

No.1 for designs

CrossStitcher

IDEAS • STYLE • INSPIRATION

92

GORGEOUS
DESIGNS

Spring is in
the air!



FRESH IDEAS FOR

Easter...

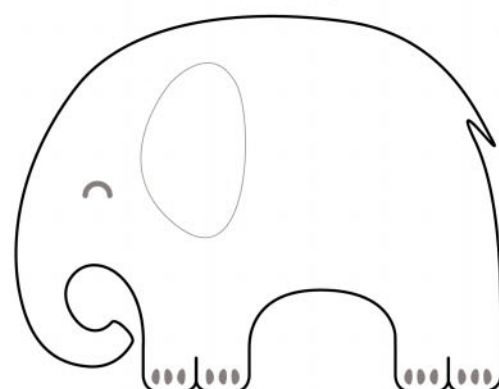
MAKE of the month

Stitch our sweet card design, then make some matching Flossy the Elephant bobbins to sort your threads in style!

Use our template to create your own elephant bobbins from card!

Designed by: Susan Penny Stitch count: 49 high x 49 wide
Design size: 9x9cm (3½x3½in) Stitch time: 4 hours

This design was stitched on 14 count aida fabric.



	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
↑ ↑	162	159	903
H H	209	109	803
+ +	415	398	1803
I I	444	297	106
F F	718	089	707
Z Z	740	316	202
L L	892	028	412
S S	907	255	1410
X X	995	410	1102
4 4	3805	062	702
Backstitch in two strands			
—	645	273	1811
outlines			

CrossStitcher
STITCH OUR
ELEPHANT CARD AND
MAKE YOUR OWN BOBBINS



NEXT MONTH

MILLIE MOUSE PINCUSHION PROJECT

Our Millie Mouse pincushion makes the cutest way to hold your pins and needles perfectly. The all-over floral design, coupled with felt ears, whiskers and tail, mean she will be an oh-so-sweet addition to your workbox!



ISSUE 317
MAY 2017

On sale
31 March

CrossStitcher
APRIL 2017

3



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Welcome

Spring clean your stash and get stitching...



NOTHING COMPARES WITH choosing your next project. Shopping for materials, the smug feeling if you find you already have the required colours, and then getting yourself sorted to start. We stitchers know that it's not just about the lovely design that will fill our fabric but it is all about loving the process of creating it and watching it grow. It's almost like reading a good book – speeding

through the chapters but not really wanting to come to the end. How many of us have sat up late saying “I’ll just finish one more block of blue,” or “this little flower motif won’t take long,” only to find time has flown and it is way past bedtime?

We want *CrossStitcher* to be about this sheer pleasure of stitching. We work hard to bring you the designs you love and always invite you to suggest more themes (our contact details are below). This month we thought you’d enjoy something to make you smile while you stitch, so we’ve a cute idea on page 2, to make some bobbins using the template we’ve provided. We hope you like our little elephants! Happy stitching!

Susan *Martin*

SUSAN & MARTIN PENNY
EDITORS

P.S. We love to hear about your current stitching projects! Send your letters and photos to crossstitcher@dennis.co.uk

**Up, up
& away...**

Our beautiful balloon features in issue 317, on sale 31 March.



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www.crossstitchermag.com

Write to the editorial department at: *CrossStitcher* Magazine, PO Box 172, Northam, EX39 9DY



Cute cards to make them smile this Easter!

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THE SAVVY
STITCHER
STENCILS

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THE SavvyStitcher

Try something new every issue

31 Stylish ways for using stencils

Our Savvy Stitcher shows how to create negative shapes and silhouettes with simple stencils.

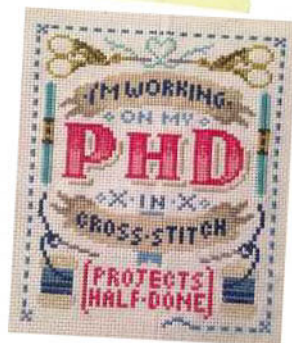


Your stitching

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



Just completed this lovely wee brooch from issue 292. I enjoy the wooden stitching projects you provide as they are different.
Laura Graham, Rengrewnshire



I hadn't felt like stitching for a while, but when I saw this chart in issue 315 I just had to stitch it! I can't wait to complete another.
Cressida Walker, Yorkshire



I made this design from issue 294 into a small throw pillow. I loved the lanterns as they reminded me of my time in Singapore.
Melissa Reddy-Tremblay, Texas, USA



I've just completed the Katya keyring from the latest issue (315). I took me just two evenings to do and I love it!
Debbie Sewter, Devon



I adapted this design from issue 297. I painted an old pair of wooden spoons and hung little apple squares from them!
Anu Jain, New Delhi, India



I have just started cross stitch in 2017. Here's one of the Valentine's motifs from issue 314. So pleased with how it came out.
Alan Mitchell, East Ayrshire



I really love your magazine. Stitching helped me with my hospital recovery. This cushion (issue 295) is for my new room.
Aleks Rebmam, Israel



Here's my Mr. Hoot bookmark from the 2016 September issue. I had great fun making this and will certainly use it a lot! Stitchy greetz from Amsterdam!
Hanneke van Mierlo, The Netherlands

Stay in touch...

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[@XStitchmagazine](https://twitter.com/XStitchmagazine)



pinterest.com/xstitchmagazine

Outthere

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



DIY inspirations

When you just can't get enough of crafting, and are seeking out new ideas to combine with your cross stitch, try the new set of spring DIY tutorials on DaWanda's website. Covering a whole host of topics, from sewing to home improvements, many of the tutorials are free to download. We're loving their cute Easter napkin rings project – perfect for adding a cross stitched monogram to. Their stylish trouser cuffs and ingenious sugar bowl needle pillow make great rainy day projects too. en.dawanda.com



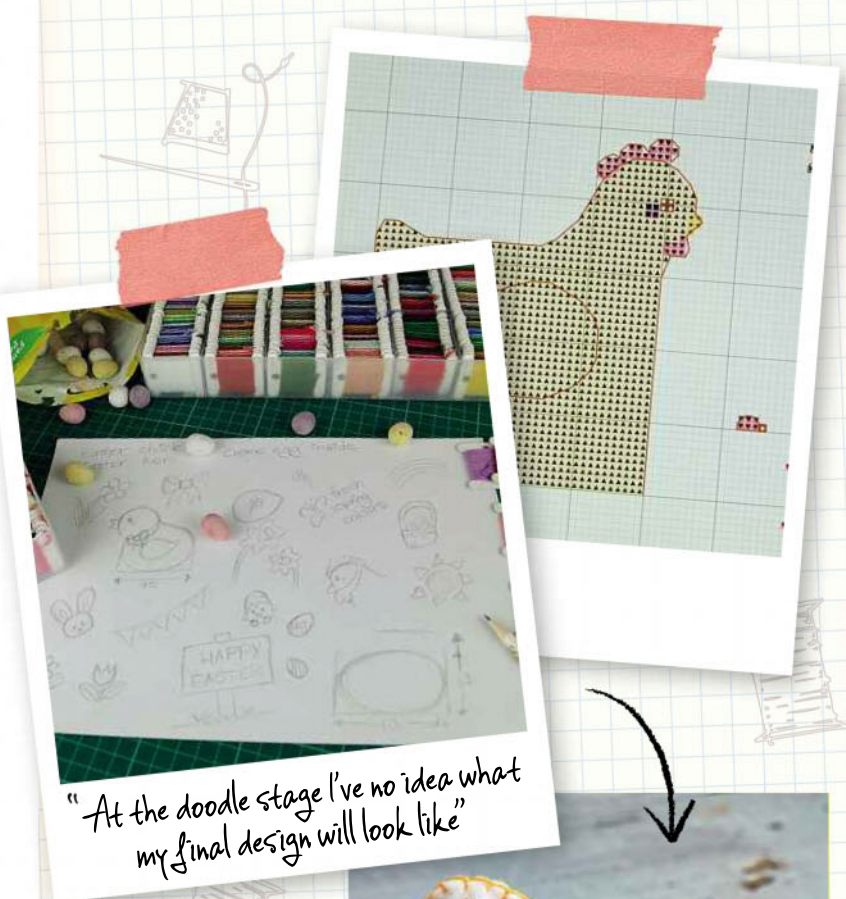
SKETCHBOOK SECRETS: Sarah Cookland

We take a peek at a designer's early ideas for one of their projects



Sarah created our cute egg cosy on page 27. "I start by brainstorming ideas onto paper, I'm simply doodling and playing around with ideas. If it's possible I will observe the item I'm going to design to gain more inspiration as it's the purest form. Fortunately I live opposite a farm so for this Easter chick commission I didn't have to look far. I love finding out the little details and try to incorporate them into my designs."

www.sarahcooklanddesigns.etsy.com



"Had I been designing a rooster he would have been strong and stern looking, possibly with a raised eyebrow to capture his character. Instead for Easter we have this sweet mother hen."



EGGS-TRA SPECIAL

WITH THIS Happy Easter ribbon you can add pretty bows to your Easter cards and gifts or why not use it to tie a bow round the little chick egg cosy on page 27? It comes in 5-metre lengths.

www.tch.net



EASTER BUNNY

AS EASTER approaches add some stitched fun to the proceedings with this Bonnie The Rabbit Felt Kit. Designed to introduce kids to sewing – you could either give it as an Easter gift for them to sew, or if you can't resist, make it yourself to give ready-made. The kit includes felt shapes, stuffing, thread, needle and instructions.

Dotcomgiftshop.com

HAPPY HOPPY!

WE JUST love the cheeky bunny in 'Peeping' by Karen Carter (ref: SHPP1382). Part of a new range from Heritage Crafts, the finished design measures 7x8.5cm (2¾x3½in). Can't resist? You'd better hop to it! www.hcrafts.com



Golden opportunity

IN 1746 Jean-Henri Dollfus began producing fabrics in France. DMC has created a 24 carat gold keepsake; exactly 17,460 Golden Skeins to honour the year DMC was founded. Though a precious collector's item, the golden skein has the same soft flexibility of DMC cotton, and has very good resistance to oxidation in an unpolluted environment, so could be used to carefully embroider a very special project. Each skein has an RRP of £75 and is available from authorised DMC retailers. www.dmccreative.co.uk



THREE OF THE BEST Eggs for Easter

Eaten too many chocolate eggs? Here are some egg-cellent buys from Etsy that are completely calorie free...



NINETEENOHXIX
How cute is this Egg On Toast Needle Minder? It comes with a magnet to keep your needles sunnyside up every time!



BUTTONENVYUK
Prettify your projects with these adorable Easter Egg Buttons, made from wood and printed in animal designs, available in packs of 10.



NOTFORGOTTENFARM
Keep your threads tidy with these Fresh Eggs Wooden Floss Winder/Thread Holders which you can paint to customise.

TREND SPOTTING

CHALKBOARD-STYLE

OUR CUTE chalkboard-style easter cards on page 60 have had us seeking out more stash in this on-trend style...



WHO

Design Works have created this quick to stitch 'Love Chalkboard' 14 count black aida kit, which makes a great gift and has a message we all can agree on! www.amazon.co.uk



WHAT

This bunting can be chalked on again and again – or use some waste canvas to add some stitching! www.notonthehighstreet.com/millyandpip/product/chalkboard-cloth-bunting



HOW

Back a chalkboard-style stitched cushion with this gorgeous fabric by Timeless Treasures, available to order by the yard or as a fat quarter. www.TCSFabrics.com

FUN WAYS TO LEARN...

IF YOU'RE keen to get your kids or grandchildren catch the stitching bug, this cute kit should go down a treat! The cross stitch learning toys feature wooden animal shapes for cross stitch beginners to work on. Have fun creating patterns on the rabbit, cat and bear – the kit includes the wooden shapes, 100% wool yarn in two colours, a safe plastic needle, plus a play booklet with a tutorial and cross stitch patterns to try.

www.notonthehighstreet.com/littlelulubel



Photograph: notonthehighstreet.com 0845 259 1359

CRAFTY BOOKSHELF

Read on to find out our favourite new books for stitchers this month...

▼ SIMPLE, FUN & QUICKLY DONE

TERRY ATKINSON [Martingdale]

Itching to get your sewing machine out, but don't know where to begin? Try designer Terry Atkinson's collection of 18 simple sewing projects, from home décor items and personal accessories, to bags and pouches, table runners, napkin holders and more. Terry has also included lots of tips to help complete projects quickly by building on your sewing skills.



▲ WARPED AND WITTY CROSS STITCH

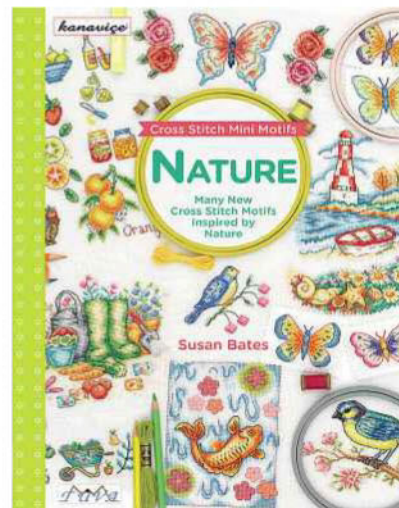
KATY KUTTHROAT [Sourcebooks]

Katy Cutthroat is the brains behind the 'Needles and Pins' Etsy shop. If you're a fan of the humorously inappropriate cross stitch designs on-trend at the moment, then this collection of postcards are perfect for 'for framing or sending to your friends, family, or mortal enemies'. Each page will raise a smile, and the oversized postcard format means you can hang up your favourite designs if you wish. It's definitely not going to be popular with traditional stitchers, but many modern stitchers will love it!

▼ CROSS STITCH MINI MOTIFS: NATURE

SUSAN BATES [Tuva Publishing]

The latest Mini Motifs book by Susan Bates (one of our favourite designers!), this collection of nature designs is a must-have for your spring stitching. Designs range from flowers and floral patterns to country cottages, a summer house by the sea and garden scenes. Easy-to-follow colour and symbol charts are included.





Inside the mind of

MR X STITCH

Our manbroiderer takes a quick break from stitching to explore some needlecraft artists online



Michelle Kingdom: There Was No Looking Back



Stitchinboy: Lion-O



Stephanie Kelly Clark: California Coast

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www.twitter.com/MrXStitch

Hello dear readers, I hope you're keeping well. I don't know how much social media you are into these days. My favourite platform (other than www.mrxstitch.com, of course) is Instagram, where there's a constant stream of inspiration, stitched and otherwise, to feast upon. So here are some of the Instagram people that I enjoy, whose focus is needlework. It goes without saying that you should be following my account ([instagram.com/mrxstitch](https://www.instagram.com/mrxstitch)), as I do my best to showcase the groovy needlework that I can find online, and if you've any recommendations for people I should check out, I'd love to

that thanks to the use of hashtags like [#xstitchersofinstagram](https://www.instagram.com/hashtag/xstitchersofinstagram) and [#embroideryinstaguild](https://www.instagram.com/hashtag/embroideryinstaguild), it's easy to see what people are up to.

Here are some of my faves: Lord Libidan ([@lordlibidan](https://www.instagram.com/lordlibidan)) is one of my favourite manbroiderers, co-author of *Star Wars* and *Star Trek Cross Stitch*, and a fine fellow to boot. He not only shares his terrific designs, but features a lot of video-game inspired work when he can.

Zoe Gilbertson ([@zoegilbertson](https://www.instagram.com/zoegilbertson)) produces abstract cross stitch designs that are explosions of colour and shape. She's really on to something quite different and I love seeing what she produces next.

“My favourite is Instagram, where there's a constant stream of inspiration, stitched and otherwise, to feast upon”

hear of them. But let's dive in and see what we can find.

Michelle Kingdom ([@michellekingdom](https://www.instagram.com/michellekingdom)) is a hand embroiderer who creates wistful images that are tragic and beautiful in equal measure.

Stephanie Clark ([@artiststephaniekellyclark](https://www.instagram.com/artiststephaniekellyclark)) has the ability to take simple satin stitches and use them to create buildings and landscapes that are breathtaking.

Zoë Williams ([@zo3](https://www.instagram.com/zo3)) is a needle-felter who creates white and gold creatures that have magical realism.

But what of the cross stitchers? One thing that's great about Instagram is

If you want some well-designed cartoon-inspired cross stitch designs, Brett, aka [@Stitchinboy](https://www.instagram.com/stitchinboy), is worth watching. He's got a great design sense and is picking up speed.

For a dose of snarky stitchings that's not too rude, then Lauren Moreno ([@plasticlittlecovers](https://www.instagram.com/plasticlittlecovers)) is doing a great job, with a great combination of sarcasm and floral cross stitch. Nicely done!

So there you go – a smattering of the hundreds of terrific stitchers that I'm keeping track of. As I said, if I should be checking you out, or someone else, drop me a line!

ALL A TWITTER





All a Twitter

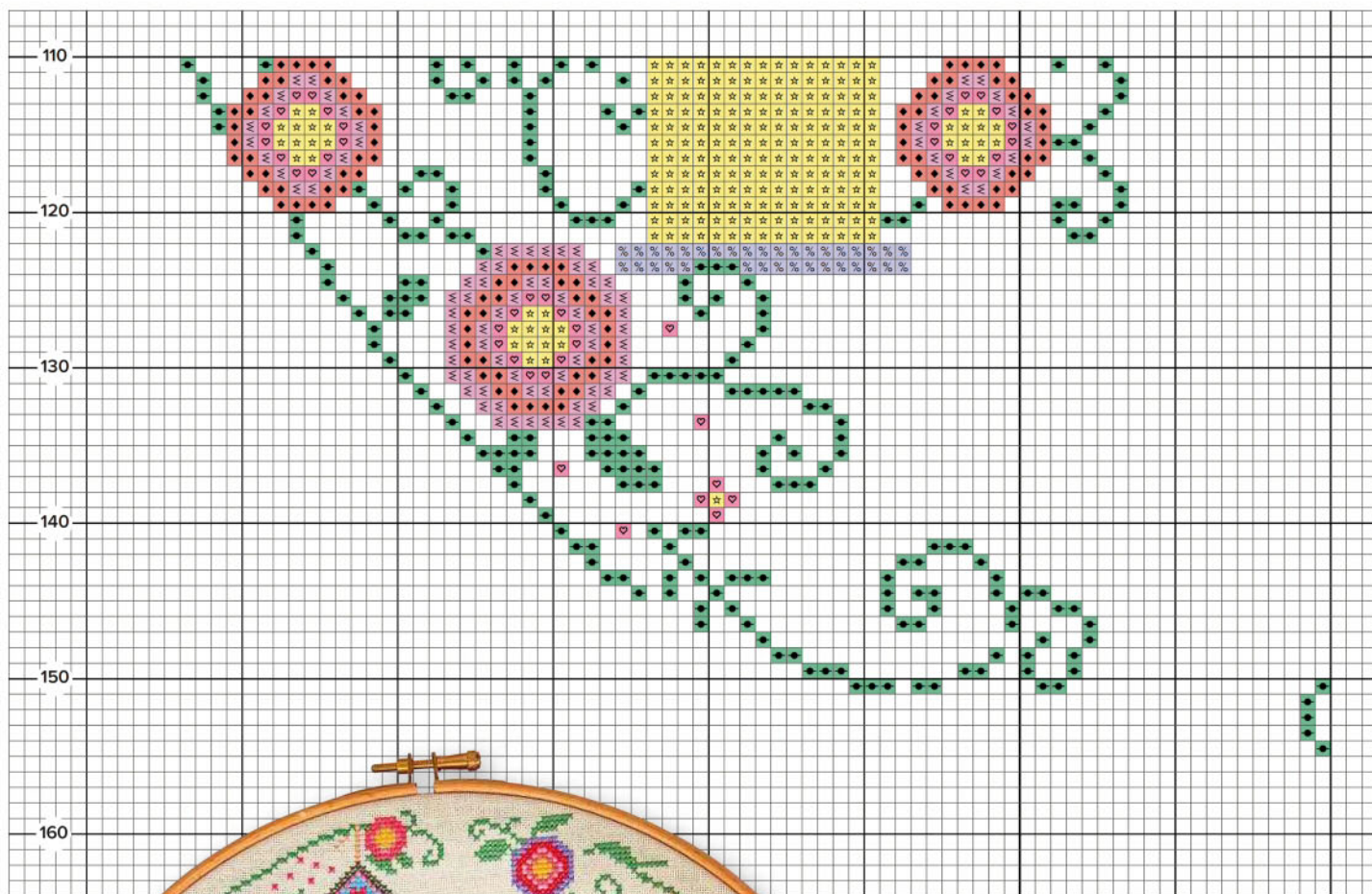
Spring has sprung and our circle of birds are busy feathering their nests and tweeting from the treetops...

Designed by: Helen Philipps









Stitch count: 160 high x 162 wide

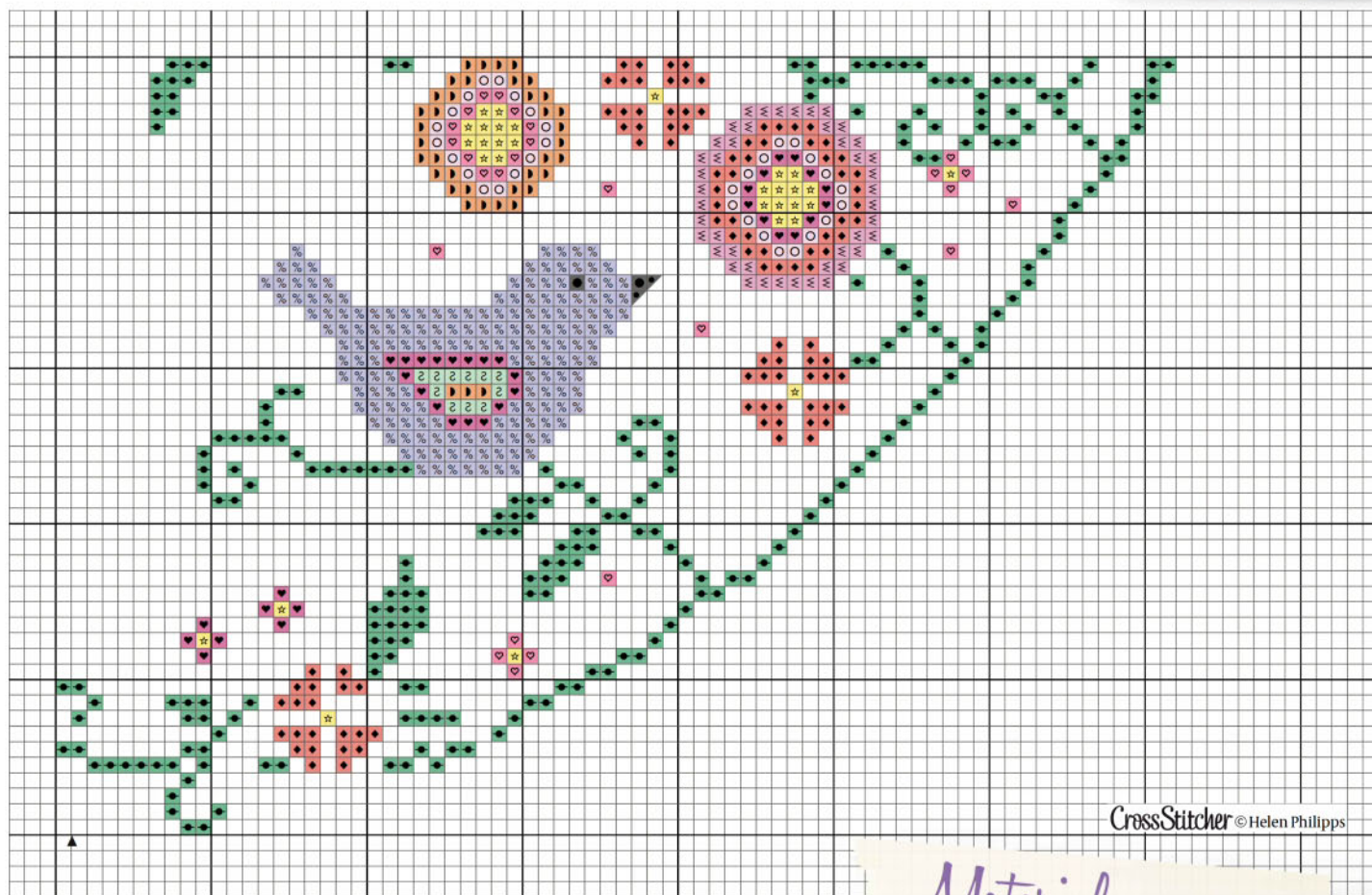
Design size: 30x30cm (11¾x11¼in) Stitch time: 39 hours

This design was stitched on 27 count evenweave over two threads of fabric.

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
	163	877	1205 (2)
	340	118	902
	347	1025	407
	563	208	1207
	718	089	707
	743	030	2294
	842	1080	1910
	922	1003	310
	956	041	611
	996	433	1103*
	3608	060	709
	3609	085	710
	3799	236	1713
	3846	433	1103*
	blanc	001	white

(2) indicates more than one skein is required

*See 'The Key' on page 86.



CrossStitcher © Helen Philipps

Stitching on Antique White fabric gives a more subtle result than white, which would be too bright

Materials

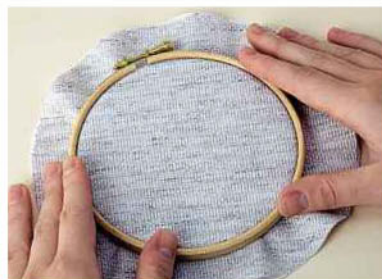
Hoop

- Zweigart Antique White 27 count Linda, ref: 1235/101; 51x51cm (20x20in)
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Size 26 tapestry needle
- Wooden quilting hoop; 31cm (12in) diameter

For stockist details see page 89

How to... frame your work in a hoop

Step 1



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

Step 2

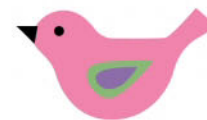
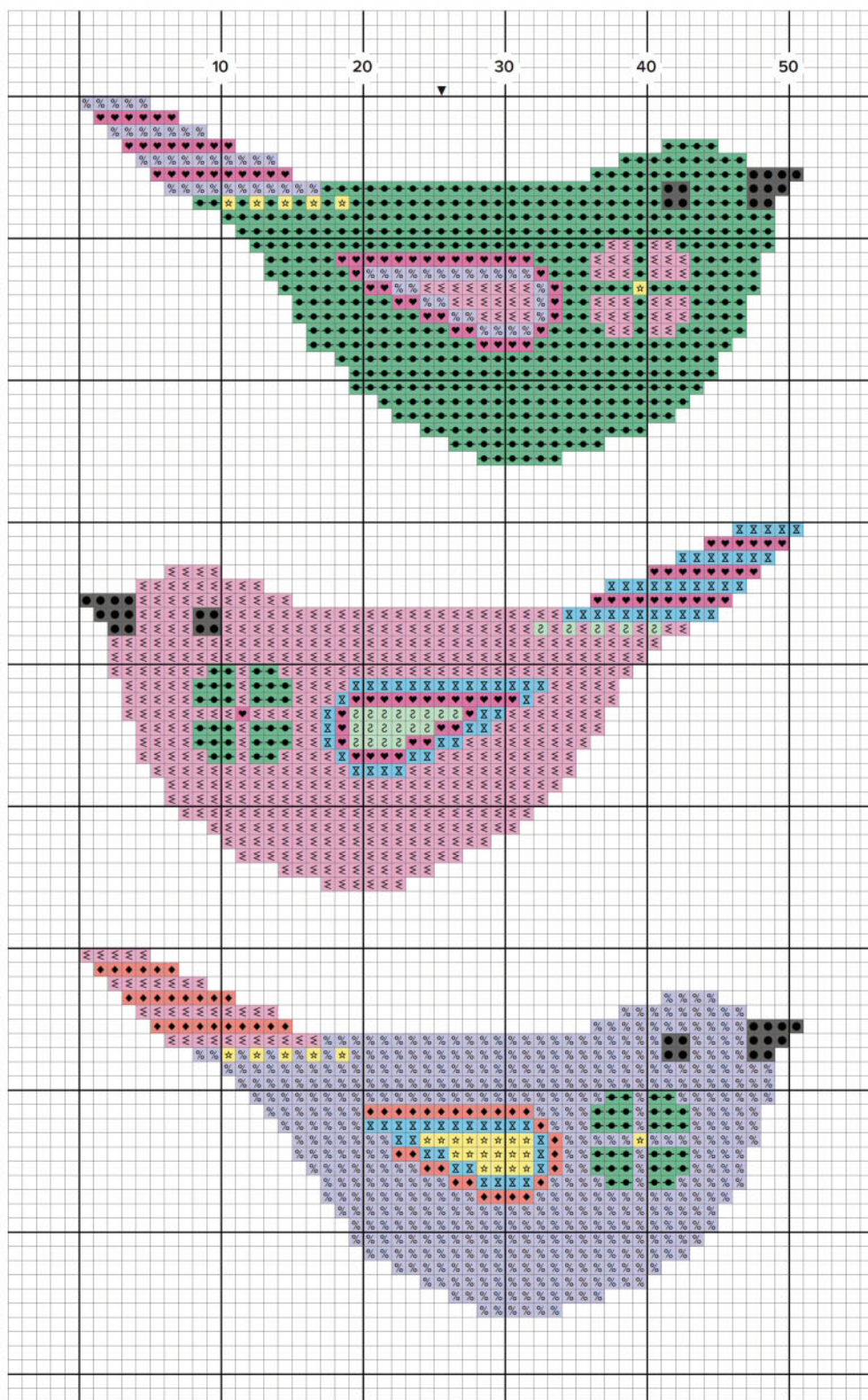


TURN your stitching to the reverse and cut a piece of felt to fit inside the inner circle. Place the felt inside the hoop. You can use a bit of fabric glue to keep it in place. The felt will pad your stitching, and stop anything showing through.

Step 3



USE a glue gun or double-sided tape to begin attaching the first layer of fabric, pulling taut as you go. Repeat for the second layer. Cut a second felt layer to fit over the back of your hoop. Secure with glue or small, neat stitches.



Using your bird
peg as an Easter
tree decoration?
As it will be
seen from all
directions, reverse
your stitching for
the back of the
bird, then you can
simply sew both
layers together

Make a... bird peg

Step 1

COMPLETE your stitched bird then place right-sides together with the backing fabric or a second stitched bird (see tip). Sew around the bird shape, just outside the stitching, but leaving the bottom edge open. Trim away some of the seam allowance, and clip the curves and points.

Step 2

TURN to the right side. Fill with toy stuffing, and then sew up the gap at the bottom with small, neat stitches. Using a glue gun, or fabric glue, stick the bird to the peg, using a rubber band to hold the bird in place while the glue dries.

Stitch count: 26 high x 51 wide (each)

Design size: 4.5x9.5cm (1 7/8x3 1/4in) Stitch time: 3.5 hours (each)

These designs were stitched on 27 count evenweave over two threads of fabric.



Materials

For each bird peg

- Zweigart Antique White 27 count Linda, ref: 1235/101; 9x15cm (3½x6in) x 2 pieces
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Size 26 tapestry needle
- Toy stuffing
- Clothes peg

For stockist details see page 89

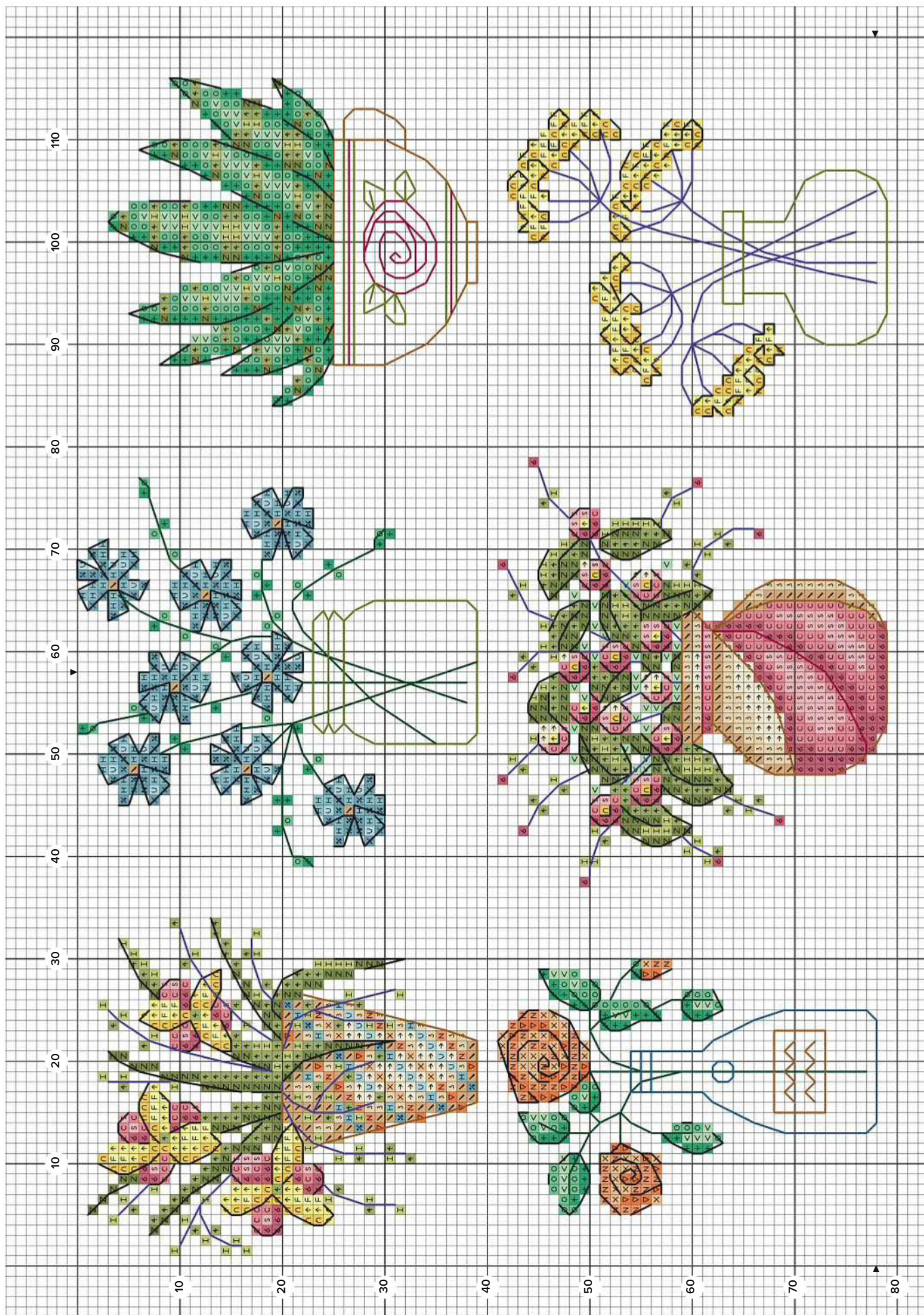


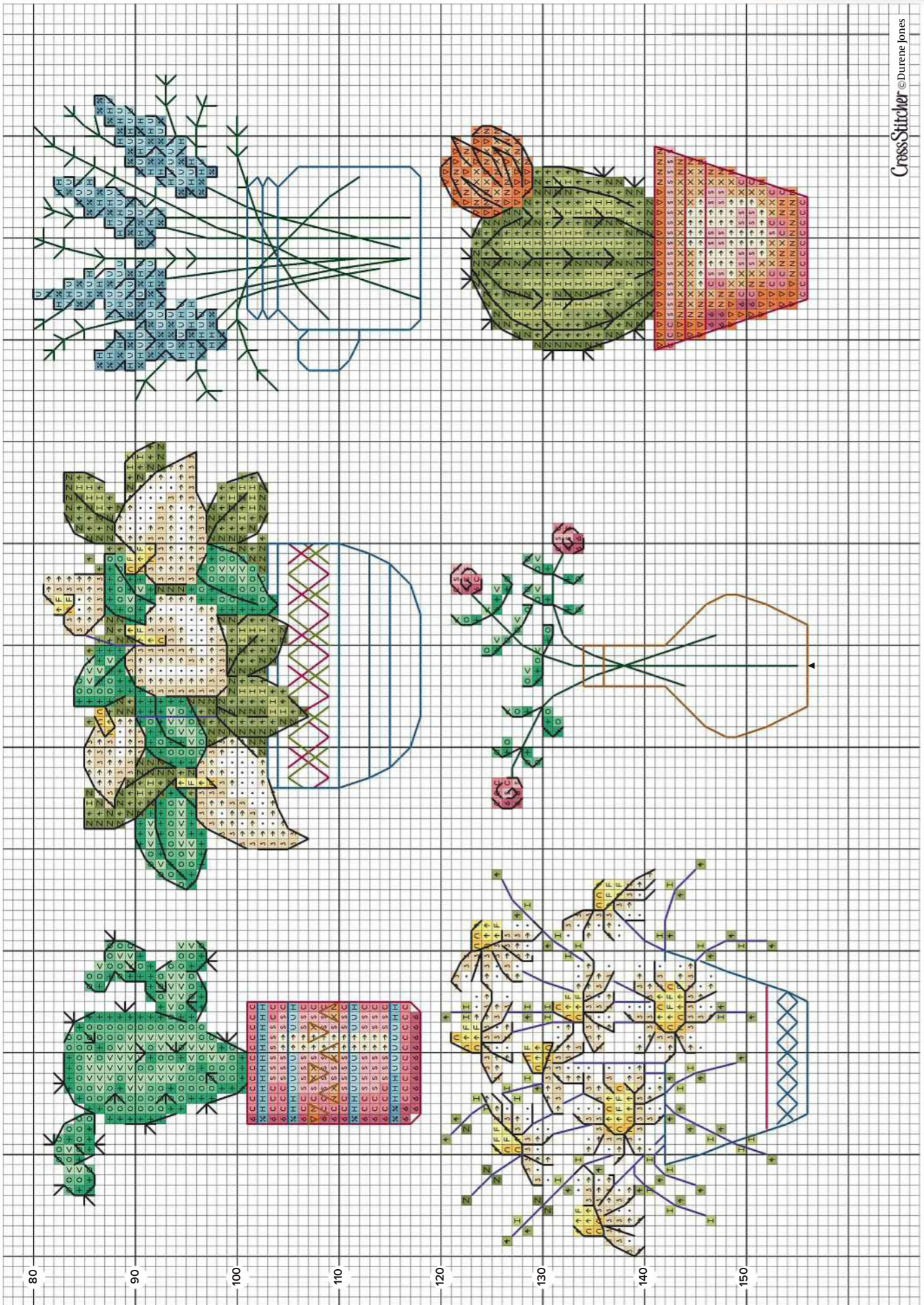
Bloomin' Beauties

From cactus plants to spring sprays – our fresh florals are guaranteed to make the perfect seasonal display...









Designed by: Durene Jones

Stitch count: 156 high x 116 wide

Design size: 24.5x17.5cm (9¾x7in)

Stitch time: 24 hours

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



Materials

- Zweigart Silk 32 count Belfast, ref: 3609/2055; 46x38cm (18x15in)
 - Stranded cotton as listed in the key
 - Size 26 tapestry needle
 - Frame with a 28x23cm (11x9in) aperture
 - Mount board to fit frame
- For stockist details see page 89



Stitch the whole design, a bunch of four flowers for a mini picture, or select individual plants for cards

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
	151	023	607
	437	362	2012
	470	267	1502
	471	265	1501
	472	253	1414
	712	926	2101
	721	324	308
	722	323	307
	725	306	808
	727	293	102
	739	366	2014
	807	1039	1109

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
	911	205	1214
	913	204	1212
< symbol"/>	955	206	1210
	3078	292	102
	3731	076	506
	3733	075	813
	3761	928	1014
	3766	167	1111
	3856	368	2309
	blanc	001	white
Backstitch in two strands			
	435	1046	2010
outlines & details			

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Backstitch in two strands			
	581	280	1609
outlines & details			
	350	059	603
outlines & details			
	3765	169	2506
outlines & details			
Backstitch in one strand			
	580	281	1608
outlines & details			
	909	230	1302
outlines & details			
	3799	236	1713
outlines & details			



Free Range Fun!

Chirp, chirp! Forget Easter baskets, our spring chick makes the cutest presentation cosy for a chocolate egg or two...

FREE RANGE FUN

Designed by: Sarah Cookland

Stitch count: 49 high x 47 wide

Design size: 7.5x8.5cm (3x3¼in)

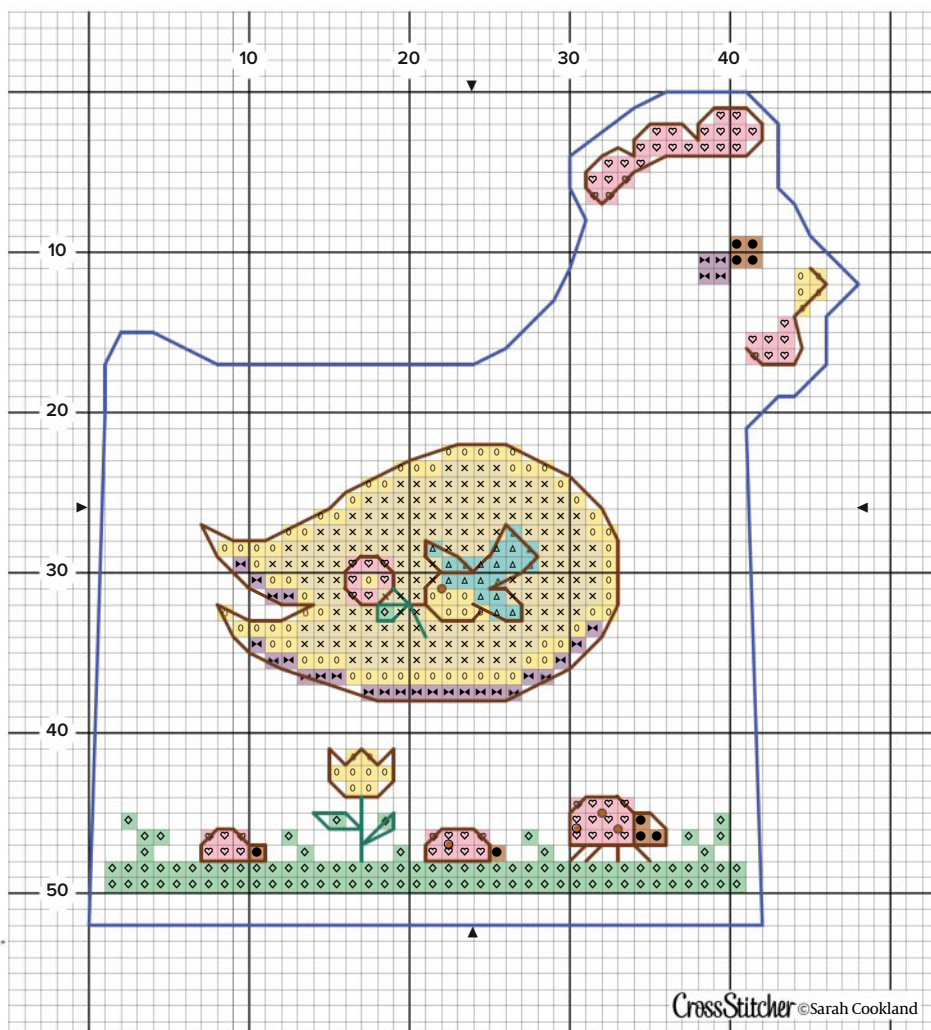
Stitch time: 5 hours

This design was stitched using
14 count waste canvas on felt.

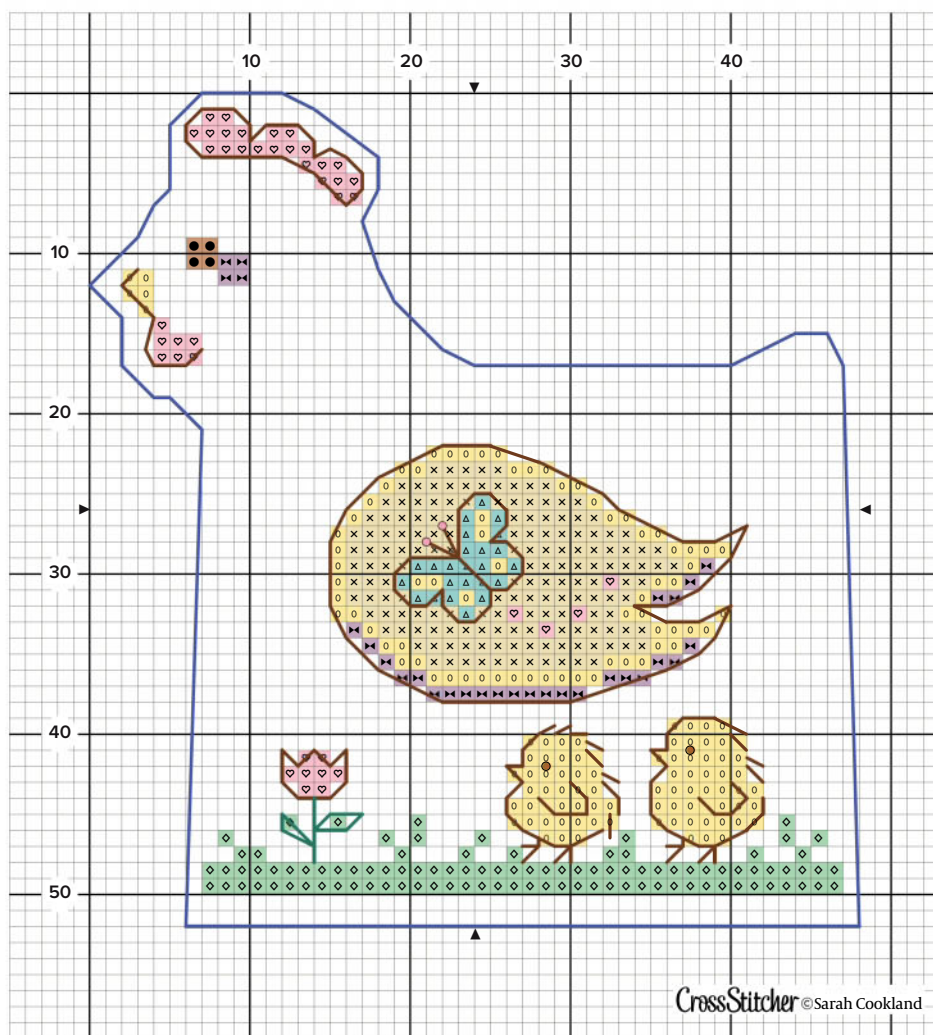


	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
	209	109	803
	301	1049	2306
	677	886	2207
	743	030	2294
	913	204	1212
	957	031	612
	3846	433	1103
Backstitch in one strand			
	301	1049	2306
outlines			
	913	204	1212
flowers			
French knots in one strand			
	301	1049	2306
insects			
	957	031	612
antennae			
Cutting line			
	chick shape		

Give a chocolate egg in your cosy as a gift which your recipient can then use as a regular egg cosy again and again!



CrossStitcher ©Sarah Cookland



Make an... egg cosy

Step 1

USE large running stitches at the edge to sew waste canvas centrally onto one piece of felt. Repeat for the other piece.

Step 2

STITCH the design following the chart, working each stitch over the waste canvas threads, in the same way as you would if stitching on aida. Take care not to snag the waste canvas, or you will have difficulty removing the threads later.

Step 3

COMPLETE the stitching then spray the waste canvas with water to loosen the starch holding it together. Using tweezers, remove the threads one at a time. If you have snagged one of the threads, use sharp scissors to carefully cut around the stitch, allowing the waste canvas to fall away.

Step 4

COVER the felt with a clean cloth and then press on a low heat until the felt is dry. Pin the front and back of the cosy, right-sides out, and then using the blue line on the chart as a rough guide, cut out the chicken shape.

Step 5

THREAD three strands of stranded cotton in the yellow shade and stitch around the outer edge of the chicken in blanket or running stitch, joining the chicken front and back together.

Materials

- Zweigart 14 count waste canvas, ref: 00510/056-068; 10x10cm (4x4in) x 2 pieces
- White felt; 12.5x12.5cm (5x5in) x 2 pieces
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Size 24 tapestry needle
- Sewing needle for blanket stitch

For stockist details see page 89



STITCHING
PRIZES
FOR YOU!

CrossStitcher PRIZE TIME!

We've got some great cross stitch giveaways up for grabs – make sure you enter today for your chance to win!

Giveaways open 3 March – 30 March 2017



£9
prize

Peeping kit

A cute bunny peering out from a flowerpot is surrounded by spring flowers. This is a great kit to stitch for Easter, or to give as a gift for someone who doesn't eat chocolate! Peeping, ref: SHPP1382, is from the Simple Heritage range of whole-stitch kits, ideal for beginners or as a quick stitch for the more experienced stitcher. One lucky reader will soon be receiving this kit in the post. The finished design is on 14 count white aida which measures 7x8.5cm, and it is available from www.hcrafts.com (RRP £8.95). **Enter by post to the address below, labelling your entry 'PEEPING GIVEAWAY XST316'.**

Zweigart fabric pack

We have one pack of Zweigart Vintage 14 count aida in Country Mocha, ref: 3706/3009, to give away to a lucky reader. This 100% cotton fabric is perfect for so many of the projects in *CrossStitcher*, and is 48x 53cm (19x21in), so just

right for one large project or several cards. If you would normally stitch on white aida, then this is your chance to try something different. Go to www.willowfabrics.com to see the full range of Zweigart colours available. **Enter by post to the address below, labelling your entry 'AIDA FABRIC GIVEAWAY XST316'.**



£8
prize

Sewing Room Accessories books

Sewing Room Accessories (£7.99) contains 15 practical projects to organise your sewing space. The latest book from Debbie Shore, projects include tool rolls, carry cases, cutting mat carriers, board covers, handy hanging pouches, and work box essentials such as pincushions. There are over 200 illustrations and it's perfect for beginner stitchers. Go to www.searchpress.com for more details. We have three books to give away.

Enter by post to the address below, labelling your entry 'SEWING ROOM ACCESSORIES GIVEAWAY XST316'.



£24 of
prizes

Grey Squirrel kit

One lucky winner will receive this beautiful Grey Squirrel kit, ref: WCSQ1383, from Heritage Crafts. The kit comes with either 28 count evenweave or 14 count aida and contains DMC stranded cotton sorted on numbered cards, a needle and clear instructions. The finished size on 14 count aida measures 12.5x12.5cm and the kit is available from www.hcrafts.com (RRP £17.99). **Enter by post to the address below, labelling your entry 'GREY SQUIRREL GIVEAWAY XST316'.**



£18
prize

HOW TO ENTER

Write your name and address on the back of a postcard or stuck-down envelope together with the name of the giveaway(s) you are entering and send to:
CrossStitcher, PO Box 172, Northam, EX39 9DY.

Competitions open 3 March – 30 March 2017. For competition terms and conditions go to page 89. You may enter multiple prize draws on one postcard.

THE Savvy Stitcher



COOL CAMPER
Make your own stencil
using our template
to create this cool
campervan card.

Stylish ideas using stencils

Zoë Patching gets savvy with stencils to create three easy projects that you can tackle, learning new techniques in the process...



SUBTLE SILHOUETTE
It's simple to make your own silhouette stencil from a photograph and piece of card.



WHAT A STAR!
Using a cookie cutter as a guide, create a negative space which you then simply backstitch and cross stitch around!



This month we're exploring ways of combining stencils with your stitching. We've raided the kitchen cupboards and used a star cookie cutter as a stencil. It creates a crisp outline which we've stitched around in a fun, striped pattern. Next, is our cute card silhouette, blowing a stitched dandelion clock worked in stem stitch. Plus, our campervan explores the idea of using a template as a stencil, and how it can be translated into a chart. Read on to see how to do it!



HOW TO... USE A COOKIE CUTTER STENCIL

Create a star shape to surround with stitching with this easy method.

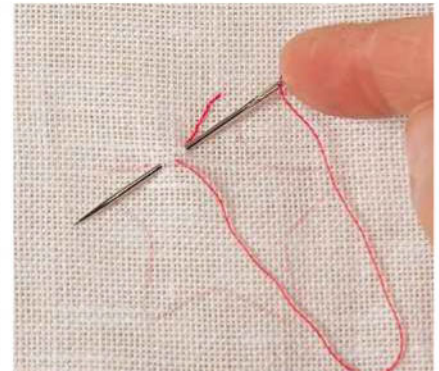


Step 1



START by tracing around your star cookie cutter with a dressmaking pencil, directly onto your linen fabric. (Dressmaking pencils can be brushed to remove any visible lines).

Step 2



CREATE a crisp sided star, by backstitching along the pencil line, following the fabric grain, rather than splitting. Work over several threads at a time if necessary to follow the shape.

Step 3



COMPLETE all the backstitch – now you can cross stitch around it. We've used a circle of cross stitch to fit our covered button here, but a square block is absolutely fine too and is perfect for a making into a card or gift tag.

Step 4



TAKE a look at this close-up image as it shows some of the fractional stitches used to create the diagonal sides. Go with whichever looks best to fill the area, rather than doing a traditional fractional stitch.

DMC Anchor Madeira

Cross stitch in two strands

	519	1038	1105
	598	1062	1111
	892	028	412
	3078	292	102
	3364	260	1603
	3822	295	2511
	B5200 001	white	

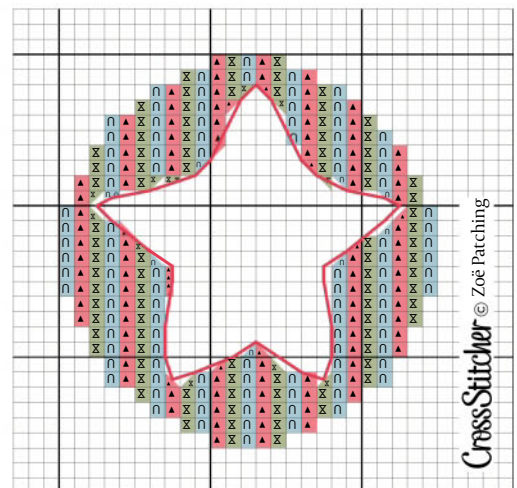
Backstitch in one strand

	519	1038	1105
	598	1062	1111
	892	028	412
	364	260	1603
	3822	295	2511
	B5200 001	white	

French knots in one strand

	B5200 001	white	
--	-----------	-------	--

You'll find a great selection of cookie cutters to choose from, from stars and planes to rockets, at www.craftcompany.co.uk



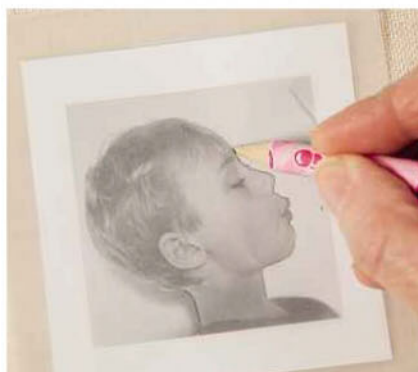
CrossStitcher © Zoë Patching

HOW TO... MAKE A SILHOUETTE STENCIL

Create a cameo-style portrait picture with a card stencil as its focus.



Step 1



START by choosing a photograph profile that you wish to turn into a stencil. Next, trace around it with a pencil onto a piece of tracing paper. We chose a photograph profile which measures about 6cm in height.

Step 2



TURN the tracing paper over, so the pencil line is face down, and tape this onto a piece of white card. Use a sharpened pencil to carefully trace around the profile to transfer the pencil outline onto the card.

Step 3



CUT out the silhouette very carefully with a craft knife and a pair of small, sharp scissors. You'll find it easier to cut the intricate shapes of the profile with a series of cuts, rather than trying to complete it in one go.

Step 4



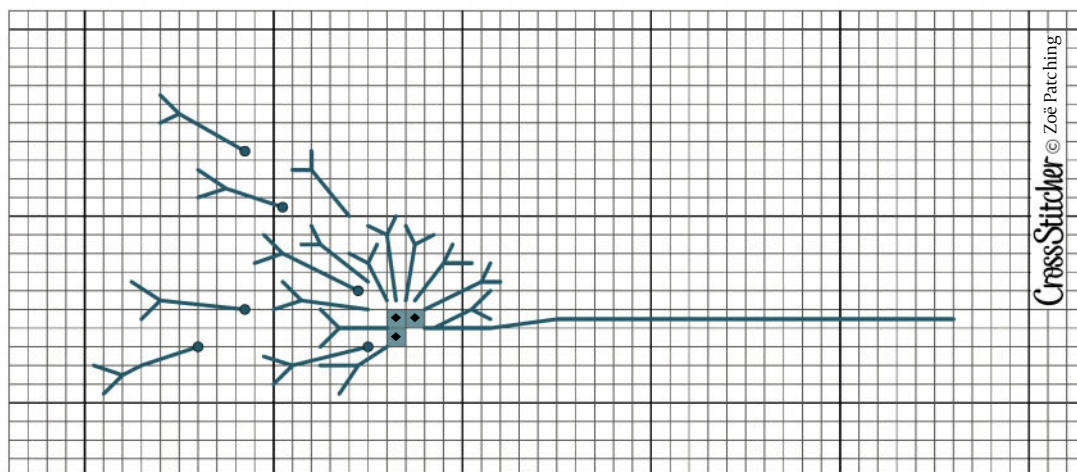
FINISH cutting the profile from the card, then you can work out where it should be positioned alongside the stitched dandelion clock. To attach it, simply back with double-sided tape and press it on with clean fingers until attached.



COUNTRY DESIGNS

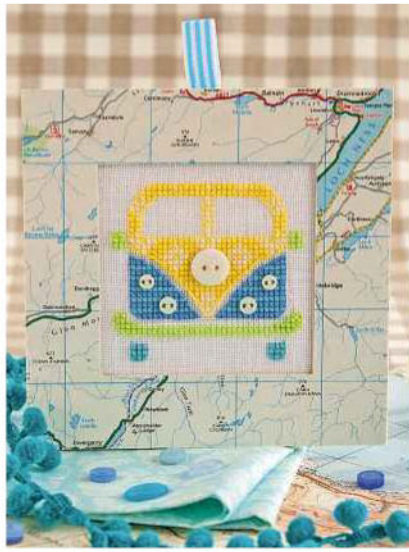
www.country-designs.co.uk

If you're inspired to create your own stencils, then the 14 count tracing paper you can find at Country Designs will make designing your creations a breeze.



HOW TO... USE A STENCIL TO MAKE A CHART

Use our campervan stencil to create your own colour chart.

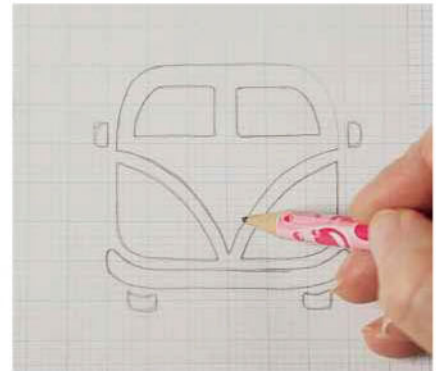


Step 1

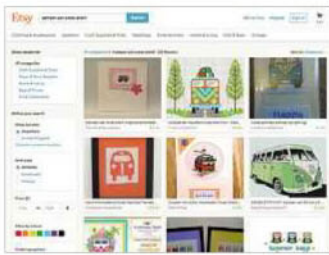


PHOTOCOPY and print out the campervan template we have included below. Cut out the areas which will be stitched, using our photo as a guide. Next, use a pencil to trace around it onto a sheet of tracing paper.

Step 2



USING the same technique shown in the silhouette project, copy the traced template onto a piece of graph paper. This tracing will now act as your first draft, to help you to work out the stitched design.

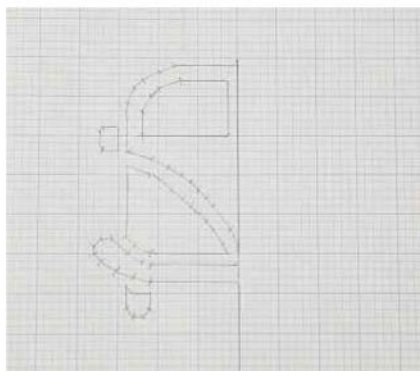


ETSY

www.etsy.com/uk

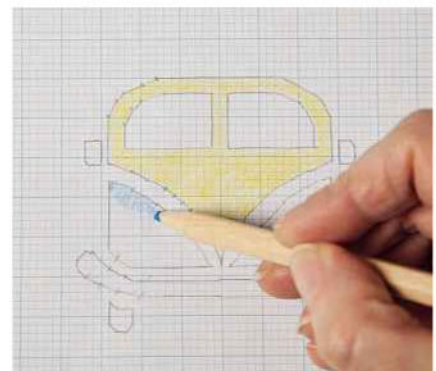
If you loved stitching our campervan design, head over to Etsy where you can discover more charts and kits just like it!

Step 3

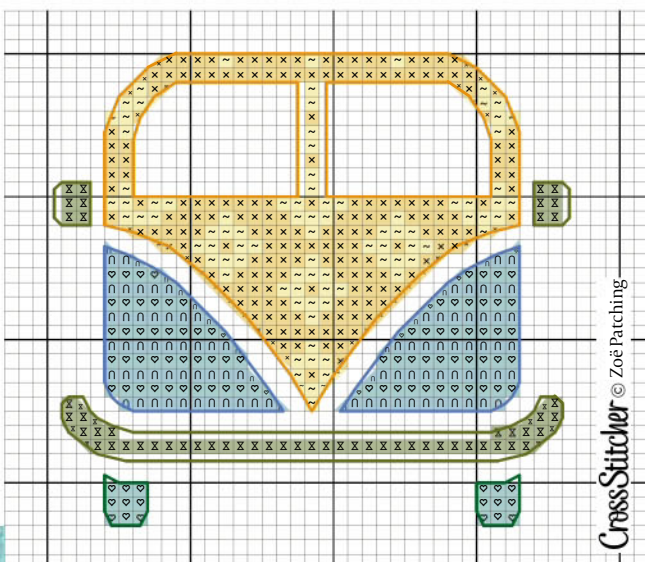


TAKE a second sheet of graph paper and copy the outline from step 2. Neaten vertical and horizontal lines to follow the grid on the graph paper. For curved lines, use several backstitches – indicated with a series of diagonal dashes here.

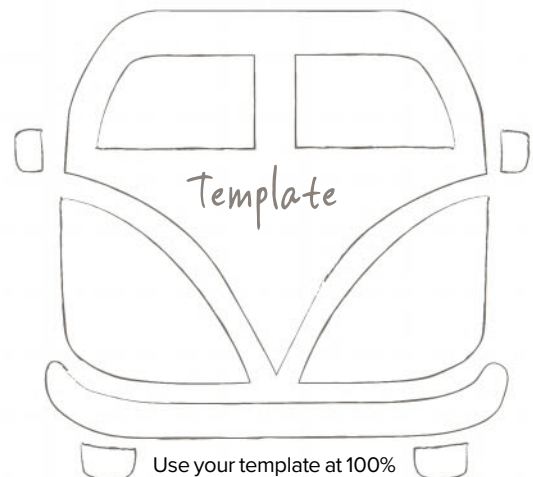
Step 4



COMPLETE your backstitch outline – don't forget for a symmetrical design, once one half has been plotted, it can be mirrored on the other. Colour your chart then stitch the design, using fractional stitches where necessary.



CrossStitcher © Zoë Patching



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Overseas readers see page 87

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CrossStitcher

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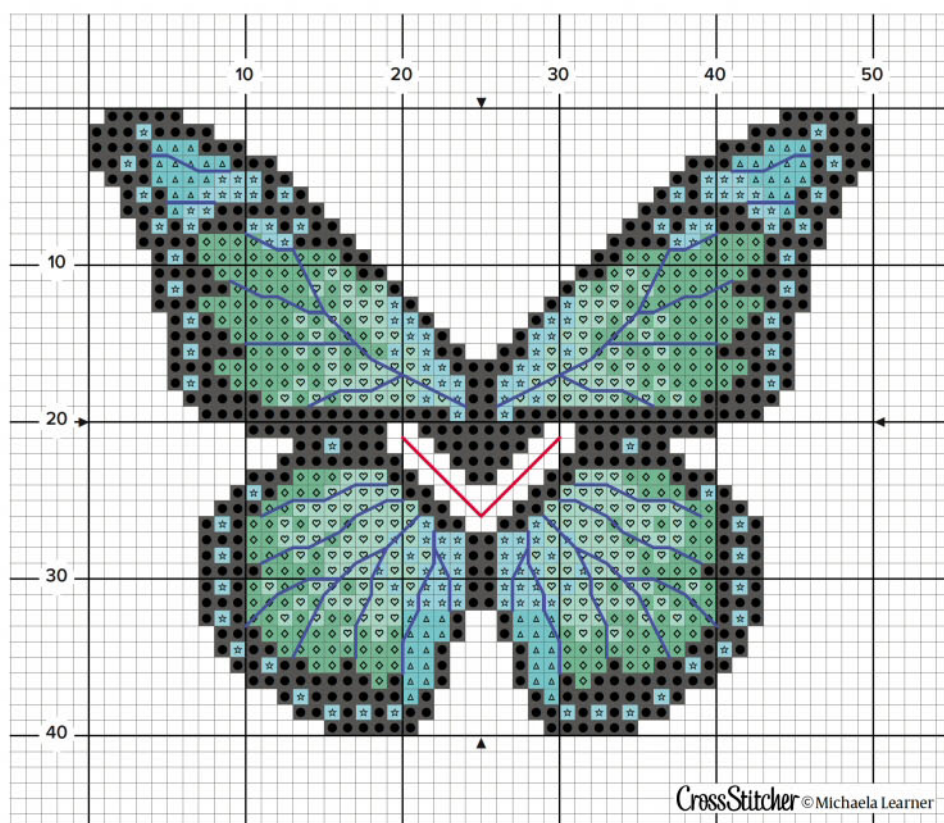
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Straight up Style

Dress up your drinks! Stitch on silver perforated paper to make our delicate butterfly to adorn a cocktail glass



Designed by: Michaela Learner

Stitch count: 40 high x 50 wide

Design size: 7.5x9cm (3x3½in)

Stitch time: 4 hours (each side)

This design was stitched on 14 count perforated paper.

Materials

- 14 count silver perforated paper; 10x11cm (4x4½in) x 2 pieces
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Size 24 tapestry needle

For stockist details see page 89

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
● ●	310	403	black
♥ ♥	959	186	1113
◇ ◇	3812	188	2706
△ △	3844	410	1103*
☆ ☆	3846	433	1103*
Backstitch in one strand			
—	310	403	black
vein lines			
Cutting line			
—	slit for glass		

*See 'The Key' on page 86.

Make a... cocktail butterfly

Step 1

STITCH your butterfly onto perforated paper, taking care to finish your thread ends by running them through the back of your stitching. You will need to stitch two butterflies to make the finished design double-sided.

Step 2

CUT around the butterfly, leaving one blank square of unstitched paper outside of the stitching. The red cutting line on the chart, which is in the middle of the butterfly, needs to be cut with small, sharp scissors on the red line only – do not remove the unstitched area completely or the butterfly will not stay on your glass.

Step 3

USE double-sided tape to join the two butterflies together, taking care to match the edges. Push the point at the centre of the butterfly backwards, and then use this to slip over the edge of your glass.

For a different twist, stitch your butterfly onto plastic canvas and use to decorate a cocktail stirrer



CrossStitcher

Correspondents

Ever wondered what stitchers like us are up to in different parts of the globe? We've asked readers from near and far to become correspondents for us and share with us their cross stitch news...



**Joy Snouffer,
Hagerstown,
Maryland, USA**

Hello and 'Happy Springtime' from Maryland!

To be honest, I have a love/hate relationship with springtime. I love the unpredictable, usually mild, weather of early spring. But I know it just leads to the heat and humidity of summer, which I hate. I love the beautiful flowers that spring up all around my yard. But I know the weeds and insects will follow, which I hate. I love the return of songbirds to my feeders and birdbath. But I really don't like cleaning up after them (though it's worth the trouble). Most of all, I love springtime cross stitch designs!

April is quite a full month for my family, so it's sometimes hard to find time to stitch the colourful springtime designs I enjoy so much.

My granddaughter, Clover Lillie, is celebrating her first birthday! I've stitched a cute April Turtle design for her and will probably work up a little card, last-minute. Big news! Clover is

going to be a big sister in August! This Gramma best get to work on a stitchy something for the new baby!

Of course, this month also brings Palm Sunday and Easter with all its celebrations – egg hunts, family picnics, church services and special programs. I've stitched a little Easter egg that I hope to find time to make into a pillow or wall-hanging... I'd best get to it!

The Handsome Hunnie-Man and I operate a very small business, Little Locos Model Engineering. In a couple of weeks, we will be heading to the Detroit, Michigan area to set up a booth at a model engineering expo and I definitely will take my stitching along! Though an introvert at heart, I truly enjoy chatting with the people who stop by our booth, especially when the ladies talk about cross stitching!

I think the most fun will be taking in the first baseball game of the season at our local stadium. The Hagerstown Suns is our minor-league team. Of course, I might take along a small bit of stitching, just in case the game gets dull.

Like I said, April is full... of fun and busyness and stitching as often as possible! Happy Easter, everyone!

My cross-stitched Easter egg 1

The April Turtle I stitched for my granddaughter 2

A floral bunny by Joan Elliot that seemed to take forever to finish 3

Joy is married, a homemaker and has one grandchild. She lives at the foot of mountains west of Baltimore.



**Alesya Tyshkevich,
Moscow, Russia**

Winters in Russia are always long and grey. Of course, we have sunny days, but they all are mostly cold and short. In January birds start singing and our hearts turn to see the future beginning of spring. February and March are also snowy and grey and then comes April! The month when everything seems to be young and green, sunny and warm.

We stitchers have a chance to bring spring closer only with a wave of inspiration. We have threads of



different bright colours, new ideas, gorgeous designs and interesting charts. Starting something new is truly attractive and the excitement is overwhelming.

Speaking of inspiration, by the way, we may get it not only by making first stitches. How about looking through the kits you already have at home? It also gives a wide range of emotions only by holding them in your hands and choosing what to stitch next! How about Easter? What can be cuter than the Easter Rabbit? My own collection with this soft pal brings the warmth to the heart.

Nevertheless, I try to fasten the change of seasons not only by dreaming of future projects, but with my present works. Taking a look at the young beauty and the bright looking titmouse bird, I feel the upcoming spring! Happy stitching to you all, stitchers of the world!

My latest projects, filling me with the feeling of springtime 4 & 5

Alesya is 27 years old, married and has just had a baby daughter. She works in a school and has been stitching for four

years. Find her Youtube channel at www.youtube.com/ricamatrice and her Instagram account at www.instagram.com/alesya.ricamatrice.



**Michelle Yeoh,
Petaling Jaya,
Malaysia**

Hello again from Malaysia! I am happy to report that our local cross stitch group, Cross-Stitch Malaysia, is being rather active recently. More people are coming forward to share photos of their WIPs (work-in-progress) and finished pieces and are even having lively discussions.

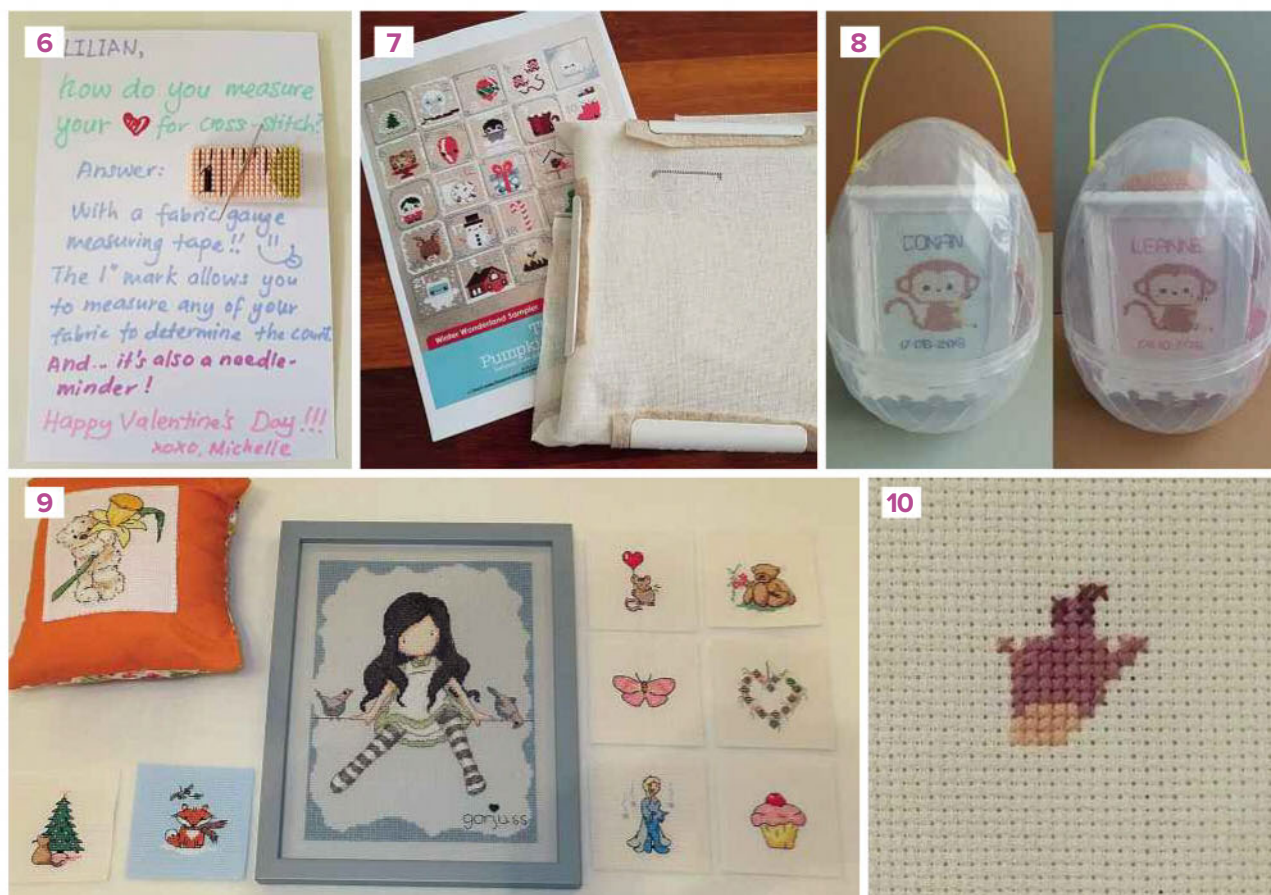
We have WIP Wednesday where members are supposed to work on their current or unfinished projects in a bid to reduce abandoned projects (#csmwipwed). If a particular chart is popular among the group members, we organise a Stitch-A-Long (SAL) for those charts, too. The latest ongoing one is the Charity SAL for Mind by Emma Congdon (#csmstitchroviasal). Another addition to our group activities

is our bi-monthly swaps. The first swap we had was for Valentine's Day in February. I made a fabric gauge-cum-needle minder for my swap partner and in return, I received a very cute file/book cover with stitched kittens on it!

Spring has arrived for all you UK folks. We don't have four seasons here in Malaysia, since we are so near to the equator – but three friends and I have bought charts from The Frosted Pumpkin Stitchery and we have each chosen to stitch a different season. My season of choice is Winter, because it is very Christmassy and I'm likely to stitch Summer next. I am really looking forward to seeing all four seasons displayed together when we have finished.

It's also the month for Easter celebrations and at the mention of Easter, I recall a couple of baby gift orders. I was commissioned to make a cross stitch and crochet monkey set and I packaged them in a giant Easter egg shell! Needless to say, my customers were thrilled with it.

Swap gift – my swap partner was delighted to receive it 6 »



My start on the Winter sampler **7** Finished work packed into giant Easter eggs! **8**

Michelle is a full-time mum and has her own business, Little Pink Factory, on Facebook and Instagram, designing customised cross stitch portraits.



Joanne Hayward, Reading, UK

Hello everyone, as I write the school half term is just a few days away. For me this means a

week off as I work in a primary school but it also means keeping my daughters, Freya, who's 12 and Scarlett, who is nine, entertained for a week!

Recently we embarked on me teaching them to cross stitch as they love to watch me stitch and create and decided they would like to learn. We decided a small kit was the way to go and popped down to our local Hobbycraft. Freya selected one of their mini cross stitch kits from their seasonal range. These are a great first kit to teach a child from as they come with

everything they need in one little pack are also relatively inexpensive and simple enough for a child to follow with only a little bit of help.

Scarlett couldn't find anything that inspired her so we went and looked at the Mouseloft range and to her delight they had a mini kit of a giraffe, her favourite animal. These we discovered are also a great first little kit to learn on as they too have everything you need to get started.

It turns out that teaching children to stitch requires a lot of patience. Teaching Freya was easier as we are both right-handed, teaching Scarlett was more of a challenge as she is left-handed and want to stitch in a completely different way to me! Scarlett is still working on her giraffe whilst Freya is hooked and has completed many mini projects, made her own cushion and completed a Gorjuss kit. I think the school holiday will be a creative one!

My daughter Freya's stitching **9**

My daughter Scarlett's progress on her giraffe so far! **10**

Joanne is married, with two daughters.

She works in a local primary school as a teaching assistant and although her main passion is cross stitch, she loves all crafts and is always busy crafting with her girls.



Charlotte McFall, Sheffield, South Yorkshire, UK

Those early dark nights are no longer and spring has arrived.

Daffodils, crocus and snowdrops peep out of the ground stretching themselves towards the sun. Not only do people feel happier to see all the new shoots on trees but spring offers so many opportunities for cross stitch.

Those that celebrate Saint Patrick's Day have ample cross stitching opportunities with cards, bookmarks or coasters showing glasses of Guinness, Shamrocks and the ever-cute Leprechauns.

When you think of Mother's Day as children you remember giving your mother daffodils, but how about a Fabergé-style daffodil egg like the one



made by my friend Lorraine? The Fabergé-style cross stitch patterns would work wonderfully for Easter too. Tsars Alexander III and Nicolas II gave their wives and mothers Imperial Eggs as gifts during Easter. I also found some lovely jewelled egg designs on www.abcstitch.com.

Easter for many is a very religious holiday, with the Crucifixion and then Resurrection on Easter Sunday of Jesus Christ. In the Grande Museo Del Duomo Milan, I saw a beautiful tapestry showcasing the Passion of Christ. I have hunted high and low for a cross stitch version of this 15th Century piece but have yet to find one. It would be my biggest project ever if I followed the size of the original. What is your biggest ever cross stitch project so far?

The Passion of Christ 11 & 12

Stitching courtesy of Lorraine Clark 13

Easter stitching by Sandra Johansson 14

Charlotte writes under the name of Misty Shaw, and pens romance for My Weekly Pocket Novels and Mills and Boon. She was the winner of the Carina Mills and Boon Christmas in July Competition.



**Nicola Bywater,
Brisbane,
Queensland,
Australia**

G'day from drizzly Brisbane! It might be a bit wet, but

because of the heat, the rain just steams off the roads and adds to the humidity. A good excuse to stay inside, in the air-conditioning, and do something quiet – like cross stitch, or drink cocktails, or both!

I received a parcel recently from my parents who live in the UK. They visit every few years but had extended visits when my children were born. When I had my first son, Mum wanted something to do so we bought a simple cross stitch kit and I showed Mum what to do in between nappy changes! Mum took the kit back to the UK with the promise that she would finish it and return it soon for my son's nursery wall.

Mum and Dad came out again when my second son was born and the kit came back with them. It was half finished but Mum had run out of thread so supplies were purchased! Again it

returned to the UK with the promise of its completion.

The parcel came recently with the incompleting kit inside. Again Mum had run out of thread but a cheery card attached to it said "You know what to do!". More supplies needed... It *will* get finished at some point and the boys will know that Nanna made it for them. (My youngest son is now three and my eldest has just started school!)

My owl cross stitch that has travelled the globe three times 15

Nicola is married with children, she has been cross stitching for 30 years, but is also a dedicated lace maker. She has recently worked on a publication for The Lace Guild (UK).


WANT TO BECOME A CROSSSTITCHER CORRESPONDENT?

If you think you have what it takes to become one of our correspondents, write to us at crossstitcher@dennis.co.uk.



SLEEP AHoy!

Do you know someone who'd love a snooze on the sea bed? Whip up the perfect pillow for your little mermaid or pirate...



2 PART SERIES



PART 1



This is a detailed 120x90 grid map of a game level, likely from Super Mario Bros. The map features various terrain types represented by different symbols and colors: blue for water, green for grass, brown for dirt, and black for obstacles. Key elements include a large body of water on the left, a central area with many small green blocks (possibly coins or power-ups), and a large black obstacle area on the right. The grid is numbered 10 to 90 on the top and 10 to 120 on the left side.



CrossStitcher © Emma Congdon



Designed by: Emma Congdon

Stitch count: 121 high x 180 wide

Design size: 22x33.5cm (8¾x13¼in)

Stitch time: 60 hours

This design was stitched on 27 count evenweave over two threads of fabric.

Make a... cushion

Step 1

COMPLETE your cross stitch then place the stitching and the cotton side panel right-sides together, so that the stitching is on the right-hand side of the cushion front. Sew the seam with a 1.25cm (½in) seam allowance, joining the two front sections together. Open the seam, and press flat.

Step 2

SEW two large buttons onto the fabric side panel. Place the assembled cushion front and back right-sides together, and then stitch around the outside edge of the cushion using the same seam allowance as before, but leaving a gap in the bottom seam for inserting the cushion pad.

Step 3

TRIM away some of the seam allowance and clip the corners before turning the cushion cover to the right side. Insert the cushion pad and then using small, neat stitches, sew up the bottom seam.

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
■ ■	168	274	1803
■ ■	209	109	803
■ ■	210	108	802
■ ■	211	342	801
■ ■	414	235	1801
■ ■	732	281	1612
■ ■	733	280	1611
■ ■	747	158	1104
■ ■	762	234	1804
■ ■	819	271	501
■ ■	894	026	414
■ ■	922	1003	310
■ ■	948	1011	306

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
■ ■	959	186	1113
■ ■	963	023	608
■ ■	964	1092	1112 (2)
■ ■	3031	360	2003
■ ■	3716	025	606
■ ■	3809	1066	2506 (2)
■ ■	3821	305	2510
■ ■	3826	365	2306
■ ■	3852	307	2509
■ ■	3854	313	2301
■ ■	E747 light effects		
■ ■	E818 light effects		

(2) indicates more than one skein is required

Use metallic threads for your favourite highlights to give your pillow a magical sparkle!

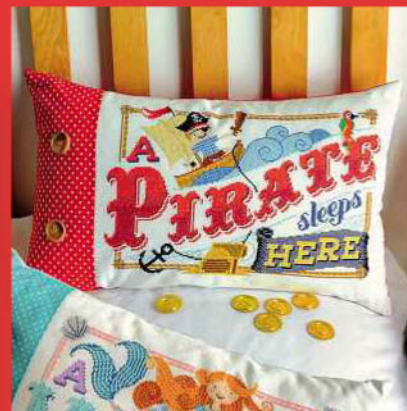
Materials

- Zweigart Antique White 27 count Linda, ref: 1235/101; 33x41cm (13x16in)
- Side panel cotton fabric; 12.5x33cm (5x13in)
- Backing fabric; 33x53cm (13x21in)
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Size 26 tapestry needle
- 2 large buttons
- Cushion pad; 30x50cm (12x20in), or toy stuffing

For stockist details see page 89

NEXT MONTH...

Our pirate cushion chart will be featured in our May issue (on sale 31 March). Make sure you don't miss out – see page 36 for our latest suscription offer!



Letter LIBRARY

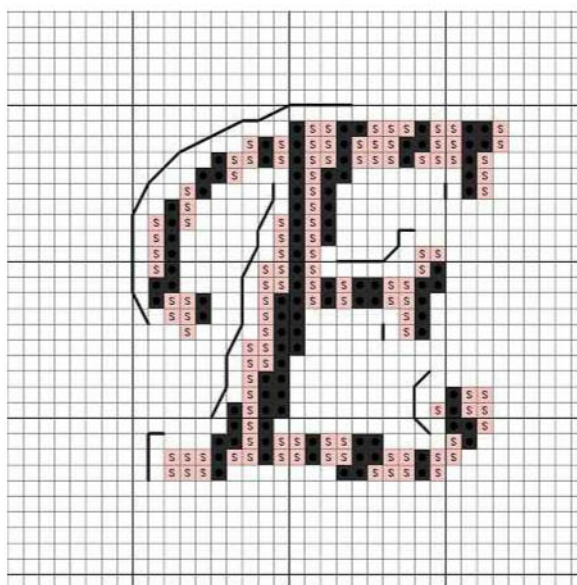
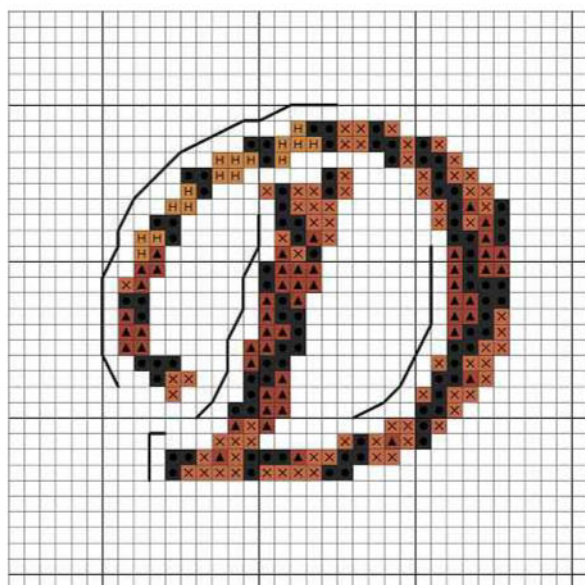
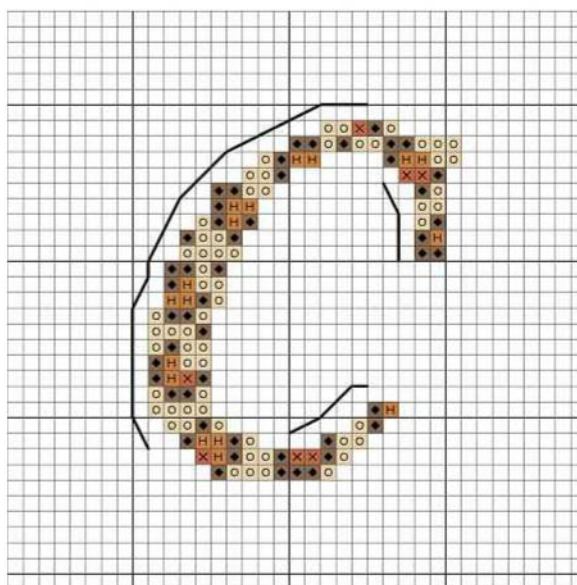
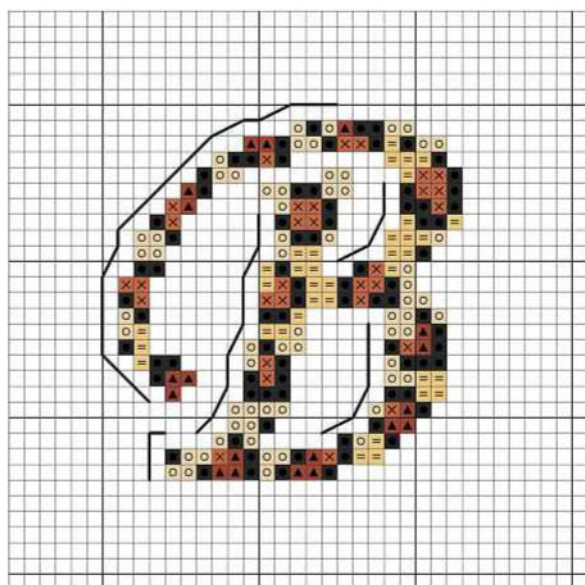
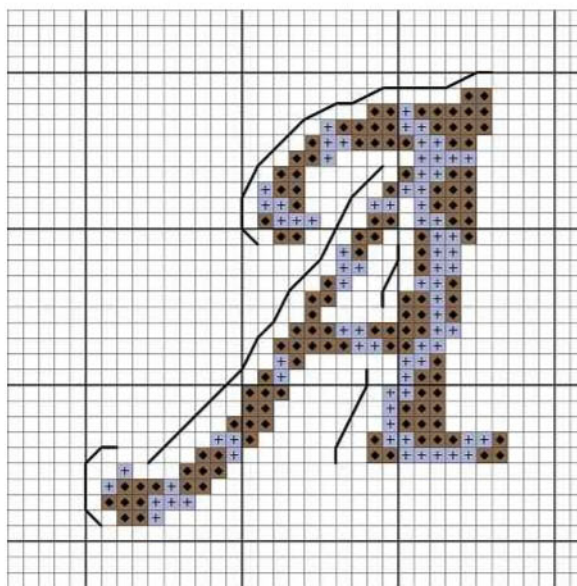
ANIMAL PRINTS

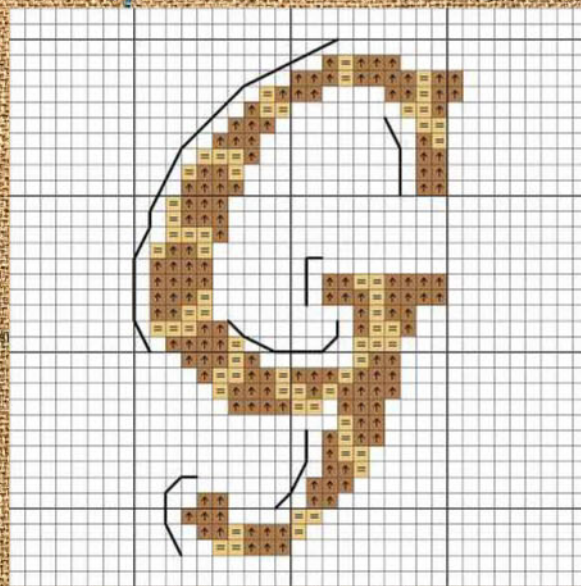
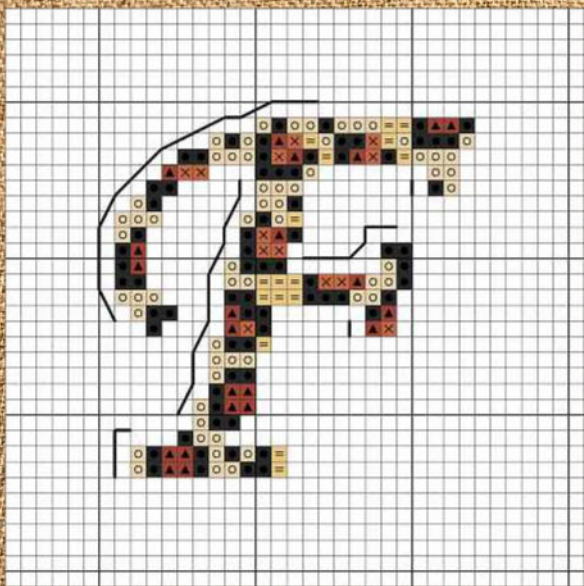
A leopard may never change its spots, but you can go wild mixing and matching our animal print letters and numbers!



Take a walk on the wild side with us, with this month's alphabet! Maria Diaz has designed a complete set of letters and numbers based on animal prints and she's even added in a few motifs and borders for good measure, so your animal print projects will look paw-fect every time! Keep your alphabet on file, ready to use for birthdays, gifts, home décor items and more...

Designed by: Maria Diaz



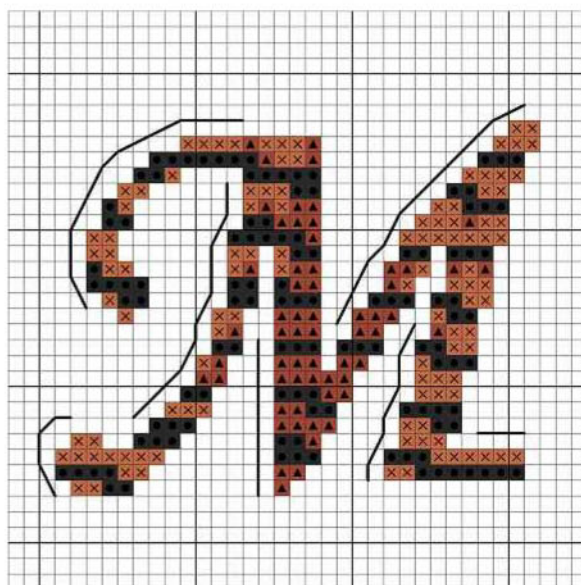
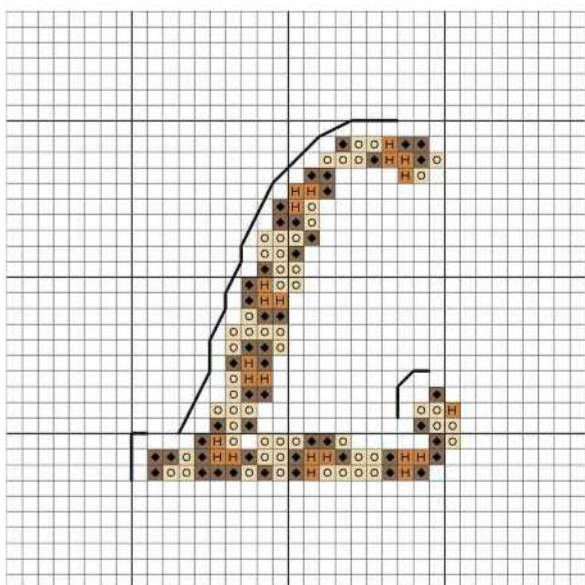
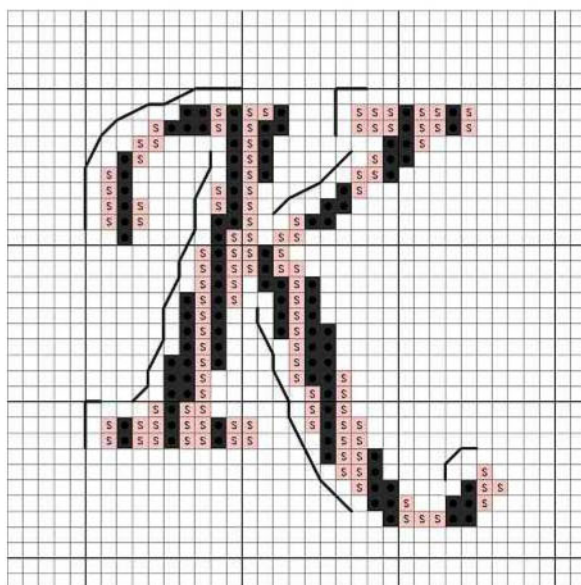
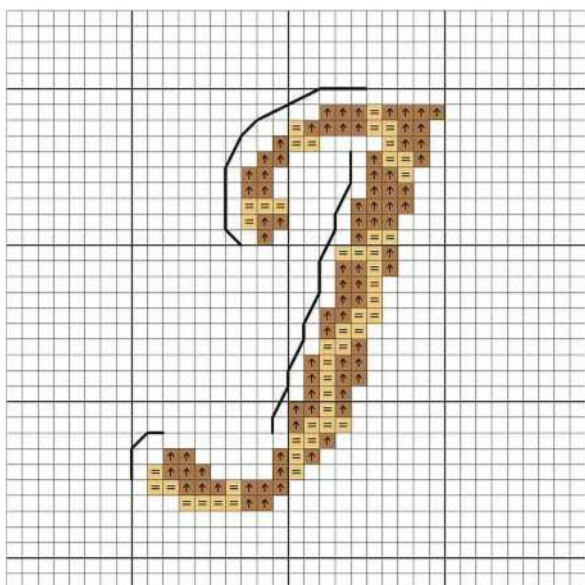
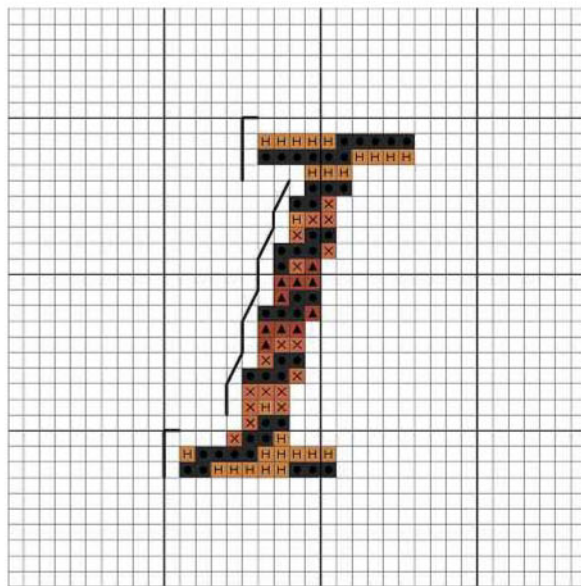
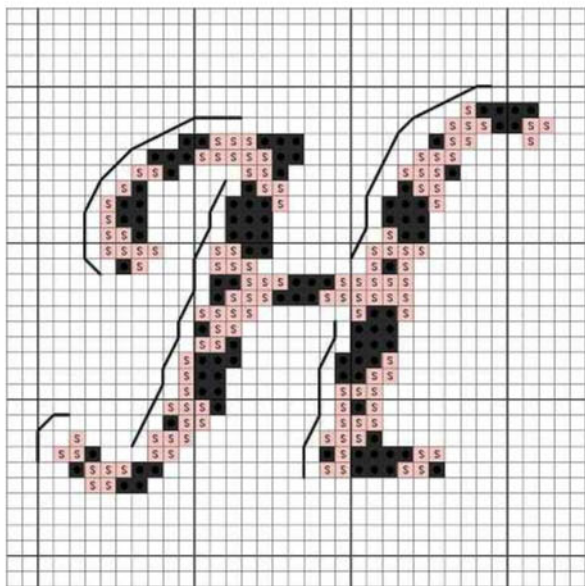


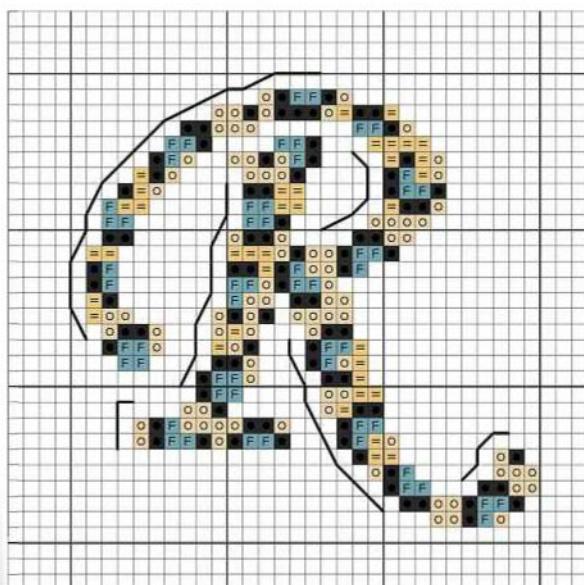
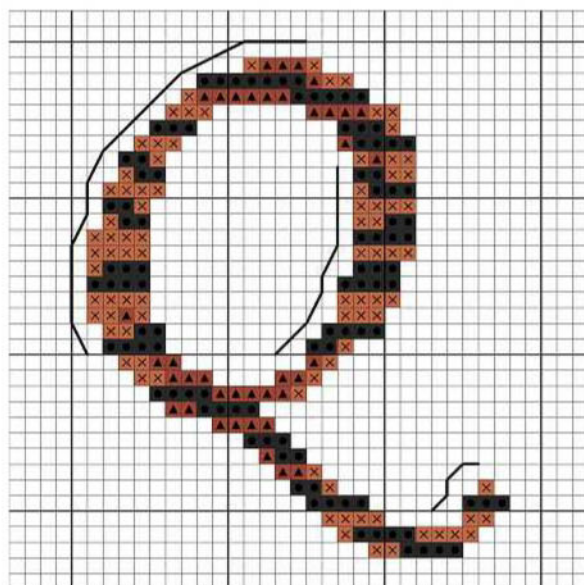
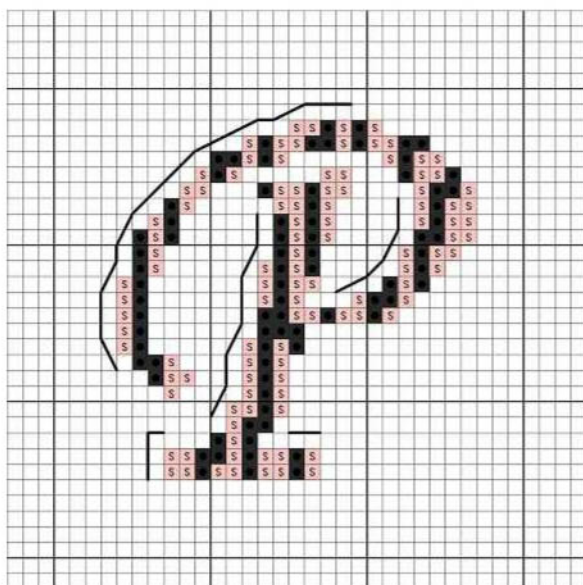
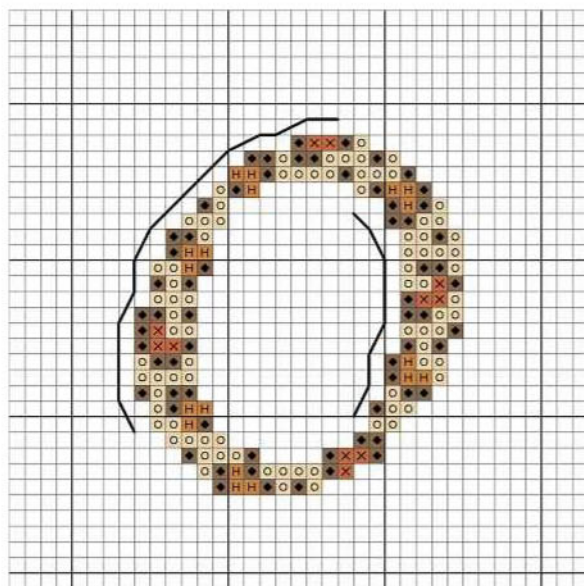
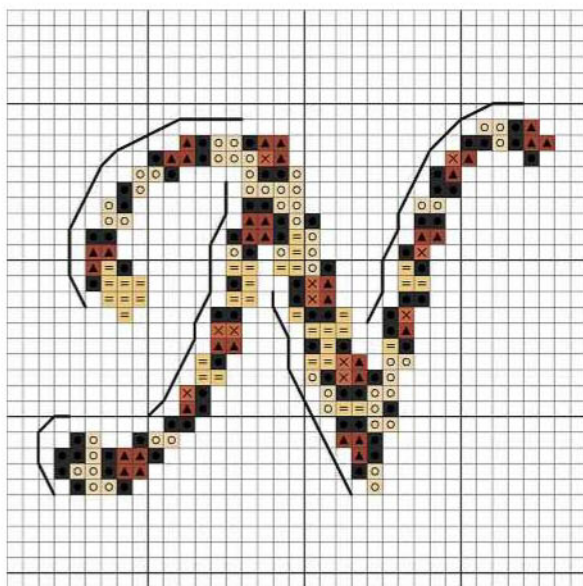
**TURN TO
PAGE 84**

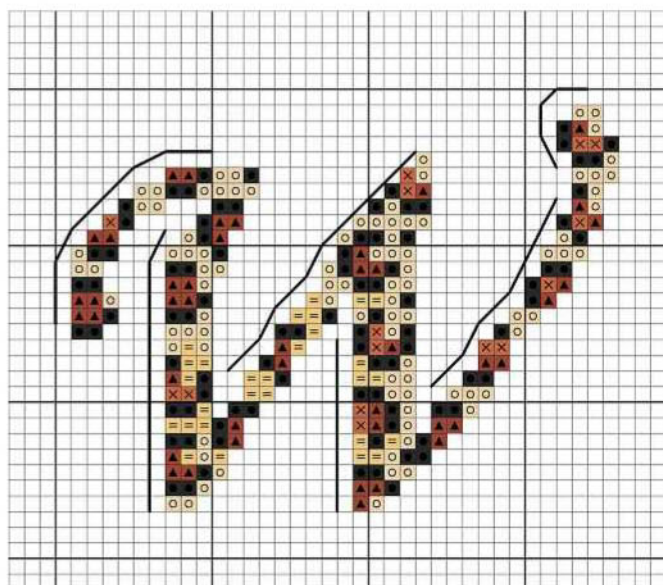
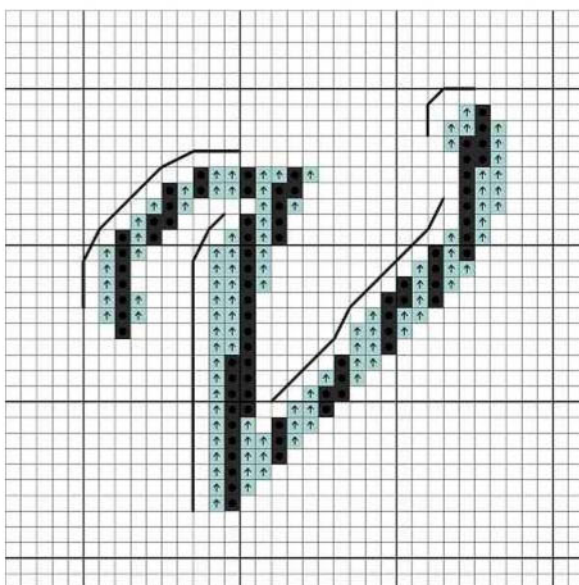
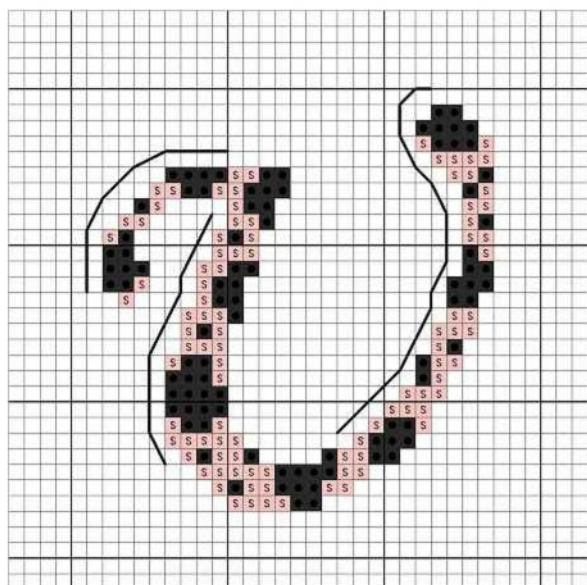
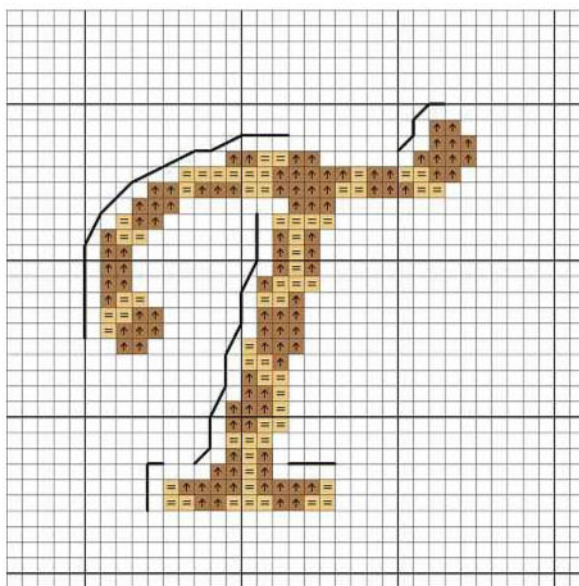
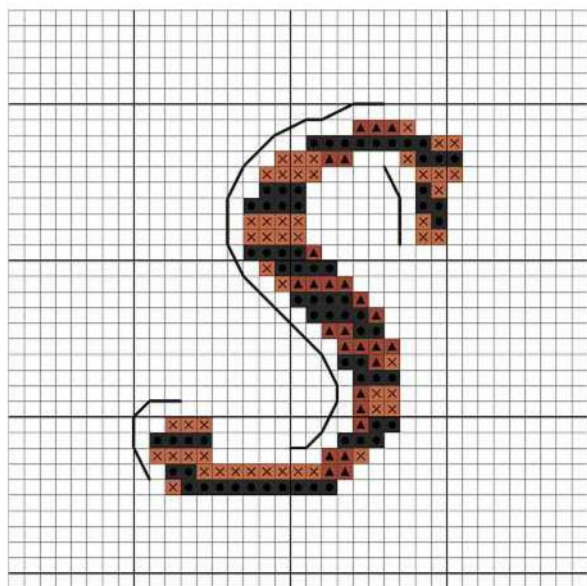
TO LEARN HOW
TO FRAME YOUR
PICTURE



Archie's Room was stitched on Zweigart Vintage Sand, 28 count Cashel, ref: 3281/1079, and each letter is approximately 25 high x 26 wide. The design size for each letter is approximately 5x5cm (2x2in), and it took our stitcher 14 hours to complete the design.







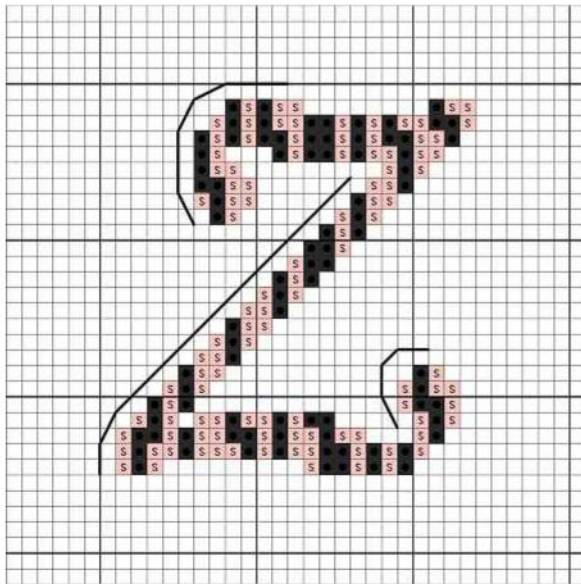
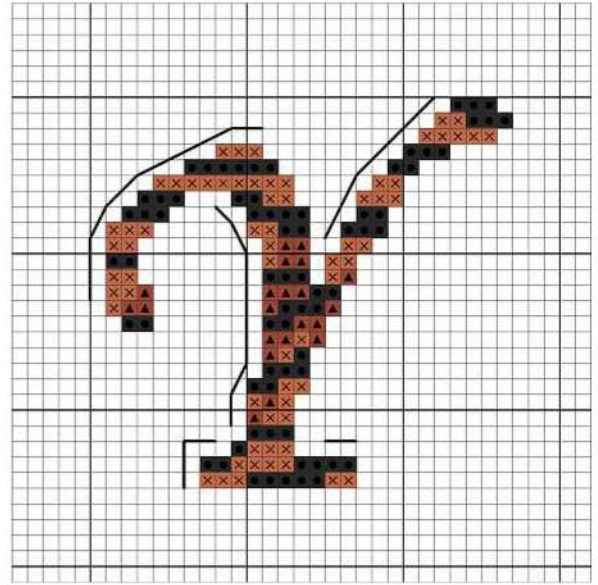
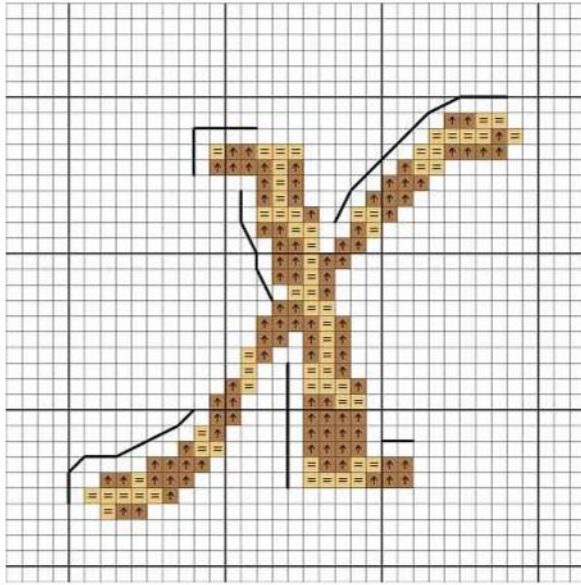
More to make...

Mix and match your letters to create a host of wild projects. Here are some ideas to get you started...

1 Choose a big cat motif and, using waste canvas, stitch your kitty's name on his or her basket blanket to personalise it.

2 Use waste canvas again to customise a t-shirt with some motifs and your initials.

3 Measure out, then add numbers and the giraffe motif, to make a wall height chart for your kid's room.



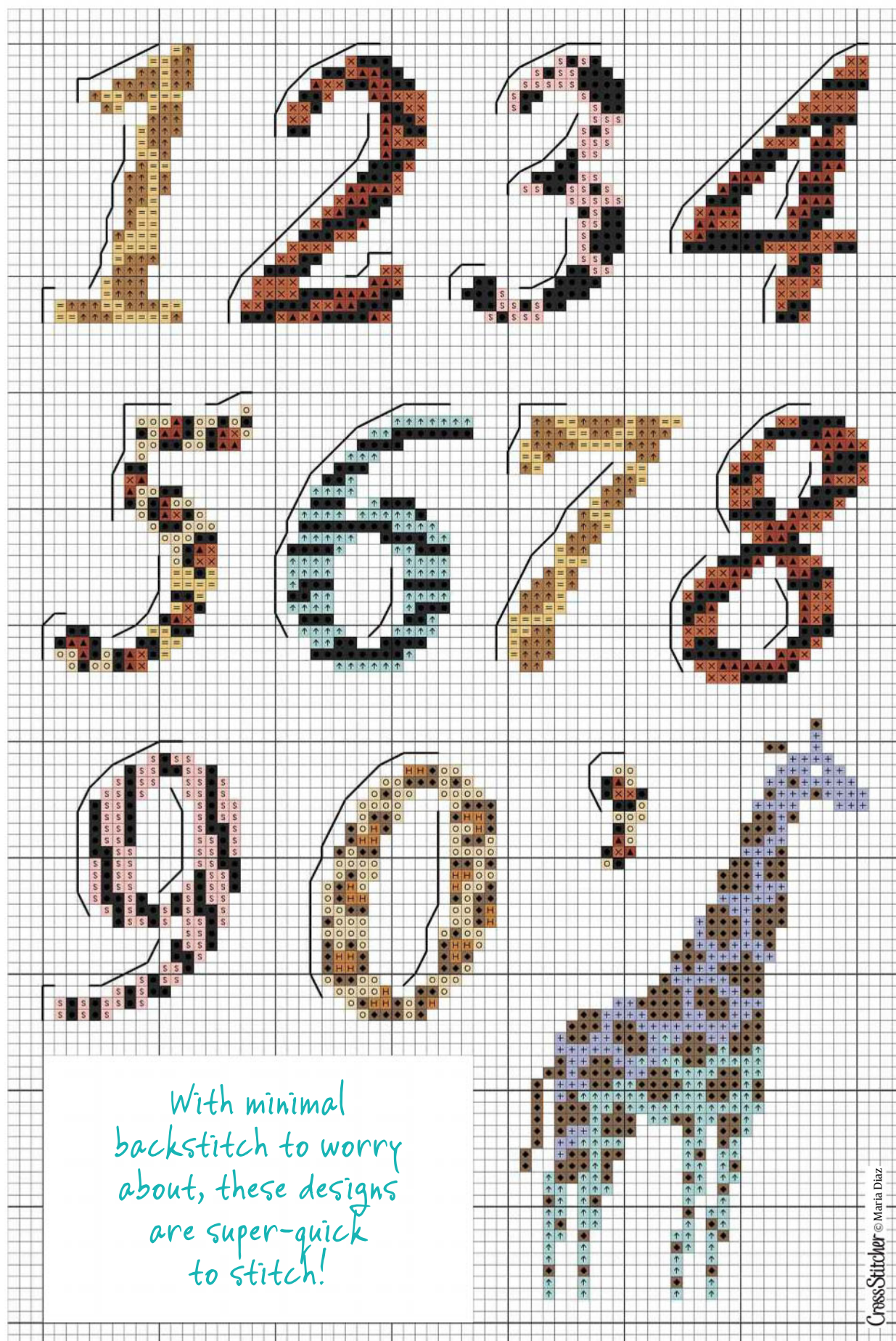
Give your animal
print motifs a
modern twist by
changing the
colours to brights
or even neons

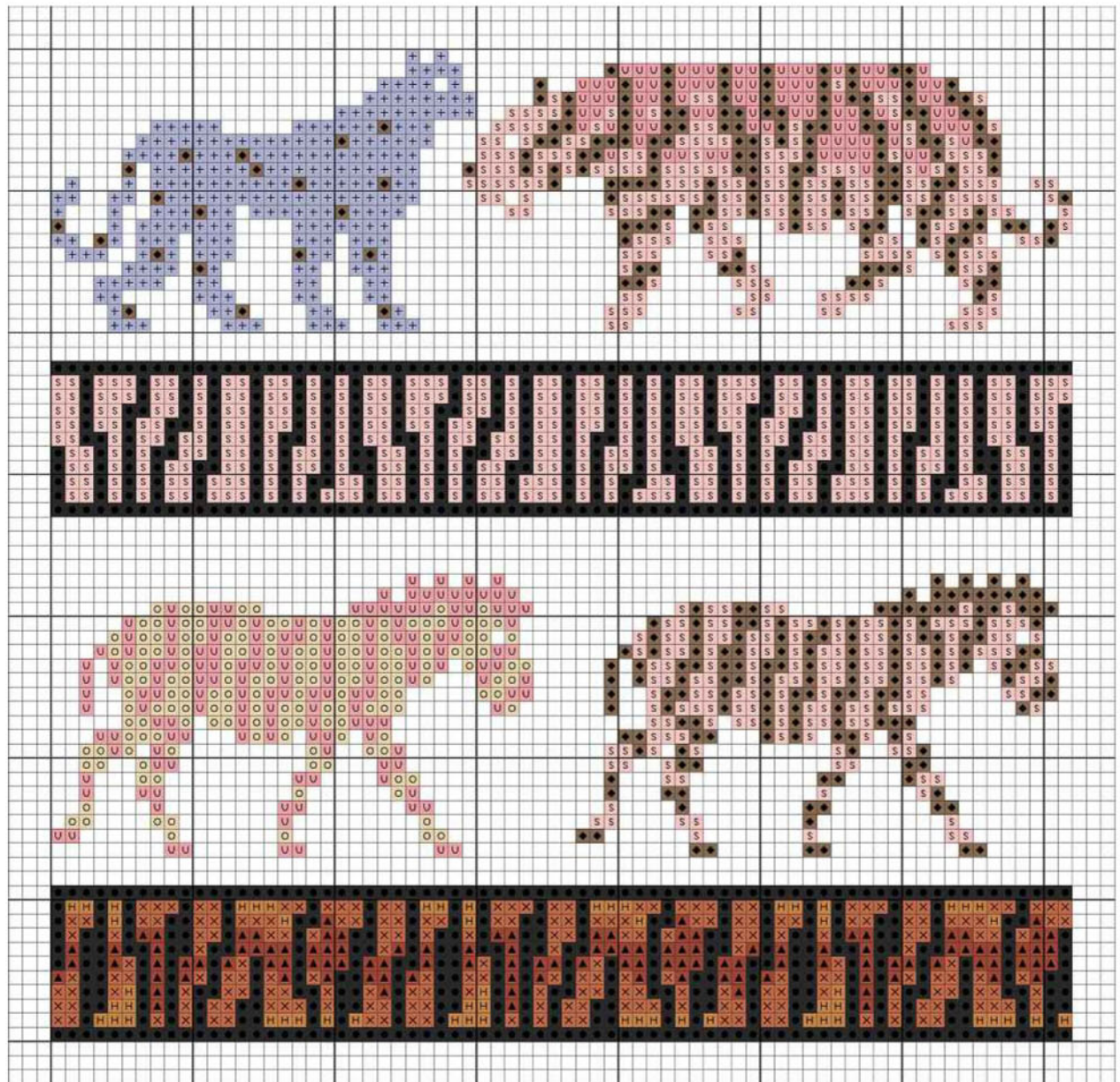
DMC Anchor Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands

● ●	310	403	black
+ +	341	117	901
↑ ↑	435	1046	2010
F F	597	1064	1110
= =	676	891	2208
○ ○	739	366	2014
▲ ▲	919	340	313
× ×	921	884	311
S S	963	023	608
H H	976	1001	2302
U U	3354	074	606
↑ ↑	3811	1060	1101
◆ ◆	3862	358	1913

Backstitch in one strand

—	956	041	611
outlines			





NEXT MONTH...

Coming up in our May issue, we have a cute Japanese Kokeshi Doll alphabet and numbers set designed by Sarah Cookland – use them to personalise a host of projects. Get to the shops on 31 March to pick up your copy of issue 317, or subscribe and the issue will be delivered to your door. Head over to page 36 for our latest subscription offer.





"Most of my work uses garments and mementos to tell stories relating to particular aspects of my identity," says Val.



An interview with...

Val Jackson

Val Jackson is today one of our most thought-provoking textile artists. She takes *CrossStitcher* on her stitching journey...

Interview by **Katie Allen**

From 1950s girls' dresses to the experimental styles of Swinging Sixties teenagers, Val Jackson's textile art is influenced by the role of clothes in our memories. She uses layers of silk, gauze, net and other fabrics to make her embroidered artworks. Val tells us about what inspires her and how sewing sets her free...

You came late to sewing, is that right?

Growing up, I didn't really sew very much at all, although I always liked painting and drawing. Later I did A-level Textiles at night school. I then trained as an English teacher, and then managed a shop which sold fancy goods and stationery.

By the 1980s, I was working in the day but I was also teaching adult education classes at night – I taught Textiles, Calligraphy and also Jewellery.



When did you decide to become a stitch artist?

I always wanted to do an Art Foundation course but I had to work. Then the opportunity came up when I was made redundant. I used my redundancy money to do a

Foundation course in Art and Design. Then I went to Manchester Metropolitan University to do an Embroidery degree. I worked very hard and got a First! I was working as a tutor and looking after my mother – after she died in 2001, I went to college to do an MA in Textiles. Ever since then, I've been making things to sell and to exhibit – mostly with groups. My work is very slow to make – it's daunting to exhibit on my own. But now I'm retired I can do what I want!

Can you tell us about your work?

All my work is garment-shaped because I think the clothes you save and accumulate over the years are markers of your life at different times. It's a wry, semi-humorous commentary on life. I've done a lot of work about 1950s childhoods – little girls' dresses, all embellished with



At exhibitions, Val puts a lot of money on for the wedding dresses – as she doesn't really want people to buy them!



Val's pieces have been deliberately aged with rubbing blocks to reveal the layers of fabric beneath.

“Textiles frees me to do what I like – there are no fixed conventions, you can ignore the rules”



stories and pictures of children, with bossy things your mother used to say! I'm interested in women's changing group identity, and how their clothes express that.

How has your work evolved?

It has a different feel. When I first started at college our original work was hand-sewn, but then machine embroidery took over. I use a mixture of old machines and modern computer-aided ones.

More recently, I have begun putting writing on my work – it's very decorative and adds to the stories that you tell with your making. Now [using modern computerised stitch] I can use people's actual handwriting. For example, during my MA I looked at women's identity between 1945-60. During the war they had war jobs and were all-important and busy – by the 1950s they were expected to be housewives again. So I took my mother's letters from 1945, and then turned her writing into computerised stitch: it was as if she could speak again in her own voice.

Do you fancy trying hand stitching?

Not since college – it's too slow for me! People will look at my work and debate whether it is hand or machine stitched. I think, “I could never do that by hand, it would take years.” At the moment I'm working with aerial layering – three separate pieces of transparent fabric hanging in front of each other, decorated with machine embroidery – it produces a 3D effect.

Do you have a favourite artwork?

My two favourites are wedding dresses; my mother's wedding dress from the 1940s and mine from 1970. They have embroidered portraits all over them of who was there. Each one has humorous comments stitched on – the things that people say – such as their comments on the food, the dress, the bridesmaids.

Who inspires you?

People look at my work and ask if I'm inspired by Grayson Perry. But the truth is, I've been doing this for years, before I even heard of him. I've always loved Janet Bolton's work. She's now

in her eighties: her work is small, hand-done, very beautiful appliqué pieces. She started doing them on the train to work, so they're very tiny scenes. I also like Alice Kettle's older work – it's so full of life.

What is it you love about sewing?

It gives you the freedom. Traditionally sewing is a textile thing but I can put anything in – I can use paper, cloth, plastic – use anything I want. I like the mixed media aspect. I like that it plays into other disciplines – it's like art. You can use it like painting, make 3D objects, you can be sculptural. I have friends who make books and installations. You can do anything with it really. I was never going to make it as a painter, but textiles frees me to do what I like – there are no fixed conventions, you can ignore the rules.

The Quilt Art exhibition is on show at Guildford House Gallery, Surrey, from 15 July to 10 September 2017.

www.guildford.gov.uk





















www.valjackson.co.uk

EASTER SMILES

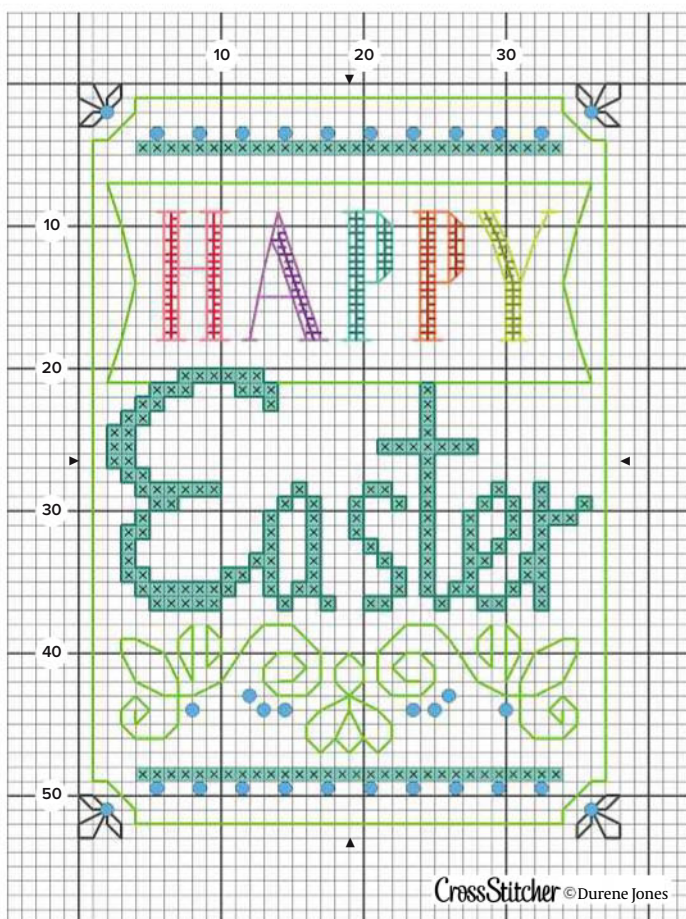
Hip-hop hooray! It's Easter and our bright chalkboard-style cards are brilliant for sending best wishes...





	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
	310	403	black
	722	323	307
	726	305	109
	727	293	102
	959	186	1113
	964	1092	1112
	3706	033	309
	3708	031	408
	3819	278	2703
Backstitch in two strands			
	209	109	803
words, letters			
	722	323	307
letters			
	726	305	109
letters			
	959	186	1113
letters			
	3708	031	408
letters			
	3819	278	2703
letters			
	B5200	001	white
outlines			
Backstitch in one strand			
	209	109	803
words, letters			
	722	323	307
letters			
	726	305	109
letters			
	959	186	1113
letters, outlines			
	3708	031	408
letters			
	3819	278	2703
letters			
	B5200	001	white
outlines			
French knots in two strands			
	B5200	001	white
decoration			





Designed by: Durene Jones

Stitch count: 53 high x 38 wide

Design size: 9.5x7cm (3¾x2¾in)

Stitch time: 3 hours each

These designs were stitched on 27 count evenweave over two threads of fabric.

Make an... Easter card

Step 1

WORK all the cross stitch in two strands of stranded cotton, the backstitch in one and two strands and the French knots in two strands.

Step 2

CUT around the stitching so that it fits the front of your card, with the frame around the design centrally placed on the fabric.

Step 3

FRAY two or three threads on all sides of the fabric – carefully peeling away one at a time.

Step 4

USE double-sided tape to attach the fabric firmly to the front of the card.

Lay a white cloth on your lap when stitching on black evenweave so it's easier to see the holes in the fabric



Materials

For each card

- Zweigart Black 27 count Linda, ref: 1235/0720; 12.5x10cm (5x4in)
 - Stranded cotton as listed in the key
 - Size 26 tapestry needle
 - White card blank; 14.5x10.5cm (5¾x4¼in)
- For stockist details see page 89

CrossStitcher MARKETPLACE

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

Desperately seeking

A Fairy Tale Castle cross stitch design was featured in *Cross Stitch Collection* February 2004 – issue no. 101. I have the chart but I don't have the size of fabric required or the threads required. If anyone had this back issue giving all the information I require, then I'd be delighted to purchase it from them.

I know this is rather a long shot after such a long time, but I'd be grateful for any help readers can give or offer. I look forward to receiving your response.

Jennifer Hutchins

Email: mailben@tinyworld.co.uk

I'm looking for a pattern that appeared in *CrossStitcher* in issue 183 in February 2007. The pattern is of a springtime bunny, with a goose. I would love to do this pattern for a new baby which is on the way, and if anyone could find this pattern I would be over the moon. I realise that it is a long shot that the pattern is still available, but I hope that someone may have it. I am of course happy to pay any costs involved.

Freda Jukes

Email: davidjukes0701@gmail.com

I am looking for a back issue – the January 2008 issue of *CrossStitcher*. I have nearly finished the window project in it – I have pages 63 and 64 – but have lost the instruction page which is really the only page I need. If it is possible, I was wondering if someone could send me just that page or the whole magazine.

Please let me know if you can help. Regards.

Ann Ball,
Calle La Revoltosa,
10. Balcon de la Costa Blanca,
San Miguel de Salinas,
03193. Alicante,
Spain

Email: ann4phil@gmail.com

Hello, I found the most beautiful cross stitch pattern from Anchor called Proud Spirit that was featured in the November 2006 issue of *Cross Stitch Collection*. I was wondering if anyone may have this issue and would be able to send it to me? Kind regards.

Cindy Vacco,

Kent,
Ohio, USA

Email: cblachlyvacco@gmail.com



Get in touch

Hello, I'm Debora Vos and I'm 43 and I live in the Netherlands. My hobbies are cross stitching, foreign languages, history and playing the clarinet. You can write to me in English, Dutch, Welsh, Norwegian or Greek.

D. Vos,
Huizermaatweg 120,
1276MC,
Huizen,
Netherlands
Email: dvos73@icloud.com

Hi, my name is Hollie, I am 23 and a mum of two (soon to be four) I am a stay at home mum so stitching has become my 'me time' hobby. Please get in touch at the email address below. Thank you.

Email: hollieclairenapier@gmail.com



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CrossStitcher magazine, PO Box 172, Northam, Devon EX39 9DY

We regret that we're unable to print requests from readers who are under 16 years old

Somebunny to Love...



Want to give a friend a special springtime gift? Hop to it with our adorable pair of bunnies, stitched in soft pastel shades...

Designed by: Rico





Stitch count: 68 high x 76 wide

Design size: 12x14cm (4¾x5½in)

Stitch time: 6 hours

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

Make a... cushion

Step 1

COMPLETE your stitching then place it right-sides together with the backing fabric. Sew down both sides of the cushion, with a 1.25cm (½in) seam allowance, joining the front and back together.

Step 2

TURN over the top of the cushion cover twice by 1.25cm (½in). Press in place and then catch stitch the seam in place on the inside of the cushion cover, using small, neat stitches. Repeat for the bottom edge.

Step 3

SEW ribbon ties inside the cushion cover on the top and bottom seams, making sure they correspond when tied together. Sew a star-shaped button just below each ribbon bow.

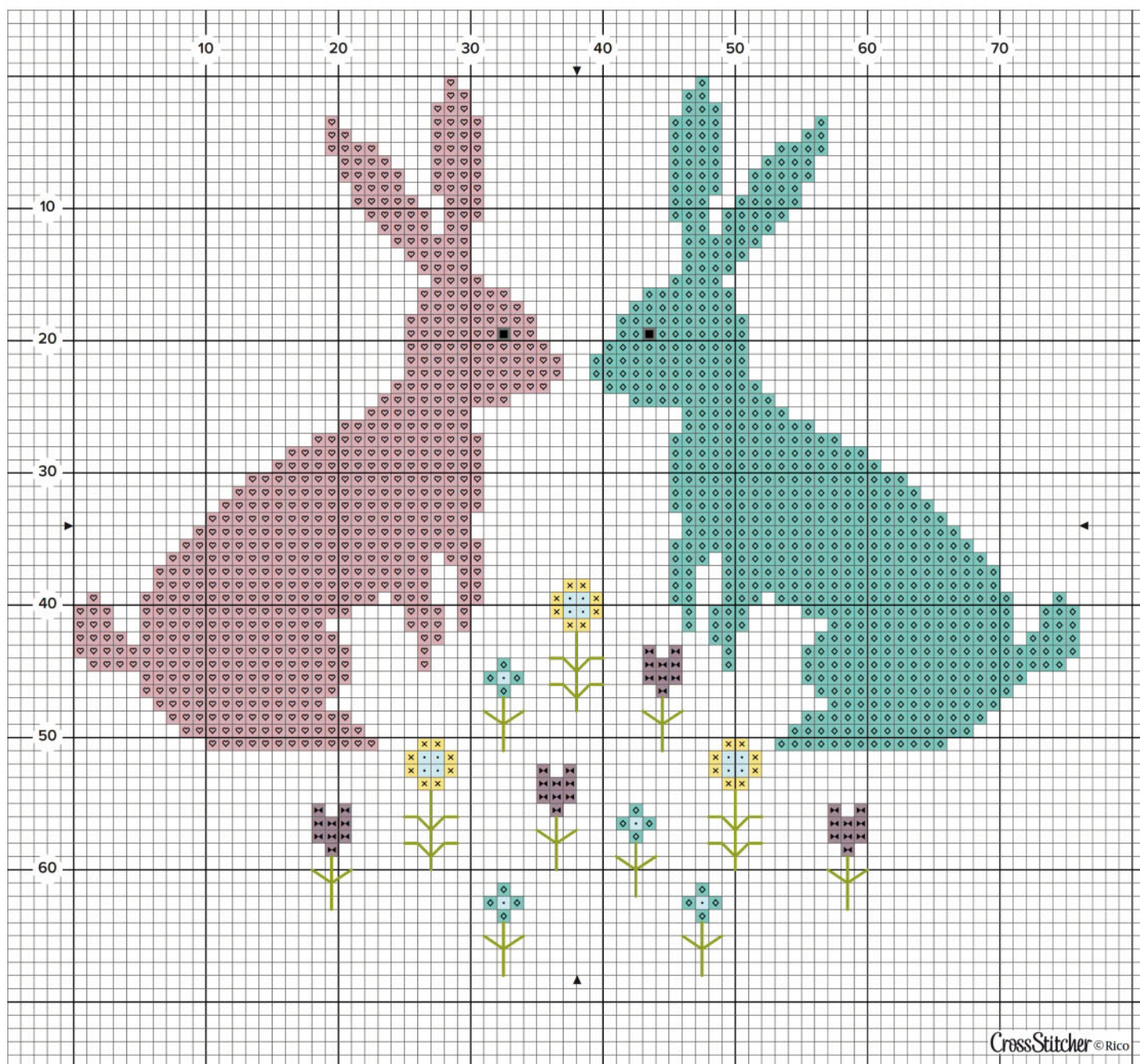
Add extra dimension to your cushion design by using black beads for the rabbits' eyes and seed beads for the flower centres

Materials

Cushion

- 28 count white evenweave; 30.5x28cm (12x11in)
- Cotton backing fabric; 30.5x28cm (12x11in)
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Size 26 tapestry needle
- Cushion pad; 25x25cm (10x10in)
- Ribbon ties; 5mm x 30.5cm (12in) x 4
- Star buttons x 4

For stockist details see page 89



CrossStitcher © Rico

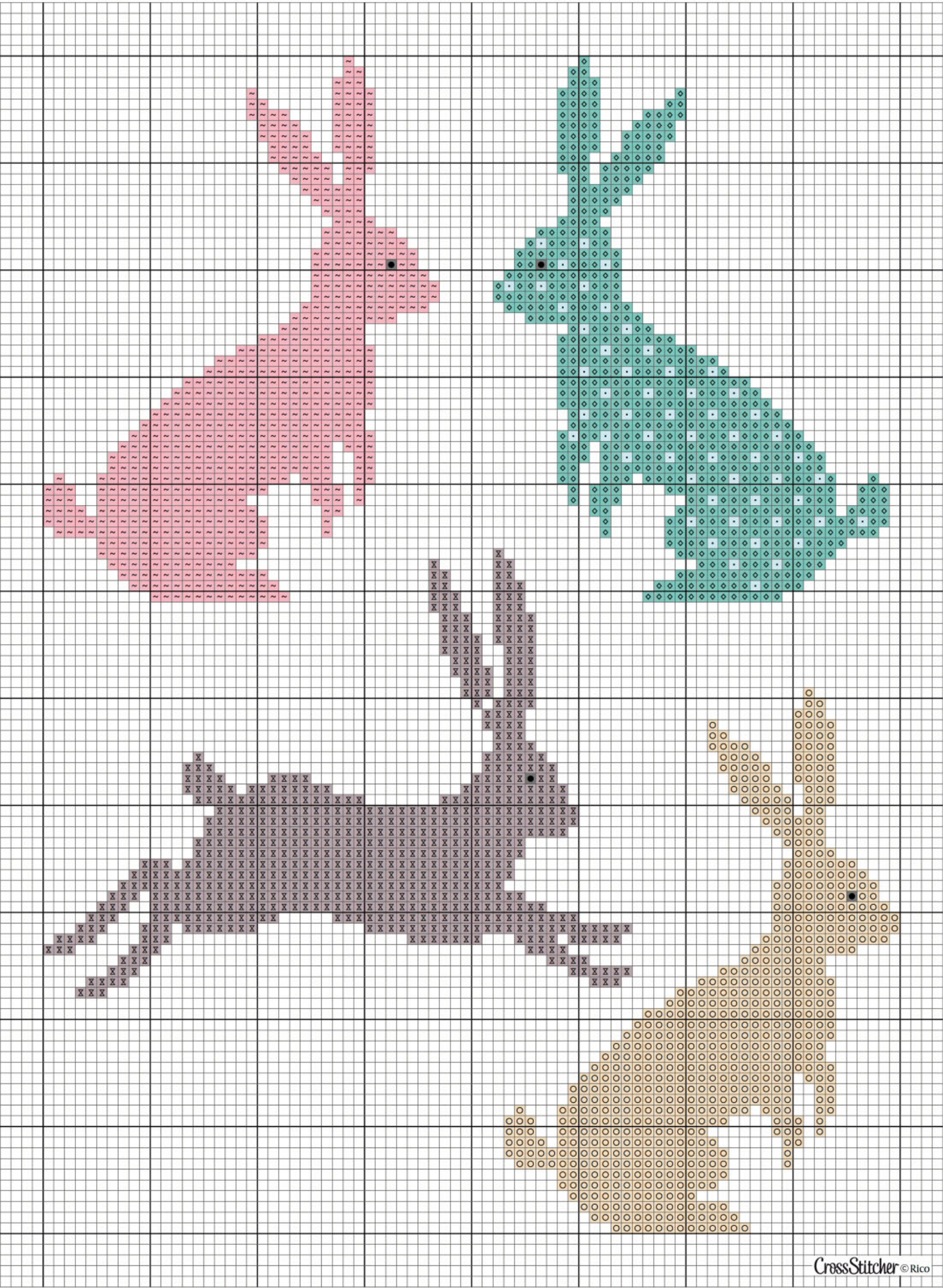
	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
✕ ✕	726	305	109
◇ ◇	959	186	1113
✂ ✂	3041	871	806
♥ ♥	3727	1017	2610
■ ■	3799	236	1713
• •	B5200	001	white
Backstitch in one strand			
—	166	280	1501
flowers			



EASTER INSPIRATION











Love our beautiful bunnies? They were taken from Rico's *Spring Garden* chart book (No. 148) which is filled with enchanting spring and Easter designs to stitch on tablecloths, wooden pendants, bags and cushions. Visit www.rico-design.de/en to search for your nearest stockist.

SOMBUNNY TO LOVE



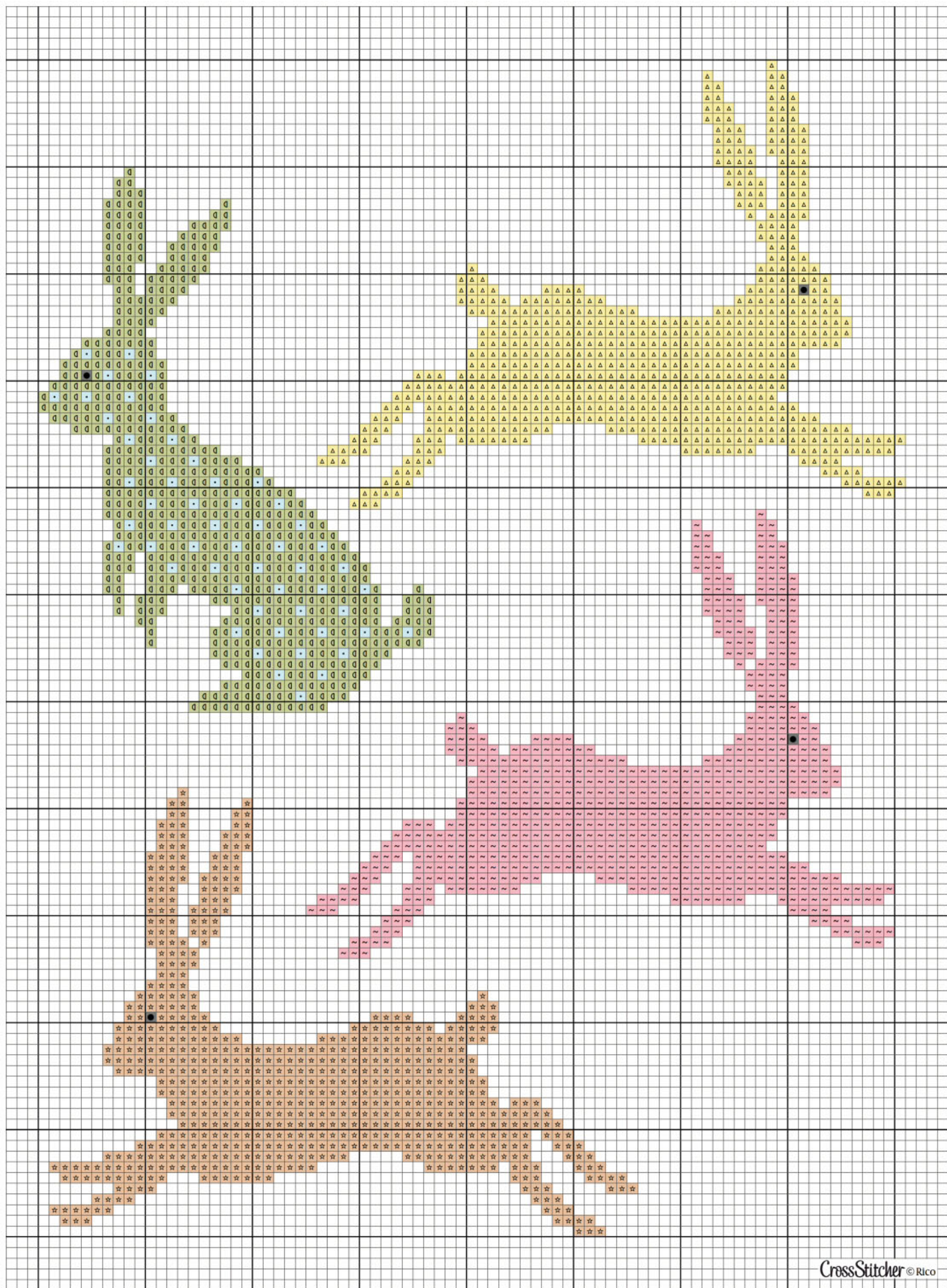
CrossStitcher © Rico



	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
	472	253	1414
	564	206	1208
	727	293	102
	951	1010	2308
	959	186	1113
	3042	870	807
	3716	025	606
	3799	236	1713
	3856	368	2309
	B5200	001	white

If you'd like to stitch our bunnies to make an Easter tablecloth instead, simply stitch them directly onto a tablecloth with an aida panel insert. Change the colours as shown in the picture, using the key for reference, grouping them together with four on each side of the cloth

SOMBUNNY TO LOVE



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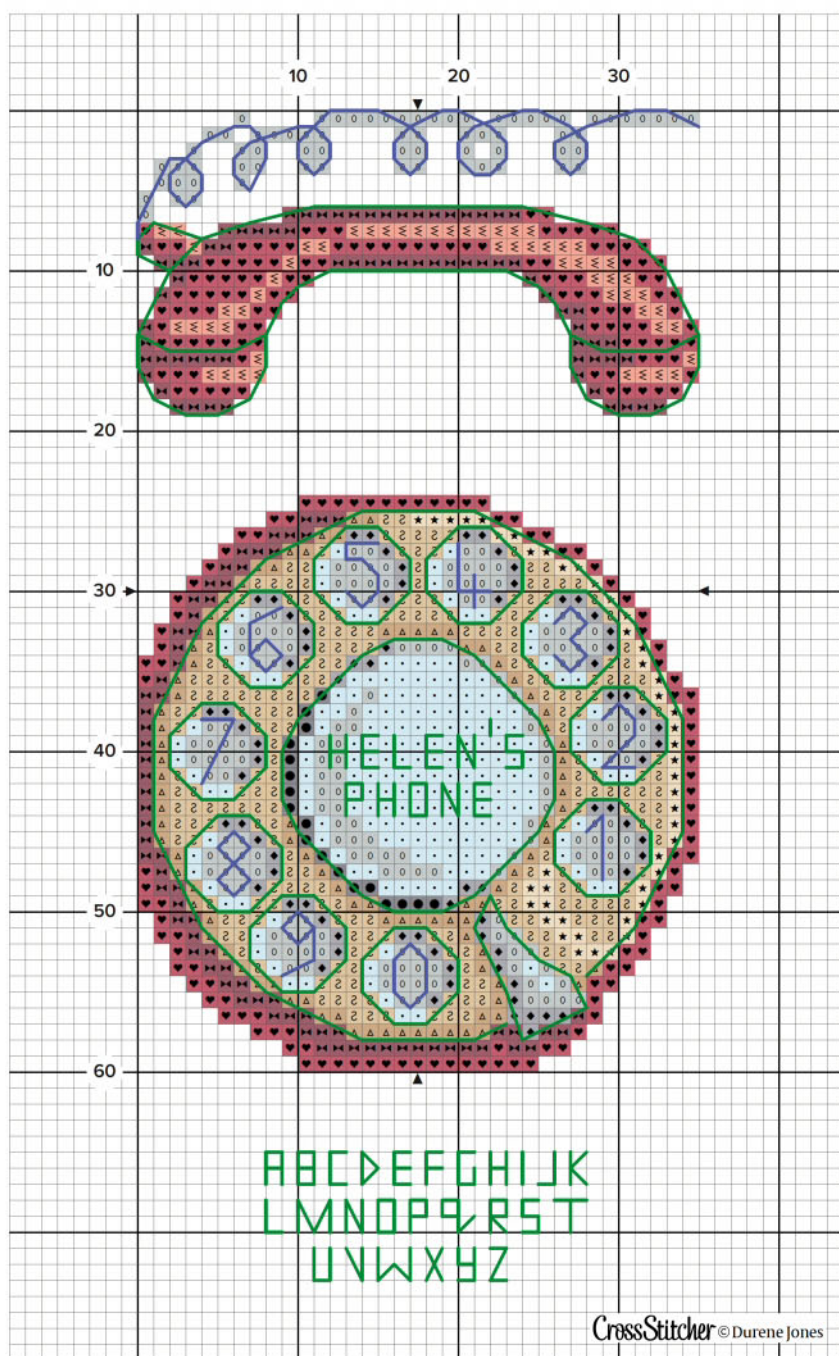
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Ring any Bells?

Remember rotary dial phones? Even if you don't, we'll let you off the hook – just stitch our retro-style phone case instead!



Designed by: Durene Jones

Stitch count: Dial: 36 high x 35 wide;

Receiver: 19 high x 35 wide

Design size: Dial: 5.5x5.5cm (2¼x2¼in);

Receiver: 3x5.5cm (1¼x2¼in)

Stitch time: 7 hours total

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

Make a... phone case

Step 1

START stitching the dial centrally, 5cm (2in) up from the bottom of the larger piece of fabric, and the receiver centrally and 2.5cm (1in) up from the bottom of the smaller piece.

Step 2

COMPLETE the stitching then lay the stitched receiver and the backing fabric right-sides together, then stitch up the sides and across the top with a 1.25cm (½in) seam allowance. Reduce the seam allowance, clip the corners and turn to the right side. Fold the raw edges at the bottom inside the flap, and press flat.

Step 3

PLACE the stitched dial and the backing fabric right-sides together, then stitch around the edge, leaving the top open, and using the same seam allowance as before. Reduce the seam allowance and clip the corners, before turning to the right side. Turn the raw edges at the top of the case, over and onto the inside of the case, press flat, and then tack around the edge.

Step 4

SLIP the edge of the flap inside the case against the back edge, and then machine stitch around the top of the case, attaching the flap to the case. Stitch Velcro dots under the flap to keep the case closed.

Materials

- Zweigart Platinum 32 count Belfast linen, ref: 3609/770; 18x11.5cm (7x4½in) dial; 9x11.5cm (3½x4½in) receiver (flap)
- Backing fabric; 18x11.5cm (7x4½in) x 1 piece and 9x11.5cm (3½x4½in) x 1 piece
- Velcro dots
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Size 26 tapestry needle

For stockist details see page 89

DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands		
0 0	168	274 1803
● ●	317	400 1714
◆ ◆	318	399 1802
♥ ♥	321	019 510
≡ ≡	352	009 303
△ △	436	1045 2011
⌘ ⌘	738	361 2013
★ ★	739	366 2014

DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands		
815	043	513
B5200	001	white
Backstitch in two strands		
310	403	black
cord, numbers		
Backstitch in one strand		
310	403	black
outlines		

Ready, steady, stitch!

We've asked three designers to create an on-trend birthday card using only a limited set of stash-busting supplies, read on to see how they got on...

THE CHALLENGE

- One piece of light rustic evenweave
- Five shades of stranded cotton (shown above)
- Two kraft paper flowers – large 50mm, small 32mm
- One mystery ingredient of your own choice

THE RULES

- The design is to be used for a birthday card
- Only the materials above can be used
- The design must be no larger than 56x56 stitches
- No fractional stitches allowed
- Be creative as possible!

Welcome to our April stitching challenge! Our stitching challenge this month has a birthday theme as we've asked our three designers to create a card for a woman who loves modern style. Their thread choices were limited, but they were allowed one mystery ingredient each and they all had to include a couple of kraft paper flowers in their design. Read the challenge rules on the left to see exactly what they were given. We hope this will inspire you to join in too – turn the page to see what our challenge will be for June – we've listed everything you need to take part.

JANE PRUTTON... LOVE YOU



"My design for this card has been inspired by the birds that are attracted to the bird feeders in my back garden. I've combined this with the layering effect of some paper cut-out greeting cards, and you could even stitch the background in one strand to give the design more depth. My mystery item is so lovely; reddy-orange seed beads, which work well with the colour of my bird."

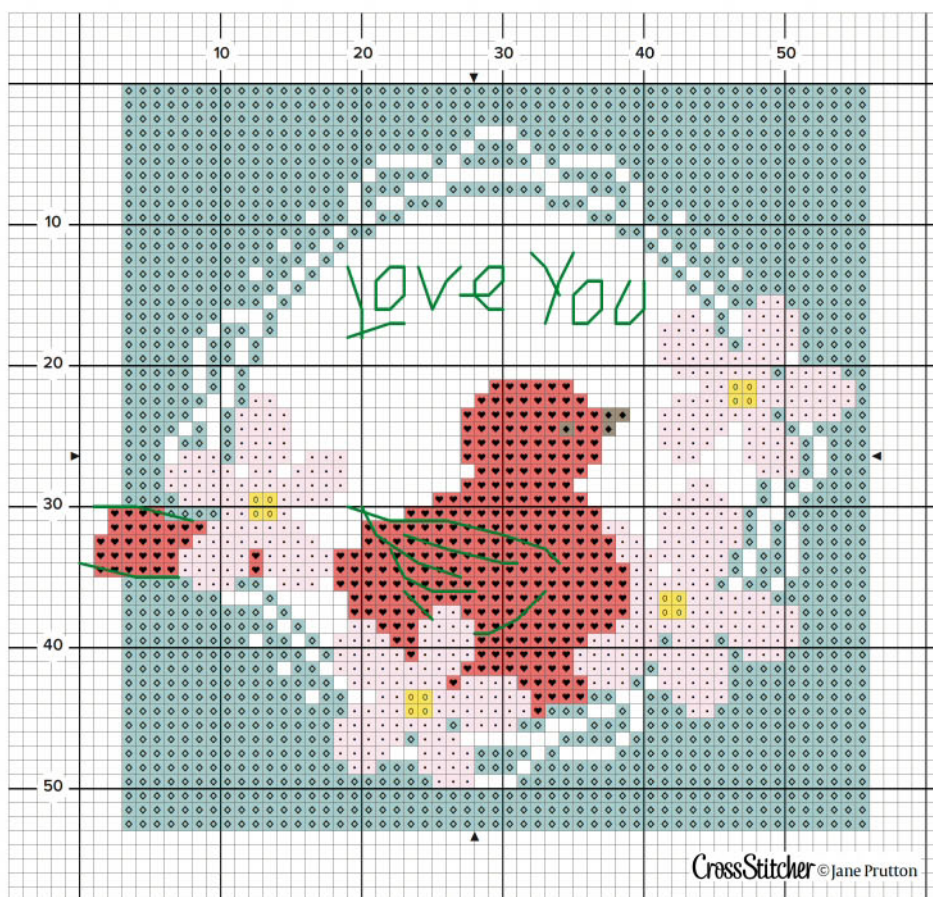


MARIA DIAZ... DITSY FLOWERS



LUCIE HEATON... HAPPY BIRTHDAY





If you're stitching Maria's design but find French knots fiddly, you could replace them with small red seed beads, as Jane did for the flower centres in her design

Make a... floral birthday card

Step 1

ATTACH the paper flowers using a small amount of fabric glue, or if you prefer, a few small stitches around the central hole using a coordinating sewing thread. The French knot is made using a large-eyed needle, and the seed beads and button are sewn on with coordinating sewing thread.

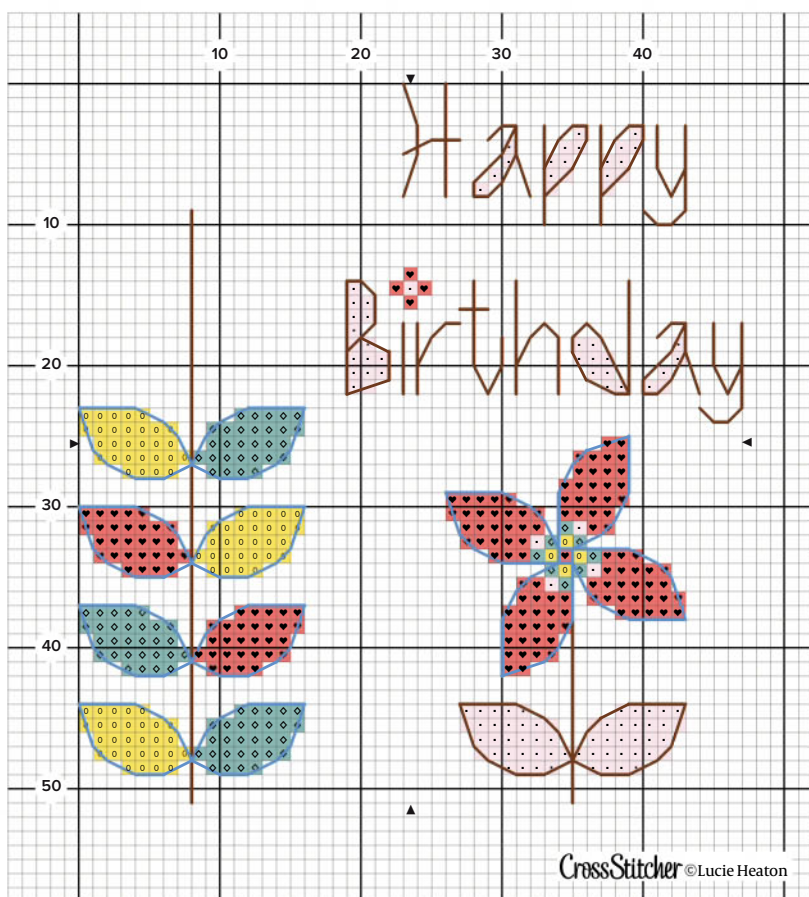
Step 2

TRIM the stitched fabric to fit your card, with the design centrally placed behind the card's aperture. Attach double-sided tape to the inside of the card around the edge of the aperture.

Step 3

PLACE the stitching on the table right-side up, and then place the card on top, pressing down firmly on the tape. Check which flap will fold onto the back of the stitching, then add strips of double-sided tape and press firmly down to secure.





	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
♥ ♥	606	335	209
◆ ◆	611	898	2107
0 0	973	290	105
◇ ◇	3849	1070	1202
■ ■	3865	002	2402
Backstitch in two strands			
—	611	898	2107
words, bird			
—	3865	002	2402
words			
Backstitch in one strand			
—	606	335	209
words			
—	611	898	2107
foliage			
—	3849	000	000
foliage			
—	3865	002	2402
petals			
French knots in one strand			
●	606	335	209
i dot			

SEE YOUR WORK HERE!

If you would like to take the challenge, post your stitching on our Facebook page and we will then pin it on our Stitching Challenge board on Pinterest... so get designing!

June issue 318 challenge:

Please design a feminine birthday card with a chic Parisian feel using the DMC stranded cotton colours shown below, plus up to four flower buttons.

Materials and rules:

- One piece of white 28 count evenweave fabric
- Four shades of DMC stranded cotton: 963 (Ultra Very light Dusty Rose), 3716 (Very Light Dusty Rose), 318 (Light Steel Grey) & 413 (Dark Pewter Grey)
- One mystery item of your own
- Design size: 56x50 stitches max
- Pink flower buttons (12.5mm diameter, available from Hobbycraft)

Although we are not judging your designs, this is a stitching challenge, so please make sure you play fair, and that all parts of the design are your own work, and not copied from any other source.





Let's get
inspired

SIGHTS OF SPRING

Put a little spring into your stitching with our bright ideas for seasonal samplers and more...

Designed by: Shannon Wasilieff



MATERIALS

April Showers

- Zweigart White 27 count Linda, ref. 1235/100; 15x15cm (6x6in)
- Cream card; 15x15cm (6¼x6¼in)

Tiptoe Through the Tulips

- Zweigart White 27 count Linda, ref. 1235/100; 15x24cm (6x9½in)
- Ribbon; 10mm (¾in) x 38cm (15in)

Spring Flowers

- Zweigart White 27 count Linda, ref. 1235/100; 20x20cm (8x8in)
- Frame with a 11.5x11.5cm (4½x4½in) aperture
- Mount board to fit frame

For all

- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Size 24 tapestry needle

For stockist details see page 89





Make an... Easter treats bag

Step 1

STITCH the Tiptoe Through the Tulips design. Once the stitching is complete, turn over the top edge of the stitched fabric by 1.25mm (1/8in), twice. Sew along this seam using a machine or by hand.

Step 2

BRING the short edges of the fabric together, so that the stitching is on the inside. Sew down this seam, joining the ends of the fabric together and creating a tube. Flatten the fabric so that the seam is centre back.

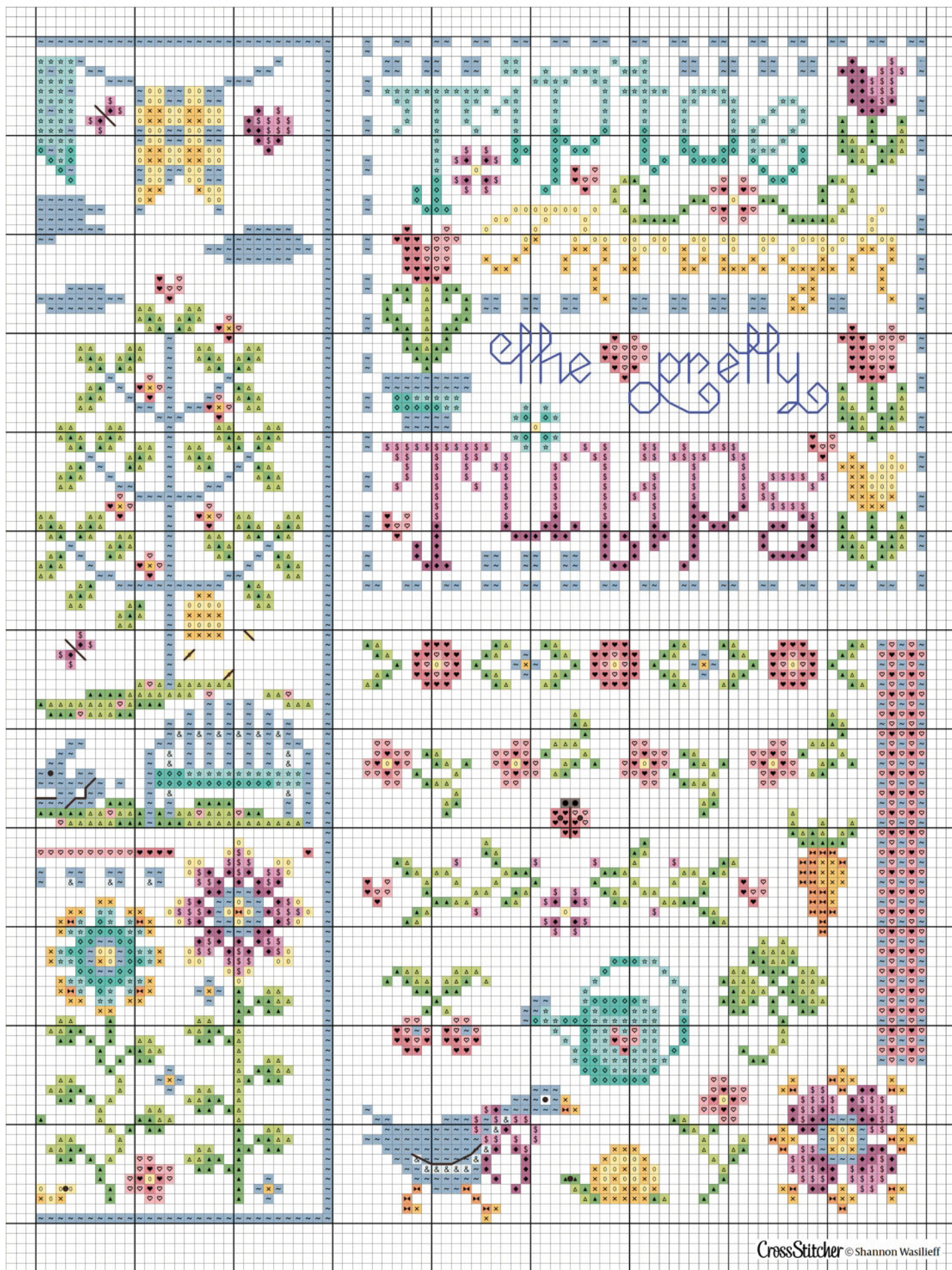
Step 3

SEW along the bottom seam, and then turn the bag to the right side. Cut the ribbon in half and attach as two handles to the top of the bag, then secure in place with some small, neat stitches.



CrossStitcher © Shannon Wasilieff





CrossStitcher © Shannon Wasilief





CrossStitcher © Shannon Wasilieff





FABRIC & THREADS

Our designs were stitched on 27 count evenweave over two threads of fabric. The cross stitch is in two strands and the backstitch and French knots are in one strand. The stitch count, design size and stitch time will depend on which motif or scene you choose to stitch.

More to make...

These motifs are great for all sorts of springtime projects. Here are some fabulously fresh ideas to get you started...

- 1** Stitch several designs together to make a long wall hanging.
- 2** Stitch on thin aida band to make a tie for wrapping around an Easter bouquet, or stitch on wider aida band to make a wrap for your Easter cake.
- 3** Use the smaller motifs to make buttons to brighten your cushions for spring. You can find self-cover buttons online.



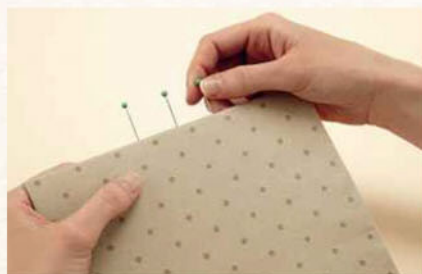


As you start a new colour near an area you've already stitched, thread your needle under those stitches on the back of the fabric to secure the end of the new colour

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
♥ ♥	335	038	506
◀ ▶	740	316	202
✕ ✕	742	303	114
0 0	744	301	112
~ ~	813	161	1013
● ●	898	360	2006
▲ ▲	906	256	1411
◆ ◆	917	088	706
◇ ◇	958	187	1114
☆ ☆	964	1092	1112
♥ ♥	3326	036	504
\$ \$	3608	060	709
& &	3756	1037	886
△ △	3819	278	2703
Backstitch in one strand			
—	813	161	1013
words			
—	898	360	2006
outlines			
French knots in one strand			
●	813	161	1013
i dots			
●	898	360	2006
eyes			

How to... frame a picture

Step 1



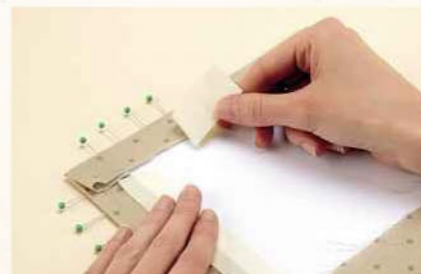
CUT a piece of white mount board to fit inside your frame. Place your design centrally over the mount board and pin the fabric around the board to secure, starting at the centre of each side and working outwards.

Step 2



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

Step 3



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





JOIN IN!

Take part in our
stitch-along. Start
any time to create
our mystery
design.

LEARN WITH CrossStitcher

Sharpen your stitching skills every month until December with our stitch-along club. Join us for our mystery sampler! If you're new to cross stitch, don't worry we have all the tips you need over the page...

THE ESSENTIAL KIT YOU'LL NEED TO START STITCHING

NEEDLES

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

EMBROIDERY SCISSORS

Embroidery scissors are an absolute must-have. Keep yours sharp by only using them to cut threads.

STRANDED COTTON

Embroidery thread is also called stranded cotton. Each thread length is made up of six strands of cotton twisted together. The chart key will tell you how many strands you'll need to stitch with.

HOOPS AND FRAMES

Though not absolutely essential, we do recommend using an embroidery hoop or frame to keep an even stitching tension.

FABRICS

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

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

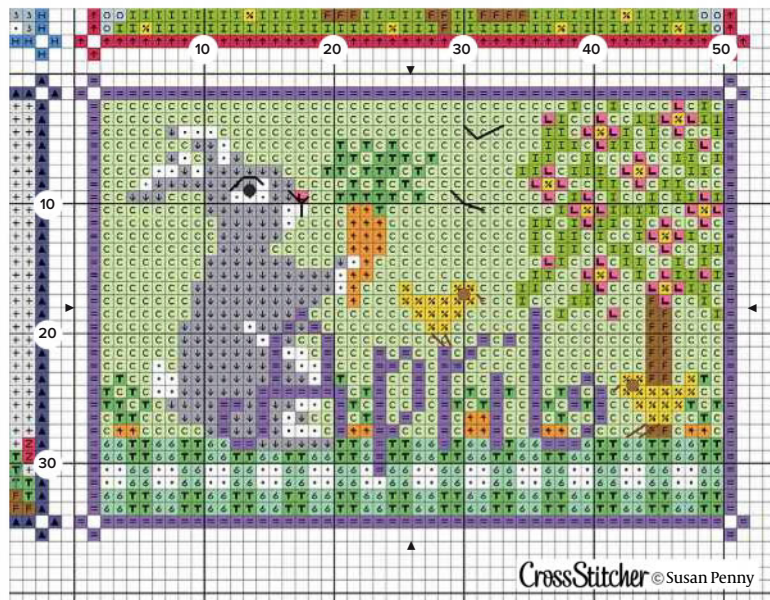
WELCOME TO OUR NEW STITCH-ALONG

This is the fourth part of our new stitch-along design. Over the year we are featuring twelve seasonal designs that together will become a complete sampler, finishing with the December 2017 issue.

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
↓ ↓	318	399	1802
% %	444	297	106
6 6	564	206	1208
L L	603	052	701
T T	907	255	1410
4 4	741	304	201
C C	772	259	1604
F F	780	309	2214
I I	907	255	1410
= =	3746	1030	903
• •	B5200	001	white
Backstitch in one strand			
—	310	403	black
face, flying birds			
—	780	309	2214
bird details			
French knots in one strand			
●	310	403	black
rabbit's eye			
●	780	309	2214
bird's eyes			

THE KEY

ALL THE symbols that appear on the chart are listed in the key with their corresponding thread codes beside them. The key also tells you the different stitches used in the design. The closest column of thread codes listed next to the chart symbols is the thread brand that's used in the design. Similar colour matches are listed alongside it. Where no close match can be found, you may have to use a different brand of thread for that shade.



Designed by: Susan Penny Stitch count: 36 high x 52 wide

Design size: 6x8cm (2¼x3¼in) Stitch time: 7 hours

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

THE CHART

EACH square on the chart represents a single cross stitch. Start from the centre of the design and your fabric. The centre of our charts are indicated by arrows at the designs' edges. To find your fabric's centre, fold it in half and into quarters.



HOW TO JOIN OUR STITCH-ALONG

STITCH-ALONGS CAN take many different forms – in our case we're unveiling a new chart in each issue between January and December, with a bonus design in our Summer issue.

To join our stitch-along you will need a 61x41cm (24x16in) piece of platinum 28 count Cashel linen, ref: 3281/770, or 14 count aida to complete the whole design. The finished size is 40x19cm (15¾x7½in) which is 221 high x 105 wide. The twelve rectangular designs, one for each month of the year, will all be the same size, and you will be stitching them two columns wide and six rows deep.

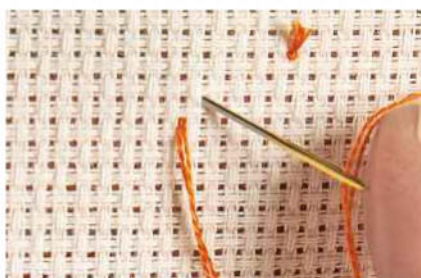
Start with the mauve stitch in the top left-hand corner of the April design, leaving one square between this and the corresponding red stitch on the February border above, and also one stitch between this and the blue corresponding stitch on the March design to the left.

Update us on your progress by posting photos on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/CrossStitcherMag or you can email us at crossstitcher@dennis.co.uk with your stitch-along photos and we will add them to our new SAL Pinterest board.

NEW TO CROSS STITCH? START RIGHT HERE!

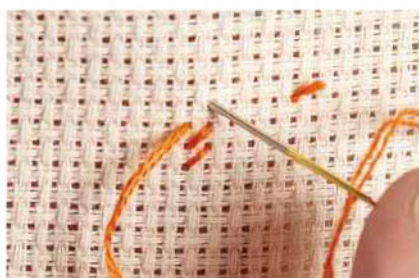
Start stitching... on aida

Step 1



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

Step 2



MAKE a second diagonal stitch to make the cross. You can work a row of half cross stitches first, then work back on yourself to complete the stitches. All the top stitches should face the same way.

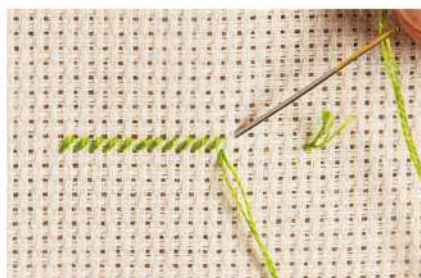
and... on evenweave



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

STARTING A THREAD

1. Away waste knot



KNOT one end of your thread and take it down through the front of your fabric, 2cm from your starting point. Bring it back up to the front of the fabric to make your first stitch. Begin stitching your design, making sure you stitch over your starting thread with each stitch. Once you're happy that your starting thread is secure, snip off the knot. To secure your thread when you've finished stitching, weave it through the back of your stitches.

2. Loop knot



WORKING in two strands makes a loop knot the neatest method. Cut a single length of thread, twice as long as normal. Fold in half to create a loop at one end. Thread your needle with the two tail ends. Bring your needle up to the front of your fabric, leaving a small loop of thread on the reverse. Make a half cross stitch, passing your needle through the loop on the reverse, as shown. Pull all the way to secure the thread then continue with your stitching.

FRENCH KNOTS

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

Step 1



BRING your needle up at your starting point and wrap your thread once or twice around the needle. Use one strand for a small knot and two for a chunkier knot. Hold your thread end firmly and take your needle down, ever so slightly away from where you came up. Slide the twisted thread down the needle, so it rests on the fabric's surface, and gently feed the needle through the fabric.

ADDING BACKSTITCH OUTLINES & DETAILS

Step 1



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

Step 2



MAKE each backstitch over one thread of fabric on aida and two threads if you work on evenweave. Follow the chart to see where to place each one.

Step 2



KEEP your thread as taut as possible to prevent the knot becoming loose. Gently pull your thread through to tighten the knot, so that it sits neatly on the surface.

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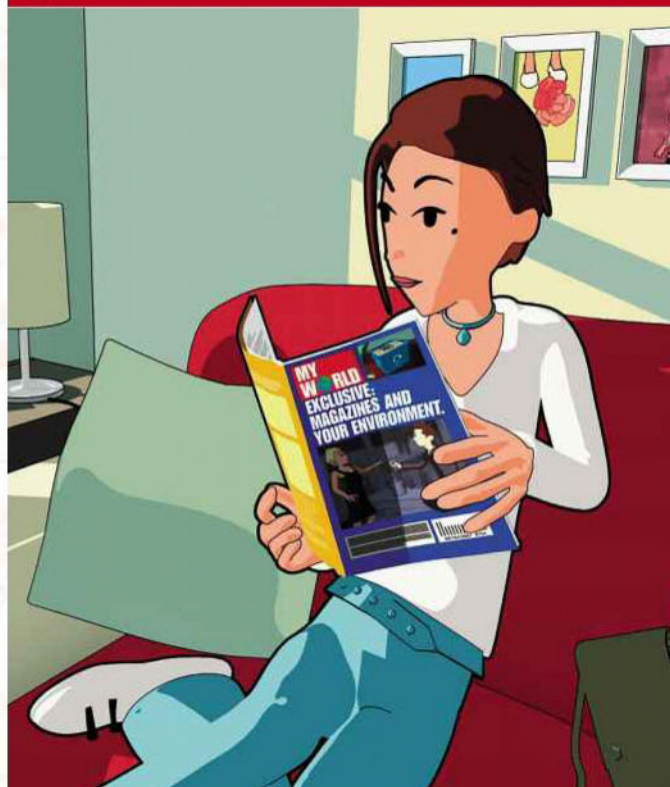
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Additional items

You can make our projects using any materials you like, but here are the suppliers for any specific items needed this month that aren't listed above as general supplies...

STRAIGHT UP STYLE

Silver 14 count perforated paper:

Willow Fabrics; www.willowfabrics.com

READY, STEADY, STITCH

Kraft flowers: Hobbycraft;

www.hobbycraft.co.uk



CrossStitcher

Email us at crossstitcher@dennis.co.uk

CONTACT US AT

CrossStitcher Magazine, PO Box 172, Northam, EX39 9DY

Editors Susan and Martin Penny
Commissioning Editor Jenny Dixon
Art Editor Lucille Randall
Operations Editor Lucy Evans
Editorial Assistant Jenny Jobbins
Editorial Assistant Nicole Penny

Photography Tony Atkinson at Just Focus

ADVERTISING

Advertising Director Andrea Mason

Contact: andrea_mason@dennis.co.uk, 0207 907 6662

MARKETING AND CIRCULATION

Subscriptions Manager Sarah Aldridge

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Contact Nicole Adams at nicole_adams@dennis.co.uk

or +44 (0)20 7907 6134

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CrossStitcher JUST FOR FUN

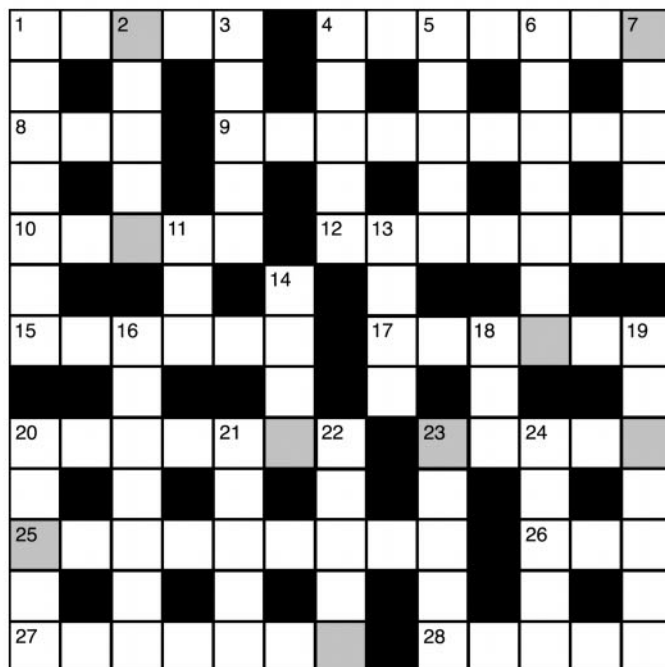
Prize crossword

Across

- 1 Open boat propelled by paddles (5)
- 4 Vivid pink, also a plant (7)
- 8 Coloured liquid used for writing (3)
- 9 Counted-thread embroidery (9)
- 10 Woman whose husband has died (5)
- 12 Vanilla ---, baking ingredient (7)
- 15 Place a bet (6)
- 17 *Fifty --- Darker*, second in E.L. James' erotic trilogy (6)
- 20 Coffee waiter (7)
- 23 Travel by bike (5)
- 25 Visual technique used to make cartoons (9)
- 26 Section of a play (3)
- 27 Sea mammal with a long snout and fin (7)
- 28 Intense light beam (5)

Down

- 1 Natter, gossip (7)
- 2 Jamie Oliver, the --- chef (5)
- 3 --- grease, hard physical work (5)
- 4 Device to hold a cross stitch project in place (5)
- 5 Sweet baked goods (5)
- 6 Ladled (7)
- 7 Joint between the leg and the foot (5)
- 11 Spherical shape (3)
- 13 Strip of cloth worn over one shoulder (4)
- 14 *Cold ---*, James Nesbitt TV series (4)
- 16 --- arts, karate or judo, eg. (7)
- 18 --- *Dream Will Do*, Joseph hit (3)
- 19 Pullover (7)
- 20 Woven decorative edge (5)
- 21 Secret hoard (5)
- 22 Creature from another world (5)
- 23 Man-made waterway (5)
- 24 Lesson (5)



Winning word clue: **Geordie duo who'll be showcasing Britain's talent? (3,3,3)**

HOW TO ENTER

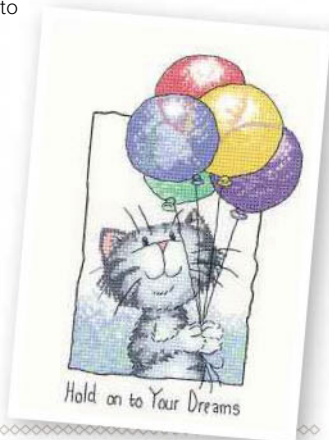
COMPLETE the crossword and rearrange the letters in the shaded boxes to make up a winning word.

Write your winning word and 'Crossword 316' on the back of a postcard or stuck-down envelope, adding your name and address, and post it to:
CrossStitcher, PO Box 172,
Northam, EX39 9DY

Competition open:

3 March – 30 March 2017

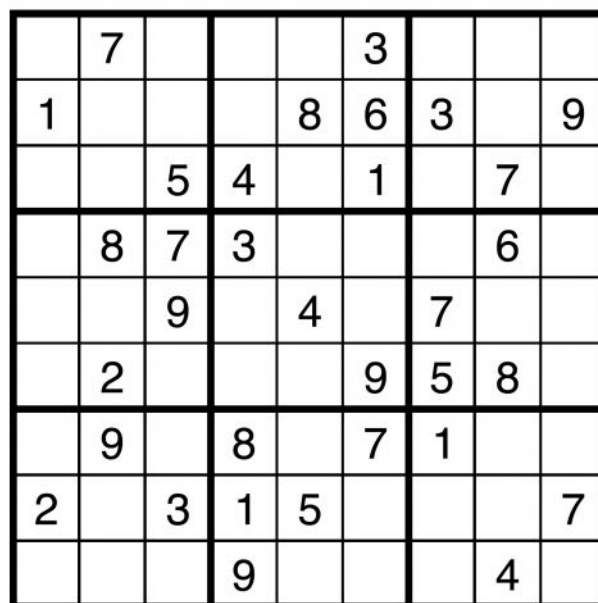
For full terms and conditions, see page 89.



YOUR PRIZE One lucky winner will receive this new kit from Peter Underhill's 'Cats Rule' collection for Heritage Crafts. Worked on 14 count aida in cross stitch and backstitch, this cute feline design will make a great gift for any cat lover. 'Hold On To Your Dreams' is available from www.hcrafts.com, priced £17.85.

SUDOKU

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



Issue 314's winning word: **SINATRA**

No.1
FOR DESIGNS

In your May

CrossStitcher

Bright ideas & beautiful inspiration



ISSUE 317
MAY 2017

On sale
31 March



Inside this month

- ♥ Lift your spirits with our **beautiful balloon picture**
- ♥ On-trend **geometric cushion** for your home
- ♥ Gorgeous **bunting sampler** to stitch for babies
- ♥ Oh-so-cute **Japanese kokeshi doll** alphabet

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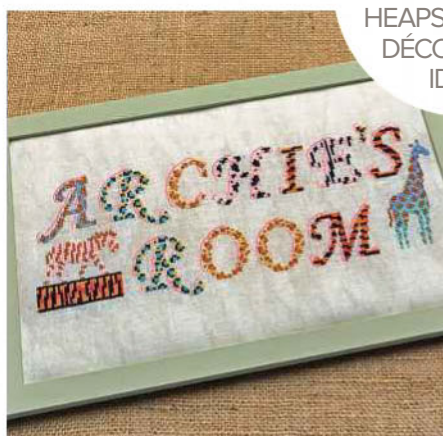
No.1
FOR DESIGNS



SPRINGTIME
LOOKS FOR
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HEAPS OF HOME
DÉCOR & GIFT
IDEAS

92
GORGEOUS
DESIGNS



Inside...
CrossStitcher
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Just stitch it!

PLUS Use stencils with your stitching to create new looks. We show you how...

