

No.1 for designs

CrossStitcher

IDEAS • STYLE • INSPIRATION

69
DESIGNS
YOU'LL
LOVE!

WINTER PROJECTS TO
WARM YOUR HEART...



Sew Lovely!

Make a matching
biscornu,
needlecase &
scissor fob



MAKE of the month

Fall in love with this month's make—a
needlecase with heart-shaped aperture

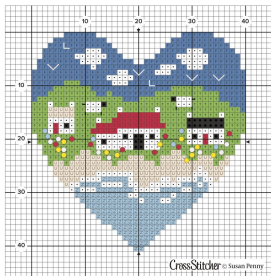
Designed by: Susan Penny Stitch count: 41 high x 40 wide
Design size: 7.5x7cm (3x2 7/8in) Stitch time: 5 hours

This design was stitched on 14 count aida fabric.

*This chart could be used as a mini card if you
prefer – simply use the template to cut a
heart aperture from a plain card blank*

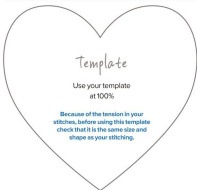
	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
	310	403	black
	322	178	1004
	704	256	1308
	817	013	211
	827	160	1014
	blanc	001	white
	ecru	387	ecru
Backstitch in one strand			
	310	403	black
	blanc	001	white
French knots in one strand			
	307	289	104
	817	013	211
	827	160	1014
	blanc	001	white





EXCLUSIVE READER KITS!

You can send off for a handy kit containing all the materials you need to make these projects. To order your kit today simply visit bit.ly/crossstitchershop.



Make a... needlecase

Step 1

STITCH the design, following the chart and key, in the centre of a 9x9cm (3½x3½in) piece of white aida fabric.

Step 2

CUT a 19x10cm (7½x4in) strip from a 32x10cm (12½x4in) piece of white felt. Fold the felt in half widthways. Cut out a paper template of the heart motif. With the felt folded, place the paper template centrally onto the front of the needlecase. Draw around the edge with a ball point pen, then cut out using sharp scissors.

Step 3

PLACE the stitching behind the heart-shaped opening in the felt, and then trim the aida down to fit the front of the needlecase. Pin in place. Using one strand of green stranded cotton, buttonhole stitch around the edge of the heart, catching the aida fabric into the stitches to hold it firmly in place.

Step 4

CUT some cotton fabric to the same size as the felt. From the remaining felt cut a leaf to fit inside the case. Finish the edges with pinking shears if you have them.

Step 5

PLACE the cotton fabric on the back of the felt, covering the back of the stitching. Pin in place. Buttonhole stitch around the edge, joining the two layers together. Place the felt leaf inside the needlecase, so that it is centrally placed on the fabric. Stitch down the spine of the needlecase, through all layers, attaching the leaf to the case.

Turn to page 44 to stitch a matching biscornu and scissor job! →

NEXT MONTH

SPRING CARD DESIGN

Make someone's day with our Especially For You card chart. You'll also be able to download and print out four mix and match greetings tags, with one for Mother's Day, as well as a luxury card blank!



ISSUE 180
MARCH 2022

On sale
25 January

Welcome

Winter walks and cosy creations...



Luke and Archie are in charge when it comes to winter walks – so they take centre stage this issue!

WE LOVE A WALK but there are always a few days when we feel like all that lovely frosty landscape might be more comfortably considered from indoors. More precisely from a favourite armchair, while working on a new piece of stitching! Of course, our dogs do need their walks and we are lucky enough to have a new home surrounded by beautiful woodlands.

Once we come in from the cold, take off winter layers and get the kettle on, there is nothing better than a few moments considering a new creative project. Even just choosing a design and its thread shades has a feel of excitement and expectation. We don't do New Year resolutions – we think about new projects instead. This is just enough to lift the spirits after all the glitter of Christmas.

Of course, we aim to help with your next project! May we suggest our cover star, the first in a new series of samplers from Faye Walsh? (page 18.) Each little square depicts the best of indoors and outdoors at this time of year. If you would like to tackle a larger nature study, our berry-picking blackbird (page 65) is perfect.

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@warnersgroup.co.uk

Bless this house

Stitch our wall hanging in our March issue, on sale 25 January 2022.



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twitter.com/XStitchmagazine



www.crossstitchermag.com

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



Berry sweet
Valentine's
cards.



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Stitcher's SPOTLIGHT

Focus on stitch techniques...

76 Make a bookmark

Our expert shows how to create a 'Love Books' bookmark as a gift for someone special.



Outthere

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



Skye High

We've been a fan of Stitch With Skye's original embroidery hoop art kits for a while, so we were so excited to hear that designer Jade was branching out into cross stitch kits. There are three designs to choose from: Bloom Your Way, Our Happy Place and No Rain No Flowers, or buy them all as a bundle! All kits are beginner-friendly and come with a 6in wooden embroidery hoop which can be used for framing after you've finished stitching. They are all worked on 14 count aida and make for a calming, relaxing stitch. To find out more, visit www.stitchwithskye.com.

MY CRAFT ROOM: EMMA HORAN

We get to see a glimpse of a designer's own craft space...



"I opened my new studio shop in St Austell, Cornwall last year and love all the extra space I have now. It's perfect for the combined uses of designing and manufacturing my kits with a shop front, so stitchers and tourists can come visit, shop, workshop and watch me create. I'm a little obsessed with my peg board and use it to hang hoops, kits and accessories for sale. My aim was to create a bright space that makes me happy and inspired to create every day; this feeling in turn will hopefully pass on to any visitors." www.emmalouiseartstitch.co.uk



"I have a 'Have-a-Go Wall' to entice cross stitch newbies and even a separate peg wall for scissors above my fabric cutting table (because you can never have too many scissors, right?)"

"I work from my design desk, which also doubles as a till point"



Drop us a line to crossstitcher@warmersgroup.co.uk with images of your craft space and a few words about it and our favourites could be featured in a future issue!



SOLID STYLE

SPRING CLEANING your craft room soon? Stock up on some solid coloured fabrics for backing your stitched cushions and lining your stitched bags with the gorgeous range of 100% cotton fabrics in solid shades from Tilda. These pretty shades will work with a host of projects, so you can mix and match them to your heart's content! www.tildasworld.com



PLANET LOVE

BRING A little more love and joy into your life, with Hannah Bass' new Planet Love needlepoint kit.

Perfect as a Valentine's gift, it also makes an 'important reminder that the Planet needs our love and support right now!' It would also make a great gift for teenagers to try their hand at, before progressing onto cross stitch. With a finished size of 15.4cmx15.4cm, it's worked on 10 count plastic canvas using 4 ply tapestry wool. What's not to love? hannahbass.com

LIBERTY LUXURY

SHOW YOURSELF a little love this February and treat yourself to one of these beautiful magnetic needle rests. Handmade from a Liberty Tana Lawn fabric of your choice using strong neodymium magnets, they are a safe, and oh-so-pretty, place to keep your needle when not in use. Each needleminder is 5cm in diameter.
www.lauraand.co



Mane attraction

LET YOUR stitching roar! This beautiful mandala design uses the natural colour tones of this fierce beast to create a project you'll be sure to be proud of. With a finished design size of 7.6x8.6in, the design uses 15 thread shades and is worked in whole cross stitches only, making it suitable for beginners as well as more experienced stitchers. For more information and order, and to check out the matching lion mandala needleminder, visit www.melocadesigns.com.

THREE OF THE BEST Fruit

Stitch our fruity Valentine's cards on page 29 and then keep your creative juices flowing with these delicious ideas from Etsy...



BYTHEBRIDLEPATH

These super-cute polka dot of apple buttons are wooden with white painted backs, measure 20mm and come in packs of 10.



GALAXYSILVER

Pip, pip, hooray! Juice up your projects with this mouthwatering Watermelon Grosgrain Ribbon that's shipped by the yard.



IDDYBITS

These berry sweet embroidered double strawberry iron-on patches are 40mmx28mm and can be ordered in sets of two or five.

TREND SPOTTING

HEARTS

LOVE OUR heart aperture needlecase? With Valentine's Day this month, have a heart to heart with these on-trend ideas...



WHO

Megan Caines designed this simple, yet effective, Heart Of Hearts Cross Stitch Kit, which creates a beautiful rainbow effect to bring the design to life.
www.melocadesigns.com



WHAT

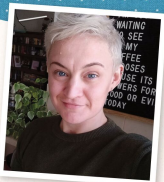
This Leopard Heart Mini Cross Stitch Kit is perfect for beginner stitchers and makes an original take on the classic red heart.
www.sewscrafts.co.uk



HOW

Keep your money safely and stylishly! Whether you give as a Valentine's gift or treat yourself, this pretty little purse can be stitched in just an hour or two.
www.notionthingsthat.com/chasingthreads

STITCHING WITH JULIAN



Julian Odessa is celebrating those small moments of 'everyday magic' which help make our lives a bit more special, and this month is seeing stars!

Hullo! In this series of noticing those little things, that give us joy in everyday life, I'd like to draw our attention to the biggest little things – the stars! For those of us who live in urban centres, light pollution often obscures so much of the beauty above us, but on a clear night we can still see light that was emitted billions of years ago. Head further away from the city and the magnificence of the universe is opened to us! Visiting darker places to go stargazing is one of my favourite things to do – sometimes getting away from civilisation can help me regain perspective and make my problems seem so much smaller.

When life gets on top of us, we can lose perspective on how big problems really are. We forget to look around at the things we're grateful for, we forget that, if we step back from the light pollution of our lives, we can gain a broader perspective and see the good in our lives, even when times are trying.

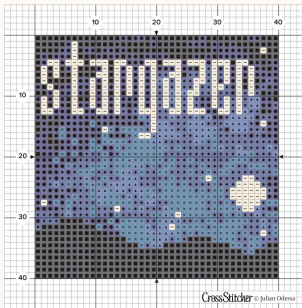
In moments of overwhelm, I often find that staring up at the stars (usually while watering my garden) helps me remove some of that weight off my shoulders. When I look up at the stars and imagine how far away each of those specks of light is, how huge they are (or were!) to project light so many billions of light-years away, and how we here on Earth are just a small speck on the grand stage of the universe, it makes me feel smaller, more insignificant. You might think that's a bad thing, but for me it's quite the opposite! In the

vastness of space, what happens in my life isn't really that important and that gives me room to take pressure off my shoulders. So, what if I didn't get chores done or if I was awkward in a conversation. It allows me to decide what should matter. I feel sheltered, and my problems can seem far smaller.

Why not stitch this month's chart for a child to remind them of the natural wonders around them. Or perhaps

make it for someone you know who may need a cue to momentarily pause their stresses and let the night sky envelop them. As the planet swings round the sun, we can appreciate this small moment of peace and remember that the bad times will not last forever – it's all swings and roundabouts. Happy stargazing this month.

Stitch boldly!
Julian



CrossStitcher © Julian Odessa

Find space to view space



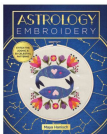
Or check out your local observatory!

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
	517	162	1107
	712	926	2101
	797	931	912
	798	131	911
	820	133	914
	939	152	1009

CRAFTY BOOKSHELF

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

ASTROLOGY EMBROIDERY: STITCH THE ZODIAC AND 30 CELESTIAL PATTERNS



MAYA HANISCH [becker&mayer!]

As Julian is asking us to look to the stars, this new title shows you how to stitch your favourite star signs and other celestial wonders. Maya Hanisch uses embroidery to create 30 original patterns with embroidery instructions and illustrations. The patterns are simple enough to be created by beginners, and include each one of 12 signs of the zodiac. There are also details on the materials you need, with stunning project images to boot.

DAYDREAM JOURNALS

TILLY ROSE [Search Press]

Have you ever kept a diary or journal? In this beautiful book you are shown how to do so using fabric, stitching and paper. Scrapbook memories and inspiring images using layering and collage, embroidery, transferring your own designs to cloth, stamping, appliqué, embellishing, patchwork and free motion machine embroidery. There are eight gorgeous designs to choose from, together with all the info you need on how to make them, including step-by-step photos.



100 MINI CROSS STITCH DESIGNS



ROSEMARY DRYSDALE

[GMC Publications]

Beginner stitchers will love this handy collection of 100 mini motifs. A great resource for more experienced stitchers too, it's packed with designs from bees to bicycles, caravans to cupcakes, and rockets to rainbows, with modern subjects and styles for every taste. There is a section on tools and materials, how to get started, reading charts, essential stitches and ways to customise your designs to make them your own.

AMAZING DEAL ON DMC THREADS*

CrossStitcher readers just pay £1.90 postage for these fabulous deals...

Buy 30 skeins of DMC stranded cotton for just 69p per skein...

DMC STRANDED COTTON DEAL

DMC Stranded Cotton is the world's favourite embroidery thread, selling one million skeins around the world every day, so that is why we are excited to bring you this great deal! Each strand of stranded cotton is made from the finest long staple cotton and mercerised twice to give it exceptional sheen. The six divisible strands allows you to vary the weight of your stitches adding depth to projects, and the highly resistant, colourfast dyes means your embroidery will become a precious heirloom, as it won't fade as a result of washing or exposure to light.

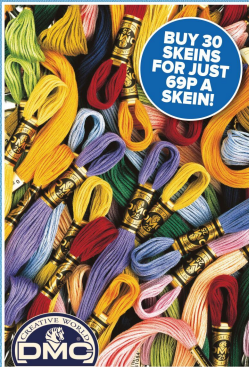
So here is the 30 skein deal! If you put 30 skeins of DMC stranded cotton in your basket, you can buy each skein for just 69p! That's a massive reduction on the RRP of £1.20, and the Willow Fabrics price of 99p.

This is how the deal works. You order 30 skeins and we will charge you just £20.70p, or 69p a skein. If you are ordering online, as the 30th skein is added to your basket a £9 discount will appear in the calculation at the bottom. If you order more than the 30 skeins, then the extra skeins will be 99p. This deal is for one month only, and there is no limit on the number of times you can order as long as you make sure you put 30 skeins in your basket, and they are on separate orders.

If you are ordering by post, just list the 30 skeins required on a separate sheet of paper and include it with your order.

This offer is for one month only, and closes on the 24 January 2022... so hurry up and complete your stranded cotton collection before the offer closing date.

DMC 30 Skein Deal for £20.70, ref: 30DEAL



MORE OFFERS FOR YOU!

If our DMC threads offer has tempted you, we've lots more offers with UK postage of just £1.90...



DIMENSIONS TREE ORNAMENTS
Each kit contains 14 count plastic canvas, pre-sorted stranded cotton, needle and instructions. Choose from Christmas Tree A, Santa With His Bag B, Santa Holding Tree C, Sleigh D. Mark your coupon with the kit you would like to receive.

Plastic Canvas Ornaments for £8.50 each, ref: DPLAO



CHRISTMAS RIBBON BAG
This mixed Christmas ribbon bag contains 50m of bright, cheerful Christmas ribbon and baker's twine. In each pack you will find a mixture of sheer, satin, grosgrain, gingham printed and spotted in a wide range of traditional Christmas colours, at less than 12p per metre! Christmas Ribbon Pack for £8.90, ref: CHRRB



DMC SPARKLY AIDA
This DMC 14 count iridescent aida is available in three soft colours: white, blue and pink. You can buy a FQ 50x55cm (19 1/2 x 21 1/2 in), in one of the three colours for an offer price of just £7.80. Mark your coupon with the colour you require.

DMC Iridescent Aida FQ for £7.80, ref: DMCIR14



ROSE GOLD STORK SCISSORS
A favourite with readers over several years! We have been able to hold the same great offer price for you, and give you another chance to purchase these gorgeous Rose Gold Scissors. Made by Milward they measure 11.5cm (4 1/2 in) from tip to toe. Rose-Gold Scissors for £8.80 £7.20 ref: ROSISS



VALENTINE'S 8 CARD PACK

With spring weddings, Easter and Valentine's Day just round the corner, this pretty card pack containing eight cards and envelopes in soft pastel colours is just right for stitching or craft projects. The quality cards are C6 (152x104mm) in four colours – Pink, Turquoise, Cream and Blue, and in a mix of shapes. Each pack comes with quality white envelopes and includes a chart to stitch a sweet heart design too!

Valentine's 8 Card Pack for **£4.95**, ref: **VCPS**



FELT JELLY ROLLS

Your chance to buy these gorgeous felt Jelly Rolls in a mix of fab colours. Each jelly roll has 10 22x22cm (9x9in) pieces of wool felt mix (30% wool & 70% viscose) in 10 different colours fitting its name. So for example, Christmas contains several reds, greens, a gold, a brown, a white and a black. 10 Jelly Rolls are available in rainbow of colours: 1. Christmas, 2. Autumn, 3. Sherbet, 4. Woodland, 5. Dusk, 6. Citrus, 7. Jelly Bean, 8. Ocean, 9. Modern, 10. Cherry. Please mark your coupon with the Jelly Roll colour you would like to receive.

Jelly Rolls for **£7.65**, ref: **JELLY10**

CLASSIC 14 COUNT AIDA CHARM PACK

Our Classic Charm Pack, contains 24 pieces of 5x5in fabric – making it perfect for cards and other small projects. Each pack is different, and contains a selection of light, medium and dark aida colours, chosen at random from quality Zweigart, DMC, Sempredo and Charles Craft fabric – please note, you may receive duplicate colours in each pack. Please also note: the fabric will have straight edges and not poked as shown in the picture.

Classic Charm Pack for **£17.80**, ref: **CHARMCL**



ELBEESE SEAT FRAME

This handy seat frame for cross stitch, embroidery and small quilting projects can be positioned under your thigh, leaving both hands free for stitching. The frame works on soft and hard chairs, and the ring is height-adjustable and pivots through 180° to allow for easy access to the back of your work. Made in the UK from highly polished wood, the hoop is 10in (25cm). Smaller hoops and stalks: 8in (20cm) and 6in (15cm), for this seat frame can be bought as an extra from Willow Fabrics.

Seat Frame for **£24.99**, ref: **SEAT10**





Willow Fabrics
WWW.WILLOWFABRICS.COM

For all your cross stitch goodies!
Any questions? enquiries@willowfabrics.com.

Place your order online using the discount code **SPRING22** to get the lower postage cost that comes with this offer or call 01237 237171 for telephone orders.

Offers available to UK readers only.

CrossStitcher READER OFFER

Post your orders to **CrossStitcher/Willow Fabrics Offers**,
PO Box 172, Northam, EX39 9DY

Title _____ Initials _____ Surname _____

Address _____ Postcode _____

Tel _____ Email _____

I enclose a cheque for £ _____ made payable to **Penny Creative Media Ltd** with my name and address on the back

Or charge my Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ Maestro ☐

Card No

Expiry date Card security code

Signature _____ Date _____

Terms and conditions: For ordering online, use SPRING22 at checkout to get the lower postage cost. Please note the contract for supply of goods is with Willow Fabrics, ref: 01237 237171. These offers close on 31 January 2022, or before if stock runs out. All goods dispatched by second class post, please allow up to 28 days to arrive. Please supply an email address or telephone number in case we need to contact you about your order. For full terms and conditions see page 82.

DESCRIPTION	PRICE	QTY	TOTAL
30 DMC THREAD SKINS (30DEAL)	£20.70		
DIMENSIONS TREE ORNAMENTS (DPLAC) KIT	£8.50		
CHRISTMAS RIBBON PACK (CHRRB)	£5.90		
DMC Iridescent AIDA PG (DMCIRH4) COLOUR	£7.80		
ROSE GOLD STORK SCISSORS (RGSISS)	£7.20		
VALENTINE'S 8 CARD PACK (VCPS)	£4.95		
FELT JELLY ROLLS (JELLY10)	£7.65		
ELBEESE SEAT FRAME (SEAT10)	£24.99		
CLASSIC CHARM PACK (CHARMCL)	£17.80		
MIDWINTER MEMORIES PACK (PPMIDMEM)	£24.00		
PATCH IT UP MATERIALS PACK (PPPATCH)	£21.50		
PERFECT PARTY DRESS PK (PPPARTYDR)	£22.50		
WINTER BLACKBIRD PACK (PPBLACKBRD)	£52.00		
UK ONLY POSTAGE	£1.90	1	£1.90
GRAND TOTAL			£

Feel free to photocopy this offer or write your order on paper if you don't want to cut your magazine

Nature Diary

Zoë Patching shares her nature notes for February, as she records the flowers and wildlife on her doorstep this month



February

A notebook and pencil are a must if you're heading out for a walk. It's a chance to stop and take in your surroundings to make sketches, take notes, collect leaves and so on. It's something I've loved to do, plus it's a great way to remind you of family walks and adventures! My most treasured finds are from when the boys were little and are now displayed in a wooden printer's tray.

Materials

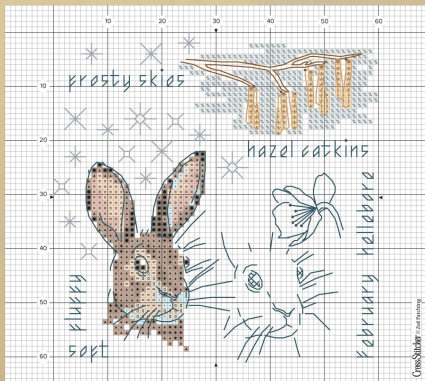
- Zweigart Antique White 28 count Coshel, ref. 32810/101, 20x20cm (8x8in)
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Size 26 tapestry needle

Materials available from www.willowfabrics.com

DMC	Anchor	Madeira	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	DMC	Anchor	Madeira			
Cross stitch in two strands			Cross stitch in two strands			Backstitch in one strand					
	437	362	2012		3756	1037	886		435	1046	2010
	677	886	2207		3774	880	2308*		437	362	2012
	739	366	2014		3781	1050	2106		437	362	2012
	822	390	2001		blanc	001	white	French knots in one strand			
	840	1084	1912	Backstitch in one strand				414	235	1801	
	841	1082	1911		414	235	1801		414	235	1801
	950	4146	2309	outlines, words				414	235	1801	
	951	1010	2308*		415	398	1803		435	1046	2010
				snowflakes							

*See "The Key" on page 80.

Why not create your own nature diary, decorating the pages with cross stitch and items found on your walks? Use pressed flowers, dried leaves, feathers, photographs and drawing and other specimens from the world of nature to fill your pages.



CrossStitcher © Zoë Patching

Designed by: Zoë Patching Stitch count: 61 high x 60 wide

Design size: 10.5x10.5cm (4 1/8 x 4 1/8 in) Stitch time: 6 hours

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

7'6
37 1/2 p.

NEW
SERIES!

Midwinter MEMORIES

Brrr! It's cold outside, so stay cosy indoors and recreate the magic of midwinter with our sampler – the first in a new series

CrossStitcher PROJECT PACK

If you would like to stitch Midwinter Memories, we have a materials pack with everything you need to get you stitching right away, and have it delivered straight to your door!



Your materials pack contains:

- Zweigart Yorkshire 14 count aida in Flecked Oatmeal
- Skeins of DMC stranded cotton
- Two gold-plated tapestry needles; size 24 and size 26

How to order: Fill in the form on page 15 or go to www.willowfabrics.com to order your project pack at the CrossStitcher reader price of £24, plus P&P.



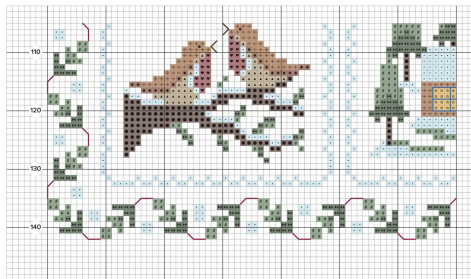
FOR YOUR HOME

PART 1









Materials

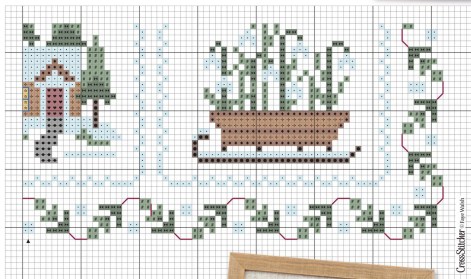
- Zweigart Flecked Oatmeal Yorkshire 14 count aida, ref. 3222/54; 50x55cm (19½x21½in)
 - Stranded cotton as listed in the key
 - Size 24 tapestry needle
 - Frame with a 30.5x30.5cm (12x12in) aperture
 - Mount board to fit frame
- Materials available from www.vilowfabrics.com

Any of the individual squares could be stitched separately and mounted as a mini card!

Designed by: Faye Walsh Stitch count: 142 high x 142 wide
Design size: 26x26cm (10¼x10¼in) Stitch time: 64 hours

This design was stitched on 14 count aida fabric.

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira		DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands				Backstitch in one strand			
	169	849	1802		319	218	1313
	223	895	812		435	1046	2010
	224	893	813		898	360	2006
	319	218	1313		975	371	2303
	320	215	1311		B5200	001	white
	368	214	1310	French knots in one strand			
	435	1046	2010		898	360	2006
	613	831	2109		B5200	001	white
	898	360	2006	(2) indicates more than one skein is required			
	924	851	1706				
	975	371	2303				
	3721	896	810				
	3821	305	2510				
	B5200	001	white (2)				



CrossStitcher 10 Paper Wishes

When working
the French knots,
never wrap your thread
more than three times
around the needle



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.

Needles & Notions

Your stitching,
top tips, online
chat and more!

Pro Tip

Top designers share
their favourite
stitching tips

*"Remove embroidery
hoop marks after
completing a project"*

"Sometimes when you've finished a project, the hoop or frame can leave 'halo' marks on the fabric you've been stitching on – especially if you've been working on fabrics like jersey or terry towelling. Simply wash your work and these will disappear. Just remember to wash them on a gentle cycle or hand wash only – and never use the tumble dryer, always air dry, once washed."



Susan Penny
CrossStitcher Editor

FIRST PAST THE POST!



Clare Adams was the first to send us a pic of her finished blue tit scissor keep from issue 378's calendar – she wins a selection of DMC stranded cotton skeins in 20 colours of her choice from Willow Fabrics. The first person to stitch and send us a pic of their finished Love The View needlecase with this issue to crossstitcher@warnersgroup.co.uk will also win this great prize!



Finished the comparison from issue 377. I worked it on aida and filled it with toy stuffing, now it's hanging on my tree.
Linda West, Isle of Man



Absolutely loved the 377 December issue, my fave yet. I've just finished these and am ready to turn them into festive ornaments!
Lynda Cooke, Surrey



Such a lovely design. So colourful. Couldn't wait to finish the Glad Tidings Sill and hang it up for Christmas.
Michelle Tucker, North Wales

Eco inspiration

Hi CrossStitcher team, I just wanted to say thank you for the books round-up in issue 379. I love Emma Congdon's designs that you frequently feature in your magazine and when I saw that she had a whole book of designs available (*Cross Stitch for the Earth*), I knew I had to buy it. I chose to stitch this design first as it only uses seven thread colours and zero backstitch! I think it'll look lovely in my home office. Many thanks all!

Evelyn Selby, Hampshire



Labour of love

Yula loved stitching our Brothers Grimm SAL through 2021.



Hello, I fell in love with this pattern as soon as I saw it introduced a year ago. My daughter said she would love me to stitch it for her 6-year-old daughter Zohar, so I started right away. For me it has been completely a labour of love. I love the intricate design, the beautiful colours and all the details - I love backstitching, and it was indeed challenging, but so rewarding! And of course, with every stitch I thought about Zohar, growing up and unfolding through the year (she started 1st grade!) and being the fairytale princess she is. Thank you very much for this adventure and for your beautiful magazine.

Yula Oliel, Israel

“OVER TO YOU...”

We asked our fans on Facebook, "Do you like to customise your projects or stick to the original designs exactly?"

CARINA GÖTHBERG Since I'm Swedish, I sometimes like to translate texts in English patterns. It can be tricky since Merry Christmas takes up a bit more space than God Jul. I usually still try to use the same font as the designer originally intended.

LIZ DRAPER I accidentally customise with the wrong shade of thread, by misreading the pattern, and leaving the backgrounds out! I do like to use hand-painted aida fabric and hand-dyed threads on certain projects, when I feel the design would work.

GRACE COLLIER Actually, both! Some changes are necessary if I don't have the right colours. Others are fun like adding Etoile or beads.

JENNY HOWSAM I always change something, even if it is just one stitch, as a way of making it my own.

KERRY PICKERING I nearly always change the fabric and will sometimes adapt the colours to fit my decor or if I don't have a particular overdyed floss. French knots nearly always become beads. It just makes stitching more enjoyable that way.

MERIT BROKAW I always redesign. Change colours, add specialty stitches, adjust the chart, etc. My mother-in-law says I'm too picky!

VIKKI CLIMPSON I sometimes use just a part of a bigger design for a card, or I add a message using one of the fonts that I've saved from cross stitch magazines.



"Like" our page on Facebook;
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and join the conversation!

Stay in touch...

crossstitcher@warnersgroup.co.uk



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Northam, EX39 9DY



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[pinterest.com/xstitchmagazine](https://www.pinterest.com/xstitchmagazine)



The snowman earrings from issue 376 turned out perfectly. Two pairs for my nieces, and one pair for my granddaughter.
Josine Gorenandijk, The Netherlands

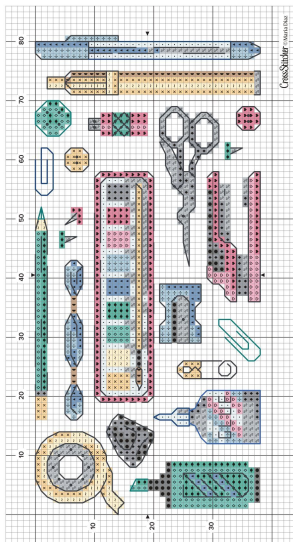


It's never too early to stitch for Christmas, so this was a lovely little make from the October issue. Thank you.
Verena Stapleton, by email



Pencil Me In

Ink blots, biros, erasers and pen nibs – it's time to sharpen up your stationery storage with our cute little pencil case



Designed by: Maria Diaz

Stitch count: 38 high x 81 wide

Design size: 7x15.5cm(2 3/4x6 1/4in);

Stitch time: 12 hours

This design was stitched on 14 count aida fabric.

DMC Anchor Madeira

Cross stitch in two strands

413	401	1713
414	235	1801
415	398	1803
826	161	1012
827	160	1014
943	189	1203
959	186	1113
961	076	610
3716	025	606
3756	1037	886
3823	386	2512
3828	373	2104
3855	311	2013

Backstitch in one strand

413	401	1713
826	161	1012
943	189	1203
3756	1037	886

French knots in one strand

413	401	1713
-----	-----	------

Mix and match the motifs on this case to stitch a 'good luck in your exams' card instead

Materials

- DMC Iridescent Blue 14 count aida, 13x20cm (5x8in)
 - Stranded cotton as listed in the key
 - Size 24 tapestry needle
 - Zip, open ended; 16.5 cm (6½in)
 - Cotton backing fabric; 13x20cm (5x8in)
- Materials available from www.willowfabrics.com

Make a... pencil case

Step 1

NOTE that the front of the pencil case is made from your aida fabric, and the back from cotton fabric. Once the stitching is complete, fold the top edge of the stitching over onto the wrong side of your work, leaving six blank aida squares above your stitching. Press your seam in place, and repeat for the backing fabric.

Step 2

OPEN the zip and pin it to the folded aida and backing fabric edges, working on the right side. Machine stitch close to the zip on both sides. Close your zip to make sure it is aligned properly. With the zipper closed, turn your case to the wrong side and with the edges of your aida and backing fabric together, pin and then machine stitch, with a 1.25cm (½in) seam allowance. Turn to the right side and press.





We Make The Perfect Pear!

Stitch one of our fruit-themed cards for the apple of your eye this Valentine's Day – what a berry sweet idea...



Designed by: Durene Jones

Max. stitch count: 53 high x 40 wide

Max. design size: 10.5x8cm (4 1/4 x 3 in)

Stitch time: 4 hours each

These designs were stitched on 14 count silk fabric.

DMC Anchor Madeira

Cross stitch in two strands

165	278	1414
310	403	black
349	013	212
351	010	214
352	009	303*
353	006	303*
413	401	1713
436	1045	2011
498	1005	511
604	055	614
701	227	1305
703	238	1307
721	324	308
722	323	307
744	301	112
907	255	1410
3856	368	2309
B5200	001	white

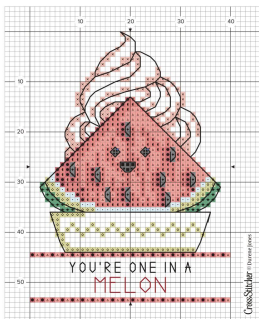
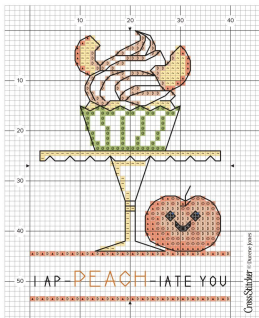
Backstitch in one strand

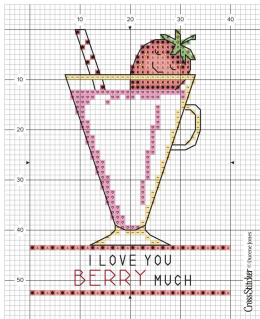
310	403	black
349	013	212
701	227	1305
720	326	309

French knots in one strand

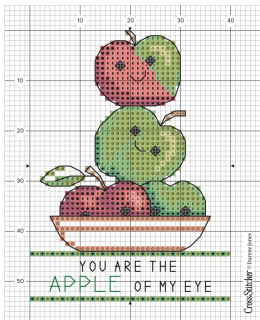
744	301	112
B5200	001	white

*See "The Key" on page 80.





Cross-Stitcher © Quenne Jones



Cross-Stitcher © Quenne Jones

Make an... aperture card

Step 1

WORK using two strands of stranded cotton for the cross stitch, one strand for the backstitch, and one for the French knots.

Step 2

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

Step 3

ATTACH double-sided tape to the inside of the card around the edge of the aperture.

Step 4

PLACE the stitching on the table right-side up, and then place the card on top, pressing down firmly on the tape.

Step 5

CHECK which flap will fold onto the back of the stitching, then add strips of double-sided tape and press firmly down to secure.

As you'll be stitching areas of isolated backstitch, take care not to track across the back of your fabric or you'll create shadows when viewed from the front

Materials

For each card

- Sampedro White 14 count aida; 15x12cm (6x4½in)
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Size 24 tapestry needle
- Card blank, with a 10.5x9cm (4½x3½in) rectangular aperture

Materials available from www.willowfabrics.com

Animal MAGIC

Love our lone wolf in issue 375? Here are two more animal silhouettes to complete the set!

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT...



The Lone Wolf appeared in our October 21 issue, no. 375, if you'd like to stitch him you can order a back issue at www.crossstitchermag.com





Designed by: Durene Jones

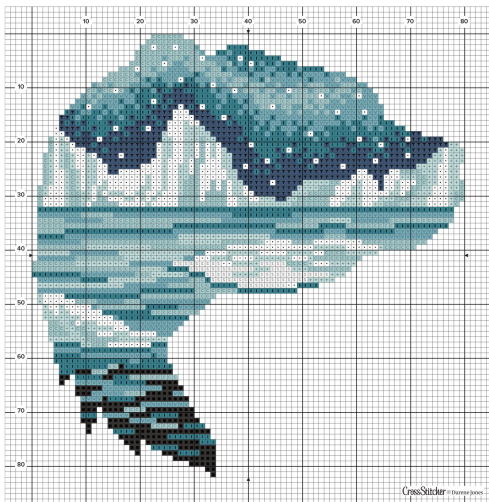
Stitch count: 82 high x 80 wide

Design size: 15x15cm (6x6in)

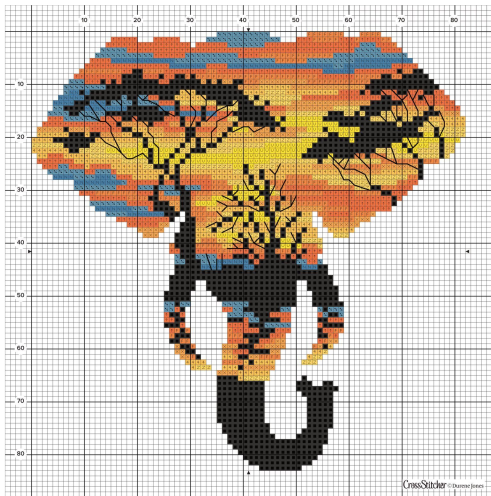
Stitch time: 25 hours

This design was stitched on 14 count aida fabric.

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira			DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands				Cross stitch in two strands				
	310	403	black		3756	1037	886	
	311	148	1006		3809	1066	2506	
	597	1064	1110		3811	1060	1101	
	598	1062	1111		B5200	001	white	



CrossStitcher® Durene Jones



CrossStitcher © Durene Jones

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
U U	307	289	104
■ ■	310	403	black
N N	517	162	1107
% %	518	1039	1106
↑ ↑	721	324	308
4 4	725	306	808

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
Z Z	726	305	109
F F	740	316	202
X X	741	304	201
Backstitch in two strands			
—	310	403	black
trees			

Designed by: Durene Jones
 Stitch count: 83 high x 82 wide
 Design size: 15x15cm (6x6in)
 Stitch time: 24 hours

This design was stitched on 14 count aida fabric.

We painted our hoop with a paint match pot to get the perfect blue shade. Use two coats and then let it dry between coats. If you want an antique look, use fine sandpaper to rub away some of the paint at the edges



Materials

For each hoop

- Sampecho 14 count white aida, 45x41cm (16x16in)
 - Stranded cotton as listed in the key
 - Size 24 tapestry needle
 - Wooden embroidery hoop, 18cm (7in) diameter
- Materials available from www.willowfabrics.com

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

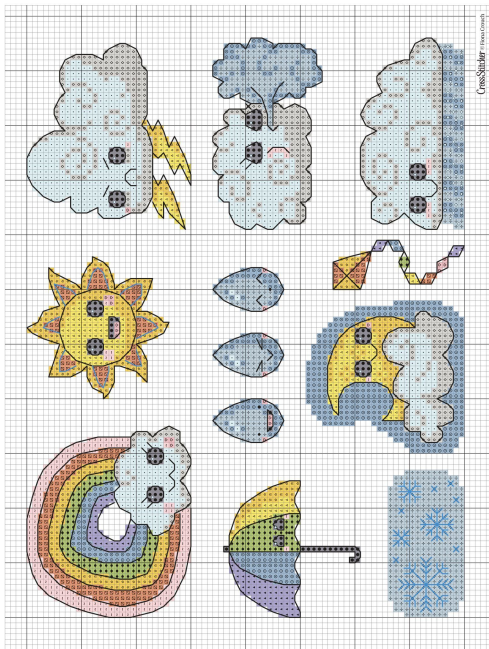


USE a glue gun or double-sided tape to begin attaching the first layer of fabric, pulling taut as you go. Repeat for the second layer. Cut a second felt layer to fit over the back of your hoop. Secure with glue or small, neat stitches.

RAIN OR SHINE

Whatever the weather, babies will love our mobile featuring clouds, rainbows, sunshine and raindrops







If stitching for a baby, make sure you hang this away from their cot and out of their reach

Make a... weather mobile

Step 1

STITCH your motifs using two strands for the cross stitch, and one for the backstitch and French knots. Cut out each motif, leaving 4cm (1½in) of unstitched fabric around the outside.

Step 2

CUT a shape from cardboard for each motif that is larger than the stitching. Wrap the stitching around the cardboard, lacing it across the back. Cut a felt shape to cover the back, and then stitch it to the back of the motif. Repeat for all the motifs.

Step 3

PLACE the three strips of ribbon on the inner hoop. Tie knots at the top and bottom of the ribbon. Place the motifs on the ribbon until you are happy with the layout, then stitch or use fabric glue to attach them to the ribbon. Place the outer hoop over the inner to capture the ribbon and hold it firmly in place.

Designed by: **Fiona Crouch** Max. stitch count: 35 high x 30 wide
Max. design size: 6x6.5cm (2½x2½in) Stitch time: 3 hours (each)

These designs were stitched on 28 count evenweave over two threads of fabric.

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
	307	289	104
	317	400	1714
	340	118	902
	444	297	106
	761	024	404
	907	255	1410
	970	316	204
	3072	847	1805
	3713	1021	501
	3755	939	909
	3841	159	1001

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
	B5200	001	white
Backstitch in two strands			
	B5200	001	white
Backstitch in one strand			
	310	403	black
French knots in one strand			
	310	403	black
	B5200	001	white

Materials

- Fabric Flair Cloud Summer Sky 28 count evenweave: 50x45cm (19x18in)
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Size 24 tapestry needle
- Cardboard and felt for each motif
- Wooden embroidery hoop, 30cm (12in)
- Ribbon, 6x50cm x 3

Materials available from www.willowfabrics.com

PATCH IT UP!

Channel your inner quilter to create a homage to the best of traditional patchwork style

CrossStitcher PROJECT PACK

If you would like to stitch Patch It Up!, we have a materials pack with everything you need to get you stitching right away, and have it delivered straight to your door!



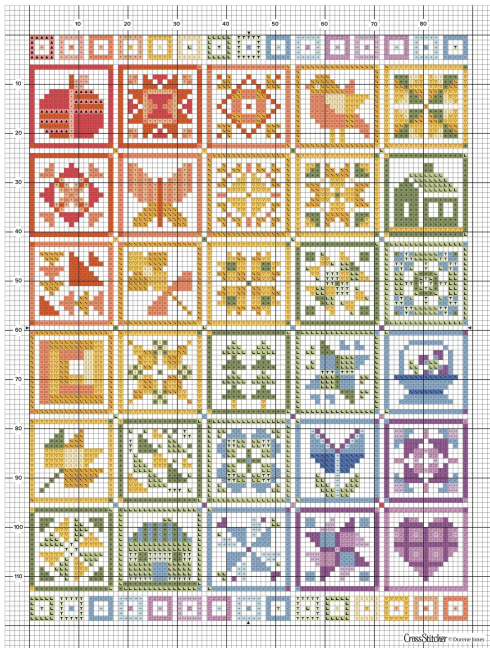
Your materials pack contains:

- Sampedro 14 count aida in White
- Skeins of DMC stranded cotton
- Two gold-plated tapestry needles; size 24 and size 26

How to order: Fill in the form on page 15 or go to www.willowfabrics.com to order your project pack at the CrossStitcher reader price of £21.50, plus P&P.







CrossStitcher © Dorene Jones



Each individual square should take a couple of hours to complete – so you can work on one each evening

Designed by: Durene Jones Stitch count: 120 high x 90 wide

Design size: 22x17cm (8½x6½in) Stitch time: 57 hours

This design was stitched on 14 count aida fabric.

Materials

- Sampedro White 14 count aida, 38x32cm (15x12½in)
 - Stranded cotton as listed in the key
 - Size 24 tapestry needle
 - Frame with 23.5x19cm (9½x7½in) aperture
 - Mount board to fit frame
- Materials available from www.willowfabrics.com

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira		DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands				Cross stitch in two strands			
	211	342	801		745	300	111
	350	011	213		772	259	1604
	352	009	303*		798	131	911
	353	006	303*		3347	266	1408
	552	100	713		3348	264	1409
	554	097	711		3755	939	909
	720	326	309		3820	306	2509
	722	323	307		3841	159	1001
	743	298	2294		3856	368	2309

*See 'The Key' on page 80.



BISCORNU WITH A VIEW

Liked your free Love The View needlecase? Stitch a full set of workbox accessories with our matching biscornu and scissor fob



Designed by: Susan Penny
Stitch count: 30 high x 30 wide
Design size: 5.5x5.5cm (2¼x2¼in)
Stitch time: 4 hours

This design was stitched on 14 count aida fabric.

Turn to our
instructions on
page 2 for how
to make the
matching
needlecase



Make a... scissor fob

Step 1

MAKE a twisted cord hanger by bringing 12 strands of stranded cotton, 60cm (24in) in length, together. Knot together at each end and insert a pencil through one end. Loop the other end over a handle or knob. Keeping the yarn taut, twist the pencil until the stranded cotton is tightly twisted and kinks when the tension is relaxed. Fold the stranded cotton in half, keeping it taut to avoid getting tangled, then remove the pencil. Knot at both ends.

Step 2

STITCH the design in the centre of the aida fabric, using two strands for the cross stitch, with one for the backstitch and French knots. Place the fabric right-sides together with the backing fabric. Pin to hold in place. Insert the complete length of twisted cord between the layer, with the knots just out over the seam allowance in the top right or left corner.

Step 3

STITCH around the edge of the fob, through both layers of fabric and over the twisted cord, stitching right on the outer edge of the cross stitch, and leaving the bottom edge open.

Step 4

REDUCE the seam allowance then turn to the right side, carefully pulling out the twisted cord. Stuff with toy stuffing, and then sew up the gap with small, neat stitches. Loop the twisted cord through the scissors.



For the scissor fob

- Sampedra White 14 count aida; 9x9cm (3½x3½in)
- Cotton backing fabric; 9x9cm (3½x3½in)
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Size 24 tapestry needle
- Toy stuffing

Materials available from www.willowfabrics.com



Make a... biscornu

Step 1

COMPLETE all the stitching for the top of the biscornu following the chart and working in the centre of the side. Use two strands for the cross stitch and one for the backstitch and French knots.

Step 2

STITCH the bottom of the biscornu in the same way as for the top.

Step 3

TRIM both fabric pieces, leaving a 1.25cm (1/2in) seam allowance. Fold the seam allowance to the reverse, so the outer blue backstitch line is on the edge of both fabrics. Press the folds and points in place. Using a pin, join a corner point on the bottom fabric to the middle point on one side of the top.

Step 4

USE matching blue stranded cotton to sew the top and bottom of the biscornu together using whip stitch. To do this, take your needle under a border stitch close to the pin on your bottom fabric, and then go up and through the corresponding top stitch. Pull together as you work – the needle and thread should go cleanly through the stitch without snagging the fabric below. Take your needle down through the next top stitch and under the corresponding stitch at the bottom. Continue making stitches in this way until you reach the first corner. You will need to mould the fabric around the corner each time you reach one, holding it in place until it is stitched.

Step 5

FIND the midpoint on the next side and mark it with a pin. Place this against the corner on the bottom fabric, and check that the midway point matches up with the next corner. The success of your biscornu will depend on the accuracy of matching each corner and midway point together.

Step 6

STITCH six out of the eight sides together, then stuff the biscornu firmly with stuffing or cotton wool, and sew up the remaining sides. Sew the buttons in the centre of the top and bottom, passing the needle through the biscornu to stitch both in place. Pull up the thread and finish securely.



ZWEIGART
since 1877

Designed by: Susan Penny
Stitch count: 60 high x 60 wide
(top and bottom)

Design size: 11x11cm (4 1/4 x 4 1/4 in)

Stitch time: 26 hours

These designs were stitched on 14 count aida fabric.

NAMASTE

PREMIUM NEEDLEWORK FABRICS
100 % MADE IN GERMANY

DMC	Anchor	Madelira
Cross stitch in two strands		
	307	289 104
	310	403 black
	322	178 1004
	436	1045 2011
	704	256 1308
	817	013 211
	827	160 1014
	904	258 1413
	blanc	001 white
	ecru	387 ecru
Backstitch in one strand		
	310	403 black
<i>outlines</i>		
	322	178 1004
<i>border</i>		
	blanc	001 white
<i>birds</i>		
French knots in one strand		
	307	289 104
<i>flowers</i>		
	817	013 211
<i>flowers</i>		
	827	160 1014
<i>flowers</i>		
	blanc	001 white
<i>flowers</i>		

Materials

For the biscomu

- Sampedro White 14 count aida; 18x18cm (7x7in) x 2 pieces
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Size 24 tapestry needle
- Toy stuffing
- Buttons x 2

Materials available from www.willowfabrics.com



The word "Namaste" not only stands for a traditional greeting in India, but in yoga also stands for unconditional self-love, gratitude, mindfulness and respect for oneself and others. Our matching color scheme with a combination of petrol blue and shades of purple and beige form the perfect background for every embroidery.

Choose your favorite fabrics of this beautiful color world at www.zweigart.de/downloads.

www.zweigart.de

For stockists contact:

Lakeside Needlecraft | lakesidenneedlecraft.co.uk
Willow Fabrics | www.willowfabrics.com
Heritage Crafts | Tel: 01889 575 256
Woolwarehouse | woolwarehouse.co.uk
Stitchastic | www.stitchastic.com



In My Hoop...

Joanna Guldin-Noll runs a coffee shop in sunny Pennsylvania, USA. She shares her stitching stories, from craft gatherings to solo stitching, and plans for 2022

Coffee and cross stitch are a winning combination, as cafe owner Joanna Guldin-Noll knows only too well – as together with her husband, she runs crafting nights for all...

Military wife Joanna lives in Central Pennsylvania, and she discovered cross stitching when her husband was away on active service. "I've been doing some form of stitching since I was a child," she explains, "but I really picked up cross stitching in my mid-twenties when my then-fiancé, now-husband, deployed to Afghanistan with the US Navy for a year. While John was gone, I stitched up a storm of projects for friends and family and myself. I was hooked (or stabbed, I guess), and I've been stitching regularly for nearly a decade now!"

CAFFEINE & CRAFTING

Joanna's hometown is pretty rural so the area enjoys a lot of farmland, mountains, and cows, but not a huge stitching scene. "However, what we do have available is a lot of fun," says Joanna. "We do have a few wonderful stitching supply shops as well as two bookstores that sell a wide variety of stitching magazines (including CrossStitcher!) within an hour's drive. Every year, I submit cross stitch to our area fair (and have been lucky to win a few times!). My husband and I also own two coffee shops, called Swatara Coffee Co., and we host a crafting night once a month, where crafters and hobbyists – including cross stitchers – can get together."

As with so many of our readers, Joanna found cross stitch a real comfort during the early days of the pandemic. "I did quite a lot of stitching in 2021... but (probably unsurprisingly) not as much as I did in 2020!"

"In 2021, I spent more time stitching things for me instead of stitching things for gifts. I love Mill Hill's series of Santas that they release every year. One day, I'd like to have a Christmas tree decorated with all of the Santa ornaments I've stitched. I can often stitch one or two in between other projects. This past year, I stitched four."

TIME TO CHILL

Joanna loves to use stitching to unwind. "My full-time job is technology-driven, so being able to use my hands to do something other than type feels like a vacation!" she explains. "I usually grab a drink and stitch on our living room sofa. Our Jack Russell/Fox Terrier/ Godzilla mix, Albus, often joins me. Although, I am always very careful with my stitches when he's around."

Last year he ate a finished Christmas ornament and I had to quickly remake it a week before the big day!"

"Right now, I have a few works in progress. Every year, I stitch an ornament for each one of my immediate family members for Christmas which always keeps me busy. I also have a Mill Hill project that I've been working on sporadically for the last few years. It features lyrics from 'Silent Night'."

So what are Joanna's plans for 2022? "2022 is going to be the year of finishing my souvenir cross stitch projects. Every time I travel abroad, I try to purchase a project to remind me of my trip. I have a series of small cross stitch projects that I want to finish from when I visited England in 2015 and a lovely yellow poppy pattern from visiting France in 2018. My sister and brother-in-law recently moved to Switzerland, so I'm hoping to visit them in '22 and explore the stitching scene there! But I really need to finish up my older projects before I purchase anything more. Who am I kidding? That's an idle threat!"



Crafting nights are held at Joanna's coffee shop once a month.



Stitching projects have to be kept safely away from Joanna's dog, Albus!



Tree ornaments are an annual stitching tradition.

Do you have a stitching story to share? Drop us a line at crossstitcher@warnersgroup.co.uk or write to the postal address on page 5 and you and your projects could feature here!

Letter LIBRARY

TEATIME

Pop the kettle on and break out the cakes! It's time to serve some tea with a whole alphabet of brew-based motifs!

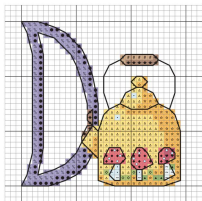
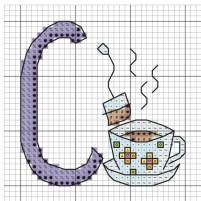
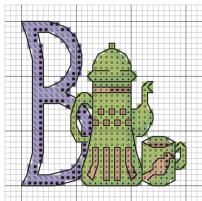
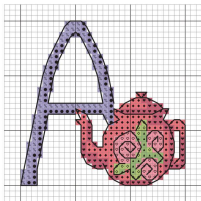


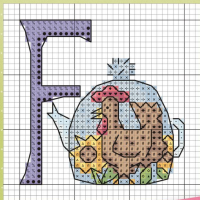
Each month we publish a new letter and number set based on a theme, designed for you to cut out and keep for when you need it



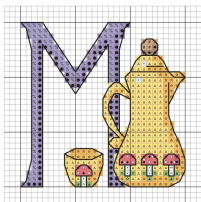
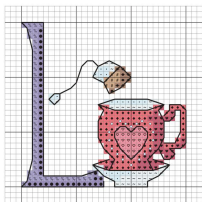
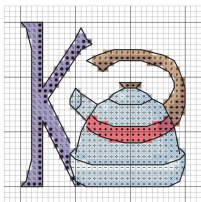
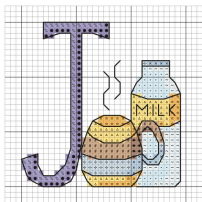
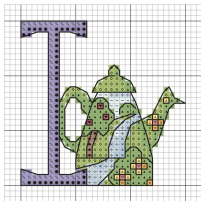
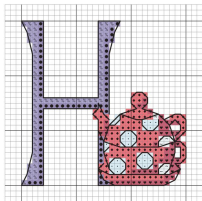
nyone ready for a lovely warming cuppa? If your plain projects are making you feel a little parched – just add one of our hot beverage-based motifs for a pretty personal touch. We've got teacups, coffee pots, mini mugs and even a kettle or two. Time to put a brew on while you decide which letter or number you'll make first! Happy stitching...

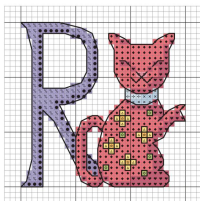
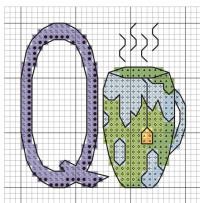
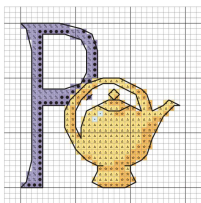
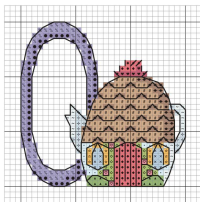
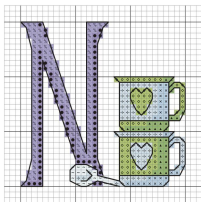
Designed by: Fiona Crouch

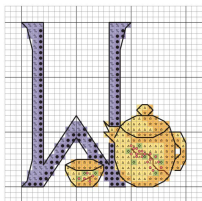
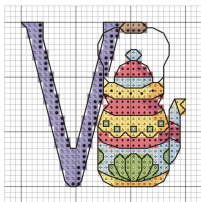
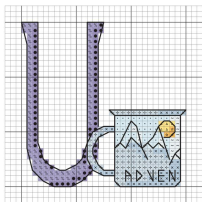
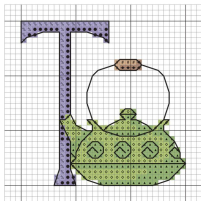
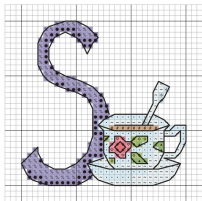




Our Teatime alphabet letters were mounted in a card, hoop and a fabric-covered hoop. Each was stitched on 14 count white aida, and each letter is approximately 30 high x 30 wide. The design size for each letter is approximately 5.5x5.5cm (2¼x2¼in), and it took our stitcher three hours to stitch each one.



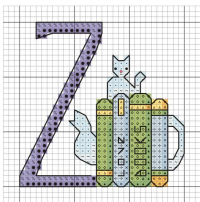
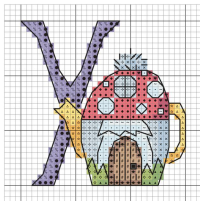
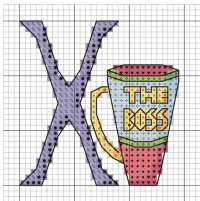




More to make...

Mix and match your letters to create a delicious selection of teatime designs. Here are some ideas to get you started...

- 1** Pop a motif into a plastic coaster – why not make a personalised set for the whole family?
- 2** Create a special gift by making personalised napkins with an initial in their corner.
- 3** Giving a gift of specialist tea or coffee? Add a tag with your recipient's initial, simply attached as a patch to a kraft tag.



Any French knots can be replaced with seed beads instead

Use the park and stitch method by threading up all your needles in advance to make quick work of these motifs

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
■	310	403	black
♥	321	019	510
%	340	118	902
◆	434	310	2009
#	436	1045	2011
△	726	305	109
⋈	775	1031	1001
▲	906	256	1411
◇	907	255	1410

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
✧	972	298	107
✕	3325	129	1002
♡	3706	033	309
●	3746	1030	903
~	3756	1037	886
◆	3801	1098	411
•	B5200	001	white
Backstitch in one strand			
—	310	403	black
outlines			

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Backstitch in one strand			
—	434	310	2009
details			
French knots in one strand			
●	310	403	black
details			
●	3801	1098	411
details			
●	B5200	001	white
details			



NEXT MONTH...

Coming up in our March issue, we have a Little Village Alphabet designed by Fiona Crouch. Get to the shops on 25 January to pick up your copy of issue 380, or subscribe and the issue will be delivered to your door. Head over to page 57 for our latest subscription offer.





An interview with...

Victoria Matthewson

Author of *Needlepointed Plants & Pollinators*, Victoria Matthewson, talks silk shading, her love of nature, and how it all began with cross stitch...

Interview by **Lucy Evans**

With her new book on pollinating insects and plants now out, we chatted to embroidery artist Victoria Matthewson about her skill in bringing mini beasts to life in stunning detail using needle and thread...

Hi Victoria! Can you share which events led you to discover stitching and embroidery?

Mystitching journey started at 10 when I was at primary school where I learned cross stitch and created a sampler. I didn't want to work in straight lines and squares, so I went to my local library and searched the cross stitch books to see what was possible. I decided that I wanted my sampler to depict a floral wreath with Celtic style border. I was hooked from that point, I loved the feel of the fabric and the movement of the needle and thread.



How did you develop your passion for nature designs?

I have always been drawn to nature, I love walking and there is so much inspiration that can be drawn from looking closely at the flora and fauna that surrounds us. Nature doesn't often work in straight lines and the

curve that can be seen in a leaf or petal just cries out to be stitched.

I love to take photos when I am out on walks. It is from these photos that I take my inspiration, I look at a photo and if I can picture me stitching it then I am pretty sure it will work. I think my love of stitching insects came after looking closely at a garden spider and realising how beautiful it was, if you just took the time to study it - there is a whole amazing world that is accessible to all if we look for it.

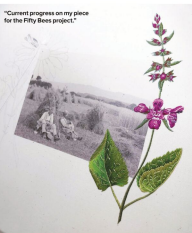
How do you develop a photo into a stitched design?

As I mentioned before, I like to work from my own photos for reference where possible, but I may take aspects from different photos and work them together. An insect from one picture and a flower from another. Then if there is information that I am missing in my photo, such as the layout of



"I grew up loving the *Flower Fairy* and *Brambley Hedge* books and I think that inspired me to look in hedgerows and flower beds – maybe it was the hope of spotting a mouse or even a fairy!"

"Current progress on my piece for the Fifty Bees project."



“Nature doesn't often work in straight lines and the curve that can be seen in a leaf or petal just cries out to be stitched”

leaves on a twig, I will look for inspiration from books. I am not great at quick sketches, I tend to go into detail straight away, so quite often my first drawing will end up being my final design. Once I have a drawing that I am happy with, I will go over the main details to simplify the design and create a template to be transferred to the fabric. I will add stitch direction and shading lines in different colours at this point if it is a template for other people to follow, but if it is my own work I will often add this as I go along.

What drew you to specialise in silk shading? Can you explain a little of what the technique involves?

Silk shading has several different names; long and short stitch, thread painting and my favourite – needlepainting. Whatever name you prefer, they all represent the same technique, which is basically painting with your needle. I find it a very free type of embroidery, once you have learnt the basic steps you can create your own style. The main technique used is long and short stitch, it involves building up areas of thread to blend colour and shade to create a naturalistic image. I am not very good

at following instructions and admire cross stitchers for their ability to keep track of the pattern they are following – if I am stitching a private piece I tend to make it up as I go along and silk shading allows me that freedom.

How did your book come about?

The idea for the book started forming in my mind when I saw a photo on Instagram by an American entomologist, Peter Coffey. It showed a fly on a flower and had the caption 'There are more pollinators than just bees!' This got me thinking, we are so focused on the idea of saving the bees (especially honeybees which aren't actually endangered) we risk losing so many other essential pollinators through lack of understanding.

I approached Search Press with my idea and they were wonderful, they really understood what I was trying to achieve, an educational embroidery book that takes the form of a nature journal. The book took about 18 months to put together, each project took roughly a month, then I had to create the instructional sections and research, with the help of Buglife, the pollinators and plants. It is very easy to feel as if we are too small to make a

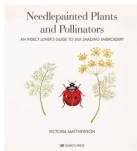
difference in the world but simple steps, such as leaving a patch of grass to grow, or planting pollinator-friendly flowers, can be so beneficial.

What's coming up next for you?

I am currently working on an exciting project called Fifty Bees. Lydia Needle is the lead artist and curator of the exhibition in which she creates 50 small individual bees, each representing an endangered or extinct British bee. She then invites 50 artists to create a companion piece for a specific allocated bee. The exhibition aims to raise awareness of the problems our pollinators are facing, but also inspire hope that we can help bring about change.

victoriamatthewson.com

Instagram: @vkmattthewson



Needlepointed Plants & Pollinators is published by Search Press, RRP £19.99



The Perfect Party Dress

Time to get all dressed up – our boutique shop has the pick of the best party dresses to choose from!

CrossStitcher PROJECT PACK

If you would like to stitch The Perfect Party Dress, we have a materials pack with everything you need to get you stitching right away, and have it delivered straight to your door!

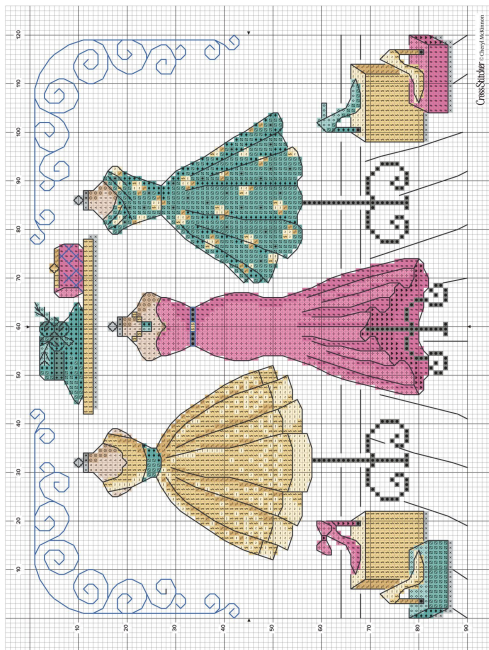


Your materials pack contains:

- Zweigart 14 count aida in Snow Glitter
- Skeins of DMC stranded cotton
- Skein of DMC Étoile
- Two gold-plated tapestry needles; size 24 and size 26

How to order: Fill in the form on page 15 or go to www.willowfabrics.com to order your project pack at the CrossStitcher reader price of £22.50, plus P&P.

THE PERFECT PARTY DRESS



CrossStitcher © Cheryl McKinnon



**TURN TO
PAGE 23
TO LEARN
HOW TO FRAME
YOUR PICTURE**

The ends of Étoile threads have a tendency to fray, so you'll find a needle threader a handy tool to have for this project

Materials

- Zweigart Snow Glitter 14 count aida, ref. 3706/11; 36x33cm (14x13in)
 - Stranded cotton as listed in the key
 - DMC Étoile as listed in the key
 - Size 24 tapestry needle
 - Frame with a 34x25cm (13½ x 9¾in) aperture
 - Mount board to fit frame
- Materials available from www.wilowstricks.com

Designed by: Cheryl McKinnon Stitch count: 90 high x 120 wide
Design size: 16.5x22.5cm (6½x8¾in) Stitch time: 27 hours

This design was stitched on 14 count aida fabric.

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira		DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands				Cross stitch in two strands			
✕ ✕	168	274	1803	◆ ◆	3812	188	2706
★ ★	169	849	1802	% %	3820	306	2509
⊙ ⊙	437	362	2012	\$ \$	3822	295	2511
△ △	543	933	1909	~ ~	3823	386	2512
◻ ◻	959	186	1113	● ●	C310 Étoile		
◇ ◇	964	1092	1112	Backstitch in one strand			
◆ ◆	991	1076	1204	—	3799	236	1713
♥ ♥	3804	068	703	outlines			
# #	3805	062*	702	—	C310 Étoile		
✦ ✦	3806	062*	701	border, details			

*See 'The Key' on page 80.

CrossStitcher JUST FOR FUN

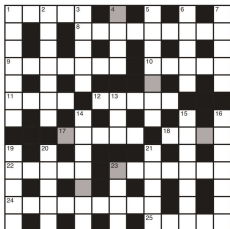
Prize crossword

Across

- 1 Football field (5)
- 8 Chancellor of the ---, government minister (9)
- 9 Toddler's outburst (7)
- 10 Knight's weapon (5)
- 11 Biblical garden? (4)
- 12 Synthetic yarn (5)
- 17 Tube-shaped pasta (5)
- 18 'With this ring, I --- wed', marriage vows (4)
- 22 You --- Me Up, Westlife love song (5)
- 23 It --- With a Kiss, 1982 Hot Chocolate hit (7)
- 24 Committed (5)
- 25 Youthful (5)

Down

- 1 Large black wild cat (7)
- 2 Loud weather phenomenon (7)
- 3 My --- Will Go On, Celine Dion hit (5)
- 4 Hoax (4)
- 5 Retirement fund (7)
- 6 Person sworn to deliver a verdict (5)
- 7 Newlywed woman (5)
- 13 Japanese unit of currency (3)
- 14 Daphne du Maurier novel (7)
- 15 French castle (7)
- 16 Decorative effect in a stitching project (7)
- 19 Person easily shocked by rude things (5)
- 20 Evenweave fabric in a 27 count (5)
- 21 Father (5)
- 23 Badger's hole (4)



Winning word clue:

Fishy star sign of February and March? (6)

Win!

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



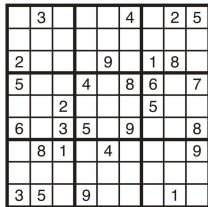
Competition open: **29 December 2021 – 24 January 2022**

For full terms and conditions, see page 82.

YOUR PRIZE This charming design 'Just a Number' has recently been added to The Golden Years range by Peter Underhill at Heritage Crafts. With a design size of 22x18.5cm the kit contains Zweigart fabric, DMC stranded cottons sorted onto numbered cards, a needle, clear charts and instructions. It's available to order for RRP: £26.20 from hcrafts.com.

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 377's winning word: **CHESTNUTS**



CREATE A CLASSIC:
Winter Blackbird

Perched in the foreground of our snowy winter scene, our blackbird uses blended threads to bring him to life in beautiful detail

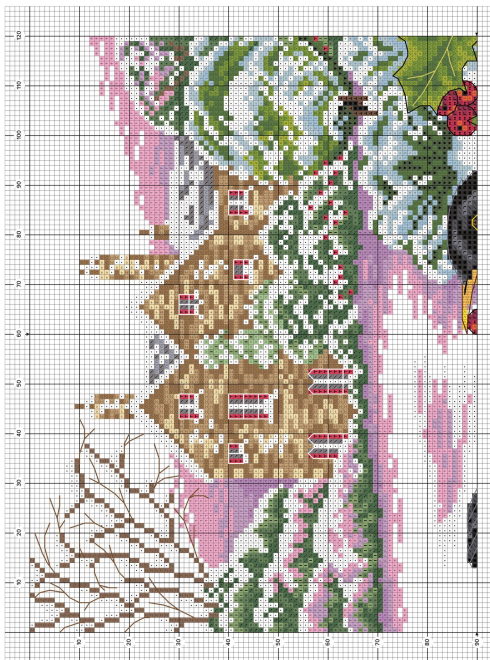


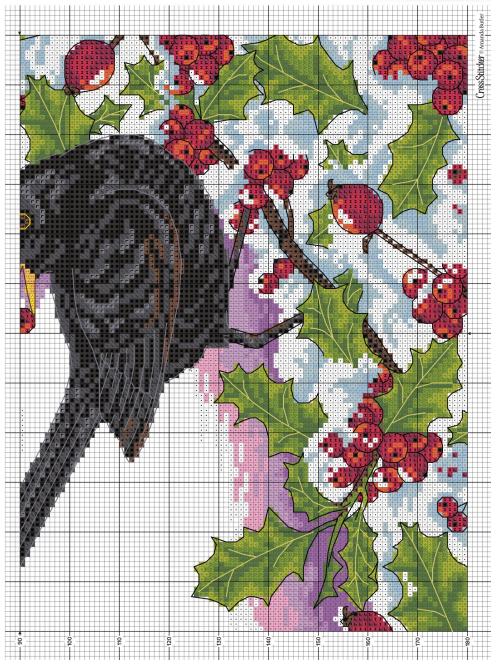
Winter is here, and with it comes a whole host of sights and sounds that are unique to the season. We know wildlife lovers will be itching to stitch this blackbird portrait which also conjures up the beauty of the countryside sprinkled in frost and snow perfectly. We've chosen a particular aida fabric for you to stitch on for the final flourish as it creates a wonderful winter sky. Enjoy!





WINTER BLACKBIRD







Designed by: Amanda Butler
 Stitch count: 180 high x 120 wide
 Design size: 33x21.5cm (13x8½in)
 Stitch time: 71 hours

This design was stitched on 14 count aida fabric.

Materials

- Fabric: Flax Dreaming of Sky 14 count aida, 50x45cm (19x18in)
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Size 24 tapestry needle
- Frame with a 34x24cm (13½x9½in) aperture
- Mount board to fit frame

Materials available from www.willowfabrics.com

DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands		
>>	307	289 104
■	310	403 black (2)
■	666	046 210
I I	725	306 808
L L	801	359 2007
■	816	1005 512
V V	895	1044 1405
C C	904	258 1413
V V	906	256 1411
6 6	907	255 1410
● ●	938	381 2005
3 3	947	330 205
S S	3325	129 1002
■	3799	236 1713
+ +	3841	159 1001
• •	B5200	001 white (3)

DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch blend in one strand of each		
■	413 + 414	
Half cross stitch in two strands		
X X	164	240 1209
H H	208	111 804
↑ ↑	209	109 803
F F	210	108 802
■	317	400 1714
■	318	399 1802
○ ○	420	375 2104
Σ Σ	422	943 2102
↑ ↑	605	074 613
← ←	677	886 2207
■	986	246 1404
■	987	244 1403
I I	989	241 1401

DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Half cross stitch in two strands		
T T	3801	1098 411
Z Z	3862	358 1913
Backstitch in one strand		
—	165	278 1414
—	307	289 104
—	310	403 black
—	414	235 1801
—	801	359 2007
—	3862	358 1913
—	B5200	001 white

(2) indicates more than one skein is required

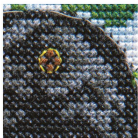
HOW TO... TAKE YOUR STITCHING TO THE NEXT LEVEL

We have included some more advanced stitching techniques in this project to help you to develop your stitching skills, ready for your next challenge...



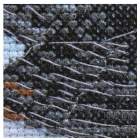
HALF STITCHES FOR DEPTH:

To create a sense of perspective and depth the background of this design is worked in half stitches – which also helps to give it a delicate watercolour effect.



BLENDING FOR SUBTLE SHADING:

Use areas of blended threads on the blackbird's feathers to smooth out the shading and replicate the shine on his jet black plumage as realistically as possible.



BACKSTITCH FOR TEXTURE

Backstitch isn't always worked in a darker shade – here a lighter colour contrasts nicely with the black stitching beneath, creating outlines and texture on the tail and wing.

*Take lengths of threads to blend
and wind them together onto
bobbins, ready to use later on*

**TURN TO
PAGE 23
TO LEARN
HOW TO FRAME
YOUR PICTURE**

CrossStitcher PROJECT PACK

If you would like to stitch Winter Blackbird, we have a materials pack with everything you need to get you stitching right away, and have it delivered straight to your door!



Your materials pack contains:

- Fabric Flair 14 count aida in Dreaming of Sky
- Skeins of DMC stranded cotton
- Two gold-plated tapestry needles; size 24 and size 26

How to order: Fill in the form on page 15 or go to www.willowfabrics.com to order your project pack at the CrossStitcher reader price of £52, plus P&P.

Ready, steady, stitch!

We've challenged three designers to use only the materials given to them to create a heart-filled Valentine's card. Read on to see how they got on...

THE CHALLENGE

- 14 count white aida
- Seven shades of stranded cotton (shown above)
- Pink heart-shaped buttons

THE RULES

- Create a Valentine's card using heart-shaped buttons
- The design should be no larger than 50 x 40 stitches
- Only the materials above can be used
- Be creative as possible!

Welcome to this month's challenge! Valentine's Day falls in February, so we asked our three designers to get creative and come up with a card featuring several pink heart-shaped buttons. They also had to stick to just seven shades of stranded cotton, as specified by us. Take a look at their sweet results below – we've provided a chart for each so you can stitch your favourite! We hope this will inspire you to join in too – turn the page to see what our challenge will be for April – we've listed everything you need to take part.



AMANDA BUTLER... SEW SWEET



"My inspiration for this little project comes from some openly named, popular sweets that you can buy anywhere, and of course I also love them. The buttons are a lovely addition to the design and they also helped me to formulate my idea on how to approach this project from the outset."



REBECCA SPENCER... LOVE HEART



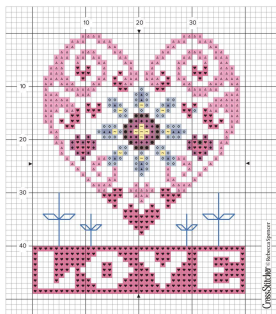
"I decided to design a Valentine's heart for this challenge as I've always loved drawing patterns. There is something therapeutic in getting everything to fit and flow together. I can't think of a better message than telling someone you love them."

MARIA DIAZ... JAR OF HEARTS



"I thought that having the hearts in the jar stitched and those out of it as buttons would add a nice spin to the Valentine's theme. It is then as the hearts are released the love pops into being."





Make a... card

Step 1

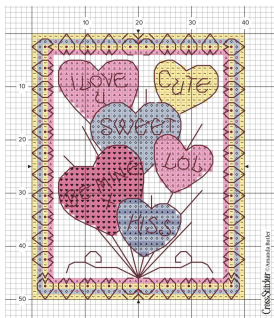
STITCH the card using two strands for the cross stitch, and one for the backstitch and French knots. The buttons should be sewn onto the design using matching sewing thread, following the positions shown on the picture.

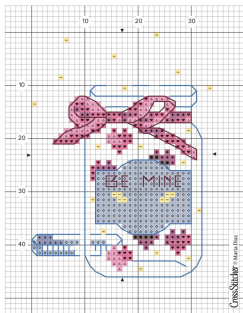
Step 2

CUT the aide to 10.5x9cm (4¼x3½in), with the design centrally placed on the fabric. Fray the fabric edges by remove one aide block from all sides. Use double-sided tape or fabric glue to attach the stitching to the card front.



You can buy the heart-shaped buttons, and any other materials our designers used, from www.willowfabrics.com





	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
	157	120	907
	602	063	702
	604	055	614
	727	293	102
	793	939	906
	917	088	706
	3802	1019	810
Backstitch in one strand			
	793	939	906
outlines, flowers			
	3802	1019	810
border, details			
French knots in one strand			
	604	055	614
border			
	917	088	706
border			

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!

April issue 381 challenge:

Please create a brooch with a springtime theme. It will be stitched on plastic canvas (or stiffened aida) so that the shape can be cut out and have a pin added to the back. Your design should be circular, with a diameter of 45 stitches.

Materials and rules:

- White 14 count plastic canvas
- Max. stitch count: 45 x 45 stitches
- Brooch back
- Seven shades of DMC stranded cotton: Med Lavender (210), Very Dark Lavender (206), Light Cornflower Blue (657), Light Teal (726), Granny Smith Green (907), Parrot Green (905) & Dark Steel Grey (611)

Please make sure the design is your own work, and not taken from another source.



Aurora Crafts

New Exclusive Christmas Cross Stitch Designs available in both kit and digital chart download.

See all our designs and shop online at: www.auroracrafts.co.uk

Stitcher's SPOTLIGHT

Susan Penny shows you how to make a bookmark for your love of reading...



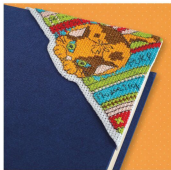
SPOTLIGHT ON...
BOOKMARKS

Valentine's Day makes me think about the people I love in my life, and the things I enjoy like stitching, gardening and reading. I find love stories emotionally satisfying, in the same way as I do cross stitching, and digging my borders for next year's floral display. So for the fellow book lovers among you, here is the perfect gift to stitch for yourself this year – a 'Love Books' bookmark. Use our chart to stitch it, fray the edges and back with felt, then attach a tassel made using the steps below.



In issue 323 (October 2017) of CrossStitcher Emma Congdon designed a Book Lovers Set, including this 'One More Chapter' bookmark. The design features old-fashioned script which has been cleverly shaded using blue thread. If you missed this issue, you can visit www.hobbystitchers.co.uk to order a back issue or simply go to pocketmagazine.com for a digital issue.

In issue 369 (May 2021) of CrossStitcher, Jane Prutton designed this cute cat corner bookmark as part of the Ready, Steady, Stitch challenge. It used just seven stranded cotton colours, and is quick to finish by coating the cut edge with fabric glue to stop it fraying. If you missed this issue, you can use the links above to order one.



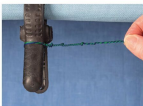
Make a... tassel

Step 1



USE two strands of stranded cotton for the cord in two different colours – I used dark blue and green. Cut lengths that are six times the length you would like the finished tassel to be. Make a loop at the halfway point and loop over a clip attached to your table, or door knob.

Step 2



HOLD the four stranded cotton ends together and start twisting the cord ends between your fingers, rolling in one direction. Keep twisting until the slack is taken up and the cord kinks on itself, then stop. To help, slip a pencil through the end to use like a handle to twist the cord.

Step 3



PUT one finger halfway down the cord and double the cord back on itself. Holding firmly, slip the end off the anchor point. Hold tight, even though the tension feels strange. Start to twist in the opposite direction, then mostly let go and the cord will do the work and spin together.

Cross stitch in two strands

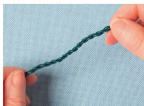
DMC	Anchor	Madeira
027	095	710
033	100*	713
035	100*	805
350	011	213
517	162	1107
518	1039	1106
564	206	1208
676	891	2208
728	305	108
815	043	513
921	884	311
922	1003	310
991	1076	1204
3713	1021	501
3733	075	813
3825	323	2307
3848	1074	1108
B5200	001	white

Backstitch in one strand

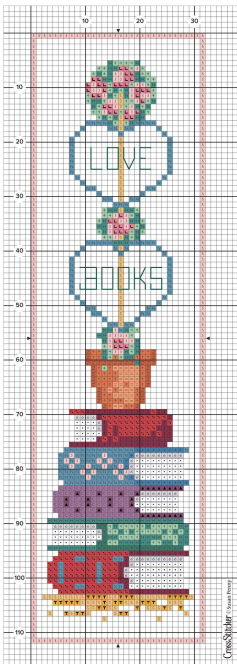
318	399	1802
books		
991	1076	1204
words		

*See 'The Key' on page 80.

Step 4



EVEN out the tension by twisting and untwisting to remove any kinks. Make a knot at both ends of the cord which has come completely together. You can practise on shorter lengths of stranded cotton to get the feel of the number of twists needed to make a long length.



CrossStitcher © Susan Bracey

CrossStitcher

STITCH-A-LONG

GRIMMS' FAIRY TALES:
BONUS BUTTERFLY



**NEXT
MONTH**

*Travel around the
world in 365 days
with our new Dream
Destinations
SAL!*

The Grimms' Fairy Tales Stitch-A-Long design is now complete! Over the past year designer Amanda Butler has created a stunning sampler containing 12 much-loved Grimms' Fairy Tales characters. If you enjoyed stitching it then turn over the page and you will find a companion keepsake pocket to match the sampler. A great gift for a young person to keep treasures, earrings or small mementos.

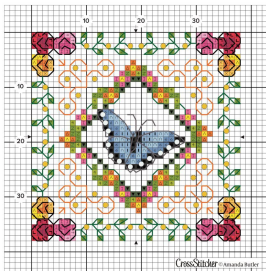


GRIMMS' FAIRY TALES BONUS PROJECT

This is a bonus companion piece to our *Grimms' Fairy Tales SAL*. Stitch a keepsake pocket in the same style as the sampler...

Designed by: Amanda Butler
Stitch count: 38 high x 38 wide
Design size: 6x6cm (2 1/4 x 2 1/4 in)
Stitch time: 5 hours

This design was stitched on 14 count aida fabric.



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.

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.

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
3 3	304	1006	509
△ △	307	289	104
■ ■	310	403	black
○ ○	334	977	1003
✓ ✓	602	063	702
I I	603	052	701
→ →	605	074	613
L L	606	335	209
7 7	666	046	210
X X	725	306	808
△ △	740	316	202
Y Y	895	1044	1405
Z Z	906	256	1411
4 4	907	255	1410
0 0	3325	129	1002
1 1	3755	939	909

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Backstitch in two strands			
—	E3852	Light Effects	
corners			
Backstitch in one strand			
—	310	403	black
dental outlines			
—	317	400	1714
dental outlines			
—	895	1044	1405
foliage			
French knots in one strand			
●	B5200	001	white
butterfly			
Attach beads with cotton			
● ●	Mill Hill	00557	
decoration			

Make a... keepsake pocket

Step 1

TAKE a 7.5cm (3in) wide x 30cm (12in) length of gold-edged aida band. Start stitching from the bottom of the design, 3cm (1 1/4 in) up from the bottom edge of the aida band. Stitch the design using two strands for the cross stitch, one for the backstitch using stranded cotton, and two for the backstitch using gold Light Effects. The French knots are in one strand. Attach the beads in the positions shown on the chart.

Step 2

NEATEN both ends of the band by folding the raw edge over onto the wrong side of the band twice, by 1cm (3/8 in). Catch stitch the turnings in place. Fold up the unstitched end of the aida band to form a pocket, and then fold the stitched end over the top to form a front flap. Sew up the sides seams, stitching through the band and not the gold edge. Stitch a gold key to the centre front of the flap.

BEGINNERS START HERE...

New to cross stitch? Our handy guide will take you through all the basic techniques and stitches you need to get you started

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.

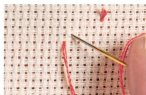
FABRICS

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.

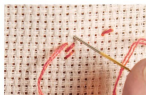
Start stitching... on aida

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 (below). 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.

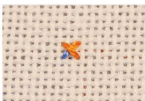
2. Loop knot



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.

FRACTIONALS

These stitches are great for adding a bit more detail to your work



START with a quarter stitch, working from one corner into the centre (with aida, you'll need to pierce the fabric). Make a quarter stitch in your second colour, coming up from the opposite corner and back down the centre. Finish with a half cross stitch. Fractionals are charted either as two symbols opposite one another in a square, or as a symbol opposite an empty space.

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.

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.

Step 2



FEED the needle gently through the fabric. Try to 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. Keep practising your French knots until you are happy you have perfected the technique.

CrossStitcher

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CrossStitcher market place

www.Lifetime Samplers.co.uk

Mother's Day – March 27th



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No.1
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In your March

CrossStitcher

Spring is just a few stitches away!



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Inside this month

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- ♥ **On trend ideas:** stylish succulent wreath design
- ♥ **Baby blanket:** elephant adventures

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CrossStitcher

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NB: charts are only available in the relevant issue and do not come with the kits.

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CHRISTMAS CARD KIT



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