



Kids' fun



For loved ones



Get well soon



Cute cards

THIS IS A REPRINT OF ULTIMATE CROSS STITCH CARDS FROM 2017

Ultimate CrossStitch Cards

205
charts
inside



For weddings



Zodiac for birthdays

CARDS FOR EVERY OCCASION

- * For mum * For dad * New baby * Thank you * Kids
- * Weddings * New job * Birthdays * Get well & more



Friendship cards



New baby



Especially for dad

Gorgeous cards to stitch and send with love





Katriel Costello, editor

Welcome...

We love cards for being easy little projects to work on while we're taking a break from bigger projects; they take only an evening or two to stitch and, best of all, they cause our family and friends' faces to light up... So we have a fantastic collection of designs inside for you.

Mums, grans, aunties and best friends especially love to receive a hand-stitched card, and we're excited about the choice we have for you: from gorgeous vintage shoes and vibrant tropical flowers to a set of delicate butterflies – they're all just so pretty! You'll be itching to stitch the birthday cards in this issue's collection too, we've got beautiful hot air balloon designs, adorable mice and cute little tortoises – there's something for everyone.

From traditional to contemporary, there's every style of card to stitch and there's plenty here for beginners too. If you're new to cross stitch, just look out for the 'whole stitches only' roundels and the expert tips throughout the magazine will help you too. And, of course, there are plenty of fractionals and French knots to keep more experienced stitchers happy too.

You'll find all the special events that can be marked by a special stitched card catered for here, from oh-so-sweet motifs to mark the birth of a new baby, to gorgeous wedding, Easter and Christmas cards. And there are special wishes too: send a card to someone who has passed their exams or got a new job or just stitch and send a handmade note of thanks – you can't get more personal than that.

Plus, we've even remembered to include motifs that are small enough to be stitched as gift tags – don't forget to include one with your gift! Happy stitching!

Katriel

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Vintage shoes

Step into the perfect pair of pretty footwear with these charming vintage-chic shoe cards



Designed by Debra Page

So many women across the globe have a love affair with shoes, and who can blame them? Finding the perfect pair is a triumph in itself! This pretty set of vintage-chic shoes by designer Debra Page is sure to please all tastes. Great for all occasions, the lucky recipient of one of these delightful cards is sure to appreciate it as much for

the work you put in as for the gorgeous designs. Or, why not stitch all six together as a fabulous sampler for any shoe-aholic friends you have? Worked in a variety of stitches, you'll get to test your skills while finishing a card in just a few evenings. You'll also enjoy working with this pretty colour palette and with the blooms and hearts details surrounding each shoe.

Stitching Factbox

Stitching time:
Approx 8 hours each

Type of stitches:
Cross stitch, fractionals, backstitch, French knots

Level: Intermediate

You will need

Threads: Stranded cotton, as listed in the key

Needle: Size 24 tapestry needle

Fabric: 14-count white aida measuring 15x15cm (6x6in) for each design

Cards: Square aperture cards in pale cream and pink from local craft shops

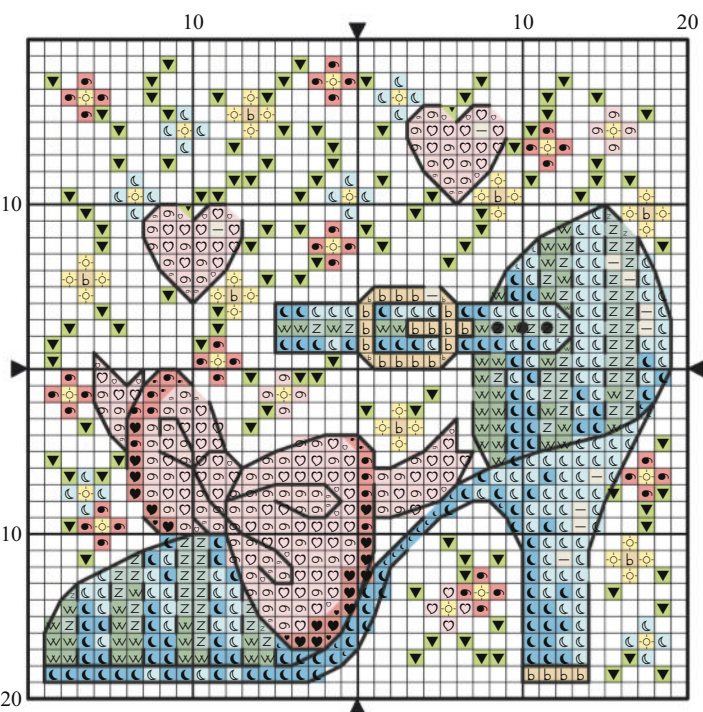
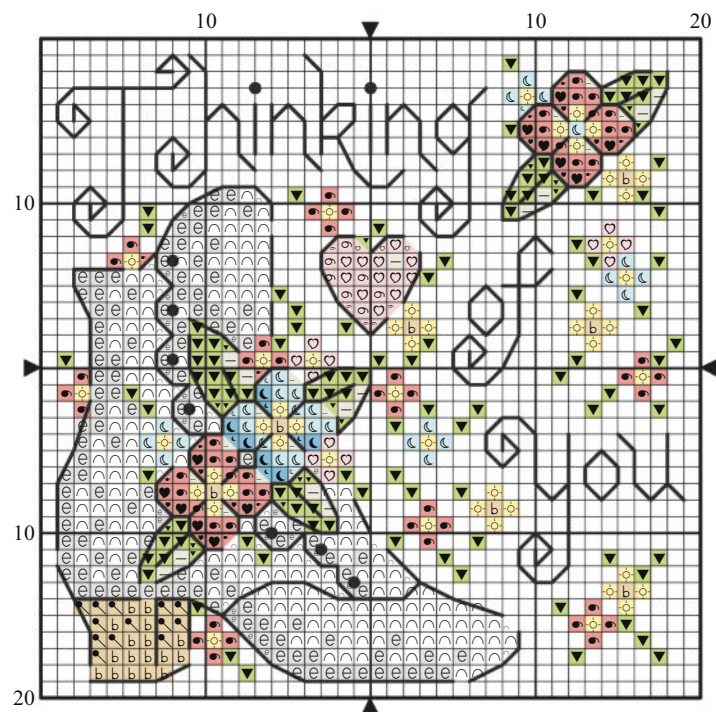


Stitch
in a
weekend!



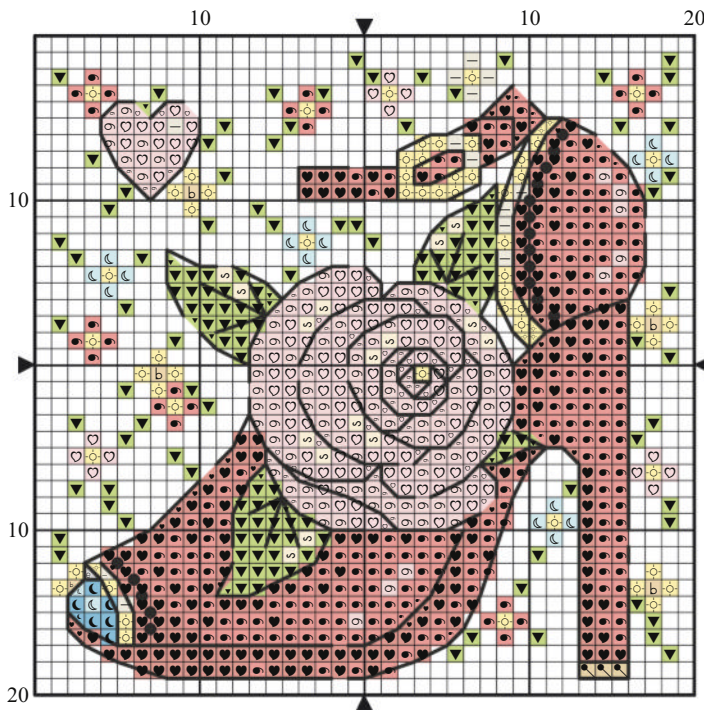
Create your perfect shoe
collection in stitches, with
these gorgeous card patterns

For Her



*“Like many of you,
my wardrobe is
overflowing with
shoes! I loved
coming up with
the designs for
these cards, I
hope you enjoy
stitching them.”
Debra Page, designer*





Vintage shoes key

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	B5200	1	2401	white
♡	151	73	404	light pink
♥	347	1025	407	red
e	415	398	1802	light grey
b	422	943	2102	light tan
☾	518	1039	1106	blue
☾	519	1038	1105	light blue
▼	703	238	1307	green
—	712	926	2101	light cream
☼	726	295	109	yellow
s	739	366	2014	cream
◐	3328	1024	406	salmon pink
◑	3354	36	2610	pink
☛	3828	373	2103	tan
w	3848	1074	1108	teal green
z	3849	1070	1109	light teal green

✕ Backstitch in one strand

—	3799	236	1713	grey
---	------	-----	------	------

✕ French knots in one strand

●	3799	236	1713	grey
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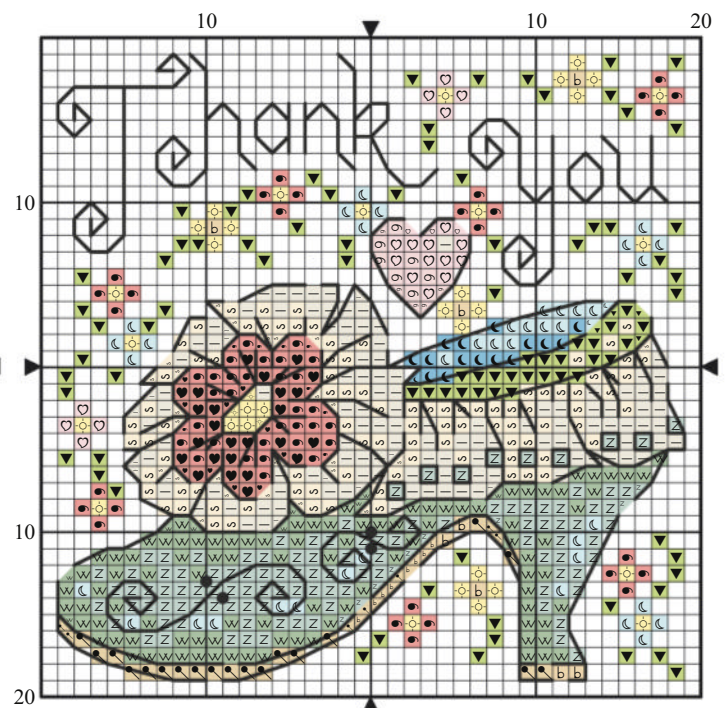
STITCH COUNT 38 high x 38 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 7x7cm (2¾x2¾in)

These designs were stitched using DMC stranded cotton

Stitching ideas

Plenty of French knots add detail in these designs, so see our 'How to' video at www.gathered.how if you need a reminder of this technique.



Roses & lace

With lacy borders and pretty rose-themed motifs, these beautiful cards have a feminine feel a special surprise for mum



Designed by Durene Jones

If, as a young girl, you dreamed of having your own dressing table filled with ornate perfume bottles and pretty trinkets, you'll be delighted with this set of flowery and feminine greetings. Stitched on grey evenweave in shades of white, pink, cream and green, the cards have a stunning and refined look, with added lustre from

shiny Satin thread and opal seed bead embellishments. Durene has used pink rose motifs to tie the four designs together so they make a cohesive set as well as standing out individually. They're great for all ages, too. Why not stitch the single rose stem for a lady who loves her garden, or the pretty bonnet for a young bridesmaid?

You will need

Threads: Stranded cotton and DMC Satin thread, as listed in the key

Beads: Mill Hill seed beads as listed in the key

Needle: Size 22 tapestry needle; beading needle

Fabric: 25-count pewter lugana evenweave measuring 18x16cm (7x6¼in) for each design

Extras: Single-fold deckle-edge oblong cards in white and ribbon of your choice from local craft shops

"These designs would also make pretty pictures, hung together on a bedroom wall. You'll be able to pick up standard-sized frames at home stores for very reasonable prices and then paint them to match your décor."

Heather Nugent, charting assistant



Stitching Factbox

Stitching time:
Approx 10-12 hours each

Type of stitches:
Cross stitch, fractionals, backstitch, French knots and beads

Level: Advanced

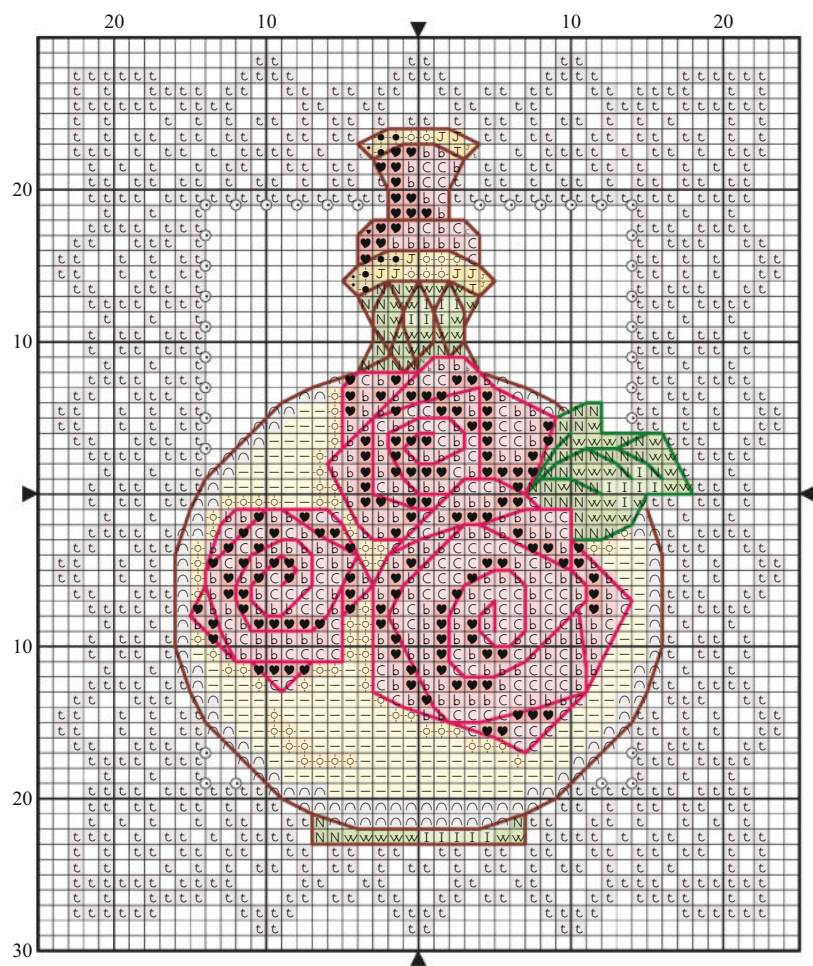
Stitch
in a
weekend!

Practice your beadwork with
these four designs, featuring
delicately beaded borders



Tip

To make your card
extra special, use an
elegant italic script
for the greeting
inside



How to mount your cards

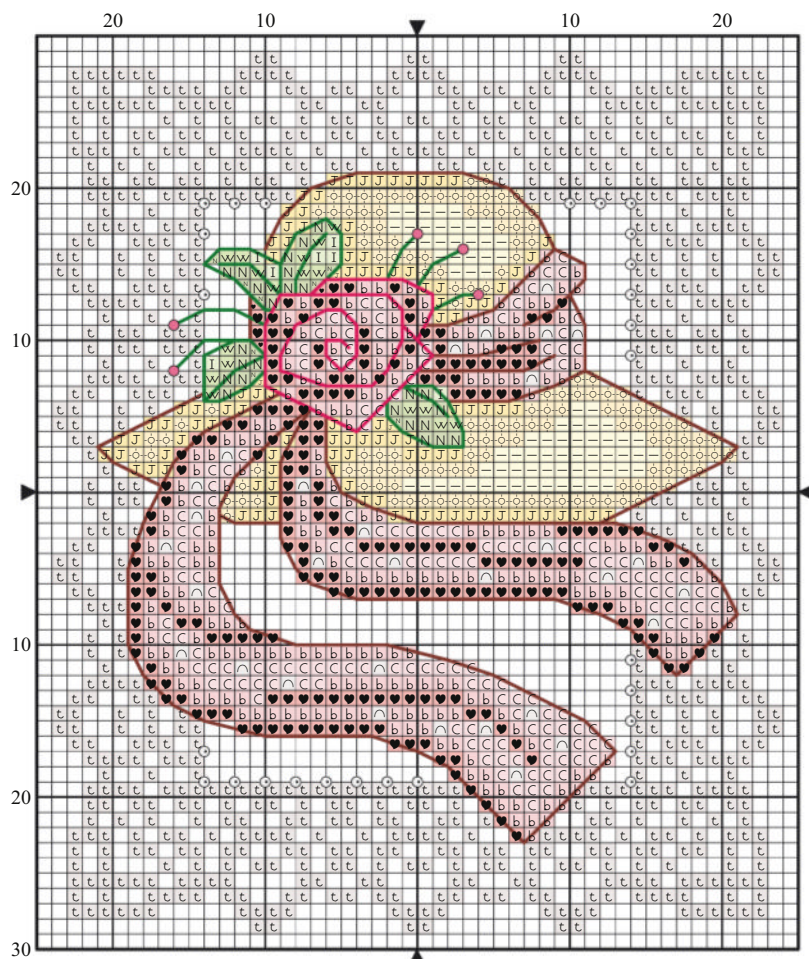
- 1 Trim your evenweave to within four rows of the stitched border, then fray two rows of evenweave all the way around the edge.
- 2 Cut a piece of white paper slightly smaller than your evenweave, and stick this to the back of your stitching using double-sided tape.
- 3 Place more strips of double-sided tape on the back of the white paper.
- 4 Position the stitching on your card, using the picture on the previous page as a guide and ensuring you leave enough room for the ribbon detail (optional). Once you are happy with the position, peel off the tape's backing and stick the design in place.
- 5 Carefully glue two pieces of ribbon along the bottom of the card, folding over the edges to secure in place.

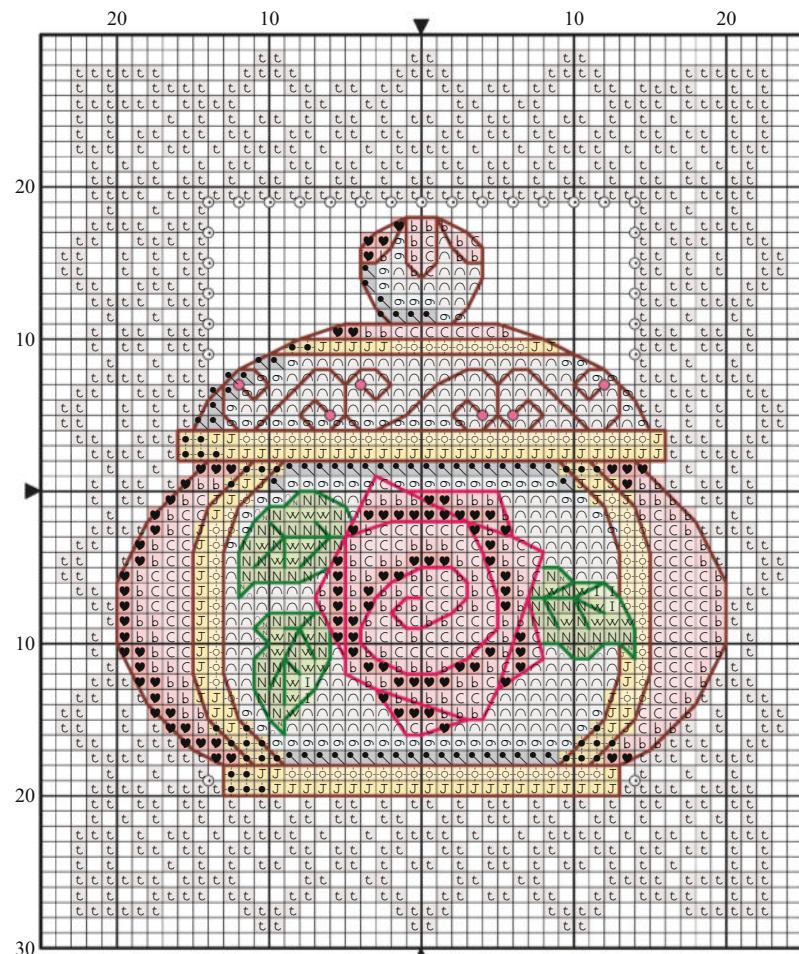
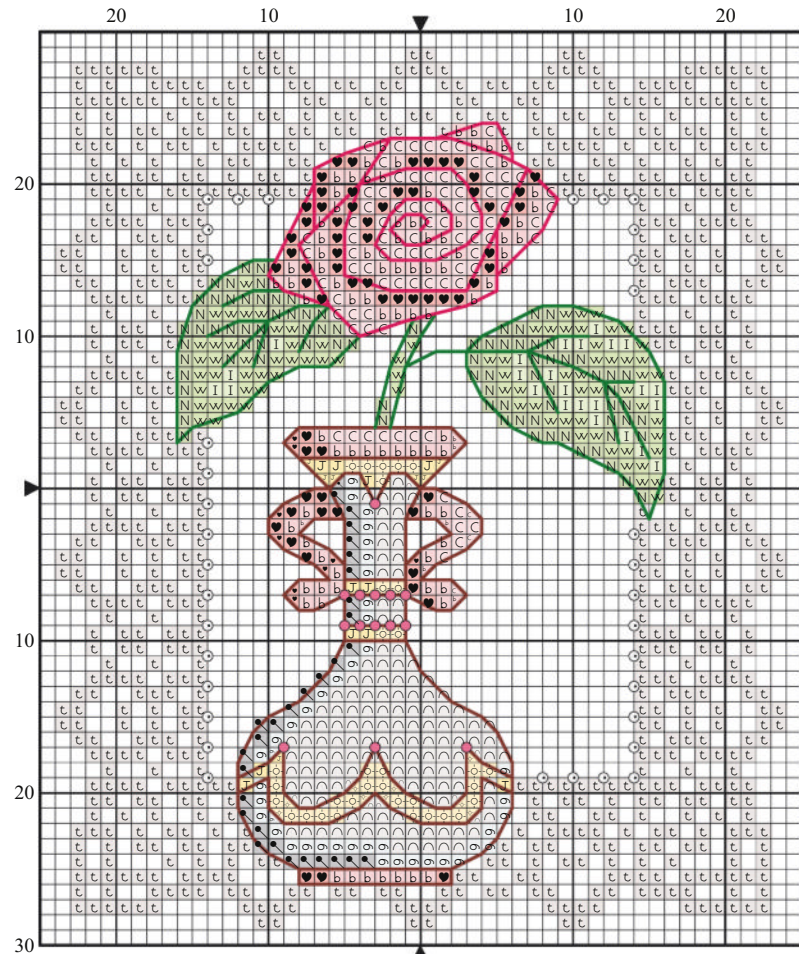
Tip

Stitch the set and keep them handy so you have a card already stitched when you need one in a hurry

How to make even stitches

Use the stab method rather than the sewing method when you stitch these designs. This means that you should complete each part of the cross stitch in a separate motion, instead of running the needle through two holes at once in the same movement. The sewing method may seem a lot quicker, but it's much more likely to distort your fabric and create messy stitches.





Lace cards key

✦ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	B5200	1	2401	white
w	164	240	1209	light green
I	369	1043	1309	very light green
⌘	415	398	1802	grey
J	744	301	112	yellow
⦿	745	300	111	light yellow
—	746	275	2511	cream
⦿	762	234	1804	very light grey
♥	961	76	610	dark pink
C	963	73	502	light pink
N	989	241	1401	green
b	3716	25	503	pink
●	3821	305	2510	straw

✦ Cross stitch in two strands DMC Satin thread

t	S5200			satin white
---	-------	--	--	-------------

✦ Backstitch in one strand

—	839	1050	1913	brown
—	986	246	1404	dark green
—	3831	1006	507	plum

✦ French knots in one strand

●	961	76	610	dark pink
---	-----	----	-----	-----------

✦ Mill Hill seed beads

○	03041			white opal
---	-------	--	--	------------

STITCH COUNT 58 high x 48 wide

DESIGN AREA 25-count evenweave –
12x10cm (4½x3¾in)

These designs were stitched using DMC stranded cotton,
DMC Satin thread and Mill Hill seed beads on 25-count
evenweave over two threads of the fabric

Stitching close-up

Durene has kept the colour scheme of these cards fairly simple to ensure they look very ladylike and elegant. She chose grey fabric, with pretty pink threads for the roses, soft green for the leaves, crisp white for the lace borders, and pale creamy shades for much of the other detail. The backstitch colours are slightly darker to create contrast.



Fabulously floral

There's something almost tropical about these colourful flowers. Send them to a favourite friend and brighten up their day, whatever the occasion



Designed by Susan Bates

Wherever you live in the world, there are some days when life needs a little brightening up. If it's a rainy day, you've had some bad news or just feel down in the dumps, a note from a friend goes a long way to making things better. These vibrant flower head cards are the perfect

stitch to send to friends when they need a little lift. One of these cards will look so smart displayed on their mantelpiece, and the tropical colours are sure to make them smile whenever it catches their eye. And the best thing is, the wonderful colours also make them so uplifting to stitch – so it's smiles all round!

Stitching Factbox

Stitching time:
Approx 10-12 hours each

Type of stitches:
Cross stitch, backstitch

Level:
Beginners

You will need

Threads: Stranded cotton, as listed in the key

Needle: Size 26 tapestry needle

Fabric: 16-count white aida, measuring 15x15cm (6x6in) for each design

Cards: Square aperture cards in white from local craft shops



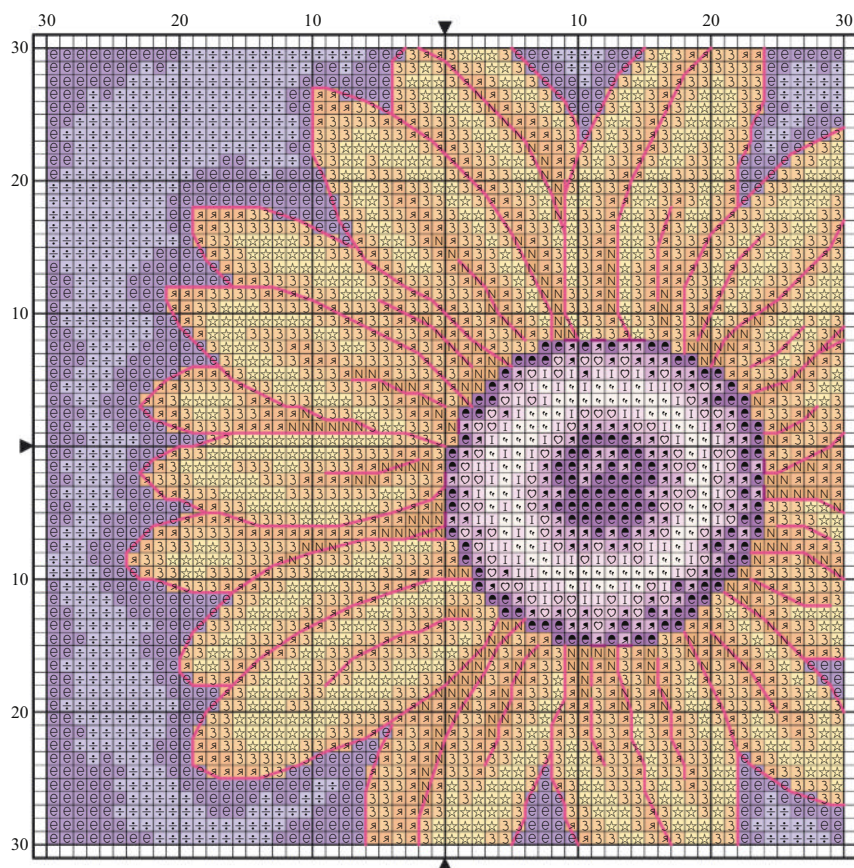
Tip

It's worth spending time over your backstitch, placing the stitches accurately so it's as neat as possible



Watch as
the backstitch
brings these
designs
to life!

Choose one of these gorgeous
blooms for a rich and vibrant
stitch at any time of the year

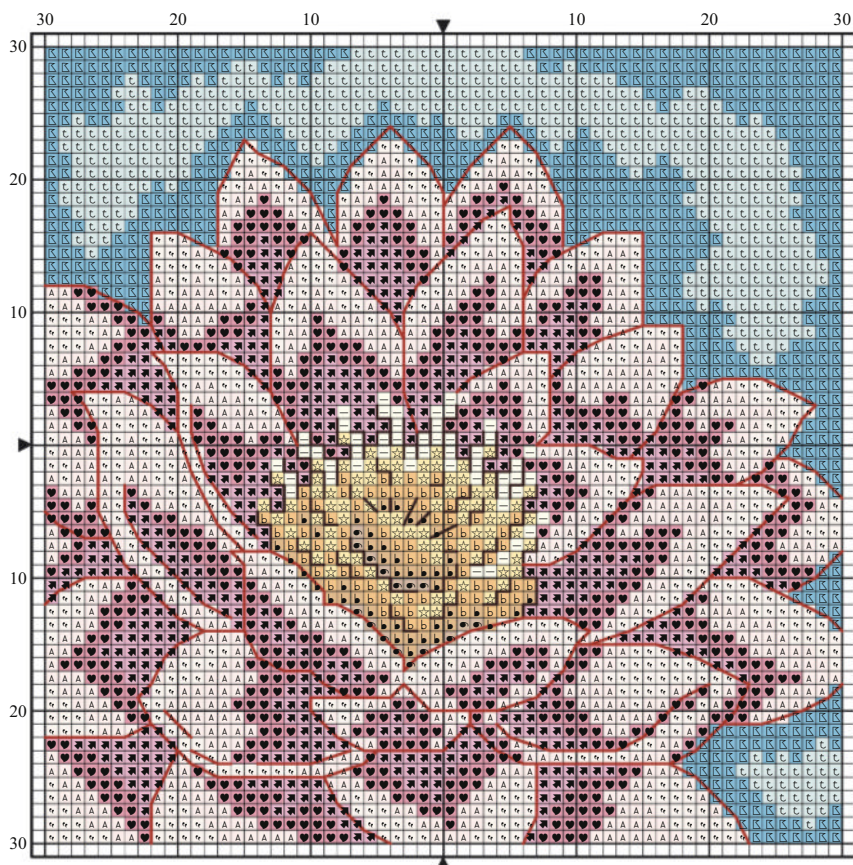


Stitching close-up

Susan's gerbera has a few light purple stitches at the very centre, to reflect the textured finish you see on these blooms. To enhance this even further, why not add a few light purple beads to this area, and perhaps to some of the light purple stitches around the outside of the dark purple stitched area too?



“Susan brings beautiful shading to her flower designs, which gives them a wonderfully realistic look.” *Fiona Baker, technical editor*

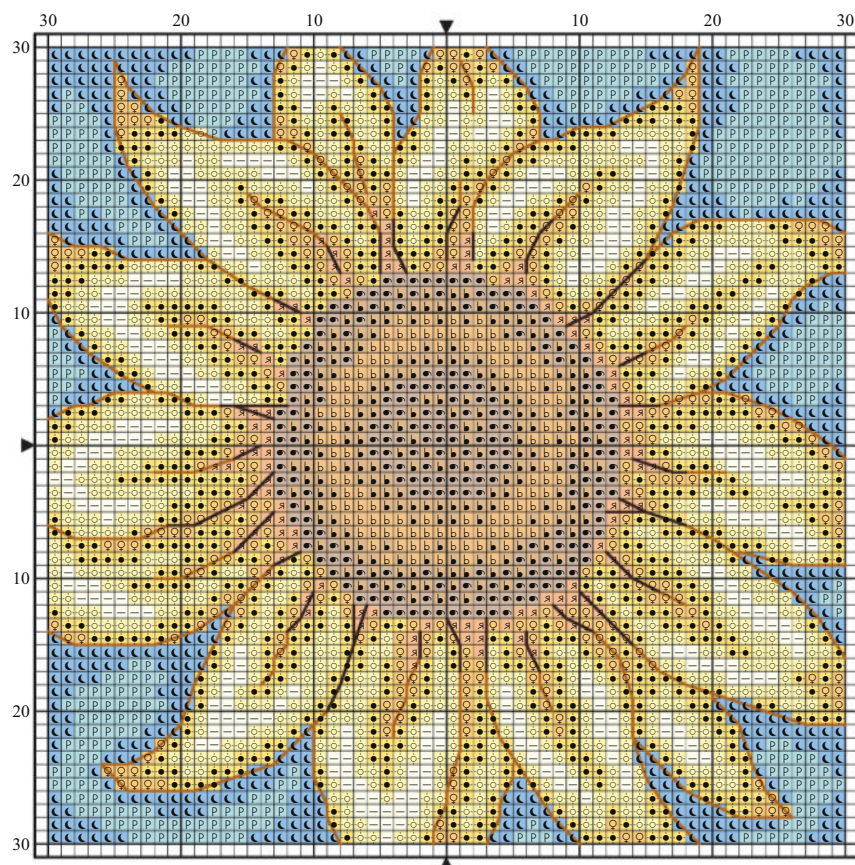
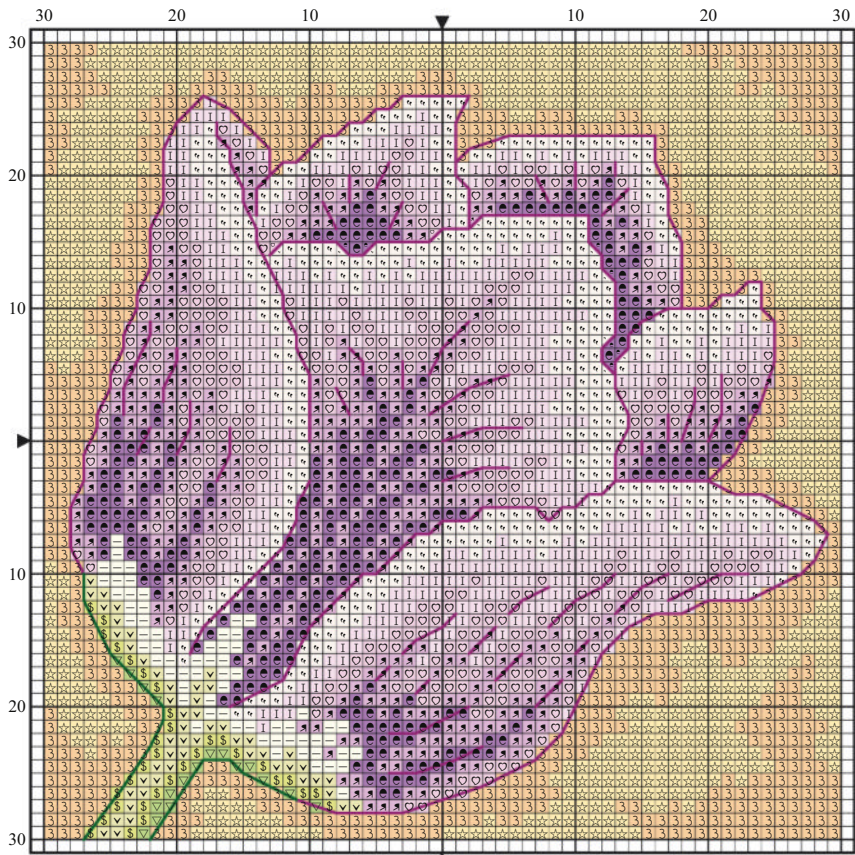


Stitching know-how

Make sure all your stitches face in the same direction by working rows of half stitches first, before going back the other way to complete the top arms of the cross stitches. This can make designs more relaxing to stitch, too.

Stitching ideas

Stitch your favourite three designs from the set and display them in a triple aperture frame. That way, you can enjoy stitching them and still not have to part with your finished cards. A repeat of one design three times would also look very striking displayed in this way.



Vibrant flowers key

✦ Cross stitch in two strands

	Anchor	DMC	Madeira	
W	6	353	305	coral
A	24	3713	502	light pink
♥	75	603	609	pink
✦	77	3731	604	dark pink
♡	86	3608	709	magenta
✦	92	553	712	mauve
I	95	211	801	lilac
✦	101	327	805	dark mauve
÷	118	340	902	purple
✦	119	333	804	dark purple
✓	253	472	1414	light green
\$	255	704	1308	green
▽	258	904	1413	dark green
“	271	819	814	baby pink
—	275	712	2403	cream
☀	293	726	110	yellow
☀	297	973	106	dark yellow
☆	301	744	112	light yellow
♀	303	742	201	tangerine
♂	309	780	2213	light brown
3	313	3825	2307	peach
я	324	721	308	orange
N	326	900	208	dark orange
K	328	3341	302	light orange
✦	332	946	207	bright orange
●	359	898	2005	brown
b	363	3827	2301	ginger
■	403	310	2400	black
t	928	3761	1014	turquoise
Ⓚ	1039	518	1003	dark turquoise
☾	1089	3843	1102	dark blue
P	1090	996	1103	blue
⦿	9046	321	510	red

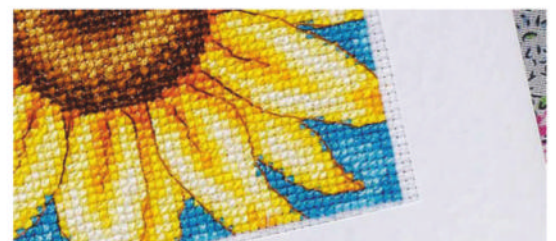
✦ Backstitch in one strand

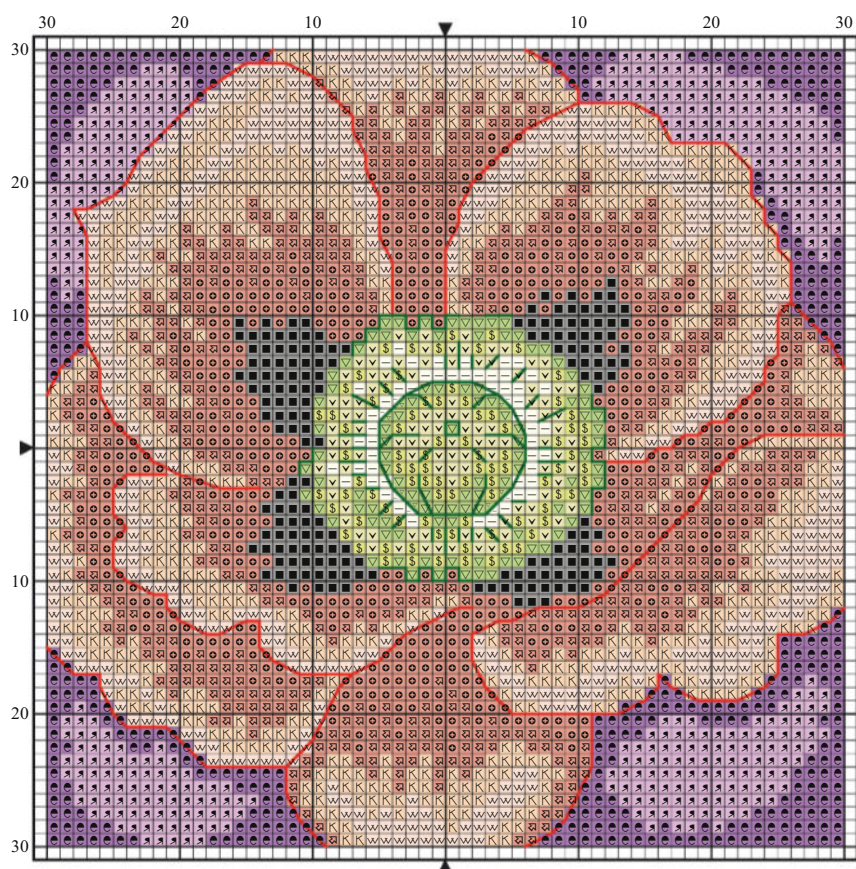
—	20	221	811	dark red
—	44	815	513	garnet red
—	101	327	805	dark mauve
—	218	319	1313	very dark green
—	309	780	2213	light brown
—	359	898	2005	brown
—	897	902	601	plum

STITCH COUNT 60 high x 60 wide

DESIGN AREA 16 HPI (32-count evenweave) – 9.5x9.5cm (3¾x3¾in)

These designs were stitched using Anchor stranded cotton



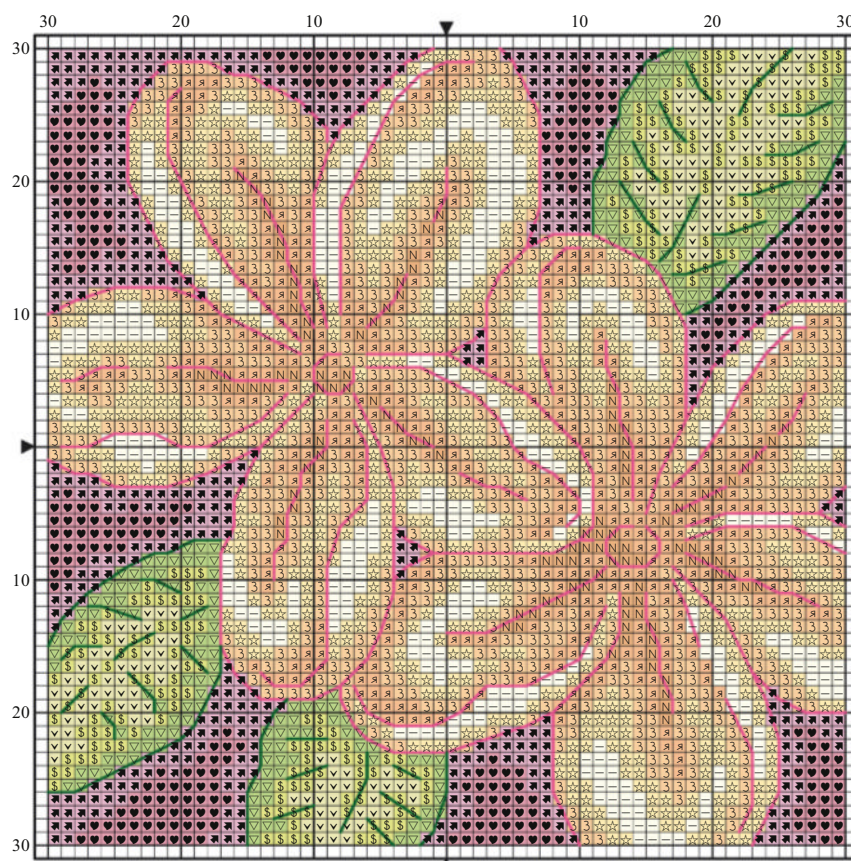


Stitching ideas

Why not save some time and create a different background for your card by stitching your favourite flower onto coloured aida? Pale colours will work best with the bright blooms.

Stitching close-up

Rather than completing the backstitch circle in the centre of her frangipani, Susan has left part of the circle open. This helps to bring perspective to the design, as if you can only make out the edge of the flower closest to you. It's the little touches like this one that give Susan's flower designs such impact.



“Work these eye-catching designs as a set on an afghan to make a special throw for your home.” Katriel Costello, editor

Glorious garden designs!

Discover 248 designs to stitch for green-fingered loved ones– from picturesque views, gardening motifs, bugs and butterflies, and more!



WHAT'S INSIDE!

- ✕ 132 pages of stunning cross stitch inspiration
- ✕ Small cards and gifts, plus larger pictures
- ✕ Designs suitable for beginners and beyond



Flowerpot cutie **Mill house garden** **Butterfly gift ideas** **French-style sampler**

Ultimate CrossStitch Gardens

248 charts inside

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Make a
card in a
couple of
evenings



Stitching Factbox

Stitching time:
Approx 6-8 hours

Type of stitches:
Cross stitch, fractionals,
backstitch, French
knots

Level: Intermediate

Show you remembered their
special day with our cute card

Love from Ellie

Ellie the baby elephant is cute as can be, and she's sure to be loved by all. This sweet design is perfect for saying thank you to friends...

You will need

Threads: Stranded cotton, as listed in the key

Needle: Size 24 tapestry needle

Fabric: 14-count white aida, measuring 15x18cm
(6x7in)

Extras: Single-fold, deckle-edge cards in pink and
backing paper of choice from local craft shops

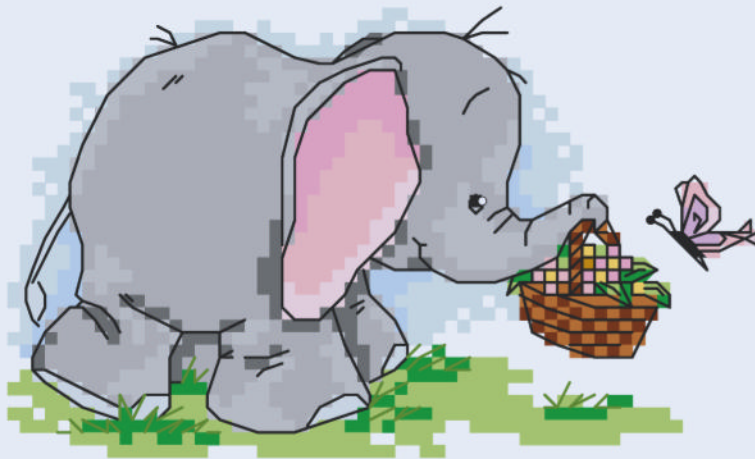
Designed by Lee Holland

They say elephants never forget but, in the case of this cutie, we'll never forget a card as sweet as this! Pretty as a picture, Ellie holds a wicker basket full of cut flowers in her trunk, her friend the butterfly keeping her company as she goes. Everyone will appreciate a card this endearing, especially mum on Mother's Day.

Stitching close-up



French knots are used for the eyes and antennae on the butterfly. To work one, bring needle up through the fabric, hold the thread taut in your left hand, wrap the needle around it twice, and push needle back into the fabric, close to where it came up. Pull needle and thread through fabric, leaving a neat French knot sitting on top.



Elephant key

✖ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
✓	164	240	1209	light green
e	210	108	802	lilac
q	318	399	1801	grey
■	414	235	1714	dark grey
J	415	398	1802	light grey
■	433	357	2602	dark tan
N	435	1046	2010	tan
w	605	1094	613	pink
o	744	301	112	yellow
*	762	234	1804	very light grey
r	818	23	608	very light pink
A	963	73	502	light pink
\$	988	243	1402	green
■	3799	236	1713	very dark grey

✖ Cross stitch in one strand

□	3325	129	907	blue
t	3841	9159	1001	light blue

✖ Backstitch in one strand

—	3799	236	1713	very dark grey
---	------	-----	------	----------------

✖ Backstitch in two strands

—	987	244	1403	dark green
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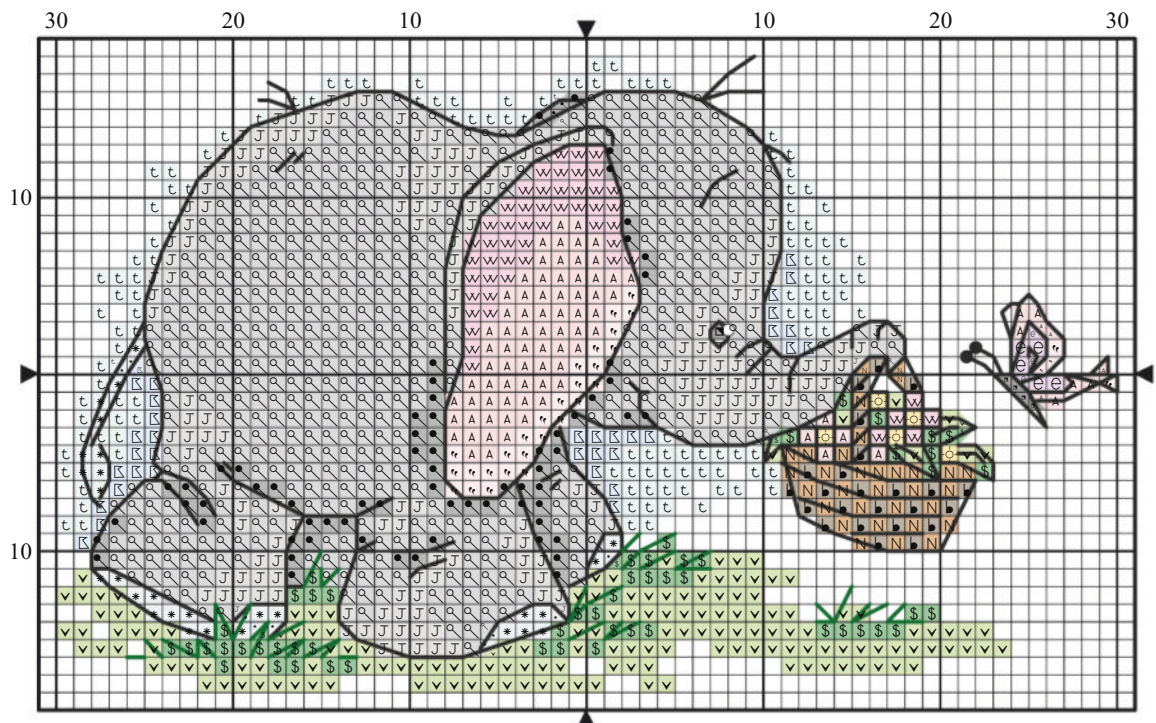
✖ French knots in one strand

○	B5200	1	2401	white
●	3799	236	1713	very dark grey

STITCH COUNT 36 high x 60 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 6.5x11cm (2½x4¼in)

This design was stitched using DMC stranded cotton



Whole
stitches
only!

Love you, mum!

Show your appreciation of the VIP in your family with one of our beautiful butterfly cards. So quick & easy to stitch



Designed by Maria Diaz

Even stitchers with a busy schedule will be able to make one of these cards, as they only take a few hours each to complete. All of the designs use just whole cross stitch and backstitch, and with very few colour changes to make,

you'll whizz right through from start to finish. The backstitched wording at the bottom probably requires the most concentration, and it's recommended that you refer to the chart regularly when working this, to avoid having to do any unpicking.

You will need

Threads: Stranded cotton, as listed in the key

Needle: Size 24 tapestry needle

Fabric: 14-count white aida, measuring 15x15cm (6x6in) for each design

Extras: Single-fold scallop-edge cards in white and backing paper of your choice from local craft shops

Stitching Factbox

Stitching time:
Approx 6-7 hours each

Type of stitches:
Cross stitch, backstitch

Level: Beginner

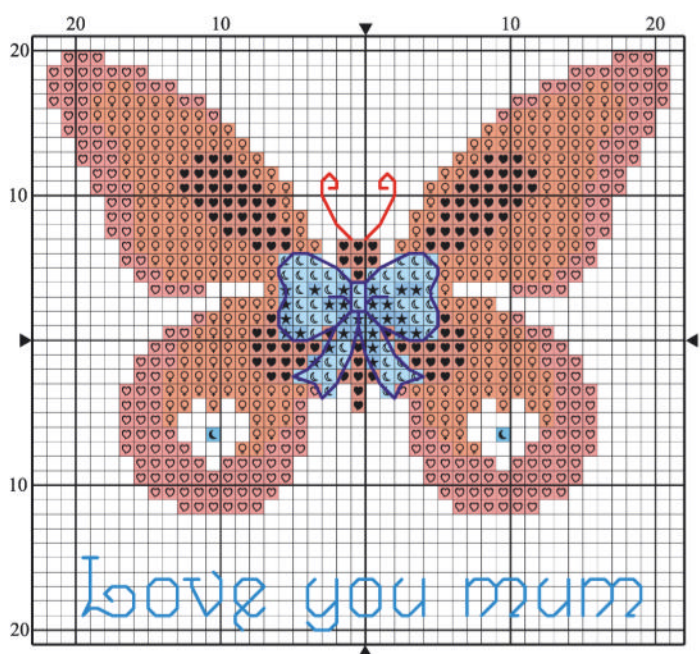
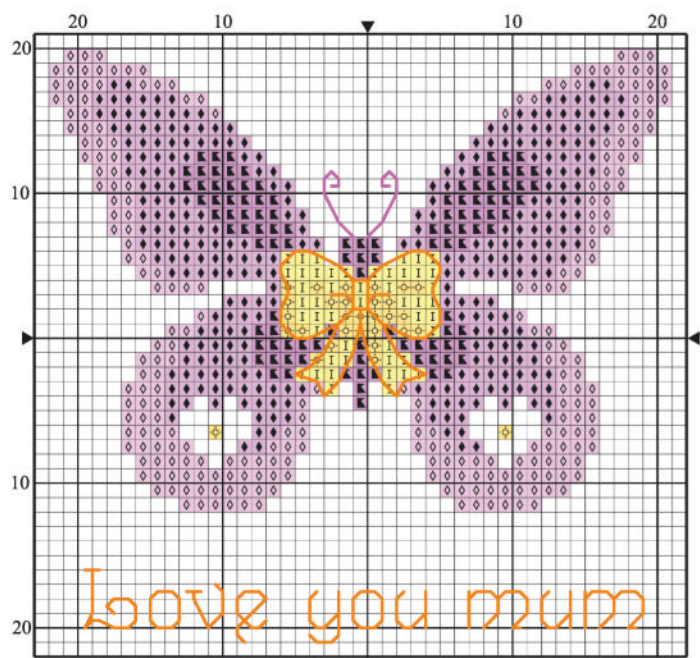




Tip
Stick a square of
pretty background
paper to your card
and glue to stick on
your stitched
piece

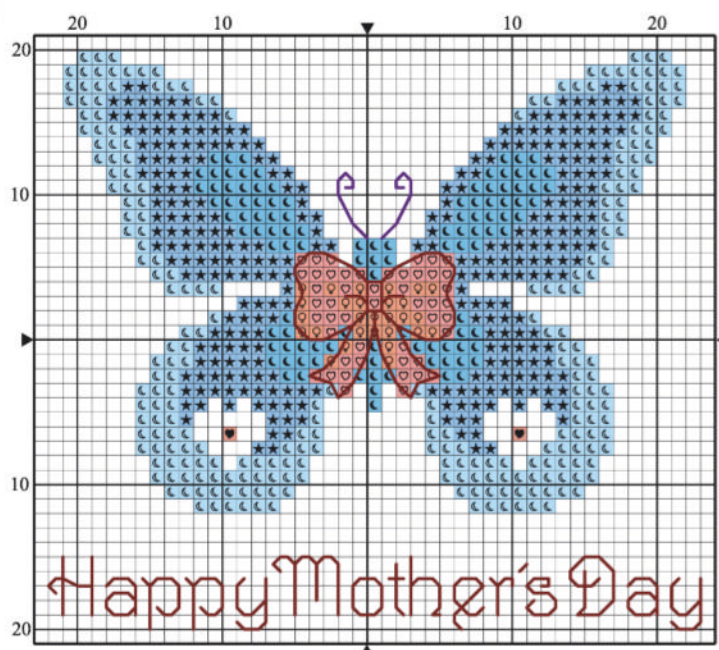
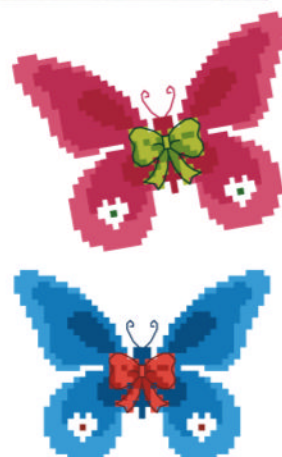
Everyone will have time to
stitch a card for mum thanks to
Maria's speedy designs

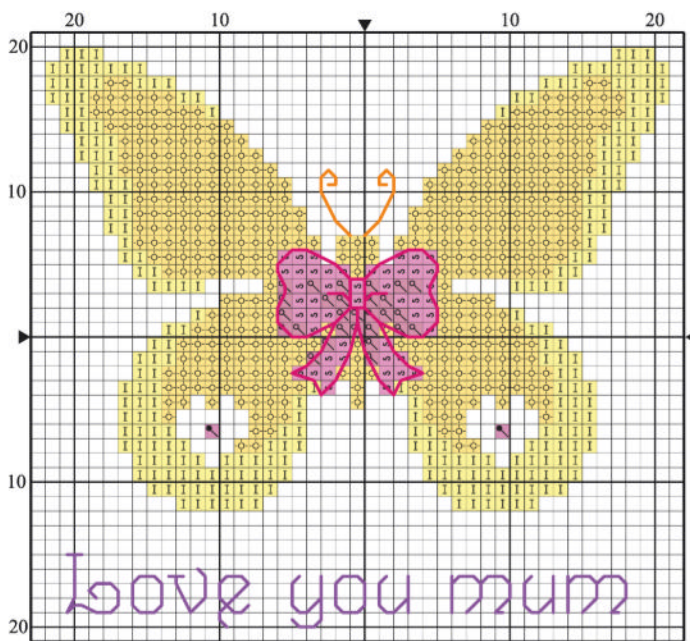
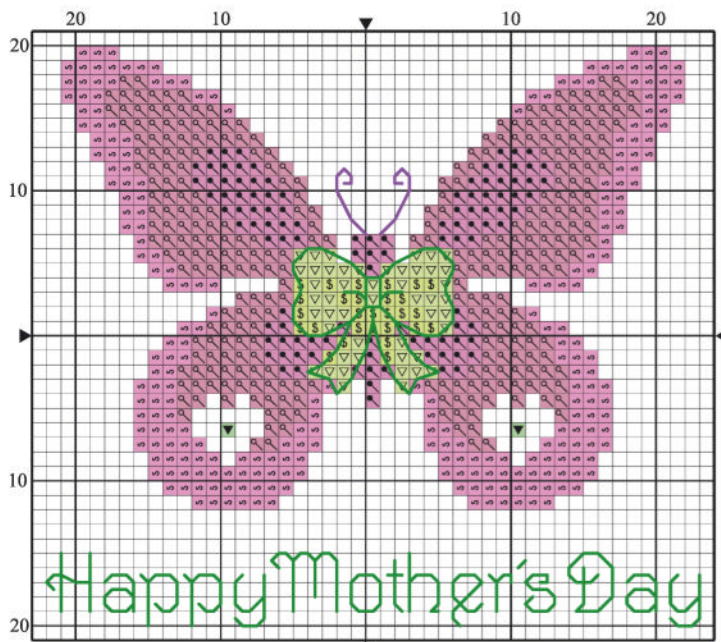
For Her



“Butterflies are the perfect way to let someone know how special you are to them, and in just whole stitches, beginners can easily tackle them too.”

Fiona Baker, technical editor





Stitching close-up

Maria has used backstitch for her sentiments. It's important to get the tension right when working long backstitches to prevent them from sagging, so put your fabric in a hoop or frame while you're stitching to keep your fabric taut and stitches neat.



Butterflies key

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
♥	304	19	511	dark red
I	307	289	104	light yellow
☀	444	291	106	yellow
◀	552	99	713	dark mauve
◆	553	98	712	mauve
◇	554	90	711	light mauve
♀	666	46	210	red
▼	701	227	1305	dark green
\$	703	238	1307	green
▽	704	255	1308	light green
🔍	718	88	707	dark pink
🔍	917	89	706	light magenta
🌙	995	410	1102	dark blue
🌙	996	1090	1105	light blue
🌸	3607	87	708	pink
♥	3705	35	410	light red
P	3837	111	804	violet
★	3843	433	1103	blue

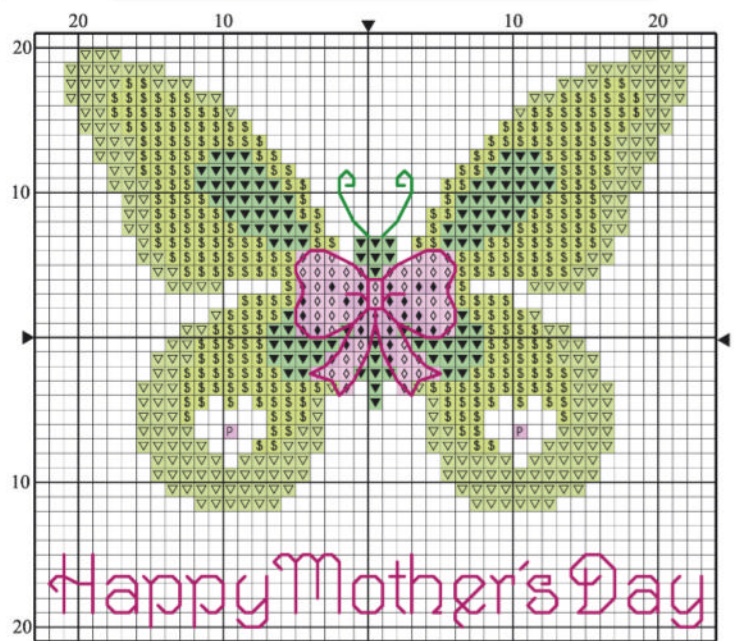
✕ Backstitch in one strand

—	517	162	1107	dark sea blue
—	550	102	714	very dark purple
—	666	46	210	red
—	699	923	1303	very dark green
—	718	88	707	dark pink
—	741	304	202	orange
—	814	22	601	very dark red
—	915	1029	705	magenta
—	995	410	1102	dark blue
—	3837	111	804	violet

MAXIMUM STITCH COUNT 41 high x 45 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 7.5x8cm (3x3¼in)

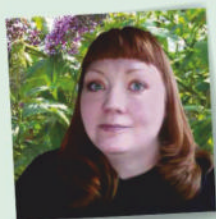
These designs were stitched using DMC stranded cotton



A simple stitched border adds a homespun look

For new baby

Congratulate new parents on their latest addition to the family with this so-cute set of sugar-sweet baby cards



Designed by Durene Jones

Welcoming a little one into the world spells double the joy: the arrival of new life and even more reason to stitch! Durene's designs are sweetly themed around the mobiles that hang over the cot in baby's nursery, each is hung with varying motifs that will be a delight to

stitch and send. Choose from different colourways too, from blue and sunshine yellow to mint green and lemon yellow – all in soft pastel shades. Different sentiments decorate each card, and we love the simple stitched border on each. And with no fractional stitches, they make a quick and easy stitch too.

Stitching Factbox

Stitching time:
Approx 5-6 hours each

Type of stitches:
Whole cross stitch, backstitch

Level: Beginners

You will need

Threads: Stranded cotton, as listed in the key

Needle: Size 24 tapestry needle

Fabric: 14-count white aida measuring 12x12cm (4¾x4¾in) for each design

Extras: Square aperture cards in pale pink, pale blue and pale green and ribbon from local craft shops



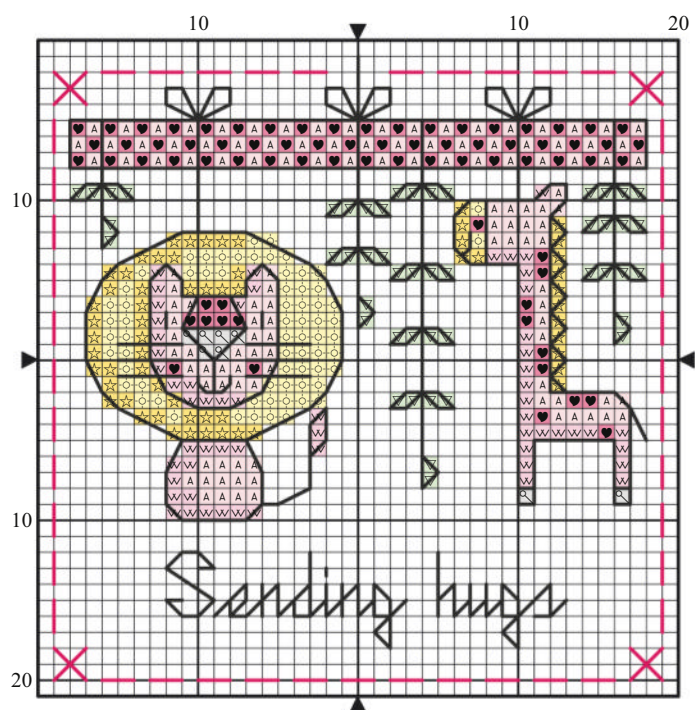
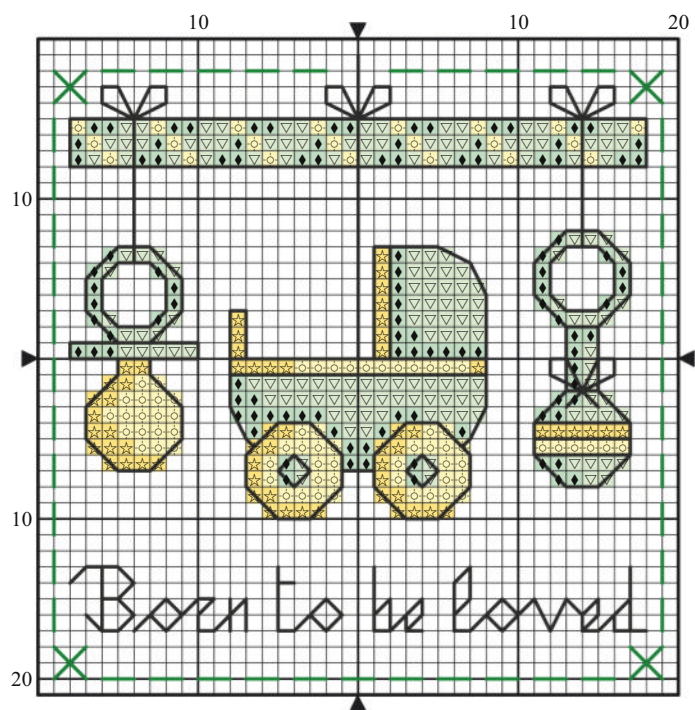


Tip

Add a length of ribbon for a cute finishing touch



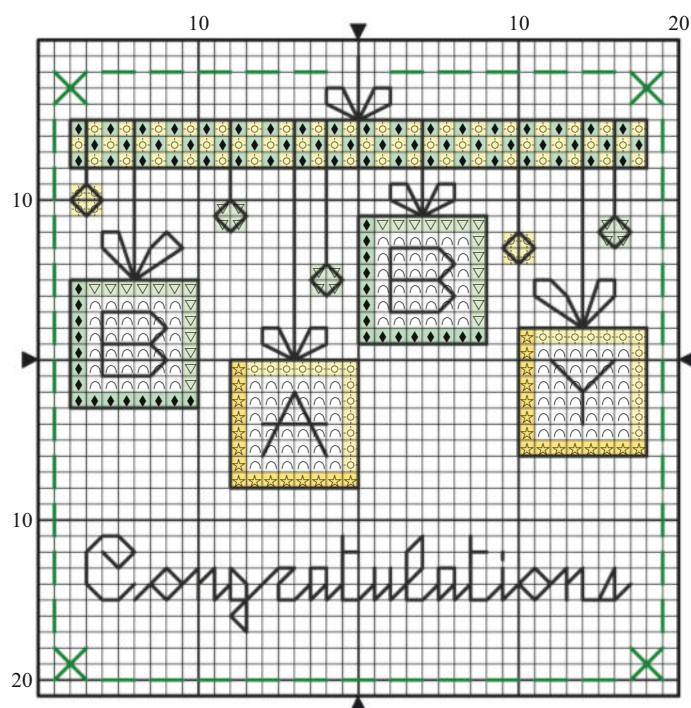
Herald a new arrival with a sweet-as-candy celebrations card

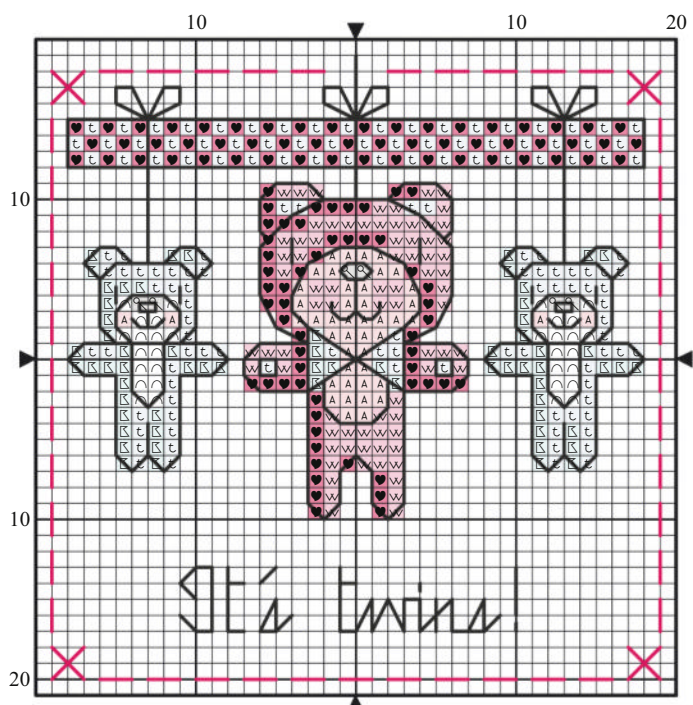
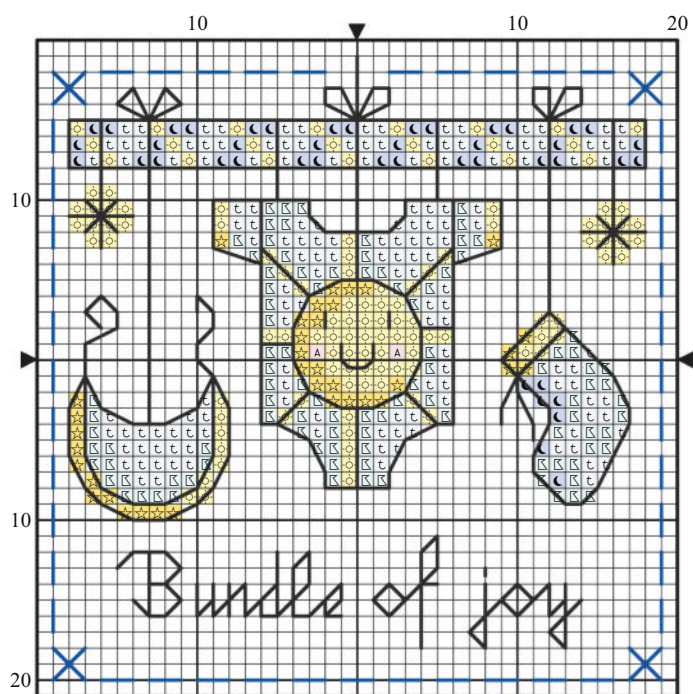


Tip
Use one of these
sweet motifs
to make a tiny
matching tag to go
with baby's gift

"From the moon and stars, a trio of teddy bears and a cutesy owl in soft pink, there's a lovely choice of motifs to choose from here. The colours would be easy to adapt to suit a baby's nursery."

Abi Barker, special projects coordinator





Stitching close-up

So inspiring, these cute-as-a-button motifs would make a great base of designs for a baby sampler – they're just the right size too. It could be really simple, six similarly-sized motifs arranged as a band sampler, for example. Go on, why not give it a try? It'd look lovely framed and hanging on the nursery wall.



Baby cards key

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
○	B5200	1	2401	white
t	162	9159	1101	light blue
q	415	398	1802	grey
☀	445	288	103	light yellow
♥	602	57	702	dark pink
w	604	55	614	pink
□	800	144	908	blue
☾	809	130	909	dark blue
◆	913	204	1212	green
▽	955	206	1210	light green
▲	963	73	502	light pink
☆	973	290	105	yellow
■	3799	236	1713	dark grey

✕ Backstitch in one strand

—	3799	236	1713	dark grey
---	------	-----	------	-----------

✕ Backstitch in two strands

—	604	55	614	pink
—	809	130	909	dark blue
—	913	204	1212	green

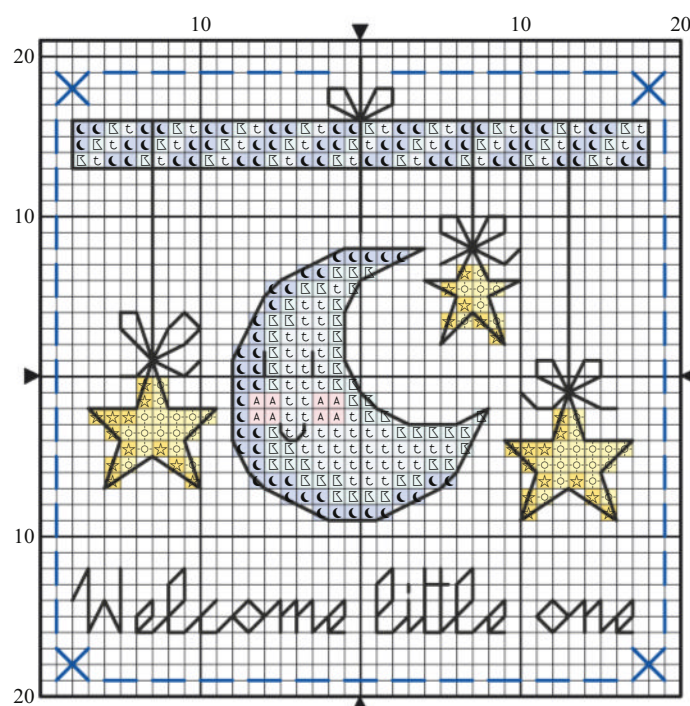
STITCH COUNT 39 high x 38 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 7x7cm (2¾x2¾in)

These designs were stitched using DMC stranded cotton

Stitching ideas

These designs will make lovely first birthday cards too. You could even stitch one and frame it in a small pine frame, as a lovely gift. We've used ribbon as an embellishment but you could use stickers too.



For Baby

Quick
stitch gift
tags

Bouncing baby

If you're sending a baby gift, you'll need a tiny tag to go with it. Take your pick from an adorable collection of designs



Designed by Lucie Heaton

Tip

Avoid marking your fabric by removing it from your hoop after stitching

You will need

Threads: Stranded cotton, as listed in the key

Needle: Size 24 tapestry needle

Fabric: 14-count white aida measuring 10x10cm (4x4in) for each design

Extras: Coloured card, small coloured safety pin and ribbon of your choice from local craft shops

Stitching Factbox

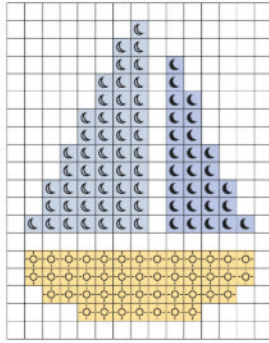
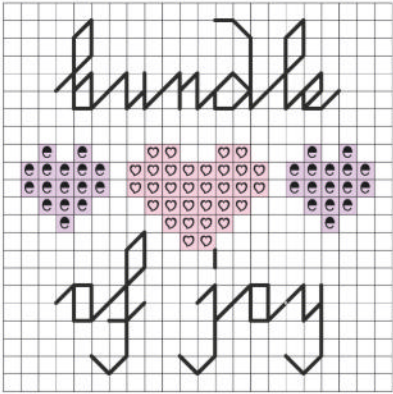
Stitching time:
Approx 2-3 hours each

Type of stitches:
Cross stitch, fractionals, backstitch

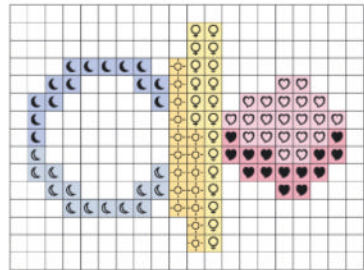
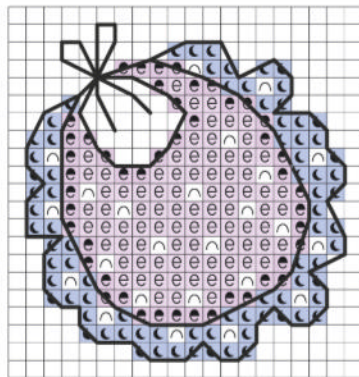
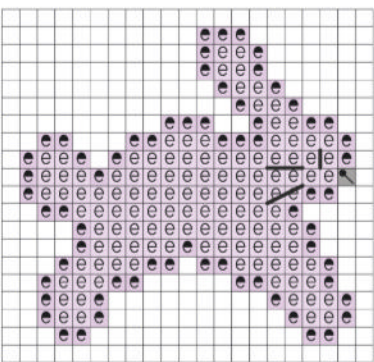
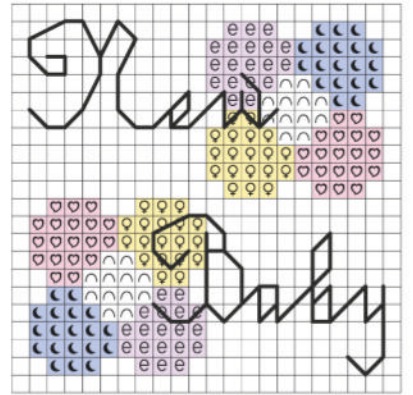
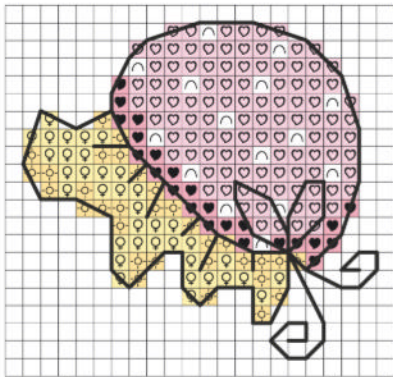
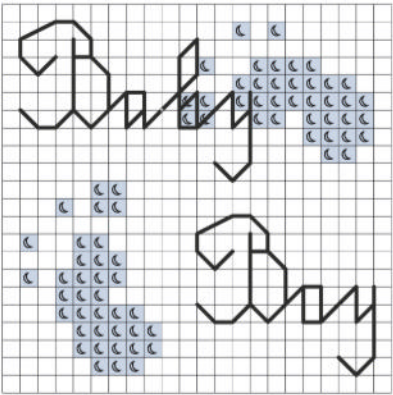
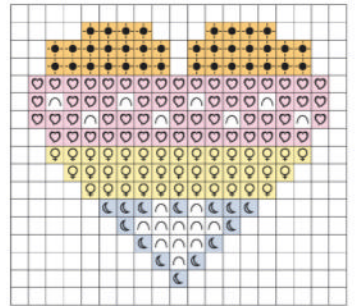
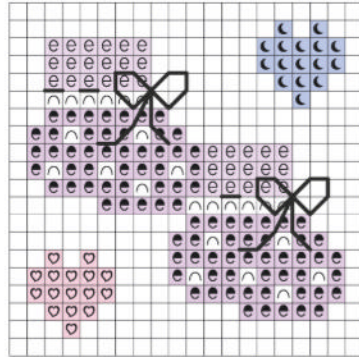
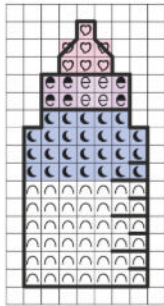
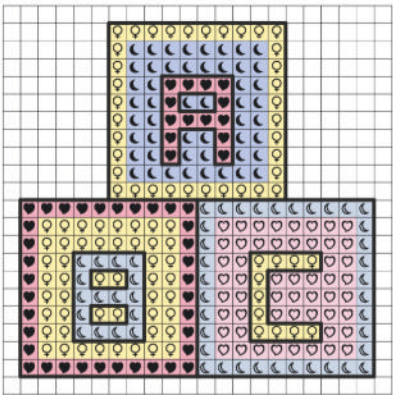
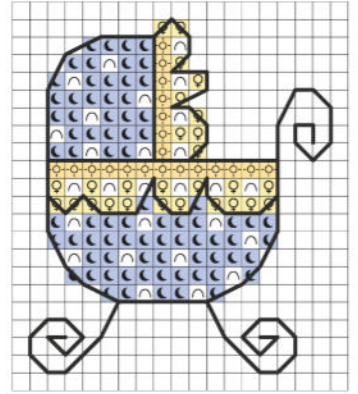
Level: Beginners

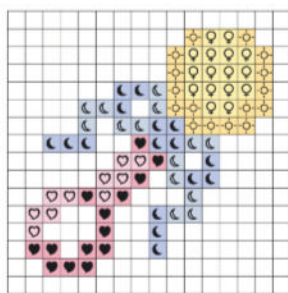
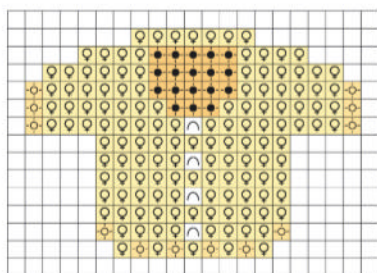
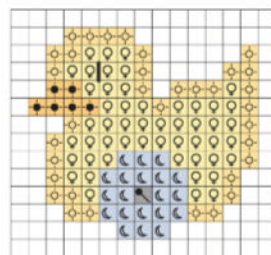
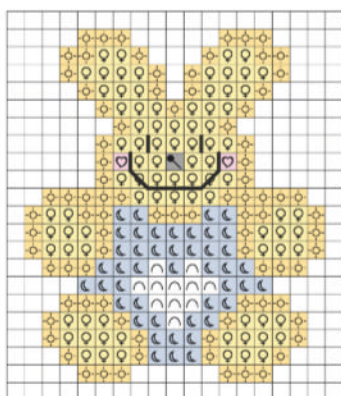
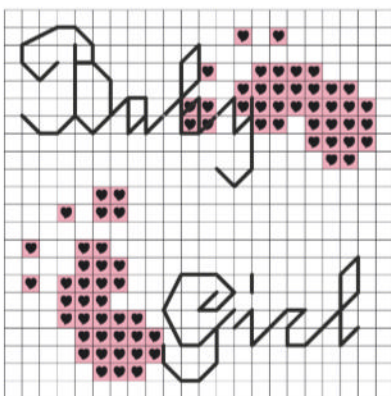
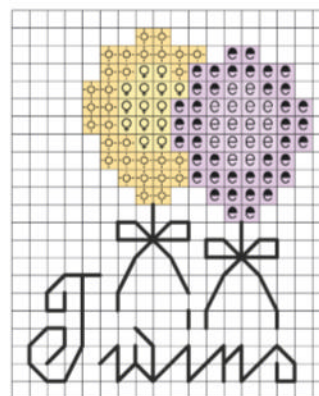
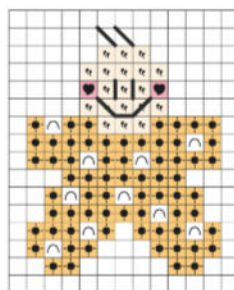
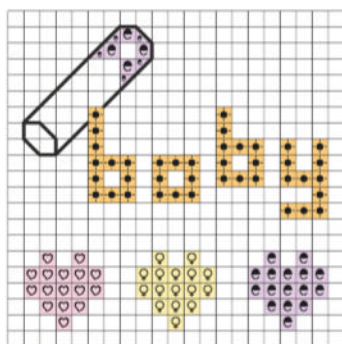
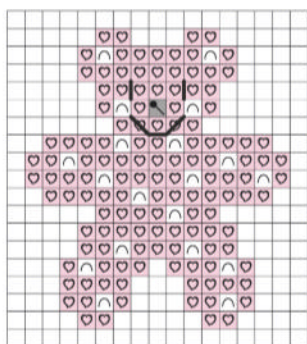
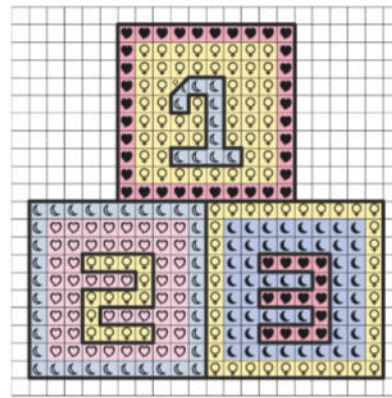
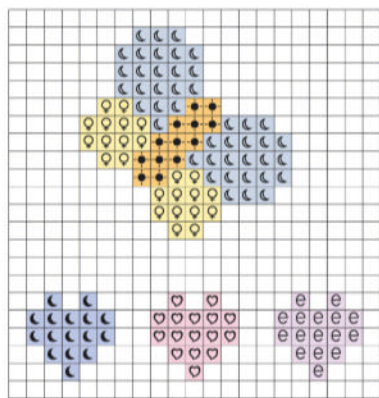
"Thread your tag with ribbon in a colour that appears in the stitched design."

Fiona Baker, technical editor



Tip
Stitch these mini motifs on scraps of aida left over from other projects





Baby tags key

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	blanc	2	2402	white
●	209	98	803	lilac
e	210	108	802	light lilac
♥	603	55	505	pink
♡	604	25	614	light pink
☀	725	305	113	yellow
♀	726	295	109	light yellow
☀	742	303	114	orange
☾	799	145	910	dark blue
☼	3774	778	306	peach
☼	3799	236	1713	grey
☾	3840	130	907	blue

✕ Backstitch in one strand

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
—	3799	236	1713	grey

MAXIMUM STITCH COUNT 20 high x 20 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 3.5x3.5cm (1½x1½in)

These designs were stitched using DMC stranded cotton

“Back your stitching with gingham fabric before mounting on a tag or card.”

Heather Nugent, charting assistant

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Fun
seasonal
stitches

Easter greetings

Send these stylish cards featuring Easter-themed trees to wish friends and family all the best for the season



Designed by Lesley Teare

This beautiful set of designs will be a pleasure to bring to life with your needle. Lesley's sophisticated Easter greetings feature elegant birds and pretty patterned eggs, all nestled in the branches of a tree. We think they'll be particularly appreciated by

female relatives who enjoy the finer things, so why not stitch and send them to your mum, auntie or sister? They're relatively large compared to some card designs and you'll need to allow plenty of time to work the backstitch but, as you can see, it'll definitely be worth it for the finished result.

Stitching Factbox

Stitching time:
Approx 7-8 hours each

Type of stitches:
Cross stitch, fractionals,
backstitch, French
knots

Level: Intermediate

You will need

Threads: Stranded cotton, as listed in the key

Needle: Size 24 tapestry needle

Fabric: 14-count white aida, measuring 15x15cm (6x6in) for each design

Cards: Square aperture cards in white from local craft shops



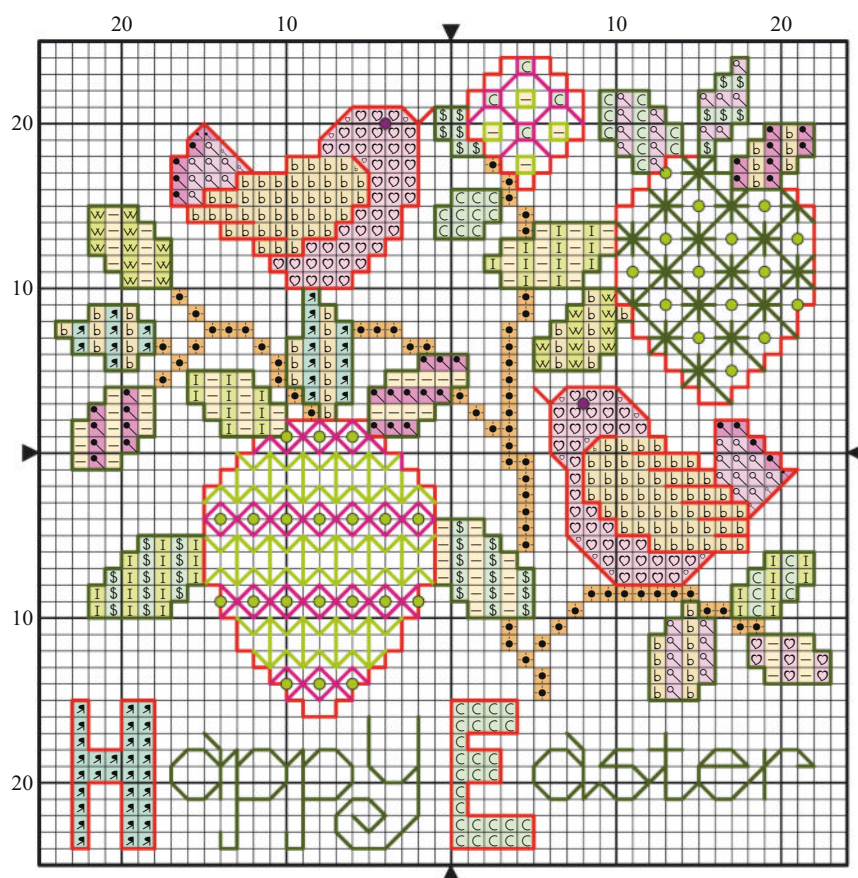
Plain aperture cards
complete these colourful
designs perfectly

Tip

Try to keep the
back of your
stitching as neat
as the front



Easter



Tip

Start stitching from both the centre of the chart and the fabric, and work your way outwards



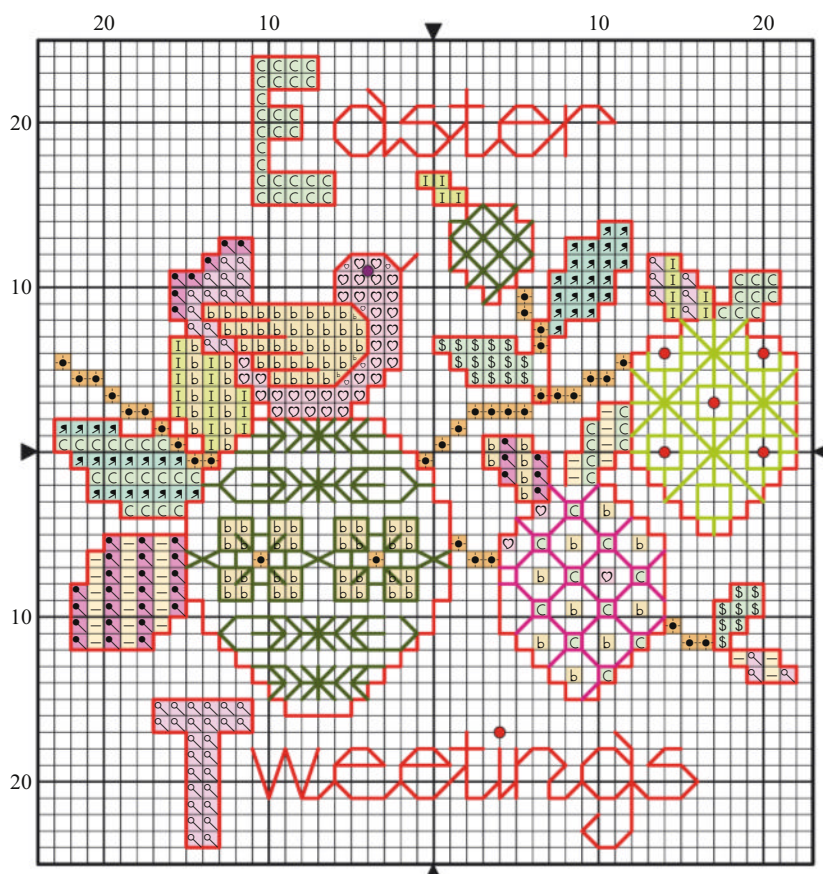
Stitching close-up

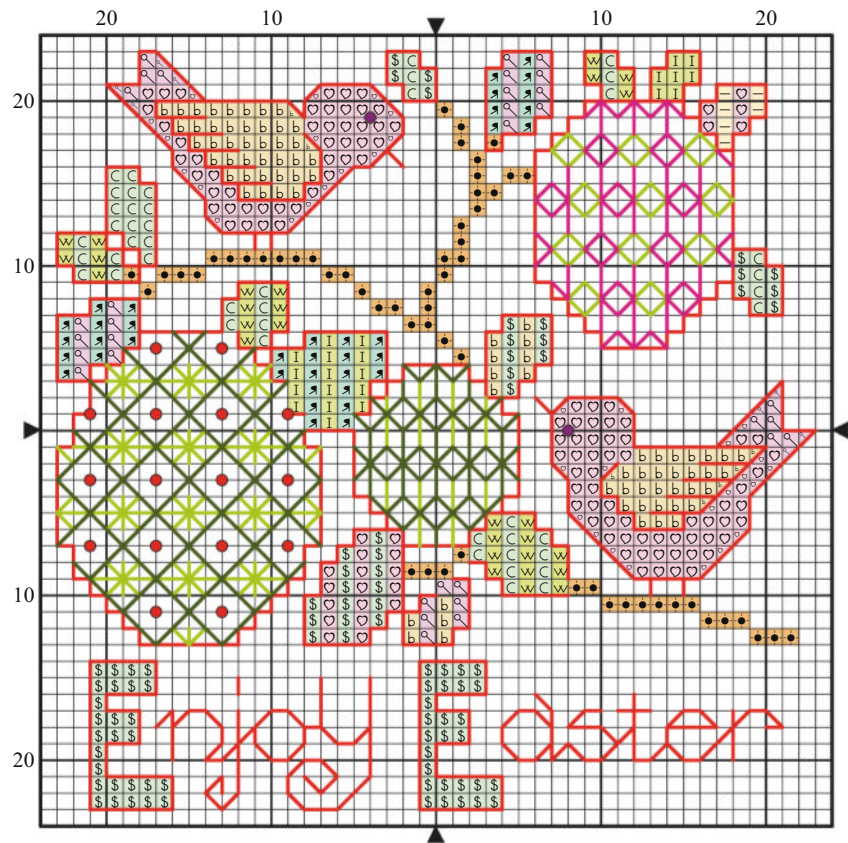
The wording on these cards is worked in backstitch. Try not to trail the thread across the back of the fabric, as it'll show through to the front. If you want to make life easier, back your fabric with some iron-on interfacing first to hide any trailing threads.



“For a refined look, stitch these designs over two threads on 28-count evenweave.”

Abi Barker, special projects coordinator





Easter cards key

✂ Cross stitch in two strands				
	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
b	676	891	2208	sand
—	745	300	111	yellow
w	907	255	1308	bright green
•	922	1003	2306	ginger
\$	954	203	1207	green
C	955	206	1210	light green
↗	959	186	1113	lt emerald green
✂	3607	87	708	dark pink
✂	3608	86	709	pink
♥	3689	49	607	light pink
I	3819	279	1610	lime green
✂ Backstitch in one strand				
—	666	46	210	red
—	907	255	1308	bright green
—	958	187	1114	emerald green
—	3607	87	708	dark pink
✂ French knots in one strand				
•	666	46	210	red
•	907	255	1308	bright green
•	3837	111	713	mauve

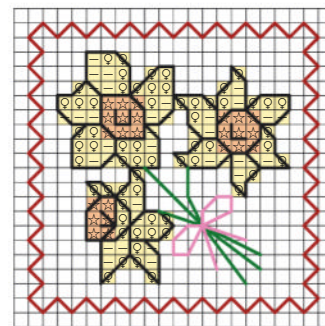
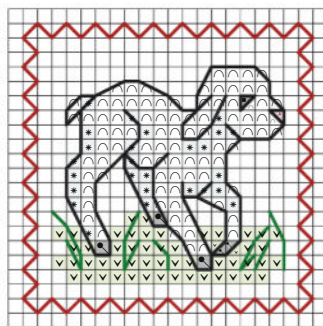
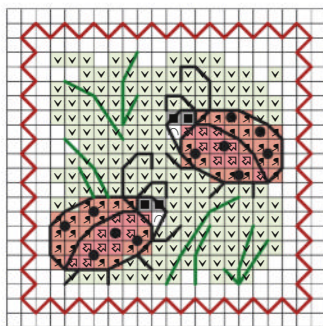
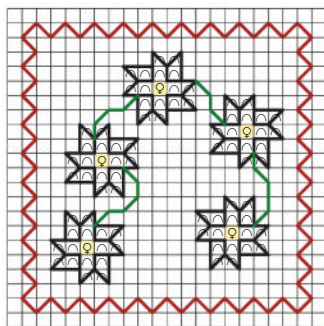
MAXIMUM STITCH COUNT 48 high x 47 wide
DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 8.5x8.5cm (3½x3½in)
 These designs were stitched using DMC stranded cotton

Stitching know-how

If you make a mistake while stitching, don't panic! Carefully snip the thread with some sharp embroidery scissors, and use the blunt end of your needle to slowly unpick the incorrect stitches one at a time.

“Instead of stitching on white, experiment with a colour fabric – a pale green shade or buttery yellow would work well.”
 Heather Nugent, charting assistant





Seasonal tags



Chocolates for Easter, flowers for birthdays... whatever the gift occasion, one of these seasonal motifs will suit

Designed by Fiona Baker

Threads: Stranded cotton, as listed in the key

Needle: Size 24 tapestry needle

Fabric: 14-count white aida, measuring 10x10cm (4x4in) for each design

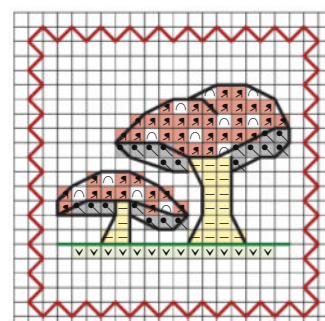
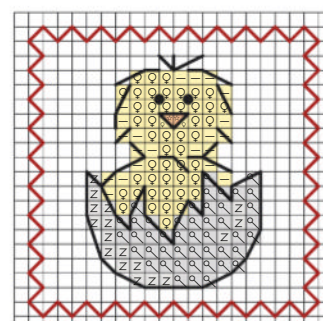
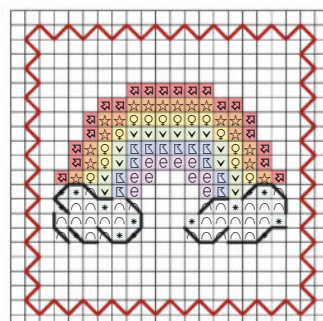
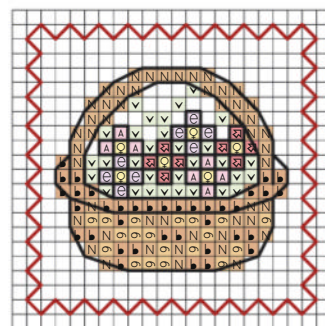
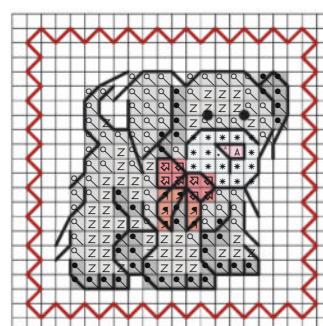
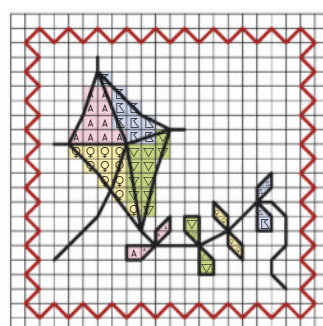
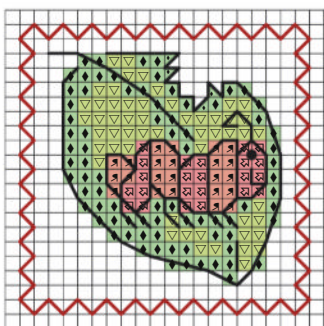
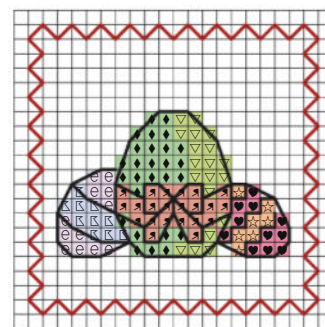
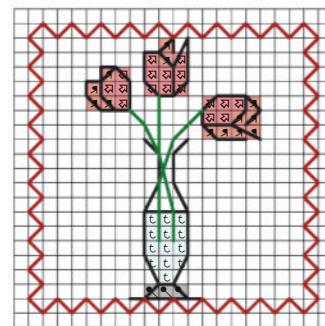
Extras: Gift tags from high street stores, or handmade from card and ribbon of your choice

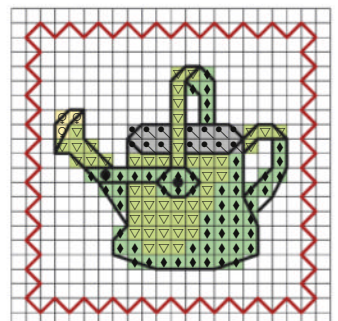
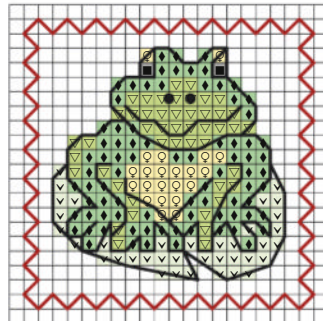
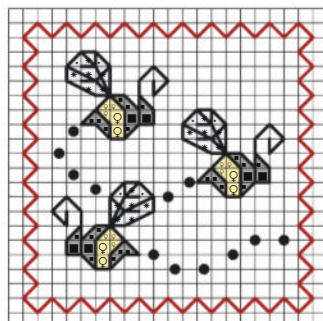
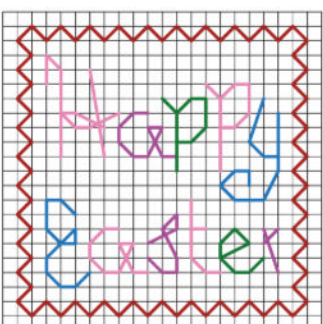
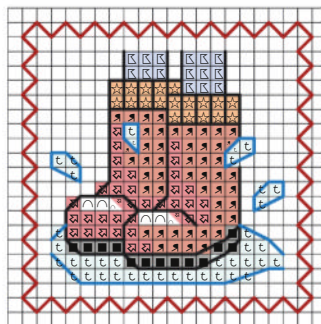
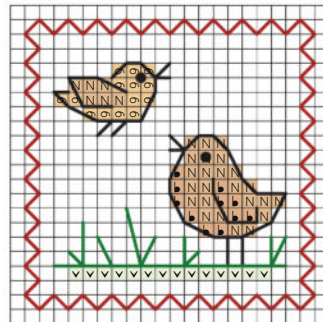
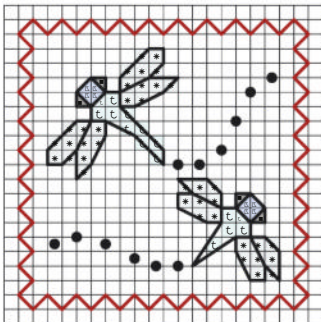
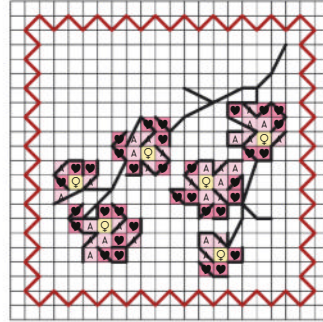
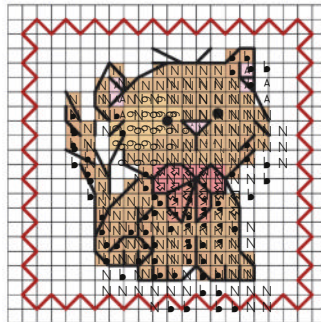
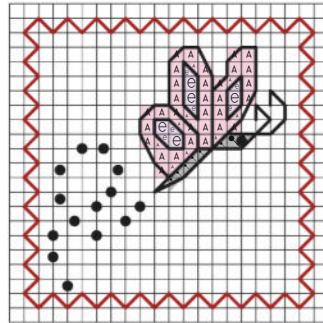
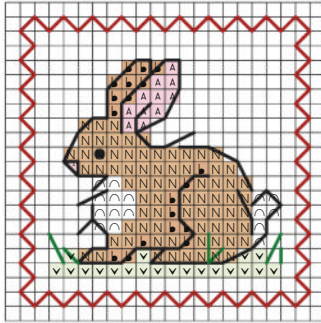
Stitching Factbox

Stitching time:
Approx 2-3 hours each

Type of stitches:
Cross stitch, fractionals, backstitch, French knots

Level: Advanced beginner





Spring tags key

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	B5200	1	2401	white
e	210	108	802	lilac
■	310	403	2400	black
◻	318	399	1801	grey
↗	321	9046	510	red
↖	414	235	1714	dark grey
z	415	398	1802	light grey
▤	434	310	2009	dark tan
N	435	1046	2010	tan
◊	436	1045	2011	light tan
♥	602	57	702	pink
A	604	55	614	light pink
♦	701	227	1305	dark green
▽	703	238	1307	green
☆	721	324	308	copper
♀	726	295	109	yellow
—	727	293	112	light yellow
*	762	234	1804	very light grey
t	800	144	908	light blue
⬜	809	130	909	blue
▼	966	206	1209	light green
⬛	3801	1098	411	light red

✕ Backstitch in one strand

—	208	99	804	dark lilac
—	310	403	2400	black
—	334	977	1004	dark blue
—	505	210	1312	pine green
—	601	63	703	dark pink
—	915	1029	705	magenta

✕ French knots in one strand

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

STITCH COUNT 20 high x 20 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 3.5x3.5cm (1½x1½in)

These designs were stitched using DMC stranded cotton

Finishing touches

Stitch these as party invites to a little one's birthday tea party. The puppy, kitten and bunny are ideal.

Whole
stitches
only!

Have a mice day!

Send the sweetest greetings with these cheery Furry Tales friends, who are all ready and patiently waiting to brighten up someone's day



Designed by Lucie Heaton

There's a mouse in the house – or seven, to be precise! They're all smiling from ear to ear, eager to spread birthday greetings among your friends and family. Lucie's adorable Furry Tales pals are Monty Mouse, Lizzy and family and they're a charming bunch – they deserve centre stage

on this colourful set of cards. Whether delivering flowers, carrying pressies or serving up a birthday cake, these cuties sure know how to celebrate in style! Each card can easily be stitched over a few evenings, making this collection the perfect go-to for last minute makes. Beginners should leave a little more time, of course!

Stitching Factbox

Stitching time:
Approx 6 hours each

Type of stitches:
Cross stitch, backstitch

Level: Beginner

You will need

Threads: Stranded cotton, as listed in the key

Needle: Size 24 tapestry needle

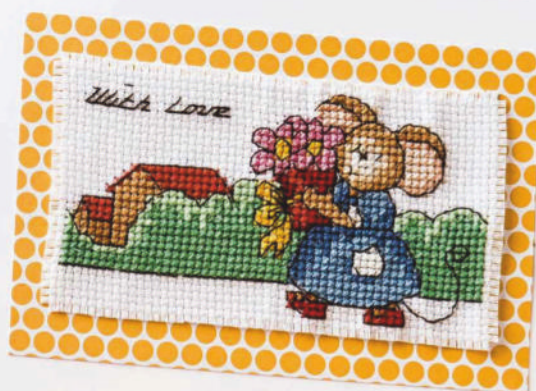
Fabric: 14-count white aida measuring 10x15cm (4x6in) for each design

Extras: Oblong single-fold cards in white and patterned paper of your choice from local craft shops



Tip

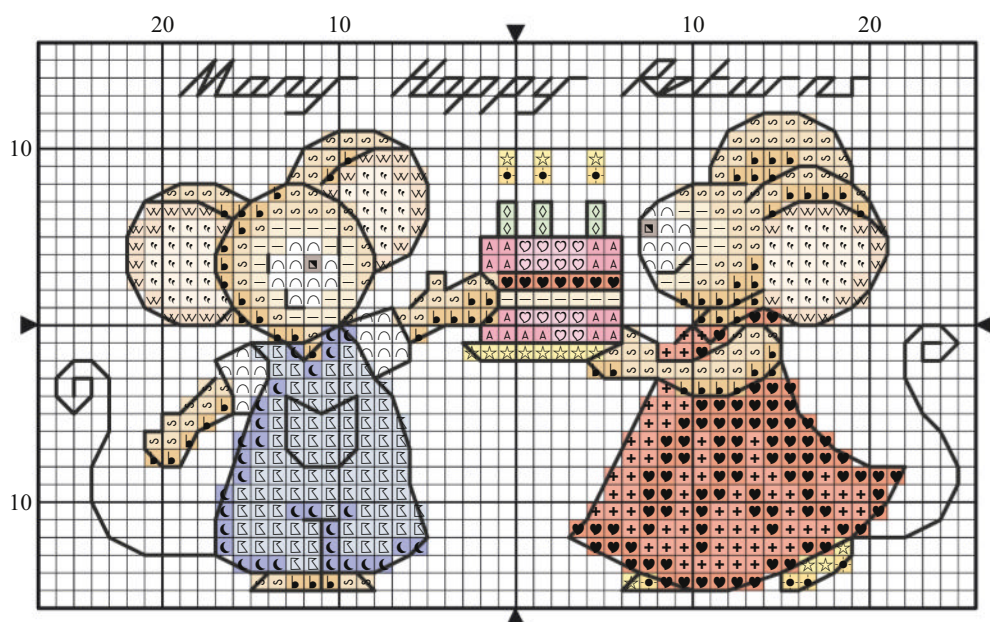
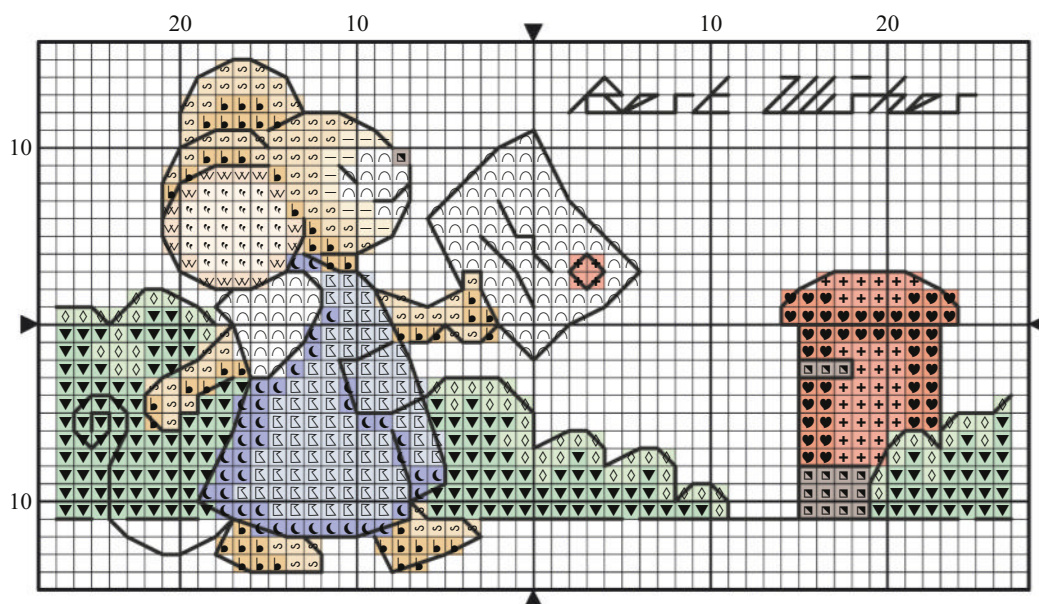
Feel free to change the mice's dungarees and dress to different colours if you have leftover threads to use up



Wish someone special a very happy birthday with this merry band of mice, all set to celebrate in style

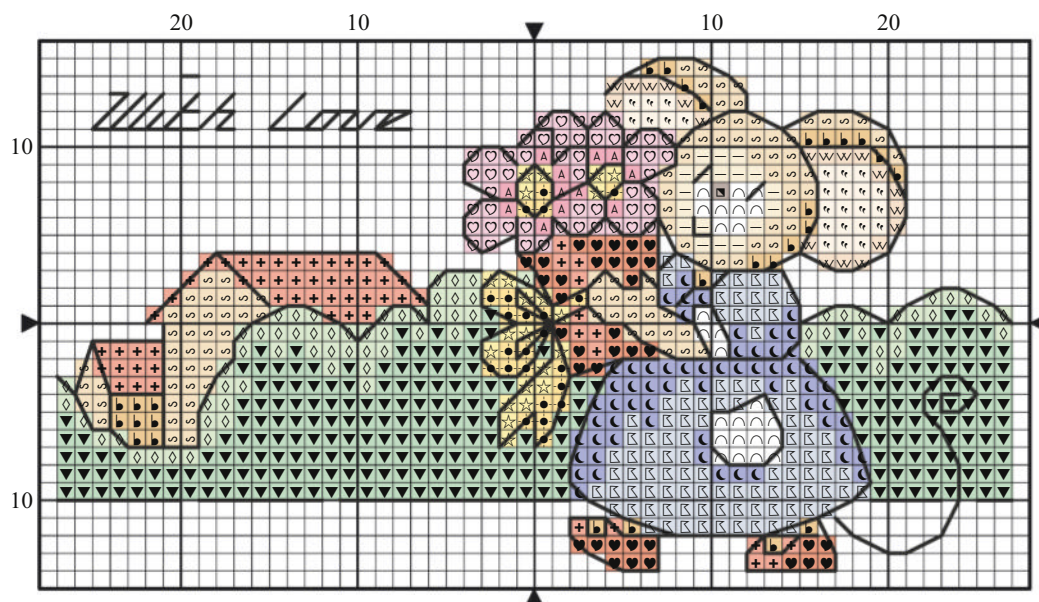
"I wanted these mice cards to be versatile enough to send to anyone of any age, so you'll always have a card to hand when you need one."

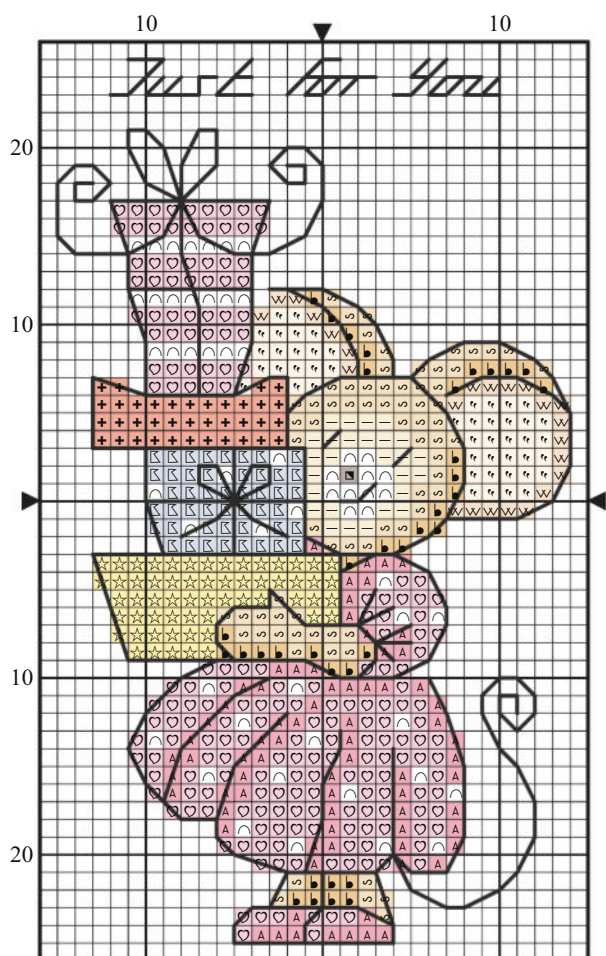
Lucie Heaton, designer



Stitching ideas

These designs are so versatile, and the little meeces so adorable, you could adapt them to suit almost any occasion. Simply change lettering to suit.





Birthday mice key

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
○	blanc	2	2402	white
☾	322	131	1004	blue
♥	349	1098	212	red
+	351	10	214	light red
☪	436	1045	2011	brown
⋈	437	362	2012	tan
⋈	603	55	505	pink
♡	604	1094	614	light pink
☼	725	305	113	yellow
☆	726	295	109	light yellow
—	739	366	2014	cream
⋈	754	1012	305	peach
■	844	1041	1809	grey
▼	913	204	1212	green
⋈	948	892	306	light peach
◇	955	206	1210	light green
⋈	3755	140	1013	light blue

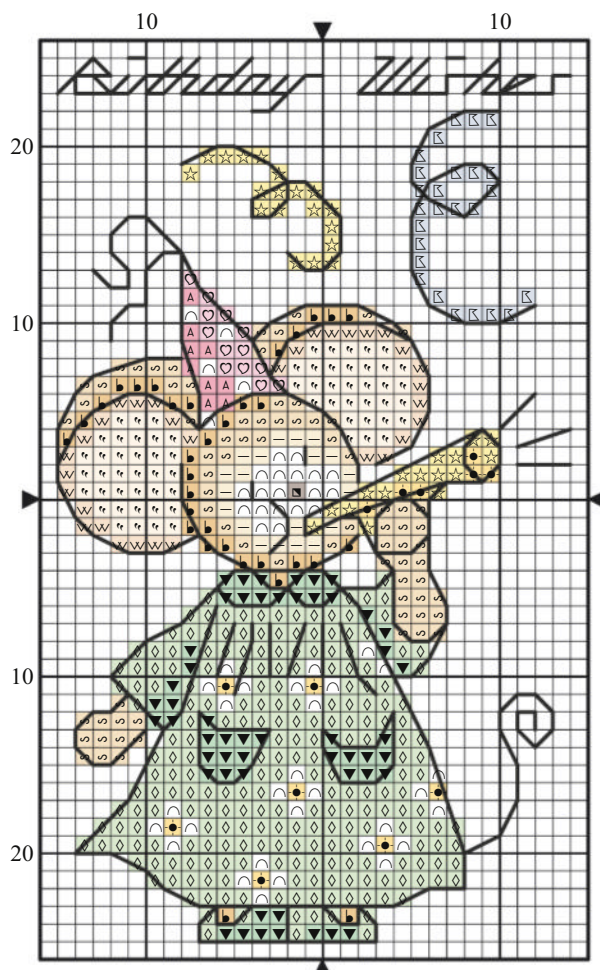
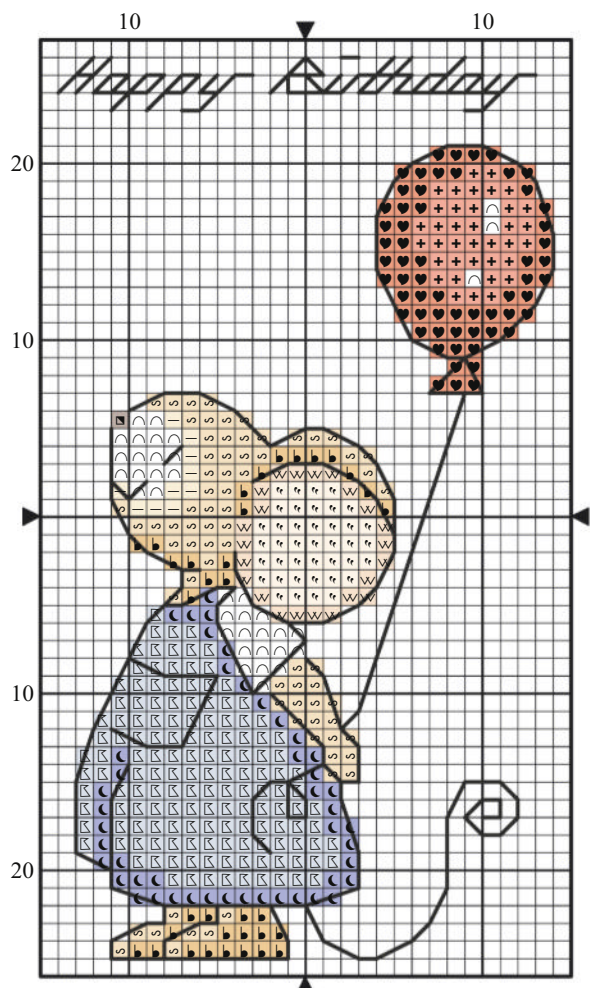
✕ Backstitch in one strand

—	844	1041	1809	grey
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MAXIMUM STITCH COUNT 51 high x 54 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 9.5x10cm (3½x3¾in)

These designs were stitched using DMC stranded cotton



Floating on air

Raise a smile with these fab hot air balloon card designs – they are quick to make and perfect for all occasions



Designed by Jane Henderson

Take a ride in the clouds and enjoy the view with every stitch as you make up a batch of these sublime cards, sure to raise a smile on yours and the lucky recipient's face. Worked in a palette of gorgeous pastel shades on 28-count antique white evenweave, it gives these cards a wonderfully vintage and soft

feel. Containing fractional stitches to give shape to these pretty balloons and their patterns, these designs are a great project for beginners looking to stretch their skills. Fractionals are easier to work on evenweave, as you don't need to split any aida blocks. If you're still keen to use aida, using 14-count will ensure your makes are the same size.

Stitching Factbox

Stitching time:
Approx 8 hours each

Type of stitches:
Cross stitch, fractionals, backstitch

Level: Intermediate

You will need

Threads: Stranded cotton, as listed in the key

Needle: Size 24 tapestry needle

Fabric: 28-count antique white evenweave measuring 15x18cm (6x7in) for each design

Cards: Oblong aperture cards with a texture in ivory from local craft shops

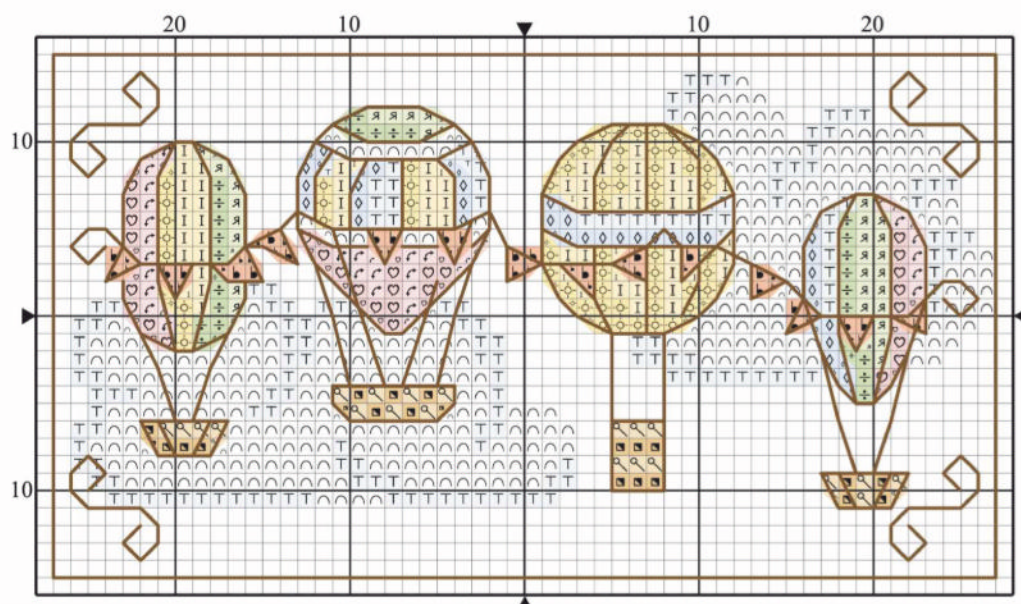
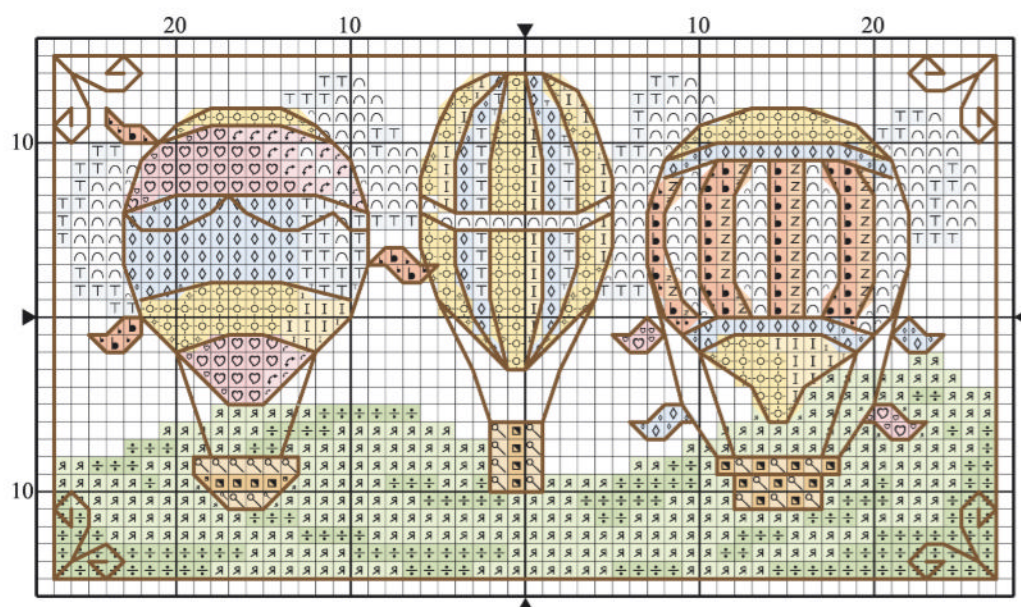
Whole
stitches
only!





These pretty vintage hot air balloon cards are sure to be loved by whoever is lucky enough to get one

"I've always been fascinated with hot air balloons, and the way they float quietly up above. So I was thrilled to design this set of all-occasion cards, capturing their beauty in stitches."
 Jane Henderson, designer



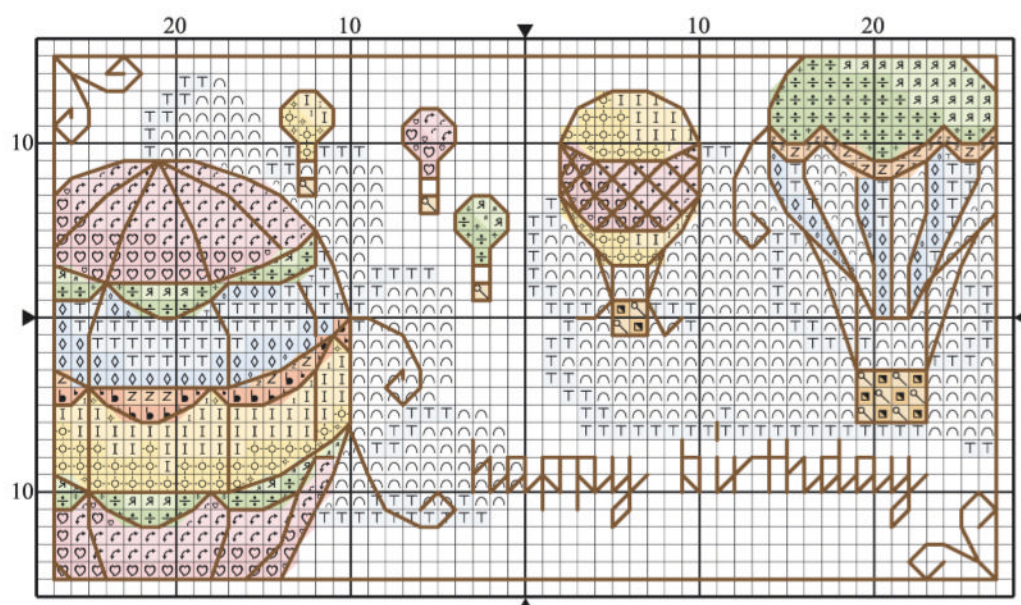
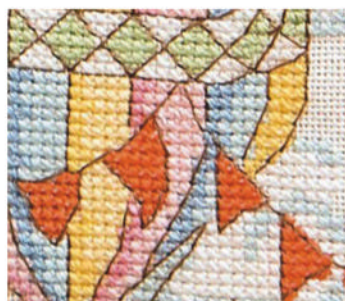
Stitching ideas

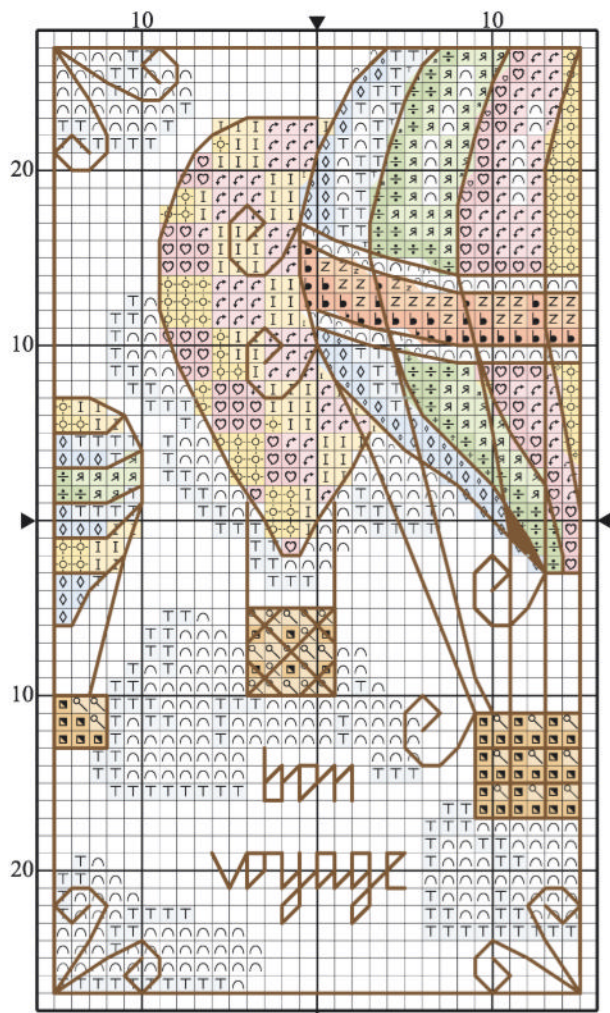
We love the idea of stitching these hot air balloon designs to wish someone bon voyage, but each one of these cards will make light and airy birthday wishes too!



Tip

Pre-thread several needles with different colours to speed up your stitching





Hot air balloons key

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	blanc	2	2402	white
T	162	9159	1101	light blue
÷	368	214	1310	green
я	369	1043	1309	light green
■	436	1045	2011	tan
☞	437	362	2012	light tan
☼	744	301	112	yellow
I	745	300	111	light yellow
↶	963	73	502	light pink
◇	3325	129	907	blue
▤	3340	329	301	peach
z	3341	328	403	light peach
♡	3716	25	503	pink

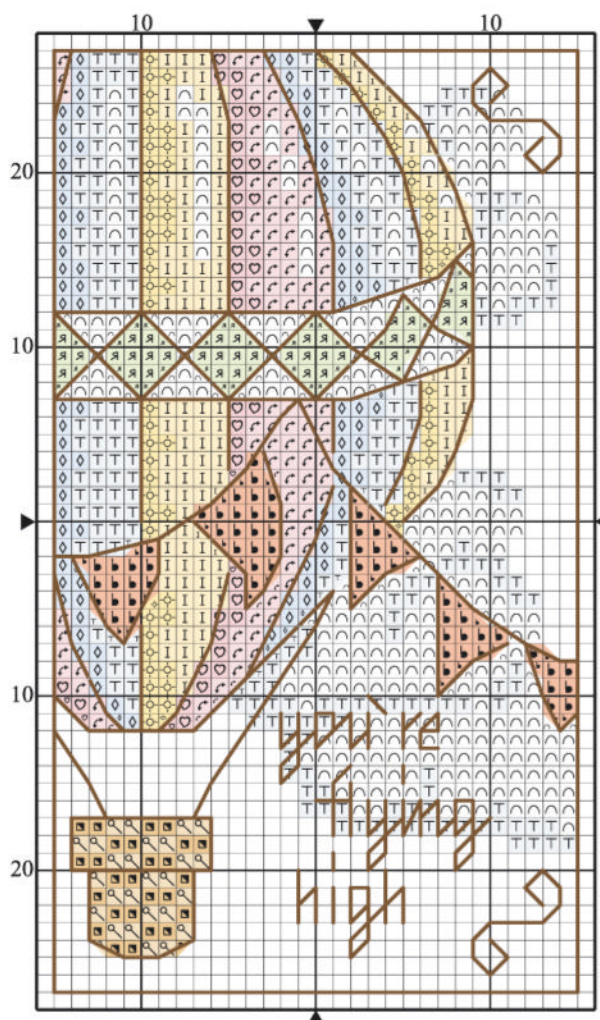
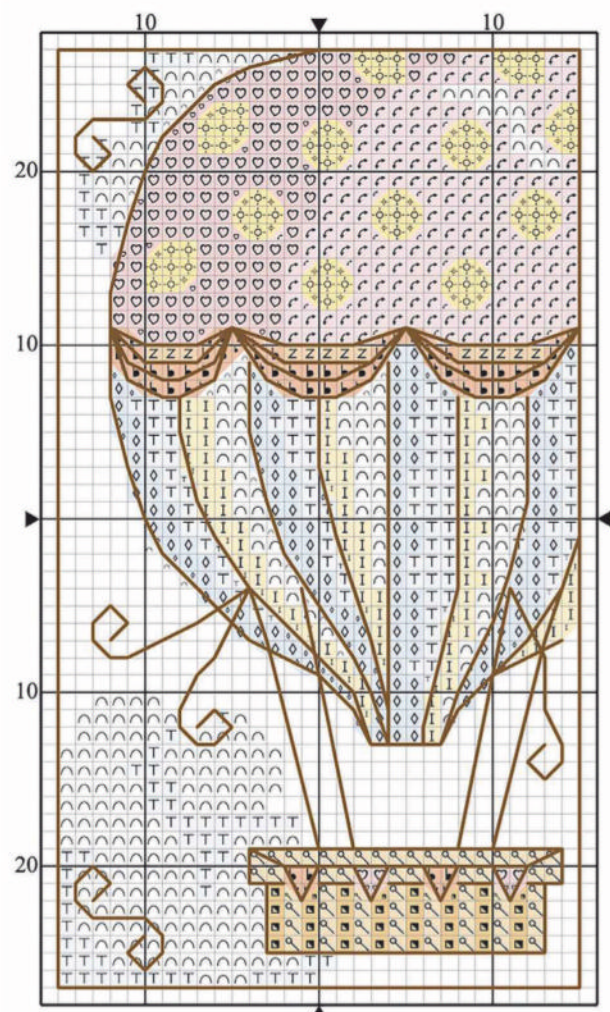
✕ Backstitch in one strand

—	840	1084	1912	brown
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MAXIMUM STITCH COUNT 54 high x 54 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 10x10cm (3¾x3¾in)

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



Animal magic

Transform these captivating folklore legends into a stunning gift set for a loved one's special day



Designed by Durene Jones

Fans of fantasy books, films and TV series will appreciate this striking set of designs. Whether it's dragons or unicorns that captivate a birthday boy or girl's imagination, Durene has a card and tag guaranteed to delight them on their big day. The icing on the cake, so to speak, will be the patterned star border stitched on aida

band and wrapped around a freshly made birthday cake, which can be reused for the annual celebration.

With whole stitches and backstitch, these designs are perfect for beginners and can be stitched up in just a few evenings. So, get started and work your needle like a magic wand through this set of make-believe charts.

Stitching Factbox

Stitching time:
Approx 3-10 hours each

Type of stitches:
Cross stitch, backstitch

Level: Beginners

You will need

Threads: Stranded cotton, as listed in the key

Needle: Size 24 tapestry needle

Fabric: 14-count white aida, 15x15cm (6x6in) for most designs. 14-count aida band with white trim, 2in wide x desired length

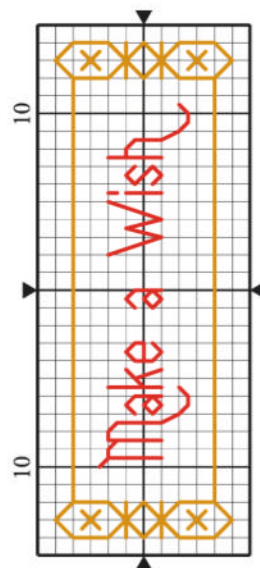
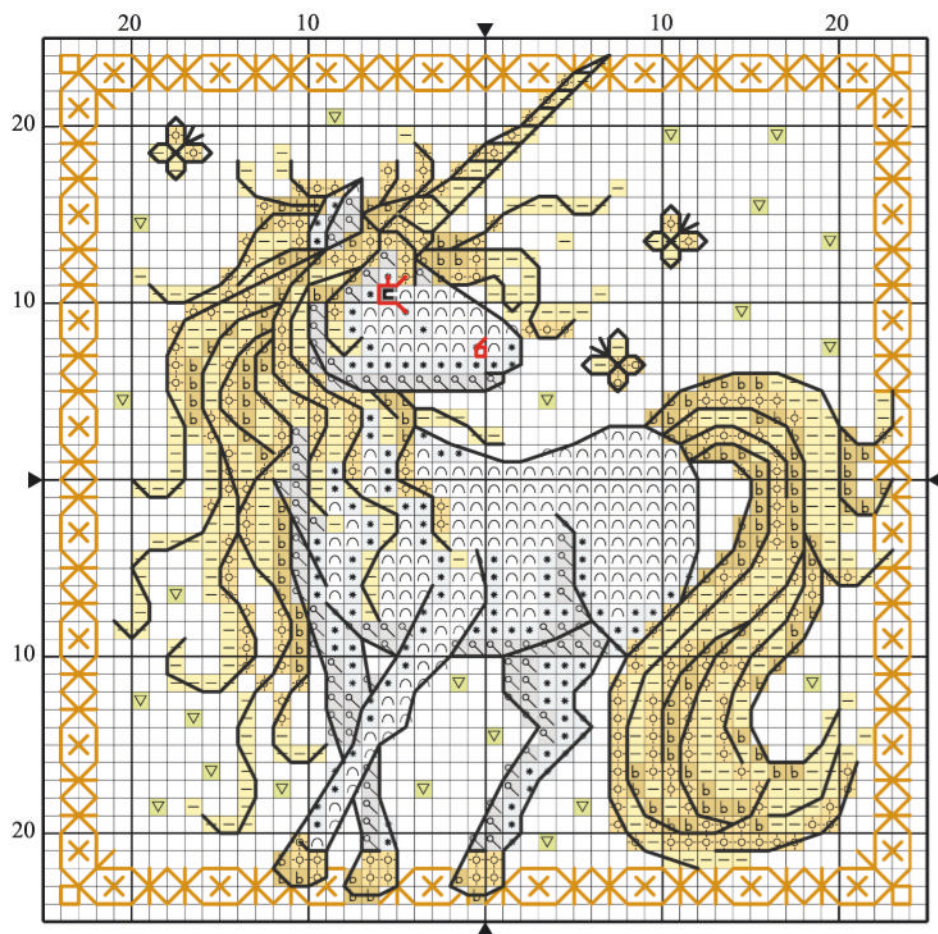
Extras: Single-fold card in white, tag, ribbon and backing papers of your choice from local craft shops



Great
for
beginners

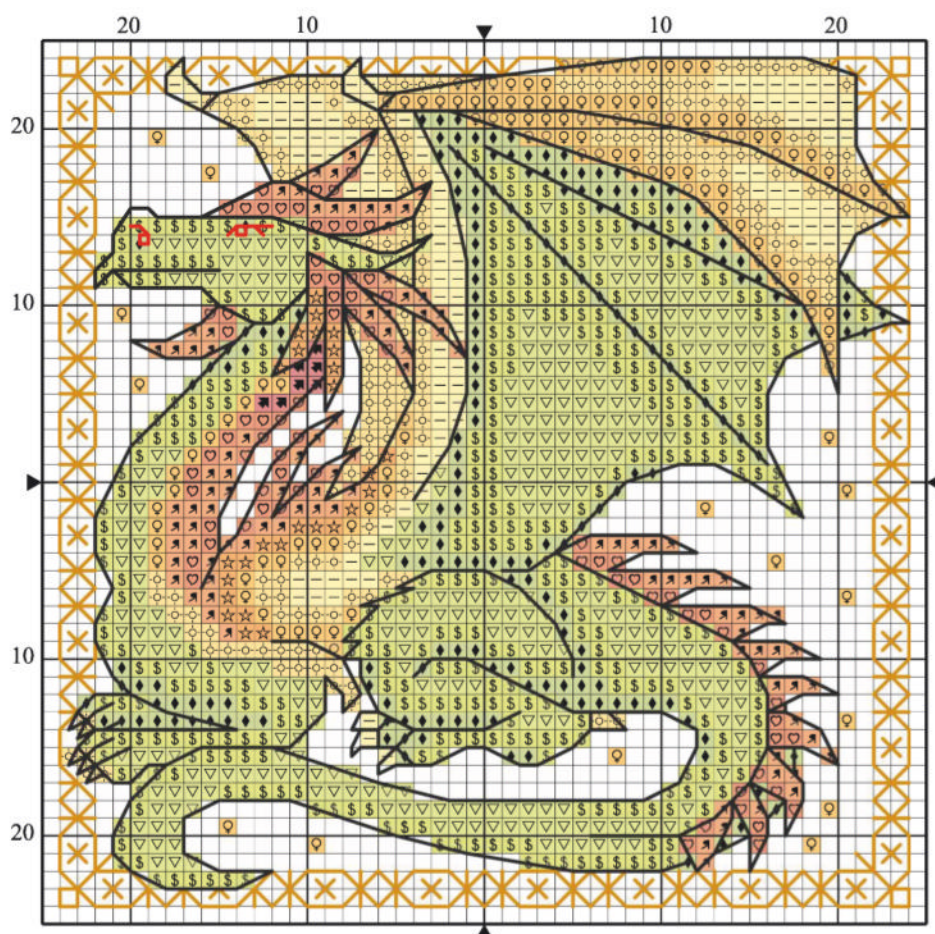


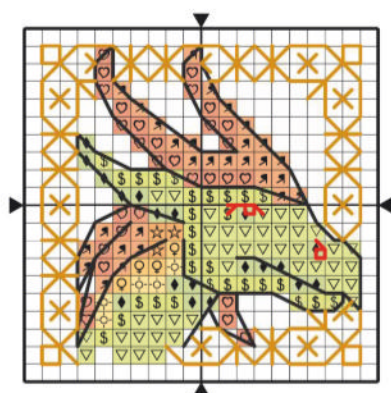
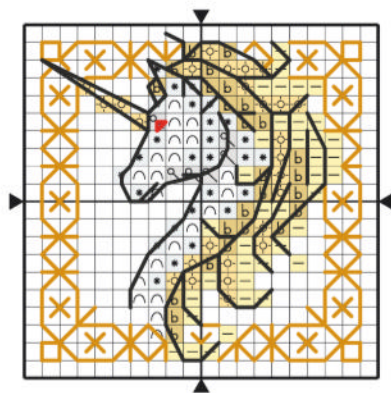
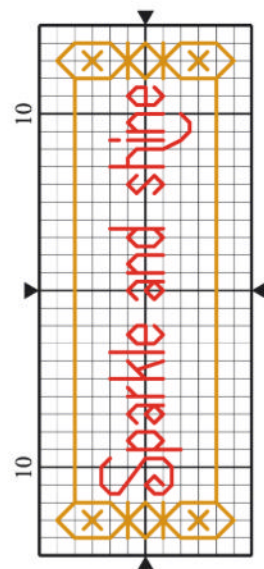
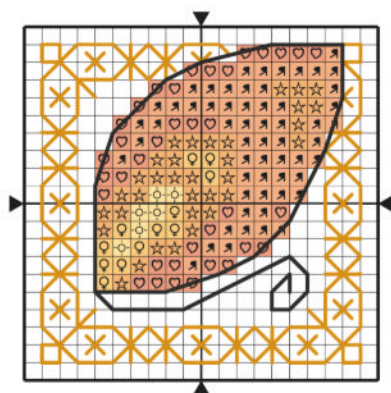
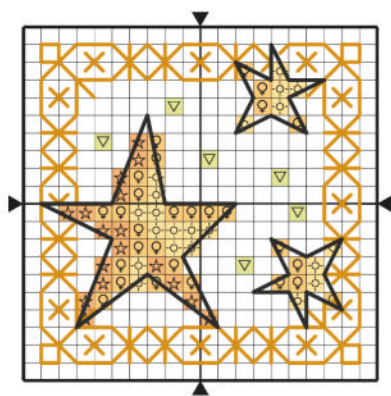
Add a modern touch
to these mythical cross
stitched creatures



“These stunning creatures are as majestic as they are mythical! I hope I’ve captured the charm of each magical beast and that you find them captivating.”

Durene Jones, designer





Fantasy cards key

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
○	B5200	1	2401	white
■	310	403	2400	black
●	415	398	1802	grey
♥	606	334	209	bright orange
☀	725	305	113	yellow
—	727	293	112	light yellow
☆	740	316	204	orange
♀	742	303	114	tangerine
*	762	234	1804	light grey
▲	817	13	210	red
◆	906	256	1410	green
\$	907	255	1308	light green
♠	947	330	205	burnt orange
▽	3819	279	1610	lime green
b	3852	306	2514	light gold

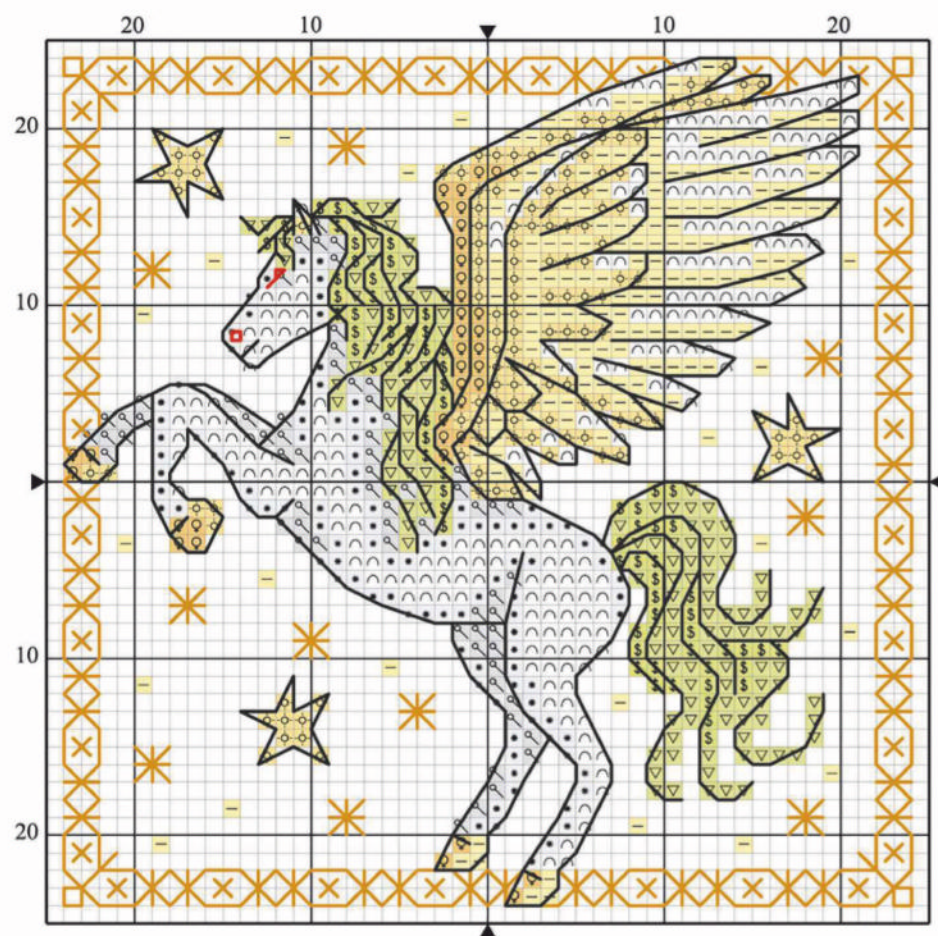
✕ Backstitch in one strand

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
—	B5200	1	2401	white
—	310	403	2400	black
—	783	307	2509	gold
—	3799	236	1713	dark grey

MAXIMUM STITCH COUNT 48 high x 60 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 9x11cm (3½x4¼in)

These designs were stitched using DMC stranded cotton

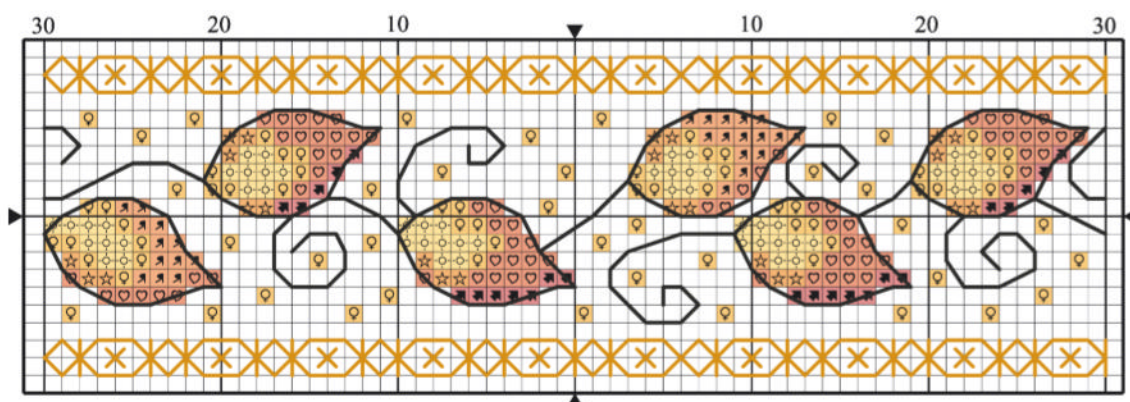
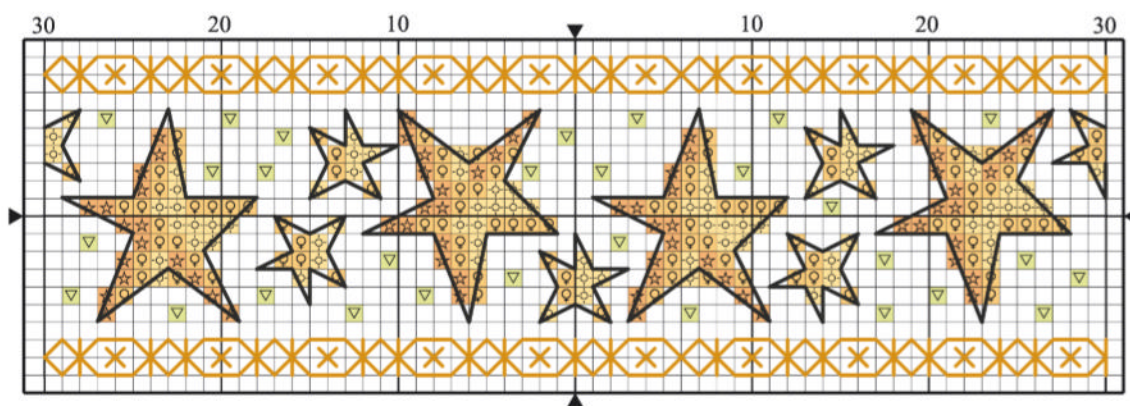
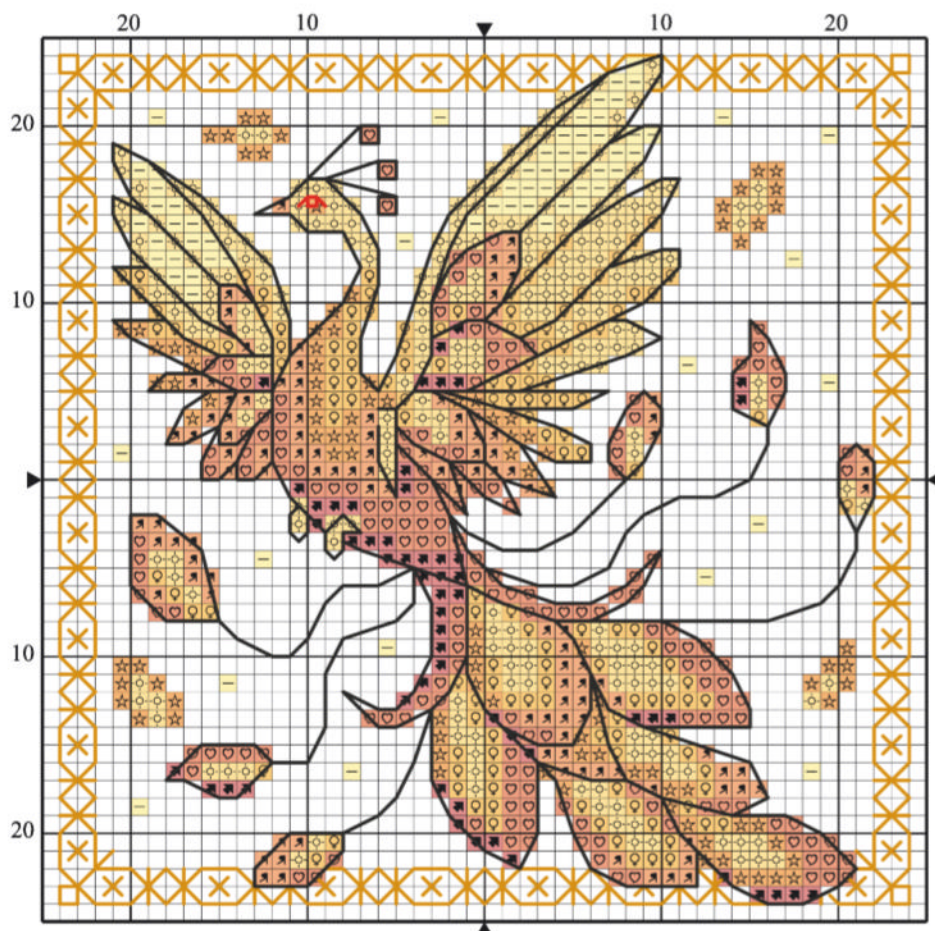


Tip

Stitch the bird feather border around the phoenix design for maximum impact

“Worked in easy whole stitches and backstitch only, you’ll have even the larger of these designs finished before you know it.”

Abi Barker, special projects coordinator



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12
astrology
cards

Zodiac cards

Celebrate friends and family birthdays in stunning starry style with our collection of zodiac cards. They're full of fun detail!

Designed by Helga Mandl

Each little scene in these astrology-themed cards hints at the delightful characteristics associated with each star sign, from a bear for Capricorn to a ram for Aries and a cute pair of bears for Gemini. Each design is filled with fascinating detail and you'll be tempted to stitch the entire collection – whether you know someone born under a

particular sign or not! Best suited to intermediate stitchers, there's half cross stitch, fractionals and backstitched words to deal with, as well as ultra-careful counting, since each card is packed with different motifs and design elements. Mount them in primary coloured cards, as we have, and watch the recipient's face light up on opening a card stitched just for them.





Aquarius & Pisces key

✂ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	B5200	1	2401	white
●	208	99	804	dark lilac
e	209	98	803	lilac
I	211	342	801	light lilac
■	310	403	2400	black
♥	347	1025	407	red
⊙	725	305	112	yellow
s	729	890	2209	tan
●	742	303	114	orange
●	743	302	113	light orange
—	745	300	111	light yellow
A	761	1021	404	pink
●	813	140	910	blue
●	826	146	906	dark blue
t	827	160	1013	light blue
P	828	975	1101	very light blue
▼	905	257	1412	green
▼	907	255	1308	light green
♥	3712	1023	406	dark pink
b	3829	901	2210	dark tan

✂ Backstitch in one strand

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

✂ French knots in one strand

○	B5200	1	2401	white
---	-------	---	------	-------

STITCH COUNT 55 high x 55 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 10x10cm (4x4in)

These designs were stitched using DMC stranded cotton

Stitching Factbox

Stitching time: Approx 6-8 hours each

Type of stitches: Whole cross stitch, fractionals, backstitch, French knots

Level: Intermediate

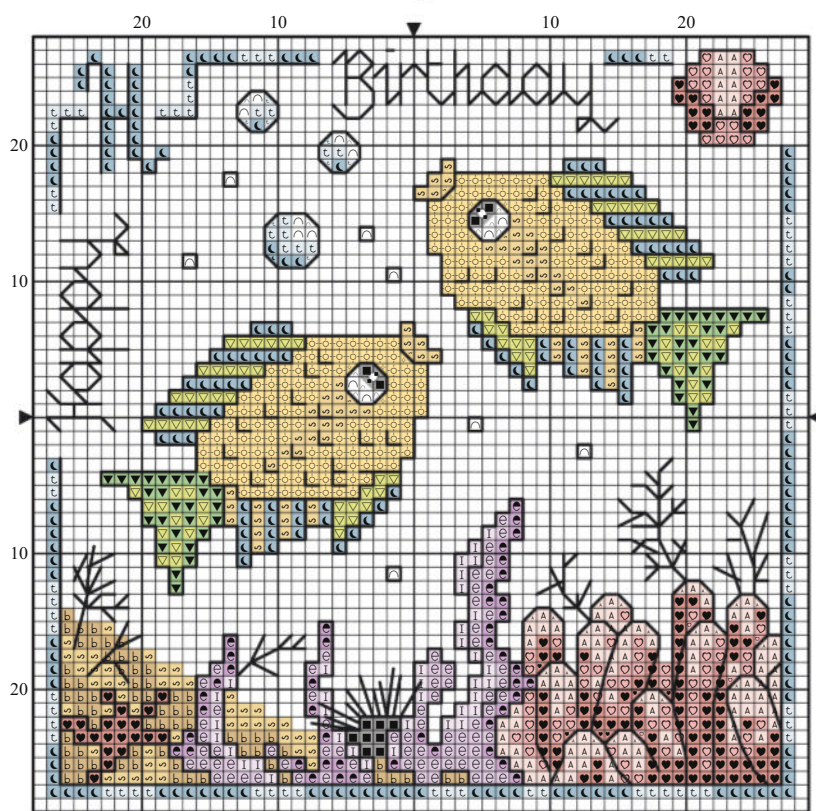
You will need

Threads: Stranded cotton, as listed in the key

Needle: Size 24 tapestry needle

Fabric: 14-count white aida, measuring 15x15cm (6x6in) for each design

Cards: Square aperture card in bright green and bright blue of your choice from local craft shops



Stitching know-how

Facial features really bring a character to life, so practice working them on a spare piece of fabric before tackling them on the actual stitched piece. The eyes of the Pisces fish use both fractionals and French knots. For more help with these techniques, turn to page 131 for diagrams and instructions on how to work these stitches.



Tip
Stitch the 'Happy Birthday' lettering in two strands to make your greeting stand out



You will need

Threads: Stranded cotton, as listed in the key

Needle: Size 24 tapestry needle

Fabric: 14-count white aida, measuring 15x15cm (6x6in) for each design

Cards: Square aperture cards in bright blue and raspberry pink of your choice from local craft shops

Stitching Factbox

Stitching time: Approx 6-8 hours each

Type of stitches: Whole cross stitch, fractionals, backstitch, French knots

Level: Intermediate

Aries & Taurus key

✦ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
○	B5200	1	2401	white
■	310	403	2400	black
●	318	399	1801	grey
♥	350	11	213	red
♡	352	9	303	light red
◇	472	253	1414	light green
○	676	891	2208	sand
♀	680	901	2210	dark sand
◆	704	255	1308	green
⦿	743	302	113	yellow
⋈	745	300	111	light yellow
⌘	754	1012	305	peach
⌘	761	1021	404	pink
★	826	146	906	blue
●	869	375	2105	dark tan
●	972	298	107	dark yellow
▼	987	244	1403	dark green
■	3022	8581	1812	dk stone grey
○	3072	847	1805	light grey
■	3712	1023	406	dark pink
☆	3761	928	1001	light blue
■	3829	901	2210	tan

✦ Backstitch in one strand

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

✦ French knots in one strand

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

STITCH COUNT 55 high x 55 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 10x10cm (4x4in)

These designs were stitched using DMC stranded cotton

Cancer & Gemini key

Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	B5200	1	2401	white
◇	210	108	802	lilac
■	310	403	2400	black
♥	349	1098	212	red
ℓ	612	832	2108	straw
●	640	393	1905	dark stone grey
◐	642	903	1813	stone grey
⋄	644	830	1814	light stone grey
◑	738	367	2013	light tan
◒	739	366	2014	very light tan
◐	742	303	114	tangerine
I	762	234	1804	light grey
C	775	1031	1001	light blue
■	801	359	2007	brown
★	813	140	910	dark blue
◐	822	390	1908	pearl
Z	828	975	1101	baby blue
◐	900	326	208	burnt orange
▽	905	257	1412	green
▽	907	255	1308	light green
◐	970	925	205	orange
◐	973	290	105	yellow
☆	3325	129	907	blue

Backstitch in one strand

—	310	403	2400	black
—	349	1098	212	red

French knots in one strand

○	B5200	1	2401	white
●	349	1098	212	red

STITCH COUNT 55 high x 55 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 10x10cm (4x4in)

These designs were stitched using DMC stranded cotton

You will need

Threads: Stranded cotton, as listed in the key

Needle: Size 24 tapestry needle

Fabric: 14-count white aida, measuring 15x15cm (6x6in) for each design

Cards: Square aperture in bright yellow and pale blue of your choice from local craft shops

Stitching Factbox

Stitching time: Approx 6-8 hours each

Type of stitches: Whole cross stitch, fractionals, backstitch, French knots

Level: Intermediate



“What better way to send birthday wishes to friends or family than with these twin bears who like nothing more than snuggling up together?”

Helga Mandl, designer



You will need

Threads: Stranded cotton, as listed in the key

Needle: Size 24 tapestry needle

Fabric: 14-count white aida, measuring 15x15cm (6x6in) for each design

Cards: Square aperture cards in bright green and raspberry pink of your choice from local craft shops

Stitching Factbox

Stitching time: Approx 6-8 hours each

Type of stitches: Whole cross stitch, half cross stitch, fractionals, backstitch

Level: Advanced beginner

Leo & Virgo key

✂ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	B5200	1	2401	white
■	310	403	2400	black
●	340	118	902	purple
■	433	357	2602	dark brown
■	435	1046	2010	light brown
■	648	900	1814	grey
▽	704	255	1308	green
■	729	890	2209	dark sand
■	742	303	114	tangerine
■	754	1012	305	peach
■	775	1031	1001	light blue
■	801	359	2007	brown
■	813	140	910	blue
■	869	375	2105	dark tan
■	920	1004	312	copper
■	948	892	306	light peach
■	970	925	205	orange
○	3078	292	102	yellow
■	3705	35	410	scarlet
■	3747	120	901	very light blue
■	3829	901	2210	tan

✂ Half cross stitch in two strands

—	3078	292	102	yellow
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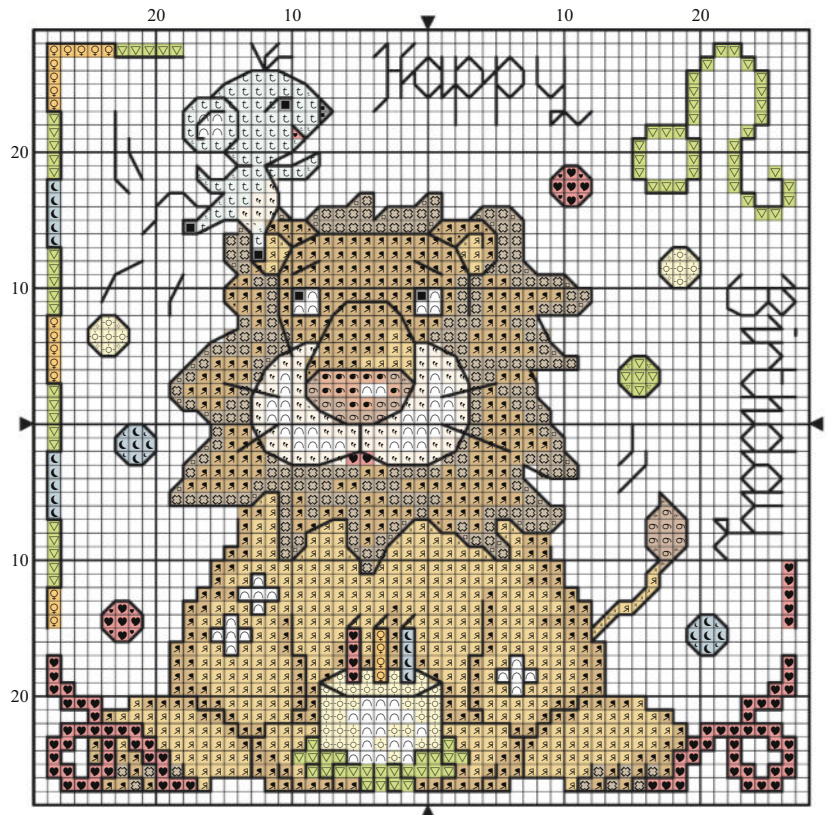
✂ Backstitch in one strand

—	310	403	2400	black
—	704	255	1308	green

STITCH COUNT 55 high x 55 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 10x10cm (4x4in)

These designs were stitched using DMC stranded cotton



Tip

Save cash by buying your aperture cards and matching envelopes in bulk





You will need

Threads: Stranded cotton, as listed in the key

Needle: Size 24 tapestry needle

Fabric: 14-count white aida, measuring 15x15cm (6x6in) for each design

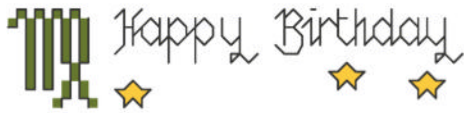
Cards: Square aperture cards in bright yellow and raspberry pink of your choice from local craft shops

Stitching Factbox

Stitching time: Approx 6-8 hours each

Type of stitches: Whole cross stitch, fractionals, backstitch

Level: Advanced beginner



Libra & Scorpio key

✦ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	B5200	1	2401	white
■	310	403	2400	black
♥	347	1025	407	red
■	433	357	2602	tan
b	640	393	1905	dark stone
K	642	903	1906	stone
я	644	830	1814	light stone
s	676	891	2208	sand
o	726	295	109	yellow
N	729	890	2209	dark sand
•	742	303	114	orange
Q	744	301	112	light yellow
A	754	1012	305	dark peach
◐	813	140	910	blue
t	828	975	1101	light blue
▼	906	256	1410	green
▽	907	255	1308	light green
■	920	1004	312	copper
•	948	892	306	peach
■	956	40	506	dark pink
w	957	50	504	pink
o	976	1001	2010	ginger
■	3328	1024	406	light red
—	3823	386	2512	pale yellow

✦ Backstitch in one strand

	310	403	2400	black
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STITCH COUNT 55 high x 55 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 10x10cm (4x4in)

These designs were stitched using DMC stranded cotton

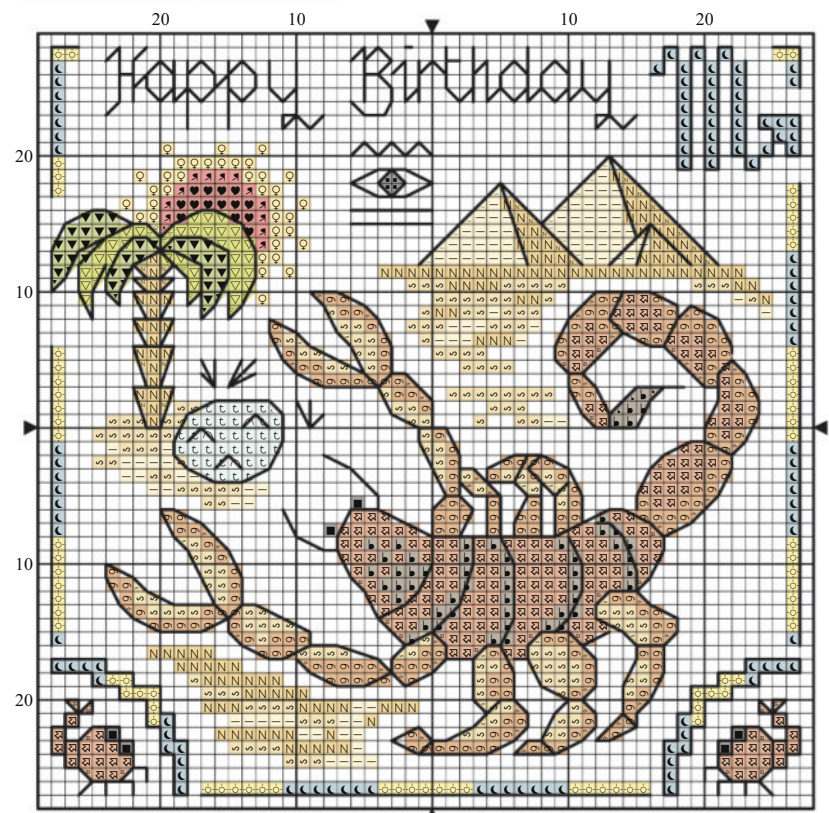


Tip

If you'd like to add your own words, plot your own letters on graph paper first

Finishing touches

The two Libran characters are lying under a star-filled sky, so why not continue the theme with some little yellow star stickers dotted around your card mount as embellishments?





Capricorn & Sagittarius key

✂ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	B5200	1	2401	white
■	310	403	2400	black
♥	321	9046	510	dark red
■	433	357	2602	dark tan
b	435	1046	2010	tan
C	647	1040	1813	dark grey
⦿	648	900	1814	grey
☀	725	305	113	yellow
☀	741	304	202	orange
w	754	1012	305	dark peach
☾	813	140	910	blue
P	828	975	1101	light blue
▼	906	256	1410	green
▽	907	255	1308	light green
☺	948	892	306	peach
☺	976	1001	2303	ginger
Z	3072	847	1805	light grey
■	3801	1098	411	red
■	3826	1048	2306	dark ginger
■	3827	311	2012	light ginger

✂ Half cross stitch in two strands

t	828	975	1101	light blue
\$	906	256	1410	green
▼	907	255	1308	light green

✂ Backstitch in one strand

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

STITCH COUNT 55 high x 55 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 10x10cm (4x4in)

These designs were stitched using DMC stranded cotton

You will need

Threads: Stranded cotton, as listed in the key

Needle: Size 24 tapestry needle

Fabric: 14-count white aida, measuring 15x15cm (6x6in) for each design

Cards: Square aperture cards in bright red and bright blue of your choice from local craft shops



Stitching close-up

Helga has used half cross stitches to add perspective to the grass on the Capricorn picture and the clouds on the Sagittarius design. To make a half cross stitch, simply work the first half of a cross stitch.

Stitching Factbox

Stitching time: Approx 6-8 hours each

Type of stitches: Whole cross stitch, half cross stitch, fractionals, backstitch

Level: Advanced beginner



To have and to hold

The cards in this collection are beautiful yet speedy to stitch – each with a special greeting that will be warmly received on any happy couple's big day



Designed by Rhona Norrie

Weddings are great fun, but sometimes the preparation can be hard work... even for the guests! You have to work out your travel arrangements, find somewhere to stay, sort out the gift, as well as search high and low for the perfect outfit. And when all that's done, you might find yourself a bit short

on time! Rhona has come to the rescue with this collection of six wedding cards, which are all deceptively quick to stitch. They're worked in whole stitches and backstitch, so you can complete one in just three or four hours. For a little extra pizzazz, perfect for a special wedding day, some of these cards also use light and dark gold metallic thread.

Stitching Factbox

Stitching time:
Approx 3-5 hours each

Type of stitches:
Cross stitch, backstitch

Level: Advanced beginner

You will need

Threads: Stranded cotton and metallic thread, as listed in the key

Needle: Size 24 tapestry needle

Fabric: 14-count aida in pink, blush and light blue, measuring 15x15cm (6x6in) for each design

Cards: Single-fold scallop-edge cards in white of your choice from local craft shops

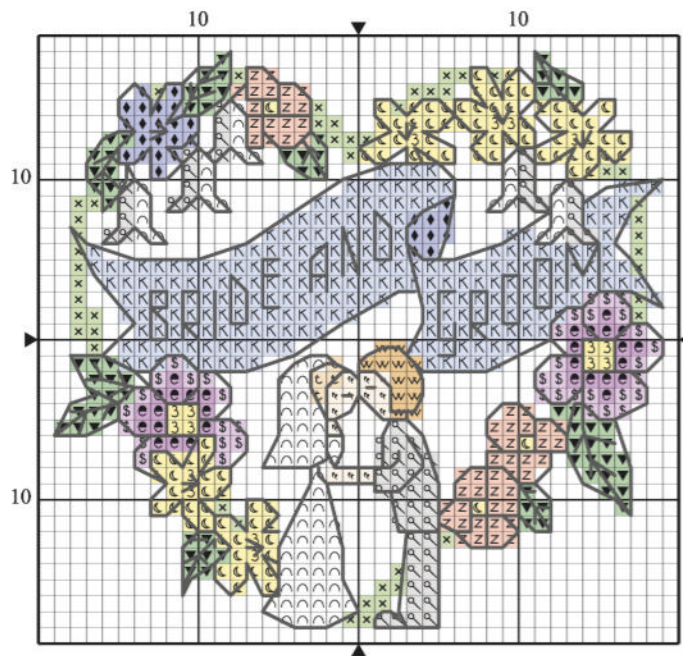
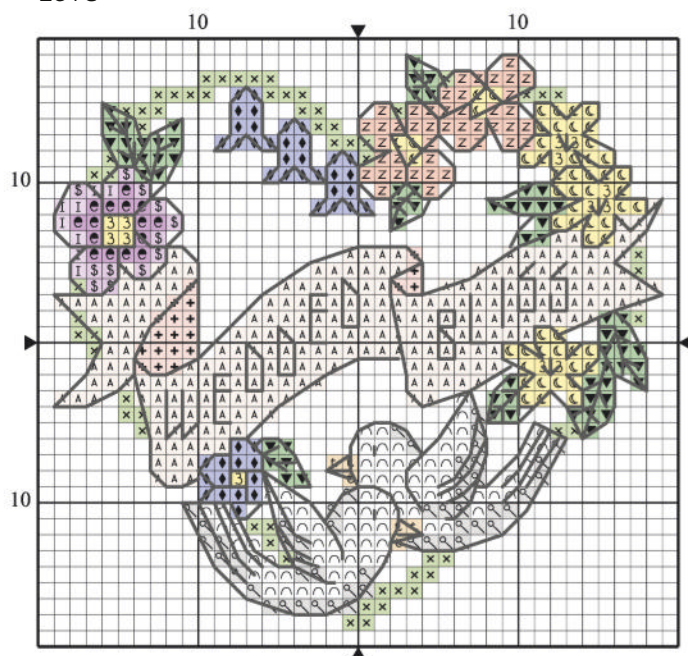
Wedding cards collection



"You can adapt the thread colours used for these cards and swap them to match the colour theme of the wedding."
Rhona Norrie, designer



All these cards are quick to recreate using whole cross stitch and backstitch



How to mount your cards

1 Trim your aida to within three squares of the stitching, then fray one row of aida all the way around the edge. You can either pull the fabric threads out by hand, or using a pair of tweezers.

2 Cut a piece of white paper slightly smaller than your piece of aida, and stick

this to the back of the stitching using double-sided tape.

3 Place more strips of double-sided tape on the back of the white paper and position this over the card blank, keeping it central.

4 Once you are happy with the position of the design, carefully stick it in place.

Tip

If you have time to spare, add a border of sparkly seed beads around the edge of your aida

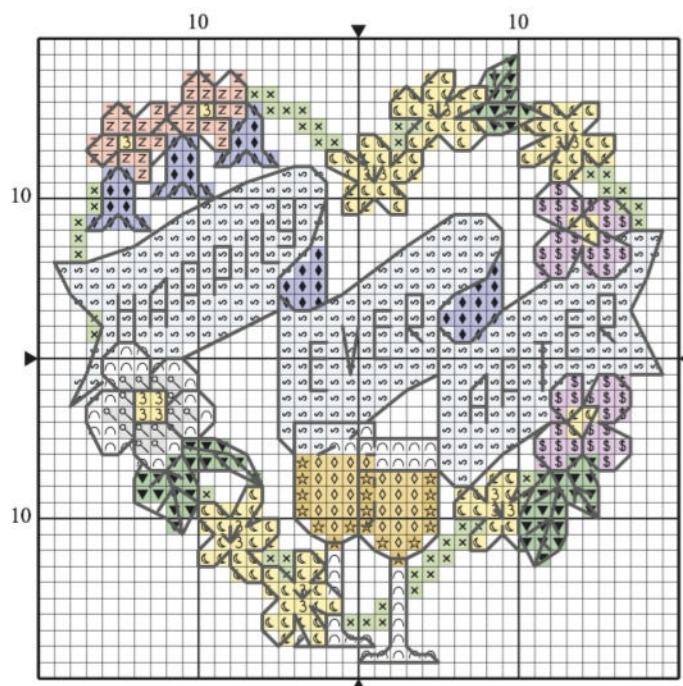


Working with metallics

Metallic threads are more 'springy' than standard threads, so are more likely to slip and break free. For this reason, it's a good idea to leave a slightly longer 'tail' than you usually would when starting off your thread, so it's more thoroughly secured.

"Rhona's greetings are so versatile. Why not stitch the 'Happily ever after' design for a special anniversary rather than a wedding?"

Fiona Baker, technical editor





Stitcher's guide

These wedding cards are worked on 14-count aida in pink, blush and light blue, using 19 different shades of stranded cotton and two of metallic thread. The designs use whole cross stitches in two strands of thread, plus backstitch in one strand of dark grey.

Wedding key

✦ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	B5200	1	2401	white
∞	162	9159	1101	light blue
●	208	99	804	dark lilac
\$	209	98	803	lilac
I	210	108	802	light lilac
x	368	214	1310	light green
q	415	398	1802	grey
w	436	1045	2011	tan
t	437	362	2012	light tan
3	726	295	109	yellow
℄	727	293	112	light yellow
z	760	1022	405	pink
+	761	1021	404	light pink
A	819	271	501	baby pink
▼	912	209	1213	green
•	948	892	306	peach
◆	3839	175	902	dark blue
K	3840	130	907	blue

✦ Cross stitch in two strands DMC Light Effects

◇	E3821			light gold
☆	E3852			dark gold

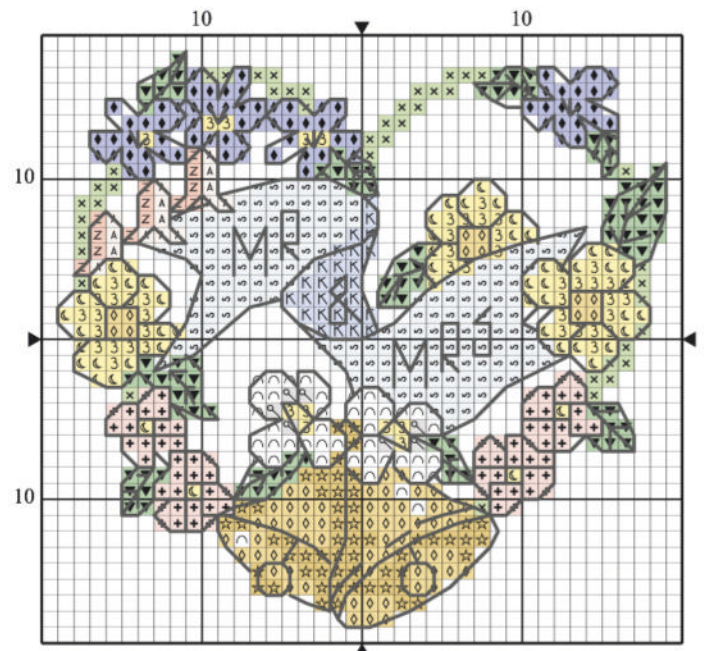
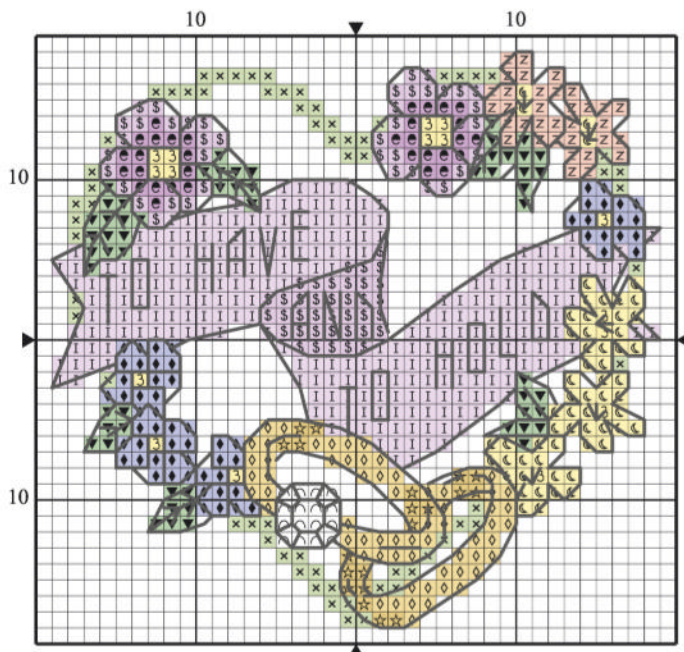
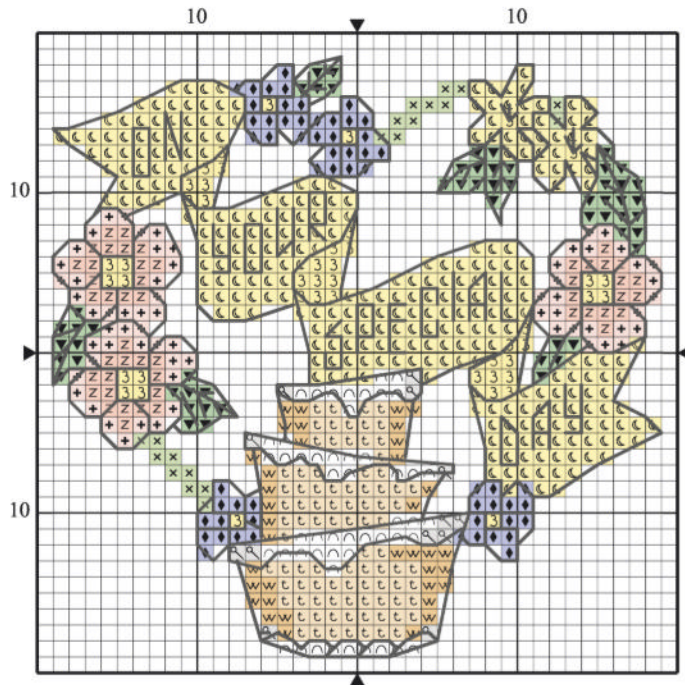
✦ Backstitch in one strand

—	413	236	1713	dark grey
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MAXIMUM STITCH COUNT 38 high x 38 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 7x7cm (2¾x2¾in)

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



Stitched with love

If you've got someone special in your life, let them know how much you care with a quirky quick-stitch card



Designed by Durene Jones

Putting a spring in your step and making the world go round... love is a wonderful thing. So be sure to celebrate your love in stitchy style, showing your feelings with a card from this adorable collection. Be extra-mushy and pick 'You're my honey bunny', or play it cool with 'To my foxy Valentine' – whatever you decide, there's

something for everyone. Worked in whole stitches and backstitch only, each one can easily be stitched in a weekend. So they're perfect if you end up leaving it until the last minute or can only grab a minute or two to stitch when they're not around. Add embellishments to the card itself once your stitching is mounted, for extra wow.

Stitching Factbox

Stitching time:
Approx 5-6 hours each
Type of stitches:
Cross stitch, backstitch
Level: Beginner

You will need

Threads: Stranded cotton, as listed in the key

Needle: Size 24 tapestry needle

Fabric: 14-count white aida measuring 15x18cm (6x7in) for rectangular designs and 15x15cm (6x6in) for square designs

Extras: Oblong aperture cards and circle aperture cards in white, ribbons and buttons of your choice from local craft shops

Tip

On the bunny holding flowers design, why not change the words to Happy Birthday



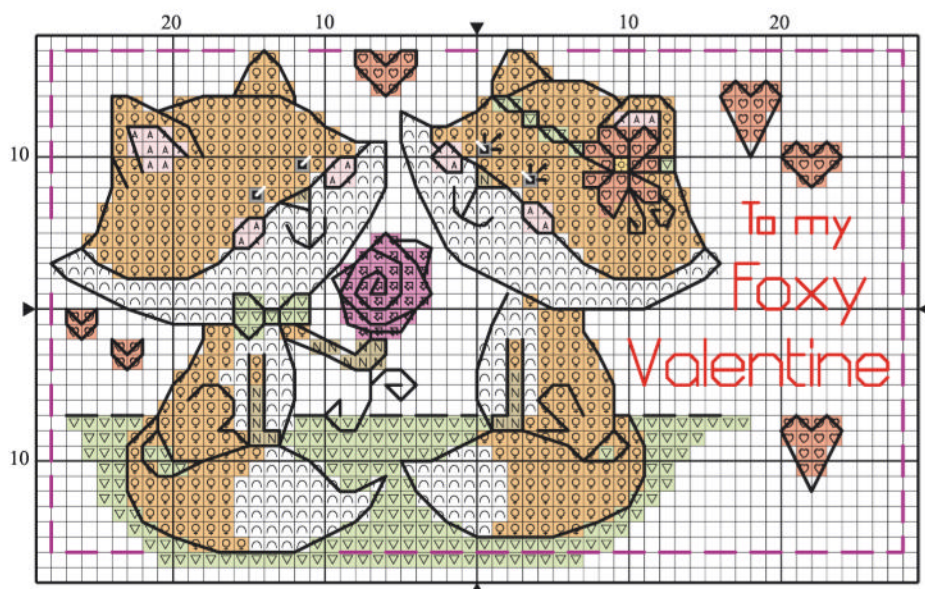
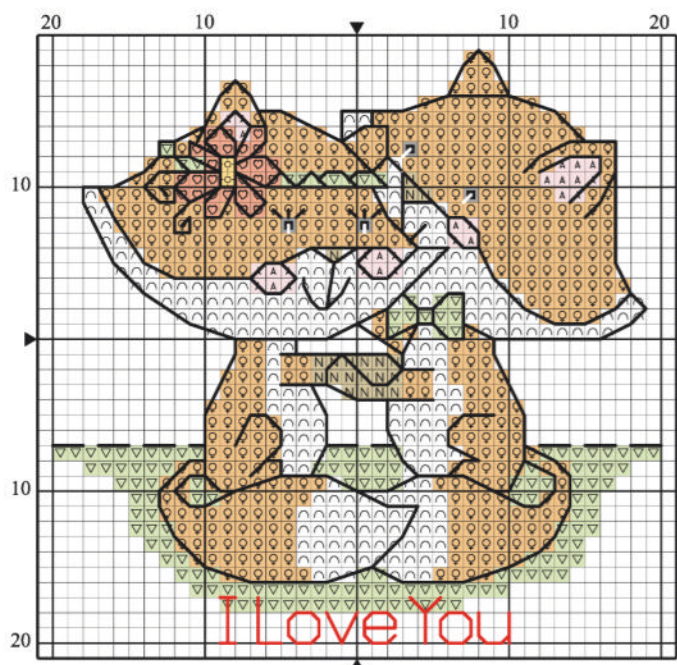


For your
someone
special

You won't be able to resist these cute
characters, your lucky recipient will
fall head over heels all over again!

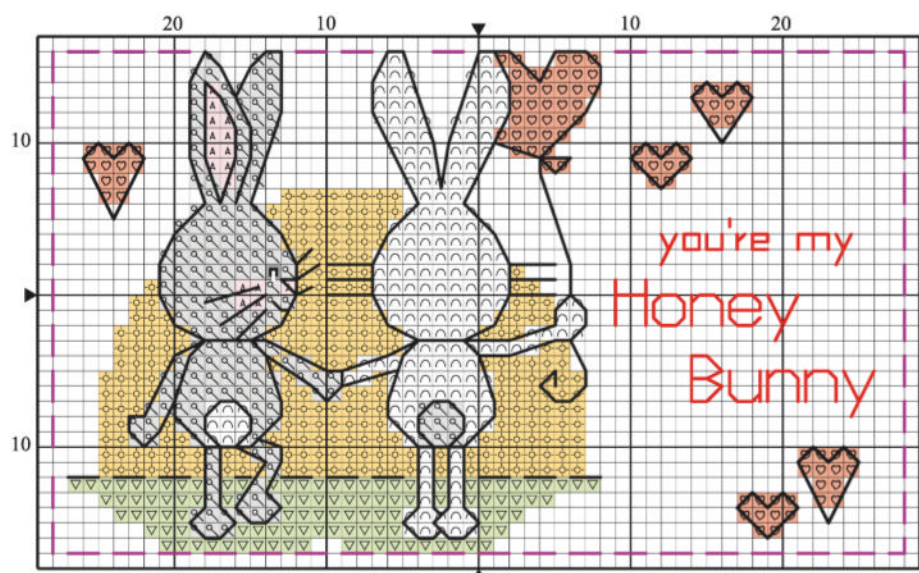
Tip

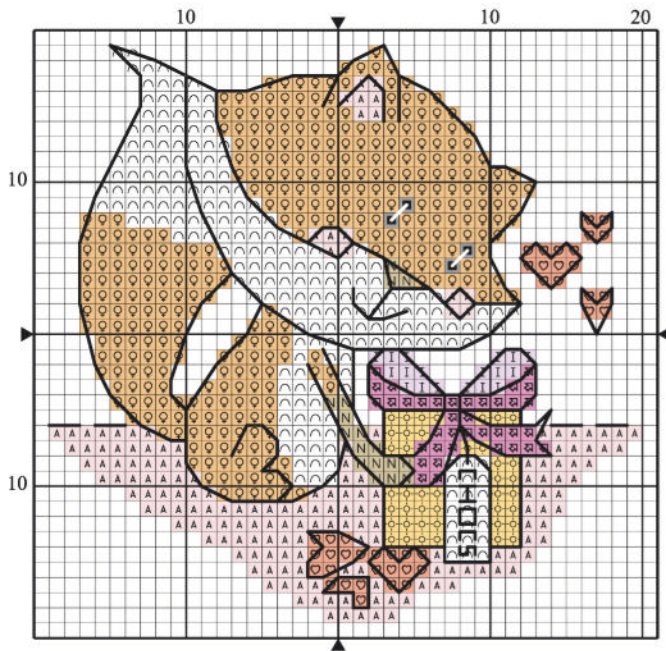
Once Valentine's Day is over, mount your stitching in a mini frame that can be kept on a bedside table



Stitching close-up

To stop any threads carried over at the back from being seen at the front, back your stitching with iron-on interfacing before working the backstitch words.





Valentine cards key

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	B5200	1	2401	white
▽	164	240	1209	green
I	210	108	802	lilac
■	310	403	2400	black
♥	350	11	213	red
⦿	415	398	1802	grey
N	640	393	1905	stone grey
⦿	743	302	113	yellow
A	963	73	502	pink
⦿	977	1002	2302	ginger
⦿	3607	87	708	dark pink

✕ Backstitch in one strand

—	310	403	2400	black
—	350	11	213	red
—	3607	87	708	dark pink

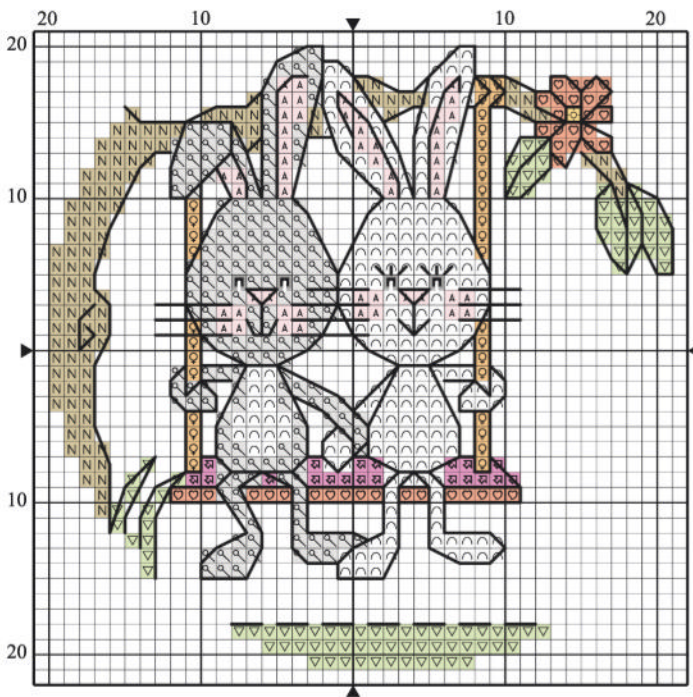
✕ Backstitch in two strands

—	B5200	1	2401	white
---	-------	---	------	-------

MAXIMUM STITCH COUNT 41 high x 56 wide

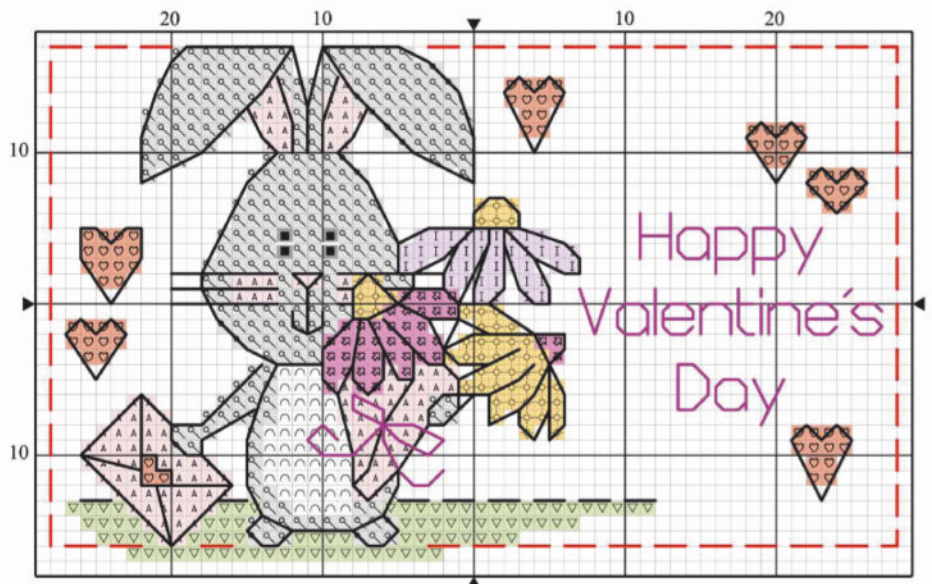
DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 7.5x10cm (3x4in)

These designs were stitched using DMC stranded cotton



“We’ve added some heart-shaped buttons and fancy ribbons to white cards, but these versatile designs will look great against any background, with or without the flashy extras.”

Heather Nugent,
charting assistant



To my sweetheart

Sweet bluebirds and pink hearts – what an endearing combination! These cards are perfectly quick and easy to stitch too



Designed by Durene Jones

Valentine's Day presents the ideal opportunity to send a handmade greeting to someone dear. They'll love Durene's darling cards featuring little birdies and hearts, and are guaranteed to think they're really 'tweet'! Of course, these lovebirds aren't only suitable for Valentine's,

they could be stitched for any romantic occasion – an anniversary perhaps, or an invitation to a wedding. The stitches are simple to work, and the designs are relatively small, so there's no excuse not to get started on one today. Back the greetings with pretty papers layered onto deckle-edge cards.

You will need

Threads: Stranded cotton, as listed in the key

Needle: Size 24 tapestry needle

Fabric: 14-count white aida measuring 13x10cm (5x4in) for each of the designs

Extras: Single-fold deckle-edge cards in pale blue, marine blue and raspberry pink and backing papers of your choice from craft shops

Stitching Factbox

Stitching time:
Approx 7-8 hours each

Type of stitches:
Cross stitch, backstitch

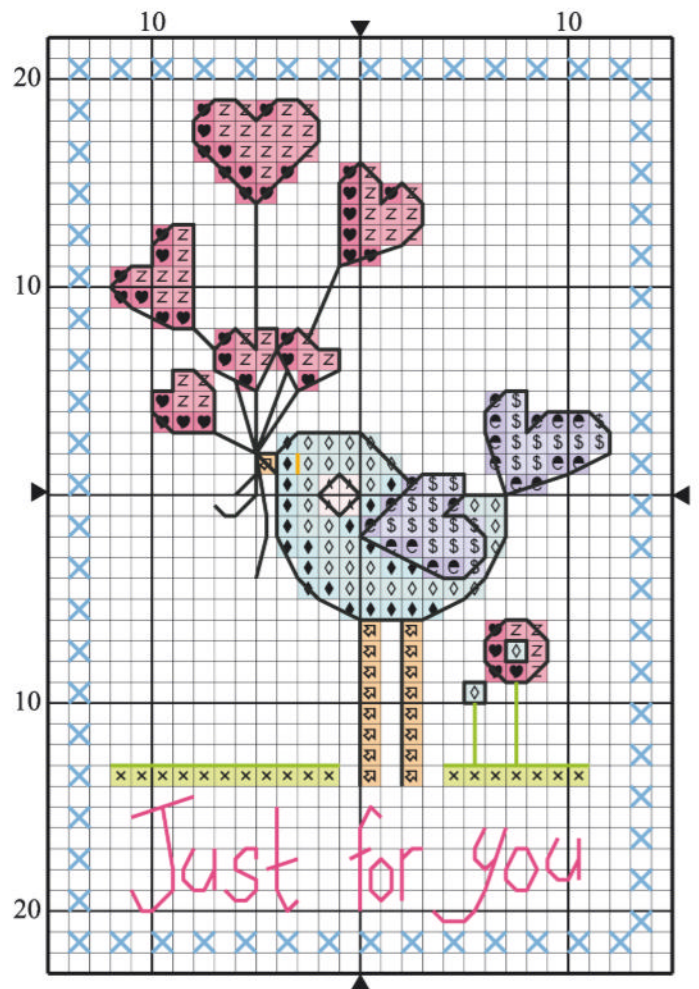
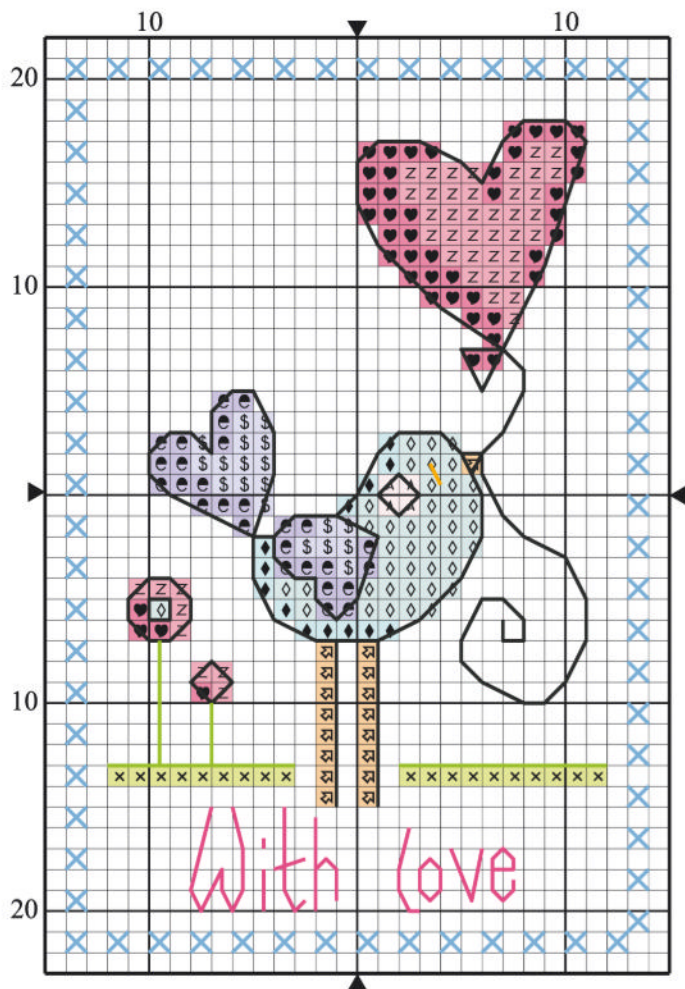
Level: Beginners



Great
for
beginners



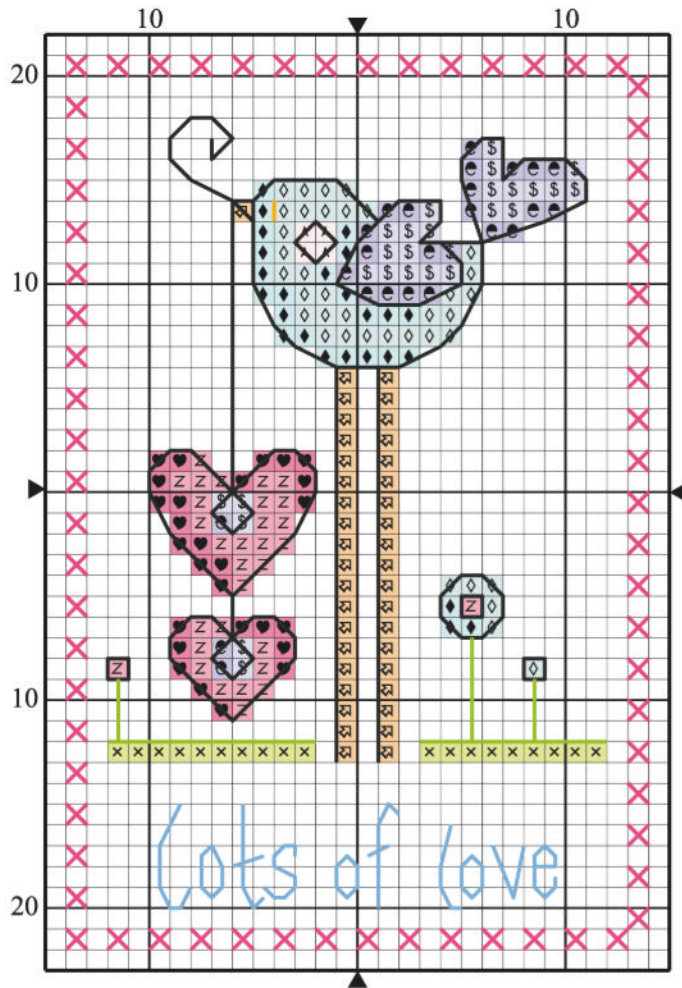
Send sweet kisses
to the one you love,
with one of Durene's
delightful cards



Stitching know-how

Whole cross stitches are really easy to do, but there are some basic rules you should follow. To find out how to work the perfect cross stitch, turn to page 131 or watch a video tutorial online at www.gathered.how.





Lovebirds key

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
●	340	118	902	purple
\$	341	117	901	light purple
◆	519	1038	1105	turquoise
♥	602	57	702	dark pink
z	603	55	701	pink
A	818	23	502	light pink
◇	3761	928	1001	light turquoise
x	3819	279	1610	light green
⌘	3854	313	114	apricot

✕ Backstitch in one strand

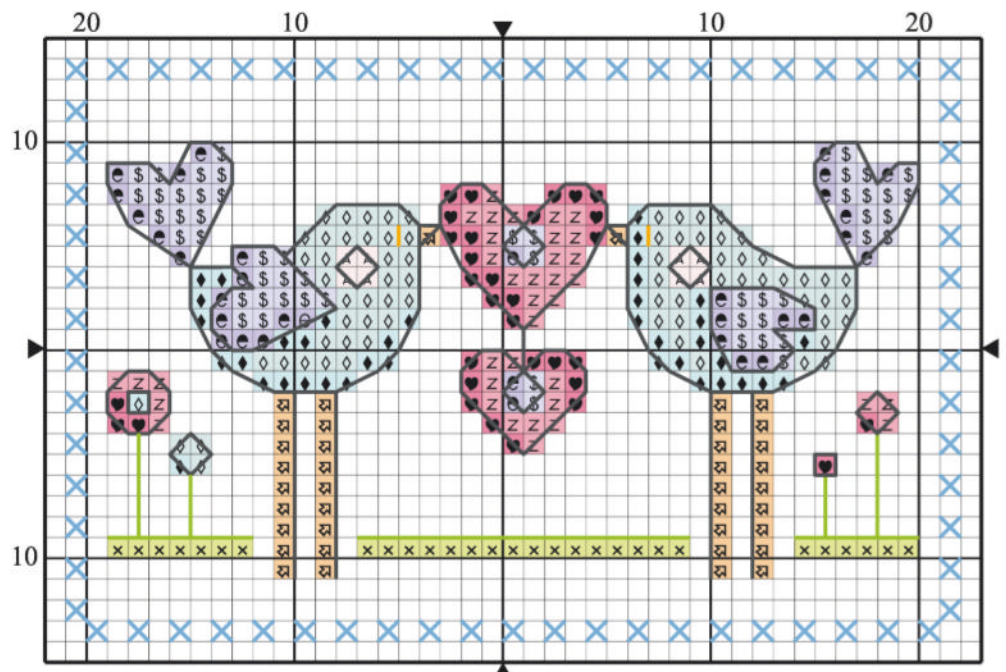
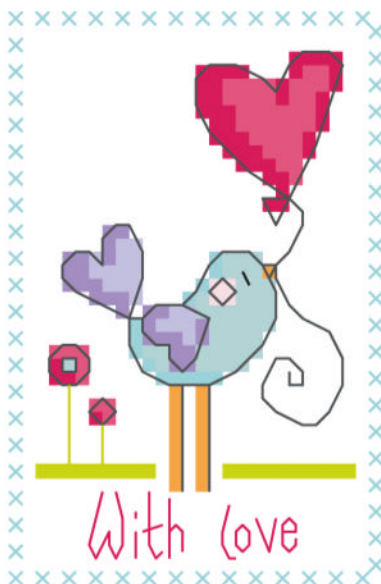
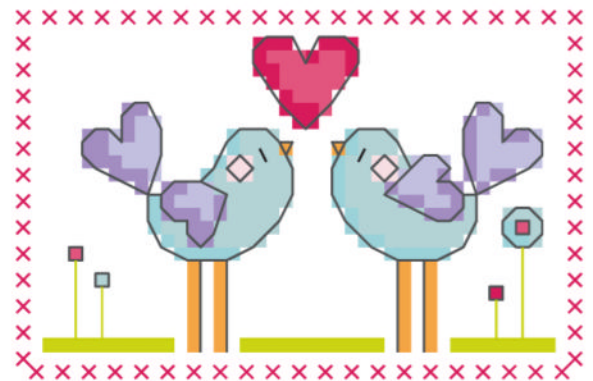
—	310	403	2400	black
—	413	236	1713	grey
—	519	1038	1105	turquoise
—	602	57	702	dark pink
—	907	255	1308	green

MAXIMUM STITCH COUNT 43 high x 43 wide
DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 8x8cm (3x3in)

These designs were stitched using DMC stranded cotton

“Try using sparkly pink metallic thread to stitch the hearts on the designs. It’ll add a touch of glamour and draw the eye to the most important part of the design.”

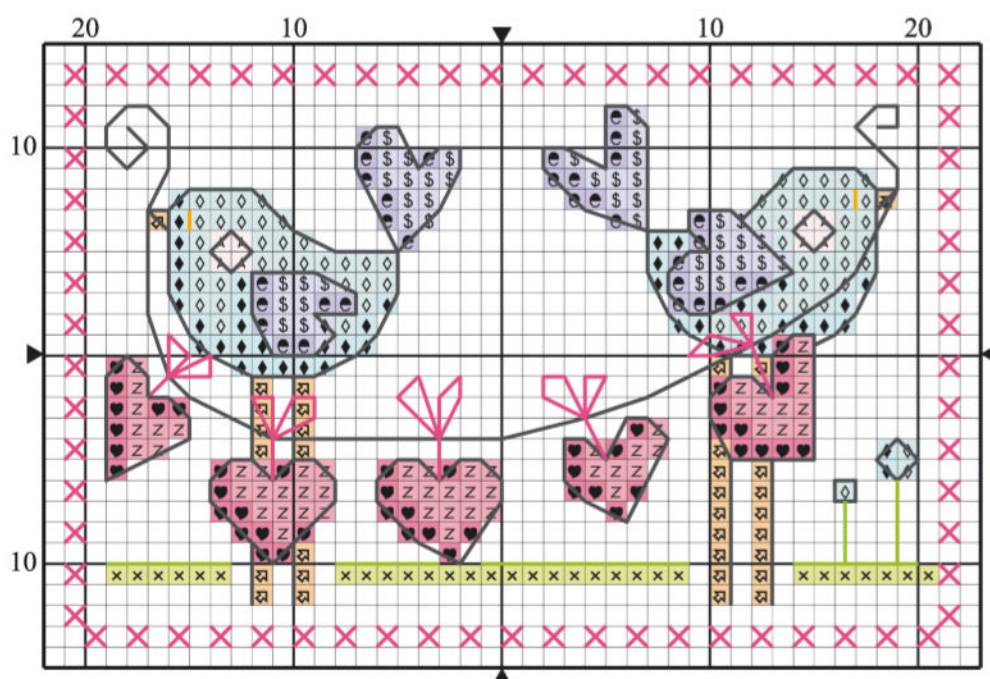
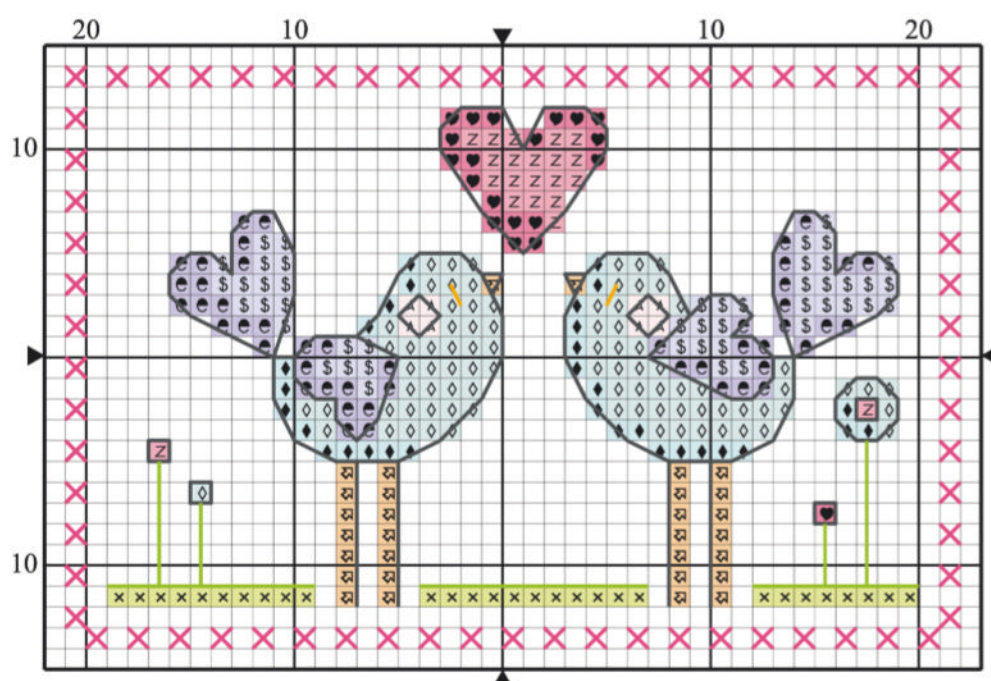
Durene Jones, designer





Stitching close-up

The borders of kisses are shown on the chart and key as backstitch. While they are technically backstitch, in practice they are actually worked in the same way as cross stitches, only in one strand of thread.



"I've kept to quite a simple colour selection for these cards, which creates more impact."

Durene Jones, designer

Finishing touches

Ribbon with tiny rows of bunting printed on, pink hearts buttons and shiny gem stones would all make great embellishments to go with these sweet cards.

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Great
for
beginners

To dear Dad

Patchwork letters and motifs combine in these colourful cards to make a fabulous stitch for Father's Day



Designed by Durene Jones

Amidst the weddings, birthdays and general merriment each season brings us, we mustn't forget to celebrate our dads on Father's Day. Durene has created six colourful card designs here, based on hobbies or interest, whether it's sport, music or the great outdoors. But the best thing about these designs is that you can mix and match

the different motifs to make a card that's unique to your dad. Combine the football, the guitar and the newspaper, for example, for a dad with a range of interests. Patterned papers help to make these designs stand out even more, and we think he'll really appreciate the sentiment and the effort you've made. They're actually really easy to stitch, but Dad will never know!

You will need

Threads: Stranded cotton, as listed in the key

Needle: Size 24 tapestry needle

Fabric: 14-count white aida measuring 15x15cm (6x6in) for each design

Extras: Single-fold square cards in white and backing paper of your choice from local craft shops

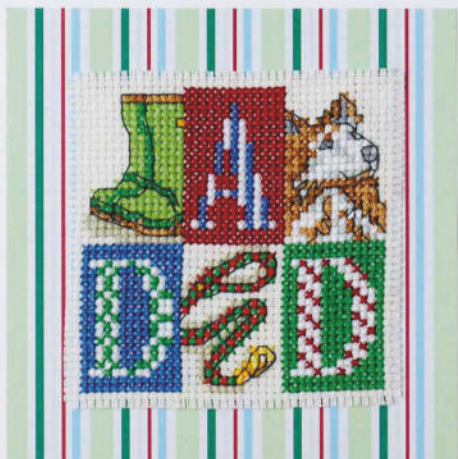
Stitching Factbox

Stitching time:
Approx 6-8 hours each

Type of stitches:
Cross stitch, backstitch

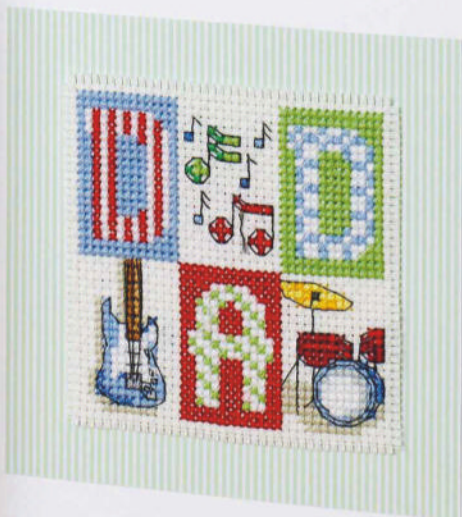
Level: Beginners



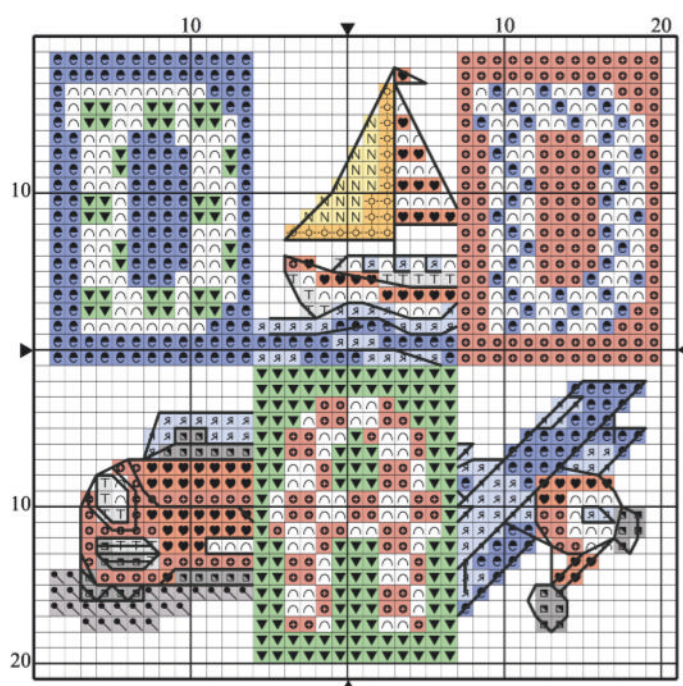
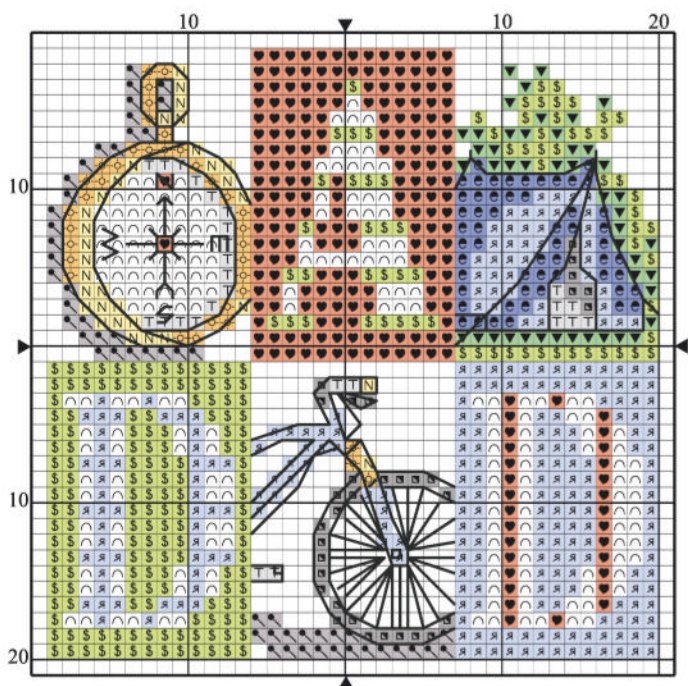
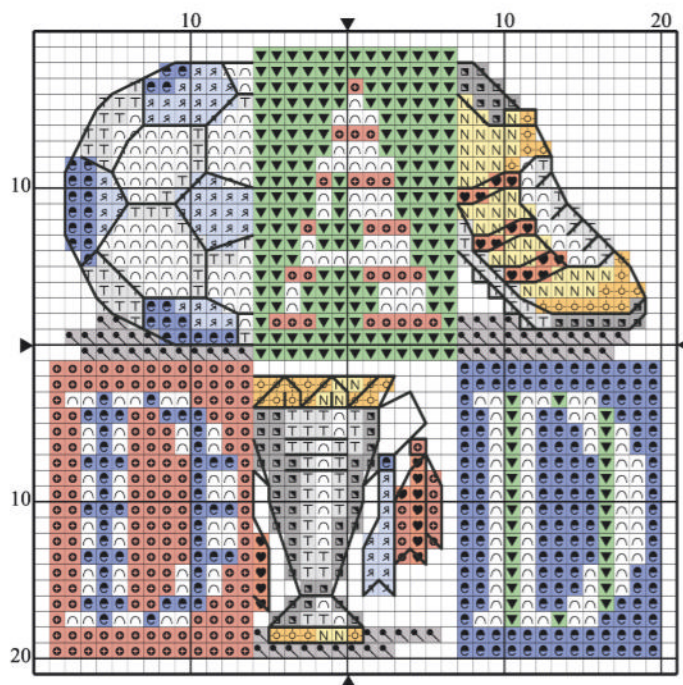
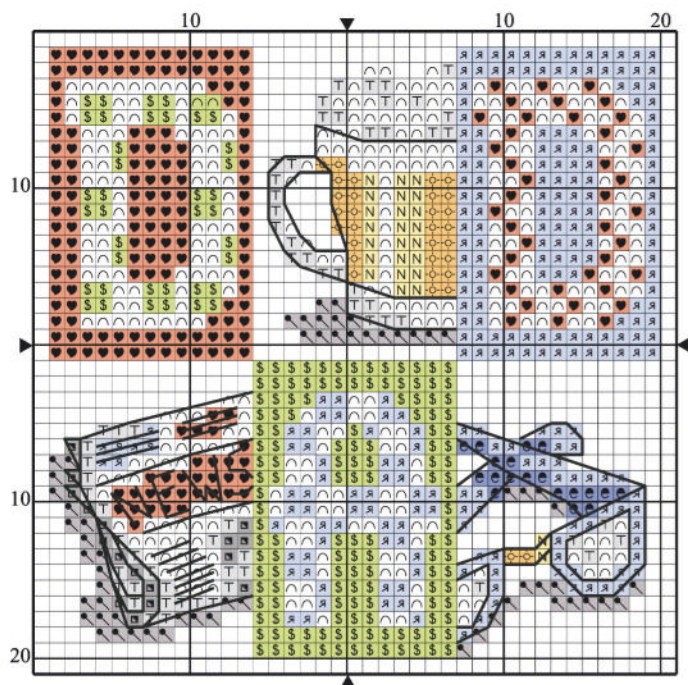


Tip

You can easily adapt the football card to incorporate your dad's favourite team colours



Show your dad you care with a personal and perfectly stitched card



How to mount your cards

1 Trim your finished stitching to within two squares of the stitched design, then fray one row of aida all the way around the edge.

2 Cut a piece of white paper slightly smaller than your aida, and stick this to the back of your stitching using double-sided tape.

3 Place more strips of double-sided tape on the back of the white paper, and peel off the backing. Put to one side.

4 Cut a square of patterned paper, 2cm ($\frac{3}{4}$ in) larger all the way around than your aida. Position the stitching centrally over the patterned paper. Once you are happy with the position, stick the design securely in place.

5 Place more strips of double-sided tape on the back of the patterned paper. Peel off the backing, position the paper over the card blank and carefully stick in place as before.

How to keep the back of your work neat

Try to keep the back of your stitching neat, so that there are no lumps and bumps. To avoid tangles, thread your needle neatly through the back of other stitches to secure it when you are starting and finishing off. With an even number of strands, you can use the loop method to start. When finishing off, snip the end off close to the fabric.

"I love to stitch cards, as they give you an immediate sense of satisfaction. It's the same with designing them, I suppose! Once I had the template for these designs, they were finished fairly quickly."

Durene Jones, designer

Tip

Mark off the chart in pencil as you go so you can keep track of where you are up to on your design

Father's Day key

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
⌒	B5200	1	2401	white
T	168	1096	1708	light grey
⬢	304	19	511	dark red
♥	349	1098	212	red
■	414	235	1714	grey
▤	434	310	2009	dark tan
◇	436	1045	2011	tan
⚡	644	830	1814	ash grey
▼	701	227	1305	green
§	704	255	1308	light green
N	726	295	109	yellow
●	798	131	912	blue
⦿	809	130	909	light blue
⦿	972	298	107	dark yellow

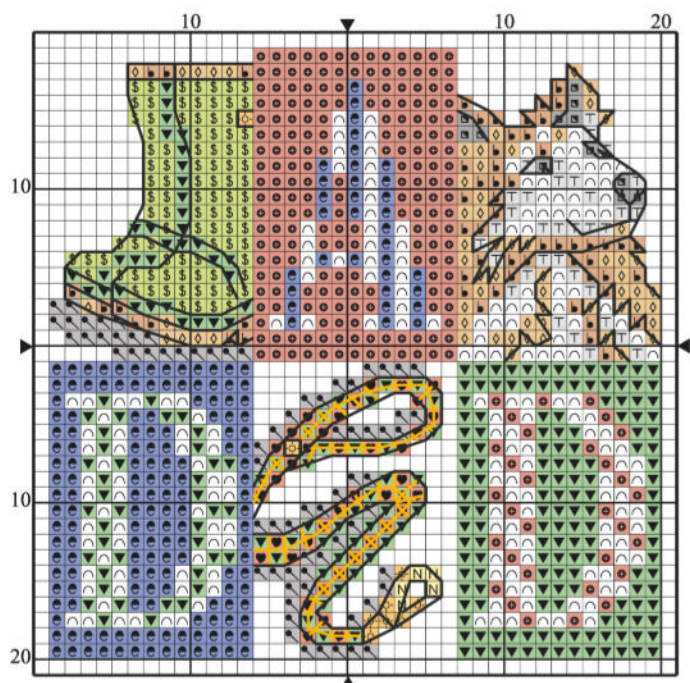
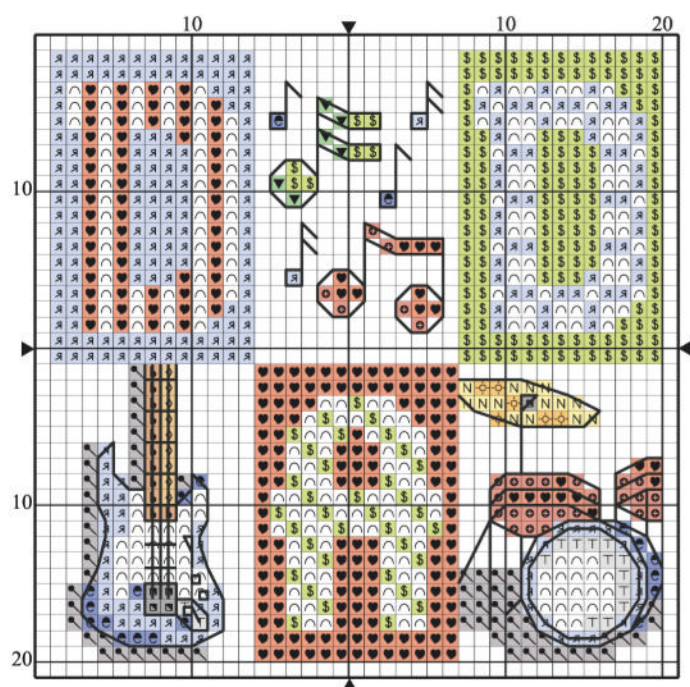
✕ Backstitch in one strand

—	726	295	109	yellow
—	3799	236	1713	dark grey

STITCH COUNT 39 high x 39 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 7x7cm (2¾x2¾in)

These designs were stitched using DMC stranded cotton



Great gifts for dad

Square designs like these also make fantastic coasters or mini pictures. You could include an empty acrylic coaster or photo frame along with your card, then he can simply transfer the stitching once Father's Day is over and the card has been taken down. That way, your dad will get to enjoy your stitching for years to come!



Whole
stitches
only

Design classics

This exciting collection of retro vehicles will make great greetings for those who love to get from A to B in style



Designed by
Jenny Barton

Stitching Factbox

Stitching time:
Approx 8-10 hours each

Type of stitches:
Cross stitch, backstitch

Level: Beginners

You will need

Threads: Stranded cotton, as listed in the key

Needle: Size 24 tapestry needle

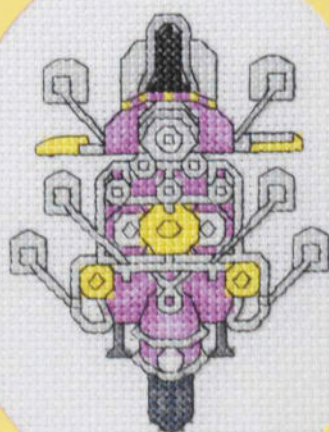
Fabric: 14-count white aida measuring 20x15cm (8x6in)
for each design

Cards: Cards of your choice from local craft shops



Tip

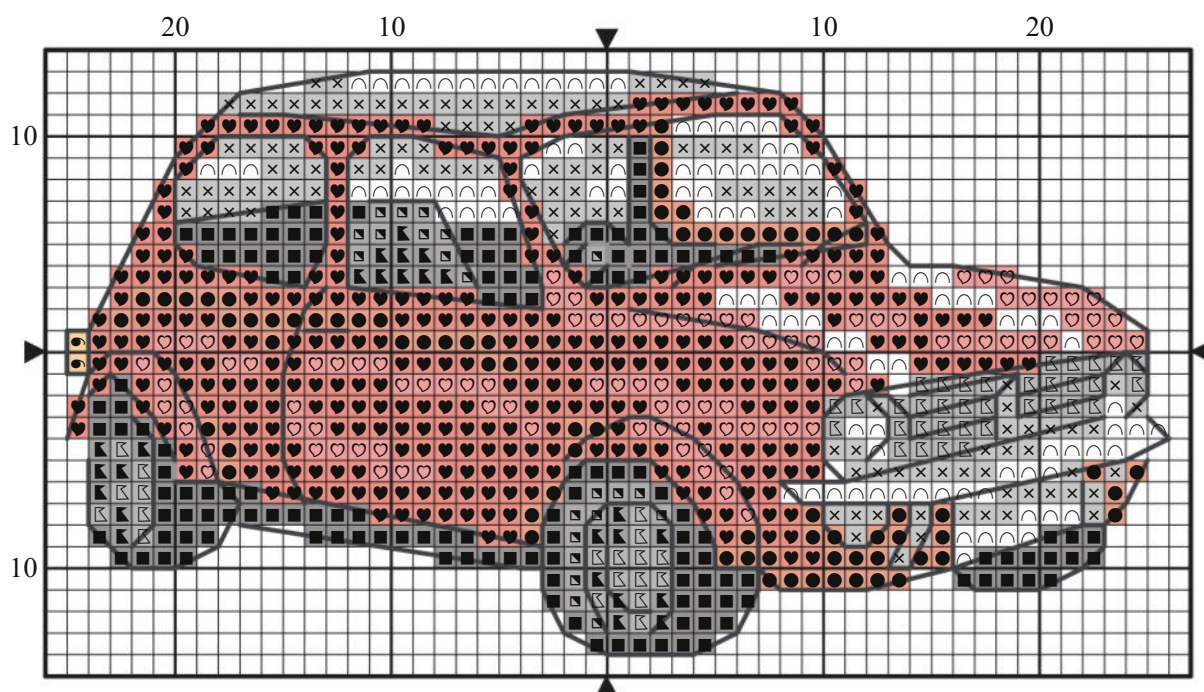
Stitch and frame
your dad's favourite
vehicle and give
it to him as a fun
Father's Day gift



Jenny's designs also make
great cards for friends who
love to live life in the fast lane

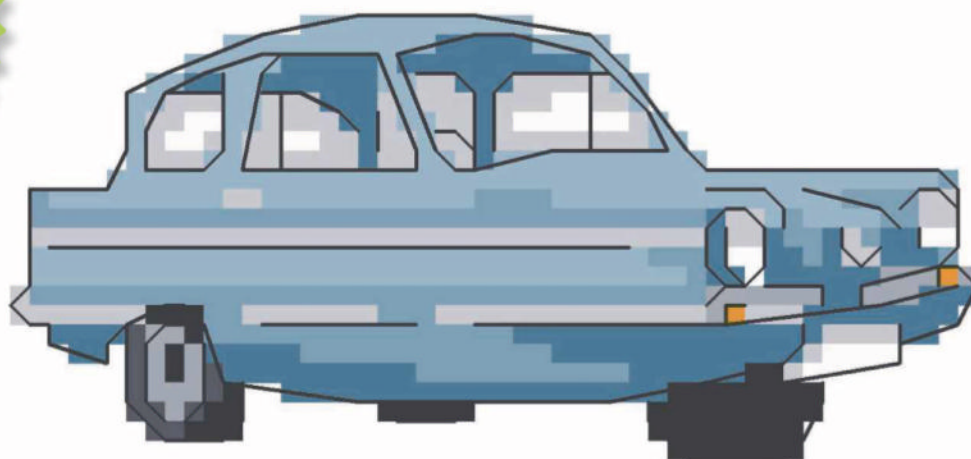
Stitching close-up

Jenny has used varying shades of blue and grey to create the shading on her Morris Minor. Make sure you stitch sitting close to a window or under a bright daylight lamp so you can see the colours clearly and don't get them mixed up.



Tip

Make sure you pick cards that work both horizontally and vertically to fit the set



Tip

Colour photocopy the charts and mark off each row of colour as you stitch it, this way you'll be sure to keep your place

Stitching ideas

These designs are great to stitch and patch onto the front of a car manual to keep in a glove compartment. As the designs use whole cross stitch only, try stitching them on perforated paper and then mount onto card to give as a gift to a friend who's proud of their set of funky wheels.

*“A cute personal touch would be to backstitch or personalise the number plate with the one from your dad’s vehicle.
Use white thread so it stands out.”*

Abi Barker, special projects coordinator

Vehicles key

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	blanc	2	2402	white
◆	209	98	803	dark lilac
⊗	210	108	802	lilac
◇	211	342	801	light lilac
☀	307	289	104	yellow
■	317	400	1714	dark grey
●	321	9046	510	dark red
e	334	997	1004	dark blue
■	414	235	1801	grey
■	415	398	1802	light grey
■	597	1064	1110	dark mint green
■	598	1062	1111	mint green
♥	666	46	210	red
×	762	234	1804	very light grey
e	3325	129	907	blue
♥	3705	35	410	light red
○	3706	33	409	very light red
■	3799	236	1713	charcoal grey
I	3811	1060	1101	light mint green
—	3841	9159	1001	light blue
●	3854	313	114	orange

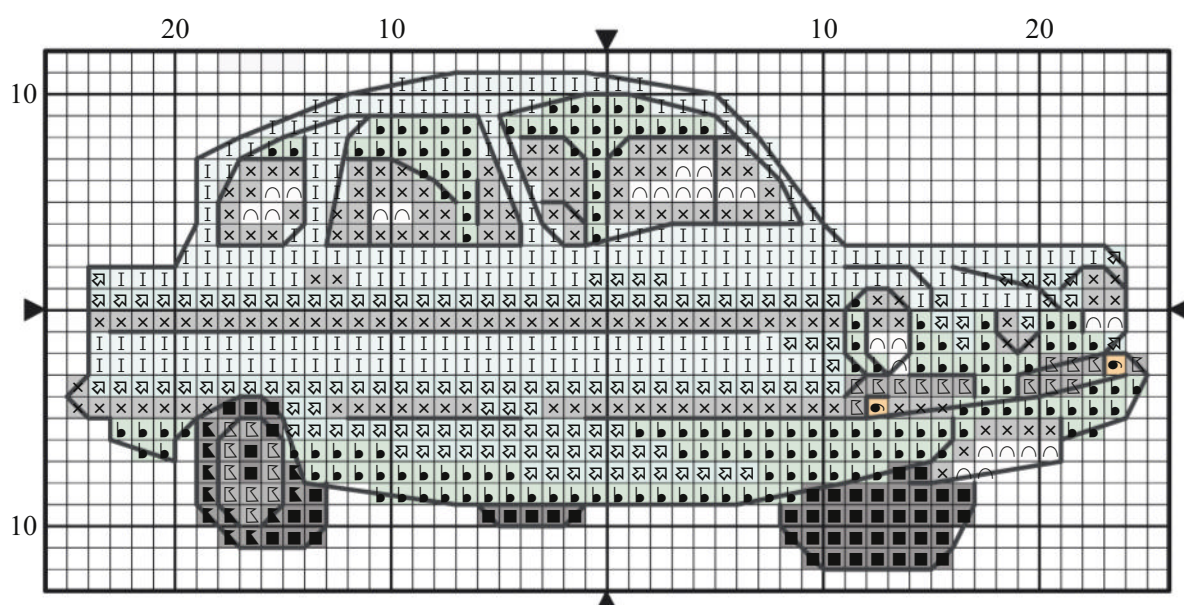
✕ Backstitch in one strand

—	3799	236	1713	very dark grey
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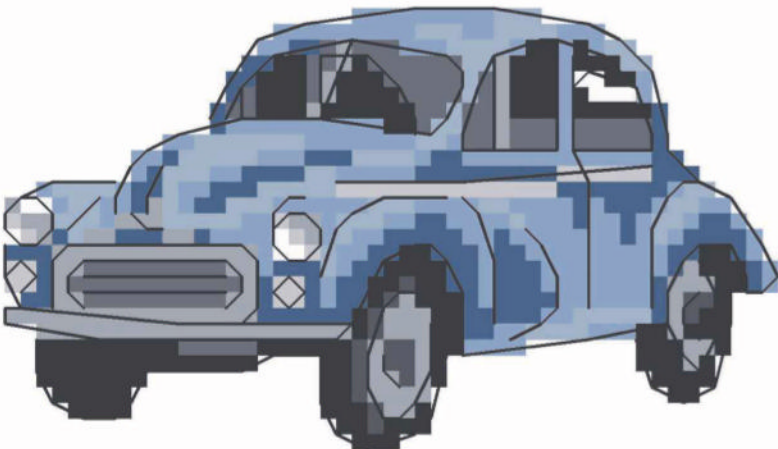
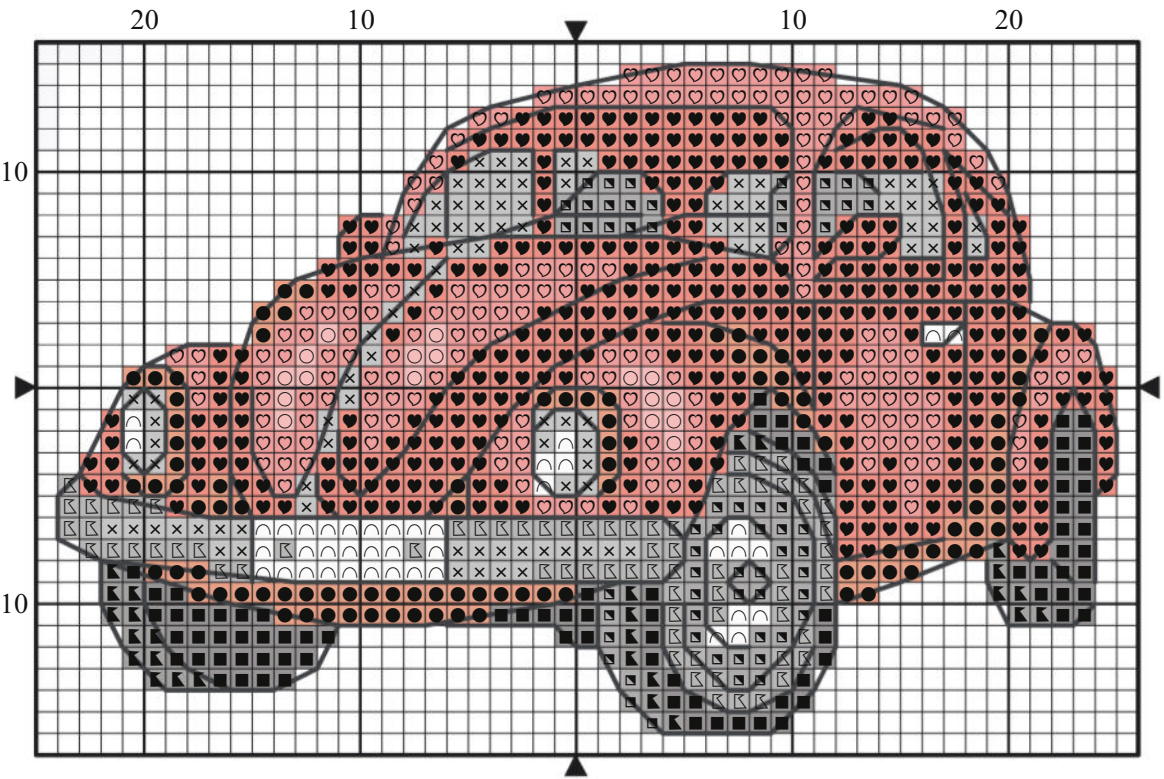
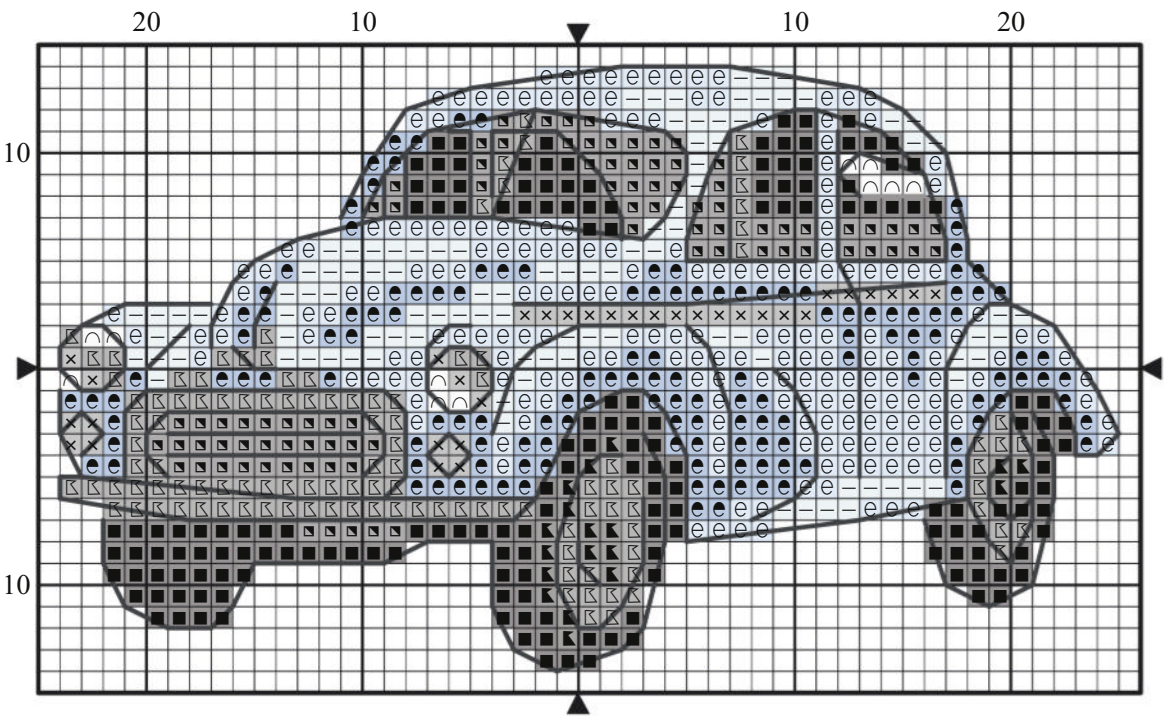
MAXIMUM STITCH COUNT 49 high x 51 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 9x9.5cm (3½x3½in)

These designs were stitched using DMC stranded cotton

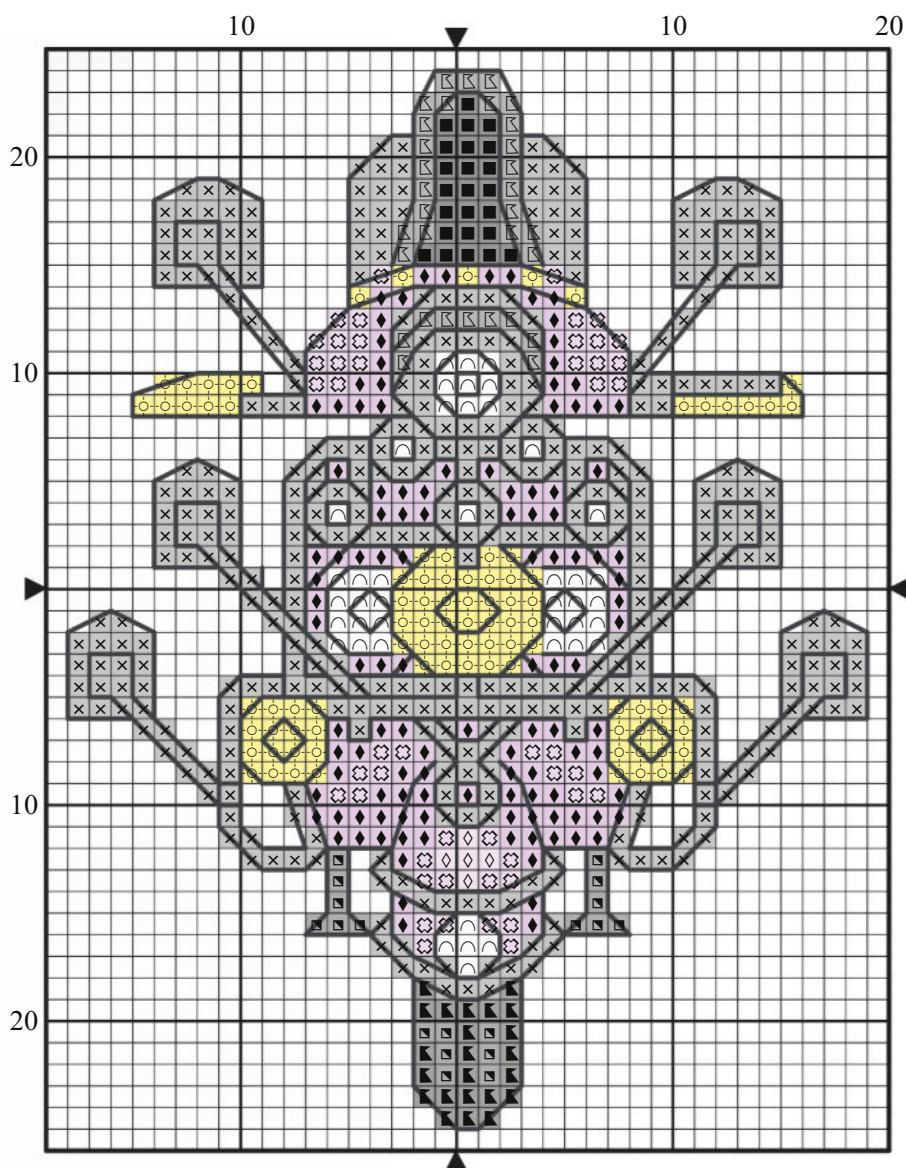
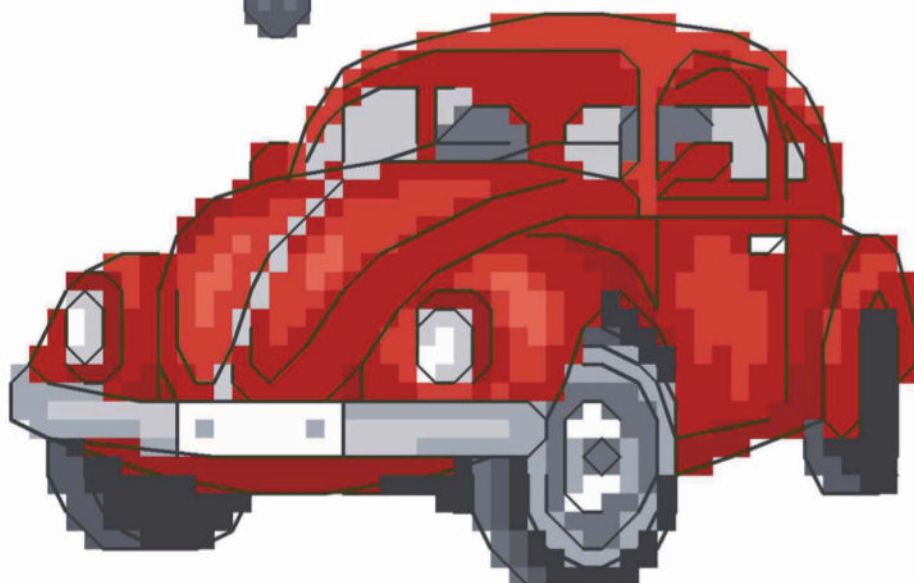
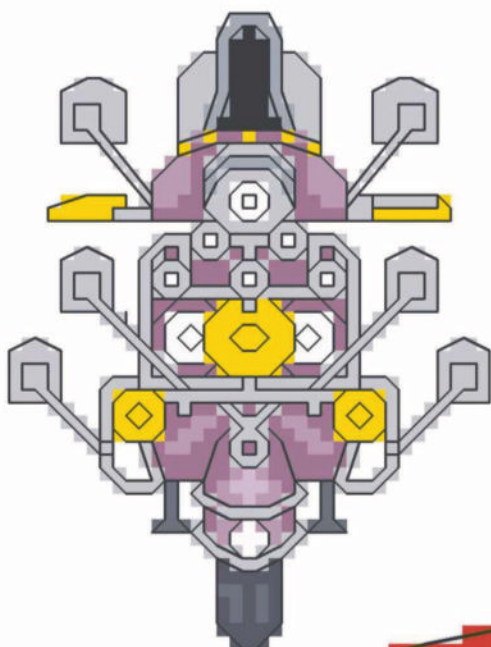
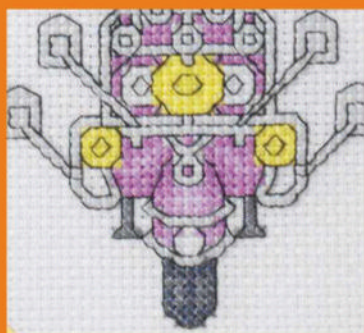


For Him



Stitching close-up

Jenny has used whole cross stitch only in her designs so some of the stitches may spill out under the backstitch. Don't worry about this – the bold blocks of colour will ensure a striking result. Just make sure you work the backstitch last.



“Why not type up some fun facts about the vehicle to stick inside your card? It’ll make it that little bit more personal to your dad.”

*Heather Nugent,
charting assistant*

These majestic sunflowers stand heads above the rest – just like your lovely cards will on the mantelpiece!



Here comes the sun

Spread a little happiness with this colourful set of cheery cards in sunshine yellow, perfect to stitch and send for any occasion



Designed by
Susan Bates

Stitching Factbox

Stitching time:
10-12 hours each

Type of stitches:
Cross stitch, fractionals,
backstitch

Level: Advanced
beginner

You will need

Threads: Stranded cotton, as listed in the key

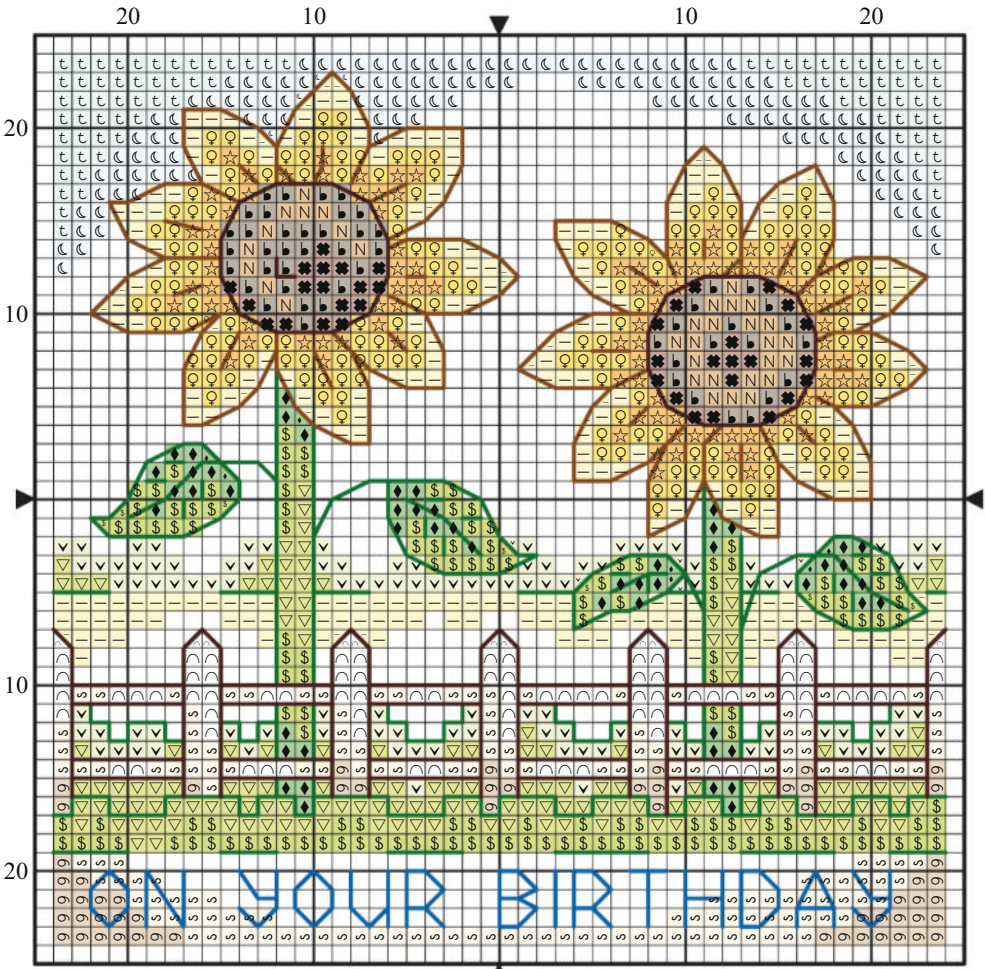
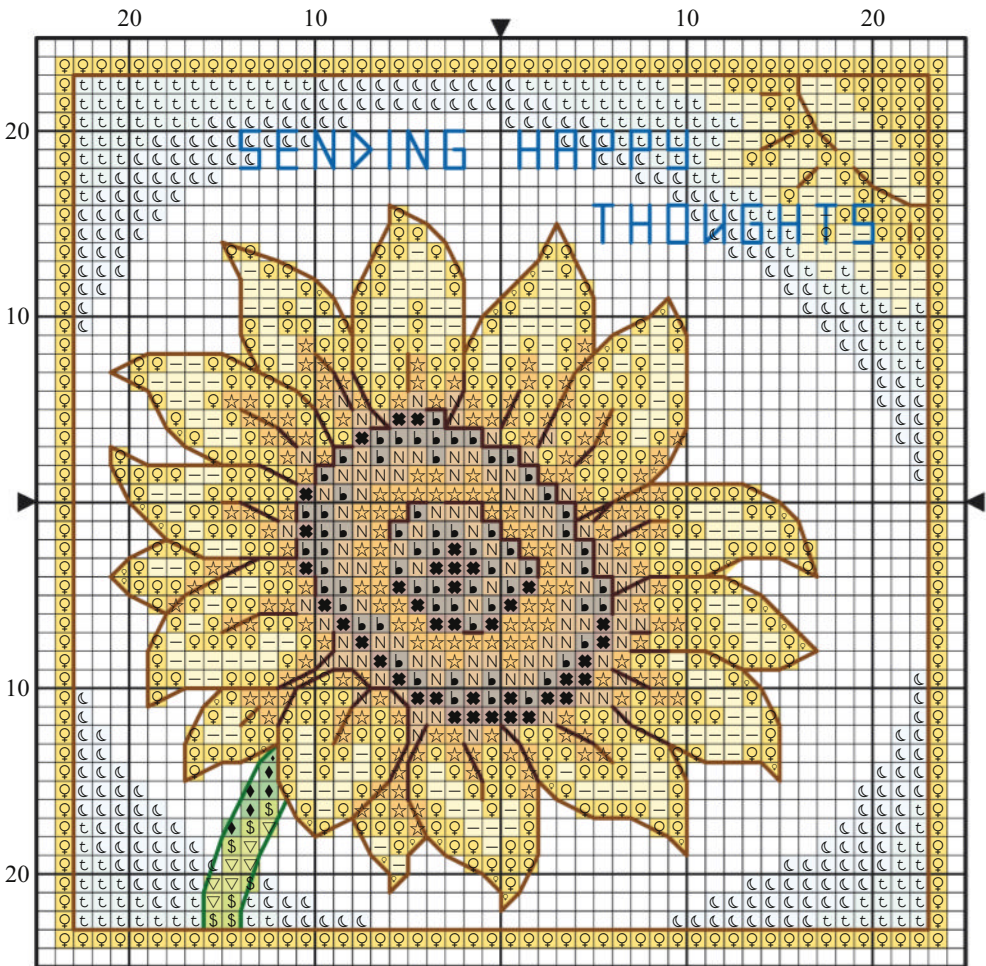
Needle: Size 24 tapestry needle

Fabric: 14-count white aida measuring 15x15cm (6x6in)
for each design

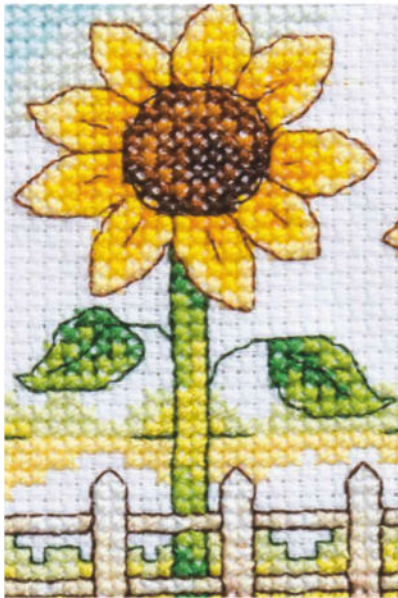
Cards: Single fold scallop-edge cards in pale cream of your
choice from local craft shops

“Sunflowers were one of the first plants I grew when I was a little girl. I vividly remember planting the little seeds and watching them come to life in no time at all, just like this lovely set of cards will.”
Susan Bates, designer

Stitching know-how
Use pinking shears to cut your fabric first of all. This will prevent the edges from fraying as you handle it.



Tip
Mix and match the backstitched greetings on these cards to make each design work for any occasion





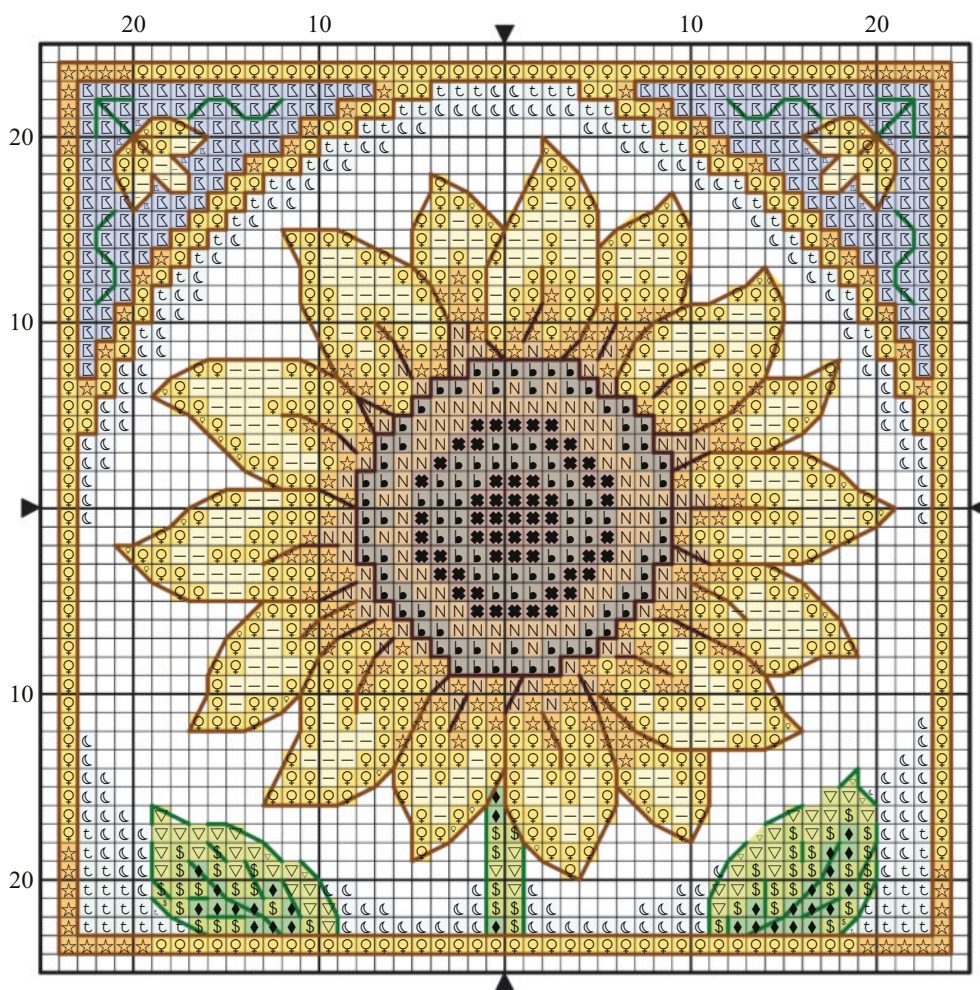
How to patch your designs onto a card

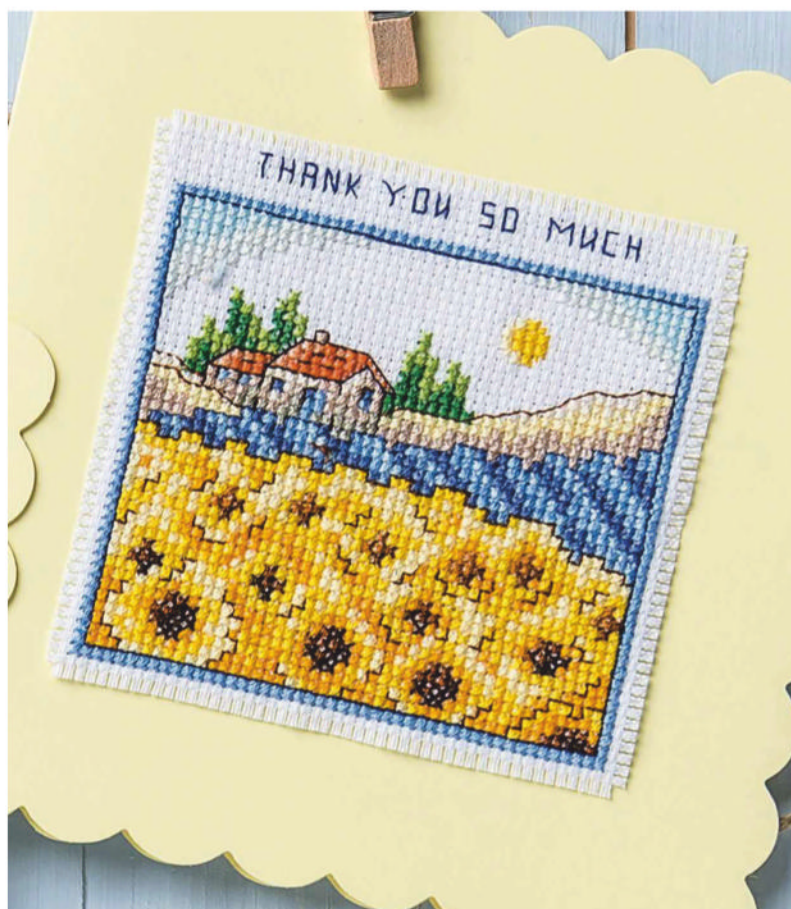
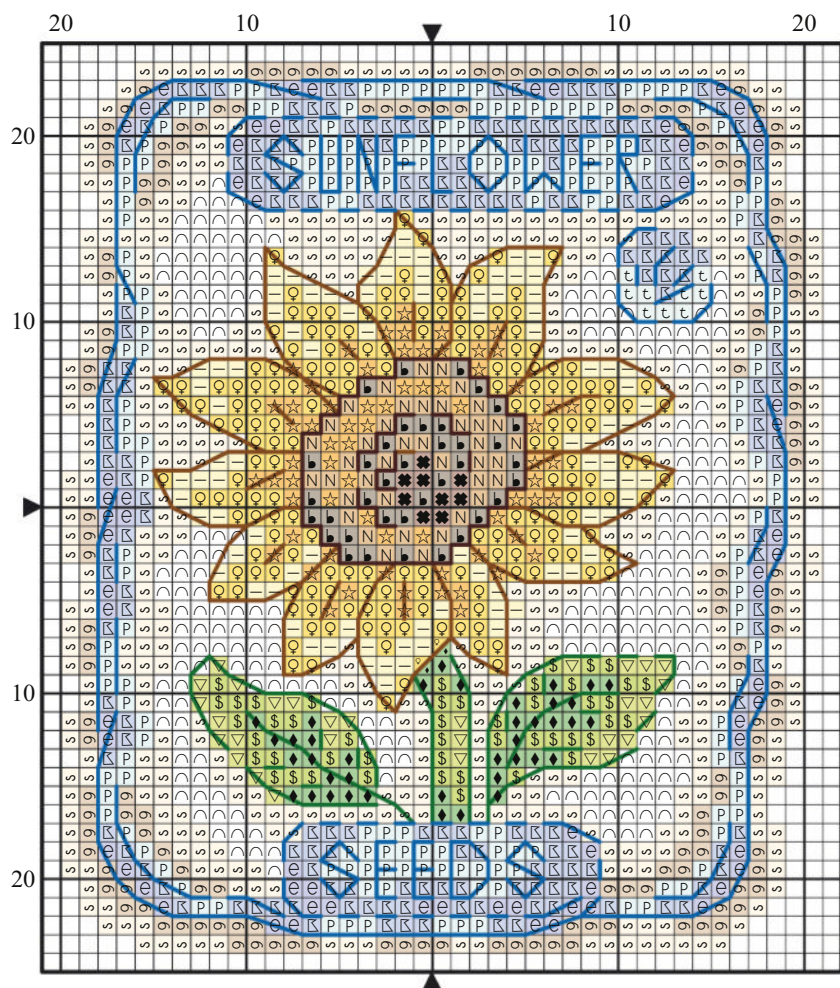
1 Cut out your design, leaving a border of two squares of aida all the way around.

2 Using a pair of tweezers, carefully remove single threads from the edges until you have removed a whole row of aida blocks from each edge, creating a frayed effect.

3 Cut a square of white paper measuring 9x9cm (3½x3½in), which is the design area. Turn the stitching over and stick the piece of paper to the back using strips of double-sided tape.

4 Attach more double-sided tape to the back of the paper, then centre your stitching over the card. Once you are happy with the positioning, press the stitching firmly in place.





Sunflowers key

✦ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
⌈	blanc	2	2402	white
я	402	1047	2307	ginger
■	433	357	2602	brown
◆	701	227	1305	dark green
§	704	255	1308	green
§	712	926	2101	cream
я	721	324	308	orange
t	747	158	1104	turquoise
v	772	259	1604	grass green
N	782	308	2212	tan
P	800	144	908	light blue
■	809	130	909	blue
■	838	380	2005	dark brown
■	842	1080	1910	beige
☆	972	298	107	tangerine
Q	973	290	105	yellow
■	3023	899	1813	stone grey
—	3078	292	102	light yellow
⌈	3756	1037	2504	very light blue
e	3807	122	2702	dark blue
▽	3819	279	1610	lime green

✦ Backstitch in one strand

—	319	224	1313	very dark green
—	433	357	2602	brown
—	791	178	904	very dark blue
—	838	380	2005	dark brown
—	3807	122	2702	dark blue

MAXIMUM STITCH COUNT 48 high x 48 wide
DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 9x9cm (3½x3½in)

These designs were stitched using DMC stranded cotton

“Beautifully designed, each card holds its own special charm – choose a field of sunflowers to say thank you, a pair of blooms standing tall and proud as a birthday greeting or a sweet seed packet for an avid gardener. Or why not stitch all six as a set?”

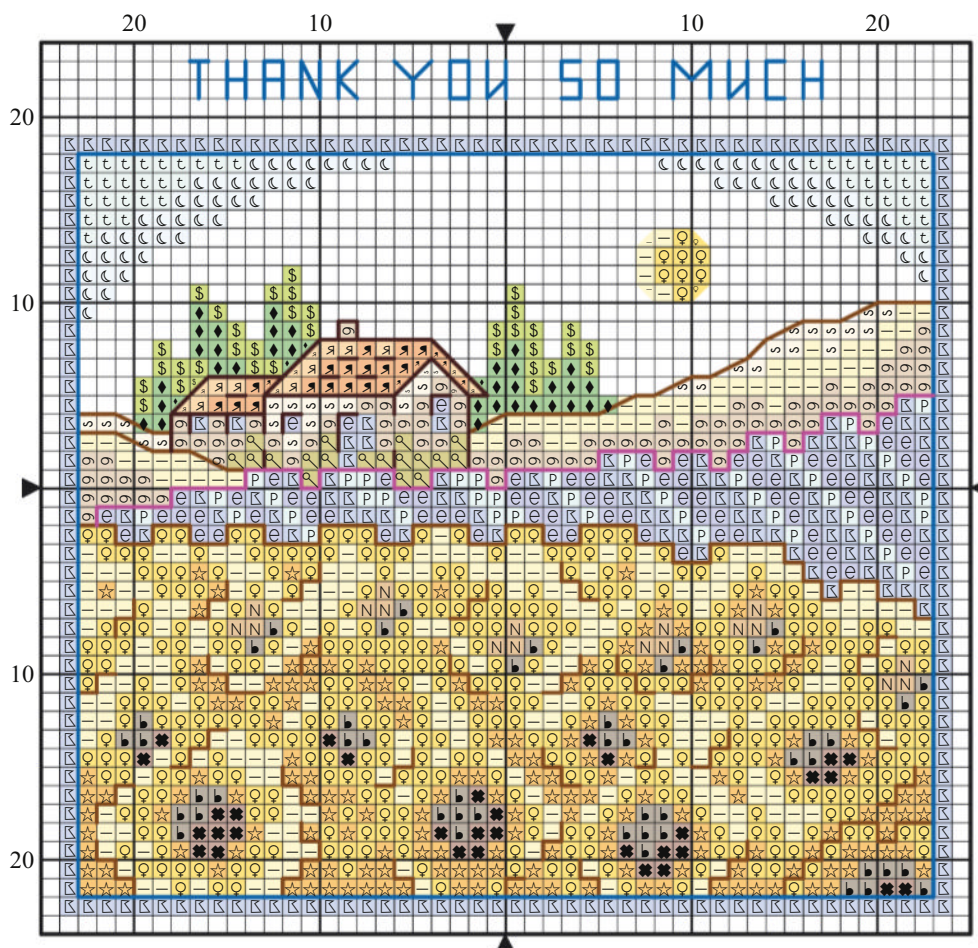
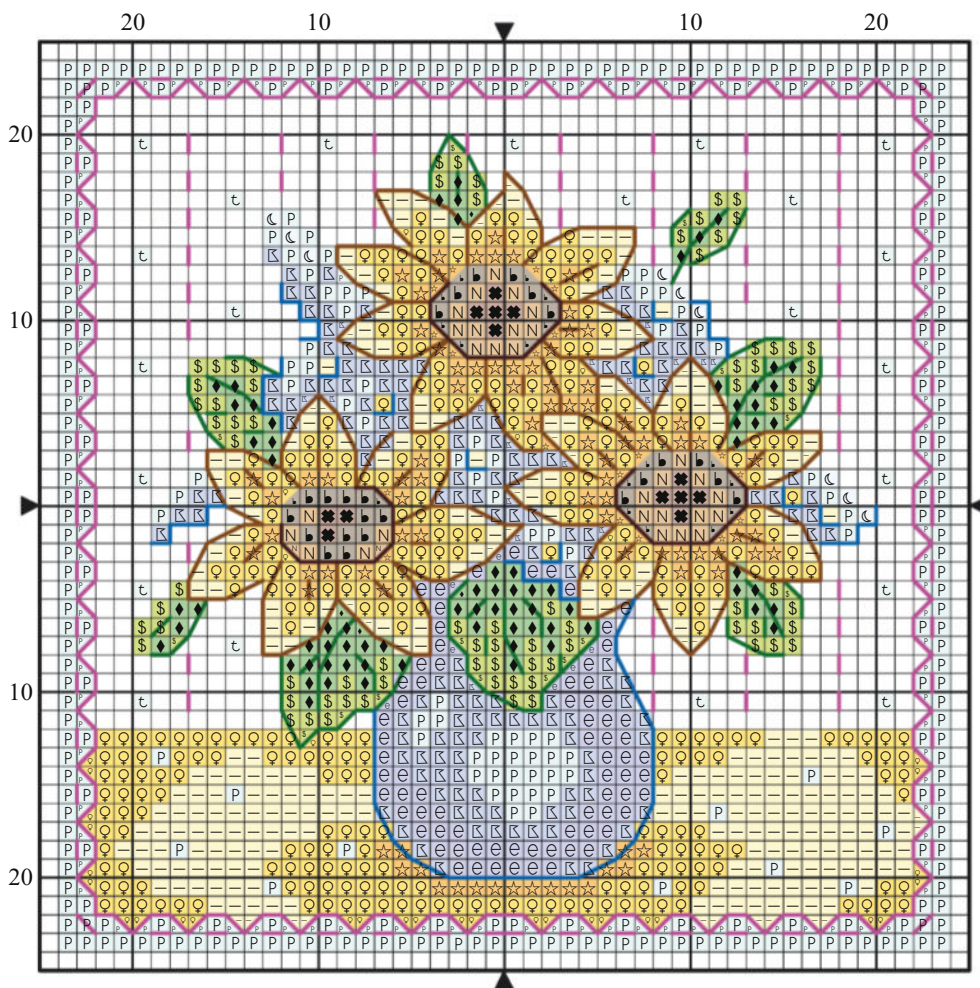
Katriel Costello, editor

How to work perfect backstitch

Try using a hoop to keep your fabric taut, it makes backstitch easier. Remember to start and finish off tidily and start new lengths of threads regularly for a tidy finish and a neat appearance to your work.

“These pretty sunflower cards are stunning to look at and so enjoyable to stitch. They’ll make perfect greetings for your mum, whatever the occasion.”

Fiona Baker,
technical editor



Tip

Pre-thread several needles with different shades and use a magnetic needle holder to keep them safe while you stitch

Stitching close-up

There is plenty of detail here, with lots of shading to add depth, and fractionals and backstitch to add definition.



Celebrate a special occasion with these cute stitched cards

Super-sweet collection



Bright future

Wish good friends well for their exciting new adventure with one of these super-cute, easy-stitch cards

You will need

Threads: Stranded cotton, as listed in the key

Needle: Size 24 tapestry needle

Fabric: 14-count white aida measuring 15x15cm (6x6in) for each design

Extras: Single-fold straight edge cards in white, backing papers and ribbon of your choice from local craft shops



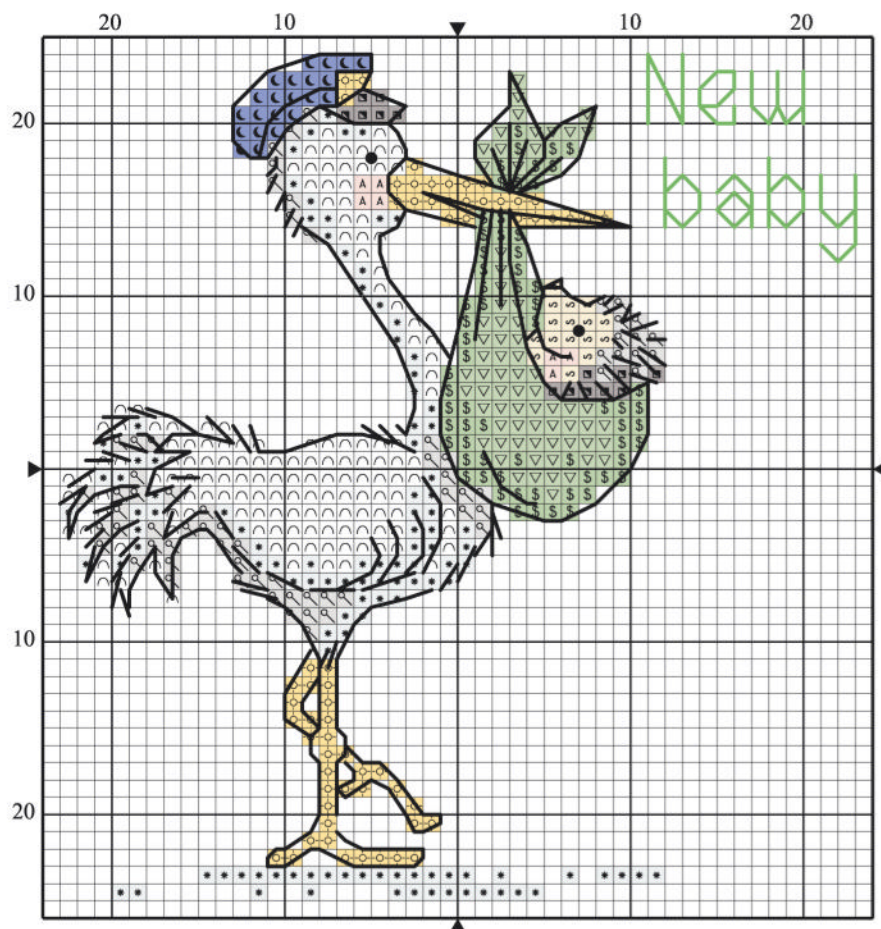
Designed by
Rhona Norrie

Stitching Factbox

Stitching time:
Approx 10 hours each

Type of stitches:
Cross stitch, backstitch,
French knots

Level: Advanced
beginner

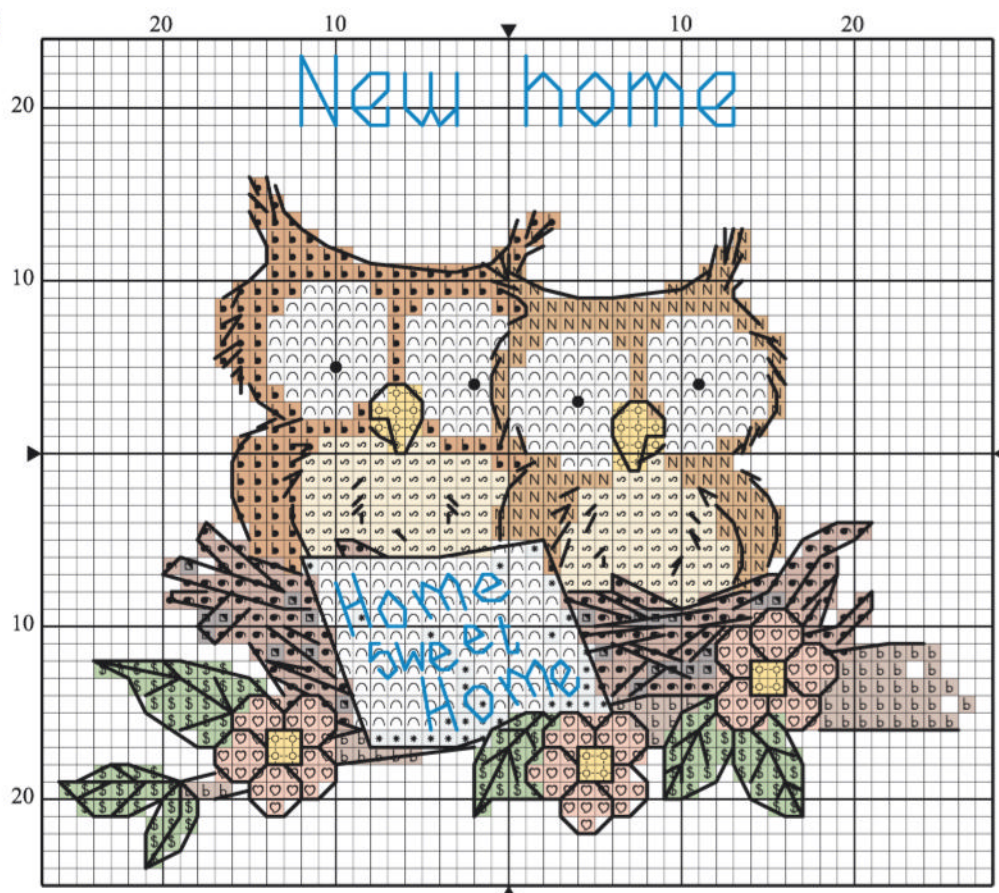


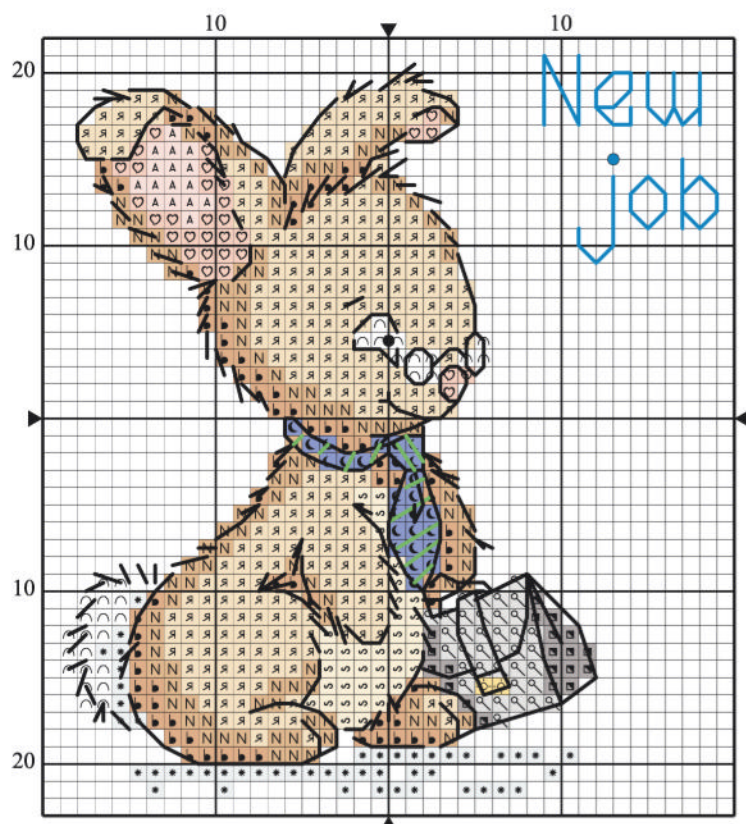
Finishing touches

We love the green and blue dotty papers we've layered onto these cards, they bring a really fresh feel to your greetings. When cutting your papers, be sure to use a separate pair of scissors to those you use for fabric.



"Personalise your card by adding the first name of the person you're stitching it for. Backstitch any new letters in the same colour thread."
Katriel Costello, editor





"I hope you'll say 'ahh' when you first see these cards. I thought these designs would be perfect for stitching and sending to wish friends and family well at those milestone times in their lives."

Rhona Norrie, designer

Cute animals key

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
⤿	B5200	1	2401	white
■	310	403	2400	black
■	317	400	1714	dark grey
■	415	398	1802	grey
■	434	310	2009	brown
N	435	1046	2010	light brown
■	437	362	2012	tan
■	562	210	1205	green
▽	563	208	1207	light green
■	725	305	113	yellow
■	739	366	2014	cream
♥	760	1022	405	pink
A	761	1021	404	light pink
*	762	234	1804	light grey
■	798	131	912	blue
■	839	1050	1913	mink brown
b	3790	393	1905	stone grey

✕ Backstitch in one strand

—	310	403	2400	black
—	562	210	1205	green
—	798	131	912	blue

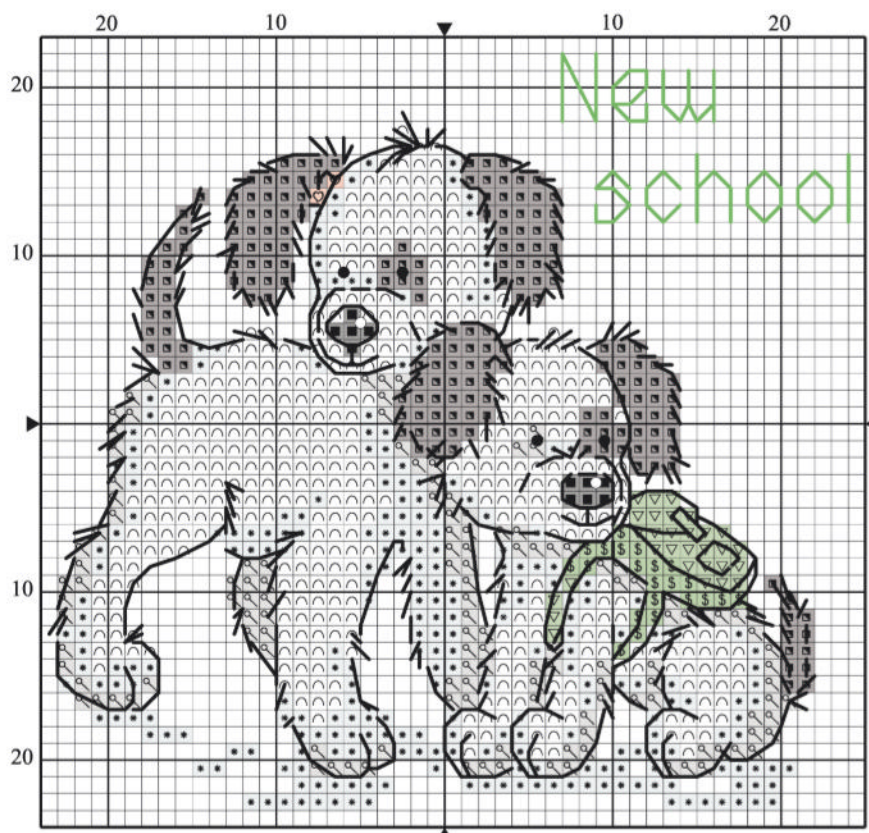
✕ French knots in one strand

○	B5200	1	2401	white
●	310	403	2400	black
●	798	131	912	blue

MAXIMUM STITCH COUNT 49 high x 53 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 9x9.5cm (3½x3¾in)

These designs were stitched using DMC stranded cotton



Stitching know-how

To prevent your fabric from fraying, seal the edges by working a zigzag stitch around the edges. Don't use masking tape as this can leave some residual stickiness.



Whole
stitches
only

Get well soon!

Let a poorly friend know they're on your mind with these cute and thoughtful well-wishing cards



Designed by Rhona Norrie

The detail on these very cute cards couldn't be better – so you'll be surprised to find that they are whole stitches only! Backstitch gives a realistic touch to these darling mice, who grace the front of these get well and best wishes cards perfectly. From the tiny

mouse asleep in a teacup, an adorable pair hugging each other and a mouse holding a great big flower, these super-sweet designs are sure to cheer up a poorly friend or raise a smile on someone's face. These cards will make a soothing stitch to break up a large project – they're a real tonic!

Stitching Factbox

Stitching time:
Approx 7-9 hours each

Type of stitches:
Cross stitch, backstitch

Level: Beginners

You will need

Threads: Stranded cotton, as listed in the key

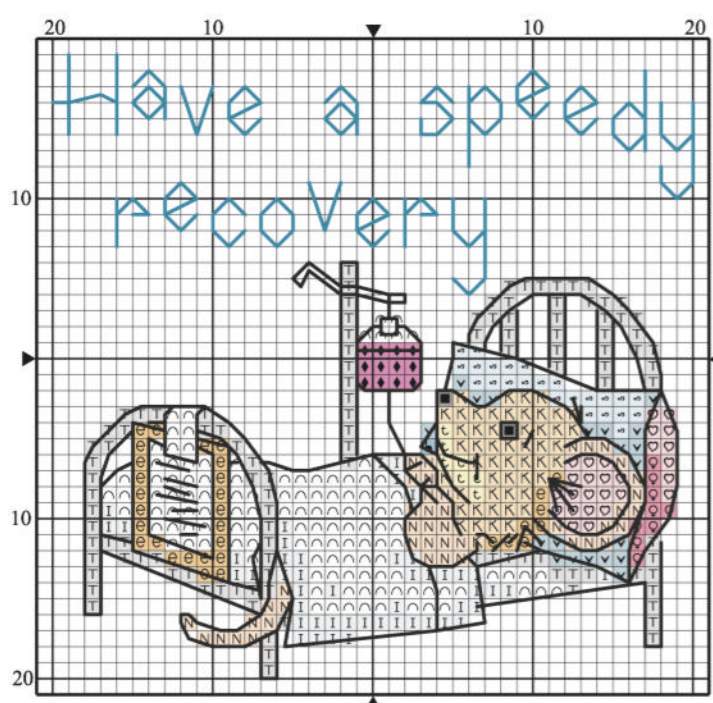
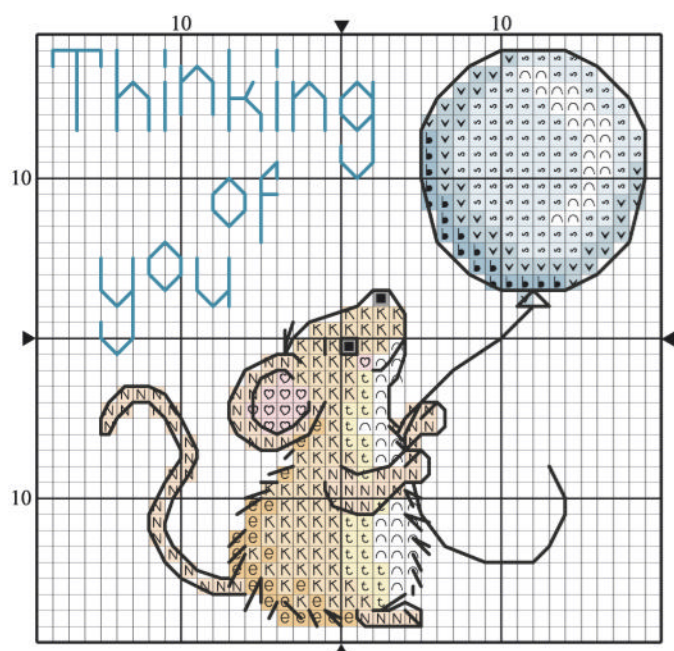
Needle: Size 24 tapestry needle

Fabric: 14-count white aida measuring 15x15cm (6x6in) for each design

Extras: Scallop-edge cards measuring 13x13cm (5x5in) and backing papers of your choice from local craft shops







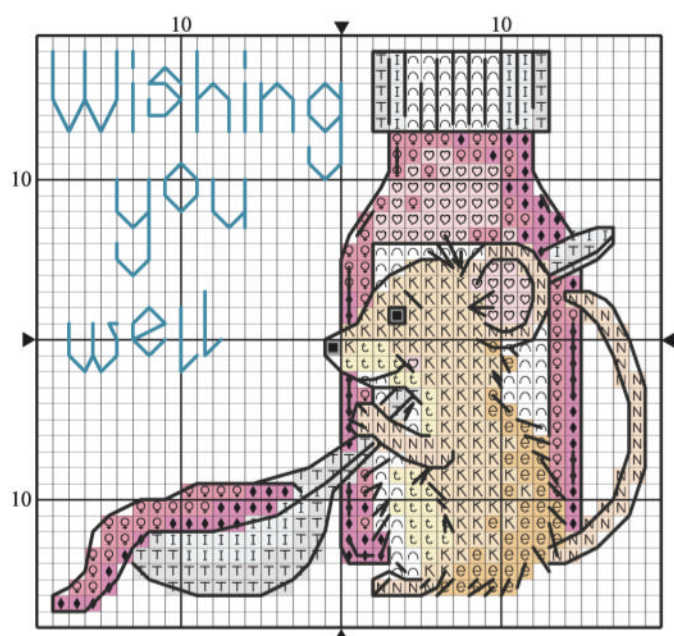
Stitching close-up

Since these designs are made up of whole stitches only, it's the backstitch that brings the curved outline that's needed for the mice features, and for the shape of the teacup etc.



"A scalloped edge card gives these cards a dainty touch, while polka dot paper adds a cheery pop of colour."

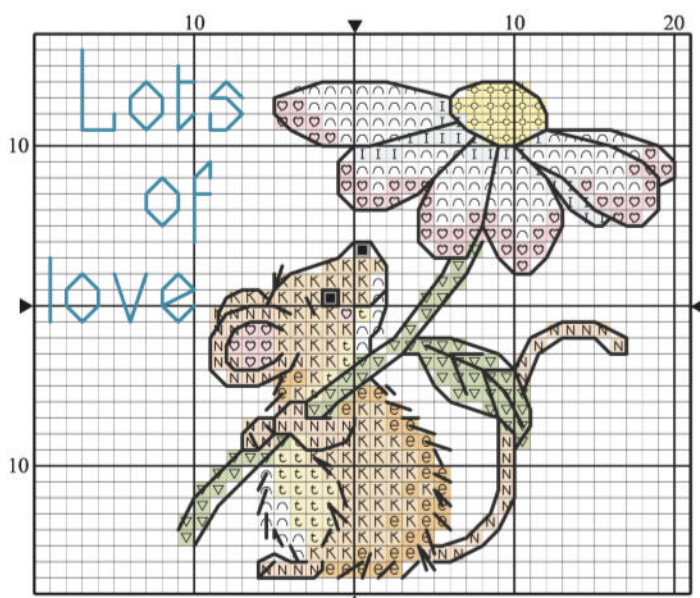
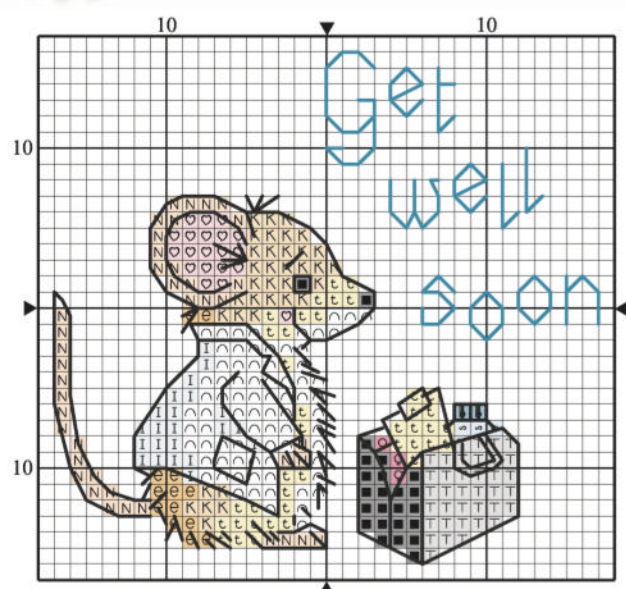
Fiona Baker, technical editor





Tip

Stitch the 'sending hugs' and 'lots of love' designs for any occasion – or just to say you care!



Mice wishes key

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	B5200	1	2401	white
♥	151	73	404	light pink
T	415	398	1802	grey
e	436	1045	2011	tan
K	437	362	2012	light tan
t	677	886	2207	sand
⊙	727	293	112	yellow
N	754	1012	305	peach
I	762	234	1804	light grey
∇	813	140	910	blue
■	826	146	906	dark blue
s	827	160	1013	light blue
▽	989	241	1401	green
◆	3731	76	506	dark pink
♀	3733	75	605	pink
■	3799	236	1713	dark grey

✕ Backstitch in one strand

—	826	146	906	dark blue
—	3799	236	1713	dark grey

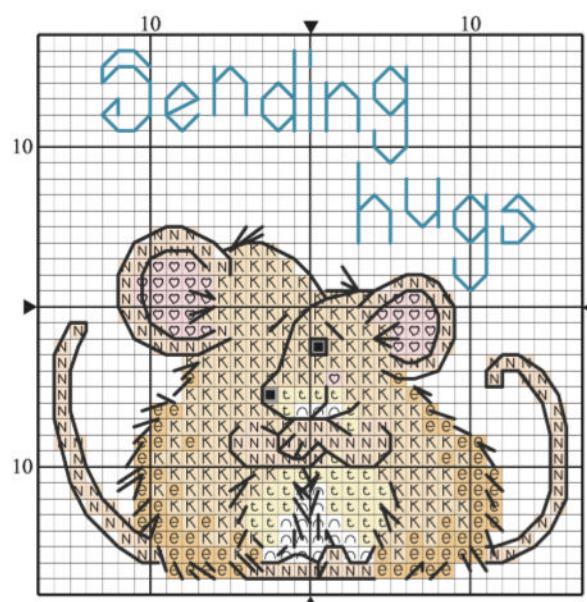
MAXIMUM STITCH COUNT 39 high x 40 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 7x7.5cm (2¾x2¾in)

These designs were stitched using DMC stranded cotton

Finishing touches

To patch the design onto a card, trim your stitching and use tweezers to pull one row of threads from around the edge, to leave a frayed edge. Back your stitching with white paper. Then use double-sided tape to stick onto backing paper and stick this to the card.



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 to that special someone



Designed by Durene Jones

After weddings, birthdays and special events it's important to show your thanks to givers and hosts and we can think of no better way of doing 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. 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 card uses French knots but you'll still be able to finish any of these designs over a weekend.

You will need

Threads: Stranded cotton, as listed in the key

Needle: Size 24 tapestry needle

Fabric: 14-count white aida measuring 15x15cm (6x6in) for each design

Cards: Circle aperture cards in bright yellow and pale blue of your choice from local craft shops



Stitching Factbox

Stitching time:

Approx 8-10 hours each

Type of stitches:

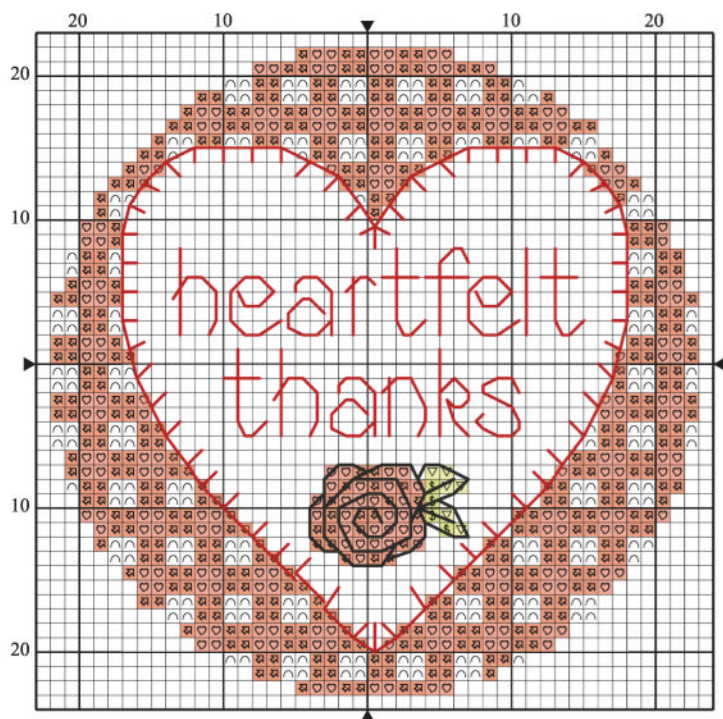
Cross stitch, backstitch, French knots

Level: Intermediate

Stitch all of the cards in this set and you'll never have to wait to send your thanks again!

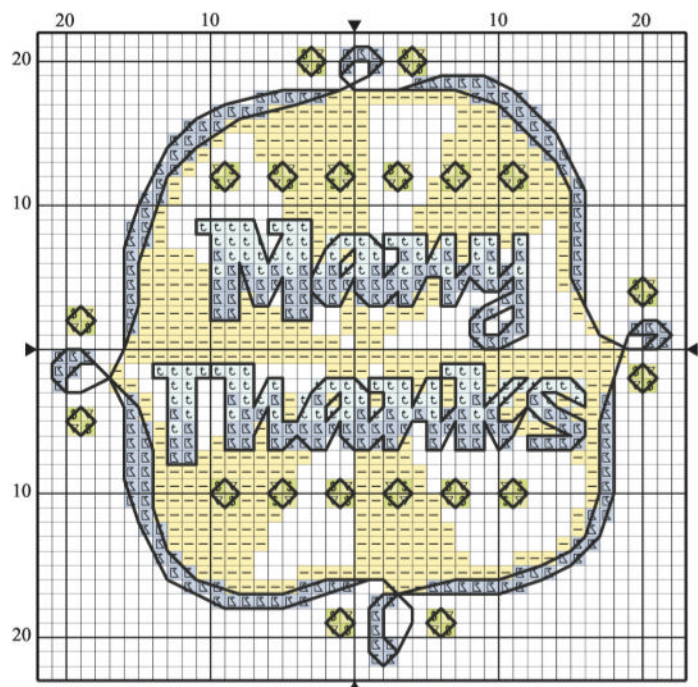
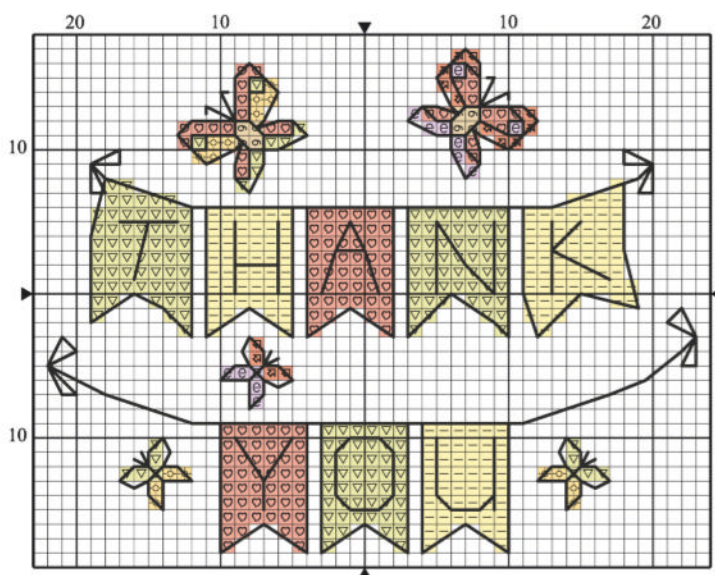


Enjoy a pretty pastel palette



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

Durene Jones, designer



Stitching close-up

The ‘Heartfelt thanks’ card has a striking red and white gingham background. To keep the white stitches looking as pristine as possible, work them after you’ve completed all of

the red areas. This way, the white thread will look less grubby and will be less likely to pick up stray strands from the neighbouring red threads.

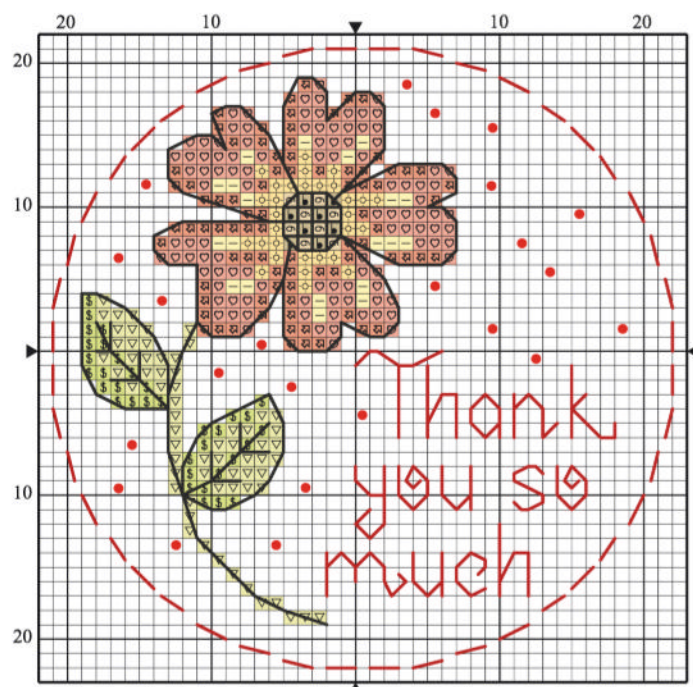
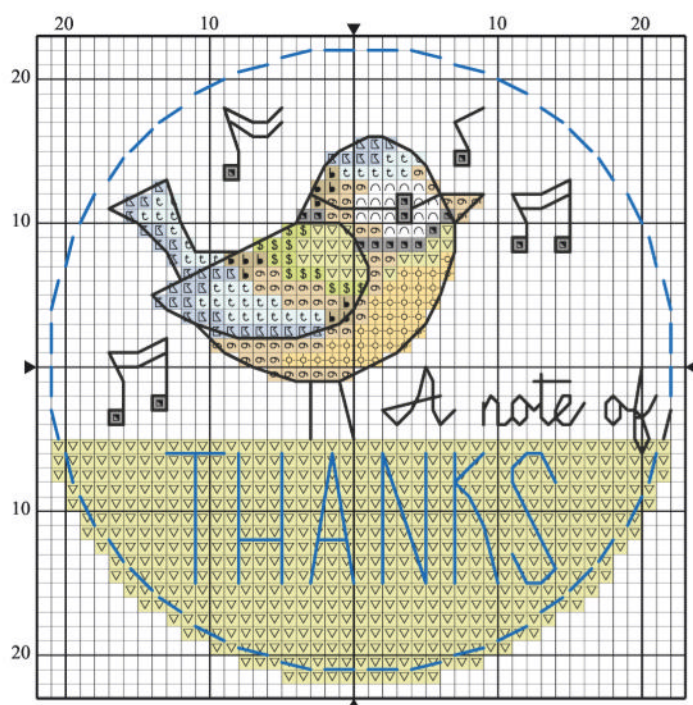


“It’s easy to go out and buy a card, but it truly comes from the heart when you take the time to stitch one, especially these beautifully detailed versions.”

Katriel Costello, editor

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



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
9	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
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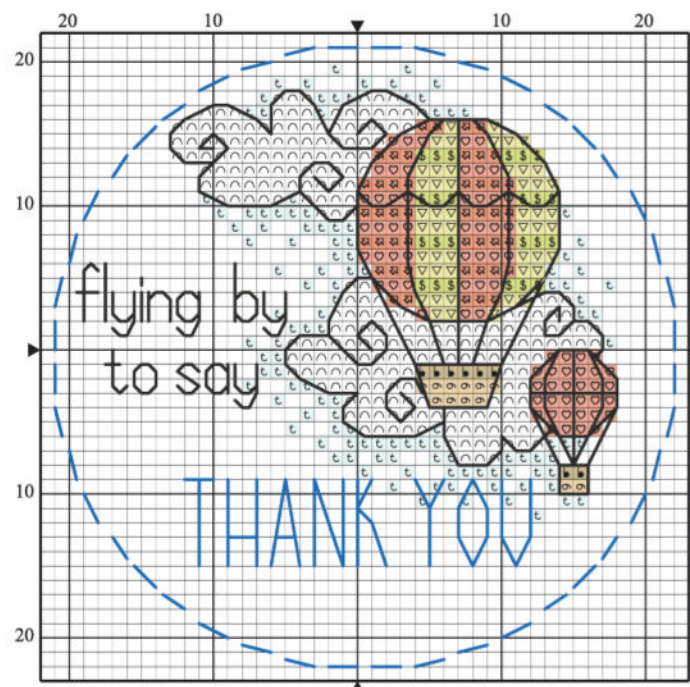
MAXIMUM STITCH COUNT 45 high x 45 wide

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

These designs were stitched using DMC stranded cotton

Finishing touches

We stuck a line of ribbon across the front to contrast the circular aperture. A single gem in the corner of the card would also look nice.



Whole
stitches
only

Jungle animals

Wish children the happiest of birthdays with our cheerful and colourful cards – they're sure to have a roaring time!



Designed by Durene Jones

Birthdays are magical when you're a child. Music, cake and decorations all help to make the day extra special, as do the cards and presents from party guests. Durene's jolly jungle animal designs will go down a storm with any youngster. They'll love the playful elephant and lion,

and the cheeky monkey putting up bunting and balloons. The cards are worked using whole cross stitches and backstitch, so they shouldn't take too long to complete. These designs would also make wonderful party invitations; if you have lots to stitch, why not enlist the help of family and friends?

You will need

Threads: Stranded cotton, as listed in the key

Needle: Size 24 tapestry needle

Fabric: 14-count white aida measuring 15x15cm (6x6in) for each design

Extras: Square aperture cards in pale yellow and pale blue and ribbon of your choice from local craft shops



Stitching Factbox

Stitching time:
Approx 5-6 hours each

Type of stitches:
Cross stitch, backstitch

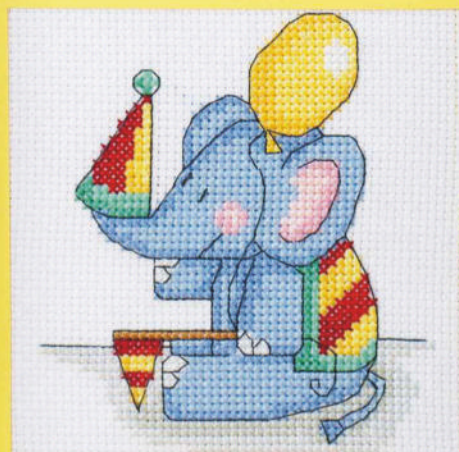
Level: Beginner

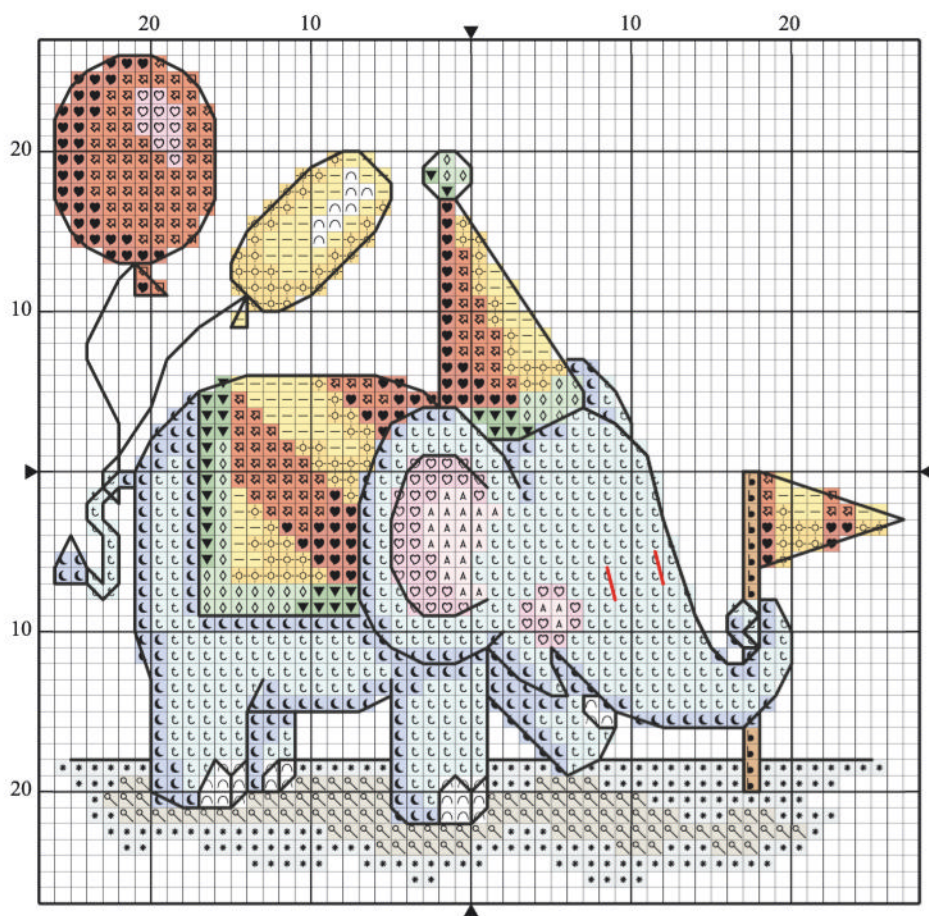
These lively cards are
heaps of fun and so
quick and easy to stitch!



Tip

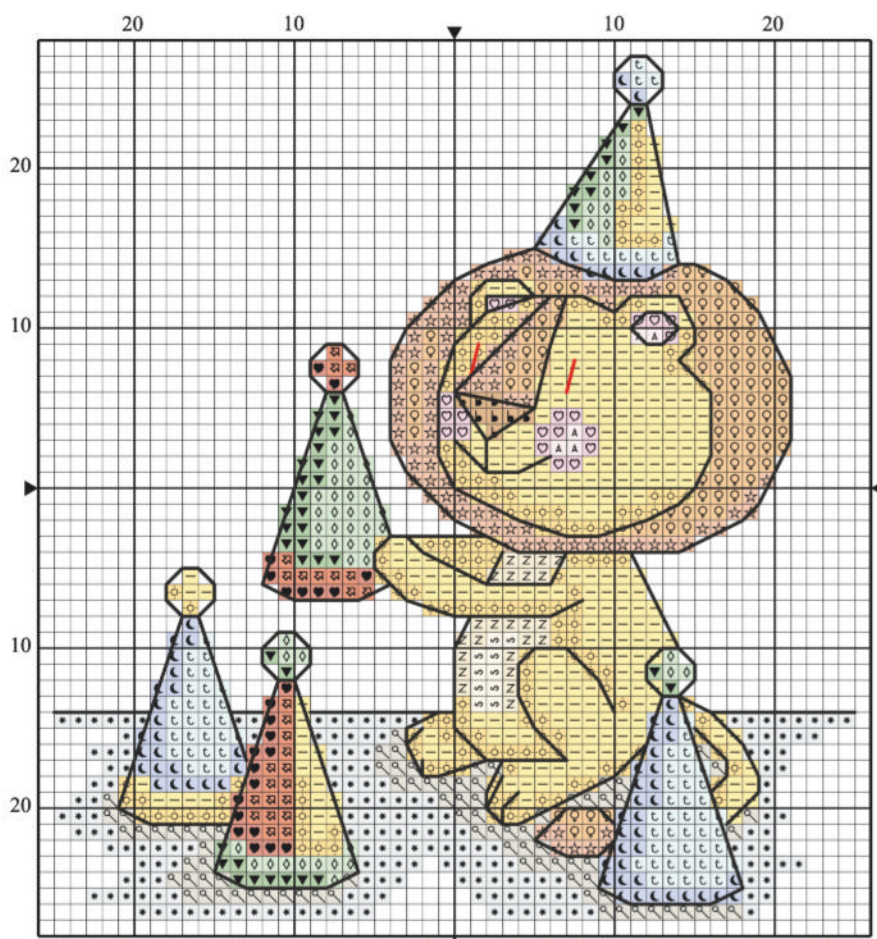
Use metallic
thread to work the
pompoms on the
party hats





Stitching know-how

These cards make great projects for beginners as each one uses whole cross stitches with some simple backstitch – there aren't any fractionals or French knots to get tangled up with.



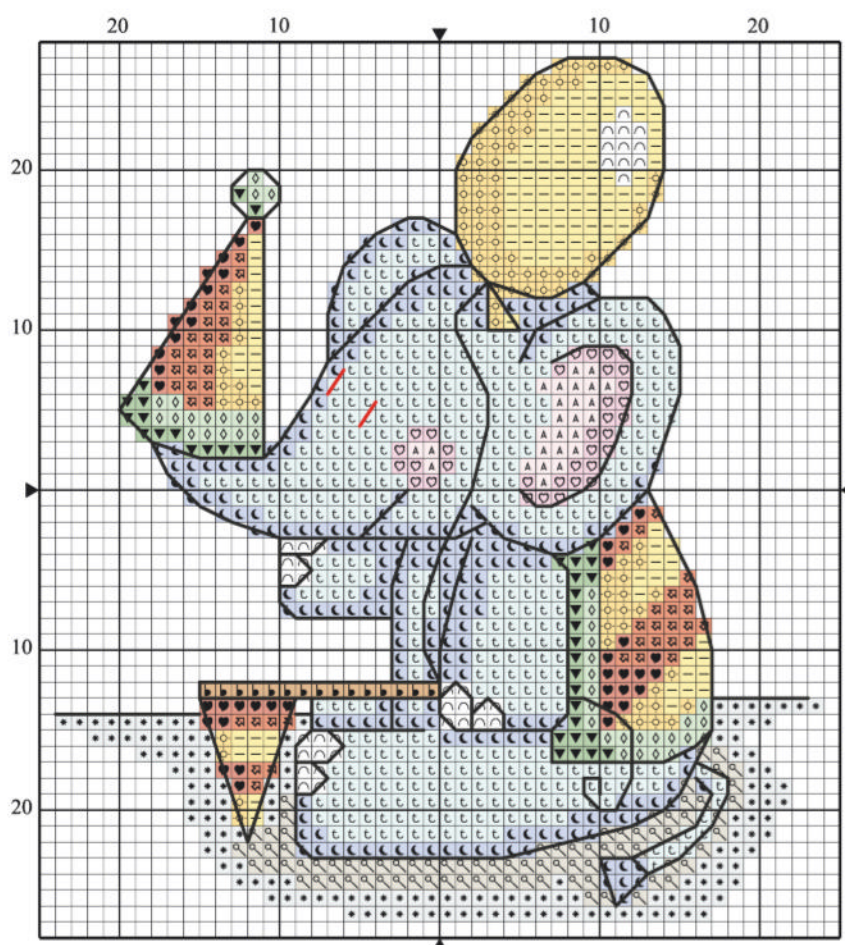
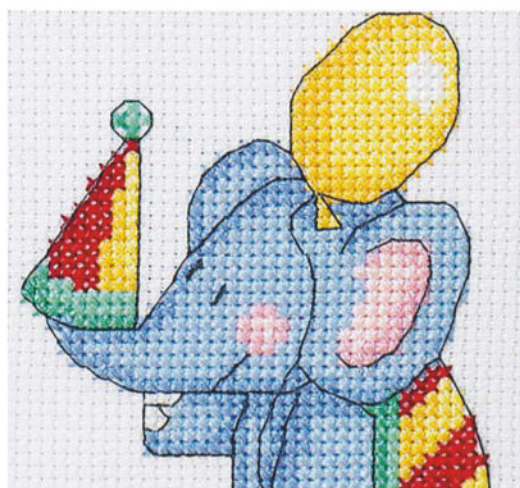
How to mount your design in a card

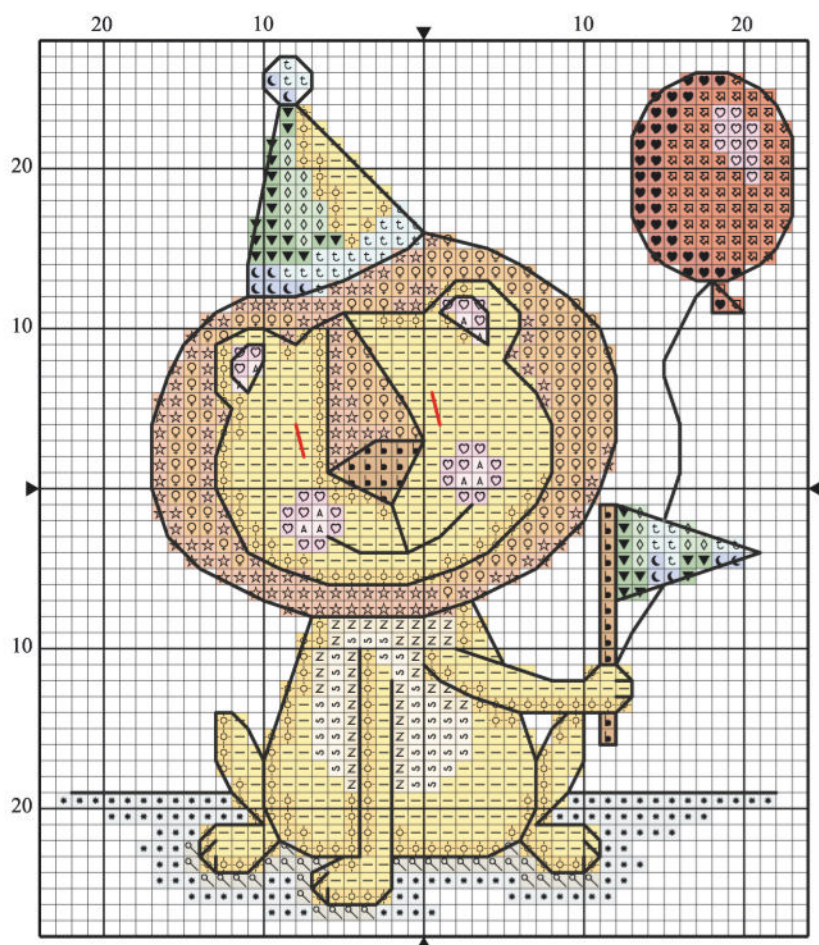
- 1 First, prepare your stitching by washing it in warm water and mild detergent. Lie it flat on a clean fluffy towel to dry.
- 2 Place the card aperture over the finished stitching. When you are completely happy with the positioning, place pins carefully around the aperture to mark your place.
- 3 Turn the card over and stick double-sided tape around the edge of the aperture. Using the pins as a guide, place the card back over your stitching and stick the fabric in place.
- 4 Place a piece of white paper or wadding behind the stitching for a neat finish. Add double-sided tape to the extra card flap and carefully stick to the back of the card aperture.



“If you’re short on time, why not stitch just the monkey’s face and hat, and patch it onto a mini card? You could also stitch the balloons on their own to use as gift tags.”

Abi Barker, special projects coordinator





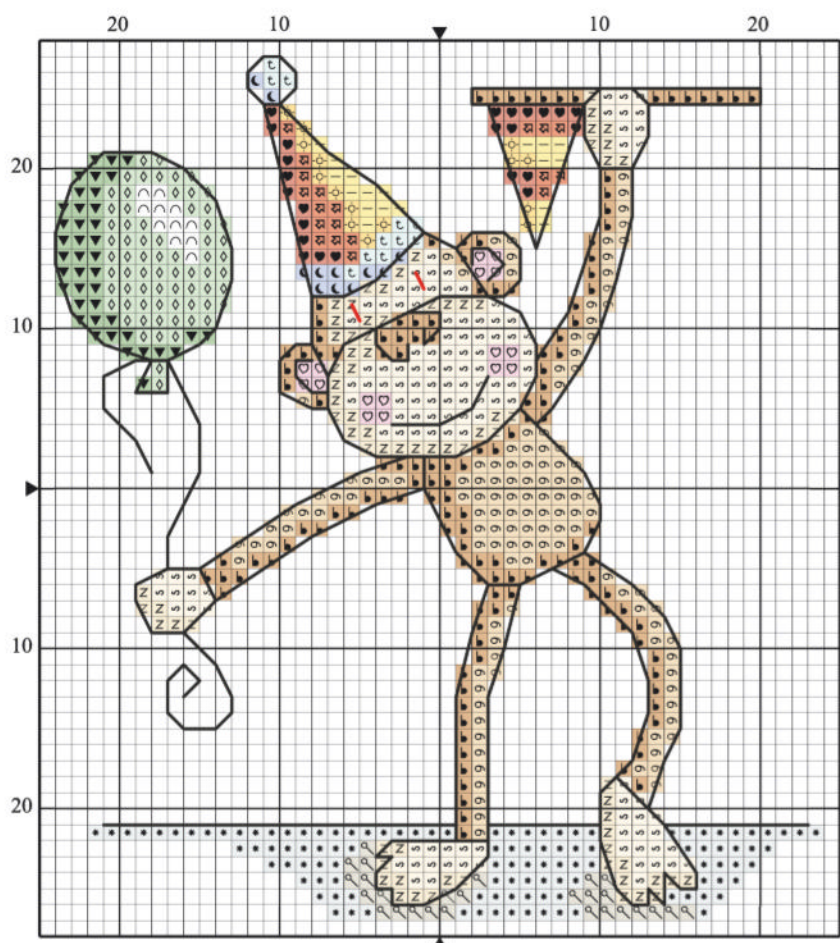
Stitching close-up

For a neater finish, make sure that the top arms of your cross stitches all lie in the same direction.



Tip

You can download a range of free patterned papers from our website www.gathered.how to print at home and use on your cards





“Work the backstitch in one strand of dark grey thread to create softer outlines on these jungle designs.”

Fiona Baker, technical editor

Jungle animals key

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	B5200	1	2401	white
♥	321	9046	510	dark red
■	349	1098	212	red
■	435	1046	2010	dark tan
○	437	362	2012	tan
♡	605	1094	613	pink
s	712	926	2101	cream
⦿	725	305	113	dark yellow
—	726	295	109	yellow
z	739	366	2014	light tan
*	762	234	1804	light grey
t	800	144	908	light blue
⬇	809	130	909	blue
Λ	818	23	502	light pink
▼	912	209	1213	dark green
◇	954	203	1207	green
⦿	3024	900	1814	stone grey
☆	3853	1003	311	dark copper
⦿	3854	313	114	copper

✕ Backstitch in one strand

—	3799	236	1713	dark grey
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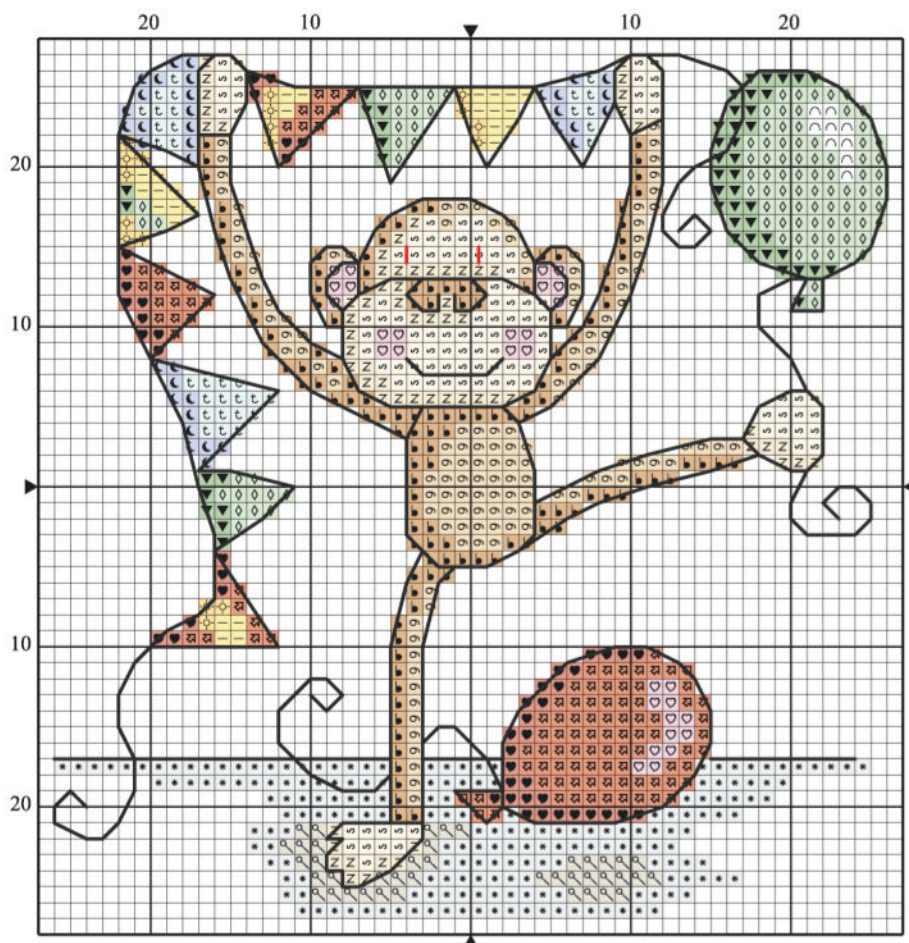
✕ Backstitch in two strands

—	3799	236	1713	dark grey
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MAXIMUM STITCH COUNT 54 high x 53 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 10x10cm (3¾x3¾in)

These designs were stitched using DMC stranded cotton



Stitching close-up

Durene has outlined her animals in the normal one strand of backstitch. However, to make the eyes bolder and more expressive, she's worked them in backstitch in two strands.



Garden buddies

Slow but sweet, these adorable tortoises with patchwork shells will make a leisurely summer stitch for friends and family



Designed by Durene Jones

If you want to send some cheerful, summery wishes to a loved one, look no further than our fabulous tortoise cards. These cute characters have popped out from inside their patterned shells to enjoy the sunshine, and we can't wait to join in – chasing butterflies and meeting friends are just some of the ways they

like to pass the time in these lovely, circular scenes. Pop your finished stitching in a purple or yellow card to lift the colours, and add a stamped message too, if you like. Your hand-stitched greeting will make a gorgeous gift for someone who lives life in the fast lane, and needs a subtle hint to slow down and take things easy!

You will need

Threads: Stranded cotton, as listed in the key

Needle: Size 24 tapestry needle

Fabric: 14-count white aida measuring 15x15cm (6x6in) for each of the designs

Cards: Circle aperture cards in bright yellow and violet of your choice from local craft shops

Stitching Factbox

Stitching time:
Approx 6-8 hours each

Type of stitches:
Cross stitch, backstitch,
French knots

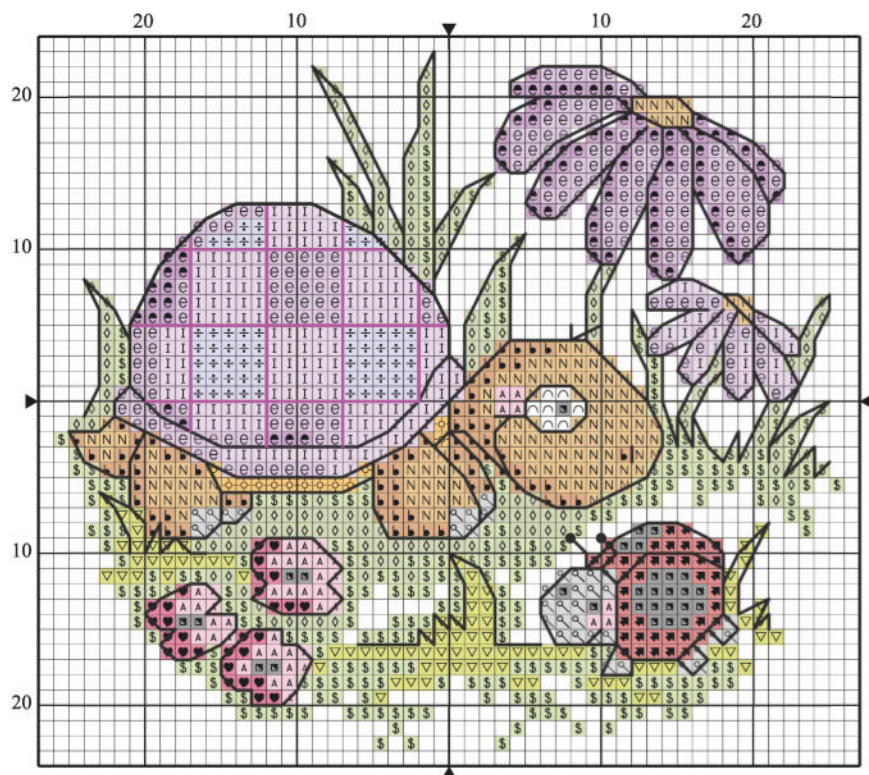
Level: Intermediate



Great
for
beginners

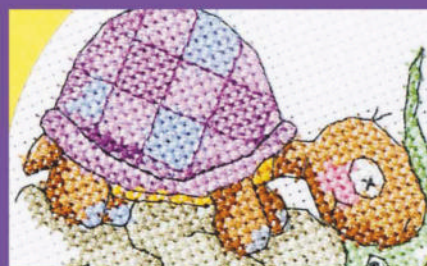


Chill out and stitch these
designs in the sunshine



Stitching close-up

Durene has given her tortoise's pretty patchwork shells in various shades of purple and lilac. You could use a different colourway if you like, greens, yellows pinks and blues would all work well. Just remember to change the colour of the flowers too, to match.



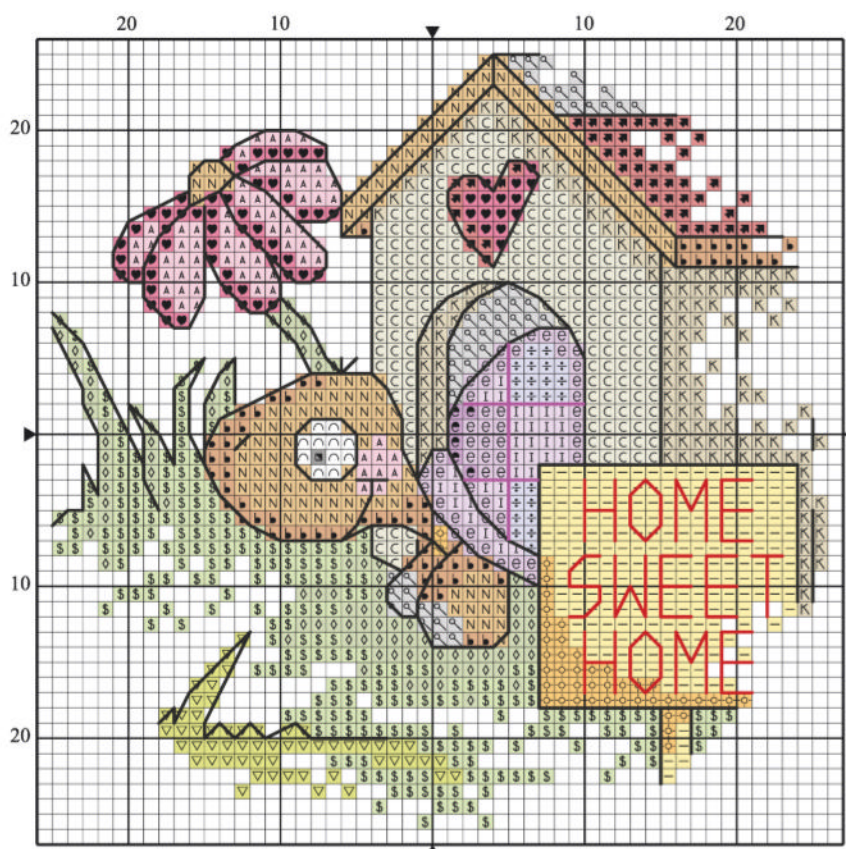
Stitching know-how

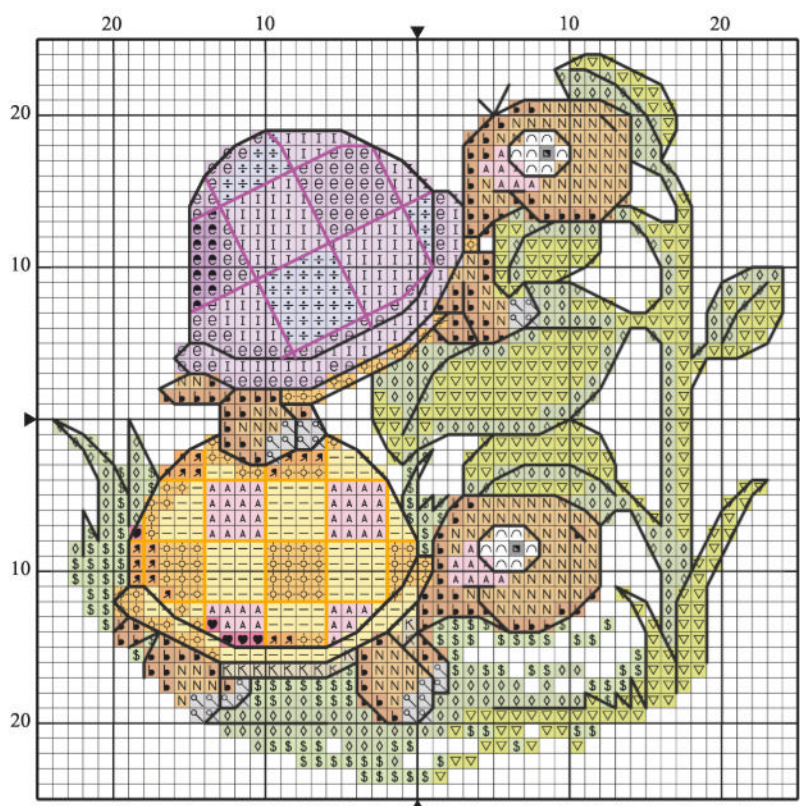
In these designs, four different colours are used for the backstitching in one and two strands of cotton. Check the key carefully before you thread your needle.



"You could add button embellishments to these cards, tiny flowers, butterflies and ladybirds would give the designs an extra dimension."

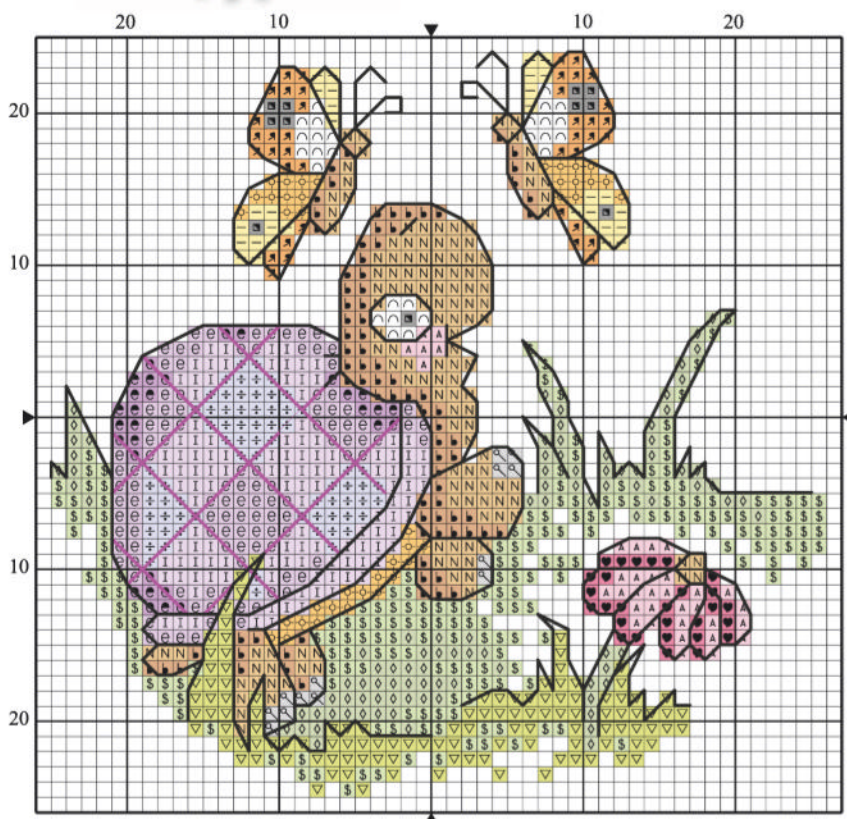
Fiona Baker, technical editor





Tip

For maximum stickiness, use small strips of double-sided tape around the aperture



Tortoise cards key

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	blanc	2	2402	white
\$	164	240	1209	light green
●	208	99	804	dark lilac
e	209	98	803	lilac
I	210	108	802	light lilac
⌘	318	399	1801	grey
÷	341	117	901	purple
b	434	310	2009	dark tan
N	436	1045	2011	tan
♥	602	57	702	dark pink
A	604	55	614	pink
K	642	903	1905	stone grey
C	644	830	1814	light stone grey
—	726	295	109	yellow
⊙	742	303	114	tangerine
■	817	13	210	red
▽	907	255	1308	lime green
⬢	970	925	205	orange
◇	989	241	1401	green
■	3799	236	1713	dark grey

✕ Backstitch in one strand

—	208	99	804	dark lilac
—	970	925	205	orange
—	3799	236	1713	dark grey

✕ Backstitch in two strands

—	817	13	210	red
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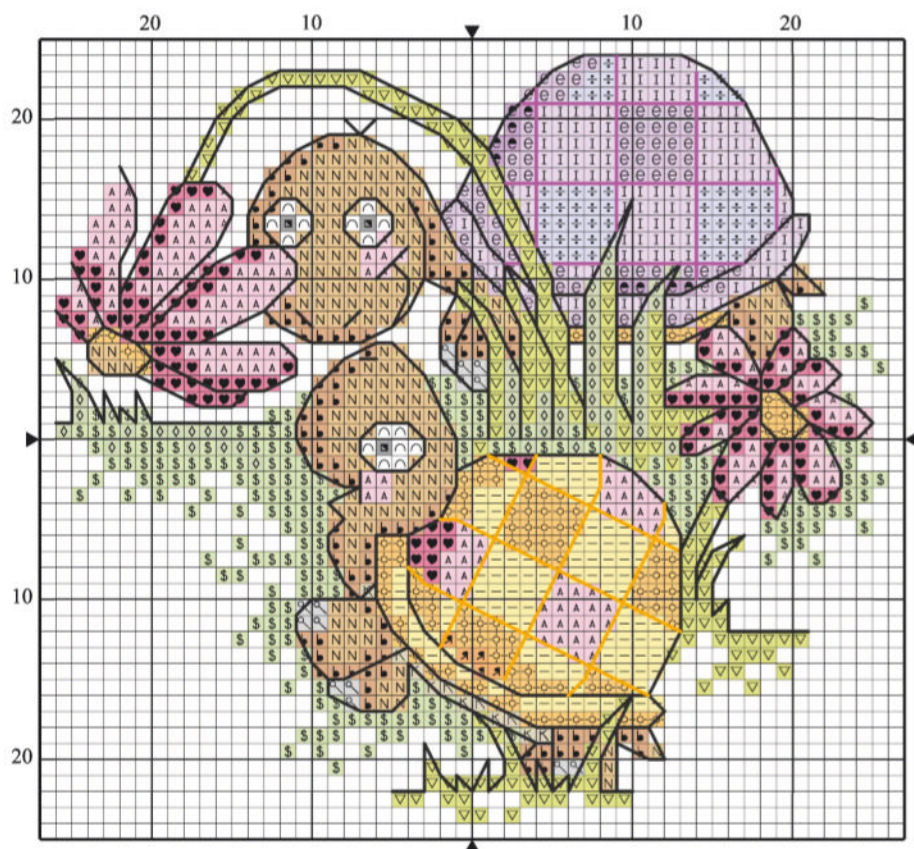
✕ French knots in one strand

●	3799	236	1713	dark grey
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MAXIMUM STITCH COUNT 51 high x 53 wide
DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 9.5x9.5cm (3½x3¾in)

These designs were stitched using DMC stranded cotton





Stitching close-up

Durene's cards are designed especially for cards with circle apertures. As you can see, the circular shape is very subtle, with just one or two rounded edges in each design.



Tip

You could replace the French knots with seed beads for added texture

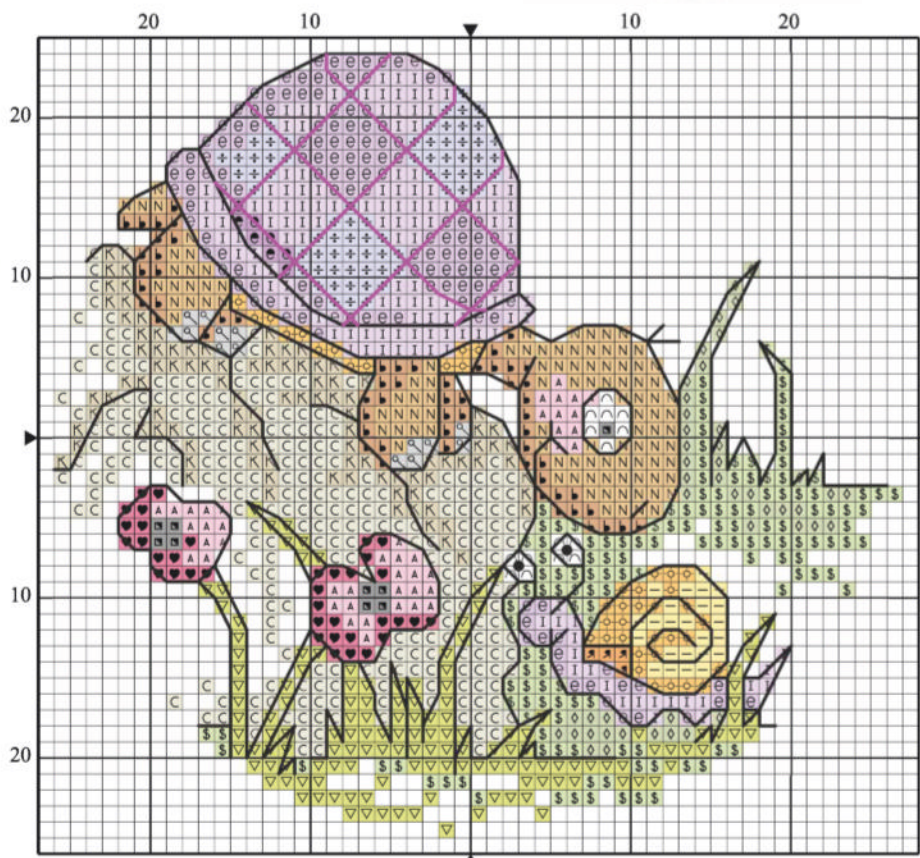
"The circular shape of these designs makes them perfect for mounting in coasters too."

Heather Nugent, charting assistant



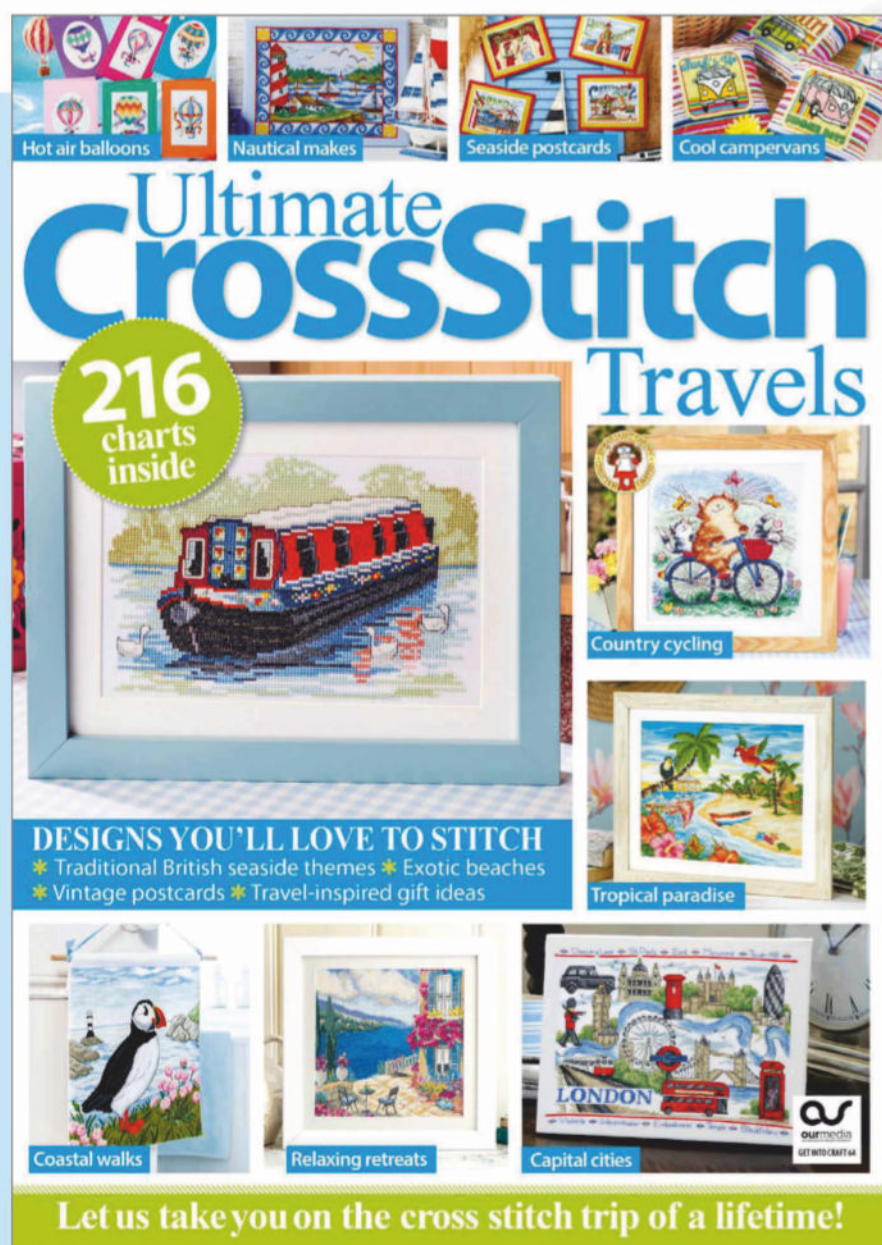
Finishing touches

We used summer brights because we wanted our cards to stand out. The yellow and violet are inspired by the yellow and violet in the shells.



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Polar pals

Get your skates on and indulge your sense of fun with these frolicking winter friends



Designed by Lucie Heaton

What a sight to behold – a merry band of polar pals whizzing and whirling across the ice on skates and skis, delivering gifts and winter cheer. They certainly look like they're having lots of fun, and we hope you'll be able to join in some of their antics as you stitch these delightful scenes. We love the jolly

scarves and hats, they make a striking contrast to the icy blue backgrounds. Why not stitch the four main designs together to create a cool wall hanging? The smaller motifs would make great stocking fillers when made up as keyrings, paperweights and snow domes and why not attach your stitched motifs to crackers for an extra festive Christmas dining table?

Stitching Factbox

Stitching time:
Approx 2-10 hours each

Type of stitches:
Cross stitch, backstitch

Level: Beginners



You will need

Threads: Stranded cotton, as listed in the key

Needle: Size 24 tapestry needle

Fabric: 14-count white aida measuring a maximum of 15x18cm (6x7in) for each design

Extras: Card, tag, ribbon and backing paper of your choice

Tip
Stitch on seed beads as snowflakes to add texture to your design

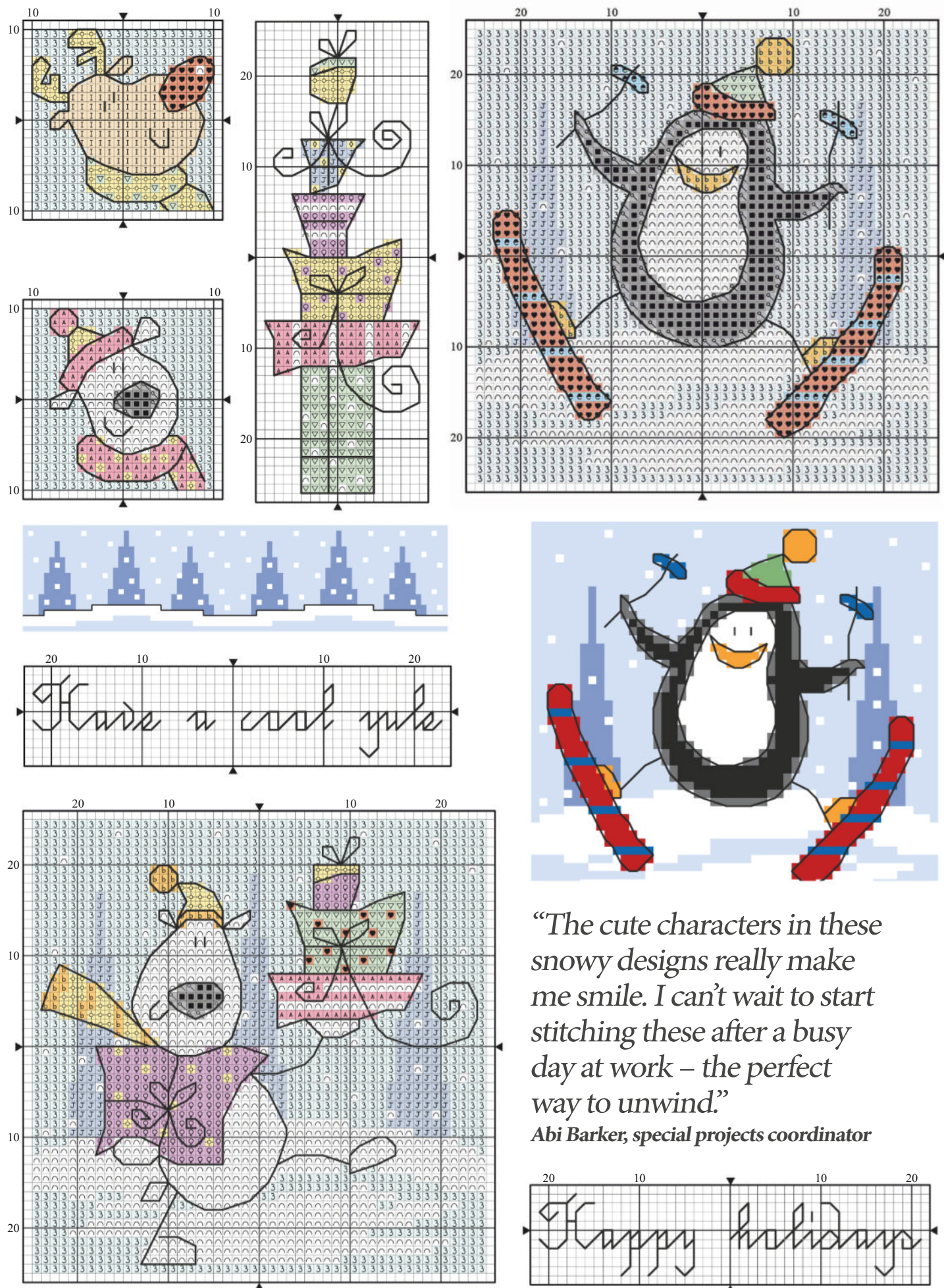


Get ahead
with your
festive
stitching



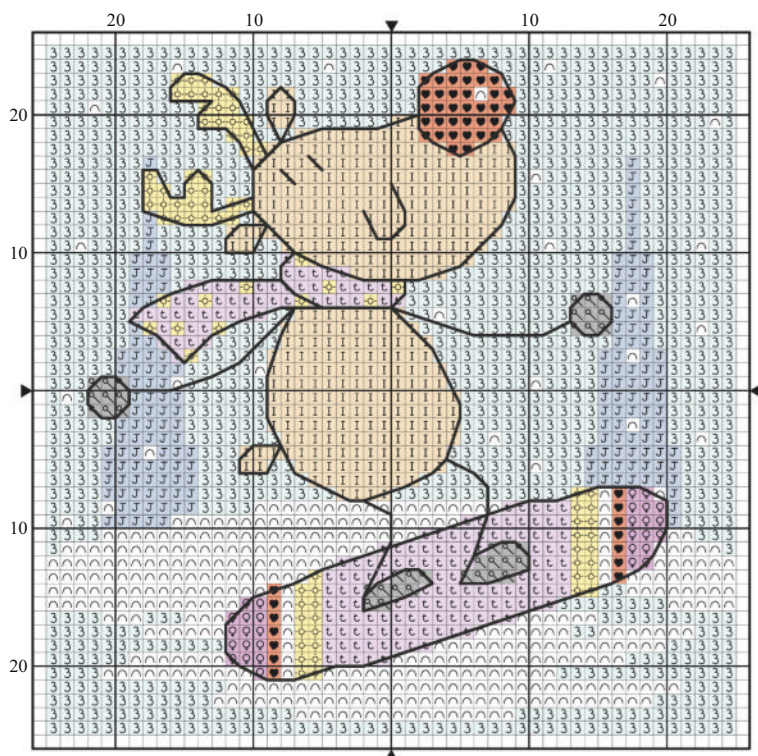
Wish your friends a
cool yule with these
colourful characters

Christmas



“The cute characters in these snowy designs really make me smile. I can’t wait to start stitching these after a busy day at work – the perfect way to unwind.”

Abi Barker, special projects coordinator



Polar pals key

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	blanc	2	2402	white
t	210	108	802	lilac
♥	349	1098	212	red
⦿	414	235	1714	grey
I	437	362	2012	tan
♀	553	98	712	dark lilac
A	603	55	505	pink
☼	726	295	109	light yellow
◇	727	293	112	yellow
b	742	303	114	tangerine
J	799	145	910	blue
3	800	144	908	light blue
▽	954	203	1207	green
⦿	996	433	1103	electric blue
■	3799	236	1713	dark grey

✕ Backstitch in one strand

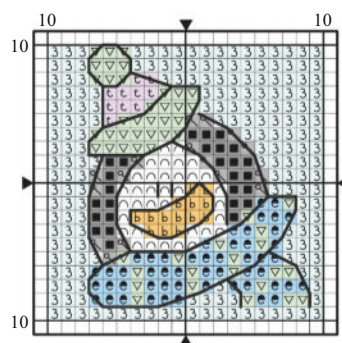
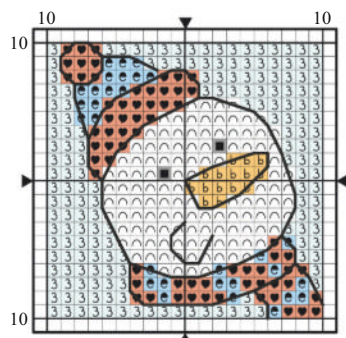
—	3799	236	1713	dark grey
---	------	-----	------	-----------

MAXIMUM STITCH COUNT 50 high x 80 wide
DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) –
 9x14.5cm (3½x5¾in)

These designs were stitched using DMC stranded cotton

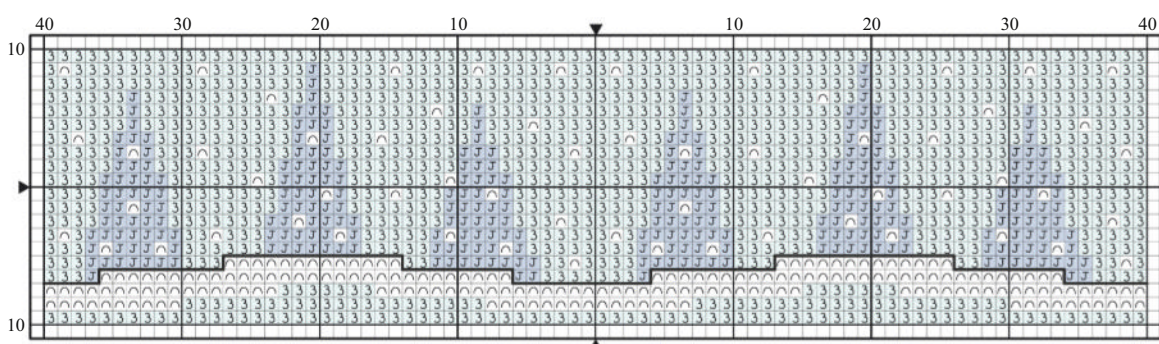
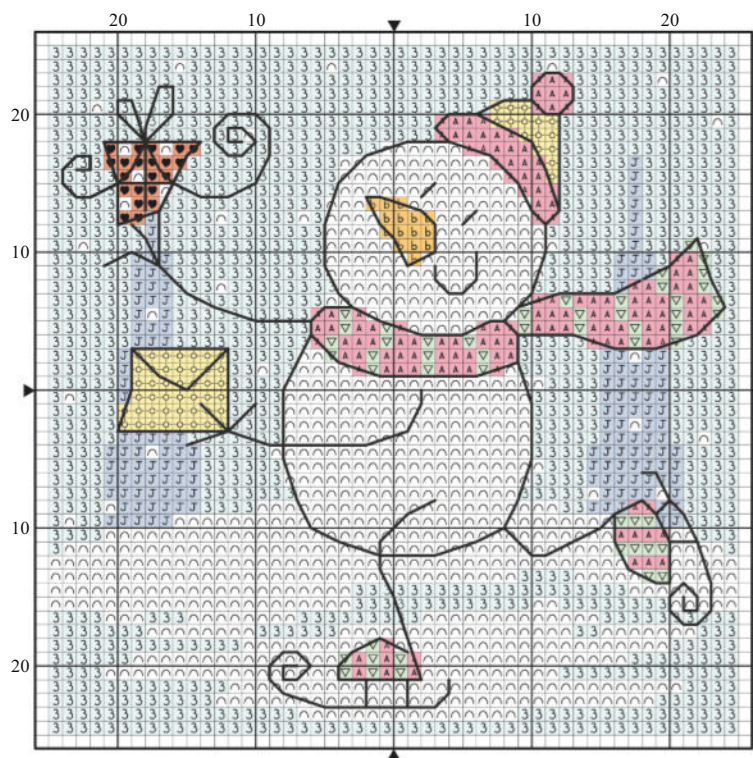
Stitching know-how

Make sure you add the backstitch last to give your finished work a clear outline.



“These snow-loving creatures are such fun, they make me giggle!”

Fiona Baker, technical editor



Winter warmers

Whole
stitches
only



Designed by Durene Jones

Nothing beats being tucked up in the warm when the weather's misbehaving. Durene's designs, featuring a mitten, sheepskin boot, hot water bottle and a steaming mug of cocoa, sum up that wonderful feeling perfectly. You'll feel super snuggly as you work them, and although

their stitches are densely packed, most are worked in solid blocks of colour, so they'll be quicker to complete than you think. For the ultimate in Christmas comfort, why not send your greeting along with a pampering hamper, filled with a sachet of cocoa powder, hot water bottle and furry slippers?

Stitching Factbox

Stitching time:
7-8 hours each

Type of stitches:
Cross stitch, backstitch

Level: Beginners

You will need

Threads: Stranded cotton, as listed in the key

Needle: Size 24 tapestry needle

Fabric: 14-count white aida measuring 20x15cm (8x6in) for each design

Extras: Single-fold deckle-edge cards in purple and backing papers of your choice from local craft shops

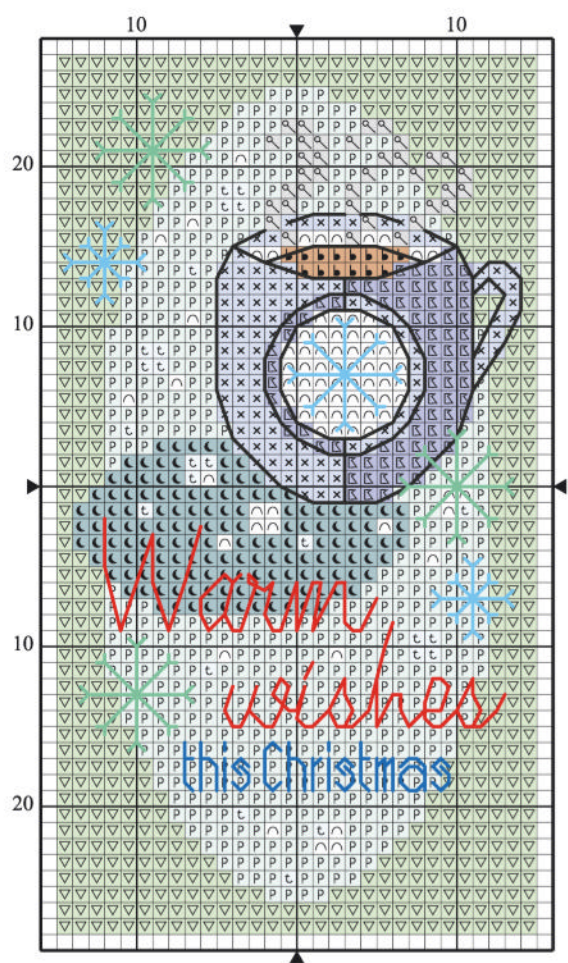


Tip

For maximum stickiness, use small strips of double-sided tape around the edges



Send blissful wishes this Christmas with these calm and comforting cards



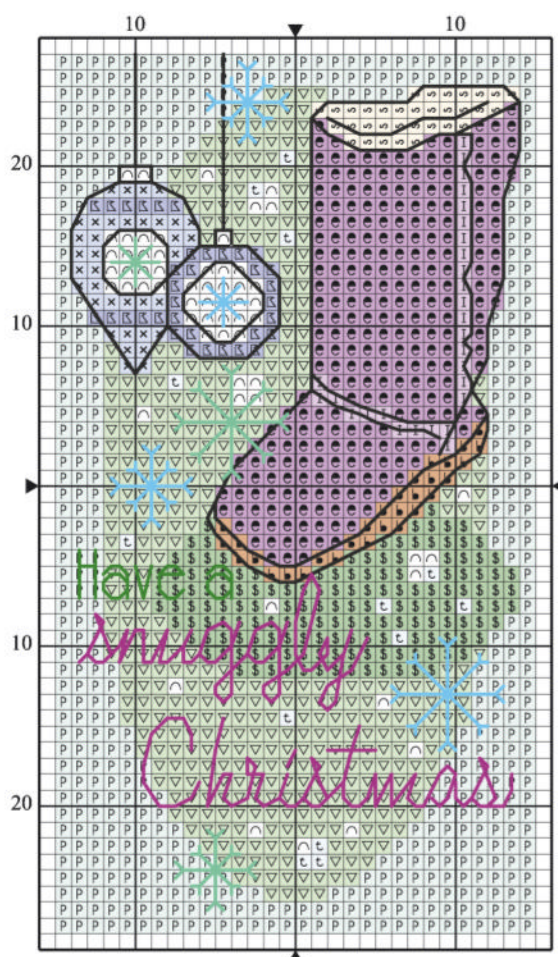
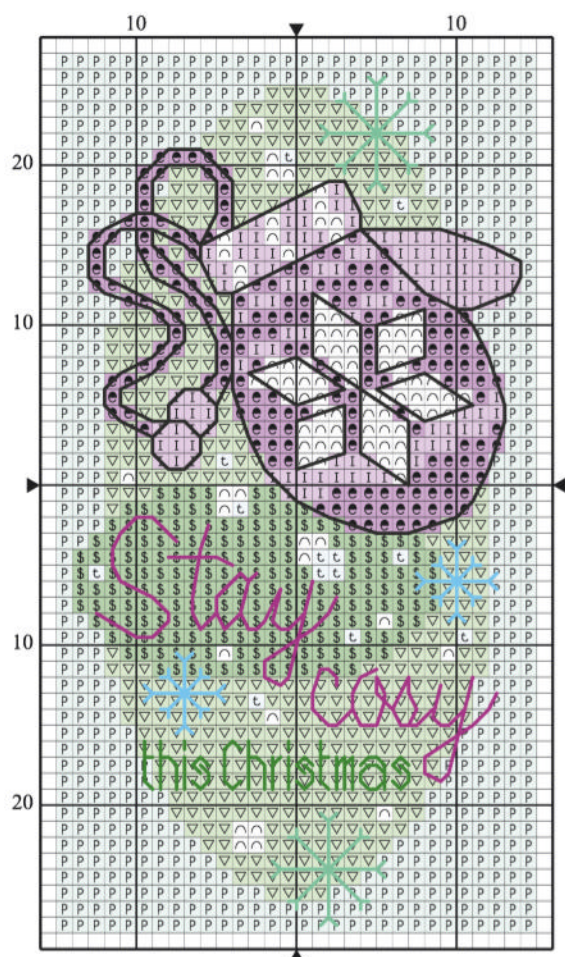
Stitching know-how

It's almost always best to start stitching from the centre of a design. But first, you'll need to find the centre of the chart, follow the heavy horizontal and vertical gridlines marked by arrows, and start stitching where they cross. You can ensure that you're stitching in the centre of the fabric by folding it in half vertically and horizontally, and working your first stitch where these folds intersect.



“Keeping warm and cosy is a key part of the winter holidays, so I hope you enjoy stitching the mittens, hot water bottle cover and boots as festive cards!”

Durene Jones, designer



Winter warmers key

✦ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
⌒	B5200	1	2401	white
🔍	168	1096	1708	grey
●	208	99	804	dark lilac
I	209	98	803	lilac
■	434	310	2009	tan
s	712	926	2101	cream
P	747	158	1104	light turquoise
◆	909	230	1303	dark green
§	912	209	1213	green
▽	955	206	1210	light green
t	3756	1037	2504	very light blue
☾	3766	167	1109	turquoise
⊞	3839	175	902	blue
x	3840	130	907	light blue

✦ Backstitch in one strand

—	3766	167	1109	turquoise
—	3799	236	1713	dark grey
—	3839	175	902	blue

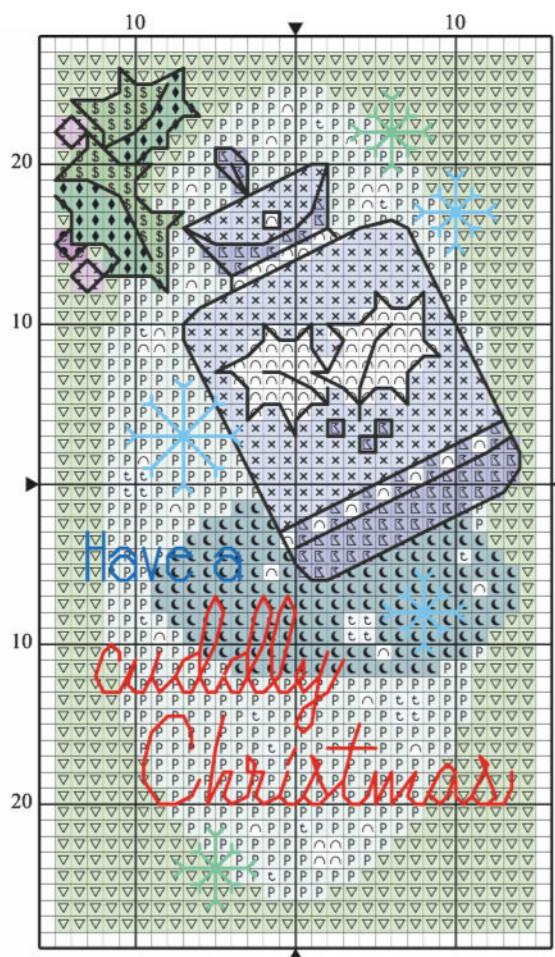
✦ Backstitch in two strands

—	718	88	707	magenta
—	909	230	1303	dark green
—	3837	111	713	very dark lilac
—	3838	176	2702	dark blue

STITCH COUNT 55 high x 30 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 10x5.5cm (4x2¼in)

These designs were stitched using DMC stranded cotton



Stitching close-up

The white stitches on these designs are more likely to pick up marks as you stitch, so you may want to leave stitching these areas until last.



Tip

Many stitchers find gold-plated tapestry needles are easier to use and last longer than standard needles

“Why not add your own glitz to these winter warmers by stitching the snowflakes in silver metallic thread and the words in red?”

Fiona Baker,



Christmas classics

Vibrant floral greetings create an instant festive feel when put on display. Stitch them for fans of a traditional Christmas



Designed by Durene Jones

A long-standing icon of Christmas, the poinsettia is depicted beautifully in this set of sophisticated designs. The bright red flowers look striking enough on their own, but Durene has made them even more stunning with the addition of decorative baubles in jewel tones, hanging from

the branches. She's steered clear of fractional stitches to make her designs easy enough for any stitcher to complete, but added some backstitch for extra detail. The three designs without greetings would look superb mounted inside mini picture frames, to give away as gifts or decorate your home at Christmas time.

You will need

Threads: Stranded cotton, as listed in the key

Needle: Size 24 tapestry needle

Fabric: 14-count white aida measuring 15x15cm (6x6in) for each of the designs

Extras: Single-fold deckle-edge cards in white and backing papers of your choice from local craft shops

Stitching Factbox

Stitching time:
Approx 7-8 hours each

Type of stitches:
Cross stitch, backstitch

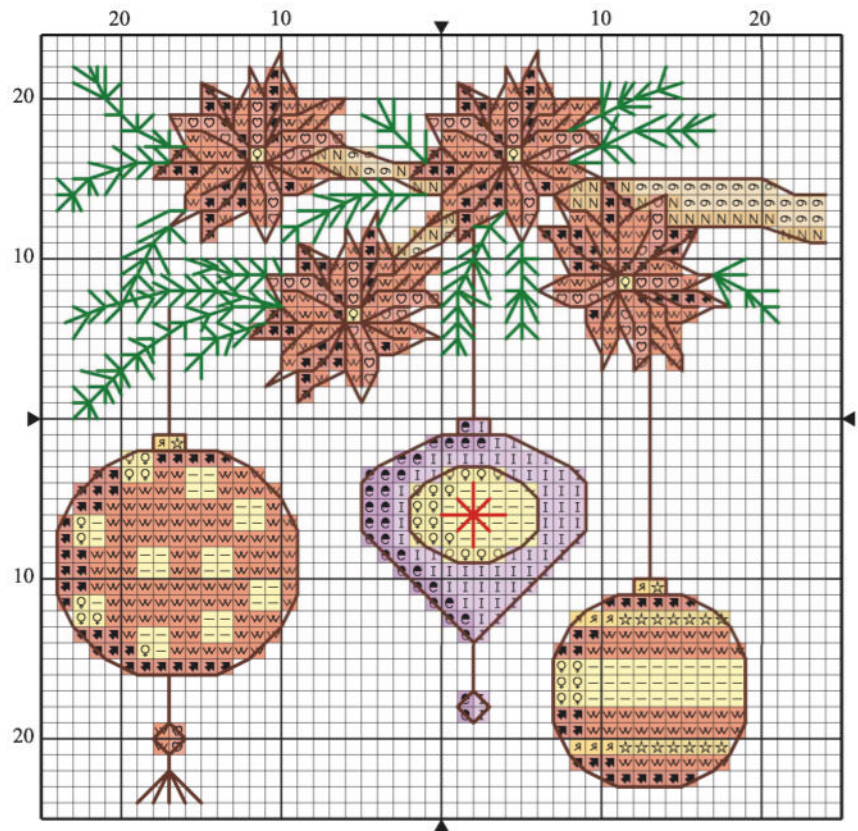
Level: Beginners



Stitch
classic
Christmas
designs

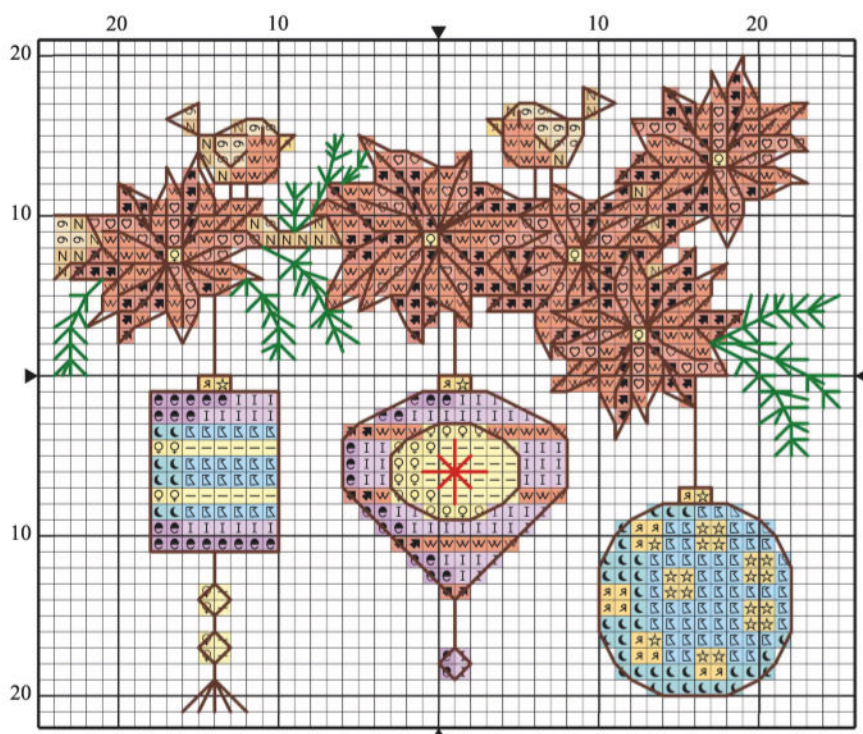


Loved ones who enjoy the
traditional side of Yuletide will
adore these festive cards



“We love pairing these Christmas classics with on-trend patterned papers. Choose small prints and layer them onto the card blank first before patching the square of stitching on top of that.”

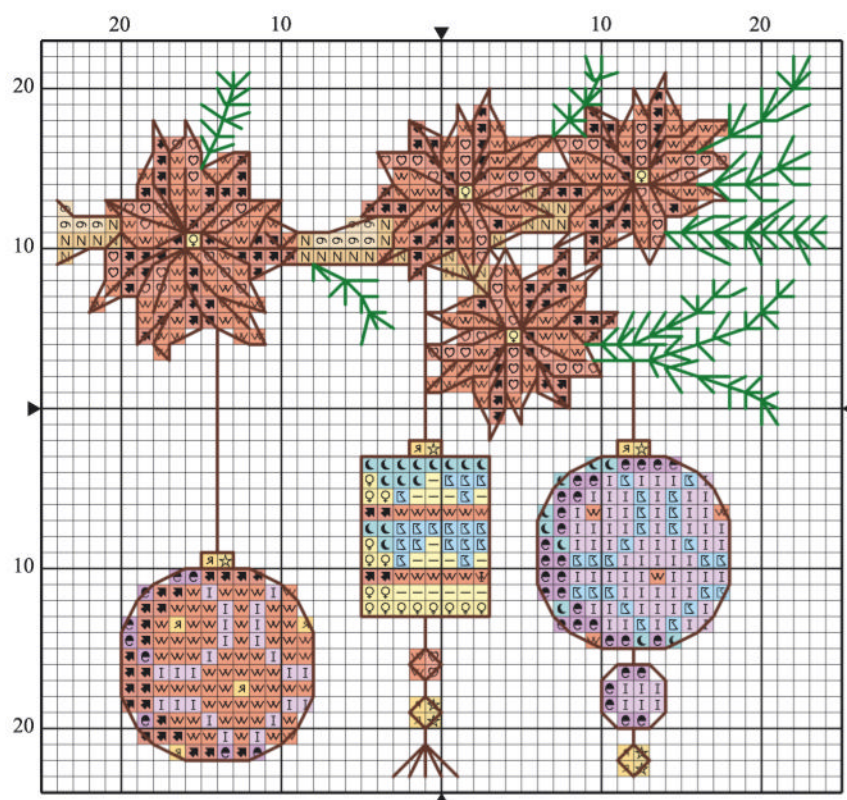
Heather Nugent, charting assistant



Stitching close-up

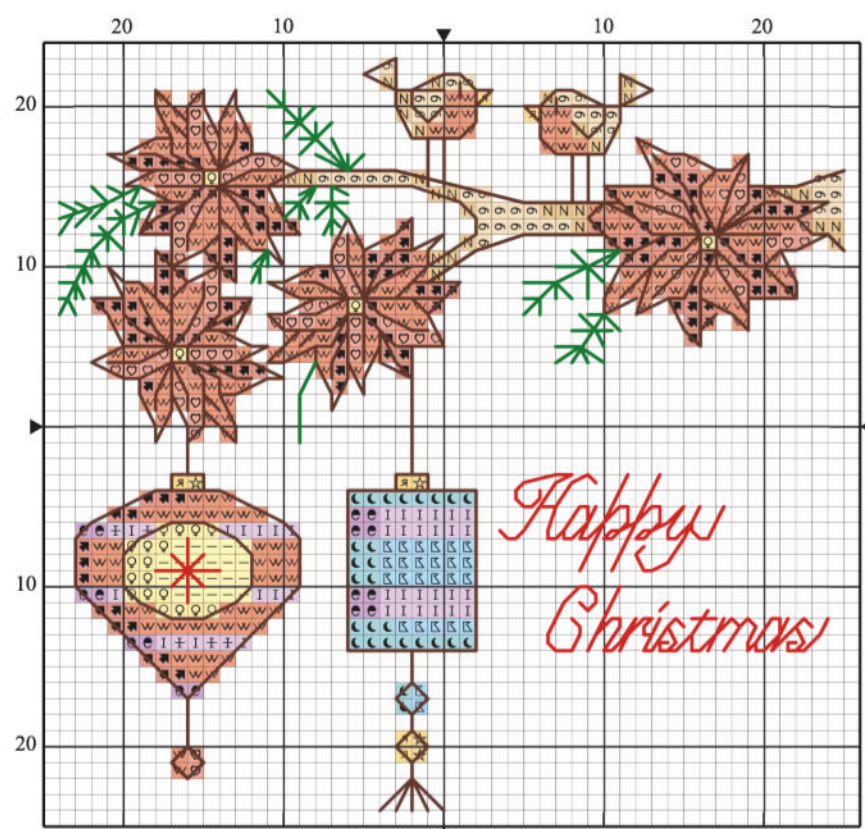
When dark threads are trailed across the back of stitching, they can show through to the front. For this reason, make sure that you don't carry threads across the back of your fabric, particularly when you're working the green foliage and red wording in backstitch.





Stitching ideas

If you know a green-fingered gardener, why not present them with one of these stitched designs and a real poinsettia plant in a pot with a ribbon round it?



Stitching know-how

When stitching the backstitch for the green fronds, use short lengths of thread then let your needle dangle down to allow the thread to untwist for neat stitches.



Poinsettia and baubles key

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
●	208	99	804	dark lilac
I	209	98	803	lilac
■	321	9046	510	dark red
♥	351	10	214	coral
N	436	1045	2011	tan
○	437	362	2012	light tan
—	445	288	103	light yellow
W	666	46	210	red
♀	726	295	109	yellow
♂	728	307	107	dark yellow
☆	3821	305	2510	straw
☾	3844	1089	1102	dark turquoise
☼	3846	1090	1103	turquoise

✕ Backstitch in one strand

—	321	9046	510	dark red
—	838	380	2005	brown
—	909	230	1303	green

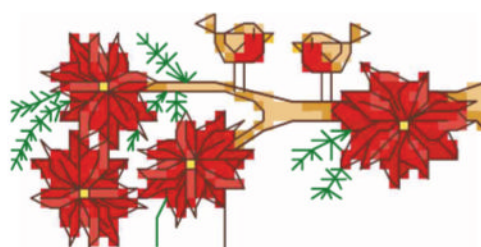
MAXIMUM STITCH COUNT 48 high x 49 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 9x9cm (3½x3½in)

These designs were stitched using DMC stranded cotton

“No matter how organised we are at Christmas there always seems to be one card we forget! Stitch a spare so you have one to hand when you need it.”

Heather Nugent, charting assistant



Tip

Pull out one strand at a time from a skein of thread – if you try to pull more you may end up in a tangle

Finishing touches

Patch your finished stitching onto pretty backing papers. You'll find a great range of downloadable PDFs at www.gathered.how



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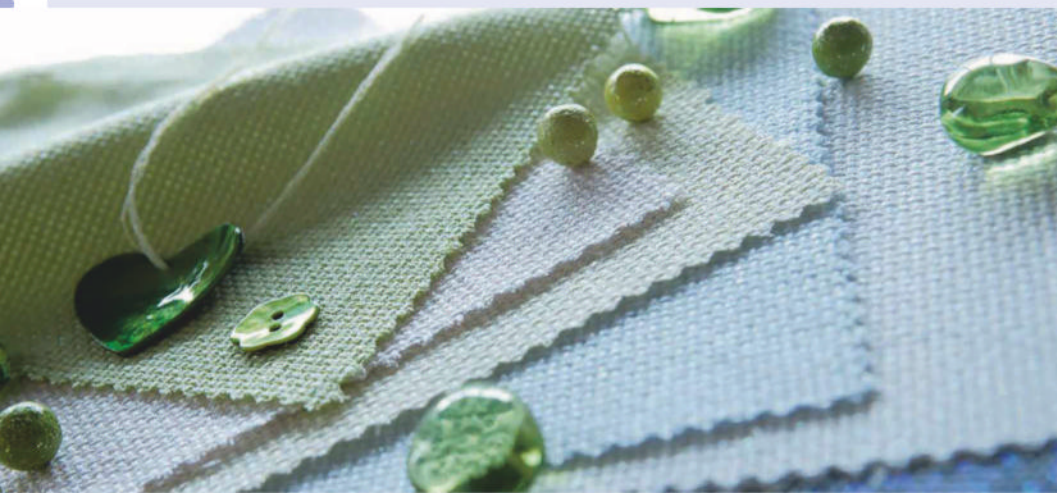
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How to...

All the guidance you need for cross stitch success!



With technical editor,
Fiona Baker



Quick-start cross stitch

Choose your project...

Make sure you choose the right level for you – you'll find this information in the Factbox on each of our projects. Absolute beginners should choose a design without fractional stitches.

Buy your materials...

The You Will Need list on each project will tell you what size and type of fabric you need, and also which needle to use (see the table below for more information on needle sizes). You'll find details of the threads you need in the key.

Get ready...

We recommend always starting from the middle of the design. Follow the two heavy 'O' gridlines on the chart and find a symbol near the centre. Look for this symbol on the key for the colour of thread you need, plus the number of strands. Thread your needle with this colour.

Get set...

Fold your fabric in half horizontally and vertically to find the centre of that as well. The folds will make a cross, which corresponds to the cross at the centre of your chart.

Get stitching!

Make your first stitch. Leave a thread tail of 4cm (2in) on the back of the fabric, and catch it under your stitches to secure it. We recommend finishing all the cross stitch in your design before you work the backstitch or add any French knots. Have a look at the diagrams opposite to see how to tackle all of these stitches.

Your materials

With just a few essentials, you'll be all set to stitch straightaway...

Fabrics

You'll need either aida or evenweave for your design:

Aida

Great for: Beginners, as it has regular woven blocks and obvious holes. Aida is stiffer than evenweave so keeps its shape better. 14-count is the most common.

Bad for: Fractional stitches. If you stitch a design with fractional stitches on aida, you'll have to make an extra hole in the fabric, using a sharp needle.

Evenweave

Great for: Fractional stitches and a neat finish. This fabric is softer than aida, with a finer weave and more threads per inch – 28-count is the most common. On evenweave, you work a cross stitch over two threads of the fabric, so you have a central hole spare for your fractional stitches.

Bad for: Beginners. It's best to start on aida and work up to evenweave when you're confident.



Threads

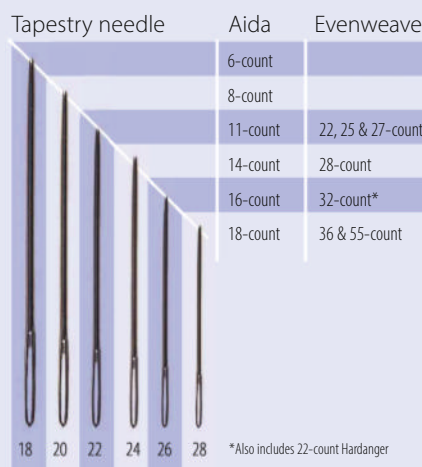
Stranded cotton

This coloured thread comes in 8m skeins and can be divided into six strands. Usually, you use two strands together for cross stitch, and one strand on its own for backstitch. There are three main brands of stranded cotton – DMC, Anchor and Madeira – all of which are smooth and easy to stitch with, and also colourfast to 95°C. Cheaper brands are available, but these will be less durable and may not be colourfast.



Aida (left) is stiffer than evenweave (below), and has more obvious holes

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



*Also includes 22-count Hardanger

Needles

Tapestry needles are blunt-ended so that they can pass easily between the threads of the aida and evenweave. They come in various thicknesses, which are suitable for certain fabrics. Refer to the chart on the right to work out which needle to choose. When stitching fractionals on aida (see far right), a sharp-ended embroidery needle can be used to split the fabric blocks.

Fractional stitches

Fractionals allow you to create round edges



Quarter

The chart shows which corner the fractional stitch occupies. Bring the needle up in that corner and take it down in the centre of the square, halfway across the diagonal (diagram 1).



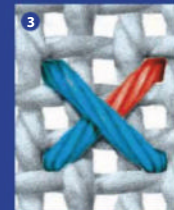
Three-quarters

Following on from the quarter stitch, make a half stitch across the other diagonal of the square, from corner to corner (diagram 2). Take care because three-quarter stitches can face in any direction.



Two symbols

When two symbols share a square, work a fractional in each colour – a three-quarter stitch in the main colour and a quarter stitch in the background colour (diagram 3).



Back-to-back

If you want to draw a strong outline, work a three-quarter stitch in each colour and stitch them back-to-back. Make sure that the two half stitches lie neatly parallel to each other.

Aida Tip

You'll need a sharp needle to pierce the fabric block when stitching fractionals on aida



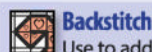
How to stitch with our charts

Our charts make it easy to see the different stitches in our designs...



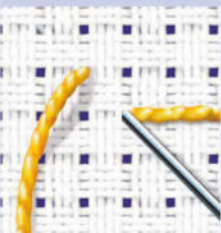
Cross stitch

Bring your needle up at the bottom left corner and down in the top right. Then bring it up in the bottom right corner and down in the top left.



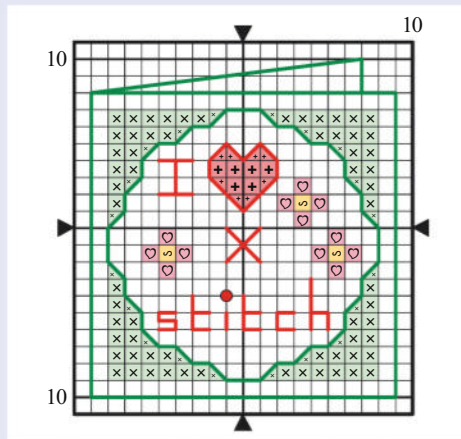
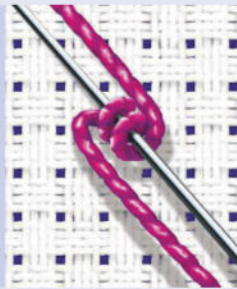
Backstitch

Use to add detail to a design. Bring your needle up at (1), down at (2), up at (3), back down at (1) and so on, following the line of backstitch on the chart.



French knots

Bring the needle up through the fabric. Holding the thread taut in one hand, wrap the needle around the thread twice. Still keeping the thread taut, push the needle back down into the fabric, close to where it came out. Pull gently until a knot forms.



How to read our keys

Large symbols and clear information make our keys easy to use...

The symbols

Starting at the centre of your chart, find an area marked with a particular symbol. Next, find the corresponding symbol on the key. Move across the columns to the right of the symbol, to find out which thread you need to stitch this area.

Backstitch and French knots

Backstitch and French knots are listed under the cross stitch. The amount of thread you need to work these often varies, so make sure you check how many strands of thread are specified in the key.

I love cross stitch card key

Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
♥	603	55	505	pink
☺	743	302	113	yellow
×	964	185	1112	sea green
+	3801	1098	411	red

Backstitch in one strand

—	321	9046	510	dark red
—	3812	188	2706	emerald green

French knots in one strand

●	321	9046	510	dark red
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STITCH COUNT 20 high x 18 wide
DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 3.5x3.5cm (1½x1¼in)

This design was stitched using DMC stranded cotton

Number of strands

These rows tell you what stitch you need to work and in how many strands.

Thread brands

These are the three main thread manufacturers. The columns below the headings list the thread codes you'll need to stitch your design. For best results, stick to one manufacturer for the whole of a design.

Stitch count

The stitch count tells you how big your finished design will be in stitches.

Design area

This tells you what size your design will be on a particular fabric. HPI stands for 'holes per inch'.

SCAN HERE...



FOR MORE TIPS AND TUTORIALS!

Scan this QR code with your phone or tablet camera or via a QR code reader app.



Stitch a card with love & best wishes

Ultimate Cross Stitch Cards is a fantastic collection of all the cards you'll ever want to stitch, whatever the occasion. Complete with inspiring photography and refreshingly clear charts and keys, this collection is brought to you by your favourite cross stitch designers.

There are 205 designs inside that you can stitch as cards to celebrate birthdays, a wedding or a new baby. We've thought of every occasion, with cards for mum and dad, get well greetings and kids' birthdays. Plus, Valentine's Day, Easter and Christmas are all included. From jungle party animals and lovebirds to hot air balloons they're all designs you'll love to stitch.

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