

The most beautiful designs

Stitch &
support
The Poppy
Appeal



CROSS STITCH Collection



PUPPY
PORTRAIT



GIANT
CHART!

SANTA'S
JOURNEY



No.1 for
stitching
pleasure!

CHRISTMAS gift book

37 charts to make beautiful gifts



ADVENT
STOCKING



PAINTED
FLOWERS



NEW
SERIES

In this issue...

Designs to stitch

- 9 Santa's journey** – Stitch the first of our giant three-part Christmas spectacular by Maria Diaz
- 13 Playful puppies** – Anchor's adorable litter of boxer puppies make an irresistible project
- 20 Always remember** – Create Durene Jones' poppy picture to commemorate the Great War
- 24 Marvellous marigolds** – Start stitching an exciting new series with Sheena Rogers' pincushion
- 29 Christmas tradition** – This issue's *Chart of the Month* is a classic stocking design by Permin
- 42 Wonderful watercolours** – Paint in cross stitch with Lesley Teare's watercolour-inspired card
- 44 Christmas countdown** – Stitch Angela Poole's simple and sweet mini-socking advent calender

Christmas Collection – Turn to page 58 to find 37 charts to stitch up into fabulous Christmas gifts! From notebooks to purses, bookmarks to marble bags, we've got gifts for him, her, tots and teens that are fun to stitch and a joy to give.

Stitching Inspiration

- 4 October Collection** – Exciting news, gorgeous kits, inspiration, real stitching stories and more
- 7 Jane Greenoff's page** – Learn all about upright stitch as we reach 'U' in Jane's A-Z
- 37 In conversation...** with Frits Nordlunde, manager of Permin. We take a look at how cross stitch has changed over the last 160 years!
- 55 Next month** – Enjoy a sneaky preview of November's projects
- 56 Crafty ideas** – Rebecca Bradshaw shares her ideas on creating hand-stitched gifts for men

Giveways & Offers

- 4 Great giveaways** – Enter today for a chance to win one of our amazing stitching prizes
- 18 Your letters** – Share your cross stitch stories and win gorgeous threads from Anchor
- 54 Break time!** – Relax and enjoy our crossword – you could win fabulous Zweigart fabrics

Collection Essentials

- 48 Stitch basics** – Charting editor Abi Barker's guide to everything you need to get started on this month's projects
- 50 Shopping Collection** – Seen something that's inspired you? Find out where you can buy it
- 51 Back issues and binders** – What do you need to complete your collection?
- 52 Collection kits** – Treat yourself to our handpicked project kits, delivered direct to your door!





13



24



42

TURN OVER for your October CROSS-STITCH Collection

No.1 for Christmas makes

Christmas Collection

The most beautiful gifts to stitch & give

37 GIFT charts inside...

Turn to page 58 to find amazing charts in our Christmas Collection

for Women for Men for tots & teens



Welcome...

I love stitching for Christmas – like so many of us I usually have a festive project on the go all the year round! Projects like these give us a chance to indulge in creating gorgeous handmade gifts and cards for loved ones, as well as spectacular décor for Christmas. Our October issue is absolutely stuffed full of amazing designs that will help you get ready for this merry time. Our *Chart of the Month* from Permin features a jolly Santa stocking, and is big enough to pack full of lovely pressies. If you're after something a little dinkier, then Angela Poole's mini-stocking advent calendar is ideal. We've also got the first of the fabulous three-part *Santa's Journey* from Maria Diaz – imagine having this to put up every year! Finally, turn to page 58 to find 37 marvellous charts in our *Christmas Collection* – perfect for making hand-stitched stocking fillers!

Rebecca

Rebecca Bradshaw

We'd love to feature you on our letters page – email us at CSC@futurenet.com, and send us your best pics!

Come visit us online! Our fab website is full of stitching news, offers and freebies. We bring you guides for extra makes, free charts, stitching inspiration, giveaways and fun designer features. You can also find out more about taking part in our Collection Poppy Appeal – head to www.crossstitchcollection.com now to download your poppy chart!

Don't miss...



October Collection

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



The Tower of London, overflowing with spectacular poppies, is one of this year's most striking exhibitions

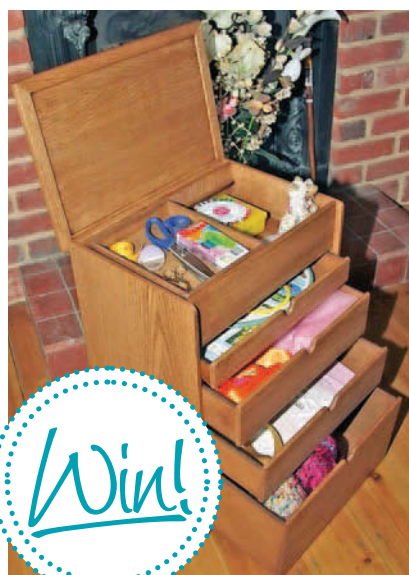


IN SUPPORT OF



Collection Poppy Appeal

During 2014, it's been amazing to see the fantastic events taking place all over the country to commemorate the start of the **First World War**. There are few organisations that work harder than the **British Legion** to remember the sacrifices made in this conflict and others since, or to raise money and awareness. We'd love to support them with our own **Collection Poppy Appeal** – but we need your help! On the *Cross Stitch Collection* blog you can download a beautiful free mini poppy chart that's perfect for stitching up into pretty brooches, thoughtful cards, or sweet keepsakes. Designed by **Durene Jones**, we need you to stitch this poppy chart and create your own poppy pins or gifts to sell to family and friends, donating the money you raise to the British Legion. To download your poppy chart and to find out how to donate, head to the *Cross Stitch Collection* blog at www.crossstitchcollection.com. We'd love to see all your efforts too – so don't forget to send us your pictures to csc@futurenet.com! To find out more about the British Legion's fantastic work, check out their website by visiting www.britishlegion.org.uk



STUNNING SEWING BOX

Get your stash organised with a gorgeous handmade sewing box from **Touch Wood Boxes**. This beautiful natural oak storage box is 24x17x13½in, with four drawers and a handy lifting lid top – perfect for all your crafting overflow! Touch Wood Boxes are kindly giving away one of these fabulous boxes – **worth £195!** One of the many options available on their website – www.touchwoodboxes.com – Touch Wood Boxes also offer a luxurious bespoke service, helping you to create your ideal crafting work box. Our lucky winner will be able to choose between the lovely box shown or a voucher of the same value for a bespoke service! To enter, go to www.futurecomps.co.uk/csc241BOX before the closing date of Thursday 16 October 2014. **Keyword: 241BOX**

Christmas tangle

I think we all know a naughty kitty who just can't resist investigating the Christmas



tree! That's why we love Peter Underhill's new **Cats Rule** design, **Christmas Tangle**. This mischievous kitten is such a cutie, and can be stitched on aida or evenweave from a kit that includes fabric, DMC threads, chart and needle, all for just £16.99! Find the full Cats Rule range at Heritage Crafts: www.hcrafts.com

Meet... Online stitching stars!

Michele's charming blog, **X Marks My Spot**, documents her beautiful and traditional cross stitch finishes, along with handy hints and stitching tips!

Tell us a bit about yourself. I live in Massachusetts with my husband and son, both of whom humour my stitching addiction and ignore the bits of floss that turn up on their clothing and the furniture. When I'm not stitching or coping with a teenager, I work from home maintaining web pages. I'm an avid reader and book collector, and a total Anglophile! The three times I've visited England have been a dream come true.

When did you fall in love with cross stitch?

Although I had enjoyed doing a few cross stitch projects in my early twenties, I moved on to quilting and knitting for several decades. About eight years ago, I suddenly remembered that I liked this form of needlework, and started discovering all the amazing blogs out there, which opened up a world I had no idea existed. Once I found out just how many designs were out there, my love affair with cross stitch blossomed, and continues to grow deeper every day.

What sort of things do you most like to stitch?

My taste is pretty eclectic! Most of my projects have been fairly small, but I've slowly been taking on larger designs. I always enjoy when there are letters to stitch, so I anticipate some samplers in my future. I also love it when I find a design that I know would mean something to a friend or family member, so I can make it for them.



Michele is looking forward to stitching more samplers!

Do you have a piece that is particularly special?

Like most of us, I started out stitching on aida, and was convinced that I'd never solve the mystery of how to stitch on linen. My local cross stitch shop owner convinced me to give it a try. After a short practice piece, I not only stitched Little House Needlework's Pine Tree Hill, but I finished it as a pin-keep, too. I am very fond of all my projects, but reserve a special place in my heart for my very first one on linen.

What's your advice for stitchers with lots of WIPS?

I tend to be a sequential stitcher, as I prefer completing a project before moving on to a new one. But I know how hard it is to hold off on new starts when there are so many beautiful designs begging to be stitched! Taking a break and moving to another project for a while sometimes helps renew your interest in an old one.

Why did you start your blog?

I found myself yearning to be a real part of the online stitching community rather than just an observer, especially since almost no one in my "real" life is a stitcher. I also felt it might be encouraging to other novice stitchers to have a blog about navigating what sometimes seemed like a mystifying hobby, especially the finishing part. If I ever need a new title for my blog, I'd call it Fear of Finishing! But there are some very generous stitchers out there who post invaluable tutorials – it's thanks to them that not all my projects are languishing in a box.

Anything you'd like to add? If anyone considering starting a blog feels some trepidation, I encourage them to take the plunge. Don't worry if you think no one will be interested in looking at your stitching – believe me, getting ideas and inspiration from others just deepens the experience for all of us!

Find Michele's blog at
xmarksmyspot.blogspot.co.uk



GLITTERY CHRISTMAS

Add some festive sparkle to your Christmas projects with **Kreinik Braid**! Stitching at this time of year is such fun, with so many greetings cards, ornaments, tree decorations and gifts to be stitched! So why not make your Santa twinkle and your angels shimmer by entering our competition to win one of the eight boxes of Kreinik Very Fine #4 Braid we have to give away? Containing 20 skeins in **gorgeous Christmas colours**, this prize is sure to make your seasonal projects extra special. Available from www.kreinik.com, you could win one of these boxes worth £35 by going to www.futurecomps.co.uk/csc241BRAID before the closing date of Thursday 16 October 2014. **Keyword: CSC241BRAID**

3 of the best... gift ideas from Hoop-La!



Dandelion Brooch, featured in the Summer issue of Hoop-La!, £4.99

Created using just felt, beads and a handful of stitches, you can create this beautiful brooch designed by Betty Shek. Sweet and pretty, it would make the ideal stocking filler! Find a fantastic picture step-by-step guide, top tips and templates in the Summer 2014 issue of *Hoop-La*! To buy a print copy, go to www.myfavouritemagazines.co.uk



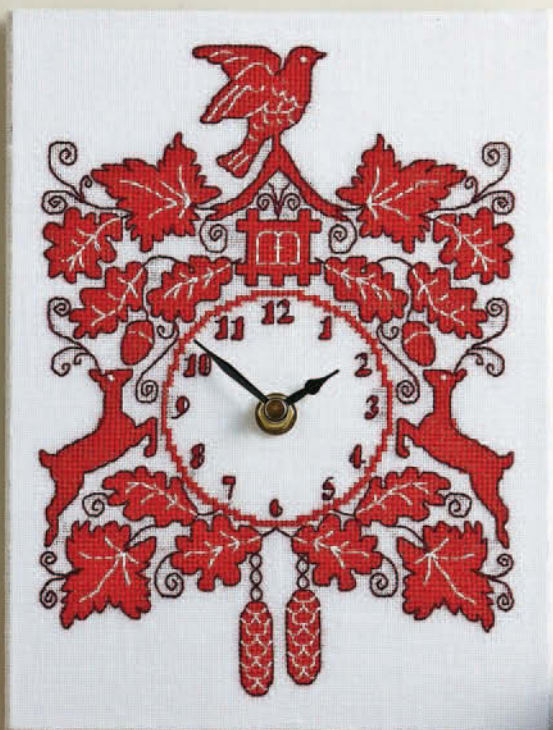
Spinning Around, featured in the Summer issue of Hoop-La!, £4.99

Stitch stunning homestyle with Jane Bolsover's chic cushion design – and learn a few new stitches, too. You can use the project guide and *Hoop-La*'s Stitch Library to help make this great gift idea for a fashionable friend! Buy a digital copy of *Hoop-La*! for your iPad/iPhone from www.bit.ly/AppleCSCollection (under 'Specials')



Ring, Ring!, featured in the Summer issue of Hoop-La!, £4.99

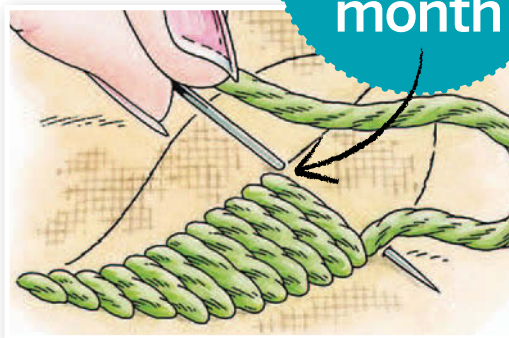
Sarah Edgar's phone case project is perfect if you're after a super-easy and quick stitch project, and ideal if you're new to working with felt. With hints and tips and detailed instructions, you can stitch up this lovely gift idea in no time at all. Buy a digital copy of *Hoop-La*! for your PC/Mac/Android device from www.zinio.com



Stitch o'clock!

If you're looking for a seasonal project with a difference, this amazing cross stitched clock from **CrossStitcher** is for you! Designed by Lucie Heaton, it's easy to stitch and assemble with just a handful of thread colours, whole cross stitches and gorgeous backstitch details. It would make a **unique gift** this Christmas too! Find this chart and much more in the October 284 issue, available in print from www.myfavouritemagazines.co.uk – for a digital issue visit www.crossstitchermagazine.co.uk/digital and www.zinio.com

Stitch of the month



Satin stitch

Also known as a damask stitch, the satin stitch is perfect for filling solid blocks in your stitching or to add extra texture to your cross stitch projects. Worked in stranded cotton, satin stitch has a gorgeous velvety sheen and adds a 3D effect to your stitching. Use the diagram to create this stitch, bringing your needle up at one side of the area to fill, and then laying flat stitches neatly side by side. It's best to use short lengths of thread, and try not to twist the thread as you work. We'd love to know how you've used satin stitch – email your pics to csc@futurenet.

Shine a light on a new stitching skill with

Craft Lamps
See your work in a better light

Collection's Gadget of the month

Our stitchers share their favourite essential stitching tools – this month, **Glenda Dickson** talks to us about her iPad!

Try a digital subscription for your iPad/iPhone with a one month free trial at www.bit.ly/AppleCSCollection



“I couldn't live without my iPad — yes, my iPad!”

It's my number one gadget choice, I've had it for three years and I love it. I download all my charts to an app and stitch straight from my iPad. You can do anything on it – highlight, zoom in and out, all sorts. And all this from a technically challenged stitcher – believe me if there is anyone who cannot use a computer it's me. My hubby says I can only find my way round a computer where stitching is concerned! I love not having paper charts with pens to score out, and cannot recommend iPads enough. Who thought I'd be dragged into the 21st century with stitching!



Faye Whittaker Designer Collection

We love Faye Whittaker's gorgeous, nostalgic designs – her **All Our Yesterdays** cross stitch range is one of our favourites! That's why we're so excited about this new collection that celebrates her beautiful work. The **Faye Whittaker Designer Collection** presents the best of her award-winning designs, and is packed with over 30 charming scenes from days gone by. This **nostalgic collection** includes new designs never seen before in a magazine, plus Faye's favourite charts from her design archive! To order your copy today for just £7.99, head to www.myfavouritemagazines.co.uk or for a digital copy www.bit.ly/AppleCSCollection or www.zinio.com

DREAMING OF A WHITE CHRISTMAS

Glamorous, magical, peaceful – those are the best words to describe Nora Corbett's gorgeous **White Christmas** (MD-90) design from her **Mirabilia** range. Featuring sparkling snowflakes, gothic windows, and a beautiful lady wearing a **spectacular red velvet cape**, this design is available at www.mirabilia.com and is such a pleasure to stitch – and we've got eight chart packs to give away! Each pack contains the chart, a fat quarter of fabric and an embellishment pack containing all the Mill Hill beads you need to complete the project. To enter, go to www.futurecomps.co.uk/csc241WHITE before the closing date of Thursday 16 October 2014. **Keyword: 241WHITE**



COMPETITION RULES Giveaways are open to UK readers only and winners will be chosen at random. Enter online using the unique URL between 19 September and 16 October 2014. Further rules can be read on page 51.

Jane's A-Z of Cross Stitch



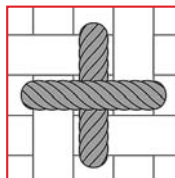
Each month Jane takes us from A-Z covering all things cross stitch! This month, **U** is for **upright cross stitch**

Welcome back to Pinks Barn. I am sitting at my desk looking at a pile of stitching that is almost finished – I expect you know the feeling! I like to have more than one project on the go at any one time but the only problem is making time to stitch. We've reached U in our A-Z of cross stitch, and I've had a flood of ideas!

Unpicking Everyone has to get used to the idea that you will need to unpick or reverse stitch sometimes – I do not think it matters how careful you are when you are stitching, sometimes you look back and know that something is wrong. After all the years I have been stitching, I have come to a conclusion that it is often better to snip out an error rather than drag the threads out. I'm not sure I want to use the threads once the fabric has ruffled them and it does not help the fibres of the fabric either. I keep a very sharp pointed pair of scissors just for this exercise.

Useful tools I thought I ought to mention my favourite useful tool – a stitch catcher (pictured right). Hand crafted from Victorian teaspoon handles, these are made from resin and then coloured to create faux mahogany or faux ivory. This clever little tool will help make stitches with that last little bit of thread.

Upright cross stitch This can be a very useful filling stitch and adds



a little changed texture to your stitching. Worked in two parts as with diagonal cross stitch, this stitch may be worked over a number of fabric threads and stitched individually as filling stitches or in groups, lines or bands. It is the ideal stitch for creating stars in skies, daisies in

fields and so on. When worked in isolation, start with a loop start, noting the position in the fabric. In the diagram, this stitch is worked over two fabric threads but the stitch can be worked over more if needed.

Cross Stitch Guild News Available in faux mahogany or faux ivory colourway, this exquisite carved box is a stitcher's must! The box is made from resin, and the sides of the box are detailed with little stitchers motifs – the lid includes an oval vignette of tiny stork scissors, an embroidery hoop and a thimble. The box is completed with a felt bottom so it will not scratch a polished surface. This treasure is available now for just £19.99 at www.thecrossstitchguild.com



About Jane Greenoff

As founder of the Cross Stitch Guild and a prolific designer, author and business woman for 30 years, Jane is in constant demand. In addition to running classes, events and stitching holidays, Jane appears twice a month on Create and Craft TV.

To find out more, visit the website or call for details: www.thecrossstitchguild.com
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Santa's journey

Start stitching a Christmas heirloom with the first chart of **Maria Diaz's** festive blockbuster design

Santa's
journey
COLLECTION
1st of 3





Meet the designer...

Maria Diaz

I loved creating this design – it's perfect for Christmas! For inspiration, I looked to American folk art. Painters have a tradition of flattening out a landscape and including a number of elements flowing down the page, so it very much looks like a story book in a picture. I hope I've captured this in Santa's Journey – I so enjoyed thinking up lots of different places to fit him into the picture and creating his journey across the rooftops of this sweet village.



Rudolph leads the way all through Maria's design – help him stand out by simply stitching one whole cross stitch in red for his famous nose!

Twinkling lights, sparkling snow, prancing reindeer, sacks of pressies and jingle bells – Maria Diaz's dazzling design sums up the fun of Christmas Eve. Stitching each section of our three-part project, you'll be able to spot Santa on his journey through this idyllic snowy village, checking his list, steering his sleigh, squeezing the gifts down chimneys and disappearing into the night. The finished picture will make a wonderful feature in your Christmas décor – take it out every year and see who in your family spots all the different Santa's first! Maria's design has so many individual elements, every time you pick it up you'll look forward to stitching a different motif. In this first part, you'll stitch the central horizontal section, which will help you get your placement right. With so many different elements, counting correctly is essential, so make sure you read through our instructions for tips.

Stitching section one

You will need...

28HPI linen (or 14HPI aida), light rustic, Zweigart Cashel Ref: 3281/52, 24x24in (61x61cm). We got our lovely linen from Willow Fabrics. Find yours by calling 0800 0567811 or visit www.willowfabrics.com

Stranded cotton as listed in the key

Frame with a 16x15¾in (41x40cm) aperture, pale pine

Turn to page 48 for hints and tips!

Getting organised

BEFORE you start stitching a design of this size, which uses so many different coloured threads, it's worth getting organised. Santa's Journey will take a little while to stitch and the fabric may fray with constant handling, so it's wise to neaten the edges of your fabric before you begin. You can do this either by working a machine zig-zag round ➤

Santa's journey

Cross stitch in two strands

DMC	Anchor	Madeira	Colour
000 B5200	001	2401	Bright white (5)
♥♥ 221	897	0811	Very dark red
▲▲ 336	150	1007	Dark blue
22 347	1025	0407	Dark red
♥♥ 351	010	0214	Light red
●● 433	358	2008	Dark brown
&& 435	365	2010	Medium brown
xx 436	363	2011	Light brown
++ 437	362	2012	Tan
# 517	162	1107	Med blue (2)
33 518	1039	1106	Light blue (2)
★ 645	1040	1811	Medium grey
□□ 646	900	1812	Light grey
△△ 712	926	2101	Off white
○○ 738	361	2013	Cream
\$ 741	304	0203	Dark orange
% 742	303	0114	Light orange
= 743	305	0113	Dark yellow
\\ 744	301	0112	Medium yellow
* 746	275	0101	Pale yellow
- 817	013	0211	Medium red
■ 844	1041	1810	Dark grey
■ 898	380	2006	V dark brown
□□ 950	4146	2309	Pink beige

Cross stitch in two strands

DMC	Anchor	Madeira	Colour
●● 987	244	1403	Dark green
xx 989	242	1401	Light green
xx 3032	898	2002	Khaki
II 3078	292	0102	Light yellow
~ 3756	1037	2504	Pale blue
DD 3820	306	2509	Dk gold yellow
≤ 3822	295	0112	Lt gold yellow

Half cross stitch in two strands

□ *B5200	001	2401	Bright white
----------	-----	------	--------------

Backstitch in two strands

— *B5200	001	2401	Bright white
horizon smoke, trees, santa, sleigh, reindeer			
— *646	900	1812	Light grey
chimney smoke			
— *898	380	2006	V dark brown
antlers			
— 937	290	0105	Bright yellow
sleigh, presents, skates			

Backstitch in one strand

— *646	900	1812	Light grey
snow on ground and roof tops			

Cross stitch in two strands

DMC	Anchor	Madeira	Colour
— 702	226	1306	Bright green
sleigh patterns			
— *844	1041	1810	Dark grey
all other outlines and details			

French knots in one strand

○○ *B5200	001	2401	Bright white
Santa's hat (in the sky)			
●● 307	289	0104	Lemon yellow
houses, sleighs			
●● *351	010	0214	Light red
houses			
●● *844	1041	1810	Dark grey
eyes			
●● 996	433	1103	Bright blue
houses			

Stitched using DMC threads on 28HPI linen over two threads
 Stitch count 220x220
 Design area 15¾x15¾in (40x40cm)
 *indicates colour is listed earlier in the key
 (2) indicates more than one skein required



Santa's journey



Excited children, sweet reindeer and gorgeous houses decorated with festive wreaths and fairy lights are just a few of the stitchy details in Maria's three part design!

➤ the edge or by turning it under and tacking the hem into place.

Using a hoop or frame will also help you stitch this design. With an embroidery hoop you can move it each time you work a new area of the design. If you mount your fabric onto a frame, you won't have to keep moving it and the whole piece of fabric stays under tension. A stretcher frame is also ideal as you tack the bottom and top of the fabric to the webbing stapled to the top and bottom bars then you can roll it up and down to move to the area you want to stitch.

Preparing your fabric

STARTING with the central horizontal section is the best way to start such a large design to ensure you get the positioning correct. We will give you the top section in the November issue and the bottom in the December issue. Fold your fabric in half both ways to find the centre and mark with a pin. To help with the counting, it's best to stitch a horizontal and vertical line of tacking stitches through this centre point. Also, if you stitch more horizontal and vertical lines twenty squares apart across the whole fabric, this will make your counting a lot easier. You will find this really helps

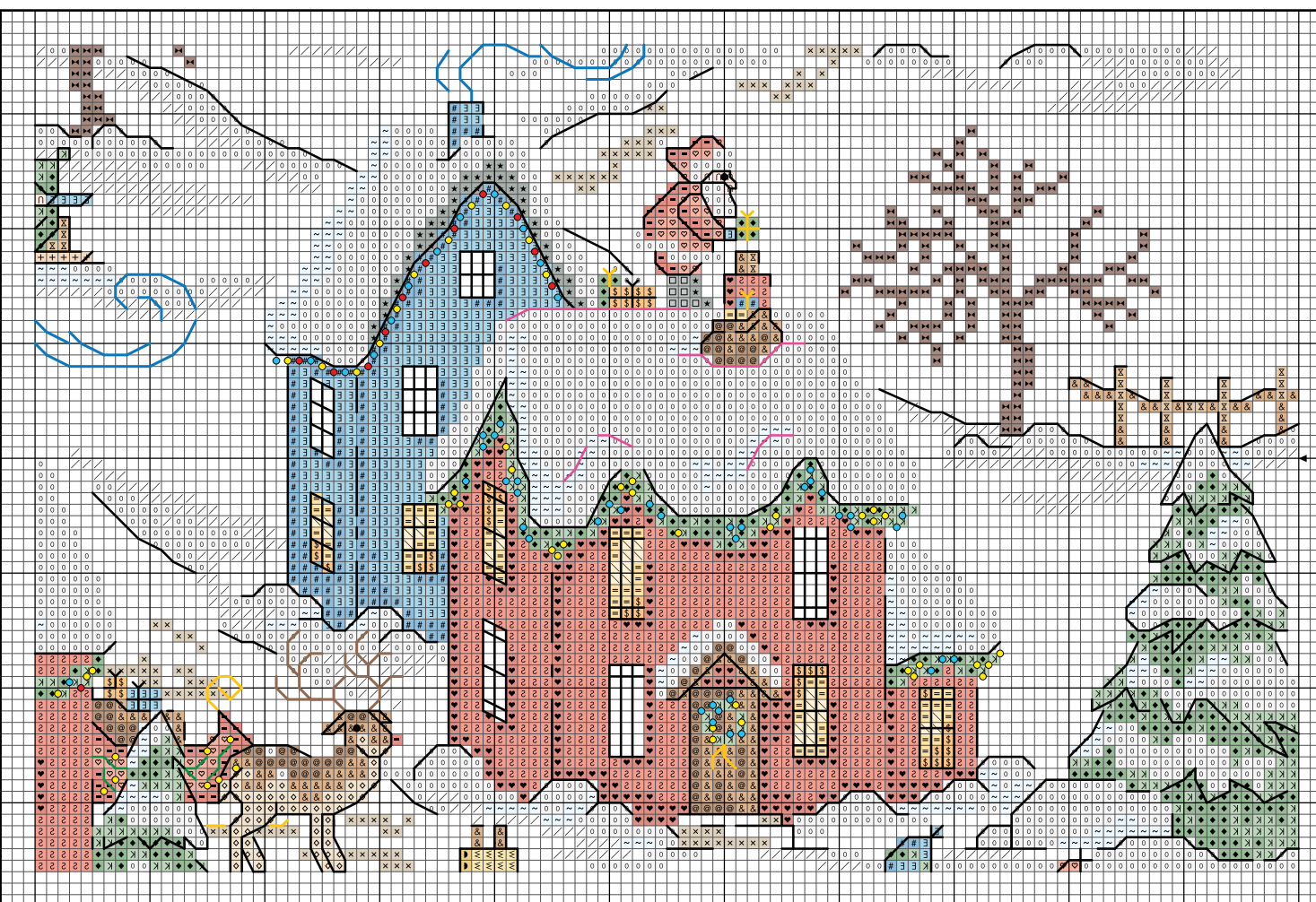
when matching up and working the other two sections of the chart. Mark these tacked lines on to your chart so you can refer to them as you are stitching.

Stitching the design

WORK all the cross stitch in two strands of stranded cotton over two threads of the linen fabric. It's up to you in which order you stitch the design, but do try not to jump over too big a space on the back of the fabric when working stitches of the same colour. To add shading and depth to the snow, some areas are worked using half cross stitch in two strands of bright white so make sure you stitch these correctly to achieve this.

Adding the backstitch

FINISH working all the cross stitch before adding the backstitch details. There are several different colours used and some areas are worked in two strands and others in one. Each backstitch is represented with a different coloured line on the chart. The details on the key tell you which colour to place where to help with this.

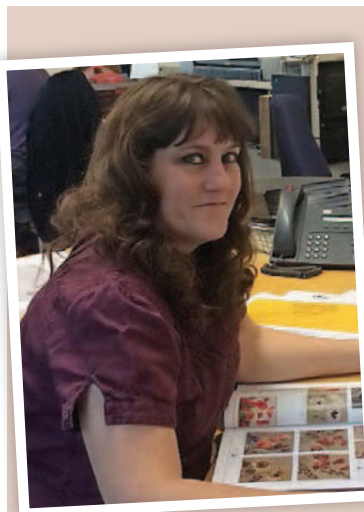


Playful puppies

Full of mischief, we couldn't resist this
adorable litter of cheeky boxer puppies
in **Anchor's** delightful design



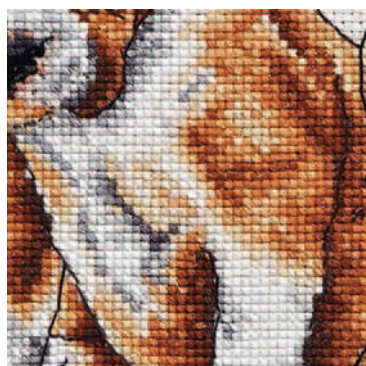
Playful puppies



Meet the designer...

Amanda Butler

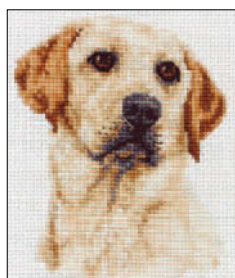
Whilst designing this picture of playful boxer puppies, I had this moment in mind – outside on a bright sunny day, amongst tall grass and abundant wild flowers. This tranquil scene is interrupted only by cute little boxer puppy noses poking their way through the grass! These bundles of fun are now ready for a quick nap before they happily continue with their energetic games. These little cuties are individually enhanced by the gentle use of backstitch, which frames their features and gives the whole image a definitive edge. This is then softened by the subtle hint of a grassy foreground, created by the use of half cross stitch in shades of pastel green.



Create the boxer puppies' mischievous twinkle by stitching a French knot in two strands as a highlight on their eyes – head to page 48 for tips on perfecting your knots

Spectacularly life-like, any dog owner would recognise the cheeky expressions on this pack of perfect pups. Boxer dogs are one of the most fun dog breeds, famed for their playful, inquisitive and happy manner. They're also known as the puppy Peter Pan – they aren't fully grown until they are three years old! If this isn't enough puppy time for you though, stitch this memorable design from Anchor and immortalise them in puppy-play forever. The design is mostly whole cross stitch, with sensational shading that creates the boxers' glossy coats and gives the picture real depth and texture. You'll use plenty of backstitch to add definition to the design, picking out details on their feet, ears and trademark wrinkly faces. A satisfying way to tackle a big design like this is to focus on stitching one pup at a time – that way you can celebrate every time you finish each boxer puppy!

More delightful dogs from Anchor



Labrador
Ref: PCE214, £11.15



Bulldog
Ref: PCE223, £11.15



Puppies in a row
Ref: PCE728, £32.75

For stockists, visit www.makeitcoats.com



Stitching your puppy design

You will need...

16HPI aida (or 32HPI evenweave), cream, 15x23in (38x58cm)

Stranded cotton as listed in the key

Frame with an 8¾x16½in (22x42cm) aperture, antique cream painted wood

Turn to page 48 for hints and tips!

Starting off

PRE-SORT your threads before starting this design, as there are many different colours used. Punch holes in a piece of thin card and loop the skeins of thread through them, then label each with the thread number and the symbol used on the chart. This way you will easily be able to find the threads.

Working the design

MEASURE your fabric to find the centre as this is the best place to start stitching. The design is worked in cross stitch using two strands of stranded cotton over one thread of the aida fabric. The colours used in this design are very similar in shade or tone so do take care to identify each one on the key and chart before you begin stitching.

Adding the details

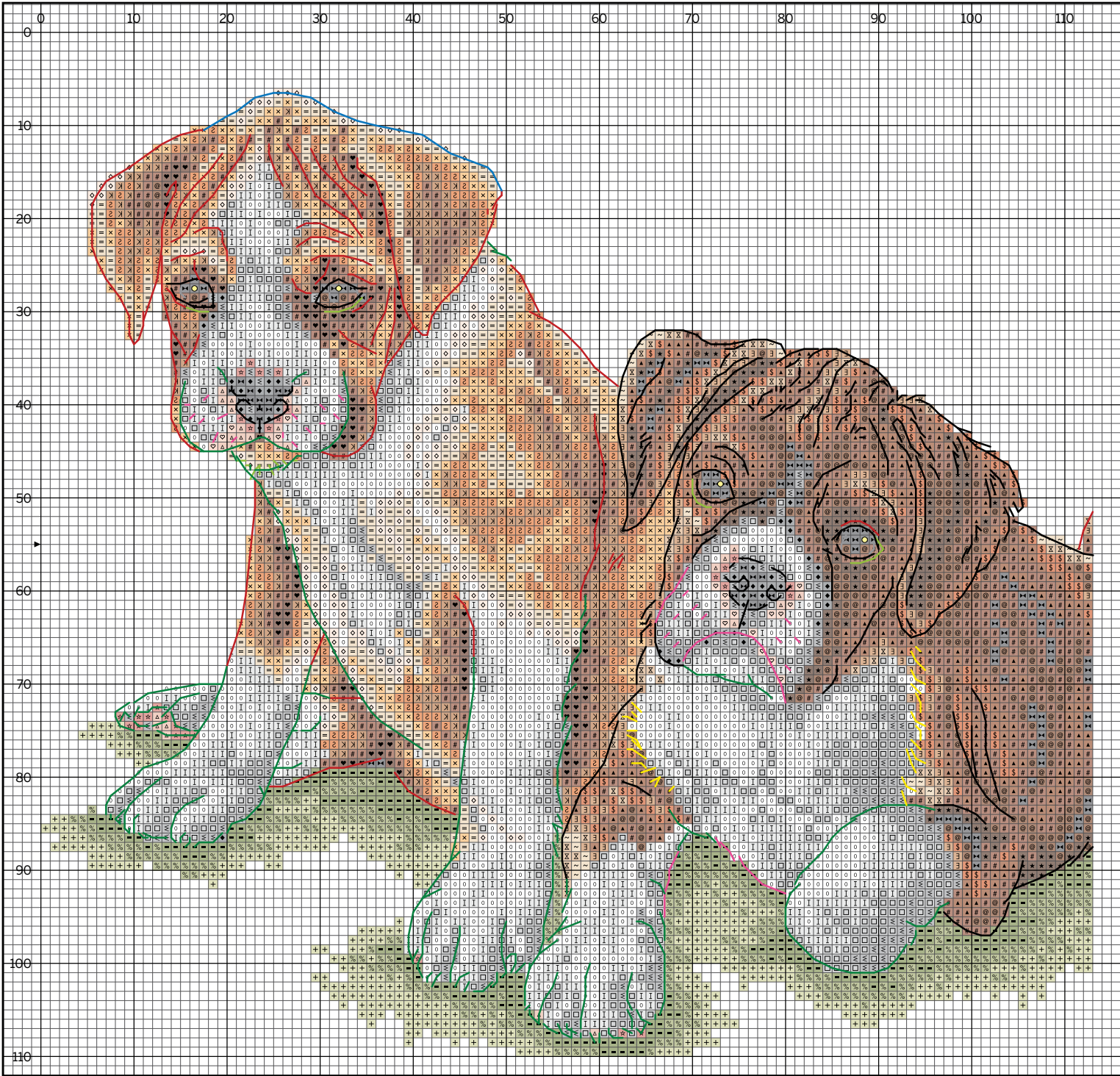
FINISH working all the cross stitch and half cross stitch before adding the backstitch and long stitch details and outlines. These are all worked in one strand of stranded cotton and there are several different colours used. Each one is shown on the chart using a different coloured line so make sure you look closely at the key to choose the right one. Finally, add the highlight for the dogs' eyes as a French knot using two strands of white.

Tip... stitching half cross stitch

The grass area beneath the dogs is worked in half cross stitch using either two strands or one strand – refer carefully to the key to make sure you use the correct number of threads, and make sure all your stitches face the same way.

Choosing a neutral cream painted frame will not only complement your aida, but will also allow the rich brown tones in your finished cross stitch boxers to really stand out

Playful puppies



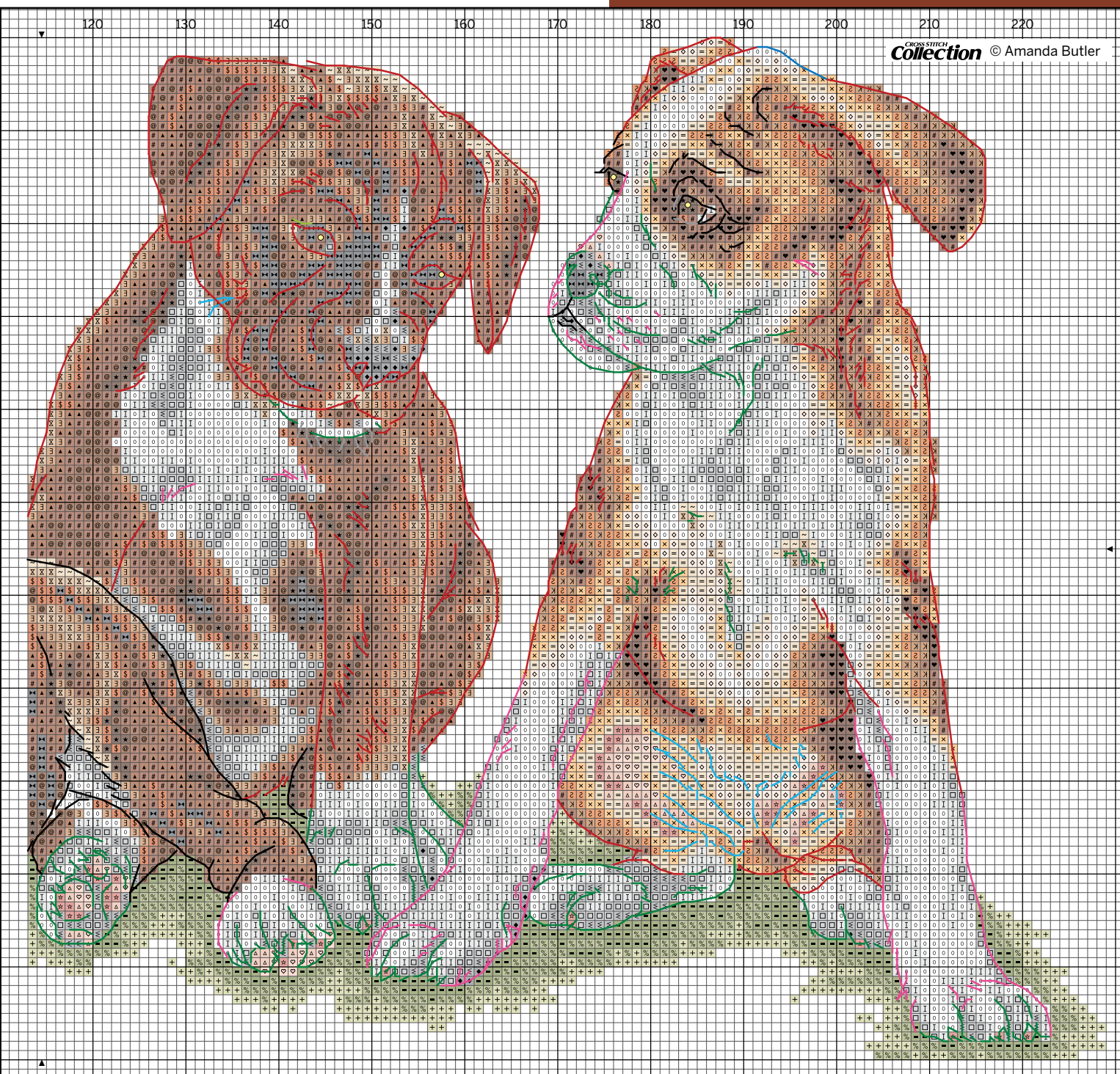
Playful puppies

Anchor	Colour
Cross stitch in two strands	
	002 White (2)
	234 Pale grey (2)
	276 Very light pink beige
	349 Dark rust
	355 Light brown
	357 Medium brown (2)
	359 Dark brown
	360 Very dark brown
	361 Light tan
	368 Medium tan

Anchor	Colour
Cross stitch in two strands	
	369 Dark tan
	370 Chesnut
	381 Black brown
	399 Light grey
	400 Medium grey
	401 Dark grey
	403 Black
	892 Light pink beige
	914 Dark pink beige
	942 Fawn

Anchor	Colour
Cross stitch in two strands	
	1047 Light rust
	1048 Medium rust
	4146 Medium pink beige
Half cross stitch in two strands	
	843 Medium green
	844 Dark green
Half cross stitch in one strand	
	842 Light green

Anchor	Colour
Backstitch/long stitch in one strand	
	*234 Pale grey second boxer from left
	*359 Dark brown top of heads (far left and far right)
	*368 Medium tan eyes
	*370 Chesnut far right boxer



CrossStitch
Collection © Amanda Butler

Anchor	Colour
Backstitch/long stitch in one strand	
— *381	Black brown
all other outlines and details	
— *400	Medium grey
faces, chest	
— *401	Dark grey
paws, legs, faces, chins, chest	
— *403	Black
faces, middle two boxers	
— *942	Fawn
eyes, chin	

Anchor	Colour
French knots in two strands	
●● *002	White
eyes	
Stitched using Anchor threads	
on 16HPI aida	
Stitch count 110x229	
Design area 634x1414in (17x37cm)	
*indicates colour is listed earlier in the key	
(2) indicates more than one skein required	

Collection makes...

FRAME IT UP

Anchor's design would look seriously smart framed up as a stretched canvas – check out our poppy project on page 20 for advice on framing your pic this way.

SPLIT THE PACK

You could split this design easily in half if you wanted a smaller project, or how about just stitching one of their sweet faces? Simply use your chart as a guide.

FABRIC FUN

Give the design an extra splash of colour by stitching it on a pale green aida – it will look like your puppies are in a gorgeous green field!



YOUR letters

Write to Cross Stitch Collection Letters, 30 Monmouth Street, Bath BA1 2BW.
Or email us at csc@futurenet.co.uk with your stitching stories

Lovely Lily Fairy

I am proud to say that after two years I have managed to complete my Joan Elliott Lily Fairy. I am so pleased with how she looks, I just need to get her framed! I chose to stitch her as I love Joan Elliott patterns. I had already stitched the Rose Fairy and so decided to do this one. I started her in 2012 and had high expectations of finishing it in six months but after some health issues it got put to one side. After I was told that I had suffered a minor stroke, I decided to pick her up and finish her. I think that the most challenging part was the beading as there was quite a lot to do but I am so pleased with how she looks and she will take pride of place next to my Rose Fairy.

Donna Atkinson, Coventry

Collection says: Well done for picking up your stitching after such a scare!



Donna loves to stitch Joan Elliott's fairies

Back to school!

Quite a long time ago, I purchased a kit called Hummingbird Hardanger. At the time, I had no idea how to do Hardanger! So, I took a class at my local cross stitch shop. The first class I took was a beginner class, then, I took a more advanced class, and finished a Victorian Sampler. Then came another class, and I finally had enough nerve and tackled Hummingbird Hardanger. They all turned out beautifully, with all of them winning



Bonnie finally learned Hardanger

prizes at local fairs. Victorian Christmas Sampler won three best of shows in three fairs. I love cross stitch, but I really enjoyed learning the new stitches I needed to complete these projects.

Bonnie McClung, Canada

Collection says: What a great way to learn an exciting new stitchy skill

I've missed! Missed an issue? Can't find that elusive design? Can't get a back issue? Try our reader noticeboard...

I am looking for the Magical Wizard chart by Lesley Grant, featured in the January 2005 issue (113). I am happy to pay postage costs.

Jean Cressey
jeancressey@gmail.com

I have found a beautiful birth blanket designed by Karen Brittan called The Afghan advertised in issues 91-93, 2003 of CSC. If you

could let me know if I could purchase this or pay to download it I would be very grateful.

Jenny Brooker
jenny.brooker@yahoo.com

I am looking for issue 101 of CSC from 2004, for the Julia de Medeiros Violet birthday flower with card cut out mount. I am happy to pay costs for either the

pattern and mount or the magazine.

Jennifer McGarva
jjmcgarva@googlemail.com

I am looking for the second part of the Edwardian Garden Party design from issue 223 (2013). I am happy to pay costs.

Miss S Ellis
sonia8118@gmail.com

Email
or write to...

csc@futurenet.co.uk
– 'I've missed!'; Cross Stitch
Collection, 30 Monmouth
Street, Bath BA1 2BW

It's so easy to get in touch! Email us at csc@futurenet.co.uk or write to

"I took three classes and finally had the nerve to tackle my Hardanger Hummingbird kit!"



Jo's cute and life-like cubs

Big cat cubs

I thought I would show you the big cat cubs that I've just finished from the June 236 issue of *Cross Stitch Collection*. When I saw them I just had to do them straight away – they were so cute and life-like. I've turned them into a cushion and trimmed it with leopard ribbon. Hope you like it.

Jo Carter, by email

Collection says: We love your leopard print ribbon – fab idea!

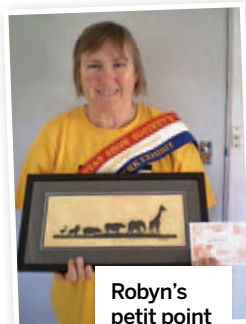
Long awaited wish

It's been a while since I have written in to the magazine but I haven't been lazy. My main reason for writing is that you have

fulfilled a long awaited wish of mine that I have been wanting to know about for over 25 years and that is reversible cross stitch, which was featured in Jane Greenoff's column in the August 238 issue. Would Jane come up with a small design using this stitch please? I would be forever grateful. I also wanted to show you a picture a design that I did in petit point (one half of a cross stitch) over 32HPI fabric. It won me first prize and show champion in my local town last November. I hope you like it!

Robyn Leigh, Australia

Collection says: We found a fab Reversible Cross Stitch Sampler pattern at www.artsanddesigns.com



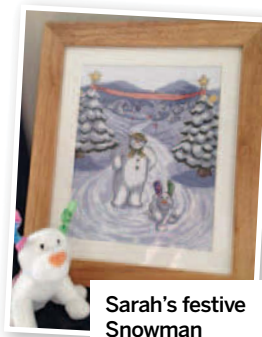
Robyn's petit point

Snowman and Snowdog

As soon as I saw the *Snowman and Snowdog* chart from the Christmas 229 issue of *Cross Stitch Collection* I knew I had to stitch it for my son, who adores the Snowdog. I'm so pleased I managed to finish it in time for his third birthday – he's going to hang it in his bedroom. I think I will miss stitching this now it's done, as so much love has been put into it. I know my son will cherish it for many years. Now I'm going to stitch the stitching safari cubs from the June 236 issue – thanks for an amazing magazine!

Sarah Ellinger, by email

Collection says: What a lovely stitched gift for your lucky son!



Sarah's festive Snowman

Your say...

FIVE LUCKY WINNERS receive a fabulous **Willow Fabrics** £10 gift voucher from



Willow Fabrics are your one-stop shop for top brands like Zweigart, Anchor and Kreinik, with a constantly updated range of products and offers. Call Willow Fabrics on 0800 0567811 or visit www.willowfabrics.com to sample the huge range of quality materials available.

What's happening on Facebook and our blog?

- 1 We started our *Weekend Collection* on the blog – download a free CSC chart every week!
- 2 Lesley Teare told us about all her favourite CSC designs at www.croscstitchcollection.com
- 3 We reached 25,000 followers on Facebook – welcome to all our new friends!
- 4 You told us when you start your Christmas stitching – you're way more organised than us!

We asked... What stitched items are in your handbag?

"I have an altoids tin for mints that I decorated in cross stitch." **Kimberly Delano Martinez**

"I have a cross stitch card kit in my handbag at all times (free-gift from magazines!), to help while away time in waiting rooms." **Sian Cook**

"My make-up bag has got my name stitched on it." **Linda Rumsey**

"I often have my kindle with me in my handbag, which has a perfect seahorse pattern stitch on it." **Linda West**

"I always keep a project in my bag!" **Betsy Blake**

"My iPhone case, a small bag for my iPhone, and a bigger bag for my Kindle" **Corinne Defago**

"My Kindle or tablet, and a wee bag with a small cross stitch project in it. I did a set of coasters over a period of about three years just sitting in hospitals and other waiting places. Now I'm working on bookmarks – and so far everyone is healthy, so I haven't done much!" **Karen Gebbie**

"A glasses case I stitched myself!" **Denise Hughes**

Offer your stitching tips at our Facebook page <http://on.fb.me/CSCollection>



Write to us...

We love to hear about your stitching projects and to see the end results!

If you'd like to inspire other readers with your story, please send us a letter by post or email, along with a photo of your project to:

Cross Stitch Collection Letters
30 Monmouth Street
Bath BA1 2BW

csc@futurenet.co.uk

Please make sure that your photo is well-lit and a reasonable size (ideally 1mb or larger) so that we can show off your stitching to its full glory!

Happy stitching!

The Collection Team

Everyone's a WINNER!

THE WRITER OF OUR STAR LETTER will receive a gorgeous pack of threads from **Anchor** worth £20! The writers of every other letter we print will receive threads from **Anchor** worth £10.

Anchor Visit Anchor's website at: www.makeitcoats.com for FREE crafting projects every month.

Always remember



.....

Commemorate the centenary of the Great War in cross stitch with **Durene Jones'** breathtaking poppy design

.....

Marking 100 years since the start of the First World War, 2014 is a landmark year in our history. We've seen wonderful events over Europe to help us remember the people who fought in this conflict. This beautiful poppy design by Durene Jones is great way for you to take part by commemorating the Great War in cross stitch. The poppy petals are stitched using a handful

of thread colours to create a delicate tissue paper effect. With mostly whole stitches and no backstitch on the flowers, Durene's design is quite straightforward, though the spectacular lettering requires a few more techniques. You'll work fractionals to create the letters' flourishes and the backstitch in two strands adds a bold outline, allowing you to stitch the perfect phrase onto this elegant design.

Get stitching for our poppy appeal!

If you'd like to get involved with fundraising for the British Legion, head to our website to download a free poppy mini-chart that can be made up into a brooch, cards, or sweet pictures for you to sell to family and friends. You can then donate the proceeds using a link on our blog at www.crossstitchcollection.com

Stitching your poppy design

.....

You will need...

28HPI linen (or 14HPI aida), off white, Zweigart Cashel Ref: 3281/101, 18x16in (46x41cm)

Stranded cotton as listed in the key

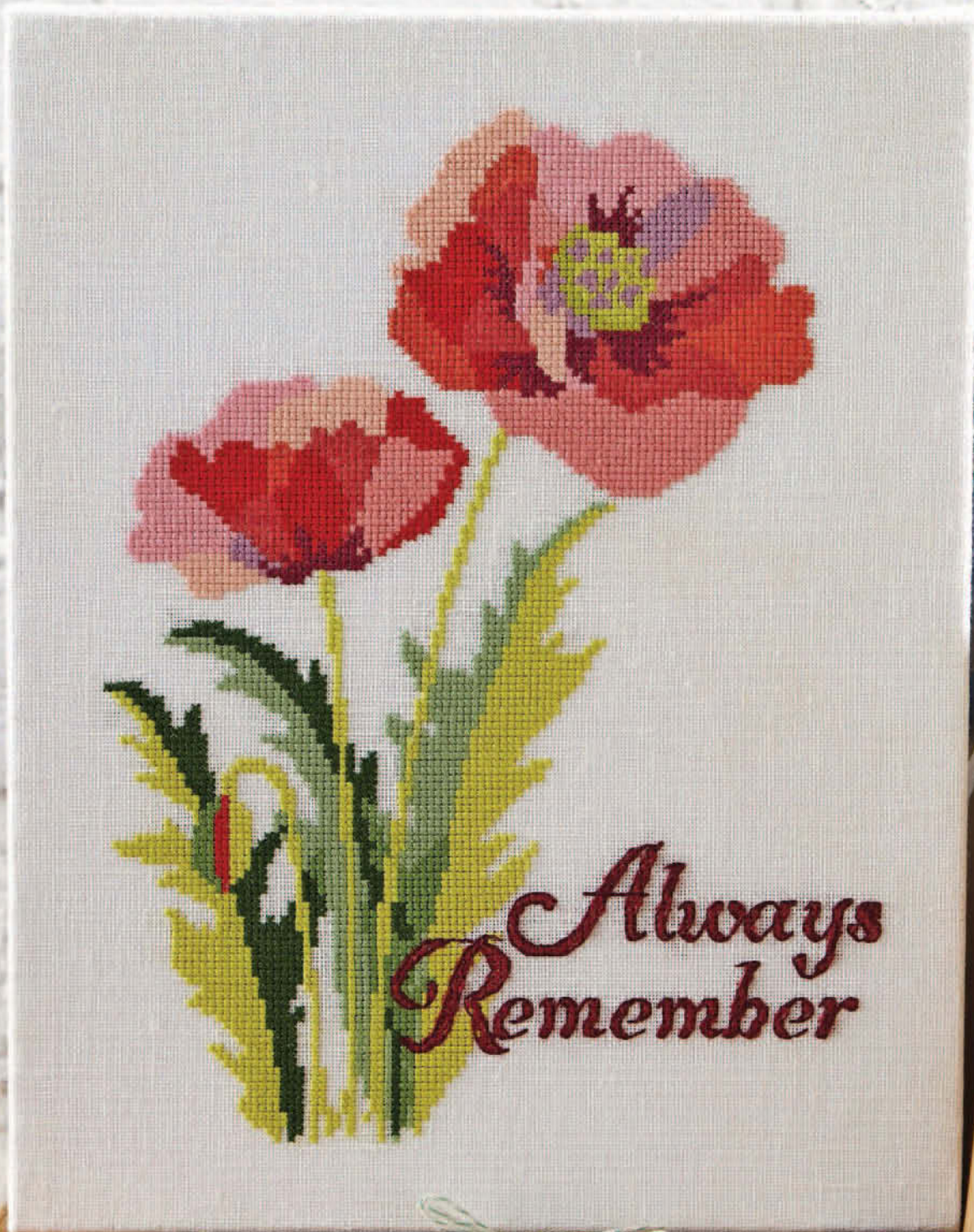
Frame with a 11¼x9in (29x23cm) outer dimension

White felt 11¼x9in (29x23cm), for backing

Turn to page 48 for hints and tips!



You'll create the delicate,
tissue paper petals with just
a handful of colours



➤ Stitching the design

FOLD the linen fabric in half both ways to find the centre and start stitching at this point. All the cross stitch is worked in two strands of stranded cotton over two threads of the linen fabric. The design is worked in blocks of colour, so you will find the counting quite easy.

Adding the details

WHEN you have finished working all the cross stitch you can add the backstitch details on the lettering. These are all worked using two strands of very dark pink to outline and add detail to the letters.

Our stitcher says... the delicate transparent effect is actually achieved by stitching blocks of colour – it's really satisfying to complete each one before moving on the next



Framing your picture

ASK your framer to cut a flat, plain wooden frame about 1in (2.5cm) deep to the dimensions given in the shopping list. The sizes stated are the outer dimensions of the frame. This isn't how we would normally give a frame size but for this sort of stretched canvas effect the outside size is the most important one. Also, ask the framer to cut a piece of white mount board to fit exactly over the finished frame.

1 **STICK** the mount board on top of the frame with double-sided tape.

2 **PLACE** your finished stitching centrally over that and push pins through the edge of the fabric and into the mount board.

3 **STICK** double-sided tape over the back of the frame and stretch the fabric tightly round to the back and stick into place. Fold the corners neatly so you have a 90° angle at the edges.

4 **STITCH** the piece of felt over the back of the frame for a neater effect, then sew a small curtain ring to the top of the centre back for hanging.

Always remember

DMC Anchor Madeira Colour

Cross stitch in two strands

# #	166	279	1308	Dark lime green
♥ ♥	349	013	0212	Dark red
& &	351	010	0214	Light red
o o	353	008	2605	Peach
~ ~	368	214	1310	Light green
I I	760	1022	0405	Rose pink
■ ■	986	246	1404	Dark green
☆ ☆	988	243	1402	Medium green
3 3	3328	1024	0406	Light russet
x x	3716	025	0606	Light pink
★ ★	3721	896	0811	Dark russet
@ @	3803	069	2609	Dark pink
♡ ♡	3819	278	2703	Light lime green
2 2	3836	090	0711	Purple

Backstitch in two strands

—	902	897	0601	Very dark pink
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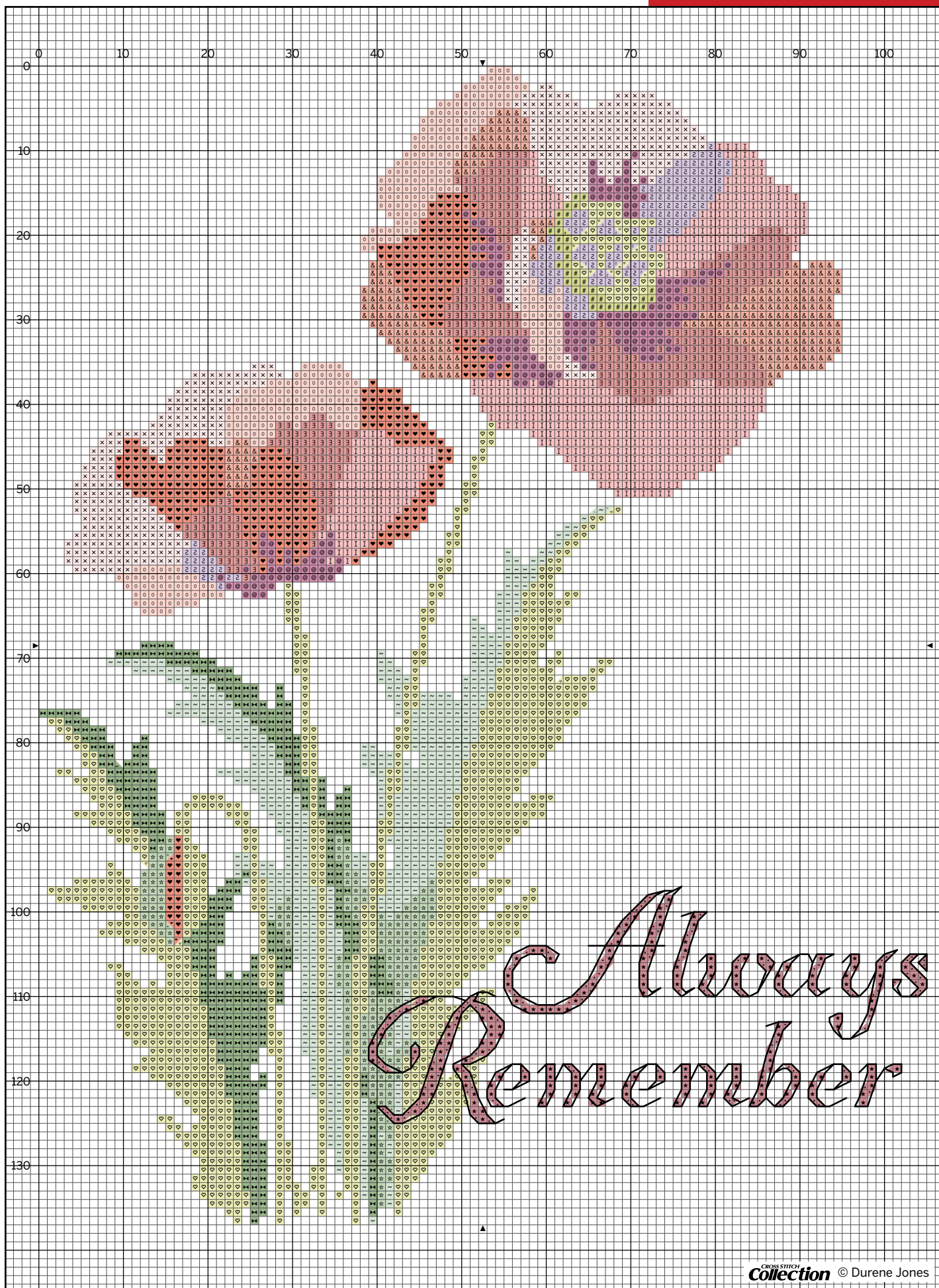
all outlines and details

Stitched using DMC threads on 28HPI linen over two threads

Stitch count 137x105

Design area 9¾x7½in (25x19.5cm)

Stitching clever shading means there is no need for any backstitch on the flowers, with colour combinations and the odd fractional stitch creating the detail



DAINTY MAKES

Enjoyed stitching this? Sheena has created a larger marigold and opal design for you to enjoy! The October mini cushion is just 5¼in (14.7cm) square and costs only £13.99. To get yours, visit: sheenarogersdesigns.co.uk

Bright and bold, Sheena Rogers' beautiful October pincushion is the perfect start to an exciting seasonal stitching series. Sheena has handpicked stunning flowers and precious stones to represent each month, and turned them into gorgeous mini designs – the finished cushions measure just 4x4in! Sheena told us, "I loved researching the different birth flowers and re-creating them as tiny pincushions for this series." Those born in the marigold month of October are said to be warm, fierce and devoted, which is reflected perfectly by Sheena's fiery colour pallet. "Opal is the birthstone for this month," Sheena added, "and is represented in the single row of opal pink stitches around the design" – the perfect shade for a gem whose attributes include purity, innocence and hope. With these blocks of colour, whole cross stitches and no backstitch, you'll love the textured tapestry-style finish.

You will need...

14HPI aida (or 28HPI evenweave),

white, 8x8in (20x20cm)

Stranded cotton as listed in the key

Backing fabric 6x6in (15x15cm)

Soft toy filling

Make a pincushion

FINISH stitching your marigold design, then follow these steps to make your pretty pincushion:

1 **TRIM** your aida 1in (2.5cm) around the stitching, then lay right sides together on top of the backing fabric, pinning them together.

2 **SEW** the two pieces together along the edge of the stitching around three sides and 1in (1.5cm) either end of the fourth side.

3 **TRIM** all four edges of both the aida and backing fabric to about ¼in (6mm) outside the seam, then snip off the corners.

4 **TURN** the pin cushion right sides out and stuff with the soft toy filling. Sew up the opening to finish.

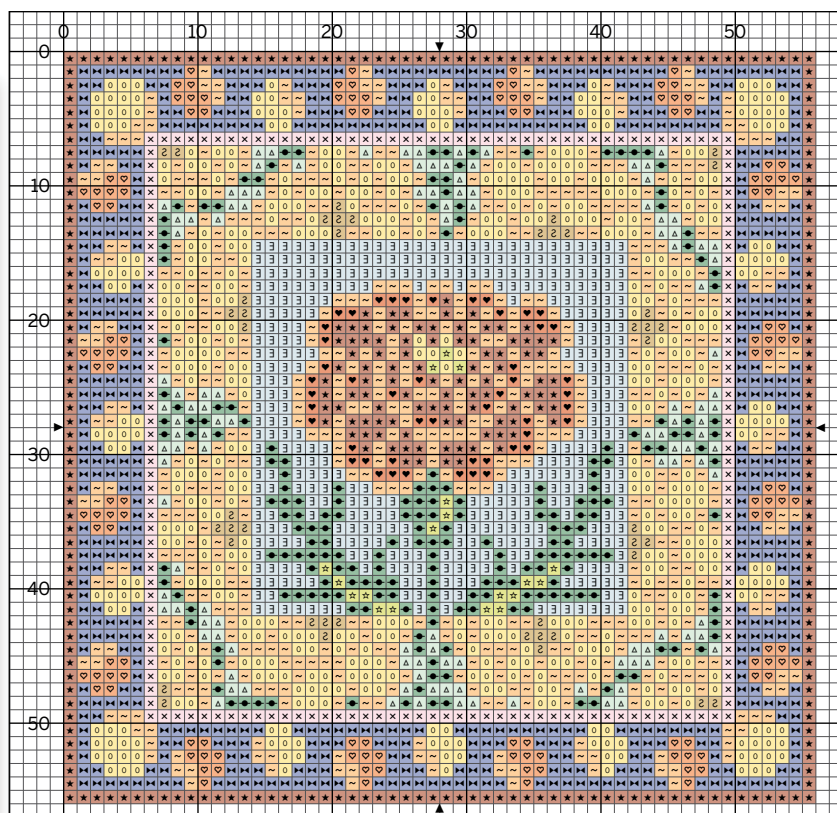
Marvellous marigolds

DMC Anchor Madeira Colour

Cross stitch in two strands

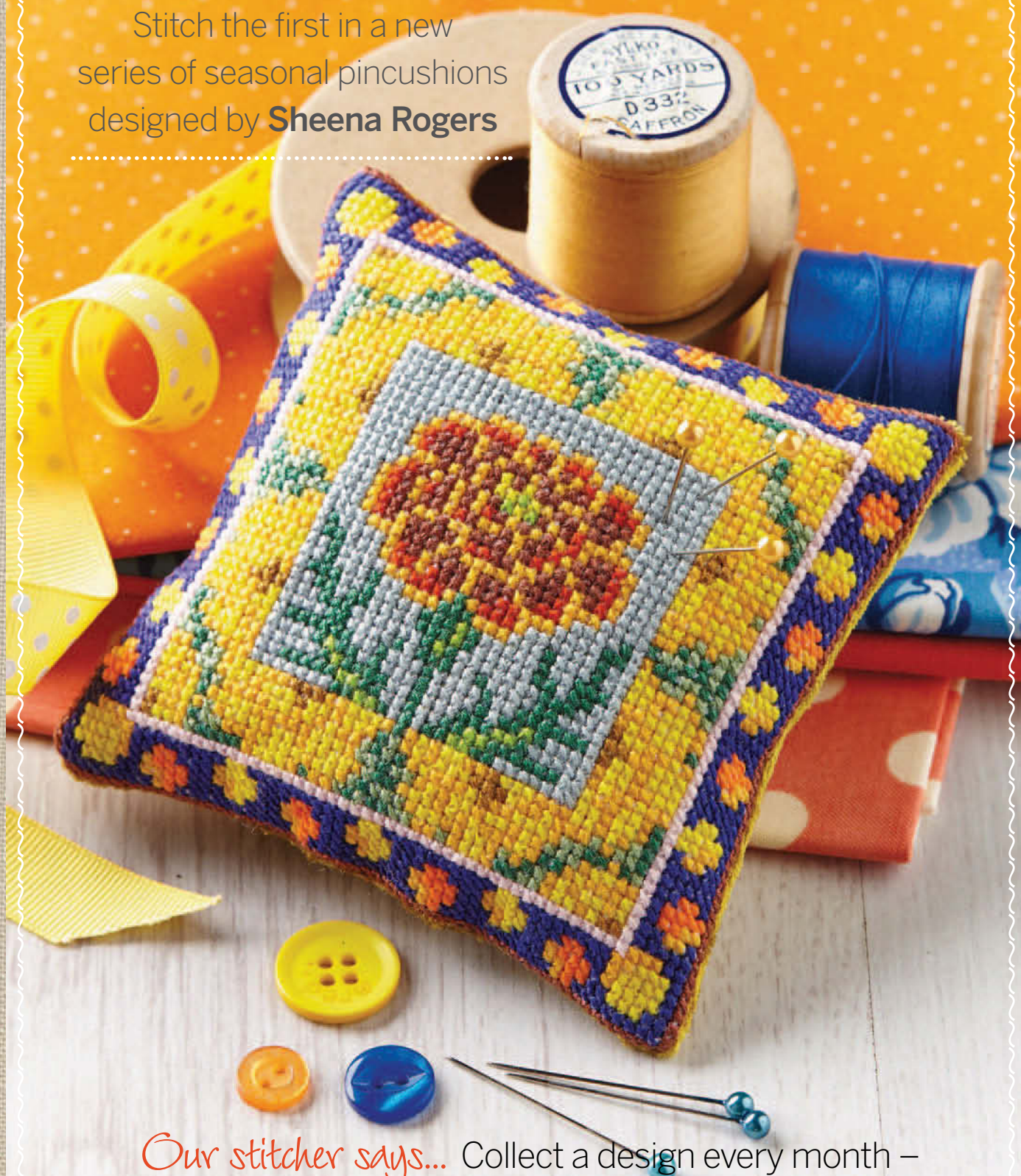
	368	214	1310	Light green
	505	211	1206	Dark green
	632	936	2311	Brown
	742	303	0114	Lt orange
	791	178	0904	Blue
	900	333	0208	Dk orange
	907	255	1410	Lime green
	927	849	1708	Petrol blue
	963	023	0503	Pink
	970	925	0204	M orange
	973	290	0105	Yellow
	3829	901	2210	Gold brown

Stitched using DMC threads on 14HPI aida
Stitch count 56x56
Design area 4x4in (10x10cm)



Marvellous marigolds

Stitch the first in a new
series of seasonal pincushions
designed by **Sheena Rogers**



Our stitcher says... Collect a design every month –
look out for Sheena's chrysanthemum and citrine
pincushion in our November issue



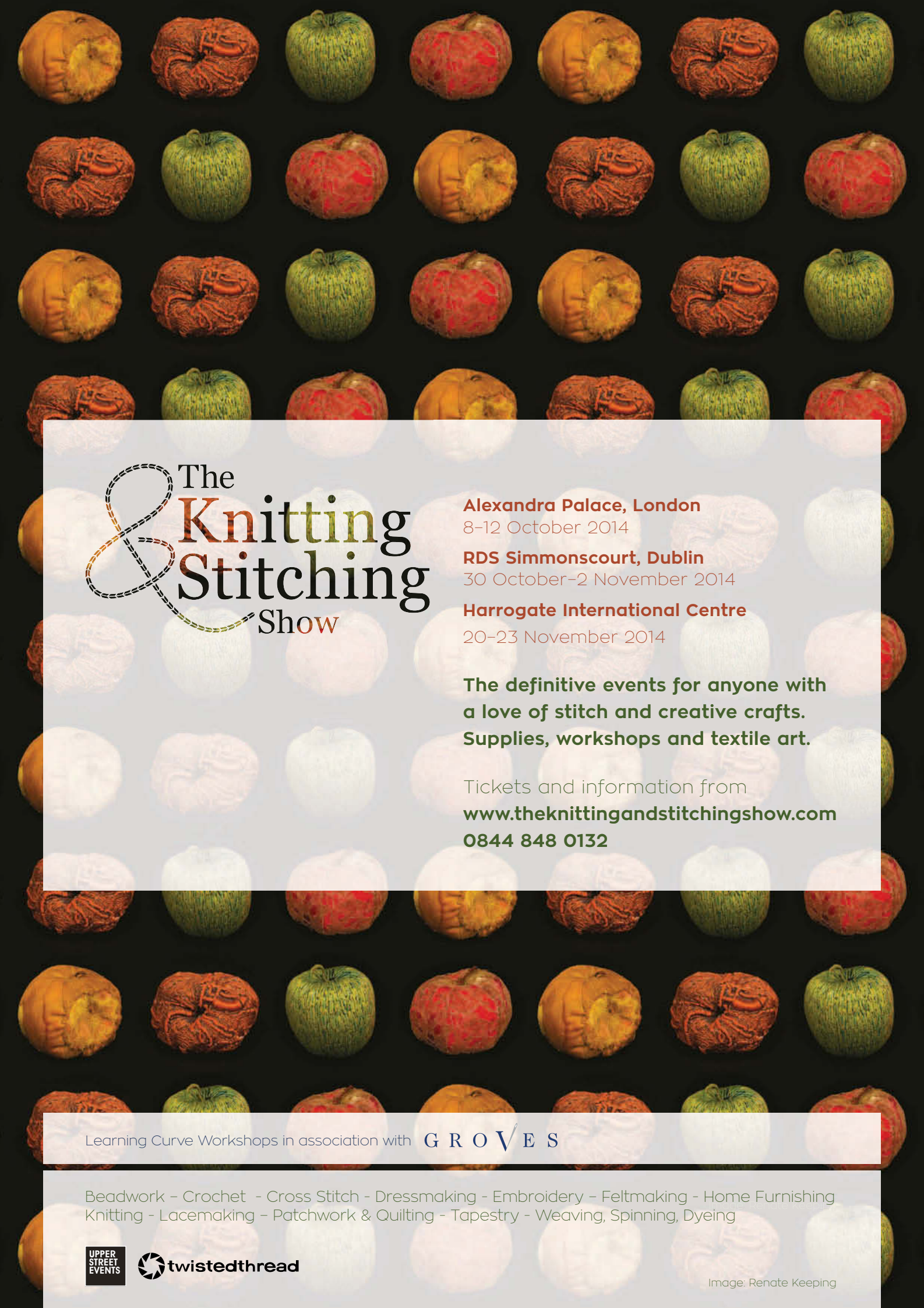
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*Free Trial not available on Zinio.



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Image: Renate Keeping



Christmas tradition

Stitch a stocking you'll
cherish forever with
Permin's classic and
charming Santa design

Behind the scenes with...

Frits Nordlunde

Christmas is the most exciting time for us at Permin. In Denmark, and also in Scandinavia in general, people really enjoy the Christmas season, and love to make decorations for their home. Christmas décor here is still



“Christmas décor here is still traditional and mostly handmade”

handmade and traditional – people are always making tree decorations, table cloths and advent calenders. In fact, everything! However, the idea of a big Christmas stocking is actually one we learnt from the UK. We usually have lots of mini-stockings with a little present for every day in December to create a countdown. This design is a mix of our two customs, the traditional Permin Santa design on a big stocking to fill with lots of gifts!





Few sights stir as much excitement as that of Christmas stockings hung high above the fireplace, waiting to be stuffed full of festive goodies! Why not make this year extra special by stitching a classic stocking? With armfuls of toys tumbling from his hands, rosy pink cheeks, and a hint of a smile hidden behind a bright white beard, Permin's stitched Santa is perfect for putting you in a merry mood. Using whole cross stitch only ensures that this project grows with a satisfying speed, and you'll work some close thread colours to achieve the stunning shading that gives this design such depth – particularly on Santa's rich, red, velvety coat. Traditional and beautiful, this stocking is sure to be a regular feature in your festive décor, sparking your family's excitement for Christmas for years to come!

More festive Christmas projects from Permin



Christmas Decoration Hearts

Ref: 01-2250, £12.00



Christmas Sock

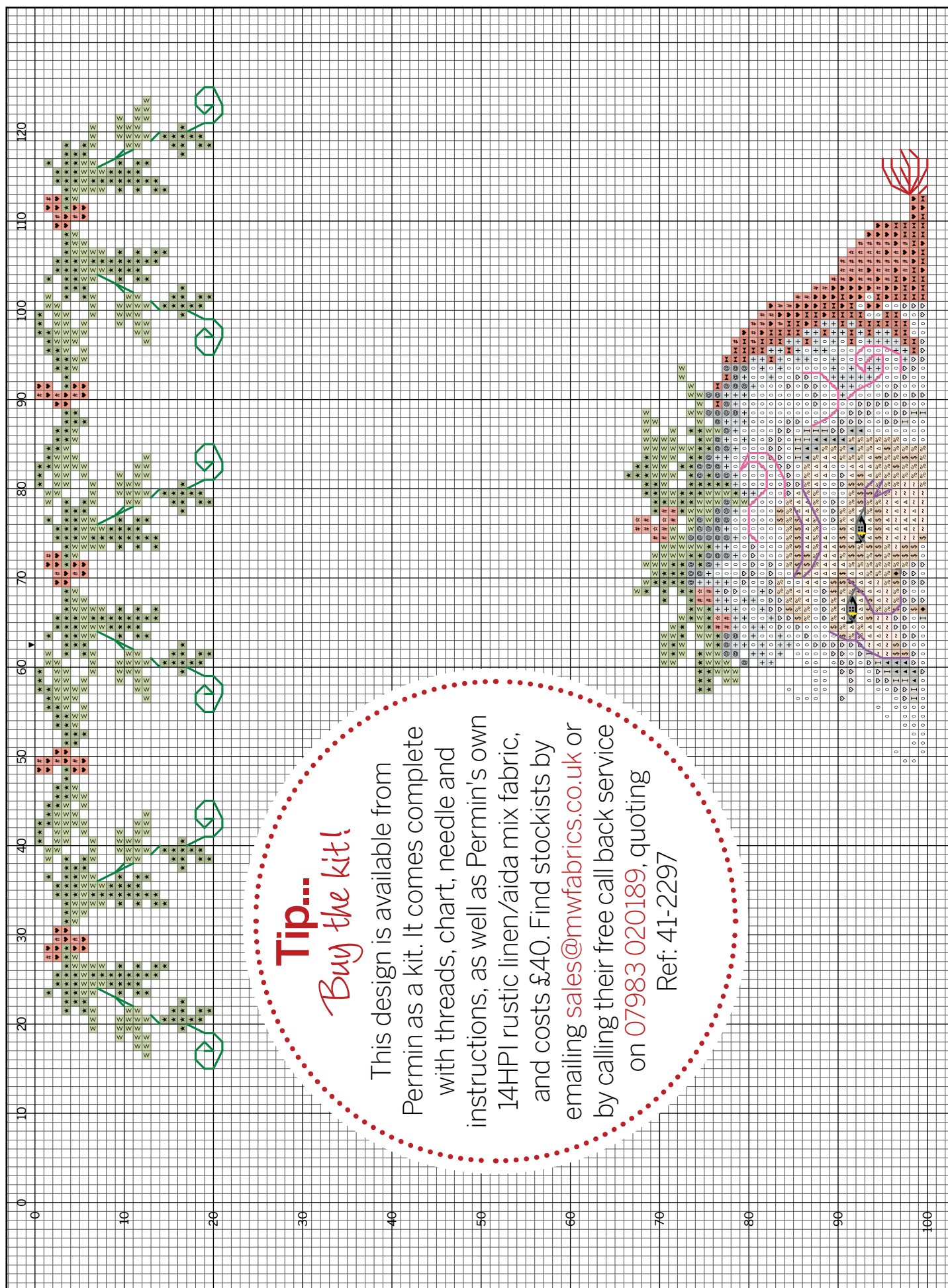
Ref: 41-3250, £40.00



Santa Post Bag

Ref: 22-6215, £25.00

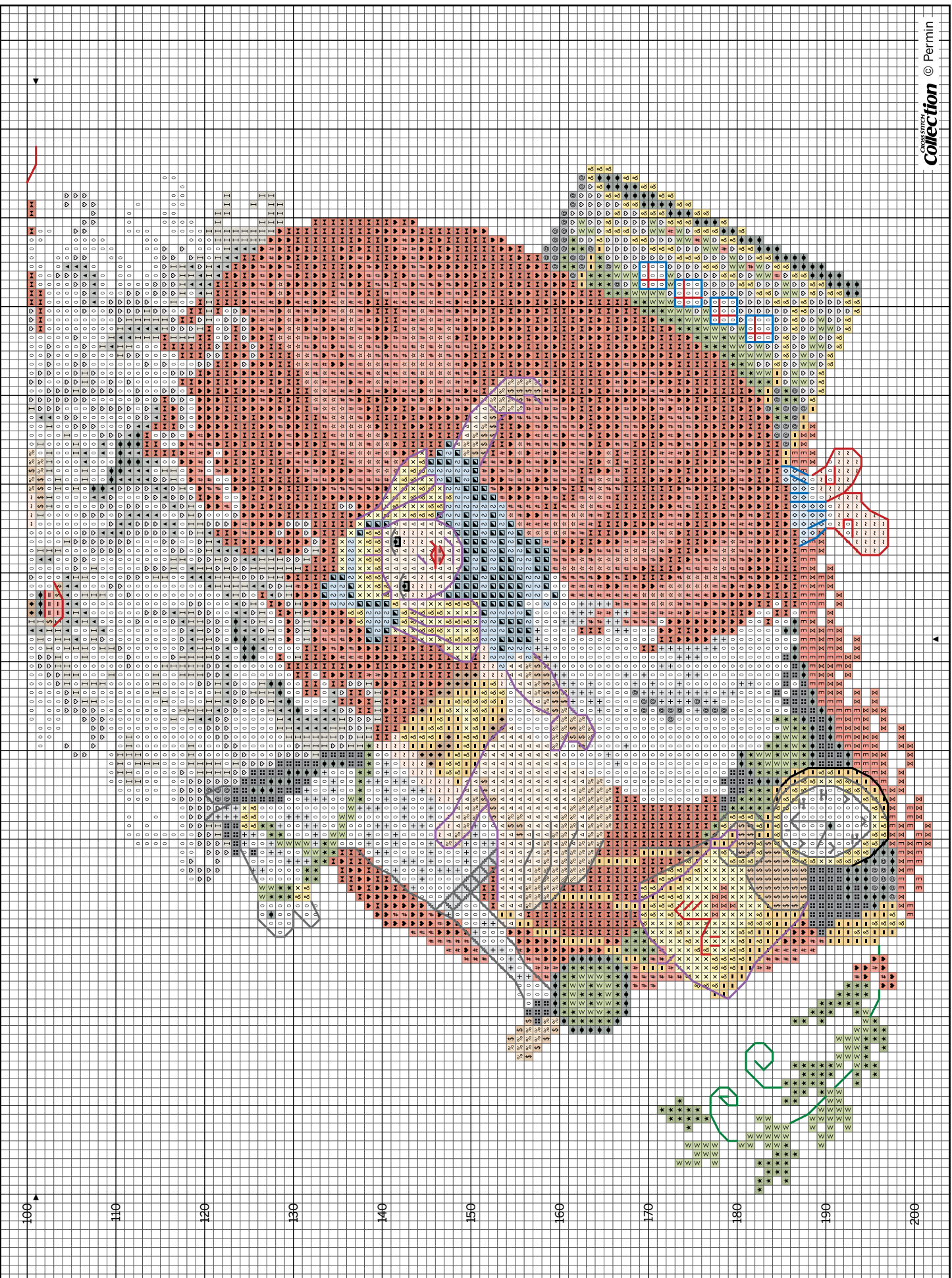
For stockists, email sales@mwfabrics.co.uk or call the free call back service on **07983 020189**



Tip... Buy the kit!

This design is available from Permin as a kit. It comes complete with threads, chart, needle and instructions, as well as Permin's own 14HPI rustic linen/aida mix fabric, and costs £40. Find stockists by emailing sales@mwfabrics.co.uk or by calling their free call back service on **07983 020189**, quoting Ref: 41-2297

CROSS STITCH
Collection
© Permin



Stitching your stocking design

You will need...

28HPI linen (or 14HPI aida), cream, Zweigart Cashel Ref: 3281/222, 23x19in (58x48cm). We got our linen from Willow Fabrics. Find yours by calling 0800 0567811 or visit www.willowfabrics.com

Stranded cotton as listed in the key

Cotton backing fabric cream, 20x16in (51x41cm)

Ticking fabric red, 22x15in (56x38cm)

Sewing kit including matching thread

Turn to page 48 for hints and tips!

Stitching the design

ENSURE that the bottom edge of your stitching starts 5in (13cm) up from the lower short edge of the linen fabric and that it's central in order to have the ideal space for making up later. The majority of cross stitch is worked using two strands of stranded cotton over two threads of the linen fabric. The area at the bottom of the design is worked in cross stitch using one strand of stranded cotton.

When you have finished working all the cross stitch you can add the backstitch details. These are all worked in one strand and there are several different colours used, so refer to the chart and key for the exact positioning.

Our stitcher says... You could stitch the pretty holly border along the edge of a tablecloth or onto napkins to make matching homestyle for your Christmas lunch

Using your stocking pattern

PRINTED here at 50%, you will need to enlarge your stocking template on a photocopier then cut it out. Alternatively, you can download a full size stocking template for free at www.crossstitchcollection.com. Once you have done this:

1 PLACE the pattern on to the wrong side of your stitched linen, positioning it so that the top is 1in (2.5cm) above the holly at the top and the rest of the design sits centrally within the stocking outline.

2 DRAW round it lightly in pencil on the back of the fabric. You may find it easier to trace your pattern onto tracing paper so you can see the stitching through it more easily.

Making the stocking body

PLACE the backing fabric right sides together with the linen, and then stitch together following the pencil lines, leaving the top open. Next, trim and snip the fabric ½in (1.5cm) from your stitched line and across the top above the drawn line. After that, turn right sides out and press.

DOWNLOAD

your free full size stocking template at:
www.crossstitchcollection.com



Permin are celebrating!

Read our fascinating interview with Permin on page 37 – it's their 160th birthday!

Make the **stocking cuff**

USE a ½in (1.5cm) seam allowance and press open all seams as you go.

1 CUT the ticking fabric into 15x18½in (38x47cm) for the stocking cuff and 2x8½in (5x22cm) for the hanging loop.

2 FOLD the cuff in half right sides together widthways and stitch together.

3 PLACE this tube of fabric right sides together round the linen stocking top and stitch, matching the side seam.

4 TURN the other end of the tube under ½in (1.5cm) and pin on top of the inside of the stocking top to encase the seams. Stitch into place.

Stitching a **hanging loop**

1 FOLD the hanging loop strip in half lengthways and stitch together, then turn right sides out and tuck in the short ends.

2 STITCH this to the inside of the stocking cuff on the right hand edge, but make sure it is only half way up from the lower edge.

3 FOLD the cuff in half just overlapping the top of the linen to complete.

Beautiful and detailed, this project is a real festive investment. It will be loved for years – and provide hours of stitching pleasure for you!

Christmas tradition

DMC Anchor Madeira Colour

Cross stitch in two strands

□□	B5200	001	2401	Bright white
■	310	403	2400	Black
#	347	1025	0407	Medium red
@	414	235	1801	Dark grey
+	415	398	1802	Light grey
◆	420	374	2104	Dark brown
\$	436	363	2011	Light brown
%	437	362	2012	Tan
▲	646	1040	1812	Dark green grey
&	725	305	0108	Dark yellow
x	727	293	0110	Light yellow
△	739	366	2014	Cream
~	754	1012	0305	Pink beige
-	783	307	2212	Golden yellow
2	813	140	1013	Blue
♥	814	045	0514	Garnet
♥	815	044	0513	Dark red
●	844	1041	1810	Graphite
■	931	1034	1711	Petrol blue
★	937	268	1504	Dark green
I	3023	899	1902	Light green grey
♡	3024	391	1901	Silver grey
☆	3328	1024	0406	Light red
≤	3347	266	1408	Light green

Cross stitch in one strand

x	*347	1025	0407	Medium red
2	*813	140	1013	Blue
3	*815	044	0513	Dark red
=	*3328	1024	0406	Light red

Backstitch in one strand

—	*B5200	001	2401	Bright white
eye				
—	*310	403	2400	Black
eyes, watch				
—	*420	374	2104	Dark brown
face, hand, doll, bell, clock				
—	*646	1040	1812	Dark green grey
hat fur trim				
—	*815	044	0513	Dark red
bell, doll, book, mouth, hat				
—	*844	1041	1810	Graphite
all other outlines and details				
—	*931	1034	1711	Petrol blue
doll, book				
—	*937	268	1504	Dark green
holly stems				

Stitched using DMC threads on 28HPI linen over two threads

Stitch count 202x125

Design area 14½x9in (37x23cm)

*indicates colour is listed earlier in the key

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Above: Frits Nordlunde, the manager of Permin, has worked for the company since he was 16 – he started as a delivery boy!

Left: Created using Permin's first colour printers, this beautiful chart is an original project from the 1950s

In conversation with...

Frits Nordlunde

Permin are celebrating an amazing 160 years in needlecraft business! Rachael G Stephens caught up the man at the helm, Frits Nordlunde, to find out what has – and hasn't! – changed about cross stitch since 1854

There isn't anything that can't be stitched" says Frits Nordlunde, manager of Permin. And he should know – after over 50 years in the needlework business, he has an in-depth knowledge of Permin's 160 year design legacy. We spoke to Frits about the company's very beginnings, about the design process then and now, and about how all their beautiful designs have differed in the last 160 years. We asked him to tell us all about the 'Permin Handwriting' that pervades each and every one of their designs, and about the traditional values that have made the company such a success.

Creating Permin

Permin has created a wonderful world of cross stitch, with spectacular designs ranging from gorgeous landscapes and phenomenal florals to just about everything you'd want to stitch for Christmas! When the company was first started in 1854 by Christian Permin, it was as an embroideries shop situated in the heart of Copenhagen. The shop was quite different to what it is today, as people used Permin to buy personalised embroideries for their home. The shop designed and sold things like bed linens, curtains, ➤





Above: Creating gorgeous homestyle, like this pretty tablecloth, is still a popular reason why people cross stitch



Left: Designs containing plants and flowers are always favourites – especially with the addition of fun motifs like sun hats and gardening tools!



Below: With such breathtaking detail in these flower charts, you can tell they started life as stunning paintings by the cross stitch designers at Permin

chair sets and towels – gorgeous luxury items embroidered with initials, often bought for weddings for a happy new couple starting their life together.

“But this had to change”, says Frits, as the demand for such items decreased, especially with the hardships of the First World War. In a brand new shop in Copenhagen, Permin embraced the ‘make-it-yourself’ trend that was sweeping Europe, producing designs and patterns for tapestries, crewel work and trammed embroidery – the very beginnings of the cross stitch chart. However, there was no such thing

“Stitchers in 1854 had to take home a stitched example to copy — no charts!”

as a chart or graph as we know it, and no colour printing until the 1950s. Frits told us that in order to copy a design, the customer would have borrow a ready-stitched sample to copy! This isn’t quite as mad as it sounds – people were still mostly using these patterns to decorate their home décor, so “it would perhaps have a flower embroidered on to it, and the stitcher would then repeat the flower over their fabric at home” says Frits – so it wasn’t like taking home a fully stitched Joan Elliott to copy!



Left: Permin makes sure they create designs for every age – this super-cute pup is the perfect pressie for a tot’s playroom

Permin’s design legacy

Proving incredibly popular, Permin began to expand during the Second World War, setting up new shops all over Scandinavia. With the advances in technology, Permin were able to create cross stitch charts, helping the business to start producing all the lovely cross stitch designs we’re all familiar with today. The company has gone from creating embroidered curtains and gorgeous tapestries to popular cross stitch, and the Permin designers use this design legacy to help them produce designs today. “We make modern and traditional things,” says Frits, “flowers, evergreens, and graphic art are always popular, and our designers make sure they discuss all the latest trends, looking at everything from fashion to papercraft – owls and foxes are everywhere at the moment!”

Permin’s designers call on their extensive archive to create modern designs, and are inspired by nature, home décor, paintings, and beautiful old samplers. “We try to cover the whole spectrum from young to old”, says Frits, in order to create designs for anyone who might be interested in stitching – as Frits states, ‘you don’t always want to stitch the same thing as your neighbour!’. One of the most popular areas for cross stitch patterns is still homestyle, and according to Frits there isn’t anything that can’t be stitched on. Gorgeous linen table cloths, curtains, cushions, bed linen... and even toilet roll holders. Frits says, “it was a crazy idea but was extremely popular – we sold over 25,000 kits!”

There are also lots of samplers still being created, though they are very different to Permin’s first



Above: Permin's designers have to keep on top of trends to produce designs – owls and foxes are very fashionable!

Left: Permin's toilet roll holders are a fun project that have been a big success – over 25,000 kits have been sold so far

designs. Samplers were originally produced as an 'example', covered in patterns and alphabets for stitchers to copy and practice or to stitch onto other items. Frits says Permin's early samplers were mostly used to help embroider clothes – "the pictures on the sampler would often show occupations, so if you were a baker you could stitch a baker on your shirt," he says, "and they also had alphabets, so you stitch your initials and know that those particular clothes belonged to you. After all," Frits joked, "you didn't want to end up wearing your father's dress!"

Painting with a needle

There are a huge amount of different patterns, styles and items created by Permin, but they all have something in common, and that is the 'Permin Handwriting', which is how Frits defines the company's style. He describes this style as the old and traditional reflected in beautiful, modern things, and this style is mirrored in the way that designs go from idea to kit at the Permin headquarters. Though the process is very different now to how they were created originally, some things are exactly the same.

Firstly, all of Permin's designers work together on cross stitch ideas, discussing trends and inspirations. Secondly, just as in 1854, every design begins in the hand of the designers, with beautiful drawn and painted pictures working as the basis of every cross stitch design. Frits calls this "painting with a needle", and ensures that Permin's designs "have heart".

It's after the initial design has been painted or drawn that the process becomes very different to

"Designers like to make sure that every stitch and every thread colour is perfect"



Above: The birds and flowers on these pretty bookmarks will have started life as original hand drawings or paintings



All the designs shown in this feature, including the two gorgeous garden charts above, are available as kits – find your local stockist by emailing sales@mwfabrics.co.uk or calling 07983 020189

1854! Throughout its history, Permin have taken advantage of technological advances to help create the designs. They started printing charts for people to stitch from in the 1940s, meaning they no longer had to take the sample home with them. This meant that "it was easier for people to do lot of stitching because they could follow a chart and buy a kit", says

Frits. In 1953, Permin printed its first colour chart – a very expensive process to start with! According to Frits, "we could only load one colour at a time into the printer, so if a chart had 60 colours, we would have to run the chart through the printer 60 times".

Luckily, technology kept improving, so it was easier and cheaper to produce colour charts. A wealth of other technology, such as charting programmes, have also been developed today to help the designers with their work, but Frits believes that Permin has a great balance, "we use all the benefits of equipment, but we still start with the art." Permin also goes to great lengths to make sure every finished design is just right, with three stitched models of every design produced. That way the designers can be sure that every stitch, every design element, and every thread colour is perfect for the stitcher.

Permin's people

With this attention to detail it is clear that Permin is full of people who are passionate about cross stitch design – another aspect of the 'Permin Handwriting'. The company started off as a local, family-run business and has grown into an international success story, but Frits says they still try to treat the business like a small, private enterprise. This must have been helped by the fact that Permin has only ever had four



Above: Designers at Permin are inspired by nature, and love to create floral charts

owners in 160 years – starting with Christian Permin, followed by his son Carl, who was succeeded by Niels Permin. Niels came into the business during the Second World War; he was originally trained as an architect, but jobs were scarce and he decided to take on the family business. Niels steered Permin through the second half of the twentieth century, finally retiring at 81 in 1995. Niels celebrated a milestone birthday this year, too – reaching a very respectable 100 years old and “he’s still going strong!”, says Frits.

Frits has been the manager ever since, though he has worked for Permin since he was 16 – he started off as a delivery boy! Frits says his story is quite typical of most of the people who work for Permin – “people get a life sentence” he claims. Many of their designers have been with them for their entire careers – “a designer in our Sweden branch has just retired after 40 years” says Frits.

Permin employs a legion of home stitchers to create their stitched models, too, and they also have been with the company forever. Frits says that these stitchers are extremely dedicated and passionate about cross stitch – “it’s a great way for them to spend their time and earn a little pocket money, and



Above: Managing Permin is a family affair, with only three owners before Frits: Christian, Carl and Niels Permin. Don't they look alike?



Above: First opened in 1854, this beautiful drawing shows Permin's first ever shop in the heart of Copenhagen

Inspiring future stitchers

Permin also use their traditional, family-orientated approach to encourage children to take up cross stitch. Frits says, “these days, children have the internet and television to keep them occupied, and they don’t learn needlecraft in school”. Most people who want to learn about craft do so from their parents and grandparents, and Permin wants to make this easy. “Children love to do things by themselves,” says Frits, and that’s why Permin is passionate about developing products that children can use to be independently creative. “We have a great starter ‘backpack’, and we also hold events in our shop in Copenhagen, where grandparents bring their grandchildren to stitch a small project – it’s great to see the children doing things for themselves and getting interested!”. With such dedication to cross stitch traditions and family values, Permin are hoping to inspire a new generation of stitchers, and have another successful 160 years of producing beautiful cross stitch designs.

“Frits has worked for Permin since he was 16 — people who work here get a life sentence!”

is as much a social project as it is work”, says Frits. He explained how often the designers communicate with the stitchers, always catching up on what goes on in their lives – they even get invited to weddings! “We don’t advertise for stitchers, either” says Frits, “they all come to use by word of mouth, or the job gets passed down the family – we have lots of ladies who’s mother’s also stitched models for Permin”. The company are keen to continue their traditional way of working. After Frits has finished his life sentence with Permin, it will be his nephew that will be taking over the business.

Above: Helping to inspire the young to start crafting, this fun backpack contains fabric, threads and charts that children will love to try stitching



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Wonderful watercolours

Combine the delicacy of painted brush strokes with the beauty of cross stitch with **Lesley Teare's** floral design

Famed for its versatility, there are very few things you can't recreate in watercolour. The medium has been popular since the Renaissance and is renowned for its ability to depict gorgeous flora, fauna, and landscapes with beauty and accuracy – it's almost as good as cross stitch! Lesley Teare has made it easy to stitch a tribute to the delicacy of watercolour painting with her gorgeous vase of flowers. You'll use whole cross stitch and no backstitch to achieve the soft effect of a watercolour painting, and the colour palette is elegantly restrained. After you've stitched Lesley's lovely design, make sure you print out your free linen-look card mount from the *Cross Stitch Collection* blog to create your watercolour card.

You will need...

28HPI linen (or 14HPI aida), white, Zweigart Cashel Ref: 3281/100, 12x12in (30x30cm)

Stranded cotton as listed in the key

White card 8½x13in (22x33cm) and 8¼x6¼in (21x16cm)

Blue card mount download for free from www.crossstitchcollection.com

How to mount your card

DOWNLOAD and print the blue card mount from the *Cross Stitch Collection* blog. Fold the larger piece of card in half, then stick the download to the front to stiffen it.

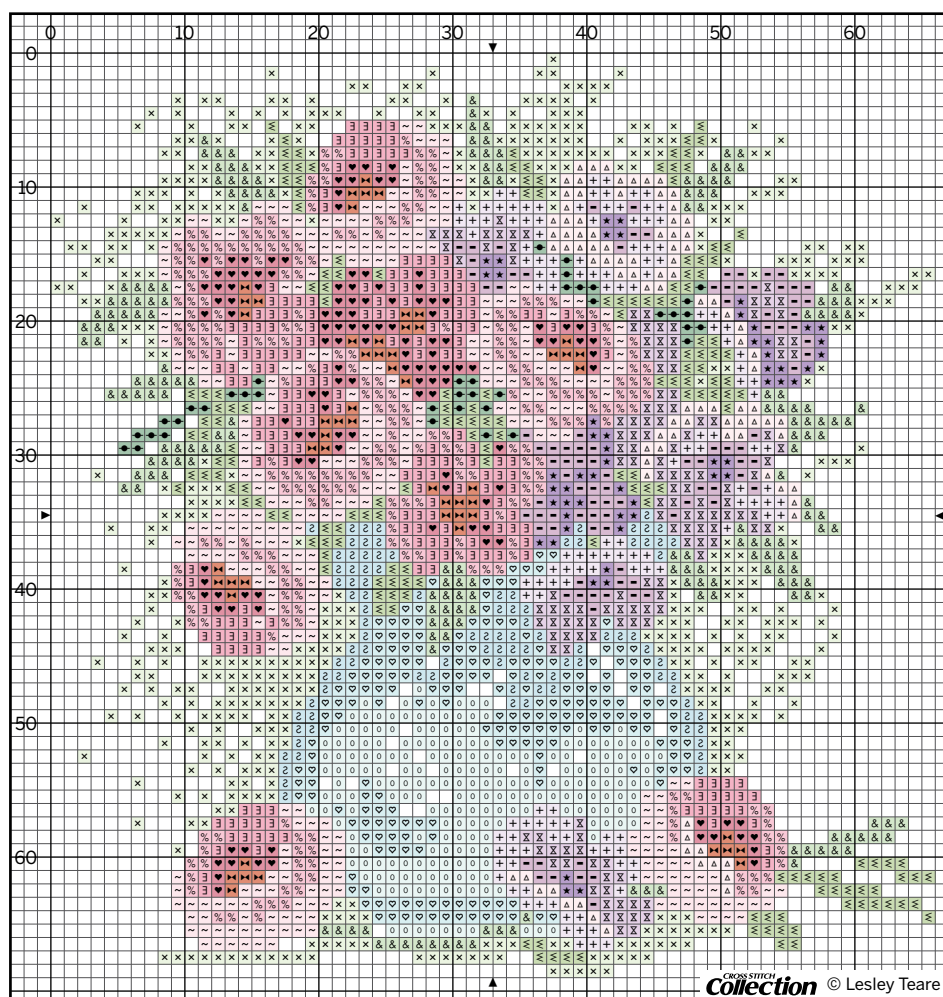
1 **USING** a craft knife, cut out the aperture of the card inside the white zig-zag border.

2 **STICK** your stitched design centrally inside the aperture using double-sided tape then stick the smaller piece of card over the back to finish.

STITCH & SEND

Fancy finding out more about watercolour? Check out the Royal Watercolour Society to discover more about exhibitions, courses and fun facts! Find the society online at: www.royalwatercoloursociety.co.uk

**DOWN
LOAD**
your card mount at
www.crossstitchcollection.com



Wonderful watercolours

DMC Anchor Madeira Colour
Cross stitch in two strands

♥♥	150	042	0703	V dark pink
++	153	095	0801	Lilac
&&	164	240	1209	Light green
xx	209	109	0711	Light purple
◆◆	505	211	1206	Dark green
■	553	098	0712	Med purple
33	602	057	0702	Dark pink
%%	603	055	0701	Med pink
♡♡	747	158	1104	Pale blue
⦿⦿	815	044	0513	Red
△△	819	271	0501	V light pink
~~	963	023	0503	Light pink
≡≡	988	243	1402	Med green
22	3761	928	1105	Turquoise
★★	3837	111	0713	Dark purple

Cross stitch in one strand

xx	369	1043	1309	Pale green
00	*747	158	1104	Pale blue

Stitched using DMC threads on 28HPI linen over two threads

Stitch count 69x66

Design area 5x4¼in (13x12cm)

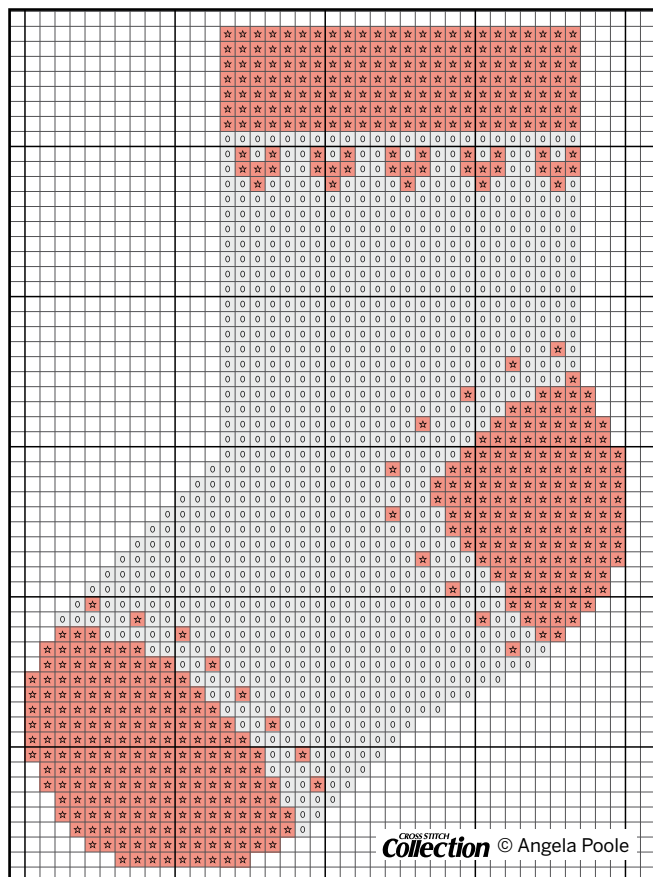
*indicates colour is listed earlier in the key

Stitching on coloured fabric makes it easy to create all 24 mini stockings – the bright red and fresh white makes up half of the design!



Christmas countdown

Make every day in December as exciting as Christmas itself with **Angela Poole's** mini-socking advent calendar



As if December wasn't exciting enough – imagine diving into these adorable mini-sockings every day! Angela's calendar is a treat to stitch too – take two colours of fabric and two shades of stranded cotton and start mixing and matching! With six stocking

Stitch Scandi style motifs and patterns

patterns, you can choose to stitch in red on a white fabric or in white on a lovely festive red. Use the simple numbers chart to add individual advent days, and then follow our fantastic guide to make stockings you can fill with treats your whole family will enjoy every year!



Tip...

Hang your stockings

We found some fun 5mm striped cord rope braid in red from Deckchair Stripes to hang our stockings on! Visit www.deckchairstripes.com to order online for just £2.00 per metre

Collection makes...

COLOUR CRAZY

With just two fabric and thread shades used in this design, you could easily switch the white and red scheme to your favourite Christmas colours or to match your festive décor.

RAZZLE DAZZLE

Why not add a touch of Christmas sparkle to the design by using metallic red thread instead of stranded cotton? We like Kreinik Very Fine #4 Braid 003 Red. It is Christmas after all!

GORGEOUS GIFTS

If you don't fancy filling your stockings with chocolate, they are the perfect size for stitchy gifts – skeins of thread, needleinders, and magnetic counters all fit perfectly!

Stitching your mini-sockings

You will need...

28HPI evenweave (or 14HPI aida), white or red, Zweigart Brittney (Lugana) Ref: 3270/100 – white or 3270/954 – red, 12x8in (30x20cm). We got our evenweave from Willow Fabrics. Find yours by calling 0800 0567811 or visit www.willowfabrics.com

Stranded cotton as listed in the key

Narrow cord 4in (10cm), red/white, for the stockings' hanging loops

Sewing kit including matching thread

Turn to page 48 for hints and tips!

Christmas countdown

Anchor DMC Madeira Colour

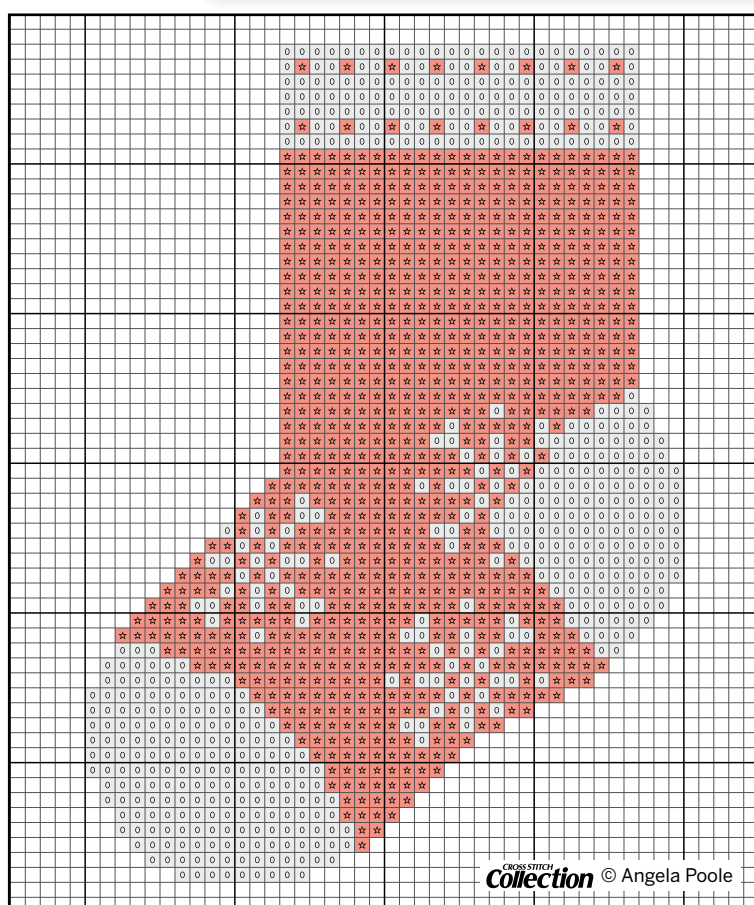
Cross stitch in three strands

00	001	B5200	2401	Bright white
☆☆	9046	666	0210	Red

Stitched using Anchor threads on 28HPI evenweave over two threads

Each stocking stitch count 56x40

Design area 4x2¼in (10x7cm)



Planning your stitching

CUT your evenweave into two pieces: 8x8in (20x20cm) for the stitched front and 5x4in (13x10cm) for the back. Stitch red stranded cotton on white fabric and white stranded cotton on red – just leave out the threads that match your fabric. Use the number chart on page 47 to place the numbers centrally in the space between the cuff and heel.

Stitching the designs

Fold your front piece of fabric in half both ways to find the centre and start stitching. The designs are all worked in whole cross stitch using three strands of stranded cotton over two threads of the evenweave fabric. Use red stranded cotton on the white fabric and white stranded cotton on the red fabric.

Making a stocking

FINISH the stitching and place the stitched front and back right sides together and sew all the way round, leaving the top open. Sew as close as you can to the edge of the cross stitch. Some of the patterns have less cross stitch on them, so you may find it easier to draw the edges of the stocking on the back of the evenweave in pencil using the more stitched designs as a template.

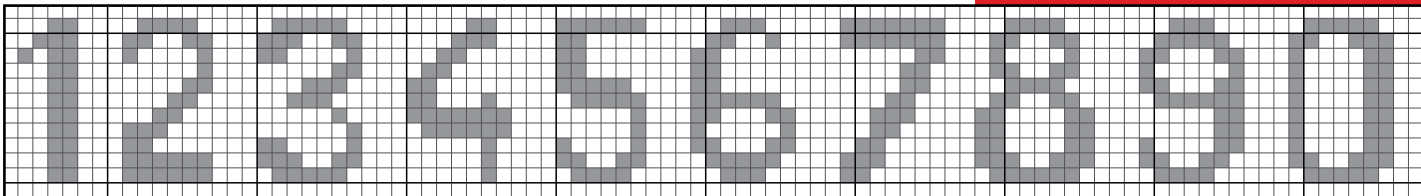
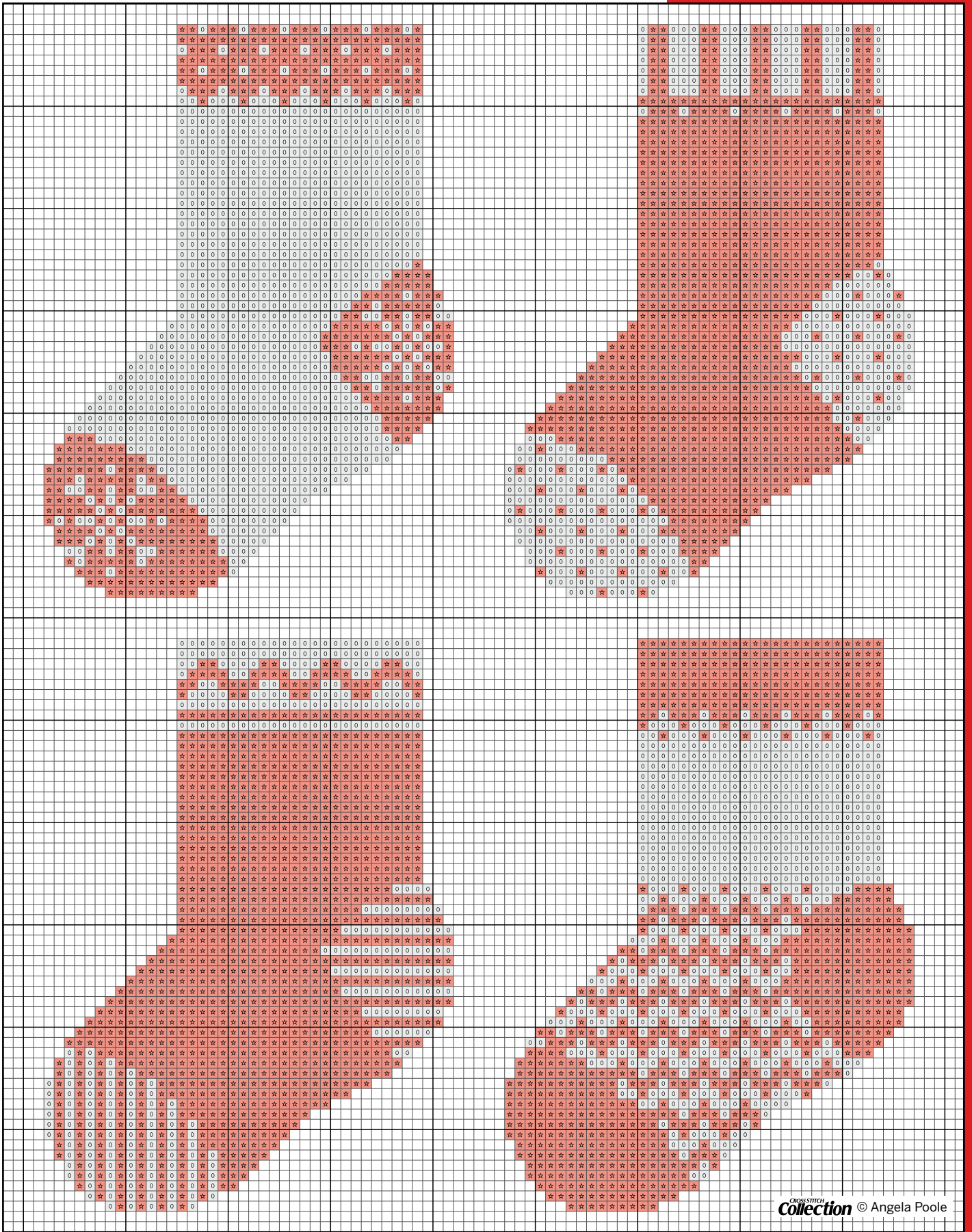
1 TRIM the fabrics about ¼in (6mm) outside your seam line leaving 1in (2.5cm) above the top of the stocking.

2 TURN the top edge over ½in (1.5cm) then ½in (1.5cm) again and slip stitch down using small stitches that can't be seen from the front. Now turn your stocking right sides out and press.

3 FOLD the red and white narrow cord in half to make a loop and stitch the ends inside the right side seam, binding the ends so it doesn't unravel.

4 YOUR stocking is now complete and you can thread the hanging loop through some cord to hang it up – fill with sweets to finish!

DOWNLOAD
more free stocking motifs
www.crossstitchcollection.com



Stitch basics

Discover all you need to know to start cross stitching and lots of helpful hints to make you an expert. **Charting editor Abi Barker is your guide...**

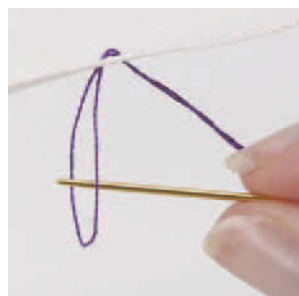
Getting started

Select your needle

Fabric	HPI	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

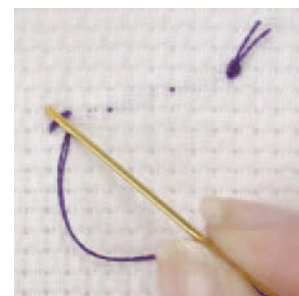
Cut a single thread that's twice as long as you need, and thread both ends through your needle. Come up through the fabric and make a half stitch, then pass the needle through the loop that's formed at the back to secure it.



Loose end start

When stitching with any number of threads

Bring your needle up through the fabric, leaving 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'll secure the thread at the back, then you can snip off the knot.

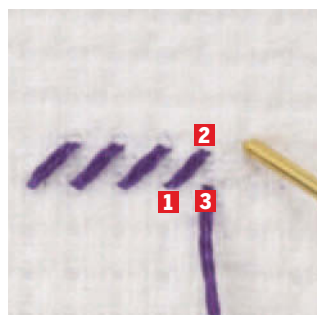
Cross stitch made easy

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



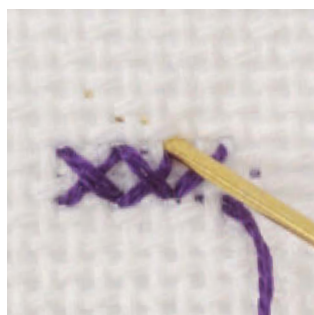
Cross stitch on aida

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



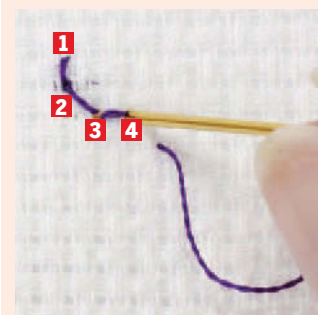
Half cross stitch

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.



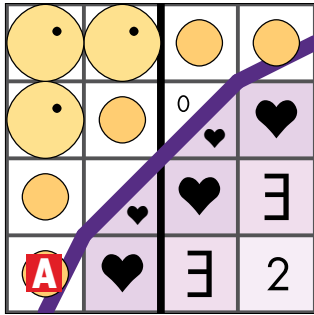
Cross stitch on evenweave

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



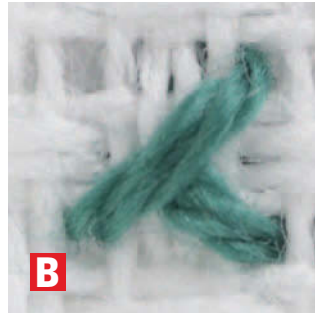
Backstitch, used for outlines or details, is shown as coloured lines on the chart and is worked after the cross stitch. Bring the needle up at 1, down at 2, up at 3, down at 2, up at 4 and so on, working over one block of aida or two threads of evenweave.

Long stitch is worked the same way, but over more than one block of aida or more than two threads of evenweave.

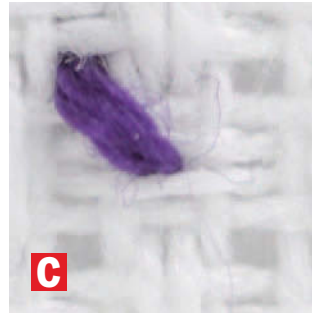


Fractional stitches

A small symbol in the corner of a square (A) indicates a three-quarter stitch (B). If two different symbols occupy one



square, make the less prominent colour a tiny quarter stitch (C) then work a three-quarter stitch in the other colour (D). The examples



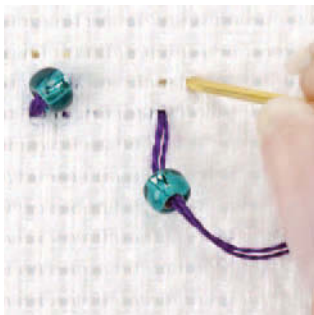
shown are on aida where the centre block has to be pierced to make the quarter stitch (you may want to use a sharper needle for this).



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

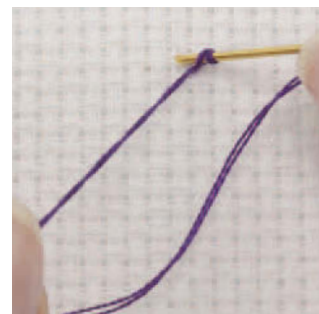
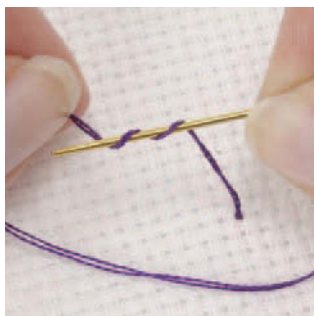


Beads

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 needle with a small eye, or a beading needle, 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's 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 indicate the centre of the chart. On most designs, you'll 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

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 using one strand of each colour

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

Attach beads with matching cotton

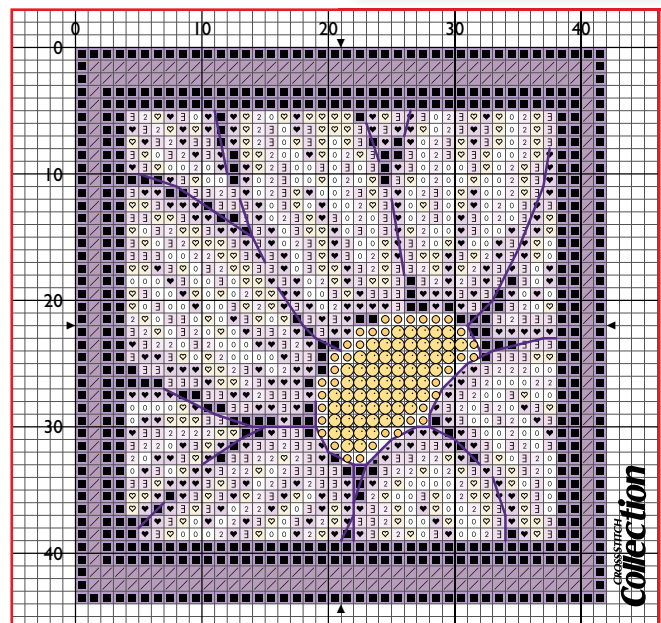
Mill Hill seed beads 02002	Yellow creme
----------------------------	--------------

daisy centre details

Stitched using DMC threads on 14HPI aida

Stitch count 44x42 Design area 3¼x3in (8x8cm)

*Indicates colour is listed earlier in the key



Shopping Collection

It's easy to find essential stitching supplies or catch up on a missed copy of *Cross Stitch Collection* with our handy shopping guide

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Collection 237

- ◆ A detailed street scene designed by Maria Diaz
- ◆ Larger than life Michaelmas daisies by Lesley Teare
- ◆ Jenny Barton's handy and stylish luxury travel set
- ◆ Summery scented sachets
- ◆ A majestic lion picture by Jayne Netley Mayhew
- ◆ Chart of the month – A fun and quirky harbour scene by Angela Poole



Collection 238

- ◆ A sweet and comfy kitty by Jayne Netley Mayhew
- ◆ Abi Barker's beautiful and versatile anniversary sampler
- ◆ A pretty floral notebook cover to stitch by Angela Poole
- ◆ Maria Diaz's stylish tea set with sparkling teacup motifs
- ◆ A serene seaside from Anchor
- ◆ Chart of the month – A lovely lavender cushion and sachet by Lesley Teare



Collection 239

- ◆ A cheeky meerkat picture by Jayne Netley Mayhew
- ◆ Angela Poole's smart back-to-school accessories
- ◆ A trio of beautiful Margaret Merril roses by Lesley Teare
- ◆ An autumnal poem sampler
- ◆ Anchor's stunningly detailed flora and fauna sampler
- ◆ Chart of the month – A delicious harvest veggie basket by Maria Diaz



Collection 240

- ◆ Gorgeous homestyle with Zweigart's songbird design
- ◆ An uplifting floral mini wall hanging by Lesley Teare
- ◆ Jenny Barton's Fair Isle-style hot water bottle project
- ◆ Sweet stitched sewing kit
- ◆ A beautiful barn owl portrait by Jayne Netley Mayhew
- ◆ Chart of the month – A spectacular autumnal landscape by Maria Diaz



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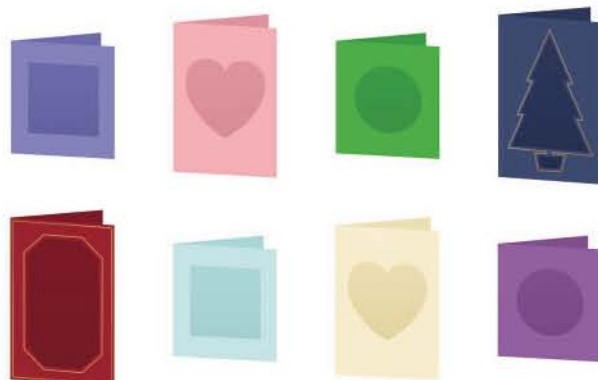


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Break time!

Relax and take a break to enjoy this month's prize crossword for a chance to win Zweigart fabrics

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Five lucky winners will each receive a pack containing 27HPI Linda in white (1235/1), 27HPI Linda in light blue (1235/562), 27HPI Linda in light green (1235/6091), and 27HPI Linda in black (1235/720), plus booklet number 259 – Linda for Beginners. Each pack is worth over £51! Zweigart has been the worldwide market leader in weaving, dyeing and finishing needlework fabrics for more than 130 years. To find your local stockists call Derwentwater Designs on ☎ 01768 483119; Heritage Crafts on ☎ 01889 572859; EQS on ☎ 01162 710033 or Hee Bee on ☎ 01565 872225.

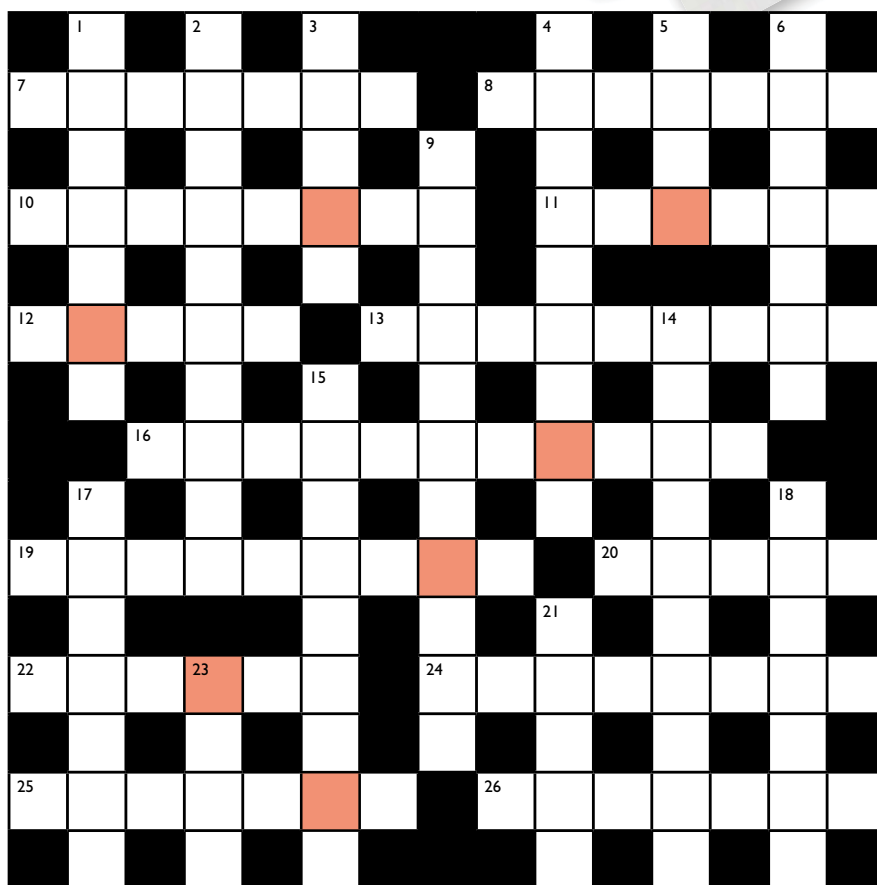


ACROSS

- 7 Popular style of dressing (7)
- 8 Uncovered or unprotected (7)
- 10 Having many parts (8)
- 11 Hurried (6)
- 12 What we do when we are amused (5)
- 13 Get rid of (9)
- 16 Painting style featured on page 42 (11)
- 19 Edible fungi (9)
- 20 Used to cover a mattress (5)
- 22 Reflective gift on page 3 of our *Christmas Collection* (6)
- 24 The most loud (8)
- 25 Make a bag for these on page 11 of our *Christmas Collection* (7)
- 26 Became red in the face (7)

Down

- 1 Not artificial (7)
- 2 Print made from a camera image (10)
- 3 Flower to remember on page 20 (5)
- 4 Very intensely or very widely (9)
- 5 Type of these animals on page 13 (4)
- 6 Does over again (7)
- 9 Substitute (11)
- 14 The most badly behaved (10)
- 15 Available assets (9)
- 17 A play with songs (7)
- 18 Spotty disease (7)
- 21 Open ground for cultivation (5)
- 23 American for dressing gown (4)



PRIZE CROSSWORD 240

Across: 1 assistants; 6 path; 10 tension; 11 airport; 12 maid; 13 minus; 14 idea; 17 below; 18 riddle; 20 amazed; 22 stock; 27 read; 28 robot; 29 Asia; 32 sampler; 33 turnips; 34 ends; 35 determined
Down: 1 autumn; 2 sunrise; 3 soil; 4 auntie; 5 teacup; 7 avoided; 8 hot water; 9 are; 15 cover; 16 birth; 19 Fairisle; 21 alarmed; 23 cushion; 24 coarse; 25 bottle; 26 passed; 30 all; 31 drum
Winning word: COUNT

Enter online...

For your chance to win Zweigart fabrics, enter online for free at www.futurecomps.co.uk/csc241xword and fill in the form.

Once you've completed the crossword, the shaded boxes will form an anagram of a type of embroidery. All you have to do is work out what the winning word is, and then fill out the form online no later than Thursday 16 October. For full competition go to page 51.

Competition rules To enter competitions and giveaways, enter online between 19 September and 16 October 2014. 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 from any other source. 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 51.

Next month in your **November** issue...

Cinderella

By Joan Elliott



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ON SALE **Friday 17 October**

Crafty ideas

from Rebecca Bradshaw

Welcome to my stitching world – I hope you find lots of inspiration. This month, I'm sharing some of my ideas to help you stitch Christmas gifts for men!

Christmas is a great excuse for making gifts for people, but when it comes to stitching things for men it's always tricky! Men are notoriously hard to shop for because they want something they can actually use or will make their life easier or better, and not something that's just lovely in its own right. Most of us stitchers are women and have a man in our lives who we would like to spend time making an original gift for, but it's hard to know what you can stitch that they'll actually appreciate. So, I thought I'd come up with a few ideas to inspire you!

Personalised gifts are always appreciated, and notebooks are a good option. Cover one in fabric with a stitched design on the front – in manly colours of course! Check out the notebook design on page 64 in our *Christmas Collection* at the back of this issue. Handkerchiefs are also always a fail-safe gift – why not buy a brand new set and waste canvas their initial on each one? Even if your man doesn't wear cufflinks, a personalised pot to keep all his bits and bobs in would be welcome – to stop them falling behind the furniture at the very least! We've got a chart for that in our *Christmas Collection* too – check it out on page 65.

You could think about your man's hobbies or interests and make

something to reflect these.

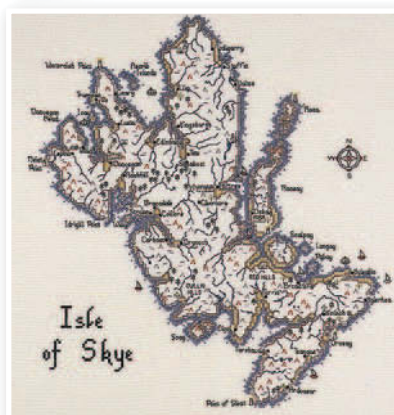
Cross stitching a map where he lives or a favourite holiday place should go down well. Heritage Crafts sell kits of all the different counties in the UK and a selection of other countries too. You could also convert a photo or artwork into a cross stitch chart – DMC will do this for you. An old black and white family photo or a picture of their favourite sportsman would look

Create a fun and cheeky gift with AlphabTIES from www.cyberoptix.etsy.com, £18.51

“Men are tricky to shop for – they often actually want something useful!”

great. There are also lots of kits featuring men's interests, from vintage cars and motorbikes to steam trains, sportsmen and film stars – the website www.sewandso.co.uk features a great selection.

Additionally, books make great presents so buy one on his favourite subject, then stitch a bookmark to go with it. This ticks both the thoughtful and homemade boxes. Finally, here's something unique – a tie featuring a stamped cross stitched initial. This idea really made me smile, and may appear in my husbands stocking this year!



Heritage Crafts' Traditional English Counties Maps kits cost from £20.99 at www.hcrafts.com



DMC's famous Stitch-A-Photo service will help you convert much loved family photos at www.dmc.creativeworld.co.uk

Share your own crafty ideas

Email csc@futurenet.co.uk or write to: **Crafty Ideas, Cross Stitch Collection, 30 Monmouth St, Bath BA1 2BW**



Turn to the back of CSC to find these charts in our *Christmas Collection*!

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Sunset Stroll by Thomas Beutel - 12.5 x 12.5cm



The Angler by Thomas Beutel - 12.5 x 12.5cm



Crazy Cat Lady by Peter Underhill - 22.5 x 31cm



Christmas Kittens by Peter Underhill - 26 x 13cm



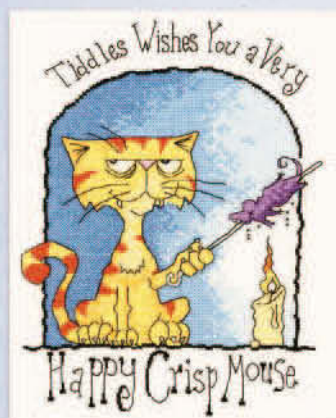
Catching Snowflakes
by Peter Underhill - 11 x 12cm



Santa Paws
by Peter Underhill - 11.5 x 11.5cm



Christmas Tangle
by Peter Underhill - 12.5 x 11.5cm



Happy Crisp Mouse
by Peter Underhill - 15.5 x 20.5cm



Flutterbys by Karen Carter
12.5 x 12.5cm



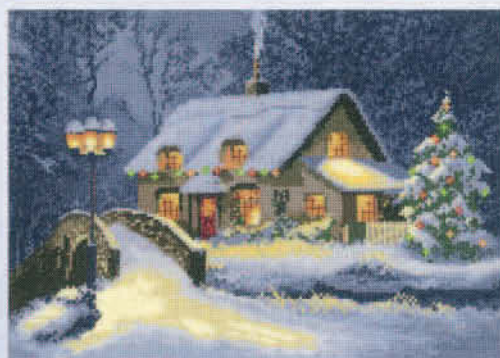
Forty Winks by Karen Carter
12.5 x 12.5cm



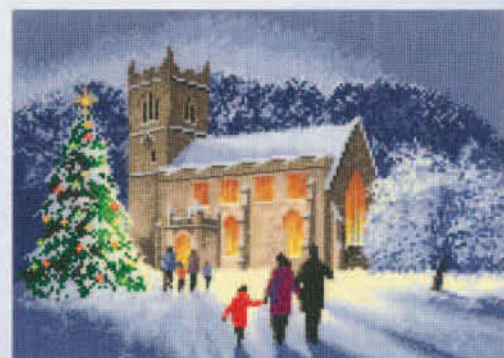
Bird of a Feather by Karen Carter
12.5 x 12.5cm



Silent Night?
by Peter Underhill - 16 x 16cm



Christmas Church by John Clayton - 31 x 22cm



Christmas Cottage by John Clayton - 31 x 22cm

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

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makes

Christmas Collection

The most beautiful gifts to stitch & give

37
GIFT
charts
inside...



for Women for Men for tots & teens



PERFECT GIFT
FOR
Stitchers

Treat a crafty friend to a pretty handmade tape measure they can use and enjoy

by Jenny Barton

Tape measure

You will need...

Stitched on teeny-tiny 36HPI linen with some similar shades, working in good light will help you create Jenny's sweet heart design

36HPI linen (or 18HPI aida), cream, Zweigart Edinburgh Ref: 3217/222, 9x6in (23x15cm)

Stranded cotton as listed in the key

Cotton tape ½x8in (1.5x20cm), printed with measurements

2oz wadding 3x6in (8x15cm)

150cm retractable tape measure

How to cover a **tape measure**

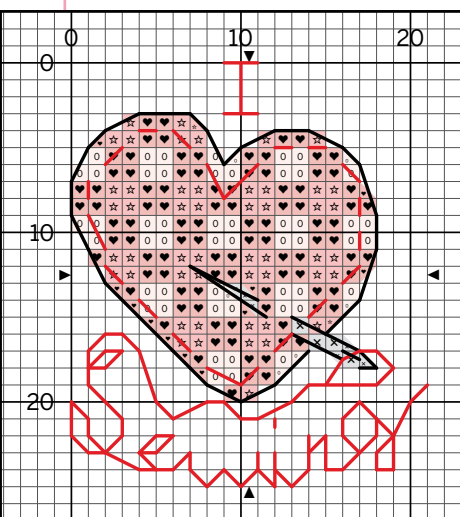
CUT the linen fabric into two pieces: 6x6in (15x15cm) to stitch the top on and 3x3in (8x8cm) for the bottom. Stitch the design, then:

1 DRAW round your tape measure and cut two circles of wadding to this shape.

2 PLACE one circle on the centre of the back of your stitching. Trim the linen ½in (1.5cm) bigger all round, turn the fabric over the wadding and then tack the edges of the fabric round the wadding to make a circle. Repeat for the tape measure back.

3 FOLD one short end of the cotton tape under, then slip stitch it all round the edge of the tape measure top, turning the other short end under to leave a small gap for the tape measure end to go through.

4 PUT your tape measure inside the cover and then slip stitch the back fabric circle in place. Remove all your tacking stitches to finish.



DMC Colour
Cross stitch in two strands

✕✕	415	Grey
☆☆	760	Medium pink
♥♥	3712	Dark pink
□□	3713	Light pink

Backstitch in one strand

—	349	Red
—	3371	Brown

Stitched using DMC threads on 36HPI linen over two threads
Stitch count 25x21
Design area 1½x1¼in (4x3.5cm)

Handbag mirror

You will need...

36HPI linen (or 18HPI aida), white, Zweigart
Edinburgh Ref: 3217/100, 6x6in (15x15cm)

Stranded cotton as listed in the key

Lightweight iron-on interfacing 3x3in (8x8cm)

Handbag mirror with pewter finish to secure 60mm design, Ref: HBM. Find yours at Framecraft by visiting www.framecraft.com or by calling 01543 360842

Assembling your mirror

STITCH the design with two strands of stranded cotton over two threads of the linen fabric, with the design place centrally. Then:

1 IRON the interfacing on to the wrong side of the stitched linen to help prevent the fabric threads from fraying when you cut it out.

2 PLACE the clear acetate disc that comes with the mirror to protect the stitching centrally over the design. Draw around it and then cut it out.

3 FOLLOW the instructions that come with the mirror – they will tell you how to assemble it by putting all the layers together and pressing into place.

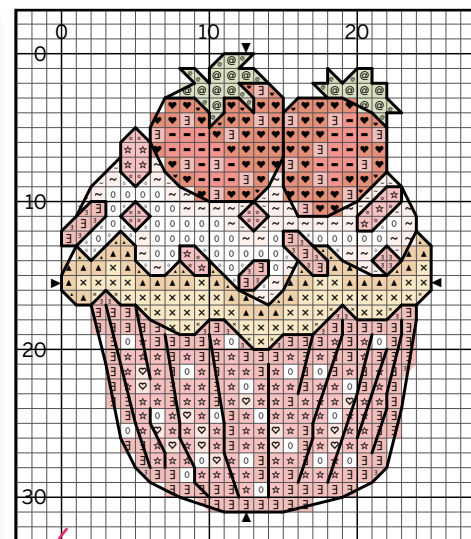
Dinky is the word for this detail packed design – there's shading on the cupcake case, fractionals on the strawberries, plus plenty of clever backstitch details

DMC	Colour
Cross stitch in two strands	
□ □	White
▲ ▲	436 Brown
× ×	437 Tan
♥ ♥	666 Bright red
✱ ✱	760 Medium pink
♡ ♡	761 Light pink
◎ ◎	989 Green
■ ■	3712 Dark pink
~ ~	3713 Very light pink
■ ■	3801 Red

Backstitch in one strand

— 413 Grey

Stitched using DMC threads on
36HPI linen over two threads
Stitch count 31x25
Design area 1¾x1¼in (4.5x3.5cm)



CrossStitch Collection © Jenny Barton



Lavender bag

PERFECT GIFT
FOR
Her

Stitch up a floral design
studded with French
knots, then stuff it for a
fragrant stocking filler

by Lesley Teare

You will need...

28HPI evenweave (or 14HPI aida),
white, 12x18in (30x46cm)

Stranded cotton as listed in the key

Cotton lining fabric white, 12x7½in (30x19cm)

Piping cord 32in (81cm)

Dried lavender

How to make a lavender bag

CUT the evenweave into two pieces: front 12x12in (30x30cm) and 7½x6in (19x15cm) for the back.

1 STITCH the design onto the centre of the front piece then trim it to the same size as the back piece, with the bottom of the design 1½in (4cm) up from the lower edge and centered across.

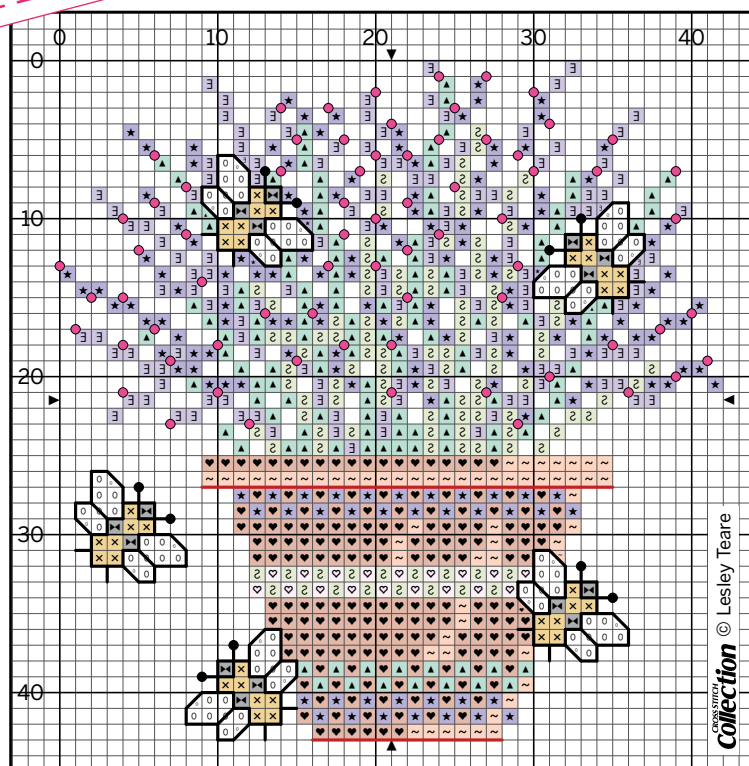
2 PLACE the back and front right sides together and stitch down the sides and along the bottom. Repeat with the lining fabric, cutting it in half first and leaving a small opening along one side for turning later.

3 POSITION the lining inside the stitched bag right sides together and matching side seams, then stitch together around the top.

4 TURN the bag right sides out through the gap, then slip stitch it closed.

5 STITCH a casing channel 1in (2.5cm) down the top edge then ½in (1.5cm) below this.

6 SNIP the side seams between the casing lines. Cut the cord in half and thread one piece all the way through and knot the ends. Thread the other piece through, but starting from the other side.



DMC	Colour
Cross stitch in two strands	
000	B5200 Bright white
333	155 Light purple
222	164 Green
000	211 Lilac
444	310 Black
444	333 Dark purple
~ ~ ~	352 Peach
~ ~ ~	356 Light terracotta
▲▲▲	992 Teal
×××	3820 Yellow

Backstitch in one strand	
—	*310 Black
—	918 Dark terracotta

DMC	Colour
French knots in one strand	
●●	*211 Lilac
●●	*310 Black

Stitched using DMC threads on
28HPI evenweave over two threads
Stitch count 43x42
Design area 3x3in (8x8cm)
*indicates colour is listed earlier
in the key

Owl Purse

You will need...

28HPI evenweave (or 14HPI aida), cream, Zweigart Trento Ref: 3453/264, 14x8in (36x20cm)

Stranded cotton as listed in the key

Zip pink, 5in (13cm)

Small beads assorted colours. Find a fantastic selection online at www.totallybeads.co.uk

3 **INSERT** the zip between these two points then undo the zip a little way.

4 **STITCH** the purse back and front together down both sides across the bottom with a ½in (1.5cm) seam allowance.

5 **TURN** the purse right sides out and press, then string the beads on

Making your owl purse

CUT the evenweave into two pieces: front 8x10in (20x25cm) and 4x6in (10x15cm) for the back.

1 **STITCH** the design onto the centre of the front piece then trim it to the same size as the back with the design placed centrally.

2 **PLACE** the purse front and back right sides together and, using a ½in (1.5cm) seam allowance, sew along the top for just ½in (1.5cm) from either end.

PERFECT GIFT
FOR
Teens

Bang on trend, this cute owl purse is the perfect addition to any fashionable teen's accessory stash

by Angela Poole



Check out the tiny backstitch flowers on the blue wings – you'll create these and other bright patterns by working bold and contrasting thread colours

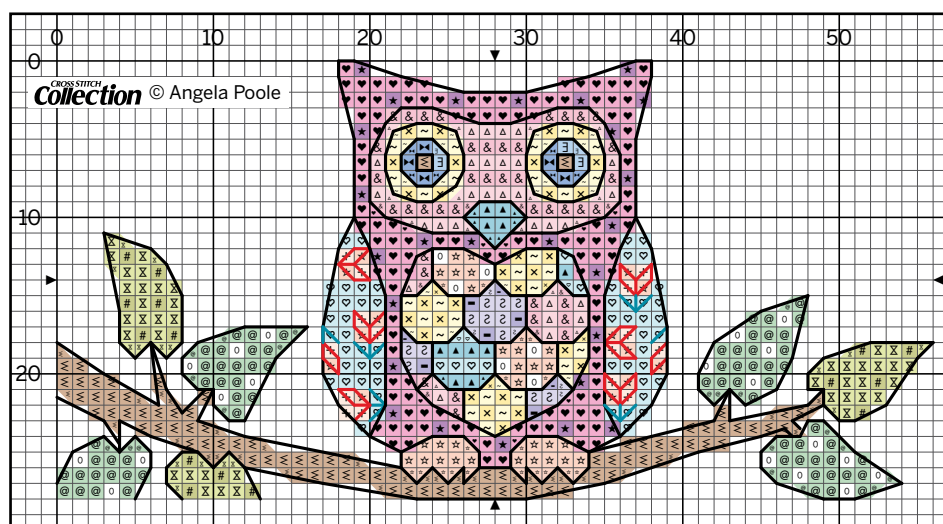
Anchor Colour Cross stitch in two strands

001	Bright white
006	Light rose
009	Dark rose
063	Dark pink
073	Light pink
075	Medium pink
092	Violet
108	Lilac
109	Purple
167	Light turquoise
168	Med turquoise
176	Light blue
177	Dark blue
241	Green
254	Light lime green
255	Dark lime green
301	Yellow
386	Pale yellow
936	Light brown

Backstitch in one strand

028	Bright pink
169	Dark turquoise
1088	Dark brown

Stitched using Anchor threads on 28HPI evenweave over two threads
Stitch count 28x56
Design area 2x4in (5x10cm)



Luxury bookmark

You will need...

14HPI perforated paper black, 10x4in (25x10cm), from The Nutmeg Company – visit www.3dcrossstitch.co.uk or call 01748 884926

Stranded cotton as listed in the key

Felt black, 8x2in (20x5cm)

Ribbon cream spot, 3/8x12in (1x30cm)

Stitching your bookmark

WORK the design in three strands of stranded cotton to make the letters look solid.

1 PLACE the stitched perforated paper onto the felt and machine stitch together all the way round, one hole outside the stitched design on the sides and bottom and seven holes at the top.

2 TRIM the paper and felt one hole outside the machine stitching. Punch a hole at the top then loop the ribbon through to finish.

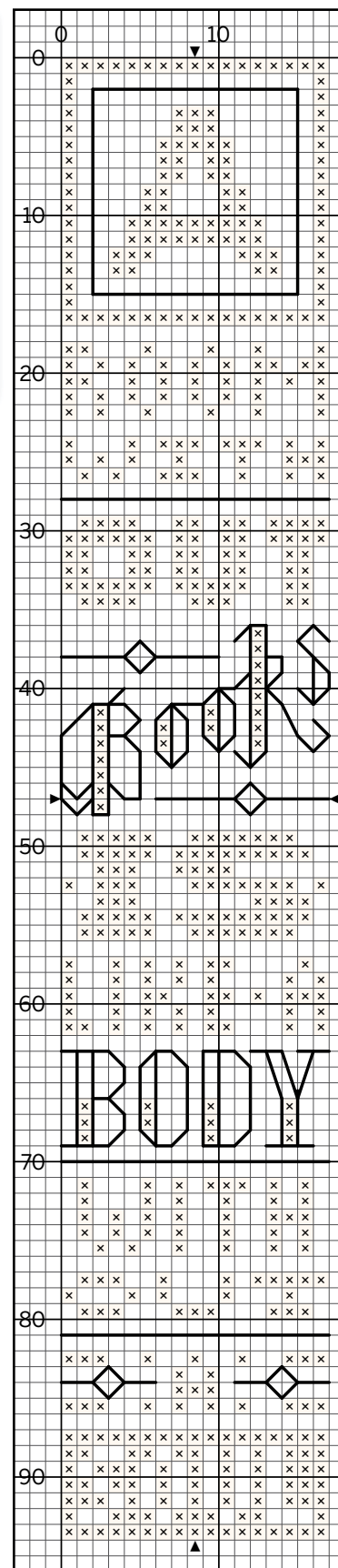
DMC Colour
Cross stitch in three strands
xx Ecrú Ecrú

Backstitch in two strands
— *Ecrú Ecrú

Stitched using DMC threads on
14HPI perforated paper
Stitch count 94x17
Design area 6 3/4x1 1/4in (17x3.5cm)

*indicates colour is listed earlier
in the key

Stitching on perforated paper creates a chunky effect – try using a size 22 needle so it doesn't slip through the holes as you're working



PERFECT GIFT
FOR

Bookworms

A contemporary and clever
design, why not accompany
a literary gift with a stitched
bookmark?

by Emma Congdon

Simple colour blocks
in just two shades make
this a satisfyingly speedy
project to stitch

Notebook

You will
need...

28HPI evenweave (or 14HPI
aida), navy, Zweigart Brittny
(Lugana) Ref: 3270/589,
12x16in (30x41cm)

Stranded cotton as listed
in the key

Cotton lining fabric navy, 7½x13½in (19x35cm)

A6 notebook

Making a notebook cover

STITCHING this design in the correct place on the
fabric is essential for making up your notebook:

1 ENSURE the centre of the design is 4½in (11cm)
from the right-hand short edge of the fabric and
centrally down.

2 TRIM your evenweave to 7½x14in (19x35cm),
positioning the centre of the design 4½in (11.5cm)
from the right-hand short edge and centrally down.

3 PLACE your lining fabric right sides together over
your stitched fabric, then stitch all the way round
leaving a gap along one of the short edges for turning.

4 TURN your fabric right sides out and press the
edges under, then slip stitch the gap. Fold the
short edges over to create pockets, then topstitch
along the top and bottom to hold them in place.

DMC Colour
Cross stitch in three strands

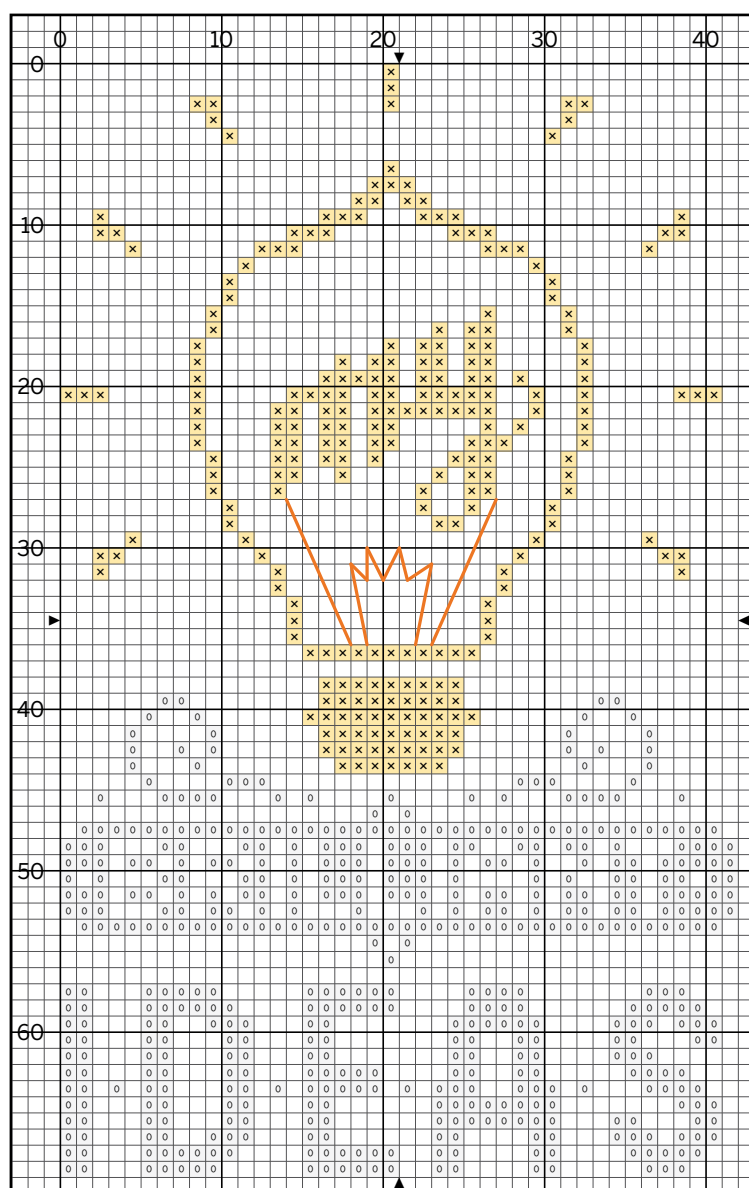
xx 725 Yellow
00 3865 Off white

Backstitch in two strands

— *3865 Off white

Stitched using DMC threads on
28HPI evenweave over two threads
Stitch count 69x42
Design area 5x3in (13x8cm)

*indicates colour is listed earlier
in the key



Cufflink box

You will need...

28HPI evenweave (or 14HPI aida), white, 12x6in (30x15cm)

Stranded cotton as listed in the key

Striped cotton fabric blue, 12x18in (30x46cm)

Striped lining fabric navy, 12x18in (30x46cm)

Card white, 4x11in (10x28cm)

Cutting your materials

Evenweave Lid top – 6x6in (15x15cm) to stitch the design on. Lid side – 1¾x11½in (4.5x29cm)

Striped cotton fabric Lid top lining – 4¼x4¼in (11x11cm). Lid side lining – 1¾x11½in (4.5x29cm). Box base – 4x4in (10x10cm). Box side – 3½x10½in (9x27cm). Box lining base – 4x4in (10x10cm). Box lining side – 3½x10½in (9x27cm).

Mount board Lid top – 3¼in (8cm) diameter circle.

Lid sides – 3in (7.5cm) diameter circle.

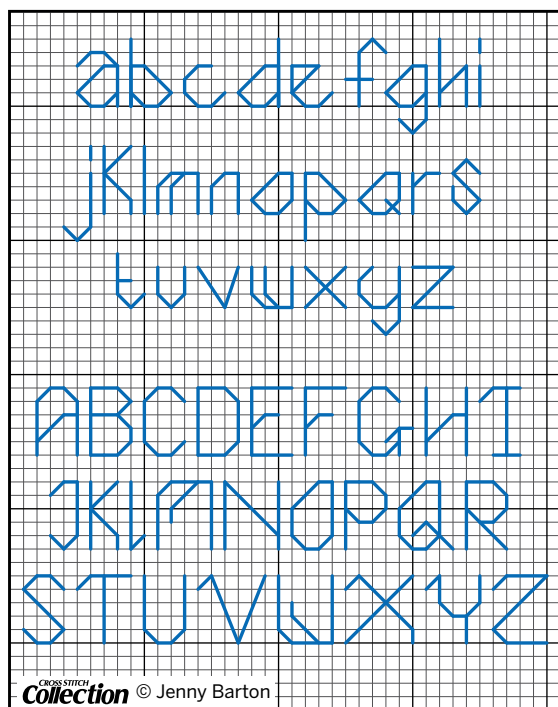
Card Lid side – ¾x10¾in (2x26cm)

Box side – 2½x9½in (6x26cm)

Assembling your box

FINISH stitching the design, then cut it into a 4¼in (11cm) diameter circle with the design placed centrally.

1 COVER each piece of mount board and card in the same way. Place the cotton or cross stitched fabric right side down with the mount board or card on top.

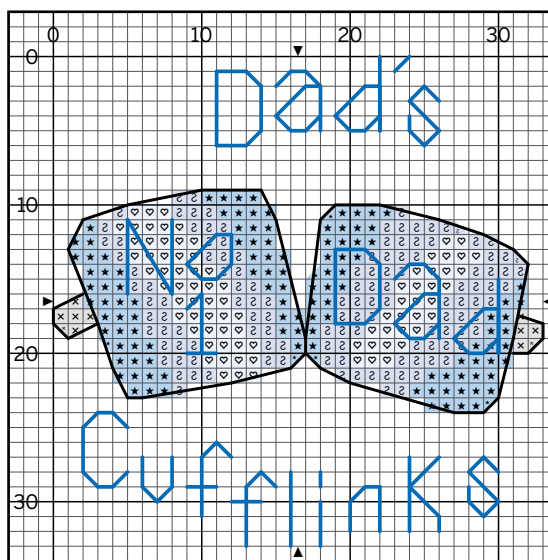


Stick double-sided tape round the edge of the board then fold the fabric over and press it down on to the tape.

2 TAKE the cotton fabric lining piece, turn the edges under ½in (1.5cm) all the way round and pin on top of the turned over fabric edges from the other side of the board. Slip stitch into place.

Joining the pieces together

Lay out your assembled pieces to make sure you join the right ones together. Hold two pieces and stitch together along the edge through the fabric using small oversewing stitches. Sew all the other pieces together in the same way.



© Jenny Barton
Collection

DMC Colour
Cross stitch in two strands

xx	415	Light grey
xx	799	Dark blue
xx	800	Light blue
xx	809	Medium blue

Backstitch in two strands

—	312	Very dark blue
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DMC Colour
Backstitch in one strand

—	413	Dark grey
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Stitched using DMC threads on 28HPI evenweave over two threads
Stitch count 33x33
Design area 2½x2½in (6.5x6.5cm)

PERFECT GIFT FOR

Dad

Stop cufflinks falling behind the furniture and create a personal gift with this customisable chart

by Jenny Barton

Hair bands

You will need...

For each hair band

36HPI linen (or 18HPI aida), white, Zweigart
Edinburgh Ref: 3217/100, 6x6in (15x15cm)

Stranded cotton as listed in the key

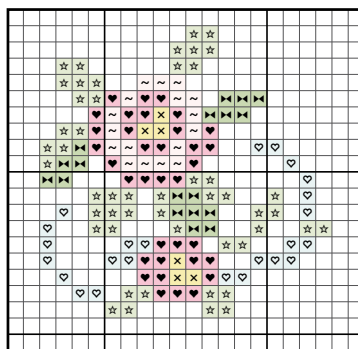
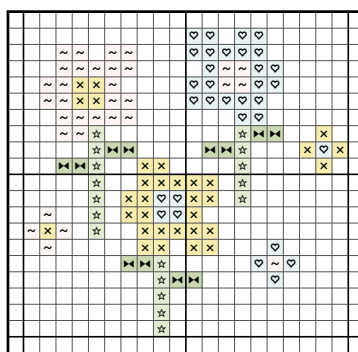
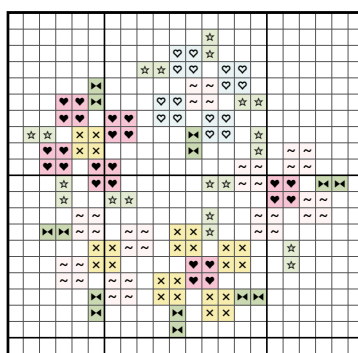
Self covered buttons 28mm

Hair bands

How to make a hair band

FINISH stitching your flower designs, and then trim the linen into a 2in (5cm) circle with the design placed centrally. Next:

- 1 **WORK** a running stitch round the edge of your fabric, then place over the button and gather the fabric ends around it.
- 2 **USE** your fingernail to tighten and smooth any lumpy areas around the perimeter of your button.
- 3 **PUSH** the backing in place and loop a hair band through the button shank on the back.



DMC	Colour
Cross stitch in two strands	
☆☆ 164	Light green
×× 165	Lime green
♥♥ 603	Dark pink
~ 963	Light pink
◀▶ 988	Dark green
♡♡ 3761	Blue

Stitched using DMC threads on 36HPI linen over two threads
Max stitch count 19x20
Design area 1¼x1¼in (3.5x3.5cm)

Collection © Lesley Teare

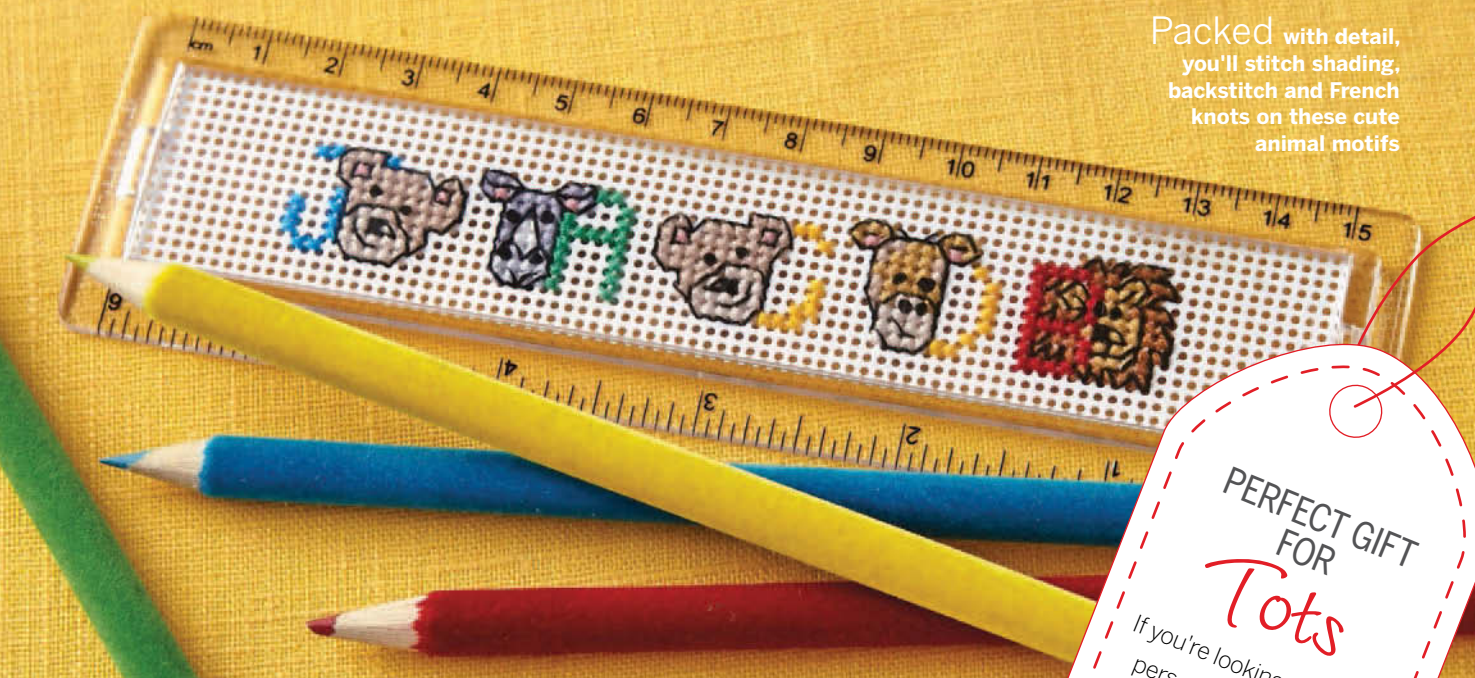


by Lesley Teare



Pretty pastel shades and whole cross stitches are enough to create three sweet floral charts you can mix and match

Packed with detail,
you'll stitch shading,
backstitch and French
knots on these cute
animal motifs



PERFECT GIFT
FOR
Tots
If you're looking for a truly
personal stocking filler,
look no further than this
animal alphabet ruler!
by Jenny Barton

Stitched ruler

You will need...

Clear acrylic ruler 6in (15cm) with
perforated paper insert from Framecraft at
www.framecraft.com or call 01543 360842

Stranded cotton as listed in the key

How to make a ruler

STITCH your chosen letters on the
perforated paper, making sure they are
placed centrally. Trim the paper to fit inside
the ruler, then click the acrylic ruler front on
top to complete.

DMC Colour Cross stitch in two strands

□□	White	White
☆☆	156	Lavender
★★	208	Dark purple
☐☐	209	Light purple
■	310	Black
⊗	318	Dark grey
×	415	Light grey
◆	434	Brown
⦿	729	Golden brown
♥	760	Pink
—	817	Red
~	842	Beige
#	911	Green
X	972	Orange
♥	3843	Blue
△	3864	sepia

Backstitch in one strand

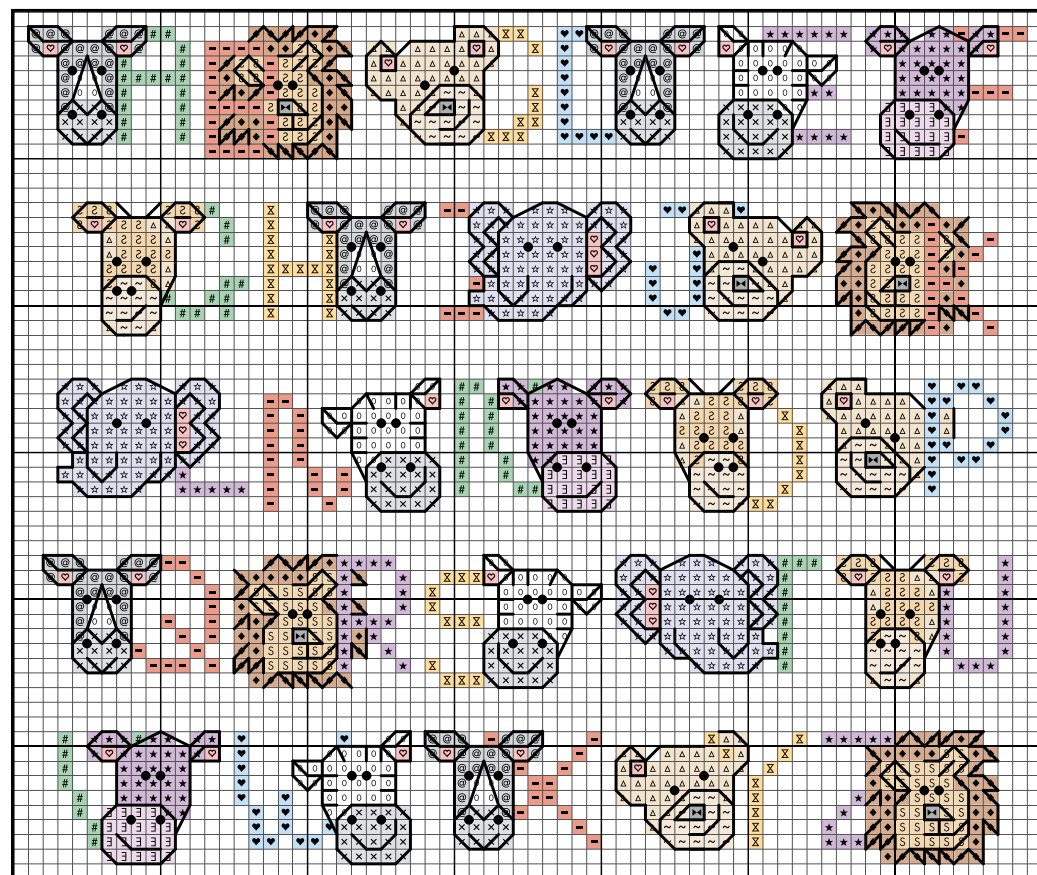
— *310 Black

French knots in one strand

●● *310 Black

Stitched using DMC threads on
14HPI perforated paper
Max letter stitch count 9x14
Design area 3/4x1in (2x2.5cm)

*indicates colour is listed earlier
in the key



Marble Bag

You will need...

28HPI evenweave (or 14HPI aida) red, Zweigart Brittney (Lugana) Ref: 3270/954, 10x16in (25x41cm)

Stranded cotton as listed in the key

Cotton lining fabric 12x8in (30x20cm)

Six black eyelets

Leather thong green, 20in (51cm)

Making your marble bag

CUT the evenweave into two pieces: front: 10x10in (25x25cm), back: 7½x6in.

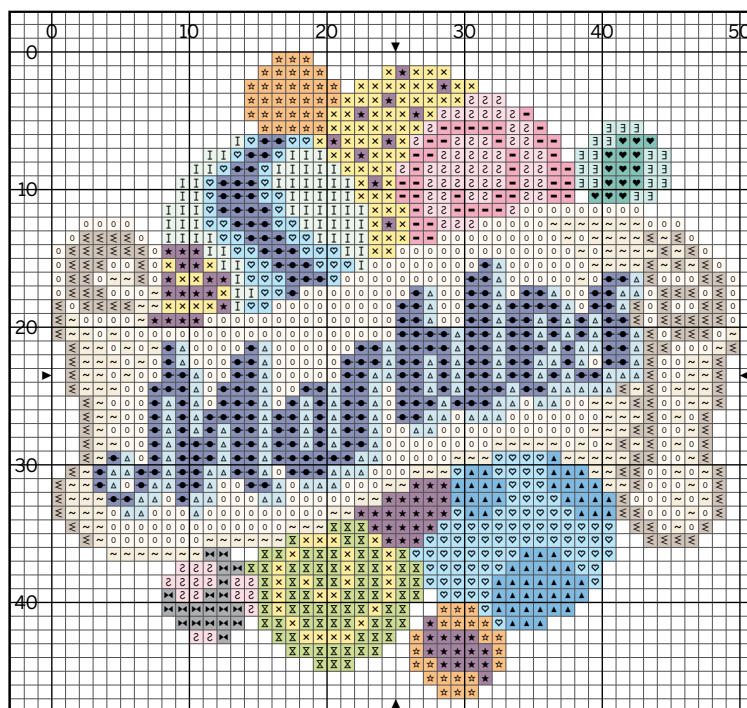
1 STITCH the design onto the centre of the front piece, then trim it to the same size as the back piece, curving the edges to make a pouch shape. You may find it easier to make a paper pattern first then draw round it. Cut the cotton lining fabric into two pieces of the same size.

2 PLACE the back and front right sides together and stitch around the sides, leaving the top open. Repeat with the lining fabric, but leaving a small opening along one side for turning later.

3 PLACE the lining inside the stitched bag right sides together and matching side seams then stitch together around the top.

4 TURN the bag right sides out through the gap then slip stitch it closed.

5 TOP stitch the top of the bag then punch eyelets around the top about 1in (2.5cm) from the top edge. Thread the leather thong through the eyelets.



© Emma Congdon

PERFECT GIFT
FOR

Tots

Everyone can enjoy a retro
game of marbles on
Christmas day after you've
stitched this bright bag

by Emma Congdon



Colourful
marble motifs are
easy to create in
this design – no
fractionals or
backstitch required!

DMC Colour
Cross stitch in three strands

□□	Ecu	Ecu
■	310	Black
■	311	Navy
■	444	Yellow
■	550	Purple
■	564	Mint green
■	602	Dark pink
■	604	Light pink
■	640	Khaki
■	644	Stone
■	740	Orange
■	906	Green
■	959	Light teal
■	995	Dark blue
■	996	Light blue
■	3766	Turquoise
■	3812	Dark teal

Stitched using DMC threads on
28HPI evenweave over two threads
Stitch count 47x50
Design area 3½x3½in (9x9cm)