Just CrossStitch

27 PROJECTS | THE RESOURCE FOR TODAY'S STITCHER

Just CrossStitch®

America's Premier Cross-Stitch Magazine

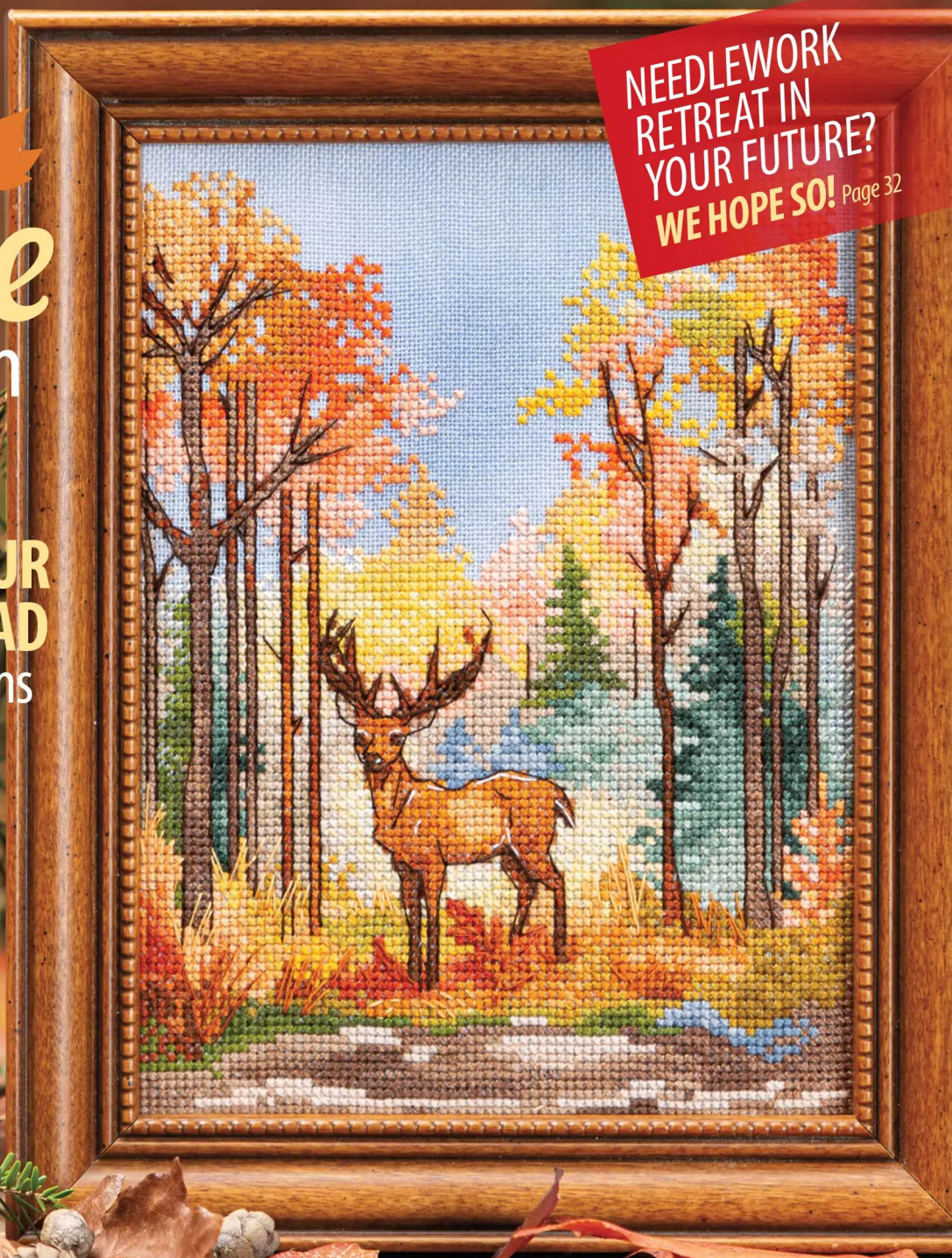
AUTUMN 2024

Fall In Love With Autumn Stitching

A FEAST FOR YOUR NEEDLE & THREAD

Thanksgiving Designs You'll Love

Plus Project Finishes That **WOW!**

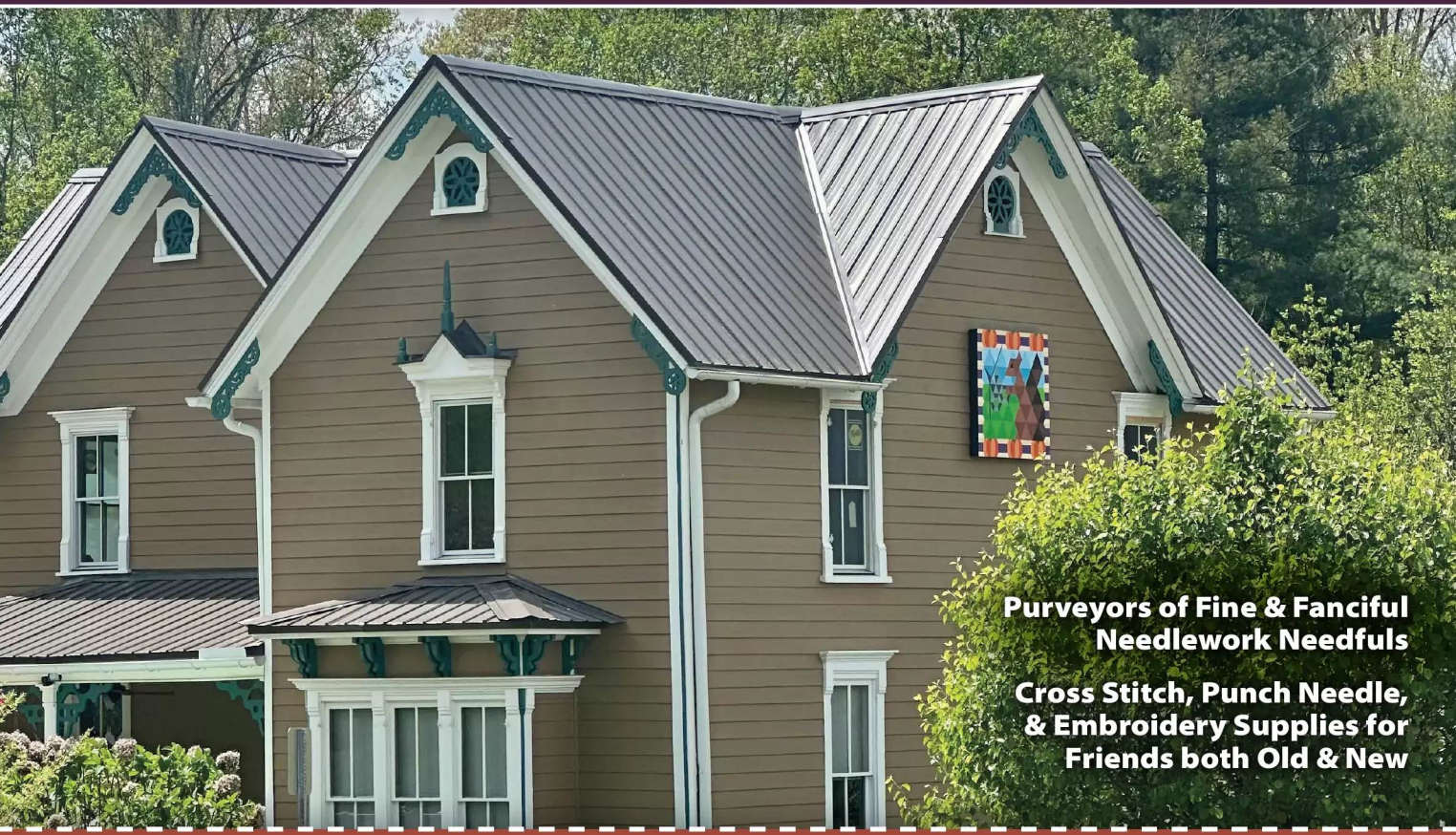


NEEDLEWORK RETREAT IN YOUR FUTURE? WE HOPE SO! Page 32

SASSY JACKS STITCHERY

Celebrating our 10th Birthday

In our new forever home at the Historic Zebulon H. Baird House in Asheville, NC



Purveyors of Fine & Fanciful Needlework Needfuls

Cross Stitch, Punch Needle, & Embroidery Supplies for Friends both Old & New

It's the perfect time to check out our Spooky Shakespeare series of Small Samplers where we pay tribute to "The Scottish Play". Each of four small samplers includes a bonus part that will complete your own Spooky Shakespeare Sampler!

Kimberly

Come see us in person or visit us online at sassyjacksstitchery.com.

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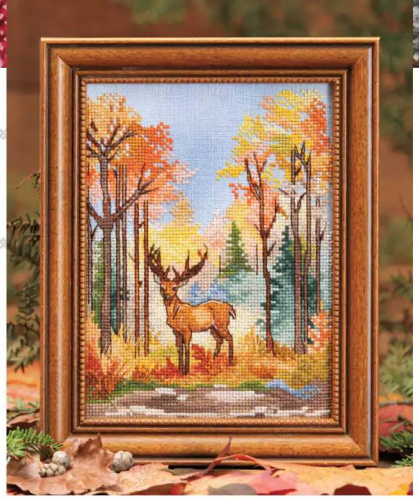

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Art Director Brad Snow

Editorial Assistant Maranda Cincotta
Copy Manager Kristan Seitz
Copy Editor Emily Oliver
Technical Editor Kyra Perkinson
Technical Proofreader Mary O'Donnell

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Photography Scott Campbell, Luke Myers
Photo Stylists Shelley Pelkey, Tammy Shupenia

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Publishing Services Director Brenda Gallmeyer
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Founder Phyllis Hoffman DePiano

HOW TO CONTACT US

Internet: Just-CrossStitch.com
Mail: *Just CrossStitch*, P.O. Box 4100, Big Sandy, TX 75755
Email: Customer_Service@Just-CrossStitch.com
Telephone: (800) 282-6643
Include your full name, mailing address and daytime phone number.

ADVERTISING

Director of Media Relations & Partnerships Michelle Thorpe
Michelle_Thorpe@Annies-Publishing.com
Advertising Coordinator Courtney Shoda
Courtney_Shoda@Annies-Publishing.com
Advertising Account Manager Molly Beals
Molly_Beals@Annies-Publishing.com

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Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy and completeness of the instructions in this magazine. However, we cannot be responsible for human error or for the results when using materials other than those specified in the instructions, or for variations in individual work.

One Stitch Ahead

Hello stitching friends!

I hope the Autumn 2024 issue of *Just CrossStitch* finds you well as we approach the changing of the seasons once again. It seems this time of year is a favorite for many. The kids are returning to school, the days seem cooler, with a welcome crispness in the air, and beautiful colors will soon begin appearing in the trees. Of course, the sight of pumpkins will likely be found at every turn. Our designers have gone to great lengths to capture the very essence of this amazing time of year, and we proudly present this all-new issue for your stitching pleasure.

We kick off the issue with the whimsical scene of Pumpkin Cottage, and the vibrant colors and seasonal charm continue to unfold with every turn of the page. From incredible landscapes in full coverage, like Pumpkins by the Barn on page 12 or Majestic Stag on page 47, to the amusing Turkey Time design that celebrates the Thanksgiving holiday on page 65, this issue has something for everyone. In addition to stunning charts, you'll discover inventive finishes, along with all the materials and instructions needed to re-create them.

Don't miss all our regular feature offerings, such as the Celebrating Needlework article on page 32, which this time delves into the joys of attending cross-stitch retreats! Halloween enthusiasts, take note: We're introducing The Halloween Stitch feature in every regular edition. Like The Christmas Stitch, readers now have the chance to stitch a Halloween project in each issue, alongside the Christmas-themed project. Finally, I personally recommend taking a moment to read Becky Noland's feature on page 37, regarding the inspiration for her Rest in Peace sampler. Her unique hobby of exploring cemetery symbolism is very interesting, and her design exudes eerie elegance.

We invite you to immerse yourself in the cozy world of autumn stitching. Grab your materials, cozy up with a cup of cider or pumpkin spice latte, and let's stitch our way through this enchanting season together!

Until next time,

Barbie

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Pumpkin Cottage

Imagine whimsical tales unfolding within the walls of this quaint little cottage. Worked primarily in full cross stitches, this magical scene is enhanced by strategically placed half cross stitches that add depth and interest.

Pumpkin Cottage

Design by Anna Gutova of Artmishka Cross Stitch

www.artmishkacrossstitch.com

Skill Level: Intermediate
Stitch Count: 89H x 85W
Design Size: 5⅝" x 5⅜"

Materials

- 12" x 12" piece 16-count oatmeal Rustico Aida from Zweigart®
- One skein each DMC® or Sullivans® USA six-strand embroidery floss
- Size 26 tapestry needle

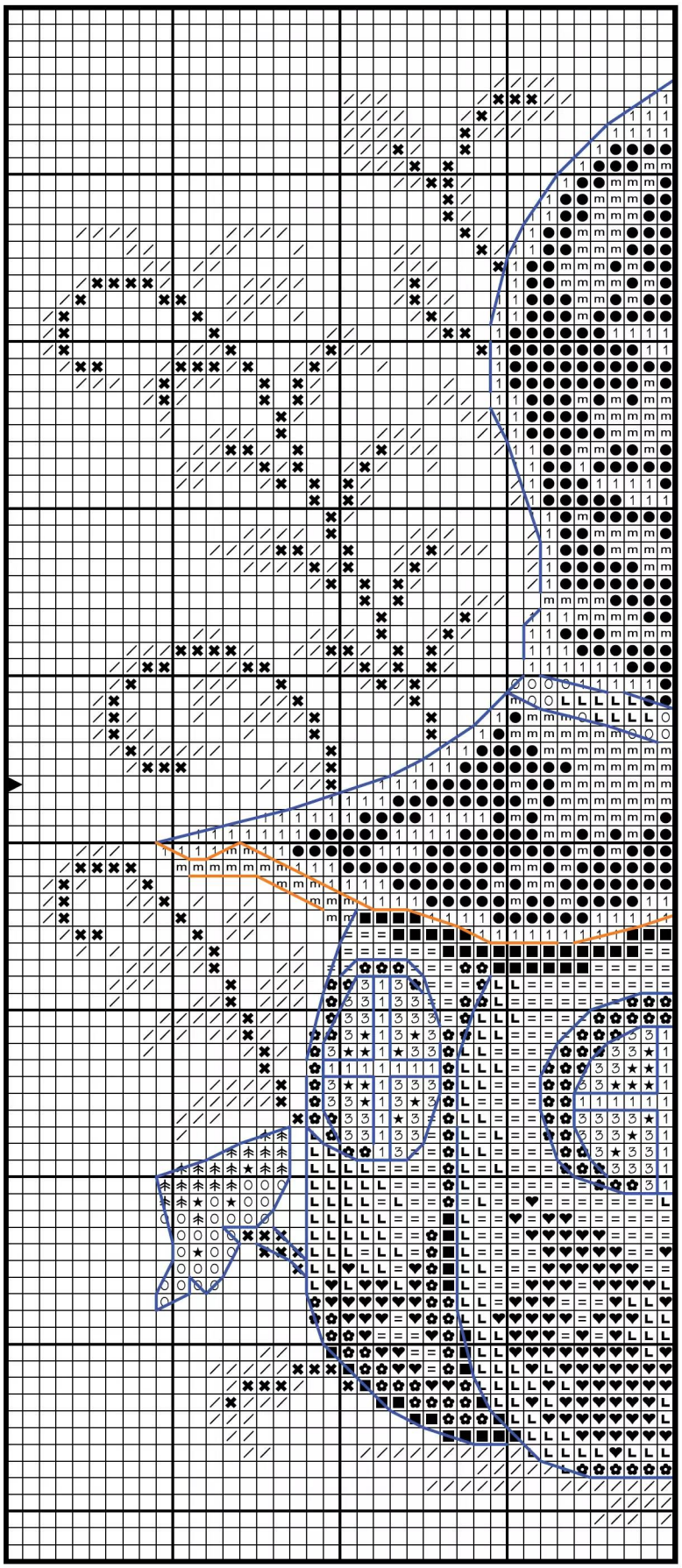
	DMC®	Sullivans®	
●	29	45031	eggplant
1	161	45476	gray blue
✖	320	45061	pistachio green, med.
⁄	320	45061	pistachio green, med. (right-slanting ½ cross stitch)
m	336	45069	navy blue
⅄	347	45072	salmon, vy. dk.
✿	436	45097	tan
O	666	45155	red, bt.
♥	722	45169	orange spice, lt.
=	742	45183	tangerine, lt.
3	747	45188	sky blue, vy. lt.
L	970	45300	pumpkin, lt.
■	3862	45460	mocha beige, dk.
★	3865	45463	winter white
Backstitches/Straight Stitches			
—	310	45053	black
—	3865	45463	winter white

Instructions

Cross stitch over one square using two strands of floss. Work ½ cross stitch over two threads using two strands of floss.

Backstitch over one square or work straight stitch using one strand of floss.

Pumpkin Cottage



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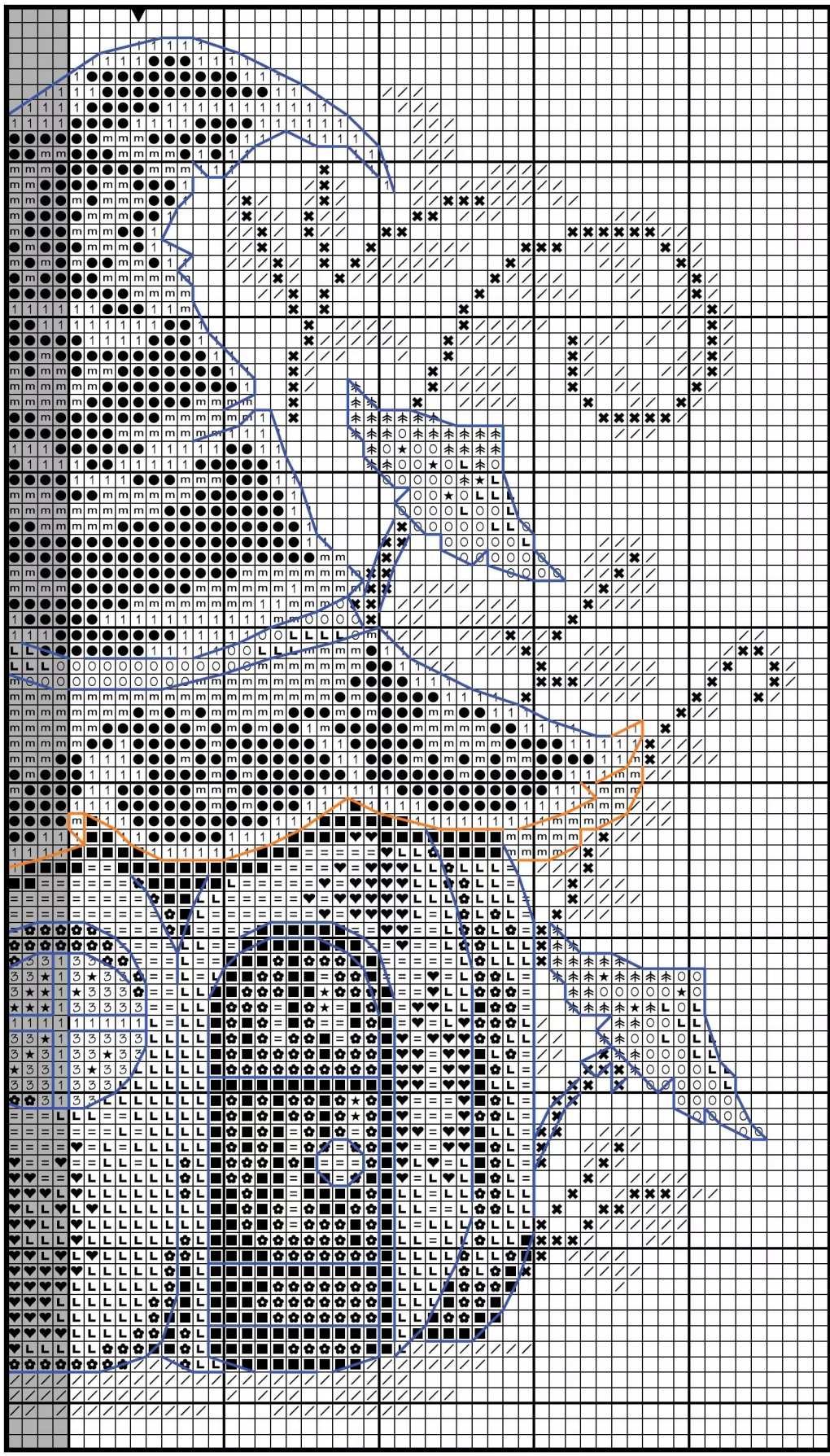
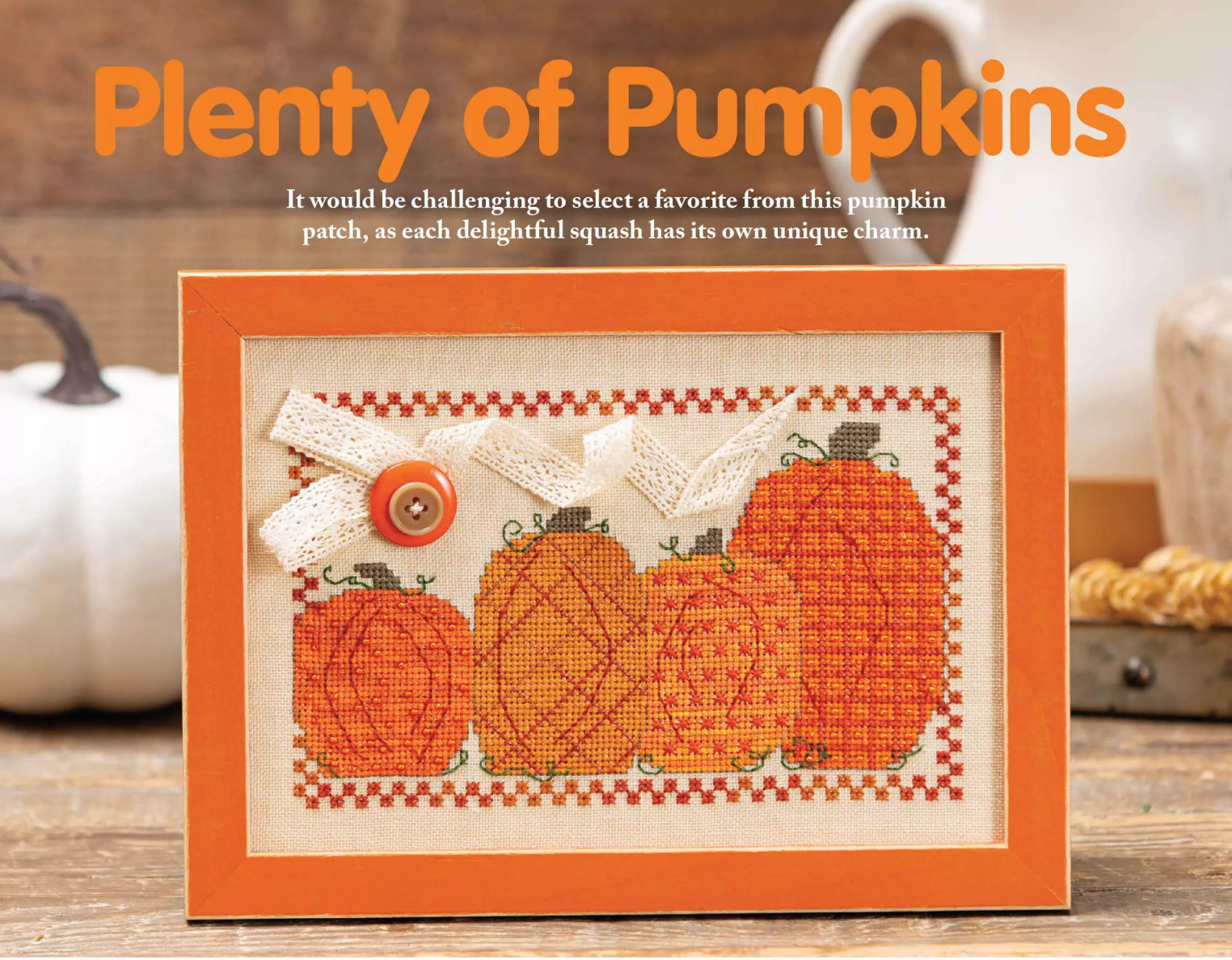


Plenty of Pumpkins

It would be challenging to select a favorite from this pumpkin patch, as each delightful squash has its own unique charm.



Design by Nancy Wahler of Faithwurks Designs

www.facebook.com/faithwurksdesigns

Skill Level: Intermediate
Stitch Count: 68H x 108W
Design Size: 4⅞" x 7¾"

Materials

- 11" x 14" piece 28-count antique ivory Cashel linen from Zweigart®
- One skein each Anchor® or DMC® six-strand embroidery floss
- One skein each Classic Colorworks Hand-Dyed Cotton Thread
- One skein Weeks Dye Works™ Hand Over Dyed Floss
- One package Mill Hill Seed Beads
- Size 24 tapestry needle
- Beading needle

	Anchor®	DMC®	
△	316	971	tangerine, dk.
♥	326	720	apricot, dk.
✳	326	720	apricot, dk. (Smyrna cross stitch)
■	904	3781	tawny
1	1001	976	antique gold, med.

Backstitches/Straight Stitches

—	268	937	avocado, med. dk. (2 strands)
—	340	919	terra cotta, med. dk. (2 strands)
—	903	3032	tawny, med.
—	904	3781	tawny

Classic Colorworks Hand-Dyed Cotton Thread
DMC® Alternatives Listed in Parentheses*

✖	067	(920)	fallen leaves
=	267	(3853)	marmalade

Weeks Dye Works™ Hand Over Dyed Floss
DMC® Alternative Listed in Parentheses*

O	2228	(721)	pumpkin

Mill Hill Seed Beads

●	G02034	autumn flame

*DMC® alternatives are not one-to-one equivalents to the floss suggested by the designer. To achieve results pictured, use the floss listed in the first column.

Instructions

Cross stitch over two threads using two strands of floss or thread.

Backstitch over two threads or work straight stitch using one strand of floss unless indicated otherwise in color code.

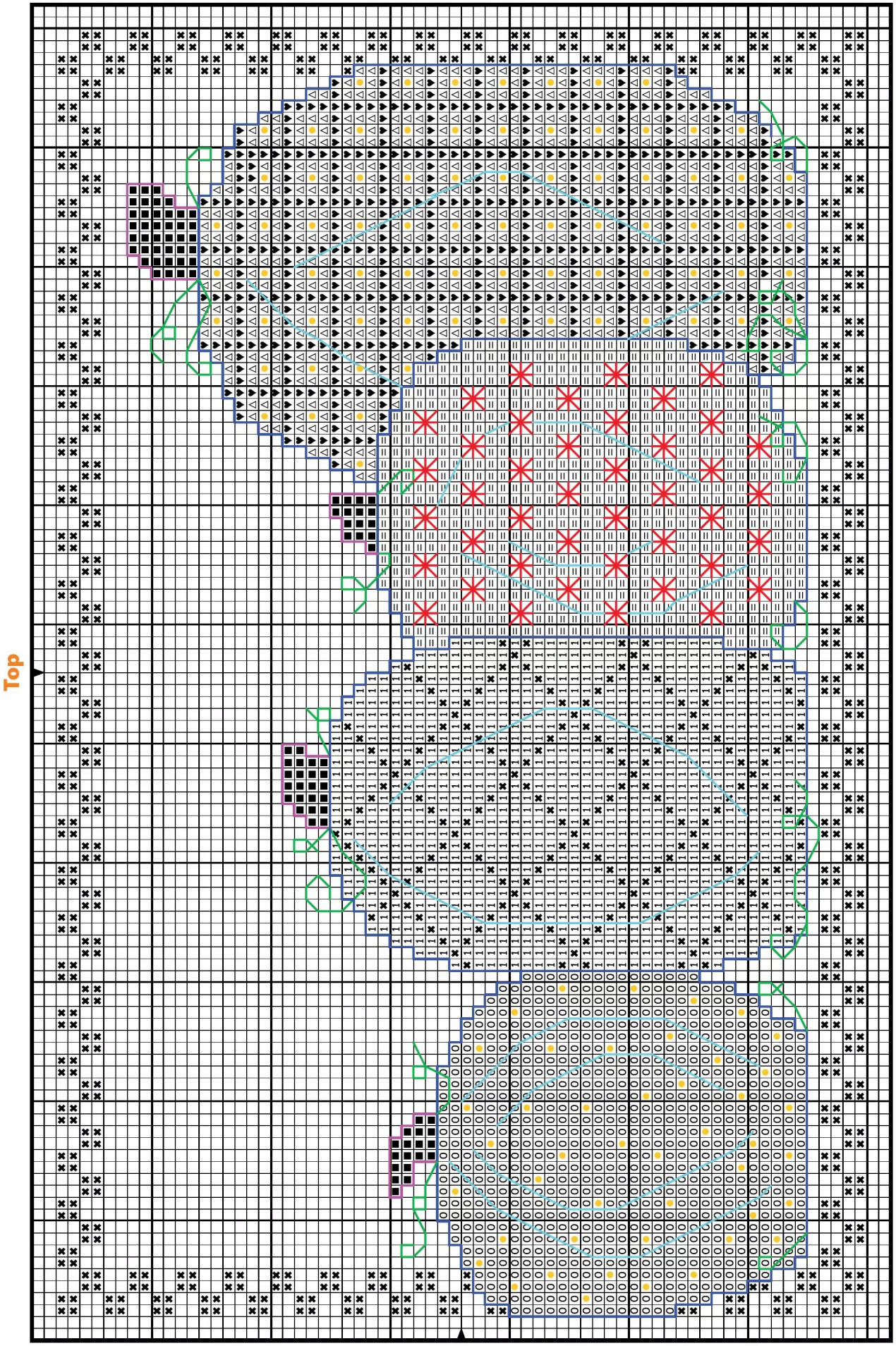
Work Smyrna cross stitch over four threads using two strands of floss.

Attach beads using a cross stitch and one strand of coordinating floss.

Finishing Instructions

Model was embellished with cotton lace ribbon and coordinating buttons prior to framing.

Plenty of Pumpkins



Pumpkin Princess

Cute as a button and brimming with joy, this darling little princess is the ideal muse for your autumn-themed stitching.

Design by Anna Matvieieva of Mr. Stitch & Mrs. Needle

www.instagram.com/mr.stitch_mrs.needle

Skill Level: Intermediate
Stitch Count: 85H x 66W
Design Size: 6⅛" x 4¾"

Materials

- 13" x 11" piece 28-count linen with white mini dots Cashel linen from Wichelt Import Inc.
- One skein each DMC® or Sullivans® USA six-strand embroidery floss
- Size 24 tapestry needle

	DMC®	Sullivans®	
★	422	45093	hazelnut brown, lt.
✳	470	45105	avocado green, lt.
⌘	725	45170	topaz, med. lt.
☼	726	45171	topaz, lt.
◐	869	45242	hazelnut brown, vy. dk.
▲	922	45268	copper, lt.
1	948	45286	peach, vy. lt.
3	975	45304	golden brown, dk.
■	3021	45428	brown gray, vy. dk.
m	3033	45325	mocha brown, vy. lt.
♥	3779	45392	rosewood, vy. lt.
›	3825	45422	pumpkin, pl.
♡	3826	45423	golden brown
△	3828	45425	hazelnut brown
℞	3853	45451	autumn gold, dk.
2	3854	45452	autumn gold, med.
+	3854	45452	autumn gold, med. (right-slanting ½ cross stitch)
Ω	3855	45453	autumn gold, lt.
✓	3855	45453	autumn gold, lt. (right-slanting ½ cross stitch)
=	ecru	45000	ecru
Backstitches/Straight Stitches			
—	975	45304	golden brown, dk.
—	3021	45428	brown gray, vy. dk.
—	3021	45428	brown gray, vy. dk. (2 strands)
—	B5200	45002	snow white

Instructions

Cross stitch over two threads using two strands of floss. Work ½ cross stitch over two threads using two strands of floss.

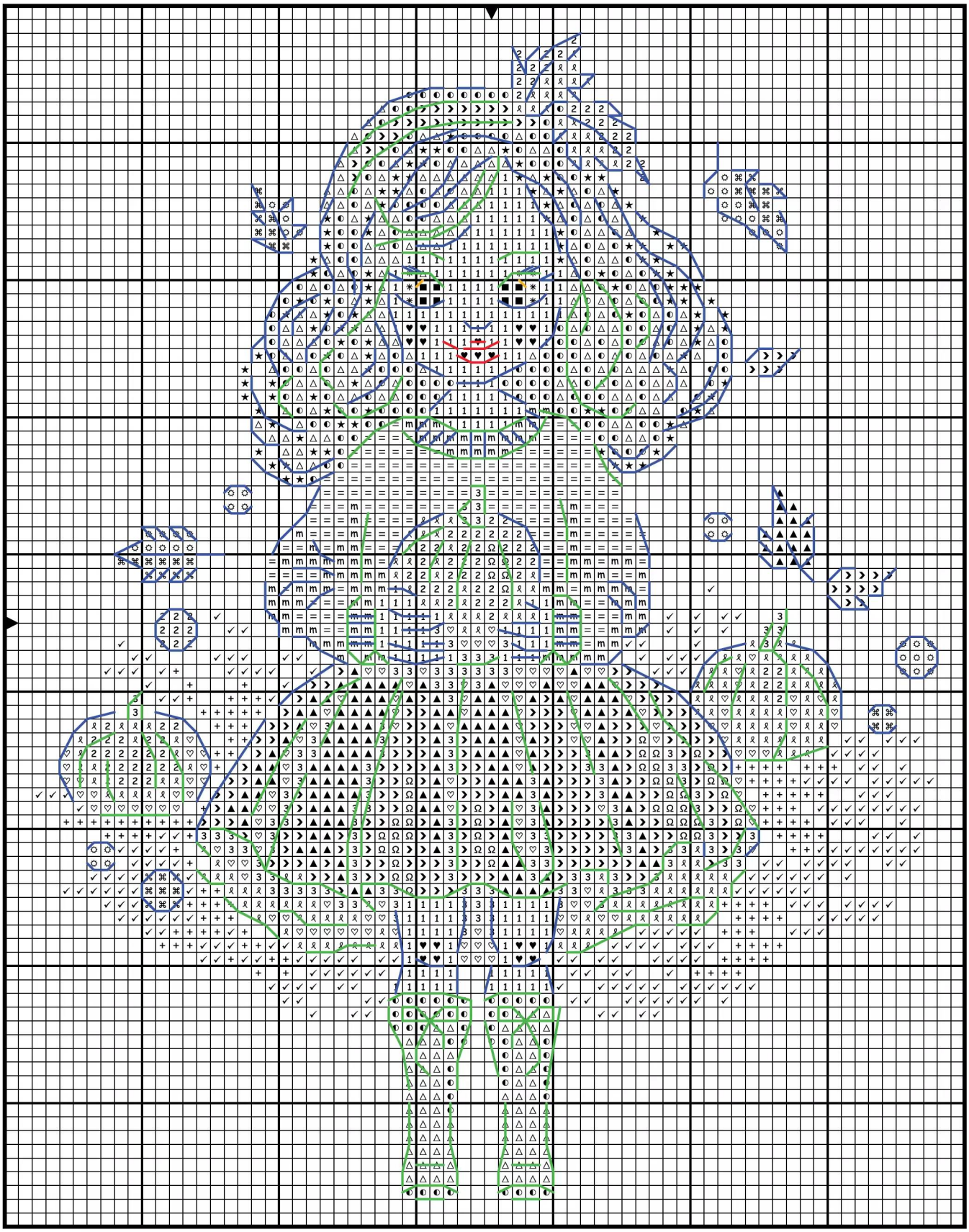
Backstitch over two threads or work straight stitch using one strand of floss unless indicated otherwise in color code.

Finishing Instructions

Model was finished using Hoop Finishing Instructions and embellished with mini pompom trim.

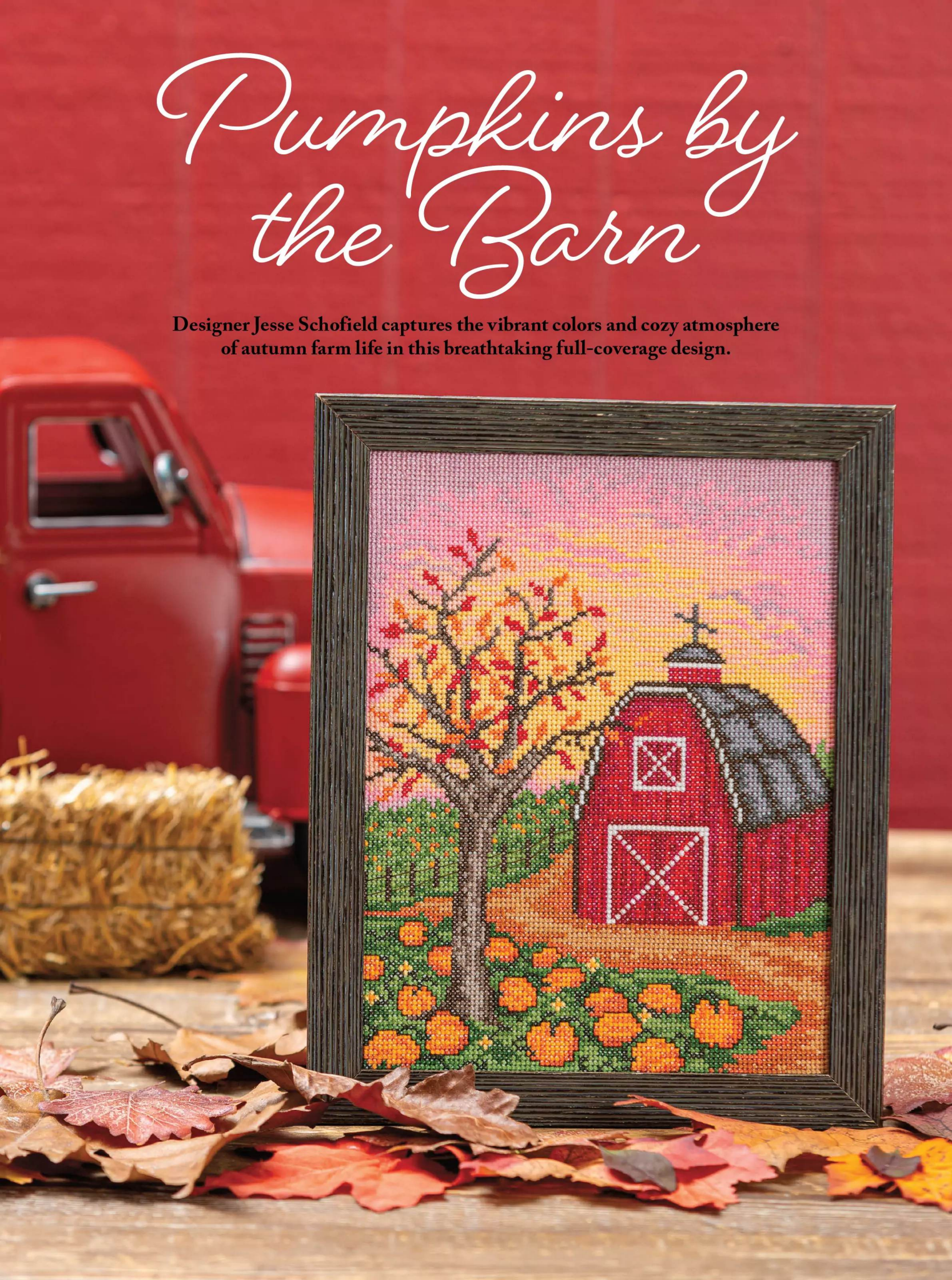
Stitched by Sandra Truman

Pumpkin Princess



Pumpkins by the Barn

Designer Jesse Schofield captures the vibrant colors and cozy atmosphere of autumn farm life in this breathtaking full-coverage design.



Pumpkins by the Barn

Design by Jesse Schofield

www.instagram.com/iwillbecrafting

Skill Level: Intermediate
Stitch Count: 126H x 98W
Design Size: 9" x 7"

Materials

- 15" x 13" piece 14-count antique white Aida from Wichelt Imports Inc.
- One skein each DMC® or Sullivans® USA six-strand embroidery floss
- Size 24 tapestry needle

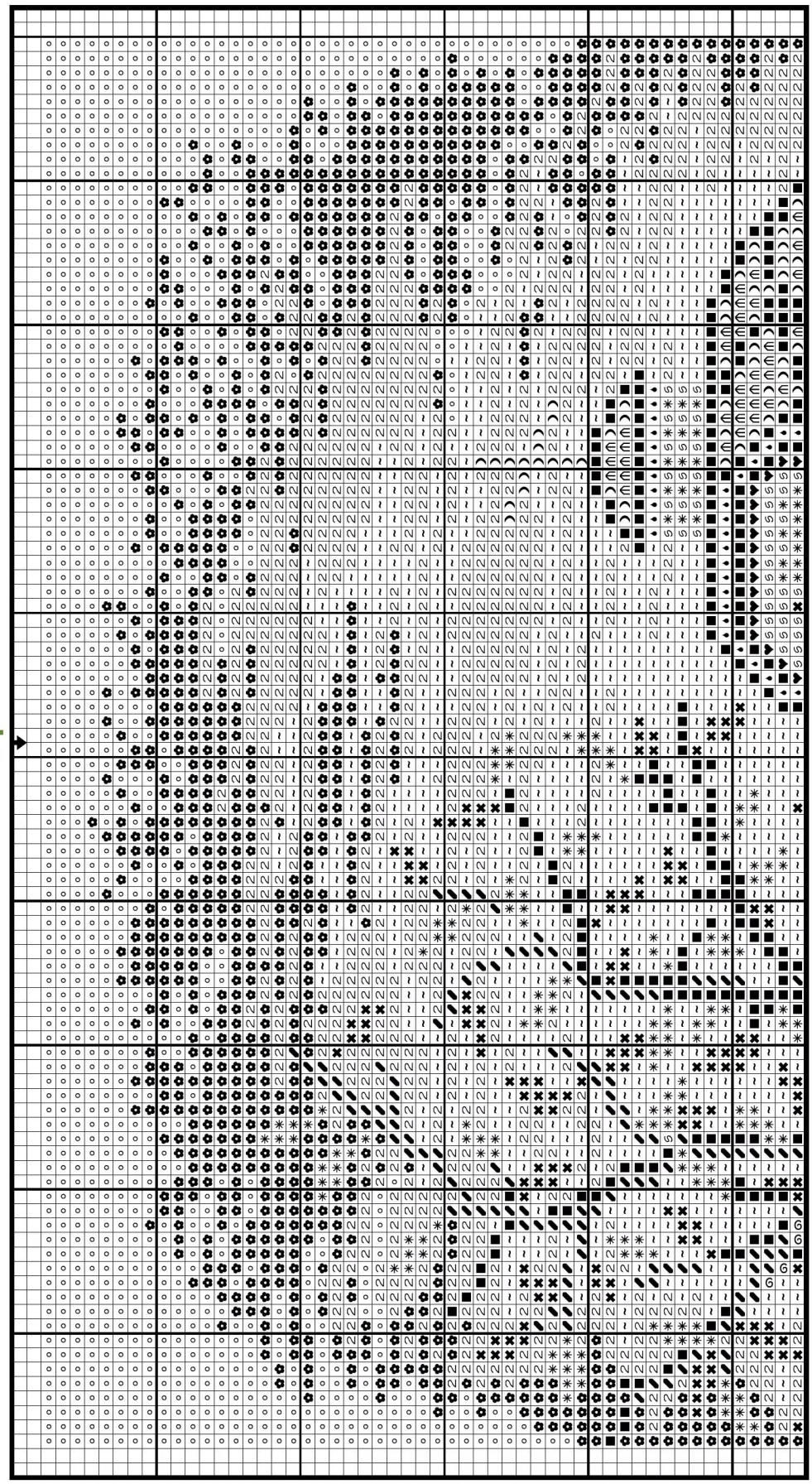
	DMC®	Sullivans®	
⋔	04	45006	tin, dk.
ᘐ	07	45009	driftwood
◆	08	45010	driftwood, dk.
~	19	45021	autumn gold, med. lt.
(	436	45097	tan
ᘐ	498	45108	red, dk.
☽	535	45121	ash gray, vy. lt.
✖	721	45168	orange spice, med.
a	741	45182	tangerine, med.
✳	817	45219	coral red, vy. dk.
●	921	45267	copper
⧗	934	45276	black avocado green
✿	957	45292	geranium, pl.
■	3031	45323	mocha brown, vy. dk.
▲	3345	45342	hunter green, dk.
ᘐ	3346	45343	hunter green
n	3347	45344	yellow green, med.
∘	3727	45368	antique mauve, lt.
♥	3777	45390	terra cotta, vy. dk.
2	3824	45421	apricot, lt.
+	3826	45423	golden brown
♦	3865	45463	winter white
	Backstitch/Straight Stitch		
—	3031	45323	mocha brown, vy. dk.

Instructions

Cross stitch over one square using two strands of floss.

Backstitch over one square or work straight stitch using one strand of floss.

Stitched by Wava Rowe



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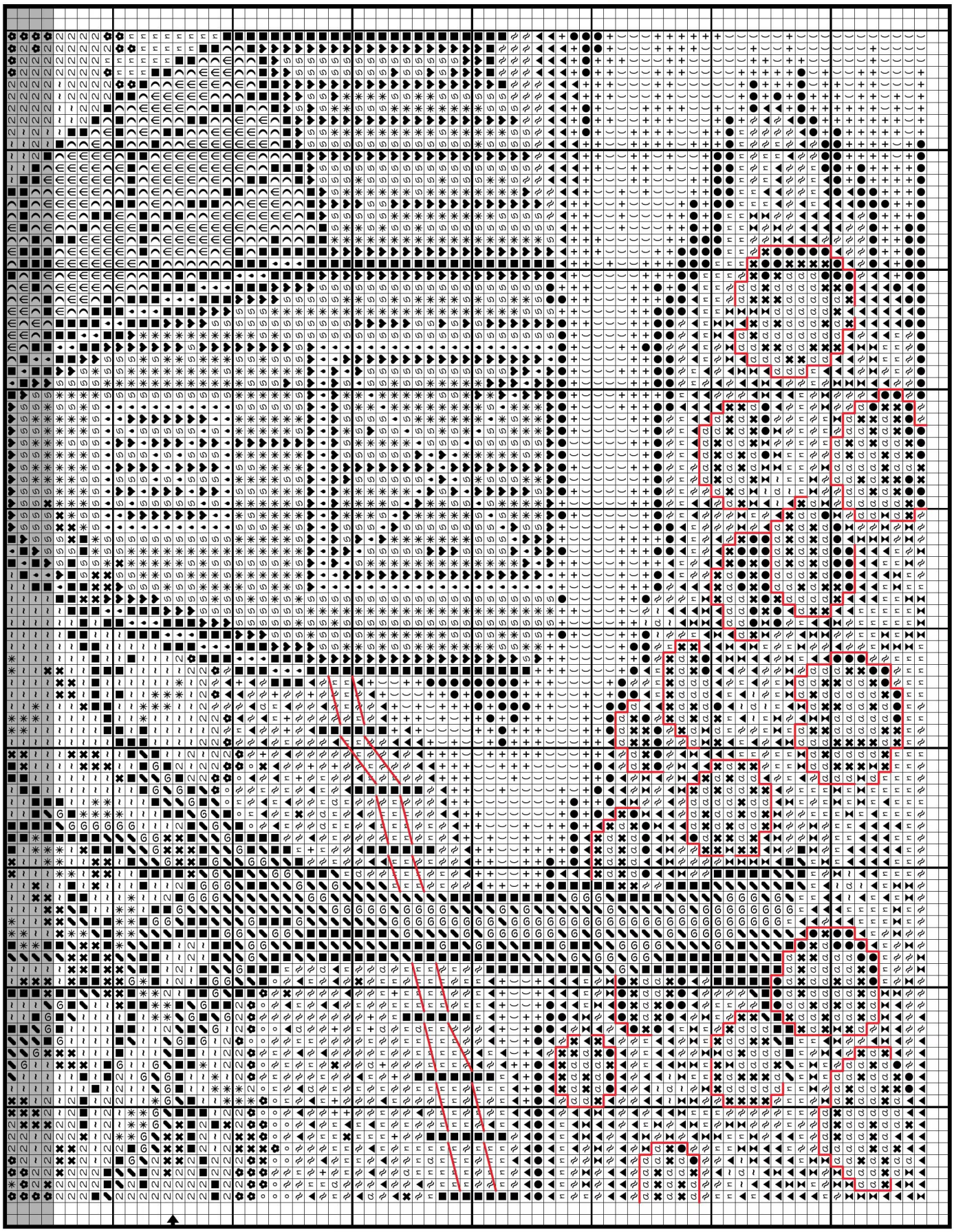

THIS LAMP IS A SIGHT FOR SORE EYES

"I couldn't read the paper anymore. *I would scan the headlines and could barely finish the articles. So when I saw the ad, I had nothing to lose. And the KIS lamp did all that it said- eliminating eyestrain and fatigue."*

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- Less glare in your field of vision

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Easy assembly. Lamp column simply screws into the base.

The KIS™ Lamp and LampLight light source

US PATENTS
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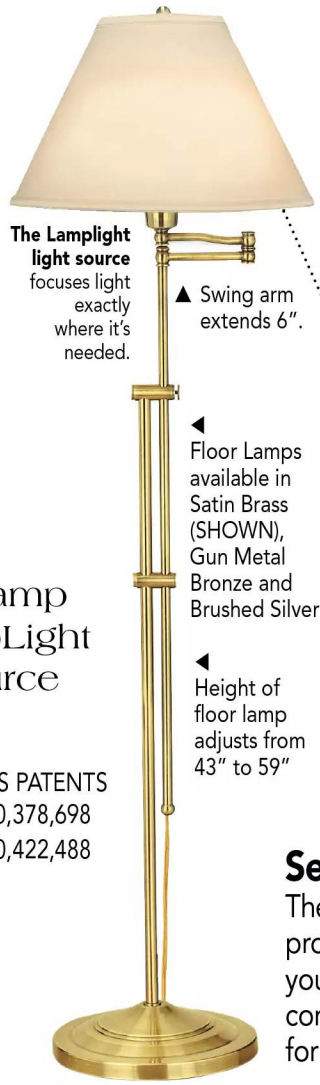
10,422,488



Also includes handheld LED dimmer and switch for brightness control – perfect for adjusting ambient light.

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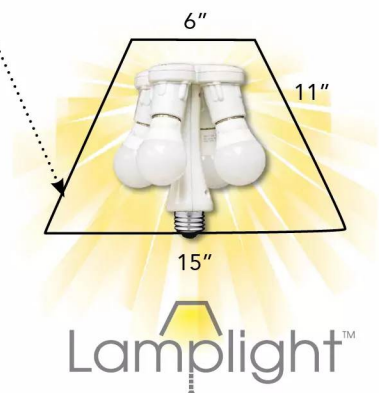
Its patented LED bulb array may appear to be "upside down"– but the 4 bulb spread of light is actually down and out, perfect for task light.



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Harvest Trio

Fresh from the farm, this bountiful harvest haul will have you stocked up with all the apples, pumpkins and sunflowers you'll need for your autumn stitching to-do list.

Design by Clare Bray of Climbing Goat Designs

www.climbinggoat.co.uk

Skill Level: Easy

Stitch Count

Apples: 36H x 36W
Pumpkins: 36H x 36W
Sunflowers: 35H x 35W

Design Size

Apples: 2⅝" x 2⅝"
Pumpkins: 2⅝" x 2⅝"
Sunflowers: 2½" x 2½"

Materials

- Three 9" x 9" pieces 14-count white Aida from Wichelt Imports Inc.
- One skein each DMC® or Sullivans® USA six-strand embroidery floss
- Size 24 tapestry needle

	DMC®	Sullivans®	
✖	309	45052	rose, dk.
♥	321	45062	red
1	335	45068	rose
=	725	45170	topaz, med. lt.
★	726	45171	topaz, lt.
✚	727	45172	topaz, vy. lt.
›	740	45181	tangerine
♣	741	45182	tangerine, med.
3	742	45183	tangerine, lt.
●	801	45211	coffee brown, dk.
✳	816	45218	garnet
⬆	900	45251	burnt orange, dk.
2	946	45284	burnt orange, med.
■	987	45308	forest green, dk.
△	988	45309	forest green, med.
⬊	3733	45370	dusty rose

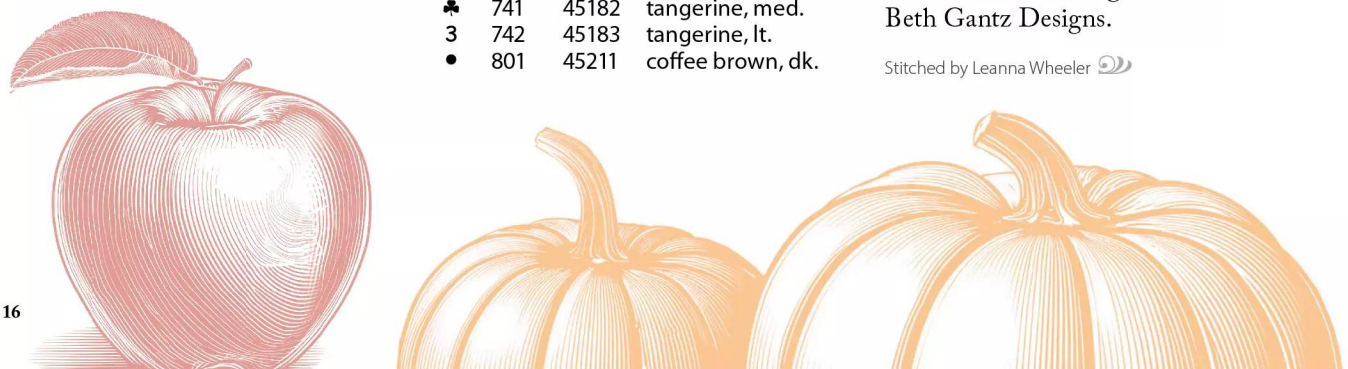
Instructions

Cross stitch over one square using two strands of floss.

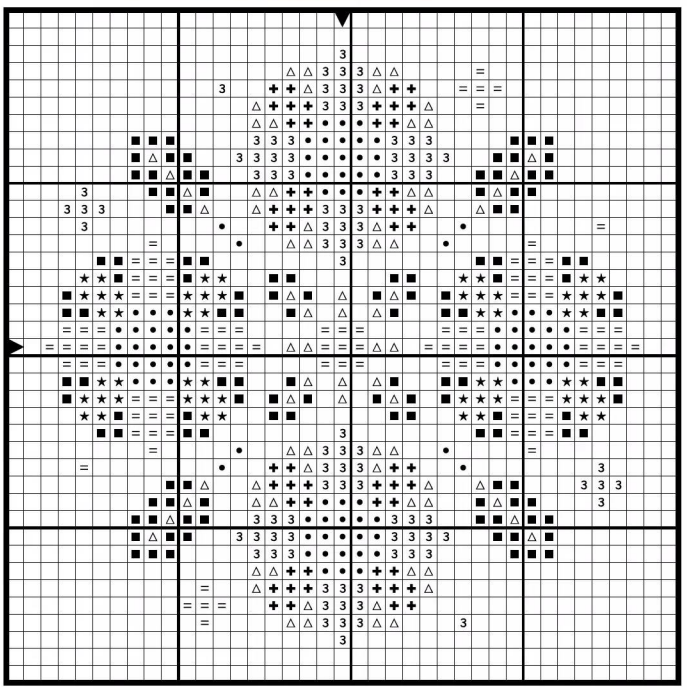
Finishing Instructions

Models were framed using 3" Round Self-Finishing Frames from Beth Gantz Designs.

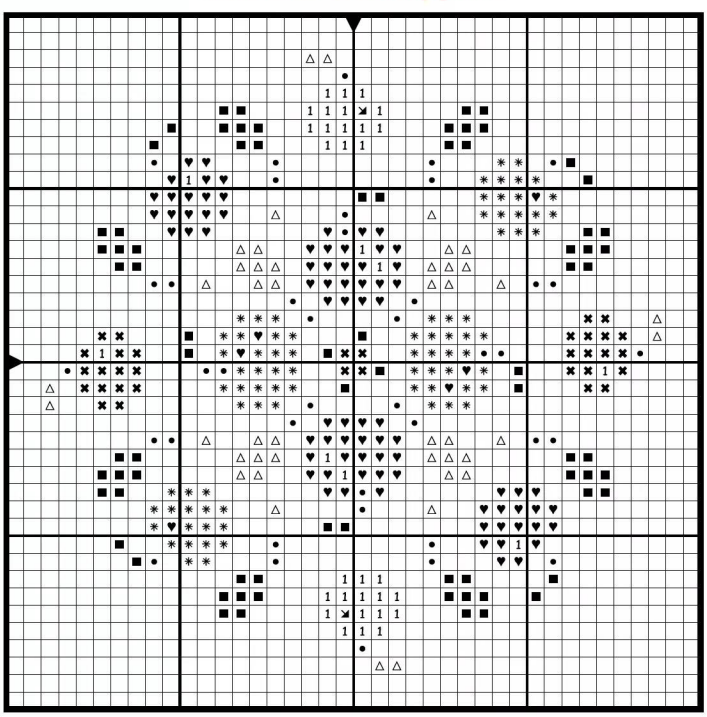
Stitched by Leanna Wheeler



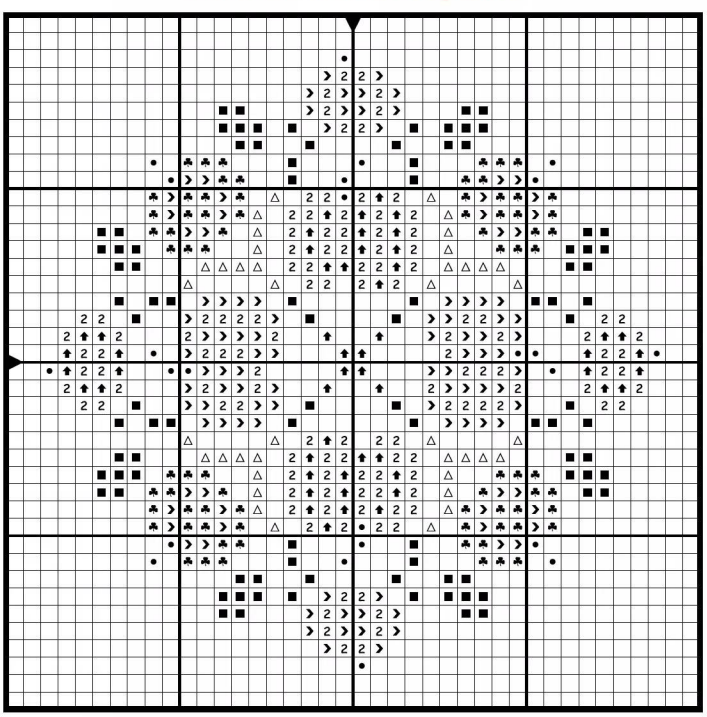
Harvest Trio: Sunflowers



Harvest Trio: Apples



Harvest Trio: Pumpkins



Fall Forest

Looking for a quick-stitch design with a mid-century modern vibe? Check out this colorful little gem that blends retro colors with contemporary flair.

Design by Sunny Lofstrom of Three Tiny Owls

www.etsy.com/shop/threetinyowls

Skill Level: Easy
Stitch Count: 55H x 56W
Design Size: 3½" x 3½"

Materials

- 10" x 10" piece 16-count white Aida from Wichelt Imports Inc.
- One skein each DMC® or Sullivans® USA six-strand embroidery floss
- Size 26 tapestry needle

	DMC®	Sullivans®	
■	350	45074	coral, med.
♥	434	45095	brown, lt.
X	498	45108	red, dk.
s	732	45176	olive green
○	734	45178	olive green, lt.
/	742	45183	tangerine, lt.
△	743	45184	yellow, med.
+	815	45217	garnet, med.
●	922	45268	copper, lt.
➡	936	45278	avocado green, vy. dk.

Backstitch/Straight Stitch

—	434	45095	brown, lt.

Instructions

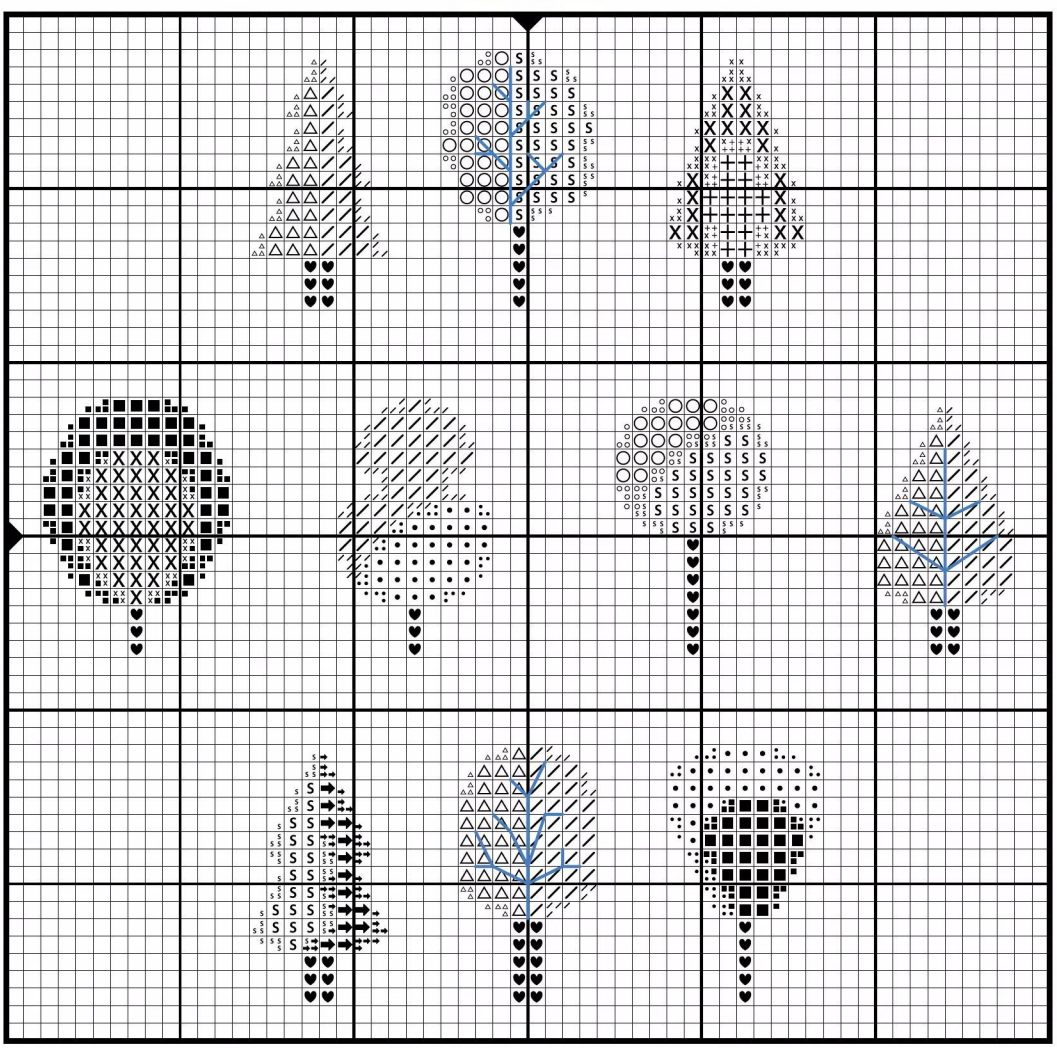
Cross stitch over one square using two strands of floss. Where small symbols appear, work partial cross stitches using two strands of floss.

Backstitch over one square or work straight stitch using one strand of floss.

Finishing Instructions

Model was finished using Hoop Finishing Instructions. Coordinating fabric strips were used to wrap hoop prior to assembly. Ribbon was used to create hanger.

Fall Forest



NEW!

Stitch All Your Fun & Spooky Favorites With Our Popular Halloween Issue!

Scan here

Step into a world of hauntingly delightful creations in the *Just CrossStitch Halloween* special collector's issue for 2024! Our team of designers has brewed up an assortment of patterns in six enchanting chapters, promising a host of eerie options for your Halloween decor.

Order today and start creating!

AnniesCraftStore.com

Search product code CM53422, retail price **$9.99**

Annie's®

Autumn Intertwined

With a rich palette of colors, these autumn stitches perfectly capture the essence of the season's beauty.

Design by Arlene Cohen of WorksByABC

www.worksbyabc.com

Skill Level: Intermediate
Stitch Count: 64H x 64W
Design Size: 4⅝" x 4⅝"

Materials

- 11" x 11" piece 28-count Kenneth linen from Grace Notes Fabrics
- One skein each DMC® or Sullivans® USA six-strand embroidery floss
- One skein each Weeks Dye Works™ Hand Over Dyed Floss
- Size 24 tapestry needle

	DMC®	Sullivans®	
★	580	45131	moss green, dk.
✿	729	45173	old gold, med.
✖	3862	45460	mocha beige, dk.

Backstitches

—	580	45131	moss green, dk.
—	729	45173	old gold, med.

Weeks Dye Works™ Hand Over Dyed Floss

DMC® Alternatives Listed in Parentheses*

▲	1330	(221)	baked apple
●	2237	(434)	hazelnut
■	2238	(920)	sweet potato

Backstitches

—	1330	(221)	baked apple
—	2237	(434)	hazelnut
—	2238	(920)	sweet potato

*DMC® alternatives are not one-to-one equivalents to the floss suggested by the designer. To achieve results pictured, use the floss listed in the first column.

Instructions

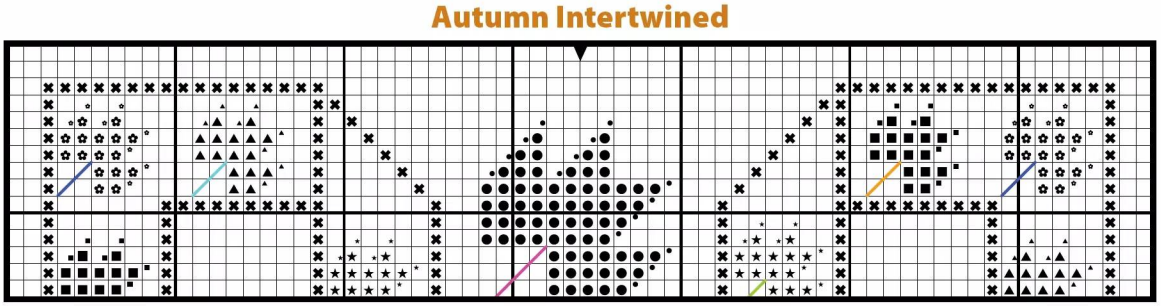
Cross stitch over two threads using two strands of floss. Where small symbols appear, work ¾ cross stitch using two strands of floss.

Backstitch over two threads using two strands of floss.

Finishing Instructions

Model was finished using Flat-Ornament Finishing Instructions. Hanger and trim were made using twisted cording.

Autumn Intertwined



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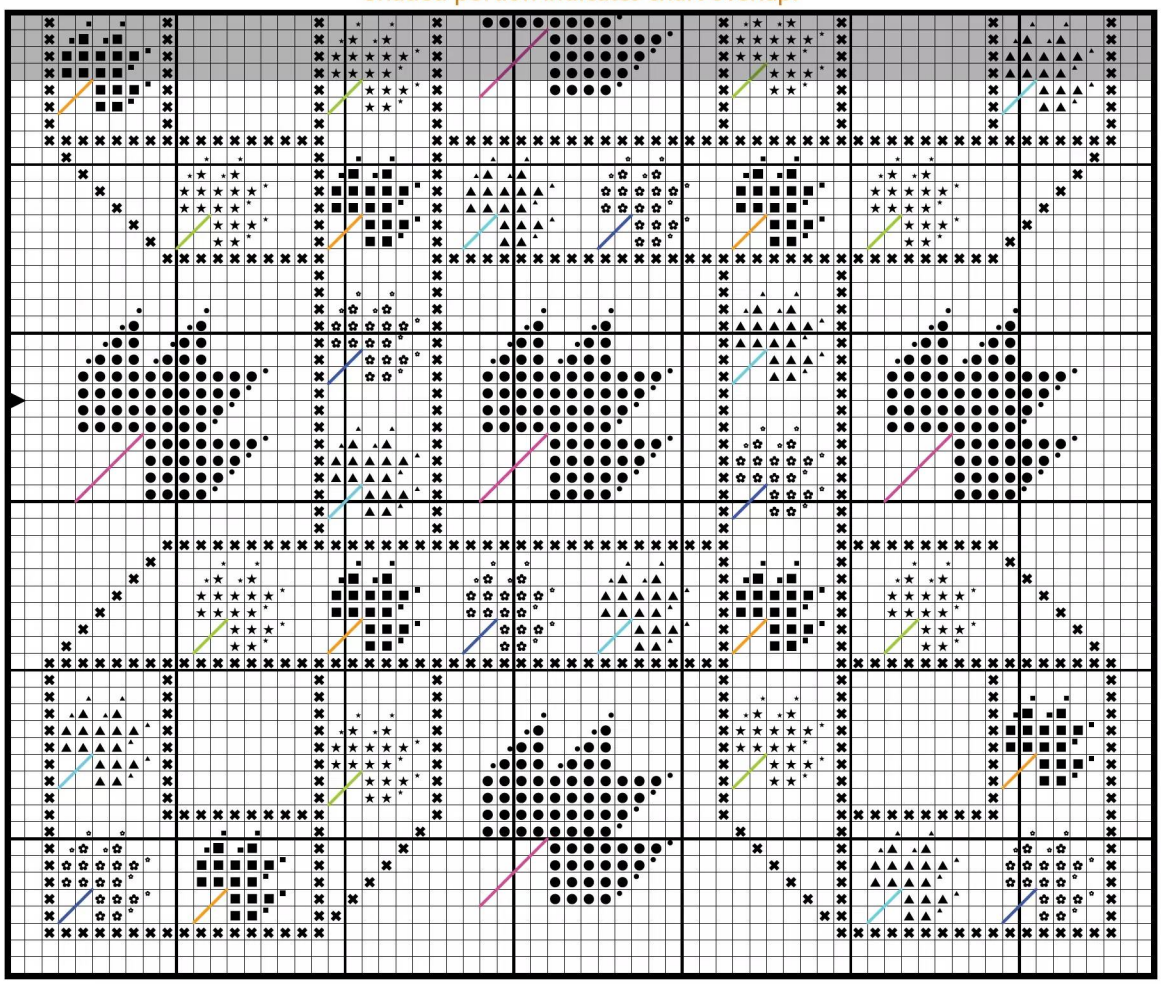
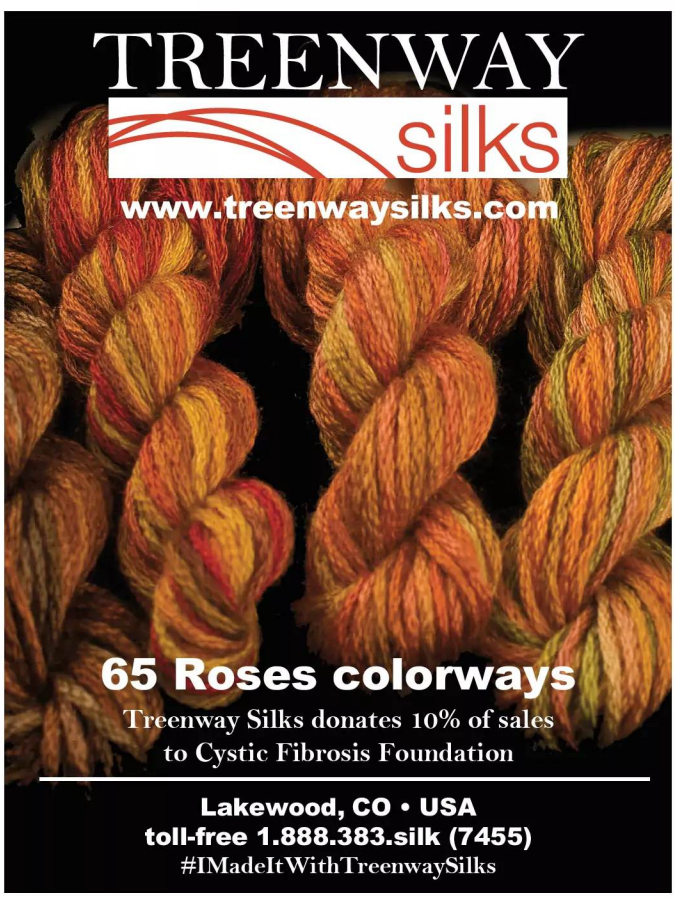
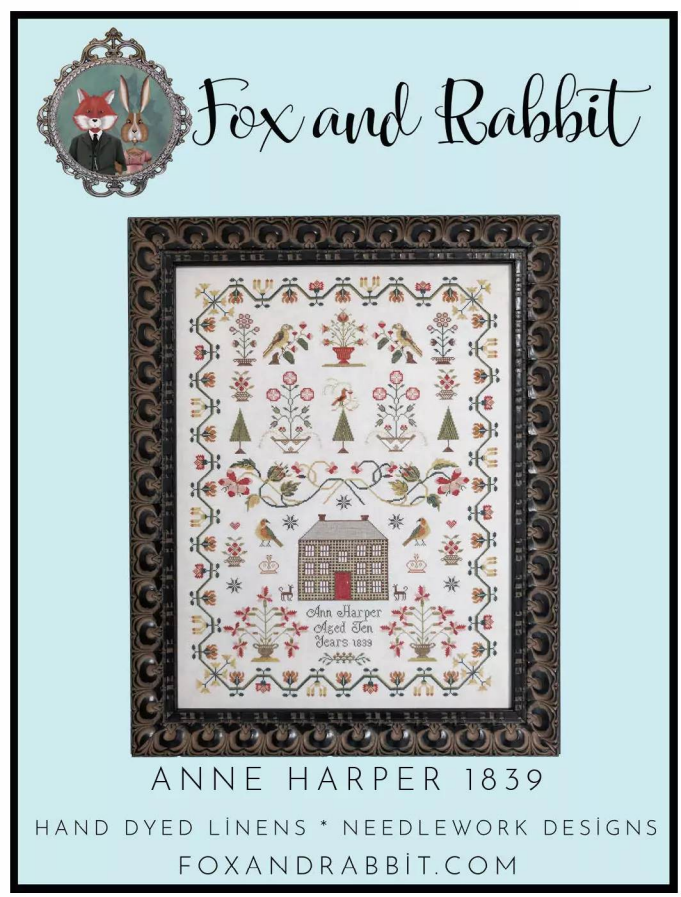






Fall in Love

Subtle variations in the hand-dyed threads add a charming touch to this simple yet elegant design.

Design by Chiara Gavarone of Mat and ME Design

www.instagram.com/mat_and_me_design

Skill Level: Easy
Stitch Count: 63H x 65W
Design Size: 3⅝" x 3¾"

Materials

- 10" x 10" piece 35-count Kris' bon bon linen from Weeks Dye Works™
- One skein each The Gentle Art Sampler Threads
- One skein each The Gentle Art Simply Shaker Sampler Threads
- Size 26 tapestry needle

The Gentle Art Sampler Threads

DMC® Alternatives Listed in Parentheses*

△	0130	(471)	avocado
♥	1140	(3865)	oatmeal

The Gentle Art Simply Shaker Sampler Threads

DMC® Alternatives Listed in Parentheses*

✖	7009	(3341)	melon patch
=	7088	(3863)	baked clay

*DMC® alternatives are not one-to-one equivalents to the floss suggested by the designer. To achieve results pictured, use the floss listed in the first column.

Instructions

Cross stitch over two threads using two strands of thread.

Finishing Materials & Instructions

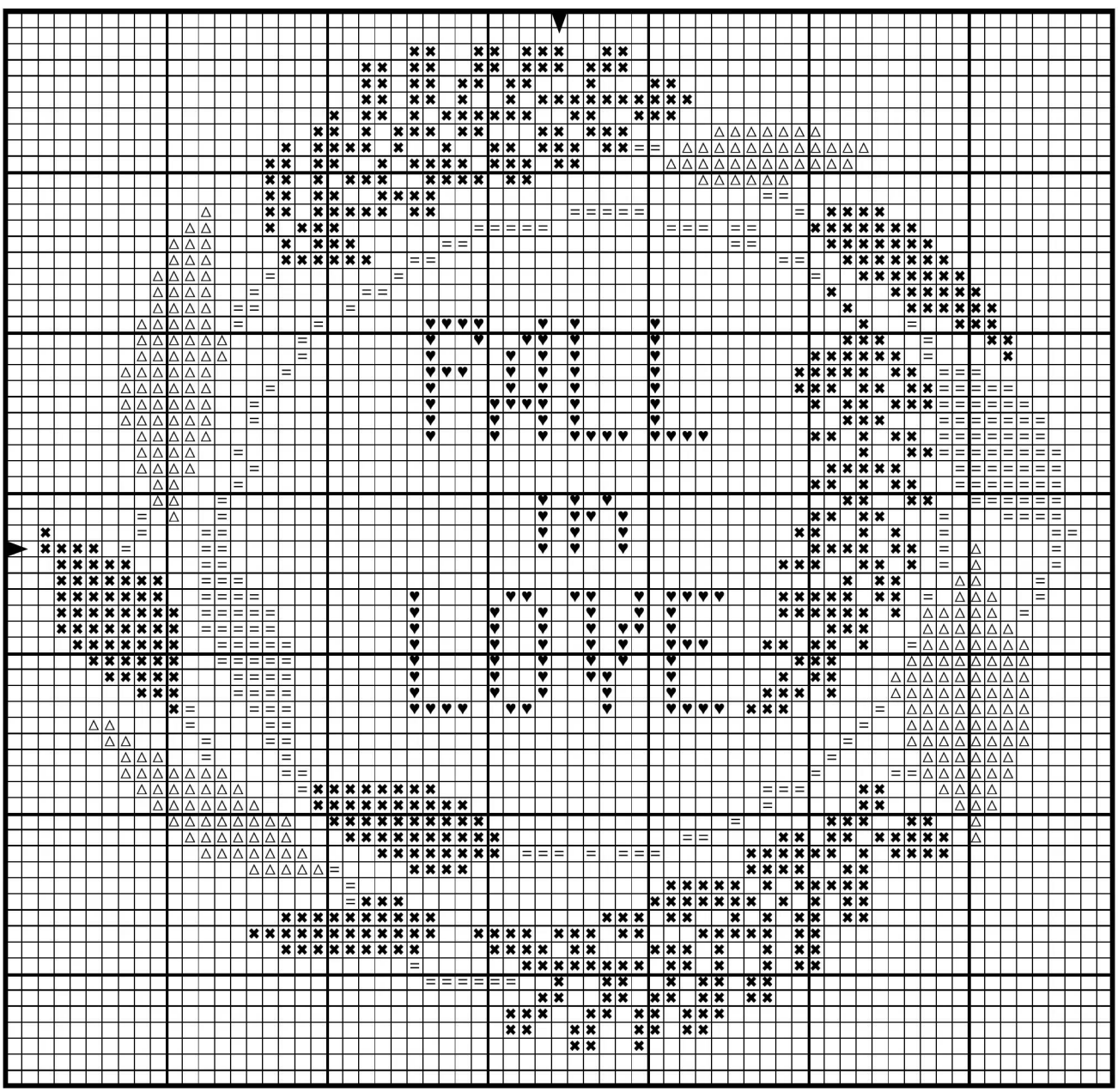
- Standing wooden pumpkin with a flat surface on front that is large enough to accommodate the stitched piece
- Double-sided tape
- Embellishments

Press stitched piece from reverse side, straightening as much as possible. Trim stitched piece as needed to fit front flat side of wooden pumpkin. Remove desired number of outer threads on all sides of fabric to create fringed edges.

Adhere stitched piece to pumpkin using double-sided tape. Model was embellished with beads strung on jute twine and a jute-twine tassel.

Stitched by Vilma Spreuer

Fall in Love



Stitchalong sponsored by SULLIVANS USA

Hummingbird Garden

PART 3

Cultivate this garden with needle and floss, then watch the colorful blooms take shape in the brand-new stitchalong for 2024. Featuring 12 unique flower mandalas and delightful little hummingbird charms, this design promises to keep the fun blossoming all year long.

Design by Carolyn Manning of Carolyn Manning Designs

www.carolynmanningdesigns.com

Skill Level: Intermediate

Stitch Count

Full Design: 195H x 146W

Part 3: 49H x 146W

Design Size

Full Design: 13⅞" x 10⅜"

Part 3: 3½" x 10⅜"

Materials

Note: *Materials given will complete the full design.*

- 20" x 17" piece 28-count antique white Jobelan from Wichelt Imports Inc.
- One skein each (except as noted otherwise in color code) Sullivans® USA six-strand embroidery floss
- One skein Sullivans® USA metallic floss
- Three hummingbird charms each #80104 and #80105 in brass finish from By Jupiter!
- Size 24 tapestry needle

Sullivans®

4	45057	antique mauve, med.
■	45061	pistachio green, med. (2 skeins)
×	45066	blue violet, vy. dk.
♥	45081	pistachio green, lt.
‹	45255	parrot green, med.
✿	45307	forest green, vy. dk.
✚	45309	forest green, med.
⧗	45336	golden yellow, vy. lt.
⋒	45346	dusty rose, ul. dk.
●	45352	plum, lt.
✳	45372	antique violet, vy. lt.
◗	45374	blue violet, vy. lt.
◇	45402	cyclamen pink
△	45433	grape, med.
○	45437	lavender blue, med.
3	45451	autumn gold, dk.
7	45452	autumn gold, med.
⋔	45453	autumn gold, lt.
◆	45470	blue violet, med. dk.

Backstitch/Straight Stitch

—	45307	forest green, vy. dk.

Sullivans® Metallic Floss

=	44418	gold

Instructions

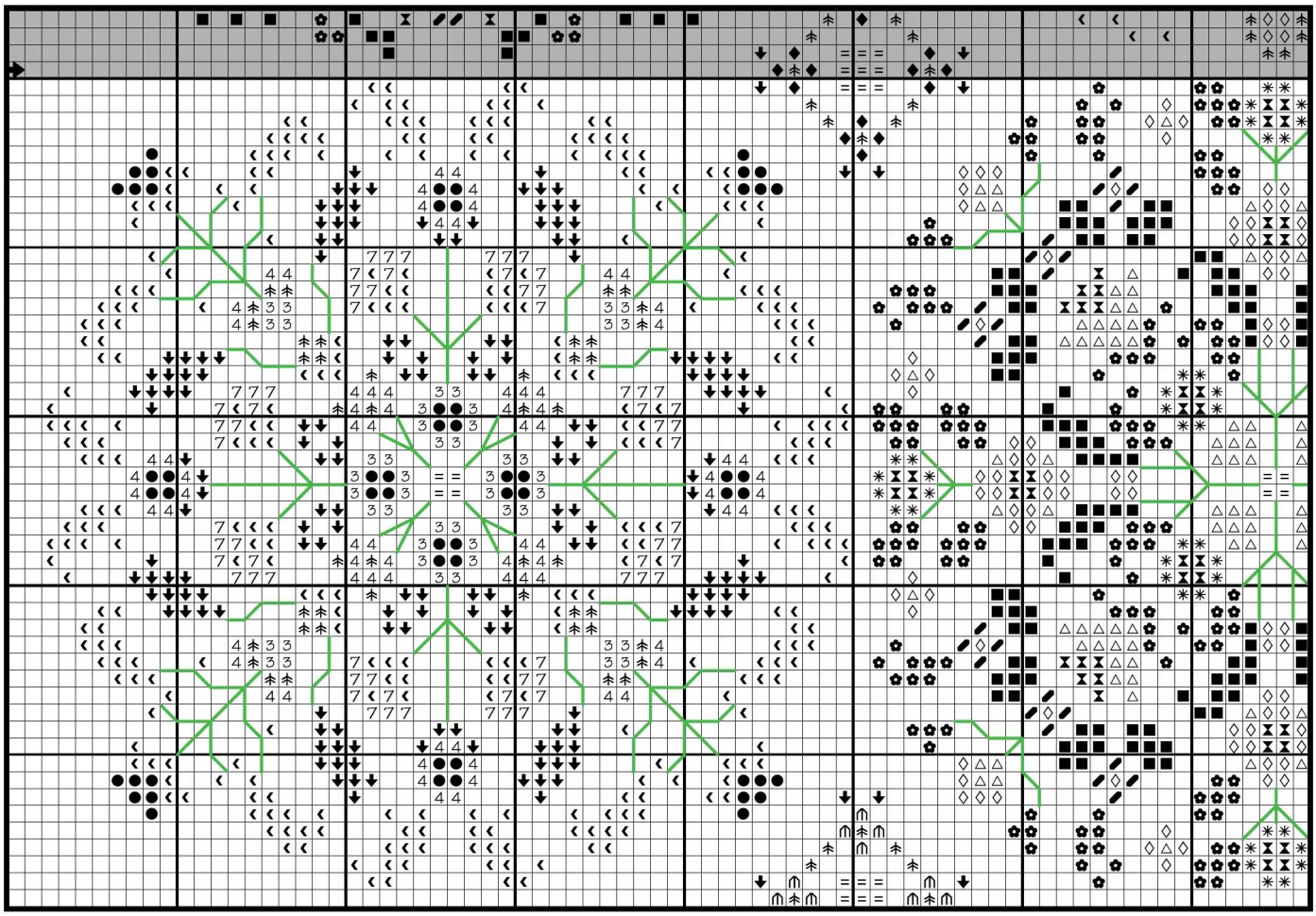
Note: *Measure 3" from the top edge and 3" from the left edge to find the point on your fabric to begin stitching Part 1. For subsequent parts, continue adding to the existing stitching by following the gray overlap shown on the chart.*

Cross stitch over two threads using two strands of floss.

Backstitch over two threads or work straight stitch using one strand of floss.

When stitching of entire design is complete, arrange and attach hummingbird charms as desired, using one strand of gold metallic floss. For additional embellishment a coordinating bead can be added when attaching charm to stitched piece.

Hummingbird Garden: Part 3



The Marvel of Hummingbird Migration

As fall arrives and temperatures begin to drop, hummingbirds in North America feel the urge to head southward. They can sense subtle changes in daylight duration, temperature and the availability of food sources. These natural cues serve as indicators, prompting them to prepare for their impending migration.

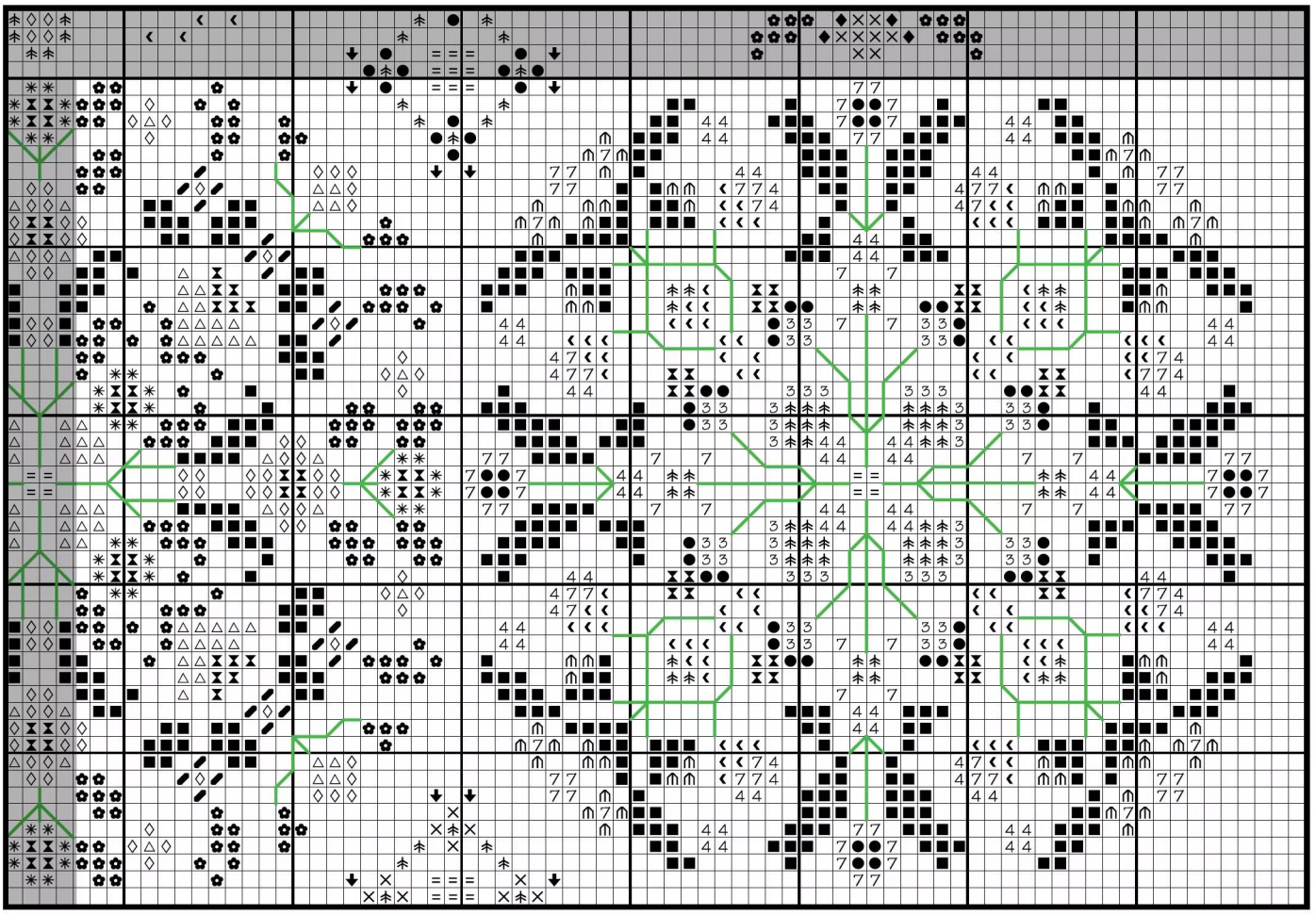
Hummingbirds typically fly alone on this journey, often on the same path they have flown earlier in their life. They fly by day when nectar sources such as flowers are more abundant. Flying low allows the birds to see and stop at food supplies along the way. They are also experts at using tail winds to help them reach their destination faster and consume less energy and body fat.

Research indicates a hummingbird normally travel as many as 23 miles in one day. At that rate, it can take several weeks to reach their wintering grounds. But in certain circumstances, like the journey over the Gulf of Mexico, they can fly for more extended lengths of time, sometimes covering up to 500 miles in a single nonstop flight lasting 18–22 hours.

Among the 12–15 hummingbird species that migrate into the United States and Canada each year, the ruby-throated hummingbird reigns as the most common. These vibrant creatures spend their winters in the balmy regions between southern Mexico and northern Panama. They meticulously prepare for their migration journey by visiting numerous plants each day, ensuring they have sufficient fuel for the long flight ahead. During the fall migration, it is recommended that hummingbird lovers leave up their feeders for about two weeks after they sight their final bird, just to feed those late-migrating hummers!

Find this information and more at www.hummingbirdcentral.com.

Shaded portion indicates chart overlap.



Stitch motifs individually for unique finishing options like mounting your stitched piece to a Perpetual Paddle from Chantelle's 141 Design Company.

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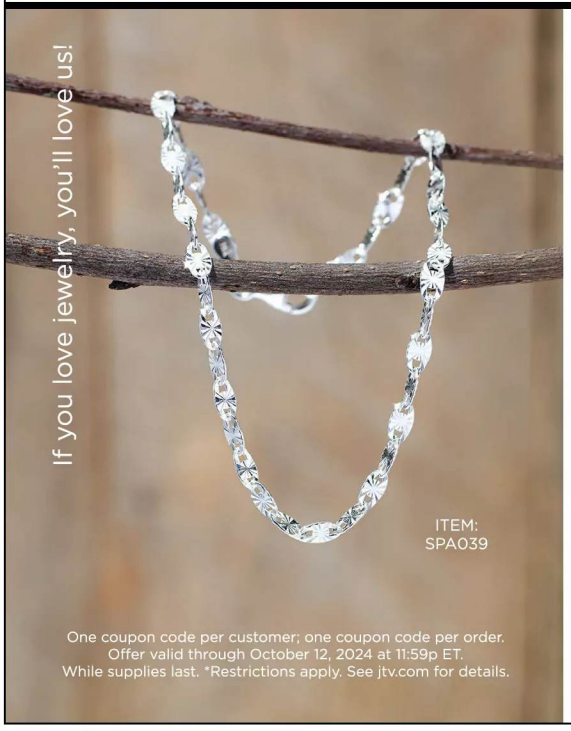

FOR A FLAWLESS FALL

The perfect accessory for your autumn wardrobe, this impeccably detailed diamond-cut Valentino-link bracelet in sterling silver will sparkle as brilliantly as you.

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jtv.com/affection

This project features a unique interchangeable finish!

Seasonal Quilt Series: AUTUMN

Designer Susan Powell continues her series of seasonal designs with this crisp autumn scene. Follow the simple finishing instructions for a quick, interchangeable display that's perfect for year-round decorating.

Design by Susan Powell of Laurel Susan Studio

www.etsy.com/shop/laurelsusanstudiollc

Skill Level: Easy
Stitch Count: 88H x 134W
Design Size: 6¼" x 9⅝"

Materials

- 13" x 16" piece 14-count glacier Atomic Ranch Aida from Rogue Stitching
- One skein each DMC® or Sullivans® USA six-strand embroidery floss
- Size 24 tapestry needle

	DMC®	Sullivans®	
✿	349	45073	coral, dk.
♦	350	45074	coral, med.
⁂	469	45104	avocado green
▲	470	45105	avocado green, lt.
⁚	471	45106	avocado green, vy. lt.
▷	640	45148	beige gray, vy. dk.
♠	642	45149	beige gray, dk.
▾ [	642	45149	beige gray, dk.
	738	45179	tan, vy. lt.
☾	702	45162	Kelly green
←	703	45163	chartreuse
▙	718	45166	plum
○	726	45171	topaz, lt.
⅄	728	45491	topaz
+	738	45179	tan, vy. lt.
≡	739	45180	tan, ul. vy. lt.
∧	915	45262	plum, dk.
●	917	45263	plum, med.
♥	972	45302	canary, dp.
■	3021	45428	brown gray, vy. dk.
★	3787	45395	brown gray, dk.
	Backstitch		
—	3021	45428	brown gray, vy. dk.

Instructions

Cross stitch over one square using two strands of floss. Where two colors are bracketed together, use one strand of each color of floss.

Backstitch over one square using two strands of floss.

Finishing Materials & Instructions

- 10"-square wood plaque #10685532 by Make Market® from Michaels
- One package Velcro® Sticky Back for Fabrics fastener strip
- Two small eye screws
- 16" length jute twine
- Coordinating fabric for backing
- Three ½" x 6" strips coordinating fabrics

Model was finished using Flat-Ornament Finishing Instructions. Hanger was omitted and coordinating fabric was used for backing.

With hook and loop sides of Velcro fastener strip pressed together, cut five 1" pieces from fastener strip. With hook and loop sides still joined, remove backing paper from one side of each 1" fastener and adhere one to each corner and to center back of assembled stitched piece; press firmly in place. Remove remaining backing paper from adhered fasteners. Align stitched piece over wood plaque; press down firmly to adhere.

Note: *Velcro fasteners allow the stitched piece to be removed and replaced with other seasonal designs throughout the year.*

On back of wood plaque, add one eye screw to outer edge of each vertical support piece, approximately 2½" from bottom.

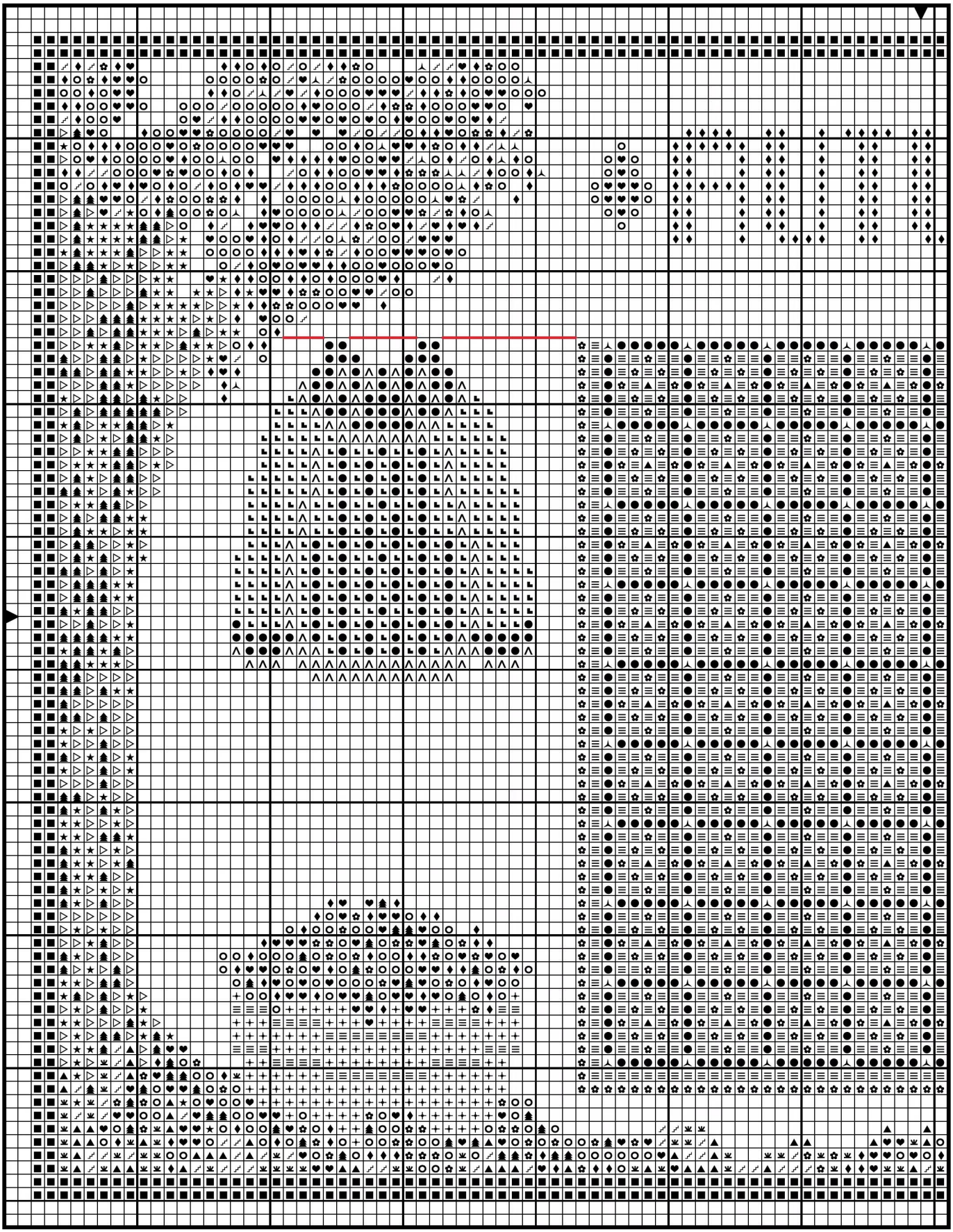
Wrap jute twine across front of wood plaque, wrapping ends to back. Thread ends of twine through eye screws; knot twine at each end to secure, making sure that it remains taut.

Tie fabric strips to jute twine on front as shown.

Note: *Fabric strips can be removed and replaced to match other seasonal designs throughout the year.*

Stitched by Lauren Dudley

Seasonal Quilt Series: Autumn



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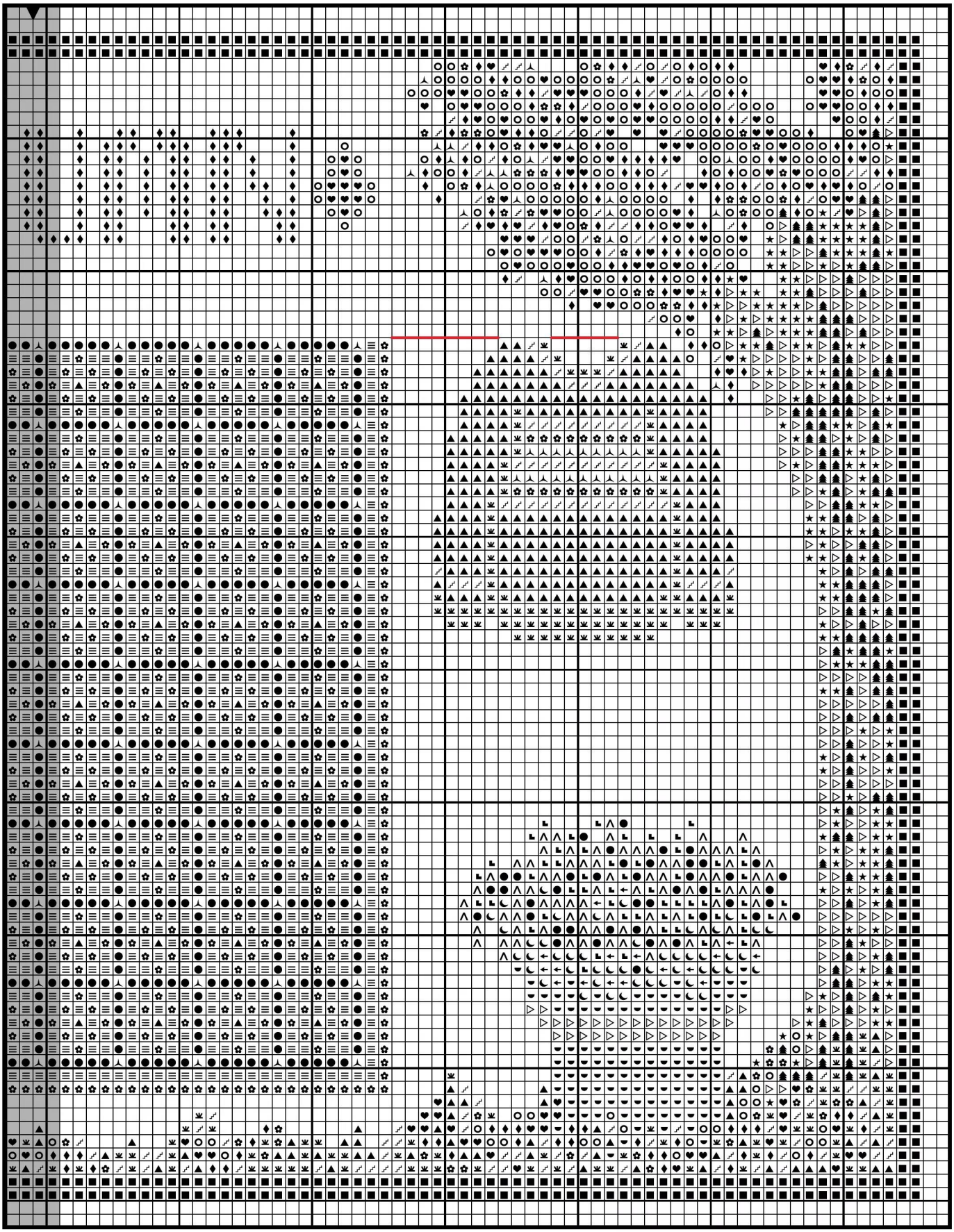


Crafting Friendship: Discovering the Joys of Cross-Stitch Retreats!

Attendees at Stitch-Con 2024 enjoyed a relaxing weekend of learning, sharing, stitching and making new friends.

Ever found yourself intrigued by the idea of attending a cross-stitch retreat? Or perhaps you have already experienced the joy of one firsthand. If you haven't, it's a chance to dive into creativity and community, whether you're a newbie or a seasoned pro. Picture a weekend surrounded by fellow enthusiasts, swapping tips and stories, honing skills and trying new techniques. It's not just about stitching; it's a chance to relax and recharge among like-minded souls. If you haven't tried it, maybe now's the time to discover its magic.

Linnie and Roberta initially crossed paths at their local needlework shop's cross-stitch group. However, their friendship blossomed during their shared experience at the Quilter's Station Cross Stitch Extravaganza in 2021. It was Linnie's first cross-stitch retreat, and she fondly remembers the excitement and anticipation of the event. After a weekend filled with learning, laughter and fun, the pair kept in touch; over time, their cross-stitch connection grew into a valued friendship.

Roberta launched the SABLE (Stash Accumulated Beyond Life Expectancy) Stitchers FlossTube channel on YouTube in March 2022. After a few months of flying solo, she extended an invitation to Linnie to join her, and together they now form a dynamic duo. While they both are passionate about the art of cross stitch, they firmly believe that fostering connections within the stitching community enriches their lives with immeasurable joy.

In addition to their FlossTube channel, Roberta took the initiative to establish www.sablestitcher.net, primarily as a resource for cross-stitch enthusiasts interested in retreats. Recognizing the need for a centralized hub of upcoming events, she created a platform that features a calendar-style listing of retreat locations, complete with essential details for each event.

Roberta and Linnie both adore attending retreats and relish the

Find upcoming cross-stitch retreat opportunities at www.sablestitcher.net/events.

Linny and Roberta of the SABLE Stitchers offer inspiring needlework-related content on their FlossTube channel.

chance to share their experiences. They extend an invitation to stitchers of all skill levels, encouraging them to explore the possibilities, discover the joys of attending a retreat and delight in the opportunity of making new stitching friends.

Renowned designer Cathy Habermann of Hands On Design echoes the sentiments of the SABLE Stitchers regarding stitching retreats. Cathy has attended or presented at a multitude of events and has witnessed their significant evolution over the years, reflecting changing trends and the diverse interests of stitchers. While some remain intimate gatherings among local stitchers, others have blossomed into large-scale events drawing participants from far and wide.

The rise of social media and online communities has facilitated greater awareness and accessibility, making it easier for stitchers to connect. As the cross-stitch community continues to grow and diversify, so do the opportunities for memorable experiences and meaningful connections. Moreover, the content and activities offered at these retreats have expanded beyond the basics to include a wide array of workshops, guest speakers and specialty vendors. A relatively new offering for stitchers is the virtual retreat, which has gained popularity in recent years.

Cathy can certainly vouch for the success of this innovative virtual format, having been a presenter at The Jingle Ball, an online holiday cross-stitch event that debuted in 2022. She points out that virtual retreats can offer connections comparable to in-person gatherings, along with the added convenience of eliminating travel. Moreover, she emphasizes that whether participating in person or online, the cross-stitch community provides abundant opportunities for inclusive and fulfilling experiences. It's truly worth taking the time to explore, connect and foster new friendships within the stitching world!

The Jingle Ball 2024: A Virtual Event Stitchers Won't Want to Miss

Stephanie Webb of Lindy Stitches, coordinator of The Jingle Ball, takes a moment to share insights about the event and why its virtual format offers such a unique opportunity for stitchers.

What made you want to create a virtual retreat?
Many of us have experienced how wonderful getting together can be at physical retreats. However, not everyone can easily travel to such gatherings. I wanted to re-create that same feeling of connection but in a virtual format, making it accessible for everyone! Making crafty friends can be tough, but with The Jingle Ball, it's a breeze!

What benefits do virtual retreats have over physical retreats?
There are so many! My favorites are that you don't have to leave your stitching chair to participate, and you can sleep in your own bed each night. Also, meeting virtually takes away the biggest expense: travel. Our base ticket price is set at only $10 to maximize affordability. Stitchers can pop in and out of activities as they wish and can choose to participate in those that most interest them.

What happens during The Jingle Ball weekend?
We throw the best stitching party ever! Attendees can enjoy three fun-filled days of live designer meet and greets, a variety of needlework classes, and the chance to mingle at virtual tables to meet new stitching friends from around the globe. The shopping hall boasts the latest patterns, while entertainment options promise hours of fun.

This year will be your third year hosting The Jingle Ball. Has it changed since the inaugural year?
The Jingle Ball continues to grow with each new year. To keep the content fresh and provide a diverse range of styles, interests and techniques, we update the designer lineup each year. Additionally, in 2023, we enhanced the event platform, which made attending the event on your computer or tablet even easier.

Is there a specific reason for featuring 12 designers each year?
Absolutely! We assemble "The 12 Designers of Christmas" in the spirit of the *The Twelve Days of Christmas* carol. With such a significant number of contributors, our weekend is a robust showcase, offering something for everyone to enjoy!

DESIGNER LINEUP FOR 2024

Lindy Stitches
Satsuma Street
Hello from Liz Mathews
Teresa Kogut
Hands On Design
Frosted Pumpkin Stitchery
The Blue Flower
Tiny Modernist
Jeannette Douglas
Heartstring Samplery
Pansy Patch Quilts and Stitchery
Stacy Nash

The Jingle Ball 2024 is scheduled for Dec. 6–8. Dive into all the details at www.thejingleball.net. Tickets will be available for purchase beginning Oct. 18, 2024!

The Flossy Flock

A Place for Stitchers to Share & Inspire

By submitting your content, you are granting *Just CrossStitch* permission to publish if selected.

Kerstin M. from Colorado is passionate about Halloween stitching! Just look at her fantastic display of projects from the *Just CrossStitch Halloween* 2023 Special Collector's Issue.

Scan the QR code to purchase past Halloween publications, as well as the brand-new edition for 2024!

Sherri B. greatly appreciates her local shop for its outstanding stitching space and the excellent opportunities it presents to its customers.

Reader Q&A

CURRENT QUESTION

We invited readers to share how many years they have been cross stitching. Responses ranged from a few months to over six decades. Here are some of their stories:

According to her mother, nine-year-old **Karrie C.** just learned to stitch this spring. Her grandmother, who has been stitching for over 40 years, was delighted to pass on her knowledge and love of stitching.

Cheryl M. embarked on her stitching journey 62 years ago, guided by the skilled hands of her mother and grandmother.

Pam S. began her cross-stitching adventure in October 1978. Expecting her first baby, she was determined to stitch a small birth flower for her soon-to-arrive daughter. Though the result was a mess, she was instantly captivated by the craft.

Amid its challenges, the pandemic brought hundreds of new stitchers into the fold! **Maria G.** discovered the joy of cross stitching during quarantine.

Back in her senior year of high school, 42 years ago, **Tammy H.** delved into the world of cross stitch through a craft class. Excited by the craft, she taught her mother how to cross stitch. Years later, Tammy taught her daughter, passing the cross-stitch tradition through three generations.

Diana S. has been stitching since she was 12, which is over 40 years! Her parents didn't want her "sitting around" all summer, so she and her best friend took candlewicking and cross-stitch classes at the Stitching Post in their hometown. She has been passionate about stitching ever since.

Connect with us on social media and stay tuned for more opportunities to share. Your response could be featured in an upcoming issue of *Just CrossStitch*!

Monogram Barn Quilt Craft Kit

Browsing online at Annie's Craft Store, I was searching for the perfect craft project to bring a touch of handmade warmth into my home. There, amid a treasure trove of DIY delights, I found exactly what I was looking for: a craft kit inspired by the timeless beauty of barn quilts. While initially envisioning a project to complement my autumn decor, the thought that this charming star quilt block design could grace my walls year-round made this an even greater find. With the added bonus of alphabet stencils included in the kit, allowing for personalization with my own monogram, I knew I had found the perfect project.

Ordering the craft kit online from Annie's Craft Store was a breeze, thanks to their user-friendly website. Within minutes, I had selected my desired kit, along with a few other goodies, and completed the purchase. The anticipation grew as I eagerly awaited the arrival of my package. When it arrived, I was delighted to find that the materials were of excellent quality, neatly packaged and ready for use. As I followed the step-by-step instructions, I was pleased with the process and my progress. When I finally stepped back to admire the finished product, I couldn't help but marvel at how beautifully it turned out.

Annie's Craft Store offers an exceptional range of craft kits, providing both beginners and seasoned crafters with everything they need to create beautiful and personalized pieces for their living spaces. With high-quality materials and easy-to-follow instructions, these kits make for a delightful and fulfilling crafting experience.

Scan the code or visit AnniesCraftStore.com to purchase your kit today!

Rest in Peace

Samplers are known for the symbolism of the motifs stitched on the fabric, but this design uniquely centers on symbols found in cemeteries, on headstones of days past.

Design by Becky Noland of Lucy Beam

www.lucybeam.com

Skill Level: Easy
Stitch Count: 68H x 100W
Design Size: 4¼" x 6¼"

Materials

- 11" x 13" piece 32-count crypt cloth Belfast linen by Lapin Loops
- One skein each The Gentle Art Sampler Threads
- One skein each The Gentle Art Simply Shaker Sampler Threads
- Size 26 tapestry needle

The Gentle Art Sampler Threads
DMC® Alternatives Listed in Parentheses*

♦	0230	(931)	blueberry
●	0250	(799)	cornflower
↑	0310	(902)	claret
☂	0320	(356)	old brick
■	0350	(221)	mulberry
✖	0370	(3688)	poinsettia
▪	0390	(347)	buckeye scarlet
Λ	0770	(152)	clover
○	0870	(340)	sugarplum
□	1010	(415)	slate
✿	1020	(318)	pebble
▲	1050	(535)	soot
≡	1140	(3865)	oatmeal

The Gentle Art Simply Shaker Sampler Threads
DMC® Alternatives Listed in Parentheses*

♥	7003	(320)	shutter green
☯	7032	(169)	aged pewter
★	7037	(930)	freedom
←	7039	(501)	bayberry

*DMC® alternatives are not one-to-one equivalents to the floss suggested by the designer. To achieve results pictured, use the floss listed in the first column.

Instructions

Cross stitch over two threads using one strand of floss.

Stitched by Rindy Richards

Inspiration for a Modern Sampler

Becky Noland

One of my unique passions is the exploration of cemeteries. There's an undeniable allure in imagining the tales of those who've long departed this world, their legacies etched in stone.

Whether it's stumbling upon a secluded cluster of headstones nestled along an obscure country road or venturing into a renowned cemetery steeped in historical significance, I'm irresistibly drawn to explore. With each cemetery I visit, I embark on a journey through time, tracing my steps along pathways adorned with weathered markers and immersing myself in the beauty that surrounds me. Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond, Va., and the Bruton Parish Church cemetery in Williamsburg, Va., hold cherished places in my heart as two of my most favored cemeteries to explore.

Hollywood Cemetery serves as the eternal resting place for two former presidents of the United States, numerous Civil War soldiers, and countless others. Its unrivaled collection of statuary and rich history make it a captivating place to discover. Navigating the hills amid the headstones, mausoleums and grand gated tombs can prove to be an invigorating experience.

Nestled in the heart of historic Williamsburg, the cemetery of Bruton Parish Church, founded in 1674, exudes an aura of timeless tranquility. Among the winding pathways, one can discover graves dating back centuries, each telling its own story through its etchings and symbols. Old English script adorns many of the headstones, a testament to the rich history of the region and the enduring legacy of those who rest there. The solemn beauty of the cemetery is enhanced by the picturesque backdrop of the historic church, its spire reaching toward the heavens.

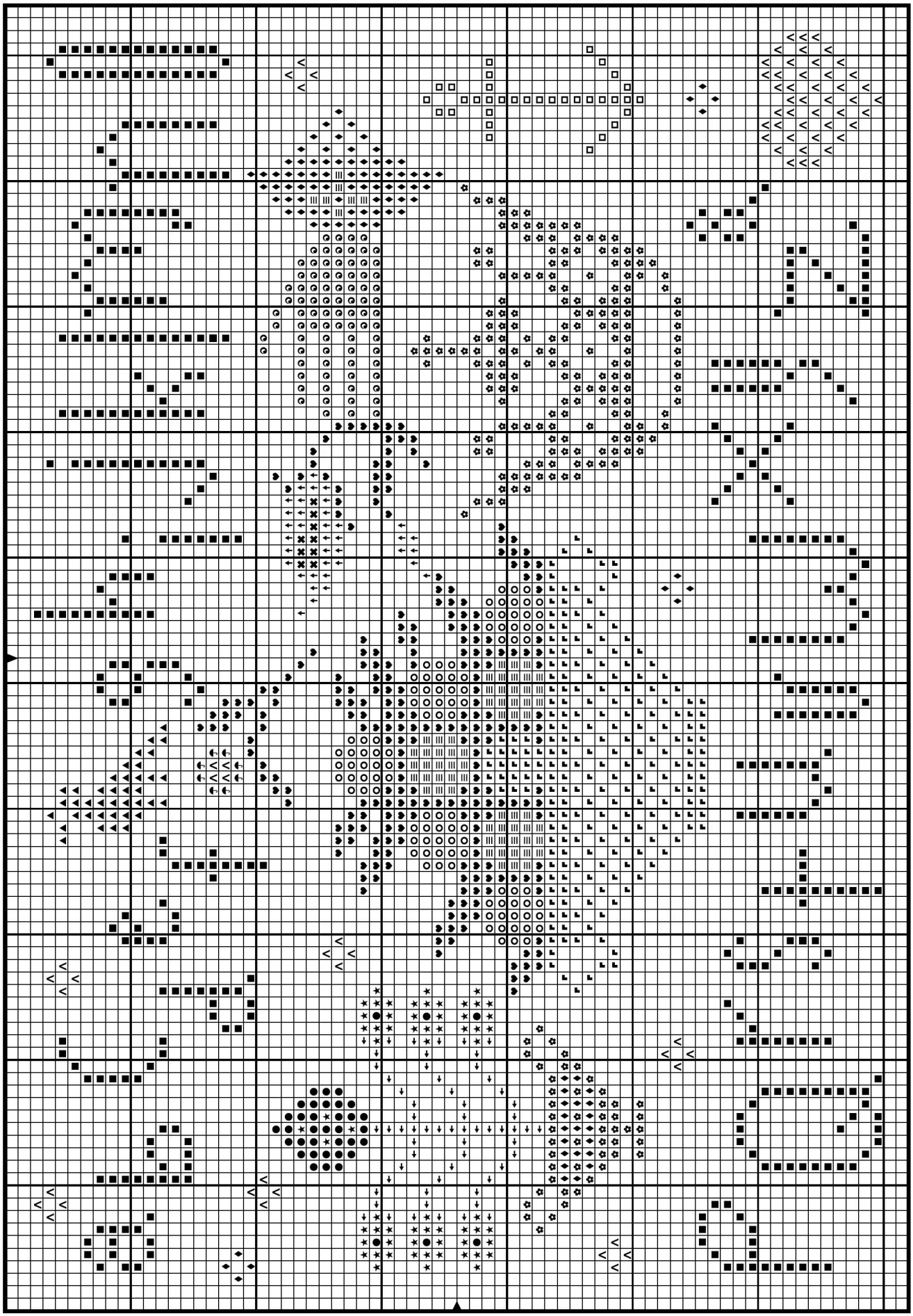
My fascination with cemetery symbolism sparked the creation of the Rest in Peace chart you see here. Drawing inspiration from the myriad symbols adorning the headstones I've encountered on my journeys, as well as from research on the topic, I've carefully selected nine motifs. With a blend of love and reverence, I've woven them into a sampler-style design. Each symbol holds special significance when found in cemeteries, and their meanings can be found below. I hope you enjoy stitching my "Rest in Peace" design and that it sparks an appreciation for the beauty found in unexpected places.

Anchor: hope
Bird: flight of the soul
Crown: glory
Flower: brevity of life
Fruit: eternal abundance
Hand: welcome to the soul
Heart: love, devotion
Rose: love, beauty (the different stages of a rose's bloom can be indicative of the person's age at death)
Urn: mourning

Introducing

Becky Noland, the creative force behind Lucy Beam, hails from the great Lone Star State. Her needlework story began in childhood, learning the art under the guidance of her beloved grandmother, Lucy Beam, a legacy proudly honored in her design company brand. Becky brings a unique perspective to her creations, drawing inspiration from her background as an interior designer. Becky's creative spirit also extends to sewing, quilting, knitting and various other crafts. Explore more Lucy Beam designs at www.lucybeam.com.

Rest in Peace



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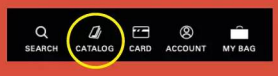

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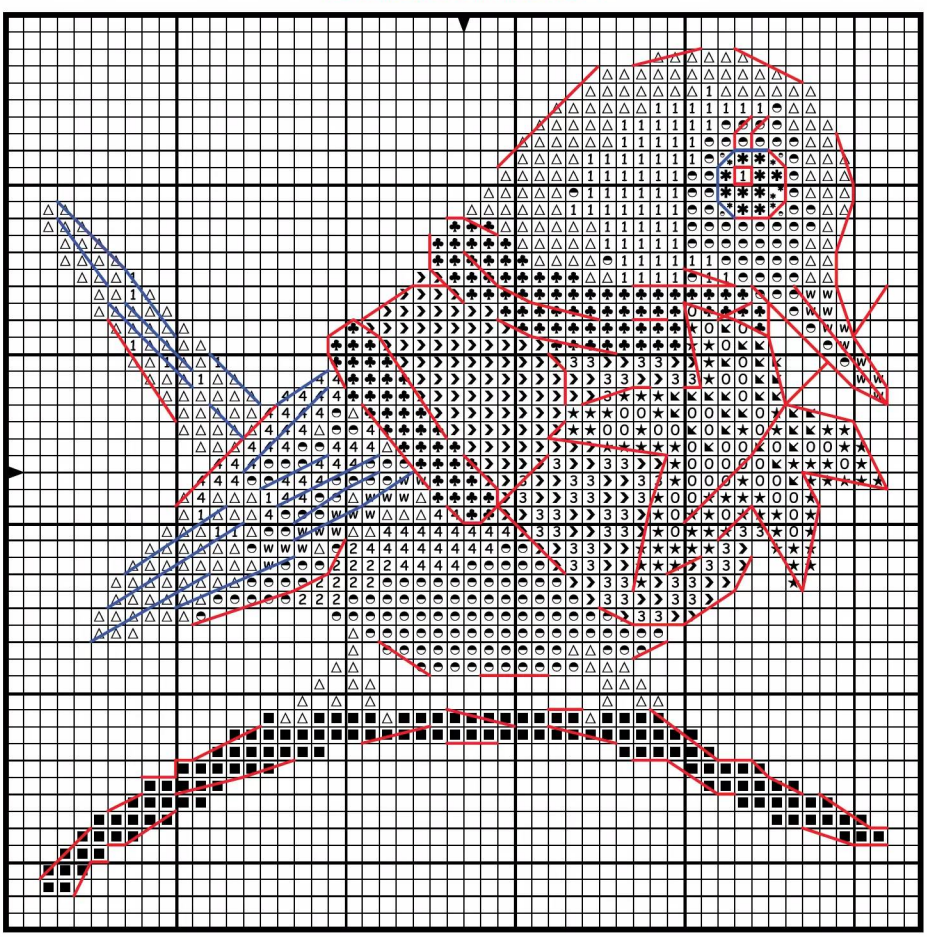
Feathered Friends

Feathered Friends 1



As autumn descends, these delightful birds stylishly adapt for the impending winter chill.

Design by Tatiana Romero of Mi Maleta Lila

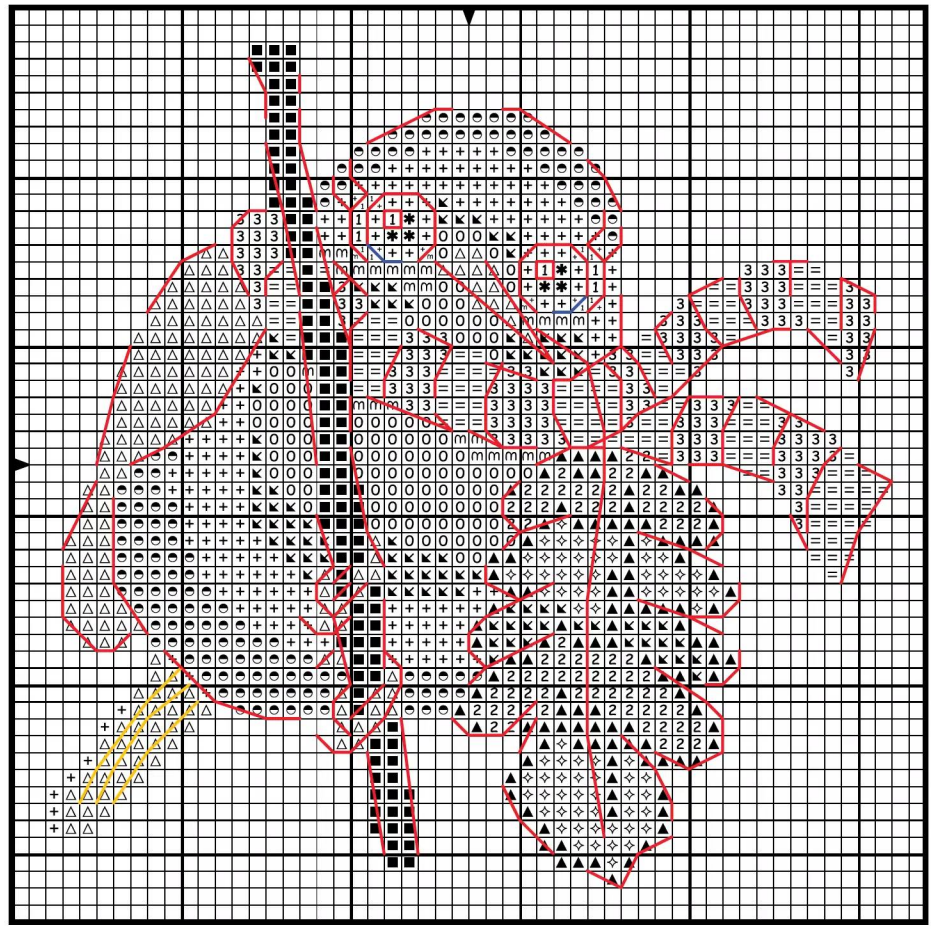
Skill Level: Intermediate
Stitch Count: 50H x 50W each
Design Size: 3⅝" x 3⅝" each

Materials

- Three 10" x 10" pieces 28-count cream Lugana from Zweigart®
- One skein each DMC® or Sullivans® USA six-strand embroidery floss
- Size 24 tapestry needle

	DMC®	Sullivans®	
✱	310	45053	black
•	349	45073	coral, dk.
w	413	45089	pewter gray, dk.
4	414	45090	steel gray, dk.
◓	415	45091	pearl gray
+	647	45153	beaver gray, med.
♣	680	45158	old gold, dk.
3	729	45173	old gold, med.
▲	731	45175	olive green, dk.
m	780	45198	topaz, ul. vy. dk.

Feathered Friends 2



=	816	45218	garnet
♀	817	45219	coral red, vy. dk.
›	832	45233	golden olive
■	839	45237	beige brown, dk.
O	920	45266	copper, med.
▙	935	45277	avocado green, dk.
⋈	976	45305	golden brown, med.
△	3799	45397	pewter gray, vy. dk.
♥	3801	45398	melon, vy. dk.
2	3830	45427	terra cotta
★	3831	45429	raspberry, dk.
✧	3852	45450	straw, vy. dk.
◣	3853	45451	autumn gold, dk.
1	3866	45464	mocha brown, ul. vy. lt.

Backstitches/Straight Stitches

—	310	45053	black
—	647	45153	beaver gray, med.
—	935	45277	avocado green, dk.
—	3866	45464	mocha brown, ul. vy. lt.

Instructions

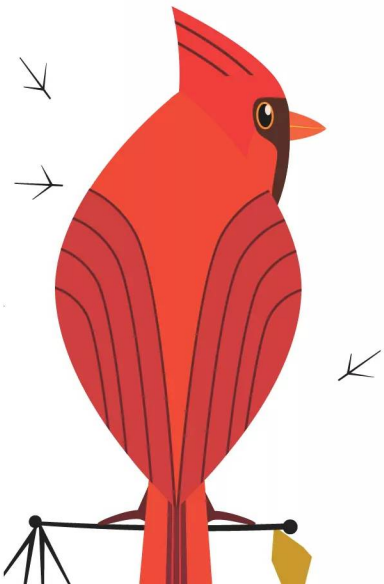
Cross stitch over two threads using two strands of floss. Where small symbols appear, work ¼ cross stitch using two strands of floss.

Backstitch over two threads or work straight stitch using one strand of floss.

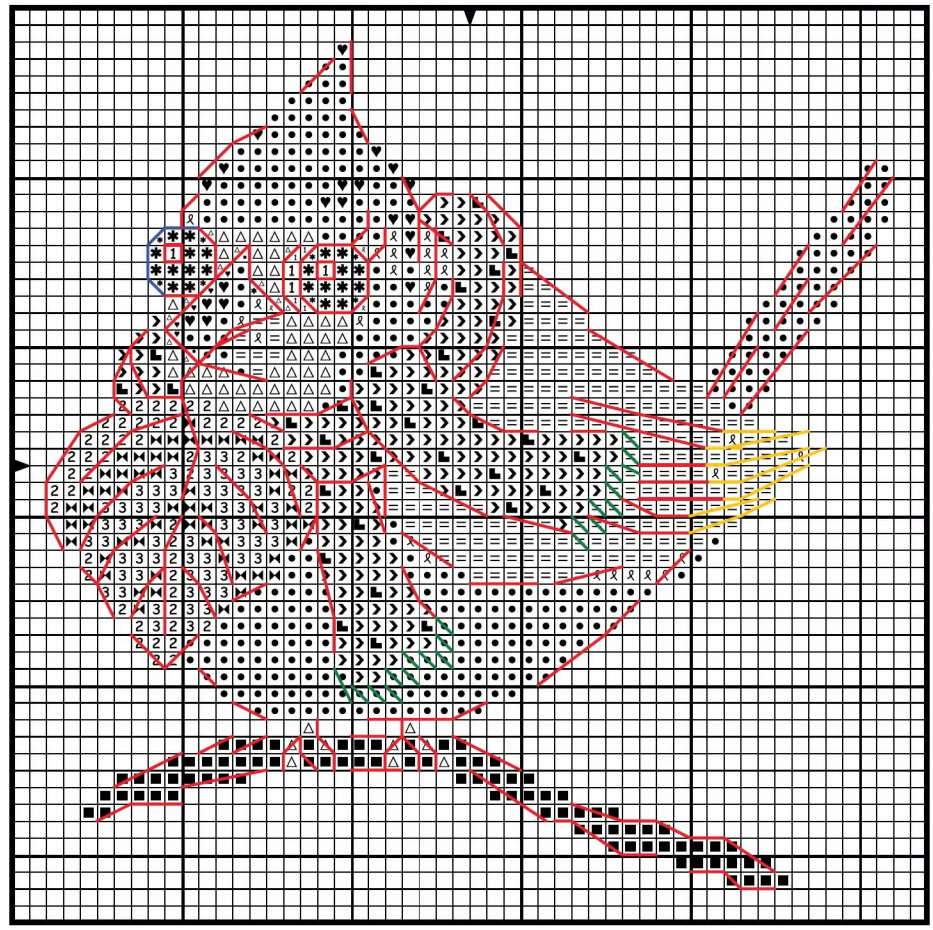
Finishing Instructions

Models were finished using Flat-Ornament Finishing Instructions, omitting hangers, and then all three ornaments were mounted on one fabric-covered backer. Assembled piece is displayed on a painted and assembled Long Decorative Frame for Cross Stitch from Paisleys and Polka Dots.

Stitched by Sandi Alba



Feathered Friends 3



Enchanted Autumn Cabin

Step into a colorful and magical world where dragons soar through the autumn sky, bringing enchantment to every corner of the realm.

Design by Andrea Betts of Flossy Fox Shop

www.etsy.com/shop/flossyfoxshop

Skill Level: Easy
Stitch Count: 80H x 83W
Design Size: 5¾" x 5⅞"

Materials

- 12" x 12" piece 14-count black Aida from Zweigart®
- One skein each DMC® or Sullivans® USA six-strand embroidery floss
- Size 24 tapestry needle

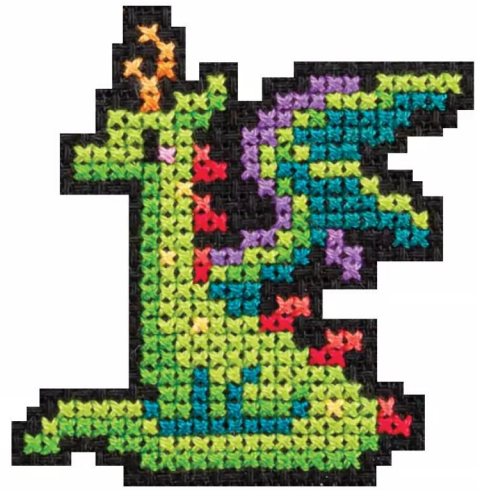
	DMC®	Sullivans®	
■	153	45468	violet, vy. lt.
♦	208	45040	lavender, vy. dk.
✖	310	45053	black
▷	321	45062	red
☂	433	45094	brown, med.
→	435	45096	brown, vy. lt.
○	437	45098	tan, lt.
▲	604	45139	cranberry, lt.
✿	726	45171	topaz, lt.
⋎	906	45255	parrot green, med.
✱	907	45256	parrot green, lt.
§	943	45282	aquamarine, med.
●	972	45302	canary, dp.
❤	3705	45359	melon, dk.
▙	3847	45445	teal green, dk.
★	3853	45451	autumn gold, dk.
Ⅲ	3854	45452	autumn gold, med.
Λ	B5200	45002	snow white

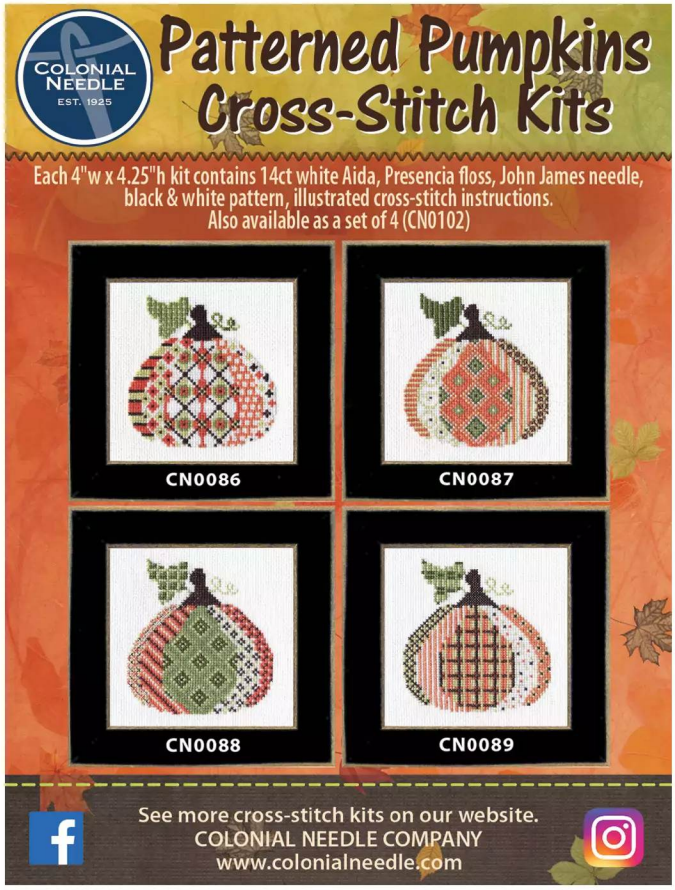
Instructions

Cross stitch over one square using two strands of floss.

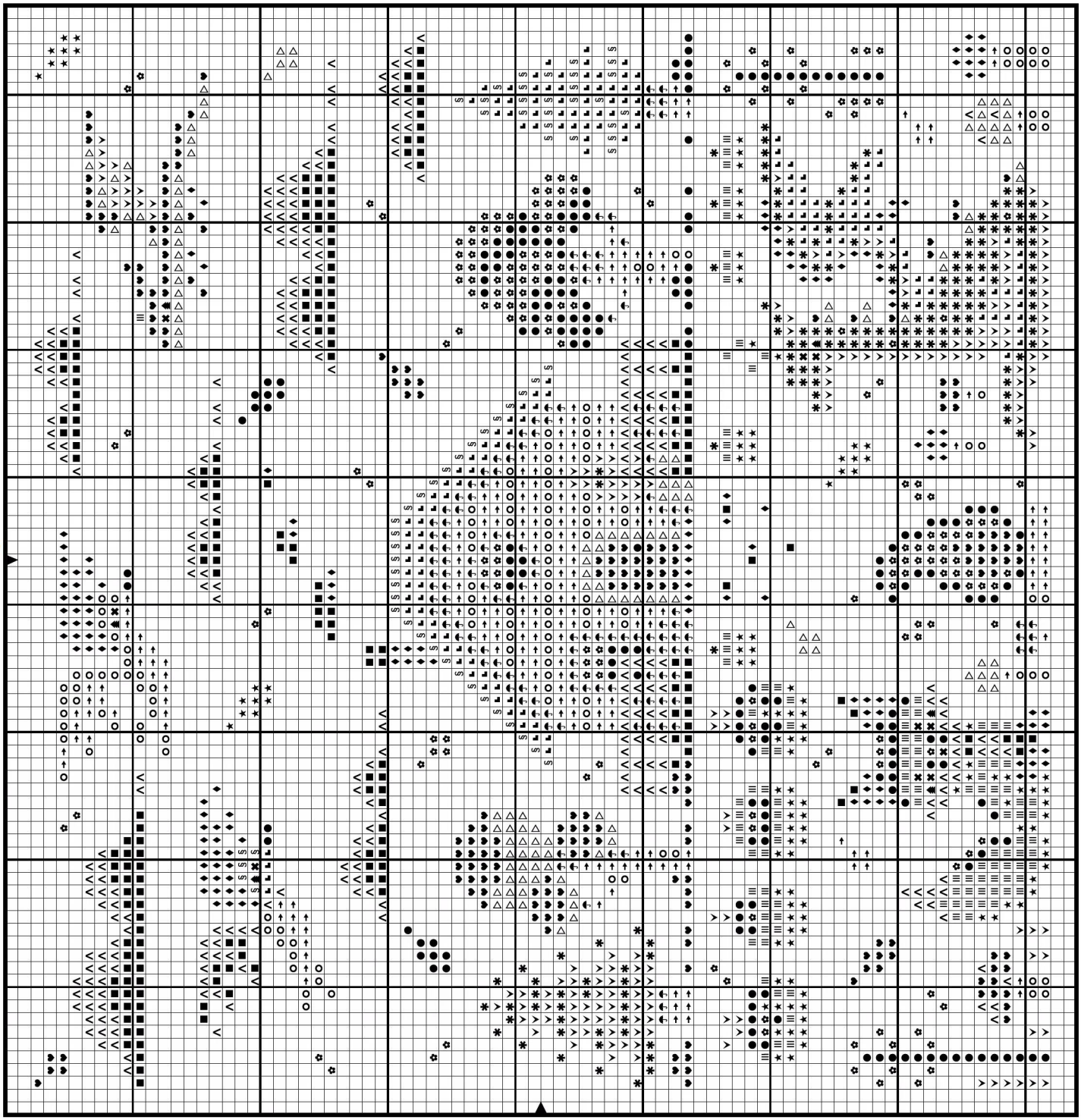
Introducing

Andrea Betts, the creative mind behind Flossy Fox Shop, calls Washington state home. Her journey into cross stitch was ignited by her fascination with video-game pixels. She describes her design style as cozy, cute and whimsical. Delve deeper into her enchanting realm by connecting with her on Instagram at www.instagram.com/flossyfoxshop.





Enchanted Autumn Cabin



Autumn Bliss

Colorful autumnal motifs seem randomly scattered yet are actually carefully arranged in this distinctive pattern crafted specifically for repetition.

Autumn Bliss

Design by Tracy Richards of Wrought Iron Stitching

www.etsy.com/shop/wroughtironstitching

Skill Level: Easy
Stitch Count: 35H x 50W
Design Size: 2¼" x 3⅛"

Materials

- 9" x 10" piece 32-count vintage country mocha Belfast linen from Zweigart®
- One skein each DMC® or Sullivans® USA six-strand embroidery floss
- Size 26 tapestry needle

	DMC®	Sullivans®	
✿	310	45053	black
▲	321	45062	red
■	434	45095	brown, lt.
✖	435	45096	brown, vy. lt.
▙	471	45106	avocado green, vy. lt.
❤	721	45168	orange spice, med.
⁂	728	45491	topaz
○	801	45211	coffee brown, dk.
★	3812	45409	seagreen, vy. dk.

Backstitches/Straight Stitches

—	310	45053	black (2 strands)
—	434	45095	brown, lt. (1 strand)
—	801	45211	coffee brown, dk. (2 strands)

Instructions

Cross stitch over two threads using two strands of floss.

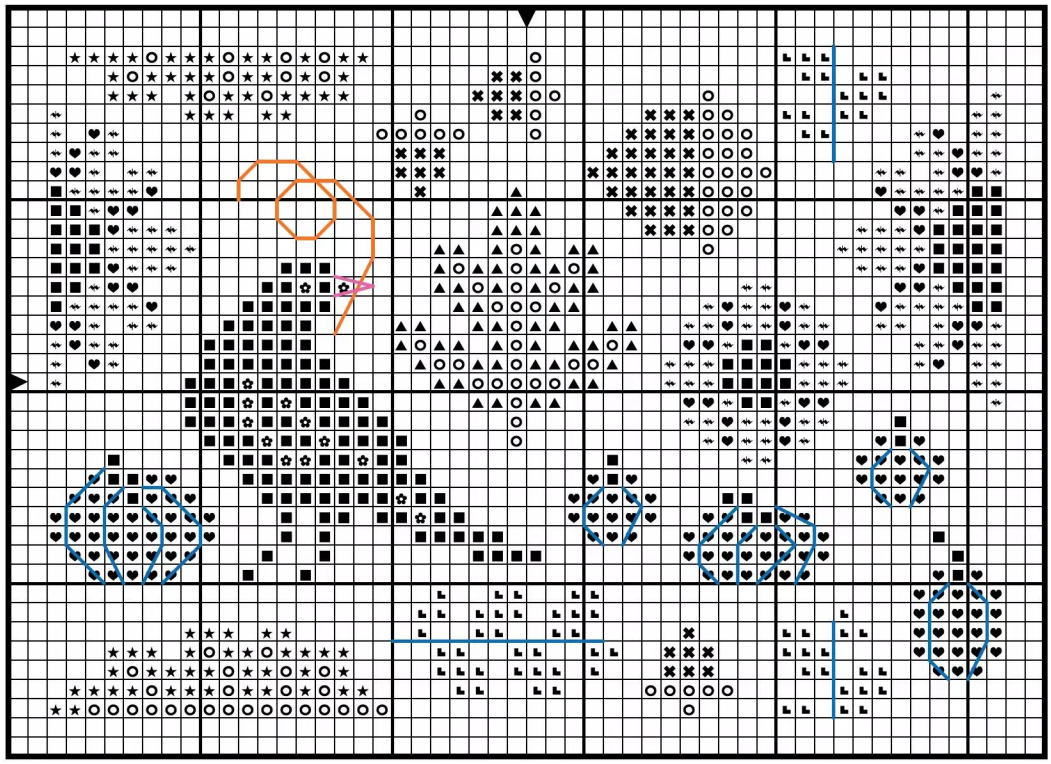
Backstitch over two threads or work straight stitch using one or two strands of floss as indicated in color code.

Note: *Bag model shown was stitched on a pumpkin color Mad for Plaid Project Bag from It's Sew Emma, stitching over one square using three strands of floss.*

Finishing Instructions

Pillow model was finished using Pillow Finishing Instructions. A coordinating-fabric panel and satin ribbon were added to bottom of stitched piece prior to finishing.

Autumn Bliss



MAJESTIC STAG

Celebrate nature and all its glory when you stitch this stunning piece of art. Featuring a gorgeous color palette and beautiful scenery, this is a masterpiece you'll surely want to add to your collection.

Majestic Stag

Artwork Adapted for Cross Stitch by Les Petites Croix de Lucie

www.lepointdecroix.com

Skill Level: Intermediate
Stitch Count: 106H x 80W
Design Size: 7⅝" x 5¾"

Materials

- 14" x 12" piece 28-count storm Permin linen from Crossed Wing Collection
- One skein each DMC® or Sullivans® USA six-strand embroidery floss
- Size 24 tapestry needle

	DMC®	Sullivans®	
♡	469	45104	avocado green
⚲	469	45104	avocado green (right-slanting ½ cross stitch)
=	500	45109	blue green, vy. dk.
❮	501	45110	blue green, dk.
⬭	502	45111	blue green
e	503	45112	blue green, med.
⬬	503	45112	blue green, med. (right-slanting ½ cross stitch)
⧗	543	45122	beige brown, ul. vy. lt.
Z	608	45142	orange, bt.
▜	733	45177	olive green, med.
▲[	733	45177	olive green, med.
	976	45305	golden brown, med.
❽	742	45183	tangerine, lt.
◊	743	45184	yellow, med.
⋒[	743	45184	yellow, med.
	3824	45421	apricot, lt.
☽	744	45185	yellow, pl.
7[	744	45185	yellow, pl.
	3033	45325	mocha brown, vy. lt.
×	745	45186	yellow, lt. pl.
✷[	745	45186	yellow, lt. pl.
	B5200	45002	snow white
❤	801	45211	coffee brown, dk.
⋘	830	45231	golden olive, dk.
9	831	45232	golden olive, med.
★	832	45233	golden olive
4	839	45237	beige brown, dk.
✪[	839	45237	beige brown, dk.
	840	45238	beige brown, med.
∩	840	45238	beige brown, med.
✿	841	45239	beige brown, lt.
a	842	45240	beige brown, vy. lt.
5	919	45265	red copper
◆	920	45266	copper, med.
▲	921	45267	copper
∩	922	45268	copper, lt.
V	931	45274	antique blue, med.
◘	932	45275	antique blue, lt.
⧖	936	45278	avocado green, vy. dk.
♣	937	45279	avocado green, med.
⊱	967	45495	apricot, vy. lt.
☼	975	45304	golden brown, dk.
ᘓ	976	45305	golden brown, med.
●	977	45306	golden brown, lt.
⋔	3032	45324	mocha brown, med.
◒	3033	45325	mocha brown, vy. lt.
#	3033	45325	mocha brown, vy. lt. (right-slanting ½ cross stitch)
▼	3340	45340	apricot, med.
3	3341	45341	apricot
❖	3782	45394	mocha brown, lt.
$[	3782	45394	mocha brown, lt.
	3813	45410	blue green, lt.
◬	3813	45410	blue green, lt.
¢	3820	45417	straw, dk.
✚	3824	45421	apricot, lt.
☆	3825	45422	pumpkin, pl.
L	3826	45423	golden brown
⚓	3827	45424	golden brown, pl.

Backstitches/Straight Stitches

—	975	45304	golden brown, dk.
—	3371	45351	black brown
—	3826	45423	golden brown
—	3827	45424	golden brown, pl.
—	B5200	45002	snow white

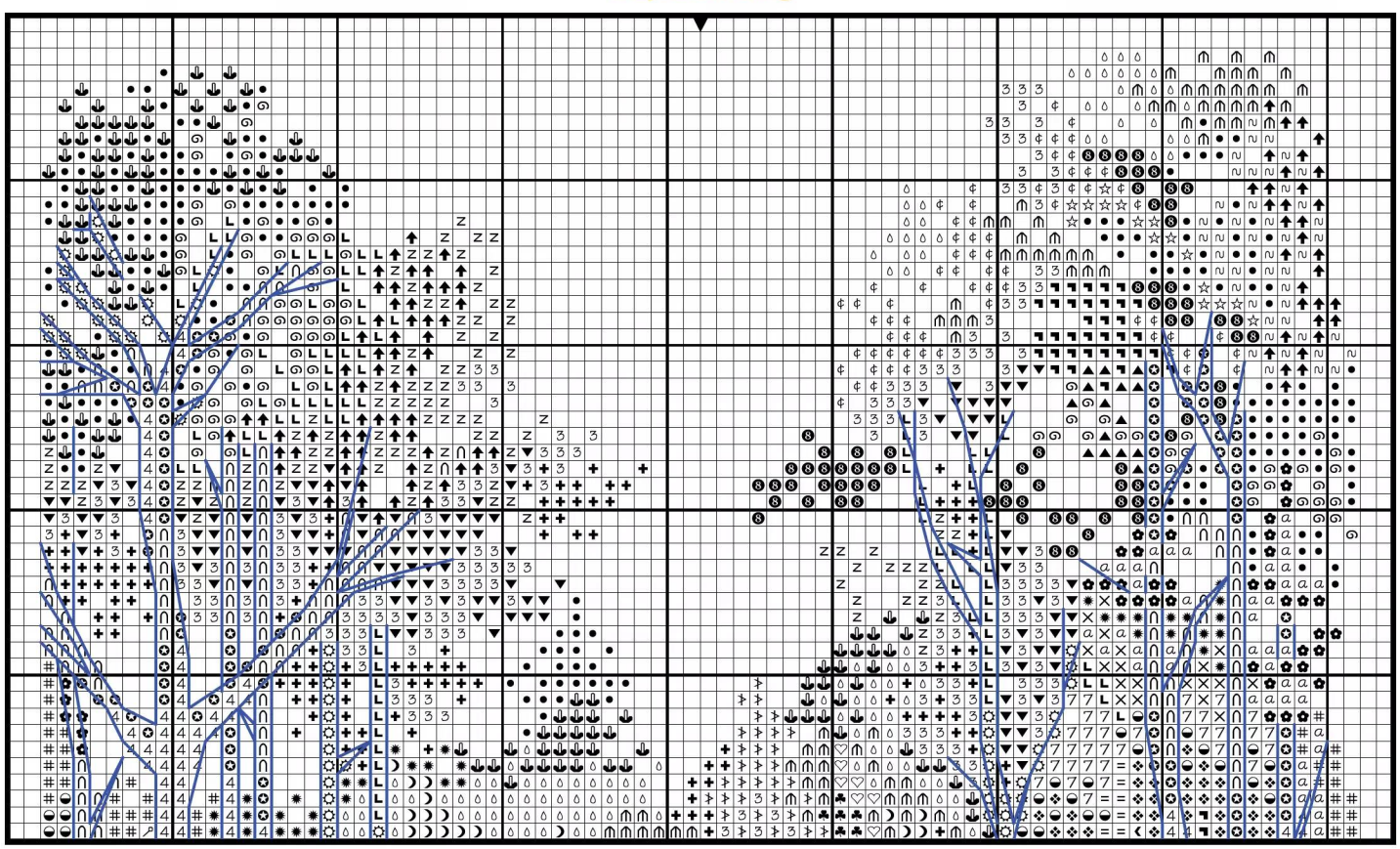
Instructions

Cross stitch over two threads using two strands of floss. Work ½ cross stitch over two threads using two strands of floss. Where two colors are bracketed together, use one strand of each color of floss.

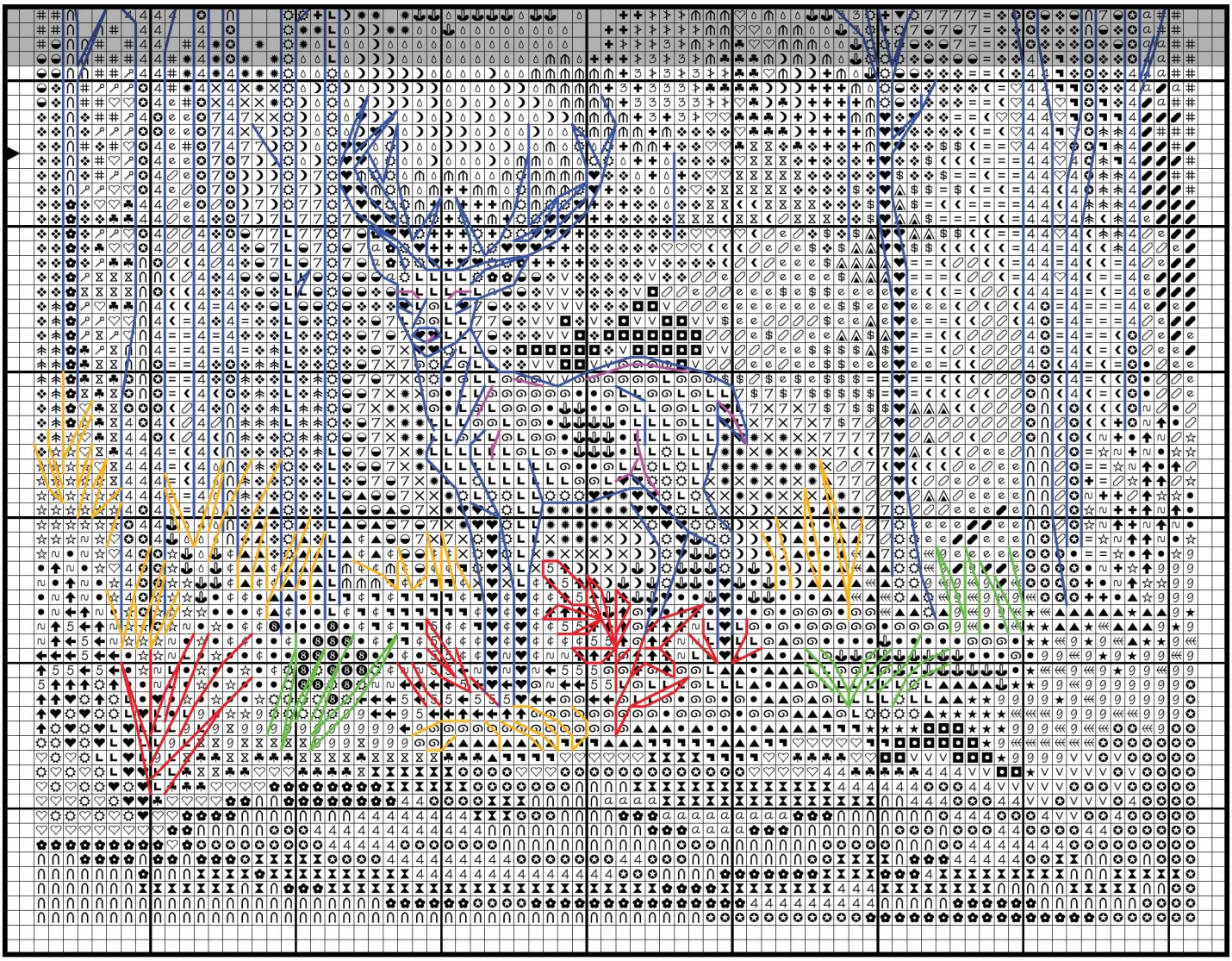
Backstitch over two threads or work straight stitch using one strand of floss.

Stitched by Vilma Spreuer

Majestic Stag



Shaded portion indicates chart overlap.



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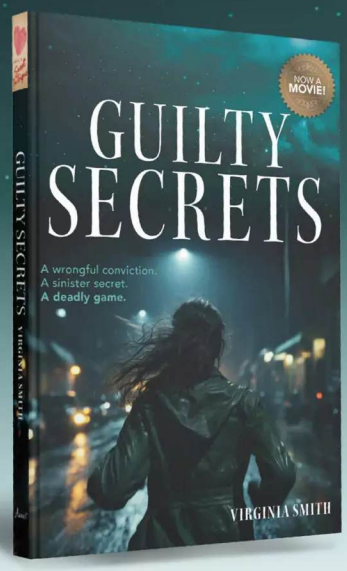


GUILTY SECRETS

A Mystery Comes to Life in the Midwest

Just CrossStitch is mostly filled with creative patterns for you to stitch up, but in this issue, we have a special treat. Annie's Fiction, *Just CrossStitch*'s sister company, is producing a feature-length film of one of its suspense novels. And we have the scoop!

In charming neighborhoods across the country, people just like you are stitching up beautiful cross-stitch designs, samplers and ornaments. In these places, life is idyllic, the pace is relaxed and neighbors wave to each other. In these towns, daily life goes on as expected. But much more is brewing in these small towns—lights, camera, even murder!

In Harrison, Ohio, a charming town in the southern part of the state, the town's quiet streets were the backdrop to a thrilling romantic suspense movie that filmed there this past spring. The movie, based on the novel *Guilty Secrets* from Annie's Fiction, finds new attorney Rylee Kerrigan landing in this small town to start a new job. When Rylee discovers a dusty box of old cases, she realizes her mother's best friend from high school might have been wrongly convicted of murder 25 years ago. Rylee is now on a mission to prove her innocence, but in doing so discovers sinister agendas that could put her life in danger. Luckily, Scott Stackhouse, the handsome grandson of the law firm's owner, helps her unearth the truth and in doing so, the two find they work well together in more ways than one.

Rylee is on a mission to prove the woman's innocence, but in doing so discovers sinister agendas that put her life in danger.

For 12 days, professional camera and light setups popped up all around town. Harrison's old brick buildings and quaint main streets became the movie sets. Turning the novel into a film is a joint venture between executive producers Annie's and Josh Maas. The production company, One Choice Productions (OCP), is based out of Los Angeles. Director Lindsay Hartley (also a producer along with Jon Katzman), is an actress who has directed 20 features. Lindsay was drawn to the novel because of its mix of mystery and romance. And it's that blend of heartfelt relationships and spine-tingling suspense that makes *Guilty Secrets* so compelling. Lindsay also plays one of the main characters, Patti. Kyla Nova plays Rylee, Doug Noble plays Scott, Brian Scott Childers plays Tucker and Dee Wallace plays Lynn.

The feature-length film will be available to stream in the fall, but *Just CrossStitch* readers can get a sneak peek now. At GuiltySecretsMovie.com, you can learn more about the movie and read the first two chapters for free. It's true that small towns hold secrets—and Harrison, Ohio, is one of them!

Q&A With Lindsay Hartley

Director Lindsay Hartley's cinematic vision has helped bring *Guilty Secrets* to the big screen. She has been involved in the theatrical world of storytelling since she was 14 when she played Dorothy in a professional production of *The Wizard of Oz*. She has performed around the world, from Broadway to L.A., and started directing in 2019. Here she talks about her work and the upcoming movie based on the suspenseful Annie's Fiction novel *Guilty Secrets*.

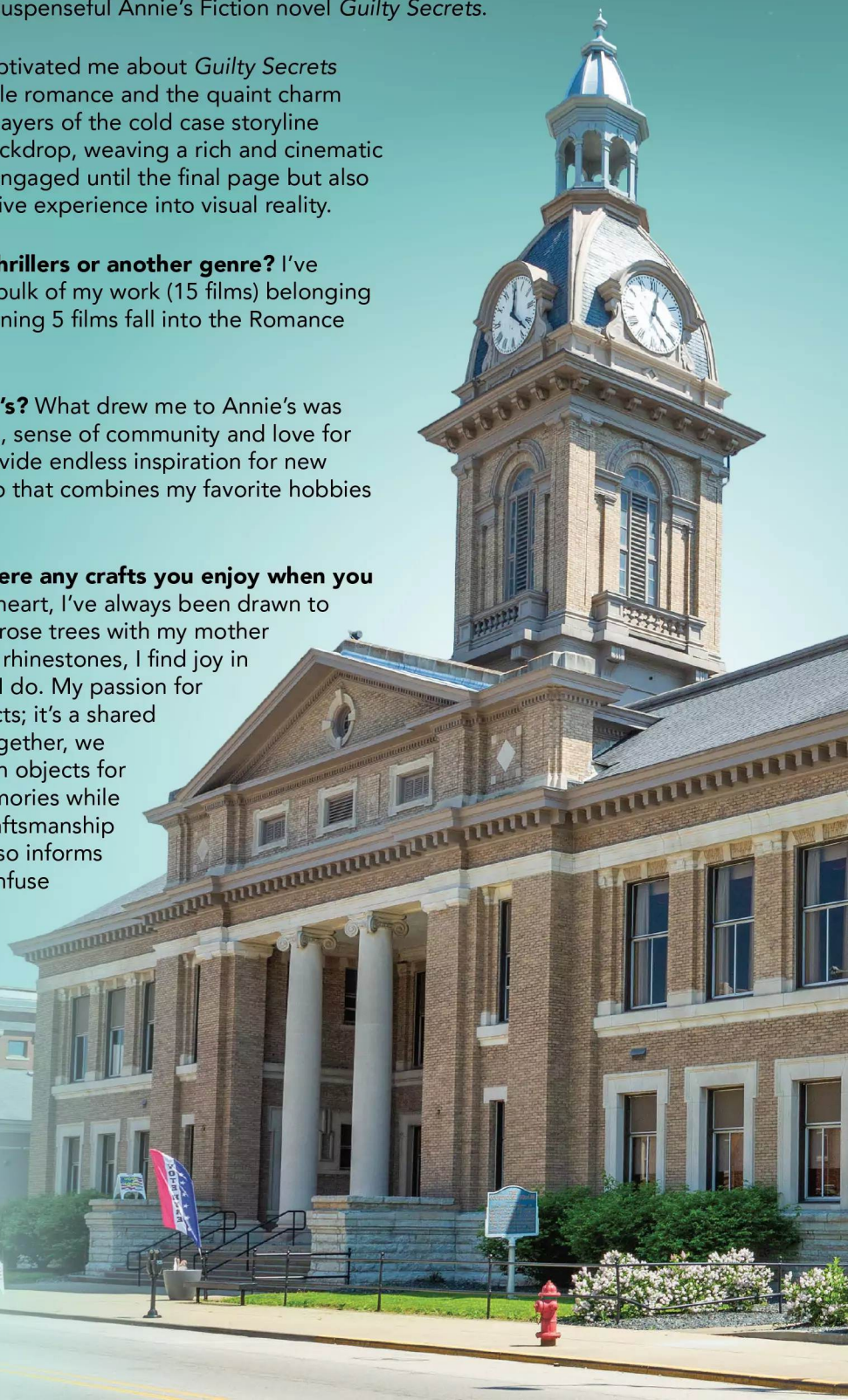
What drew you to this story? What captivated me about *Guilty Secrets* was its blend of gripping suspense, subtle romance and the quaint charm of a small-town backdrop. The intricate layers of the cold case storyline seamlessly blended with the intimate backdrop, weaving a rich and cinematic tapestry that not only kept me eagerly engaged until the final page but also ignited a desire to translate that immersive experience into visual reality.

Are most of your projects mysteries/thrillers or another genre? I've directed a total of 20 features, with the bulk of my work (15 films) belonging to the thrilling mystery genre. The remaining 5 films fall into the Romance and Christmas genres.

Why did you want to work with Annie's? What drew me to Annie's was a combination of my passion for crafting, sense of community and love for reading. Annie's books and patterns provide endless inspiration for new projects, making Annie's a delightful hub that combines my favorite hobbies and interests seamlessly.

You are such a creative person. Are there any crafts you enjoy when you have the time? As a craft enthusiast at heart, I've always been drawn to creative endeavors. From crafting dried rose trees with my mother to embellishing projects with glitter and rhinestones, I find joy in adding a touch of sparkle to everything I do. My passion for crafting extends beyond personal projects; it's a shared bond between my daughter and me. Together, we craft jewelry, decorate and paint wooden objects for various holidays, creating cherished memories while honing our artistic skills. This love for craftsmanship not only enriches my personal life but also informs my approach to directing, as I strive to infuse every project with a unique blend of creativity and attention to detail.

In the movie, new attorney Rylee Kerrigan finds herself mixed up in a murder cold case involving a close friend. What piece of advice would you give her to help solve the mystery? My advice would be to go to the police. Haha! But let's be honest, that would make for an incredibly boring story!



BOOK EXCERPT

PROLOGUE

Tuesday, May 14, 1996

If the second hand on the wall clock over the cash register hadn't been moving, Linda Turpin would have sworn the batteries had died. It was 2:37 in the morning. She indulged in a huge, gaping yawn that she didn't bother to cover. What was the point? The convenience store was empty except for her.

"It's my own fault." She spoke aloud, a habit she'd picked up whenever she worked the midnight shift. "I promised myself I wouldn't pull a double that involves an overnight, and now here I am."

Linda had almost refused the last-minute request to fill in tonight, but the extra money would come in handy. The payments for her new car were putting a bigger strain on her finances than she'd expected. Besides, it was always a good idea to go the extra mile. If she ever found a better job, she'd need references.

Her eyelids felt as though they had weights attached to them. If she didn't do something to keep herself busy, she was going to fall asleep right here at the checkout counter. She'd already swept the aisles and cleaned the glass on the doors of the refrigerated sections. The afternoon shift had restocked the shelves, so that didn't need to be done.

Linda rounded the counter and wandered down the first aisle. Whoever did the stocking hadn't been too particular about neatness. Finally, something to do. She set about straightening the merchandise, pulling bags of chips to the front of the metal pegs and rearranging candy bars in their boxes. The second aisle seemed okay. But in the last aisle, the one in the rear of the store, the small selection of grocery items had been shoved on the bottom shelf with no regard to order at all. She dropped to her knees and began lining up the cans in even rows.

A car engine rumbled outside.

Linda was glad there was a customer at last. She stood and started toward the register. As she glanced through the storefront window, she froze.

A youngish man with long, unkempt hair hanging halfway down his back sat behind the wheel. His wrinkled T-shirt bore the logo of a rock band, and it had a big hole in one of the sleeves. But what caught her attention was the object in his hand. A gun, which he shoved into the waistband of his jeans.

Linda dropped to her haunches behind the cover of the shelving unit. The store was about to be robbed, and she was here alone and defenseless.

Outside a car door slammed shut, then another. There were two of them.

Her pulse pounding like a drum, Linda frantically scanned the store. Was there anything within reach that she could use as a weapon? In the next instant, she bit back a hysterical laugh. She could lob cans of chili and beef stew at them.

No, what she needed was a telephone. She'd never get to the one at the checkout counter in time. But there was a phone in the office. Linda eyed the rear of the store. The short hallway leading to the restrooms was about twenty feet away. At the end of that hallway was the stockroom, and in there was the office.

The bell over the front door chimed. The robbers were inside the store.

Linda checked the rounded mirror mounted in the back corner. From the register, the clerk on duty could see nearly everywhere in the store. It was helpful for catching shoplifters, but at the moment, it provided a terrifying view of the man and woman who'd just entered the building. If they looked up, they would spot her.

They looked up.

With her breath caught in her chest, Linda bolted toward the stockroom.

"Grab her!" the woman shouted.

The man dashed down the aisle after her.

Linda reached the restroom hallway and threw herself forward. She grasped the doorknob to the stockroom and twisted.

It didn't move. The door was locked. And the key was next to the cash register at the front of the store.

The man grabbed a handful of her hair and jerked her backward. He put his lips close to her ear. His breath reeked of liquor. "Where do you think you're going?" He gave an ugly laugh.

The sound sent a chill down her spine.

He whirled them both around, and Linda saw that the woman had joined them in the short hallway. She held a baseball bat in one hand.

"We have a message for you," she said.

Something hard and cold pressed into Linda's side. She knew it was the gun.

She also knew she was about to die.

Feature-Length Film Coming Soon!

Be among the first to learn more about the movie and read the first two chapters of Annie's *Guilty Secrets* suspense novel **FREE**!

Find all this and more at

GuiltySecretsMovie.com

HOO LOVES READING?

A cozy corner at home is the perfect place to enjoy a good book, a delicious hot beverage, and, of course, autumn stitching. Cheers to all three!

Design by Evdokia Nikolaeva of Punochka

www.boosty.to/punochka

Skill Level: Easy
Stitch Count: 121H x 55W
Design Size: 8⅝" x 3⅞"

Materials

- 15" x 10" piece 28-count Sand Lugana from Picture This Plus
- One skein each Presencia® or DMC® six-strand embroidery floss
- Size 24 tapestry needle

	Presencia®	DMC®	
↓	0007	310	black
△	1040	728	straw, dk.
◗	3151	930	blue gray
ᔕ	4906	987	hunter green, med.
✿	7155	680	old gold, dk.
×	7386	422	hazelnut brown, lt.
∩	7580	900	red copper
◬	7740	301	golden brown, dk.
=	8080	898	coffee brown
■	8083	838	coffee brown, dk.
★	8390	822	beige, gray, lt.
	Backstitch		
—	0007	310	black

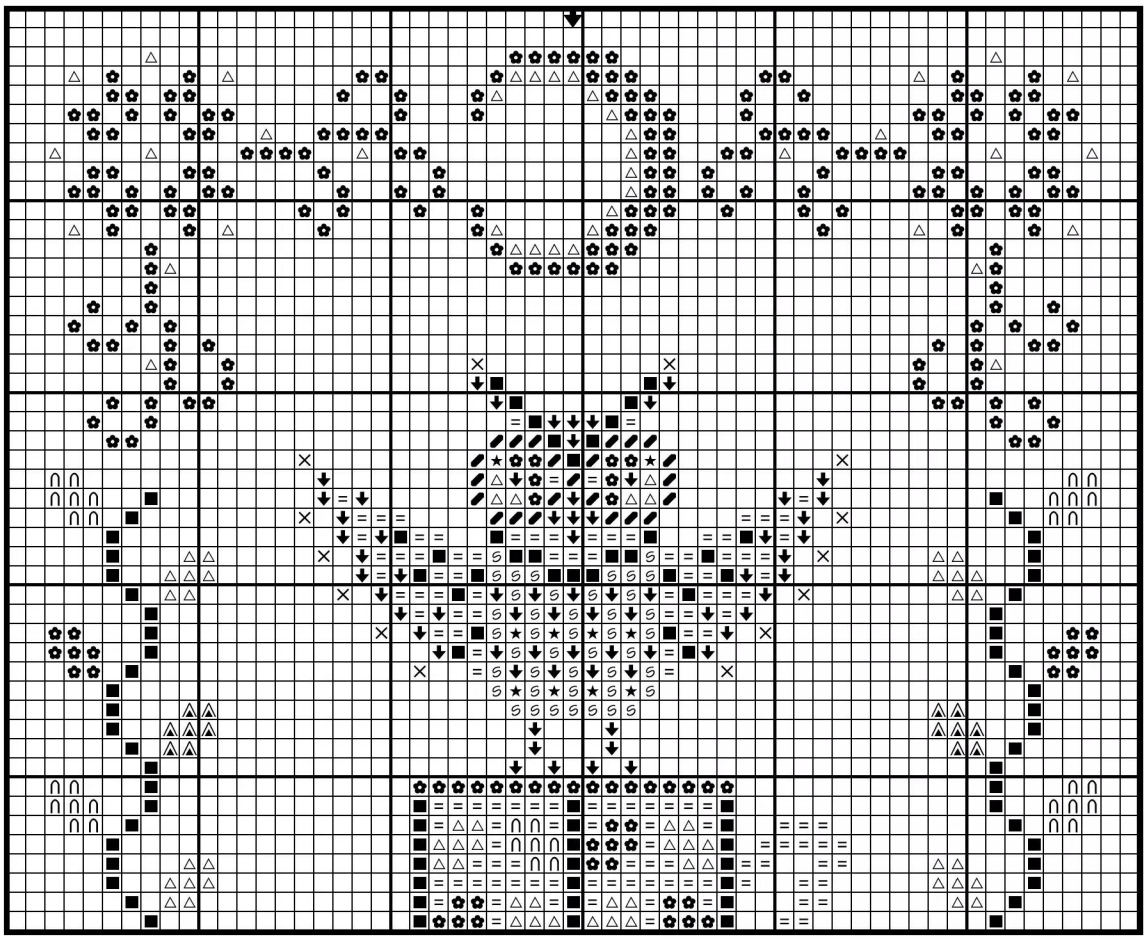
Instructions

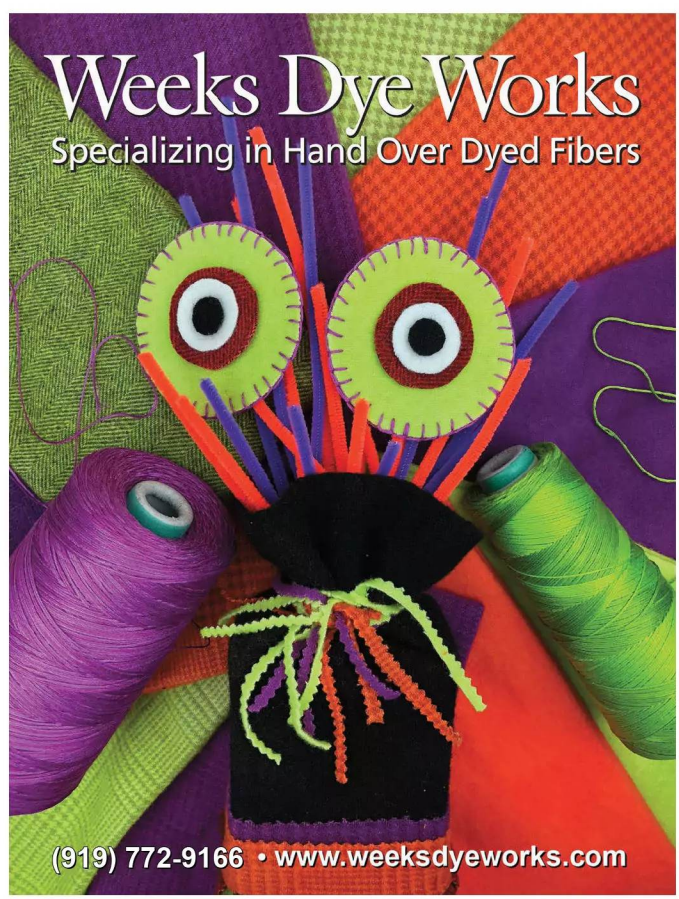
Cross stitch over two threads using two strands of floss.

Backstitch over two threads using one strand of floss.

Stitched by Polly Frantsen

Hoo Loves Reading?





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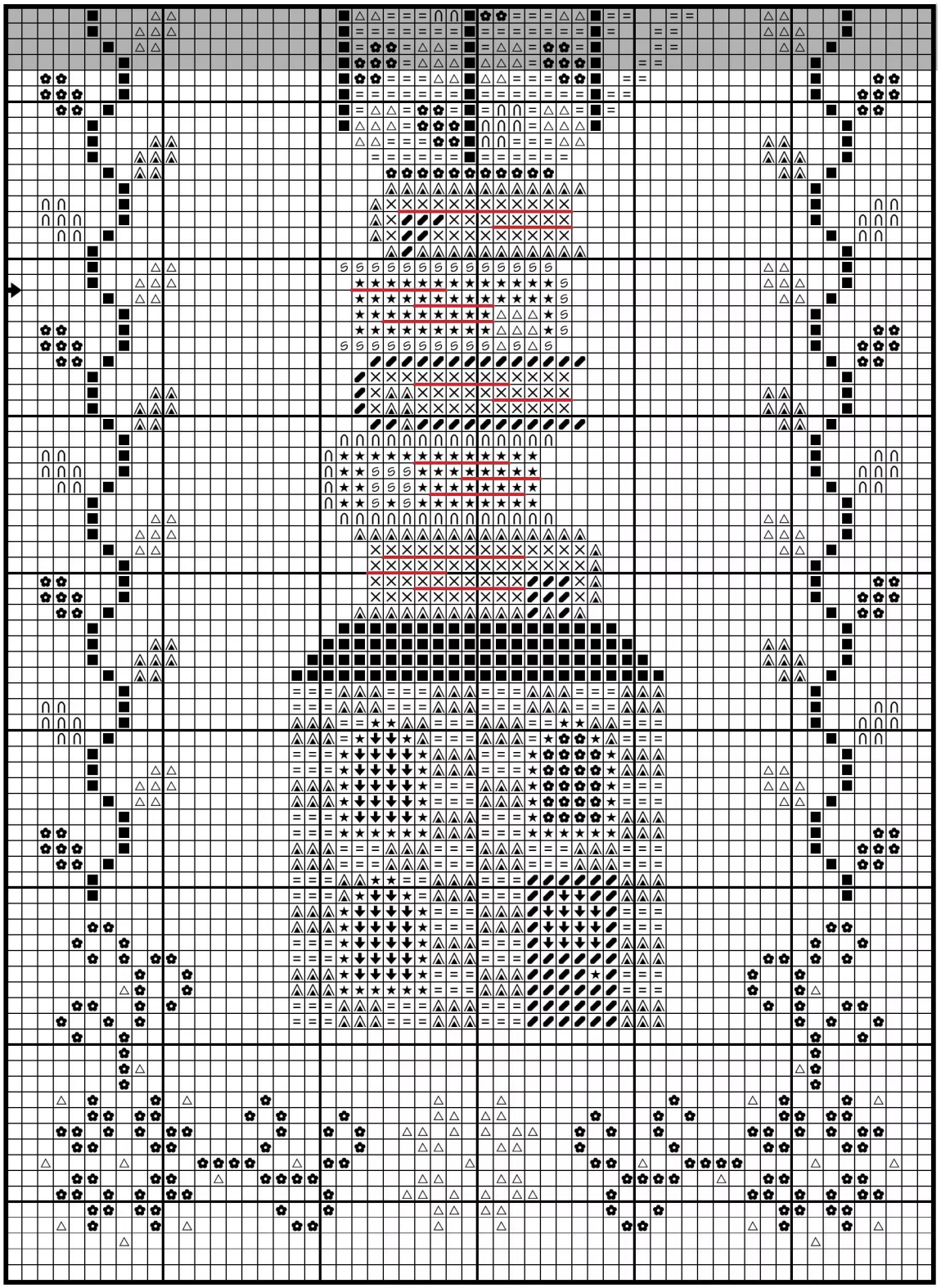


Give Thanks

Dress up your home for the holidays with this sweet message of thankfulness. Worked entirely in full cross stitches, it's a quick and easy project for all skill levels!

Give Thanks

Design by Kate Spiridonova of Cute Embroidery by Kate

www.kate-stitcher.com

Skill Level: Easy
Stitch Count: 56H x 56W
Design Size: 4" x 4"

Materials

- 10" x 10" piece 28-count sand sable Charles Craft® Carolina linen from DMC®
- One skein each Weeks Dye Works™ Hand Over Dyed Floss
- Size 24 tapestry needle

Weeks Dye Works™ Hand Over Dyed Floss
DMC® Alternatives Listed in Parentheses*

◎	1092	(712)	grits
∩	1110	(739)	parchment
♥	1121	(437)	straw
⁄	1227	(434)	bright leaf
✿	1298	(413)	gunmetal
=	2239	(920)	terra cotta

*DMC® alternatives are not one-to-one equivalents to the floss suggested by the designer. To achieve results pictured, use the floss listed in the first column.

Instructions

Cross stitch over two threads using two strands of floss.

Finishing Materials & Instructions

- Cotton kitchen towel
- Fusible interfacing
- Straight pins
- Sewing needle
- Sewing thread
- Sewing machine (optional)

Press stitched piece from reverse side, straightening as much as possible. Trim stitched piece to ¾" from stitching on all sides.

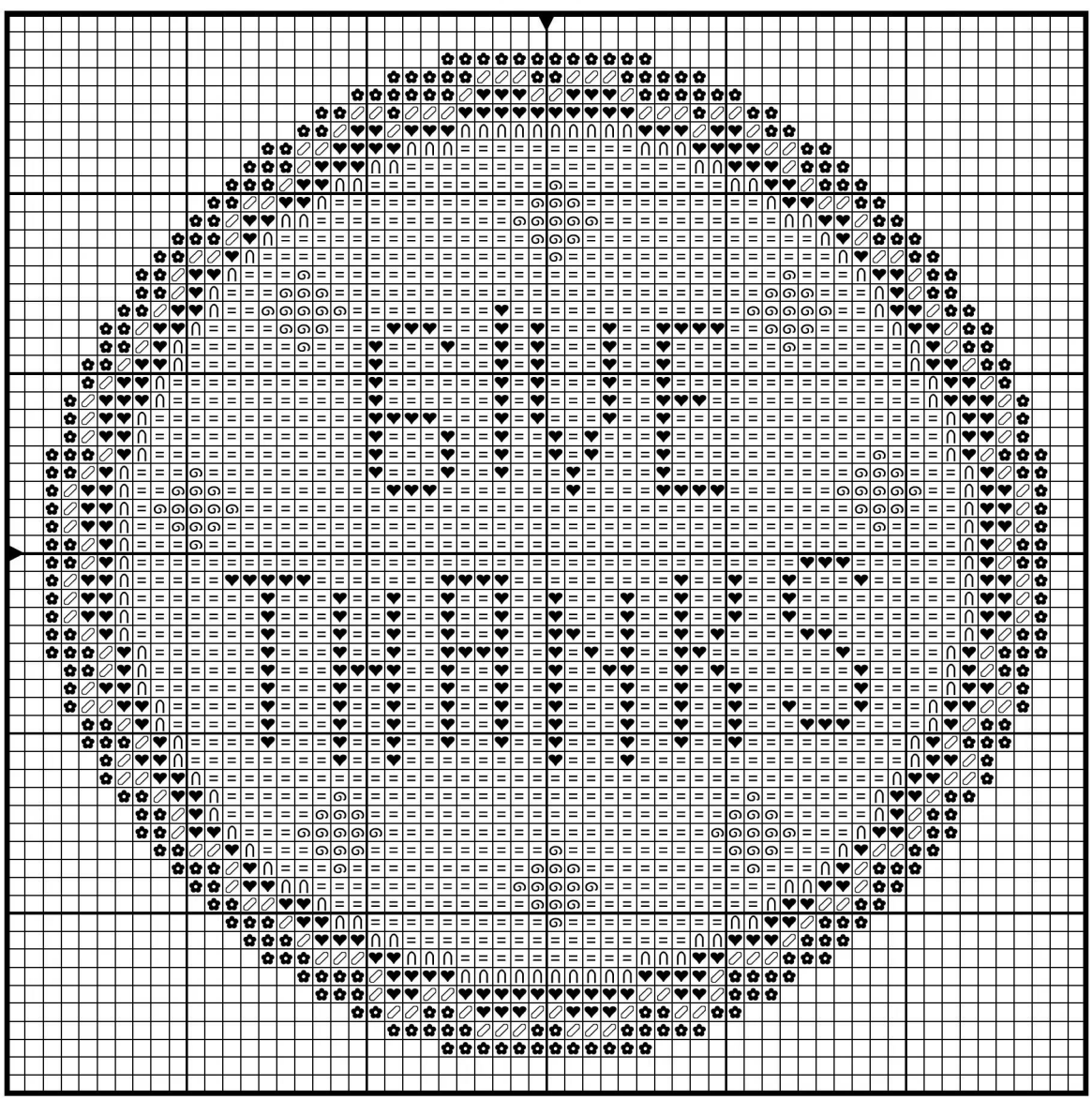
Fold stitched piece edges to back ¼" from stitching on all sides and press. Trim excess fabric from allowance in corners to remove bulk. Trim interfacing to a size that is slightly smaller than stitched piece with edges folded.

Center interfacing on back of stitched piece, making sure all folded edges are covered. Adhere following manufacturer's instructions.

With towel unfolded and laying on a flat surface, place stitched piece in desired location and pin in place. Using a ⅛" seam allowance, sew around perimeter of stitched piece to attach.

Stitched by Leanna Wheeler

Give Thanks



Happy Friendsgiving

Celebrate the spirit of friendship this Thanksgiving when you stitch and display or gift this oh-so-sweet design.

Design by Jennifer J. Redmond

Skill Level: Intermediate
Stitch Count: 61H x 60W
Design Size: 4⅜" x 4¼"

Materials

- 11" x 11" piece 14-count ivory Charles Craft® Aida from DMC®
- One skein each DMC® or Sullivans® USA six-strand embroidery floss
- Size 24 tapestry needle

	DMC®	Sullivans®	
4	05	45007	driftwood, lt.
2	07	45009	driftwood
✚	09	45011	cocoa, vy. dk.
■	310	45053	black
△	351	45075	coral
▙	414	45090	steel gray, dk.
0	415	45091	pearl gray
6	433	45094	brown, med.
Ж	435	45096	brown, vy. lt.
✖	581	45132	moss green
5	720	45167	orange spice, dk.
★	721	45168	orange spice, med.
◐	722	45169	orange spice, lt.
1	728	45491	topaz
↑	740	45181	tangerine
=	741	45182	tangerine, med.
@	742	45183	tangerine, lt.
A	761	45192	salmon, lt.
7	839	45237	beige brown, dk.
Ω	906	45255	parrot green, med.
✱	918	45264	red copper, dk.
✧	920	45266	copper, med.
n	921	45267	copper
3	972	45302	canary, dp.
♡	987	45308	forest green, dk.
▲	3740	45371	antique violet, dk.
⅄	3770	45385	tawny, vy. lt.
♥	3776	45389	mahogany, lt.
⬋	3820	45417	straw, dk.
℞	3830	45427	terra cotta
m	3861	45459	cocoa, lt.
›	3862	45460	mocha beige, dk.

Backstitches/Straight Stitches

—	310	45053	black
—	3777	45390	terra cotta, vy. dk.

French Knot

●	310	45053	black

Instructions

Cross stitch over one square using two strands of floss. Where small symbols appear, work ¼ cross stitch using two strands of floss.

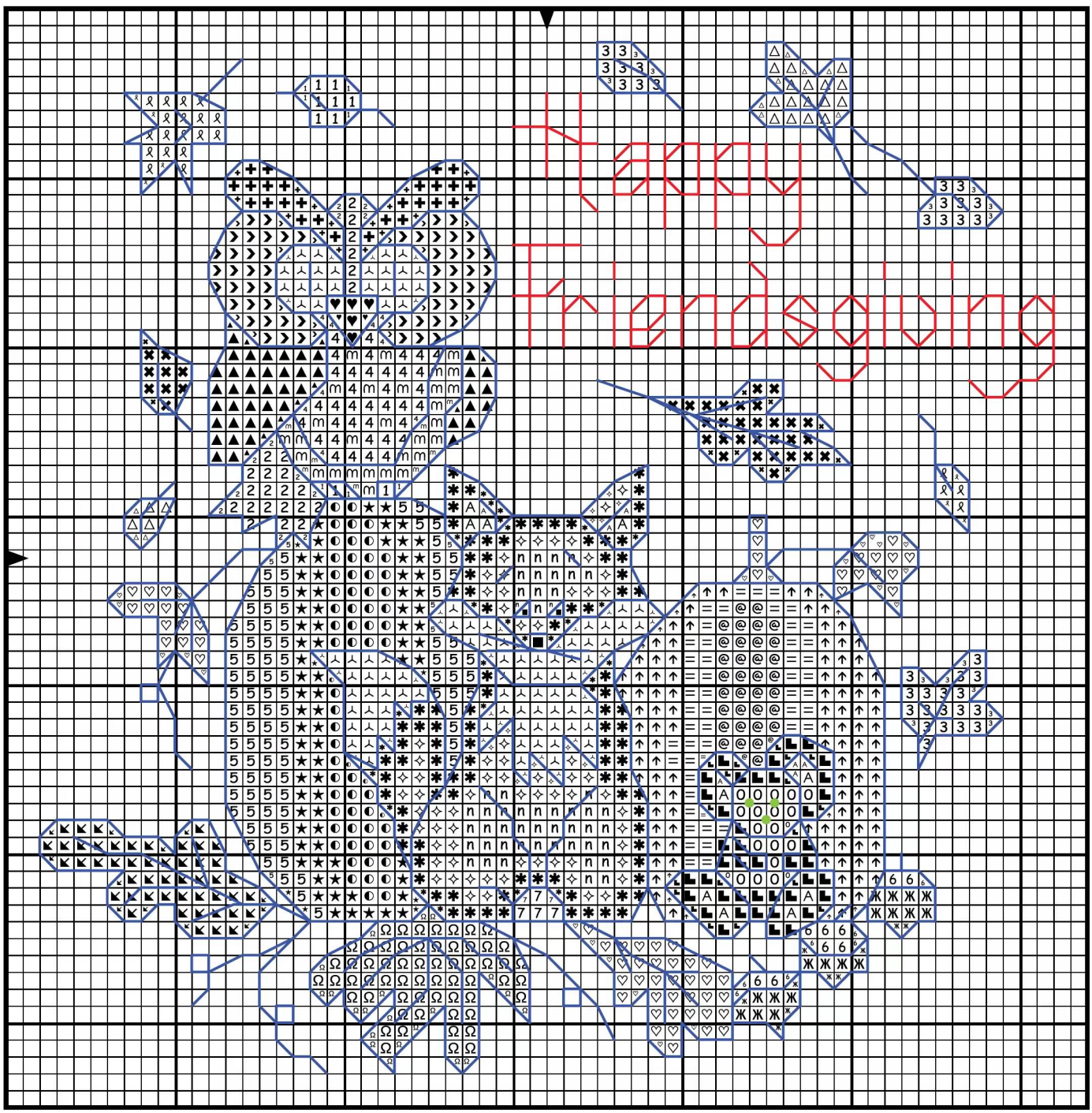
Backstitch over one square or work straight stitch using one strand of floss.

Work French knot using one strand of floss and wrapping around needle twice.

Finishing Instructions

Model was finished using Hoop Finishing Instructions and displayed on a hoop prop from Modern Hoopla.

Happy Friendsgiving



Plentiful Harvest

Savor this abundant showcase of harvest delights inspired by an 1880s postcard and the nostalgic allure it evokes.

Plentiful Harvest

Design by Elizabeth Spurlock of Saving Graces Fine Needlearts

www.etsy.com/shop/savinggraces

Skill Level: Intermediate
Stitch Count: 60H x 95W
Design Size: 4¼" x 6¾"

Materials

- 11" x 13" piece 28-count light sand Cashel linen from Zweigart®
- One skein each DMC® or Sullivans® USA six-strand embroidery floss
- Size 24 tapestry needle

	DMC®	Sullivans®	
⊂	167	45482	yellow beige, vy. dk.
+	347	45072	salmon, vy. dk.
★	740	45181	tangerine
2	741	45182	tangerine, med.
✖	742	45183	tangerine, lt.
=	743	45184	yellow, med.
⋔	744	45185	yellow, pl.
O	761	45192	salmon, lt.
♥	814	45216	garnet, dk.
▲	3011	45316	khaki green, dk.
△	3012	45317	khaki green, med.
L	3013	45318	khaki green, lt.
✿	3045	45328	yellow beige, dk.
1	3046	45329	yellow beige, med.
⅄	3053	45333	green gray
⬭	3362	45348	pine green, dk.
a	3363	45349	pine green, med.
■	3364	45350	pine green
›	3712	45362	salmon, med.

Backstitches/Straight Stitches

—	167	45482	yellow beige, vy. dk.
—	814	45216	garnet, dk.
—	3011	45316	khaki green, dk.
—	3012	45317	khaki green, med.
—	3013	45318	khaki green, lt.
—	3045	45328	yellow beige, dk.
—	3362	45348	pine green, dk.

Instructions

Cross stitch over two threads using two strands of floss. Where small symbols appear, work ¼ cross stitch using two strands of floss.

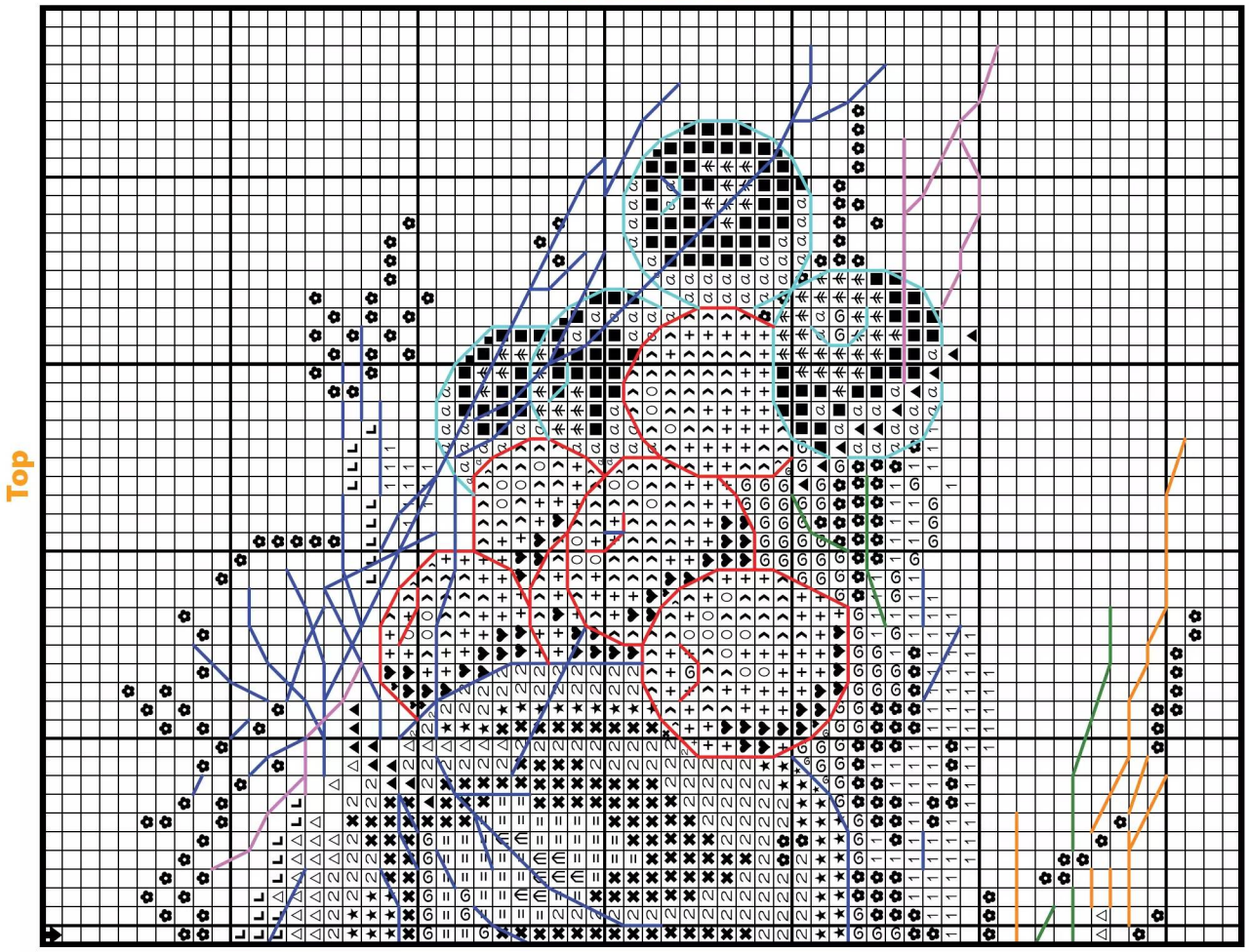
Backstitch over two threads or work straight stitch using one strand of floss.

Finishing Instructions

Model was finished using Pillow Finishing Instructions.

Stitched by Diane Beeman

Plentiful Harvest



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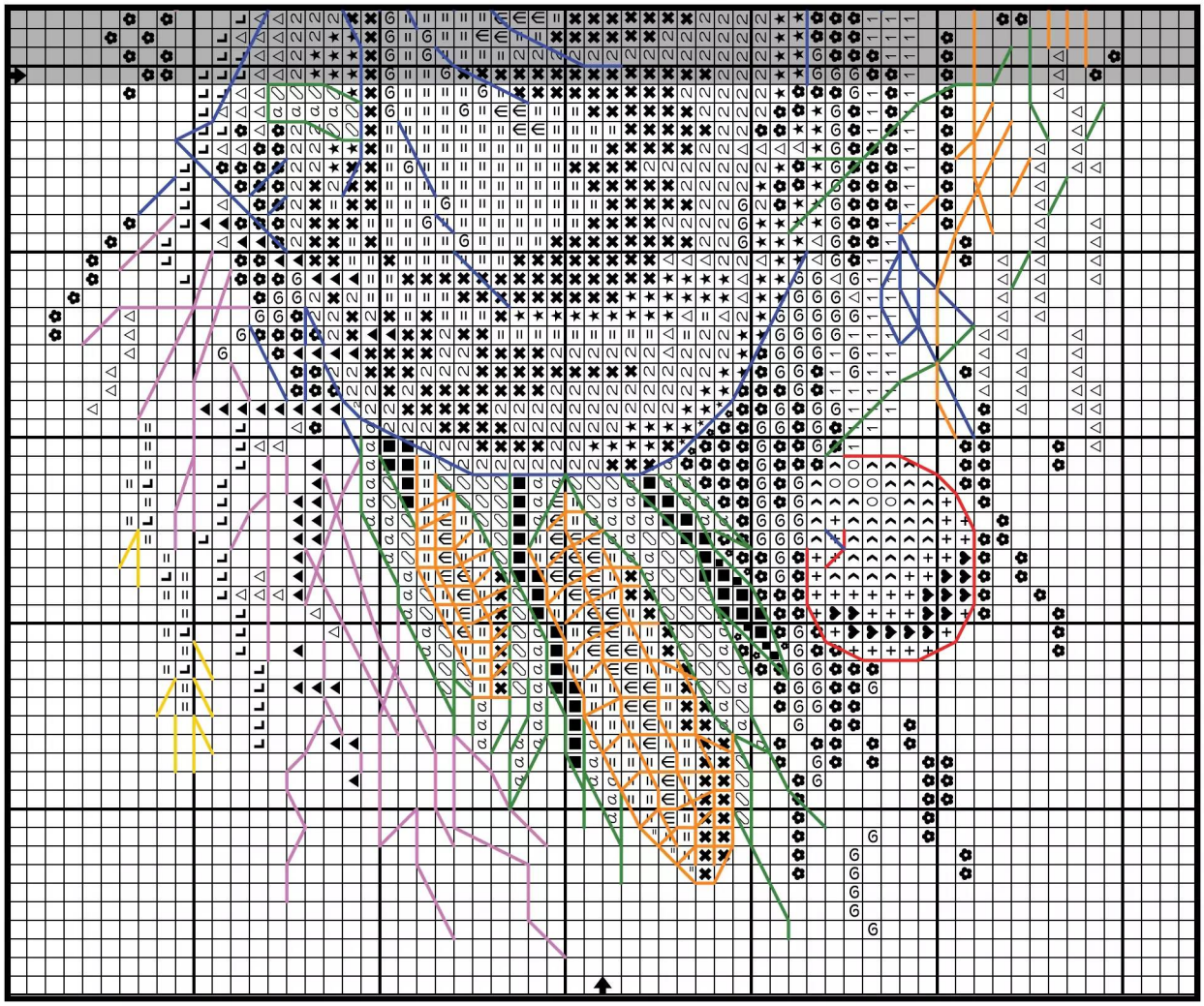

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Petite Pumpkin

This pumpkin chart might be tiny, but when completed as a scissors fob it will add a great amount of interest to your stitching basket.

Design by Tracy Richards of Wrought Iron Stitching

www.etsy.com/shop/wroughtironstitching

Skill Level: Easy
Stitch Count: 32H x 32W
Design Size: 2" x 2"

Materials

- Two 8" x 8" pieces 32-count vintage country mocha Belfast linen from Zweigart®
- One skein Weeks Dye Works™ Hand Over Dyed Floss
- Size 26 tapestry needle

	Weeks Dye Works™ Hand Over Dyed Floss	DMC® Alternative Listed in Parentheses*	
✖	1228	(434)	pecan
	Backstitch		
—	1228	(434)	pecan

*DMC® alternative is not a one-to-one equivalent to the floss suggested by the designer. To achieve results pictured, use the floss listed in the first column.

Instructions

Note: *The second piece of fabric will be used for the back of scissors fob. Stitch the full design or the backstitching only on back, as preferred.*

Cross stitch over two threads using two strands of floss.

Backstitch over two threads using one strand of floss.

Finishing Materials & Instructions

- Lightweight fusible interfacing
- Fiberfill
- One skein coordinating floss

Press stitched pieces on reverse side, straightening as much as possible. Cut two pieces of interfacing to fit just inside the backstitched lines; fuse in place on wrong sides of stitched pieces following manufacturer's instructions. Trim stitched pieces ¼" from backstitched lines on all sides.

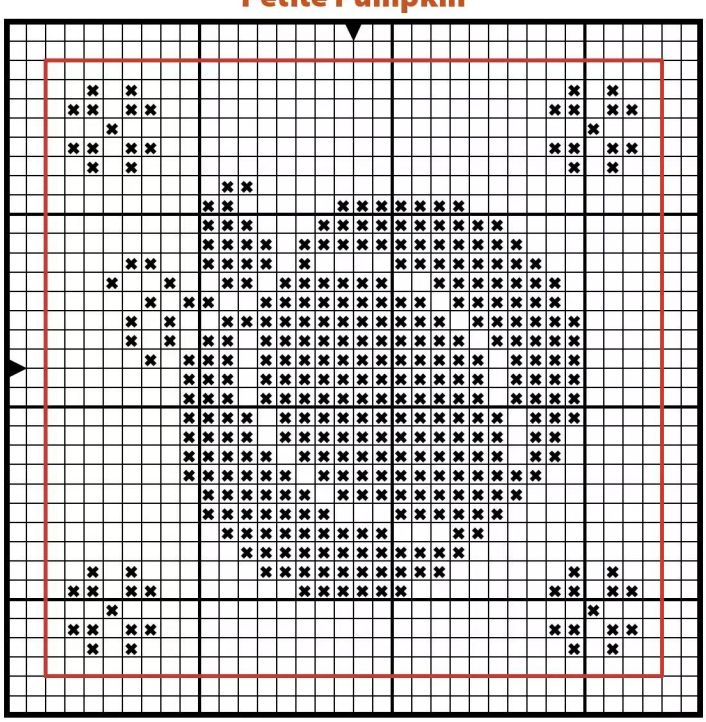
Finger-press edges of fabric toward back at backstitched lines. With wrong sides facing, place stitched pieces together with raw edges folded inward.

Beginning at the top corner and working down, join front to back by whipstitching through the backstitches with one strand 1228/434 floss.

Before reaching the final corner, insert fiberfill; then continue whipstitching to close.

Hanger and trim were made using twisted cording.

Petite Pumpkin



Turkey Time

Inspired by those delightful coloring pages from childhood days in elementary school, this turkey appears full of life and is probably hoping to keep it that way through the Thanksgiving holiday!

Turkey Time

Design by Simone Dezembro & Mel Mello of DECEMBER STITCHES

www.decemberstitches.com

Skill Level: Easy
Stitch Count: 86H x 85W
Design Size: 6⅛" x 6⅛"

Materials

- 13" x 13" piece 14-count ivory Charles Craft® Aida from DMC®
- One skein each DMC® or Sullivans® USA six-strand embroidery floss
- Size 24 tapestry needle

	DMC®	Sullivans®	
♥	321	45062	red
★	415	45091	pearl gray
◐	502	45111	blue green
=	728	45491	topaz
♡	741	45182	tangerine, med.
■	918	45264	red copper, dk.
1	924	45269	gray green, vy. dk.
○	3371	45351	black brown
•	3782	45394	mocha brown, lt.
Ж	blanc	45001	white

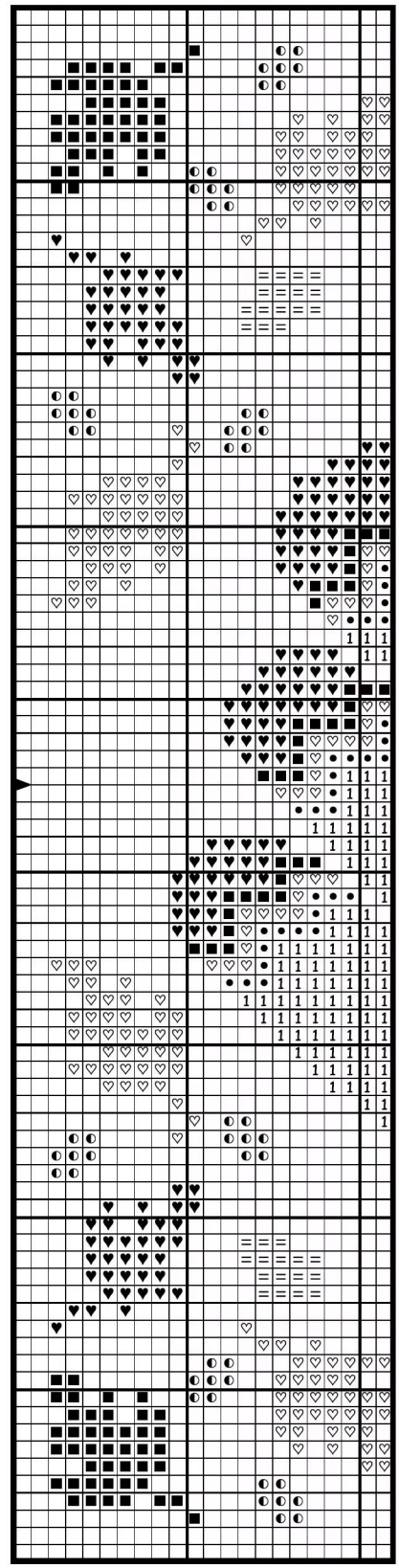
Instructions

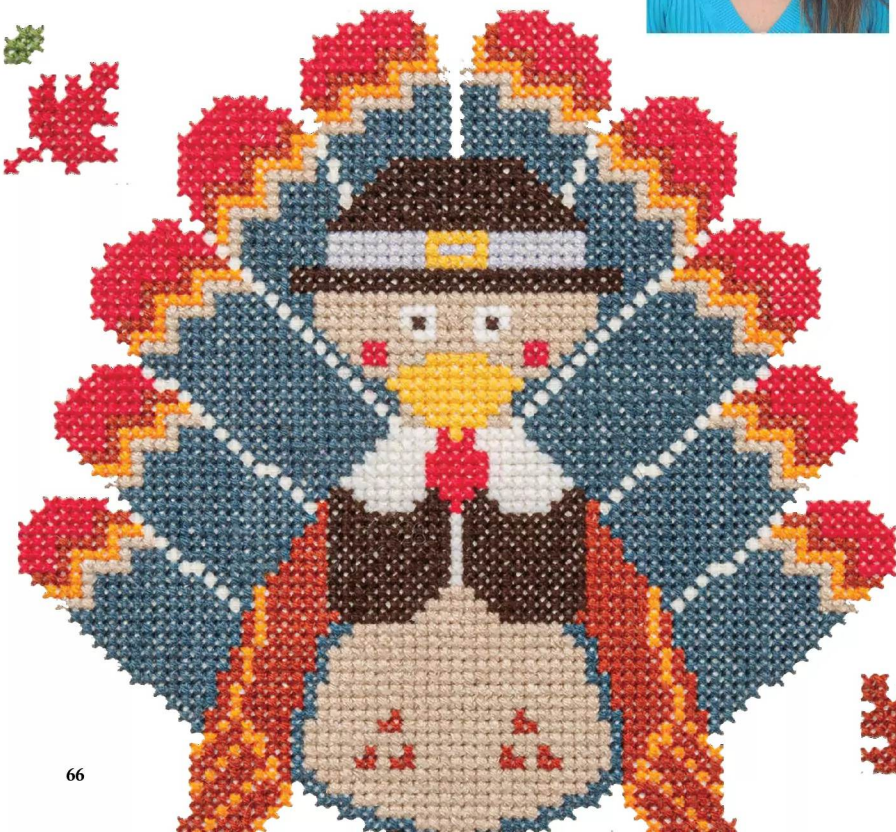
Cross stitch over one square using two strands of floss.

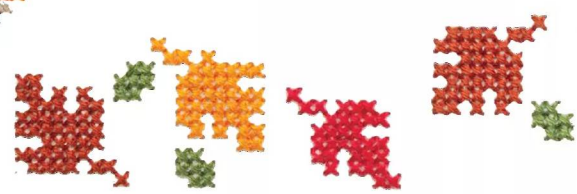
Introducing

Meet **Simone Dezembro** and **Mel Mello**, the dynamic duo behind DECEMBER STITCHES. As sisters, they share a lifelong bond further cultivated through cross stitch, a craft they learned in their childhood. With backgrounds in the arts, they seamlessly blend creativity and precision in their work. Beyond stitching, their love for all things crafty knows no bounds, spanning painting, crochet, macramé and origami. Discover the magic of their work by visiting their shop at www.etsy.com/shop/decemberstitches.

Turkey Time







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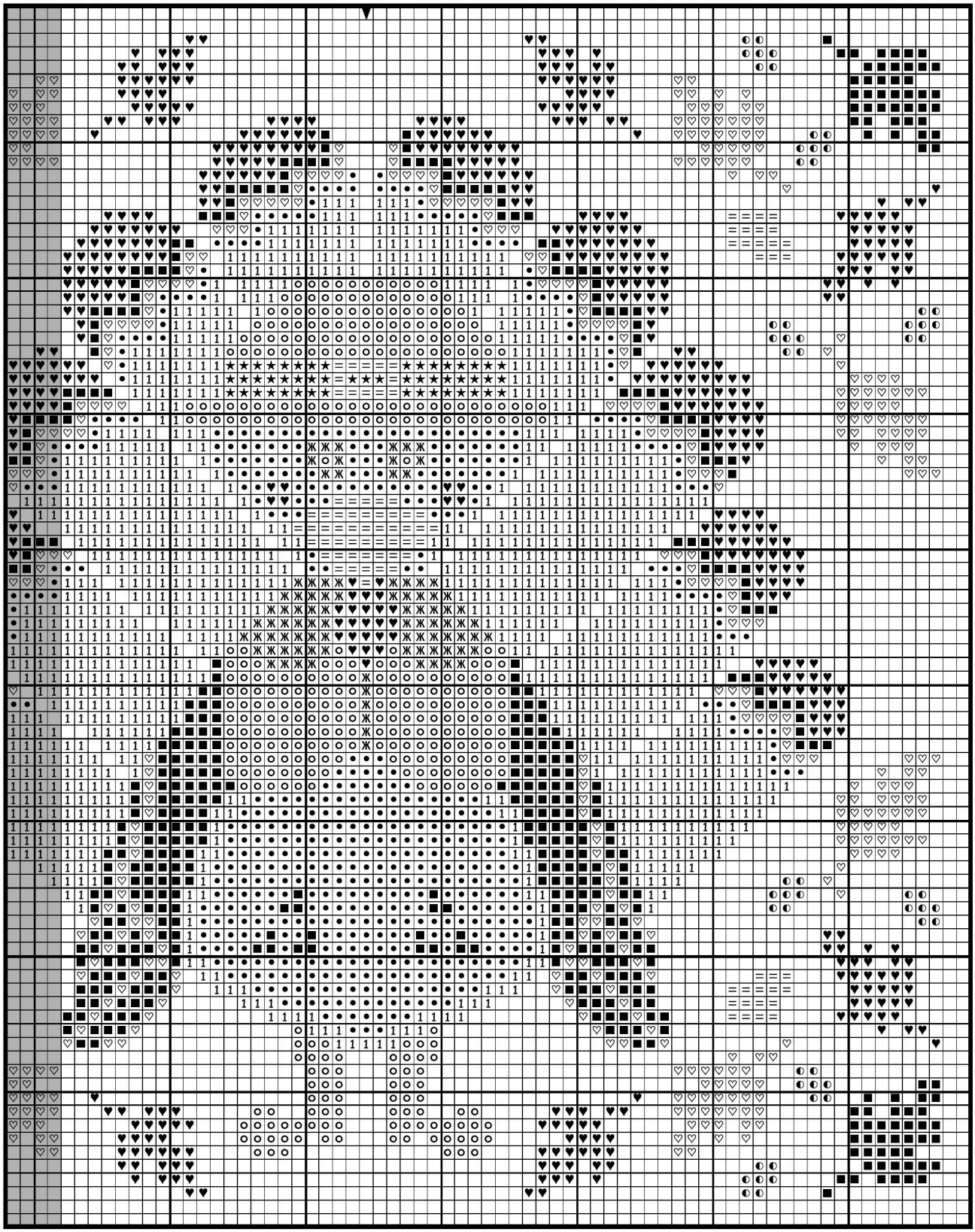

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Annie's® Craft Store

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Restoration Fabric Restorer

Eliminate odors, yellowing and most stains while brightening dingy linens, textiles, antique quilts and more.

501009

Annie's Dancing Angel Scissors

This fun design will make cutting a breeze! Made with stainless steel blades and a sharp, fine tip.

411601

Annie's Cat Tape Measure

An adorable kitty tape measure to help you in any project! Tape measure is approximately 2" x 2", with up to 60" of tape.

411591

Bee's Wax Polish

Made with natural beeswax, it keeps wood from drying out. Used to clean, protect, preserve and restore furniture.

6531

Reversible Holiday Banner Craft Kit

Kit includes materials to create this fun, reversible banner that's easy to make and perfect to display for both Thanksgiving and Christmas.

KCWC181

Pumpkin Crochet Pattern
The cutest pumpkin in the patch! Stitch up this little cutie and celebrate fall all season long!
RAC3181

Annie's Fall is My Favorite Reusable Tote
If fall is your favorite, then this tote is guaranteed to be your new go-to! Both foldable and reusable. Size: 13" x 15½" x 6¾".
T20047

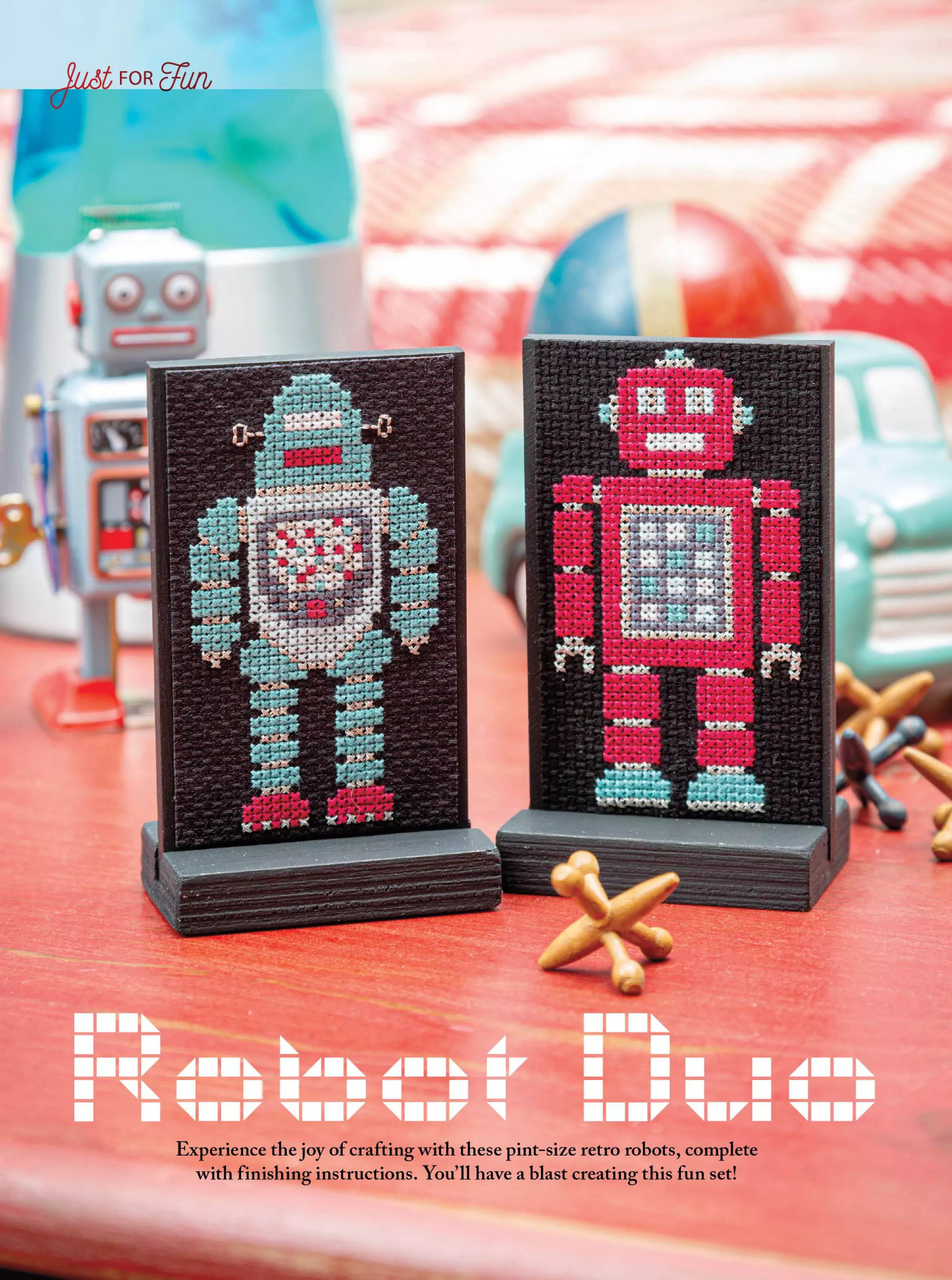
Frankenstein Felt Pincushion
Make a playful pincushion with a monster face! Pattern uses felted wool and embroidery floss to make a fun and practical project.
AQ02111

Owl Pillow Quilt Pattern
Create this adorable owl pillow and add a touch of autumn whimsy to any room.
AQ02160

Autumns Finest 18" x 22" Fabric Fat Quarter Pack 6 Count
From deep maroon with negative-colored leaves to soft linen with watercolor flowers, this collection of fall fabrics offers a full spectrum of designs representing the season.
280931

Scan the QR code to purchase these products and more from Annie's Craft Store.

ANNIESCRAFTSTORE.COM



Robot Duo

Experience the joy of crafting with these pint-size retro robots, complete with finishing instructions. You'll have a blast creating this fun set!

Designs by Kathleen Berlew

www.instagram.com/kberlew

Skill Level: Easy
Stitch Count: 51H x 26W each
Design Size: 3⅝" x 1⅞" each

Materials

- Two 10" x 8" pieces 14-count black Aida from Wichelt Imports Inc.
- One skein each DMC® or Sullivans® USA six-strand embroidery floss
- One skein DMC® Light Effects metallic floss
- Size 24 tapestry needle

	DMC®	Sullivans®	
⋒	317	45058	pewter gray
▲	326	45064	rose, vy. dk.
=	747	45188	sky blue, vy. lt.
○	3849	45447	teal green, lt.
+	B5200	45002	snow white

DMC Light Effects®

■ E168 silver

Backstitch

— E168 silver

Instructions

Cross stitch over one square using two strands of floss.

Backstitch over one square using two strands of floss.

Finishing Materials & Instructions

- 5" Wooden Cutout Stand from Woodpeckers™ Crafts
- Two 4" x 2½" x ¼"-thick unfinished wood rectangles from 24 Hour Crafts
- Black paint
- Paintbrush
- Double-sided tape
- Handsaw
- Fine-grit sandpaper
- Tack cloth
- Craft glue (optional)

Using handsaw, cut wooden cutout stand in half to create two 2½"-long pieces.

Sand all edges of wood pieces. Use tack cloth to remove any sawdust prior to painting.

Paint all wood pieces and allow to dry completely.

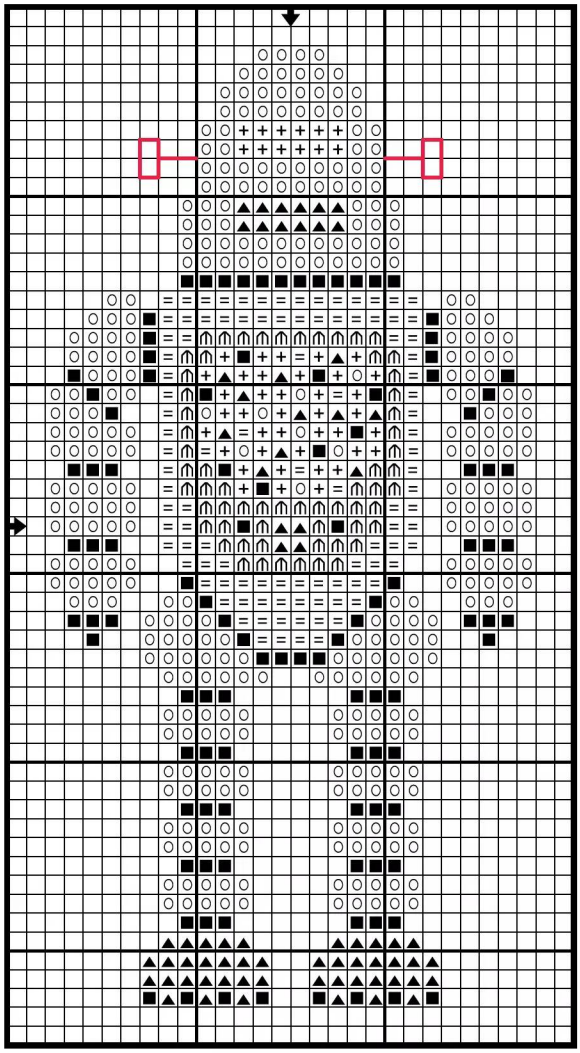
Press stitched pieces from reverse side, straightening as much as possible. Trim to one square from stitching on top and bottom edges and two squares from stitching on sides.

Apply double-sided tape along all edges on reverse side of stitched pieces. This will help secure threads along edges.

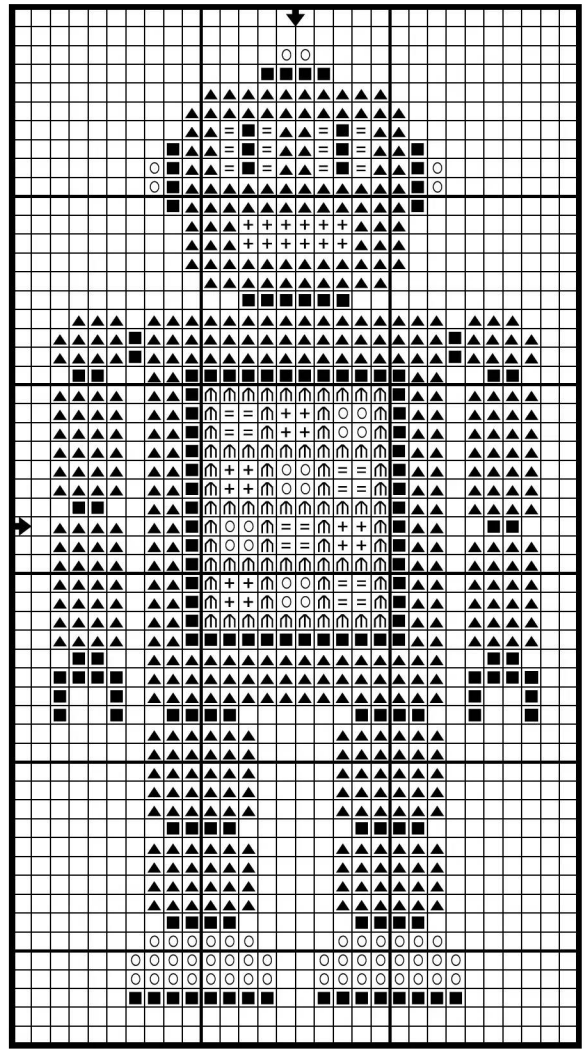
Adhere each stitched piece to a painted wood rectangle, aligning top edges and centering between side edges. The space at the bottom will allow insertion into wooden cutout stands.

Note: *Craft glue can be used to secure assembled piece into stand if desired.*

Robot Duo: Blue



Robot Duo: Red



Pumpkin Patch Pals

These playful kittens are ready for Halloween. Stitch these pals as one full design or work each little cutie separately for an array of fun finishing possibilities.

Design by Elizabeth Spurlock of Saving Graces Fine Needlearts

www.etsy.com/shop/savinggraces

Skill Level: Intermediate
Stitch Count: 41H x 80W
Design Size: 2⅞" x 5¾"

Materials

- 9" x 12" piece 14-count white Aida from Wichelt Imports Inc.
- One skein each DMC® or Sullivans® USA six-strand embroidery floss
- Size 24 tapestry needle

	DMC®	Sullivans®	
↗	168	45483	pewter, vy. lt. (right-slanting ½ cross stitch)
⊇	223	45045	shell pink, lt.
■	310	45053	black
◊	535	45121	ash gray, vy. lt.
×	741	45182	tangerine, med.
○	742	45183	tangerine, lt.
✚	743	45184	yellow, med.
★	906	45255	parrot green, med.
=	947	45285	burnt orange

Backstitches/Straight Stitches

—	168	45483	pewter, vy. lt.
—	310	45053	black
—	900	45251	burnt orange, dk.
—	906	45255	parrot green, med.

French Knot

●	310	45053	black

Pumpkin Patch Pals

Instructions

Cross stitch over one square using two strands of floss. Where small symbols appear, work ¼ cross stitch using two strands of floss. Work ½ cross stitch over one square using two strands of floss.

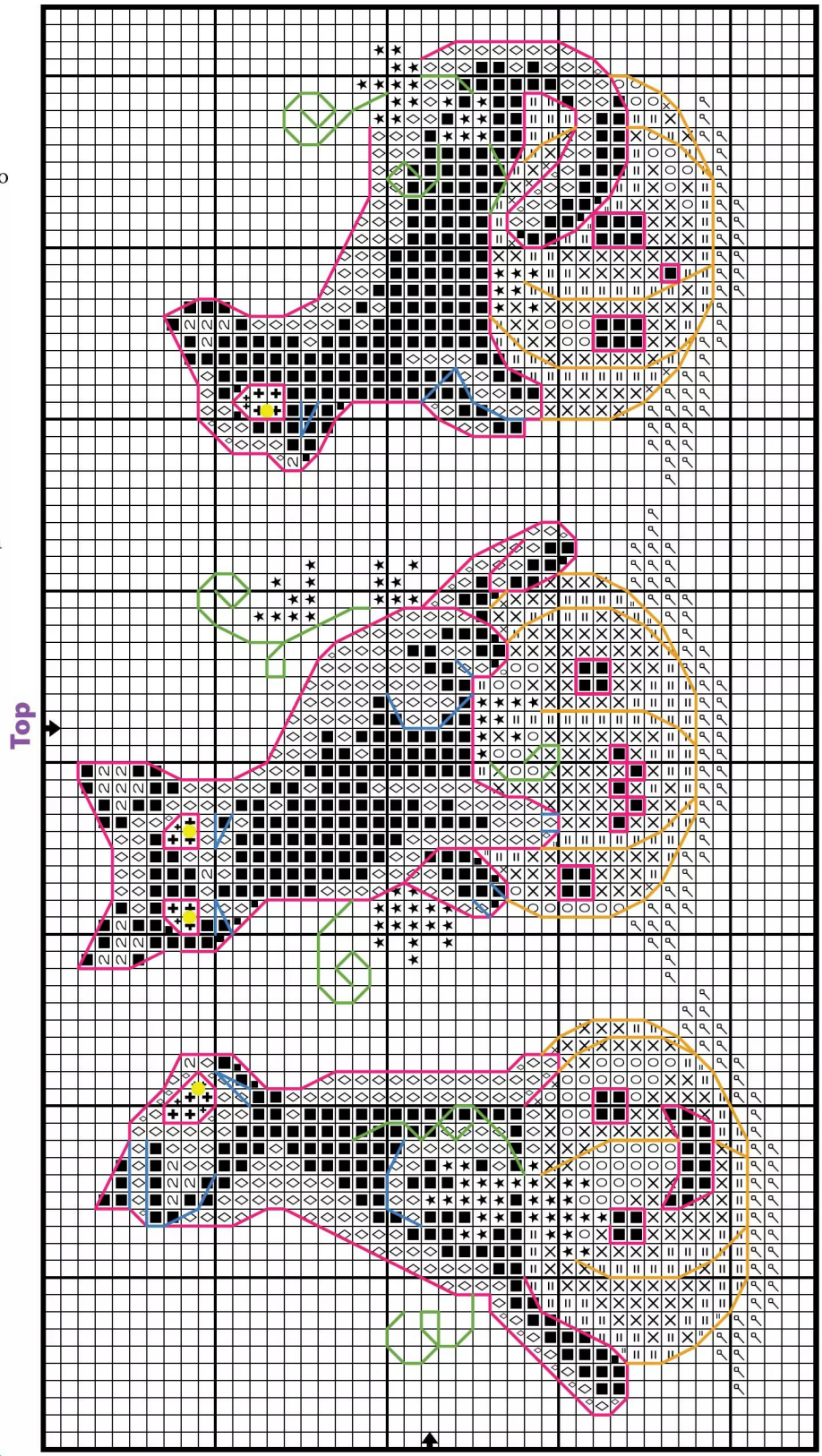
Backstitch over one square or work straight stitch using one strand of floss.

Work French knot using one strand of floss and wrapping around needle twice.

Finishing Instructions

Model was finished using Flat-Ornament Finishing Instructions, omitting hanger, then mounted to a Woodpile Fun! Rotating Wood Sign #2202778 from Hobby Lobby using double-sided tape.

Stitched by Cathy Ring



Stitch and finish motifs individually to create tiny treasures for yourself or to give as gifts. Connect with us on social media to share your fun finishes!

WORD SEARCH

Can you find the word "PEACE" within this design?

Peace Tree

Look closely at this festive tree and you will find a message of peace in its branches.

Design by Peggy & Rick Wittlake of Crafty Framer

www.craftyframer.com

Skill Level: Easy
Stitch Count: 86H x 43W
Design Size: 6⅛" x 3⅛"

Materials

- 13" x 10" piece 14-count white opalescent Aida from Zweigart®
- One skein each Sullivans® USA or DMC® six-strand embroidery floss
- One skein Sullivans® USA metallic six-strand embroidery floss
- Size 24 tapestry needle

	Sullivans®	DMC®	
✳	45342	3345	hunter green, dk.
♥	45390	3777	terra cotta, vy. dk.

	Sullivans® Metallic Floss	
★	44418	gold

Instructions

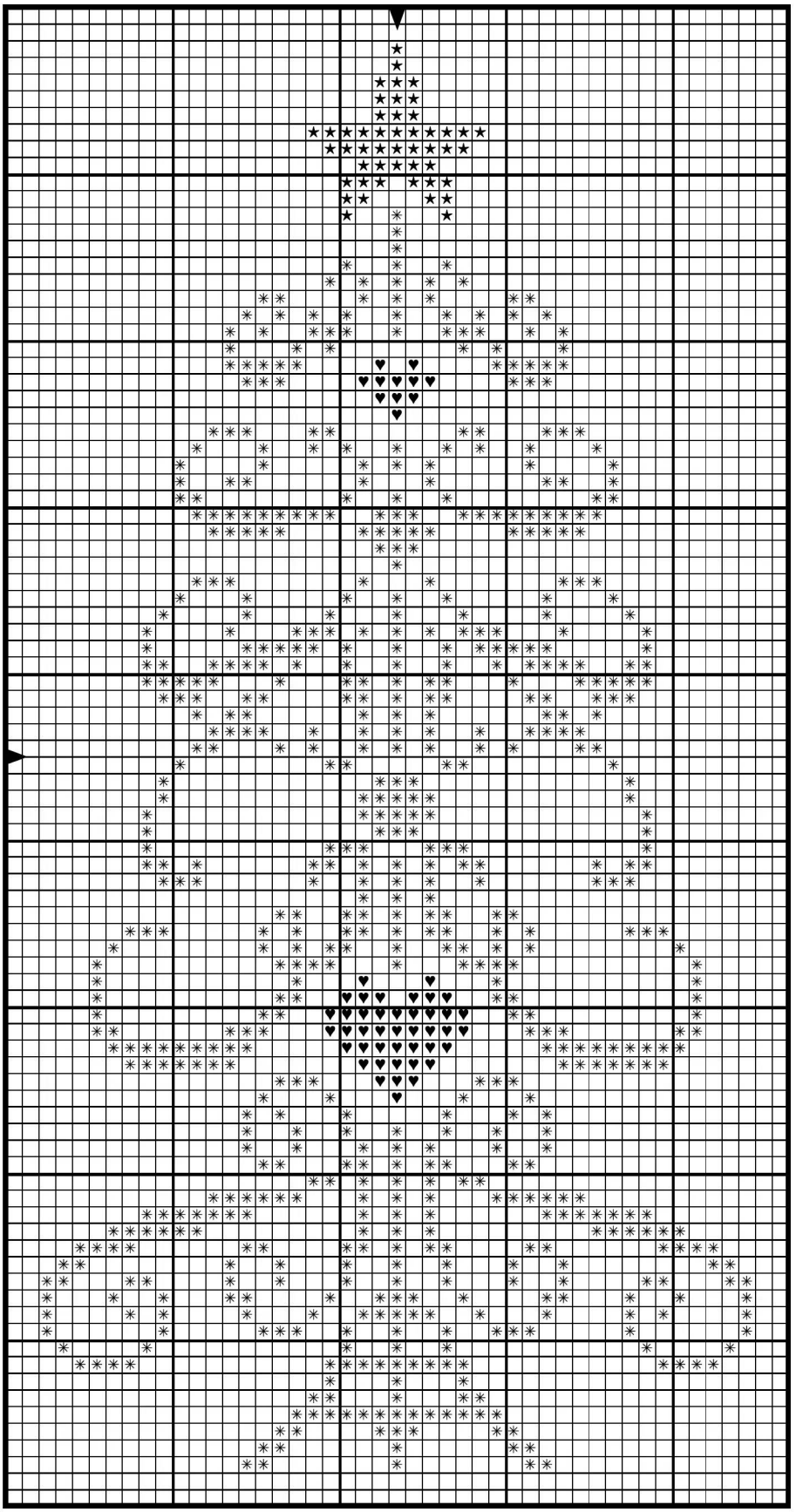
Cross stitch over one square using two strands of floss.

Customize this design with the fabric, floss and finish of your choice!

Crafty Framer in Largo, Fla., specializes in all your framing or cross-stitch needs. Looking for a chart similar to "Peace Tree" that features your own name or unique word? Contact Peggy and Rick at www.crafty framer.com.

Hint: Rotate the design clockwise to reveal the word "PEACE."

Peace Tree



Cross-Stitch Basics

Working From Charted Designs

Cross stitch is a form of counted embroidery that utilizes X-shaped stitches on a stitching surface. Cross-stitch patterns are created with a grid system, using horizontal and vertical lines that intersect to create squares. Each square on a chart corresponds to a space for a cross stitch on the stitching surface. The symbol within the square correlates with the color code, which indicates the recommended floss color to be used for the stitch. Backstitches and straight stitches are indicated on the chart with colored lines, and French knots are shown with colored dots. All symbols and lines on a chart correlate with color codes.

To aid in counting, the chart is segmented, with every 10th line having a heavier appearance. Arrows at the top and left side of the grid indicate the center of the pattern. For most projects, it is best to begin stitching at the center of the design and at the center point of the fabric.

Pattern Details

Skill Level: The recommended level of cross-stitch skills needed to successfully complete the design.

Stitch Count: The number of stitches, by height and width, that are in the design.

Design Size: The dimensions, in inches, of the fully stitched design, based on the fabric count used.

Materials

This list states the materials that are recommended for the design and what was used to create the stitched model. It is recommended that you buy all the supplies needed for a project at the start. Floss comes in dye lots that may vary slightly between batches.

Fabric: The recommended cut size given typically allows for 3" of unstitched fabric to remain on all sides after the design is fully stitched. The thread count—14-count, 28-count, etc.—refers to the number of squares or threads per inch and indicates how many cross stitches you can work within 1" when stitching over one square or thread. For example, on 14-count fabric, you can work 14 cross stitches within 1". Most higher count fabrics are stitched over two threads, which will decrease the number of stitches within 1" by half. Stitching over two threads using 28-count fabric will yield 14 stitches within 1".

Floss: The brand(s) and number of skeins of each type of floss required for the design will be stated. The color code and stitching instructions will give further information on how each floss will be used. Floss should be cut into comfortable working lengths of about 18". Most flosses have multi strands or plies, and the strands will need to be gently separated. Cross-stitch designs are typically stitched with one or two strands, as indicated in the instructions.

Needles: A blunt-tip tapestry needle, size 24, 26 or 28, is used for stitching on most cross-stitch surfaces. The higher the needle number, the smaller the needle. A correctly sized needle is easy to thread with the number of strands of floss required, but it is not so large that it will distort the holes in the fabric. A beading needle may also be required if beads are incorporated into the design.

Color Code

The color code lists the colors of floss needed to complete the design and is organized by the manufacturer's product number. A symbol is found to the left of each floss entry and correlates with symbols on the chart. The symbols show where the floss is used in the design. An alternative floss choice is typically provided should you choose not to use the brand indicated by the designer.

Getting Started

Begin by gathering all the supplies you'll need for your project. In addition to the cross-stitch pattern and the materials listed, you'll also need embroidery scissors and an embroidery hoop. For those with vision difficulties, a lighting source with magnification may be beneficial.

Prepare to stitch by centering the fabric in the embroidery hoop. It is best to begin the first stitch at the center of the fabric and work out from that point, so find the starting point on the chart and on the fabric. Thread your needle with the color and

number of strands of floss indicated for that first stitch.

To begin in an unstitched area, bring the threaded needle from the back to the front of the fabric. Hold about ½" of the end of the floss against the back, and then anchor it securely in place by catching it under the back loops of your first few stitches (Fig. 1). To end and begin new lengths of floss next to existing stitches, weave the floss ends through the backs of several stitches.

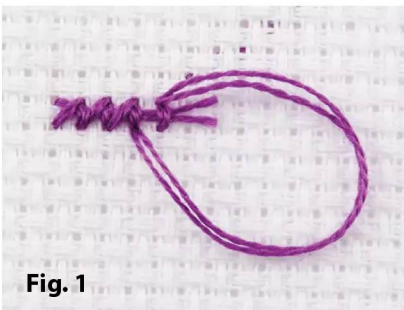


Fig. 1

The Basic Stitches

Aim for consistent tension on your stitches. Don't pull so tightly that the fabric becomes warped. The stitches should lie flat against the fabric without pulling against it. Likewise, don't leave stitches loose, as to allow the floss to gap.

Avoid making long jumps between stitches across the back of the fabric as this may allow floss to show through on the front. When moving to a new area that is more than a few stitches away, you should end your length of floss and then begin it again in the new spot.

Basic stitches are shown here. Illustrations for these and more can be found in the back of each issue of *Just CrossStitch*.

Cross stitch: The cross stitch is formed in two motions, a right-slanting leg and a left-slanting leg. Follow the numbering in Fig. 2, bringing the needle up at 1, down at 2, up at 3, and down at 4 to complete the stitch. Work horizontal rows of stitches wherever possible by stitching the right-slanting leg of the first stitch and then moving on to the right-slanting leg of the next stitch of the same color. When you've completed the right-slanting legs of all adjoining stitches of that color, reverse direction and work the left-slanting legs of each until the stitches are complete. When working with multi-shaded or multicolored floss, it's generally advisable to finish each stitch entirely before progressing to the next one. This approach highlights the color transitions most effectively.

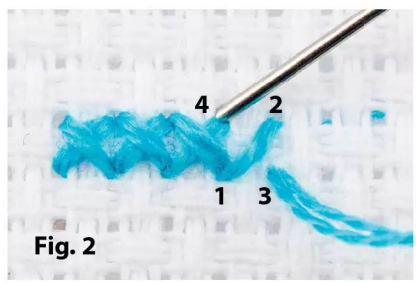


Fig. 2

Half cross stitch: Work only the bottom layer, or one leg, of a cross stitch (Fig. 3).

Fig. 3

Backstitch: Work after cross stitches have been completed. These may be worked in any direction. Fig. 4 shows the progression of several stitches; bring floss up at odd numbers and down at even numbers.

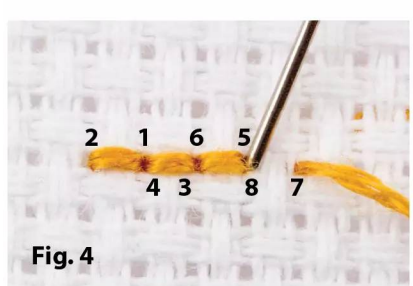


Fig. 4

Straight stitch: Unlike a backstitch, which is worked over a set number of threads to make a line, a straight stitch is worked from one point to the next without connecting to the fabric in between the two points (Fig. 5).

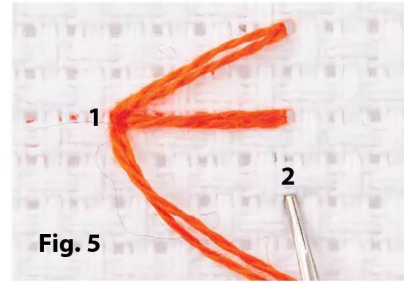


Fig. 5

French knot: Bring the floss up where indicated on the chart. Wrap floss twice around needle (Figs. 6–8) and reinsert needle into the fabric close to the same location. ***Note:*** *On linen or evenweave fabrics, take the needle back down one thread beyond beginning of stitch; when stitching on Aida cloth, pierce the square near the beginning of the stitch.* Hold the wrapped floss tightly and pull the needle through, letting go of the floss just as the knot is formed. Pull gently and firmly, but do not pull too tightly.

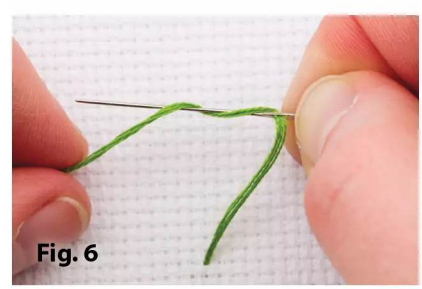


Fig. 6

Fig. 7

Fig. 8

Finishing Instructions

Flat-Ornament Finishing Instructions

Materials

- Matboard
- Thin quilt batting (optional)
- Coordinating fabric for backing
- Double-sided tape (optional)
- Hot-glue gun or craft glue (optional)
- Desired trim and hanger

1. Cut two pieces of matboard to desired ornament size (⅛"–1" larger than stitched design). If desired, cut quilt batting to same size as matboard; adhere batting to board using double-sided tape.

2. Press stitched piece from reverse side, straightening as much as possible.

3. Center stitched piece faceup on batting side of matboard and trim around stitched piece so that fabric is at least ½" beyond edges of matboard. Keeping fabric taut, carefully fold excess fabric to the back and glue to matboard or lace to secure edges. Repeat with second piece of matboard and backing fabric.

4. Attach desired trim and hanger.

5. With wrong sides together, blind-stitch or glue backing piece to ornament front.

Hoop Finishing Instructions

Materials

- Embroidery hoop
- Felt for backing, cut to size of hoop
- Thread and hand-sewing needle (optional)
- Clear-drying craft glue

1. Press stitched piece from reverse side, straightening as much as possible.

2. Place stitched piece in hoop, centering design and positioning hoop screw at center top. Trim excess fabric to leave 1" border around edge.

3. Carefully fold excess fabric to back of hoop; if needed, excess fabric can be laced together with thread to hold in place. Glue felt to back of hoop, trimming as needed. Allow to dry overnight.

Pillow Finishing Instructions

Materials

- Coordinating fabric for backing
- Lightweight interfacing (optional)
- Polyester fiberfill
- Coordinating sewing thread
- Sewing machine (optional)

1. Press stitched piece from reverse side, straightening as much as possible. If desired, apply interfacing to wrong side of stitched piece following manufacturer's instructions. Trim to desired size leaving at least 1¼" from stitching all around, cutting on grain line if possible.

2. Cut backing fabric to the same size as stitched piece. Pin backing fabric to stitched piece with right sides together. Sew together using a ½" seam allowance, leaving a 4" opening at bottom edge for stuffing.

3. Trim corners to ¼" and then turn pillow right side out; press seams. Stuff pillow with fiberfill or insert pillow form. Using a hand-sewing needle and coordinating thread, blind-stitch 4" opening closed.

Pillow-Ornament Finishing Instructions

Materials

- Coordinating backing fabric
- Polyester fiberfill
- Fabric-marking pencil
- Straight pins
- Sewing machine (optional)

1. Press stitched piece from reverse side, straightening as much as possible.

2. Measure desired distance (⅛"–1") from stitched design on all sides and draw a line this distance from edge of design all around, staying on fabric grain line if possible. Do not cut fabric. Place stitched piece on backing fabric with right sides together and pin layers together along edge of stitched design. ***Note:*** *If desired, trim and/or hangers can be sandwiched between layers, with decorative edge to the inside.*

3. Sew around ornament along drawn line, leaving bottom of ornament open. Trim excess fabric to ¼" seam allowance. Trim corners to ⅛" seam allowance. Turn ornament to right side.

4. Stuff ornament as desired with fiberfill. Turn bottom fabric edges inside and sew the opening closed.

5. Attach desired trim and hanger.

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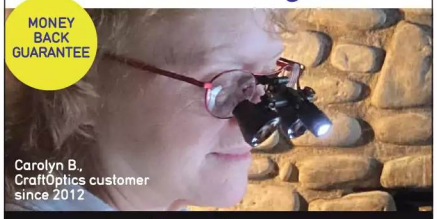

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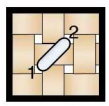
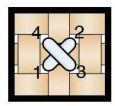


½ Cross Stitch (Aida)



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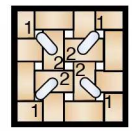
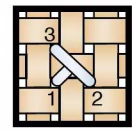
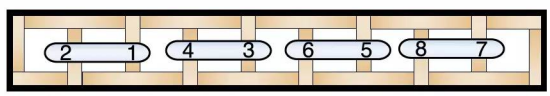


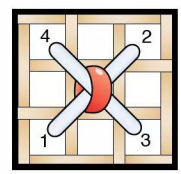
¼ Cross Stitch (Aida)



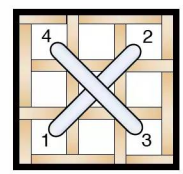
¾ Cross Stitch (Aida)



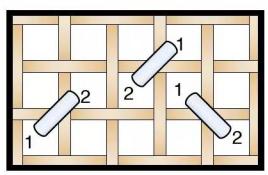
Backstitch (Over 2)



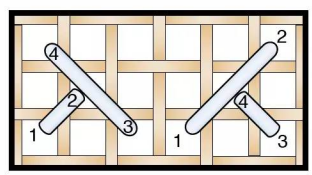
Cross Stitch with Bead (Over 2)



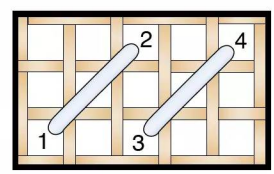
Cross Stitch (Over 2)



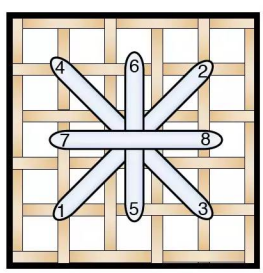
¼ Cross Stitch



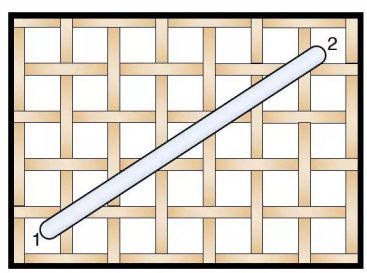
¾ Cross Stitch



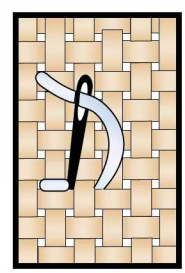
½ Cross Stitch (Over 2)



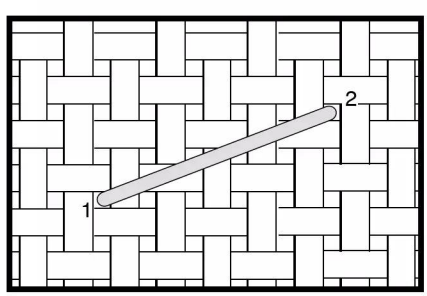
Smyrna Cross Stitch (Over 4)



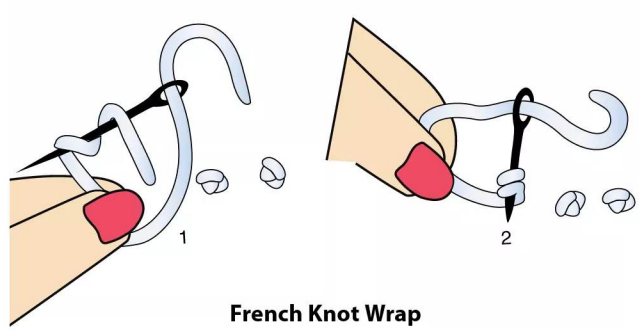
Straight/Long Stitch



Backstitch (Aida)



Straight Stitch



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Where to find it

Most framing by Stitch 'N Frame, www.stitchnframes.com.

24 Hour Crafts
www.24hourcrafts.com

Anchor
www.anchorcrafts.com/en

Annie's Craft Store
AnniesCraftStore.com

Beth Gantz Designs
www.bethgantzdesigns.com

Black Cat Stitchery
www.blackcatstitchery.com

Brylane Home
www.brylanehome.com

By Jupiter!
www.charmsbyjupiter.com

Chantelle's 141 Design Company
www.chantelles141.com

Classic Colorworks
www.classiccolorworks.com

Colonial Needle Co.
www.colonialneedle.com

Crossed Wing Collection
www.crossedwing.com

DMC Corp./Charles Craft
www.dmc.com/us

Fox and Rabbit
www.foxandrabbit.com

Frank A. Edmonds Co.
www.faedmunds.com

The Gentle Art
www.thegentleart.com

Grace Notes Fabrics
www.gracenotesfabrics.myshopify.com

Hobby Lobby
(Woodpile Fun!)
www.hobbylobby.com

Inspired Needle
www.inspiredneedle.com

It's Sew Emma
www.itssewemma.com

JTV
www.jtv.com

Lapin Loops
www.lapinloops.com

Mill Hill Beads
www.millhillbeads.com

Modern Hoopla
www.modernhoopla.co

MyLight
www.morelamplight.com

Needle In A Haystack
www.needlestack.com

Nikyscreations
www.nikyscreations.com

Paisleys & Polka Dots
www.paisleysandpolkadots.com

Picture This Plus
www.picturethisplus.com

Presencia America
(a Colonial Needle company)
www.colonialneedle.com

Rogue Stitching
(Atomic Ranch Fabrics)
www.roguestitching.com

Sassy Jacks Stitchery
www.sassyjacksstitchery.com

Sullivans USA
www.sullivansusa.net

Treenway Silks
www.treenwaysilks.com

Weeks Dye Works
www.weeksdyeworks.com

Wichelt Imports Inc.
(Mill Hill)
www.wichelt.com

Woodpeckers Crafts
www.woodpeckerscrafts.com

Zweigart
www.zweigart.de
Available in the U.S. through local and online retailers, such as www.stoneycreek.com

Editor's Note: Look for the materials used in this issue at your local needlework shop or visit each vendor's or manufacturer's website to find out where to purchase. When contacting these sources, tell them you read about them in this issue of *Just CrossStitch* magazine!

Project Gallery

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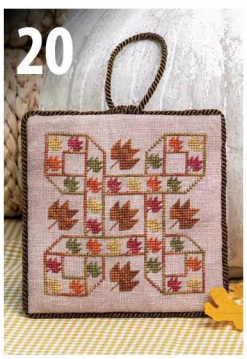
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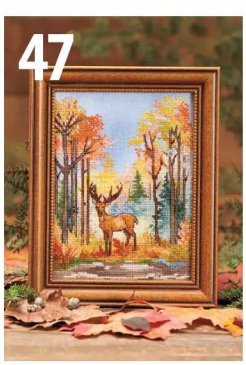
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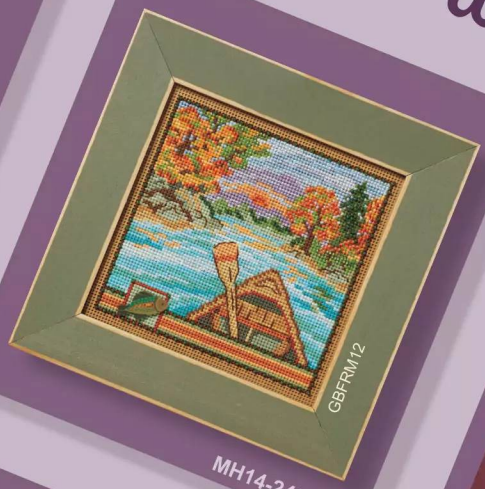

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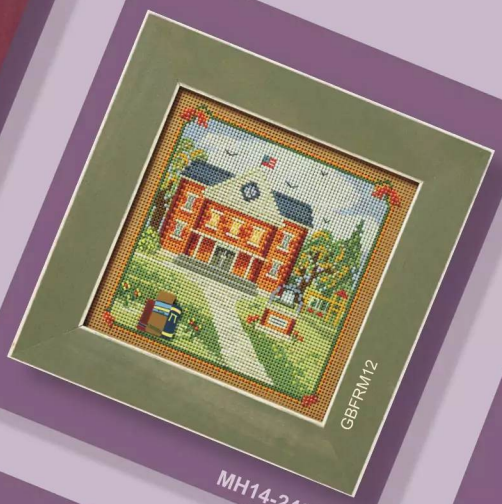

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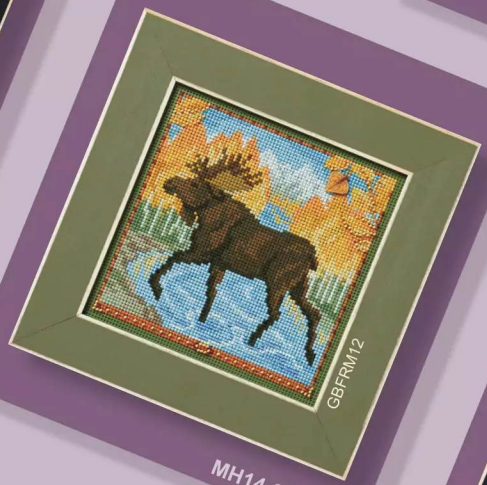

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