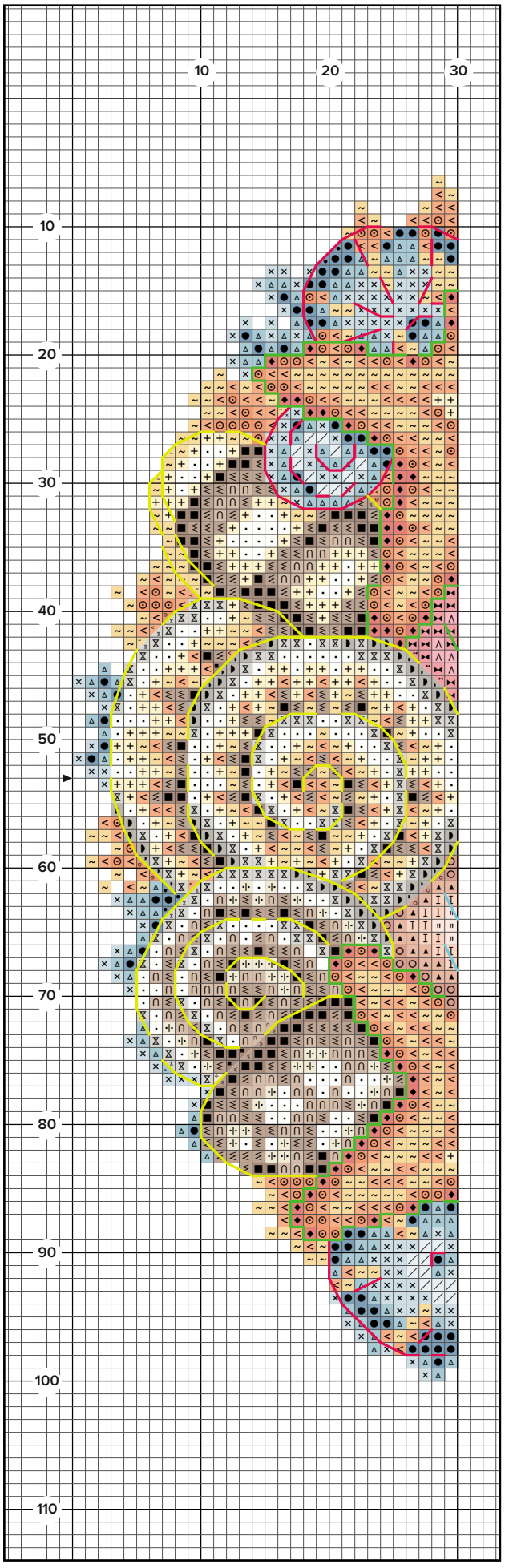
Cross stitch in two strands

DMC	Anchor	Madeira	Colour
350	011	213	med coral
519	1038	1105	sky blue
648	900	1814	beaver grey
721	324	308	m spice orange
722	323	307	spice orange
758	868	403	lt terracotta
775	1031	1001	lt baby blue
819	271	501	lt baby pink
841	1082	1911	lt beige brown
842	1080	1910	v lt beige brown
899	052	505	med rose
967	1012	305	flesh pink
3072	847	1805	light grey
3687	076	604	mauve
3713	1021	501	v lt salmon
3716	025	606	v lt dusky rose
3756	1037	886	lt baby blue
3760	169	1012	wedgewood
3778	1013	403	lt terracotta
3823	386	2512	pale yellow
3855	311	2013	lt autumn gold
3862	358	1913	dk mocha beige
ecru	387	ecru	ecru
blanc	001	white	white

Backstitch in one strand

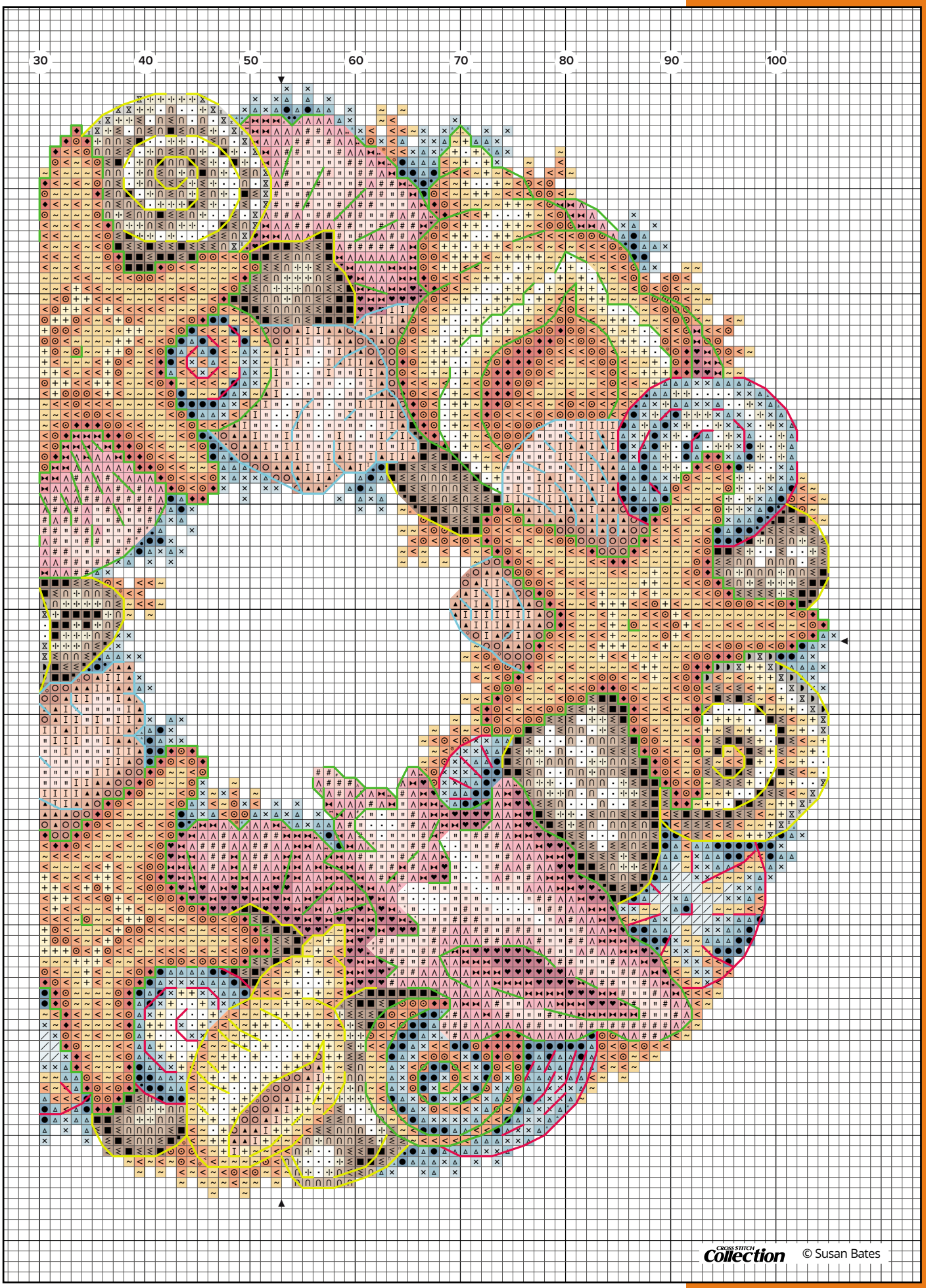
311	148	1006	m navy blue	shells
815	043	513	m garnet	starfish, coral
3031	360	2003	dk mocha	shells
3721	896	810	dk shell pink	shells

Stitched using DMC threads on 14 count aida fabric
Stitch count: 106hx106w
Design size: 19.5x19cm (7¾x7½in)
Stitch time: 40hrs



Tip... **Watch your threads**

Be careful not to trail any threads, particularly the bright shades, across the blank space in the middle of the wreath to avoid them showing through to the front.



Cross Stitch Collection © Susan Bates



Paint a hoop in a seaside shade to display your finished wreath

Make your seashell wreath

You will need...

Zweigart 14 count aida vintage blue, ref: 3706/5139, 35.5x35.5cm (14x14in)
Stranded cotton as listed in the key
Size 24 tapestry needle
Wooden embroidery hoop 25.5cm (10in) diameter
For stockist details see page 58

Stitching **the design**

FOLD the fabric both ways to find the centre and count from here to start your stitching.

Adding **the detail**

COMPLETE all the cross stitch in two strands, before adding the backstitch in one strand.

Tip... **Bright beach bag**

Stitch our design on evenweave and sew it into a summery bag to use on the beach, or a cushion for a summer house.

Your letters

Write to Cross Stitch Collection Letters, PO Box 172, Northam, EX39 9DY.
Or email us at **CSC@dennis.co.uk** with your stitching stories

Star letter



The winner of our star letter will receive a St Hydroc Church kit from Sybilla Davis Designs. This lovely design features the imposing church at Lanhydrock looking over the formal gardens. The church is built of granite, and stands in the shadow of the National Trust's Lanhydrock House. The kit contains ivory aida, stranded cotton, needle, chart and instructions. This design and more of your favourite National Trust properties are available from **www.sybilladavisdesigns.co.uk** (RRP £15.99). Well done Linda, who will receive her prize very soon!



DIY china on show

Dresser dreams

When I saw Maria Diaz's Vintage Dresser design featured in an issue of Cross Stitch Collection from January 2015, I just knew I had to sew it straight away. As I live in a small house, I don't have the room for a real dresser, so this is the next best thing. It is framed on the wall of my dining room.

Linda West, Isle of Man

Collection says: Dear Linda, thank you so much for sharing your lovely project. We're sure you're not the only one dreaming of a dresser without the space to put one!

Stitching lion

Doing this lion cub design from Jayne Netley Mayhew in the February 2016 issue was a pleasure. I have been cross stitching for many years – a neighbour got me hooked after my divorce and I find it helps me with my stress.

I'm always a fan of any animal-themed designs – my daughter and I love horses and other animals. I'm a slow stitcher but this cute cub worked out quicker than others I've done in the past.

Tracey Fox, United Kingdom

Collection says: What a handsome chap! Turn to page 8 for Jayne's latest design.



Find our cub in CSC 258

Singing birds

Here is my latest finished project, called Singing Birds. It's by Durene Jones. I really enjoyed sewing this one as it's so colourful. I especially liked how the backstitch made it come alive. I sewed it on 14 count light blue aida. I decided to frame it on a canvas and I think it looks great. It's one of my favourite projects.

Emma Wright, Devon

Collection says: What a lovely project, Emma. The light blue aida was a great choice. Thanks for sharing!



We love Durene's designs

Send us your news...

We love to get your letters and photos, so put pen to paper and get writing today.

Email us at:
csc@dennis.co.uk
marking your email Letters Page.

or write to:
Cross Stitch Collection Letters,
PO Box 172, Northam,
EX39 9DY

Happy stitching!

The Collection Team



Exam success

Our graduate bear designed by Jenny Barton is ready to celebrate good news this results season

Show your confidence by starting to stitch before the results are out

You will need...

Zweigart 14 count aida white, ref: 3706/100, 20x15cm (8x6in)
Stranded cotton as listed in the key
Size 24 tapestry needle
Card blank cream, with a 11x11cm (4¼x4¼in) aperture
For stockist details see page 58

Stitching **the design**

FOLD the fabric in half both ways to find the centre and start stitching at this point.

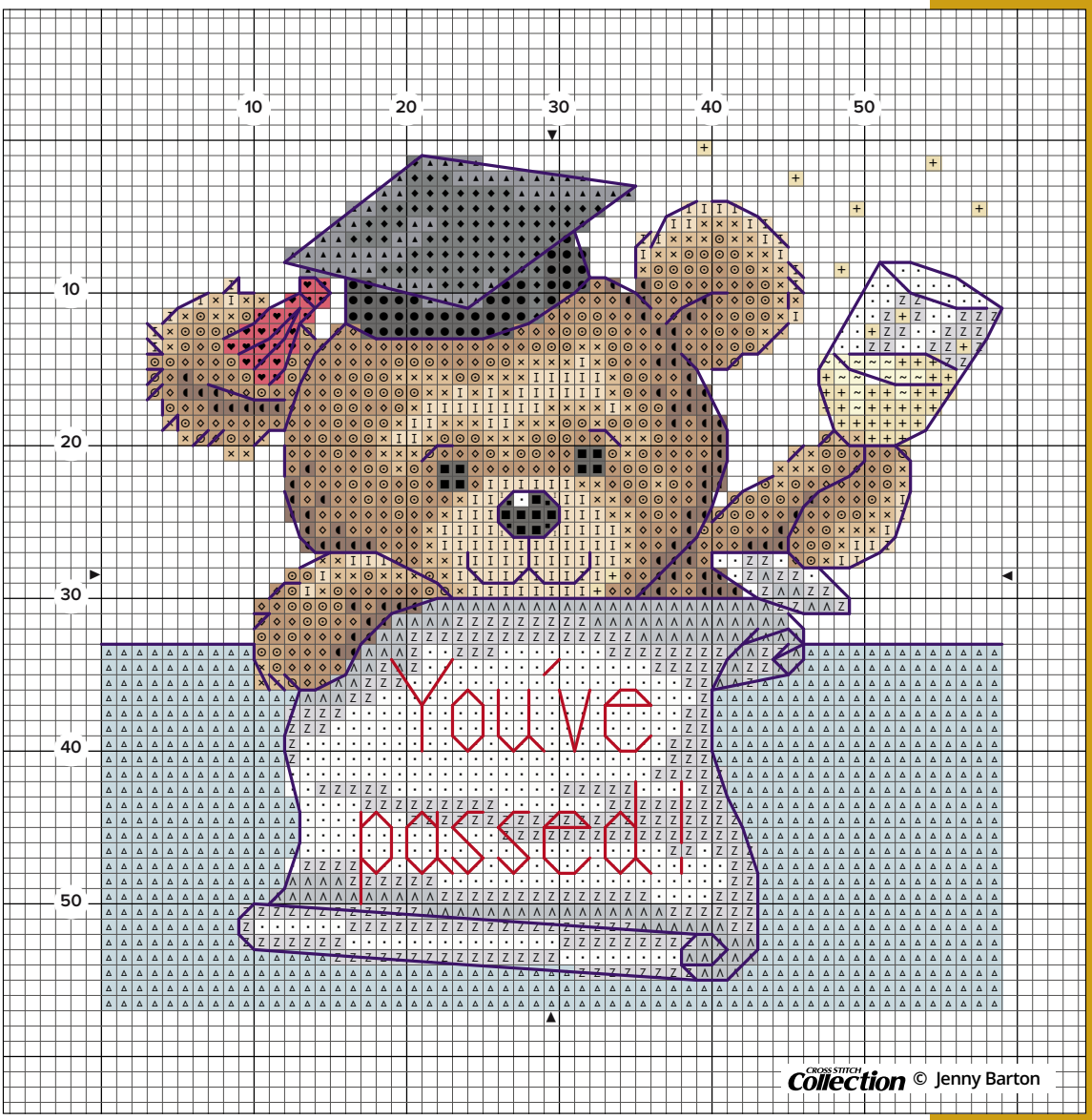
Adding **the detail**

COMPLETE all the cross stitch in two strands of stranded cotton, before adding the backstitch in one strand of stranded cotton.

How to **mount a card**

1 TRIM the stitched aida to fit inside your card, with the design placed centrally behind the card's aperture.

2 ATTACH double-sided tape to the inside of the card around the edge of the aperture. Place the stitching on the table right-side up, and then place the card on top, pressing down firmly. Check which flap will fold over on to the back of the stitching, then add double-sided tape and press firmly in place.





Tip... **Happy graduation**

Our fun graduate bear would make a lovely card to give someone on the day of their graduation – you could check what colour the tassel will be on their cap and change the thread colour you use so it matches.

Use graph paper to plan your own text for the bear's scroll

Exam success

Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	Colour
● ●	310	403	black	black
◆ ◆	413	401	1713	dark pewter grey
▲ ▲	414	235	1801	dk grey
Λ Λ	415	398	1803	pearl grey
◖ ◖	433	371	2008	dk brown
◇ ◇	435	1046	2010	med brown
⊙ ⊙	436	1045	2011	lt brown
× ×	437	362	2012	lt tan
♥ ♥	666	046	210	bright red
+ +	677	886	2207	lt yellow
I I	739	366	2014	v lt tan
~ ~	746	275	101	off white
Z Z	762	234	1804	v lt pearl grey

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	Colour
Δ Δ	828	975	1101	v lt blue
■ ■	3371	382	2004	dark brown
· ·	blanc	002	white	white

Backstitch in one strand

—	666	046	210	bright red
	words			
—	3371	382	2004	dark brown
	outlines			

Stitched using DMC threads on 14 count aida fabric
Stitch count: 56hx59w
Design size: 10.5x10.5cm (4x4in)
Stitch time: 12hrs

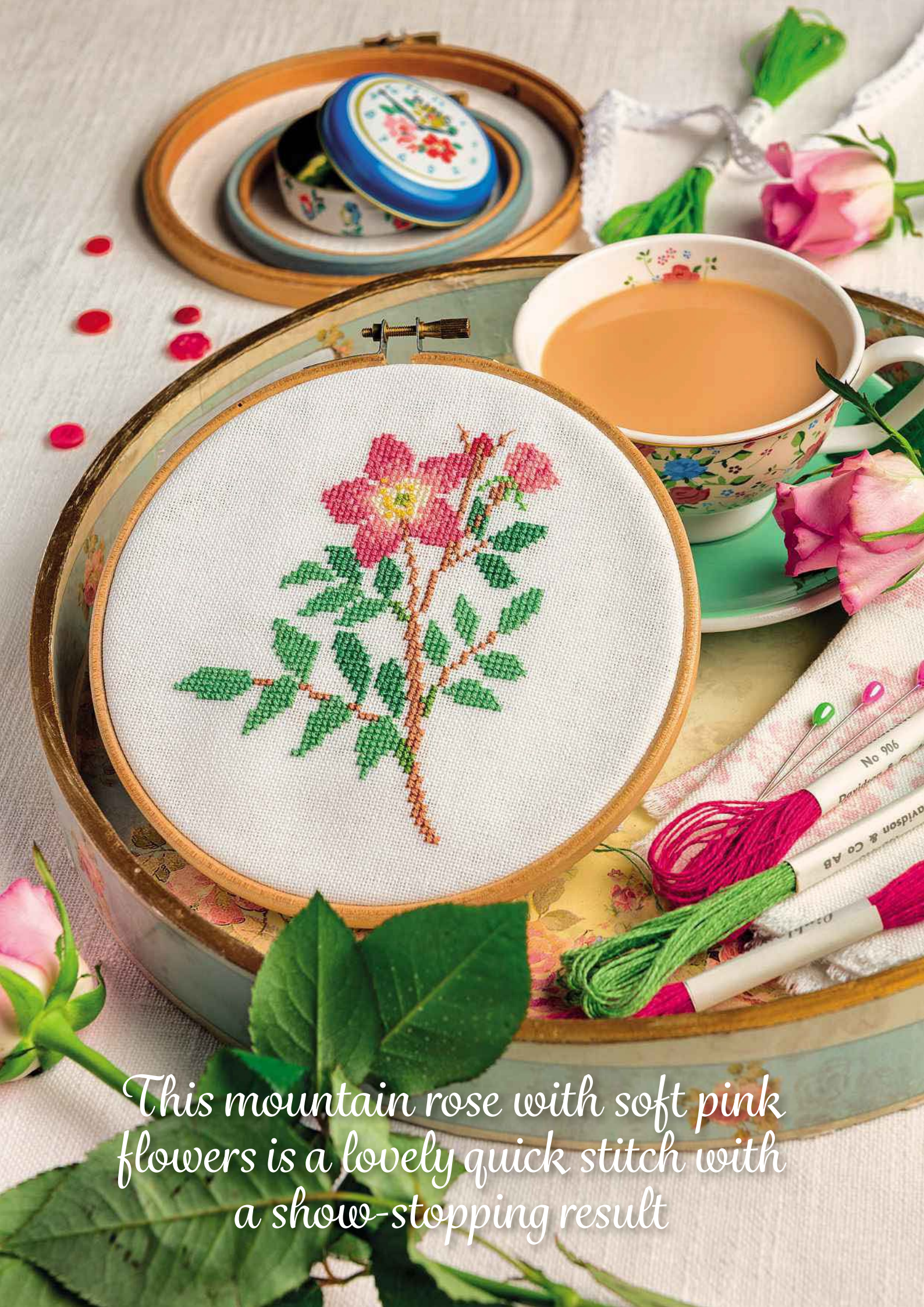
Wild roses

Create a flower display that will last into autumn with our pretty design by **Kazuko Aoki**



Kazuko says wild roses hold a special place in her heart, and her beautiful wild rose sampler has us falling in love too! If you don't feel like stitching the whole sampler, this pretty Rose Glauca is a quick stitch with stunning results.

There's a very small amount of backstitch in this design and some lovely French knots. You can replace the knots with bright yellow beads if you prefer. ➤

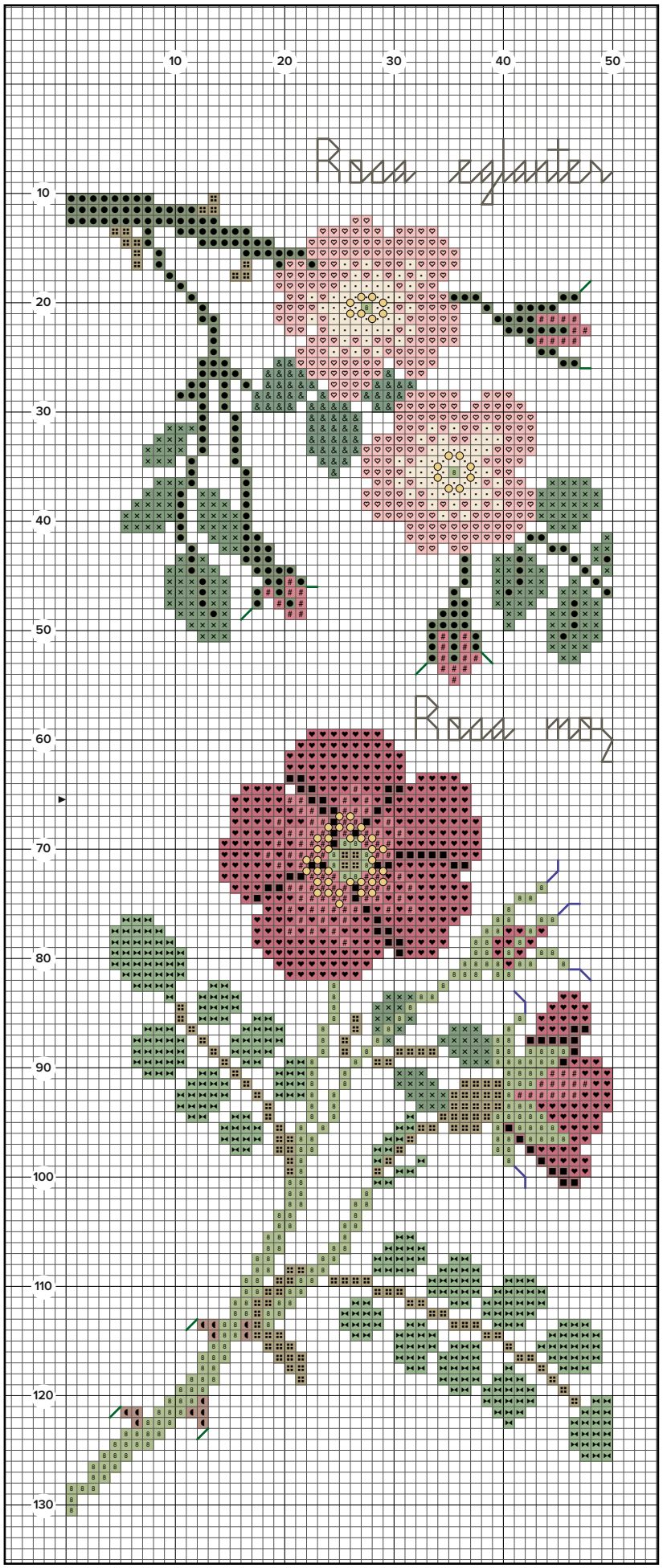


This mountain rose with soft pink flowers is a lovely quick stitch with a show-stopping result

Wild roses

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	Colour
Cross stitch in two strands				
♥ ♥	309	039	507	dk rose
≤ ≤	320	215	1311	m green
& &	367	217	1312	dk green
⁘ ⁘	371	855	2111	mustard
8 8	471	265	1501	lt avacado
♡ ♡	761	024	404	lt dusty pink
△ △	948	1011	306	v lt peach
× ×	987	244	1403	dk forest green
⋈ ⋈	989	241	1401	forest green
● ●	3346	267	1407	hunter green
■ ■	3721	896	810	dk shell pink
# #	3731	076	506	dk dusky rose
◇ ◇	3733	075	813	dusky rose
◖ ◖	3772	1007	2311	dk desert sand
· ·	ecru	387	ecru	ecru
Backstitch in one strand				
—	367	217	1312	dk green
				sepals, stems
—	371	855	2111	mustard
				rose thorns
—	471	265	1501	lt avacado
				sepals
—	646	858	1181	med grey
				words
—	989	241	1401	forest green
				sepals
—	3346	267	1407	hunter green
				sepals, stems
—	3772	1007	2311	dk desert sand
				sepals
French knots in one strand				
● ●	3821	305	2510	dk yellow
				stamens

Stitched using DMC threads on 28 count evenweave over two threads of fabric
Stitch count: 65hx51w Rose Glauca only
Design size: 12x10cm (4¾x4in) Rose Glauca only
Stitch time: 4hrs Rose Glauca only



Tip... Make a wild rose cushion

Add a little country charm to your sofa by making your finished stitching into a simple envelope cover for a cushion inner.


50
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70
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90
100
110
120
130
140
Ballerina
Mauveline
WILD ROSE
Rosa glauca
© Kazuko Aoki
Cross Stitch Collection



Frame **your rose in a simple wooden hoop for a rustic feel**

Make a rose

You will need...

Zweigart 28 count Brittney antique white, ref: 3270/101, 25.5x25.5cm (10x10in)
Stranded cotton as listed in the key
Size 26 tapestry needle
Wooden hoop; 15cm (6in) diameter
For stockist details see page 58

Stitching **the design**

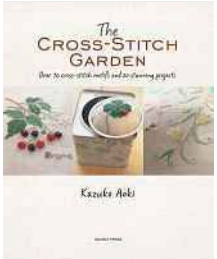
FOLD the fabric both ways to find the centre and start stitching here. Use two strands of stranded cotton for the cross stitch.

Adding **the detail**

COMPLETE all the cross stitch before adding the backstitch in one strand of stranded cotton, and French knots in one strand.



More designs **from Kazuko**



This pretty flower design is taken from the Wild Rose Sampler, which you can find in Kazuko Aoki's beautiful book, The Cross Stitch Garden, published by Search Press. The book combines 70 motifs with 20 projects and you can buy a copy for RRP £16.99 in bookshops.

No.1 for designs

CrossStitcher

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DAINTY MAKES



Our jar cover is sized to fit on top of a Bonne Maman jam lid but should fit most jars of a similar size

You will need...

Zweigart 28 count Brittney white, ref: 3270/0100, 23x23cm (9x9in)
Stranded cotton as listed in the key
Size 26 tapestry needle
Backing fabric 23x23cm (9x9in)
Vilene iron-on 23x23cm (9x9in)
Ric-rac braid, white 10mm (⅜in) x 60cm (24in)
Fray check
For stockist details see page 58

Stitching **the design**

FOLD the fabric both ways to find the centre and start stitching here. Use two strands of stranded cotton for the cross stitch and half cross stitch, and one strand for the backstitch and French knots.

Make **a jam pot cover**

1 USE a tea plate or saucer to draw a circle on your fabric in pencil, keeping the design in the centre. Repeat for backing fabric.

2 PAINT the edge of the stitched evenweave circle with fray check. Apply two coats, leaving to dry between each application.

3 PLACE the Vilene on the back of the stitched evenweave circle and iron in place. Trim away the excess Vilene, so that it is the same size as your evenweave circle.

5 PLACE the backing fabric on the reverse side of the evenweave circle, and the ric-rac around the edge of the evenweave on the right side. Machine stitch around the circle, in the centre of the ric-rac, and through all your layers of fabric.

Tip... **Say it in stitches**

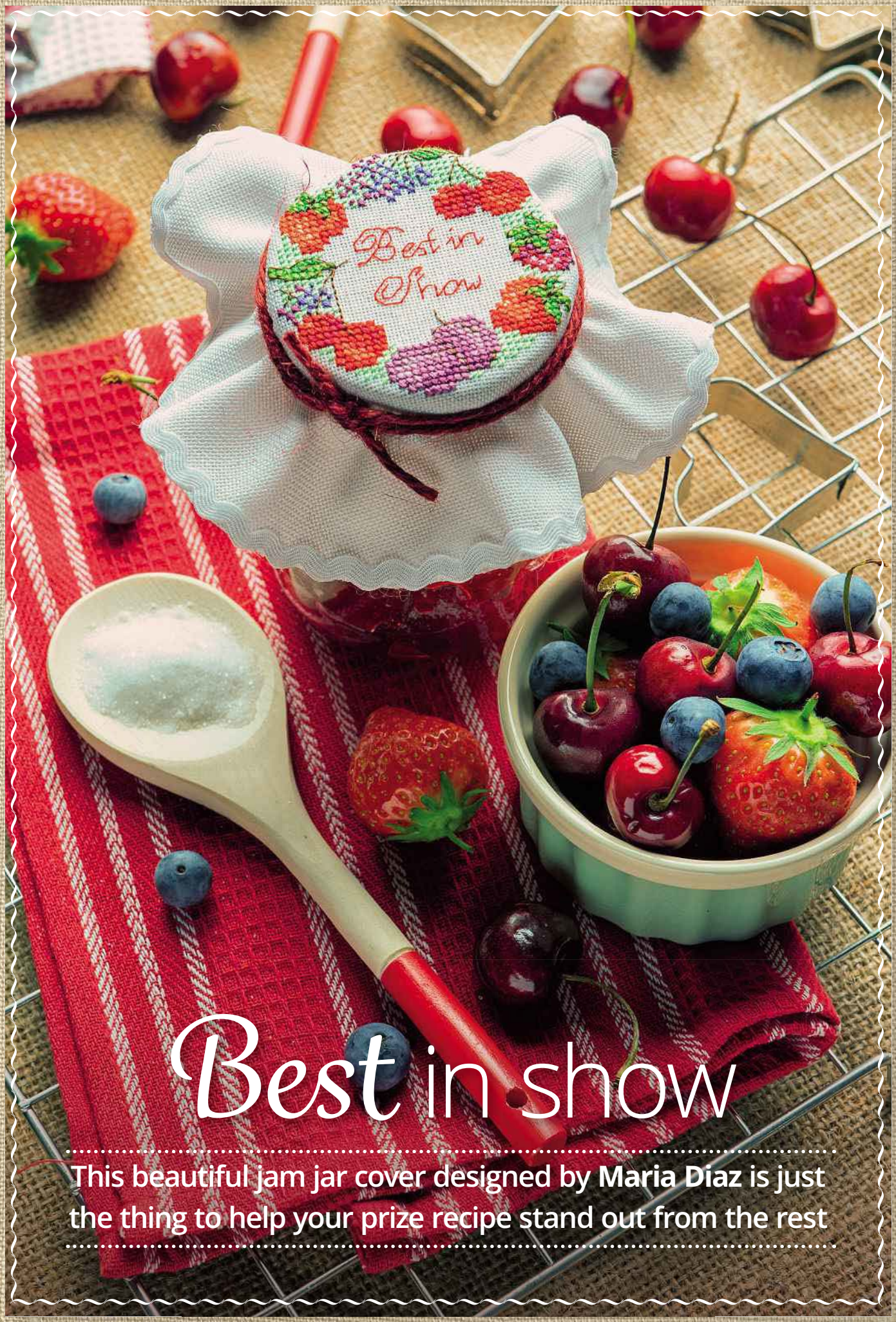
If you are not a jam maker, you can still use this cover on a jar of bought jam as a hostess gift – just change the message to say Thank You.



Best in show

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	Colour
Cross stitch in two strands				
F F	333	110	903	dk blue violet
Z Z	350	011	213	med coral
I I	352	009	303	lt coral
■ ■	498	1005	511	dk xmas red
O O	702	239	1306	kelly green
+ +	704	256	1308	bright lime
U U	817	013	211	dk coral
S S	3021	905	1904	dk brown grey
▲ ▲	3834	100	805	dk grape
N N	3835	098	712	grape
X X	3836	090	711	lt grape
Half cross stitch in two strands				
4 4	164	240	1209	lt forest green
Backstitch in one strand				
—	817 words	013	211	dk coral
—	3031 outlines	360	2003	dk mocha
French knots in one strand				
● ●	333 grapes	110	903	dk blue violet
● ●	3834 grapes	100	805	dk grape

Stitched using DMC threads on 28 count evenweave over two threads of fabric.
Stitch count: 40hx40w
Design size: 7x7cm (2¾x2¾in)
Stitch time: 10hrs



Best in show

This beautiful jam jar cover designed by **Maria Diaz** is just the thing to help your prize recipe stand out from the rest



Summer blooms

Capture the bounty of an English country garden with our beautiful picture designed by **Amanda Butler**

We think this gorgeous trio of Kilner jars overflowing with flowers perfectly captures that moment in summer when the garden is in full bloom and it seems like there aren't enough vases inside to hold all the pretty cuttings!

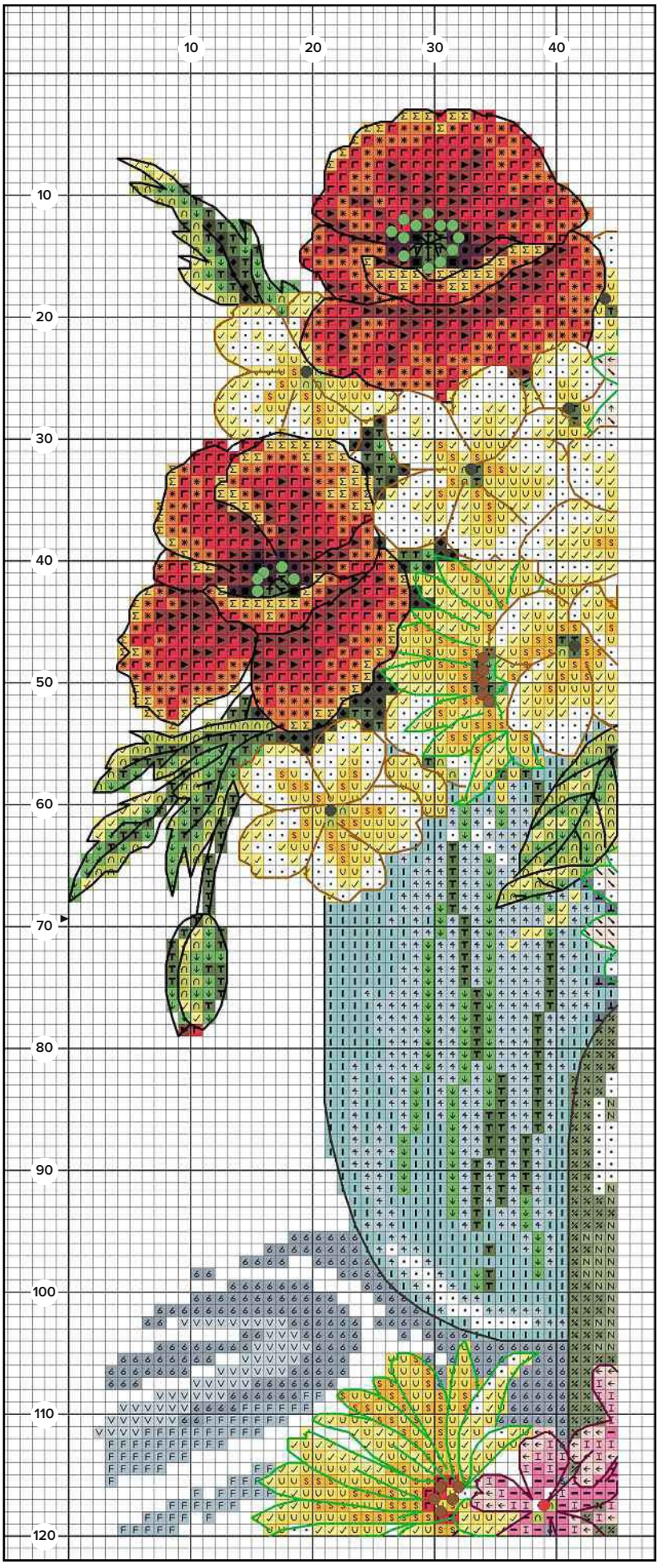
Our clever design by Amanda Butler uses half cross stitches for the shadows around the base of the jars. You can turn to our guide on page 60 to master this breezy stitch. There's also backstitch and French knots to finish off the flowers, so there's something for everyone in our design.

This casual style of flower arrangement is very popular with today's brides, so you may find yourself inspired to stitch this picture as a gift to remember a happy summer wedding day.

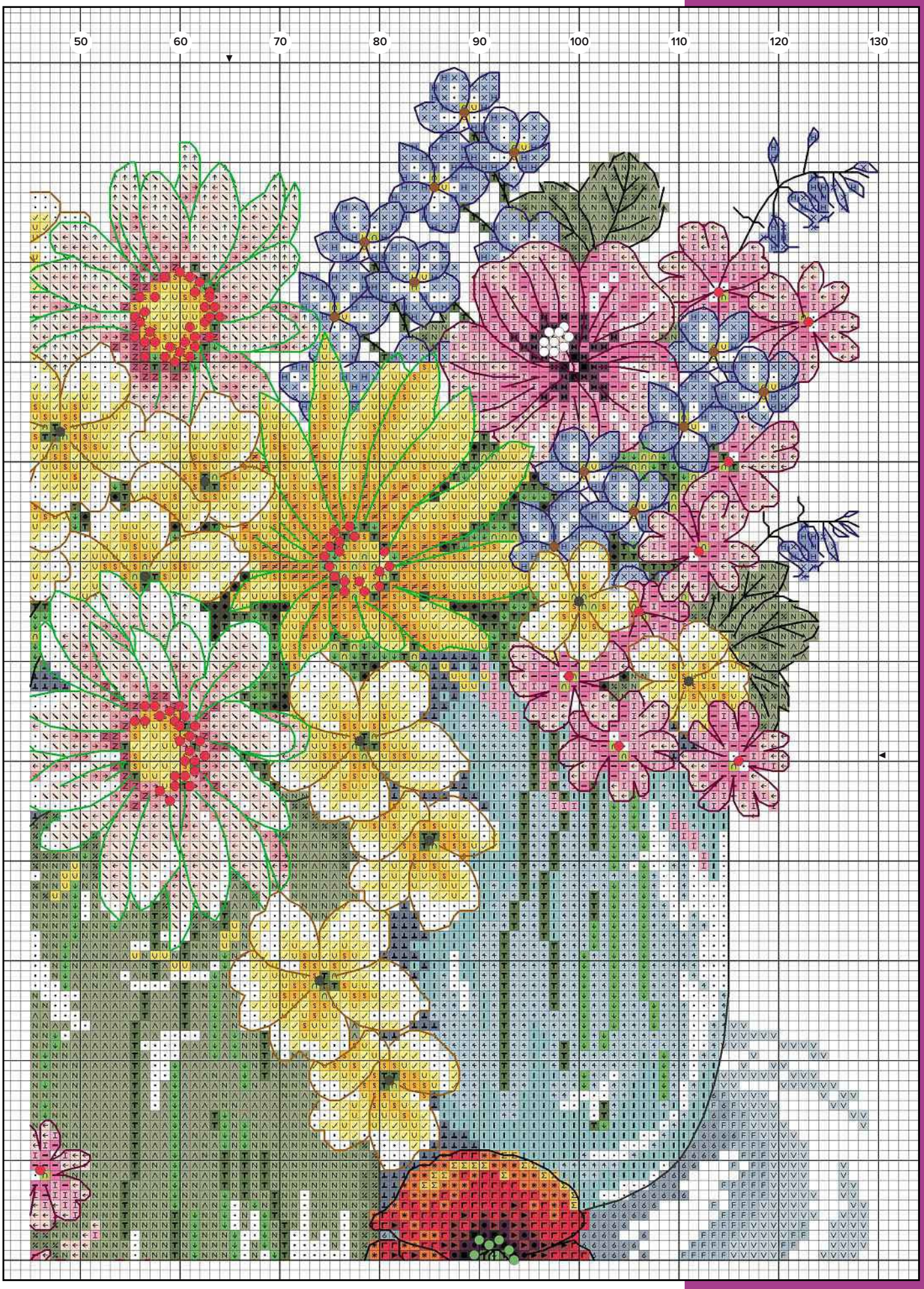


There's something for everyone
in our lovely flower design

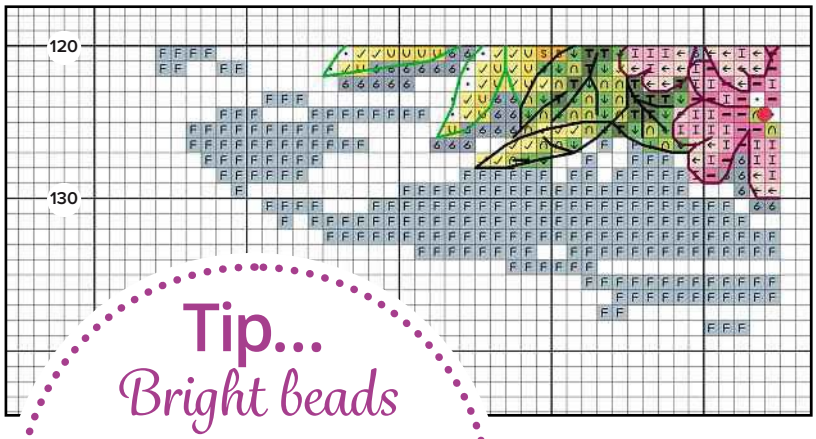




"Turn to page 60 to learn how to work perfect half cross stitches around the base"


50
60
70
80
90
100
110
120
130

Make it yours



You will need...

Zweigart 32 count Belfast linen grey, ref: 3609/786, 51x46cm (20x18in)
Stranded cotton as listed in the key
Size 26 tapestry needle
Frame with a 28.5x27cm (11¼x10½in) aperture
For stockist details see page 58

Stitching **the design**

FOLD the fabric both ways to find the centre and start stitching here. Use two strands of stranded cotton to cross stitch the flower vase, and two strands for the half cross stitch shadows under the vases.

Adding **the detail**

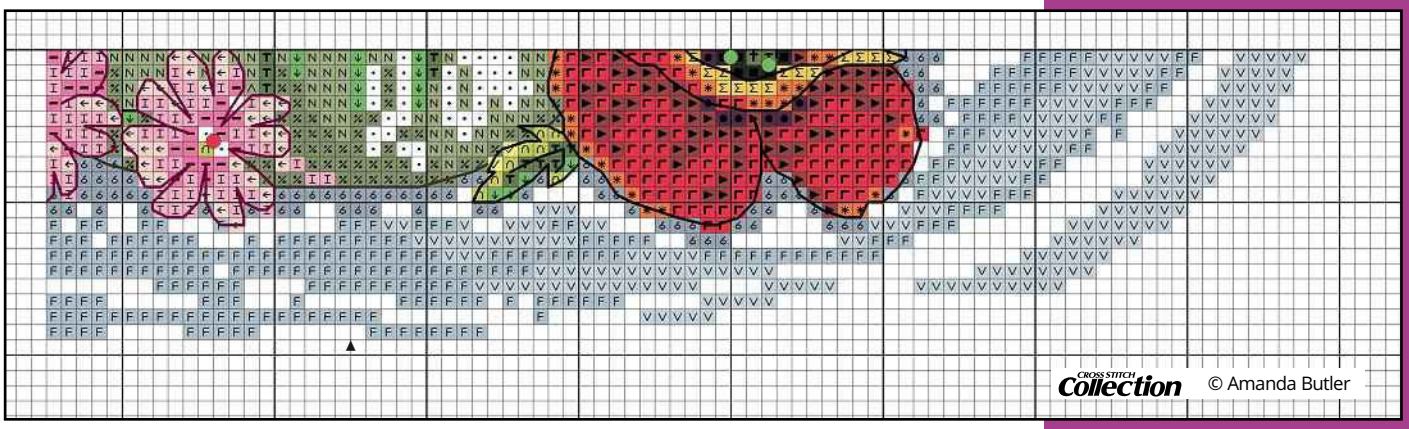
COMPLETE all the cross stitch in two strands, before adding the backstitch in one strand, and the French knots in one strand of stranded cotton.

Tip...
Bright beads

To add extra dimension to your completed picture, replace the French knots with seed beads

Our stitcher says... This design is full of bright colours and engaging stitching details – I loved it!





Summer blooms

Stitch a single poppy head to make a vibrant greetings card

Cross stitch in two strands

DMC	Anchor	Madeira	Colour
154	873	601	dk wine
310	403	black	black
355	1014	401	dk terracotta
523	859	1512	fern green
598	1062	1111	lt turquoise
605	074	613	v lt cranberry
606	335	209	orange red
703	238	1307	lime green
721	324	308	m spice orange
726	305	109	lt topaz
727	293	102	v lt topaz
741	304	201	med tangerine
743	030	2294	yellow
799	136	910	med delft
818	073	502	baby pink
819	271	501	lt baby pink
931	921	1711	antique blue
934	862	1506	black avacado
972	298	107	dk canary
3052	262	1509	m grey green
3053	858	1510	grey green
3354	074	606	lt dusty rose
3346	267	1407	hunter green
3731	076	506	dk dusty rose
3806	062	701	lt cyclamen pink
3819	278	2703	lt moss green
3834	100	805	dk grape
3840	117	907	lt lav blue
3841	159	1001	pale baby blue
3865	002	2402	winter white
b5200	001	white	bright white

Half cross stitch in two strands

DMC	Anchor	Madeira	Colour
932	920	1710	dk blue
3752	1033	1001	lt blue
3753	1032	1710	lt antique blue

Backstitch in one strand

DMC	Anchor	Madeira	Colour	
310	403	black	black	poppies
400	351	2305	ginger	large daisies
535	1041	1809	ash grey	jars
782	308	2212	burnt orange	poached egg plant
915	1029	705	dk plum	small pink flowers, mallow
930	1035	1712	antique blue	blue flowers

French knots in one strand

DMC	Anchor	Madeira	Colour	
400	351	2305	ginger	stamens
666	046	210	bright red	stamens
703	238	1307	lime green	stamens
934	862	1506	black avacado	stamens
b5200	001	white	bright white	stamens

Stitched using DMC threads on 32 count evenweave over two threads of fabric
Stitch count: 140hx140w
Design size: 21.5x21.5cm (8½x8½in)
Stitch time: 88hrs



Rachel started creating art with textiles at school

Painting in thread

Embroidered textile artist **Rachel Wright** chatted to Judy Darley about about how she depicts the seascapes she loves using stitches

When we discovered the embroidered fine art of Rachel Wright, we couldn't resist finding out more. Swirls of colour spill across her pictures, conjuring up coastlines, lighthouses, oceans and more.

She tells us that she discovered her love of embroidery while she was at Birmingham City University, studying for a degree in fashion and textiles. The passion for textiles came far earlier, however, when she was still at school.

"I grew up surrounded by my father's paintings, etchings and engravings, and knew I wanted to do something with my own artistic abilities," she says. "By the time I was in sixth form I was already looking for a university course in textile design and my Grandma had bought me my first sewing machine – it's 30 years old now and still the one I use everyday!"

While at university, Rachel "learnt what a sewing machine is capable of and how to control one and make it work for me. I was at university at a time when being able to draw really wasn't considered an asset, so most of the work I did there is nothing like the work I do now. The fabrics lend themselves to the fluid restless motion that I try to portray in my skies and seas, and it's in these things that I think people can recognise a kind of signature style to my work."

It was, she says, several years after graduating that she began to really make use of the skills she had picked





Rachel uses machine embroidery for her pieces, mainly using straight stitches, rayon threads, and a darning foot

up in machine embroidery. "My first love is hand stitching but it was taking me far too long to complete each piece and once out in the real world I needed to start earning some money from my work."



© Rachel Wright

Developing her beautiful stitched landscapes came about gradually. "My very early work was often quite abstract but I think that period of time was when I learnt a lot about using colour and composition, all of which stood me in good stead for the landscape pieces which came later. My dad painted a lot of landscapes so maybe it was in my genes!"

Rachel has always regarded her work as being like that of a fine artist, "using fabrics, with all their wonderful colours, textures and patterns, as my palette and using threads as my paintbrush to add in the details."

One of the joys of turning her talent for embroidery into a career has been the flexibility this has allowed. "In some ways I have been very fortunate because I have been able to fit my embroidery around my home life," she says. "When my children were young I could work around their schedule but it meant I was always here for them when they came home from school and that is something I have appreciated. Now that the family is much less dependent on me, I have more time to devote to my work and this has enabled me to take on more commission work and supply a couple of galleries."

"I use fabrics as my palette and threads as my paintbrush"

Rachel works on her embroidery in a small box room in her home. "I don't take up much space," she says. "I have my trusty old Bernina and lots of baskets of fabric around me. I like to think I can always lay my hand on the exact piece I need."

She loves to surround herself with inspiration prompts and photos. ➤

"I have a corkboard on the wall with images, photographs and possible future projects pinned on it," she says. "I have a real soft spot for old vintage haberdashery treasures like pearl buttons on beautifully printed cards, old reels of threads in glass jars, tiny packets of sharps needles, belt buckles, thimbles, scissors and pins. I keep them in miniature chest of drawers, or display them on old painted shelves on the wall next to little bottles and tiny china teacups. They have little to do with what I make but they are beautiful things, which have their own history and secret story."

We adore Rachel's coastal works – they seem to be full of movement and moods, just as the sea itself is.

"I love the sea – I always have!" she says. "I live in Buckinghamshire as far away from the sea as it's possible to be for someone in England so I love to spend holidays on the coast and my favourite subject matter is sea and sky. I love boats and lighthouses too. They have all featured heavily in my work. I think the things you love and have a passion for inevitably inspire you."

Her expressive skies are equally entrancing. "When I was younger I used to love to doodle and I think I've always loved pattern," she says. "I would doodle fluid lines and shapes dancing across the paper. I don't really remember the first time I created a sky and quite how it happened but I think it was about conveying that constant energy."

Colour is also a vital ingredient to her work, she says. "That's why fabrics are such a wonderful paintbox. They are a ready-made treasure trove of every kind of colour and in many different forms – shiny or matt, opaque or semi-transparent, textured, pattered or plain!"

Rachel opts to use rayon threads made from viscose filaments in her needle "because of their soft silky sheen which makes them easy to work with on the machine and they catch the light beautifully. I use them to sew down the pieced and cut fabrics which I'm using from my 'palette', and to add in detail where it would be too fiddly to do in fabric. The threads for me are the brush strokes on my fabric 'painting.'"

> "Fabrics are a ready-made treasure trove of colour"

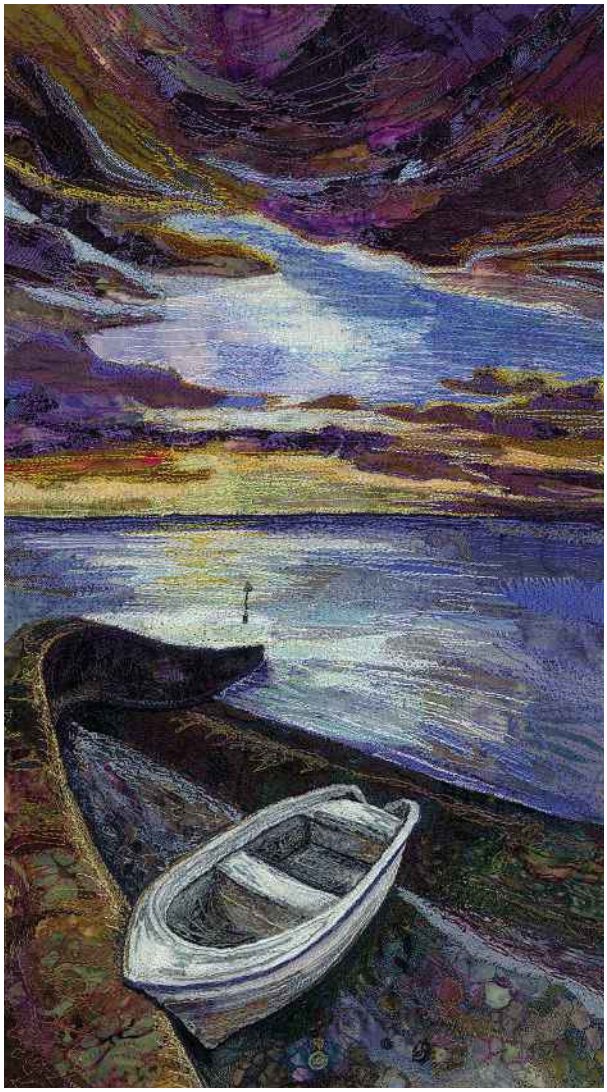
Stitches are kept simple. "I mostly just use straight running stitch with the occasional bit of zigzag to spice things up. I sew onto a calico base, with no stabiliser and no hoop, using free motion and a darning foot on the machine," she smiles. "The technique is very simple but it allows the fabrics to tell the story."



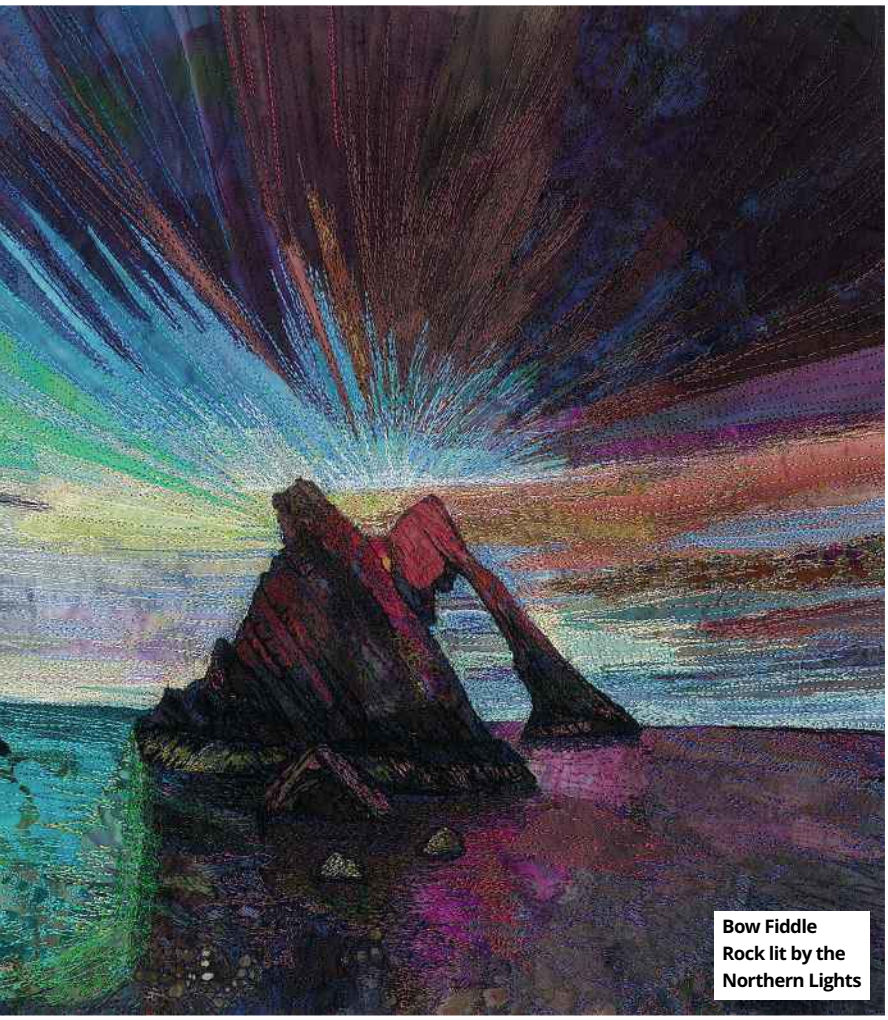
Rachel's biggest challenge, she says, is always the struggle to start something new. "I call it 'blank canvas syndrome'! Sometimes even the housework can suddenly seem like an attractive proposition when I should be starting a new piece. I really don't like the beginning but inevitably, once I dive in and get going, it's usually only a matter of an hour or so before I'm hooked."

Rachel often works from photos from her travels to the sea, which are "usually taken by my husband or eldest son. I learnt very quickly that I'm not at all gifted when it comes to photography. So I point out things I like the look of on walks or family holidays and someone duly points a camera at it for me. Later, when I start to plan a piece, I will sketch

Below: Ready for Adventure, one of Rachel's pieces made in fabric and thread

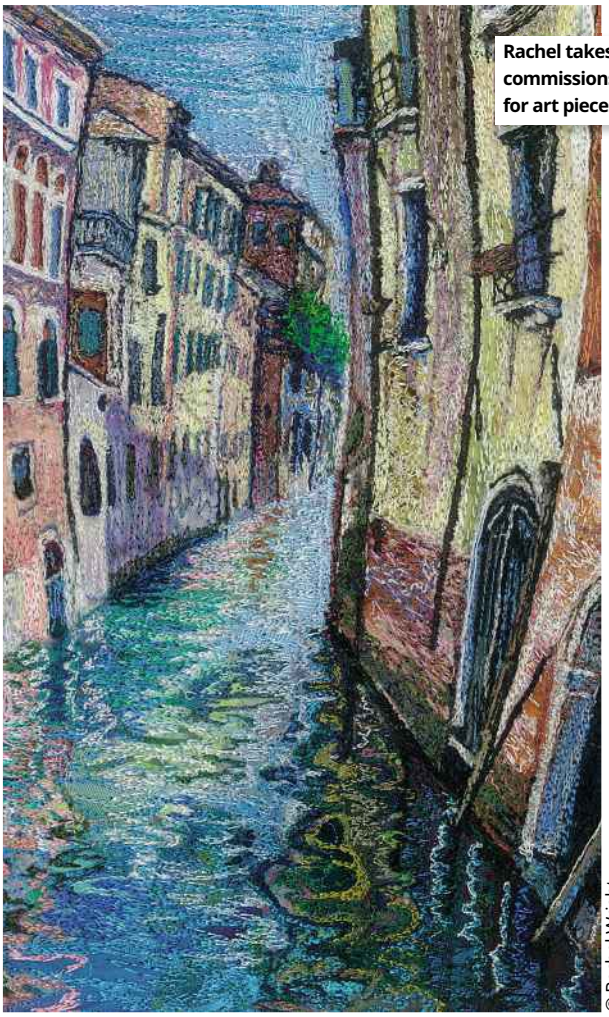


© Rachel Wright



Bow Fiddle Rock lit by the Northern Lights

© Rachel Wright



Rachel takes commissions for art pieces

© Rachel Wright

"Spend twice as long looking as doing… When you know your subject really well, that's when you can best recreate it for someone else"

directly onto the calico before starting to work in the fabrics."

When it comes to guidance to other stitchers considering venturing into the genre of fine art embroidery, Rachel has a golden tip. "I would offer the same advice as my dad gave to me – to spend twice as long looking as doing! Really look, see it all, take it all in because when you know your subject really well, that's when you can best recreate it for someone else."

You can find a gallery featuring more of Rachel Wright's beautiful embroidered artwork, as well as contact details, a blog and details of her upcoming exhibitions and shows at www.rachelwright.com.



Left: The Deep by Rachel Wright

© Rachel Wright



Hoppy birthday!

Stitch our bunny friends designed by **Jenny Barton** to send in the post as a sweet gift for a child's birthday

Our happy rabbit design combines adorable fluffy bunnies with a sweet pastel palette for a card that's perfect to send someone adorably sweet! We love that the design uses the light blue aida as the sky to make this a nice quick stitch.

You will need...

Zweigart 14 count aida light blue, ref: 3706/0503, 23x23cm (9x9in)
Stranded cotton as listed in the key
Size 24 tapestry needle
Frame with a 11.5x11.5cm (4½x4½in) aperture
For stockist details see page 58

Stitching **the design**

FOLD The fabric both ways to find the centre and start stitching here. Use two strands of stranded cotton for the cross stitch, and one strand for the backstitch. Follow the chart placement exactly to get the sketchy look on the rabbits' fluff right. Most of the backstitch is in dark brown stranded cotton and the rabbits' whiskers are in light steel grey.

Hoppy birthday!

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	Colour
Cross stitch in two strands				
▲ ▲	156	118	902	cornflower blue
⧖ ⧖	415	398	1803	pearl grey
◆ ◆	436	1045	2011	lt brown
△ △	437	362	2012	lt tan
I I	712	926	2101	cream
+ +	739	366	2014	v lt tan
∩ ∩	762	234	1804	v lt pearl grey
× ×	772	259	1604	lt yellow green
○ ○	973	290	105	lt canary
◗ ◗	3348	264	1409	yellow green
■ ■	3371	382	2004	dark brown
· ·	blanc	002	white	white
Backstitch in one strand				
—	318	399	1802	lt steel grey
	whiskers			
—	3371	382	2004	dark brown
	outlines			

Stitched using DMC threads on 14 count aida fabric
Stitch count: 52hx60w
Design size: 9.5x11cm (3¾x4¼in)
Stitch time: 10hrs

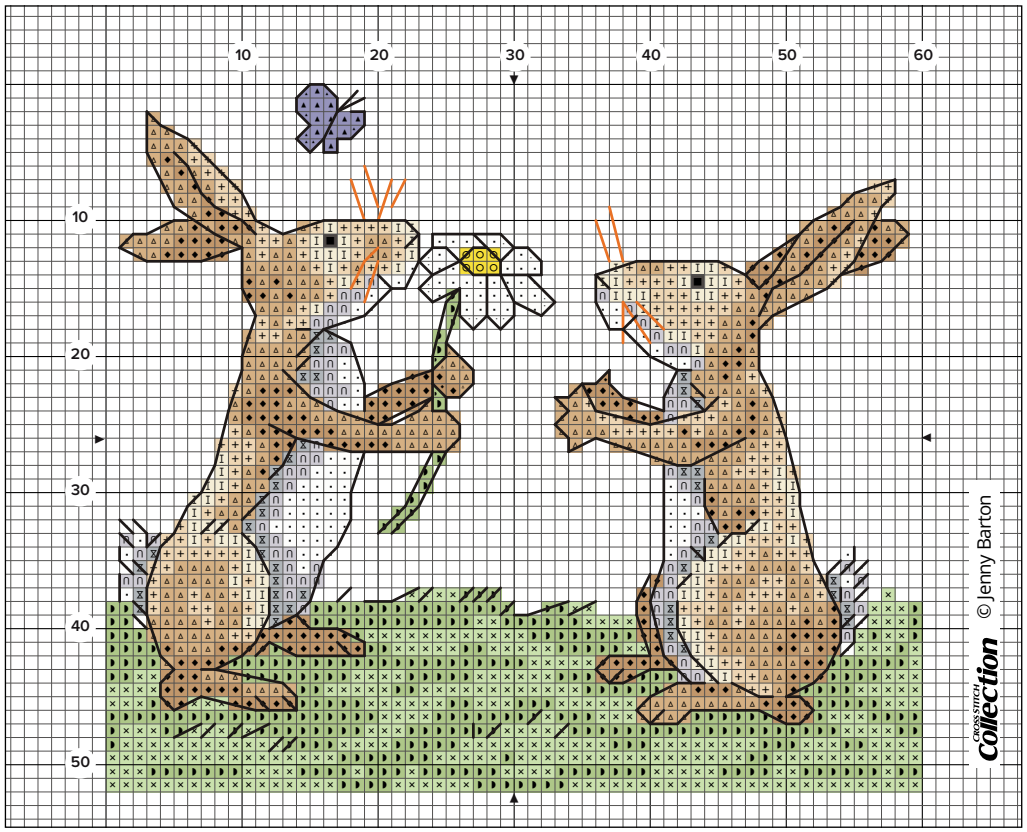


Stitch the rabbits on brown perforated paper stuck to a card using foam pads

Tip... **Wrap it up**

You could stitch this design on evenweave and sew it into a small gift bag to make a present even more special. You could also stitch it on aida and then attach it to a ready-made bag as a finishing touch.





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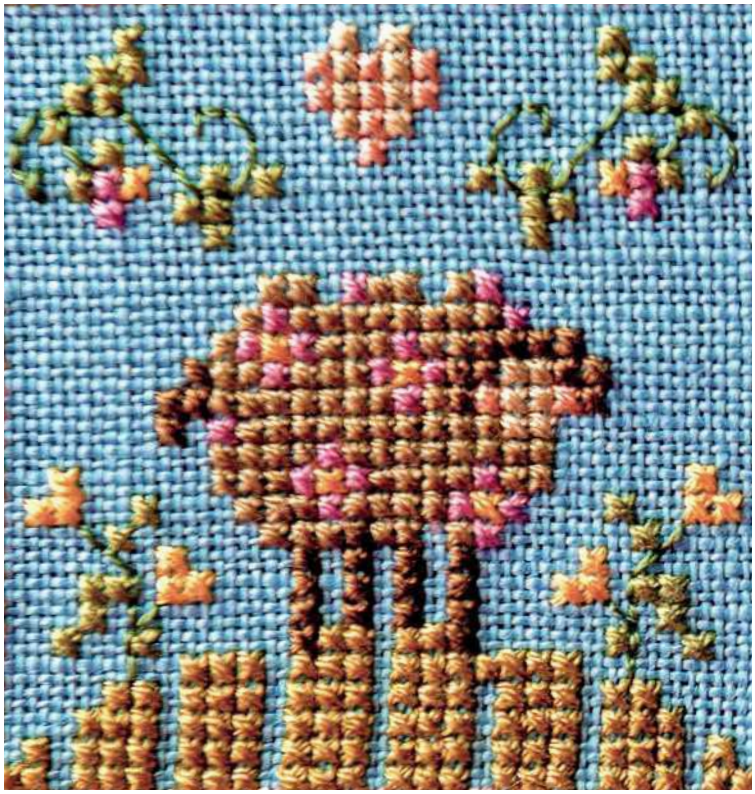
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Be yourself

Spread a little joy with our inspirational sheep trio designed by **Gail Bussi**



These three pretty sheep with colourful coats are sure to lift your spirits as you stitch our jolly motto. Send them in the post to someone who needs a confidence boost or hang them in your home as a reminder to embrace all the things that make you unique.

This sweet stitch is full of fun details like rambling flowers, dawdling butterflies and simple border stitches that would make lovely embellishments for other projects.

As this design is all about embracing individuality, you should feel free to swap the stranded cotton colours to your favourite shades or change the fabric to a different colour of Belfast linen. Either way, we'd love to see your completed projects!



These pretty sheep with colourful coats will lift your spirits



Stitch our design as a gift for someone special

Make it yours

You will need...

Zweigart 32 count Belfast duck egg, ref: 3609/5053, 28x35.5cm (11x14in)
Stranded cotton as listed in the key
Size 26 tapestry needle
Frame with a 16.5x21.5cm (6½x8½in) aperture
For stockist details see page 58

Stitching **the design**

FOLD the fabric both ways to find the centre and start stitching here. Use two strands of stranded cotton for the cross stitch.

Adding **the detail**

USE backstitch to add the bee trails and flower detail in one strand of stranded cotton.

"This sweet stitch is full of fun details that can be used in other projects"

Be yourself

Cross stitch in two strands

DMC	Anchor	Madeira	Colour
223	895	812	shell pink
224	893	813	lt shell pink
225	1020	814	v lt shell pink
523	859	1512	fern green
642	392	1906	dk beige grey
644	830	1907	dk beige grey
676	891	2208	med yellow
3012	844	1606	m khaki green
3363	261	1602	m pine green
3364	260	1603	pine green
3779	868	2605	lt terracotta
3790	404	1905	dk sepia
3836	090	711	lt grape

Backstitch in one strand

3363	261	1602	m pine green	foliage
3790	404	1905	dk sepia	butterfly trails

Stitched using DMC threads on 32 count evenweave over two threads of fabric
Stitch count: 55hx107w
Design size: 9x17cm (3½x6¾in)
Stitch time: 9hrs



Collection makes...

GREETINGS CARD

Any of the sheep would make a lovely greetings card. We particurly like the sheep with the heart in his coat.

HAPPY HANKIE

Decorate a set of napkins using the floral corner designs from the picture.

COIN KEEPER

Make a small change purse out of linen with a sheep stitched on each side.



Sugar mice

Store ribbon or twine in our cute but clever eyelet storage bag designed by **Diane Machin**

These three sweet mice have a secret super power to help you wrap gifts – the yellow mouse's tail is actually a ball of twine! An eyelet stitched around his tail keeps your twine neat and tidy inside the bag so you can just pull on the end whenever you need a piece of string. It's up to you whether to put a different colour of twine or skinny ribbon through each tail, or to make short string tails for two like we have here.



Make it yours

You will need...

Zweigart 28 count Brittney white, ref: 3706/100, 22.5x30.5cm (9x12in)
Stranded cotton as listed in the key
Size 26 tapestry needle
Ribbon for top of bag 5mm (¼in) x 25.5cm (10in)
For stockist details see page 58

Stitching **the design**

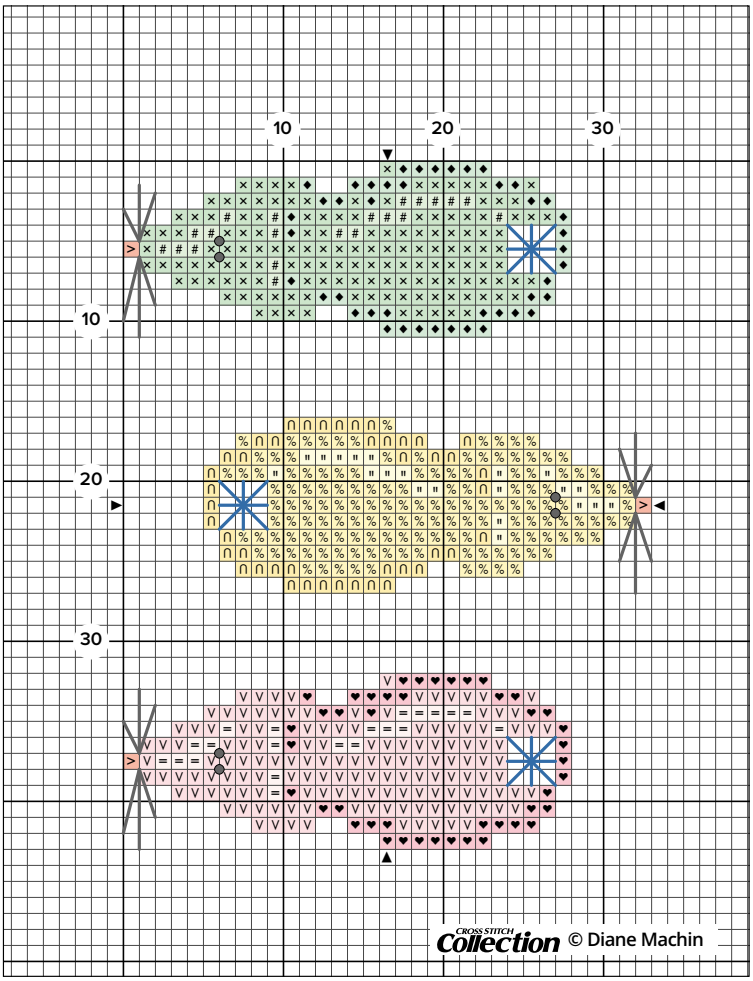
FOLD the fabric both ways to find the centre and start stitching here. Use two strands of stranded cotton for the cross stitch, one for the backstitch and French knots.

Adding **the detail**

WORK the eyelets in the position shown on the chart, in two strands of stranded cotton, and in a colour that tones with each mouse body. Use the illustration on page 51 for guidance, and make sure you pull up the eyelet as you work, to form a hole large enough for string to thread through.

Make **your bag**

1 TURN over the top of your fabric twice, and machine stitch along the seam - this will form a channel at the top of your bag, so make sure it is large enough for the ribbon to pass through. Bring the two short ends together, right-sides facing, to form a tube, then sew the seam. Flatten the tube, so that the seam is at the centre back, and then sew along the bottom seam to make a bag.





2 AT the top of the bag, either side of the centre back seam and working on the wrong side, make an eyelet working through the layers, right into the centre of the channel.

3 THREAD a length of ribbon through the channel at the top of the bag with a large needle. Leave enough ribbon to knot the ends together. You can now pull up the ribbon to close the bag.

4 PLACE your ball of string inside the bag, threading the string end through one of the eyelet holes in a mouse body. If you only want to use one of the mice, make false tails for the other two by cutting lengths of string, and then threading them through the eyelets. Tie knots in the string ends inside and outside the bag.

Stitch our mice on aida and add ribbon tails for a fun third birthday card



Make your eyelet

The eyelets are worked in two strands of stranded cotton over the number of threads shown on the chart. Make each stitch into the centre, pulling up the thread to create a small star with a hole in the middle. Eyelets are also known as star stitch or Algerian eye stitch.

Sugar mice

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	Colour
Cross stitch in two strands				
♥ ♥	603	052	701	cranberry
V V	604	055	614	lt cranberry
∩ ∩	725	306	808	m lt topaz
% %	726	305	109	lt topaz
> >	892	028	412	m carnation
◆ ◆	913	204	1212	lt green
× ×	954	202	1211	nile green
# #	955	206	1210	lt nile green
= =	963	023	608	v lt dusty rose
" "	3078	292	102	lt golden yellow
Backstitch in one strand				
—	413	401	1713	dark pewter grey
	whiskers			
French knots in one strand				
● ●	413	401	1713	dark pewter grey
	eyes			
Eyelets				
—	413	401	1713	dark pewter grey
	string holes			

Stitched using DMC threads on 28 count evenweave over two threads of fabric
Stitch count: 43hx33w
Design size: 7.5x5.5cm (3x2¼in)
Stitch time: 3hrs



Stitch a small section of one of these designs to make opulent Art Deco gift tags

Pretty bright

Mark your place in style with with our Art Deco bookmarks designed by **Anniina Wallius**



Our four stunning bookmarks feature the rich colours, bold geometric patterns and lavish natural motifs that are the hallmarks of the Art Deco style. They're an eye-catching way to save your place, whether you're reading a weighty classic or a gripping page-turner! Each design uses less than six colours, which means these are excellent projects to pop in your suitcase this summer.

Our bookmarks use bold motifs and rich colour





Collection makes...

FINISHING TOUCH
Work your favourite design onto a hand towel with an aida panel to complement an Art Deco style bathroom.

FRAMED PICTURE
Stitch all four designs horizontally on top of each other for a bold picture to frame.

READING GIFT Stitch a bookmark as a present for each member of your book group.

Make a mark

You will need...

Zweigart 18 count aida ivory, ref: 3793/264, 25.5x7.5cm (10x3in)
Stranded cotton as listed in the key
Size 24 tapestry needle
Iron-on backing fabric 17.5x4cm (7x1½in)
Fray check
For stockist details see page 58

Stitching **the design**

BEFORE you start stitching make sure you have 3cm (1in) below your pattern on your fabric for the fringe. Fold the fabric both ways to find the centre and start stitching here. Use two strands of stranded cotton for the cross stitch.

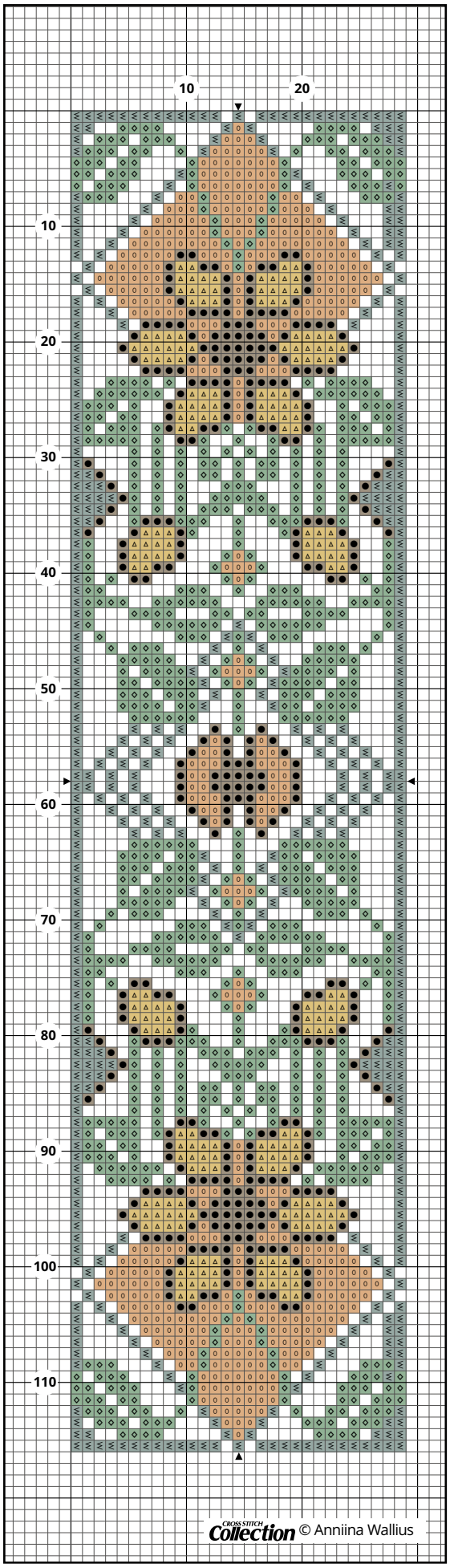
Make **a bookmark**

1 ONCE the stitching is completed, cut very close to the design, taking care not to cut the stitches. You may need to put fray check on the edges of the fabric to stop them fraying.

2 IRON the backing fabric onto the back of the bookmark, without covering the fringe area at the bottom.

3 TO make the fringe, use a needle to tease out and then remove the horizontal fabric threads at the bottom of the bookmark.

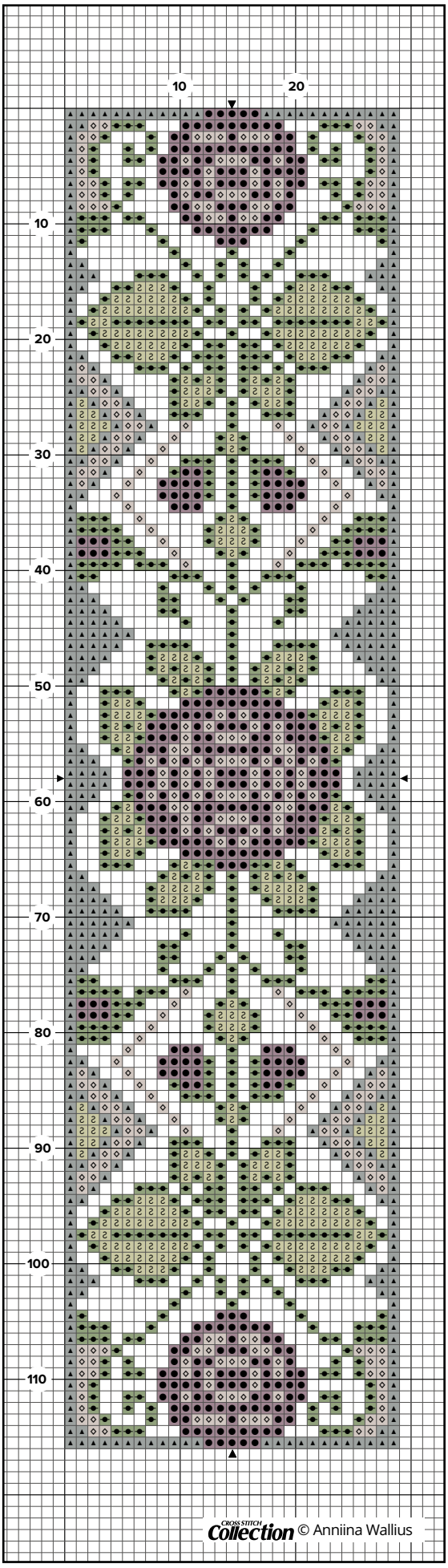
4 ADD more fray check to the edges of the fabric to stop them fraying, if needed.



Orange bookmark

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	Colour
Cross stitch in two strands				
◇ ◇	367	217	1312	dk green
△ △	783	306	2211	med topaz
● ●	839	1086	1913	dk beige brown
≲ ≲	3768	779	1712	dk grey green
0 0	3776	1048	310	lt mahogany

Stitched using DMC threads on 18 count aida fabric
Stitch count: 116hx29w
Design size: 17.5x4cm (7x1½in)
Design time: 8hrs





Purple bookmark

Cross stitch in two strands

DMC	Anchor	Madeira	Colour
317	400	1714	pewter grey
472	253	1414	avacado green
452	232	1807	shell grey
937	268	1504	m avacado
3834	100	805	dk grape

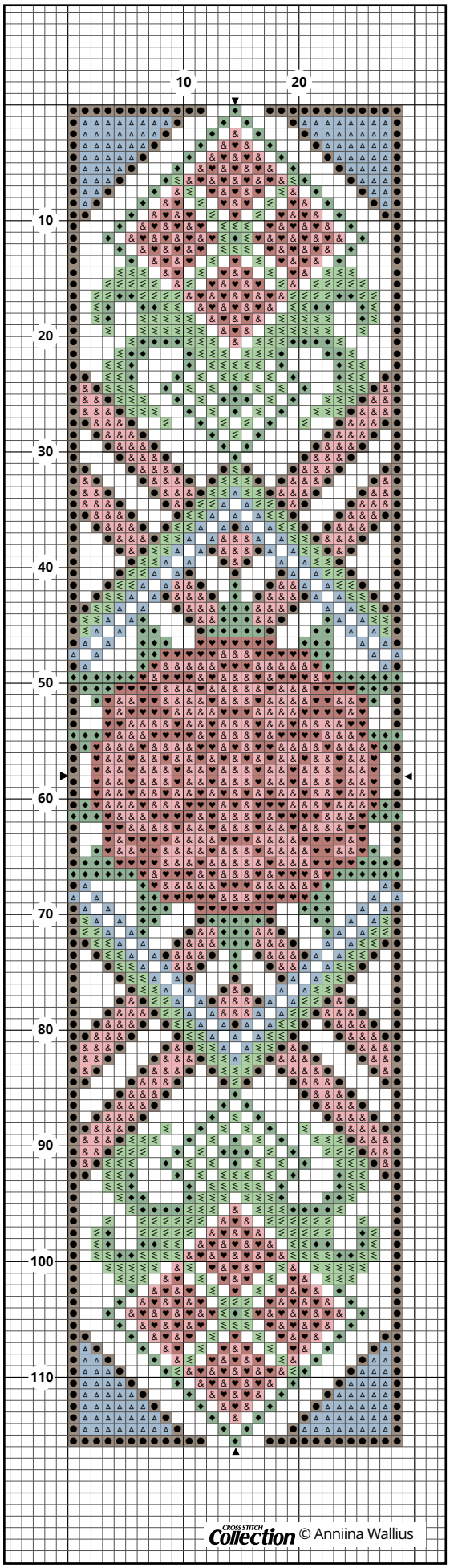
Stitched using DMC threads on 18 count aida fabric
Stitch count: 116hx29w
Design size: 17.5x4cm (7x1½in)
Design time: 8hrs

Give your favourite novel and a home-made bookmark for a special gift



Tip... **Wrap your wrist**

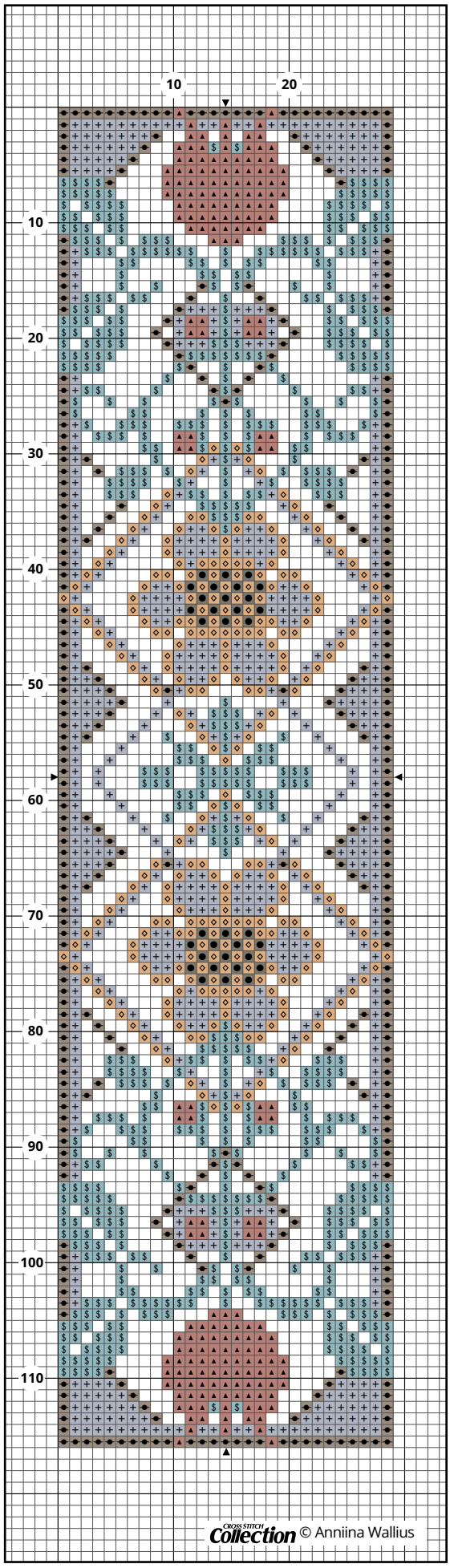
The bookmark designs could easily be adapted into a lovely boho style bracelet, by adding a button to close.



Pink bookmark

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	Colour
Cross stitch in two strands				
△ △	334	977	1003	baby blue
◆ ◆	367	217	1312	dk green
❤ ❤	498	1005	511	dk xmas red
● ●	779	379	1914	cocoa
& &	962	075	609	med dusty rose
≤ ≤	989	241	1401	forest green

Stitched using DMC threads on 18 count aida fabric
Stitch count: 116hx29w
Design size: 17.5x4cm (7x1½in)
Design time: 8hrs





Turquoise bookmark

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	Colour
Cross stitch in two strands				
+ +	160	175	907	med grey blue
● ●	779	379	1914	cocoa
▲ ▲	816	1005	512	garnet
● ●	3371	382	2004	dark brown
◇ ◇	3776	1048	310	lt mahogany
$ $	3810	168	1108	dk turquoise

Stitched using DMC threads on 18 count aida fabric
Stitch count: 116hx29w
Design size: 17.5x4cm (7x1½in)
Design time: 8hrs

Send one of our bookmarks to someone off to study literature at uni this year

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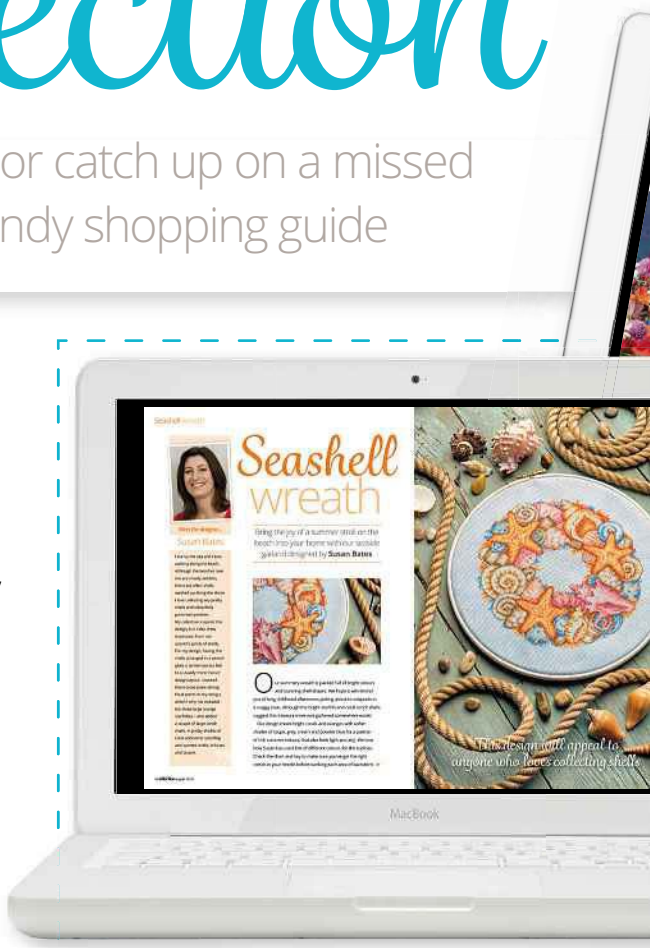
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Collection 261

- Stitch our wedding hands keepsake by Maria Diaz
- Exclusive giant chart fun fair carousel design
- Create the cutest mouse case for your scissors
- Make a glorious floral butterfly knitting bag
- Sail away with our pair of seascape pictures
- Stitch a forget-me-not alphabet sampler
- Cards for new homes, dog lovers and wine drinkers



Collection 262

- Celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday with a regal Corgi in a crown cushion
- Stitch a vintage tea cup sampler by Lesley Teare
- Make your dad a fun 3D father's day card
- Grow your own allotment wallhanging designed by Jenny Barton
- Stitch an Ascot lady with our giant fold-out chart
- Escape to the country with two beautiful rural scenes



Collection 263

- Celebrate a screen icon with our Marilyn Monroe portrait design
- Stitch a beach scene with our giant fold-out chart
- Make a bright floral cloth for your summer table
- Pick your favourite of our six summer pincushions
- Enjoy a pretty palomino horse portrait by Jayne Netley Mayhew



Collection 264

- Celebrate shoes with our giant modern sampler
- Stitch your own craft shop drawn by Peter Underhill
- Make a summer picnic set
- Send a pretty floral wreath with a birthday message
- Create Jane Greenoff's Watbo scissor keeper
- Give a beautiful wedding keepsake designed by Lesley Teare

CROSS STITCH Collection

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Stitch basics

Discover all you need to know to start cross stitching and lots of helpful hints to make you an expert. We will help you make those first stitches...

Getting started

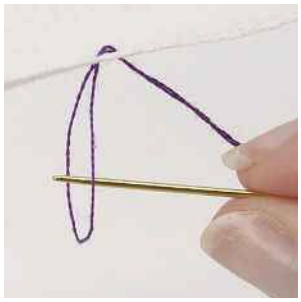
Select your needle

Fabric	Count	Needle
Aida	**11-14**	Tapestry 24
Aida	**16-20**	Tapestry 26
Hardanger	**22**	Tapestry 26
Evenweave	**22-32**	Tapestry 26
Evenweave	**36 and over**	Tapestry 28

TIP To attach beads, use a beading needle or a size 28 tapestry needle.

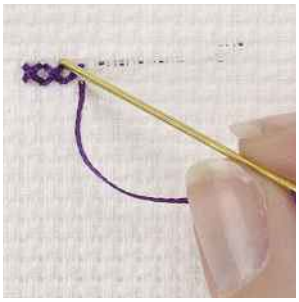


Try these three ways to get going, then choose the one that suits you best



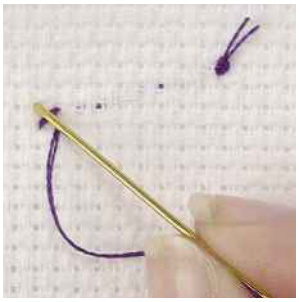
Loop start When stitching with two threads

Cut a single thread that's twice as long as you need, and thread both ends through your needle. Come up through the fabric and make a half stitch, then pass the needle through the loop that's formed at the back to secure it.



Loose end start
When stitching with any number of threads

Bring your needle up through the fabric, and be sure to leave a little piece of thread at the back. Hold this thread underneath the area to be stitched so that you will secure it with your first few cross stitches.



Waste knot start
When stitching with any number of threads

Knot the end of the thread and take the needle down through the fabric on the right side, a little away from your first stitch. As you stitch towards the knot, you will secure the thread at the back, then you can cut off the knot.

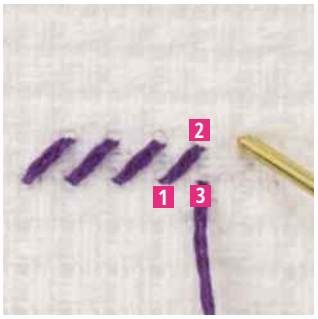
Cross stitch made easy

Learn the basic techniques and you're ready for the projects!



Cross stitch on aida

Aida has groups of threads woven together to form distinct blocks – perfect for beginners. Cross stitches are made over one block of fabric. A quick way to work a line of stitches is to use half cross stitches going one way, then double back on yourself.



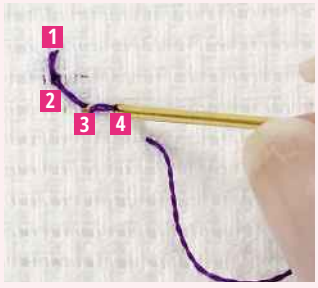
Half cross stitch

This is simply half of an ordinary cross stitch. Bring the needle up at 1, down at 2, up at 3 and so on. Half cross stitches are often used to create a paler area of stitching, for example for the sky or a background, which can give the impression of distance in a design.

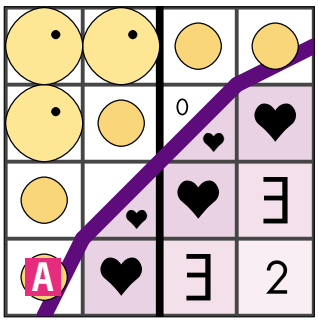


Cross stitch on evenweave

Evenweave and linen fabrics are woven in single threads. Usually you will stitch over two threads, as you can see in the example shown above. As a result of this, a design stitched on 28 count evenweave will be the same size as one stitched on 14 count aida.

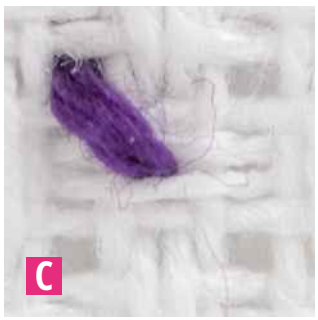


Backstitch, used for outlines or details, is shown as coloured lines on the chart and is done after the cross stitch. Bring the needle up at 1, down at 2, up at 3, down at 2, up at 4 and so on, working over one block of aida or two threads of evenweave. **Long stitch** is worked the same way, but over more than one block of aida or more than two threads of evenweave.



Fractional stitches
A small symbol in the corner of a square (A) indicates a three-quarter stitch (B). If two different symbols occupy the same square, make the less prominent colour a tiny quarter stitch (C) then work a three-quarter stitch in the other colour (D). The examples shown are on aida where the centre block has to be pierced to make the quarter stitch (you may want to use a sharper needle for this).







TIP Fractionals are easier to work on evenweave as there is no block to be pierced.

The final details

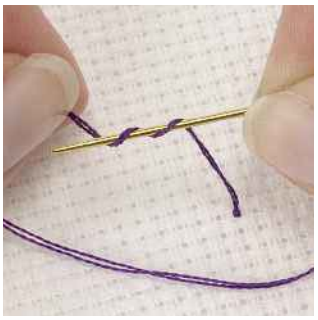
Many designs feature beads or French knots. These are easy to do, but practise on scrap fabric first



Beads
Attach each bead with a half cross stitch. Bring the needle up at one bottom corner of the square, thread the bead on to the needle and complete the stitch. Use a beading needle or a needle with a small eye, and sewing cotton that matches the fabric or stitching. Attach more firmly with a whole cross stitch.

French knots

1 Bring the needle up through the fabric. With thumb and forefinger, hold the thread a few inches away from where it came up. Keeping the thread taut, twist the needle twice around the thread.





2 Still holding the thread, push the needle down into the fabric close to where it came out, then pull the needle through gently to form a knot. Don't pull too hard.

TIP Vary the number of twists or strands to make larger or smaller French knots.

When finished...

Taking care of your stitching
Wash your work to refresh the fabric and threads – good quality threads won't run. Use warm water and rinse until the water runs clear. To iron, place your damp stitching on fluffy towels, with a clean white cloth over the top, and press with a warm iron until it is almost dry.

Reading charts and keys

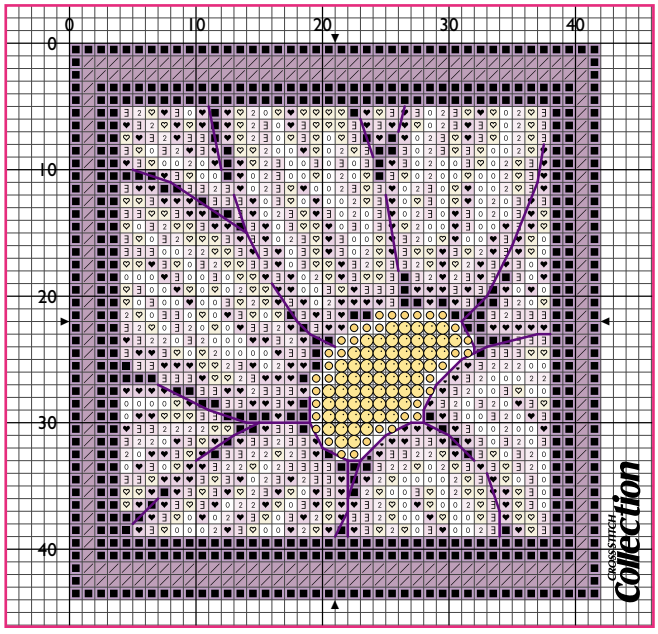
The charts are easy to follow when you know how

- Each chart symbol represents one stitch on the fabric.
- The key shows the thread colour that the symbols represent, for all stitches. Check how many strands of thread you need for each.
- The thread codes in the key are for DMC, Anchor and Madeira colours. We list the threads used to stitch our model first (therefore the design may look slightly different if stitched using another brand).
- The arrows on the chart point to the centre of the chart. On most designs, you start stitching here to ensure the design is central. To find the centre of your fabric, fold it in half both ways; the crease in the middle corresponds to the chart centre where you'll make your first stitch.

Daisy key

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	Colour
Cross stitch in two strands				
0 0	white	002	2402	white
∃ ∃	210	108	0802	light purple
■ ■	550	101	0714	dark purple
♥ ♥	553	098	0712	med purple
♡ ♡	3866	926	2001	off white
Half cross stitch in two strands				
◿ ◿	550	101	0714	dark purple
Cross stitch in one strand of each colour				
2 2	211	342	0801	lilac
	DMC Light Effects E5200			
Backstitch in one strand				
—	550	101	0714	dark purple
	all outlines and details			
French knots in two strands				
● ●	743	305	0113	yellow
	daisy centre details			
Mill Hill seed beads				
○ ○	02002			yellow creme
	daisy centre details			

Stitched using DMC threads on 14 count aida
Stitch count 44x42
Design area 8x8cm (3¼x3in)



Break *time!*

Relax and take a break with this month's prize crossword for a chance to win a cross stitch kit



Your **prize**

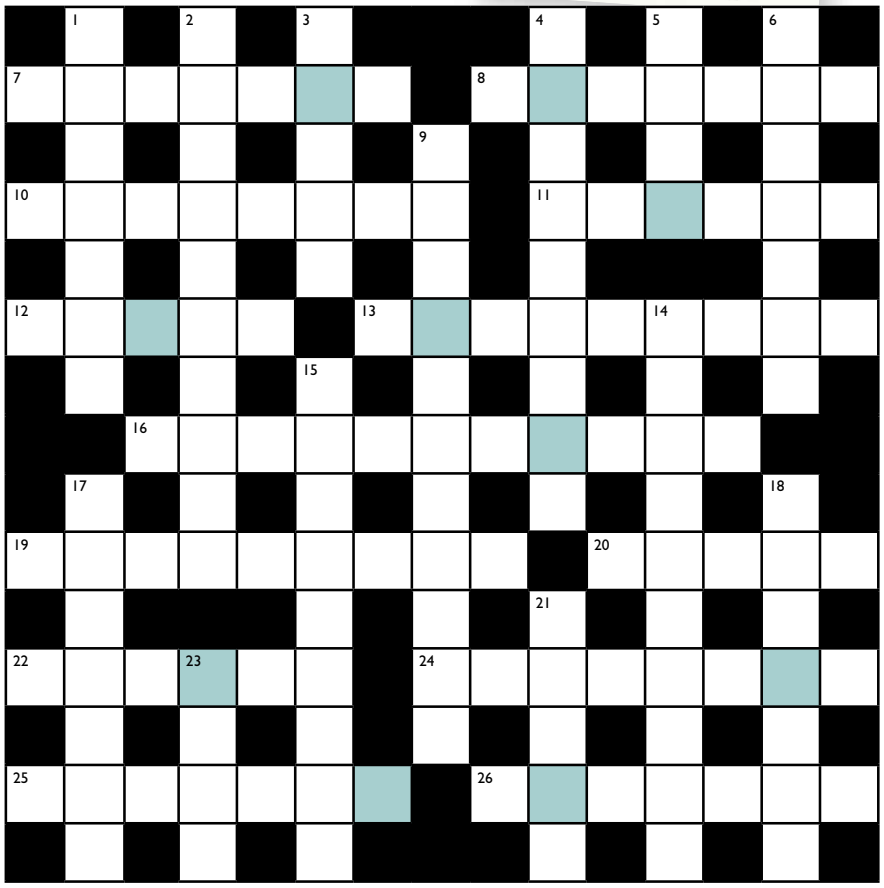
One lucky winner will receive this lovely cross stitch kit designed by Peter Underhill for the Heritage Stitchcraft Cat's Rule range. Crazy Cat Lady (£34.95p) is enjoying her breakfast in bed surrounded by her cats, some naughty, some good! The kit has a design area of 22x30cm, and comes with 27 count evenweave or 14 count aida, DMC stranded cotton, needle and instructions. More details from **www.hcrafts.com.**

Across

7 Large-billed, fish-eating bird (7)
8 Large wardrobe or cupboard (7)
10 Thin sheet covering of a cell (8)
11 See these in the project on page 16 (6)
12 Make this for a jam jar on page 30 (5)
13 Carrying device for injured people (9)
16 Re-evaluation (11)
19 Daily publication of topical information (9)
20 See these flowers on page 26 (5)
22 Stitch this circular object on page 16 (6)
24 Throwaways (8)
25 Making knotted lace (7)
26 Mythical being that lives under water (7)

Down

1 Enhance or produce (7)
2 Suppleness or flexibleness (10)
3 Waterway type found on page 64 (5)
4 French name for a simple restaurant (9)
5 Small mammal that lives underground (4)
6 Wheeled cart at a supermarket (7)
9 Stationeries with name and address printed on (11)
14 Heraldic image for a person or family (4,2,4)
15 Vigorously agitating liquid surface (9)
17 Go backwards (7)
18 Threadlike plant offshoot (7)
21 Male attendant to a bridegroom (5)
23 US name for a car (4)



Prize crossword 264

Across: 1 occasional; 6 aged; 10 history; 11 diagram; 12 ruin; 13 fewer; 14 yawn; 17 snore; 18 bridge; 20oldest; 22 ideal; 27 lock; 28 party; 29 lake; 32 wedding; 33 extinct; 34 dust; 35 perforated

Down: 1 others; 2 cushion; 3 shop; 4 oxygen; 5 Audrey; 7 garland; 8 demanded; 9 cat; 15 frost; 16 bride; 19 followed; 21 decades; 23 against; 24 tangle; 25 itself; 26 belted; 30 kid; 31 star

Winning word: BEADING

How to enter

Once you've completed the crossword, the shaded boxes will form an anagram of a special type of stranded cotton. Write your winning word and Crossword 265 on the back of a postcard or stuck-down envelope, adding your name and address, and post it to: Cross Stitch Collection Magazine, PO Box 172, Northam, EX39 9DY. Competition open 22 July – 18 August 2016. For competition terms and conditions go to page 59.

Competition rules To enter this competition, entries must be received between 22 July – 18 August 2016. The winners will be selected at random from all entries. Entries must be submitted by an individual (not via any agency or similar) and, unless otherwise stated, are limited to one per household. By entering a Competition you give permission to use your name, likeness and personal information in connection with the Competition and for promotional purposes. You warrant that the Competition entry is entirely your own work and not copied or adapted. If you are a winner, you may have to provide additional information. Details of winners will be available on request within three months of the closing date. You acknowledge and agree that neither the Company nor any associated third parties shall have any liability to you in connection with your use and/or possession of your prize. Further rules can be read in full on page 59.

Next month in your **September** issue...

Subscribe!
Never miss an issue of *Cross Stitch Collection*
See page 44 or call
☎ 0844 826 5018



Snug stitches

FREE!
PART TWO OF OUR SUPER-SIZED VENICE CHART BY DEB LESTER – A MASSIVE 50,000 STITCHES!!

Stitching you can't miss...

- Make our mock crazy patchwork cushion by **Lesley Teare**
- Stitch our cosy **autumnal foxes** picture by Jayne Netley Mayhew
- Get ready for Strictly Come Dancing with our **romantic tango couple**

PLUS Cake sampler, harvest apples, hummingbird pendant and more!

ON SALE Friday 19th August


Part One
Our design is packed with details to keep you interested

A day in Venice

Stitch the first part of our stunning Gondola scene capturing the splendour of Edwardian Venice, designed by **Deb Lester**

Our giant fold out chart this month is the first half of a really special project. The final stitch count for our picture is 50,000 stitches, so this is one for someone looking for a long project to get stuck into as you'll be stitching for around 230 hours. There's lots of fun details to keep you interested though. In fact, we're sure reading through our step-by-step guide on the next few pages will whet your appetite and having you reaching for your needle in no time!

We've been so excited to share this stunning project with you. So many of you loved stitching Deb's past designs for Cross Stitch Collection – Summer Ball, Ladies Day and The Railway Station – and we think you'll really enjoy this Venetian scene.



Make it yours

You will need...

Zweigart 14 count aida white, ref: 3706/100, 66x92cm (26x36in)
Stranded cotton as listed in the key
Size 24 tapestry needle
Frame with a 38x59cm (15x23in) aperture
For stockist details see page 58

Before **you begin**

THIS is a very large design that we are publishing over two issues, with the second appearing in the next issue. The measurements, stitch count, design size and time are for the complete design. Stranded cotton is used for both the cross stitch and backstitch. You can either wait for the second part to be published and then start in the centre of the design, or you can complete the left hand side before moving on to the right. This design should be an easy stitch, but it does contain fractionals, and the sheer size could prove to be a challenge!

Even where there are blocks of colour there are subtle colour changes, so threading up several needles at one time might help speed up stitching these areas. There are five backstitch colours and one French knot. The backstitch is spread around ➤

the design, with the people in the foreground more heavily backstitched than those in the background. This design can be worked on evenweave or aida, on almost any colour of fabric, as most of it will be covered with stitching.

Stitching **the design**

FOLD the fabric both ways to find the centre and start stitching at this point. The cross stitch is worked in two strands of stranded cotton.

All **in the detail**

FOR best results, use a frame when working this design, as a hoop may rest on the stitches and distort them. Use a sharp needle for the backstitch, as this will help you position the stitches correctly.

PEOPLE

The skin tones are outlined in one strand of dark brown stranded cotton, although not everything has backstitch and so it is important to refer to the chart often as you work. Likewise, some of the clothes are just partially backstitched, in dark brown, grey blue or black. A single French knot in dark yellow is used for the earring on the lady dressed in mauve.

GONDOLA AND WATER

The gondola and pole are backstitched in one strand of black, as is the gondola coming under the bridge. The swans are backstitched in grey blue, and the barber's pole in black with dark brown at the top.

WINDOWS AND BUILDINGS ON LEFT

One strand of white stranded cotton is used for the diamond window panes on the left building, with



dark brown used on the rectangular panes on the far window. The windows on this building are mostly outlined in grey blue, which is also used for the balcony. The main door is partially backstitched in black and grey blue, whilst the smaller loading door also uses grey blue. The lamps on the wall, either side of the door, are both backstitched in black.

WINDOWS AND BUILDING IN BACKGROUND

The window panes are backstitched in pale blue, with the window outlines and building detail in one strand of pale blue and also grey blue stranded cotton.

WINDOWS AND BUILDINGS ON RIGHT

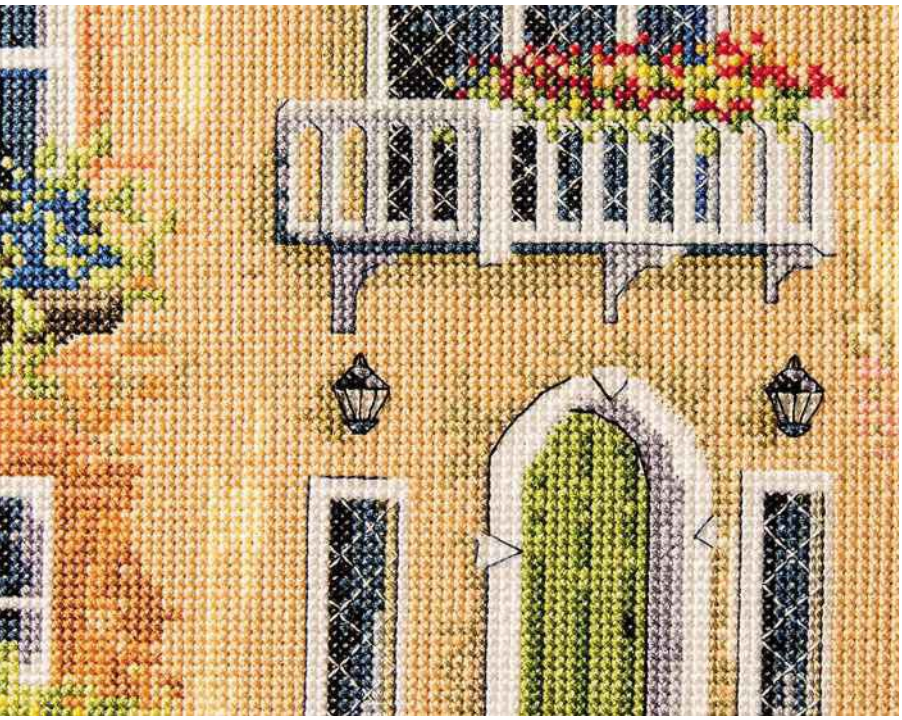
The window panes on the side windows, and front downstairs windows are all backstitched in pale blue and partially outlined in grey blue. The upstairs panes on the French doors are backstitched in dark brown, with the lower blue door in black. The detail on the balcony is in grey blue, and the clock in black.

BRIDGES AND WALKWAYS

Dark brown, grey blue and black are all used to shade the steps, walls and detail on the bridges. The lamp at the top of the steps is backstitched in pale blue and black, whilst the lamp on the bridge is backstitched in just grey blue.

Elegant

1900s fashion and rich architecture make this scene a joy to stitch



YOUR **FREE** FOLD-OUT CHART NEXT ISSUE

Next month we have part two of A Day in Venice. This lovely Edwardian scene captures a moment in time, with people waiting for the gondola whilst strolling by the water. Don't miss the giant chart next issue, when we complete this lovely scene.



CROSS STITCH Collection

FREE! PART ONE OF OUR SUPER-SIZED VENICE CHART BY DEB LESTER - A MASSIVE 50,000 STITCHES!

August 2016 Issue 265

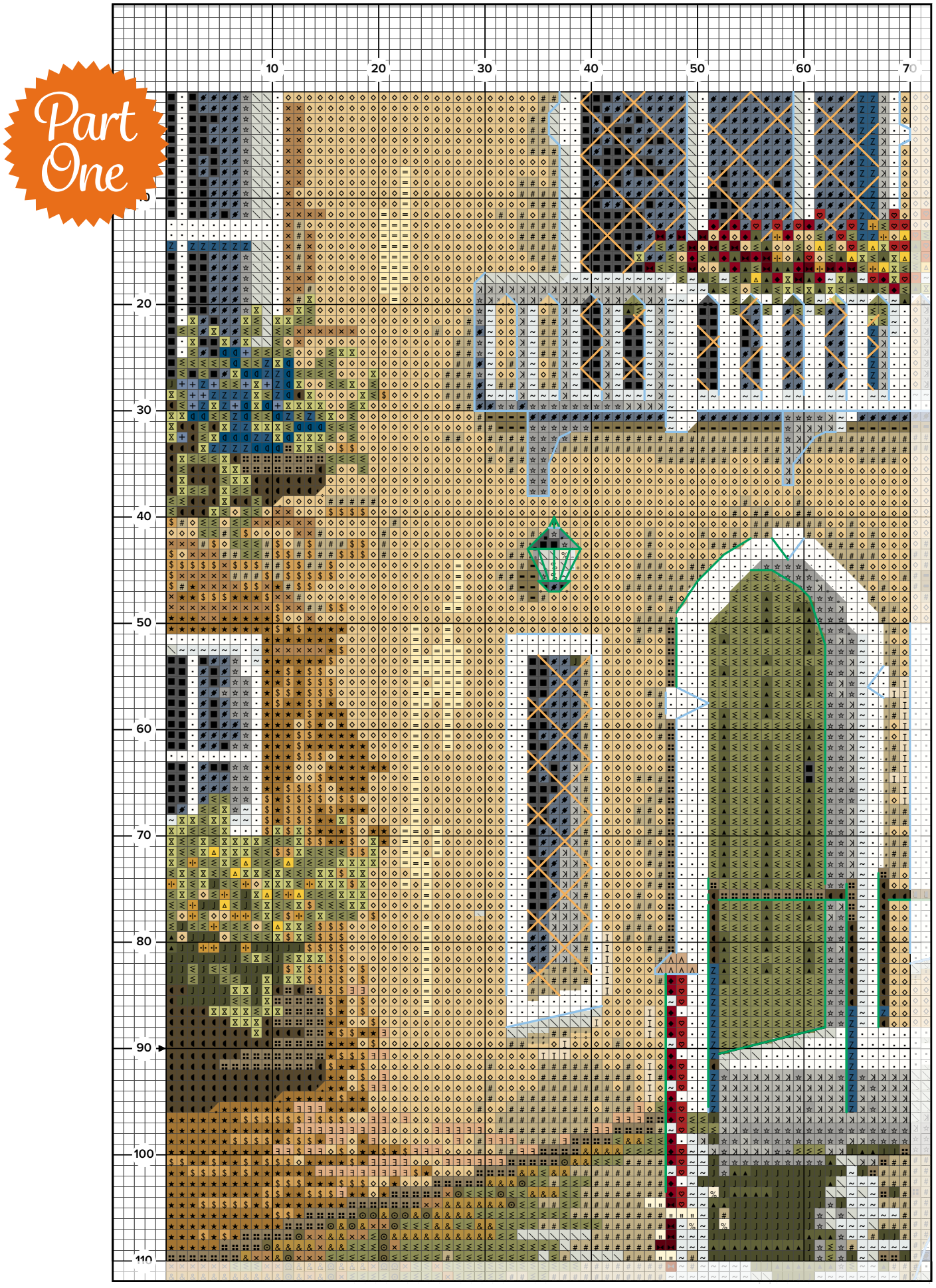
A day in Venice GIANT CHART

Part One



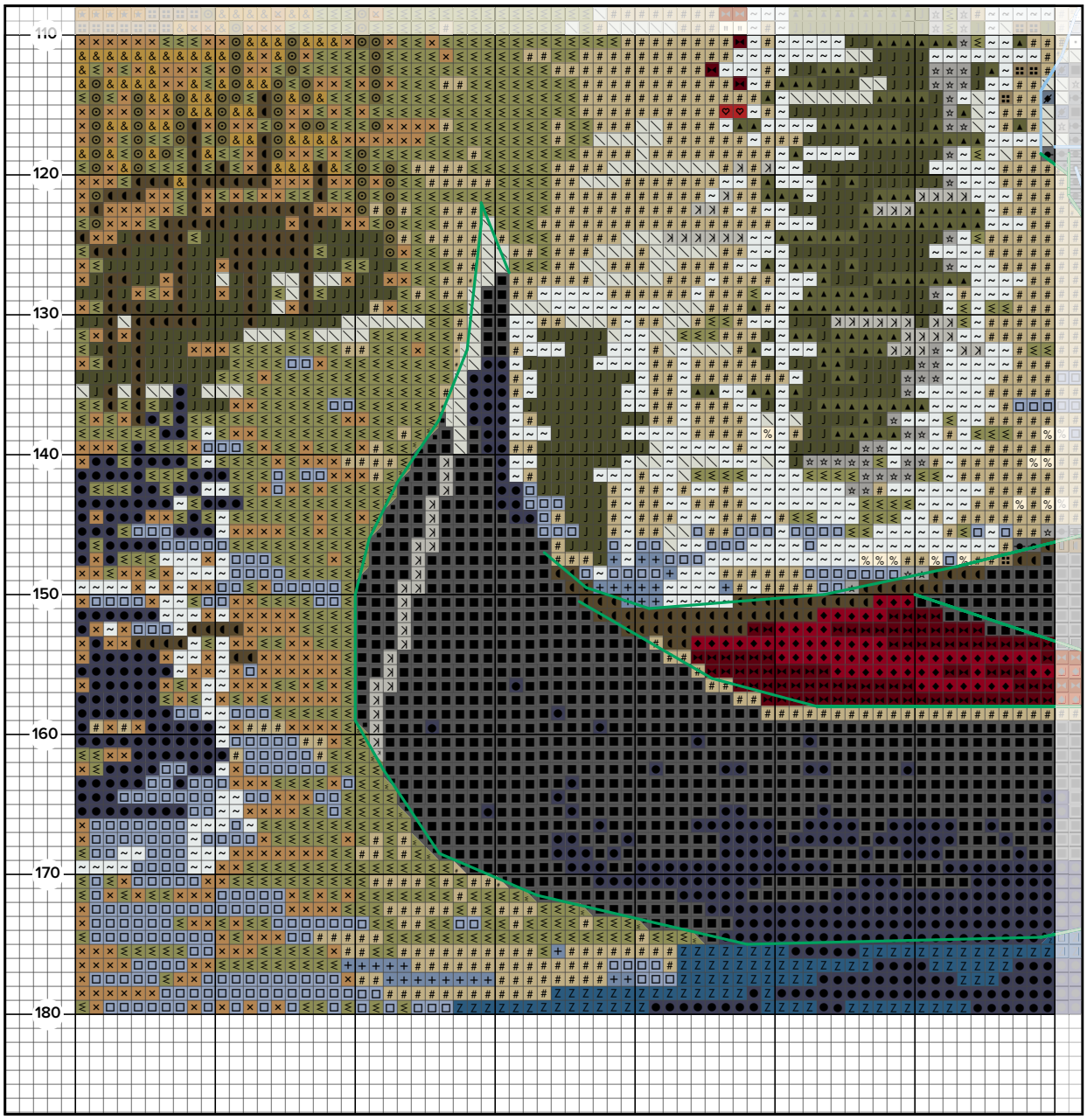
Your FREE giant chart

Bonus Giant Chart




70
80
90
100
110
120
130
140

Bonus Giant Chart



Check the size of your fabric carefully before the first stitch!





cross stitch collection © Deb Lester

Stitch your Venice scene

You will need...

Zweigart 14 count aida white, ref: 3706/100, 66x92cm (26x36in)
Stranded cotton as listed in the key
Size 24 tapestry needle
Frame with a 38x59cm (15x23in) aperture
For stockist details see page 58

Stitching **the design**

FOLD the fabric both ways to find the centre and start stitching at this point. The cross stitch is worked in two strands of stranded cotton, the backstitch in one strand and the French knots in one strand. It will be best to use a frame when working this design, as a hoop may rest on the stitches and distort them. There are five colours of backstitch used, plus French knots in one colour, please refer to the chart for placement.

Designed by: Deb Lester

Venice scene - part one

Cross stitch in two strands

DMC	Anchor	Madeira	Colour
301	1049	2306	mahogany
310	403	black	black (2)
317	400	1714	pewter grey
318	399	1802	lt steel grey
321	019	510	xmas red
353	006	303	peach
370	856	2112	m mustard
372	853	2110	lt mustard (2)
402	347	2307	lt russet (2)
407	914	2310	dk desert sand
413	401	1713	dark pewter grey
415	398	1803	pearl grey (2)
435	1046	2010	med brown
471	265	1501	lt avacado (2)
472	253	1414	avacado green
517	162	1107	med wedgewood
543	933	1909	pink beige
666	046	210	bright red
712	926	2101	cream
718	089	707	plum
730	845	1614	dk olive green
738	361	2013	v lt tan (3)
745	300	111	v pale yellow
746	275	101	off white
754	336	305	lt peach
783	306	2211	med topaz
799	136	910	med delft
800	159	908	pale delft
809	130	909	delft blue
815	043	513	m garnet
824	143	1010	v dk blue
827	160	1014	v lt blue
832	907	2202	golden olive
930	1035	1712	grey blue (2)
936	846	1507	avacado green (2)
937	268	1504	m avacado green
939	152	1009	dk navy blue
951	1010	2308	lt tawny
973	290	105	lt canary
977	1002	2301	golden brown

Cross stitch in two strands

DMC	Anchor	Madeira	Colour
991	1076	1204	dk aquamarine
992	1072	1202	m aquamarine
993	1070	1201	lt aquamarine
3021	905	1904	dk brown
3032	903	2002	dk khaki
3033	391	2001	lt mocha
3072	847	1805	light grey (2)
3348	264	1409	yellow green
3607	087	708	lt plum
3608	060	709	v lt plum
3756	1037	886	pale blue (2)
3779	868	2605	lt terracotta
3823	386	2512	pale yellow
3824	008	2605	lt apricot
ecru	387	ecru	ecru
blanc	001	white	white (2)

Backstitch in one strand

DMC	Anchor	Madeira	Colour
310	403	black	black

outlines and details

Backstitch in one strand

DMC	Anchor	Madeira	Colour
930	1035	1712	grey blue

outlines and details

DMC	Anchor	Madeira	Colour
3021	905	1904	dk brown

outlines and details

DMC	Anchor	Madeira	Colour
3756	1037	886	pale blue

outlines and details

DMC	Anchor	Madeira	Colour
blanc	001	white	white

outlines and details

French knot in one strand

DMC	Anchor	Madeira	Colour
783	306	2211	med topaz

earring

Stitched using DMC threads on 14 count aida fabric.
Stitch count: 180hx280w complete design
Design size: 33x52cm (13x20½in) complete design
Stitch time: 230hrs complete design

Please note: due to the number of shades, this chart uses some symbols twice, but on completely different colours

(2/3) indicates more than 1 skein is needed

Organise

your threads and needles carefully, this project could take a while!

Next issue

SEPTEMBER 266
PART TWO OF OUR SUPER-SIZED VENICE CHART BY DEB LESTER – A MASSIVE 50,000 STITCHES!!



CROSS STITCH Collection

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August 2016 Issue 265

A day in Venice GIANT CHART

Part One



Your FREE fold-out chart

HERITAGE Crafts

Working with talented artists to produce beautiful counted cross stitch designs









Justin Bear Greeting Cards *by Peter Underhill* - Kits include card and envelope



Chickadee
by Valerie Pfeiffer - 7 x 6cm



Pig
by Susan Ryder - 6 x 7.5cm



Dolphin
by Susan Ryder - 6.5 x 6.5cm



Penguin Chick
by Susan Ryder - 5.5 x 6cm



Are We There Yet? *by Karen Carter* - 20 x 11cm



Beach Huts *by Karen Carter* - 20 x 11cm



Boats *by Karen Carter* - 20 x 11cm



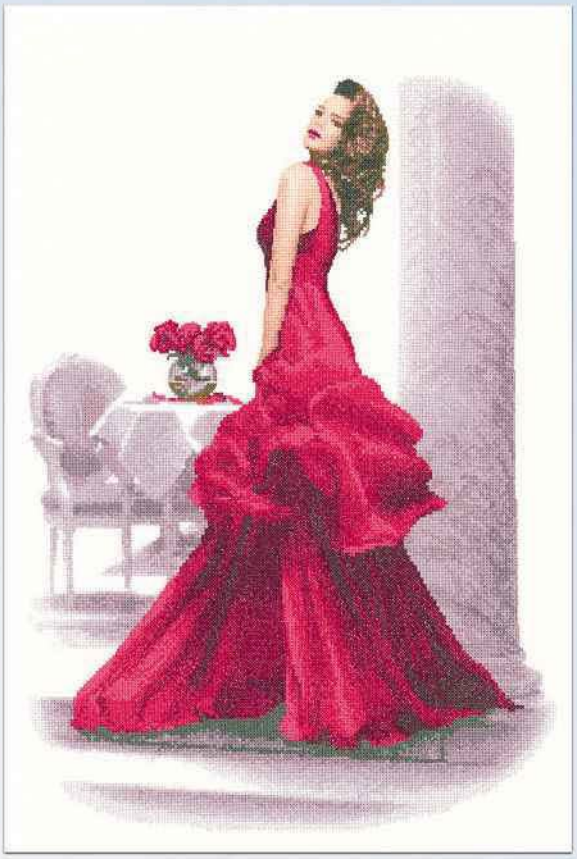
Fish 'n' Chips *by Karen Carter* - 20 x 11cm



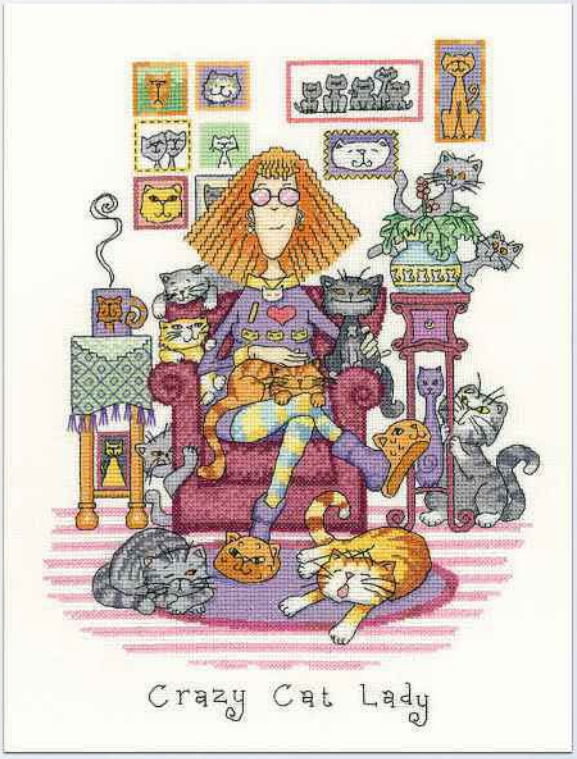
Happy Hens *by Karen Carter* - 20 x 11cm



A Hoot of Owls *by Karen Carter* - 20 x 11cm



Susannah *by John Clayton* - 30.5 x 43.5cm



Crazy Cat Lady *by Peter Underhill* - 22.5 x 31cm



Chorus Line *by Valerie Pfeiffer* - 34 x 9cm

Please contact us for a copy of our latest catalogue!

Heritage Crafts Ltd. Redbrook Lane, Rugeley, Staffordshire WS15 1QU

Telephone : 01889 575256 Email : enquiries@hcrafts.com

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