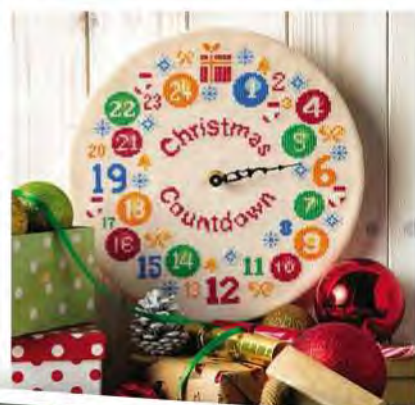


No.1 for designs

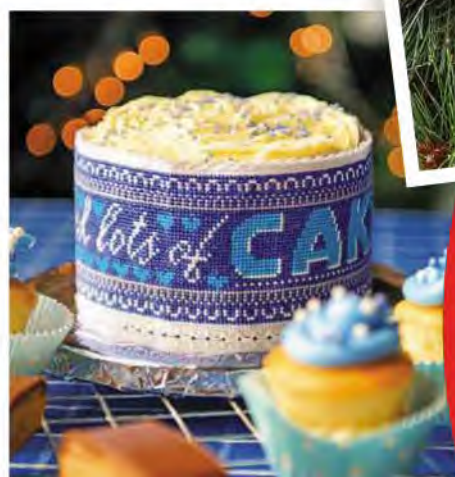
# CrossStitcher

IDEAS • STYLE • INSPIRATION

**69** *Must-stitch designs  
for Christmas!*



*Fun ideas for you to try!*



## DECK THE HALLS!



# MAKE of the month

Give your Christmas presents a personal touch – it's easy with our amazing monogram gift tags kit!

Designed by: Jenny Barton Max. stitch count: 20 high x 16 wide  
Max. design size: 3.8x2.8cm (1½x1¼in) Stitch time: 2 hours each

These designs were stitched on 14 count aida fabric.

## Make a... gift tag

### Step 1

**STITCH** your chosen letter on to a 5x4cm piece of 14 count aida using two strands of stranded cotton for the cross stitch, with one for the backstitch and the French knots.

### Step 2

**CUT** the aida fabric two squares outside the stitched letter. Gently pull away one block of fabric on each side of the letter to create a frayed edge.

### Step 3

**PLACE** a piece of double-sided tape onto the back of the stitched letter, then press it centrally onto the front of the tag. Thread a length of baker's twine through the hole in the tag to complete.







Print out this tag  
onto thin card or  
use as a template  
to create your own  
from kraft card!



DMC Anchor Madeira  
Cross stitch in two strands

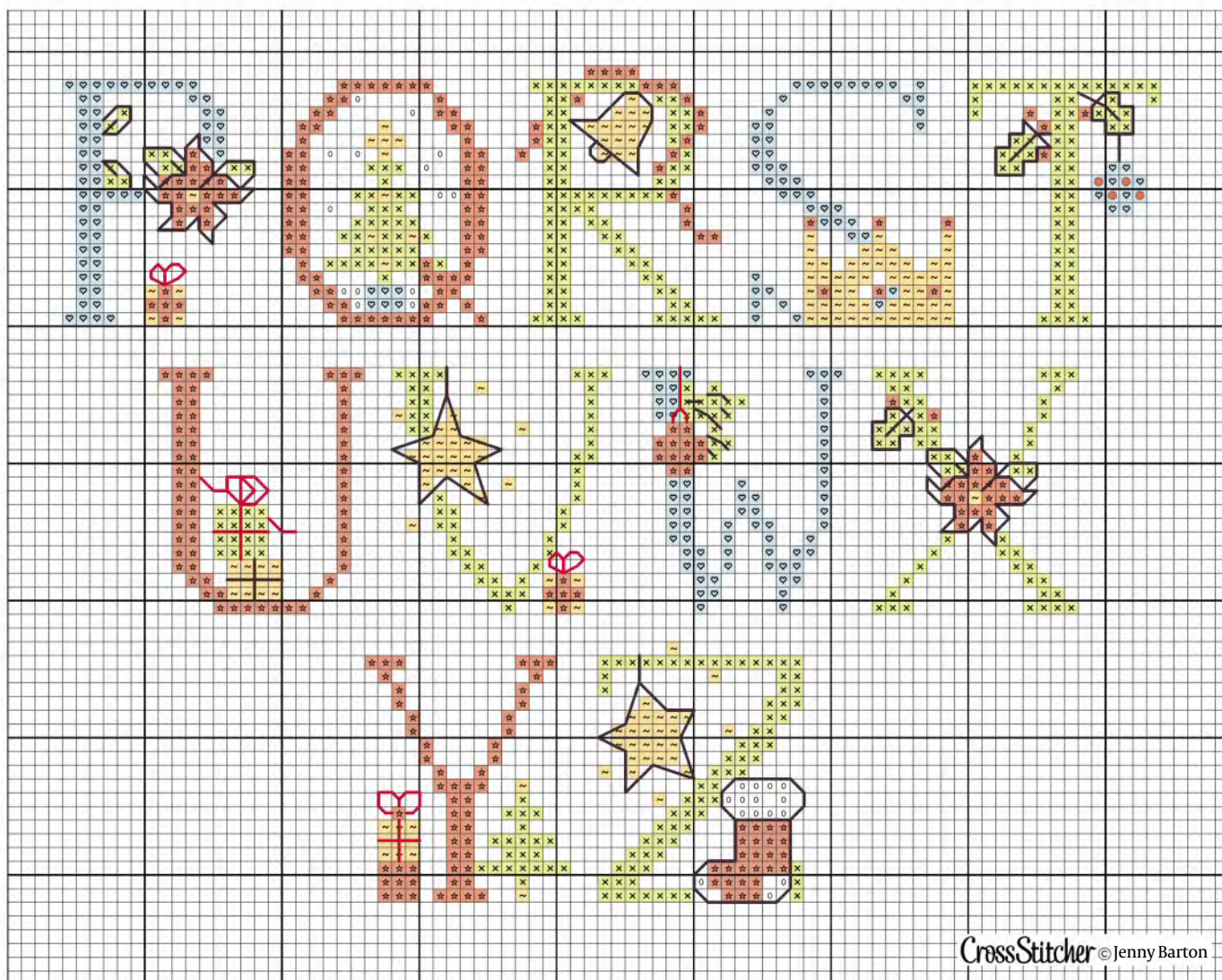
☆☆	347	1025	407
xx	907	255	1410
~ ~	972	298	107
♥♥	3766	167	111
0 0	blanc	001	white

Backstitch in one strand

—	347	1025	407
	bows		
—	3371	382	2004
	bows, leaves, stars		

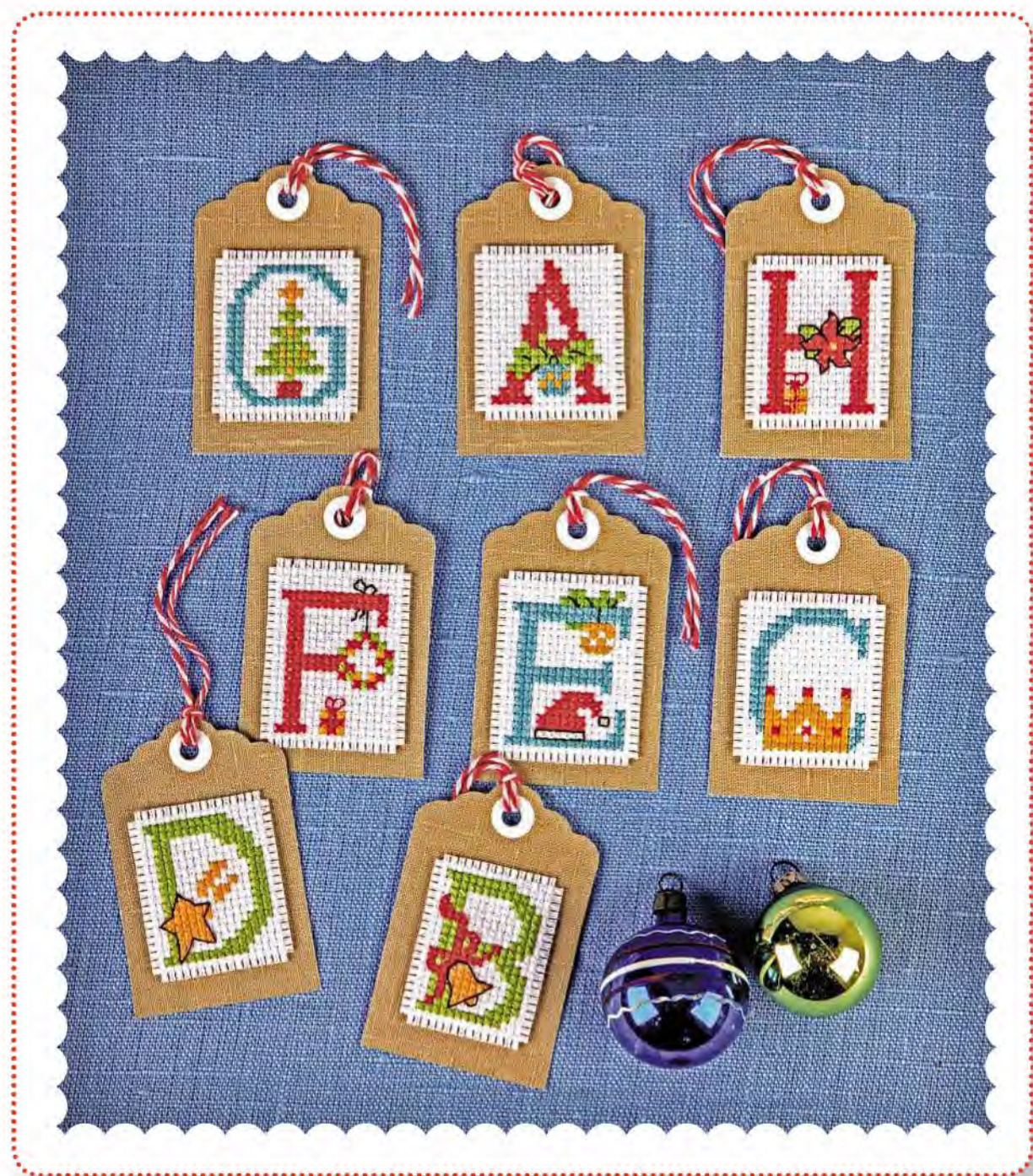
French knots in one strand

●	347	1025	407
	decoration		



CrossStitcher © Jenny Barton





## NEXT MONTH

### BUNTING CARD PROJECT

It's our 300th issue next month! We have a special design to celebrate – a thank you card project, complete with bunting charts to stitch and attach to your card with baker's twine!



ISSUE 300  
JANUARY 2016

**On sale**  
11 December



# Welcome

Christmas means card making...



## WELCOME TO THE DECEMBER

issue! As Christmas approaches, it's that time of year when stitchers like to go to town crafting cards to send to their nearest and dearest. Here at *CrossStitcher* HQ, we love the sending and receiving of Christmas cards which continues for most of December, and being able to handstitch our cards makes them such a special and enjoyable tradition!

As soon as the post arrives in December, somehow our day seems brighter, with little notes of greeting filling each card, giving us a lovely warm feeling and the hope that our cards will do the same for others. These days, emails and texts have often taken over when it comes to everyday messages, so we're delighted that at Christmas, cards are still considered a very important part of the seasonal celebrations.

In that spirit, we've filled this issue with cards to stitch and send and packed it with plenty of other festive treats, plus if you enter the prize crossword this month, you could be in with a chance of winning a bundle of card blanks to finish your festive designs off in style!

The whole team would like to wish every single reader a happy, peaceful and creative Christmas and New Year. We may not be able to send you cards individually, but we can give you the magazine with our hope that this season brings you much joy, and that Santa leaves you a stocking filled to bursting with your favourite stitching goodies!



**Time for a story...**

Belle & Boo are back in our next issue! In shops 11 December.

*Susan* *Martin*

SUSAN & MARTIN PENNY  
EDITORS

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[www.crossstitchermag.com](http://www.crossstitchermag.com)



Keep Christmas jolly with our fun festive jumpers!





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Issue 299 December 2015



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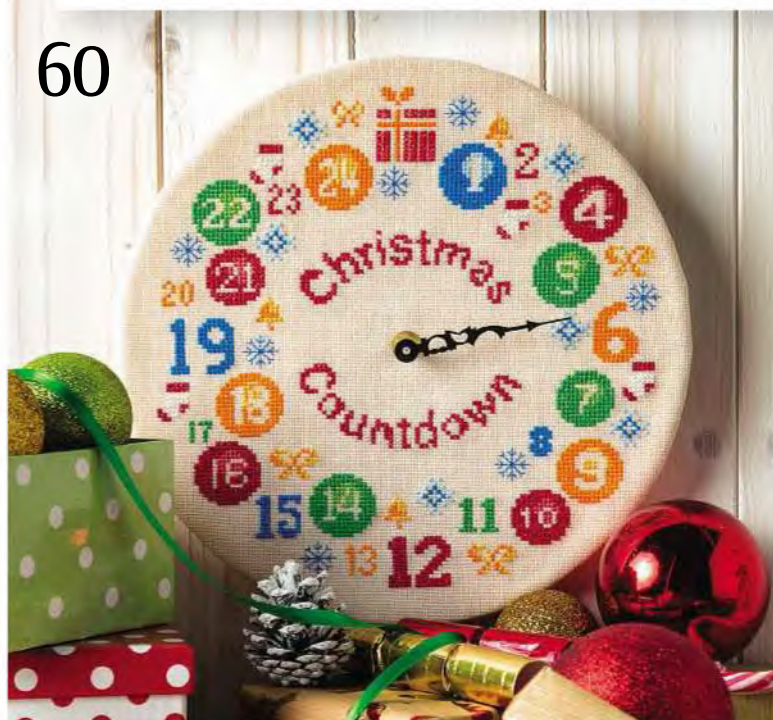


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THE SAVVY  
STITCHER  
ADD SPARKLE

73

## THE SavvyStitcher

*Try something new every issue*

### 73 Add a touch of sparkle

Give your Christmas designs an extra glamorous look with our fab ideas for festive sparkle – using gems, spangles, sequins and gold thread!



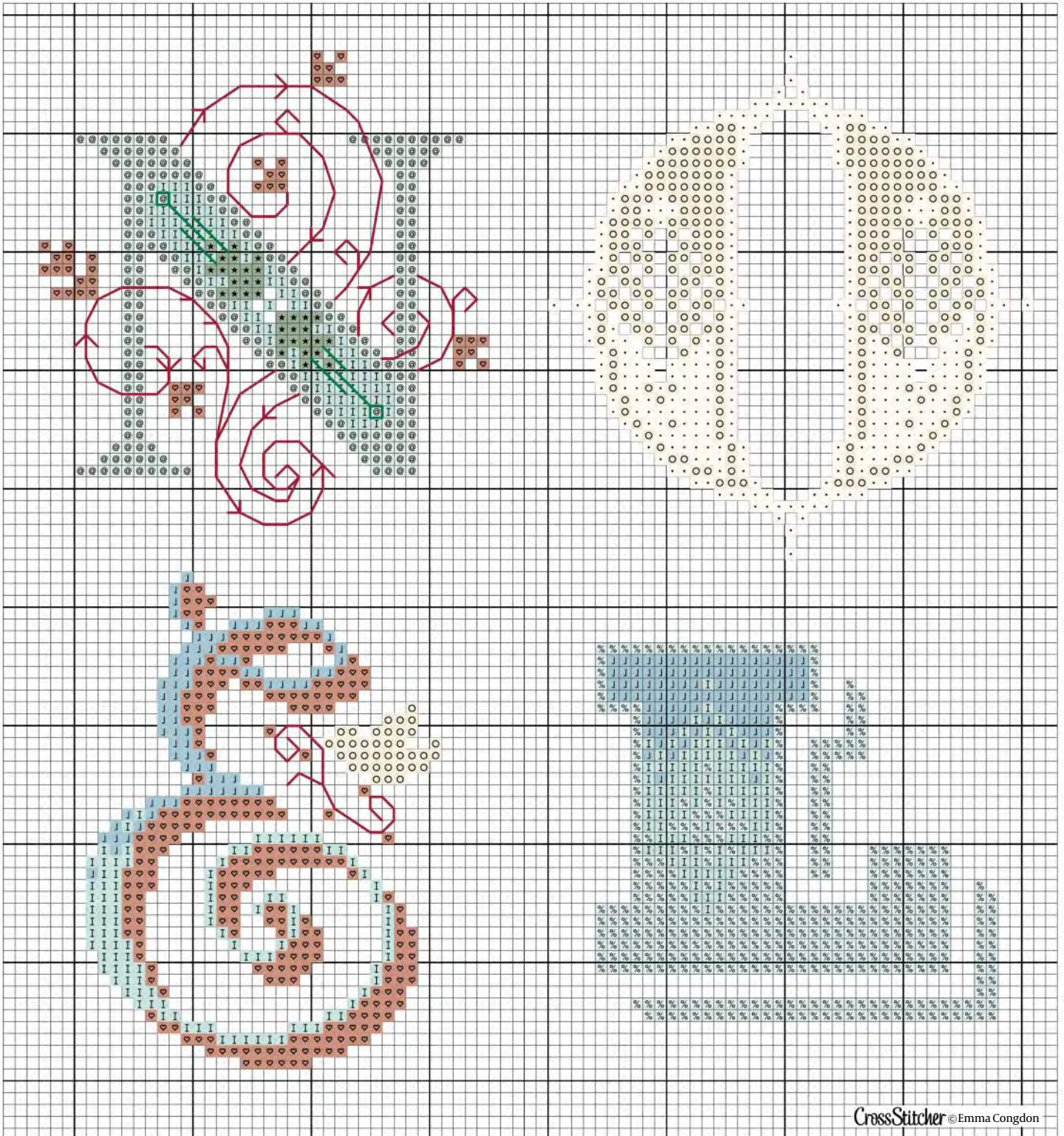






# Glad Tidings

Give your home some comfort and joy with our mini Noel design, hung as individual letters for an on-trend look





Designed by: Emma Congdon

Max. stitch count: 42 high x 41 wide

Max. design size: 7.5x7cm (3x2¾in)

Stitch time: 3 hours each

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

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
◯◯	644	830	1907
♥♥	815	043	513
@@	964	1092	1112
★★	986	246	1404
┘┘	3810	168	1108
%%	3811	1060	1101
II	3849	1070	1109
••	ecru	387	ecru
Backstitch in one strand			
—	815	043	513
decoration			
—	986	246	1404
decoration			



## Materials

### For each letter

- Zweigart 28 count natural Cashel linen, ref: 3281/052, (15x15cm) 6x6in
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Size 26 tapestry needle
- Wooden embroidery hoop, 10cm (4in)
- Ribbon bow

For stockist details see page 84

Paint the outer section of the hoop with two coats of emulsion. We used a match pot of teal coloured paint. Allow to dry thoroughly before using

## How to... frame your work in a hoop

### Step 1



**TRIM** your stitching and a fabric piece into a circle slightly larger than your hoop. Place the inside hoop beneath the two pieces and the outer hoop on top. Centre and press over your work. Pull taut and tighten the screw.

### Step 2



**TURN** your stitching to the reverse and cut a piece of felt to fit inside the inner circle. Place the felt inside the hoop. You can use a bit of fabric glue to keep it in place. The felt will pad your stitching, and stop anything showing through.

### Step 3



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



# Outthere

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

## All wrapped up

We're loving Hannah Sturrock's cheery gift tags for Christmas – they're the perfect quick make to personalise any present and could even be adapted to make festive cards. They're taken from Hannah's first book, *Modern Cross Stitch*, which is packed full of ideas, including snowflake wall art and a traditional Santa sack. Hannah says, "It's a delicious feeling to curl up on the sofa and, stitch by stitch, create something that you know will be treasured." We agree! [www.rylandpeters.com](http://www.rylandpeters.com)







## FOREST FANCY

**FLORIDA'S SEWINGSEED** are always tempting us with their modern cross stitch kits using simple shapes and fresh colours. Beginners and experts alike are sure to love their Deer in the Forest kit. This elegant wall art is perfect for adding a seasonal touch to a room even once Christmas is over.

[www.etsy.com/shop/Sewingseed](http://www.etsy.com/shop/Sewingseed)



## Hop to it

*Forget paper tissues – cotton handkerchiefs are definitely back in vogue. We love these robin handkerchiefs, designed and printed in England by Thornback & Peel.*

[www.thornbackandpeel.co.uk](http://www.thornbackandpeel.co.uk)



## FROSTY FELTIES

**HOW SWEET** are these silly snowmen? Learn how to make them with Hobbycraft's new felt decorations kit, with everything you need including instructions to felt a pair of frosty friends. Simply add a loop of ribbon to turn them into tree ornaments or use them as a sweet table decoration centrepiece.

[www.hobbycraft.co.uk](http://www.hobbycraft.co.uk)



## A CASE FOR CRAFT

**BUTTONBAG HAS** released a super-cute set of mini cross stitch kits just for Christmas. Choose from a heart, reindeer, snowflake or tree design. Each one comes with a felt frame and ribbon for hanging up your hard work afterwards, plus they each come in their own tiny suitcase for stitching on the move! [www.buttonbag.co.uk](http://www.buttonbag.co.uk)

## SEASON'S GREETINGS

**MULTI-TALENTED** Emma Dickie from West Lothian in Scotland makes gorgeous jewellery, knitwear and cross stitch creations. We like her eye-catching Christmas cards, especially for the fact they use variegated threads for an unusual touch that's very effective.

[www.emmadickiedesign.com](http://www.emmadickiedesign.com)



## Oh deer!

**SCANDI STYLE** never goes out of fashion – especially at Christmas! Continue the theme this year by snapping up a few of xCottonKisses' sweet reindeer gift tags, which combine cheerful red with homespun jute. The tags also make charming dinner table favours or even mini invites for Christmas parties. [www.etsy.com/shop/xCottonKisses](http://www.etsy.com/shop/xCottonKisses)





## X MARKS THE SPOT

**PUT YOUR** stamp on it this Christmas with this fun cross stitch-themed stamp set from The Homemakery. This versatile box of wooden stamps includes reindeer, snowflake, heart, tree and bauble designs, as well as 'Merry X-Mas'. There's a black ink pad too, so you can stamp on cards, labels and other festive makes right away. [www.thehomemakery.co.uk](http://www.thehomemakery.co.uk)



## Make a date

**IT'S NEVER** too early to get excited about the brand-new year around the corner, especially when there is a cross stitch calendar involved. This gorgeous kit is a contemporary twist on cross stitch samplers – each month's design and dates are printed on cardboard, ready to stitch. Suitable for ages eight and up, this unique gift is the perfect excuse to stitch all year round! [shop.heatherlinshome.com](http://shop.heatherlinshome.com) [drapersdaughter.com](http://drapersdaughter.com)



## THREE OF THE BEST

### The white stuff

We all love beautiful polar bears – seek out a polar bear stitch kit or try Etsy for these paw-fect purchases...



#### OLULA

Give little ones a bear hug in this superfine merino baby blanket. It's fully reversible and the perfect gift to present with a handstitched tag!



#### THINGS THAT SING

It's impossible to resist this snowy friend and comfy cushion. Animal lovers will be pleased to know you can also pick up a dog or cat design.



#### DEVONLY CRAFTS

This furry fellow will add a cute touch to your Christmas tree. We're loving his handstitched touches, such as the blanket stitch edging.

## TREND SPOTTING

with writer and crafter  
**Katie Allen**



## RED, RED, ROBINS

**ROBINS ARE** a fab festive motif for crafters, just take a peek at these feathered finds...



#### WHO

Love beadwork? Add festive sparkle to your outfit with this beautiful brooch by Polly Red. [www.folksy.com/shops/PollyRed](http://www.folksy.com/shops/PollyRed) [www.pollyred.co.uk](http://www.pollyred.co.uk)



#### WHAT

This sweet handmade robin pincushion makes a gorgeous gift for stitchers. [www.etsy.com/shop/RainbowFelt](http://www.etsy.com/shop/RainbowFelt)



#### HOW

Get in a flap with this robin paper bunting from Goodnight Boutique. [goodnightboutique.com](http://goodnightboutique.com)





## Inside the mind of

# MR X STITCH

Cross stitch, the final frontiers. Jamie aims to boldly go where no manbroiderer has gone before...



Need to find a website link in the dark? I've got just the answer...



Move over Banksy, graffiti's simply cooler in cross stitch!

Find me online:

[www.mrxstitch.com](http://www.mrxstitch.com)  
[www.facebook.com/MrXStitch](https://www.facebook.com/MrXStitch)  
[www.twitter.com/MrXStitch](https://www.twitter.com/MrXStitch)

Lately, for reasons that I can't fully explain yet, I've been thinking about cross stitch frontiers.

Those areas around the edge of the form where there's space to play and try new things. Where are the bits that we can explore and do more with?

Let's have a look at the main materials we use – fabric and stitches. Fabric is an area where things can get interesting. We've all stitched on aida and evenweave, and many of us will have used interfaces to branch out onto other materials. But do you know where there's a frontier? Printed canvasses! With digital printing technologies exploding onto the scene, it's never been cheaper and

stitched areas turn dark when the lights are off, with the background shining through, and this gives a great opportunity for negative stitching or adding hidden designs that only come out at night. I tried stitching a QR code onto some GitD fabric – if you're in the dark but need an embroidery website in a hurry, bleep my QR code with your phone and you'll go straight to Mr X Stitch – the world's best contemporary embroidery website – and problem sorted. This idea could save lives!\*

The brick patterns is a design I thought of when preparing for a workshop at a school. We created a design big enough so that individuals could stitch their names onto a single

“

Where are the bits of cross stitch that we can explore and do more with?

”

easier to have fabric printed with a design of your choosing, so now's the time to think about this base material when planning a new project.

I've stitched on a fair few colours of fabric in my time, mostly coming back to black for something edgy, and using good old antique white for most things. But I've experimented with new fabric designs along the way. Two of my favourites are glow-in-the-dark fabric – yes that's right, glow-in-the-dark – and fabric with a brick design on it. Glow-in-the-dark fabric absorbs the light and shines for a fair while after the lights have gone out. The

'brick' and all of the pieces could be combined to create a wall quilt. I never got to see the finished product, but while experimenting with the design, I got some fabric with smaller bricks, and threw together an Arctic Monkeys inspired stitchery for my fiancée. Why graffiti on real walls when you can stitch on fabric ones? No destruction of property, just some good old urban cross stitch for the modern home!

There are heaps more frontiers out there and I'll explore more of them in this column. If you know of a frontier I should look at, get in touch!

\* Unlikely





**ZWEIGART®**

# Christmas



- New Christmas chart book – No. 275
- Home - Designer Creations 1 – No. 276

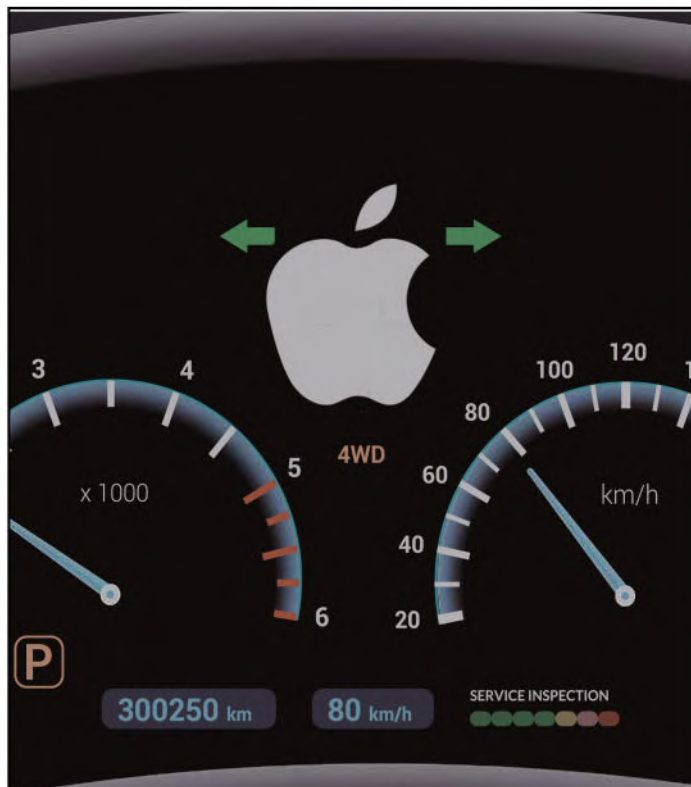
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# Jumper for Joy!

Time to pop on a seasonal sweater...  
Our festive knits look fab framed or as  
decorations – what a woolly good idea!











CrossStitcher ©Lucie Heaton



Designed by: Lucie Heaton

Max. stitch count: 41 high x 45 wide

Max. design size: 8x7.5cm (3¼x3in)

Stitch time: 5 hours each

These designs were stitched on 14 count aida fabric.

## Make a... framed picture

### Step 1

**STITCH** the jumpers that you would like to use in your framed picture. Cut each into a rectangle, a few squares outside the edge of the finished jumper design. Remove threads on each side of the fabric to give a frayed edge.

### Step 2

**FRAME** a piece of complementary fabric – we used cloud blue evenweave. Stretch a length of baker's twine across the picture, taking the ends behind the frame and securing them on the back.

### Step 3

**USE** small wooden pegs to attach your stitched jumpers to the washing line. You may wish to add a small amount of glue to the pegs to hold them securely to the aida.



## Materials

### Picture

- Zweigart 14 count white aida, ref: 3706/100, 12.5x12.5cm (5x5in) for each jumper
  - Fabric Flair 28 count cloud blue evenweave, for the background
  - Stranded cotton as listed in the key
  - Red baker's twine or string
  - Clothes pegs
  - Wooden frame to fit
- For stockist details see page 84

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
♥ ♥	349	013	212
∩ ∩	351	011	214
2 2	352	009	303
× ×	436	1045	2011
♡ ♡	604	055	614
⋈ ⋈	712	926	2101
⊙ ⊙	725	306	808
~ ~	726	305	109
◇ ◇	727	293	102
⌞ ⌞	798	131	911
# #	799	136	910
I I	800	159	908
V V	911	205	1214

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
S S	912	209	1213
Λ Λ	930	1035	1712
▲ ▲	931	921	1711
& &	932	920	1710
■ ■	3799	236	1713
• •	blanc	001	white
Backstitch in one strand			
	726	305	109
tree star			
	930	1035	1712
reindeer antlers			
	3799	236	1713
outlines, snowman			
	blanc	001	white
star motifs			

Stitch as many or as few jumpers as you like and simply extend your 'washing line' to fit!



Stitch one jumper and frame in an aperture card to make a fun Christmas card!

### Materials

#### Decoration

- Zweigart 14 count white aida, ref: 3706/100, 12.5x12.5cm (5x5in) for each jumper
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- White felt for decoration backs, 12.5x12.5cm (5x5in) for each jumper
- Red ribbon
- Toy stuffing

For stockist details see page 84



### Make a... tree decoration

#### Step 1

**STITCH** the jumper front. Place the jumper and felt right sides together.

#### Step 2

**CUT** a length of ribbon and fold in half, bringing the cut ends together. Place the ribbon between the fabric and felt, with the cut ends against the edge of the fabric, and the folded end between the layers.

#### Step 3

**USE** a sewing machine to stitch the rough shape of the jumper, at least 5mm (1/4in) outside the outer edge of the design, and leaving a gap at the bottom for turning.

#### Step 4

**TRIM** and then turn the decoration through to the right side.

#### Step 5

**FILL** the decoration with toy stuffing through the gap left at the bottom, and then fold in the fabric and close the gap with small, neat stitches.





## FOUR SEASONS JUMBLES



SPRING



# SUMMER



## AUTUMN



## WINTER

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Four Season Kits are £18.95 each

## OTHER JUMBLES

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**£23.95**

B MY  
VALENTINE



**£17.95**

## HALLOWEEN



**£17.95**

## EASTER EGGS



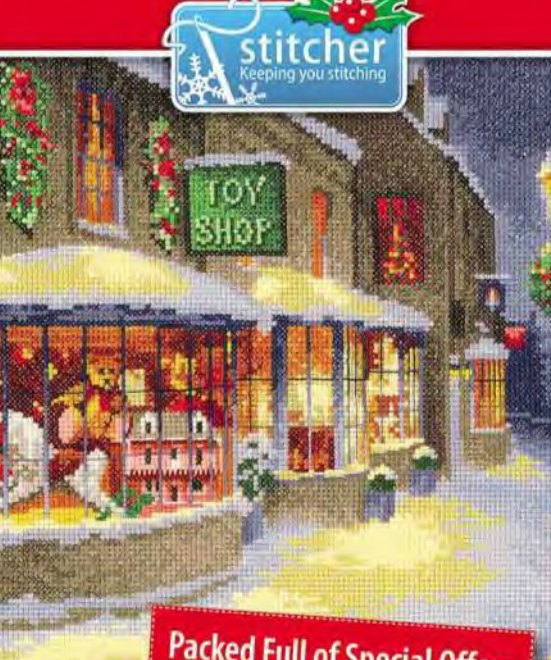
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## Dancing Houses - Dancing Trees Festive Window

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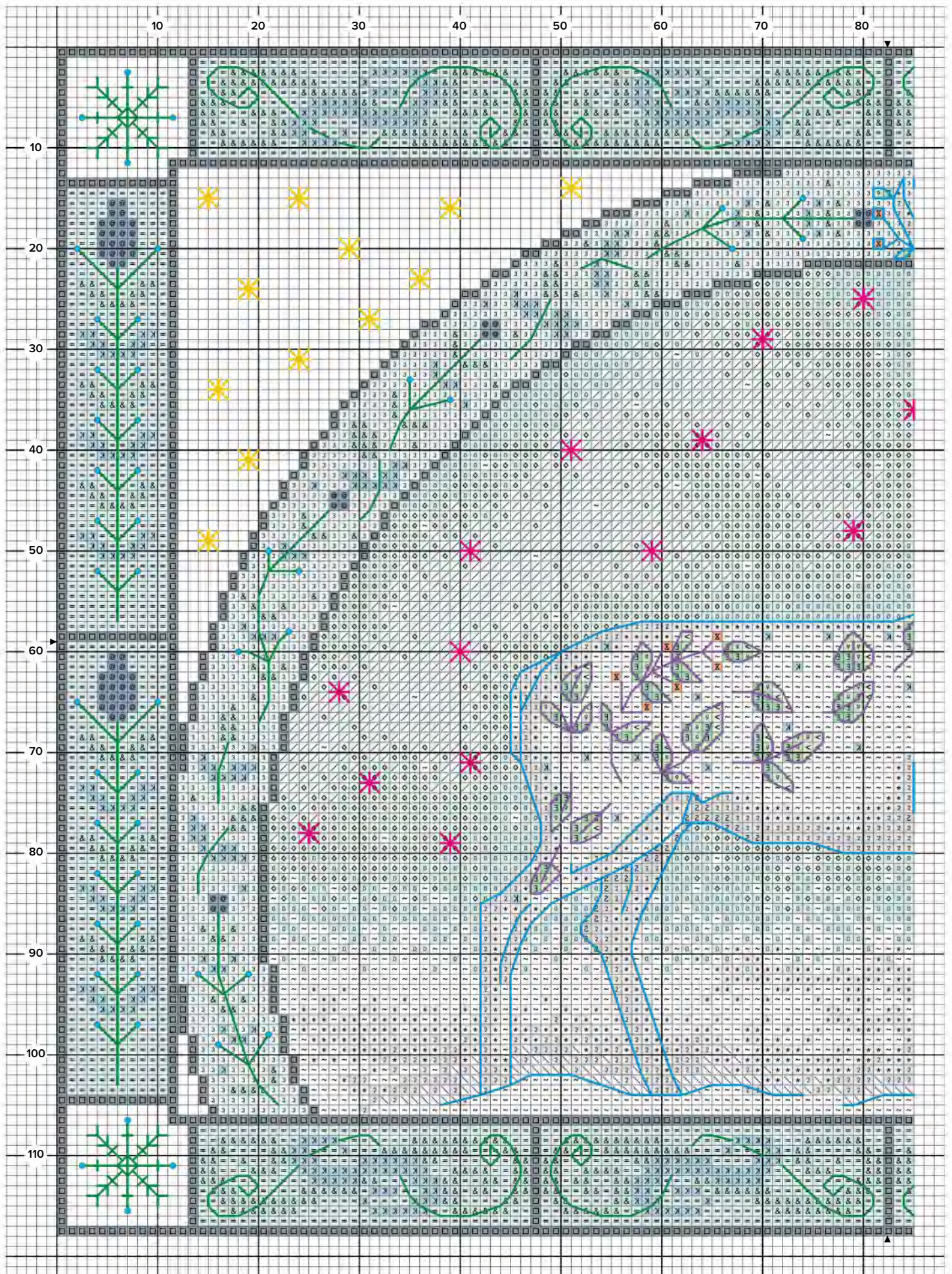


# Woodland Wonder

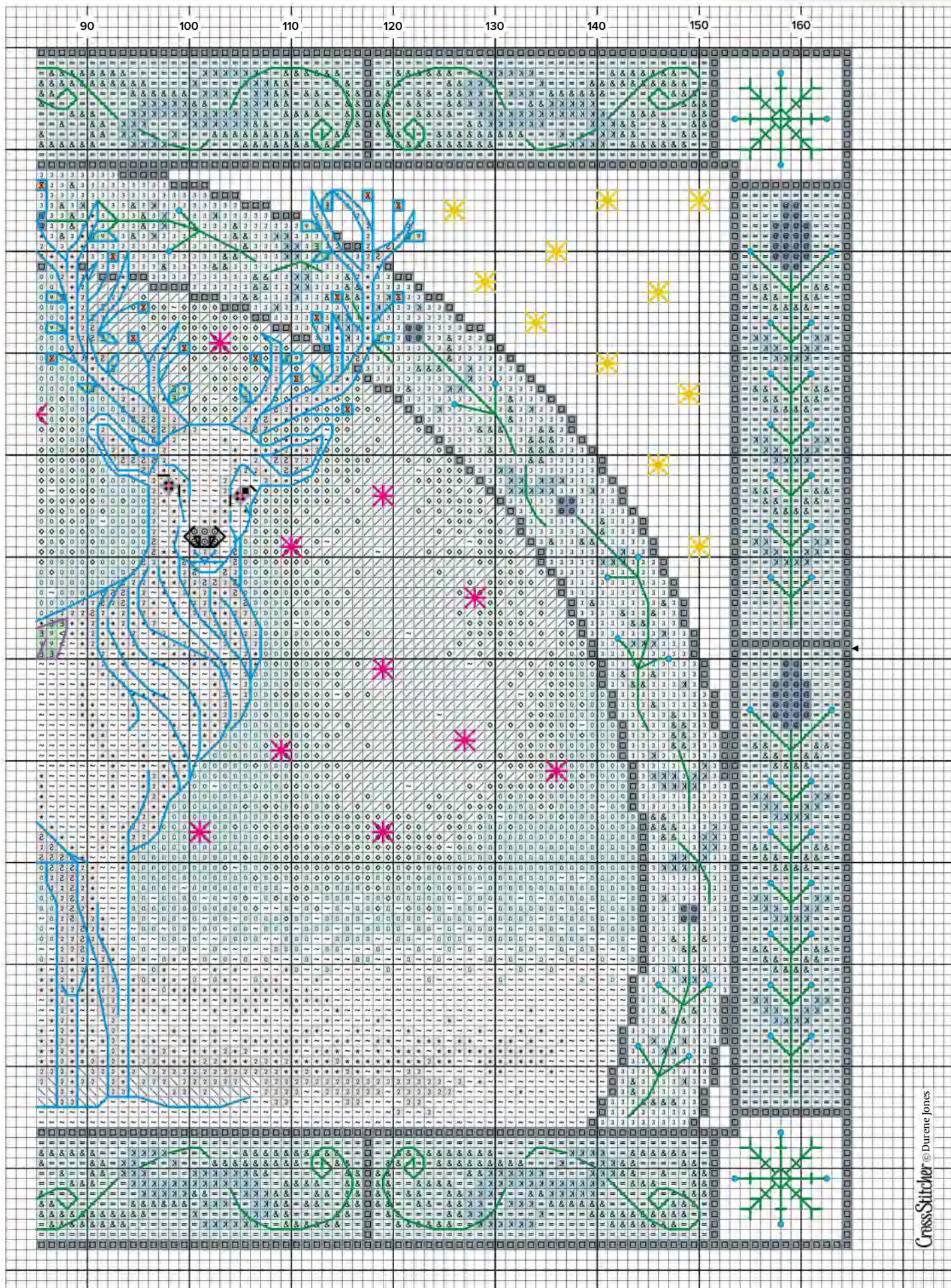
For a truly magical way to celebrate midwinter, try our stunning stag standing in the snow...



# WOODLAND WONDER









# WOODLAND WONDER

Designed by: Durene Jones

Stitch count: 118 high x 165 wide

Design size: 20.5x29cm (8x11½in)

Stitch time: 85 hours

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

Take care when working the backstitch as the colours are very similar and worked in a mixture of one and two strands



## ALGERIAN EYE STITCH

**ALGERIAN** Eye Stitches are worked in one and two strands of stranded cotton in two different colours. Work each stitch over the number of threads shown on the chart. Make each stitch into the centre, creating a small star with a hole in the middle.

## Materials

- Zweigart 28 count opalescent white Cashel linen, ref: 3281/1111, 38x46cm (15x18in)
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Size 26 tapestry needle
- Frame with a 25x36cm (10x14in) aperture

For stockist details see page 84



TURN TO  
PAGE 37  
TO LEARN  
HOW TO FRAME  
YOUR PICTURE

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
■ ■	310	403	black
⊙ ⊙	317	400	1714
2 2	318	399	1802
⊗ ⊗	349	013	212
2 2	415	398	1803
∕ ∕	747	158	1104
* *	762	234	1804
⋈ ⋈	807	1039	1109
3 3	911	205	1214
9 9	954	202	1211
< <	955	206	1210
0 0	959	186	1113
◇ ◇	964	1092	1112 (2)
∖ ∖	3752	1033	1001
3 3	3761	928	1014 (2)
@ @	3765	169	2506
□ □	3808	1068	2507
= =	3811	1060	1101 (2)
& &	3849	1070	1202
~ ~	blanc	001	white (2)

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Backstitch in two strands			
—	3765	169	2506
border pattern			
Backstitch in one strand			
—	310	403	black
nose and eye detail			
—	317	400	1714
stag outline			
—	909	230	1302
leaves			
Algerian eyes in two strands			
—	807	1039	1109
background			
Algerian eyes in one strand			
—	blanc	001	white
snowflakes			
French knots in one strand			
●	3765	169	2506
border			
●	blanc	001	white
eyes			

(2) indicates more than one skein is required



# Your stitching

Drop us a line to pin your projects into our album!  
Email your photos to [crossstitcher@dennis.co.uk](mailto:crossstitcher@dennis.co.uk) or write to us at *CrossStitcher*, PO Box 172, Northam, EX39 9DY



These owls appeared in issue 262 of your magazine. I used them to make a drawstring bag to put small items in.  
*Barbara Kruk, Poland*



I made this hanging ornament for my brother. I really liked the series of animals from the October issue of *CrossStitcher*.  
*Malgorzata Paluch, Poland*



Here is a photo of my finished project of the gardening sampler from issue 277 of *CrossStitcher*!  
*Cecile Araneta Cacho, Philippines*



Here are the cottages from issue 297's free gift. I couldn't do just one, I used extra fabric as I had to stitch all three!  
*Erica Allen, Gloucestershire*



This is the free gift from issue 288. I changed the scissors job to be a mini-biscornu, using up all the spare threads.  
*Yula Olieh, Africa*



When my son had just lost his first tooth, I saw your pattern for a tooth fairy cushion! Thank you for this idea.  
*Justyna Flos, Poland*



Loved these little feltas from issue 298, I couldn't decide which to stitch so I made them all and turned them into felt baubles.  
*Natalie Chapman, by email*



I made this cute audio cassette from number 274 to celebrate my brother's 50th birthday. He was so happy receiving it!  
*Sara Lugnani, Switzerland*

## Stay in touch...

🖱 [crossstitchermag.com](http://crossstitchermag.com)



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@XStitchmagazine



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



I  
♥  
CHRISTMAS!

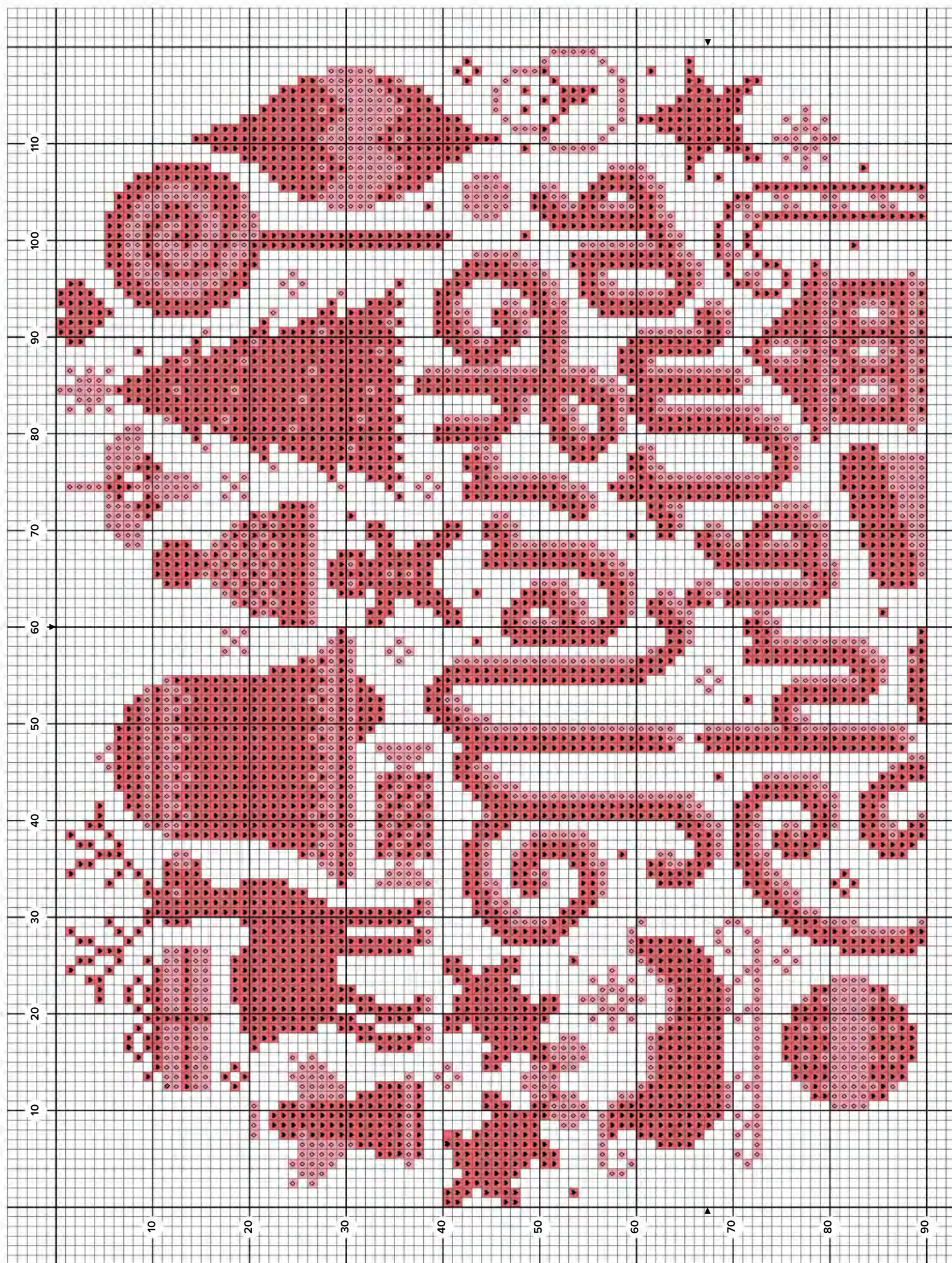
Time to celebrate the season! For a festive design that's full of heart, our sampler is a must to hang in your home













TURN TO  
PAGE 37  
TO LEARN  
HOW TO FRAME  
YOUR PICTURE



Designed by: Emma Congdon

Stitch count: 135 high x 120 wide

Design size: 23.5x21.5cm (9¼x8½in)

Stitch time: 34 hours

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

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
♥ ♥	666	046	210 (3)
♦ ♦	3706	033	409 (2)

(2) indicates more than one skein is required

## Materials

- Zweigart 28 count off-white Quaker fabric, ref: 3993/101, 40x40cm (16x16in)
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Size 26 tapestry needle
- Wooden frame, 30.5x32cm (12x12½in)
- Mount board to fit your frame

For stockist details see page 84







# Glisten & Glow

All that glitters... Try our fun idea for keeping your baubles safe and sound before and after decorating your tree



DMC Anchor Madeira  
Cross stitch in two strands  
▲▲ blanc 001 white

## Make a... bag

### Step 1

**FOLD** your fabric both ways to find the centre. Start stitching in the centre of the fabric with the long fabric edges at the top and bottom.

### Step 2

**TURN** over the top edge of the fabric, twice on to the wrong side. Iron, then machine stitch in place.

### Step 3

**WITH** right side facing, sew up the centre back seam, then neaten on the inside. Iron the bag so that the design is at the centre front and the seam centre back.

### Step 4

**STITCH** across the bottom of the bag then neaten the seam. Turn to the right side.

Designed by: Lesley Teare Stitch count: 56 high x 56 wide

Design size: 10x10cm (4x4in) Stitch time: 5 hours

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

This versatile design would also look lovely stitched on Christmas green fabric

## Materials

- Zweigart 28 count Brittney red evenweave, ref: 3270/954, 30x50cm (12x20in)
  - Stranded cotton as listed in the key
  - Size 26 tapestry needle
- For stockist details see page 84









♥ ♥ ♥

# TAKE THE CAKE

♥ ♥ ♥

After last-minute gift inspiration?  
We've got the yummiest ideas, with  
our fun picture and cake band set

Designed by: Felicity Hall











**Stitch count:** 120 high x 90 wide  
**Design size:** 16.5x12.5cm (8½x6½in)  
**Stitch time:** 41 hours

This design was stitched on 14 count aida fabric.

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
	318	399	1802 (2)
	797	931	912 (3)
	3845	433	1103 (3)
	B5200 001	white	(2)

(2) indicates more than one skein is required

## Materials

### Picture

- Zweigart 14 count white aida, ref: 3706/100, 33x25cm (13x10in)
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Size 26 tapestry needle
- Frame with a 22.5x25cm (9x10in) aperture

For stockist details see page 84



With a limited colour palette and no backstitch, this design will stitch up relatively easily!

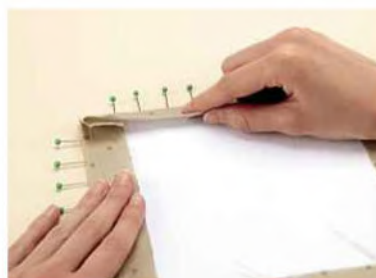
## How to... frame a picture

### Step 1



**CUT** a piece of white mount board to fit inside your frame. Place your design centrally over the mount board and pin the fabric around the board to secure, starting at the centre of each side and working outwards.

### Step 2



**PIN** around the entire perimeter and check you are happy with the positioning of your design, then turn over to the reverse. Use double-sided tape to secure the fabric excess around all four sides.

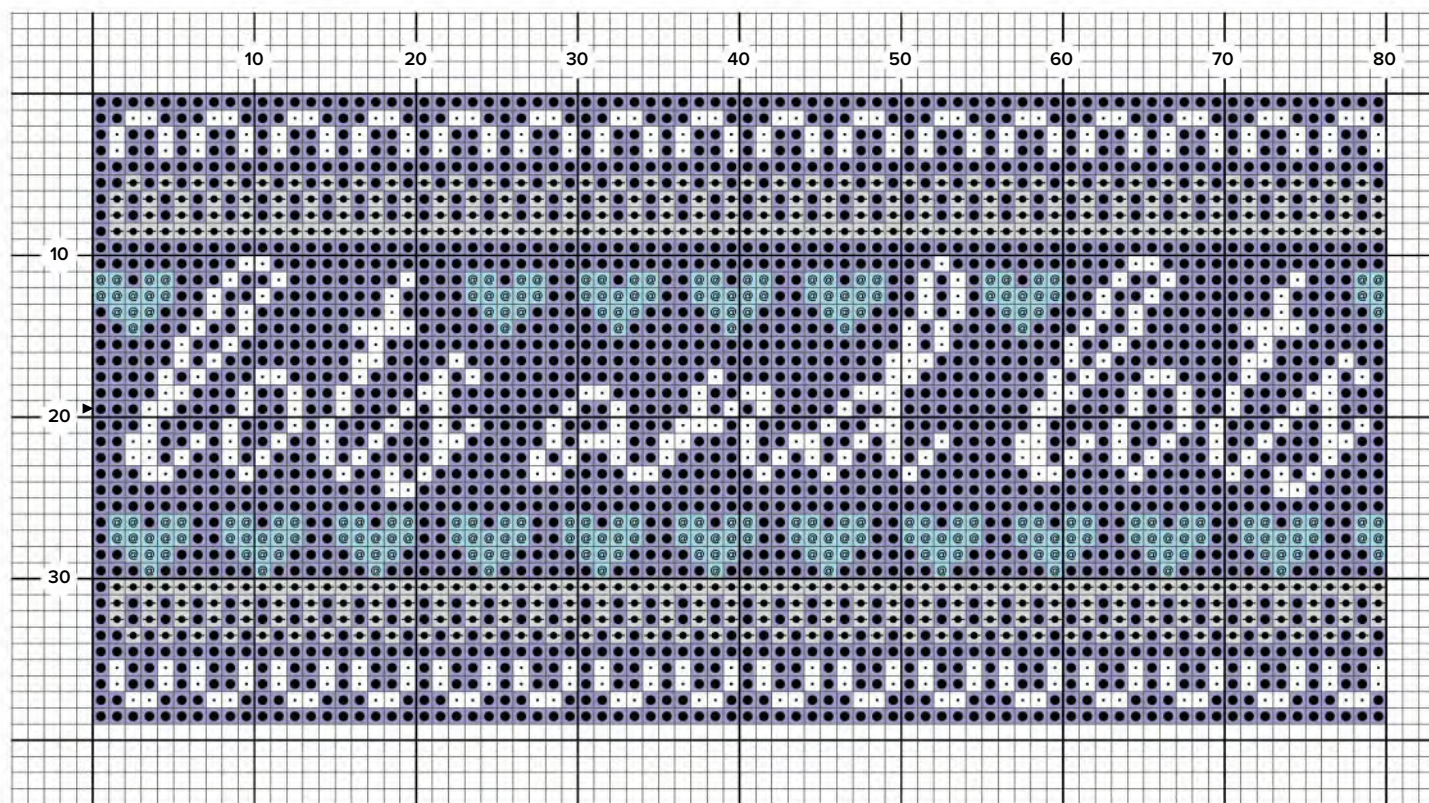
### Step 3



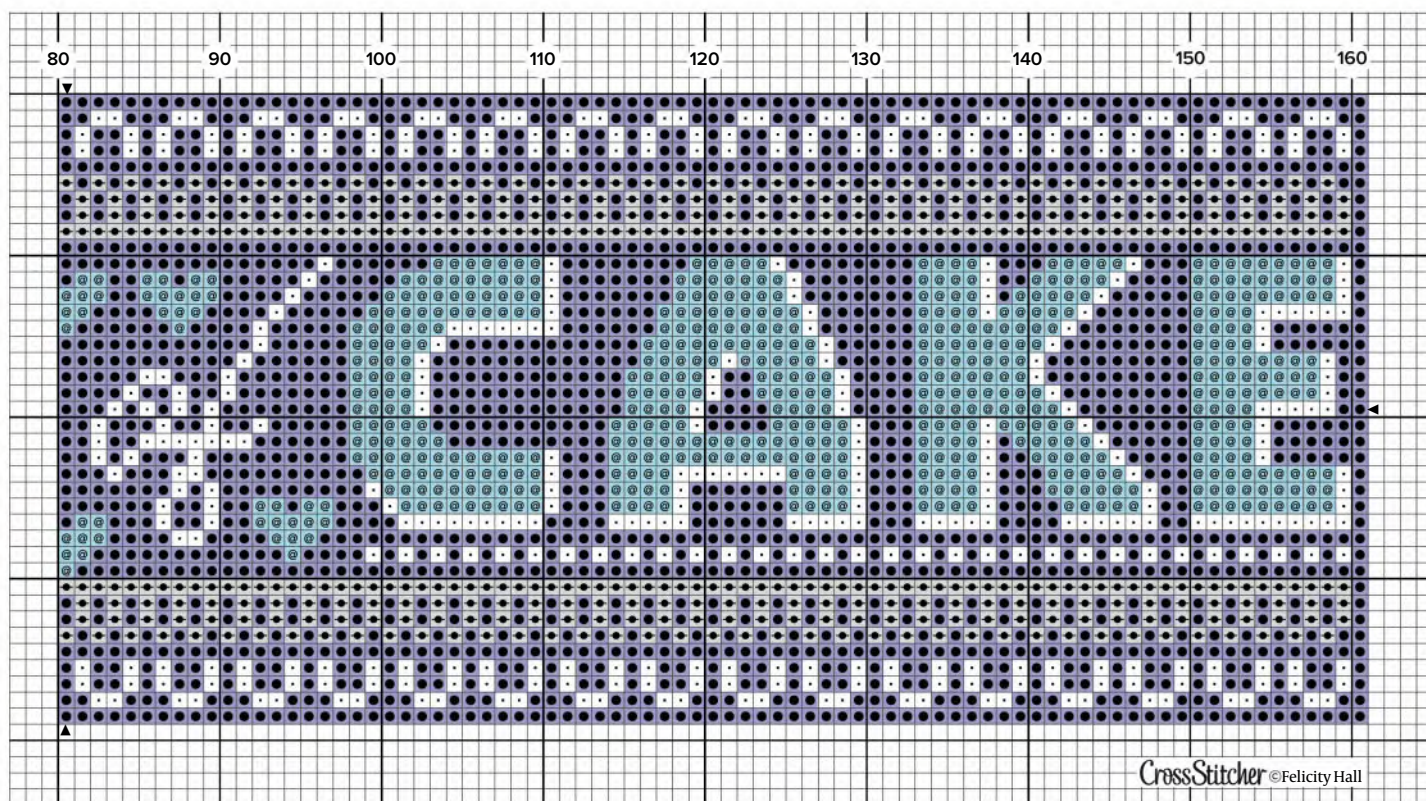
**SECURE** the fabric edges with masking tape and remove the pins. Position your stitching in the frame and back with a second piece of mount board. Seal the edges with more masking tape to finish off.



# TAKE THE CAKE







**Stitch count:** 39 high x 161 wide

**Design size:** 7x29cm (2¾x11½in)

**Stitch time:** 29 hours

This design was stitched on 14 count aida fabric.

Presenting someone  
with a homemade Christmas  
cake? You could change your  
thread colours to a festive  
red and green scheme,  
if you prefer!

## Make a... cake band

### Step 1

**MEASURE** your cake diameter and then add on a small amount for the overlap. Start stitching centrally on the band at one end of the fabric, leaving the overlap blank.

### Step 2

**WORK** the cross stitch, holding the aida band in your hand to ensure an even tension.

### Step 3

**REPEAT** the design, or part of the design, to fill the band.

## Materials

### Cake band

- Zweigart white aida band, ref: 7008/001, 8cm (3¼in)
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Size 26 tapestry needle

For stockist details see page 84



# All we want for Christmas...

We took four ladies who make a living from cross stitch and asked them about their crafty Christmases, including what they will be stitching to celebrate this year...

Interview by Katie Allen

**C**ross stitch and Christmas often go hand in hand, as stitchers settle down to start on special handmade presents and decorations. Which got us thinking – what do the lucky folks with crafty careers do to make sure their Christmas is a stitching success? We asked four ladies in the business to share with us their favourite festive traditions and seasonal stitching dreams...



## CYNTHIA ZITTEL

The Drawn Thread

[www.drawnthread.com](http://www.drawnthread.com)

### Tell us about your cross stitch journey!

I've always been crafty, since I was about 10 years old when my mother taught me to use the sewing machine. I first started cross stitch years ago when my neighbour took me to a local shop and I was hooked.

Several years later I entered a sampler design contest – and won second place! Then, I was hooked again – this time on designing my own projects.

My first design was a Christmas stocking. I printed out some patterns and took them and the stocking to the local shop. The lady in the shop took all I had and paid me for them on the spot. I was thrilled. About a week later she called to say she had run out! That was 21 years ago, so the new hobby turned into a business and has worked out pretty well.

### How would you describe your style?

I would say sophisticated traditional with a twist. Antique samplers have always been an inspiration, but I like to play with that concept and give them a modern twist. I also love doing speciality stitches and think they add so much texture and interest to cross stitch.

### Tell us a bit more about your Christmas designs!

I love doing Christmas designs. You always get to start with a pretty palette and there are so many lovely images associated with Christmas... Santa, pine trees, snowmen, ivy, holly, mistletoe, wreaths...

### What do you hope to stitch for Christmas this year?

We are focusing on Christmas ornaments as they seem to be such an enduring tradition and are quick to stitch. We will be doing groups of ornaments in one pattern with a common theme: this year we are doing six little 'joys'.

### Do you have any special crafty Christmas traditions?

Our family tradition is rather big and

garish Christmas stockings. I think my grandmother started it when she made each grandchild a Christmas stocking out of felt. My sister still makes the felt ones. I do cross stitch but have kept them in my own traditional style.

### What are your favourite Christmas gifts you like to make?

I'm pretty much the 'crafty' giver in my family. Every year I knit small items for everyone... mittens, hats, scarves. Each year I also send preserves and pickles, chutneys and relishes. I'm a very practical Christmas gift giver!



Cynthia loves giving traditional motifs a twist at Christmastime.







## HEATHER GRAY

**Modern Needleworks**

[www.modernneedleworks.com](http://www.modernneedleworks.com)

Can you tell us a bit about yourself and Modern Needleworks?

I've always been inspired by my grandmother – she could make anything. I spent a lot of time with her and I learned so much. As an adult, most of the needlepoint and cross stitch designs available didn't fit with my personal style, which is a mix of vintage, modern, industrial and primitive – nothing formal or fussy.

So, armed with everything my grandmother had taught me, I designed and stitched a few pieces. I love bold, often simple, graphics and clean lines. My friends and family raved about them – so Modern Needleworks was born!

Tell us a bit more about your Christmas designs.

I have always adored handmade Christmas ornaments, especially hand-stitched ones. However,

turning a piece of cross stitch or needlepoint into an ornament often requires expensive or complex finishing: I wanted to create something that did not require this and also conveyed my simple, modern aesthetic.

What will you be stitching for Christmas this year?

I'm actually working on something totally different: I'm stitching a vintage-inspired floral design which will be a gift for a friend. I doubt it will be a design I would sell but sometimes I have to shake things up a bit.

Have you based any Christmas traditions on your love of craft?

Probably one of the craftiest parts of my Christmas (and one of my favourites) is decorating my home. Of course I use most of the same decorations each year, but I try to mix them up. I always end up doing numerous DIY projects like making or redoing a wreath or spray-painting branches.

What is the best crafty Christmas gift you ever received?

I received a stunning handknitted pink scarf from a dear friend about 15 years ago. It is so soft and luxurious. Knowing all the love and effort that went into the scarf makes it all the more special.

Heather is a fan of bold motifs with clean lines.



Pamela's a big fan of Christmas, as it's the perfect excuse for adding sparkle to her designs:



## PAMELA MILLERSHASKI

**Wired Stitches**

[www.etsy.com/shop/wiredstitches](http://www.etsy.com/shop/wiredstitches)

Can you tell us a bit about yourself?

I can't remember a time when cross stitching wasn't part of my world – from my mother and grandmother to numerous great aunts. When my younger brother became housebound with a brain tumour, he took up cross stitch, too. He remains my inspiration today even though he's been gone for many years now.

When I decided to leave teaching, I was able to put my whole heart into craft projects, especially cross stitch. This is my third year of running my crafty business.

What are you stitching for Christmas?

Christmas is my favourite time of the year! I love the sparkle and magic which I try to add into all my holiday designs, especially the rich green of mistletoe and the deep red of poinsettias. I'm currently working on gold and silver Christmas stars. >>





## INSPIRING PEOPLE

And I've also sketched out a nativity scene that can be combined all together or stitched separately.

### Do you have any traditions?

My crafty Christmas traditions come from my own family that I now share with my own husband and three boys. I have a cranberry-red velvet-skirted angel that we always place at the top of our tree.

### What has been your favourite crafty Christmas gift?

The absolute best crafty Christmas gift I ever received was a kit to make a scrapbook calendar. I loved putting our family photos on each month for the coming year.



**Holiday hoopla:** Pam's minimalist designs make the ultimate quick-stitch motifs for Christmas!



From baubles to bookmarks, Christen's style is super-cute!



### CHRISTEN SMITH Chres Stitch Creations

[www.etsy.com/shop/chresstitchcreations](http://www.etsy.com/shop/chresstitchcreations)

Can you tell us a bit about yourself and your passion for cross stitch?

I am 39 years old and I live in Canandaigua in New York State. I have loved cross stitch since I was a young girl. My Grandma Doris was very crafty and she got me hooked on making things with plastic canvas, then moving to counted cross stitch. She had a real spark that got me excited about making things.

How would you describe your cross stitch style?

I really enjoy modern designs the most. I am drawn to patterns that are full of colour – really vibrant and rich.

What are you stitching for Christmas this year?

I've made Christmas tree ornaments and I've also stitched

a number of bookmarks recently that have gone over well so I'd love to do more of those. I've also expanded the personalised section of my shop.

Have you got any Christmas traditions of your own?

My husband and I have developed some of our own special traditions. One of our favourites is getting hot chocolate and setting aside an entire evening to drive around and look at Christmas lights.

Which gifts are you hoping to receive this year?

My husband and I travel a lot (our goal is to visit all 50 states – we have 10 left), so we made a deal a few years ago to stop giving each other Christmas gifts. Instead we save our money for our next fun adventure. I guess doing it this way keeps Christmas with us all year long.



Plastic canvas is perfect for her festive ornaments.



# IDEAS FOR CHRISTMAS

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# Winter Welcome

Grab a mince pie and a glass of mulled wine... It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas, and Santa's here to celebrate!



## MORE SANTA MAGIC...



*If you missed our first Permin Santa in issue 298, you can order a back issue – simply visit page 83 for details.*











## Materials

- Permin 14 count white aida, 35.5x30.5cm (14x12in)
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Size 26 tapestry needle
- Red plastic flexi-hoop, 25.5x20cm (10x8in)
- Felt for backing

For stockist details see page 84



Designed by: Permin

Stitch count: 122 high x 98 wide

Design size: 22.5x18cm (9x7in)

Stitch time: 40 hours

This design was stitched on  
14 count aida fabric.

## How to... frame in a flexi-hoop

### Step 1

**TRIM** your stitching into an oval slightly larger than your hoop.

### Step 2

**CENTRE** over the inner hoop and press the outer hoop down over your fabric.

### Step 3

**PULL** your fabric taut, then on the back secure to the inner hoop with glue or double-sided tape.

### Step 4

**CUT** an oval of felt the same size as your hoop. Place over the back of the stitching and secure it to the fabric with small neat stitches.

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
	310	403	black
	321	019	510
	350	011	213
	356	338	402
	648	900	1814
	742	303	114
	775	1031	1001
	815	043	513
	823	127	1008
	824	143	1010
	844	1041	1810
	928	274	1709
	931	921	1711
	932	920	1710
	975	371	2303
	3341	328	302
	3345	268	1406
	3347	266	1408

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
	3755	939	909
	3822	295	2511
	3856	368	2309
Backstitch in one strand			
	310	403	black
	lamp, gate, eyes		
	321	019	510
	'santa'		
	775	1031	1001
	chimney smoke		
	823	127	1008
	roof, trees		
	824	143	1010
	beard, bushes, snow		
	844	1041	1810
	hair		
	975	371	2303
	face		
	3345	268	1406
	wreath		

# MORE FESTIVE INSPIRATION...

Check out these fab Christmas kits from Permin

Permin have a huge selection of seasonal kits! Here are just three of our favourite designs to stitch this year. For details of your nearest stockist call Michael Whitaker Fabrics Ltd on 07983 020189 (free call-back service).



**SANTACLAUS X3**

Ref: 01-5245



**HARDANGER STAR RED**

Ref: 01-5624



**CHRISTMAS IN RED**

Ref: 27-5686



**NEW!  
PRIZES  
FOR YOU!**

# CrossStitcher PRIZE TIME!

We've got some great cross stitch giveaways up for grabs – make sure you enter today for your chance to win!

**Giveaways open 13 November – 10 December**



## Me to You kits

These Me to You mini cross stitch kits make great stocking fillers, tree or table presents. We have four kits to give away this month – Candy Cane, I Love Xmas Pud, Christmas Tree Fun and Presents for Me. Each kit features a festive Tatty Teddy and comes with a chart, instructions, iridescent aida and DMC stranded cotton, RRP £2.99. With four more cute designs in the range, you will never be short of last-minute Christmas gift ideas. Visit [www.sewandsew.co.uk](http://www.sewandsew.co.uk) to see the full range. Four lucky winners will each receive a kit (designs sent at random). **Enter by post to the address below, labelling your entry 'CHRISTMAS BEAR KIT GIVEAWAY 299.'**

## Modern Cross Stitch books

Two lucky winners will each receive a copy of the new *Modern Cross Stitch* book by Hannah Sturrock of Bobo Stitch. Published by Cico, the 30 modern designs, some using glow-in-the-dark thread and soluble canvas, have a contemporary twist which will appeal to a new generation of cross stitchers. *Modern Cross Stitch* is available from bookshops and also from Amazon, RRP £12.99.

**Enter by post to the address below, labelling your entry 'MODERN CROSS STITCH GIVEAWAY 299.'**



## Stitch The Halls! books

*Stitch The Halls!* is filled with all things festive. 15 designs in a variety of counted thread techniques are split into three themed collections – Stylish & Chic for sophisticates, Merry & Bright for modernists and Classic & Cosy for the traditionalists. Written by Sophie Simpson of *What Delilah Did*, this book will give you hours of stitching pleasure. It's published by Collins & Brown and available in bookshops, RRP £9.99. We have two books to give away!

**Enter by post to the address below, labelling your entry 'STITCH THE HALLS! GIVEAWAY 299.'**

## Bothy Threads nativity kit

Bothy Threads has produced yet another kit with star qualities. Nativity (xx3) which is designed from artwork by Julia Rigby, features a stable scene with the baby Jesus surrounded by Mary and Joseph, the three kings, shepherds and the animals. The kit comes with 14 count aida, pre-sorted stranded cotton, gold beads and sequins, along with a needle, chart and full instructions. The finished size is 38x34cm, RRP £31.99 from [www.bothythreads.com](http://www.bothythreads.com). We have one kit to give away!

**Enter by post to the address below, labelling your entry 'NATIVITY KIT GIVEAWAY 299.'**



## HOW TO ENTER

Write your name and address on the back of a postcard or stuck-down envelope together with the name of the giveaway(s) you are entering and send to:  
**CrossStitcher, PO Box 172, Northam, EX39 9DY.**

Competition opens 13 November – 10 December 2015. For competition terms and conditions go to page 85. You may enter multiple prize draws on one postcard.





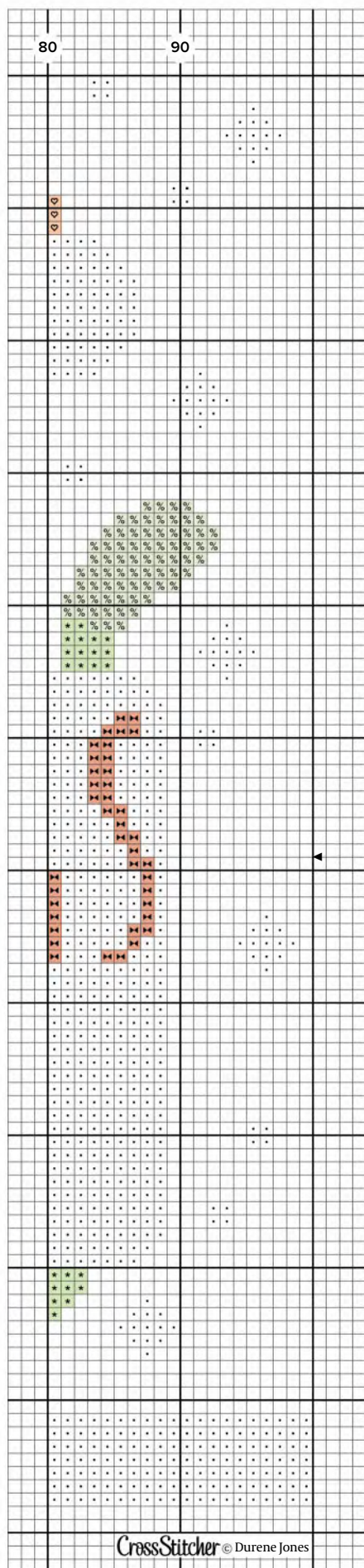
# CAT IN THE BAG

Heading out Christmas shopping? Fill our fun festive tote bag with your purrfect purchases!









Designed by: Durene Jones Stitch count: 108 high x 100 wide

Design size: 18.5x17.5cm (7¼x7in) Stitch time: 49 hours

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

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
■ ■	164	240	1209
■ ■	310	403	black
♥ ♥	351	011	214
⊙ ⊙	433	371	2008
@ @	436	1045	2011
8 8	605	074	613
* *	703	238	1307 (2)
◇ ◇	739	366	2014
◀ ▶	817	013	211
•   •   •	838	1088	1914
▪ ▪	B5200 001	white	(3)

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Backstitch in three strands			
—	310	403	black
eyes			
Backstitch in two strands			
—	838	1088	1914
robin's legs			
Backstitch in one strand			
—	310	403	black
whiskers, nose			
—	B5200 001	white	
eyes			

(2) indicates more than one skein is required





## STITCHING THE DESIGN

**FOLD** your fabric both ways to find the centre. Start stitching in the centre of the fabric with the long fabric edge at the top and bottom. Work all the cross stitch in two strands of stranded cotton over two threads of evenweave, and then the areas of backstitch in one, two and three strands of stranded cotton as indicated on the key.

## Make a... tote bag

### Step 1

**TURN** over the top edge of the fabric twice on to the wrong side. Iron, then machine stitch in place.

### Step 2

**WITH** right sides facing, sew up the centre back seam, then neaten on the inside. Iron the bag so that the design is at the centre front and the seam is centre.

### Step 3

**STITCH** across the bottom of the bag then neaten the seam. Turn to the right side.

### Step 4

**CUT** two bag handles from the webbing. Fold under the ends and then machine stitch the handles to the bag top on the front and back.

Count carefully when stitching the snowflakes to make sure you place every stitch correctly

## Materials

- Zweigart 28 count blue Brittny evenweave (or 14 count aida), ref no: 3270/503, 61x35.5cm (24x14in)
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Size 26 tapestry needle
- Herringbone cotton tape, 2.5x40cm (1x16in)

For stockist details see page 84



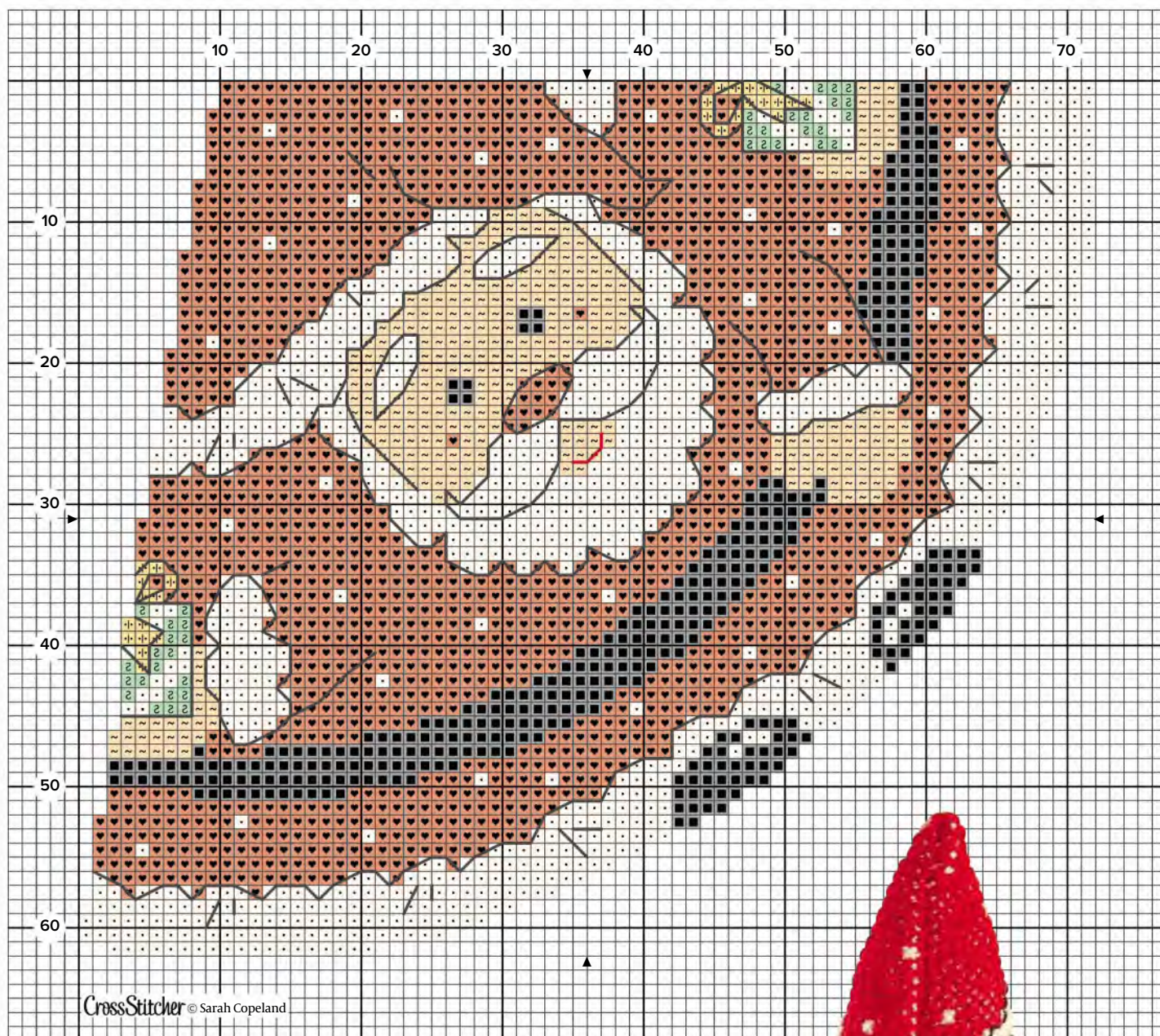


HO, HO, HO!

'Tis the season to be jolly! Spread festive cheer with our cute Santa cone decoration – he's sure to raise a smile!



HO, HO, HO!



CrossStitcher © Sarah Copeland

DMC Anchor Madeira

Cross stitch in two strands

310 403 black

666 046 210

702 239 1306

972 298 107

3850 189 1203

ecru 387 ecru

Backstitch in one strand

310 403 black

all outlines

666 046 210

mouth

Try to make sure  
the design lines up  
at the back as  
you join Santa up







## Make a... Santa decoration

### Step 1

**CUT** around the stitched Santa, leaving 1cm (½in) outside the edge of the design. Working on the wrong side, roll your Santa into a cone shape, then pin the back seam. Hold Santa up to the light and check that the parcel, Santa's hand, belt and fur trim all line up correctly across the seam.

### Step 2

**TURN** Santa to the right side and fill with toy stuffing. Carefully fold the unstitched aida fabric inside the cone.

### Step 3

**SNIP** a 6cm (2½in) circle from black felt. Place the felt on the bottom of the cone. Pin and then slip stitch around the edge using black sewing thread and small, neat stitches.

### Step 4

**SEW** a black button to the front of Santa's belt, and a bell to the end of Santa's hat. Thread a length of sparkly thread or ribbon through the top of Santa's hat and tie in a knot to create a hanging loop.

Designed by: Sarah Copeland Stitch count: 62 high x 72 wide

Design size: 11.5x13.5cm (4½x5¼in) Stitch time: 11 hours

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

Instead of a silver bell,  
you could use a small  
white pom-pom on  
Santa's hat!

## Materials

- Zweigart 28 count Brittny white evenweave, ref: 3270/100, 16.5x17.5cm (6½x7in)
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Black felt for the base
- Black button
- Silver bell
- Red ribbon or sparkly thread for hanging
- Toy stuffing

For stockist details see page 84



# The Holly & The Ivy

Fans of traditional festive decorations will love our gorgeous wreath card, filled with evergreen elegance...



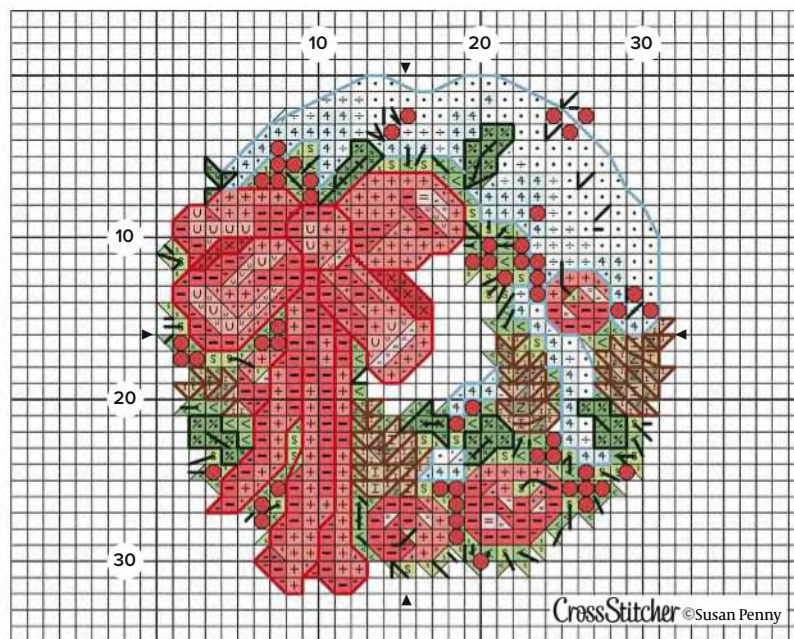
## Materials

- Zweigart 28 count cream evenweave, ref: 3270/264, 17.5x15.5cm (7x5in)
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Size 26 tapestry needle
- Pale yellow card with a 7.5x7.5cm (3x3in) square aperture

For stockist details see page 84



	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
	349	013	212
	350	1024	213
	351	011	214
	352	009	303
	353	006	2605
	611	898	2107
	817	013	212
	828	975	1101
	988	243	1402
	989	241	1401
	3046	887	2206
	3348	264	1409
	3756	1037	886
	blanc	001	white
Backstitch in one strand			
	433	371	2008
	fir cones		
	817	013	212
	bow		
	895	1044	1405
	stems and stalks		
	3755	939	909
	snow		
French knots in one strand			
	817	013	212
	berries		



Designed by: Susan Penny Stitch count: 32 high x 32 wide

Design size: 6x6cm (2½x2½in) Stitch time: 7 hours

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

If you find French knots a little tricky to stitch, you could simply use red seed beads in their place

## Make an... aperture card

### Step 1

**WORK** all the cross stitch in two strands of stranded cotton over two threads of the evenweave, and the backstitch and French knots in one strand.

### Step 2

**TRIM** the stitched evenweave to fit your card, with the design placed centrally behind the aperture.

### Step 3

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

### Step 4

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

### Step 5

**CHECK** which flap will fold over on to the back of the stitching, then add strips of double-sided tape and press firmly in place.

## MORE TO ENJOY...

Susan's celebrating the New Year and the 300th issue of *CrossStitcher* with two super-cute bear designs coming up in our next issues...



January issue 300  
Jester Bear



February issue 301  
Birthday Bear



CHRISTMAS IS COMING







# Christmas is Coming...

How many sleeps until December 25th?  
Kids can count down the days with our  
fun alternative to an Advent calendar



Designed by: Maria Diaz Stitch count: 117 high x 113 wide

Design size: 23x23cm (9x9in) Stitch time: 19 hours

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

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
♥ ♥	326	059	508 (2)
◀ ▶	702	239	1306
○ ○	704	256	1308
# #	741	304	201
☆ ☆	743	030	2294
△ △	3761	928	1014
♥ ♥	3832	028	506

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
8 8	3843	1089	1102
▪ ▪	blanc	001	white
Backstitch in one strand			
	741	304	201
	bells		
	995	410	1102
	snowflakes		

(2) indicates more than one skein is required

## Make an... advent clock

### Step 1

**TRIM** your stitching larger than your cardboard circle, so that when wrapped around it there is a 7cm (2½in) overlap on the reverse side.

### Step 2

**MAKE** a hole in the centre of both cardboard circles, large enough for the shaft of the mechanism to go through. Wrap your stitching over one cardboard circle and with sharp scissors make a small hole in the centre of your fabric – this is marked on the chart as grey squares.

### Step 3

**USE** glue or double-sided tape to attach the stitching onto this cardboard circle – it's important that the hole in the fabric and the cardboard line up exactly.

### Step 4

**ATTACH** the second cardboard circle to the back of the first with tape or glue – this will hide the excess fabric on the reverse side.

### Step 5

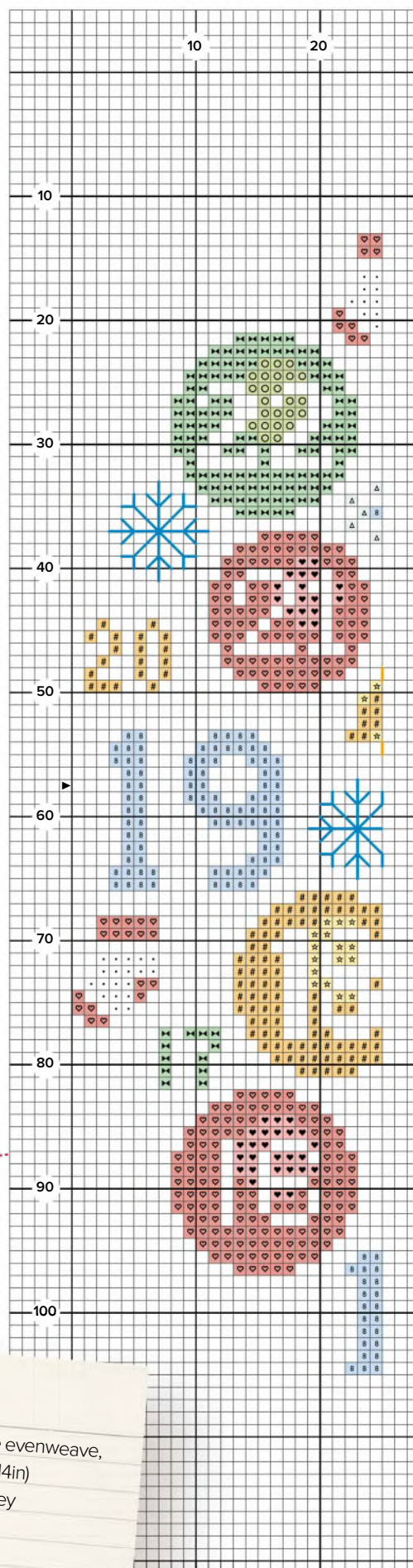
**PUSH** the shaft of the clock mechanism through the clock. Add the washer, nut and the clock hand. Your clock is now ready for use.

No need to add batteries to your clock mechanism as you simply turn the hand to the correct day manually!

## Materials

- Zweigart 25 count Lugana beige evenweave, ref: 3835/264, 35.5x35.5cm (14x14in)
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Size 26 tapestry needle
- Clock mechanism
- Circle of thick card x 2, 26cm (10¼in) diameter

For stockist details see page 84







CrossStitcher ©Maria Diaz



# Fast & Festive



Not finished all your Christmas cards yet? Don't panic – our backstitch and buttons designs make a quick way to say Merry Stitchmas!









Designed by: Maria Diaz

Max. stitch count: 51 high x 52 wide

Max. design size: 9x9.5cm (3½x3¾in)

Stitch time: 6 hours (all four)

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

DMC Anchor Madeira  
Cross stitch in two strands

♥ ♥ 326 059 508

■ ■ 413 401 1713

~ ~ 700 228 1304

◆ ◆ 911 205 1214

\$ \$ 913 204 1212

♥ ♥ 3831 1006 507

@ @ 3833 1023 609

E E E3852 metallic

Backstitch in one strand

— 413 401 1713  
hanging thread

— 700 228 1304  
words and details

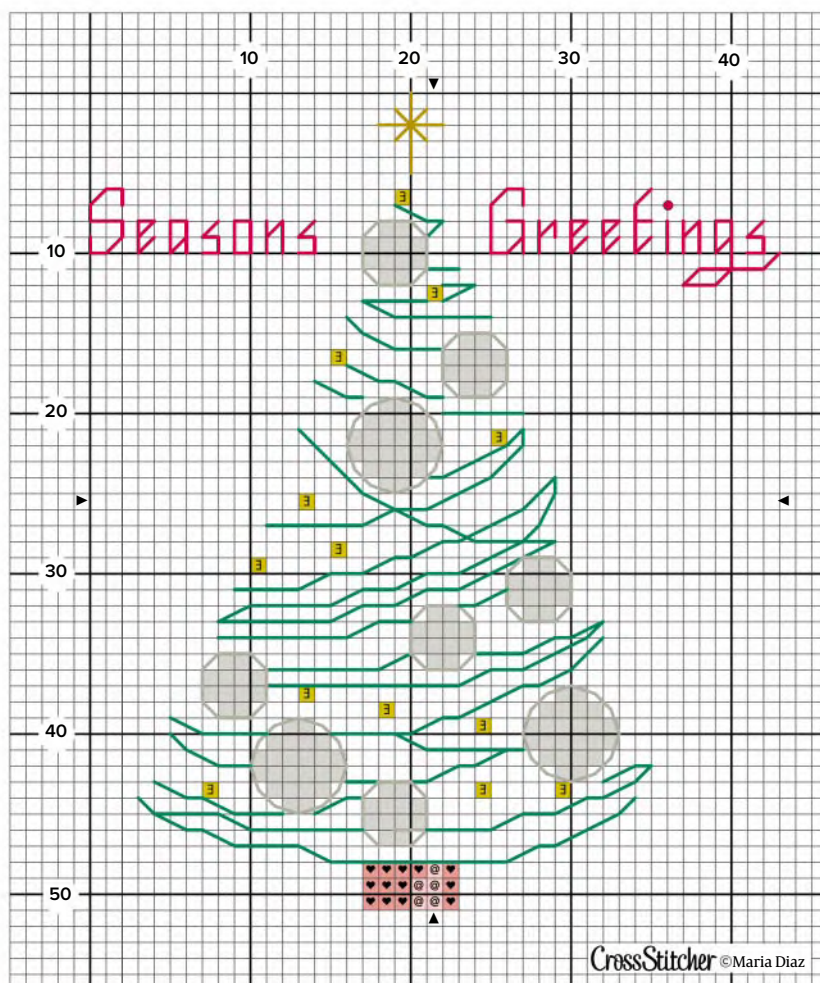
— 3831 1006 507  
words

— E3852 metallic  
star

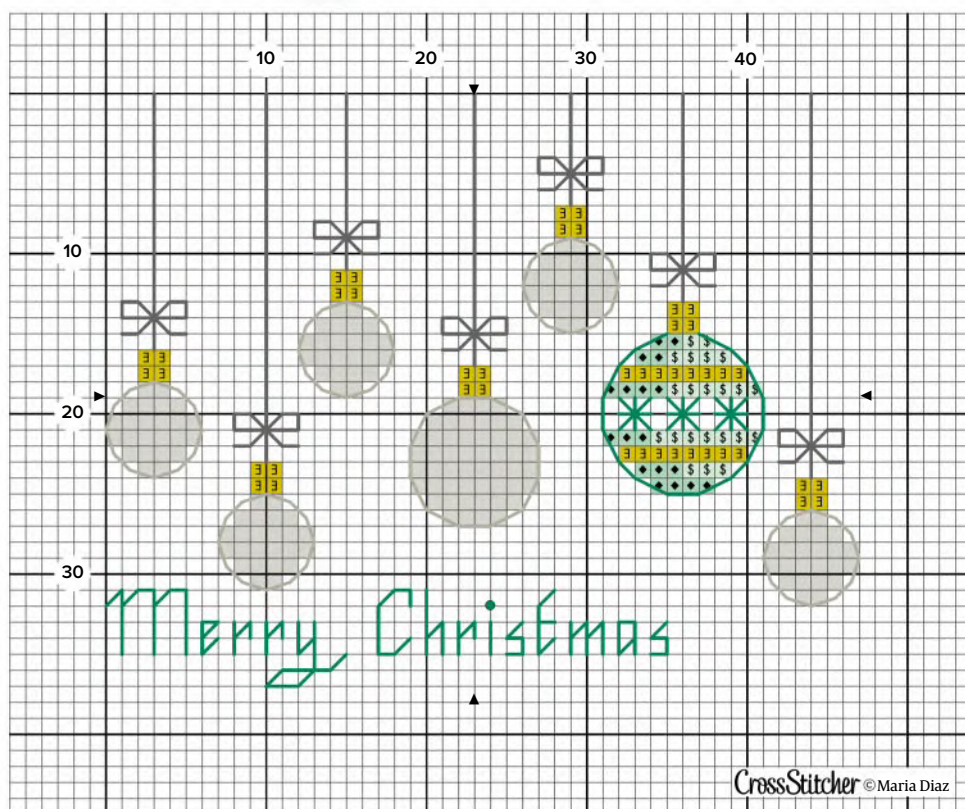
French knots in one strand

● 700 228 1304  
i dots

● 3831 1006 507  
i dots







## Make an... aperture card

### Step 1

**WORK** all the cross stitch in two strands of stranded cotton over two threads of fabric, and the backstitch in one strand. Do not stitch the areas marked in grey on the chart. When all the other stitching is complete, sew a button in the centre of each marked area.

### Step 2

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

### Step 3

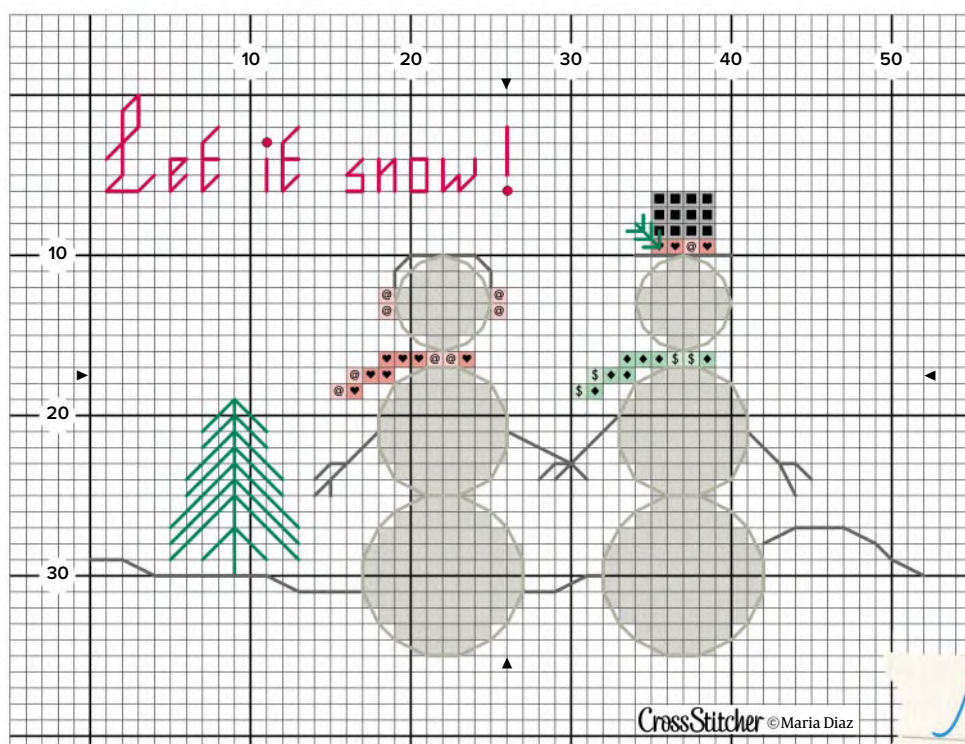
**ATTACH** double-sided tape to the inside of the card around the edge of the aperture.

### Step 4

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

### Step 5

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



Raid your stash for buttons to use - the odd shapes and colours you'll find will all add extra interest to your cards!

## Materials

### For each card

- Zweigart 28 count white Brittny evenweave, ref: 3270/100, 14x20cm (5½x8in)
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Gold divisible thread
- Cards with apertures to fit the designs
- Buttons

For stockist details see page 84





Let's get  
inspired

# CHRISTMAS CUTIES

Kawaii!, we hear you cry. Yes, you can't get cuter than our collection of festive characters to make you smile!

Designed by: Diane Machin



## Make a... decoration

### Step 1

**STITCH** your chosen Kawaii character. Place the stitching and a piece of felt right sides together.

### Step 2

**CUT** a length of ribbon and fold in half, bringing the cut ends together. Place the ribbon between the fabric and felt, with the cut ends against the edge of the fabric, and the folded end between the layers.

### Step 3

**USE** a sewing machine to stitch a rough circle around the stitching at least 5mm ( $\frac{1}{4}$ in) outside the outer edge of the design, and leaving a gap at the bottom for turning. If you prefer, use a circular lid as a template to draw around. Machine stitch on this line.

### Step 4

**TRIM** and then turn the decoration through to the right side.

### Step 5

**FILL** the decoration with toy stuffing through the gap left at the bottom, and then fold in the fabric and close the gap with small neat stitches.







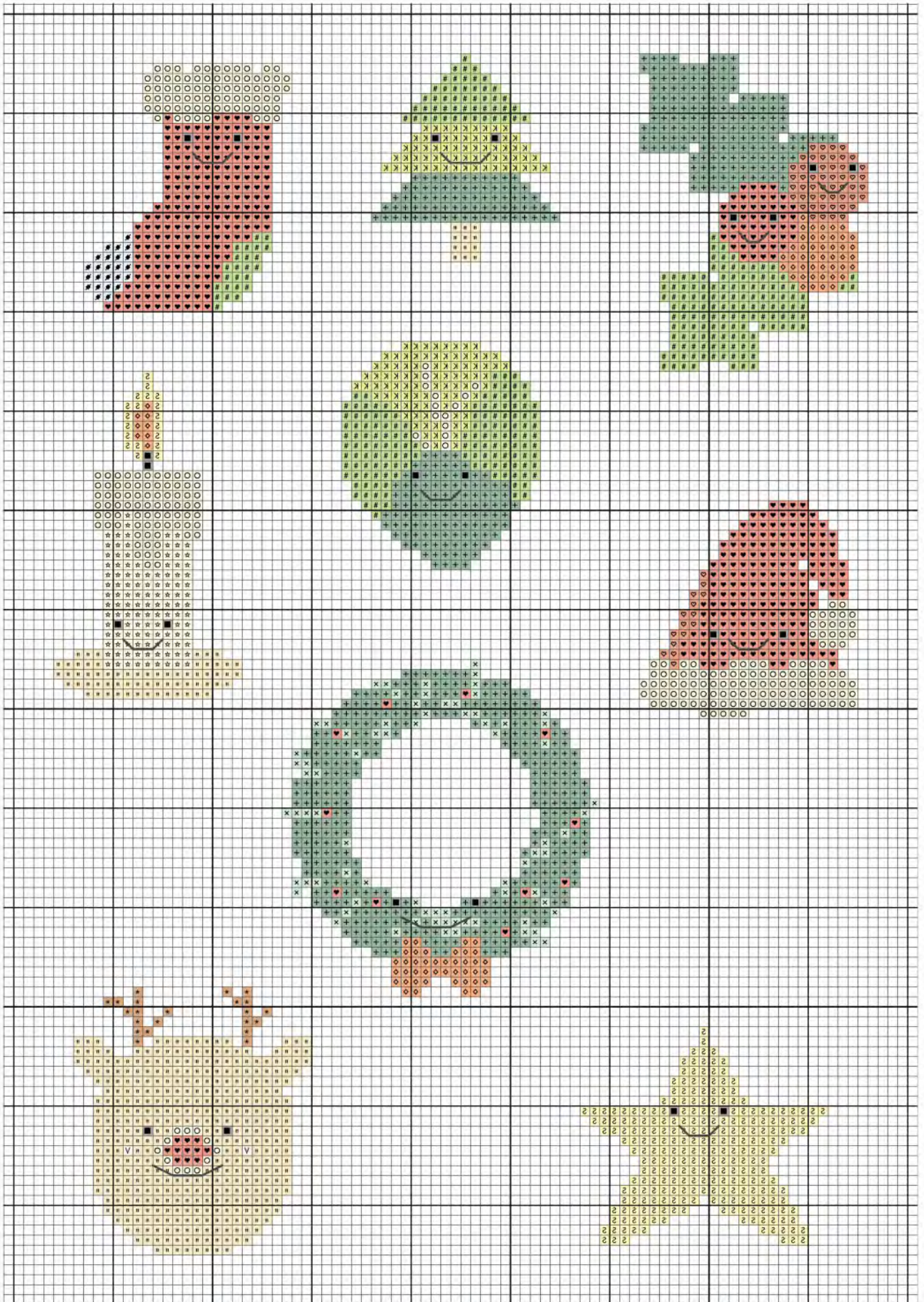
## MATERIALS

### For each decoration

- Zweigart 28 count white Brittny evenweave, ref: 3270/100, 12.5x12.5cm (5x5in)
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- White felt for backing, 12.5x12.5cm (5x5in)
- Orange ribbon (for hanging decorations)
- Toy stuffing

For stockist details see page 84

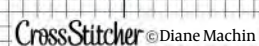








LET'S GET INSPIRED



71





**Max. stitch count:** 37 high x 31 wide

**Max. design size:** 7x5.5cm (2¾x2¼in)

**Stitch time:** various

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

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
* *	301	1049	2306
■ ■	310	403	black
~ ~	414	235	1801
▯ ▯	437	362	2012
V V	605	074	613
◇ ◇	608	332	206
+ +	700	228	1304
2 2	726	305	109
☆ ☆	745	300	111
♥ ♥	817	013	211
# #	906	256	1411
✕ ✕	907	255	1410
× ×	913	204	1212
✦ ✦	3325	129	1002
♥ ♥	3801	1098	411
○ ○	ecru	387	ecru
Backstitch in one strand			
—	310	403	black
all details			

For extra sparkle,  
why not try stitching  
these designs using  
metallic threads?

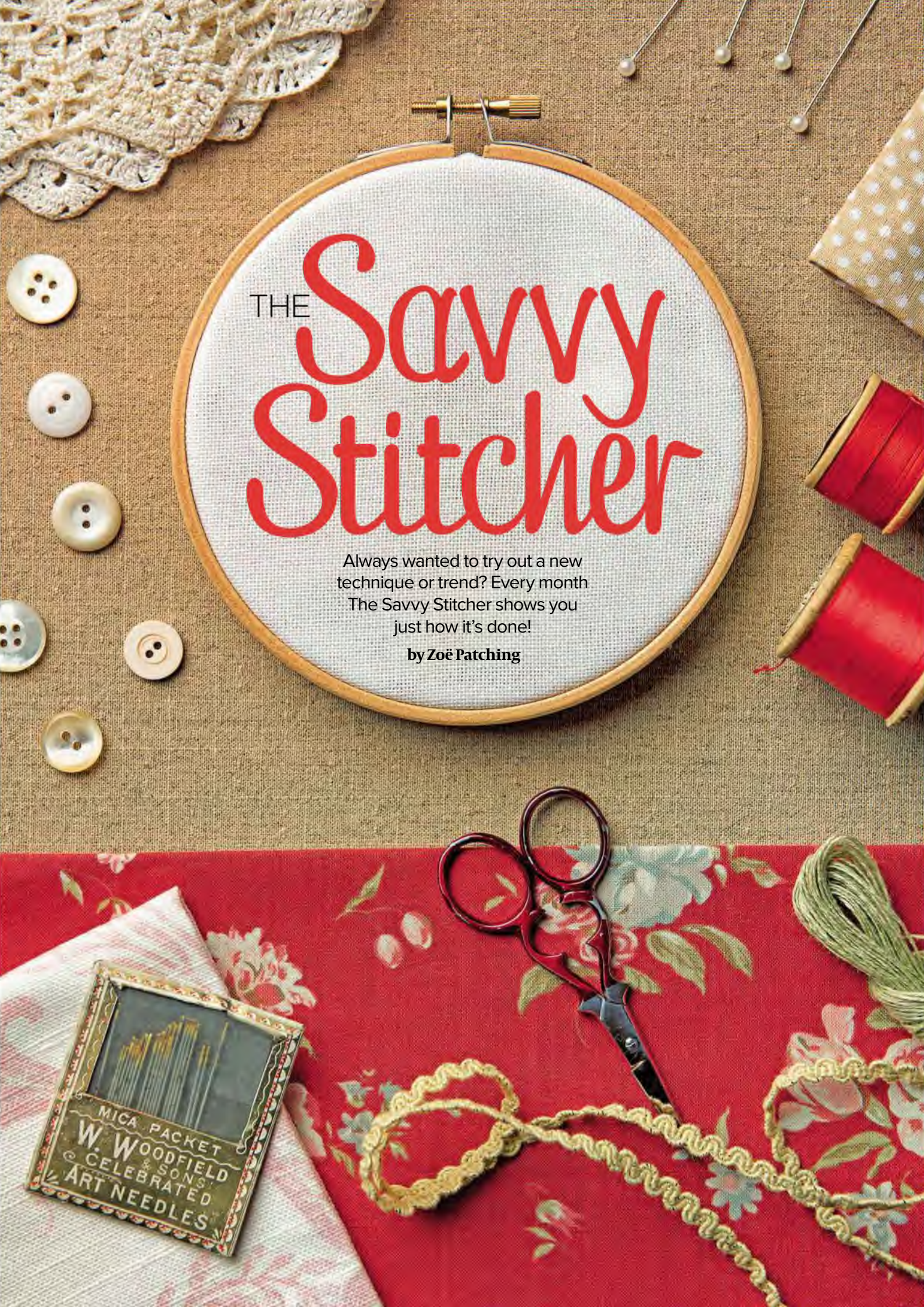
## What to make

Use our fun characters to keep your Christmas looking cute. Here are a few ideas to get you started...

- 1 Stitch the characters on perforated paper and then string together to make a banner in a child's bedroom.
- 2 Make into cute Christmas cards or drinks coasters.
- 3 Stitch several characters together to make a fun festive sampler and add a Christmas message in backstitch.







# THE Savvy Stitcher

Always wanted to try out a new  
technique or trend? Every month  
The Savvy Stitcher shows you  
just how it's done!

by Zoë Patching





*Yes you can!*

Add a touch  
of sparkle

Glam up your stitching for Christmas! Use our expert know-how to create sparkling festive designs with a real 'wow' factor...



**SPARKLING TREE**

How adorable is this dinky little tree decoration?  
Attach tiny gems for a fun fairy light finish.





### SNOWFLAKE HEART

Use sequins or spangles to add delicate shimmering detail to this Christmas heart.



What better time of the year for adding a bit of shimmer to your stitching, than at Christmas? This month we've created three festive decorations that will make your stitching shine! We've used three techniques that are quick to stitch and simple to do. Add a sprinkling of spangles or sequins to our snowflake design, or glittering gems to this simple Christmas tree decoration. Or for something a bit more challenging how about couching a gold bow to the top of our beautiful bauble design?



### BRIGHT BAUBLE

Couch down gold thread to create the stunning bow on this sweet stitched bauble design.



## HOW TO... ADD SPANGLES AND SEQUINS

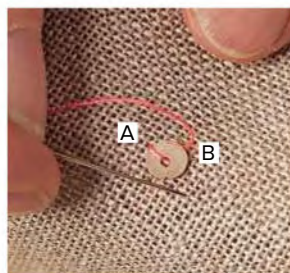
*Spangles and sequins add a delicate shimmering touch to your work*

### Step 1



**STITCH** your snowflake design using the chart on page 78. You can now add a bit of sparkle! Start by securing your thread on the reverse of your stitching and then bring your needle back up to the fabric's surface and thread on a single spangle.

### Step 2



**SECURE** the spangle with three straight stitches. Make your first stitch by taking the needle down over the spangle edge at A. Pull the thread through to the reverse. Move one third of the way along the spangle edge and bring the needle up at B.

### Step 3



**TAKE** the needle down through the centre of the spangle to make second straight stitch, C. For the third stitch, come up a third of the way along the spangle edge, and down through the centre. Finish your thread by weaving it through the reverse of your stitches.

### Step 4



**WORK** with sequins instead of spangles, if you prefer. Sequins, shown here, D, have a higher reflective surface and are more readily available from craft shops. Spangles are flat discs as shown, E, and are more often used in goldwork embroidery.

## MAKE A... GEM DECORATED CHRISTMAS TREE

*Create a cute tree and attach your gems neatly using our step-by-step guide*

### Step 1



**MAKE** your tree hanging first, as it's easier to attach the gems once it's finished. Tack the tree template on page 78 onto your fabric – centring the cross stitched tree trunk. Place the backing fabric on top and then pin together.

### Step 2



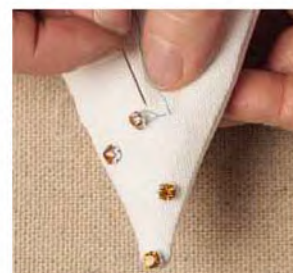
**MACHINE** stitch the stitched fabric and backing together, following your tacking stitches. Leave an opening along one side for turning. Trim the excess fabric and then make 'V' shaped notches around the curved edges for a smoother finish.

### Step 3



**TURN** the fabric tree right side out and then fill it with toy stuffing. Pin the opening together and slip stitch it closed. Remove any visible tacking stitches. Take an embroidery needle and secure to the fabric where the first gem will be placed.

### Step 4



**LOOK** at the base of the gem, and you will see that it has a hole for stitching. Pass the threaded needle through the gem base and back through the fabric, as you would when stitching on a button. Repeat this until it is completely secure.

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



### SARAH HOMFRAY

[www.sarahhomfray.com](http://www.sarahhomfray.com)

For specialist embroidery threads, such as sparkly spangles, and gilt Rococo thread – used here for our Christmassy bow – plus a mix of embroidery kits and tutorials, there's a lot to inspire you here!



### BIJOUX BEADS

[www.bijouxbeads.co.uk](http://www.bijouxbeads.co.uk)

There's a wonderful mix of sparkly beads and gems to tempt you here... Not only that, there are lovely shiny charms and buttons that would add an extra special touch to all your Christmassy projects!



## HOW TO... CREATE A COUCHED BOW

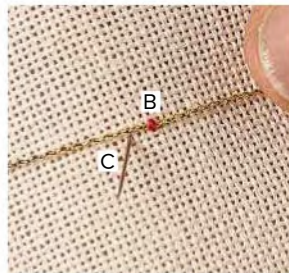
*Couching is a great technique for showing off specialist threads*

### Step 1



**PLACE** your gold thread onto the design to create the couched bow. Leave a tail end of 3-4cm beyond your starting point and using a single strand of cotton and an embroidery needle, bring the needle up next to the gold thread, A.

### Step 2



**MAKE** a couching stitch over the gold thread. Take the needle down through the fabric, angling the needle beneath the gold thread so it wraps around it, B. Bring the needle up, 2-3mm from the first stitch, C, and make a second couching stitch, etc.

### Step 3



**CREATE** the curved shape of the bow, angling the stitches to follow the curve. Take care not to pull your couching stitches too tightly as this will distort the smooth line of the gold thread. Once you've completed the first loop you can move to step 4.

### Step 4a



### Step 4b



**TAKE** the starting tail end through to the reverse with a tapestry needle, D (4a). On the fabric reverse place the gold thread back on itself and over sew the tail end using the back of your couching stitches to secure (4b). Trim off the excess gold thread.



The snowflake and bauble designs would also be great choices for quick Christmas cards!



TURN TO  
PAGE 78 TO  
FIND YOUR  
CHARTS &  
TEMPLATES



### BEADS DIRECT

[www.beadsdirect.co.uk](http://www.beadsdirect.co.uk)

A mouth-watering selection of sparkly beads and embellishments can be found here, plus their sew-on Montee gems are similar to the ones decorating our tree, and come in a gorgeous array of colours too!



### OUR PINTEREST BOARD

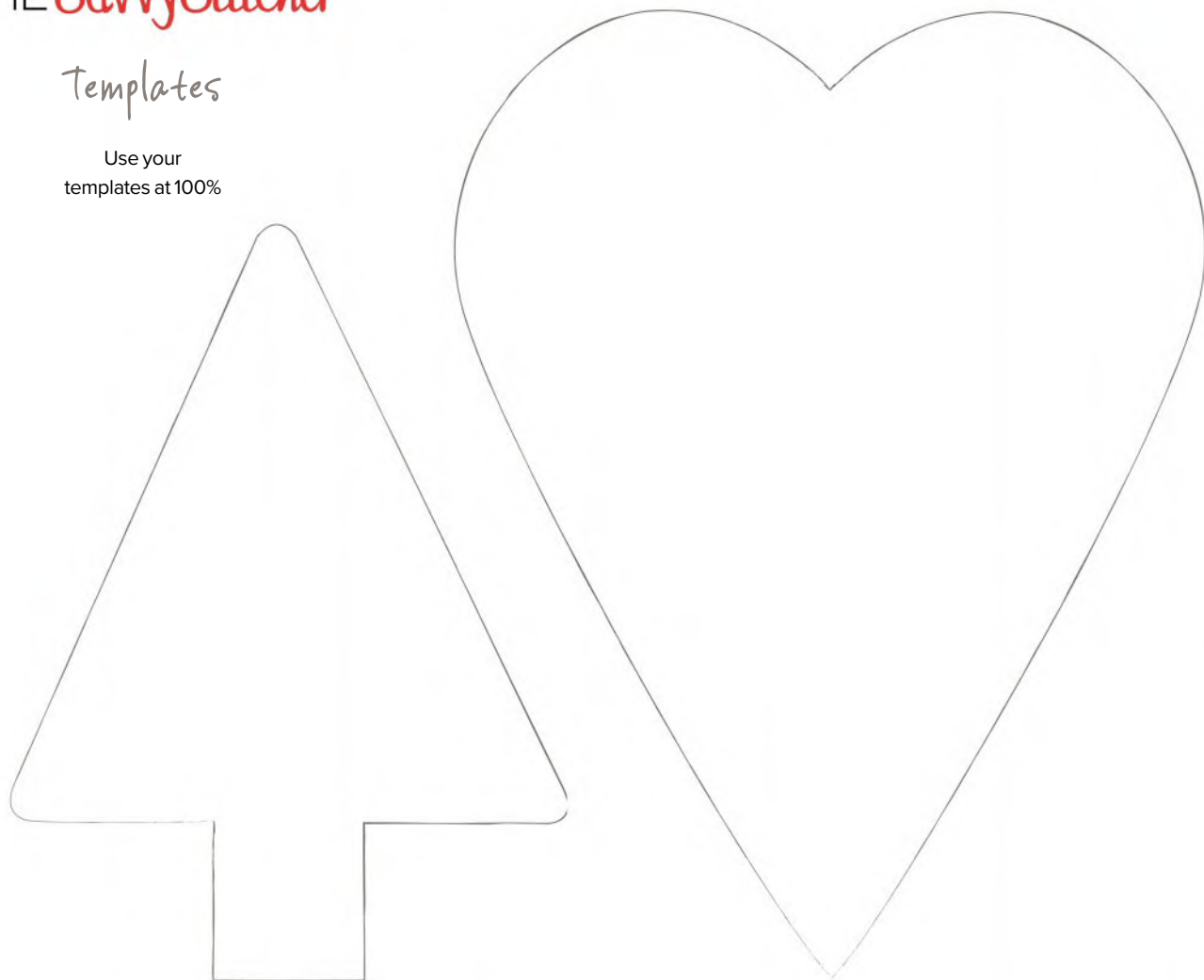
[www.pinterest.com/xstitchmagazine](http://www.pinterest.com/xstitchmagazine)

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



## Templates

Use your  
templates at 100%



CrossStitcher © Zoë Patching





# Stitching basics

## TOOLS OF THE TRADE

### NEEDLES

For basic stitching you'll need a tapestry needle that has a blunt tip and large eye. Use a size 24 needle for most aidas, and a size 26 for evenweaves and linens. Use a sharp embroidery needle for finer details such as backstitch and French knots.

### EMBROIDERY SCISSORS

Embroidery scissors are an absolute must-have for stitchers and can be picked up for just a few pounds. Keep yours sharp by only using them to cut threads – that way a decent pair should last you a lifetime.

### STRANDED COTTON

Embroidery thread is also commonly referred to as stranded cotton. Each thread length is made up of six strands of cotton twisted together. The chart key will indicate how many strands you'll need to stitch your design with.

### HOOPS AND FRAMES

Though not absolutely essential, we do recommend using an embroidery hoop or frame to keep an even stitching tension. Just make sure it's big enough to fit your entire design.

### AIDA

Aida is an ideal choice for cross stitch beginners. 14 count is the most common, although it's available in a huge variety of colours and counts. Each cross stitch is worked over a single aida block, making counting and keeping your place a cinch.

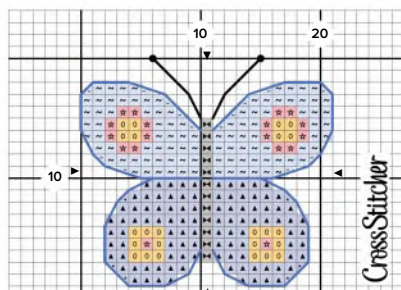
### EVENWEAVE

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



## THE CHART

**START** stitching from the centre of the design and your fabric. The centre of our charts are indicated by arrows at the designs' edges. To find your fabric's centre, fold it in half and into quarters.

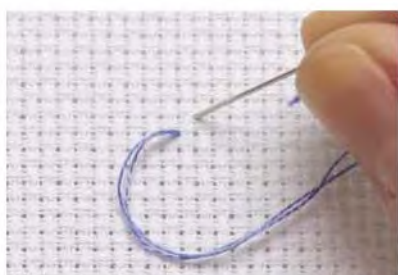


### Reading the chart

**EACH** square on the chart represents a single cross stitch. Fractionals are half filled squares or squares filled with two different colours.

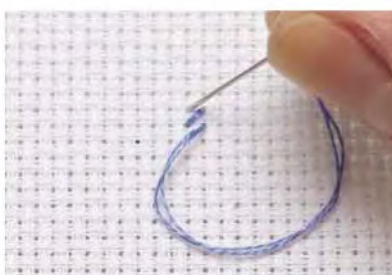
## Start stitching... on aida

### Step 1



**CUT** a 40cm thread length, and thread your needle with two of the six strands. Knot one end and start with a waste knot (opposite). Make a diagonal half cross stitch across a single aida block.

### Step 2











**MAKE** a second diagonal stitch to complete your first cross. Alternatively, you can work a row of half cross stitches first, then work back on yourself to complete the stitches.

## THE KEY

**ALL THE** symbols that appear on the chart are listed in the key with their corresponding thread codes beside them. The key also tells you the different stitches used in the design.

### Colour match

**IN THE** key, the closest column of thread codes listed next to the chart symbols is the thread brand that's used in the design. Similar colour matches are listed alongside it.

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
	602	057	0611
	741	314	0202
	3799	236	1713
	3839	176	0906
	3840	120	0907
Backstitch in one strand			
	3799	236	1713
	butterfly antennae		
	3838	940	0905
	all other details		
French knots in one strand			
	3799	236	1713
	butterfly antennae		



### Step 3



**THE** direction of your diagonals is up to you, just be sure all your stitches cross in the same direction. Otherwise, your design will look uneven. Continue working from the centre outward.

## Start stitching... on evenweave

### Step 1



**INSTEAD** of taking your needle diagonally across a single aida block, take your needle diagonally across two evenweave threads, creating a half cross stitch as before.

### Step 2



**MAKE** a second diagonal stitch to complete your first cross stitch. Work each stitch individually or work a row of half cross stitches, then work back on yourself to complete the stitches.

### Step 3



**CONTINUE** working from the centre of your design outward. If you find the extra counting a bit daunting at first, don't give up. We promise it'll become second nature in no time.



## BACKSTITCH

Use this easy stitch to give a neat outline and add details

### Step 1



**WORK** your backstitch using a sharp needle, once you've finished the cross stitch. To secure your thread, weave it through the back of your stitches, then bring your needle up to the surface.

### Step 2



**WORK** your backstitch over about 1-3 chart squares at a time, making sure to closely follow the chart. Any longer and your stitches could end up becoming loose and pulling out.

### Step 3



**FOR** each additional stitch, bring your needle up 1-3 chart squares away from your previous stitch. Then pass it back through the fabric at the same point as your previous stitch.

## WASTE KNOT

A simple way to get started stitching

### Step 1



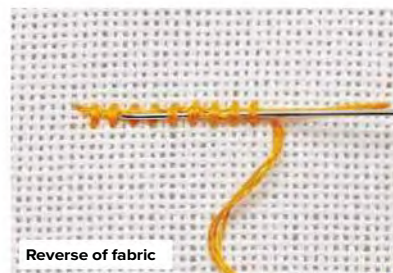
**KNOT** one end of your thread and take it down through the front of your fabric, about 2cm from your starting point. Then bring it back up to the front of your fabric to make your first stitch.

### Step 2



**BEGIN** stitching your design, making sure you're stitching over your starting thread with each stitch. You can work whole stitches or work half stitches then come back on yourself.

### Step 3



**ONCE** you're happy that your starting thread is secure, snip off the knot. To secure your thread when you've finished stitching, weave it through the back of your stitches as shown here.

## LOOP KNOT

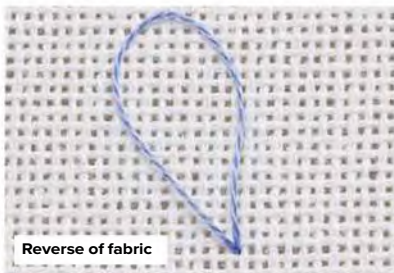
This easy start to your cross stitch is brilliantly neat

### Step 1



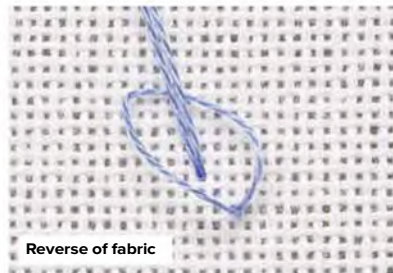
**IF YOU'RE** working in two strands, a loop knot is the easiest and neatest method. Cut a single length of thread, twice as long as normal. Fold it in half to create a loop at one end.

### Step 2



**THREAD** your needle with the two tail ends, just as you normally would. Bring your needle up to the front of your fabric, leaving a small loop of thread on the reverse.

### Step 3



**MAKE** a half cross stitch, passing your needle through the loop on the reverse as shown here. Pull all the way to secure the thread. Now continue with your stitching as normal.



## FRENCH KNOTS

*Go dotty with this simple way to add neat knots to your designs*

### Step 1



**USE** a sharp embroidery needle to help pierce the fabric. Bring your needle up at your starting point and wrap your thread once or twice around the needle. Use one strand for a small knot and two for a slightly chunkier knot.

### Step 2



**HOLD** your thread end firmly and take your needle down, ever so slightly over from where you came up. Slide the twisted thread down the needle, so it rests on the fabric's surface, and gently feed the needle through the fabric.

### Step 3

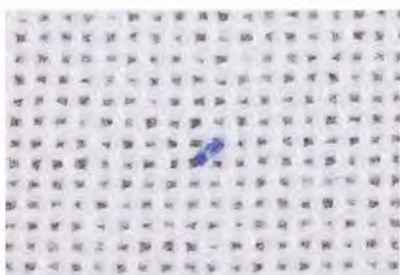


**KEEP** your thread as taut as possible to prevent the knot becoming loose. Gently pull your thread through to tighten the knot, so that it sits neatly on the surface. And remember, if you don't get it right away, keep practising!

## FRACTIONALS

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

### Step 1



**START** with a quarter stitch, working from one corner into the centre. For evenweave, there is already a hole in the centre to stitch into. With aida, you'll need to pierce the centre of the block.

### Step 2



**MAKE** your next quarter stitch in your second colour, coming up from the opposite corner and back down through the centre. You've now created a half cross stitch.

### Step 3



**FINISH** your stitch by making a half cross stitch. Fractionals are shown in the chart either as two symbols opposite one another in a chart square, or by a symbol opposite an empty space.

## BEADING

**TO ATTACH** beads, you'll need a thin, flexible beading needle. Thread with one strand of cotton. Bring your needle to the front of your design, thread on a bead and make a diagonal stitch to secure the bead. If you like, stitch through again for added security.



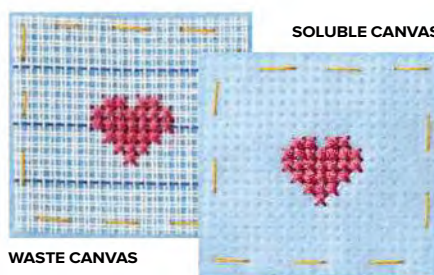
## HALF CROSS STITCH

**HALF** cross stitches are exactly what they sound like – half of a cross stitch. Each diagonal stitch is worked across two evenweave threads or one aida block. They're most often used to create a subtle background in a design.



## WASTE AND SOLUBLE CANVAS

**WASTE** and soluble canvases are used when stitching on plain fabrics and felts. Tack onto your fabric and stitch as normal. Soluble canvas dissolves in water. For waste canvas, soak in water then remove each thread individually.





# CrossStitcher BACK ISSUES

Missed an issue? Order your back issues in print or as digital editions today and keep on cross stitching!



Issue 293 • Summer 2015



Issue 294 • July 2015



Issue 295 • August 2015



Issue 296 • September 2015



Issue 297 • October 2015



Issue 298 • November 2015

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# Your shopping Stockists

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

## Get started

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

### WILLOW FABRICS

[www.willowfabrics.co.uk](http://www.willowfabrics.co.uk)

0800 056 7811

For evenweave, aida and all kinds of stitching fabrics

### BARNYARNS

[www.barnyarns.co.uk](http://www.barnyarns.co.uk)

0176 569 0069

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

### COTTON PATCH

[www.cottonpatch.co.uk](http://www.cottonpatch.co.uk)

0121 702 2840

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

### JOHN JAMES NEEDLES

[www.jjneedles.com](http://www.jjneedles.com)

0152 783 0941

For all kinds of needles and needle packs

### SIESTA FRAMES

[www.siestaframes.com](http://www.siestaframes.com)

0120 2813363

For stitching frames, hoops and lamps

### CLOUD CRAFT

[www.cloudcraft.co.uk](http://www.cloudcraft.co.uk)

For 100% wool felt in lots of colours

### JOSY ROSE

[www.josyrose.com](http://www.josyrose.com)

For buttons, beads and all kinds of embellishments

### SEAMSTAR

[www.seamstar.co.uk](http://www.seamstar.co.uk)

0182 977 0733

For plain and patterned fabrics and all kinds of trims

### EFRAME

[www.eframe.co.uk](http://www.eframe.co.uk)

For picture frames for displaying your stitching

### HOBBYCRAFT

[www.hobbycraft.co.uk](http://www.hobbycraft.co.uk)

0330 026 1400

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

## Your projects

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

### JUMPER FOR JOY

Zweigart 14 count white aida,

ref: 3706/100: Willow Fabrics

Fabric Flair 28 count

cloud blue evenweave: Sew It All

Toy stuffing: Hobbycraft

White felt: Hobbycraft

Ribbon: Hobbycraft

Baker's twine: Hobbycraft

### HO, HO, HO

Zweigart 28 count Brittney white

evenweave, ref: 3270/100: Willow Fabrics

Black felt: Hobbycraft

Button: Hobbycraft

Ribbons: Hobbycraft

Silver bells: Hobbycraft

Toy stuffing: Hobbycraft

### GLAD TIDINGS

Zweigart 28 count natural Cashel linen,

ref: 3281/052: Willow Fabrics

Wooden embroidery hoop: The Makery

Toy stuffing: Hobbycraft

Ribbon: Hobbycraft

### CHRISTMAS CUTIES

Zweigart 28 count white Brittney

evenweave, ref: 3270/100: Willow Fabrics

Toy stuffing: Hobbycraft

White felt: Hobbycraft

Ribbon: Hobbycraft

### WOODLAND WONDER

Zweigart 28 count opalescent white

Cashel linen, ref: 3281/1111: Willow Fabrics

Wooden frame: eFrame

Mount board: Fred Aldous

### TAKE THE CAKE

Zweigart 14 count white aida,

ref: 3706/100: Willow Fabrics

Zweigart white aida band,

ref: 7008/001: Willow Fabrics

Wooden frame: eFrame

Mount board: Fred Aldous

### CHRISTMAS IS COMING

Zweigart 25 count Lugana beige

evenweave, ref: 3835/264: Willow Fabrics

Clock mechanism: Sew and Sew

Card: Craft Creations

### WINTER WELCOME

Permin 14 count white aida:

Michael Whitaker Fabrics

Flexi hoop: Sew and Sew

### CAT IN THE BAG

Zweigart 28 count blue

Brittney evenweave

(or 14 count aida),

ref: 3270/503: Willow Fabrics

Herringbone cotton tape:

Hobbycraft

### FAST & FESTIVE

Zweigart 28 count white Brittney

evenweave, ref: 3270/100: Willow Fabrics

Gold divisible thread: Sew and Sew

Aperture cards: Craft Creations

Buttons: Hobbycraft

### THE HOLLY & THE IVY

Zweigart 28 count cream evenweave,

ref: 3270/264: Willow Fabrics

Pale yellow square

aperture card: Craft Creations

### I ♥ CHRISTMAS

Zweigart 28 count off-white Quaker fabric,

ref: 3993/101: Willow Fabrics

Wooden frame: eFrame

Mount board: Fred Aldous

### GLISTEN & GLOW

Zweigart 28 count

Brittney red evenweave,

ref no: 3270/954:

Willow Fabrics





Make a date with  
this sweet cross  
stitch calendar  
from Heather  
Lins Home!



## Shoppingguide

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

### AMAZON

[www.amazon.co.uk](http://www.amazon.co.uk)

### CRAFT CREATIONS

[www.craftcreations.com](http://www.craftcreations.com)

### DEVONLY CRAFTS

[www.etsy.com/shop/DevonlyCrafts](http://www.etsy.com/shop/DevonlyCrafts)

### DMC

[www.dmccreative.co.uk](http://www.dmccreative.co.uk)

### EFRAME

[www.iframe.co.uk](http://www.iframe.co.uk)

### EMMA DICKIE DESIGN

[www.emmadickiedesign.com](http://www.emmadickiedesign.com)

### FRED ALDOUS

[www.fredaldous.co.uk](http://www.fredaldous.co.uk)

### GOODNIGHT BOUTIQUE

[goodnightboutique.com](http://goodnightboutique.com)

### GONE TO EARTH

[www.gonetoeearth.co.uk](http://www.gonetoeearth.co.uk)

### HEATHER LINS HOME

[shop.heatherlinshome.com](http://shop.heatherlinshome.com)

### HOBBYCRAFT

[www.hobbycraft.co.uk](http://www.hobbycraft.co.uk)

### JOHN LEWIS

[www.johnlewis.com](http://www.johnlewis.com)

### MICHAEL WHITAKER FABRICS

[www.mwfabrics.co.uk](http://www.mwfabrics.co.uk)

### OLULA

[www.etsy.com/shop/olula](http://www.etsy.com/shop/olula)

### POLLY RED

[www.folksy.com/shops/PollyRed](http://www.folksy.com/shops/PollyRed)

[www.pollyred.co.uk](http://www.pollyred.co.uk)

### RAINBOW FELT

[www.etsy.com/shop/RainbowFelt](http://www.etsy.com/shop/RainbowFelt)

### SEW AND SO

[www.sewandsew.co.uk](http://www.sewandsew.co.uk)

### THE HOMEMAKERY

[www.thehomemakery.co.uk](http://www.thehomemakery.co.uk)

### THE MAKERY

[www.themakery.co.uk](http://www.themakery.co.uk)

### SEW IT ALL

[www.sewitall.com](http://www.sewitall.com)

### SEWING SEED

[www.etsy.com/shop/Sewingseed](http://www.etsy.com/shop/Sewingseed)

### THINGS THAT SING

[www.etsy.com/shop/ThingsThatSing](http://www.etsy.com/shop/ThingsThatSing)

### THORNBACK AND PEEL

[www.thornbackandpeel.co.uk](http://www.thornbackandpeel.co.uk)

### WOOL FELT COMPANY

[www.woolfeltcompany.co.uk](http://www.woolfeltcompany.co.uk)

### XCOTTON KISSES

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# CrossStitcher

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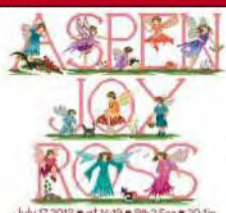




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GUIDE

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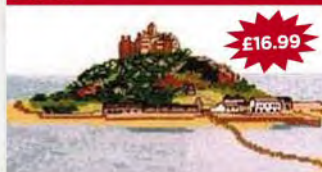
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# CrossStitcher MARKETPLACE

Welcome to the *CrossStitcher* reader ads page.  
Here you can post pleas for help, find a home for your spare stash,  
or track down pen pals and clubs in your area – all absolutely free!

## *Desperately seeking*

My daughter is expecting her first baby and would love to have the Anchor Disney Winnie the Pooh baby afghan blanket featuring Eeyore but it seems to have been discontinued, as I haven't been able to get it anywhere.

I have afghan material, so if anybody could either sell or lend me the chart and instructions I would be very grateful and would of course be happy to pay all expenses. Many thanks.

Joan Black

Email: joanblack@btinternet.com

I have a Disney Winnie The Pooh kit entitled Eeyore's Tail (D21), that I started years ago, and have recently started stitching it again, but the chart is damaged along where the folds are. I was wondering if anyone had the chart that they could send to me? Please get in touch by email, thanks.

Beverley Fox

Email: beverleyfox@talktalk.net

## *Get in touch*

My name is Jenny, I am 29 and live in England. I would very much like snail mail pen pals from outside the UK. I am a bit of an old-fashioned girl – happiest in an

apron either baking or cleaning while listening to some 1950s music or watching a Doris Day film. My interests include reading, baking, gardening, homemaking, and crafts as well as reading magazines from the 1950s. I aspire to appreciate the simple things in life and to try to slow down in this fast paced world. I live with my boyfriend and am gradually learning to be more domesticated!

Jenny Nicholas,  
11 Catford Close,  
Hull,  
Yorkshire,  
HU9 0PZ

Hi, I am Sarah. I am 36 years old, married and a photography student. I enjoy cross stitching, art therapy, photography and writing letters. I would like snail mail pals from all over the world. 100% reply to all letters. Ages 18-100 – no males please.

Mrs S N White,  
Flat 93 Block 2,  
The Hicking Building,  
Queens Road,  
Nottingham,  
NG2 3AT

Hi, my name is Cathy. I live here in the Ozark mountains of Arkansas in the United States of America. I love living in the country and mountains. I have been married since 1993 to a wonderful man. Like

me he enjoys writing to friends.

I have been into craft since the early 1970s when I was just a girl – I am now 57 years old. I crochet, embroider and I also knit a bit.

I have really started loving cross stitch since the late nineties. I enjoy crafts and learning more about them, especially cross stitch, as there is so much more that I can learn from.

I have always been a pattern collector as well as crafter. In 2010 I got really interested in collecting cross stitch patterns. I have now just got over the 13,000 mark in my collection.

I am also an animal lover, especially dogs. I am looking for email or regular mail friends and penpals from all over the world.

Cathy Woodland,  
P.O. Box 1331,  
Clarksville,  
Arkansas,  
72830 USA



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# CrossStitch JUST FOR FUN

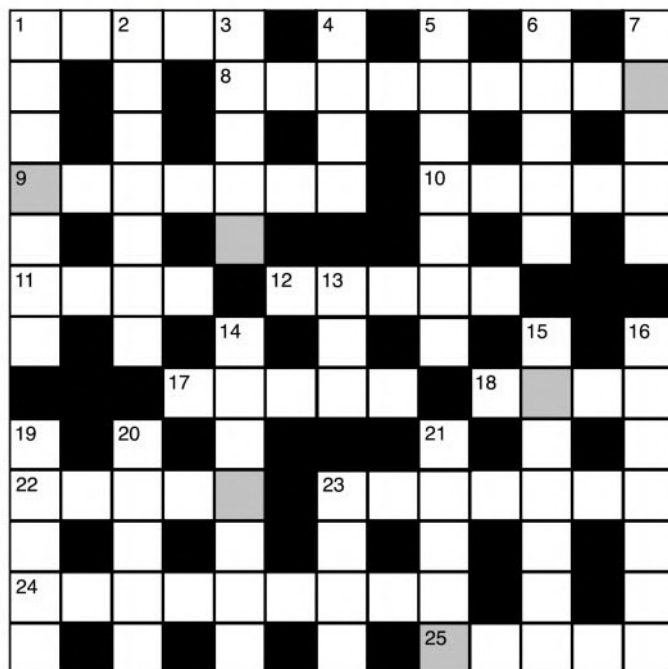
## Prize crossword

### Across

- 1 Punctuation mark (5)
- 8 Anti-perspirant (9)
- 9 Horse riding foot strap (7)
- 10 Danger (5)
- 11 *Home and ---*, Aussie soap (4)
- 12 Spicy Indian dish (5)
- 17 Russell ---, controversial comedian (5)
- 18 Canvas with several strands between each hole (4)
- 22 Oak tree fruit (5)
- 23 Santa's preferred method of entry (7)
- 24 Stitch used to create tiny flowers (4,5)
- 25 Ancient language (5)

### Down

- 1 Finest cut glassware (7)
- 2 Punk hairstyle (7)
- 3 Love (5)
- 4 Circular cross stitch frame (4)
- 5 Contrast (7)
- 6 Prince William's brother (5)
- 7 Panache (5)
- 13 Large tea-making container (3)
- 14 Hand-held explosive (7)
- 15 Keyboard player (7)
- 16 *Rivers of ---*, Boney M hit (7)
- 19 Bird of prey (5)
- 20 Alcohol (slang) (5)
- 21 Synthetic flooring material (5)
- 23 Cradle (4)



Winning word clue: **Shimmery ribbons to sparkle up the Christmas tree? (6)**

### HOW TO ENTER

**COMPLETE** the crossword and rearrange the letters in the shaded boxes to make up a winning word. Write your winning word and 'Crossword 299' on the back of a postcard or stuck-down envelope, adding your name and address, and post it to: CrossStitcher, PO Box 172, Northam, EX39 9DY. Competition open:

**13 November – 10 December**

For full terms and conditions, see page 85.



**YOUR PRIZE** One lucky winner will receive a bumper card pack worth £25. The 65 aperture cards and envelopes, including Christmas designs, in a range of colours and sizes are perfect for all your Christmas card making projects. You can find a huge range of products, including all these cards and hundreds more at [www.craftcreations.com](http://www.craftcreations.com).

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### SUDOKU

**USING** logic and a process of elimination, fill the blank boxes with numbers so that each row, column and 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9 only once.

	9		7	8				1
4			3				2	
	7	8	1	5		4		
	6		9		3	1		
	3	2		7		5	9	
		7	2		5		8	
		4		2	1	9	3	
	2				9			8
6				3	7		4	

Issue 297's winning word **PUMPKIN**



No.1  
FOR DESIGNS

# In your January CrossStitcher

Start your new year stitching in style!



## Inside this month

- ♥ The sweetest new nursery picture from **Belle & Boo!**
- ♥ Folk-art style **owl cushion** with matching mini owl!
- ♥ Pretty **thank you cards** to send to friends & family
- ♥ Stitch our cute **dinosaur cushion** for your kids!

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No.1  
FOR DESIGNS



WE'VE GOT  
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GREAT GIFT IDEAS  
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69  
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PROJECTS



Inside...  
**CrossStitcher**  
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*Just stitch it!*

**PLUS** Our expert guide to giving  
your festive stitching extra sparkle!

