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CROSS STITCH Collection



LILIES TO LOVE!



GOLDEN GEISHA



Country Chic



FRENCH-STYLE ALPHABET



GOOD VINTAGE



NEW YEAR!

In this issue...

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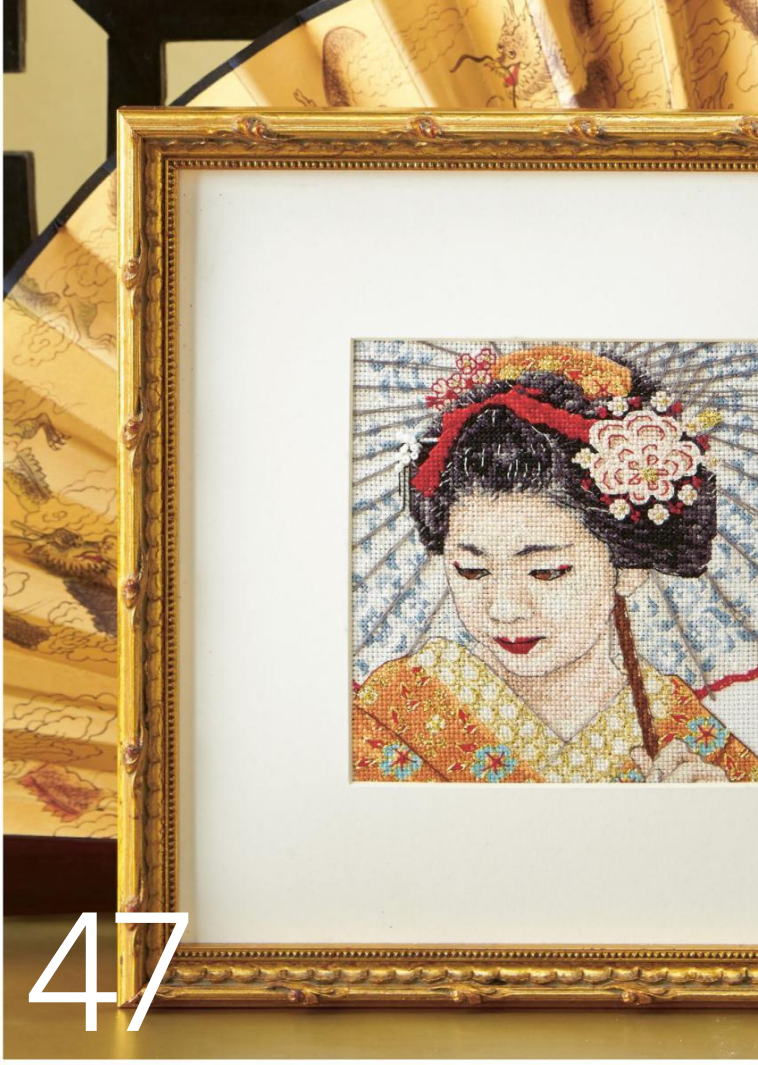
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Welcome...

Welcome to our first issue of 2015. We're getting your year off to a stitchy bang! Our January issue features heaps of stunning projects that celebrate all things new. Our stylish diary cover by Emma Congdon will help you plan the year ahead, and we've got some perfect projects to give your home a refresh for 2015. Give your bathroom an injection of French chic with Jenny Barton's elegant bathroom set, or jazz up your dining room with Zweigart's tea cosy and tablecloth projects. You could even accessorise your lounge with a fresh lily cushion by Lesley Teare. We've also got exciting new challenges with two intricate charts. Our project from Anchor uses a luxurious mix of metallic threads and techniques to create an ornate geisha, and Maria Diaz's gorgeous dresser is perfect for practising your split backstitch and French knot stitching skills. And be sure to check out our *Stitch Along Sensation* feature on page 28, where you can join in with an exciting online project that will keep you stitching all year!

Rebecca

Rebecca Bradshaw

We'd love to feature you on our letters page – email us at **csc@immediate.co.uk**, and send us your best pics!

Make sure you catch every beautiful stitching project in *Cross Stitch Collection* by signing up for a digital subscription! There are so many great reasons to get a subscription – you'll get 13 issues a year delivered directly to your device, and there are fantastic savings to be made with our subs offers. Turn to page 26 to find out how you can read the next issue for free with Apple Newsstand!



January Collection

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



Stitching the Torah

Stitch by stitch, an amazing project is uniting cross stitchers of all faiths across the world. The brain child of **Temma Gentles**, a textile artist from Canada, the aim of this project is to recreate the **entire Torah in cross stitch**, verse by verse! Temma came up with the idea whilst visiting Israel in 2012. She wanted to help people engage with the words in the Torah, but she wasn't prepared for the huge response from stitchers! So far, the ***Torah Stitch By Stitch*** project has over 850 volunteers from 15 countries, from a Mother Superior in London to Orthadox Jews in Russia. Temma had to recruit friend Marilynne Cass to help her assign 900 verses and record the returned canvases, along with photos, anecdotes and dedications. So far, 500 canvases have been returned. The finished project is **expected to contain 1,463 canvases**, and will be hand-stitched together by volunteers to create a scroll 100 yards long and displayed in Canada. Head to their website to see the completed panels, alongside the **moving dedications from the volunteers**. You could even sign up to take part! Registration costs $18, and you'll receive a kit containing canvas, a pattern for four verses and stranded cotton. All Temma and Marilynne ask is that you return your completed verses within six months. Find out more at **www.torahstitchbystitch.temmagentles.com**



Volunteers stitch their verse and can include extra motifs to illustrate the words



Plans to display the stitched Torah are taking shape



LOVE-LY STITCHING

Win!

Share the love with this quirky and colourful design from **Nia Cross Stitch**! Stitched in pretty shades of pink, red and pastel blue, this sweet sampler uses Nia's bespoke lettering surrounded by romantic motifs. You'll stitch fabulous flowers and hearts as well as love birds and letters. This design has two versions – you can stitch either **'Love' or 'Cariad'** as the central word, as all of Nia's designs are available in English or Welsh – find more beautiful designs on her website, **www.nia-crossstitch.com**. Nia's Love kits contain 14HPI antique white aida and DMC cotton and cost £24, but you could be one of our seven lucky winners!

You'll even be able to choose the English or Welsh design. To be in with a chance to win, go to **www.futurecomps.co.uk/csc244LOVE** before the closing date of Thursday 8 January 2015. **Keyword: 244LOVE**



Modern folk

Inspired by centuries of folk embroidery from Scandinavia and beyond, Jacob at **Modern Folk Embroidery** creates exquisite cross stitch designs for the modern stitcher. The **traditional samplers and beautiful patterns** are stitched in redwork on a range of stunning rustic linens, and you can buy kits and download patterns from as little as £4. We have an exciting exclusive design from Jacob in our next issue – find his Frisian sampler in our **February 245 issue**. To find out more about Modern Folk Embroidery, visit **www.modernfolkembroidery.com**



Meet... Online stitching stars!

Hilda's breathtaking dual language blog, **Hildi's Good Life**, is packed with beautiful photographs – perfect for stitchy inspiration!



Tell us a bit about yourself. I am 49 years old and a full-time working mum. I spend my rare spare time on stitching, gardening and enjoying long walks through the landscape with our golden retriever, Ginger.

When did you fall in love with cross stitch? I was taught cross stitching at school. I was not a very big fan of the crafting lessons – I didn't get good marks! My real love for cross stitching began much later when the internet became available. When I saw the reproductions of antique samplers I was thrilled – the colours immediately made me fall in love with this kind of stitching. From that day on, I was addicted.

What sort of things do you most like to stitch? This question is very easy – any traditional sampler! Even the smallest project with an alphabet or a traditional symbol catches my eye and my heart. The attentive readers of my blog have also realised that I have quite a crush on little houses. When there is a house AND an alphabet on a design I am lost!

What's your biggest stitching challenge? Years ago I found a collection of botanical studies of fruit and flowers by Veronique Enginger. I bought nearly all of them! I started stitching the first flower in 2009, and to-date I have finished only two of the flowers (dahlia and peony) and have been stitching one of the roses for two years. The designs are not too big, but they have several half and quarter cross stitches and also stitches over one thread. I want to finish all six roses and all eight fruits one day.









Hilda can't resist any chart with a traditional sampler feel

Do you have a piece that you're most proud of? On the 6 December we celebrate St. Nicholas Day. Each of my nieces and nephews (and even my son – although he is grown up) get a sack filled with sweets, chocolate, oranges, apples and even a little toy. Usually I would buy the sacks, but often they were too small and they never looked good. So, I started to stitch a sack for every child in our family. I found wonderful charts in some old books, and stitched three sacks in one year! They are so special for me because they are used every year and will hopefully become heirlooms for the children.

What's your advice for stitchers with lots of WIPs? Oh goodness, I have too many WIPs. What helps me is to pick up an older WIP and work only some stitches before starting a new one. Sometimes I get in the mood for this older project within those few stitches and I carry on! I also share my progress on my blog, and my readers encourage me to go on.

Why did you start your blog? When I first saw blogs, I was immediately taken with this idea of an online diary where you can share with other people from all over the world – I just wasn't sure I could contribute something of interest! But I gathered my courage and it's now my sixth year of blogging. Not only is it a wonderful way to share, but it's a great way to get in contact with the nicest people from all over the world.

Anything you'd like to add? One of the things that I like most about stitching blogs is learning about the wide variety of finishes. Beforehand I only knew one way to finish my stitching – frame it! The blogger community has been so creative and inspiring.

Find Hilda's blog at
hildisgoodlife.blogspot.co.uk

Win!



COUNTY PRIDE

Bothy Threads have done it again – another quirky and entertaining cross stitch kit that we just can't resist! This time, they've recreated two English counties, **Cumbria and Suffolk**, in cross stitch. Complete with cute illustrations of the county's landmarks and most famous motifs, you can even use the alphabet to add your own personal details, like your hometown! You can find the full kits on their website for just £31.99 at **www.bothythreads.com**. Each kit contains Zweigart fabric and pre-sorted threads, as well as metallic thread, notes and needles. Bothy Threads have kindly given us four fabulous Cumbria kits for you to win. To enter, go to **www.futurecomps.co.uk/csc244MAP** before the closing date of Thursday 8 January 2015. **Keyword: 244MAP**

3 of the best... Calendars



Frame Calendar, January *CrossStitcher* 287, £4.99
Create a different look for every month with *CrossStitcher*'s pretty calendar charts. All you need to do is buy one frame, stitch the 12 designs, and print the free calendar papers from the *CrossStitcher* blog and combine to have a stunning desktop calendar every month. Find out where to buy your copy of *CrossStitcher* and download your papers at **www.crossstitchermag.com**



Animal Magic Sampler Kit, Lucie Heaton, £42.99
Stitch a cute critter for every season in Lucie Heaton's sweet calendar sampler. Inspired by her own pets and the wildlife around her home, each month features an adorable baby animal having lots of seasonal fun, from a tiny piglet building sandcastles to a dear duckling splashing in the rain! Buy the full kit with evenweave or aida fabric from **tinyurl.com/ilovecrossstitch**



A Year in Bloom, Lesley Teare, £4, LJT007
Download a gorgeous floral sampler chart by Lesley Teare to celebrate all the stunning blooms we see throughout the year. From snowdrops to chrysanthemums, poppies to pansies, you'll stitch a bright selection of flowers to make a striking hanging or framed calendar. You can download the PDF chart and read Lesley's exciting blog on her website at **www.lesleyteare.com**



Say it with flowers

When it comes to exciting and **unique stitching inspiration**, our sister magazine ***CrossStitcher*** is pretty hard to beat. How about creating their latest gorgeous gift idea – a stitched pot cover for flowers? The floral motif and attractive lettering in bright shades of green and yellow is worked on a rustic linen – perfect for those freshly picked flowers! This pot cover makes the **ideal keepsake or thank you gift**, so treat a loved one by getting a copy of the January 287 issue of *CrossStitcher* and stitching it today! Find it at your local newsagent, or buy online at **craft.buysubscriptions.com** and get your digital issue from **www.crosstitchermagazine.co.uk/digital** and **www.zinio.com**

Stitch of the month



Rhodes stitch

Perfect for adding a 3D look to your cross stitch, the Rhodes stitch is a counted stitch that is best worked on evenweave fabric. Begin to the left of a vertical thread and work each stitch over two or more threads – simply count up in pairs. Using the diagram as a guide, build the stitch by working around the square in an anti-clockwise direction. Once complete, the centre of the stitch will have a raised appearance. If you're working the Rhodes stitch to create a border, make sure you maintain the same stitching sequence with each one so you can produce a uniform effect. We'd love to know how you've used this stitch – email your pics and stitching stories to **csc@immediate.co.uk**

Shine a light on a new stitching skill with



Collection's Gadget of the month

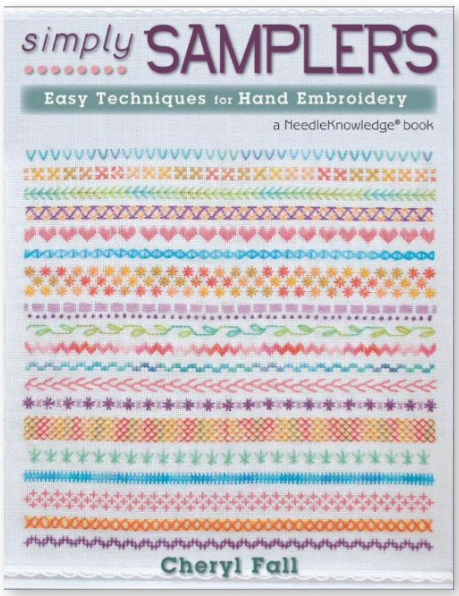
Our stitchers share their favourite essential stitching tools – this month, **Aileen Allardyce** talks to us about her needle minder!

Find plenty of lovely needle minders from Kelmscott Designs on their website: www.kelmscottdesigns.com



"I couldn't live without my needle minder."

It's called Pink Lady and is a very handy thing to have in your sewing box. It has a magnet on it that holds the needle in place until I am ready to thread the needle up or when I am having a stitching break. Before I got this gadget I was forever mislaying my needles, sometimes with nasty consequences when sitting down! I have had this Pink Lady for a few years now, and I've seen some lovely new designs to choose from, like the snowflake design on the left. I am tempted to treat myself to a new one!"



Simply Samplers

Think you know everything there is know about samplers? Think again! *Simply Samplers* by Cheryl Fall is a fresh look at this traditional stitching genre, using imaginative designs to help you practice needlework skills new and old, and to create beautiful items to add colour and style to your home. Cheryl includes plenty of cross stitch designs in this exciting new book, and takes a look at counted thread, surface and freestyle embroidery too! You'll find 16 designs to create wall hangings, gift bags, ornaments, pillows, tote bags and more, plus a host of creative variations. Find your copy for just £13.99 at www.searchpress.com



PERFECTLY PORTABLE

Start the new year with all the right kit by entering our fantastic competition to win a **portable Daylight™ Lamp**! We've got four white Twist Portable Lamps to give away **worth £67.50 each**, and they really are a must for all stitchers. The Daylight™ LED's provide the perfect light to see your thread colours, and never need replacing. The **twistable shade** allows the light to be positioned where you need it and the lightweight design makes it easy to move around the house or even for taking to classes. To find out more about the full Daylight™ Company range visit **www.daylightcompany.com** or call 020 8964 1200. To be in with a chance to win of these amazing lamps, go to **www.futurecomps.co.uk/csc244LAMP** before the closing date of Thursday 8 January 2015. **Keyword: 244LAMP**

COMPETITION RULES Giveaways are open to UK readers only and winners will be chosen at random. Enter online using the unique URL between 12 December 2014 and 8 January 2015. Further rules can be read on page 63.

Jane's A-Z of Cross Stitch



Each month Jane takes us from A-Z covering all things cross stitch! This month, X is for **forming your Xs!**

Welcome back to Pinks Barn. I have been working on a series of columns for you based on the A-Z of cross stitch and I have to admit, it's difficult to find a stitch or technique that begins with X! So, this month I've decided to talk about how an X itself is formed when using evenweave and non-evenweave fabrics. So far we have seen how cross stitching looks on evenweave fabrics, but non-evenweave was used to create samplers and counted masterpieces long before the concept of evenweave had even been invented.

What is evenweave?

The term 'evenweave' refers to the method used to make the fabrics we use for cross stitch, but does not mean that the material will have no lumps and bumps! This misunderstood term actually means that when the fabric is woven, the number of warp and weft threads (along the length and across the width) is the same. This is why when you work a cross stitch on evenweave, the stitch appears as an X and is a square stitch.



Using non-evenweave fabrics will help to achieve the authentic look of antique samplers – just expect the finished piece to look a little different to the chart!

However, cross stitches worked on non-evenweave fabric will be affected by the uneven weave, becoming slightly shortened or elongated – therefore you will need to experiment with the characteristics of the fabric to achieve the best results. The results can be wonderful, especially if you are aiming to replicate the authentic look of antique samplers. The Willow Sampler illustrated here is worked on non-evenweave fabric, and when you look at the chart it is a perfect square. However, you can see from the picture that the stitched version is actually portrait shaped. One designer told me that the best way to understand this is that the rabbit motif might turn in to a hare or the other way around!

CROSS STITCH GUILD NEWS The Cross Stitch Guild website will have a very new look from the 5th January 2015. The new responsive and optimised site will be easy to browse on your iPad, tablet and smart phones with real time banking and Paypal facilities. I do hope you all like the changes! Visit us at www.thecrossstitchguild.com

About Jane Greenoff

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

To find out more, visit the website or call for details: **www.thecrossstitchguild.com**
☎ Freephone (UK callers): 0800 328 9750 ☎ (from outside UK): +44 (0)1285 713678

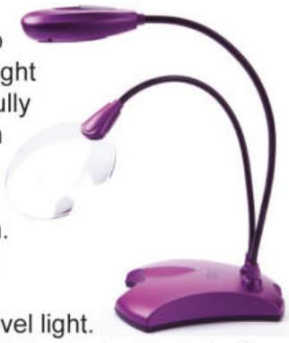
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www.siestaframes.com



The frame and stand simply folds into the carry case.
Comes with handle and shoulder strap.
12" Lapman (green case) **£45.99**
Code LAPM/1
15" Lapman (burgundy case) **£49.99**
Code LAPM15/1

Vusion2



A table top lamp with a six LED light head on a 10" fully flexible arm with a 3.5" dia. x2 magnifier on a 9.5" flexible arm. An easy access power switch controls the 3 level light. Powered via an AC adaptor (included) or 3 AA batteries (not included) Available in three colours (S) Silver, (P) Purple, (G) Green. State colour required. Code **Vusion2 £39.99**

Tilt Floor Stand



Flexi floor standing tapestry stand with knee joints

WTF24 Tilt Stand 24" **£59.95**
WTF27 Tilt Stand 27" **£61.95**
WTF30 Tilt Stand 30" **£63.95**
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WTF42 Tilt Stand 42" **£68.95**

P&P £4.95 on all orders

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With its rotating head, direct the light left or right and up and down. Ultra bright 240V 13W bulb with a handy detachable storage box. Price £39.99 Code SB9385.

StitchMaster Lap Stand

The frame simply rests on the two arms of the lap stand and holds frames up to 21".Height and angle are adjustable. (Frame as shown not included). Price **£29.99** Code SMLAP



StitchSmart Floor Stand



This stand has an unique swivel system allowing 360° rotation. Height and working angle are adjustable. Available as complete unit with stand, light,magnifier and chart clamp or the stand on its own.

Complete stand **£149.99** Code D53047 & D24047
Wooden frame as shown NOT included
Stand only **£69.99** Code D53047



Ultimate Floor Lamp Antique Colour

A multi-purpose sewing/craft/reading lampwith magnifier and chart holder. The lamp is height adjustable with a 20W energy saving daylight bulb.

Code D21098 Price **£159.99**



Available from your local stockist or from Siesta at:
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Three Legged Cross, Wimborne, Dorset BH21 6RD
Tel/Fax 01202 813363, www.siestaframes.com
Other products available at www.coleshillaccessories.co.uk

Luscious lilies

Combine bright whites with clean greens in **Lesley Teare's** design to create a vase brimming with stunning stargazer lilies





Meet the designer...

Lesley Teare

I think lime green, grey and white is a lovely colour combination, and these shades are shown off to perfection in this design of lilies, which has been made into a cushion. It has been beautifully finished with crisp lime green piping which really completes the look of the design and makes it fit into a modern interior. The lilies are simple shapes, but you'll just need to take care with the subtle greys that help shade and define the petals. Glass vases are also always a little bit difficult to chart, but I needed a simple shape and I think this one works well within the composition.



Working clever shading in greys and greens will help you give Lesley's design depth and texture, as will leaving some areas on the check tablecloth unstitched

Delve into the history of any flower and you're sure to find a fun fact or two, but few as fascinating as the lily. We've discovered some fantastic snippets – did you know that the white lily was sacred to the Ancient Greeks as a symbol of motherhood and fertility? The lily is also the flower to give on a 30th wedding anniversary, and was a symbol of purity to the Victorians. It was even the subject of an old wives' tale – approach a pregnant woman with a lily and a rose, and if she chooses the lily, her baby will be a boy! How is it that this flower can mean so much to so many different people? Perhaps it's the inspiring beauty that Lesley has captured perfectly in her design, making it the ideal flower to create in cross stitch. Stitching this design will give you time to think about what lilies mean to you, or your intended lucky recipient. Lesley's design is a wonderful mix of relaxing simplicity and interesting challenges. Worked in whole cross stitch only with backstitch in just one colour, there are plenty of similar shades to stitch – especially the greens and greys!



Stitch your lily cushion

You will need...

28HPI evenweave (or 14HPI aida), blue, Zweigart Brittney Ref: 3270/550 18x18in (46x46cm). We found our fabric at Willow Fabrics. Get yours by calling 0800 0567811 or visiting www.willowfabrics.com
Stranded cotton as listed in the key
Cotton fabric 15x16in (38x41cm), blue for backing
Cotton fabric 3x30in (8x76cm), green for piping
Piping cord 60in (150cm)
Zip 14in (36cm), white
Cushion pad 14x14in (36x36cm)
Sewing kit including matching thread
Turn to page 57 for hints and tips!

Stitching **the design**

FOLD the evenweave in half both ways to find the centre and start stitching at this point. All the cross stitch is worked in two strands of stranded cotton over two threads of the evenweave fabric. There are a lot of similar shades of the same colour so it will be helpful if you pre-sort your threads onto an organiser. Also, you may find the counting easier if you work all the colours for each lily before moving on to the next. When you have finished all the cross stitch you can add the backstitch details. These are all worked in one strand of taupe throughout.

Making **a cushion cover**

USE a ½in (1.5cm) seam allowance unless otherwise stated to make your cushion cover.

1 FINISH all the stitching, then trim your fabric to 15x15in (38x38cm) with the design placed centrally.

2 CUT the blue backing fabric into two 8x15in (30x38cm) pieces, and then cut the green piping fabric into two 1½x30in (4x76cm) strips.

3 JOIN the short ends of the green strips right sides together to make one long length. Fold the strip in half lengthways with wrong sides together. Place the piping cord inside and tack the fabric strip together, close to the piping cord.

4 PLACE the covered cord right sides together round the edge of the stitched evenweave, matching raw edges. Start and finish at the centre of the lower edge and tack into place. You will have to cut and join the two short ends of the fabric and cord to fit exactly when you have tacked it all the way round.

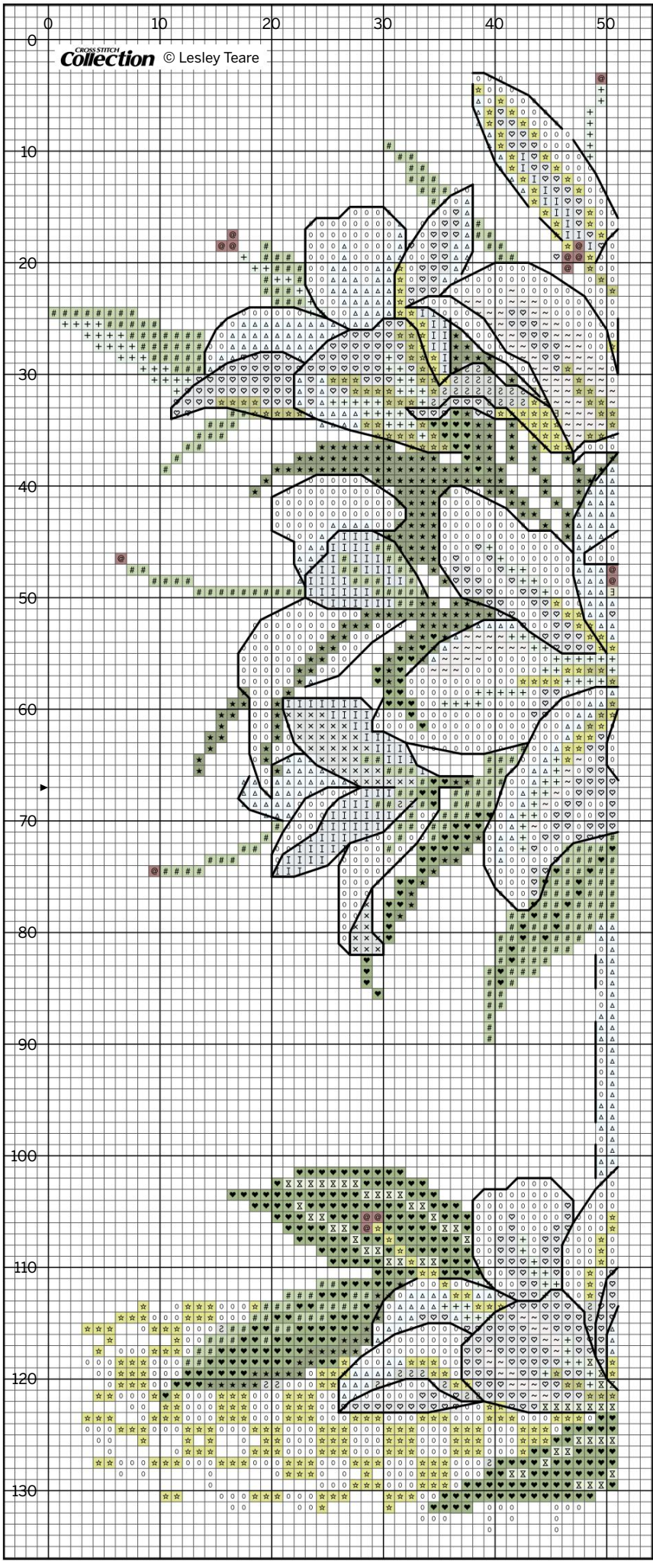
5 PLACE the two backing pieces of fabric right sides together and stitch a 1in (2.5cm) seam at either end of the longer side. Insert the zip in the gap between these two seams.

6 NOW place the cushion front and back right sides together, making sure the piping strip is pushed to the inside and stitch all the way round as close to the piping cord as you can. Turn the cushion cover right sides out, press and insert the cushion pad to complete.



Stitch this design in fresh whites and lime greens to create a cushion that will complement your winter décor. And it will still look fresh and beautiful in the spring!

Our stitcher says... With an intricate design like this with plenty of similar shades, it may be helpful to tack grid lines onto your fabric every ten squares to guide you – draw the corresponding lines onto your chart

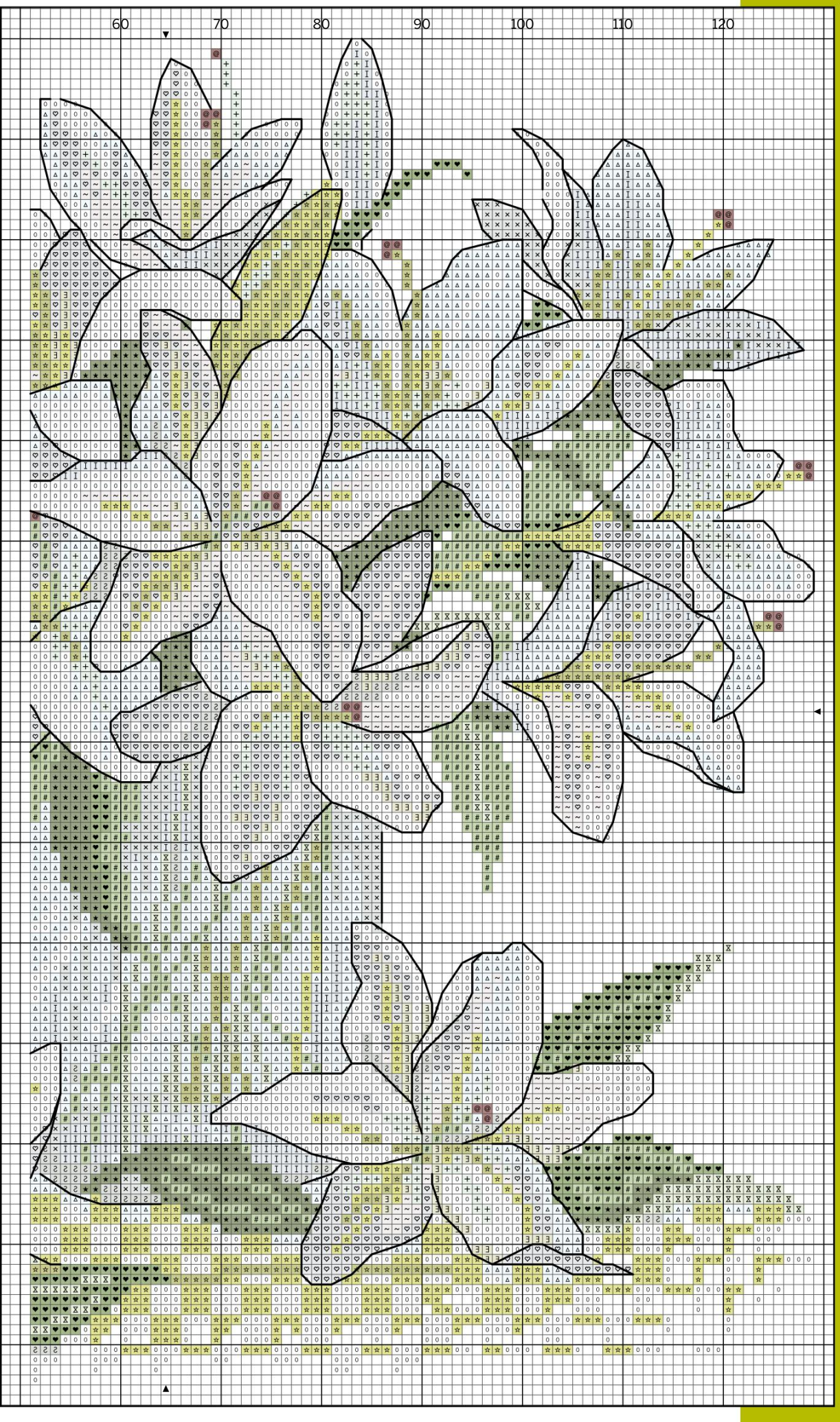


Luscious lilies

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	Colour
Cross stitch in two strands				
o o	B5200	001	2401	Bright white (2)
× ×	168	398	1802	Blue grey
⧖ ⧖	368	214	1310	Light green
∃ ∃	524	858	1511	Grey green
☆ ☆	581	281	1609	Light leaf green
2 2	647	900	1813	Green grey
♡ ♡	762	234	1804	Pale grey
+ +	772	259	1604	Pale green
@ @	902	897	0601	Burgundy
I I	928	274	1709	Pale petrol blue
♥ ♥	937	268	1504	Dark leaf green
# #	988	243	1402	Medium green
~ ~	3024	391	1901	Silver grey
★ ★	3345	263	1406	Dark green
△ △	3756	1037	2504	Pale blue
☆ ☆	3819	278	2703	Lime green
Backstitch in one strand				
—	640	393	1905	Taupe

all outlines and details

Stitched using DMC threads on 28HPI evenweave over two threads
Stitch count 134x129
Design area 9½x9¼in (24.5x24cm)
(2) indicates more than one skein required



Collection makes...

SCENTED SACHET

The pretty flowers resting on the tablecloth could be stitched separately – use some graph paper to help you chart this. You could then make it up into a pretty scented sachet as a thoughtful gift or keepsake.

COLOUR MATCH

Do you prefer pink stargazer lilies? Why not change the white and grey thread colours to two shades of cerise to create your favourite blooms.

FABULOUS FRAME

Fresh and crisp, Lesley's design would look chic and contemporary framed as a stretched canvas. Ask your framer for advice on selecting a frame size.



Perfect vintage

Send a greetings card that will make a connoisseur giddy with **Jenny Barton's** unique fine wine design

Here at *Cross Stitch Collection*, we take research very seriously. So, when Jenny designed this refined wine card, we dedicated ourselves to finding exactly the right thread colours. After hours of work, we decided to model Jenny's wine design on a pleasant bottle of pinot grigio. Our chosen vintage was delightfully refreshing, just like this unique card chart. Jenny's design includes plenty of satisfying stitchy techniques too, such as the clever shading on the grapes and the delicate, curling backstitch that brings the vine to life. And it's versatile! You can stitch this card for him or her, birthdays, thank you's, celebrations or even just because – a bit like a fine wine!

You will need...

28HPI evenweave (or 14HPI aida), white, Zweigart Brittney Ref: 3270/100, 8x8in (20x20cm)
Stranded cotton as listed in the key
Kraft card light brown, one A4 sheet Ref: CRC228P from Craft Creations – call 01992 781900 or go online to www.craftcreations.com

Perfect vintage

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	Colour
Cross stitch in two strands				
	White	002	2402	White
	520	862	1514	Dark vine leaf green
	522	860	1513	Med vine leaf green
	524	858	1511	Light vine leaf green
	746	275	0101	Very light pinot grigio
	3012	855	1606	Dark green
	3045	888	2103	Dark pinot grigio
	3046	887	2206	Medium pinot grigio
	3047	852	2205	Light pinot grigio
	3053	843	1510	Light grape green
	3348	264	1409	Light green
	3752	1032	1001	Blue
Backstitch in one strand				
	936	846	1507	Dark grape green
	leaves			
	3779	236	1713	Grey
	bottle, glass, grapes			

Stitched using DMC threads on 28HPI evenweave over two threads
Stitch count 63x46 Design area 4½x3¼in (11.5x9cm)

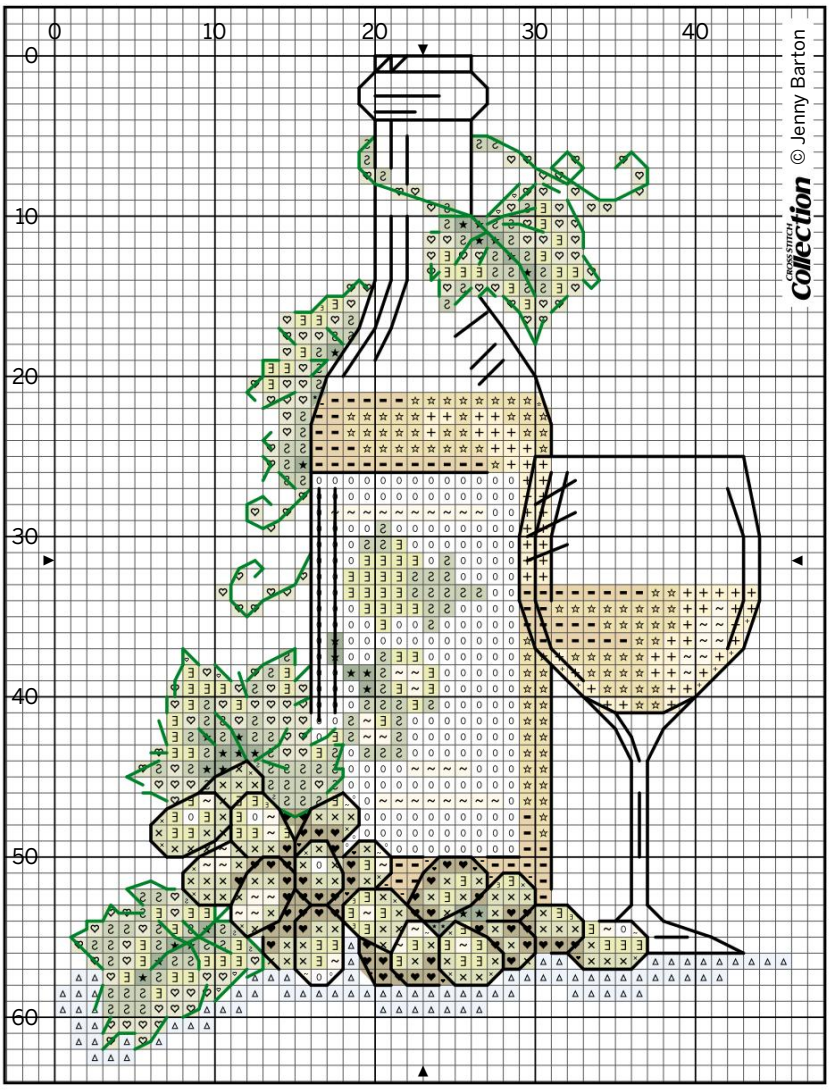
Our stitcher says... Prefer red or rose? Change the shades used for the wine to turn this design into your favourite vintage!

Making your **patch card**

WORK all the cross stitch first using two stands of stranded cotton. When this is finished, add the backstitch using one strand.

1 TRIM the stitched evenweave to 5x3¾in (13x9.5cm) then remove a few of the outer fabric threads to fray the edges.

2 CUT your Kraft card to 6x9½in (15x24cm) then fold it in half. Stitch the fabric centrally to the front of the card to finish.

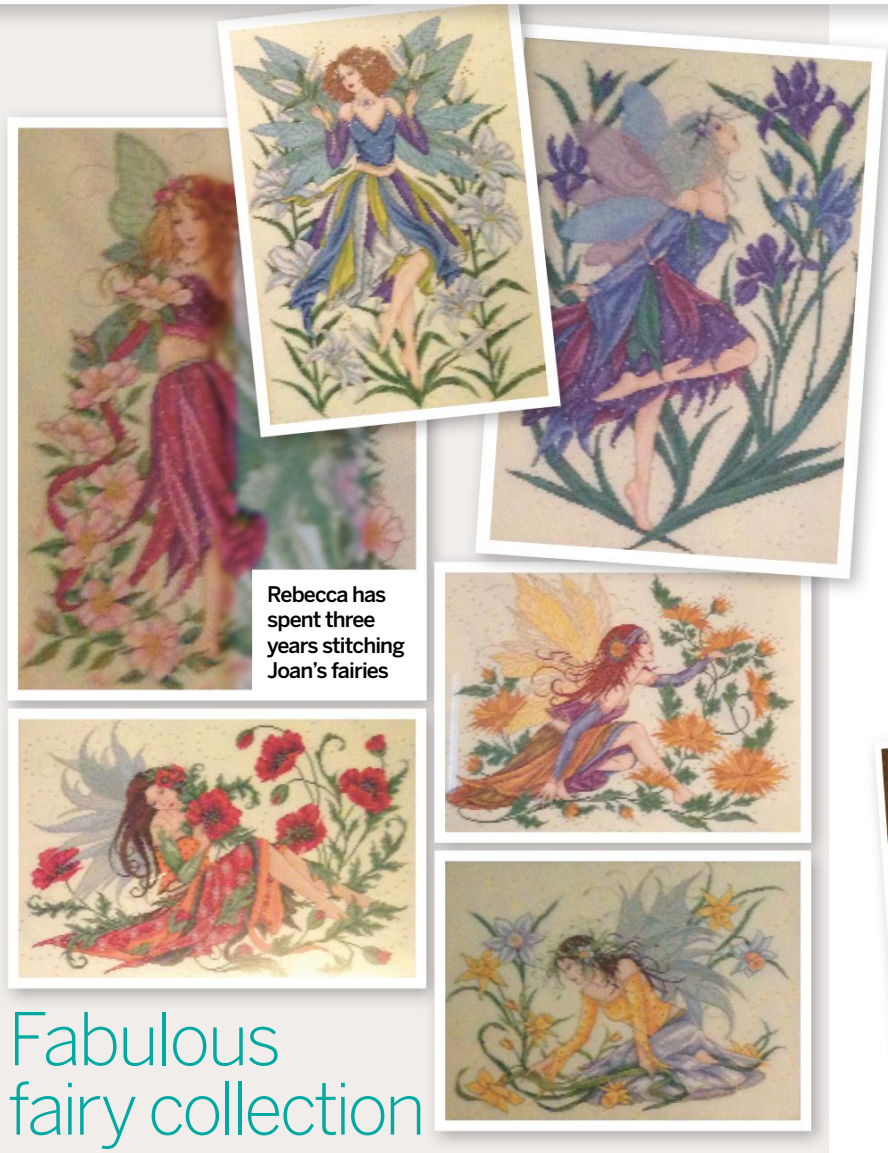


Fancy a posh pressie to accompany your stitched card? Wine lovers will adore a gift box stuffed with their chosen tipple from Fortnum & Mason. Visit them online at www.fortnumandmason.com



Your letters

Write to Cross Stitch Collection Letters, Tower House, Fairfax Street, Bristol BS1 3BN.
Or email us at **csc@immediate.co.uk** with your stitching stories



Rebecca has spent three years stitching Joan's fairies

Fabulous fairy collection

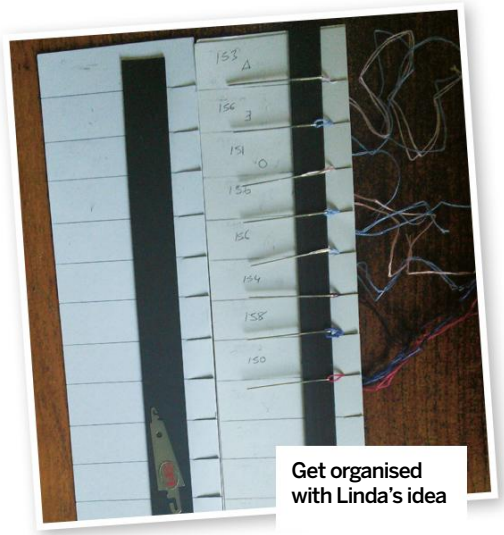
I have just finished stitching all of the Joan Elliott flower fairies – thank you for publishing such wonderful patterns! I started the Daffodil Fairy on 27 November 2011 and finished the Lily Fairy on 3 October 2014, so it took me just shy of three years to stitch this wonderful collection! Stitching is my therapy and Joan Elliott is my favourite designer. These lovelies helped me through some depressing times. Thank you so much to *Cross Stitch Collection* for bringing these wonderful designs to their readers.

Rebecca Ellis, by email

Collection says: What an amazing achievment to stitch all of Joan Elliott's gorgeous fairy collection – well done Rebecca!

Handy gadget

I thought you might be interested in the gadget I made myself – a magnetic needle holder card. I bought one many years ago and I wore it out, but could not find another one to purchase. Whilst out shopping I noticed I could buy long lengths of magnets with sticky tape attached. As you can see in my picture I cut a thick piece of A4 card into three lengths and placed the magnet on one side. I then divided it into 15 equal sections and made a cut on the short side of the magnet to catch the cotton in. As long as you write the cotton number and symbol in pencil, this gadget can be used time after time. Of course, once it wears out you can re-use the magnet and replace the card. I find this very useful, as you can load up lots of needles with the different colours, especially if you are doing a large project.



Get organised with Linda's idea

Linda Newstead, by email

Collection says: What a fab idea, and so easy to do! Thanks for sharing, Linda

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

"It's taken me almost three years to stitch the entire Joan Elliott fairy collection!"



Karen enjoyed stitching this for a friend

Striking stitch

My friend was moving house and she wanted something striking for her new lounge. She looked everywhere and couldn't find anything she liked. I then suggested that I cross stitch something special for her. We picked a Design Works kit called Birdcage, complete with metallic threads, beads and sequins! It took over four months to complete but does look really special in her living room.

Karen Sullivan, Irvine

***Collection* says: This stunning design certainly deserves pride of place**

Animal magic



Joey's thoughtful present

I recently finished a small stitch of a pig and I framed it in a coaster. I gave it to my Grandma – it's her favourite animal, and I wanted to give a thank you gift for her company. Not to be left out, I'm also working on a fox brooch for my Grandpa, who is always up for a good banter and is full of knowledge and wisdom!

Joey Arnell, by email

***Collection* says: Your grandparents are so lucky – this little piggy is so sweet!**



Carol loved the peacock feathers in this design

My biggest project

I thought you might like to see my recent finish that took me nearly a year to stitch. I haven't ever stitched anything so big but I loved stitching her. She is called Aurelia and was created by a designer called Maxine Gadd at Mystic Stitch. I fell in love with her because of the peacock colours and peacock feathers. She was lovely to stitch and is just whole cross stitch. I am now stitching another lady by the same designer.

Carol Farmer, by email

***Collection* says: Nice to see another stitcher addicted to giant projects!**

Write to us...

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

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

Cross Stitch Collection Letters
Tower House, Fairfax Street,
Bristol BS1 3BN

csc@immediate.co.uk

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

Happy stitching!

The Collection Team

Your say...

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

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

What's happening on **Facebook** and **our blog**?

1 Start your 2015 stitching by joining our Stitch Along! Turn to page 28 or visit www.crossstitchcollection.com to find out more

2 We're loving our growing Facebook family – join us for news, freebies and stitching chat

3 Download this issue's freebies from our blog! You'll find two teacup motifs from Zweigart, a spotty blue card mount and your templates

4 Like our Facebook page to get involved in our exciting giveaways to win stitchy prizes

We asked... What's your favourite fabric to stitch on?

"Aida, I can see the holes without having to resort to my glasses!" Teri Morgan

"I have just discovered grid printed aida. I often miss count but with this I get it right everytime." Jojo Povey

"I just stitch on linen. I love the way it makes everything neat and delicate." Terry Parrish

"I prefer 14 or 16HPI aida. It's easier on my eyes, and it makes projects larger, which lets me show them off!" J M Snyder

"I have recently completed a design using silk threads on a 40HPI silk gauze. That was so much fun!" Susanna Cornett

"I like 28 and 32HPI Jobelan or Lugana. I love how it looks and it makes fractional stitches so much easier!" Danielle Nicole

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

Everyone's a WINNER!

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

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

Cross Stitch Collection Letters, Tower House, Fairfax Street, Bristol BS1 3BN

Handmade homestyle

Invite everyone for tea to show off your stylish hand-stitched tea cosy and tablecloth from **Zweigart**

Lovingly handcrafted items really do make a house a home, and seeing your cross stitch finishes used and appreciated is extra-special! Zweigart's tea cosy and tablecloth project is perfect for helping you make eye-catching homestyle to show off your skills. Worked using whole cross stitches on clever check fabric, it's quick, easy and interesting to stitch – the backstitch and long stitch in particular is quite unusual. Instead of using it to outline or pick out details, it creates most of the varied china patterns. You'll also work these stitches in two threads to make them stand out – just make sure you keep the stitches taut so they lie flat. Even the border is clever in this design – the motifs work with the fabric to make the check pattern part of the design. This makes it easy to count too!

More stitched homestyle **from Zweigart**



Magic Flower
Ref: Booklet 104/220, RRP £5.93



Belfast Petit Point
Ref: Booklet 104/234, RRP £4.79



Floral Alphabets
Ref: Booklet 104/203, RRP £2.18

For stockists, visit **www.zweigart.de**

Stitching your tablecloth

You will need...

28HPI linen blue check, Zweigart Marne Ref: 7657/1509, 31x31in (78x78cm). We found our checked linen at Willow Fabrics. Get yours by calling 0800 0567811 or visit them online at www.willowfabrics.com

Stranded cotton as listed in the key

Blue fabric for border, see instructions for details

Sewing kit including matching thread

Turn to page 57 for hints and help!

Stitching **the design**

FOLD your fabric in half both ways to find the centre and stitch the teapot and cups on a tray at this point. The corner motif of cups is worked in each corner of the tablecloth. The border, which runs beneath and alongside them, is stitched all the way round. Measure 3½in (9cm) in from one side and lower edge and this point marks the corner of the border pattern. Start stitching from this point and repeat in each corner. All the cross stitch and backstitch is worked using two strands of stranded cotton as shown on the key.


Stitch simple motifs to enjoy extra-special tea time treats!

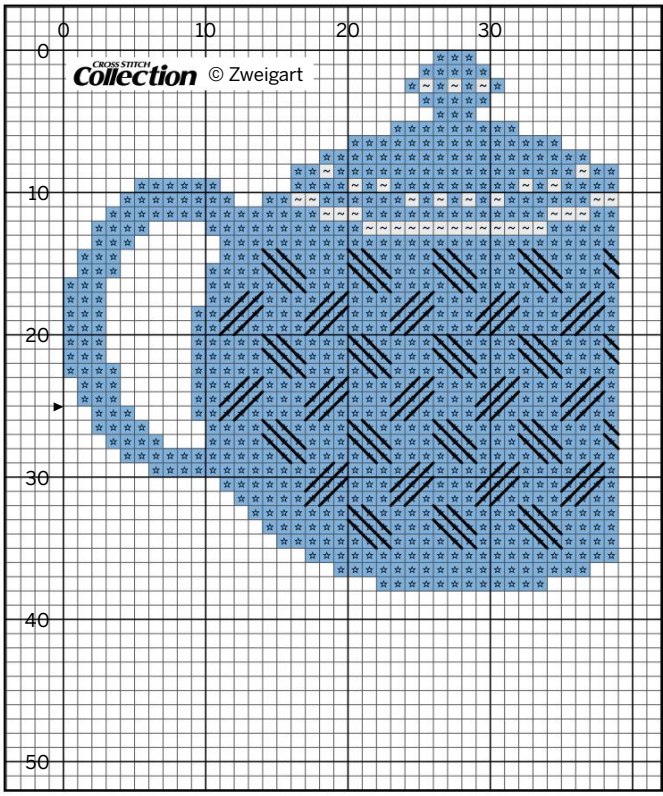
➤ Finishing **your tablecloth**

CREATE your tablecloth by simply turning a double hem and stitching down all the way round. Or, for a more decorative finish, bind the edge using a 3in (8cm) deep binding in blue linen fabric as we have.

We've stitched our tablecloth design on the blue check Marne fabric, and our tea cosy chart on page 22 is worked on the green check Marne. If you would prefer, Zweigart also make this fabric in a red check. Just make sure you choose a thread colour and binding fabric that complements whichever fabric you decide to work your charts on.

Thread

organisers are not required for this design – you'll only need three shades to stitch all three of the charts!



Stitching your tea cosy

You will need...

28HPI linen green check, Zweigart Marne Ref: 7657/1029, 17x12in (43x30cm). We found our checked linen at Willow Fabrics. Get yours by calling 0800 0567811 or visit them online at www.willowfabrics.com

Stranded cotton as listed in the key

Cotton fabric 8x34in (20x86cm), backing and lining

Bias binding 25in (63cm), red

Thermal wadding 8x22in (20x56cm)

Sewing kit including matching thread

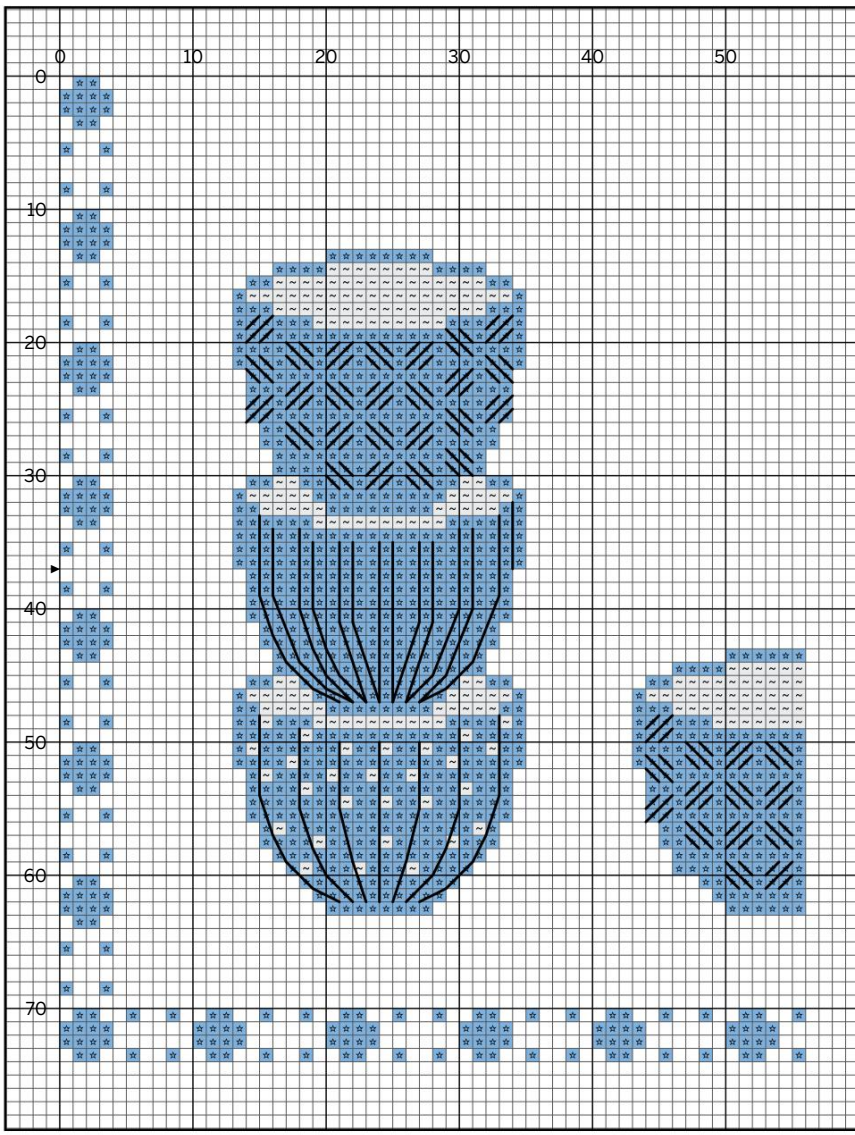
Turn to page 57 for hints and help!

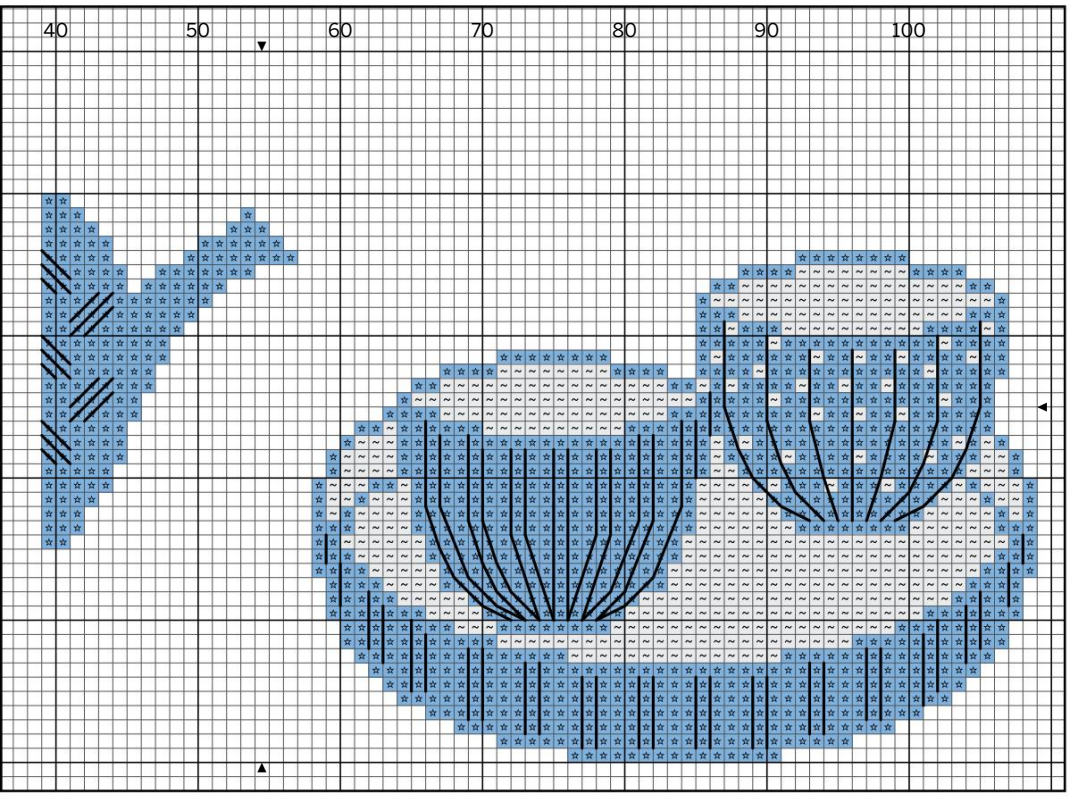
Stitching **the design**

FOLD your fabric in half both ways to find the centre and stitch the red teapot, cups and border pattern from this point. All the cross stitch and backstitch is worked using two strands of stranded cotton.

Cutting out **the fabric**

DRAW a tea cosy pattern which measures 7½in (20cm) high and 11in (28cm) wide (this includes seam allowances). Make sure it is symmetrical by folding your pattern paper in half and drawing just one half then cutting this out. Alternatively, you can find a template at 50% on page 60 – simply use a ➤





Collection makes...

COLOUR MIX

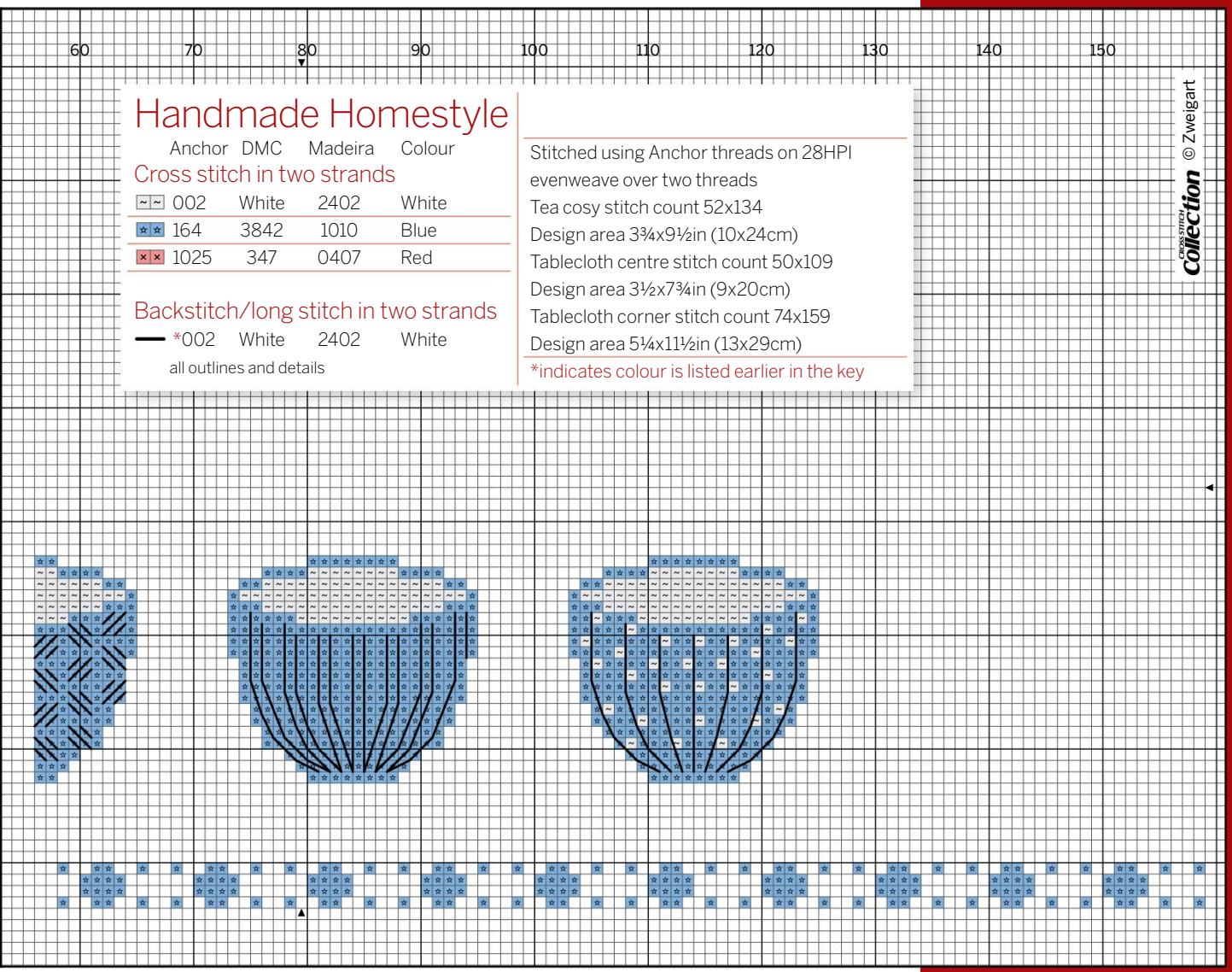
If you want to make this design your own, choose two of your favourite colours and a matching fabric for the hem – match it to your kitchen or dining room décor!

CAKE LOVERS

What's a cup of tea without a slice of cake? Choose some teacup motifs and stitch them onto smaller squares of linen to make matching napkins to catch those crumbs.

BRILLIANT BOOKLET

Get more ideas and patterns for kitchen accesories from Zweigart's Marne booklet – you can make an onion bag, apron, place mat and even oven mitts, all decorated with stylish cross stitch motifs. Find a stockist for booklet 104/233 at www.zweigart.de



Handmade Homestyle

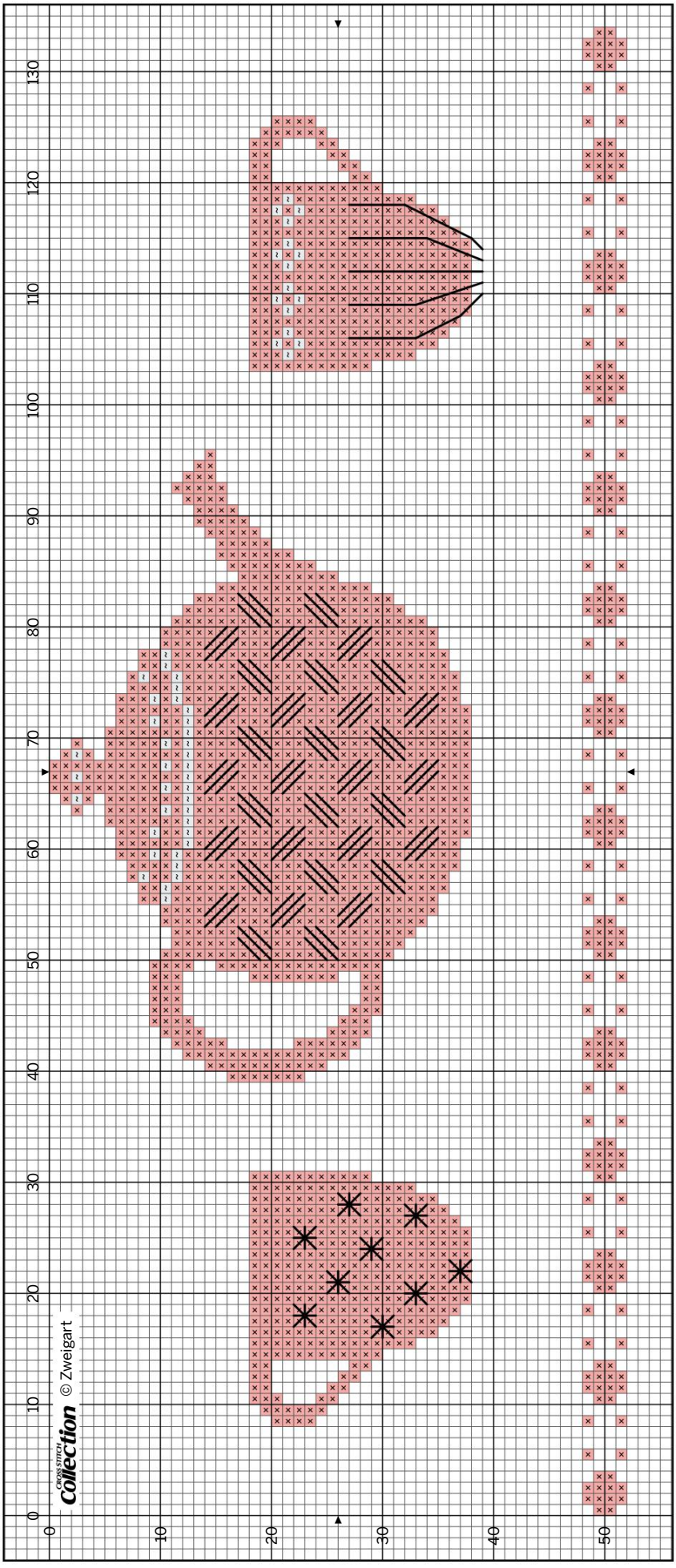
	Anchor	DMC	Madeira	Colour
Cross stitch in two strands				
~~	002	White	2402	White
☆☆	164	3842	1010	Blue
××	1025	347	0407	Red
Backstitch/long stitch in two strands				
—	*002	White	2402	White

all outlines and details

Stitched using Anchor threads on 28HPI evenweave over two threads
Tea cosy stitch count 52x134
Design area 3¾x9½in (10x24cm)
Tablecloth centre stitch count 50x109
Design area 3½x7¾in (9x20cm)
Tablecloth corner stitch count 74x159
Design area 5¼x11½in (13x29cm)

*indicates colour is listed earlier in the key

© Zweigart



➤ photocopier to enlarge it.

1 PLACE your pattern over the top of your stitched linen so the bottom of the border is 1in (2.5cm) up from the lower edge and centrally across. Draw round and cut it out.

2 CUT three tea cosy shapes from the cotton fabric and two from the wadding.

Assembling **your tea cosy**

FORM the front of the tea cosy by placing the stitched linen right sides together with a lining piece and the wadding over that. Stitch together just along the lower edge using a ½in (1.5cm) seam allowance. Turn right sides out with the wadding between and press.

1 STITCH together just along the lower edge using a ½in (1.5cm) seam allowance. Turn right sides out with the wadding between and press. Repeat this for the back of the tea cosy.

2 PLACE the front sandwich directly on top of the back sandwich and machine zig-zag stitch all the way round. Bind this curved edge, turning the short ends under to neaten.

3 MAKE a hanging loop for the top of the tea cosy with the remainder of the bias binding, turning the short ends under and oversewing to the back.

Our stitcher says...

You can change the tea cosy's dimensions quite easily by measuring the height and width of your own teapot – add a little extra for a roomy fit

DOWNLOAD
more free teacup motifs from
www.crossstitchcollection.com

knit & stitch it 2015

27th February-1st March 2015
FIVE, Farnborough
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The Exhibition for needle crafters, stitchers and knitters

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27 February - 1 March 2015, 10am–5pm
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Deluxe diary

Get organised for the new year by stitching **Emma Congdon's** luxury appliqué-style diary

Find a fab diary to fit into your stitched cover at WHSmith. They have a great range of A6 2015 diaries that would be perfect. Visit them online at www.whsmith.co.uk

You will need...

28HPI linen (or 14HPI aida), cream, Zweigart Cashel Ref: 3281/222, 16x9in (41x15cm)

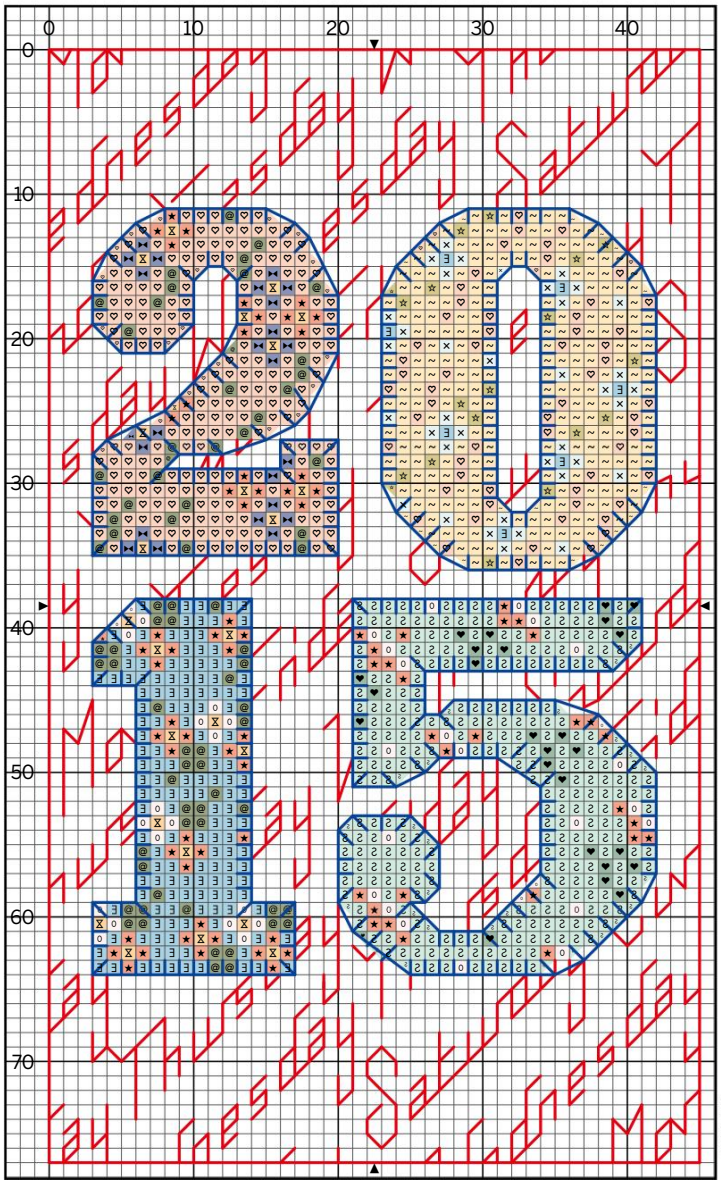
Stranded cotton as listed in the key

Cotton lining fabric 14½x7¼in (37x18cm), cream

Interlining 13½x6¼in (34x16cm)

A6 diary

Sewing kit including matching thread



© Emma Congdon

Stitching the design

WORK out where to place the design – it is only stitched on the front of the book cover. The design is placed centrally down the width of the fabric.

1 FOLD the fabric in half lengthways and mark with a pin. The right hand side of the chart starts 2¾in (7cm) from the right hand side of the linen. Measure this position and line that up with the central line marked with a pin – this is the centre of the right side of the chart. Mark this place on your chart then count inwards to begin stitching.

2 WORK all the cross stitch in two strands over two threads of the linen. Once you have finished working all the cross stitch, add the backstitch details using two strands.

3 TURN to page 60 to find a step-by-step guide to making up your diary cover.

Deluxe diary

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	Colour
Cross stitch in two strands				
	311	148	1006	Dark blue
	349	013	0212	Red
	352	009	0303	Coral
	505	211	1206	Dark teal green
	518	1039	1106	Medium blue
	563	208	1207	Light teal green
	581	281	1609	Lime green
	742	303	0114	Orange
	904	258	1413	Green
	963	023	0503	Pink
	3761	928	1105	Light blue
	3855	311	2513	Apricot
Backstitch in two strands				
	*311	148	1006	Dark blue
	numbers			
	3032	898	2002	Pale olive brown
	background lettering			

Stitched using DMC threads on 28HPI linen over two threads Stitch count 77x45
Design area 5½x3¼in (14x8.5cm)
*indicates colour is listed earlier in the key


2015



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*Free Trial not available on Zinio.

Stitch along sensation



Discover more about the latest craze sweeping the cross stitching community – online Stitch Alongs! Join Rachael G Stephens as she explores this exciting internet stitching and sharing sensation

Sharing is one of the best things about stitching – your finishes with loved ones, ideas with fellow stitchers, and disasters with dearest friends! The web has given stitchers all over the world a chance to share their experiences with hundreds of blogs, forums and groups dedicated to our craft. One of the most fun ways to share is the SAL, or Stitch Along. Participants in a SAL are set a year long stitching challenge, and post updates on their progress every month. SALs are perfect for keeping you on track, getting encouragement and inspiration, trying new designs and for sharing finishes. Whether you're a seasoned blogger or a trembling technaphobe, SALs are easy to join with plenty of exciting subjects to suit every stitcher. But don't take our word for it! Our bloggers have told us what they love about SALs, and we're convinced you'll want to take part once you've read all their fantastic stories – you won't be able to resist turning to page 30 to find out all about *Cross Stitch Collection*'s very own blog SAL!



Sheryl from Sewing after Seven

sewingafterseven.blogspot.co.uk



I take part in a Smalls SAL hosted by Heather at Stitching Lotus. I like feeling part of a group sharing an interest in needlework. We have to stitch something small each month and I enjoy this because small things like needle cases, ornaments, and scissor holders make handy gifts anytime during the year. I shall take part in the same Smalls SAL next year, and any other Stitch Along that includes using speciality stitches.



Michele from X Marks My Spot

xmarksmyspot.blogspot.co.uk



Participating in SALs helps me feel connected to the stitching community, and also gives me a goal to work toward. As a fairly slow stitcher, I also enjoy the challenge of having to keep up! I've only been a participant so far, but at some point it would be fun to co-ordinate a SAL – that's something to think about for the future. I've taken part in two SALs. My first was a Mystery SAL by iStitch Designs, and my second was a series of owls by Oakhaven Designs. I really enjoyed it when each part was revealed, and was pleased that I was able to stay on task and complete the SALs in the allotted time frame. I haven't signed up for anything yet for 2015, but since you've brought it up I'm going to look around for one to join!





Heather from Stitching Lotus

stitchinglotus.ca



I love SALs because they provide a lot of motivation. I may not always manage to keep pace with other stitchers but seeing their progress is so encouraging. I host a Smalls SAL and I take part in others, like Stitch from Stash and designer SALs. My Smalls SAL is dedicated to stitching one small design every month. It's thoroughly enjoyable – not only do I end up with a finish every month, but I've met a lot of great stitchers. The SAL has also helped me work through a backlog of smaller designs! For example, in 2013 I finished many Dragon Dream's Christmas ornaments, and this year I worked on Teresa Wentzler smalls. I also really enjoyed stitching a 15-sided biscornu in the La Pensée Positive SAL, as it helped me learn how to create a finished biscornu. I will be hosting the Smalls SAL again in 2015, and I'll also keep my eyes open for new SALs from designers.





Hilda from Hildi's Good Life

hildisgoodlife.blogspot.co.uk



When I started with stitching SALs, I didn't have a blog. Stitching SALs became the best way to meet people on the web with the same interests as me. I joined SALs in Yahoo and MSN groups and in a cross stitch forum. It was so wonderful to see and show the progresses, to get motivation from the other stitchers and to take advantage of the exchange of experiences. If it was a mystery SAL, I loved it seeing how the design developed under my stitching fingers. My favourite kinds of SAL are the ones in which my target is to stitch just a little part of a big design each month. In this way it is much easier for me to finish bigger designs. I am keeping my eyes wide open for a good SAL for 2015. If I find the right one for me I will be in!











Jo Perry

from Serendipitous Stitching

serendipitousstitching.blogspot.co.nz



Sharing photos in a SAL is a great way of keeping up the momentum, especially if you hit a tricky part or a make a mistake – you know that people are cheering you on. They make you feel part of a large community and open up lots of new designers! I host a Halloween SAL, and I took part in a personal SAL with an Italian blogger, Giovanna – we both stitched Primitive Hare Spooky Countdown. Gio stitched it as a full sampler while I made it into a Countdown Tree. It was fun to compare how our pieces looked. I also joined a SAL on Facebook, and it was great to see all the little changes people made to the chart, using different fabrics and colours. I also take part in a themed SAL – we get a theme each month and we stitch things which fit, though I try to shoe-horn in my existing stitching! I like the structure these kind of SALs give to my stitching and my blogging. Each SAL has a regular date to post so I always have ideas for what to put in my blog. They all have link pages so we can easily find each other, too!



TURN THE PAGE and join our **Cross Stitch Collection** extra-special **2015 SAL!**

Join the Collection Stitch along

Stitch THIS!



Join our Giant Chart SAL and you can stitch a gorgeous Edwardian Garden Party chart by Sandy & Debs. You'll stitch sumptuous dresses and hats in a multitude of bright colours, a beautiful country house, sweet pets and gorgeous flowers – all in one whopping chart! Register today and we'll send you this chart in three manageable chunks for free throughout the year. Send your name and stitching goals for 2015 to csc@immediate.co.uk to register today. If you can't wait, you can buy the full chart on Apple Newsstand for £1.99 – just go to **www.bit.ly/AppleCSCollection**



Stitch & Win

We'll even throw in a prize – EVERY MONTH we'll pick a participant at random, and they'll receive an exciting mystery gift! Just send in your update on or before the check-in date to automatically qualify for entry

Here at *Cross Stitch Collection*, we couldn't resist joining in the Stitch Along fun, so we are creating our own! We love the idea of seeing all your monthly updates, hearing your stitching stories, and helping you stay on track with advice and encouragement. You've got two options for your *Cross Stitch Collection* SAL:

1 TAKE on a giant chart! We've got a gorgeous Edwardian Garden Party design that we'll send to you for FREE by post or email, or just choose your own. Maybe you've got a WIP you want to tackle this year, or a chart you've had your eye on forever. If you've never attempted a big project before, here's a great excuse to try.

2 STITCH 12 smalls! The brilliant thing about small projects is that you get the satisfaction of a quick finish, but still get to make something beautiful. Your 12 smalls could be anything – stitch seasonal designs, your favourite flowers, choose a theme for every month; the choice is yours! Our only rule is that the project is 75x75 stitches or less. Each month we'll post project inspiration, and a freebie chart or two as well.

Or if you're feeling really ambitious, do both!

Get involved it's so easy

Simply register by emailing us at csc@immediate.co.uk with your name and a link to your blog if you have one. Tell us what you want to achieve with our SAL – if you're stitching our giant chart, choosing your own smalls, stitching charts you have at home or finishing WIPs. A little picture of you would be fantastic, too!

After that, it's time to get stitching. We'll send the first part of our giant chart and post small project inspiration on 1 January, so you can get started right away. After that, you simply send us an update by email anytime before each month's check-in deadline. See the blog for the essential dates. Include a picture of your finish or progress along with your name and any project news. We'll then post your progress on our blog on the last Saturday of every month, alongside our suggestions for the next month's smalls.

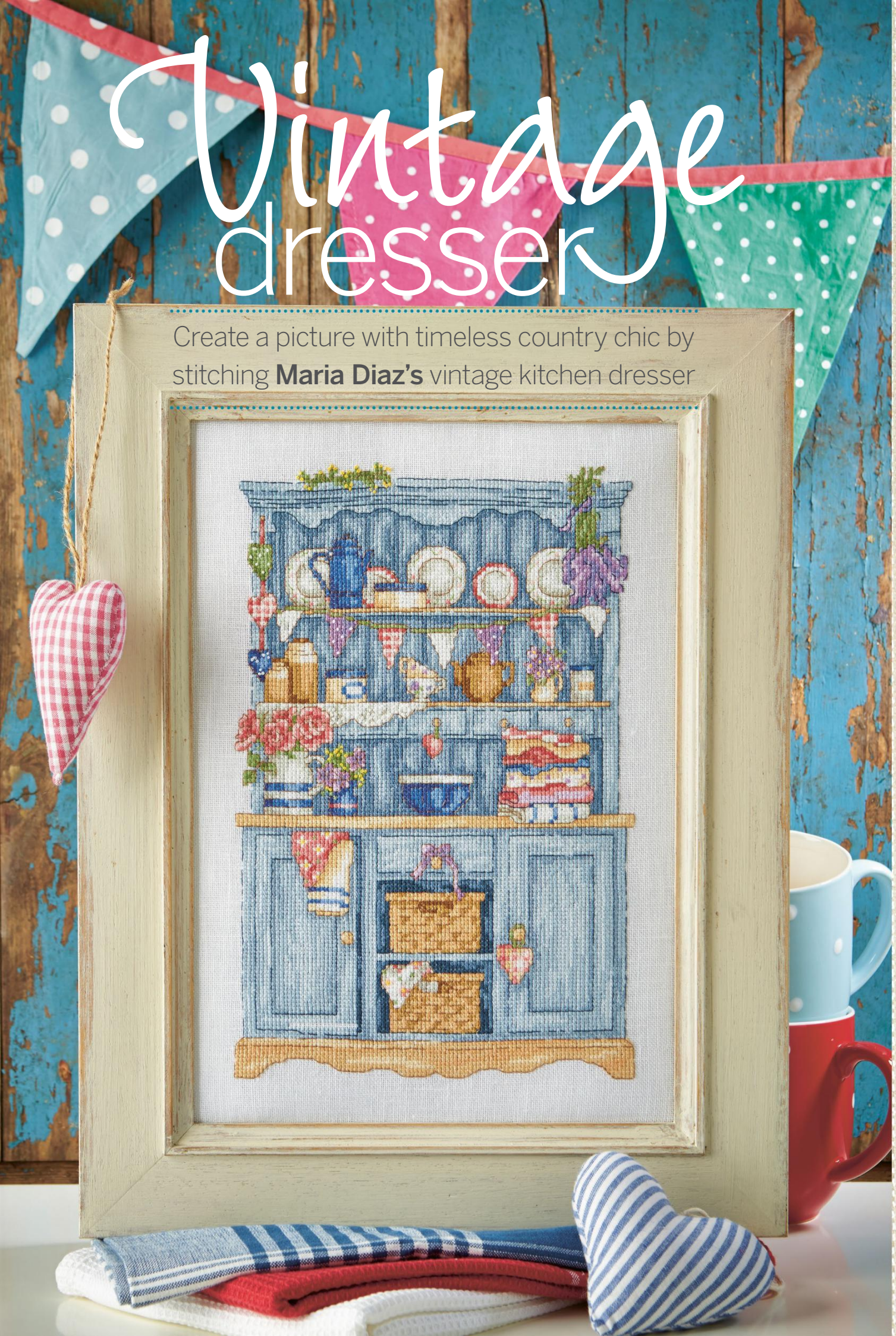
You'll find loads more information for getting stuck into our SAL on our blog – we've got a special tab dedicated to the cause! You'll find a few T&C's and the full list of rules on there as well. Check them out and send your registration to **csc@immediate.co.uk**

CROSS STITCH Collection Stitch along

Got your own blog? **Stitch & share!**
If you're a blogger and you'd like to take part in our SAL, make sure you post updates on your own blog as well as sending in your pictures to us! We'll even pop a link to your blog post on our page – all we ask is that you download our SAL logo button from the *Collection* website and put it on your blog.

Vintage dresser

Create a picture with timeless country chic by stitching **Maria Diaz's** vintage kitchen dresser



Meet the designer...

Maria Diaz



Everyone has that space in their house where everything get's abandoned! For me, that's my kitchen dresser, so it was fun working on this lovely cross stitch pattern. It's the sort of thing I would love in my kitchen – all vintage crockery, fresh cut flowers and pretty table linens. What it doesn't show is piles of letters, old car magazines, school books and of course as anyone with boys knows – Lego! No matter how many times I campaign for my dresser to be declared a beautiful and tidy display space, my complaints fall on deaf ears. So I'm living my dream through my design work, imagining a quaint, eclectic and tidy house!

"I would love a Welsh dresser full of vintage crockery and fresh flowers in my kitchen!"



For regular updates on Maria's work, to see pictures of her latest designs,



Stitching Maria's beautiful dresser, it's easy to imagine the kitchen it belongs to. Traditional wood cabinets, a huge range, a set of vintage scales and a comfy apron hanging on the door – the ultimate country kitchen! Such a place wouldn't be complete without this kitchen dresser. Just look at all the beautiful bits and bobs on the shelves – they give us plenty of interesting details to stitch, too! You'll create gorgeous patterns and motifs, from the three different designs on the bunting and the vases of flowers to the bright bundle of tea towels. Even the china plates have their own patterns! This means you'll stitch something new every time you pick up your needle. There are plenty of exciting challenges in this design – the shading is amazing, but double check your key before you start stitching as many of the shades are similar. You'll also stitch lots of delicate backstitch and pretty French knots, giving your kitchen dresser a stunning level of detail and texture.

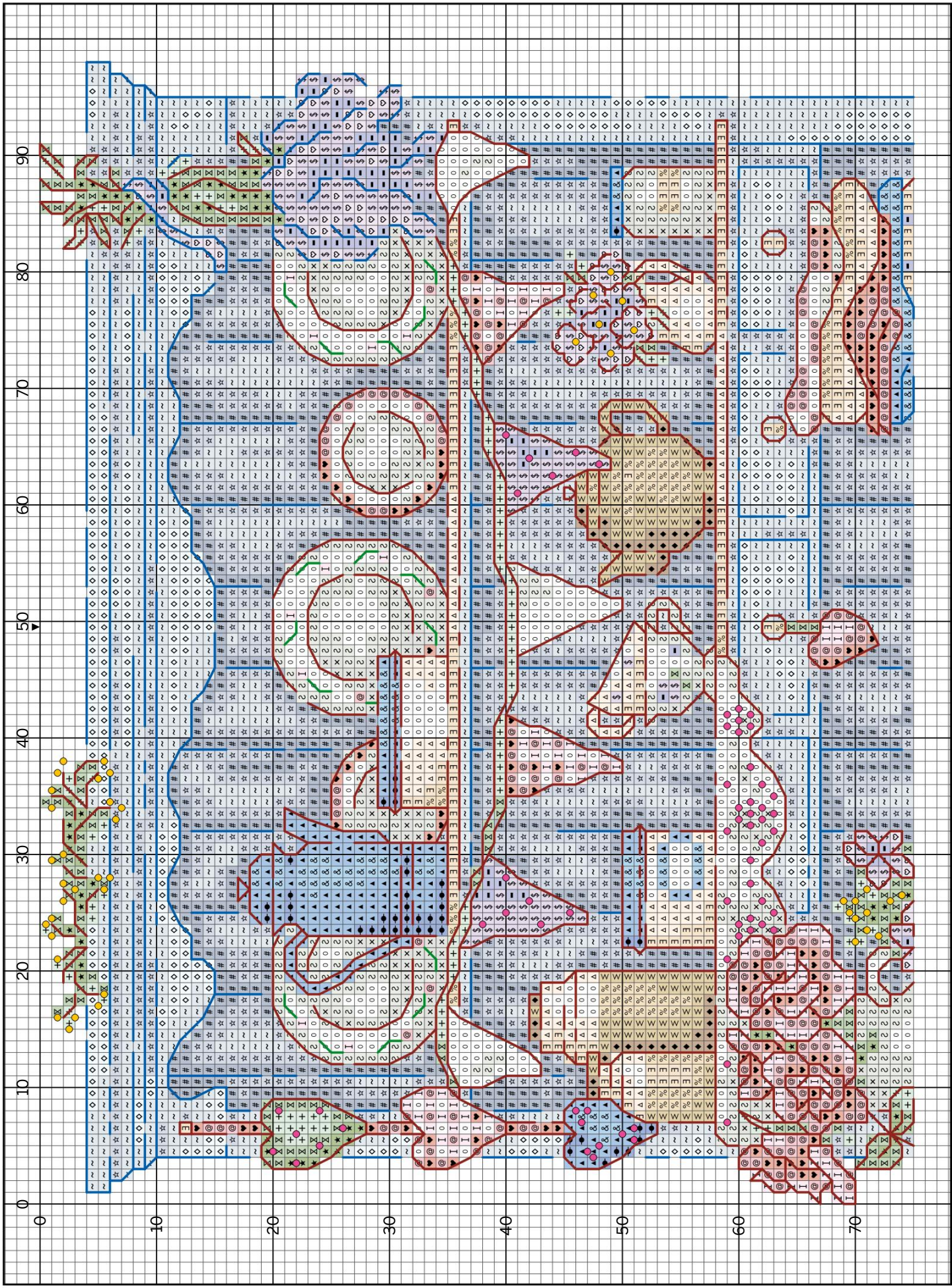


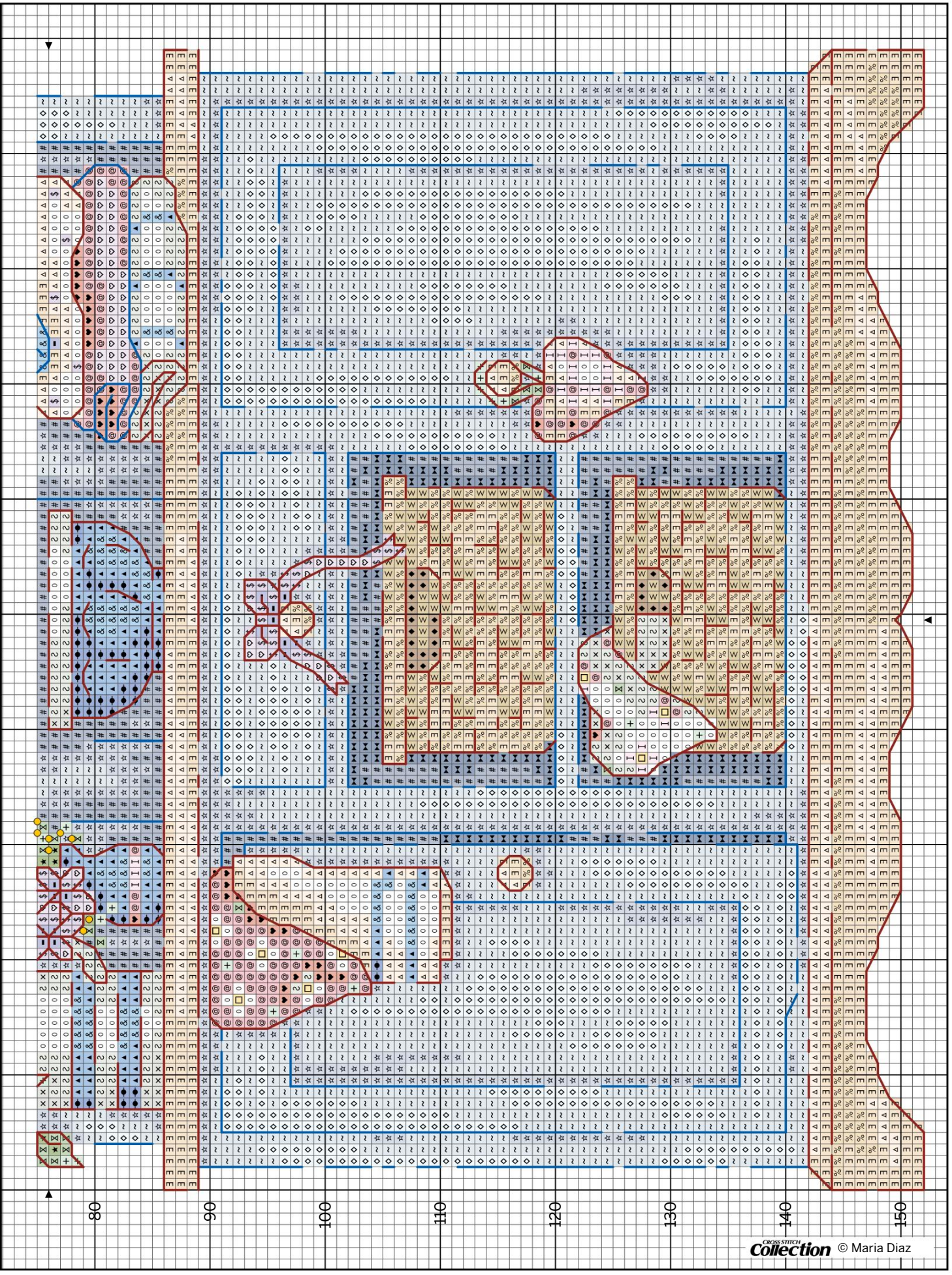
In my opinion, every kitchen deserves a dresser. So beautifully made, their solid presence gives any kitchen a timeless feel. They've been around for centuries too! Typically called a Welsh dresser, the style and use of these wooden wonders has evolved over the years in style and geographically – for example, Scottish dressers would typically contain a tin-lined porridge drawer, into which porridge would be poured, left to set, and then cut out in slices later to take to the workers – yum! I just couldn't resist asking Maria to create my ideal kitchen dresser (without a porridge drawer!). I love how beautiful it looks with the jars of flowers and just enough clutter – there are too few open packets of biscuits lying around to have been modelled on my kitchen dresser, though!

Rebecca

Rebecca Bradshaw

and to read her exciting blog, visit **www.mariadiazdesigns.com**




80
90
100
110
120
130
140
150
CROSS STITCH Collection © Maria Diaz

Tip...
Order of stitching

With so many patterns stitched using similar shades, it's easier to finish each individual motif before moving on to the next – this will help with counting and placement, too!



Meet the stitcher...

Laura Boyter

"Beautiful pastel colours, stunning detail, timeless elegance – what's not to love? This is the kind of picture that makes you not only want this stitching to be displayed in your kitchen, but also for the actual dresser as well! Difficulty wise, it was the best of both worlds. There were a few fiddly stitches amidst nice big chunks of colour, and some challenging backstitch on the individual petals along the dresser. In other words, it wasn't boring for a second! The trickiest parts were probably the teeny-tiny backstitch on the flowers in the jug – I was so glad I stitched it on linen and not aida, it would have been a nightmare piercing every block!"

Stitching your picture

You will need...

28HPI linen (or 14HPI aida), white, Zweigart Cashel Ref: 3281/100, 19x15in (48x38cm). We found our lovely linen at Willow Fabrics. To find your fabric, call 0800 0567811 or go online to www.willowfabrics.com

Stranded cotton as listed in the key

Wood frame with a 12¼x8½in (31x22cm) aperture, limed wood

Turn to page 57 for hints and tips!

Before **you begin**

DENSELY stitched, you will find this design easier to work if you mount your fabric into an embroidery frame before you start. This will avoid flattening the stitches, which happens when using a hoop, and will also help to keep your tension even and the fabric straight. A stretcher frame would be ideal for this. They can be bought in a variety of different sizes from good needlework shops or online.

Stitching **the design**

FOLD your fabric in half both ways to find the centre and start stitching at this point. All the cross stitch is worked in two strands over two threads of the linen fabric. Decide before you begin stitching in what order you are going to work. The different shades of blue used for the paintwork on the dresser are all quite similar so take care to check the shade number against the key before you stitch.

Adding **the details**

FINISH working all the cross stitch before adding the backstitch details. These are all worked in one strand – very dark petrol blue for the dresser, medium green for the plate pattern and sepia for the remainder of the outlines and details. Finally, add the French knots using one strand of white for the bunting and shelf cloth and yellow for the flowers.

Vintage dresser

Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	Colour
	White	002	2402	White
	155	109	0803	Purple
	209	108	0711	Violet
	211	342	0801	Lilac
	368	214	1310	Light green
	437	362	2012	Tan
	648	231	1814	Pale brown grey
	738	361	2013	Dark cream
	739	366	2014	Light cream
	743	305	0113	Yellow
	760	1022	0405	Medium dusty pink
	797	132	0912	Dark blue
	798	142	0911	Medium blue
	799	145	0910	Light blue
	869	889	2105	Dark brown
	930	1035	1712	Very dark petrol blue
	931	1034	1711	Dark petrol blue
	932	1033	1710	Medium petrol blue
	989	242	1401	Medium green
	3072	397	1805	Pale green grey
	3328	1024	0406	Dark dusty pink
	3346	267	1407	Dark green
	3713	1020	0502	Light dusty pink
	3752	1032	0909	Light petrol blue (2)
	3753	1031	1001	Very light petrol blue
	3828	373	2103	Light brown

Backstitch in one strand

	840	1084	1912	Sepia
	all other outlines and details			
	*930	1035	1712	Very dark petrol blue
	dresser			
	*989	242	1401	Medium green
	plate pattern			

French knots in one strand

	*White	002	2402	White
	bunting, shelf cloth			
	*743	305	0113	Yellow
	flowers			

Stitched using DMC threads on 28HPI linen over two threads
Stitch count 152x99
Design area 10¾x7in (27.5x18cm)

*indicates colour is listed earlier in the key
(2) indicates more than one skein required

Our stitcher says... If you want to stitch this design on aida, make sure you're armed with a super sharp needle to help pierce those blocks



Sending thanks

Stitch and send a thoughtful token of appreciation with **Jenny Phin's** pretty thank you card

STITCH & SEND

From the smallest kindness to the biggest gift, there's always a good reason to say thank you! The lucky recipient of Jenny Phin's adorable stitched card is sure to feel appreciated. The design features a collection of pretty motifs – you'll stitch super-sweet birds, hearts and flowers, beautiful lettering and chic Art Nouveau-style roses. With so many elements, just make sure you count carefully to ensure your placement is correct. There are also plenty of fractional stitches to work in this design, which combined with the delicate pastel thread shades will help you create a truly soft and feminine thank you card.

Send the ideal gift or bunch of flowers along with your card to say thank you. You can find lots of lovely ideas at Simply Thank You. Find them online at www.simplythankyou.com

You will need...

16HPI aida (or 32HPI evenweave), white
Stranded cotton as listed in the key
Card 4½x9in (11x23cm), white

Stitching your **thank you card**

WORK all the cross stitch first using two stands of stranded cotton. Next, add the backstitch for all the outlines and details in dark pink. Work French knots using one strand of dark pink. To make the card:

1 TRIM the stitched aida to ¼in (6mm) outside the stitching all the way round, then remove the outer block of thread to fray the edges.

2 FOLD the card in half then stick the aida to the front of your card making sure it's central. Machine stitch in place, close to the edge.



© Jenny Phin

Sending thanks

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	Colour
Cross stitch in two strands				
	151	023	0502	Light pink
	166	279	1308	Lime green
	726	295	0109	Yellow
	827	160	1002	Blue
	954	203	1211	Mint green
	3733	075	0504	Medium pink
	3836	090	0711	Purple
Backstitch in one strand				
—	3803	069	2609	Dark pink
	all outlines and details			
French knots in one strand				
●●	*3803	069	2609	Dark pink
	flowers, eyes			

Stitched using DMC threads on 16HPI aida
Stitch count 48x48 Design area 3x3in (8x8cm)
*indicates colour is listed earlier in the key

Our stitcher says... For a pretty handmade look, stitch the aida to the front of the card using running stitch in one of the stranded cotton colours used in Jenny's design



Combine **backstitch, long stitch, fractionals and whole cross stitch to create a sophisticated but simple design**

Elegant accessories

Beautify your bathroom with a sign, basket and bag adorned with **Jenny Barton's** lavish lettering and ornate scroll motifs



Add French-inspired elegance to your home with Jenny Barton's sumptuous script and stunning scroll motifs. Worked in just two shades of teal, you'll create the graceful twists in the luxurious lettering for your bathroom

Stitch a sumptuous script to create an opulent sign

set using an effective mix of backstitch and long stitch. You'll enjoy stitching the scrolls and the sweeping acanthus branch-style motifs, too – they are simple to create with large blocks of colour and just a few fractional stitches.



Graceful twists and curls add a touch of French inspired elegance



Your stitched sign will look gorgeous in a wood frame

Collection makes...

ACCESSORISE

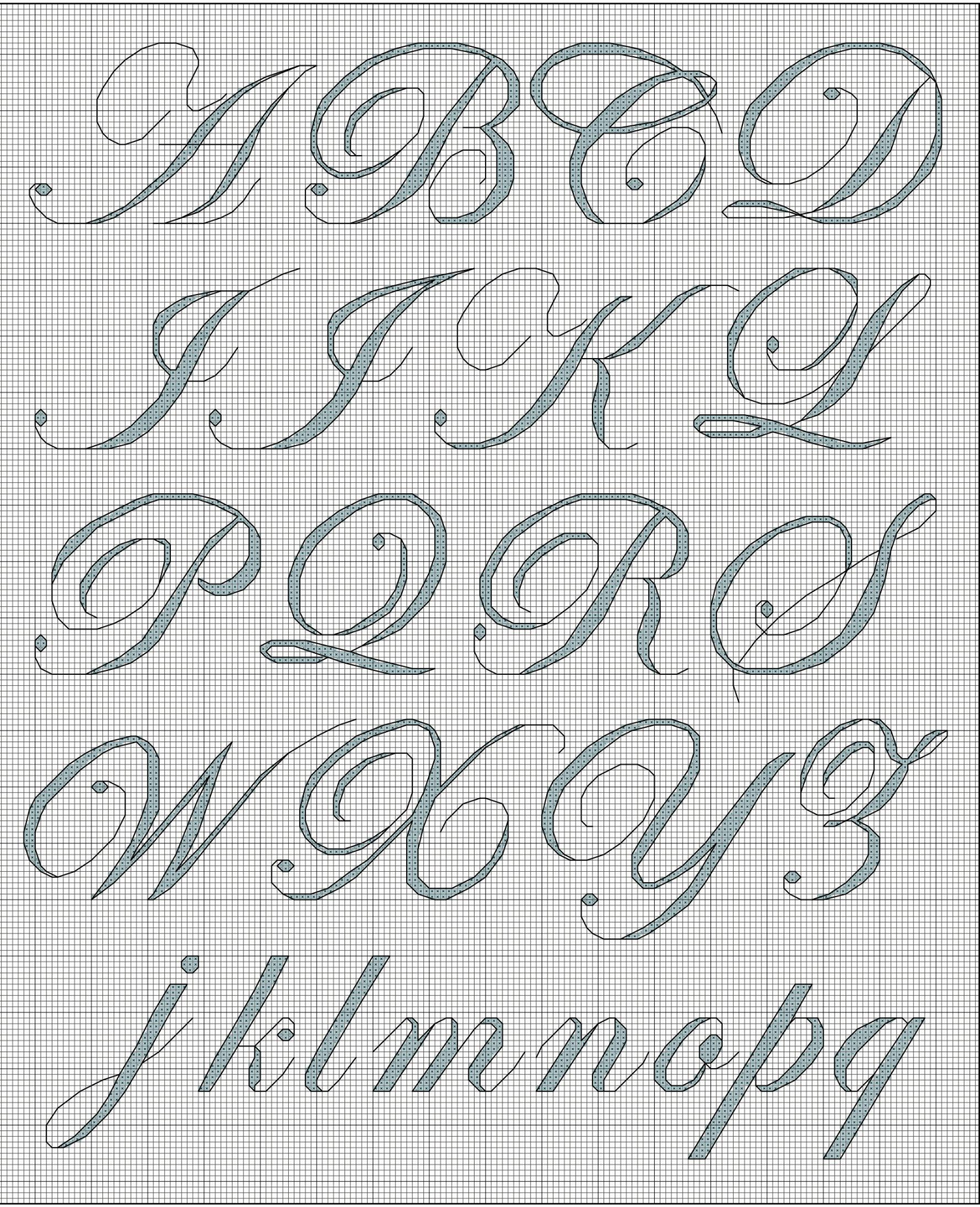
You could stitch the smaller scrolls and the alphabet onto all sorts to build up your collection of matching bathroom accessories – attach a stitched linen patch to a flannel, or even a towel.

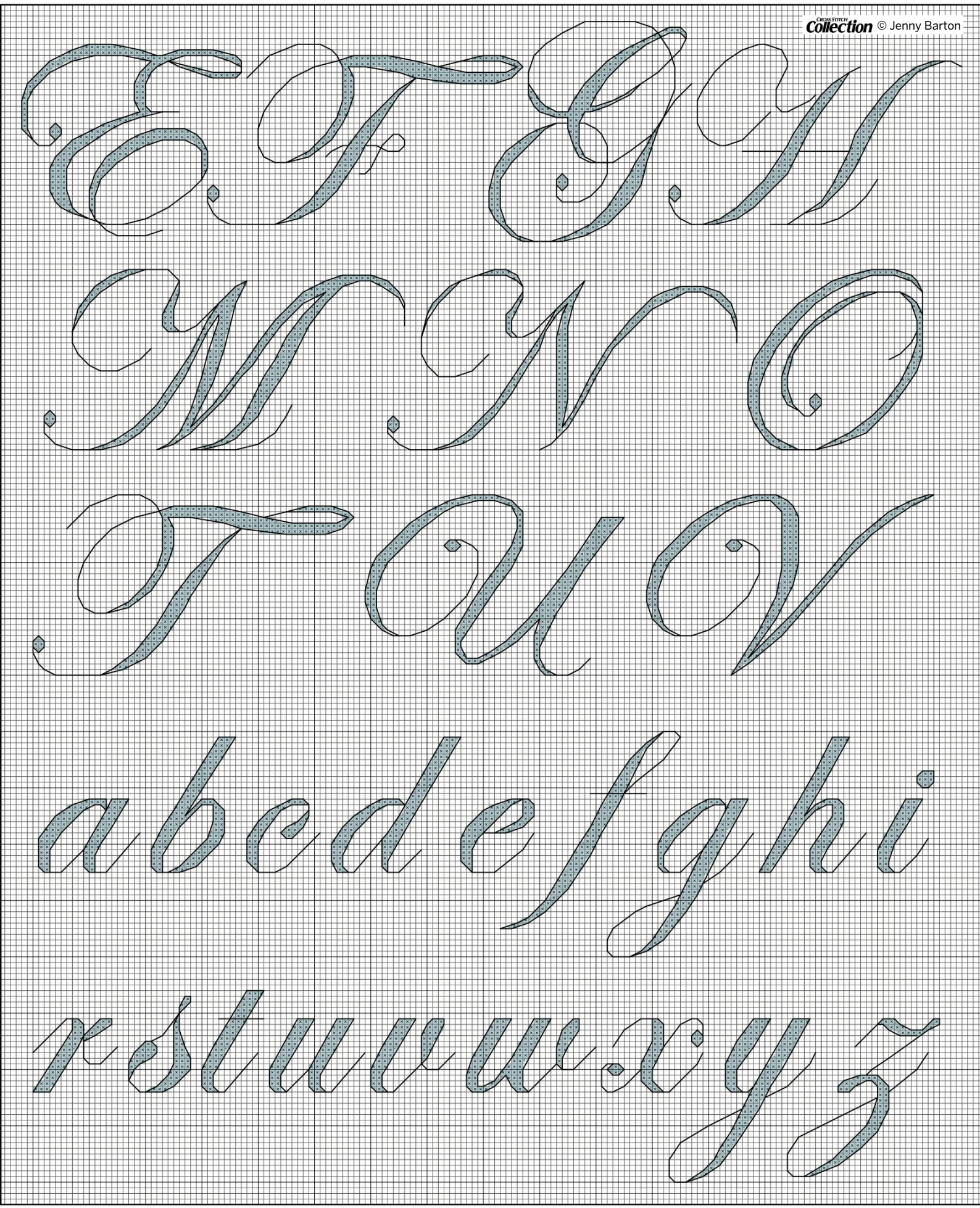
HIS & HERS

Create a thoughful gift by stitching the bag and basket in two different shades to make a His & Hers bathroom set.

SWITCH ROOMS

With our two versatile alphabets, you're not confined to the bathroom! You could stitch a loved one's name to make a bedroom door sign, or stitch a different word onto your storage basket to hold knick-knacks!


Hard
Effort
Pays off
Always
Eventually


Sofia
Syng
Tanz
Scheerfahi
Kitchenchiz



Making your accessories

You will need...

28HPI evenweave (or 14HPI aida), light rustic, Zweigart Cashel Ref: 3281/52. See instructions for size. We found our lovely linen at Willow Fabrics. Get yours by calling 0800 0567811 or visit www.willowfabrics.com

Stranded cotton as listed in the key

Sewing kit including matching thread

Turn to page 57 for hints and tips!

Stitching **the designs**

USE the alphabets and scroll patterns to stitch any of the items for your bathroom. To make sure that the design is correctly placed, you may find it easier to draw out the letters and scrolls you want to stitch on to graph paper first.

The design is stitched over two threads of the linen fabric using two strands for the cross stitch. The backstitch is then worked in two strands for the lettering and swirls and one strand for the scroll



pattern. You will find it easier when stitching the lettering if you work all the cross stitch and backstitch for one letter at a time before moving onto the next one, as they use the same colour thread and the same number of strands.

We have used a light teal thread for our designs, but you can easily choose a colour to match your bathroom décor. If you are stitching two initials as we have done on the drawstring bag, simply select a darker shade for one to create that effective contrast.

Elegant accessories

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	Colour
Cross stitch in two strands				
××	3849	1070	1109	Light teal
Backstitch/long stitch in two strands				
—	3848	1074	1108	Dark teal
	lettering, swirls			
Backstitch/long stitch in one strand				
—	*3848	1074	1108	Dark teal
	scroll pattern			

Stitched using DMC threads on 28HPI linen over two threads

*indicates colour is listed earlier in the key

Placing your stitches correctly on this design is crucial – double check your counting before adding the next letter so you can achieve the sweeping curls when you add the backstitch detail

Making your door sign

You will need...

28HPI evenweave (or 14HPI aida), light rustic, Zweigart Cashel Ref: 3281/52, 20x25in (51x64cm)

Stranded cotton as listed in the key

Mount board 12x18in (30x46cm)

Door sign template turn to page 60 for a template at 50% or download a full size version from www.crossstitchcollection.com

Felt white, 12x18in (30x46cm)

Cotton tape cream, ½x30in (1.5x76cm)

2oz wadding 12x18in (30x46cm)

DOWNLOAD your template from www.crossstitchcollection.com

Assemble **the door sign**

STITCH the words, then the scrolls. To make them mirror image, simply turn the chart upside down!

1 DOWNLOAD or photocopy your template, or you can draw one 11½in (29cm) high and 17½in (44cm) wide, curving the side as shown. Draw round the template onto mount board and cut it out.

2 STICK wadding on top of the mount board, then stretch your stitching round this and stick to the back of the board with double-sided tape.

3 PUNCH eyelets to the top of the linen and through the mount board, then slip stitch a piece of white felt to the back to neaten your sign. Tie the cotton tape through the eyelets for hanging your sign.



Making a bag

You will need...

28HPI evenweave (or 14HPI aida), light rustic, Zweigart Cashel Ref: 3281/52, two pieces, 7½x7½in (19x19cm) each

Stranded cotton as listed in the key

Striped fabric two pieces, 5x7½in (13x19cm) each

Cotton tape cream, for the drawstring

Assembling **your bag**

RIGHT sides together and matching the raw edges, sew one strip of fabric across the top of the stitched bag front. Repeat this with the bag back. Next:

1 PLACE the front and back right sides together and sew down one side, across the bottom and up the other side.

2 TURN the top edge of the strip over ½in (1.5cm) to the wrong side, then fold it over so the fold of the turned under edge matches up with the seam where you joined the striped fabric to the linen. Stitch down close to the edge.

3 MAKE the cord casing by stitching another line 1in (2.5cm) up from the last one.

4 SNIP the side seam stitches between the two rows of casing stitching on one side of the bag.

Complete your bag by threading a length of cream cotton tape through the casing and tying a knot at the end – you could add a pretty bead for a decorative finish



Making a basket



You will need...

28HPI evenweave (or 14HPI aida), light rustic, Zweigart Cashel Ref: 3281/52. Cut your fabric 8in (20cm) wide and a length to fit round your basket

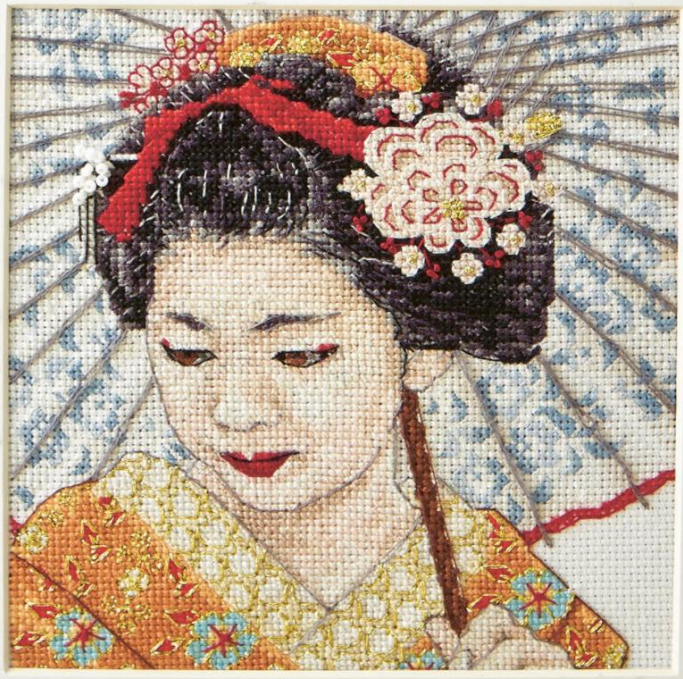
Stranded cotton as listed in the key

Stitching **your basket**

STITCH the word *Savon* with a scroll either side, positioning it centrally along the length of your linen fabric. Hem the edges and stitch to the top of a ready-made fabric basket. If you want to try making your own then this online tutorial from Threading My Way is really good. Find it at www.bit.ly/1yl3xmw

Exquisite Orient

Treat yourself to a truly indulgent stitch with **Anchor's** luxurious and delicate geisha design



Luxurious and exotic, Anchor's spellbinding geisha design is a truly sumptuous stitch. Exceptionally realistic, you'll capture the geisha's fine features and beautiful attire with some interesting cross stitch techniques and glamorous materials. You'll stitch the feminine patterns on her dress and the delicate French knots using Anchor Lamé thread. There are plenty of fractional stitches to work that help to refine the picture's details, as well as backstitch in a number of shades on her hair, parasol and dress, so keep a close eye on your chart and key. You'll attach a scattering of seed beads in her hair, combine threads to achieve a variegated look on the geisha's skin, and give the picture depth by stitching the parasol pattern in one thread instead of two. All of this is stitched on dinky 18HPI aida, which gives the picture a delightfully diminutive finish – perfect for adding a touch of luxury to your home!

More oriental designs **from** Anchor



Yoi with Blossom
Ref: 5678000 -01111, £53.00



Hutari Mai
Ref: 5678000 -01144, £53.00



Yumezakura
Ref:5678000 -01145, £53.00

For stockists, visit
www.makeitcoats.com

Stitching your geisha design

You will need...

18HPI aida (or 36HPI linen), white, 13x13in (33x33cm)
Stranded cotton as listed in the key
Anchor Lamé thread as listed in the key
Seed beads as listed in the key
Mount board 5x5in (13x13cm) aperture, off white
Frame with a 9x9in (23x23cm) aperture, gilt
Turn to page 57 for hints and tips!

Working **the cross stitch**

FOLD your fabric in half both ways to find the centre and start stitching at this point. This is an intricate design with a lot of similar shades of stranded cotton so do take time to count carefully, crossing off stitches on the chart as you go. Different numbers of thread are used for the cross stitch to achieve differing depths of colour. The main design is worked in two strands, but the parasol is worked in one strand. Also, some areas are worked by combining one strand each of different colours. This creates a variegated effect and a subtle colour change which works well for the geisha's skin. Refer to the key for the exact details of all these colours.

Adding **the details**

FINISH working all the cross stitch before adding the backstitch and long stitch details. The gold details on the kimono are worked using three strands of gold Lamé thread and the remainder of the details are worked using one strand – white for the flower, dark brown for the fan handle and kimono, light grey for the hair and face, medium grey for the fan, hair, face, kimono and hand, black for the hair and face and dark red for the remainder of the details.

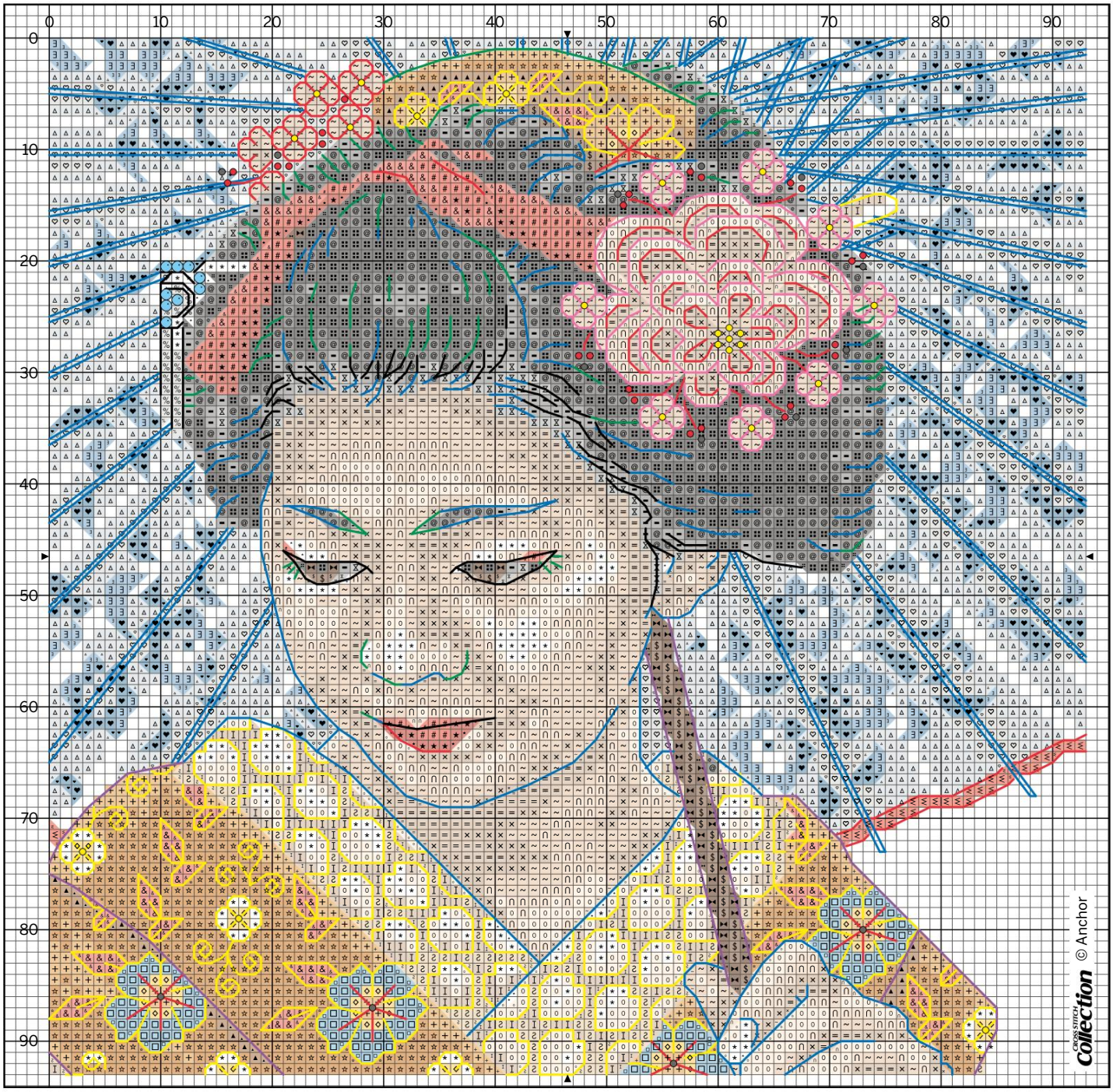
Finally, add the French knots using two strands – medium red for the flowers in the hair and on the kimono and dark red for the flowers in the hair.

Tip... **Working long stitch**

To create the elegant spokes on the parasol, you'll need to make sure your long stitches don't sag. If they do, simply work a small stitch in the back of your work to pull them tight

Attaching **the beads**

COMPLETE all the cross stitch and backstitch before attaching the white seed beads as a hair ornament. Use sewing thread to match the stitches beneath and attach using a half cross stitch.



Exquisite orient

Cross stitch in two strands

Anchor	Colour
002	White
046	Light red
047	Medium red
167	Turquoise
301	Yellow
349	D orange brown
358	Medium brown
380	Dark brown
397	Pale grey
399	Light grey
400	Medium grey
401	Dark grey
403	Black
852	Sandy Yellow
885	Dark cream
926	Light cream
1005	Dark red
1047	L orange brown
1048	M orange brown

Cross stitch in one strand

Anchor	Colour
*047	Light red
*397	Pale grey
1033	Light blue
1034	Dark blue
1037	Pale blue

Cross stitch in one strand of each colour

271	Light pink beige
892	Medium pink beige
*271	Light pink beige
*926	Light cream
376	Dark pink beige
*892	Medium pink beige
*376	Dark pink beige
1082	Light brown

Backstitch/long stitch in three strands

Anchor	Colour
Lamé 300 Gold	kimono

Backstitch/long stitch in one strand

Anchor	Colour
*002	White — flower in hair
*380	Dark brown — fan handle, kimono
*399	Light grey — hair, face
*400	Medium grey — fan, hair, face, kimono, hand
*403	Black — hair, face
*1005	Dark red — mouth, fan, flowers, hair accessories

French knots in three strands

Anchor	Colour
*Lamé 300 Gold	flowers in hair and on kimono

French knots in two strands

Anchor	Colour
*047	Medium red — flowers in hair and on kimono
*1005	Dark red — flowers in hair

Attach beads with matching cotton

White seed beads	hair ornament

Stitched using Anchor threads on 18HPI aida Stitch count 93x93
Design area 5x5in (13x13cm)

*indicates colour is listed earlier in the key

DAINTY MAKES

Stitch more January motifs with Sheena's fantastic matching mini-cushion kit! Measuring a dinky 5¾in square, the full kit costs just £13.99. You can find it online at: www.sheenarogersdesigns.co.uk

January is a mix of old and new. We start the year with traditional New Year celebrations, and then promise to make changes with our resolutions! In this way, the garnet, snowdrop, and carnation represent January perfectly. A symbol of hope, once the snowdrop's bowed bell petals appear we can look forward to a new spring. Carnations and garnets represent the old – both have been cultivated or mined for over 2,000 years. All three can also stand for enduring love, making the symbolism of them all together quite powerful – celebrate tradition, embrace the new, and love deeply. In Sheena's design, you'll stitch the pure white snowdrops against a fresh green backdrop to create a stunning border around the garnet-red carnation. Though there are no fractionals or backstitch to work, you'll still achieve the fulsome frills of the carnation's petals!

You will need...

14HPI aida (or 28HPI evenweave), white, 8x8in (20x20cm)
Stranded cotton as listed in the key
Fabric backing 6x6in (15x15cm)
Soft toy filling

Making your **pincushion**

FINISH stitching your flower design, then follow these steps to make your January pincushion:

1. TRIM your aida 1in (2.5cm) around the stitching. Lay right sides together on top of the backing fabric, pinning them together.
2. SEW the two pieces together along the edge of the stitching around three sides and 1in (1.5cm) either end of the fourth side.
3. TRIM all four edges of both the aida and backing fabric to about ¼in (6mm) outside the seam, then snip off the corners.
4. TURN the pin cushion right sides out and stuff with the soft toy filling. Sew up the opening to finish.

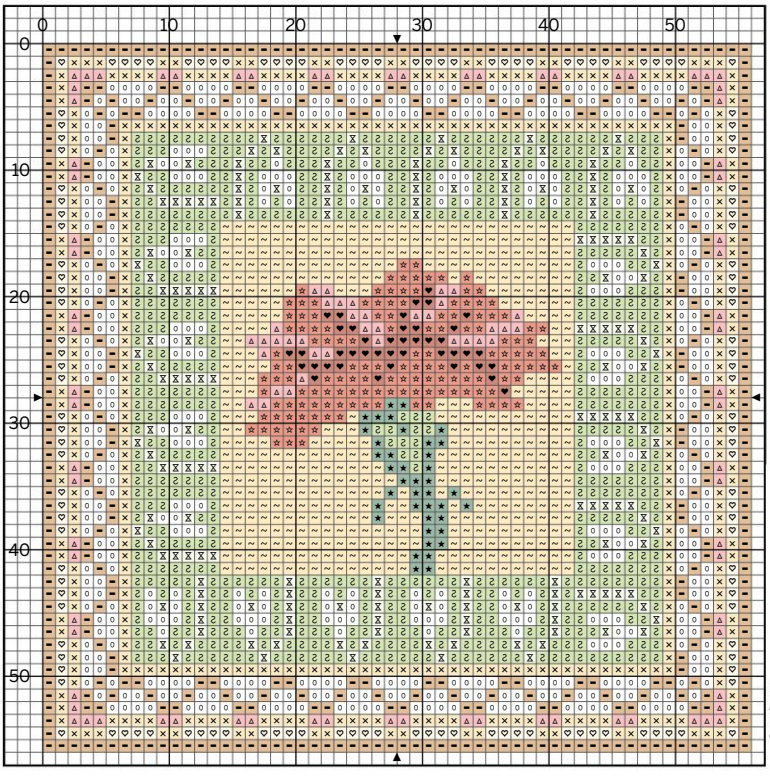
Our stitcher says... Vivacious violets and primroses are February's birth flowers – stitch Sheena's fifth design in our next issue!

Hope and tradition

Cross stitch in two strands

DMC	Anchor	Madeira	Colour
White	002	2402	White
369	1043	1309	Light green
437	362	2012	Tan
498	1005	0511	Ruby
505	211	1206	Dark green
676	887	2208	L golden yellow
680	901	2210	D golden yellow
703	238	1307	Medium green
746	275	0101	Pale yellow
760	1022	0405	Dusty pink
817	013	0211	Red

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



© Sheena Rogers



Hope and tradition

Celebrate new beginnings and old traditions by stitching pure white snowdrops and a garnet-red carnation on **Sheena Rogers'** stunning pincushion



Meet the designer...

Rebecca Bradshaw

In the Bleak Mid Winter is one of my favourite poems. Written by poet Christina Rossetti, I love the words she has used. Winter days when it's cold and crisp but the sun is shining and I'm out walking the dog really take some beating. The words Rossetti has used really capture that bitter coldness with lines like "Earth stood hard as iron". It became a carol in 1906 when Gustav Holst set it to music, but a few years ago I heard Harold Darke's version of it and it has a really haunting melody which I think suits the words. I really enjoyed stitching this poem as some of the words are different sizes in some of the lines, so it was interesting to do. Adding a few snowflake charms at the end finishes it off nicely.



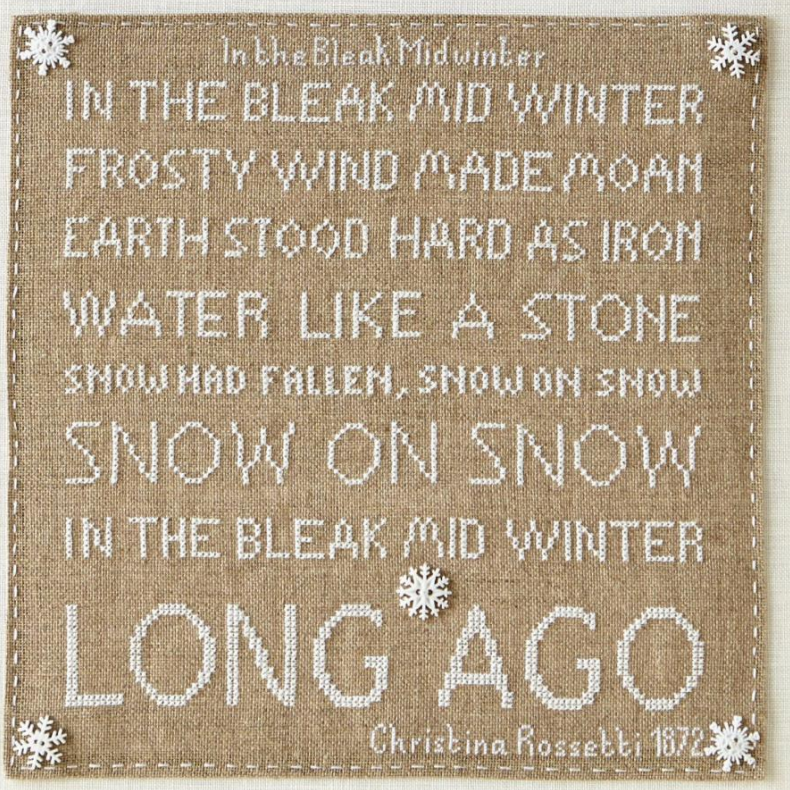
Combine letters of different sizes stitched over one and two threads to create a variated quick-stitch poem sampler – our specially designed charts will help you

Deepest winter

Celebrate the beauty of our most arresting season by stitching a haunting poem with **Rebecca Bradshaw's** bold winter sampler

Winter can be truly enchanting. Though the freezing cold penetrates your layers and howling winds can chill you to the bone, a magical atmosphere is created by falling snow covering the landscape, softening every ridge and muffling every sound. The sight of your breath escaping into the air like smoke and the bare trees stark against the grey-blue sky may be bleak, but it's very arresting. This atmospheric season is described so perfectly by Christina Rossetti, and mirrored so cleverly by Rebecca's sampler design. It's bold capital alphabet stitched in crisp white against rustic linen is ideal for marking the start of deepest winter – why not hang it up on the winter solstice? You can then replace it for the March equinox with Rebecca's next sampler – a spring design featuring Wordsworth's *Daffodils*. Find it in our March 247 issue.

Imagine the winter chill from the comfort of a cosy chair as you stitch Rebecca's sampler



Stitching your poem sampler

You will need...

32HPI linen dark rustic, Zweigart Belfast Ref: 3609/0053, 17x17in (43x43cm). We found our lovely linen at Willow Fabrics. Call 0800 0567811 or visit www.willowfabrics.com

Stranded cotton as listed in the key

Linen fabric white, 18x18in (46x46cm)

Snowflake craft buttons a small selection, approximately 18mm in length

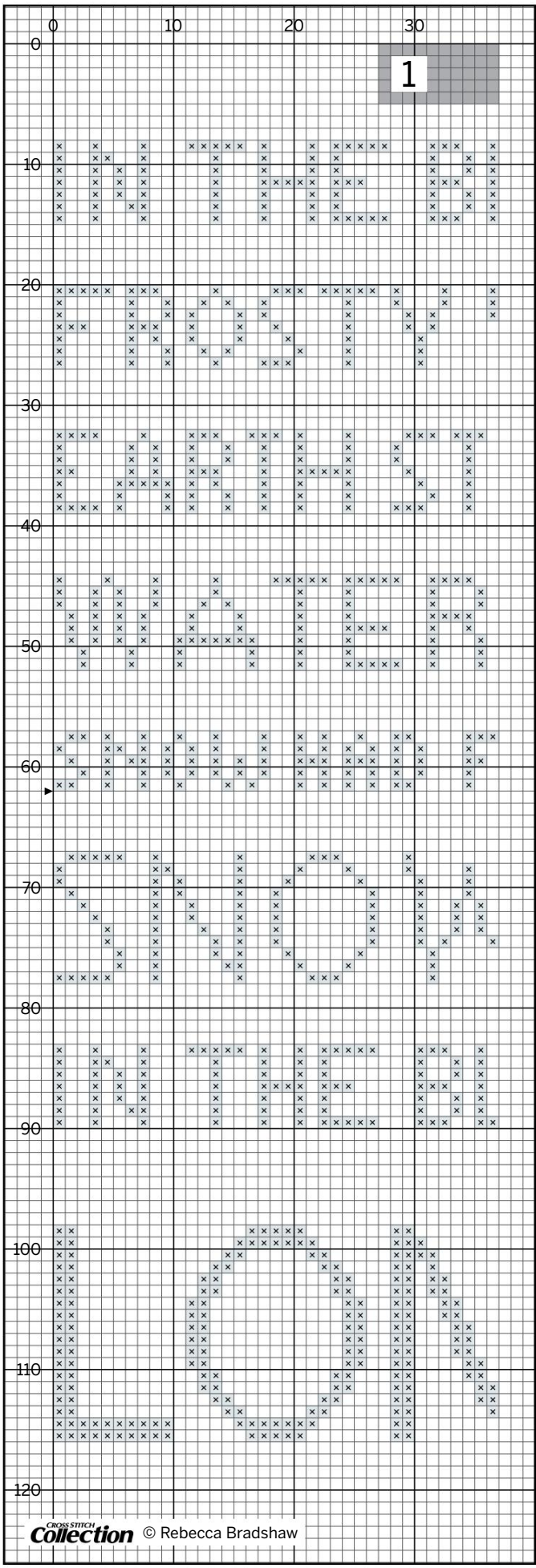
Frame with a 12x12in (30x30cm) aperture, cream painted wood

Turn to page 57 for hints and tips!

Before **you begin**

WORK this design in whole cross stitch using just white stranded cotton. The main verse is stitched over two threads of the linen fabric and the title and author over one thread. If you look at the main chart you will see that the areas worked over one strand are shaded in with a numbered grey block.

Start by folding your linen in half both ways to find the centre. Work the cross stitch from the main chart in two strands of stranded cotton over two threads of the linen. When you reach a numbered block, use the small chart to work one strand of stranded cotton over one thread of the linen.



Tip... **Find your snowflake buttons**

You can buy a pack of these from eBay. They are called SewThru Snowflakes and cost £2.50 plus p&p for a packet of 16. Visit stores.ebay.co.uk/malynscraftbuttons/



Deepest winter

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	Colour
Cross stitch in two strands over two threads				
Cross stitch in one strand over one thread				
××	White	002	2402	White (2)

Stitched using DMC threads on 32HPI linen over one and two threads
Stitch count 124x111 Design area 7¾x7in (20x18cm)
(2) indicates more than one skein required



Collection makes...

FABULOUS FRAMES

Rebecca's sampler could be framed in a number of ways – why not try a simple wooden frame, or a stretched canvas? It would even look fantastic as a chic wall hanging.

WINTER FREEZE

Create a sampler with a real chill by stitching the poem onto a deep blue fabric to achieve an icy look. You could even use a sparkly fabric for extra winter magic!

CUSHION CRAZY

Go on-trend by turning your sampler into a typographical cushion – you could stitch Rebecca's *Ode to Autumn* design from our Late Summer 239 issue and her upcoming spring and summer designs to create a set!



Add colour or sparkle to your sampler by attaching more buttons to the linen border – find glitter, coloured and wooden snowflakes here: beadandbutton company.co.uk

➤ Making **your picture**

FINISH all the stitching and trim your linen to 12x12in (30x30cm), with the design placed centrally.

1 TURN the edges of the fabric over ½in (1.5cm) all round to the wrong side and tack into place.

2 PIN your stitched design to the centre of the white linen fabric and pin into place. Using two strands of white stranded cotton, stitch a running stitch through both fabrics all round the edge.

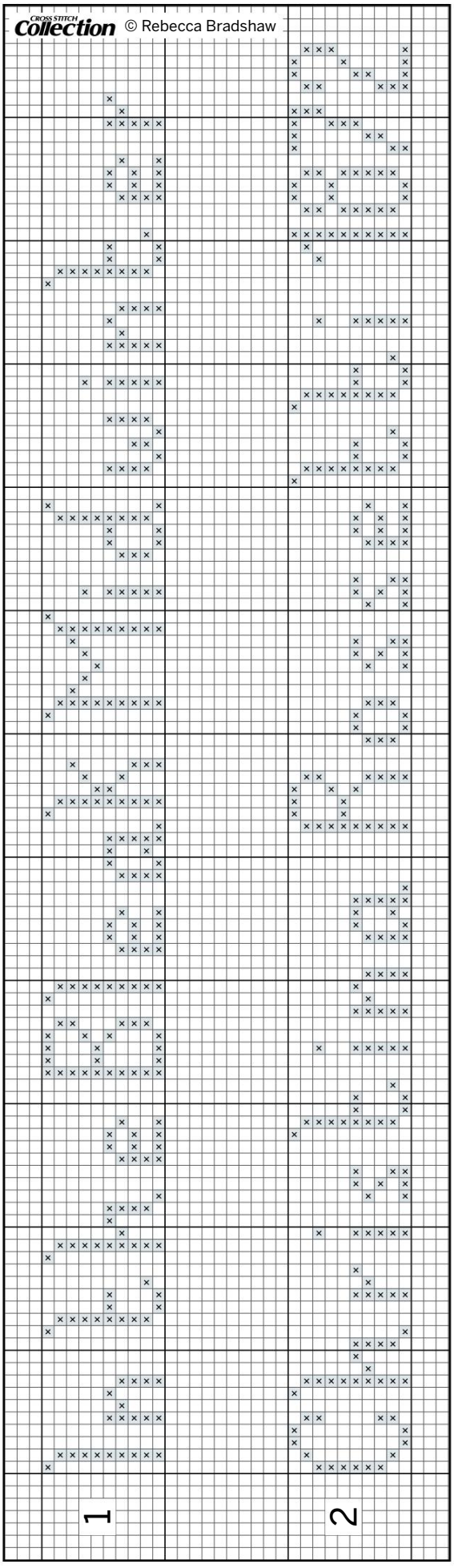
3 ATTACH your buttons to your stitched design. You can either follow the photograph for positioning or place wherever you prefer.

4 YOUR finished picture is now ready to be stretched and framed in the usual way.

Using the right **chart & key**

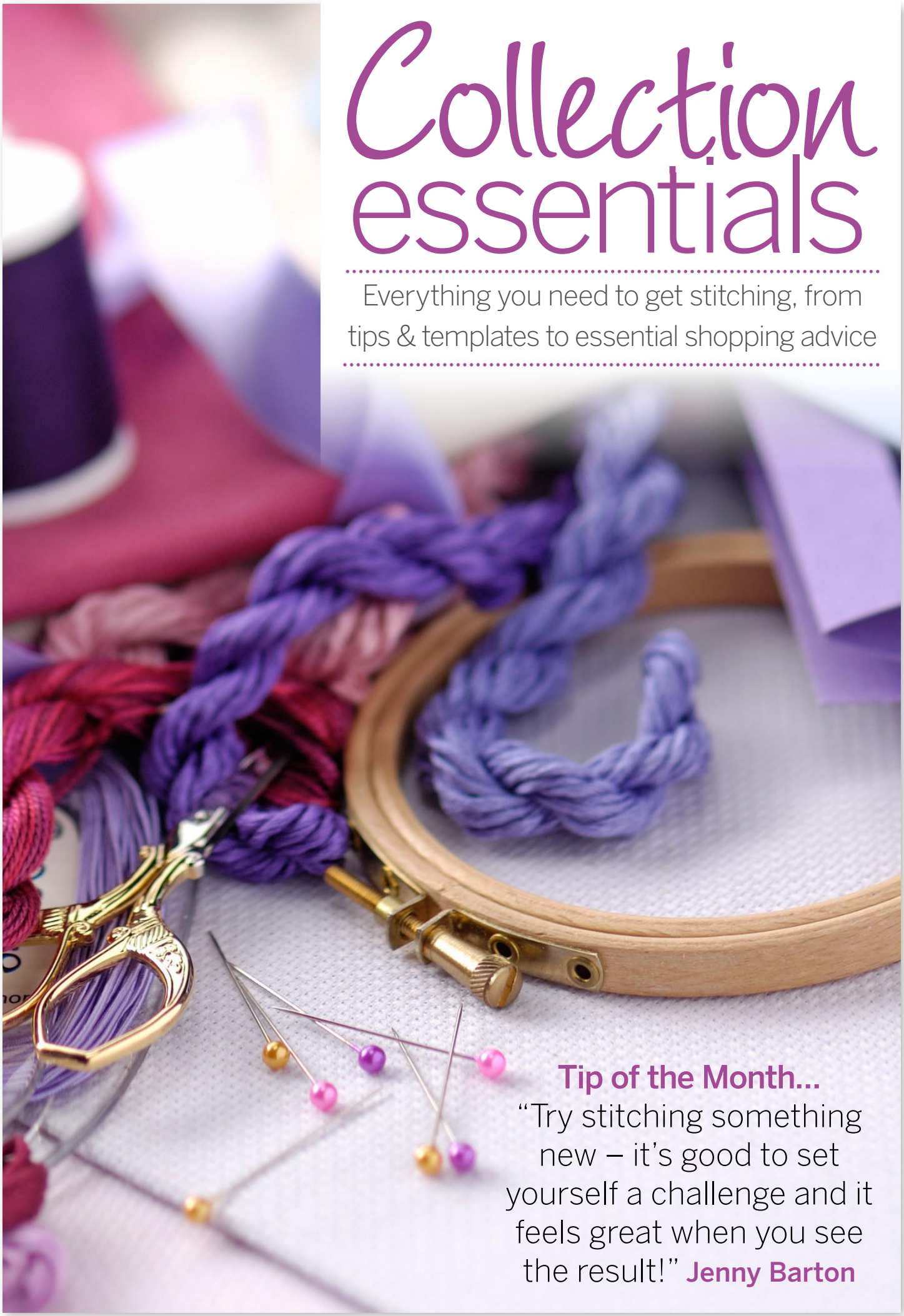
STITCHING from the correct chart and key is essential with Rebecca's design. When you reach a numbered grey shaded block on the main chart on pages 54-55, use the chart on the right to stitch the lettering in one strand over one thread of linen fabric.

Our stitcher says... Correct placement is key to achieve the right effect in this design – try tacking a line of thread on your fabric to make sure you get all your letters completely straight



Collection essentials

Everything you need to get stitching, from tips & templates to essential shopping advice



Tip of the Month...

"Try stitching something new – it's good to set yourself a challenge and it feels great when you see the result!" **Jenny Barton**

Stitch basics

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

Getting started

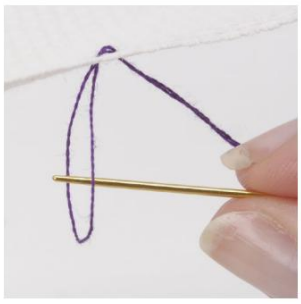
Select your needle

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

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

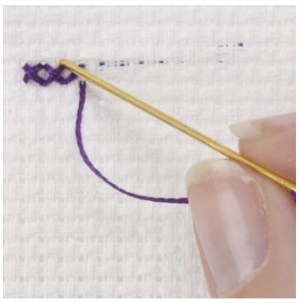


Try these three ways to get going, then choose the one that suits you best



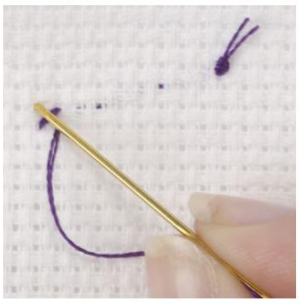
Loop start When stitching with two threads

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



Loose end start
When stitching with any number of threads

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



Waste knot start
When stitching with any number of threads

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

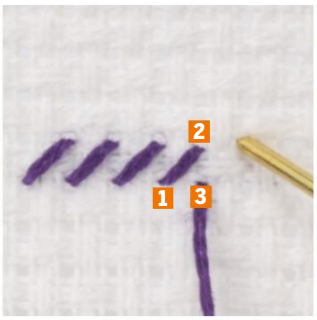
Cross stitch made easy

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



Cross stitch on aida

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



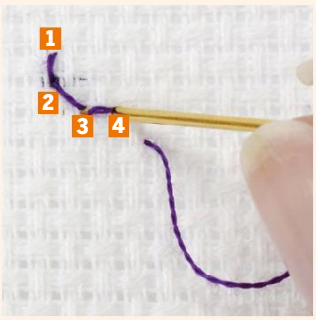
Half cross stitch

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

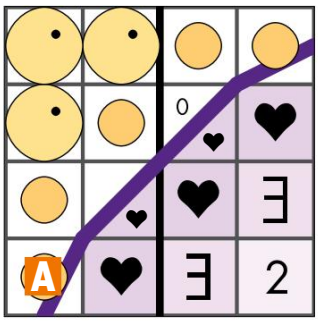


Cross stitch on evenweave

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



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



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



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



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



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

The final details

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

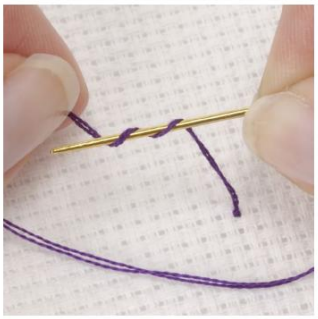


Beads

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

French knots

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





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

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

When finished...

Taking care of your stitching

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

Reading charts and keys

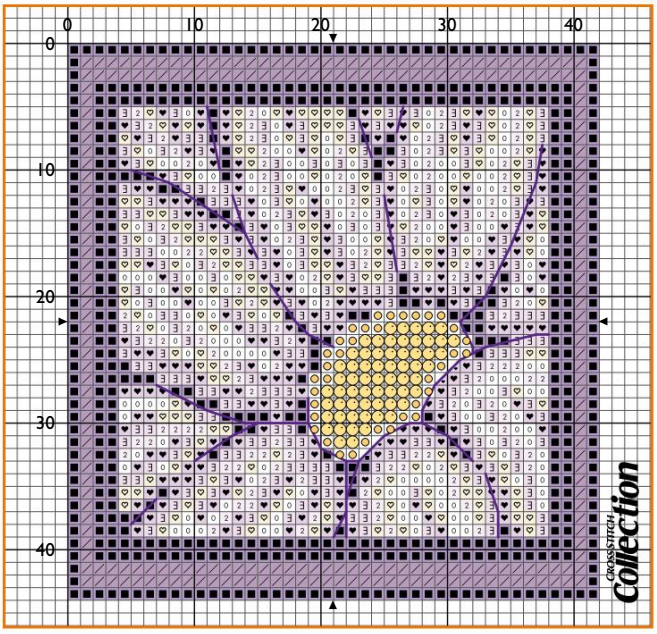
The charts are easy to follow when you know how

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

Daisy key

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	Colour
Cross stitch in two strands				
	White	002	2402	White
	210	108	0802	Light purple
	550	101	0714	Dark purple
	553	098	0712	Med purple
	3866	926	2001	Off white
Half cross stitch in two strands				
	*550	101	0714	Dark purple
Cross stitch using one strand of each colour				
	211	342	0801	Lilac
	DMC Light Effects E5200			
Backstitch in one strand				
	*550	101	0714	Dark purple
	all outlines and details			
French knots in two strands				
	743	305	0113	Yellow
	daisy centre details			
Attach beads with matching cotton				
	Mill Hill seed beads 02002			Yellow creme
	daisy centre details			

Stitched using DMC threads on 14HPI aida
Stitch count 44x42 Design area 3¼x3in (8x8cm)
*indicates colour is listed earlier in the key

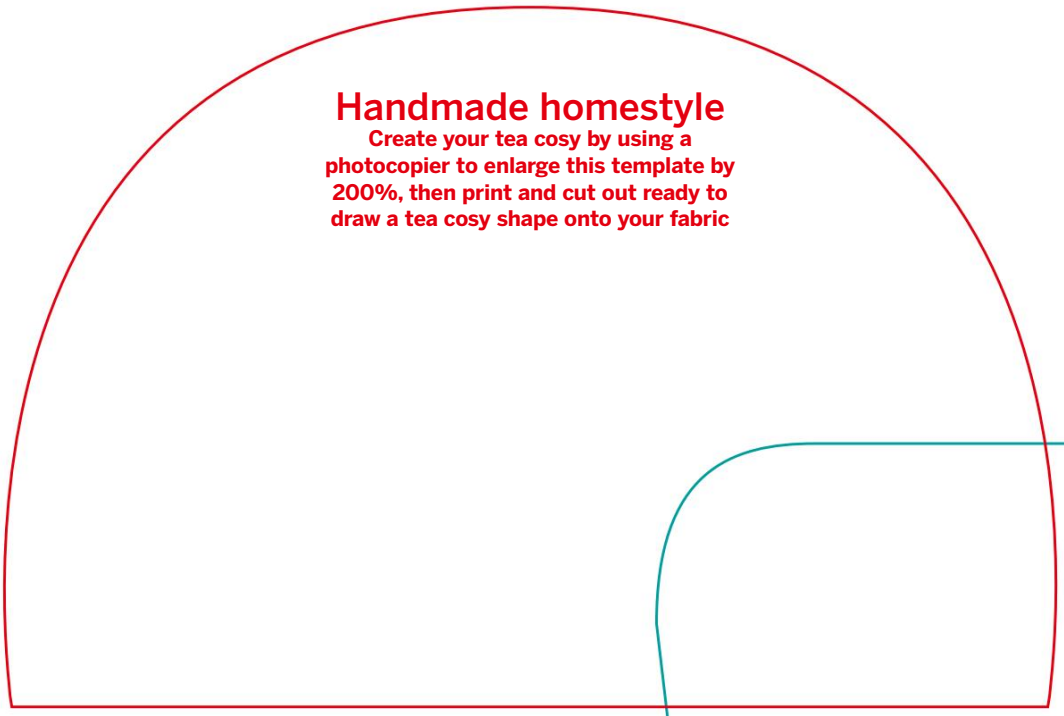


Stitch extras

Find all the extra essential making up instructions, techniques and templates you'll need to turn your stitched chart into a handmade masterpiece!

Handmade homestyle

Create your tea cosy by using a photocopier to enlarge this template by 200%, then print and cut out ready to draw a tea cosy shape onto your fabric



Deluxe diary

Making your book cover

1 FINISH all the stitching and trim the linen so that it measures 14½x7¼in (37x18cm). Turn the edges of the evenweave under by ½in (1.5cm) all the way round and press.

2 PLACE the evenweave right side down and put the interlining on top, then fold the turned over edges of the fabric over it. Stitch the turned over edges to the interlining, making sure that you don't stitch through to the front.

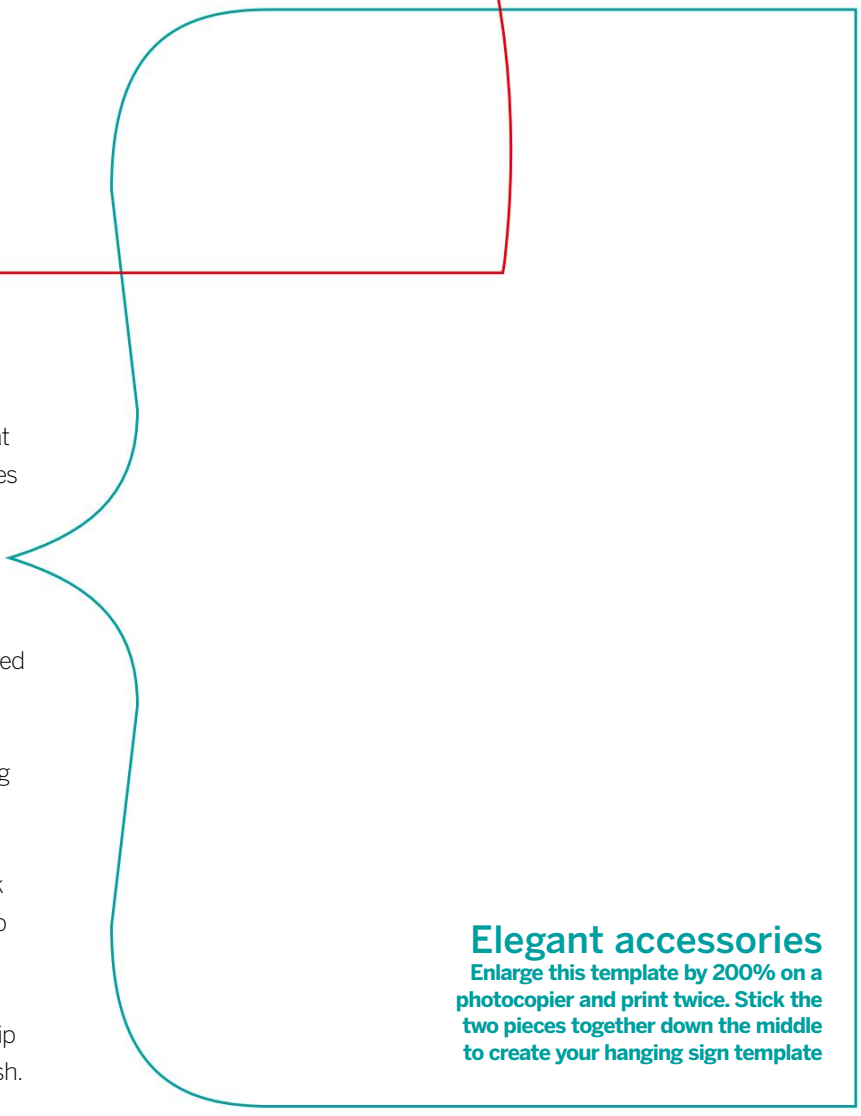
3 PLACE the lining fabric on top of the interlining and turn under the edges so they come just inside the fabric edges. Slip stitch into place.

4 PLACE the assembled cover round your book centrally and pin the flaps into place at the top and bottom.

5 OVERSEW the top and bottom of each flap through all the layers to hold them in place. Slip the front and back covers into the flaps to finish.

Elegant accessories

Enlarge this template by 200% on a photocopier and print twice. Stick the two pieces together down the middle to create your hanging sign template



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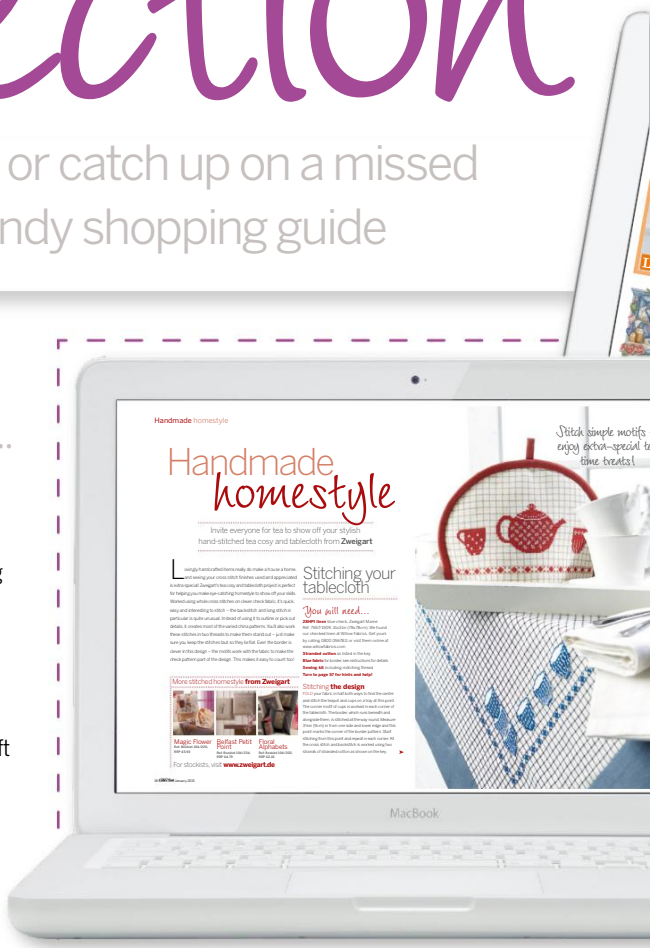
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Collection 240

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

Collection 241

- 37 gift charts to stitch in our *Christmas Collection*
- The first part of Maria Diaz's Christmas spectacular
- Countdown to Christmas with a mini-stocking calendar
- Cute boxer pups from Anchor
- Durene Jones' poppy is the perfect remembrance stitch
- Chart of the month – A traditional, classic Santa stocking design by Permin





Collection 242

- A rustic wreath by Lesley
- Build a delicious and sparkly 3D gingerbread house
- An embellishment special!
- Make a table runner and gift bags with Zweigart's baubles
- Part two of Santa's Journey
- Stitch a tasty Christmas cake recipe with Angela's hanging
- Chart of the month – Two Cinderella designs in our Joan Elliott festive special

Collection 243

- The perfect festive cards
- Lesley Teare's shimmering vase of winter flowers
- Stitch Ed Hedgehog in our Country Companions special
- Finish Santa's Journey with Maria Diaz's final chart
- Create stunning homestyle for Christmas with Zweigart
- Chart of the month – Stitch a snowman and a winter wonderland by Angela Poole

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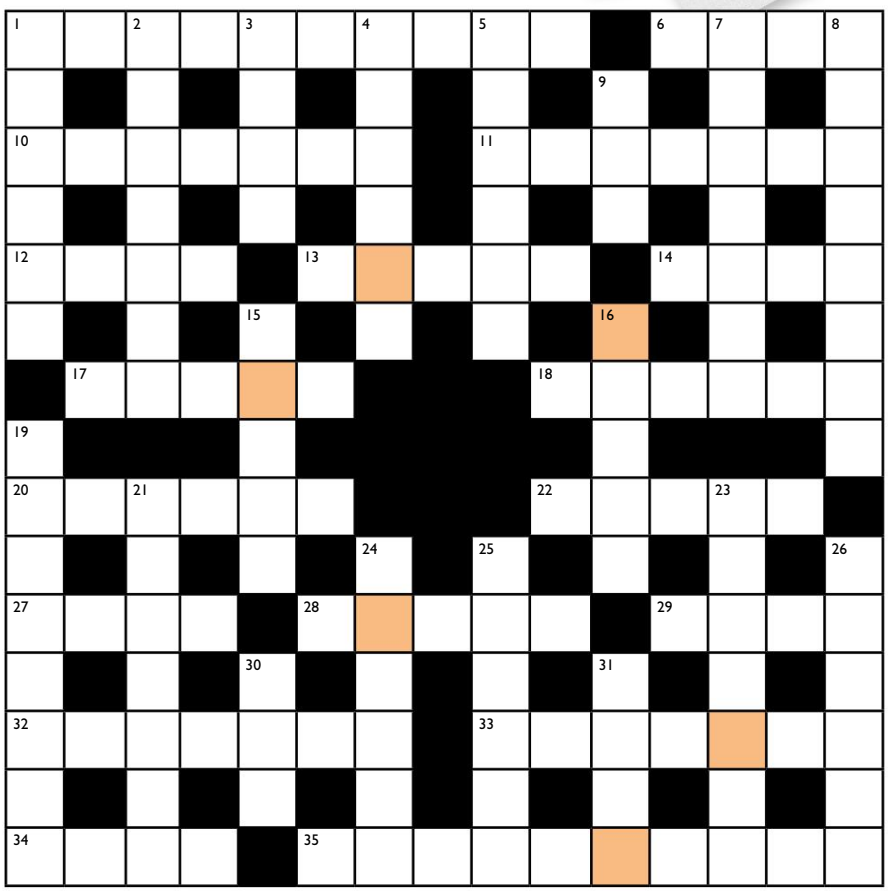


ACROSS

1 Objects that orbit the Earth (10)
6 Drinking containers on page 18 (4)
10 Makes possible (7)
11 _____ O'Hara, heroine from *Gone With The Wind* (7)
12 Large black bird, relative of the raven (4)
13 Common greeting (5)
14 Rear part of a shoe (4)
17 Repeated sequence of events (5)
18 (see 15 down)
20 Opposite of virtual (6)
22 Relating to a city (5)
27 Opposite of cool (4)
28 Beneath (5)
29 Express choice in an election (4)
32 Places for desk work (7)
33 Less wide (7)
34 Great quantity (4)
35 Done without thought (10)

Down

1 Prepared public oration (6)
2 Insulation device on page 18 (3,4)
3 Flower featured on page 9 (4)
4 Produced or published (6)
5 Without difficulty (6)
7 The least pretty (7)
8 People who colonise a place (8)
9 Opposite of night (3)
15 and 18 across *In The* ___ *Mid* ____ poem on page 52 (5,6)
16 Cover this on page 24 (5)
19 Basket for this place on page 40 (8)
21 Collection of road users (7)
23 Quantities (7)
24 Lady featured on page 47 (6)
25 (see 31 down)
26 Every 12 months (6)
30 Perform on stage or film (3)
31 Create a card featuring this on page 14 (4,6)



PRIZE CROSSWORD 243

Across: 1 desert; 4 aircraft; 9 sponge; 10 robin; 11 skated; 13 Santa; 15 eve; 16 panes; 18 Nemo; 21 hair; 22 satin; 25 Ayn; 26 start; 27 toward; 30 enter; 31 violin; 32 paradise; 33 meadow
Down: 1 dust; 2 stocking; 3 right; 5 independent; 6 Christmas; 7 albino; 8 Tinman; 12 decorations; 14 spa; 17 scattered; 19 startled; 20 ink; 23 asleep; 24 waiter; 28 white; 29 snow
Winning word: CANVAS

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Once you've completed the crossword, the shaded boxes will form an anagram of a type of embroidery. All you have to do is work out what the winning word is, and then fill out the form online no later than Thursday 8 January 2015. For full competition terms and conditions go to page 63.

Competition rules To enter competitions and giveaways, enter online between 12 December 2014 and 8 January 2015. The winners will be selected at random from all entries. Entries must be submitted by an individual (not via any agency or similar) and, unless otherwise stated, are limited to one per household. By entering a Competition you give permission to use your name, likeness and personal information in connection with the Competition and for promotional purposes. You warrant that the Competition entry is entirely your own work and not copied or adapted from any other source. If you are a winner, you may have to provide additional information. Details of winners will be available on request within three months of the closing date. You acknowledge and agree that neither the Company nor any associated third parties shall have any liability to you in connection with your use and/or possession of your prize. Further rules can be read in full on page 63.

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Crafty ideas from Rebecca Bradshaw



Welcome to my stitching world – I hope you find lots of inspiration. This month, I'm sharing my New Year's resolution to start some giant projects!



Like so many stitchers, I have got bags and bags of WIPs, but I've decided to leave them where they are for the year and start something fresh!

What on earth happened to the last year? One minute I was counting down the seconds to 2014 and the next spring had sprung, summer came and went, the leaves changed colour and before I knew it the shops were full of Christmas. I've really enjoyed 2014 and if I unpick it carefully I can remember lots of things that I've seen, done and achieved. Now I'm not one for New Year's resolutions – I usually make my resolutions whilst on my summer holiday. There is just something about having nothing to do for two weeks that makes me take stock, and I come back full of vim and vigour. However, I soon get back to my normal routine and my wonderful ideas of redecorating and making many new scatter cushions unravel!

So, this year I thought I'd join all the other resolvers and make a few of my own. Like many stitchers I have a truck-load of unfinished projects, but my resolution this is year is NOT to finish them! My resolution is to start afresh, and those that I've abandoned, due to lack of time or interest, can stay stuffed in carrier bags under the bed for some time in the future.

This year I'm going to be ambitious and start some of the larger ones I have always wanted to do. One of these is my wedding hanging. I've been married for 18 years, and I've only ever thought about about it! When I got married my sister embroidered my seating plan, which she framed and presented to me when we returned from honeymoon – and I love it. Sadly though, we moved house and it got put in the loft for safe keeping until I had time to hang it. I found it a few months ago and the mount board had grown mould and it was thick with dust. So, I took it out of its frame, put in the washing machine, prayed a lot and luckily it came out as good as new. I thought it would be great to renew it by embroidering squares to stitch round the edges with dates and other details, and my wedding photos printed onto fabric.



I can't wait to start on my wedding hanging – I'm going to surround this seating plan with embroidered squares showing memories from our big day

> "This year my resolution is NOT to finish all my WIPs – I'm going to start fresh with new ambitious projects"

It's going to be a wonderful memento, which I think will take months to complete – but worth it and it's my aim for 2015. If there's time I may even start a super-king size patchwork quilt in red and cream for my bed. But realistically I might just have to leave that ambitious project until 2016!

Share your own crafty ideas

Email **csc@immediate.co.uk** or write to: Crafty Ideas, Cross Stitch Collection, Tower House, Bristol BS1 3BN

Next month in your **February** issue...



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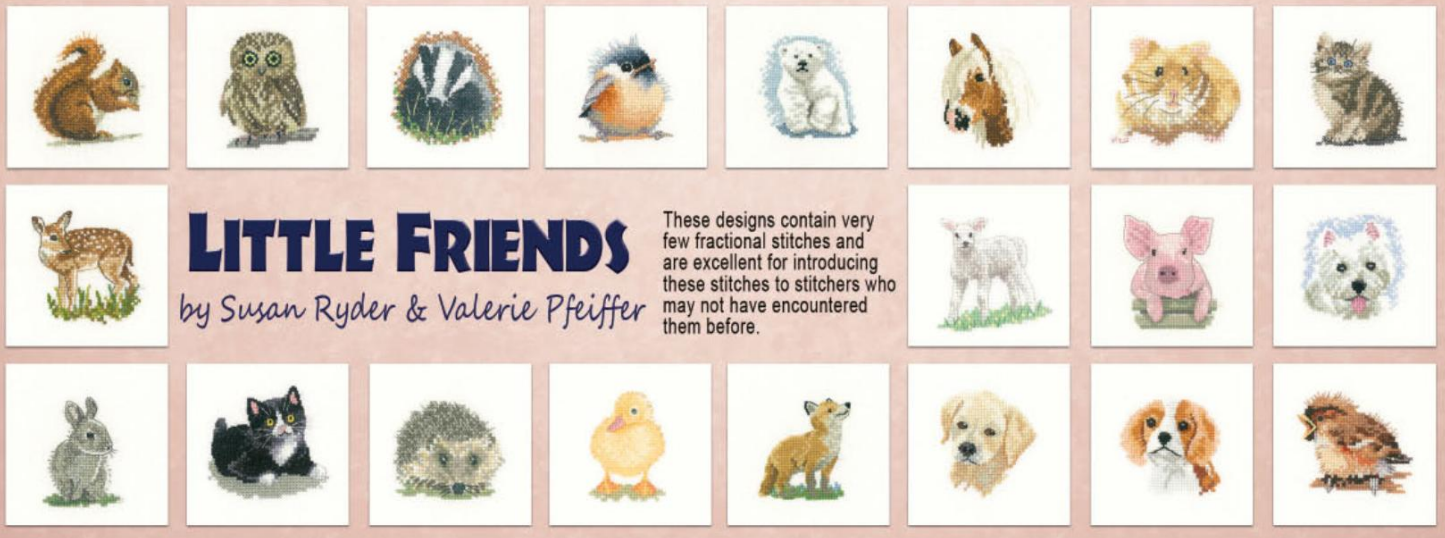
Puss in Boot
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by Susan Ryder & Valerie Pfeiffer

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