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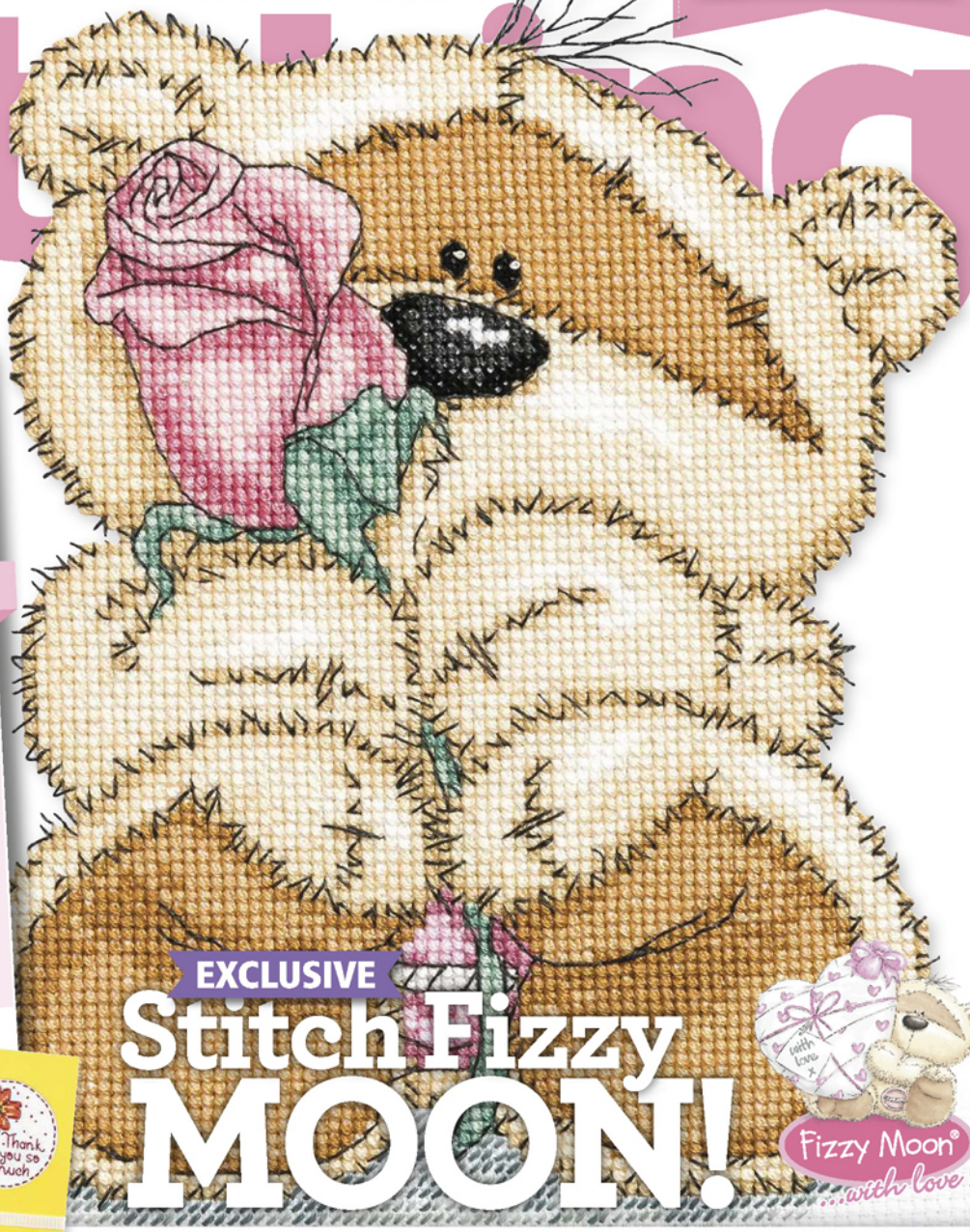


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119 must-stitch patterns



PLUS THANK YOU CARDS P.26



EXCLUSIVE Stitch Fizzy MOON!

❋ Sampler ❋ Sweet mermaid ❋ Modern motifs ❋ Ideas for men ❋



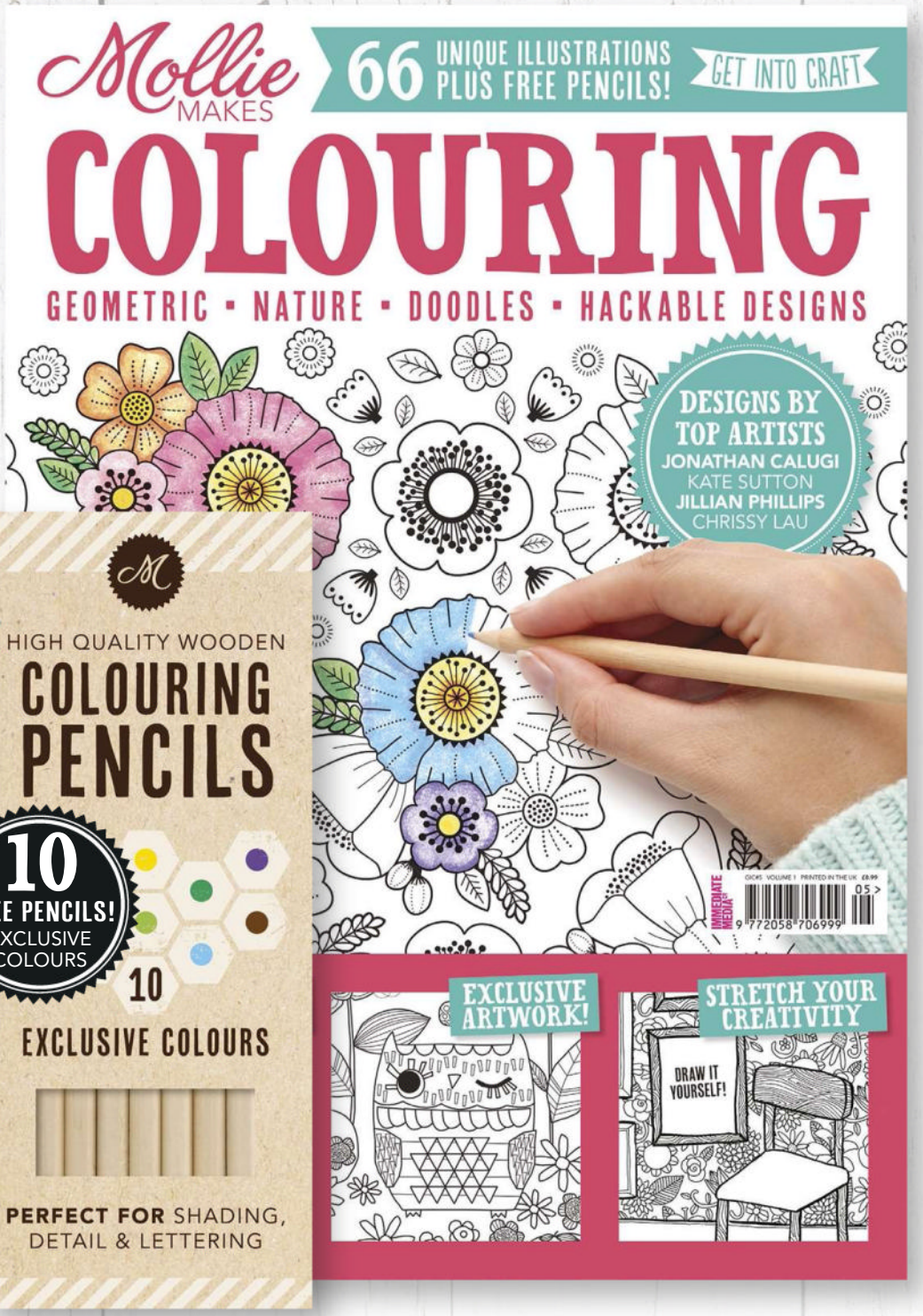






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Welcome

After all the busy preparations behind our Christmas stitching, it's a great time to plan for a new season of **stitchy fun**. (Well, at the time I'm writing this, the festive frolics aren't quite over, but already I'm looking forward to a little more calm…) New designs and fresh ideas inspire me at this time of year – a stitch list to relish!

Such as adorable **Fizzy Moon**, our showstopper cover project – find the pattern on page 10, and I dare you to resist him! There are **easy florals** in our exclusive by Zweigart, perfect for a springtime makeover. A tablecloth in whole stitches is a fast way to brighten up any home.

I'm getting my stitching fingers ready for the vibrant music-inspired designs on page 58 – a **new technique** such as using hand-dyed fabric in these designs will be a breeze for the New Year, if you've never tried it before. Ideas for the men in our life are always appreciated, too.



Here's to more super stitching in 2016!

Ruth

Editor
The World of Cross Stitching

PS Remember to look out for our **money-saving offers** and bargains (p25, p44, p56, p67) – watching the pennies is high on everyone's agenda at this time of year!









Meet some of our designers...



FIONA BAKER
Technical Editor Fiona's put her pattern design hat on for us this month, with a fabulous contemporary sampler in on-trend chalkboard style! See page 36.



SUSAN BATES
For easy-stitch card, gift tag and mini pressie makes, our Design Library collections are great inspiration, as Susan's trendy succulent set will prove (p47).



SHANNON WASILIEFF
Any budding astronauts out there? Fans of star-gazing? Look no further than Shannon's space ABC (p63), complete with glow-in-the-dark thread accents!

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 and on Amazon for Kindle Fire
- Join in daily chat on our Facebook group – go to www.facebook.com/TheWorldofCrossStitching and click 'like' today!
- On Twitter? To catch all of our behind-the-scenes info, follow @WOXScrossstitch



Cross stitch gets digital!
Don't miss out on any stitchy fun – get WOXS for your gadgets

Contents

We bring you all the best projects, advice, news and offers for the month ahead!

YOUR FREE GIFT!

Turn to page 8

Plan out your stitching year with our pretty Stitcher's Diary for 2016



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



26 SHOW YOUR GRATITUDE WITH STITCHED THANKS

Subscribe and save money

Turn to page 44



FREE! Choose from a storage organiser or craft bag, plus **SAVE 29%**

Subscription offer available to new UK subscribers only, and with print edition only

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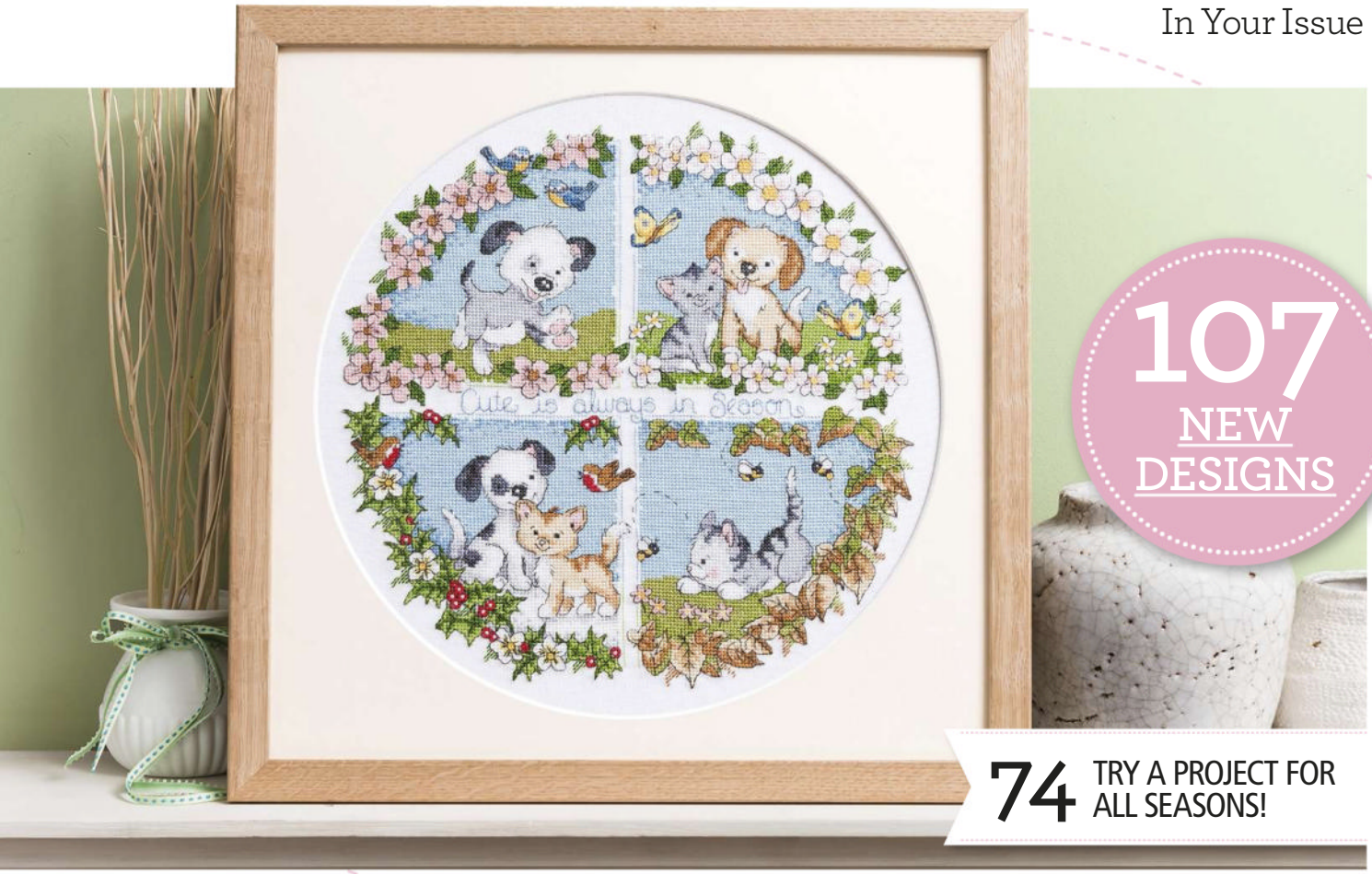
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The World of Cross Stitching (ISSN 1460-1970) (USPS 015-630) is published 13 times a year (monthly, with a Christmas issue in November) by Immediate Media Bristol LTD, 2nd Floor, Tower House, Fairfax Street, Bristol BS1 3BN, UK. Distributed in the US by Circulation Specialists, LLC, 2 Corporate Drive, Suite 945, Shelton, CT 06484. Periodicals postage paid at Shelton, CT and additional mailing offices.
Postmaster: Send address changes to The World of Cross Stitching, PO Box 37495, Boone, IA 50037-0495



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Win!

OVER £1,037 OF PRIZES WILL BE WON!

See page 81 to enter & be lucky



Be on the panel!

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

Meet our guests

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

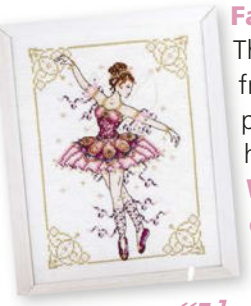


Pamela Goodison

is a housewife from Hampshire

Why is cross stitching important to you?
I find any worries are put to one side while cross stitching as I focus on my project. I love how the cross stitch develops into a picture and any projects I do always have a memory of love and happiness.

What drives you mad about cross stitching?
When I have to stop and do essential tasks, like household chores or answer the door! I am just a nutty cross stitcher!



Fave recent design?
The 'Sugar Plum Fairy' from issue 234. It's perfect for framing and hanging in my bedroom.

Which three words describe you best?
Caring, sociable, happy.

"I love to give my stitching projects as gifts"



Barbara Turek

is a seamstress from Florida, USA

How did you start stitching?
I wanted to make a Peter Rabbit bib for my baby, over 35 years ago, which I personalised with my son's name.

Favourite cross stitch project?
I'm making height charts for my two grandsons with a vehicle theme, using the airplane from the 'Around the World' Design Library, which was in issue 229.



Favourite designer? Donna Kooler – I love her designs for babies and the young at heart.

What's the best stitching compliment you've had?
My daughter loves the *Lady and the Tramp* spaghetti scene, so when she got married, I stitched it with her and her husband's names and wedding date. It's hung it in their living room.

"Cross stitching relaxes me when life gets overwhelming"



Jennifer Sladek

is a personal support worker from Ontario, Canada

What do you love most about cross stitching?
I love the challenge it gives you. It takes so much patience to complete a complex design but the feeling after you complete is overwhelming.

Fave recent design?
The 'Blackwork Hummingbird' from issue 231. It's beautiful and the colours really make it stand out.

What was your best cross stitching moment?
When I gave my mum my first cross stitch. When I finished it, the look on her face was so memorable.



What's your idea of cross stitch heaven?
To have the comfiest chair, any fabric and thread I would ever need and an amazing view of the lake!

"I find so many projects I love and can't give away!"

We need you!

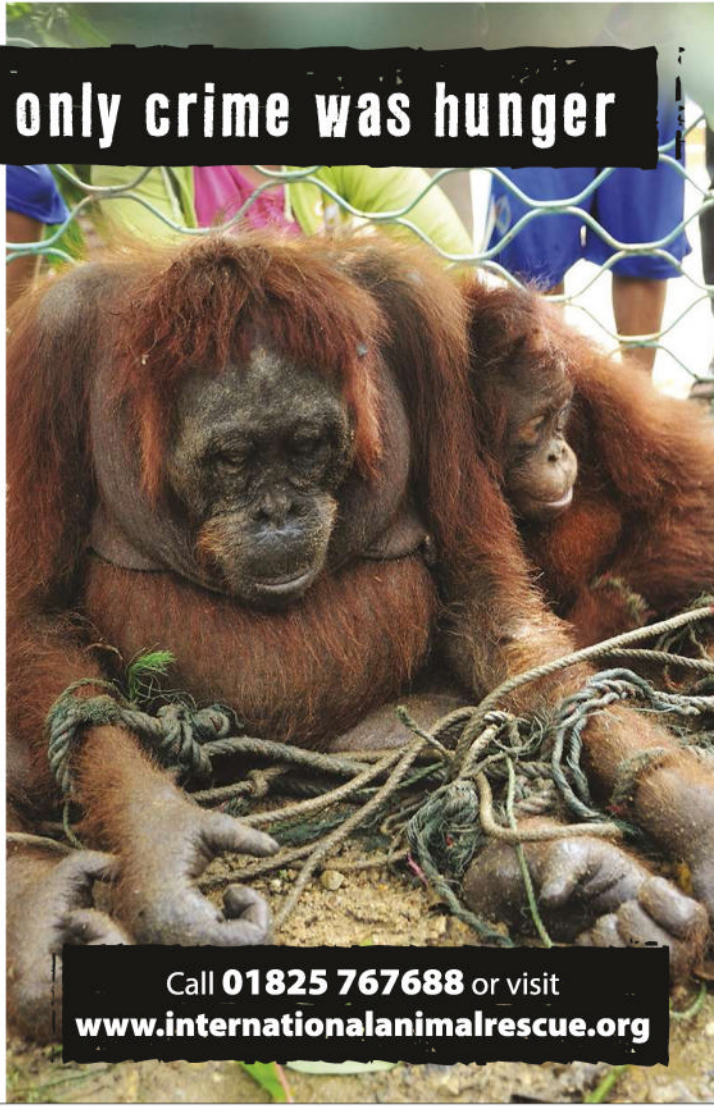
To be on the panel, email readerpanel@cross-stitching.com – tell us your name, where you're from and include a good-quality photo of yourself. Every panellist gets a preview of the magazine and a gift worth at least £30!



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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Address _____

_____ Postcode _____

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Card number ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐

Expiry date ☐☐/☐☐ Security code ☐☐☐ (last three digits on reverse of card) Issue no. ☐☐ (Maestro only)

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internationalanimalrescue.org

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Stitcher's Diary

Prepare for your stitching year to come with this handy diary, with 12 beautiful designs by Lesley Teare



Dec 2015/Jan 2016

28 Monday Bank Holiday
29 Tuesday
30 Wednesday
31 Thursday New Year's Eve
1 Friday New Year's Day
2 Saturday
3 Sunday

January

Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

DATES TO REMEMBER

There's plenty of space to write down your events and appointments. We've also added all the magzine on-sale dates!

2017 Year Planner

January

Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

February

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20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					

March

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20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

April

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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

May

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22	23	24	25	26	27	28

June

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5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18

July

Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

August

Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

September

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18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

October

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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

November

Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

December

Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

YEAR PLANNER

We've included a full diary for 2016, plus a year planner for 2016 and 2017. So you can note down all your important dates and they won't be forgotten!

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





BLOOMING BEAUTIFUL

Your diary is full of gorgeous original illustrations by Lesley Teare, making it oh-so pretty as it is practical.

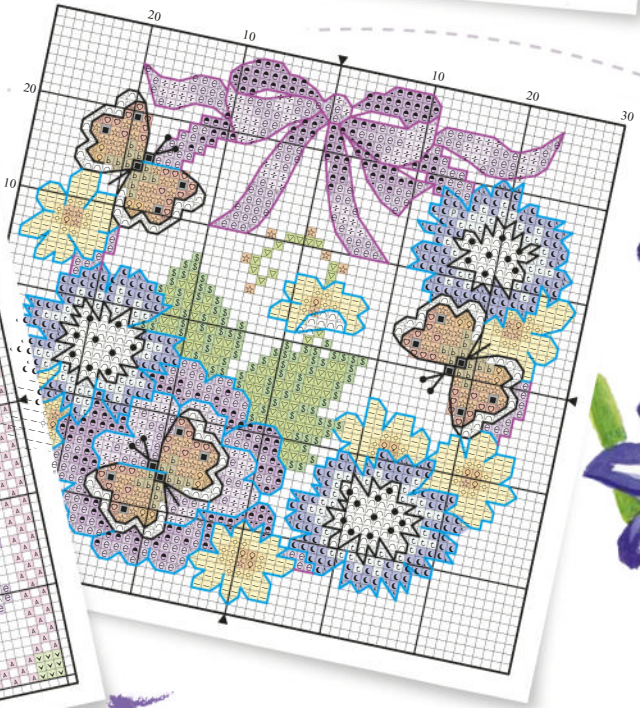


RACHEL, *DESIGNER*

"I love this pretty 2016 Diary – it's so hard to pick a favourite chart. I'm thinking I'll have to stitch them all together as one large project!"











12 SUBLIME CHARTS

There's a lovely chart for each month, based on seasonal blooms. They're fab inspiration to make for birthday cards and gifts.

Factbox

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

Make perfect presents

DESIGN BY **PAPER ISLAND**

The bear necessities

Add some sweetness to your stitching when you bring this adorable Fizzy Moon design to life!



With a huggable body, a melting, doe-eyed gaze and a pink rose clutched between his paws, who can resist the charms of Fizzy Moon? Definitely not us!

The backstitching in this design is key here, as it's used to bring out the details of this fuzzy bear and give him his distinctive furry, ever-so-slightly scruffy look! Take your time with it, making sure that you place each stitch carefully – your patience will be amply rewarded. A top tip, too: swap your blunt-ended tapestry needle for a sharper one – a crewel or embroidery needle, as this'll help you pierce the aida blocks.

Finished in a plain white wooden frame so the striking stitching takes centre stage, we think Fizzy will be a lovely addition to your home to give you bear hugs all year long! Or, with Valentine's Day just around the corner, what better gift to give to your sweetheart to show them how much you care? ➤

Factbox

Gorgeous character stitch

- **Stitching Time**
  Approx. 25-30 hours
- **Type of Stitches**
  Cross stitch, fractionals, half cross stitch, backstitch, French knots
- **Ease of Stitching**
  Advanced beginner

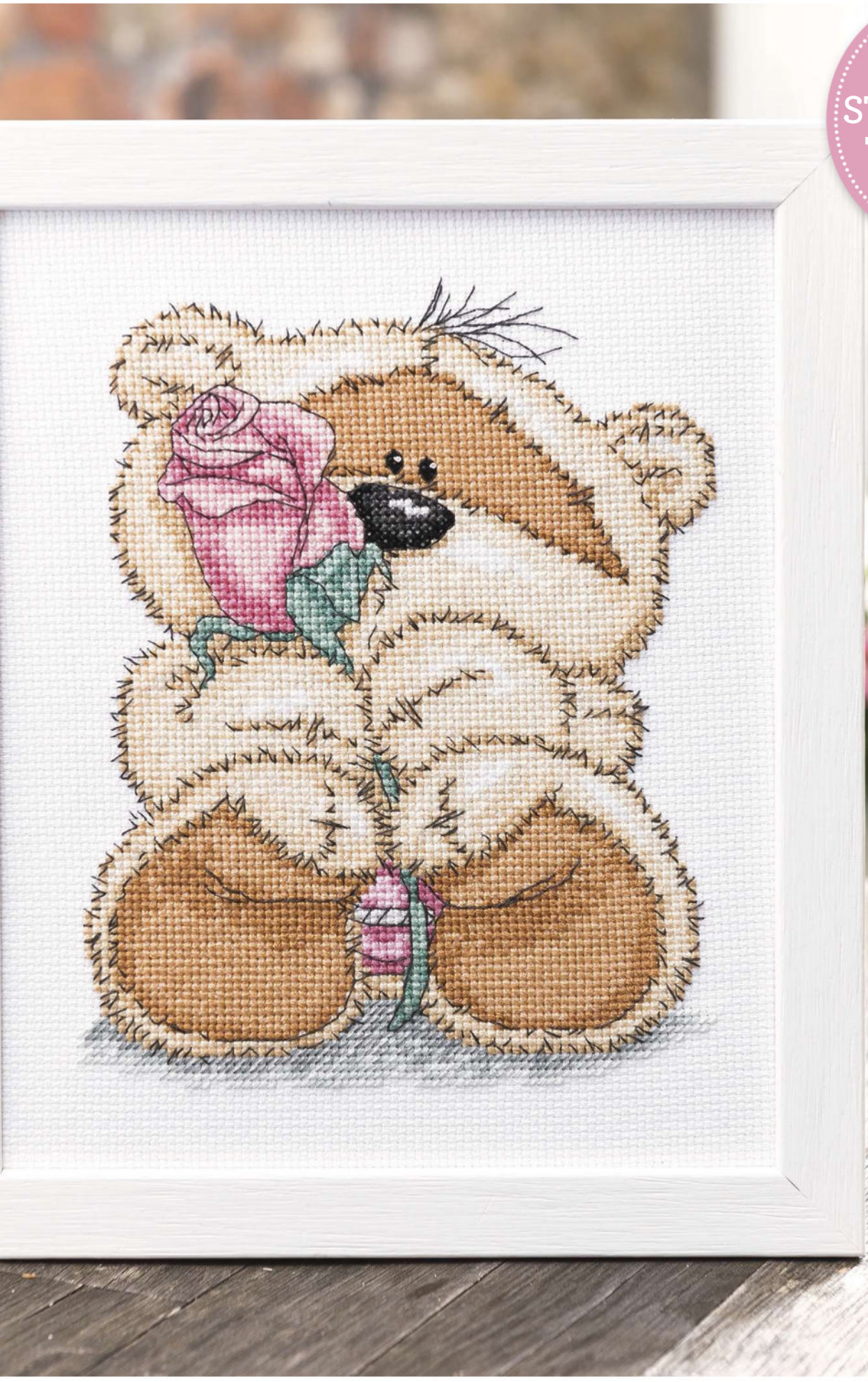


Meet the character

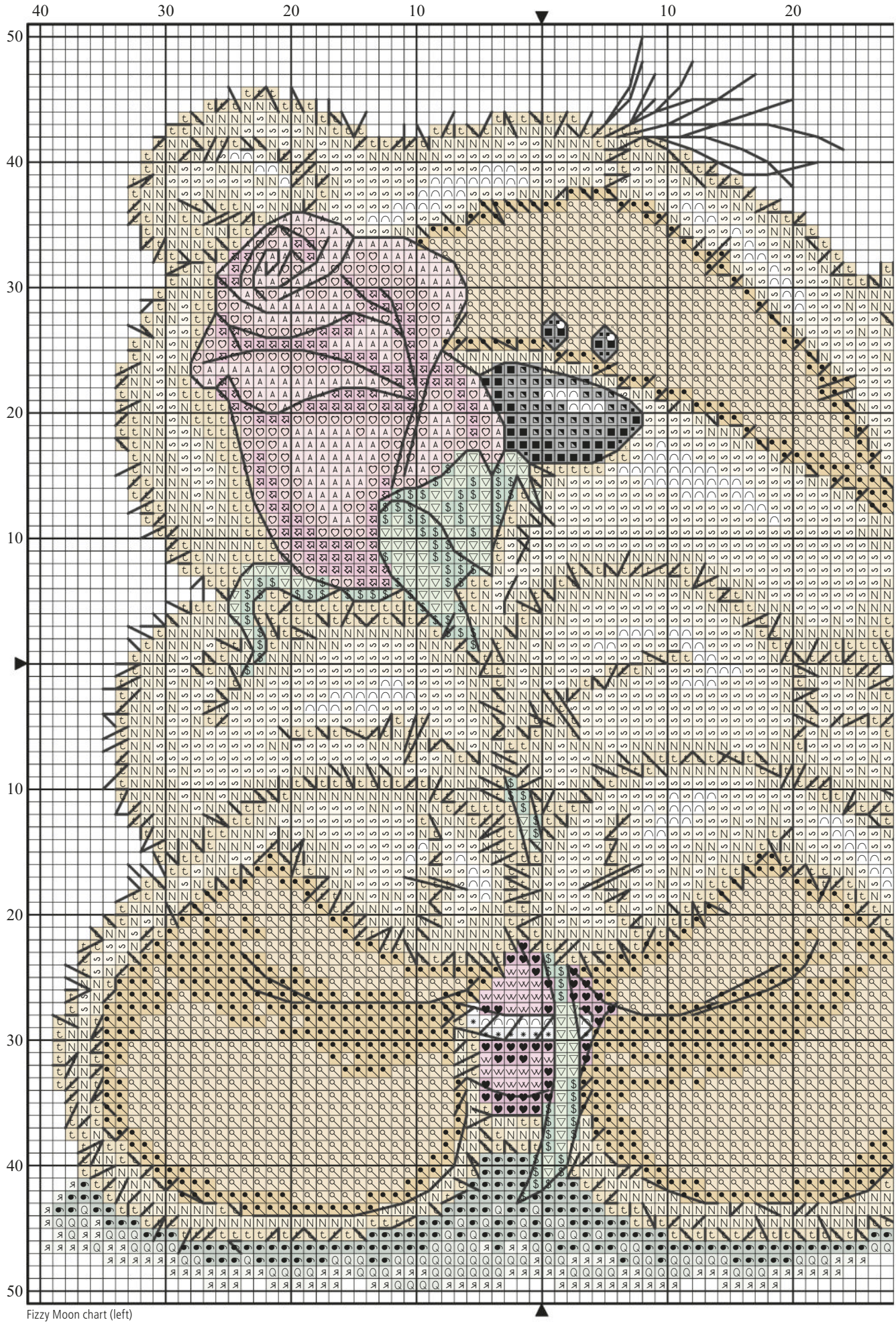
Fizzy Moon

You can always recognise Fizzy Moon from the distinctive pink button on his tummy and tuft of hair! Often appearing with best friend bunny, Fizzy adorns a range of adorable cards, gifts and much more, as well as gorgeous cross stitch.

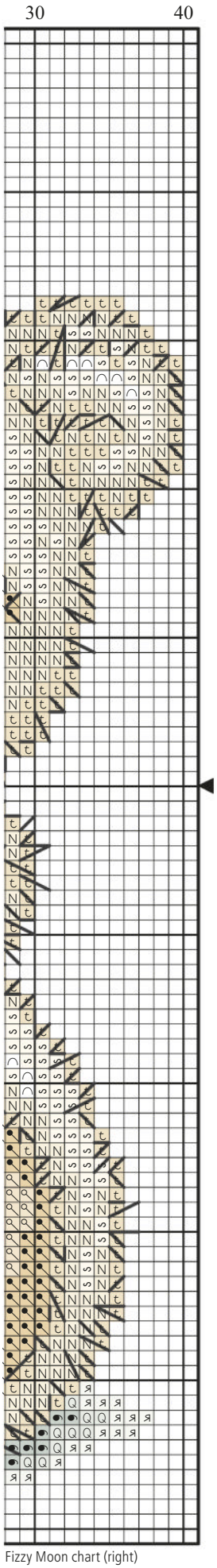
A MUST STITCH FOR THE NEW YEAR!



Brighten up winter evenings by stitching this little cutie – he's guaranteed to put a smile on your face at any time of day!



Fizzy Moon chart (left)



Fizzy Moon chart (right)

Fizzy Moon key

Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	blanc	2	2402	white
■	310	403	2400	black
↖	436	1045	2011	tan
↖	437	362	2012	light tan
s	712	926	2101	cream
t	738	367	2013	very light tan
N	739	366	2014	dark cream
*	762	234	1804	light grey
⊿	962	75	609	dark pink
A	963	73	502	light pink
♥	3688	66	605	dark raspberry
W	3689	49	607	raspberry
♡	3716	25	503	pink
◣	3799	236	1713	grey
$	3816	876	1703	green
▽	3817	875	1702	light green

Half cross stitch in two strands

◖	926	850	1707	dark petrol blue
Q	927	848	1708	petrol blue
я	928	274	1709	light petrol blue

Backstitch in one strand

—	3799	236	1713	grey

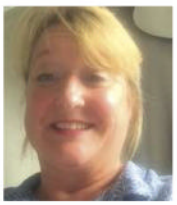
French knots in one strand

○	blanc	2	2402	white

STITCH COUNT 100 high x 80 wide
DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 18x14.5cm (7¼x5¾in)

This design was stitched using DMC stranded cotton

Pam READER PANEL



"This Fizzy Moon design is absolutely adorable and so cute. I'm going to frame it and give it as a gift to my youngest daughter this year. It's so lovely, I think she'll love it and treasure it for years to come!"

TOP TIP

To avoid eye strain, always do your stitching with a good light behind you, and take frequent breaks to rest your eyes



Shopping list

- Zweigart* 14-count white aida measuring 30x30cm (12x12in)
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Size 24 tapestry needle
- Frame of your choice with a minimum aperture of 21x17cm (8½x6¾in)

Thread & fabric cost
Approximately £22

*For stockists see page 82

WIN BEAR HUGS!

One lucky winner will receive this giant 60cm (24in) Fizzy Moon plush toy! To enter: **Text:** WOXS237BEAR followed by your name, email and address to 87474. Eg BEAR Name email@email.co.uk, 123 Any Road, Anytown, AB1 C23. Texts will be charged at £1.50 plus your standard network tariff rate. **Post:** Write your name and address on the back of a postcard and send it to: 'Fizzy Moon giveaway (WOXS237)', The World of Cross Stitching, Immediate Media Co, 2nd Floor, Tower House, Fairfax Street, Bristol BS1 3BN. Closing date for all entries is 6 January 2016. For terms & conditions see page 81.



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

TWO BY TWO

This is my latest project, Noah's Ark, which my mum bought me for Christmas. There were lots of French knots involved which I had to practise on a scrap piece of aida first but soon got the hang of them. It took slightly longer than I expected because I had exams midway through the year, but I'm so happy that it's finished now.
Chloe Turner, Essex

Ruth: *We love the Cut Thru' range by Bothy Threads*. Congrats on finishing this as well as your exams, Chloe!*



✉ **Two by two**
Chloe's been busy with this fabulously detailed kit, in addition to her exams!

Movie magic

It's my uncle's 55th birthday coming up and I wanted to do something special. After looking on the internet, I decided on a *The Godfather*-themed crossstitch, which was very apt as he is my godfather as well! After 14 hours of stitching (seven hours per day), it was complete.

I'm 18 and have been stitching since I became ill at 12 and was unable to go to school for nearly a year, and I haven't looked back since. This was my second big cross stitch design, as I had previously made some smaller ones from Hobbycraft, and a *Walking Dead*-themed stitch for my bedroom. Thanks for making this amazing magazine, and giving us the opportunity to see awesome designs!
Amylouise Wilkins, via email

Fiona: *This is such a cool gift, Amylouise, I'm sure your uncle appreciated your hard work!*

Choosing a suitable project for men can be a little tricky, which is why we've come up with the fab music silhouettes on page 58. As well as being a great gift for men, they're also a good intro to using hand-dyed aida, if you've not done it before.



✉ **Movie magic**
A classic film inspired this fab finish!

Win!

The writer of our Star letter wins both ofthese gorgeous kits – 'Four Bird Boxes' & 'Four Outfits' – worth £27.49 each from Bothy Threads!

Prize worth £49+!



MORE:
For stockists, email info@bothythreads.com or call ☎ 0844 800 0221

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

Ho ho ho!

While tidying the bookshelf in a local charity shop where I volunteer, I came across a cross stitch book by Donna Kooler. I really liked the three Santas she'd designed, so bought the book so that I could stitch them.

They're stitched on 18-, 16- and 14-count aidas, and I used different types of beads to embellish each Santa, as portrayed in the book. The charms were recycled from a Christmas decoration. I'll be displaying them this season along with my other collections. I'm really happy with the result and hope you like them too.

Linda West, Isle of Man

Ruth: *I love a good rummage in a charity shop as you never know what treasure you'll find in there. And when it's a stitchy find then that's even better! Donna has published a lovely range of books that are full of inspiring designs. This trio of Father Christmases are great, and I really like all the lovely detailing that they use. They're certainly going to be a fab addition to your decorations this year.*

I also hope you've enjoyed all the festive designs in recent issues and that any makes you've done will be joining these Santas as decorations!



Ho ho ho!
A charity shop find was the source for these Santas

TO ME TO YOU

This is one of my finished and framed stitching projects, made from a chart in issue 210. It's so cute and I thought it would be nice on the wall at Christmas. I love Tatty Teddy designs so much, I'm planning to stitch other ones in the near future. Thanks so much for a great project!

Gréta Benczik, via email

Rachel: *What a cutie, Gréta! He'll be a gorgeous addition to your wall. If you like crafting cute characters then you'll love the super sweet Fizzy Moon on page 10 – a great start to your New Year's cross stitching!*



To me to you
Gréta's going to display Tatty Teddy on her wall

Perfect Present



A joyful union
Becky designed this sampler as a thoughtful gift for her friends' wedding day

A JOYFUL UNION

My friend's wedding was on 1 August and I managed to get this finished and framed ready to give her on the day. She and her husband love sailing and border collies so I used the chart from the Pet of the Month series and incorporated it into this sampler! Hope you like it.

Becky Cudworth, via email

Fiona: *Stitching a gift for a wedding is always a special thing to do, and I love how you've personalised this sampler for your friends – what a gorgeous memento of their happy day. It's also fab that our Pet of the Month idea (issue 227) could be used as a motif!*

If you like stitching samplers, then we've got a great one this month, inspired by chalkboard lettering and worked on black aida. You'll find it over on page 36.



Fab florals
Anu stitched this design while convalescing

Fab florals

I'm writing from New Delhi, India, to show you my version of Lesley Teare's cushion from issue 128, which I made while recuperating from a bad fall. The flowers and butterflies cheered me up and reminded me of the outdoors. I hope you like it!

Anu Jain, New Delhi

Sue: *We do like it Anu, particularly the pretty pom-pom trim you've used. Glad that we could help during your recuperation. It goes to show those back issues certainly come in handy!*

There are lots more pretty floral designs from Lesley in this issue's free Stitcher's Diary, and on page 18, you'll find a stunning flowery tablecloth, too.

EMAIL US AT: letters@cross-stitching.com or join our Facebook group at www.facebook.com/TheWorldofCrossStitching

First timer

I've been a follower of your magazine for a very long time, but I've never sent you my finished projects before, so I've finally taken the plunge!

Here are a couple of Christmas ones I've finished recently. I plan on giving everyone a cross stitched card for Christmas although I'm struggling to find the time. I hope you like them and I hope to show you more in future!

Hayley Belton, Worthing

Rachel: *We're really pleased that you've sent us something, Hayley – your finished cards are really cute and sure to be appreciated! Now you've taken the plunge, we'd love to see more of your projects. Remember, all letters printed win a prize!*



✉ **First timer**
We're pleased Hayley has shared her cards with us!



✉ **Roll up,roll up!**
Claire recently finished this clowns kit for her son

Roll up, roll up!

Just wanted to share a photo of my recent big finish. It's called 'Rainbow Ride' by Design Works and designed by Susan Ives. I started it around seven years ago for my new son. I made a small start but then stopped while I got on with other projects, so it's only this past year that I've made most of the progress.

My son really wanted it finished so it could go in his bedroom, which he also shares with his younger brothers. He set me a challenge of finishing by the end of the summer holidays… well, I didn't quite make that, but he's very happy now that it's done!

Claire Armitage, Huddersfield

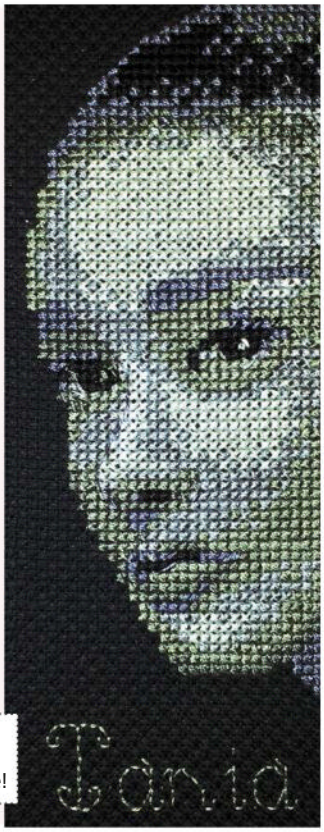
Ruth: *I also have a habit of starting projects but then getting distracted with others, so I know how great it feels when you do finish. You've done a great job, Claire!*

SCREEN ICON

My dear friend Tania, who lives in Ukraine, really loves Audrey Hepburn, so I made this bookmark for her. Unfortunately the postal service lost the original one, and I was so disappointed, but then I made another that luckily made it to her.

Sara Lugnani, Switzerland

Ruth: *Oh no – what a nightmare that the original was lost! I'm glad you made a second as it's a lovely design. I like the personal touch you've added, too.*



✉ **Screen icon**
Sara actually ended up cross stitching this chic design twice!

Quick make

Instead of the usual flowers or chocolates, my 11-year-old grandson asked if I would make bookmarks as thank you presents for teachers, when he was leaving primary school. The list got longer until I had eight bookmarks on order and seven days to finish them! Luckily I did, and he was over the moon with the end results.

Susan Reed, via email

Sue: *Wow, that was a proper stitching marathon Susan! Well done for completing them all in time.*



✉ **Quick make**
Susan finished eight bookmarks in seven days!

Subs Stars



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

This month's winners are:
- Mrs Astrid Terlouw, Nairn
- Mrs Julie Sharples, Preston
- Miss Ruth Bowlt, Farnborough

To subscribe turn to page 44

Prizes every month!

This issue's Subs Stars each receive a Fizzy Moon kit, 'Treetop Friends'. Worth over £24, the kit has everything needed to make these cute pals. To be in with a chance of winning next month, all you have to do is subscribe!

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



Bug's back
This design from issue 204 caught Debbie's eye

Bug's back

After not cross stitching for about 10 years, the first project I tackled was this Tatty Teddy design from issue 204. I'm now hooked again and look forward to receiving my digital copy every month, as I almost always add something to my 'much-stitch list'.

Debbie Vermeulen, South Africa

Fiona: *So glad to hear you've got your stitchy bug back! If you're looking for a challenge this year, the super-cute friends on page 74 are just the thing.*

PUPPY LOVE!

This is the first time I've ever sent a photo of cross stitching I've done into the magazine, so I hope you like it! It's called 'Christmas Puppy' from issue 209. It took me about a year to do as I was stitching a lot of cards for my family in between. I love your mag, keep up the good work!

Isabella Miller, via email

Sue: *What a little cutie this puppy is, ready and waiting under the Christmas tree! I hope you've enjoyed stitching some other festive projects from recent issues, Isabella.*

We've included lots of great charts in this issue to get your 2016 off to a fantastic stitchy start, and the free gift of the Stitcher's Diary will help you to plan out what you'll be doing throughout the year. We love to see what readers are up to, so do keep sending in your photos!



Puppy love!
Isabella's deservedly proud of her festive finish

LUCK OF THE DRAW

You made my day when I opened up my post and discovered I was the winner of the Oriental Dream giveaway in issue 231! I wasn't expecting a delivery or a bill, so to have the postman knock at the door was very exciting, then to open up the package and find I was a winner was amazing – I just couldn't stop smiling!

I loved this Japanese-inspired design when I saw it in the magazine, and sent a text to enter the competition straight away. I never expected to win (although there was always a small hope at the back of my mind!), so to find out I had was fantastic.

I started to stitch the kit the same day. It took me a long time to finally finish but I'm so proud of the result. I waited until the design was completely finished and framed before sending in a photo so you could enjoy the completed piece as much as I am doing!

I'm not as fast at stitching as I wish to be, but it gives me so many good moments. Thank you so much for giving me so much joy and happiness.

Jolanta Sobkow, Honiton

Ruth: *Thanks for your lovely letter Jolanta – we're so pleased that you liked your prize from RIOLIS and that your hobby brings you so much joy.*

We'd say don't worry that you're not very quick at stitching – with practice you're sure to get faster. If you're after a quick finish, then the alphabet letters on page 63 can be completed in an evening. Or if you'd like another big project, then why not try the pretty mermaid cushion on page 68?



Luck of the draw
Jolanta stitched this from a kit she won in issue 231

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

DESIGN BY **ZWEIGART**

Beautiful blooms

Give your home a fresh update this season with a crisp white tablecloth that's bursting with bright flowers



What's a more welcoming sight when you come down to breakfast on a wintry morning than these bright and breezy flowers? It just remains to pop the kettle on and settle down to some hot buttered toast for the perfect start to the day!

Both new and experienced stitchers will enjoy this charming design, worked in whole cross stitches with a backstitch outline for detail. We love the way the flowers are scattered across the corners, as though growing carefree in the garden.

Build each flowerhead using clever shading in a rosy pink and red palette, with a few stitches in cream to create the realistic highlights on the petals.

Factbox

Adapt the colours to suit

- **Stitching Time**
  Approx. 20 hours per corner design
- **Type of Stitches**
  Cross stitch, backstitch
- **Ease of Stitching**
  Beginner

Bright yellow centres finish these flowers off a treat. If you prefer to stitch your blooms in warm yellow and ginger tones, we've also give you a colour key for this. Whichever hue you choose, stay cosy inside and bring a touch of radiant springtime to makeover your home this year!

Meet the company

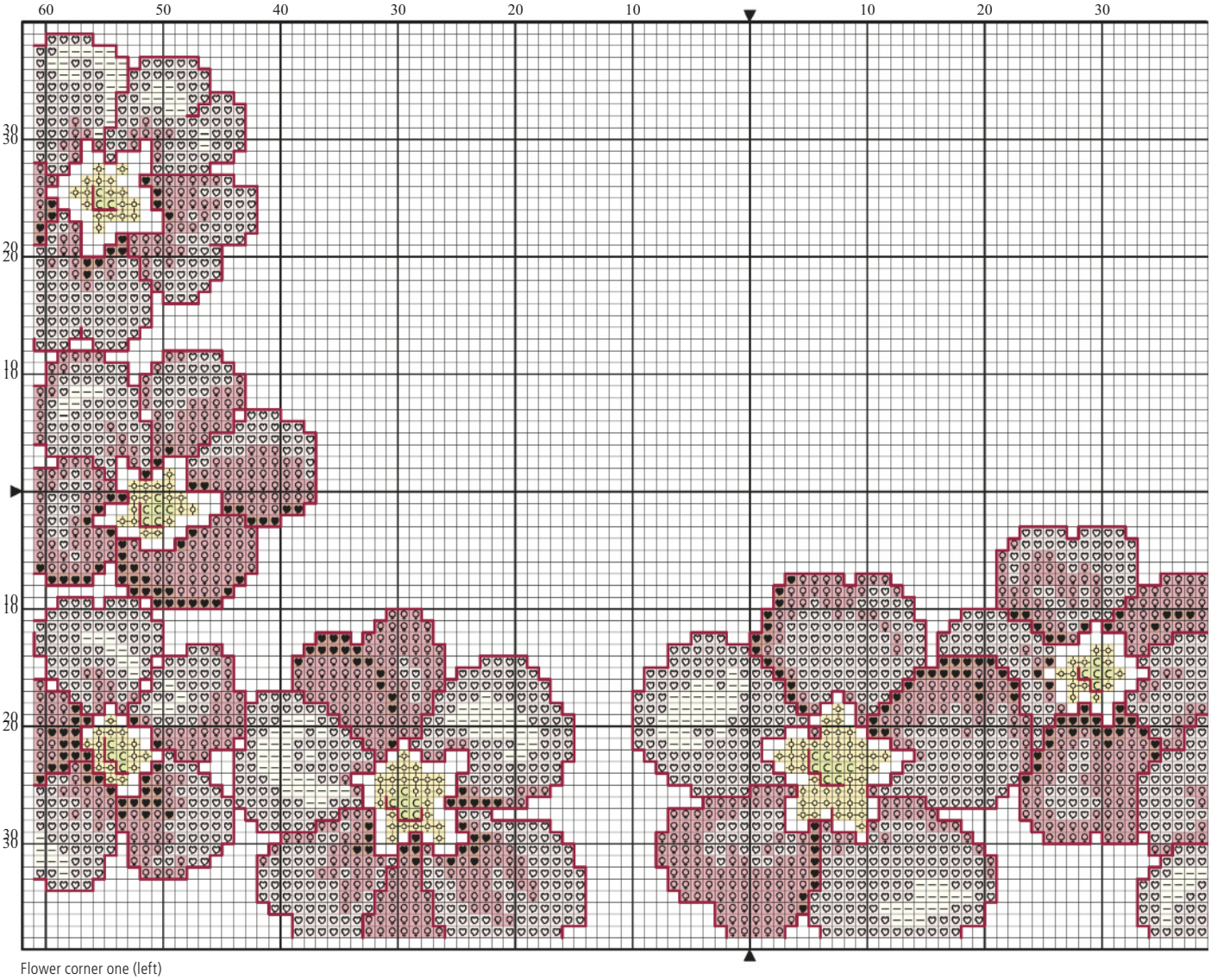
Zweigart

Based in Germany for over 130 years, Zweigart is a large, international mill that produces a range of needlework fabrics. If you look closely at the selvedge of the fabric, you'll see its trademark orange-coloured thread woven in – a symbol of quality. Zweigart aida and evenweave fabrics are produced in 100s of counts, colours and finishes.

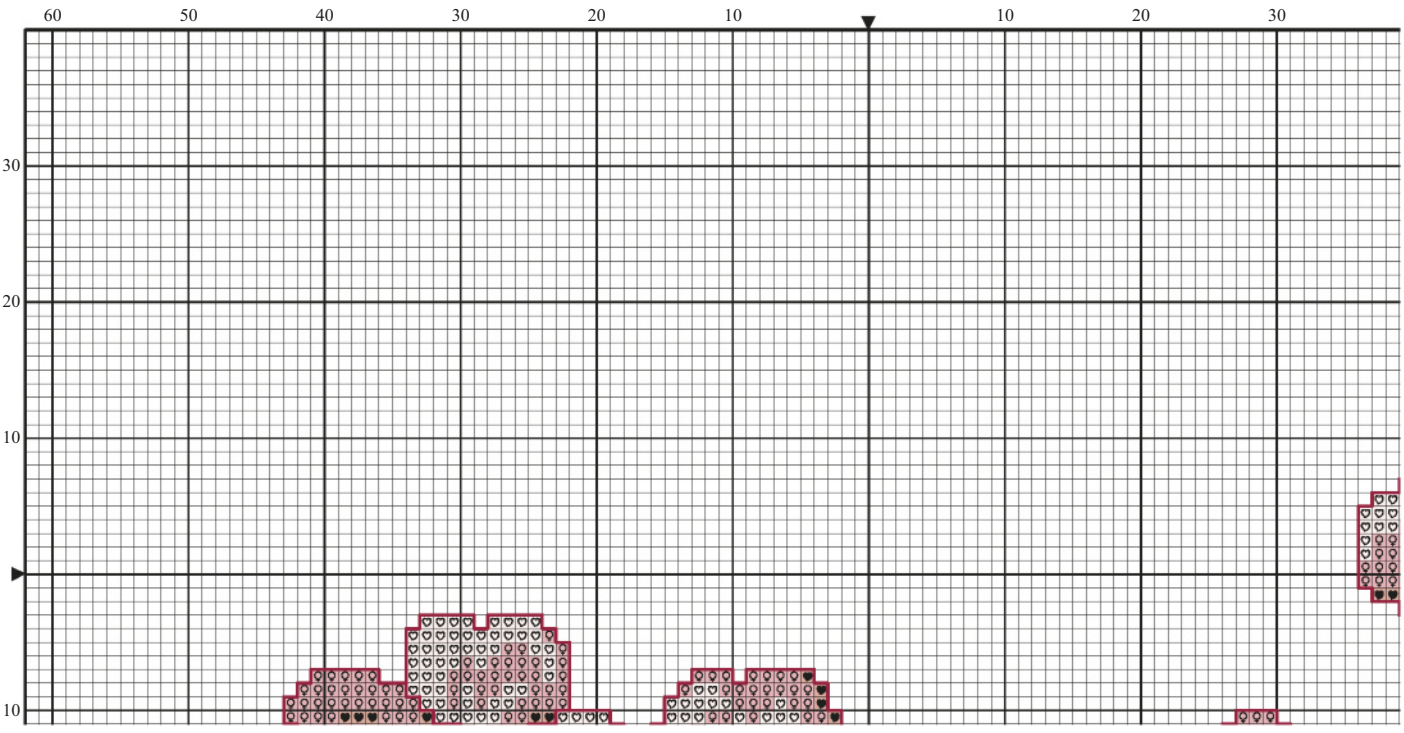


MAKE FOR YOUR HOME

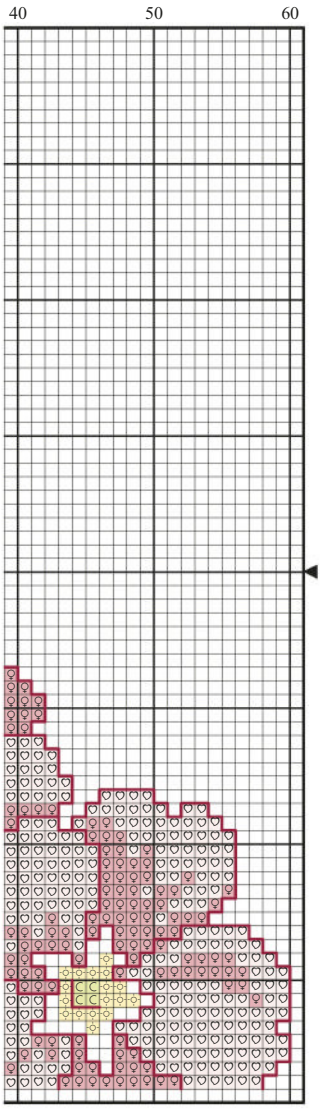
Create a fresh look for your home with this pretty floral tablecloth – it's sure to delight for many mealtimes to come!



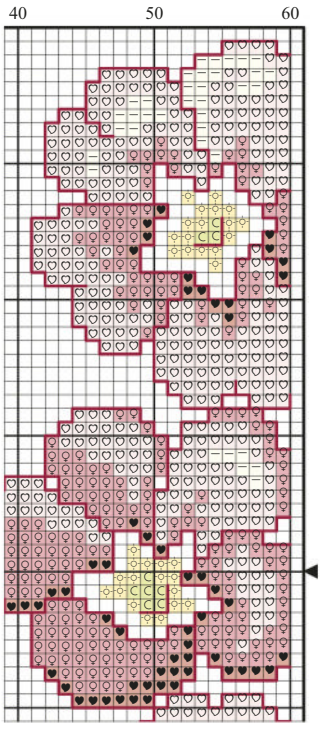
Flower corner one (left)



Flower corner two (top left)



Flower corner one (right)



Flower corner two (top right)

How to... make this pretty tablecloth



1 Measure the width and length of your table. Cut a piece of fabric to this size (plus any for overhang if you like), allowing 4cm (1½in) extra along both the width and length for hems.

2 Lay the fabric out with a short edge in front of you. Measure in 2cm (1in) from the corner point and make a large cross with tacking threads, as this will be the bottom edge of the pattern.

3 Start stitching in the corner of the chart (use Corner One Chart for each left corner of your cloth, and Corner Two Chart for the right corners). Don't start in the middle of the chart as you normally would, as the way the design shapes around the corner means it's not easy to find the centre, and you could end up with mis-placed stitches!

4 As you finish each corner, turn the fabric around, and repeat the process at the other corners.

5 When your stitching's all done, gently wash and press. Apply light-weight iron-on interfacing to protect the back of the stitching. Press a hem all around of 2cm (1in), then finish neatly by machine- or hand-sewing.



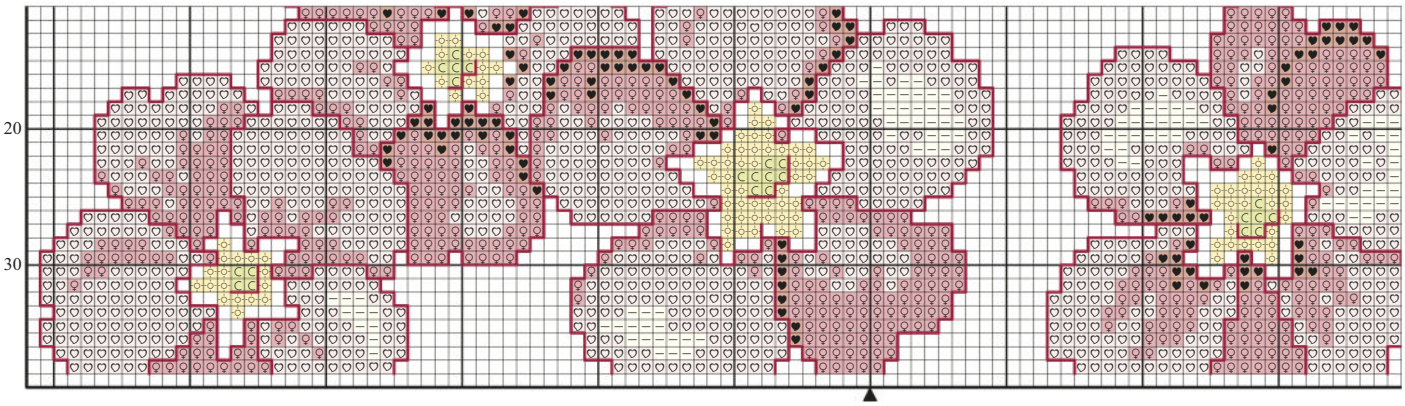
TOP TIP

To substitute for a colourway of cheery yellow blossoms, use the same charts but use the corresponding colours in the 'Yellow' key

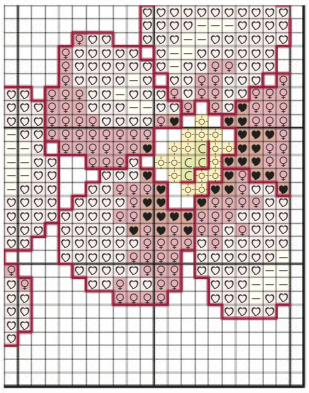


Barbara READER PANEL

"I'd love the challenge of creating this beautiful tablecloth in the colours of my dining room. I've always wanted to do a piece like this for myself as I usually stitch for others, so it'll be a nice treat!"



Flower corner two (bottom left)



Flower corner two (bottom right)



Shopping list

- Zweigart* 20-count Bellena white evenweave measuring the width x length of your table
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Size 22 tapestry needle

Thread cost for all four corners **Approximately £24**

*For stockists see page 82

Pink flowers key

Cross stitch in three strands

	Anchor	DMC	Madeira	
♥	19	304	512	red
♡	24	3713	502	light pink
♀	38	956	506	pink
–	275	712	2403	cream
C	278	165	1414	yellow-green
☼	295	726	109	yellow

Backstitch in one strand

—	44	815	601	dark red

STITCH COUNT PER CORNER 77 high x 121 wide

DESIGN AREA 20-count evenweave – 19.5x31cm (7¾x12¼in)

This design was stitched using Anchor stranded cotton over two strands of the fabric

SKEINS NEEDED FOR ALL FOUR CORNER MOTIFS

4x19 (red), **4x24** (light pink), **7x38** (pink), **3x275** (cream), **2x278** (yellow-green), **2x295** (yellow), **2x44** (dark red)

Yellow flowers key

Cross stitch in three strands

	Anchor	DMC	Madeira	
–	2	blanc	2402	white
C	254	907	1301	light green
♡	300	745	111	very light yellow
♀	302	743	113	light tangerine
☼	326	900	208	dark ginger
♥	925	740	204	orange

Backstitch in one strand

—	889	869	2106	brown

STITCH COUNT PER CORNER 77 high x 121 wide

DESIGN AREA 20-count evenweave – 19.5x31cm (7¾x12¼in)

This design was stitched using Anchor stranded cotton over two strands of the fabric

SKEINS NEEDED FOR ALL FOUR CORNER MOTIFS

3x2 (white), **2x254** (light green), **4x300** (very light yellow), **7x302** (light tangerine), **2x326** (dark ginger), **4x925** (orange), **2x889** (brown)



FIONA, *PRODUCTION EDITOR*

"These flowers are simple but so effective. A few hours' stitching will create something to really brighten my home!"

A BIG THANK YOU

to all of our customers, friends and suppliers for your support in 2015 - another record year for us. Needless to say we wish you all a very *Happy Christmas* and a prosperous New Year.

Keep on stitching,

Janine, John and Lyndsey

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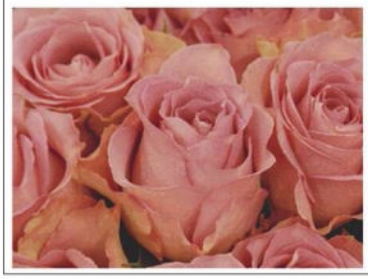
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'All things cross stitch'

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DMC 46p - Anchor 59p

Mill Hill beads from £1.30, size 6 & 8 from £1.99 and Magnifica £3.99
Kreinik #4 £2.99, B/F £1.85 and #8 £3.15
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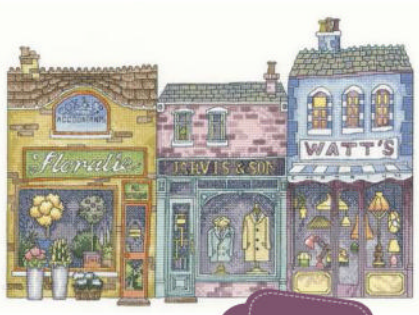
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SHOPPING SPREE

Wouldn't you love to stroll down this delightful traditional street, visiting each of the shops to find out what goodies lie within? Well now you can – in cross stitches!

Heritage Crafts'* new kit 'High Street' (PUHS1291) is based on a beautifully detailed drawing by Peter Underhill, who's also behind the popular *Cats Rule!* range. The detail in this appealing street scene is simply stunning and you'll love watching the picture come to life. The kit contains pre-sorted DMC stranded cottons, tapestry needle, charts and instructions, and is available with either 28-count evenweave or 14-count aida.

The good news too, is that we've heard a rumour of Peter planning more fun shops in the range! Stay tuned…

Magic scatters!

THE WORLD OF Cross Stitching PICK OF THE MONTH



£7.50 each

Magic scatters!
Download Shannon's delightful designs instantly

CHARMING CHARTS

Bursting with beautiful colours and intricate detail, *The World of Cross Stitching* designer Shannon Wasilieff's stunning charts are now available for you to download at Creative Poppy* under the name Shannon Christine Designs. Our faves include 'The Garden Fairy', with pretty dress is embellished with pearl beads, and 'The Snow Queen' in her tulle tutu. (This one'll be a great companion to our duo of exclusives in issue 234, the 'Sugar Plum Fairy' and the 'Nutcracker' last issue, 236!) All of Shannon's charts on the site can be downloaded as PDFs, so you can start stitching straightaway so head over to put them on your wishlist!

Trendwatching... Woodland

New spring life! Bring the



From £2.99

Let's celebrate
Throw a foxy winter party with these accessories from Ginger Ray*



£14

Totes amazing!
Squirrel away your latest WIP in an ethically made bag by Berry Red*



£5

Hare today
Jot down your stitchy inspirations in this notebook by In-Spaces*

HAVE A HOOT!

OWL-TASTIC STITCHES

The popularity of owls shows no sign of waning (see our Trendwatching below!), which is why we love these kits by Yiota's XStitch*. 'Owl Heart' has two feathered friends surrounded by floral motifs, and its shape makes it ideal for getting your Valentine's stitching underway! 'Owls on the Moon' is a gorgeous monochrome design that'd be lovely for a child's bedroom. Both kits are available with either 14- or 16-count aida or 28-count evenweave, in varying colours.





STITCH ME HAPPY

There's nothing like the New Year to inspire positive thinking, so try sweet sayings by Red Bear Design*. Hot on our lists are these two – download the patterns as PDFs ($6, approx £3.98 each) or buy as a complete kit with your choice of fabric.

PUT A LID ON IT

If one of your resolutions this year is to be tidier, then this wooden sewing box from Live Laugh Love* is just what you need. It's printed with vintage sewing designs, and the roomy size of 13x24x15cm (5x9½x6in) is perfect for storing stash and accessories.





ANIMAL PARADE

Who can resist a bunny in a jumper? No? Well, we can't either! These adorable animal-shaped cards by Rico (available from Cloud Craft*) are perforated and ready for you to stitch onto. They're ideal for decorating a nursery or playroom, or hung up with mini pegs to make bunting. They're also a great first stitching project for kids.

Each pack features eight cards with two of each of the owls, penguins, rabbits and bears (pegs, needle and threads not included), with each measuring 11.5cm-15.5cm (4½in-6in) high. Get some threads from your stash and start a menagerie now!

*For stockists see page 82

READER OFFER

The *John Clayton Circles* collection features circular designs from the beautiful watercolours of John Clayton, and are available as kits with 28-count evenweave or 14-count aida. Heritage Crafts* is giving a 20% discount on the designs in this range, including 'Gypsy Caravans' (JCGC341) and 'Sunday Cricket' (JCSC442), seen here. Use the discount code **WOXS237** online at www.hcrafts.com. Offer valid from 30 November 2015 to 8 January 2016.



John Clayton collection
Save 20% off these delightful kits from Heritage Crafts*

beauty of the natural world into your home



Feathered friend
Stitch in comfort with a majestic tartan owl cushion from Dobbies*

Button it up
Embellish projects with cute buttons from Craft Department*



DESIGNS BY **DURENE JONES**

Say it with stitches

Make all six of these sweet card designs and you'll never be short of a way to show your thanks



After all the presents are unwrapped at Christmas, and all the visits to see loved ones are over, it's important to show your thanks to the givers and hosts… and we can think of no better way to do so than with a lovely stitched card!

The range of motifs and styles in Durene's set means that you'll have a fantastic card to send out, whoever the recipient is. Stitching for men can sometimes be a little tricky, but the 'flying by' and 'many thanks' designs are sure to be appreciated by all!

The little details are so much fun to bring to life, too, from the gingham fabric effect and blanket stitch on 'heartfelt thanks' to the tiny bunting in the 'thank you' design. Best of all, only the flower one uses French knots, and you'll still be able to finish any of them over a weekend. So it won't take you long to build up a stash in your drawer and ensure that you've always got the perfect card on hand, to show your gratitude.

Fast-to-finish ideas!

Factbox

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



Meet the designer

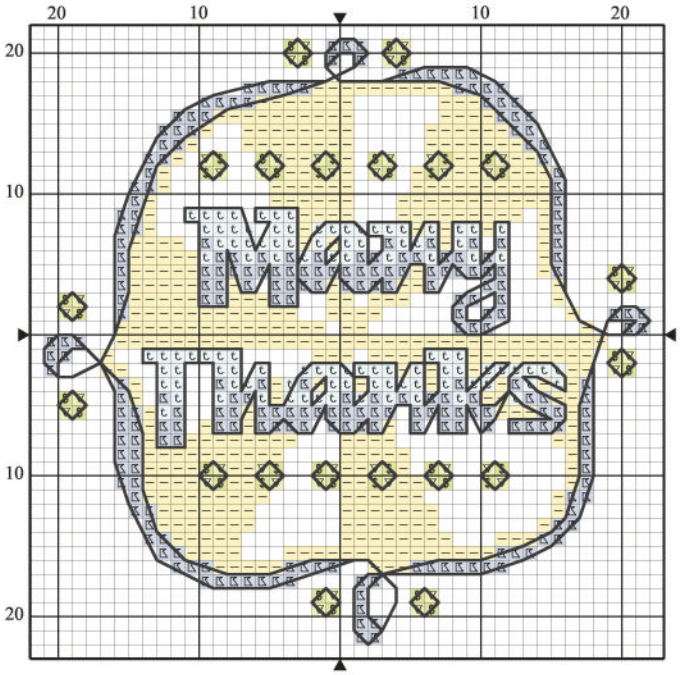
Durene Jones

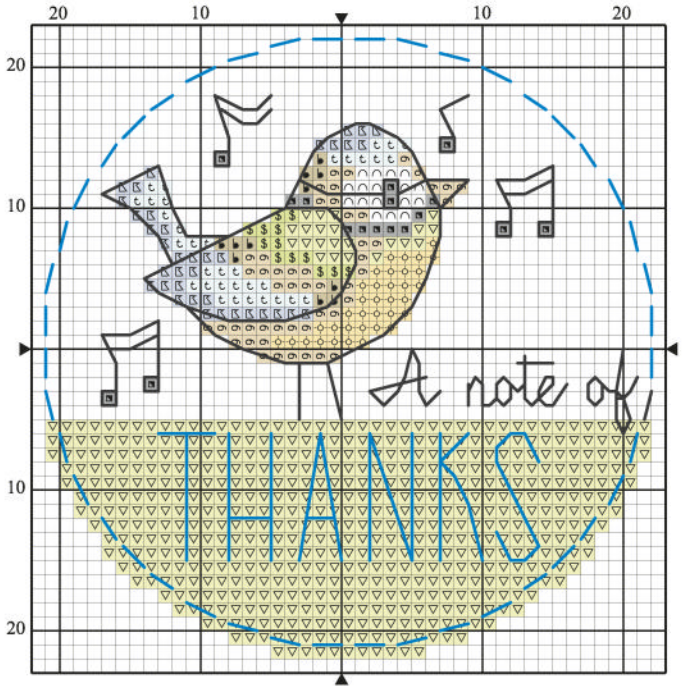
"Stitching someone a card is such a lovely way of thanking them, as so much care and time goes into making one. My fave is the little blue tit surrounded by whistled notes – he'll put a smile on anyone's face!"

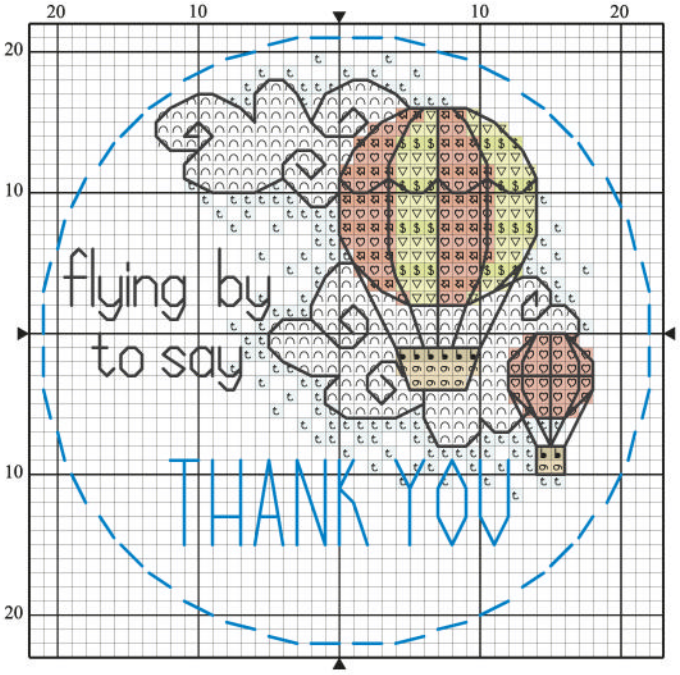


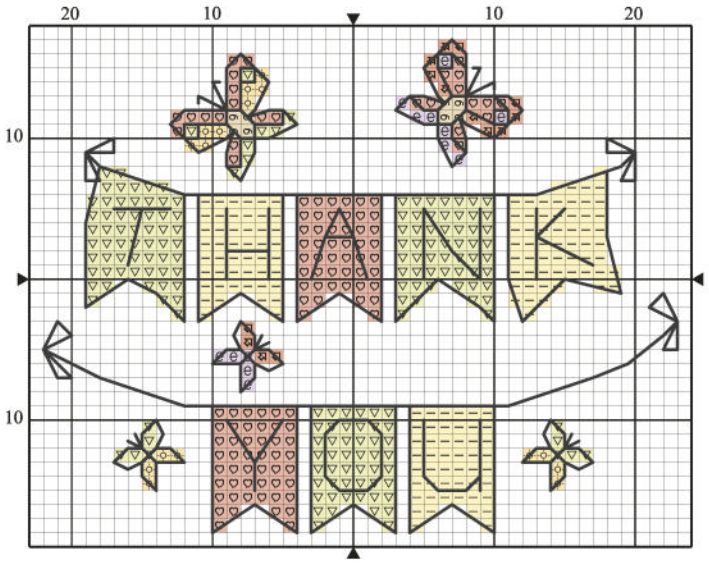
PRETTY PASTEL PALETTE!

Get set for the year ahead by stitching all of the cards in this set – you'll never have to wait to send your thanks again!

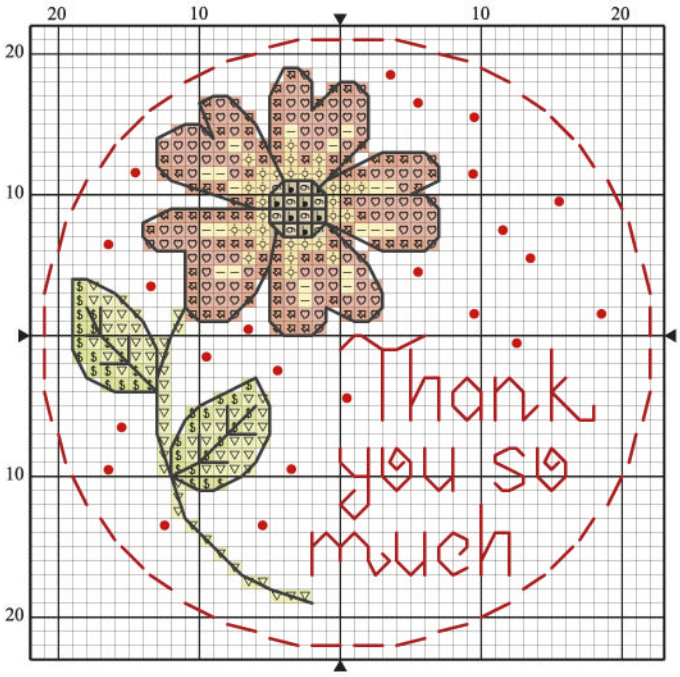

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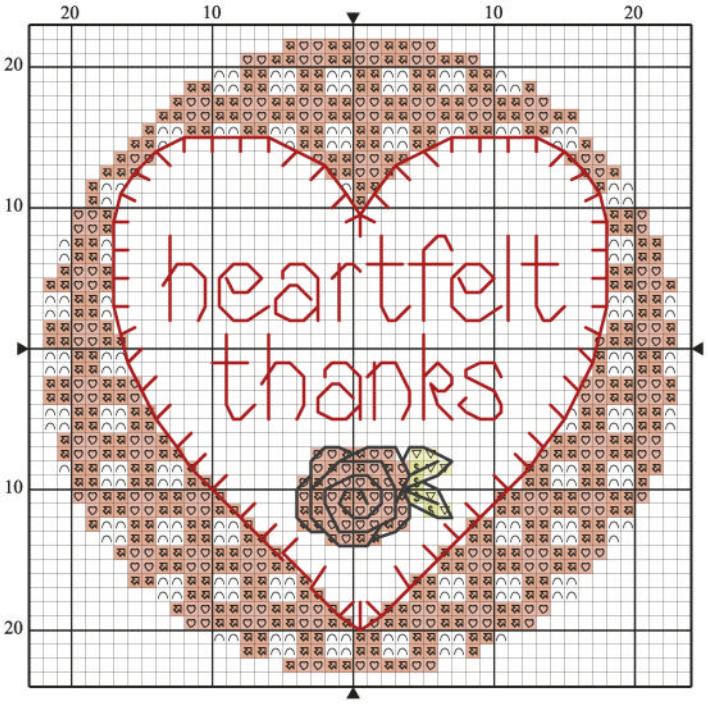

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THANK YOU


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Thank You Cards key

Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	blanc	2	2402	white
▽	165	278	1414	light lime green
$	166	280	1611	lime green
e	209	98	803	lilac
⊠	349	1098	212	red
♡	351	10	214	coral
b	420	374	2104	tan
ɔ	422	943	2102	light tan
☼	725	305	113	yellow
–	727	293	112	light yellow
◺	799	145	910	blue
t	800	144	908	light blue
◥	3799	236	1713	grey

Backstitch in one strand

—	3799	236	1713	grey

Backstitch in two strands

—	798	131	912	dark blue
—	816	1006	513	ruby

French knots in one strand

●	349	1098	212	red

MAXIMUM STITCH COUNT 45 high x 45 wide
DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 8x8cm (3¼x3¼in)

These designs were stitched using DMC stranded cotton

Shopping list

- Zweigart* 14-count white aida measuring 15x15cm (6x6in) for each design
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Size 24 tapestry needle
- Craft Creations* circle aperture cards (AP09U) in yellow (03) and pale blue (26)

Thread & fabric cost
Approximately £17

*For stockists see page 82

TOP TIP
Back your stitching with a piece of white paper before mounting in the aperture, so the card colour doesn't show through the aida



Jennifer READER PANEL

"I would stitch definitely stitch these to show my appreciation. It's easy to go out and buy a card,but it would truly come from the heart if you took the time to make these beautifully detailed versions."





POMPOM HAT



COSY CABLE SET



DEBBIE BLISS JUMPER



STYLISH WINTER OUTFIT

NEW ISSUE!

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Our new issue is packed with quick-knit Christmas gift ideas, including four fun cuddly toys, a gorgeous nursery set and cute comforters. Plus, knit cosy winter outfits, meet Erika Knight and lots more!

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- 30 beautiful patterns
- Quick-knit Christmas gifts
- Meet designer Erika Knight
- Three gorgeous nursery knits



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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



Fiona Baker
Fiona B is our Technical Editor so she's all ready to answer your problems on all things stitch and chart related



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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Caroline Lord, model stitcher, on 'parking'

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Jenny's challenge this month is a little turtle!

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How to remove hoop marks from your stitching

35 **DESIGN ROUND-UP**
Listen to sweet music with our four chart & kit picks



A fair fee
Payment for stitching is tricky but can be done

A fair fee

Q My friends have asked me to stitch a picture for them and are going to pay me. Is there a way to calculate your stitches/time for money?
Tracey Mcrobbie, Canada

A **Ruth says:** There aren't really any formal guidelines for this, so it would be up to you. The main thing to remember is to value your time in terms of what you really think it's worth. What would you be happy to be paid per hour for this 'job'? It's much easier to price by hours taken, rather than 'per project', as it's all too easy to under-estimate the time needed. Then keep a very careful tally of exactly how long you spend – a diary can be helpful, as you can note each session and then total up all those timings. It'll be surprising how they'll add up!

One thing you also need to consider is that as you're making something very special for loved ones, if you end up spending extra time than initially thought, are you happy for it to be your gift to them? Good luck with the project and let us know how it goes!

Country charms

Q I completed projects back in the 1980s based on *The Country Diary of an Edwardian Lady* illustrations, but several house moves means I don't have the charts anymore. I bought a DMC booklet called 'The Country Diary of an Edwardian Lady', but it doesn't contain the same patterns and was only published around the year 2000. Can you help?
Cassandra Nance-Kievill, via email

A **Katriel says:** The chart book we think you're looking for is now sadly out of print – it was produced in the early 80s (we think) by Country Cross Stitch. We've done some conversions of this classic artwork ourselves in previous issues, which you may find in our out-of-stock back issues via eBay. These include a 'Dog Roses' card kit available with issue 199, and a larger 'Thrush in Primroses' design with issue 217. ➤



Country charms
Cassandra's searching for charts by a favourite artist

In the spotlight

CAROLINE LORD, MODEL STITCHER





Park and ride
Caroline's using the parking method on her project, by Heaven and Earth Designs

Park and ride

Q How does the 'stitch-and-park' approach work? I love the way the design seems to build more completely, as I tend to just finish a colour and then move to the next. Can you tell more about this?
Sherri Lanni Willms, via Facebook

A **Caroline says:** Great question Sherri! Stitch and park (or parking) method is one I use for larger designs, in which you work in 10x10 blocks, stitching one colour of thread at a time. It's most commonly used in designs involving so-called 'confetti' stitching, when a lot of isolated stitches of different colours are used, so you have to jump around with your thread length which can make counting more tricky.

You stitch every stitch of that colour that occurs in the current 10x10 block before parking the thread in the next 10x10 block where the next stitch of that same colour will occur. Just unthread and re-thread your needle for each different colour, as parking the thread saves you having to finish of and re-start threads for every stitch, making it quicker and neater. The main advantage for parking is the speed I can stitch at, and it makes the back neater, too.



Pandamonium!
This panda is just the project for Veronica

Pandamonium!

Q I'm on the hunt for a nice panda chart or kit – not too cutesy and not too huge. It's to make for my teenage daughter, who's a huge panda fan. I'm a very experienced stitcher so I'm happy for a challenge. Thank you!
Veronica Mitchell, New Zealand

A **Ruth says:** I had great fun investigating this for you Veronica – I'm crazy for pandas myself, so now I'm itching to stitching this design too! I found that Maria Diaz Designs* has this sweet 'Panda' project, and it costs just £3 for a full-colour PDF-emailed chart, so there'll be no shipping for you to pay. It will measure 21x21cm (8x8in) when stitched using a beautiful range of 18 DMC shades to create the realistic fur. I hope your daughter likes it too, and do send in a photo to our letters page when it's complete!

Conversion time

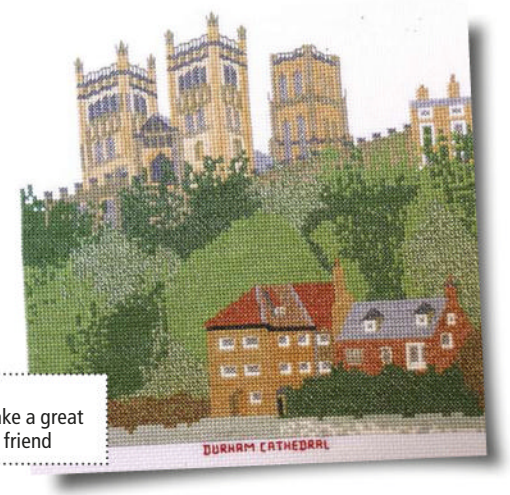
Q I've been given some threads by Design for the Needle and Red Heart. Do they convert to Anchor or DMC? It'd be very useful to be able to use them.
Patricia Amos, Harlow

A **Ruth says:** Design for the Needle are made by the US-based company Janlynn and are usually sold in multipacks (rather than individual skeins). Bearing in mind that colour dyelots vary and it can be hard to match exactly, there's a DMC conversion list online: www.janlynn.com/dfnflossconversion.cfm. Red Heart is owned by Coats Crafts (who make Anchor threads). Unfortunately, we aren't familiar with any stranded cottons under this brand, and the UK customer service team for Anchor couldn't give us any information about this either.

Hometown memory

Q I visited my friends in Cape Town who both cross stitch. The husband told me he'd love to stitch a scene of Durham Cathedral as he's from County Durham, so I'd like to find a kit for him to send as a present. Can you help?
Elizabeth Mountford, via email

A **Katriel says:** With a stitched size of 21x20cm (8½x8in), this 'Durham Cathedral' kit from Abacus Designs* will make a great present. The complete kit with Madeira threads, 14-count aida, needle and chart all costs £34.95.



Hometown memory
This lovely scene will make a great memento for Elizabeth's friend

Wishes granted



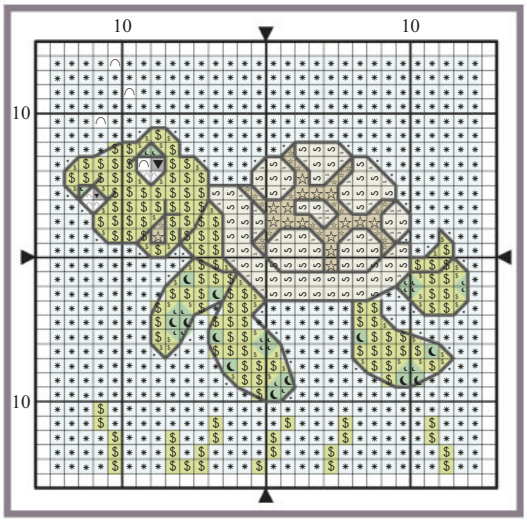
Request a design and our resident design expert, Jenny, might just chart it for you…



It's time for turtles
This cute critter is sure to raise a smile with Jainie's daughter!

Q My nine-year-old daughter loves turtles and tortoises. She keeps asking for me to cross stitch one, but I'm having trouble finding a cute design. It'd be great if you could help!
Jainie, via email

A **Jenny says:** Hopefully this little design will fit the bill, Jainie! I've depicted a friendly little turtle swimming along underwater – why not stitch it on blue aida to enhance the effect? It uses just seven colours so shouldn't take you too long to complete.



Turtle key

Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	blanc	2	2402	white
▼	413	236	1713	grey
☆	640	393	1905	stone grey
∽	644	830	1814	beige
☾	700	229	1302	dark green
$	704	255	1308	light green
*	800	144	908	blue

Backstitch in one strand

——	413	236	1713	grey

STITCH COUNT 29 high x 30 wide
DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 5.5x5.5cm (2x2in)

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.

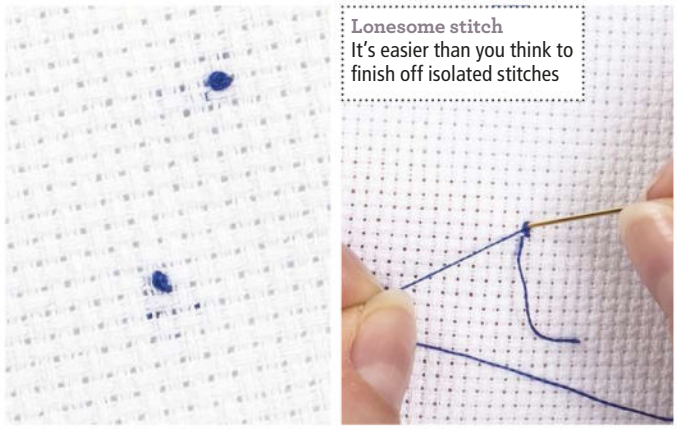
Keep camouflaged!

Q Usually when sewing my cross stitches up into hangings to go on the wall, I add a protective layer of iron-on interfacing on the back. So what shall I do about my latest project, which uses black aida? I don't want to use white interfacing as it will show through and spoil the look!
C Dickson, Derby

A **Fiona S** says: You can buy black iron-on interfacing which is used in exactly the same way. Look out for it at haberdashery stores in pre-cut packs, or buy by mail order cut to length off the roll at Abakhan*.



Keep camouflaged
Black interfacing is useful for projects stitched on black fabric



Lonesome stitch
It's easier than you think to finish off isolated stitches

Lonesome stitch

Q What's the best way to finish off when you're doing one stitch in the middle of aida, such as a tiny star?
Marie Ramsay, via Facebook

A **Fiona B** says: An isolated stitch can be a bit of a worry, as we'd usually recommend finishing off your thread, running it under the backs of several nearby stitches before snipping the end. As it's not possible with a single stitch, here are our tips…

We've shown the method here with French knots, but the process is the same for whole stitches too. Start off the stitch by securing your thread under some of the fibres of the aida block. It'll hold firm, and if you leave a longer 'tail' than usual, it will stop the thread from running all the way through. Work your stitch as usual and when you fasten off, do the same thing – use the back of the aida block itself (plus the fibres of your cotton) to secure the stitch. When trimming the thread, cut both ends as close as you can and it should stay put!

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

facebook

We asked our Facebook fans how they enhance stitched cards to make them special – here's what they said…



Linda Beckham: I use beading and metallic thread to add that special little touch of love and sparkle!

Sandra Johansson: I like to use all sorts of decorations – ribbons, lace, washi tape, glitter paper, brads, jewels, paper flowers, foam letters… Anything used for scrapping, really!

Patricia Ivens-Bentley: Beads and charms can really make a design look pretty, and metallic threads also add the wow factor.

Christine Miller: I coordinate the card I use with the main colour in the project. Use quality card and let your imagination flow!

Samm Baines: I use jewels and ribbon, although sometimes less is more as it can distract from the stitching.

Cassie Ruth: Ribbon, off-cuts of wrapping paper, stick-on jewels and hand-stitched names make a perfect personal finish.

Lorna Wood: I find the cross stitch usually speaks for itself with minimal extra decoration. I like to make sure the inside of the card is also nicely finished with an extra lining and then add a shaped cut-out of nice paper for the wording.

Shirley Waugh: Don't add too much else to the card – just let the stitched piece do the talking.

Beverley Drake: I always use colourful background paper.

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 and hit 'like' at the top of the page!

TECHNIQUE FOCUS

The World of Cross Stitching KNOW-HOW

Hoop-la!

Q I was wondering how you stop marks appearing on aida from a hoop frame, or if there are ways to make it less prominent. I've been stitching my design for ages now and I've noticed a ring around it.
Emma French, via Facebook





A **Fiona B** says: We get asked this question a lot, Emma! Don't worry about the crease while you're working your project, as it'll come out when you wash it at the end. We always recommend washing work anyway – to make sure it's fresh and to ensure that any marks from the oil on your hands comes out – so it won't be any extra work. See our tips online at www.cross-stitching.com/faq/washing if you haven't washed your projects before.

Also, prevent further indents by removing fabric from your hoop between sessions to minimise marks, or by using a scroll frame.

Hoop-la!
Any fabric indents caused by using a hoop – either wooden or spring-tension, like this one – can be washed and pressed out

QUICK Q&A

I 'd love to stitch my tortoiseshell cat, Mitzi. I work at a cat rescue centre and have a soft spot for naughty torties, especially my Mitzi, who is the naughtiest of them all! Can you help?
Laura Williams, via email

Katriel says: It may not be a tortoiseshell likeness but Heritage Crafts* produce the brilliant range of 'Cats Rule' designs, and this chart, 'A Cat Can Purr Its Way Out Of Anything' (CRCP916) certainly sounds like it would be perfect! It's priced at £5.99 for the chart only, and then you could tweak the colours in the design against threads in your stash to match Mitzi's fur.



Purr-fect project
This design is just the thing for a cat lover!

C an you tell me which glue I need for mounting my small projects into cards?
Sal Indicia, Whitby

Fiona B says: We would recommend that you use a double-sided sticky tape to make up cards, Sal. Wet glues can be messy and seep through fabric to warp the card, so look for a good-quality, acid-free tape, as this will then ensure your greetings arrive with the recipient safe and sound!

Design round-up

Music theme ideas

If our projects on page 58 aren't enough, get your groove on with our musical-inspired kits and charts!

GREAT FOR BOYS OF ALL AGES

GUITARS



This chart (113467) by the Vickery Collection, to order from Sew and So*, is apt for anyone who likes a spot of strumming – either to play or listen! The black-and-white chart is over four A4 pages, in whole stitches and backstitch with a few French knots. We recommend it for intermediate stitchers as it has a large palette: 66 shades! It'd be fun to adapt though, with leftover threads.

Stitch count – *200 high x 160 wide, 25x31cm (12½x10in) on 16-count aida*

TRY SOMETHING NEW

LOVE THAT MELODY



Stitch someone a tuneful keyring with this easy, kit if you fancy trying evenweave over one thread. By Song Thread*, everything you need is inside – fabric organiser of pre-sorted threads, needle, wooden pendant frame, backing felt plus silver-effect key chain.

Stitch count: *35 high x 37 wide, 7x7.5cm (2¾x3in) on 25-count evenweave (choice of colour)*

HOURS OF STICHING PLEASURE

MUSIC AMONGST THE TREES

This sampler chart (RWM-0010) by Rosewood Manor, from Patchwork Rabbit*, uses traditional motifs in a fresh colour scheme. In whole-stitches-only and French-knot-free, the result is a timeless look. It also includes separate charts for two needlecase makes.

Stitch count: *122 high x 245 wide, 19x37.5 (7½x15in) on 32-count evenweave*



STITCHING CHALLENGE

BIRDS AND WORDS MUSICAL

Bird song and classical composers making beautiful music together is the theme of this accomplished sampler kit (RH-14-BWM) from Riverdrift House*. With a chart over two A3 pages, the kit also has a gold-plated needle and cards ready for you to sort the thread hanks.

Stitch count: *231 high x 191 wide, 43x35cm (16½x13½in) on 14-count white aida*



*For stockists see page 82

DESIGN BY **FIONA BAKER**

As easy as abc!

Bring a sampler bang up to date with this funky version, inspired by chalkboard lettering



Samplers are a frequently spotted style of design and have been around for centuries. This version brings the tradition right into the modern era by creating an alphabet resembling chalked letters on a blackboard – and all just in backstitch, enhanced with French knots!

Each letter is simply stitched using white thread on black aida, then surrounded by a pretty frame in bright rainbow shades made from more backstitching. If you've always found French knots to be a challenge, then this is the perfect project to master them! Your perseverance will be well rewarded with a stunning finish. Watch our video tutorial online at www.cross-stitching.com for a simple guide to these, in the 'How to' section. Editor Ruth eases you through, so the project'll be a breeze!

We've finished the sampler as a stretched canvas, but it'd make a fab cushion or wall hanging. You can also stitch monograms as cards, tags and mini gifts. So versatile!

Factbox

- **Stitching Time**
  Approx. 18 hours
- **Type of Stitches**
  Backstitch, French knots
- **Ease of Stitching**
  Advanced beginner/ intermediate

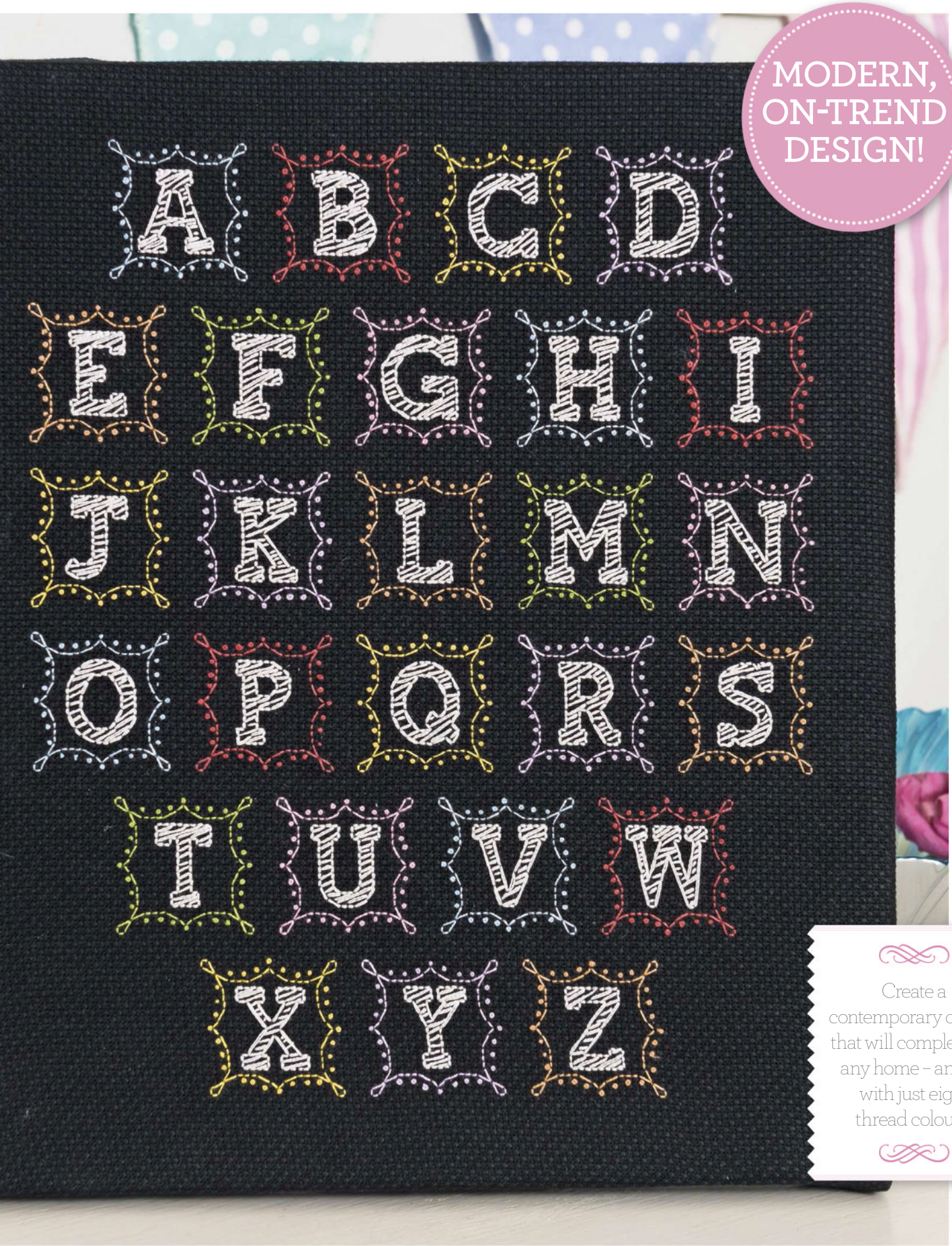
Try coloured aida



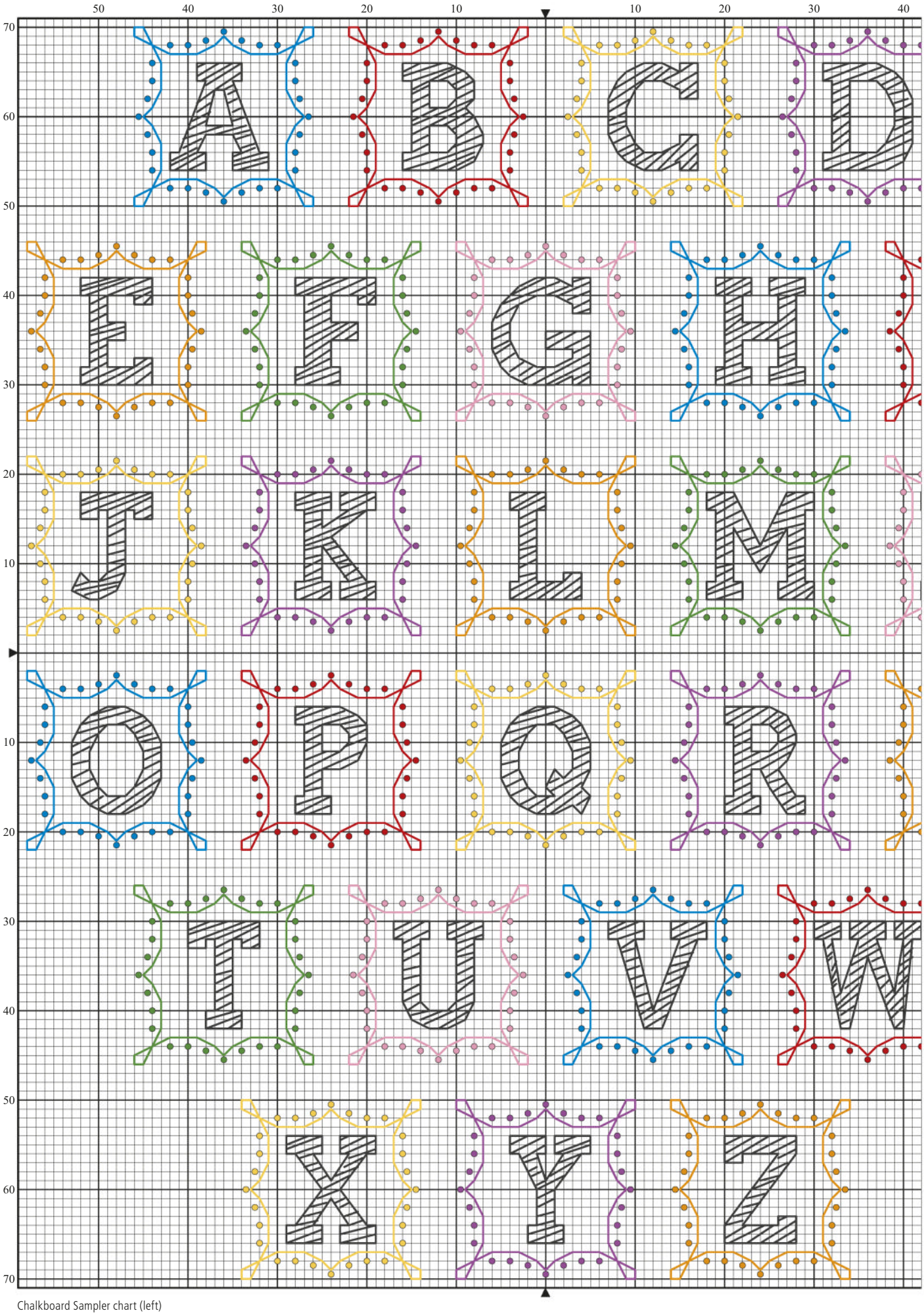
Meet the designer

Fiona Baker

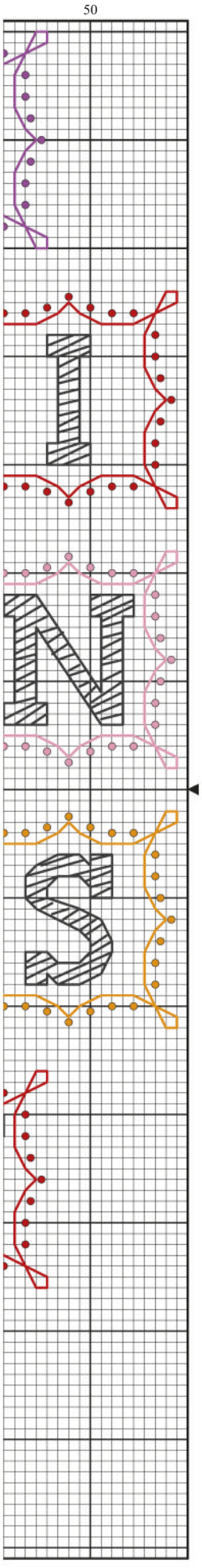
"I love the current trend for chalkboard art, and thoroughly enjoyed the challenge of creating this effect using just threads and aida! I hope you like stitching the finished chart as much as I did designing it."



Create a contemporary design that will complement any home – and all with just eight thread colours!



Chalkboard Sampler chart (left)



Chalkboard Sampler chart (right)

Shopping list

- Zweigart* 14-count black aida measuring 40x35cm (16x14in)
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Size 24 tapestry needle
- Canvas measuring 30x25cm (12x10in)

Thread & fabric cost
Approximately £10

*For stockists see page 82



"I've been looking for a chart that I can stitch for a friend's birthday. She's a teacher in a secondary school, and this is the perfect project – she'll definitely appreciate the nod to her profession with the blackboard-inspired design."

SUE, *ART EDITOR*

TOP TIP
It can sometimes be tricky to see the holes when working on black aida, so place a piece of white fabric on your lap behind it to help you

Chalkboard Sampler key

Backstitch in one strand

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
	210	108	802	lilac
	604	55	614	pink
	704	255	1308	green
	722	323	307	orange
	743	302	113	yellow
	827	160	1013	blue
	3705	35	410	red

Backstitch in two strands

	blanc	2	2402	white

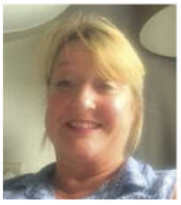
French knots in two strands

	210	108	802	lilac
	604	55	614	pink
	704	255	1308	green
	722	323	307	orange
	743	302	113	yellow
	827	160	1013	blue
	3705	35	410	red

STITCH COUNT 140 high x 116 wide
DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 25.5x21cm (10x8¼in)

This design was stitched using DMC stranded cotton

Pam READER PANEL



"I just love samplers, and this version with lettering on black fabric is so stylish. When finished, I'm going to mount it on a backing fabric, add top tabs and make a very special hanging for my hallway."



The British Craft Awards 2016

IN ASSOCIATION WITH

THE WORLD OF Cross Stitching

CHSI STITCHES

Cross Stitch crazy

Make your voice heard! Cast your vote in this year's awards to celebrate the designers, stores and stitchy essentials you couldn't be without

Whether it's a local craft store that goes over and above, a designer whose work you adore, or a handy accessory that makes stitching a dream, it's time to show the love with The British Craft Awards 2016!

These coveted awards mean so much to the nominees who win them, as they're based solely on readers' votes, so make sure to fill out your form today and share your valued opinion. Not only will you give thanks to those members of the stitching community who make it all worthwhile, but you'll also be entered into a prize draw to win a year's subscription to each of three stitchy magazines – *The World of Cross Stitching*, *Cross Stitch Crazy* and *Cross Stitch Gold*!

To make your vote count, simply visit the British Craft Awards voting page at www.britishcraftawards.com and click to start selecting your choices. Plus, if you can't see your favourite on the list, simply tick 'Other', then type in your chosen nominee. Everyone who submits their voting form will be automatically entered into a prize draw for the chance to win, so log on today!*

Win a year's subscription!



Vote for your stitching favourites in The British Craft Awards 2016 and you can also enter our draw for the chance to win a year's subscription to each of *The World of Cross Stitching*, *Cross Stitch Crazy* and *Cross Stitch Gold*!* Voting closes at 11.59pm on Thursday 17 December 2015 and we'll be announcing the award winners on our Facebook page in February 2016. Visit www.facebook.com/theworldofcrossstitching today and 'like' us to find out if you're a winner. Good luck and happy voting!

Terms and conditions Promoter: Immediate Media Company Bristol Ltd. Sorry, prize draw open to UK and Channel Islands entrants only. Promotion excludes Immediate Media employees. To enter, simply include your email address at the end of the form. By entering, you agree to be bound by all the rules of the promotion. Only one vote/entry per person allowed. No responsibility accepted for lost, delayed, ineligible or fraudulent entries. Please direct any queries to letters@cross-stitching.com or call ☎ 0117 927 9009. Voting closes at 11.59pm on 17 December 2015. The winning entry will be chosen at random from all eligible entries. The winner will be notified by writing, email or phone within 28 days of closing date. The draw is final and no correspondence will be entered into. For details of the winner send a SAE within two months of the closing date. If the winner is unable to be contacted within one month of the closing date, the Promoter will offer the prize to a runner-up. There is no cash alternative.

Vote for your favourites **www.britishcraftawards.com**

Most useful accessory

It might be tough to pick your top choice, but tell us which stitchy lifesaver you couldn't live without!

- Thread Heaven
- DMC Stitchbows
- Q-Snap frames
- John James Pebbles
- Daylight magnifying lamp
- DMC Magnetic boards
- Other

Must-stitch designer

Who creates those cross stitch charts you'd happily stitch forever? Choose your number one designer and let them know

- Joan Elliott
- Margaret Sherry
- Helz Cuppleditch
- Lesley Teare
- Lucie Heaton
- Shannon Wasilieff
- Durene Jones
- Siobhan Harrison
- Emma Congdon
- Other

Favourite kit collection

Do you eagerly await the launch of the latest design in a kit range? Then make sure you get plenty more by voting for your top pick!

- Tatty Teddy, DMC
- Elegance by John Clayton for Heritage Crafts
- SANTORO's Gorjuss, Bothy Threads
- Somebunny To Love, DMC
- Cut Thru by Bothy Threads
- Cats Rule! By Peter Underhill for Heritage Crafts
- Stitchlets by Mouseloft
- Other

IMAGES: Getty

Top free charts

Tell us the website that shares the best free (and legal!) charts you love to stitch as a purse-friendly treat

- www.cross-stitching.com
- www.mariadiazdesigns.com
- www.dmccreative.co.uk
- www.lesleyteare.com
- www.facebook.com/durenejones
- www.satsumastreet.blogspot.co.uk
- www.tinymodernist.wordpress.com
- www.lucieheaton.com
- Other

Best range online

Which website has the best choice of kits, threads and more? Pick from our nominees, or choose 'Other' and tell us your favourite

- www.sewandso.co.uk
- www.cross-stitch-heaven.co.uk
- www.willowfabrics.com
- www.katzxstitch.co.uk
- www.craftdepartment.com
- Other

Best range in store

Be it a craft superstore or local business, vote for your best stocked shop, or choose 'Other' and list the store name and location!

- Black Sheep Wools, Warrington
- The Viking Loom, York
- Threads and Patches, Bletchley
- Nifty Needles, West Lothian
- Material Needs, Burnham-on-Sea
- Other





Go-to online retailer

Vote for the number one cross stitch site you love to shop at from the nominees below, or choose 'Other' and share your choice

- www.cloudcraft.co.uk
- www.framecraft.com
- www.past-impressions.co.uk
- www.sewandso.co.uk
- www.stitcher.co.uk
- www.creativepoppypatterns.com
- Other

Go-to craft shop

Whether you fancy a browse of the latest stash, or need to pop out for stitchy essentials, tell us your fave shop and where they're based

Retailer who went the extra mile

Give a shout out to your local craft store! This extra-special award is for that stand-out business that always goes out of their way to make your stitching experience a dream. So vote for your choice, to send the big thank you they deserve.

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?





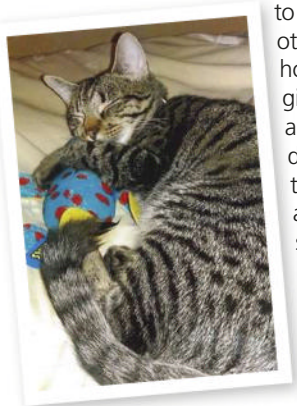
Design my pet!

Q Please can you chart a picture of a tabby cat, as this is my favourite type of moggy! I've enclosed a photo of my cat Tiggy, when he was enjoying a snooze and a cuddle up with one of his favourite toys. I'm very much look forward to seeing your finished design, thanks!

Heather, Berwickshire

A **Durene says:** Ah, what a cutie! I've got a soft spot for tabby cats, too, and I'm sure that there are lot of other stitchers out there who have tabby cats and who will love this design as well!

I've used ten threads to achieve the depth of colouring in Tiggy's fur. It's easy to adapt for other colourings, however, such as ginger or grey – all you need to do is substitute the threads. I've also included a stitched border so you don't need to use a mount with your frame.



Fun facts about tabby cats

- **'Tabby' derives** from the French word 'tabis', a striped watermark-effect silk. This comes from the Arabic word 'attabiya', the Baghdad neighbourhood where this cloth used to be made.
- **There are** four tabby cat patterns – mackerel, ticked, spotted and classic.
- **The M** marking on a tabby's forehead has both a Muslim and Christian story behind it – that the cat was stroked by Mary at the birth of Jesus, and that it was a pet of the prophet Muhammed.

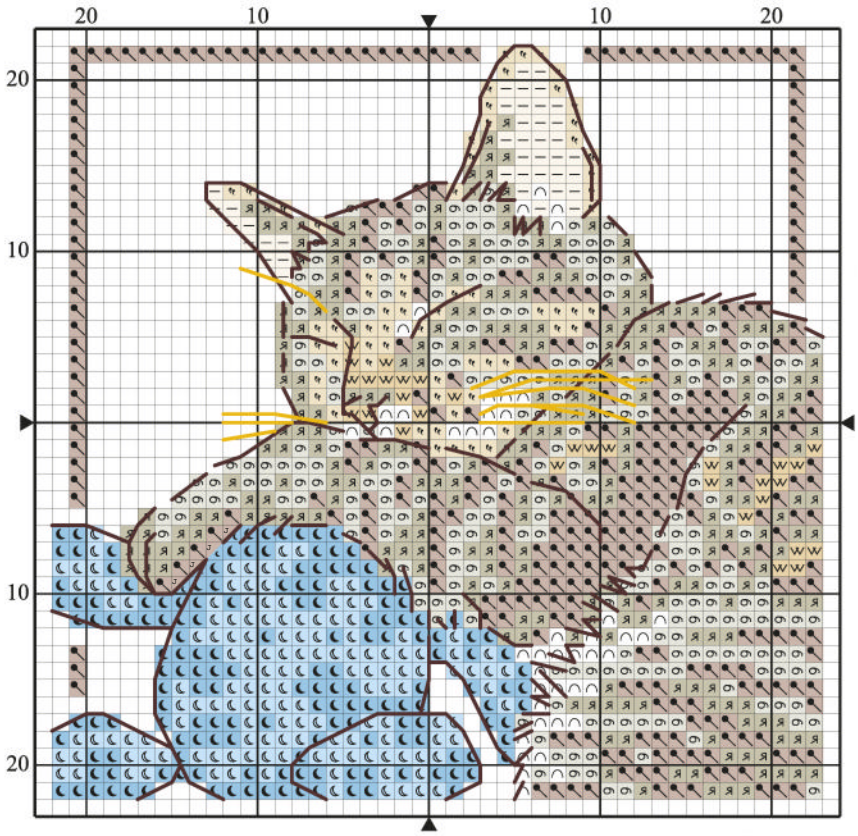
Shopping list

- Zweigart* 14-count white aida measuring 15x15cm (6x6in)
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Size 24 tapestry needle
- Frame of your choice with a minimum aperature of 10x10cm (4x4in)

Thread & fabric cost
Approximately £10

*For stockists see page 82





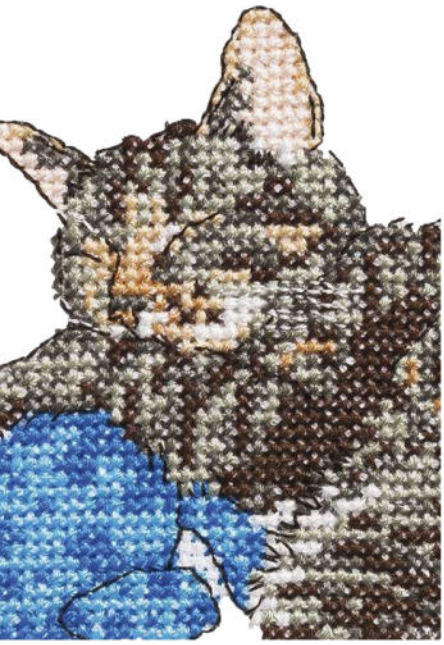
TOP TIP

Choose a neutral, or complementary-coloured frame (or card blank) for your project, so your stitching is centre stage!

Factbox

Perfect for beginners

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



Tabby Cat key

Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	blanc	2	2402	white
w	436	1045	2011	tan
я	645	273	1811	dark ash grey
ↄ	647	1040	1813	ash grey
۴	738	367	2013	light tan
◣	938	380	2005	brown
–	948	892	306	peach
◖	995	410	1102	electric blue
☾	996	433	1103	light electric blue

Backstitch in one strand

—	blanc	2	2402	white
—	3371	382	2004	dark brown

STITCH COUNT 44 high x 45 wide
DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 8x8cm (3¼x3¼in)

This design was stitched using DMC stranded cotton

More pet ideas

Pretty kitty



This sweet Anchor* design, 'Cat and Bee' (AK120), is great for beginners. It costs £15.60 for the kit which includes 11-count cream aida, stranded cotton, needle and instructions, with the finished design measuring 23x16cm (9x6in).

All lined up

Who can resist the melting eyes of this oh-so-cute terrier? Not us! 'Scruff' is a design from Heritage Crafts*, and is part of the Animal Portraits collection. The design is worked on 14-count aida or 28-count evenweave, and measures 21x16cm (8¼x6in) when complete. You can buy the kit for £25.49 with all the materials, or just the chart pack for £8.99.



YOUR VERY OWN PET DESIGN

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

Email us at:
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!

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Desert blooms

STITCH A WHOLE GARDEN OF PRETTY SUCCULENTS AND HOUSEPLANTS!

41 GREAT IDEAS



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✖ 41 quick-and-easy motifs ✖ Susan Bates' design inspiration ✖ Stitches for every skill level
✖ Helpful tips and advice ✖ Fantastic gift ideas for your loved ones



BAG IT UP

Embellish a plain gift bag from a high street store with a patch of this cheery little motif (25), instantly making the gift inside it even more special!



BOWLED OVER

Make a fab card by trimming your finished design (37) and fraying the edges. Patch it onto patterned paper then a scalloped-edge card (SCF06U) by Craft Creations*.



FROM ME TO YOU

It's easy to make this tag – cut out a label from polka dot patterned card, and stick your stitching (6) on it with a mount of kraft paper, all from high street shops.



WRITE IT DOWN

Make a gardener happy with this cute notebook. Patch a design (29) onto a pad with a plain brown cover so the beauty of the stitching will be showcased!



BANDING TOGETHER

Enhance a real plant by repeating a border of cacti (12) on 5cm (2in) wide aida band by Zweigart* from Sew and So*, and fixing it around a plain, high street pot.



SETTING SUN

Capture the colours of a desert evening (40), then turn it into a mini hanging with a 7.5cm (3in) wire and dowel heart hanger (AW2740) from Craft Department*.



PINS AND NEEDLES

What better decoration for a needlecase than spiky cacti (10)? Ours is handmade, backed with peach fabric (159300) from Craft Department* with matching ribbon.



PLANT IN A TEACUP

Recreate the trend for succulents in delicate china with this personalised (1) card. Patch the motif (27) onto a Craft Creations* deckle-edge card (DEC7U) in pale green.

*For stockists, see page 82

My inspiration



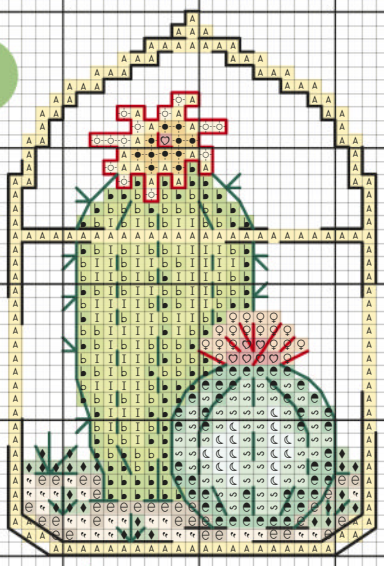
"These designs were so much fun to create. They're right on-trend but it's unusual to see succulents and houseplants in cross stitch so I hope I've done them justice. My house is filled with succulents so I didn't have to go far for my models!"

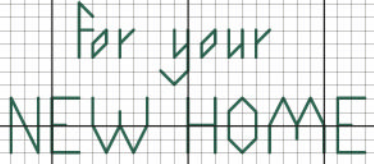
SUSAN BATES, *DESIGNER*

1

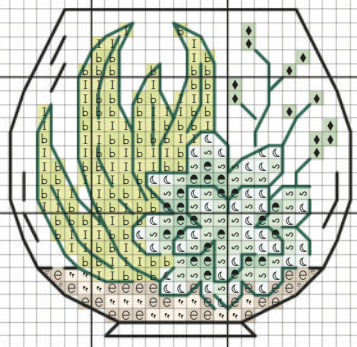


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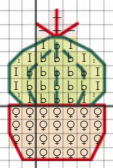




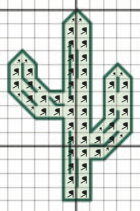
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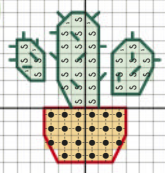
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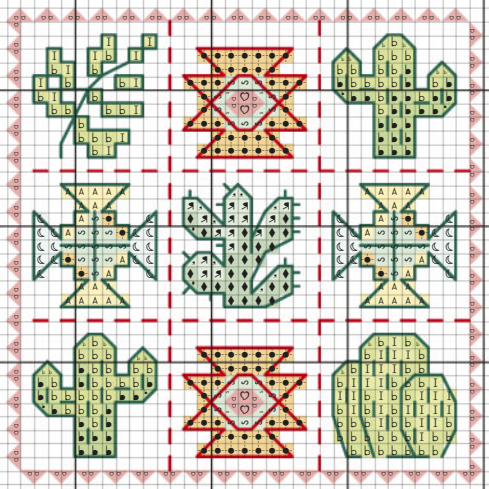
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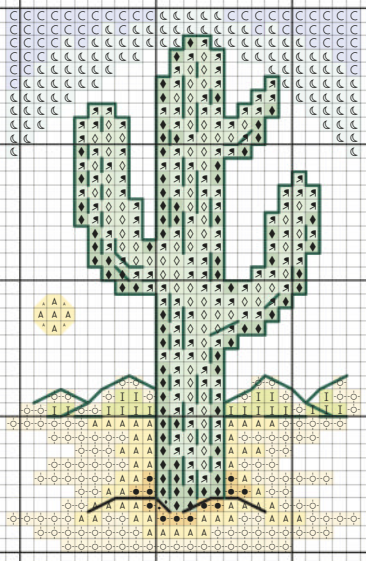
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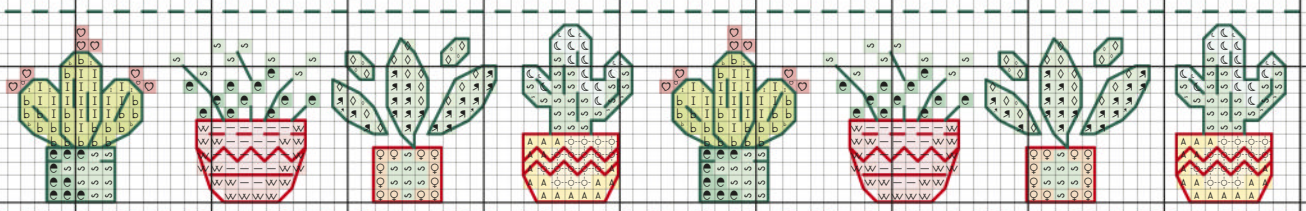
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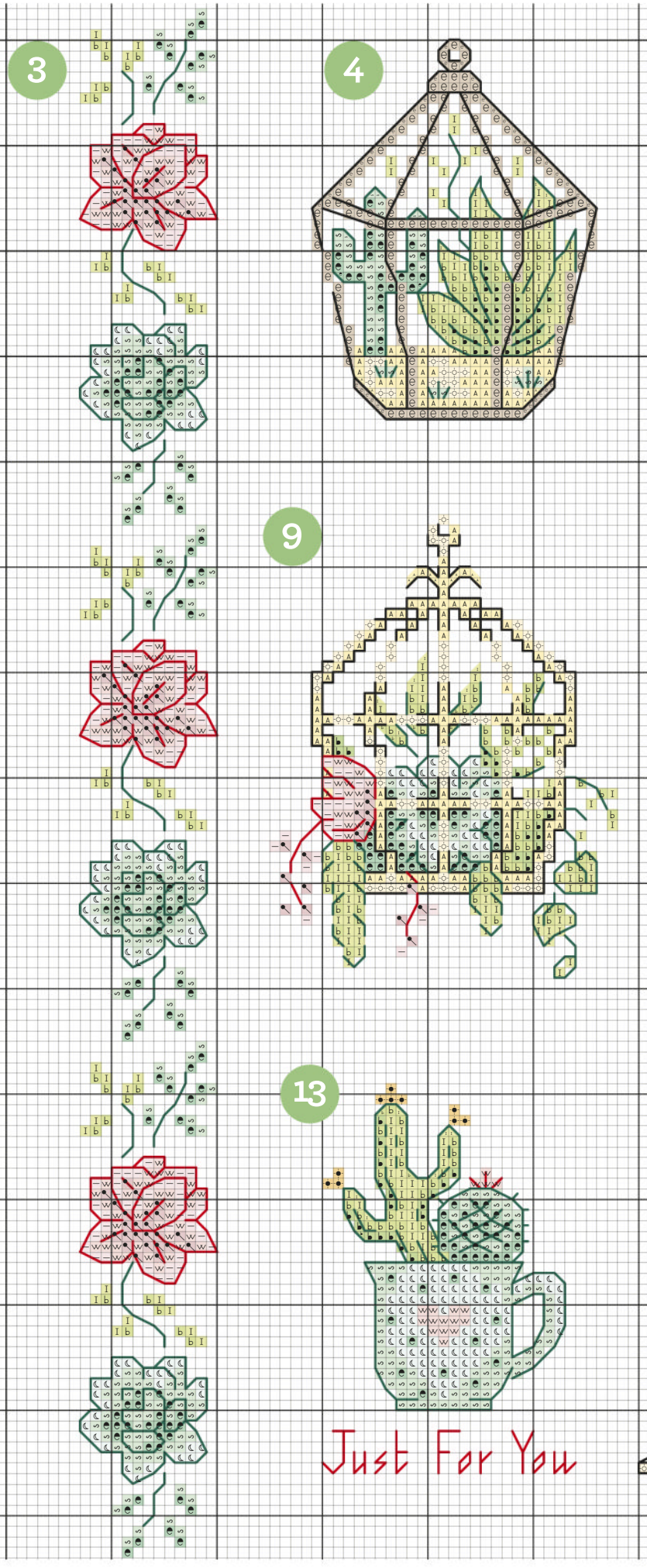


11



12





Cacti and Succulents key

Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
■	310	403	2400	black
↖	316	1017	809	mauve
◥	414	235	1714	grey
◗	702	226	1306	green
b	704	255	1308	light green
A	726	295	109	yellow
✹	742	303	114	orange
☾	747	158	1104	turquoise
e	841	1082	1911	beige brown
♡	892	35	412	dark pink
♦	912	209	1213	dark mint green
↗	954	203	1207	mint green
◊	955	206	1210	light mint green
–	963	73	502	light pink
s	964	185	1112	emerald
w	3326	36	606	pink
♀	3341	328	403	peach
❧	3774	778	306	light peach
I	3819	279	1610	lime green
☼	3823	386	2512	light yellow
C	3840	130	907	blue
◓	3851	187	1202	emerald green
♀	3853	1003	311	apricot

Backstitch in one strand

—	310	403	2400	black
—	816	1006	513	red
—	3847	189	1204	sea green

French knots in one strand

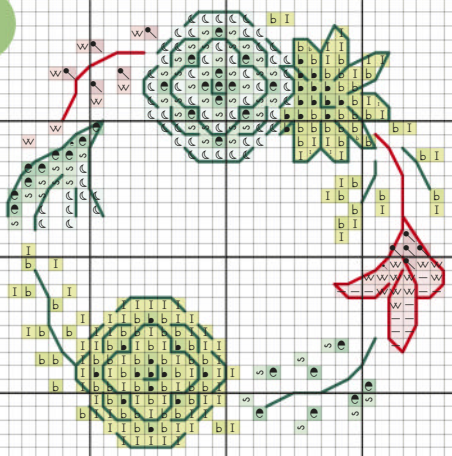
●	816	1006	513	red
●	3847	189	1204	sea green

These designs were stitched using DMC stranded cotton

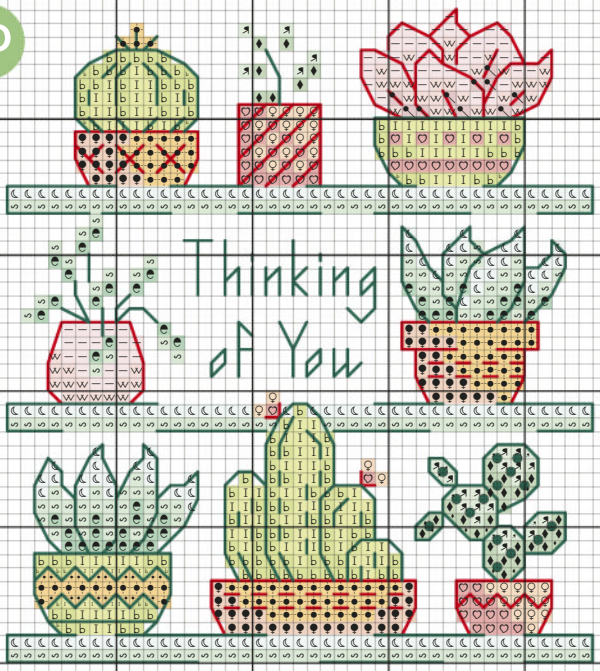
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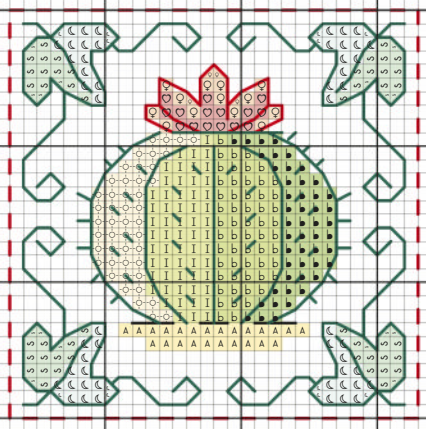
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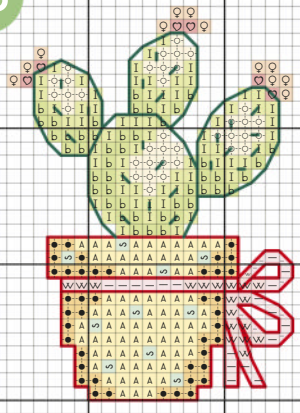
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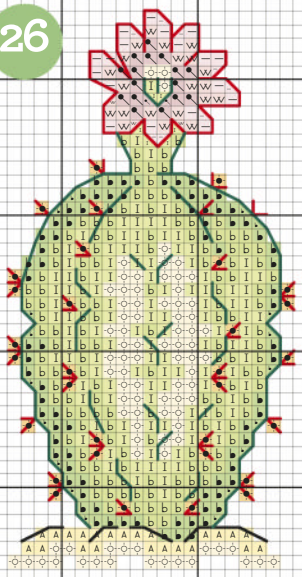
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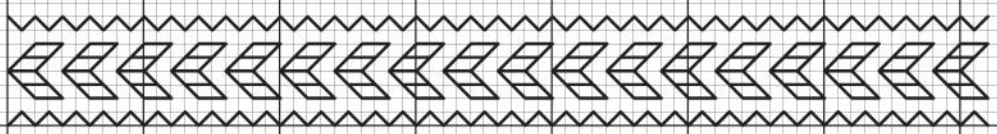
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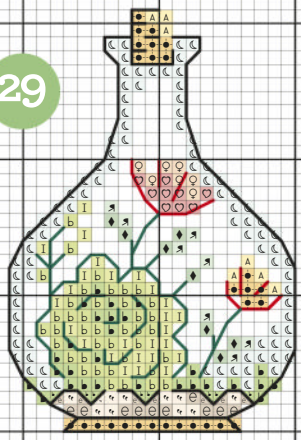
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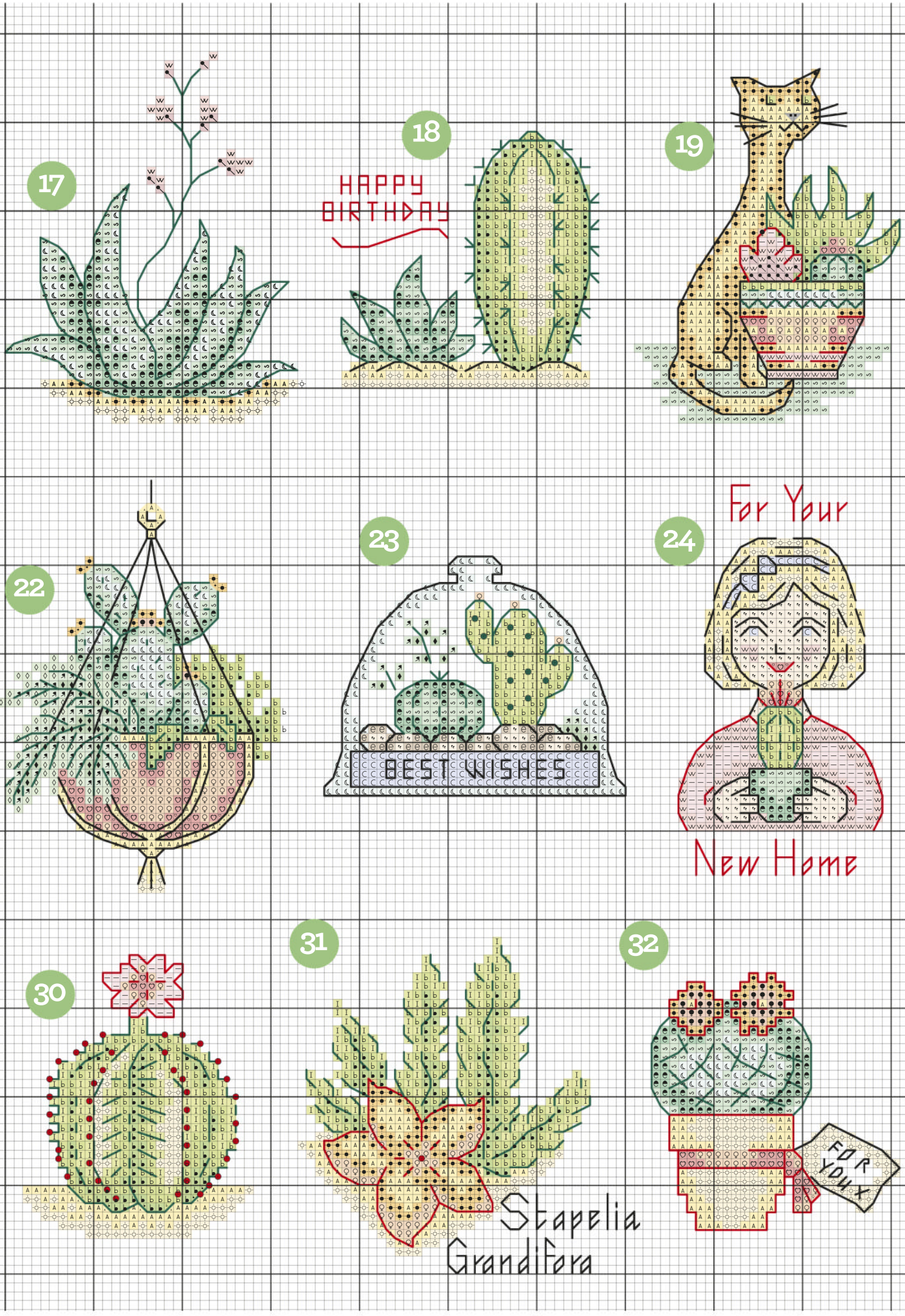


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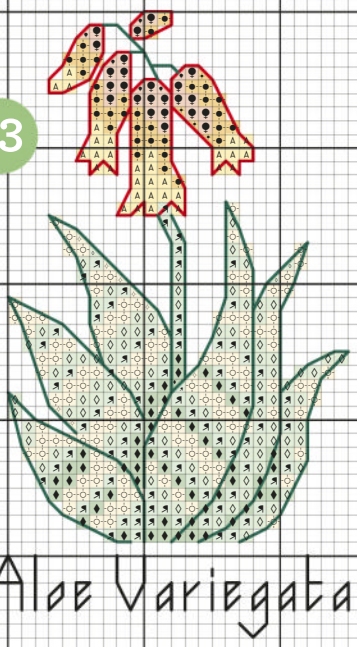


29




17
18
HAPPY
BIRTHDAY
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22
23
BEST WISHES
24
For Your
New Home
30
31
Stapelia
Grandiflora
32
FOR
YOU

33



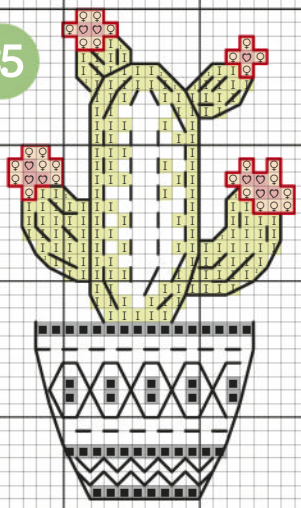
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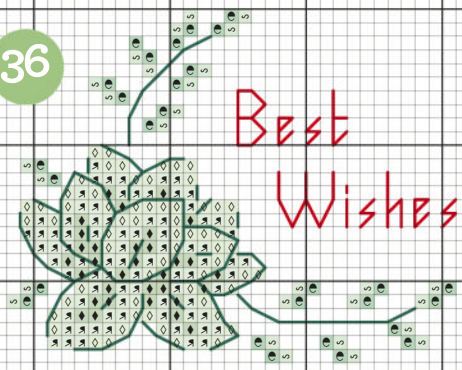
TOP TIP

When stitching a lot of small motifs, use one bigger piece of aida and trim to size afterwards, as this uses less fabric overall

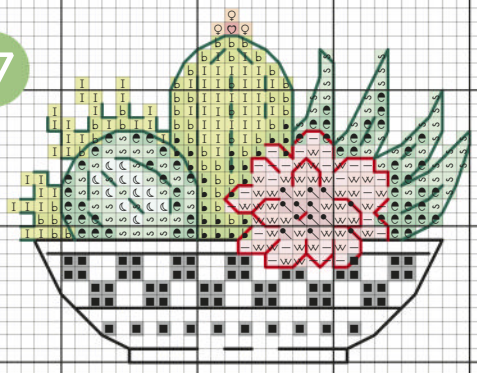
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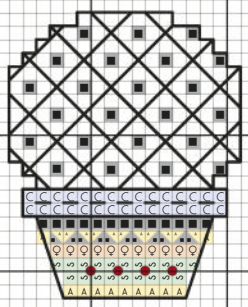
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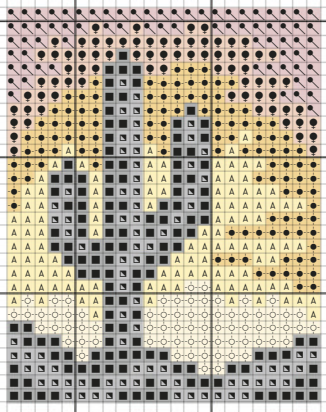
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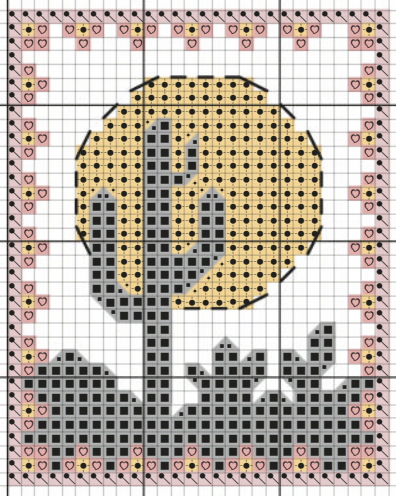
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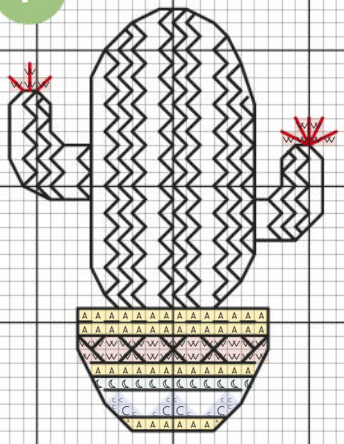
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41



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Add a little love to your life with our next Design Library, by Debra Page. Celebrate Valentine's Day, engagements, weddings and anniversaries with heaps of ideas to show just how much your loved ones mean to you. Issue 238 is on sale on 5 January 2016, or turn to page 44 for information how to subscribe and have it delivered to your door – save ££s!



Turn to page 44 to subscribe

Cheerful CROSS STITCH



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DESIGNS BY **JANE HENDERSON**

Melody makers

Bring some music into your life – or that of a loved one – with this pair of colourful, contemporary designs

Calling all music lovers! You're sure to appreciate these two designs, whether you're a cool cat who can't get enough of jazz or a die-hard rock fan. They're also a great gift to stitch for guys, or for teenagers who are into their music!

With just eight thread shades, designer Jane has cleverly created a collage effect, where the block silhouettes are enhanced by colourful flashes of detail. The simple grey silhouettes perfectly complement the beautiful fabric they're stitched on, one of Polstitches Designs' gorgeous range of hand-dyed aidas.

There's such an emotive feeling to these designs – even though the musicians are silhouetted, you can still see the passion with which the saxophonist is playing the notes, and feel the sheer energy of the guitar player. If you're a stitcher looking to stretch your skills and have a go on hand-dyed, marble-effect fabric for the first time, then start harmonising with this vibrant pair!

Factbox

Stitch on hand-dyed fabric

- **Stitching Time**
  Approx. 35 hours each
- **Type of Stitches**
  Cross stitch, backstitch, French knots
- **Ease of Stitching**
  Intermediate





Meet the designer

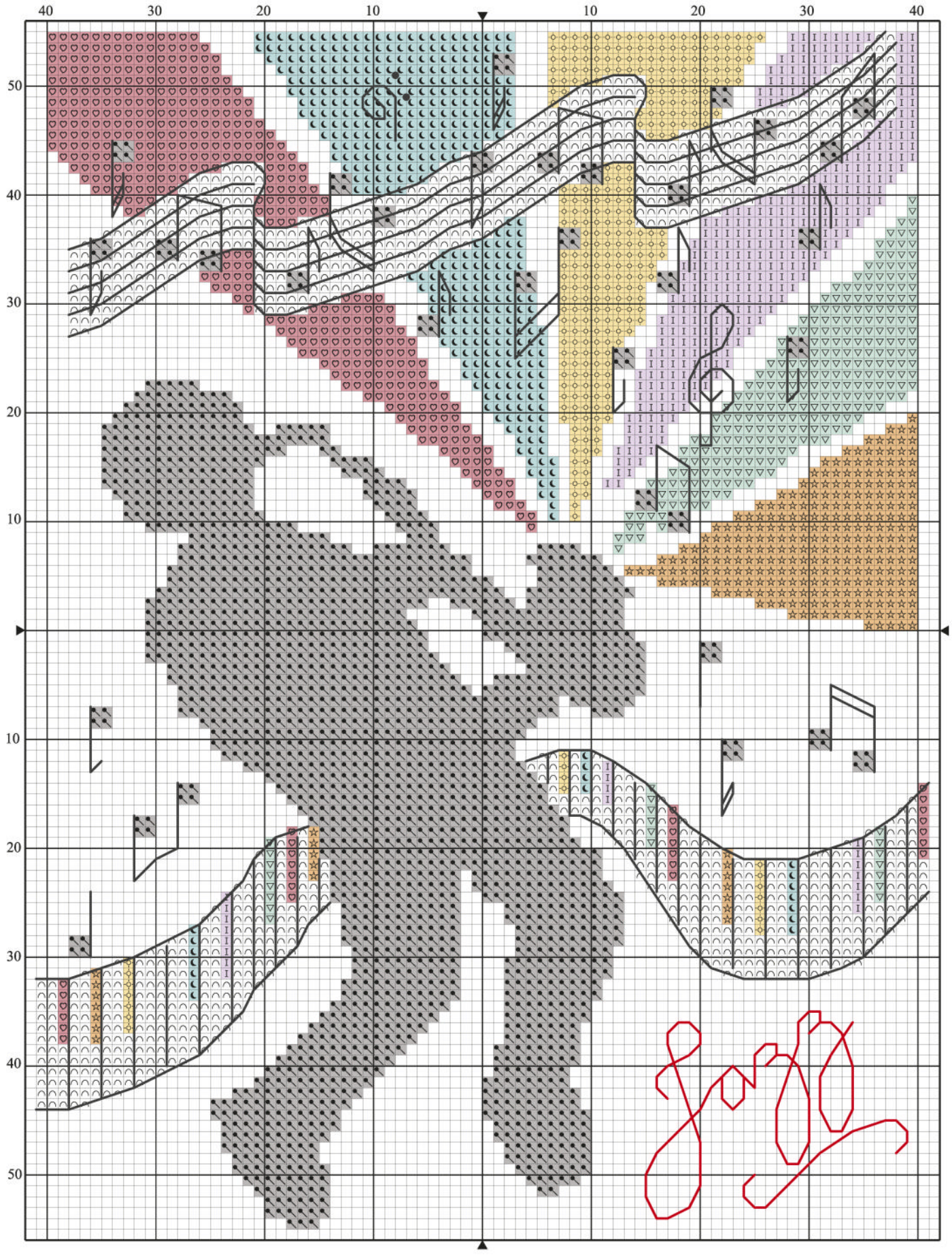
Jane Henderson

"I really wanted to make something that was suitable for men, as they're often hard to cross stitch for! It was such a pleasure to create designs that work so well on this lovely fabric by Polstitches Designs, too."

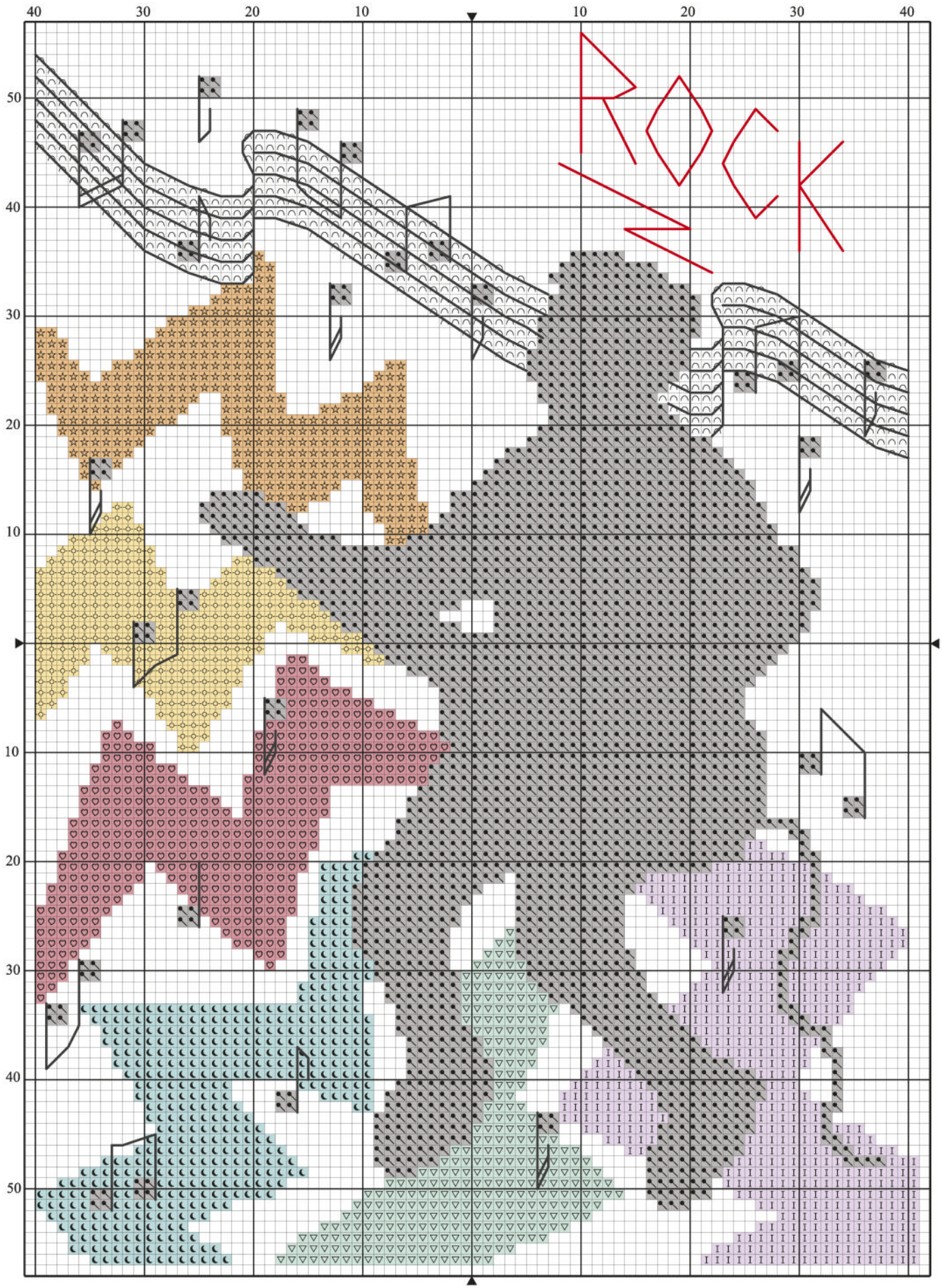


PERFECT STITCH FOR A MAN!

Combine bright stitches with marble-look fabric to create a funky finish that's sure to be admired by all!



Saxophone Jazz chart



Guitar Rock chart

Music Silhouettes key

Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	B5200	1	2401	white
I	209	98	803	lilac
	317	400	1714	grey
	326	59	508	rose
	743	302	113	yellow
▽	959	186	1114	emerald
☆	970	925	205	orange
☾	3845	1089	1102	electric blue

Backstitch in one strand

—	317	400	1714	grey

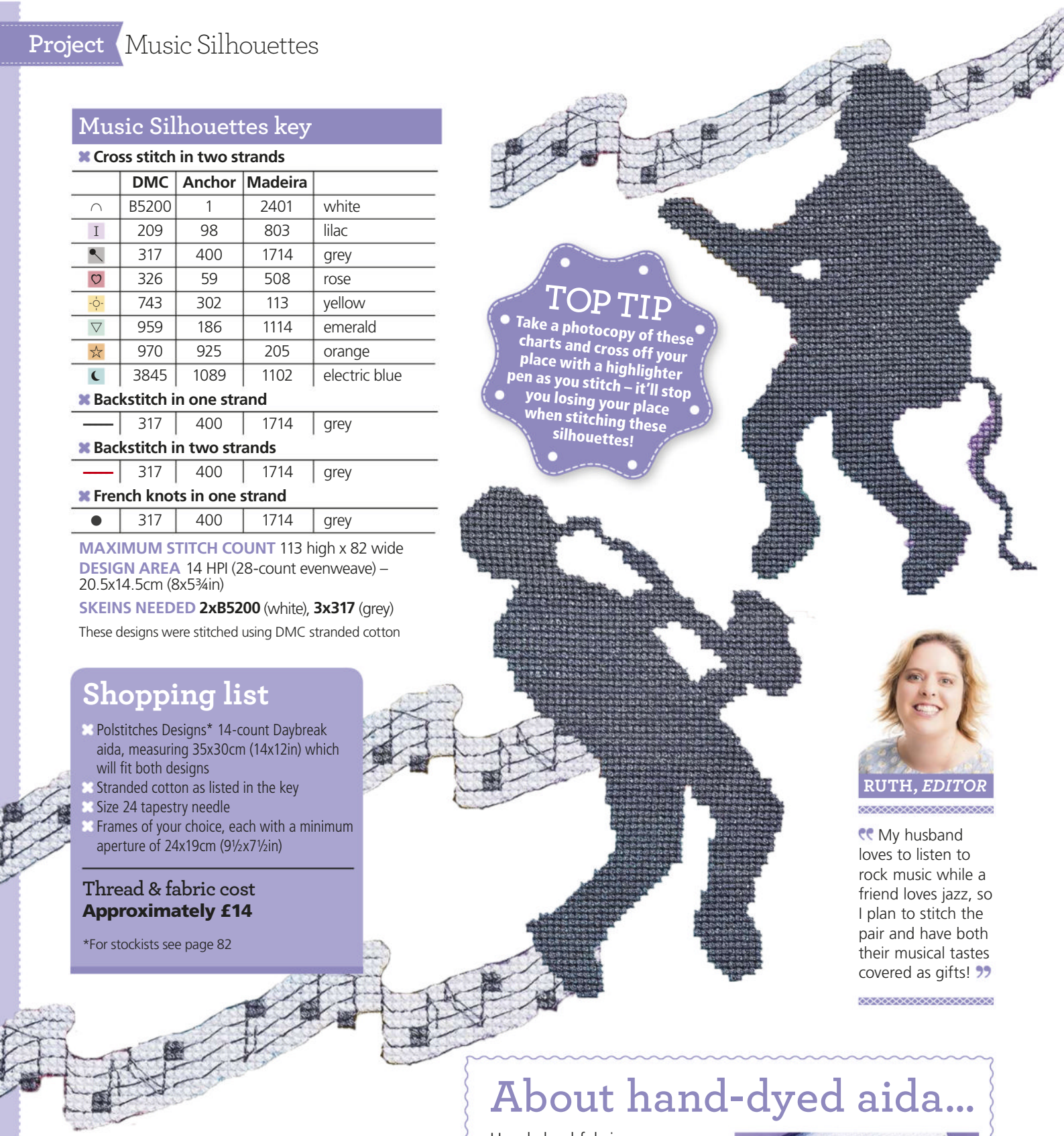
Backstitch in two strands

—	317	400	1714	grey

French knots in one strand

●	317	400	1714	grey

MAXIMUM STITCH COUNT 113 high x 82 wide
DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 20.5x14.5cm (8x5¾in)
SKEINS NEEDED **2xB5200** (white), **3x317** (grey)
These designs were stitched using DMC stranded cotton



TOP TIP
Take a photocopy of these charts and cross off your place with a highlighter pen as you stitch – it'll stop you losing your place when stitching these silhouettes!

Shopping list

- Polstitches Designs* 14-count Daybreak aida, measuring 35x30cm (14x12in) which will fit both designs
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Size 24 tapestry needle
- Frames of your choice, each with a minimum aperture of 24x19cm (9½x7½in)

Thread & fabric cost
Approximately £14

*For stockists see page 82

RUTH, *EDITOR*

"My husband loves to listen to rock music while a friend loves jazz, so I plan to stitch the pair and have both their musical tastes covered as gifts!"

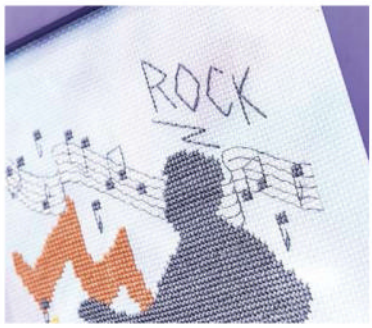
Pam READER PANEL



"It's my husband's birthday in a few weeks and the guitar design is perfect as a gift for him. I'm going to stitch it with some personalised details, so it will be something that he'll be able to keep forever."

About hand-dyed aida...

Hand-dyed fabrics are ones which are coloured by hand, using various techniques to create a unique shade. Natural variations occur to give one-off effects. They're as easy to stitch on as normal fabric and give a stunning effect, making your work even more special!



STITCH WITH SPECIALITY THREADS



'Faux Rattan Storage Basket' kindly supplied by Lakeland, www.lakeland.co.uk

Shopping list

- DMC* 14-count royal blue (796) aida measuring 10cm (4in) x required length
- Stranded cotton and light effects thread as listed in the key
- Size 24 tapestry needle
- Backing fabric of choice. Ours is 'Happy Stars, red' available from Elephant in my Handbag*

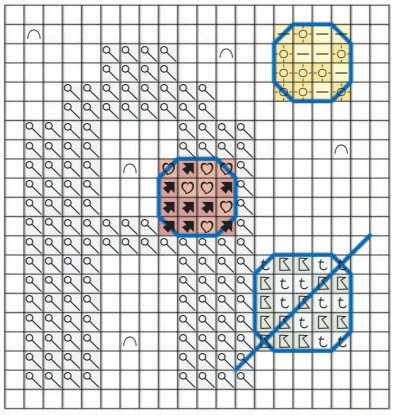
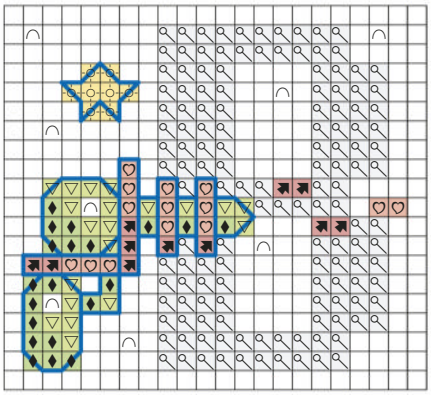
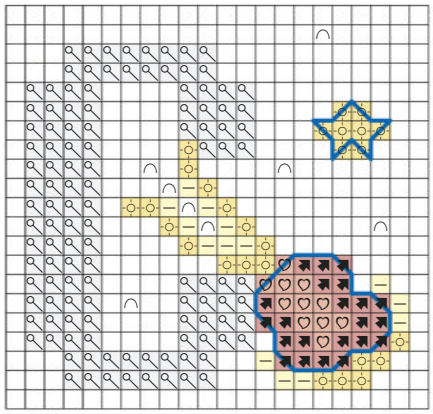
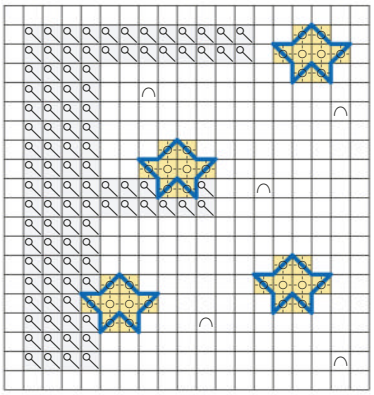
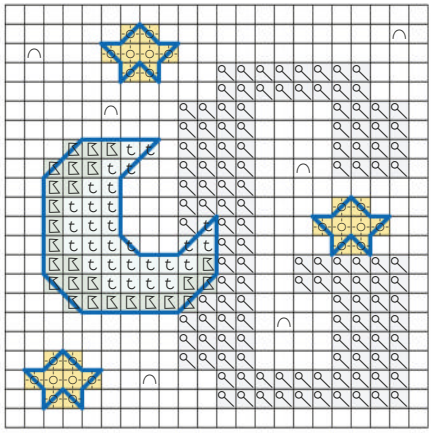
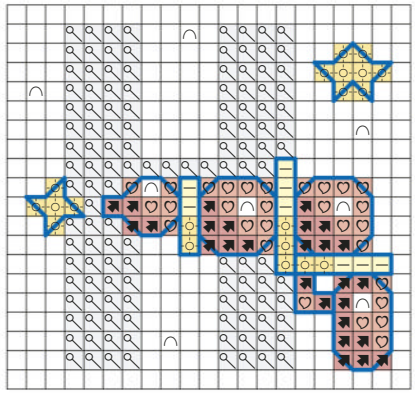
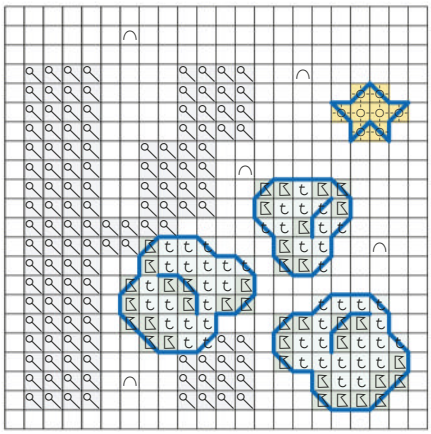
Thread & fabric cost
Approximately £12

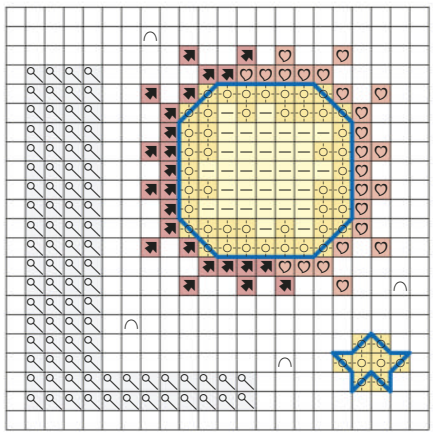
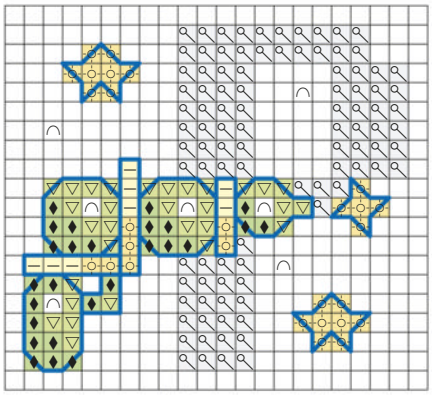
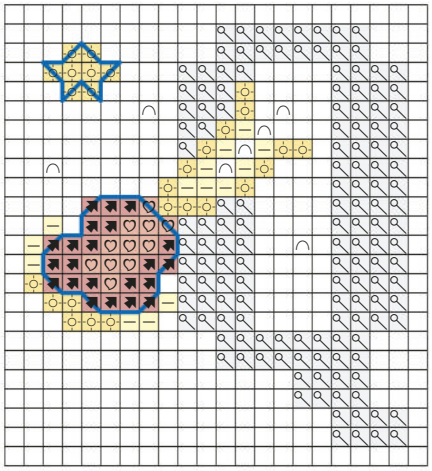
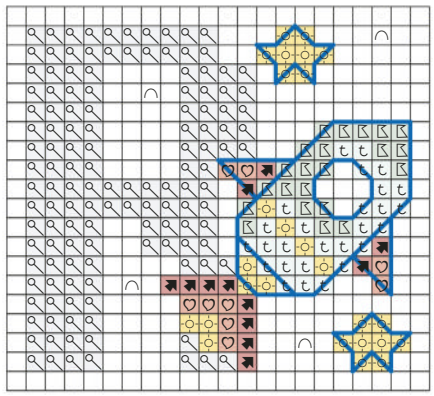
*For stockists see page 82

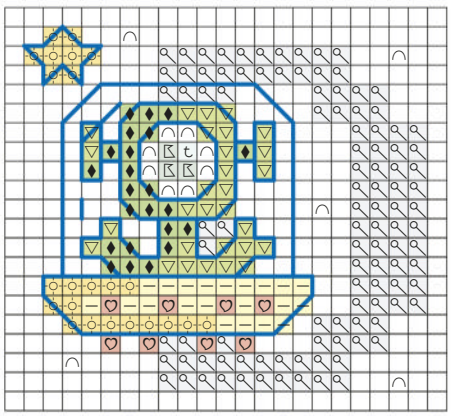
DESIGNS BY **SHANNON WASILIEFF**

Out of this world

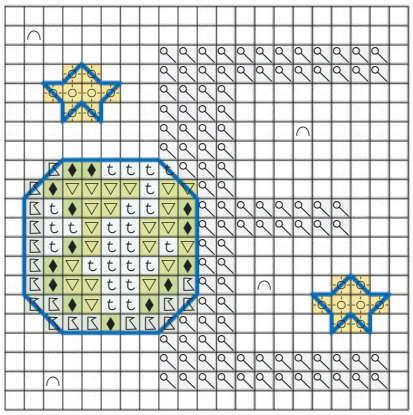
Stitch an abc to delight space fans both old and young – with the added bonus of glow-in-the-dark threads!



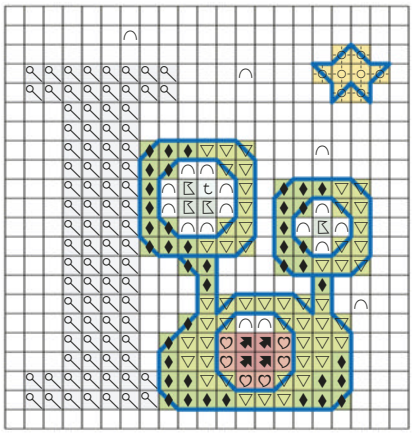


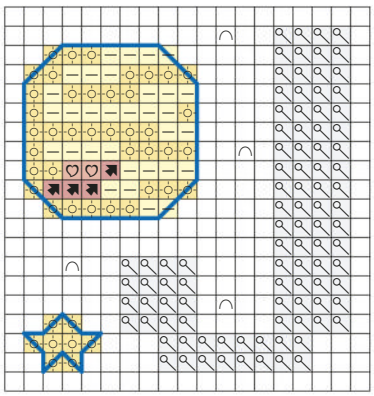


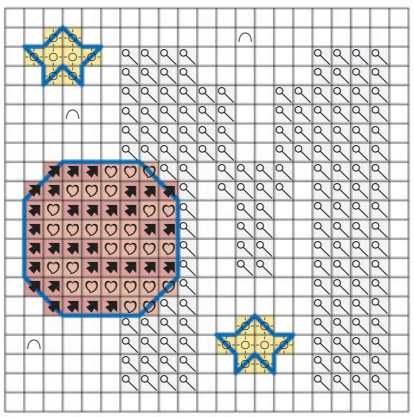


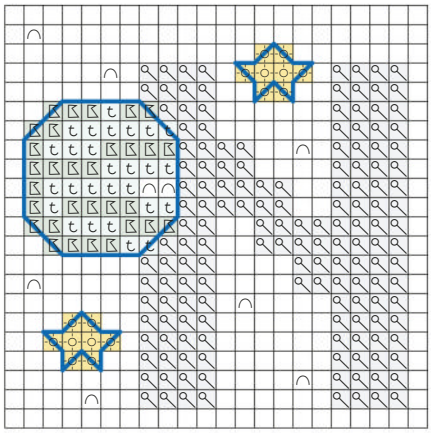
TOP TIP

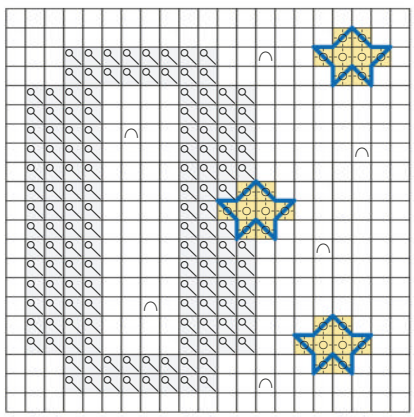
Enjoy your glow-in-the-dark threads by exposing the project to light for a few minutes, then just watch them gleam!



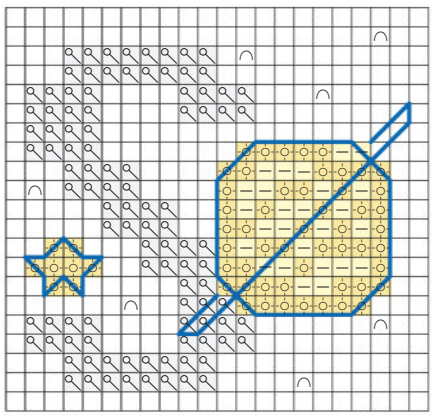


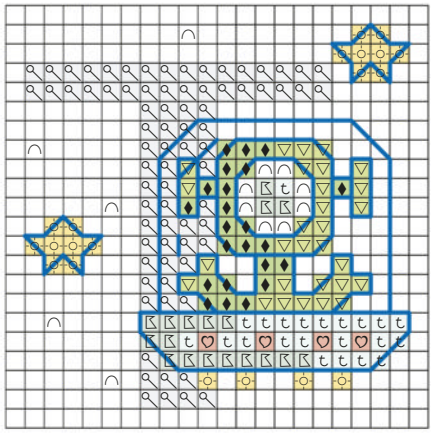


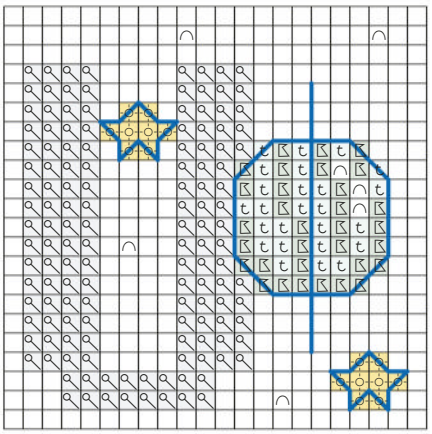


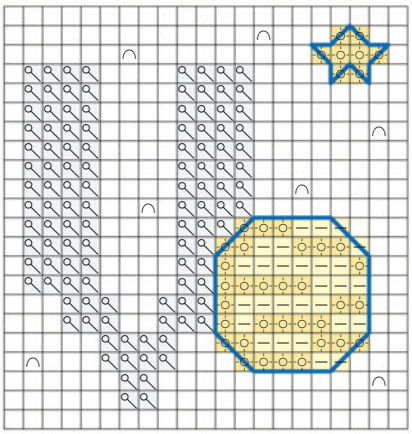


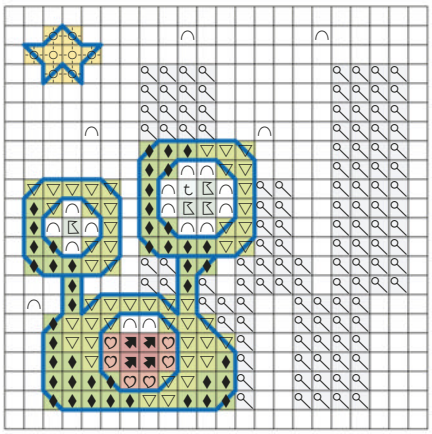


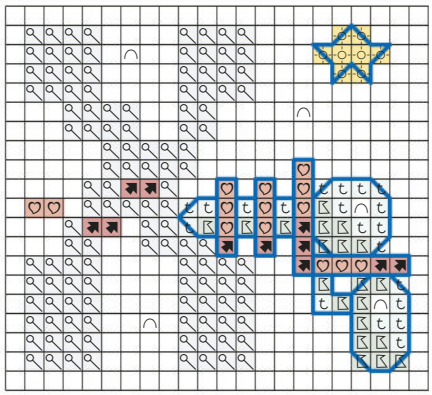


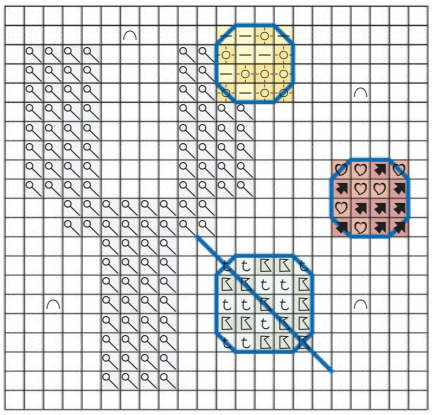


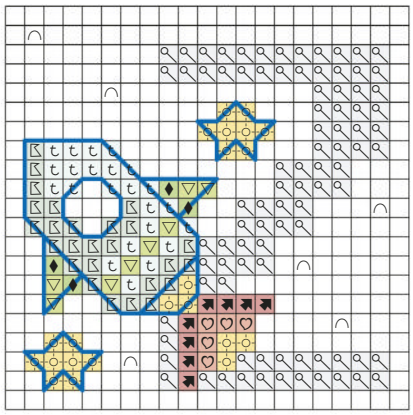






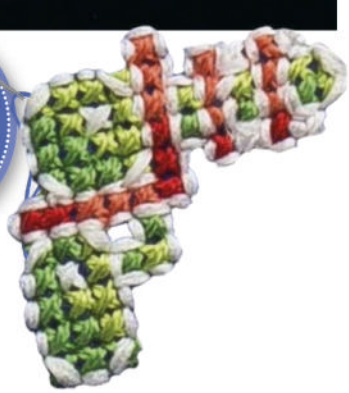








A stitchy surprise
Turn out the light to reveal the threads' secret!



For glow-in-the-dark fun!

Factbox

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

Space ABC key

Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
♡	351	10	214	coral
☼	444	291	106	yellow
–	445	288	103	light yellow
◺	597	1064	1110	turquoise
♦	702	226	1306	green
▽	704	255	1308	light green
✎	762	234	1804	light grey
◥	817	13	210	red
t	3811	1060	1101	light turquoise

Cross stitch in two strands DMC Light Effects

∩	E940			glow-in-the-dark

Backstitch in two strands DMC Light Effects

—	E940			glow-in-the-dark

MAXIMUM STITCH COUNT 22 high x 21 wide
DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 4x4cm (1½x1½in)

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

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DESIGN BY **DURENE JONES**

Little mermaid

Stitch a sweet, water-loving friend to keep you company for girly chats and sleepovers on long winter nights!



Whether you believe in the myth of mermaids or not, we can all agree that this creature looks a happy soul, relaxing on the seabed caressing her long, aquamarine tresses. No wonder she has plenty of fishy friends with her!

You'll use a variety of techniques to bring this exquisite design to life. Whizz through the half cross stitch to create the shimmering underwater background in two shades of blue, and enjoy the whole stitches and backstitch to shape the foreground. Being fractional-free, this beauty will be great to speed through on aida! There's plenty of shading, created using a cheery colour palette, before the final touch of a scattering of blue seed beads to give a pretty bubble-like glimmer.

Ideal if you're looking for a new challenge – to make a shaped cushion – start this fairytale design today, then follow our simple finishing guide on page 71. This finish is sure to spark a little one's imagination! ➤

Factbox

Add sparkle with beads

- **Stitching Time**
  Approx. 40 hours
- **Type of Stitches**
  Cross stitch, half cross stitch, backstitch, beads
- **Ease of Stitching**
  Intermediate



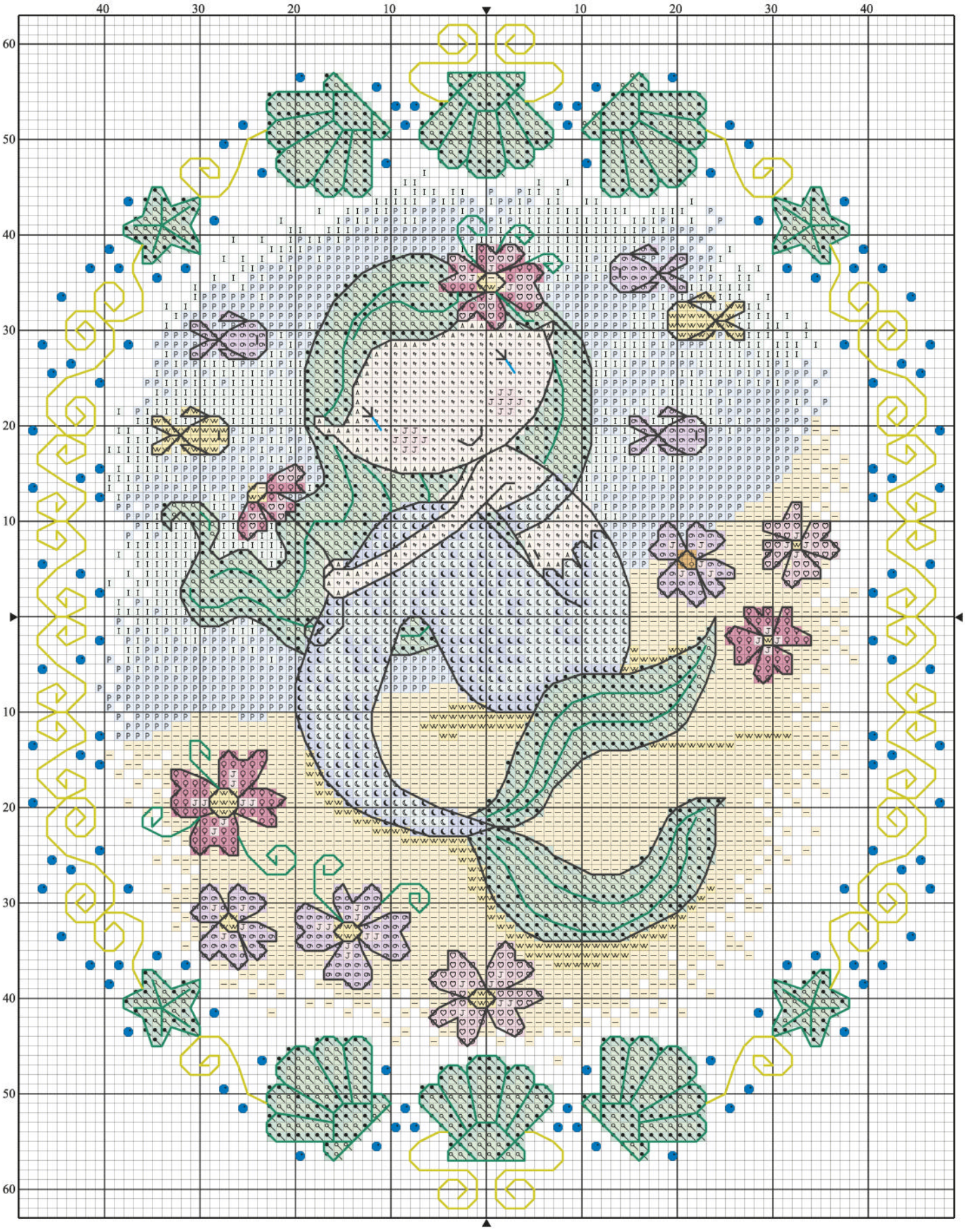
Meet the designer

Durene Jones

"I've always loved the magic and allure of mermaids and think this cushion will make an adorable gift for any little (or big!) girl. It's so dainty and will be the perfect addition to any bedroom. Sweet dreams!"



Bring the magic of the ocean myth into your home with this delightful cushion – it's sure to delight and enchant the receiver!


40
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Mermaid Cushion key

Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
ᘐ	209	98	803	lilac
♀	602	57	702	pink
♡	604	55	614	light pink
—	745	300	111	light yellow
☾	800	144	908	light blue
◖	809	130	909	blue
A	948	892	306	peach
◥	959	186	1114	emerald
J	963	73	502	very light pink
◤	964	185	1112	light mint green
◟	3770	1009	2314	light peach
W	3822	295	2510	yellow

Half cross stitch in two strands

I	775	1031	1001	light sky blue
P	3325	129	907	sky blue

Backstitch in one strand

——	3799	236	1713	dark grey
——	3812	188	2706	dark mint green

Backstitch in two strands

——	3812	188	2706	dark mint green

Backstitch in three strands

——	3799	236	1713	dark grey

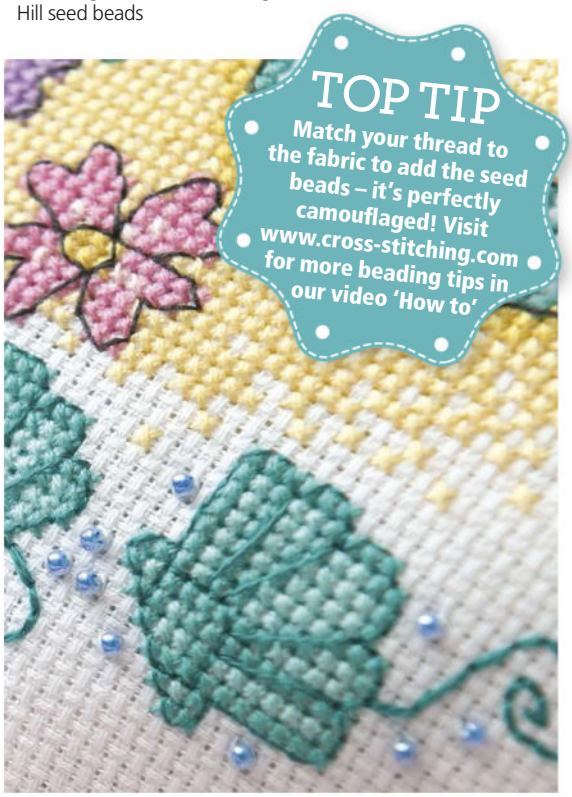
Mill Hill seed beads

●	02006			ice blue

STITCH COUNT 124 high x 96 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 22.5x17.5cm (8¾x6¾in)

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

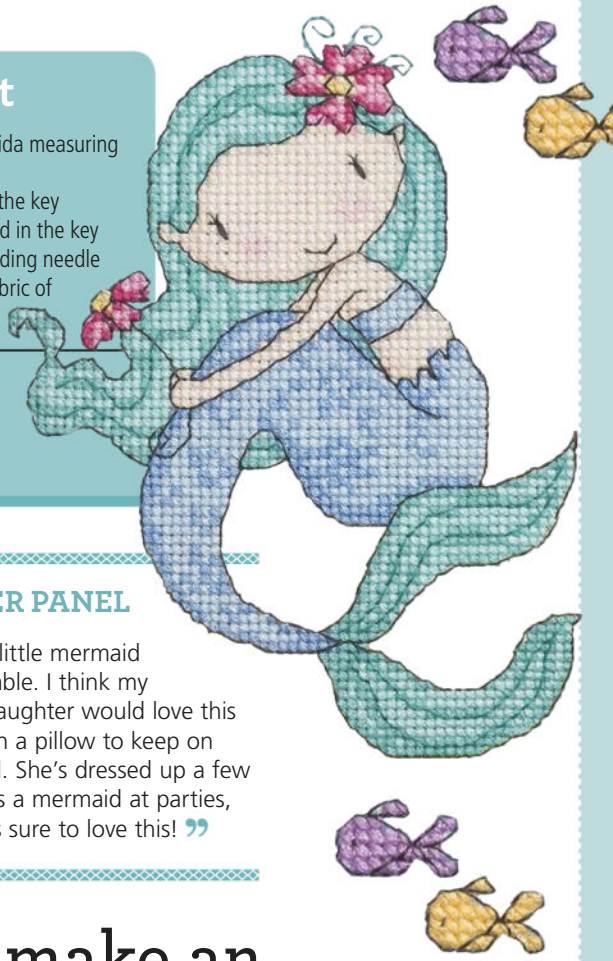


Shopping list

- Zweigart* 14-count white aida measuring 35x30cm (14x12in)
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Mill Hill* seed beads as listed in the key
- Size 24 tapestry needle, beading needle
- Cushion pad and backing fabric of your choice

Thread & fabric cost Approximately £20

*For stockists see page 82



Barbara READER PANEL



"This little mermaid is adorable. I think my granddaughter would love this done on a pillow to keep on her bed. She's dressed up a few times as a mermaid at parties, so she's sure to love this!"

How to... make an oval cushion



1 Wash and press your finished stitching, then trim to an oval shape measuring 27x24cm (10x8½in). Download our template at the 'Charts & Patterns' section of our site: www.cross-stitching.com to perfect the shape!

2 Cut two half-oval panels of backing fabric measuring 17x24cm (7x 8½in) each, ensuring the oval curve is the same as your stitching. (Find more template downloads online.)

3 Measure a hem of 1cm (½in) on the straight edge of each half-oval piece, and press. Repeat to create a double hem, then machine- or hand-sew in place, for each one.

4 With right sides facing, pin both half-panels over your stitched front piece, so the hemmed edges overlap in the middle to form an envelope opening.

5 Machine- or hand-sew all around the edges, using a 1cm (½in) seam allowance. Turn through and press, then insert a cushion pad to finish.

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!

Stitchers' TV!

Did you know that there's a new television channel that's dedicated to crafts and hobbies, 24 hours a day and 7 days a week? Hochanda (Home of Crafts, Hobbies and Arts) was launched in August 2015 and aims to educate, inspire and entertain viewers with tutorials and ideas, as well as showcasing the latest products. Hochanda doesn't just cover traditional crafts, either – it's your go-to place to learn about a range of diverse activities such as craft beer, fishing and DIY.

Alex Turchyn (right) is one of the new presenters on the channel, an ideal job as she's always been a keen crafter. Her passions include card making and dress-making – and we've just discovered that one of her favourite hobbies is cross stitching too! We're excited about meeting Alex and having a chat about all things crafty, so watch for that in an upcoming issue.



MORE **Hochanda can be viewed on Sky 663, Freeview 39 and Freesat 817. You can also learn more about what's happening on the channel at www.hochanda.com and get updates from the team on Facebook and Twitter.**

WHERE AM I?



This is a picture of my daughter Prudence, taken when we visited a wetland reserve in this Far East country. The reserve contains an extensive mangrove forest as well as unique flora and fauna, and along the trail there are huts that are perfect for relaxing your legs, watching the birds… and stitching!
Inge J. Gunawan, Indonesia

Send in your travel snaps!

Send us a photo of yourself with a copy of your favourite mag to 'Where Am I?' at our usual address, on page 14. 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 82



Dates for January

5 JANUARY 2016
ON SALE: THE WORLD OF CROSS STITCHING

Issue 238 is full to the brim with gorgeous projects, including an adorable sleepy kitten, a lovely welcome hanging, a heart-themed ABC for Valentine's and two beautiful Edwardian ladies. Plus, a sweet Cookie Bear FREE card kit. See page 86!

16 JANUARY
LEARN SHISHA MIRROR HAND EMBROIDERY

BEEING CRAFTY, HUNTINGDON, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

Brighten up the month by learning this pretty technique using embroidery stitches and mirrors. Choose from various designs – the course costs £35, 10.30am–4.30pm, so book now at www.beeingcrafty.co.uk or call ☎ 01480 891746 for info.

22-24 JANUARY
SPRING QUILT FESTIVAL

ARDINGLEY, SUSSEX

Marvel over handmade quilts, and shop for fabric stash and more from the many patchwork and quilting suppliers. Visit www.grosvenorshows.co.uk for more information and to book. Tickets cost £7 (£6 in advance), seniors £6 (£5).

29 JANUARY
LEARN FREE-MACHINE EMBROIDERY

THE MAKERY, BATH

If you've conquered the basics of a sewing machine and fancy trying something new, give this three-hour workshop a go! Priced £40, book at www.themakery.co.uk.



Bright and beautiful Learn how to stitch a pretty piece like this, with shisha mirrors, at Beeing Crafty

Answer: Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve, Singapore

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DESIGN BY **RHONA NORRIE**

Come rain or shine...

Our adorable puppy and kitten pals are sure to light up your home all year round!

Since it's the beginning of a new year, we think that this charming design is just the thing to kickstart your 2016 stitching. With fractionals, half stitch and French knots there's plenty to keep you interested while you enjoy creating a whole year of furry friendship!

Rhona has created a beautiful level of detail in each mini seasonal scene that makes this a sheer joy to stitch, from the bumblebees that the kitten is chasing to the tiny robins and bluetits. Being stitched on evenweave gives it a lovely delicate feeling, and also allows you to get a great depth of the backstitch detailing that makes up the puppy and kitten's fur.

We've framed ours in a round aperture with cream mount, giving it a neutral background against which the stitching really shines. It would also work well as a cushion, backed with a pretty floral fabric, or framed in a quilter's 35cm (14in) hoop to enhance the shape of the design.

Factbox

Super detailed project

- **Stitching Time**
  Approx. 130 hours
- **Type of Stitches**
  Cross stitch, fractionals, half cross stitch, backstitch, French knots
- **Ease of Stitching**
  Intermediate/advanced



Meet the designer

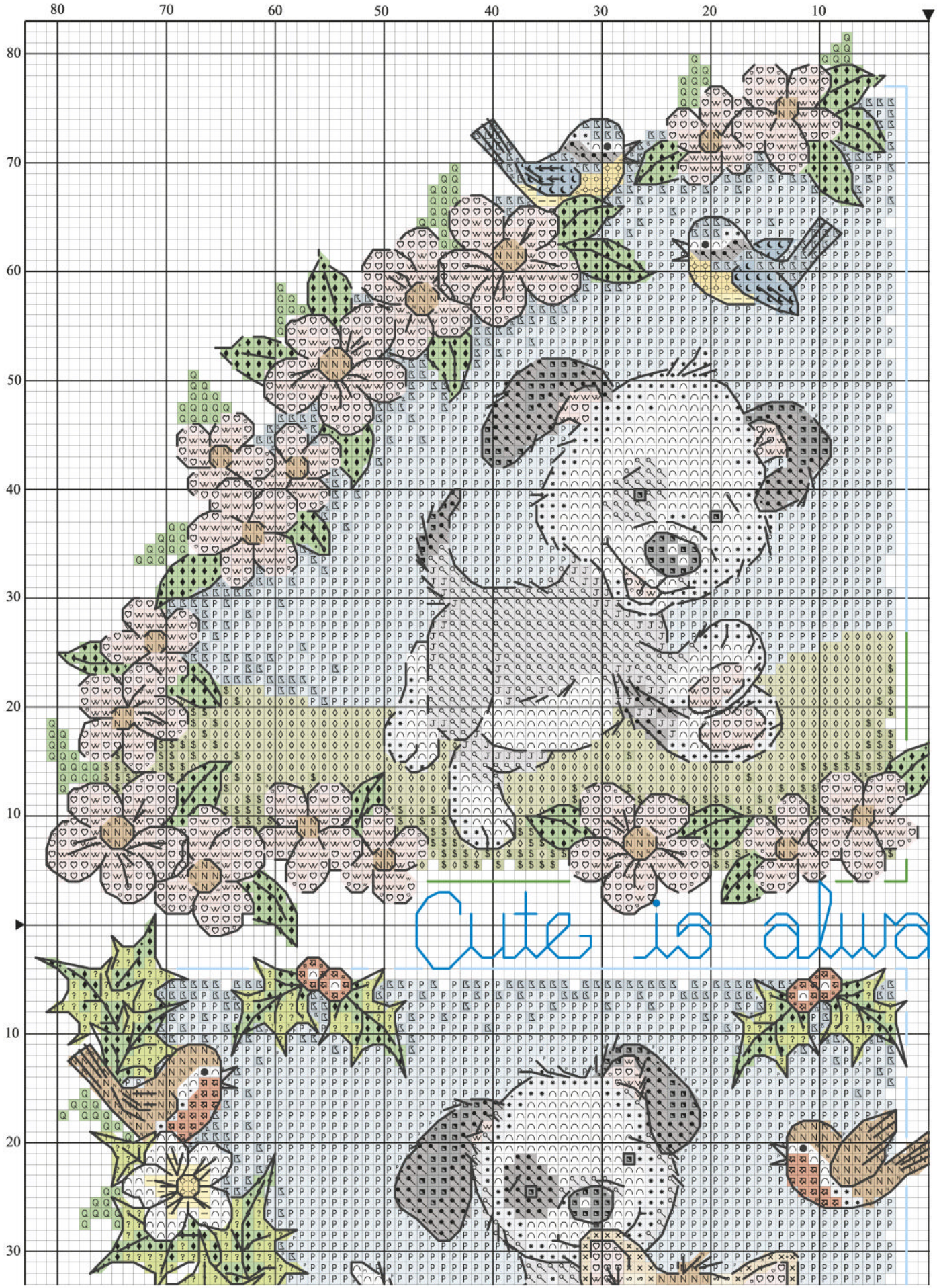
Rhona Norrie

"Who can resist cute puppies and kittens? Certainly not me! It was lovely to work on this design as I adore sweet animals. No wonder this design's now been added to my 'must-stitch' pile!"

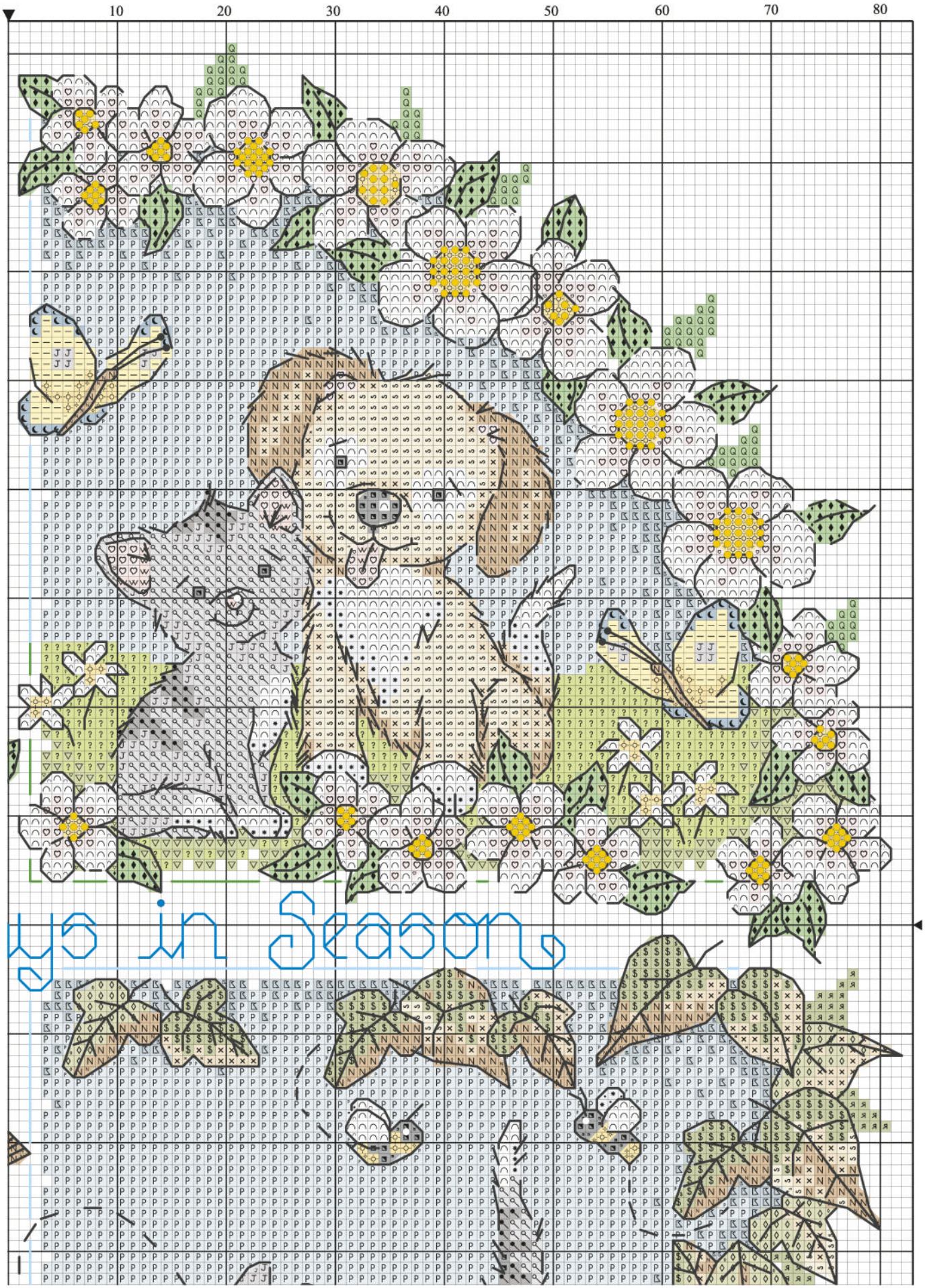




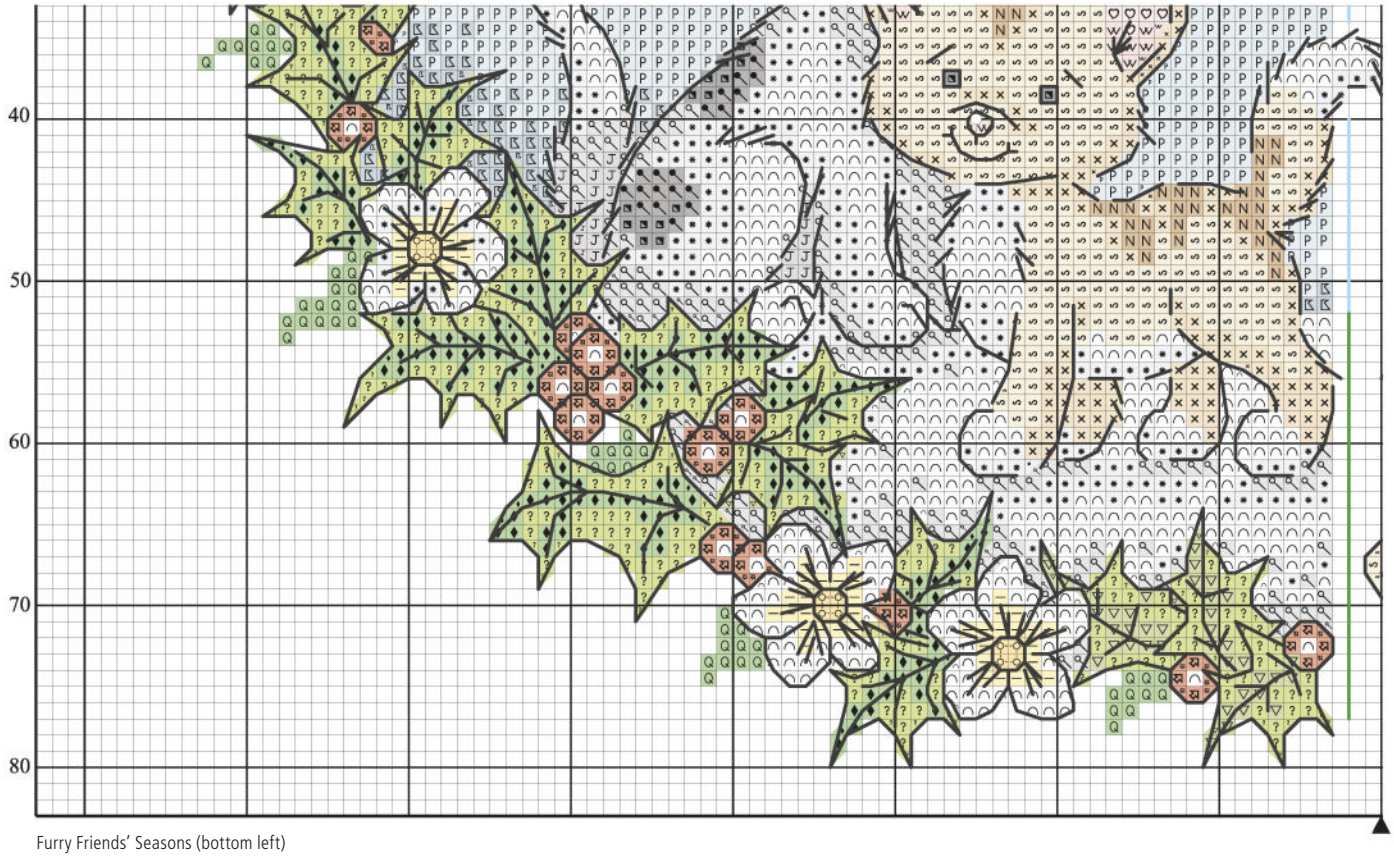
Celebrate both the beauty of the passing seasons and enduring friendship with these cute little characters



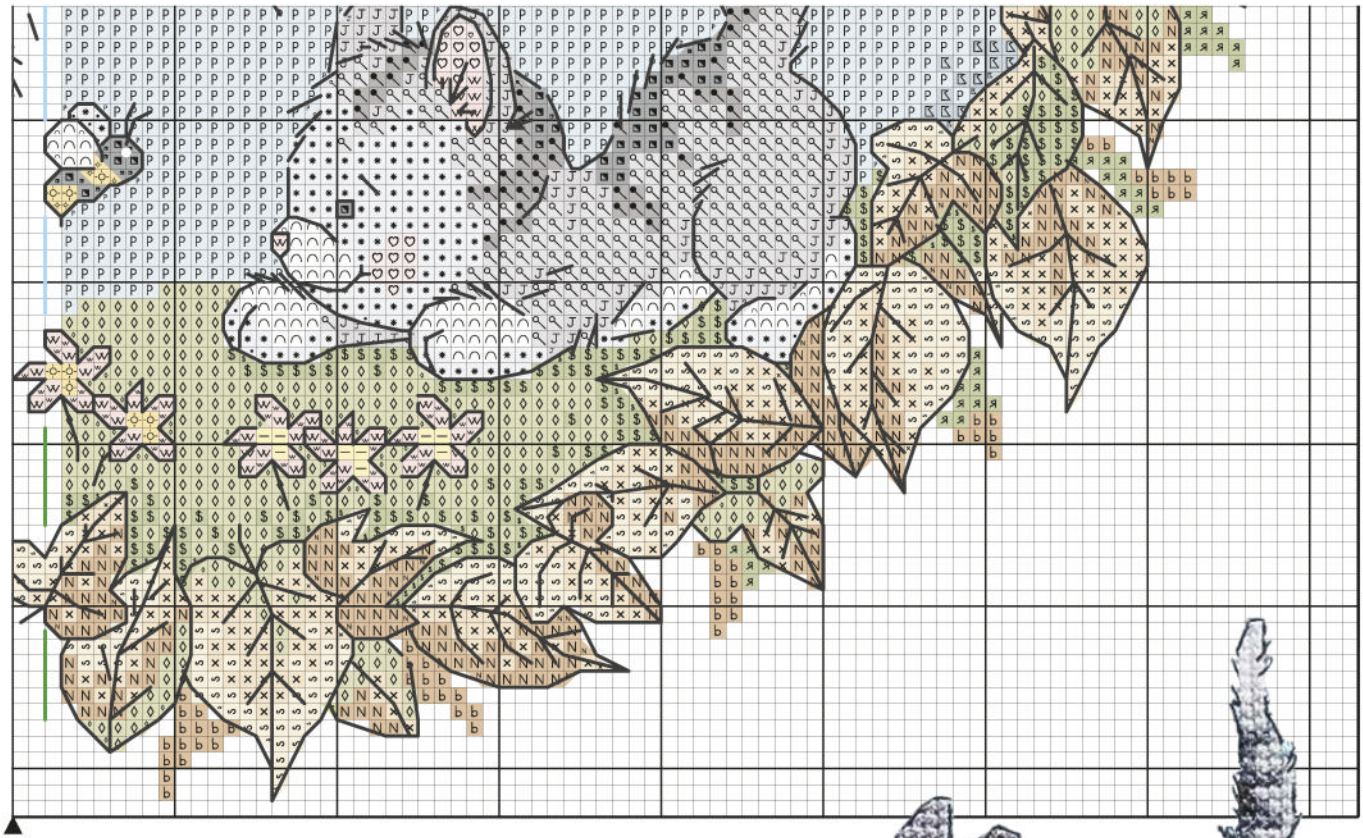
Furry Friends' Seasons (top left)



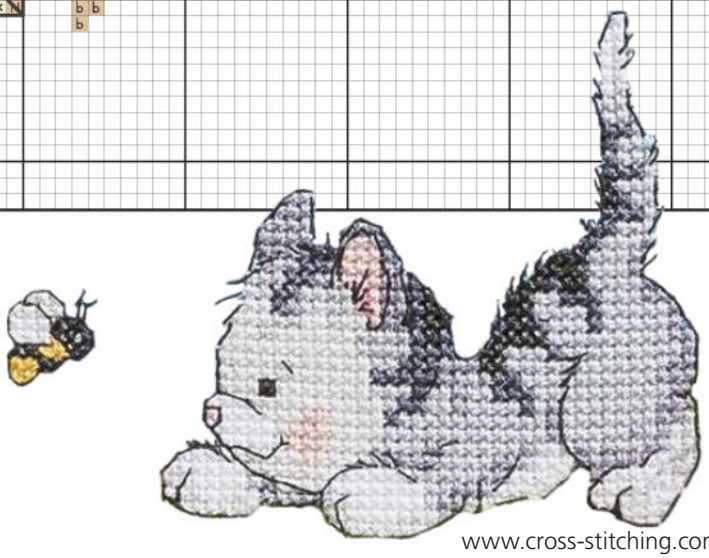
Furry Friends' Seasons (top right)



Furry Friends' Seasons (bottom left)



Furry Friends' Seasons (bottom right)



Furry Friends' Seasons key

Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	B5200	1	2401	white
◥	317	400	1714	dark grey
J	318	399	1801	grey
◪	349	1098	212	red
◤	415	398	1802	light grey
N	435	1046	2010	tan
×	437	362	2012	light tan
$	470	267	1502	moss green
◊	471	266	1501	light moss green
?	704	255	1308	leaf green
☼	725	305	113	yellow
–	727	293	112	light yellow
∽	739	366	2014	cream
W	761	1021	404	pink
*	762	234	1804	very light grey
◱	813	140	910	blue
☾	826	146	906	dark blue
P	827	160	1013	light blue
♦	905	257	1412	green
▽	906	256	1410	light green
♡	3713	1020	502	light pink
◙	3799	236	1713	very dark grey

Half cross stitch in two strands

b	435	1046	2010	tan
Я	470	267	1502	moss green
Q	905	257	1412	green

Backstitch in one strand

—	704	255	1308	leaf green
—	813	140	910	blue
—	826	146	906	dark blue
—	3799	236	1713	very dark grey

French knots in one strand

○	B5200	1	2401	white
●	727	293	112	light yellow
●	826	146	906	dark blue
●	3799	236	1713	very dark grey

STITCH COUNT 164 high x 164 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 30x30cm (11¾x11¾in)

SKEINS NEEDED **2xB5200** (white), **4x827** (light blue)

This design was stitched using DMC stranded cotton on 28-count evenweave over two threads of the fabric



Jennifer READER PANEL

"This sweet design is so innovative, and the detail in the stitching that Rhona has created is really incredible. I would love to cross stitch this for myself, or for anyone who shares my love for animals."

Stitching on evenweave

Head over to Cross Stitch TV and follow our guide



Stitching on evenweave isn't as hard as it sounds, and to help, we've put together a handy 'How To' video tutorial on www.cross-stitching.com. Editor Ruth talks you through the process, so you can be sure of a professional finish, with lots of hints and tips to help you towards wonderful results!





TOP TIP

The backstitch is what brings the characters to life, so take your time and keep a neat (but not too tight) tension to achieve a crisp finish







Shopping list

- Zweigart* 28-count white evenweave measuring 40x40cm (16x16in)
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Size 26 tapestry needle
- Frame of your choice and mount with circle aperture measuring 30x30cm (12x12in)

Thread & fabric cost
Approximately £24

*For stockists see page 82

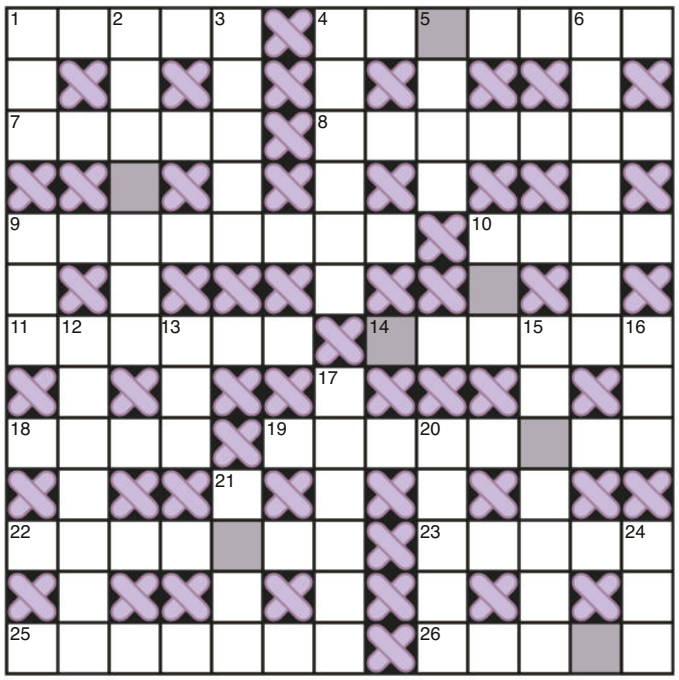


PLUS

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 Loft room (5)
4 Piece of paper confirming payment (7)
7 Hidden treasure store (5)
8 Welsh _____, a furniture unit often in a kitchen (7)
9 Part of a bed (8)
10 Animal similar to a frog (4)
11 Courageous, bold (6)
14 Celebratory march, often involving dressing up (6)
18 Exceedingly, extremely (4)
19 Medicated sweet (8)
22 Mild seasoning made from pepper (7)
23 Furious, enraged (5)
25 Not working due to older age (7)
26 Descend suddenly through the air, done by a bird (5)

DOWN

1 Remains of a fire (3)
2 Farm vehicle (7)
3 Alcoholic apple drink (5)
4 Raw pungent root eaten in salads (6)
5 Ship's personnel (4)
6 Black-&-white patched horse (7)
9 Very wet earth (3)
10 Peak of hill or mount (eg Glastonbury) (3)
12 Middle-of-the-road (7)
13 Cold and frosty (3)
15 Music at a lively pace (7)
16 Female sheep (3)
17 Obstacle likely to cause injury (6)
20 Sign of weeping (5)
21 Layer of wedding cake (4)
24 High-pitched bark (3)

TO ENTER **Use the letters in the shaded squares to spell out a musical instrument, like a flute (7)**

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD FROM ISSUE 236 ACROSS: 1 Jeweller, 5 Peak, 7 Sleigh, 8 Celery, 9 Nectarine, 11 Nomad, 13 All, 15 Singe, 16 Makeshift, 20 Course, 21 Stroll, 22 Bevy, 23 Envelope. **DOWN:** 1 Jasmine, 2 Week, 3 Legend, 4 Recital, 5 Polar, 6 Apron, 10 Iron, 12 Milk, 13 Achieve, 14 Revolve, 15 Statue, 17 Adore, 18 Early, 19 Polo.. **MYSTERY ANSWER: NAPKIN**

WIN! Furry Tales Prize

Cosy Mouse key

Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
◠	blanc	2	2402	white
b	436	1045	2011	dark tan
ɔ	437	362	2012	tan
◪	603	55	505	dark pink
3	604	26	614	pink
N	739	366	2014	light tan
w	754	1012	305	dark peach
◥	844	1041	1809	grey
◟	948	892	306	peach
☾	3325	129	907	light blue
◱	3755	140	1013	blue

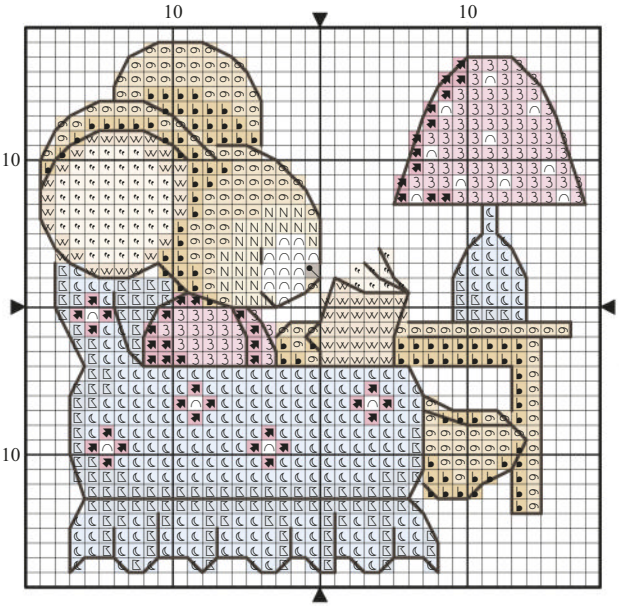
Backstitch in one strand

——	844	1041	1809	grey

STITCH COUNT 36 high x 37 wide
DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 6.5x7cm (2½x2½in)

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!





PRIZES worth over £1,037!

PRIZES WORTH £250

Proud peacock



The lovely folk at Purple Patch Designs* are giving away 25 of these colourful 'Nouveau Peacock Panel' charts, worth £10! If stitched on 14-count aida, the finished size will be 62.5x40cm (25x16in).

TO ENTER **To enter by text message use keyword 'WOXS237PEACOCK' or if you're entering by post, please label your entry 'Peacock chart giveaway (WOXS237)'.**

PRIZES WORTH £259

KEEP YOUR STITCHING RETRO!



We've teamed up with craft publisher Tuva* to give away 26 copies of new book *Retro Fun in Stitches* by Jane Prutton (£9.99). This book has a wonderful mix of designs, from retro cars and cute animals to cupcakes, teacups and lots, lots more! Jane's also included an alphabet so you can personalise your designs and share your finishes as fabulous presents for weddings, birthdays and other special occasions.

TO ENTER **To enter by text message use keyword 'WOXS237TUVA' or if you're entering by post, please label your entry 'Tuva book giveaway (WOXS237)'.**

PRIZES WORTH £272

Floral fiesta



Stitch yourself a beautiful bloom with this 'Tea Time' kit (79122) from Rico*! We have 17 of these charming kits of a pretty English tearose to give away to lucky readers, worth £16 each. The complete kit contains everything you need to finish the design, including linen 28-count evenweave, thread, needle and embroidery hoop. Ideal for a first-time evenweave make, it measures 15cm (6in) diameter.



TO ENTER **To enter by text message use keyword 'WOXS237RICO' or if you're sending your entry by post, please be sure to label your entry 'Rico rose kit giveaway (WOXS237)'.**

PRIZES WORTH £255

All in order!



Keep your stash and Works-in-Progress tidy in these pretty MIC stackable boxes. Gifts and Crafts* is giving 16 'Vintage Red Rose Doily' (GBA936) nests of three boxes, worth £15.99. The large box measures 32x24x13cm (12½x9½x5in), the medium 29.5x21.5x11.5cm (11½x8½x4½in) and the small 28x20x10cm (11x7¾x4in).

TO ENTER **To enter by text message use keyword 'WOXS237BOXES' or if entering by post, please label your entry 'Storage boxes giveaway (WOXS237)'.**

HOW TO ENTER

CROSSWORD

By text: Text FURRY237 followed by the mystery word, your name and postal address to 87474 eg. FURRY237 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 WOXS237 Immediate Media Co, 2nd Floor, Tower House, Fairfax Street, Bristol BS1 3BN.
Terms & conditions as far right except for: closing date for entries is 6 January 2016. One winning entry will be chosen at random from all eligible entries.

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To enter all four giveaways with one text charged at £1.50 (plus your standard network tariff rate), use keyword 'ALL237' followed by the details stated above.
Online: Enter on our website at 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: 6 January 2016. Call ☎ 0117 314 8755 if you have a query. Full terms & conditions below.

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TEXT **ALL237** TO 87474 TO ENTER ALL FOUR GIVEAWAYS FOR £1.50!*

*For stockists see page 82



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New year, new stitching!
Find our hot picks of charts, kits and more over on **PAGE 24**

Your projects

Find all the charts, kits, threads & accessories featured in this issue



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Tower House, Fairfax St, Bristol BS1 3BN
☎ 0117 927 9009 Fax: 0117 314 8310

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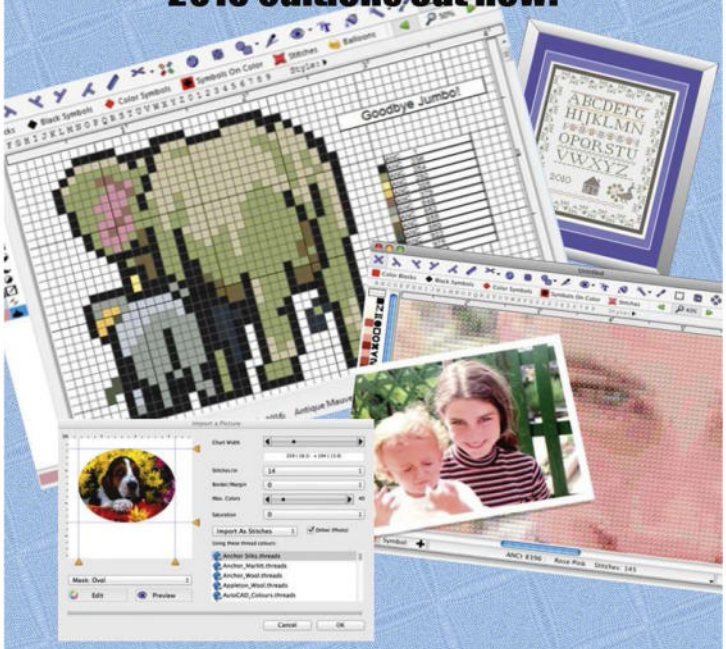
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Issue 235

Chartbook & Madeira threads, Margaret Sherry hedgehog, The Snowman™ and The Snowdog, advent calendar, tree skirt, owls ABC



Issue 234

April Rose Calendar & Cookie Bear chart, Classic robin, Sugar Plum Fairy, sweet dogs sampler, tree triptych, ski sport poster



Issue 233

Fizzy Moon Xmas card kit, Bebunni doing her stitching, fun dinosaurs, poppies, Lili of the Valley exclusive, HAED hare pt 2



Issue 232

Stitcher's Tin & Floral Bouquet chart, adorable Somebunny to Love, vintage teacups, sunflower cards, sweet panda, HAED hare pt 1



Issue 231

Margaret Sherry card kit & Seashore Sampler chart, cute Tatty Teddy, blackwork hummingbird, vintage dress pattern



Issue 230

2-in-1 hanger kit, gorgeous roses, birthday Cookie Bear, stunning lion family, retro birdie cushion, hot-air balloon cards

Issue 236

We packed last month's magazine with lots of festive goodies to get you inspired for Christmas and the winter season! From a friendly Santa and snowman to a cute puppy, funky Rudolph, the Nutcracker, cheery gnomes, 3D gingerbread houses, doorway cards and easy, last-minute gifts. PLUS **A FAB FREE GIFT**: An oh-so-cute Tatty Teddy Christmas card kit with special aperture card.

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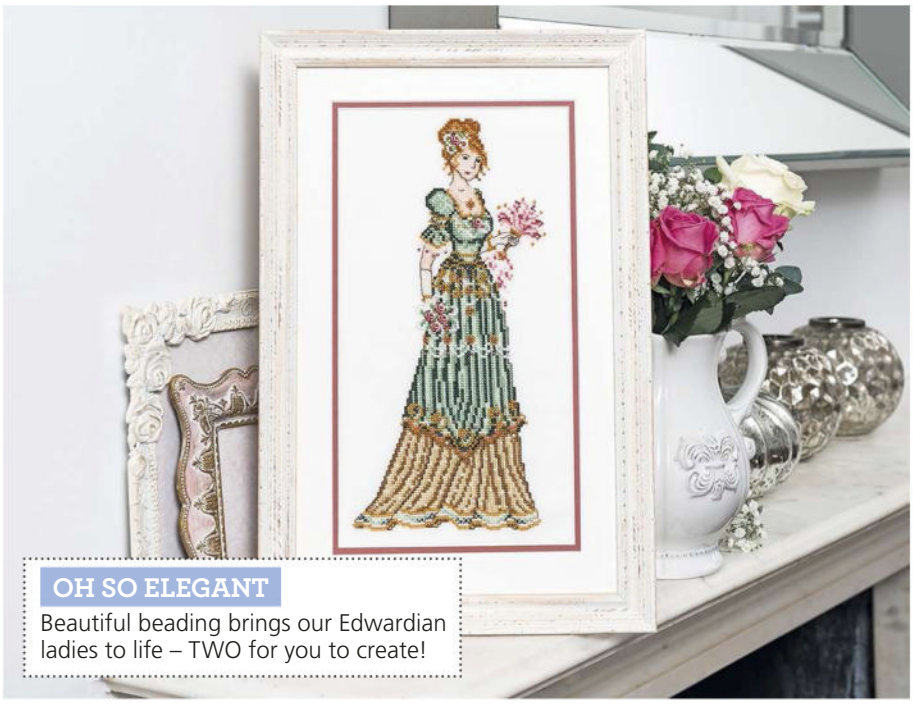
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ISSUE 238
ON SALE
5 JANUARY

Britain's No.1 THE WORLD OF Cross Stitching



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OH SO ELEGANT
Beautiful beading brings our Edwardian ladies to life – TWO for you to create!



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Send number cards for any birthday and anniversary… we show you how



JUST FOR YOU
Monty has some presents to share in this sweet stitch

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



Sleepy kitty – she's just our cup of tea!

Brighten up your day by starting this adorable snoozing kitten design



WE ♥ IT!
Try the Assisi technique in our romantic alphabet



SAY HELLO!
Give guests a stitchy welcome with colourful garden-themed hanging

PLUS MUCH MORE

- Make a sweet jungle-themed mobile for a little one
- Your cross stitching queries answered by our experts
- New Pet of the Month... a pair of guinea pigs!
- Love is in the air – 40+ ideas in a Valentine's Design Library
- Your stories, inspiration and letters... plus much more

FREE COOKIE BEAR CROSS STITCH KIT!

Show them how much you care with this cute bear card



Your free stitch kit includes:

- 14-count aida
- 19 lengths of stranded cotton
- Tapestry needle
- Colour chart & key
- Illustrated card & envelope
- Ribbon bow

PLUS! A BOW TO DECORATE YOUR CARD

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How to...

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



Stitching's a breeze! Let Technical Editor Fiona show you how it's done, in this reference 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 aida block.

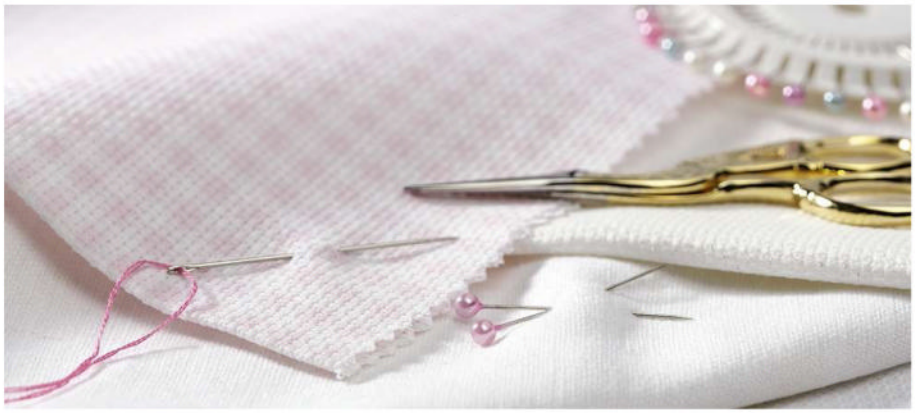
Evenweave is a lovely fabric to work on when you have a little more experience. The fibres aren't woven in blocks as with aida, so it's softer and the fine weave has more threads-per-inch – the most commonly used is 28-count. One stitch is usually worked over two threads of the fabric so it has an equivalent 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

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

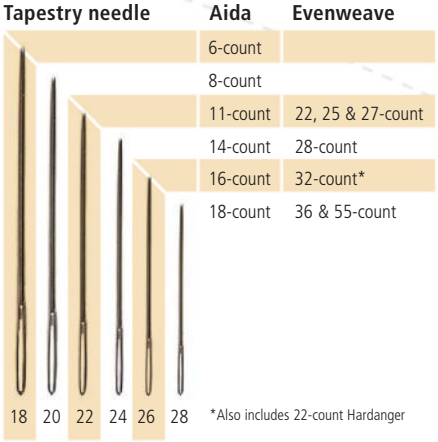




to stitch with, and are colourfast to 95°C. Cheaper brands are available, but they're less durable and may not be colourfast.

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.



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.

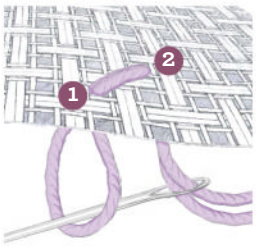
Get ready... We always recommend starting in the centre of a design and working outwards. Our charts are marked with two centre arrows so find a symbol close to the centre and begin there.

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.

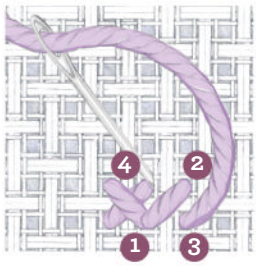
Get stitching... Begin your stitches in two strands of thread with a loop start for the neatest way to get going. It uses one double-length (80cm) strand with both ends threaded together. See our diagrams for how to stitch. Finish threads by weaving the left-over 'tail' under a few stitches at the back.

How to stitch

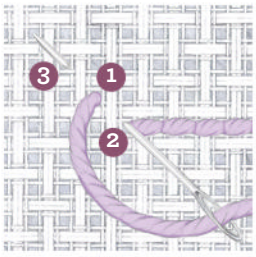
Tackle the basic stitches in our charts…



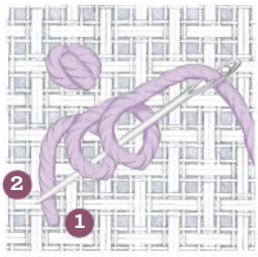
Loop start With both ends of a strand threaded, bring your needle up (1), leaving a loop at the back. Work the first arm of your stitch (2) & secure it by passing your needle through the loop.



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.



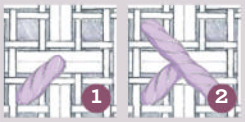
French knots Easy with practice – come up in the fabric (1), keep the thread taut & wrap twice around the needle. Push the needle down, close by, but *not* in the same hole (2). Split the aida block for a neat knot.

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).

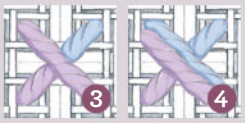




Three-quarters Work a quarter stitch, then, a half stitch across the other diagonal arm of the square as in diagram 2. Like quarters, three-quarter stitches can face any direction.



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).

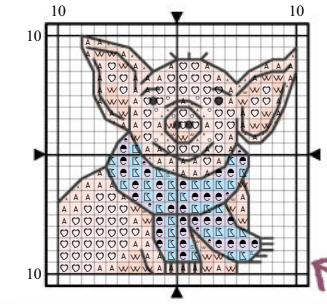




Back-to-back For a stronger outline, work a three-quarter stitch in each colour, stitching them back-to-back (diagram 4). Make sure that the two half stitch arms lie neatly parallel to each other.

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.

Piggy key

Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
	155	1030	902	purple
	760	1022	405	dark pink
	761	1021	404	pink
	996	433	1103	blue
	3713	25	503	light pink

Backstitch in one strand

——	3799	236	1713	grey

French knots in one strand

●	3799	236	1713	grey

STITCH COUNT 20 high x 20 wide
DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 3.5x3.5cm (1½x1½in)

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 & stitchy chat, look no further…

Have you spotted the gorgeous giveaway on page 81, of the pretty rose stitch kit? Complete with an embroidery hoop for mounting the design, it's really caught my eye… Showing off projects in a hoop is an idea I'm all-too-guilty of overlooking. (Since then, Pinterest has been fuelling my keenness for hoop-art ideas… check out the ones I've highlighted here, plus more on our boards!)



Picture perfect: I'm getting more of my finishes on display!

I've been checking my finished-as-yet-unmounted projects to see if a hoop will suit. I had a hoop in my stash, a bit battered and missing its screw – goodness knows why I was saving it until now – but it's had a new lease of life with a lick of acrylic paint. A fab upcycling solution! Since then I've added to it and grouped a set of hoops as a wall-art display.

Fancy mounting stitching in a hoop? Give it a go – click on our site: www.cross-stitching.com/how-feature/how-mount-your-stitching-hoop for our step-by-step tutorial. I'm so chuffed to have three languishing projects mounted up in just two evenings (quicker and cheaper than lacing in frames!) Do let me know what you think, and especially share a photo if you've used a hoop for mounting. Email me: ruth@cross-stitching.com

"Hoops are such an easy and versatile option for any project style!"

Sudoku

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

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

WHAT'S HOT

Matching projects and hoops, using a lick of paint and ribbon…

WHAT'S NOT

…running out of felt, to add as a backing layer for my hoop!

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**



Simple chic: In a plain hoop, this graphic-patterned project is great



Flocking together: A group of hoop-mounted birdies look gorgeous!



Fab framing: Even patchwork cotton or vintage tablecloth fabrics would be super in a hoop

REMEMBER A LOVED ONE THIS CHRISTMAS

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Happy Hens *by Karen Carter* - 20 x 11cm



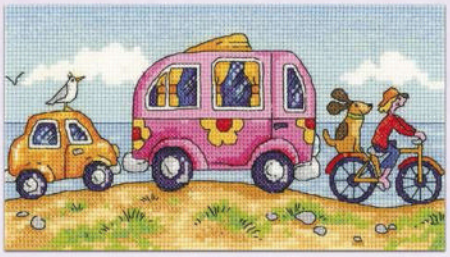
Hoot of Owls *by Karen Carter* - 20 x 11cm



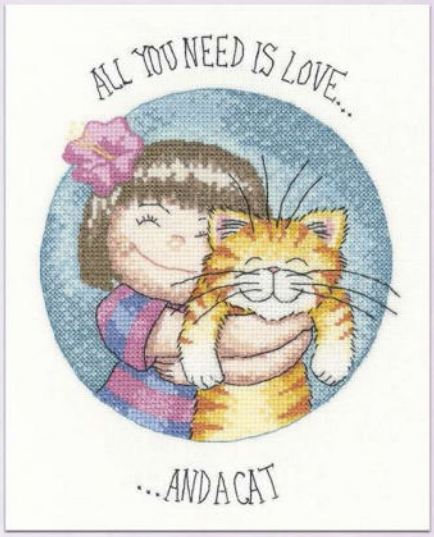
Rachel *by John Clayton* - 20 x 26cm



Fish 'n' Chips *by Karen Carter* - 20 x 11cm



Are We There Yet? *by Karen Carter* - 20 x 11cm



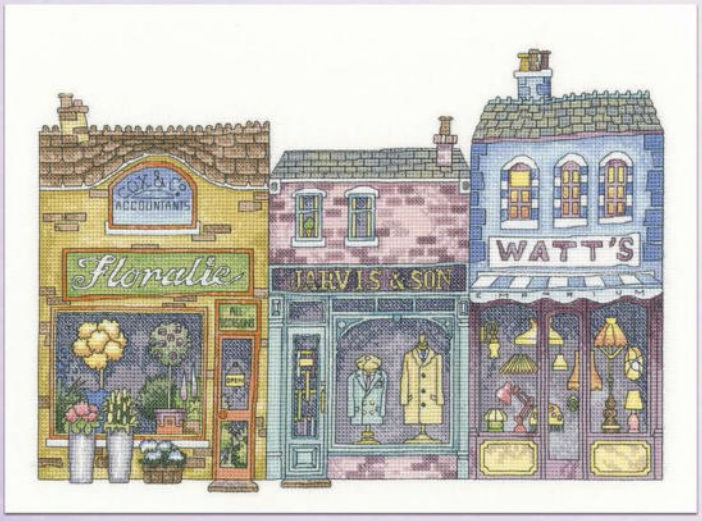
All You Need is Love and a Cat
by Peter Underhill - 14.5 x 19cm



Beach Huts *by Karen Carter* - 20 x 11cm



Boats *by Karen Carter* - 20 x 11cm



High Street *by Peter Underhill* - 30.5 x 21.5cm



Packhorse Bridge *by John Clayton* - 31 x 22cm

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