

NEW!



Sweet blossom



Oriental vases



Margaret Sherry



Stylish florals

# Ultimate Cross Stitch Flowers

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Tulips in spring

**FLOWER DESIGNS** \* 41 floral cards \* 87 great gift ideas \* 11 stunning pictures \* spring blooms \* summer poppies \* blossom \* lilies and much more



Cottage garden blooms



Poppies in summer



Tiffany windows



Folk art designs

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CROSS STITCH  
VOL 12 2016

The best-loved floral designs – yours to treasure forever!









.....  
**Katriel Costello, editor**  
.....

## Welcome...

Flowers have a timeless and enduring appeal, and what better way to celebrate these glories of nature than to recreate beautiful blooms in cross stitch. Displayed on gifts and stitched as cards, pictures and items for our homes, there's nothing quite as special as florals.

Come and stroll through the beautiful vistas inside this issue; walk under the scented arbours and through the gardens with their vibrant borders, stopping only to arrange a beautiful display in a vase for the windowsill.

We all love to give and receive flowers, they fit almost any occasion and there's no better way to tell someone you're thinking of them than to stitch them a beautiful flowers card. From the simple tulip and papery blossom to the ornate lily, all our favourites are here. We get to know and enjoy our seasons by them too, from the poppy in summertime to the show of spring blooms we look forward to each year.

They come in all forms here, seen in the Tiffany windows-inspired cards and sketchbook botanicals by Amanda Gregory. And I adore Lesley Teare's bunny in a field of tulips because it combines two of my favourite things. Which flowers design is your favourite? Will it be the lanterns and blossom picture or the pretty view through a window scene? There are plenty of ideas here for framed pictures for your home, or to give as special gifts.

Plus there's practical help too – with expert tips and step-by-step instructions throughout. We hope you enjoy this collection!

*Katriel*



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# Artist's sketchbook

Capture an artist's rendition of beautiful botanicals in stitches on evenweave canvas and hang it on your craft room wall



Designed by Amanda Gregory

Intended to reflect a designer's sketchbook, these country blooms have the style of pencil drawings and watercolours painted in a sketchbook. Designed by Amanda, she says this picture closely resembles her own sketchbook, which is always close at hand in summer, a time when she is

at her most creative. Three different kinds of roses are captured in stitches, as well as beautiful foxgloves and daisies for extra interest. With lots of delicate detail to retain your interest, this will be a therapeutic stitch as you while away the evenings immersed in your design and reflecting on the beauty of our countryside.

## Stitching Factbox

**Stitching time:**  
Approx 60 hours

**Type of stitches:**  
Cross stitch, fractionals, backstitch

**Level:** Intermediate/advanced

## You will need

**Threads:** Stranded cotton, as listed in the key

**Needle:** Size 26 tapestry needle

**Fabric:** 28-count white evenweave, measuring 53x41cm (21x16in)

**Extras:** Canvas, measuring 33x25cm (13x10in)



## Tip

Cover the edges of your fabric with masking tape to prevent them from fraying



Celebrate summer and countryside strolls with a painterly recreation of delicate blooms

Daisy  
*Bellis perennis*

Abbeyfield Rose

Dog rose

Crimson Glory

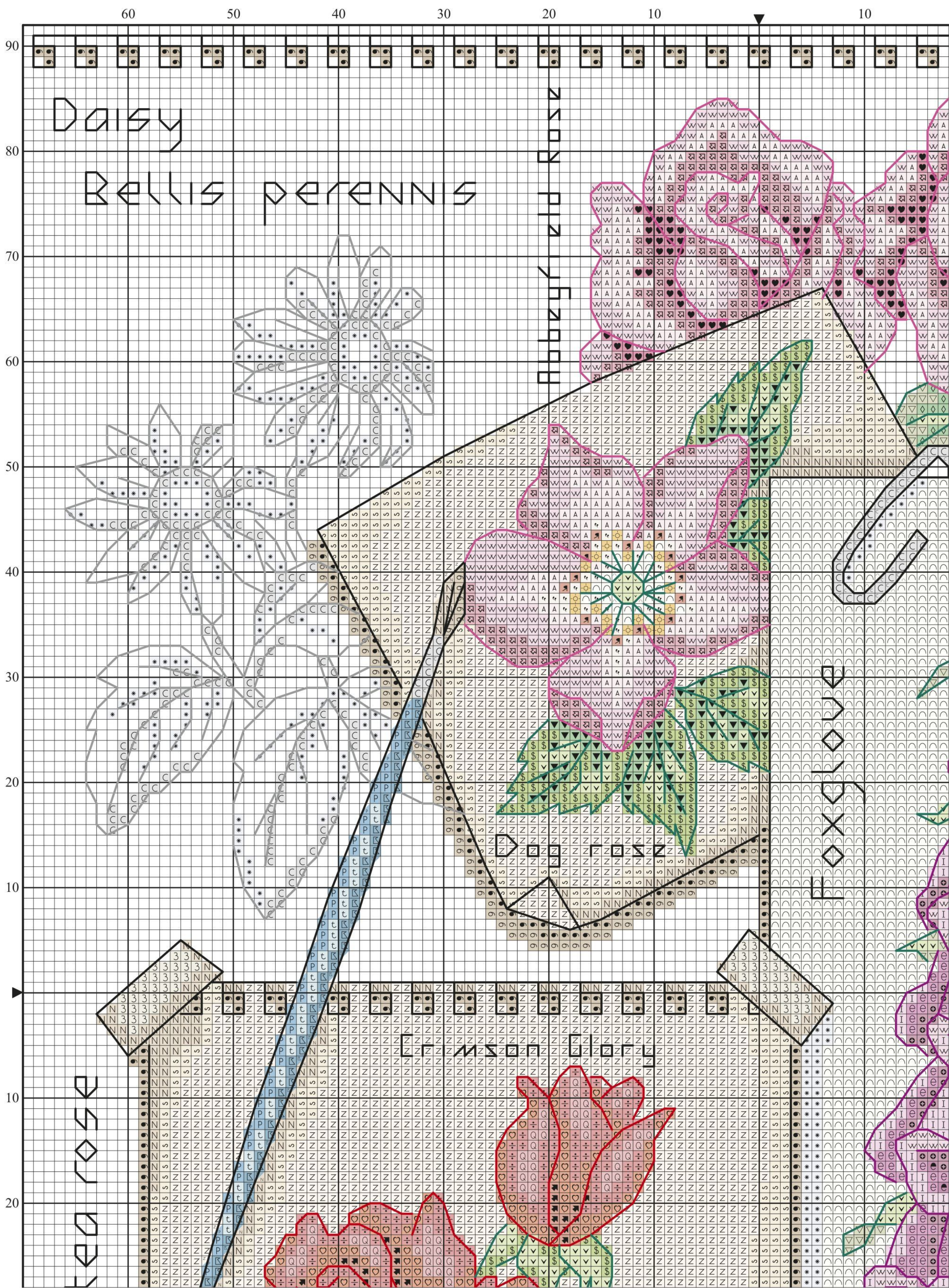
Foxglove

Digitals purpurea

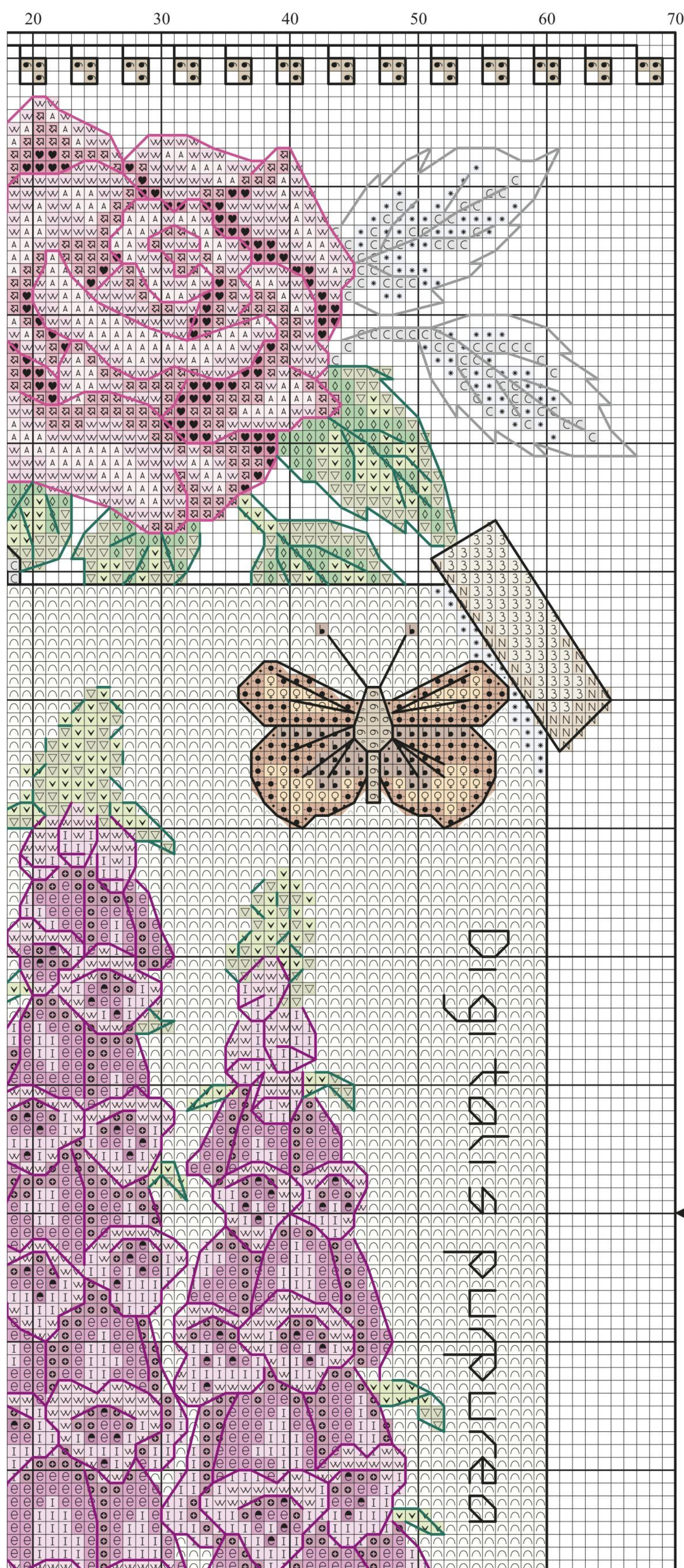
Woods heaths and  
acid soils

climbing hybrid tea rose









Top right

## How to stitch the summer sketchbook

- 1 Find the centre of your fabric by folding it in half both horizontally and vertically. Follow the arrows on the chart to find the centre of the design and start stitching from here, working your way out.
- 2 Work the cross stitch on the design using two strands of cotton and referring to the key. For each tiny symbol you see on the chart, work a fractional stitch.
- 3 Add the backstitch using one strand of thread. Finally, check over your finished stitching and prepare it for making up.

*“Every time I look at this beautiful design I seem to pick out a different detail. I love the layered 3D effect of this picture”*

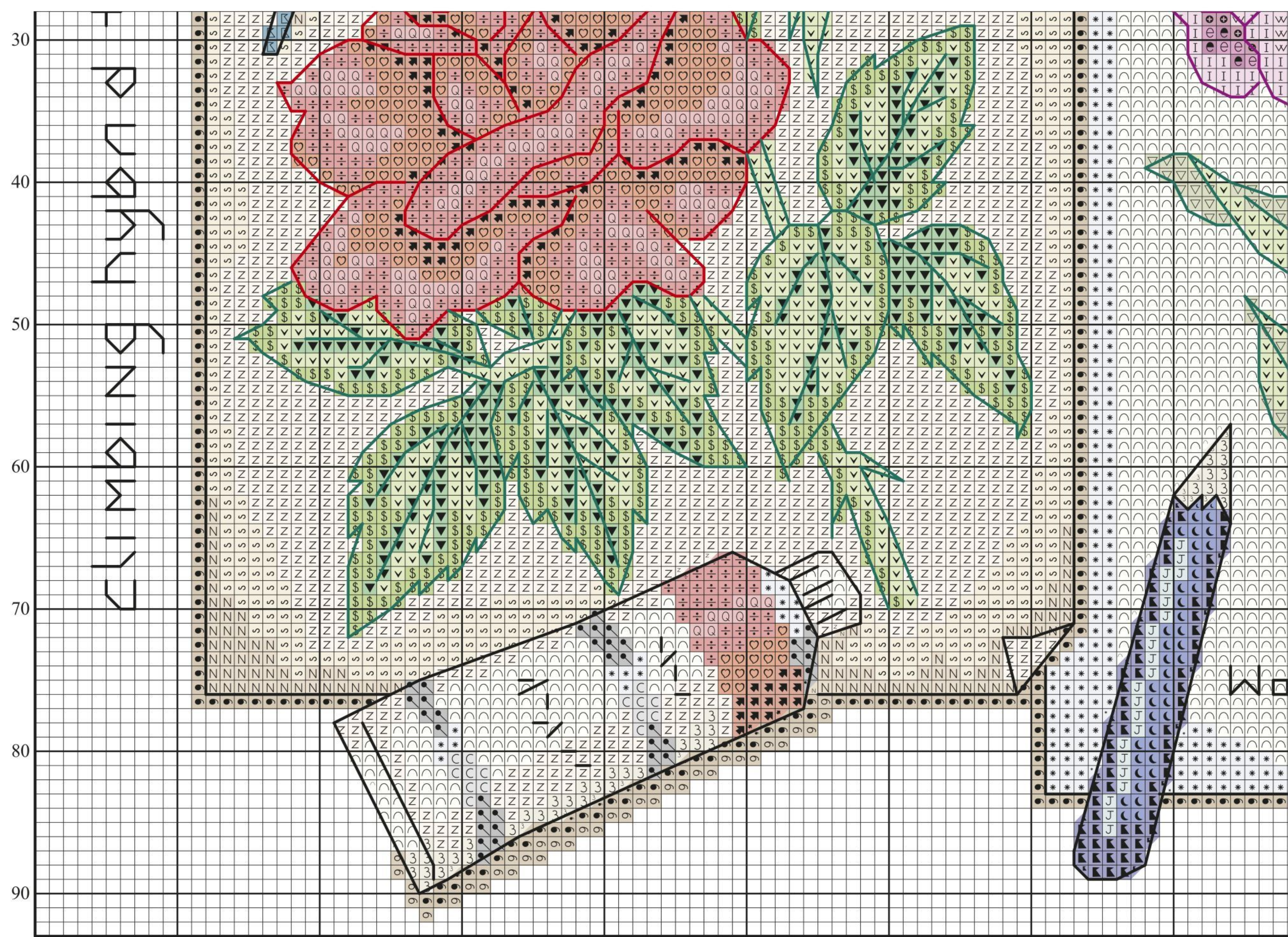
**Fiona Baker, technical editor**

### Stitching close-up

The summer garden is full of brightly coloured flowers, so our designer, Amanda, was spoilt for choice when it came to selecting the thread shades. In the end, she opted for her favourite floral colours – pretty reds and pinks.



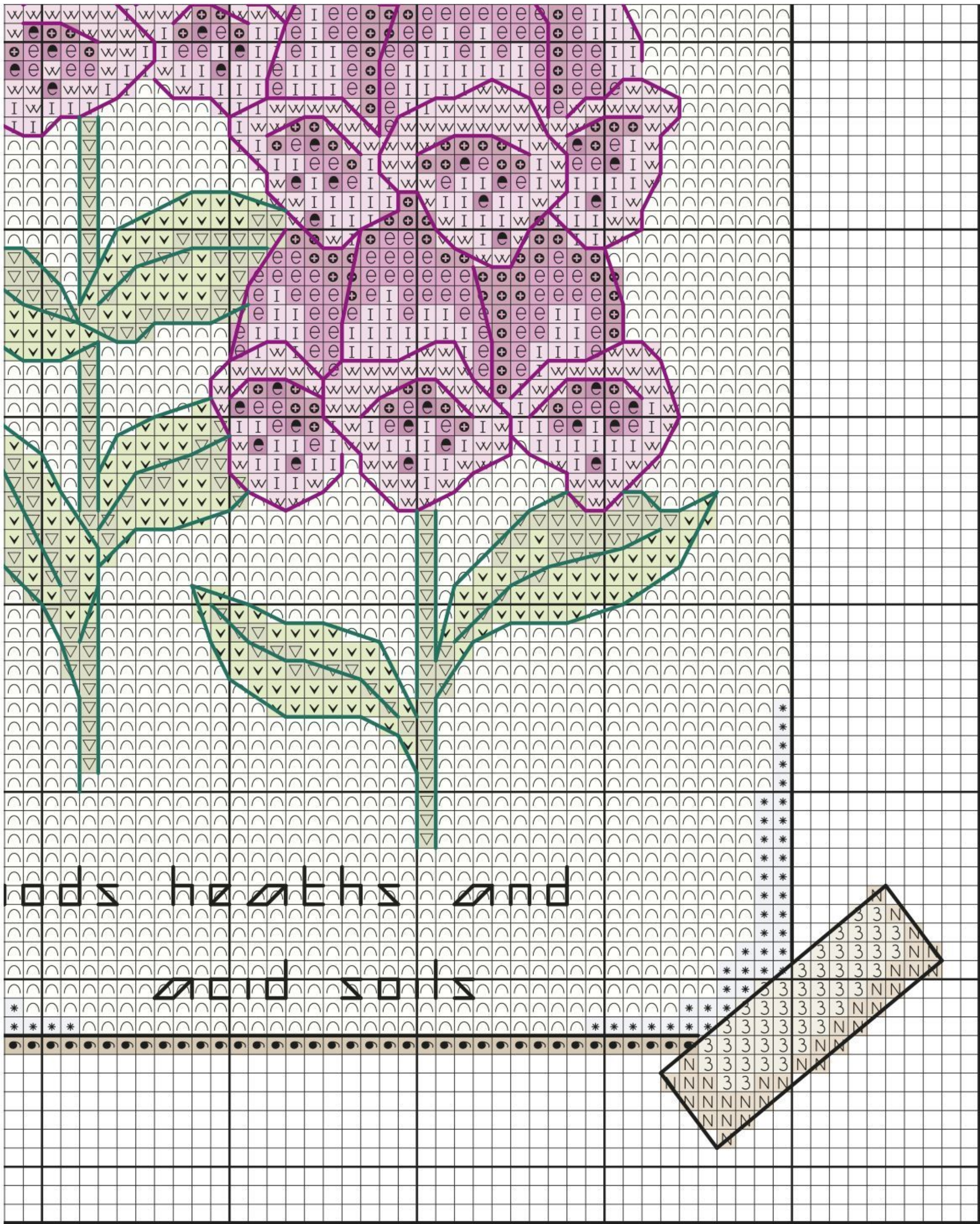




Bottom left







Bottom right

“Even as a work in progress this design makes an eye-catching piece. Use a wooden hoop to work on, it will ensure your piece has a really professional finish”

Katriel Costello, editor

### How to stitch with the sewing method

Many people prefer to stitch ‘in the hand’ with evenweave, as the fabric is lovely and soft. Using the sewing method, you can keep your other hand at the front of the fabric, pushing the needle through to the back and then through to the front in just one motion. Once you’re in the rhythm of this technique, it’s a much faster way to work than the stab and stitch method, where you need to move your hand back and forth from the front of

the fabric to the back. Just take extra care so that the scooping motion of the sewing method doesn’t distort the fabric.



### Sketchbook key

#### ✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
z	ecru	926	2404	cream
v	164	240	1209	very light green
■	321	9046	510	very dark red
■	400	351	2305	dark ginger
■	402	1047	2307	ginger
■	414	235	1714	grey
c	415	398	1802	light grey
■	517	162	1107	dark turquoise
p	518	1039	1106	turquoise
t	519	1038	1105	light turquoise
s	543	933	1909	beige
■	602	57	702	dark pink
■	603	55	701	pink
w	605	1094	613	light pink
■	666	46	210	dark red
▼	700	229	1302	dark leaf green
\$	702	226	1306	leaf green
■	718	88	707	magenta
■	742	303	114	tangerine
*	762	234	1804	very light grey
■	797	139	913	dark blue
■	798	131	912	blue
A	818	23	502	powder pink
■	819	271	501	lt powder pink
3	822	390	1908	dark cream
■	840	1084	1912	brown
■	841	1082	1911	light brown
N	842	1080	1910	very light brown
■	900	326	208	dark orange
■	915	1029	705	dark raspberry
■	946	332	207	light orange
◇	988	243	1402	green
▽	989	241	1401	light green
e	3607	87	708	raspberry
I	3609	85	710	light raspberry
Q	3706	33	409	light red
J	3761	928	1001	v light turquoise
÷	3801	1098	411	red
∩	3865	2	2403	natural white

#### ✕ Backstitch in one strand

—	413	236	1713	dark grey
—	414	235	1714	grey
—	600	63	703	very dark pink
—	814	22	601	wine red
—	915	1029	705	dark raspberry
—	935	861	1505	dark green

**STITCH COUNT** 183 high x 138 wide

**DESIGN AREA** 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 33x25cm (13x9¾in)

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



# Botanical beauties

Inspired by vintage floral postcards, these elegant and characterful floral designs are sure to delight, whatever the occasion



Designed by Amanda Gregory

The study of flora and fauna has produced some of the most stunning illustrations we've seen and for hundreds of years, artists have been painting and sketching perfect replicas of nature's splendour. So, what better way to carry on this tradition than recreating a botanical study in stitches? Amanda has captured

the detail and delight of some of our favourite blooms in this charming set of postcard-style charts. Plus the garden insects and shabby chic style ephemera – like the pocket watch and postmarks – are a fun touch. Use a gorgeous colour palette to create the vintage feel, as each card is densely stitched in whole stitches, fractionals and backstitch.

## You will need

**Threads:** Stranded cotton, as listed in the key

**Needle:** Size 24 tapestry needle

**Fabric:** 14-count cream aida measuring 10x13cm (4x5in) for each design

**Cards:** Craft Creations, [www.craftcreations.com](http://www.craftcreations.com), single fold cards (SF03U) in Textura Recycled ivory

**Extras:** Patterned papers of your choice from local craft stores

## Stitching Factbox

**Stitching time:**  
Approx 12-15 hours  
per design

**Type of stitches:**  
Cross stitch, fractionals,  
backstitch

**Level:** Advanced  
beginner/intermediate





## Tip

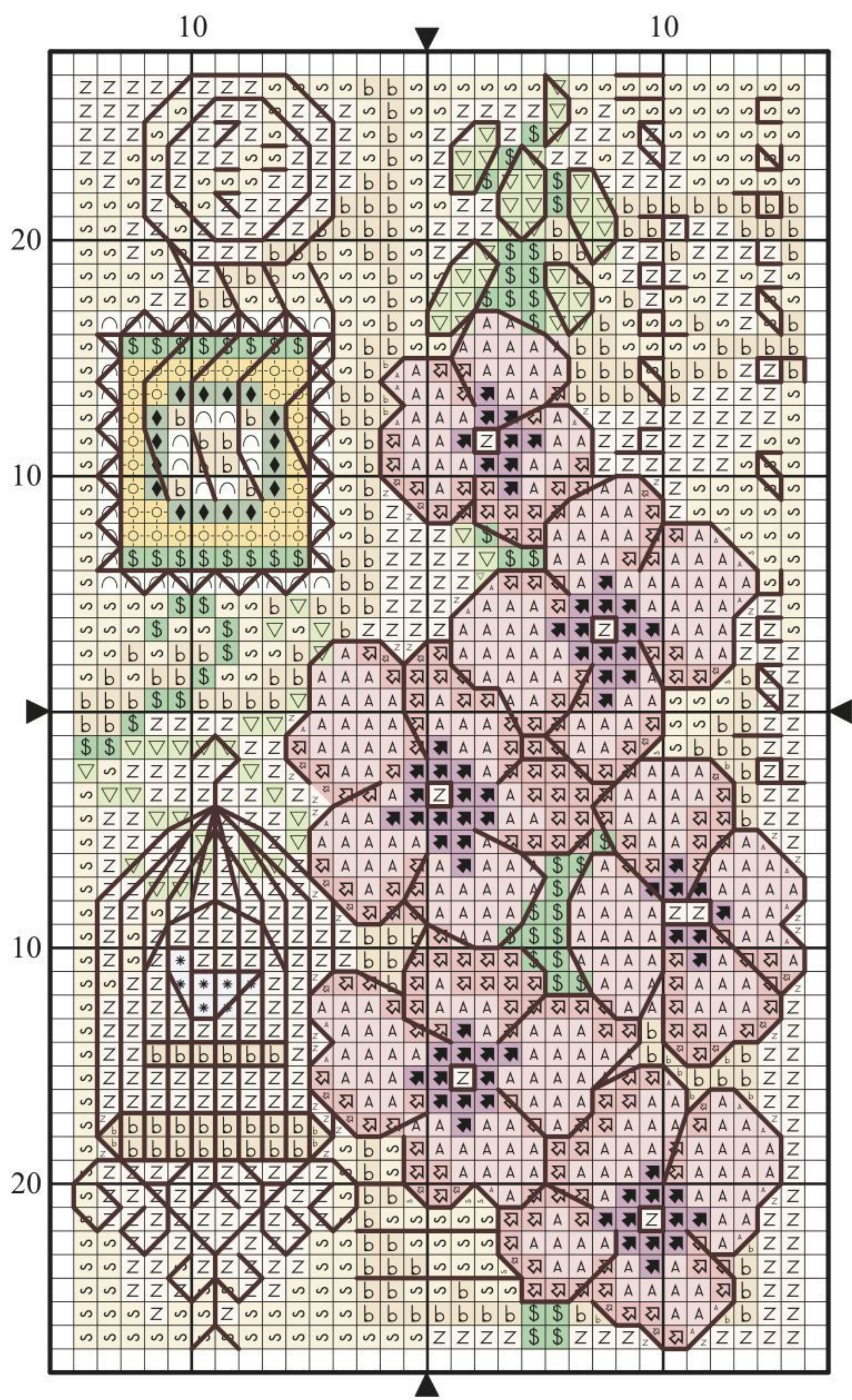
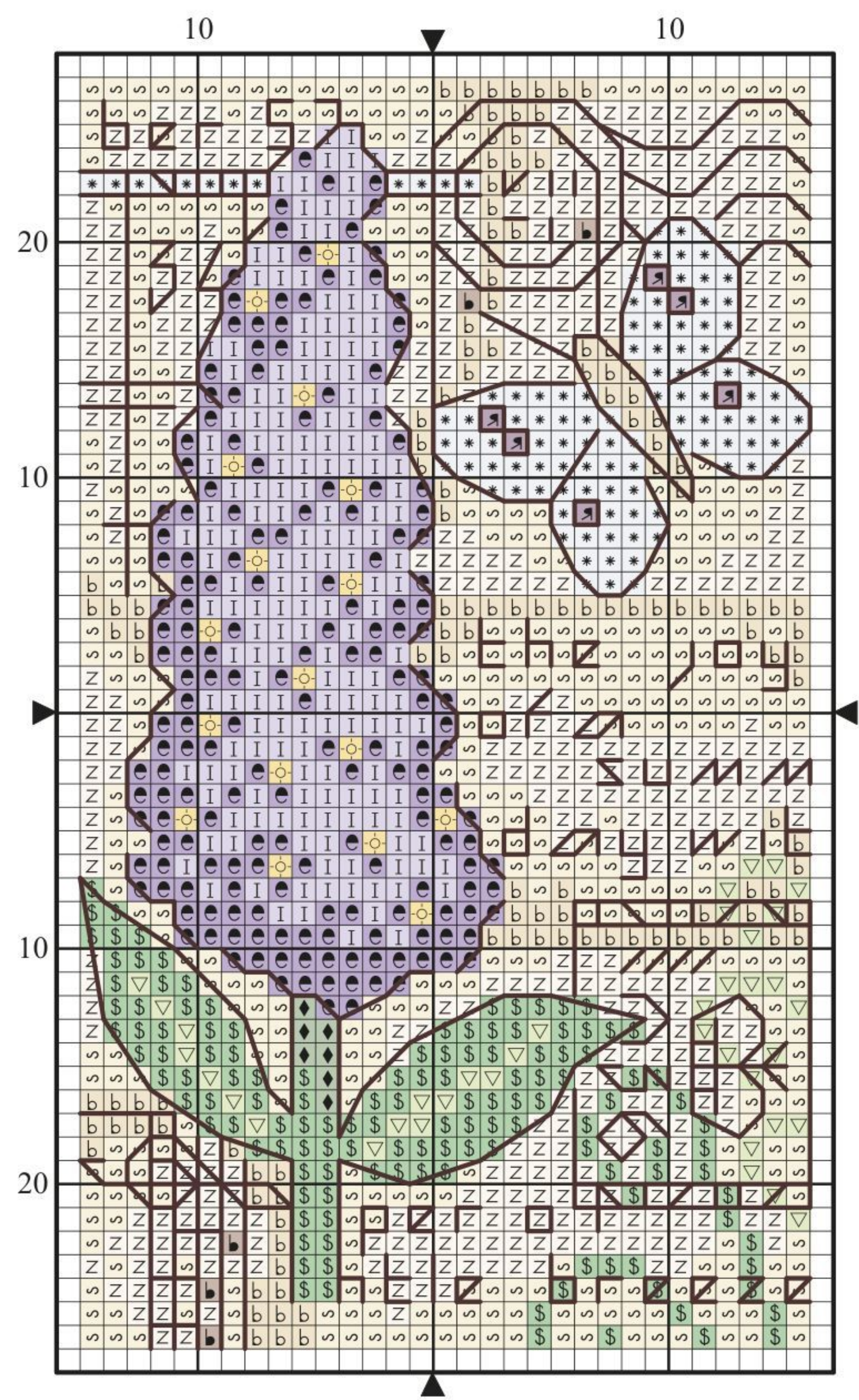
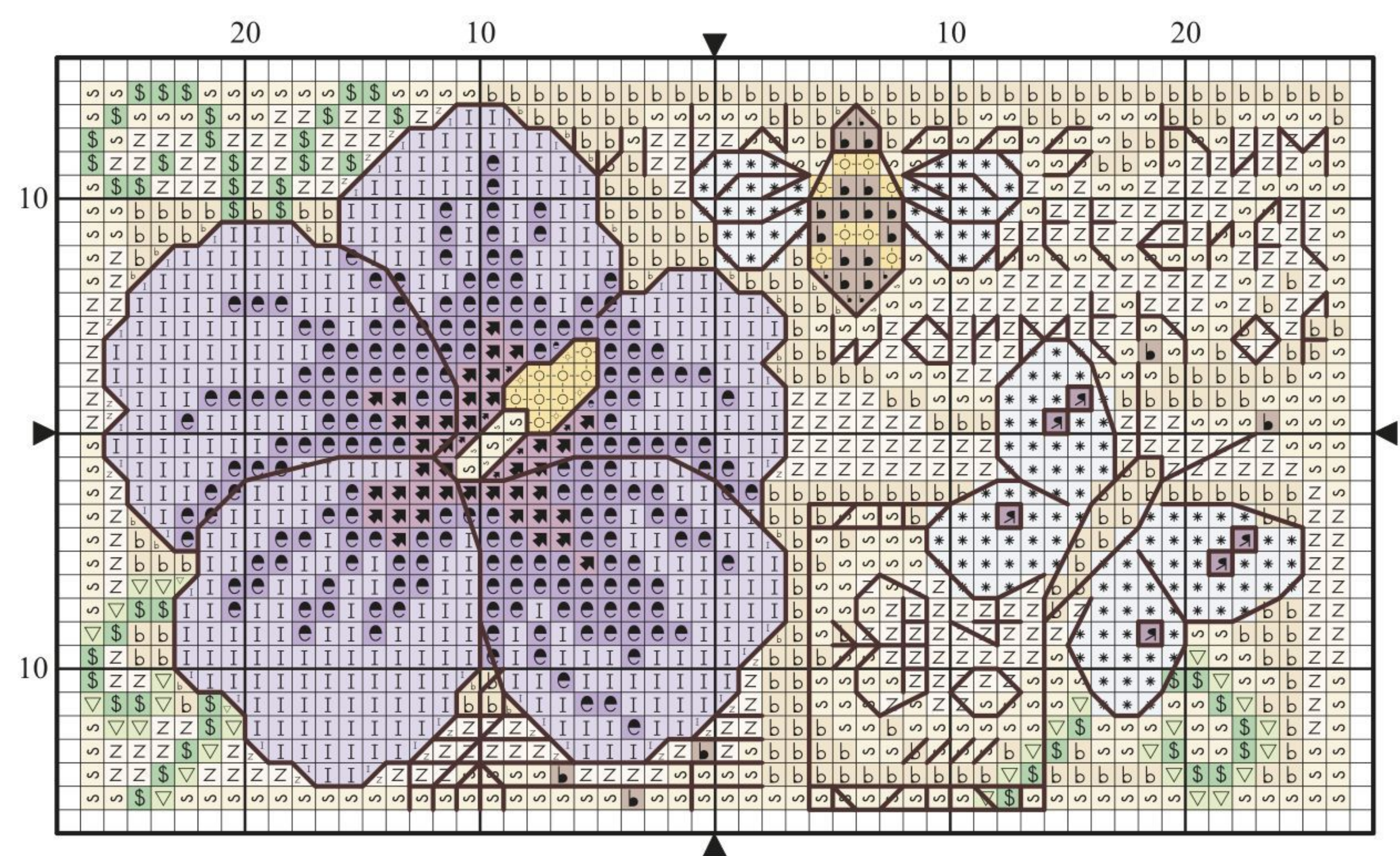
For an even quicker finish, leave out the background, stitching the main design details only – the cream fabric will add a vintage touch

Make a luxury greetings card

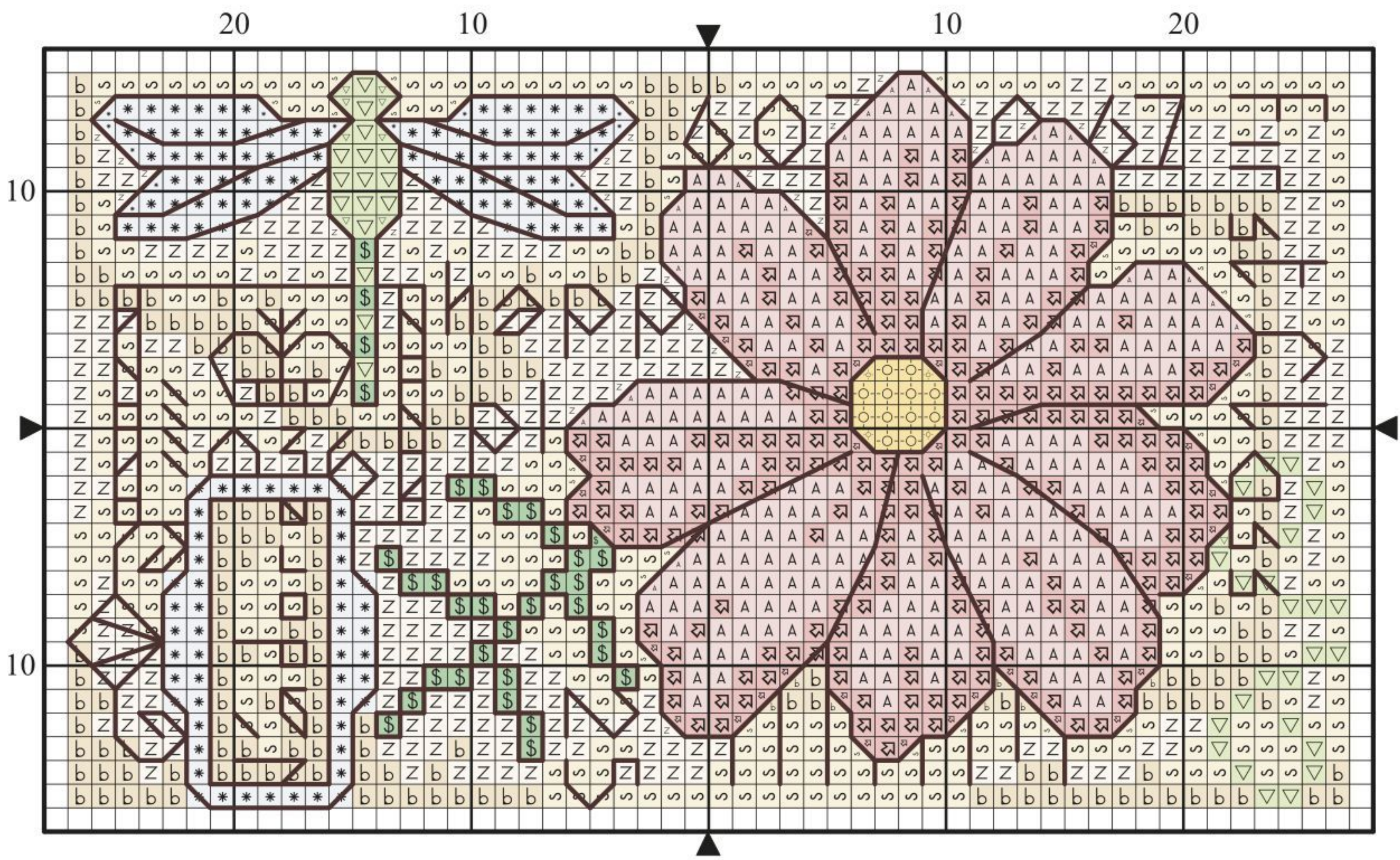
Friends and family will adore these stunning shabby chic cards, which are guaranteed to stay in bloom



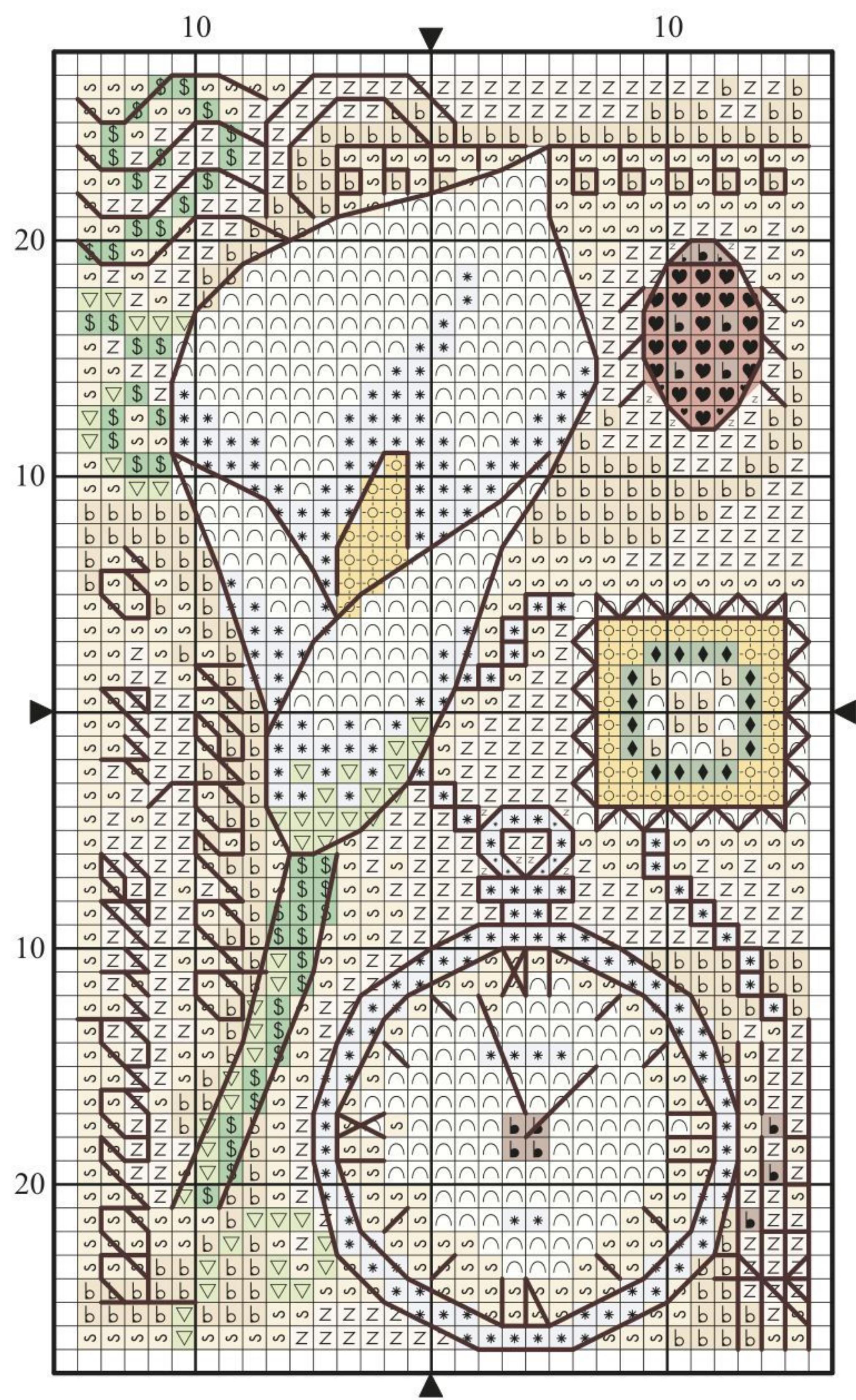
Botanicals



“These postcard style designs are something different from the normal greetings cards around. Stitch them for birthdays or just to say hello to a friend you haven’t seen in a while”  
Katriel Costello, editor







**Botanical cards key**

**✕ Cross stitch in two strands**

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
Z	ecru	926	2404	cream
↗	154	873	2607	dark mauve
I	155	1030	902	purple
▽	164	240	1209	light green
●	333	119	903	dark purple
♥	347	1025	407	red
b	437	362	2012	tan
⊙	728	305	107	yellow
s	739	366	2014	light tan
*	762	234	1804	grey
■	938	380	2005	brown
↖	961	76	610	dark pink
◆	986	246	1404	dark green
\$	988	243	1402	green
w	3712	1023	406	salmon pink
A	3716	25	503	pink
⬆	3835	98	712	mauve
○	3865	2	2403	natural white

**✕ Backstitch in one strand**

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

**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

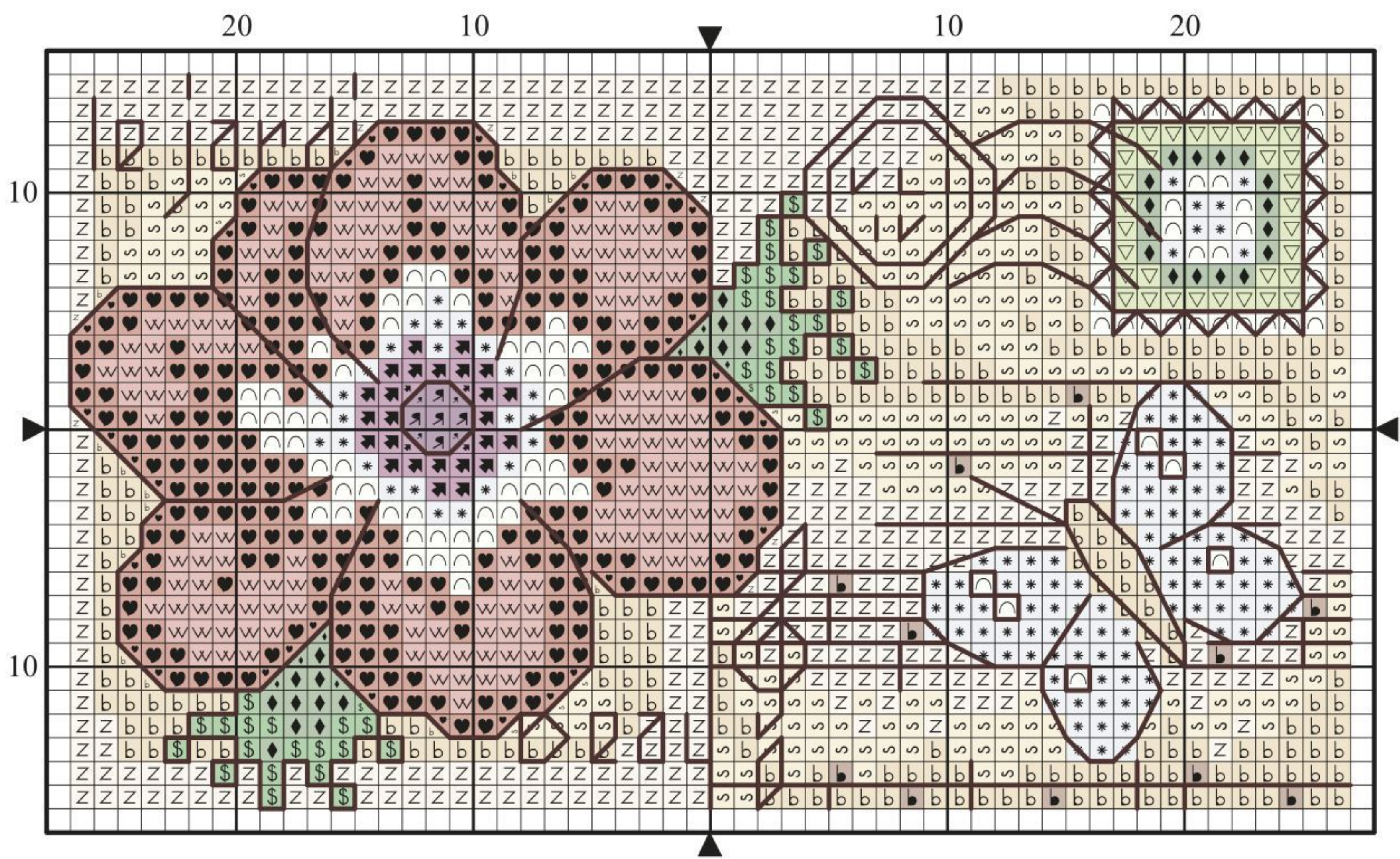
*“I was inspired by nature walks through the countryside and seeing wildflowers blooming in cottage gardens, plus I loved adding the shabby chic layers of ephemera and collectables. I hope you’ll love stitching them too!”*

**Amanda Gregory, designer**

**Tip**  
Make sure you have each shade of thread before you begin stitching your card

**Stitching close-up**

The many interesting details on these cards make them enchanting to look at. Each is brought to life in backstitch, which is worked in brown thread so it does not overpower but has a vintage feel.





For your home

# Folk art

Wake yourself up with a colourful cuppa – our gorgeous folk art tea cosy and matching coasters are all you need



Designed by Lucie Heaton

**T**eatime is the most important part of the day. Even if you drink tea all day long, it's great when a friend pops over unexpectedly and you can take a break from whatever you're doing to sit down and enjoy a natter over a proper pot for two. A nice tea cosy really adds to the sense of

occasion, and folk art design makes a really vibrant look for your tea set. The tea cosy is symmetrical in its design, but not symmetrical in colour, it's good to mix things up! The entire tea set is abstract in style, with bright, vibrant colours and folk art hearts, flowers and birds too. The motifs are really striking.

## You will need

**Threads:** Stranded cotton, as listed in the key

**Needle:** Size 24 tapestry needle

**Fabric:** 14-count red aida measuring 30x33cm (12x13in) for the tea cosy and 15x15cm (6x6in) for each of the coasters

**Extras:** Backing fabric of your choice for the tea cosy. Square coasters (SC33) from [www.framecraft.com](http://www.framecraft.com)

## Stitching Factbox

**Stitching time:**  
Approx 30 hours for  
the set

**Type of stitches:**  
Cross stitch, backstitch

### Level: Beginner



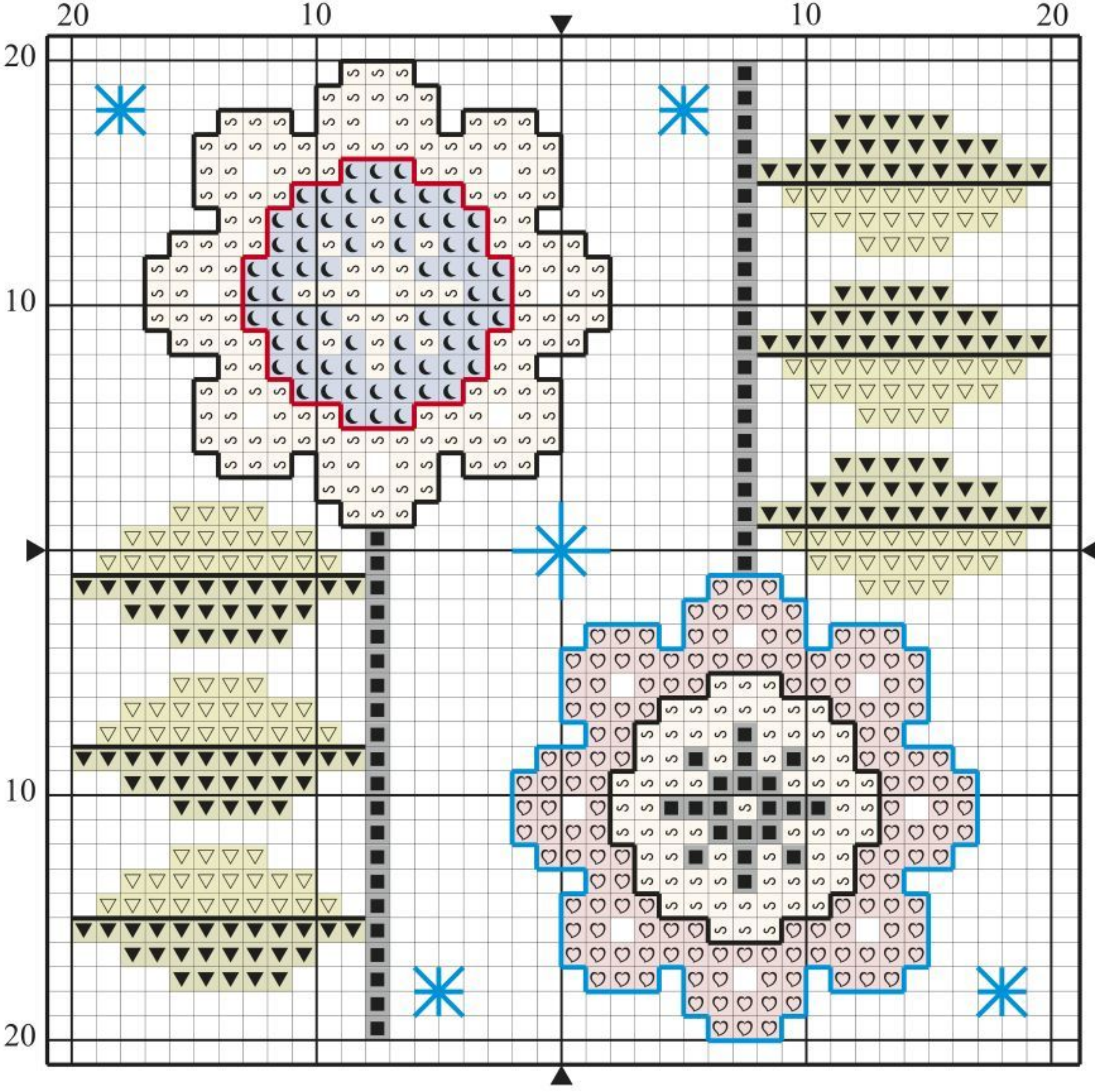
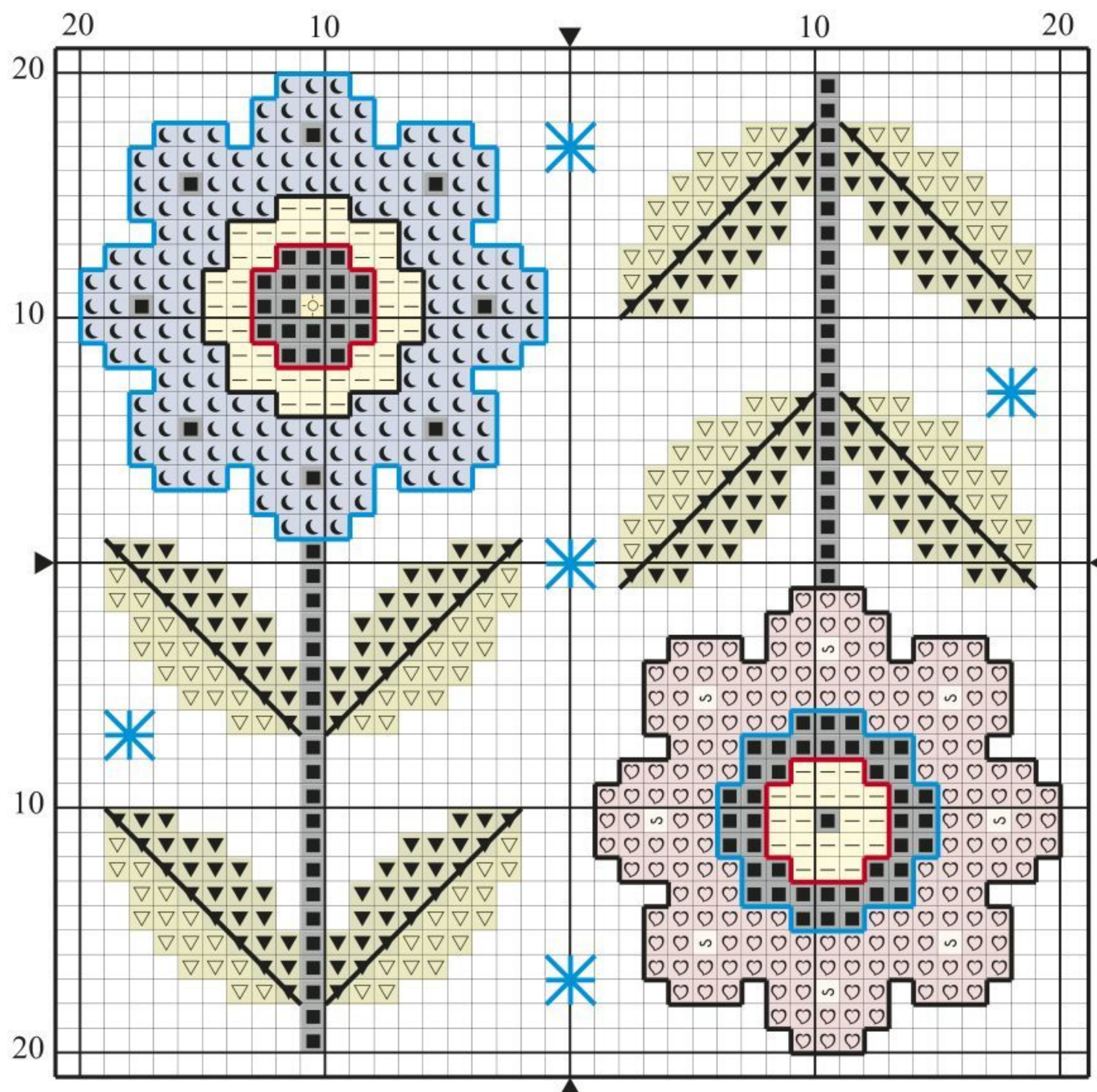
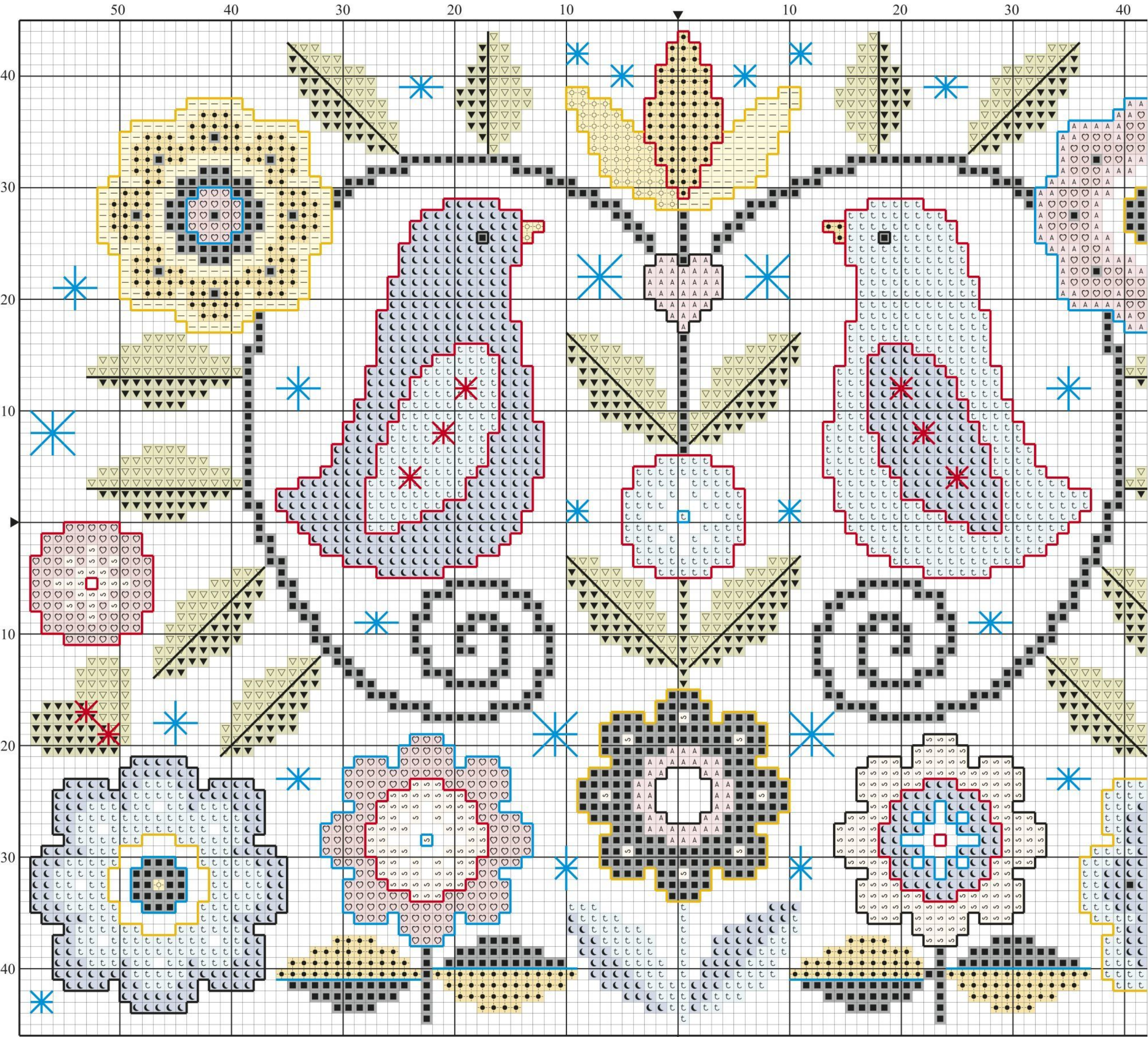




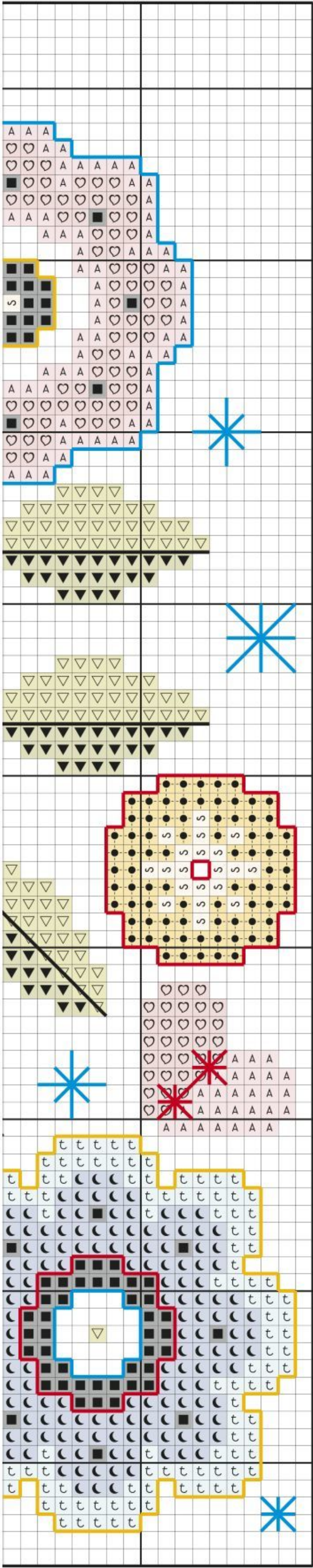
**Tip**  
Use the loop  
method to start  
your thread when  
you add the  
backstitch

Lucie's colourful creations  
will pep up your kitchen









### Making up the tea cosy

- 1 Trim your stitched design, leaving a 2cm (3/4in) border of fabric all the way around.
- 2 Next, cut three pieces of backing fabric to the same size. To get the exact shape, lay your stitched piece on top of the fabric and draw around it with a dressmaker's pencil.
- 3 Lay one piece of fabric on top of the stitched piece, with right sides facing. Pin and machine stitch together along the straight edge with a 1cm (1/2in) seam allowance.
- 4 Repeat with your remaining two pieces of fabric for the back. Press open your seams.
- 5 Lay your back piece on top of your stitched piece, with right sides facing. Pin and machine stitch around the raw edge with a 1cm (1/2in) seam allowance. Leave a small hole on one side for pulling through. Pull through and press, then stitch the opening closed.
- 6 If desired, make a tab for the top of the tea cosy using fabric of your choice, and attach a colourful button to finish.



### Folk art key

#### ✕ Cross stitch in three strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
▼	471	266	1501	dark green
▽	472	253	1414	green
S	712	926	2101	cream
●	725	305	113	dark yellow
○	727	293	112	light yellow
☾	799	145	910	blue
t	800	144	908	light blue
A	963	73	502	light pink
—	3078	292	102	very light yellow
♥	3716	25	503	pink
■	3799	236	1713	grey

#### ✕ Backstitch in two strands

—	blanc	2	2402	white
—	666	46	210	red
—	726	295	109	yellow
—	3799	236	1713	grey

**MAXIMUM STITCH COUNT** 89 high x 117 wide

**DESIGN AREA** 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 16x21cm (6¼x8¼in)

These designs were stitched using DMC stranded cotton

### Stitching close-up

Red backgrounds are used quite a lot in folk art design, so Lucie chose red aida for her tea cosy and coasters. We love the impact it gives and working the cross stitch for the design in three strands gives a satisfying coverage of the fabric.



“I’ve seen similar motifs on lots of gorgeous cards, gifts and kitchenalia on the high street and they never fail catch my eye – folk art is such a pretty and enduring style”

Lucie Heaton, designer



# Sweet dreams

Ensure a good night's sleep – and a super stylish bedroom – with this Native American inspired dreamcatcher in pretty pastels



Designed by Amanda Gregory

The story of the dreamcatcher begins with the ancient legend of a tribe who believed that these magical webs, woven onto willow hoops, would filter out bad dreams and allow only good thoughts to enter our minds while we sleep. What better way to weave one of these enchanted talisman than with a needle and thread?

Our design is worked on 28-count antique white evenweave to give it a delightfully delicate finish, and to make all those little fractionals a breeze! In soft pastel shades, this pretty hanging is a lovely addition to any bedroom – simple to finish with a no-sew backing of iron-on interfacing so it fits in with any style, making it perfect for young and old.

## Stitching Factbox

**Stitching time:**  
Approx 30 hours

**Type of stitches:**  
Cross stitch, fractionals, backstitch

**Level:**  
Intermediate

## You will need

**Threads:** Stranded cotton, as listed in the key

**Needle:** Size 26 tapestry needle

**Fabric:** 28-count antique white evenweave measuring 43x28cm (17x11in)

**Extras:** Iron-on interfacing, ribbon and dowel of your choice measuring 20cm (8in) from local stores

## Tip

Have a few needles already threaded with different colours to make the shading easier

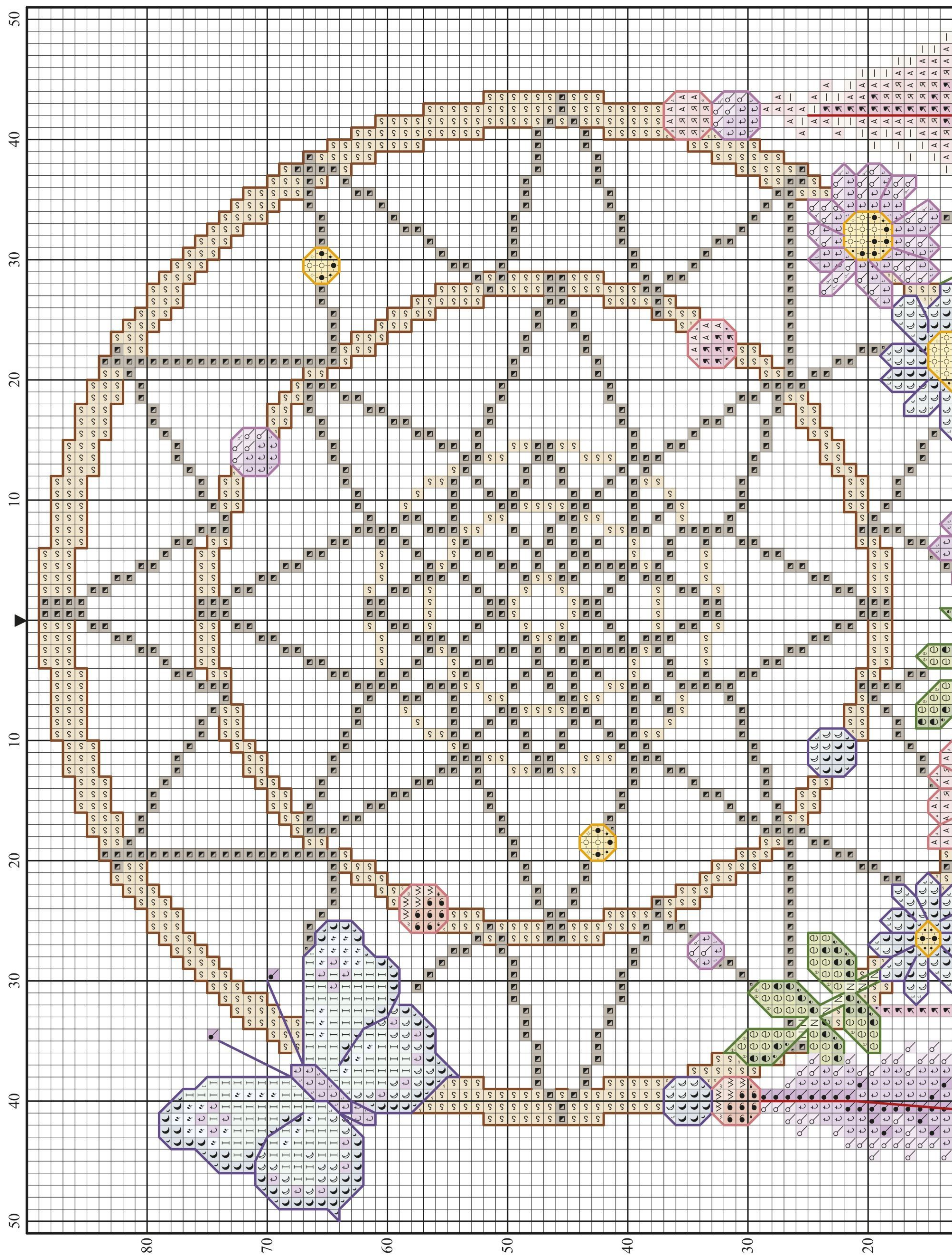




There's no greater gift  
than the promise of sweet  
dreams – especially when it  
looks this gorgeous!

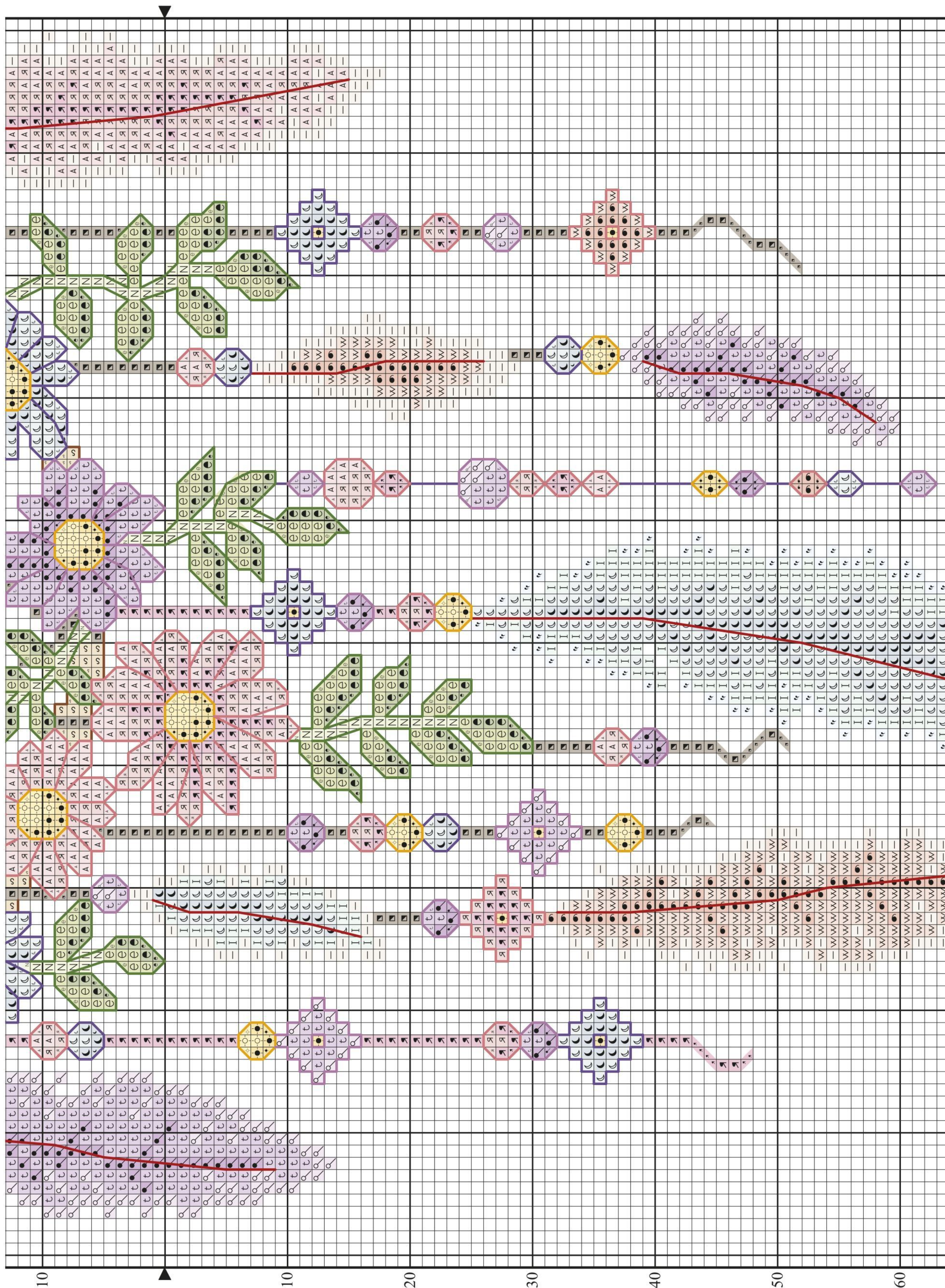


For your home



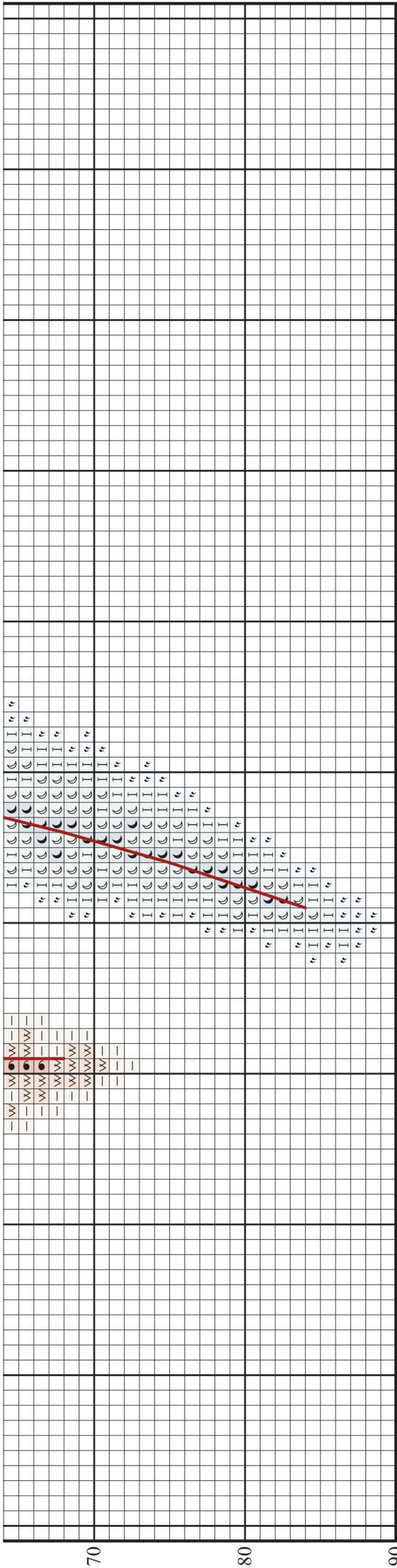
Top





Middle





Bottom

“This lovely dreamcatcher was a joy to design, and is such a fabulous idea! I created mine in pretty pastels, but the colour scheme could easily be adapted to match a bedroom’s décor or someone’s favourite colours”

Amanda Gregory,  
designer

**Tip**  
If you have to unpick, gently brush away any fluff using the softest baby brush

### Dreamcatcher key

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
🌀	208	99	804	lilac
t	209	98	803	light lilac
🌀	211	342	801	very light lilac
🌀	352	9	303	coral
w	353	6	2313	light coral
■	433	357	2602	brown
s	437	362	2012	light brown
☀	725	305	113	yellow
☀	727	293	112	light yellow
N	772	259	1604	very light green
I	775	1031	1101	china blue
—	819	271	501	very light pink
🌀	962	75	609	dark pink
A	963	73	502	light pink
🌀	3347	265	1408	green
e	3348	264	1409	light green
я	3716	25	503	pink
🌀	3755	140	1013	blue
“	3756	1037	2504	light china blue
🌀	3841	9159	1001	light blue

✕ Backstitch in one strand

—	blanc	2	2402	white
—	433	357	2602	brown
—	791	178	904	dark blue
—	972	298	107	dark yellow
—	3345	268	1406	dark green
—	3832	38	604	very dark pink
—	3837	111	713	dark lilac

**STITCH COUNT** 178 high x 100 wide  
**DESIGN AREA** 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 32.5x18cm (12¾x7in)  
This design was stitched using DMC stranded cotton on 28-count evenweave over two threads of the fabric

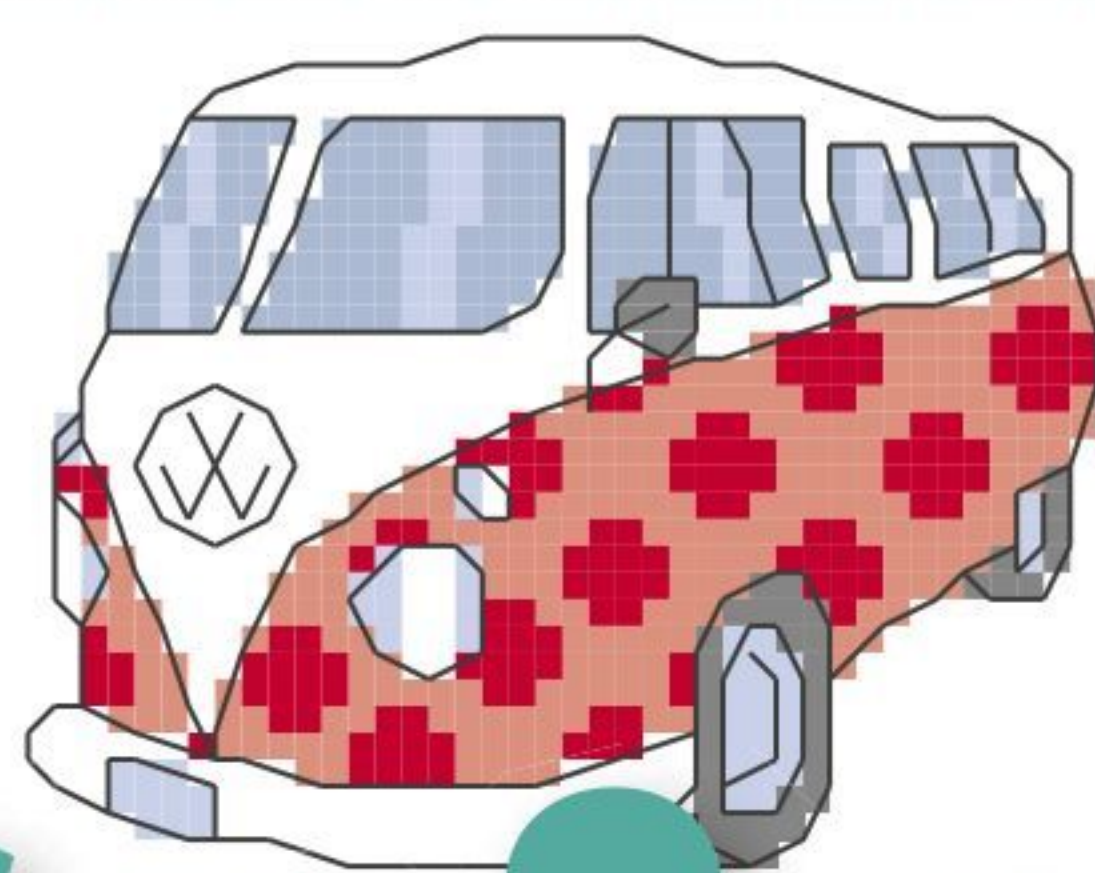




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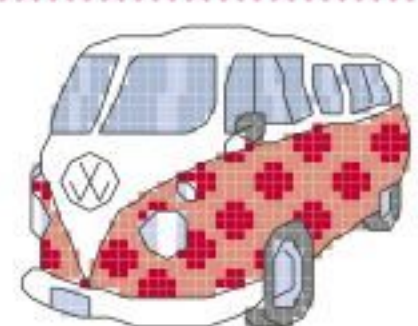
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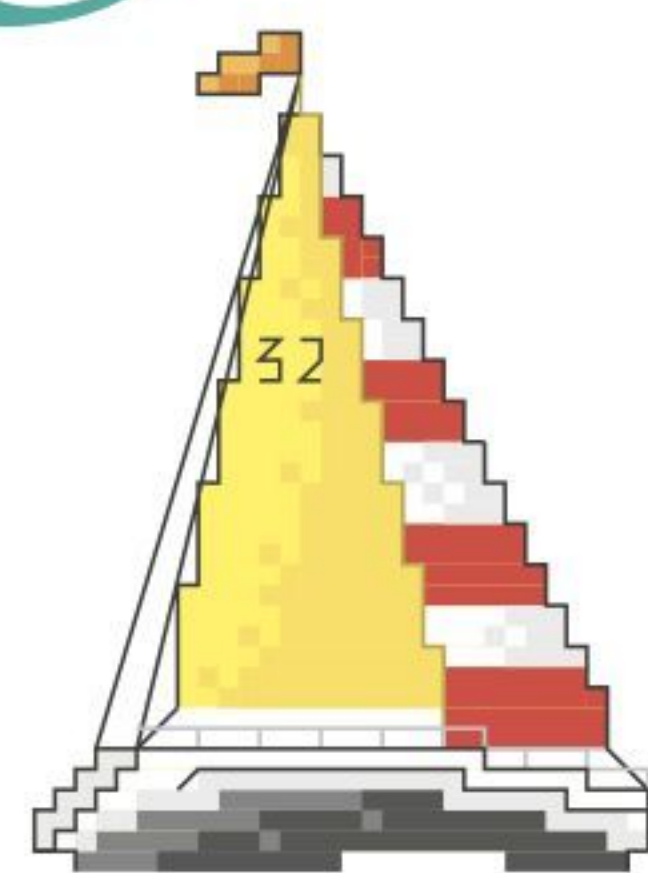
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# Summer poppies

Bring cheer to your home, and contemplation to your stitching time, with this magnificent cushion



Designed by Carol Thornton

Poppies are a welcome reminder of summer and their scarlet papery leaves and intense dotted centres are easy to spot in the long meadow grass. This flower makes a wonderful subject for cross stitch, as Carol's cushion demonstrates. The flowers are so eye-catching, with their vivid red petals set atop elegant stems, especially against a summer

sky-blue background as provided by the evenweave fabric. Carol's design is densely stitched and uses lots of fractionals to give the flowers a realistic shape, so the first part of your stitching will be quite time-consuming. However, the backstitch is minimal, so will be finished in a jiffy. Your completed cushion will look at home in any room, and bring the summer inside.

## Stitching Factbox

**Stitching time:**  
Approx 50 hours

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

**Level:** Intermediate

## You will need

**Threads:** Stranded cotton, as listed in the key

**Needle:** Size 26 tapestry needle

**Fabric:** 28-count blue hand dyed effect evenweave, measuring 41x41cm (16x16in) available from [www.sewitall.com](http://www.sewitall.com)

**Extras:** Backing fabric of your choice and cushion pad to fit from local stores

## Tip

Bind your hoop or frame with thin ribbon to prevent it from marking the fabric







A beautiful  
summer's  
cushion

With its bold red blooms,  
this cushion is guaranteed  
to brighten up even the  
darkest room in the house

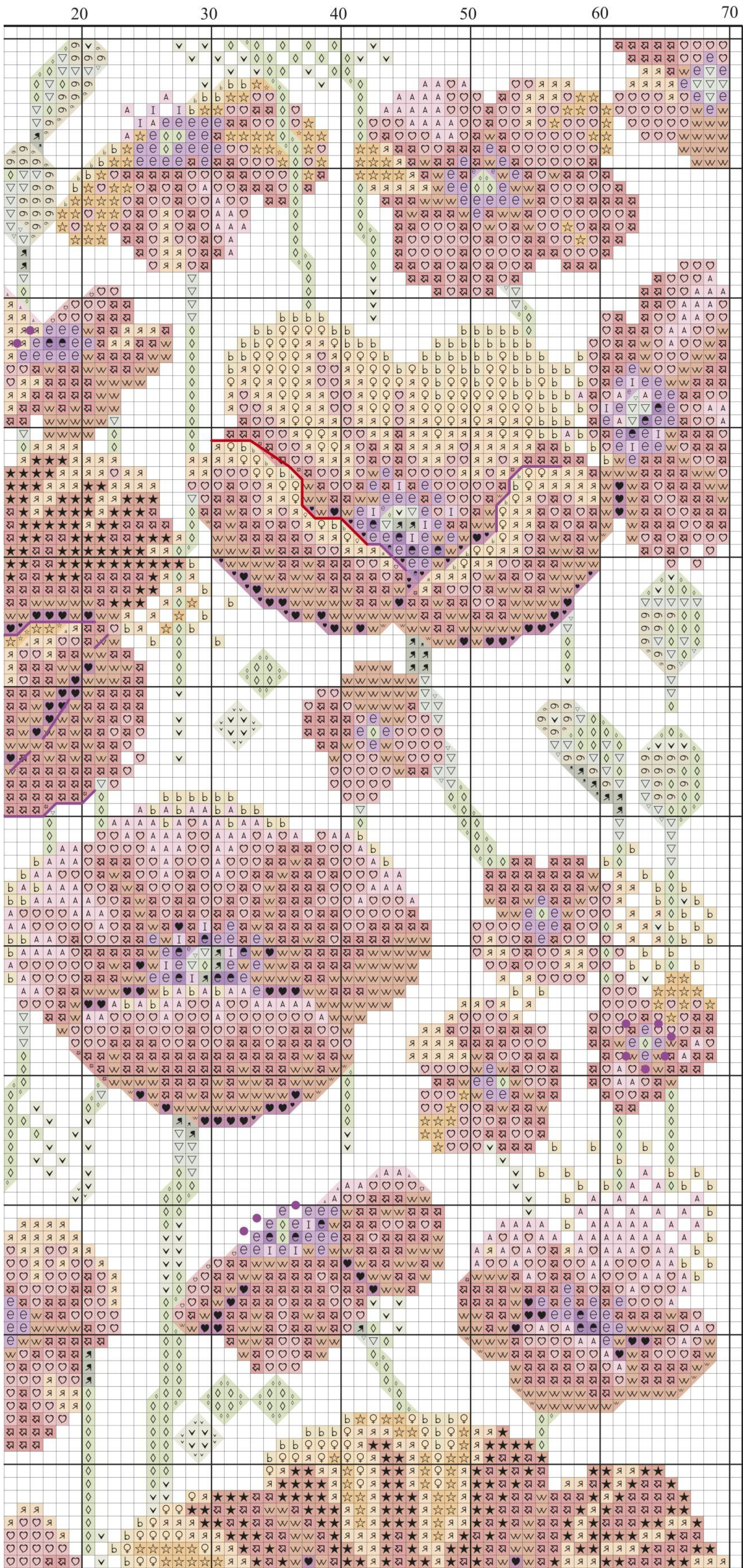


For your home



Top left





Top right

## How to stitch the pretty poppies design

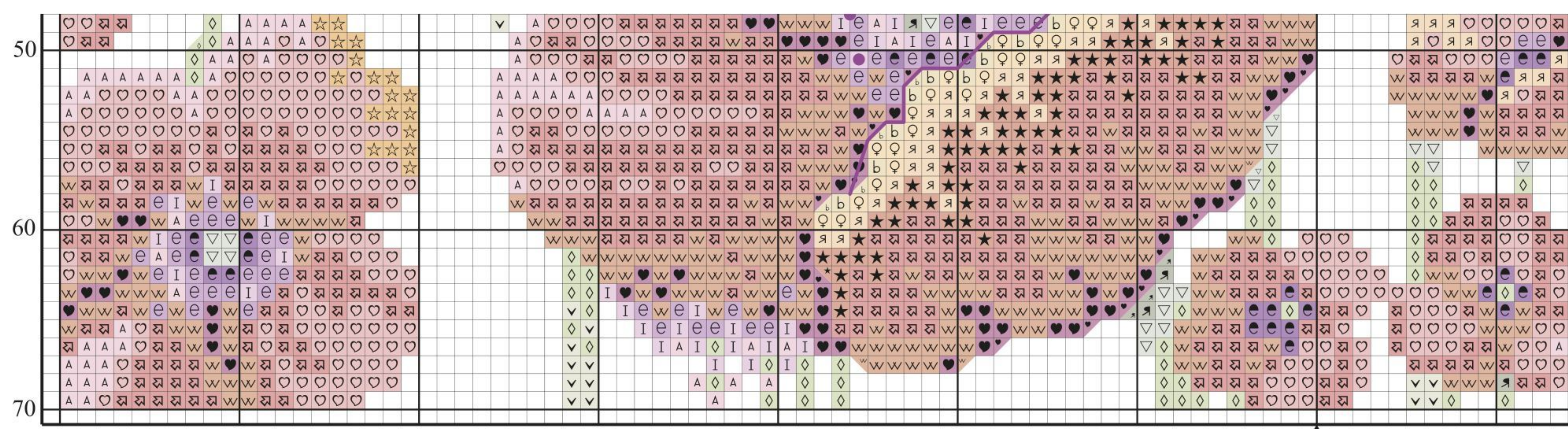
- 1 Find the centre of your fabric by folding it in half both horizontally and vertically. Follow the arrows on the chart to find the centre of the design and start stitching from here, working your way outwards.
- 2 Work the cross stitch over two threads of the fabric, using two strands of cotton. For every tiny symbol you see, work a fractional stitch.
- 3 Add the backstitch detail using one strand of cotton. Two different shades are used, so check the key to see which to thread your needle with.
- 4 Work the French knots on the design in one strand of dark mauve cotton. For help with these, see p147.
- 5 Check over your finished stitching and prepare it for making up into a cushion or framing it for the wall.

### Stitching close-up

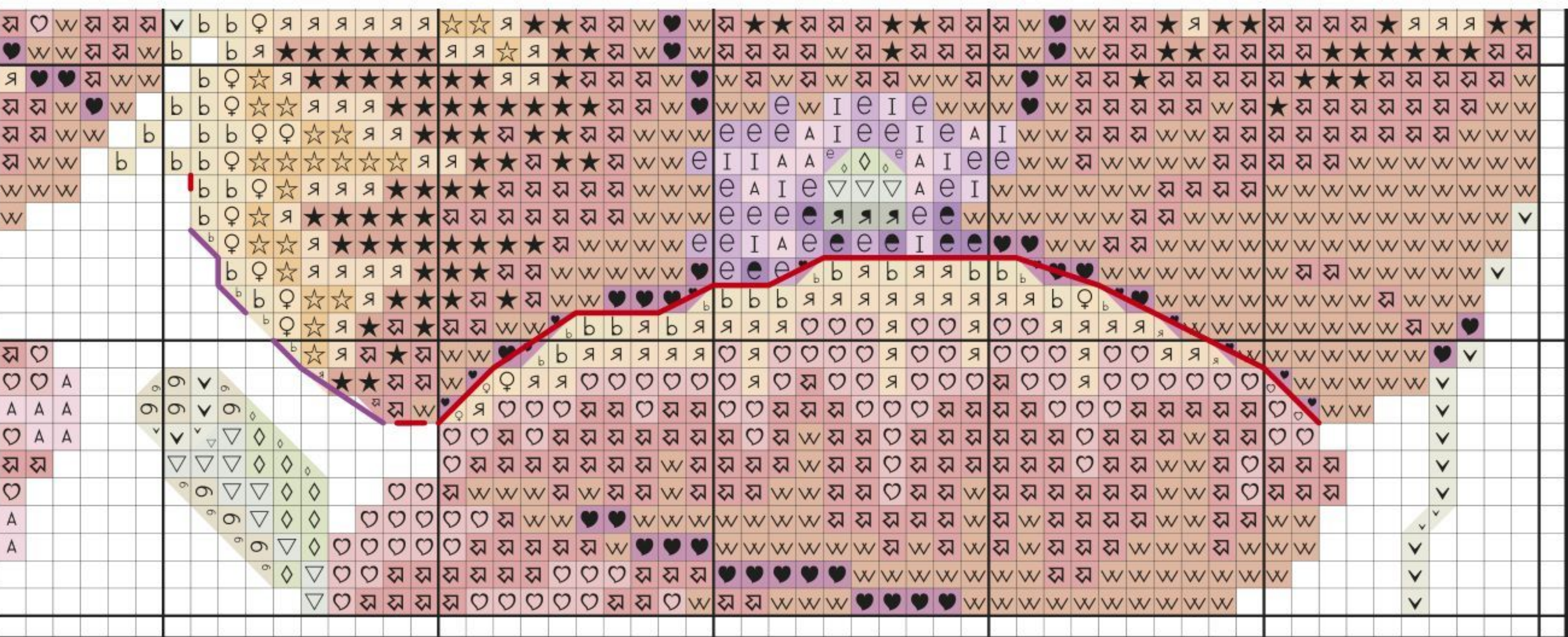
The poppies look so striking set against the blue fabric background, which is reminiscent of a blue summer sky. However, the poppies would look equally lovely stitched on white fabric or another shade, such as a soft summery yellow, if that's what you'd prefer.







Bottom left



Bottom right



### Stitching close-up

This design has hardly any backstitch. You'll see the design coming to life as you stitch it, rather than just at the end. As there's not a lot of backstitch, you can add it as you go along if you prefer, rather than last of all.



“You could stitch a portion of this design to create a smaller cushion if you like, or a pretty card for a loved one”  
Heather Nugent, charting assistant

### Poppy cushion key

✂ Cross stitch in two strands

	Anchor	DMC	Madeira	
♡	33	3706	409	light pink
W	47	321	511	dark red
A	55	603	609	pink
I	97	553	708	light mauve
e	100	3834	805	mauve
●	102	550	714	dark mauve
▽	213	524	1511	light green
◇	214	368	2604	green
☆	314	741	202	orange
я	328	3341	302	peach
★	332	946	207	dark orange
b	361	738	2013	light tan
○	392	841	1906	brown
▽	876	163	1703	light pine green
я	878	501	1704	pine green
♥	1029	915	2608	magenta
♀	1047	402	2307	ginger
☒	1098	3801	212	red

✂ Backstitch in one strand

—	102	550	714	dark mauve
—	1029	915	2608	magenta

✂ French knots in one strand

●	102	550	714	dark mauve
---	-----	-----	-----	------------

**STITCH COUNT** 140 high x 140 wide  
**DESIGN AREA** 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 25.5x25.5cm (10x10in)  
**SKEINS NEEDED** 2x33 (light pink), 2x47 (dark red), 2x1098 (red)  
This design was stitched using Anchor stranded cotton on 28-count evenweave over two threads of the fabric



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# Time to stitch!

Remind everyone to enjoy every minute of each day by stitching this beautiful clock to decorate your home



Designed by Lesley Teare

**B**e it savouring the bright sunshine of a glorious spring morning, or just getting away from it all with a relaxing cup of tea, Lesley's uplifting pattern is a great way to add positivity to your daily routine. Just think – next time you're rushing around and look up to check the time, you'll be greeted by a selection of sunny blooms in your favourite stitch, which

is surely a poetic prompt to appreciate all those little things we take for granted. With a soft, muted colour palette worked in simple whole cross stitches and backstitch, you can relax and unwind as you bring each pretty flower to life. And, as you work your way round the sweet selection of flora, decorated here and there with contented bumble bees, your stitching will blossom before your eyes.

## Stitching Factbox

**Stitching time:**  
Approx 30 hours

**Type of stitches:**  
Cross stitch,  
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 33x33cm (13x13in)

**Extras:** Iron-on interfacing and a backing fabric of your choice. Wooden hoop measuring 23cm (9in) and clock mechanism, both from [www.sewandso.co.uk](http://www.sewandso.co.uk)

Whole  
stitches  
only



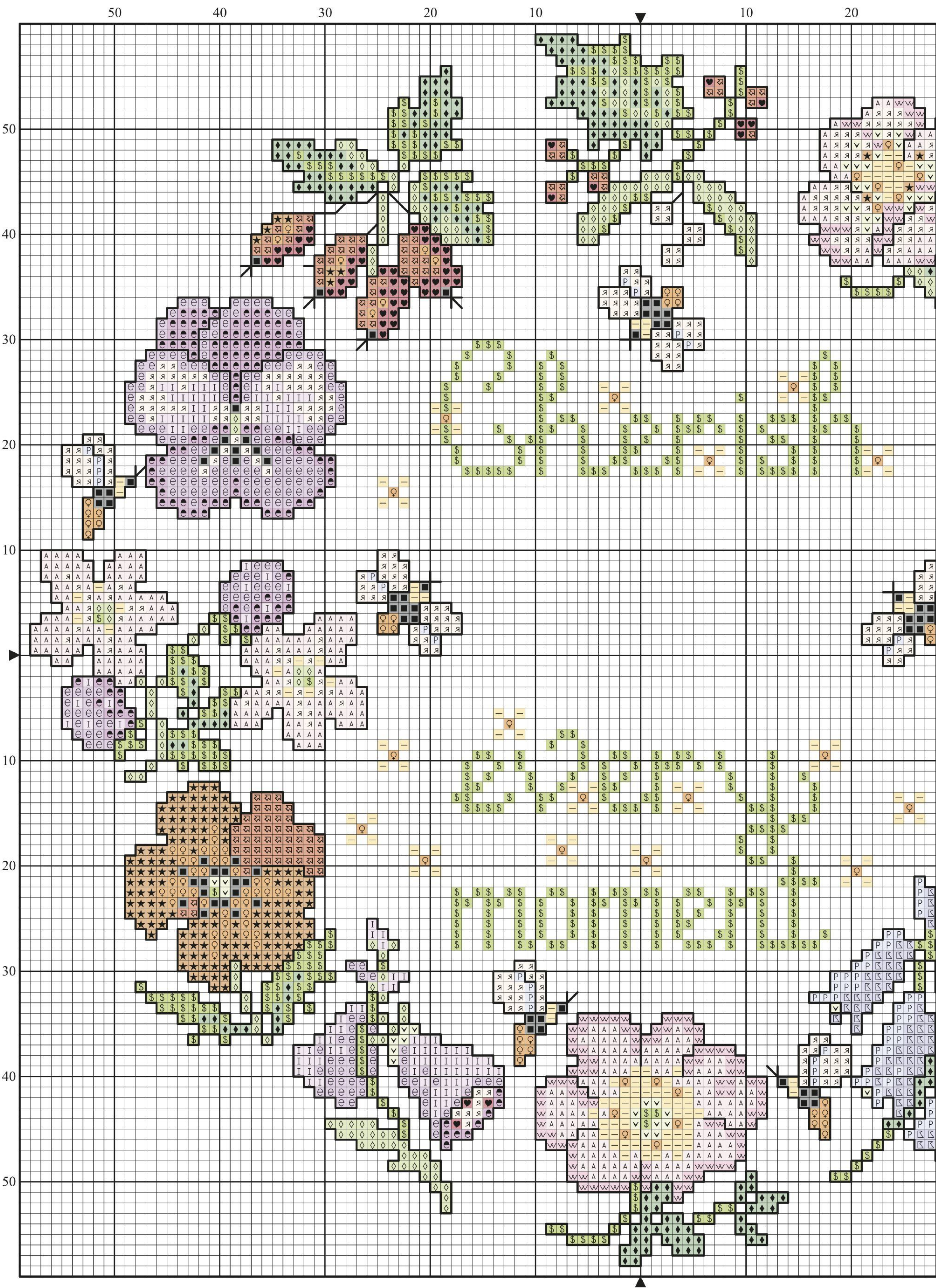
## Tip

Trimming your aida is easy, simply draw around a large dinner plate as a template. Measure your plate then mark your cutting line in pencil on the back of the fabric

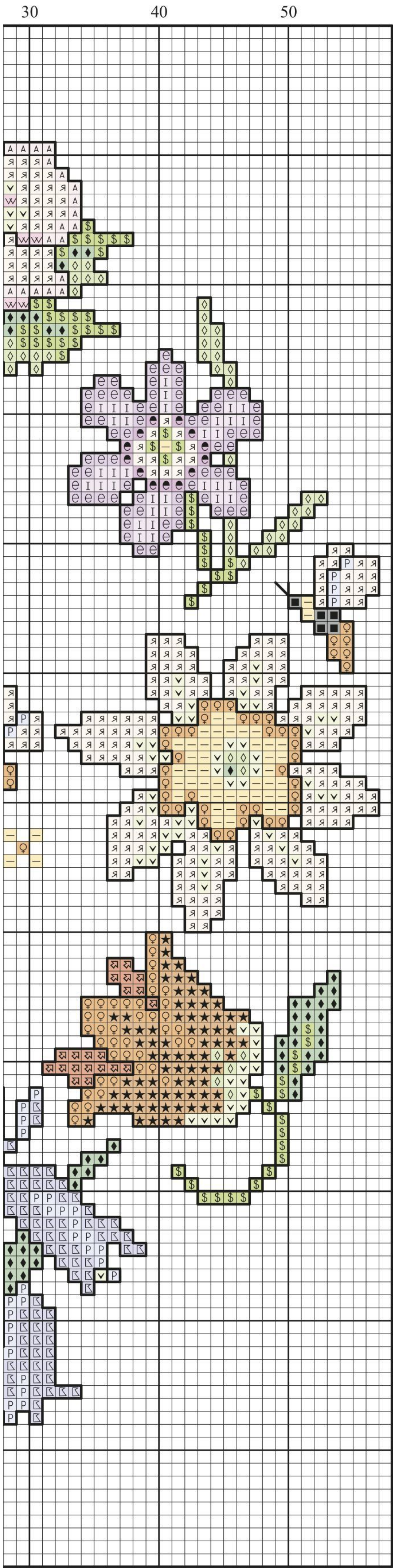


Let the beauty of nature and its array of floral delights cheer your home and your heart, every day









“Although it’s lovely to be able to hang a stitched picture on your wall, sometimes it’s nice to try something new, like this charming clock. Don’t forget, you could also pick out individual motifs to stitch for cards or gift tags, too”  
Lesley Teare, designer

Clock key

✕ Cross stitch in two strands				
	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
я	ecru	926	2404	cream
⌘	156	939	2702	lavender blue
P	157	120	907	flax blue
◇	164	240	1209	light green
⦿	209	98	803	lilac
I	211	342	801	light lilac
■	310	403	2400	black
♥	326	59	508	rose pink
⌘	349	1098	212	red
\$	703	238	1307	green
★	720	326	309	burnt orange
♀	740	316	204	orange
—	744	301	112	yellow
∨	772	259	1604	grass green
A	818	23	502	light pink
◆	911	205	1214	mint green
∩	3689	49	607	pink
⦿	3837	111	713	dark lilac
✕ Backstitch in one strand				
—	310	403	2400	black

STITCH COUNT

117 high x 115 wide

DESIGN AREA

14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 21.5x21cm (8½x8¼in)

This design was stitched using DMC stranded cotton

### How to make a clock

- 1 When you’ve finished all of the stitching, iron some lightweight interfacing onto the back of your design and trim to a circle measuring 29cm (11½in) in diameter.
- 2 Place your stitched piece inside your hoop with the screw at the top – ours is 23cm (9in) in diameter.
- 3 Snip a tiny hole in the centre of your design and carefully feed the clock movement through. Follow the manufacturer’s instructions carefully to ensure the mechanism is secure and turning smoothly.
- 4 Back with a circle of fabric or felt, sewing in place with small stitches. If you want to hang it, add a ribbon loop to the top and now it’s ready to display.





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# A ring of poppies

Create your own collector's item with this stunning ceramic-inspired piece, echoing a hand-painted plate adorned with poppies



Designed by Durene Jones

Whether it's a field in full bloom, or just a single red flower on a grassy verge, the splendour of the poppy never fails to turn heads. With its delicate yet striking scarlet petals, this pretty blossom has long inspired artists to capture its likeness, and now you can too, in stitches. Worked in the style of a fine china plate, Durene's circular stitch frames

a scene of poppies with the most beautiful border, accented with subtle white daisies to set it off. This is a great project for beginners looking to take on a larger design for the first time, as you'll quickly build up blocks of bold colour with whole cross stitches, and then have the satisfaction of watching each section come to life as you add the backstitch detail and finish with a truly beautiful piece.

## Stitching Factbox

**Stitching time:**  
Approx 45 hours

**Type of stitches:**  
Cross stitch,  
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 30x30cm (12x12in)

**Extras:** Wooden hoop measuring 20cm (8in) from [www.craftdepartment.com](http://www.craftdepartment.com)

Whole  
stitches  
only





## Tip

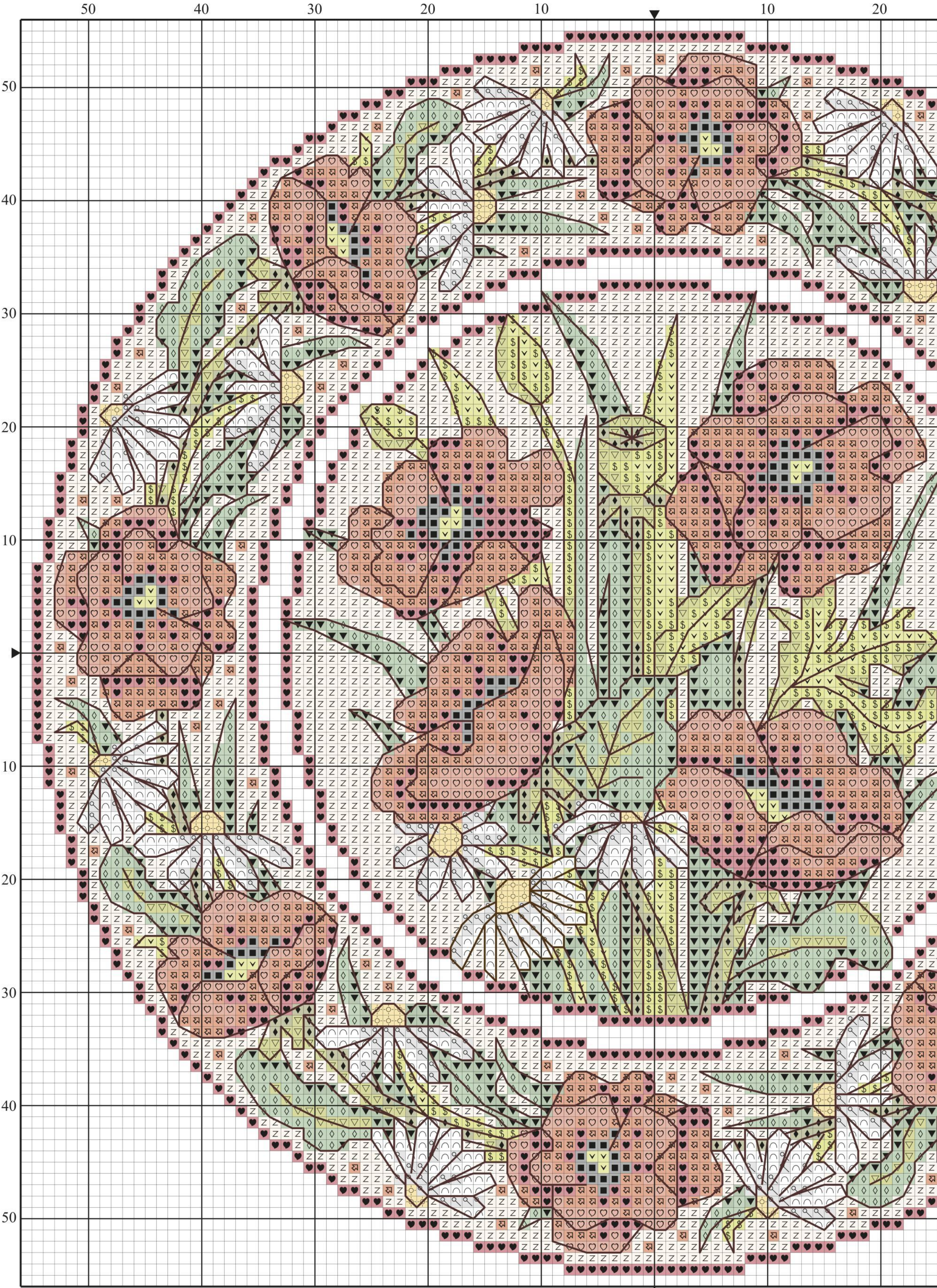
Use a larger embroidery hoop when stitching your design, otherwise you'll find it tricky to work the border



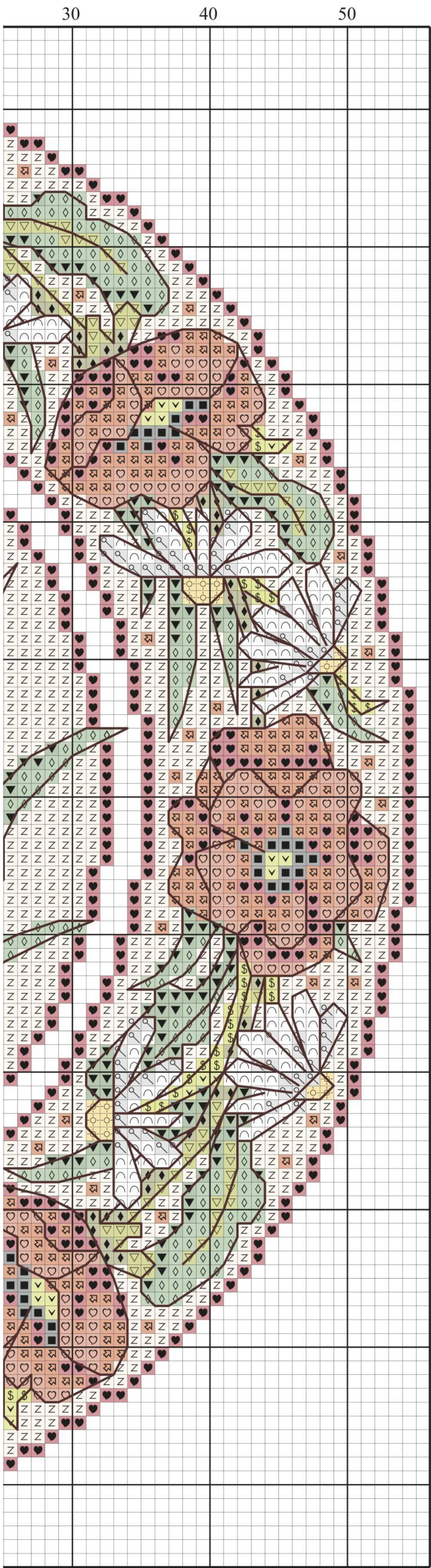
Those with an eye for timeless splendour will love this classically styled design showing off the pretty poppy



Floral portraits







How to use a hoop

Using a hoop is easy for a quick way to display your project! Trim your finish to at least 5cm (2in) larger than the size of the hoop. Undo the screw to take off the outer ring. Lay your fabric over the inner ring, then push the outer ring down, making sure the screw is at the top. Pull the sandwiched fabric taut and re-tighten the screw.

Poppy plate key

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	blanc	2	2402	white
z	ecru	926	2404	cream
■	310	403	2400	black
▣	349	1098	212	red
♡	351	10	214	light red
⦿	415	398	1802	grey
◆	580	267	1608	dark olive green
▽	581	280	1609	olive green
⦿	725	305	113	yellow
♥	815	44	513	dark red
⌘	907	255	1308	parrot green
▼	909	230	1303	dark mint green
◇	911	205	1214	mint green
▽	3819	279	1610	lime green

✕ Backstitch in one strand

—	838	380	2005	brown
---	-----	-----	------	-------

STITCH COUNT

110 high x 110 wide

DESIGN AREA

14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 20x20cm (7¾x7¾in)

SKEINS NEEDED

2**ecru** (cream)

This design was stitched using DMC stranded cotton



“I’m always drawn to vibrant colours, so the bright red poppy is definitely one of my favourite flowers! Plus, with its symbolic connection with remembrance, it holds extra special meaning for all of us”  
Durene Jones, designer



# Blue birds

Say hello to spring with this delightful hanging, worked on sky blue linen, in a range of stitches



Designed by Durene Jones

There's nothing like a cheery springtime project to put you in a happy mood. This season is a time of renewal and optimism, and has inspired many a poem or work of art. This lively springtime hanging is just the way to lift your mood and give your home a new lease of life. Durene has chosen a

canvas of sky blue linen, which provides an instant background. It's also easier to work neat fractionals on evenweave, and these stitches are found on the bird and butterflies. The rest of the design is worked in whole cross stitches, half cross stitch, backstitch and French knots, so there's plenty to keep your needle busy and you stitch happy.

## Stitching Factbox

**Stitching time:** Approx 50 hours

**Type of stitches:** Cross stitch, fractionals, half cross stitch, backstitch, French knots

**Level:** Advanced

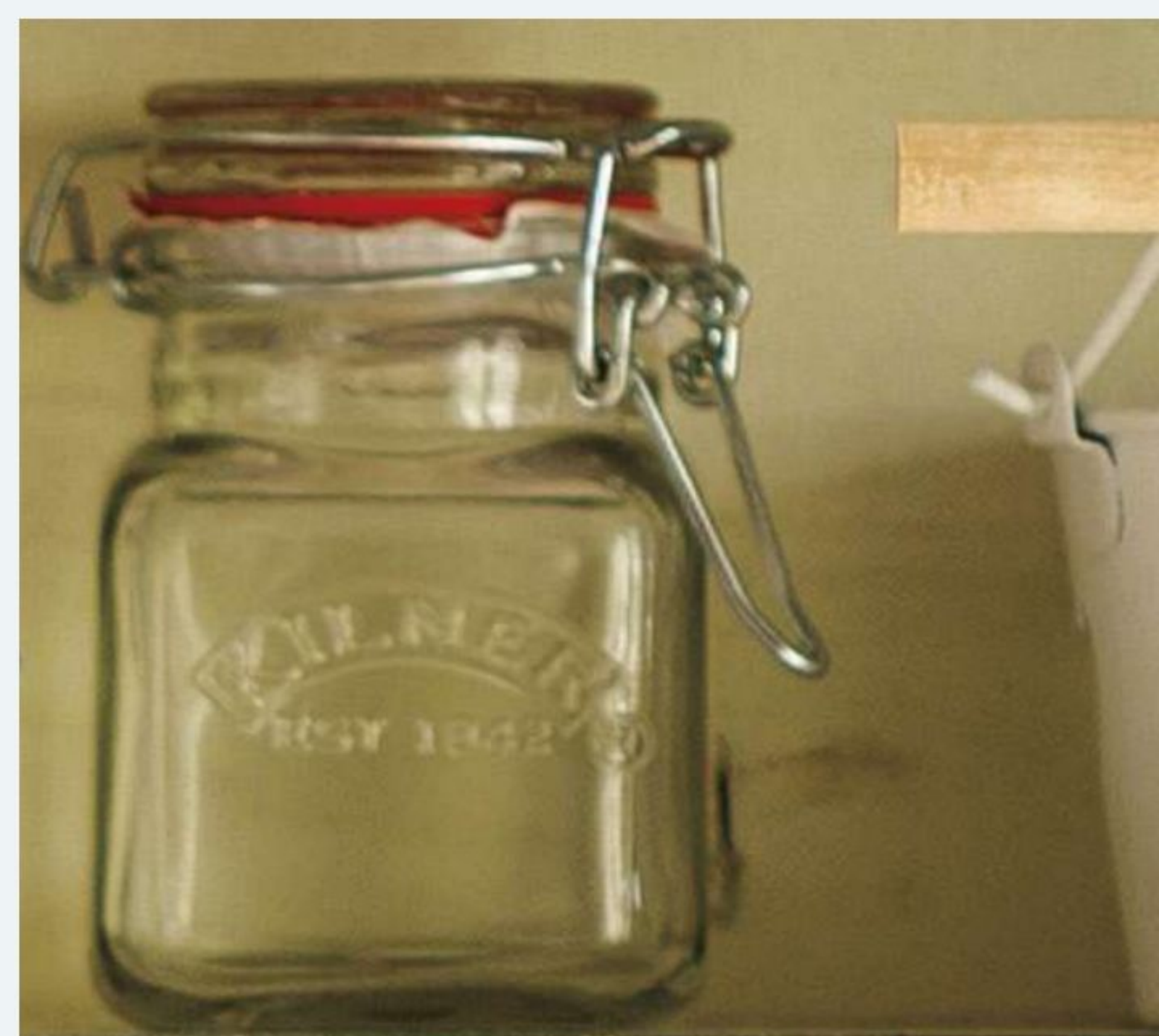
## You will need

**Threads:** Stranded cotton, as listed in the key

**Needle:** Size 26 tapestry needle

**Fabric:** 28-count ice blue cashel linen measuring 36x30cm (14¼x12in) available from [www.sewandso.co.uk](http://www.sewandso.co.uk)

**Extras:** Backing fabric of your choice, dowel rod and ribbon from local craft shops



## Tip

Always pull threads away from their skein one by one to avoid tangles and knots



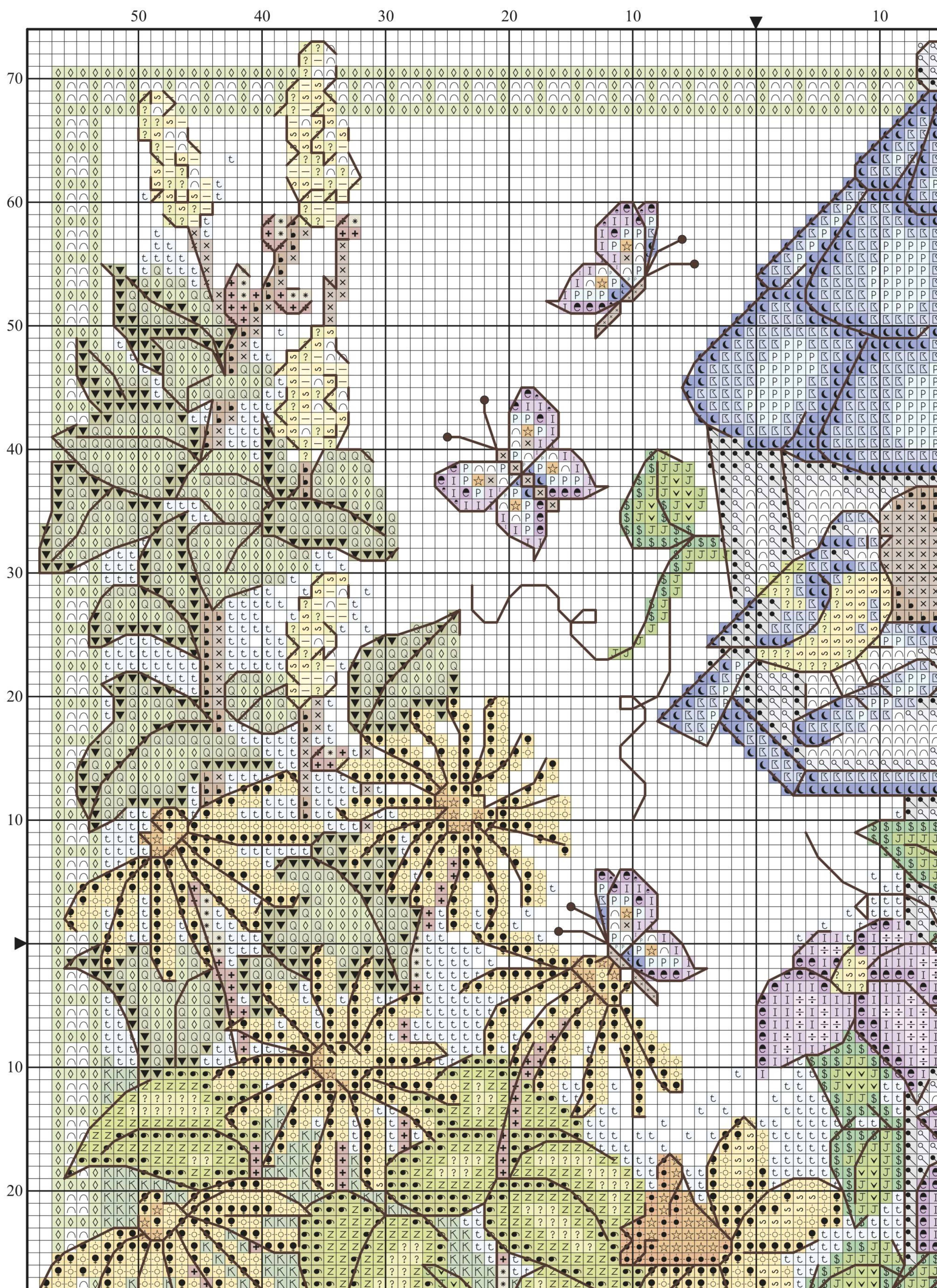
Stitch this  
as a gift for  
a keen bird  
watcher



Display this in your kitchen, or  
anywhere that could do with a  
sprinkling of springtime

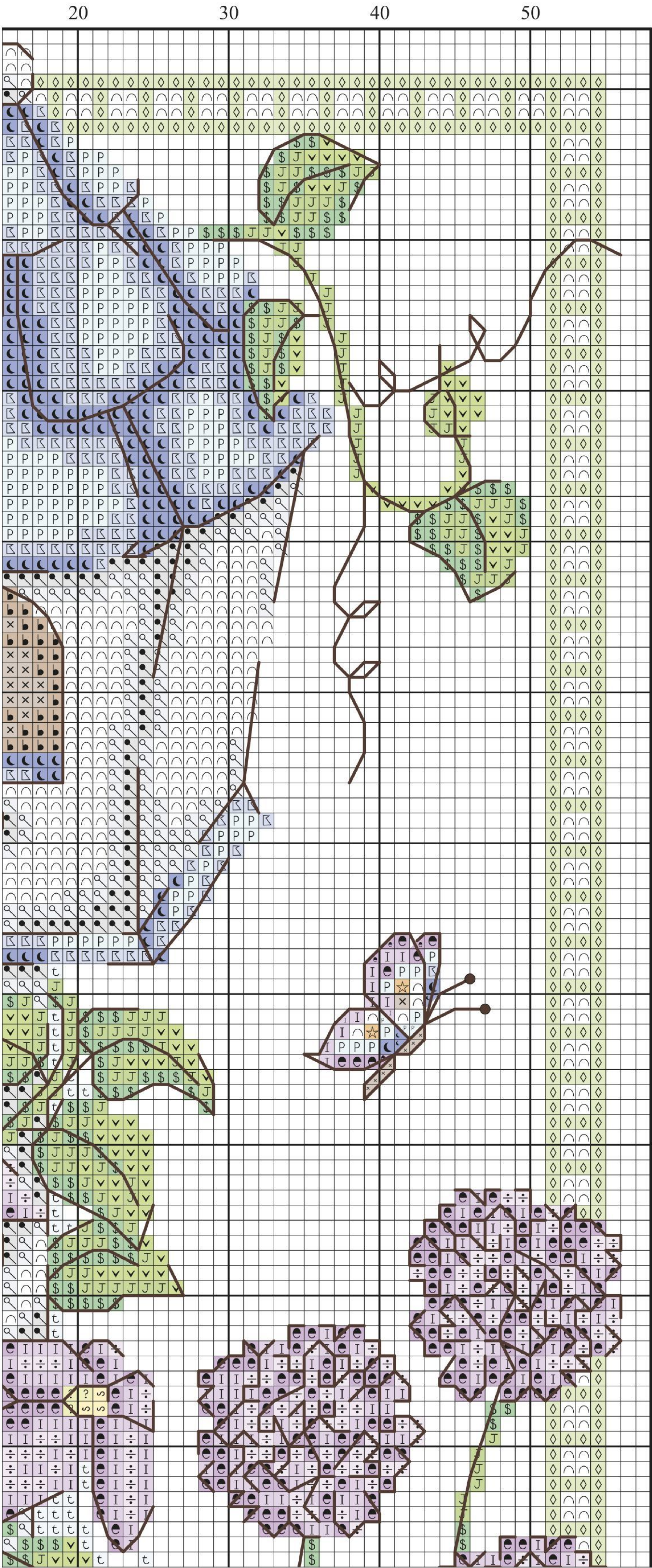


## Floral portraits



Top left





Top right

### Birdhouse key

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	blanc	2	2402	white
◇	164	240	1209	light green
?	165	278	1414	light lime green
Z	166	280	1611	lime green
●	208	99	804	dark lilac
I	209	98	803	lilac
÷	211	342	801	light lilac
●	415	398	1802	grey
●	581	281	1609	dark lime green
\$	700	229	1302	dark leaf green
J	702	226	1306	leaf green
✓	703	238	1307	light leaf green
●	725	305	113	dark yellow
⊙	726	295	109	yellow
S	727	293	112	light yellow
☆	741	304	202	orange
●	762	234	1804	light grey
●	798	131	912	dark blue
P	800	144	908	very light blue
□	809	130	909	blue
●	947	330	205	dark orange
Q	989	241	1401	green
—	3078	292	102	very light yellow
▼	3346	267	1407	dark green
+	3778	338	402	terracotta
●	3781	1088	2003	brown
*	3782	899	1911	light brown
×	3790	393	1905	stone grey

✕ Half cross stitch in one strand

↗	562	210	1205	dark sea green
K	563	208	1207	sea green
t	813	140	910	light blue

✕ Backstitch in one strand

—	838	380	2005	dark brown
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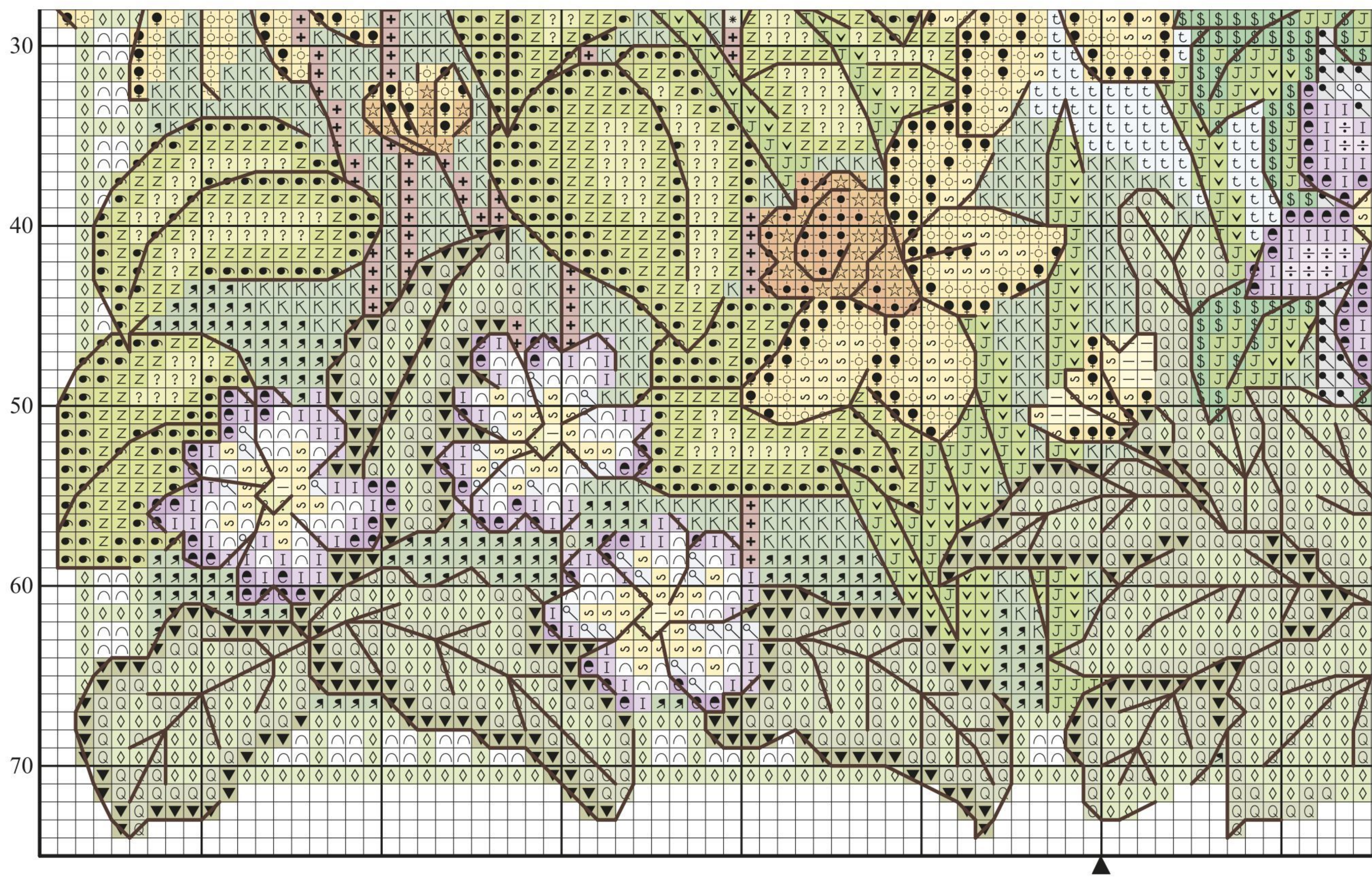
✕ French knots in one strand

●	838	380	2005	dark brown
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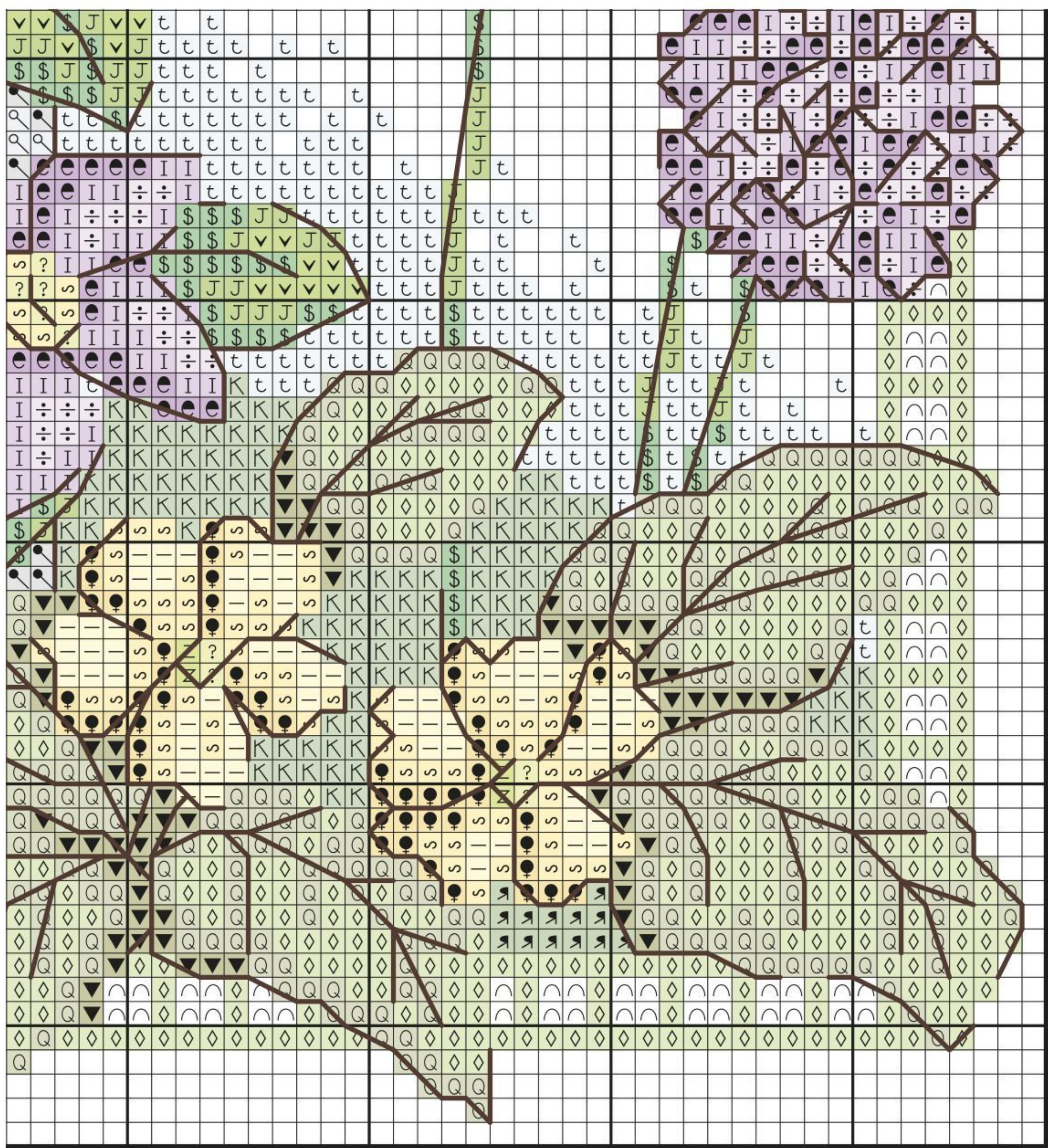
**STITCH COUNT** 147 high x 115 wide  
**DESIGN AREA** 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 27x21cm (10½x8¼in)  
This design was stitched using DMC stranded cotton on 28-count evenweave over two threads of the fabric

“This makes a lovely design to hang in the bedroom and wake up to each morning, bringing a welcome burst of early spring sunshine!”  
Durene Jones, designer





Bottom left



Bottom right

## How to turn your stitched piece into a hanging

- 1 Once you have finished stitching, wash and press your stitched piece. Trim your stitching to measure 31x26cm (12¼x10¼in).
- 2 Cut a piece of backing fabric to the same size as your stitched piece. Then cut another two pieces of backing fabric, smaller this time, each measuring 12x8cm (4¾x3in) for the tabs.
- 3 Fold one of the tabs in half lengthways, with right sides together, and machine-stitch along the long edge using 1 cm (¼in) seam allowance. Turn through to the right side. Repeat with the second tab and press with a steam iron.
- 4 Place your backing fabric and stitched piece together with right sides facing. Then, place the tabs at the top of the design, sandwiched between the two layers and pointing down towards the middle of the design. Pin in place.
- 5 Pin and machine stitch all the way around the edge of your design, using a 1 cm (¼in) seam allowance, and leaving a small gap for turning.
- 6 Turn through to the right side and press. Slip stitch the gap closed. Insert a dowel rod through the tabs and tie on a ribbon to finish.





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# Spring has sprung!

Our feathered friend, the blue tit, pays a special springtime visit in this glorious floral scene



Designed by Claire Comerford

The magic of the new season is clear to see in this design, from the sunshine shades of freshly picked daffodils to the soft plumage and inquisitive pose of the little blue tit down below. Tied with gingham ribbon, this beautiful bouquet is just waiting for its lucky recipient, but who will it be? You'll use a bright

palette of yellows, greens and purples to work this piece, which sings against a background of crisp white aida, and don't forget the delicate delft blues for the little bird. Half cross stitch grounds the scene, while backstitch and fractionals help to create the all-important detail in every petal and feather. What a joy from start to finish – just like spring itself!

## Stitching Factbox

**Stitching time:** Approx 40 hours

**Type of stitches:** Cross stitch, fractionals, half cross stitch, backstitch, French knots

**Level:** Intermediate

## Tip

Keep your frame, and your mount if you're using one, neutral to let the colours of this design take centre stage

## You will need

**Threads:** Stranded cotton, as listed in the key

**Needle:** Size 24 tapestry needle

**Fabric:** 14-count white aida measuring 35x35cm (13¾x13¾in)

**Extras:** Frame of your choice with a minimum aperture of 25x25cm (10x10in)





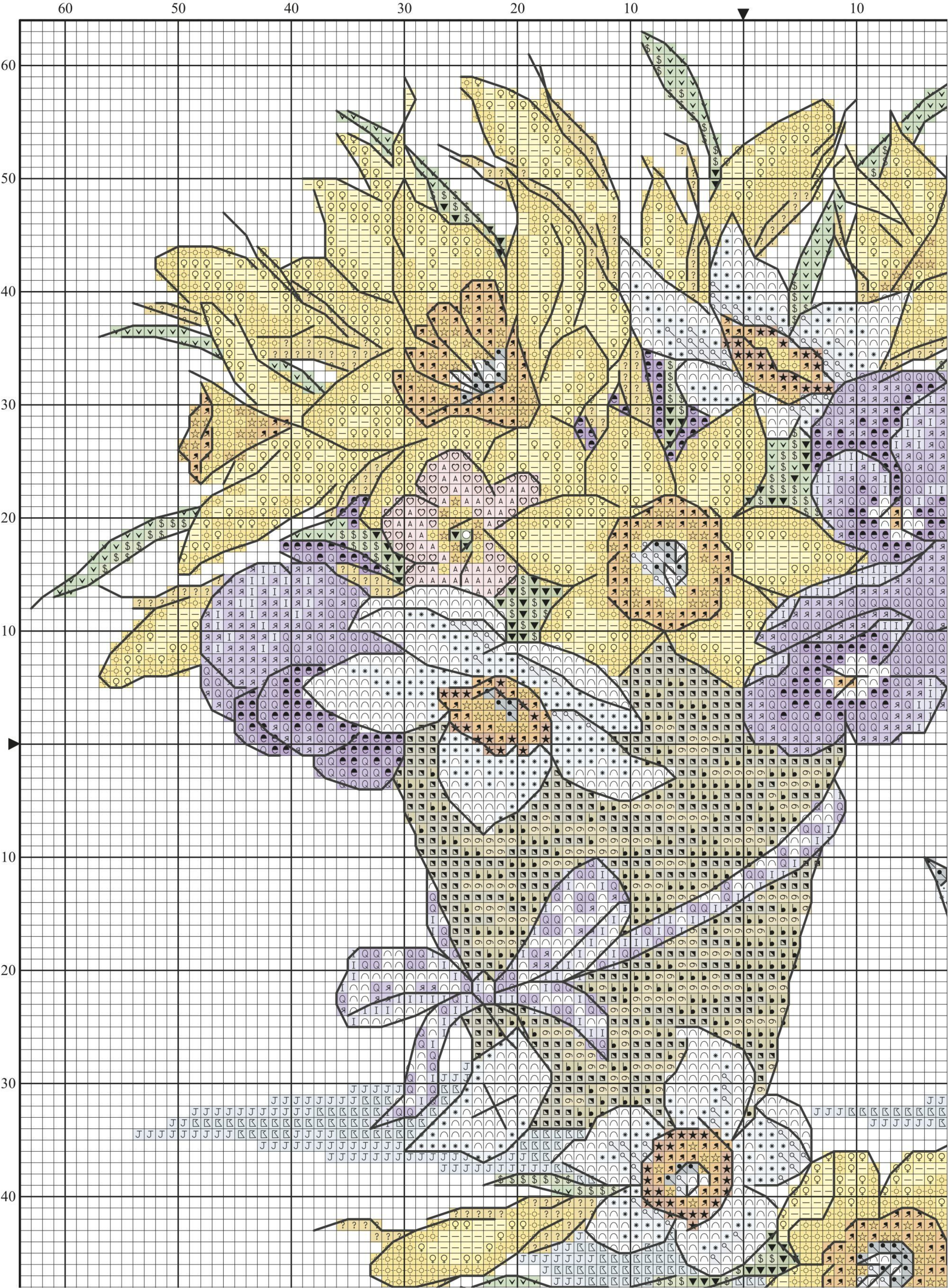
Great  
shading  
and detail



Bring the outdoors in and enjoy stitching  
this gorgeous project as the season of new  
beginnings unfolds around you

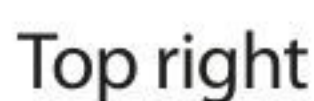


Floral portraits



Top left





✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	blanc	2	2402	white
▼	164	240	1209	light green
♀	307	289	104	yellow
■	310	403	2400	black
🔍	317	400	1714	grey
⦿	333	119	903	dark purple
⦿	340	118	902	light purple
🔍	415	398	1802	light grey
👤	420	374	2104	tan
👤	422	943	2102	light tan
☼	444	291	106	dark yellow
—	445	288	103	light yellow
↗	741	304	202	orange
☆	742	303	114	tangerine
*	762	234	1804	very light grey
P	813	140	910	blue
🌙	826	146	906	dark blue
t	827	160	1013	light blue
👤	869	375	2105	dark tan
★	900	326	208	dark orange
A	963	73	502	light pink
▼	987	244	1403	dark green
\$	989	241	1401	green
♥	3716	25	503	pink
Q	3746	1030	2702	purple
I	3747	120	901	very light purple
?	3820	306	2509	straw

✕ Half cross stitch in two strands

Ⓚ	932	1033	1710	delft blue
Ⓝ	3752	1032	1708	light delft blue

### ✖ Backstitch in one strand

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

✖ French knots in one strand

○	blanc	2	2402	white
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**STITCH COUNT** 126 high x 126 wide

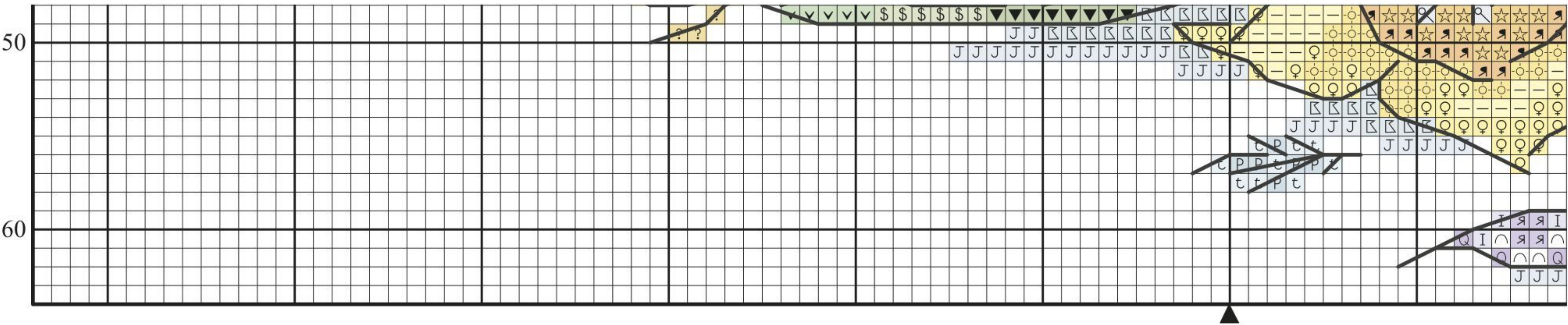
**DESIGN AREA** 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 23x23cm (9x9in)

This design was stitched using DMC stranded cotton

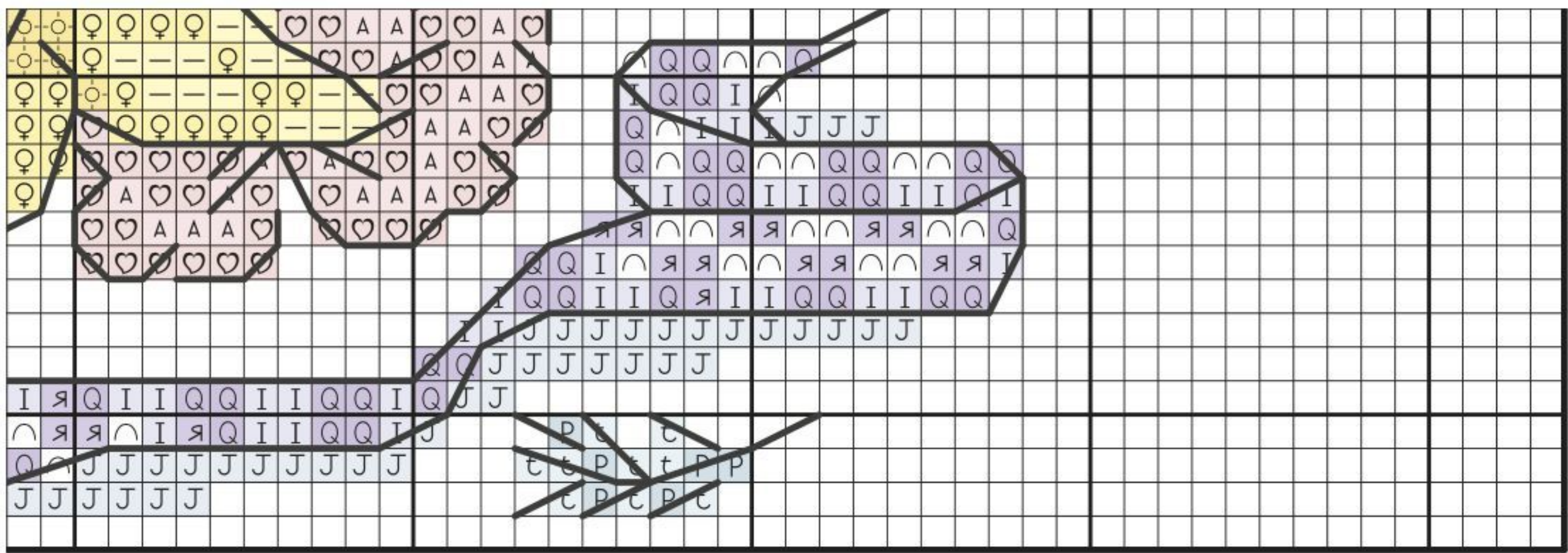
*“Claire’s designs are so fresh and bright! She really does have an eye for detail and shading and her love of nature shines through in this pretty piece”*

**Fiona Baker, technical editor**





Bottom left



Bottom right



**Tip**  
Pick out the blue tit or a single daffodil flower head to stitch a card if you're short on time

“When the daffodils start to bloom in my garden, it always lifts my spirits and gives me a feeling of new beginnings. I wanted to capture that feeling in my design. As you can see, this curious little blue tit is also enjoying the seasonal petals that are on show – isn’t he a sweetie?”  
Claire Comerford, designer

**How to add backstitch to your design**  
When you’ve finished all the cross stitches, load your needle with one strand of dark grey thread. Following the backstitch line on the chart, make your stitches by bringing your needle up in the first hole, down at second then back up at the third, stitching in a two steps forward, one step back motion. Use short lengths to prevent them fuzzing up and keep them tangle-free.





Take your pick from this elegant trio of designs – each one is embellished with metallic threads and seed beads



# Heavenly scents



Delicate violets are the perfect decoration for these pretty gifts – stitch them for your loved ones today

Designed by Ursula Michael

## You will need

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

**Needle:** Size 24 tapestry needle, beading needle

**Fabric:** 14-count white aida, 36x36cm (14x14in) and 15x15cm (6x6in) for small designs

**Extras:** Mill Hill seed beads, as listed in the key. Frame with aperture of 28x28cm (11x11in). Craft Creations square aperture card (AP53U) in violet. Backing fabric, wadding, ribbon and a button of your choice.

## Stitching Factbox

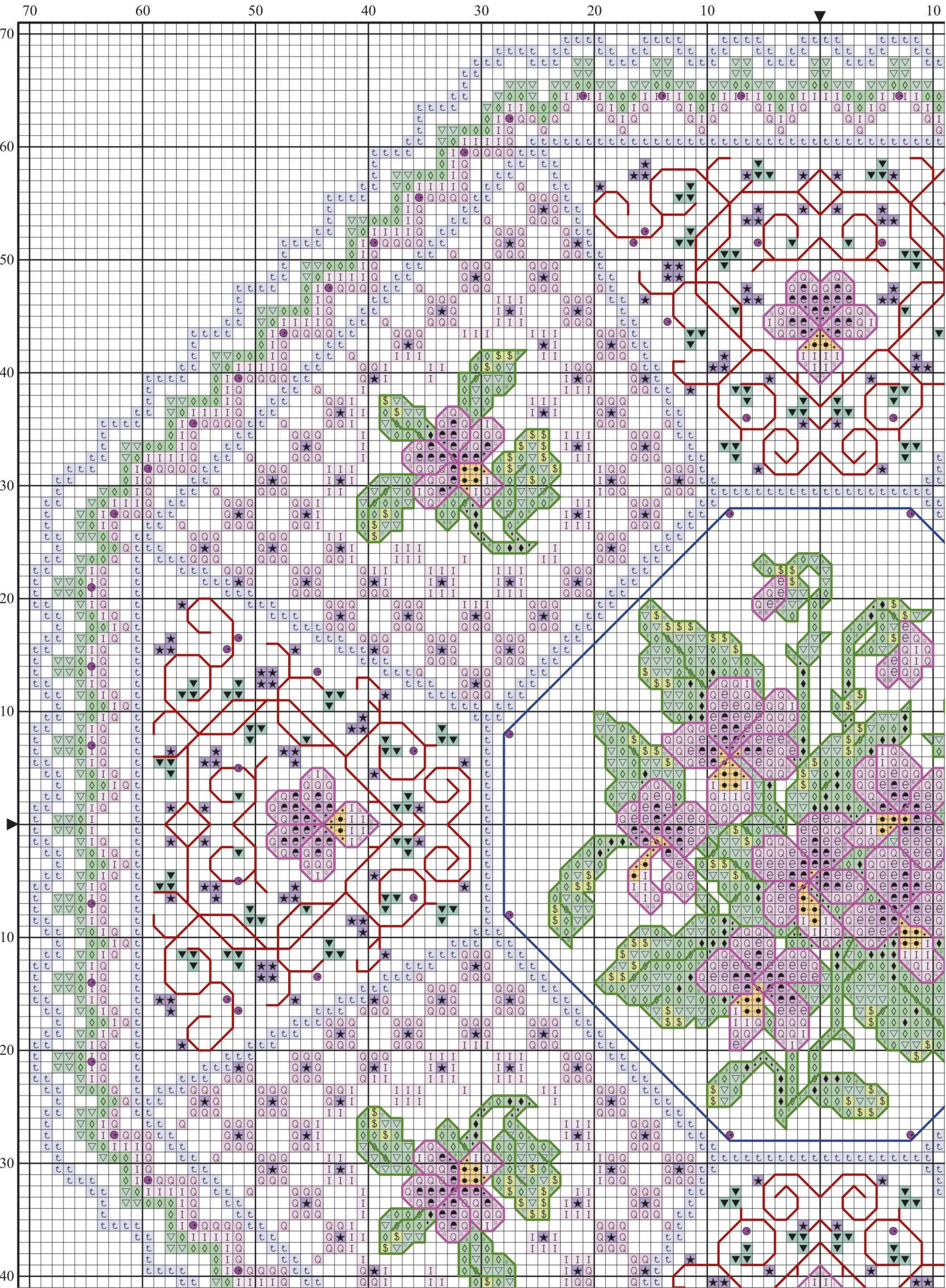
**Stitching time:**  
Approx 60 hours for set

**Type of stitches:**  
Cross stitch, fractionals, backstitch, beads

**Level:** Intermediate/advanced

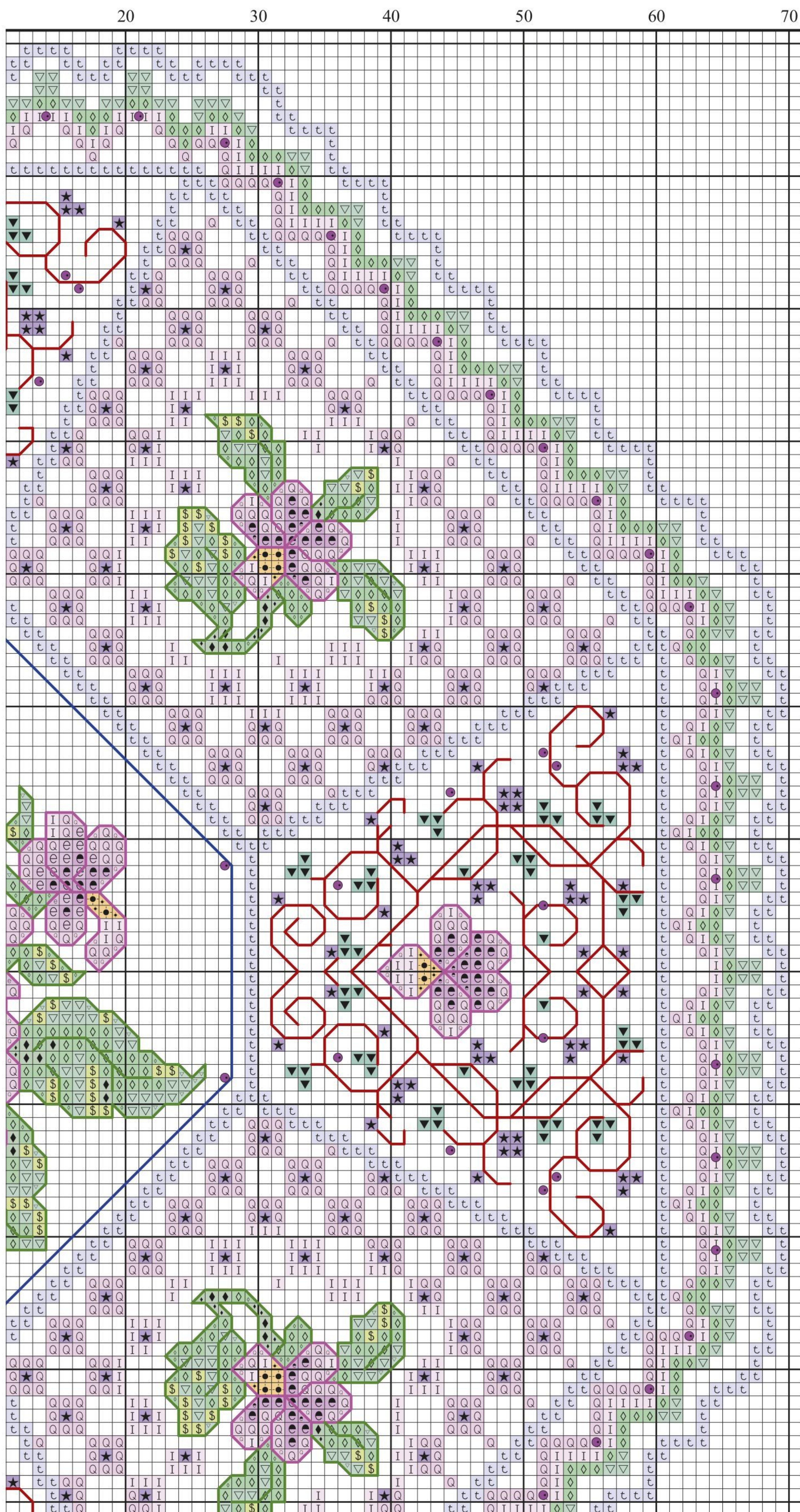


Floral portraits



Top left





## How to mount your stitching in an aperture card

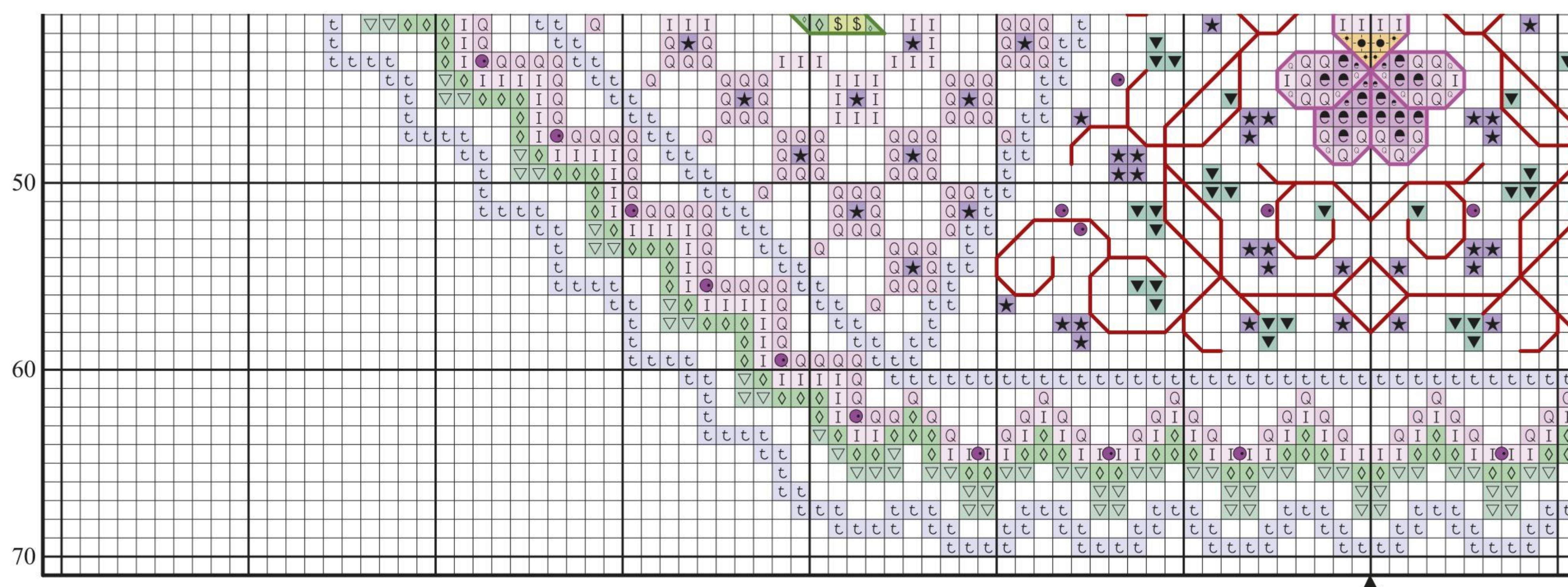
- 1 Lay your stitching face up and place the card on top, with the aperture framing the design. Move the card around slightly until you're happy with the positioning. Attach pins to the fabric to mark out the edges of the aperture.
- 2 Lift away the card and trim the fabric 1.5cm (½in) away from the pins. Leave enough fabric with which to stick the design securely inside the card. Carefully remove the pins.
- 3 On the reverse side of the card, stick strips of double-sided tape around the edge of the aperture.
- 4 Pull off the backing tape and position the aperture back over the stitched piece. When you are happy with the positioning, press the card firmly in place.
- 5 Lay the card face down and place the wadding or white paper over the back of the stitching. Stick double-sided tape to the left hand flap of the card and fold over the back of the stitching. Fold neatly over the right hand flap to finish.

### Tip

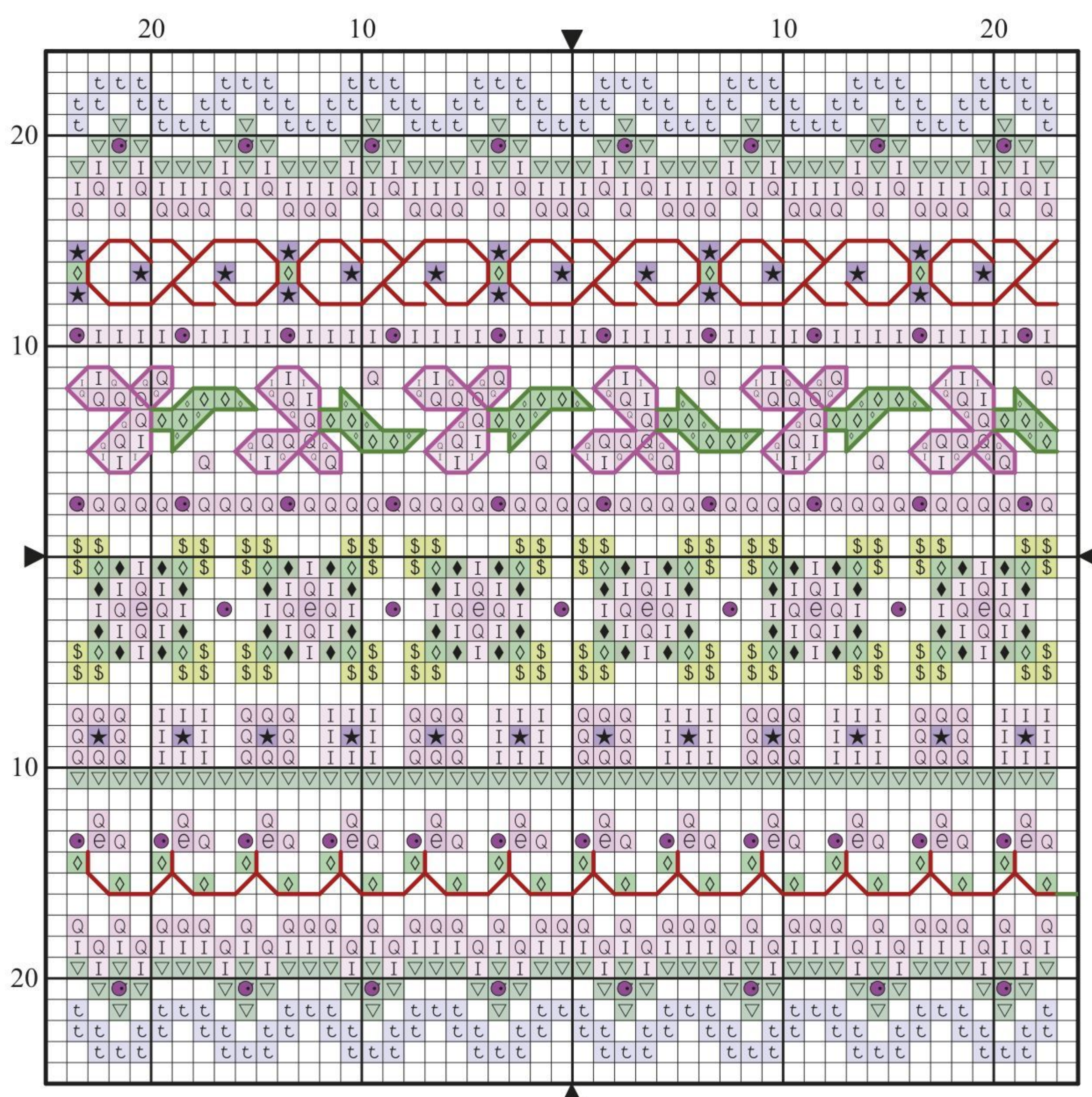
Mark the top edge of your fabric – this way you won't rotate your design accidentally and your stitches will all go in the same direction

Top right





Bottom left

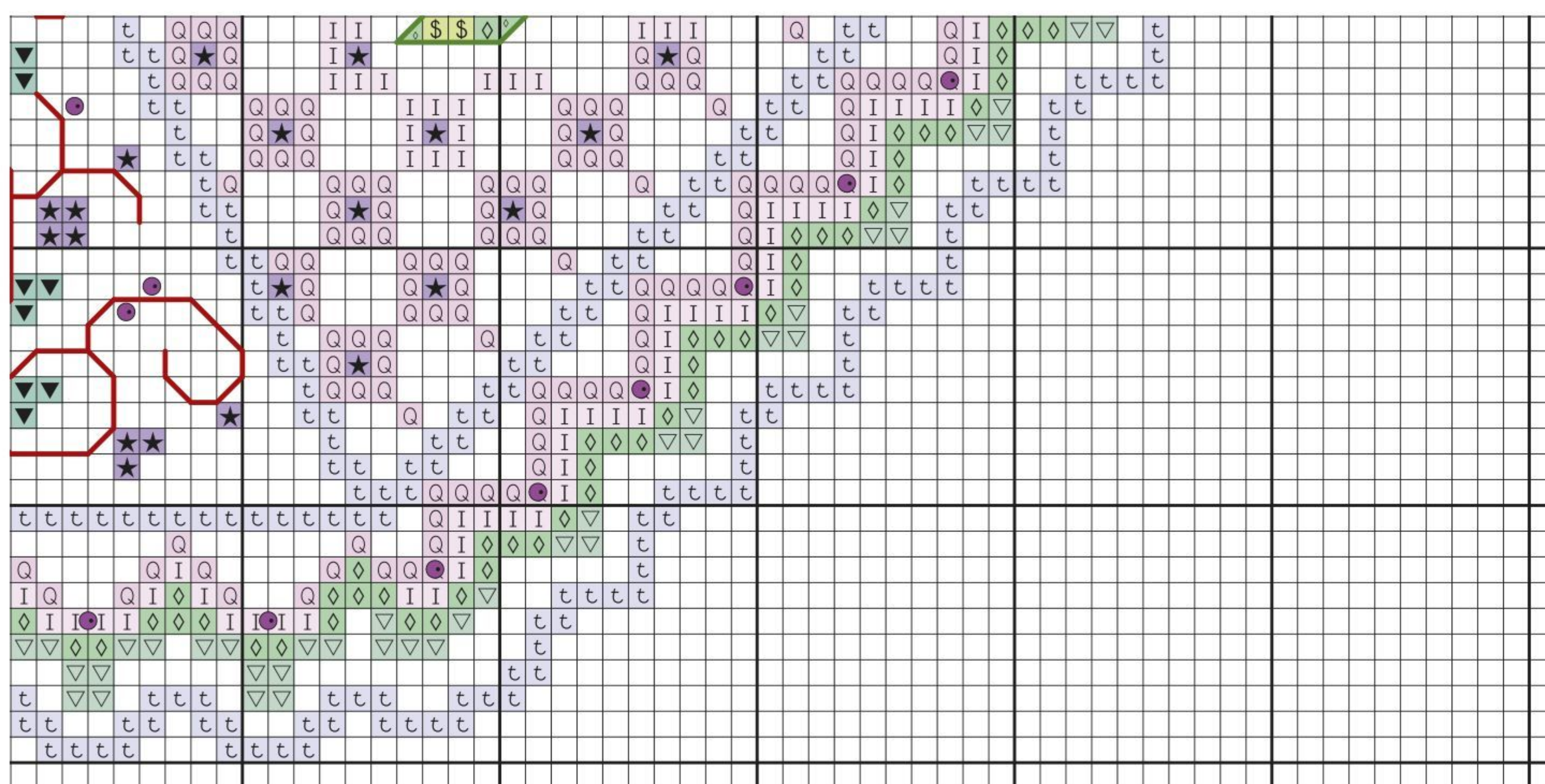


## How to make up the scented sachet

- 1 Cut around the outside of your stitching, leaving a 2cm ( $\frac{3}{4}$ in) border.
- 2 Cut a piece of backing fabric to the same size. With the right sides facing each other, pin the two pieces together.
- 3 Stitch around the edge of the square using a 2cm ( $\frac{3}{4}$ in) seam. Leave a small gap along the bottom edge ready for when it's time to turn your sachet through.
- 4 Press open the seams and trim the corners. Turn through and fill with lavender or stuffing (if using as a pincushion). Slip stitch the opening closed.
- 5 Attach a loop of ribbon to the back of the sachet, then sew on a decorative button.



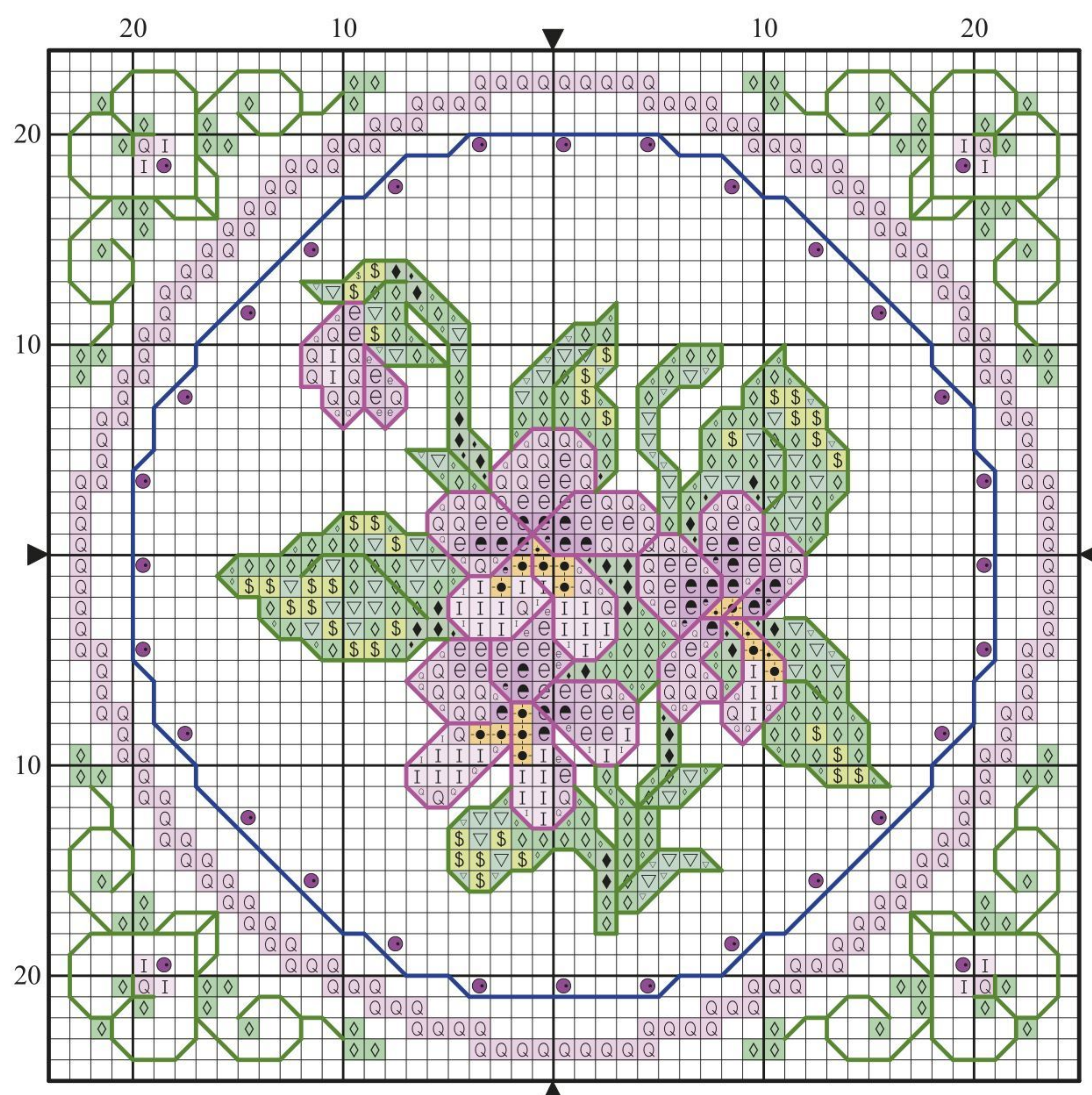




Bottom right

## Stitching close-up

When you are faced with two fractional stitches in the same square, stitch the three-quarter stitch in the dominant colour (dark violet for the violet centres) and the quarter stitch in yellow. This way, the dark violet stays in the foreground and the orange is in the background.



## Violets key


✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
I	153	103	2712	lilac
t	156	939	2702	blue
e	552	99	713	dark violet
e	553	98	712	violet
Q	554	90	711	light violet
▼	699	923	1303	emerald green
\$	704	255	1308	lime green
☀	972	298	107	orange
◆	986	246	1404	dark green
◇	988	243	1402	green
▽	989	241	1401	light green


✕ Cross stitch in one strand Kreinik #4 braid

★	3533			purple mambo
---	------	--	--	--------------

- ✖ Backstitch in one strand

	552	99	713	dark violet
	699	923	1303	emerald green
	986	246	1404	dark green

✖ Backstitch in one strand Kreinik #4 braid

	3533			purple mambo
---	------	--	--	--------------

✕ **Mill Hill seed beads**

	03053			purple passion
---	-------	--	--	----------------

**MAXIMUM STITCH COUNT** 140 high x 140 wide  
**DESIGN AREA** 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) –  
 25.5x25.5cm (10x10in)

These designs were stitched using DMC stranded cotton, Kreinik #4 braid and Mill Hill seed beads

*“If you prefer the look of French knots to seed beads, feel free to substitute them in these designs. French knots will look just as good”*

**Heather Nugent, charting assistant**



# A view to cherish

Take in the beauty of summer with this detailed scene, worked on evenweave for a refined finish



Designed by Susan Bates

**W**e all love the summer, as the days are longer and brighter, which makes stitching even more of a joy! This charming scene sums up the perfect day for us. In it, the windows have been thrown open to let in plenty of warm, summer air. On the windowsill a vase is filled with fragrant flowers, freshly picked from the garden that

morning. Beyond the open window is a well-tended garden with the prettiest plants all in full bloom. And waiting on the table, a cup of tea and open novel, for when we need a break from our stitching. Susan's design is stitched on 28-count evenweave, which makes working the fractionals, which give the honeysuckle blooms their fine shaping, much easier.

## Stitching Factbox

**Stitching time:**  
Approx 100 hours

**Type of stitches:**  
Cross stitch, fractionals, backstitch

**Level:** Intermediate/advanced

## You will need

**Threads:** Stranded cotton, as listed in the key

**Needle:** Size 26 tapestry needle

**Fabric:** 28-count white evenweave measuring 36x43cm (14x17in)

**Extras:** Frame of your choice with a minimum aperture of 26x33cm (10¼x13in)

## Tip

Cover the edges of your fabric with masking tape to prevent them from fraying





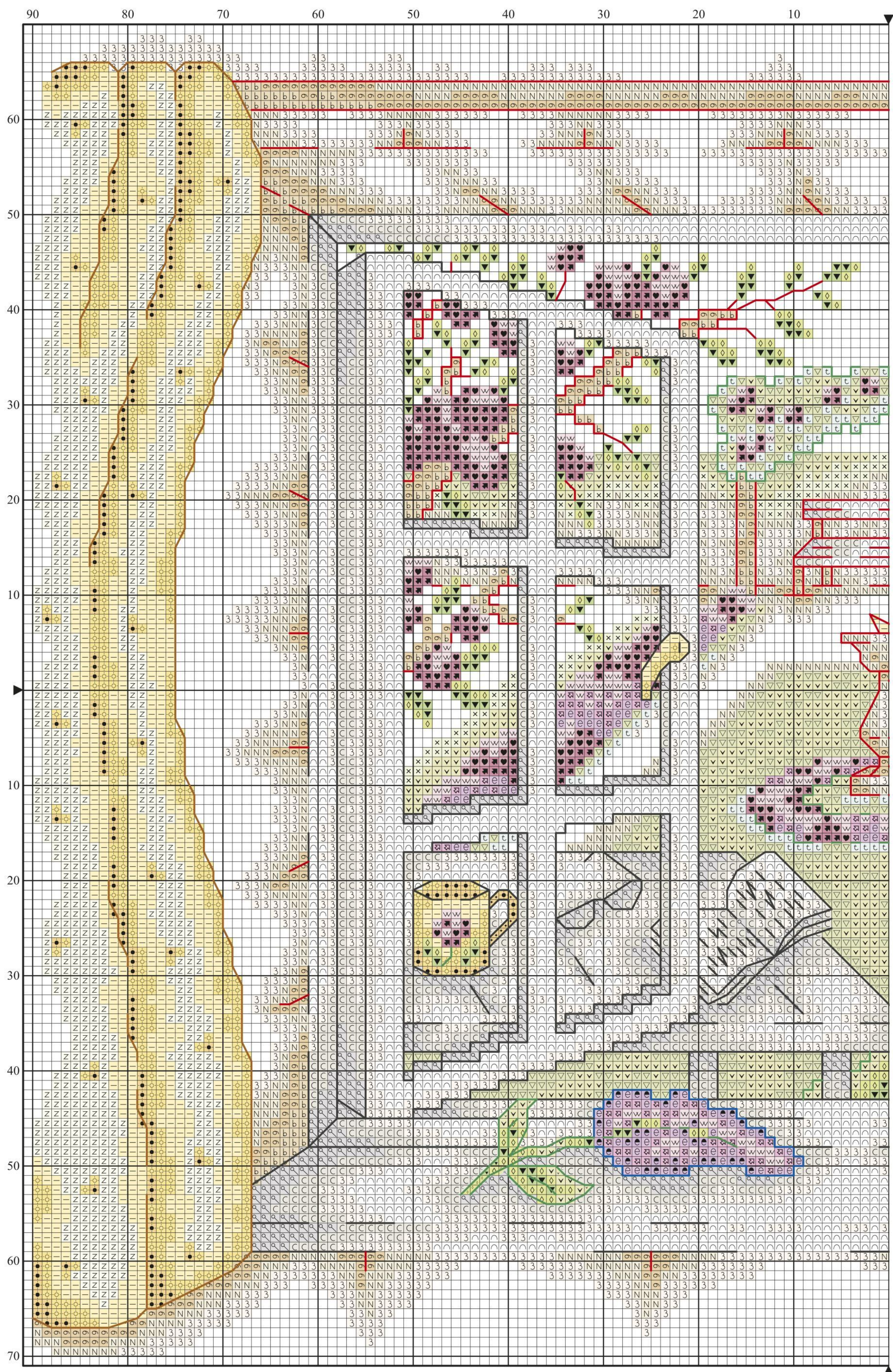
Stitch this  
pretty  
vista just  
in time for  
summer



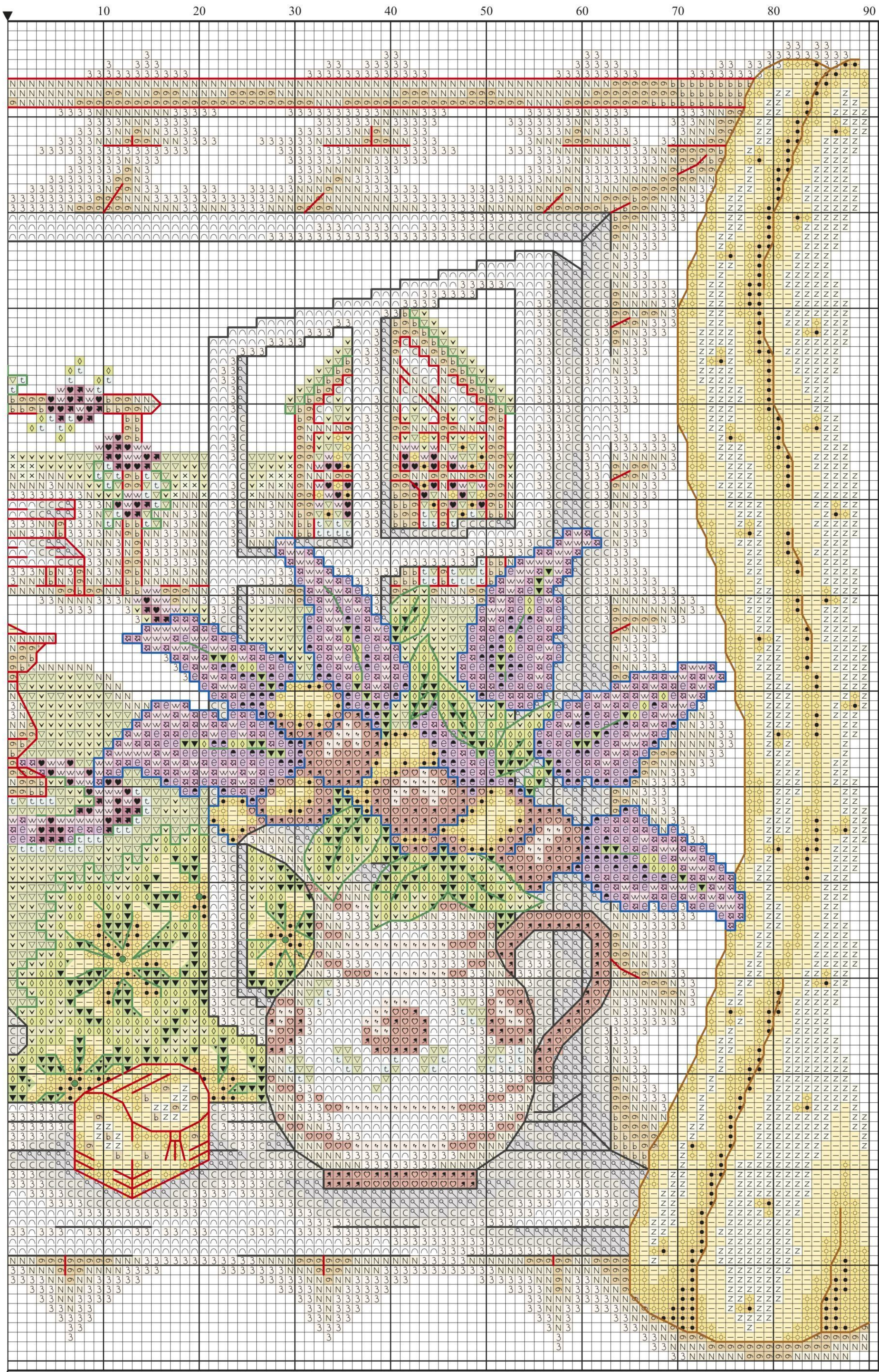
Make the most of summer with  
this seasonal project. It's perfect for  
stitchers with a little more experience



## Floral portraits









Stitching on evenweave

Susan has opted to use 28-count evenweave for her design, as the piece features lots of fractionals, which are much easier to stitch on this fabric. The weave of the fabric is finer than aida though, so it's advisable to use a magnifier and a good lamp while stitching, to help you see the holes in your evenweave more easily. Take regular breaks from your stitching, as well, to give your eyes a well-deserved rest.



*“I’m a keen gardener, and I hope this picture appeals to other gardeners too. I’m sure it’ll catch the eye of others too, whether they are green-fingered or not”*  
Susan Bates, designer

Tip

Stitch this as a present for someone without a garden, to bring the beauty and colour of nature into their home



Summer window key

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	Anchor	DMC	Madeira	
∩	2	blanc	2402	white
⋈	8	3824	2503	light coral
♡	10	351	214	coral
∩	48	818	502	light pink
♠	63	3804	704	dark pink
♥	75	603	609	pink
♠	85	3609	710	cerise
e	98	553	712	mauve
●	111	333	804	purple
∇	253	472	1414	light green
◇	255	704	1308	green
▽	258	904	1413	dark green
×	259	772	1604	almond green
∇	265	471	1501	moss green
z	275	712	2403	light cream
—	293	726	110	yellow
⊙	297	973	106	tangerine
⊙	303	742	201	orange
N	366	739	1908	light tan
C	397	3024	1901	light grey
⌘	399	318	1801	grey
t	876	163	1703	pine green
3	926	ecru	2404	cream
b	944	433	2007	dark tan
♠	1025	3831	603	red
⊙	1045	436	2011	tan

✕ Backstitch in one strand

—	178	791	904	blue
—	236	3799	1713	dark grey
—	309	780	2213	brown
—	380	938	2003	dark brown
—	683	500	1705	bottle green

**STITCH COUNT** 139 high x 180 wide

**DESIGN AREA** 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 25.5x32.5cm (10x12¾in)

**SKEINS NEEDED** 2x275 (light cream), 2x1045 (tan)

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

*“This is a beautiful design from Susan Bates. It would look perfect in my home – I can picture it hanging up in my living room. Summer is my favourite season, so this is definitely on my to-stitch list”*  
Abi Barker, special projects coordinator



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# Bunny and blooms

It might be a long time until spring, but our portrait of a rabbit amid the tulips will keep you going until it's here



Designed by Lesley Teare

It must be said that rabbits are well known for eating their way through tulips, but this one simply looks pleased to be among them. We're just hoping he's not hungry yet – we'd hate to spoil the gorgeous display! Most of Lesley's design is worked in whole cross stitch, with only six fractionals used to make

the rabbit's eye a more realistic shape. It's a fairly straightforward stitch that intermediate stitchers will enjoy – just make sure you keep track of the various shades of green! We've chosen a pine frame but you can choose a mount and a frame that complements the colours in this design, such as light blue, pink or red, if you prefer.

## Stitching Factbox

**Stitching time:**  
Approx 70 hours

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

**Level:** Intermediate

## You will need

**Threads:** Stranded cotton, as listed in the key

**Needle:** Size 26 tapestry needle

**Fabric:** 28-count light blue evenweave measuring 36x41cm (14x16in)

**Extras:** Frame of your choice with a minimum aperture of 24.5x30.5cm (9½x12in)





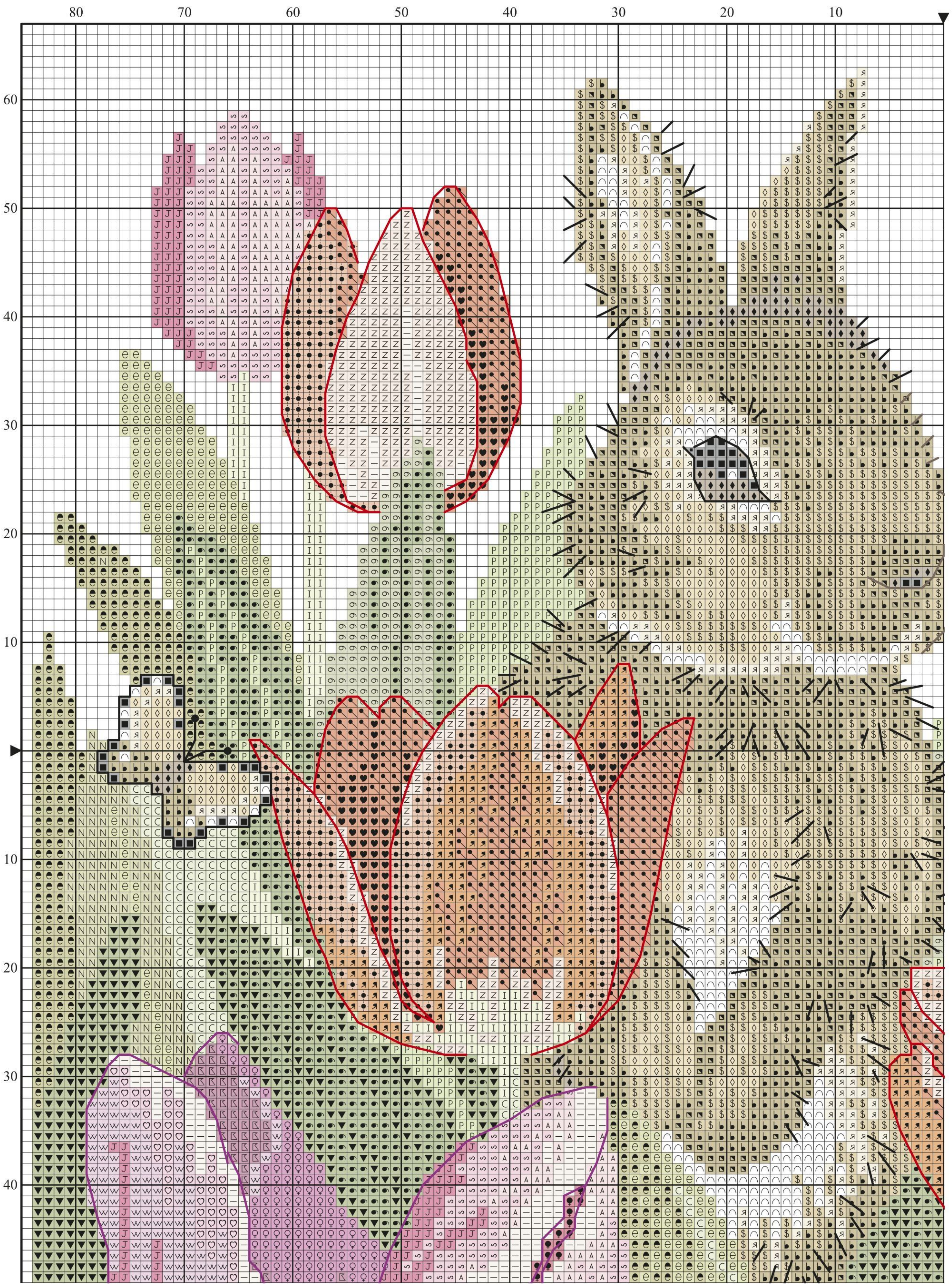
Pet rabbit or a rabbit in the wild?  
However you like to picture him, he  
makes a fine subject in cross stitch

Stitch  
a fresh  
picture for  
spring





Cute & whimsical

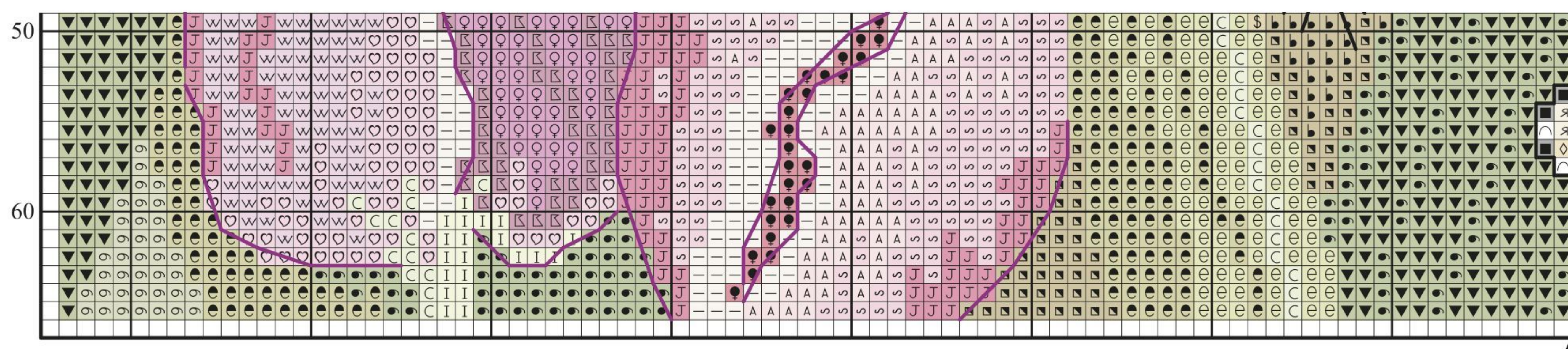


Top left

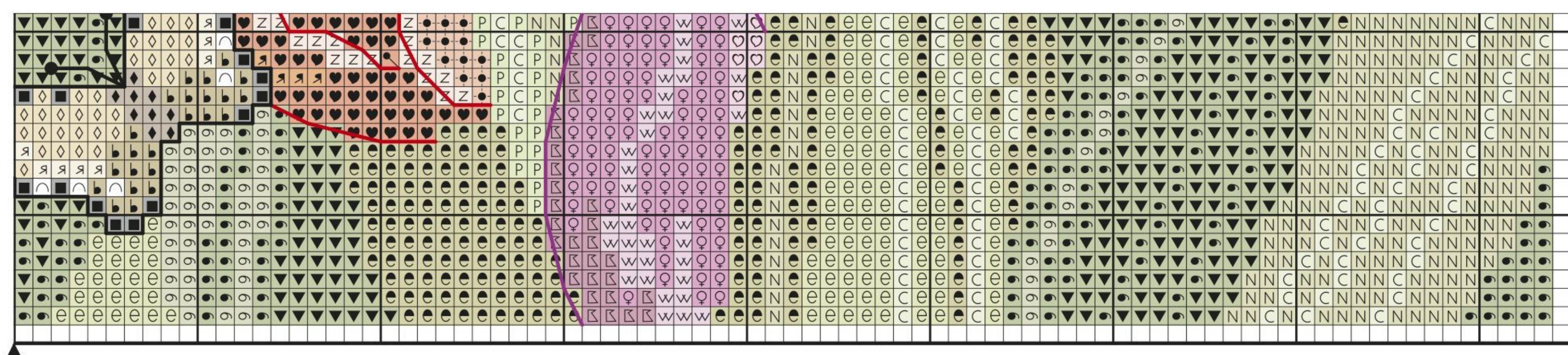








Bottom left



Bottom right

*“What a sweet little bunny. My little niece will love this design, it would look perfect on her playroom wall”*

**Katriel Costello, editor**

### Tip

Are you forever dropping your needle? Hover a magnet over the general area to pick it up

# How to manage your threads

There are lots of similar greens and browns in Lesley's rabbit portrait. To keep track of them, it's worth taking the time to pre-cut your lengths of thread and arrange them onto a labelled thread sorter before you begin. You can make your own thread sorter by cutting a length of card, punching holes down one side and writing the colour codes next to each hole. To make sure you can distinguish between them as you are stitching, it's also a good idea to stitch in natural light as often as possible.

## Stitching close-up

Lesley created her design from a photograph, as a rabbit would never stay still long enough for her to paint it. While she was creating the design, Lesley found it helpful to sit outside, to give herself the sense that she was out there with the rabbit.







Bunny picture key

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	blanc	2	2402	white
P	164	240	1209	soft green
■	310	403	2400	black
♥	349	1098	212	red
C	369	1043	1309	almond green
b	420	374	2104	dark tan
e	470	267	1502	moss green
N	471	266	1501	light moss green
●	600	63	703	very dark pink
J	602	57	702	dark pink
s	604	55	614	pink
●	606	334	209	dark orange
■	608	332	206	orange
■	610	889	2106	oak brown
■	718	88	707	dark fuchsia
◇	738	367	2013	cream
I	772	259	1604	vy lt grass green
—	819	271	501	baby pink
A	963	73	502	light pink
●	987	244	1403	dark grass green
●	989	241	1401	grass green
◆	3021	905	1904	smoke grey
Я	3033	391	1908	beige
●	3340	329	301	light orange
▼	3345	268	1406	dk forest green
e	3348	264	1409	light grass green
♀	3607	87	708	plum
w	3608	86	709	light plum
♥	3689	49	607	raspberry pink
Z	3824	8	2605	peach
\$	3828	373	2103	tan

✕ Backstitch in one strand

—	310	403	2400	black
—	817	13	210	ruby
—	3607	87	708	plum
—	3033	391	1908	beige

✕ French knots in one strand

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

STITCH COUNT 132 high x 168 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 24x30.5cm (9½x12in)

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

## How to stitch the rabbit portrait

- 1

Find the centre of your fabric by folding it in half both horizontally and vertically. Follow the arrows on the chart to find its centre and start stitching from here, working your way outwards.
- 2

Work the cross stitch over two threads of the fabric, using two strands of cotton. For every tiny symbol you see on the chart,
- work a fractional stitch.
- 3

Add the backstitch detail using one strand of cotton. Four different shades are used.
- 4

Work the French knots using one strand of black cotton.
- 5

Check over your finished stitching and prepare it for framing by washing it in warm water with mild detergent.



### How to work the fractionals

Around the rabbit's eye, there are three instances where two fractionals share a square, bisected by a backstitch line. For a neat finish, first work the fractionals as two quarter stitches, then add the backstitch neatly through the middle. Fractionals are simple on evenweave, as you don't need to pierce the fabric.

“If you haven’t planned your Easter stitching yet, Lesley’s design is just what you need to welcome in this special time of year. Enjoy stitching it and seeing it framed on your wall!”  
Abi Barker, special projects coordinator

### Tip

Stitch one of the little butterflies from this design as a coordinating gift tag

### Stitching close-up

Tulips can be easy to incorporate into designs, as their shape is quite simple to translate into stitches. The blooms in the background are left backstitch-free while the tulips in the foreground are outlined with backstitch in different colours.





Cute & whimsical

# Boughs of blossom

Light up your life with this Eastern-inspired scene, complete with delicate cherry blossoms and pretty little bluebirds!



Designed by Durene Jones

Delightfully dainty and adorned with shimmering sequins, this colourful set of Chinese lanterns is the perfect way to decorate any girly space in a home. The soft pastels are ideal for adding some colour to a wall, and who could resist such subtle shading and detail? This project is guaranteed to bring a breath of fresh

air to your pile of wintry WIPs, and also allows you to show off your stitching repertoire! You'll work whole cross stitches, fractionals, backstitch and French knots onto a delicate blush pink aida, then finish the piece with a selection of pink and white sequins for a textured twinkling effect. We're sure you'll agree, the sparkling final result is worth it!

## Stitching Factbox

**Stitching time:**  
Approx 40 hours

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

**Level:** Intermediate

## You will need

**Threads:** Stranded cotton, as listed in the key

**Needle:** Size 24 tapestry needle

**Fabric:** 14-count blush pink aida measuring 28x33cm (11x13in)

**Extras:** Trimits sequins, as listed in the key. Frame of your choice with a minimum aperture measuring 21x26cm (8¼x10¼in)



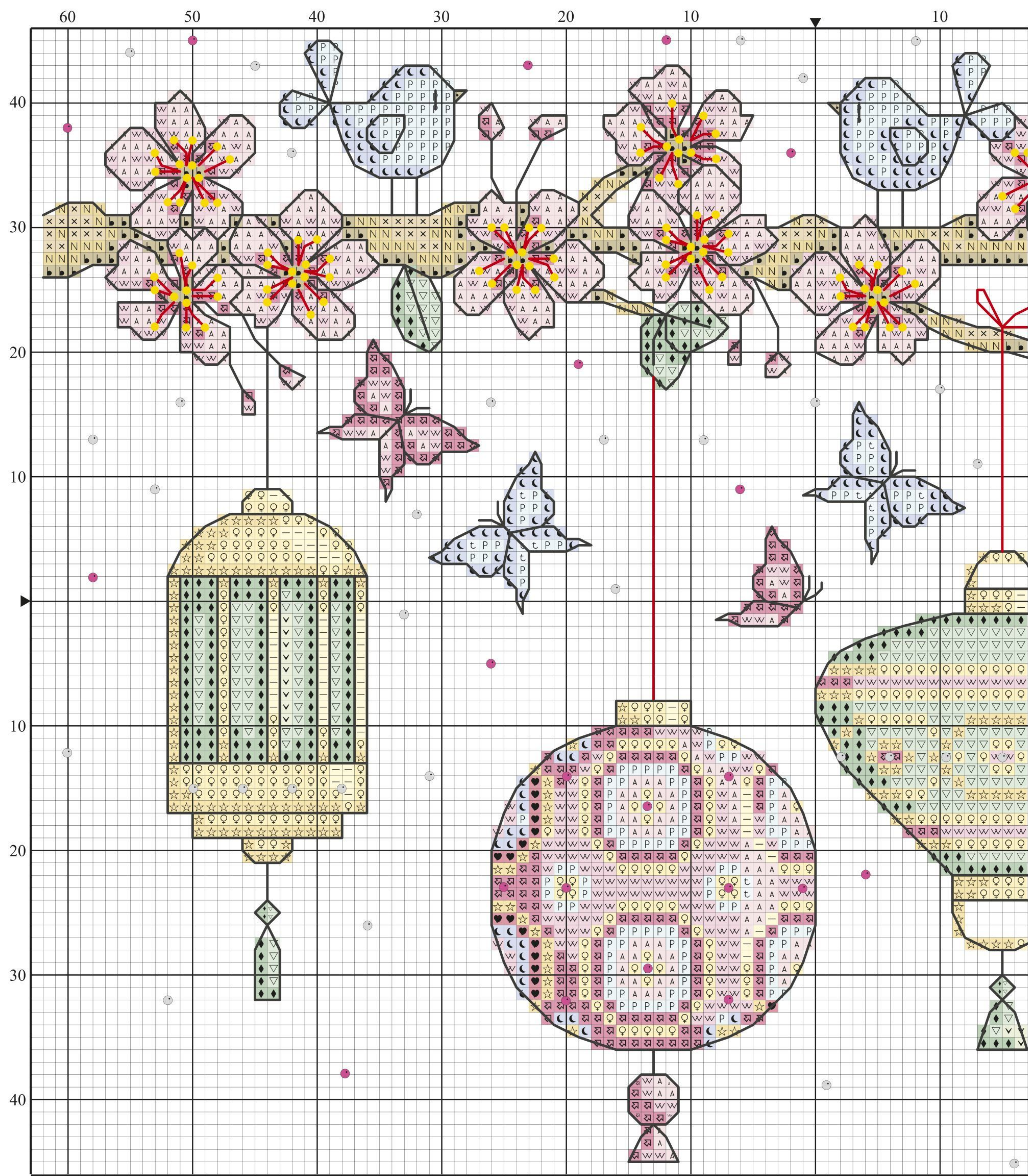


Indulge your needle and thread  
in this gorgeous design and  
shake off those winter blues with  
its sweet spring shades





Cute & whimsical



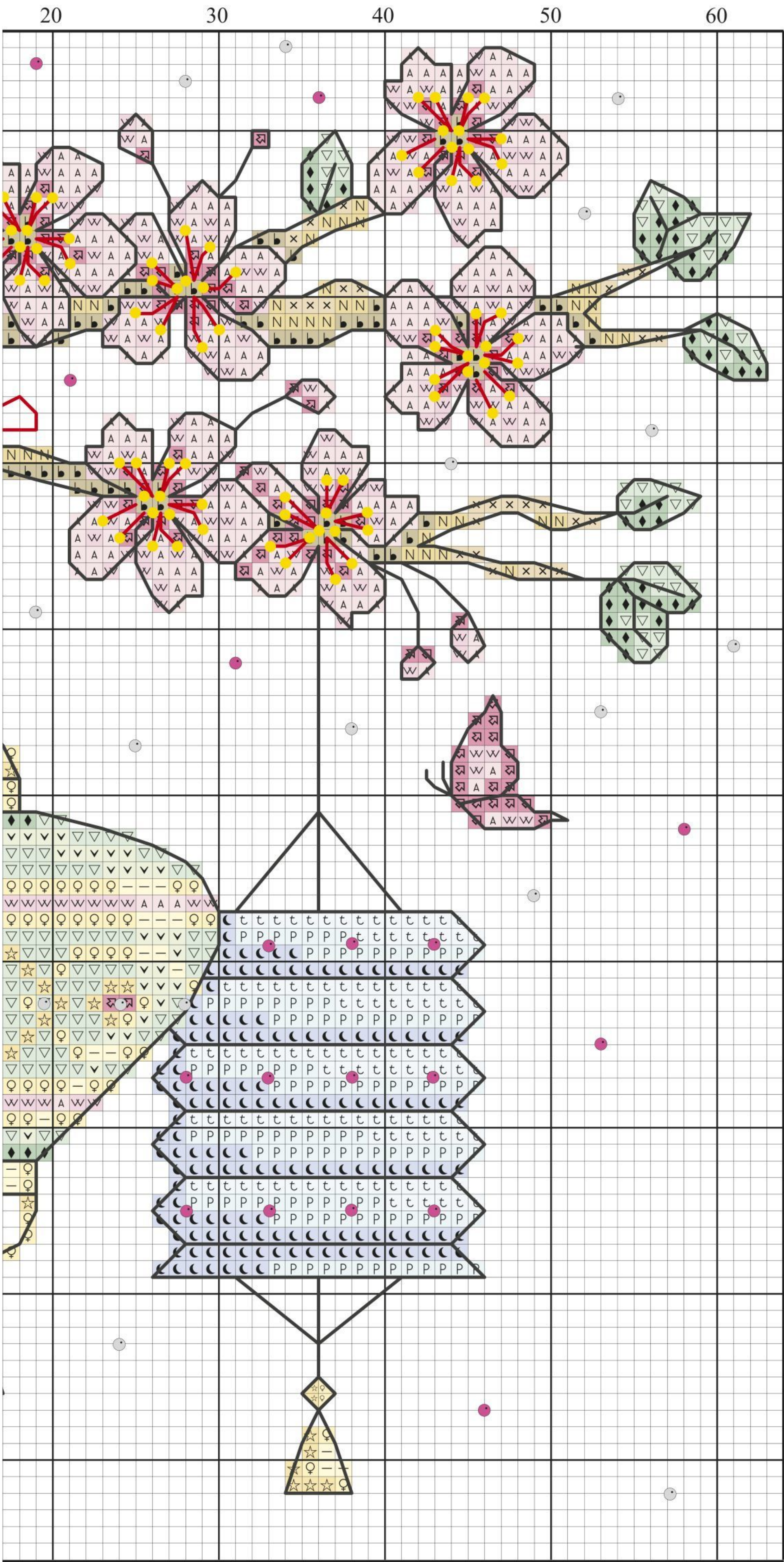
“Chinese lanterns are always so beautiful, with their pretty patterns and colours, so I was thrilled to be able to design this chart for you. I couldn’t resist giving it a super-girly twist with sequins for extra sparkle!”

Durene Jones, designer

Tip

Like any other embellishment, make sure you finish all other stitches before adding the sequins at the end





Lanterns key

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
t	162	9159	1101	light blue
v	369	1043	1309	light green
b	420	374	2104	dark tan
x	422	943	2102	light tan
h	600	63	703	dark pink
m	602	57	702	pink
w	604	55	614	light pink
s	725	305	113	dark yellow
p	727	293	112	yellow
c	800	144	908	blue
d	809	130	909	dark blue
g	911	205	1214	dark green
a	954	203	1207	green
y	963	73	502	very light pink
q	3078	292	102	light yellow
n	3828	373	2103	tan

✕ Backstitch in one strand

—	413	236	1713	grey
—	600	63	703	dark pink

✕ French knots in one strand

●	727	293	112	yellow
---	-----	-----	-----	--------

✕ Trimits sequins

●	97920			pink
●	97993			white iris

STITCH COUNT


90 high x 125 wide

DESIGN AREA

14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 16.5x23cm (6½x9in)

This design was stitched using DMC stranded cotton and Trimits sequins





How to add sequins to your design

Using one strand of thread to match your sequin, bring your needle up through the centre hole (try a fine beading needle if the hole is too small). Stitch down over the sequin edge, not tilting it and pull the thread taut. If you prefer, use a French knot or a seed bead to fix each sequin instead.



# Blooms in style

Start off the new season in style with Durene's cute and quirky summery stitch that celebrates light and carefree whimsy!



Designed by Durene Jones

Nothing beats that feeling of the warm sun against your face while sitting out in the garden with your stitching or reading your favourite book, and maybe even a cheeky glass of wine! We love the way Durene's sweet scene captures that happy-go-lucky feel of summer, with pretty colourful flowers

gently blowing in the breeze while busy bees buzz in and out of them. Stitched in soft, subtle shades but with funky styling, this project has a contemporary feel that would make a great gift for a friend, or an equally perfect present for a teenager. With plenty of detail worked in whole cross stitches, fractionals and backstitch, this is packed full of interest.

## Stitching Factbox

**Stitching time:**  
Approx 30 hours

**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 28x33cm (11x13in)

**Extras:** Frame and mount of your choice with a minimum aperture measuring 18.5x23.5cm (7¼x9¼in)





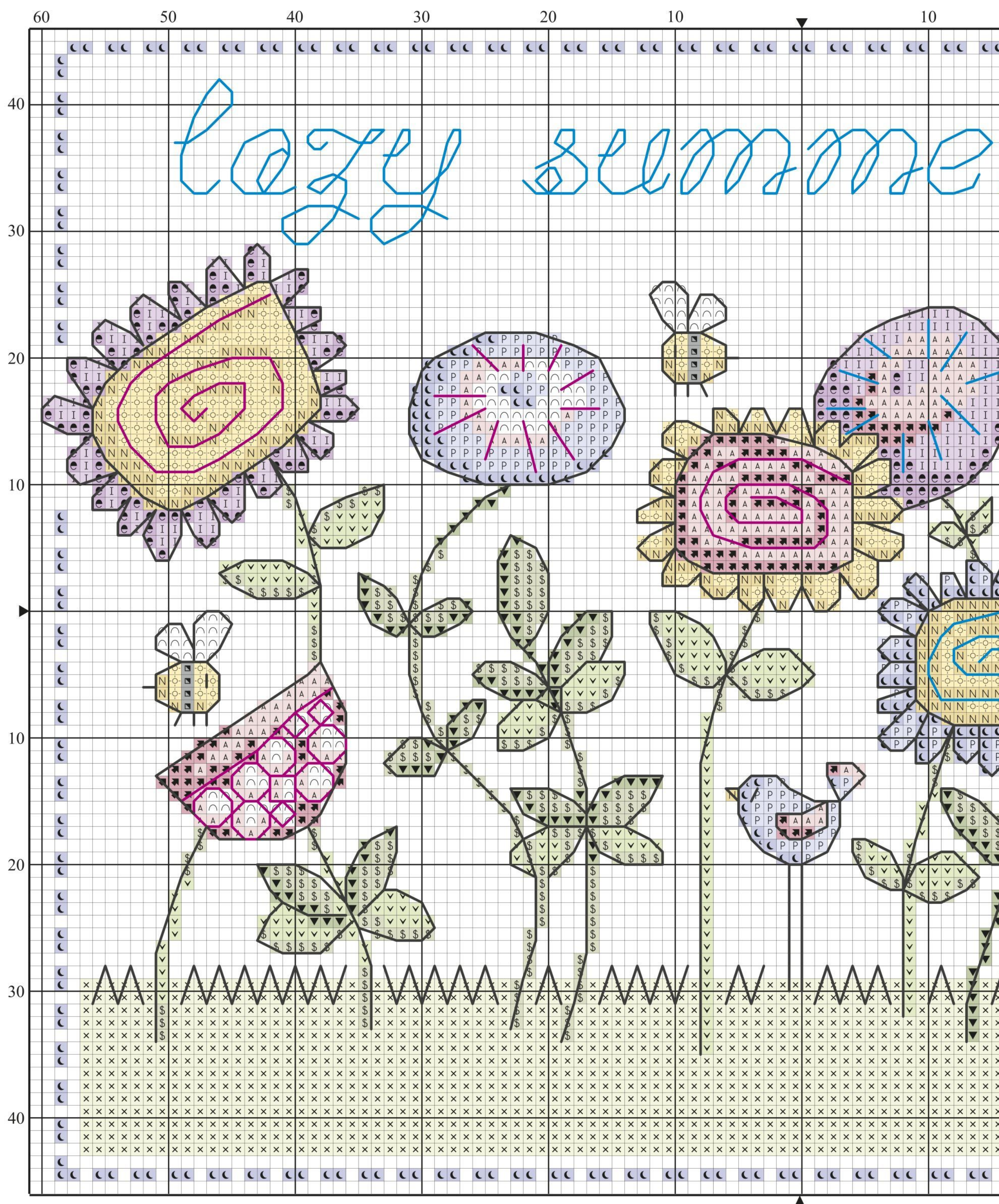
Pick up your needle and stitch  
the prettiest picture that'll  
make you smile all year round,  
whatever the weather!

Free of  
French  
knots!





Cute & whimsical



“This colourful project caught my eye because it comes in a really great size. I think it will be the perfect picture to hang on my hobby room’s door”

Abi Barker, special projects coordinator

### Tip

Use a sharp crewel needle when working the backstitch and fractionals as this will help you pierce the aida blocks





Funky flowers key

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	blanc	2	2402	white
A	151	73	404	pink
✓	164	240	1209	light green
●	208	99	804	dark lilac
I	209	98	803	lilac
⊙	726	295	109	yellow
×	772	259	1604	grass green
▼	987	244	1403	dark green
\$	989	241	1401	green
➤	3733	75	605	dark pink
■	3799	236	1713	grey
N	3820	306	2509	straw
☾	3839	175	902	blue
P	3840	130	907	light blue

✕ Backstitch in one strand

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

✕ Backstitch in two strands

—	208	99	804	dark lilac
—	3839	175	902	blue

STITCH COUNT 90 high x 121 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 16.5x22cm (6½x8½in)

This design was stitched using DMC stranded cotton



How to work fractional stitches on aida

We've worked this design on aida to make it faster to finish. However, this does mean you need to pierce the aida blocks when working fractionals. You'll need to take your needle down through the centre of the aida block to make these stitches. Use a crewel embroidery needle to help place these stitches neatly – it's much sharper than a tapestry needle.







# Animal antics

Bring stitching to life and have fun with happy chums in these fabulous animals charts



Designed by Margaret Sherry

These adorable characters would make a beautiful set of cards to stitch and hand out to all of your friends and family. They'll be great for summer birthdays, garden party invitations or thank you cards – in fact, they are perfect for any occasion. Cats, dogs, hedgehogs and mice,

surrounded by flowers and butterfly friends, create this essential stitching collection for the months ahead. And, whatever the time of the year, they make fun projects to stitch. Stitch the cat holding a bunch of flowers as a Valentine's Day card, or the mice enjoying a smooch underneath a daisy for a pair of newlyweds.

## Stitching Factbox

**Stitching time:**  
Approx 15 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 20x15cm (7¾x6in) for each design

**Extras:** Backing papers of your choice and Craft Creations single fold cards with deckled edge (DEC2U) in white from [www.craftcreations.com](http://www.craftcreations.com)





These cute animals love to play in the garden among the flower beds

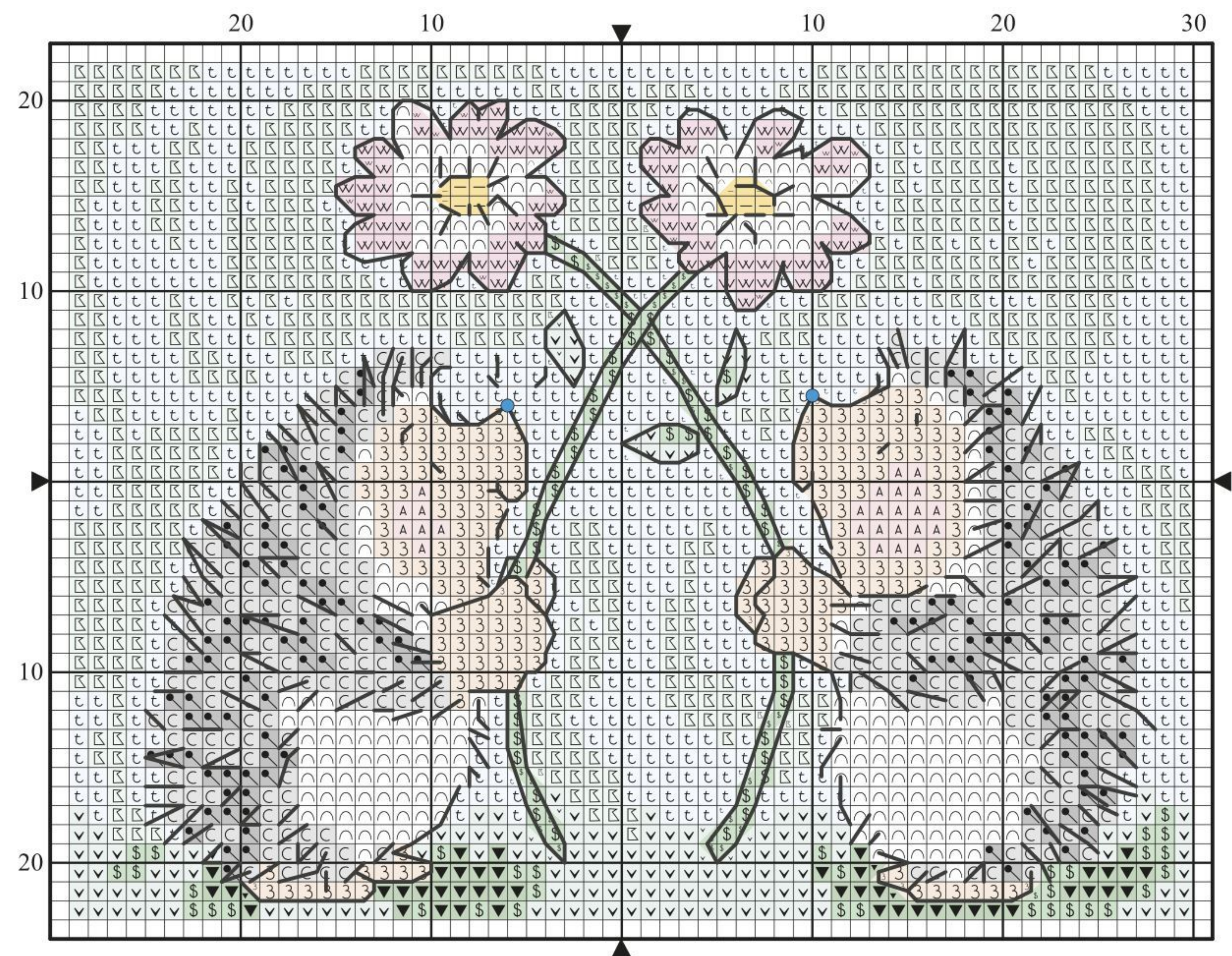
Stitch a card in a couple of evenings





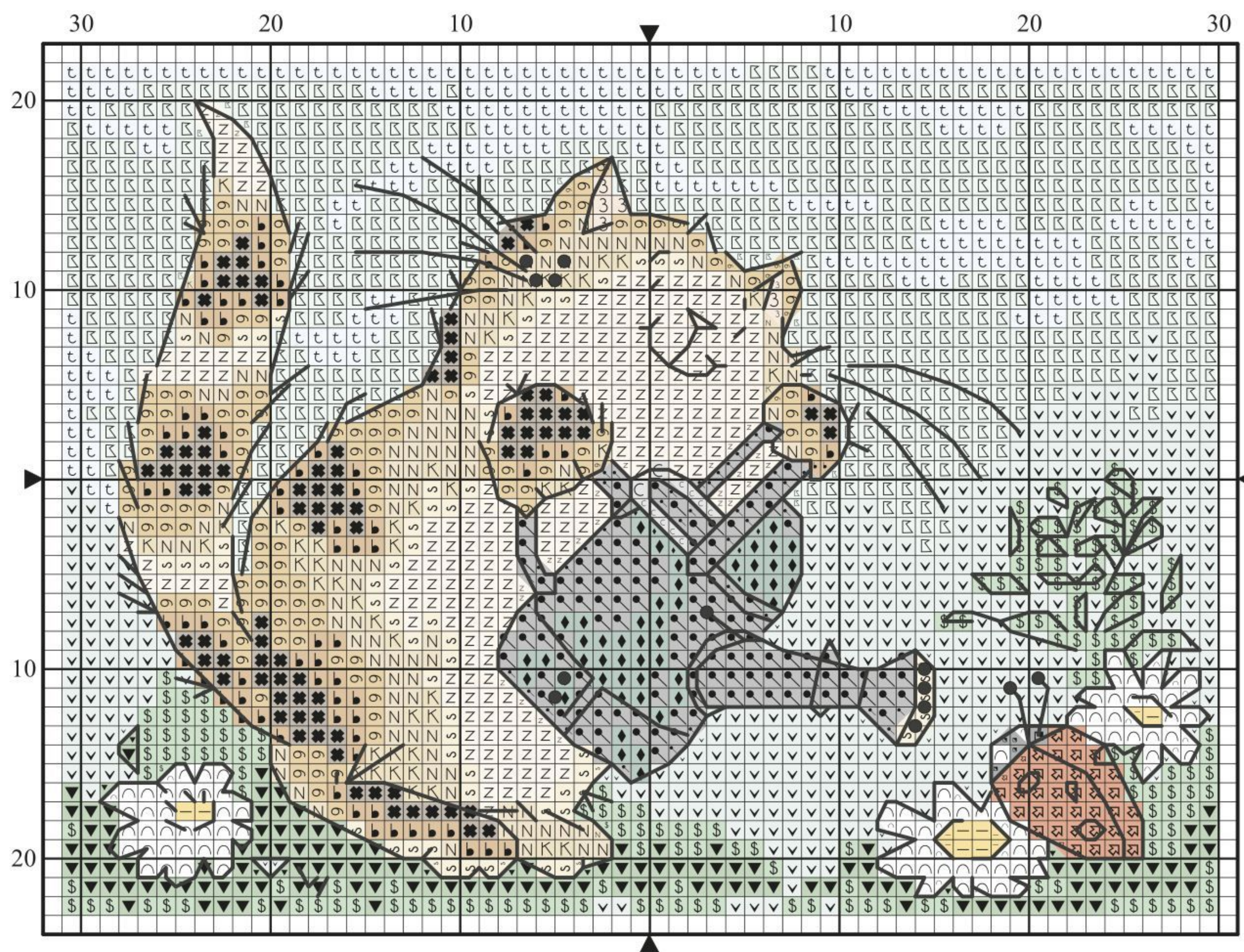






“I love the colours Margaret has used in these fun designs, the mix of pastel shades and deeper thread colours gives each scene its brilliant vibrancy and a sense of movement”

Abi Barker, special projects coordinator



## Animal cards key

### ✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	blanc	2	2402	white
☺	225	271	814	shell pink
☾	322	131	1004	dark blue
♥	351	10	214	coral
☾	414	235	1714	grey
C	415	398	1802	light grey
✱	433	357	2602	dark brown
♣	435	1046	2010	brown
○	436	1045	2011	light brown
N	437	362	2012	tan
▽	564	206	1208	sea green
♥	603	55	505	dark pink
w	605	1094	613	pink
☒	666	46	210	red
z	712	926	2101	light cream
K	738	367	2013	dark cream
s	739	366	2014	cream
☼	742	303	114	tangerine
—	743	302	113	yellow
⊞	775	1031	1001	baby blue
▼	911	205	1214	dark mint green
\$	913	204	1212	mint green
A	963	73	502	light pink
3	967	6	304	peach
♠	975	355	2303	dark ginger
+	976	1001	2302	ginger
t	3756	1037	2504	light baby blue
■	3799	236	1713	dark grey
◆	3848	1074	1108	teal green

### ✕ Backstitch in one strand

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

### ✕ French knots in one strand

●	3799	236	1713	dark grey
---	------	-----	------	-----------

### ✕ French knots in two strands

●	666	46	210	red
●	742	303	114	tangerine
●	3799	236	1713	dark grey

**MAXIMUM STITCH COUNT** 63 high x 61 wide  
**DESIGN AREA** 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 11.5x11cm (4½x4¼in)

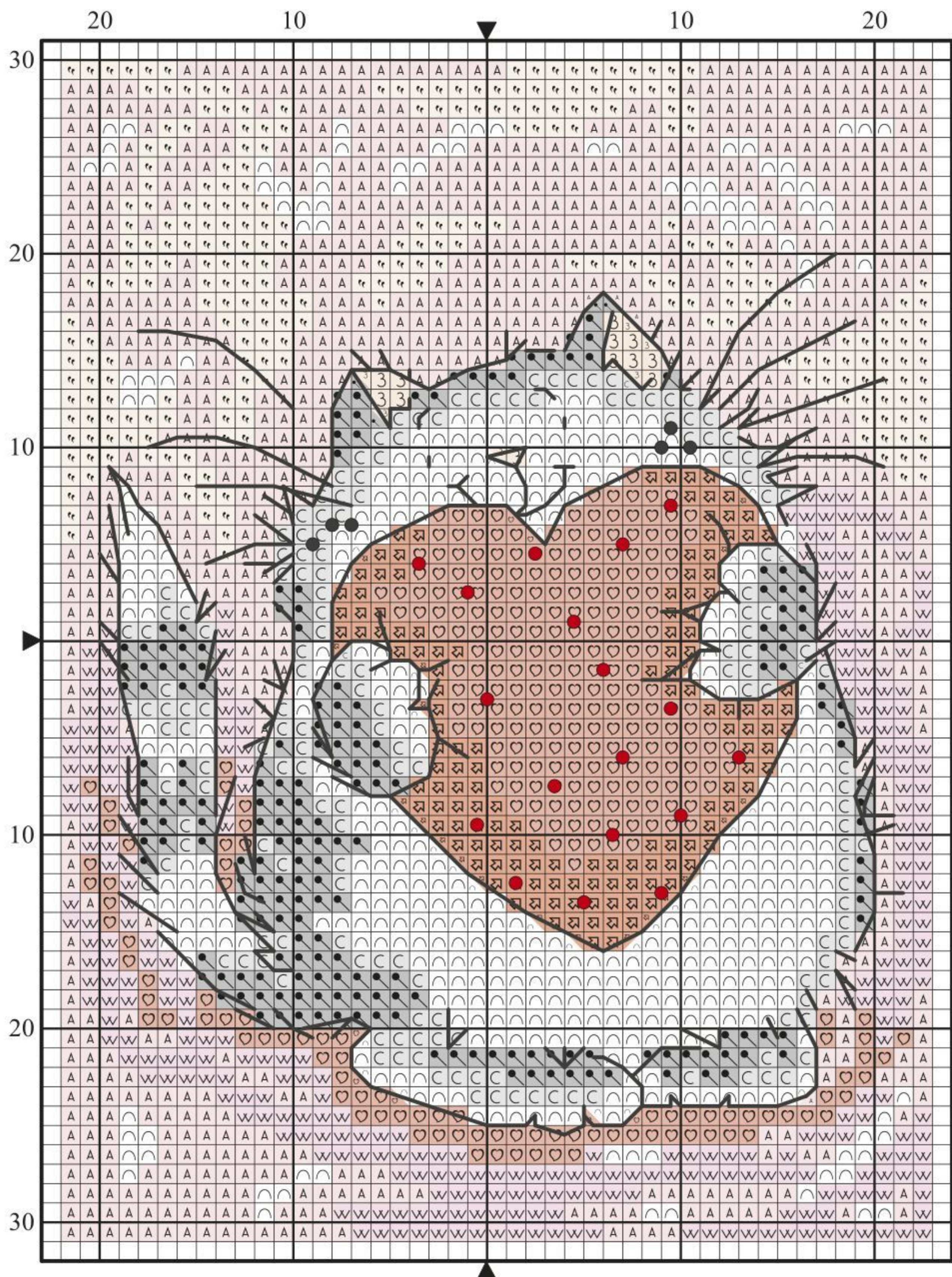
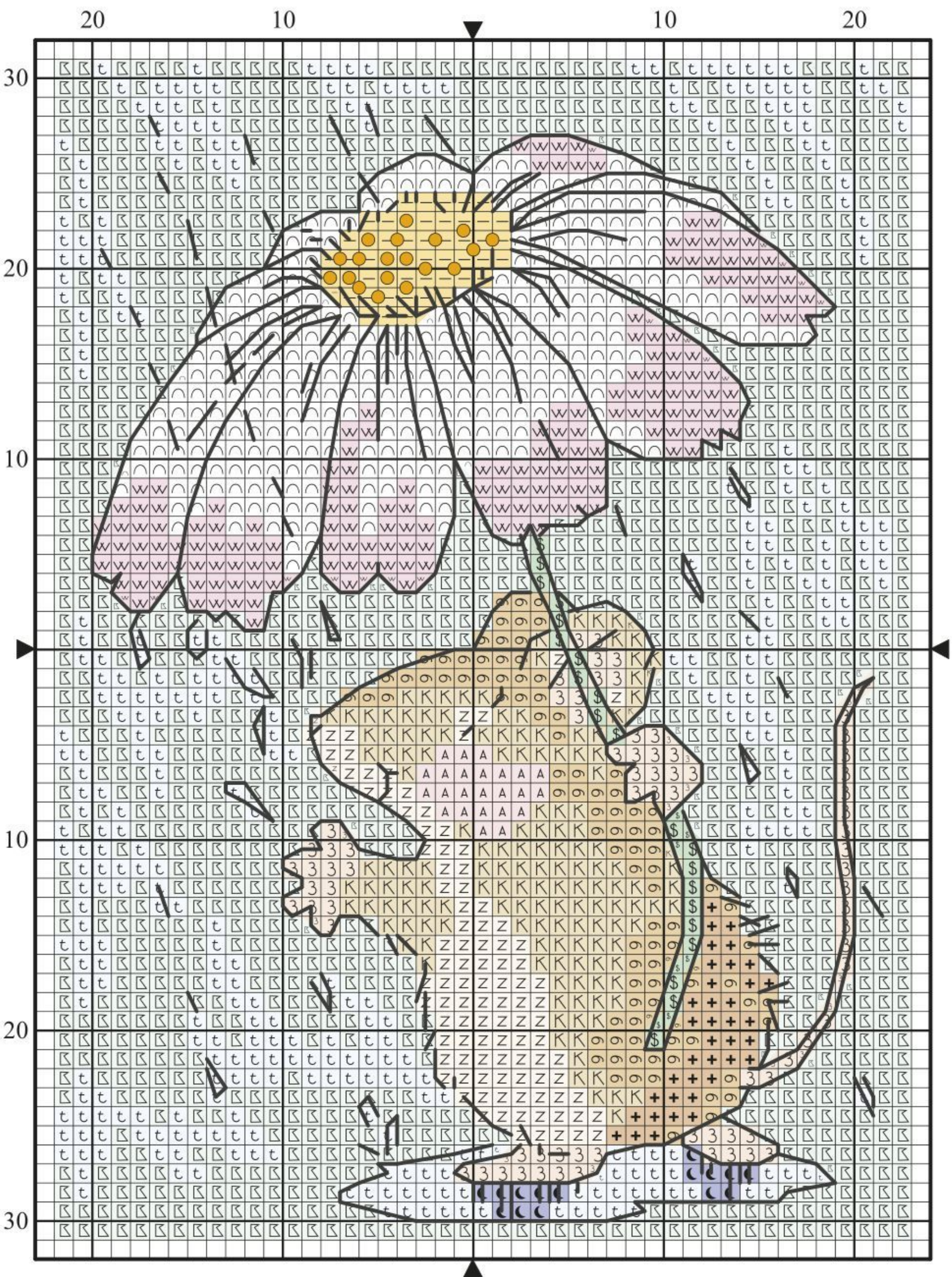
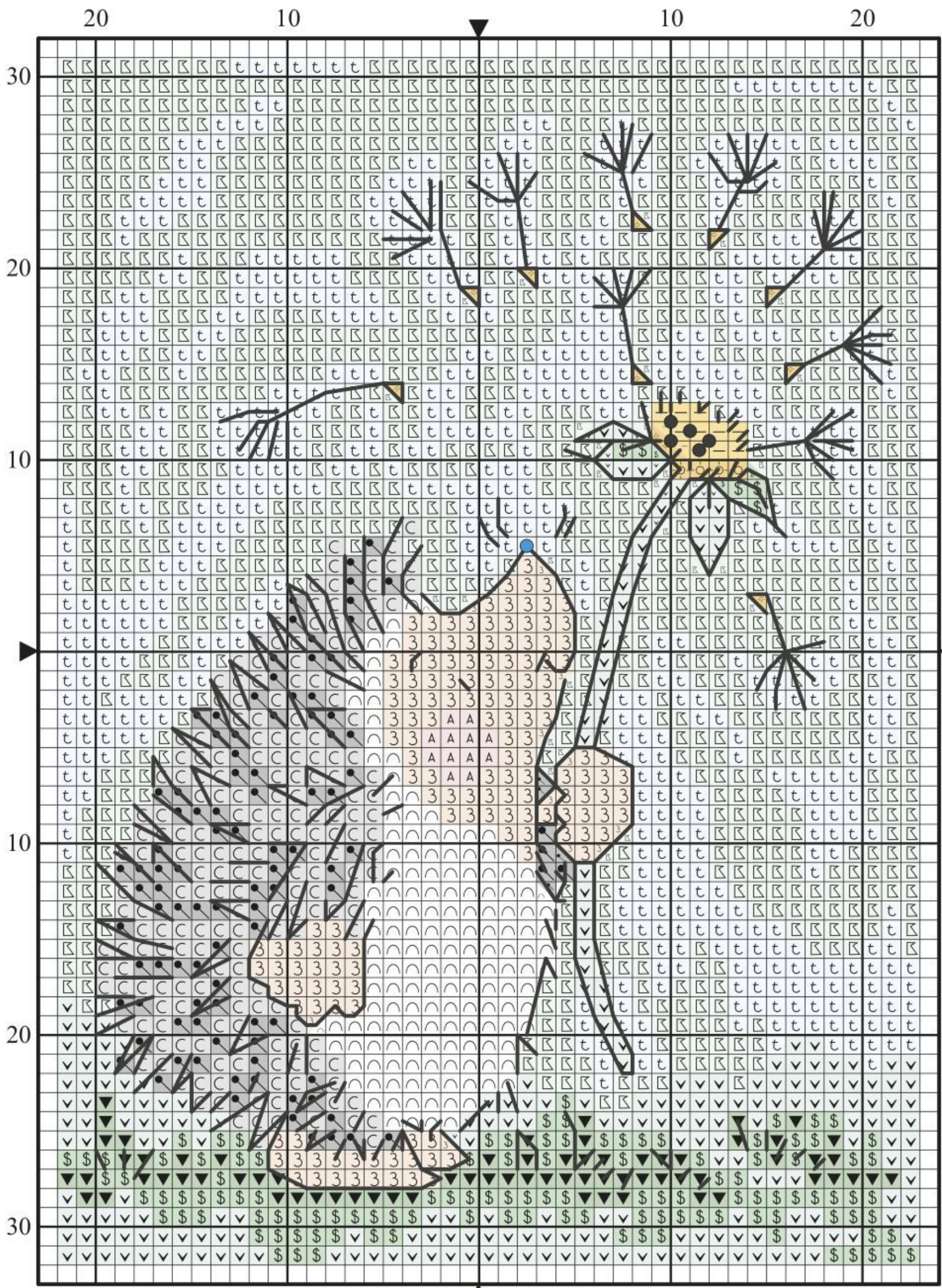
These designs were stitched using DMC stranded cotton

## Tip

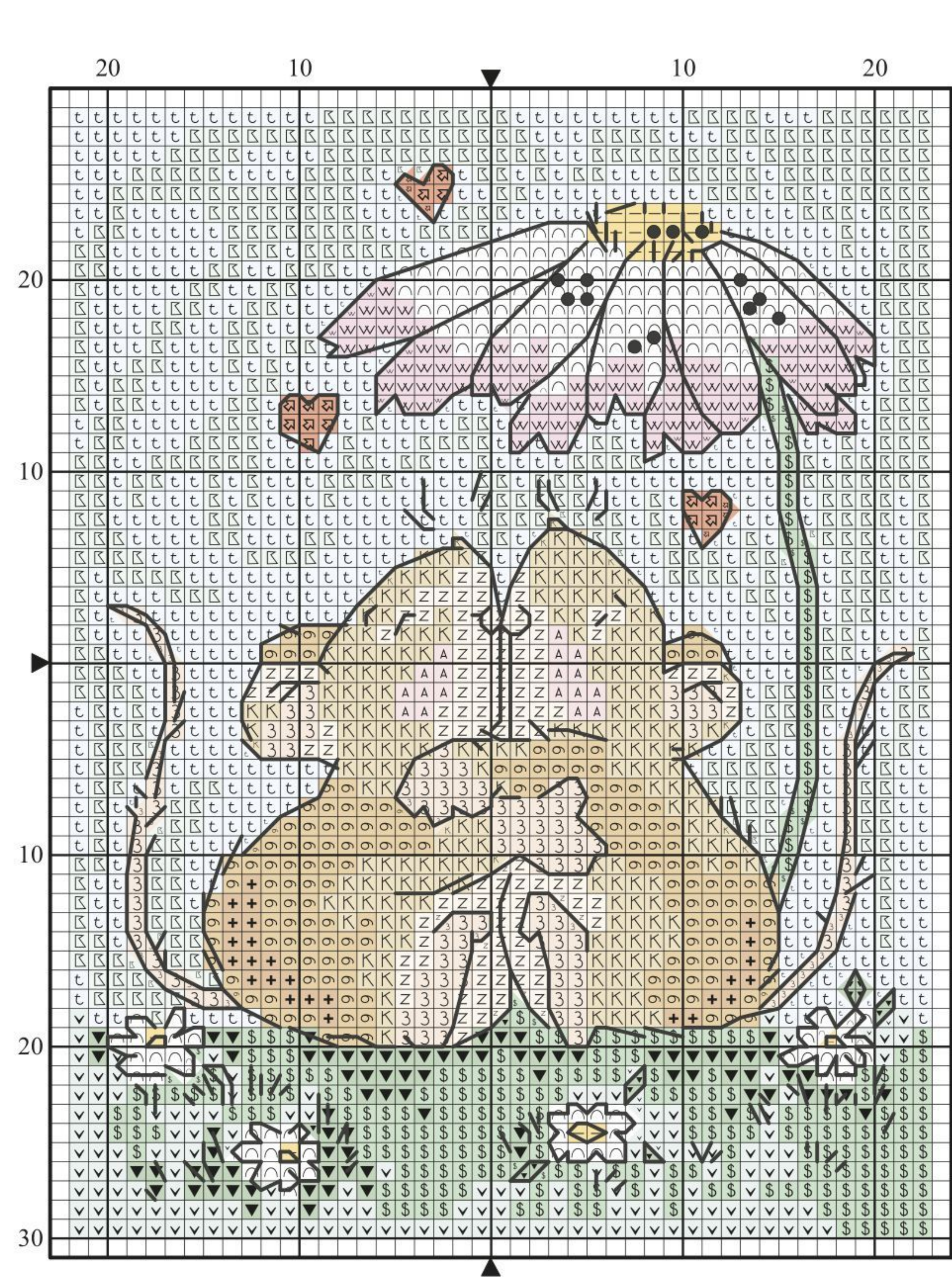
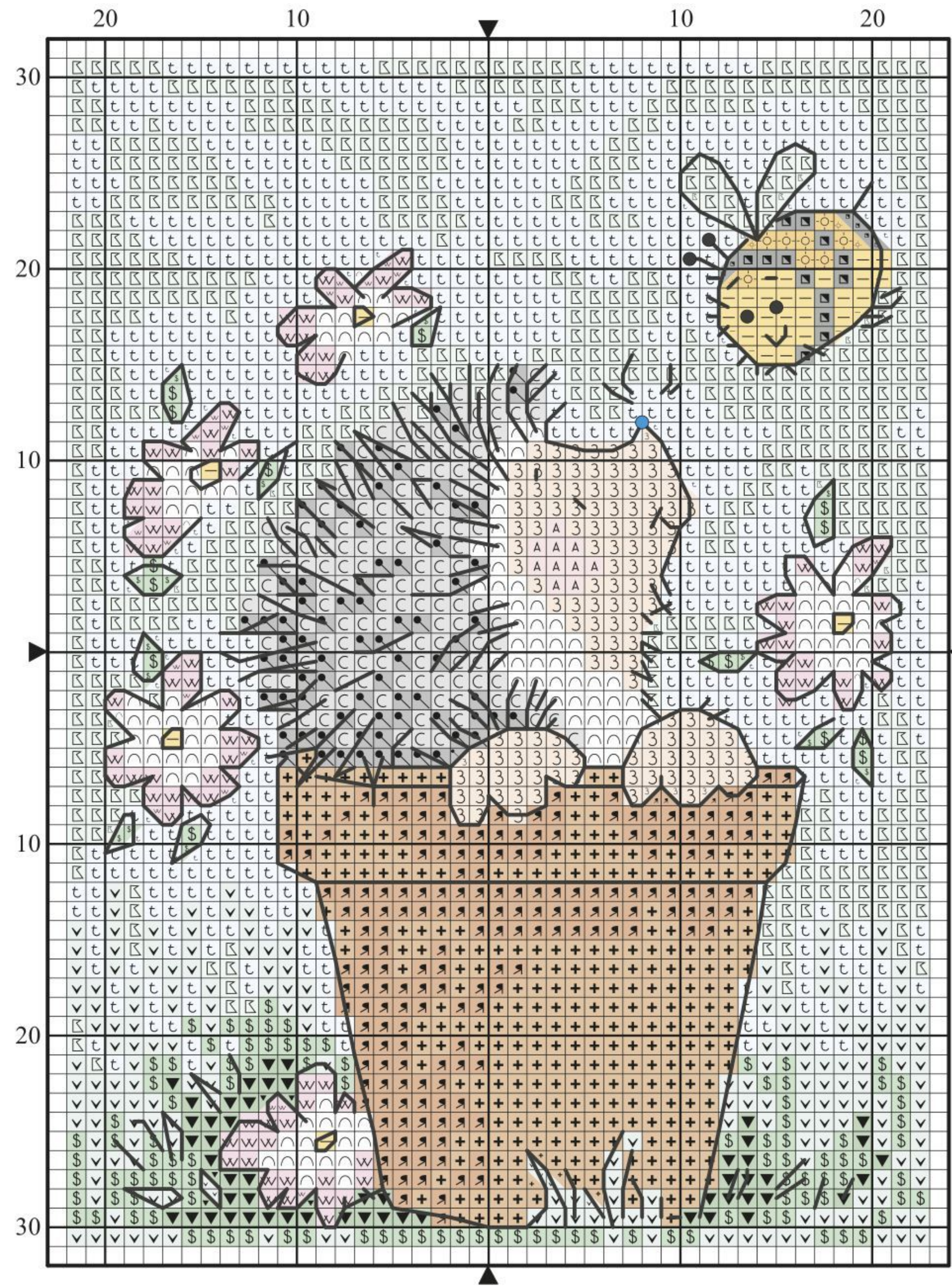
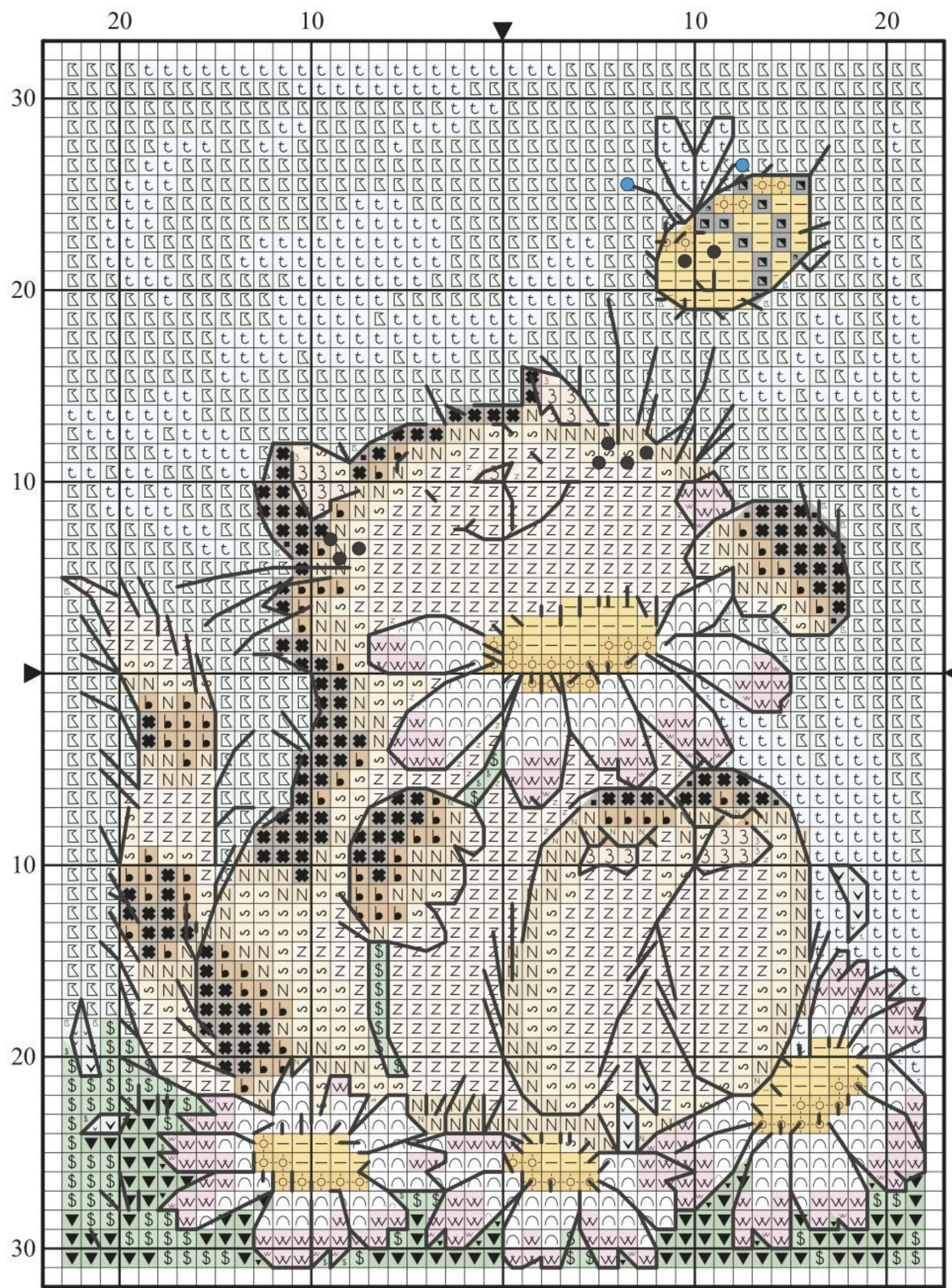
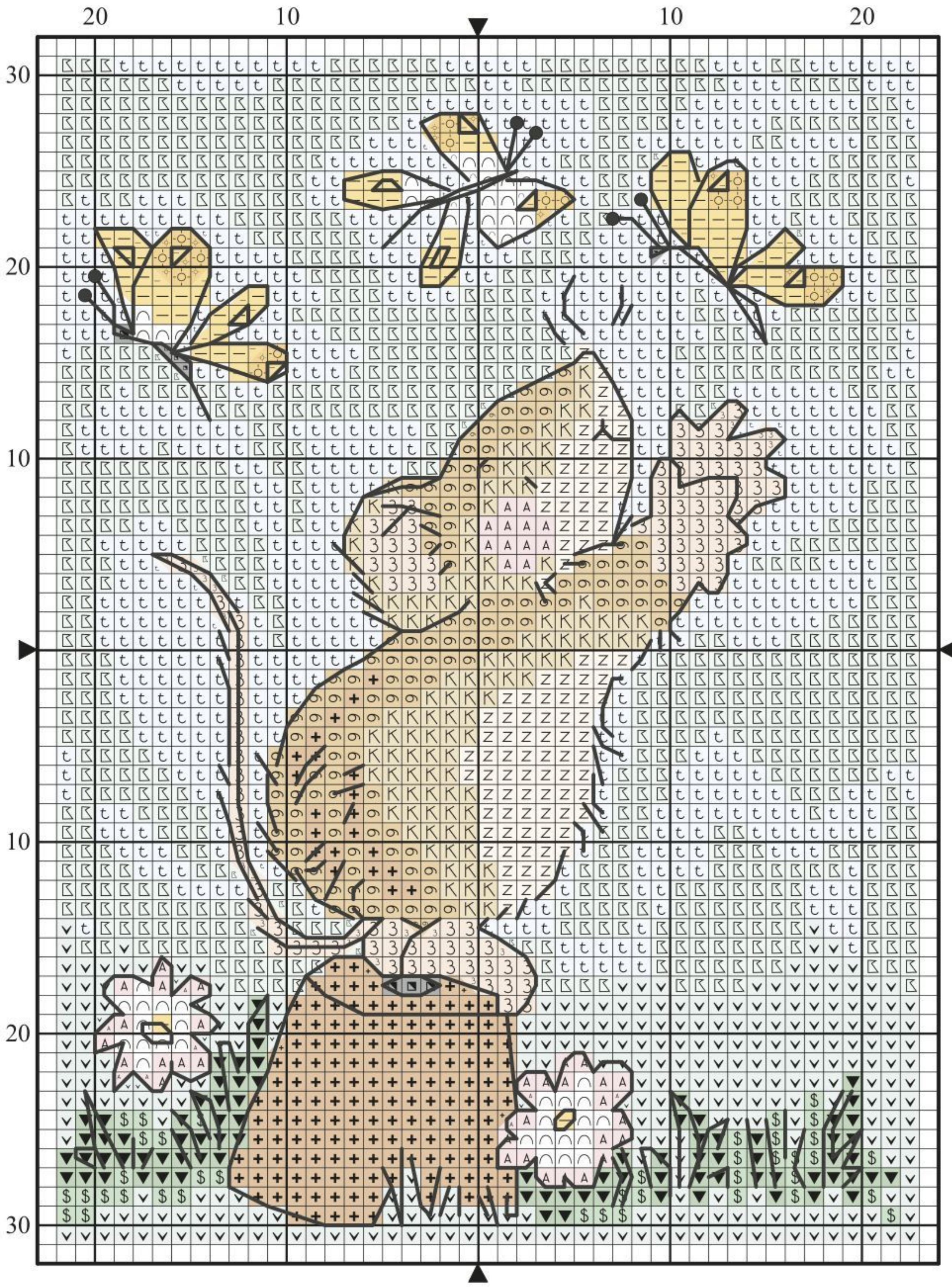
Have several needles pre-threaded with different colours to speed up your stitching



Cute & whimsical









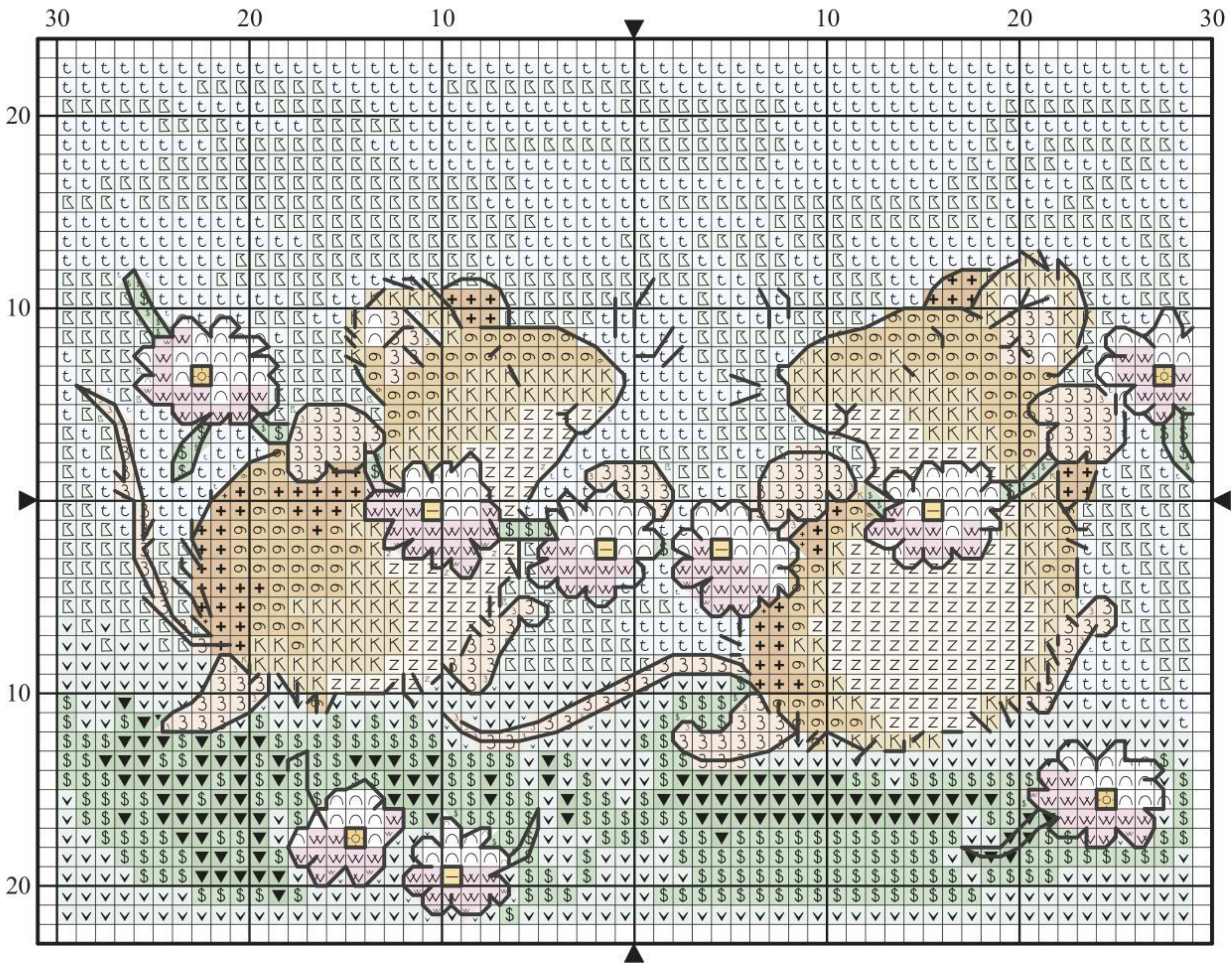
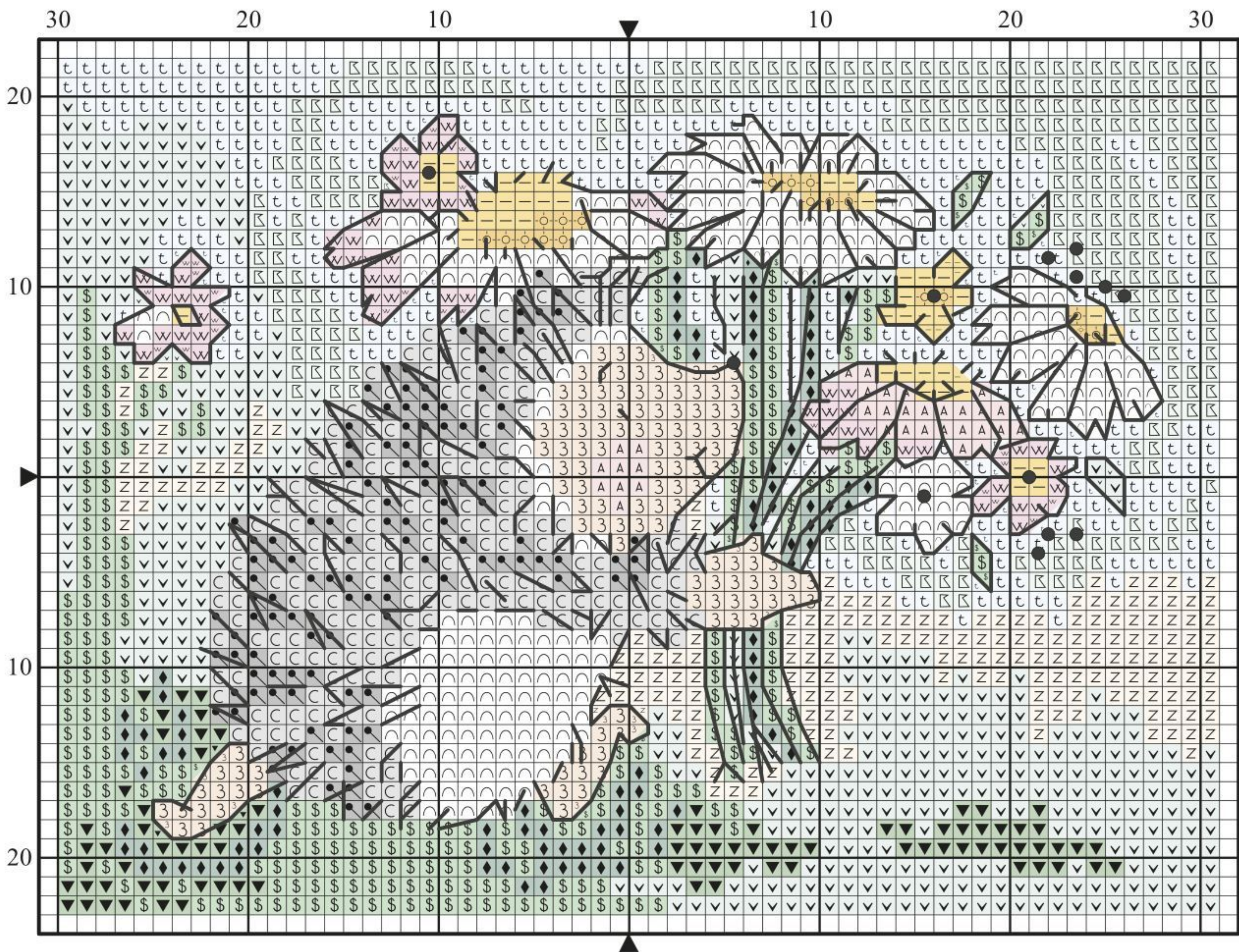
Top tips for beginners

- 1 Always start with the centre point of the chart. This is where the horizontal and vertical grid lines meet.
- 2 Check which symbol is in the centre of the chart and follow the key to see which thread you should be using. Thread your needle and start stitching in the centre of the fabric.
- 3 Regularly check the chart and count your stitching to make sure you haven't gone wrong – the quicker you notice the mistake the less stitches you will have to unpick.
- 4 Make sure all of the arms of your cross stitches lie in the same direction for a neat finish.
- 5 Turn to p147 where you'll find handy hints on working fractional stitches and other stitching tips.

**Tip**  
Stitch tiny details from these designs such as flowers, butterflies and hearts to make sweet gift tags



“These cards are fairly quick to stitch and they’re such fun you could stitch a few in advance so you have a bundle of last-minute birthday cards to hand”  
Katriel Costello, editor







# Desert blooms



Stitch a whole garden of pretty succulents and houseplants – no watering required!

Designed by Susan Bates

## 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 15x15cm (6x6in) for most designs.

14-count white aida band with white trim, 5cm (2in) wide, cut to desired length.

**Extras:** Deckle-edge card (DEC7U) in pale green and scalloped-edge card (SCF06U) in white, from [www.craftcreations.com](http://www.craftcreations.com).

3in wire hanger available from [www.craftdepartment.com](http://www.craftdepartment.com). Gift bag and backing paper of your choice.

## Stitching Factbox

**Stitching time:**  
Approx 2-10 hours each

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

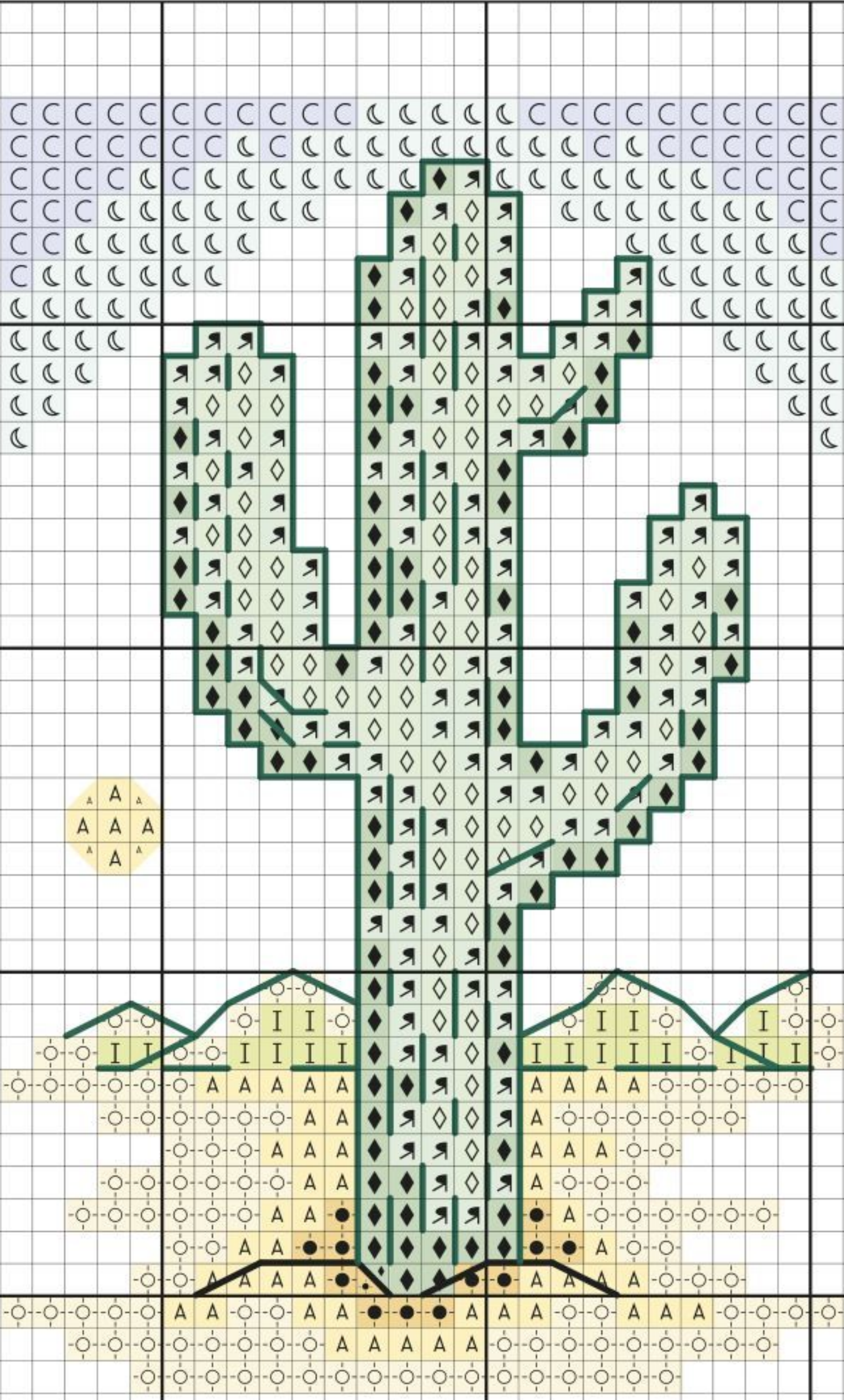
**Level:** Advanced beginner



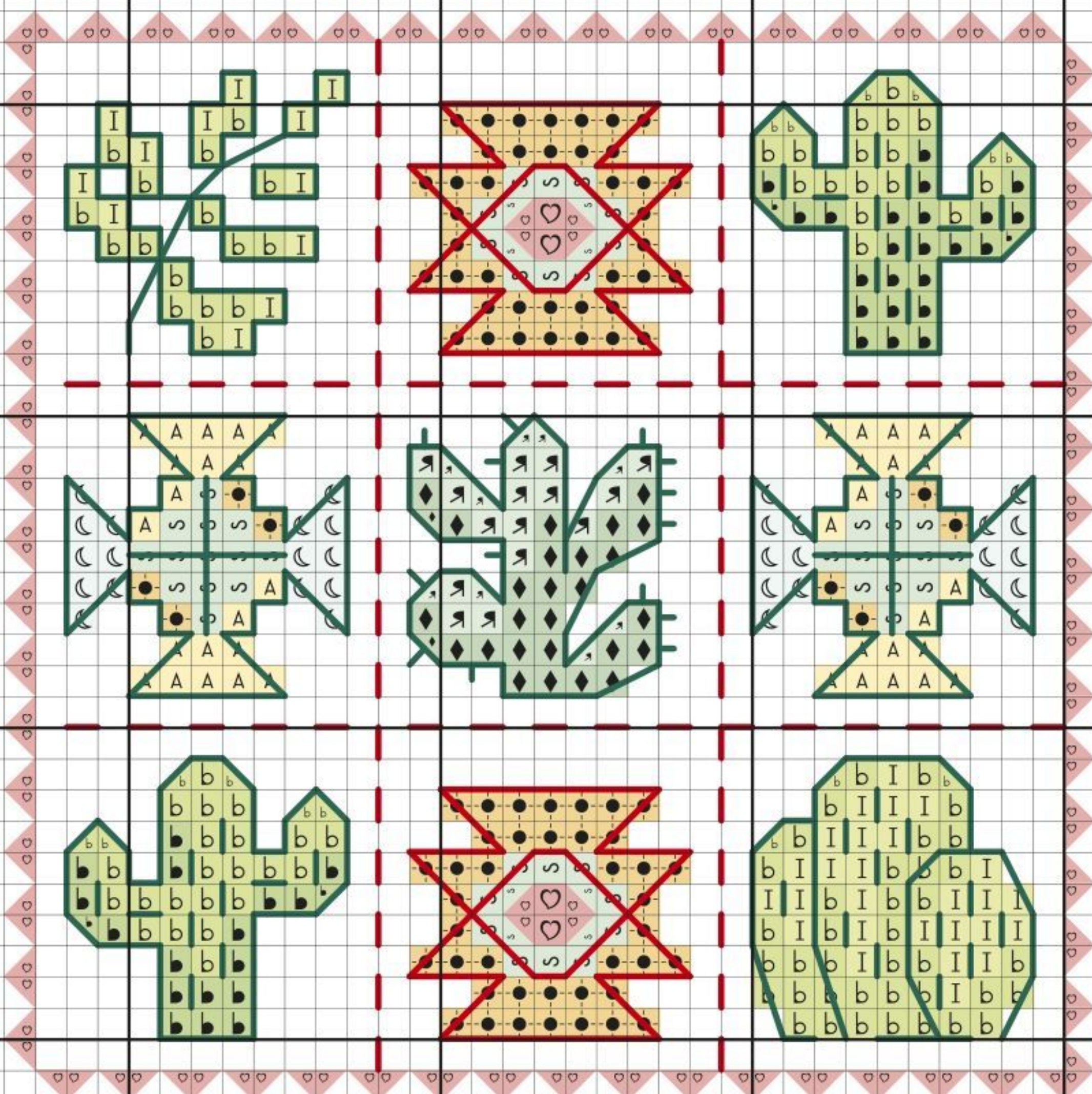
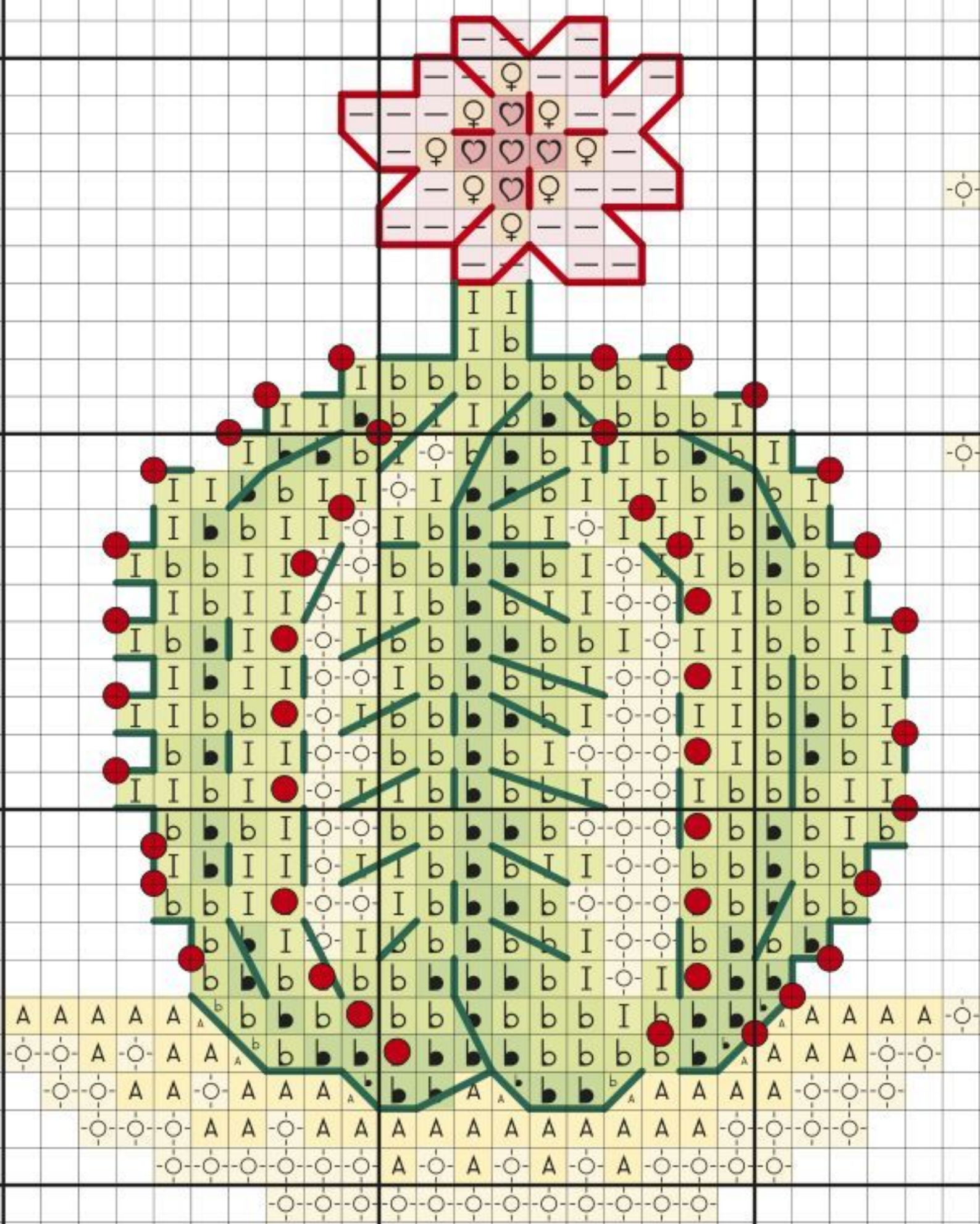




Make a gardener happy with a cute notebook, patch a design onto a pad with a brown paper cover and let the stitching shine out



Embellish a plain gift bag with a patch showing a cheery little cactus, instantly making the gift inside even more special



Succulent designs key				
✕ Cross stitch in two strands				
	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
■	310	403	2400	black
■	316	1017	809	mauve
■	414	235	1714	grey
■	702	226	1306	green
■	704	255	1308	light green
■	726	295	109	yellow
■	742	303	114	orange
■	747	158	1104	turquoise
■	841	1082	1911	beige brown
■	892	35	412	dark pink
■	912	209	1213	dark mint green
■	954	203	1207	mint green
■	955	206	1210	light mint green
■	963	73	502	light pink
■	964	185	1112	emerald
■	3326	36	606	pink
■	3341	328	403	peach
■	3774	778	306	light peach
■	3819	279	1610	lime green
■	3823	386	2512	light yellow
■	3840	130	907	blue
■	3851	187	1202	emerald green
■	3853	1003	311	apricot
✕ Backstitch in one strand				
—	310	403	2400	black
—	816	1006	513	red
—	3847	189	1204	sea green
✕ French knots in one strand				
●	816	1006	513	red
●	3847	189	1204	sea green
These designs were stitched using DMC stranded cotton				





Just For You

Aloe Variiegata

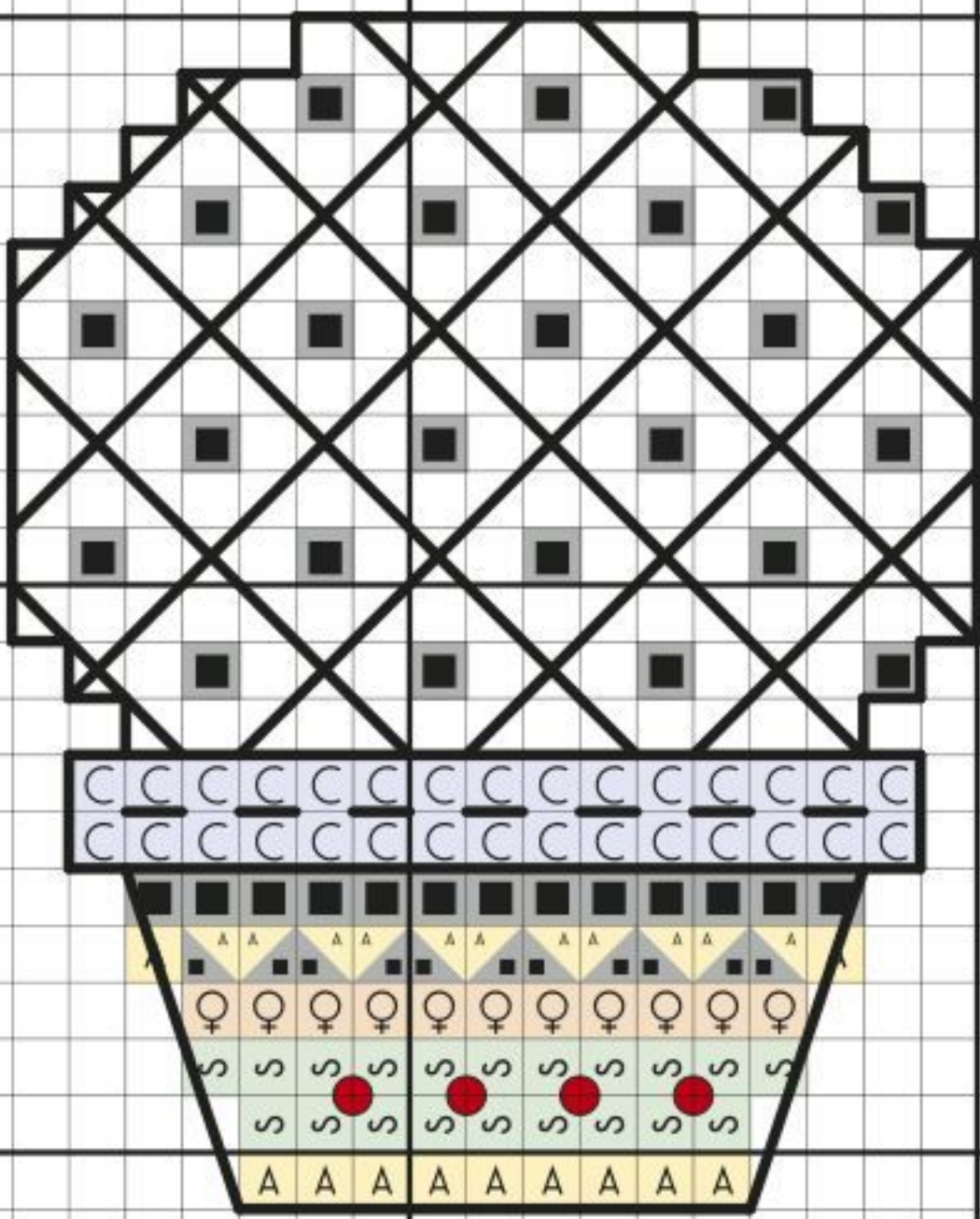
x FOR YOU x

Enhance a real plant by repeating a border of cacti on an aida band and fixing it around a plain plant pot

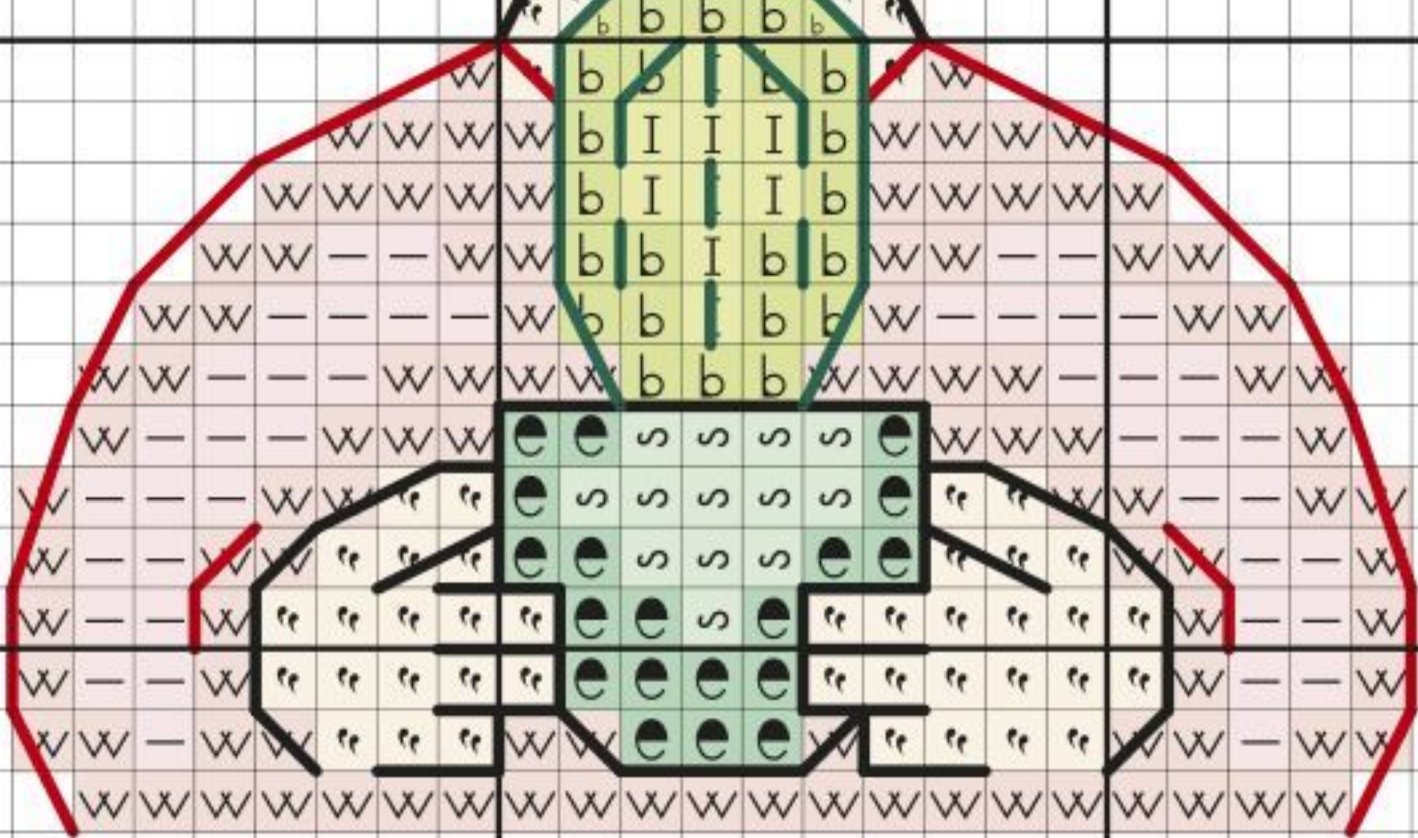
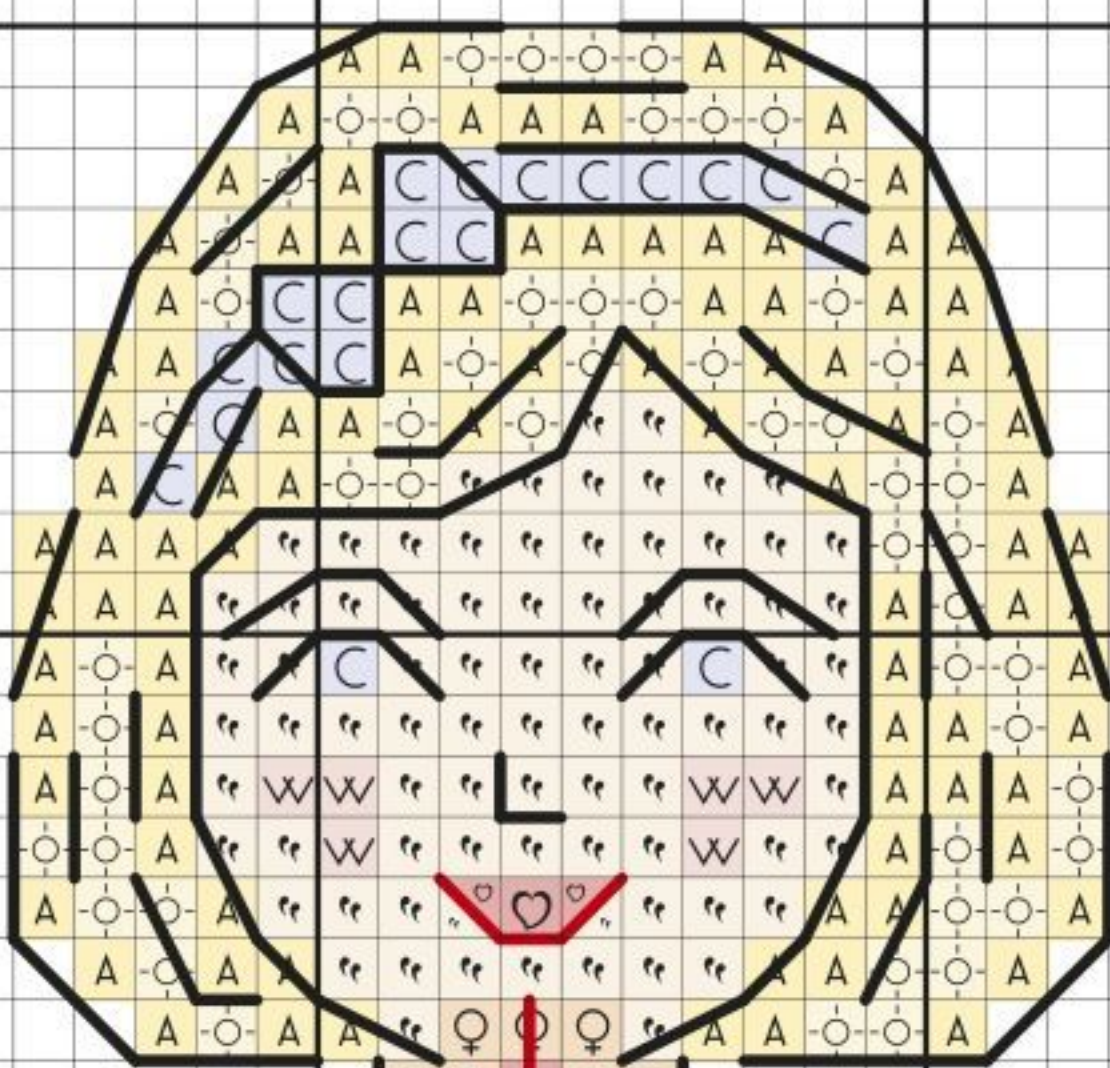


“These designs were so much fun to create, I hope I’ve done them justice. My house is filled with succulents and cacti so I didn’t have to go far for my models”

Susan Bates, designer



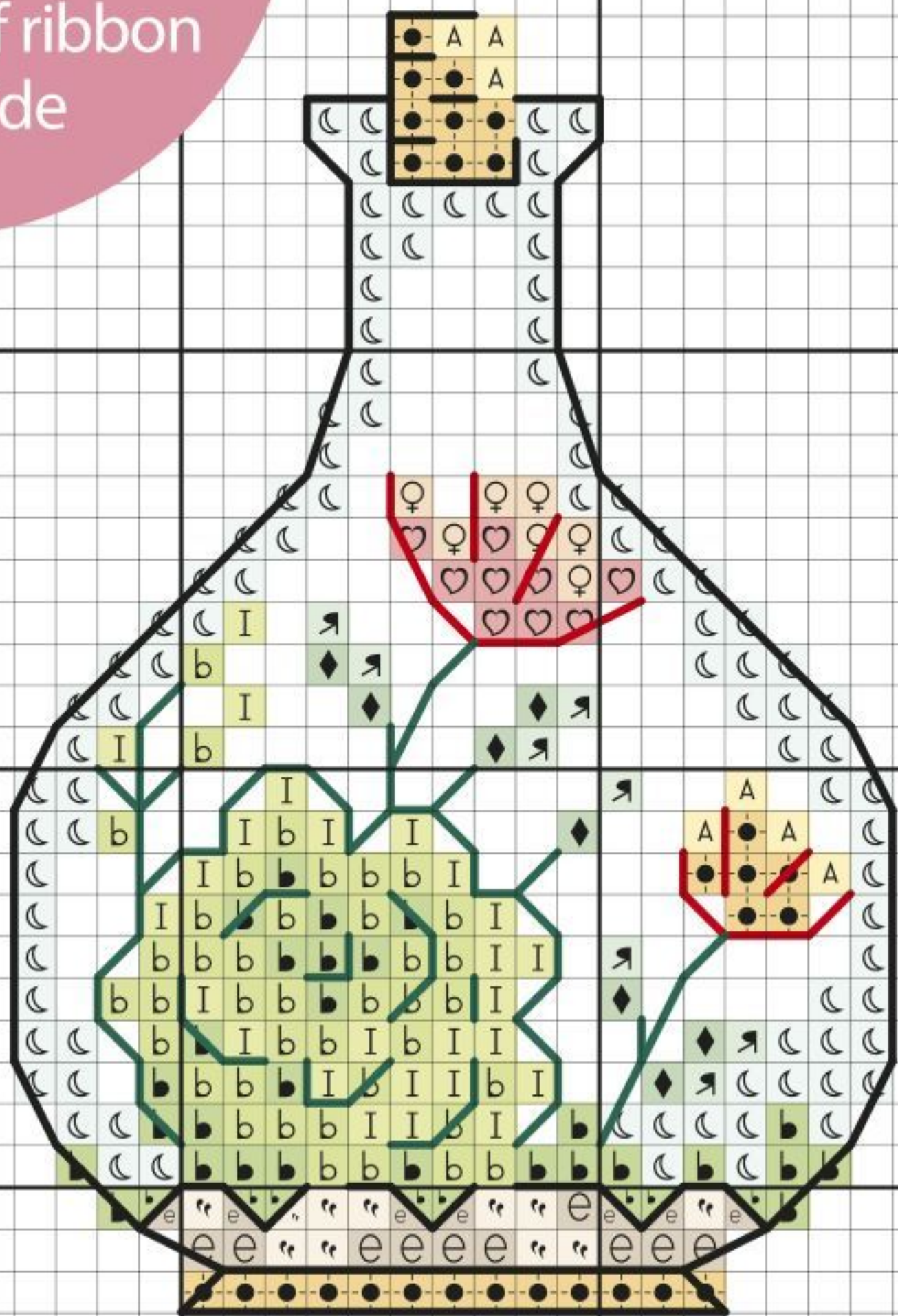
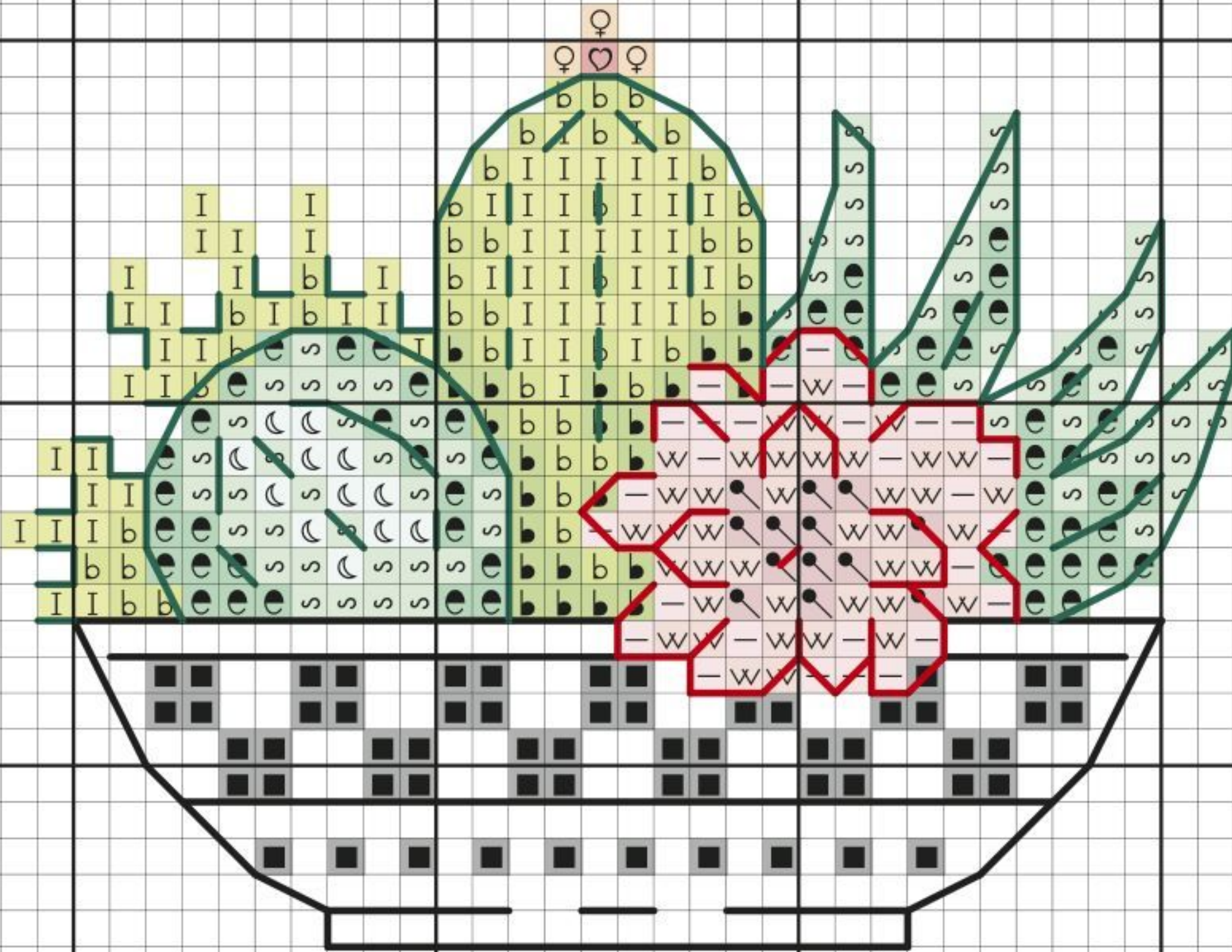
For Your



New Home



What better decoration for a needlecase than spiky cacti? Back it with plain fabric and add a loop of ribbon at the side



ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ  
abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz



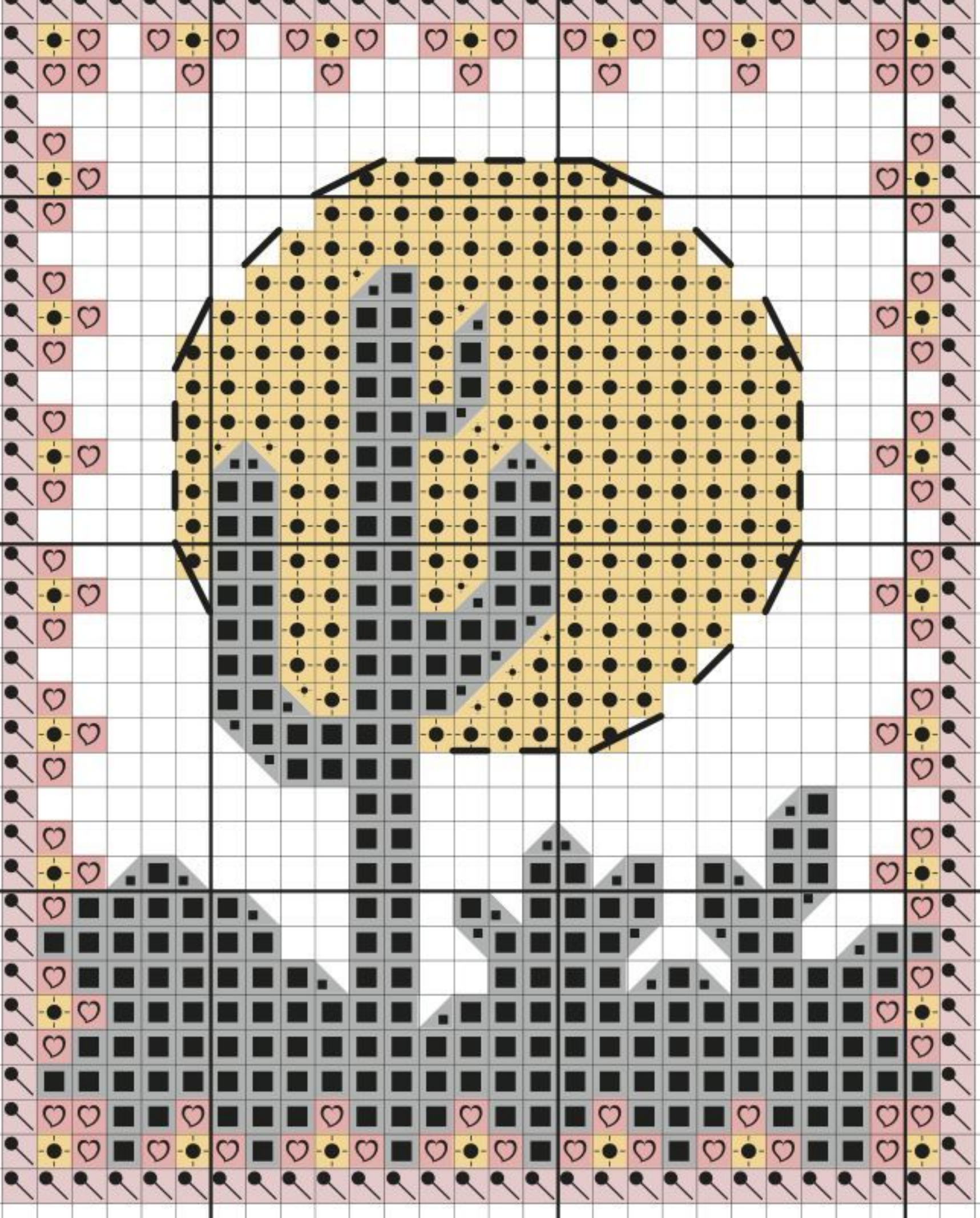


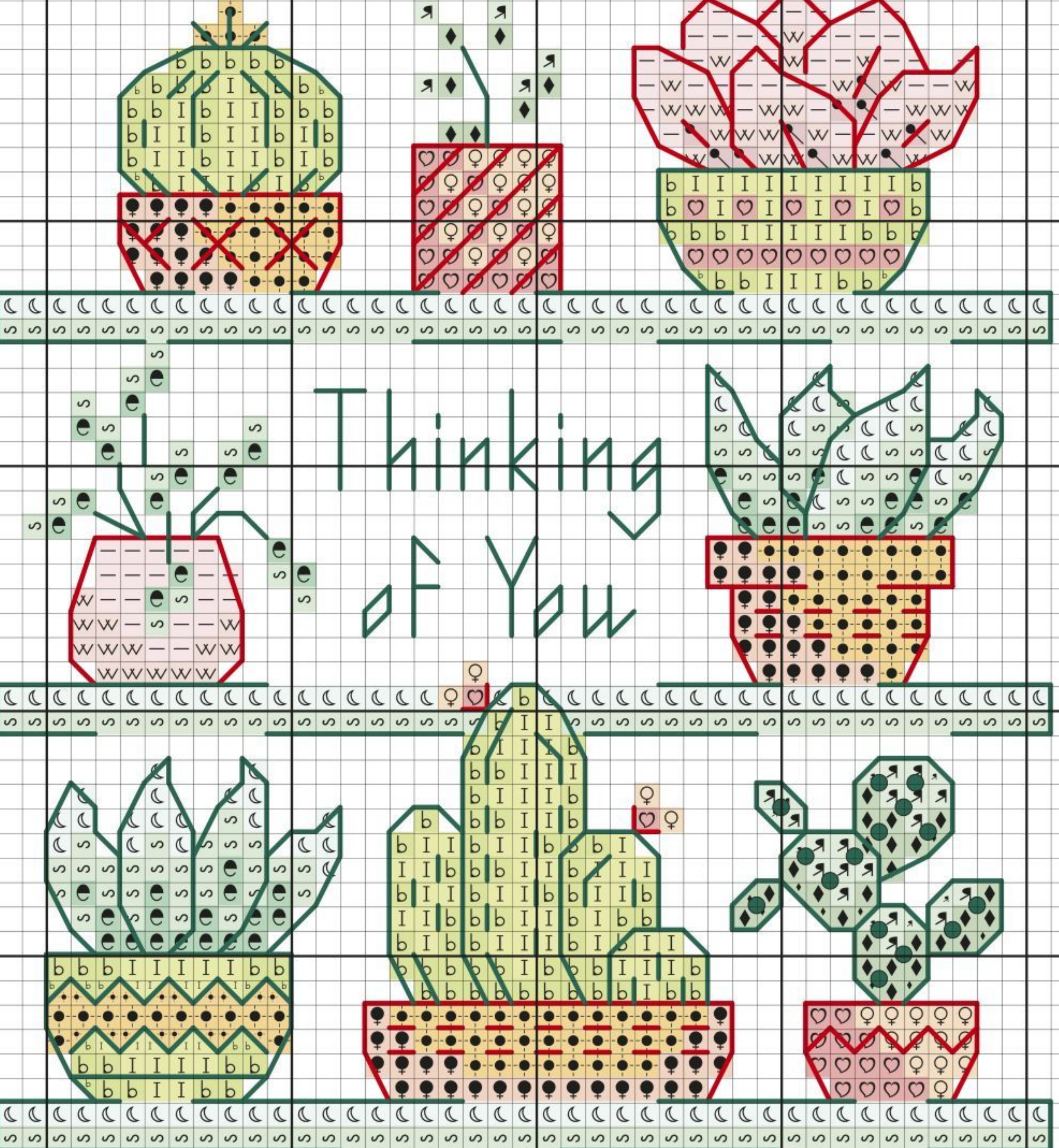
CUTE



Best Wishes

Turn your favourite cactus motif into a mini hanging using a wire and dowel heart hanger





Thinking of You



Make a gift tag extra-special by patching your stitching onto it



Stapelia Grandiflora

Recreate the trend for succulents in delicate china with a personalised card. Patch the motif onto a deckle edge card in mint green



Orchids, birds of paradise,  
lilies and blossom – send your  
love with these striking florals



# Vibrant vases



Experience the exotic side of nature's beauty with this stunning collection of delicate Oriental blossoms

Designed by Joan Elliott

## You will need

**Threads:** Stranded cotton and DMC Color Variations, as listed in the key

**Needle:** Size 24 tapestry needle

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

**Extras:** Craft Creations square aperture cards (AP53U) in pale yellow, marine blue, pink and pale green from [www.craftcreations.com](http://www.craftcreations.com)

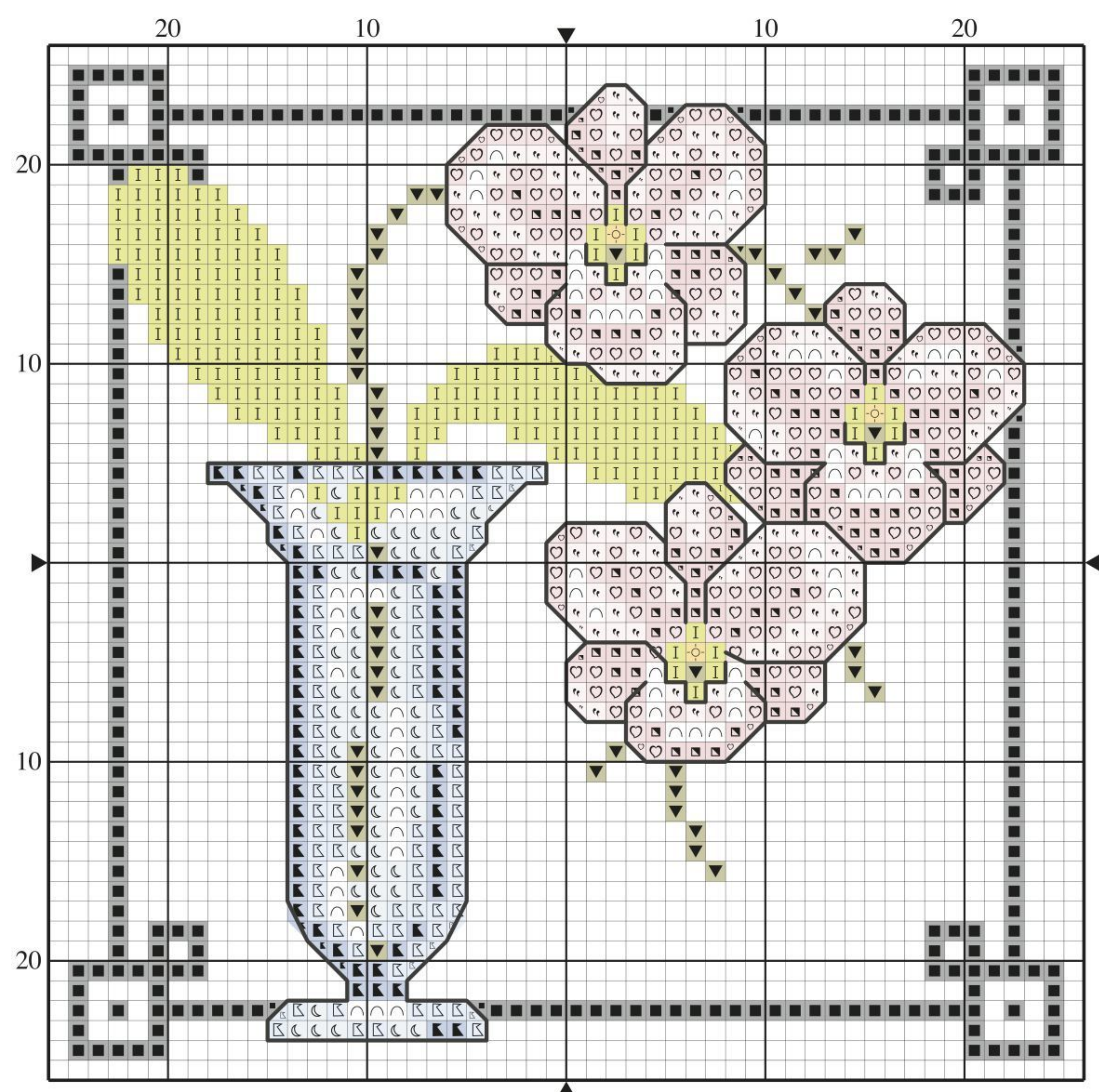
## Stitching Factbox

**Stitching time:**  
Approx 10-12 hours  
each

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

**Level:** Advanced  
beginner





## How to mount your cards

- 1 Place the card over the completed stitching. Move it around slightly and, when you are happy with the positioning, pin around the aperture. Trim excess fabric away from stitching.
- 2 Turn the card over and neatly stick double-sided tape around the edge of the aperture. Using the pins as a guide, place the card over your stitching and stick the fabric in place.
- 3 To neaten the appearance from the front, place a piece of white paper behind the stitching. Add double-sided tape to the extra card flap and carefully stick to the back of the card aperture.



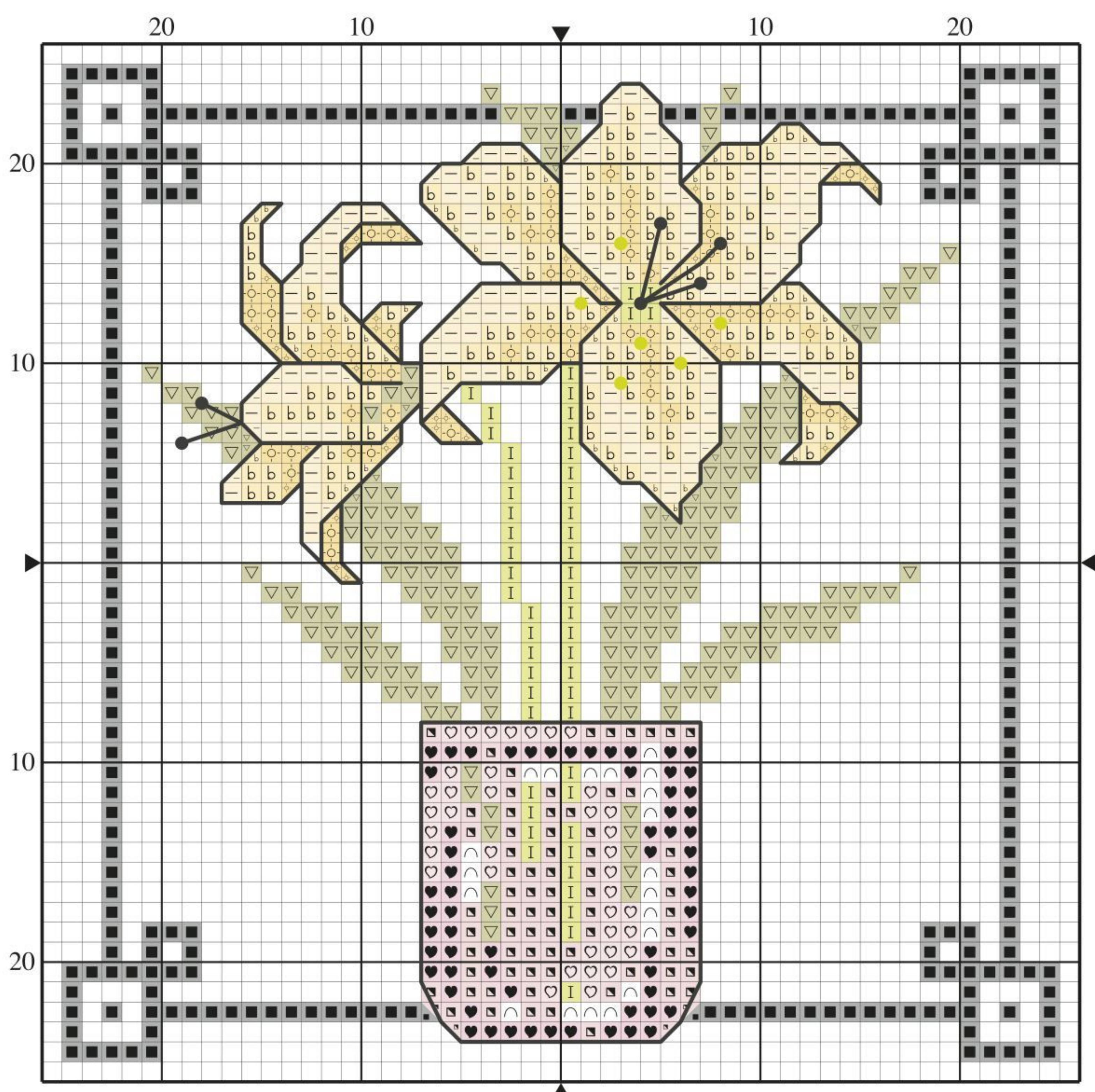
*“DMC Color Variations add texture and shade to the leaves without you having to swap thread colours. For a more dramatic contrast, work the stitches in rows”*

Joan Elliott, designer

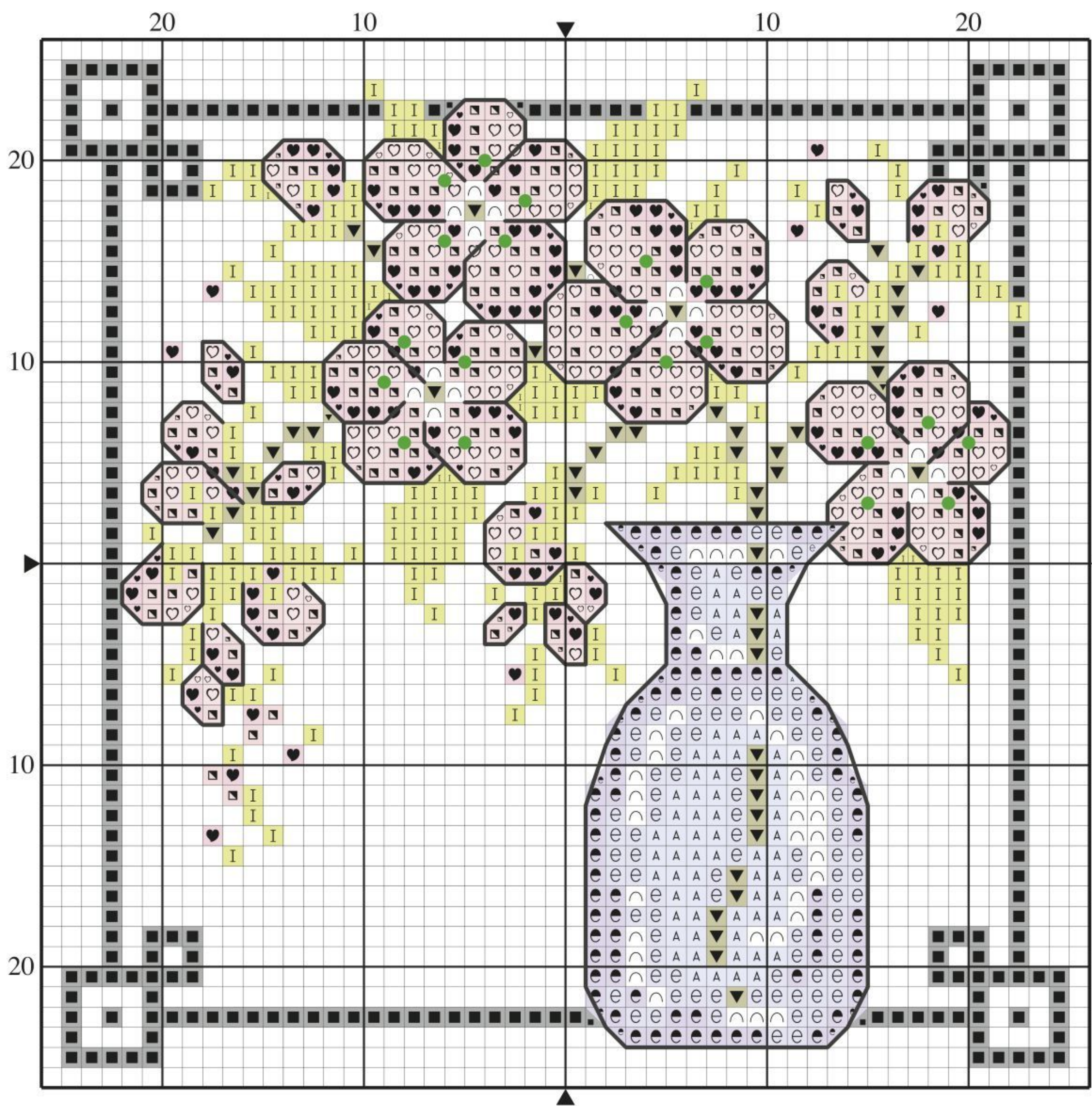


## Stitching close-up

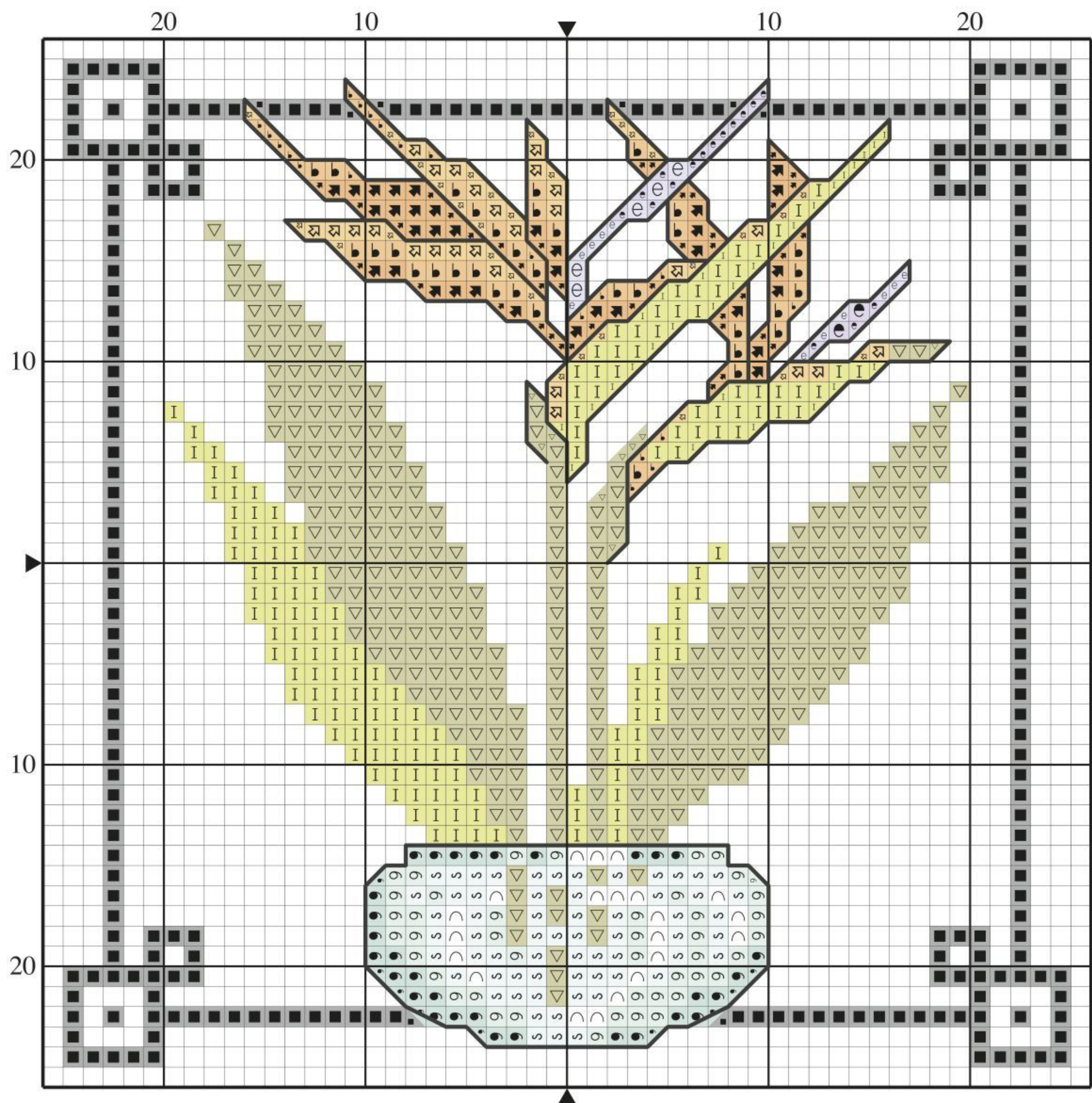
French knots are used to bring these lilies to life, and they are worked here in dark green, grey and yellow. You'll notice they are quite large, that is because they are stitched in two strands, which makes French knots appear bigger. For help with working this stitch, turn to our guide on p147.







*“I love these cards and I’m tempted to change the colour of the art deco borders to dark green, or even turquoise or yellow!”*  
Fiona Baker, technical editor



Vases key

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	blanc	2	2402	white
●	155	1030	902	dark violet
■	310	403	2400	black
◼	334	977	1004	dark blue
◻	341	117	901	violet
◻	597	1064	1110	dark turquoise
◻	598	1062	1111	turquoise
◻	732	281	1612	green
◻	740	316	204	dark orange
◻	741	304	202	orange
◻	742	303	114	light orange
◻	743	302	113	dark yellow
◻	744	301	112	yellow
◻	745	300	111	light yellow
◻	819	271	501	very light pink
◻	962	75	609	dark pink
◻	963	73	502	light pink
◻	3325	129	907	blue
◻	3716	25	503	pink
◻	3747	120	909	light violet
◻	3811	1060	1101	light turquoise
◻	3841	9159	1001	light blue

✕ Cross stitch in two strands DMC Color Variations

◻	4045			evergreen forest
◻	4050			roaming pastures

✕ Backstitch in one strand

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

✕ French knots in two strands

●	732	281	1612	dark green
●	3799	236	1713	grey

✕ French knots in two strands DMC Color Variations

●	4050			roaming pastures
---	------	--	--	------------------

STITCH COUNT 50 high x 50 wide

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

These designs were stitched using DMC stranded cotton and DMC Color Variations

**Tip**  
To enjoy these designs all year round, mount them in a four-way aperture and finish with an ornate frame



# Tiffany windows

Send thank yous, birthday greetings or simply brighten someone's day with one of these six gorgeous cards



Designed by Ursula Michael

Stained glass is such a fantastic medium and you'll find stitching in this style very uplifting. Seeing the way that real stained glass glows so beautifully inspired designer Ursula to try to capture that same light in cross stitch. This collection of six floral greetings is inspired by

the intricacies of Tiffany glass, which was produced by Louis Comfort Tiffany in his studios during the late 1800s. He mastered new processes that gave his glass richer textures and colours than other glass at that time, which is why his glassmaking techniques have survived to this day.

## You will need

**Threads:** Stranded cotton, as listed in the key

**Needle:** Size 26 tapestry needle

**Fabric:** 16-count white aida measuring 20x15cm (8x6in) for each design

**Extras:** Craft Creations oval aperture (AP01U), large oblong (AP48U), square (AP53U), small oblong (AP78U), circle (AP52U), small circle (AP09U) in purple, marine blue and raspberry from [www.craftcreations.com](http://www.craftcreations.com)

## Tip

Finish off any ends by threading them through areas of the same colour at the back



## Stitching Factbox

**Stitching time:**  
Approx 8-10 hours each

**Type of stitches:**  
Cross stitch, fractionals, backstitch

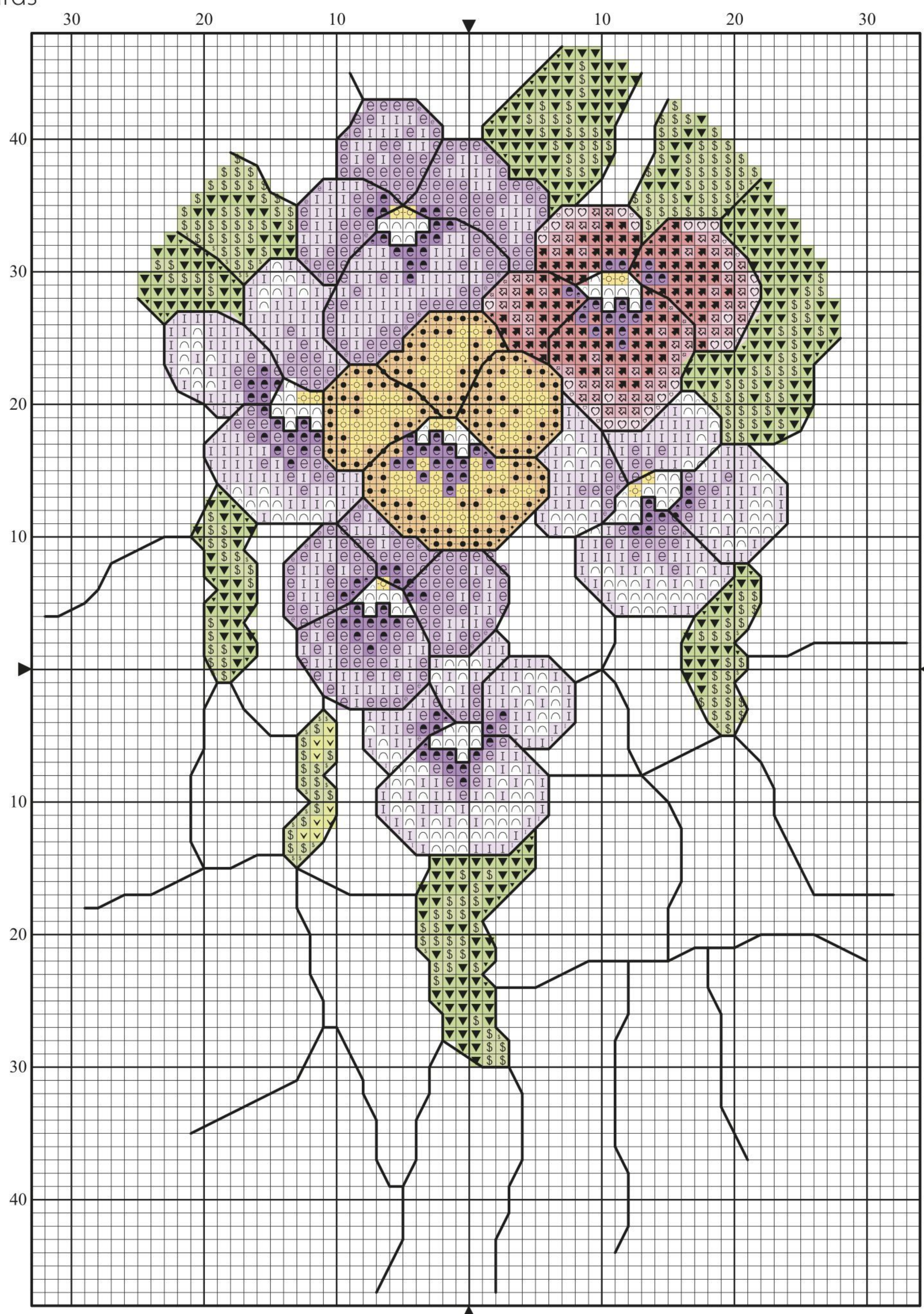
**Level:** Intermediate



Vibrant colours and white backgrounds  
create the sense that these stained  
glass cards have been lit from behind







## How to mount your Tiffany designs into cards

**1** Lay your pressed stitching face up and place the card on top, with the aperture framing the design. Move the card round until you are happy with the way it frames the design. Attach pins to the fabric to mark the edges of the aperture.

**2** Lift away the card and trim the fabric 1.5cm (½in) away from the pins. Leave enough fabric with which to stick the design inside the card.

**3** Stick double-sided tape around aperture on reverse of the card.

**4** Pull off the backing tape and position the aperture on the reverse side of the card.

**5** Lay the card face down and place wadding or white paper over the back of the stitching. Stick strips of double-sided tape to left-hand flap and fold over back of the stitching. Fold over right-hand flap to finish.





Tiffany cards key

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	blanc	2	2402	white
e	208	99	804	dark lilac
I	210	108	802	lilac
■	310	403	2400	black
♥	321	9046	510	red
—	445	288	103	yellow
e	550	102	714	mauve
↗	601	63	703	dark pink
↖	603	55	701	pink
♡	605	1094	613	light pink
●	741	304	202	orange
▼	904	258	1413	dark green
\$	906	256	1410	green
▽	907	255	1308	light green
⦿	973	290	105	dark yellow
☾	3838	176	2702	blue
P	3840	130	907	light blue
b	3863	379	1912	beige
N	3864	376	1910	light beige

✕ Backstitch in one strand

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

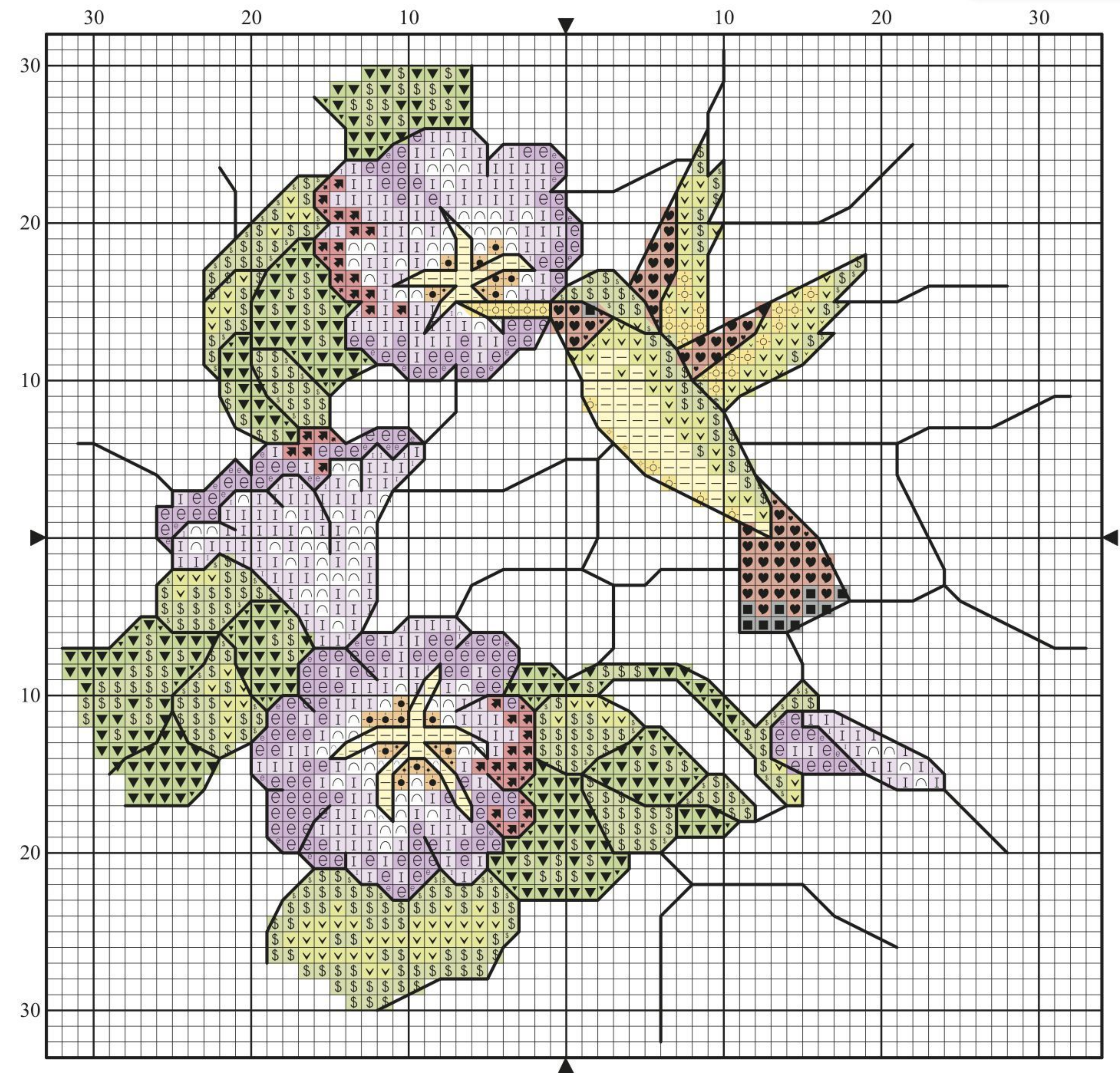
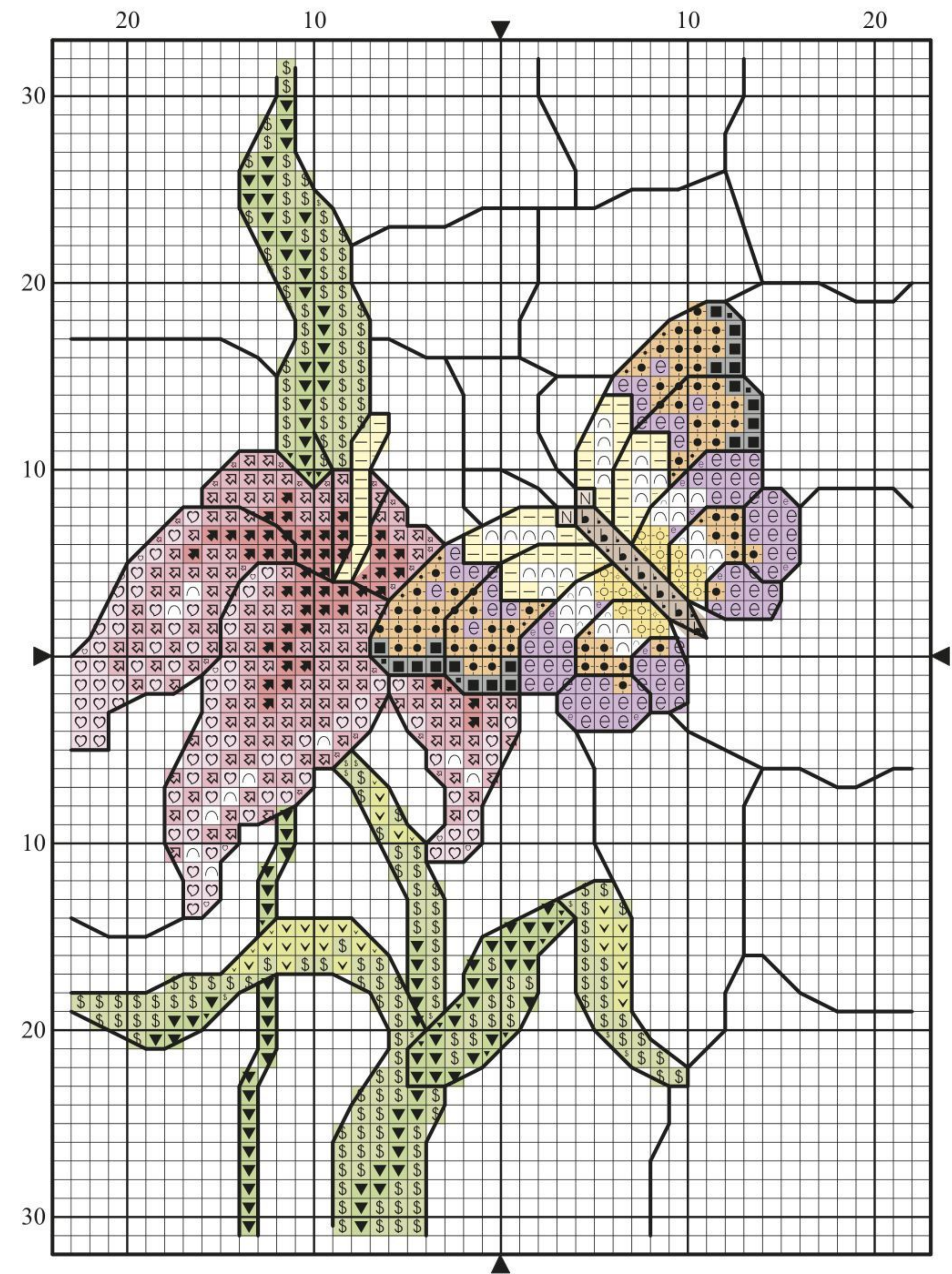
MAXIMUM STITCH COUNT

94 high x 65 wide

DESIGN AREA

16 HPI (32-count evenweave) – 15x10.5cm (5¾x4in)

These designs were stitched using DMC stranded cotton

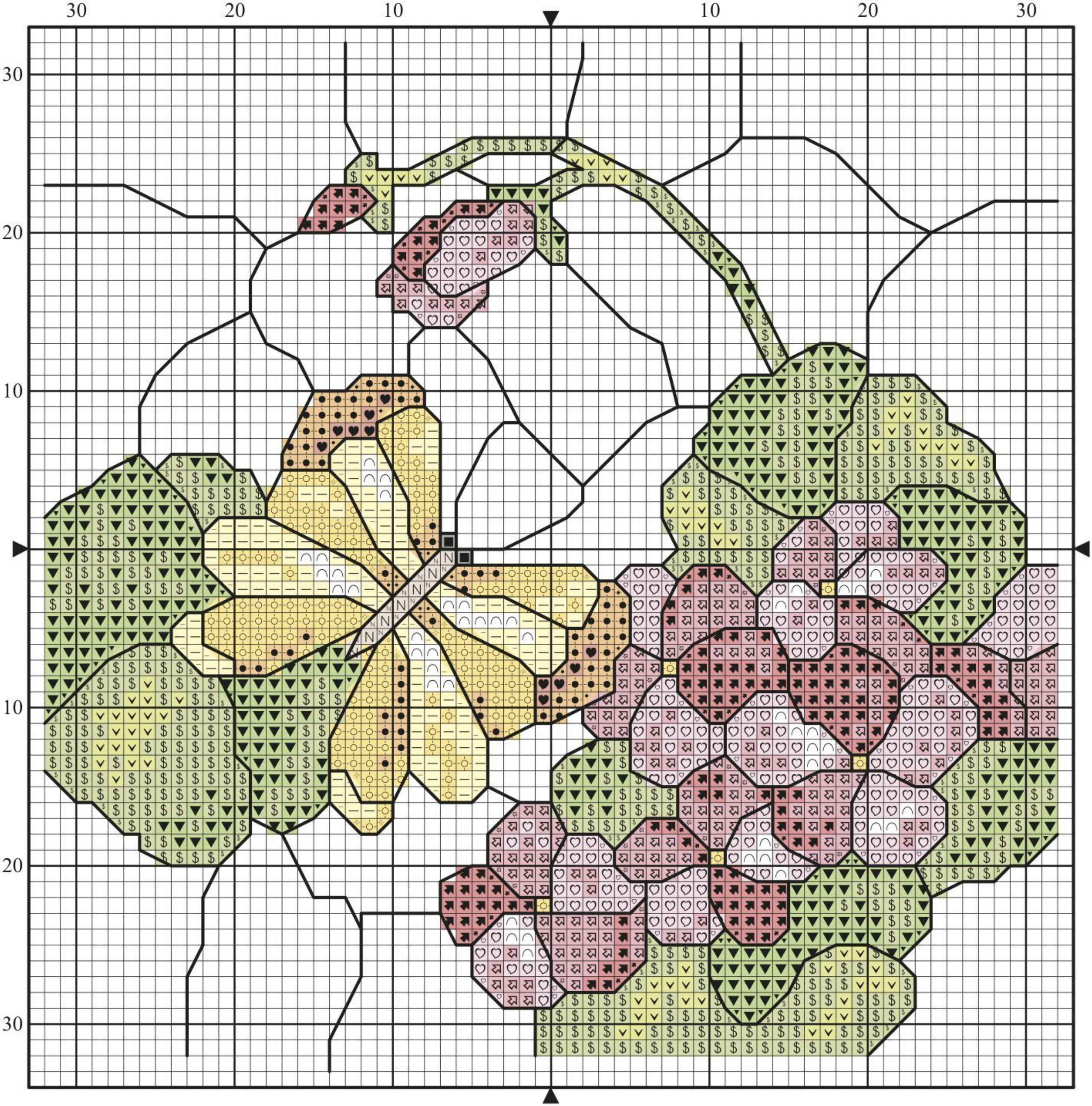


**Tip**  
You can work these designs on 14-count aida if you prefer, but your stitching will be bigger than our models

“Don’t be tempted to work the backstitch grid of these designs first. It needs to sit neatly on top of the cross stitch”  
Ursula Michael, designer

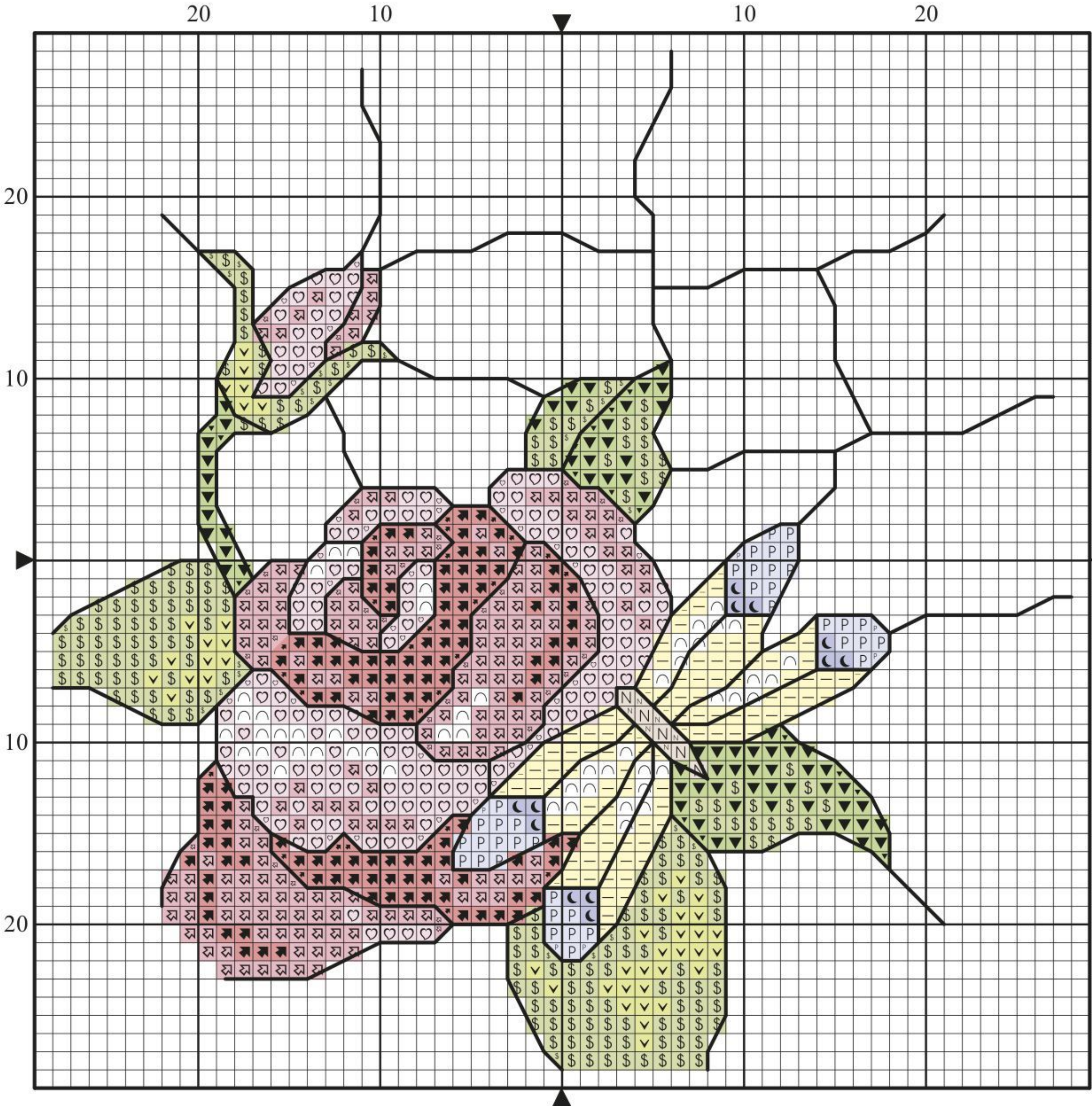


Cross stitch cards

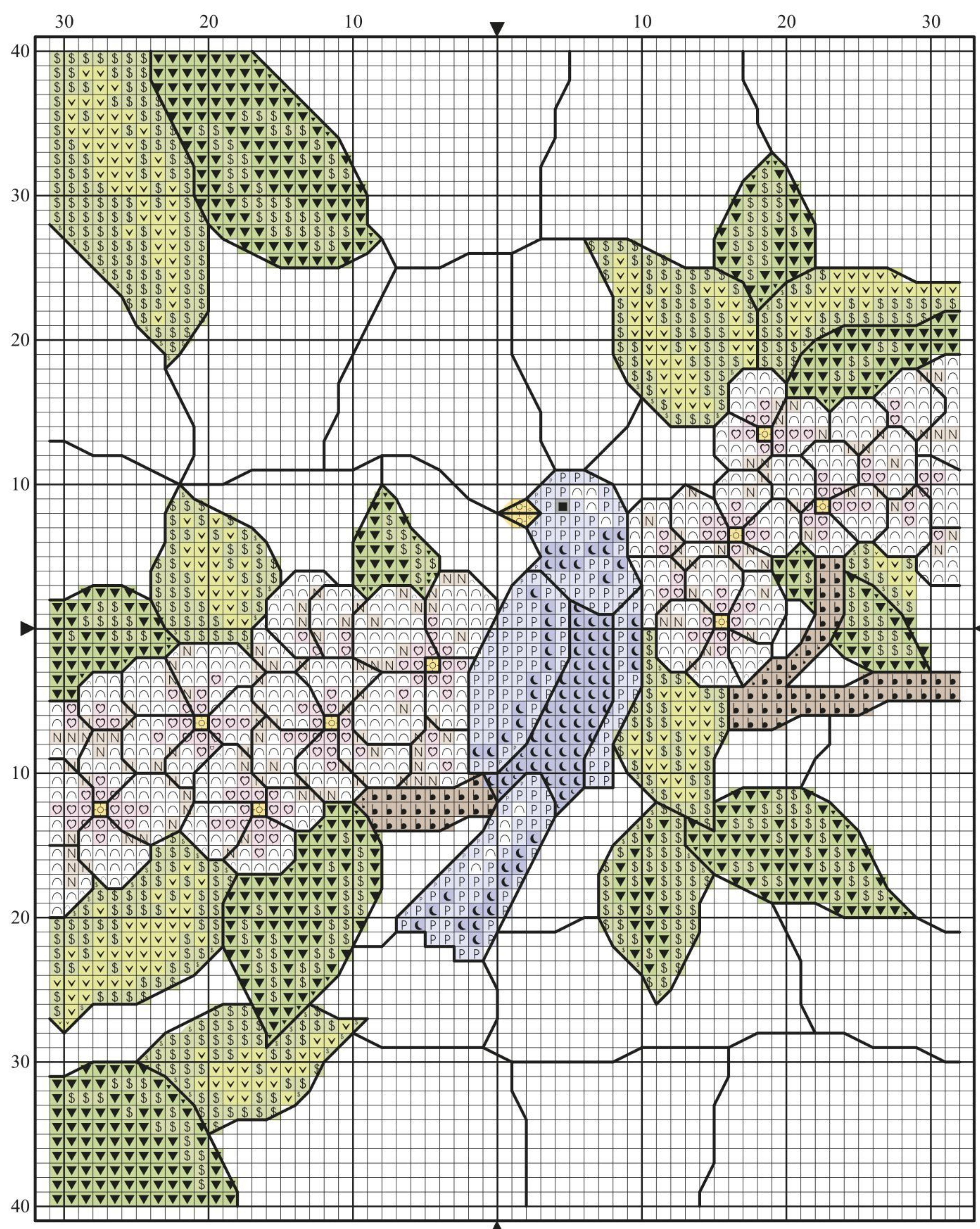


“These designs only really come to life once you frame them in aperture cards. I think you’ll enjoy choosing all the bright colours”  
Heather Nugent,  
charting assistant

**Stitching close-up**  
These cards use a variety of different shaped apertures, to reflect the different shapes of window apertures you might find housing real Tiffany glass.







## Stitching these designs onto evenweave instead of aida fabric

If you're an experienced stitcher, you may prefer to work these pretty designs on evenweave or linen, instead of aida. Evenweave will give a softer look to your finished stitching, and you will also find the fractional stitches easier to work on this fabric. Be careful when sticking the designs into cards, however, as evenweave is not stiff like aida, it's harder to mount. It is also more likely

to fray, so use a bit of masking tape to prevent threads coming away at the edges.

## Variegated finish

Try using variegated threads in these designs to help reflect the changing nature of fused glass. For the pansies you could try Polstitches Dragon Floss in Midnight Mist for the dark purple flowers, Friendship for light purple, Glints of Gold for yellow, Summer Fruits for red, and Pine Needles for the green foliage. Visit [www.polstitchesdesigns.co.uk](http://www.polstitchesdesigns.co.uk) to see what's available in the range.





# Say it with flowers

Choose a sentiment that's personal to the recipient when you stitch these pretty all-occasion cards enhanced with beads



Designed by Faby Reilly

**Y**ou can say anything with flowers, 'I love you,' 'I'm sorry' – and everything in between. Faby's collection of all-occasion cards feature a pretty floral border, worked in whole stitches and embellished with crystal and golden seed beads. She's also used eyelet stitches here

and there, for which you'll find instructions over the page. And there's space on each chart for you to add your own sentiment, using the alphabet and number charts provided over on page 102, so you really can say whatever you need to. Each greeting has been framed with golden stitches.

## Stitching Factbox

**Stitching time:**  
Approx 10-15 hours each

**Type of stitches:**  
Cross stitch, backstitch, French knots, eyelet stitch

**Level:** Intermediate/advanced

## You will need

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

**Needle:** Size 26 tapestry needle, beading needle

**Fabric:** 28-count white evenweave measuring 25x20 (9½x8in) for each design

**Extras:** Mill Hill beads, as listed in the key. Plain card and Craft Creations single fold oblong cards with straight edge (SF03U) in white (30) from [www.craftcreations.com](http://www.craftcreations.com)

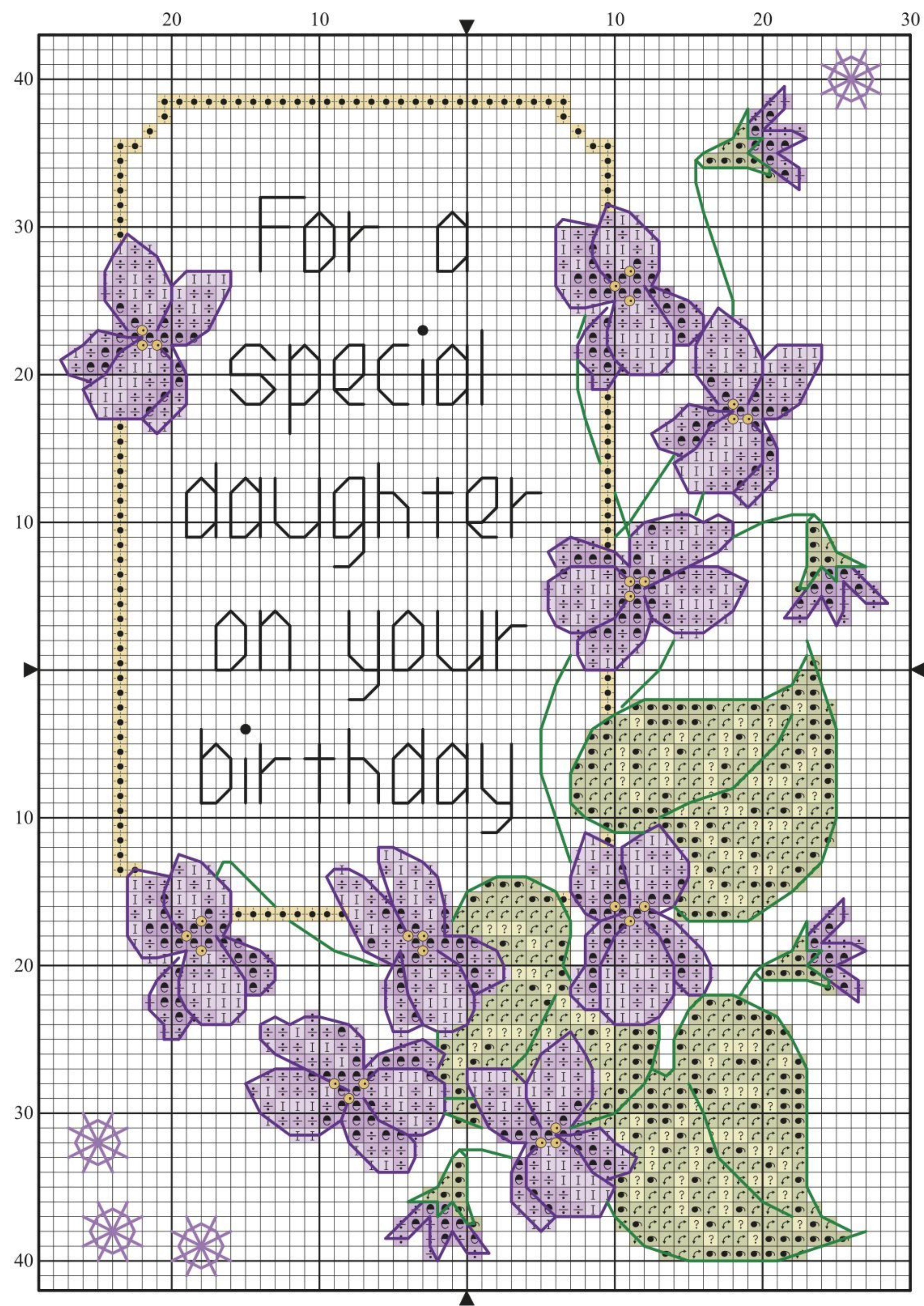




Choose from delicate forget-me-nots, pretty roses, purple violets or beautiful frangipani flowers

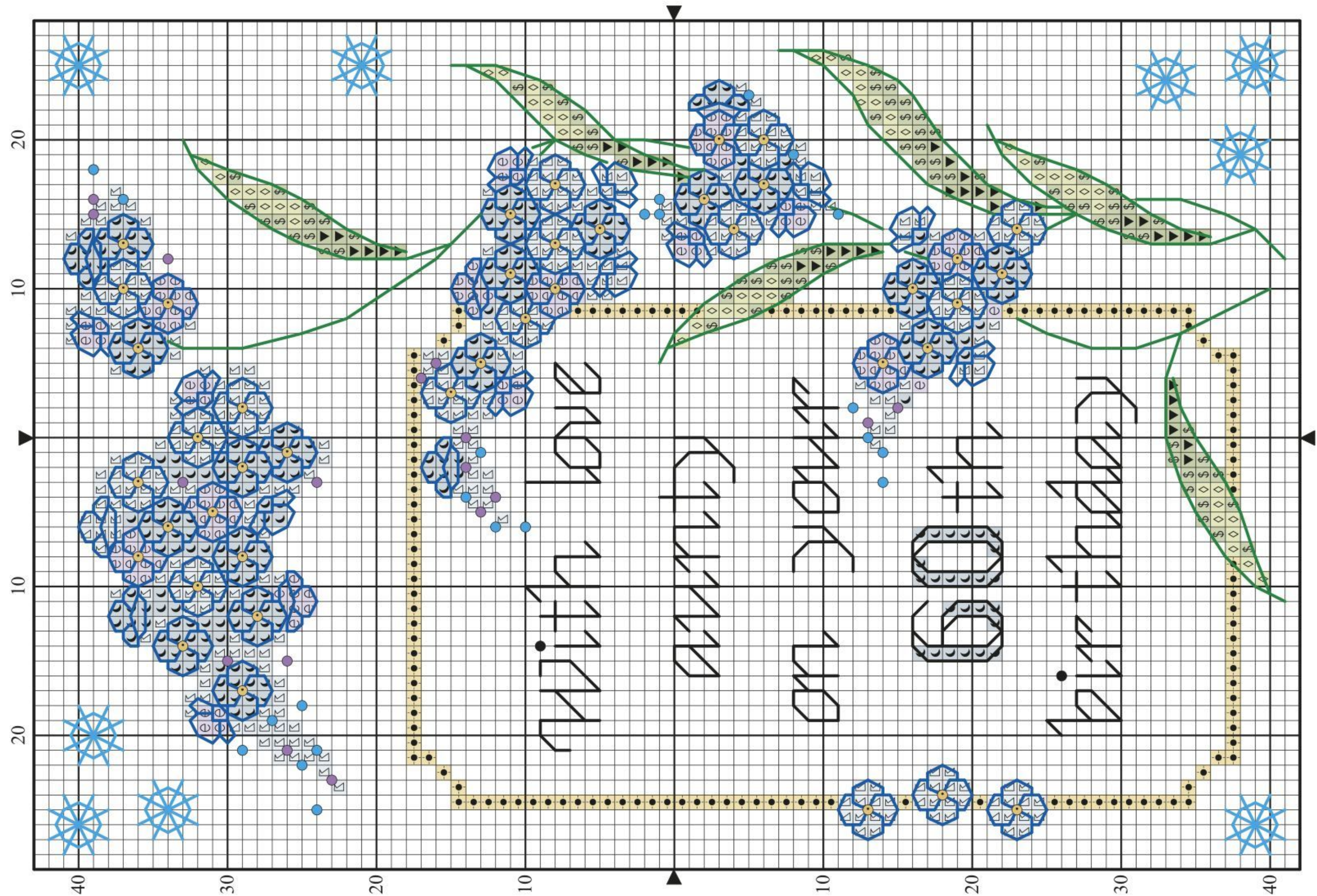






“Faby’s florals are so detailed, but they are actually not too tricky to stitch. I think they’d make ideal greeting cards for weddings and anniversaries”  
Abi Barker, special projects coordinator

**How to mount your stitching**  
Iron interfacing to the back of the design. Cut a single piece of base card, slightly smaller than your main single fold card. Stick your fabric onto the base card, folding the edges to the back. Mitre the corners and stick the fabric down at the back. Then stick your base card to the front of the card. Or you can use an aperture card – the choice is yours.





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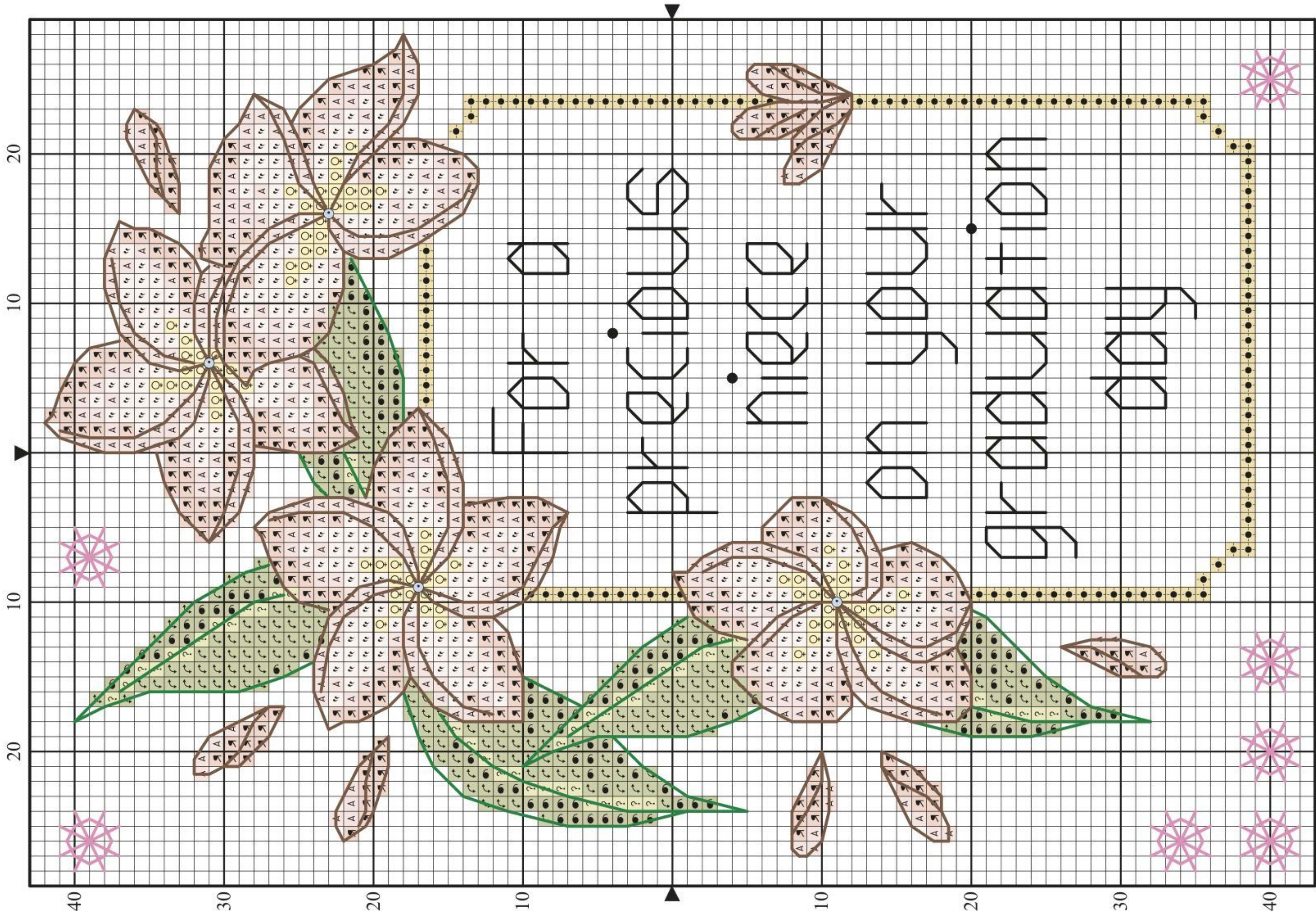
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“Use these pretty designs to make inspirational quotes to hang in your home”

Fiona Baker, technical editor



### Stitching these designs on aida

These beautiful designs do not contain any fractional stitches, so you can easily work them on aida if you prefer. Just make sure that you back your fabric with a piece of interfacing or paper before you mount it on your card – this will prevent the holes in the aida being too visible and spoiling the look of the delicate stitching.



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Your beautiful floral collection

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Tulips in spring



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Folk art designs



The best-loved floral designs – yours to treasure forever!

## Flowers

**This must-have selection features over 200 fabulous floral charts to ensure your collection of cross stitch flowers is complete!**

With **247 charts inside**, you'll find gorgeous cards to stitch plus beautiful and inspiring designs to make as gifts for friends and family. Decorate your home with summer poppies, magnolias, spring blooms and more in this must-stitch collection.

### Inside this issue:

- \* Don't miss out on popular designer Margaret Sherry's fun animals with flowers cards
- \* Make a magnolias card and gift for Mother's Day
- \* Stitch a set of Tiffany windows cards filled with bright florals and butterflies
- \* Choose from 41 floral cards including orchids in vases, sweet sentiments and cute animals
- \* Create our stunning summer poppies cushion for your home – start stitching today!

### Your favourite designers

- \* Joan Elliott \* Margaret Sherry
  - \* Lesley Teare \* Durene Jones
  - \* Lucie Heaton \* Jenny Barton
  - \* Susan Bates \* Amanda Gregory
- and more!*

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# To my dear Mum

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



Designed by Amanda Gregory

With Mother's Day coming up soon, many of us will be getting our needles and threads ready to stitch a heartfelt thank you, be it for your mum, your grandma or even an extra-special auntie. So, we've brought you these four gorgeous charts inspired by the stunning magnolia bloom. Whether you're looking

for a classic card design, a quick-stitch present or a sweet gift set, there's something for every kind of mum. With their soft pastel shades, these feminine flowers work beautifully in cross stitch. And, they're perfect for stitchers of all abilities. Using just a few pinks and greens you'll create real depth, giving each piece a lifelike feel your recipient will love.

## Stitching Factbox

**Stitching time:**  
Approx 35 hours for the set

**Type of stitches:**  
Cross stitch, fractionals, backstitch

**Level:**  
Beginner/intermediate

## You will need

**Threads:** Stranded cotton, as listed in the key

**Needle:** Size 24 tapestry needle

**Fabric:** 14-count white aida measuring 20x20cm (8x8in) for the hoop; 15x15cm (6x6in) for the card; 13x10cm (5x4in) for the sachet and 23x10cm (9x4in) for the dressing table mat

**Extras:** Fabric of your choice; we used Tilda fabric 110 Leaf Garland pink from [www.pandurohobby.co.uk](http://www.pandurohobby.co.uk), 0844 8485692. Craft Creations square aperture card (AP53U) in creative smooth white, from [www.craftcreations.com](http://www.craftcreations.com), 01992 781900. Wooden embroidery hoop measuring 15cm (6in), painted blue and ribbon of your choice.





## Tip

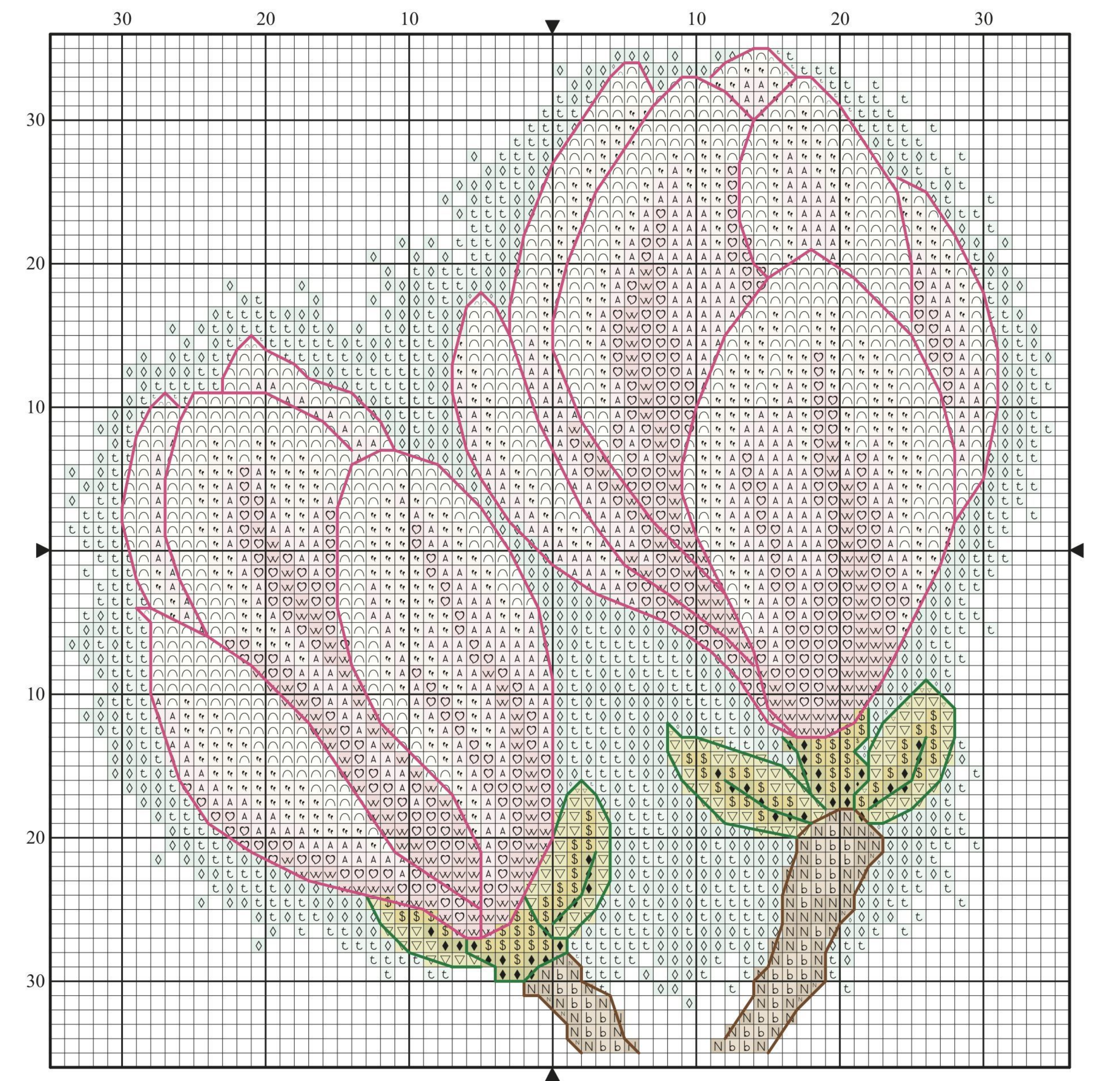
Paint a hoop with acrylic paint, for a tailor-made way to show off your stitching



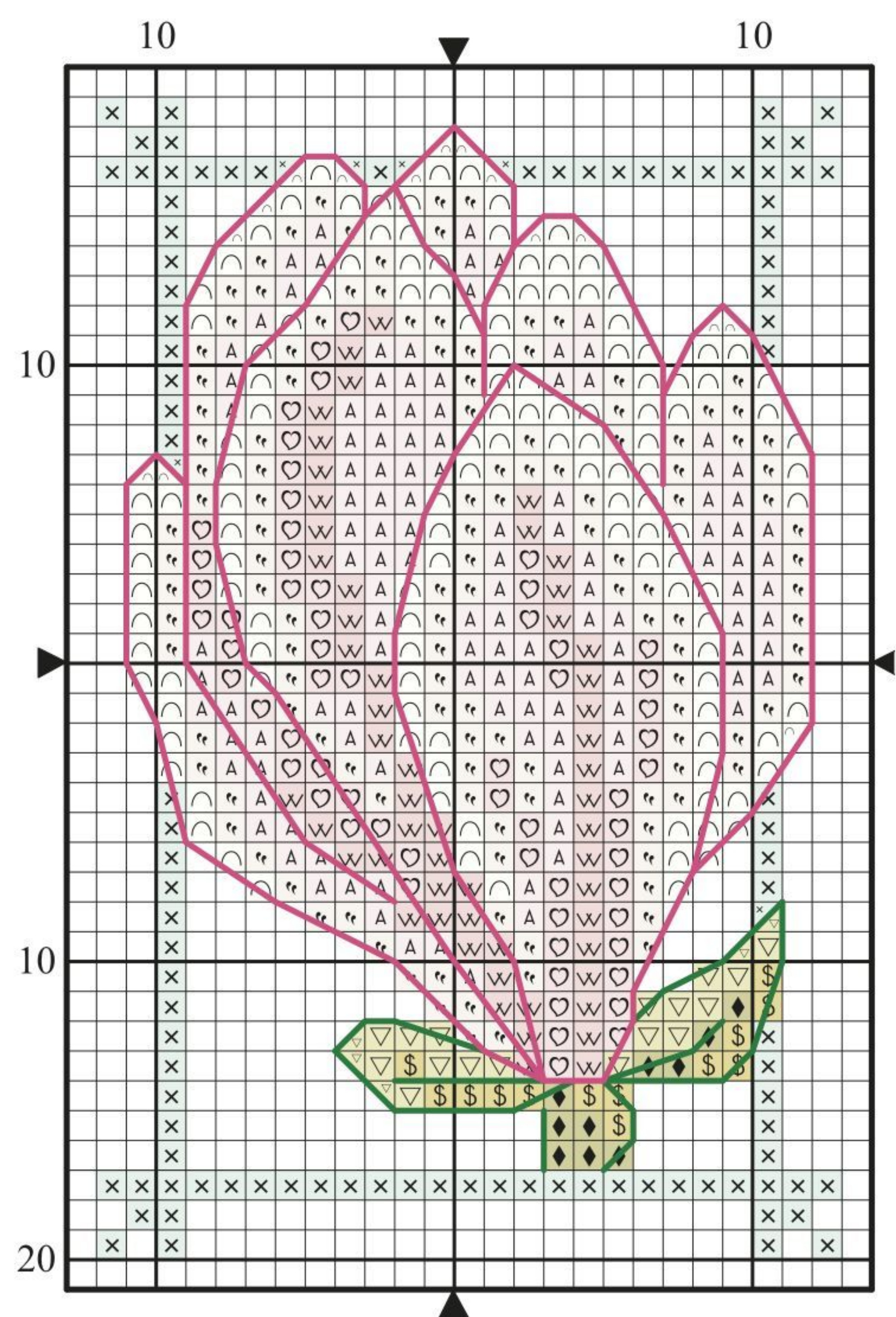
Make a beautiful bedroom set

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









**Coloured fabrics**

If you'd like to try stitching the magnolias on a different coloured background, we recommend pale blue, which goes so well with the pink. Lie your threads onto the fabric in a good light to make sure it works.

**Tip**

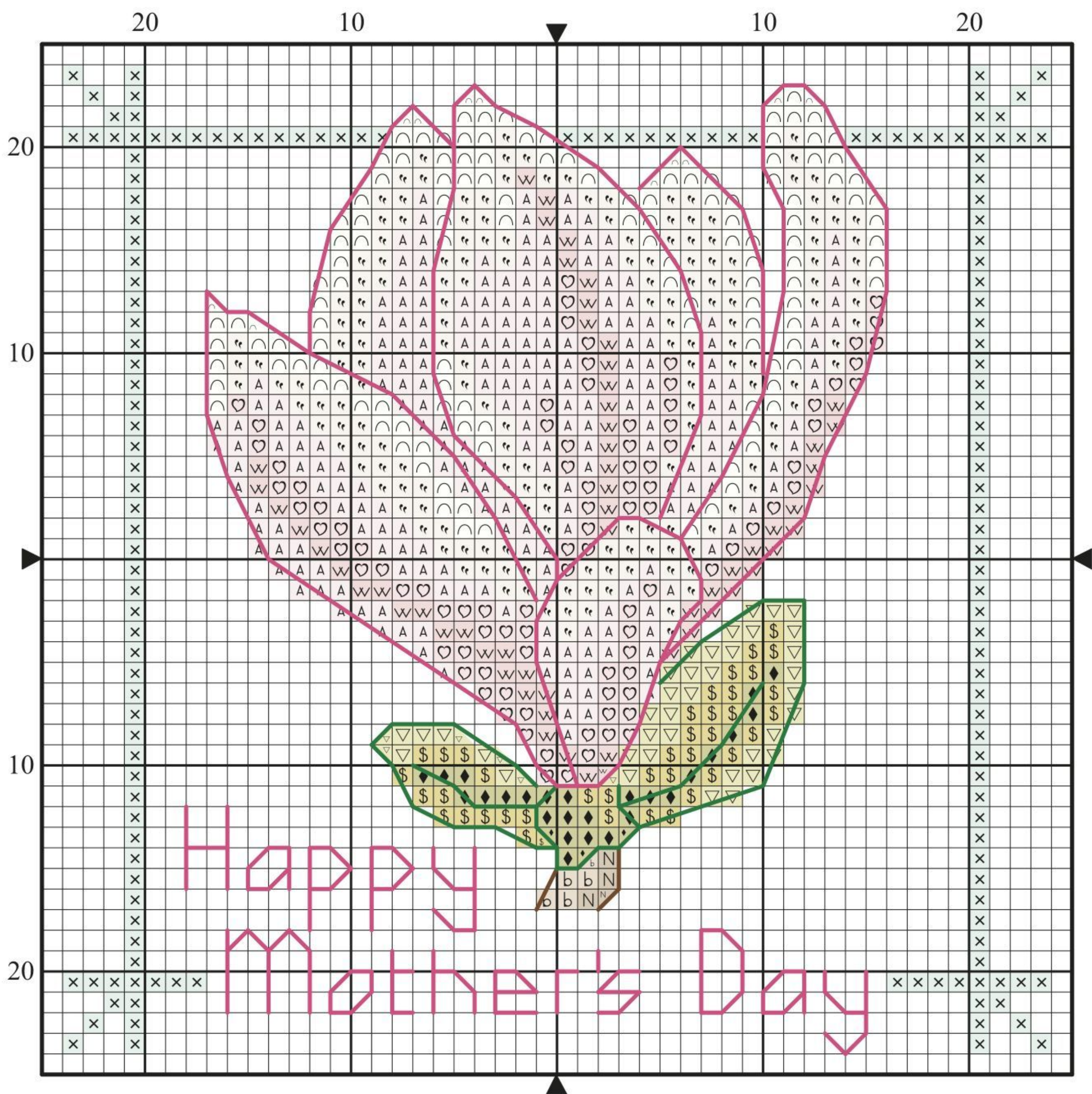
Sort your threads in a good light so you can properly see all the similar shades

Magnolia key				
✕ Cross stitch in two strands				
	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
▽	472	253	1414	lettuce green
×	598	1062	1111	turquoise
◇	732	281	1612	dark olive green
\$	733	280	1611	olive green
A	818	23	502	light pink
W	819	271	501	very light pink
t	828	975	1101	blue
N	840	1084	1912	brown
b	842	1080	1910	light brown
♡	963	73	608	pink
w	3716	25	503	dark pink
∩	3865	2	2403	natural white
✕ Cross stitch in one strand				
◇	598	1062	1111	turquoise
✕ Backstitch in one strand				
—	839	1050	1913	dark brown
—	936	269	1507	green
—	961	76	610	very dark pink
MAXIMUM STITCH COUNT 97 high x 69 wide				
DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 17.5x12.5cm (7x5in)				
These designs were stitched using DMC stranded cotton				



“I adore creating floral designs, and really enjoy every stage of the process, from sketching out my ideas to painting them and finally converting them to cross stitch. I hope you love stitching these magnolias too!”

Amanda Gregory, designer







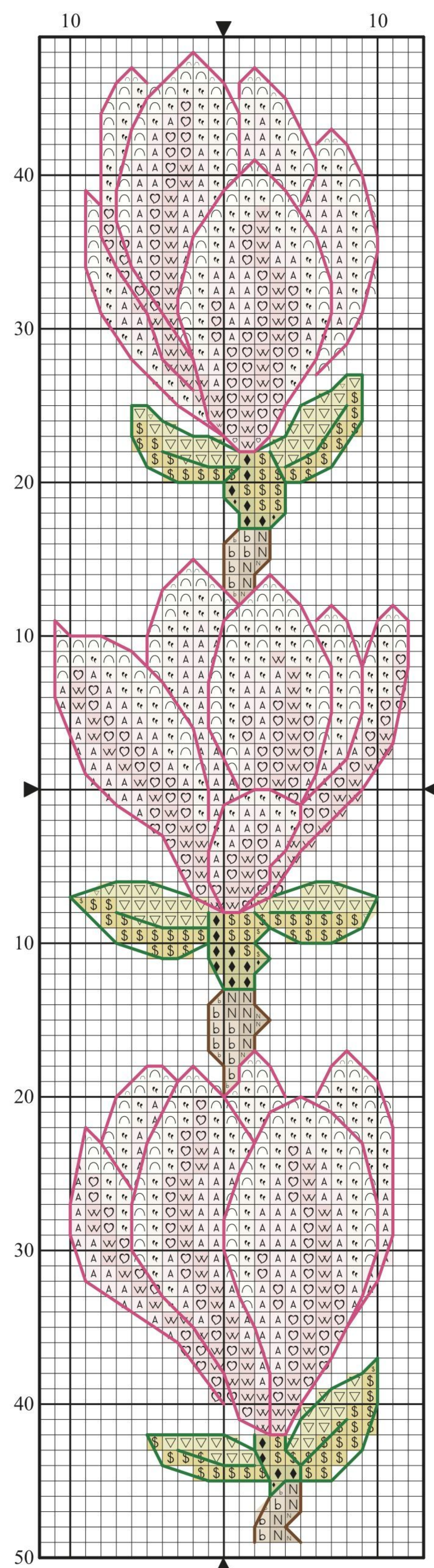
*“The magnolia is my mum’s favourite flower. She has a magnolia tree in her front garden, so these are going to be the perfect motifs to stitch as a Mother’s Day gift for her. I want to make a card and decorate a cushion cover with the same flower. I know she will love it!”*

**Katriel Costello, editor**

## How to make a dressing table mat

- 1 Once you’ve finished your stitching, gently wash and press it. Trim away excess aida, so it measures 21x8cm (8½x3¼in).
- 2 For the top of your dressing table mat, you can either fray the aida edges and patch your stitching onto a single piece of fabric. Or we prefer to inset the stitched border with fabric either side. Our finished mat is 19x60cm (7½x24in) but you can adjust the size to suit your dressing table. Cut one piece of quilting fabric, measuring 21x3.5cm (8½x1¼in) and another 21x55cm (8½x21½in).
- 3 Pin these panels and your stitching, right sides facing –

- ours are positioned so the magnolia border is at the left, but you could swap it to be on the right if you like. Machine- or hand-sew, with 1cm (½in) seam allowances, taking your time to get straight seams, especially with a striped fabric like ours, which easily shows up any wobbles!
- 4 Cut a panel of fabric measuring 21x62cm (8½x25in) for the back. Pin this panel and the front piece, right sides together.
- 5 Leaving a gap for turning, sew with 1cm (½in) seams. Turn right sides out, hand sew up the gap with a neat slip stitch and press flat with a steam iron.





Quick and  
easy gift  
tags for all  
occasions



As lovely as the gifts they  
accompany, these super-sweet  
gift tags make a fun stitch

# With love



Whip up these colourful and pretty floral gift tags with sweet sentiments in no time at all

Designed by Lesley Teare

## 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:** Ribbon and handmade or shop-bought gift tags of your choice

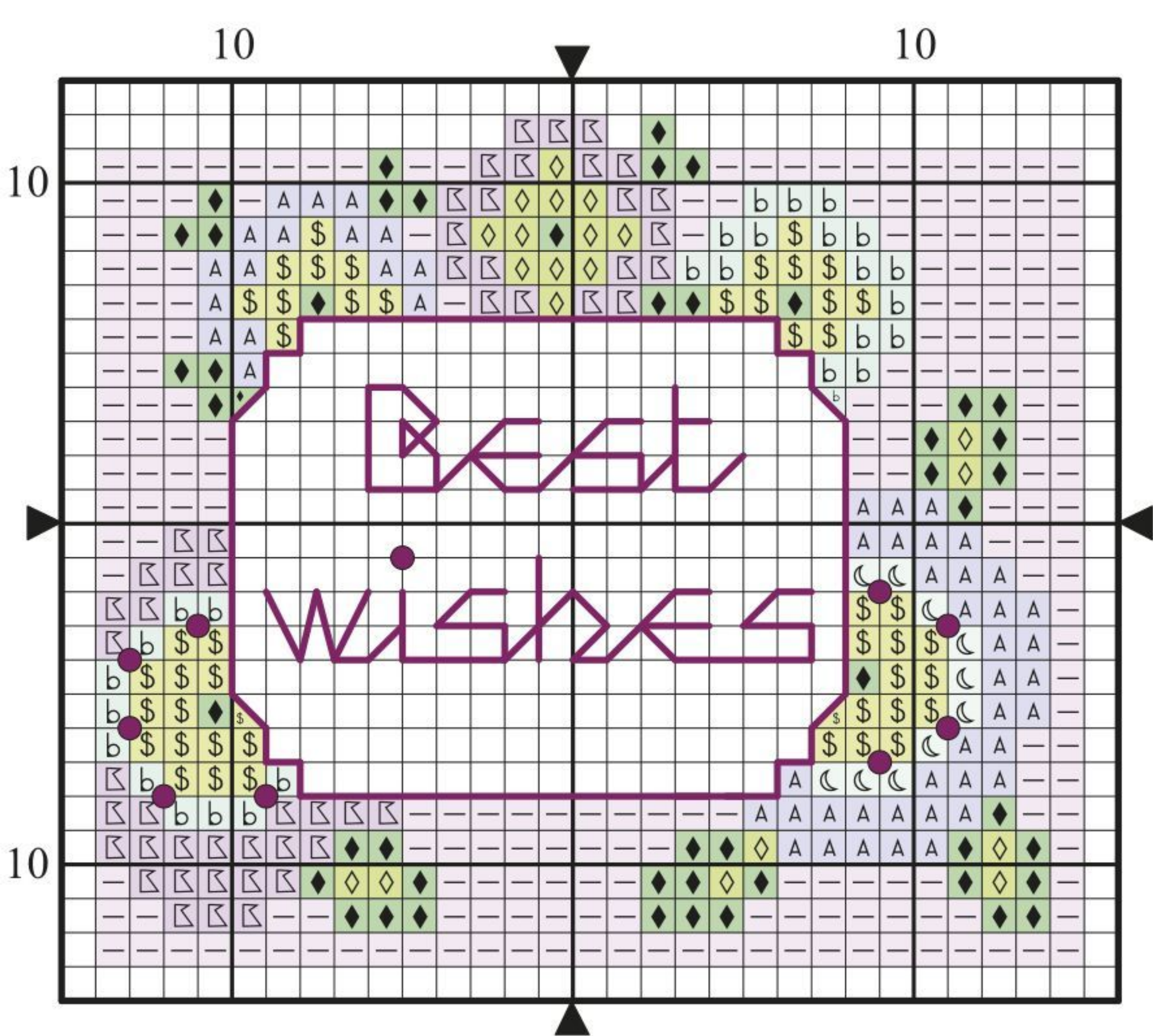
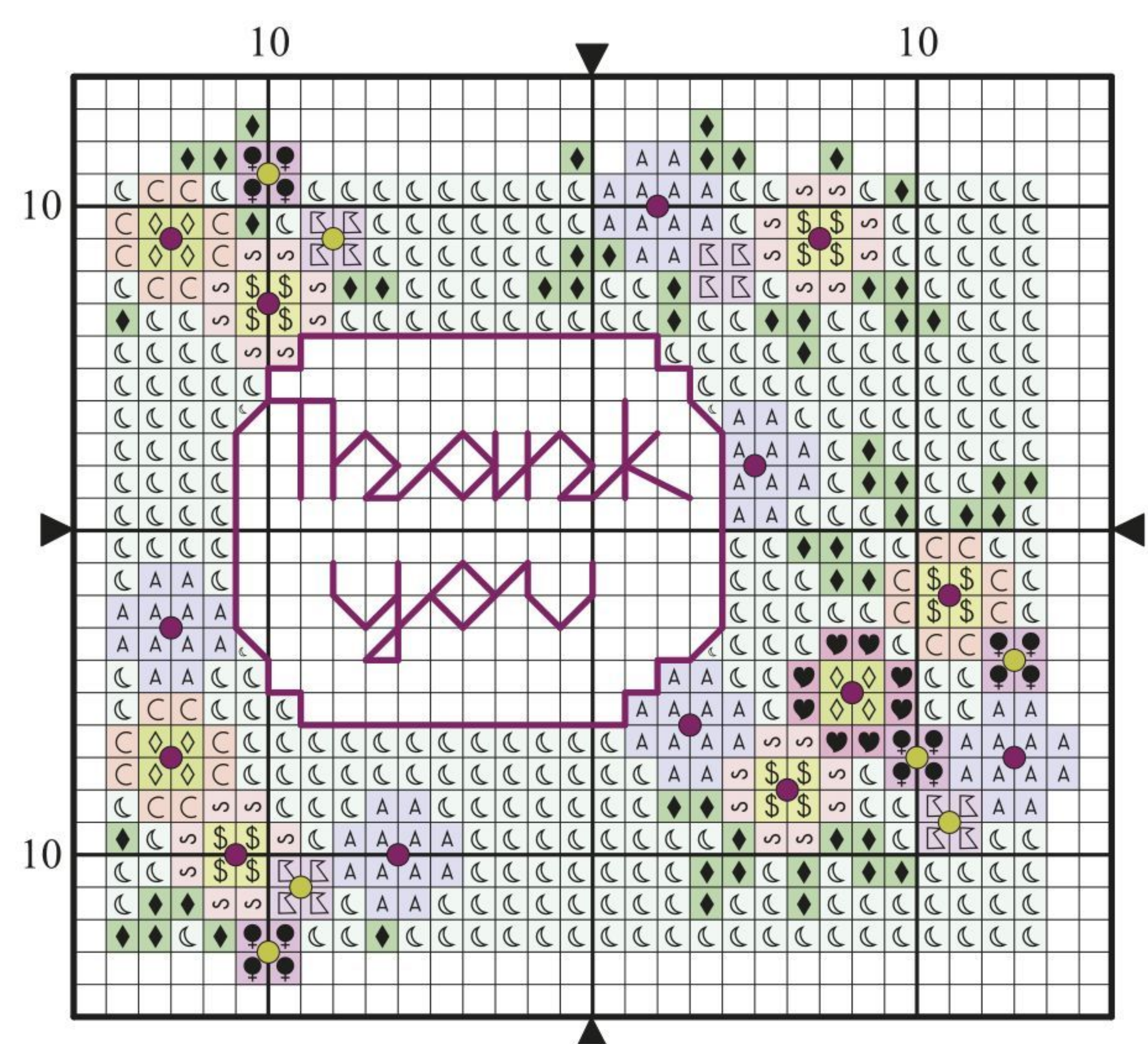
## Stitching Factbox

**Stitching time:**  
Approx 2 hours each

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

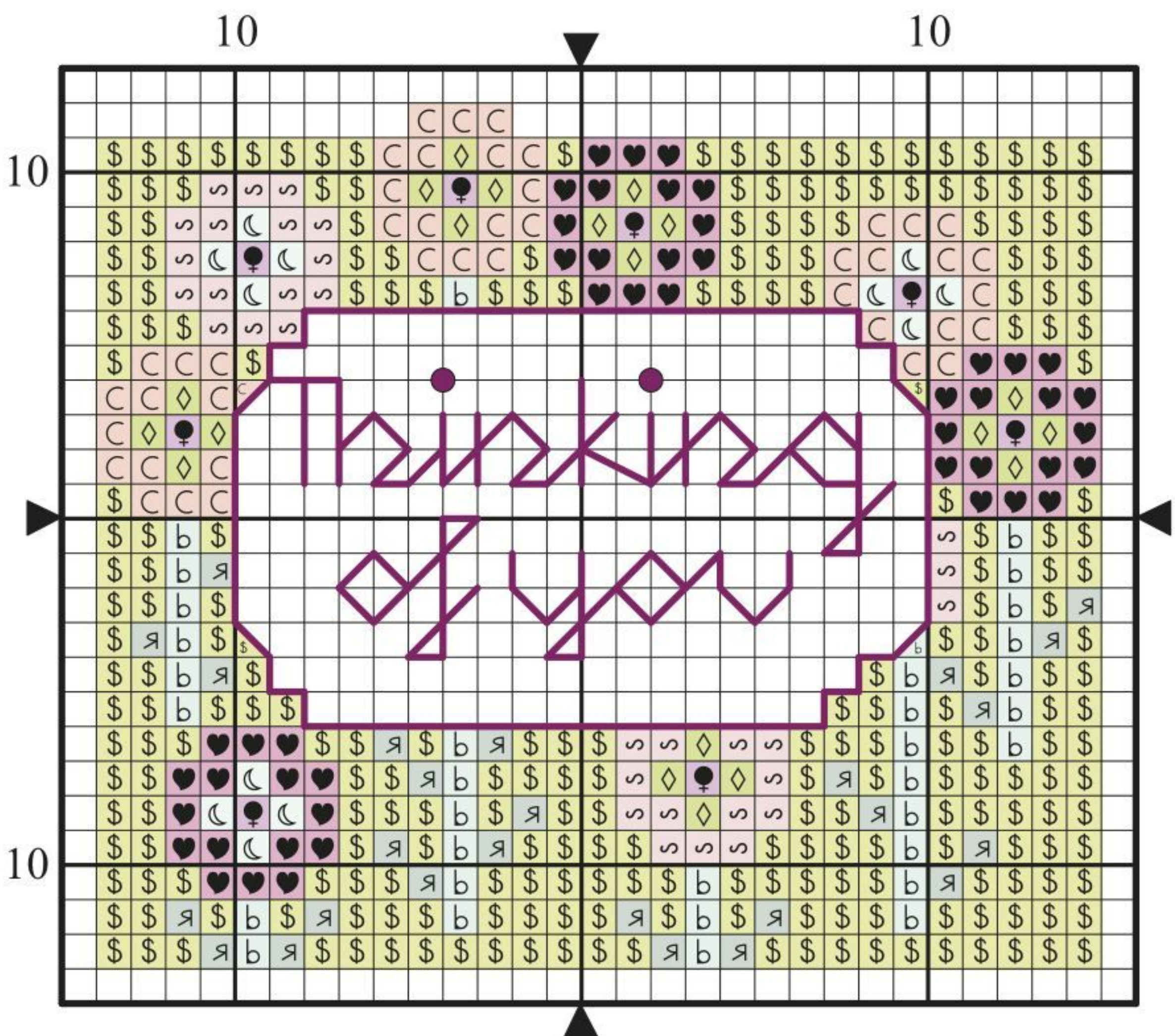
**Level:** Advanced  
beginner



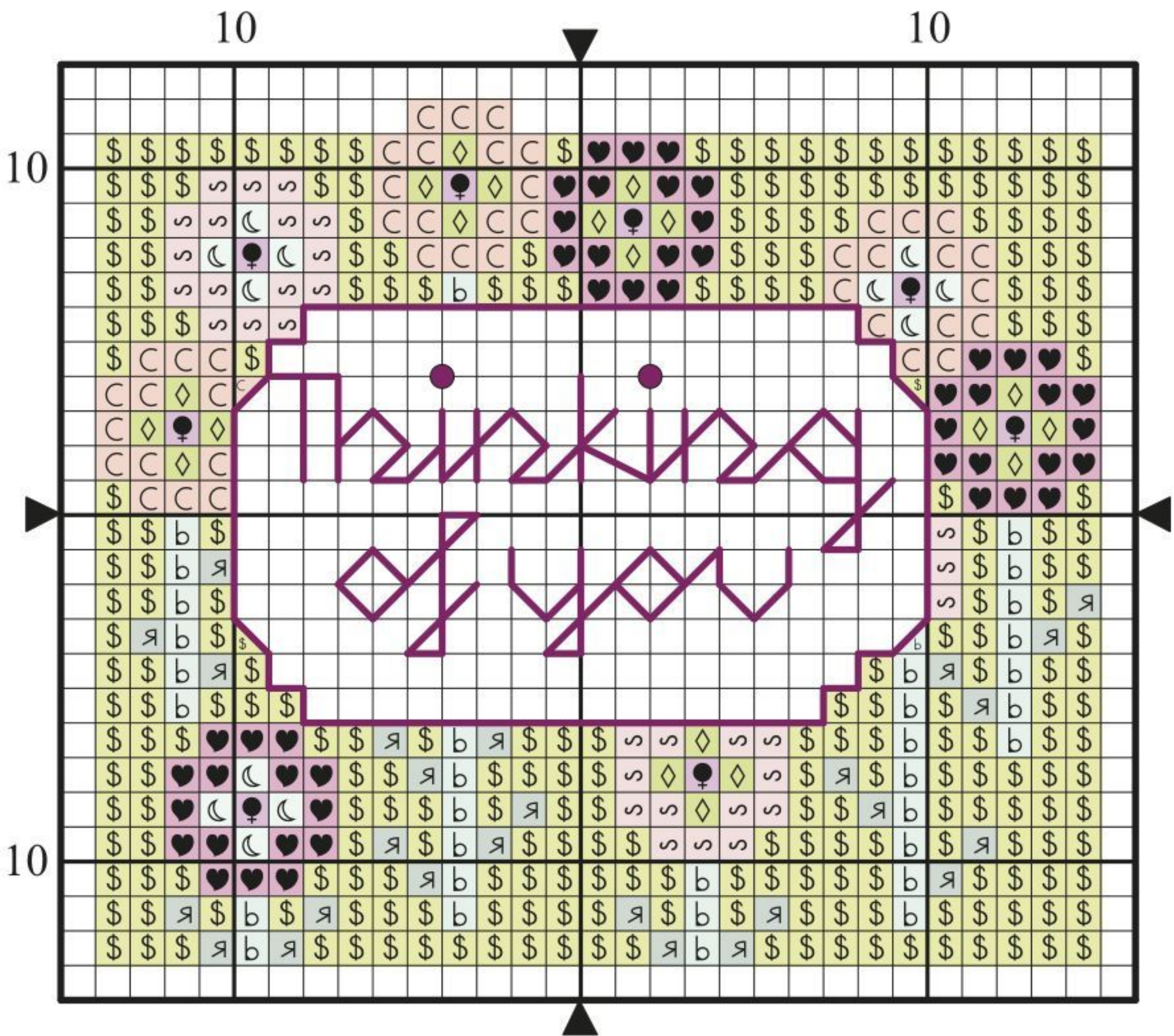


### How to make a gift tag

- 1 Once you've finished stitching your design, cut it out, leaving two or three squares of aida all the way around the edge.
- 2 Carefully fray one block of the aida all the way around, using tweezers, to make the fringe.
- 3 Using double-sided tape, layer your design onto a piece of white paper slightly smaller than the aida. This stops show-through of the coloured card. Then layer this onto a homemade or shop-bought gift tag. Finish with a pretty ribbon loop to attach to your gift.



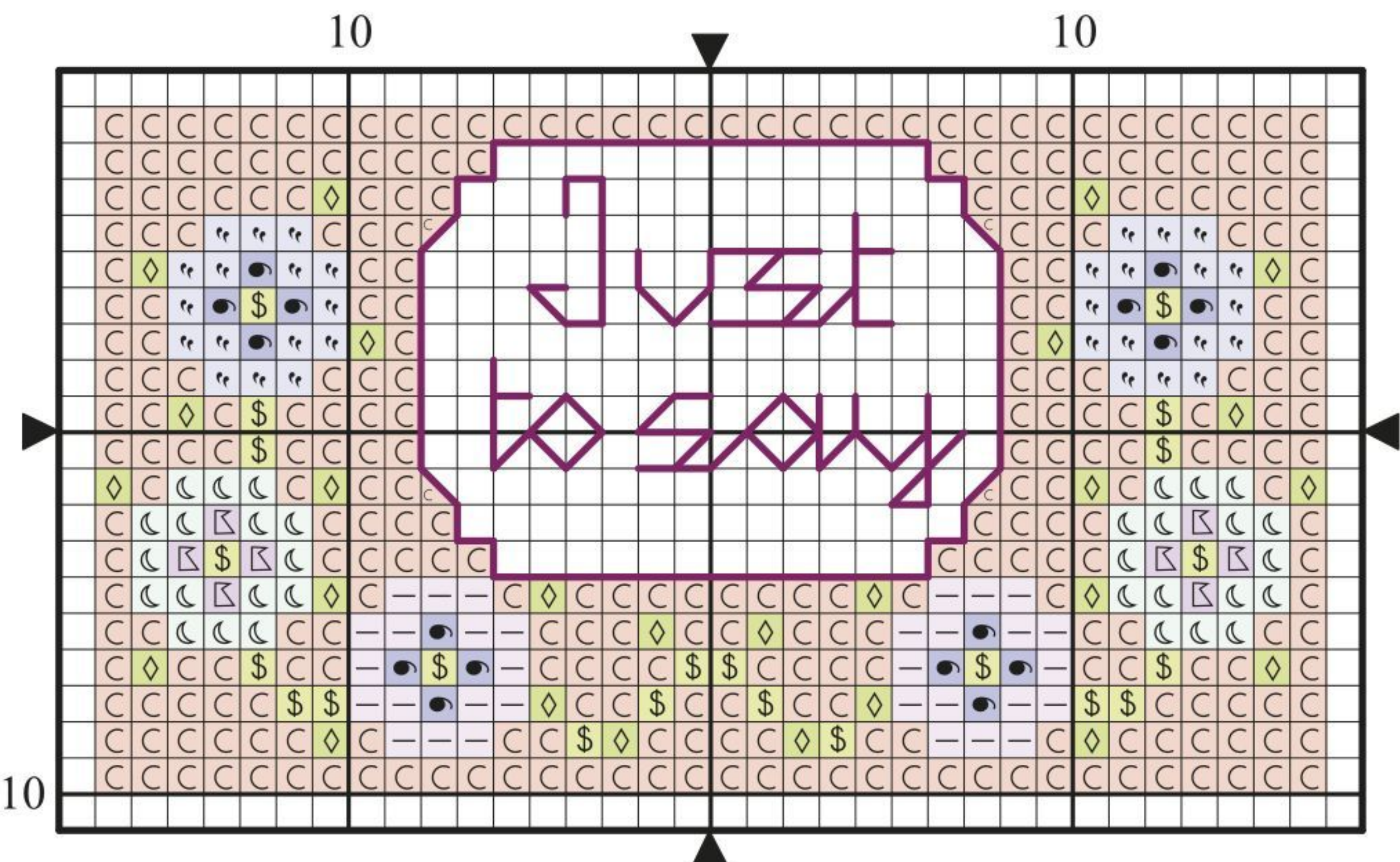
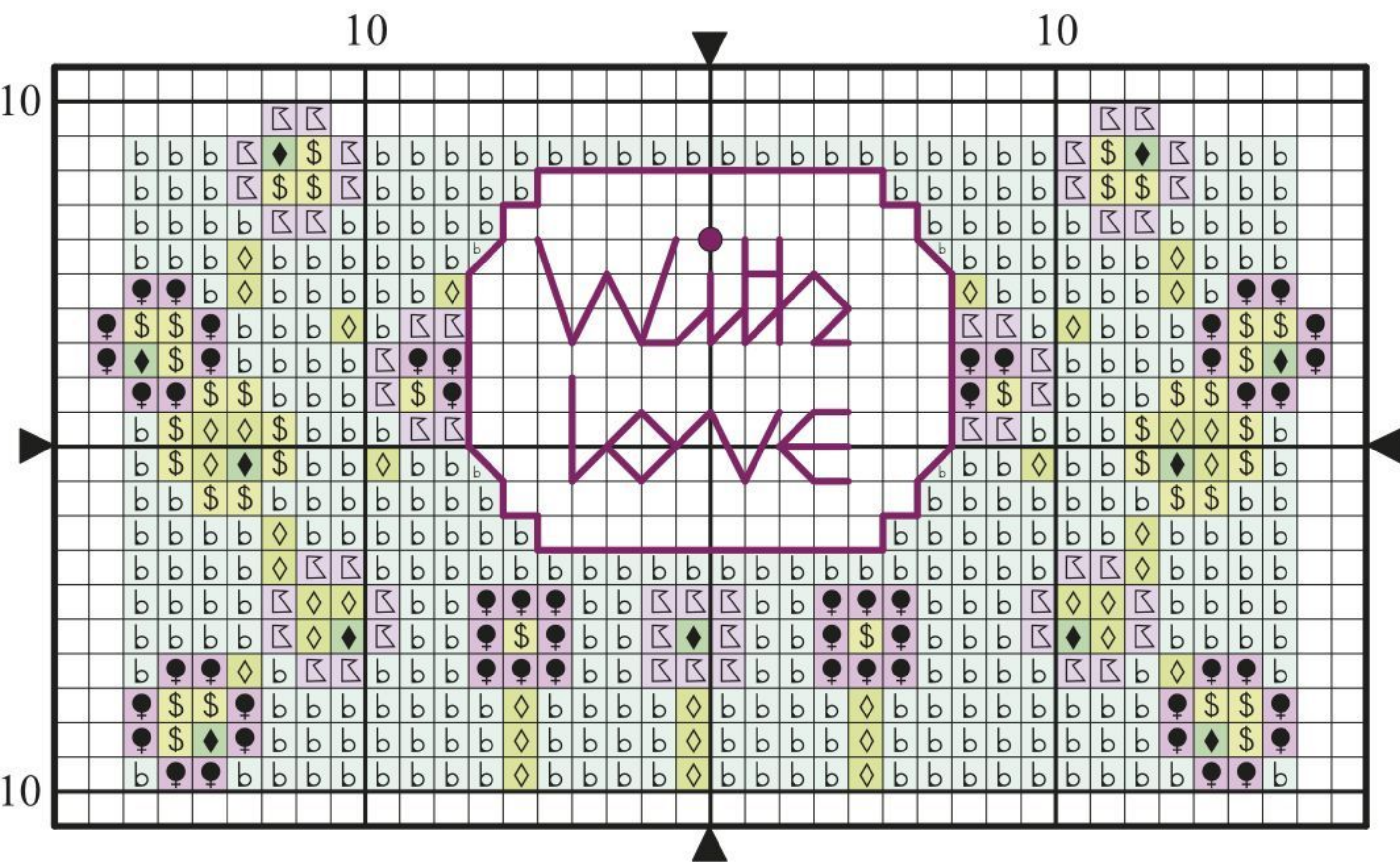




“When you’re short on time but you’re still itching to stitch, gift tags are the perfect go-to ideas. These tags cover all the bases, and with their pretty flower patterns, you’ll be tempted to stitch the entire set!”  
*Katriel Costello, editor*



**Tip**  
These designs are great for adding personal name tags to items. Just plot out the names carefully on graph paper before stitching them into the designs



Gift tags key				
✕ Cross stitch in two strands				
	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
s	151	73	404	pink
A	156	939	902	violet blue
⌘	209	98	803	lilac
—	211	342	801	light lilac
b	598	1062	1111	turquoise
◆	701	227	1305	green
◇	704	255	1308	light green
C	760	1022	405	salmon pink
☾	828	975	1101	light blue
♥	3731	76	506	pink
☿	3747	120	901	light violet blue
\$	3819	279	1610	lime green
♀	3837	111	713	dark lilac
☿	3838	176	2702	blue
Я	3849	1070	1109	teal green
✕ Backstitch in one strand				
—	3837	111	713	dark lilac
✕ French knots in one strand				
●	165	278	1414	light lime green
●	3837	111	713	dark lilac
MAXIMUM STITCH COUNT 27 high x 36 wide				
DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 5x6.5cm (2x2½in)				
These designs were stitched using DMC stranded cotton				



# Vintage florals

Celebrate the new season with this timeless collection of designs – they're perfect for all your special spring gifts



Designed by Lesley Teare

If you've been busy with holidays, Christmas or the back-to-school rush, why not ease yourself back into your stitching routine with a small, sweet design that won't take too long? This gorgeous collection of vintage flowers uses beautiful shades of rosy pink, soft lilac and sage

green to capture the romance of a bygone era, and bring a touch of style to all your new-season gifts. Or, you could even stitch a little treat for yourself! Choose an elegant floral border to decorate a bag or pillowcase, or mount your favourite motif in a silvery handbag mirror to complete the vintage look.

## Stitching Factbox

**Stitching time:**  
Approx 2-3 hours each

**Type of stitches:**  
Cross stitch, fractionals, 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 15x15cm (6x6in) for most designs

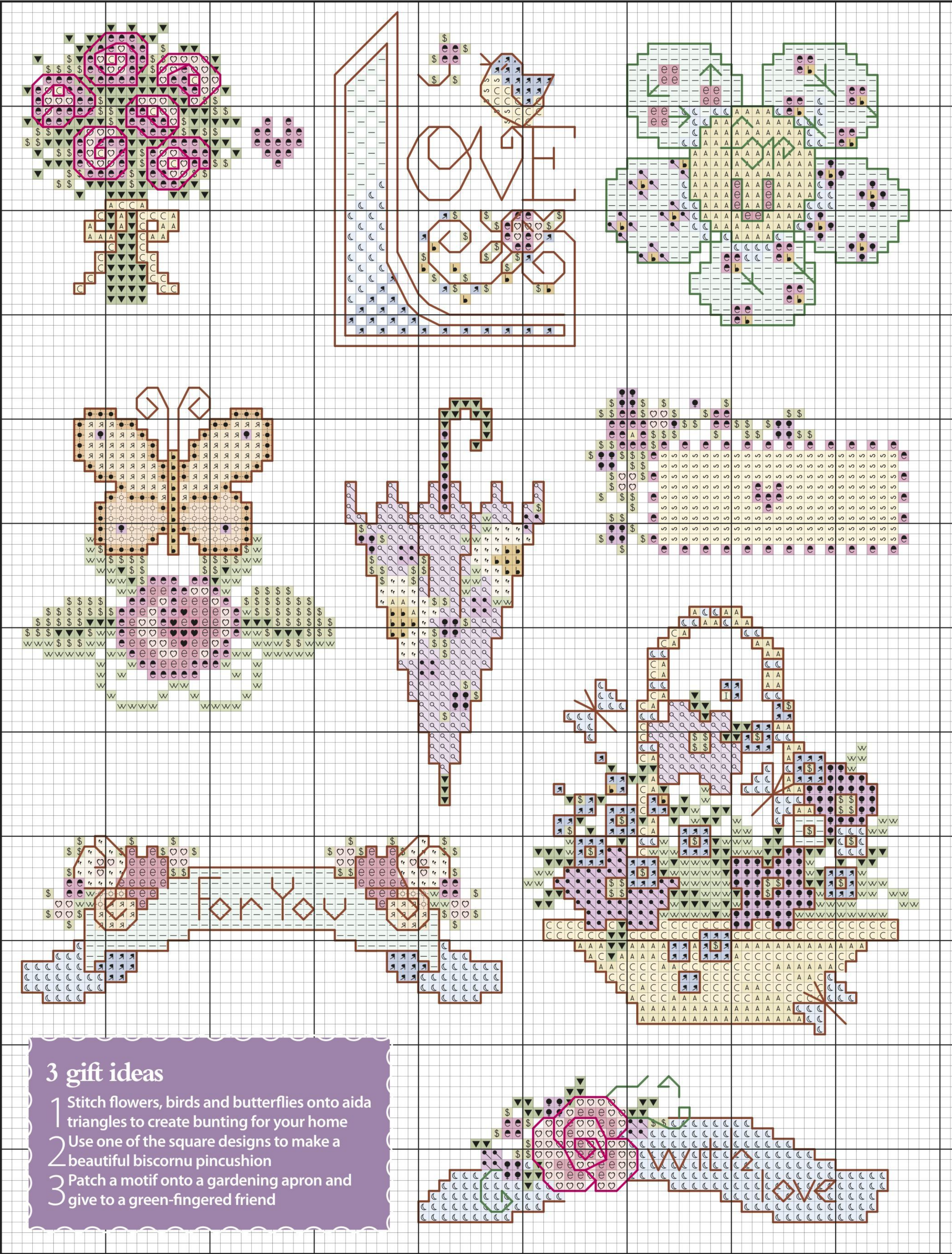
**Extras:** Single fold card blank (DEC2U) in creative hammer white, from [www.craftcreations.com](http://www.craftcreations.com). Silver Handbag Mirror from [www.framecraft.com](http://www.framecraft.com). 4in wire hanger from [www.craftdepartment.com](http://www.craftdepartment.com). Backing fabric, zip and ribbon of your choice from local craft stores.











3 gift ideas

- 1 Stitch flowers, birds and butterflies onto aida triangles to create bunting for your home
- 2 Use one of the square designs to make a beautiful biscornu pincushion
- 3 Patch a motif onto a gardening apron and give to a green-fingered friend



“With these designs you could combine a motif and greeting to create the perfect card for someone special”

*Lesley Teare, designer*

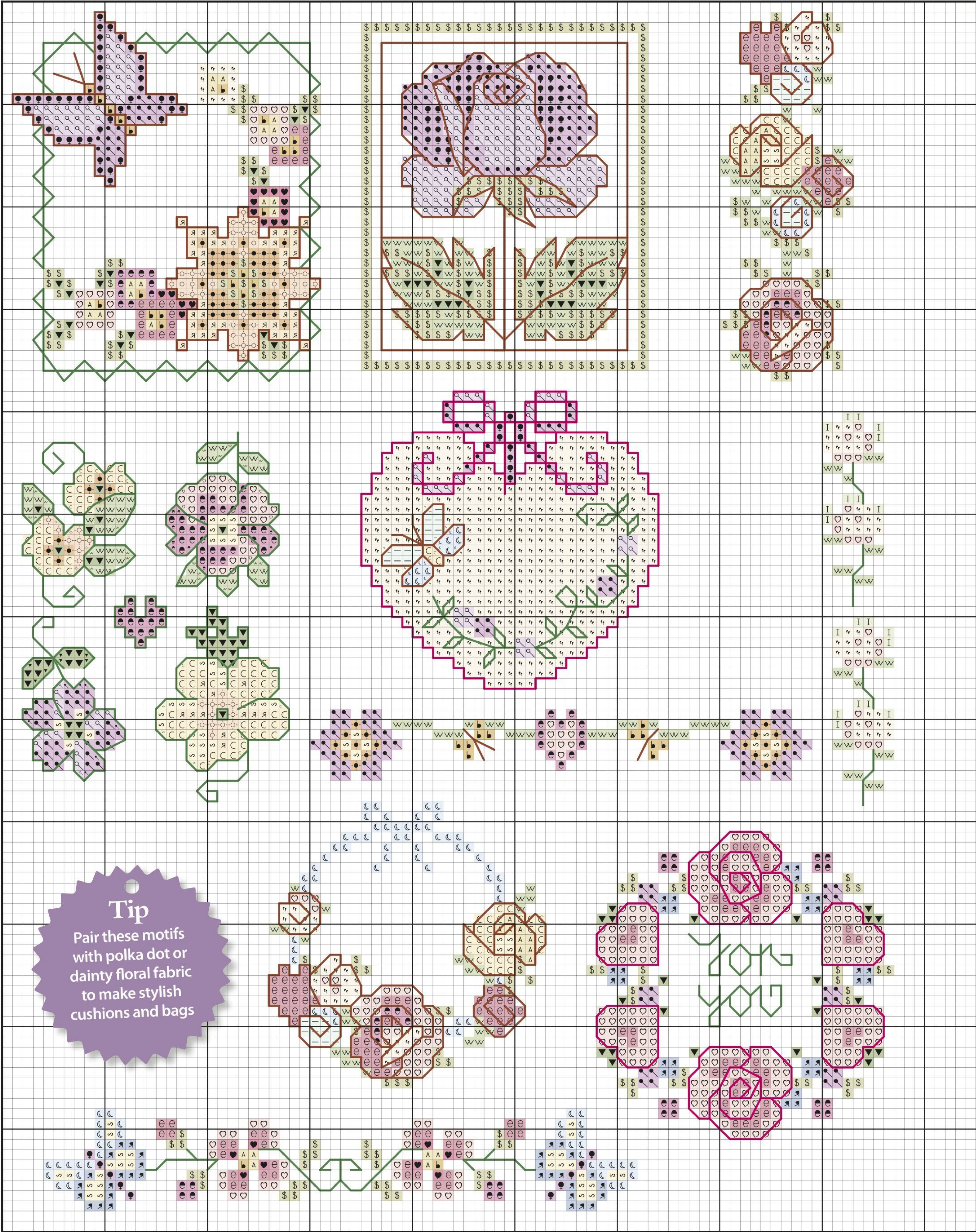
**Tip**

Decorate the edge of a vintage mirror using one of our repeat motifs stitched on aida band

Vintage florals key				
✕ Cross stitch in two strands				
	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	blanc	2	2402	white
🔍	210	108	802	light lilac
🔍	334	977	1004	blue
W	368	214	1310	green
I	369	1043	1309	light green
\$	471	266	1501	moss green
🔍	553	98	712	lilac
A	676	891	2208	sand
C	745	300	111	yellow
♡	761	1021	404	salmon pink
—	775	1031	1001	light baby blue
🔍	783	306	2509	gold
🔍	922	1003	2306	copper
🔍	948	892	306	peach
🔍	987	244	1403	dark green
🔍	3325	129	907	baby blue
🔍	3731	76	506	pink
🔍	3733	75	605	light pink
🔍	3823	386	2512	light yellow
🔍	3825	336	302	apricot
🔍	3831	1006	507	dark pink
🔍	3837	111	713	dark lilac
🔍	3856	368	2309	light apricot
✕ Backstitch in one strand				
—	839	1050	1913	brown
—	987	244	1403	dark green
—	3831	1006	507	dark pink

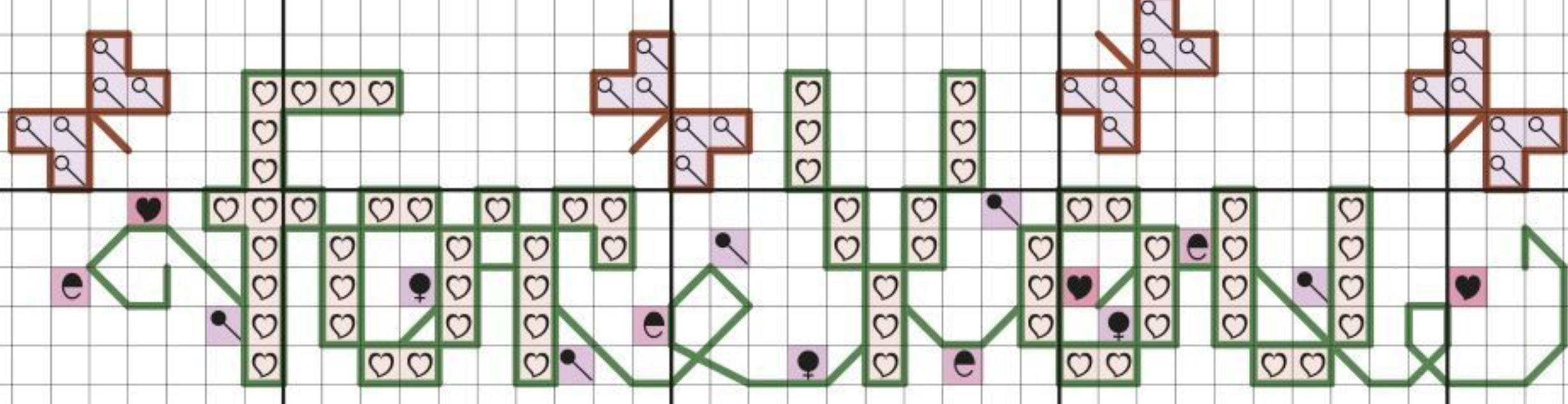
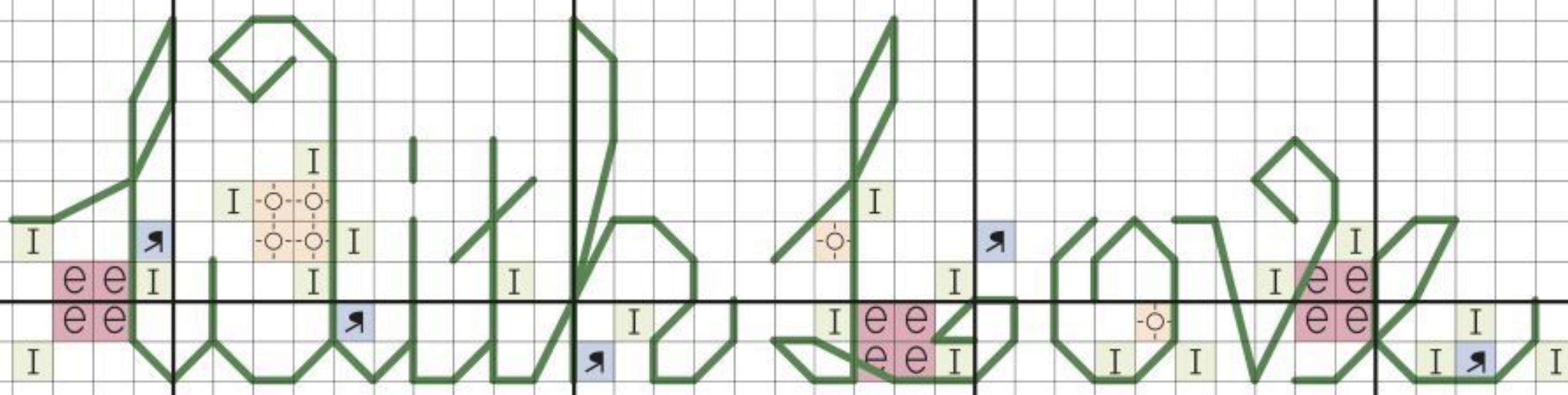
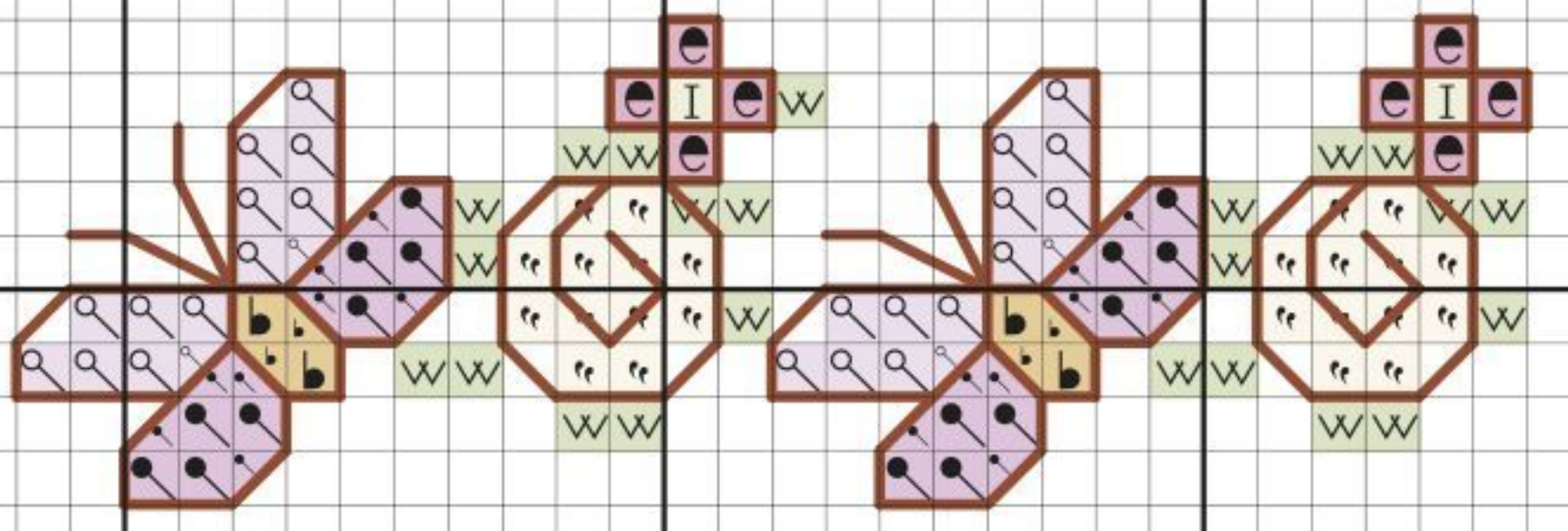
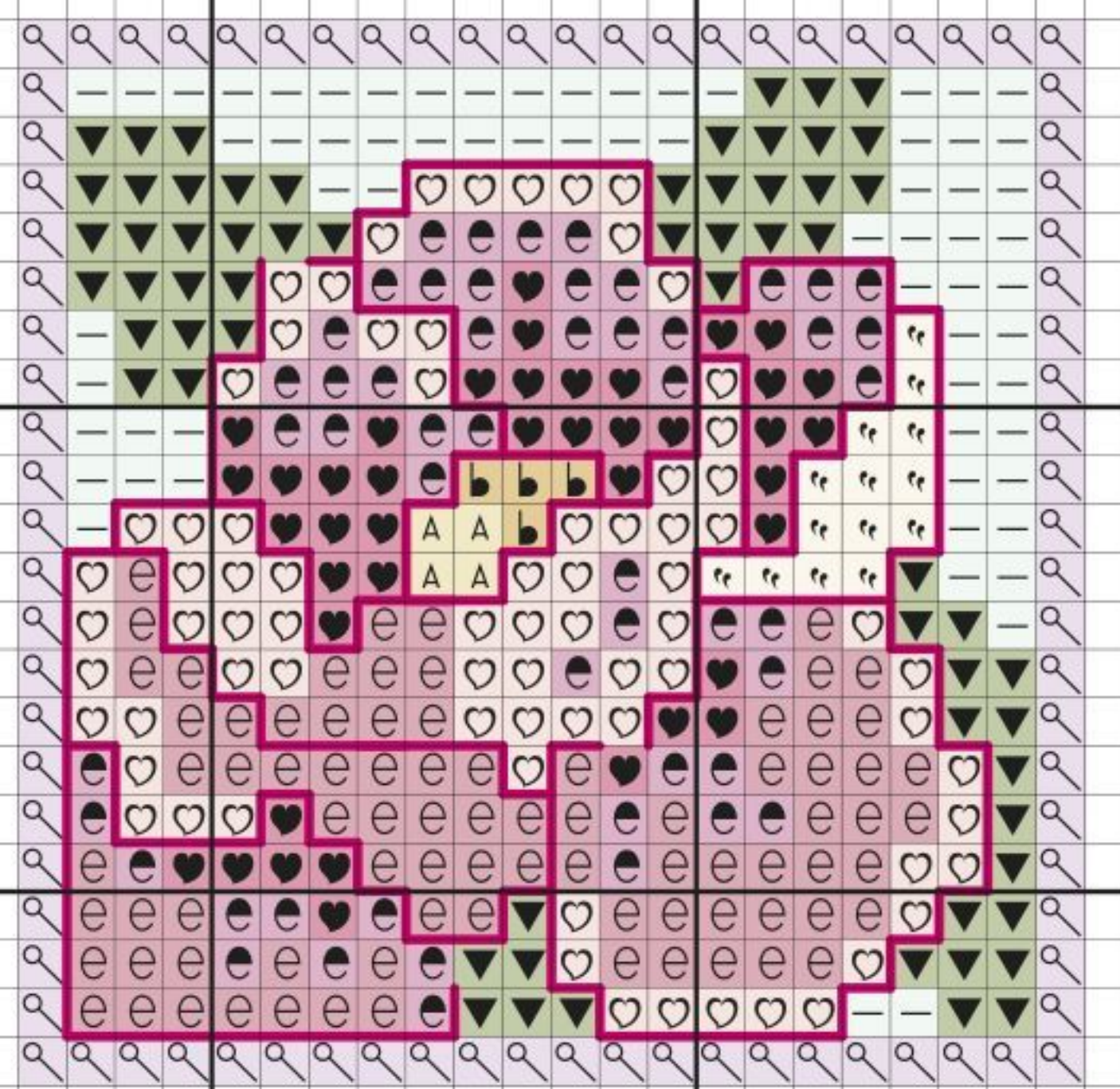
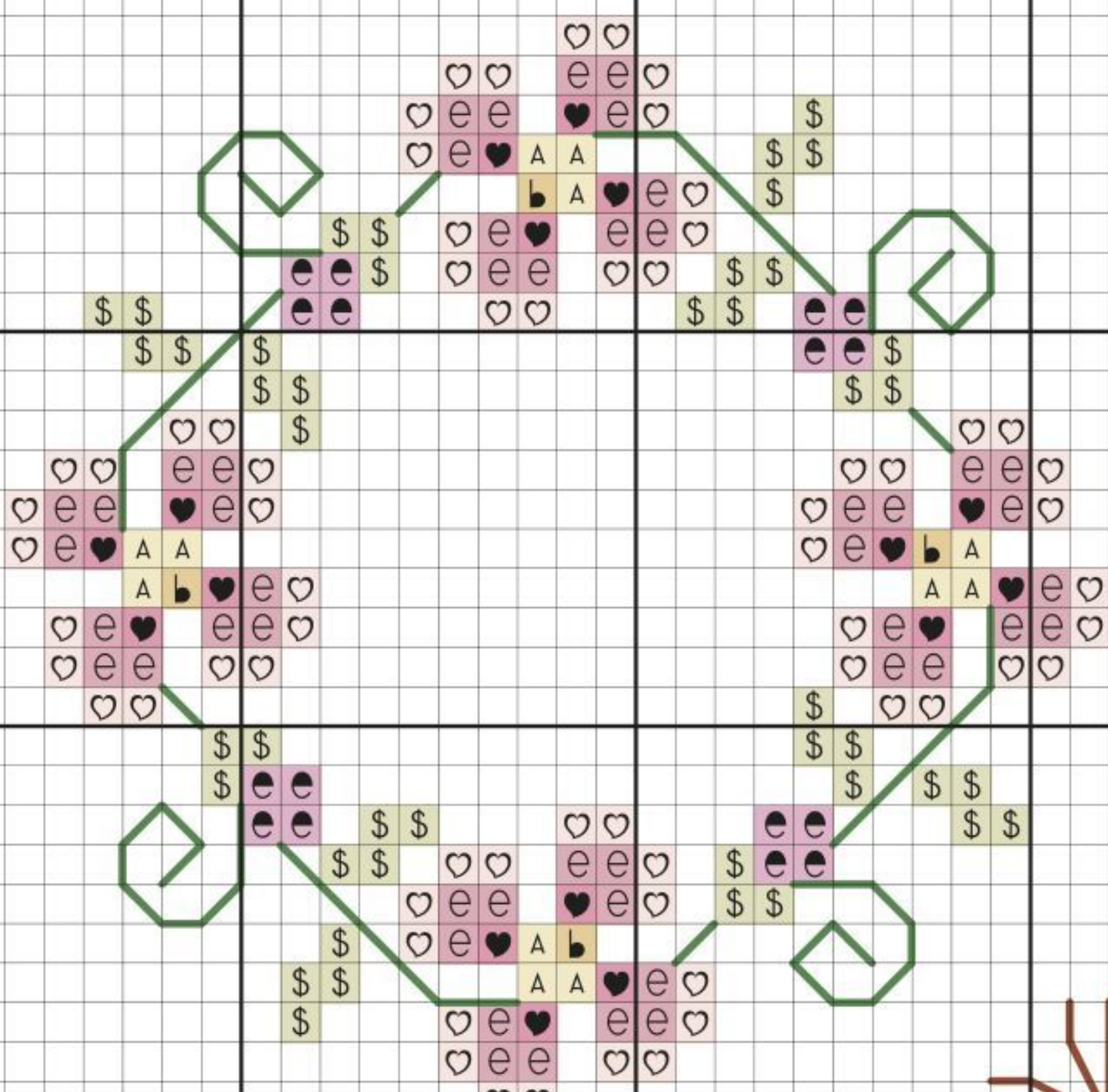
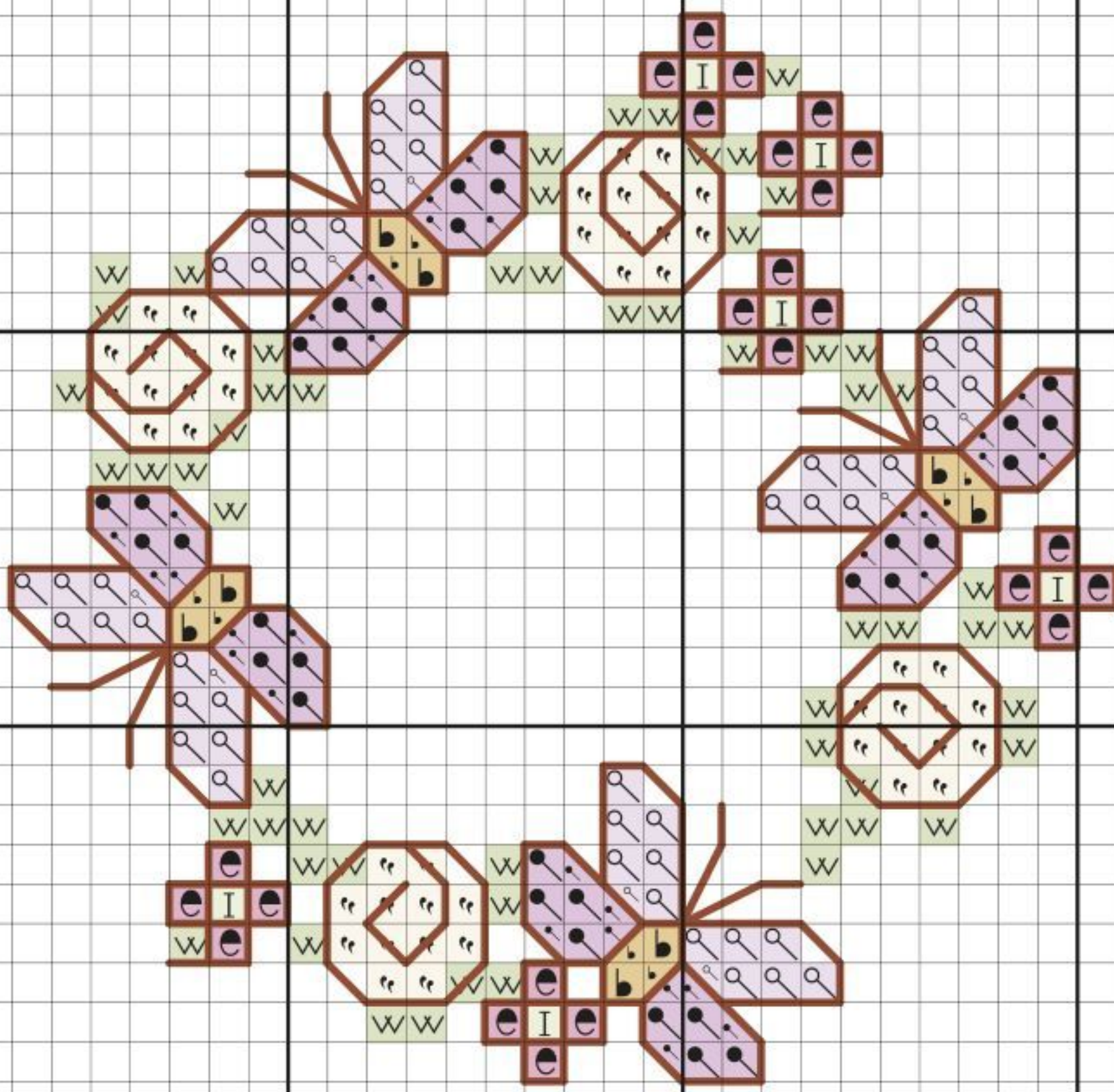
**MAXIMUM STITCH COUNT** 49 high x 58 wide  
**DESIGN AREA** 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 9x10.5cm (3½x4in)  
These designs were stitched using DMC stranded cotton





**Tip**  
Pair these motifs  
with polka dot or  
dainty floral fabric  
to make stylish  
cushions and bags

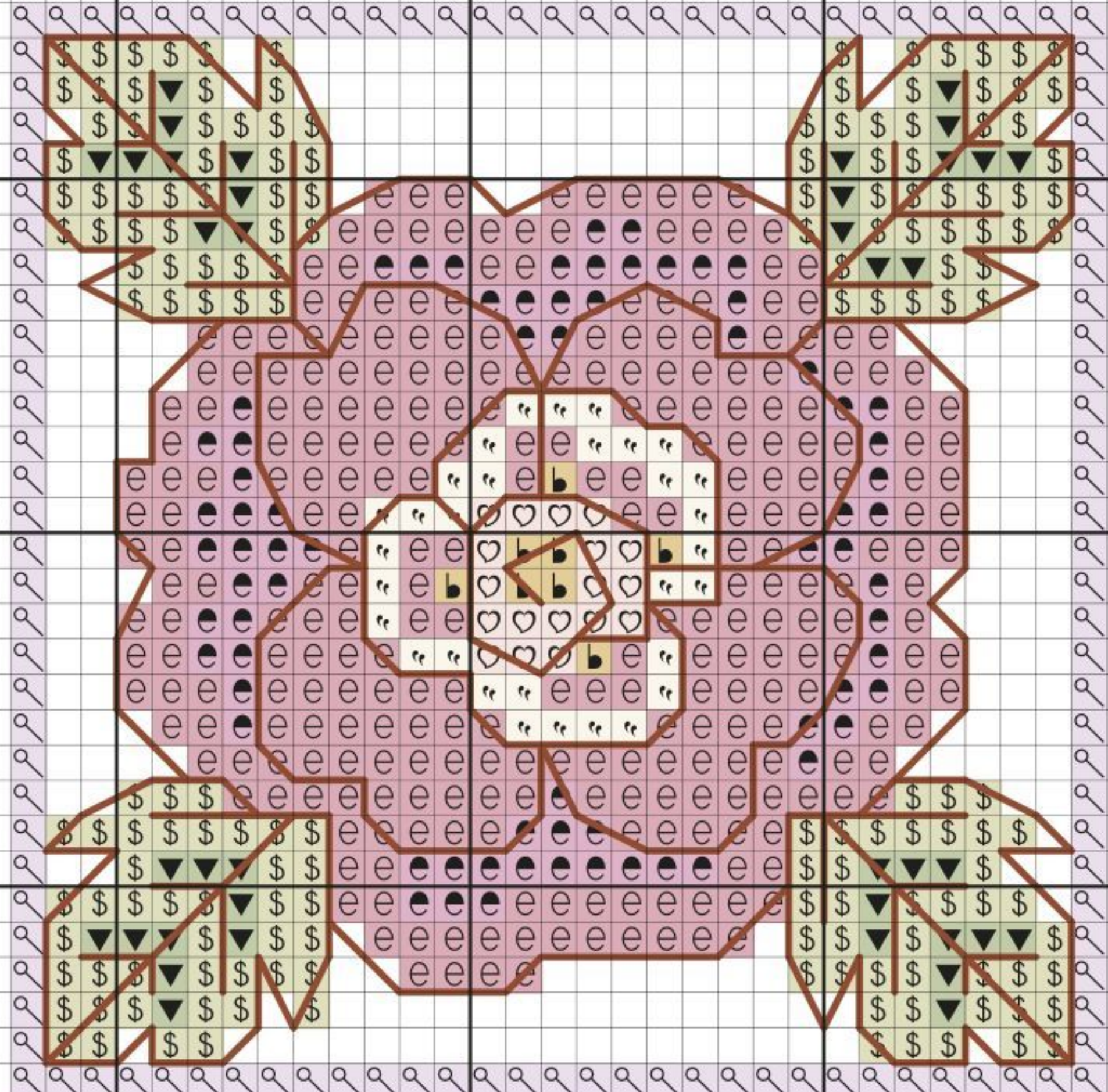
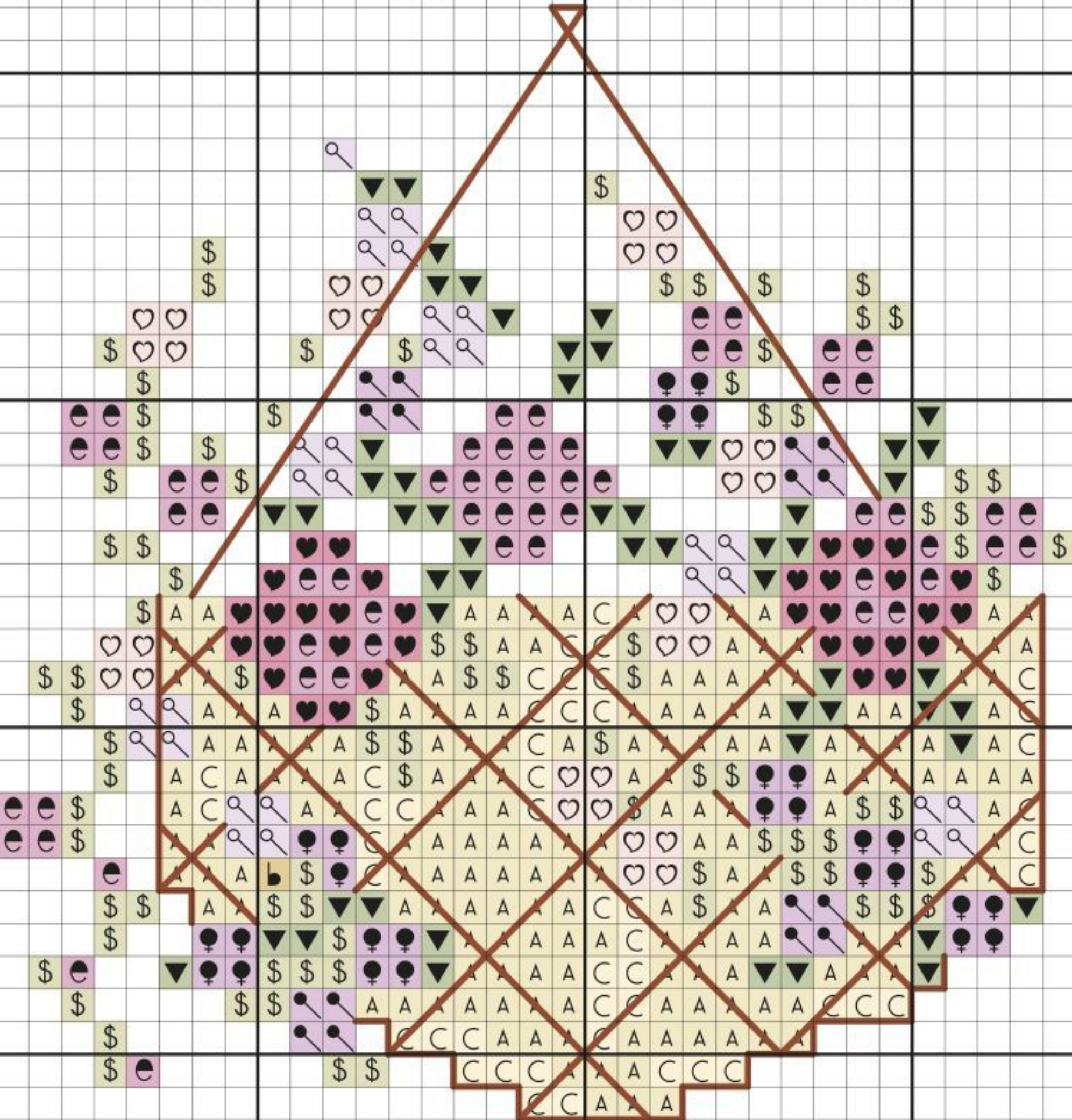




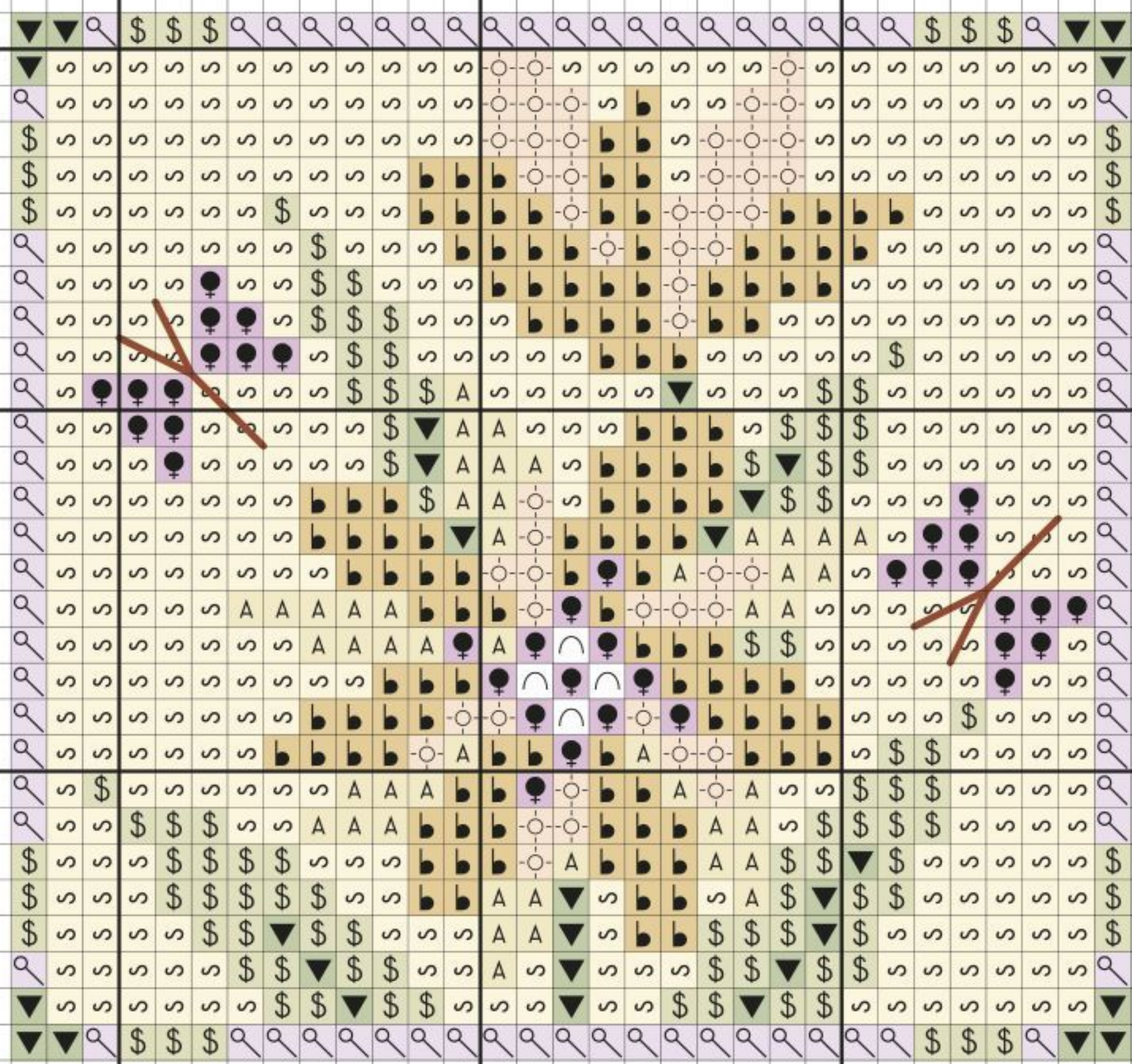
**3 gift ideas**

- 1 Stitch a set of vintage-style invites for your next tea party
- 2 Stitch designs onto antique evenweave or linen to add an aged feel to vintage blooms
- 3 Embellish a potted plant with a stitched design made into a pretty plant poke

**Tip**  
Mount a small flower inside a pretty locket for a truly special gift



A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P  
Q R S T U V W X Y Z  
a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q  
r s t u v w x y z





# Art nouveau floral gifts

Influenced by the elegant Art Nouveau movement, these gorgeous gifts are guaranteed to inspire and delight



Designed by Lesley Teare

What better way to treat a deserving friend or celebrate a special birthday than with one of these beautiful gift ideas? You'll recognise the flowing curves and botanical imagery as typical of the Art Nouveau

style, and Lesley draws on her love of nature to add a signature touch to this collection. From floral motifs to an abc, these decorative designs are so versatile you'll find yourself stitching them over and over again, whatever the occasion.

## Stitching Factbox

**Stitching time:**  
Approx 3-4 hours each

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

**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 a maximum of 10x10cm (4x4in) for most designs. 16-count white aida measuring 10x10cm (4x4in) for button. 14-count white aida band with white trim, 5cm (2in) wide, cut to the desired length for a bookmark

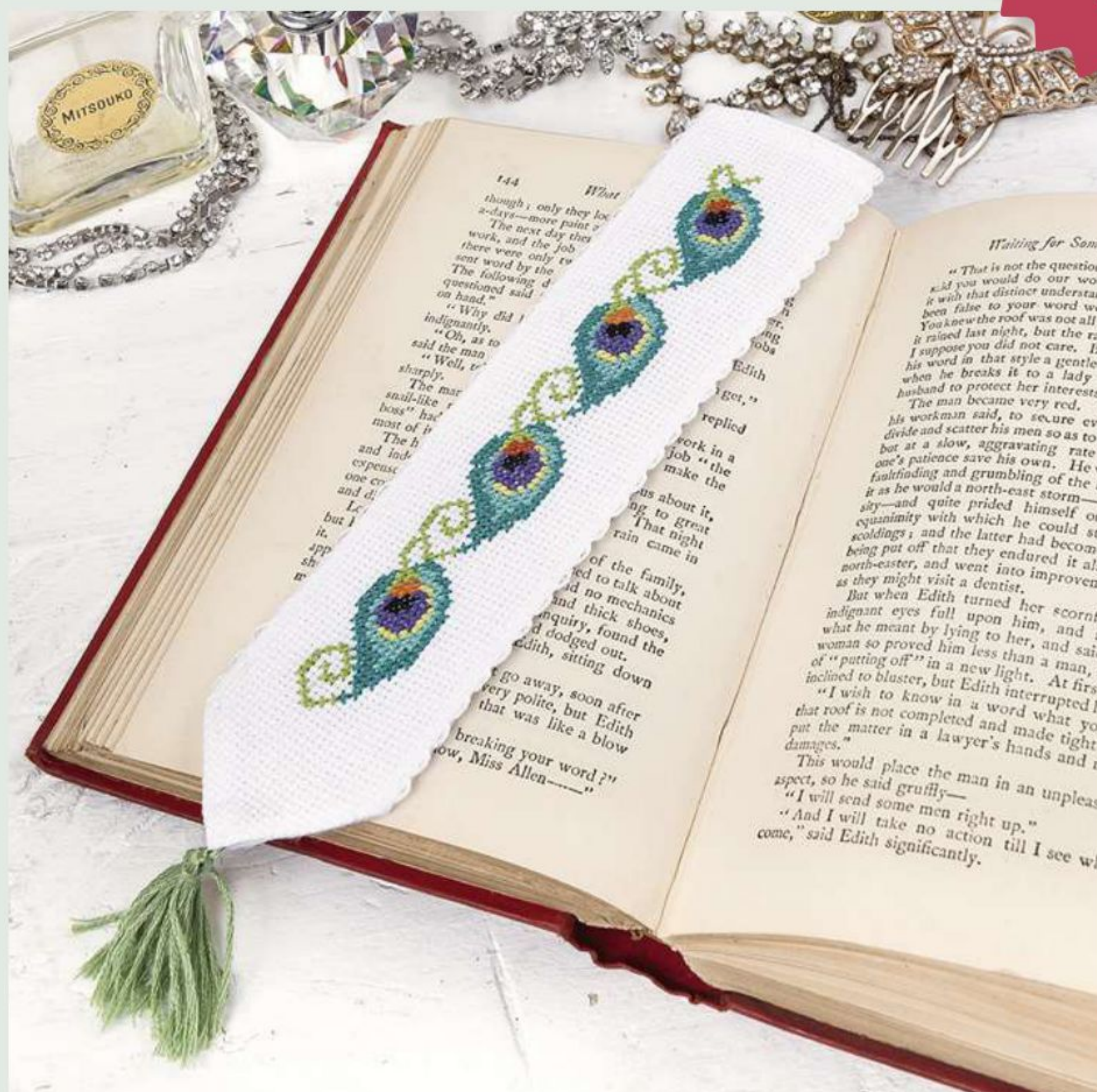
**Extras:** Craft Creations square aperture card (AP16U) in creative smooth white, from [www.craftcreations.com](http://www.craftcreations.com). Felt sheets, 38mm self-cover buttons, 4in embroidery hoop, ribbon, fabric and necklace available from local craft stores



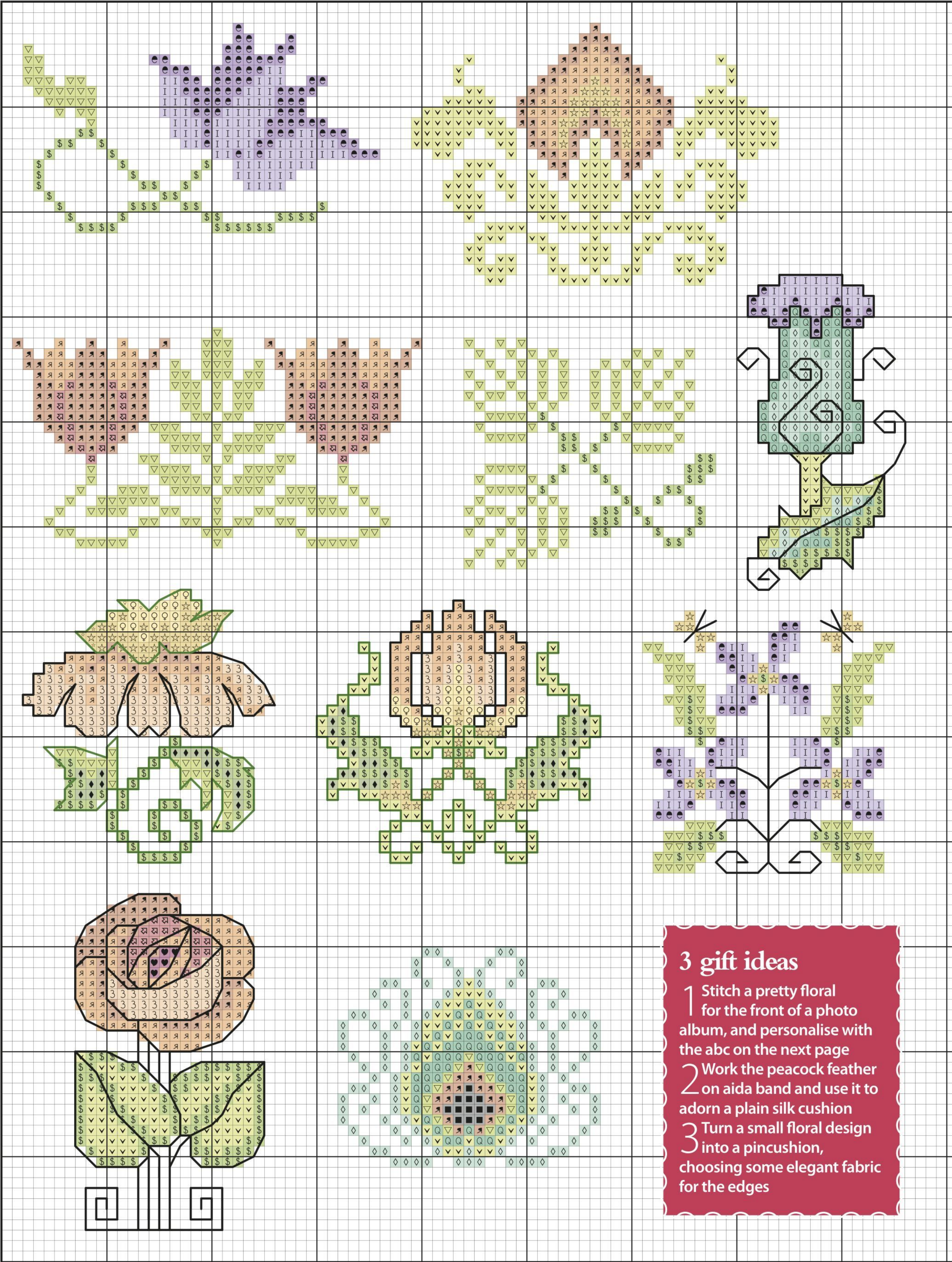




**Tip**  
Cut out your motif  
with decorative  
edge scissors and  
patch it onto a plain  
tote bag



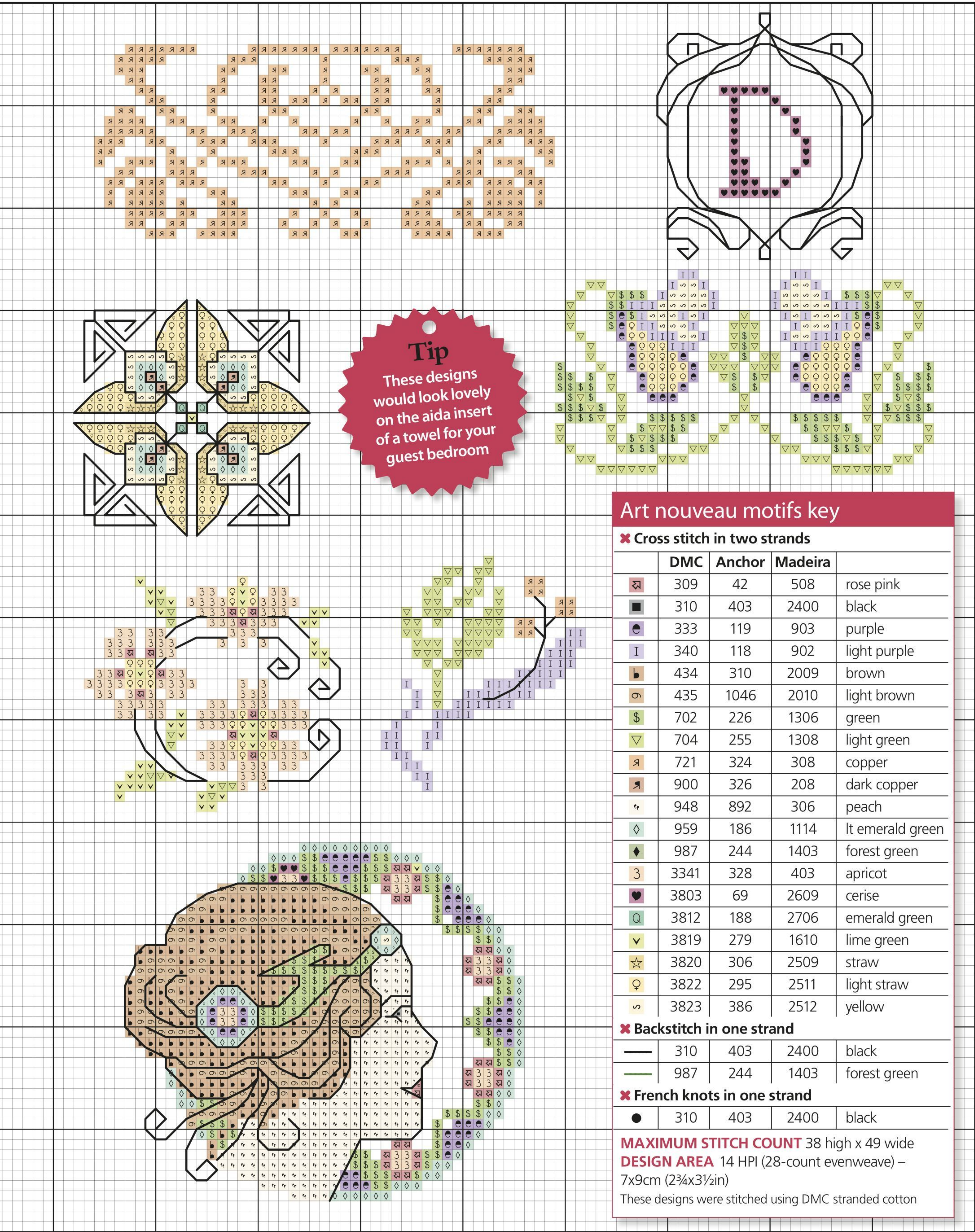




**3 gift ideas**

- 1 Stitch a pretty floral for the front of a photo album, and personalise with the abc on the next page
- 2 Work the peacock feather on aida band and use it to adorn a plain silk cushion
- 3 Turn a small floral design into a pincushion, choosing some elegant fabric for the edges





**Tip**

These designs would look lovely on the aida insert of a towel for your guest bedroom

**Art nouveau motifs key**

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
	309	42	508	rose pink
	310	403	2400	black
	333	119	903	purple
	340	118	902	light purple
	434	310	2009	brown
	435	1046	2010	light brown
	702	226	1306	green
	704	255	1308	light green
	721	324	308	copper
	900	326	208	dark copper
	948	892	306	peach
	959	186	1114	lt emerald green
	987	244	1403	forest green
	3341	328	403	apricot
	3803	69	2609	cerise
	3812	188	2706	emerald green
	3819	279	1610	lime green
	3820	306	2509	straw
	3822	295	2511	light straw
	3823	386	2512	yellow

✕ Backstitch in one strand

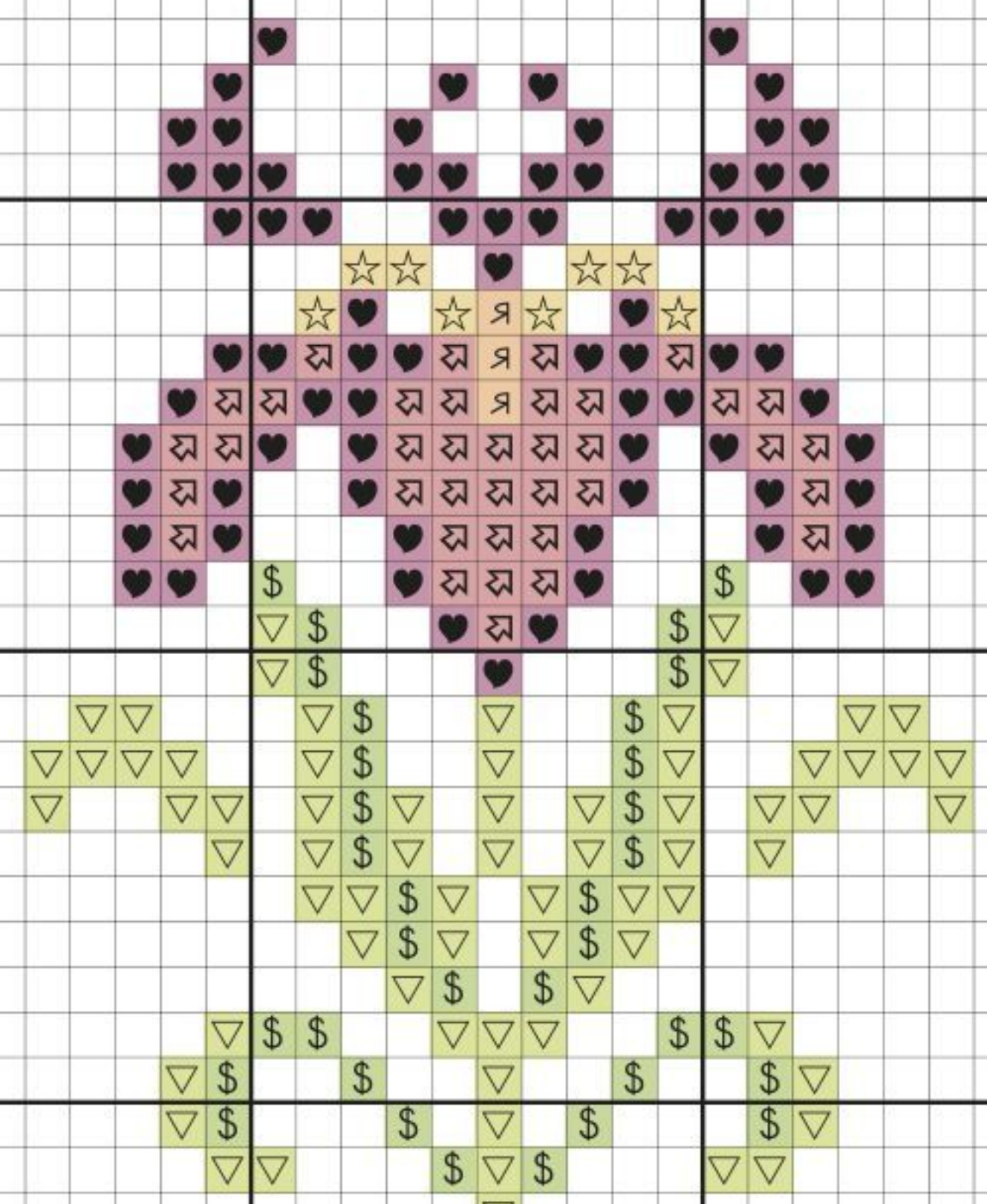
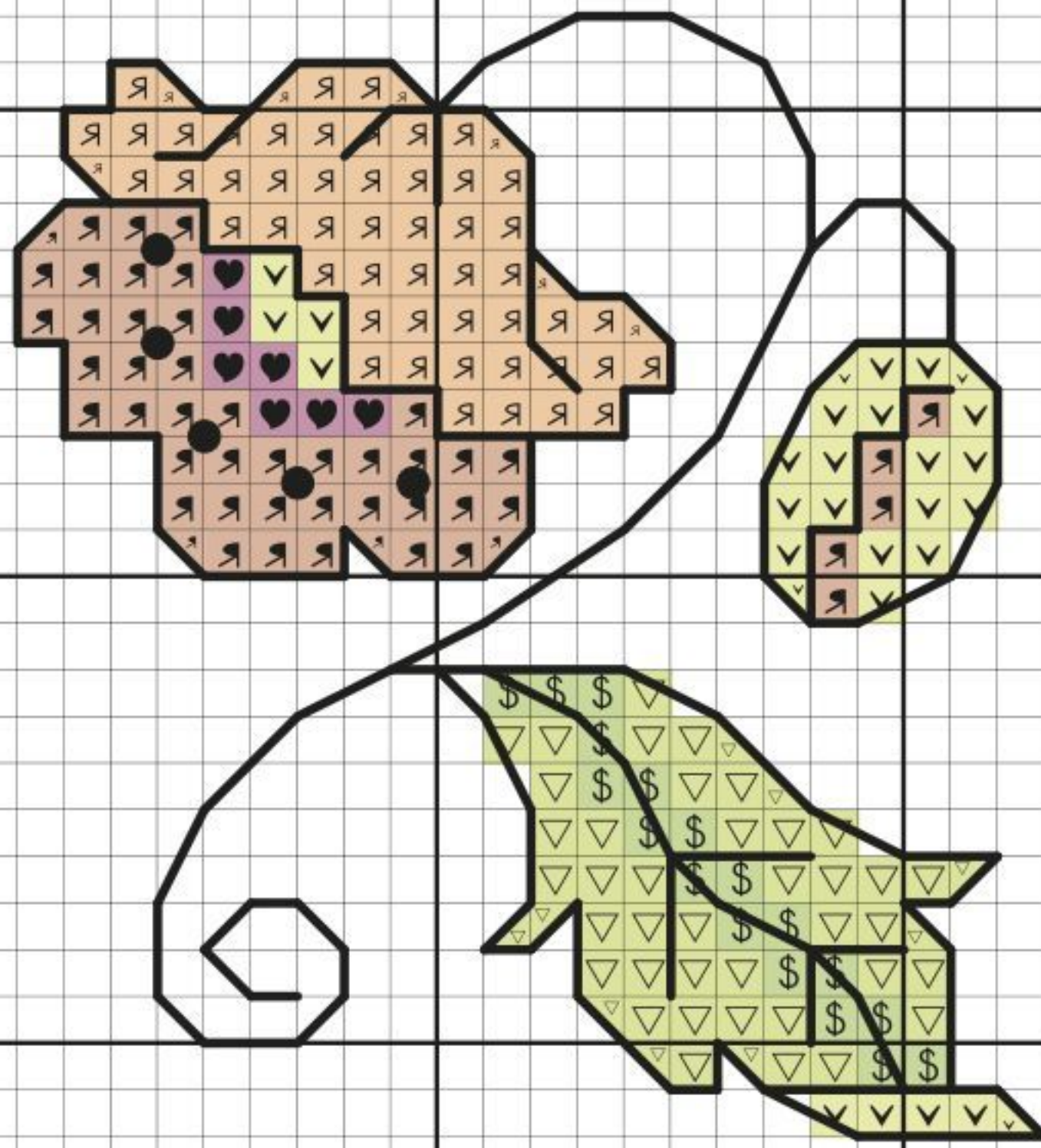
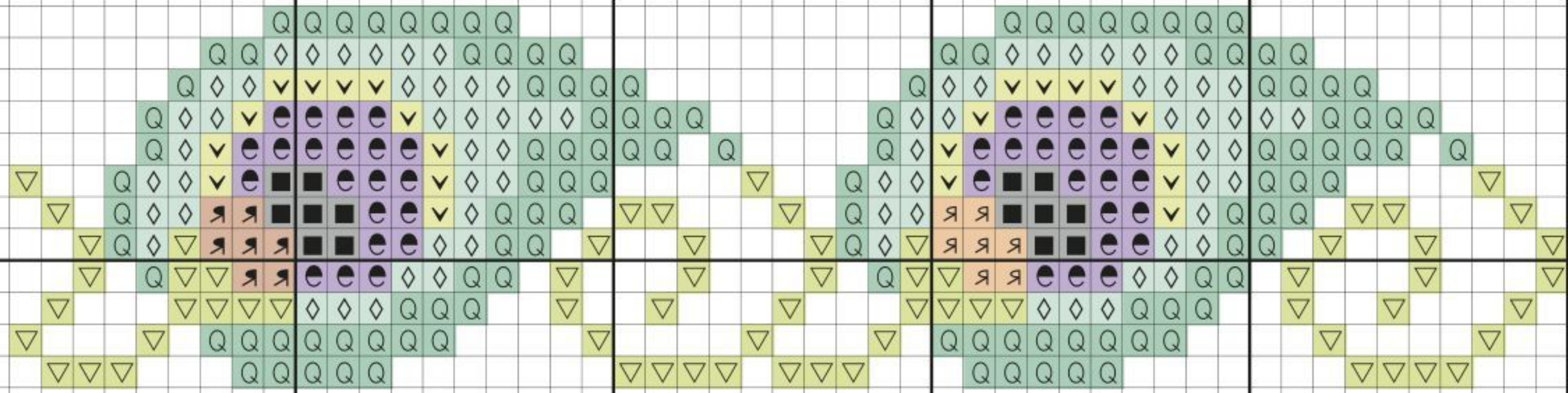
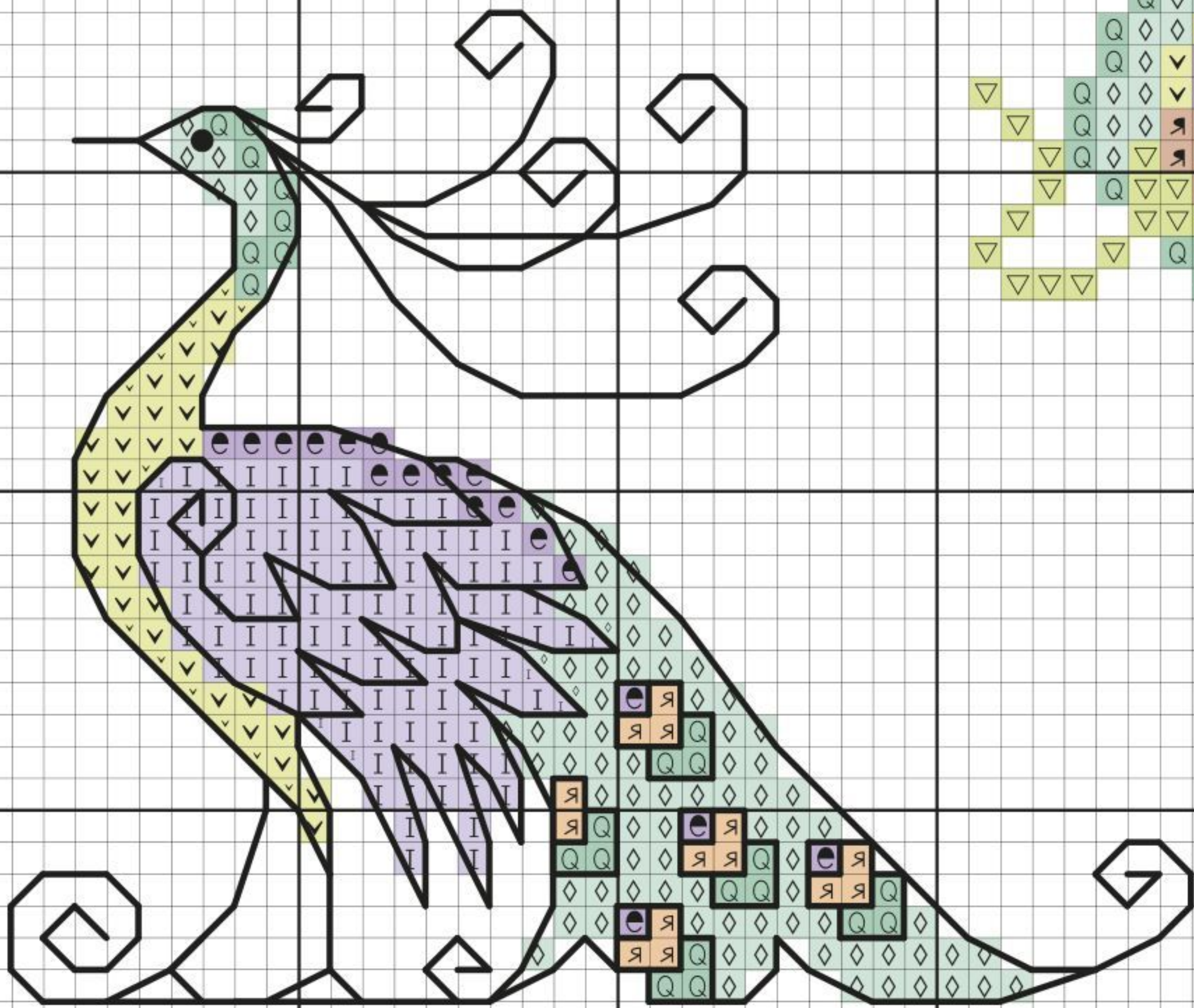
	310	403	2400	black
	987	244	1403	forest green

✕ French knots in one strand

	310	403	2400	black
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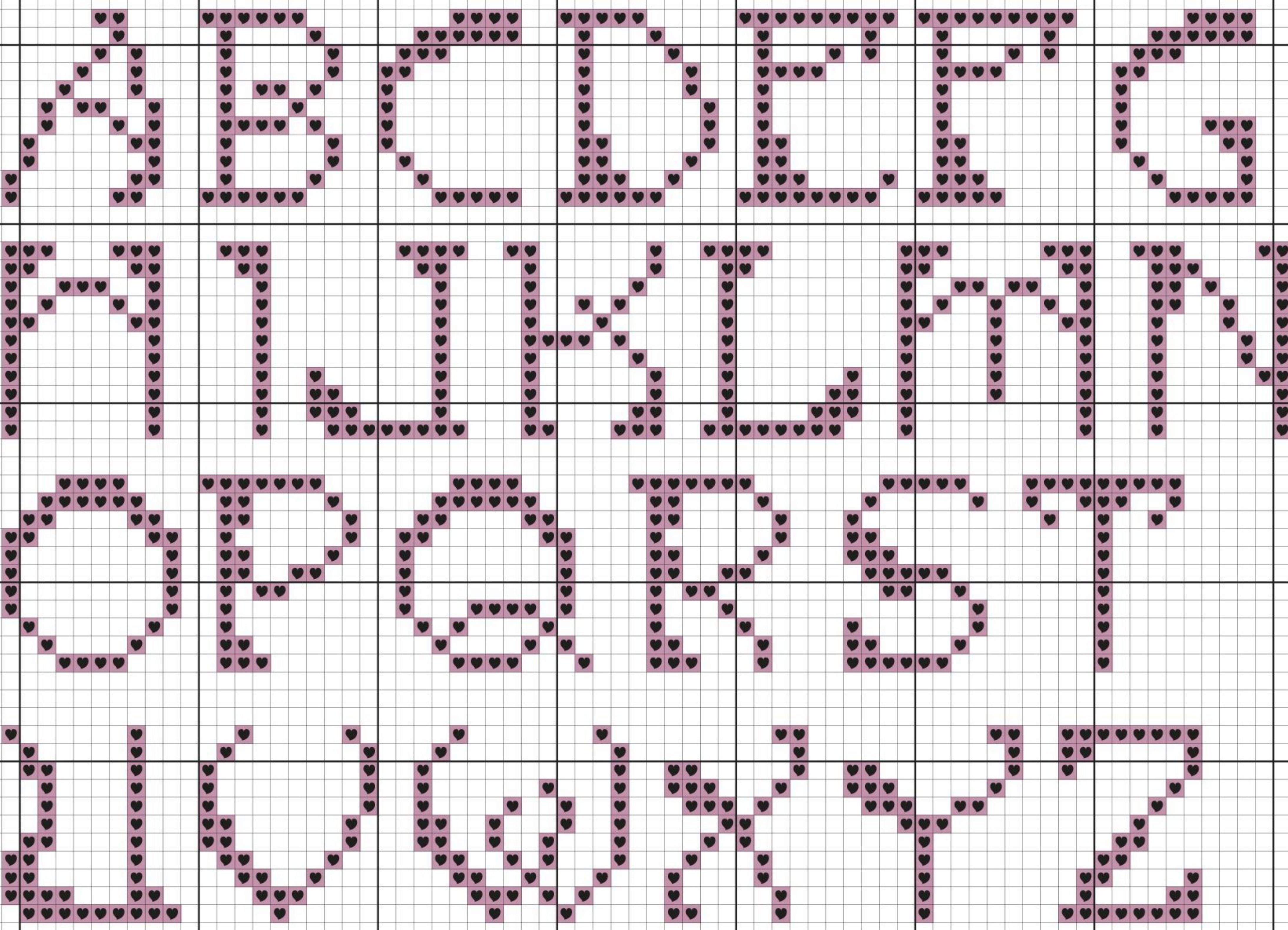
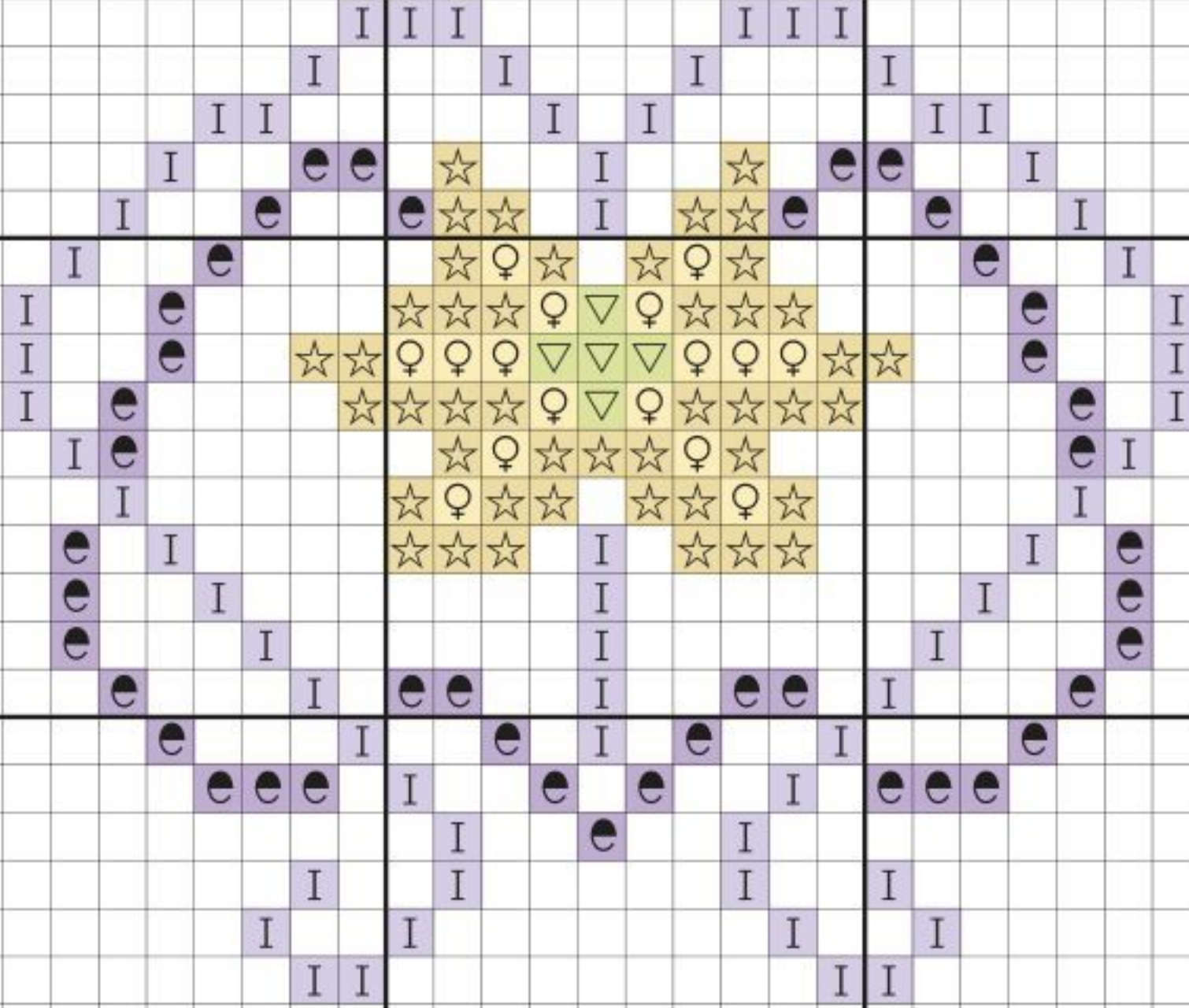
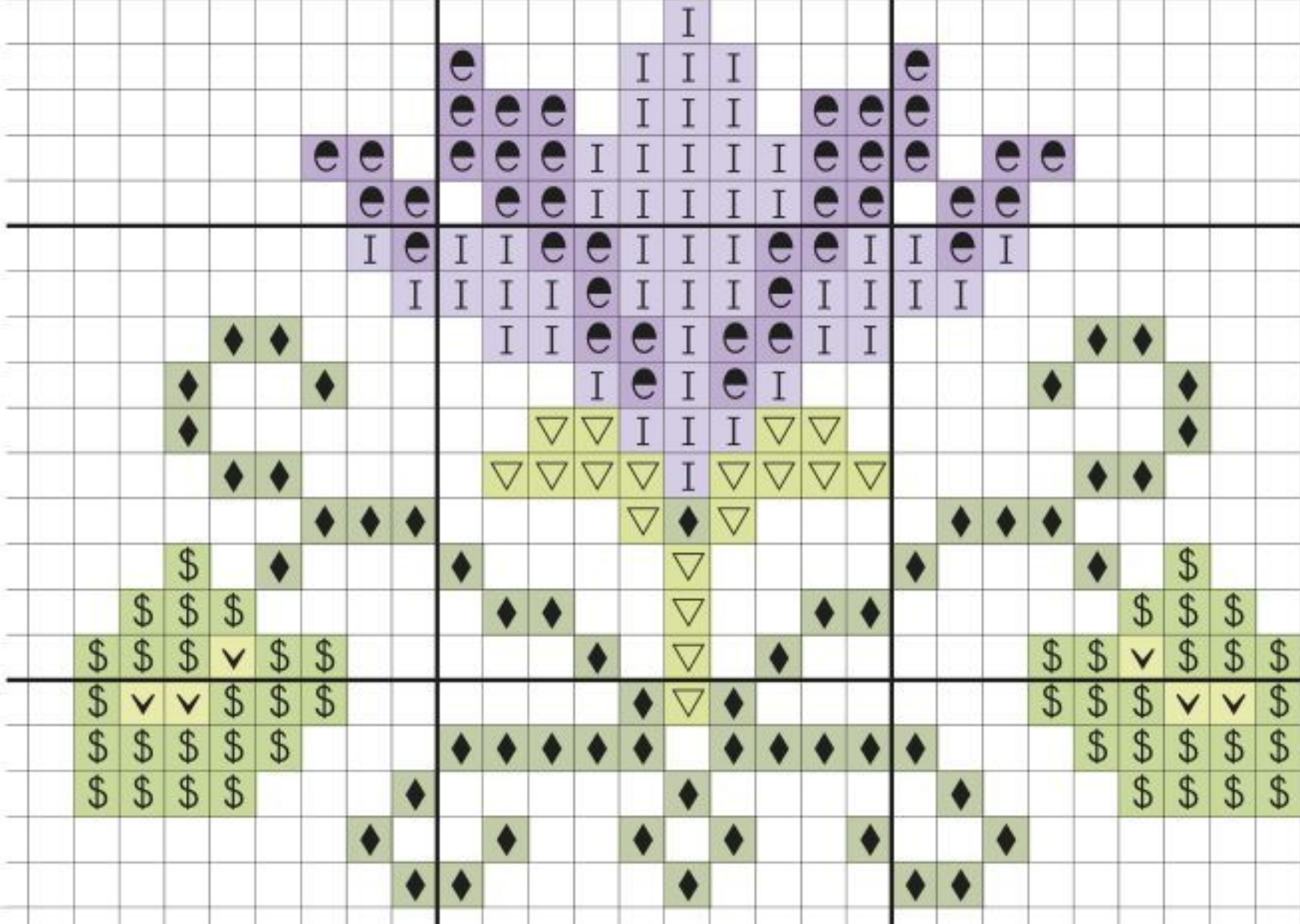
**MAXIMUM STITCH COUNT** 38 high x 49 wide  
**DESIGN AREA** 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 7x9cm (2¾x3½in)  
These designs were stitched using DMC stranded cotton



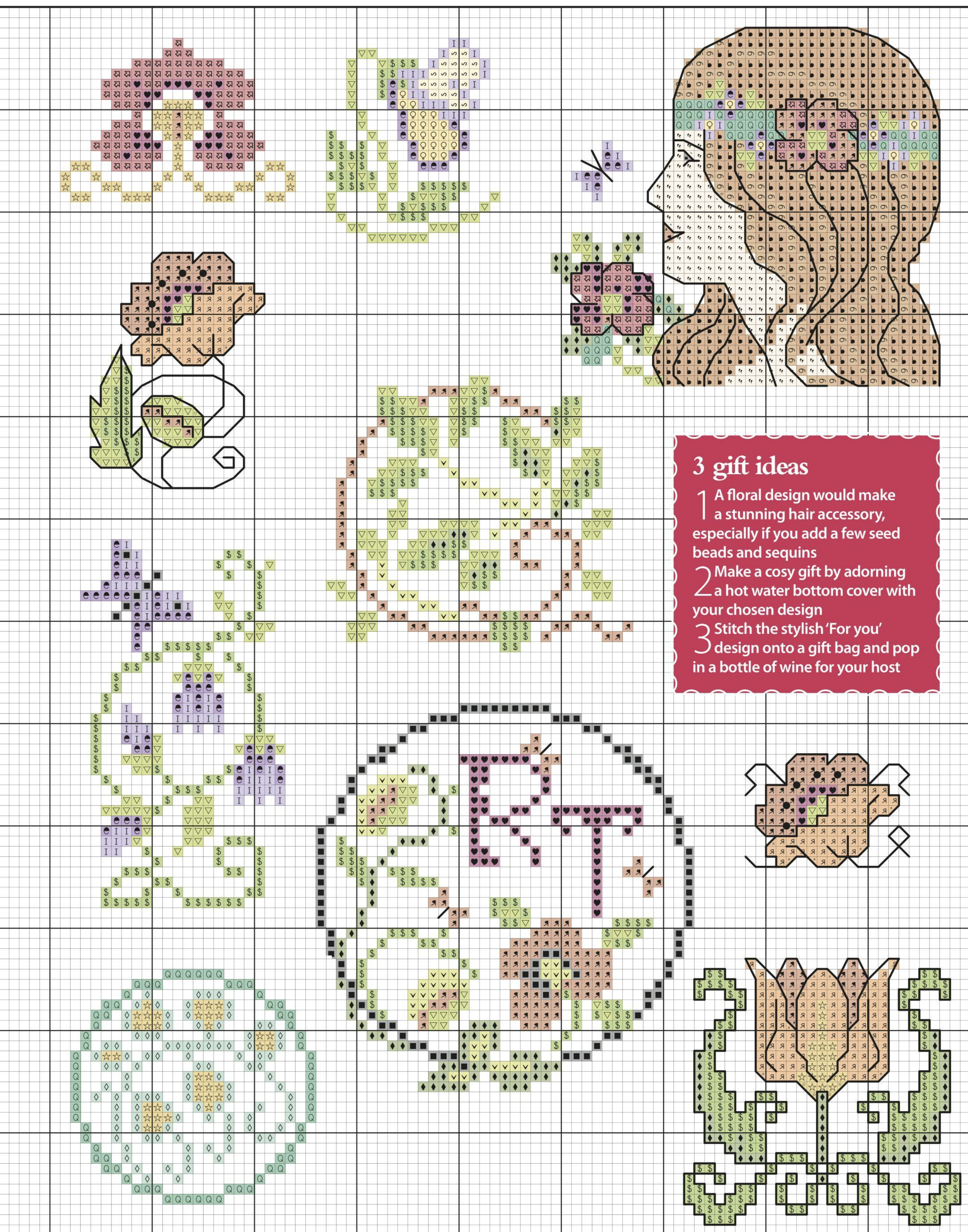


*“Stitch a repeat pattern on aida band then double it over, fill with lavender and sew the edges closed to make a scented sachet”*

**Fiona Baker, technical editor**









# From the garden

Stitch these botanical beauties and have fresh blooms all year round



Designed by Jenny Barton

With over 40 floral motifs to delight gardeners and flower-loving pals alike there are charts here to please all stitchers from beginners to pros. With plenty of easy gift ideas to choose from, you'll soon be stitching the perfect pressie you know will make that special

someone smile. The entire collection has the feel of a classic English country garden. There are familiar blooms that we see in our back gardens through spring and summer and there are exotic florals as well – just imagine that this particular country garden had its own tropical greenhouse!

## 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 most designs

**Extras:** All items handmade or available from local craft stores

## Stitching Factbox

**Stitching time:**  
Approx 2-5 hours each

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

**Level:** Advanced beginner



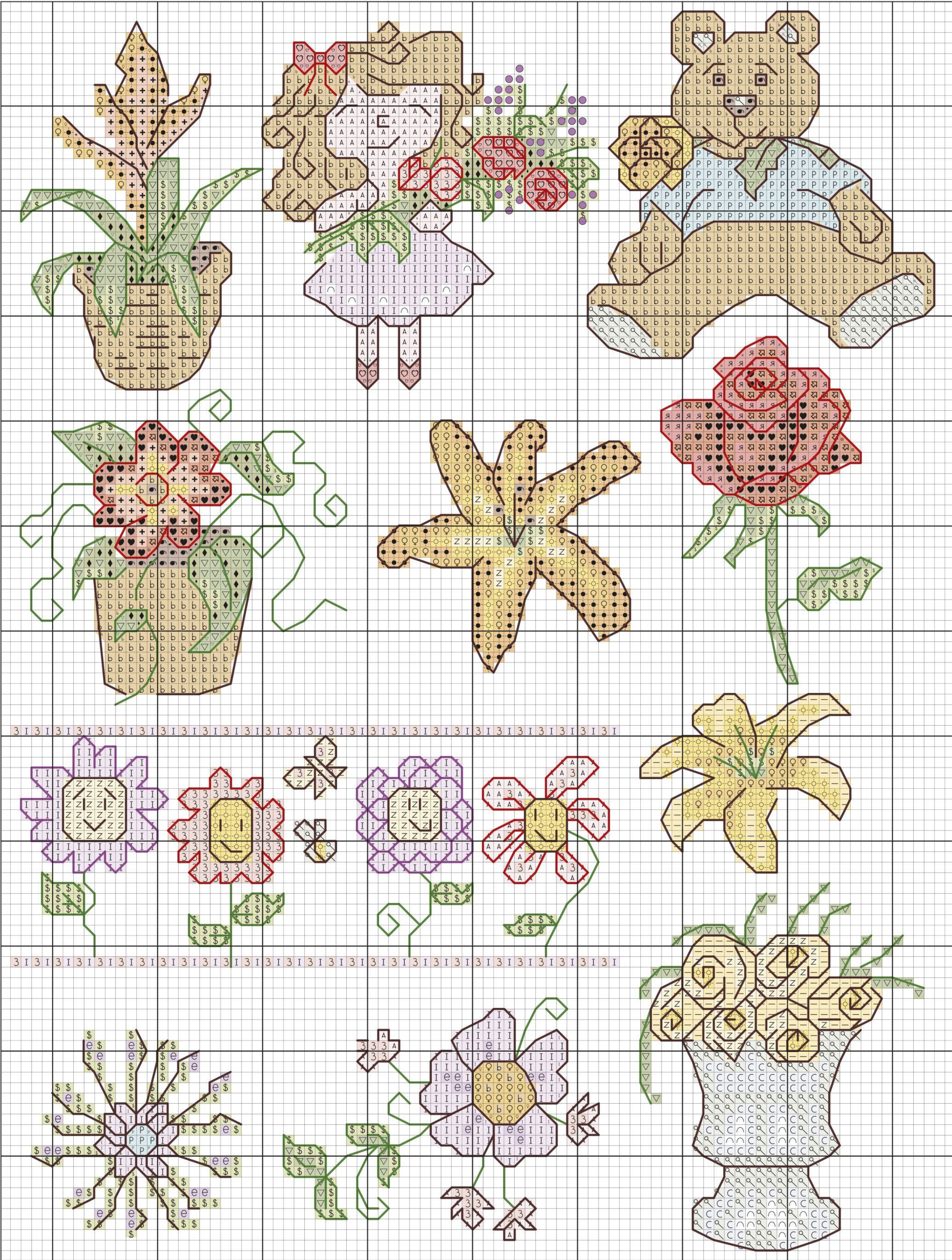




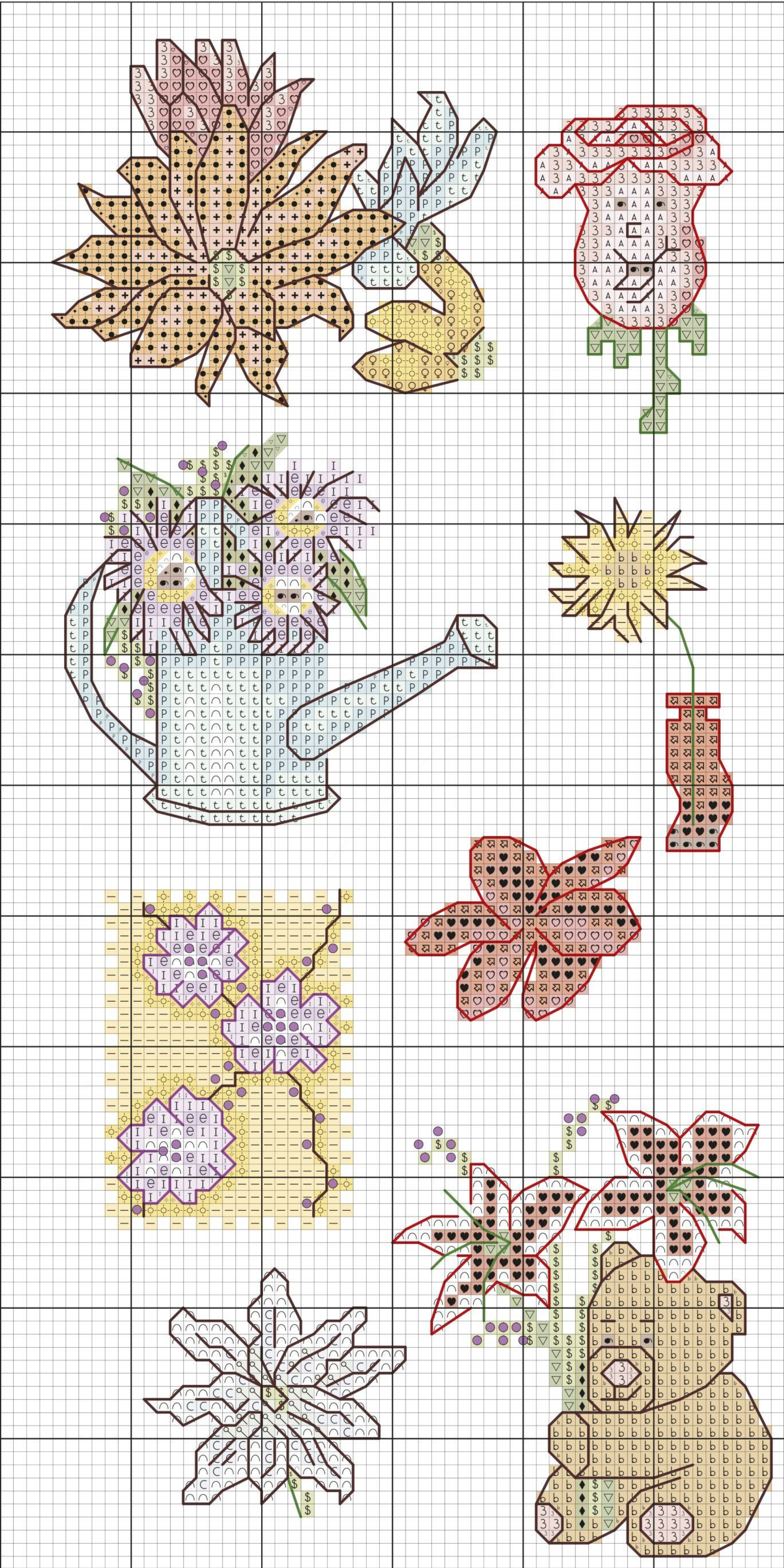
41  
charts to  
stitch











### Garden motifs key

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	B5200	1	2401	white
e	209	98	803	lilac
I	211	342	801	light lilac
♥	321	9046	510	dark red
♡	335	38	506	dark pink
b	436	1045	2011	tan
P	519	1038	1105	blue
w	604	55	614	light pink
∩	648	900	1814	ash grey
⊞	666	46	210	red
●	741	304	202	orange
♀	742	303	114	tangerine
—	744	301	112	yellow
C	762	234	1804	grey
A	818	23	502	very light pink
t	828	975	1101	light blue
⊙	973	290	105	dark yellow
3	3326	36	606	pink
◆	3346	267	1407	dark green
▽	3347	265	1408	green
\$	3348	264	1409	light green
●	3371	382	2004	brown
Я	3705	35	410	light red
Z	3823	386	2512	light yellow
+	3853	1003	311	apricot

✕ Backstitch in one strand

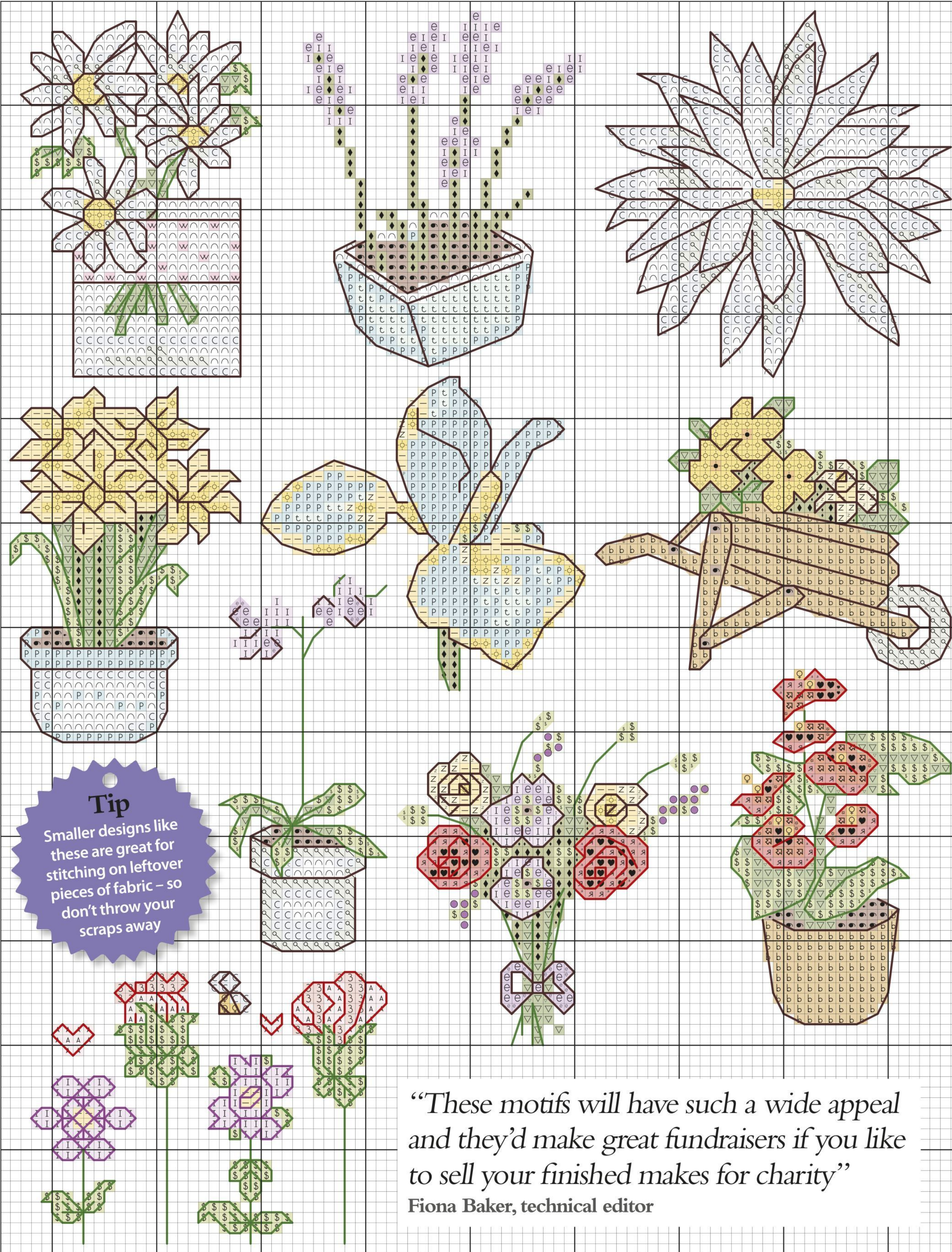
—	209	98	803	lilac
—	321	9046	510	dark red
—	3346	267	1407	dark green
—	3371	382	2004	brown

✕ French knots in one strand

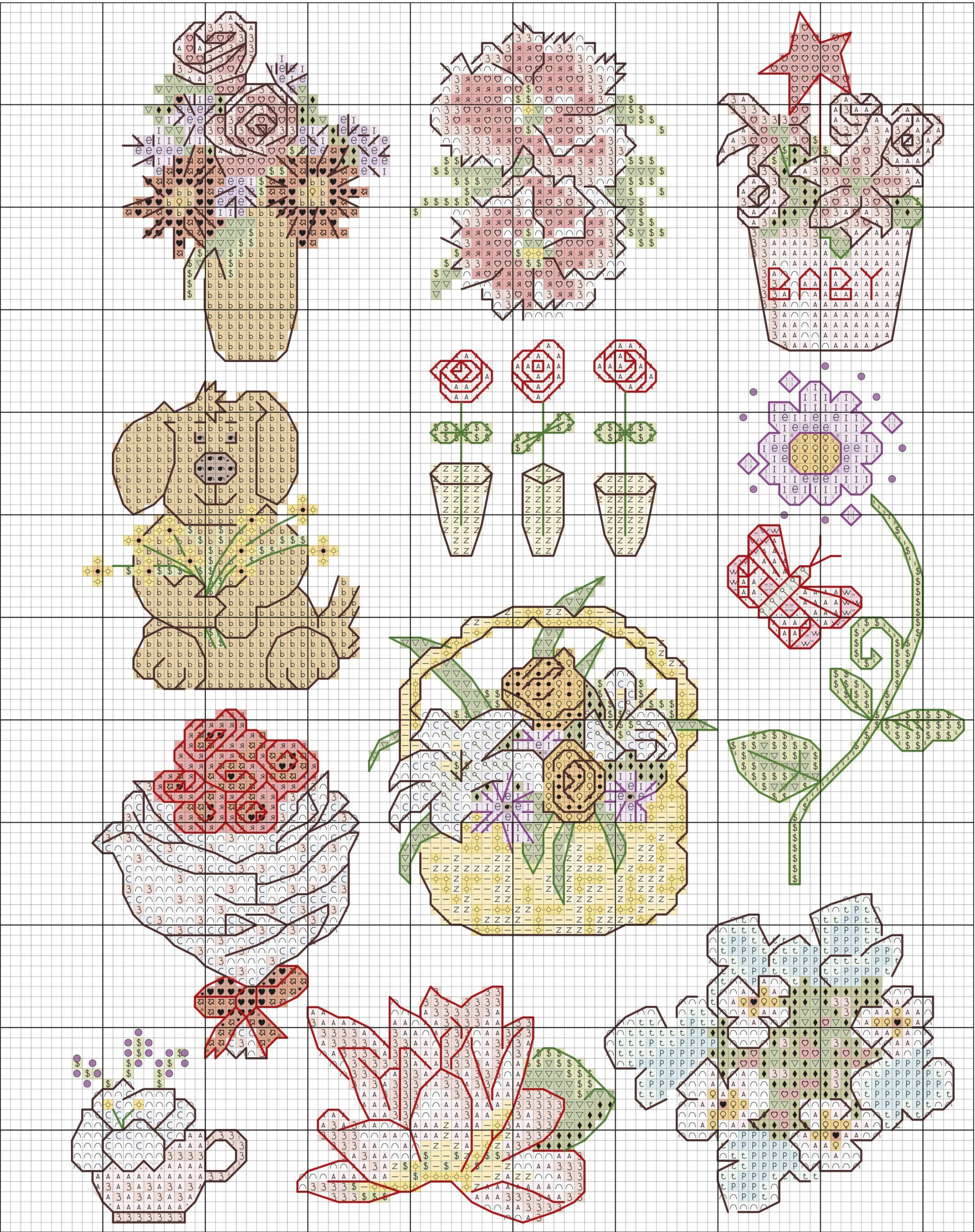
●	211	342	801	light lilac
---	-----	-----	-----	-------------

These designs were stitched using DMC stranded cotton











# Florals for friends

When you want to send heartfelt sentiments to someone special, choose dainty florals



Designed by Lucie Heaton

Roses are considered to be one of the most beautiful flowers in the garden, and now you can bring that beauty to life in stitches, with Lucie's gorgeous set of floral designs. If, like us, you're already looking forward to the warmer months ahead, then here's the perfect place to start off your spring and

summer stitching. These pretty petals are ideal for special occasions such as Mother's Day or birthdays, and nothing says you care quite like a beautifully stitched card. Decorate a make-up bag, jewellery box and handbag mirror to create a beautiful bedroom set, or patch your favourite floral design onto a pair of gardening gloves.

## Stitching Factbox

**Stitching time:**  
Approx 2-10 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 15x15cm (6x6in) for most designs, 14-count white aida band with white trim, 2.5cm (1in) wide, cut to desired length

**Extras:** All items handmade or available from local craft stores



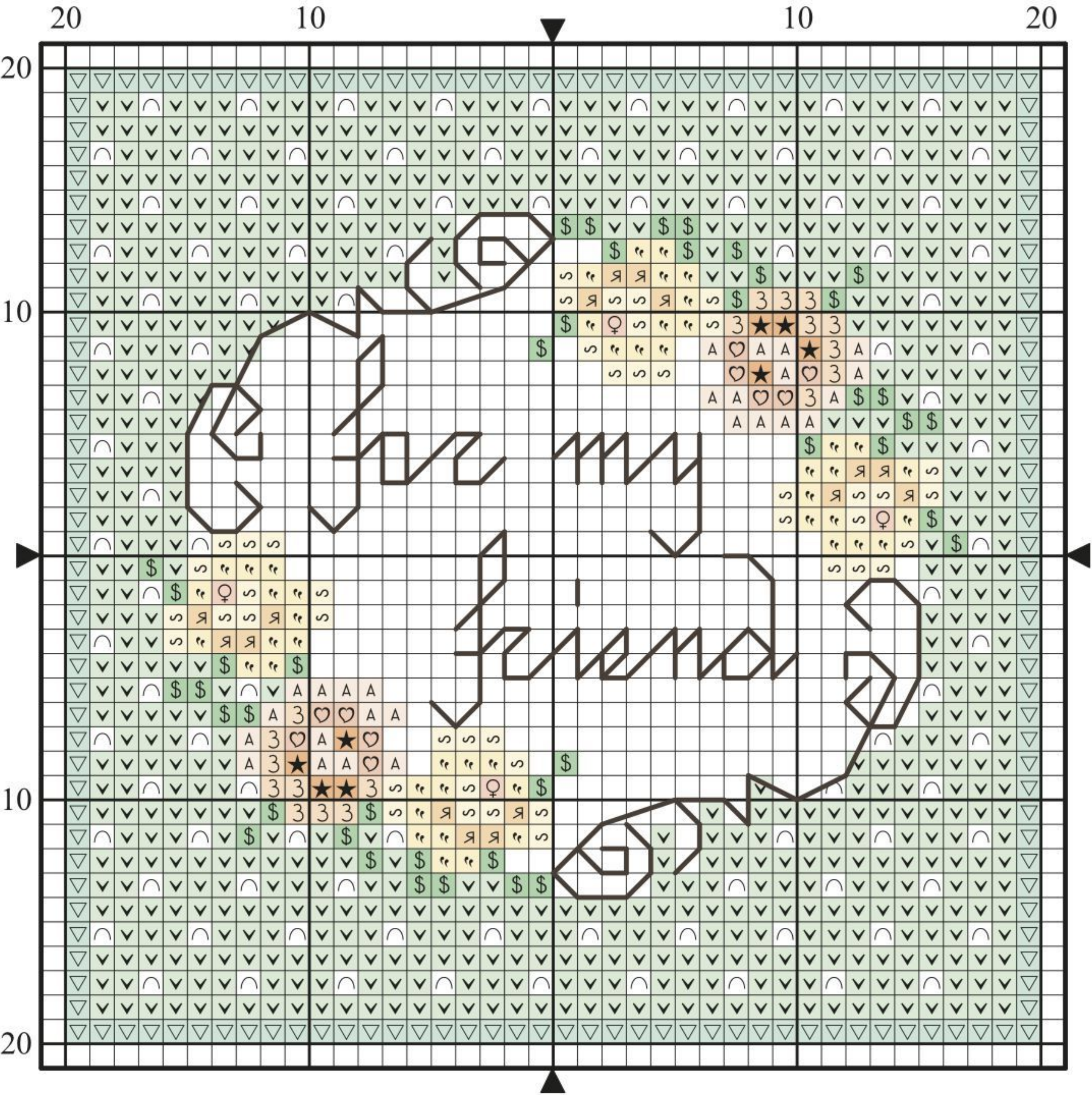


These pretty stitched  
blooms will last a lifetime



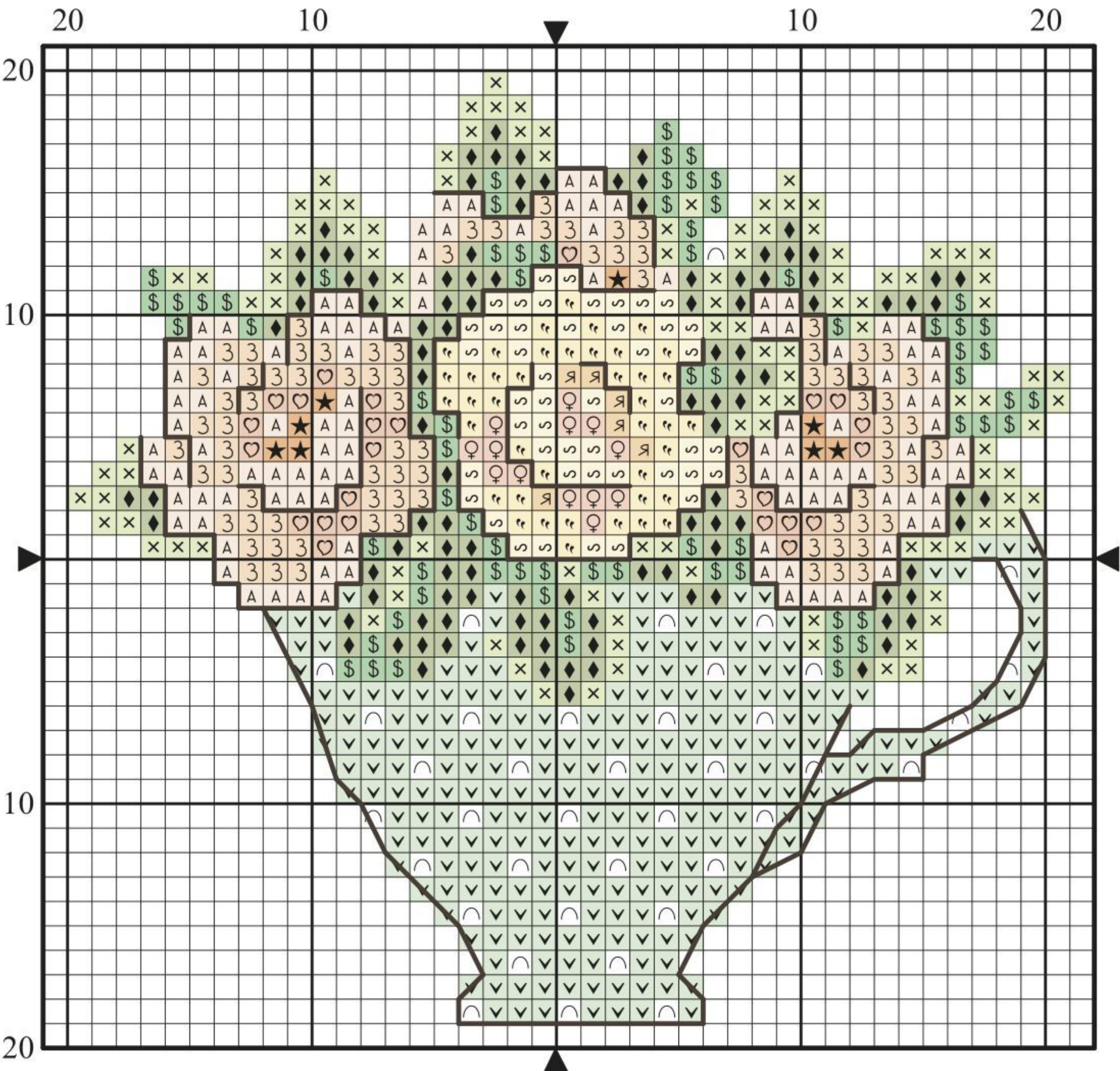
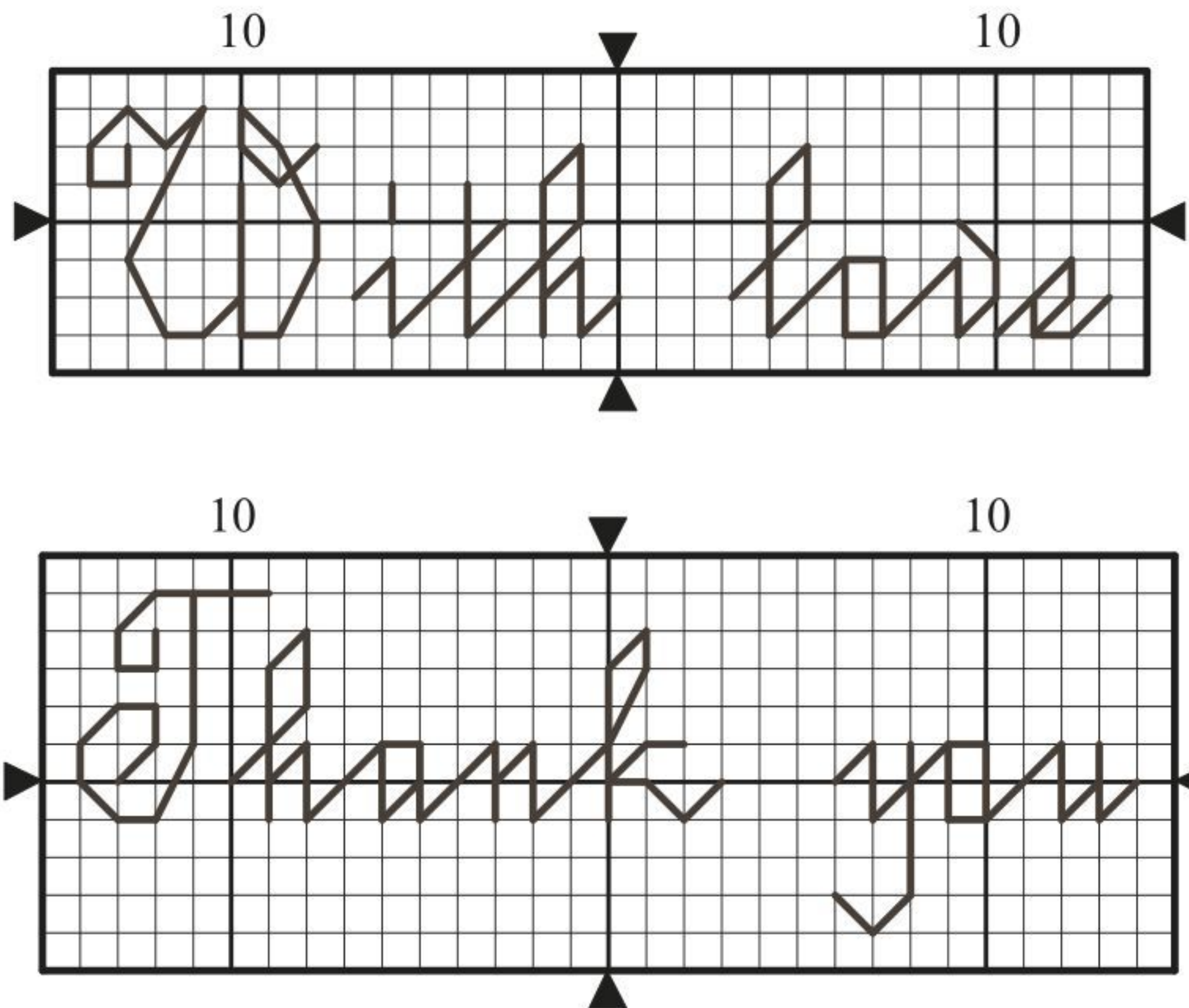
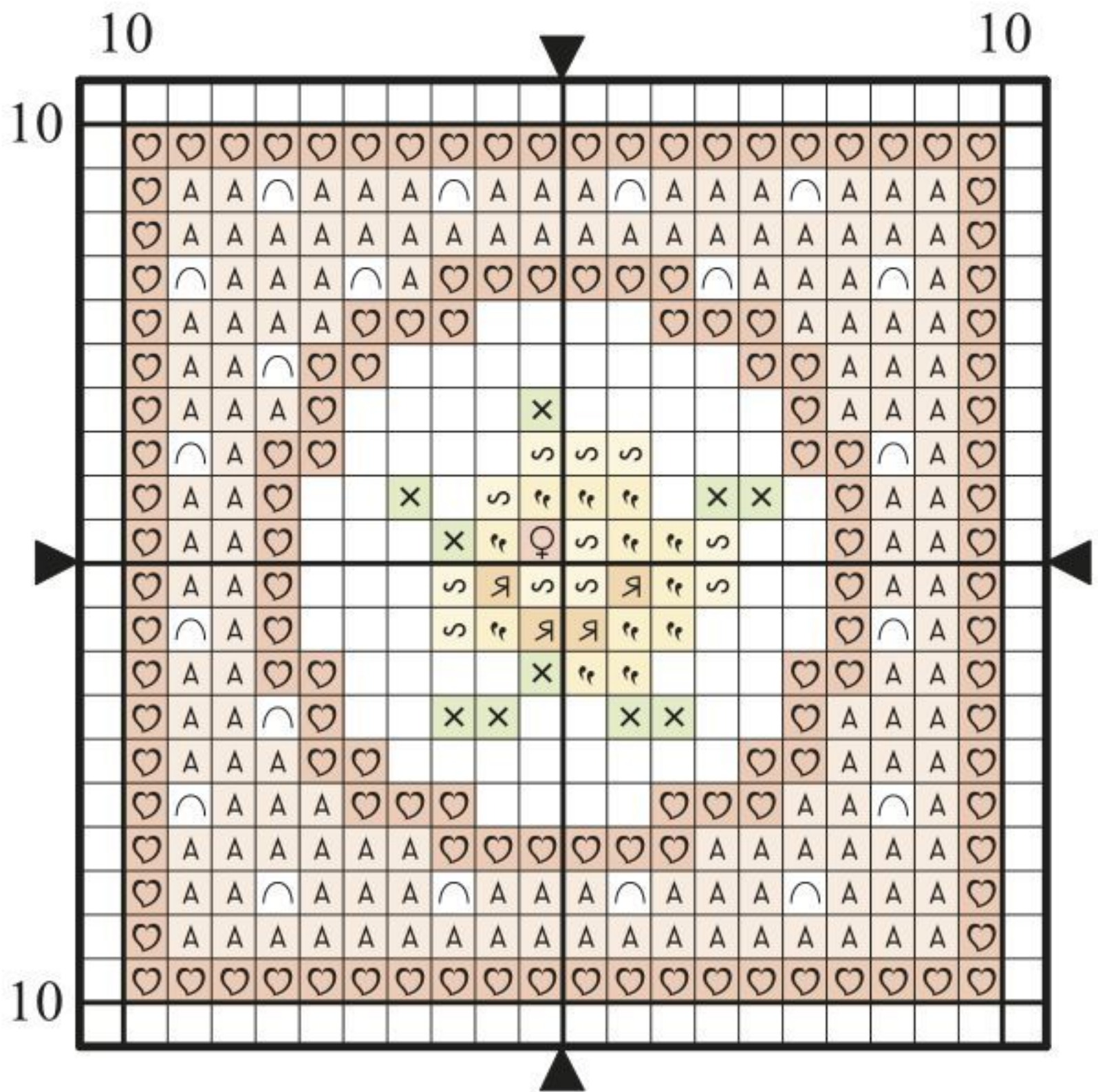


Cross stitch gifts

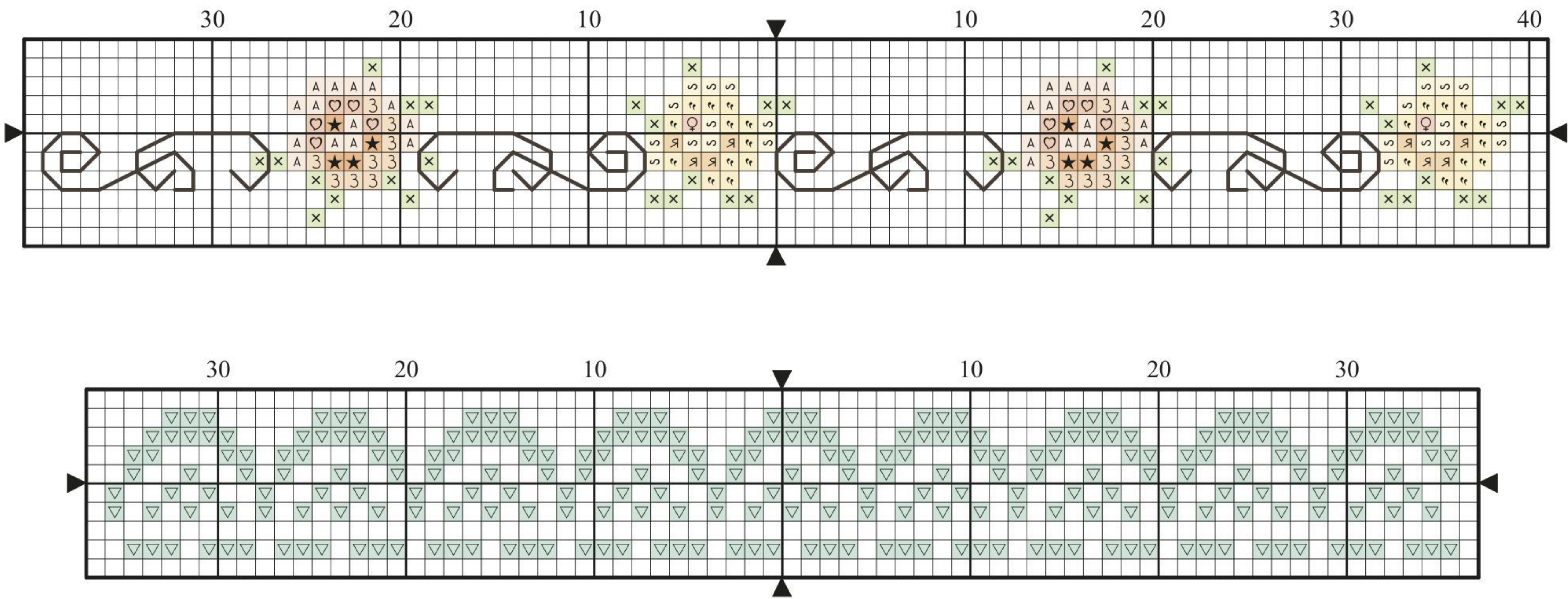


How to attach an aida band

Once you have finished stitching your aida band to the required length, cut it down to size and hem the edges by folding over the edges twice and securing them with a neat slip stitch. This is the stitch you will use to attach the aida band to a fabric bag or pillowcase etc. Pin the aida band in place, fold up one edge and make the slip stitch under the aida band, keeping going until you reach the end then stitching the top edge.







Tip

In place of aida band, stitch one of our designs on aida and then edge with lace trim



Florals key

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	blanc	2	2402	white
✕	164	240	1209	light green
★	608	332	206	bright orange
▽	959	186	1114	emerald green
▼	964	185	1112	sea green
A	967	6	304	light peach
◆	987	244	1403	dark green
\$	988	243	1402	green
♡	3340	329	301	dark peach
3	3341	328	403	peach
Ⓢ	3823	386	2512	yellow
♀	3853	1003	311	dark apricot
Я	3854	313	114	apricot
☺	3855	311	2513	light apricot

✕ Backstitch in one strand

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

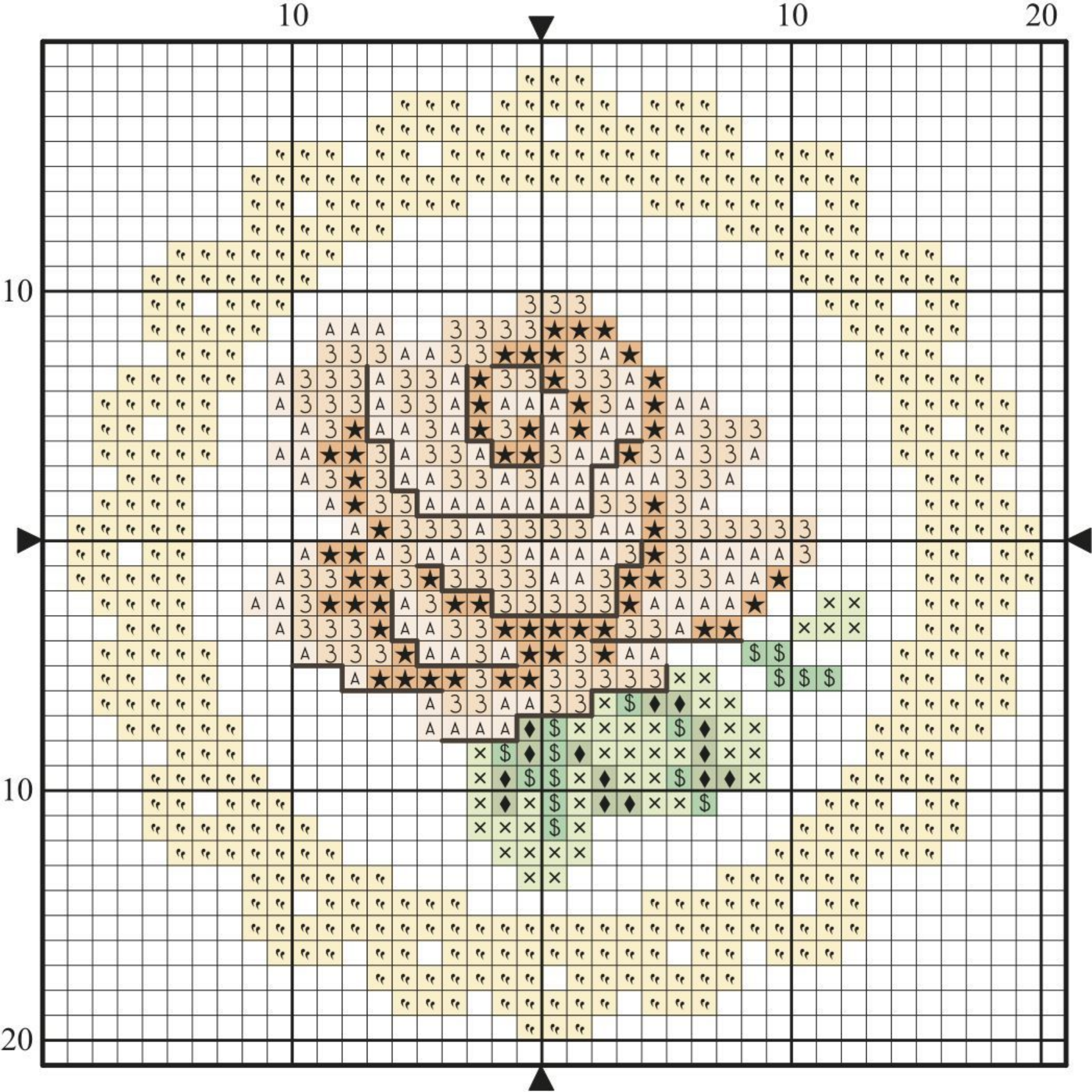
**MAXIMUM STITCH COUNT** 40 high x 79 wide  
**DESIGN AREA** 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 7.5x14.5cm (2¾x5½in)

These designs were stitched using DMC stranded cotton

“These designs lend themselves to decorating sweetly scented gifts such as perfume bottles and bath salts – the possibilities are endless!”  
Lucie Heaton, designer

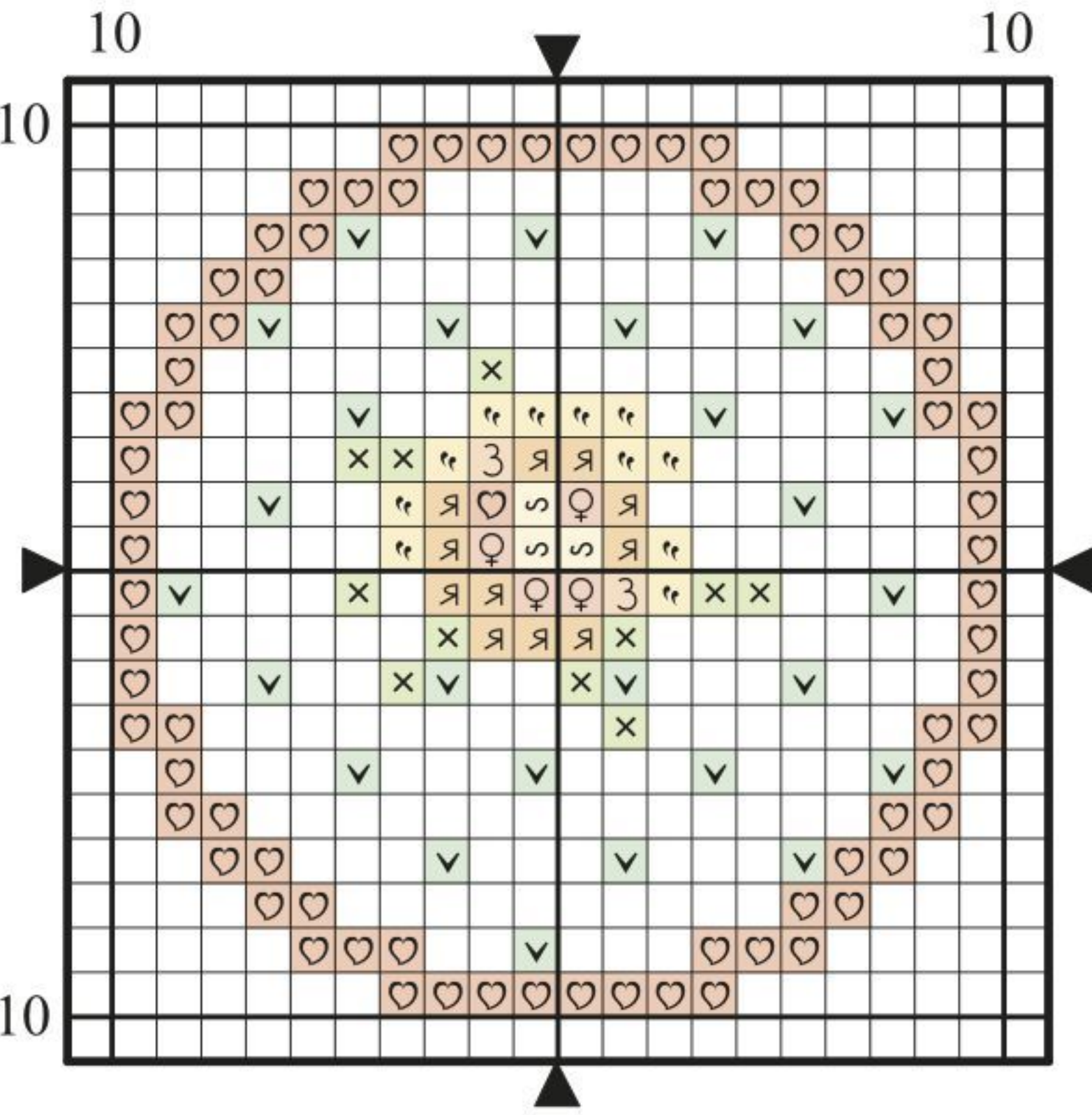
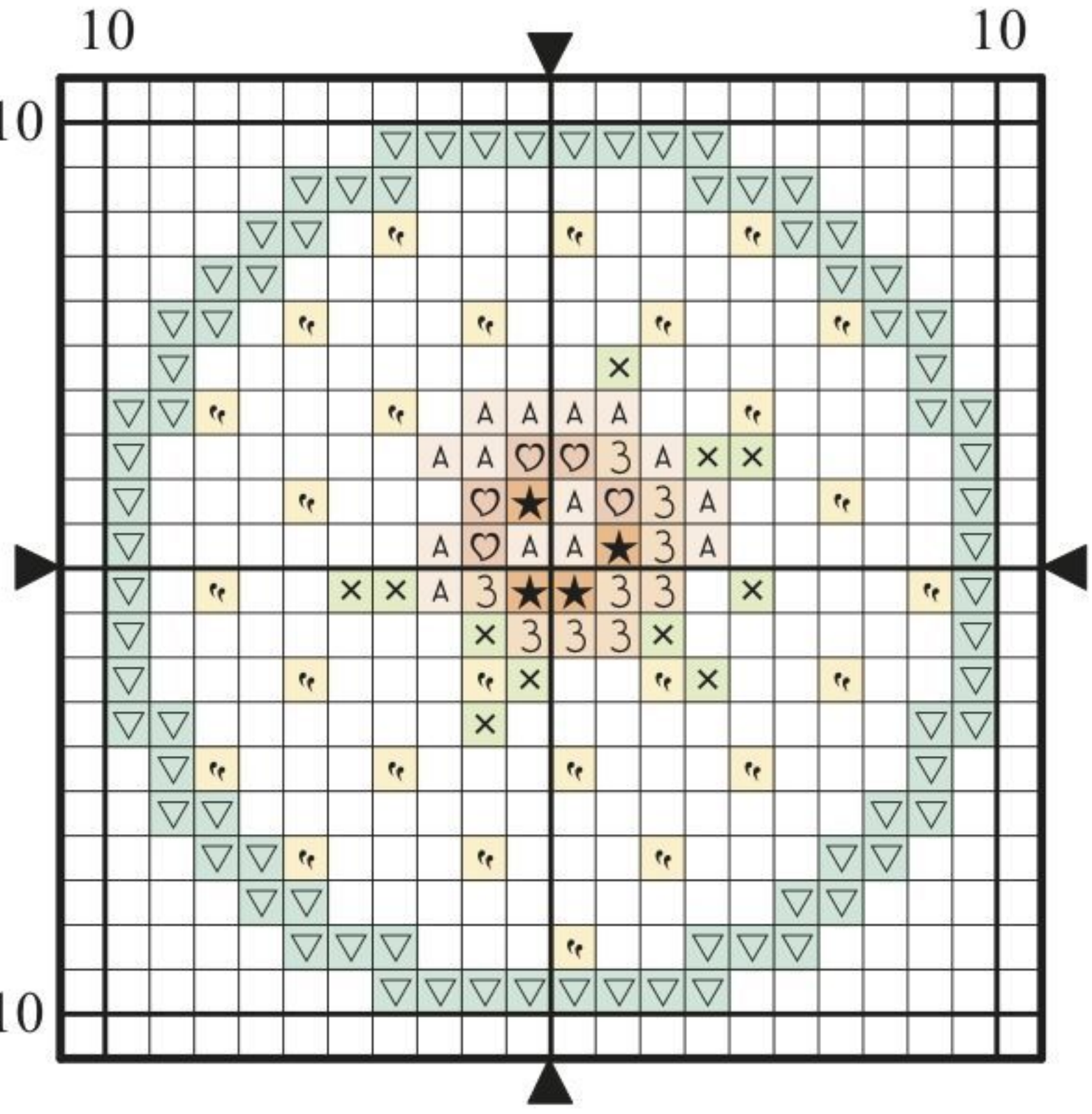
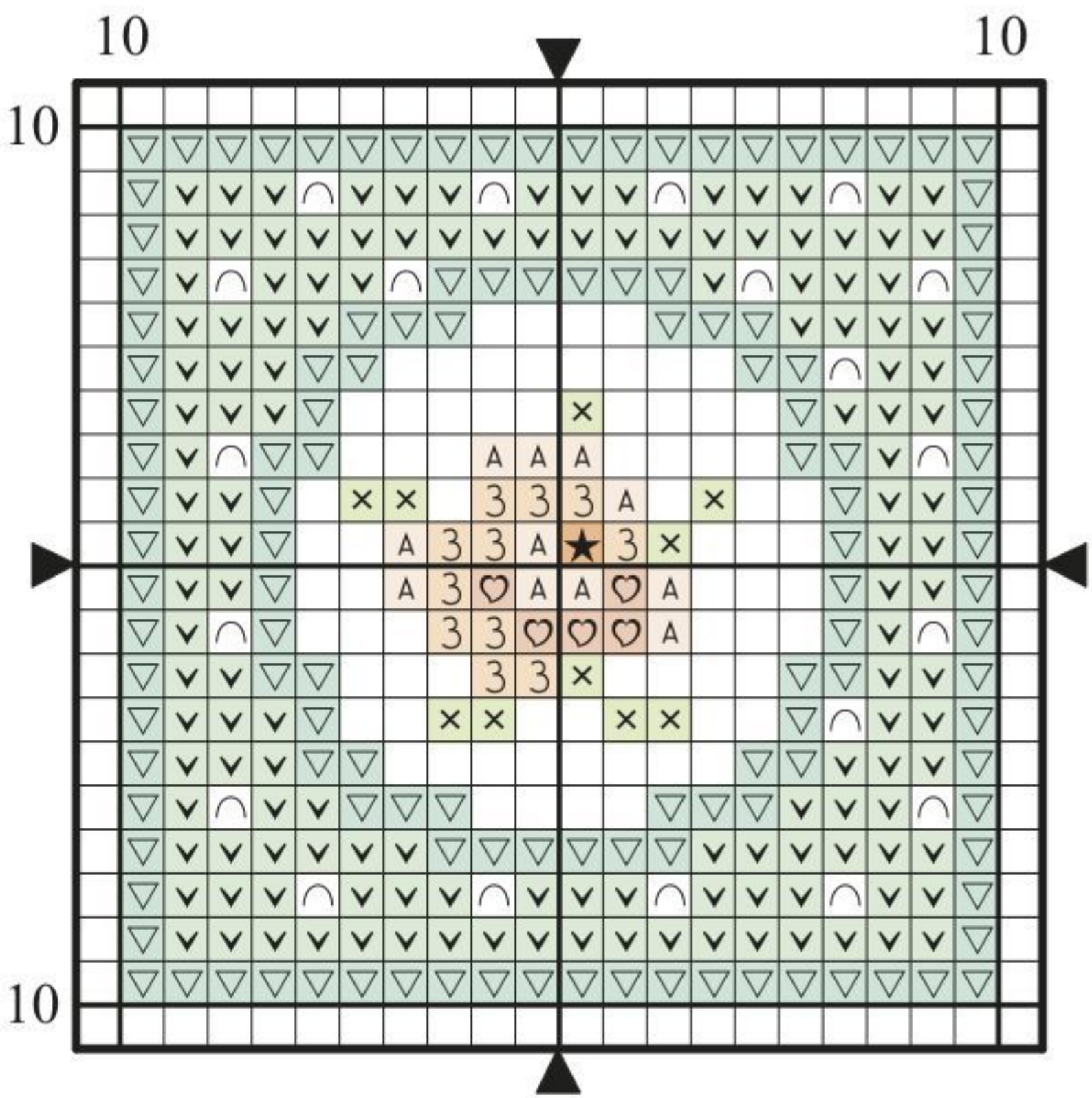


Cross stitch gifts



“These motifs are so versatile, you’ll find them useful for lots of different occasions. The roses will make perfect Mother’s Day cards”

Heather Nugent, charting assistant







Gorgeous florals stitched on brightly coloured fabrics make a winning gift idea

# Stitch in style



These floral purses are such fun to make you won't be able to stop at one!

Designed by **Lucie Heaton**

## You will need

**Threads:** Stranded cotton, as listed in the key

**Needle:** Size 24 tapestry needle

**Fabric:** Charles Craft Bright Ideas 14-count aida in Grasshopper and Polar Ice, measuring 36x20cm (14x8in) for each design, from [www.sewandso.co.uk](http://www.sewandso.co.uk)

**Extras:** Buttons of your choice

## Stitching Factbox

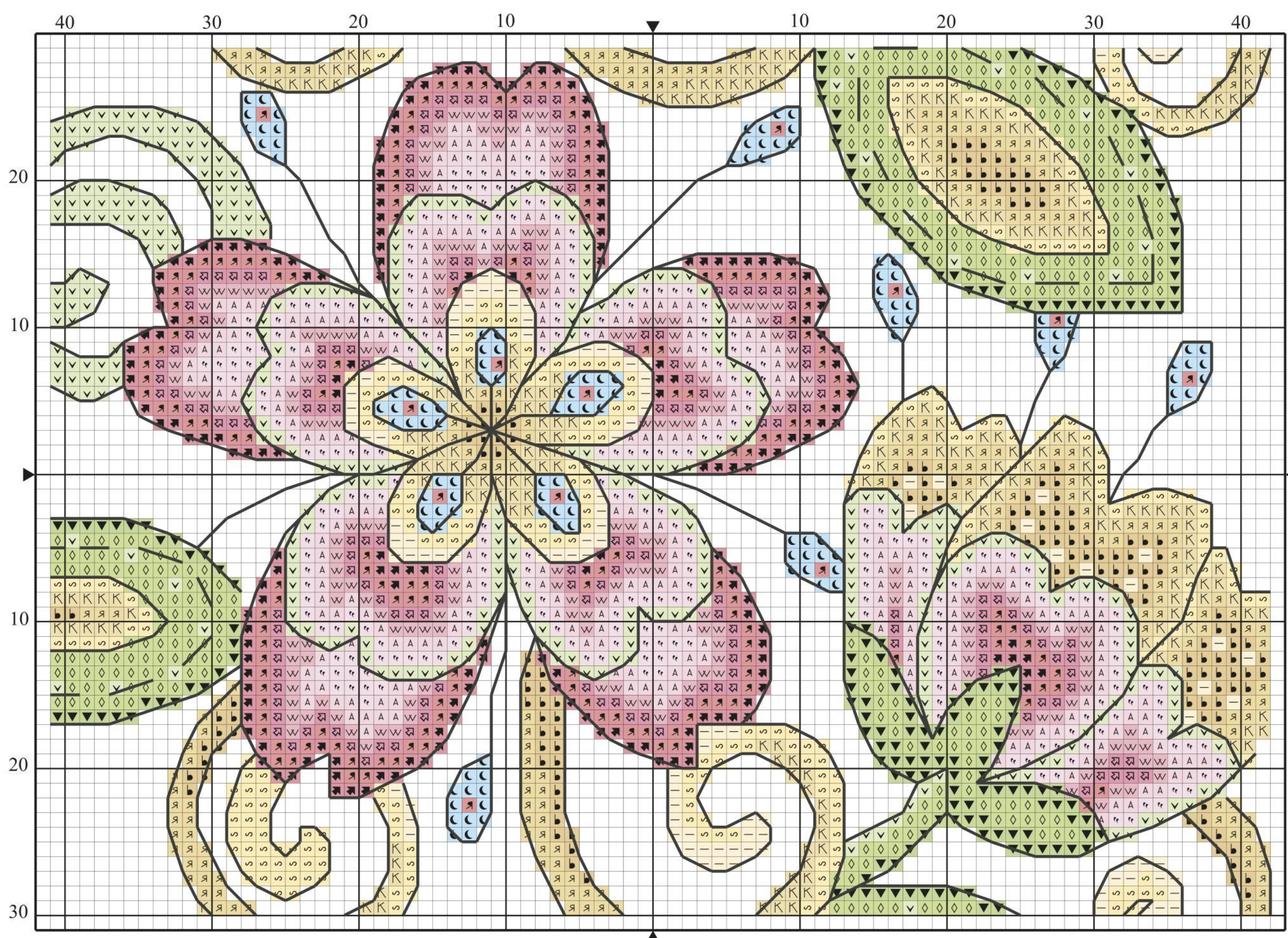
**Stitching time:**  
Approx 15 hours each

**Type of stitches:**  
Cross stitch, backstitch

**Level:** Intermediate



## Cross stitch gifts



## How to stitch and make a purse or bag

**1** Use these charts as repeating patterns to create bags and purses in your choice of sizes. Our blue purse is made with four stacked repeats, and the green purse is made of three stacked repeats. To make a larger bag, with more stacked repeats, just remember to lengthen the amount of aida you need.

**2** Back your finished stitched piece with lightweight iron-on interfacing to protect the reverse of your stitches and to give a professional finish. Trim carefully, leaving at least an eight square border all the way around the outside. Using matching thread, machine or hand stitch a 1cm (½in) hem along the long edges and then along short edges of stitching.

**3** Place your stitching face down, in a portrait position in front of you, and fold the bottom third up. Press, and stitch

up the sides. You should now have a pocket. Fold a section slightly smaller than the top third down and press.

**4** Sew a button to the outside of the pocket, in the centre and directly

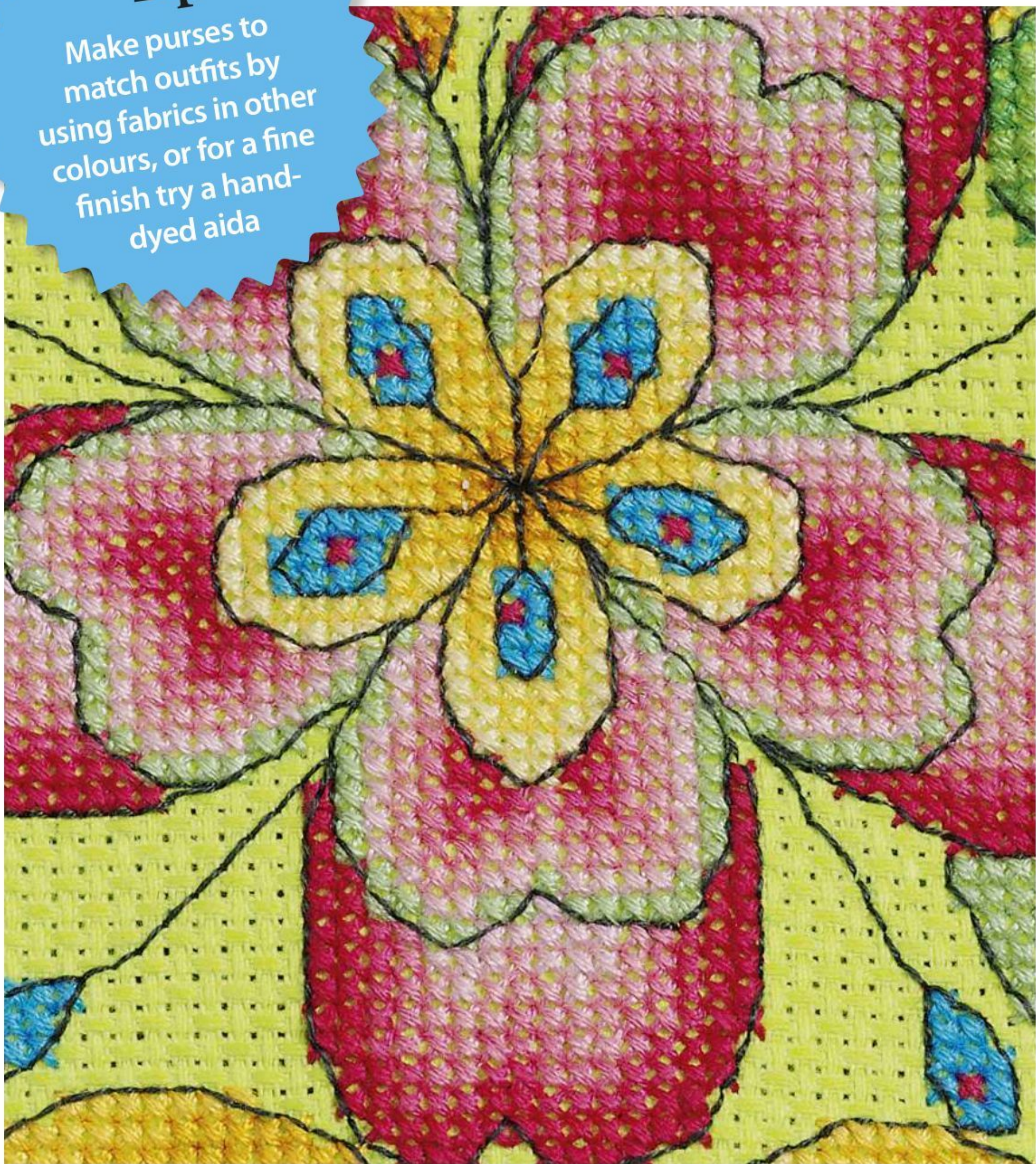
below the top flap of the bag. Create a small loop cut out of coordinating ribbon or thread and sew onto the centre of the bottom edge of the top flap, to wrap around the button.





Tip

Make purses to match outfits by using fabrics in other colours, or for a fine finish try a hand-dyed aida



Purses key

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	blanc	2	2402	white
✓	164	240	1209	very light green
✚	600	63	703	very dark pink
✚	601	62	702	dark pink
✚	602	57	701	pink
W	603	55	614	light pink
A	604	25	505	very light pink
⋈	605	1094	613	candy pink
▼	702	226	1306	dark green
◇	703	238	1307	green
—	745	300	111	yellow
⬇	783	307	2212	tan
⬇	996	433	1103	blue
⋈	3820	306	2509	dark straw
K	3821	305	2510	straw
S	3822	295	2511	light straw

✕ Backstitch in one strand

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

MAXIMUM STITCH COUNT 59 high x 83 wide

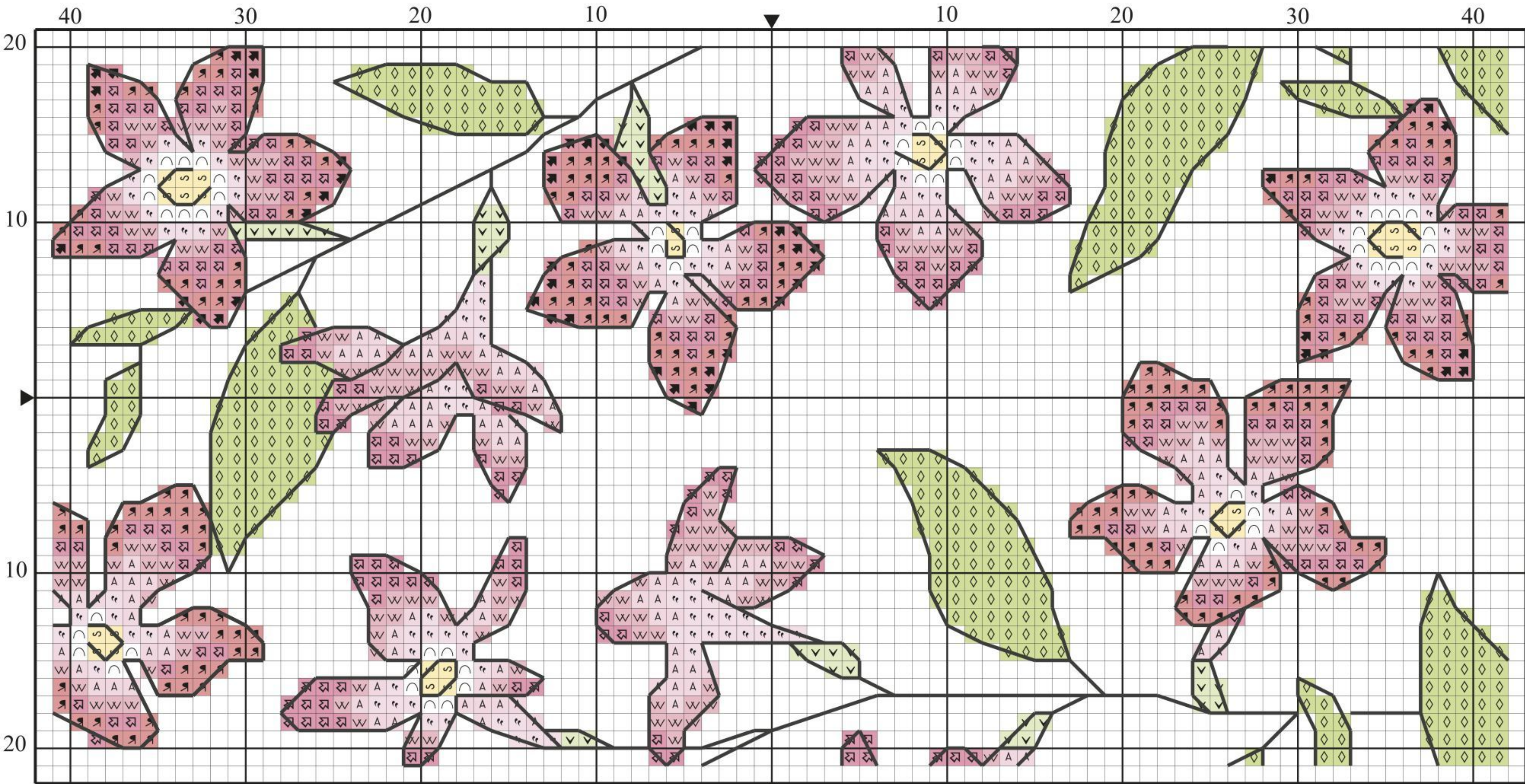
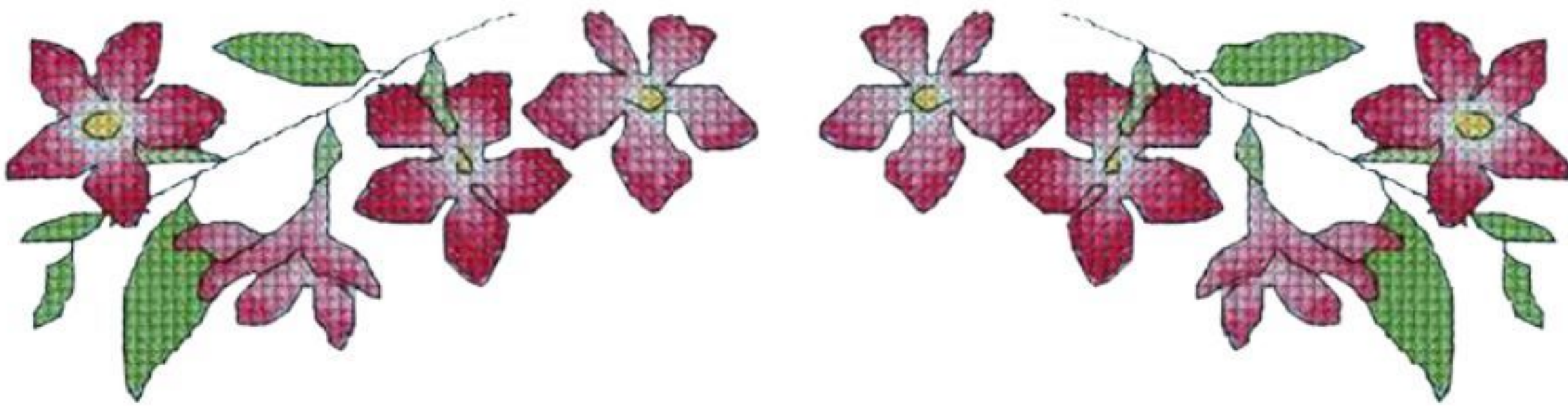
DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 10.5x15cm (4¼x6in)

SKEINS NEEDED 2x602 (pink), 2x603 (light pink), 2x3799 (grey)

These designs were stitched using DMC stranded cotton

“These purses are gorgeous, the flowers patterns are so fresh and vibrant you’ll be itching to get started on them!”

Abi Barker, special projects coordinator

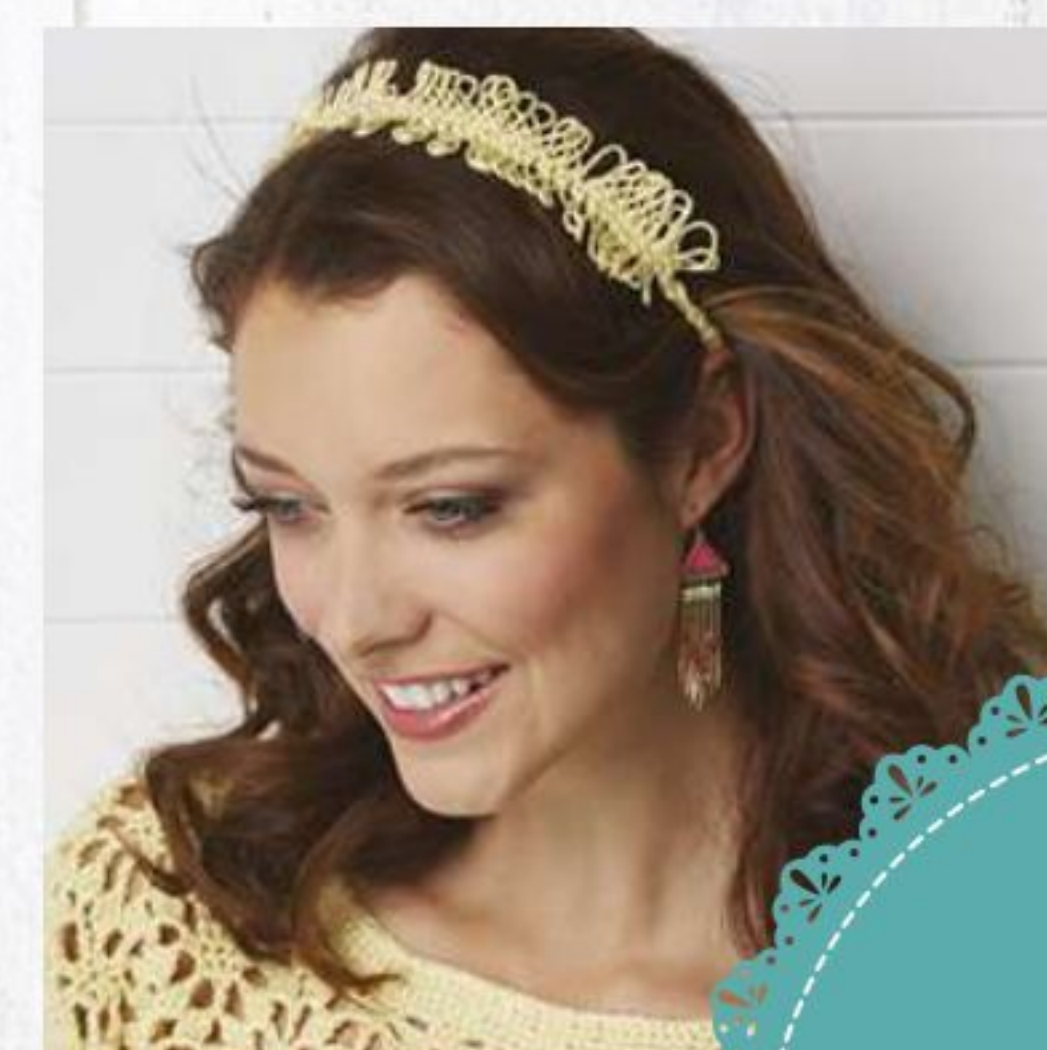




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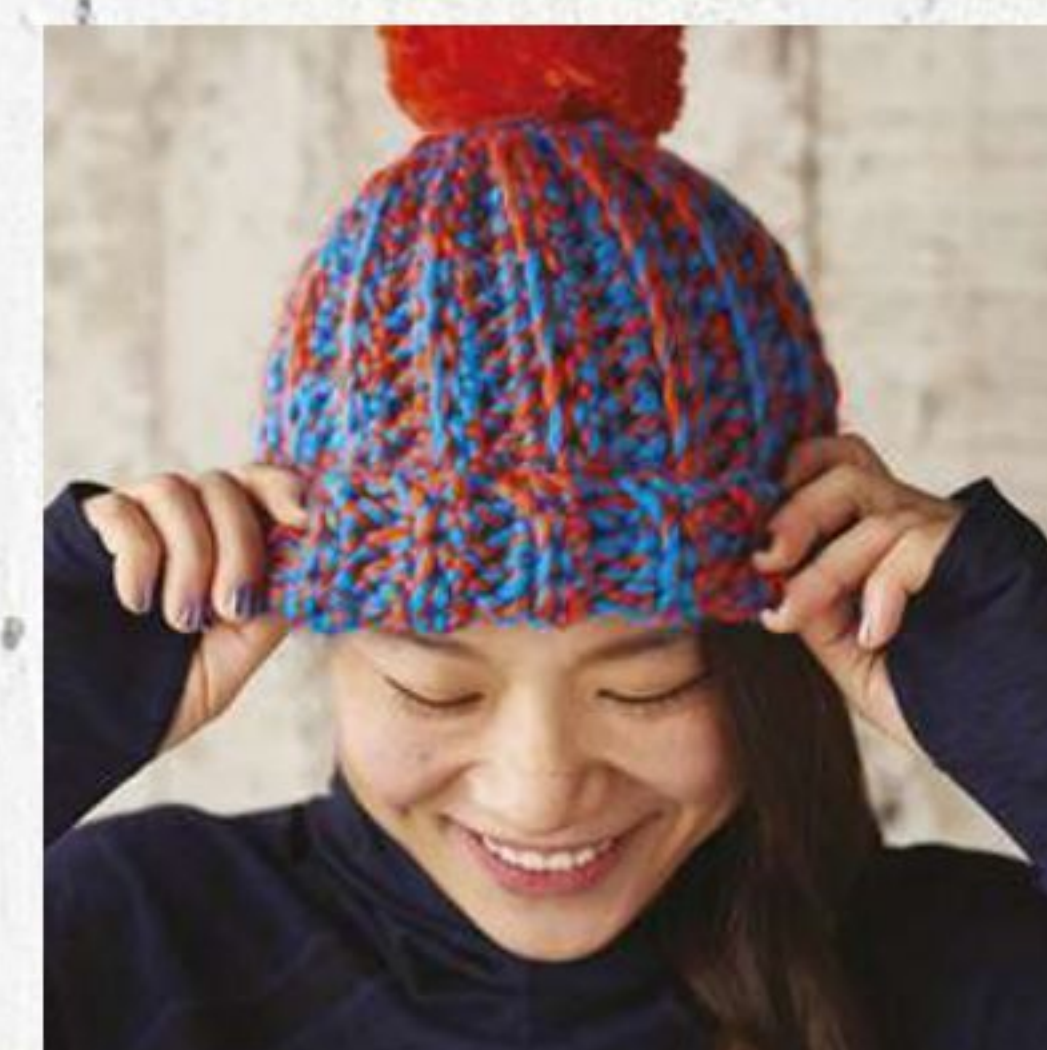
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Stitch a beautiful arrangement of flowers during each month of the entire year

# A year of flowers

From winter-flowering pansies and Valentine wreaths to simple narcissus, celebrate a year of flowers in stitches



Designed by Lesley Teare

## You will need

**Threads:** Stranded cotton, as listed in the key

**Needle:** Size 14 tapestry needle, beading needle

**Fabric:** 14-count white aida measuring 20x20cm (8x8in) for each design

**Extras:** Mill Hill seed beads

## Tip

Have a few needles already threaded with different colours to make the shading easier



## Stitching Factbox

**Stitching time:**  
Approx 15 hours each

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

**Level:**  
Intermediate



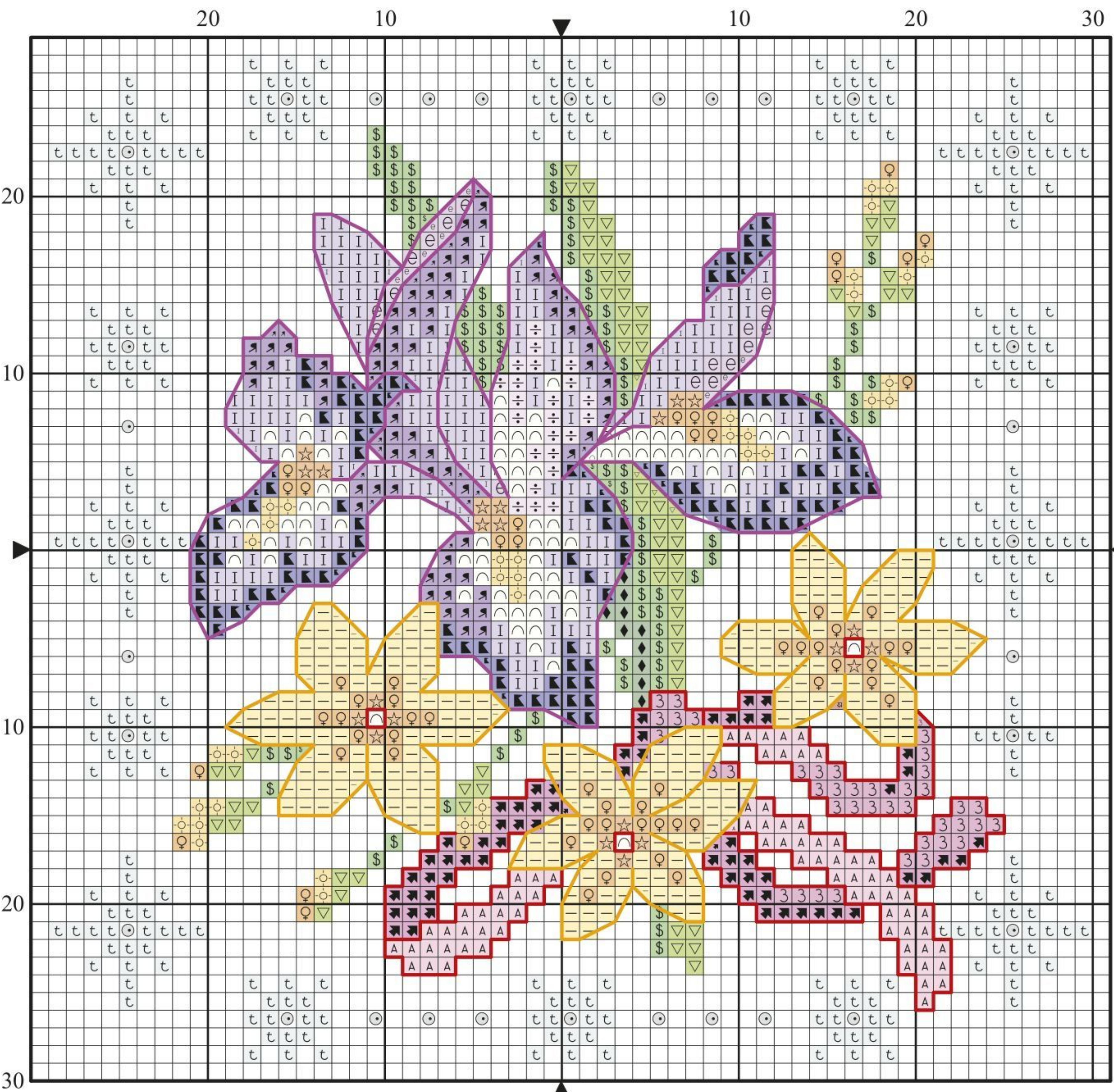
Iris for January

Thought to represent faith, hope and wisdom, stitch this beauty for someone whom you admire for their courage, which is another quality given to the iris flower.



Heart wreath for February

We all know roses symbolise love and perfection, and are the popular choice for Valentine’s, but did you know that tulips stand for perfect love, and carnations mean fascination and new love?



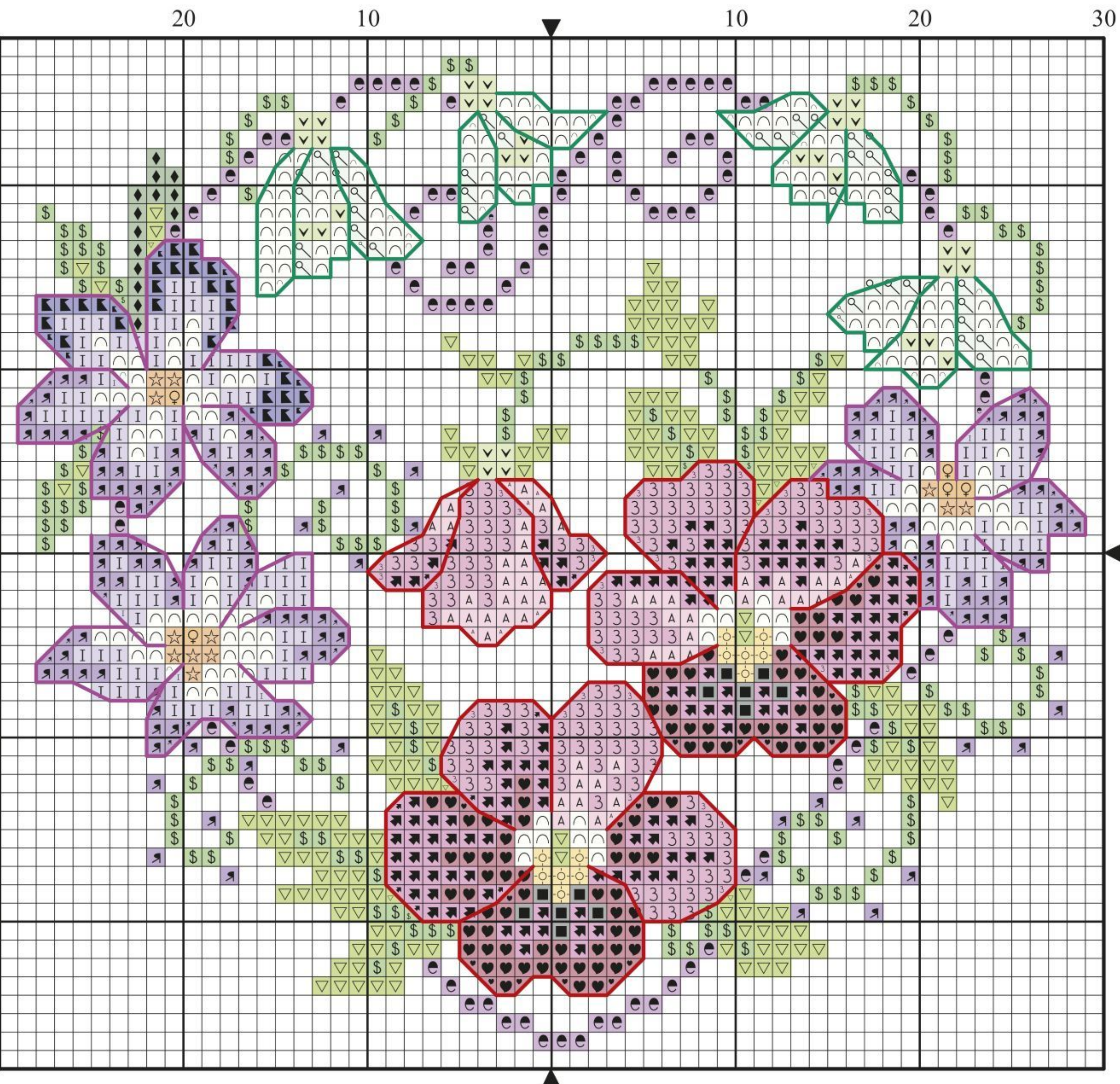
Floral teapot for March

Filled with narcissus, that being the birthday flower for this month, this elegant flower means prosperity and wealth, good luck and happiness.

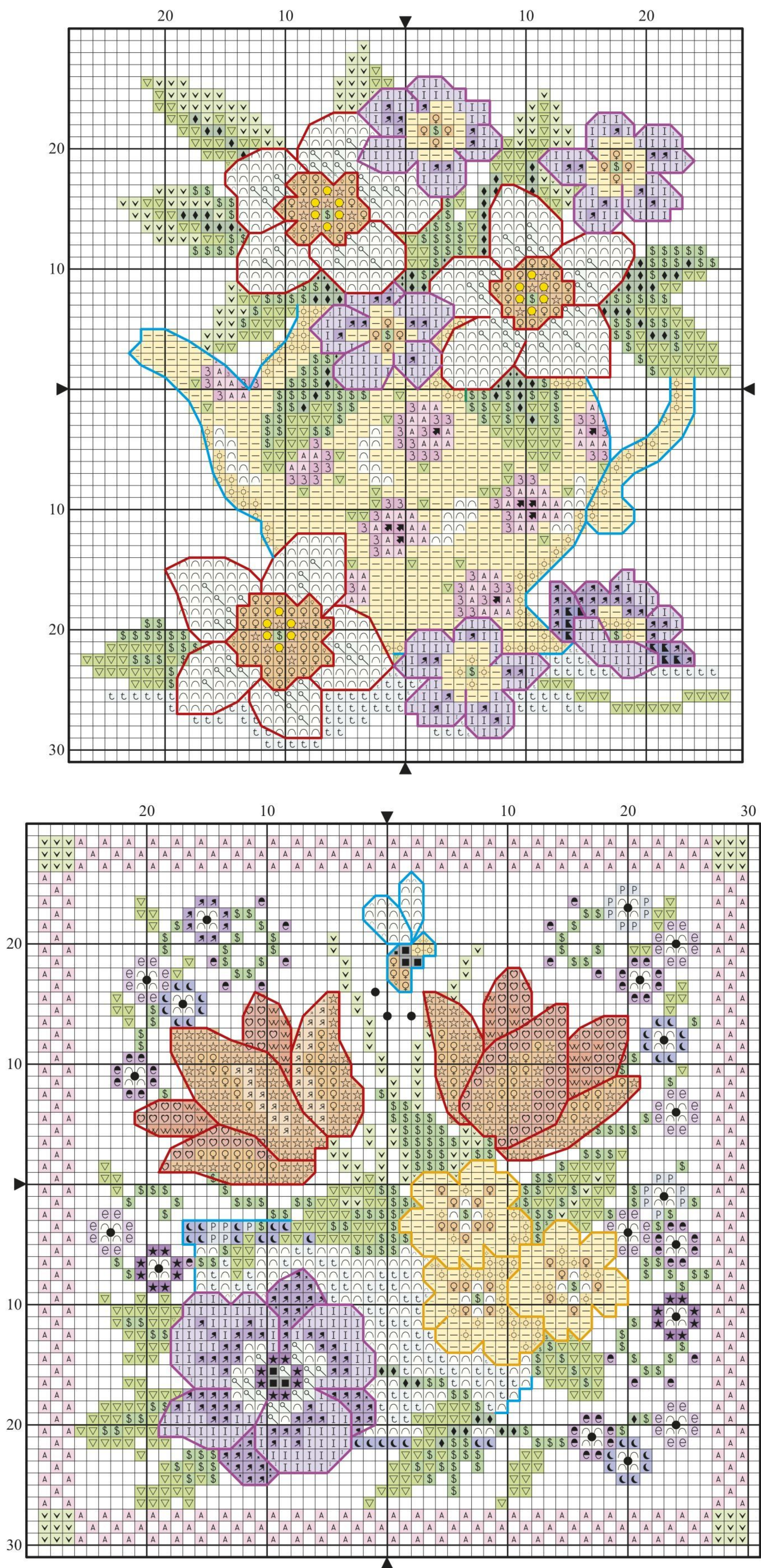


Tulips for April

Between family members, tulips mean perfect enduring love. And they’re also served with the meaning of abundance and indulgence.







### Flowers for the year key

✕ Cross stitch in two strands				
	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
♥	150	59	508	raspberry
I	155	1030	902	purple
∇	164	240	1209	light green
e	208	99	804	dark lilac
e	209	98	803	lilac
÷	211	342	801	light lilac
☞	304	19	511	ruby
■	310	403	2400	black
☾	322	131	1004	dark blue
↖	333	119	903	dark purple
w	349	1098	212	red
♡	351	10	214	coral
b	420	374	2104	tan
★	550	102	714	mauve
∇	703	238	1307	leaf green
☆	721	324	308	orange
☼	725	305	113	yellow
—	727	293	112	light yellow
♀	741	304	202	tangerine
☾	792	177	905	plum
\$	905	257	1412	dark leaf
◆	986	246	1404	green
☞	3072	847	1805	ash grey
я	3341	328	403	peach
A	3689	49	607	light pink
P	3755	140	1013	blue
↖	3805	62	703	dark pink
3	3806	55	701	pink
t	3841	9159	1001	light blue
∩	3865	2	2403	natural white

✕ Backstitch in one strand				
—	150	59	508	raspberry
—	310	403	2400	black
—	317	400	1714	grey
—	550	102	714	mauve
—	721	324	308	orange
—	905	257	1412	dk leaf green

✕ French knots in one strand				
●	310	403	2400	black
●	727	293	112	light yellow

✕ Mill Hill seed beads				
○	02001			pearl

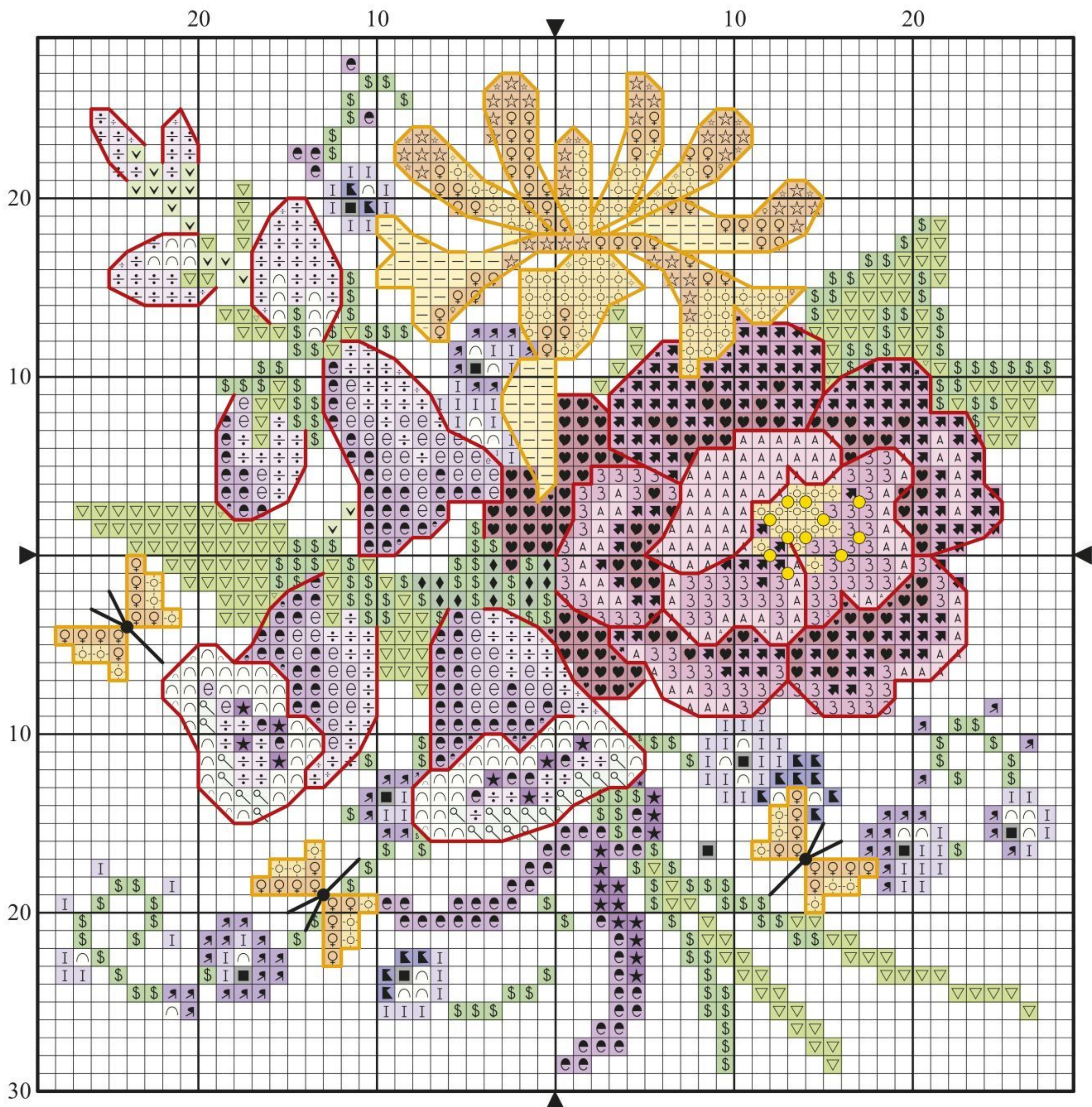
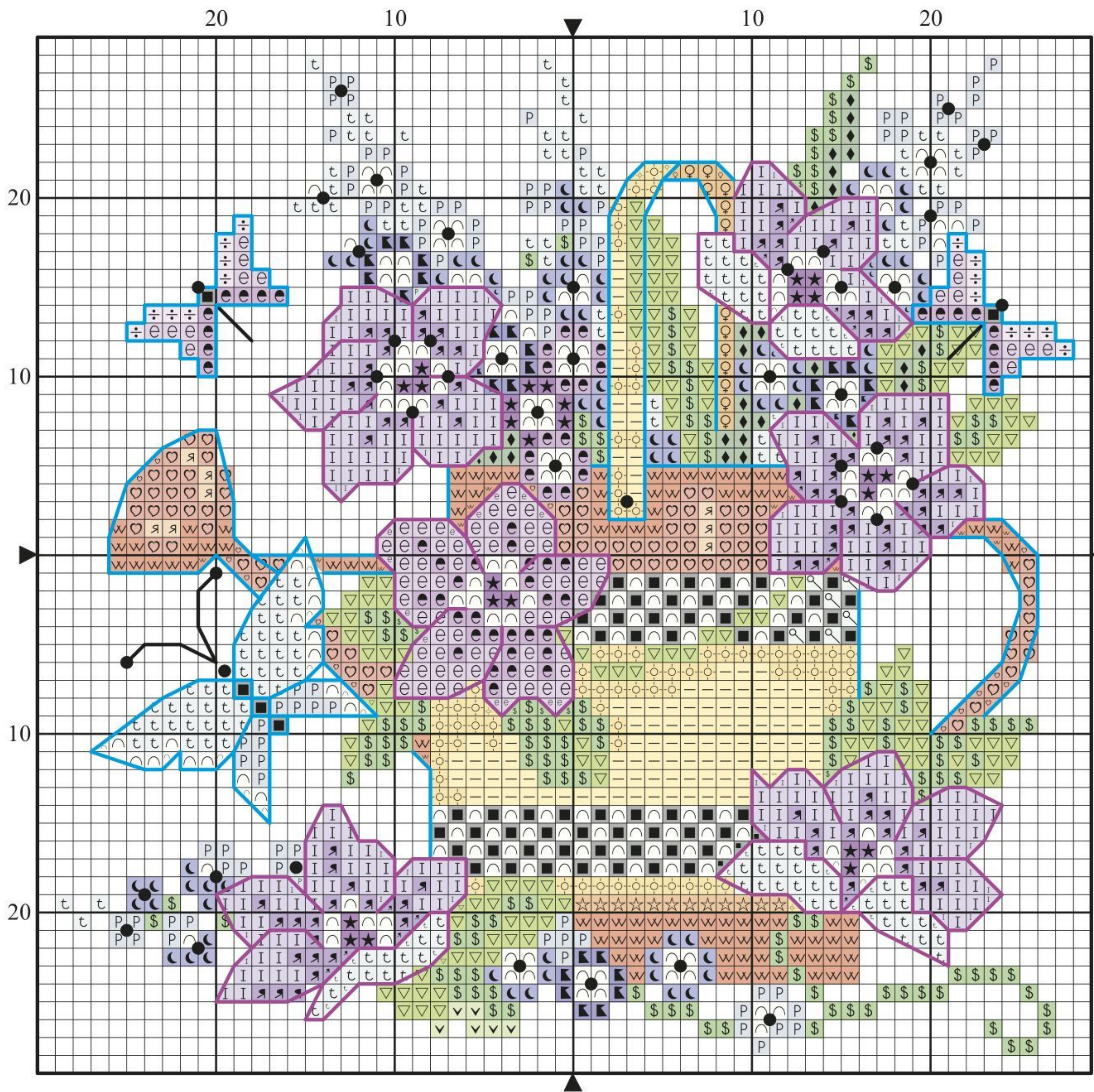
**MAXIMUM STITCH COUNT** 59 high x 60 wide  
**DESIGN AREA** 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 11x11cm (4¼x4¼in)  
These designs were stitched using DMC stranded cotton and Mill Hill seed beads





Floral watering can for May

The lily of the valley is a typical flower for May birthdays because of its sweetness and humility; it's thought to mean a return to happiness. Hawthorn is another favourite, it represents hope and happiness.

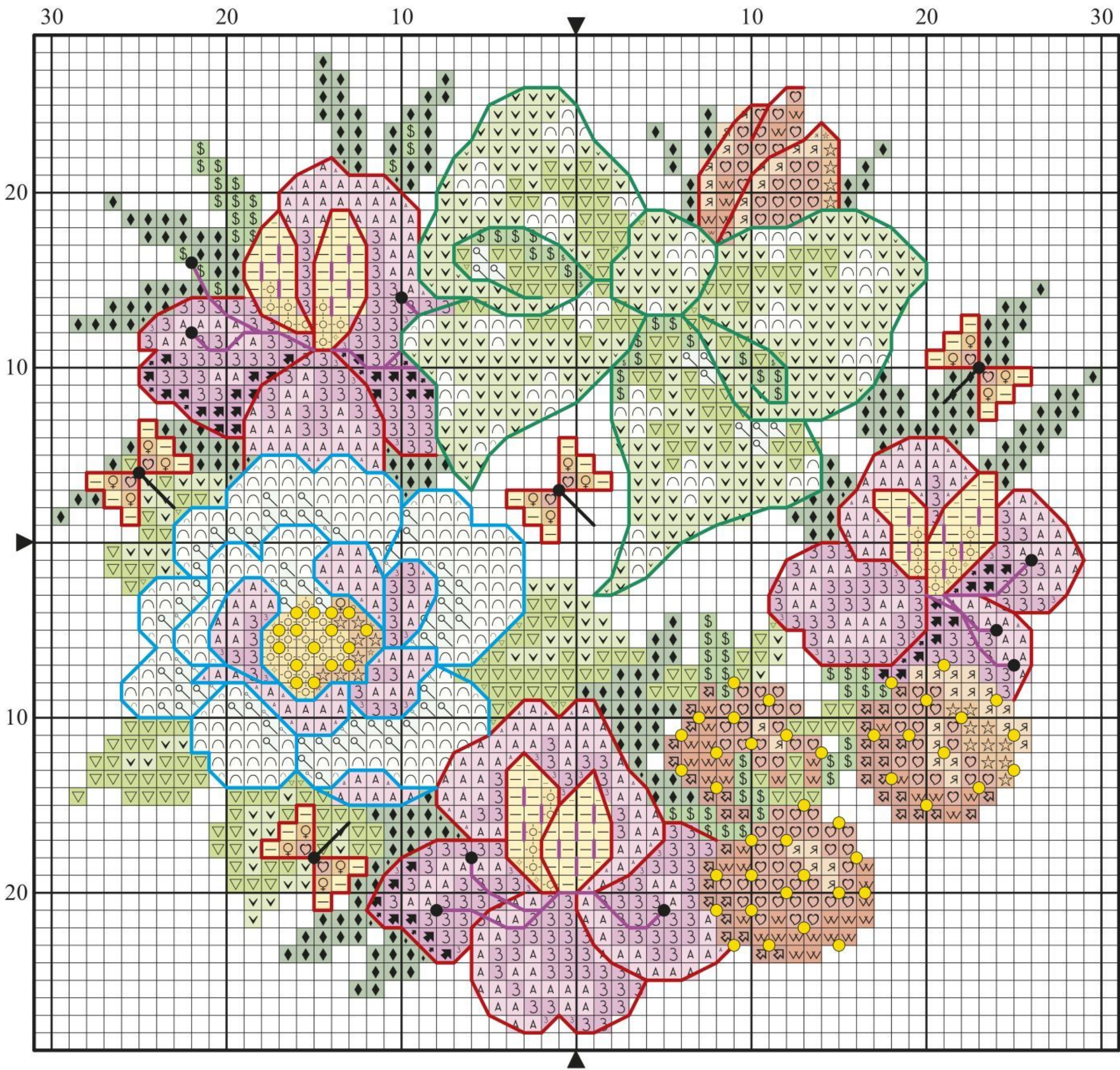


Roses and butterflies for June

One of the most beautiful birthday flowers, the fragrant rose is for those born in flaming June. As well as saying, 'I love you' the rose also symbolises the emotion of perfect happiness.







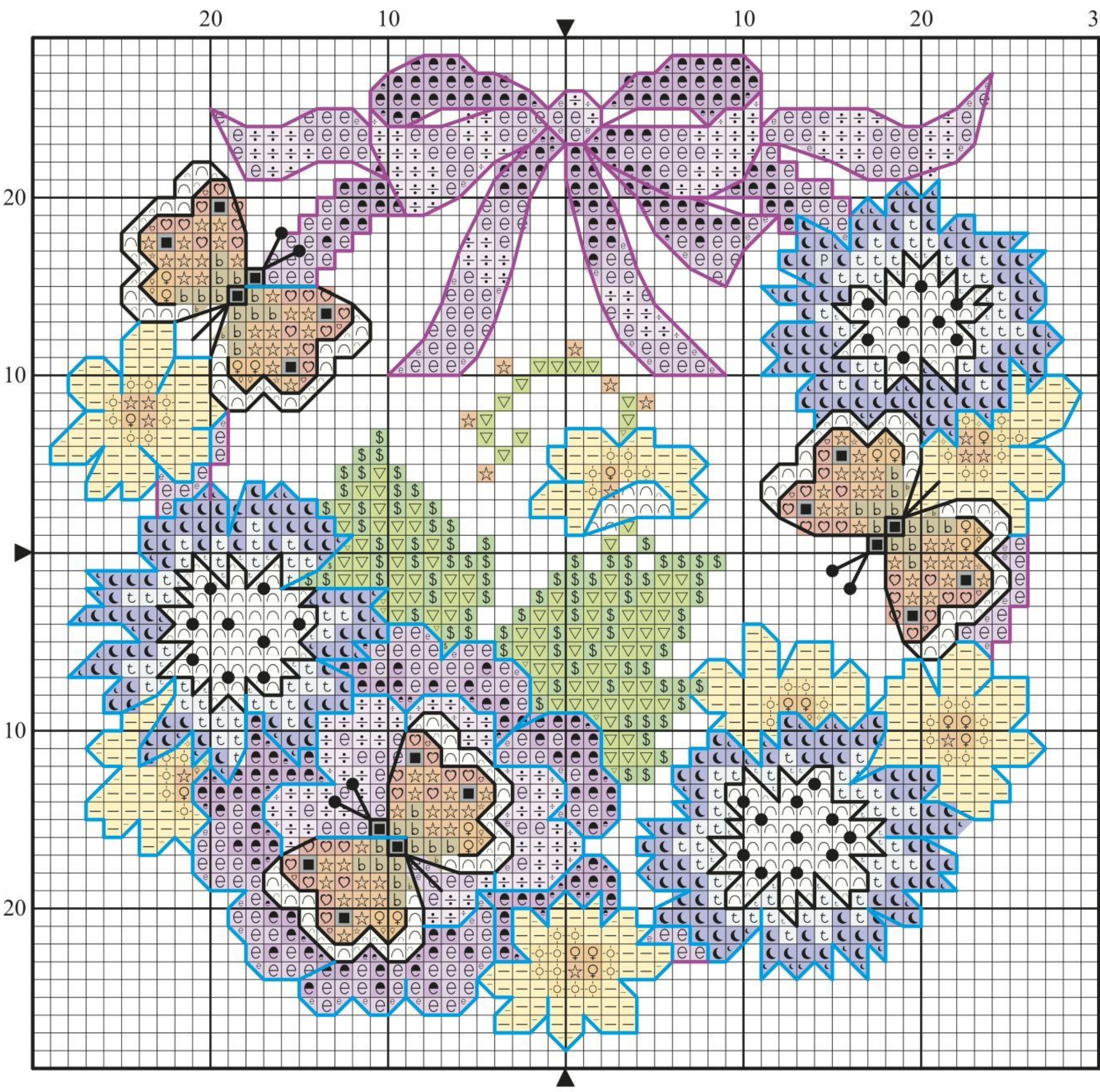
Floral strawberries  
for July

As well as being the floral sign indicating a bounty of juicy summer fruits, the white flower of the strawberry plant means perfect goodness.



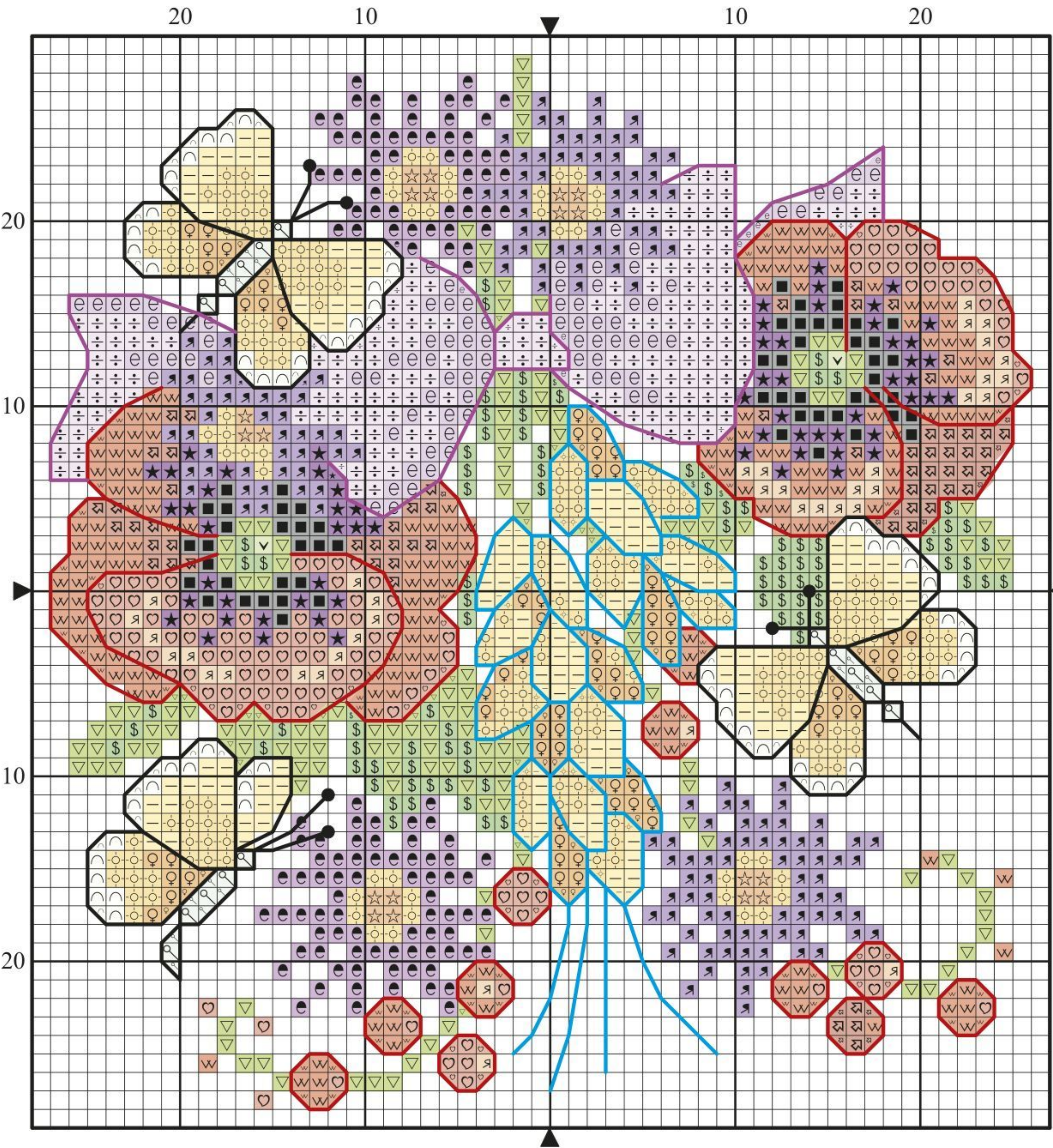
Cornflowers  
for August

This pretty blue flower is said to mean tenderness, fidelity, power and magnificence. In European countries it means wealth, prosperity, fortune and friendship.





Flowers for the year



Poppies for September

This beautiful flower is a symbol of many things: it also means beauty and success as well as remembrance.



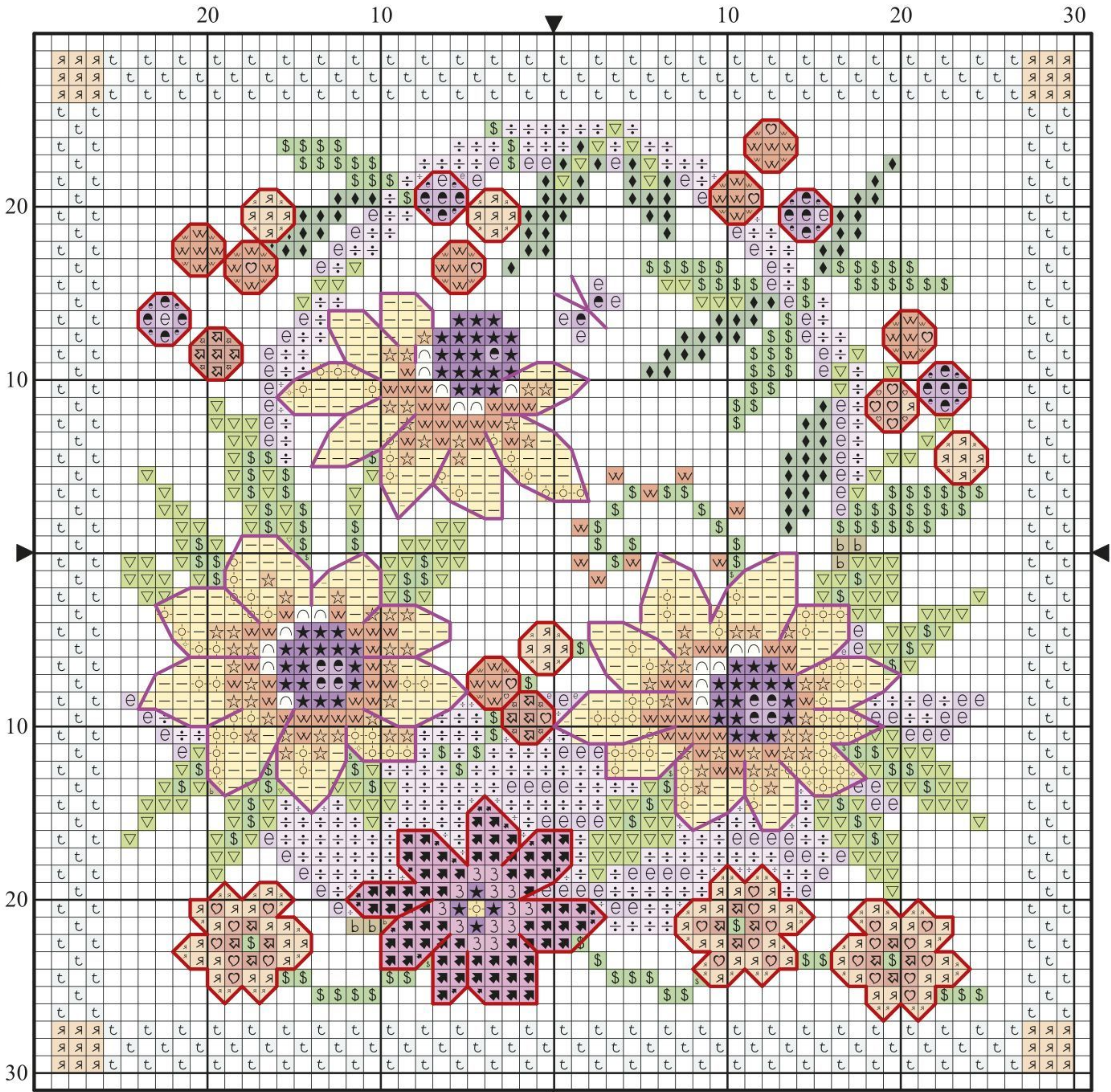
**Tip**  
Count regularly as you stitch to make sure you pick up any mistakes early on

“Floral designs are one of my favourite subjects to create, so it’s great to be able to think about flowers for every month of the year. Each bloom can, of course, be enjoyed all year round”  
Lesley Teare, designer



Floral basket for October

The glorious sunflower is in flower from April to November and means loyalty and good wishes.



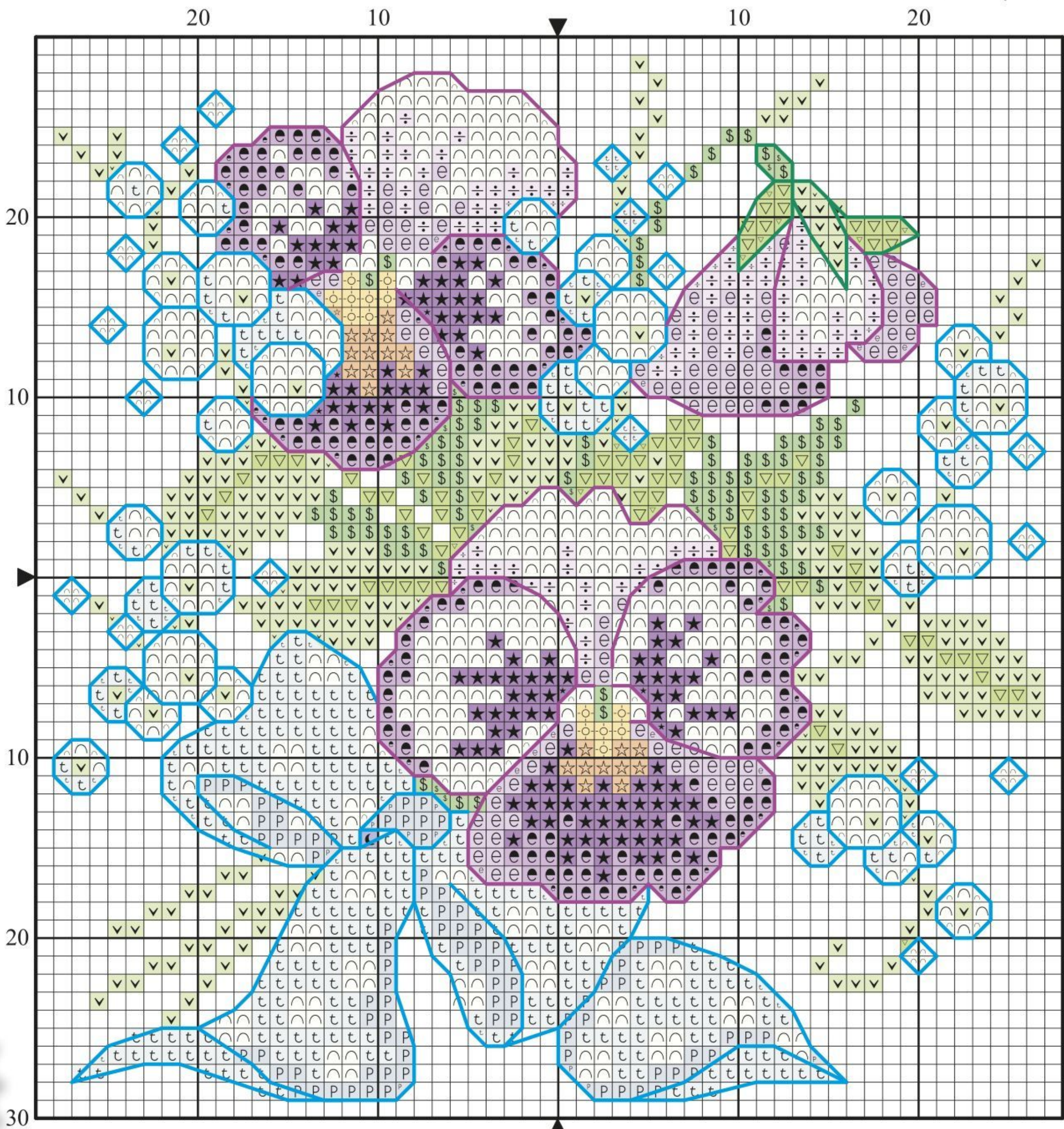




Pansies for November

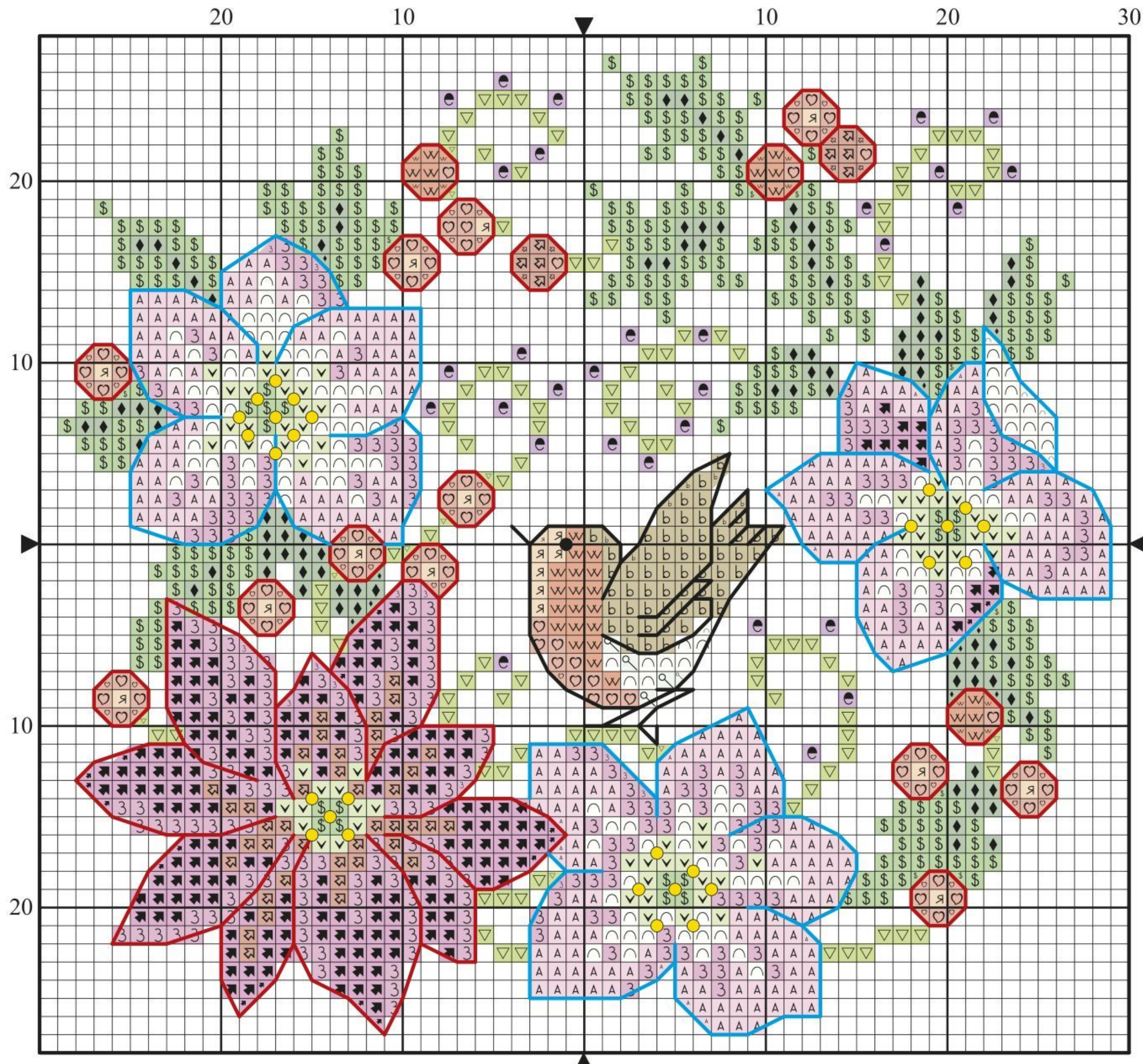
You'll know someone has been thinking about you if they present you with a posy of pansies. Pansy means thought, so return the compliment with these winter-flowering stitched pansies.

**Tip**  
Stitch a couple of these designs in advance so you have them ready to send for birthdays



Holly for December

Long before the Victorians made the glossy dark green leaves and shiny bright red berries the official imagery of Christmas, people would bring in boughs of holly to deck out the house.





# 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

18

20

22

24

26

28

\*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.



# How to stitch with our charts

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

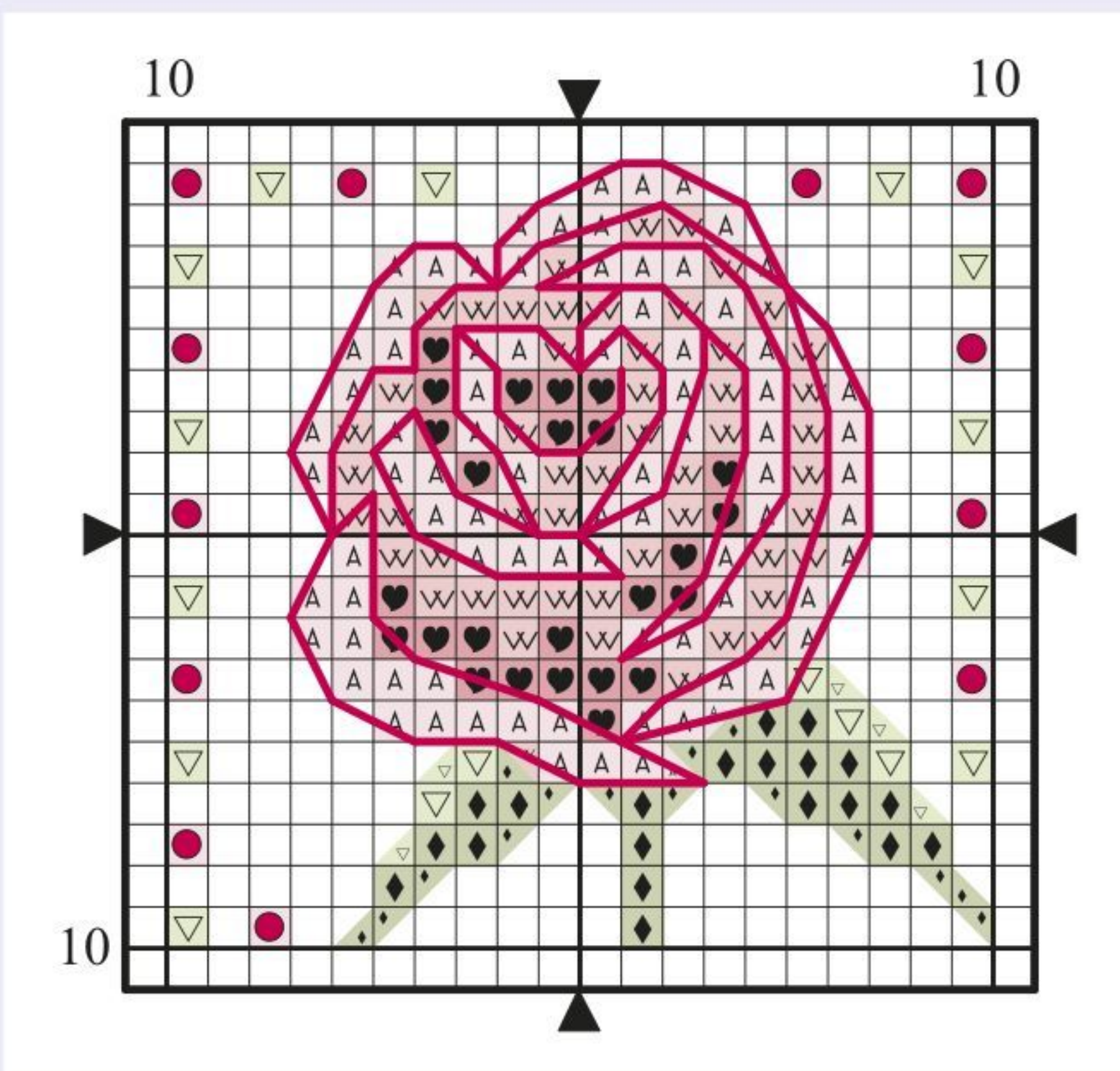
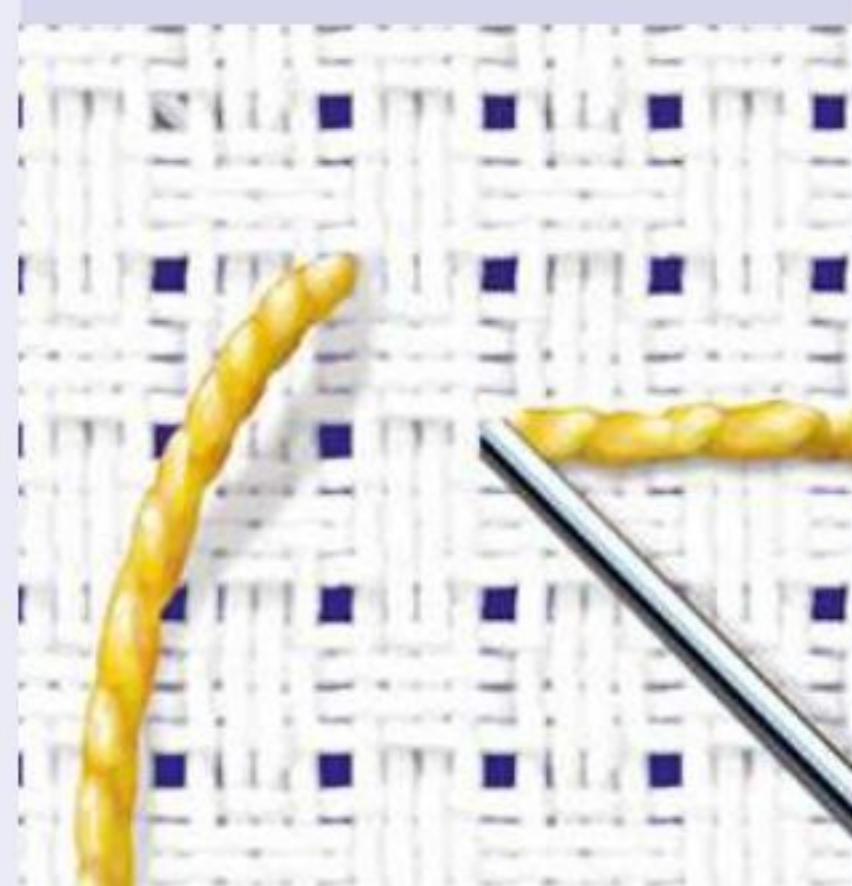
## Cross stitch

Bring your needle up at the bottom left corner (1) and down in the top right (2). Bring it up in the bottom right corner (3) and down in the top left (4).



## 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.



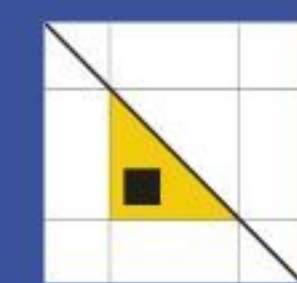
## French knots

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.



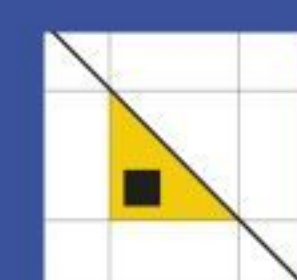
# Fractional stitches

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 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.

## Rose key

### ✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
▽	164	240	1209	light green
♥	962	75	609	dark pink
A	963	73	502	light pink
◆	989	241	1401	green
W	3716	25	503	pink

### ✕ Backstitch in one strand

—	3350	42	603	very dark pink
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### ✕ French knots in one strand

●	3350	42	603	very dark pink
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**STITCH COUNT** 19 high x 20 wide

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

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'.





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*Ultimate Cross Stitch Flowers* is a must-have selection of fabulous designs to make your flowers collection complete. Created by your favourite cross stitch designers, these designs come with inspiring photography, clear charts and keys, and tips from the experts.

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