The most beautiful designs

Christmas in style

CROSS STITCH Collection

GINGERBREAD TREATS

JOAN ELLIOTT

Cinderella

10-page Special

Christmas *dreams come true!*

SPECIAL EXTRAS!

FESTIVE TEDDY

GREAT GIFTS!

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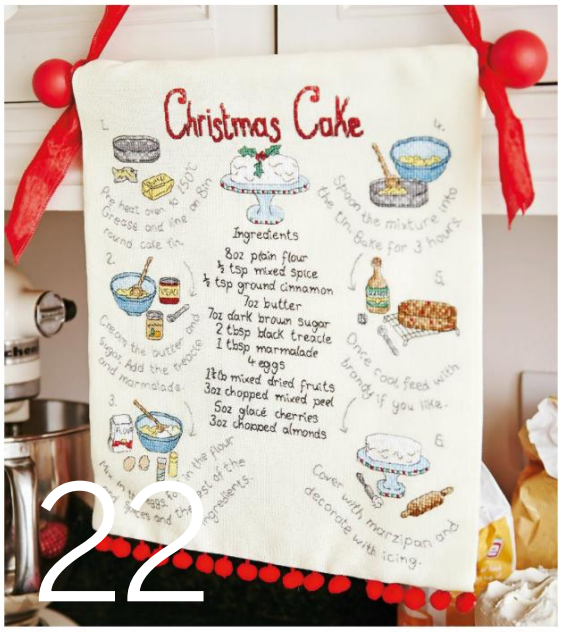


Welcome...

Prep your beeswax and find your sharpest beading needle – our new issue is a glittering extravaganza! We've gone all out to give our Christmas projects an extra-special festive shine this month. We have a rustic wreath by Lesley Teare, which is adorned with gorgeous berry-coloured beads, and a pretty tree picture embellished with silver charms. Meg Evershed's extravagant 3D mini-gingerbread house is covered in beads, metallic threads and rhinestones! The jewel in our crown is our sumptuous chart double from Joan Elliott – you'll love stitching Cinderella in rags before transforming her into a beautiful princess. If you need a break from beading, stitch part two of Maria Diaz's Santa's Journey, or Angela Poole's cute teddy in a jolly jumper. Angela has also created a yummy Christmas cake project, and we have a wonderful tableware design from Zweigart with six different bauble motifs. Get stitching and you'll be feeling festive in no time!

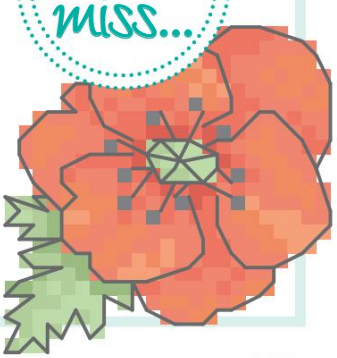
Rebecca

Rebecca Bradshaw

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

Don't miss...

Use your stitching skills to help raise money for The Royal British Legion! On the *Cross Stitch Collection* blog you can download a free mini-poppy chart by Durene Jones to stitch up into your own poppy pins to sell to friends and family. You can then donate the money you've raised via a link on our blog. Download your poppy chart from **www.crossstitchcollection.com**



November Collection

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

The only flowers to grow on the ravaged fields at Flanders after WWI, the poppy has become an enduring symbol of war

© The Royal British Legion

© The Imperial War Museum, London

IN SUPPORT OF

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Collection Poppy Appeal

In our October 241 issue, we launched our exciting **Collection Poppy Appeal** to help support **The Royal British Legion**. We wanted to do something creative to commemorate the start of the First World War, and knew we could put your stitching skills to good use! With a **free mini-poppy design** by Durene Jones to download from our blog, all you have to do is stitch it up into poppy pins, cards, keepsakes or gifts to sell to friends and family, and donate the money to **The Royal British Legion** via the link on our website. You've been downloading the poppy chart in your droves, and we've been overwhelmed by your support, but we'd love to keep going right up to Remembrance Sunday on 9 November! Keep an eye on the blog for making up inspiration and step-by-step guides to help you finish your poppy stitching. We'd also love to see what you've done – send your pictures and stories to **csc@futurenet.com**. For more information and to download your chart and get started, head to **www.crossstitchcollection.com**

PERFECT PANTO

Beautiful beads, sparkling threads, detailed mini-motifs – if you need Christmas decs with the wow-factor then these gorgeous Panto Houses from **The Nutmeg Company** certainly fit the bill! Fabulously festive, Meg Evershed's teeny 3D designs stand 3in high, and are covered with stitched illustrations of popular panto tales – Goldilocks, Jack and the Beanstalk, Red Riding Hood and Cinderella. Available from Meg's website, **www.3dcrossstitch.co.uk**, you could win all four designs! We have three sets of the Panto Houses to give away – enter by heading to **www.futurecomps.co.uk/csc242PANTO** before the closing date of Thursday 13 November. **Keyword: 242PANTO**. If you can't get enough of these festive mini-projects, then check out Gingerbread Delight on page 51 – a seriously sweet mini-house designed by Meg just for us!

Win!

Country kitchen

Taking inspiration from the beautiful **Dahlia and Chrysanthemum** wallpaper patterns featured in the sensational Oxburgh Hall, the **National Trust** have teamed up with Creative Tops to create a stunning kitchenware range. With just a few tones of deep blue and the pretty flower motifs, this vintage-style tableware range is packed with **gorgeous gift ideas**, from elegant teapots and matching cups to chic tea towels. Find this brand new collection at **www.english-table.com**

Meet... Online stitching stars!

Mel loves to stitch ambitious charts, hence the name of her blog – **Epic Stitching!**

Tell us a bit about yourself. Born and raised in Calgary, I live with my partner Dave and our three snakes. I cherish every stitch of every project – except for the frogging ones!

When did you fall in love with cross stitch? I was taught to cross stitch when I was 10. My mom had always stitched and I wanted to "make pretty things" like her. So she sent me to a class and I was hooked from the first project. While a teenager, I stitched Teresa Wentzler projects at night – in secret! Stitching wasn't cool and I didn't want anyone to know! When I discovered online stitching shops I fell in love all over again, because it was modernised and readily available online.

What sort of things do you most like to stitch? My favourite themes are Halloween, dragons and unicorns, but I really love doing modernised samplers or paintings converted to cross stitch – nothing is better than when people mistake my stitching of the famous *Accolade* painting by Edmund Blair Leighton for a print!

What's your biggest stitching challenge? French knots! I've had many very experienced ladies try to teach me, but I cannot make a French knot to save my life. I even tried practising for 15 minutes every day before I decided they just weren't for me. I use beads instead, or an over one Smyrna cross if there's space.

Do you have a piece that is particularly special? I have a two – the first piece was put up for silent auction for Juvenile Diabetes Foundation (my little brother has Type 1) and sold for just over $350. The pattern was by Needlemania – "Cheryls Bouquet". The second was a cute little frog design I asked an artist friend to draw that I then converted into cross stitch to commemorate a good online friend's passing. In Memory of Meari was a unique and very personal little piece that still has a place of honour next to my stash.

Using the internet opened up a new world for Mel

What's your advice for stitchers with lots of WIPS? For me stitching is about the journey, not the finish. Each stitch is a part of a greater delicacy, perfection and detail. I have many WIPs and more stash than I could hope to complete in my lifetime, despite being only 31! However it's not all about the finishes, it's about the time and effort put into each individual set of stitches, beads woven in, and colour change.

Why did you start your blog? Firstly, it was because I was living on my own and didn't have any stitching friends. By blogging online, I could meet stitchers from all over the world. I truly believe this is when my hobby really became my first love. Secondly, it was because of a request from my uncle, who has always been very encouraging of my stitching. He asked me to stitch him an epic dragon piece. Little did I know how epic it would become! Some six years later I am on the last three pages (of 28). It's the inspiration for my blog name! I hope to finish this piece before year seven and move onto a HAED design to keep the epic projects going. This project has taught me that stitching is a journey and that each page is an achievement to be celebrated.

Anything you'd like to add? Don't be afraid to change the colour, fabric or even placement of a pattern to suit your needs. I stitch many pieces as they are because they're already perfect, but there are many times when I modify the pattern to suit my vision.

Find Melissa's blog at
epicstitching.blogspot.co.uk

Win!

CHRISTMAS COTTAGE

Imagine spending Christmas Eve snuggled up in this inviting country home! **Christmas Cottage** is part of the John Clayton Collection at Heritage Crafts, and is the perfect winter stitch. Available from **www.hcrafts.com**, we've got seven of these fantastic kits worth £32.99 to give away. It's a beautiful design to stitch, with soft blue tones creating a twilight atmosphere, and the candlelight spilling out over the snow makes the cottage appear **extra-cosy**. Whole cross stitches create a soft, watercolour effect, with the splashes of bright colours on the spectacular Christmas tree and lights adding a touch of elegant festivity. To enter our competition to win one of these kits, go to **www.futurecomps.co.uk/csc242COTTAGE** before Thursday 13 November. **Keyword: 242COTTAGE**

3 of the best... Christmas embellishments

While Shepherds Watched, Just Another Button Company, from £14.78
Just Another Button Company's designs are always so amusing! We were particularly tickled by this nativity selection, with seven different button designs of shepherds, sheep and baby, created using polymer clay and easy to attach to your stitching. Find their range of Christmas buttons at **www.justanotherbuttoncompany.com**

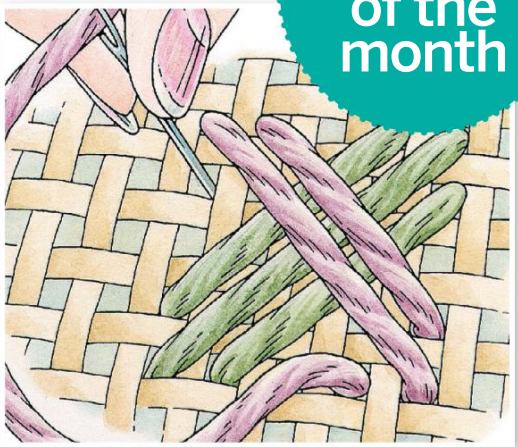
Christmas Charms, Charm Supplies, £3.09
Bright and merry in festive red and green, this set of six traditional enamel and silver plated charms would look fab stitched onto your Christmas cards, gifts or samplers. How sweet would the little present look at the bottom of a cross stitched tree, or how about attaching the candy cane to the top of a charming stocking motif? Find these and more at **www.charmsupplies.co.uk**

Have a Cool Yule, Dress It Up, from £1.23 for one
How much fun are these snowman and glittery tree embellishments? The snowflakes add the perfect finishing touch too, and we just love the snowmen's carrot noses! There are so many more amazing seasonal designs available as well, from glittery Christmas tree lights and sparkling presents to funky Santas! Find them at **www.shelleysbuttonsandmore.com**

Away in a manger

Stitch a Christmas decoration that will keep your family entertained for years to come with ***CrossStitcher's*** nativity figures! The 3D Mary, Joseph, Gabriel and three wise men make a great talking point – ***CrossStitcher*** have even made a little movie with their stitched figures, check it out at **www.crossstitchermag.com**. Get the charts in the November 285 issue of ***CrossStitcher***, available in print from **www.myfavouritemagazines.co.uk** and in digital from **www.crossstitchermagazine.co.uk/digital**

Stitch of the month



Broad cross stitch

Also known as the waffle stitch, this technique will give your cross stitch projects a chunky, textured feel, and can be stitched with contrasting colours for added effect. Simply work three half cross stitches over three, four and three threads, followed by three stitches in the opposite direction also over three, four and three threads. The broad stitch can be worked vertically and horizontally, and in groups of four at an angle to each other to form a diagonal cross shape. We'd love to know how you've used this stitch – email your pics to **csc@futurenet.co.uk**

Shine a light on a new stitching skill with

Craft Lamps
See your work in a better light

Collection's Gadget of the month

Our stitchers share their favourite essential stitching tools – this month, **Sue Harris** talks to us about her board and magnetic strip

The Cross Stitch Guild sell a great magnetic board for £7.99 – find it at www.thecrossstitchguild.com

"There are many things that I couldn't live without, such as my Daylight™ Lamp, my Thread Heaven that helps me to control special threads, and my gold needles, but most of all I wouldn't be without my board with a magnetic strip. I bought it at the Knitting & Stitching show in Harrogate a long, long time ago. I use the board to keep my place on charts whilst stitching. It's easy to find where I am on the chart when I have had a break."

Ultimate Christmas stitching!

Get stitching for the perfect Christmas with our brand new collection! With beautiful charts and amazing inspiration, *The Ultimate Christmas Cross Stitch Collection* will guide you through your festive stitching, with ideas for stylish décor, stitched gifts and stocking fillers, creative cards, super stockings and even some lovely Christmas tableware. You'll stitch traditional motifs onto cushions, hangings and pictures, as well as stylish and contemporary designs onto gift tags, hot water bottles and cards. There's even a spectacular Joan Elliott Christmas angel project for you to stitch too! Get Christmas covered for just £7.99 by heading to www.myfavouritemagazines.co.uk, www.bit.ly/AppleCSCollection (under 'Specials') or www.zinio.com

LOVELY LIGHT BOX

The Daylight™ Company are always amazing us with their handy new gadgets that help make stitching easier. We simply couldn't stitch without our **Daylight™ lamps**, and now they've come up with a brand new gismo that we think will be just as indispensable – and you could win one! The **Daylight™ Wafer Light Box** comes in two handy sizes, and has been designed to be extra slim with dimmable LED lights. Available from their website, **www.daylightcompany.com**, a Wafer Light Box makes it easy to trace elements of your cross stitch charts, templates or embroidery patterns to help get your projects just right. We're so excited to be giving away two of these A4 sized light boxes – **worth £99.99 each!** To be with a chance to win, just go to **www.futurecomps.co.uk/csc242DAYLIGHT** before the closing date of Thursday 13 November. **Keyword: 242DAYLIGHT**

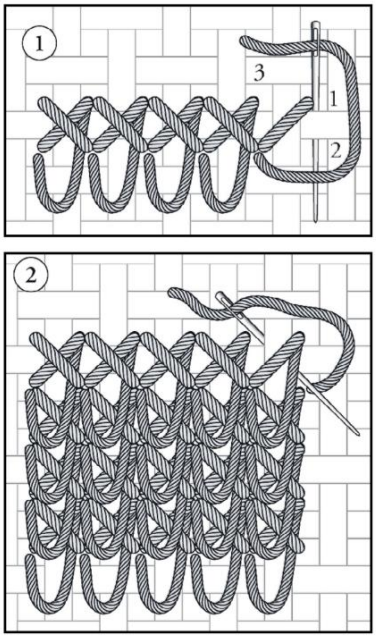
COMPETITION RULES Giveaways are open to UK readers only and winners will be chosen at random. Enter online using the unique URL between 17 October and 13 November 2014. Further rules can be read on page 61.

Jane's A-Z of Cross Stitch

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

Welcome back to Pinks Barn. Sitting here in my studio I know that I should go to bed but I have been making up some of my new things ready for our next show, and my husband Bill is sitting playing his new piano – how lucky am I! We have nearly finished our A-Z of cross stitch, and this time we are looking at the letter V. I could wax lyrical about stitching being very addictive or very relaxing but I think you will see through that in a trice, so why don't we look at velvet stitch?

Velvet Stitch Victorian embroiderers who worked in wools commonly used this stitch, also known as plush or Turkey stitch. After finishing an area of velvet stitch, the loops were cut and sometimes actually sculpted with great effect. This is basically a cross stitch with an extra loop in it, left long to create a pile on the fabric. The loops can be left as they are or can all be cut to the same length. Work in rows from bottom to top and left to right. Look at the picture of my thistle and you can see that it can be worked in stranded cotton as well.



Velvet stitch is so effective and easy to work – it's just cross stitch with extra loops left in!

CROSS STITCH GUILD NEWS Our Seasons Shades tiles have been best sellers – I stitched one as a class project and the rest is history! The design uses cross stitch, other counted stitches and even a little Hardanger. The kits cost £11.99 each and include 28HPI linen, threads, Oliver Twist space dyed cotton, needles and full instructions.

About Jane Greenoff

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

To find out more, visit the website or call for details: **www.thecrossstitchguild.com**
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Sheena Rogers designs

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Santa's journey

Stitch a stunning moonlit sky and snow-topped houses in part two of **Maria Diaz's** Christmas Eve extravaganza

Several techniques create Santa's sleigh and the boy building a snowman – you'll work backstitch in one and two strands, shading and half cross stitch too!

Stitching section two

Gliding through the air, is there a more festive sight than Santa's sleigh crossing the moonlit sky? It's just one of the stunning scenes you'll get to stitch in part two of Maria's Christmas Eve epic! Featuring the top horizontal section of this mega chart, you'll also work snow-topped houses complete with swirling backstitch smoke, pine trees festooned with cheery decorations and an adorable child and pup pair finishing a snowman. You'll find this section is really satisfying to stitch, as the large colour blocks in the sky and snow will grow quickly, and the mini-motifs give you a chance to finish an element of the design every time you sit down to stitch. Keep your chart close when working the snow, though – some areas are worked in half cross stitch to give the design depth and dimension.

You will need...

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

Stranded cotton as listed in the key

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

Turn to page 58 for hints and tips!

Starting **off**

PART two is of this design comprises of the top horizontal section. If you take a good look at the chart you will see that there is no overlap and the bottom edge of this chart lines up exactly with the top edge of the central section given in the October issue. If you have tacked horizontal and vertical lines on your fabric as we suggested in the last issue, you will find the placement fairly simple. Remember to mark these corresponding lines on to this chart too.

Meet the stitcher...

Laura Boyter

"I love this project, its colours and atmosphere, and the way it tells a story – first Santa arrives, then starts to visit each house in turn, dropping presents in a chimney here, checking his list (twice) there. I also adore all the little details, from the decorations, lights and wreaths on the houses, to the little dog watching the child building a snowman – not to mention Rudolph and co. trying to hide the sleigh behind one building or another! It is one of those deceptive stitches that looks more difficult than it is. My biggest challenge was the size of the fabric (since I don't use a hoop or a frame), but the picture itself is made up of smaller scenes, which makes it easier to pace yourself. I hope to see more projects like this in the future because this picture is so much fun – I'd be tempted to leave it on display all year round!"

Santa's journey

Cross stitch in two strands

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

Cross stitch in two strands

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

Half cross stitch in two strands

	*B5200	001	2401	Bright white

Backstitch in two strands

	*B5200	001	2401	Bright white
	horizon smoke, trees, santa, sleigh, reindeer			
	*646	900	1812	Light grey
	chimney smoke			
	*898	380	2006	V dark brown
	antlers			
	973	290	0105	Bright yellow
	sleigh, presents, skates			

Backstitch in one strand

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

Backstitch in one strand

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

French knots in one strand

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

Stitched using DMC threads on 28HPI linen over two threads

Stitch count 220x220

Design area 15¾x15¾in (40x40cm)

*indicates colour is listed earlier in the key

(2) indicates more than one skein required

Following **the key**

TAKE time to identify each skein of your thread with the colour number, description and symbol used in the key, as there are several different colours used in this design. Every stitcher has a different way of organising the threads but it really would help when stitching this design to make a thread organiser. This will save you a lot of time!

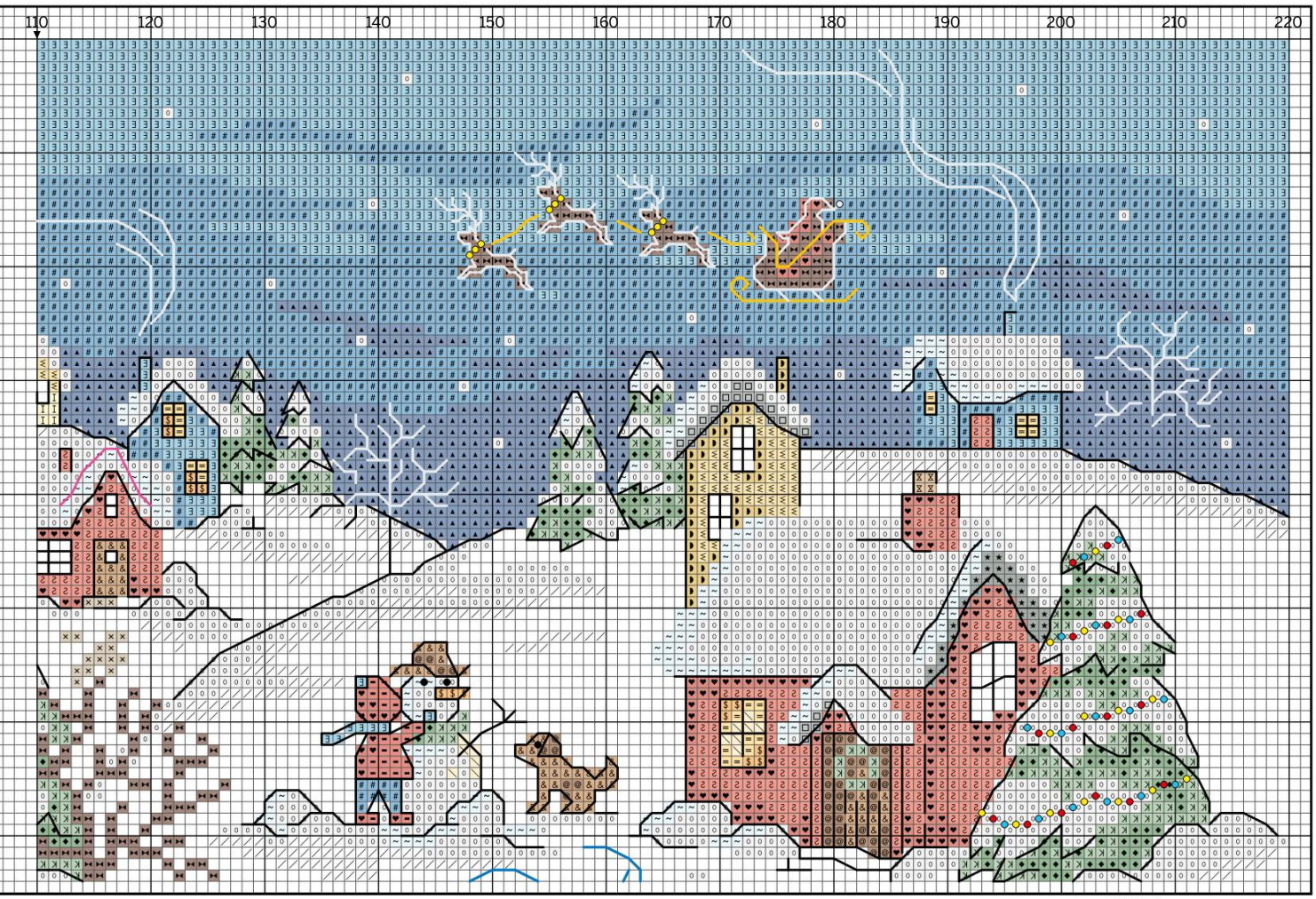
Our stitcher says... Make a thread organiser by punching holes in a piece of card then writing the colour number and symbol by each hole and looping the relevant thread through it

Working **the cross stitch**

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

Adding **the backstitch**

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



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Our stitcher says...

Personalise this design! Stitch a name with a backstitch alphabet instead of snowflakes – just draw the name on the chart first to make sure it's central

Festive ted

Dress a cute bear in a merry jumper for the ultimate Christmas 'aww-factor' in **Angela Poole's** sweet card

STITCH & SEND

When it comes to the best toys at Christmas, traditional wins every time – didn't we all have a cuddly teddy like this when we were young? A lot of us still have them. Stitching Angela's teddy design will take you down memory lane, helping you remember all the places you dragged your bear. This project is also a pleasure to work, with plenty of details packed into a dinky design. You'll use warm tones of brown and bright reds to stitch the shading that gives the fur and knitted jumper depth and texture, and work clever backstitch details around the edge of the teddy to give him a fluffy and plush appearance. He looks good enough to snuggle!

Fundraising

is so much fun on Save the Children's *Christmas Jumper Day* – simply wear your favourite festive threads and donate at jumpers.savethechildren.org.uk

You will need...

28HPI evenweave (or 14HPI aida), light blue, Zweigart Brittney Ref: 3270/550, 8x8in (20x20cm)

Stranded cotton as listed in the key

White card 5½x11in (16x29cm)

Knitting-style card mount download for free at www.crossstitchcollection.com

Making your **patch card**

DOWNLOAD and print the free card mount from the *Cross Stitch Collection* blog, then stick it to a piece of white card to stiffen it. Fold it in half to make your card.

1. TRIM your stitching into a 5¼in (13cm) square with the stitching placed centrally. Turn the fabric edges under by ½in (1.5cm) and press.
2. WORK a blanket stitch around the edge using four strands of a mid-blue stranded cotton to hold the edges in place.
3. STITCH the design to the centre of the front of the card by machine.

DOWNLOAD your card mount from www.crossstitchcollection.com

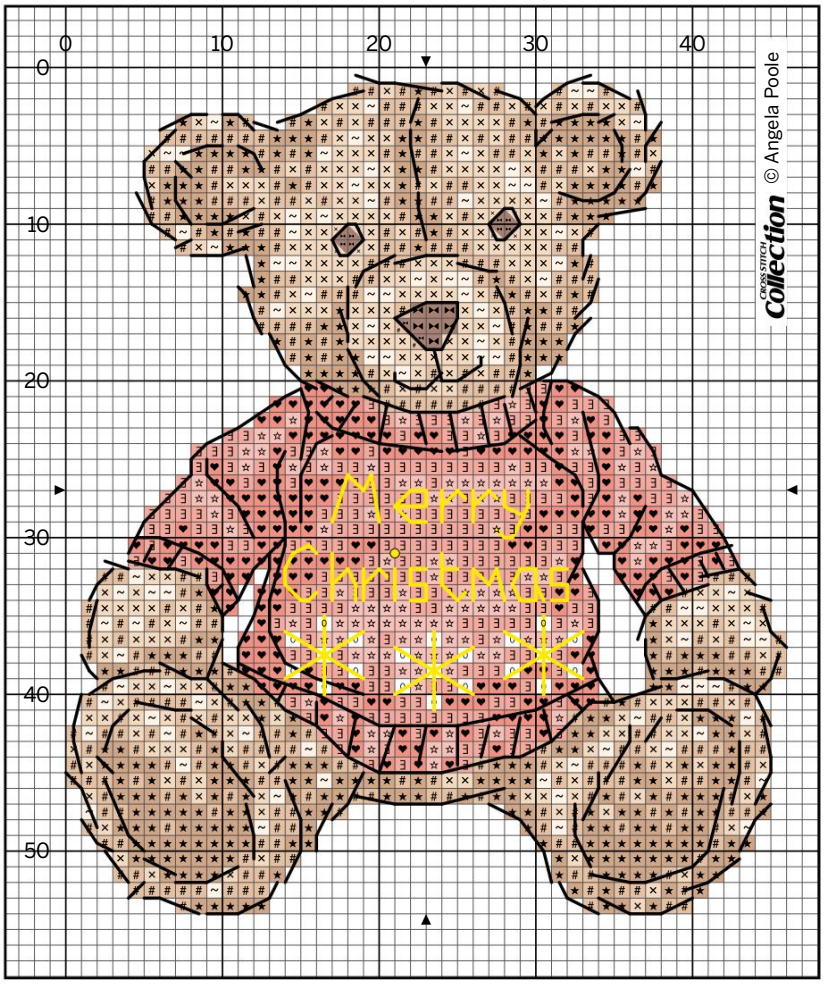
Festive ted

	Anchor	DMC	Madeira	Colour
Cross stitch in two strands				
	001	B5200	2401	Bright white
	035	3705	0411	Light red
	046	666	0210	Medium red
	047	321	0510	Dark red
	360	898	2005	Dark brown
	372	422	2102	Tan
	373	3828	2103	Light brown
	374	420	2104	Medium brown
	387	Ecru	2404	Cream
Backstitch in two strands				
	*001	B5200	2401	Bright white
lettering, snowflakes				
Backstitch in one strand				
	1088	838	2003	Very dark brown
all other outlines and details				
French knots in two strands				
	*001	B5200	2401	Bright white
lettering				

Stitched using Anchor threads on 28HPI evenweave over two threads

Stitch count 54x46 Design area 3¾x3¼in (9.5x8.5cm)

*indicates colour is listed earlier in the key



Every letter we print wins a great thread prize from Anchor

Your letters

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

Wedded bliss

This is my latest finish, a wedding sampler for my lovely cousin Suzy and her new husband Tony. I started this piece a month after my chemotherapy finished, and while stitching it I had a full mastectomy and got my all clear. This was gifted on the 28 August, and at this point I had been in remission for three months. Suzy and Tony were thrilled with it and as soon as they were home from their honeymoon they hung it in their living room! I was sad to see this go, but glad it will be loved for a long time.

Jamie Burford, Rothwell

Collection says: Congratulations to Suzy and Tony, and to you Jamie for getting well!

Suzy and Tony on their special day – we love Suzy's dress!

Feeling sheepish!

I stitched these for my best friend's daughter who has recently had her first baby. The new mum loves sheep, so when I saw the Go to Sleep Counting Sheep design I thought it would be perfect – especially when I found some sheep fabric to make it into a hanging (with the help of the new grandma). I also stitched a little Joan Elliott design, intending to make it into a card, but then I thought it was so sweet that it would be nice in the new baby's nursery. I don't usually stitch cute designs but I throughly enjoyed stitching these for such a special little girl.

Moira McLean, Northumberland

Collection says: That sheep fabric is just wonderful – it really made us giggle!

Moira's hanging is such fun

Birthday tweetings

I'd like to share with you this card I made for my lovely friend Tania, who lives in Ukraine, to celebrate her birthday. I found the design in *Collection* issue 225. It took me a while to finish it, but she really liked it!

Sara Lugnani, by email

Collection says: A hand-stitched card or gift is always a pleasure to give

Lucky Tania's birthday card

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

"Why are Christmas trees bad at sewing? Because they keep losing their needles!"

This lion design is so detailed

Stitching cheer

I just thaught I would share my latest finish with you. My mother-in-law hasn't been too well recently, so I stitched her a gift to cheer her up. She loves big cats, so this lion design was perfect. I love the way it has turned out, and she was so excited when I gave it to her!

Rebbecca Price, by email

***Collection* says: This beautiful design is sure to cheer anyone up!**

School project

Marta is getting organised

I wanted to show you my latest project. I am an English teacher, and I really love my job. This school year I was promised a new desk, because my old one was here when the school began! For this reason I wanted to make it a cosy place to work, so I decided to make a cross stitch mug for my pens and pencils. I've had a special mug since 2008, but I haven't had any pattern that I could stitch for it. Fortunately I found a great pattern in issue 239 of your magazine. I started stitching immediately, and here it is, my mug! I can't wait to put it on my desk at work.

Marta Wichłacz, Poland

***Collection* says: Angela Poole's design makes a smashing desk tidy**

Lorraine's first ever project

First finish

This is the very first cross stitch picture I finished – 28 years ago! It is 3x4in, and the pattern cames from *Woman's Weekly*. This was before I knew about all the crosses going the same way, as these are a mixture! I gave it to my mum, and when she passed away in 2008 I got it back again. It is one of my most treasured possessions. I am glad that I was able to share it with my mum.

Lorraine Stone, by email

***Collection* says: What a lovely memory to have cherished for all this time**

Write to us...

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

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

Cross Stitch Collection Letters
30 Monmouth Street
Bath BA1 2BW

csc@**futurenet**.co.uk

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

Happy stitching!

The Collection Team

Your say...

FIVE LUCKY WINNERS receive a fabulous **£10 gift voucher** from **Willow 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 We opened up our Collection Poppy Appeal – find more info and a free chart on our blog

2 Meg Evershed tells us all about her 3D cross stitched Windsor Castle project at www.crossstitchcollection.com

3 You entered our exciting Facebook giveaways – like our page to be in with a chance to win exciting stitching prizes like fabric and threads

4 We welcomed lots of new followers on Pinterest – find us for stitchy inspiration at www.pinterest.com/CSCMag

We asked... What's your best stitching themed joke?

"My mum was getting annoyed because of her sewing job. I said, 'You seamstressed!'" Michelle Stitchie SheepQueen Sullivan

"Why are Christmas trees bad at sewing? They keep losing their needles!" Ruth Boyd

"You're darned if you do, and darned if you don't!" Nadia Jones

"My friend composes ditties about sewing. She's a Singer songwriter." Tracey Anne Collings Jackson

"What do you call a jumper wearing wolf? A woolf!" Kalie-Dee Jones

"Stitching friends are friends who count!" Jo Perry

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, 30 Monmouth Street, Bath BA1 2BW

DAINTY MAKES

Happiness, good health, wealth – all stitched up into a pincushion! The second in Sheena Rogers' gorgeous birth flower and gemstone series, November's citrine and chrysanthemum design is full of these positive sentiments. Stitched here in whole stitches and bold orange tones, the chrysanth orginated in China, where it's been used as symbol of happiness ever since. Ancient Chinese doctors even brewed it in tea to help slow the aging process – someone put the kettle on! Citrine is famous for it's gorgeous yellow hues, and represented in Sheena's design with pale golden stitches throughout. Citrine is often referred to as the merchant stone, as it's rumoured to help the owner maintain wealth. A powerful combination, the citrine and chrysanthemum motifs are also a joy to stitch, alongside pretty floral and geometric borders.

Enjoyed

stitching this? Sheena has created a larger mini-cushion to match! Measuring a dinky 5¾in (14.7cm) square, you can buy the full kit for £13.99 on her website: www.sheenarogersdesigns.co.uk

You will need...

14HPI aida (or 28HPI evenweave), white, 8x8in (20x20cm)

Stranded cotton as listed in the key

Backing fabric 6x6in (15x15cm)

Soft Toy filling

Making **your pincushion**

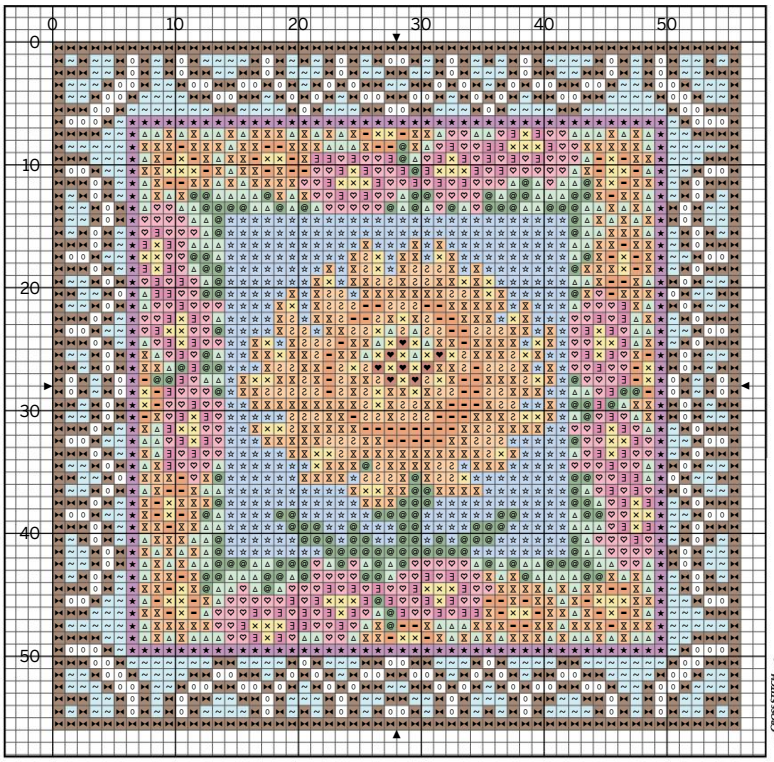
FINISH stitching your flower design, then follow these steps to make your November pincushion:

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.

Symbol of happiness

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	Colour
Cross stitch in two strands				
	White	002	2402	White
	369	1043	1309	Light green
	402	1047	2307	Peach
	699	923	1303	Dark green
	794	175	0906	Dark blue
	900	333	0208	Dark orange
	961	076	0610	Light pink
	970	925	0204	Light orange
	3031	905	2003	Brown
	3761	928	1105	Light blue
	3777	1015	2502	Red
	3803	069	2609	Dark pink
	3822	295	0112	Yellow
	3834	100	0805	Purple

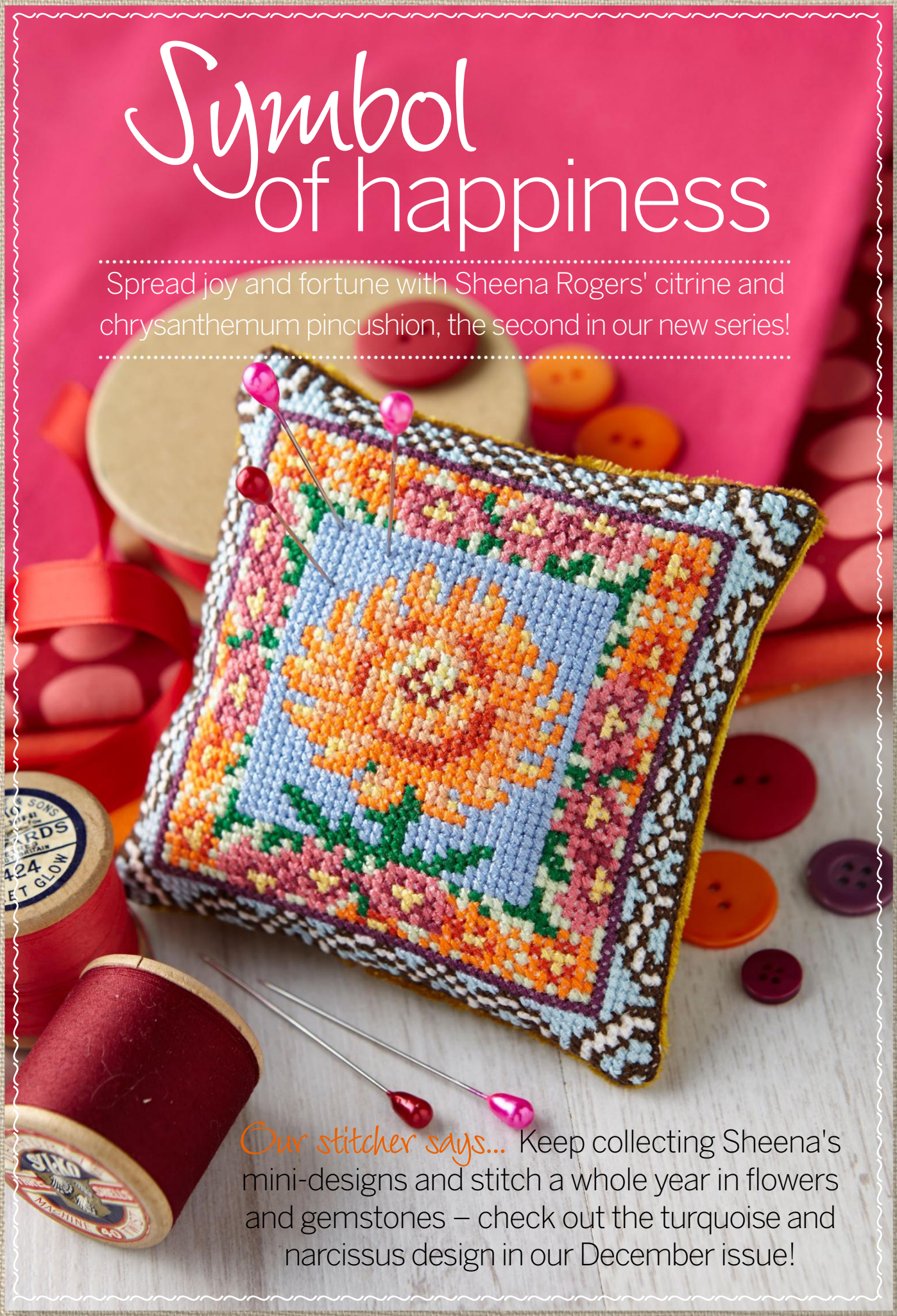
Stitched using DMC threads on 14HPI aida
Stitch count 56x56
Design area 4x4in (10x10cm)



Cross Stitch Collection © Sheena Rogers

Symbol of happiness

Spread joy and fortune with Sheena Rogers' citrine and chrysanthemum pincushion, the second in our new series!



Our stitcher says... Keep collecting Sheena's mini-designs and stitch a whole year in flowers and gemstones – check out the turquoise and narcissus design in our December issue!

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Meet the designer...

Angela Poole

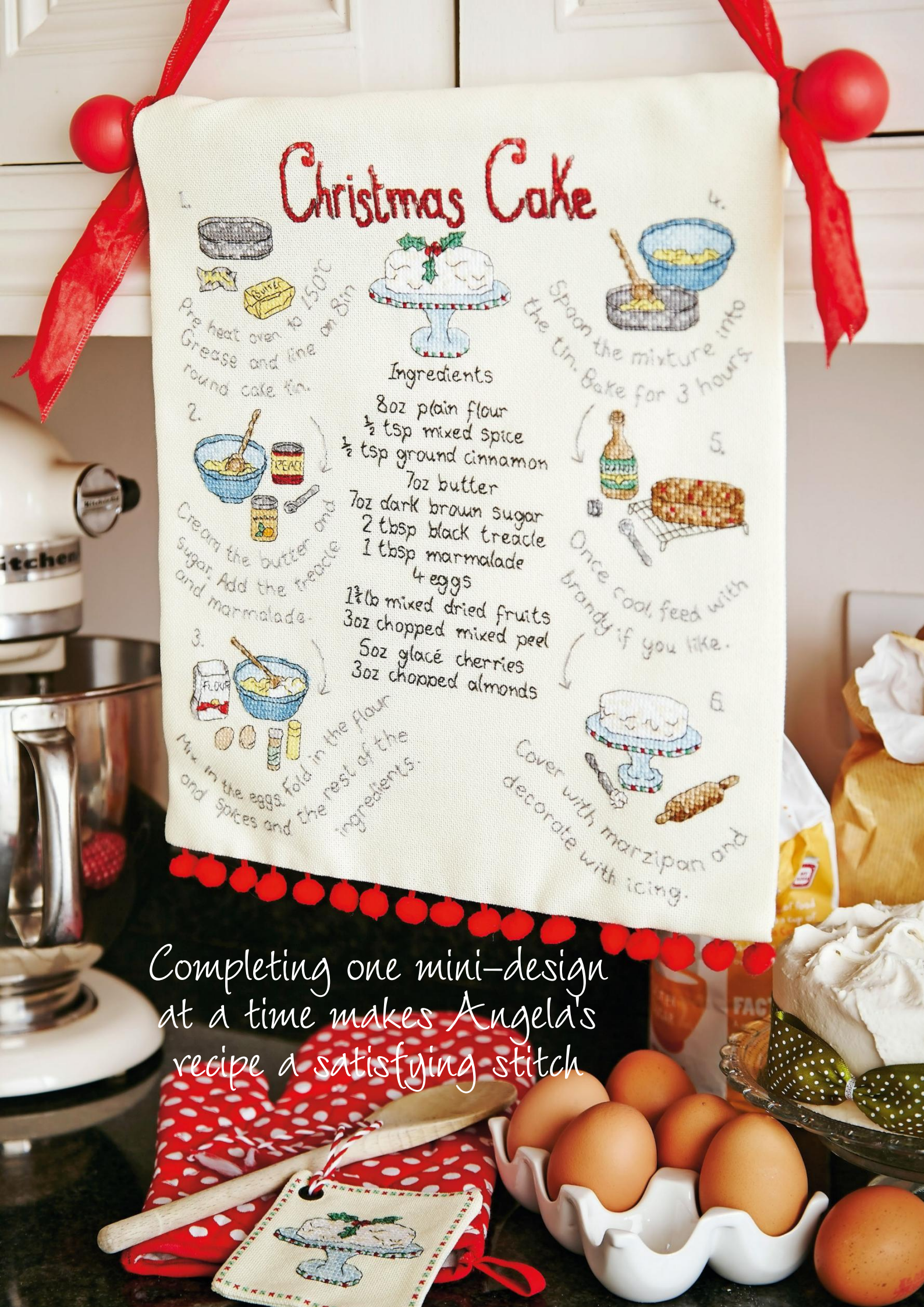
Christmas has always been my favourite time of year, but no matter how hard I try, I always seem to eat a little too much! I blame all of those tempting courses – plus it doesn't help that there's always a rather large tin of chocolates circulating around the room. It's the Christmas baking I love the most, though, and I usually end up baking half a dozen Christmas cakes for friends and relatives. The smell of the brandy, cinnamon and spices certainly puts you in a festive mood! My love of Christmas cake inspired this recipe design, as did an old cheesecake recipe that my mum had when I was a child. The recipe was printed on the inside of the dishes with pictures, and the little illustrations always made the recipes look so tempting to make!

Backstitch and long stitch details are so clever in Angela's design – you'll work them to create the handwriting-style lettering and to give the motifs definition

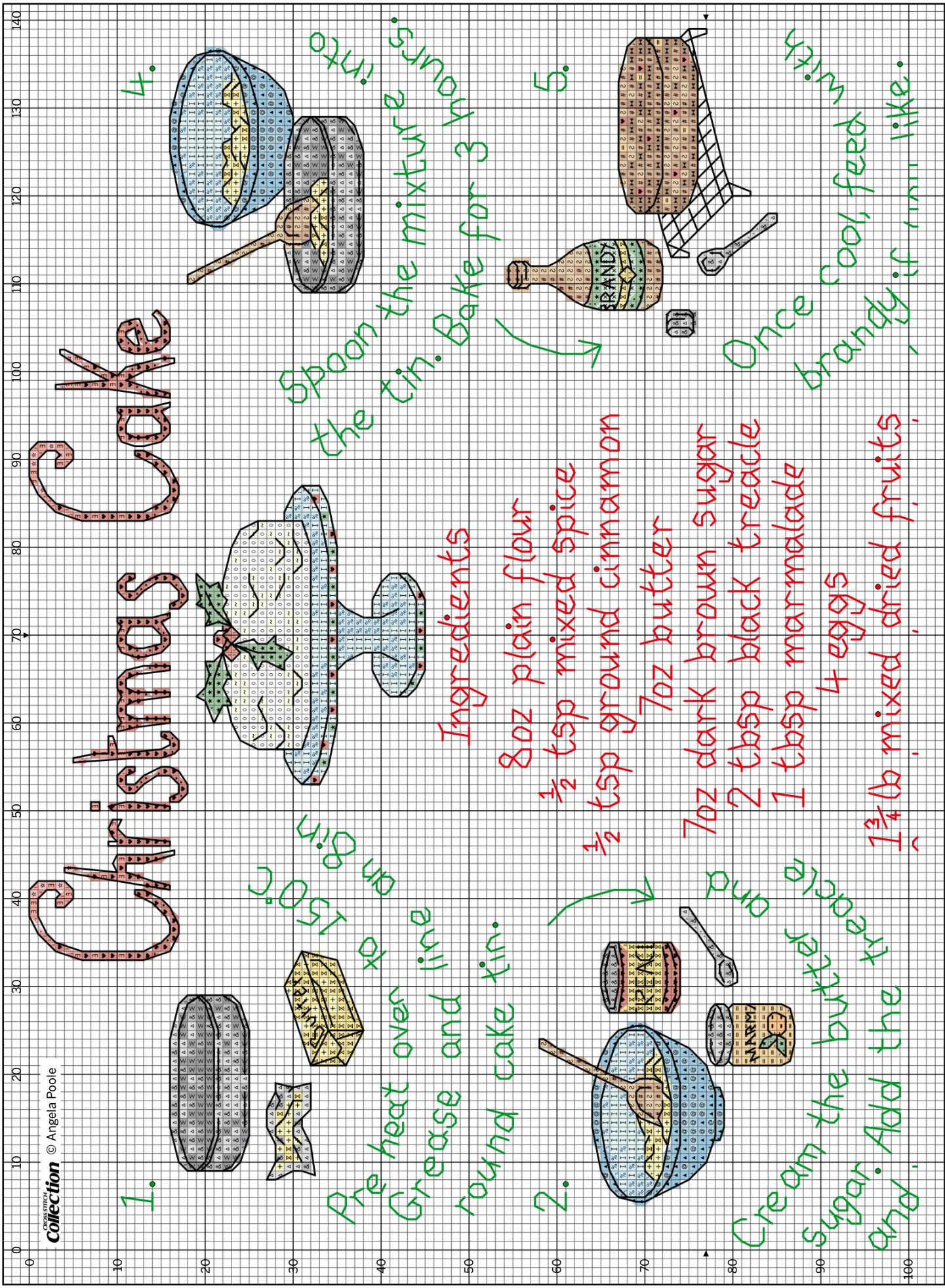
Scrumptious stitching

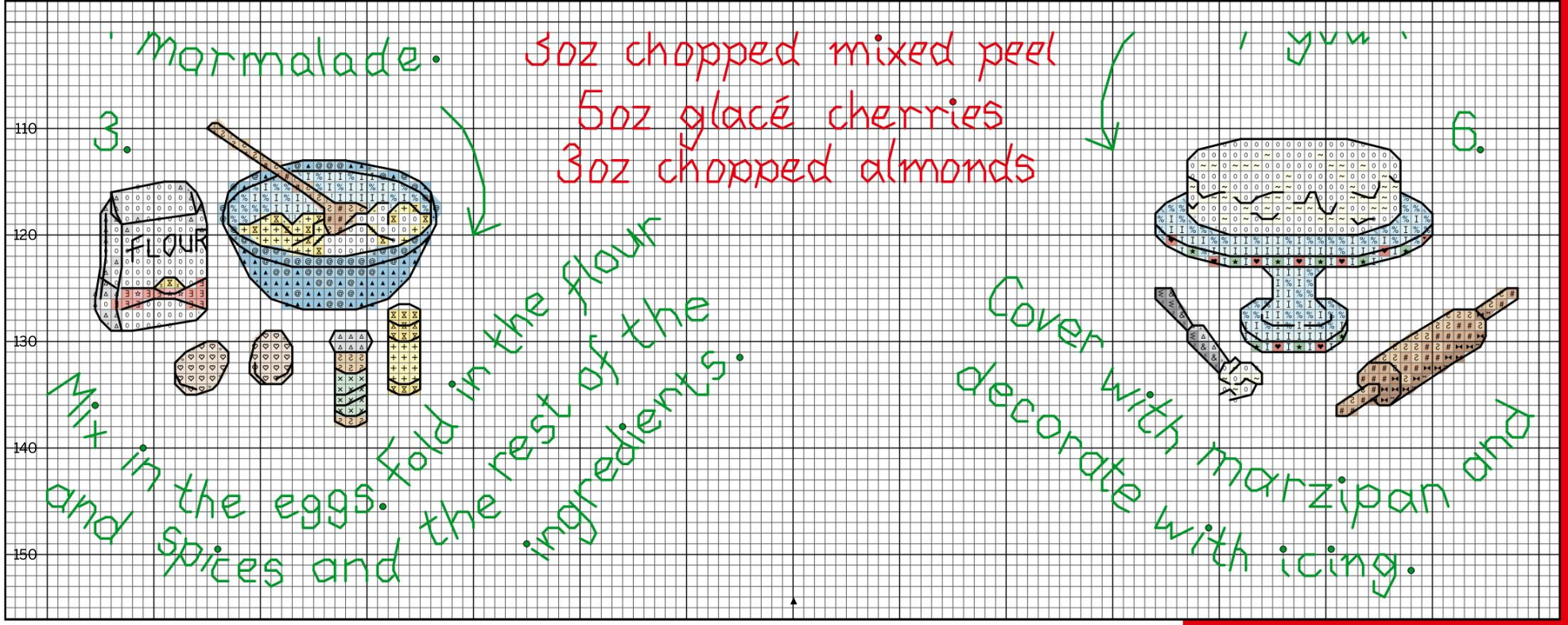
Create a delicious stitching project to help you in the kitchen this year with **Angela Poole's** Christmas cake recipe

Christmas is the one time of year when it's ok to eat, eat and eat – giant helpings of turkey, novelty chocolates, far too much stuffing and of course, cake! What yule-tide feast is complete without the fruity, rich and sticky Christmas cake, soaked in brandy and covered in yummy marzipan? Well, just imagine baking your delicious masterpiece every year using Angela Poole's stitched recipe. There's lots of stitching to do before you get the scales out though, with a design full of fun motifs you don't often see in cross stitch – like eggs, wooden spoons and tins of treacle! Each tiny design is packed with detail, like the intricate shading on the cake tin and brandy bottle and the fractionals that give the cake it's smooth rounded edge. If you can make it through this project without indulging a little early... then you're stronger than us!



Completing one mini-design at a time makes Angela's recipe a satisfying stitch


Christmas Cake
Ingredients
8oz plain flour
½ tsp mixed spice
½ tsp ground cinnamon
7oz butter
7oz dark brown sugar
2 tbsp black treacle
1 tbsp marmalade
4 eggs
1¾lb mixed dried fruits
1. Pre-heat oven to 150°C
Grease and line an 8in round cake tin.
2. Cream the butter and the sugar. Add the treacle and brandy if you like.
3. Spoon the mixture into the tin. Bake for 3 hours.
4. Once cool, feed with brandy if you like.
BRANDY
Cross Stitch Collection © Angela Poole



Scrumptious stitching

Anchor	DMC	Madeira	Colour
Cross stitch in three strands			
001	B5200	2401	Bright white
019	304	0407	Red
033	3706	0409	Pink
158	747	1101	Very light blue
205	912	1213	Dark green
206	966	1210	Light green
235	414	1801	Medium grey
293	727	0110	Light yellow
305	726	0109	Dark yellow
314	740	0203	Orange
366	739	2014	Tan
372	422	2013	Light brown
373	3828	2103	Medium brown
375	869	2105	Dark brown
386	3823	2512	Pale yellow

Anchor	DMC	Madeira	Colour
Cross stitch in three strands			
397	762	1804	Very light grey
399	318	1802	Light grey
891	676	2208	Fawn
1038	519	1105	Medium blue
1039	518	1106	Dark blue
1098	3801	0211	Bright red
9159	162	1014	Light blue
Backstitch in two strands			
*235	414	1801	Medium grey
recipe instructions lettering			
236	3799	1713	Dark grey
recipe list lettering			

Anchor	DMC	Madeira	Colour
Backstitch in one strand			
*236	3799	1713	Dark grey
all other outlines and details			
French knots in one strand			
*235	414	1801	Medium grey
recipe instructions lettering			
*236	3799	1713	Dark grey
recipe list lettering			

Stitched using Anchor threads on 25HPI evenweave over two threads
Stitch count 154x140
Design area 12¼x11¼in (31x29cm)

*indicates colour is listed earlier in the key

Collection makes...

FABULOUS THREADS

We've used two different greys to stitch our lettering, but it would be easy to switch to your favourite festive colour.

FRAME IT UP

Angela's design would look fab in a smart wooden frame, or maybe a contemporary stretched canvas, if you don't fancy making a wall hanging.

HANDWRITTEN STITCHES

The backstitch handwriting-style lettering in this design is so clever – why not use it to customise your other Christmas projects this year for a truly personal touch?

Stitch your cake recipe

You will need...

25HPI evenweave yellow, Zweigart Lugana Ref: 3835/274, 21x20in (53x51cm)
Stranded cotton as listed in the key
Interlining 15¼x12¼in (39x31cm)
Cotton backing fabric 16¼x13¼in (41x34cm)
Bobble edging red, 13in (33cm)
Dowel ½in (15mm) diameter, 15¼in (39cm)
Two wooden knobs with ½in (15mm) diameter ends, painted red
Narrow cord for hanging 20in (51cm)
Sewing kit including matching thread
Turn to page 58 for hints and help!

Stitching **the design**

FOLD your fabric in half both ways to find the centre and start stitching at this point. Although you normally work the cross stitch first then the backstitch, with this design it will be easier to work all of one section at a time before moving onto the next one.

The cross stitch is all worked in three strands of stranded cotton over two threads of the evenweave fabric. The backstitch for the lettering is worked in two strands – dark grey for the ingredients and medium grey for the recipe. The remainder of the outlines and details are worked in one strand of dark grey. The handwritten look of the lettering is made up from backstitch and some long stitches – following the chart slowly and carefully will help you.

Cutting **the fabric**

FINISH working the design, and then cut the stitched evenweave to 16¼x13¼in (41x34cm) with the design placed 1in (2.5cm) up from the lower edge of and 3in (10cm) below the top edge to allow for the casing. Place the design centrally widthwise.

Tip... **make a delicious gift tag**

Head to the *Cross Stitch Collection* blog to get your free project! Angela has created a lovely extra Christmas cake design complete with festive border – perfect for stitching up into a pretty gift tag! Download the chart and step-by-step making up guide for free at www.crossstitchcollection.com

Assembling **the hanging**

TURN the edges over the evenweave under by ½in (1.5cm) all the way round.

1. PLACE the interlining centrally on top with the fabric edges folded on top of it. Stitch the turned over fabric to the interlining making sure your stitches can't be seen from the front.
2. STITCH the bobble trim to the back of the lower edge on top of the turned under evenweave using small neat slip stitches and turning the ends of the bobble trim under to neaten.
3. PLACE the backing fabric right sides up on top of the interlining and turn the edges under making sure that the folded under sides meet up. Slip stitch into place all the way round.
4. TURN the top edge 1¾in (4cm) to the back of the hanging and stitch in place to make a dowel casing.

Adding **the dowel**

PAINT the dowel and knobs with two coats of red paint.

1. PUSH the dowel through the casing at the top and bottom, then glue the knobs in place at either end using strong wood glue.
2. TIE the hanging cord into place at either end of the top rod to complete.

Cinderella spectacular

Bring the magic of a classic fairytale princess to life with **Joan Elliott's** sumptuous and sparkling Cinderella designs

Exclusive Joan Elliott Special!

Christmas with...

Joan Elliott

December was the month I was born, so I have a special love for this time of year. Getting together to celebrate Christmas is wonderful and it is a beautiful time to be in New York City. In the run up to Christmas, I love to bake and make homemade gifts, and I usually create e-cards to send. We always head up to Vermont a few days before Christmas to cut down a small tree and bring it in to decorate. I love decorating our tree – I cherish the Christmas ornaments that belonged to my parents. Each one seems to have an extra-special meaning to me. On Christmas morning, we start off with a pancake breakfast, which is always yummy, and later in the day we head out to my niece's home for a fabulous Christmas dinner.

> "Getting together at Christmas is wonderful and it's a beautiful time to be in New York"

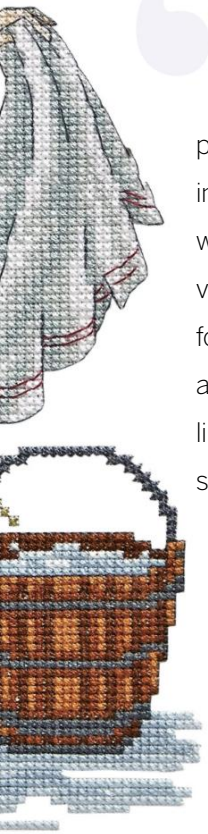
Cinderella is the ultimate fairytale. My favourite version is the Disney film – I'm a sucker for a handsome prince and a singing mouse – and Christmas is always a good excuse to indulge by settling down to watch this old family classic. My favourite moment is the transformation, when those tattered rags become a sumptuous gown, turning Cinderella into a beautiful princess. Joan has captured this perfectly with her own version of Cinderella's rags to riches moment. Joan has brought all the magic of a fairytale to her design, with two beautiful Cinderellas in spectacular costumes, shimmering with Kreinik braid and beads galore giving the pictures a bejewelled look.

Rebecca Bradshaw

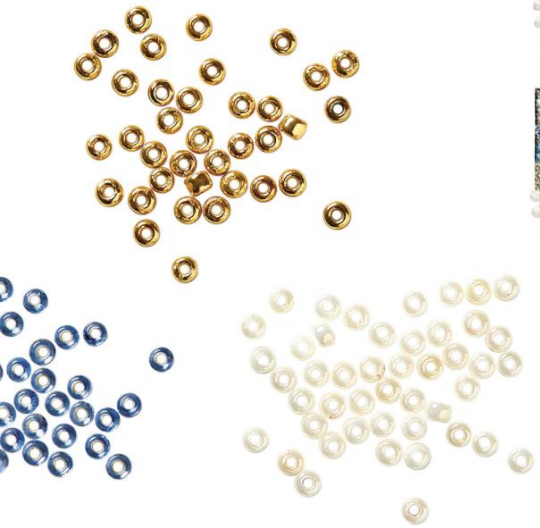
For regular updates on Joan's work, to see pictures of her latest designs,

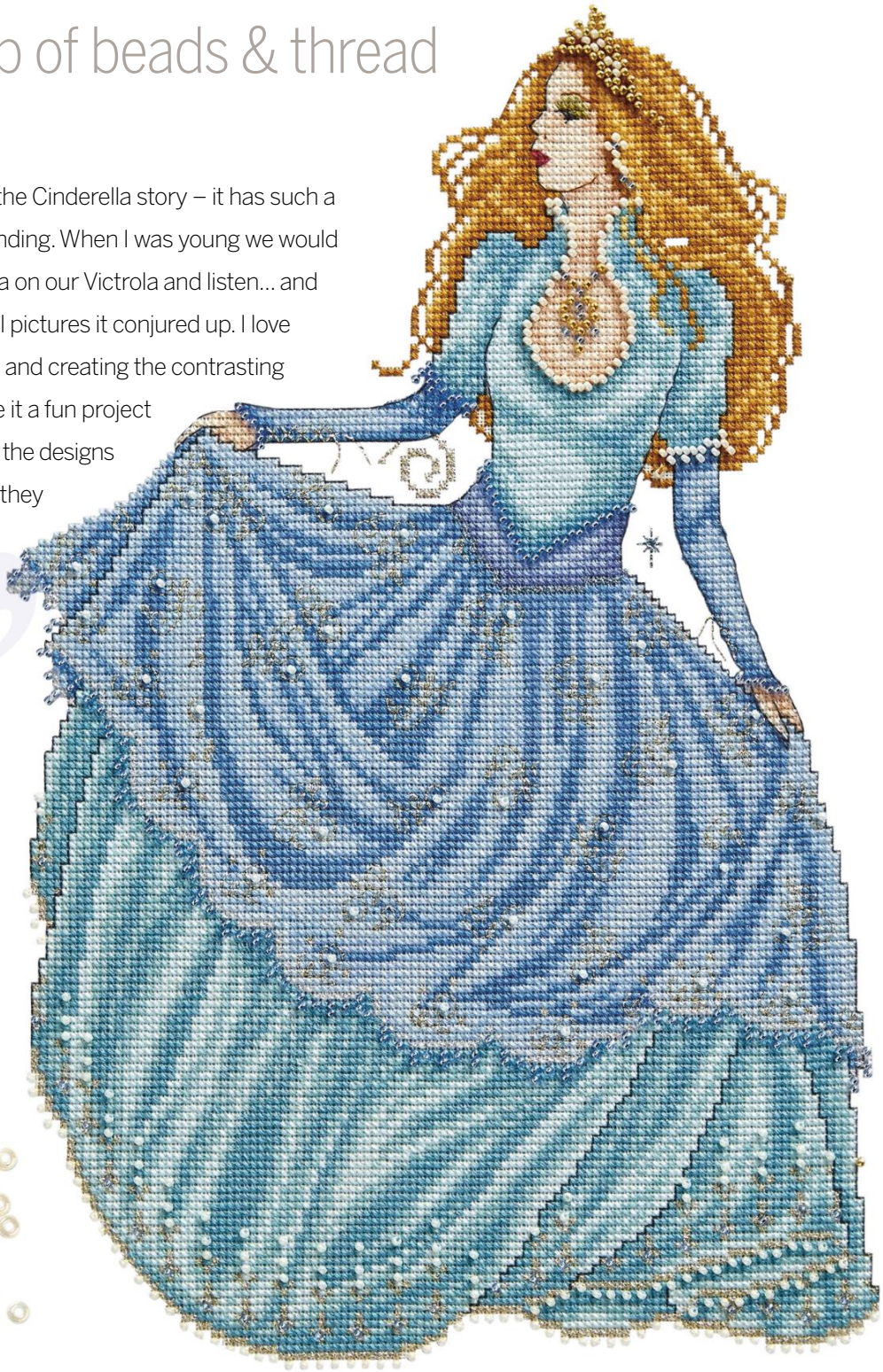
You shall go to the ball...

with the help of beads & thread

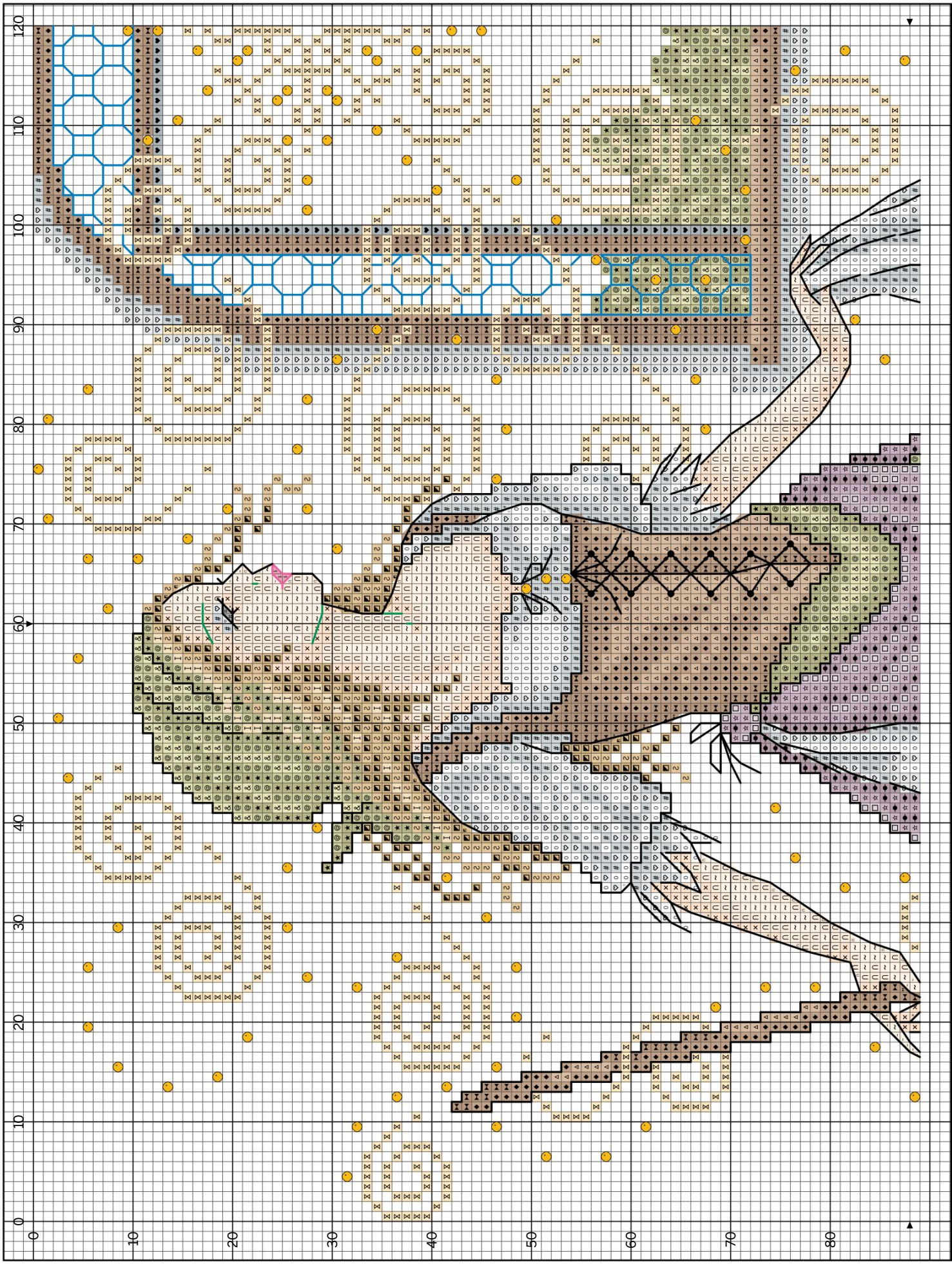


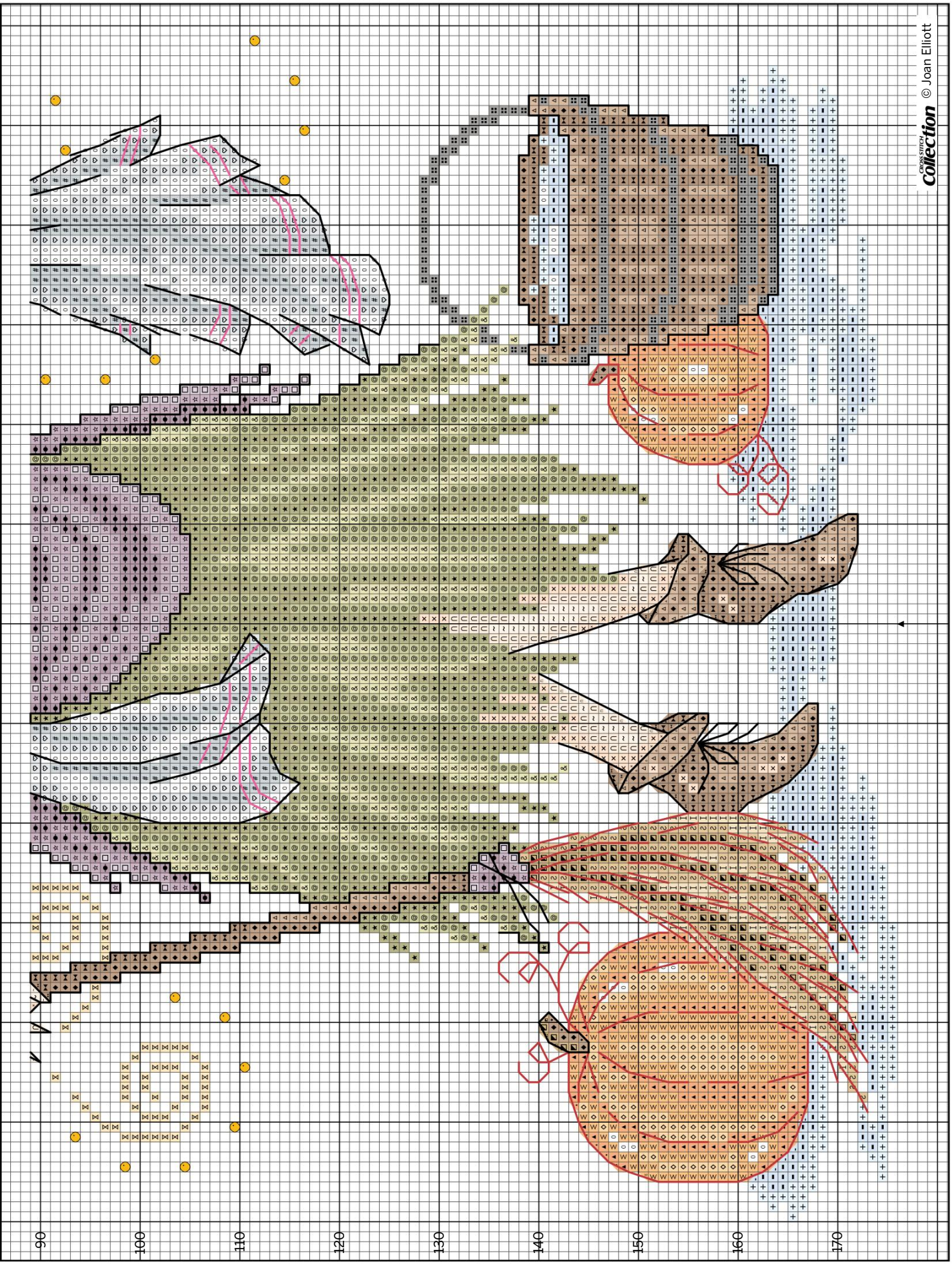
Every little girl loves the Cinderella story – it has such a wonderful happy ending. When I was young we would put a recording of Cinderella on our Victrola and listen... and imagine! I loved the magical pictures it conjured up. I love working on fantasy designs and creating the contrasting versions of Cinderella made it a fun project for me. I think the sparkle of the designs always appeal and the way they link together creates something extra-special!





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




90
100
110
120
130
140
150
160
170
Cross Stitch Collection © Joan Elliott

Stitch your Cinderella charts

You will need...

For each design:

28HPI evenweave (or 14HPI aida), off-white, Zweigart Brittney Ref: 3270/101, 21x17in (53x43cm). We got our evenweave from Willow Fabrics – find yours by calling 0800 0567811 or visit their website at www.willowfabrics.com

Stranded cotton as listed in the key

Kreinik Very Fine Braid as listed in the key

Seed beads as listed in the key

Frame with a 14¼x10in (36x25cm) aperture, silver

Turn to page 58 for hints and tips!

Planning **ahead**

BEFORE you begin stitching a project of this size it's important to plan ahead. Take a close look at the chart, key and photograph to decide in which order you are going to stitch. It's best to start stitching at the centre to make sure you position your work correctly on the fabric, but you can count outwards from here to work different areas, and it helps to make the project more achievable if you split it into smaller sections. For example, you could work all the different sections of Cinderella's dress one at a time, then her head and body, then the remainder of the design. Planning ahead in this way will save you time later on.

Stitching **the design**

START by working the cross stitch, as the other stitches and elements are worked beside or on top of this. Most of the cross stitch is worked in two strands of stranded cotton over two threads of the evenweave fabric. The metallic cross stitches are worked in one strand of Kreinik Very Fine Braid. This thread is liable to twist and separate so work with short lengths, no longer than 12in (31cm).

Tip... **stitching a pair**

The Cinderellas work really well stitched as two separate pictures hung together as a pair. However, Joan has designed them so they can be joined together if you wish. The windows match up if you stitch each half from the designs next to each other, and it looks as if the old and the new Cinderella are looking at each other.

Meet the stitcher...

Niki Byrne

"I absolutely loved this project, it's one of my favourite stitches! I love the use of beads and metallic threads and it was nice to see the poor Cinderella – not just the dolled up version! The project was fairly easy to stitch, though working with Kreinik Very Fine Braid can sometimes be a bit fiddly. I just use my Thread Heaven to help me deal with that! The trickiest part was the French knots on the bodice – I used to hate them but I don't mind doing them at all now after following Abi's guide in the back of the magazine! I love the fabric, this project looks great on evenweave."

Adding **the backstitch**

FINISH working all the cross stitch before adding the backstitch details. These are all worked in one strand over two threads of the fabric using either stranded cotton or Kreinik Very Fine Braid as detailed in the key. Refer to the key which gives exact details of the placement of the different colours and look at the chart that shows these as different coloured lines. Work French knots using one strand of grey stranded cotton for the top of *Cinderella in Rags* dress.

Attaching **the beads**

COMPLETE your design and add three dimensional detail by attaching seed beads to your finished stitching. These are sewn on with a half cross stitch using thread to match the stitches beneath rather than the bead so that the stitches don't show up. The positions of the beads are all shown on the chart.

Cinderella in rags

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	Colour
Cross stitch in two strands				
	White	002	2402	White
	413	236	1713	Grey
	433	358	2008	Medium brown
	435	365	2010	Light brown
	676	887	2208	Light golden brown
	729	890	2209	Medium golden brown
	740	316	0202	Dark orange
	741	304	0203	Medium orange
	742	303	0107	Light orange
	898	380	2006	Dark brown
	927	849	1708	Dark petrol blue
	928	274	1709	Light petrol blue
	945	881	2309	Dark pink beige
	951	1010	2308	Med pink beige
	3011	844	1607	Dark green
	3012	843	1606	Medium green
	3013	842	1605	Light green
	3041	871	0806	Medium purple
	3042	870	0807	Light purple
	3687	068	0604	Light pink
	3740	872	2614	Dark purple
	3752	1032	1002	Dark blue
	3753	1031	1001	Light blue
	3770	1009	2314	Light pink beige
	3829	901	2210	Dark golden brown

Cross stitch in one strand

- Kreinik very fine (#4) braid 025 Grey
- Kreinik very fine (#4) braid 102 Vatican Gold

Backstitch in one strand

	*413	236	1713	Grey
	all other outlines and details			
	*433	358	2008	Medium brown
	face, neck			
	*898	380	2006	Dark brown
	pumpkins, broom			
	3803	069	2609	Dark pink
	cloths, lips			
	*Kreinik very fine (#4) braid 025 Grey			
	window			

French knots in two strands

	*413	236	1713	Grey
	top			

Attach beads with matching cotton

	Mill Hill seed beads 00557	Gold
	top, swirls	

Stitched using DMC and Kreinik threads on 28HPI evenweave over two threads
Stitch count 176x120
Design area 12½x8½in (32x22cm)

*indicates colour is listed earlier in the key

Our stitcher says... Count carefully when stitching the cross stitch and bead swirls – they are spaced apart but they need to flow gradually. It's easy if you just make sure you keep double checking against the chart

More festive designs **from Joan Elliott**

The Ultimate Christmas Cross Stitch Collection

Decked out in a rich green gown and complete with sparkling threads and beautiful beads, Joan's delicate angel embodies the true spirit of Christmas – peace and goodwill. You'll find Joan's gorgeous project in *The Ultimate Christmas Cross Stitch Collection* – a fantastic selection of festive charts from decorations to perfect gifts and cards. Buy it now for £7.99 in print from www.myfavouritemagazines.co.uk and get a digital issue from www.bit.ly/AppleCSCollection and www.zinio.com

Winter Welcome

Ref: JE048, from £7.42

Snowdrop Fairy

Ref: JE111, from £7.42

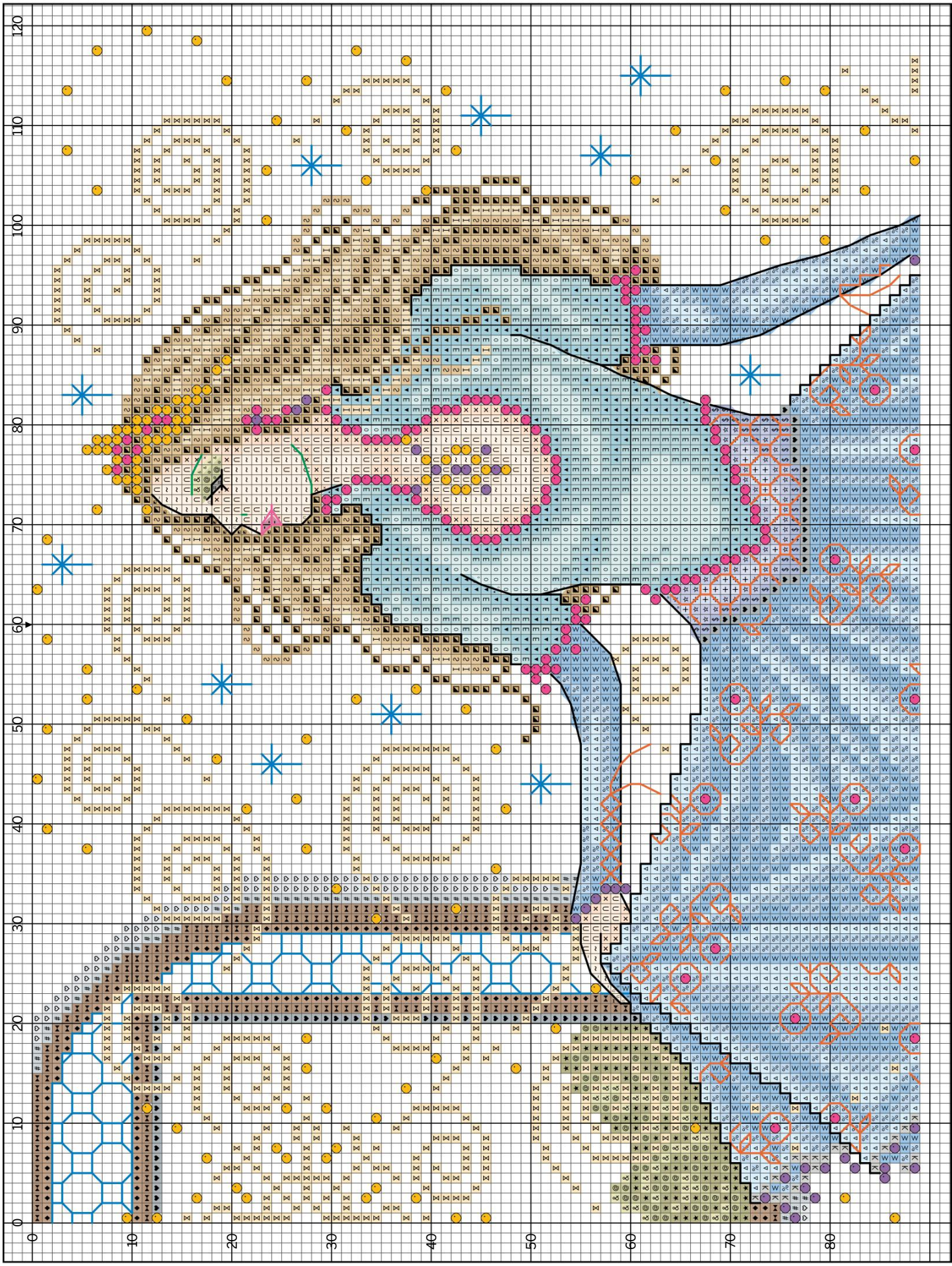
Father Christmas

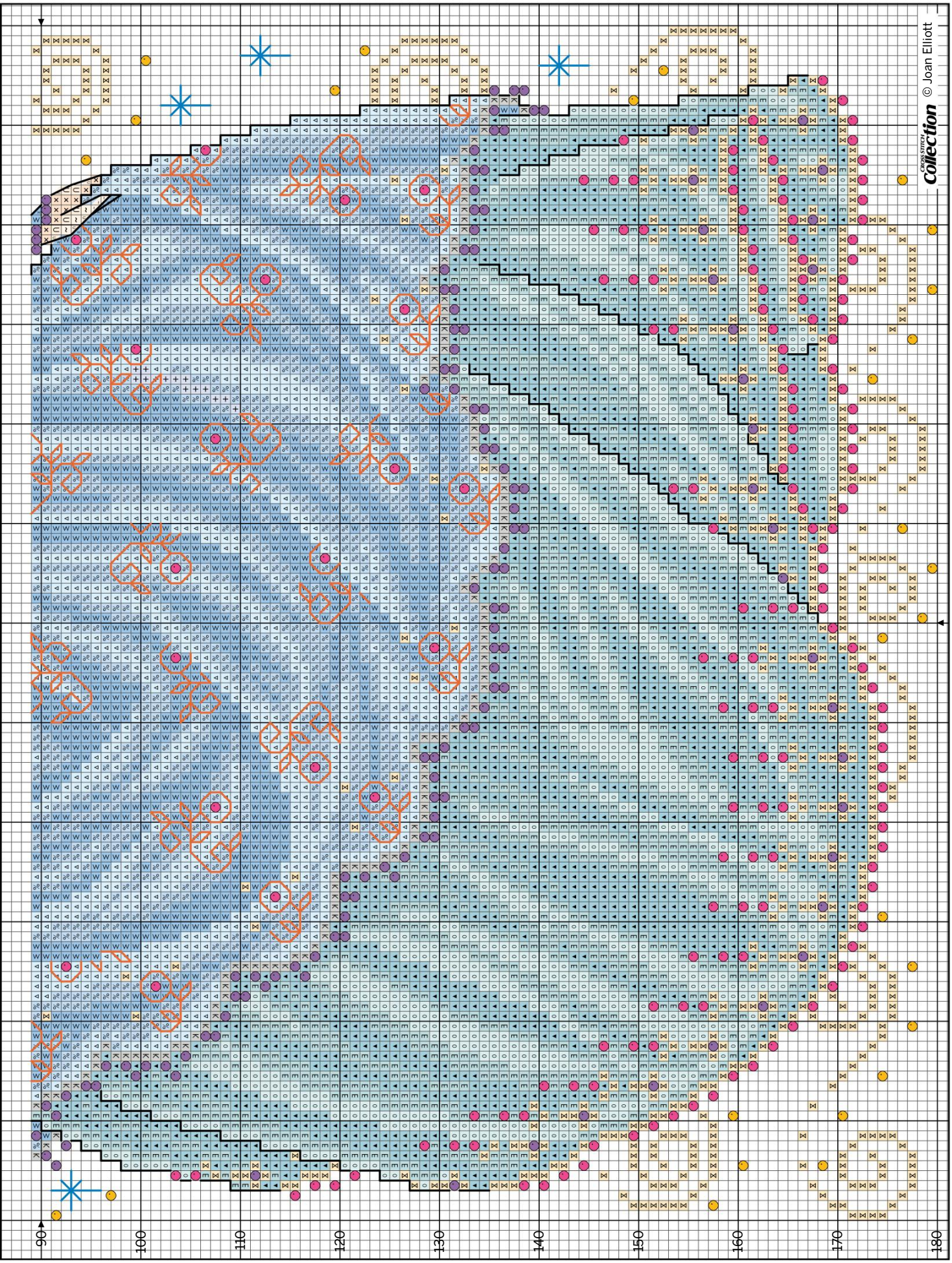
Ref: JE28, from £7.42

Winter Fairy

Ref: JE014, from £7.42

For stockists, visit **joanelliott.wordpress.com**




90
100
110
120
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140
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160
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180
Cross Stitch Collection © Joan Elliott

Cinderella in riches

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	Colour
Cross stitch in two strands				
	157	120	0901	Light bluebell
	334	977	1003	Dark blue
	413	236	1713	Grey
	433	358	2008	Medium brown
	597	1064	1110	Dark teal
	598	1062	1111	Medium teal
	676	887	2208	Light golden brown
	729	890	2209	Medium golden brown
	747	158	1104	Light teal
	793	176	0906	Dark bluebell
	794	175	0907	Medium bluebell
	898	380	2006	Dark brown
	927	849	1708	Dark petrol blue
	928	274	1709	Light petrol blue
	945	881	2309	Dark pink beige
	951	1010	2308	Med pink beige
	3011	844	1607	Dark green
	3012	843	1606	Medium green
	3013	842	1605	Light green
	3325	129	1002	Medium blue
	3770	1009	2314	Light pink beige
	3803	069	2609	Dark pink
	3829	901	2210	Dark golden brown
	3841	159	1001	Light blue

Cross stitch in one strand

- Kreinik very fine (#4) braid 025 Grey
- Kreinik very fine (#4) braid 102 Vatican Gold (3)
- Kreinik very fine (#4) braid 3231 Moonstone

Backstitch in one strand

	*413	236	1713	Grey
	all other outlines and details			
	*433	358	2008	Medium brown
	face, neck			
	*3803	069	2609	Dark pink
	lips			
	*Kreinik very fine (#4) braid 025 Grey			
	window, stars			
	*Kreinik very fine (#4) braid 102 Vatican Gold			
	clothing			

Attach beads with matching cotton

Mill Hill seed beads 00557	Gold	
background swirls, jewellery		
Mill Hill seed beads 02026	Crystal blue	
clothing, jewellery		
Mill Hill seed beads 03021	Royal Pearl	
clothing, jewellery		

Stitched using DMC and Kreinik threads on 28HPI evenweave over two threads
Stitch count 180x120
Design area 12¾x8½in (33x22cm)

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

Meet the stitcher...

Glenda Dickson

"This is Joan Elliott at her very best, all beads and bling – I love, love, love it! Cinderella is amazing – Joan's faces are second to none, yet they are not hard to stitch – they just flow and you end up with a masterpiece. Joan creates projects that are easy to stitch with a little bit of care, and the result is fantastic. My niece really loves her too and wants me to stitch this again for her, so I guess Joan's Cinderella appeals to all ages!"

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Rustic wreath

Give a traditional motif a little country chic by stitching **Lesley Teare's** beaded Christmas wreath design

Like so many Christmas traditions, the idea of the Christmas wreath comes from Germany. They first decorated wreaths to celebrate advent way back in the sixteenth century, using evergreens and candles to count down to Christmas Eve. Since then, the wreath has become an enduring symbol of the season, making it the perfect motif to stitch on a festive card. Lesley's design has taken the traditional wreath and given it a rustic, country twist, creating a garland of delicate twigs that you'll stitch using whole crosses and delicate backstitch details in just two thread shades. Stitching a scattering of ruby-red seed beads to create bright berries really brings this restrained colour scheme to life, creating an elegant and sophisticated card design.

Rustic brown Kraft Card can be found at Craft Creations. Get yours by calling 01992 781900 quoting Ref: CRC230P or visit: www.craftcreations.com

You will need...

28HPI linen (or 14HPI aida), light rustic, Zweigart Cashel Ref: 3281/52, 10x10in (25x25cm)
Stranded cotton as listed in the key
Seed beads as listed in the key
Kraft Card dark brown, two A4 sheets

Making your **wreath card**

WORK all the cross stitch first using two stands of stranded cotton. When this is finished, add the backstitch for the twigs in one strand of dark brown. Stitch the seed beads on top of the cross stitch using matching thread and a half cross stitch, then:

1. TRIM the stitched linen to 5½x5½in (14x14cm), then remove a few of the outer linen threads to fray the edges.
2. CUT each piece of card to 7¾x7in (20x18cm) then stitch the fabric to the front of one piece positioning it centrally width-ways and leaving a bigger gap at the bottom so you can write a greeting.
3. TAPE the two pieces of card butting up against each other, then fold to finish.

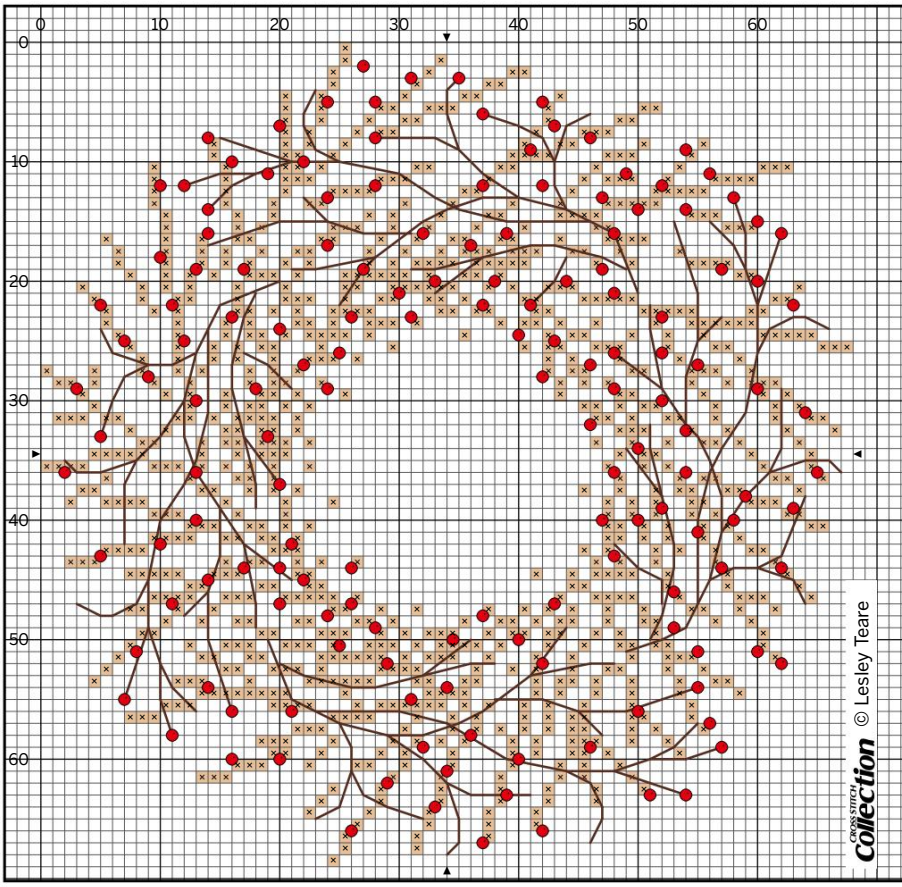
Our stitcher says...

If you don't want to use Kraft Card, then simply stick brown paper onto some white card for a similar effect

Rustic wreath

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	Colour
Cross stitch in two strands				
	436	363	2011	Light brown
Backstitch in one strand				
	801	359	2007	Dark brown
all outlines and details				
Attach beads with matching cotton				
	Mill Hill seed beads 03049			Red
berries				

Stitched using DMC threads on 28HPI linen over two threads Stitch count 69x68 Design area 5x5in (13x13cm)



Indulgent embellishments

Add extra wow-factor to your stitching this Christmas with Zoë Patching's inspirational guide to embellishing your cross stitch projects

Christmas just wouldn't be Christmas without a little indulgence, and I'm not just talking about too many mince pies! For me, Christmas projects are the perfect opportunity to luxuriate in those little extras that make festive stitching extra-special. Whether it's a scattering of sequins and beads or beautiful hand-crafted touches to create Christmas keepsakes for years to come, embellishing your stitching is a lot of fun and, as you'll see here, so simple to do! I've created four festive cross stitch designs

"Embellishing your stitching is a lot of fun and simple to do!"

that incorporate a variety of embellishing ideas, such as ric rac, ribbon, lace, beads and bells. They are quick to stitch so you could try them all – just use our charts on page 43 and the step-by-step guides. I've also included some inspiring websites that have a rich mix of stitching treats to tempt you into adding plenty of extra sparkle to your Christmas projects this year!

Appliquéd bauble

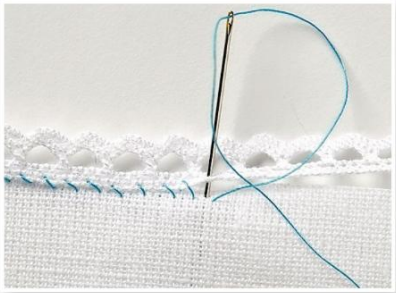
Rich, red and creamy, the Christmassy fabric used to create this appliquéd bauble works perfectly with the stitched motifs to create a Nordic-inspired design

1. Start by working the bauble design using two strands of stranded cotton over two threads of 28HPI linen, stitching the backstitch in one strand. Use your most festive red and bright white thread colours! Next, iron a piece of Bondaweb to the reverse of the fabric. Then, using a two pence piece, trace around it before cutting out.

2. Peel off the Bondaweb backing before deciding where to position it in relation to the stitched motifs. You'll find this is easier by eye, rather than counting threads. Once you're happy, iron in place. The final flourish is to add a few stitched details – we used French knots to complement the fabric design, before backstitching the hanging cord.

Lace trim reindeer

A delicate lace trim creates the perfect snowy ground for our prancing cross stitch reindeer!



1. Using just one shade of white, work the reindeer design using two strands of cotton over two threads of 28HPI linen. The snowflakes are placed by eye and worked in one strand. Next, edge a piece of white linen fabric with a narrow lace trim, stitching it with a length of matching coloured thread – shown above in blue for you to see.

2. Once this is complete, cut some Bondaweb to fit the reverse of the lace edged linen, and iron in position. The next step is to peel off the Bondaweb backing and to position it on to the stitching, taking care to line it up with the design to get the perfect positioning, and iron it place.

Ric rac candy cane

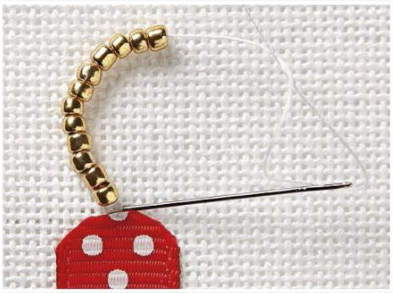
Twist red and white ric rac together to create a delicious looking candy cane peeping out of a mini-stocking design

1. Stitch the mini-stocking in red and white using two strands of stranded cotton over two threads of 28HPI linen. Next, you need to twist the red and white ric rac so that it entwines together. This will naturally kink, but carefully flattening it between your fingers will help to control it. The ric rac we used here is just 4mm wide.

2. The simplest way to finish the ends is to keep the red length long, and to sandwich the trimmed ends of the white between them. Once the red ends have been stitched together and a spot of fabric glue has been dabbed in place to prevent fraying, you're there! Finally, stitch in place with a few securing stitches.

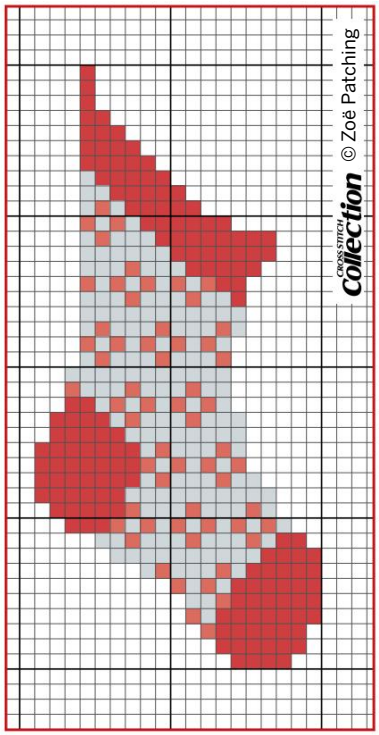
Beaded candle

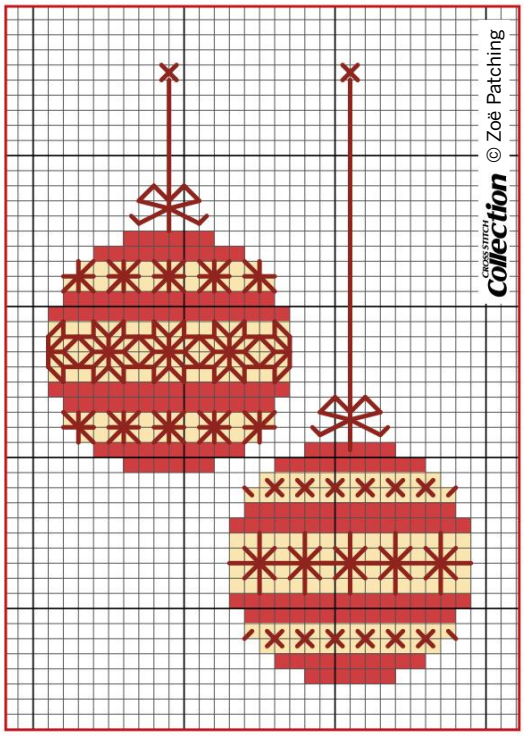
Make this festive mistletoe and holly garland glow by adding a pretty ribbon candle with beaded flame



1. Work the garland design in two strands over two threads of 28HPI evenweave, choosing a few different shades of green from your stash to create the shading. I've included the holly berries on the chart so you can choose to stitch them or attach sweet buttons. Finally, add the French knots in one strand, before applying the ribbon candle using Bondaweb, as explained on page 41. Secure a length of sewing thread at the candle tip, before threading on 12 gold beads.

2. To create the loop, carefully take the needle back down through the fabric, catching the background fabric as you do so, and gently pull the thread to create a loop. Add one or two securing stitches to hold the loop in place.

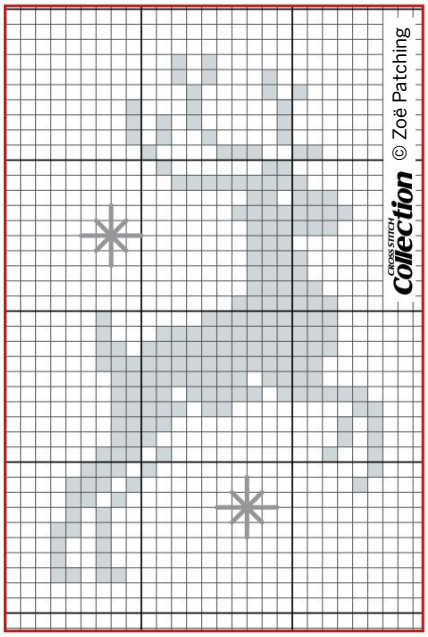


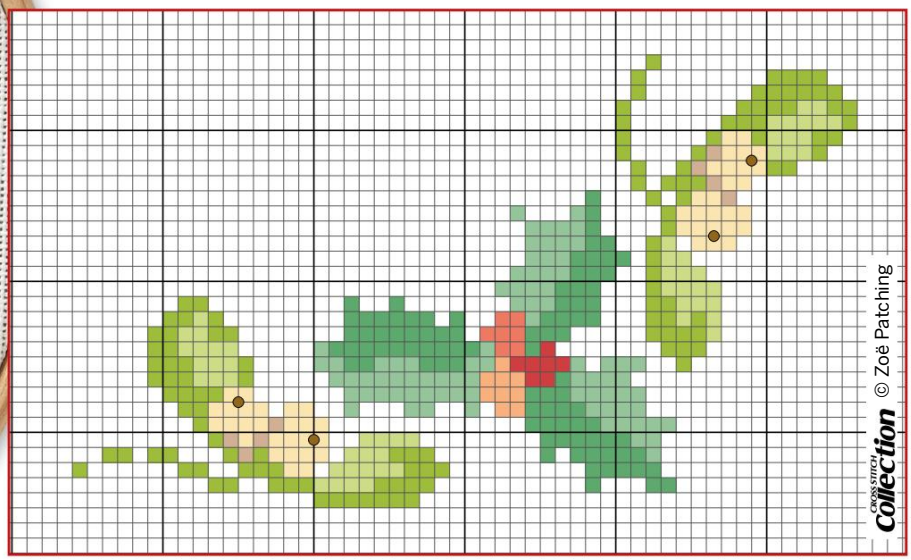


Stitch the charts!

Get your embellishment project started by stitching Zoë's four fabulously festive designs

Simple and sweet, these quick-stitch charts are easy and fun to work. Using just whole stitches and a handful of Christmassy thread colours, you'll create your baubles, wreath, reindeer and mini-stocking. You'll work minimal but effective backstitch – plus the odd French knot! – before adding those sparkling finishing touches. You could make up these four designs into almost anything – frame them in an embroidery hoop to make a pretty gift, or they'd make luxurious cards to stitch and send this season!





Get inspired!

You're sure to lose hours browsing the fantastic embellishment ideas for your next stitching project on these websites – what will you try next?

Frumble

www.frumble.co.uk

You'll find a wonderful selection of gorgeous fabrics, ribbon and lace to tempt you here – there's woven, printed, patterned, spotty and stripy... you'll be spoilt for choice!

Cotton Patch

www.cottonpatch.co.uk

My favourite website for buying fabric, there's a rainbow of fabric colours and patterns to whet your appetite, and their Christmas range is just lovely.

Paper and string

www.paper-and-string.co.uk

A delicious website of all things crafty and stitchy, Paper and String is the perfect place to go if you want a crafting treat! There's a fantastic array of Christmas ribbons, buttons and bells plus mini ric rac – perfect for your candy cane.

The Makery

www.themakery.co.uk

For all your crafting must-haves, this lovely website is brimming with fabrics and buttons and crafty bits and pieces – just try and resist! The Makery team also run amazing workshops if you're keen to add to your crafting repertoire.

Willow Fabrics

www.willowfabrics.com

Our one-stop crafting shop has all the essentials you'll need to start embellishing your cross stitch projects, from evenweave and linen fabrics to handy Bondaweb.

Ideal inspiration

Head to our blog for more exciting ideas, tips and extras to help with your stitching projects. Find us at www.crossstitchcollection.com

Find **your 12 Days of Christmas charms at Charm Supplies. They cost £7.99 plus P&P for the whole set! Call 01283 208950 or visit:** www.charmsupplies.co.uk

You will need...

25HPI evenweave red, Zweigart Lugana Ref: 3835/906, 15x15in (38x38cm)
Stranded cotton as listed in the key
Charms The 12 Days of Christmas
Frame with a 7½x7½in (19x19cm) aperture, cream wood

Stitching **the design**

WORK all the cross stitch using three strands of off white stranded cotton over two threads of the evenweave fabric.

1 ADD the backstitch using two strands of off white for all the outlines and details.

2 USE the red numbers on the chart to help you place each charm on the design. Stitch these in place so they hang from the branches of the tree using white sewing cotton making sure you attach them securely.

My true love gave to me

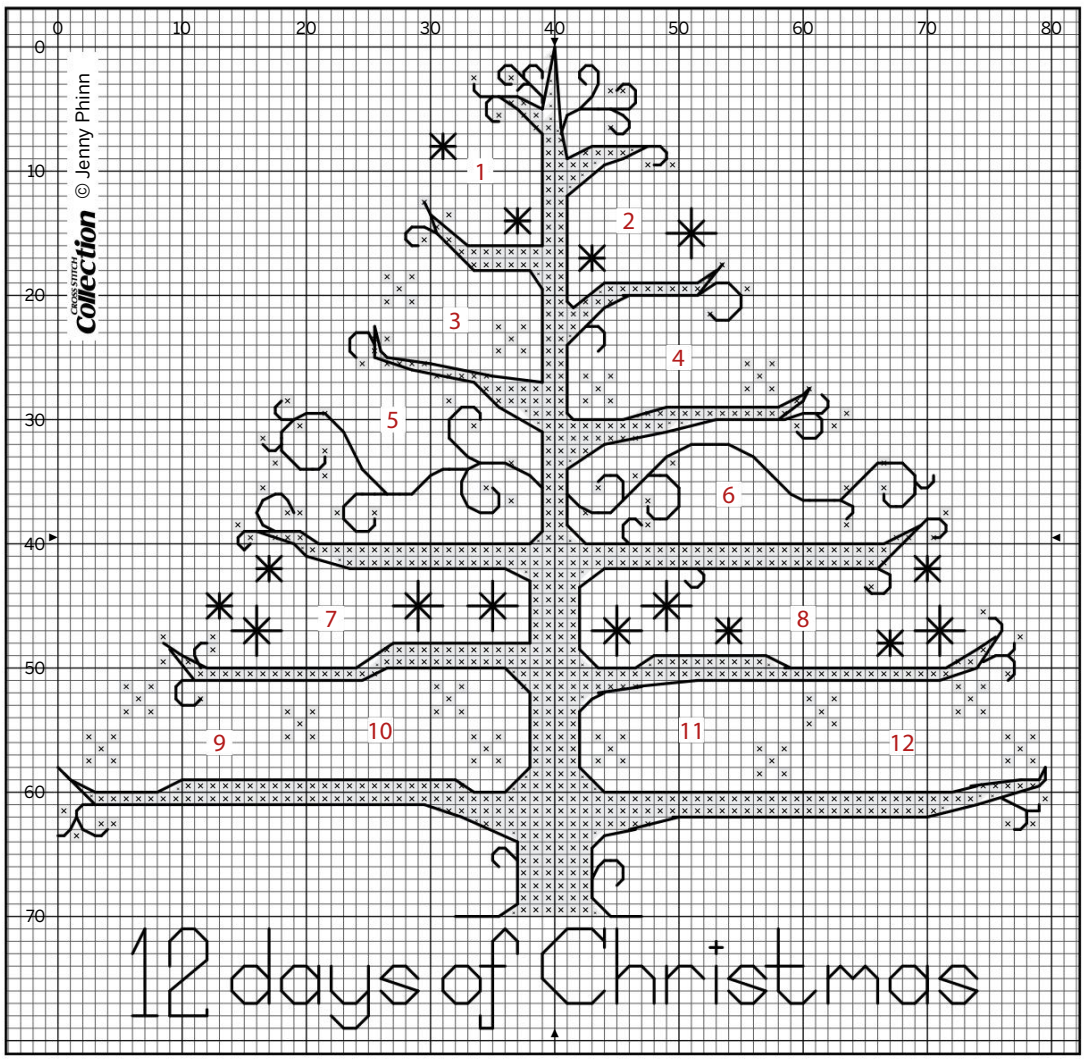
	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	Colour
Cross stitch in three strands				
××	3865	926	2403	Off white (2)
Backstitch in two strands				
—	*3865	926	2403	Off white
all outlines and details				

Stitched using DMC threads on 25HPI evenweave over two threads Stitch count 79x80
Design area 6½x6½in (17x17cm)

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

Tip... **attaching your charms**

We've used gorgeous silver-plated charms to depict *The 12 Days of Christmas*. They came with jump rings, which we removed before attaching so they sit flat against the fabric.



My true love gave to me

Illustrate a classic seasonal song by stitching **Jenny Phinn's** *12 Days of Christmas* mini-picture

Stitching
fractionals, backstitch and quick-stitch colour blocks will create these delightfully diminutive bauble designs

Table trimmings

Surprise your family at Christmas lunch with **Zweigart's** extra-special festive table runner and sweet gift bags

Silly paper hats, food for an army, terrible jokes from crackers – even the surliest of teenagers and grumpiest uncles find festive cheer at Christmas lunch. It's so enjoyable to sit down with your family and share that special meal. Why not start the fun with your tableware? This project from Zweigart is sure to bring a smile to

Choose from 10 bauble designs!

your family's faces when they see the brilliant baubles stitched on this stylish table runner and sweet gift bags. With 10 designs from Santa hats to grinning reindeer, you'll enjoy deciding which bauble to stitch for which guest!

Collection makes...

MOTIF MAGIC

Add an extra element of crafty fabulousness to your table by using the bauble motifs to stitch matching napkins for your guests.

TREE-RIFIC

You could stitch these designs on plastic canvas and hang them with ribbon to create ornaments for your Christmas tree.

EXTRA-SPECIAL

Use a backstitch alphabet to stitch names on the bottom of the gift bags to add an extra personal touch. Just draw your chosen names out on graph paper first to help with the positioning.

Stitching your table runner

You will need...

30HPI linen band white, Zweigart 6¼in (16cm), Ref: 72022/1 – see instructions for length
Stranded cotton as listed in the key
Sewing kit including matching thread
Turn to page 58 for hints and tips!

Positioning **your stitching**

DECIDE how long you want your table runner to be, then add 4in (10cm) to this for hemming.

1 STARTING 3in (8cm) up from one end, work one bauble in the centre placing the bottom of it at this point. Work one bauble either side of this ¼in (6mm) from the edge of the centre bauble.

2 PLACE two more baubles centrally above the bottom row just worked, referring to the photograph for placement.

3 REPEAT this at the other end of your table runner, using the other six bauble designs. It's important that these line up exactly with the first six baubles, as you now need to join them together with a backstitch line to look like the hanging string of a bauble.

Stitching **the baubles**

WORK all the cross stitch in two strands of stranded cotton over two threads of the linen fabric. When you have finished working all the cross stitch, add the backstitch details using one strand of stranded cotton as detailed on the key and chart.

Finishing **the runner**

COMPLETE all the stitching, and then turn one end of the linen band under by 1in (2.5cm) then 1in (2.5cm) again and stitch into place to hem.

Our stitcher says... You may find it easier to stitch the hanging strings from one set of baubles to the other end of the runner before you stitch the second set of baubles

Table trimmings

Anchor	DMC	Madeira	Colour
Cross stitch in two strands			
001	B5200	2401	Bright white
047	321	0510	Red
075	962	0505	Pink
257	905	1412	Green
278	165	2703	Light lime green
280	733	1611	Dark lime green
300	745	2512	Yellow
313	3854	2307	Orange
1072	992	1201	Aqua
Backstitch in one strand			
*047	321	0510	Red
bauble tops, string			
*075	962	0505	Pink
bauble tops, string			
*257	905	1412	Green
bauble tops, string			
*300	745	2512	Yellow
Christmas trees, stars			
*313	3854	2307	Orange
candle light, berries			
401	3799	1713	Grey
candles			
*1072	992	1201	Aqua
wicks, string			

Stitched using Anchor threads on 30HPI 6¼in wide linen band over two threads
Stitch count for one end 55x83
Design area 3¾x5½in (9.5x14cm)

Stitched using Anchor threads on 32HPI linen over two threads
Stitch count for individual baubles 27x25
Design area 1¾x1½in (4.5x4cm)

*indicates colour is listed earlier in the key

Stitching your gift bags

You will need...

For each bag:

32HPI linen (or 16HPI aida), white, Zweigart Belfast linen Ref: 3609/100, 10x12in (25x30cm). We got our lovely linen from Willow Fabrics. To find yours, call 0800 0567811 or visit them at www.willowfabrics.com

Stranded cotton as listed in the key

Cotton fabric red star, 8x8in (20x20cm)

Cotton lining fabric white, 8x18in (20x46cm)

Bull dog clip

Sewing kit including matching thread

Turn to page 58 for hints and tips!

Traditional **festive motifs like this Santa hat look fresh and bright on the bauble background stitched in different shades of green**

➤ Cutting **your fabric**

CUT the fabric into the following pieces:

Linen Front: 10x7in (25x18cm)

Back: 8x5in (20x13cm)

Red star Two side gussets: 8x2½in (20x6cm)

One bottom gusset: 5x2½in (13x6cm)

Lining Front and back, cut two 8x5in (20x13cm)

Two side gussets: 8x2½in (20x6cm)

One bottom gusset: 5x2½in (13x6cm)

Stitching **the design**

CHOOSE one of the bauble designs and stitch it to the front piece of linen fabric placing the lower edge 2in (5cm) up from the bottom of the fabric and centrally widthwise. Backstitch the hanging string to ½in (1.5cm) from the top edge.

Making **your gift bag**

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

1 TRIM the stitched linen front to 8x5in (20x13cm) with the bauble placed 1¾in (4cm) up from the lower edge and centrally widthwise.

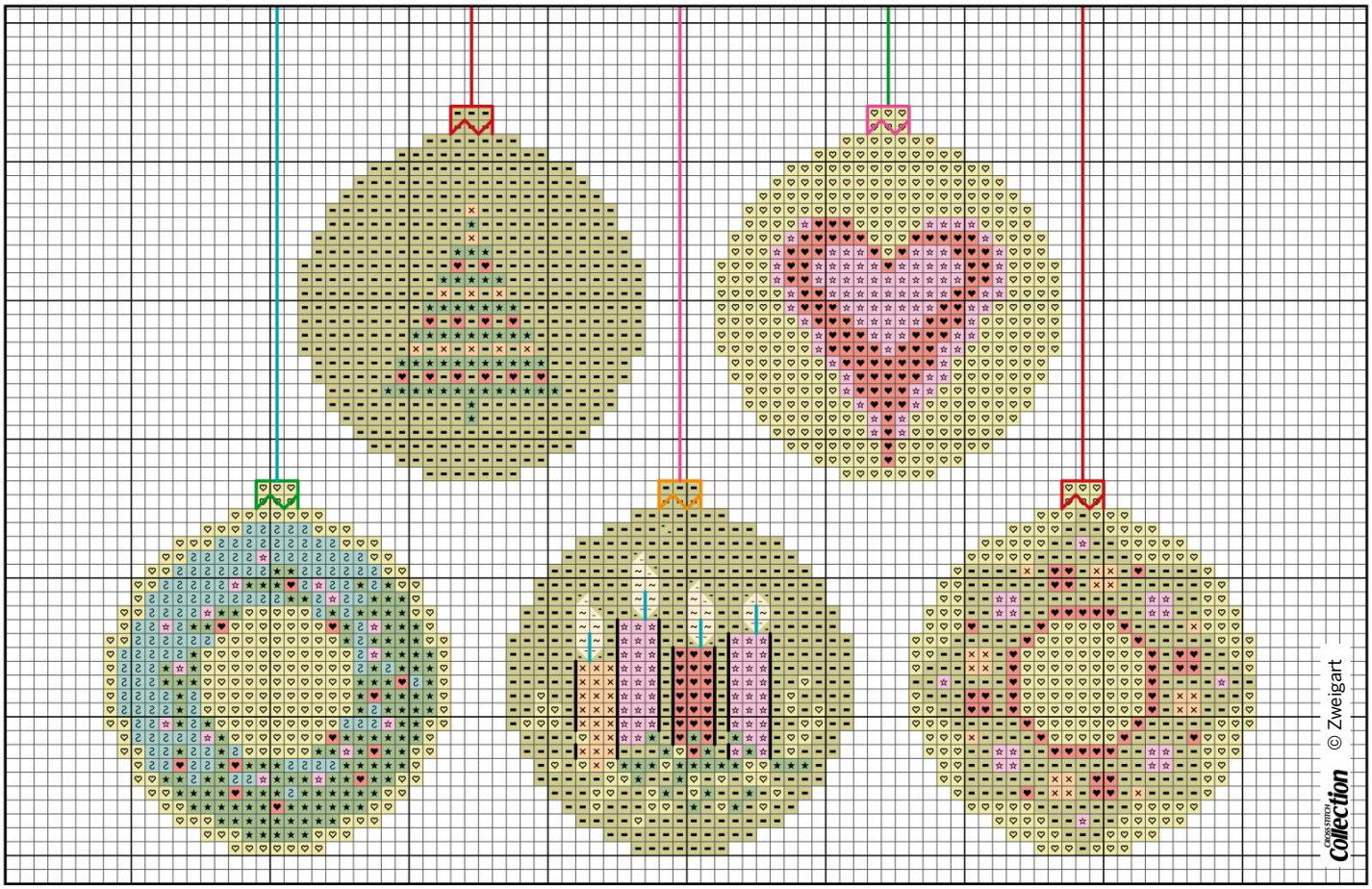
2 JOIN the gusset pieces right sides together along the short edges to make one long strip, placing the shorter bottom piece between the side pieces.

3 PLACE the gusset strip right sides together with the stitched linen front and stitch it down the side, across the bottom and up the other side. Join the back piece to the other side of the gusset in the same way.

4 MAKE the lining in the same way, leaving a 3in (23cm) gap along one side for turning. Place the lining inside the bag front right sides together matching the side seams. Stitch together round the top edge.

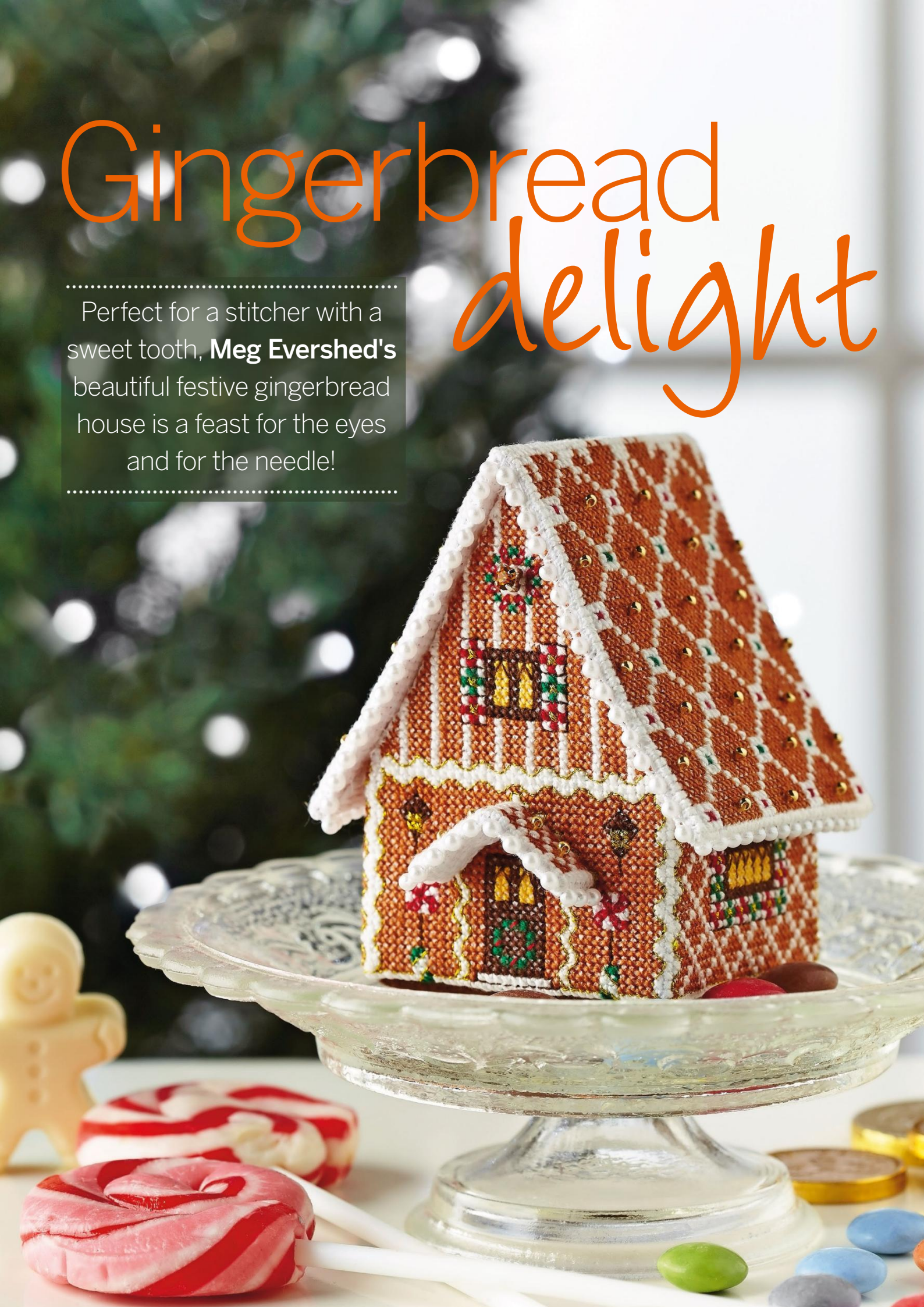
5 TURN the bag right sides out through the gap in the lining then sew up the gap. Push the lining inside the bag outer and top stitch around the top edge to neaten. Place your gift inside then fold over the top and hold together with a bull dog clip.

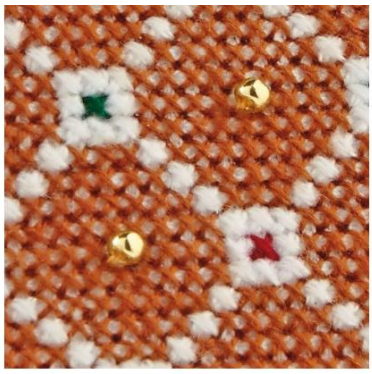
Giving these gift bags will be a lovely extra surprise once you've decided what to fill them with. Best not to stuff them with sweets though – no-one will eat their sprouts!



Gingerbread delight

Perfect for a stitcher with a sweet tooth, **Meg Evershed's** beautiful festive gingerbread house is a feast for the eyes and for the needle!





Create intricate icing on the roof, eaves and walls by stitching pretty patterns in white thread – and you'll even get to stitch a rhinestone or two with this design!

The world goes completely mad for gingerbread at Christmas. Perhaps the association started back in medieval times, when only professional bakers in guilds were allowed to make it – except at Christmas. Traditionally, this became the time when everyone was permitted to bake beautiful gingerbread creations with their families. We're certainly not immune to the Christmas gingerbread craze, so we're thrilled with Meg Evershed's beautiful 3D house design. Despite it's diminutive stature – it's only 3½in tall! – Meg's design makes us feel like kids in a sweet shop, as there is so much stitching to be done. You'll stitch a series of brightly-coloured motifs like wreaths and lollipop pinwheel trees, and work with all different kinds of embellishments too. Hang pearlescent beads from the eaves like ice, add sparkling rhinestones and golden seed beads, as well as glittering metallic thread. Check out our guide to embellishing cross stitch projects on page 40 for even more delicious ideas!

More from **The Nutmeg Company**

Christmas Robin
£8.45

Sweet Gingerbread Houses
£12.45

Dower House
£17.95

For stockists, visit **www.3dcrossstitch.co.uk**

Stitching your 3D house

You will need...

16HPI aida white, 15x15in (38x38cm)
Stranded cotton as listed in the key
Beads as listed in the key
Brown felt 3x2¾in (8x7cm)
7 mesh plastic canvas 10x6in (25x15cm)
Pearl bead trim 20in (50cm)
Sewing kit including matching thread
Turn to page 58 for hints and tips!

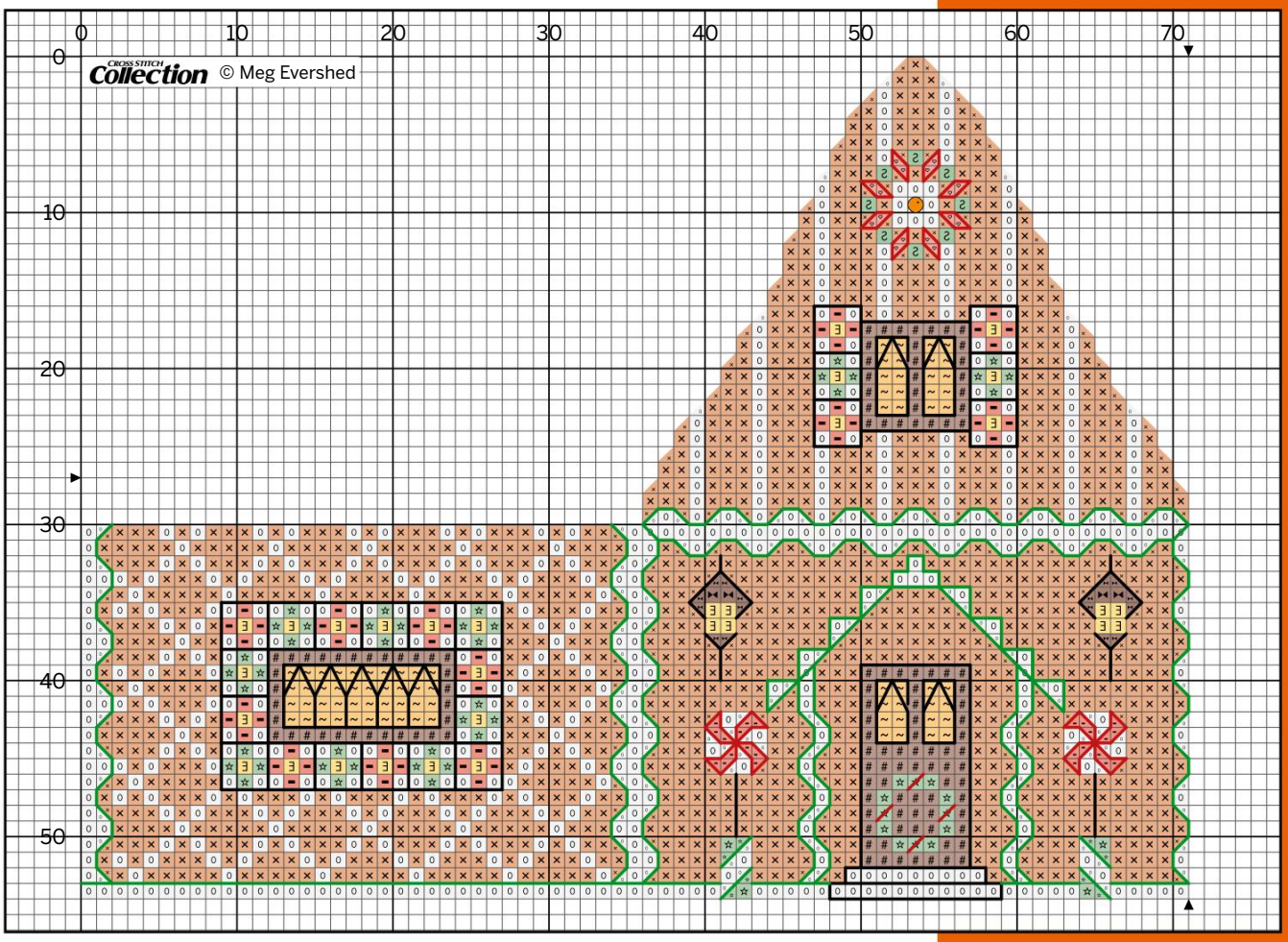
Cutting **your fabric**

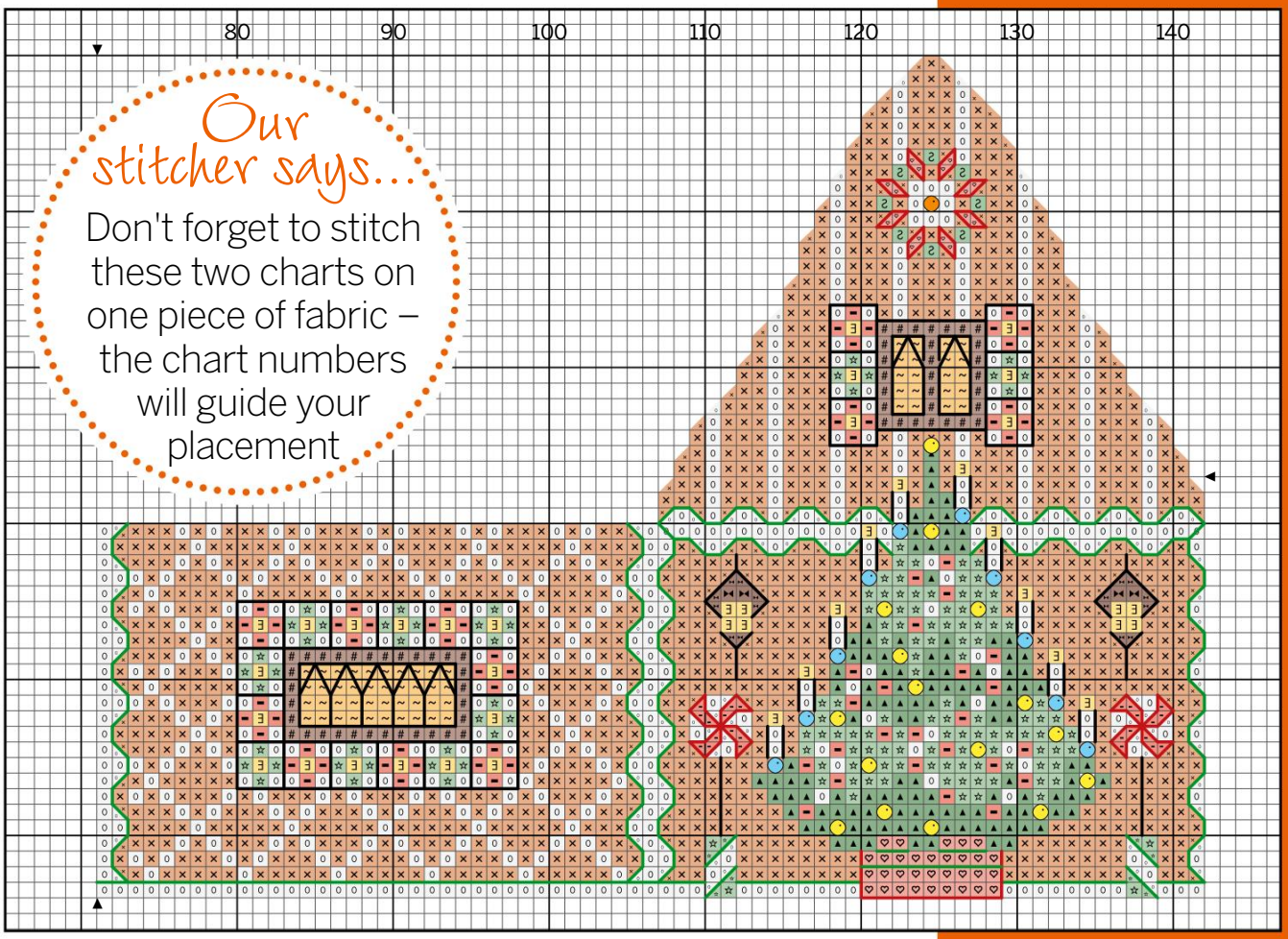
START off by cutting your aida into the following sizes and stitch each design on the relevant piece of aida:
Walls and gables: 8x13in (20x33cm)
Roof: 7x10in (18x25cm)
Porch: 5x6in (13x15cm)

Stitching **the designs**

BEGIN stitching from the centre of each design. Some of the cross stitch is worked in two strands of stranded cotton and some in one strand to add different dimensions to the design. When all the cross stitch is complete, you can add the backstitch details using one strand of stranded cotton. Refer to the chart and key to see the exact positioning of the different coloured outlines and details.

Finally, attach the seed beads, pearl bead trim and Chaton Montee rhinestones to create the sweets on the gingerbread house. Use thread to match the beads then stitch them on using a half cross stitch in the position indicated on the chart. ➤





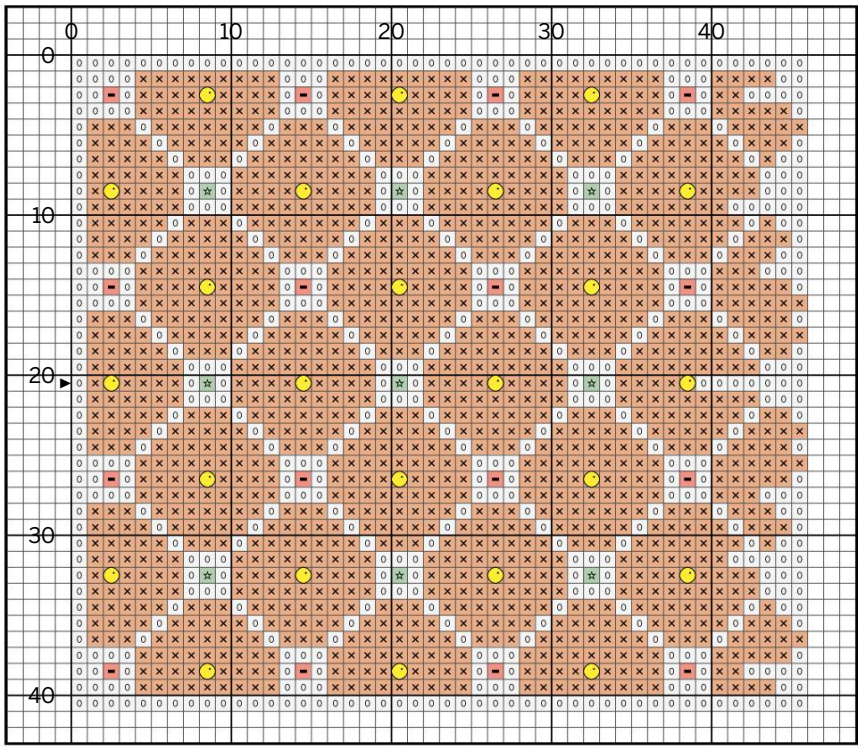
Our stitcher says...

Don't forget to stitch these two charts on one piece of fabric – the chart numbers will guide your placement

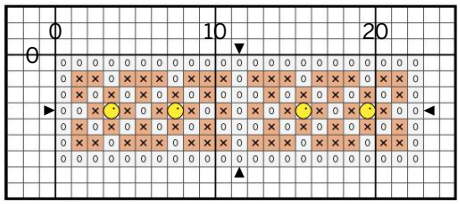
Gingerbread delight

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	Colour
Cross stitch in two strands				
	White	002	2402	White
	321	047	0510	Red
	500	683	1705	Dark green
	938	381	2005	Brown
	3818	923	2704	Light green
	DMC Light Effects E3852			
Cross stitch in one strand				
	301	1049	2306	Ginger
	*321	047	0510	Red
	742	303	0114	Orange
	*938	381	2005	Brown
	*3818	923	2704	Light green
Backstitch in one strand				
	*321	047	0510	Red
	wreaths, Christmas tree pot, lollipops, candles			
	*938	381	2005	Brown
	door, windows, shutters, lamps, steps, lollipops, candles			
	*DMC Light Effects E3852			
	all other outlines and details			
Attach beads with matching cotton				
	Mill Hill seed beads 00557			Gold
	roof, porch, Christmas tree			
	Mill Hill seed beads 42010			Ice
	candle holders			
	Chaton Montees			Topaz
	centre of wreath at front and back			

Stitched using DMC threads on 16HPI aida
House stitch count 54x142
Design area 3½x8¾in (9x22cm)
Roof stitch count 41x93
Design area 2½x5¾in (6.5x15cm)
Porch stitch count 7x23
Design area ½x1½in (1.5x4cm)
*indicates colour is listed earlier in the key



Cross Stitch Collection © Meg Evershed



Make **stitches stand up on the fabric like real piped icing on gingerbread by working the white patterns in two strands of stranded cotton**

Cutting **the plastic canvas**

TRACE round the templates on page 55 and cut them out, then use these to cut out the shapes from the plastic canvas. You will need:

Base x 1
Side Walls x 2
Gable walls x 2
Porch pieces x 2
Roof pieces x 2

Making **the walls**

FINISH all the stitching before cutting the wall shapes from the aida. Cut them ¾in (2cm) outside the stitching all the way round.

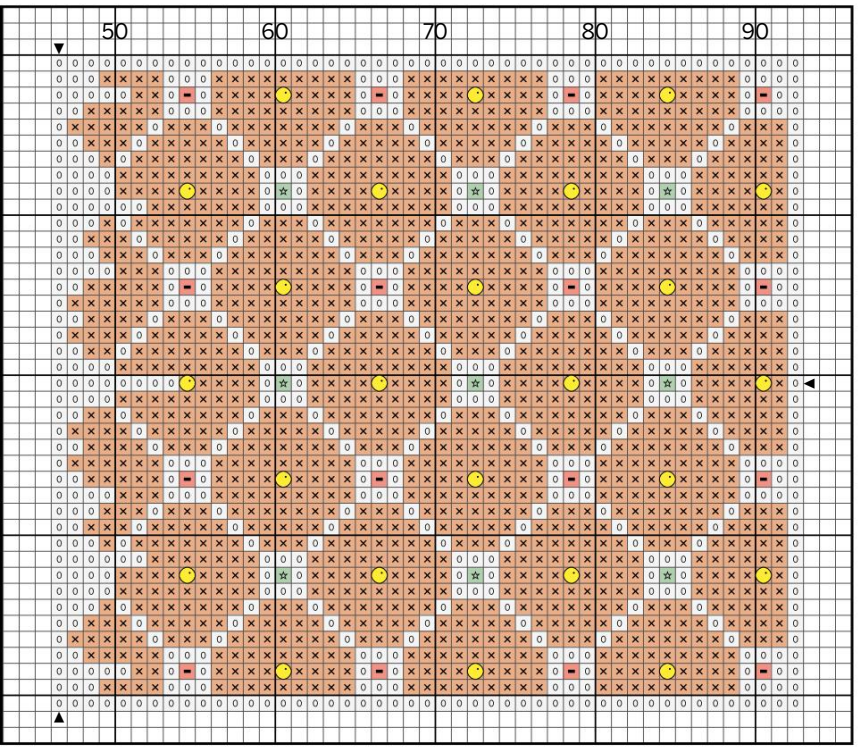
1 MAKE the walls and gable walls by placing the stitched aida right sides down with the relevant plastic canvas pieces on top, matching them to the stitched shapes.

2 HOLD the plastic canvas walls together with a strip of sticky tape to make them easier to handle. The lacing will hold them firmly in place later.

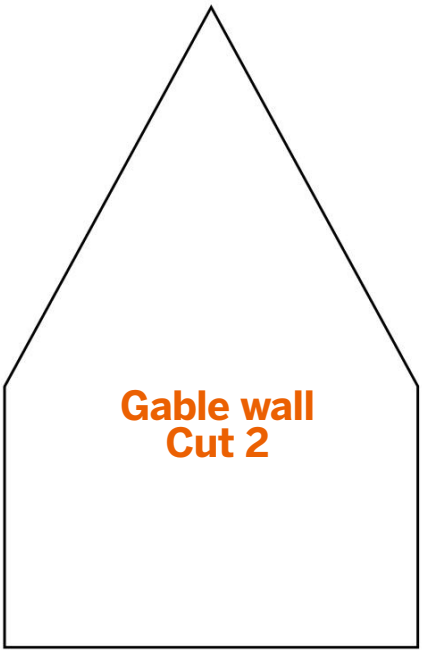
3 FOLD the edges of the aida over on top of the plastic canvas then lace them across the plastic ➤

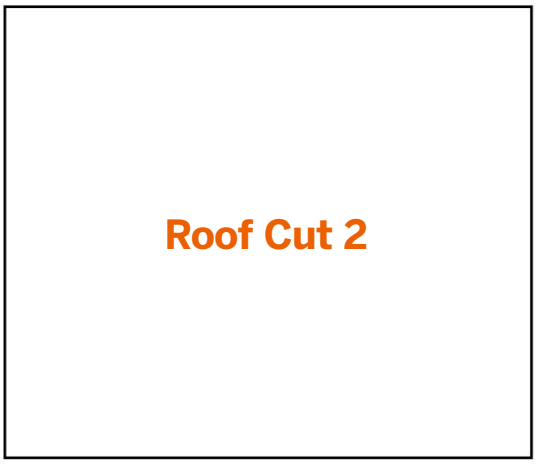
Beautiful beads

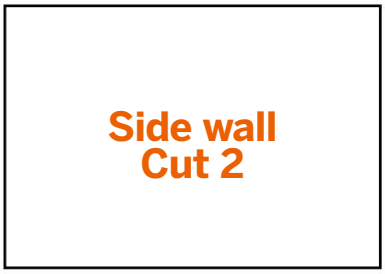
Meg has used several beads to decorate the gingerbread house with yummy sweets. Gold seed beads are attached to the roof, porch and Christmas tree, with ice beads on the candle holders. You'll also attach a beaded pearl trim to create an icing-style edging – these ivory micropearls are available from www.ribbonbox.co.uk, or you can call 023 80737164. Finally, decorate the gable wreaths with a topaz coloured Chaton Montee – mounted rhinestones with four holes in the back. You can find them at www.thesouthamptonbeadshop.co.uk, or call 023 80678466.

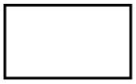


Cleverly **constructed, you'll stitch Meg's designs on fabric before lacing them around plastic canvas to create your 3D house shape**









Porch
Cut 2

Pop a pair of tweezers in your sewing kit — they'll be invaluable for creating your house!

Did you know that in the Norweigian city of Bergen, local children help build a replica of their city entirely out of ginger bread every year? This could be the start of your own sweet city!

➤ canvas. You will need to snip the aida in the angles between the sloping sides of the gables and the side walls, but do not snip in too far.

4 USING a sewing needle and white sewing thread, you can begin lacing. Attach the thread to the edge of the aida and pass the needle backwards and forwards across the plastic, taking small stitches in the fabric margins. You will need to push the needle into the fabric, rather than into the holes in the aida, as this may cause it to fray. It helps to work two or three rows of lacing, each one making the fabric a little tauter, and you may find it useful to work some lacing stitches horizontally, slipping the needle through the holes in the canvas.

Make the **roof, porch and base**

MOUNT the cross stitched roof pieces on the plastic canvas pieces in the same way, using white sewing thread. Trim each corner, fold the fabric into a neat mitre and secure it with small stitches. Stitch the pearl trim all around the edge of the roof.

1 MAKE the porch by folding the fabric in half with the cross stitch on the outside. Slip the pieces of plastic inside the fabric, fold in the ends and stitch around them and along the open edge, enclosing the plastic in the fabric. Stitch pearl trim along one long edge and both the short edges.

2 MOUNT the brown felt on the plastic canvas base in the same way as the walls.

Assembling **the pieces**

1 BEND the walls at right angles to each other to form the shape of a house and ladder stitch the edges together using white sewing thread. Try to match the stitching as closely as possible. The white sewing thread will be hidden inside the seam.

2 PLACE the roof on top of the walls with the ridge in the centre. Make sure the overhang is equal on both sides. Ladder stitch the roof to the walls using the rows of holes in the aida fabric to guide the placement of your stitches. Use tweezers to help pull the needle through the canvas and fabric when negotiating tight corners, and leave stitches loose when working a difficult area. You can pull gently on the thread to bring the edges together afterwards. Attaching a roof to the walls is always the most challenging part of constructing a house. Be patient with yourself and remember that most of your sewing stitches will be hidden when the piece is finished.

3 JOIN in the porch before the base is sewn into place. Attach a length of white sewing thread to the long edge of the porch that is not trimmed with pearls. Push the needle through the wall at the position shown on the chart. Bring the needle back through the wall, take a small stitch in the edge of the porch and continue in this way until the porch is securely attached.

4 FIT the base into the bottom of the house and ladder stitch it in place to complete your house.

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Stitch basics

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

Getting started

Select your needle

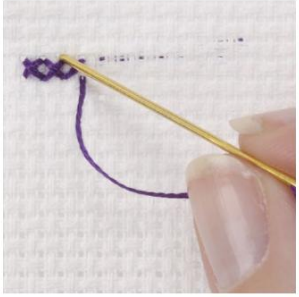
Fabric	HPI	Needle
Aida	11-14	Tapestry 24
Aida	16-20	Tapestry 26
Hardanger	22	Tapestry 26
Evenweave	22-32	Tapestry 26
Evenweave	36 and over	Tapestry 28

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

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

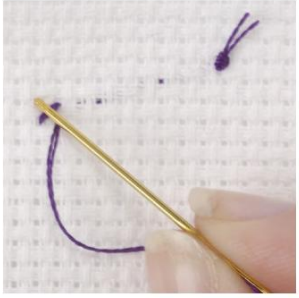
Loop start When stitching with two threads

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



Loose end start
When stitching with any number of threads

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



Waste knot start
When stitching with any number of threads

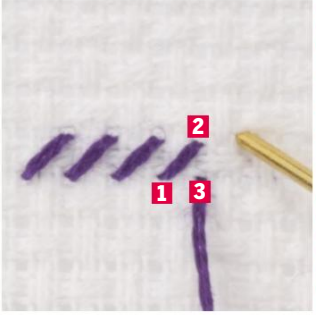
Knot the end of the thread and take the needle down through the fabric on the right side, a little away from your first stitch. As you stitch towards the knot, you'll secure the thread at the back, then you can snip off the knot.

Cross stitch made easy

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

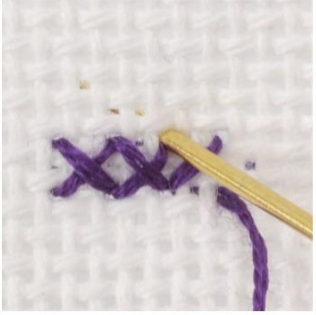
Cross stitch on aida

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



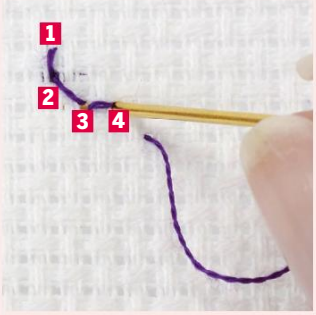
Half cross stitch

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

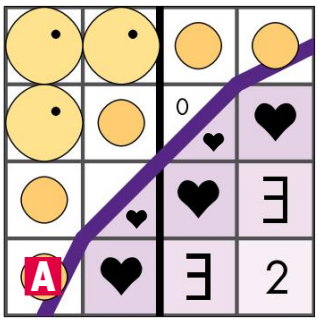


Cross stitch on evenweave

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



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



Fractional stitches
A small symbol in the corner of a square (A) indicates a three-quarter stitch (B). If two different symbols occupy one square, make the less prominent colour a tiny quarter stitch (C) then work a three-quarter stitch in the other colour (D). The examples shown are on aida where the centre block has to be pierced to make the quarter stitch (you may want to use a sharper needle for this).

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

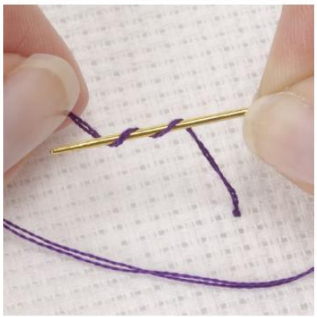
The final details

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

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

French knots

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



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

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

When finished...

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

Reading charts and keys

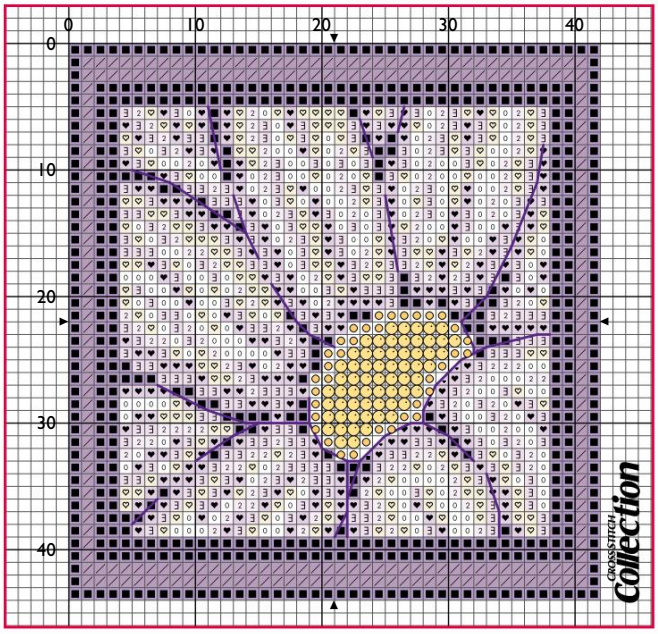
The charts are easy to follow when you know how

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

Daisy key

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

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



Shopping Collection

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

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Seen something that's inspired you?
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For Anchor, DMC and Madeira threads and all kinds of haberdashery supplies

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01384 560090
Everything for the stitcher from kits and charts to fabrics and threads, and award-winning, high-quality framing

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Collection 238

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

Collection 239

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

Collection 240

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

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

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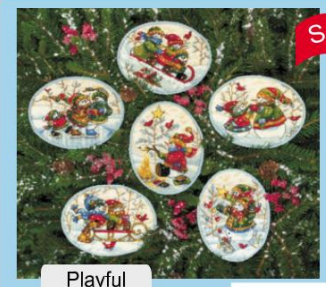
Christmas Gift Ideas



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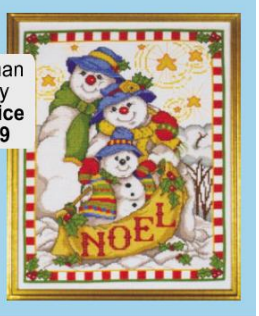

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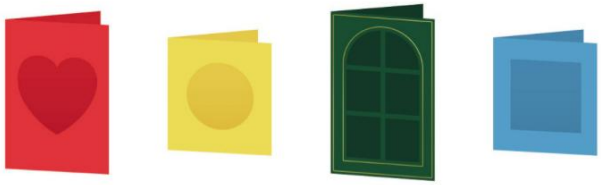

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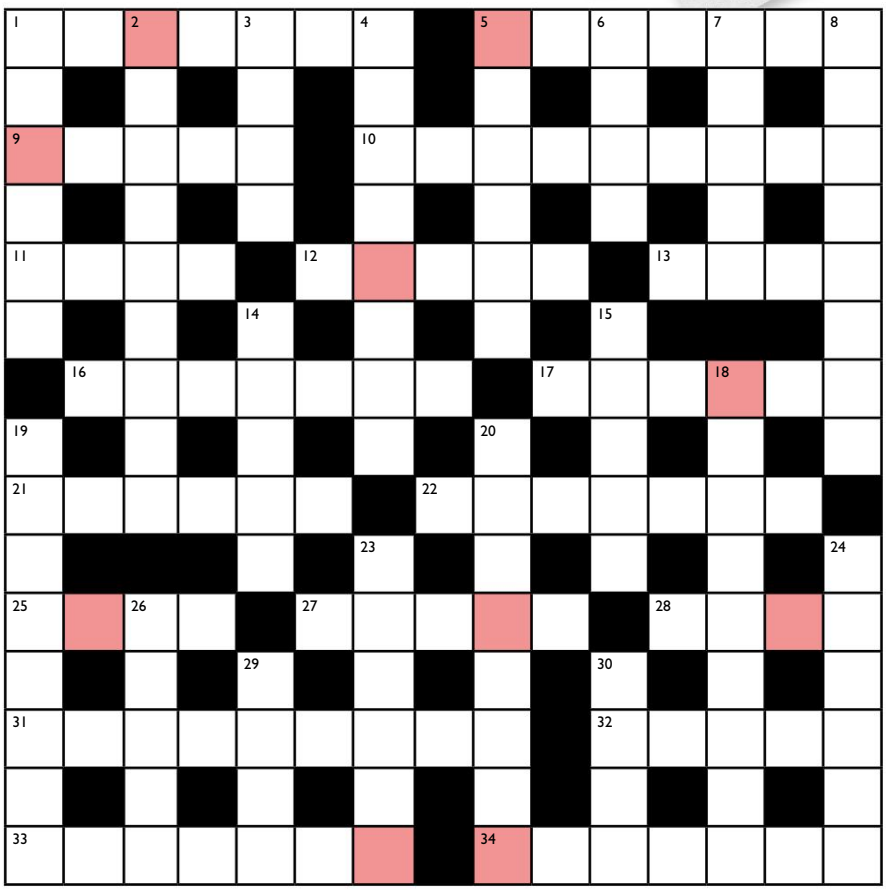
ACROSS

1 Gets away (7)
5 Containers woven from strips of wood or fabric (7)
9 Name for small pies like Bakewell (5)
10 Feeds with nutrients (9)
11 Animal tooth grown to extreme size (4)
12 Absurd or ridiculous – not serious (5)
13 Type of French soft cheese (4)
16 Green gemstone (7)
17 Leave (6)
21 Less difficult (6)
22 Santa continues this on page 9 (7)
25 Colour of natural linen (4)
27 Do this to parmesan on pasta (5)
28 Stitch this scrumptious treat on page 22 (4)
31 Breathe artificially (9)
32 Command to do something (5)
33 Hereditary ruler of a nation (7)
34 Crocus used for yellow-orange condiment (7)

Down

1 Name for an area of a UK housing development (6)
2 Celebrate this on page 9 (9)
3 Opposite of pull (4)
4 Showing sound judgment (8)
5 Stitch this decoration on page 46 (6)
6 Propel yourself through water (4)
7 Old anaesthetic and ancient name for space (5)
8 Those under suspicion (8)
14 Christmas colours are red, white and _____ (5)
15 Gemstone found in oysters (5)
18 _____ the Great, warrior king of Macedon (9)
19 What you used to get from the Queen on your 100th birthday (8)
20 Heavily defended military stronghold (8)
23 Stitch a twig one of these on page 38 (6)
24 Capital of Iran (6)
26 Sticky stuff exuded by some plants (5)
29 Structure extending out into water (4)
30 Cover on top of a building (4)



PRIZE CROSSWORD 241

Across: 7 fashion; 8 exposed; 10 multiple; 11 rushed; 12 laugh; 13 eliminate; 16 watercolour; 19 mushrooms; 20 sheet; 22 mirror; 24 noisiest; 25 marbles; 26 blushed
Down: 1 natural; 2 photograph; 3 poppy; 4 extremely; 5 dogs; 6 repeats; 9 replacement; 14 naughtiest; 15 resources; 17 musical; 18 measles; 21 field; 23 robe
Winning word: SAMPLER

Enter online...

For your chance to win Zweigart fabrics, enter online for free at **www.futurecomps.co.uk/csc242 xword** and fill in the form.

Once you've completed the crossword, the shaded boxes will form an anagram of a type of embroidery. All you have to do is work out what the winning word is, and then fill out the form online no later than Thursday 13 November. For full competition go to page 61.

Competition rules To enter competitions and giveaways, enter online between 17 October and 13 November 2014. The winners will be selected at random from all entries. Entries must be submitted by an individual (not via any agency or similar) and, unless otherwise stated, are limited to one per household. By entering a Competition you give permission to use your name, likeness and personal information in connection with the Competition and for promotional purposes. You warrant that the Competition entry is entirely your own work and not copied or adapted from any other source. If you are a winner, you may have to provide additional information. Details of winners will be available on request within three months of the closing date. You acknowledge and agree that neither the Company nor any associated third parties shall have any liability to you in connection with your use and/or possession of your prize. Further rules can be read in full on page 61.

Next month in your **December** issue...

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- Sparkly and chic Christmas florals from Lesley Teare
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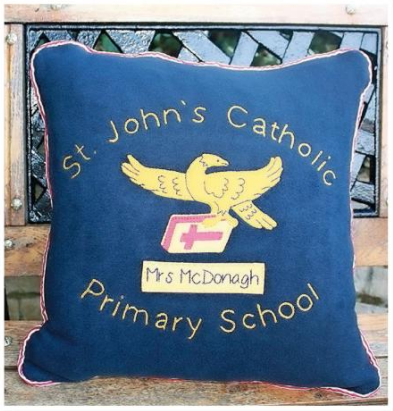
ON SALE **Friday 14 November**

Crafty ideas from Rebecca Bradshaw

Welcome to my stitching world – I hope you find lots of inspiration. This month, I've decided to start keeping a photo diary of all my stitching finishes



Taking pics can be very useful – they helped me make these cushions for my son's school!

Like most of us, I always seem to be stitching gifts for loved ones – never for me!

Stitching and making cross stitch projects takes up hours of my time. As well as making things for loved ones, I also finish projects for *Collection* and *CrossStitcher*, painstakingly inserting zips into cushions, sewing bias binding to the back of a needlecase or lacing a particularly troublesome piece of linen. Then they are photographed and sent back to the designer. I really enjoy this process (mostly – I've had the odd disaster!), but I always give away most of what I make. The recipient is always grateful (outwardly), but then it's gone and I rarely see it again – it's never mine!

Just the other day a friend asked to see what I make. That was when I realised that I have very little record of what I create. I've photographed the odd item – I spent hours making two cushions as leaving presents when my youngest left primary school and I took a quick shot before I handed them over. This proved extremely useful as the school asked me to make three more to smarten up the sofas in their foyer!

I should have done this when I made a blanket for my friend's new baby, Coco. I bought a flowery and plain mauve fleece, bound them together and appliquéd her name on it. When two years later her little sister, Mimi Rose, arrived I couldn't for the life of me remember what colours and font I had used. Luckily, Coco's mum had a picture and emailed it to me, so I could make Mimi a matching one in lovely shades of turquoise. But did I take a photo? No! So, I have decided that from now on I'm going to photograph everything and make my very own portfolio, so in years to come I can look back and remember – 'ah, this is what I made!'

Keeping a photo diary will help me keep track and appreciate my finished projects

I have a good friend who is a photographer and I asked him how to take some decent photos of my work.

> "In years to come I can remember – 'ah, this is what I've made!'"

He explained about getting the right light – take photos outside if you can as natural light is clearer. His main piece of advice was to take loads of photos, moving the stitching to different places with different light and shade until you get the right one. Choose your background so the stitched piece shows up well and doesn't compete with it – I have a photo of a stitched picture placed on my red spotty kitchen tablecloth, and I can see what he means now! So – be proud – photograph your work and in a small way you can keep it forever!

Taking photographs outside will help you take advantage of clearer natural light

Share your own crafty ideas

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

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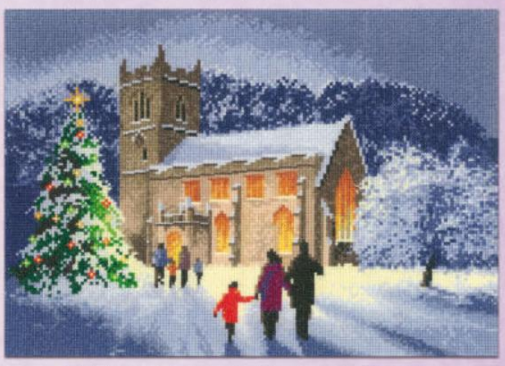

Christmas Church *by John Clayton* - 31 x 22cm

Josephine in Miniature
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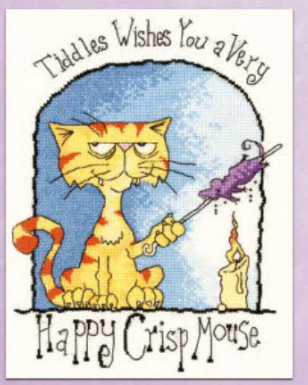
Puss in Boot
by Peter Underhill - 12.5 x 9.5cm

Cat in Hat
by Peter Underhill - 15 x 7cm



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by Peter Underhill - 15.5 x 20.5cm

Christmas Stocking
by Sue Hill - 9.5 x 16cm

Christmas Cards *by Karen Carter*

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