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Britain's No.1



# THE WORLD OF CROSS STITCHING

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223

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# Welcome

The million-dollar question we've been debating here in the office lately is just how many projects do we all have on the go? With all the stichy inspiration here at our – and your – fingertips, we wouldn't be surprised if those lists of **must-make designs** will be growing even more, this issue!

Added to my bookmarked pile, is this **curious kitty**. For her design debut in the mag, Claire Comerford's fab feline is one I'd love to make for a cat-loving pal. Turn to page 10 to see how easy it'll be to stitch, too!

More faves to highlight include the **feminine florals** – magnolias are stunning at this time of year, and will be super quick-stitch gifts (p30). Plus, cute **Tom Mouse** from the Country Companions, on page 76, is as sweet as ever.



What are your faves? Do tell us about your recent finishes... email to letters@cross-stitching.com, then **pick something new** for your must-make list!

*Ruth*

Editor  
*The World of Cross Stitching*

**PS** If you've got a stichy problem, or a design that you need us to track down – don't forget you can ask us anything! See page 35 for our **top expert advice**.

10



26



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30



## Meet some of our designers...



**CLAIRE COMERFORD**

Welcome new designer to the mag, Claire, who's created an adorable kitten in cross stitch. Take a look at page 10 now for a sweet scene you'll love.



**DIANE MACHIN**

Never lose your place again! Diane's bookmark projects are fun to stitch and practical too, so make one for every family member. See page 71.



**SHANNON WASILIEFF**

Step into a world of all things magical with Shannon's nostalgic carousel horse cards (p84). Stitch for any occasion – they'd be pretty for Mother's Day!

## MUCH MORE THAN A MAGAZINE... APPS TO GO!

- ✕ Here at *The World of Cross Stitching* we're proud to be online! Download our apps at the Apple newsstand, Google play, Zinio.com, for the Nook and on Amazon for Kindle Fire
- ✕ Join in daily chat on our Facebook group – click 'like' over at [www.facebook.com/TheWorldofCrossStitching](http://www.facebook.com/TheWorldofCrossStitching)
- ✕ On Twitter? To catch all of our behind-the-scenes info, follow @WOXScrossstitch



**Cross stitch gets digital!**  
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*The World of Cross Stitching* (ISSN 1460-1970) is published 13 times a year (monthly, with a Christmas issue in November) by Immediate Media Bristol, LTD, 2nd Floor, Tower House, Fairfax St., Bristol, BS1 3BN, UK. Distributed in the US by Circulation Specialists, LLC, 2 Corporate Drive, Suite 945, Shelton, CT 06484. Application to mail Periodical Postage pending at Shelton, CT and additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Send address changes to *The World of Cross Stitching*, PO Box 37495, Boone, IA 50037-0495.

## Subscribe and save money

Turn to page 44



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96  
NEW  
DESIGNS

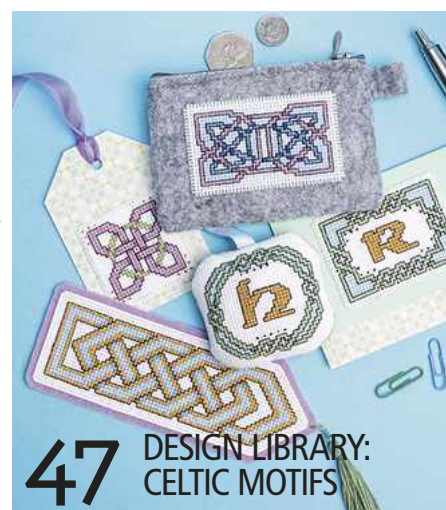
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# Win!

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enter & be lucky

OVER  
£1,044 OF  
PRIZES  
WILL BE  
WON!



71 MAKE BOOKMARKS  
FOR EVERYONE





- ✕ Get a sneak preview
- ✕ Appear in the magazine
- ✕ Receive a stichy gift

# Meet our guests

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



**Cathryn  
Etches**

is a teaching  
assistant from  
South Wales

## How long have you stitched?

I have been cross stitching since I was 19. A lovely lady taught me how to stitch because I wanted to make a gift for my cousin's new born baby.



to make a gift for my cousin's new born baby.

## What are you working on?

I am currently stitching names onto place cards for my wedding day.

## Who's your favourite cross stitch designer?

I love the quirky designs by Bothy Threads, they are so colourful, so I'd have to say they're my fave.

## Favourite recent design?

'Fancy a Cuppa?' from issue 225. My partner and I both adore coffee and it would look fantastic in our kitchen.

*"I love how I can  
get lost in the  
stitches"*



**Dorota  
Pietrzyk**

is a food factory  
worker from  
Evesham

## First cross stitch project?

A small bird made on printed canvas. It was so bad and so messy!

## What is your idea of cross stitch heaven?

Quiet room with a fireplace, cat on your lap and tons of cross stitch goodies!

## Who do you like to stitch for?

My family. I love giving them my projects as gifts. It is like I am giving them a piece of my time, heart and joy.



## Favourite design from a recent issue?

'Delightful Dreamcatcher' from issue 224! I can't wait to start this project.

*"It is excellent  
mood therapy and  
relieves stress"*



**Kasia  
Krzyzyk**

is a business  
analyst from  
Dublin

## How long have you been a stitcher and how did you start?

I started stitching over two years ago when I was pregnant.

## What's been your favourite recent design?

'Cool as ice' from issue 222. I love the blackboard effect.

## Proudest stitching moment?

Any time I finish a design, I feel really proud!

## If you could have a stitching session with anyone who would you invite and why?

It would have to be my granny. My mum always tells me I am like her.



*"Cross stitching  
soothes me after  
a busy day"*

## We need you!

To be on the panel, email [readerpanel@cross-stitching.com](mailto:readerpanel@cross-stitching.com) – 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 £30!



Gift  
worth  
£30!

**THANKS!** This month's panel members each get a bundle of Madeira goodies worth £30. It includes 25 thread packs plus a box of accessories filled with gold-plated needles, scissors and more!



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# Two FREE gifts!

Enjoy your sweet Bebunni kit with everything to make this cute card, plus a fancy florals bookmark chart

GIFT

1



## Inside your kit...

To help you sort your threads, here is a list of the colours and number of lengths inside your free kit:

White x 2	Dark pink x 2
Dark shell grey x 2	Cream x 3
Shell grey x 3	Charcoal grey x 1
Light shell grey x 3	<b>Total: 18 lengths</b>
Pink x 2	

## Factbox

- ✕ **Stitching Time**  
Approx. 5 hours
- ✕ **Type of Stitches**  
Cross stitch, fractionals, backstitch
- ✕ **Ease of Stitching**  
Beginner

Stitch in no time!

## Bebunni key

### ✕ Cross stitch in two strands

∩	white
\$	dark shell grey
я	shell grey
3	light shell grey
K	pink
●	dark pink
I	cream

### ✕ Half cross stitch in two strands

÷	light shell grey
---	------------------

### ✕ Backstitch in one strand

—	white
—	charcoal grey
—	dark shell grey

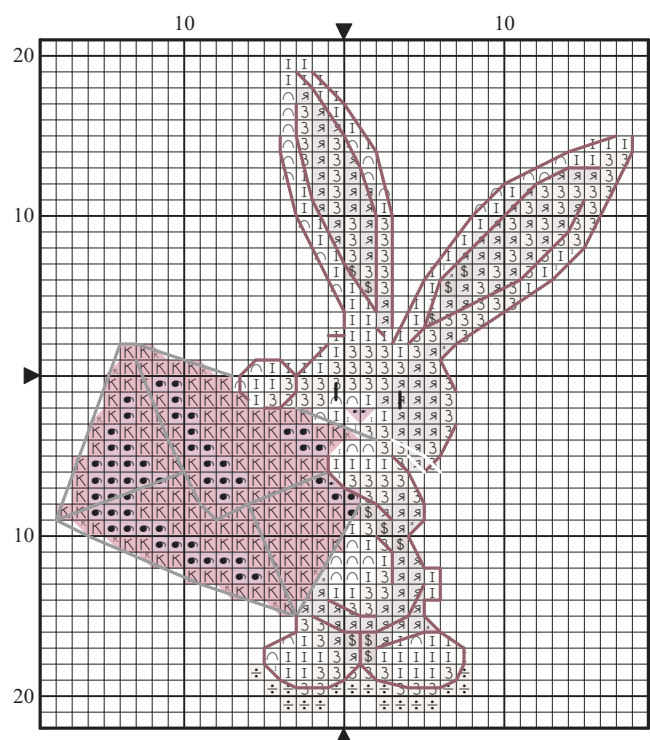
### ✕ Backstitch in two strands

—	charcoal grey
---	---------------

**STITCH COUNT** 41 high x 36 wide

**DESIGN AREA** 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 7.5x6.5cm (3x2½in)

This design was stitched using stranded cotton from your coverkit



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## There's more!

Love Bebunni? Then check out these papercrafting products featuring this cute bunny from Crafter's Companion\*



◀ Bebunni Floral Papercrafting Collection CD-ROM (CD-BBF), £14.99



▲ Bebunni Floral Unmounted Rubber Stamp - Birthday Blossom (BBF-ST-BLOSS), £4.99



▲ Bebunni Floral Unmounted Rubber Stamp - Brighten My Day (BBF-ST-BRIGHT), £4.99



▲ Bebunni Luxury Papercrafting Kit (292412), £14.99

**Where to buy**  
\*For stockists see page 90



## Free! Roses bookmark

GIFT

2

Stitch this bookmark chart for yourself or as a gorgeous gift for a book-loving friend

### TOP TIP

Double-sided tape is best for sticking stitching into the bookmark mount – it doesn't make the mess that glue does



## Meet the designer

### SHANNON WASILIEFF

"I am a huge fan of books and reading... that is when I am not cross stitching! So I was delighted to combine two of my loves and create this pretty cross stitched bookmark chart of colourful roses. Great as a gift idea, I would stitch up a few to keep in the house, too!"



## Sort out your threads

Head over to Cross Stitch TV for tips

Cute Bebunni's soft fur is shaded with several close colours for a realistic effect, so watch our Editor, Ruth, give you tips on sorting out your threads before starting to stitch. Find the video at [www.cross-stitching.com](http://www.cross-stitching.com) in the 'How to' section.







DESIGN BY **CLAIRE COMERFORD**

# Chasing butterflies

With so much to explore and discover, this mischievous sweetie just loves to play outdoors in the spring sunshine!



For a kitten, even the smallest garden is exciting new territory to explore. With fragrant flowers to sniff, leaves to nose about in and insect life in abundance to chase, taking in your surroundings has never been so much fun, especially when you're testing out those quick reflexes our feline friends are famous for!

Catching his eye among the gorgeous geraniums, this pretty butterfly is in our kitty's sights, but fear not, we're sure that with a flutter of its wings it'll have an easy getaway from this little one's limited reach!

Whether this cute character reminds you of your 'purrfect' pet, or you know someone who's crazy for cats, this charming scene is a

## Factbox

- ✗ **Stitching Time**  
Approx. 45 hours
- ✗ **Type of Stitches**  
Cross stitch, fractionals, backstitch, French knots
- ✗ **Ease of Stitching**  
Advanced beginner

Great shading and detail

must-stitch. Its realistic finish is achieved by using a variety of thread tones for depth of colour, and also several techniques, making this pattern full of interest from your first stitch to the last. Start today, and you'll have this playful pal in your life sooner than you think! ➤



## Meet the designer

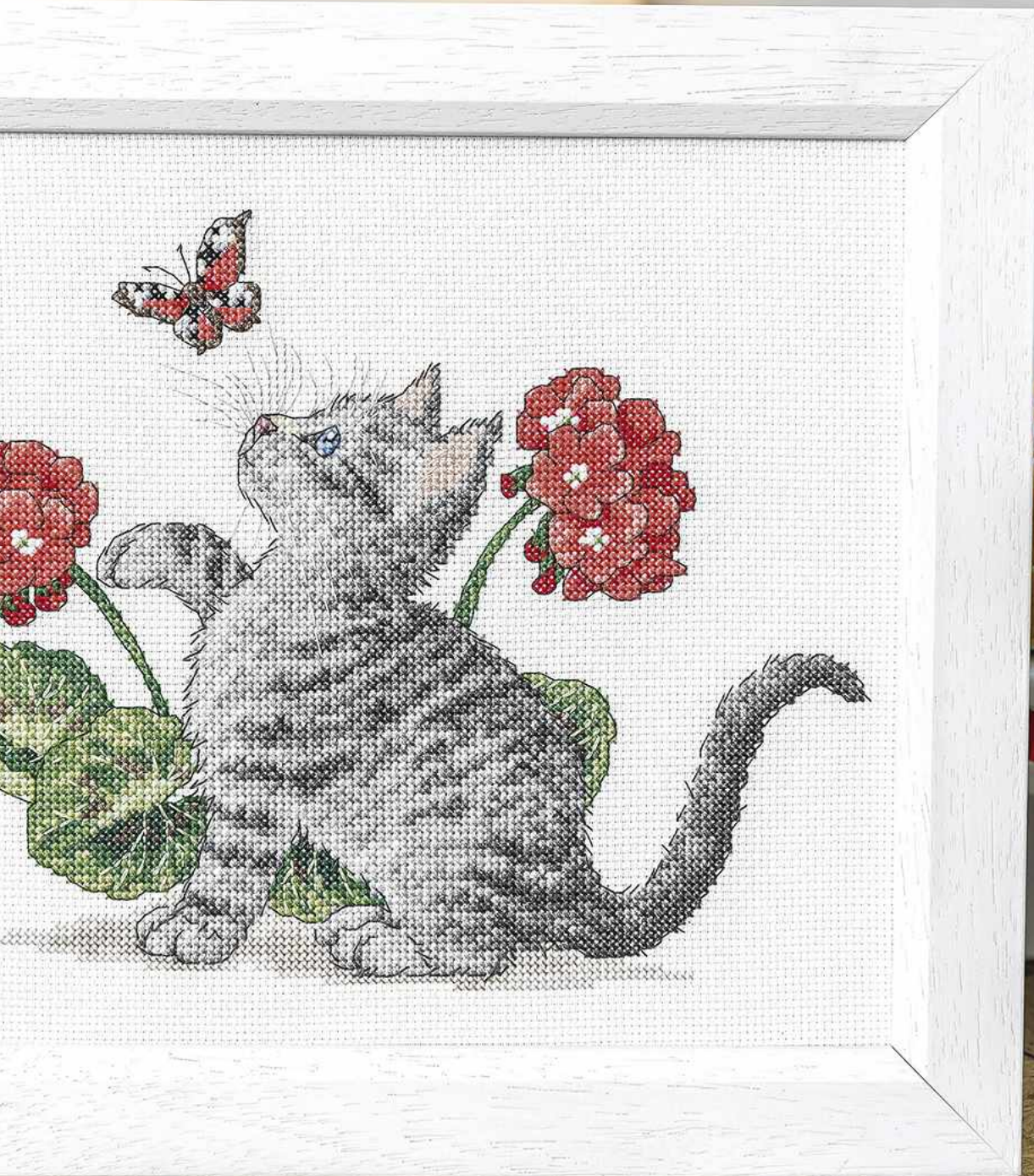
Claire Comerford

"Anyone with a cat knows that watching them prowls round the garden is like having a real-life nature documentary at home! I could spend hours watching them, so what better subject for my first design for the mag?"





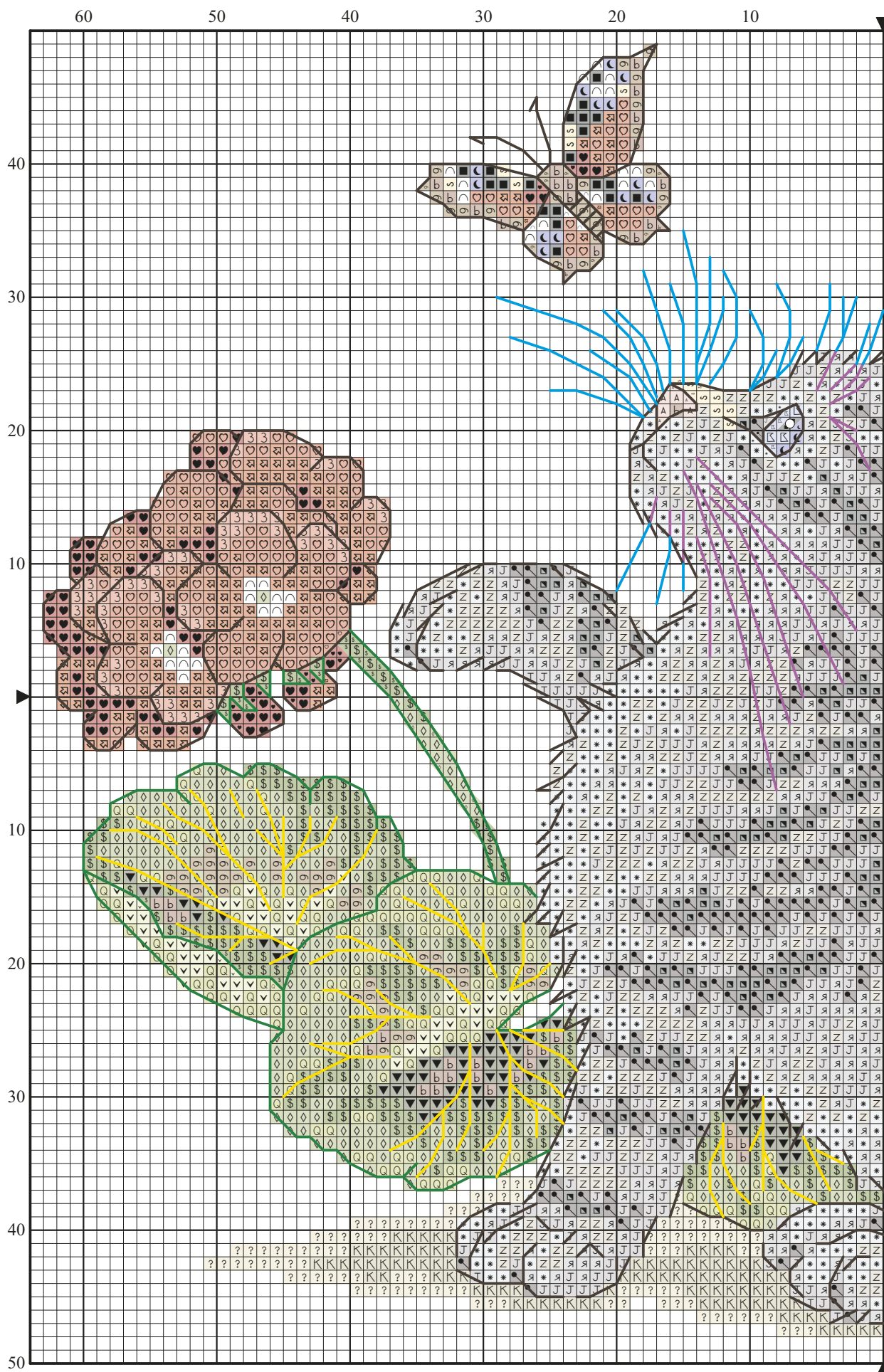
**FUN  
FELINE  
PROJECT**



Poised and ready to spring, this tiny kitty is just calling to be captured in stitches by you!

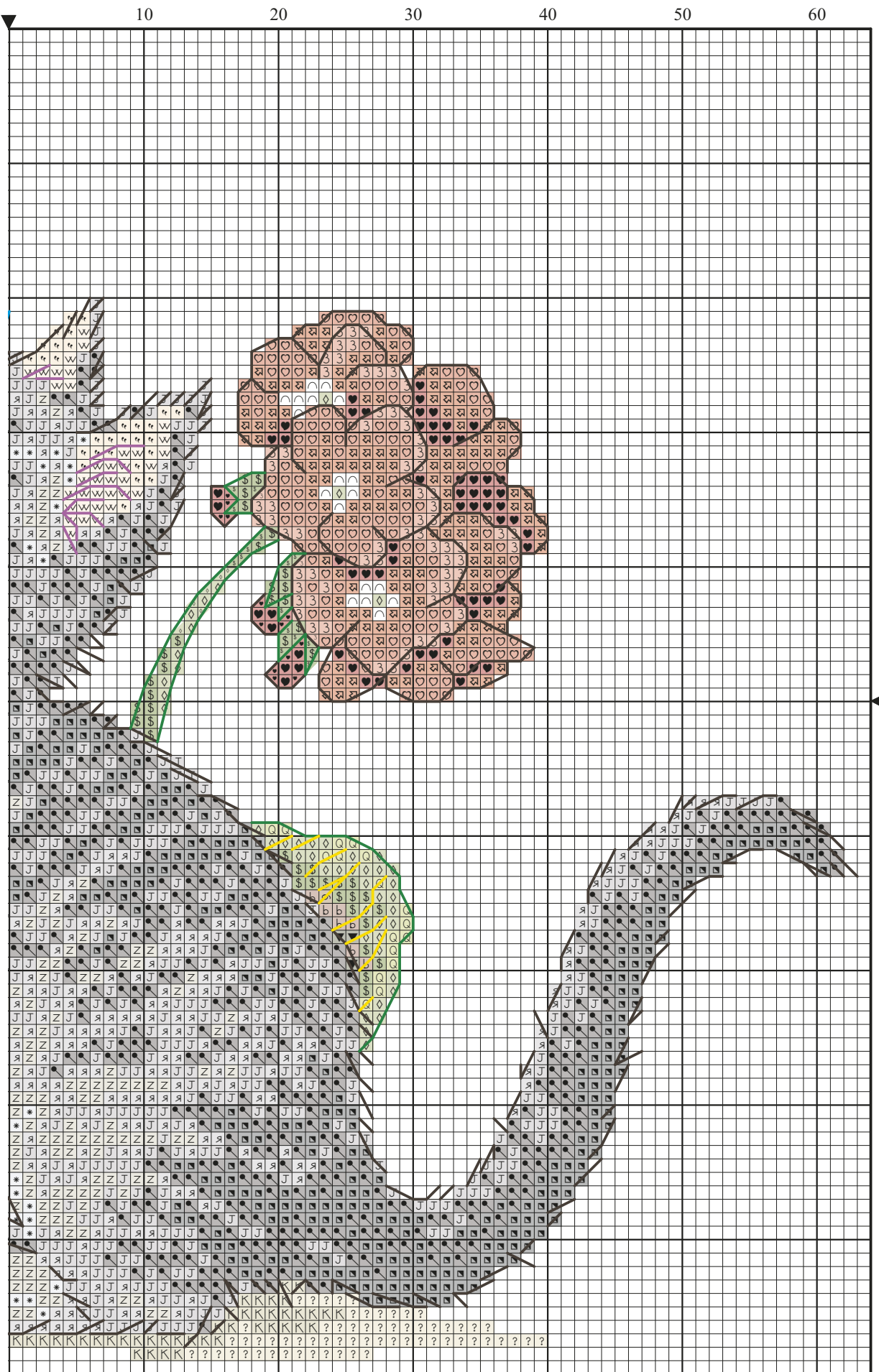






Playtime Kitten chart (left)





Playtime Kitten chart (right)

## Shopping list

- ✕ Zweigart\* 14-count white aida measuring 28x33cm (11x13in)
- ✕ Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- ✕ Size 24 tapestry needle
- ✕ Frame of your choice with a minimum aperture measuring 21.5x24cm (8½x9½in)

**Thread & fabric cost**  
**Approximately £30**

\*For stockists see page 90

## TOP TIP

Use an embroidery hoop or frame to keep an even tension on your fabric, giving you neater stitches



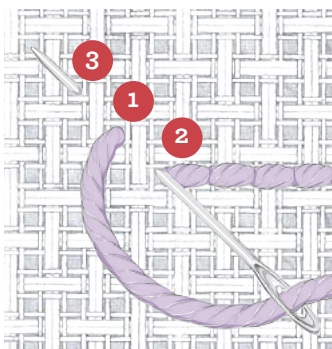
## Cathryn READER PANEL

“I adore cats and have one of my own called Teddy. This design reminds me of when Teddy kept trying to catch our mechanical butterfly in the garden. I think this would look beautiful framed on our wall.”

## How to...

## add backstitch to your design

It's best to work backstitch when all your cross stitches are done. Check the key carefully for how many strands to use – usually it's one, but occasionally two for a more defined outline. Following the backstitch line on the chart, make your stitches as shown. Bring your needle up at 1, down at 2, then up at 3, stitching in a two-steps-forward, one-step-back motion.



## Playtime Kitten key

### ✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
◡	blanc	2	2402	white
■	310	403	2400	black
■	317	400	1714	dark grey
J	318	399	1801	grey
▼	319	1044	1313	very dark green
■	350	11	213	red
♥	351	10	214	coral
3	352	9	303	light coral
Я	415	398	1802	light grey
A	761	1021	404	pink
*	762	234	1804	very light grey
▼	772	259	1604	light grass green
♥	817	13	210	dark red
b	839	1050	1913	brown
o	840	1084	1912	light brown
w	950	4146	2309	peach
\$	987	244	1403	green
◇	989	241	1401	light green
Z	3024	900	1814	ash grey
Q	3348	264	1409	grass green
•	3774	778	306	light peach
■	3799	236	1713	very dark grey
S	3823	386	2512	cream
☾	3839	175	902	dark blue
☒	3840	130	907	blue

### ✕ Cross stitch in one strand

?	3033	391	1908	light stone grey
K	3782	899	1911	stone grey

### ✕ Backstitch in one strand

—	blanc	2	2402	white
—	844	1041	1809	warm grey
—	986	246	1404	dark green
—	3024	900	1814	ash grey

### ✕ Backstitch in two strands

—	772	259	1604	light grass green
---	-----	-----	------	-------------------

### ✕ French knot in two strands

○	blanc	2	2402	white
---	-------	---	------	-------

**STITCH COUNT** 98 high x 126 wide

**DESIGN AREA** 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 18x23cm (7x9in)

This design was stitched using DMC stranded cotton





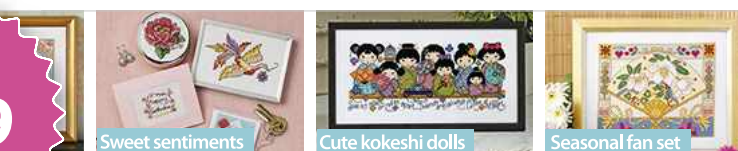
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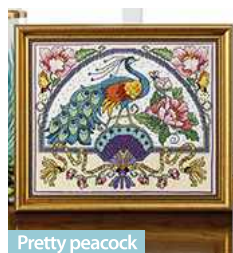
\* Florals \* Fans \* Lanterns \* Cards and tags \* Animals  
\* Far Eastern figures \* Landscapes \* Gift ideas *plus more...*



Willow pattern



Ornate kimono



Pretty peacock



Two-tone cards



Graceful geisha



IMMEDIATE MEDIA  
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VOL 4 2015

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# Your letters

We love to see what you've been stitching and hear your news, so send in your photos, letters and tips



## Star Letter

### FOREVER TEDDY

**E**ver since I can remember, my godmother bought me Forever Friends teddies for any special occasion and I have been in love with these little bears ever since. I've been busy working on the Forever Friends piece in issue 225 and finished stitching them today. I have framed them in a lovely pale blue frame.

**Bernice Woodhouse, via email**

**Ruth:** *Glad you like the design Bernice, we love these bears too!*



✉ **Forever Teddy**  
A lifelong fan of Forever Friends bears, Bernice loved this design when she saw it!



## Birds of a feather

**I**'ve never written in before but wanted to share with you one of my proudest achievements so far. I've just finished stitching the last in the series of four of the garden birds from issue 212. I've stitched each one for my mum, starting with the blue tit first for last year's Mother's Day gift, then the next for her birthday and then Christmas. I've just finished the chaffinch ready to give to her this Mother's Day.

She loves her birds and has been thrilled with each one in the series, so hope she'll like the last one. I did give her a

hint that there was one more to come, so she made sure to keep a wall space free.

Thank you so much for printing such wonderful charts, I've stitched so many things since being a subscriber for a few years now. I'll have to hunt for a new series to stitch next!

**Claire Davidson, Derbyshire**

**Fiona:** *Glad you and your mum like the charts Claire, it's lovely to see them all together. Check out our vintage sports idea on page 20, the first in a new series that a man in your life will be sure to love!*



✉ **Birds of a feather**  
Claire has enjoyed stitching her way through this bird collection

## Win!

The writer of our Star letter wins both of these Paddington Bear kits – 'Baking Sampler' (£19.99) and 'Sports Sampler' (£19.99) from Bothy Threads!

### MORE:

For stockists, email [info@bothythreads.com](mailto:info@bothythreads.com) or call ☎ 01900 828844



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**WRITE TO US AT:** Letters, The World of Cross Stitching, Immediate Media Co, Tower House, Fairfax St, Bristol BS1 3BN





## Wild wolf

**T**his is a photo of me with my latest project, called 'The Guardian', from the Dimensions Gold Collection. With over 62,000 stitches it is my largest project so far, although being on 18-count aida, it actually measures a little less than previous pictures I've done. It makes a companion for the white wolves I stitched on black aida in 2005.

The black fabric was a struggle until I hit on the idea of covering a piece of A4 cardboard with kitchen foil and having that on my lap. A floor-standing lamp over my shoulder was essential, and the foil reflected through the holes perfectly.

I enjoy your magazine immensely – it's consistently inspiring, so many 'to-do' projects, particularly cards.

**Joan Aschmeyer, Suffolk**

**Sue:** Your projects look fab Joan. Thanks for the great tip for stitching on black aida too – we've tried using a white towel, but this is one to try!



✉ **Wild wolf**  
Joan proudly displays her largest finish to date

## LOVING FEELING

**H**ere's the very cute Valentine's Day card from issue 225 I've just finished stitching. These designs are versatile, they can be made into Easter, birthday and even Mother's Day cards just by changing the words. Thanks for these fab and beautiful designs.

**Peggy Thomas, Thornbury**

**Rachel:** If you are looking for all-occasion cards Peggy, then check out our carousel horses cards on page 84.



✉ **Loving feeling**  
Peggy loves how versatile this card set is, and is stitching them all!

## Chemistry 101

**A**s a chemist, I've always wanted to stitch something close to my field, but there aren't many scientific cross stitch patterns. So when I saw this design by Bent Creek – 'The Secret Lair', I knew I had to stitch it!

Of course I don't drink in my lab as the chemist in the picture is doing. But during long hours working, when I don't have to focus too much on my experiments and can run them on machines, I think a lot about cross stitching and plan what I'd like to stitch.

**Anna Szwedzinska, Poland**

**Fiona:** Here at The World of Cross Stitching HQ, we daydream about our projects too Anna – but not about science makes, like your fun boffin design!



✉ **Chemistry 101**  
Anna found the perfect cross stitch for her field of work

## Perfect Present



✉ **Christmas miracle**  
Sisters Amy and Hannah worked hard on this design to finish it in time for Christmas

## CHRISTMAS MIRACLE

**W**hen my sister Hannah (age 15) and I saw 'The Snowman and The Snowdog' design in issue 222, we knew it was the perfect Christmas present for our mum. I started the project early November but, despite choosing not to stitch the background to save time and trying to juggle schoolwork and revision (I'm 12), Christmas Eve soon crept upon us both. But we were both determined to get it finished, no matter how long it took us.

We both woke up at 3:45am on Christmas Day and took it in turns to stitch different sections of the piece. By 7:45am we were finished at last! Our mum was thrilled and it now takes pride of place in our living room.

**Amy and Hannah, Plymouth**

**Ruth:** We are so glad all your work paid off and your mum loved the gift.

**EMAIL US AT:** [letters@cross-stitching.com](mailto:letters@cross-stitching.com) or join our Facebook group at [www.facebook.com/TheWorldofCrossStitching](http://www.facebook.com/TheWorldofCrossStitching)



Over to You

## For you

**T**his is my latest finished project. I made the chart myself using software, printed it out and stitched it. It was a bunch of fun, but was

very tedious and time consuming without following a finished charted pattern. It was all worth it in the end and I mounted it in a card and left it hanging in grandma's Christmas card holder.

**Joey Arnell, via email**

✉ **For you**  
Joey created the chart for this cute design

**Sue:** We are impressed with your finished design Joey, especially since you charted the pattern yourself. I am sure your grandma really loved it.

## Never too late!

**W**hen I saw the chart for the dreamcatcher in issue 224, I just had to stitch it. I've been cross stitching for over 25 years but never stitched on evenweave. I thought it was time I took the plunge and I'm so glad I did. The result is so good I wish I'd tried it years ago.

**Sue Moden, Cambridge**

**Rachel:** Glad to hear you tried something new Sue!



✉ **Never too late**  
Sue tried stitching on evenweave for the first time and loves the finished results

## Stitching therapy

**H**ere's the chart I had made after taking this picture of my son, Thom, and best friend, Jean. Just six hours after taking this picture, my son collapsed in his dorm room at college and was never able to be revived. I knew when this happened that I would need to turn to my beloved cross stitching and that working on this would be therapeutic and help me through the painful months ahead. Now my Thom hangs on the wall next to me as I stitch every day, and I just know his spirit is right there with me!

**Susan Dean, via email**

**Ruth:** It's a fitting tribute to your son and craft Susan.



✉ **Stitching therapy**  
This project from a photo of Susan's late son and friend is very special



✉ **Reach for the stars**  
Denise made this for her son who loved the design

## REACH FOR THE STARS

**M**y three-year-old boy Harrison struggles with his speech, and I was looking through issue 225 and he spotted the glow in the dark project and said, "Wow mummy, rocket" as clear as day. We were so amazed I ordered all the stuff so I could make it for him as a reminder of his accomplishment on his sentence. The day I finished he was in nursery but when he came home and saw it waiting on the table he got really excited saying, "My rocket, mine!"

**Denise Williamson, Blackpool**

**Fiona:** What a great project for such a lovely boy Denise!

## Purrfect

**T**his is my ocelot portrait by Jayne Netley Mayhew from issue 147, which I finished in time for my daughter's birthday, and she loves. It looks great in her bedroom with her other African-themed pictures.

**Tracey Evan, New Zealand**

**Sue:** This is a gorgeous, realistic design Tracey, and sounds perfect for your daughter's bedroom!



✉ **Purrfect**  
Tracey's daughter loves this ocelot project her mum stitched for her

## Subs Stars



**Each month we randomly select three subscribers to win a prize as a thank you**

This month's winners are:

- ▶ Janice De-Giovanni, Surrey
- ▶ Mrs Jean R Strange, Bracknell
- ▶ Mrs H Briggs, West Yorkshire

## Prizes every month!

These three lucky winners will each receive two beautiful Somebunny to Love kits by DMC worth over £31 per set. 'At the Beach', measures 13x18cm (5x7in) and 'Kite Flying', measures 18x13cm (7x5in) when stitched on 14-count aida.

To subscribe turn to page 44

**WRITE TO US AT:** Letters, The World of Cross Stitching, Immediate Media Co, Tower House, Fairfax St, Bristol BS1 3BN



## V-Day fun

I've just started subscribing to *The World of Cross Stitching* and have completed my first project from the magazine. This is the card I've finished for my husband for Valentine's Day, using the design published in issue 225. I hope he'll like it and that you do too. Thanks for the great ideas – am really pleased I took out a subscription. Can't wait to do more projects!

**Jo Jones, Swindon**

**Ruth:** Your husband will love this thoughtful card Jo.



### ✉ V-Day fun

New subscriber Jo has stitched her first project from the mag



### ✉ Dearest diary...

Mary has stitched up these designs from previous diaries that came with the mag

## DEAREST DIARY...

Here are photos of a couple of designs I stitched from previous years' diaries – the Halloween mouse was stitched as part of a group entry in a Scottish Women's Rural Institute competition and was taken from the Margaret Sherry collection in the 2012 diary. The unicorn was adapted to become a

little pony for a little girl who owns one. The pony likes to go up on her hind legs, and I took this pattern from a Joan Elliott design in 2013's 'Fantasy Collection' diary.

**Mary MacDonald, Scotland**

**Sue:** These look great Mary, we love Margaret Sherry and Joan Elliott designs too.

## Fine finish

When I received issue 225 I opened it up right away to look through it. The finishing idea to use a canvas for the coffee project on page 26 was perfect!

I finished my piece on canvas for a friend who went to Tuscany for her 25th wedding anniversary. I wanted to make her something special to remember it. Thank you for the wonderful idea.

**Lynn Blanchard, California, USA**

**Rachel:** Find more great finishing ideas this month Lynn.



### ✉ Fine finish

Lynn found the perfect way to finish off a project for a special friend



### ✉ Stitching sisters

Zsuzsanna and Anita display the stitching

## STITCHING SISTERS

Here is a picture of the 'Stitcher's Sanctuary' from issue 220, which I gave to my sister, Anita, as a gift. She is working as a seamstress, so it's an ideal gift that I made. She was very happy with the finished design, and she is going to choose a frame for it.

She also likes cross stitching, and I've learnt a lot from her. I really like the magazine, there is a lot of good ideas in it. I am looking forward to the spring designs!

**Zsuzsanna Komáromi, Hungary**

**Fiona:** Love it! For spring ideas, see our magnolias set on page 30 Zsuzsanna, or page 76 for Country Companions' Tom Mouse and on page 26, we've a pretty spring teddy!

## SEND US YOUR NEWS

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

Email us at:  
**letters@cross-stitching.com**

or write to:  
**The World of Cross Stitching,  
Immediate Media Co Origin,  
Tower House, Fairfax Street,  
Bristol BS1 3BN**

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!



**EMAIL US AT:** letters@cross-stitching.com or join our Facebook group at [www.facebook.com/TheWorldofCrossStitching](http://www.facebook.com/TheWorldofCrossStitching)

DESIGN BY **JANE HENDERSON**

# Race to the finish

Spoil the man in your life with this vintage-style stitch, echoing the classic posters from Formula One's heyday

Motor racing has always held a thrill for many, and there's no better racecourse to celebrate than luxurious Monaco. This beautiful country on the French Riviera is renowned for its glamorous way of life, and whether you're a fan of Formula One or not, we're sure you wouldn't mind reclining with a cocktail, watching the cars wind their way round these beautiful streets!

This stylish poster really captures the essence of early Grands Prix, with its 1950's racing car set against the backdrop of Monaco's beautiful beaches. Worked mainly in whole stitches, with a few fractionals and some backstitch to add detail, you're sure to enjoy recreating this retro feel

## Factbox

- ✕ **Stitching Time**  
Approx. 40 hours
- ✕ **Type of Stitches**  
Cross stitch, fractionals, backstitch
- ✕ **Ease of Stitching**  
Advanced beginner

Ideal masculine stitch

over a couple of weeks.

Finish in a simple wooden frame like ours and we think it'd be a great gift for anyone – a motorsports fan or otherwise! However you choose to display it, this elegant yet masculine design is a great way to add a touch of old-school charm to any home. ➤



## Meet the designer

Jane Henderson

"The vintage posters that inspired this design never go out of fashion, but seem to be more popular than ever at the moment. Whether you're stitching for a teenage boy or a granddad, it's sure to be a hit!"





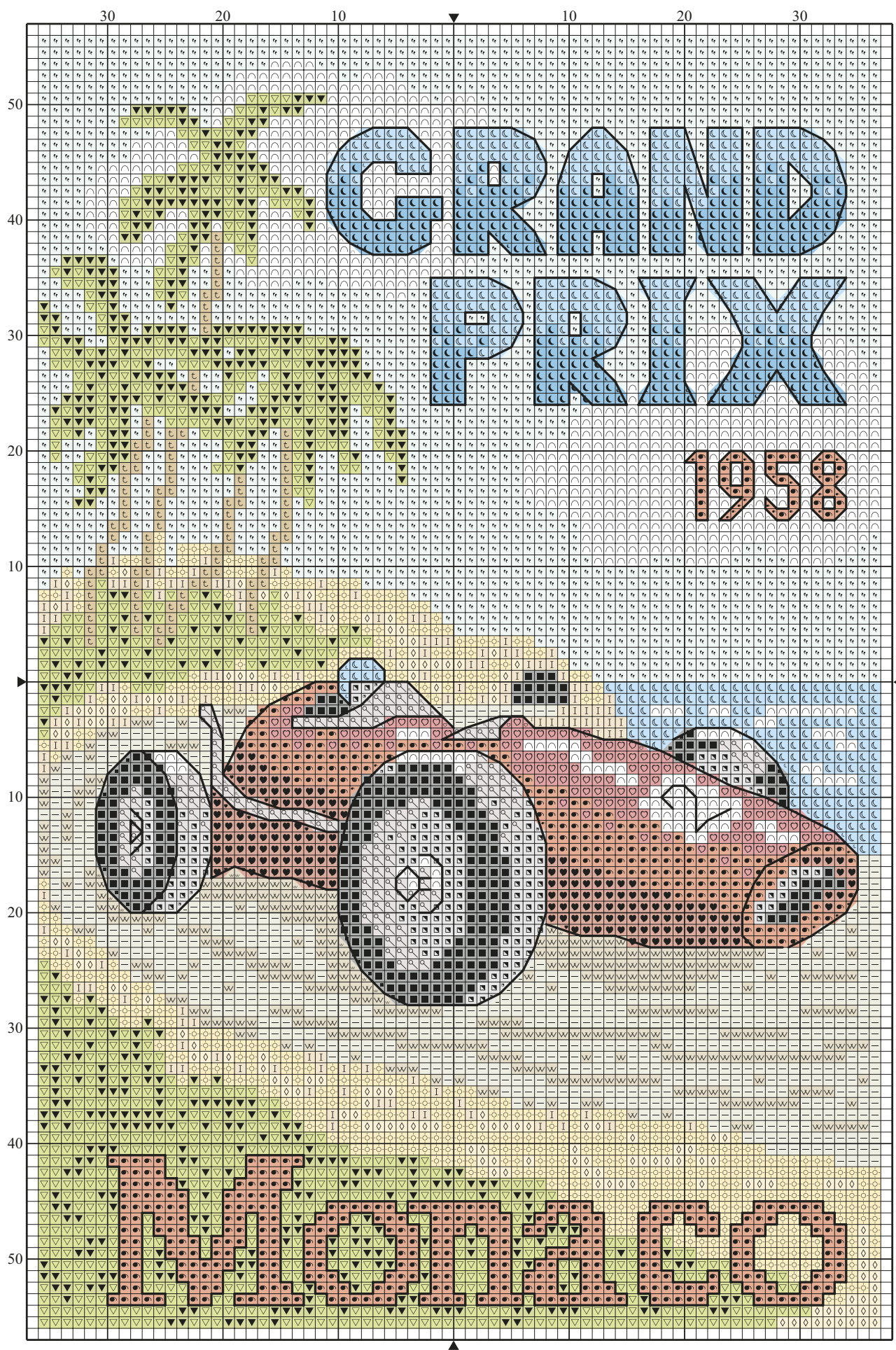
FULL OF  
FANTASTIC  
COLOUR



Create an on-trend artwork in next to no time for that tricky-to-buy-for man in your life!







Grand Prix poster chart



## Grand Prix poster key

## ✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	B5200	1	2401	white
▽	166	279	1611	light green
♥	304	19	511	dark red
■	413	236	1713	dark grey
▣	414	235	1714	grey
◊	415	398	1802	light grey
I	437	362	2012	brown
▼	581	280	1609	green
w	642	903	1905	dark stone
—	644	830	1814	stone
●	666	46	210	red
○	744	301	112	yellow
◇	745	300	111	light yellow
✿	747	158	1104	light turquoise
☾	995	410	1102	dark blue
☾	996	433	1103	blue
⦿	3045	888	2103	tan
♥	3801	1098	411	light red

## ✕ Backstitch in one strand

—	413	236	1713	dark grey
---	-----	-----	------	-----------

STITCH COUNT 112 high x 73 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 20.5x13.5cm (8x5¼in)

This design was stitched using DMC stranded cotton



## wash your stitching



It's always a good idea to wash your finished piece. Immerse the stitching in a bowl of warm water with a little detergent and swill it around. Rinse in cold water – but don't wring it out. Iron your damp stitching face down on a fluffy towel, pushing the point of the iron into the back of the stitches to make them stand out.



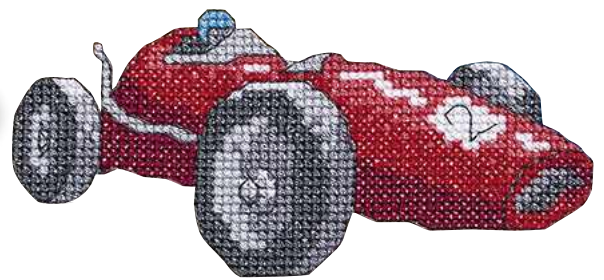
## Evenweave or aida?

On a design with a densely stitched background like this, we often choose to work it on aida as it makes it much faster and easier to complete. The regular, rigid grid of aida is a lot more forgiving – it'll allow you to be a little more relaxed when it comes to keeping an even tension, and makes counting much easier too.

However, it does mean that fractional stitches are a little more tricky, as you'll need to pierce the centre of the aida block for each one. If you need to, we suggest you change to a crewel embroidery needle for your fractionals, as it has a sharper point than a tapestry needle so it'll help you place the stitches more accurately. Turn to page 97 for our beginner's guide if you need more advice on fractional stitches.

## TOP TIP

For a faster finish, stitch the design onto light blue aida – that way, you won't need to stitch the blue of the sky



## Shopping list

- ✕ Zweigart\* 14-count white aida measuring 30x23cm (12x9in)
- ✕ Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- ✕ Size 24 tapestry needle
- ✕ Frame of your choice with a minimum aperture measuring 20.5x13.5cm (8x5¼in)

Thread & fabric cost  
Approximately £20

\*For stockists see page 90

Dorota  
READER PANEL

“ This is really a great project for all car lovers out there! I would love to stitch it as a gift for my sister's husband, who is really passionate about cars. I think it will look beautiful framed and displayed on their sideboard in their new house! He will absolutely love it, I am sure! ”



# Our Best Buys

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

THE WORLD OF  
**Cross  
Stitching**  
PICK OF THE  
MONTH

## 'Beary' nice



£22.49

### PADDINGTON BEAR IN STITCHES

After the excitement of the *Paddington* movie, and the renewed interest in this children's favourite, Bothy Threads\* has come out with two new designs of the bear himself. 'It's Nice Being A Bear' (XPB7) shows Paddington with a tray of sweet treats, making us wish we were a bear too! 'Please Look After This Bear' (XPB6) has Paddington dressed in his iconic blue coat and red hat with suitcase all ready for another adventure.

Both kits contain 14-count white aida, pre-sorted stranded cottons, needles, chart and instructions and have finished sizes of 26x23cm (10¼x9in). Both young and old fans of this adorable marmalade-munching bear are sure to love these new designs!

**Paddington Bear in stitches**  
Take this friendly Peruvian bear home with you as you bring him to life with needle and thread

£22.49



£8.99

### MARVELLOUS MINI MOTIFS

*Vintage*, by designer Susan Bates, contains over 60 beautiful little cross stitch motifs of vintage-style shoes, hats, clothes and other decorative items. Use them to make greetings cards, small framed pictures, bookmarks, pincushions, borders on towels and tea towels or use them to make a cushion or decorate a shopping bag, purse or a make-up bag.

Available from Cross Stitch Susie\* the designs in the book are stitched using DMC stranded cotton and the colour-plus-symbol charts are easy to use. The book is A5 in size, so it's a nice handy size to fit into your bag so you can stitch anywhere, any time!

## Trendwatching... Kitchen garden

Get outdoors and

**Get growing... and cooking**  
Store kitchen essentials and cook up a storm, with Tesco\*



From  
£1.50



£25.00

**Seat of herbs**  
Sit pretty while stitching, with this cushion from House of Fraser\*



\$2.20  
Approx. £1.50

**Go stick it**  
Decorate stitched cards with herb stickers from StickersKingdom\*



# INDULGE YOURSELF

## TIME FOR TEA

We are huge fans of afternoon tea. There is something luxurious about treating yourself to a gorgeous spread of tea and cakes... and maybe a glass or two of bubbly! This collection captures that feeling with ultra-feminine designs that have a Parisian feel. 'Indulgence' (BK1541) and 'Patisserie' (BK1542) both from DMC\*, measure 20x25cm (8x10in) when worked on the 14-count iridescent aida provided, for added glamour.

£26.99

£20.99

## MOTTO TO LIVE BY

New from Emma Louise Art Stitch\* is 'Dance in the Rain' cross stitch kit. With the message, "Don't Waste Time Waiting for the Storm to Pass, Learn to Dance in the Rain", it's the perfect, bright pick-me-up stitch to any dull weather. It has a finished design size of 29x27cm (11½x10½in) when using the 14-count aida.



£28

## SEW CHIC STORAGE

STORE\* specialises in innovative storage solutions to organise and streamline your life. We are loving their vintage-style enamel sewing box, which is an ornate and simple solution for all of your haberdashery needs. The chalk-coloured metal sewing box features a removable divider tray, which is marked for all your threads, buttons, pins and needles.



£34.99

## try your hand at growing herbs and vegetables

'Thyme in my Garden'  
A lovely sampler chart featuring lots of herbs from Arts and Designs\*



£5.14



£1.40  
for 4 charms

Charming detail  
Decorate makes with brass mushroom charms (C33) from TeapotTreasuresUK\*

## A LOVE WOVEN IN THREADS

Looking for the perfect gift for a wedding or anniversary? Then these two new kits from Janlynn are just the thing. 'Forever Love Wedding Sampler' (021-1367) and 'Love Never Fails' (021-1348) lets you stitch your best wishes for a special couple. Available from Past Impressions\*, the designs allow you space to customise and personalise each one with the couple's name and the date of the big day.

The kits contain 14-count aida, stranded cotton threads including silver metallic, needle, chart and instructions. Each of the designs has a finished size of 20x15cm (8x6in). Evoking a romantic atmosphere with nature imagery and beautiful lettering, you'll create a unique present with this crafting gesture.



£16.75  
Each

## READER OFFER

The 'Silhouettes' collection, by Heritage Crafts, features sepia-toned counted cross stitch designs by Thomas Beutel and Phil Smith, all available as complete cross stitch kits with 28-count evenweave or 14-count aida fabric. Heritage Crafts\* is giving a 20% discount off any of the designs in this range, including 'Sunset Stroll' (PSSS1230), 'Lucky Escape' (PSLE976) and 'Morning Walk' (PSMW975) as shown below. To enjoy this offer, use discount code **WOXS227** at [www.hcrafts.com](http://www.hcrafts.com). Offer valid from 20 February till 29 March 2015.



SAVE  
£££s!

Well shaded  
Save 20% off the 'Silhouettes' range by Heritage Crafts

\*For stockists see page 90

DESIGN BY **LESLEY TEARE**

# Scent with love

Full of charm, this delightful project featuring a sweet teddy is an ideal present for a special friend



The best way to brighten up someone's day is with a heartwarming smile and a fabulous floral gift. So, we asked designer Lesley Teare, to come up with this extra-special stitch that's sure to be loved by anyone lucky enough to receive it.

In her pretty pink dress and darling bow, this fluffy little lady comes 'bearing' a beautiful tub of lilacs, chosen with love to show just how much she cares. Give to a green-fingered friend or family member to bring some fresh spring sunshine into their lives, or stitch it for a child who adores teddy bears.

Worked mainly in whole cross stitches and backstitch, the only part

## Factbox

- ✕ **Stitching Time**  
Approx. 30 hours
- ✕ **Type of Stitches**  
Cross stitch, fractionals, backstitch, French knots
- ✕ **Ease of Stitching**  
Advanced beginner

Finish  
in a  
fortnight

you might need to take your time over is the French knots on those flowers. But, practise makes perfect, so turn the page to see our stitching tips, then give them a go on scrap aida – soon you'll have them mastered. And in no time, this teddy with her lilacs will bloom before your eyes. ➤



## Meet the designer

Lesley Teare

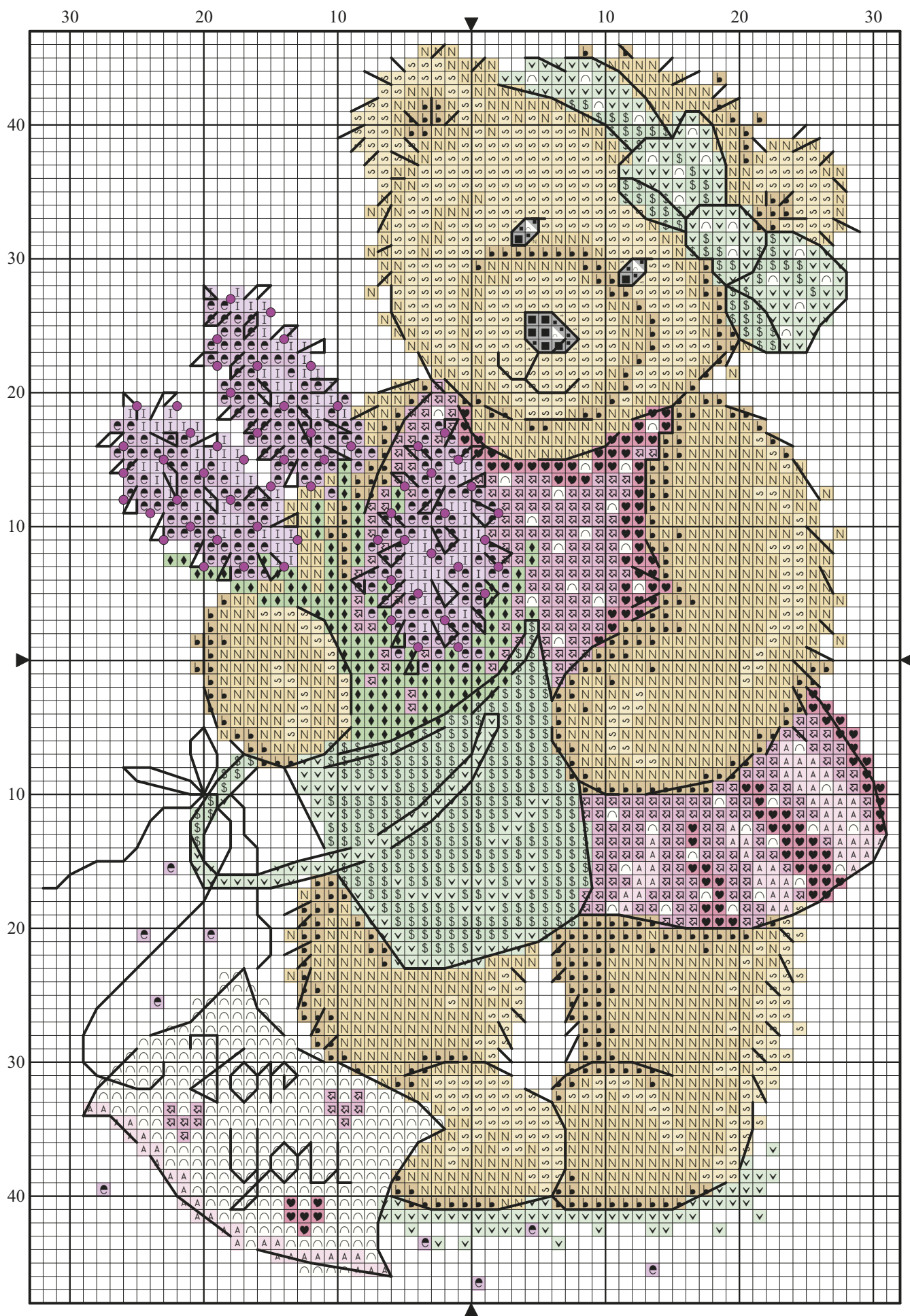
"As an avid gardener, it was lovely to come up with this pretty project. I'd definitely be thrilled if someone stitched it for my home, so hopefully whoever you make it for will be just as pleased!"





MAKE AS  
A SPECIAL  
GIFT

Stitch this lovable bear today for any occasion, be it a birthday, anniversary or simply to say thank you

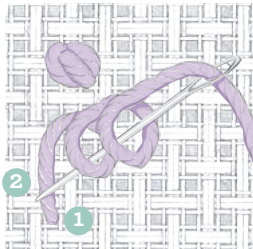


Springtime Teddy chart



## How to...

## add French knots



Easy with practice – come up in the fabric (1), keep the thread taut & wrap twice around the needle. Push the needle down, close by, but *not* in the same hole (2). Split the aida block for a neat knot.

For a closer look, watch our handy video... see our site at [www.cross-stitching.com](http://www.cross-stitching.com) and click the 'How to' section.

## Springtime Teddy key

### ✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
I	209	98	803	lilac
■	310	403	2400	black
A	605	1094	613	light pink
S	676	891	2208	sand
◆	701	227	1305	green
N	729	890	2209	straw
✓	964	185	1112	light green
\$	992	1072	1202	green
♥	3804	63	704	dark pink
✕	3806	62	701	pink
■	3829	901	2210	dark straw
●	3837	111	713	dark lilac
○	3865	2	2403	white

### ✕ Backstitch in one strand

—	310	403	2400	black
---	-----	-----	------	-------

### ✕ French knots in two strands

●	211	342	801	light lilac
---	-----	-----	-----	-------------

**STITCH COUNT** 93 high x 63 wide

**DESIGN AREA** 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 17x11.5cm (6½x4½in)

This design was stitched using DMC stranded cotton



### TOP TIP

If you prefer, replace the French knots with seed beads – great for added texture and sparkle too!

## Kasia READER PANEL



“How cute is this bear? I love the card that says ‘For you’ in the design. Patterns like this are always great as gifts. This one would be a perfect present for

my little goddaughter. She loves pink dresses and cute bears.”

## Shopping list

- ✕ Zweigart\* 14-count white aida measuring 28x23cm (11x9in)
- ✕ Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- ✕ Size 24 tapestry needle
- ✕ Frame of your choice with a minimum aperture measuring 20x15cm (8x6in)

**Thread & fabric cost  
Approximately £14**

\*For stockists see page 90

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DESIGNS BY **AMANDA GREGORY**

# Say it with flowers

Bursting with beauty, this set of magnolia-themed designs will make the perfect gift to be treasured

With Mother's Day coming up soon, many of us will be getting our needles and threads ready to stitch a heartfelt thank you, be it for your mum, your grandma or even an extra-special aunty. So, we've brought you these four gorgeous charts inspired by the stunning magnolia bloom, designed by the talented Amanda Gregory. Whether you're looking for a classic card design, a quick-stitch present or a sweet gift set that'll look stunning together in her bedroom, there's something for everyone.

With their soft pastel shades, these feminine flowers work beautifully in cross stitch. And, they're perfect for stitchers of all abilities. Using just a

## Factbox

- ✕ **Stitching Time**  
Approx. 25 hours
- ✕ **Type of Stitches**  
Cross stitch, fractionals, backstitch
- ✕ **Ease of Stitching**  
Beginner/ intermediate

Lifelike shading

few pinks and greens you'll create real depth, giving each piece a lifelike feel your recipient will love.

Be inspired by our ideas for finishing, or try something different. In fact, these designs are so versatile, you'll find yourself stitching them over and over again! ➤



## Meet the designer

Amanda Gregory

"I adore creating floral designs, and really enjoy every stage of the process, from sketching out my ideas to painting them and finally converting them to cross stitch. I hope you love stitching them just as much!"





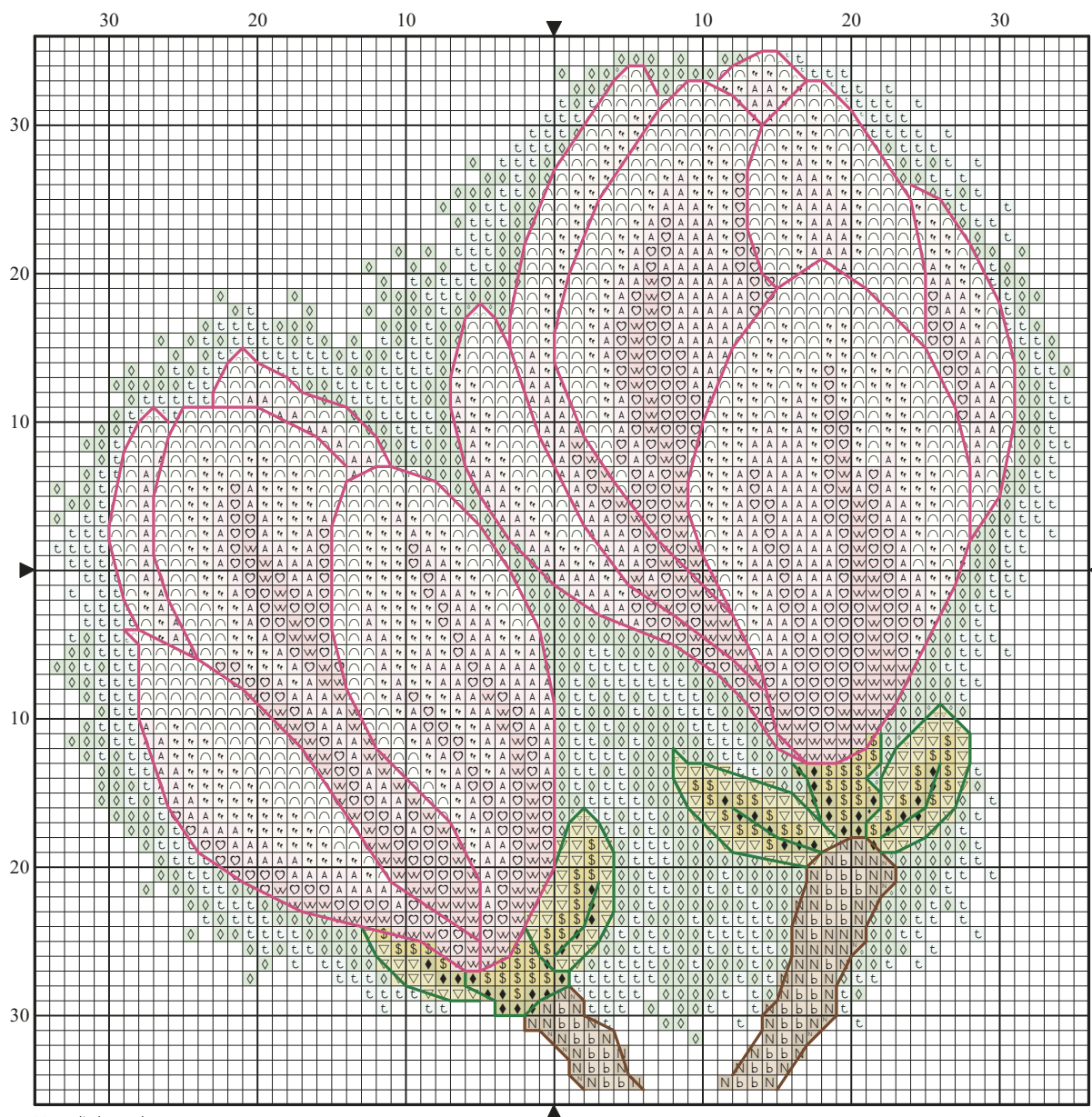
MAKE A  
BEAUTIFUL  
BEDROOM  
SET



Capture the beauty of nature with this chic collection of floral designs, guaranteed to stay looking fresh and fabulous







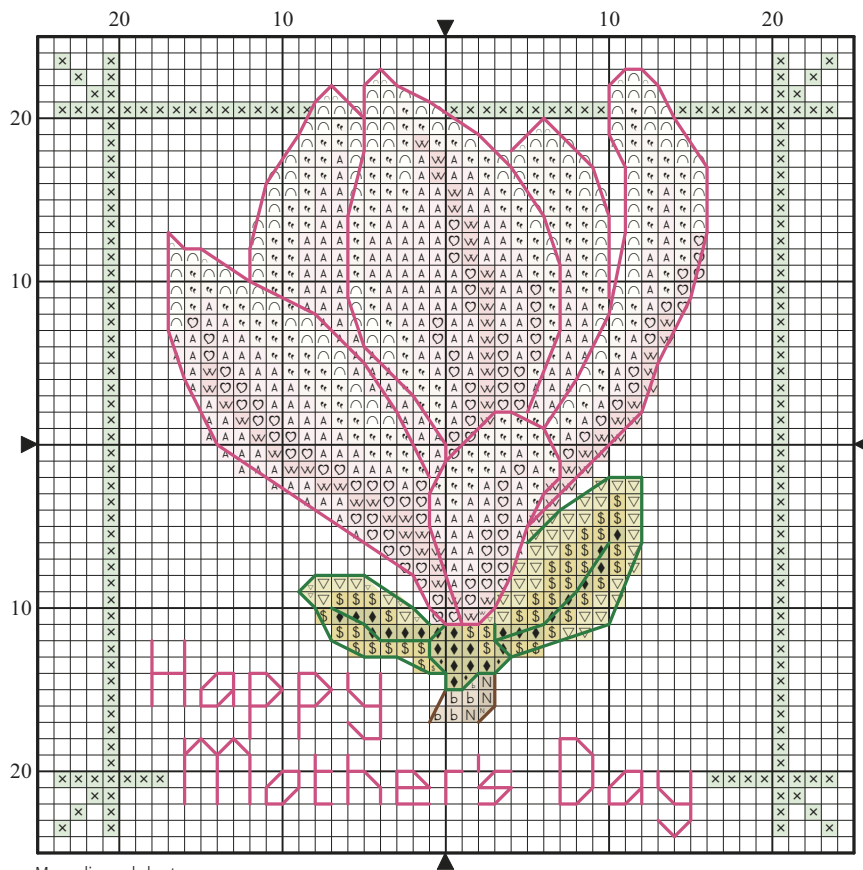
Magnolia hoop chart

## TOP TIP

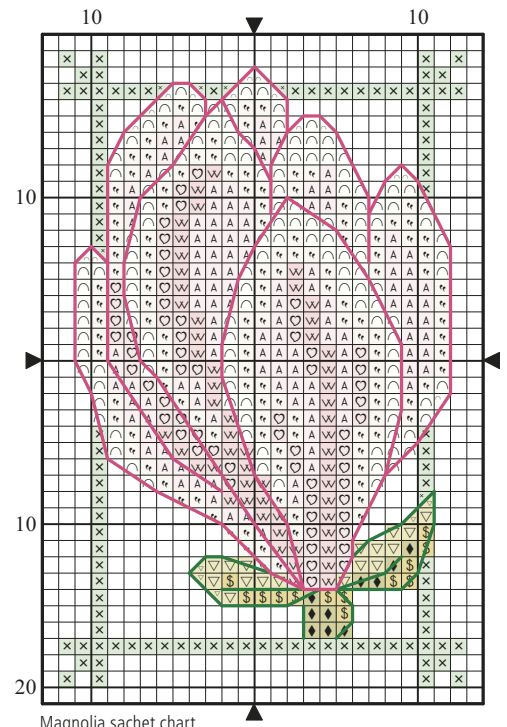
Paint a hoop with acrylic paint, available from craft stores, for a tailor-made way to show off your stitching







Magnolia card chart



Magnolia sachet chart

## Magnificent Magnolias key

### ✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
▽	472	253	1414	lettuce green
◆	732	281	1612	dark olive green
\$	733	280	1611	olive green
A	818	23	502	light pink
•	819	271	501	very light pink
t	828	975	1101	blue
N	840	1084	1912	brown
b	842	1080	1910	light brown
♥	963	73	608	pink
x	964	185	1112	emerald
w	3716	25	503	dark pink
∩	3865	2	2403	natural white

### ✕ Cross stitch in one strand

◇	964	185	1112	emerald
---	-----	-----	------	---------

### ✕ Backstitch in one strand

—	839	1050	1913	dark brown
—	936	269	1507	green
—	961	76	610	very dark pink

**MAXIMUM STITCH COUNT** 97 high x 69 wide

**DESIGN AREA** 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 17.5x12.5cm (7x5in)

These designs were stitched using DMC stranded cotton

## Shopping list

- ✕ Zweigart\* 14-count white aida measuring 20x20cm (8x8in) for the hoop; 15x15cm (6x6in) for the card; 13x10cm (5x4in) for the sachet and 23x10cm (9x4in) for the dressing table mat
- ✕ Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- ✕ Size 24 tapestry needle
- ✕ Fabric of choice. Ours is Tilda fabric '110 Leaf Garland pink' available from Panduro Hobby\*
- ✕ Craft Creations\* square aperture card (AP53U) in creative smooth white
- ✕ Wooden embroidery hoop measuring 15cm (6in), painted blue

## Thread & fabric cost Approximately £18

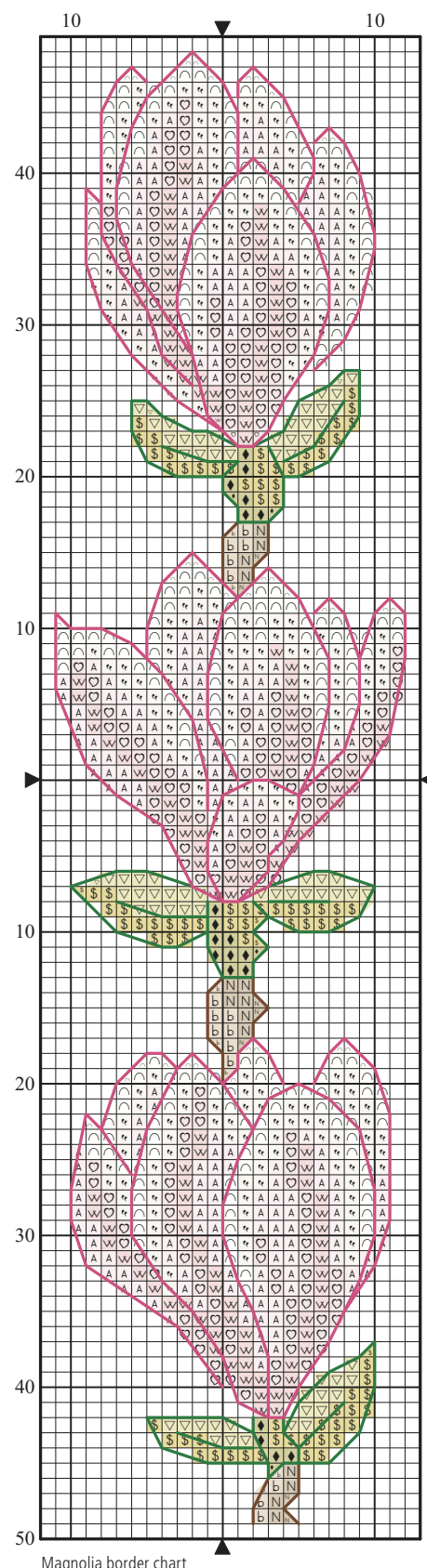
\*For stockists see page 90





## Kasia READER PANEL

“The magnolia is my mum’s favourite flower. She has loads of them in her back garden. It’s going to be a perfect motif for a Mother’s Day gift for her. I want to make a card and decorate a cushion cover with the same flower. I know she will love it!”



Magnolia border chart

## How to...

## make a dressing table mat

**1 Once you’ve finished** your stitching, gently wash and press it. Trim away excess aida, so it measures 21x8cm (8½x3¼in).

**2 For the top** of your dressing table mat, you can either fray the aida edges and patch your stitching onto a single piece of fabric. Or we prefer to inset the stitched border with fabric either side. Our finished mat is 19x60cm (7½x24in) but you can adjust the size to suit your dressing table. Cut one piece of quilting fabric, measuring 21x3.5cm (8½x1¼in) and another 21x55cm (8½x21½in).

**3 Pin these panels** and your stitching, right sides facing – ours are positioned so the magnolia border’s at the left, but you could swap it to be on the right if you like. Machine- or hand-sew, with 1cm (½in) seam allowances, taking your time to get straight seams, especially with a striped fabric like ours, which easily shows up any wobbles!

**4 Cut a panel** of fabric measuring 21x62cm (8½x25in) for the back. Pin this panel and the front piece, right sides together.

**5 Leaving a gap** for turning, sew with 1cm (½in) seams. Turn right sides out, hand sew up the gap with slip stitch and press flat.





# Ask the experts

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



**Ruth Southorn**

Ruth, our Editor, has been a cross stitcher since she was tiny and is ready to share everything she knows



**Anne MacGregor**

Anne can answer even the most difficult technical questions with her encyclopedic knowledge and skills



**Jenny Barton**

Design pro, Jenny has been creating projects for us for years and is ready to take on your design challenges



**Fiona Smith**

With her ears to the ground for the hottest stitching merchandise, Fiona's all set to search out the stash you need



**Katriel Costello**

Stitching guru Katriel has worked in the industry for years, so has ample knowledge to answer any queries

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**Celestial stitch**

Sweet dreams will be assured with these colourful charts

## Celestial stitch

**Q** Anyone know of a pattern showing the sun setting and moon rising please? My son and I say a little rhyme at bedtime, "Night night, sleep tight, see you in the morning light" so I'd like to stitch something with a sun and moon perhaps. Thank you.

**Lisa Jackson, via Facebook**

**A Katriel says:** This will be a sweet make

for your little boy's room, Lisa – I found this complementary pair of designs by Spotted Skink\*, which I think will be perfect stitched and mounted together, either in the same frame or in matching ones. I also like that the style and bright colours won't date too quickly as he grows up either! Find 'Moonlight and Sunlight' as a set of two black-and-white charts, for each finished design to measure 7.5x7.5cm (3x3in) when stitched on 14-count aida. Order them for \$9.29 (approx £6.09).

## Scatter free!

**Q** I use a lot of beads on my cross stitch designs. I constantly have a battle stopping them spilling all over the place when I am trying to use them though. I do have a bead nabber, but I'm sure I have read about a tray, with a mat inside for keeping the beads safe and making it easy to pick them up. Unfortunately, I can't remember where I read about it. Can you help me find one?

**Margaret Booth, via email**

**A Ruth says:** I've come across beading mats like the one you describe – it's a felt-like or velour-style fabric mat which you can use on a tabletop or rest it inside a regular tray. It's called a Bead Mat and you can order one measuring 22.5x30cm (9x12in) for just 70p at Beads Direct\*. Another idea though is a spare hand towel, or terry tea towel, which works in the same way – I find the towel fibres keep my beads from "running" around my table. I just empty a few onto the towel and they don't scatter any more. When I'm done, I roll the towel up and keep it in my sewing basket. ➤

### Scatter free!

Keep beads from running away with a special mat, in a choice of colours



# In the spotlight

CLARE AGAR, SIESTA FRAMES

## Roll my way

**Q** I use scroll frames and always roll the fabric inwardly so the “wrong” side is exposed to handling. I’ve seen that often in the magazine, fabric is rolled to expose the stitched side. Is there a right way?

**Sallie Silver, USA**

**A** **Clare says:** Using a scroll frame is a great way to keep your project easier to handle and more manageable to work. It reduces distortion of your fabric, for a neater finish. At Siesta Frames\* we make and sell a large number of roller frames, of different sizes and types, and we show in our product photography (as seen here) that

they’re used with the fabric being rolled outwards, but we’re aware that many stitchers roll theirs the other way. I personally recommend rolling it inwardly, as you have been doing. It’ll protect the stitching you’ve already done and keep it clean.

There are many different scroll frames available with various ways of attaching your fabric. The traditional way of sewing your fabric on to the rollers is still popular and there are now clip on rollers and other no-sew options too.



### Roll my way

Many different roller frames – sew-on-tape type, slate frames or even no-sew clip-on options – allow for a huge number of possibilities. From £7.



**Great lengths**  
Thread requirements vary greatly from stitcher to stitcher

	3746	1030	2702	1030	2702	Color
Backstitch in one strand	898	360	898	360	2006	brown
	934	862	934	862	1506	bottle green
	3799	236	3799	236	1713	grey

**STITCH COUNT** 86 high x 346 wide  
**DESIGN AREA** 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 15.5x63cm (6¼x24¾in)  
**SKEINS NEEDED** 2x702 (dark leaf green), 2x704 (leaf green)  
This design was stitched using DMC stranded cotton

**Missed out on the wildflowers**  
If you’ve missed out on Amanda’s wildflowers design...

## Great lengths

**Q** I’ve been given a few charts that were once part of kits and I’m wondering if I can work out how much thread is needed for these projects. Can you help?

**Sheila Marsters, via email**

**A** **Ruth says:** It isn’t common for kit manufacturers (nor for us here) to list specific thread amounts needed, except to say that when *The World of Cross Stitching* projects use more than one full skein, then we always list this in the key. Thread quantities needed for our free kits, for example, are usually worked out by experience of how much was actually used by the test stitchers making that design.

It’d be tricky to work out requirements from a chart as every stitcher is different. Also, it depends on the type of the design. One with blocks of colour can be worked more “efficiently” than a confetti-style one with individual stitches scattered around. For non-confetti projects, you should get 35-40 stitches from a recommended 38cm (15in) length, using two strands.

## Converted!

**Q** I have got a chart for a sampler project but the threads listed are not a brand I know. Usually I use DMC, but these are listed as Weeks Dye. Where can I get these?

**Marcia van Druis, via email**

**A** **Anne says:** I think the threads used are in fact by a US-based company called Weeks Dye Works\*, Marcia. They’re hand-dyed, for soft, variegated effects. The sampler is probably created with this variegation in mind, so there is not an exact conversion to account for this, but if you’d like to substitute DMC threads, then I am sure it will be possible. Contact Weeks Dye Works for local stockist info so you can match up DMC alternatives, or maybe they can offer suggestions of the best matches.

## Diving to the depths

**Q** My friend would like me to do a cross stitch of her husband’s Royal Navy Submariners badge. Do you know where I could find a chart or get one made?

**Christine Marshall, via Facebook**

**A** **Fiona says:** What a great way to honour his service. Avid Stitch\* produces several military badge kits, however, the specific badge for submariners, known as the Dolphins and showing two dolphins facing with a crown above, is not among them. In the range is a submarine badge kit, specifically for the submarine

HMS Spartan, and it includes the Dolphins insignia. I’d recommend contacting Avid Stitch to see if they can help you with a design of the particular submarine which your friend’s husband served on. The kit for ‘HMS/M Spartan + Submariner badge’ (X1684) for £21.95 contains everything you need, including 14-count black aida.

**Diving to the depths**  
This whole-stitch-only design is great for submariners





# Wishes granted

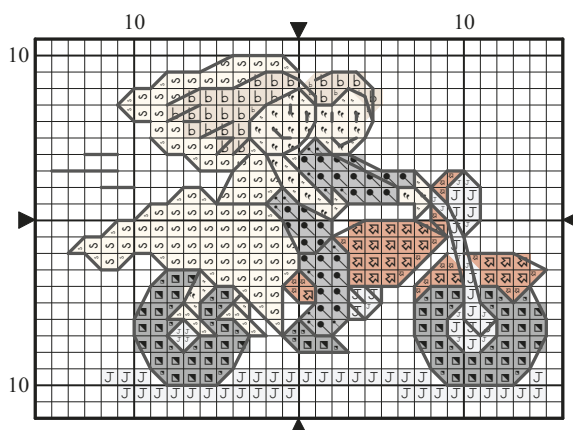


Request a design and our resident design expert, Jenny, might just chart it for you...

**Q** Can you help? I'm planning to do a wedding sampler for a good friend, however, she would like a motorbike-themed one, ideally with the bride and groom on a motorbike and I'm struggling to locate anything! Thanks.

**Becki Calvert, via Facebook**

**A Jenny says:** What a fun idea your friend has Becki. I hope you like the design I came up with of this couple zooming off to get married on their big day!



**Speeding bride and groom!**  
Jenny has designed this 'need for speed' couple just for Becki

## Wedding motorbike key

### ✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
	349	1098	212	red
	413	236	1713	dark grey
	414	235	1714	grey
	712	926	2101	cream
	762	234	1804	light grey
	948	892	306	peach
	3864	376	1910	brown

### ✕ Backstitch in one strand

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
	413	236	1713	dark grey

**STITCH COUNT** 21 high x 30 wide

**DESIGN AREA** 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 4x5.5cm (1½x2¼in)

This design was stitched using DMC stranded cotton

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.

## Delicious

**Q** My daughter is 30 in June. She loves baking and I'm looking for a chart with a baking theme. Any ideas please? Thanks.

**Carol Ann Burton, via Facebook**

**A Ruth says:** 'The Bakery' (ccn-1009) is a chart design by Country Cottage Needleworks and available to buy at The Patchwork Rabbit\*. It'll be a fun stitch too, since it uses hand-dyed threads from Crescent Colours but, if you prefer, DMC shades are also listed. Order for £6.40.



**Getting the right fit**  
For a small motif, just add 5-7.5cm (2-3in) to each dimension for mounting/finishing

## Getting the right fit

**Q** I'm new to cross stitch and would like to stitch the patterns from your Design Library, but I don't know how to figure out how much aida I will need for each motif. Help!

**Catherine Milne, via Facebook**

**A Anne says:** To work out how much fabric you need for a project, just divide the stitch count by the count of your fabric, and this gives

you the size in inches of the motif. So for a motif of stitch count 25 high x 37 wide, it'll measure 4.5x6.5cm (1¾x2½in) when finished on 14-count aida. Now to gauge the size of fabric you'll need, it's important of course not to forget the extra fabric to allow for mounting/finishing. In our example, cut a piece of 14-count measuring around 10x12cm (4x4¾in).



## STITCHING HELP!

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

Email us at:  
**experts@cross-stitching.com**

Write to:  
**Ask the Experts, The World of Cross Stitching, Immediate Media Co Origin, Tower House, Fairfax Street, Bristol BS1 3BN**

Send in queries via Facebook too:



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!

# Friendly advice

We asked our Facebook fans what their tips were for stitching and decorating cards? – here's what they said...

facebook



✖ **Carole Towner:** By changing the count of the fabric (increasing its size from say 14- to 25-count) you can stitch more intricate designs which will still fit in the aperture you have.

✖ **Kimberly Sloan Jarrett:** I get creative with each card, sometimes adding embellishments. I love to use pinking shears to trim the designs.

✖ **Lisa Towell:** I mount stitching on pretty card and fray the edges.

✖ **Lynn Alana Cawley:** I always back my design with wadding, cut to the size of

the aperture. It gives a lovely "cushioned" effect, and makes the design stand out.

✖ **Aleksandra Łanuszewska:** I use double-sided tape for mounting, and stick a piece of white paper between the stitching and the back of the aperture if the card is dark.

✖ **Rhiannon Richters:** I use stickers for the inside greeting as it makes the card look more professional.

✖ **Em Day:** I use double-sided tape and prefer patching my design onto a blank card with a pretty backing paper.

✖ **Julie Cothran:** I like to use clear double-sided tape to attach my work to a blank card, then I use embellishments, such as ribbon, brads and buttons to enhance the overall project.

✖ **Cara Clarke:** I buy fancy shaped buttons to decorate inside the card. A surprise when it's opened!

**Find us on Facebook and join in with the chat. If you're lucky, your tip might appear here! Just log on to [www.facebook.com/TheWorldofCrossStitching](http://www.facebook.com/TheWorldofCrossStitching) and hit 'like'!**

## QUICK Q&A

I'm trying to find dance-related designs that might fit circular coasters – help please?

**Rita Wood, via Facebook**

**Fiona says:** We hope this pretty ballerina bear might suit, Rita? 'Little ballerina' (JBDC1056) is easy to customise with different colour tutus for a coaster set, and if you stitch her on 14-count aida without the border and wording, she'll fit into a 81mm (3¼in) diameter coaster from Framecraft\*.



Coasting along  
Get this JB Cross Stitch\* PDF chart for just £1.49

I'm looking for a plain tablecloth to cross stitch my own design onto. Can you help?

**Linda Keating, via email**

**Katriel says:** Sadly pre-made tablecloths for cross stitch are few and far between. Your best option will be to buy evenweave fabric off the roll – it'll be better than aida as it is less stiff and drapes nicely. Try Zweigart\* 22-count Fein-Ariosa, 25-count Lugana, 28-count Brittany Lugana or Trento, all machine washable. You'll also be able to design your project exactly as you'd like, rather than to fit pre-made aida inset panels.

## TECHNIQUE FOCUS

### Top table

Q I have a design that would look great as a placemat. I can find plenty of blank coasters, but am having no luck sourcing a blank placemat. Do you know of any?

**Lucy Dunsmore, via email**

A **Anne says:** I'm sorry to say we think there is no such thing as an acrylic placemat for mounting cross stitch. Placemats are usually made up as fabric-backed items, so they can be washed if there are any spills.

For tips on making one, I'd choose a crafting-weight cotton to coordinate with your design – a typical size for a dinner-setting placemat would be 30x38cm (12x15in). Either make one from two pieces of the fabric with your stitching added as a patch. Pin the patch centrally onto the front of one fabric piece and stitch in place, either by hand or machine. Now pin the two fabric pieces with right sides together, machine sew and leave a gap for turning through, turn through, slipstitching the gap closed.

The second option is to incorporate your stitched piece into the front piece of the



Top table  
Make unique placemats to display your stitching

placemat – like the one seen here, which we made as a tablemat centrepiece. First sew top and bottom strips to your trimmed stitching, then side strips onto this. Press all the seams flat. Now cut a back panel the same size and pin them together and sew to repeat the assembly process as before.

THE WORLD OF  
Cross  
Stitching  
KNOW-HOW



# Design round-up

We've hand-picked a selection of kits and charts so you can stitch in some Easter joy and excitement

Pretty  
Easter  
designs

## QUICK AND EASY

### CHICK AND DAFFODIL

**T**his design, by Permin, might be petite but it's packing a mighty vibrant punch. Stitch this cute chick walking among the spring blooms, sheltering from the April showers under a daffodil umbrella! This kit has everything you need for this whole-stitch-only finish, plus a wood-effect Flexihoop so you have a framing idea included in this good-value kit (13-8165), to order from Stitcher\*.

**Stitch count** – 44 high x 43 wide, finished size 6.5x6.5cm (2½x2½in) on 16-count white aida



## TRY HAND-DYED THREADS

### EASTER HARE

£6.00



**I**n a Folk art style, with no backstitches and blocks of colour, this cheery chap in a chart by Twisted Threads and available from The Patchwork Rabbit\* is just the thing for Easter. It even boasts a seasonal carrot button embellishment (not included). Great if you're looking to progress onto a slightly larger design!

**Stitch count** - 77 high x 96 wide, 14x17cm (5½x6¾in) on 28-count evenweave

## 3D FINISH

### SPRING BISCORNU

**S**tylised Easter motifs decorate this quirkily-shaped idea by Barbara Anna Designs, which uses light green fabric. The comprehensive chart is sold as a download from Creative Poppy\* – three separate charts show the design, the border and the backstitch, plus there are step-by-step instructions and photos on how to sew up your squares of stitched fabric into a biscornu.

**Stitch count** – 70 high x 70 wide, 12.5x12.5cm (5x5in) on 28-count evenweave



## MAKES A BROOCH

### HOPPIN' BUNNY

**B**eadwork and perforated paper give this cutie by Mill Hill, to buy from Sew and So\*, a unique flavour. The kit (112785) includes shiny seed beads and a simple treasure of a single fuchsia heart to make embellishments. This tiny kit is packed with quality materials – a clear black-and-white chart, stranded cottons and several beading needles, plus thorough stitching instructions.

**Stitch count** – 31 high x 34 wide, 5.5x6cm (2¼x2½in) on 14-count white perforated paper



\*For stockists see page 90

# Pet of the month

We know you're huge fans of pets, so why not have us design a cross stitch of a beloved animal?



## Design my pet!



**Q** Could you design a chart for me of a black and white Border collie? It'll make a cute decoration for the house, as we have a collie at home.

**Katrina Walt, via email**

**A Durene says:** I know several people who own Border collies, and they are lovely dogs. The breed is highly intelligent, in fact they are considered to be the most intelligent dog breed, and all their energy ensures owners are never short of exercise.

I designed this pattern to have a green background to look like grass, but you could easily change the colour to suit your needs. I also gave the dog brown eyes, but as eye colour varies in this breed, from blue to brown and even sometimes differing eye colours, you can adapt the shades to match your beloved pooch!

Once stitched, patch the design onto a card blank, we chose white to make the design stand out, and decorate with ribbon in a coordinating colour like ours. If you want to ensure longevity of your design, you can easily frame it, just make sure you add extra fabric onto the measurements to allow for mounting.

## Shopping list

- ✕ Zweigart\* 14-count white aida measuring 15x15cm (6x6in)
- ✕ Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- ✕ Size 24 tapestry needle
- ✕ Craft Creations\* single-fold card (SF06U) in creative smooth white
- ✕ Ribbon of choice

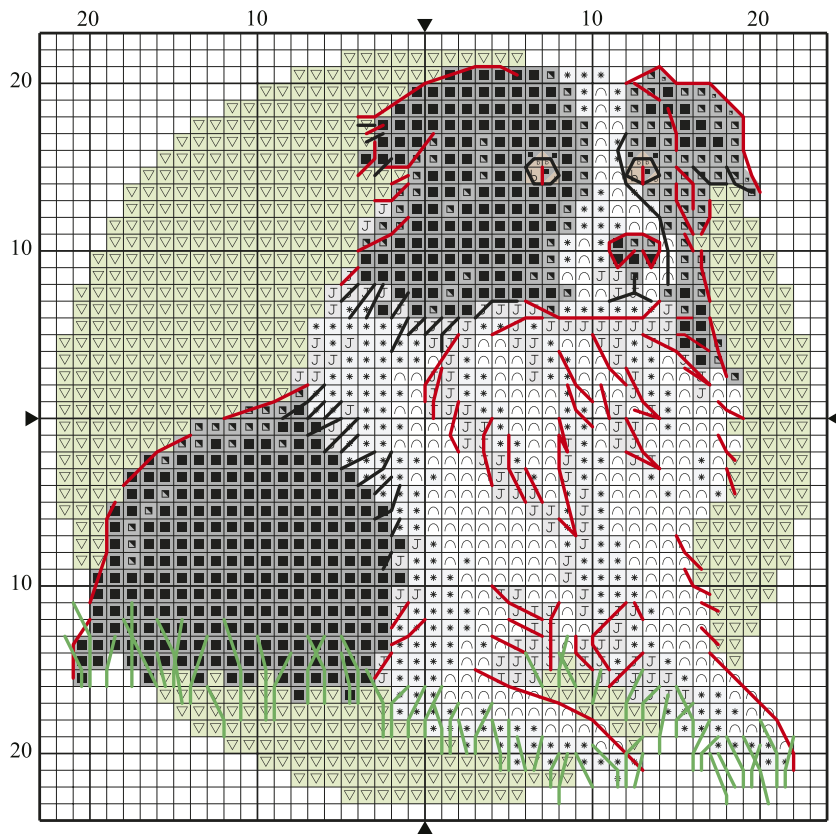
**Thread & fabric cost  
Approximately £10**

\*For stockists see page 90

## Fun facts about Border collies

- **They get** their name from its early ancestors, dogs developed and bred in the border lands between England and Scotland.
- **A Border** collie holds the *Guinness Book of World Records* for opening a car window (11.34 seconds).
- **They are** very intelligent dogs; proof of Border collie intelligence is Rico, a Border collie study subject who could recognise more than 250 objects by name!





## TOP TIP

Make sure the top arms of your stitches all point the same way for a neat, uniform finish

## Factbox

- ✦ **Stitching Time**  
Approx. 5-6 hours
- ✦ **Type of Stitches**  
Cross stitch, fractionals, backstitch
- ✦ **Ease of Stitching**  
Beginner

Uses hardly any fractionals

## Border collie key

### ✦ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	B5200	1	2401	white
▽	164	240	1209	green
■	310	403	2400	black
J	415	398	1802	grey
*	762	234	1804	light grey
b	801	359	2007	brown
■	3799	236	1713	very dark grey

### ✦ Backstitch in one strand

—	310	403	2400	black
—	414	235	1714	dark grey
—	988	243	1402	dark green

**STITCH COUNT** 45 high x 45 wide

**DESIGN AREA** 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 8x8cm (3¼x3¼in)

This design was stitched using DMC stranded cotton

## More pet ideas

### Chow down

'Chow Dog' stitch kit (R1216) by Rioli's really captures the recognisable fluffiness of this gorgeous dog's coat! It's £22.25



from Past Impressions\*, for a finished design of 26x28cm (10x11in) when worked with

the wool/ acrylic threads on the 10-count black aida provided.

### Feathered friends

'Cockatiel' cross stitch chart is worked in whole stitches only, so it's perfect for stitchers of all abilities. It has a stitch count of 45x59 so it'll be a fast finish, just right for a card or picture on 14-count aida. It's \$3.25 (approx. £2.17) for a PDF download from 5PrickedFinger5\*.



## YOUR VERY OWN PET DESIGN

**Furry, feathered, scaly? Send all your animal design requests in to Durene!**

Email us at:  
[letters@cross-stitching.com](mailto:letters@cross-stitching.com)

Write to:

**Pet of the Month, The World of Cross Stitching, Immediate Media Co, 2nd floor, Tower House, Fairfax Street, Bristol, BS1 3BN**

Durene will try get to everyone's requests in turn, but if you're working to a specific deadline then do let us know!

Collect the set

# Back issues

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## ✕ Issue 226

Find tons of fresh and fabulous designs in issue 226! There are the adorable bathtime mice, a magical wishing well, funky heart garlands, pretty house sampler, stunning tulip fields. Plus, an exclusive All Our Yesterdays gardening design, sparkling Chinese lanterns and a sweet treats Design Library. Your **FREE** gift: a gorgeous 'heart of roses' hanging sachet kit



## ✕ Issue 225

**Margaret Sherry hedgehog card kit** cute Forever Friends, glam Art Deco lady, stunning space-theme design, baby sampler



## ✕ Issue 224

**Joan Elliott 2015 desk calendar** Cookie bear, boho dreamcatcher, pretty wedding sampler, colourful robots, Michael Powell exclusive



## ✕ Issue 223

**Fizzy Moon Christmas card kit** festive Country Companions hedgehogs, pet stockings, gingerbread train, cookies sampler, wintry cards



## ✕ Issue 222

**Luxury Xmas chartbook & Madeira threads** The Snowman & The Snowdog, Gorjuss, chalkboard ice-skate, snowmen decs, robins ABC



## ✕ Issue 221

**Bebunni calendar & Madeleine Floyd robin chart** Margaret Sherry's sledging cats, Furry Tales, winter forest, Halloween ABC



## ✕ Issue 220

**3-in-1 Margaret Sherry Christmas mice cards** Pretty poppies, garden pixies, fantastic Mr Fox, copyright-free ideas, stitcher's haven

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# Online news

Explore a world of cross stitching without leaving the house – we've found the websites, communities and charts you'll love!

Join us on Facebook

Chat 24/7 on our Facebook page – here's what you've missed!



## OUR FAVOURITE POST

**Emma Swartz** "My first finish of 2015, from issue 73 of *The World of Cross Stitching*. Loved stitching Tom Mouse, I'm now stitching another one." Find a Country Companions Tom Mouse design on page 76 of this issue Emma!



26 people like this

## YOU LIKED

**Tracy Hobden** is enjoying the floral flourish of her current WIP, the Springtime Fairy by Joan Elliott that was featured in issue 213 of your mag. "Loving the colour palette on this one!"



123 people like this

## And the winner is...

We asked you on Facebook: What finishing ideas do you use?

**R**unning out of wall space to display your stitches? Why not try something new and finish off your work in a variety of ways? It seems many of you are making cushions, bookmarks and other pieces. And luckily for you this issue is filled with finishing off ideas, like our colourful bookmarks on page 71, plus this free chart to make!

### MAKE BOOKMARKS



### MAKE CUSHIONS WITH PROJECTS



### MAKE DECORATIONS



### MAKE BADGES, MAGNETS OR COASTERS



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[www.youtube.com/crossstitchtv](https://www.youtube.com/crossstitchtv)

## Blogger of the month



**J**acquie Morris, from Sussex, thought she'd share her story and weightloss journey, in the hope she'll inspire others. Her love for crafts, especially cross stitching, is shining through! "I love to stitch for many reasons, it's taught me patience, keeps my hands busy so I don't want to put food in my mouth!" With regular updates on her success and latest stitches, this is a great blog to read.

**MORE** Visit her blog for more info at [www.myjourneystarting2013.blogspot.co.uk](http://www.myjourneystarting2013.blogspot.co.uk)

## Websites you'll love

Next time you log on, check out these amazing stitchy sites



At [www.shinysuncrossstitching.com](http://www.shinysuncrossstitching.com) you'll find a variety of affordable high-quality, detailed and unique cross stitch patterns derived from some of the world's best artwork. For those that want to create something a 'little different', this is a great site for you.



Stocking most manufacturers' products, if you're looking for cross stitching or embroidery goodies, whether for yourself or as a gift, try [www.thehappycross-stitcher.com](http://www.thehappycross-stitcher.com). They'll even help look for kits for you, if you can't find them on the site!



Find gorgeous handcrafted wooden trays, footstools, frames and pincushions at [www.fireside-reflections.co.uk](http://www.fireside-reflections.co.uk), all perfect to show off your work at its best and protect it at the same time. Plus unique embroidery and patchwork kits to make.



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# Celtic treasures

STITCH FOR ANYONE! GET CREATIVE  
WITH INTRICATE KNOT-LIKE PATTERNS

44  
VERSATILE  
IDEAS



Stitch Scottish, Irish, Manx & Cornish inspiration  
with gorgeous Celtic designs by Rhona Norrie

- ✕ 44 quick-and-easy motifs ✕ Rhona Norrie's design inspiration ✕ Stitches for every skill level
- ✕ Helpful tips and advice ✕ Unique present ideas for the special people in your life





## WRITTEN IN STITCHES

Fill in any initial you require in this pretty frame motif (11). Patch onto a single fold card (SF04U) in pale green, from Craft Creations\* and decorate with patterned paper.



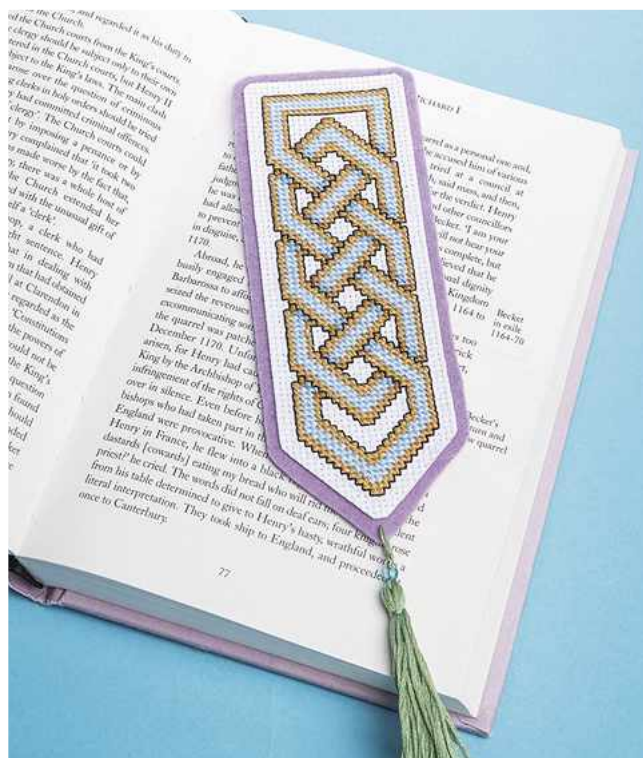
## TAG IT!

This purple, green and gold motif (2) is perfect to add some glitz to a gift. Patch onto a homemade gift tag made with patterned paper of your choice.



## SAFE AND SOUND

Stitch this motif (6) to decorate a purse for a fabulous gift idea. Ours is patched onto an Artemio grey felt bag (FE5317), available from The Craft Department\*.



## IN A KNOT

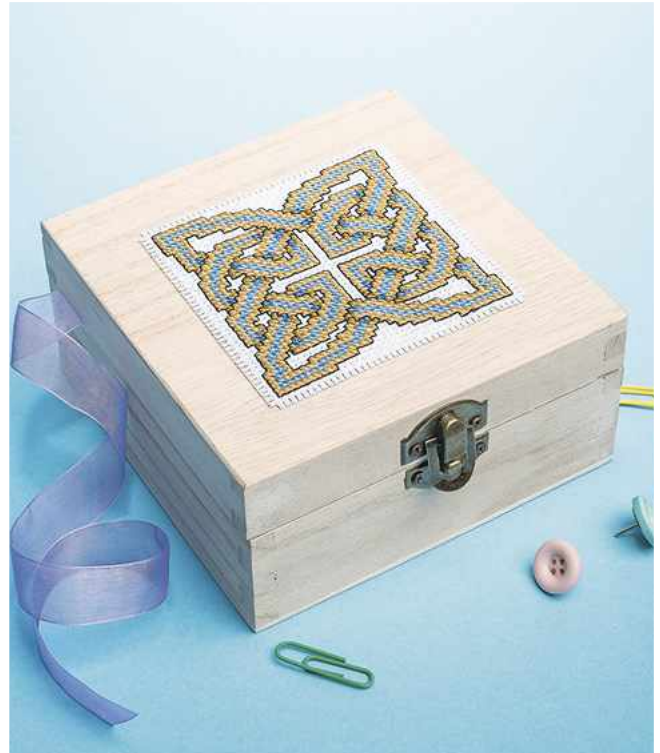
Save your spot with this gorgeous bookmark (16). Add iron-on interfacing to your stitching, cut to shape and patch on to felt – see page 75 for a step-by-step guide!





### YOU'VE BEEN SERVED

Decorate napkins with flair (17)! Stitch onto 2.5cm (1in) wide white 16-count aida band with a green trim. Hand stitch the ends together to make a loop like ours.



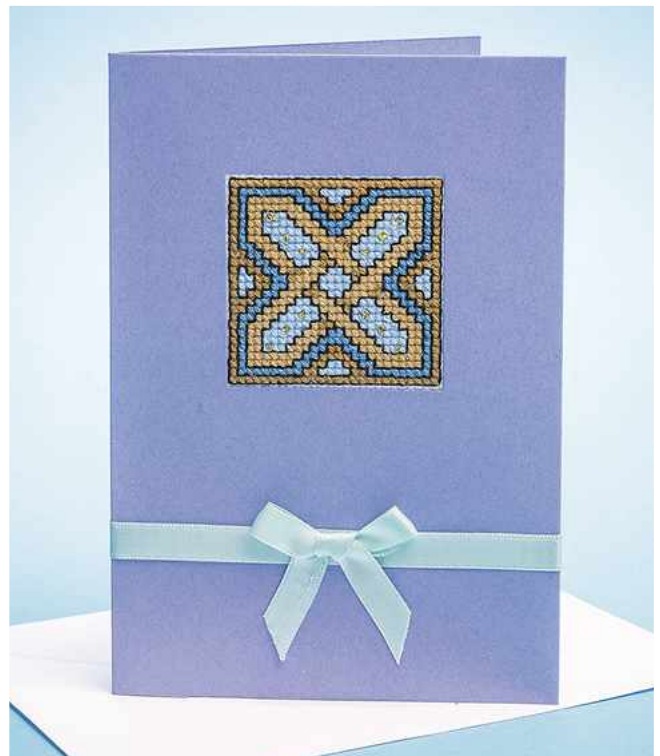
### TREASURE BOX

Decorate boxes with this stunning knot design (10) – perfect for keeping bits and bobs tidy! Patch onto a wooden box, available from The Wooden Box Mill\*.



### HANGING AROUND

Stitch personalised initial hangings and sachets (18)! Make them for everyone, with backing fabric, wadding and ribbon of your choice (see page 54 for instructions).



### CELTIC GREETINGS

This striking design (1) is perfect for greeting cards! Mount in a square aperture card (AP77U) in purple, from Craft Creations\* and decorate with ribbon.

\*For stockists, see page 90

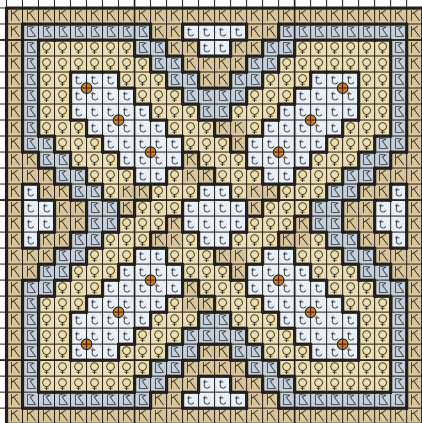
## My inspiration

“I have Scottish roots, so I really enjoyed researching Celtic traditions and symbolism for this set. I’ll definitely be stitching some of these ideas, especially as they’ll be useful for both masculine and feminine makes, and are easy to adapt the colours!”

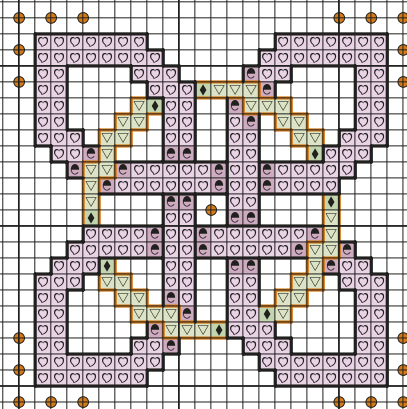
**RHONA NORRIE, DESIGNER**



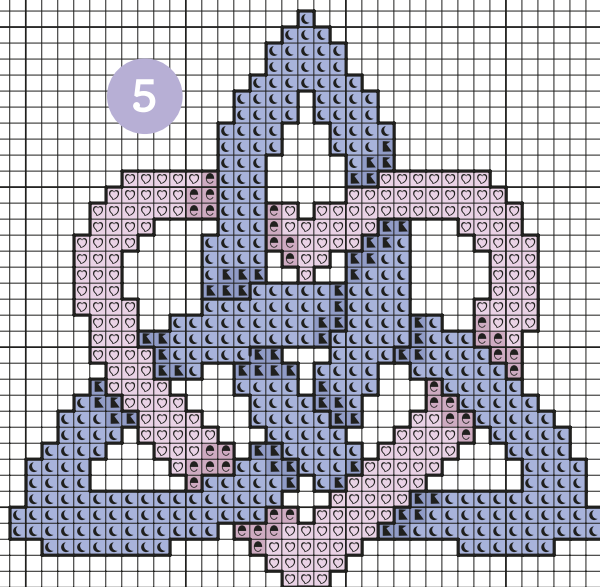
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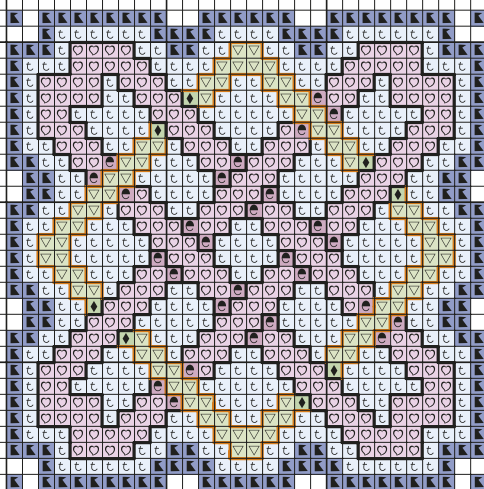
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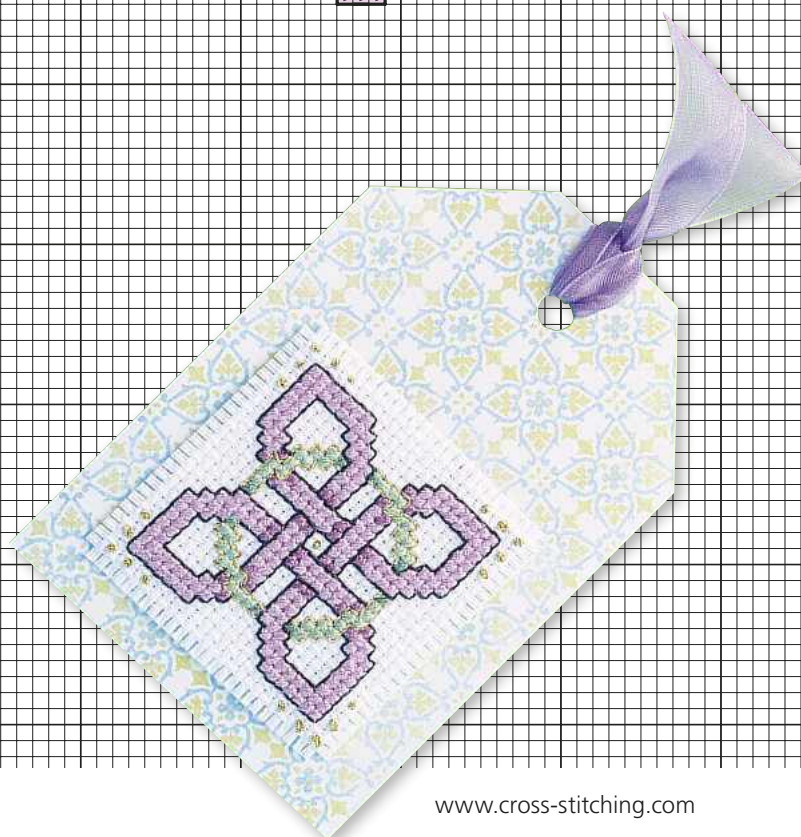
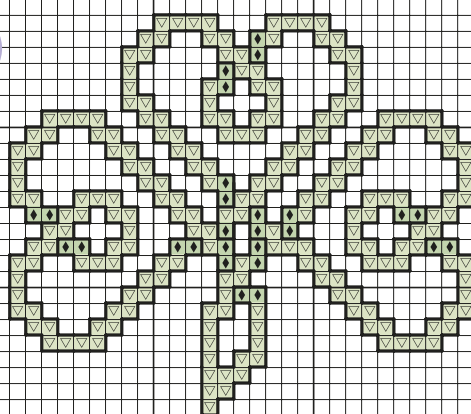
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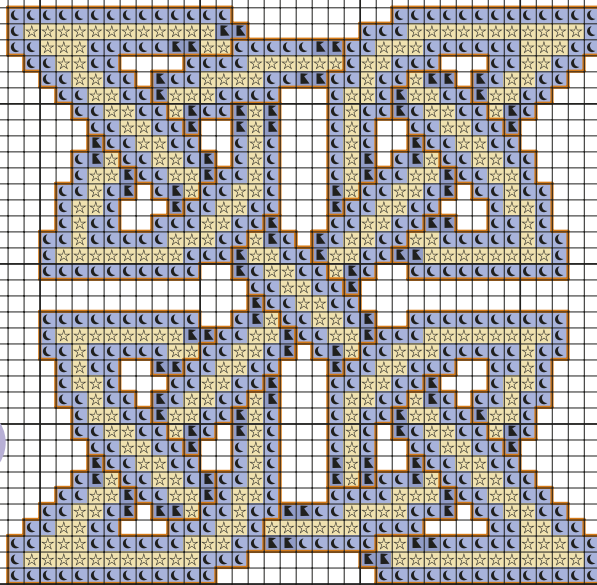
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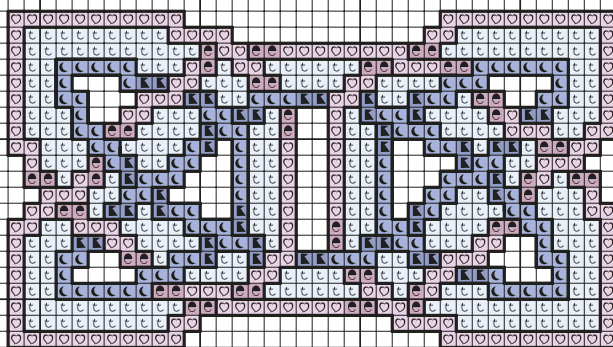
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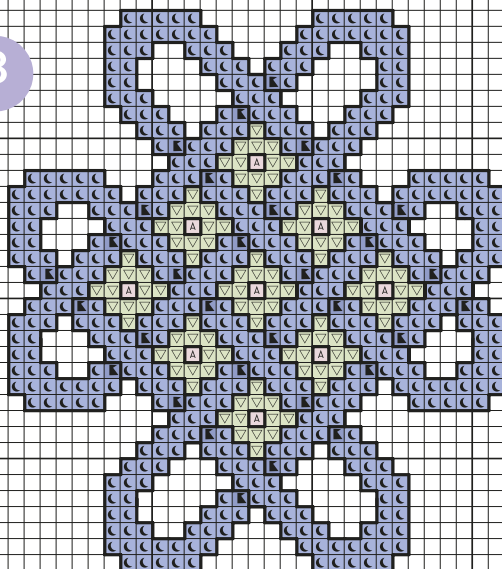




3



6



8

## Celtic key

## ✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
A	223	895	812	pink
◆	367	217	1312	green
▽	368	214	1310	light green
♀	729	890	2209	straw
■	796	134	914	dark blue
●	798	131	912	blue
P	813	140	910	light blue
t	3325	129	907	very light blue
⬢	3760	161	1107	turquoise
K	3829	901	2210	dark straw
●	3835	98	712	mauve
♥	3836	90	2713	light mauve
★	3842	164	1010	dark turquoise

## ✕ Cross stitch in two strands DMC Light Effects

☆	E3821			light gold
---	-------	--	--	------------

## ✕ Backstitch in one strand

—	310	403	2400	black
---	-----	-----	------	-------

## ✕ Backstitch in one strand DMC Light Effects

—	E3821			light gold
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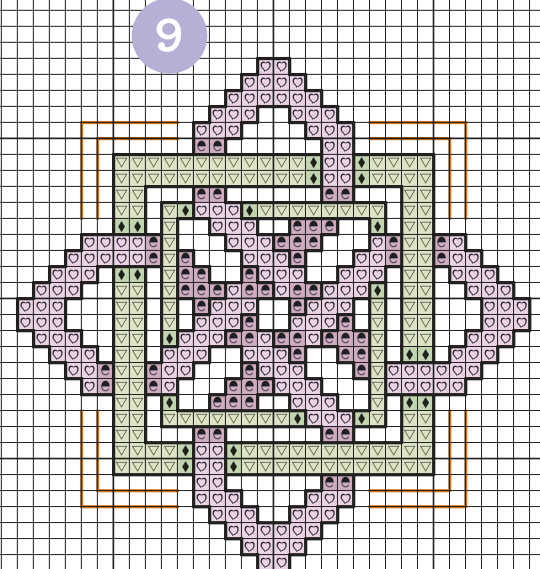
## ✕ French knots in one strand

●	310	403	2400	black
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## ✕ French knots in one strand DMC Light Effects

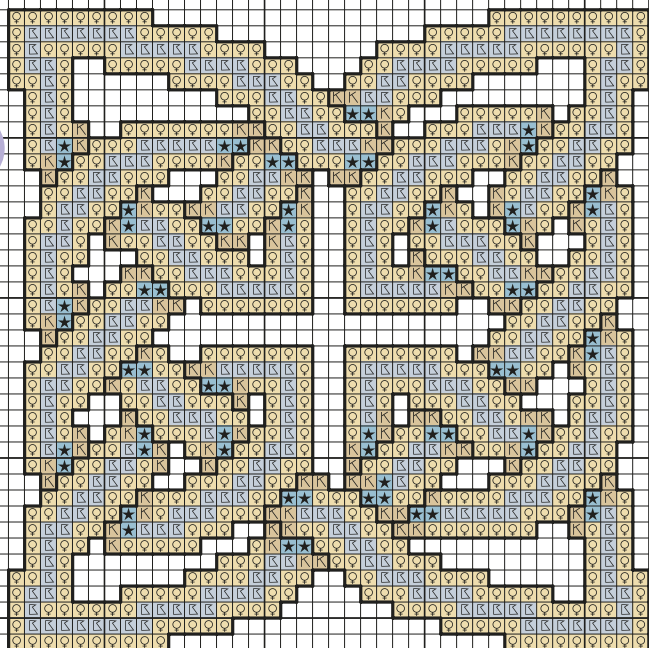
●	E3821			light gold
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These designs were stitched using DMC stranded cotton and DMC Light Effects

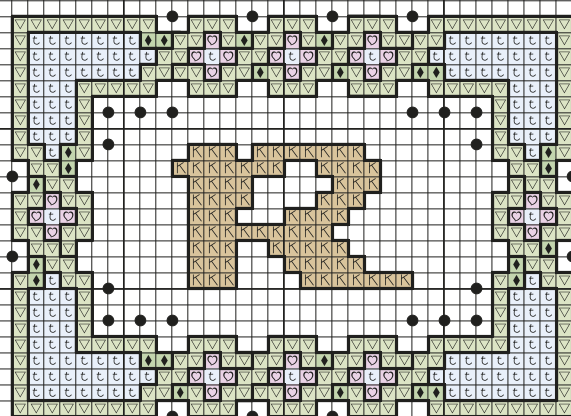


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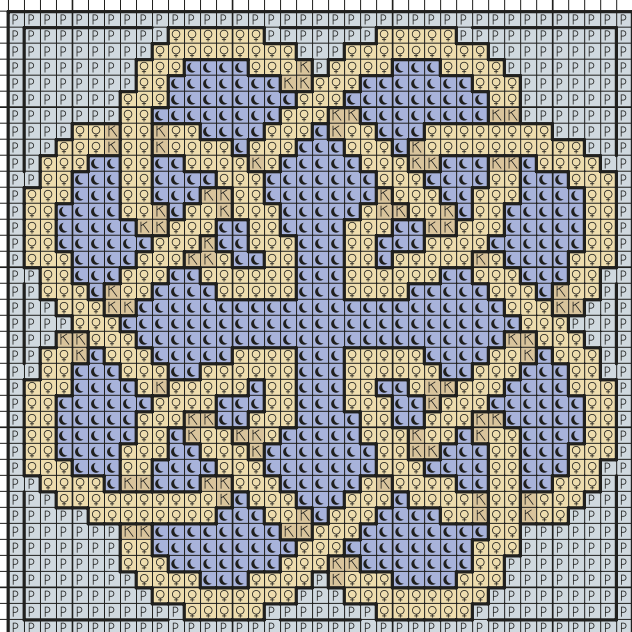
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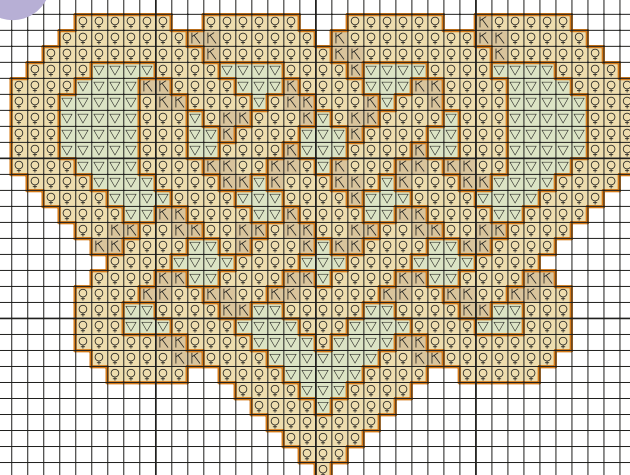
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13



14



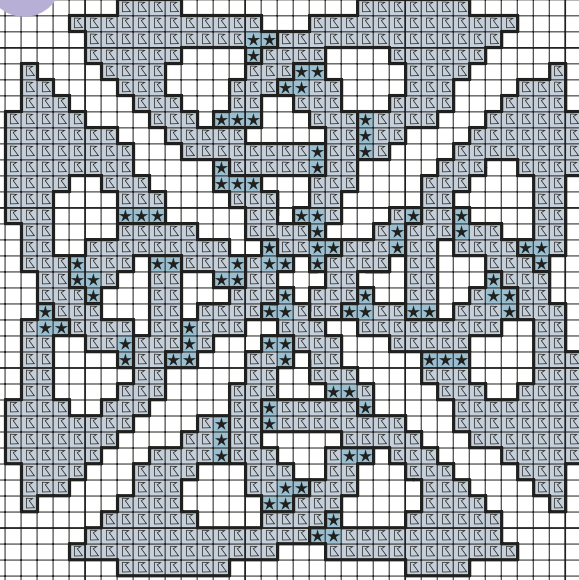
## Cathryn READER PANEL

“I love these Celtic designs. My uncle is in an Irish band and I would love to stitch him one of these motifs. I think I would make it into a badge for him. Then he could pin it onto his guitar strap for good luck when performing.”

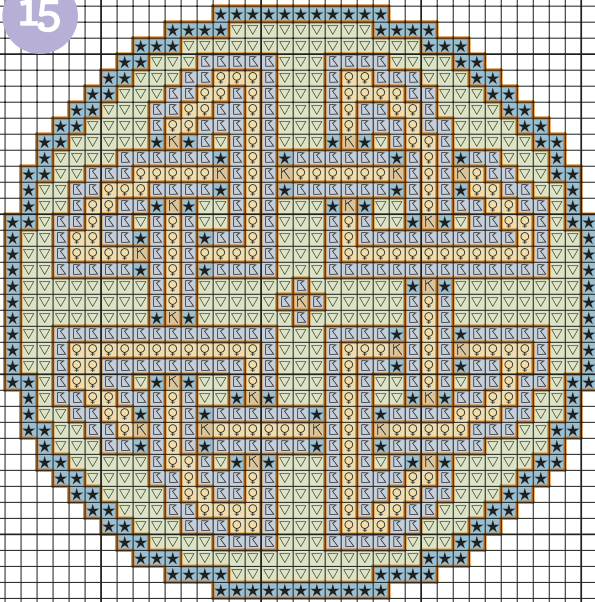


CHANGE  
THE COLOURS  
TO YOUR  
FAVOURITE

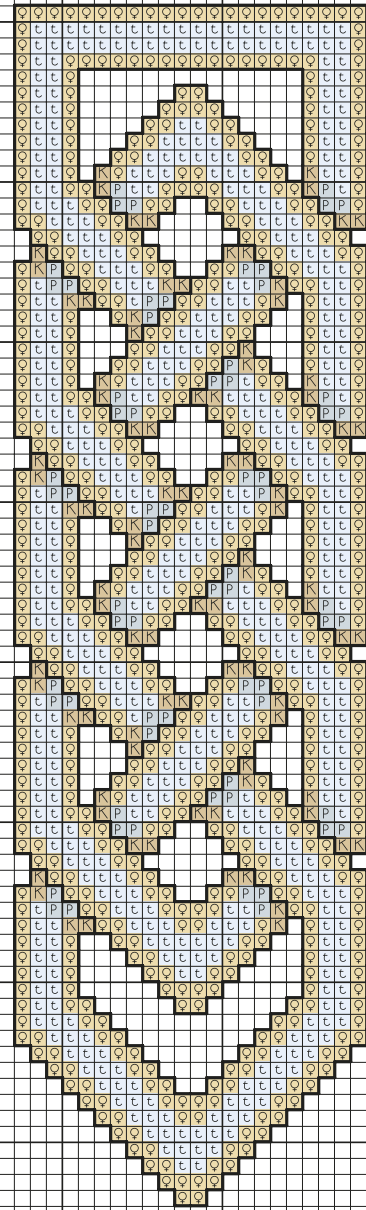
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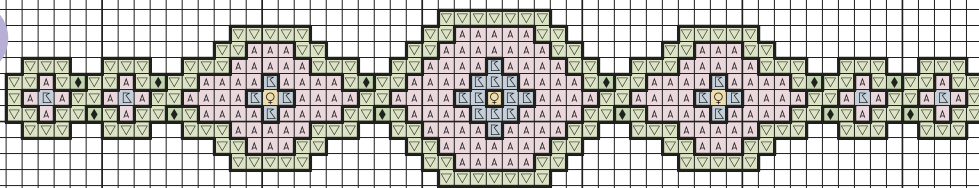
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16



17



How to...

## make your hanging sachet

**1 Cut out your** stitched piece, making sure that you leave a 2cm ( $\frac{3}{4}$ in) seam allowance all around the design.

**2 Cut out the** backing fabric, using your cut-out stitched piece as a template. Hand or machine-stitch around both pieces to prevent fraying.

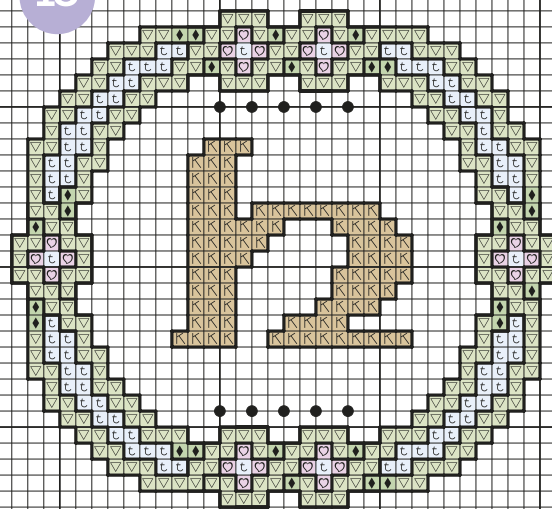
**3 Fold the ribbon** in half to form a loop. Pin the ends at the top of the stitched piece, on the right side, making sure the loop lies downwards.

**4 Pin together the** front and back pieces, right sides facing and the loop tucked inside the 'sandwich' so it will be on the outside when you turn through. With a 1cm ( $\frac{1}{4}$ in) seam allowance, sew all around, leaving a small gap at the bottom. Turn through and press flat.

**5 Fill your decoration** firmly with wadding. Pin the gap and slip stitch closed for a neat finish.



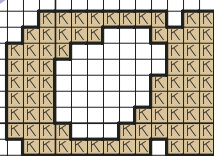
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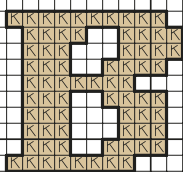
## TOP TIP

As the alphabet is all whole stitches, you could make personalised initial key rings on plastic canvas for family and friends

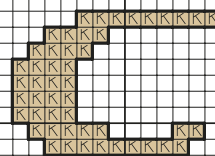
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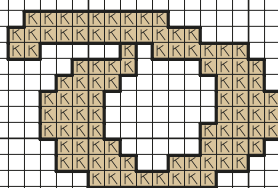
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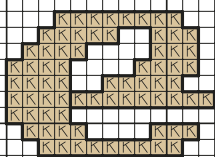
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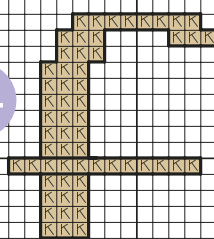
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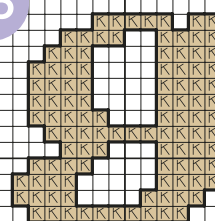
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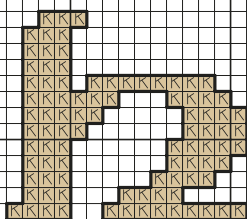
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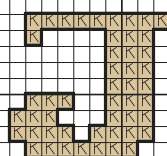
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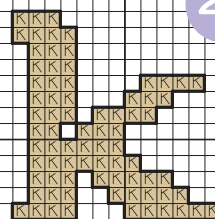
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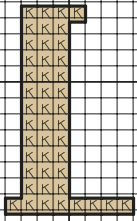


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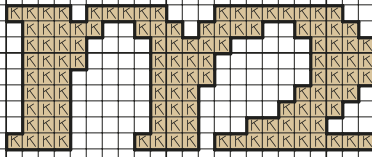




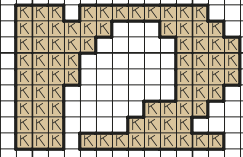
ALL MOTIFS  
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FREE



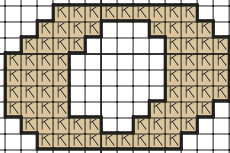
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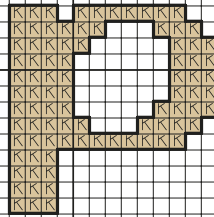
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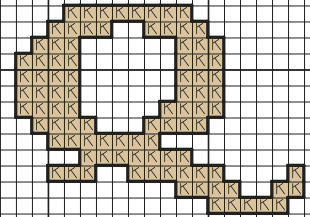
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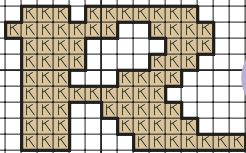
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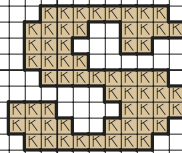
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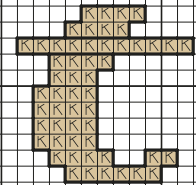
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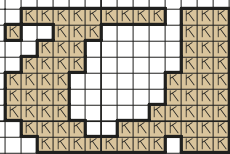
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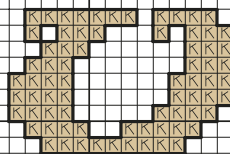
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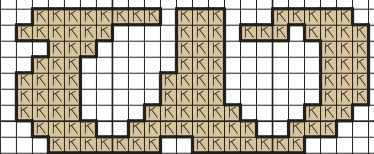
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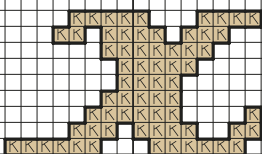
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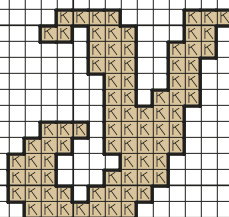
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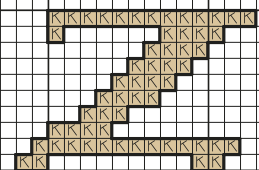
41



42



43



44

## NEXT MONTH: FRIENDS

Designer Jenny Barton has created a fabulous collection of motifs celebrating all things to do with friendship! Make cards and gifts to show your pals how much they mean to you. Get to the shops on 26 March to pick up your copy of issue 228, or subscribe and the issue will be delivered to your door. Find this month's subscription offer on page 44.



Turn to  
page 44  
to subscribe



DESIGN BY **LISA REAKES**

# Moroccan magic

Create this stunning band sampler using decorative stitches and beads for a project that is sure to wow

Moroccan culture has influenced design around the world for years, and this project is no different! With its intricate patterns and earthy tones, this North African-inspired design is a delight to stitch.

Enjoy developing your skills as several different stitch techniques are used to create this project. A variation of Rhodes stitch and lazy daisy stitches are worked into the design, with beads adding texture and interest. Don't worry if you're unfamiliar with these techniques, turn to page 62 for our step-by-step guide. Simply practice on some spare fabric and you'll soon find them a breeze.

You can stitch individual motifs

## Factbox

- ✕ **Stitching Time**  
Approx. 50 hours
- ✕ **Type of Stitches**  
Cross stitch, fractionals, backstitch, modified Rhodes stitch, lazy daisy stitch, beads
- ✕ **Ease of Stitching**  
Advanced

Learn  
impressive  
stitches

or whole bands for a variety of cards, bookmarks and gift ideas, or work the whole design for a piece of artwork you can display proudly in your home. So get started and learn some new skills to create this gorgeous and unique sampler! ➤



## Meet the designer

Lisa Reakes

"I love any chances I get to travel, and take inspiration for my designs from patterns and traditional artwork from around the world. I hope you enjoy this design as much as I did creating it for you!"



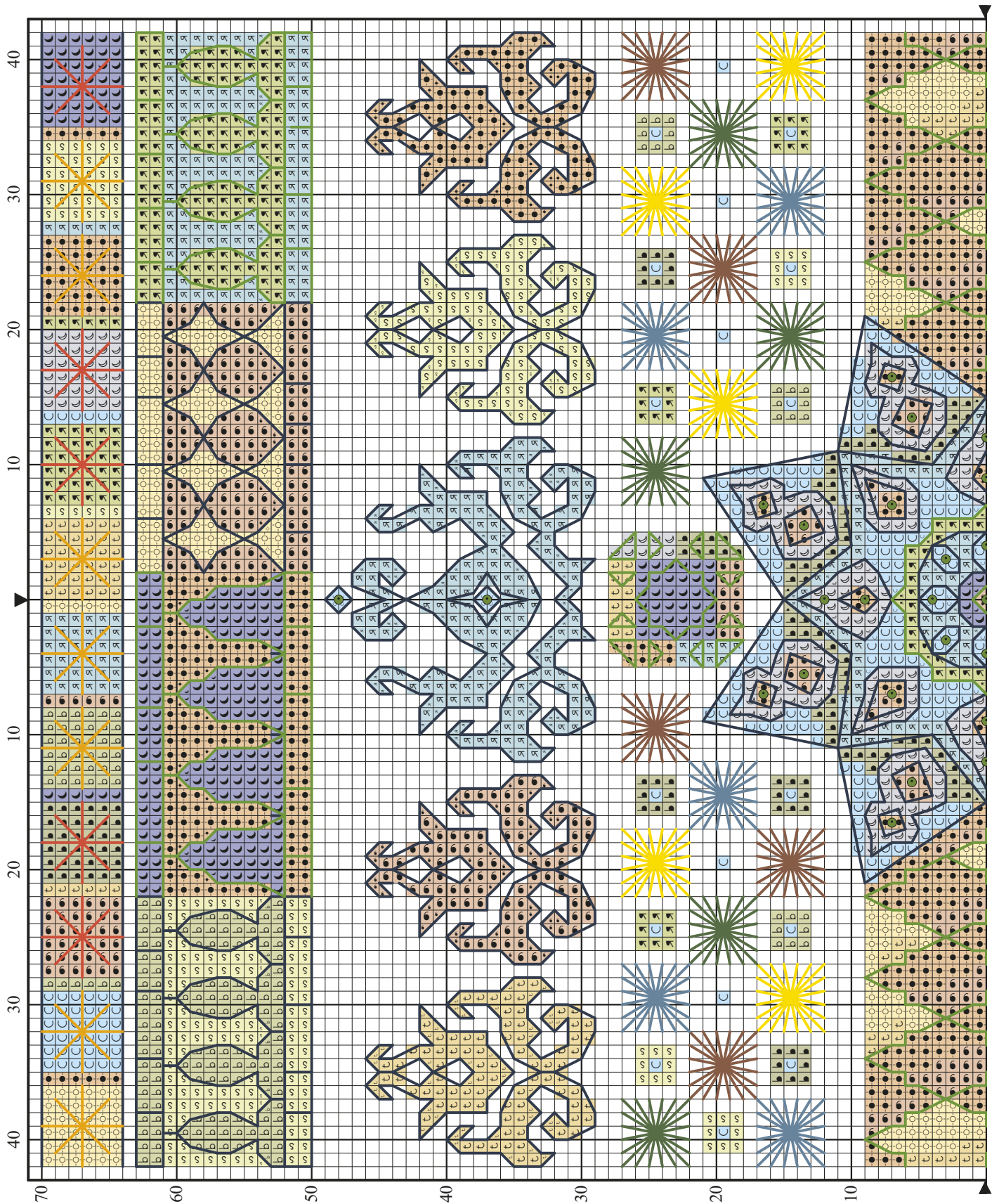


THE WORLD OF  
**Cross  
Stitching**  
STITCHER'S  
CHALLENGE



Stitch this modern take on a band sampler, done in gorgeous earthy tones, for a unique artwork





Band Sampler chart (top)





Band Sampler chart (bottom)

## Band Sampler key

## ✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
⌚	160	939	906	lavender blue
⌚	165	278	1414	lime green
⌚	581	280	1609	green
⌚	797	139	913	blue
⌚	807	168	1108	turquoise
⌚	920	1004	312	dark ginger
⌚	922	1003	2306	ginger
⌚	996	433	1103	electric blue
⌚	3011	845	1607	field green
⌚	3364	260	1603	sage green
⌚	3820	306	2509	yellow
⌚	3822	295	2510	light yellow

## ✕ Backstitch in one strand

—	311	164	1006	dark blue
—	772	259	1604	very light green

## ✕ Lazy daisy stitch in two strands

—	311	164	1006	dark blue
—	772	259	1604	very light green

## ✕ Modified Rhodes stitch in two strands

—	165	278	1414	lime green
—	581	280	1609	green
—	3011	845	1607	field green
—	3364	260	1603	sage green

## ✕ Mill Hill seed beads

●	02047			soft willow
---	-------	--	--	-------------

**STITCH COUNT** 140 high x 84 wide

**DESIGN AREA** 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 25.5x15.5cm (10x6in)

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



## TOP TIP

- Lazy daisy stitch is often incorporated into cross stitch designs as it is useful for showing the petals of flowers or other details
- – see our tutorial guide on page 62!

## Shopping list

- ✕ Zweigart\* 28-count ecru evenweave measuring 36x30cm (14x12in)
- ✕ Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- ✕ Mill Hill\* seed beads as listed in the key
- ✕ Size 26 tapestry needle; beading needle
- ✕ Iron-on interfacing, backing fabric and cord of choice

**Thread & fabric cost**  
**Approximately £18**

\*For stockists see page 90

## How to...

## make a hanging

**1 Back your finished** stitching with iron-on interfacing. Now trim to size, leaving a 3cm (1¼in) seam allowance at each side and at the bottom and 5cm (2in) at the top.

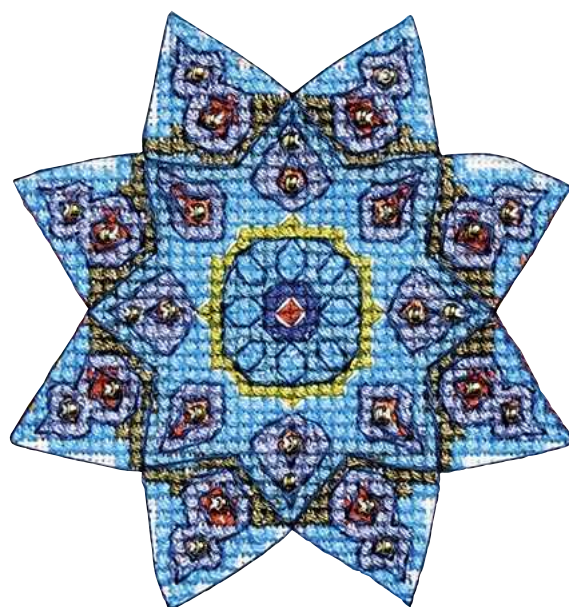
**2 Cut a piece** of lightweight backing fabric the same size as the stitched piece. Place them right sides together and pin.

**3 Stitch either by** hand or machine, and using a 2cm (¾in) seam allowance, taking your time to get straight seams. Start at one top corner and work down the long edge, finishing around 8cm (3in) away from where you started, so that a small gap is left at the top for turning through.

**4 Turn through and** press the seams flat for a neat finish. (Try using a pin to 'tease' the seams out neatly.) Use slip stitch to close the gap invisibly.

**5 Press then pin** a 2cm (¾in) hem towards the wrong side, to make your cord casing. Machine stitch with a row of top stitching 1cm (½in) down from the top edge.

**6 Cut a length** of cord for hanging, or make one to match – like ours, using a Kreinik\* Custom Corder. Thread it through the casing and tie a knot to form a loop.



## Dorota READER PANEL

“I always dreamt about having a Moroccan-themed room with colourful lights, decor, pillows and throws. This sampler is stunning and brings the magic of another country closer to us. It'd be perfect made into a pillow, on a bed with a Moroccan throw.”



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POST & PACKING: £2.50 UK,  
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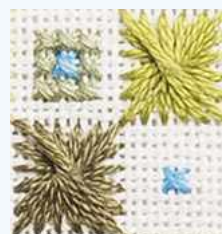


# Decorative stitches

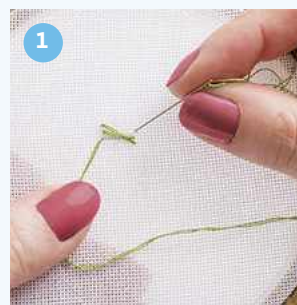
Learn how to work the decorative effects in Lisa's sampler. Follow our simple step-by-step guides to master each of these techniques



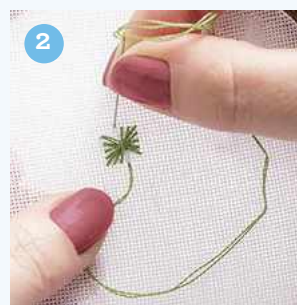
## MODIFIED RHODES STITCH



**T**he Rhodes stitch is a textural square-shaped stitch – it can be made over different numbers of threads for larger square areas, and worked either in a clockwise or anticlockwise direction. Usually a Rhodes stitch is densely made, using every thread of the evenweave fabric, however, in this design Lisa has created a modified Rhodes which only uses a stitch every other thread of the fabric, for a more star-like finish, which is less dense. It is stitched over a total of 10 threads of the evenweave fabric, both in height and width, and works anticlockwise beginning towards the top left of the square.



**1. Since the final** component stitch of your modified Rhodes stitch is the one worked from bottom right to top left corners, then we'll start with the one anticlockwise from this. Bring the needle up two threads down from the top left corner, along the left edge of the square. Go down two threads up from the bottom right (on the opposite side of the square). Count two more fabric threads down from the start of this first stitch, to begin your next stitch – come up, then take the needle down two threads up from the first one, so you're now working on a slight diagonal, rotating anticlockwise.



**2. Continue working** the long stitches (backstitch, but over a longer distance) round the square, moving the start and end of each stitch along by two threads of the fabric. Do this in rotation for every stitch you make to achieve the star-like finish in the sampler in anticlockwise movements.



## LAZY DAISY STITCH



**T**his teardrop-shaped stitch is sometimes called detached chain stitch. Whereas chain stitch has each stitch linking on from the previous one, lazy daisies are usually made in isolation and often in a radiating pattern, like petals of a flower. Lisa's cleverly used a similar effect here, emphasising it by layering lazy daisy stitches over other coloured whole cross stitches for contrast.

The lazy daisy is another stitch which can be worked over different number of fabric threads, to form stitches of different sizes. Here, the lazy daisies in Lisa's design are worked over six threads of the evenweave fabric (over three cross stitches).



**1. For clarity, the** method for working a single lazy daisy is shown without the cross stitch layer beneath. Bring your needle up at the base of the teardrop shape – the pointy end. In the case of Lisa's

sampler, this is the centre of the radiating 'flower' shape. Take the needle back down into the fabric very close to the start point, just one thread of the fabric across, but don't pull the thread too tight as you'll need to leave a loop.



**2. Now bring the** needle up again at the far point which corresponds to the height of the lazy daisy stitch – so in the case of this sampler, it's over the three cross stitches you will have already worked,

and in this step-by-step illustration we show it over six threads, so this corresponds to the same finished size. Don't pull the thread tight yet, so you'll still have the loop made in step 1, and you can bring your thread up inside the loop as you pull it. Take care not to pull so tightly that the loop disappears into a line, but just lies flat on the fabric in a rounded teardrop shape. Then secure the lazy daisy with a tiny straight stitch over the top of the loop.

**3. Continue making all** the lazy daisies, rotating around the central point until each 'flower' is done.

## SEED BEADS



**T**he huge range of colours and finishes of seed beads makes them an invaluable addition in many cross stitch designs – the Mill Hill\* collection makes them ideal to add sparkle and texture to projects. Also we find they're great for details like animals' eyes or flower centres, especially if you don't want to use French knots.

In this sampler design, Lisa's chosen a stunning rich gold-green shade for the beadwork accents, perfectly coordinating with the cross stitch palette. Attach seed beads with two strands of stranded cotton, and using a beading needle rather than a tapestry needle can be helpful, since it is much finer. If you struggle to thread a beading needle, then a smaller size of tapestry needle – a size 26 or even 28 will be better for threading through small beads.



**1. Add beads last** after all your other stitching is complete, even if the bead is to be added in an unworked area of your project, direct on to the fabric. This will avoid any threads catching around

the beads as you continue to stitch the design. Securely attach each bead with a cross stitch in two strands of thread. Bring the needle up at the bead position on the chart, thread on your bead, then go back down to complete the first arm of the cross stitch. As you work the second arm of the stitch, separate the two strands either side of the bead.



**2. When choosing a** thread colour, take care to match to the surface you're attaching the beads to. So, if stitching beads direct to a white fabric, use white thread. Or if stitching beads to an area of cross stitching – as

in this sampler – use a colour to match those surface stitches. Compare the pair seen on the left – using matching threads, with those on the right, both of which use white, which is more obtrusive. Another tip is to use invisible thread (sold at sewing stores) to avoid changing thread colours so often.

\*For stockists see page 90



# Creative short break holidays

Fancy a getaway and the chance to enjoy expert craft workshops? Here's how...

## Precious Metal Clay jewellery making, Toulouse, France From £547 per person

Bring back one-of-a-kind accessories to be proud of on this jewellery-making holiday. Enjoy a four-day break in a luxury 19th century farmhouse in 50 acres of beautiful countryside, and soak up the sun and the stunning views by the pool. You'll have your own en-suite room and all gourmet meals are included. Gascony is famed for its cuisine, to

tickle your taste buds.

These jewellery-making workshops and studios will surely fire your creativity – suitable for beginners and those who've tried jewellery making before, you'll be both inspired and refreshed, in a stunning setting!

Flights not included, fly to Toulouse (1hr 40min), Bordeaux (1hr 40min), Pau (2 hours) or Bergerac (2 hours)

### Price includes:

- ✓ 3 nights/4 days accommodation in a private twin/double room with en-suite bathroom
- ✓ Prices based on one person in their own private room with en-suite bathroom (no single supplement for private room)
- ✓ Pick up & drop off from Agen train station included
- ✓ Check in any time after 4pm on day 1 & check out by 10am on day 4
- ✓ This is an all-inclusive break. Includes breakfasts, lunches, three-course dinners & all refreshments (incl. wine)
- ✓ Two jewellery-making workshops (on days 2 and 3). Workshops include PMC, art clay & working with bronze & hollow forms
- ✓ Access to the jewellery studio daily to work on your pieces
- ✓ All materials & equipment for jewellery making
- ✓ Tips on starting your own jewellery business
- ✓ English- and French-speaking hosts & tutors
- ✓ Excursions (with transport) included: vineyard visit with wine tasting, plus Armagnac distillery visit & tasting session

## Painting, Hérault, Languedoc, France From £409 per person

Get creative on this fun, five-day painting break and develop your artistic skills with expert tuition from David McEwen, your experienced drawing tutor and guide. Suitable for all levels – whether you're new to painting or if you have more experience, you're sure to enjoy this creative break. Lodève is a small town set in the Hérault

area with spectacular surroundings to inspire you.

David's, and wife Sally's, charming house perfectly combines French style with modern facilities, comfort and a warm welcome. The accommodation and studio are combined so you can relax or practise your artistic techniques at any time.

Flights not included, fly to Montpellier from £40 one way

### Price includes:

- ✓ 4 nights/5 days accommodation in a double en-suite bedroom
- ✓ Singles will be allocated a double for sole occupancy where available. (No single supplement.) Where not available, singles will have their own private room with a shared bathroom
- ✓ Breakfast & light lunch daily
- ✓ Dinners taken either in a local restaurant with the group, or home-cooked by Sally
- ✓ Painting tuition for three days from artist David McEwen.
- ✓ Morning tuition sessions run 9am to 1pm, afternoons are 2.30pm to 5.30pm
- ✓ Painting equipment to use during your course – easels, drawing boards, lightweight folding chairs, basic materials. (Please bring your favourite medium, brushes, pencils, sketchpad & if you're working in watercolour a good-quality, gummed-edge paper pad)
- ✓ Any transport to & from painting locations, where required. Most are within walking distance

For more info & to book: Call ☎ 0845 625 0445 or email [hello@golearnto.com](mailto:hello@golearnto.com) and quote **CRAFTHOLIDAYS**

**Terms and conditions** Prices do not include flights. Discount applies to the base price of the holiday and is subject to availability. This offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer, and discounts cannot be applied retrospectively. Age restrictions apply – jewellery-making holiday: minimum age 10 (under 18s must be accompanied by an adult), painting holiday: minimum age 18.





STITCH  
HOME IDEAS,  
CARDS AND  
MORE

DESIGNS BY **LISA REAKES**

## Shopping list

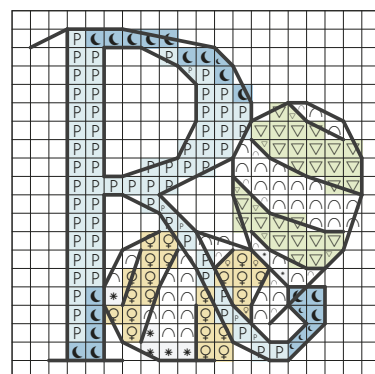
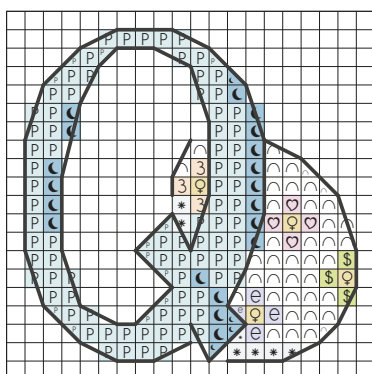
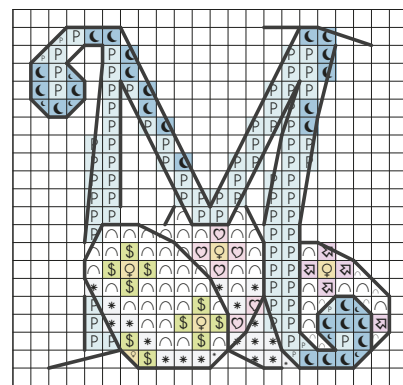
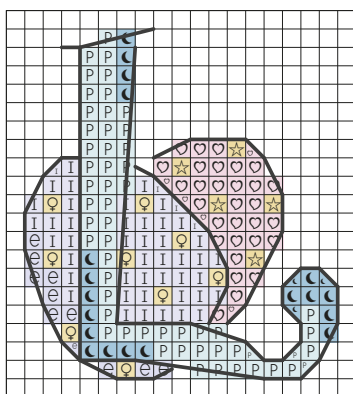
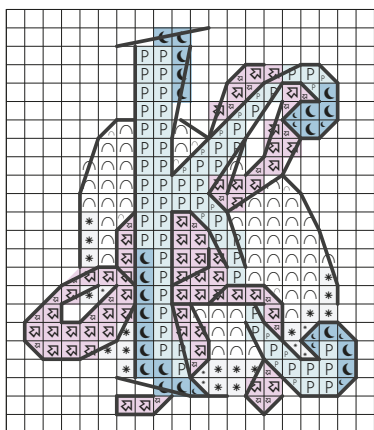
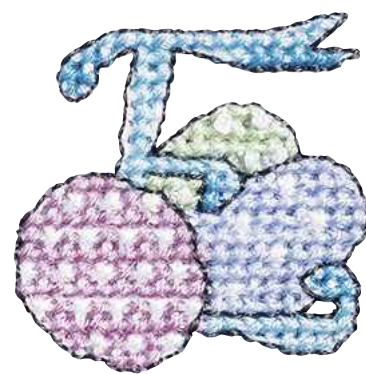
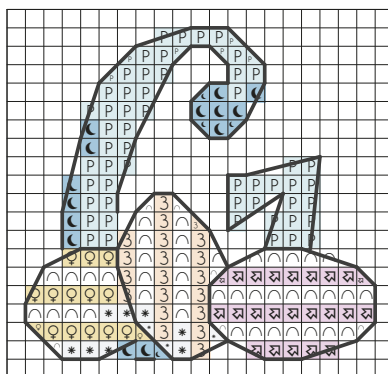
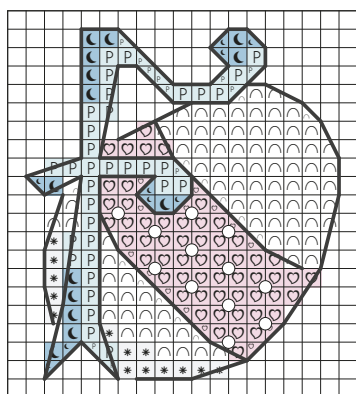
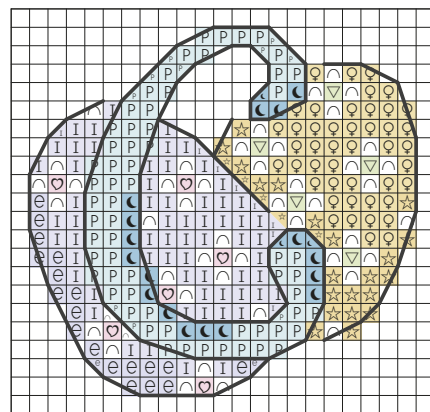
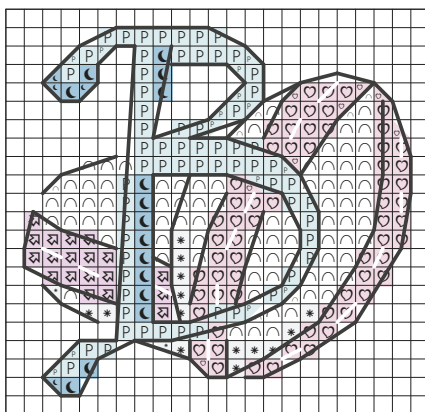
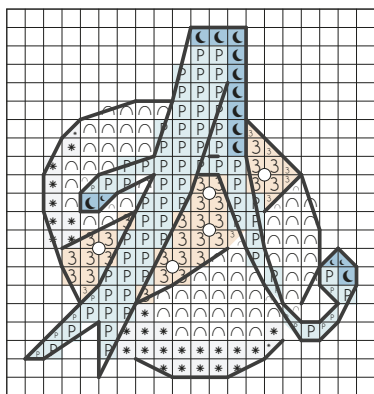
- ✕ Zweigart\* 16-count 5cm (2in) wide white aida band with white trim x the desired length
- ✕ Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- ✕ Size 26 tapestry needle
- ✕ Wicker basket from high street stores

**Thread & fabric cost**  
**Approximately £15**

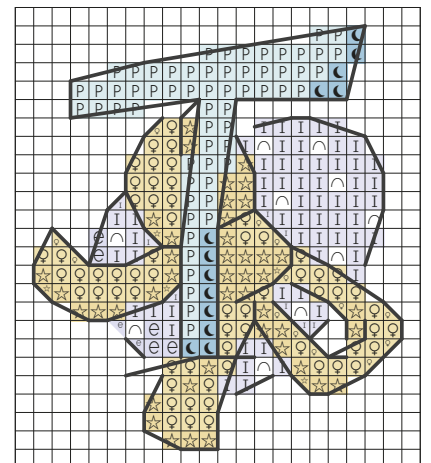
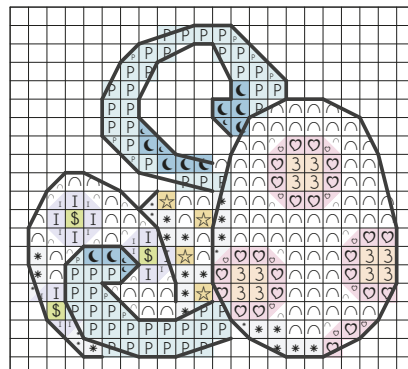
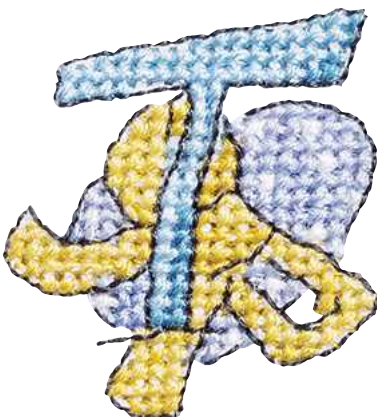
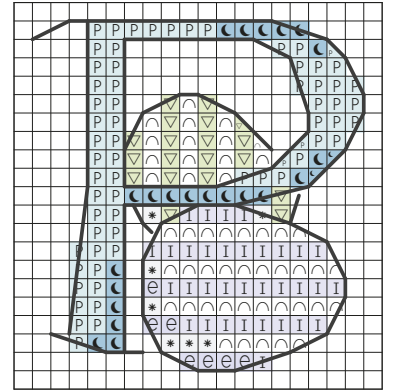
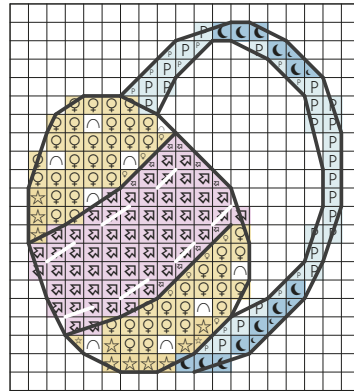
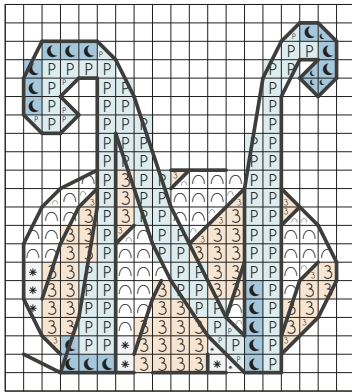
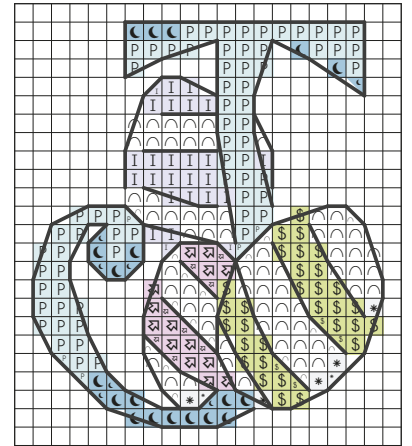
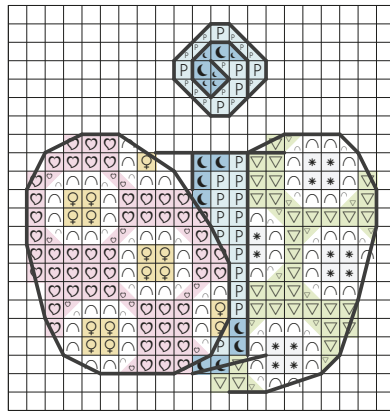
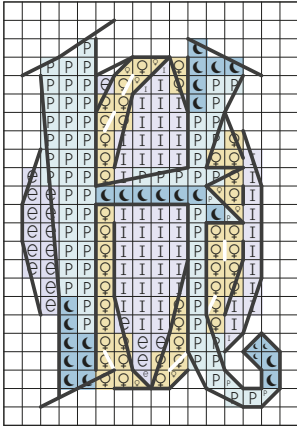
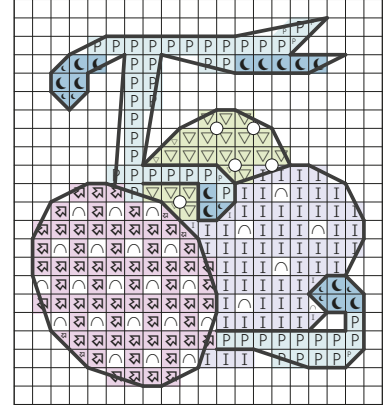
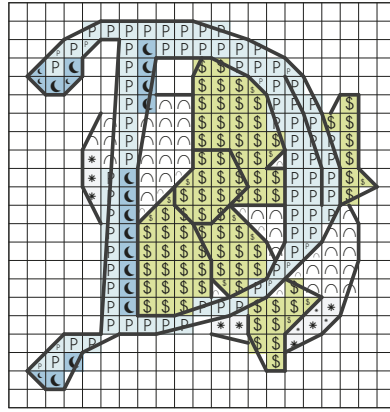
\*For stockists see page 90

# Easter treats

Our quick-stitch candy-hued alphabet set is perfect for those who love hunting and feasting on tasty treasures!







## Easter Egg ABC key

### ✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	blanc	2	2402	white
e	156	939	2702	blue
▽	164	240	1209	light green
I	341	117	901	light blue
☾	518	1039	1106	dark turquoise
P	519	1038	1105	turquoise
\$	704	255	1308	green
*	762	234	1804	light grey
♥	3689	49	607	pink
☆	3820	306	2509	dark straw </td
Q	3821	305	2514	straw
3	3825	336	302	apricot
☼	3836	90	2713	mauve

### ✕ Backstitch in one strand

—	blanc	2	2402	white
—	3799	236	1713	grey

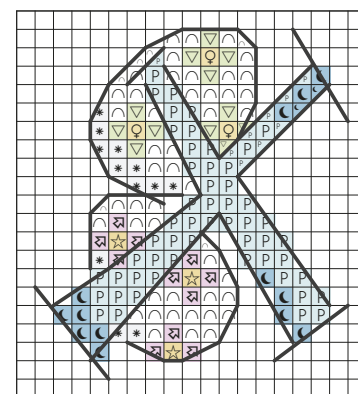
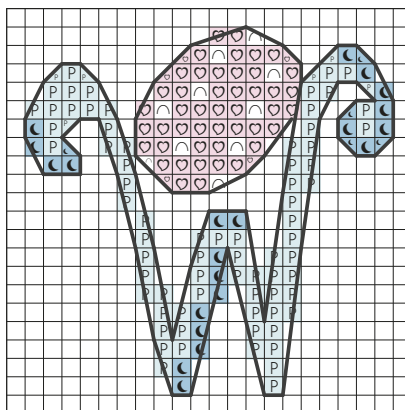
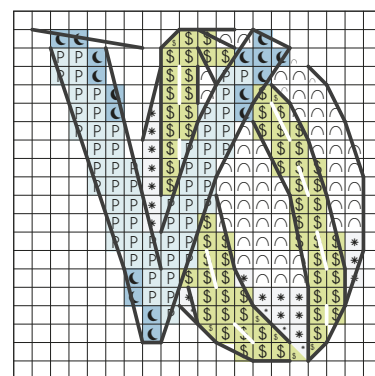
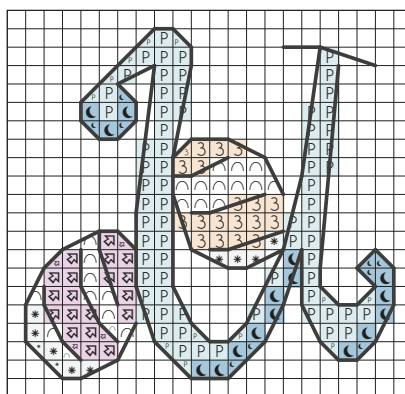
### ✕ French knots in one strand

○	blanc	2	2402	white
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**MAXIMUM STITCH COUNT** 23 high x 21 wide

**MAXIMUM DESIGN AREA** 16 HPI (32-count evenweave) – 3.5x3.5cm (1½x¼in)

These designs were stitched using DMC stranded cotton



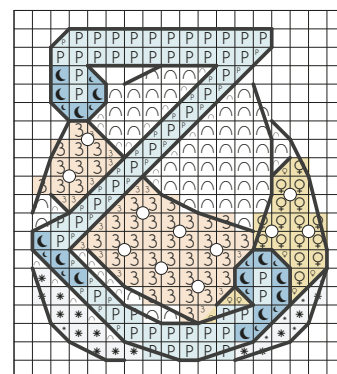
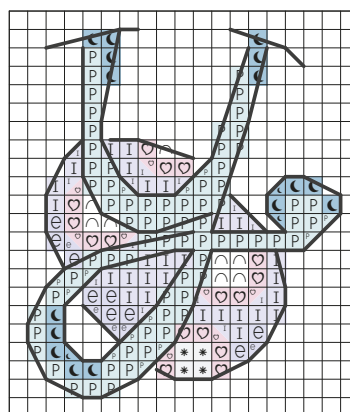
## TOP TIP

Mix up the colours of your Easter eggs – use up leftover lengths from your stash for a unique finish

## Factbox

- ✕ **Stitching Time**  
Approx. 2 hours each letter
- ✕ **Type of Stitches**  
Cross stitch, fractionals, backstitch, French knots
- ✕ **Ease of Stitching**  
Advanced beginner

Quick & fun to stitch



“My niece and nephew love Easter as they get to go Easter-egg hunting, which is always cause for great excitement. I think I will stitch each of their names to go on baskets so there are no fights over who found which egg!”

**SUE, ART EDITOR**





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Lightweight, super sharp.  
Best quality!  
Best price!  
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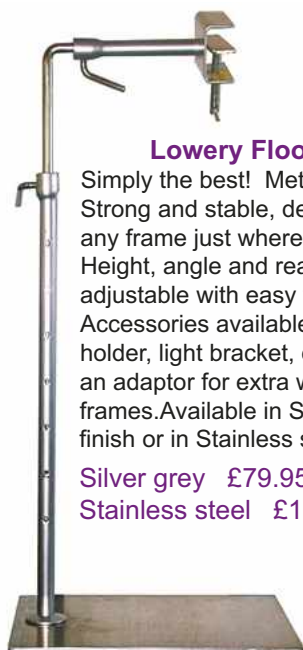


## Magnifying Chart Aid

Keep your place on a cross stitch chart. Place the metal board under your chart and the magnifying clear plastic square on top. The red grid lines keep your place as you stitch. The corner magnets hold needles and scissors securely. Size 10cm x 8cm.

Complete Chart aid £15.95

Magnifying Top only £10.95



## Lowery Floor Stand

Simply the best! Metal construction. Strong and stable, deep clamp holds any frame just where you want it. Height, angle and reach fully adjustable with easy to use levers. Accessories available include chart holder, light bracket, daisy dish and an adaptor for extra wide frames. Available in Silver grey satin finish or in Stainless steel

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Stainless steel £139.99



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Relieve pain from arthritis, tendonitis, carpal tunnel etc. while stitching or knitting.

Available in **beige** or **slate blue** with or without the extra wrist strap, which gives more support.

To measure for size place hand on piece of paper. Mark the paper each side of the knuckles, at the base of the fingers. Measure the distance between the 2 marks and select size.

2.0" - 2 1/2"	51 - 64mm	Size 2
2 1/2" - 3 1/4"	64 - 78 mm	Size 3
3 1/4" - 3 3/4"	78 - 91 mm	Size 4
3 3/4" - 4 1/2"	91 - 105mm	Size 5

Regular £19.95 Wrist Support £20.95



## Needle Park Avenue

Stitch faster by parking your working threads on the Needle Park. Have more needles threaded and darn in your threads less often. Magnetic

**£7.95**



## De Luxe set of Knit-Pro Interchangeable needles

in tough, rainbow coloured birch. The birch wood tips screw into the cables, enabling you to change size quickly and economically. You can knit round or straight. Great for arthritic hands.

Has 8 pairs of needles sizes 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, 5.0, 5.5, 6.0, 7.0, 8.0mm. and 4 cables to make 60, 80, 100 and 120 cms circular needles.!

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**£39.50**

## Tail Catcher

Secures the end of your thread when it is too short to use a needle. Thread the loop through your stitching, hook the short thread into the loop & pull through.

Not suitable for wool.

Choose from:-

Bee  
Celtic,  
Butterfly,  
Tortoise,  
Kingfisher

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**Cross  
Stitching**

DESIGNS BY **DIANE MACHIN**

## Shopping list

- ✕ Zweigart\* 14-count white aida measuring 23x10cm (9x4in) for each design
- ✕ Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- ✕ Size 24 tapestry needle
- ✕ Backing felt of choice and tassels, either handmade or shop bought

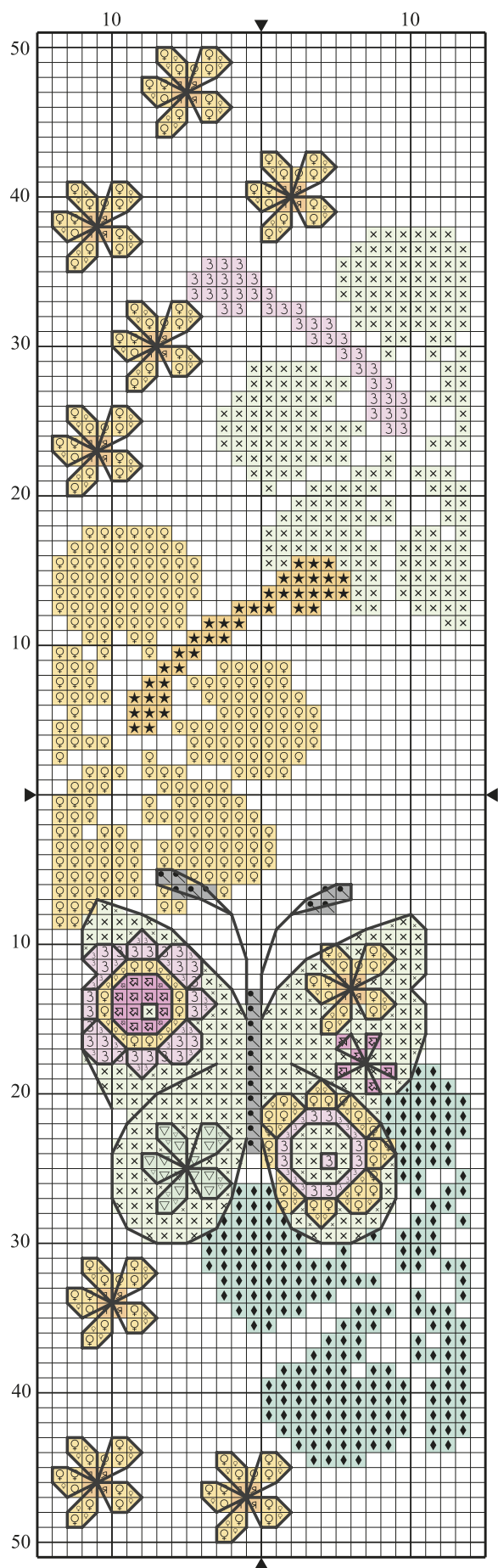
**Thread & fabric cost**  
**Approximately £18**

\*For stockists see page 90

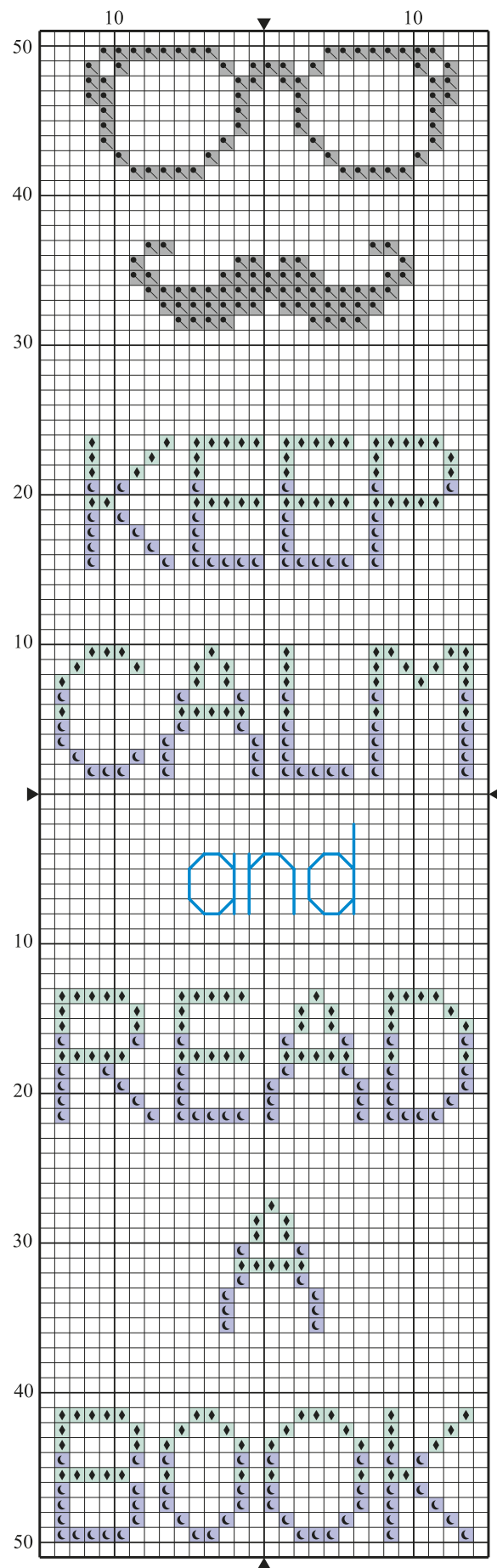
# Book your spot!

You won't be able to resist reading with these colourful bookmarks – there's a design for everyone in the family!



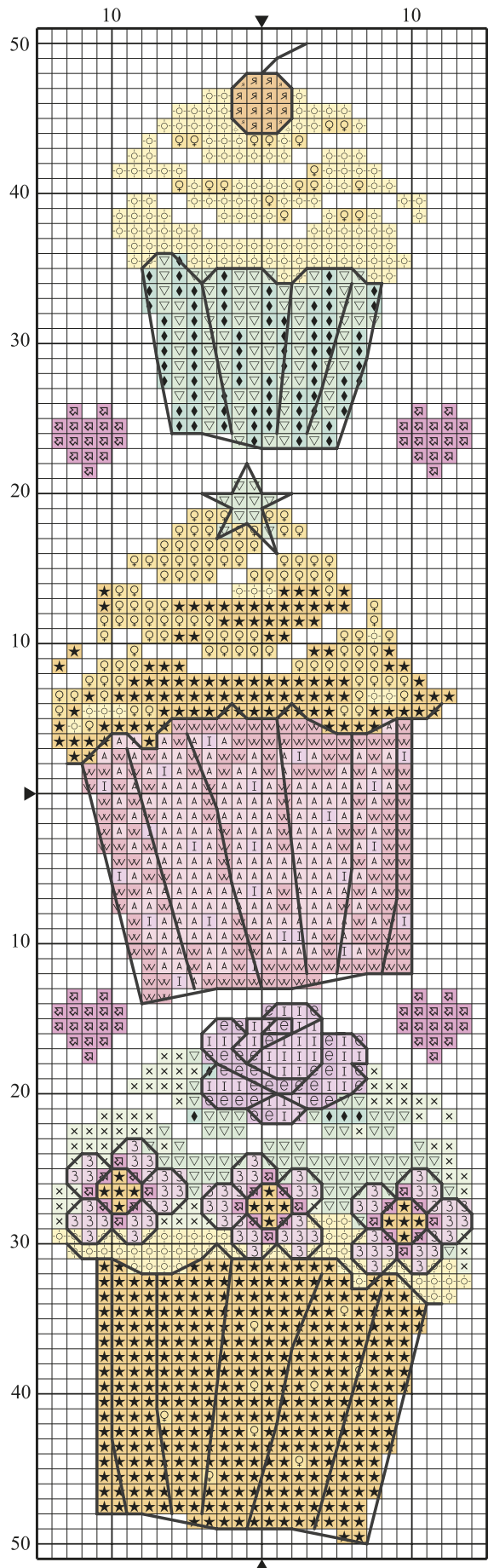


Butterflies chart



'Keep Calm' chart





Cupcakes chart

## Brilliant Bookmarks key

## ✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
☾	322	131	1004	blue
☼	413	236	1713	grey
◇	472	253	1414	lettuce green
e	553	98	712	mauve
I	554	90	711	light mauve
w	603	55	505	pink
A	604	26	614	light pink
♀	727	293	112	light yellow
♂	741	304	202	orange
♀	743	302	113	yellow
\$	907	255	1308	green
◆	958	187	1114	dark emerald
▽	964	185	1112	emerald
x	966	206	1209	mint green
★	972	298	107	tangerine
✧	3607	87	708	magenta
3	3608	86	709	light magenta

## ✕ Backstitch in one strand

—	322	131	1004	blue
—	413	236	1713	grey

STITCH COUNT 100 high x 28 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 18x5cm (7¼x2in)

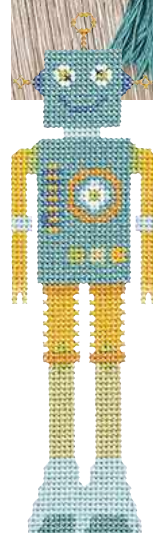
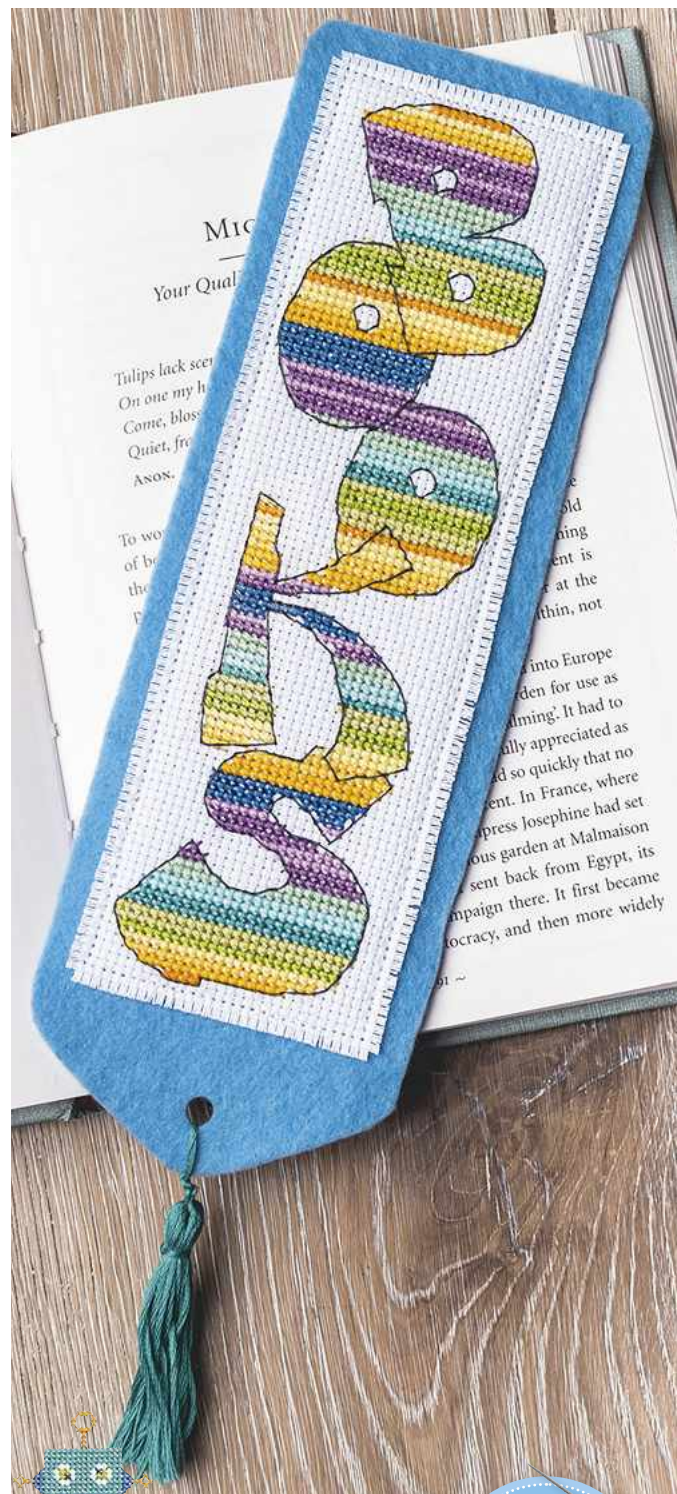
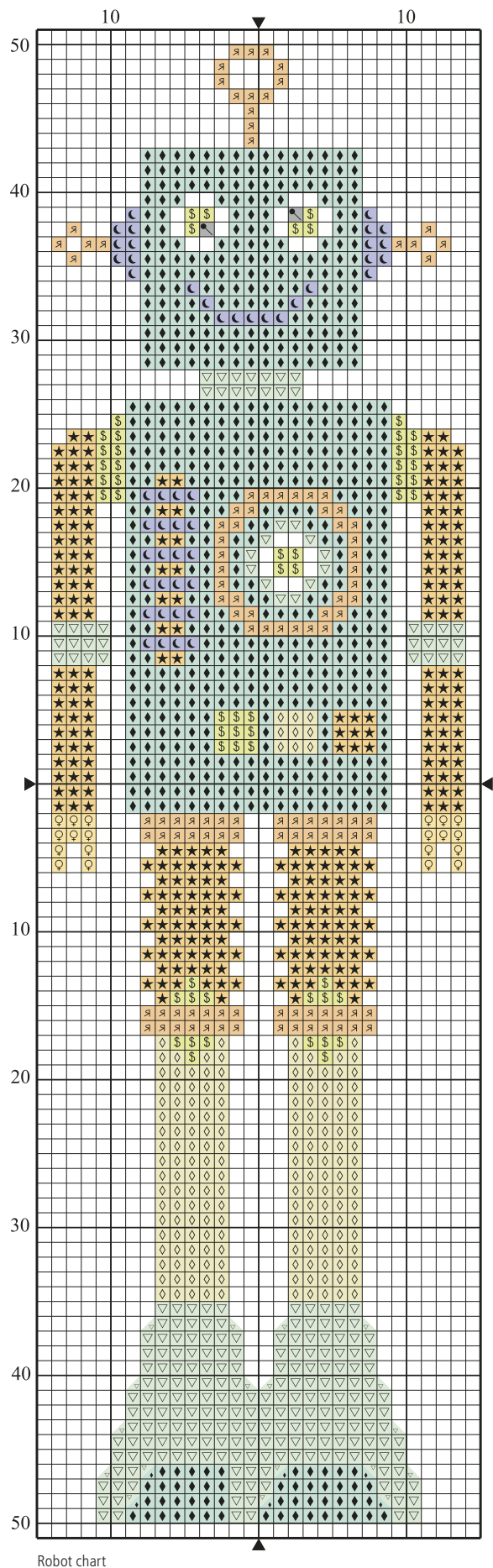
These designs were stitched using DMC stranded cotton



## Kasia READER PANEL



“I am planning to make one of these for my daughter. She is starting school in September and she is already very excited about getting a schoolbag and all the books. A bookmark will be the icing on the cake for her.”



## Factbox

- ✦ **Stitching Time**  
Approx. 4-6 hours each
- ✦ **Type of Stitches**  
Cross stitch, fractionals, backstitch
- ✦ **Ease of Stitching**  
Beginner

Stitch  
in a  
weekend



## How to...

## make a felt bookmark

**1 Trim your stitched** piece leaving a 1cm (½in) border all round. Take some tweezers and carefully fray your aida to create a fringe one block wide. Add iron-on interfacing to the back for a hardwearing finish.

**2 Take some felt** in a coordinating (and suitably funky) colour, and cut a piece to 23x7.5cm (9x3in).

**3 Place your stitching** towards the top of the felt backing, and pin in place when you are happy with the positioning.

**4 Hand sew your** stitching in place as a patch, using simple running stitch in either white or try a complimentary colour. Take care to stitch through the aida holes for a neat finish.

**5 Finish by rounding** the felt corners and tapering the point at the bottom, using sharp fabric scissors. Make a hole with a hand-held punch and add a tassel.



“Being a huge fan of reading, I just love these bookmarks. I will definitely be stitching several of these and giving them to family and friends who I know will really appreciate them too!”

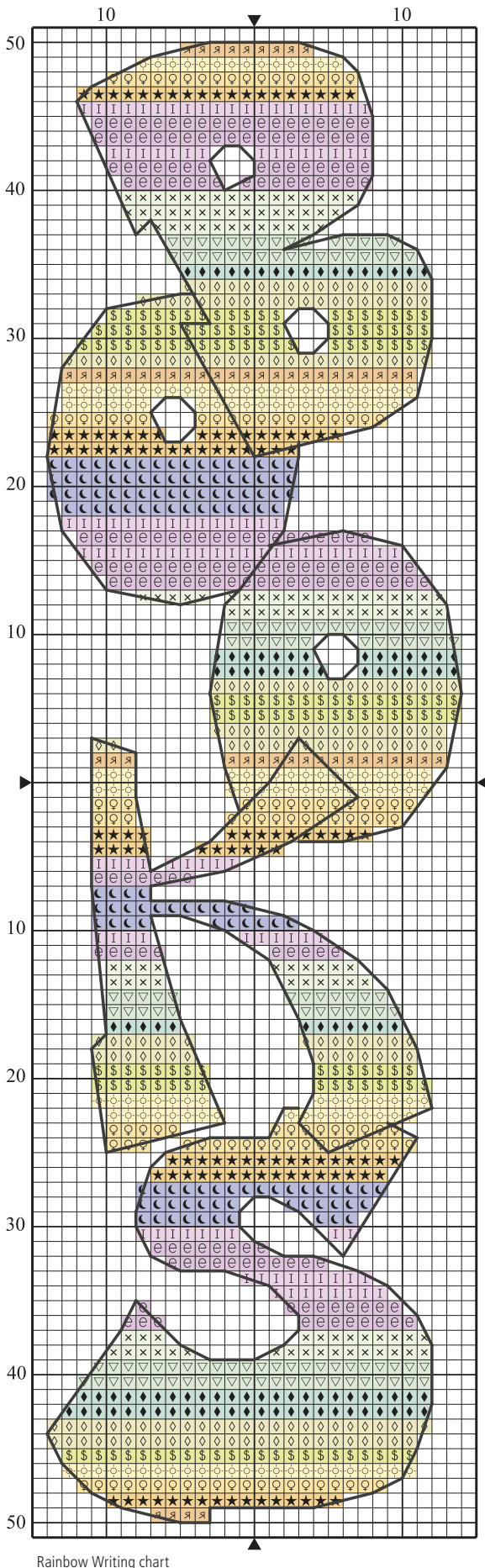


RUTH, EDITOR

**TOP TIP**  
Stitch one of these fun bookmarks and wrap it up along with your favourite book for a great gift

## COMING UP NEXT MONTH

Pretty pink roses and gold embroidery scissors, plus skeins of colourful thread, what's not to like about this gorgeous bunting, created especially for you by designer Diane Machin? Great to show off your skills and your love of the craft, make it to decorate your stitching corner. Look out for the issue on sale 26 March.



DESIGN BY **ANCHOR**

# Fun in the garden

With a beaming smile and a wheelbarrow full of beautiful flowers, Tom Mouse is the perfect way to celebrate spring!

Whether you love putting those green fingers to use planting bedding plants and more, or simply can't resist the scent of a freshly-cut bloom, this feel-good scene is a must stitch! Spring is well and truly here and Tom Mouse is making the most of it.

With the sun's rays shining down on his sweet little face, a wheelbarrow full of fabulous florals and his tools, plus three super-cute ladybird friends to help out, Tom can't wait to get stuck in. And, you're sure to think exactly the same about starting this pretty picture.

Worked on 16-count aida, there's room for plenty of detail, so you can show off your stichy skills in this

## Factbox

- ✕ **Stitching Time**  
Approx. 40 hours
- ✕ **Type of Stitches**  
Cross stitch, half cross stitch, backstitch, French knots
- ✕ **Ease of Stitching**  
Advanced beginner/intermediate

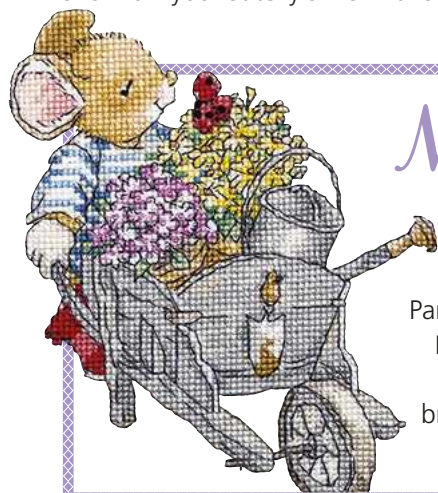
Packed with cute detail

project. With background shading in half cross stitch, French knot detailing on the flowers and ladybirds and the backstitch bringing it all to life, make sure to take your time and you'll be thrilled with the results. You could almost say it's just like gardening! ➤

## Meet the character

### Country Companions

Part of the Country Companions family, Tom Mouse is full of charm, and we love him captured in cross stitch. With his fuzzy brown fur, big ears and cheery expression, he makes the sweetest subject!



**Anchor**



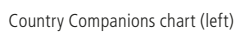
© Hallmark Cards PLC. Country Companions is a trademark of Hallmark Cards PLC.



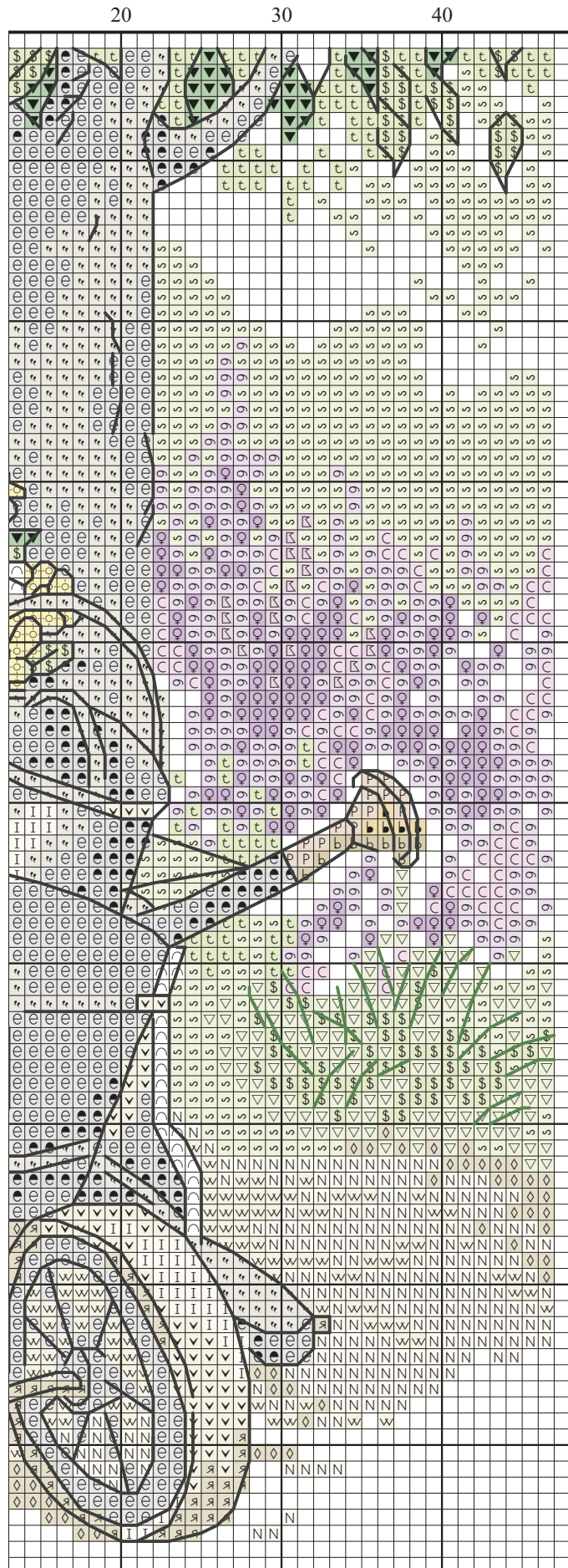
PERFECT  
SPRING  
STITCH

Bring the joy of the great outdoors into your home with this adorable Country Companions design, exclusively for you!









## Country Companions key

## ✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	Anchor	
∩	1	white
—	6	light salmon pink
A	8	salmon pink
♥	33	light scarlet
♥	46	red
🔍	85	light cyclamen pink
🔍	86	cyclamen pink
J	108	lilac
●	110	purple
☾	129	light blue
☾	146	blue
\$	240	light green
▼	243	green
⦿	295	yellow
⦿	298	dark yellow
P	361	sand
∨	391	light stone grey
Я	392	stone grey
⋈	397	very light grey
e	398	light grey
●	399	grey
⬢	890	gold
Z	891	light gold
⬢	901	dark gold
I	926	cream
∇	1043	light mint green

## ✕ Half cross stitch in two strands

C	85	light cyclamen pink
⦿	86	cyclamen pink
o	108	lilac
♀	110	purple
t	240	light green
w	391	light stone grey
◇	392	stone grey
N	926	cream
s	1043	light mint green

## ✕ Backstitch in one strand

—	243	green
—	401	dark grey

## ✕ Backstitch in two strands

—	403	black
---	-----	-------

## ✕ French knots in two strands

●	86	cyclamen pink
●	401	dark grey
●	403	black

STITCH COUNT 94 high x 95 wide

DESIGN AREA 16 HPI (32-count evenweave) – 15x15cm (6x6in)

This design was stitched using Anchor stranded cotton

# THE WORLD OF Cross Stitching

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## There's more

Can't get enough of the Country Companions? Then check out these other adorable kits by Anchor\*



◀ 'The Gang'  
(CTM0013), £21.20

'Barbecue Time' (CTM0020),  
£21.20 ▶



◀ 'Sewing Circle'  
(CTM0017),  
£21.20



## Where to buy

\*For stockists see page 90

**Anchor**

© Hallmark Cards PLC. Country Companions is a trademark of Hallmark Cards PLC.

## Dorota READER PANEL



“As always Country Companions does not disappoint us. This chart is playful, colourful and full of the joys of spring. I am sure this design will be quite fun to stitch, but also a challenge. It would make a beautiful gift for someone who loves their garden. This tiny mouse gardener is super cute and I can't wait to start work stitching this design!”

## Shopping list

- ✕ 16-count cream aida measuring 25x25cm (6x6in)
- ✕ Anchor\* stranded cotton as listed in the key
- ✕ Size 26 tapestry needle
- ✕ Frame of your choice with a minimum aperture measuring 15x15cm (6x6in)

**Thread & fabric cost  
Approximately £30**

\*For stockists see page 90



NEW!

# Spring Cross Stitch favourites

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your copy  
today!

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to stitch

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- ✿ Romantic roses cushion
- ✿ Stunning pictures for your home
- ✿ Poppies wall hanging
- ✿ Rosebuds alphabet

Plus 9 pages of gift ideas – stitch  
these easy charts in an evening

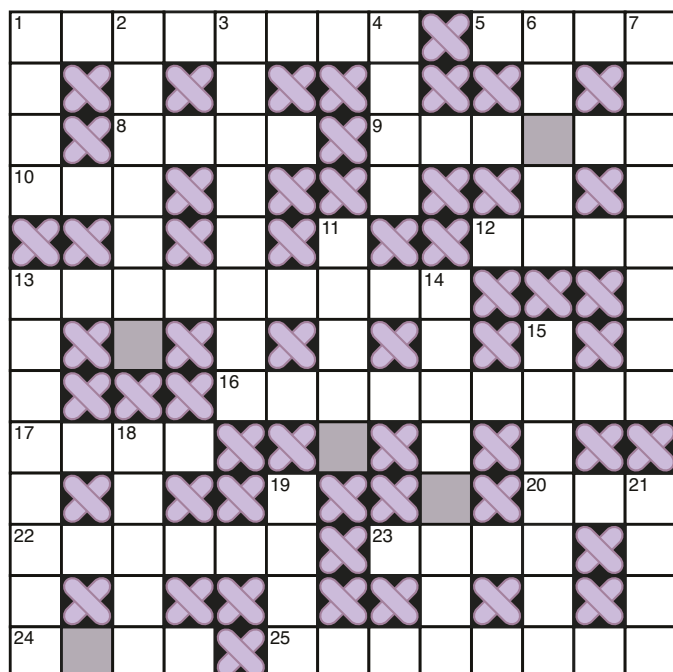
Contents are subject to change



Enter by text, postcard  
or online for the chance  
to be lucky in our  
amazing giveaways

# Enter to win!

With our crossword and freebies there are loads of prizes up for grabs



## ACROSS

- 1 Single storey house (8)
- 5 Snatch, take suddenly (4)
- 8 Impolite, discourteous (4)
- 9 More orderly and neat (6)
- 10 One of Santa's helpers (3)
- 12 South American country with coastline on the Pacific Ocean (4)
- 13 Greeting card sent on 14 February (9)
- 16 It seems, without question (9)
- 17 Throw casually (4)
- 20 Snakelike fish (3)
- 22 Sloping roof beam (6)
- 23 Triangular plucked instrument (4)
- 24 Land measurement (4)
- 25 Restaurant worker (8)

## DOWN

- 1 Bundle of hay (4)
- 2 Low-lying county in East Anglia (7)
- 3 Group of spectators (8)
- 4 Unit of electrical power (4)
- 6 Lift up (5)
- 7 Dark red French wine (8)
- 11 Copy, impersonate (5)
- 13 Type of layered sponge cake (8)
- 14 Large animal with a trunk (8)
- 15 Tall church tower topped by a spire (7)
- 18 Better protected, more secure (5)
- 19 Ridge over the eyes (4)
- 21 Glass part of a camera (4)

**TO ENTER** Use the letters in the shaded squares to spell out something you might see pictured on an Easter card (5)

# WIN! Furry Tales Prize

## Mother's Day mouse key

### ✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
○	blanc	2	2402	white
●	435	1046	2010	dark tan
■	436	1045	2011	tan
○	437	362	2012	light tan
3	604	55	614	pink
T	726	295	109	yellow
—	727	293	112	light yellow
N	739	366	2014	very light tan
w	754	1012	305	dark peach
■	844	1041	1809	grey
•	948	892	306	peach

### ✕ Backstitch in one strand

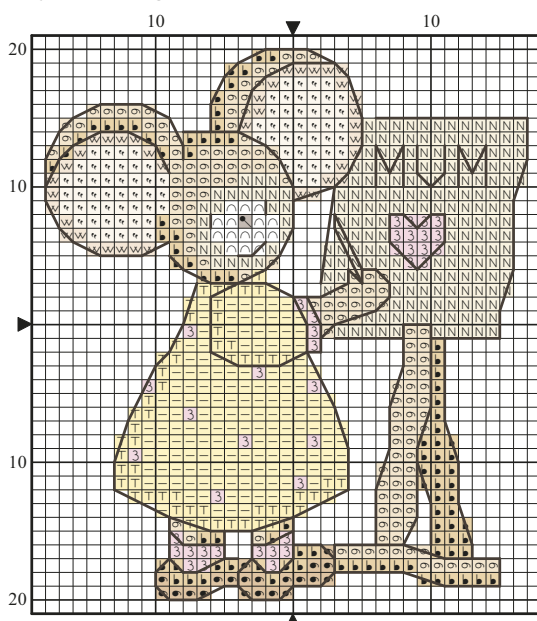
—	844	1041	1809	grey
---	-----	------	------	------

**STITCH COUNT** 40 high x 35 wide

**DESIGN AREA** 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 7.5x6.5cm (2¾x2½in)

This design was stitched using DMC stranded cotton

Each month one crossword winner gets an original print of Monty Mouse plus a limited-edition Titch chart, both by Lucie Heaton. To find more adorable Furry Tales designs, check out [www.lucieheaton.com](http://www.lucieheaton.com)!





PRIZES WORTH £262

## Pretty princess

We love 'The Frog Princess' kit (CS761) – she's the first in the House of Zandra 'Fabulous Girls' range by Heather Anne. Up for grabs are 15 kits, including 14-count aida, metallic threads, beads, each worth £17.50, from Choices Embroidery\*.

**TO ENTER** To enter by text message use keyword 'WOXS227FROG' or if you're entering by post, please label your entry 'Choices Embroidery giveaway (WOXS227)'.



PRIZES WORTH £258

## Designs for all!

Designer Maria Diaz\* is offering seven lucky readers the chance to win a fabulous set of her books, including all four *Flowers*, *Baby*, *Food* and *Borders* in the 'Easy Cross Stitch' series, published by TUVa. Plus enjoy her latest offering, the gorgeous vintage *Cross Stitch Card Collection* featuring 37 individual designs, for a whole set worth £36.95!

**TO ENTER** Either enter by text message using the keyword 'WOXS227BOOKS' or if you're entering by post, please be sure to label your entry 'Maria Diaz books giveaway (WOXS227)'.



## HOW TO ENTER

## CROSSWORD

**By text:** Text FURRY227 followed by the mystery word, your name and postal address to 87474 eg. FURRY227 Mystery, Name, 123 Any Rd, Anytown AB1 C23. Texts will be charged at 50p plus your standard network tariff rate.

**By post:** Write your name, address and the mystery word on the back of a postcard or stuck-down envelope and send it to: Crossword WOXS227 Immediate Media Co, 2nd Floor, Tower House, Fairfax Street, Bristol BS1 3BN.

**Terms & conditions** as far right except for: closing date for entries is 29 March 2015. One winning entry will be chosen at random from all eligible entries.

## GIVEAWAYS

**By text:** Text the giveaway's keyword (see above) followed by your name, email and postal addresses to

87474 eg. KEYWORD Name email@email.co.uk 123 Any Rd, Anytown AB1 C23. Texts will be charged at 50p plus standard network tariff rate.

\*To enter all four giveaways with one text charged at £1.50 (plus your standard network tariff rate), use keyword 'ALL227' followed by the details stated above.

**Online:** Enter on our website at [www.cross-stitching.com](http://www.cross-stitching.com)  
**By post:** Write your name and address on the back of a postcard or stuck-down envelope and send it to: *The World of Cross Stitching*, Immediate Media Co, 2nd Floor, Tower House, Fairfax Street, Bristol BS1 3BN.

Closing date for all entries: 29 March 2015. Call ☎ 0117 314 8755 if you have a query. Full terms & conditions below.

**TERMS & CONDITIONS:** Promoter: Immediate Media Company Ltd. Promotion excludes promoter employees, contractors & anyone connected with the promotion or their

direct family members. Closing date for entries is 29 March 2015. By entering, you agree to be bound by all the rules of the promotion. Only one entry per person, per giveaway. Open to UK residents only. No responsibility accepted for lost, delayed, ineligible or fraudulent entries. Winning entries will be 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 closing date. If a winner is unable to be contacted within one month, the Promoter may redraw. Promoter reserves the right to substitute the prize with one of the same or greater value but there is no cash alternative. By entering you agree to receive details of offers & promotions from Immediate Media Company Ltd & related third parties. If you do not want to receive this information, add the words 'NO INFO' at the end of your text or write 'NO INFO' on your postcard.

PRIZES WORTH £269

## MAKE IT PERSONAL

We're excited to team up with Little Star Stitches\* to give away 10 pairs of kits. 'Muffin & Friends Name Sampler' (PM030), £13.95, is from the Peanuts and Friends range. These cuties are holding a banner you can personalise. Plus, 'Toddles Initial Sampler' (AL08), £12.95, stars Toddles the penguin from the Arctic Lovables range – the kit has an alphabet chart for you to add your chosen initial.

**TO ENTER** To enter by text message, use keyword 'WOXS227SAMPLER' or if you're entering by post, please label your entry 'Little Star Stitches giveaway (WOXS227)'.



PRIZES WORTH £254

## Perfect Pooch

We've joined up with the folks at Black Sheep Wools\* to offer 17 lucky readers a chance to win a fab Anchor 'Golden Retriever Study' kit, including 18-count aida, worth £14.99 each!

**TO ENTER** To enter by text message use keyword 'WOXS227DOG' or if you're entering by post, please label your entry 'Black Sheep Wool giveaway (WOXS227)'.



\*For stockists see page 90

TEXT ALL227 TO 87474 TO ENTER ALL FOUR GIVEAWAYS FOR £1.50!\*

DESIGNS BY **SHANNON WASILIEFF**

# Fun at the fair

Take a carousel ride with the prettiest horses around – stitch and send them to everyone!

We're always on the look out for all-occasion cards, and these are the loveliest ones we've found in a long time... Using 14-count vintage cream aida with metallic accents for a shabby-chic feel, they're much more special than anything you'd find in a shop!

Featuring six gorgeous carousel horses, they'll make any lucky recipient happy, no matter their age. And they are perfect to send for so many occasions – including Mother's Day coming up on 15 March! Stitch one for your mum, or to say thank you, 'just because' or send birthday greetings to a loved one. You could even add a message in backstitch to personalise it. Plot it out on graph paper first to ensure you have the

## Factbox

- ✕ **Stitching Time**  
Approx. 8-10 hours each
- ✕ **Type of Stitches**  
Cross stitch, fractionals, backstitch, French knots
- ✕ **Ease of Stitching**  
Advanced beginner/intermediate

Use  
shimmery  
metallics

right spacing and enough room.

No matter whom you stitch them for, these stunning cards will be sure to go down well, so come on, and make a start on creating these charming designs that are sure to make you smile! ➤



## Meet the designer

Shannon Wasilieff

"My favourite fairground ride was always the carousel. I loved the pretty, galloping horses, so it was a real treat to design these cards. I imagined the horses I'd loved seeing at the fair, and hope you like them too!"



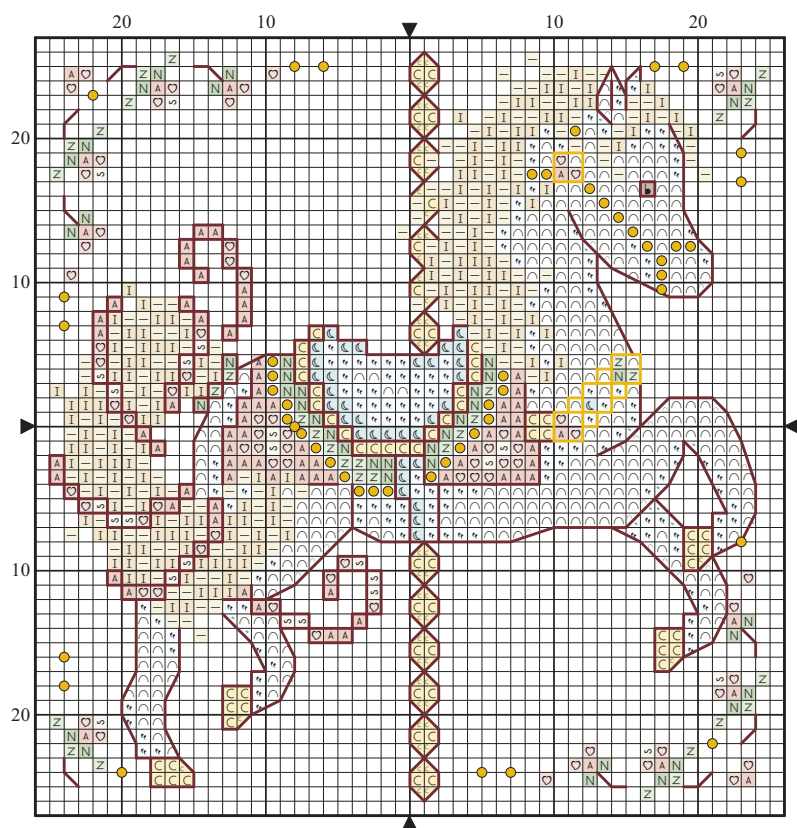


STITCH  
THE FULL  
SET



Stitch these delightful carousel horse cards, with metallics to echo the nostalgia of a gilt-edged fairground ride!





## Carousel Horses Cards key

### ✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
⌒	B5200	1	2401	white
b	434	310	2009	dark tan
I	437	362	2012	tan
⌒	519	1038	1105	blue
—	739	366	2014	light tan
s	819	271	501	light pink
A	899	38	506	dark pink
N	912	209	1213	green
b	938	380	2005	dark brown
Z	954	203	1207	light green
♡	3326	36	606	pink
“	3753	128	909	light blue

### ✕ Cross stitch in two strands Anchor Reflecta

C		300		gold
---	--	-----	--	------

### ✕ Backstitch in one strand

—	938	380	2005	dark brown
---	-----	-----	------	------------

### ✕ Backstitch in one strand Anchor Reflecta

—		300		gold
---	--	-----	--	------

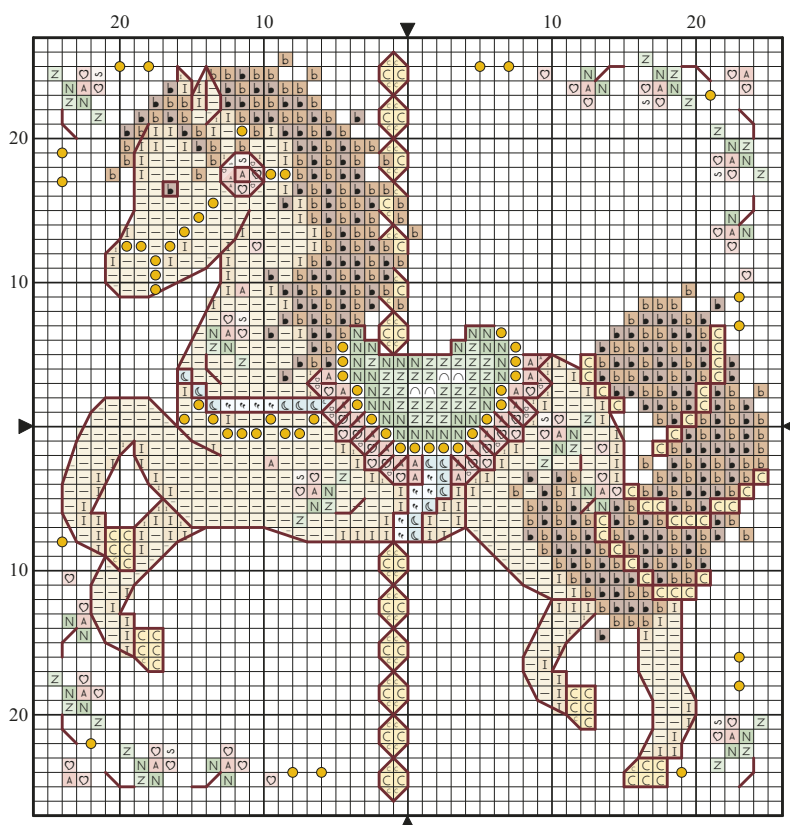
### ✕ French knots in one strand Anchor Reflecta

●		300		gold
---	--	-----	--	------

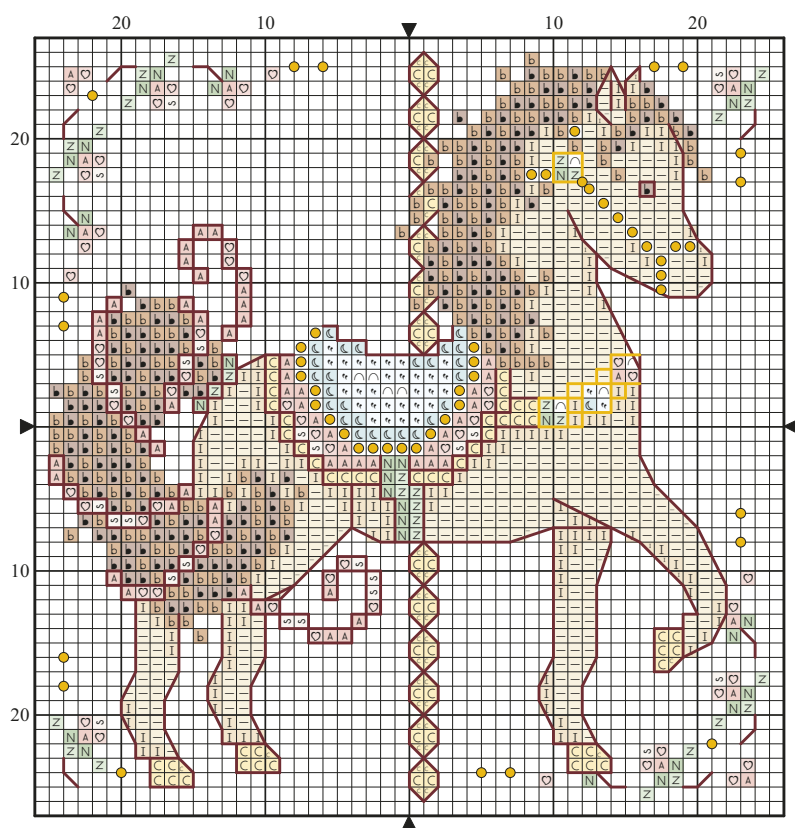
**STITCH COUNT** 52 high x 50 wide

**DESIGN AREA** 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 9.5x9cm (3¾x3½in)

These designs were stitched using DMC stranded cotton and Anchor metallic thread







## TOP TIP

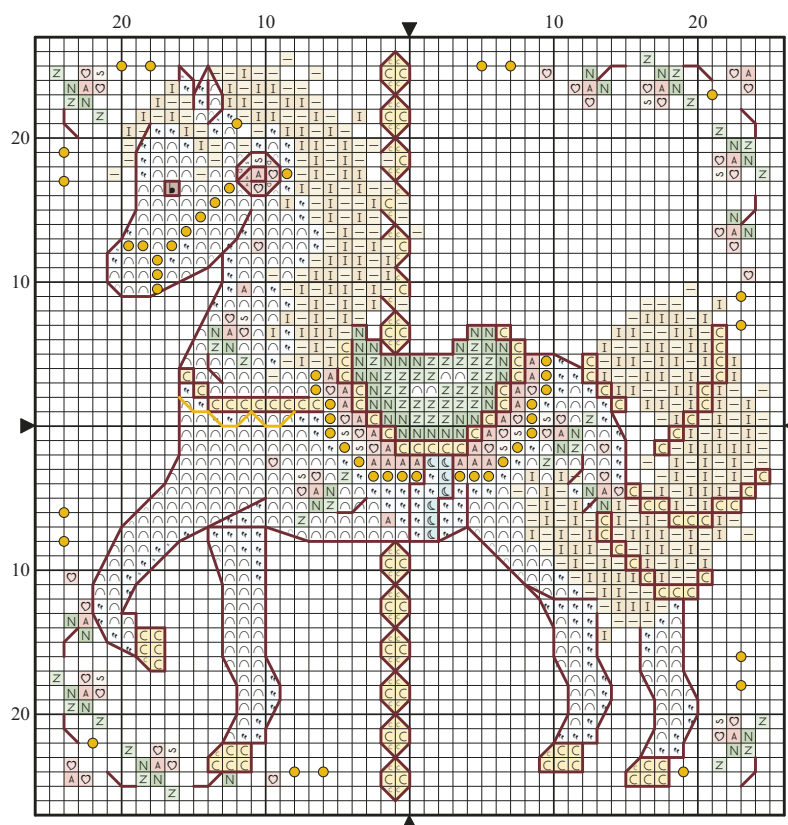
Treat yourself to a new needle when working French knots – it'll make them that much easier to stitch

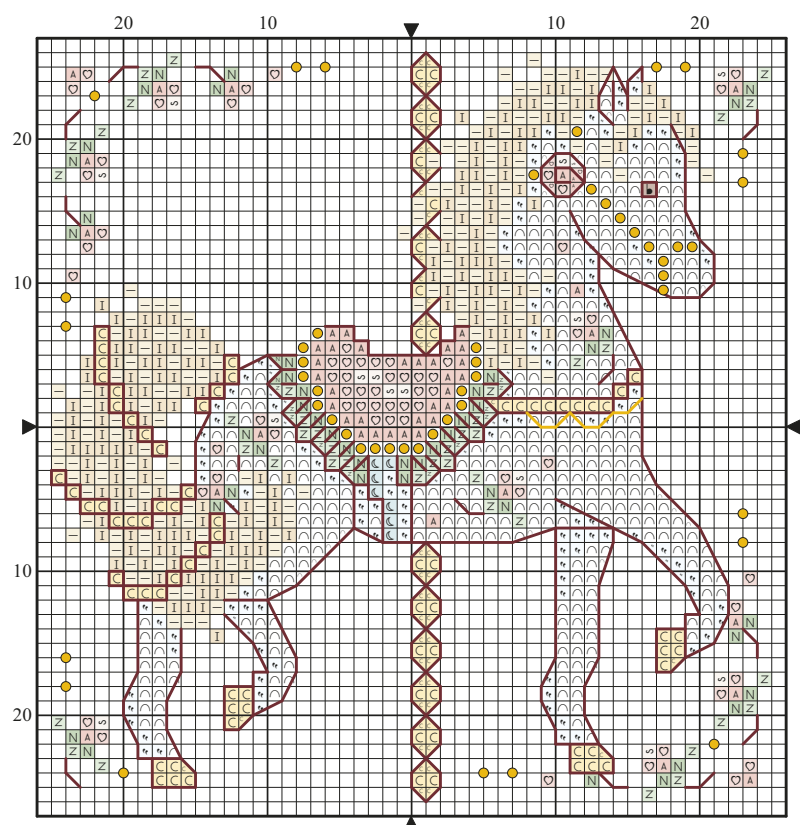
## Shopping list

- ✕ Zweigart\* 14-count vintage country cream aida measuring 15x15cm (6x6in) for each design
- ✕ Stranded cotton and Anchor\* metallic thread as listed in the key
- ✕ Size 24 tapestry needle
- ✕ Craft Creations\* square aperture cards (AP53U) in pale cream

**Thread & fabric cost**  
**Approximately £15**

\*For stockists see page 90

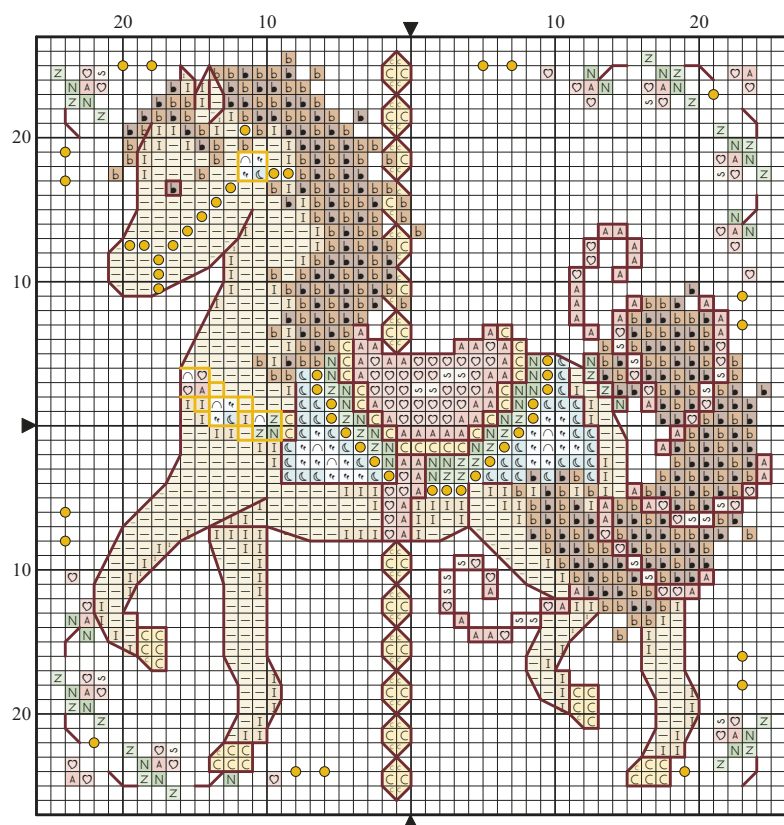
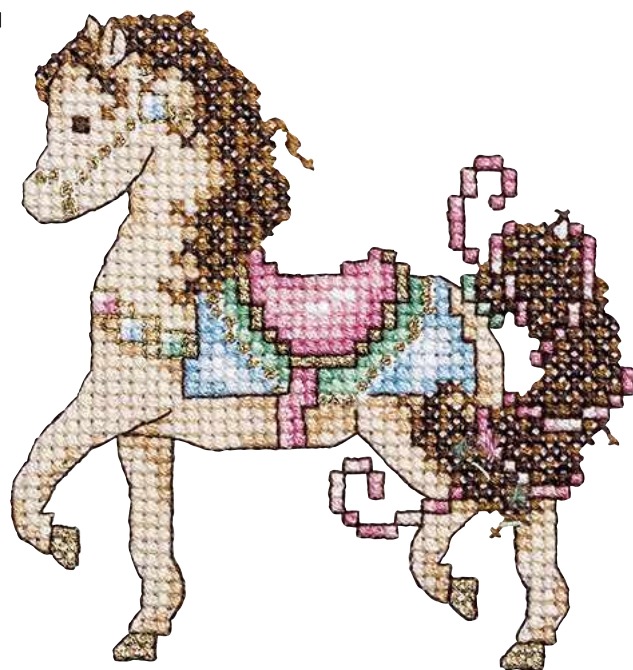




## Cathryn READER PANEL



“These carousel cards remind me of my childhood, watching *Mary Poppins*. I think they would make beautiful birthday cards for my friends and family, so they'll definitely be going on my to-do list.”





# Out & About

Get involved in the stitching fun this month – we've rounded up the most exciting campaigns, clubs and events so that you can join in with them all!

## THE WORLD OF Cross Stitching CLUB OF THE MONTH

### INSOMNIA



The members of Insomnia (Indonesian Stitchers of Aremania) come from Malang, a small city in Indonesia. Meeting every month, they show off their WIPs, gossip or even just hang out. They would like to expand the group and share their love, knowledge and experience of the craft with others! "We are more than just friends, we are sisters in soul, we are sisters in stitches." For more info on the club or to join, contact Karina Sukarno on [karina\\_sukarno@yahoo.com](mailto:karina_sukarno@yahoo.com).

**APPLY:** Want to tell us about your club? Write to the address (p19) or email [letters@cross-stitching.com](mailto:letters@cross-stitching.com)

## WHERE AM I?

Here I am on a recent day out when I stayed with family – they are from the city where this legendary outlaw is said to have come from. Once upon a time, he is said to have lived in Sherwood Forest with his Merry Men. We had great day out, and of course I took my favourite mag along with me!

**Marianne Barrett, via email**

## Send in your travel snaps!

Send us a photo of yourself with a copy of your favourite mag to 'Where Am I?' at our address, on page 19. If you're featured, you'll win a John Clayton kit from the Internationals range by Heritage Crafts\*, worth £29.99.

\* For stockists see page 90



## Calm During the Storm: Wartime and Embroidery

Using both historical and contemporary pieces, this poignant and timely exhibition portrays the role of needlework, especially embroidery, as a calming influence in troubled times and links it to personal experiences.

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## Dates for April

### 26 MARCH

#### ON SALE: THE WORLD OF CROSS STITCHING

Issue 228 is bursting with fresh designs. Enjoy Joan Elliott's sweet gardening bunny, a magical pixie house, a gorgeous flower clock and get set for a Royal baby celebration. Plus 3D garden sheds, stitchey bunting and much more – see page 94!

### 5 APRIL

#### EASTER SUNDAY

Make sure you've finished stitching projects like the colourful Easter Eggs ABC on page 65!

### 6 APRIL

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Time to stitch  
See all the latest must haves, like these fab kits, on **PAGE 24**



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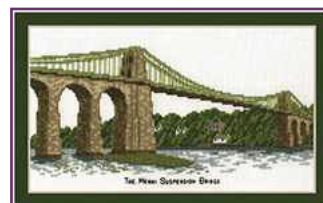
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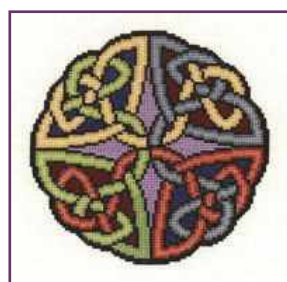
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ISSUE 228  
ON SALE  
26 MARCH

Britain's No.1

# THE WORLD OF Cross Stitching



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## TIME TO STITCH

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# How to...

Your beginner's guide to instant stitching success with Anne!



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

## CHOOSE YOUR ESSENTIALS...

Start with these must-have items

### 1. FABRICS

Begin with either aida or evenweave.

**Aida** is best for beginners, with regular woven blocks and obvious holes. It's stiffer than evenweave, but will soften slightly as you work. 14-count aida is the most common. It's harder to work fractional stitches on aida, as you'll need to make an extra hole in the fabric, in the centre of the block.

**Evenweave** is a lovely fabric to work on when you have a little more experience. The fibres aren't woven in blocks as with aida, so it's softer and the fine weave has more threads-per-inch – the most commonly used is 28-count. One stitch is usually worked over two threads of the fabric so it has an equivalent design size of 14-count aida. Cross stitching fractional stitches is easier on evenweave, as there's a central hole spare so you don't need to split a block as for aida.



Fabric choices: Aida (left) with obvious holes is better for beginners. Evenweave (right) has a finer weave: see our video at [www.cross-stitching.com](http://www.cross-stitching.com)

### 2. THREADS

You'll need **stranded cotton** – this coloured thread comes in 8m skeins and is made up of six strands. The count of your fabric will determine the number of strands you use in your needle. Typically for 14-count aida you'll use two strands for cross stitch and just one strand for backstitch. This is indicated in the key or instructions for your project. There are three main brands – DMC, Anchor and Madeira – which are all smooth and easy



to stitch with, and are colourfast to 95°C. Cheaper brands are available, but they're less durable and may not be colourfast.

### 3. NEEDLES

To cross stitch, use a **tapestry needle**, which has a blunt tip and larger eye than a regular sewing needle. It easily passes through the fibres of aida and evenweave. Different needle sizes are available, with varying lengths and widths, so choose the best for your fabric – see our handy guide. Other needles are useful too... try a fine beading needle for adding bead accents. You may also prefer a sharp-tipped embroidery (or crewel) needle to split aida blocks when stitching fractional stitches.

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

## START CROSS STITCHING...

Make sure you hit the mark first time, every time with our top tips!

✖ **Choose your project...** With our Factbox guide in every one of our projects, you can make sure you choose the right level for you. Absolute beginners should aim for a design without fractional stitches.

✖ **Buy your materials...** To make sure your design looks great, use our Shopping List for each project, which specifies everything needed, like size of fabric and finishing materials. Using another fabric with different HPI, will give a different finished size of design. Calculate your fabric requirements like this: Stitch count divided by HPI of 'new' fabric choice = new size in inches. Add at least 10cm (4in) on each dimension to allow for mounting, or less for cards.

✖ **Get ready...** We always recommend starting in the centre of a design and working outwards. Our charts are marked with two centre arrows so find a symbol close to the centre and begin there.

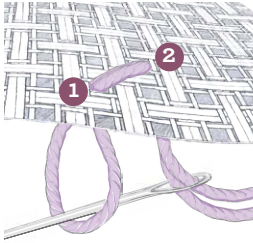
✖ **Get set...** Find the corresponding centre of your fabric by folding in half and half again. The point where the folds cross corresponds to the centre so this is where your central stitch should go.

✖ **Get stitching...** Begin your stitches in two strands of thread with a loop start for the neatest way to get going. It uses one double-length (80cm) strand with both ends threaded together. See our diagrams for how to stitch. Finish threads by weaving the left-over 'tail' under a few stitches at the back.

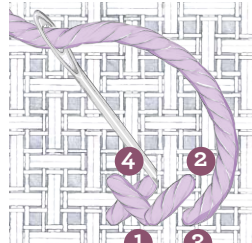


# How to stitch

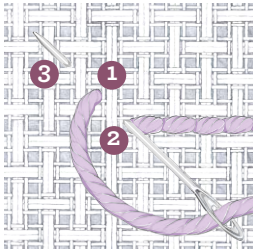
Tackle the basic stitches in our charts...



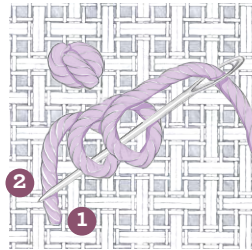
**Loop start** With both ends of a strand threaded, bring your needle up (1), leaving a loop at the back. Work the first arm of your stitch (2) & secure it by passing your needle through the loop.



**Cross stitch** Bring your needle up at the bottom left corner (1) & down in the top right (2) for the first 'arm' of your stitch. Work the second arm, coming up in the bottom right (3) & going down in the top left (4).



**Backstitch** Add detail and definition. Bring your needle up at (1) & down at (2), come up again at (3), then back down at (1) & so on, to direct each stitch 'back' towards the line of the growing backstitch.



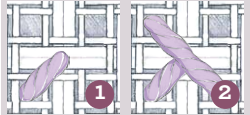
**French knots** Easy with practice – come up in the fabric (1), keep the thread taut & wrap twice around the needle. Push the needle down, close by, but *not* in the same hole (2). Split the aida block for a neat knot.

## FRACTIONAL STITCHES

Fractionals let you create rounded edges



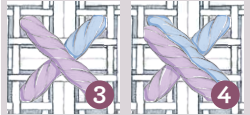
**Quarter**  
The chart shows which corner has the fractional. Bring the needle up in that corner and down in the centre of the square, halfway across the diagonal (diagram 1).



**Three-quarters**  
Work a quarter stitch, then, a half stitch across the other diagonal arm of the square as in diagram 2. Like quarters, three-quarter stitches can face any direction.



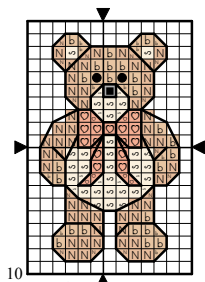
**Two symbols**  
When two symbols share a square, work a fractional in each colour. Decide on the quarter stitch for the background colour, then a three-quarters stitch for the main one (diagram 3).



**Back-to-back**  
For a stronger outline, work a three-quarter stitch in each colour, stitching them back-to-back (diagram 4). Make sure that the two half stitch arms lie neatly parallel to each other.

## How to read our keys

Clear symbols, colours, & all the info you need!



### Symbols

Look for a symbol close to the chart centre – the arrows on our charts easily show the centre so you won't need to count! Find this symbol in the key. The codes in that row show which thread shades to use for cross stitching blocks with this symbol.

### Thread brands

The thread shades are listed in separate columns for the different manufacturer brands of thread. For best results, you should stick to one manufacturer for the whole of a 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 how many to use, as specified in the key.

### Teddy Bear key

#### ✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
■	310	403	2400	black
N	434	310	2009	dark tan
b	435	1046	2010	tan
♥	666	46	210	red
∞	739	366	2014	light tan

#### ✕ Backstitch in one strand

—	310	403	2400	black
---	-----	-----	------	-------

#### ✕ French knots in one strand

●	310	403	2400	black
---	-----	-----	------	-------

**STITCH COUNT** 18 high x 11 wide  
**DESIGN AREA** 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 3.5x2cm (1¼x¾in)

This design was stitched using DMC stranded cotton

### Stitch count & Design area

The finished size of your design – in stitches and on a particular fabric. HPI stands for 'holes per inch'.

## Jargon buster! Use our A-Z of cross stitch to know what's what...

**Afghan** – a woollen blanket with areas inset for cross stitching, often used for baby designs

**Aida band** – a narrow strip of aida, available in varying widths, and finished with a decorative edge

**Aperture** – a hole through which a design is seen in cards & frames

**Backstitch** – used to add detail & definition. See how to stitch it in our diagram above!

**Beading needle** – a longer, finer needle than a tapestry needle, used for adding seed beads to a design

**Counted stitches** – embroidery stitches worked on counted, or evenly woven, fabrics like aida & evenweave. Cross stitch is the most basic counted stitch

**Floss** – USA term for stranded cotton

**Fractional stitches** – made from either a

quarter or three-quarters of a cross stitch, these allow you to create 'rounded' edges. See how to make these in our diagrams above!

**Half stitch** – made up of only one half (one 'arm') of a cross stitch, it gives less dense coverage so an overall lighter effect in the design

**Hoop** – a wooden or spring-mounted plastic circular frame that holds your fabric taut while

working a design  
**Longstitch** – long backstitches, crossing larger fabric distances

**Metallic threads** – similar to stranded cottons, these have a metallic finish for shine and sparkle

**Perforated paper** – toughened paper with a tiny grid of holes, which can be used for stitching instead of fabric

**Plastic canvas** – plastic alternative to

fabric which won't fray when cut

**Skein** – an 8m length of stranded cotton, divisible into six separate strands

**Soluble aida** – temporary fabric which, like waste canvas, is used to add cross stitching to non-counted fabrics, & then dissolved away in water afterwards

**Stitching over two** – term used to describe stitching over two threads of the weave of

an evenweave fabric  
**Variegated thread** – specific type of stranded cotton, in which the colour changes along the length of the thread for a shaded effect

**Waste canvas** – loosely woven fabric, held together with soluble glue. Used to add designs to clothing & other non-counted fabrics before being moistened & the fibres withdrawn with tweezers

# Ruth's STITCHING WORLD

For a place to put your feet up and find some fun & stichy chat, look no further...

**C**olour! Who doesn't feel a bit of a thrill to see all the neat racks of threads in their stitching shop, or a workbox of tidy bobbins, ordered in a spectrum of shades?! But it's not too often that I think about fabric colour.

I usually stick to pale neutrals of white and ivory, sometimes pastels too (like pale blue, for sky-backgrounded projects), maybe a festive red. Even though, there are so many more ideas beyond these! Lately, I read a stitcher's blog... she'd been planning her next project with her compulsory "floss toss". Have you come across this phrase? I've heard it many times, but I'm a snap-decision stitcher, so I don't tend to consider different fabric options before plumping for the one I want.

A "floss toss" is when you gather the thread skeins for a project and simply arrange them – toss them – on fabric samples, to get an idea of the colour combinations of how that pattern will look. Even online variants of the floss toss are offered by some fabric sellers, showing digitally how a project might look on different fabrics. So now, I'll be

*“I've never been one to 'floss toss' before now, but I'll give it a go!”*

getting creative and just as soon as my current project is done, I'm going to try something beyond the usual. I'm sure the results won't disappoint!



**Living in colour:**  
Time to experiment  
with new fabrics

## Sudoku

Fill the grid so each row, column & 3x3 box has numbers one to nine

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

## WHAT'S HOT

Wanting to stock up and order lots of new coloured fabrics...

## WHAT'S NOT

...now I'll have to find space to keep this new fabric stash!

## My Pinterest Picks

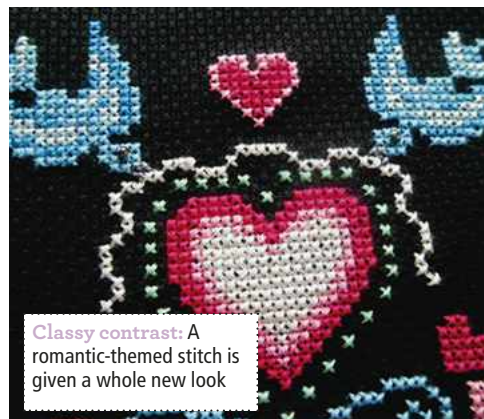


Have you got the Pinterest bug yet? Here are three hot ideas I've spotted and pinned to our boards... Find these and lots more, when you visit us: [www.pinterest.com/worldofxs](http://www.pinterest.com/worldofxs)

**Black magic:** Bold and bright florals stand out, stitched on black fabric



**Show-stopper on black:** Now that's what we call vibrant!



**Classy contrast:** A romantic-themed stitch is given a whole new look



### Personalised Coat of Arms Cross Stitch

Simply let us know the surname you wish to have and we will research the crest and colours and create the design for you.

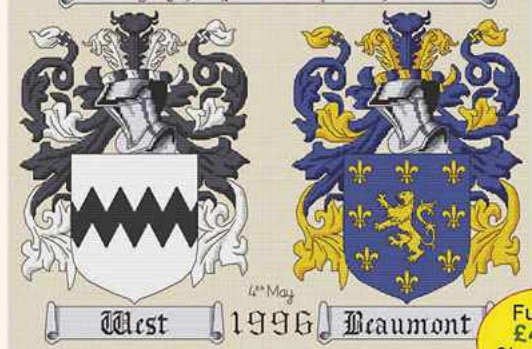


Full Kit £25.00  
Chart Only £15.00

7" x 10"  
14 hpi

### Wedding Coat of Arms Sampler

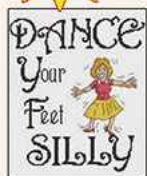
Terry Philip + Elizabeth Claire



Full Kit £45.00  
Chart Only £25.00

16" x 12"  
14 hpi

### NEW DANCE THEMED CROSS STITCH DESIGNS



8" x 10", 14hpi  
CHART £5.00 KIT £15.00



9" x 12", 14hpi  
CHART £5.50 KIT £17.00



8" x 10", 14hpi  
CHART £5.00 KIT £15.00



8" x 10", 14hpi  
CHART £5.00 KIT £15.00



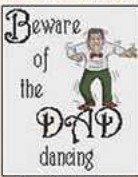
8" x 10", 14hpi  
CHART £5.00 KIT £15.00



8" x 12", 14hpi  
CHART £5.50 KIT £16.00



12" x 14", 14hpi  
CHART £6.00 KIT £18.00



8" x 10", 14hpi  
CHART £5.00 KIT £15.00

### NEW RAF SQUADRON BADGES



6" x 8"  
14 hpi

Full Kit £20.00  
Chart Only £10.00

Choose your squadron and we will design the cross stitch from the official badge for that squadron, including the motto.

### NEW ROYAL NAVY SHIP CRESTS

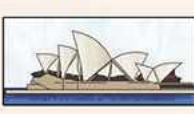


6" x 8"  
14 hpi

Full Kit £20.00  
Chart Only £10.00

Choose your Royal Navy ship and we will design the cross stitch from the official badge for that ship.

### NEW WORLD LANDMARKS



Sydney Opera House  
7.6" x 3.5", 14hpi  
Marbled Blue Aida  
CHART £5 KIT £10



Route 66  
6.0" x 4.0", 14hpi  
White Aida  
CHART £5 KIT £10



Las Vegas  
10.0" x 8.5", 14hpi  
White Aida  
CHART £5 KIT £15



Taj Mahal  
11.0" x 7.0", 14hpi  
Marbled Blue Aida  
CHART £5 KIT £15

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Your choice of size and fabric count



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# HERITAGE Crafts

Working with talented artists to produce beautiful counted cross stitch designs



Roxy by John Clayton - 22.5 x 16cm



Crazy Cat Lady by Peter Underhill - 22.5 x 31cm



Man Cave by Peter Underhill - 20 x 30cm



Jasmine by John Clayton - 18 x 26.5cm



Maria in Miniature  
by John Clayton - 12 x 13cm



Miranda in Miniature  
by John Clayton - 12.5 x 13.5cm



Josephine in Miniature  
by John Clayton - 13 x 13cm



Sarah in Miniature  
by John Clayton - 13 x 13cm



Pink Lily  
by Sue Hill - 11 x 20.5cm



Alice in Miniature  
by John Clayton - 13 x 13.5cm



Charlotte in Miniature  
by John Clayton - 12.5 x 12.5cm



Dominique in Miniature  
by John Clayton - 10.5 x 13cm



Sophia in Miniature  
by John Clayton - 13.5 x 13.5cm



Safe Harbour  
by Phil Smith - 12.5 x 12.5cm



Early Shift  
by Phil Smith - 12.5 x 12.5cm



The Angler  
by Thomas Beutel - 12.5 x 12.5cm



Sunset Stroll  
by Thomas Beutel - 12.5 x 12.5cm



Sweet Peas  
by Sue Hill - 11 x 20.5cm

Please contact us if you'd like a copy of our latest catalogue!

You can see our full range of cross stitch kits, charts & fabric at [www.hcrafts.com](http://www.hcrafts.com)

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