

No.1 for designs

CrossStitcher

IDEAS • STYLE • INSPIRATION

75

BRAND NEW
PROJECTS

BRING OUT THE BUNTING!



BEAUTIFUL
Ballerina

MAKE of the month

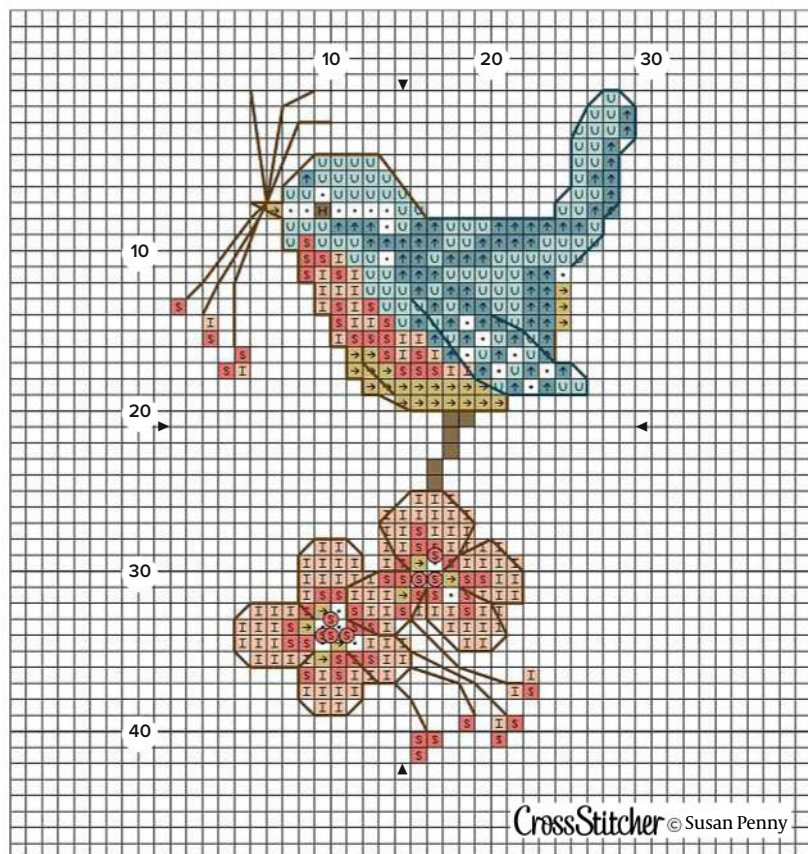
Add a touch of luxury to your sewing workbox with our beautiful bird needle case project



Designed by: Susan Penny Stitch count: 42 high x 29 wide
Design size: 8x5.5cm (3/4x2 1/4in) Stitch time: 3 hours

This design was stitched on 14 count aida fabric.

Our beautiful bird design would also look stunning mounted in a card for a friend



CrossStitcher © Susan Penny

Make a... needle case

Step 1

STITCH the design using two strands of stranded cotton for the cross stitch, and one strand for the backstitch.

Step 2

FOLD a 10x15cm piece of peach felt in half lengthways, and cut the stitched design to fit the felt case front when folded – there should be at least three or four blank squares of aida outside the design once cut. Pin the stitching onto the case and then using two strands of stranded cotton, make a row of running stitches, as shown in our photo, one or two aida squares outside the stitching. Stitch through the aida and felt, as this will secure your design to the front of the needle case.

Step 3

PLACE a 10x15cm piece of blue felt inside the needle case, lining up the edges, and trim if necessary to make it slightly smaller than the cover. Sew down the spine of the needle case, stitching through the layers, using small running stitches.

Step 4

CUT a 23cm length of satin ribbon in half and stitch one piece to the inside front cover, halfway down the opening edge. Repeat for the back, so that the ribbon is level when tied in a bow.

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in three strands			
	351	010	214
	353	006	303
	834	945	2204
	869	944	2105
	3810	168	1108
	3811	1060	1101
	blanc	001	white
Backstitch in one strand			
	869	944	2105
outlines			
	3808	1068	2507
outlines			
French knots in one strand			
	351	010	214
stamens			



NEXT MONTH

CELEBRATION FLAGS PROJECT

Stitch up some 'Cool Britannia' style with our fun flag charts, with a Union Jack or Love design to choose from.



ISSUE 305
JUNE 2016

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Welcome

A month filled with fresh inspiration...



WELCOME TO THE MOST

glorious month in the British calendar! May brings colour to the garden with blossom and bluebells and more! Just as this month brings us fresh things to enjoy outdoors, we've packed this issue with fresh ideas for your stitching.

Our cover project is a wonderful royal sampler to celebrate the 90th birthday of HM Queen Elizabeth II next month.

We love the choice of colours, the

yummy cupcakes at the bottom and the cute birds holding the bunting – a real celebration for an amazing lady. Don't forget that you still have until 15 April to join our royal bunting competition (see page 68), and win some Emma Bridgewater china, so get stitching!

Our cover also shows our elegant 'prima ballerina' (see page 14). A brilliant portrait of a dancer at the peak of her career, here's your chance to capture her beauty and grace in stitches!

Finally, we are starting a new feature soon, and need correspondents from around the world to share with us the 'stitching latest' from where they live. If you think you can write to us on a regular basis, telling us about the spirit of cross stitch in your country, please email us at the address below.

Happy stitching!

Susan *Martin*

SUSAN & MARTIN PENNY
EDITORS

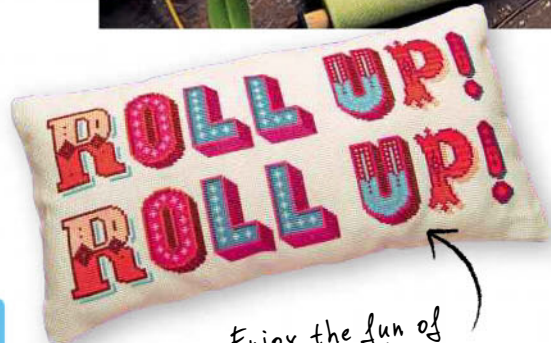
P.S. We love to hear about your current stitching projects! Send your letters and photos to crossstitcher@dennis.co.uk

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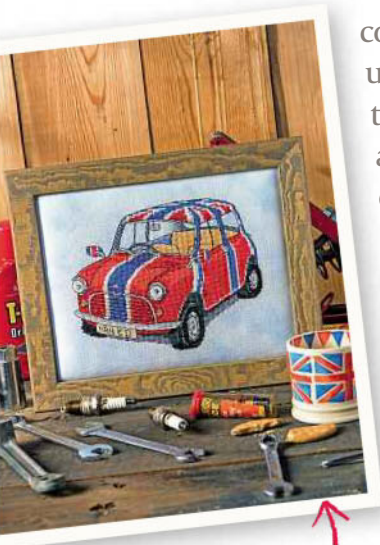
www.crossstitchermag.com



Enjoy the fun of the fair with our circus alphabet.

Mini make...

Go retro with our cool Mini Cooper in our next issue, in shops 29 April.



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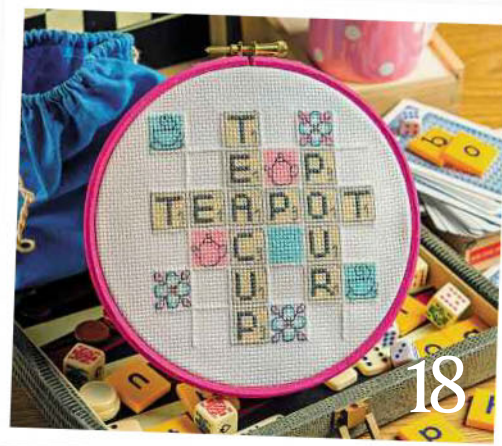


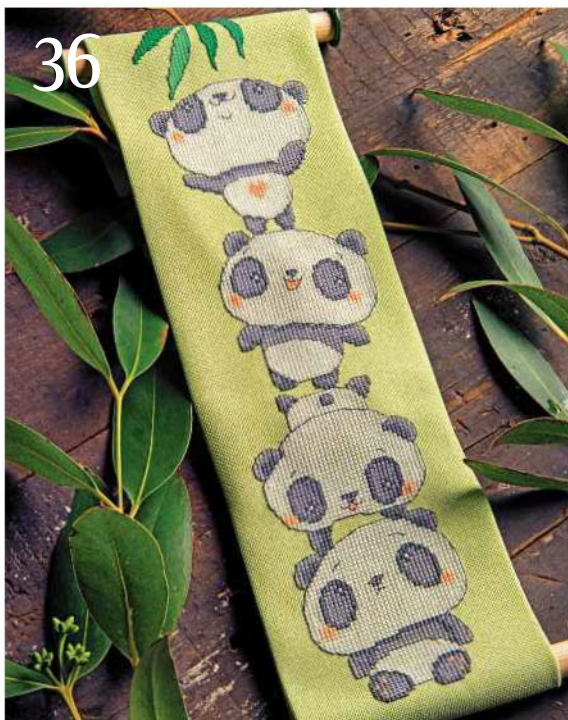
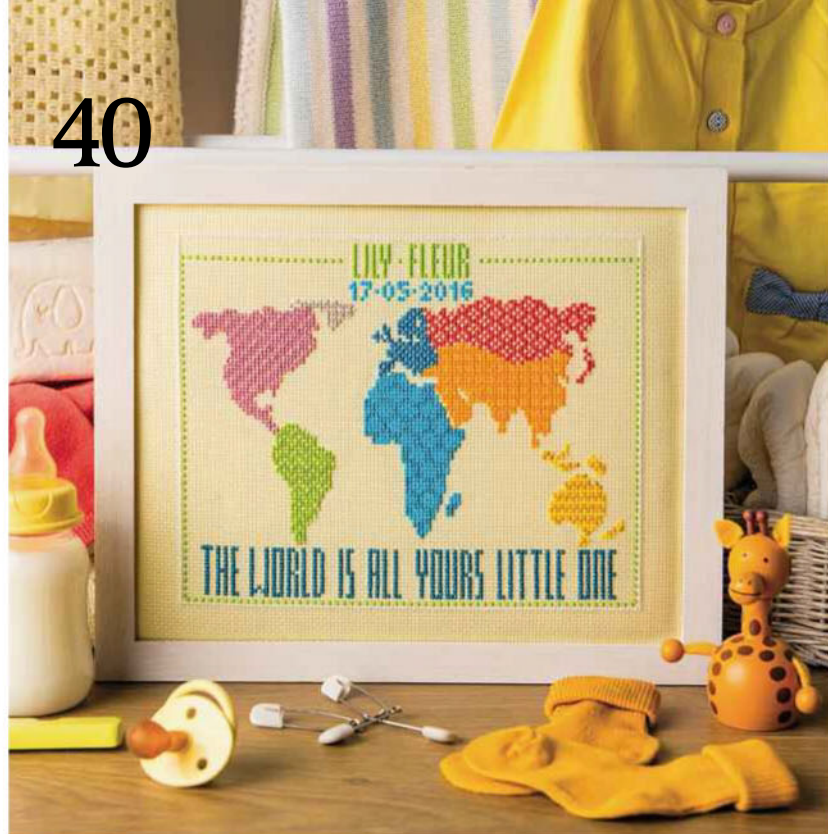
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THE SavvyStitcher

Try something new every issue

21 Add interest with everyday objects

Our savvy stitcher has raided her kitchen cupboards to bring you three ways to upcycle baking items in your stitching.





ZWEIGART®
THE needlework fabric

Creative Deco



- Creative Deco Chart Book No. 287
- Creative Kids Chart Book No. 284
- Family Celebrations Chart Book No. 281

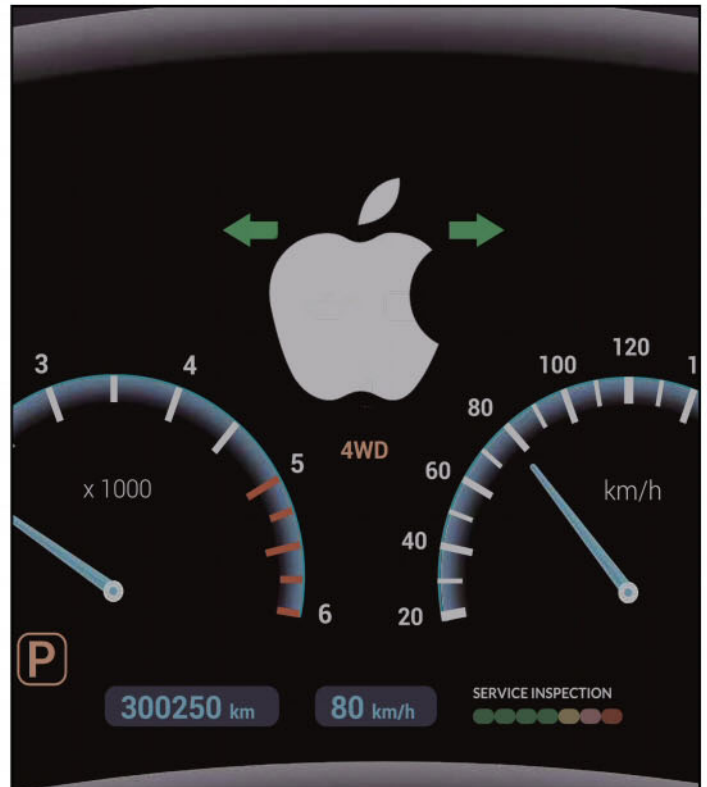
For stockists contact:

Sewandso | www.sewandso.co.uk

Willow Fabrics | www.willowfabrics.com | Tel: 0800 056 7811

Heritage Crafts | Tel: 01889 575 256

www.zweigart.com



Why the Apple Car is the kick the industry needs

TECHNOLOGY BUSINESS SCIENCE LIFE & CULTURE THE FUTURE

alphr.com
A fresh take on technology

Outthere

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



All change!

Brand new from DMC, Coloris is an innovative range of stranded cotton that changes colour every 5cm, and as you can see, the results are stunning! Bursting with vibrant shades, the threads are available in 24 colours, each skein is 8 metres and are suitable for cross stitch or embroidery. We just love the way this colour changing cotton can create unique effects with minimum effort! Visit DMC's website for your nearest stockist. www.dmccreative.co.uk.



SKETCHBOOK SECRETS: Sarah Milligan

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

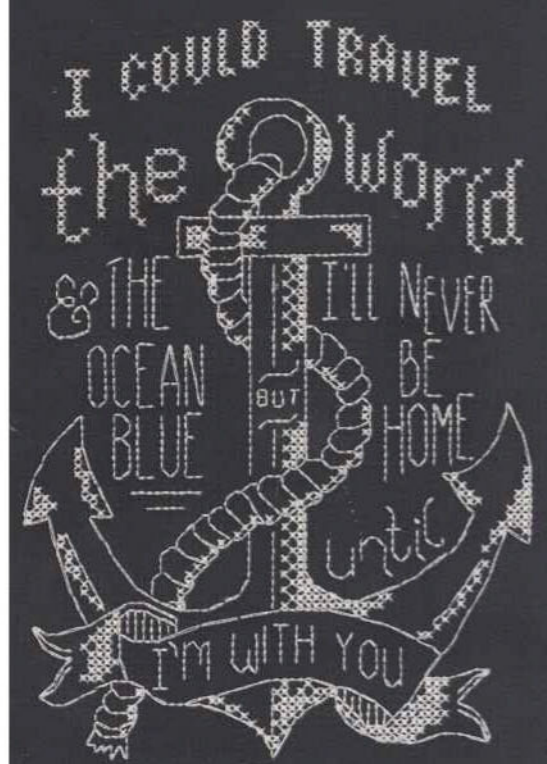


Every embroidery kit created by Vancouver Island-based designer Sarah Milligan starts in her sketchbook. "There are few things I enjoy more than sitting down with blank paper and a good pen," she says. Her work is inspired mainly by nature, vintage illustration and French antiquities, among other things. "My butterfly design was sparked by a beautiful 1860's engraving in a Natural History text; this type of book is always my deepest source of inspiration." www.iheartstitchart.com



"I drew over and over the wing patterns until they felt right"

"Although I played with colour shading, in the end I loved the simplicity of a monochromatic palette," says Sarah.



ANCHORS AWEIGH!

WE'RE MAD about this nifty nautical chalkboard-cum-cross-stitch! The kit includes chart and instructions, needle, 14 count black aida fabric and pre-sorted stranded cotton threads on a loaded thread organiser. The finished design size measures 5x7in. www.sewandso.co.uk



DOUBLE LETTER SCORE

LIKE OUR letter tile picture on page 16? Then this nifty needle minder is guaranteed to please! Handmade from the wooden Scrabble letter of your choice, this super-handly accessory means you'll never lose your needle again. www.etsy.com/uk/shop/ArtyMoments

LET'S GET GEOMETRIC

WE ADORE Rachel Parker's contemporary geometric cross-stitched art, and think her greetings cards are just the thing to send to fellow stitchers for birthdays and celebrations.
www.etsy.com/uk/shop/PixelAndThread



On the case

TREAT YOUR workbox to one of these smart needle cases. Beautifully handmade from scraps of leather and felt, the printed fabric lining revealed inside will make you smile.
www.etsy.com/uk/shop/beetlebirdhare



THREE OF THE BEST

Sweet treats

If our jelly bean jar on page 26 made your mouth water, you'll love these sweet ideas from Etsy...



SHEENAROGERSDESIGNS
 Pink and blue seed beads add lots of lovely texture to this colourful Liquorice Allsorts themed mini cushion cross stitch kit.



KIMBERLYOUMET
 This 12 page embroidery pattern set is filled with delicious sweets and cake motifs. Hungry for more? Try their Gingerbread House too!



CAROLANCRAFTS
 These handmade shrimp and banana sweet charms make fabulous embellishments for all sorts of retro craft projects.

TREND SPOTTING

ROYAL TREATMENT

THE QUEEN'S birthday this year has us in the mood for some majestic stitching...



WHO

Angela Ireland designed this postage stamp chart you can download from her Etsy shop – the only Royal Mail you can stitch!
www.etsy.com/shop/fiddlesticksau



WHAT

We're loving this easy-stitch design of the Queen's Guard – complete with red tunics and bearskin hats.
www.stitchkitslondon.co.uk



HOW

Keep your pins safe and sound with a pretty pin cushion that will surely be the crowning glory of your workbox!
www.culturevulturedirect.co.uk

NOUGHTS & CROSSES

MODERN CROSS STITCH from CICO

Books, is still one of our favourite craft titles out. Packed with clever ways to use cross stitch, author Hannah Sturrock is keen that her projects have a use, such as this tic-tac-toe design. "Let's face it, there's only so many stitched pictures you can hang on the wall," she explains. www.rylandpeters.com



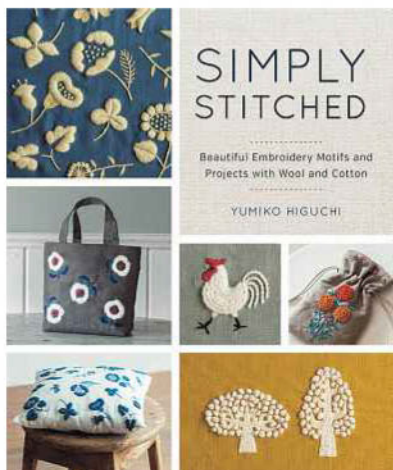
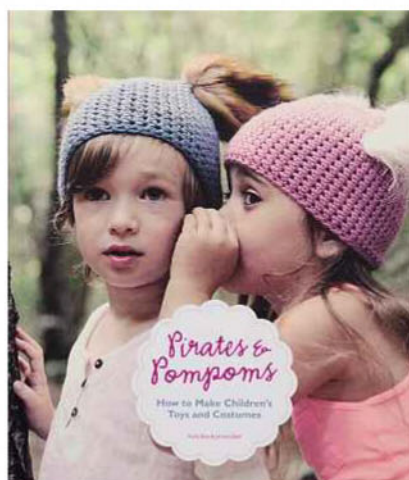
Photographs © Jo Henderson: CICO Books

CRAFTY BOOKSHELF

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

▼ SIMPLY STITCHED

YUMIKO HIGUCHI [World Book Media]
Yumiko Higuchi has used a combination of wool and cotton thread to reinvent traditional embroidery for modern stitchers. Simply Stitched features 20 contemporary embroidery motifs, which can be used to create accessories, clothing and home décor items.



▲ PIRATES & POMPOMS

STELLA BEE & JEMMA BELL

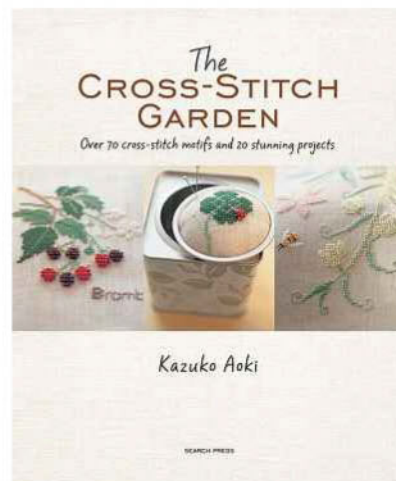
[Laurence King]

Crafty parents and creative carers looking for ways to keep little ones busy need look no further! Projects are divided into three sections: pirates, circus and woodland animals, with illustrated step-by-step instructions to introduce kids to the world of cutting, sticking and sewing.

▼ THE CROSS-STITCH GARDEN

KAZUKO AOKI [Search Press]

This beautiful collection of cross stitch projects features over 70 individual motifs inspired by Kazuko Aoki's love of wild flowers. As well as counted cross-stitch charts, the book contains step-by-step diagrams for constructing projects such as bags, pin cushions, pillows and coasters, as well as traditional samplers.





Inside the mind of

MR X STITCH

From manbroiderer to Zenbroidery – Mr X Stitch shares with us his favourite show finds



After lots of pleading I'm the proud owner of some new Coloris threads.

A couple of months ago I visited the Craft, Hobby & Stitch International Show at the Birmingham NEC to check out some of the new stitchy products that would be hitting the shelves in future months. Unlike some of the other shows where you can spend loads of money on goodies, this was slightly frustrating in that you couldn't take any of the nice new things home with you! Nonetheless, I did my bit to scour the show for ideas and spoke to some favourite brands.

I had a great chat with the team at Zweigart, learning more about how they make the embroidery fabrics that we all enjoy. It was great to see their

candle, to get the colours nice and even. Apparently part of the process involves spinning the threads over Bunsen burners at over 200 miles an hour to burn off the tiny loose threads. Pretty amazing sciency stuff. DMC were showing their new Coloris range of variegated threads, which have some nifty colour combinations for you to stitch with (see page 9). I got to have a little stash – I asked reeeeeeeally nicely – and I'll be enjoying those when I get the chance. They were also showing off some new kits featuring work from the National Gallery, which looked really nice stitched up and in a frame. Why not try one and get a bit of art for your walls?

“One idea was the mash-up of Zentangle colouring and embroidery in the form of Zenbroidery”



Will Zenbroidery prove as addictive as Zentangle colouring?

range and understand more about the different flavours of embroidery that they support across the world. Whether it's tearaway fabrics forming the basis for intricate Indian embroidery, or the grand-scale cross stitches that are popular in Russia, Zweigart have been providing stitchable textiles for over 115 years.

Similarly, DMC have been serving the embroidery world for a long time, about 270 years I believe! I got to find out a bit about their production processes and how they dye threads by dunking huge spools of thread into tanks of dye, much like dipping a

The other stand-out idea at the show was the mash-up of Zentangle colouring-in designs and embroidery, in the form of Zenbroidery. My personal view is that the mindfulness and the end result of embroidery is far more powerful than that of colouring, however it's a nice idea to see the close connection between the two crafts, as I think it could encourage new people to pick up a needle rather than a pen. It'll be interesting to see which ones make it into the shops and how people turn them into their own art projects.

Until next time, dear readers, happy stitching!

Find me online:

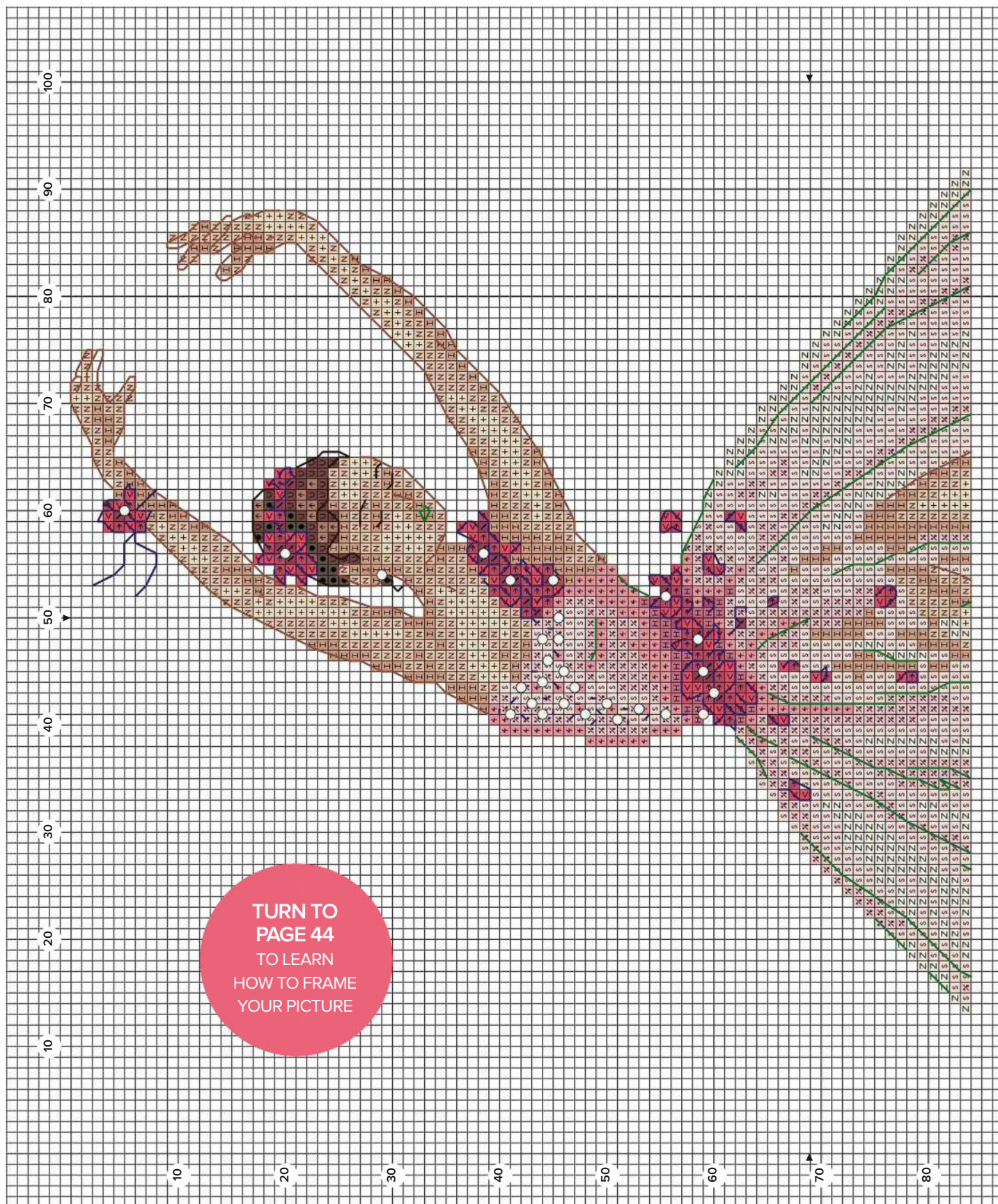
www.mrxstitch.com
www.facebook.com/MrXStitch
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On Pointe

Grace, elegance and poise. Bring the magic of dance into your home with our beautiful ballerina picture



*Using an opalescent fabric
adds depth and shine
to this design*



CrossStitcher © Maria Diaz

Designed by: Maria Diaz

Stitch count: 138 high x 100 wide

Design size: 24x18cm (9½x7in)

Stitch time: 30 hours

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

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
	151	023	607
	712	926	2101
	777	065	513
	818	073	502
	950	4146	2309
	3031	360	2003
	3064	914	2312
	3687	076	604
	3733	075	813
	3772	1007	2311
	3774	880	2308
	3801	1098	411
	3831	1006	507
	3857	936	811
Half cross stitch in two strands			
	3072	847	1805
Backstitch in one strand			
	777	065	513
	flowers, shoes		
	3031	360	2003
	hair		
	3687	076	604
	dress, lips		
	3772	1007	2311
	body outline		
Attach beads with cotton			
	Mill Hill beads 02010		
	decoration		

Materials

- Polstitches 28 count tudor rose opalescent linen, 51x40.5cm (20x16in)
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Size 26 tapestry needle
- Mill Hill glass seed beads, ref: 02010
- Frame with a 34x24cm (13½x9½in) aperture
- Mount board to fit frame

For stockist details see page 86



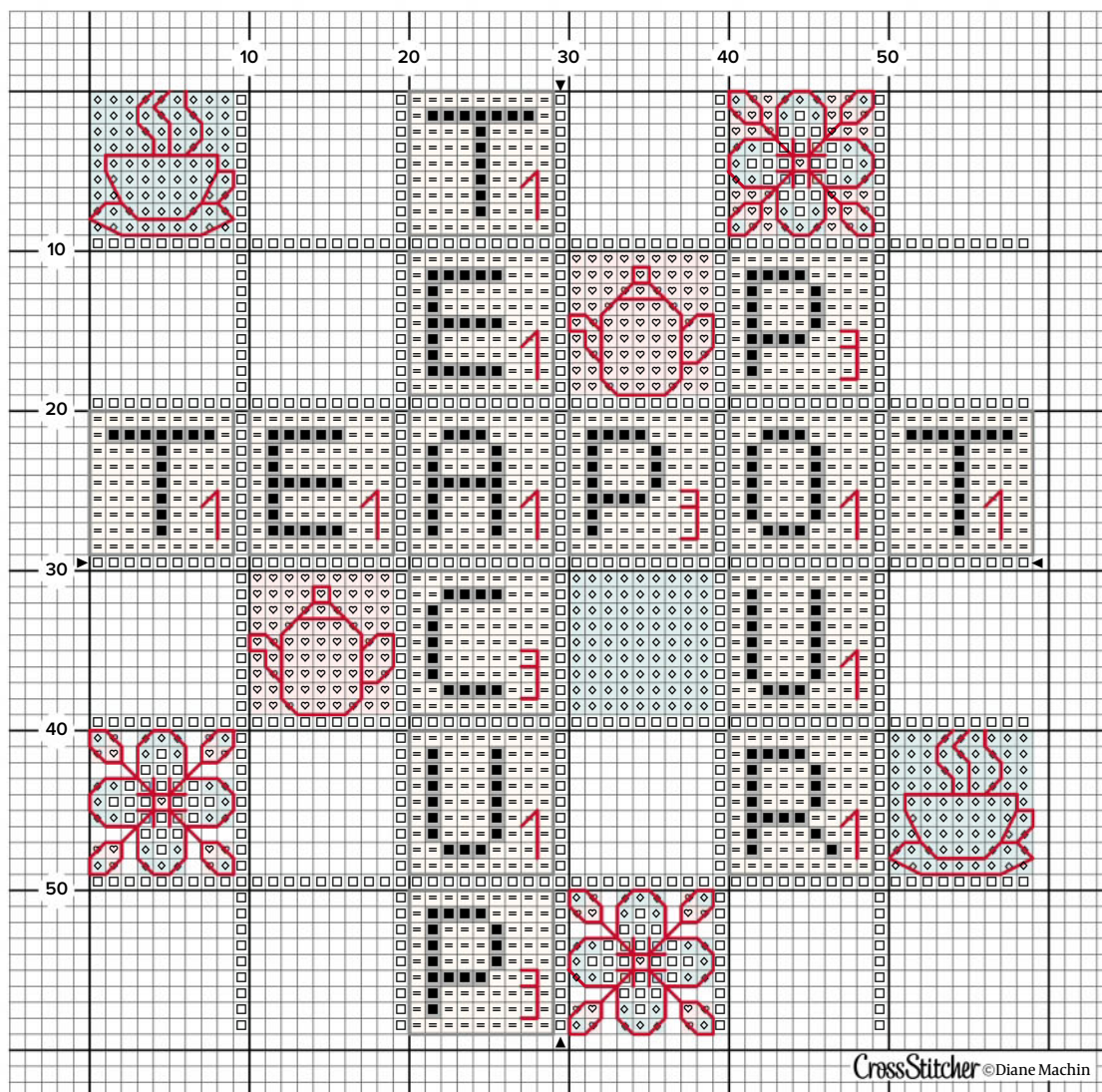
Materials

- Zweigart 14 count white aida, ref: 3706/100, 25.5x25.5cm (10x10in)
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Size 24 tapestry needle
- Wooden embroidery hoop, 15cm (6in) diameter

For stockist details see page 86



Tired of stitching larger projects? Take a break with our board-game inspired letter tiles that spell out it's time to put the kettle on!



Designed by: Diane Machin Stitch count: 60 high x 60 wide

Design size: 11x11cm (4½x4½in) Stitch time: 19 hours

This design was stitched on 14 count aida fabric.

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
■ ■	414	235	1801
♥ ♥	605	074	613
= =	712	926	2101
◇ ◇	3811	1060	1101
□ □	blanc	001	white

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Backstitch in one strand			
—	413	401	1713
numbers, patterns			
—	414	235	1801
squares			

Why not stitch these letters onto finer fabric, and then mount your stitching in a plastic drinks coaster?

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 1 April – 28 April

**£15
prize**



Blue Tits kit

This delightful design is one of the Little Darlings range of kits from Heritage Crafts by talented watercolour artist Peter Underhill. Converted to cross stitch in a 'watercolour style' with gentle shading and very little outlining, the kit comes with Zweigart 14 count aida fabric, DMC stranded cotton, a needle, chart and instructions. The finished size is 18x8.5cm and it's available from hcrafts.com for £15. We have one kit to give away.

Enter by post to the address below, labelling your entry 'BLUE TITS GIVEAWAY 304'.

Stitching bundle

We have a lovely stitching bundle containing ½m of 28 count Zweigart Brittney white evenweave fabric and six skeins of Anchor stranded cotton (£19.50) to give away this issue. Great for cards or a larger project, this fabric is available in several colours from www.willowfabrics.com. We have one bundle to give away.

Enter by post to the address below, labelling your entry 'STITCHING BUNDLE GIVEAWAY 304'.

**£20
prize**



**£18
prize**



Walking with Dragon kit

Walking with Dragon features a little boy taking a stroll with a very friendly dragon! This charming design by Genny Haines is stitched on 14 count Confederate Grey aida and is approx. 20.3x16.5cm when finished. One lucky reader will win this kit! Priced £18, the kit is available from Goldleaf Needlework, www.goldleafneedlework.co.uk.

Enter by post to the address below, labelling your entry 'WALKING WITH DRAGON GIVEAWAY 304'.

Marbled Butterfly kit

This gorgeous Marbled Butterfly is part of the Cushion Kit Collection from Bobo Stitch. The cushion is a fun project and stylish to show off in your home once complete. Includes 28 count linen, coloured threads, needle, pattern in full colour, and comprehensive 'how to cross stitch' guide. The finished cushion size is 35x35cm, and it's available for £28 from www.bobostitch.co.uk.

We have one kit to give away.

Enter by post to the address below, labelling your entry 'MARBLED BUTTERFLY GIVEAWAY 304'.

**£28
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 1 April – 28 April 2016. For competition terms and conditions go to page 87. You may enter multiple prize draws on one postcard.

THE Savvy Stitcher

SWEET STYLE

Just tutu adorable!
A cupcake case
makes a quick and
easy way to add
dimension to this
delightful design.



Add interest with
everyday objects

It's fun to mix things up a bit – so Zoë Patching has found some
baking items that work a treat used in cross stitch projects



CUTTING EDGE

A bright cookie cutter makes the ideal mini frame for a sweet backstitched message!

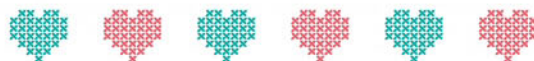


MAKE A WISH!

This birthday card turns into something extra-special with a real candle sewn onto it



There's nothing more satisfying than finding away to perfect your projects without having to spend a thing! Zoë has raided her kitchen cupboards and used some baking essentials to create a trio of fab ways to mix them in with your stitching. Zoë's cute little cupcake card has a mini birthday candle couched on top. A cookie cutter makes a sweet frame for a backstitched message, which would make a great little gift, plus what could be more adorable than her little ballet dancer with a gorgeous cupcake case tutu?



MAKE A... CUPCAKE CASE TUTU

This little ballerina has the sweetest outfit, thanks to a humble cupcake case!

Step 1



START by choosing a cupcake case for your design – we selected a pink polka dot pattern. Fold the cupcake case in half, matching up the ruffled, folded edges which will become the bottom edge of the tutu.

Step 2



TAKE a small pair of sharp scissors and cut several 'v' shape incisions into the cupcake base, as shown above. These will help to pleat the paper case more easily. The incisions will be hidden when the tutu is attached.

Step 3



FOLD over the 'v' shaped incisions section to the reverse of the case and then begin to carefully pleat the paper case, working from one side to the other. Use the existing folds in the case to help you achieve a neat finish.

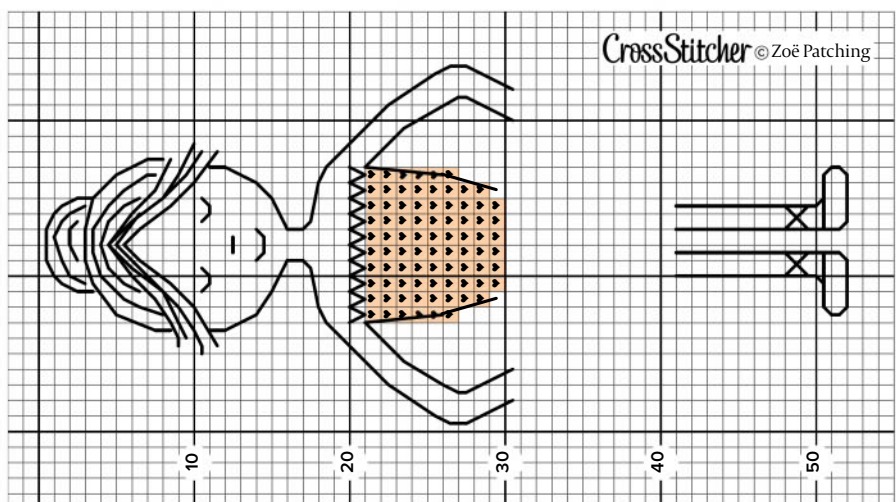
Step 4



CHOOSE a length of matching coloured thread, and use it to carefully stitch the tutu in place along the folded edge of the case. Make your stitches between the pleats, pleating the case as you go to fit the stitched design.

You could also add a row of three pink sequins to the top of the tutu for an extra sparkling touch!

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
@ @	712	926	2101
☆ ☆	959	186	1113
♥ ♥	3716	025	606
Backstitch in one strand			
—	310	403	black
words and outlines			



MAKE A... COOKIE CUTTER FRAME

An old cookie cutter takes a star turn in your stitching with this easy idea.



Step 1



MAKE a template of your chosen cookie cutter by drawing around it in pencil onto a piece of card. Cut out the outline and carefully trim with scissors so that it sits nice and snugly within the cutter without falling through it.

Step 2



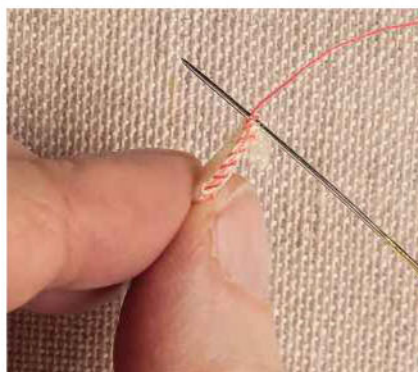
STITCH your backstitch design using the chart provided (or make up your own!). Iron on some iron-on-interfacing to the reverse. Make sure the iron is set without steam as it should be a dry iron to fuse the interfacing to the fabric.

MAKE A... BIRTHDAY CUPCAKE CARD

Light up your stitching with a 3D candle on your cake!

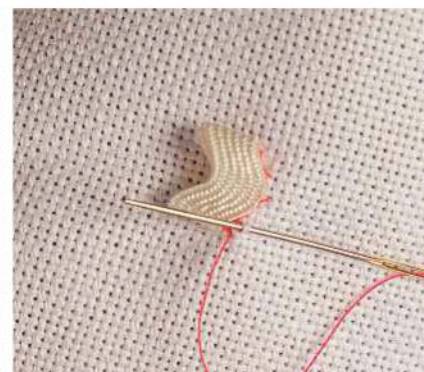


Step 1



BEGIN by creating a 'u' shaped candle holder for your candle to sit in. Cut a short cut length of ric-rac (around 6mm) and fold the cut ends to the reverse. Stitch together along the bottom edge to create a holder for the candle to sit in.

Step 2



MAKE sure that the join is on the reverse, then position the holder at the top of your cake design and secure with a few stitches along the bottom edge of the ric-rac. Check that the cup shape still has enough room for the candle to sit in.

IF YOU LIKED THESE, YOU'LL LOVE...



CRAFT SUPERSTORE

www.craftsuperstore.co.uk

The trio of punched paper hearts in our ballerina hoop design were made using an Xcut punch. You can find this handy tool, and lots more crafting goodies you'll love, here!

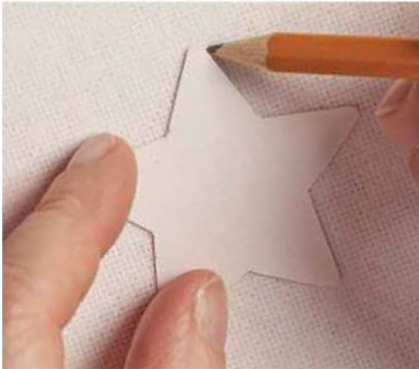


CRAFT COMPANY

www.craftcompany.co.uk

Our star shaped cookie cutter is available to buy from Craft Company as one of a set of five. Take a look at this, along with a variety of different shapes and sizes, to inspire your next framed make!

Step 3



TAKE your card template and centre the template on the reverse of the stitched design. It's important to make sure you're happy with the positioning. Once centred, draw around the template and then cut out.

Step 4



ASSEMBLE your stitching and frame next. To do this, simply place double-sided tape onto the reverse of the card template and stick the stitched design on top. You may need to trim the edges carefully to fit within the cutter.



Step 3

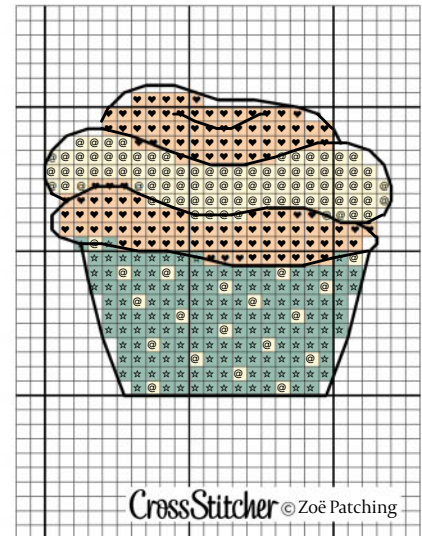


CHOOSE a birthday candle for your card in a colour to complement your design. Cut your candle down to size, about 2.5cm is ideal, and carefully cut away the base to create a chamfered edge to fit the cup shape holder.

Step 4



PLACE the candle in the holder, then make diagonal couching stitches over the candle to secure it in position, as shown here. We used six strands of cotton in our couching to create our diagonal pattern.



SEW AND SO

www.sewandso.co.uk

The twinkly star sequins on the star design can be found on the Sew and So website, as well as lots of other stitching essentials and paraphernalia! It's really a one stop shop for all things cross stitch.



OUR PINTEREST BOARD

www.pinterest.com/xstitchmagazine

Visit our Pinterest board to find a special board dedicated to *The Savvy Stitcher*. You can pin all these designs and find inspiration for more!



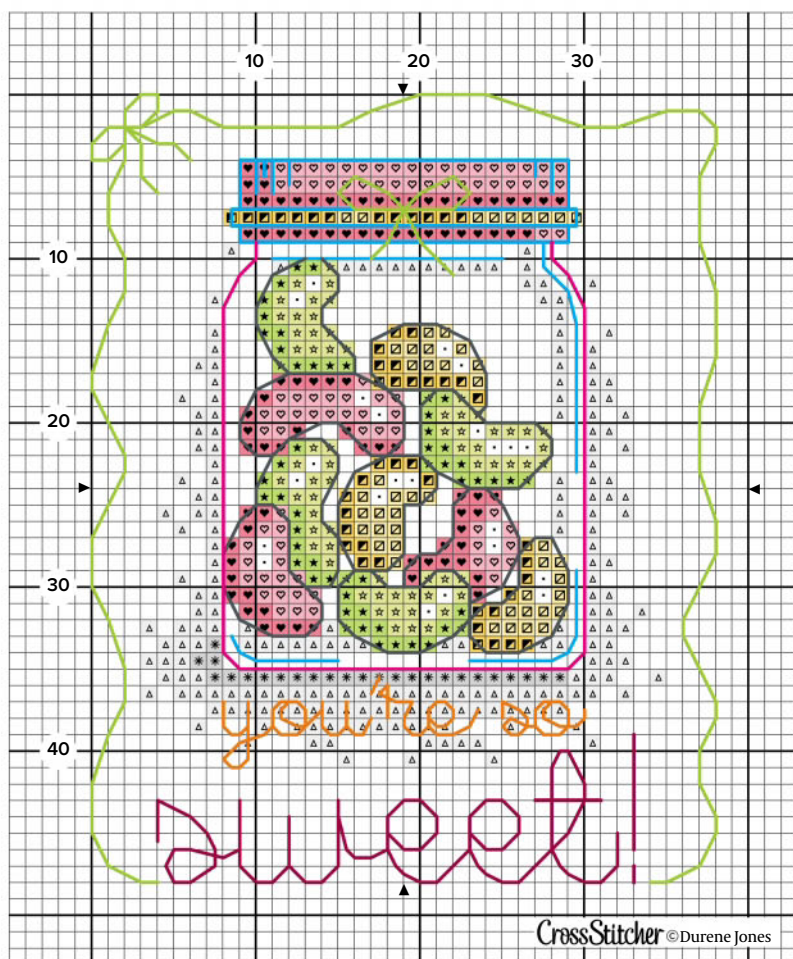
Materials

- Zweigart 14 count white aida, ref: 3706/100, 12.5x10cm (5x4in)
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Size 24 tapestry needle
- Glass jar

For stockist details see page 86

CANDY CRUSH

Want to make a special friend smile? Treat them to our jelly bean jar – it's the sweetest gift to give!



Designed by: Durene Jones

Stitch count: 48 high x 38 wide

Design size: 9x7cm (3½x2¾in)

Stitch time: 3 hours

This design was stitched on 14 count aida fabric.

Make a... sweet jar label

Step 1

WORK the cross stitch and half cross stitch in two strands of stranded cotton and the backstitch in one and two strands.

Step 2

CUT around the stitching so that it fits the front of your jar, and has three or four blank aida squares outside the design. Fray two squares of aida – remove one at a time, carefully peeling the threads away.

Step 3

USE double-sided tape to attach the stitching to the front of the jar – make sure you cover the back of the stitching completely with tape, so that it sticks firmly to the jar.

Our jelly bean design would also make a great card – simply fray the edges of your stitching and attach to a card as a patch

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
	725	306	808
	727	293	102
	762	234	1804
	893	027	413
	907	255	1410
	957	031	612
	3819	278	2703
	B5200	001	white
Half cross stitch in two strands			
	762	234	1804
Backstitch in two strands			
	310	403	black
jar			
	891	035	412
sweet!			
	907	255	1410
ribbon			
Backstitch in one strand			
	310	403	black
jar			
	413	401	1713
jelly beans			
	891	035	412
words			

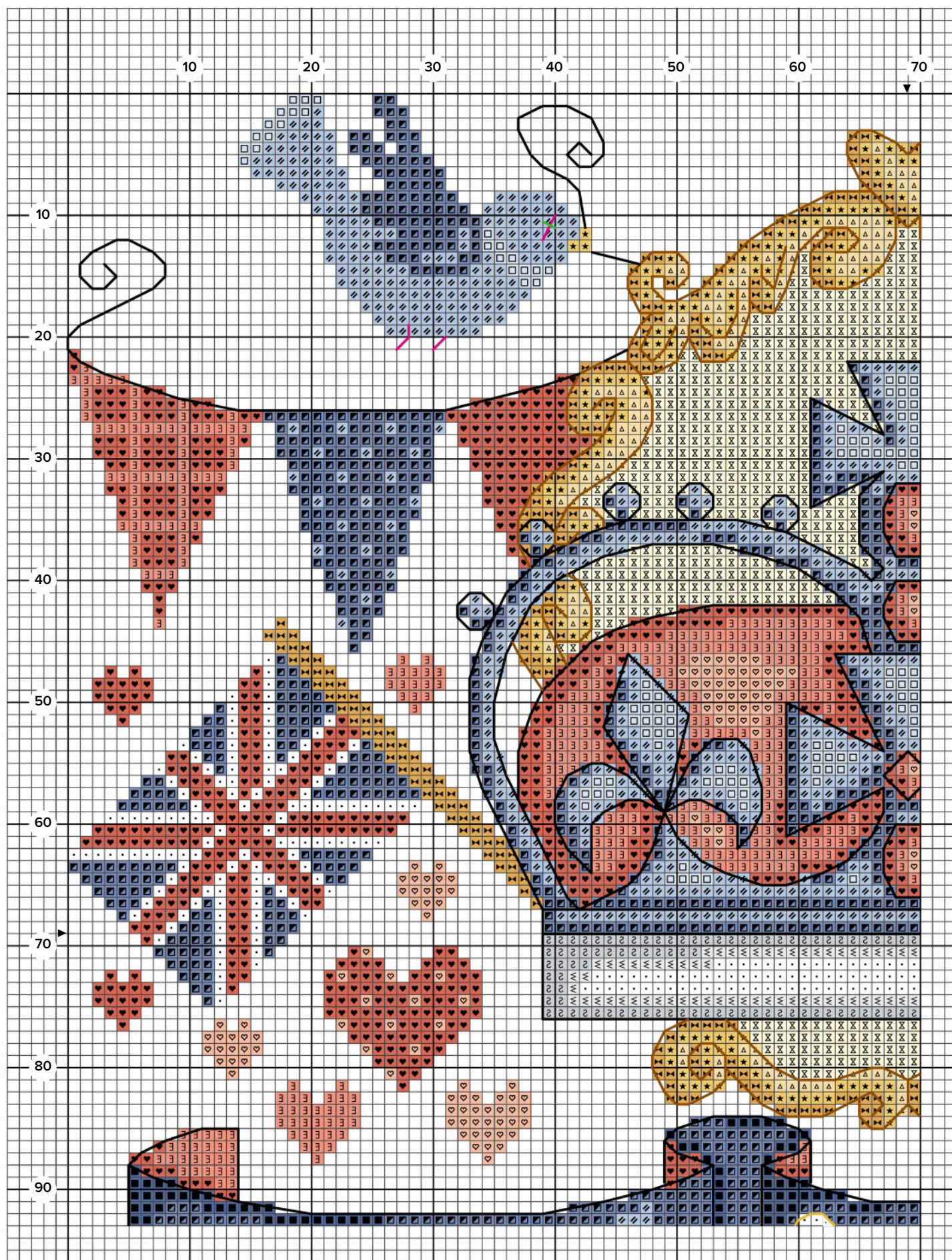


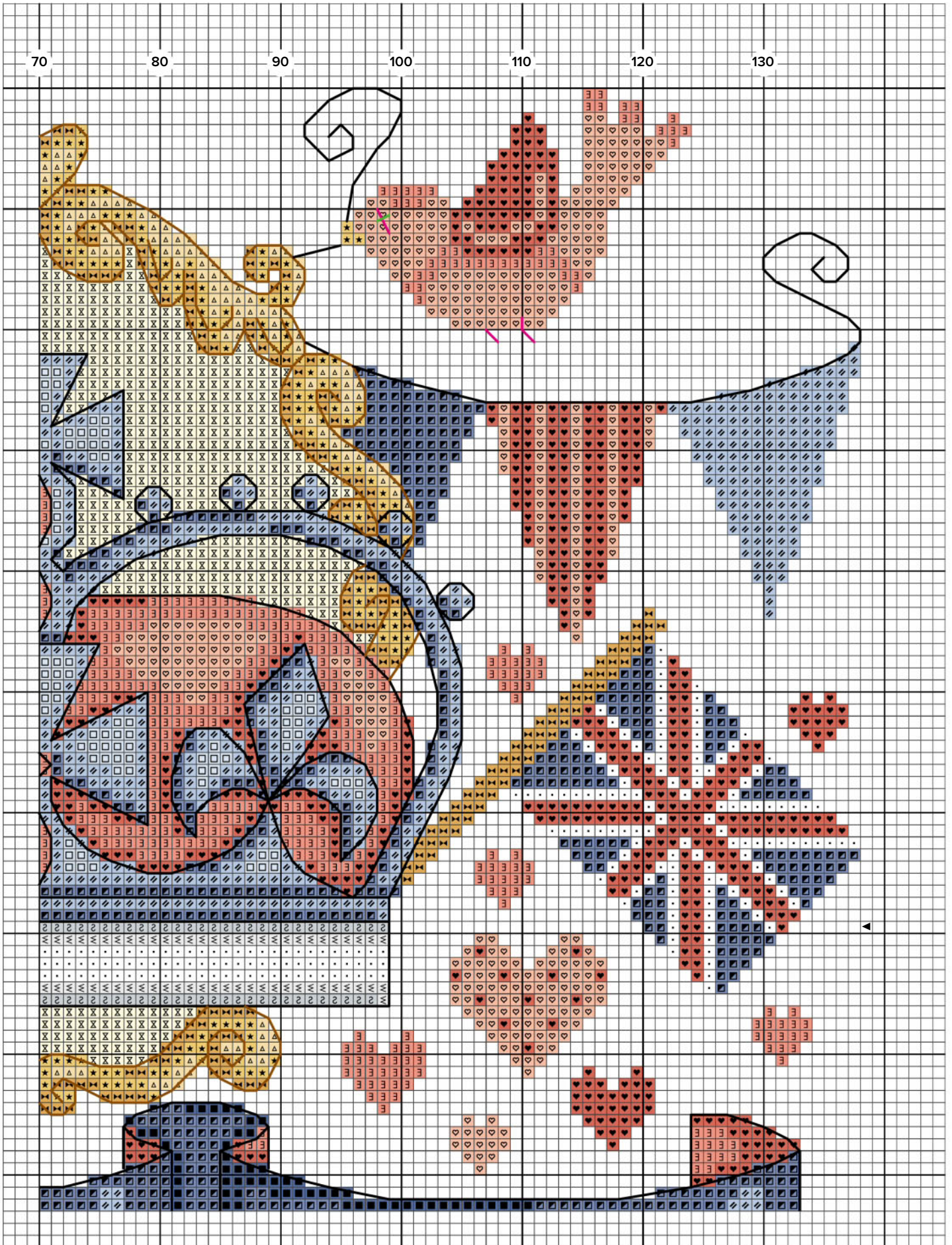
Fit for a Queen

With the Queen's 90th birthday this year, it's time for a right royal celebration – so we've got a sampler to rule them all!











	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
	350	011	213
	352	009	303
	415	398	1803
	762	234	1804
	783	306	2211
	797	931	912
	798	131	911 (2)
	800	159	908
	809	130	909 (2)
	817	013	211 (2)
	3820	306	2509
	3822	295	2511
	3823	386	2512
	B5200 001		white

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Backstitch in three strands			
	310	403	black
			birds' feet and eyes
Backstitch in two strands			
	797	931	912
			your majesty
	3820	306	2509
			large words
	B5200 001		white
			union jack cake, letters, birds' eyes
Backstitch in one strand			
	310	403	black
			outlines
	780	309	2214
			coat of arms

(2) indicates more than one skein is required

Designed by: Durene Jones
Stitch count: 138 high x 138 wide
Design size: 22x22cm (8 3/4 x 8 3/4 in)
Stitch time: 72 hours

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

**TURN TO
PAGE 44
TO LEARN
HOW TO FRAME
YOUR PICTURE**

Materials

- Zweigart 32 count antique white Belfast linen, ref: 3609/101; 43x43cm (17x17in)
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Size 26 tapestry needle
- Frame with a 28x28cm (11x11in) aperture
- Mount board to fit frame

For stockist details see page 86





CrossStitcher ©Durene Jones



Take care with
the backstitching!
Some of the
stitches don't
cross a whole
square, and they
are worked in one,
two and three
strands





Mr Stitching Shed stitches up many of the models and also has a talent for needlepoint!



An interview with...

Jane Schofield

Jayne Schofield, the creative whizz behind The Stitching Shed, tells us about her life – and how her husband is a dab hand with a needle

Interview by **Katie Allen**

The Stitching Shed's collection of cute and colourful designs are guaranteed to put a smile on your face. Founder Jayne Schofield combines running one of our favourite cross stitch and needlepoint companies with a career in design. She tells us about her life in making so far – and how it's been very much a family affair...

Tell us about your creative life

I spent a lot of my childhood with my grandad who was an artist, so it was a natural progression for me to study art and design at university.

Books are my passion and I am very lucky to be able to have worked in this area as an illustrator. I also design across many other product fields too, including textiles, jigsaws, wall art, clothing, greeting cards and stationery!



How does your design work meet your stitching life?

Alongside running The Stitching Shed I am also a freelance designer and illustrator. It gives me the chance to spend every day drawing and trying out lots of different design

ideas. When I start on a new design I am never quite sure where it is going to end up. It may become wall art, or an appliqué for a children's T shirt – or it may be turned into a cross stitch kit.

When did you first decide you wanted to start The Stitching Shed?

It started out with some of my illustrations! I have always loved to cross stitch and I converted some of my baby illustrations into patterns which I stitched for friends as gifts. I had requests from people wanting to buy these designs as kits. I then added more designs and suddenly, I had a range!

The complete Stitching Shed range has since grown from the original 10 to over 100 items. We went from selling to friends to supplying John Lewis within the first three years.



Jayne's background in children's book illustration brings bold colour and shape to her work.

“ If I'm having a bad day I only have to get out my latest stitching project and everything just melts away ”

We have to ask – who actually is Mr Stitching Shed?

Mr Stitching Shed is my husband, Doug! A customer came up with the name and it just stuck!

When I first started, Doug didn't know anything about cross stitch. However he soon learned and he is a great salesman. He is also a good stitcher! He stitches a lot of our models at night in front of the telly.

How else do you mix The Stitching Shed with your family life?

My son was a toddler when we first set up The Stitching Shed and it was hard leaving him when we needed to exhibit at shows or travel to meet customers. We took him with us as much as we could and as he got older it became easier.

Today I try to take weekends off and spend it on family time. I can usually be found at the sidelines of

various football or cricket matches cheering him on.

With all these demands on you, do you still design all the kits yourself?

I design everything. I keep lots of sketchbooks full of doodles, notes and ideas. One of these ideas eventually will end up being turned into a sketch. I then draw and re-draw until I am happy with it and then colour it up on the computer. Then I load it into my stitching software programme to turn it into a finished cross stitch design.

What draws you to stitching?

My mum was a seamstress and my nana owned a wool shop, so stitching is in my blood. If I'm having a bad day, I only have to get out my latest stitching project and everything melts away. That's something every stitcher will recognise, I'm sure.



With over 100 designs to choose from, every occasion you could think of is covered!



We've heard that you've got a new stitching book out – can you tell us more about it?

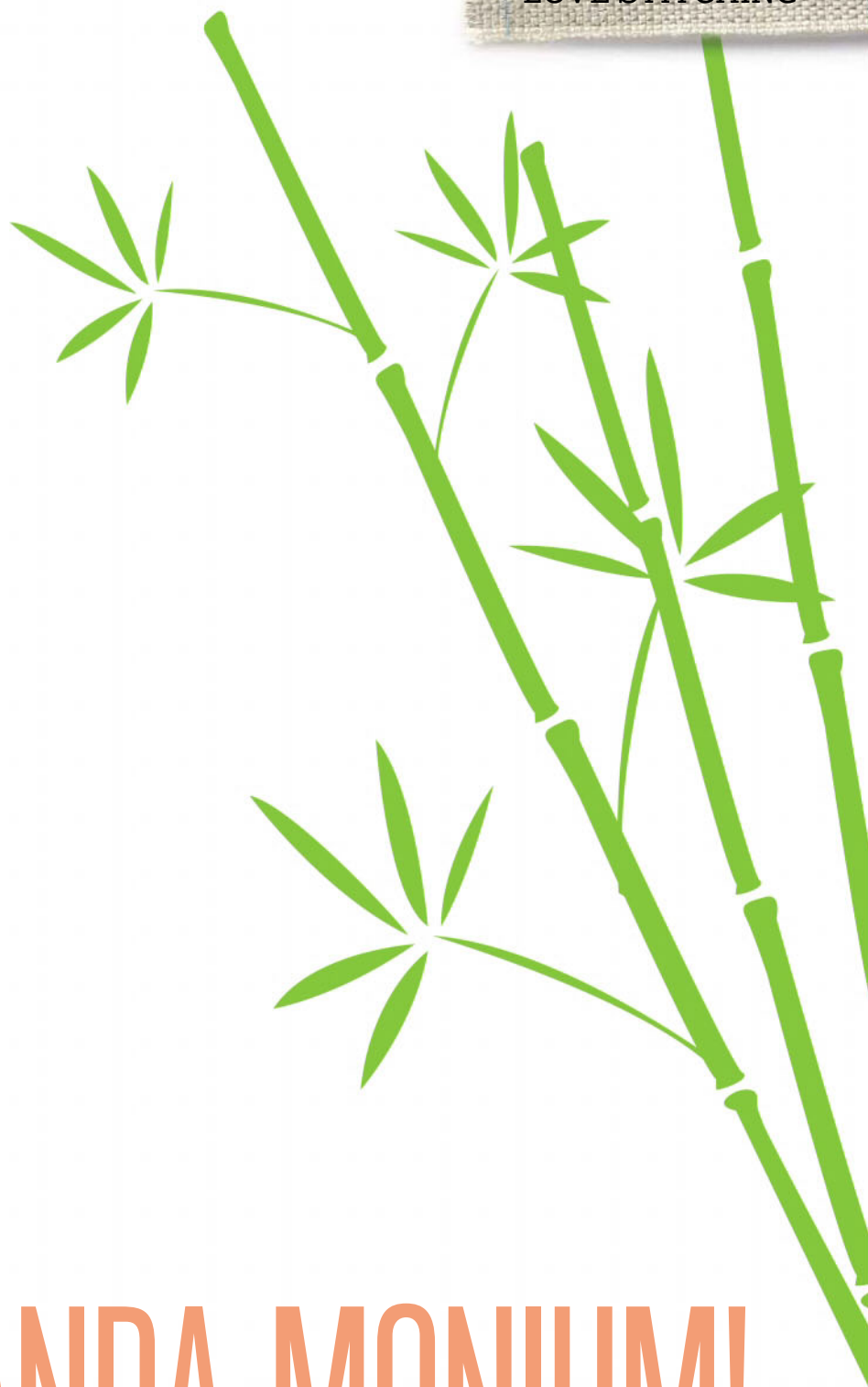
I was asked by DMC last year to design a range for them – Tuva Publishing saw this and approached me to do a book (*Home and Heart*). I have also worked with Search Press on a new book called *Modern Needlepoint*. It's perfect for anyone who wants to try out needlepoint for the first time.

What are your dreams for The Stitching Shed in the future?

I'm just interested to see how it grows. Some of our designs combine cross stitch, felt and buttons. I would like to explore this idea further and I also want to look at producing felt kits. My head is always bursting with ideas – I can't keep up with them!

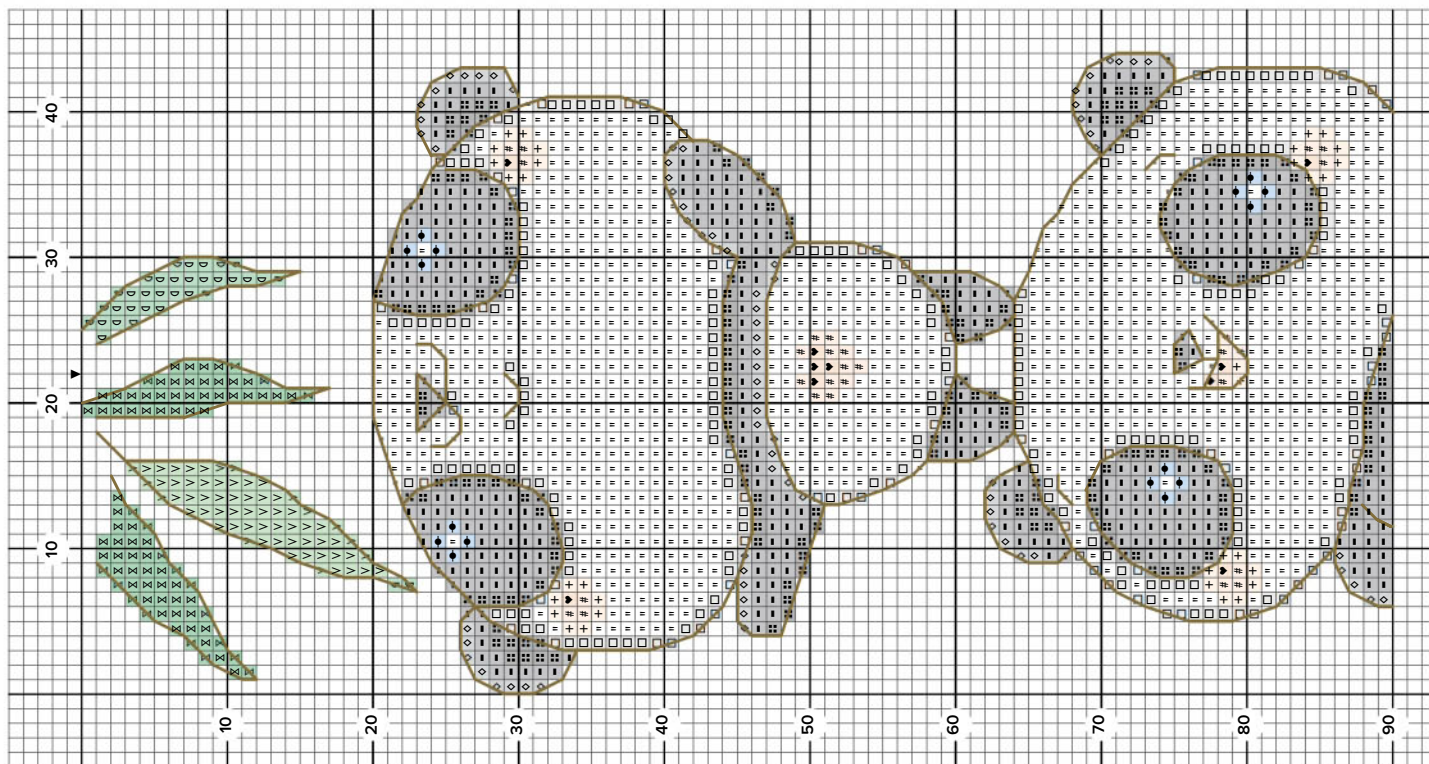
www.thestitchingshed.co.uk





PANDA-MONIUM!

Our baby pandas aren't going to be bamboozled by a tall branch of tasty leaves. They're piling high to reach their lunch instead!



Designed by: Lucie Heaton

Stitch count: 182 high x 44 wide

Design size: 36x9cm (14x3½in)

Stitch time: 26 hours

This design was stitched on 25 count evenweave over two threads of the fabric.

It's easy to extract one of the pandas to stitch separately as a card!

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
◇ ◇	318	399	1802
■ ■	413	401	1713
- -	414	235	1801
# #	754	336	305
□ □	762	234	1804
⊗ ⊗	911	205	1214
⊞ ⊞	912	209	1213
+ +	948	1011	306
∇ ∇	954	202	1211
♥ ♥	3771	006	303
♣ ♣	3799	236	1713
	blanc	001	white (2)
Backstitch in one strand			
—	3799	236	1713
	outlines		

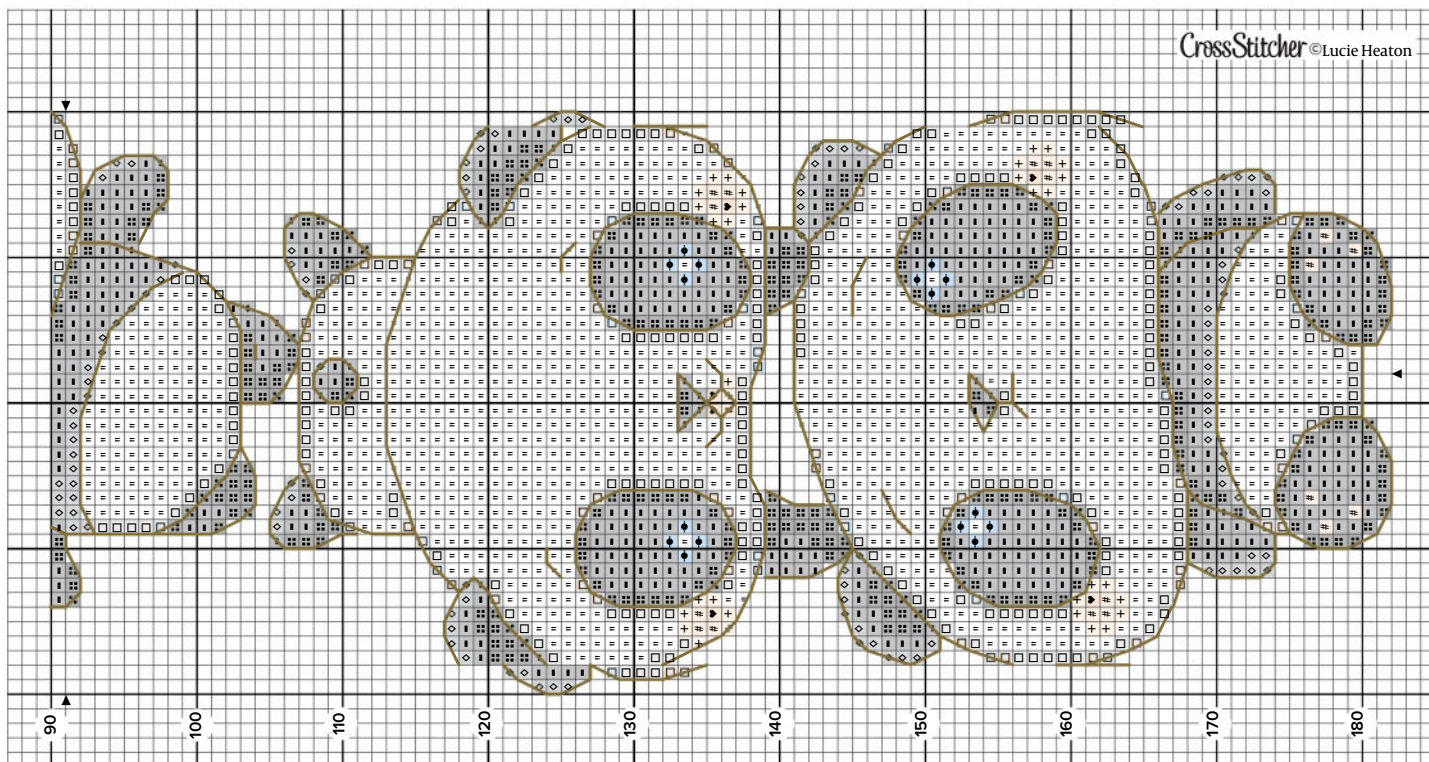
(2) indicates more than one skein is required

Materials

- Zweigart 25 count green Lugana evenweave, ref: 3835/6065, 46x30.5cm (18x12in)
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Size 24 tapestry needle
- Wooden dowels, 20mm (¾in) diameter x 14cm (5½in) x 2
- Green buttons x 4

For stockist details see page 86

CrossStitcher® Lucie Heaton



Make a... wall hanger

Step 1

FOLD your completed 'pile of pandas' lengthways, bringing the long edges of the fabric together, with the reverse side of the stitching on the outside. Machine stitch down the seam and then turn to the right side.

Step 2

PRESS your stitching so that the pandas are centre front and the seam centre back. Glue buttons onto the ends of the wooden dowels.

Step 3

TURN the fabric at the top of the 'panda pile' down over one of the dowels and onto the back of your stitching. Fold under the raw fabric edge at the back and then secure it with small, neat stitches. Repeat at the bottom of the hanger. Add a length of ribbon to the dowel at the top to finish.

WELCOME TO THE WORLD

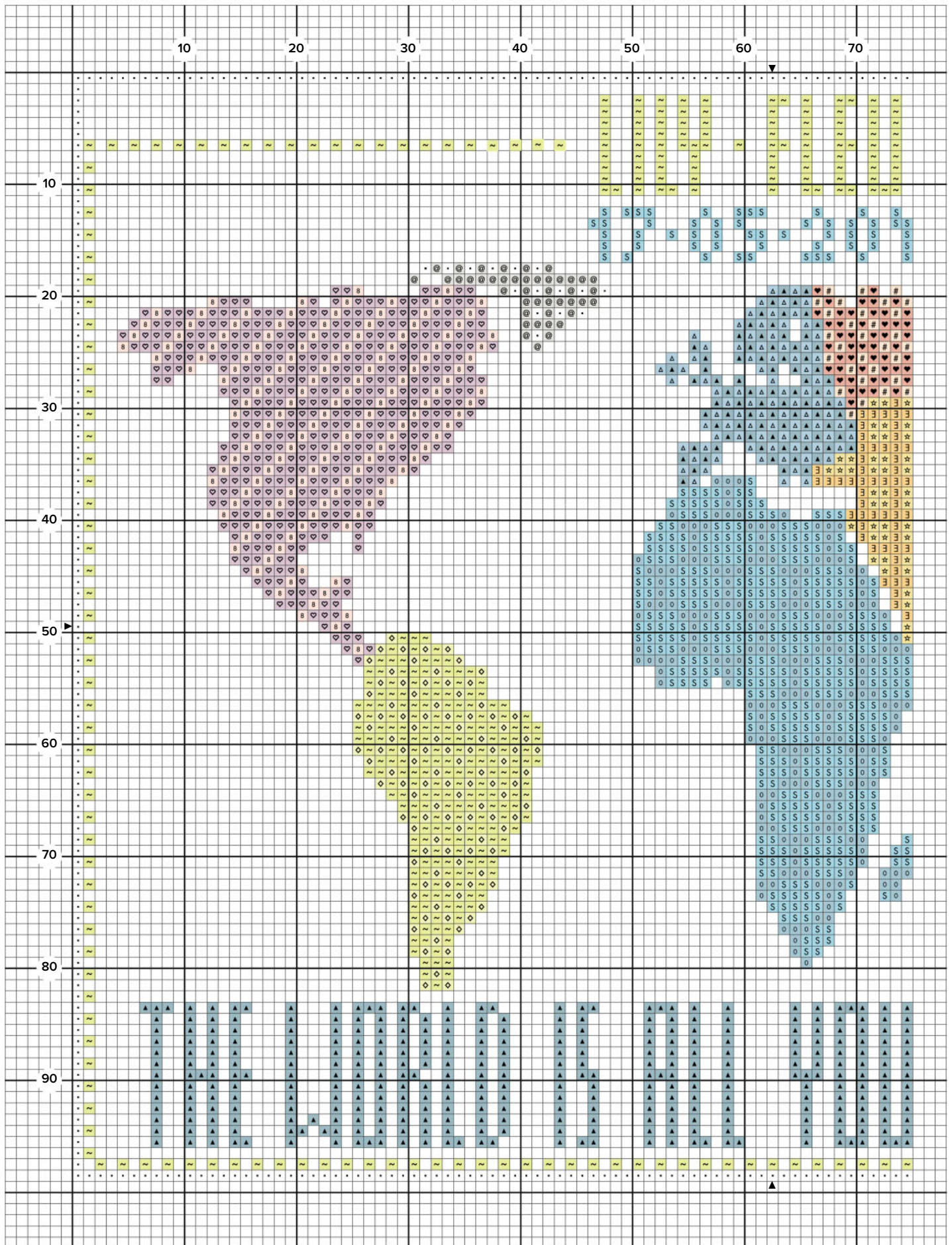
Welcome to the World

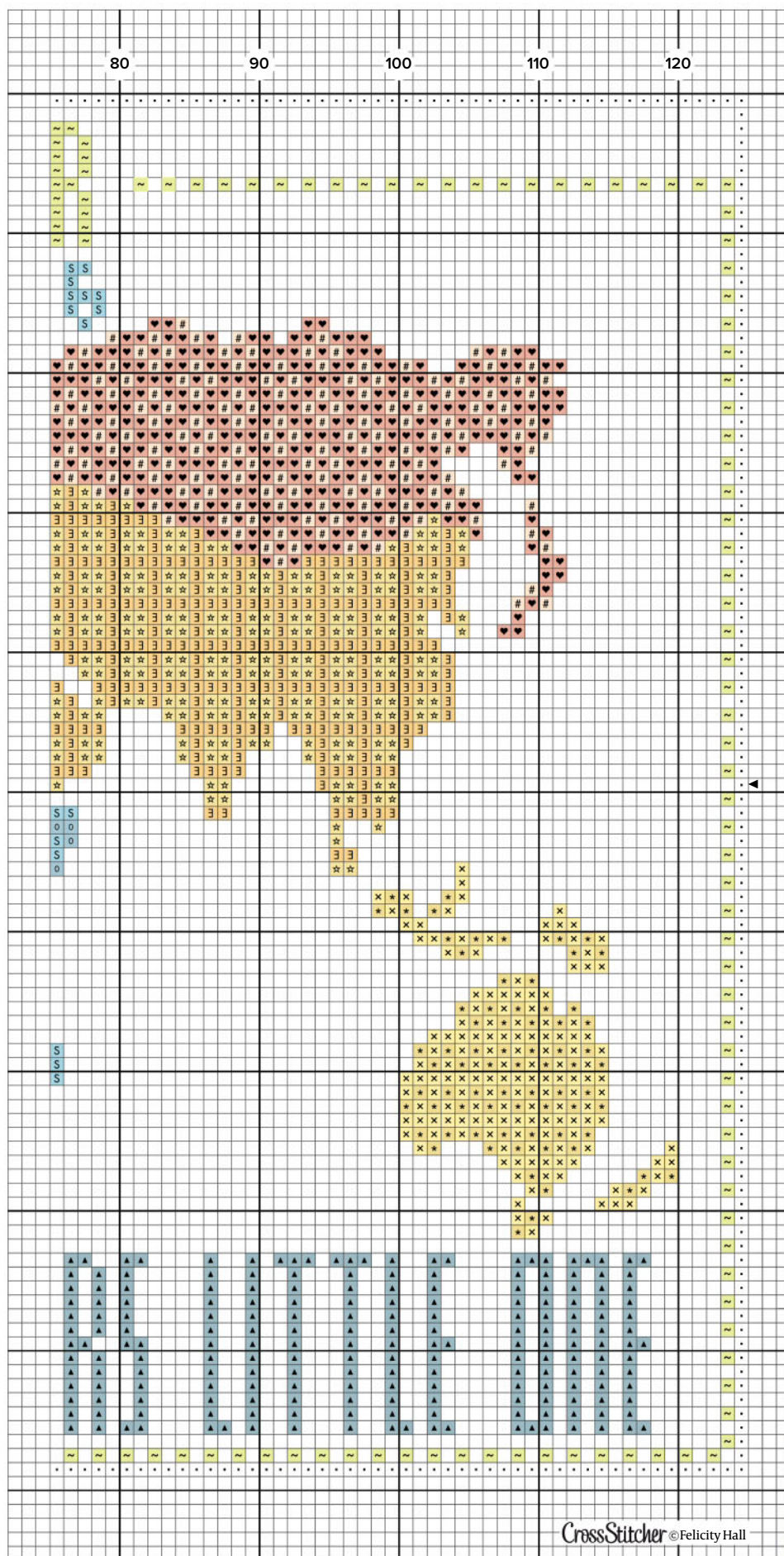
A new baby means new beginnings.
Our inspiring sampler celebrates the
very start of a little one's journey...





WELCOME TO THE WORLD





Designed by: Felicity Hall

Stitch count: 99 high x 125 wide

Design size: 18.5x22.5cm (7¼x9in)

Stitch time: 23 hours

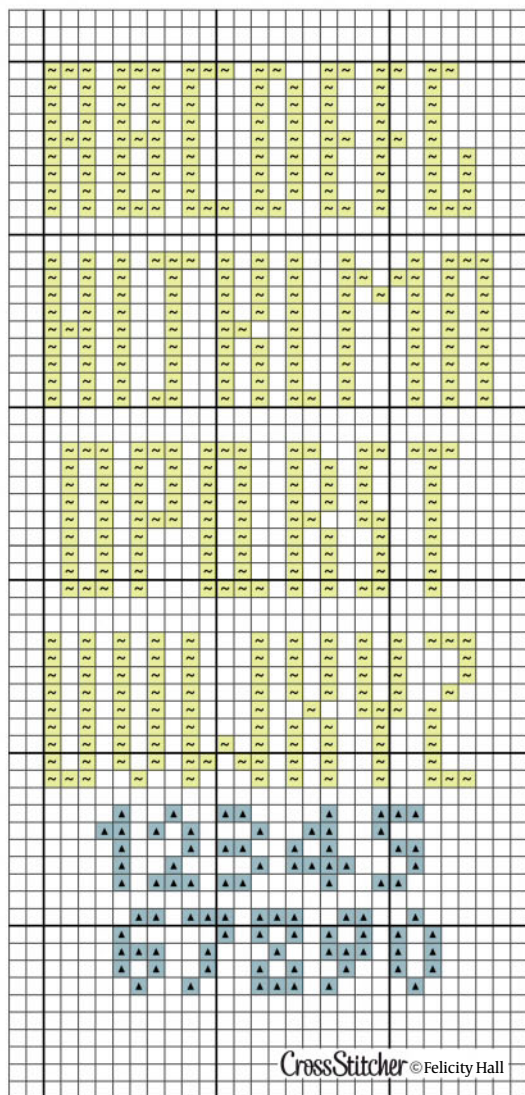
This design was stitched on 14 count aida fabric.

DMC Anchor Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands

◇ ◇	472	253	1414
△ △	518	1039	1106
@ @	648	900	1814
☆ ☆	728	305	108
☒ ☒	741	304	201
~ ~	907	255	1410
# #	967	1012	305
✕ ✕	973	290	105
♥ ♥	3328	1024	406
8 8	3354	074	606
▲ ▲	3809	1066	2506
0 0	3810	168	1108
♡ ♡	3836	090	711
S S	3845	433	1103
* *	3852	307	2509
▪ ▪	blanc	001	white

Materials

- Zweigart 14 count pale lemon aida, ref: 3706/2030, 43x43cm (17x17in)
 - Stranded cotton as listed in the key
 - Size 24 tapestry needle
 - Frame with a 21.5x27cm (8½x10½in) aperture
 - Mount board to fit frame
- For stockist details see page 86



Use graph paper to plan the name and date on the sampler. To fit longer names perfectly, simply remove some of the green cross stitch border squares

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.

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



Hi! This is my picture of the Four Seasons design from your January issue (300). I stitched it on 14 count aida. It's for a friend's 75th birthday! Hope you like it.
Frances Miller, Glasgow



I've been working on this on and off since it appeared in issue 256. The names are Mum's, her two daughters and their two daughters.
Lizzie Billingham, Northamptonshire



I made the 'Animal Antics' cushion (issue 288) for my granddaughter's 4th birthday, using a bright yellow backing fabric.
Zena Massey, Hampshire



Here are my houses from issue 291. While stitching them I thought they would look nice with the addition of 'Home Sweet Home'.
Linda West, Isle of Man



I couldn't wait to stitch this terrarium design from issue 302. Pretty plants to look at and it doesn't even need watering!
Evelyn Selby, Portsmouth



Here is the cellphone case I made from issue 300. I'll make another one in different colours as a gift for my sister.
Jing Dodds, New Zealand



As soon as I received my sub copy of issue 303, I started the bunny, changing the colours to look like my childhood bunny.
Samantha Jane McCaughan, N Yorkshire



I chose one of the cats from issue 301, sitting on a tall pink stool, to stitch for my friend's birthday card.
Claire Boston, Southport

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Overseas readers see page 87

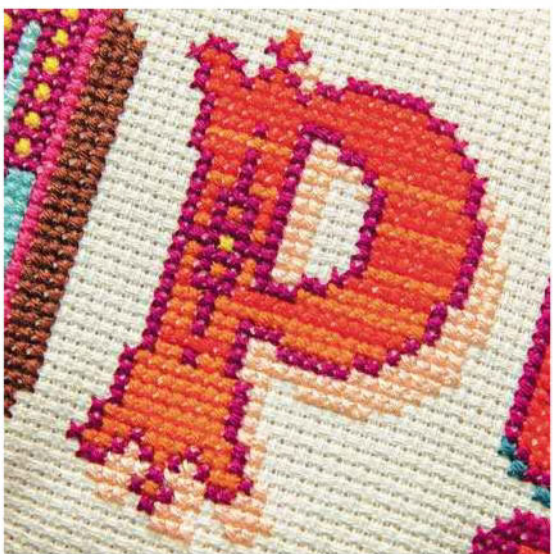
Calls will cost 7p per minute plus your telephone company's access charge.

NEW!

Letter LIBRARY

CIRCUS

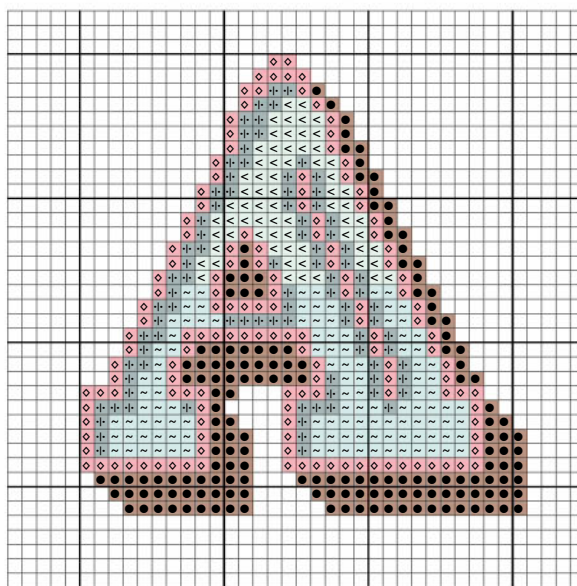
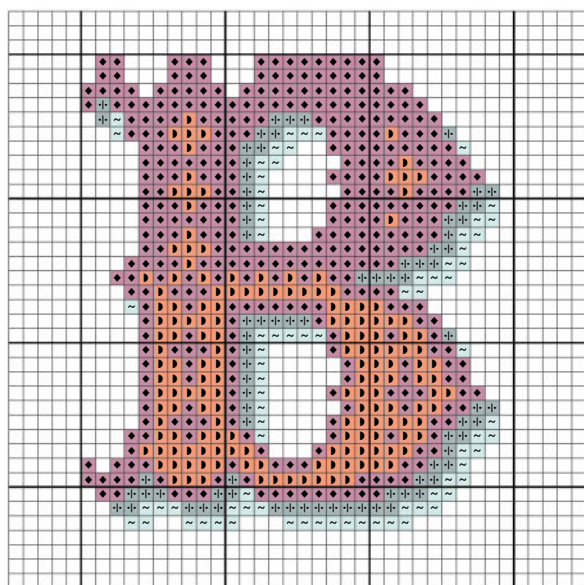
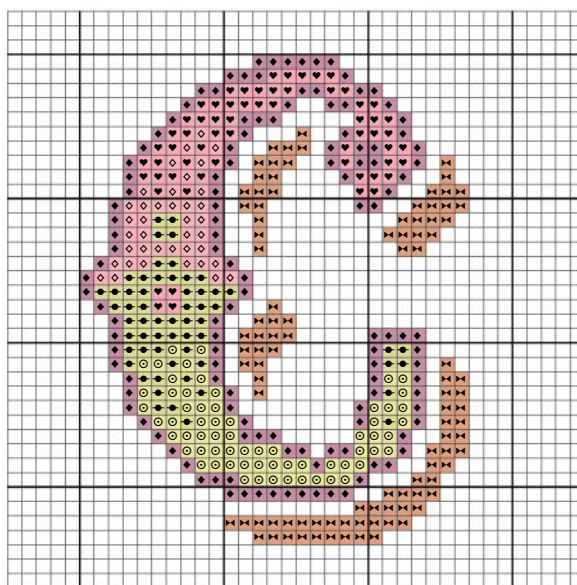
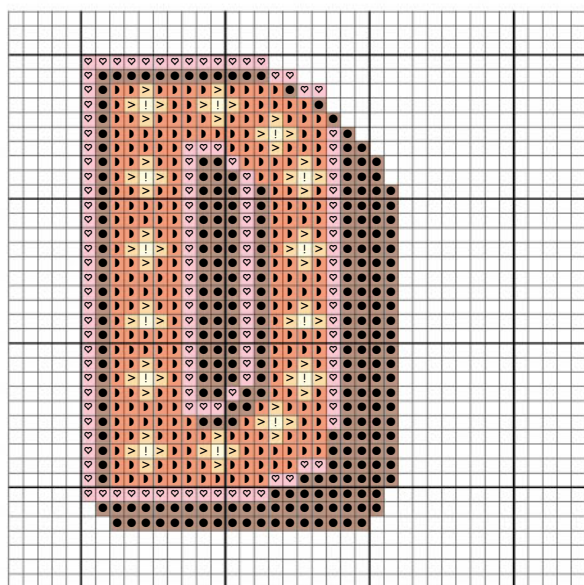
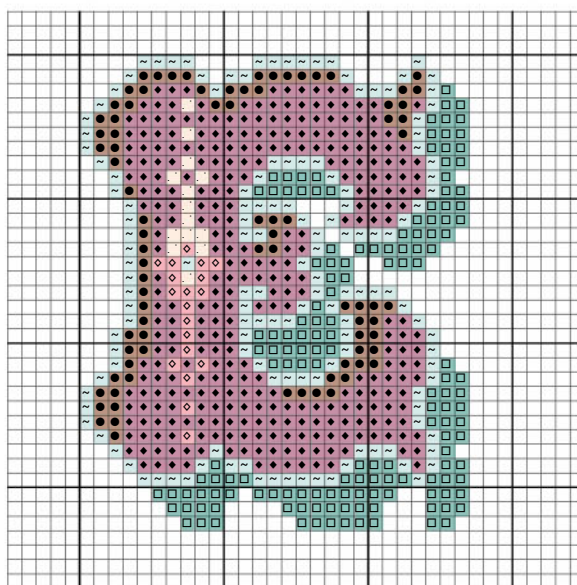
The circus is coming to town! Stitch all the fun of the fair with our stylish mix & match alphabet and number sets

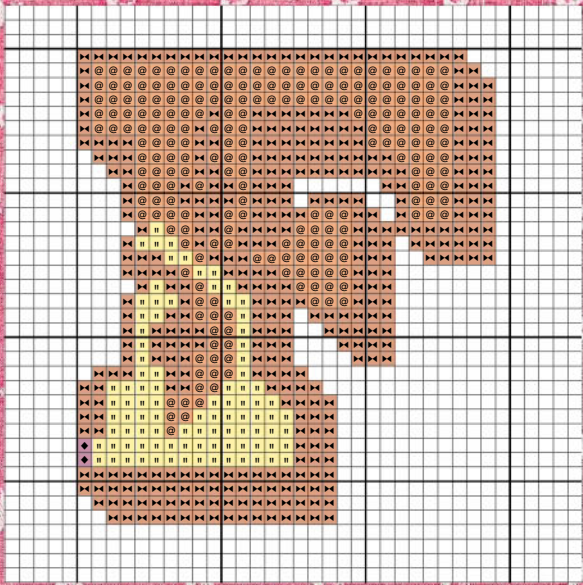
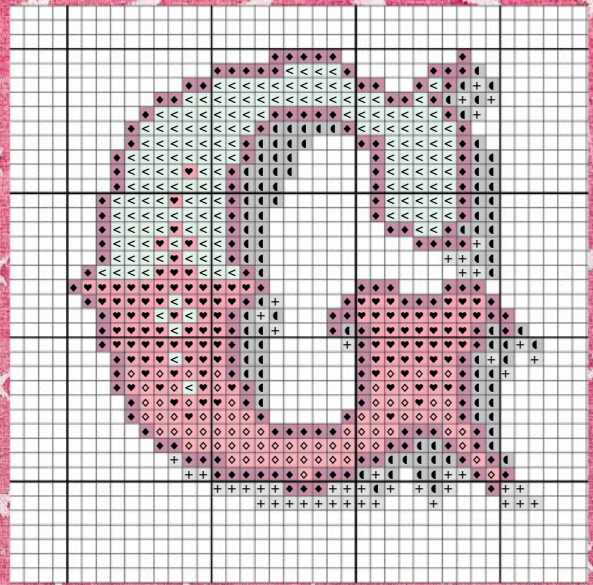




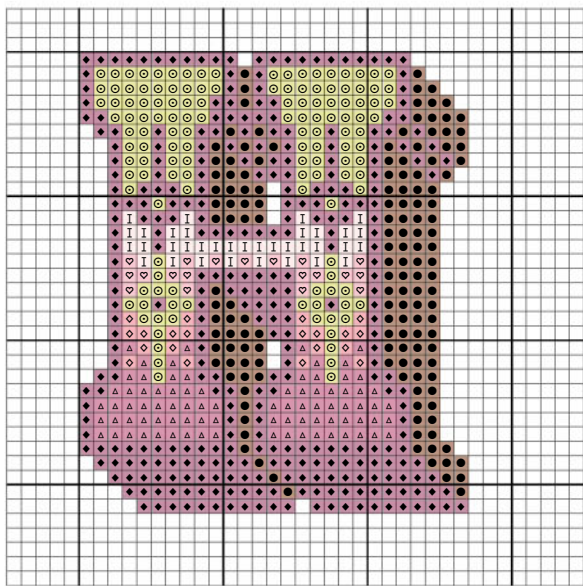
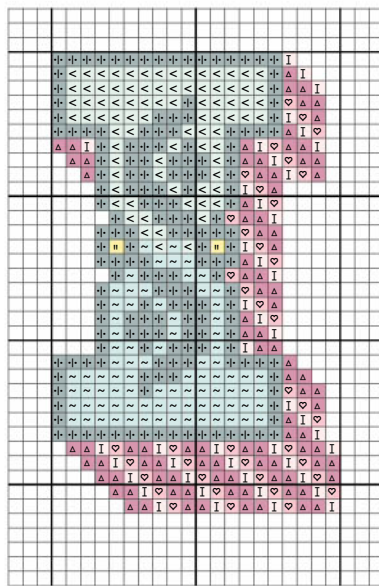
Here's the second alphabet in our new design library series. Designed to be collected each month so you have a set of letters ready to stitch for any occasion, this month we're showcasing our gorgeous circus alphabet. Bright and bold and totally on-trend, you can use these letters and numbers to transform your home décor or for quick and easy projects such as cards and tags. Enjoy!

Designed by: Emma Congdon

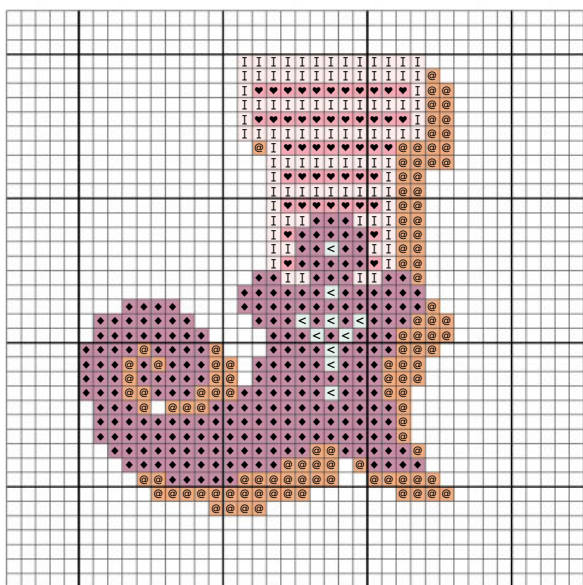
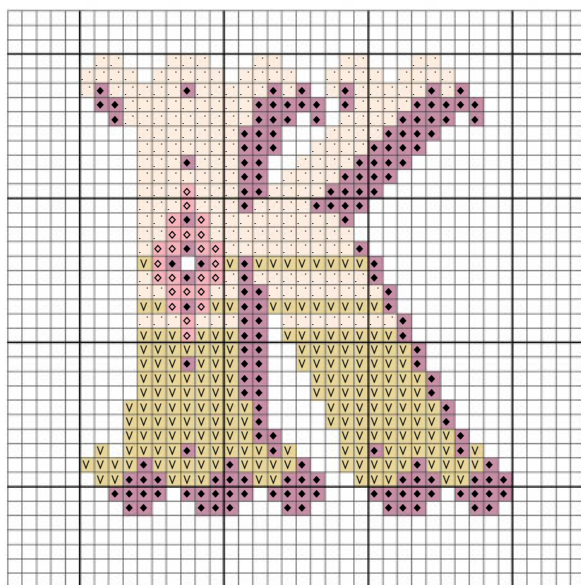
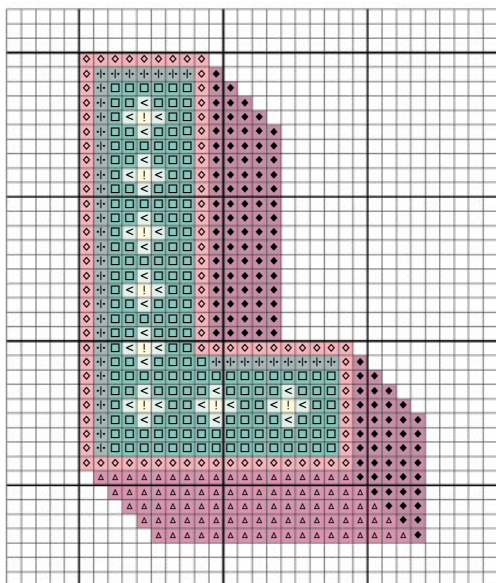
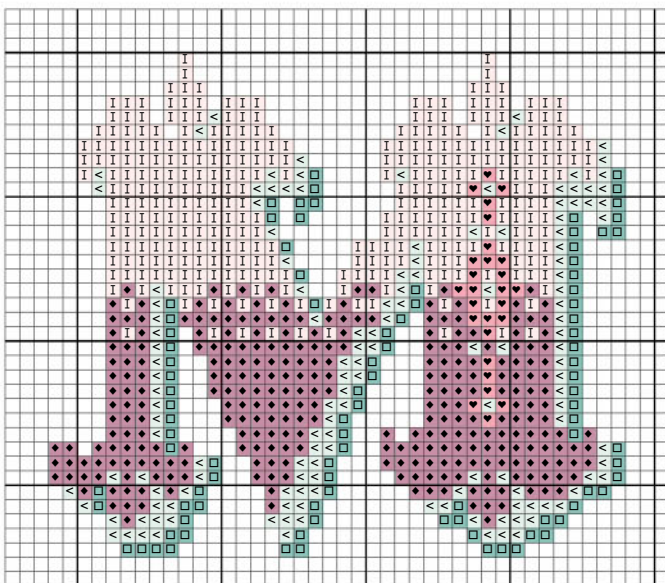


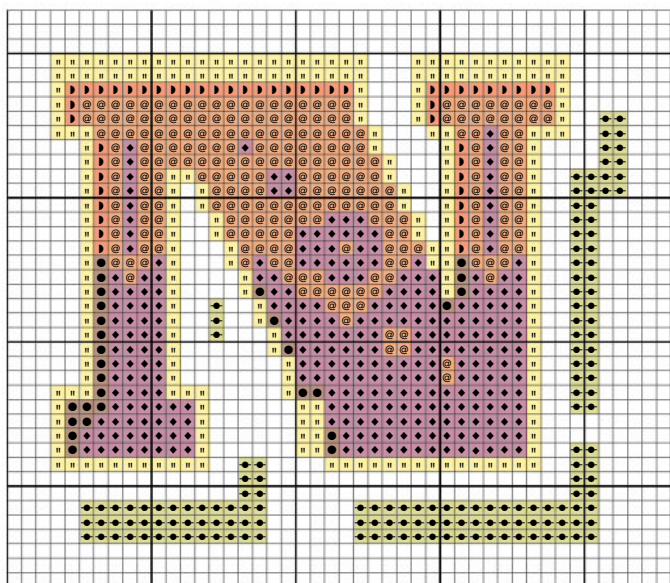
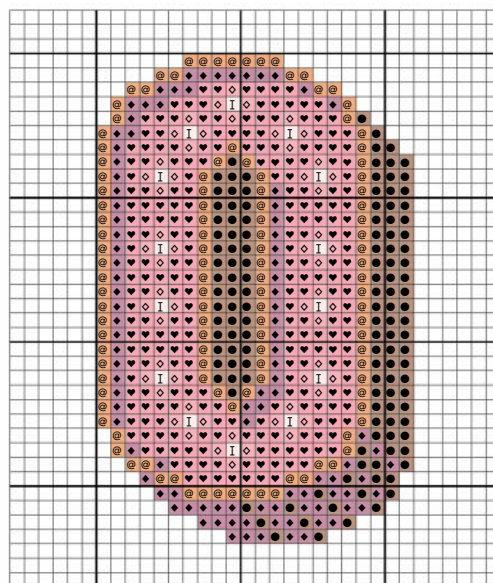
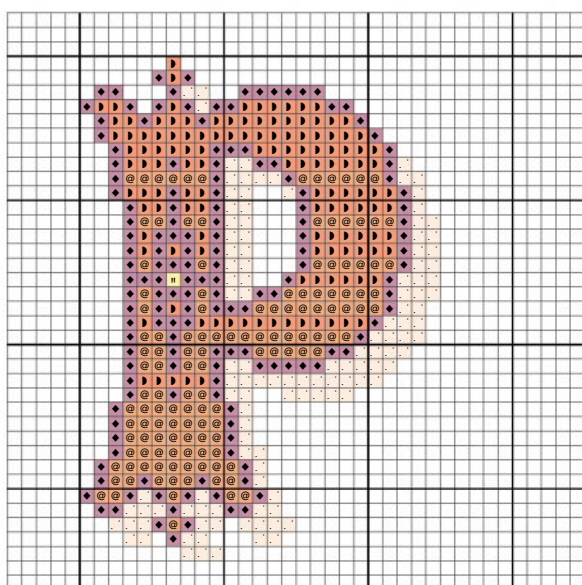
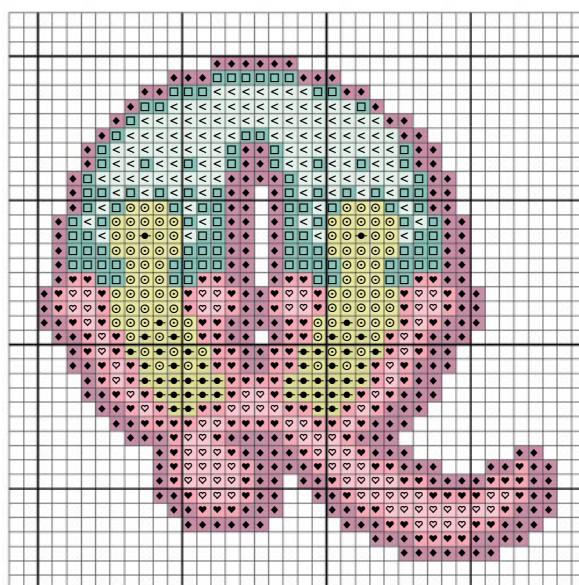
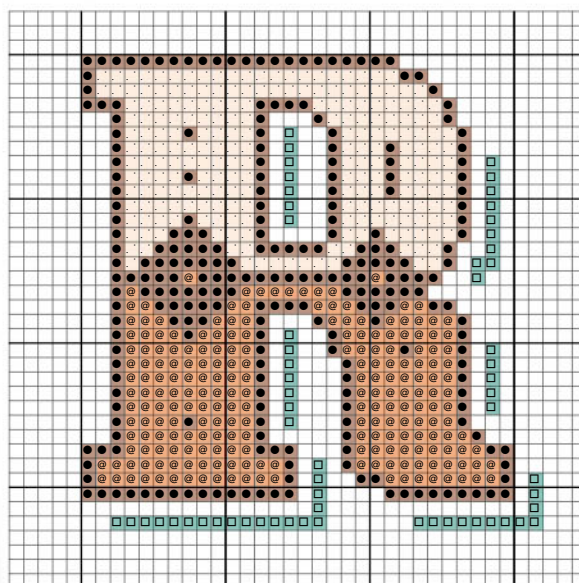


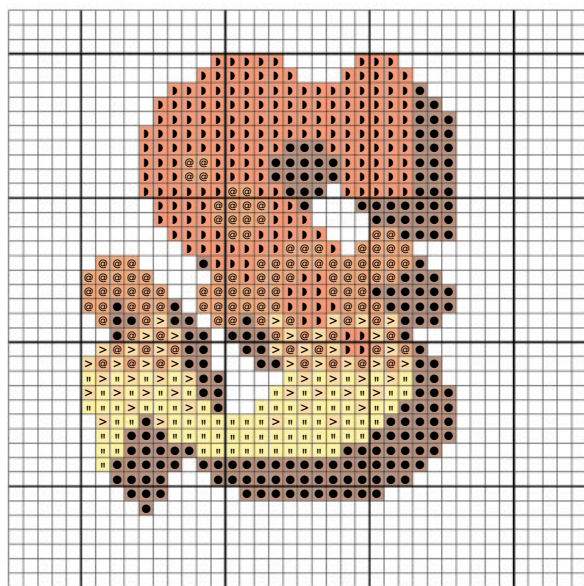
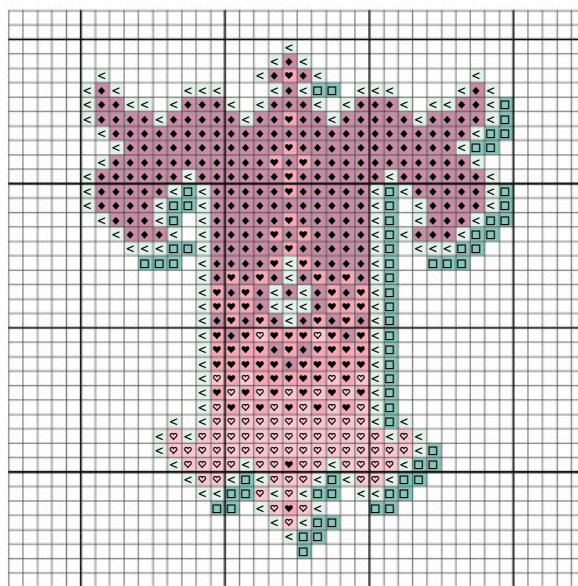
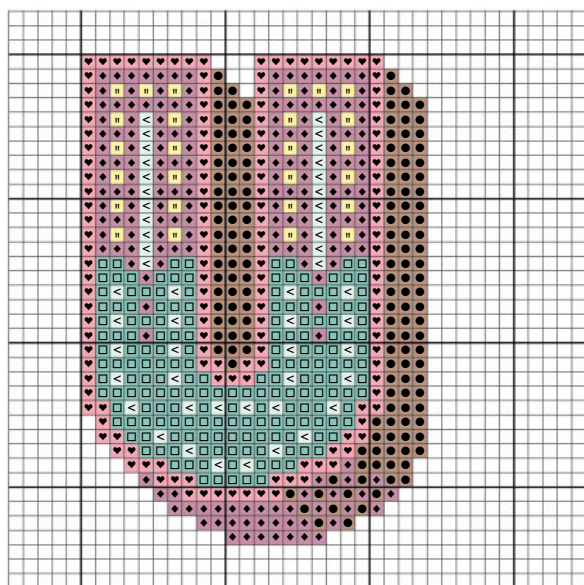
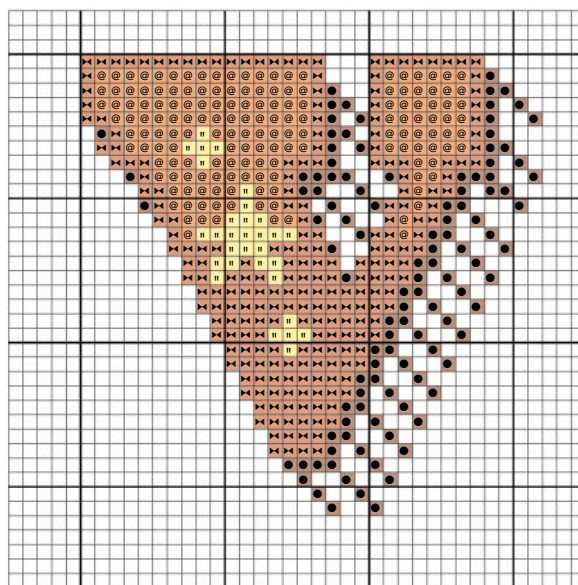
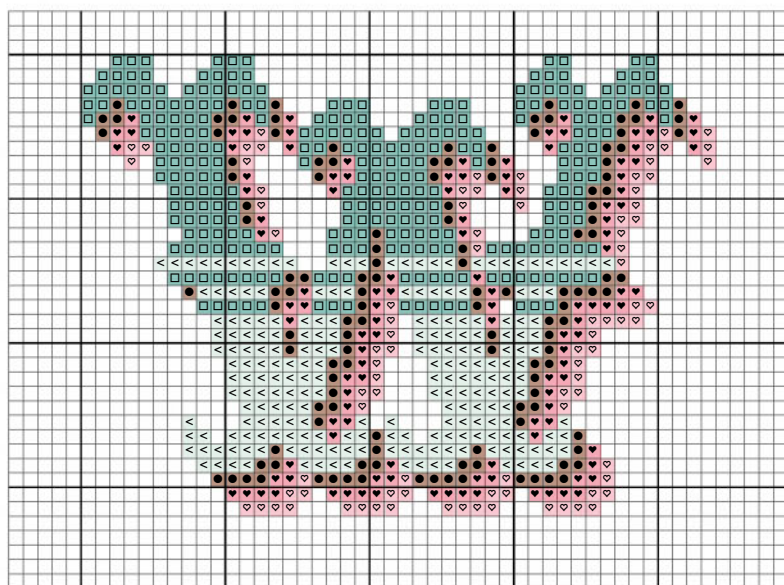
Roll up! Roll Up! was stitched on 14 count cream aida fabric and is 77 high x 183 wide. The design size is 14x33cm (13x 5½in) and it took our stitcher 40 hours to complete.



Cut out
and keep
your letter
library,
ready for
the next
time you
might
need it!







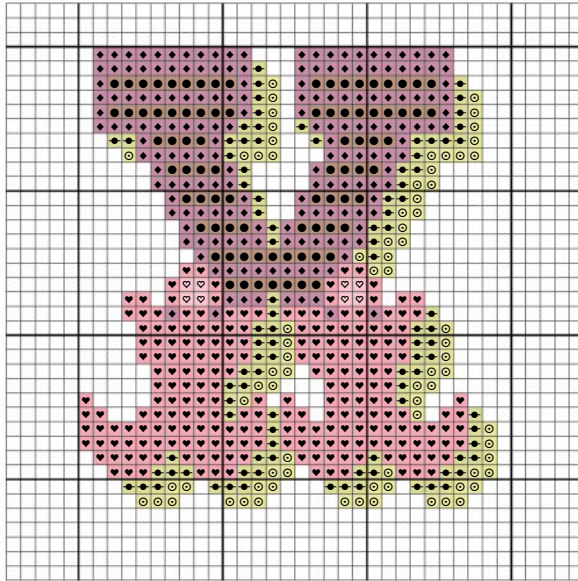
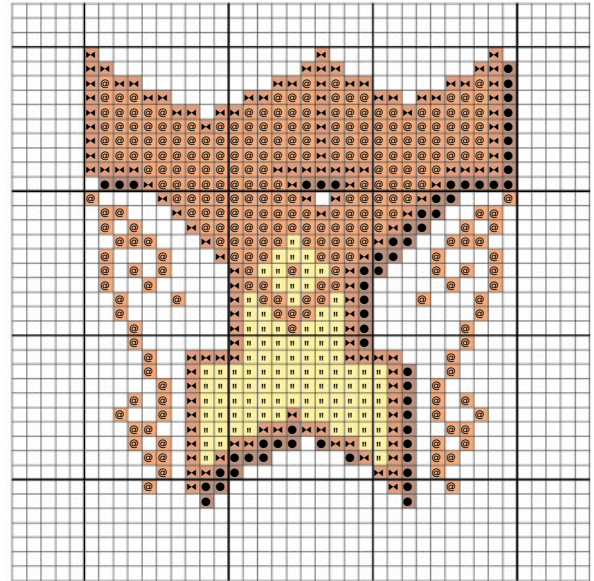
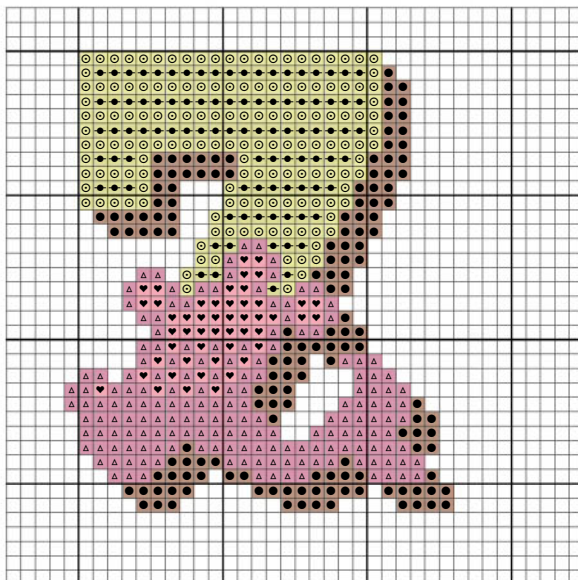
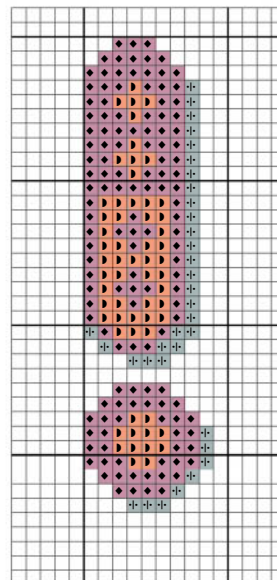
More to make...

Mix and match your letters to create heaps more stylish projects. Here are some ideas to get you started...

1 Stitch the words Roll up!
Roll up! in two rows as we have done, and make into a bright cushion to add a colourful touch to your living room.

2 Make a door sign for a child's room using their name and framing your work as a canvas.

3 Celebrate a child's birthday using the numbers from this alphabet to make them a card.

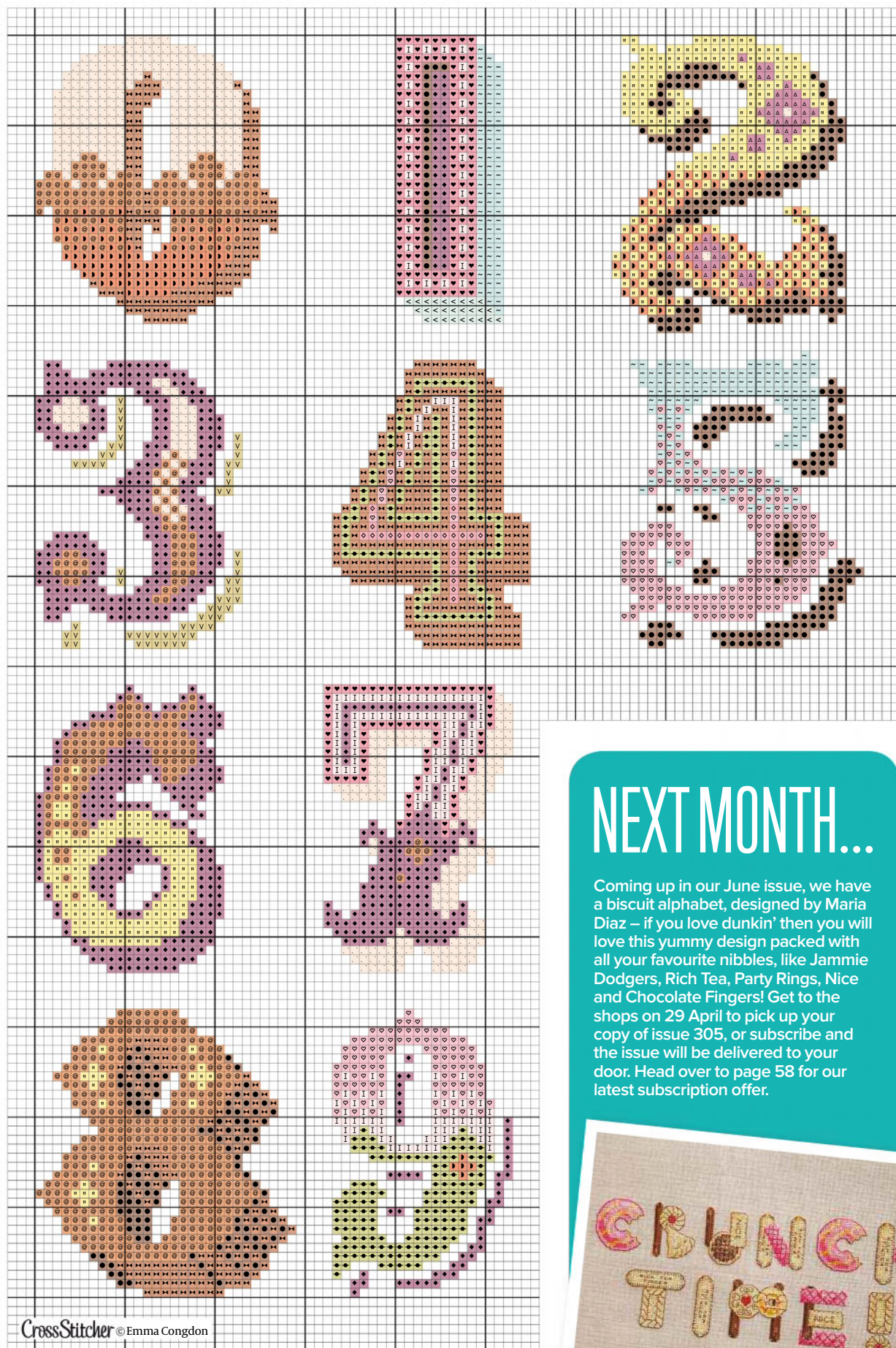


Plan out the words you want to make on graph paper before you start stitching

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
	166	280	1501
	353	006	303
	414	235	1801
	415	398	1803
	444	297	106
	602	063	702
	603	052	701
	605	074	613

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
	606	335	209
	742	303	114
	833	907	2203
	915	1029	705
	917	088	706
	919	340	313
	946	332	207
	959	186	1113

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
	964	1092	1112
	3078	292	102
	3804	068	703
	3812	188	2706
	3819	278	2703
	3847	1076	2057
	3857	936	811



CrossStitcher © Emma Congdon

NEXT MONTH...

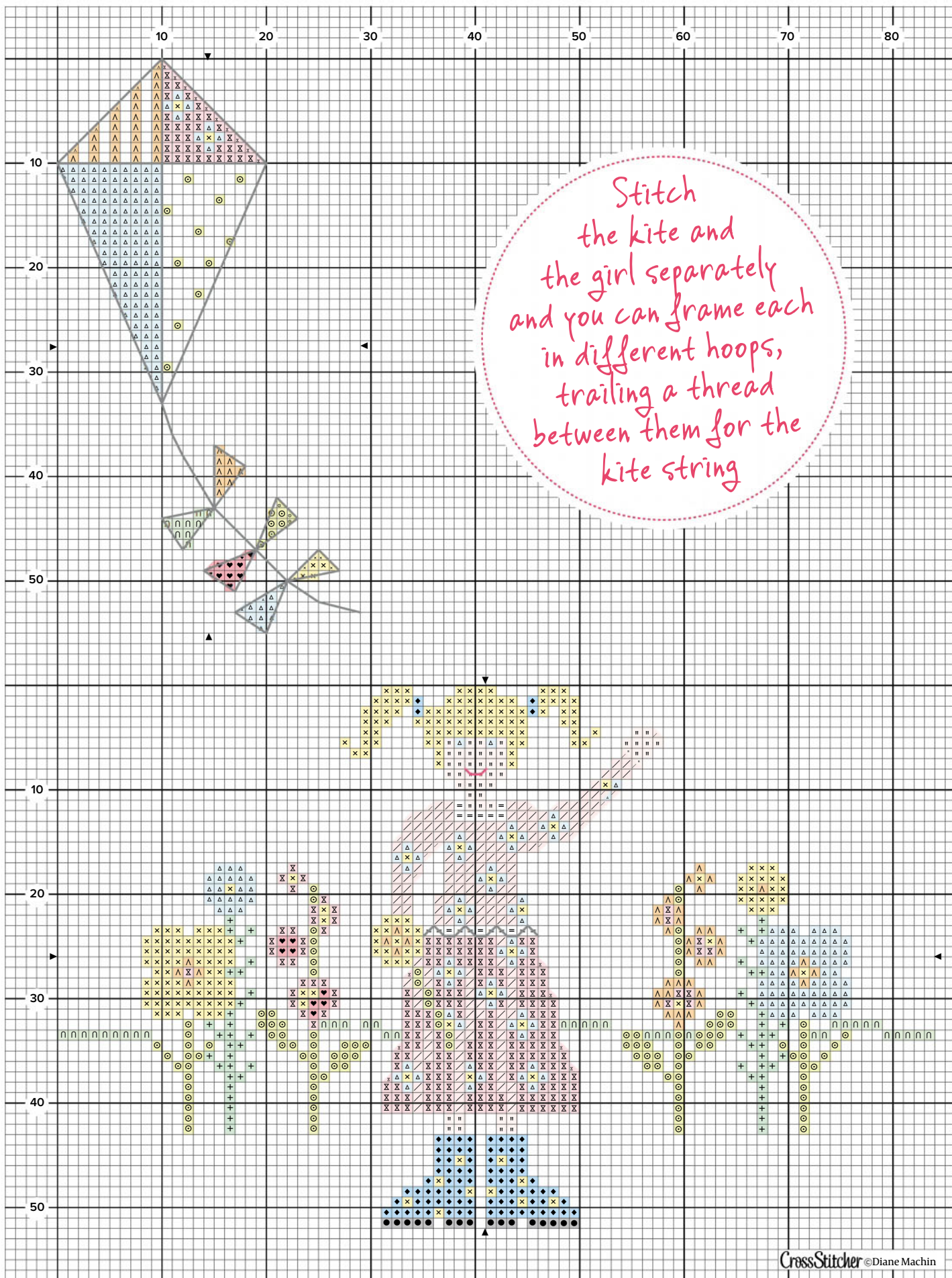
Coming up in our June issue, we have a biscuit alphabet, designed by Maria Diaz – if you love dunkin' then you will love this yummy design packed with all your favourite nibbles, like Jammie Dodgers, Rich Tea, Party Rings, Nice and Chocolate Fingers! Get to the shops on 29 April to pick up your copy of issue 305, or subscribe and the issue will be delivered to your door. Head over to page 58 for our latest subscription offer.



High Flyer

Let's go fly a kite... Create our playful picture in pretty pastels – our double hoop design takes stitching to new heights!





CrossStitcher ©Diane Machin

Designed by: Diane Machin

Stitch count (girl): 52 high x 84 wide

Stitch count (kite): 55 high x 29 wide

Max. design size: 9.5x7cm (3¾x2¾in)

Stitch time: 9 hours total

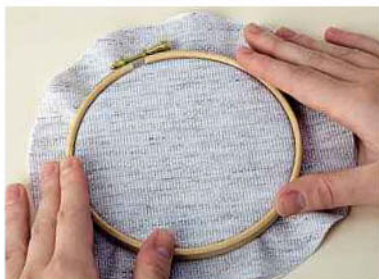
This design was stitched on 28 count evenweave over two threads of the fabric.

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
● ●	414	235	1801
⊙ ⊙	472	253	1414
△ △	519	1038	1105
♥ ♥	602	063	702
✕ ✕	604	055	614
∕ ∕	605	074	613
∧ ∧	722	323	307
× ×	726	305	109
	819	271	501
+ +	913	204	1212
∩ ∩	955	206	1210
◆ ◆	996	433	1103
= =	blanc	001	white
Backstitch in one strand			
—	414	235	1801
outlines			
—	602	063	702
lips			



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.

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Overseas readers see page 87

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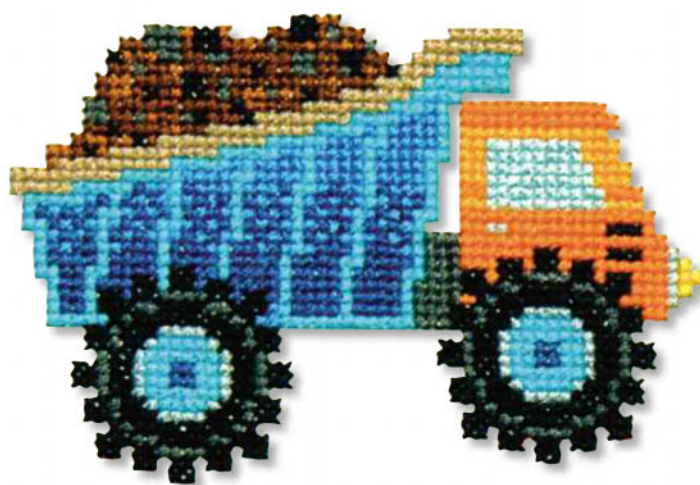
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KEEP ON TRUCKING



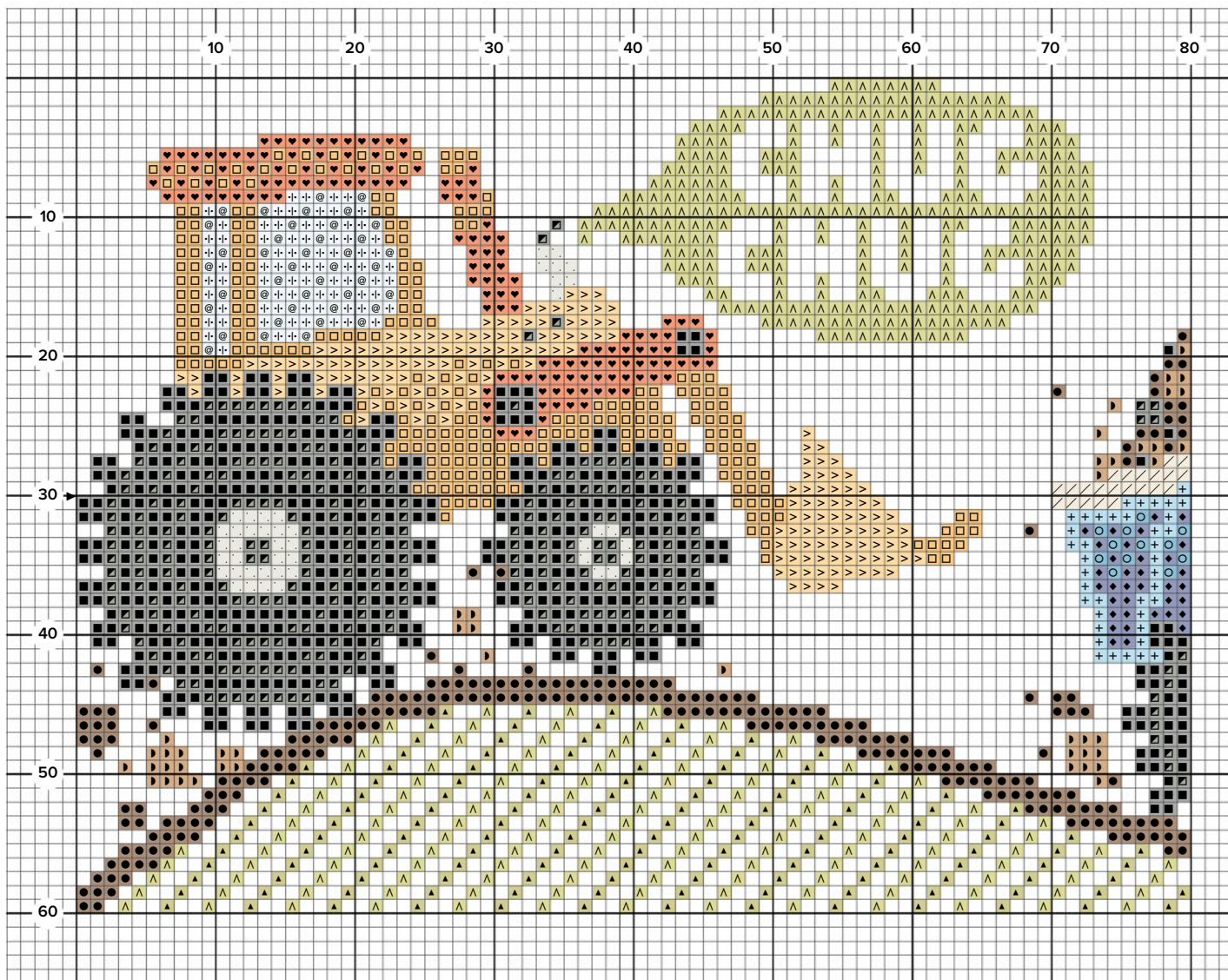


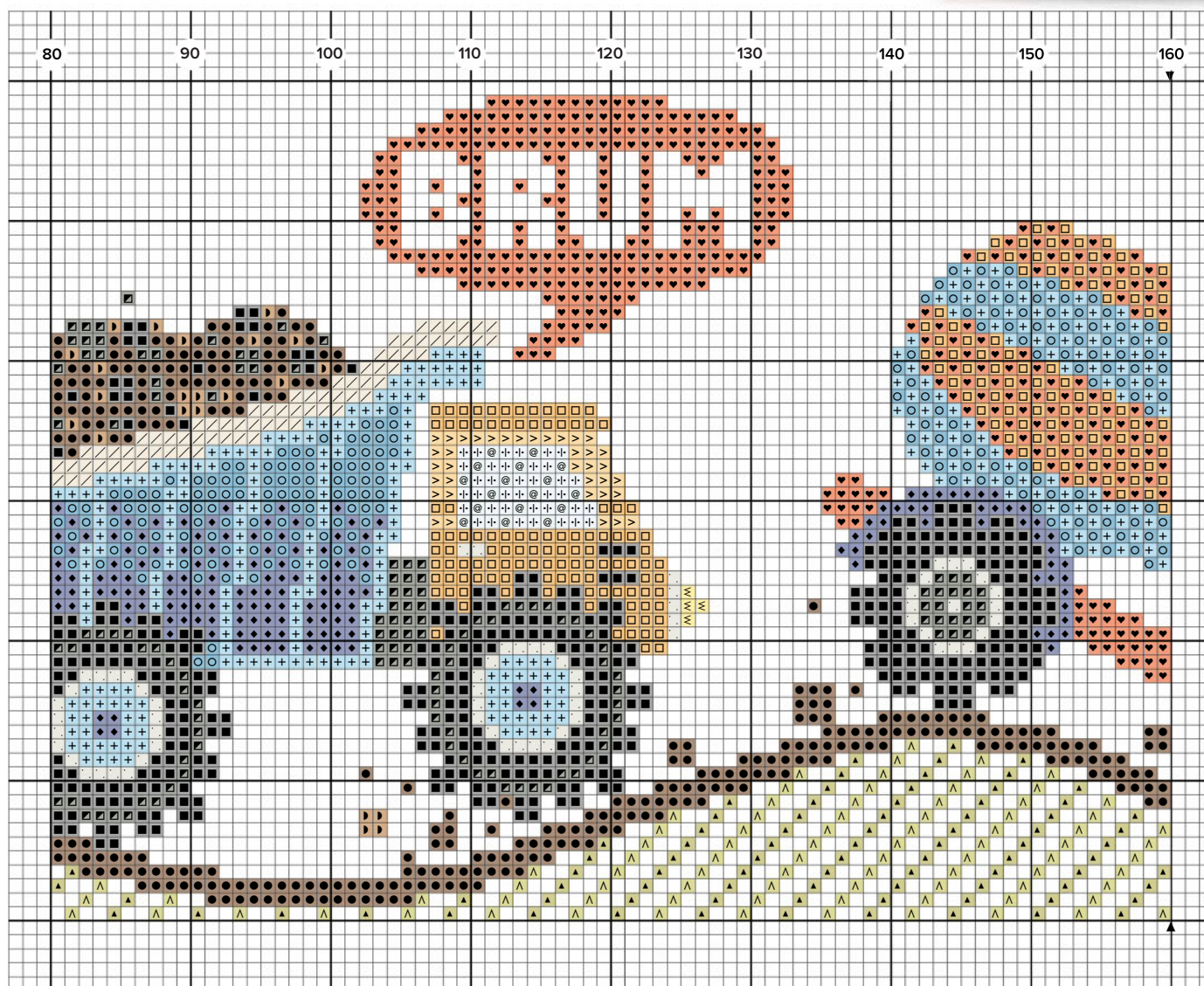
Keep On TRUCKING

Beep, beep! Stitch our trucks, dumpers and diggers design and you're on the road to making a little one you know very happy indeed!



KEEP ON TRUCKING





Designed by: Emma Congdon

Stitch count: 60 high x 320 wide

Design size: 9x49.5cm (3½x19½in)

Stitch time: 49 hours

This design was stitched on 16 count aida fabric.

Materials

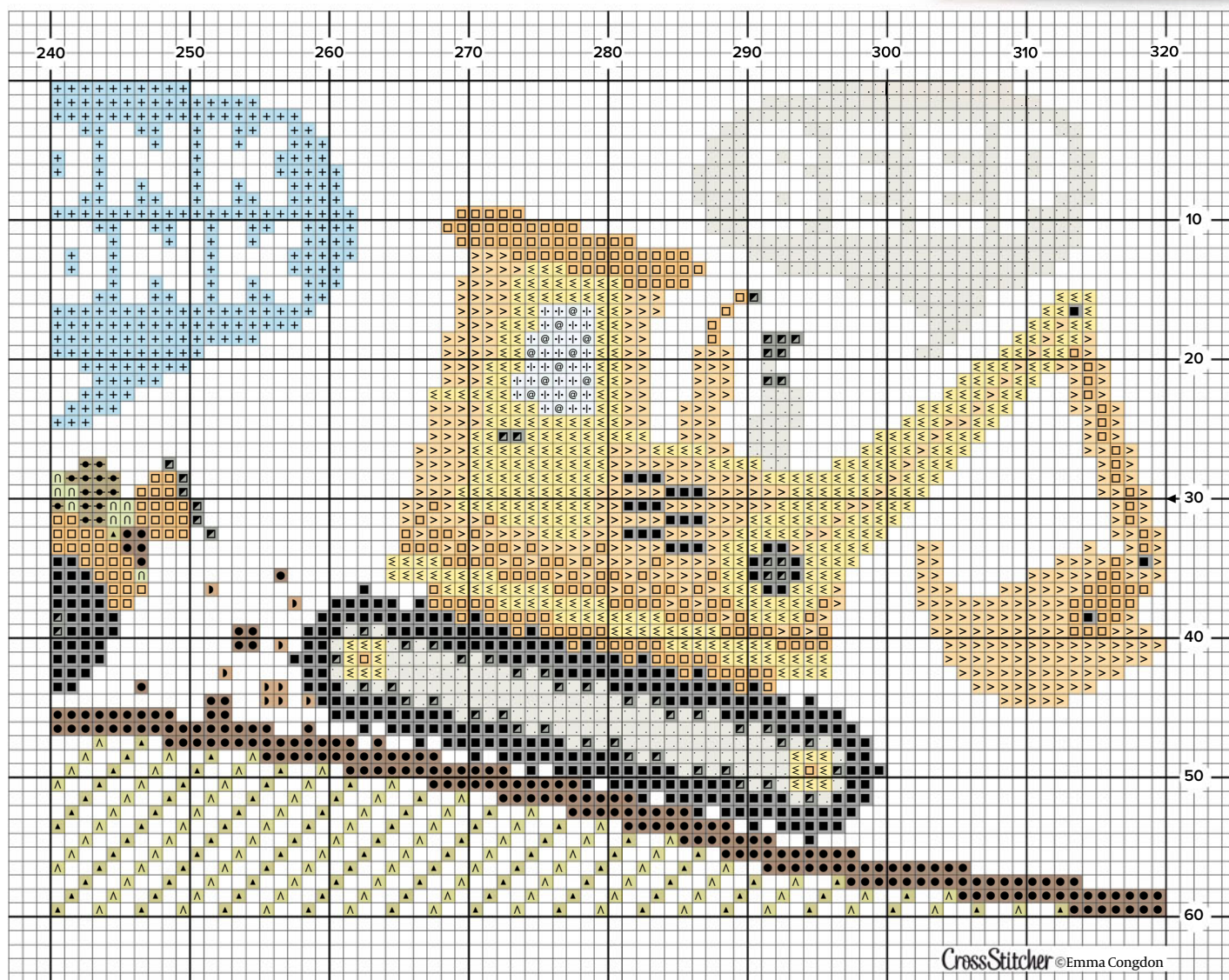
- Zweigart 16 count olive aida, ref: 3371/7600, 23x60cm (9x24in) – basic dimensions, see page 65 for how to measure your container
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Size 24 tapestry needle
- Velcro, 17.5cm (7in)

For stockist details see page 86

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira		DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands				Cross stitch in two strands			
	166	280	1501		742	303	114
	168	274	1803		747	158	1104
	310	403	black		801	359	2007
	434	310	2009		828	975	1101
	471	265	1501		973	290	105
	535	1041	1809		3787	273	1810
	581	280	1609		3842	162	1011
	606	335	209		3844	410	1103*
	730	845	1614		3846	433	1103*
	740	316	202				

*See 'Colour Match' on page 84.

This design is so versatile - you could continue repeating it to make a wall frieze for a bedroom, or stitch just one vehicle to make a cute card



Make a... box or basket wrap

Step 1

MEASURE the distance around your box or basket – you may need to add extra to the height and width of the fabric dimensions given on page 63 to fit your container. You will also need to add a small amount to the width of your fabric for an overlap. Stitch the design, leaving the overlap blank, repeating the design or part of the design to fill the space.

Step 2

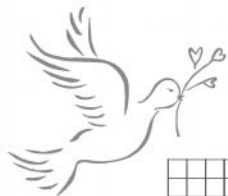
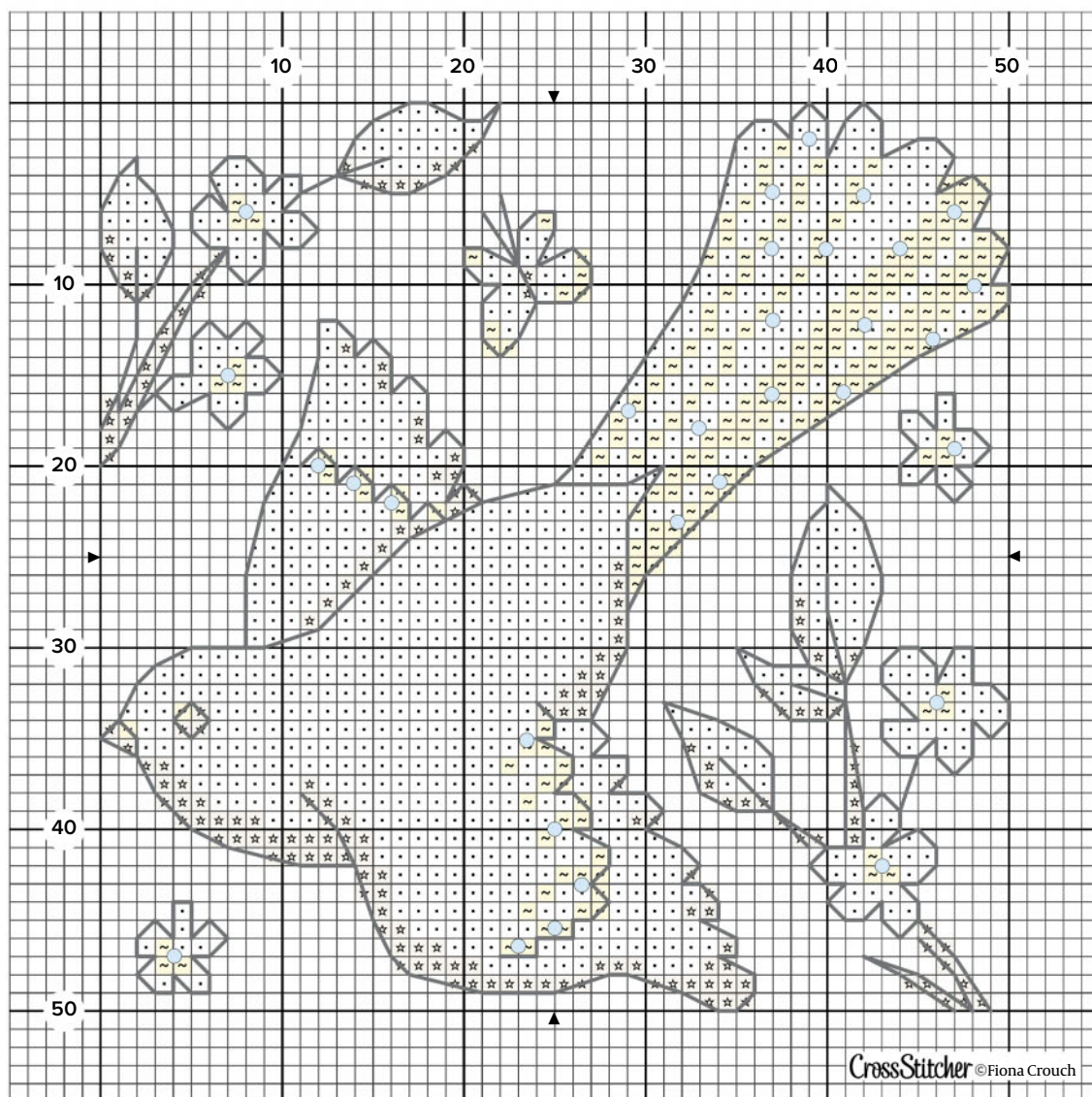
TURN over a small amount at the top and bottom of your stitched design, and then machine stitch the seams in place. Repeat for the ends of the fabric, and then machine stitch Velcro to the overlap.





Wings of Love

Know a couple getting married or who've just got engaged? Simple to stitch, our mini dove picture is a gift they're sure to treasure



CrossStitcher ©Fiona Crouch

Designed by: Fiona Crouch
Stitch count: 50 high x 50 wide
Design size: 9.5x9.5cm (3¾x3¾in)
Stitch time: 7 hours

This design was stitched on 14 count aida fabric.

TURN TO
PAGE 44
TO LEARN
HOW TO FRAME
YOUR PICTURE

Our dove design
would also make
a lovely card for
an early summer
wedding

DMC Anchor Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands

~ ~	3078	292	102
☆ ☆	3866	926	1908
▪ ▪	B5200	001	white

Backstitch in one strand

—	317	400	1714
---	-----	-----	------

outlines

Attach beads with cotton

● ●	Mill Hill beads	02010
-----	-----------------	-------

decoration

Materials

- Zweigart 14 count pewter aida, ref: 3706/713, 22.5x22.5cm (9x9in)
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Size 24 tapestry needle
- Mill Hill glass seed beads, ref: 02010
- Frame with a 12x12cm (4¾x4¾in) aperture
- Mount board to fit frame

For stockist details see page 86



QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY COMPETITION



Don't miss your chance to enter our special competition!
Create a new bunting design for the Queen's 90th birthday to win some fabulous Emma Bridgewater china

Last month we launched our design competition to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday this June. We're asking readers of *CrossStitcher* or *Cross Stitch Collection* to design a bunting flag to commemorate this special event.

Don't worry if you missed it – the competition closes on 15 April, so if you get your skates on, you could still enter! The winner's design will be published in the Summer issue of both magazines, plus they will receive this fabulous prize of collectible celebration china and matching tea towel from Emma Bridgewater.

To take part in our competition, all you need to do is design, chart and stitch a bunting flag to fit inside the marked area on the chart opposite (max. 100 high x 80 wide). The stitching must be on a 25.5x23cm (10x9in) piece of 14 count white aida fabric; please note that the stitching must be sent flat and *not* made up into a flag. The design must be your own original work, on the theme of the Queen's birthday, and no part of the design must be copied from any other design already published by yourself or any other designer in any form.

So what are you waiting for? Get designing and you might be seeing your cross stitch creation published in *CrossStitcher* very soon. Good luck!



HOW TO ENTER

Send your stitching, with a chart and colour or symbol key, maximum ten cross stitch colours and two backstitch colours, using the form opposite – you can photocopy the page. If you would prefer to send in your design on a computer generated chart, you must staple a photocopy of the form to the back.

Fill in your name, address, telephone number and email address (*to enable us to contact you and include the winning design in the Summer issue 263, it's essential we have a current email address), to arrive no later than 15 April 2016 to: Queen's Birthday Competition, *CrossStitcher* Magazine, PO Box 172, Northam, EX39 9DY.

RULES

No part of the design can be copied or have been previously published in any form. We cannot accept entries that represent copyright images. The winner will be required to sign a form to guarantee originality, and the winning design will become the exclusive property of *Cross Stitcher*/*Cross Stitch Collection*. Please enclose a SAE for the return of unpublished work. All entries must be received by 15 April 2016. Employees of Dennis Publishing, professional designers and designers and stitchers who already work for either *CrossStitcher* or *Cross Stitch Collection* magazine, are not eligible to enter. Please see page 87 for general competition rules.

THE PRIZE

What better way to toast Her Royal Majesty on her 90th birthday, than with an Emma Bridgewater mug? Besides seeing their winning bunting design in print, our winner will also receive two earthenware commemorative mugs designed especially to mark the Queen's forthcoming birthday. One features cheery spongeware and the other shows the lion and unicorn from the British Royal Coat of Arms (RRP £19.95 each). The prize also includes a celebration tea towel, RRP £10.

If you'd like to find out more about Emma Bridgewater products, including her pottery, homeware and personalised designs, you can visit www.emmabridgewater.co.uk



10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80

Colour

Cross stitch

☐	☐	
☐	☐	
☐	☐	
☐	☐	
☐	☐	
☐	☐	
☐	☐	
☐	☐	
☐	☐	

Backstitch

☐	
☐	

Name:

Address:

Daytime telephone number:

Evening telephone number:

*Email address:



Sea Breeze

Catch some sea air with our quayside cottages – perfect for prettifying a plain wash bag and towel with ease



Designed by: Claire Crompton Stitch count: 63 high x 55 wide

Design size: 11x9.5cm (4½x3¾in) Stitch time: 10 hours

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

Materials

- Zweigart 28 count white Cashel linen, 17.5x14cm (7x5½in)
 - Stranded cotton as listed in the key
 - Size 26 tapestry needle
- For stockist details see page 86

We've stitched the border at the bottom of this design as two rows onto a towel with an aida panel inserted

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
	165	278	1414
	166	280	1501
	221	020	811
	224	893	813
	225	1020	814
	341	117	901
	367	217	1312
	368	214	1310
	518	1039	1106
	519	1038	1105
	772	259	1604
	800	159	908
	807	1039	1109
	809	130	909
	919	340	313
	921	884	311
	951	1010	2308
	992	1072	1202
	993	1070	1201
	3041	871	806
	3042	870	807
	3348	264	1409
	3688	066	605
	3689	049	607
	3722	1027	812
	3743	869	2611
	3747	120	907
	3761	928	1014
	3765	169	2506
	3856	368	2309

Backstitch in two strands

	336	150	1007
--	-----	-----	------

pattern

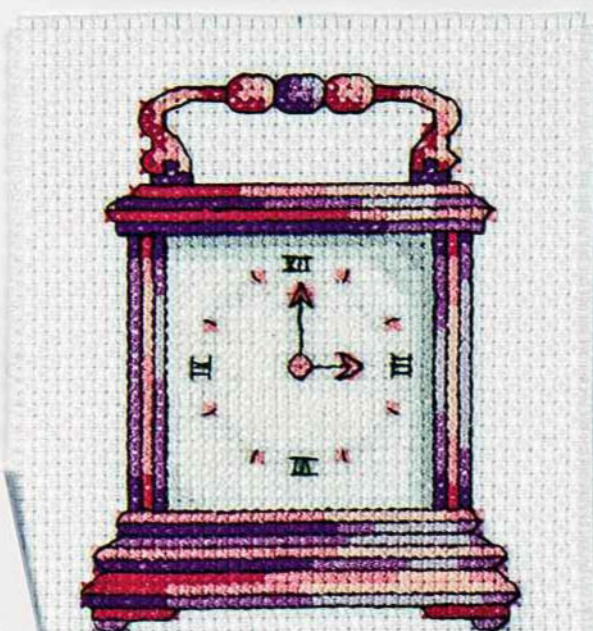
Backstitch in one strand

	336	150	1007
--	-----	-----	------

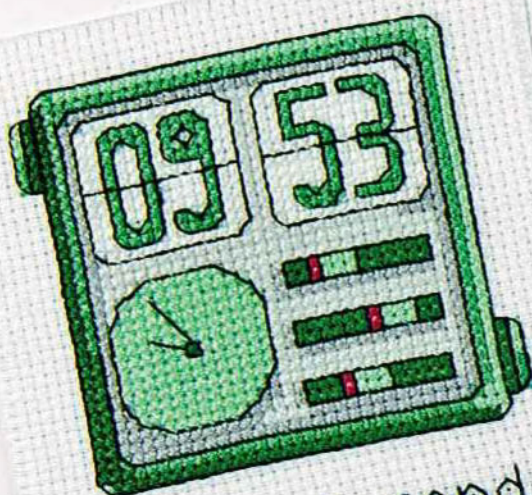
outlines

A STITCH IN TIME...

Stop clock watching and start stitching instead! Quick and quirky, our collection of fun cards can be made in just a few hours each

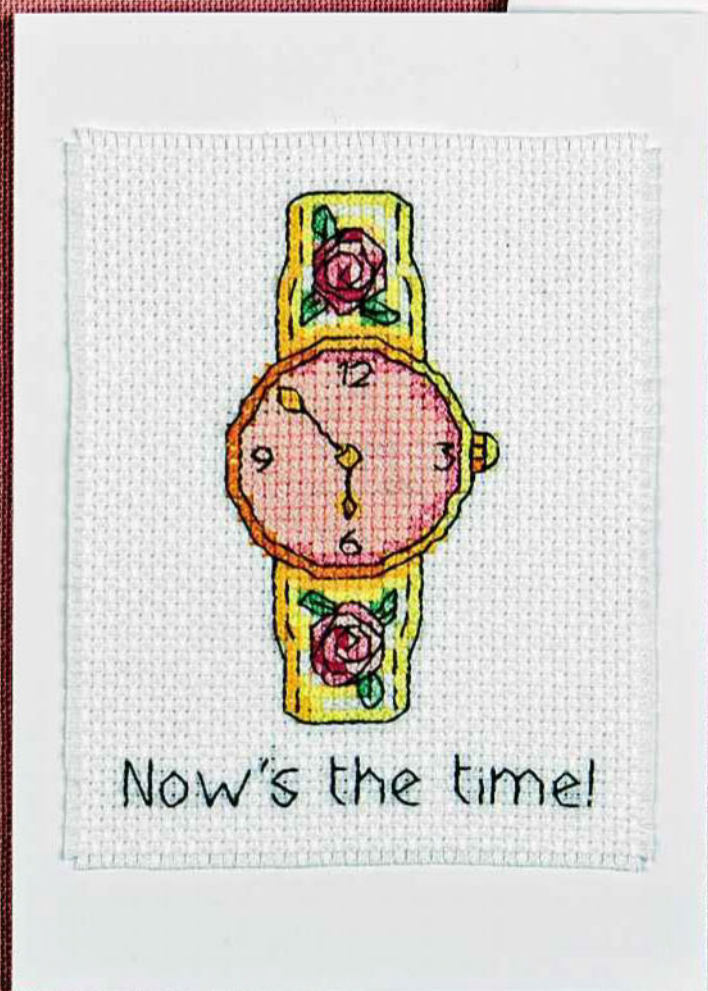


Perfect timing?



Every second counts!





Designed by: Durene Jones

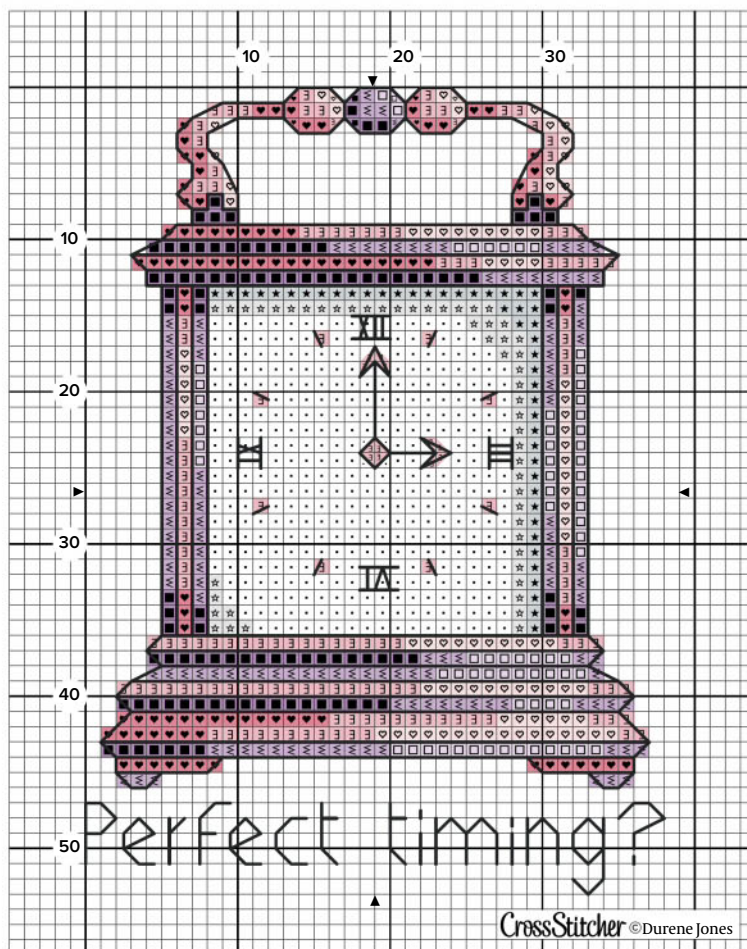
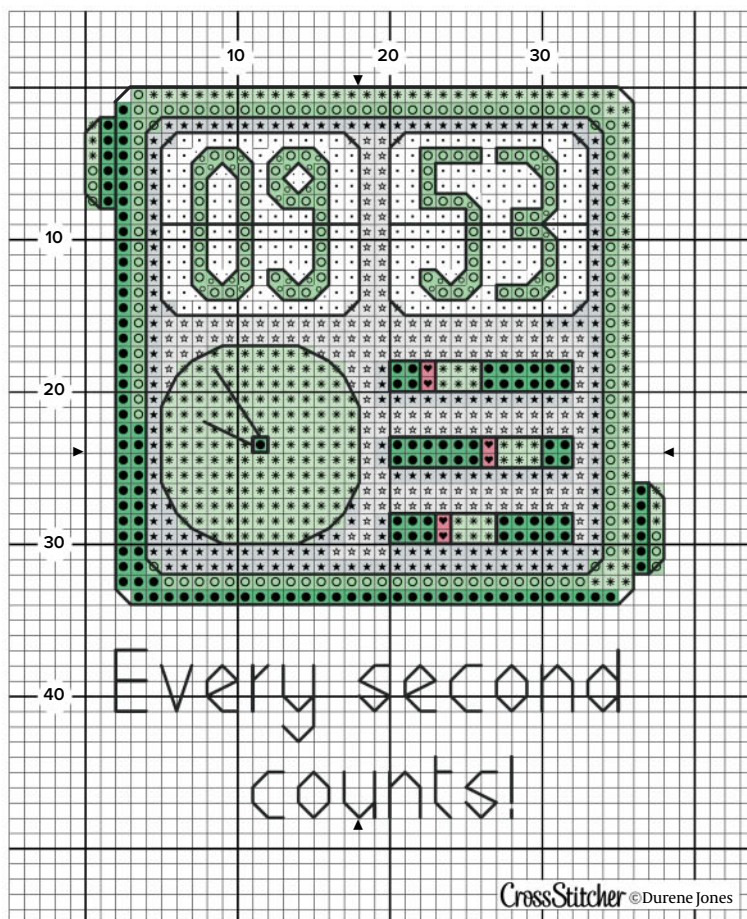
Max. stitch count: 51 high x 38 wide

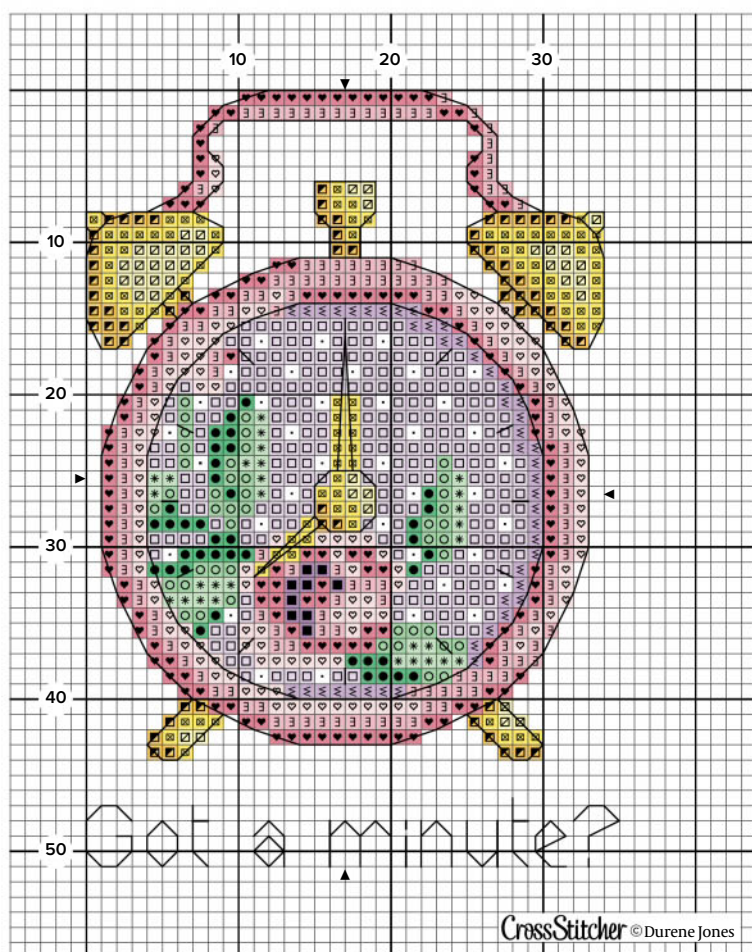
Max. design size: 9.5x7cm (3 3/4 x 2 3/4 in)

Stitch time: 5 hours each

These designs were stitched on 14 count aida fabric.

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
	208	111	804
	209	109	803
	211	342	801
	415	398	1803
	445	288	103
	602	063	702
	604	055	614
	762	234	1804
	911	205	1214
	913	204	1212
	955	206	1210
	963	023	608
	972	298	107
	973	290	105
	B5200	001	white
Backstitch in one strand			
	310	403	black
outlines			





Make a... patch card

Step 1

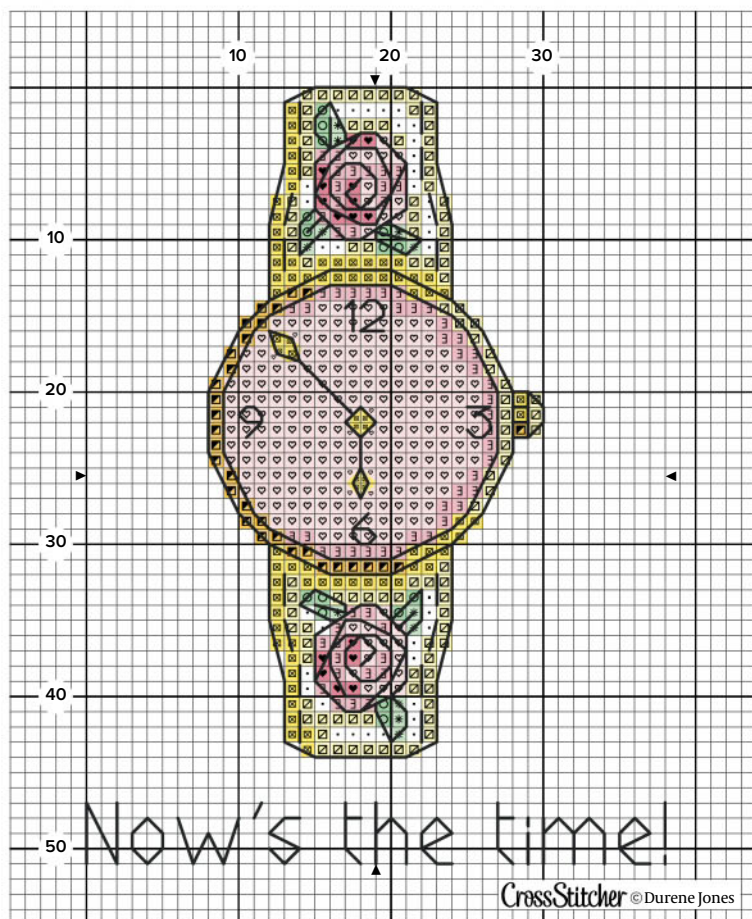
WORK all the cross stitch in two strands of stranded cotton and the backstitch in one strand.

Step 2

CUT around the stitching, and depending on the size of your card, leave between six and eight blank aida squares outside the design on all sides. Fray two of these squares – remove one at a time, carefully peeling the threads away.

Step 3

MACHINE stitch the aida centrally onto the front of a blank card, stitching one square inside the frayed edge. Or, if you prefer, use double-sided tape to attach the stitching to the front of the card.



We've stitched these cards on aida, but as they contain fractional stitches, you may prefer to use evenweave instead

Materials

For each card

- Zweigart 14 count white aida, ref: 3706/100, 12.5x10cm (5x4in)
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Size 24 tapestry needle
- Card to fit the design

For stockist details see page 86



Let's get
inspired

SEW TWEET!

We've put together some birds of a feather to beautify your stitching. Pick out your favourites or stitch a whole flock!

Designed by: Maria Diaz

*Prefer a fabric coaster?
Layer your design with
Vilene, fusible fleece and a
felt back. Cut out, then
edge with satin stitch*



MATERIALS

Coaster

- Zweigart 28 count white Brittney evenweave, ref: 3270/100; 12x12cm (5x5in)
- Fabric Flair plastic coaster, 8cm diameter (3¼in)
- Vilene, 12x12cm (5x5in)

Mouse mat

- Zweigart 28 count white Brittney evenweave, ref: 3270/100; 30x25cm (12x10in)
- Photomat with sleeve for inserting cross stitch, 22.5x18.5cm (9x7¼in)
- Vilene, 30x25cm (12x10in)

For both

- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Size 26 tapestry needle

For stockist details see page 86

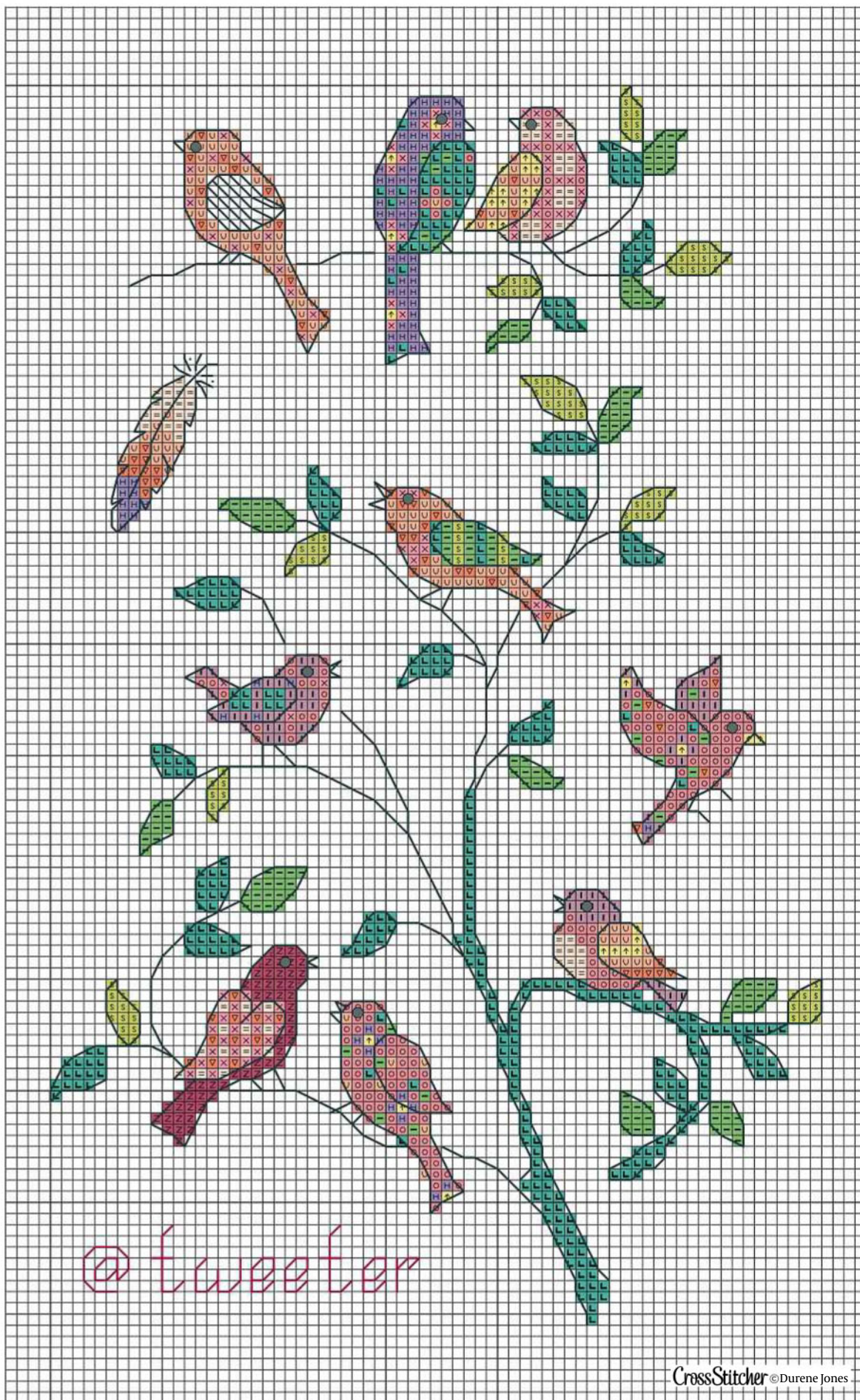


Back your fabric with Vilene before cutting it to size and sliding it into your photomat, then use as a mouse mat!











Stitch count: 31 high x 25 wide

Design size: 6x6cm (2¼x2¼in)

Stitch time: 2 hours

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

Make a... coaster

Step 1

STITCH your design and then cut the evenweave slightly larger than your coaster. Iron Vilene onto the back.

Step 2

REMOVE the coaster back and then place it centrally over the fabric. Draw around the edge and then carefully cut out the circle of fabric.

Step 3

PLACE the stitching in the coaster and then snap on the back to hold it in place.

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
	155	1030	902
	703	238	1307
	712	926	2101
	744	301	112
	924	851	1706
	948	1011	306
	957	031	612
	3340	329	301
	3350	059	603
	3733	075	813
	3812	188	2706

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
	3819	278	2703
	3824	008	2605
	3836	090	711
	blanc	001	white
Backstitch in one strand			
	924	851	1706
	3350	059	603
French knots in one strand			
	924	851	1706

More to make...

Our flocks of folksy birds are fabulous for all sorts of occasions. Here are some easy ideas to get you started...

1 Arrange the birds to create a wall hanger with a wooden dowel at each end.

2 Use beads instead of stitches to add beautiful bird motifs to a purse using waste canvas.

3 Stitch the birds onto aida band and attach round a plain tin to create a pretty desk tidy.



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NEW!

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



LEARN WITH CrossStitcher

Sharpen your stitching skills every month until Christmas with our brand new 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.

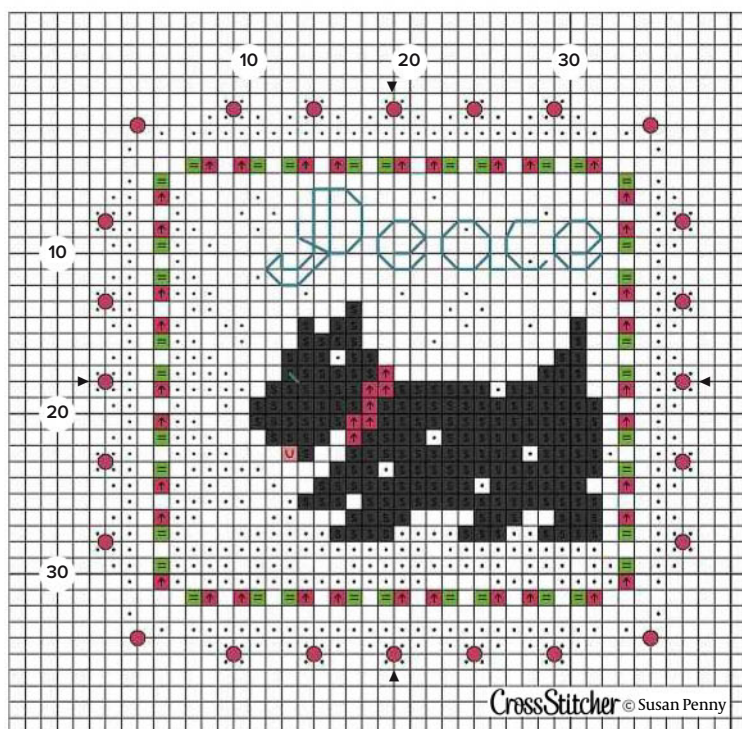
Evenweave is much simpler to work with than you might think. Start with a 25 or 28 count evenweave, such as Zweigart Lugana. Once you're confident, try your hand at a linen version.

WELCOME TO THIS MONTH'S STITCH-ALONG

Add this part of the design to your own mystery sampler or start your Christmas stitching early by making our Scottie into a gorgeous card.

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.



Designed by: Susan Penny Stitch count: 36 high x 38 wide

Design size: 6.5x6.5cm (2½x2½in) Stitch time: 4 hours

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

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
	310	403	black
	321	019	510
	760	1022	405
	906	256	1411
	blanc	001	white
Backstitch in one strand			
	3810	168	1108
	eye, peace		
French knots in one strand			
	321	019	510
	decoration		

HOW TO JOIN OUR STITCH-ALONG

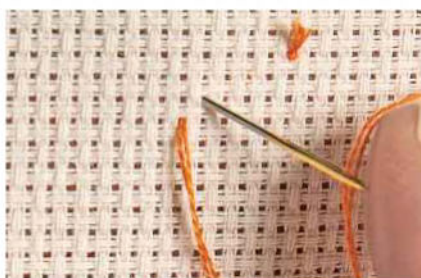
WHAT'S A STITCH-ALONG? We're glad you asked! Stitch-alongs can take many different forms – in our case we'll be unveiling a new chart in each issue between now and our Christmas edition. We'll be giving you a small section of a sampler each time – as you add to your design you'll start to see your sampler take shape! Stitch-alongs are great fun, in that you only work on small parts of the design at a time, but will gradually get to see the 'bigger picture'. If you would like to join our stitch-along you will need a 46x25.5cm (18x10in) piece of 28 count evenweave or 14 count aida to complete

the whole design. The finished design size is 32x13.5cm (12½x 5¼in). Make a rectangular border of cross stitches 182 high x 77 wide which is the design stitch count, in DMC 321. Start at the Scottie's tongue which is 57 squares up and 15 squares in from the left side, including the red border stitches. We hope you enjoy stitching our mystery sampler – and don't forget to update us on your progress by posting photos of your work on our Christmas SAL Pinterest board, our Facebook page; www.facebook.com/CrossStitcherMag or emailing us at crossstitcher@dennis.co.uk.

NEW TO CROSS STITCH? START RIGHT HERE!

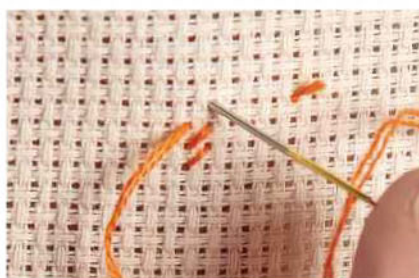
Start stitching... on aida

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.

Your shopping Stockists

Seen something that's inspired you? Here's where you can buy it...

Get started

For stitching fabric, threads and all the basic supplies you need, try one of these top stockists...

WILLOW FABRICS

www.willowfabrics.co.uk

For evenweave, aida and all kinds of stitching fabrics

BARNYARNS

www.barnyarns.co.uk

0176 569 0069

For Anchor, DMC and Madeira threads and all kinds of haberdashery supplies

COTTON PATCH

www.cottonpatch.co.uk

0121 702 2840

For stuffing, wadding, interfacing, Bondaweb, scissors and all kinds of haberdashery supplies

JOHN JAMES NEEDLES

www.jjneedles.com

0152 783 0941

For all kinds of needles and needle packs

SIESTA FRAMES

www.siestaframes.com

0120 281 3363

For stitching frames, hoops and lamps

CLOUD CRAFT

www.cloudcraft.co.uk

For 100% wool felt in lots of colours

JOSY ROSE

www.josyrose.com

For buttons, beads and all kinds of embellishments

POLSTITCHES DESIGNS

www.polstitchesdesigns.co.uk

0800 772 3615

For beautiful hand-dyed fabric

EFRAME

www.eframe.co.uk

For picture frames for displaying your stitching

HOBBYCRAFT

www.hobbycraft.co.uk

0330 026 1400

For cardstock, paper, paint, glue and general crafting supplies

Your projects

You can make our projects using any materials you like, but if you need help tracking down specific items here are a few hints. Contact details for the suppliers are above or on the opposite page.

ON POINTE

Polstitches 28 count tudor rose opalescent linen: Polstitches
Mill Hill glass seed beads, ref: 02010: Willow Fabrics
Wooden frame: eFrame
Mount board: Fred Aldous

WINNING WORDS

Zweigart 14 count white aida, ref: 3706/100: Willow Fabrics
Wooden embroidery hoop: Sew and So

CANDY CRUSH

Zweigart 14 count white aida, ref: 3706/100: Willow Fabrics
Glass jar: John Lewis

FIT FOR A QUEEN

Zweigart 32 count antique white Belfast linen, ref: 3609/101: Willow Fabrics
Wooden frame: eFrame
Mount board: Fred Aldous

PANDA-MONIUM

Zweigart 25 count green Lugana evenweave, ref: 3835/6065: Willow Fabrics
Wooden dowel: Wickes
Buttons: John Lewis

WELCOME TO THE WORLD

Zweigart 14 count pale lemon aida, ref: 3706/2030: Willow Fabrics
Wooden frame: eFrame
Mount board: Fred Aldous

HIGH FLYER

Zweigart 28 count Brittny evenweave, ref: 3270/550: Willow Fabrics
Wooden embroidery hoop: Sew and So

KEEP ON TRUCKING

Zweigart 16 count olive aida, ref: 3371/600: Willow Fabrics
Velcro: John Lewis

WINGS OF LOVE

Zweigart 14 count pewter aida, ref: 3706/713: Willow Fabrics
Mill Hill glass seed beads, ref: 02010: Willow Fabrics
Wooden frame: eFrame
Mount board: Fred Aldous

A STITCH IN TIME

Zweigart 14 count white aida, ref: 3706/100: Willow Fabrics
Cards: Craft Creations

SEW TWEET

Zweigart 28 count white Brittany evenweave, ref: 3270/100: Willow Fabrics
Photomat with sleeve: Amazon
Fabric Flair plastic coaster: Sew and So
Vilene: John Lewis

SEA BREEZE

Zweigart 28 count white Cashel linen: Willow Fabrics
Wash bag: Similar available from Boots





Treat yourself to a
handmade needle case
from Beetlebirdhare!

Shoppingguide

Contact details for all the suppliers quoted in this issue,
plus a few of our favourite places for extra inspiration!

ARTY MOMENTS

www.etsy.com/uk/shop/ArtyMoments

BEETLEBIRDHARE

www.etsy.com/uk/shop/beetlebirdhare

CAROLAN CRAFTS

www.etsy.com/uk/shop/CarolanCrafts

CICO BOOKS

www.rylandpeters.com

CRAFT CREATIONS

www.craftcreations.com

CULTURE VULTURE

www.culturevulturedirect.co.uk

DMC

www.dmccreative.co.uk

DOTCOMGIFTSHOP

www.dotcomgiftshop.com

EFRAME

www.iframe.co.uk

FIDDLESTICKS

www.etsy.com/shop/fiddlesticksau

FLOSS & MISCHIEF

www.flossandmischief.com

FRED ALDOUS

www.fredaldous.co.uk

GROVES AND BANKS

www.grovesltd.co.uk

HAWTHORN HANDMADE

www.hawthornhandmade.com

HOBBYCRAFT

www.hobbycraft.co.uk

JOHN LEWIS

www.johnlewis.com

KIMBERLY OUIMET

www.etsy.com/uk/shop/KimberlyOuiMet

PIXEL AND THREAD

www.etsy.com/uk/shop/PixelAndThread

POLSTITCHES

www.polstitchesdesigns.co.uk

SEW AND SO

www.sewandso.co.uk

SEW IT ALL

www.sewitall.com

SHEENA ROGERS DESIGNS

www.etsy.com/uk/shop/SheenaRogersDesigns

STITCH KITS LONDON

www.stitchkitslondon.co.uk

THE MAKERY

www.themakery.co.uk

CrossStitcher

Email us at crossstitcher@dennis.co.uk

CONTACT US AT

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that neither the Company nor any associated third parties shall have any liability to you in
connection with your use and/or possession of your prize. Competitions in issue 304 are
open 1 April – 28 April 2016 (Bunting design competition open until 15 April 2016)

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CrossStitcher's Buyer's guide

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jwooddmc@mail.com

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

I am looking for a back issue of *CrossStitcher*. In particular, I am looking for a project called Patchwork Winter. There was an entire series, with Patchwork Spring in the February 2009 issue, Patchwork Summer in the June 2009 issue and Patchwork Autumn in the September 2009 issue. That issue indicated that Patchwork Winter was coming soon – however I don't have the issue with Patchwork Winter in. If anyone can help me with this, I'd love to get hold of this chart. Thanks.

Paula Mansfield
Email: pjmansfield@netscape.net

I wondered if anyone can help me? Many years ago I completed a cross stitch pattern from *CrossStitcher* magazine – it was a mouse design entitled Eat, Drink and Be Merry. I think it was in a December issue. Does anyone remember this mouse pattern and if so is there any way you could send me the issue in question or just the chart? Thank you for your help.

Gail McKee
Email: gailmarie86@hotmail.com

I bought issue 199 of *CrossStitcher* and received the kit that came with it. This was eight years ago, but I have only just got around to the kit. I have lost the magazine, so I was wondering if anyone would possibly have the pattern that they could send me? Many thanks.

Rebecca Rogers,
c/o Jill Rogers,
Wyke College,
Bricknell Avenue,
Hull,
HU5 4NT
Email: rebeccarogers2740@gmail.com

Can anyone help me? I completed a cross stitch design featured in *Cross Stitch Collection* (*CrossStitcher*'s sister magazine) – there were four to choose from. I chose Autumn Goddess – it is beautiful. I have been asked by a friend to do one for her. I do not have the magazine or chart anymore. I am sure it was in 2012. Is there anyone who remembers this who might have the charts they could send me? I'm also interested in the other seasons. Many thanks for any help you can give.

Shirley Fisher,
Collingwood,
Cannons Lane,
Hatfield Broad Oak,
Essex,
CM22 7HX
Email: fisher3colemans@aol.com

BECOME A CrossStitcher CORRESPONDENT

We'd love to connect stitching fans all over the globe, so we want to know what's going on in your corner of the world!

WHAT WOULD YOU NEED TO DO?

To be a correspondent, we'd like you to give us the low-down on the stitching scene in your local area. Have you visited a great show, discovered designs traditional to your area, joined a stitching group or started a group project that has a connection to your hometown? Whatever you're up to, share your view of the cross stitch world with us!

Simply send us 200 words or more with your news and a hi-res photo (or three!) that we can publish in the magazine. We'd love to share a small photo of you too, so other readers can enjoy 'meeting' you.

Please email us at crossstitcher@dennis.co.uk heading your email 'Our Correspondent', if you'd like to join in with this brand-new part of the magazine. Don't forget to tell us if you have a blog or Facebook page you'd like other readers to visit.

EMAIL YOUR ADS to us at crossstitcher@dennis.co.uk

If you're not online, drop us a note with your ad details and contact information to
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

CrossStitcher JUST FOR FUN

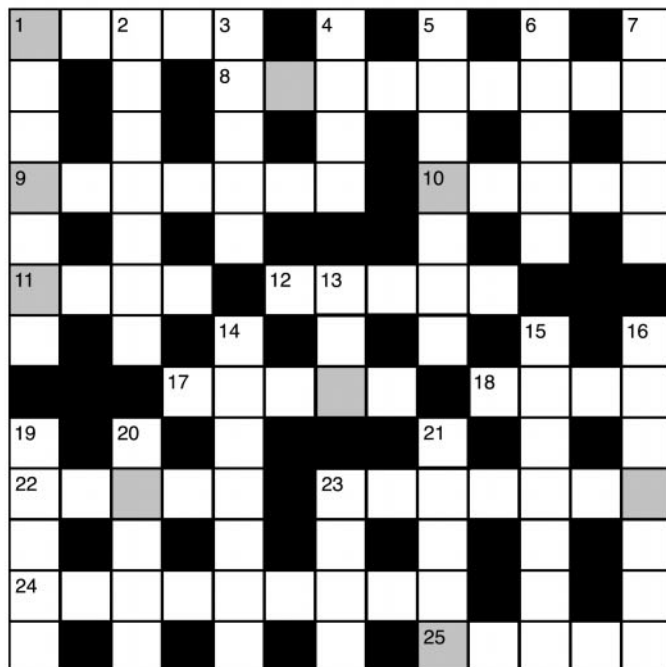
Prize crossword

Across

- 1 Physical sign of laughter or sadness (5)
- 8 Technique where the stitching is the same colour as the fabric (9)
- 9 Adolescent (7)
- 10 Dairy product (5)
- 11 Sound of a lion (4)
- 12 Desert mammal (5)
- 17 Synthetic yarn (5)
- 18 Battenberg or Madeira, eg. (4)
- 22 Ice house (5)
- 23 Endurance (7)
- 24 Risky (9)
- 25 Piece of academic writing (5)

Down

- 1 Inflict pain on someone (7)
- 2 North London football club (7)
- 3 Perspire (5)
- 4 Gaming cubes (4)
- 5 Tutor (7)
- 6 Celestial object (5)
- 7 Be frugal (5)
- 13 *Much --- About Nothing*, Shakespeare play (3)
- 14 Things from an earlier time (7)
- 15 The six ---, rugby tournament (7)
- 16 Car used to flee a crime scene (7)
- 19 Evenweave fabric in a 27 count (5)
- 20 Informal language (5)
- 21 Not true (5)
- 23 Blackthorn fruit used in gin (4)



Winning word clue: **May we all celebrate this princess's birthday? (9)**

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 304' 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:

1 April -

28 April 2016

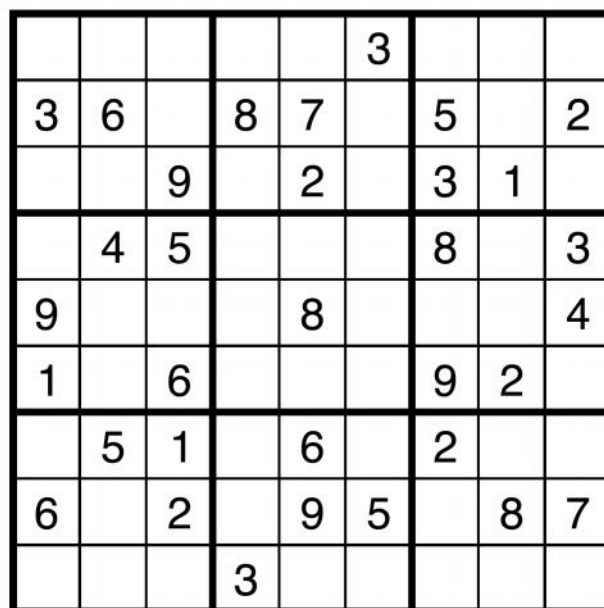
For full terms and conditions, see page 87.



YOUR PRIZE One lucky winner will receive a Moira Blackburn Country Cottage kit from Bothy Threads. This traditional-style sampler uses full stitches only and is stitched on 16 count parchment Zweigart aida, with pre-sorted stranded cotton, needle, stitch diagram and instructions. The kit is available from www.bothythreads.com, RRP £27.49.

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 302's winning word **PATRICK**

No.1
FOR DESIGNS

In your June

CrossStitcher

Best of British designs & ideas!



Inside this month

- ♥ Retro fans will love our fab Union Jack **Mini Cooper**
- ♥ **Celebrate Father's Day** with our dapper cards for Dad
- ♥ Delve into the cookie jar with our brilliant **biscuit alphabet**
- ♥ **Stitching for a wedding?** We've heaps of handy motifs

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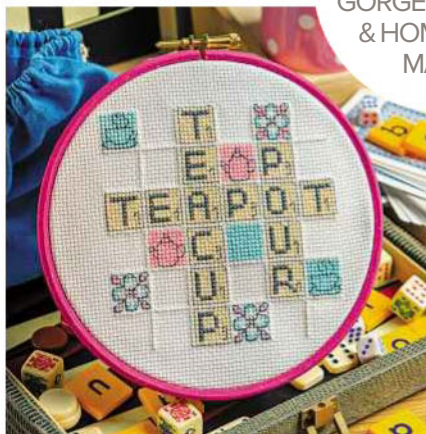
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No.1
FOR DESIGNS



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& STYLE TO
YOUR STITCHING!

GORGEOUS GIFTS
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MAKES



75

BRAND NEW
PROJECTS



Inside...
CrossStitcher
Packed with new ideas and **designs for you**
Just stitch it!

PLUS We show how to finish your projects perfectly with everyday finds

