Future

The most beautiful designs

CROSS STITCH Collection

SUMMER TREATS
Favourite flowers in miniature!



No.1 for stitching pleasure!



LAVENDER LOVE



COASTAL SAMPLER



Pretty kitty! NEW design by Jayne Netley-Mayhew



WISH LIST NOTEBOOK

VINTAGE CHINA

GIFT SAMPLER

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Welcome...

Here at *CSC*, our obsession with flowers has reached fever pitch. Whether we're rummaging for a vase to fill with cheerful blooms or swapping pruning tips, fabulous florals are never far from our minds – and it shows in our August issue! Our *Chart of the Month* by Lesley Teare features a gorgeous lavender wreath, and you can stitch pretty rose and cherry blossoms on teacups with Maria Diaz's glam tea set. We've got a stylish flower notebook cover by Angela Poole, and one of our *Dainty Makes* is a rustic mini hanging featuring a heavenly hydrangea stem. If that's not enough, Abi Barker's wedding anniversary sampler is covered in delicate backstitch flower motifs, and even Jayne Netley Mayhew's cute kitty project is resting on a comfy cushion decorated with bright orange blooms. So, we hope you enjoy our August issue – it's packed with flower power!

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!

Get extra makes for your iPad and iPhone from Apple Newsstand! Download the *CSC* app today and find great mini-mags packed with beautiful stitching projects, such as our gorgeous wedding and *Cute Cross Stitch* collections! There are even some fantastic freebies for you to download. To find out more, go to **www.bit.ly/AppleCSCollection**

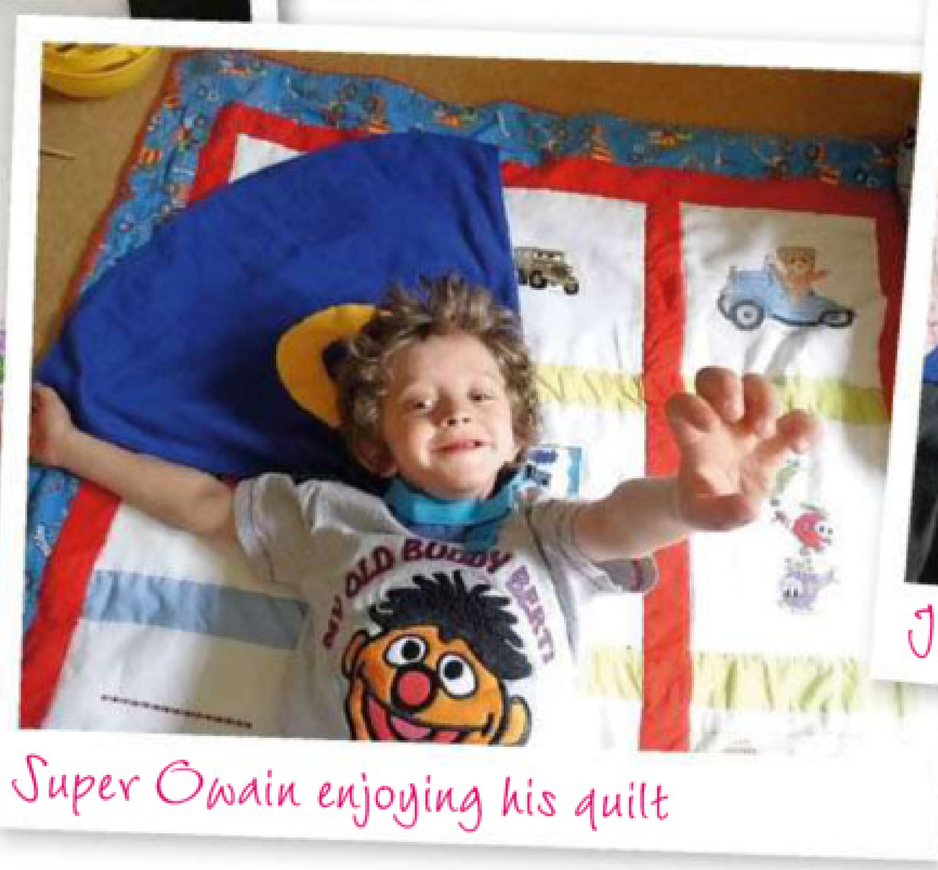


August Collection

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



Skye looks comfy and cosy



Super Owain enjoying his quilt



Jessica and her ballerina designs

Stitching charity needs you!

We all put our **cross stitching skills** to good use – the gifts and cards we stitch are always appreciated by our loved ones. A group who would also really appreciate the fruits of our labour is **Love Quilts UK** – a worldwide group of volunteer stitchers and quilters that cross stitch squares to be made up into beautiful handmade quilts for children with life threatening or long term illnesses. These fabulous quilts are a real comfort to children and their families in the UK who are affected by serious illness. **Love Quilts UK** are doing such wonderful work, and they could really use your support. You can help by stitching squares, donating to help pay for the materials and postage, and by volunteering to create the quilts. To find out more about this fantastic charity and how you can get involved, go to **www.lovequiltsuk.com**



Matty loves trains, planes and automobiles

HOLIDAY ESSENTIALS

You can cross stitch absolutely anywhere with the help of a **Foldi™ LED Lamp**. This handy portable lamp features **30 Daylight™ LEDs** and provides up to eight hours of battery powered full-spectrum light to help you stitch on a plane, in a hotel room or even on the beach! Costing £59.99 and available in glossy black or sleek white, you can find stockists for this fab new holiday essential at **www.daylightcompany.com**, or you could win one of four fab black Foldi™ LED lamps we have to give away! To enter, go to **www.futurecomps.co.uk/CSC238LAMP** before the closing date of Thursday 24 July 2014. **Keyword: 238LAMP**



Win!

Home grown

Need a speedy stitch fix in between your bigger projects? Then DMC's new **Home Grown, Home Sewn** range might be for you! These mini-kits are packed with flower-power, with 16 different designs to choose from. The perfect gift for a new stitcher, they come in fun seed style packets and cost **just £2.99**! For stockists and to see the full range, go to **www.dmccreative.co.uk**





Meet... Online stitching stars!

Doll's Musings is full of stitching info and heart warming stories, as Anne keeps us up-to-date on her latest cross stitch and crafty projects



Tell us a bit about yourself. I work as a Learning Assistance teacher – I love my job! I'm married to a wonderful man and we have a Ragdoll cat named Titus, who is often featured on my blog.

When did you fall in love with cross stitch? My mother used to sew when I was young. I loved to watch her create a design on an empty canvas and wanted to do the same. She bought me my first cross stitch pattern book called *Precious Moments* to learn how to stitch. I loved how the needle and thread felt as I pulled it in and out of the aida fabric, and I made everyone in our family a design – I was very proud of my stitching!

What's your biggest stitching disaster? One particular disaster turned out to be bittersweet. It was when our darling cat Lucy was alive. I was stitching on Tanglewood, by Ink Circles, when I put it down on the floor. Next thing I knew, I heard Lucy puking – all over Tanglewood! I immediately brushed it off and tried very gently to wash the affected area with cold water. Unfortunately, I was stitching the piece with hand-dyed threads and the colours bled into the linen. After consulting my blogger friends, I plunged the spot over and over into ice cold water. Most of the colour came out, but a light pinky brown splotch was left behind. I decided to stitch over the spot with a little butterfly, to represent Lucy who passed away. Today, when we see that butterfly, we still think of her.

Do you have a piece you're most proud of? The piece I'm most proud is a gorgeous Jane Philpott sampler – the first I ever stitched. It is framed and featured in a special place in our home. It began my obsession with samplers and I only wish I had more time to stitch more than one a year.

What's your advice for stitchers with lots of WIPS? I never used to have a lot of WIPs until recently. I used to stitch one big piece at a time with a few smalls in between. But with all the amazing designs out there it's hard for me to keep focused! I like to switch back and forth from my big WIPs on a regular basis. I try to rotate my big projects on a weekly schedule so that each one gets a little attention. Sometimes, I focus on one project for a weekend so I can make more progress than if I switched from one to the other.

Why did you start your blog? I wanted to encourage myself to finish projects and try out new finishing techniques that I had seen around on blogs. Also, I wanted to meet others who shared the same passion for stitching and crafting. It was also a way to keep a journal of my life and stitching. It's nice to look back to see how far I've come in my finishing skills and how my tastes have changed too.

Anything you'd like to add? Along with stitching, I love crochet and knitting. At work, there is a knitting club and I've taught some of the little girls how to crochet – perhaps one day I will teach them how to cross stitch and pass along my love for stitching, too!





Anna loves to stitch birds, bees, flowers and samplers

Find Anne's blog at **dollsmusings.blogspot.co.uk**



FANTASTIC FRAMES

Win a pair of Stitcher's amazing **new oak stretcher frames**! Made by **Luca-S**, this new range of frames has five different sizes and are super easy to use. Each of the clip frames have a **simple screw assembly** with chunky fastenings, holes in the side bars for size adjustments, and a compact cotton draw string bag for storage and travel. Available from their website, **www.stitcher.co.uk**, Stitcher have kindly given us five pairs of 35in (48cm) and 20in (24cm) size frames to give away. To enter, go to **www.futurecomps.co.uk/CSC238FRAME** before Thursday 24 July 2014. **Keyword: 238FRAME**

3 of the best... summer samplers



Summer Band Sampler, Historical Sampler Company, £19.95
A traditional and beautiful design, this stunning sampler is available as a kit in linen or aida, and comes complete with a gold plated needle! Part of a fabulous seasonal range, you can find it at **www.historicalsampler company.co.uk**



Strawberry Summer Cross Stitch Kit, *CrossStitcher*, £27.99
Strawberries are the ultimate summer fruit – perfect for long, sunny days! This gorgeous sampler was designed by Lucie Heaton and featured in the June 279 issue of *CrossStitcher*. But don't worry if you missed it – you can buy the full kit online in either linen or aida from I Love Cross Stitch at **tinyurl.com/ilovecrossstitch**

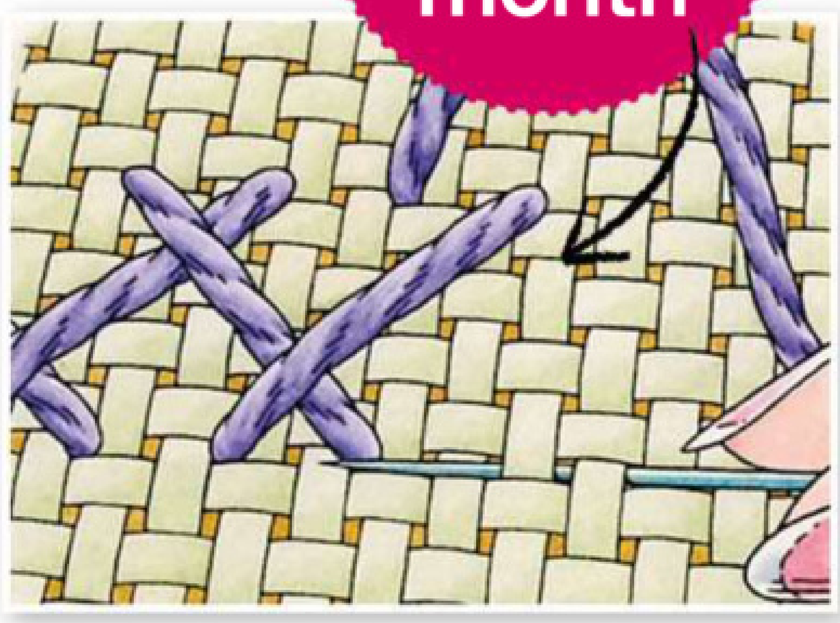


Summer Sampler, Janlynn, Ref: 023-0347, RRP £31.99
This sampler truly celebrates the explosive joy of summer! Designed by Sandy Orton, it captures the sights, sounds and smells of those precious warmer months, from flowers and postcards to seaside games! **To find stockists, go to www.stitcher.co.uk**



Family tree

Create a future family heirloom by stitching this gorgeous family tree! The colourful design by Felicity Hall appears in the latest issue of ***CrossStitcher***, and comes complete with a handy alphabet to help you personalise your project. We love the quick-stitch motifs – especially those sweet birds in the centre! Get this design and more from the Summer 281 issue, available from **www.myfavouritemagazines.co.uk** or **www.crosstitchermagazine.co.uk/digital** and **www.zinio.com**, and buy the kit from **tinyurl.com/ilovecrossstitch**



Herringbone stitch

The herringbone stitch has many different names and variations, but in its simplest form it is an attractive accompanying stitch to work on a cross stitch project. Stitched on evenweave fabric, it looks particularly decorative as a border or in band samplers. To work the stitch, start from the left and follow the sequence in the diagram. We'd love to know how you've used herringbone stitch – email your pics to us at **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 stitching tools – this month, **Niki Byrne** talks to us about needle minders!



Find similar designs from £3 each at www.facebook.com/groups/NoMoreLostNeedles



"There are a number of things I couldn't live without – my stretcher frame, my clip light and my highlighter pen for marking off charts being a few of them! If I had to name just one, though, it would be my magnetic needle minders. I use them for holding my needle, but most of all to hold the chart in place as I am stitching along. They are really useful things that I didn't have for years and now can't do without! I bought one about a year ago from No More Lost Needles, and thought it was so useful I bought another two about six months ago, and I may well be buying another couple!"



Ultimate stitching flower power

If you love to stitch beautiful flower designs, then the *Ultimate Cross Stitch Flowers Collection* is for you! It's packed with 56 gorgeous projects by all your favourite designers, from Lesley Teare to Maria Diaz and more. You'll stitch cards, samplers, cushions and pictures, with plenty of fantastic quick stitch gift ideas. There's even a giant chart featuring a sumptuous bouquet to stitch, as well as a fabulous flower fairy. To order your copy for just £7.99. go to **www.myfavouritemagazines.co.uk**



Win!

SPARKLY SENSATION

There's nothing like adding a bit of bling to our cross stitch projects. Whether we're adding subtle shimmer to our Lesley Teare bouquets or going for all out glamour on our Joan Elliott geishas, there's always room in our sewing box for metallic braids! That's why we're thrilled to be giving away eight boxes of sparkling **Kreinik Very Fine #4 Braid**, containing 20 skeins of their most popular colours, from gorgeous gold to perfect purple. Available from **www.kreinik.com**, you could win one these boxes worth £35 by going to **www.futurecomps.co.uk/CSC238BRAID** before Thursday 24 July 2014. **Keyword: 238BRAID**

COMPETITION RULES Giveaways are open to UK readers only and winners will be chosen at random. Enter online using the unique URL between 27 June and 24 July 2014. Further rules can be read on page 63, or to view in full go to www.futuretcs.com

Jane's A-Z of Cross Stitch

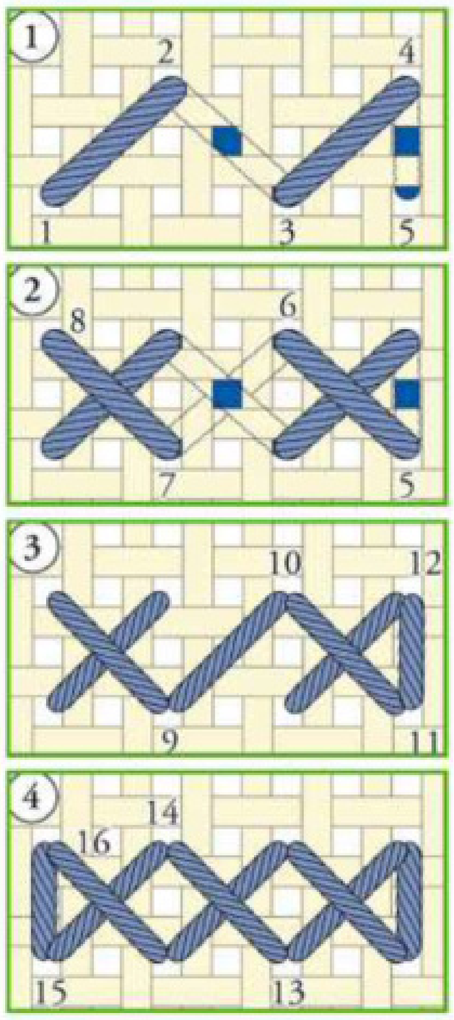


Each month Jane takes us from A-Z covering all things cross stitch! This month, R is for **reversible stich**





Welcome back to Pinks Barn, where I am back in the Studio again after our trip to the USA, where we visited the De Witt Museum and their marvellous exhibition, *Threads of Feeling – Documents and Textiles from the Foundling Hospital, London*. It was a fabulous experience – read more at www.crossstitchcollection.com. Coming home to the British weather was a bit dismal, but at least we've reached R for reversible stitch in our A-Z!



How to do reversible stitch

This stitch is truly reversible, although it has the addition of a vertical line at the end of a row, which cannot be avoided. The stitch is quite time-consuming as each row is worked four times but it is very useful for beautiful bookmarks and lovely table linen. The vertical line created at the end of the rows can appear as the backstitch outline if you plan your route carefully.

The first journey is across two threads on the front of the fabric, working diagonally across the back of the next two threads, missing the stitch on the front. The return journey covers the first diagonal threads on the front and back of the work. The third journey fills in the missed stitches back and front and the final journey completes the row.

Cross Stitch Guild News

Join us for another Together We Stitch Weekend from 7-9 November! This time, we're at the Hilton Leicester, and the cost includes the use of their fabulous spa, as well as all materials and tuition and more! Costing from £260 per person, you can book or find out more by calling 0800 328 9750 or by visiting the Cross Stitch Guild website.

About **Jane Greenoff**

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

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

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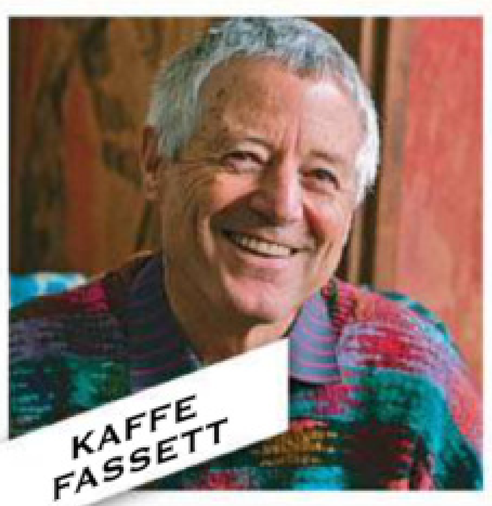
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Serene seascape

Stitch a soothing sea shore scene with this relaxing sampler from **Anchor**



Serene seascape



Meet the designer...

Melanie Watkins-Patel

This design is a particular favourite of mine, the calm blue shades reflecting the freshness of the sea air, the relaxing sounds of the waves and the soft brown of the warm sand. It brings together various aspects of marine life, from the seagull, whose call wakes you in the morning, to the traditional lobsterpots of the local fishermen. I hope the scene will bring back happy memories for the stitcher of a deserted beach and many happy hours searching for the prettiest shells to take home as a souvenir of a happy holiday – simple pleasures still enjoyed by many today. After all, as my mother told me, if you hold a seashell to your ear you can hear the sea – especially if you happen to be on the beach at the time!





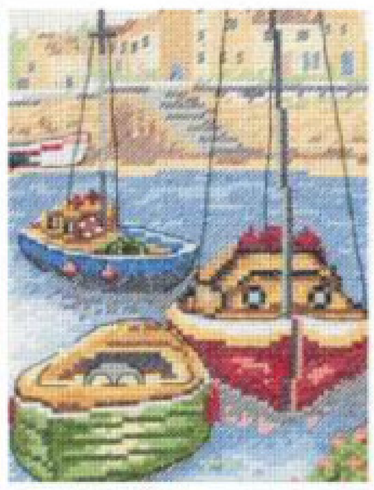
Whole cross stitch creates the wild spume whilst half stitches provide a perfect background, and mixing the two throughout the design adds depth and dimension

With summer in full swing and the beaches choc full by lunchtime, sometimes it's lovely to sneak out early and stroll along the sand. It's so relaxing to take in the fresh, salty air, listen to the seagulls and gaze out over the rolling waves. Stitching this tranquil seascape by Melanie Watkins-Patel, we're almost transported to such a serene scene! The calming colour scheme and rustic, traditional motifs are a pleasure to stitch too, with a mix of techniques and designs. Elements such as the fractionals around the lighthouse, the backstitch details on the netting and shells and the clever shading on the beach provide a satisfying challenge. However, with large sections of blue stitched using half cross stitch, many parts of this design are easy and speedy to complete, giving you time to drift away on a sea breeze...

More seaside scenes **from** Anchor



Young girl on the beach
Ref: PCE601, £23.30



The Harbour
Ref: AK127, £15.60



Vintage Rolls on the beach
Ref: PCE760, £28.65

For stockists, visit **www.makeitcoats.com**

Stitch your seaside scene

You will need...

16HPI aida (or 32HPI evenweave), cream, 21x19in (53x48cm)

Stranded cotton as listed in the key

Frame with a 13½x12in (34x30cm) aperture, white rustic

Turn to page 57 for hints and tips!

Our stitcher says... Make sure all of the half cross stitches in the sky face in the same direction – this will give you a neater finish

Planning **your stitching**

SORT your threads before you start stitching, as there are many different shades of stranded cotton used in the design. You will find it easier if you concentrate on working one element of the design at a time rather than trying to work all the stitches in the same colour. This will make the design more manageable and help you with your counting.

Stitching **the design**

FOLD your fabric in half both ways to find the centre point and start stitching here. All the cross stitch is worked using two strands of stranded cotton over one thread of the aida fabric. Some of the blue areas are worked in half cross stitch using two strands.

Adding **the details**

FINISH working all the cross stitch before adding the backstitch and long stitch details using one strand of stranded cotton throughout. There are seven different colours used for these outline details and they are shown on the chart by different coloured lines and the description is given for them in the key. Study these carefully before you stitch to ensure you select the correct one. Finally work the centre of the compass as a French knot using two strands of light brown.

Serene seascape

Cross stitch in two strands

Anchor	Colour
001	Bright white (3)
002	White
140	Medium blue (2)
159	Light blue (2)
216	Light green
236	Grey
347	Dark fawn
359	Dark brown (2)
362	Medium tan
363	Dark tan
365	Golden brown
367	Light fawn
372	Light beige brown (2)
373	Dark beige brown
376	Light sepia
378	Medium sepia
400	Graphite
778	Pink beige
849	Medium petrol blue
850	Dark petrol blue
858	Very light fern green
859	Light fern green
860	Medium fern green
861	Dark fern green
878	Dark green
885	Cream
898	Light brown
900	Silver grey (2)
926	Off white
942	Light tan (2)
975	Light petrol blue (2)
977	Sky blue
979	Dark blue
1031	Very light blue
1037	Pale blue
1084	Dark sepia

Half cross stitch in two strands

Anchor	Colour
*140	Medium blue
*159	Light blue
*975	Light petrol blue
*1031	Very light blue
*1037	Pale blue

(2) indicates more than one skein required

Backstitch/long stitch in one strand

Anchor	Colour	
*002	White	shell
*236	Grey	shell, lighthouse, seagull
*359	Dark brown	shells, netting, rope
*378	Medium sepia	shell
*400	Graphite	lighthouse, seagull
*898	Light brown	compass
*926	Off white	rocks, netting

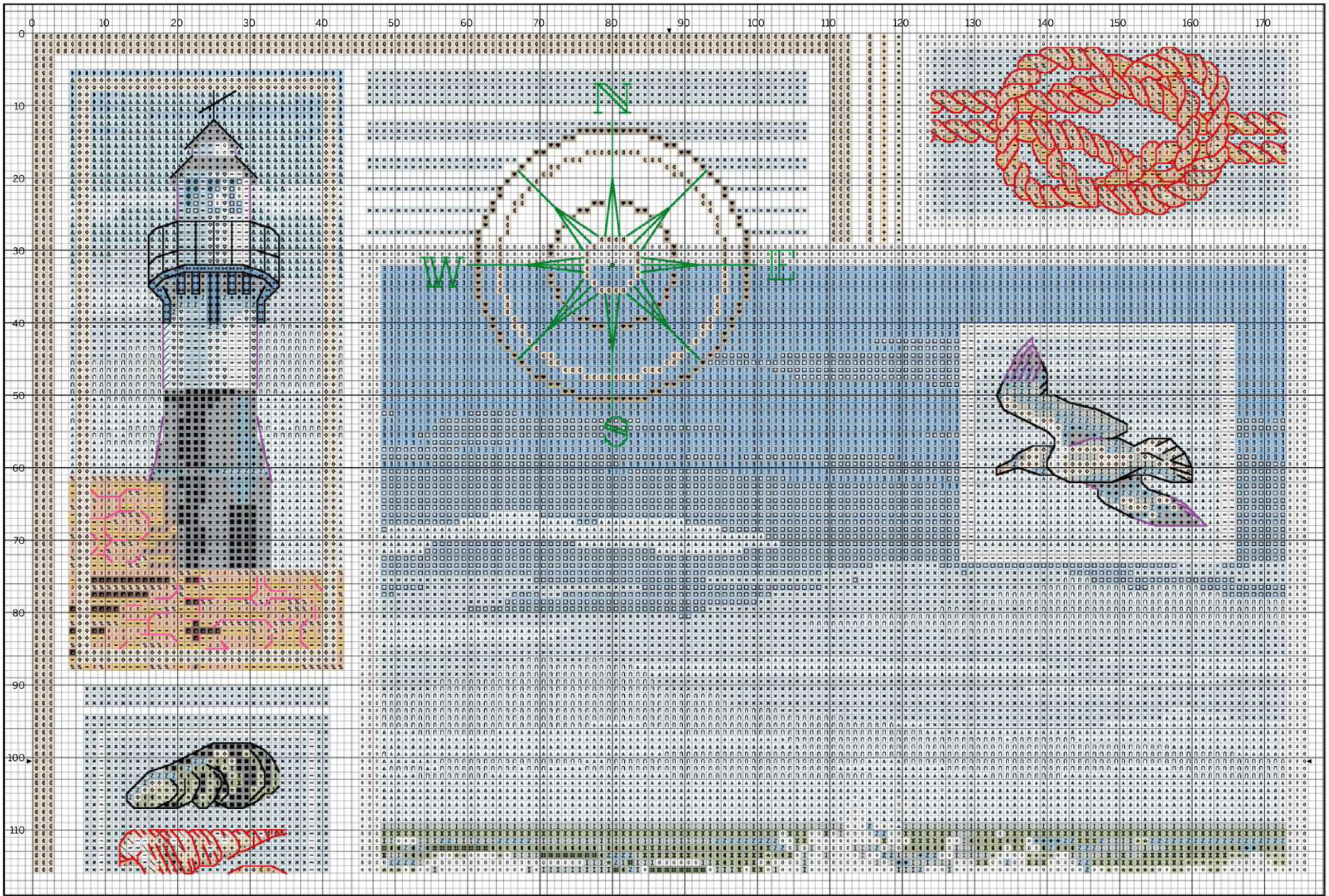
French knots in two strands

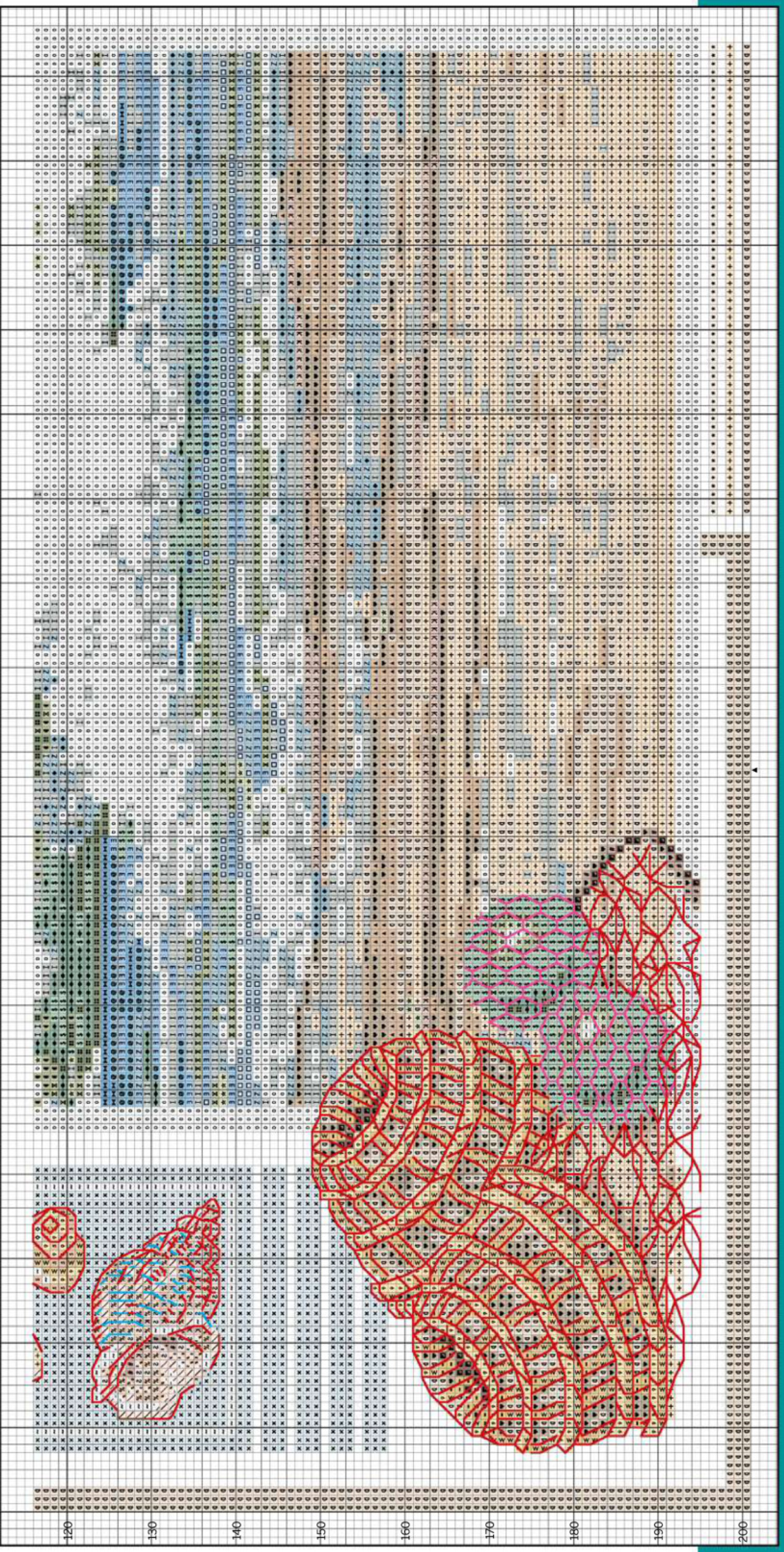
Anchor	Colour	
*898	Light brown	compass centre

Stitched using Anchor threads on 16HPI aida
Stitch count 201x176
Design area 12½x11in (32x28cm)

*indicates colour is listed earlier in the key

Cross Stitch Collection © Melanie Watkins-Patel











Collection makes...

MOTIF TRIO

Choose three of the motifs and stitch them individually to make a seaside picture trio.

BEACH BAG

This sampler is a great size to decorate the front of a tote bag that you can use to carry all your beach essentials.

BOOKMARK

The lighthouse could be stitched separately to make an attractive bookmark to help you keep track of your holiday reading.



Celebrate in stitches

With all the hard work done, send your congratulations with **Emma Congdon's** cracking card design

STITCH & SEND

We all know someone who has been slaving away this summer – revising for exams, practising for their driving test, or working towards a new job. Why not reward them with an extra special stitched card? Emma Congdon's bright design is worked with a fun mix of contrasting shades on a white aida that really makes the colours pop. And look – no backstitch!

You will need...

14HPI aida (or 28HPI evenweave), white, 10x8in (25x20cm)
Stranded cotton as listed in the key
Card with a 94x145mm oblong aperture

Our stitcher says...

You can use any of the colours from the design for stitching the name or stitch each letter in a different colour for a fun effect

Find **gorgeous textured white paper like ours at Craft Creations. Get yours by calling 01992 781900 and quoting Ref: AP02U-45, or go online to: www.craftcreations.com**

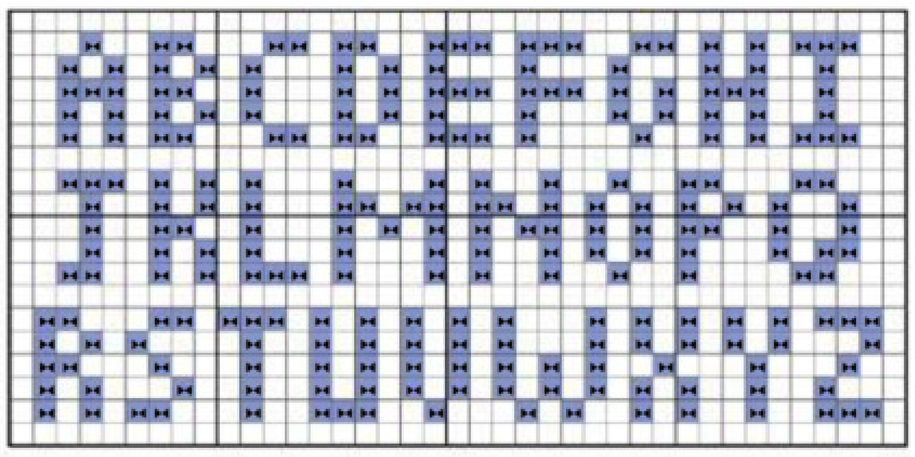
How to **personalise your card**

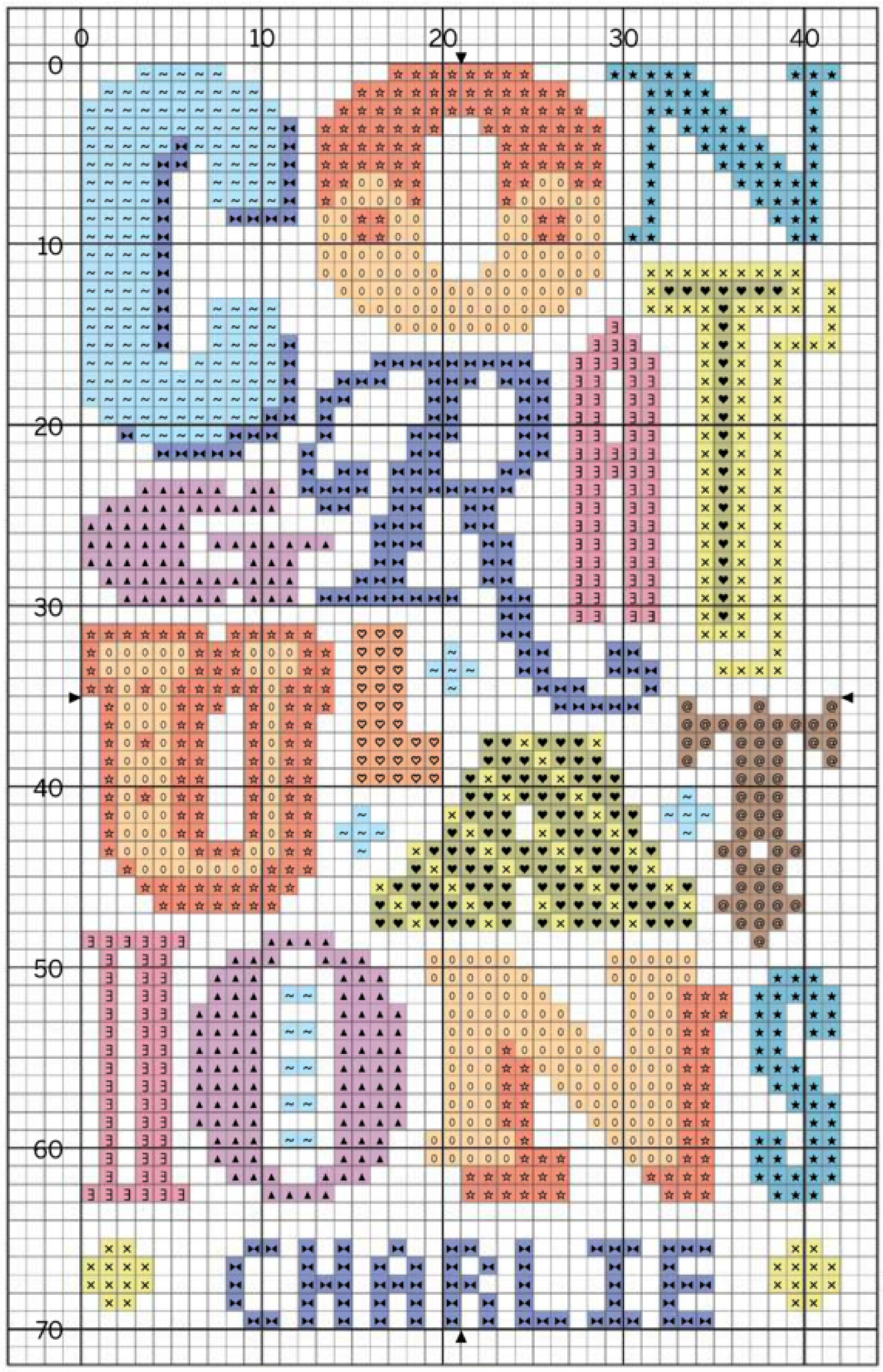
USE the handy alphabet chart to stitch the name of your lucky recipient:

1 STITCH the main congratulations design first using two strands of stranded cotton.

2 USING the alphabet, draw out the name you want to stitch onto graph paper. If you have quite a long name then you can leave out the light green circles either side of it to make it fit.

3 MEASURE the centre of your name then stitch it below the design, lining up the centre points.





© Emma Congdon

Celebrate in stitches

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	Colour
Cross stitch in two strands				
@@	433	358	2008	Brown
▲▲	552	099	0713	Purple
∃∃	601	063	0703	Pink
☆☆	606	334	0209	Bright red
oo	742	303	0114	Orange
⋈⋈	796	133	0913	Navy
♥♥	905	257	1412	Dark green
××	907	255	1410	Light green
♡♡	947	330	0205	Bright orange
~~	996	1090	1103	Light turquoise
★★	3844	1089	1102	Dark turquoise

Stitched using DMC threads on 14HPI aida
Stitch count 70x42 Design area 5x3in (13x8cm)

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

A thoughtful gift

I have just finished stitching this 23rd Psalm design. It was completed just a few days ago and was stitched with a purpose. My grandson's father passed away last May not long after finding out my daughter was pregnant. This piece is for his parents. They are very deep rooted in their faith. I saw this design and just knew I had to stitch it and give it to them. Their son, the young man who was to be my son-in-law, was a wonderful young man who touched the lives and hearts of friends and family alike. I am hoping this Psalm stitched in his memory is of some comfort to his parents and his siblings.

Debbie Hier, by email

Collection says: Thank you for sharing your story Debbie – your stitching is a truly special gift.



Debbie's 23rd Psalm stitched in memory

Cushion crazy

I wanted to show you the cushions that I stitched recently. The first one is of a sleeping angel that I gave to my mother-in-law, and the second cushion features Tatty Teddy. I have also recently stitched one of the fairy magic cards from issue 226 of *Cross Stitch Collection*.



Anna Wieckowska, Poland

Collection says: You have certainly got some lucky friends and family with all these cross stitch gifts coming their way!



Anna's cushions make great gifts

I've missed!

Missed an issue? Can't find that elusive design? Can't get a back issue? Try our reader noticeboard...

I am looking for the 'Poppy Garden' design in the May 157 issue of *Cross Stitch Collection* from 2008. I am willing to pay postage costs.
Louise Horner
lokket16@gmail.com

I am looking for the 188 issue of *Cross Stitch Collection* from 2010. I am happy to pay postage if anyone can help.
Christine Cole
christine-1960@live.co.uk



I am looking for the following Joan Elliott patterns from *Cross Stitch Collection* – 219 Medieval Lady, 221 Victorian Lady, and 225 1920's Lady. I am happy to pay costs.
Diane Pergor *49 Marshall Road, Rocklea, Brisbane 4106, Australia*



Email or write to...

csc@futurenet.co.uk – 'I've missed!', Cross Stitch Collection, 30 Monmouth Street, Bath BA1 2BW

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

"It's amazing that with just cross stitches and no backstitch one can create such a lively look!"



Anna's fridge magnet calendar

plastic canvas and added some wooden tags, so that she would know which picture is for which month, as they don't have any writing. I hope you like it!

Anna Szwedzinska, Poland

Collection says: We're glad you're keeping busy stitching calendars Anna!

Calendar collection

After you published my first calendar in *Cross Stitch Collection* issue 215, I thought when I stitch another one, I'll let you know. I started stitching the Blocks Calendar by Lizzie Kate in December and I thought it would take me another year to finish, but it seems the more calendars you stitch, the faster they go! I finished stitching in March, and I turned them all into fridge magnets. I decided this calendar would be perfect for my mother's kitchen, so I stitched it on



Captured in cross stitch

Beautiful Bluebell

Here is a photo of one of my dogs, Bluebell. Behind her is a photo kit that I've stitched of her. It was quite a hard one to stitch as there were so many colours, but I am glad I got it finished! Doesn't she look cute? Just got to get started on my other doggie photo kit now – its only fair!

Emma Wright, Devon

Collection says: You're quite right Emma – you don't want you're other gorgeous pup to get jealous!

Perfect pup

When I saw this dog design in the July 2013 issue, he became the top-priority in my must-stitch list! He is just too adorable and it's amazing how with only whole cross stitch and no backstitch one could create such a lively look! I also felt very relaxed when I was stitching him after a day's intensive work. Thanks very much for the good patterns in the mag!

Glenna, by email

Collection says: You've done a amazing job of this Jayne Netley Mayhew classic, well done!



This sweet pup is a fab stitch

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 had over a thousand entries for our book bundle competition on Facebook – amazing!

2 You've been reading about Becs' favourite projects from the issue on our blog

3 We've got so many new followers on our Facebook page – welcome all 4,000 of you!

4 There were five extra downloads from our blog this month – we're glad it kept you busy

We asked... What do you like to stitch most – animals, flowers or people?

"I love stitching flowers and after that geometric patterns. Two totally different things but both my favourite!" Suzanne Hickson

"I enjoy stitching animals as I live in South Africa and see them in the wild, especially elephants who are so graceful when they are stomping around. I also enjoy stitiching historical scenes. Busy on the Edwardian Garden Party." Glynnis Anne Pitchers

"I like Joan Elliott's Asian ladies. I really like complicated designs with lots of bright colors and details. I also love to do really detailed flower designs." Cora Snowdeal

"I've stitched lots of things, but for some reason I love stitching animals. I'm always really motivated to finish. I stitched a lovely cat from *CSC* because it looked just like my brothers cat." Suzanne Arts

"I love stitching flowers. It brings warm months into the house when it is cold outside." Linda Swetnam Del Castilho

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

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

Kitten comfort

Settled in the lap of luxury, **Jayne Netley Mayhew's** sweet kitten makes the purr-fect picture!

Give a fabulous feline a place in your home by stitching Jayne Netley Mayhew's gorgeous cat. It takes plenty of details and stitching pleasure to create this life-like kitty, with fractional stitches, backstitch and long stitch and a mix of close shades creating definition and texture. Even the fabric plays a part, with the white aida combining with the lighter stitches to create patches of extra fluffiness. The stitching doesn't end with the kitten, with pretty and detailed patterns on the comfy cushions, and different shades of green highlighting the kitten's sweet olive eyes that follow you around and melt your heart with that mischievous French knot twinkle!

Stitch your kitten picture

You will need...

14HPI aida (or 28HPI evenweave), white, 15x17in (38x43cm)

Stranded cotton as listed in the key

Frame with a 7x8½in (18x22cm) aperture, pine

Turn to page 57 for hints and tips!

Before **you begin**

MANY different shades of the same colour are used in this design in order to achieve the cat's realistic appearance. It's really important to make sure you select the correct colour of thread each time. It will save you time in the long run if you sort your stranded cotton before you begin.

Stitching **the design**

FOLD your fabric in half both ways to find the centre and start stitching at this point. You should aim to work small sections of the design at a time rather than all the stitches of the same colour. This will help with your counting as you work from one area to another. This is a solidly stitched design so you must take care with the tension of your stitching as it can easily distort with this number of cross stitches. Do mount your fabric in an embroidery hoop or frame to help prevent this. All the cross stitch is worked in two strands of stranded cotton over one thread of fabric.

Adding **the details**

FINISH working the cross stitch before adding the backstitch and long stitch details. These are all worked in one strand of stranded cotton: white for the whiskers, black for the eyes, coffee brown for the nose, brown for the ears and pale bronze for the face. Finally add the French knots using one strand of white.

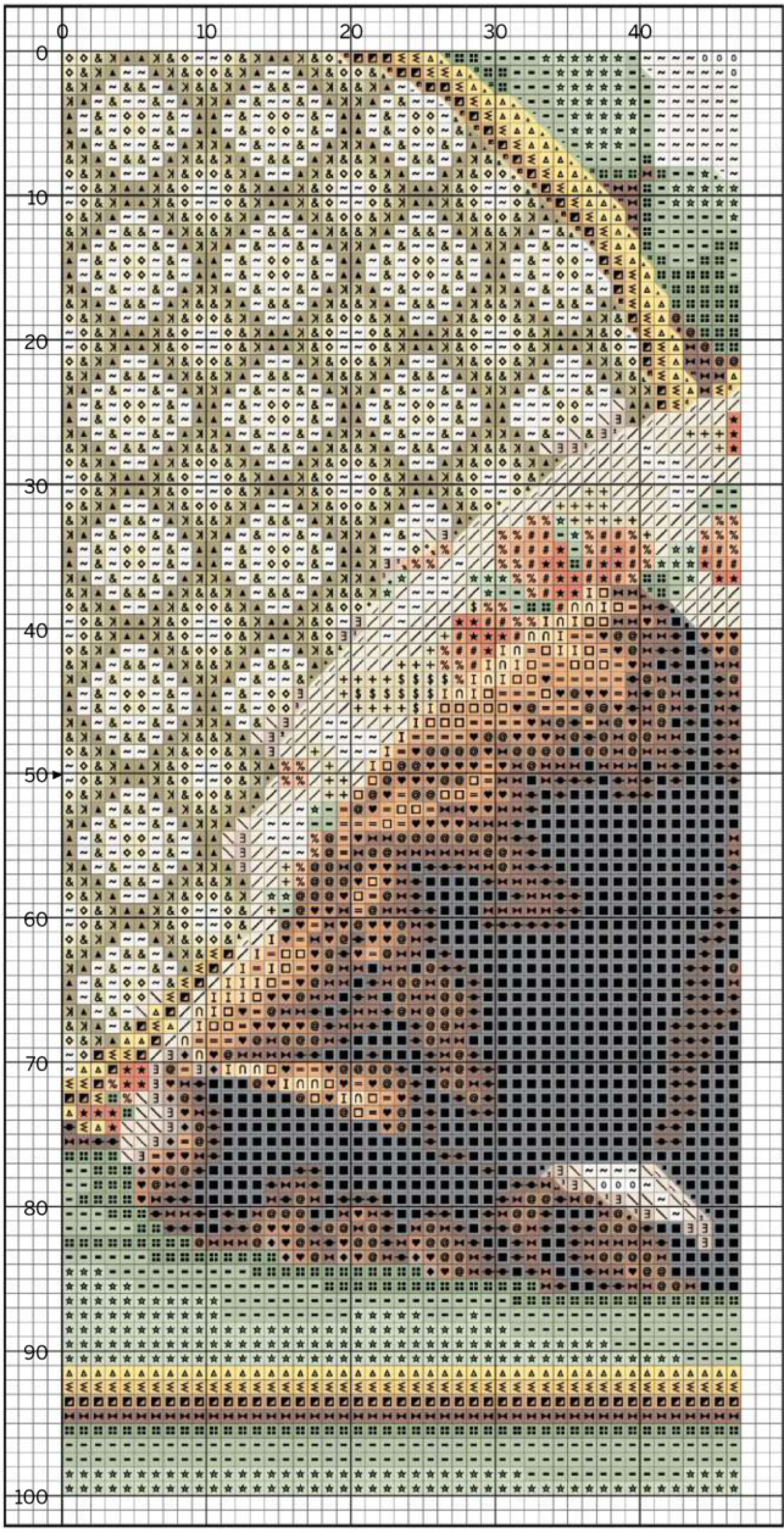
"Once I've captured the eyes, everything else falls into place" says Jayne

Kitten comfort

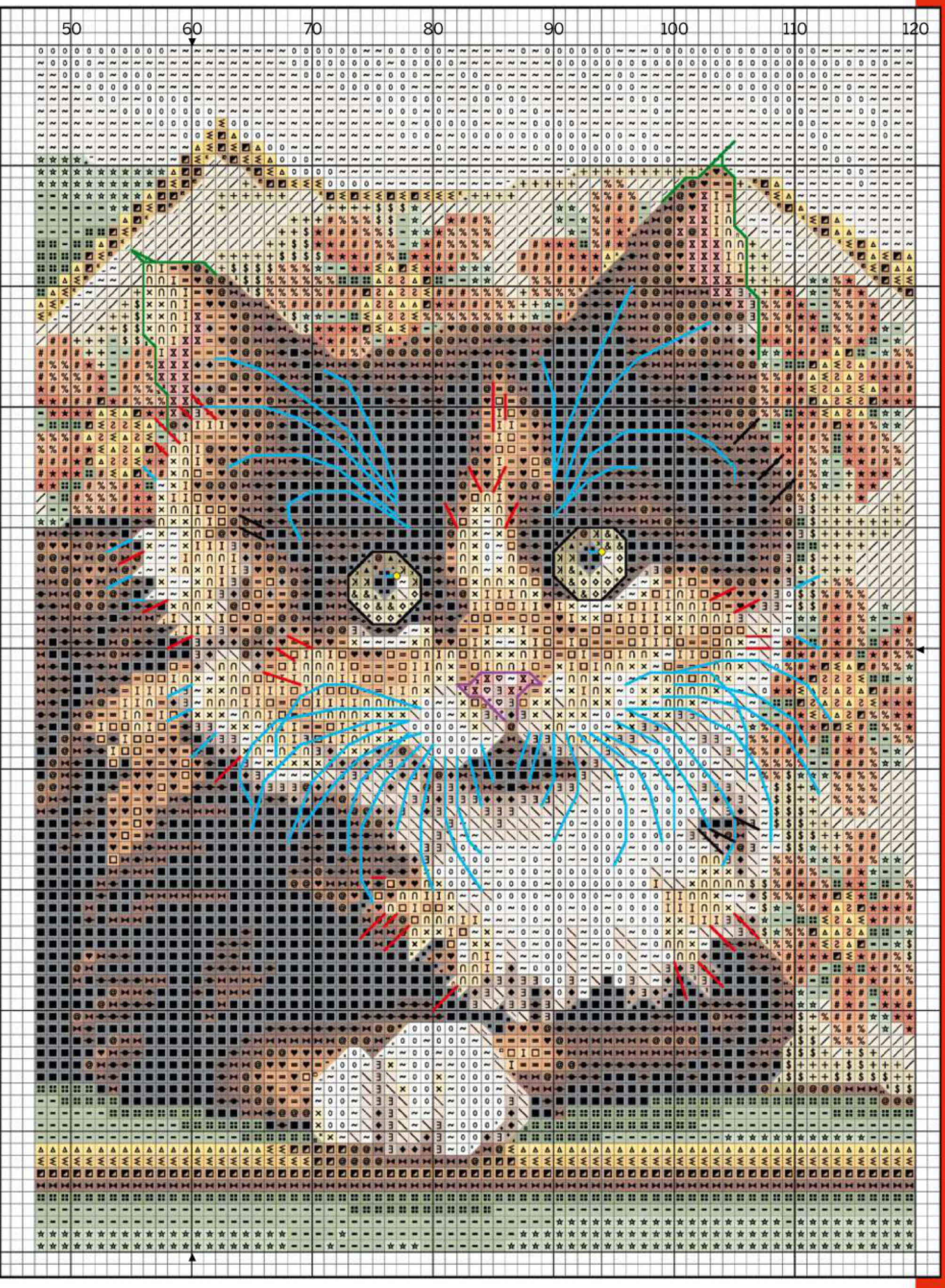
	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	Colour
Cross stitch in two strands				
	White	002	2402	White
	310	403	2400	Black
	712	926	2101	Off white
	728	306	0113	Light topaz
	780	309	2214	Dark topaz
	783	307	2212	Medium topaz
	801	359	2007	Coffee brown
	829	906	1614	Dark olive green
	831	277	1612	Medium oilve green
	832	907	1611	Light olive green
	834	874	1610	Very light olive green
	840	1084	1912	Dark beige brown
	841	1082	1911	Med beige brown
	842	1080	1910	Light beige brown
	919	340	0314	Dark copper
	921	1004	0312	Medium copper
	922	1003	0310	Light copper
	938	381	2005	Brown
	975	357	2303	Dark bronze
	976	1001	2302	Light bronze
	977	1002	2307	Very light bronze
	3045	888	2103	Golden brown
	3046	887	2206	Dark yellow beige
	3047	852	2205	Light yellow beige
	3362	263	2603	Dark green
	3363	262	1602	Medium green
	3364	261	1603	Light green
	3371	382	2004	Black brown
	3771	9575	2309	Light dusty pink
	3778	1013	2312	Dark dusty pink
	3826	1049	2306	Medium bronze
	3827	363	2301	Pale bronze
	3853	304	0311	Orange
	3855	311	2513	Pale apricot
Backstitch/long stitch in one strand				
	*White whiskers	002	2402	White
	*310 eyes	403	2400	Black
	*801 nose	359	2007	Coffee brown
	*938 ears	381	2005	Brown
	*3827 face	363	2301	Pale bronze
French knots in one strand				
	*White eyes	002	2402	White

Stitched using DMC threads on 14HPI aida
Stitch count 100x120
Design area 7x8½in (18x22cm)

*indicates colour is listed earlier in the key



Cross Stitch Collection © Jayne Netley Mayhew



Tip... **working fractional stitches**

There are several fractional stitches in this design which can be fiddly but they add gentle curves and detail to your work that full crosses alone can't do. When two fractionals share a chart square, you need to decide which should be the quarter and three-quarter stitch. As a general rule, stitch the colour that you feel is more prominent as the three-quarter stitch.

Collection makes...

COMFY CUSHION

Get as cosy as this kitty by stitching Jayne's design up into a cushion.

PRINTED FABRIC

Just stitch the gorgeous kitten onto a printed fabric for speedier finish.

LOVELY LID

Why not use this design to cover the lid of handy box? You could keep all your pics of your pets inside!

Future



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Stitching therapy

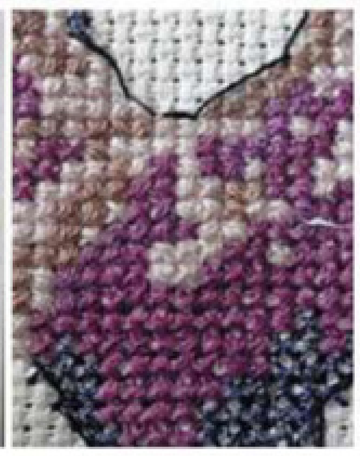


After exciting new research suggesting that cross stitch is good for your health, we asked *Collection* readers to tell us how stitching helps them feel better

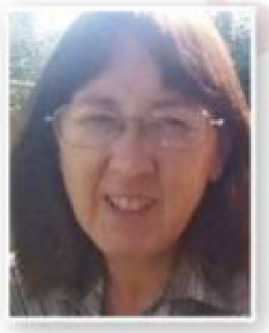
We don't mean to boast, but we stitchers have always known that cross stitch is good for you. Luckily, it looks like science is starting to catch up! Research carried out by students at Coventry University suggests that cross stitch has huge benefits when used as an occupational therapy by those suffering with chronic illness or pain. Researchers could have saved time, however, by asking our readers what they thought! That's what we did, and we were told such uplifting stories about how cross stitching has helped people cope with their conditions that we wanted to share them with everyone. We also asked a student at Coventry University, Jemma, to explain to us exactly why cross stitch is so beneficial. So pop your needles down and enjoy these heart-warming stitching stories!





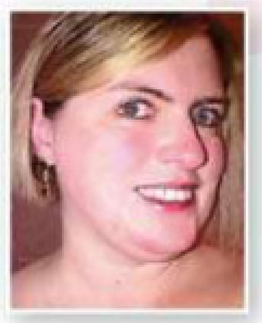


Alison, South Africa



I have suffered from Lupus since I was 16, and it affects my joints – mostly my fingers, wrists and knees. Cross stitch stops my fingers from stiffening up and always makes me relax! I did my first cross stitch at school, and I caught the bug a couple of years later. We were on holiday when I saw a chart of a cat playing with a ball of wool in a magazine and I just had to do it. My next project was an almond blossom flower fairy and I was totally hooked. I was told with Lupus there would be things that I would not be able to do because of the loss of connective tissue in my joints, but I will not let my illness get me down. I have to keep going and cross stitch keeps me positive – stitching beautiful pictures makes me happy.

Vikki, Hastings



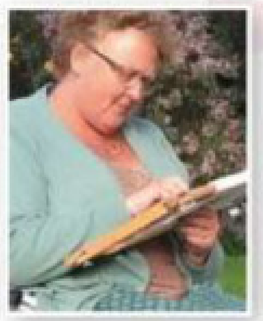
I have suffered from MS for 13 years. I am currently on the right medication, which keeps the bad pain and tremors at bay most of the time. I started cross stitching shortly before my son was born 18 years ago. A friend at work stitched, and I caught the bug from her! I find cross stitch so calming and therapeutic. The MS has so far mainly affected my mobility, but I feel that as long as my hands are OK I can cope with anything! I am currently working on my second photostitch, and I love stitching presents and cards for friends. When my friends had their baby I stitched some ready-made baby clothes with cow pictures, and as they run their own web design company, I stitched their logo onto a hat and bootees so that little Maggie was their corporate baby! I'm aiming to stitch gifts for all the people I care about, so that if one day I am not able to stitch then all my loved ones will have some thing especially created for them – a little piece of me!







Deborah, Guernsey



My Grandma taught me to cross stitch when I was ten, and my first picture was of an old sailing ship. It took me ages but I loved the way it grew before my eyes – I was officially hooked! I used to stitch Gold Dimension pictures but I'm now on so much medication that I cannot keep track of their intricacies. I now stitch Joan Elliott and Maria Diaz designs and have just finished Nancy Rossi's *Spring Cross*.

Stitching helps me cope with the problems in my upper back and neck that I've suffered with since I was seven. I had three vertebrae fused in my neck at 29, and then three years ago I slipped in my kitchen and haven't been able to work since. In February 2013 I had my second spinal operation – I now have two titanium rods screwed into every vertebrae for 12 inches down the neck into the thorax which means I cannot move those particular sections anymore.

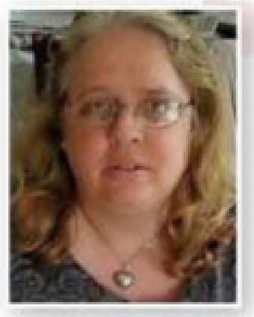
The physios and surgeons were fantastic. After they waited for a few weeks to heal enough for me to stitch, I continued to 'ply my craft'. I also have a Lowry stand that my children bought for me so I only have to be able to hold up a needle in order to continue stitching. I find I stitch more at times of upheaval and upset. It keeps me sane, and makes me feel I'm doing something constructive. I stop noticing the hours pass, and it helps me focus on something other than my pain. I take photos daily so I can look back at previous shots and see how my picture is growing. It keeps my mind and fingers working!







Karen, Folkestone



I'm a mum to twins, a lifelong cat lover and collector of books, but my addiction to cross stitch started in 1989 when I was pregnant. My mother-in-law is a great stitcher and bought me a kit, as I had always showed an interest in her WIPs and finishes. I had to stop working in 2001 as a Special Needs Assistant I when I became ill with ME and Chronic Fatigue Syndrome. In 2008 I was diagnosed with Fibromyalgia and a couple of years ago I got ill with Costochondritis. I am in constant muscle pain, which has affected my walking and balance and everyday tasks have become more difficult. When I became ill I spent a lot of time in bed, and cross stitching was still one of the things I was able to do – all be it very slowly! Cross stitch has become a passion, and my homemade cards are asked for everyone's birthdays and Christmas. I have completed many Weekenders kits and have just completed my first kit from the Historical Sampler Company, and I am also a huge fan of All Our Yesterdays and Faye Whittaker. When I'm stitching I become so engrossed that I forget about my pain and find it very therapeutic.



Erika, Australia

I am happily married with two sons aged nine and 11. I trained as a primary school teacher, but I changed to administration work when I realised I couldn't read my writing on the blackboard... if I couldn't, how could I expect my kindergarten students to! I have a rare neurological condition that gradually deteriorates and affects my co-ordination. I use a walker for mobility, my speech is affected at times and it's worse when I get tired! A school friend introduced me to cross stitch, but it wasn't until I'd finished university that my passion (and condition) became apparent. Gradually, my interest grew – it's now an obsession!

I generally stitch medium to large projects, usually of animals or scenes. I have stitched quite a few frogs, beagles, orangutans, Lizzie Kate sayings and John Clayton Silhouettes. I do have a tendency to underestimate how long a project will take, so a few of my nearest and dearest are still waiting for pieces! Cross stitch is a great meditative activity. I have my own space for stitching (called the studio, study or ironing room, depending on what I'm doing), and I always have an audio book or a DVD on in the background, so I'm often multi-tasking – producing art while relaxing with a mystery!

My family is very supportive and I feel reassured knowing that not only am I enjoying myself, I'm also doing my best to keep myself well and maintain my dexterity in my hands. I love my cross stitch to tell a story or inspire me to remember what's important.

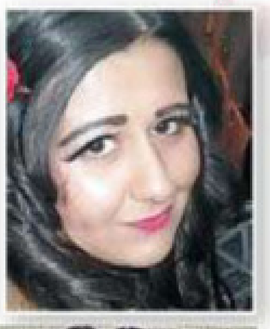








Alana, Canterbury



A student of history and archaeology at Canterbury Christ Church University, I fell in love with cross stitch very recently. Last summer I was making bunting for my university bedroom when my sister showed me how to cross stitch. I've been obsessed ever since! I have suffered from ME/CFS and Fibromyalgia since I was 13, and feel that illness took a lot from me, especially during my teenage years. My pain is mainly in my legs and back, so I spend a lot of time in bed. I've only ever had one other hobby – which is reading – so when I discovered cross stitch I was so relieved to have something else to do! I love animals, history and anything vintage, and this can be seen in my stitching, so I feel that cross stitching is a way of expressing myself when I'm unable to do so physically. Stitching isn't a hobby which will make me ill after – I won't be in bed for the next few days or week if I was stitching for an hour or so. Cross stitch also helps me feel like I'm doing something constructive. I some times feel useless, but seeing the picture emerge and knowing that I stitched it has helped me to feel better. Cross stitch is something you can pick up and put down whenever you like, and it's always there waiting for you.

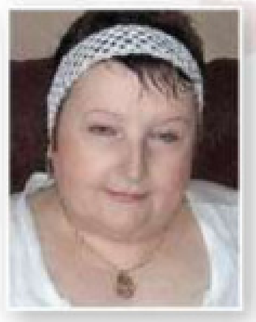








Rita, Essex



I have suffered with Rheumatoid Arthritis and Fibromyalgia for 18 years. I watched my mother-in-law stitching and decided to give it a try about five years ago and got hooked very quickly. I like to convert photos of my pets to charts and have pictures of Henry VII and his wives and Charlotte Brontë, and I like vintage style charts. I find cross stitching very therapeutic. It helps me relax which in turn helps with the pain I am in. I have been told by a doctor it's good exercise for my hands which are damaged by the Rheumatoid Arthritis. It takes my mind off the pain and reduces stress – which can only be good for any illness or disease.

NOW for the science!



Jemma Gurden, student of occupational therapy at Coventry University, explains why cross stitch helps with chronic illness and pain

What is occupational therapy?

If you met someone new today, and they asked you about yourself, would you tell them that you're a stitcher? Of course you would! This is because we, as humans, are occupational beings. This means that we define ourselves by what we do, what our hobbies are, and what jobs we do. Everyone is different in what they do because each occupation is personally meaningful. Occupational therapists use these meaningful occupations to enable people to increase their independence and improve their health and well-being.

So... why is stitching so good?

Stitching has three main benefits for those with chronic pain or illness. Firstly, for those who have had their usual meaningful occupations taken away by illness, starting or being able to continue a hobby like stitching can help them feel more positive. This is because of the satisfaction and confidence boost you get when finishing a chart, the joy experienced when trying new colours and threads, and even how it might help you connect with loved ones. Secondly, because stitching is both a mental and physical activity – you mentally translate the chart into the hand movements that create your wonderful work – it can also help maintain or improve levels of concentration and physical ability for that person. Finally, stitching has been found to allow people to experience "flow", which is when you become completely engrossed in an activity. This is important because it almost creates a world separate from reality, where you are able to tune out from any pain or negative thoughts.

My research

I looked at the meaning of creative needlework to those with a chronic illness, and what I found probably won't surprise you! Stitching allowed people to feel an array of positive emotions. Just touching the fabric brought some people a feeling of peace and not one participant could agree on the most exciting part of a project: the start, middle, or end. However, one key finding was that they often feel guilt from their UFO's or ever growing stash!

It also made them feel purposeful, which is important as they were unable to do previous activities that had given them that sense of purpose. This ranged from maintaining fine finger movement and committing to finishing a sampler to making presents for loved ones. Participants also found that their stitching helped them through their tough times and offered them control when they felt they were losing it in other aspects of their life. Hopefully, my research will promote the use of creative needlecraft with people as therapy to increase people's health and well-being.

Sweet lavender

Bring the sights and scents of a summer garden into your home with **Lesley Teare's** lavender wreath design

Meet the designer...

Lesley Teare



"An essential plant in my gardens, I simply love lavender. I have recently moved house and am in the process of redesigning our brand new one. Previously, I had long, narrow borders of lavender lining my paths. They were lovely to walk by – one got the aroma from the flowers plus the pleasure of watching all the variety of bees and butterflies buzzing and fluttering amongst the flower heads. At present I am making a mauve, pink and lime green area with alliums, spurges, agapanthus and of course lavender, so that next year there should be a hive of colourful activity."

"I love lavender — it is an essential plant in my gardens"

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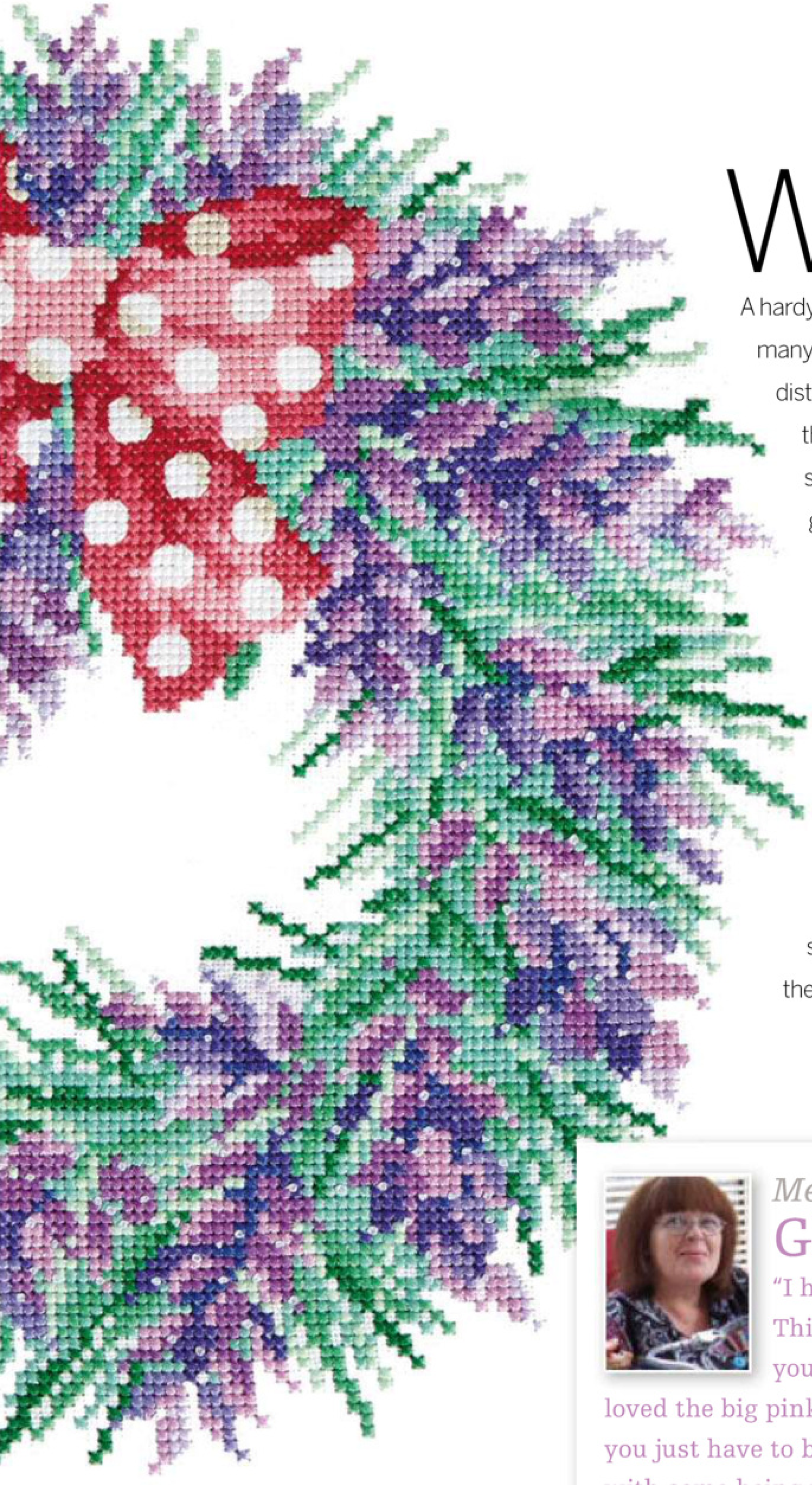


Lavender is one of my favourite flowers. I can't get enough of it, so it's lucky there are so many different ways to use it! You can drop lavender oil into the bath to help relieve stress, or it can be made into gorgeous lotions and creams. Lavender can even be a delicious ingredient for tasty cakes, but my absolute favourite use has to be dried lavender. I fill everything with it around my home, from sachets to pot pourri. I'll definitely be stitching Lesley's extra sachet design on page 33 – the handy hanging loop makes it the perfect addition to my collection!

Rebecca

Rebecca Bradshaw

For regular updates on Lesley's work and to see pictures of her latest



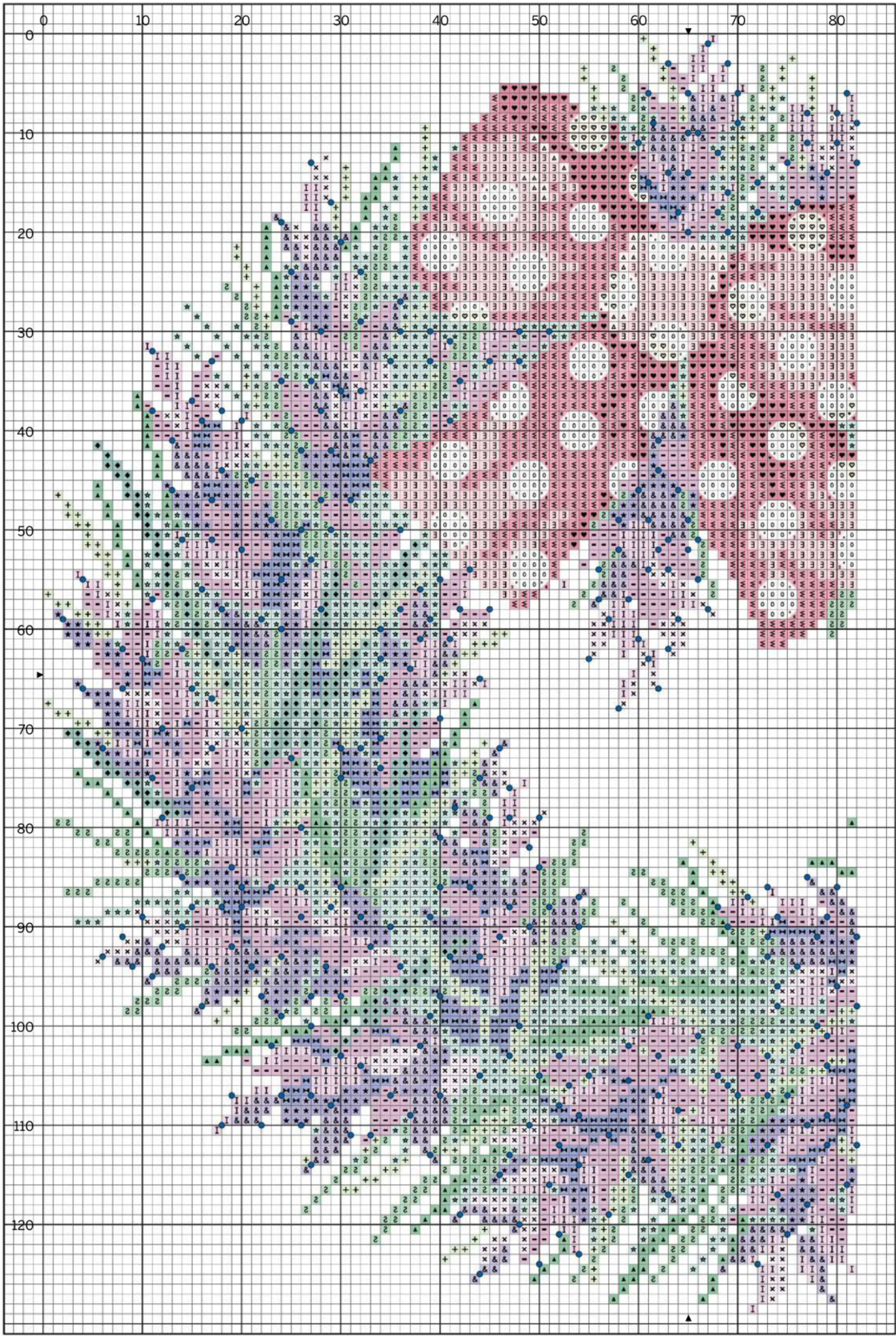
What garden is complete without the sweet scent and fresh colour of lovely lavender? A hardy and versatile plant, lavender is useful for so many things, from pot pourri to aromatherapy. Its distinctive stems and beautiful colours even make this summer stalwart a fascinating flower to stitch, which why Lesley Teare created this gorgeous lavender wreath. Lesley's stunning design requires no backstitch, making it a relaxing and relatively speedy project. There are still plenty of interesting details to stitch however, such as the fractionals on the pretty bow that give the funky polka dots their rounded edges, and the French knots scattered across the wreath that give the stems texture. You'll also use clever shading to achieve the pretty purple flowers and silver-green foliage, so make sure you choose the right colour from your key.

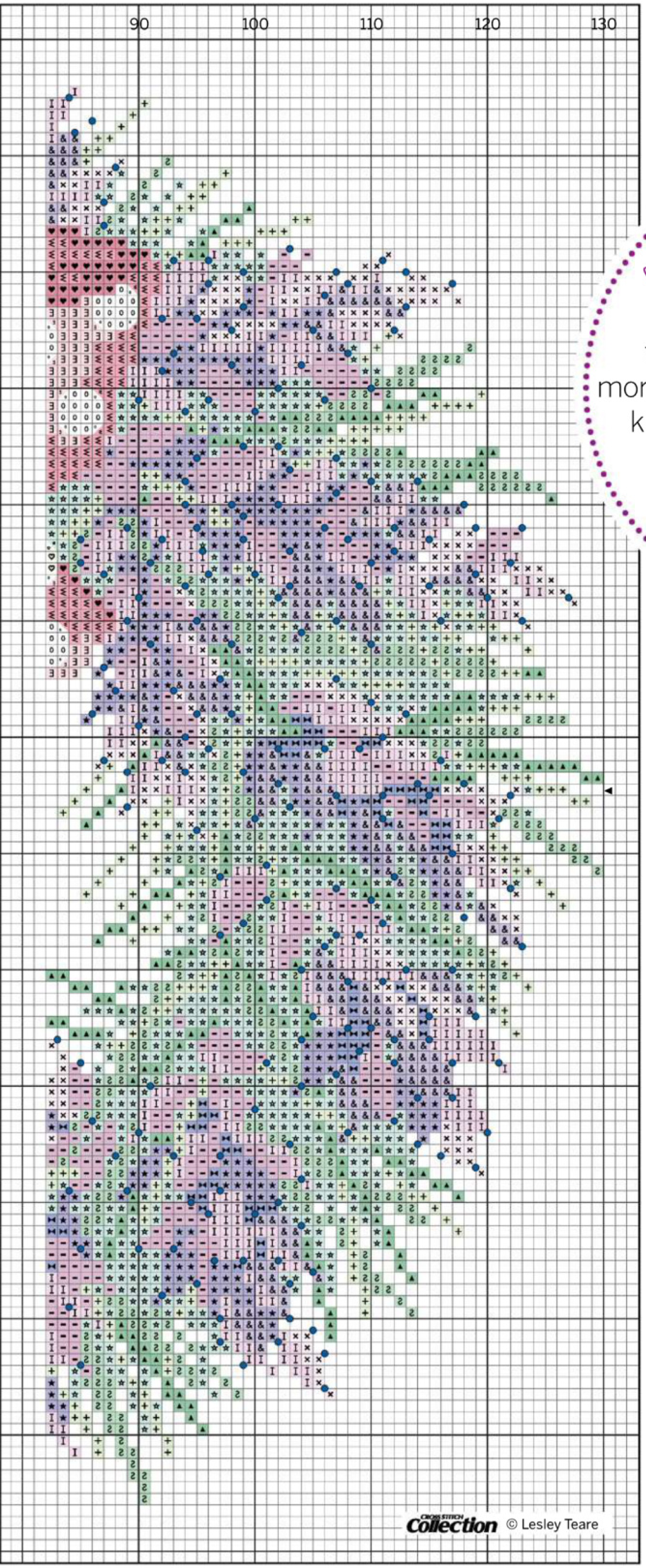
Meet the stitcher...

Glenda Dickson

"I have never stitched a wreath before! This design is happy and cheerful, and you can all but smell the lavender – I loved the big pink bow on top. It was an easy stitch, you just have to be careful to pick up the right colour with some being very similar. I suggest putting your threads onto a card with the symbols beside each one, that way you won't make a mistake with similar shades. I would have put some beads on it, too – but then I do like a bit of bling!"

cross stitch designs, books and more, visit **www.lesleyteare.com**


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Tip...

Switch up your knots

If you want the lavender flowers to stand out even more, then substitute the French knots for lavender coloured seed beads. They will give your work a lovely three dimensional appearance, too!

Sweet lavender

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	Colour
Cross stitch in two strands				
o o	White	002	2402	White
& &	155	109	0902	Light purple
× ×	211	342	0801	Lilac
★ ★	333	119	0903	Dark purple
- -	553	098	0712	Dark violet
I I	554	095	0711	Light violet
♥ ♥	600	063	0704	Very dark pink
≷ ≷	602	057	0702	Dark pink
∃ ∃	604	055	0614	Medium pink
⋈ ⋈	792	941	0904	Bluebell
♡ ♡	822	391	1908	Stone
▲ ▲	910	230	1214	Dark green
2 2	912	209	1213	Medium green
+ +	955	203	1210	Light green
△ △	963	023	0503	Light pink
☆ ☆	993	1070	1201	Light teal
◆ ◆	3848	1074	1202	Dark teal
French knots in one strand				
● ●	3747 lavender	120	0901	Lavender

Stitched using DMC threads on 28HPI evenweave over two threads
Cushion stitch count 129x130
Design area 9¼x9¼in (24x24cm)
Sachet stitch count 36x37
Design area 2½x2½in (6.5x6.5cm)

Stitching your flower cushion

You will need...

28HPI evenweave (or 14HPI aida), white, Zweigart Trento Ref: 3453/100, 18x18in (46x46cm). We got our evenweave from Willow Fabrics. Find yours at www.willowfabrics.com or call 0800 0567811

Stranded cotton as listed in the key

Cotton fabric 13x14in (33x36cm), white for backing

Cotton fabric 3x27in (8x69cm), pink spot for piping

Piping cord 54in (137cm)

Zip 12in (30cm), white

Cushion pad 12x12in (30x30cm)

Sewing kit including matching thread

Turn to page 57 for hints and tips!

Stitching **the design**

FOLD the evenweave in half both ways to find the centre and start stitching at this point. All the cross stitch is worked in two strands of stranded cotton over two threads of the evenweave fabric. There are a lot of similar shades of the same colour so it will be helpful if you pre-sort your threads onto an organiser. Also, you may find the counting easier if you work all the colours of one lavender head before moving on to the next, then the bow and finally stitch all the greenery at the end.

Fabulous French knots

are used all across Lesley's wreath design – turn to page 58 for top tips on getting your knots perfect!



Adding **the details**

CLOSE shades of cross stitch are used to achieve all the detail in this design, so there is no backstitch. The flowers on the lavender heads are worked using French knots in one strand of lavender. There are quite a few of these so you will have plenty of chance to practise as you go along.

Making **a cushion cover**

USE a ½in (1.5cm) seam allowance unless stated.

1 TRIM your evenweave to 13x13in (33x33cm) with your finished stitching placed centrally.

2 SNIP the white backing fabric into two 7x13in (18x33cm) pieces.

3 CUT the pink spot fabric for your piping into two 1½x27in (4x69cm) strips.

4 JOIN the short ends of the pink spot pieces right sides together to make one long length. Fold the strip in half lengthways with wrong sides together. Place the piping cord inside and tack the fabric strip together close to the piping cord.

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

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

7 PLACE the cushion front and back right sides together making sure the piping strip is pushed to the inside and stitch all the way round as close to the piping cord as you can.

8 TURN the cushion cover right sides out, press and put the cushion pad inside to complete.

Stitching your sachet design



You will need...

28HPI evenweave (or 14HPI aida), white, Zweigart Trento Ref: 3453/100, 12x12in (30x30cm)

Stranded cotton as listed in the key

Cotton fabric 5x6in (13x15cm), white for backing

Cotton fabric 1x27in (2.5x69cm), pink spot for piping and hanging loop

Narrow Roman blind cord 20in (51cm)

Soft toy stuffing

Dried Lavender or pot pourri

Sewing kit including matching thread

Stitching **the design**

FOLD the evenweave in half both ways to find the centre and start stitching at this point. All the cross stitch is worked in two strands of stranded cotton over two threads of the evenweave fabric. The flowers on the lavender heads are worked using French knots in one strand of lavender.

Making **a scented sachet**

1 TRIM your stitched evenweave to 5x5in (13x13cm) with the stitching placed centrally.

2 SNIP the white fabric for the backing into two 3x5in (8x13cm) pieces.

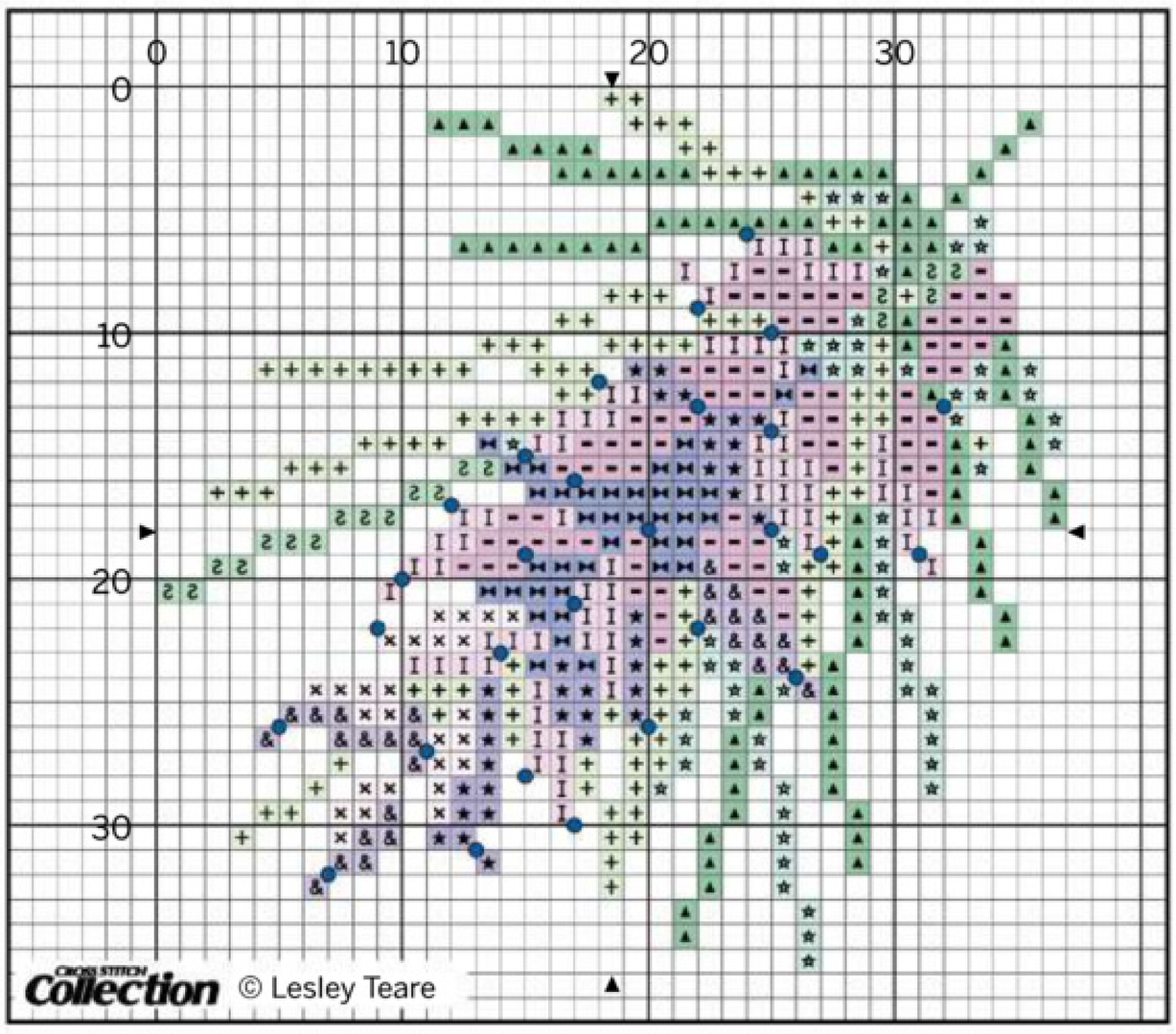
3 CUT the pink spot fabric into one 1x20in (2.5x51cm) strip for the piping and one 1x7in (2.5x18cm) strip for the hanging loop.

4 USING the Roman blind cord as piping cord, make and attach the piping round the edge of your stitched evenweave square.

5 FOLD the hanging loop strip right sides together lengthways and stitch down the edge using a ¼in (6mm) seam allowance then turn right sides out.

6 FOLD the hanging loop in half and tack to the top left corner of the sachet front matching raw edges.

7 PLACE the two backing fabric pieces right sides together and stitch together along the long edge leaving a 2in (5cm) gap in the centre for turning later.



8 PLACE the sachet front and back right sides together making sure the piping strip and hanging loop are pushed to the inside and stitch all the way round as close to the cord as you can.

9 TURN the sachet right sides out through the opening in the back and press.

10 MIX some dried lavender or pot pourri with the soft toy stuffing then stuff the sachet firmly and slip stitch the back closed to complete.



Birthday presents

Get the party started by giving **Jenny Barton's** bright and fun cross stitch birthday card

STITCH & SEND

Create a card that stands our from the crowd with Jenny Barton's bright birthday design. Worked in bold shades of pink, blue and green, there's plenty of interesting stitching to complete, with some precise backstitch details and a fair few fractional stitches to be worked – especially around that funky lettering! Just keep an eye on your chart and key for guidance.

You will need...

14HPI aida (or 28HPI evenweave), white, 8x8in (20x20cm)
Stranded cotton as listed in the key
Cotton fabric 4½x4½in (11.5x11.5cm), green spot
Card 125x125mm, white

Make it easy!
Exclusive kits delivered direct to you
TURN TO PAGE 60 TO ORDER

Green polka dot cotton adds a fun dimension to this patch card, but you could choose any shade from Jenny's design. Find your perfect fabric at www.cottonpatch.co.uk

Making a **patch card**

CREATE a fun effect by placing a fabric patch behind your stitching – it adds a creative new dimension!

1 USING double-sided tape, stick your fabric to the centre of the front of your card.

2 TRIM your stitched fabric to 4x4in (10x10cm) with the design placed centrally.

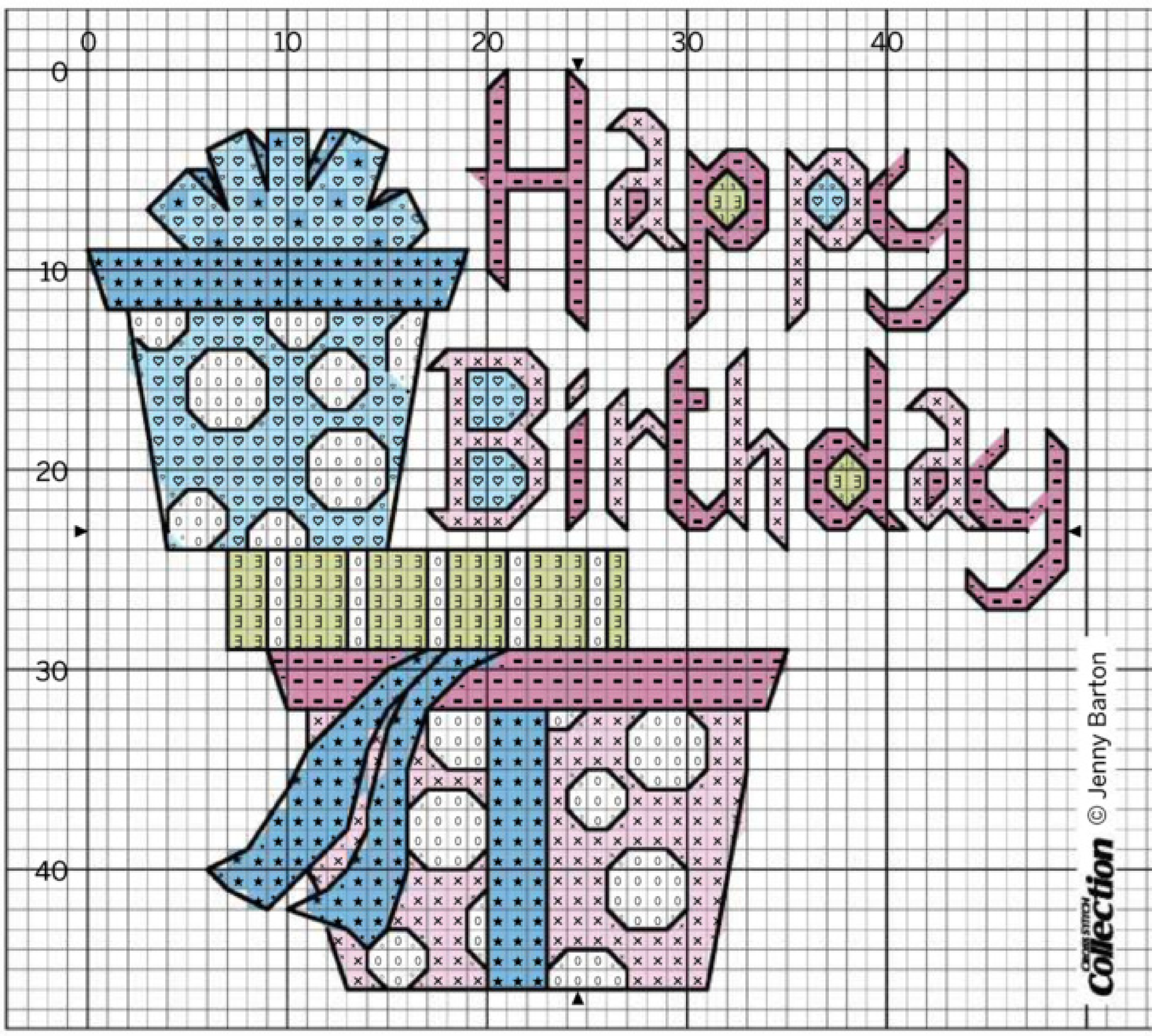
3 REMOVE the outer block of aida threads to give it a slightly frayed appearance, then stick your aida to the centre of the fabric.

Our stitcher says... Cut a piece of white paper slightly smaller than the aida and stick this to the back – this will stop the green fabric from showing through the aida

Birthday presents

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	Colour
Cross stitch in two strands				
	White	002	2402	White
	704	255	1308	Green
	718	088	0707	Dark pink
	995	410	1102	Dark blue
	996	433	1103	Light blue
	3608	085	0709	Light pink
Backstitch in one strand				
	3799	236	1713	Grey
	all outlines and details			

Stitched using DMC threads on 14HPI aida
Stitch count 46x49 Design area 3¼x3½in (8.5x9cm)



Floral notes

Keep your essential notes covered with **Angela Poole's** pretty flower notebook design

Calling all scribble-aholics, have we got the stitching project for you! Angela Poole's feminine flower and spiral design is the perfect way to decorate your favourite notebook or journal. Worked in whole cross stitches only with just a little backstitch on the borders, it's quite an easy stitch – just make sure you check the chart regularly to get the placement of the flowers correct. It's also easy to personalise with our pretty alphabet and instructions on page 38. You could stitch this notebook to give as a gorgeous gift to a lucky friend or just keep it for yourself. Maybe you could use it to start recording the kits on your wish list or in your stash – if an A5 notebook is big enough!

Stitch your book cover

You will need...

28HPI evenweave (or 14HPI aida), white, 12x19in (31x48cm)

Stranded cotton as listed in the key

Cotton lining fabric white, 10¼x17¾in (26x45cm)

Interlining 9¼x12¾in (23x32cm)

A5 notebook

Usual sewing kit including matching thread

Turn to page 57 for hints and help!

Make it easy!
Exclusive kits delivered direct to you
TURN TO PAGE 60 TO ORDER

Positioning **your stitching**

FOLD the fabric in half lengthways and mark with a pin. The right hand side of the chart starts 2½in (6cm) from the right hand side of the evenweave. If you measure this position and line that up with central line you marked with a pin then you will have the centre of the right side of the chart. Mark this place on your chart then count inwards from here to begin stitching. Work the whole design in two strands of stranded cotton over two threads of evenweave fabric, leaving a space for the name in the centre to personalise later.

Personalising **your notebook**

USING the alphabet on page 38, draw out the name and the word 'notes' or any other title you want to add. Using two strands of light blue stranded cotton stitch the name centrally in the space left in the centre of your book cover.

Make it easy!

Exclusive kits delivered direct to you

TURN TO PAGE 60 TO ORDER

Simple and pretty, Angela's flower design does require careful placement

Making a **book cover**

WHEN you have finished all the stitching, trim the evenweave so that it measures 10¼x17¾in (26x45cm), and then:

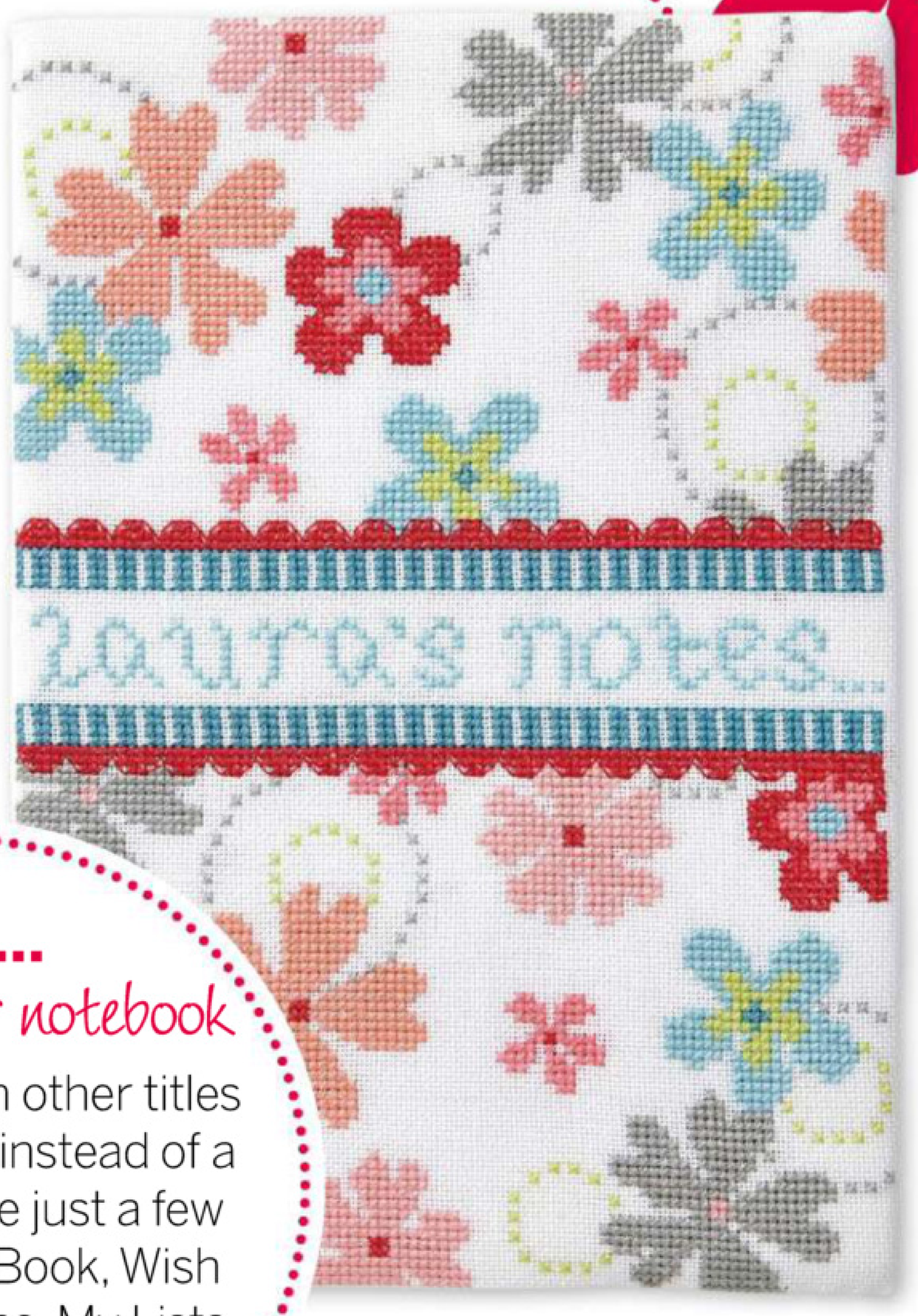
1 TURN the edges of the evenweave under by ½in (1.5cm) all the way round and press. Place the evenweave right side down and put the interlining on top, and fold the turned over edges of the fabric over it.

2 STITCH the turned over edges to the interlining making sure you don't stitch through to the front.

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

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

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

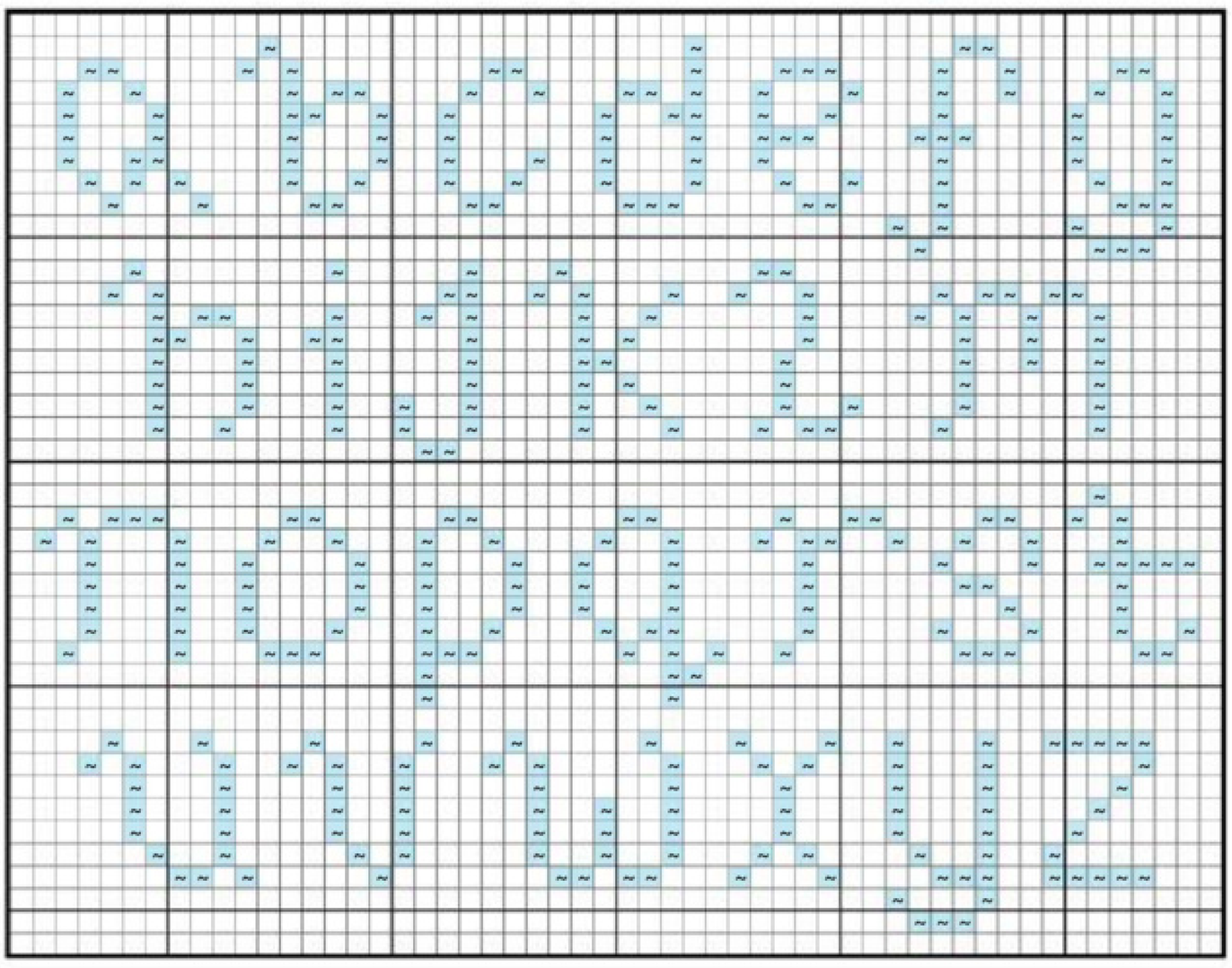


Tip...

Using your notebook

You could stitch other titles onto this book instead of a name. Here are just a few ideas: Recipe Book, Wish List, Bright Ideas, My Lists, Garden Notes, My Journal

Create a personal gift by using the lovely lowercase alphabet below to stitch the name of a loved one onto the front of your notebook



Floral notes

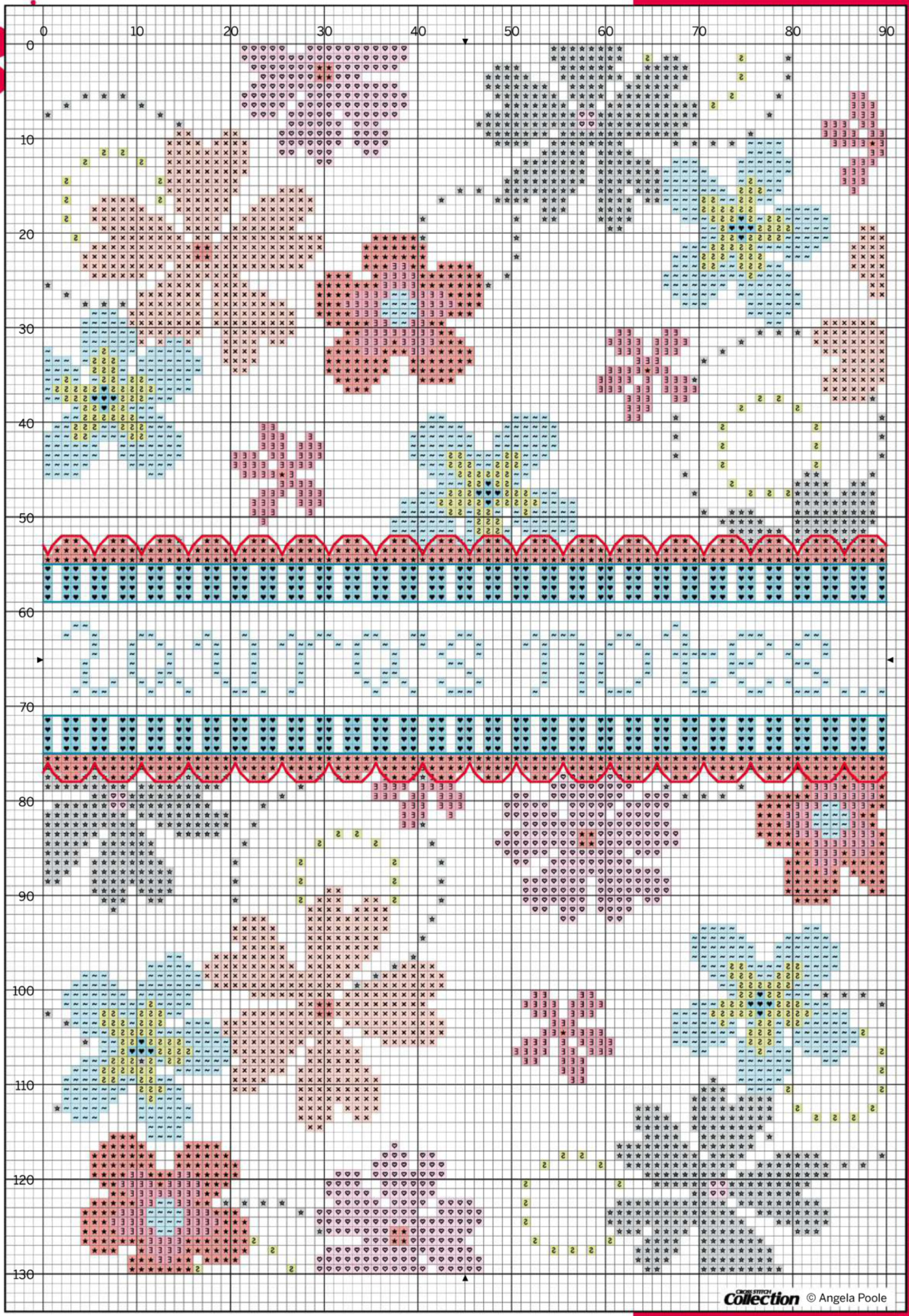
	Anchor	DMC	Madeira	Colour
Cross stitch in two strands				
	008	3824	0304	Peach
	024	963	0503	Light pink
	026	894	2707	Dark pink
	029	891	2708	Red
	168	807	1108	Dark blue
	253	472	1604	Lime green
	398	168	1802	Grey
	928	3761	1111	Light blue
Backstitch in one strand				
	*029	891	2708	Red
	centre border			
	*168	807	1108	Dark blue
	centre borders			

Stitched using DMC threads on 28HPI evenweave over two threads

Stitch count 130x90

Design area 9¼x6½in (23.5x16.5cm)

*indicates colour is listed earlier in the key



Cross Stitch Collection © Angela Poole



Plenty **of stitching goes into creating these charming teacup motifs, from the pretty blue shading to the intricate backstitch details**

Terrific teacups

Treat yourself to tea with **Maria Diaz's** sweet hand-stitched apron, napkin and tea cosy



You'll have no trouble making time for tea once you've got Maria Diaz's stylish tea set to show off! Each sweet teacup has a different motif that's fun to stitch. You'll work funky polka dots and beautiful cherry blossoms, as well as

Gold thread will add extra sparkle to your teacups

lovely roses created with pretty pinks and backstitch details, with gold thread adding a little extra sparkle. Keep reading for our step-by-step guide to making your apron, napkin and tea cosy.



Collection makes...

PRETTY PRINTS

Why not line your tea cosy with the same pretty printed cotton fabric you've used to make your apron ties?

APRON EXTRAS

Instead of working a pocket patch on your apron, repeat the design from the tea cosy all along the bottom to create a gorgeous border.

TOP TABLEWARE

These versatile motifs could be used to make up all kinds of pretty tableware – add some tea towels, a table runner or some egg cosies to your collection.

COASTER CRAFT

The teacup motifs are the perfect size to make coasters, which is an easy way to make up your stitching. Get coaster packs from Willow Fabrics from just £7.01. Find them at www.willowfabrics.com

Our stitcher says... work with short lengths of the DMC Light Effects thread, as it can tangle and break

Stitching your teacup motifs



You will need...

28HPI evenweave (or 14HPI aida), cream, Zweigart Brittney (Lugana) Ref:3270/264. We got our fabric from Willow Fabrics. Find yours at www.willowfabrics.com or call 0800 0567811

Tea Cosy: 12x14in (30x36cm)

Apron: 11x12in (28x30cm)

Napkin: 20x20in (51x51cm)

Stranded cotton as listed in the key

Turn to page 57 for hints and tips!

Positioning **your stitching**

TEACOSY Stitch the design centrally across the length of the fabric but the bottom of the saucers should be 3in (8cm) up from the lower edge.

APRON Stitch this in the centre of the fabric.

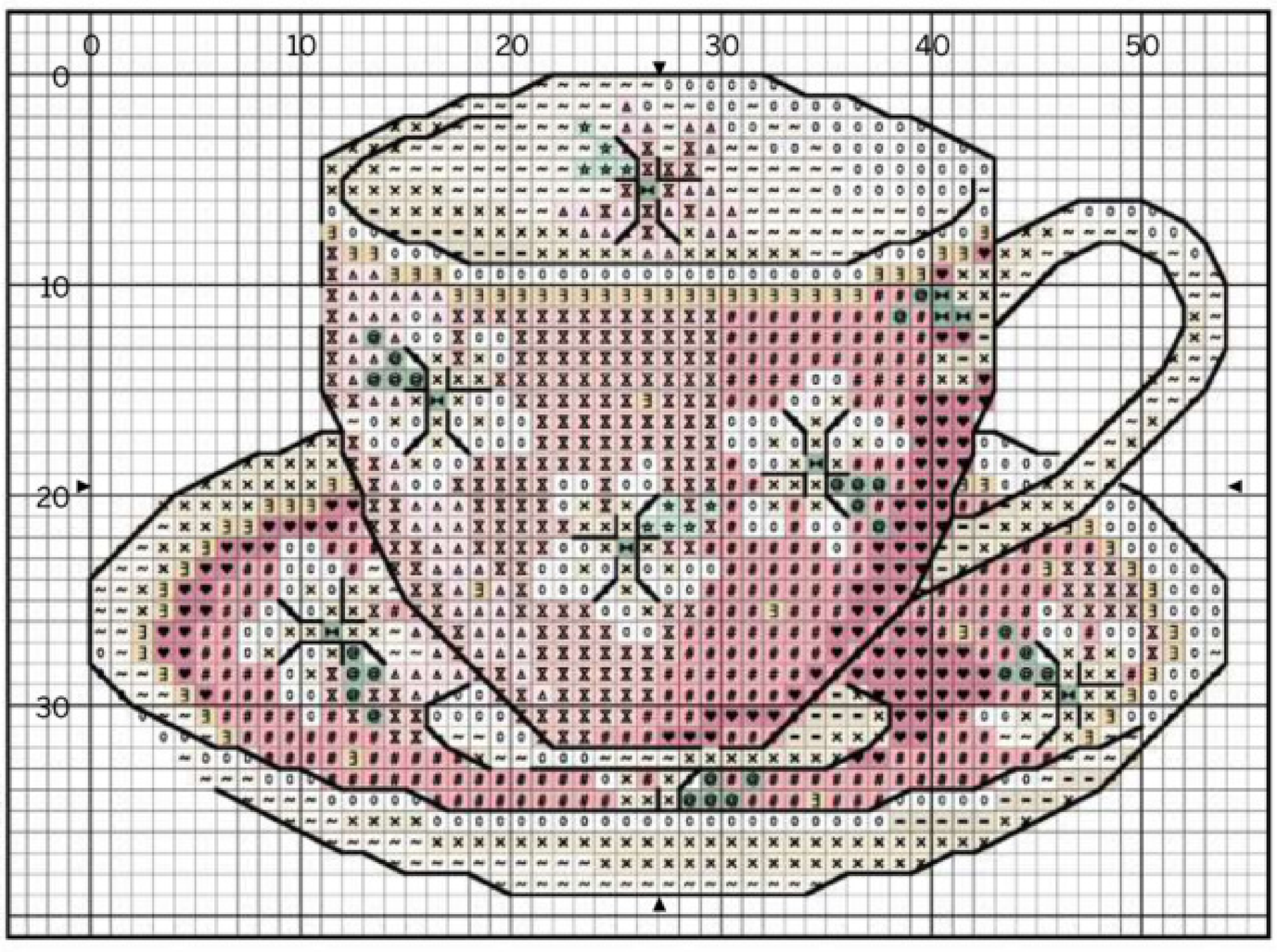
NAPKIN Stitch this so the bottom and left hand sides of the design are 2in (5cm) in from the bottom and left edges of the fabric.

Stitching **the designs**

WORK all the cross stitch using two strands of stranded cotton over two thread of the evenweave fabric. Some of the cross stitch is worked using two strands of DMC Light Effects thread. This is a metallic thread which is used to create highlights on the cups and saucers and you should work with short lengths as it can tangle and break. When you have finished working all the cross stitch, add the backstitch details using one strand of dark green grey throughout.

Making a **napkin**

TURN all four edges of the evenweave fabric under by ½in (1.5cm) then ½in (1.5cm) again and stitch into place to hem.



Cross Stitch Collection © Maria Diaz

Terrific teacups

DMC	Anchor	Madeira	Colour
Cross stitch in two strands			
White	002	2402	White
150	042	0703	Very dark pink
151	023	0502	Light pink
505	211	1206	Dark green
562	210	1213	Medium green
563	208	1211	Light green
642	392	18125	Med green grey
644	391	1814	Light green grey
712	926	2101	Off white
813	140	1003	Medium blue
825	162	1011	Very dark blue
826	977	1012	Dark blue
827	160	1002	Ligth blue
966	206	1210	Leaf green
3731	076	0506	Dark pink
3733	075	0504	Medium pink
DMC Light Effects E3821			
Backstitch in one strand			
3787	1041	1811	Dark green grey

all outlines and details

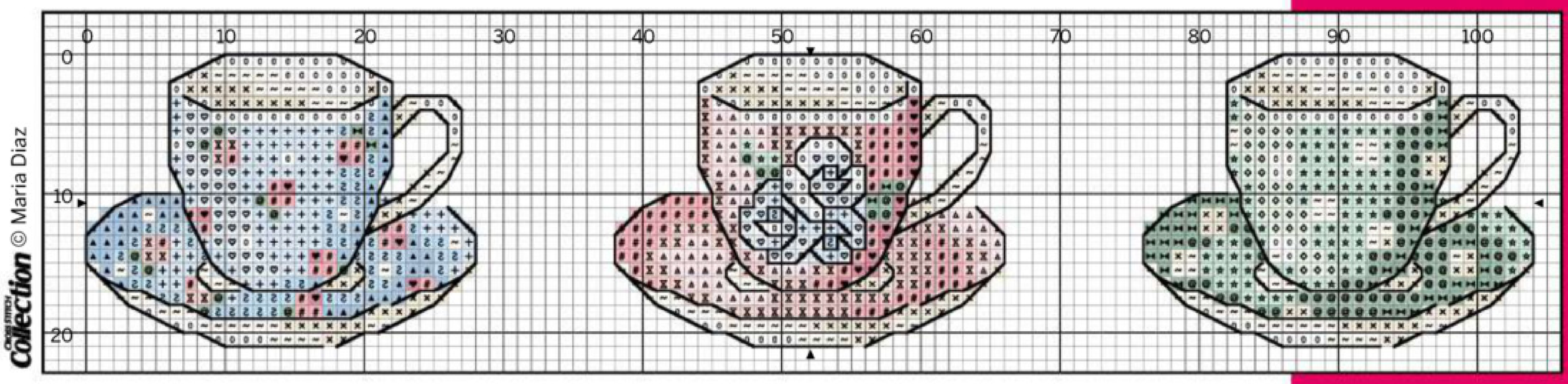
Stitched using DMC threads on 28HPI evenweave over two threads

Single cup stitch count 39x54

Design area 2¾x3¾in (7x9.5cm)

Tea cosy stitch count 21x104

Design area 1½x7½in (4x19cm)



Creating your tea cosy

You will need...

28HPI evenweave (or 14HPI aida), cream, Zweigart Brittney (Lugana) Ref:3270/264, 12x14in (30x36cm)

Stranded cotton as listed in the key

Sewing kit including matching thread

Calico fabric 13x36in (33x91cm)

Thermal wadding 9x24in (23x61cm)

Turn to page 57 for hints and tips!

Making a **tea cosy**

CUTTING THE FABRIC

1 DRAW a tea cosy pattern which measures 9in (23cm) high and 12in (30cm) wide (this includes seam allowances). Make sure it is symmetrical by folding your pattern paper in half and drawing just one half then cutting this out.

2 PLACE your pattern over the top of your stitched evenweave so the bottom of the saucers are 1½in (4cm) up from the lower edge and centrally across. Draw round and cut it out.

3 CUT three tea cosy shapes from the calico and two from the wadding.

4 SNIP binding strips from the calico:
Lower edges, two strips 2x12in (5x30cm)
Curved edge, one strip 2x27in (5x69cm)

ASSEMBLING THE TEA COSY

1 FORM the front of the tea cosy by placing one calico piece right side down with one piece of wadding over it and the tea cosy front right side up over that. Bind the lower edge using one 12in (30cm) binding strip and a ½in (1.5cm) seam allowance.



2 REPEAT this for the back of the tea cosy using the other pieces of calico and wadding. Bind the lower edge as before.

3 NOW place the front sandwich directly on top of the back sandwich and machine zigzag stitch all the way round. Bind this curved edge using a ½in (1.5cm) seam allowance, turning the short ends under to neaten.

Stitching **your tea cups onto this cream evenweave is such a pleasure – the fabric is very smooth and easy to work with**



Making your café apron



You will need...

28HPI evenweave (or 14HPI aida), cream, Zweigart Brittney (Lugana) Ref:3270/264, 11x12in (28x30cm)

Stranded cotton as listed in the key

Calico fabric 22x24in (56x61cm)

Cotton print fabric 10x36in (25x91cm)

Sewing kit including matching thread

Turn to page 57 for hints and tips!

Assembling a **café apron**

THE APRON BODY

1 HEM the shorter sides of the calico by turning them under ½in (1.5cm) then ½in (1.5cm) again. Machine stitch into place.

2 TURN the top and bottom edges under 1in (2.5cm) then 1in (2.5cm) again and stitch.

CREATING THE TIES

1 TAKE one fabric strip and fold it in half length ways right sides together and press. On one short end, draw a curved line from the fold to the raw edges.

2 STITCH the strip together using a ½in (1.5cm) seam allowance down the long edge and along the drawn line. Snip the curves and trim the seams.

Choose a fabric for your apron ties that complements a colour in Maria's design – the pastel green of this pretty print works so well

3 TURN the strip right sides out and press then repeat with the other tie strip.

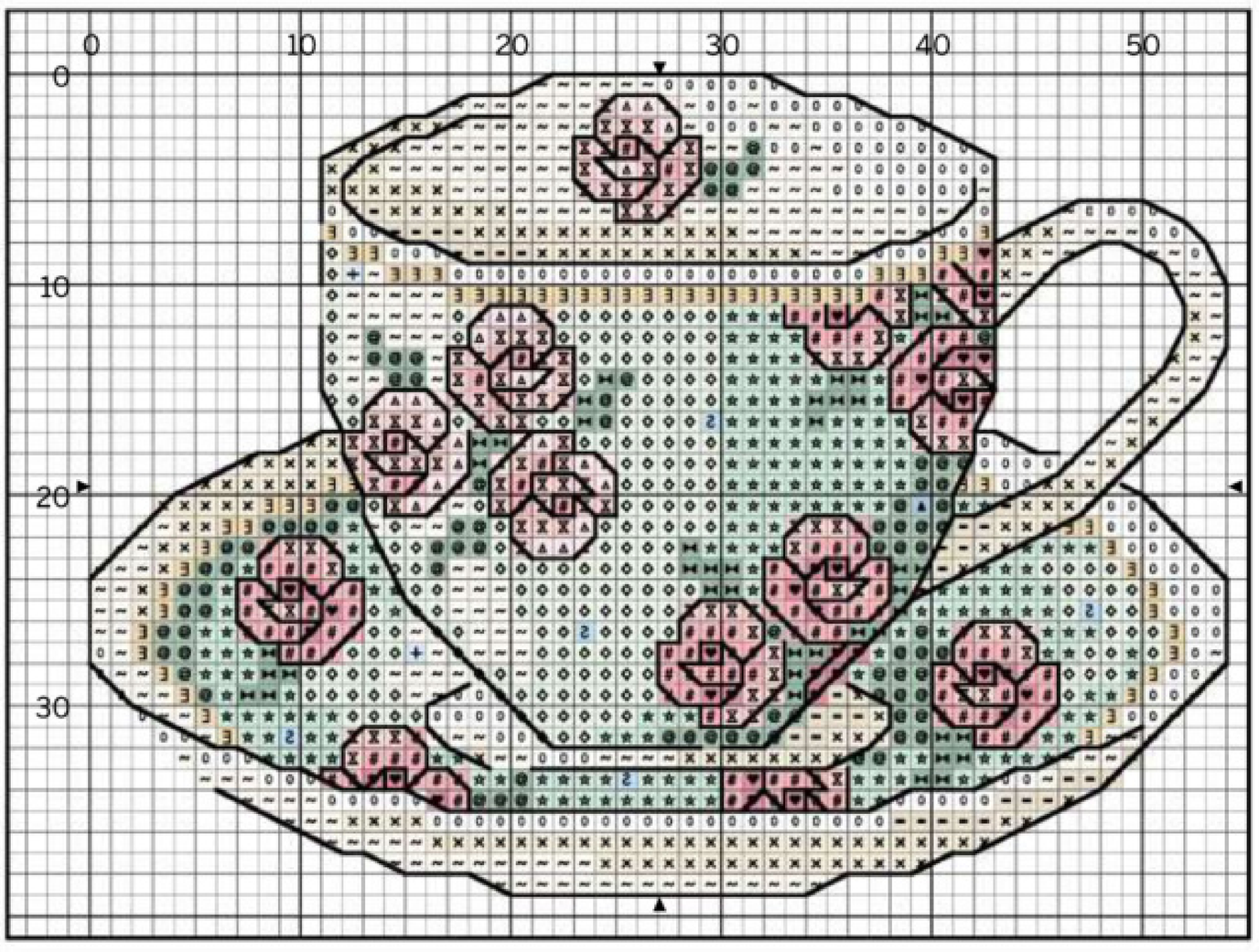
4 FOLD the unstitched short edge of the tie so that it fits under the top edge of the hemmed calico and push inside for 1in (2.5cm). Stitch down the side of the calico to hold in place. Repeat with the other tie.

MAKING THE POCKETS

1 DRAW an angled pocket shape onto the back of your stitched fabric measuring 5in (13cm) long and 4in (10cm) wide, then place it right sides together with the spare evenweave and stitch along the line leaving a small gap along one side for turning.

2 TURN the pocket right sides out and press, then top stitch across the top of the pocket.

3 PIN the pocket 5in (13cm) down for the top and 3in (8cm) in from the right hand edge of your apron and stitch in place down the sides and across the bottom to complete.



Cross Stitch Collection © Maria Diaz

Hydrangea hanging

'Bee' inspired by one of summer's prettiest flowers by stitching **Lesley Teare's** mini wall hanging

DAINTY MAKES

Wire hangers come in all shapes and sizes from the Craft Department. To see their full range of styles, visit : www.thecraftdepartment.com

You will need...

28HPI linen (or 14HPI aida), light rustic, Zweigart Cashel Ref: 3281/52, 14x12in (36x30cm)
Stranded cotton as listed in the key
Interlining 7x4in (18x10cm)
Cotton backing fabric 8x5in (20x13cm)
Double scroll wire hanger 4in (10cm)

Stitching **the design**

FOLD your fabric in half both ways to find the centre and start stitching at this point. All the cross stitch is worked in two strands of stranded cotton over two threads of the linen fabric.

Making **the hanging**

FINISH working the design and cut the stitched linen to 8x5in (20x13cm) with the design placed centrally widthwise and ¾in (2cm) up from the lower edge.

1 TURN all four sides of the linen under ½in (1.5cm) and press. Repeat this with the cotton backing fabric.

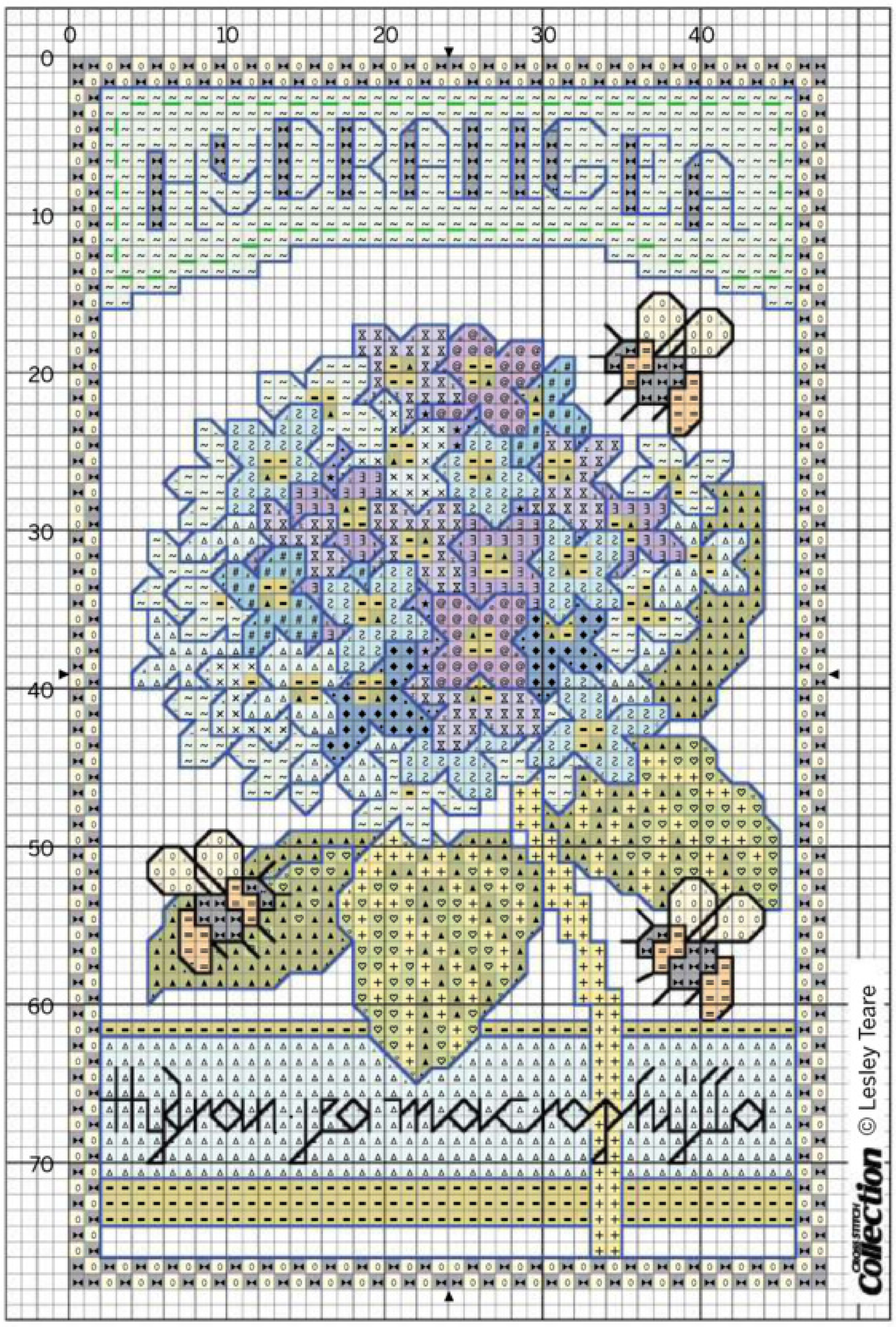
2 PLACE the linen right side down, then place the interlining centrally on top with the linen edges folded on top of it. Stitch the turned over linen to the interlining.

3 PLACE the lining fabric right sides up on top making sure that the folded under sides meet up, and slip stitch the lining into place all round the hanging.

4 TURN the top edge of the linen 1in (2.5cm) to the back of the hanging and slip stitch into place for the dowel casing.

Finishing off

TAKE the wooden dowel off the hanger and slip it through the casing at the back of the hanging, and then push the ends of the wire hanger back through the holes in the wooden pole to complete.



Hydrangea hanging

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	Colour
Cross stitch in two strands				
++	165	278	1414	Light lime green
--	166	279	1308	Dark lime green
@@	208	110	0804	Violet
==	310	403	2400	Black
**	333	119	0903	Dark purple
XX	340	118	0902	Light purple
◆◆	517	162	1107	Very dark blue
##	518	1039	1106	Dark blue
♡♡	704	255	1307	Light green
==	742	303	0114	Orange
oo	745	300	0111	Yellow
▵▵	747	158	1101	Very light blue
~~	772	259	1604	Pale green
▲▲	905	257	1305	Dark green
EE	3746	1030	2702	Dark purple
xx	3761	928	1014	Light blue
ss	3766	167	1105	Medium blue
Backstitch in one strand				
—	158	941	0914	Bluebell
	all other outlines and details			
—	*310	403	2400	Black
	bees, lettering			
—	*905	257	1412	Dark green
	running stitch border			

Stitched using DMC threads on 28HPI linen over two threads
Stitch count 78x48 Design area 5½x3½in (14x9cm)
*indicates colour is listed earlier in the key

Mini Cushion Cross Stitch Kits

Sheena Rogers designs

Each kit includes: 14ct Aida, velvet backing fabric, ready-sorted DMC threads, needle, b&w symbol chart and full instructions. Finished size: 5¾" square.



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16ct Kit £47

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Meet the designer...

Abi Barker

I really enjoyed designing this anniversary sampler for *Cross Stitch Collection*. Inspiration for this design came from all over. I'm always doing chart 'doodles' and playing around with patterns, so I saw this sampler as a chance to bring together some of my creative interests. With a background in art and textiles, I love drawing and sketching and am inspired by fabric patterns. I wanted to bring a loose, folksy look to this anniversary sampler, and I enjoy experimenting with different sewing styles and stitches, which is why I've created a mix of cross stitch and backstitch motifs. I also wanted to make this design as versatile as possible, so it's easy to swap the red thread colours to silver, gold or pearl – just take your pick!





Working perfectly with the simple cross stitch motifs, the backstitch detail is delicate and pretty – just make sure you've got a sharp needle and an eye on your chart

Happy anniversary

Celebrate an enduring bond by stitching **Abi Barker's** beautiful sampler

Every family enjoys marking milestone wedding anniversaries, and with this stunning sampler you can enjoy stitching a perfect gift for the occasion, too! Though it is a traditional sampler, Abi's design has a modern twist with its patchwork pattern hearts and contemporary red, blue and mint colour scheme. A collection of pretty motifs, it's an interesting design to stitch with plenty of different elements to tackle, from the simple cross stitch border to the flowers worked entirely in backstitch. Careful placement is required, however, so it may be wise to double check your counting as you go along. It's easy to personalise this design, too – see the instructions on page 52 to find out how to change the names, dates and even the thread colours to mark your loved ones' special day.

Make it easy!

Exclusive kits delivered direct to you

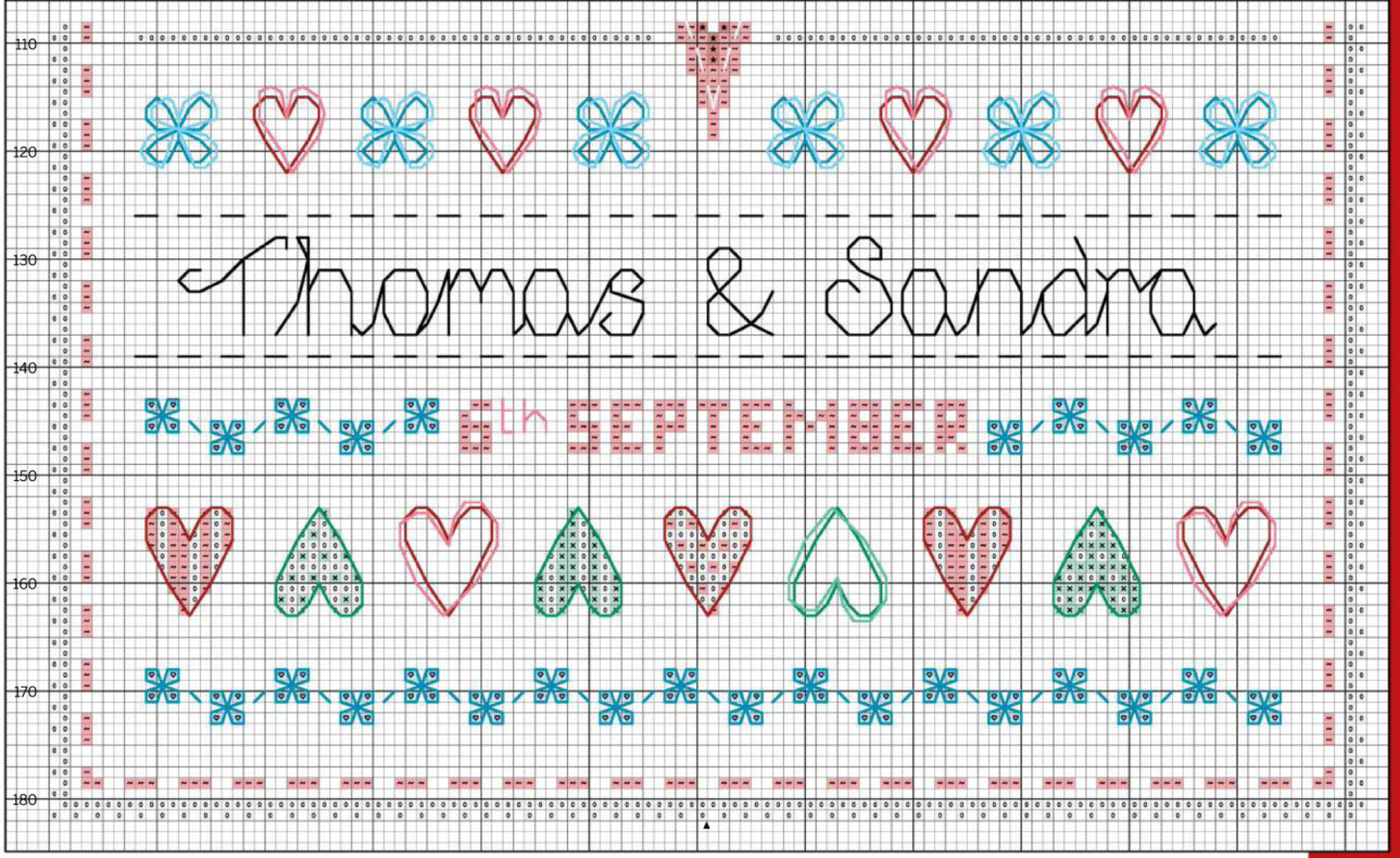
TURN TO PAGE 60 TO ORDER

Different sewing styles and stitching techniques inspired Abi's beautiful anniversary sampler



Our stitcher says...

Stitching in good light is essential to help you position your stitches on this fabric



Cross Stitch Collection © Abi Barker

Collection makes...

CREATIVE CARDS

Use the central heart motif to make a striking card for the happy couple. Use the chart to guide you, and the measurements from our *Stitch&Send* cards on page 34 to cut your fabric.

BEAUTIFUL BORDER

The pretty flower and leaf motif in the top half of the sampler could be used on another design to create a beautiful floral border.

CHIC CANVAS

The contemporary style of Abi's design would look extra stylish framed up as a chic stretched canvas – what a great gift for a fashionable couple!

Happy anniversary

Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	Colour
★★	815	043	0513	Dark red
××	964	185	1112	Light green
▽▽	3761	928	1105	Light blue
▲▲	3812	188	2706	Dark green
~~	3832	038	0506	Light red (2)
oo	3865	926	2403	Off white (2)

Backstitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	Colour
—	*815	043	0513	Dark red

lettering, running stich on heart, borders

Backstitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	Colour
—	*3812	188	2706	Dark green

lines between flowers at top

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	Colour
—	*3865	926	2403	Off white

heart running stitch

Backstitch in one strand

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	Colour
—	807	168	1108	Dark blue

flowers, stems

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	Colour
—	*815	043	0513	Dark red

flowers, hearts, bows

Backstitch in one strand

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	Colour
—	*964	185	1112	Light green

flower, heart

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	Colour
—	*3761	928	1105	Light blue

flowers

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	Colour
—	*3812	188	2706	Dark green

hearts, stems, flower

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	Colour
—	*3832	038	0506	Light red

flowers, stems, hearts lettering for date

Stitched using DMC threads on 28HPI evenweave over two threads
Stitch count 182x122
Design area 13x8¾in (33x22.5cm)
*indicates colour is listed earlier in the key
(2) indicates more than one skein required

Stitching your sampler

Make it easy!
Exclusive kits delivered direct to you
TURN TO PAGE 60 TO ORDER

You will need...

28HPI evenweave (or 14HPI aida), warm grey, Zweigart Trento Ref: 3453/7033, 21x17in (53x43cm). We got our evenweave from Willow Fabrics. Find yours at www.willowfabrics.com

Stranded cotton as listed in the key

Frame with a 14x9¾in (36x25cm) aperture, white gloss

Turn to page 57 for hints and tips!

Planning **your stitching**

CHANGING this sampler is easy. It has been designed so that the threads can be switched and the sampler be stitched for a Silver, Pearl or Golden wedding anniversary instead of the Ruby anniversary we have shown here. If you want to stitch a different version then plan this before you begin stitching. The two shades of red used throughout for cross stitch and backstitch in the design simply need to be substituted for two shades of the anniversary colour you wish to use. Follow the table on the left to see which thread numbers to substitute.

	Replace DMC 815 (dark red) with...	Replace DMC 3832 (light red) with...
Silver	317	168
Pearl	3862	543
Golden	782	676

Personalising **your sampler**

FOLLOW the chart with the alternative names on to change the word 'Ruby' to Silver, Pearl or Golden, making sure you keep it central on your sampler. An extra number and alphabet chart has also been included so you can personalise your sampler. It's best to draw out these names and dates first on a piece of graph paper to be sure you get the spacing correct and also place them centrally in the space given for these details.





Stitching **the design**

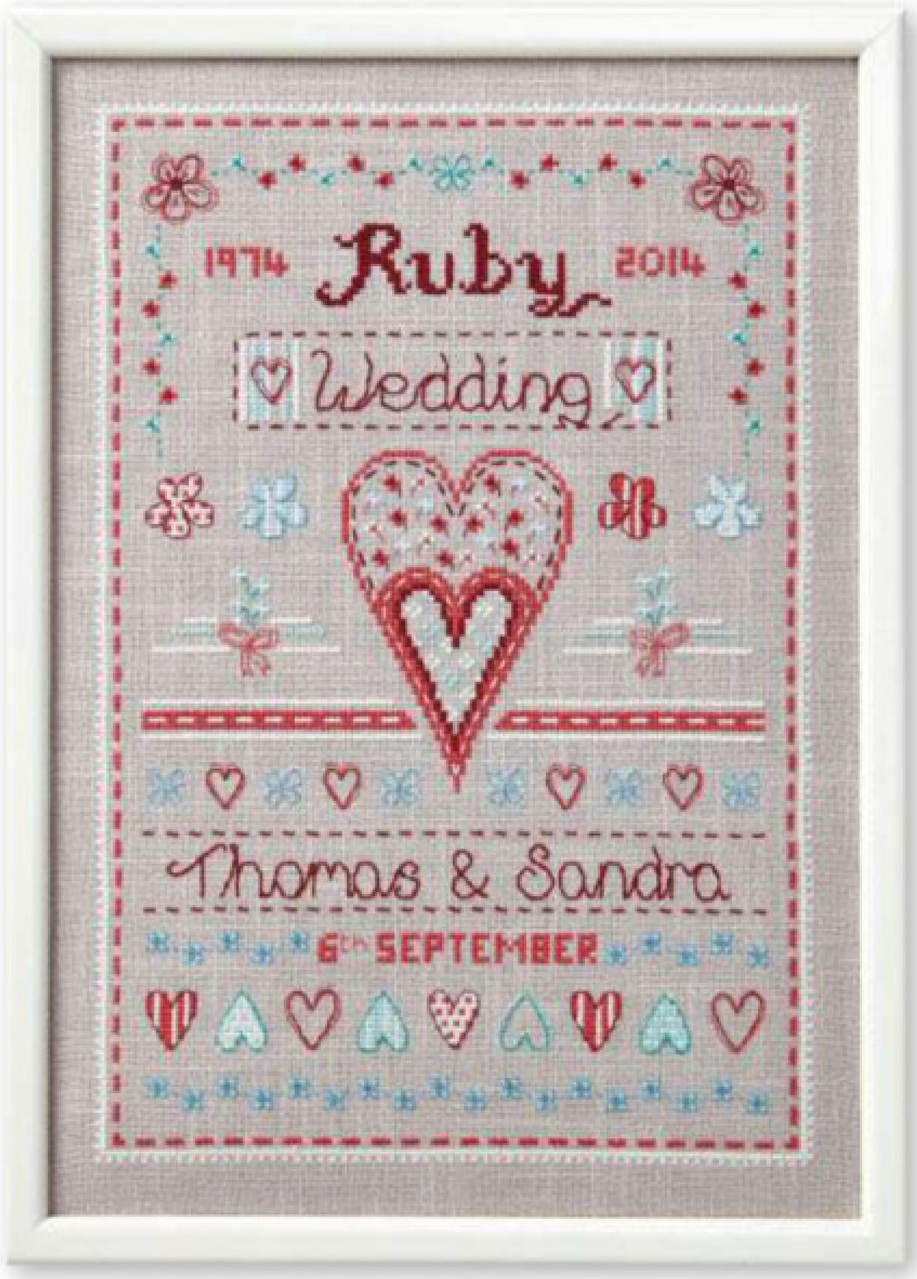
WORK all the cross stitch in two strands of stranded cotton over two threads of fabric. It will help if you work the design in a logical order to minimise counting, and will help you position your stitching too. Fold your evenweave fabric in half both ways to find the centre and begin stitching at this point. Stitch each of the separate areas of the design one at a time before you move on to the next one. Work the outer border lines after you have stitched everything else.

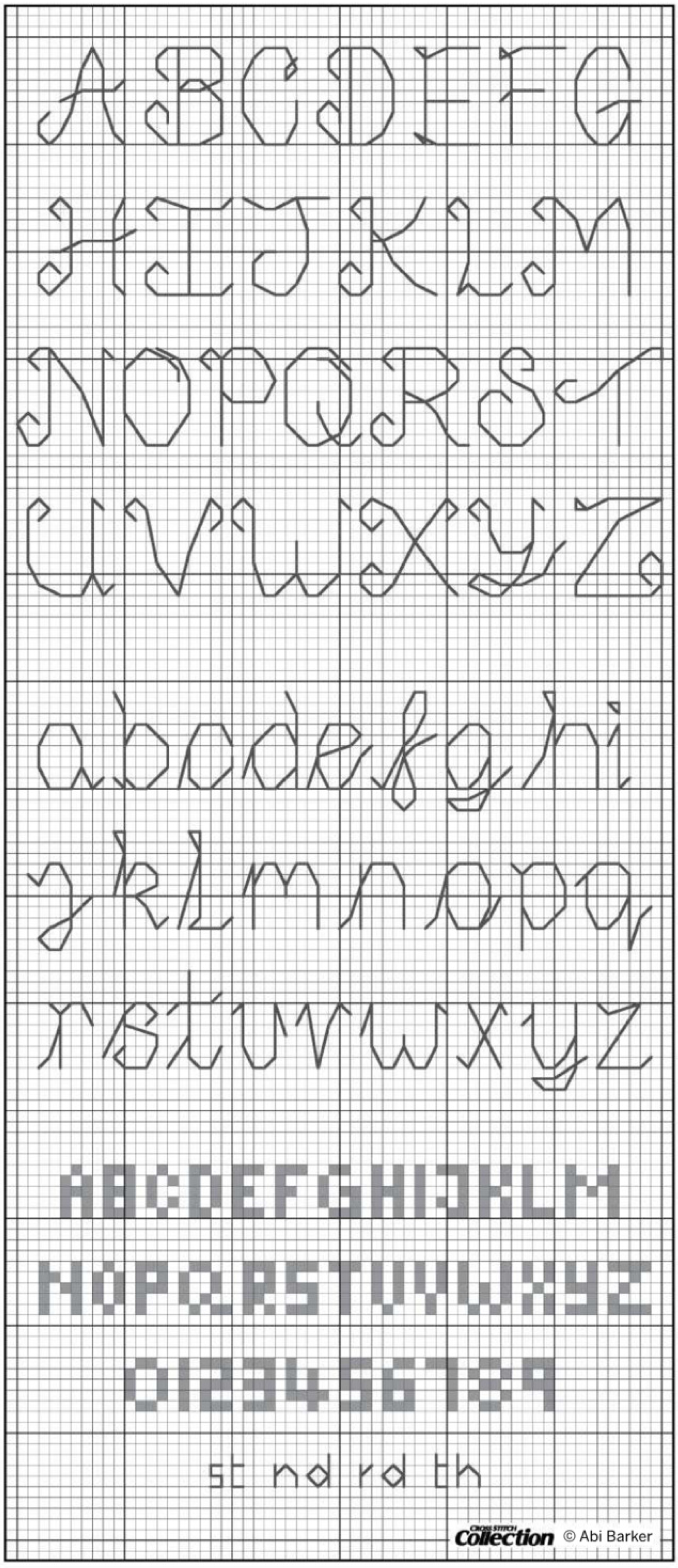
Adding **the details**

CHECK the chart regularly whilst stitching the backstitch, as it is worked in two strands for some areas and one strand for the others. If you look at the chart and key you will see which colours and numbers of strands are used for which areas.

Tip... **order of working**

Finish working separate areas or motifs instead of all the stitches of the same colour – this will help with your counting





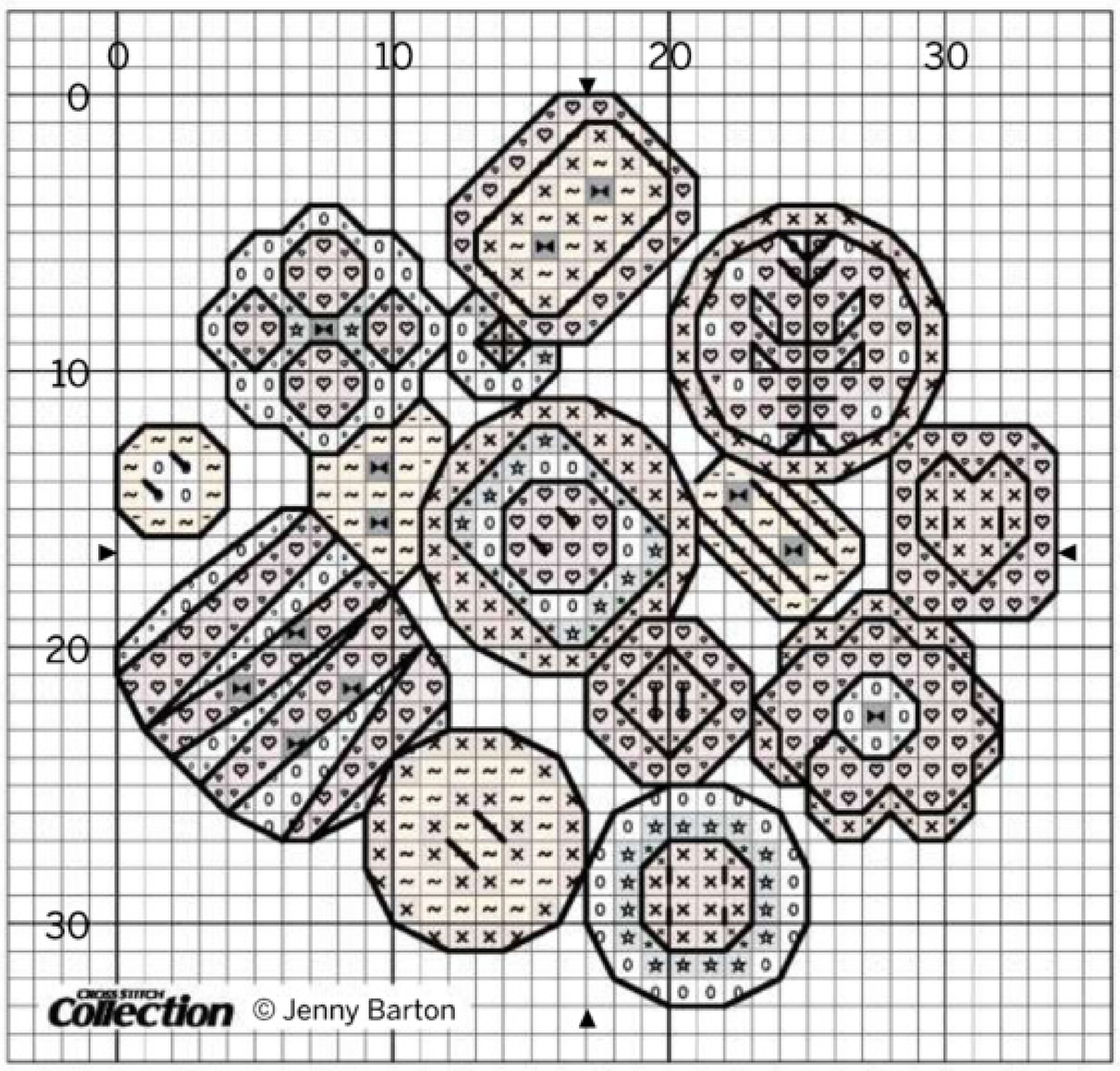
DAINTY MAKES

Beautiful buttons

Keep your craft essentials safe and creatively stored with **Jenny Barton's** cross stitch topped jar

Kilner jars come in a range of shapes and sizes. To find your favourite and for stockists, go to www.kilnerjar.co.uk

Stitching supplies are so tricky to keep tidy! We're always finding pins in our needlecases, scissors down the side of the sofa and lengths of thread just about everywhere. If you think it's high time to get organised, using jars to keep all those little bits together is great way to start. And whilst you're at it, why not decorate the lids with Jenny Barton's fun button design? A simple but effective collection of motifs, the buttons are stitched in muted tones of peach, beige and pink that work beautifully with the rustic linen fabric and gold rim of the lid. Tidying up just got creative!



Beautiful buttons

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	Colour
Cross stitch in two strands				
00	White	002	2402	White
☆☆	415	398	1802	Lt grey
♡♡	543	933	1909	Beige
~~	739	366	2014	Cream
××	842	1080	1907	Sepia
⋈⋈	3799	236	1713	Dk grey
Backstitch in one strand				
—	*3799	236	1713	Dk grey

all outlines and details

Stitched using DMC threads on 28HPI linen over two threads
Stitch count 33x34
Design area 2½x2½in (6.5x6.5cm)

*indicates colour is listed earlier in the key

You will need...

28HPI linen (or 14HPI aida), light rustic, Zweigart Ref: 3281/52, 8x8in (20x20cm)
Stranded cotton as listed in the key
Kilner jar with a screw top
Felt 2½x2½in (6x6cm)
Wadding

How to **decorate your lid**

START by unscrewing your lid – it's in two parts. Use the metal disc to draw round and cut out two or three pieces of wadding to pad your stitching and a circle of felt for backing, then:

1 DRAW a 4½in (11cm) diameter circle on the wrong side of your stitching with the design placed centrally and cut it out.

2 PLACE the wadding, then the metal disc face down over your stitching, and then work a running stitch round the edge of the fabric a short distance in. Pull it up so the fabric gathers neatly round your metal ring.

3 STITCH the felt over the back of the fabric to cover the gathering, then push in the other part of the lid and glue in place.



Our stitcher says... You can make more jar lids in the same way to store all of your stitching bits and bobs, and the padded lid makes the perfect pin cushion!



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Chart / Fabric £28.00



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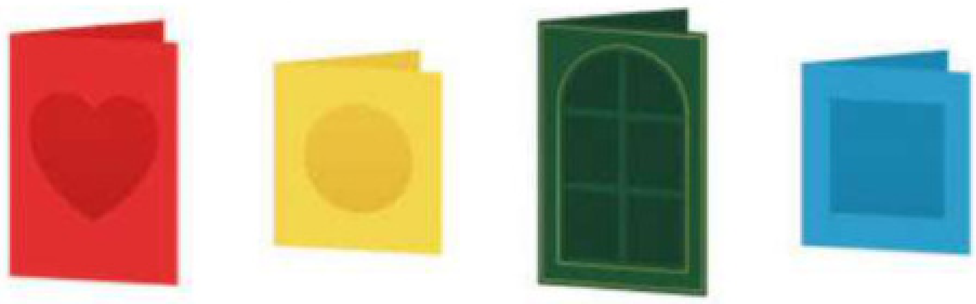
Green Goddess
Joan Elliott
Chart / Fabric £28.00



Rose Goddess
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Chart / Fabric £28.00

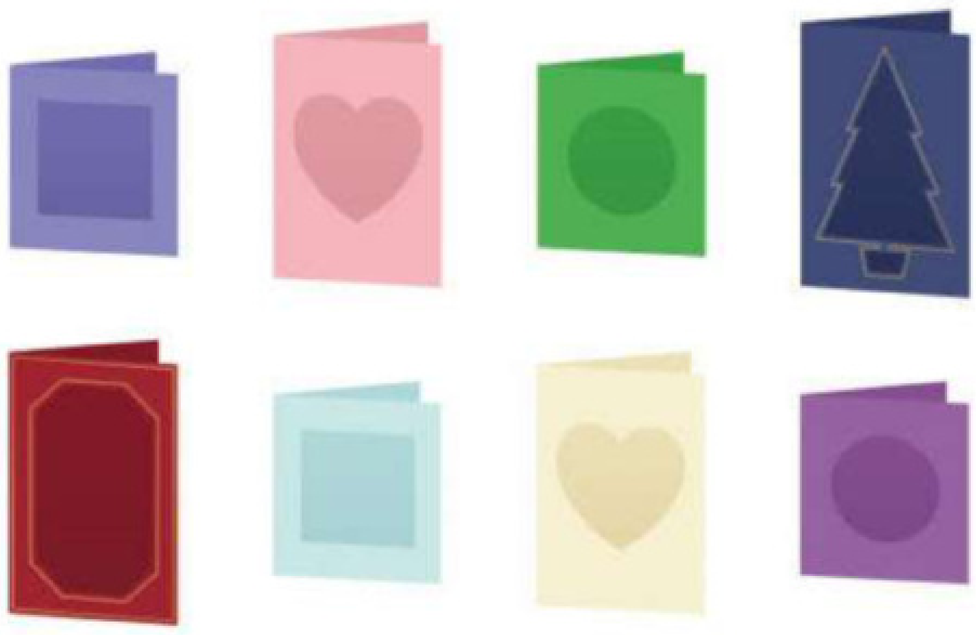
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Margaret Taçon

We are thrilled to have been granted exclusive access to these wonderful paintings by renowned Dorset artist Margaret Taçon

All kits contain 14hpi marbled DMC fabric, DMC threads, needle, chart & instructions



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Collection essentials

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

Tip of the Month...

"Never be afraid of French knots – they are only a knot in the thread and all stitchers can do them!"

Jayne Netley Mayhew

Collection essentials

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

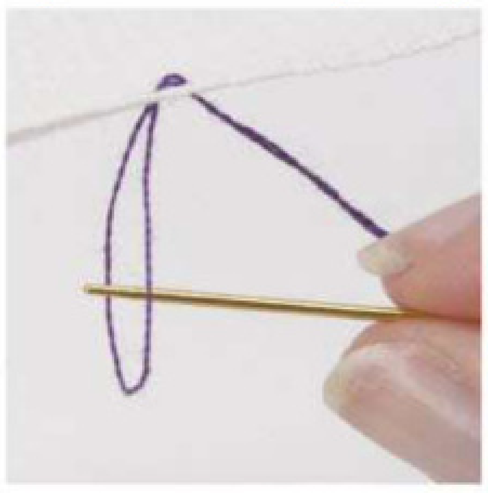
Select your needle

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.

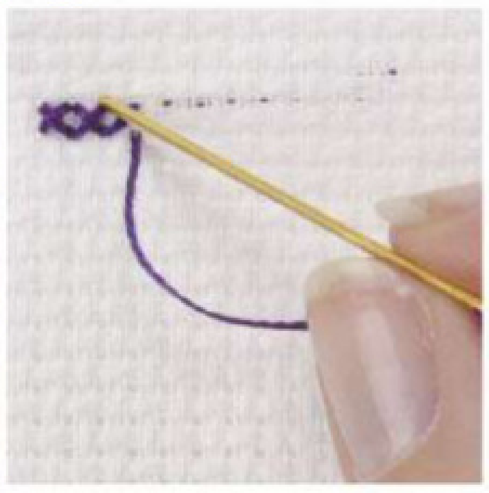


Try these three ways to get going, then choose the one that suits you best



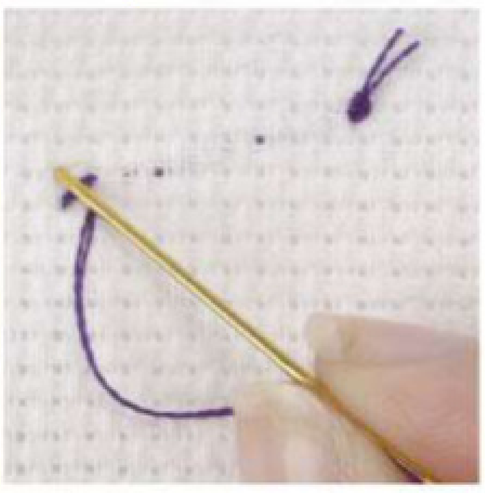
Loop start When stitching with two threads

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.

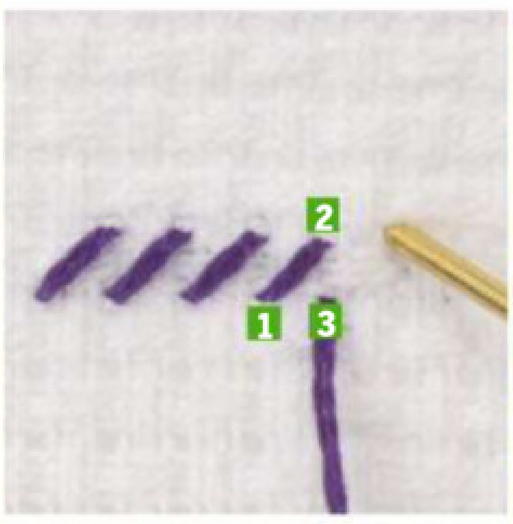
Cross stitch made easy

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



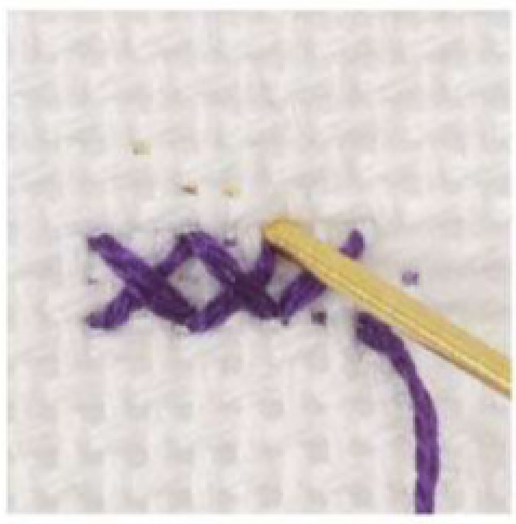
Cross stitch on aida

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.



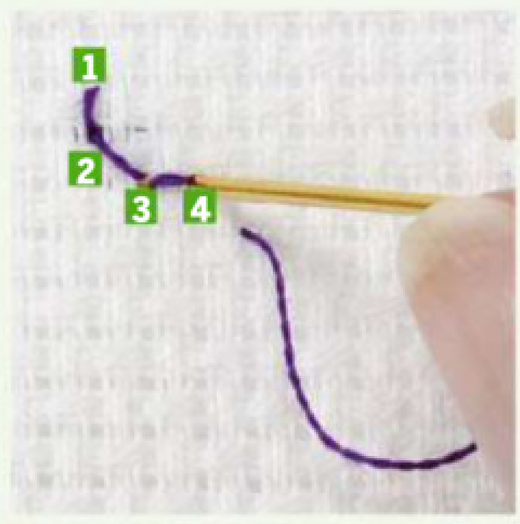
Half cross stitch

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.

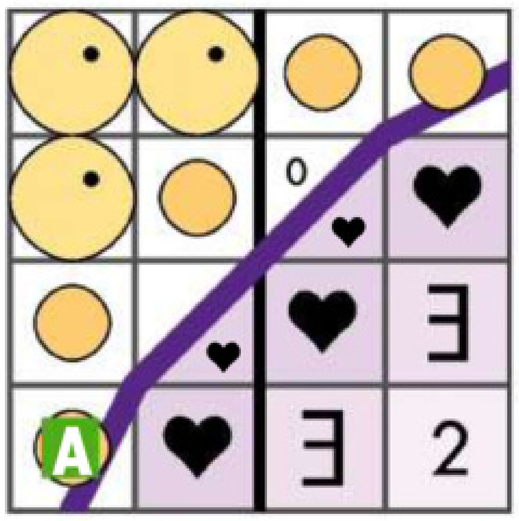


Cross stitch on evenweave

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.

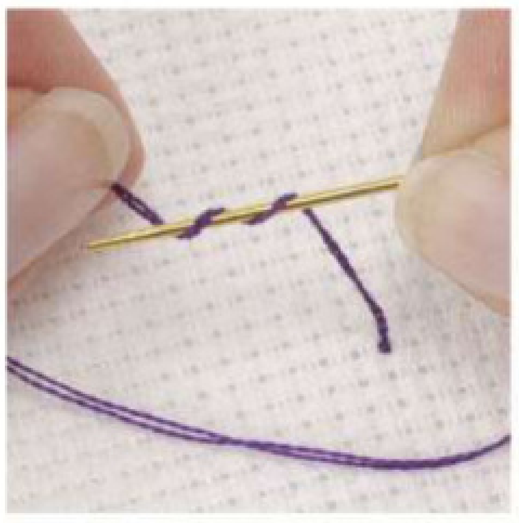
The final details

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

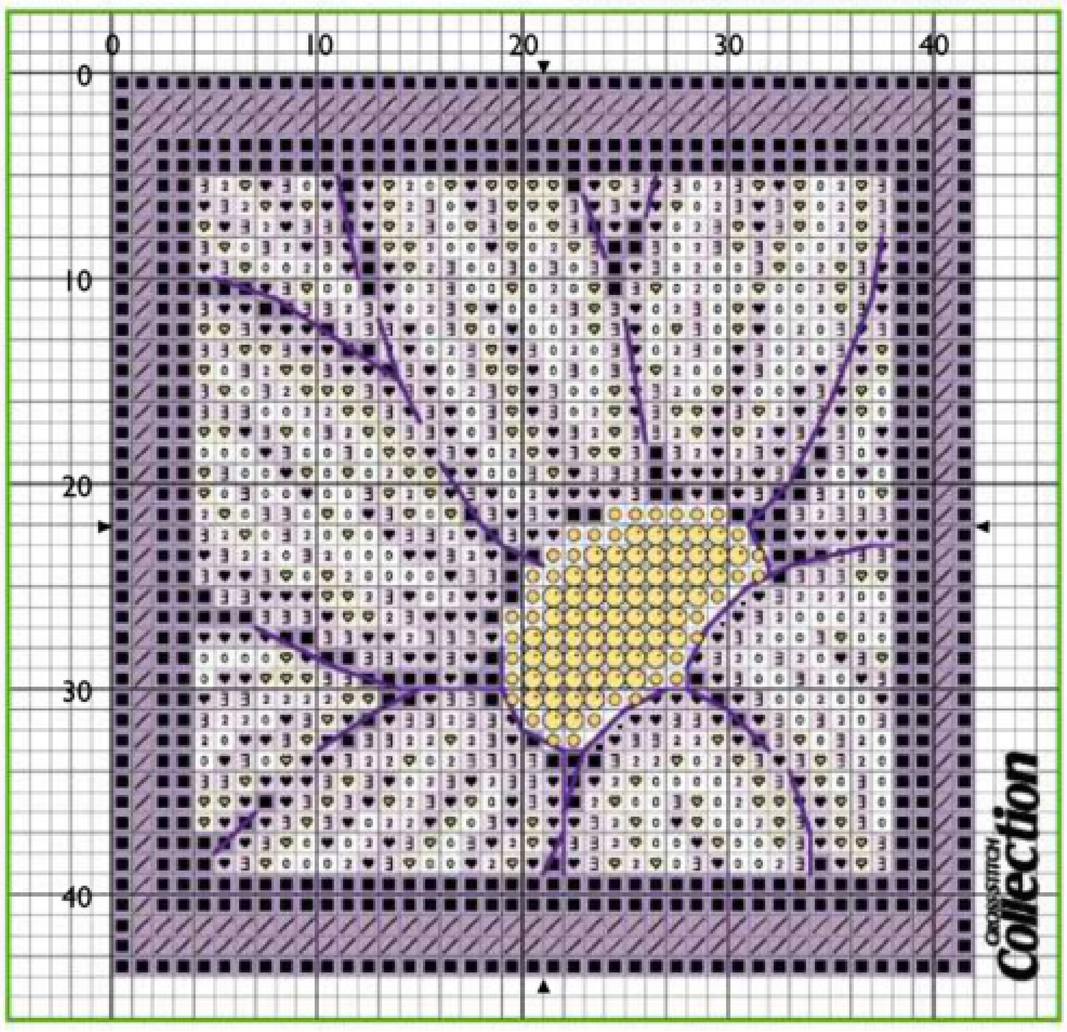
The charts are easy to follow when you know how

- 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



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August kits

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Floral notes (evenweave)	£13.99	£12.59		£	603226
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p27 Sweet **lavender**

Lesley Teare's beautiful lavender wreath makes a stunning cushion. The kit includes evenweave or aida fabric, full skeins of thread, a needle and chart.

Evenweave price: £27.99 Code: 603228
Aida price: £27.99 Code: 603229



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by post complete the order form. By credit card call ☎ **0844 880 5851** or to buy your kits online visit **tinyurl.com/ilovecrossstitch**

p34 Birthday **presents**

Stitch Jenny Barton's bright and bold birthday card. The full kit includes aida or evenweave fabric and full skeins of thread for four cards, plus a needle and chart.

Evenweave price: £12.99 Code: 603231
Aida price: £12.99 Code: 603230

Collection kits



ORDER KITS **including fabric, full skeins of threads, a needle and the chart** for selected projects in this issue

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by post complete the order form. By credit card call ☎ **0844 880 5851** or to buy your kits online visit **tinyurl.com/ilovecrossstitch**

p36 Floral **notes**

Create a fabulous cross stitch cover for your notebook with Angela Poole's floral design. The full kit includes evenweave or aida fabric, full skeins of thread, a needle and chart.

Evenweave price: £13.99 Code: 603226
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p48 Happy **anniversary**

Abi Barker's versatile sampler can be stitched with four different colours to celebrate a Ruby, Silver, Golden or Pearl wedding anniversary! The full kit contains all four sets of thread, evenweave fabric, a needle and the chart.

Evenweave price: £28.99 Code: 603224

or to buy your kits online visit: **tinyurl.com/ilovecrossstitch**

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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Don't forget... you can buy back issues online – just go to **www.myfavouritemagazines.co.uk/stitch-craft**





Collection 234

- An opulent historical slipper design from Lesley Teare
- Feather your nest with Angela Poole's chic cushion
- Fabulously feminine floral birthday cards by Maria Diaz
- Two wonderful charts from the world of Michael Powell
- Chart of the month – A Japanese inspired peony and plum blossom picture by Lesley Teare

Collection 235

- Angela Poole's Russian dolls stitched on chunky fabric
- Lesley Teare's flower fairy
- Cute critter cards for any occasion by Lucie Heaton
- Stitch a historical figure with our Tudor queen design
- In conversation with Mirabilia's Nora Corbett
- Chart of the month – Maria Diaz's tranquil view of an idyllic country garden





Collection 236

- A big cat cub cushion by Jayne Netley Mayhew
- Stylish anemones to stitch with Lesley Teare's picture
- Angela Poole's delicious quick stitch dessert napkins
- Abi Barker's elegant sampler
- Extra stitching with our Dainty Makes and Stitch& Send cards
- Chart of the month – Stitch a stunning Parisian street scene by Maria Diaz

Collection 237

- A detailed street scene designed by Maria Diaz
- Larger than life Michaelmas daisies by Lesley Teare
- Jenny Barton's handy and stylish luxury travel set
- Summery scented sachets
- A majestic lion picture by Jayne Netley Mayhew
- Chart of the month – A fun and quirky harbour scene by Angela Poole



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Fabulous prizes

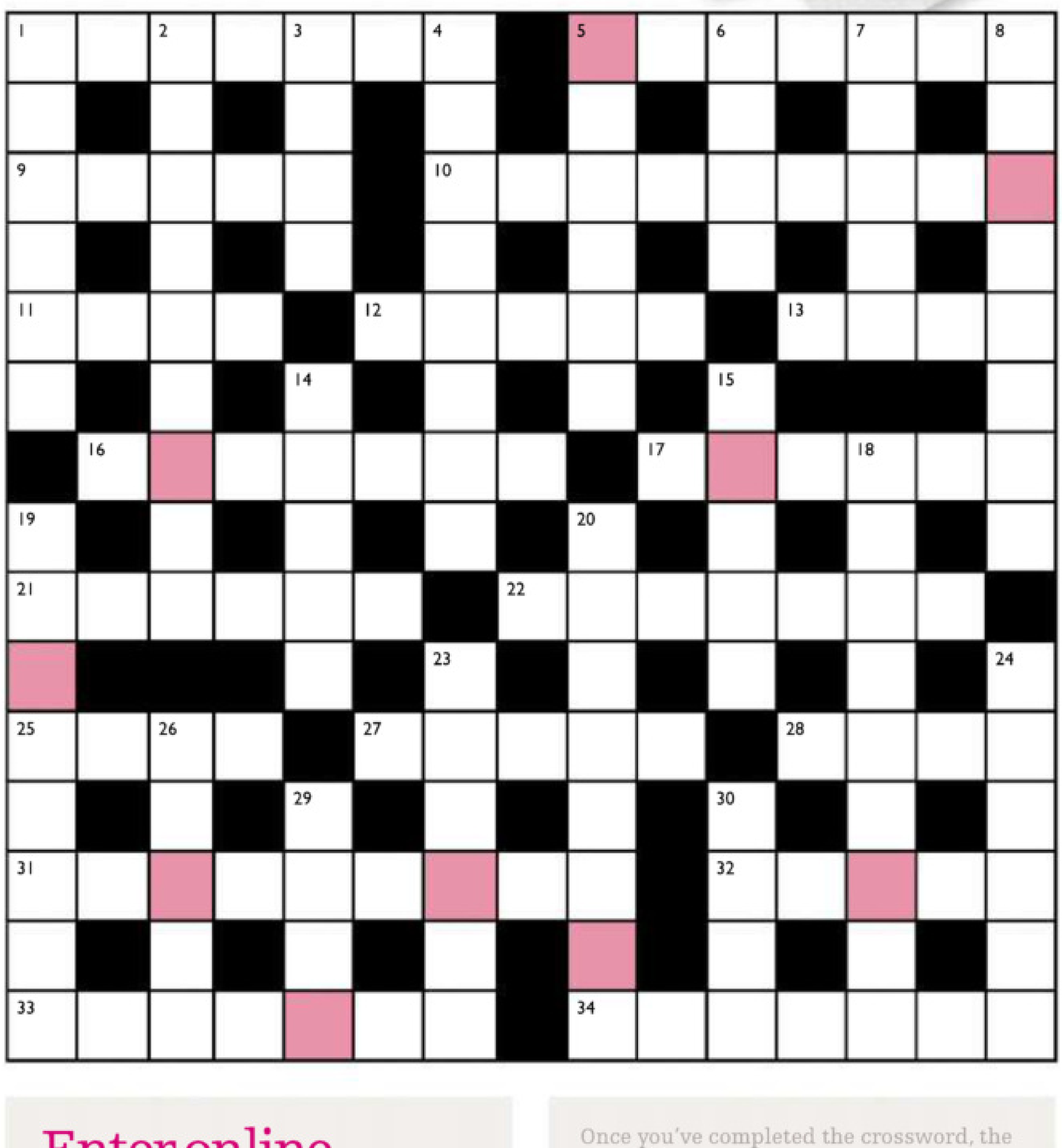
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ACROSS

1 Make this furnishing on page 27 (7)
5 Buy these to enter concerts and events (7)
9 Do this to remove a knot (5)
10 Convert words to another language (9)
11 Make this for a birthday on page 34 (4)
12 Approximately (5)
13 Second-hand (4)
16 The popular style of dressing (7)
17 and 5, 6 and 26 Down: Four objects featured on page 40 (6, 6, 4, 5)
21 Soak up (6)
22 Not inside (7)
25 Round Dutch cheese (4)
27 Container for tea leaves (5)
28 A bird does this with its wings to fly (4)
31 Line of travel (9)
32 Opposite of subtracted (5)
33 Athletes moving faster than walking pace (7)
34 Female siblings (7)

Down

1 A place to worship (6)
2 Days of the week before Sundays (9)
3 Frozen sweet treats (4)
4 Cover this on page 36 (8)
5 See 17 Across
6 See 17 Across
7 Card to mark success in these on page 14 (5)
8 Travelling too fast (8)
14 What a knife should be for cutting (5)
15 Useful (5)
18 Retained information (9)
19 Flowering plant featured on page 27 (8)
20 Desserts (8)
23 Fast flowing sections of rivers (6)
24 Tools for digging soil (6)
26 See 17 Across
29 Acronym for a type of 7 Down (4)
30 Make tops for these on page 54 (4)



PRIZE CROSSWORD 237

Across: 7 dreamed; 8 coconut; 10 two-by-two; 11 Agatha; 12 bears; 13 admission; 16 temperature; 19 poisonous; 20 house; 22 camera; 24 lavender; 25 seaside; 26 insects
Down: 1 crowned; 2 hamburgers; 3 nests; 4 botanists; 5 yoga; 6 cushion; 9 wonderfully; 14 surrounded; 15 Spaniards; 17 donates; 18 assents; 21 event; 23 easy
Winning word: RAYON

Enter online…

For your chance to win Zweigart fabrics, enter online for free at **www.futurecomps.co.uk/csc238 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 24 July. For full competition rules visit www.futuretcs.com

Competition rules To enter competitions and giveaways, enter online between 27 June and 24 July 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 at www.futuretcs.com.

Next month in your **September** issue...



Stitching you can't miss...

* An exclusive wildlife sampler from Anchor
* Gorgeous meerkat family by Jayne Netley Mayhew
* A trio of beautiful Margaret Merril roses from Lesley Teare

PLUS Back to school supplies, fab cards, a classic teddy bear & more!

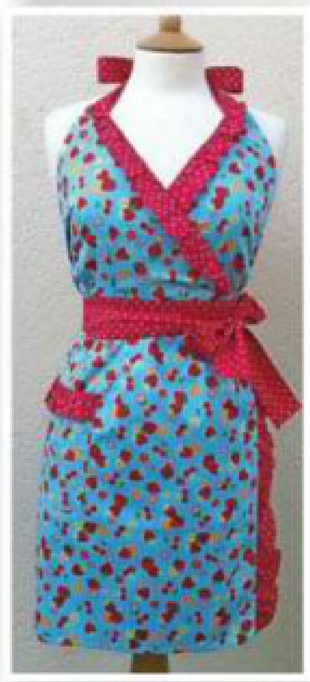
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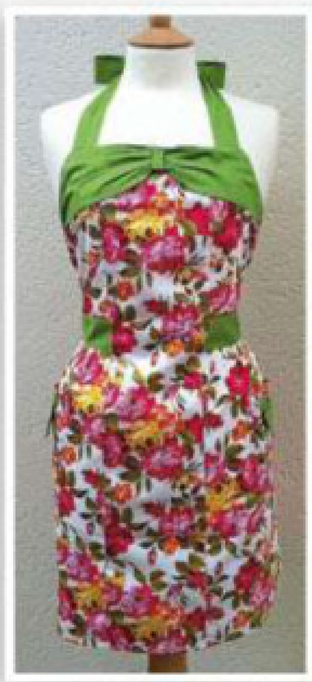
ON SALE **Friday 25 July**

Crafty ideas from Rebecca Bradshaw



Welcome to my stitching world – I hope you find lots of inspiration. This month, I'm confessing to my secret love of aprons!





Above: RosieAnn sells fab ready-made aprons at www.rosieann.folksy.com Below: Buy patterns from www.modernvintagedesigns.etsy.com





Share your own **crafty ideas**

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

Oh I do love an apron! In fact I think mine is a bit of a security blanket to be honest – there is something safe and comforting about tying it on and getting on with the baking. There have even been times when I've had friends round to dinner and realised that I'm still wearing my apron when I'm eating. I don't think I really do the glamorous hostess very well.

I have a selection of aprons too – depending on the occasion of course. There's the large everyday which is always a bit chocolate smeared, the frillier prettier one for when I'm feeling like that and obviously a Christmas apron with a lovely big Snowman printed on it. I also have a café apron for just minor cooking when I just want to keep splashes off. Then there's my husband's apron that I borrow when I need a complete cover up! I bought him a man size butcher's apron one Christmas as he'd just got into making jam (!) and embroidered his name onto the front of it – just to make me laugh!

The most important thing for the perfect apron is that it must fit well and cover everything, and it's really easy to make your own. A D-ring on a neck strap is a must so it can be adjusted to fit high up. I made a lovely pink and white striped one recently (with fabric from www.deckchair stripes.com). I drew round an old apron to make a pattern, then pinned it to me and trimmed it down until it was just right. All you need is some spare fabric to play around with the pattern and to make sure that it's symmetrical too. Then you just need to hem the edges, add a neck strap and some side ties. You can use any fabric but heavier weight curtain type fabric is ideal for a more robust apron, or use a dressmaking cotton if you prefer.

"I have a selection of aprons – everyday and chocolate smeared, frilly and pretty, and of course my Christmas one!"

I really enjoyed making the café apron with Maria Diaz's cross stitch teacups on page 40. Again, I used some spare fabric to make a pattern for this to make sure it fitted across my hips, round my waist and was the right length. So, once you've stitched your apron, turned on the radio and organised your cake ingredients, what more could you want?



Simplicity sell a range of gorgeous apron patterns so you can make your own vintage style apron. Find them online from £5.65 – see the full range at www.simplicty newlook.com

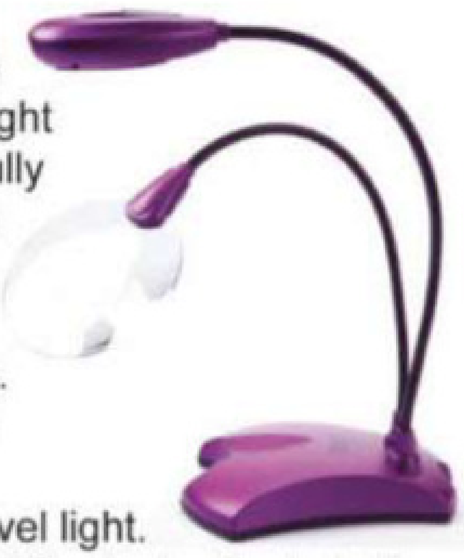
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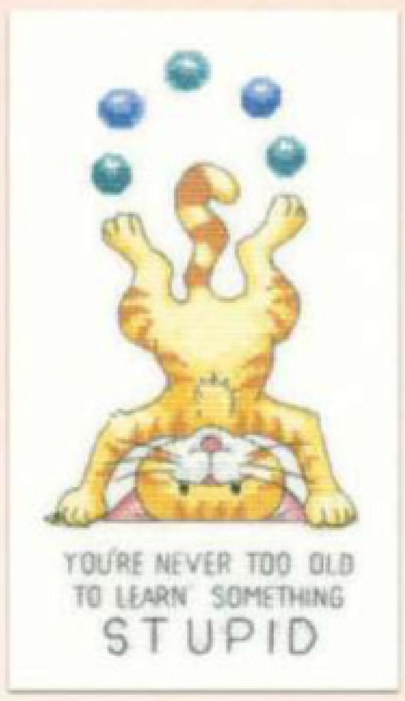
Forty Winks *by Karen Carter*



Bird of a Feather *by Karen Carter*

Frog *by Karen Carter*

Owl *by Karen Carter*



Never Too Old *by Peter Underhill*



Where There's A Will *by Peter Underhill*



Cycle Race *by John Clayton*















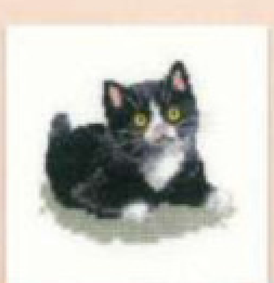


Little Friends

by Susan Ryder & Valerie Pfeiffer

These designs contain very few fractional stitches and are excellent for introducing these stitches to stitchers who may not have encountered them before.

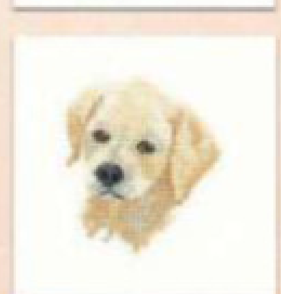
















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