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The UK's No.1

THE WORLD OF Cross Stitching

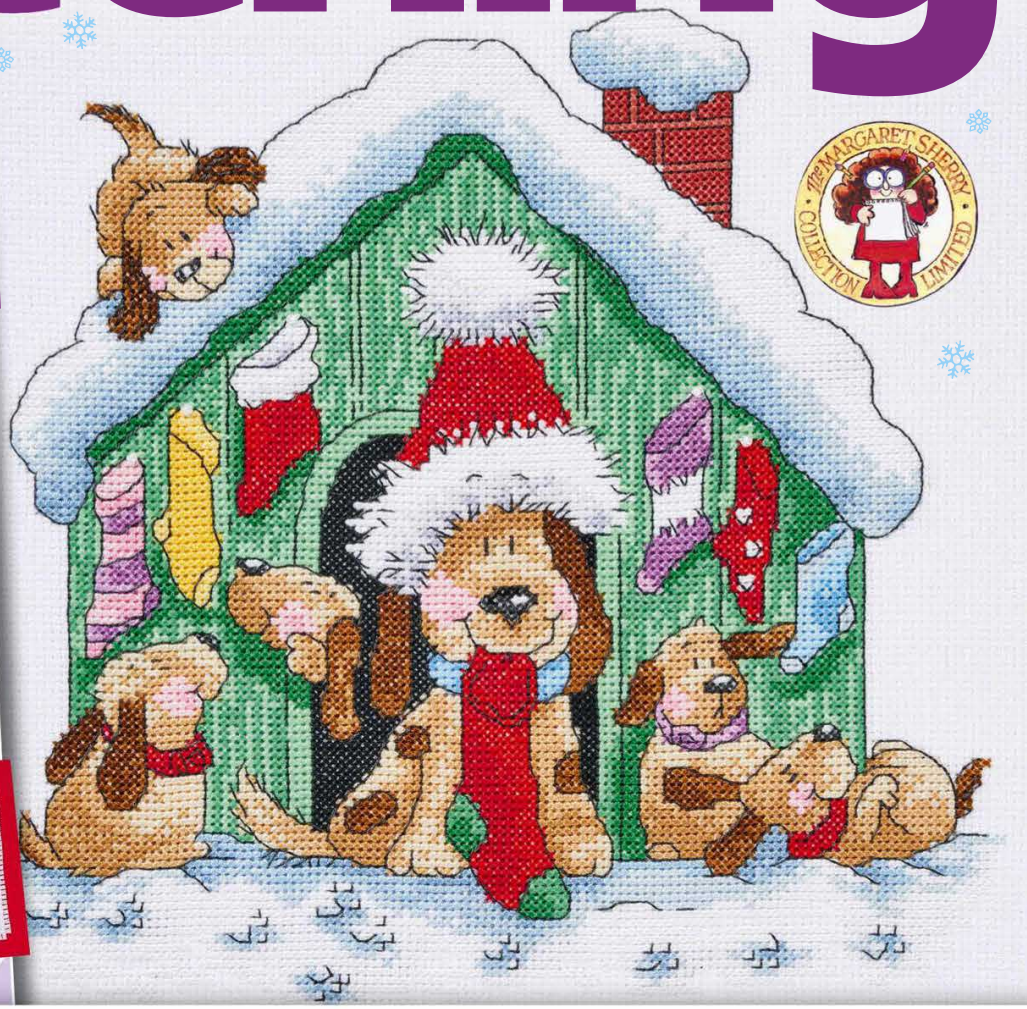
76 EASY-TO-USE CHARTS TO START TODAY

PRETTY FESTIVE TREES



PLUS CLASSIC DESIGNS





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Polar bears

A new 3D cone to stitch

A STITCHER'S CHRISTMAS LIST P.52



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Welcome

Festive preparation is in full swing by now, so whether you're still looking for **décor inspo** or some **quick-to-stitch ideas** for cards and tags, we've got you covered in this special issue.

I've had the pleasure of seeing the Northern lights in person, and I love to see them in stitch, too! This **statuesque reindeer pattern** by Amanda Butler is our Stitcher's Challenge this issue, featuring metallics and blended threads to create a beautiful finish.

For something more three-dimensional, take a look at Heather Nugent's set of **padded Christmas trees**. Once you've stitched and made up these elegant beauties, you can bring them out year after year. For the kids, Durene Jones has designed a set of signs for parties or just fun at home – send little ones searching for **Santa's Grotto** or the treat station!

This issue also features the last in our **seasonal series of mandalas** by Jenny Van de Wiele. Her wintry set features holly, pine cones and more in a pattern style that's perfect for hoop displays.



Turn the page for our full contents list, and enjoy your festive stitching!

Vicki

The World of Cross Stitching









Meet some of our designers...



MARGARET SHERRY
Artist Margaret's fun and playful illustrations are a regular feature in *WOXS* and we love to bring her cute creatures to life in our stitch charts.



CAROL THORNTON
Carol's designs often start off as a painting or sketch, which comes out in the shading and detail. You'll love her opulent card set for Christmas and beyond!



JENNY VAN DE WIELE
The design inspiration behind Homestitchness, Jenny has a warm and cosy but modern style that our readers love. Enjoy her mindful winter mandala hoop set.

STITCHING HELP!

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Don't forget to send all your stitchy questions and design requests in to us!

Email us at:
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Write to:
Ask the Experts,
The World of Cross Stitching,
Our Media Ltd,
Eagle House, Bristol
BS1 4ST

Send in queries via social media:

We will try and answer your questions as soon as we can, but if you're working to a specific deadline then do let us know!



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ISSUE 379
SPECIAL 2026

YOUR FAB GIFT!

Turn to page 8

Add some festive cuteness to the tree with these bundled up polar bears, stitched on plastic aida and turned into a 3D decoration.



Gifts available with print edition only. Overseas gift(s) may vary



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This offer is available to new UK print subscriber only and is subject to availability. Offer ends 31 December 2026.

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The World of Cross Stitching (ISSN 1460-1970, PE 015-630) is published 13 times (Monthly plus an extra issue in November) a year by Our Media, Eagle House, Colston Avenue, Bristol BS1 4ST, United Kingdom.

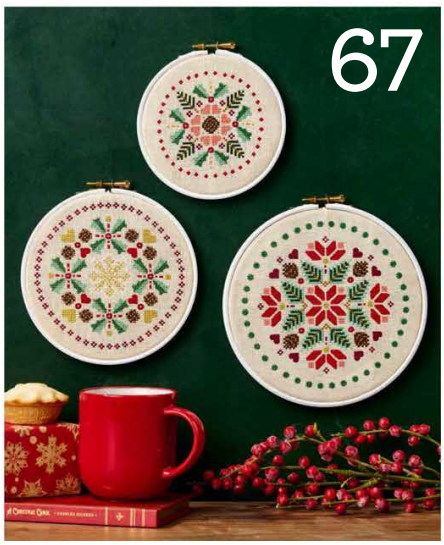
Airfreight and mailing in the USA by agent named World Container Inc., c/o BBT 150- 15, 183rd St, Jamaica, NY 11413, USA. Periodicals postage paid at Brooklyn, NY.
Postmaster: Send address changes to *The World of Cross Stitching*, c/o World Container Inc., c/o BBT 150-15, 183rd St, Jamaica, NY 11413, USA.











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CROSS STITCHING IS FOR EVERYONE!

We are *The World of Cross Stitching* and we want our magazine to reflect the world we live in. We're committed to creating content that is inclusive and celebrates the diversity of the cross stitch community. Stitching is for everyone, regardless of ethnicity, faith, culture, age, disability, sexual orientation or gender identity. We have begun work on a plan to drive meaningful change, but we know it's a work in progress. We want to listen to you, our readers. If you have any questions or thoughts, get in touch at theworldofxstitching@ourmedia.co.uk

Be on the panel!

- Get a sneak preview
- Appear in the magazine
- Receive a stitchy gift

Meet our guests

Get to know this month's reader panel, and look out for their favourite projects throughout the issue



Lorraine Phelps

is a sales assistant from Buckinghamshire

Which recent *WOXS* design have been your favourite?



I'm a big fan of all things Greek, so I absolutely loved the project titled 'Eternal Flame' – Maria Diaz's 'Greek Blessing' in issue 373 (July 2026).

Which three words describe you best?

Creative, determined, caring.

What's your current project?

I'm about to start RIOLIS' 'Cats House' because it reminds me of the cats in Corfu, which are often curled up and sleeping on steps and window ledges. As always, I'm swapping the fabric in the kit for something more sparkly.

Your idea of cross stitch heaven?

Sitting with my feet up on my reclining sofa with some music or the TV on, and some chocolate ready for when I finish stitching.



Catherine Crombie

is an exam invigilator from Lancashire

Have you got anyone you know into cross stitch?

My aunty is my successful convert. After seeing my work, she decided to have a go, and is now also addicted to the craft.

What has been your worst stitching disaster?

Walking into a room to find my cat Minnie had managed to get into my stitch folder and dragged all the threads out. It took some untangling, but she was forgiven because she's such a cutie.

Which *WOXS* design is next on your list?



Durene Jones' 'Wedding Sampler' from issue 374 (August 2026). If only this had arrived before my current stitch project! I can't wait for another wedding to come along to make this!



Arianne Koopman

is a pharmacy technician from The Netherlands

How did you start cross stitching?

I started with embroidery, made a lovely bag with flowers on it, but then I discovered cross stitch and never looked back!

What's your fave *WOXS* design from this year?



The 'Coffee & Tea Sampler' from issue 375 (September 2026). This one is on my to-do pile. I love the soft colours, the birds, and of course the coffee theme.

What's your proudest stitching moment?

I was a test stitcher for Iris of Needlelot Designs. My stitching is in her beautiful book, and I'm really proud of that.

What drives you mad about cross stitching?

Frogging. I hate when I miscount, I can't leave it. If I know there's a mistake, I have to fix it.

We need you!

Email theworldofxstitching@ourmedia.co.uk to be on the panel – tell us your name, where you're from and include a good quality photo of yourself. Every panellist gets a preview of the magazine and a gift worth at least £25!



Gift worth £29!

THANKS! This month's panel members will receive 'Candy Cloud Boutique' from Luca-S*, a festive design in a sugary colour palette that will get anyone in the mood for some seasonal stitching.

*For stockists see page 82

Furry Tales

Collect a chart from the adorable Furry Tales® family, designed by Lucie Heaton

Postmouse key

Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	blanc	2	2402	white
◣	317	400	1714	grey
♥	349	1098	212	red
◪	351	10	214	coral
◤	415	398	1802	light grey
◧	436	1045	2011	tan
◔	437	362	2012	light tan
●	725	305	113	yellow
☆	726	295	109	light yellow
◡	739	366	2014	cream
ᴡ	754	1012	305	peach
◊	907	255	1308	green
◟	948	892	306	light peach
◥	3799	236	1713	dark grey

Backstitch in one strand

—	3799	236	1713	dark grey

STITCH COUNT 39 high x 33 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 7x6cm (2¾x2¼in)



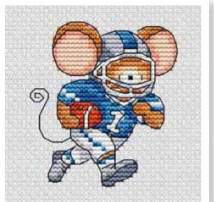
Monty is making the rounds, making sure the post during the busiest period of the year gets delivered on time – we think there'll be lots of festive greetings in those envelopes! Turn the motif into a card to pop into the letterbox.

Missed a chart?



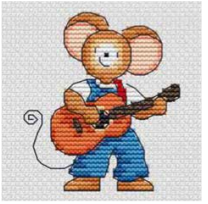
ISSUE 378

Flossie is wrapped up warm and sledging down a snowy hill!



ISSUE 377

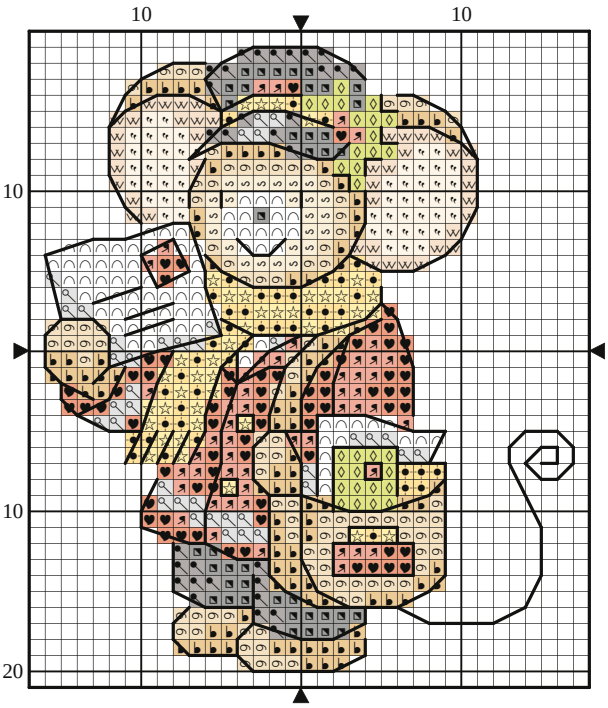
Quarterback Monty is playing a dynamic game of American football.



ISSUE 376

Strumming away on his guitar, Monty is playing a melodic tune.

For back issues, call ☎ 03330 162 137 or visit www.ourmediashop.com/world-back-issues



Your EXCLUSIVE gift!

Heather Nugent's cuddly polar bears will make a cosy addition to your tree!



Gifts available with print edition only. Overseas gift may vary.

Polar Bear Cone key

Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
w	151	73	404	pink
■	310	403	2400	black
↗	350	11	213	red
♀	725	305	113	yellow
×	738	367	2013	cream
ↄ	739	366	2014	light cream
◹	799	145	910	dark blue

Cross stitch in one strand

◠	B5200	1	2401	white
P	3752	1032	1708	blue
☾	3753	128	909	light blue

Backstitch in one strand

—	310	403	2400	black

Cutting line – not stitched

—	

STITCH COUNT 56 high x 56 wide
DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 10x10cm (4x4in)
DESIGNED BY Heather Nugent
STITCHED BY Angela Griffin

This design was stitched using stranded cotton from your coverkit. If you don't have the kit, you can still stitch this with the threads from your stash!

STITCH THE SET!



Did you know that our polar bear pair is eighth in a series of fun decoration kits that we create for our readers every year? From Santa and his reindeer to a snowman or angel! See the full collection of 3D cone characters and buy all the previous pattern PDFs so you can make the full set at www.gatheredshop.com

SCAN ME

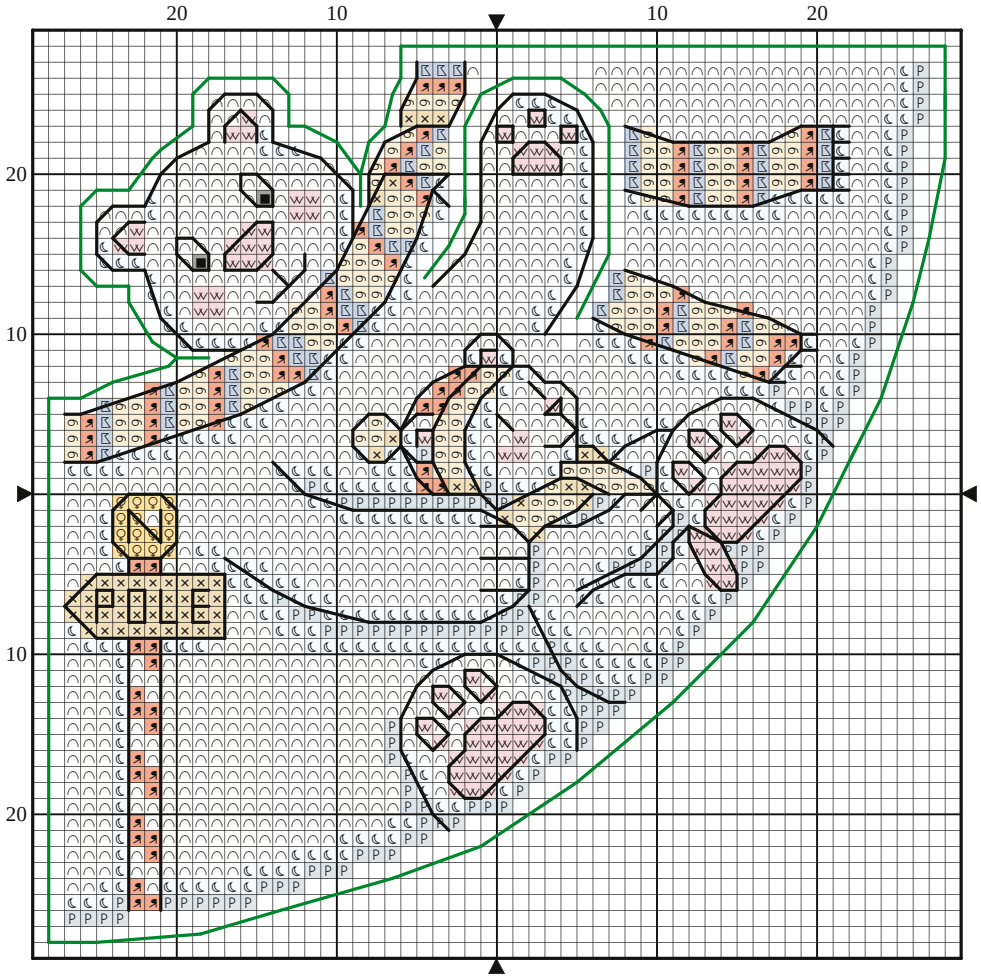
Scan the QR code to buy the full bundle for £12.50!

How to... make your polar bear cone

1 Use a ruler to find the centre of the plastic aida and start stitching the centre of the design from there.
2 Once you've finished stitching, use sharp scissors to cut a border around the edge of the stitched design, following the green cutting line on the chart as a guide. Be careful not to snip into any holes containing stitches.
3 Use a craft knife to carefully cut around the bear's arm, following the cutting line as a guide.
4 Bend the plastic aida to line up the straight edges. The arm should remain poking out straight at the sides.
5 Starting at the bottom of the bear's body, use two strands of white thread to whipstitch the edges together. Secure the thread off on the reverse when you reach the top.
6 Create a loop with your baker's twine and tie the ends together in a double knot. Attach to the back of the bear's head with a few stitches in white thread to secure in place.
7 Now hang on your Christmas tree!



TOP TIP
Pay careful attention to strand amounts in the key to ensure you don't run out of thread in your kit



Inside your kit

Here are the colours and number of lengths of thread

Pink x2
Black x3
Red x2
Yellow x1
Cream x2
Light cream x3
Dark blue x2
White x6
Blue x2
Light blue x3
Total: 26 lengths

Factbox

- **Stitching Time** Approx. 10 hours
- **Type of Stitches** Cross stitch, half cross stitch, backstitch
- **Ease of Stitching** Beginner

DESIGNED BY **MARGARET SHERRY**

Puppies & presents

Wish them happy howl-idays with these adorable dogs – they're hanging up their stockings ready for the big day!

Christmas is the time for us to spend with our family, and that also includes our four-legged friends. If you have a canine companion you want to celebrate this season, or know someone who loves dogs, then Margaret Sherry's pups decorating a kennel will be sure to delight!

This fun character design includes a lot of bright and bold colours against a wintry white background, with white stitches on the ground to give the textured appearance of snow. You could also stitch the design on ice blue aida for a frosty feel. While it is mostly whole stitches, be mindful of the few fractionals used for shaping, along with beads to imitate the pins on the stockings.

Go the extra mile by stitching the larger dog on its own to turn into a matching card or tag – he's a proper Santa Paws, isn't he?! ➤

Factbox

Fun with seed beads

- **Stitching Time**
  Approx. 50 hours
- **Type of Stitches**
  Cross stitch, fractionals, backstitch, beads
- **Ease of Stitching**
  Intermediate



Meet Margaret Sherry

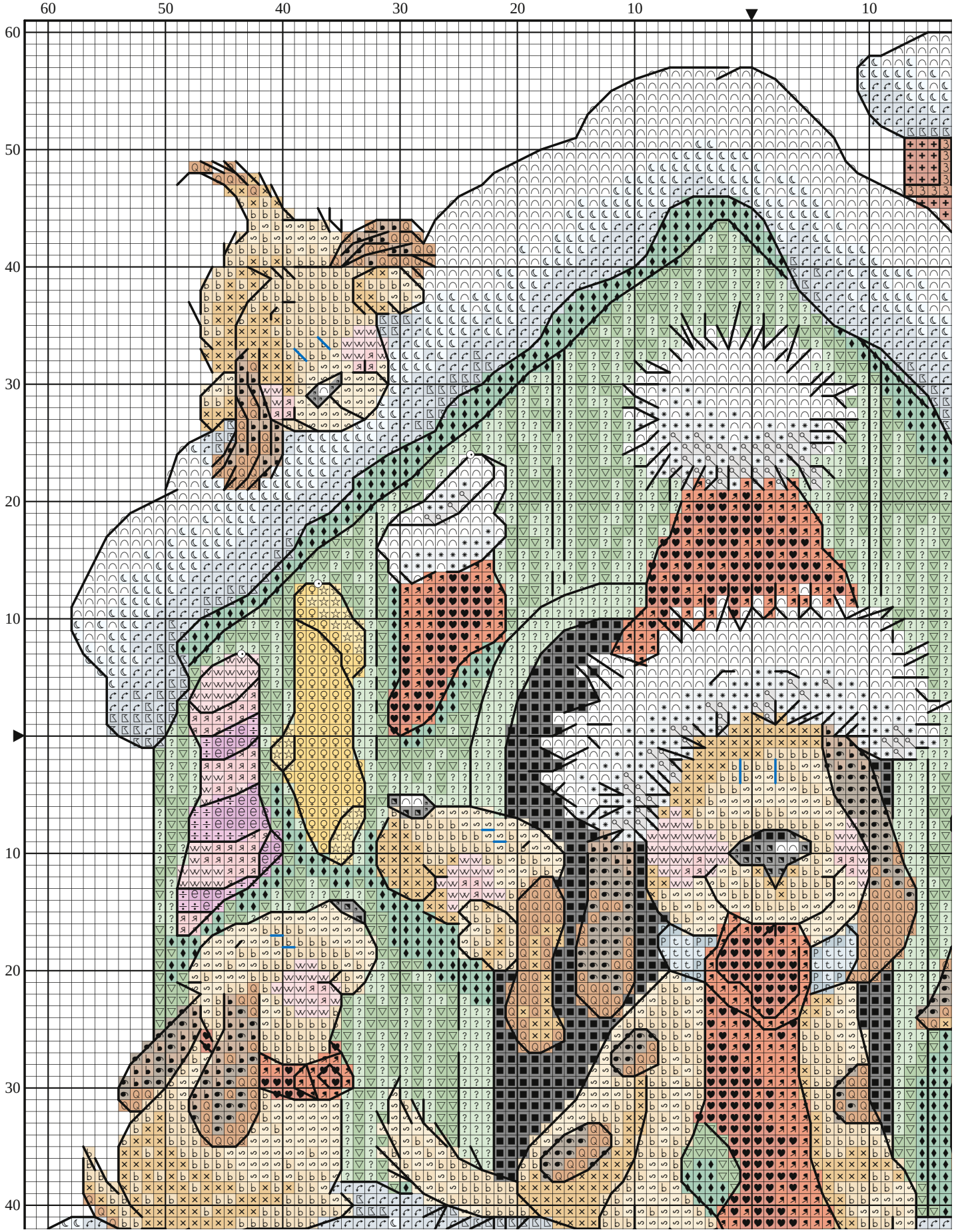
Margaret Sherry's artwork continues to be translated into cross stitch for us all to enjoy. With their cheery, smiley faces and warm personalities, her much-loved characters make delightful pictures to stitch and gift.

www.facebook.com/margaretsherrycollection

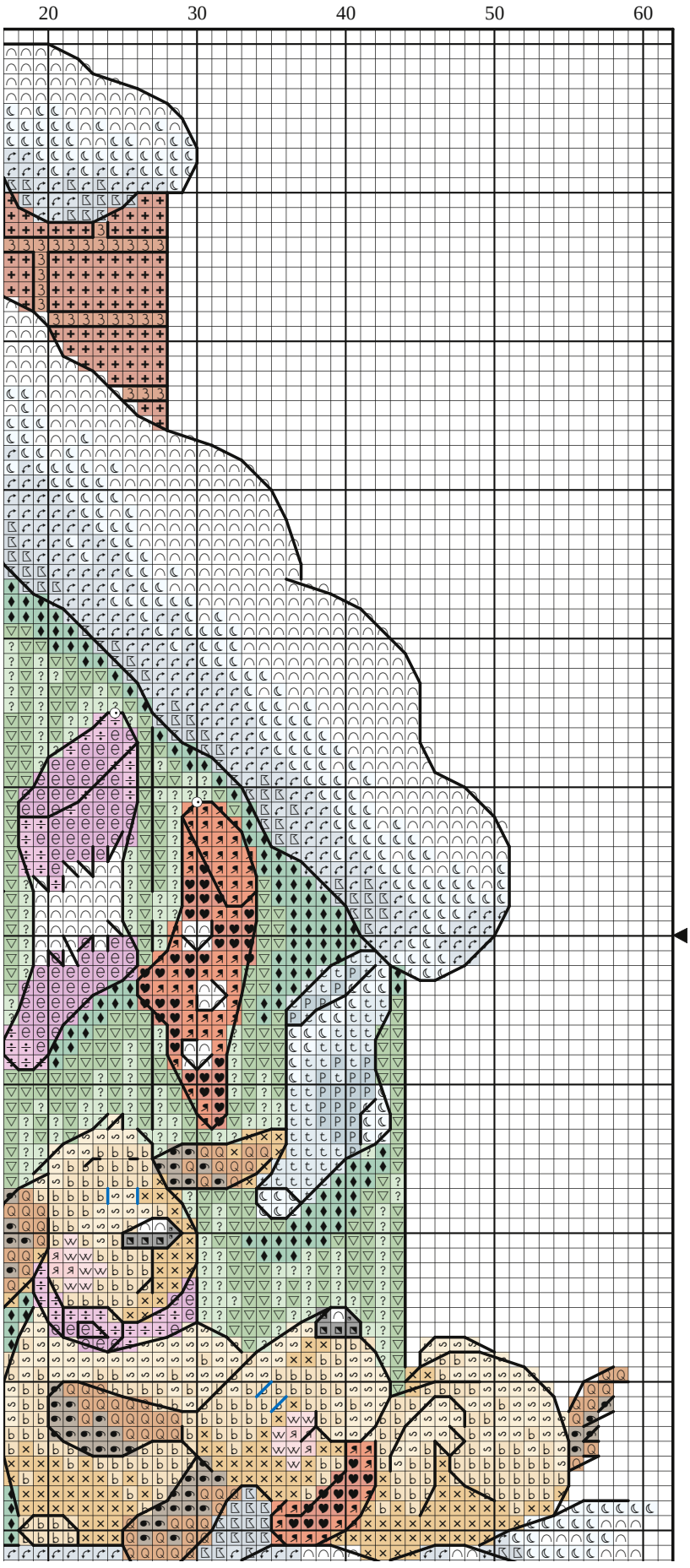


EXCLUSIVE TO THE WORLD OF Cross Stitching





Christmas Kennel chart (top left)



Christmas Kennel chart (top right)

Christmas Kennel key

Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	blanc	2	2402	white
■	310	403	2400	black
♥	321	9046	510	dark red
3	356	1013	2502	terracotta
↖	415	398	1802	grey
◕	433	357	2602	dark tan
Q	434	310	2009	tan
×	436	1045	2011	light tan
b	437	362	2012	very light tan
e	553	98	712	mauve
÷	554	90	711	light mauve
↗	666	46	210	red
s	739	366	2014	cream
♀	743	302	113	yellow
☆	744	301	112	light yellow
*	762	234	1804	light grey
b	801	359	2007	brown
P	813	140	910	blue
t	827	160	1013	light blue
♦	910	228	1302	dark green
▽	912	209	1213	green
K	932	1033	1710	delft blue
?	954	203	1207	light green
w	963	73	502	light pink
я	3716	25	503	pink
↱	3752	1032	1708	light delft blue
☾	3753	128	909	baby blue
◥	3799	236	1713	charcoal grey
+	3830	5975	401	light terracotta

Backstitch in one strand

—	3799	236	1713	charcoal grey

Backstitch in two strands

—	3799	236	1713	charcoal grey

Mill Hill seed beads

⊙	00479			white

STITCH COUNT 120 high x 122 wide

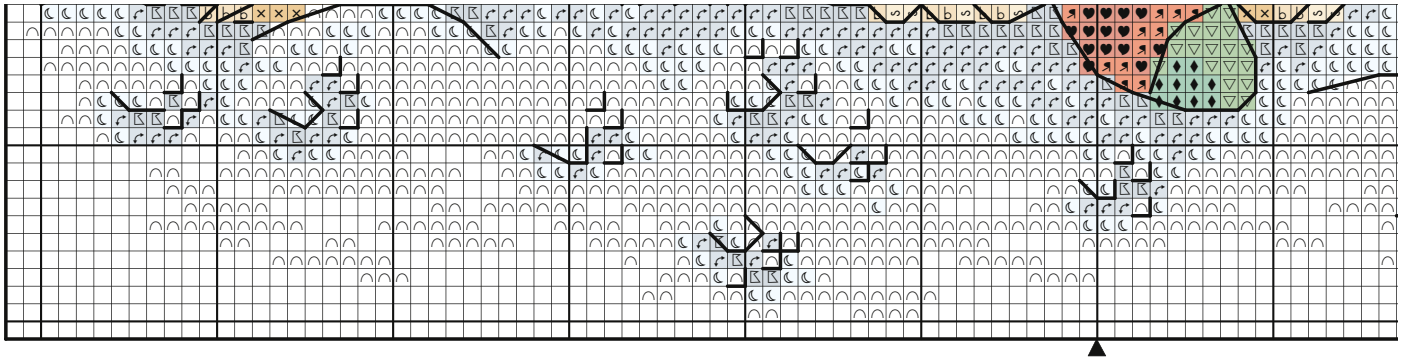
DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 22x22cm (8½x8¾in)

EXTRA SKEINS NEEDED **2xblanc** (white)

ILLUSTRATION CONVERTED BY Fiona Baker

STITCHED BY Lisa Draycott

This design was stitched using DMC stranded cotton and Mill Hill seed beads

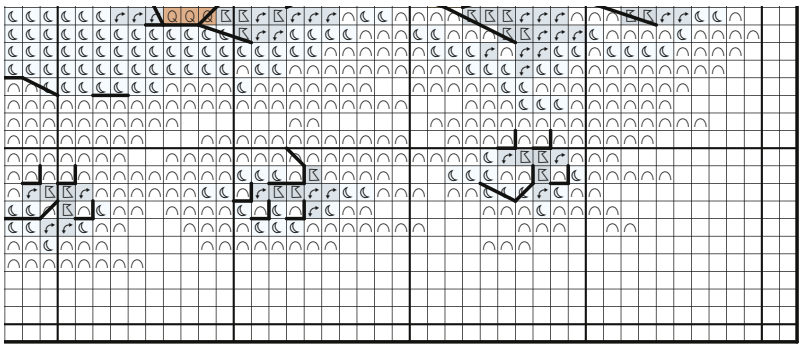


Christmas Kennel chart (bottom left)

Shopping list

- Zweigart* 14-count white aida measuring 45x45cm (18x18in)
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Mill Hill* seed beads as listed in the key
- Size 24 tapestry needle; beading needle
- Stretched canvas of your choice measuring 25x25cm (10x10in)

*For stockists see page 82



Christmas Kennel chart (bottom right)



TOP TIP

Ensure your fabric is big enough to finish off for display by adding a 10cm border around the canvas size



Catherine

READER PANEL

"Aww, what an adorable design! This project is so cute, with all the little doggies wrapped up warm and getting ready for Christmas – how can you resist them? Some of the pups also remind me of my friends' pooches."

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Coloris Threads £28

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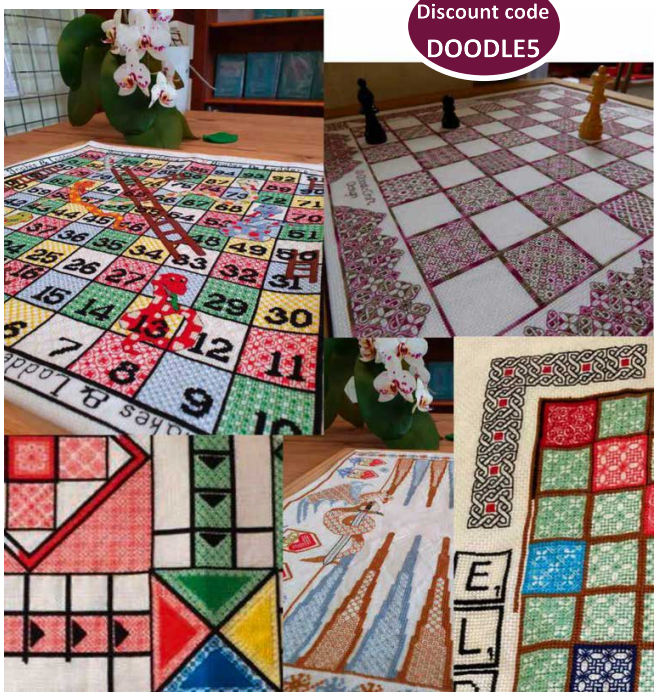
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Get the complete project packs for your favourite **The World of Cross Stitching** designs every issue!*

We are providing **project packs** containing the fabric, threads and other accessories needed to complete the charts from the magazine – all delivered to your door! It's so much quicker and easier than searching for each product you need individually.

Visit **www.lakesideneedlecraft.co.uk** to order your project pack and get stitching right away!

*Magazine charts are not included







Every letter writer gets a prize!

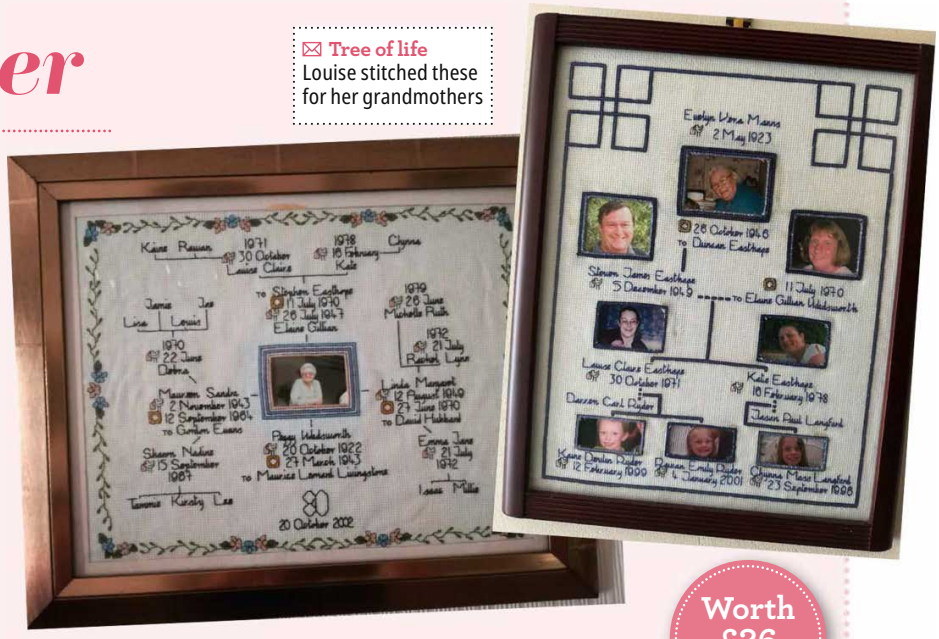
Your letters

We always love to see your stitches (and smiles!), so do send the team your photos, letters and tips today!



Star Letter

Tree of life
Louise stitched these for her grandmothers



TREE OF LIFE

Over twenty years ago, I stitched a family tree for my maternal grandmother's 80th birthday. She loved it so much that I made one for my paternal grandmother's 80th the following year. We lost my paternal grandmother a few years later and her tree came back to me. The other one took pride of place on my maternal grandmother's wall until she passed recently, aged 101, when it came back to me.

Now both trees hang on my wall in memory of my beloved grandmothers, and I'm working on an addition to include all the new members of the family who have arrived in the past 20 years. In addition to her three daughters and seven granddaughters, there are now 19 great-grandchildren, countless great-great-grandchildren, and even some great-great-great-grandchildren, so it could take a while!

Louise Easthope, via email

Vicki: *What a wonderful way to commemorate your grandmothers, and your wider family. I love how you've created heirlooms that are sure to be passed down through the generations.*

Win!

Worth £26



Our star letter writer will win 'Toto in the Snow' from the Genny Hained collection, and a fat quarter piece of 14-count 'Snow on Blue' aida by Fabric Flair from Goldleaf Needlework*.

MORE: **For more details visit www.goldleafneedlework.co.uk**



Special delivery
Kathryn's cards are adorned with Christmas cuties!

SPECIAL DELIVERY

These are the Christmas cards I've made this year. The cat hanging from the tree is for my partner, Mark, and the penguin card for my friend Claire. It didn't take too long to stitch them, and the bits I found the most difficult were using metallic threads as they are not as flexible and easy to split. The words on the cat card should have been metallic, but I did them in red thread instead.

Kathryn Smith, via email

Sienna: *These cards are fab, Kathryn. I especially love the Margaret Sherry cat, as I'm a big fan of her designs. Perhaps you could use one of the dogs in Margaret's project this issue for a card next year? I know what you mean about metallic threads – they can definitely be tricky to work with. It can help to use shorter lengths and to coat them with thread conditioner, too.*

*For stockists see page 82

WRITE TO US AT: **Letters, The World of Cross Stitching, Our Media Ltd, Eagle House, Bristol BS1 4ST**

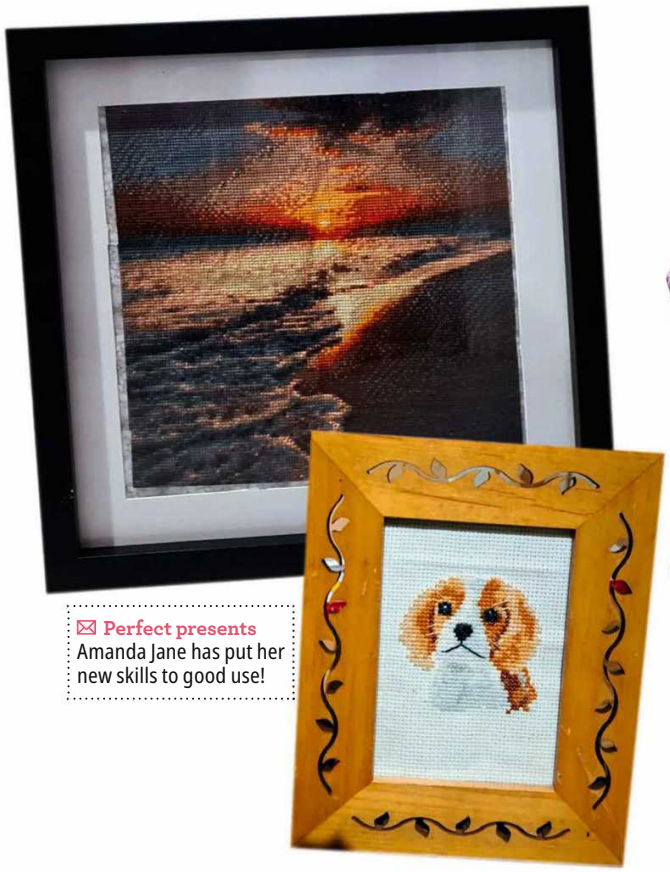
Perfect presents

About 18 months ago, I decided to subscribe to your magazine and what a pleasure it has been. Thank you for brilliant content and easy-to-follow charts, as well as a monthly gift.

Aside from making the charming gifts, I decided to make my brothers and their families a cross stitch Christmas present, as well as their main present. One is an almost portrait of their dog, while the other is a beach sunset for the other brother who runs a beachside cafe in St Davids, Pembrokeshire. I'm pretty new to this craft, so the larger project was a pre-printed cloth and the other a counted cross stitch. Hope that's not cheating!

Amanda Jane Davies, via email

Vicki: *Absolutely not cheating, Amanda! Your brothers are sure to love them.*



✉ **Perfect presents**
Amanda Jane has put her new skills to good use!

Button beauty



✉ **Button beauty**
Biscornu are eight-pointed ornamental cushions

These are some biscornus I have made. You will see some of them are charts from your magazine, such as the 'Tree Tuffet' from issue 183, while the snowflake is from *Cross Stitch Gold* issue 133.

I stitched the biscornus about 10 years ago now, but only made them up (stitched the two sides together, put the stuffing in and added the buttons) this year.

I like to stitch biscornus because I think they are something a little different, especially with their shape, and I get to use buttons too.

Elizabeth Redhead, Lincolnshire

Fiona: *I love biscornus too, Elizabeth. There's something so satisfying about the shape!*

FESTIVE FINISHING TOUCH



✉ **Festive finishing touch**
Kath combined crochet and stitching in her scarf

I was about to go away for a week when issue 366 (Special 2025) came through my door. I had been looking for something to wear to our Christmas lunch and landed on an idea. I quickly scrabbled together the bits I needed and this was the result.

First, I crocheted the scarf and holly leaves, then cross stitched the Nativity figures using plastic canvas. It certainly was a challenge as I had to tweak bits to fit and with the many colour changes, sometimes only one stitch. I even turned a camel and king the other way round, but I so enjoyed doing it. I then backed them with felt and sewed on some ribbon with invisible threads to tie them to the scarf. The result? A scarf to complement my outfit, loved by all.

Kath Beckinsale, via email

Claire: *This has to be one of the most inventive uses of our charts that I've ever seen, Kath! I'm sure this special Christmas scarf will get lots of compliments every year.*

EMAIL US AT: theworldofxstitching@ourmedia.co.uk or like our Facebook page: The World of Cross Stitching

JOLLY JUMPERS

This Christmas project has been waiting a while to be completed. I started stitching these about seven years ago, but left a partly-stitched one behind on a plane and was so gutted that I set the project aside. This year I finally resumed it, and am delighted with the result.

I always start Christmas cards early, to make sure I have enough time to get them done. I chose to do these as they are so fun and colourful, and I liked the ideas of little hangers and pegs. The larger jumpers took quite some time, but I interspersed them with the smaller ones, which were much easier and quicker.

Irena Rattray, via email

Hannah: *I remember this wonderful set by Rhona Norrie (*Cross Stitch Favourites *issue 31). They were worth the wait and I'm sure they'll bring the lucky recipients lots of festive joy!*



✉ Jolly jumpers
Irena took seven years to complete this cute set

Season's greetings

I took early retirement a couple of years ago and started making my free kits into cards. The cards in the photo below are from the chart book from issue 183 (December 2011), though I altered the colours a little. The decorations were from a kit I had already, and I changed the colours a little as well. I have stitched for over 40 years and do a lot of large projects, but really enjoyed doing these.

Sue Lennox, via email

Sienna: *You're being very productive in your retirement, Sue! Happy stitching.*



✉ Season's greetings
Sue enjoys making cards from her magazine kits



TIME TO CELEBRATE



✉ Time to celebrate
Lesley gifted this festive clock to her sister-in-law

Here is my recently finished Twelve Days of Christmas clock from issue 352 (December 2024). Each piece took me about 30 hours to complete with gaps in between. I found the pattern easy to stitch, apart from the French knots, and I was quite anxious if they would all meet up at the end. My sister-in-law loves anything Christmassy and was absolutely delighted when I presented the clock to her. She looks after her granddaughter and told me she was singing the song to her, but forgot some of the lines, so now this reminds her of the correct sequence.

Lesley Malkin, Spalding, Lincoln

Fiona: *It's great how this fabulously festive clock can help your sister-in-law get the days of the song in the right order!*

SEND US YOUR NEWS

Don't forget to send all your letters and photos in to us!

Email us at:
theworldofxstitching@ourmedia.co.uk

or write to:
***The World of Cross Stitching*, Our Media Ltd, Eagle House, Bristol BS1 4ST**

Get in touch on Facebook, too! Each letter printed only in *The World of Cross Stitching* and not in any other cross stitching magazines will win a crafty mystery prize!

WRITE TO US AT: **Letters, The World of Cross Stitching, Our Media Ltd, Eagle House, Bristol BS1 4ST**

Christmas ready at Lakeside

Stock up for your festive stitching and more at ***Lakeside Needlecraft***

Lakeside Needlecraft has become a favourite online destination for cross stitch enthusiasts, offering a huge range of fabrics, threads, charts and accessories for stitchers of all abilities. Owner Kate Worthington knew that the festive season had started when their Christmas card fabric packs were being added to orders. Each pack contains four festive fabrics, available in either aida or evenweave, with a surprise selection of designs that are perfect for handmade cards and gifts!

Christmas prep at the company begins early, with the team stocking up on products that stitchers return for year after year, including DMC's sparkling Étoile threads. They're especially popular for cards and projects that need extra shimmer.

Behind the scenes, Lakeside is a close-knit team of five, with Kate's son and daughter pitching in during the busiest periods, helping to keep things running smoothly.

If you're stitching handmade cards, decorations and gifts this year, now is the perfect time to gather supplies. Take a look to see what you fancy for your own wishlist too – a subscription to their Fabric and Thread clubs, or a very handy gift card (from £5 to £100).

With festive fabrics, sparkling threads and plenty of inspiration on offer, Lakeside is ready to help make Christmas 2026 a wonderfully creative one. ✖



Added sparkle!
Pick from the full range of DMC Étoile threads

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Busy season!
Kate and team are all ready with Christmas deliveries!

Festive shopping

Everything you need for some Christmas retail therapy!



Get your hands on the latest kits and goodies from Bothy Threads



Pick up a Mini Trimit kit for quick crafts or fun stocking fillers!



Enjoy beautiful new snowscape prints from Fabric Flair!

DESIGNED BY **AMANDA BUTLER**

Winter wonder

Stitch this breathtaking wildlife portait of a reindeer amongst the mesmerising Northern Lights

Seeing the Northern Lights can be one of life's most memorable experiences. If you want to preserve that memory, or feel inspired to bring this stunning natural phenomenon into your home, then this portrait is the one for you to stitch this season!

This magnificent scene is worked on opalescent, pearl flecked linen – this creates a sparkly and textured effect in the unstitched areas of snow. Metallic threads are then used to enhance the glittering feel of the piece. Although fairly large and densely worked, the colours can be worked in blocks to minimise colour changes – see page 24 for some advice on how to do this.

We displayed the piece in a silver frame with purple mount to coordinate with the shades of the aurora, but it would also work in a white frame, or as a cushion. ➤

Factbox

A labour of love

- **Stitching Time** Approx. 80 hours
- **Type of Stitches** Cross stitch, fractionals, backstitch, beads
- **Ease of Stitching** Intermediate



Meet Amanda Butler

"The Northern Lights have always been fascinating to me, so this project was particularly wonderful to design. It's rare to get an opportunity to see them in real life, especially in the UK, so stitching them as part of this breathtaking scene is the next best thing!"

www.AmandaJButlerDesigns.etsy.com

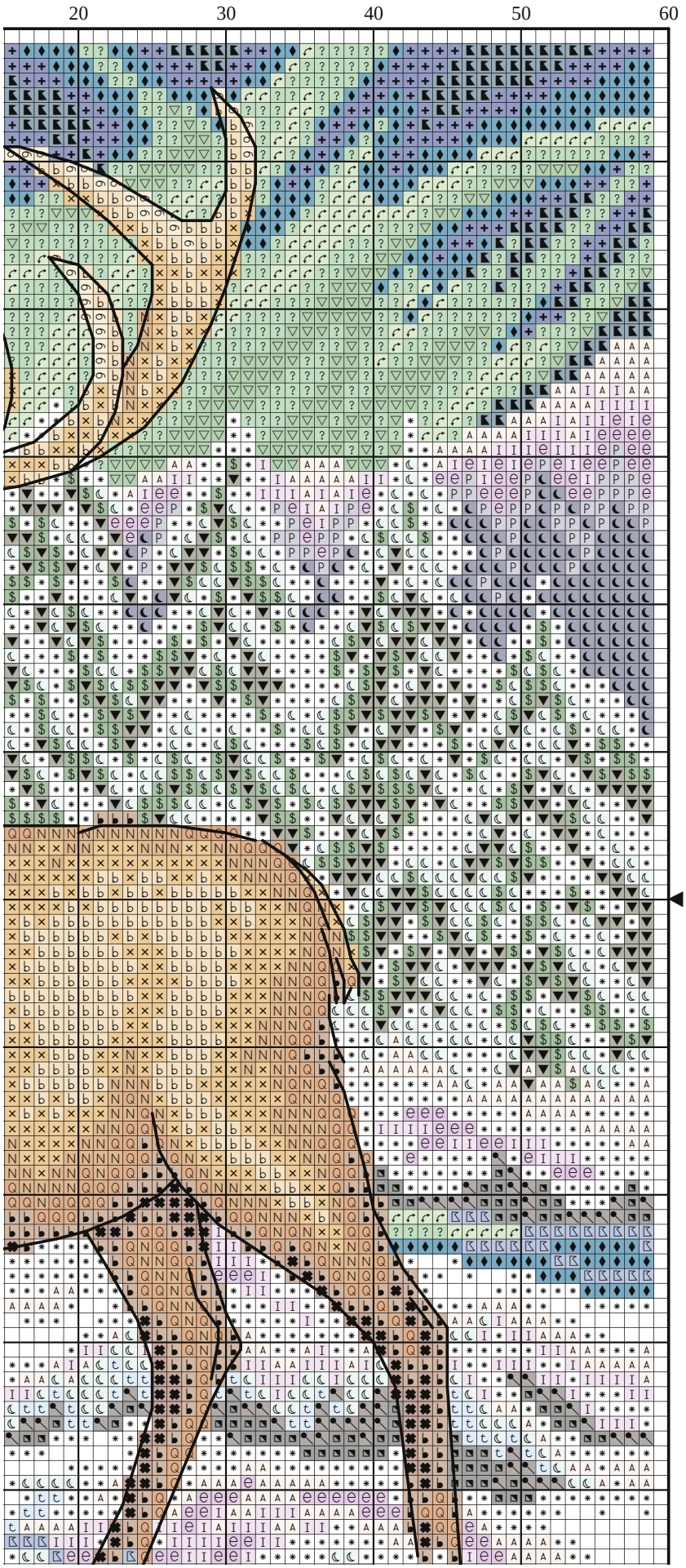


THE WORLD OF Cross Stitching
STITCHER'S CHALLENGE





Northern Lights Reindeer chart (top left)



Northern Lights Reindeer chart (top right)

Northern Lights Reindeer key

Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
P	160	939	906	lt lavender blue
☾	161	122	910	lavender blue
e	209	98	803	lilac
I	211	342	801	light lilac
◥	317	400	1714	grey
◺	334	977	1004	blue
Q	434	310	2009	dark tan
N	435	1046	2010	tan
×	436	1045	2011	light tan
b	437	362	2012	very light tan
ɔ	739	366	2014	cream
☾	775	1031	1001	sky blue
◣	801	359	2007	brown
A	819	271	501	pink
+	824	143	1010	dark marine blue
◆	825	162	1011	marine blue
▼	890	683	1314	bottle green
▽	911	205	1214	dark green
?	913	204	1212	green
◣	939	152	1009	navy
◜	955	206	1210	light green
$	986	246	1404	forest green
t	3325	129	907	light blue
✖	3371	382	2004	dark brown
◹	3799	236	1713	dark grey

Cross stitch in two strands DMC Light Effects

*	E5200			metallic white

Backstitch in one strand

—	3371	382	2004	dark brown

Backstitch in one strand DMC Light Effects

—	E5200			metallic white

Mill Hill seed beads

●	00557			gold

STITCH COUNT 117 high x 117 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 21x21cm (8¼x8¼in)

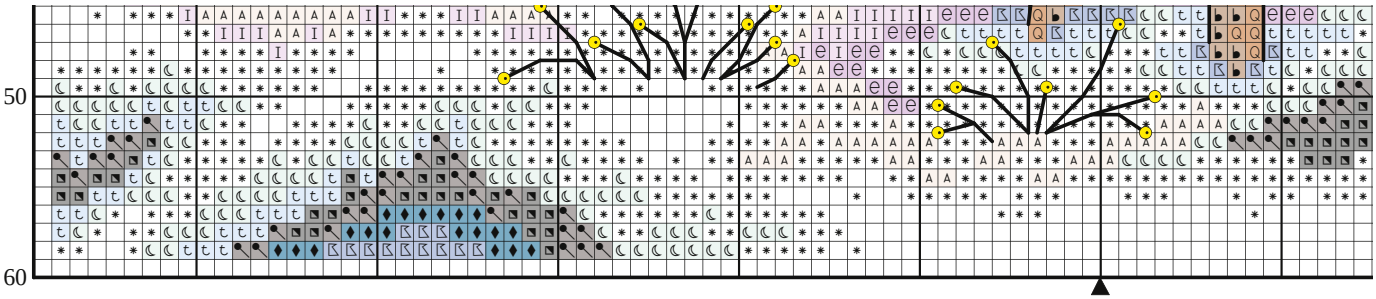
EXTRA SKEINS NEEDED **2xE5200** (metallic white)

STITCHED BY Karen Purnell

This design was stitched using DMC stranded cotton, DMC Light Effects and Mill Hill seed beads on 28-count linen over two threads of the fabric

TOP TIP

You could leave off some of the white snow stitches for extra sparkle from the fabric showing through

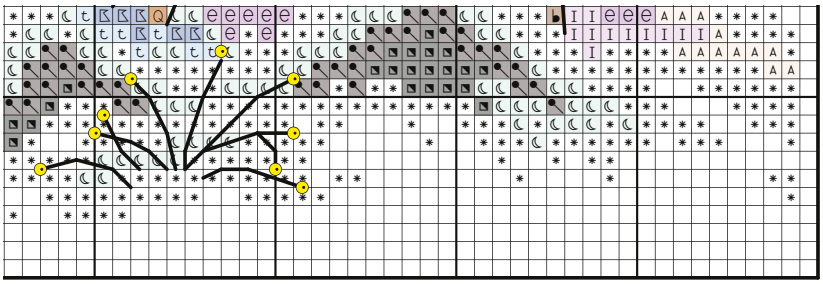


Northern Lights Reindeer chart (bottom left)

Shopping list

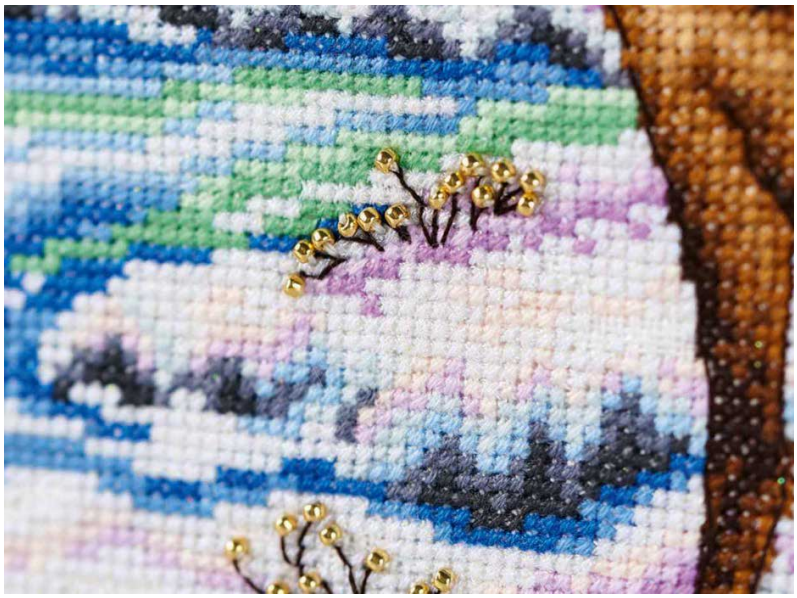
- Zweigart* 28-count opalescent pearl flecked snow (1111) cashel linen measuring 36x36m (14x14in)
- Stranded cotton and metallic thread as listed in the key
- Mill Hill* seed beads as listed in the key
- Size 24 tapestry needle; beading needle
- Frame and mount of your choice with a minimum aperture of 21x21cm (8¼x8¼in)

*For stockists see page 82



Northern Lights Reindeer chart (bottom right)





How to... to approach this large design

Some stitchers prefer to work a colour at a time, while others like to work several colours alongside each other, 'parking' their threaded needles when not in use. Either way, with larger and densely stitched designs like this one, gridding fabric into 10x10 squares can help keep track of progress and prevent mistakes.

Pick a long, contrasting coloured tacking thread, and work a line of long stitches at horizontal and vertical 10x10 stitch intersections across your design area on the fabric. These are easy to remove afterwards by snipping through the lengths and gently pulling them out.

If you do start to spot errors, have a break from your project as you may be suffering from tired eyes. Stitching in natural daylight or using a daylight bulb and magnifier will help too.

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Christmas Gnomes

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Woolwarehouse I woolwarehouse.co.uk
Stitchtastic I www.stitchtastic.com

DESIGNED BY **DURENE JONES**

Road to Christmas

Direct your guests towards the festive fun with these colourful signs, designed with stand-out typography

If you're the type to host Christmas parties, or just want to make your home into a festive wonderland for the little ones, then Durene Jones' bright and bold signs will definitely point you in the right direction towards the spirit of the holidays.

Whether you stitch your favourite or all three, this is a great project for beginners as each design uses only whole stitch and backstitch. They're made with perforated PVC, which is similar to working with perforated paper, but it's more rigid and hard wearing. It's usually resistant to tearing but can easily be cut using scissors or a craft knife. We suggest using three strands for cross stitch for fuller coverage, then backing your sign with white card.

Stick them onto a wall, attach ribbon to the sign to turn into a hanging, or use a stick to make your signs stand upright. ➤

Factbox

Mostly whole stitches

- **Stitching Time**
  Approx. 10-20 hours each
- **Type of Stitches**
  Cross stitch, backstitch
- **Ease of Stitching**
  Beginner



Meet Durene Jones

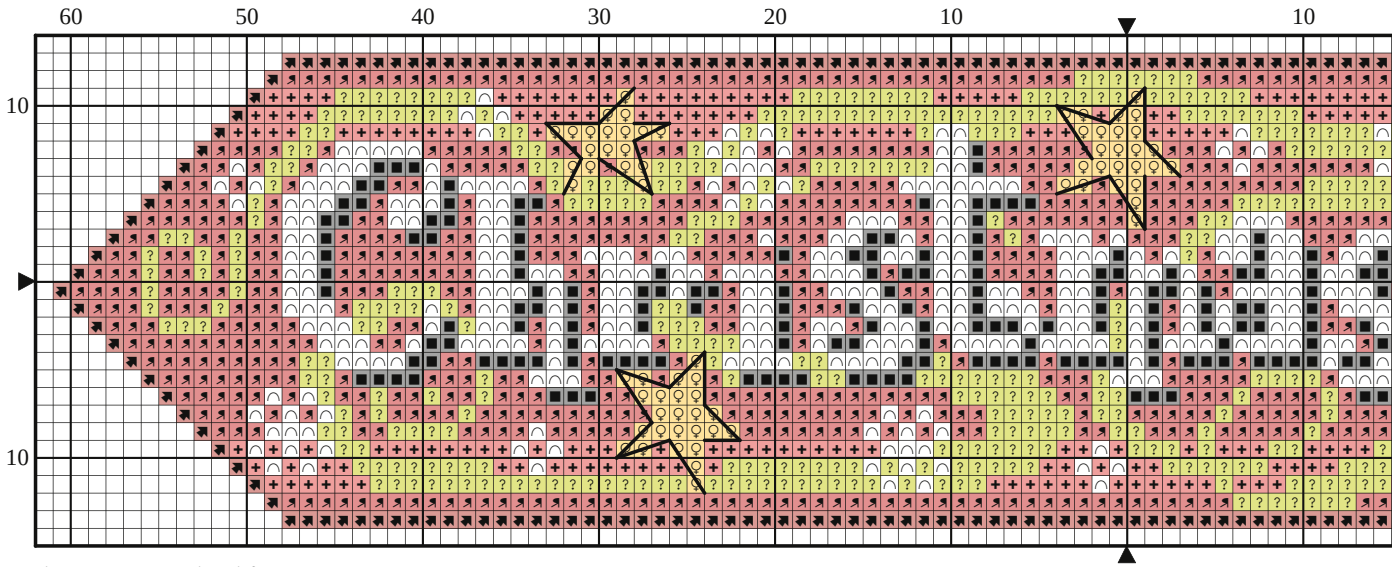
"I loved designing these signs! I thought it was such an unique commission – definitely not like any I've done previously, but such a great idea. The bright, bold Christmas colours and fun layouts are used to point you towards where you want to go!"

www.DureneJCrossStitch.etsy.com

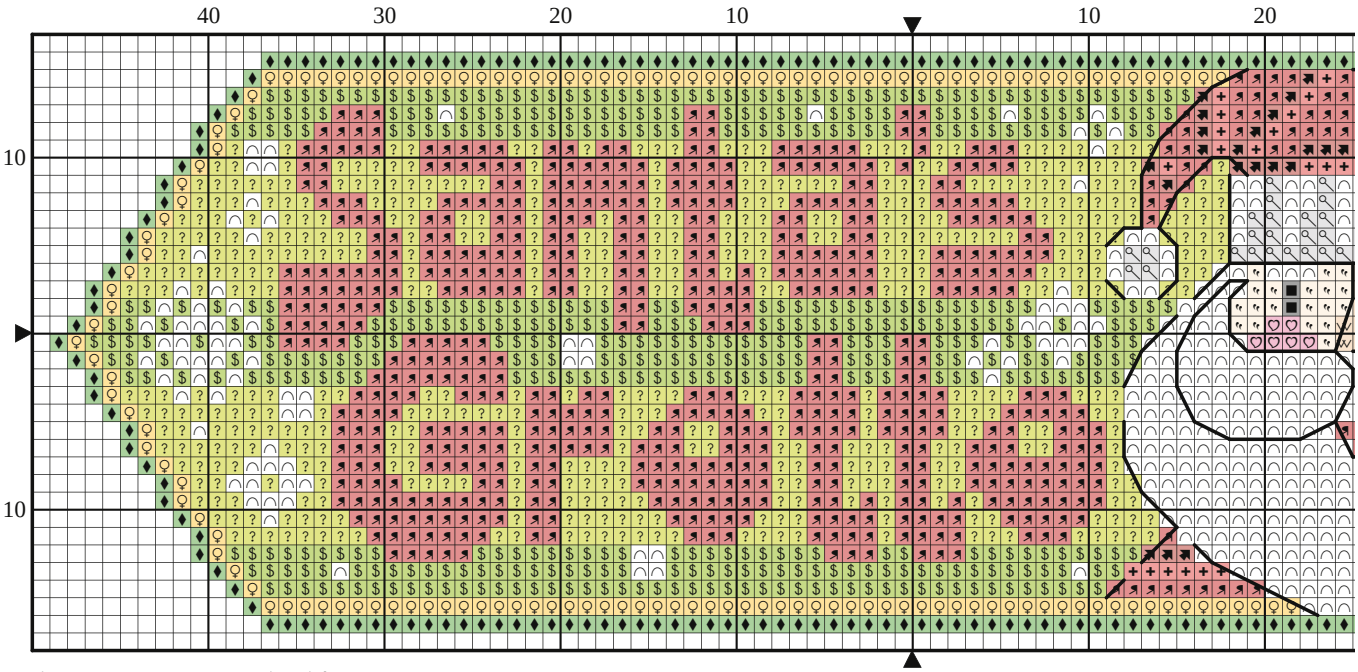


FAB FESTIVE MAKE

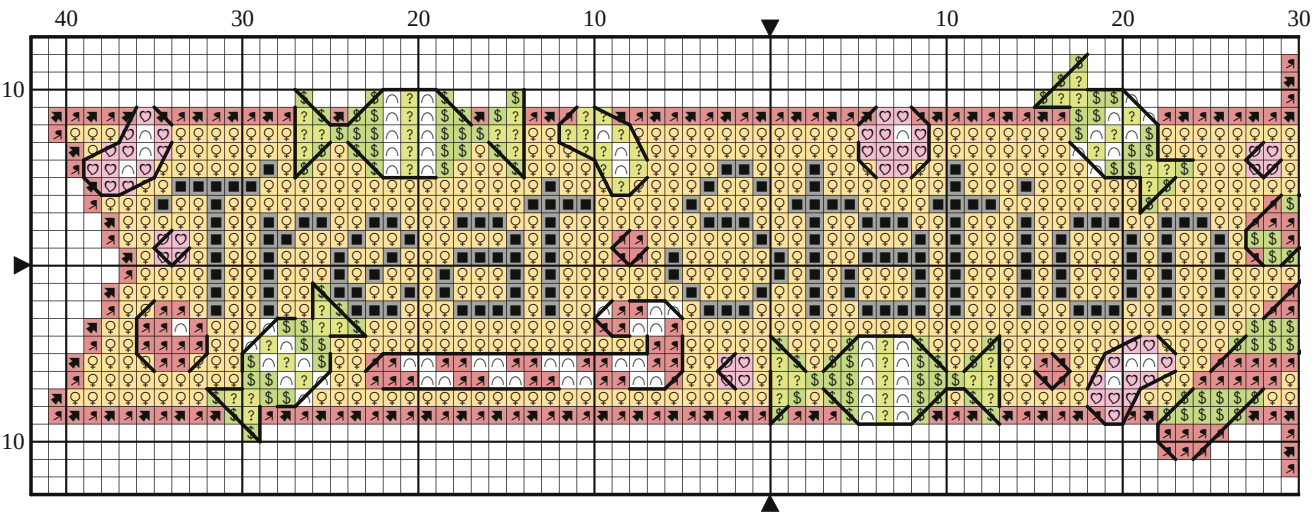




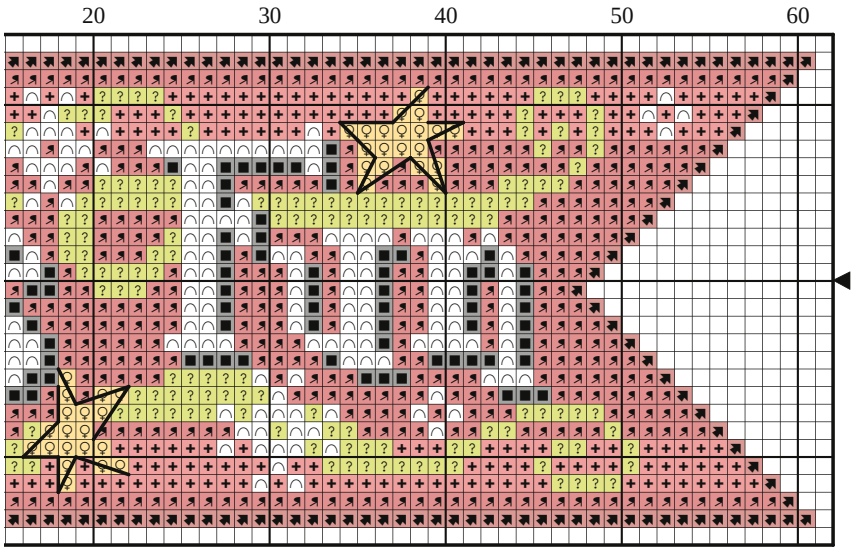
Christmas Signs 'Fun' chart (left)



Christmas Signs 'Santa's Grotto' chart (left)



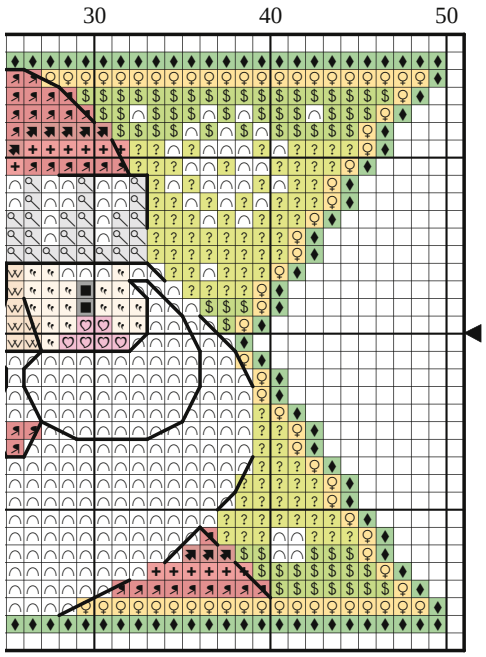
Christmas Signs 'Treat Station' chart (left)



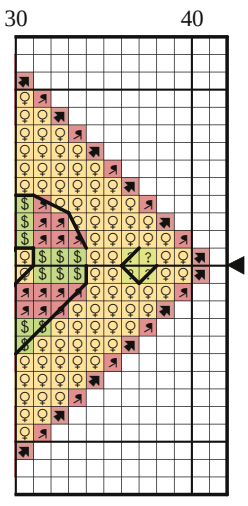
Christmas Signs 'Fun' chart (right)

TOP TIP

Be extra careful cutting out perforated PVC as the edges can be sharp and easy to catch – round off the corners for a smooth finish

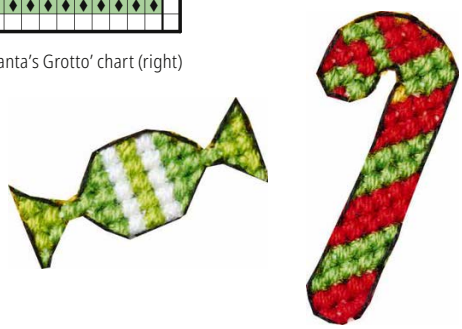


Christmas Signs 'Santa's Grotto' chart (right)



Christmas Signs 'Treat Station' chart (right)





Christmas Signs key

Cross stitch in three strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	B5200	1	2401	white
↖	02	398	1709	grey
■	310	403	2400	black
♦	701	227	1305	dark green
$	703	238	1307	green
♀	725	305	113	yellow
◤	814	22	601	ruby
◢	817	13	210	red
?	907	255	1308	parrot green
'	948	892	306	light peach
♡	962	75	609	pink
+	3705	35	410	scarlet
w	3771	868	2605	peach

Backstitch in one strand

—	310	403	2400	black

MAXIMUM STITCH COUNT 33 high x 122 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 6x22cm (2¼x8¾in)

STITCHED BY Joanne Hayward

These designs were stitched using DMC stranded cotton

Arianne READER PANEL



"I love stitching things you can actually use. My kids would love this decoration. And you can use them next year too! Santa's grotto is my fave – he looks so happy!"

Shopping list

- 14-count perforated PVC measuring maximum 10x26cm (4x10in) for each design from Lakeside Needlecraft*
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Size 24 tapestry needle
- White card for backing and acid-free double-sided tape of your choice from local stores

*For stockists see page 82



NEW FOR 2027!

Stitch-A-Long

Start the year with a positive vibe with our 2027 SAL, 'Dream Big', by **Emma Congdon**

We're really excited to showcase our 2027 stitch-a-long in full! This positively colourful design comes in 12 parts, with the first part – Dream Big – featuring in next issue. Stitchrovia's Emma Congdon had lots of fun coming up with a range of affirmations to carry us through the year. We'd love you to join us in stitching the whole design month by month, but the individual charts will work well for cards and bookmarks, too. Happy New Year to you all!



A stitcher's wishlist

While we're busy stitching for loved ones this Christmas, what gifts are we dreaming of?

We love to plan our gifting to others at Christmas, but don't forget they want to bless us, too. What's on your wishlist this year? Why not leave this page open on the kitchen table to drop a hint!

A gorgeous new kit

The excitement when opening a new kit is a constant joy – all that pristine fabric and threads, plus dreaming of the hours we'll spend stitching it. While we always love to see the latest releases from Bothy*, Caterpillar* and Riolis*, take a look at your local sewing shop for inspiration to add to your list.



Caterpillar Cross Stitch 'Summer Sunflowers' kit

A cute needle minder

We need a different needle minder depending on our project's theme or our mood, right? And of course, they save us from losing our needles (and our minds!). Among our favourites are colourful animals from Meloca Designs* or the range at Hawthorn Handmade*.



Highland cow needle minder from Meloca

Super storage

The more threads, fabric and acccessories we gather, the more places we need to keep it. The white modular storage range from DMC* is flexible and stylish, with lots of options. And if you like to get out and about, a handy bag specifically for crafters could be just the thing.



Craft Storage carry bag from Lakeside Needlecraft*

A handy accessory

Stitching frames such as those from Nurge and Elbesee can really help with wrist strain, while lamps such as the Daylight* Stitchsmart give your eyes a break. And if someone is feeling generous, ask for a floor stand for your stitching too. ✖



Daylight Co. Stitchsmart lamp and stand

Our social media followers share their most special memories of stitching gifts they've received

✖ Deby Young
My mum gave me her needlebook that she bought as a souvenir in the 60s, whilst on a family holiday to Cockington, Devon, when I first started cross stitching in the 80s. I still have it today and we are lucky enough to live near Cockington now.

✖ Holly Jade Joiner-Mason
I hand stitch birthday and Christmas cards as gifts for loved ones. My great-aunty taught me when I was six. Some of my many cross stitches I've made are from your beautiful magazine.

✖ Erica Cruickshank
When I first started cross stitching, about 30 years ago, my mum gave me a box of 200 stranded threads. This really got my new hobby off to a great start.

✖ Tanja Gruijthuijsen-de Bont
A dear friend gave me this Margaret Sherry kit and I loved it! ▶

✖ Vicky
My parents bought me the Harbour Town kit by Michael Powell for Christmas one year. It's the most detailed kit I've stitched to date. My husband loved it so much he had it framed for me. It's hanging in my lounge and I adore looking at it every day knowing I stitched it.

✖ Chong Choy Yin
My daughter and her boyfriend gave me these really cute needle minders for my birthday a few years ago. ▶





DESIGNED BY **HEATHER NUGENT**

Sparkle and shine

Decorate your home with these ornate potted trees for Christmas – guaranteed not to drop any needles!

Putting up the tree each year is a memorable experience, and you can never have too many, big or small! These potted versions are the ideal way to add a sprinkle of holiday spirit to any space, such as a windowsill, a bookshelf or desk. And they're especially great if you don't have room for a full-sized tree – they'll definitely spread some festive cheer in your home!

The backstitch-only design is easy to stitch, but as it can be tricky to see the holes on navy aida, remember to stitch in good light to avoid eye strain, as well as taking regular breaks.

Factbox

Sequins for extra dazzle

- **Stitching Time** Approx. 7-10 hours each
- **Type of Stitches** Backstitch, sequins
- **Ease of Stitching** Intermediate

Embellish your trees with coloured sequins for added sparkle, and experiment with colours to match your décor. Then turn to page 37 for our tutorial on how to make up your trees, and turn them into ornaments that you can use for many years to come. ➤



Meet Heather Nugent

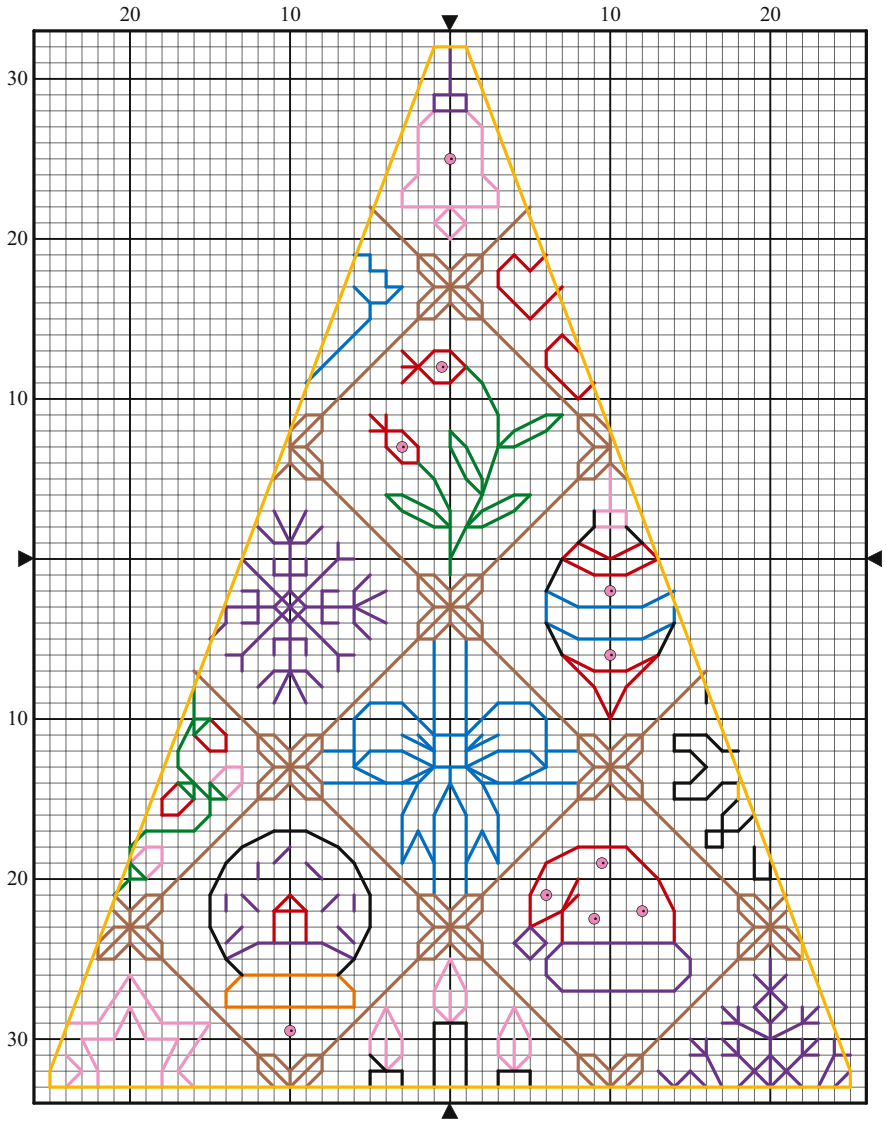
"Christmas is my favourite time of year as it's a perfect excuse to fill every nook and cranny of my house with my handmade decorations. These mini trees are great for an office desk, bedside table, or anywhere in your home that needs some festive sparkle."

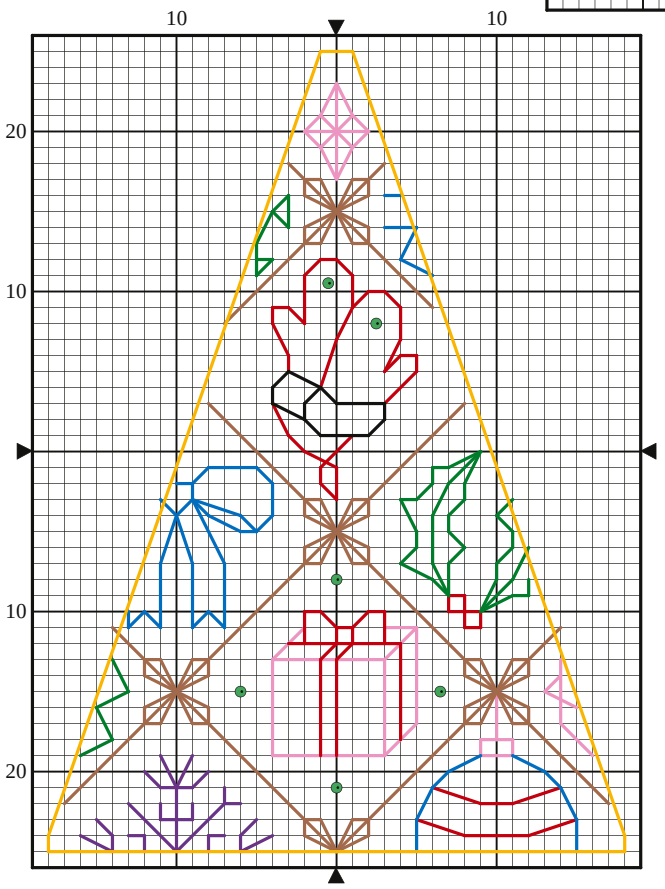
Instagram @heathers.crossstitch.hub




TRY
SOMETHING
NEW WITH
THE WORLD OF
Cross
Stitching







How to... add sequins to your stitching

After you've completed all of the stitching, thread your needle with one strand of thread matching the sequin colour, or invisible thread if preferred. Bring the needle up through the fabric at the point indicated by the coloured icon on the chart, and through the centre of the sequin with it facing concave side up.

Then, take the needle down at the top-left edge of the sequin and pull the thread taut, without tilting it. Repeat this twice more around the sequin, with an even amount of spacing between each stitch, so you end up with a 'Y' shape of three stitches holding it in place. For a pretty finish, be sure to take your time and be consistent, securing the thread at the back of your work between each sequin before attaching the next.

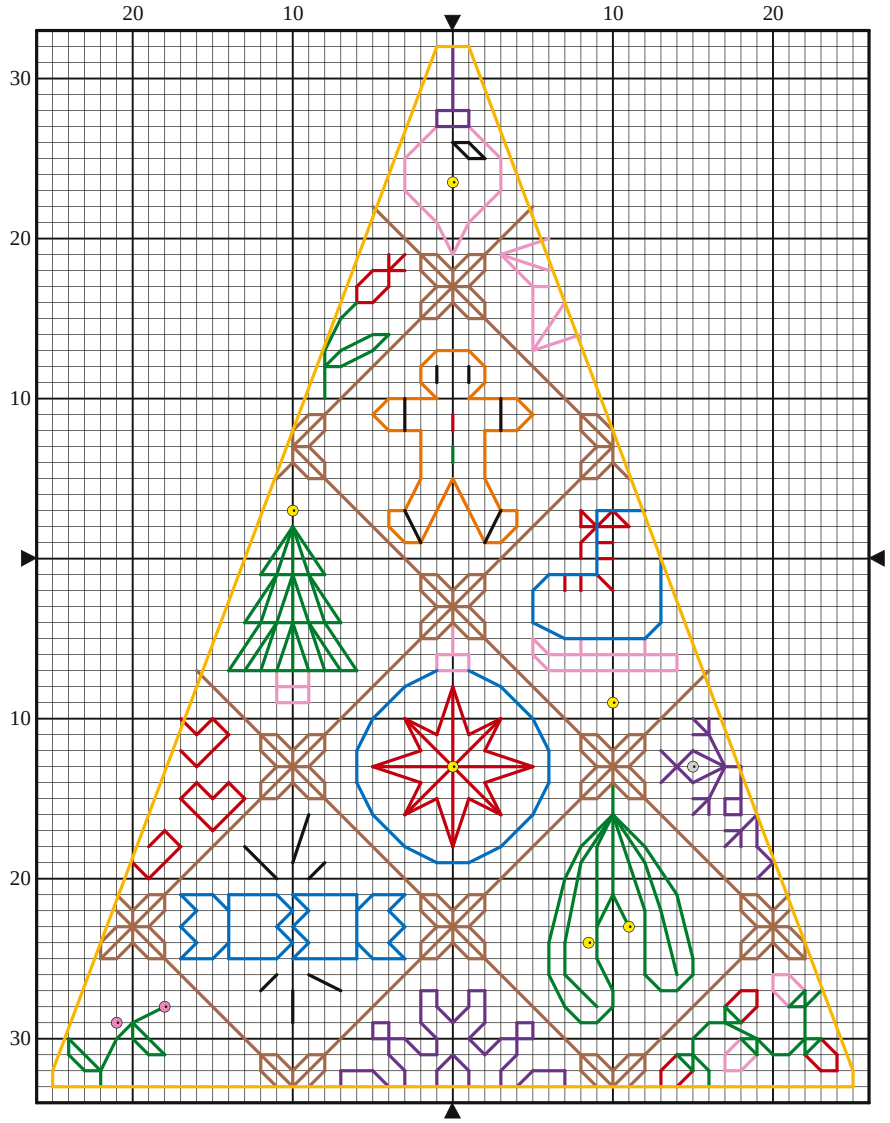
TOP TIP

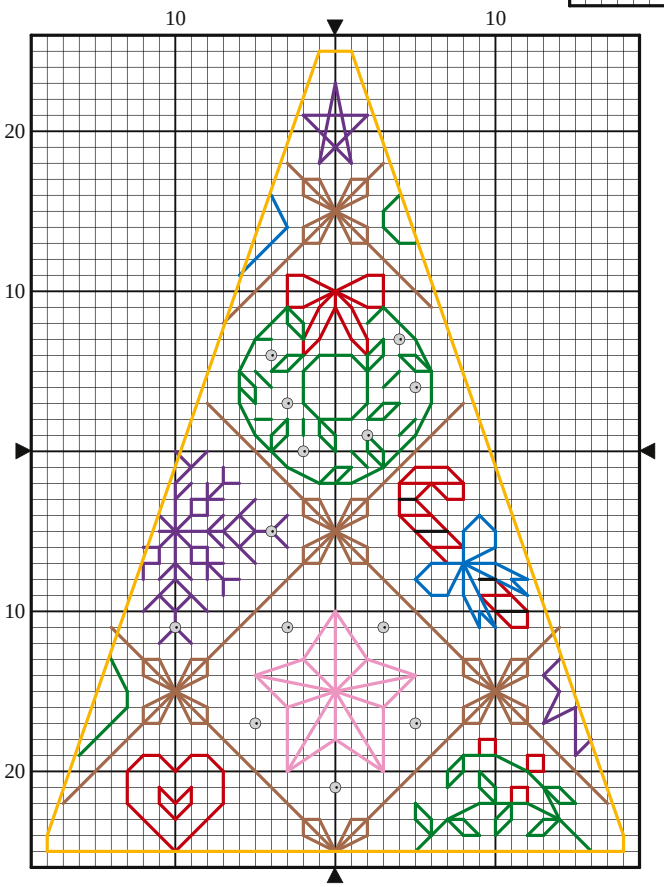
Place a white sheet on your lap when stitching on dark coloured fabrics – this helps the holes show up as you look through them

Shopping list

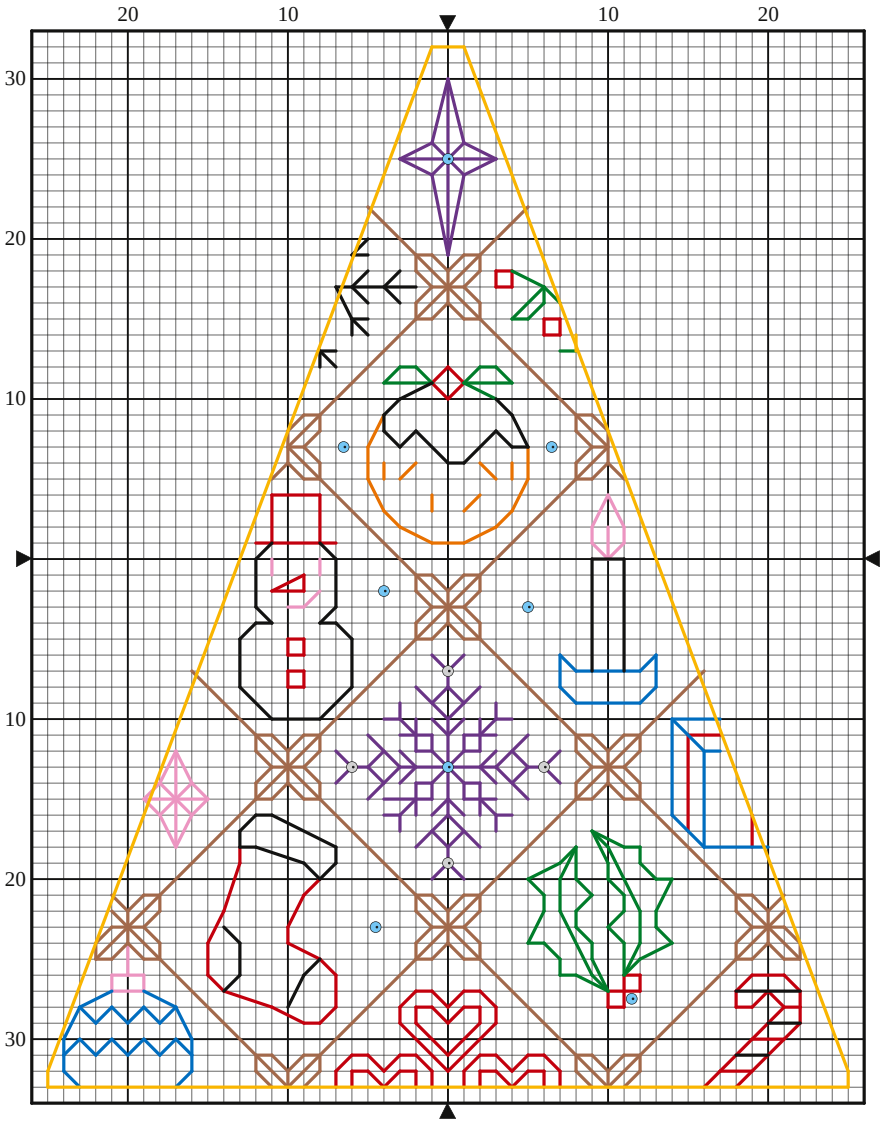
- Zweigart* 14-count navy aida measuring maximum 22x15cm (9x6in) for each design
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- 5mm cup sequins as listed in the key
- Size 24 tapestry needle
- 5cm wide terracotta pots, paint, 5mm wooden dowel rods (cut to 12cm long for each tree), florist foam, black light-weight iron-on interfacing, navy cotton backing fabric, toy stuffing and PVA glue of your choice from local stores

*For stockists see page 82











Festive Potted Trees key

✖ Backstitch in one strand

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
	307	289	104	yellow
	602	57	702	pink
	747	158	1104	blue
	783	306	2509	gold
	912	209	1213	green
	959	186	1114	emerald green
	3865	2	2403	natural white

✖ Backstitch in two strands

	783	306	2509	gold

✖ 5mm cup sequins

				fuchsia
				gold
				silver
				green
				blue

✖ Outline - not stitched

MAXIMUM STITCH COUNT 65 high x 30 wide
DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 12x5.5cm (4¾x2¼in)
STITCHED BY Alison Love

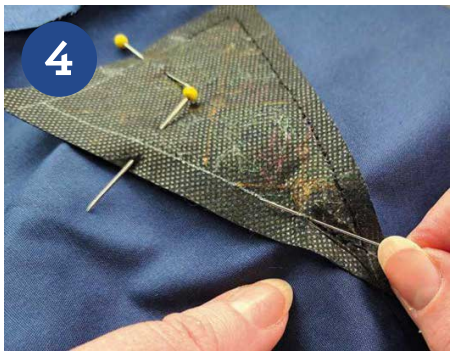
These designs were stitched using DMC stranded cotton and 5mm cup sequins

How to... make up your festive potted trees













1 Paint the terracotta pots a colour to match the main sequin colour of each design – we chose iridescent paint to echo the shine of the sequins. Also paint the dowel rods gold. You may need several coats. Allow everything to dry fully before continuing.

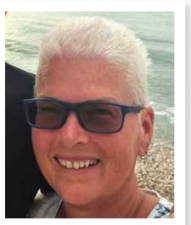
2 Use a butter knife to trim the florist foam to size so it fits neatly inside the pots – you want it to sit about 7mm down from the lip. If you cut the foam slightly too small, simply use offcuts to fill in the gaps.

3 Back your stitching with black interfacing. This will not only prevent fraying but also disguise the holes in the aida, giving your tree a sleeker finish.

4 Use a ruler and white gel pen (or tailor's chalk) to mark out the 'outline' guideline of the tree shape on the reverse of your stitched design, copying the lines on the charts. Cut out the fabric with a 1cm border and then pin onto the backing fabric, right-sides facing. Sew along the marked outline using a small continuous line of backstitch, making sure to leave a 3cm gap at the centre of the base of the tree for turning through.

5 Trim to a 1cm seam allowance and snip away the excess fabric from the points of the tree shape to reduce bulk. Turn through and then use a turning tool (or pencil) to push out the points. Stuff, making sure to fill into the points. When about halfway full, insert your painted dowel 'trunk' and continue to stuff around it. Then slip stitch the gap closed on either side of the dowel to hold it in place.

6 Insert the dowel end into the florist's foam in your pot. Coat the surface of the foam with a generous amount of PVA glue. Sprinkle an even coating of matching sequins over the surface, ensuring there are no gaps as the foam will show through once the glue has dried clear. Allow to dry fully, and your tree is now ready to display!



Lorraine READER PANEL

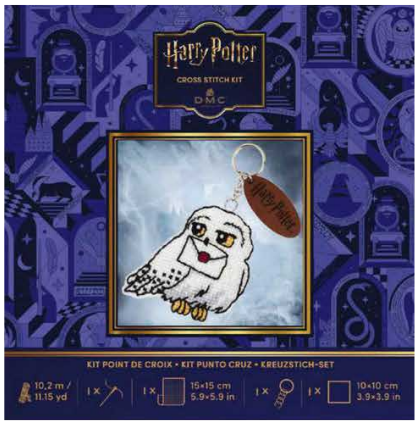
"I would stitch these on different coloured fabric with some beads and sequins, then put them in glittery pots. I'm very partial to sparkly things – I think I may have been a magpie in a past life!"

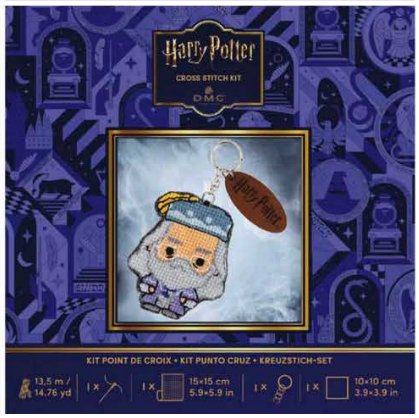
SCAN ME

Scan the QR code to find more small cross stitch patterns at **www.worldofcrossstitching.com**

Turn to page 71 to win prizes!







Harry Potter at DMC

Introducing a brand new collection of Harry Potter™ crafting kits! Plus we're wishing DMC a very happy 280th birthday!



Magic selection! Choose from keyrings, bookmarks and large designs

If you've ever wished your stitching time could come with a sprinkle of magic, take a look at DMC's enchanting new Harry Potter collection. Packed with designs inspired by the beloved world of Hogwarts and beyond, the full range includes a fantastic mix of cross stitch and embroidery as well as crochet, knitting and punch needle projects.

Cross stitchers are particularly spoilt for choice. There are charming bookmark kits featuring Harry Potter, Hermione Granger and Ron Weasley. Keyring kits starring Hedwig, Albus Dumbledore, Harry and Platform 9¾, perfect for quick makes and thoughtful handmade gifts. For a bigger challenge, the collection also includes advanced kits, from a Harry Potter sampler with magical motifs to a striking recreation of the iconic *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* film poster.

Each kit includes threads, materials and instructions to get started straight away. Whether you're a Harry Potter fan, searching for a special gift, or simply looking for your next cosy project, this fantastical collection is sure to bring a little Hogwarts magic to your stitching basket. ✖

The full range is available now from participating DMC stockists and online at www.dmc.com.

To celebrate this incredible milestone birthday, DMC has launched a special selection of commemorative products on their website, including a special skein bundle with modular storage, vintage-inspired keepsake boxes and a free cross stitch pattern.

280 YEARS OF DMC 1746 — 2026

Timeless joy

TRADITIONAL DESIGNS TO ENHANCE YOUR CHRISTMAS TABLE



42 CLASSIC IDEAS



Create a stylish tablescape with these motifs by Maria Diaz, in festive colours of green, gold and red

✖ 42 quick and easy motifs ✖ Maria Diaz's design inspiration ✖ Stitches for every skill level
✖ Helpful tips and advice ✖ Unique ways to spruce up the dinner table



WINE NOT?

Decorate the front of a wine apron, from Lakeside Needlecraft* (SCP0330/30), with a front door (12) and holly (15 and 16) motifs, finished with bespoke text (41).



CAT'S OUT OF THE BAG

Turn this purring kitty into a patch for the front of a gift bag (33), guaranteed to melt hearts. Fray one block of aida around the edge with a pair of tweezers.



DINING TABLE DESIGNS

Give each guest a neatly presented napkin, secured with a handmade napkin ring (32). You could choose motifs that reflect each person's festive likes or hobbies.



QUACKIN' CHRISTMAS

This darling duck with a wreath (4) has been turned into a personalised table setting – oh sew sweet! Patch onto complementary card with acid-free double-sided tape.



RAISE A GLASS

Add fun charm embellishments to the stems of glasses with these mini makes (34, 38) using plastic canvas from Lakeside Needlecraft*. Attach with a wire ring.



FUN AND GAMES

Elevate plain Christmas crackers with some traditional festive designs, such as this wreath (31) that complements the colours of the cracker itself.



PUPPY LOVE

Handmade gift tags are just as memorable as the gift they've come with, and this bundled up pooch (26) is perfect for a dog lover, or for the family pup's present!



YULETIDE YUMMIES

Using the repetive motif of golden bells (19), make a band to go around your Christmas cake. Protect the fabric by backing with white paper.

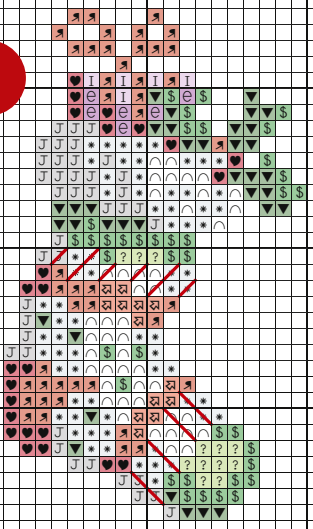
*For stockists, see page 82

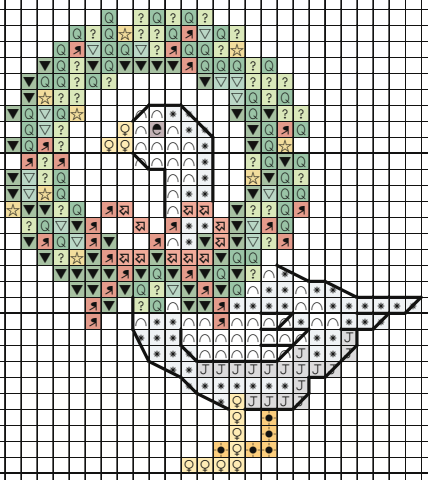


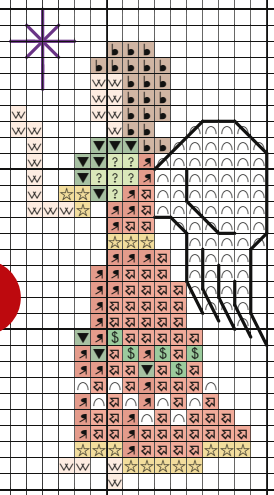
Meet Maria Diaz

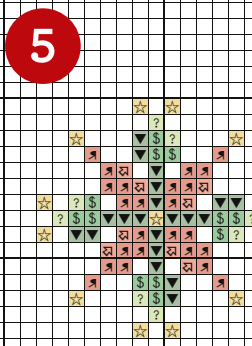
"I felt very nostalgic designing this set, going back to the Christmas imagery of my youth, and designing motifs that are guaranteed to bring in the Christmas cheer. Keep this classic set to use year after year, as it'll be sure to get you compliments every time!"

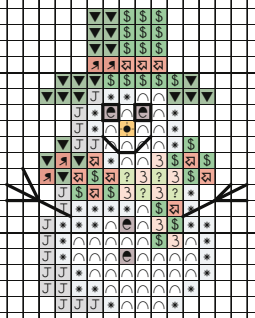
www.mariadiazdesigns.com

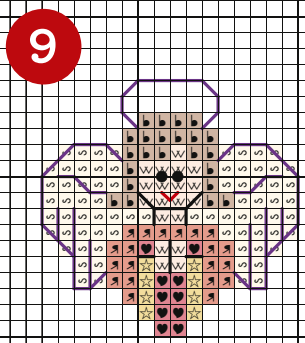


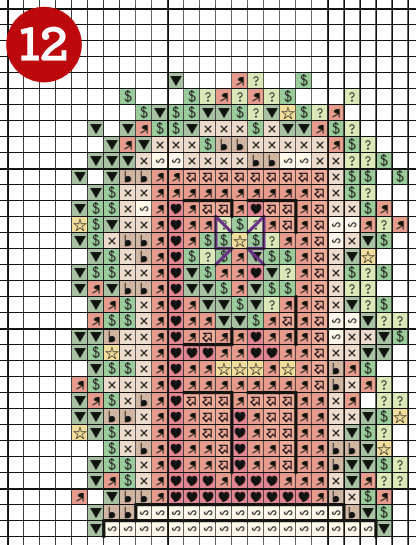


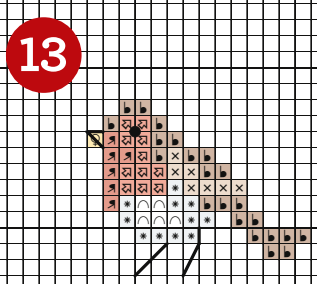


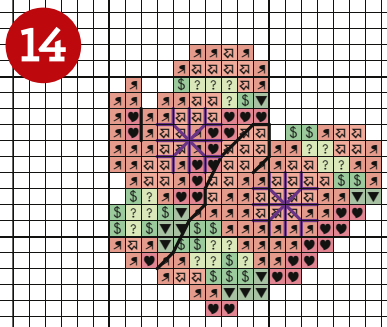


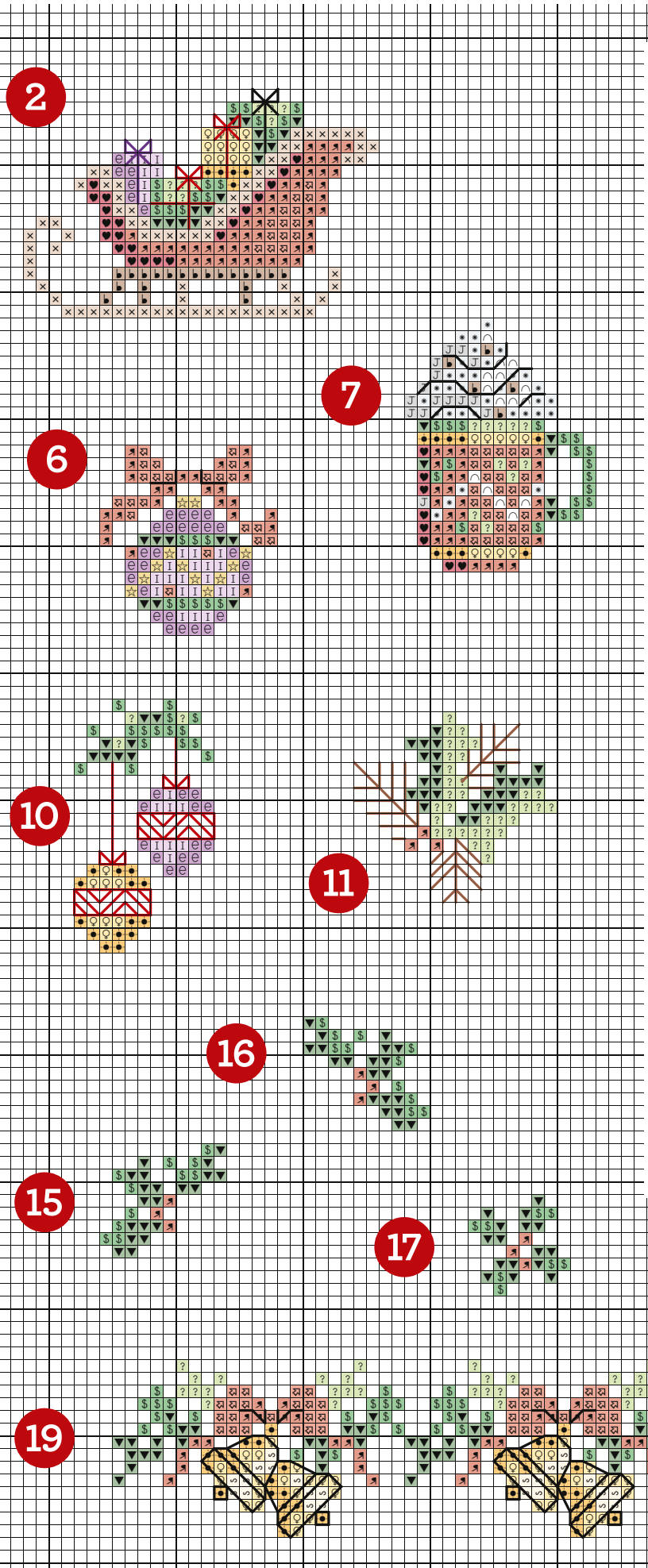












Classic Christmas key

Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	blanc	2	2402	white
÷	28	871	2613	light plum
e	29	873	2614	plum
?	164	240	1209	light green
e	208	99	804	lilac
I	210	108	802	light lilac
J	318	399	1801	grey
↗	321	9046	510	red
※	351	10	214	coral
3	353	6	2313	light coral
s	712	926	2101	cream
●	742	303	114	tangerine
♀	744	301	112	yellow
*	762	234	1804	light grey
♥	815	44	513	ruby
w	951	1010	2308	peach
▼	986	246	1404	dark green
$	988	243	1402	green
Q	3815	877	1205	pine green
▽	3816	876	1703	light pine green
b	3863	379	1912	brown
×	3864	376	1910	light brown

Cross stitch in two strands DMC Light Effects

☆	E3821			light gold

Backstitch in one strand

—	29	873	2614	plum
—	164	240	1209	light green
—	321	9046	510	red
—	988	243	1402	green

Backstitch in one strand DMC Light Effects

—	E3821			light gold

French knots in one strand

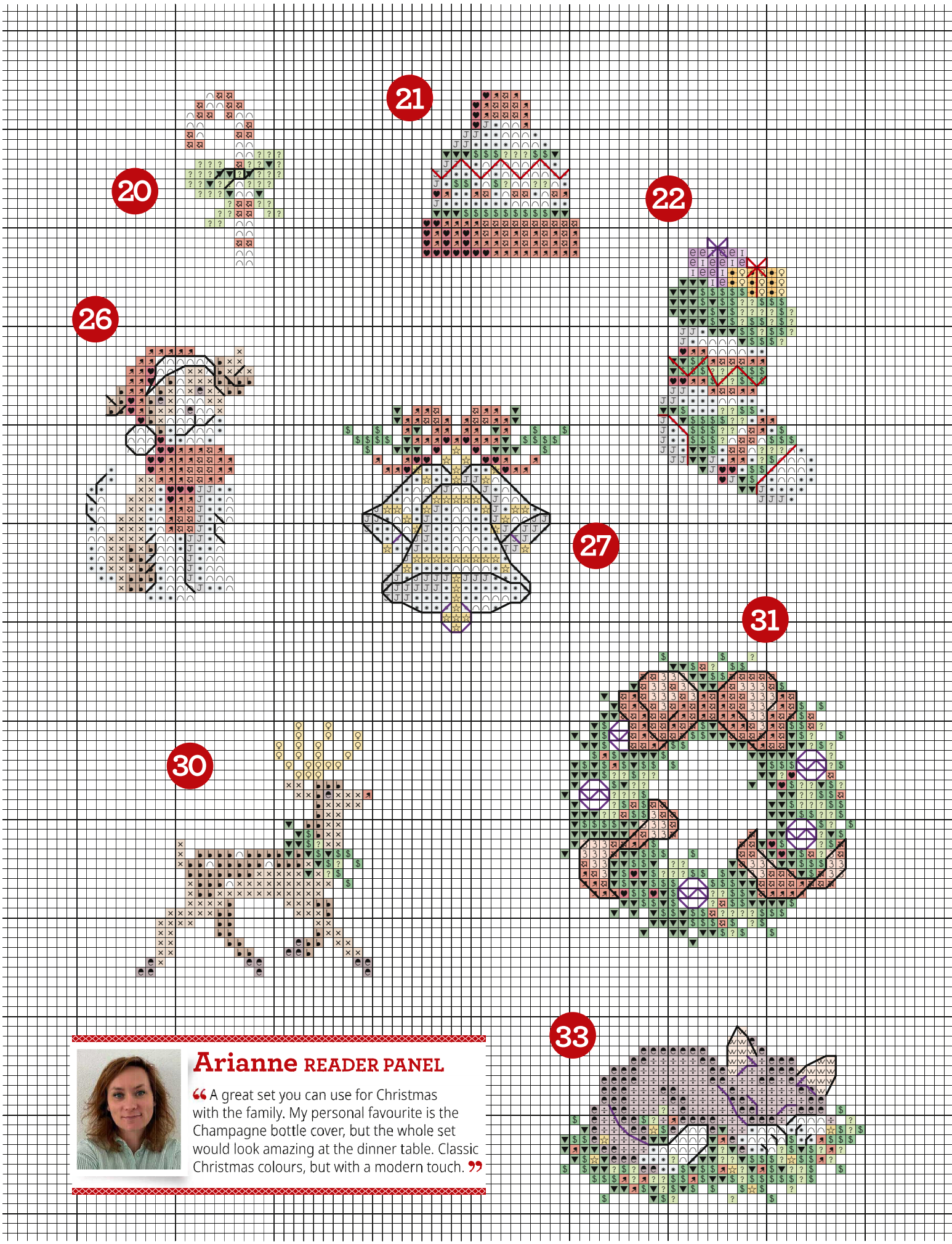
●	29	873	2614	plum

STITCHED BY Jessica Zwerdling-Wilkins

These designs were stitched using DMC stranded cotton and DMC Light Effects

TOP TIP

If you love to stitch your own cards, invest in a mini-iron and board for pressing – they're practical and handy for storing

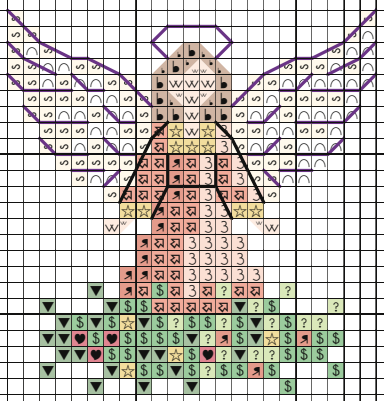


Arianne READER PANEL

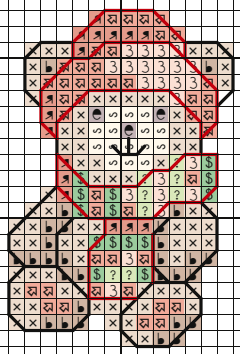
"A great set you can use for Christmas with the family. My personal favourite is the Champagne bottle cover, but the whole set would look amazing at the dinner table. Classic Christmas colours, but with a modern touch."

MAKE BESPOKE GIFT TAGS AND MORE

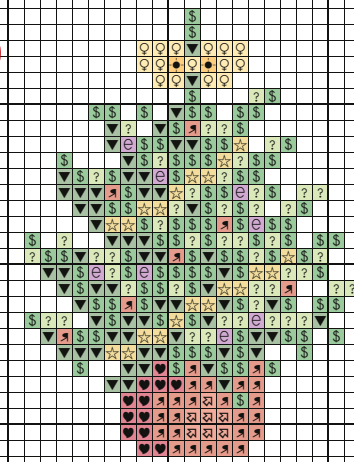
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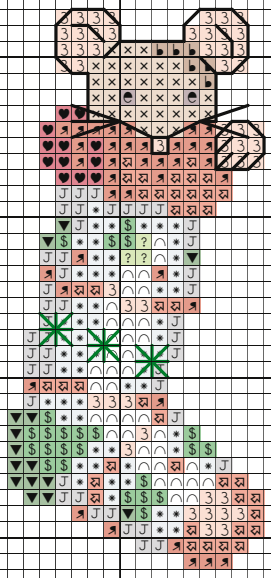
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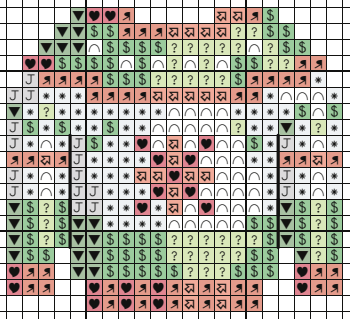
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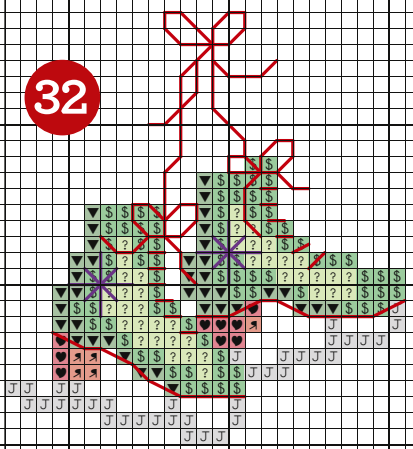
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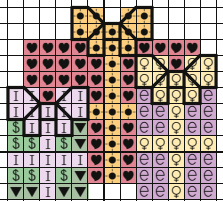
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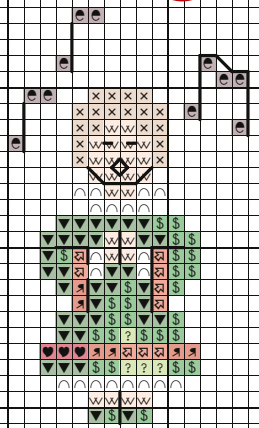
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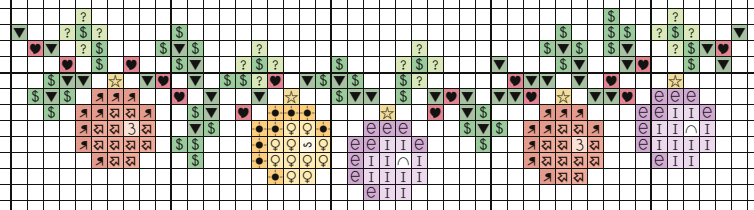


TOP TIP

Remember to remove your fabric from the hoop or frame between stitching sessions to avoid damage or marks

YOUR CUT OUT AND KEEP SECTION

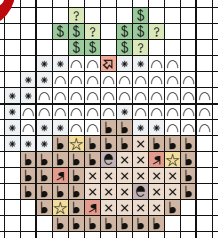
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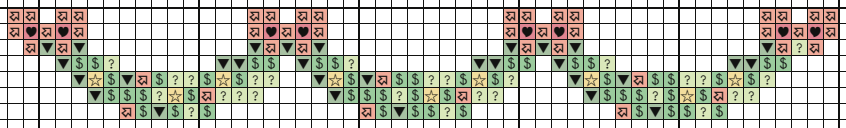
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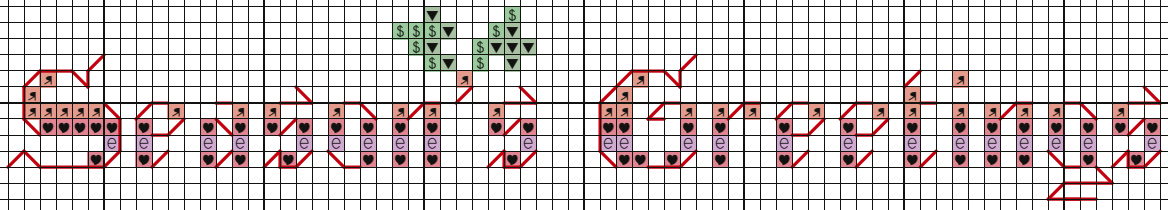
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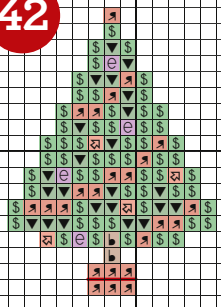
ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz

1234567890

41

42



NEXT MONTH: MUSIC!

Pump up the jam with next issue's Design Library that's filled with musical motifs guaranteed to get you moving and grooving – stitch while listening to your favourite songs! Get to the shops on 26 November 2026 to pick up your copy of issue 380, or subscribe and the issue will be delivered to your door. Find this month's money-saving subscription offer on page 60.



Turn to page 60 to subscribe

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DESIGNED BY **GAIL BUSSI**

Everyone's welcome

Get cosy on the sofa to stitch this charming quilted cottage, nestled in the snowy countryside

This cottage truly is a dream abode – the perfect place to retreat to on a chilly winter's day and curl up with a hot chocolate and your favourite Christmas movie.

Gail's design is inspired by traditional quilt patterns and colours, her creative patterns really lif the piece. Misty blue aida enhances the icy, wintry look – we used three strands on this darker fabric to achieve fuller coverage and minimise show-through.

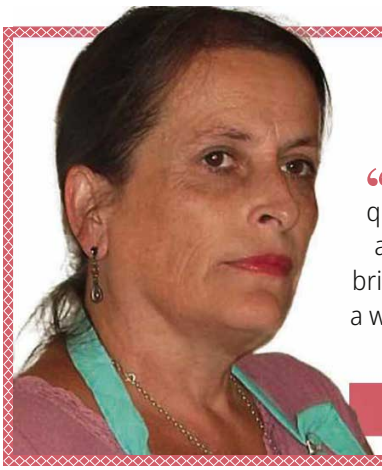
Although the stitching in this project is densely worked, the pattern contains mostly whole stitches and backstitch, with a few French knots, so confident beginners can certainly give it a go.

The muted mauve mount complements the project's soft reds, while the whitewashed wood frame ties in with the rustic feel of this charming design. ➤

Factbox

Practise French knots

- **Stitching Time**
  Approx. 65 hours
- **Type of Stitches**
  Cross stitch, backstitch, French knots
- **Ease of Stitching**
  Intermediate



Meet Gail Bussi

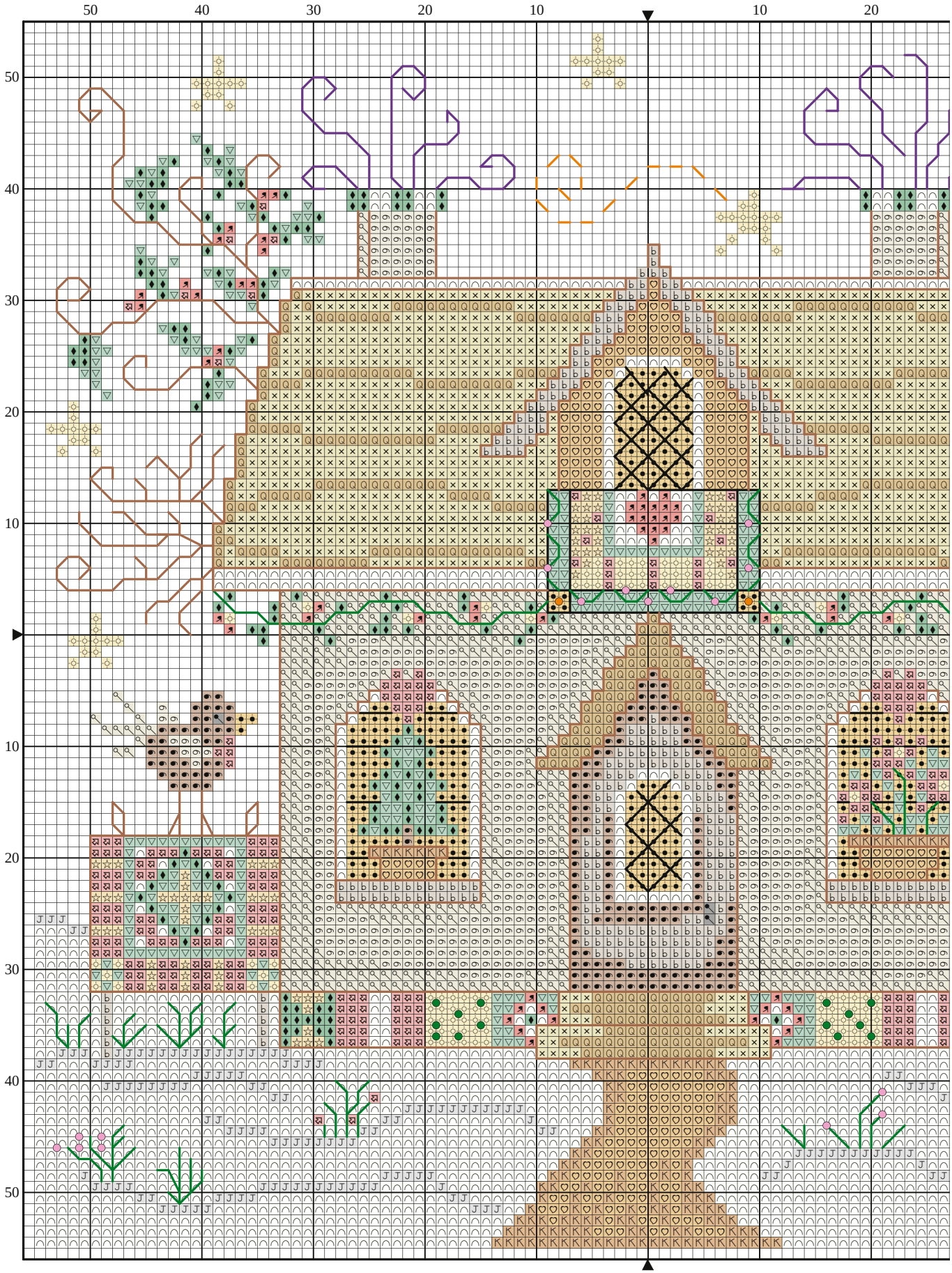
"My favourite design subjects are cottages, quilts and the changing seasons, so this ticks all the boxes for me! The glowing lights and brightly coloured quilts of this little house set in a wintry landscape offer a cosy atmosphere and warmth for even the chilliest of days."

Instagram: @myenchantedcottage

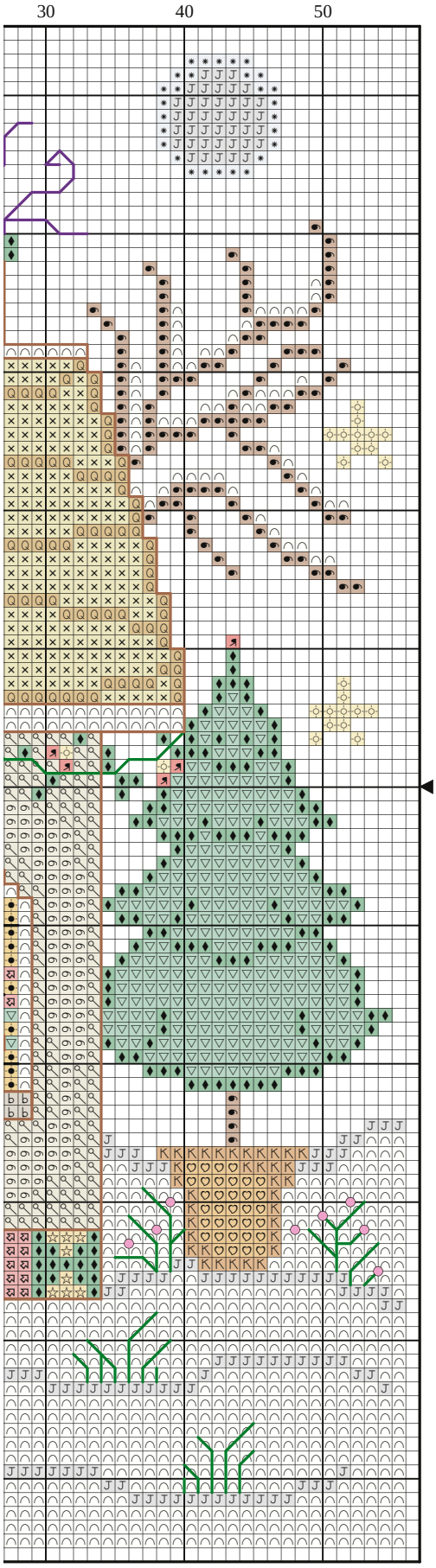


TRY COLOURED AIDA





Winter Cottage chart (left)



Winter Cottage chart (right)



LOIS, DESIGNER

"For Christmas one year, I want to stay in a cottage like this with my loved ones. I can imagine it'll be so cosy and fun – especially if it snows!"

SCAN ME

Scan the QR code to learn how to do French knots. **worldofcrossstitching.com**

Winter Cottage key

Cross stitch in three strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
	413	236	1713	dark grey
J	415	398	1802	grey
K	435	1046	2010	tan
O	436	1045	2011	light tan
b	612	832	2108	beige
	644	830	1814	stone grey
☆	676	891	2208	sand
☼	677	886	2207	light sand
●	729	890	2209	dark sand
*	762	234	1804	light grey
9	822	390	1908	cream
Q	3045	888	2103	dark straw
×	3046	887	2206	straw
	3328	1024	406	dark pink
回	3712	1023	405	pink
♦	3815	877	1205	dark green
▽	3816	876	1703	green
	3863	379	1910	brown
∩	3865	2	2403	natural white

Backstitch in one strand

—	413	236	1713	dark grey
—	677	886	2207	light sand
—	3815	877	1205	dark green
—	3863	379	1910	brown
—	3865	2	2403	natural white

French knots in one strand

●	677	886	2207	light sand
●	3328	1024	406	dark pink
●	3815	877	1205	dark green

STITCH COUNT 109 high x 111 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 20x20cm (7¾x8in)

EXTRA SKEINS NEEDED **2x3046** (straw), **3x3865** (natural white)

STITCHED BY Angela Ottewell

This design was stitched using DMC stranded cotton

TOP TIP

Subtitute the French knots for seed beads if you prefer – pick your own colours for a close shade match

Shopping list

- Zweigart 14-count misty blue (594) aida measuring 37x35cm (15x14in) from Stitchtastic*
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Size 24 tapestry needle
- Frame and mount of your choice with a minimum aperture of 22x20cm (8½x7¾in)

*For stockists see page 82

Season's greetings

Ultimate Cross Stitch Christmas is packed with 210 spectacular festive charts to make as decorations, gifts and more...



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DESIGNED BY **CHERYL MCKINNON**

'Tis the season

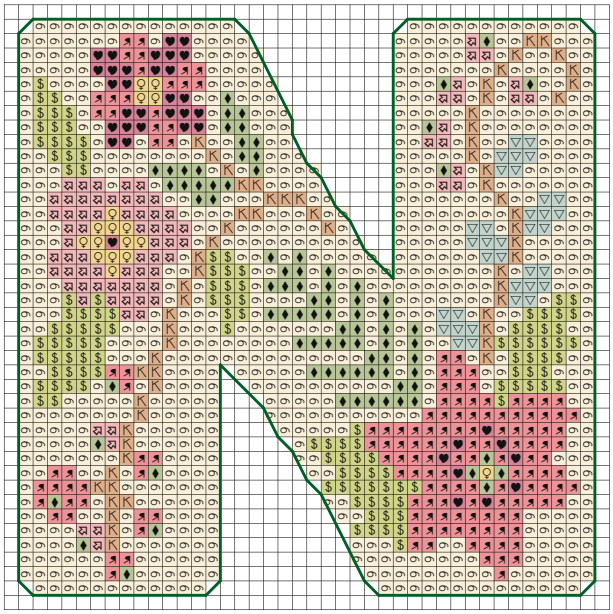
Enjoy the second half of our ornate alphabet set to add some festive flair to your presents and cards

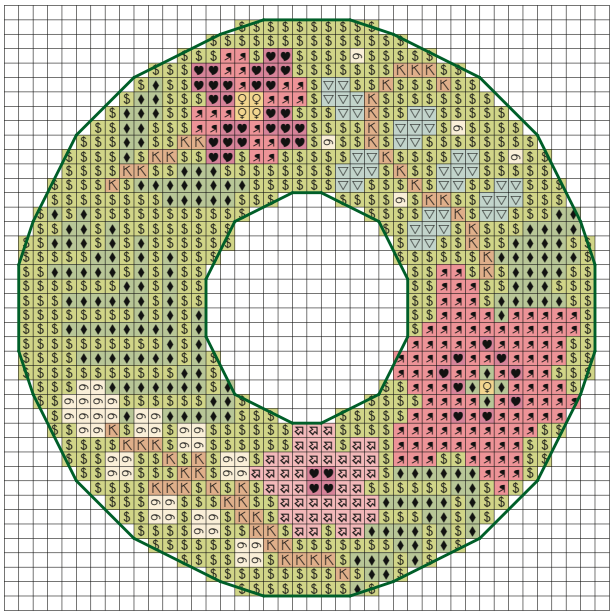
Meet Cheryl McKinnon

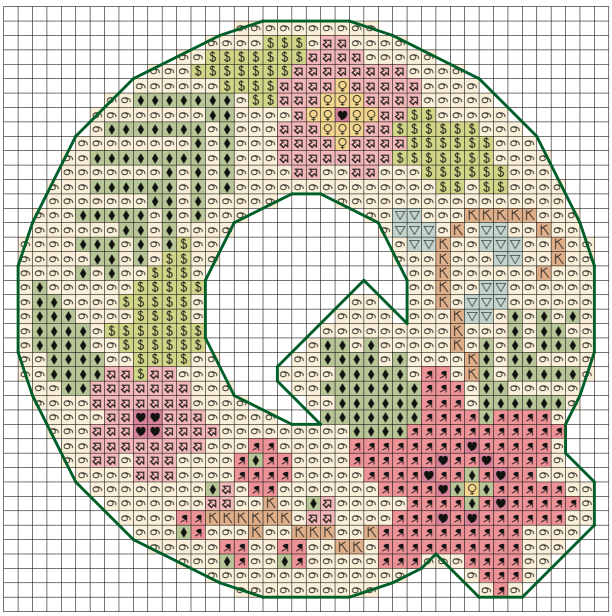


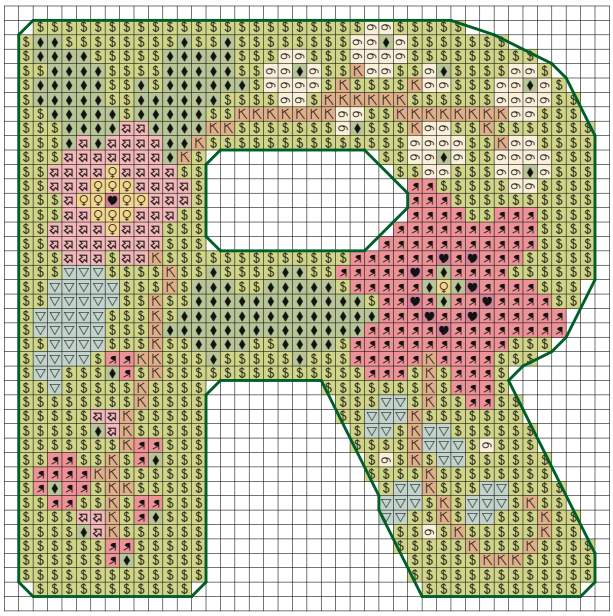
"I can see you lovely stitchers using these charts for all sorts of festive making, whether that be cards, tags, tree decorations and garlands. They will also look lovely patched onto a jewellery box or purse as a gift."

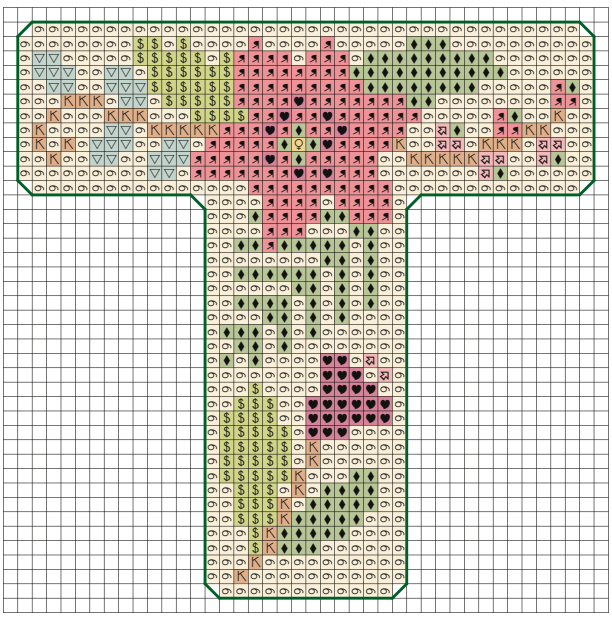
www.tinymodernist.com

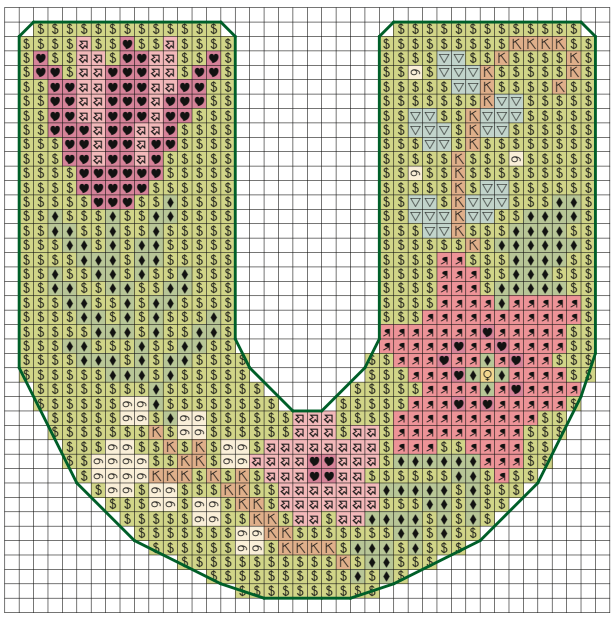


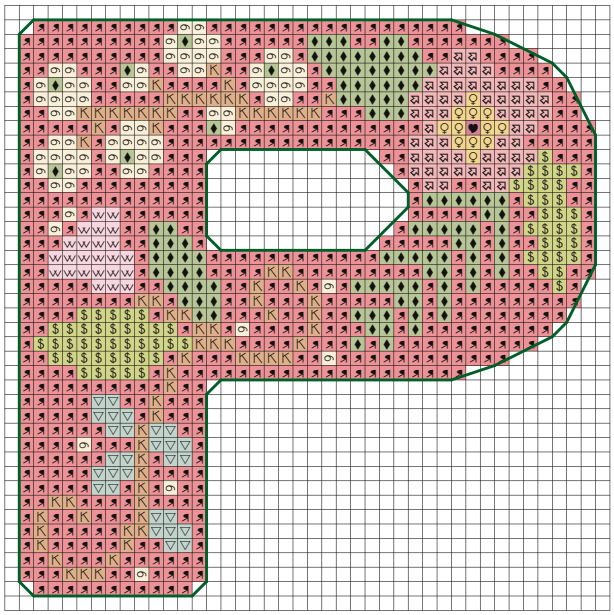


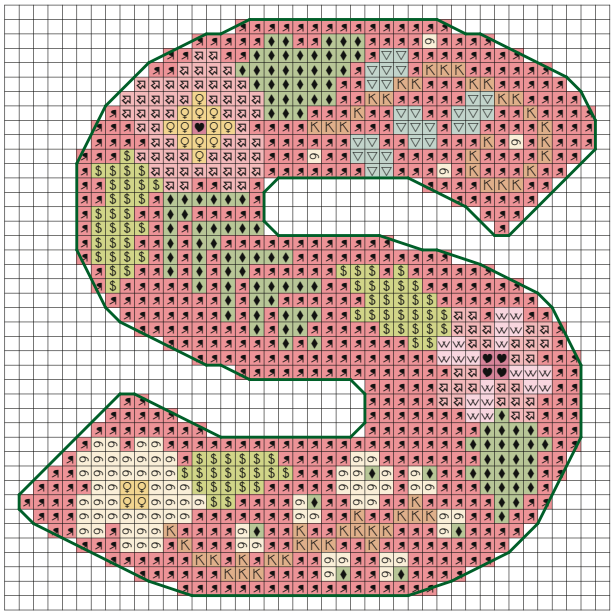


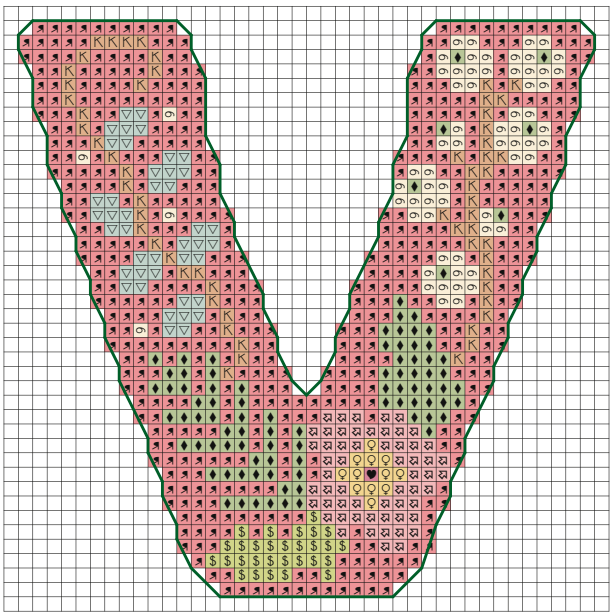












Festive Letters ABC key

Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
K	434	310	2009	tan
♥	498	1006	513	ruby
$	581	280	1609	olive green
9	739	366	2014	cream
♦	3345	268	1406	green
⊠	3706	33	409	pink
W	3708	31	408	light pink
↗	3801	1098	411	red
♀	3820	306	2509	gold
▽	3849	1070	1109	teal

Backstitch in one strand

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
—	3345	268	1406	green

STITCH COUNT 40 high x 40 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 7.5x7.5cm (2¾x2¾in)

STITCHED BY Samantha Dearden

These designs were stitched using DMC stranded cotton

TOP TIP

Want part 1 of this ABC? Download the *WOXS* app to purchase digital back issues, or buy PDF issues at gatheredshop.com

Factbox

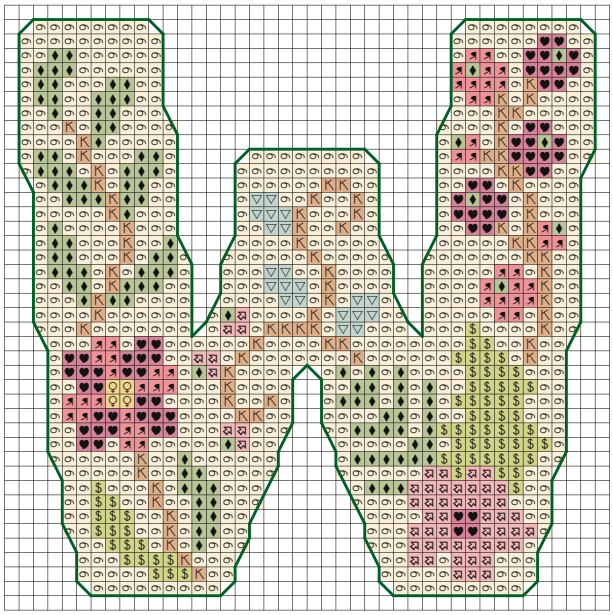
Easy for beginners

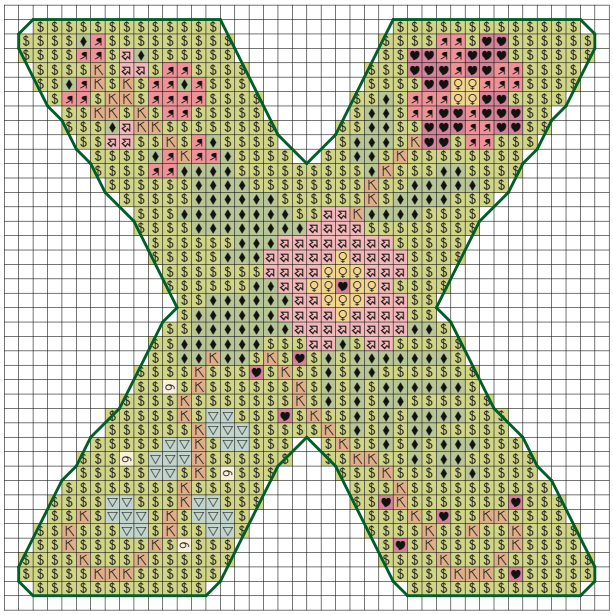
- **Stitching Time**
  Approx. 9-10 hours each
- **Type of Stitches**
  Cross stitch, backstitch
- **Ease of Stitching**
  Beginner

Shopping list

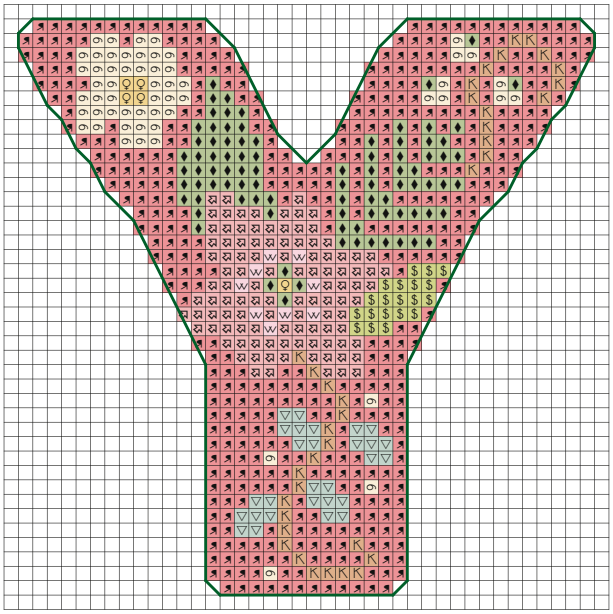
- Zweigart* 14-count white aida measuring 15x15cm (6x6in) for each design
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Size 24 tapestry needle
- Felt, fusible webbing and cord of your choice from local stores

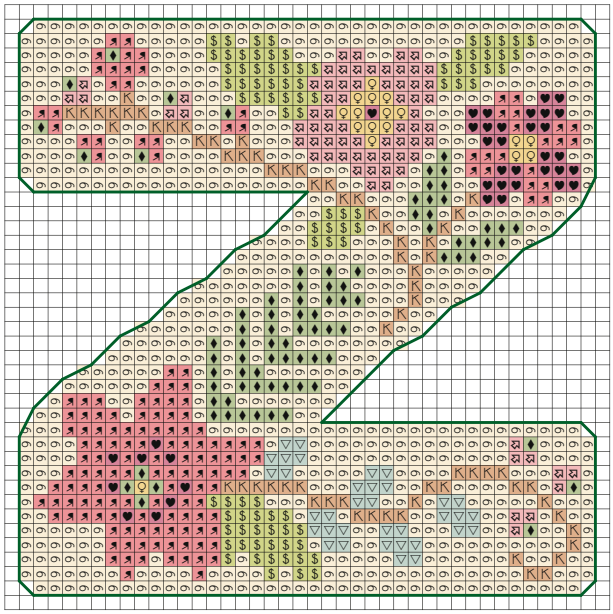
*For stockists see page 82













Ask the experts

Our panel of professionals is here to help you with your cross stitch dilemmas – however large or small



Fiona Baker
Senior Technical Editor



Hannah Erskine
Charting Assistant



Vicki Atkinson
Editor

GET IN TOUCH FOR STITCHING HELP

Don't forget to send all your stitchy questions and design requests in to us!

Email us at:
theworldofxstitching@ourmedia.co.uk

Send in queries via Facebook too:
@The World of Cross Stitching

Write to:
Ask the Experts,
***The World of Cross Stitching*,**
Our Media Ltd,
Eagle House, Bristol
BS1 4ST



Ready for Christmas Eve
Both of these cute charts can be bought online

Ready for Christmas Eve

Q Can you tell me if you have a new stocking design planned for this year? I am on the lookout for a cute make for my stepson's Christmas, as it will be our first together as a blended family.
Laura Peterson, via email

A **Vicki:** We don't have a brand-new stocking design lined up this year – we tend to alternate them with an advent calendar – but there are plenty of lovely options to enjoy in our back issue collection. Have a browse through the app, where you'll find covers and previews for each edition. You might also like these choices in Gathered Shop*: a cute sledging penguin with a customisable alphabet for adding your stepson's name, or a charming reindeer surrounded by stars. Both are available as instant digital download PDFs, include making-up instructions, and cost £5 each.

*For stockists see page 82

The write stuff
These pens are perfect for stitching fans





The write stuff

Q I wonder if you could advise which issue of *The World of Cross Stitching* had the stitch-a-pen designs?
Carol-Anne Kenmuir, via Facebook

A **Fiona:** You'll find this fun project in issue 241 (May 2016) – there are four colourful patterns by Lisa Reakes. The kit was originally produced by Kreinik, but it may not be available anymore. The good news is that if you have these already or can find alternatives, simply adapt the design sizes to suit.

Feline festive

Q I have a black cat called Snoop who gets up to all sorts of crazy stuff, especially at Christmas. I'd love to stitch cards of him this year. Can you suggest a design?
Yvonne, Portsmouth

A **Hannah:** These cute 'Black Cat's Christmas' designs, by Durene Jones*, look like they'd purr-fectly depict Snoop's antics and be great to turn into cards! The set of four charts have a maximum stitch count of 48x38 stitches (9x7cm (3½x2¾in) on 14-HPI), and use whole stitch, fractionals and backstitch. You can buy the set of PDF charts from Durene's Etsy shop for £5.

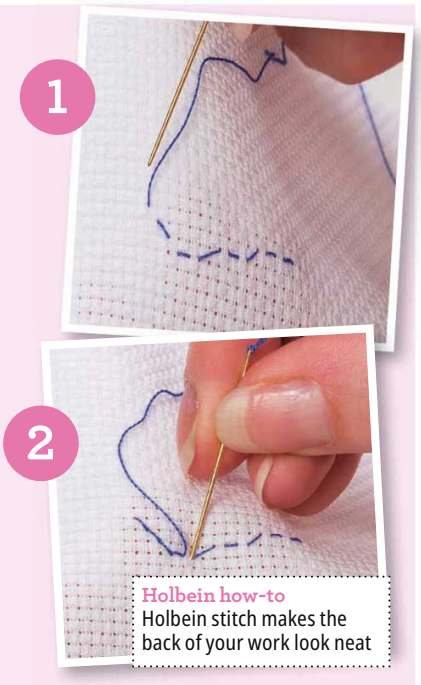
TECHNIQUE FOCUS

Holbein how-to

Q I'm currently doing a blackwork design and have been working it as backstitch, but I read somewhere that you're supposed to use Holbein stitch for blackwork – is that right?
Anna Herbert, via Facebook

A **Fiona:** Traditionally, yes – blackwork was often worked in Holbein stitch, which makes the design look the same on both sides of the fabric. This was ideal for historic clothing and linens where the reverse might show. Most modern blackwork, however, is generally stitched for cards, hoops or framed pieces, so backstitch is perfectly fine as the back won't be seen. If you'd like to give Holbein stitch go though, follow these steps:
1 Work along the chart line in running stitch, stitching only every other line and leaving equal gaps, as pictured.
2 Return along the same line, filling the gaps with a second row of running stitches.

This creates matching stitches on both the front and back, although planning the route can be fiddly and time consuming. You could give it a go practising on a small motif and see the difference to a backstitched version.



Holbein how-to
Holbein stitch makes the back of your work look neat


A pressing issue
Always iron metallics on low to medium heat

A pressing issue

Q I work small hoops for new babies on gold aida and also Chrismas bells, which use gold metallic threads. When complete, I wash, press and then use iron-on interfacing to back them to give some stability. I'm wondering whether I should be using a hot iron on the gold thread or aida?
Cherry Sloane, via email

A **Hannah:** What wonderful keepsakes! If your threads and fabric are good quality, branded materials, then following the manufacture instructions for ironing precautions should be OK. Metallic fibres are synthetic, which can melt at high temperatures. Always place a clean press cloth or towel between the iron plate and metallic fibres, and use a low-to-medium heat setting. Also avoid using steam, as this can cause the metallic coating to bubble and peel.

Our social media followers share their top tips for tracking pattern progress

Lisa Clark
If it's a big pattern, I will photocopy and mark a 'x' on each stitch in pencil. When I photocopy, I always add the name of the designer, the size and stitch count.

Noline Alice
I have all WOXS magazines in digital format. So for cards or small charts, I take a screenshot of the pattern, then use Markup to keep track of the stitches.

Becky Piggott Ruiz
I use paper patterns with a magnet board and a magnet ruler. I mark my pattern using a bright colour erasable pen.

Posieandmarmalades
I'm a highlighter fan. I still go wrong though sometimes. Using highlighters also gives me a good excuse to shop for new ones!

Jacky Gillies I use fine liner pens to cross through or shade each symbol (a different colour for each symbol).

Marilyn Kennedy
For full coverage, I use Pattern Keeper. It's definitely a game changer! So easy to use! For smaller projects, I use a larger copy of the chart and a highlighter to mark my stitches.

D.S. Naaman
Print the pattern and place in a plastic sleeve. As stitches are done, mark off with a permanent marker. When finished, simply remove the pattern, insert in a new plastic sleeve and place it in a storage binder.

Natalie Speller
I use tracing paper, as that way if I go wrong I can see where, plus I can see the backstitching afterwards. I use masking tape to hold it on so it's easy to peel off too.

Paula Cullen Baumann
I stitch by colour, and find it easiest to just relate the shapes on the fabric to the shapes on the pattern by eye. I always use digital patterns, and just zoom in on the area I'm working on.

Wishes granted



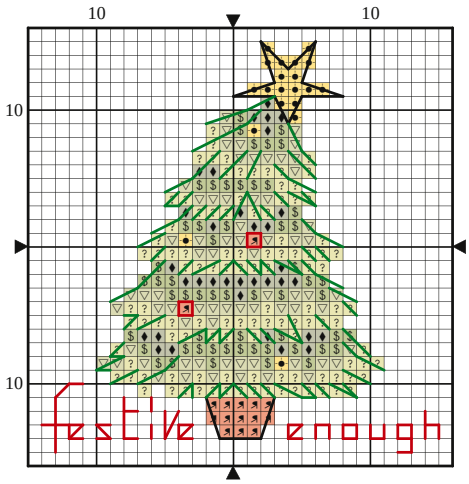
Request a design and our resident design expert, Jenny, might just chart it for you...



Tree-mendous
This is a lovely way to mark a fun family festive memory

Q Every year my teenage son starts helping me decorate the Christmas tree, but after about three baubles in he gets bored and says "Festive enough". Could you design a wonky Christmas tree with very few decorations with 'Festive enough' underneath so I can stitch it into a card for him?
Megan Wykes, via email

A **Jenny:** I absolutely love this unique card. Hopefully I've made the tree sparse enough so that your son appreciates the in-joke!



Christmas Tree key

Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
●	444	291	106	yellow
$	470	267	1502	green
▽	471	266	1501	light green
?	472	253	1414	very light green
◥	666	46	210	red
♦	937	268	1504	dark green

Backstitch in one strand

—	777	43	509	ruby
—	844	1041	1809	grey
—	935	861	1505	very dark green

STITCH COUNT 30 high x 29 wide
DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 5.5x5.5cm (2¼x2in)

Please note: Jenny can only fit in fairly small designs and for copyright reasons she is unable to chart logos, or characters from films and TV.

QUICK Q&A

Why do people say that cross stitches should face the same direction? Which direction should they face?
Amber, via Instagram

Hannah: They mean that the top arm of your stitches should all face the same direction as each other. This offers a flat, uniform finish, and avoids it looking lumpy where there's a sudden change of direction. You can work your cross stitches whichever way you prefer, however, as it's simply personal preference – just ensure you're consistent.

Small is beautiful

Q I'm looking to do a silver wedding anniversary cross stitch picture, but I want to be able to finish it as a card rather than the kit chart's full size. Can you tell me how I can complete the picture but to a smaller size, please?
Stella Bain, via email

A **Fiona:** Depending on the kit's original size, you may be able to scale it down by stitching on a higher-count fabric (such as 16- or 18-HPI) that you buy separately. This is the only way to make a design smaller without completely re-designing it, and usually reduces it by a few centimetres. For a much smaller finish, it's best to choose another design. Lucie Heaton's special anniversary set in issue 323 (Sep 2022) could work well, each measuring 12x12cm (4¾x4¾in) on 14-count. You could get the set of six patterns to save for future anniversaries too. These designs are available to buy in our digital edition on *The World of Cross Stitching* app.



Small is beautiful
Lucie Heaton's anniversary designs were in issue 323

Britain's No.1

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DESIGNED BY **CAROL THORNTON**

Bejewelled beauties

This vintage-style card set is full of realistic detail, along with some sparkle and shine from glittery threads

Try new threads

Factbox

- **Stitching Time** Approx. 15-20 hours each
- **Type of Stitches** Cross stitch, fractionals, backstitch
- **Ease of Stitching** Intermediate/advanced

Evoking a sense of luxury and opulence, Carol Thornton's cards depict ornate pendants set with a variety of different gemstones – deep blue sapphires, rich rubies, shimmering amethysts and more. The designs were inspired by the Middleham jewel that was discovered in 1985 near Middleham Castle, the northern home of Richard III, and which is currently on show at Yorkshire Museum.

The designs combine DMC Light Effects and DMC Étoile thread with stranded cottons for a glittery, twinkling effect. The cream evenweave enhances the vintage look, with bespoke aperture cards in raspberry red to complement the shades of the gems.

Although aimed at advanced stitchers as it uses metallic threads, we recommend this project to anyone looking to upskill! ➤

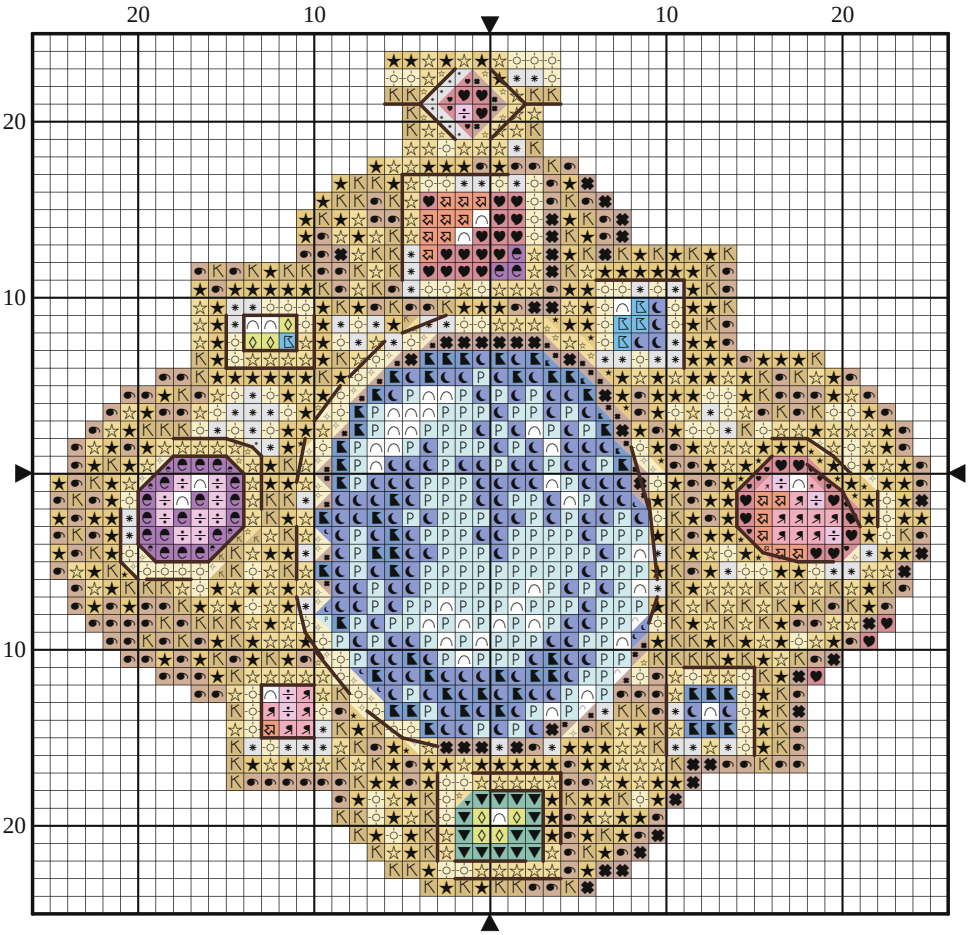


Meet Carol Thornton

"The Middleham jewel was found when someone was using their metal detector near the castle. It's a beautifully ornate piece of history, which inspired me to make these four designs. The person who discovered it initially thought it was a powder compact! These baubles are all based on old treasures from the past."




PRETTY METALLIC DETAILS



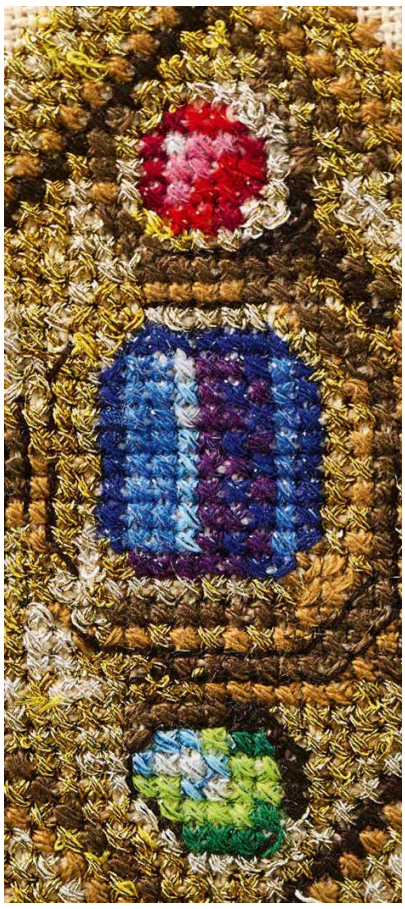
TOP TIP

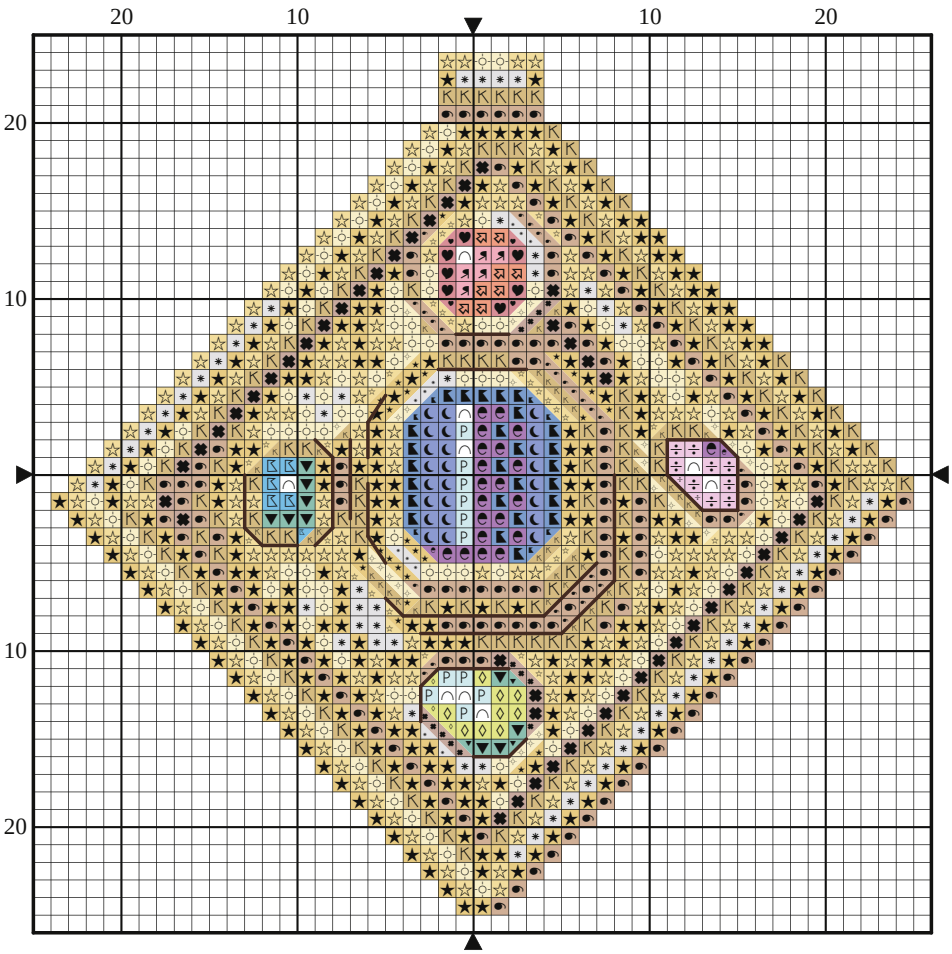
Try using a slightly larger needle for metallics – the bigger eye creates a wider hole in the fabric, letting the thread pass through with less friction

Shopping list

- Zweigart* 28-count cream (264) evenweave measuring 18x18cm (7x7in) for each design
- Stranded cotton and metallic threads as listed in the key
- Size 24 tapestry needle
- Square aperture cards, cream paper for backing and acid-free double-sided tape of your choice from local stores

*For stockists see page 82







Ornate Bauble Cards key

✖ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
	167	373	1607	tan
	3371	382	2004	dark brown
	3781	1088	2003	brown

✖ Cross stitch in two strands DMC Étoile

	Cblanc			white
	C519			light blue
	C550			dark mauve
	C554			mauve
	C603			pink
	C666			red
	C699			green
	C798			blue
	C816			dark red
	C820			dark blue
	C907			parrot green
	C995			electric blue

✖ Cross stitch in two strands DMC Light Effects

	E168			silver
	E677			white gold
	E3821			light gold
	E3852			dark gold

✖ Backstitch in one strand

—	3371	382	2004	dark brown

MAXIMUM STITCH COUNT 50 high x 50 wide
DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 9x9cm (3½x3½in)
STITCHED BY Debbie Hart

These designs were stitched using DMC stranded cotton, DMC Étoile and DMC Light Effects on 28-count evenweave over two threads of the fabric



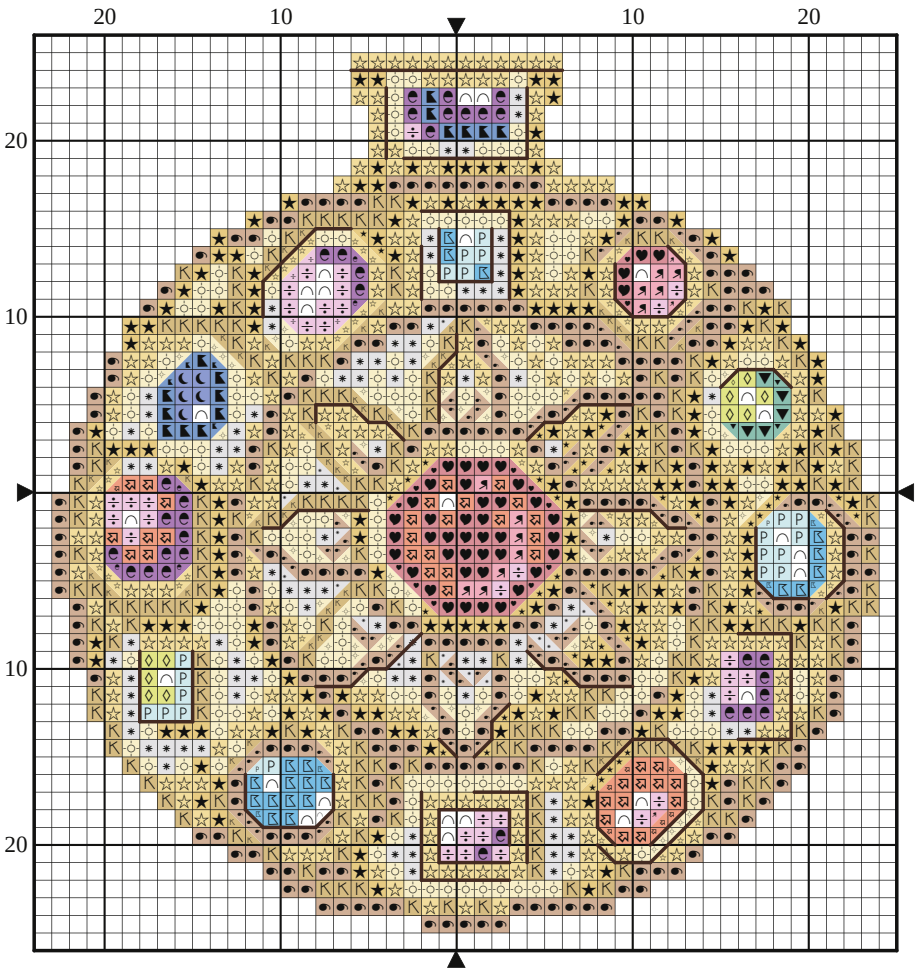
“What an stunning card set! These four cards are timeless, and while it may be a bit fiddly to stitch with the different types of thread, it’ll be worthwhile once finished. Stitch the whole set to always have a card to hand!”

VICKI, EDITOR

How to... stitch with DMC Étoile

DMC Étoile is a soft cotton thread flecked with lurex glitter strands, adding an elegant twinkle to your stitching. Available in 35 sparkling colours, it comes in 8m skeins, just like standard stranded cotton, and is colourfast up to 30°C so you can handwash it safely. Simply separate the individual strands like normal and combine them in your needle for stitching. It can fray and split easily, so use thread conditioner to make it more manageable, and cut shorter lengths to reduce friction and tangles. DMC Étoile can be particularly tricky to unpick, so be sure to count twice to avoid mistakes!





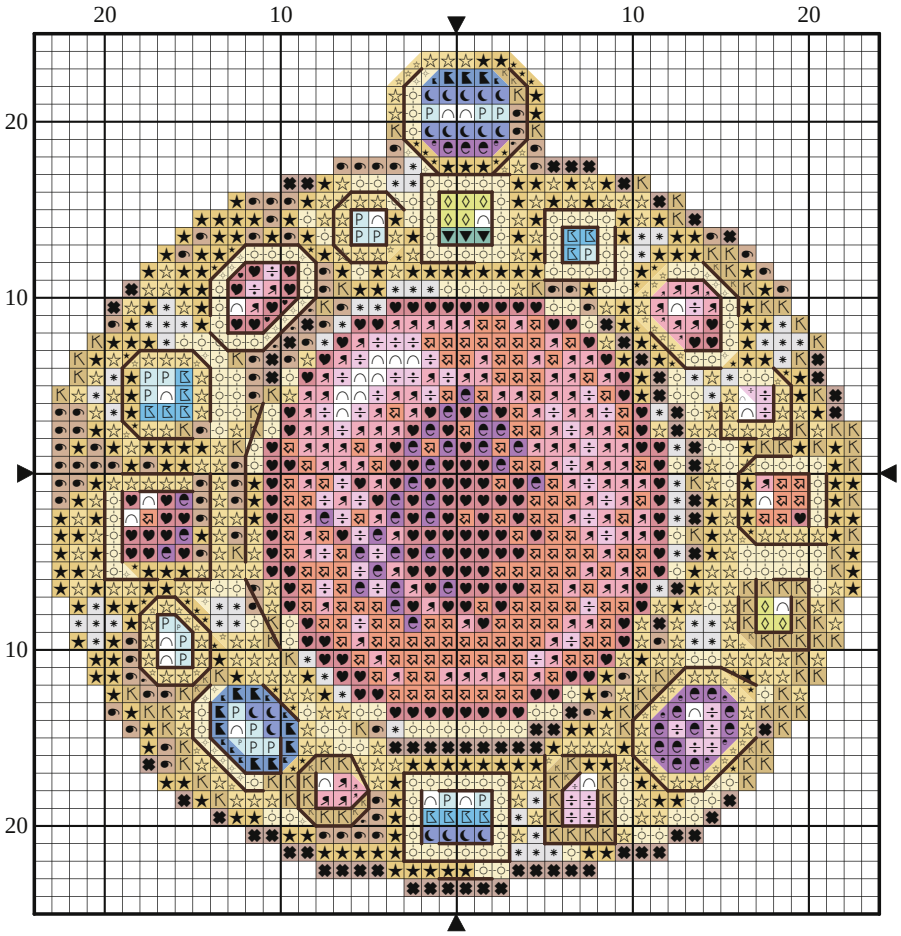






Lorraine
READER PANEL

“These could also be made into tree decorations and backed with felt in a colour that complements the precious stones. I would use a fine chain to hang them, rather than thread.”





DESIGNED BY **JENNY VAN DE WIELE**

Holiday cheer

Stitched in gorgeous greens and rustic reds, enjoy the last instalment of the seasonal hoop series

Meet Jenny Van De Wiele



"These winter hoops wrap up the seasonal series I've designed. They bring both a warmth and slightly Scandi festive touch that will look wonderful as décor during the holidays and beyond."

www.homestitchness.etsy.com

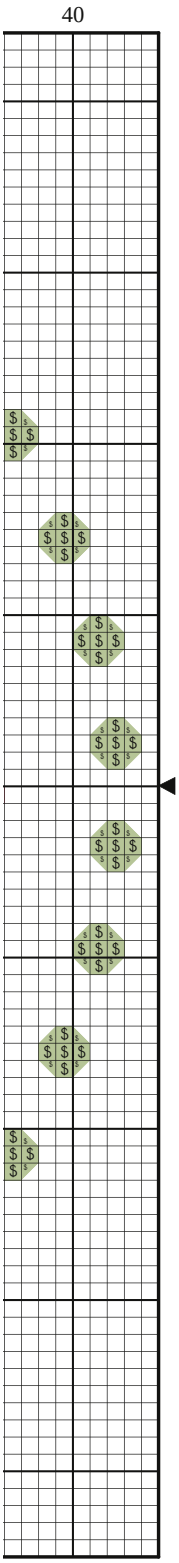
Large Winter Mandala chart (left)



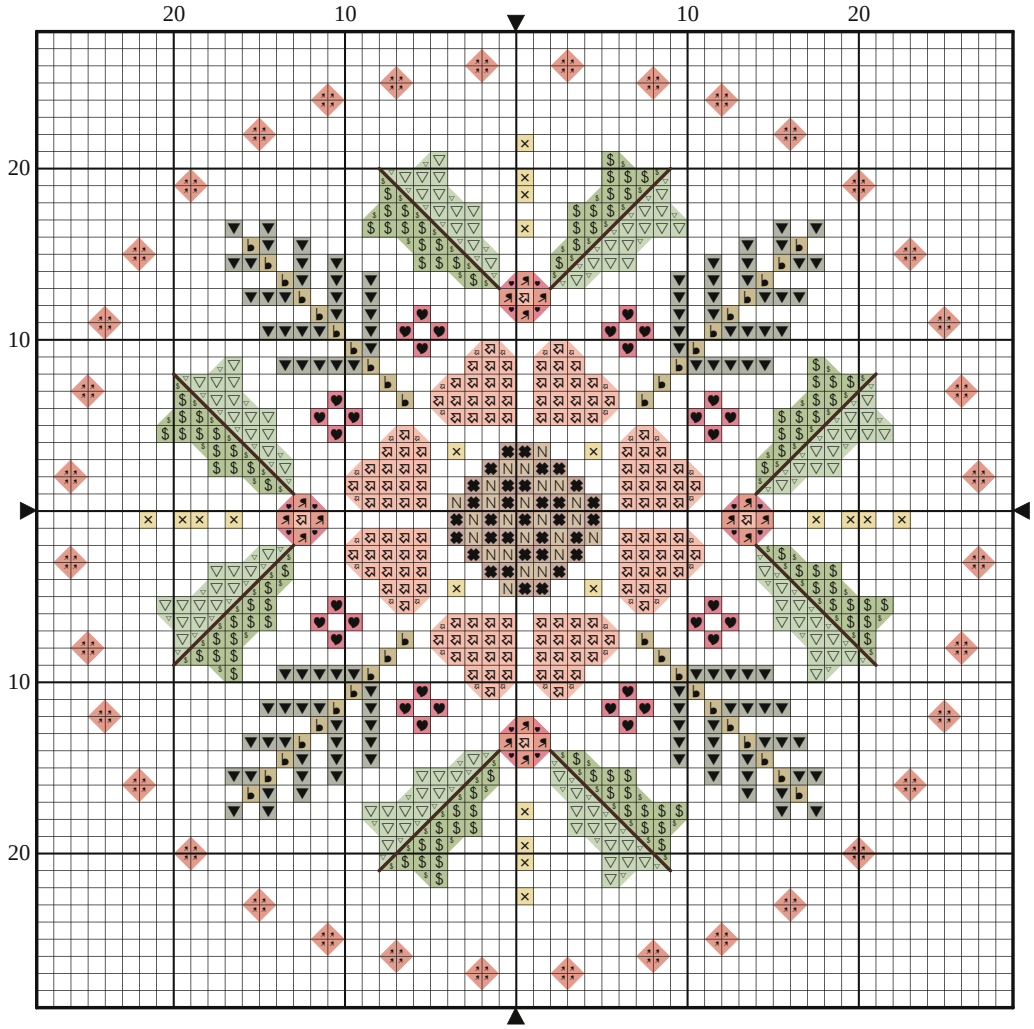
“This is the last in the series that I need to stitch, then I have a set to rotate when the seasons change! The autumn one is currently on display in my home office and soon enough it will be winter’s turn!”



CLAIRE, DESIGN LEAD



Large Winter Mandala chart (right)



Factbox

Painted hoop display

- **Stitching Time** Approx. 6-18 hours per design
- **Type of Stitches** Cross stitch, fractionals, backstitch
- **Ease of Stitching** Intermediate

Shopping list

- Zweigart 28-count cream (222) cashel linen square measuring 25cm (10in) for the large design, 23cm (9in) medium and 21cm (8½in) small, from Stitchtastic*
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Size 24 tapestry needle
- 7in, 6in and 5in wooden embroidery hoops, paint, white felt for backing and medium-weight iron-on interfacing from local stores

*For stockists see page 82

Winter Mandala Hoops key

Cross stitch in two strands

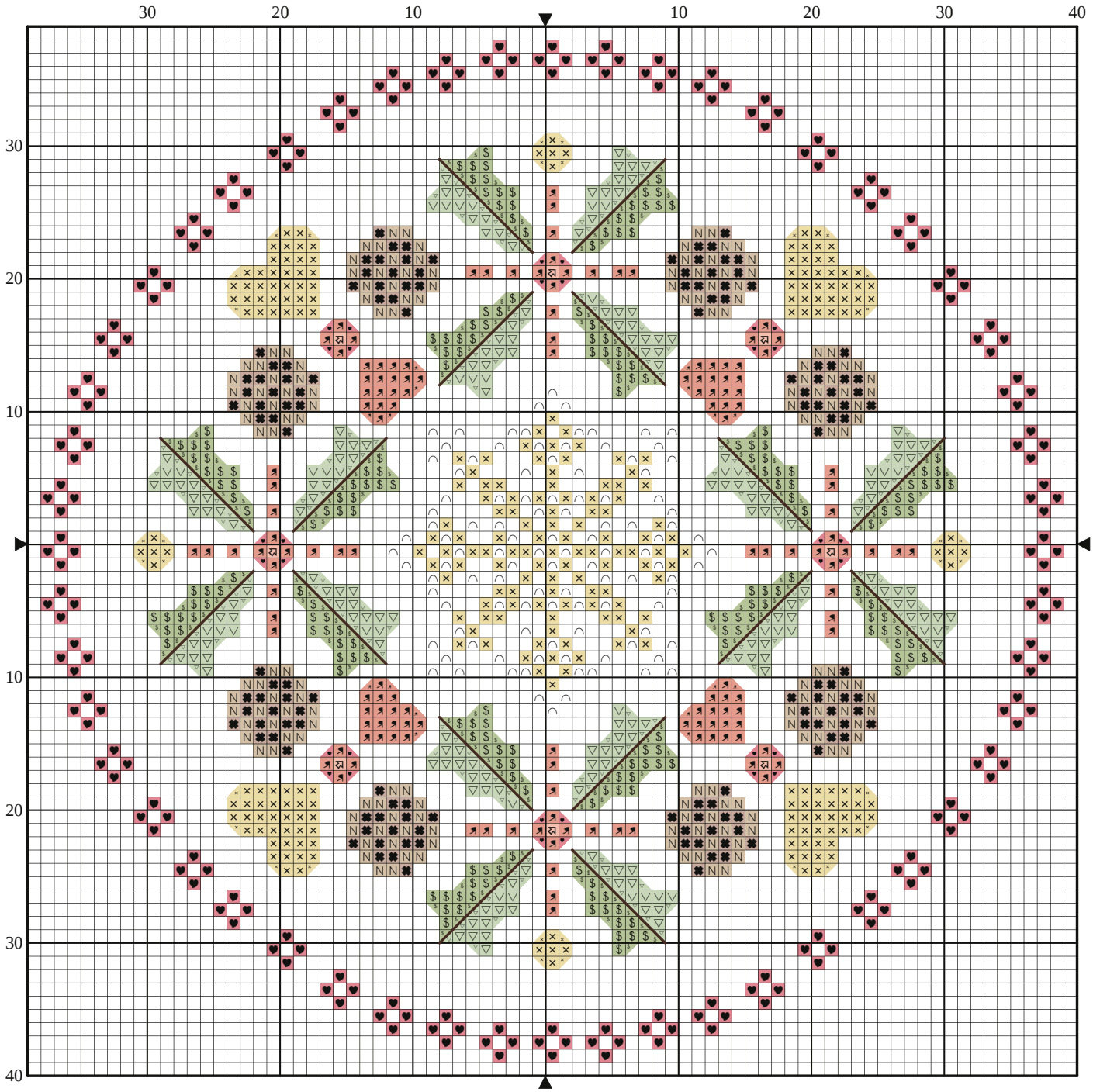
	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	blanc	2	2402	white
▼	319	212	1313	bottle green
↗	321	9046	510	red
✠	352	9	303	coral
♭	420	374	2104	tan
$	505	210	1312	dark green
▽	563	208	1207	green
♥	815	44	513	ruby
×	834	874	2510	olive green
N	840	1084	1912	mink brown
✱	898	360	2006	brown

Backstitch in one strand

—	834	874	2510	olive green

MAXIMUM STITCH COUNT 87 high x 87 wide
DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 16x16cm (6¼x6¼in)
STITCHED BY Sam Lowe

These designs were stitched using DMC stranded cotton on 28-count linen over two threads of the fabric



There's more...

To stitch the full series, download PDF issues from gatheredshop.com or access via *The World of Cross Stitching* app (Apple or Android devices).



'Spring Mandala Hoops', issue 369 (March 2026)

'Summer Mandala Hoops', issue 372 (June 2026)





'Autumn Mandala Hoops', issue 375 (September 2026)

Enter to win!

PRIZES worth £748!

Each month we have fab giveaways for readers with loads of prizes up for grabs

PRIZES WORTH £250

Winter makes

10 UP FOR GRABS!



We love being spoilt for choice by the plethora of Christmas patterns out there Designer Durene Jones* absolutely loves Christmas and she is kindly giving away five PDF downloads to 10 lucky winners, which includes ' Santa and Reindeer Pot', 'Christmas Reindeer Hoop', 'Snowman Biscornu', 'Santa and Friends Biscornu' and 'Here Comes Santa', each pattern worth £5 each and readily available on Durene's Etsy store.

TO ENTER **Visit www.worldofcrossstitching.com/win**

PRIZES WORTH £268

Christmas cuties

10 UP FOR GRABS!

Mouseloft* is kindly giving away 10 bundles of Christmassy stitching, worth £26.80! There are six kits in the bundle of fun animals, Santa and snowmen to get you in the festive spirit.

TO ENTER **Visit www.worldofcrossstitching.com/win**



PRIZES WORTH £230

HARRY POTTER™

NEW DMC STITCH KITS

Something exciting this way comes! DMC* has launched an officially-licensed range of Harry Potter crafting kits, which you can read all about on page 38. The fantastical cross stitch kits include keyrings, bookmarks and larger projects featuring the well-loved characters and other magical themes – these are the perfect treat for fans of the books and movies. Stitch them for yourself or gift to a friend who loves stitching and magic! The full range is available now on DMC's website, as well as participating in-store and online retailers.

Three lucky winners will receive a bundle that includes three fabulous cross stitch kits – a Hedwig keyring, Hermione bookmark and Harry potions sampler, worth £76.50 in total. Be sure to enter today to try your luck!

TO ENTER **Visit www.worldofcrossstitching.com/win**

3 UP FOR GRABS!



© WBEI (s26)

TO ENTER:
Visit **www.worldofcrossstitching.com/win** to enter and for full terms and conditions. Closing date for all entries: **25 November 2026.** No entries by post or text message.

TERMS & CONDITIONS:
Promoter: Our Media Ltd, a company registered in England and Wales with company no. 05715415. Promotion excludes Our Media employees, contractors and anyone connected with the competition or their direct family members. The closing date for all entries is **25 November 2026**. Open to UK mainland residents aged 18+ only. By entering, you agree to be bound by the rules of the promotion. Only one entry per person, per competition allowed. No responsibility accepted for lost, delayed, ineligible or fraudulent entries. Winning entries chosen at random from all eligible entries. Winners will be notified within 28 days of closing date. The draw is final, no correspondence will be entered into. For winners' details, send an SAE within two months of the closing date. If any winner cannot be contacted within 28 days of the closing date, the promoter will offer the prize to a runner-up. The promoter reserves the right to substitute the prize with one of the same or greater value, no cash alternative. The Promoter reserves the right to amend these terms and conditions or to cancel, alter or amend the promotion at any stage, if deemed necessary, or if circumstances arise outside of its control. Personal information will be used as set out in our Privacy Policy: ourmedia.co.uk/policies.

*For stockists see page 82

Our Best Buys

All the hottest cross stitch must-haves for your shopping list, plus an exclusive offer to make your pennies go further...

Snow good!

THE WORLD OF Cross Stitching PICK OF THE MONTH



£6 Each

FESTIVE CUTIES

Although we appreciate your seasonal to-stitch pile is likely to already be very full, we couldn't resist adding these gorgeous charts from Tiny Modernist*. Cheryl's charming 'Winter Snowglobe' series features a bear, llama, penguin and other fur-tastic animals, all wrapped up warmly in a gorgeously snowy landscape. Each snow globe is the same size – 12.7x14cm (5x5½in) on 14-count aida – and the instant download comes with multi-page and single page charts, plus a DMC and Anchor thread key.

The good news is that, as these are more winter-focused than Christmas specific, you could always save them for post-Christmas stitching in the months of January and February. These cuties will also make for adorable companions in a little one's bedroom, decorating their wall with friendly faces.



£19.99

LIGHT IT UP

If you like to take your stitching out and about, this Yoyo Magnifier by The Daylight Company* is a fun and portable option. Available in three pretty pastel shades of sage green, lilac and sky blue, as well as white, the handy little light and magnifier folds up into a compact 8cm wide, and also comes with a wrist strap. This makes it ideal for stitching on the go, or popping in your suitcase for taking away on any Christmas holidays. The 5.5cm lens magnifies to 3X, while the three bright LEDs run off three AA batteries. It's the ideal stocking filler for a stitchy friend, too!

4 fab finds...

of cute festive woodland designs to encourage cosy stitching



£20.69

Forest friends
Design Works' 'Woodland Ornaments' kit makes 15 decorations. Buy it from Stitcher*.



£9

Sweet treat
'Sugar' is the latest cutie from Stacy Nash Designs* 'Animal Cracker Christmas Cookie' series.



£10.81

Jump to it
We love the tiny, adorable jumpers in Lila's Studio* 'Woodland Holiday' charts.



£12.31

Pick a present
Squirrels, bunnies and bears, oh my! 'The Perfect Gift' chart trio is available at PuntiniPuntiniStore.*

Prices and info correct at time of printing. Find stockists on page 82.

CLASSIC CHRISTMAS

STITCH AN HEIRLOOM PIECE

Samplers are perfect projects for those who love bringing tiny details to life in needle and thread, and this 'Winter Day' sampler by Samplers and Primitives is no exception. It features a charming group of red brick houses in the snow, surrounded by a delicate border of holly, pine boughs, berries and snowflakes. This is definitely a project for stitchers with experience, as the suggested fabric to stitch it on is 40-count linen, a finished size of 33x34cm (13x13½in). You can buy the chart in the UK from Talking Dog Stitchery.*



£25



From £7

FUN WITH FRIENDS

These two reindeer are enjoying the snow with their winged friend, one even warapped in a polka dot scarf! 'Snowy Reindeer' is the newest design in Genny Haines' 'Back to Nature' collection, available from Goldleaf Needlework*. The kit includes 14-count Fabric Flair aida in a frosty blue colour, mimicking the wintry feel of the snowy landscape, along with DMC threads and a needle. You can also purchase just the chart for as low as £7, using fabric and threads in your stash for a unique and bespoke finish. This is a great project to work on as you get ready for the winter feels!



£9.99

STUCK ON YOU

For those of you who love incorporating beadwork into your cross stitch, check out these delightfully festive Mill Hill* magnet kits that are adorned with delicate glass beads. There are a variety to choose from, including 'Book Tree', 'Door Décor' and 'Yule Log'. There's even 'Alien Elf' – perfect for any sci-fi fans! They're sure to add a pop of Christmas cheer to your fridge, or make a cute secret Santa or stocking present.

PEACE ON EARTH

Capturing the feel of stained glass in yarn and fabric isn't easy, but this delightful 'Merry Christmas Angels' tapestry cushion by Jolly Red* really evokes the feel of a glowing church window. This vibrant design is stitched on printed canvas, using half cross stitch and tent stitch, and measures 38x38cm (15x15in). You can opt to buy just the printed canvas, or get a complete kit that comes with Appletons wool. It would make a gorgeous gift for a loved one, or stitch for yourself to make an item of festive décor you can enjoy year after year.



£47.50

READER OFFER

With an inspiring selection of charts from all around the globe, Talking Dog Stitchery* is a great website to discover your new favourite designer. You can enjoy 10% off all Christmas and winter patterns – just use code **WOXS1226** at checkout.† This lovely offer is valid until 31 December 2026.



SAVE 10%

Shop away
Take advantage of your exclusive 10% off festive and winter charts at Talking Dog Stitchery.

Visit company websites for T&Cs. † 10% off full-price items at checkout. UK only, delivery fees will apply.

Everything you need for your best Christmas ever!

Simply Christmas

ONLY £6.99 PLUS P+P

Four magazines in one! As well as your favourite festive magazine, with decorating trends, feel-good features and seasonal hacks, there are three bonus extras, packed with gifts, recipes and tips to make your Christmas merry and bright!



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+UK calls will cost the same as other standard fixed line numbers (starting 01 or 02) and are included as part of any inclusive or free minutes allowances (if offered by your phone tariff). Lines open weekdays 9am to 5pm for orders and enquiries. Your magazine will be mailed on or before11th September 2026 by Evri's 2-3 day tracked service. UK price £6.99 + £2.80 P&P, EUR price £6.99 + £3.50 P&P, ROW price £6.99 + £4 P&P. Please allow up to 28 days for delivery. Offer subject to availability.

Stitching for festive joy

Buy 2 patterns and SAVE 10%*

Visit **gatheredshop.com** for instant access to our latest Christmas PDF patterns. Look out for new patterns in the store – from quick-to-stitch cards and pet makes to beautiful stag décor



Festive fox card set
Six fun and quick-to-stitch designs by Durene Jones



Pets love Christmas
Make a stocking by Rhona Norrie for your furry friends

SCAN ME
Scan the QR code to head straight to **www.gatheredshop.com**



Handmade home
Stitch a set of five motifs for these padded heart decorations by Fiona Baker

Have you stitched these? Email us a pic for our Letters page!



Folk art joy
Take on a mindful project over the break, such as Perry Abdel Hadi's stag hoop

gathered.shop
Discover your next creative project

*Discount applied at checkout. See website for terms and conditions

Next month in

ISSUE 380
ON SALE
26 NOV

The UK's No.1
THE WORLD OF
Cross Stitching



HOW'S THE WEATHER?
Climbing Goat Designs' temperature chart is an exciting, exclusive design!



OUR 2027 SAL!
Stitchrovia's positive reminders canvas is our new stitch-a-long for 2027!



HITTING THE SLOPES
This set of Alpine cards by Becky Spencer has got us in a skiing mood



WHEN SNOW FALLS
This Hardanger snowflakes design will stretch your skills!

Contents subject to change. Gift(s) only with print edition, and overseas gift(s) may vary.



Winter's wildlife in the snow

This super-cute Wrendale Designs snow hares chart is full of detail



COSY COTTAGE
Fiona Baker's blackwork hoop series continues with the arrival of winter



STENCIL SET
Stitch thank you cards, gift tags and more with Lisa Reakes' hand-drawn ABC

PLUS MUCH MORE

- Winter for the birds and wildlife SAL by Amanda Gregory
- Exclusive chart from Innocent Bones of an enchanting moon
- Jenny Barton's music Design Library that will get you moving
- Your cross stitching queries answered by our experts
- Your stories, inspiration & letters... plus much more

HANDY FLOSS DROP PACK!

YOUR BONUS GIFT!

Don't get in a tangle with your threads any more as these floss drops will help keep things tidy! With a cut-out star for full strands and two holes either side for leftovers, keep it all together on the metal ring.

Your gift includes:

- Metal organiser keyring
- 32 yellow floss drops for your skeins of thread



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How to...

Beginner? Follow Fiona's guide to instant stitching success!



Stitching's a breeze!
Let Senior Technical Editor Fiona show you how it's done in this reference guide

CHOOSE YOUR ESSENTIALS...

Start with these must-have items

FABRICS

Most stitchers start off using ***aida*** – a block-weave fabric, which is divided into squares by a grid of holes, making it an ideal fabric for beginners. Each cross stitch is worked over one square.

Or you may prefer ***evenweave***, which is also woven in a grid but in a finer count. Each cross stitch is usually worked over two threads of the fabric (shown below), making it the equivalent size to stitching on aida (eg. 28-count evenweave would produce the same size finish as 14-count aida). Fractional stitches are easier to work on evenweave, as there's a central hole spare so you don't need to split a block as you do for aida.



THREADS

You'll need ***stranded cotton*** – this coloured thread comes in 8m skeins and is made up of six strands. There are three main brands – DMC, Anchor and Madeira – which are all smooth and easy to stitch with, and they're colourfast to 95°C. Cheaper brands are available, but could be less durable and may not be colourfast. Less than one full skein of each thread will be required for a design, unless indicated at the bottom of the key for that project.

NEEDLES

Use a ***tapestry needle*** which has a blunt tip and large eye. It easily passes through the fibres of aida and evenweave. Different needle sizes are available, so choose the best for your fabric – see our guide on the right. It's a good idea to have a sharp (crewel) needle, to split aida blocks when stitching fractionals, and a thin beading needle is useful too.





Tapestry needle	Aida	Evenweave
	6-count	
	8-count	
	11-count	22, 25 & 27-count
	14-count	28-count
	16-count	32-count*
	18-count	36 & 55-count

*Also includes 22-count hardanger

How to read our charts & keys

Clear symbols, colours & all the info you need!

CHARTS Made up of coloured squares containing symbols that represent squares to be stitched on the fabric. A tiny symbol denotes a fractional stitch in the corner of the square in which it's to be worked. The centres of our charts are marked with arrows on the edge of each side. To find the corresponding centre of your fabric, fold it in half horizontally and then vertically – the point where the creases cross marks the centre. Start stitching here to ensure the design is positioned in the middle of the fabric.

SHOPPING LIST Contains type and size of fabric, recommended needle, and details of other products to frame or finish your project in the same way we have. Using another fabric with different HPI will alter the finished size of a design. Calculate your fabric size like this: stitch count divided by HPI of new fabric choice = new size in inches. Add at least 15cm (6in) to each dimension to allow for mounting in a frame, but less (between 5-10cm) for cards or home furnishings.

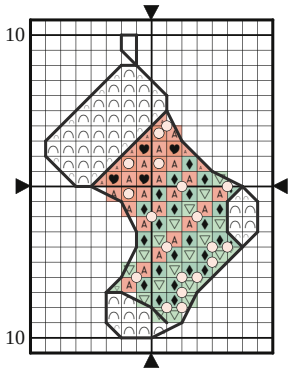
FACTBOX Includes an approx. stitching time, types of stitches found in the design and a difficulty level – this can help you decide if a project is suitable for your skills (beginner, intermediate or advanced).

KEY The key alongside a chart will tell you what colour thread each symbol corresponds to, along with the following information:

Thread brands
Different manufacturer thread shades are listed in separate columns. For best results, stick to one manufacturer for the whole of a design. The first column is the brand we used to stitch the design.

Backstitch & French knot shades
The shades used for these are listed under the cross stitch symbols. The number of strands needed for these can vary, so make sure you check the key so you know how many strands to use.

Stitch count & design area
This indicates the finished size of your design – in stitches and on the particular fabric we've used. HPI stands for holes per inch.



Stocking key

Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	blanc	2	2402	white
♥	349	1098	212	red
A	351	10	214	light red
♦	910	228	1302	green
▽	913	204	1212	light green

Backstitch in one strand

—	3799	236	1713	grey

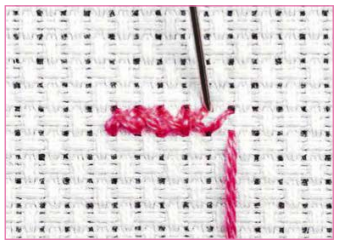
French knots in one strand

○	352	9	303	coral

STITCH COUNT 20 high x 14 wide
DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 3.5x2.5cm (1½x1in)
This design was stitched using DMC stranded cotton

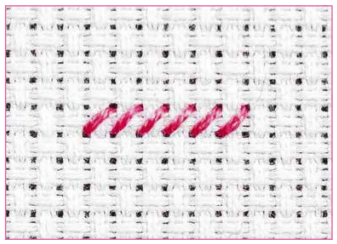
How to stitch

Tackle the basic stitches in our charts...



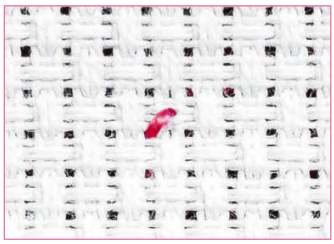
Cross stitch

Each coloured square on the chart represents a whole cross stitch. Bring the needle up at the bottom left corner of a square and down at the top right corner. Then, bring the needle up at the bottom right corner and down at the top left to complete a stitch (starting corner positions can be reversed if preferred).



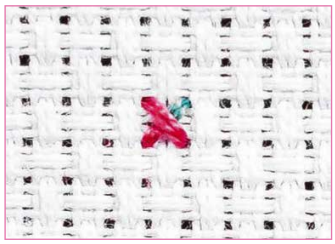
Half cross stitch

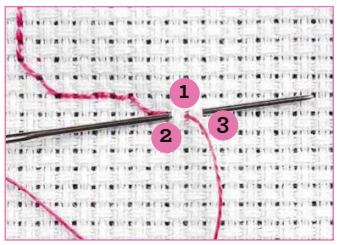
Half cross stitch is identified with a different symbol on the chart and key to the cross stitches, and consists of one arm of the stitch only. Work each half cross stitch in the same direction as you would the top arm of your full cross stitches for a neat and consistent look to your project.



Fractional stitches

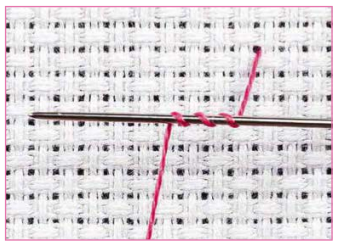
To make a quarter stitch, bring the needle up at the corner of a square and take it down through the centre, halfway across the diagonal, splitting the aida block (above left) or through the central hole if using evenweave. To turn this into a three-quarter stitch (above right, shown in pink thread), make a half cross stitch across the diagonal of the square. To make two fractional stitches in the same square, you'll need to decide which is a quarter stitch (shown above, in blue) and which is a three-quarter stitch. Usually, the three-quarter stitch (shown above, in pink) is made in the foreground colour of the design – look at the composition of the design carefully to decide which is which.





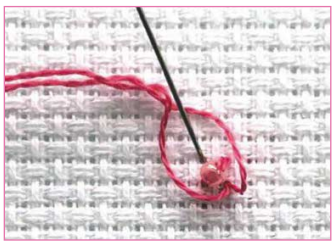
Backstitch

Backstitch is shown by a coloured line and is added to stitching to create detail. Work the backstitch over individual blocks on aida, or pairs of threads on evenweave. Bring the needle up through the fabric at 1 and take it down at 2, up at 3 and so on (see above), so that you are always working back on yourself.



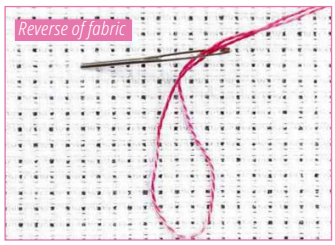
French knots

French knots appear as large dots on the chart. Bring the needle up through the fabric, then holding the thread with one hand, wind it around the needle two or three times. Holding the thread taut, take the needle down part of an aida block (or one thread on evenweave) away. Pull through until a neat knot is formed.



Beads

Beads appear as a circle with a dot on the chart. To attach seed beads, use a whole cross stitch with two thread strands to help keep the beads upright – attach the bead with the bottom arm of a cross stitch and then add the top arm of the stitch, making sure that one strand of thread falls neatly on either side of the bead.



Starting your thread

The loop method is the neatest way to start but can only be done with an even number of strands. Cut a 40cm (16in) thread length, pull out one strand and fold it in half. Thread the needle with both ends, forming a loop at the end. Bring the needle up through the fabric and back down through the loop, then pull to secure.

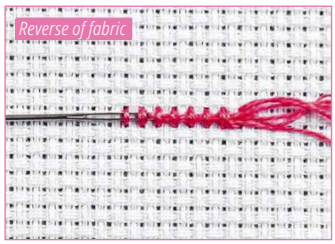
HOW TO ALTER THREAD SHADES IN A DESIGN

Swap colours to suit your preferences for skin tones, stashbusting & more...

Thread colours are arranged in shade 'families' – these are groups of colours that create a gradient of shading. It helps to look at a shade card for the full palette when making colour comparisons (available from DMC and Anchor) as these are arranged within the shade families already. You can swap threads like-for-like to equivalent shades of another family, ie. light, medium and dark. You may want to change the hue of an entire pattern, or use up threads already in your stash to save money. You can also alter skin tones to create different ethnicities. We've included some examples of skin shade families below, but feel free to experiment with your own.

You'll need to select alternatives for mid-tones, highlights and shadows, depending on how many shades are included in a design. For example, if only one shade is used select the mid-tone, then add highlight and shadow tones either side of this as required.

Highlight	3770	948	754	Highlight	712	437	407	Highlight	842	3864	840
Mid-tone	3774	754	3771	Mid-tone	739	436	3772	Mid-tone	841	3863	839
Shadow	950	3771	758	Shadow	738	435	632	Shadow	840	3862	838



Finishing your thread

Once you've finished stitching, finish off your threads to keep them secure by running the needle through the back of several stitches that you've already completed. Snip off the ends neatly with a sharp pair of embroidery scissors, as close to your fabric as possible.

Back issues

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✖ Issue 377, November 2026

Have snow much fun with Helz Cuppleditch's sledging snowman and friends! Plus, enjoy Tiny Modernist's colourful winter occasion cards and Heather Nugent's party animal cones, ideal for birthdays. Get ahead on the Christmas stitching with the snow globe ornament decorations, or enjoy the last bit of autumn with Fiona Baker's blackwork hoop. **Bumper gift pack: Nutcracker stocking, robin card and chart sheet**



✖ Issue 376, Oct

Sweet hedgehog card, autumnal pumpkin patch, wild woodland mobile, wreath cards, Irish blessing, Halloween activity cards and Toronto snow globe



✖ Issue 375, Sept

Wrendale bullfinch card, royal Tatty Teddy, meditative greenhouse scene, floral wrist pincushions, overhead beach scene, coffee and tea sampler and frog motifs



✖ Issue 374, Aug

Holiday chart book, Margaret Sherry's baking mice, Artemis portrait, beach cards, wedding sampler, summer bunnies and whimsical tooth fairy canvas



✖ Issue 373, July

Scottie dog keyring, exclusive Helz Cuppleditch, beachside triptych, Greek blessing, mandala ABC, woven wheel flower bouquet and wild swimming cards



✖ Issue 372, June

Bee cupcake card, Wrendale Designs cat in tulips, fun 3D farm, punny Father's Day cards, rainbow alphabet set, tennis frame and Rome snow globe



✖ Issue 371, May

Fox and friends card, All Our Yesterdays meadow stroll, twilight bistro, painterly horse, illustrated wildlife postcards and roaring dinosaur

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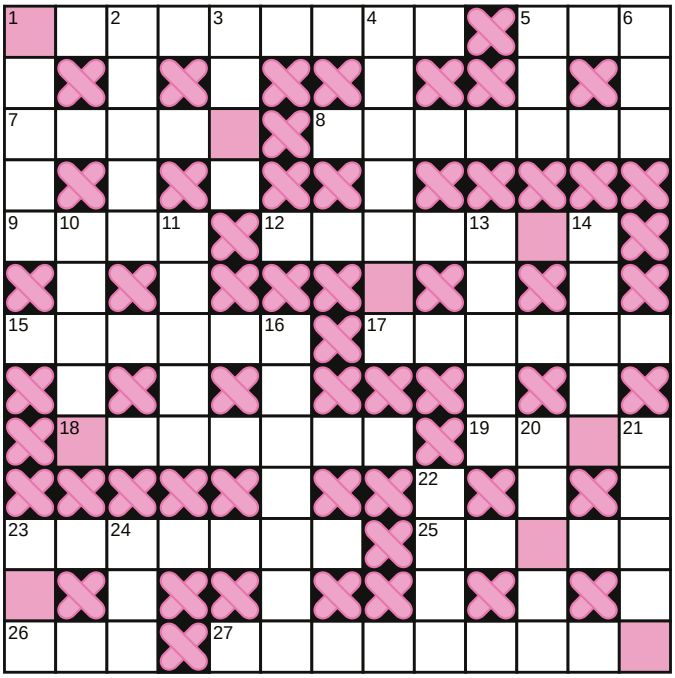
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Turn to page 60 to see our latest offer!

Take a break!

Put down your needle and pick up a pen to complete our crossword and sudoku puzzles



Complete the crossword and rearrange the letters in the coloured squares to spell the name of a popular Christmas evergreen (5,4)

ACROSS

1) Type of fruity sauce commonly eaten with turkey (9)
5) Climbing evergreen plant used as a decoration (3)
7) Red-breasted bird often seen on Christmas cards (5)
8) Leftover scrap (7)
9) Young sheep (4)
12) Seasonal chocolate cake (4,3)
15) Pungent and flavourful clove used in cookery (6)
17) Messenger who proclaims important news or messages (6)
18) More delicious (7)
19) Party organiser (4)
23) Long wreath often used as decoration during festivities (7)
25) Support for an artist's canvas, often made of wood (5)
26) Jewel (3)
27) Plant under which people kiss at Christmas (9)

DOWN

1) Christmas hymn or song (5)
2) Book of photos (5)
3) Close tie (4)
4) Legendary reindeer (7)
5) Frozen water (3)
6) Nevertheless (3)
10) Be ready for (5)
11) Chiming instruments (5)
13) Tree with needle-like leaves and egg-shaped cones (5)
14) Very strong winds (5)
16) Dry Italian wine (7)
20) Beginning (5)
21) Fine net fabric (5)
22) Deep water hole (4)
23) Light two-wheel carriage without a hood (3)
24) Spirit made from sugarcane (3)

Enter to win!



Once you've completed the crossword or sudoku, send in your answers (see below for details) for the chance to win a handy Furry Tales magnetic needle minder, featuring the gorgeous Lizzie Mouse, designed by Lucie Heaton.

To enter by post: Write your name, address and your crossword or sudoku answer on the back of a postcard or stuck-down envelope and send it to: Crossword/Sudoku WOXS379, *The World of Cross Stitching*, Our Media Ltd, Eagle House, Bristol BS1 4ST. For full terms and conditions, turn to page 75. Please note that you can no longer enter by text message. **Closing date:** 25 November 2026

Fill in the blanks so each row, column, and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1-9. Send us the numbers in the coloured squares to enter the competition.

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

ISSUE 378 SOLUTION:
ACROSS: 1 Mocha, 4 Saffron, 8 Pickle, 9 Null, 11 Fern, 12 Exit, 13 Emit, 15 Vanilla, 17 Ale, 18 Rue, 19 Artisan, 21 Silo, 22 Tart, 24 With, 16 Maxi, 28 Dreary, 29 Oregano, 30 Piece
DOWN: 1 Maple, 2 Cochineal, 3 Able, 5 Angelica, 6 Fennel, 7 Oil, 10 Litre, 14 Marmalade, 16 Aviation , 17 Assam, 20 Rowing, 23 Thyme, 25 Wrap, 27 Air. **ANSWER:** NUTMEG



Stockists

Buy your basic stitching stash and products we've featured

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Getting started

Where to buy your start-up kit – turn to page 78 to see exactly what you'll need

ANCHOR
www.lovecrafts.com
For Anchor threads
www.blacksheepwools.com
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Distribution Frontline
Printed in England by William Gibbons

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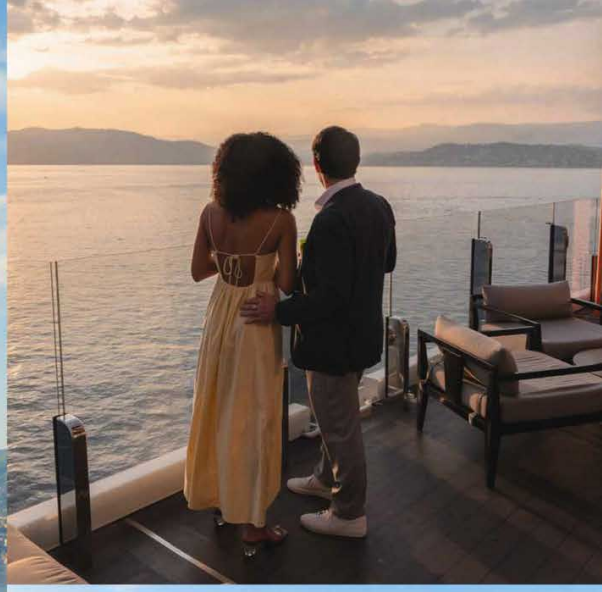
The World of Cross Stitching is published by:
Our Media Ltd
Eagle House, Bristol BS1 4ST
☎ 0117 927 9009 Fax: 0117 314 8310

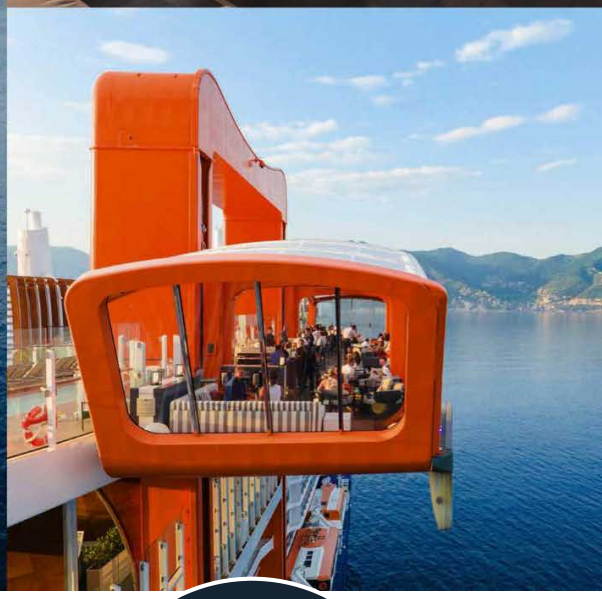
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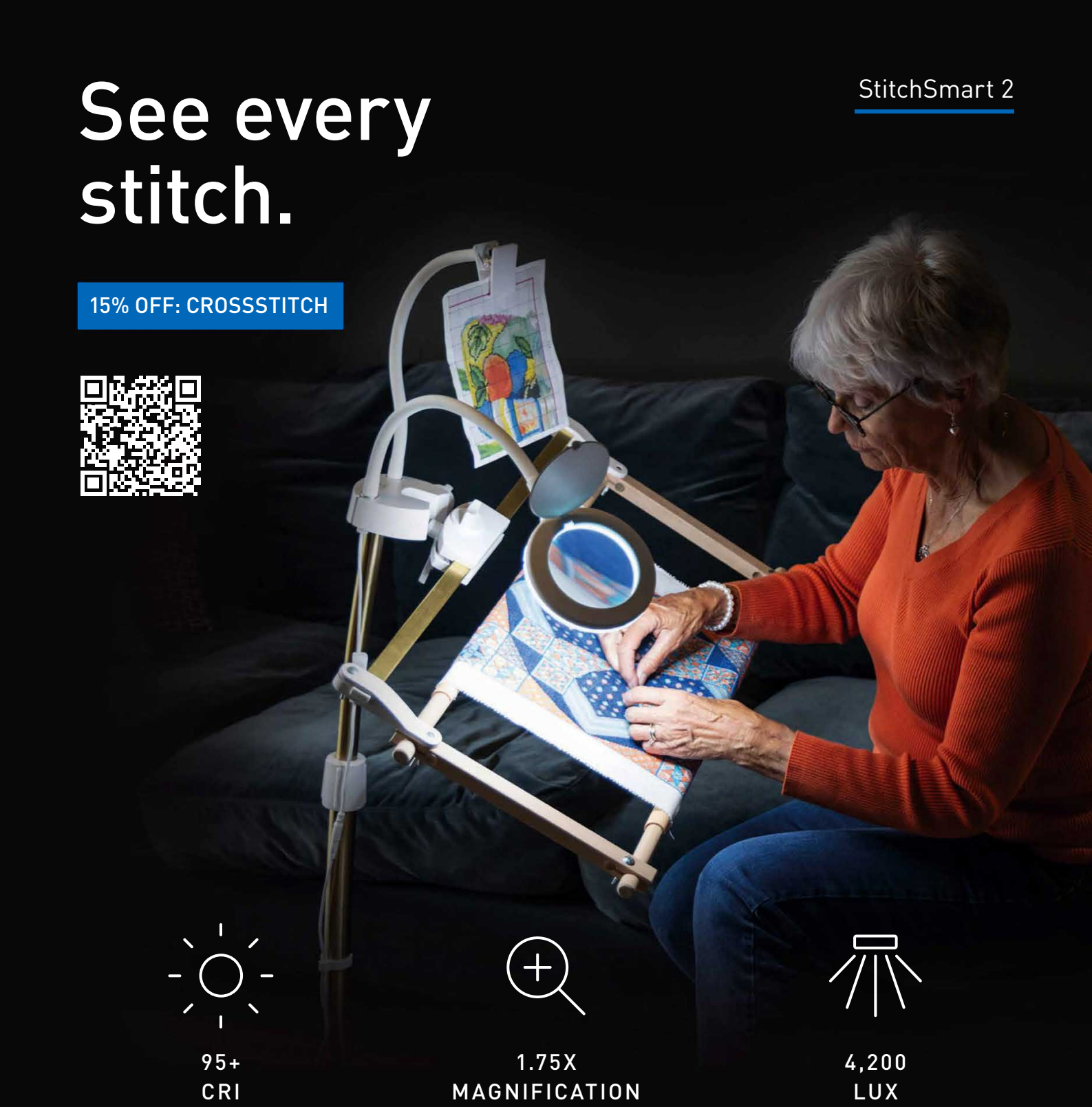
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