No.1 for trends

CrossStitcher

Future

IDEAS • STYLE • INSPIRATION





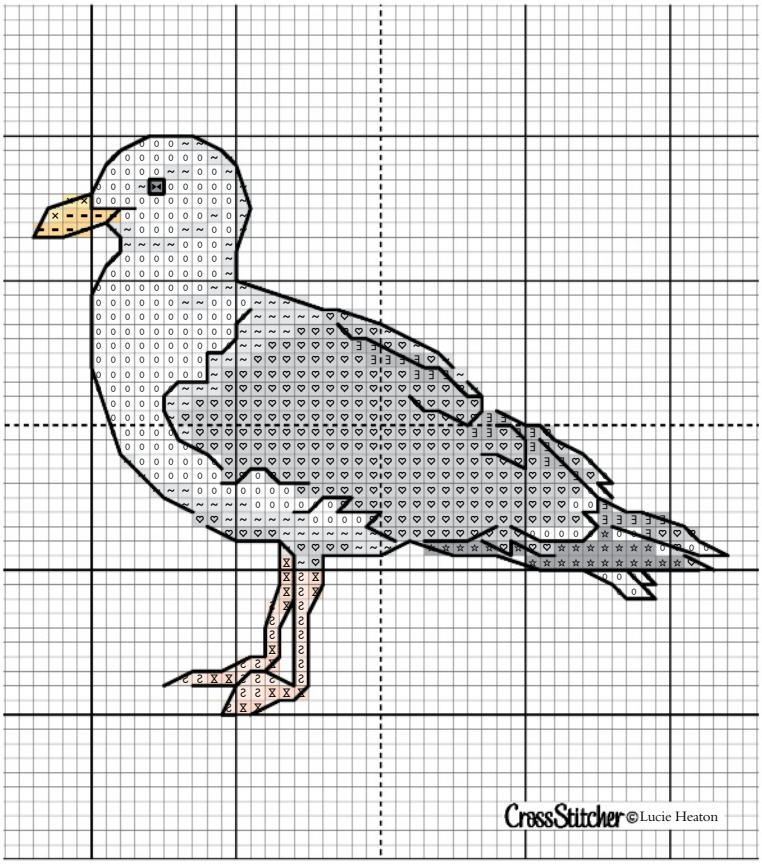
CRAFTY SEAGULL

This chap may remind you of happy seaside days but beware! He'll nab your fish 'n' chips in an instant. He's the sixth in our bird series for digital readers

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	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
0	White	002	2402
E	318	399	1801
☆	414	235	1714
♡	415	398	1802
▬	742	303	0114
×	726	295	0109
X	754	1012	0305
~	762	234	1804
2	948	1011	0306
⋈	3799	236	1713
Backstitch in one strand			
—	3799	236	1713
	all details		



MEET THE DESIGNER: LUCIE HEATON



Long-term *CrossStitcher* collaborator Lucie has created this chart exclusively for readers of our digital edition. Passionate about needlework and crafts, she has been designing cross stitch patterns for 18 years and has worked on every theme you can imagine, from baby gifts to tattoos! Her favourite projects are ones she knows people can give to loved ones as gifts. Find out more about her work at ***www.lucieheaton.com***

NEXT MONTH

Step into the rainforest and stitch a tropical toned parrot. He's in our July issue, on sale 30 May.



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OUT NOW



TAKE A FRESH LOOK AT EMBROIDERY

♥ PROJECTS FROM THE BEST & BRIGHTEST NEW DESIGNERS
♥ EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEWS WITH YOUR FAVOURITE MAKERS
♥ TEMPLATES & GUIDES FOR STITCHING SUCCESS!



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Available on Apple Newsstand under 'Specials' in the CrossStitcher, Cross Stitch Collection and Mollie Makes apps, or from www.zinio.com

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Welcome

Cross stitch for every aspect of your life





THE CROSS STITCH CAMPAIGN

We're on a mission at *CrossStitcher* HQ. We want cross stitch to infiltrate every part of our lives. Our finished work is great to look at and enjoy hung on the wall but why not try turning it into something practical – and fun – too?

This issue we urge you to wear your work with an unusual butterfly brooch (1), give it away with contemporary Father's Day cards or our beautiful blue and white 'new home' welcome set (2), or just make yourself smile each time you open your handbag and see a stitched mint case in there. (Yeah, of course mints need a case, just imagine if all those little torpedoes escaped into your bag!) If you're after something a teensy bit more practical then our list-lovers set is a must. There's a shopping list tote, a notebook for all your new lists and (my personal favourite) a pencil case (3) with a fun reminder.

What part of your life have you stitched for? Please get in touch and tell us all about it.

Happy stitching!

Jenny

JENNY DIXON
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



Tasty!

Pick the best new homestyle projects in our July issue (on sale 30 May)





Enjoy your next minty moment in style with a Tic Tac case!

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CrossStitcher

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THE Savvy Stitcher

Try something new every issue

73 Pleats

Give your sewing projects 3D style using this simple fabric-folding technique – we show you how!

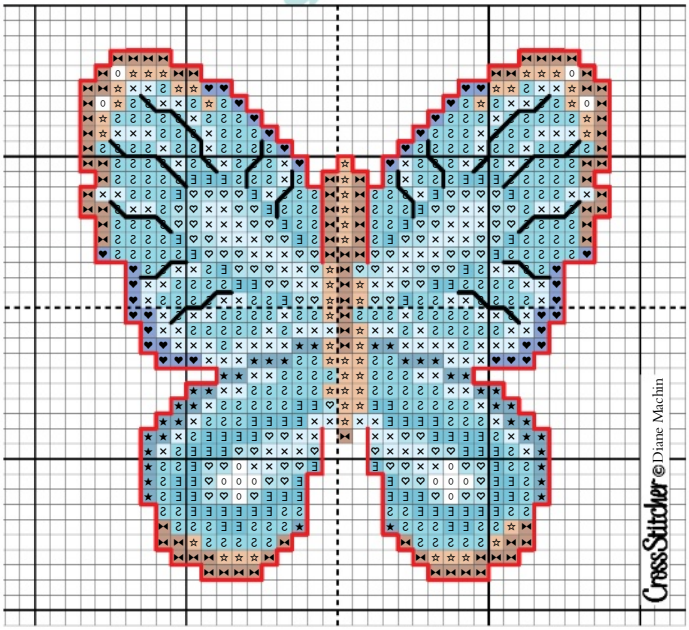


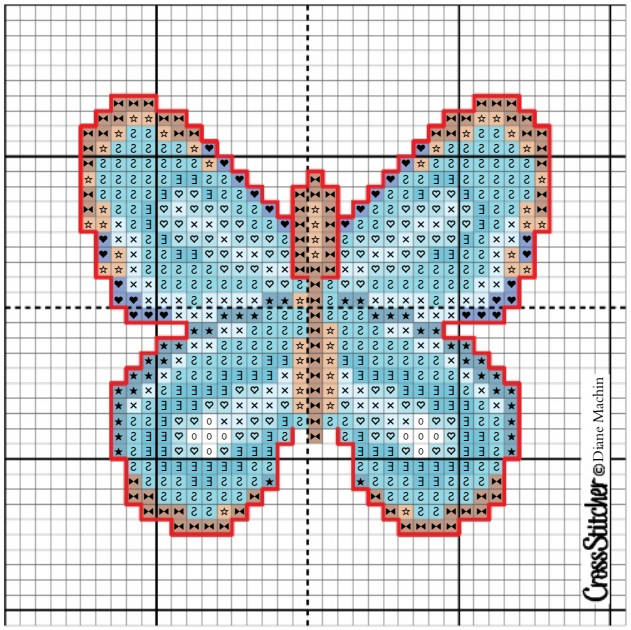
THE SAVVY STITCHER PLEATS 73

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Fly my way

Our on-trend double butterfly brooch has us all of a flutter





Designed by: Diane Machin
Design size: 6x6cm
Stitch time: 9 hours

Make a... brooch

Step 1

TRIM around your stitching, leaving at least one unstitched block all the way round and a few extra in the top right of the large butterfly and top left of the small one.

Step 2

GLUE a brooch pin to the back of your butterflies, then attach jump rings to each. Cut the chain in half and fix to the end jump rings to link up the butterflies.



	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in three strands			
0	White	002	2402
⋈	433	358	2008
☆	435	365	2010
♥	797	132	0912
×	3761	928	1014
★	3842	162	1011
Ǝ	3844	410	1102
ƨ	3845	433	1103
♡	3846	1090	1105
Backstitch in two strands			
—	317	400	1714
	all other details		
Backstitch in one strand			
—	317	400	1714
	butterfly wings		



Materials

- 14 count plastic canvas, 12x24cm
- Copper chain, 10cm
- Six copper jump rings
- Two brooch pins

For stockist details see page 84

BOOK TICKETS at thehandmadefair.com

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HAMPTON COURT PALACE
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Outthere

Every month we showcase the latest high street trends, new ideas and inspiring personalities for today's stylish cross stitcher

Potting on

Summer's well on the way, and we're enjoying being out in the garden between stitching sessions. But all that digging and watering can be hard work, so to make it a little bit more fun we'll be using these gorgeous tools from Joules. We adore the red and turquoise colour scheme!
www.hintonshome.com



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Photograph: Life's a Party

FLUFFED UP

POMPOMS ARE bang on trend, and these giant tissue paper versions are ultra fluffy and sumptuously coloured to boot. Hang in clusters inside and out for the perfect summer party decorations. www.lifesaparty.co.uk



SUGAR RUSH

ANYONE ELSE watching the calories before their holidays? Stave off sugar cravings with these napkins from our sister title *Cross Stitch Collection*'s June issue – out now! The sweet treats look good enough to eat... if only! www.myfavouritemagazines.co.uk

Fly to me

Fallen in love with our double butterfly brooch on page 8? Then you're sure to adore these blue tit collar clips. Handmade in Hertfordshire, they'll look super stylish pinned across a shirt or cardi. www.etsy.com/shop/anenglishgarden



BERRY BEAUTIFUL

CELEBRATING THE new season by stitching our tempting strawberry sampler on page 41? Match it with this vibrant printed linen cushion for fresh and bold homestyle. www.annabeljames.co.uk



WHALE WATCHER

WHALES HAVE to be one of our favourite ocean creatures, so we can't wait to stitch our cute cushion on page 51. We'll also be putting this acrylic necklace straight on our wish list – it's just the thing to accessorize summer outfits! www.notonthehighstreet.com/kayleighomara



Photograph: notonthehighstreet.com 0845 259 1359

Button it

EVERYONE KNOWS crafters are kissable! Perfect your pout with these cute lip glosses – we love the vintage-style button pots. The glosses come in strawberry, blueberry, lemon, lime and orange – so pretty! www.madbeauty.com



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CRAFT WITH KIRSTIE ALLSOPP



WE'VE TEAMED up with Kirstie Allsopp to bring you an exciting new crafting event: The Handmade Fair, at Hampton Court Palace, Surrey, on 19-21 September. The only event putting making and learning at its heart, the fair gives every visitor the chance to make something in a workshop. Plus, you'll pick up heaps of inspiration and find lots of crafty bits to buy. Tickets are on sale now! Visit their website for details. www.thehandmadefair.com



Photographs: Cambray Photo

Perfect pendants

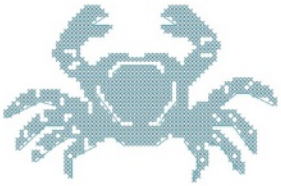
CROSS STITCHED wooden pendants are really in right now, so you can imagine our excitement when these designs from Alice Cook dropped into our inbox! Alice makes all sorts of stitched trinkets in her Derby studio – see her Facebook page to find out more. www.facebook.com/alicecookdesigns

THREE OF THE BEST *Seaside treasures*

Be inspired by days at the beach with these coast-themed goodies we spotted on Etsy



CHARANCREATIONS
Decorate letters and cards with this wooden scallop shell stamp, designed in Canada and hand-carved in India.



ONEOFAKINDBABYDESIGN
This crab is super snappy! Download the chart PDF and stitch in your favourite colour to display on your wall.



STUDIODOWNHILL
Bring the simple beauty of mussel shells into your home with this linocut print handmade using water-soluble ink.

TREND SPOTTING

with CrossStitcher production editor
Jo Ryan



SEED OF AN IDEA

WE'RE LOVING the trend for seed head patterns, which remind us of late-summer meadows. Stitch the look on page 66 and check out these buys.



WHO
Charlotte Macey's Blue Parsley pouch – handmade in the Cotswolds – captures the essence of the English countryside.
charlottemacey.co.uk



WHAT
Brighten up any room with this Seed Spheres print in super-fresh yellow, ivory and grey tones.
www.joclarkdesign.co.uk



Photograph: notonthehighstreet.com 0845 259 1359

HOW
Style up a statement wall with Camilla Pearl's Dandelion Wallpaper.
www.notonthehighstreet.com/camillapearl

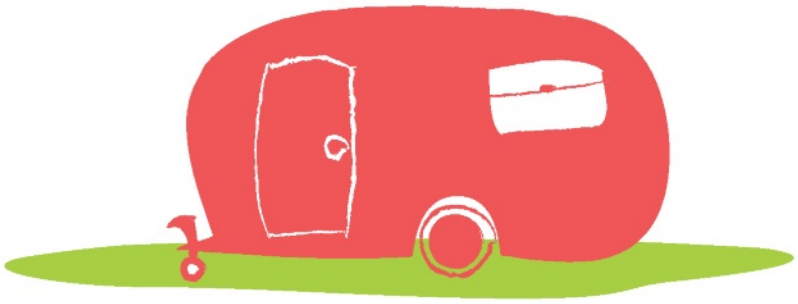
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CARAVAN CLUB

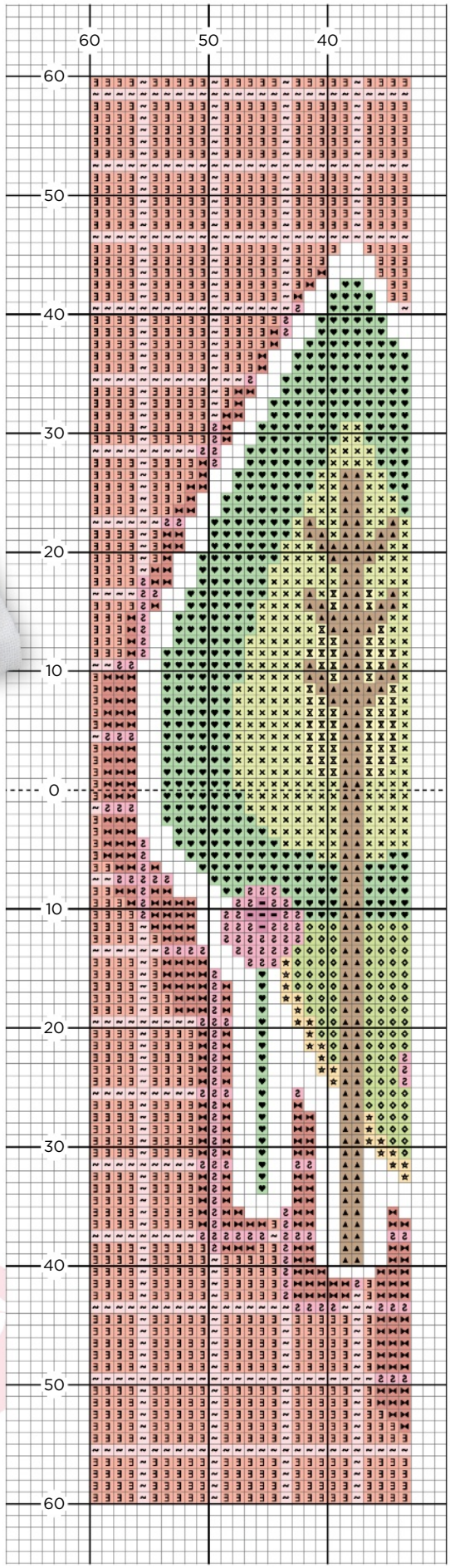
Spent happy childhood summers at the campsite? Take a trip down memory lane with our retro cushion



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Off we go!

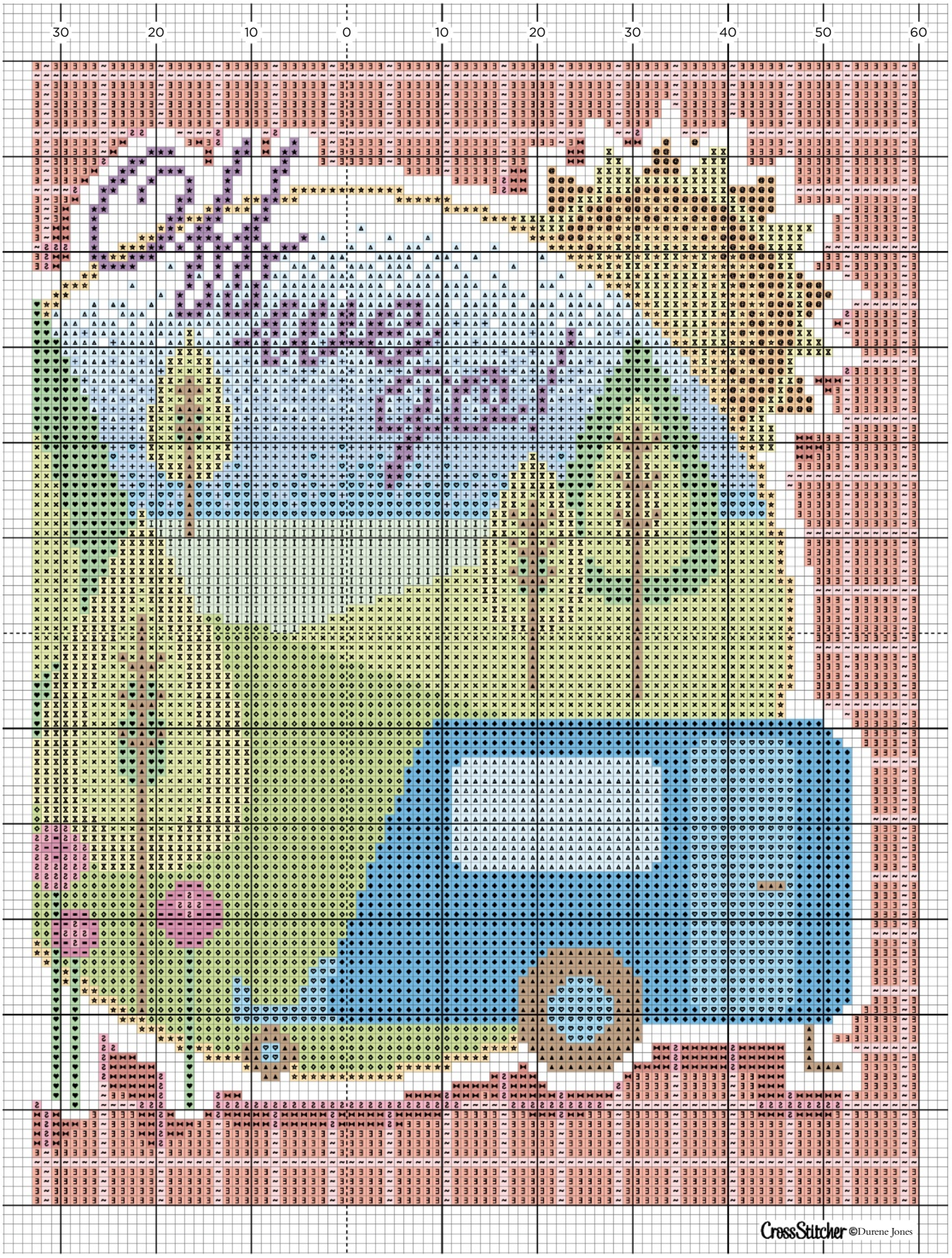




Designed by: Durene Jones
Design size: 22x22cm
Stitch time: 80 hours

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
⋈	304	019	0511
Ǝ	350	011	0213 (2)
ƨ	602	057	0702
♥	701	227	1305
▬	718	088	0707
@	722	323	0307
⧖	726	295	0109
☆	742	303	0114
I	772	259	1604
+	827	160	1002
△	828	9159	1014
▲	869	889	2105
◇	907	255	1410
~	963	023	0503
◆	995	410	1102
♡	996	1090	1103
×	3819	253	2703
★	3834	100	0805

(2) indicates more than one skein required



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Materials

- 28 count white evenweave, 45x45cm
- Blue backing fabric, two 16x29cm pieces
- Cushion pad, 25x25cm

For stockist details see page 84

Stitch it on aida!
For a faster finish, choose a 14 count white aida



Make an… envelope cushion

Step 1



TRIM your stitching to 29x29cm. Hem one long edge on each backing piece. Right sides facing, lay your first hemmed piece over your stitching.

Step 2



PLACE your second hemmed piece on top, so the pieces overlap in the centre. Pin along the hem to hold in place, then pin around the cushion edges.

Step 3



STITCH all the way around the edge of your cushion. Trim excess fabric at the corners. Turn your cushion right sides out, press and pop on your cushion pad.

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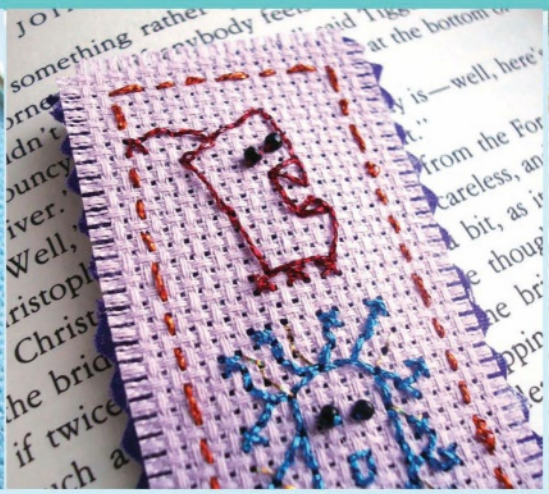


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CROSS STITCH



BACKSTITCH



ANY STITCH

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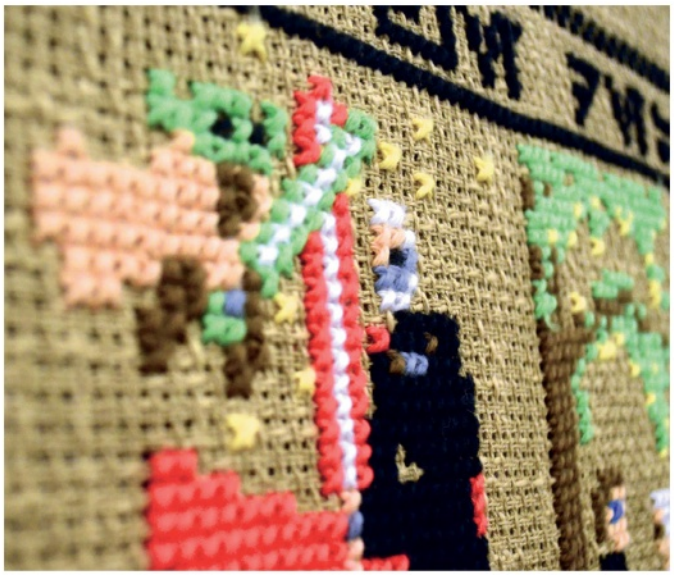
Kreinik Mfg. Co., Inc. USA
info@kreinik.com • 304-422-8900

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Far left: half a dozen helpers worked on the tapestry - most had never cross stitched before

Left: the finished piece is up for sale with a $20,000 price tag

An interview with...

Aled Lewis

A 30ft-long stitched depiction of the *Star Wars* saga has made headlines around the globe – we meet its ambitious designer

Interview by ***Jessica Bateman***

What do you get if you cross *Star Wars* with the Bayeux Tapestry? Aled Lewis's Coruscant Tapestry – a 30ft-long cross stitched depiction of the sci-fi saga.

Telling the entire story from episodes one to six, the giant tapestry made headlines around the world after it was unveiled at Aled's solo show at Gallery 1988 in Los Angeles.

We tracked down the young designer and illustrator to quiz him on how this spectacular – and slightly bonkers – piece of stitching came about...

How and when did you discover cross stitching?

My mum used to cross stitch when I was about 11 or 12. My dad was serving in the Navy and I wanted to make something for him when he got home. I asked my mum to cut me off a piece of aida, and I designed and stitched a small piece. I enjoyed the problem-solving aspect, plus I found it fun to do.

What inspired you to create the *Star Wars* tapestry?

A while back, I decided to make a tapestry for the gallery show I was doing in Los Angeles. The theme was 'pixels' and cross stitch really lends itself to that style. There is already a fair amount of stitched video game creations out there, so I wanted to make something different.

My starting point was the Bayeux Tapestry – I wanted to tell a story in consecutive images. *Star Wars* has a wealth of iconic visual material and broad appeal across generations, so it seemed like the obvious choice for my tapestry.

How long did it take to create from start to finish?

All in all, about six months from the initial concept to the last few stitches and hemming.

How did you deal physically and mentally with a project that was so time-consuming?

I called on friends and family! Aside from myself, half a dozen other people donated their time. Most of them had never cross stitched before, so it was a learning curve for all of us.

There were many, many panicked occasions when I was convinced we wouldn't complete it in time for the show. But when you have that kind of pressure, you always make it happen.

Who or what inspires you?

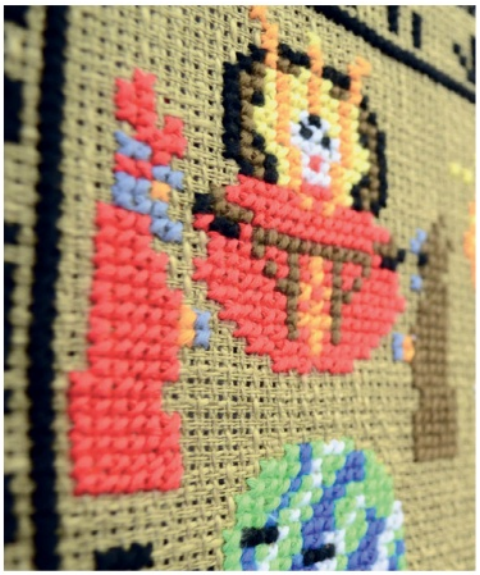
I like to surround myself with creative, talented and driven individuals who are much better than me! Being in the

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The borders feature quotes from the saga in Aurebesh - the language of the *Star Wars* universe





The tapestry is 30ft by 13in – that's a lot of thread!

> There were many panicked occasions when I was convinced it wouldn't be finished in time!

company of people who you admire and being able to critique and improve each other's work is the best way to get inspired.

Describe your creative process

My starting point is usually a doodle or a scribbled note in my sketchbook. It could be a joke I find amusing or just a visual idea.

From there, it may never see the light of day again or it may develop or cross-pollinate with other doodles into something more meaningful.

Who are your creative heroes and why?

The painter David Hockney is very influential to me. I love his methodology and the optimism and colour in his work.

Another of my heroes is Thomas Heatherwick, a multidisciplinary designer, engineer, architect and sculptor. Creative people typically feel they should focus and hone one art, but he proves that the best creatives have lots to offer across many disciplines and industries.

What do you think would encourage more men to take up crafts?

This is a tough one. I suppose there are deeply rooted ideas about crafts based on social constructs.

Any shift in the status quo would require a change in both perceptions and content – searches of craft suppliers usually result in visions of flowers, kittens, horses and so on. I think that men would be more engaged in craft if it connected with the things they care about.

However, I do think more creative men are willing to experiment with crafts these days. Perceptions do change and I think we're entering an interesting period of time where, thanks to three-dimensional printing, people will value things that have been crafted by hand rather than made by a machine.

Are you planning any other exciting stitching projects?

Yes! I plan to do a follow-up show in London later this summer, where I intend to show new stitching pieces, so keep an eye out.

What's the best piece of creative advice you've ever been given?

"The talent is in the choices". It's a quote from *Raging Bull*. People get preoccupied with their own level of talent – or lack of it – but really the most successful people have arrived where they are by choosing wisely and working hard.

www.aledlewis.com

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Take note

Love a good to-do list? Then stick our handwriting tote, pencil case and notebook straight at the top



doodles

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Designed by: Maria Diaz

Materials

Tote bag

- 28 count cream linen, 50x45cm
- Calico for backing and lining, four 32x27cm pieces
- Cream cotton webbing, two 4x80cm pieces

For stockist details see page 84

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
♥	304	020	0511
⋈	310	403	2400
#	317	400	1714
☆	318	235	1801
▲	321	047	0510
∃	349	013	0212
+	351	010	0214
□	415	398	1802
▬	436	363	2011
0	712	926	2101
×	738	361	2013
★	930	1035	1712
2	931	1034	1711
♡	932	1033	1710
@	3022	1040	1903
~	3023	899	1902
Backstitch in two strands			
—	321 lettering	047	0510
—	517 lettering	162	1005
Backstitch in one strand			
—	317 all other details	400	1714
—	351 paper lines	010	0214
—	518 paper lines	1039	1106

Make a... tote bag

Step 1

TRIM your stitching to the size of your calico and back with one piece. To make the handles, hand or machine tack a piece of webbing to the top of your stitching and the other piece to the backing fabric.

Step 2

PIN and machine sew your stitched piece and one lining piece together along the top edge. Open out the fabric and press. Repeat this step with the remaining backing and lining pieces.

Step 3

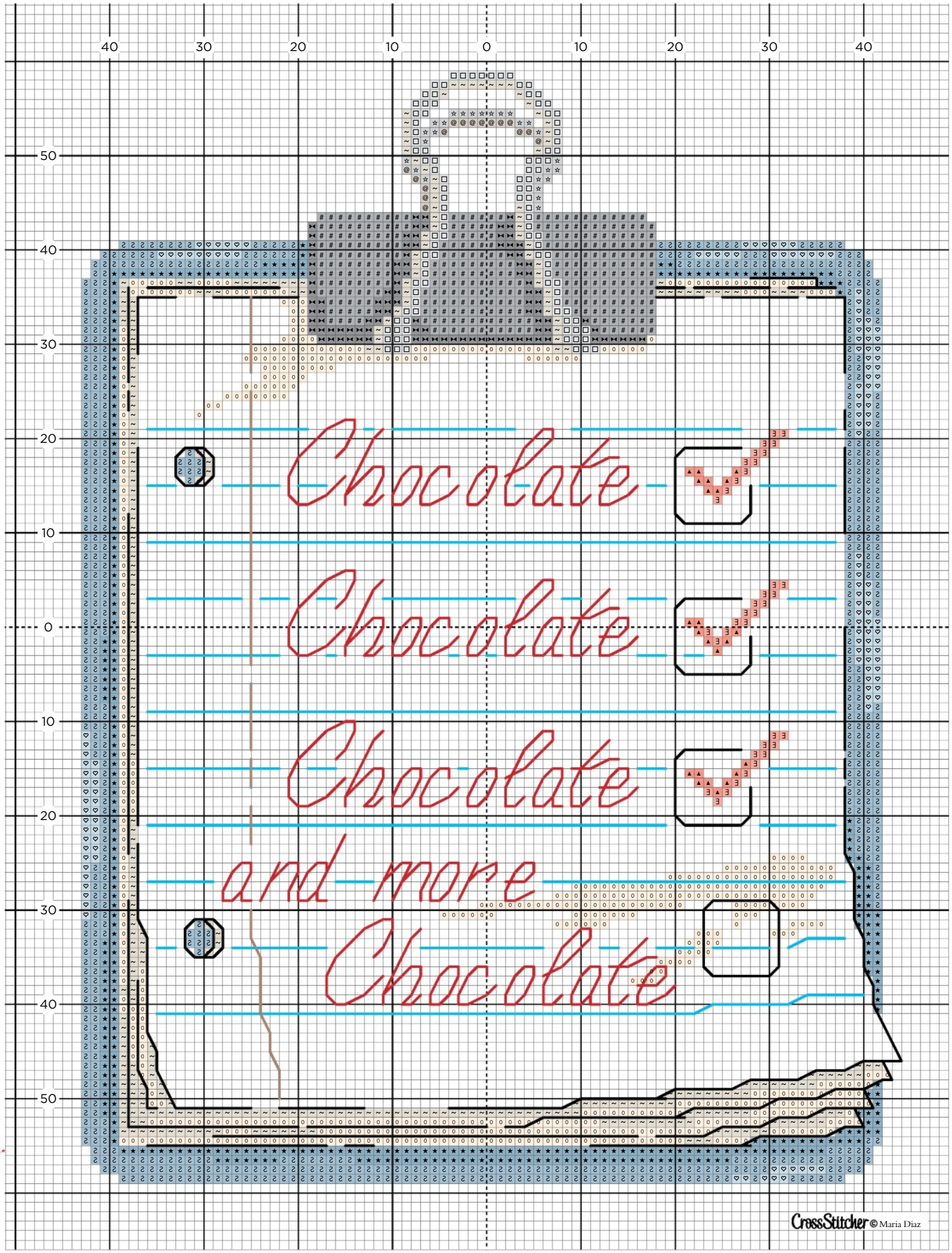
PLACE the two sewn pieces right sides together, lining up the seams at the middle, and pin. Sew all the way around, leaving an opening for turning in the lining. Clip the corners and turn right sides out.

Step 4

PRESS under the raw edges in the lining and sew the remaining opening closed. Push the lining to the inside of the tote. Topstitch all the way around the upper edge of your tote to finish.

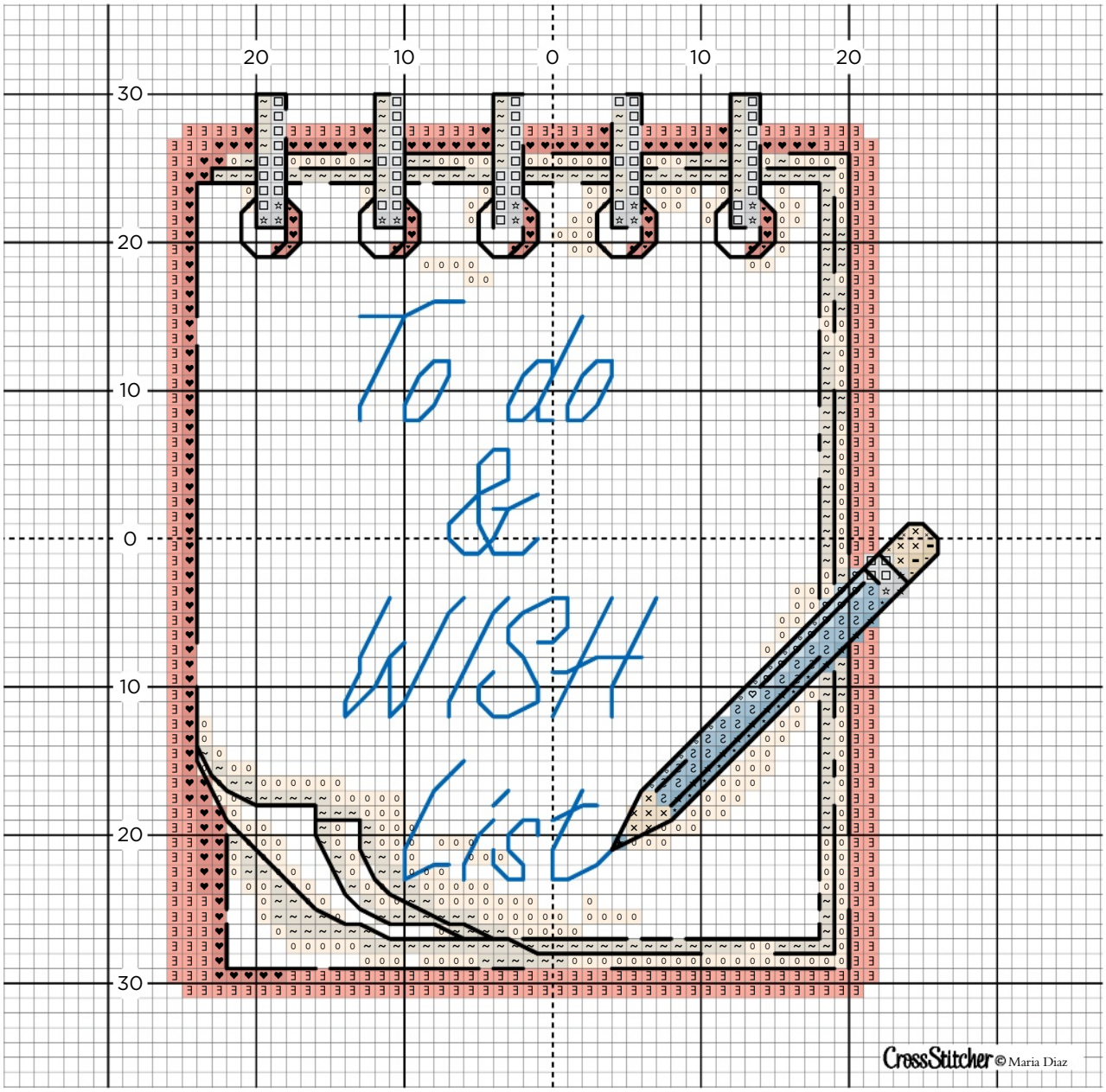
One of your gal pals a bit of a chocoholic? Our tote would make the perfect pressie!

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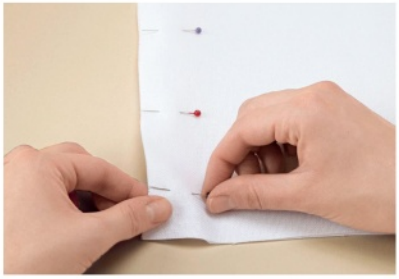
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Make a… **notebook cover**

Step 1



TRIM your stitching to 17x23cm, with the stitched design placed centrally down the fabric and 5cm from the right-hand edge. Right sides together, sew your white fabric to the left-hand side of your stitched piece.

Step 2



OPEN out and press the seam. Place the lining fabric right sides together on the sewn piece and stitch all the way round, leaving an opening for turning. Turn right sides out and slip stitch the opening closed.

Step 3

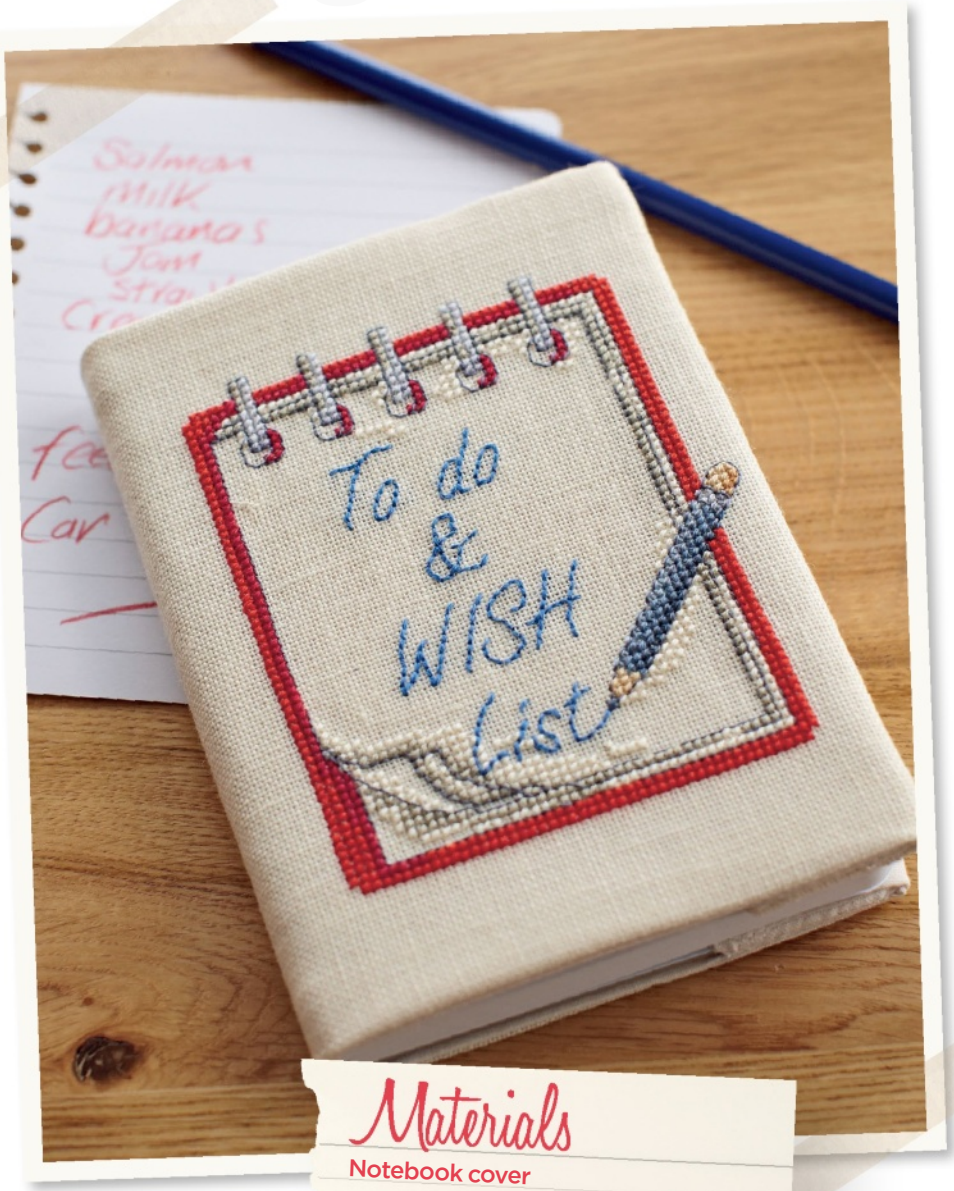


FOLD the right- and left-hand sides toward the middle, creating pockets – make sure they fit around your notebook. Hand sew the top and bottom of each pocket, being careful to only sew through the lining layers.

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	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
♥	304	020	0511
⋈	310	403	2400
#	317	400	1714
☆	318	235	1801
▲	321	047	0510
∃	349	013	0212
+	351	010	0214
□	415	398	1802
▬	436	363	2011
0	712	926	2101
×	738	361	2013
★	930	1035	1712
ƨ	931	1034	1711
♡	932	1033	1710
@	3022	1040	1903
~	3023	899	1902
Backstitch in two strands			
	321 lettering	047	0510
	517 lettering	162	1005
Backstitch in one strand			
	317 all other details	400	1714
	351 paper lines	010	0214
	518 paper lines	1039	1106



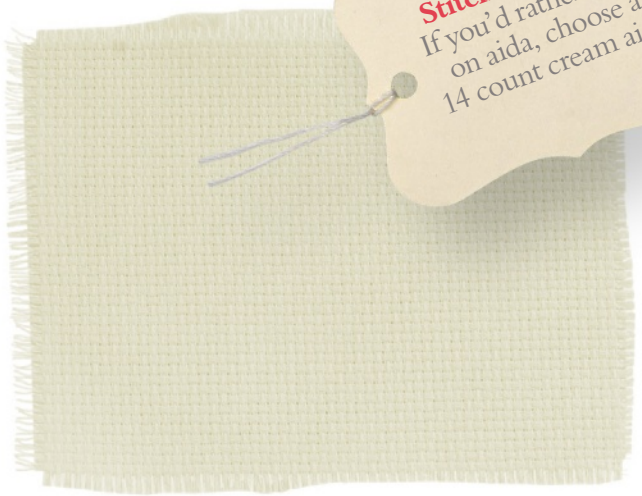
Materials

Notebook cover

- 28 count cream linen, 37x43cm
- White fabric, 17x11cm
- Contrast lining fabric, 17x32cm
- A6 notebook

For stockist details see page 84

Stitch it on aida!
If you'd rather stitch on aida, choose a 14 count cream aida



Our notebook is ideal for jotting down stitching must-buys ready for weekend shopping trips

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Make a... pencil case

Step 1



CUT your lining, backing and stitched pieces to the same size. Lay a lining piece face up, with the zip on top and your stitched piece face down on top of that.

Step 2



PIN together and sew along the top edges of the zip, using a zipper foot. Open out and repeat, attaching a backing piece and lining piece to the other side of the zip.

Step 3



CHECK your pencil case looks like the above image once both sides are attached. Then iron the seams flat and open the zip to allow for turning in the next step.

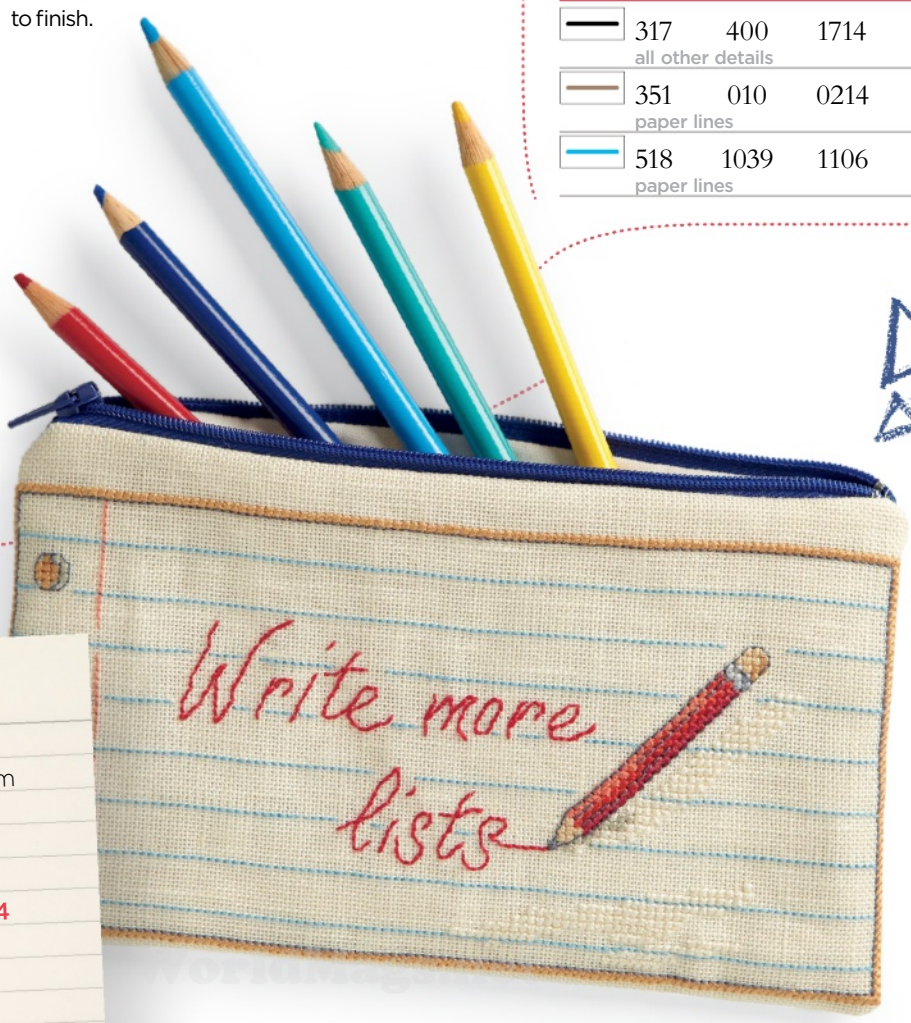
Step 4



REFOLD, with the two lining pieces on one side and the backing pieces on the other. Pin and sew. Turn, slip stitch and push the lining inside to finish.

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
♥	304	020	0511
⋈	310	403	2400
#	317	400	1714
☆	318	235	1801
▲	321	047	0510
∃	349	013	0212
+	351	010	0214
□	415	398	1802
▬	436	363	2011
0	712	926	2101
×	738	361	2013
★	930	1035	1712
ƨ	931	1034	1711
♡	932	1033	1710
@	3022	1040	1903
~	3023	899	1902
Backstitch in two strands			
	321 lettering	047	0510
	517 lettering	162	1005
Backstitch in one strand			
	317 all other details	400	1714
	351 paper lines	010	0214
	518 paper lines	1039	1106

Give extra pizzazz to your pencil case by using contrast fabric for the back or lining

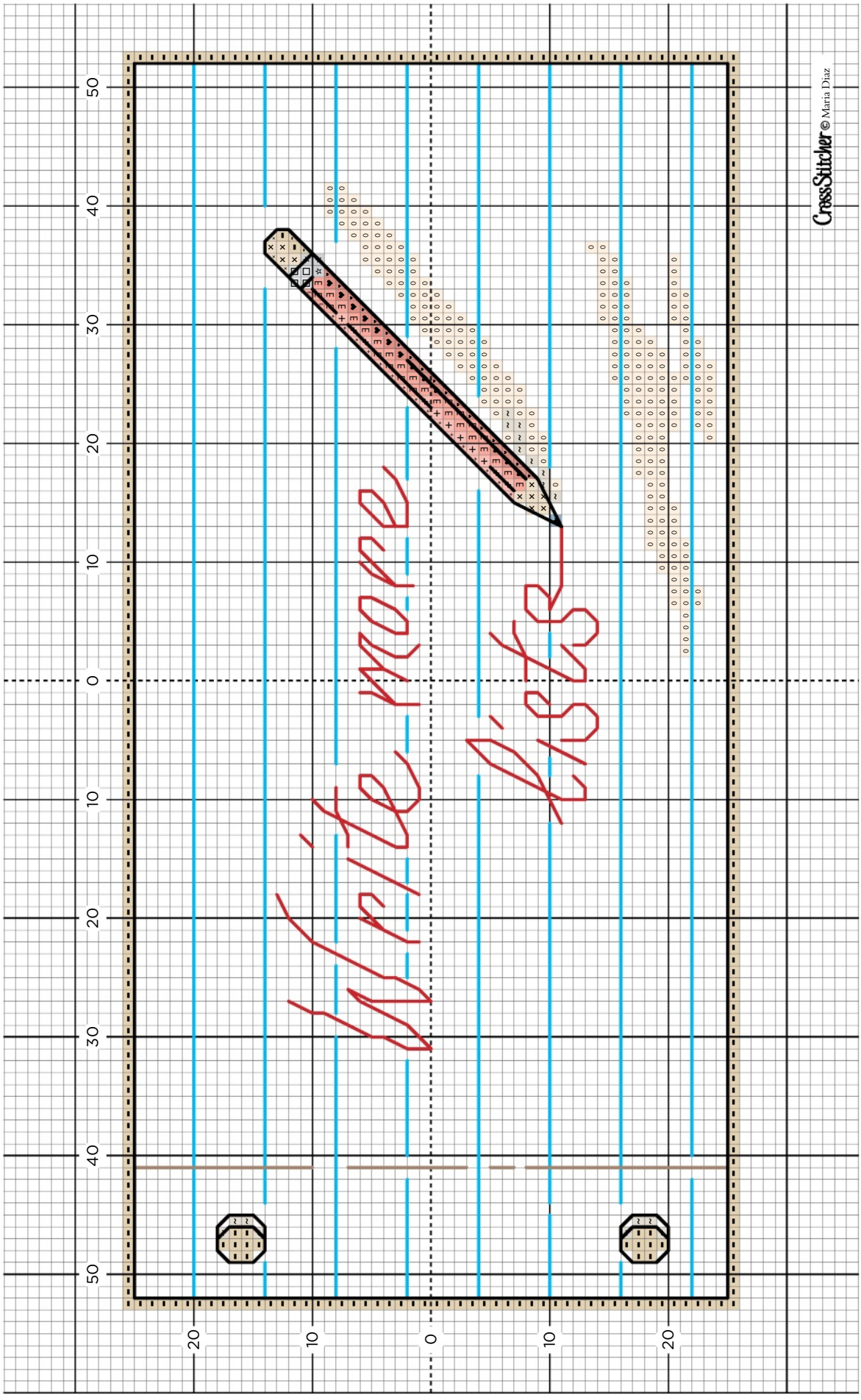


Materials

Pencil case

- 28 count cream linen, 30x39cm
- Cream cotton fabric, three 12x20cm pieces
- Blue zip, 18cm

For stockist details see page 84



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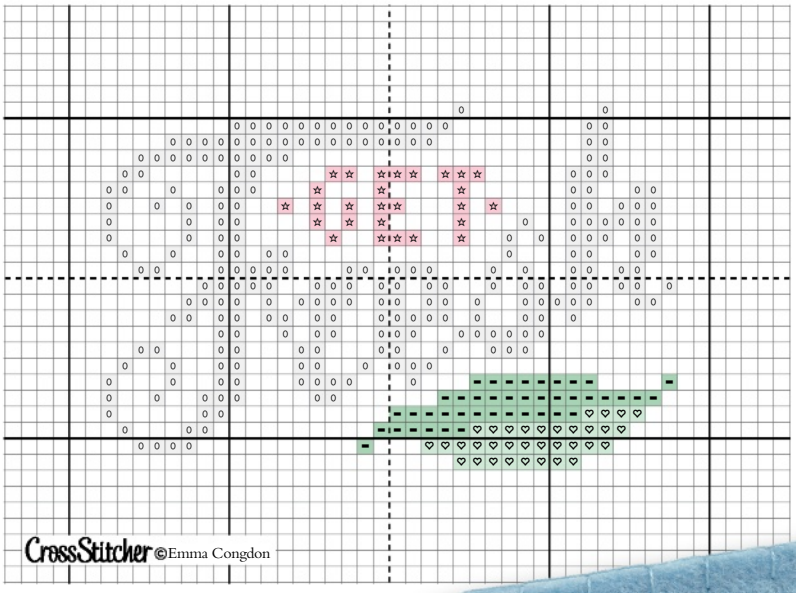
Feeling Mint

Give your box of mints a super-fresh makeover with our typographic felt cosy

Designed by: Emma Congdon
Design size: 4x6.5cm **Stitch time:** 2½ hours

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	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in three strands			
0	White	002	2402
-	913	204	1212
♡	955	203	1210
☆	957	050	0612



Make a… mint-box cosy

Step 1

TRIM your stitched felt to 21x6cm, with the stitching placed centrally across the width and 2cm down from the top edge.

Step 2

PLACE the backing piece on the wrong side of the stitched felt and sew the two pieces together using blanket stitch.

Step 3

GLUE the ribbon centrally down the back of the felt pieces, then stick the box to the top of the backing felt with double-sided tape and tie a bow to complete.

Get neater stitches on felt by using a sharp-pointed needle

Materials

- 14 count waste canvas, 10x13cm
- Light blue felt, one 25x10cm piece for stitching and one 21x6cm piece for backing
- Green spot ribbon 1x60cm

For stockist details see page 84

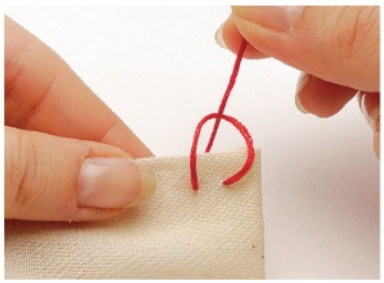
How to… blanket stitch

Step 1



BRING your needle up to the front of the fabric to start stitching. Take the needle back down a few millimetres from where you came up.

Step 2



CREATE your first stitch by passing your needle through the thread loop, from back to front, before you pull the thread all the way through.

Step 3



CONTINUE for each additional stitch, taking your needle down through the fabric and passing your needle through the thread loop.

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Future

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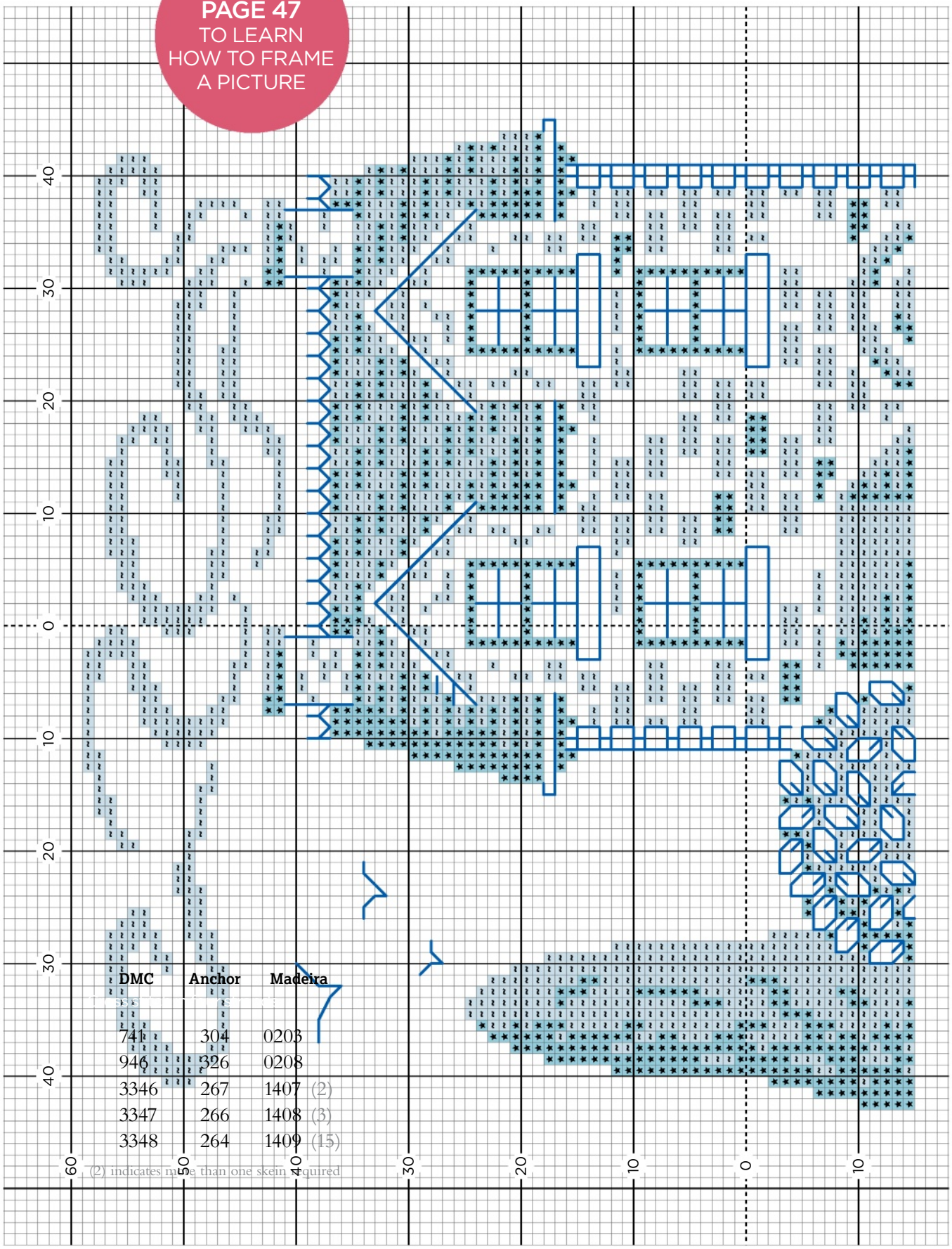
Home comforts

Friends moving house? Welcome them to their new pad with our gift set and card

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TURN TO PAGE 47 TO LEARN HOW TO FRAME A PICTURE

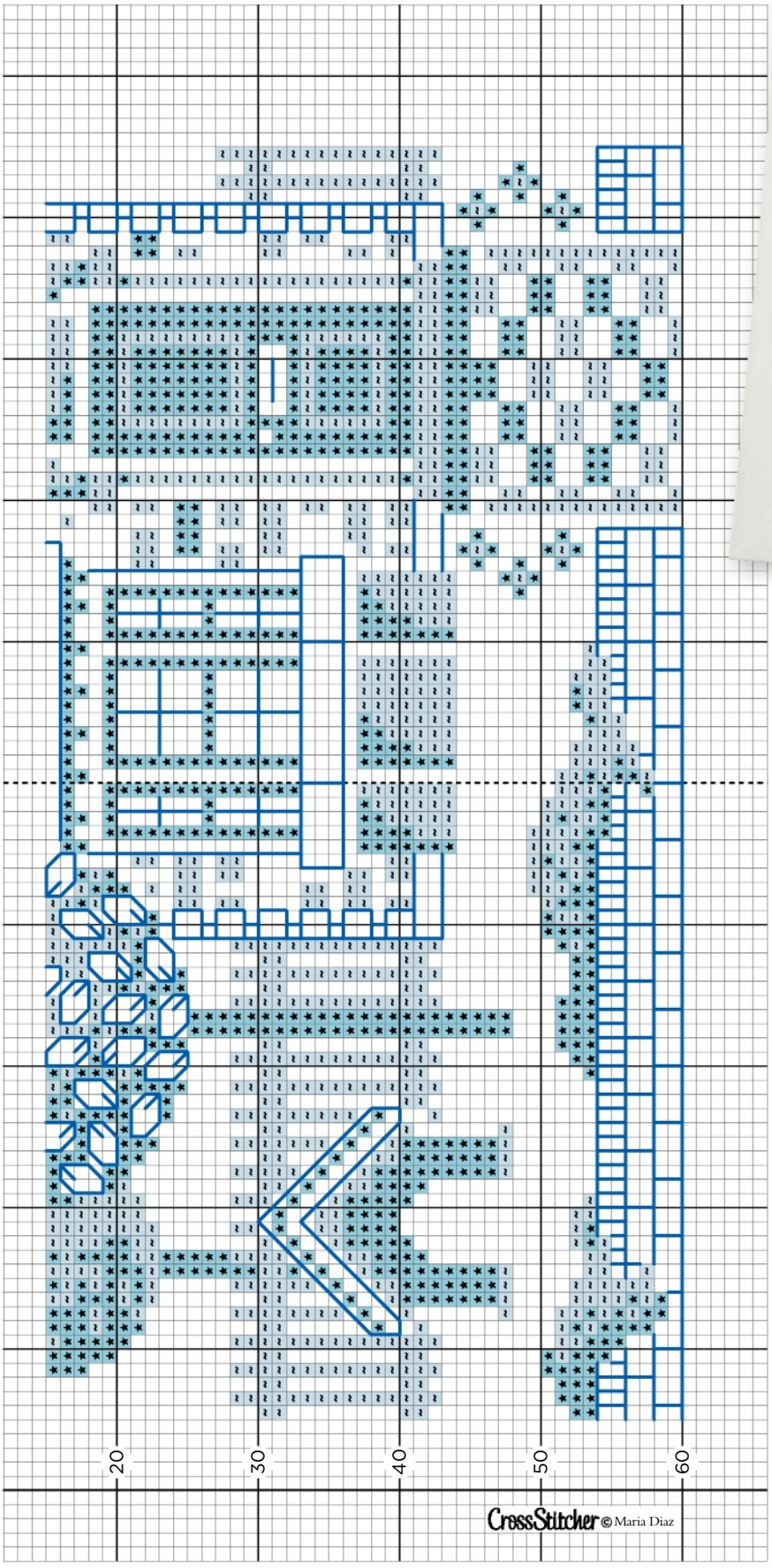


DMC	Anchor	Madeira
741	304	0203
946	326	0208
3346	267	1407 (2)
3347	266	1408 (3)
3348	264	1409 (15)

(2) indicates more than one skein required

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Designed by: Maria Diaz
Design size: 22x16.5cm
Stitch time: 13 hours

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
★	518	1039	1106 (2)
~	519	1038	1105 (2)
♥	3350	077	0604
×	3733	075	0504
Backstitch in one strand			
—	517	162	1005
	all details		

(2) indicates more than one skein required

Materials

picture

- 28 count white evenweave, 45x35cm
- Wooden frame
- Mount board

For stockist details see page 84

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	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
★	518	1039	1106
~	519	1038	1105
♥	3350	077	0604
×	3733	075	0504
Backstitch in one strand			
—	517	162	1005

all details

Materials

band

- 28 count white evenweave
- Backing fabric

card

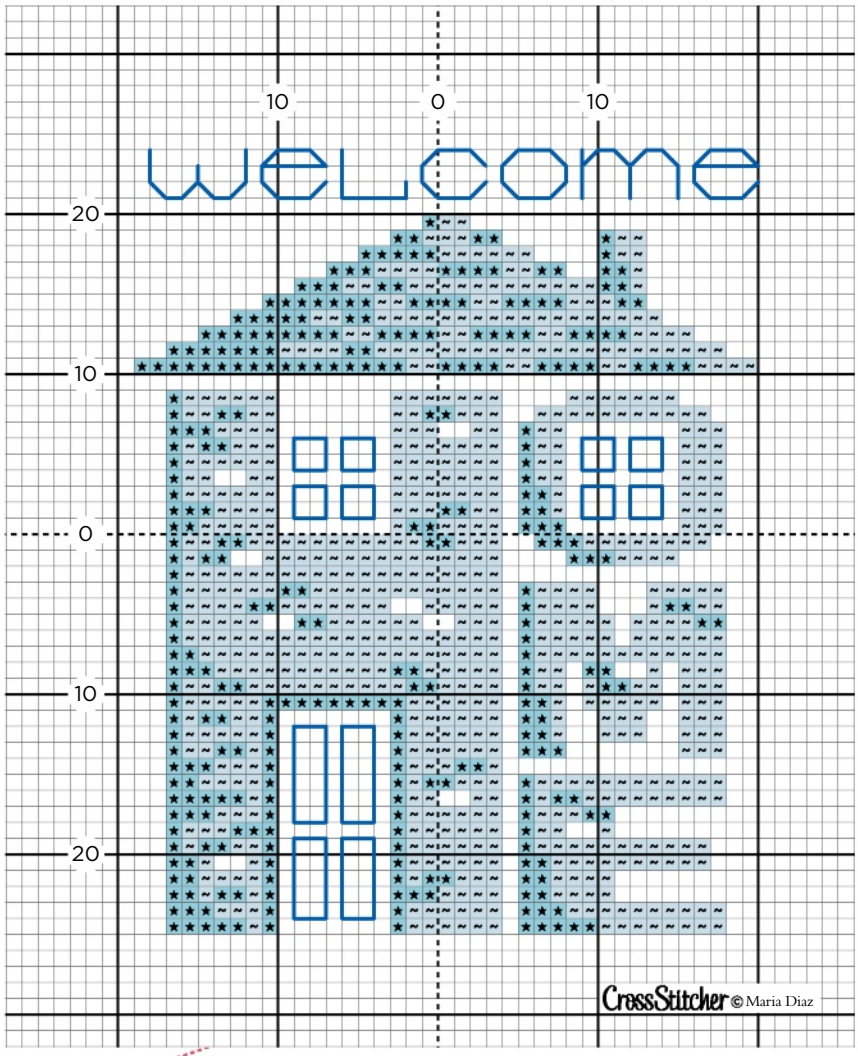
- 28 count white evenweave, 20x20cm
- White card, 13x22cm
- Double-sided tape

For stockist details see page 84



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Make a... band

Step 1

MEASURE round your basket and cut your evenweave to 5cm longer than this and 11cm wide. Stitch the design along the centre of the strip.

Step 2

CUT your backing fabric to the same size as your piece of evenweave, then right sides together stitch along two long and one short side.

Step 3

TURN right sides out and press under the raw edges. Wrap the band around your basket, overlap the short ends and stitch into place.

Know your friend's favourite colour? Stitch in shades of this for a personal touch





Make a... patch card

Step 1

TRIM your stitched piece to 11x9cm and fray the outer two threads of the fabric.

Step 2

FOLD your card in half and attach your stitching to the front using double-sided tape.

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Your stitching

Drop us a line to pin your projects into our album!
Email your photos to crossstitcher@futurenet.co.uk



I've finally finished Flying the Flag from issue 253! Now I just need to decide if I should frame it or make it into a pillow.
Michelle Rasmussen, Denmark



Here's the bag my grandmother Sheila stitched for me. She's made me many lovely things and taught me to sew.
Rachel Ibbotson, via email



Here's one of my recently completed projects – it came from issue 196 and I'm so glad it's finally finished!
Katie Taylor, Australia



I stitched this as a present for my cousin and her husband. I enjoyed the simplicity of using one colour in different shades.
Dawn Jackson, via email



This fairy design took a year to complete due to numerous colour changes. I plan to get it framed for my wall.
Claire McMillan, via email



This design is from the Retro Style book that came with issue 274. I made it into a bag for my camera memory cards.
Alison Williams, Canada



My grandson Adam, nine, stitched this robot, which I simplified from the design in issue 274. He finished it in one day.
Sheila Hibbs, via email



I adapted one of the perfume designs in issue 276 and made it into a card for my mum. She thinks it's beautiful!
Sharon Ell, via email

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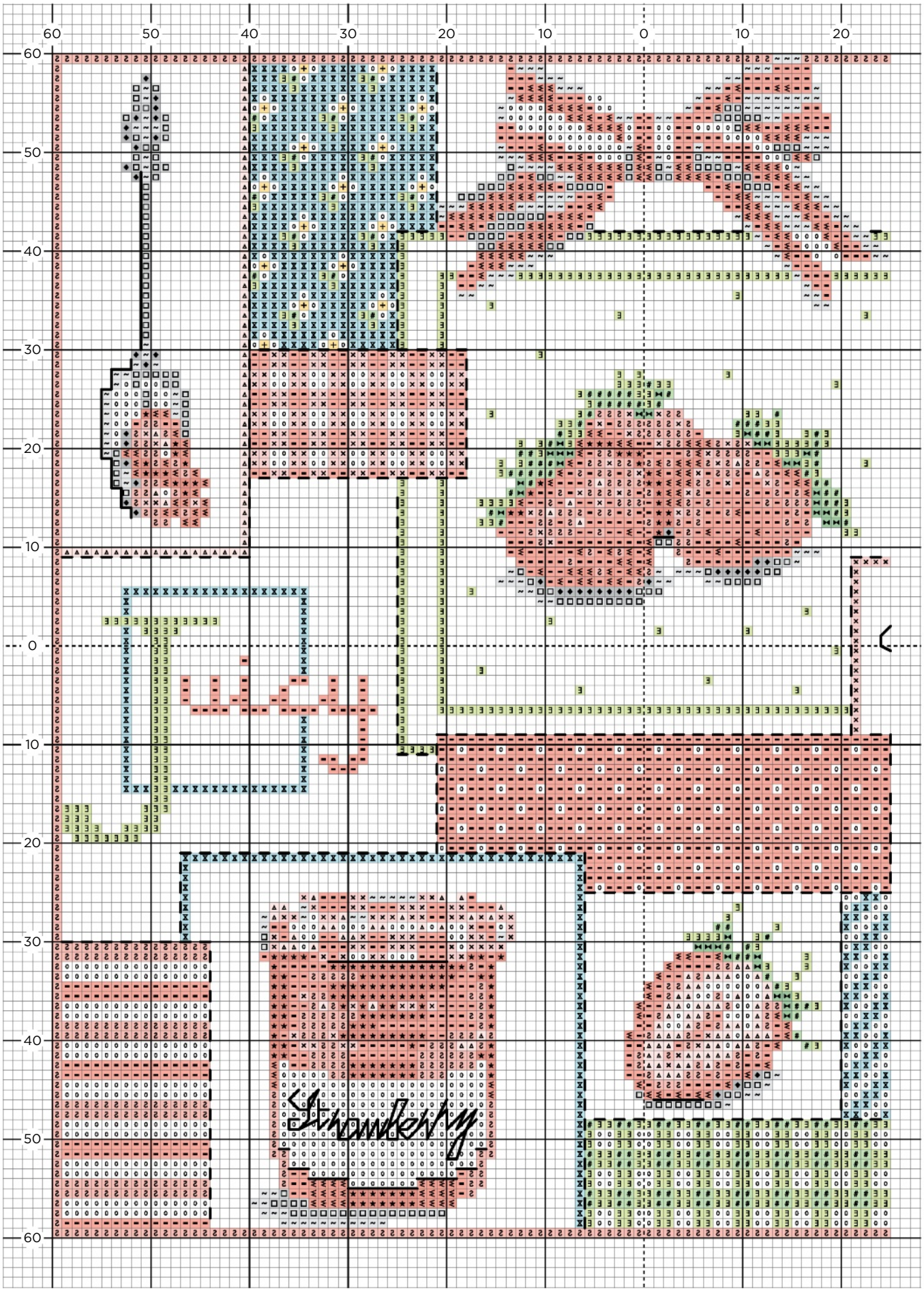
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STRAWBERRY SUMMER

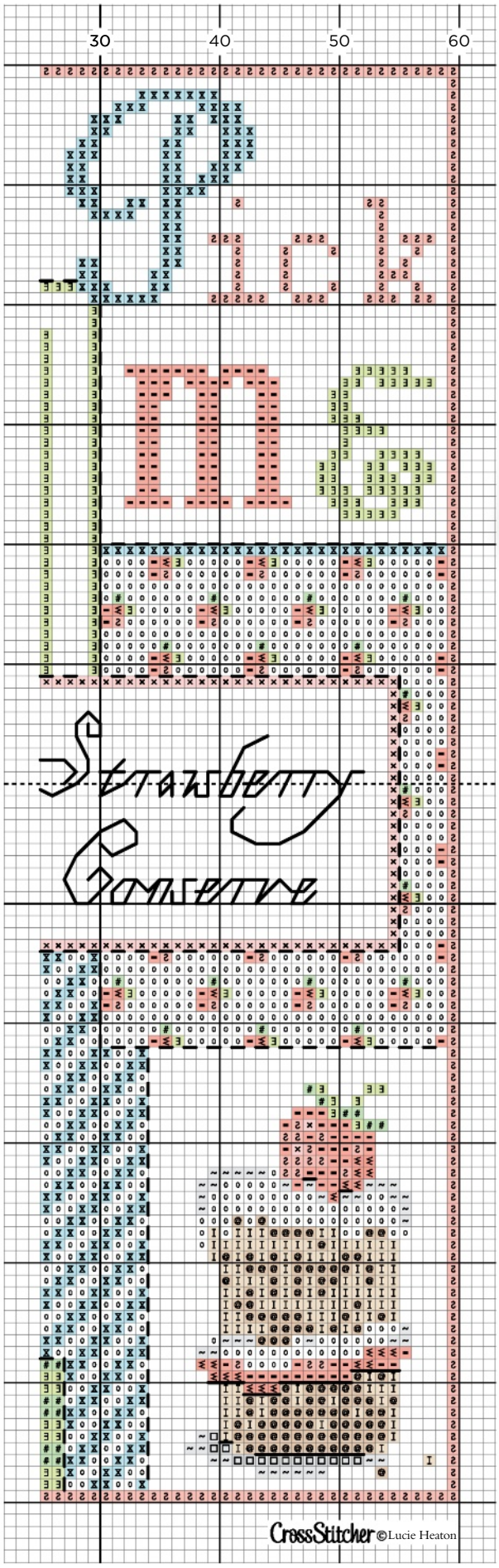
Long, bright days aren't complete without a strawberry or ten! Stitch a tribute with our patchwork-style sampler

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Designed by: Lucie Heaton
Design size: 22x22cm
Stitch time: 40 hours

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
0	White	002	2402
-	349	011	0212
2	351	010	0214
x	352	009	0303
Δ	353	008	2605
◆	414	235	1801
□	415	398	1802
@	437	362	2012
⧖	598	167	1111
⋈	700	228	1304
#	702	226	1306
∃	704	255	1308
+	725	305	0108
I	738	361	2013
~	762	234	1804
★	816	043	0512
≶	817	013	0210
Backstitch in one strand			
—	3799	236	1713
	all details		

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CrossStitcher PROJECT KITS
GET YOURS ON PAGE 70



Make a... wall hanging

Step 1

TRIM your stitching to 31x29cm and place right sides together over your backing fabric. Stitch all the way round, leaving a gap at the top for turning.

Step 2

TURN your hanging right sides out and press, then close the gap with topstitch. Turn the top edge over 2cm and stitch in place.

Step 3

PUSH the dowel through the top and tie a length of ribbon to the ends for hanging.



Stitch it on aida!
If you'd rather stitch on aida, choose a 14 count rustic aida



Pick any one of the strawberry motifs to stitch into a gorgeous card for a gal pal

Materials

- 28 count rustic linen, 45x45cm
- Natural backing fabric, 31x29cm
- Wooden dowel, 6mm diameter
- Striped ribbon

For stockist details see page 84

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WISH UPON A JAR

Fill our mason jars with hopes and dreams then watch as they come true

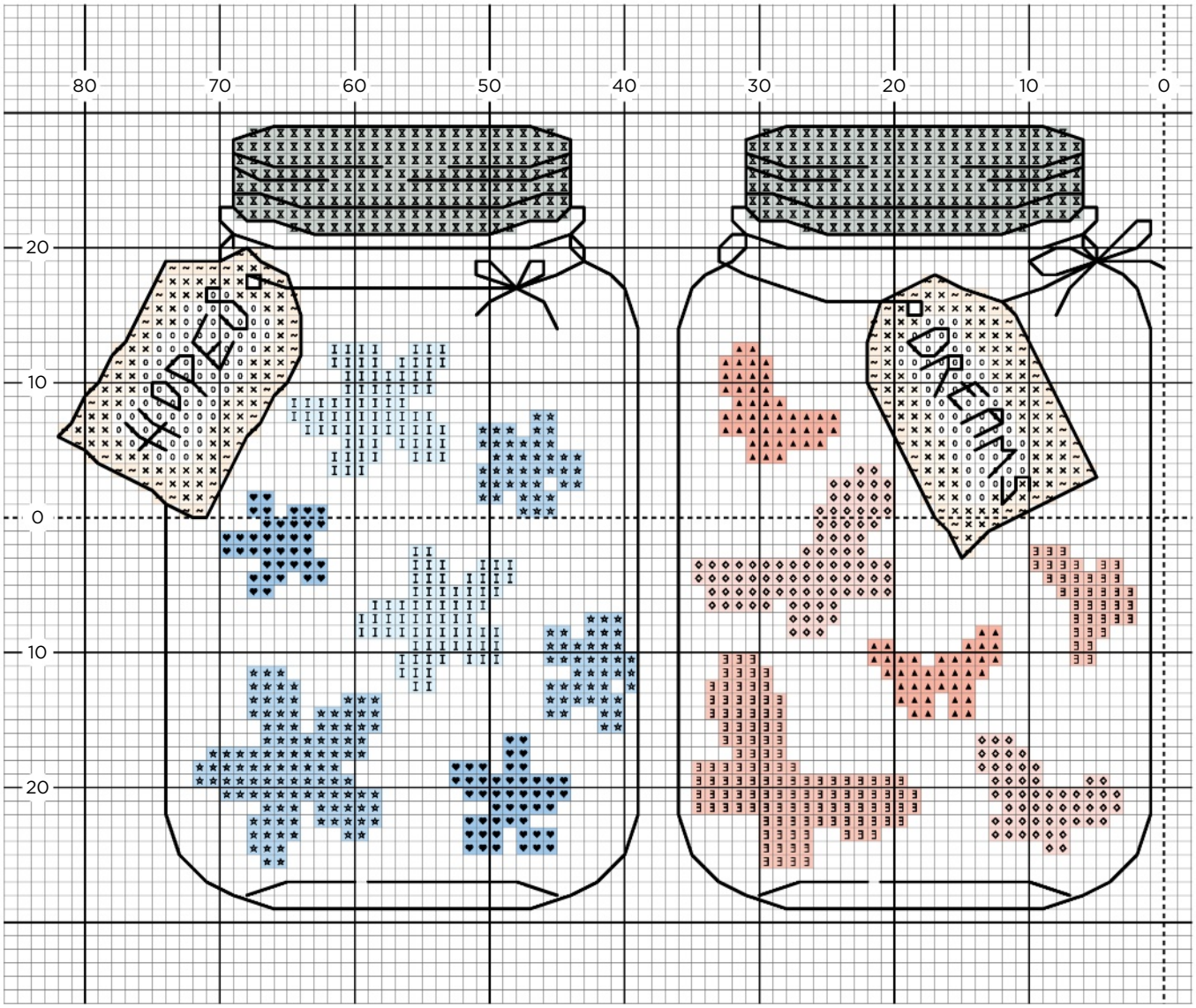


Materials

- 28 count ivory evenweave, 30x50cm
- Wooden frame
- Mount board

For stockist details see page 84

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Designed by: Lucie Heaton

Design size: 10.5x30cm **Stitch time:** 18 hours

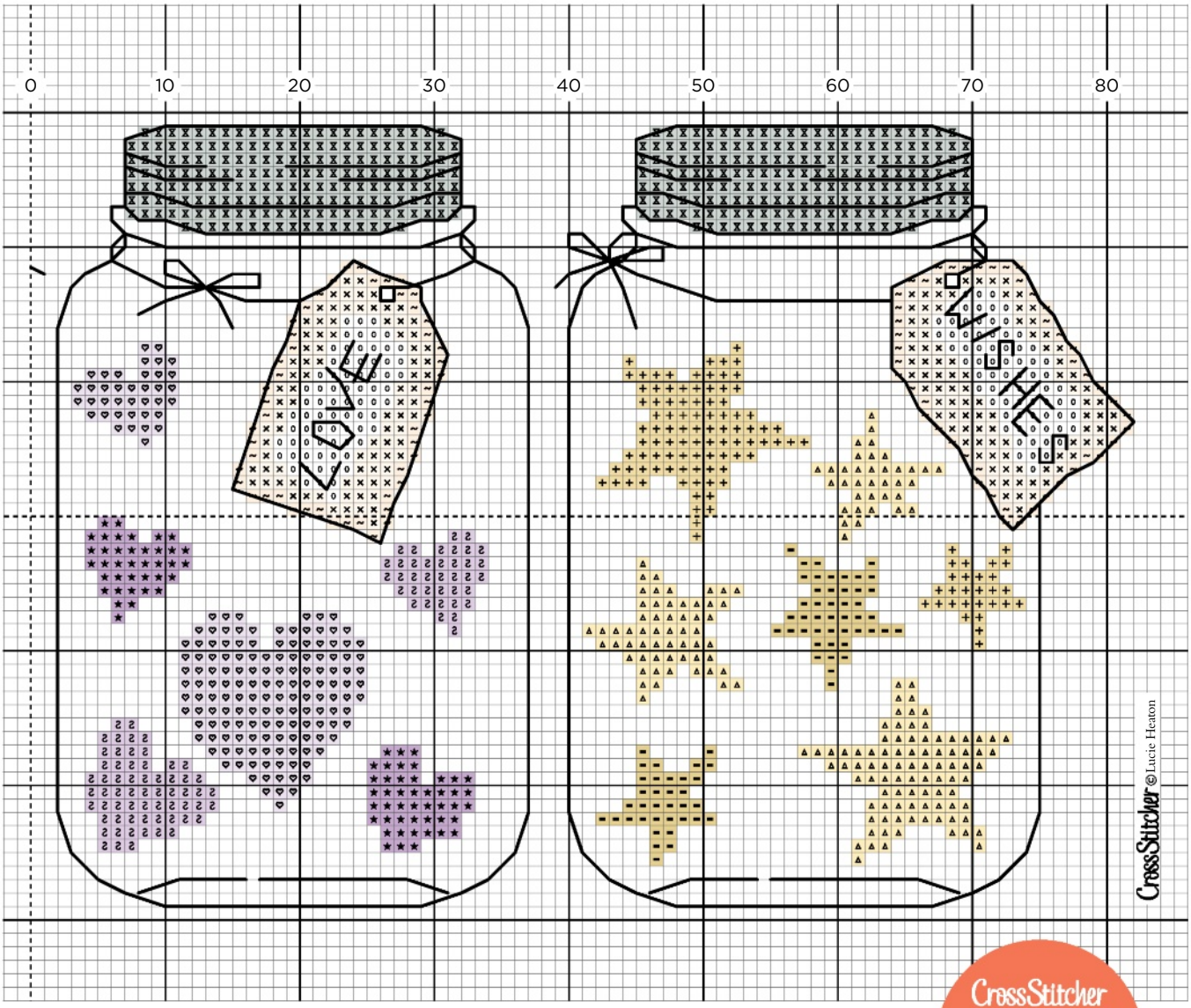
	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
0	White	002	2402
⧖	168	398	1802
★	208	110	0804
ƨ	209	109	0711
♡	210	108	0802
▲	351	010	0214
Ǝ	352	009	0303
◇	353	008	2605
×	712	926	2101
~	739	366	2014

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
☆	813	140	1013
♥	826	977	1012
I	827	159	1002
▬	3820	306	2509
+	3821	305	0109
△	3822	295	0112
Backstitch in one strand			
—	3799	236	1713
	all details		

Stitch just one jar to make into a special card or gift for your best pal

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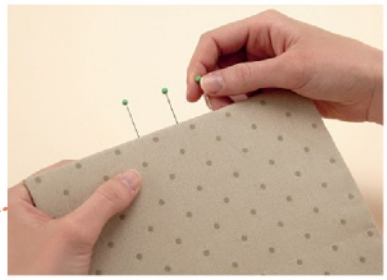
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GET YOURS ON PAGE 70

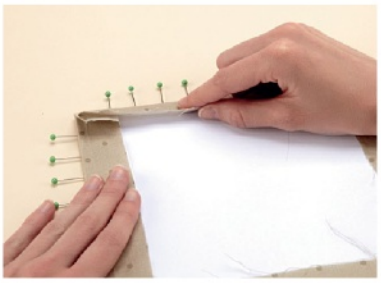
How to… **frame a picture**

Step 1



CUT a piece of white mount board to fit inside your frame. Place your design centrally over the mount board and pin the fabric around the board to secure, starting at the centre of each side and working outwards.

Step 2



PIN around the entire perimeter and check that you are happy with the positioning of your design, then turn over to the reverse. Use double-sided tape to secure the fabric excess around all four sides.

Step 3



SECURE the fabric edges with masking tape and remove the pins. Position your stitching in the frame and back with a second piece of mount board. Seal the edges with more masking tape to finish off.

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Daddy Cool

Got the world's top dad? Treat him like a hero on 15 June by sending one of our bright typographic cards



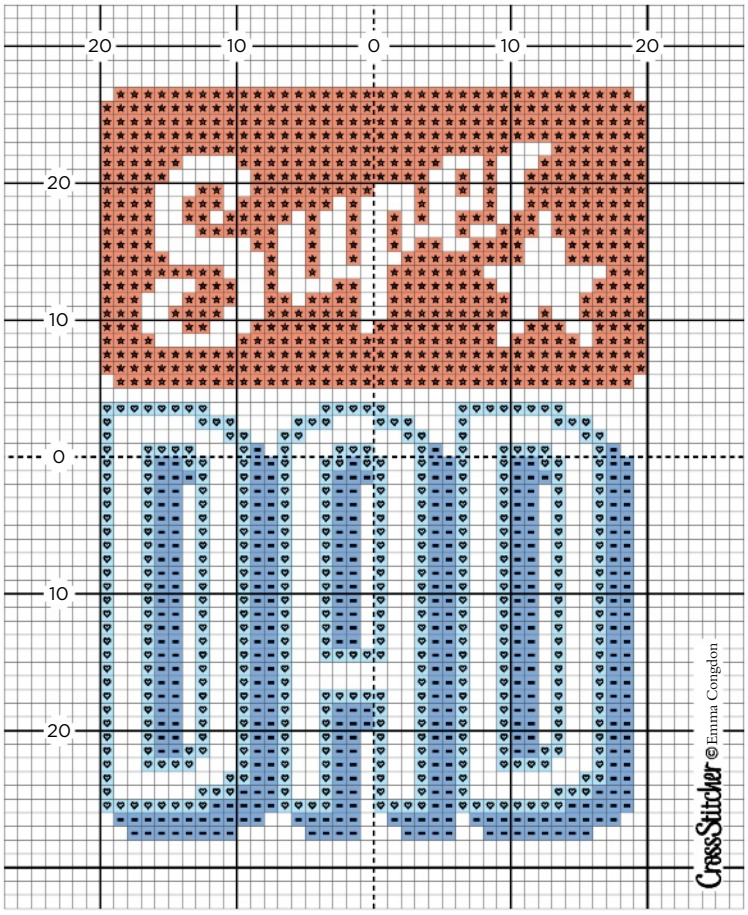
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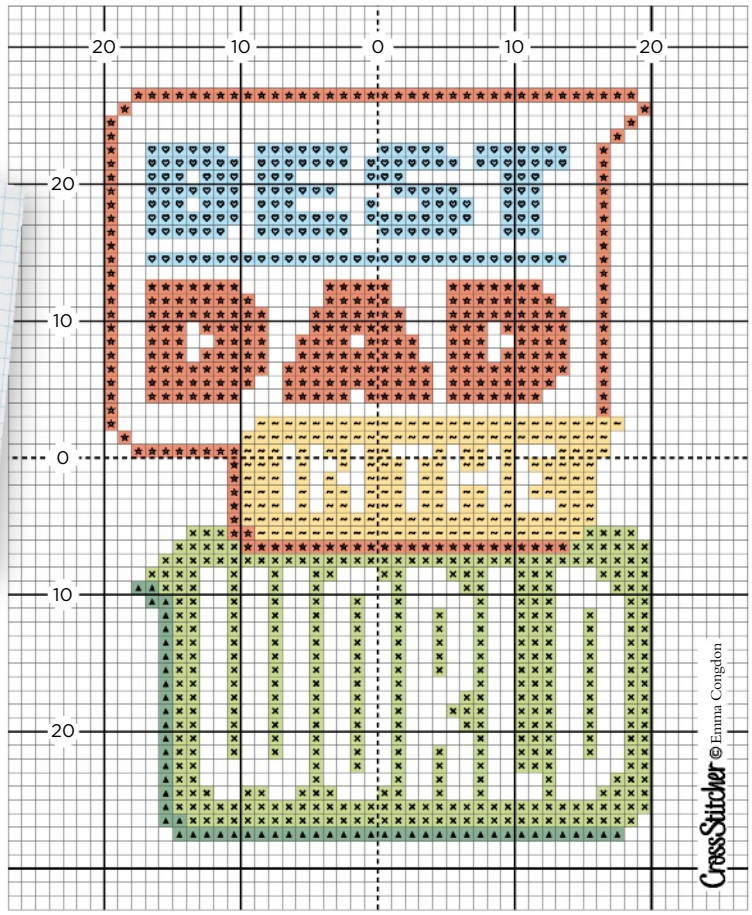
Designed by: Emma Congdon
Design size: 8x6cm each
Stitch time: 7 hours each

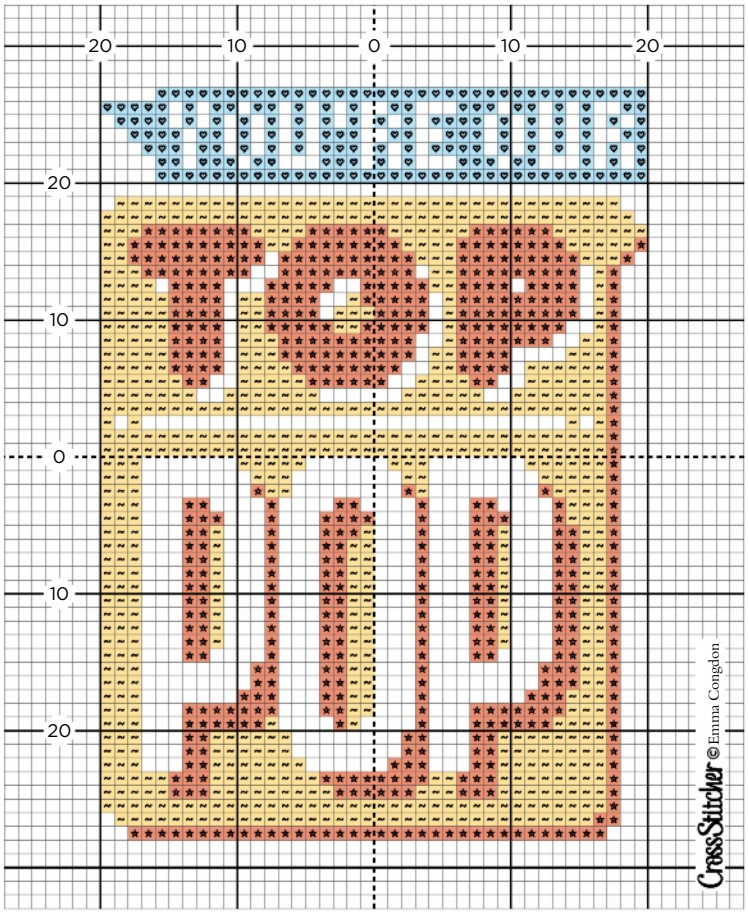
	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
☆	606	334	0209
▲	699	923	1303
▬	803	148	1006
×	906	256	1411
♥	917	089	0706
~	972	298	0107
♡	996	1090	1103

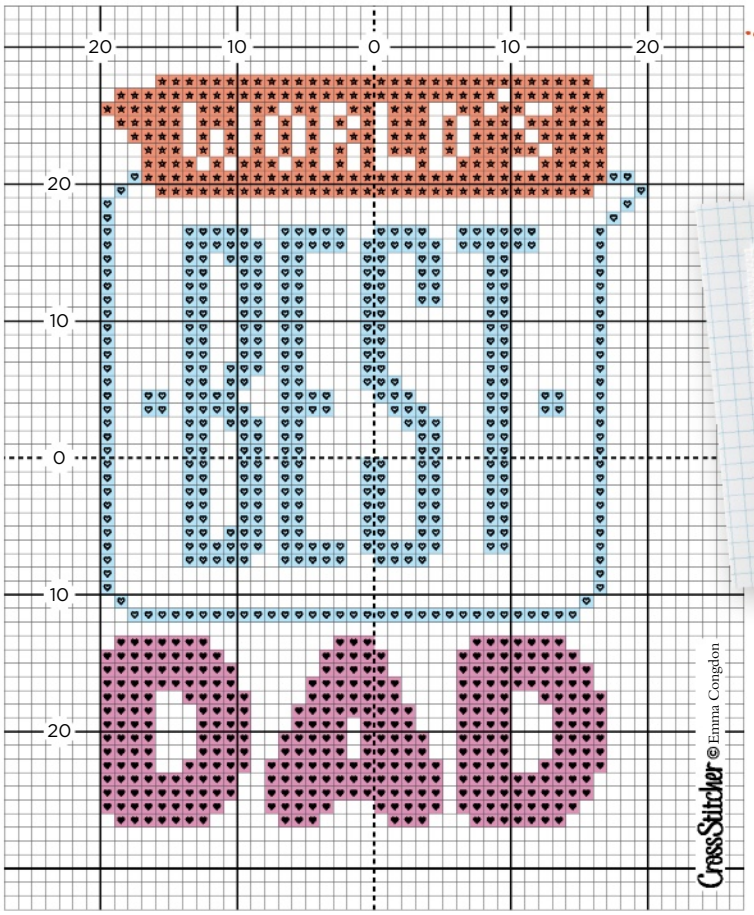




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Make a... patch card

Step 1

TRIM your stitching to 8.5x6.5cm and fray the outer row of aida blocks. Back with a piece of white paper using double-sided tape.

Step 2

PRINT your graph paper – it's free from our website. Cut your paper and a piece of white card to 11x18cm, then back the paper with the card to give stability.

Step 3

FOLD your card in half and attach your stitching to the front using double-sided tape.

For a raised finish, stick your stitching to the card with 3D foam pads



Materials

- 18 count aida, 20x18cm each
- Graph paper, printed free from our website
- White card
- Double-sided tape
- 3D foam pads (optional)

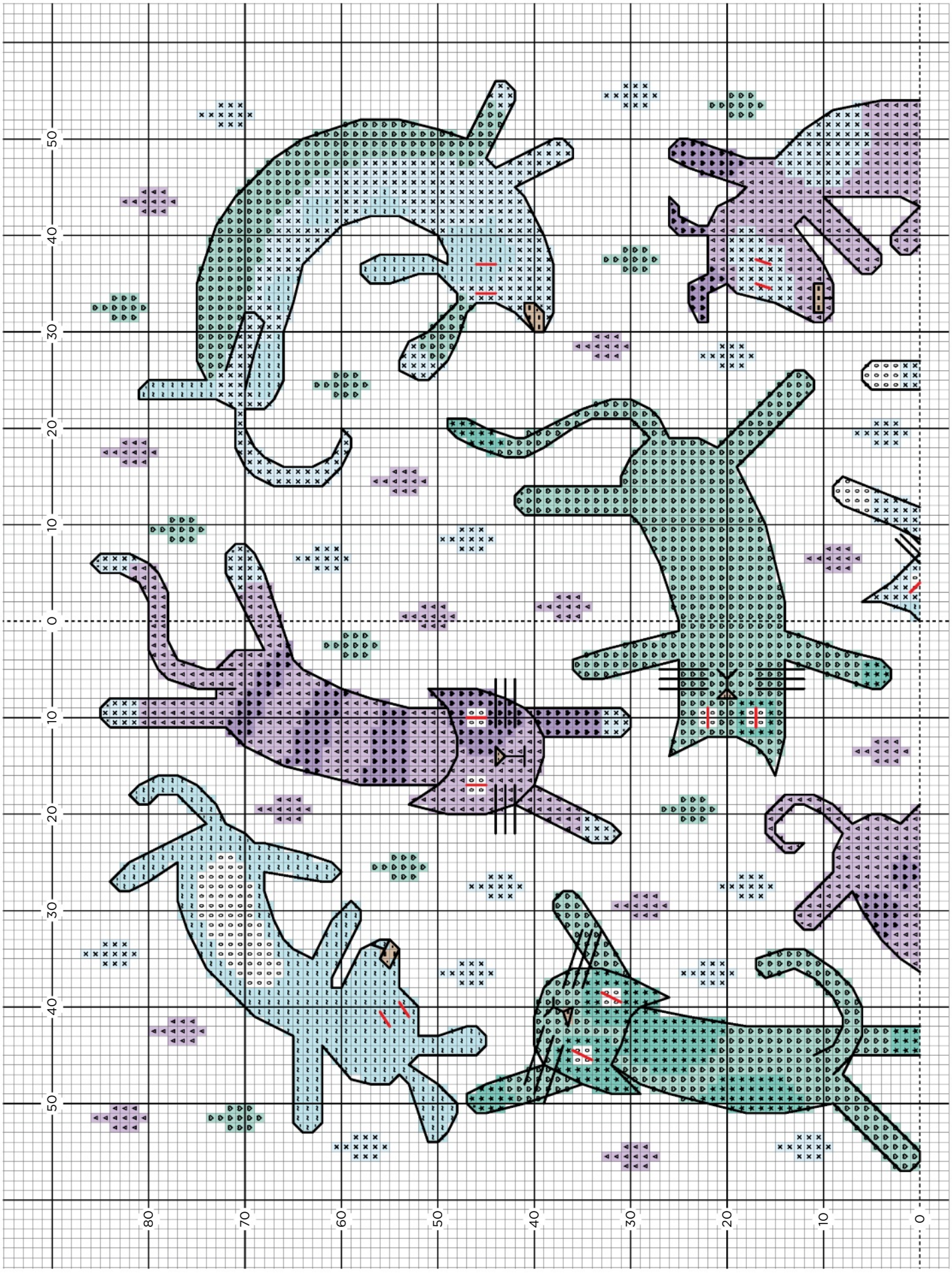
For stockist details see page 84



RAINING CATS & DOGS

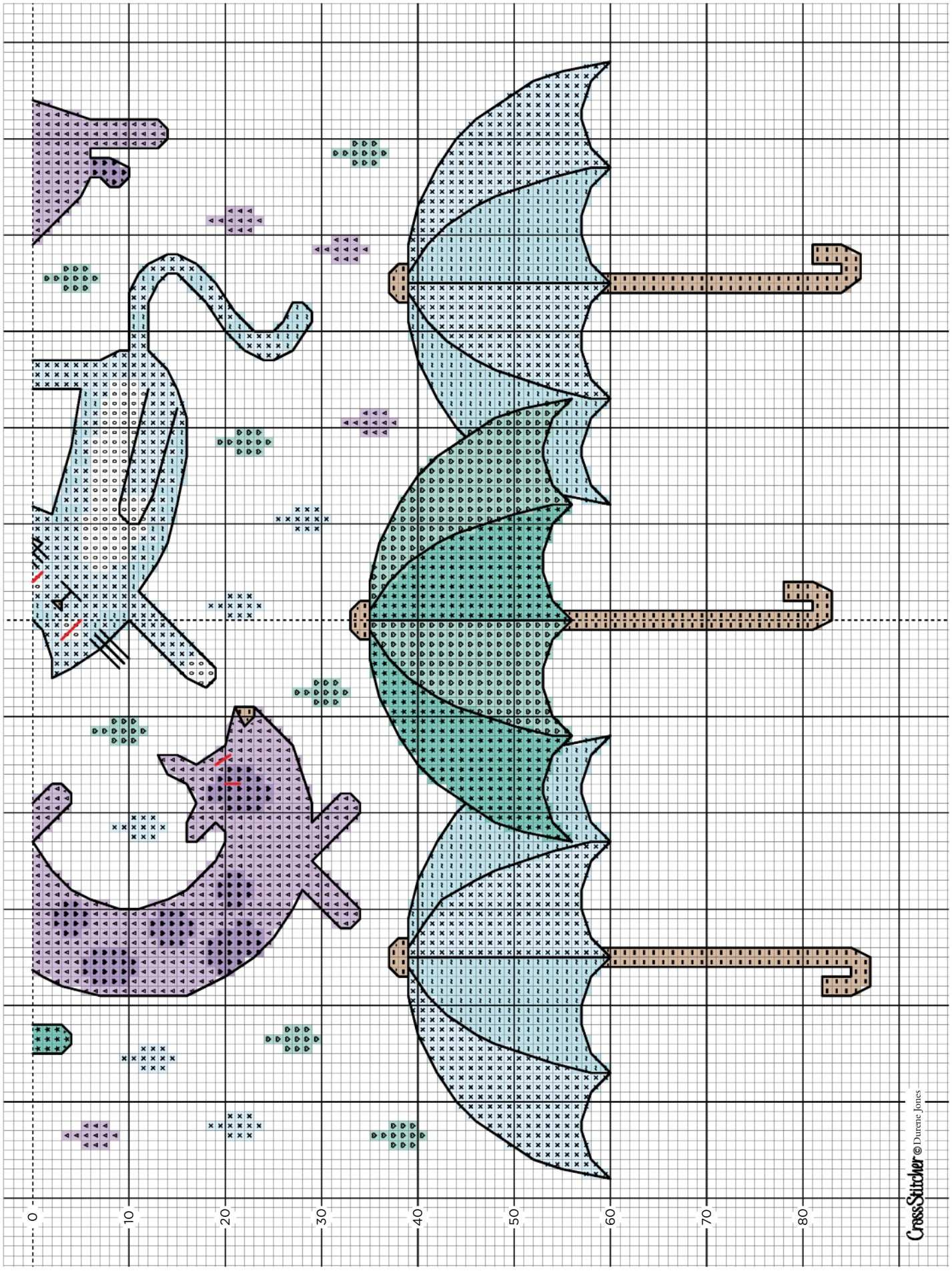
Forget the brolly! If these cuties came down in a deluge, we'd happily get drenched

CrossStitcher PROJECT KITS
GET YOURS ON PAGE 70



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Designed by: Durene Jones
Design size: 31x21cm
Stitch time: 42 hours

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
0	B5200	001	2401
♥	208	110	0804
△	209	109	0711
▬	420	374	2104
♡	959	186	1113
×	3761	928	1014
~	3766	167	1110
★	3812	188	2706
Backstitch in two strands			
— eyes	3799	236	1713
Backstitch in one strand			
— all other details	3799	236	1713

For a neat finish, wash your stitching and iron on the reverse

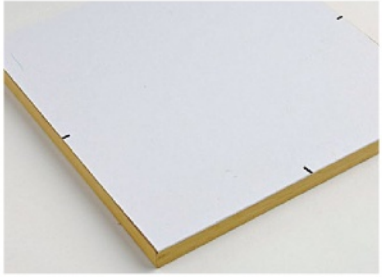
Materials

- 28 count cream linen, 50x30cm
- Wooden frame with an outside measurement of 33x23cm
- White mount board
- Staple gun
- Double-sided tape

For stockist details see page 84

Make a… stretched canvas frame

Step 1



CUT a piece of mount board to exactly the same size as the outside edge of your wooden frame. Attach it using double-sided tape.

Step 2



PLACE double-sided tape on to the back of the frame. Mark and match up the centre points on the frame and fabric edges.

Step 3



STRETCH the fabric to the reverse, folding neatly at each corner. Staple the fabric to the back of the frame and secure the raw edges with tape.

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Whale of a time

Ahoy there! Dive into a life on the ocean wave with our cute whale cushion

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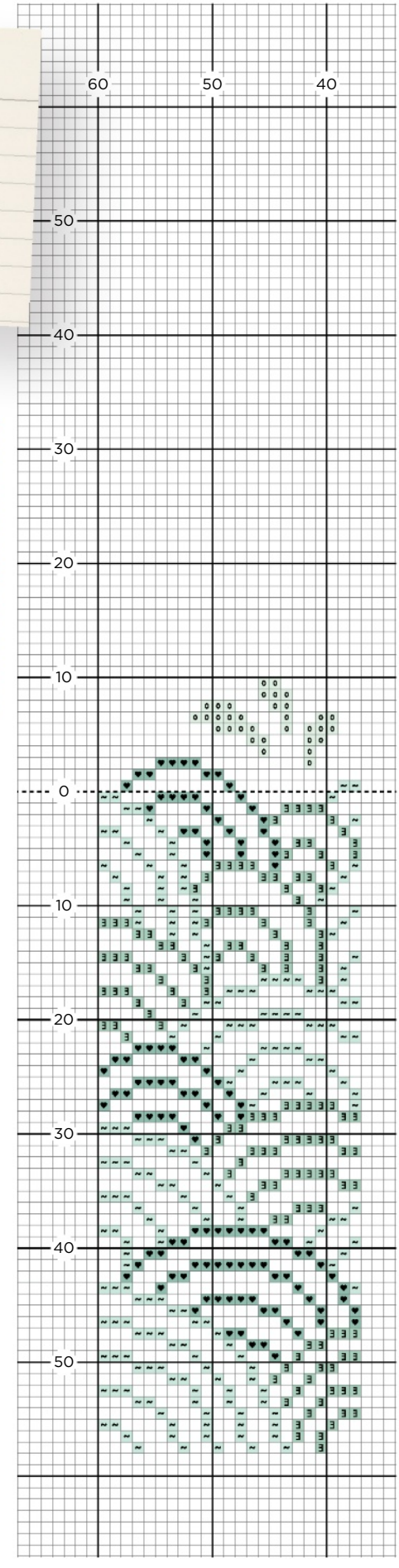
Materials

- 28 count pale blue linen, 40x40cm
- Cream backing fabric, two 28x28cm pieces
- Turquoise bias binding, 125cm
- Piping cord, 125cm
- Stuffing

For stockist details see page 84

Designed by: Jane Prutton
Design size: 21x21.5cm
Stitch time: 30 hours

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
♥	505	211	1206
☆	519	160	1105
Ǝ	562	210	1207
~	563	208	1208
0	564	206	1210
♥	3760	169	1107



Make a… piped cushion

Step 1



WRAP your bias binding around the piping cord and pin the long edges of the strip together. If you can't find bias binding to match, cut several strips of turquoise fabric and sew together into one extended strip.

Step 2



SWITCH to a machine zipper foot, which allows you to sew closer to the piping cord than a traditional foot. Sew up to the edge of the piping without sewing over it. The piping should look like the above image once finished.

Step 3



TRIM your stitching to 28x28cm. Pin the piping cord in place on the cushion front, cutting notches in excess fabric at the corners. Trim the piping away from the overlap end and nest the fabric over the other end.

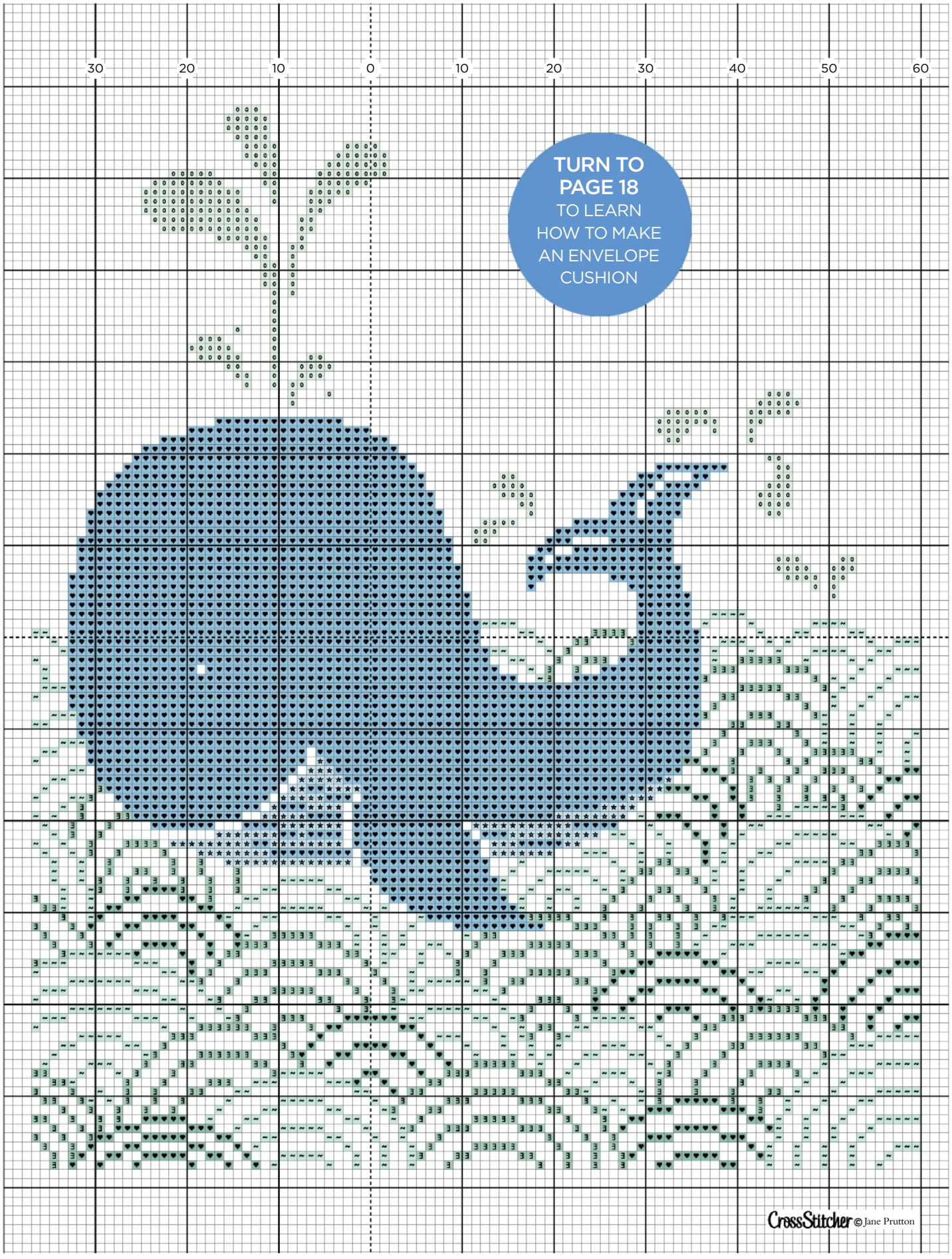
Step 4



PLACE your stitching between the two pieces of backing fabric and pin. Machine sew as close to the edges of the piping as possible. Leave an opening for turning. Turn, fill with stuffing and slip stitch closed.

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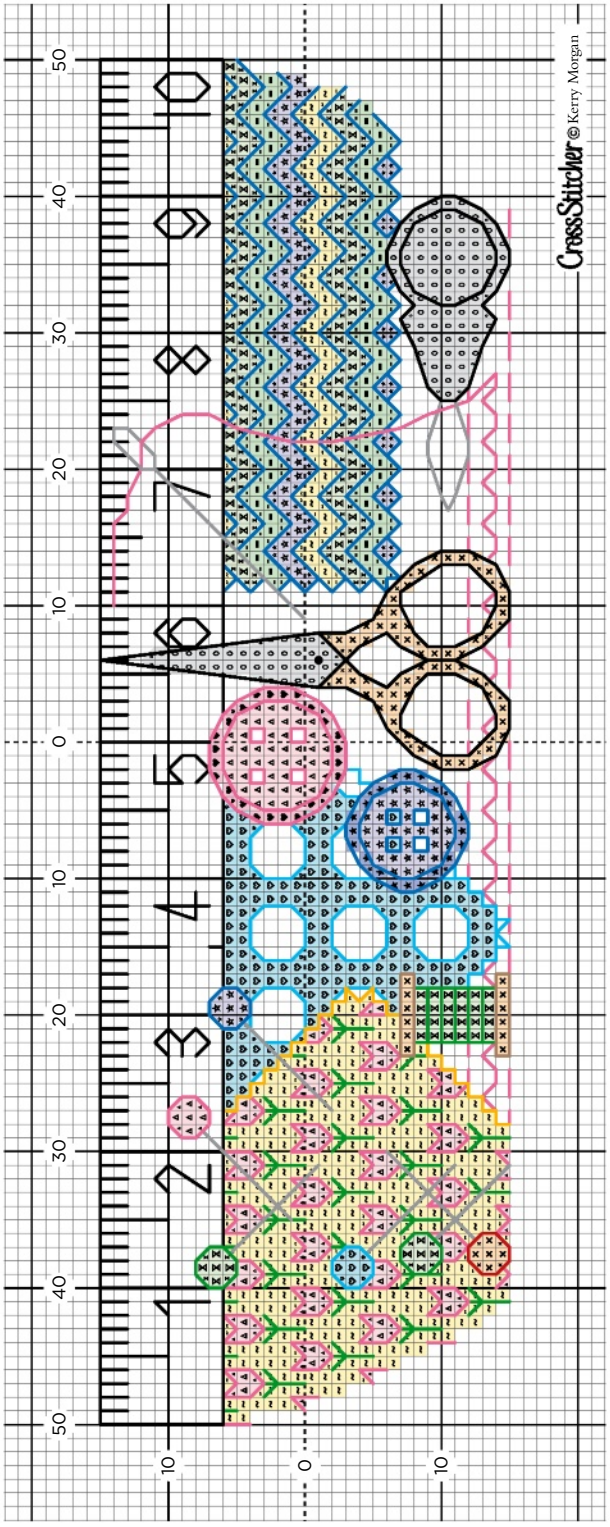
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Sew Neat

Never find your scissors when you need them? Keep stitching kit organised in our hoop tidy

Designed by: Kerry Morgan
Design size: 5.5x18cm **Stitch time:** 13 hours

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
☆	340	118	0902
×	402	1047	2307
0	415	398	1802
~	726	295	0109
★	792	941	0904
△	894	026	0408
▬	954	204	1211
⧖	955	203	1210
♥	3805	062	0702
♡	3846	1090	1103
Backstitch in two strands			
	3805	062	0702
	button, pin, flowers, thread		
Backstitch in one strand			
	310	403	2400
	all other details		
	407	914	2312
	bobbin		
	743	305	0113
	flower fabric edge		
	792	941	0904
	zig-zag fabric, button, pin		
	954	204	1211
	leaves, stems, pins, threads		
	3845	433	1102
	fabric, pin		
	3853	1003	0311
	pin		
	Krenik (#8) Fine Braid 001		
	pins, needle, needle threader		
French knots in one strand			
●	310	403	2400
	scissors		



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For a neat finish, paint your hoop in a co-ordinating colour before assembling it

Stitch on aida
If you'd rather stitch on aida, choose a 14 count white aida



Make a... storage hoop

Step 1

SEW three fabric strips together to create a 30cm square. To make the pocket, cut a piece of fabric to about 17x30cm. Then turn under the edges of your stitched fabric and attach to the pocket, centrally across the width and a few centimetres from the upper edge. Hem the top.

Step 2

STITCH the pocket to the joined fabrics halfway down and sew lines to divide it in three. Trim this and another fabric piece into a circle slightly larger than your hoop. Position the two pieces between the inner and outer hoops, then pull taut and tighten the screw.

Step 3

TURN your stitching to the reverse and cut a piece of felt to fit the inside of the inner circle. Place the felt inside the hoop. You can use a bit of PVA glue to keep it in position. The felt will help your work stay fresh.

Step 4

USE a glue gun or double-sided tape to begin attaching the first layer of fabric, pulling taut as you go. Repeat for the second layer. Fit the second felt circle over the back of your hoop and stick in place to finish.

Materials

- 28 count white evenweave, 30x40cm
- Bright cotton fabrics
- Wooden embroidery hoop, 20cm diameter
- White felt, two 20cm circles
- White fabric, 30x30cm

For stockist details see page 84

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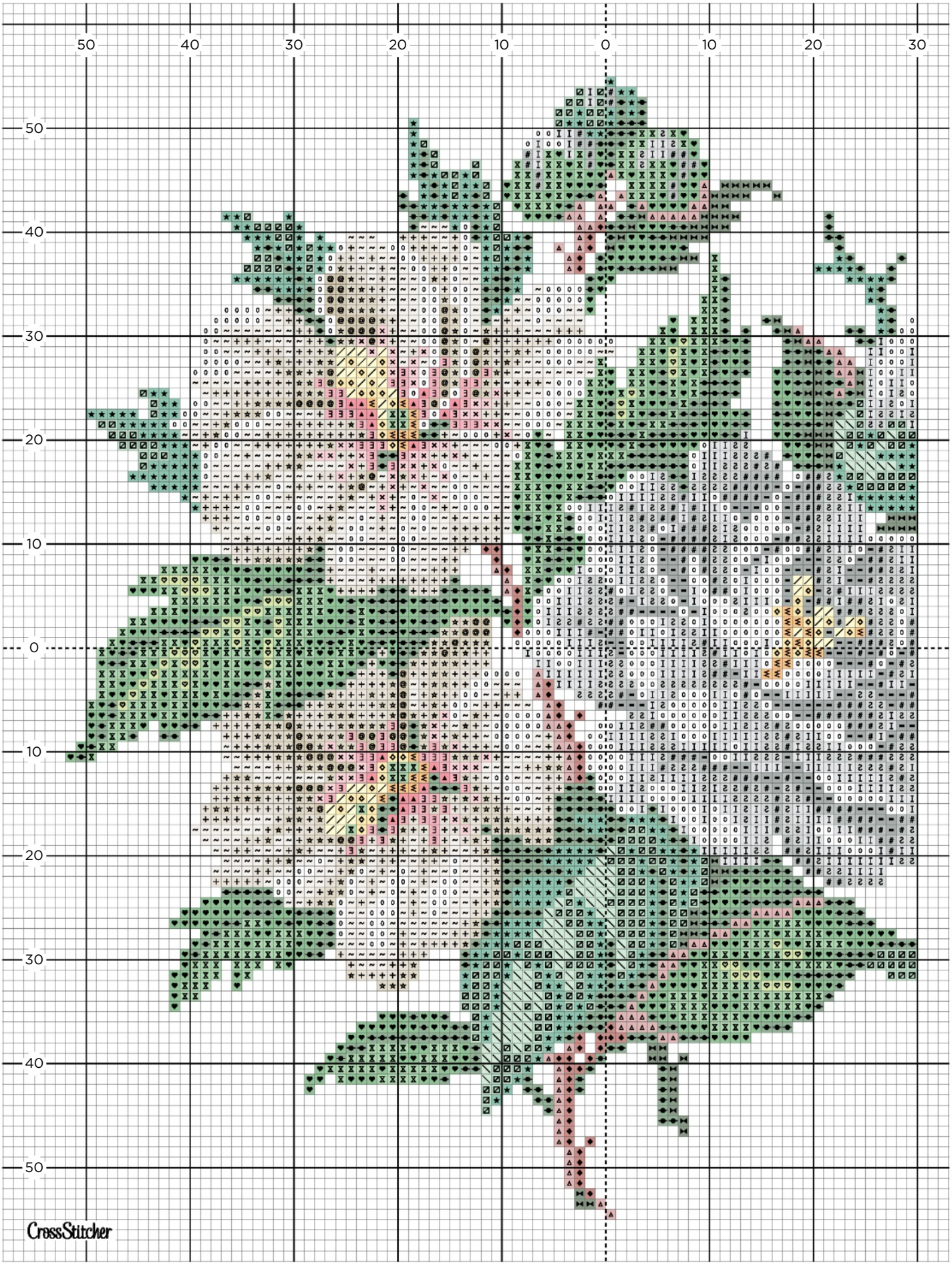
Vintage Rose

Give classic English florals a fresh look with our blooming beautiful rose bag

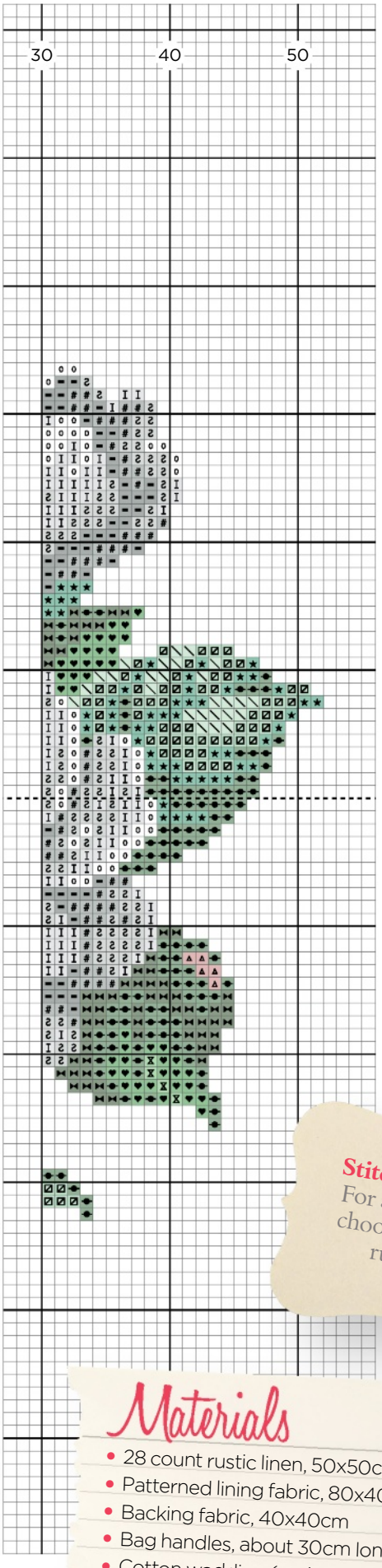
CrossStitcher PROJECT KITS
GET YOURS ON PAGE 70



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Design size: 20x19cm
Stitch time: 40 hours

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
0	White	002	2402
2	168	398	1802
#	169	235	1801
●	319	1044	1313
-	535	401	1809
\	563	206	1207
+	613	391	1902
♥	700	228	1304
X	702	226	1306
♡	704	255	1308
≤	741	304	0203
◇	743	305	0113
/	745	300	0111
I	762	234	1804
◪	912	209	1213
⋈	934	862	1506
@	3032	392	2002
☆	3782	388	1906
▲	3831	039	0507
∃	3832	038	0506
×	3833	036	0504
★	3850	189	1203
◆	3858	936	2311
△	3859	1007	2310
~	3866	926	1901

Stitch it on aida!
For a faster finish, choose a 14 count rustic aida



Materials

- 28 count rustic linen, 50x50cm
- Patterned lining fabric, 80x40cm
- Backing fabric, 40x40cm
- Bag handles, about 30cm long
- Cotton wadding (optional)

For stockist details see page 84

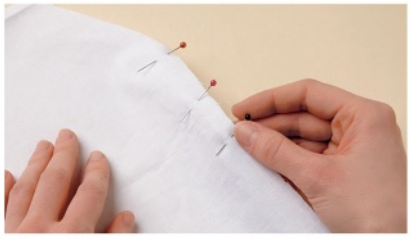
Make a... bag

Step 1



CREATE a paper template for your bag. Start with a 37x38cm rectangle. Cut the top two corners at an angle from 12cm down the long side and 8cm on the short side. Round the bottom corners.

Step 2



CUT your stitching, backing and two lining pieces using the template. Right sides together, pin and sew front and back along the two sides and the bottom. Repeat for the lining.

Step 3



TURN your stitching right side out and place the lining inside with wadding between the two fabrics. Turn under the remaining raw edges and topstitch together so you have two envelope flaps.

Step 4



FEED the tapered edges through your bag handles and fold down. Pin and slip stitch the edges in place to secure the handles. Move your needle from top to bottom to make invisible stitches.

Let's get inspired

GONE TO SEED

Not just for gardens! Stitch our 23 seed heads and make cute accessories for you and your friends

Designed by: Fiona Crouch



MATERIALS

Gift tag

- 28 count rustic linen, 15x15cm
- Brown parcel tag
- Baker's twine
- Double-sided tape

Fabric envelope

- 28 count rustic linen, 40x20cm
- Striped lining fabric, 35x13cm
- Wooden button
- Baker's twine

For stockist details see page 84

Put your own twist on the designs by stitching them up in your favourite colours

Make a... patch tag

Step 1

TRIM your finished stitching just outside the design and fray the fabric edge by removing the outer two threads.

Step 2

STICK the aida to the front of your tag with double-sided tape, then loop baker's twine through the eyelet to complete.



Make a… fabric envelope

Step 1

DRAW a 13x35cm template and shape one end for the flap. Place over your stitched fabric with the motif on the front, then cut out. Trim the lining fabric to the same size.

Step 2

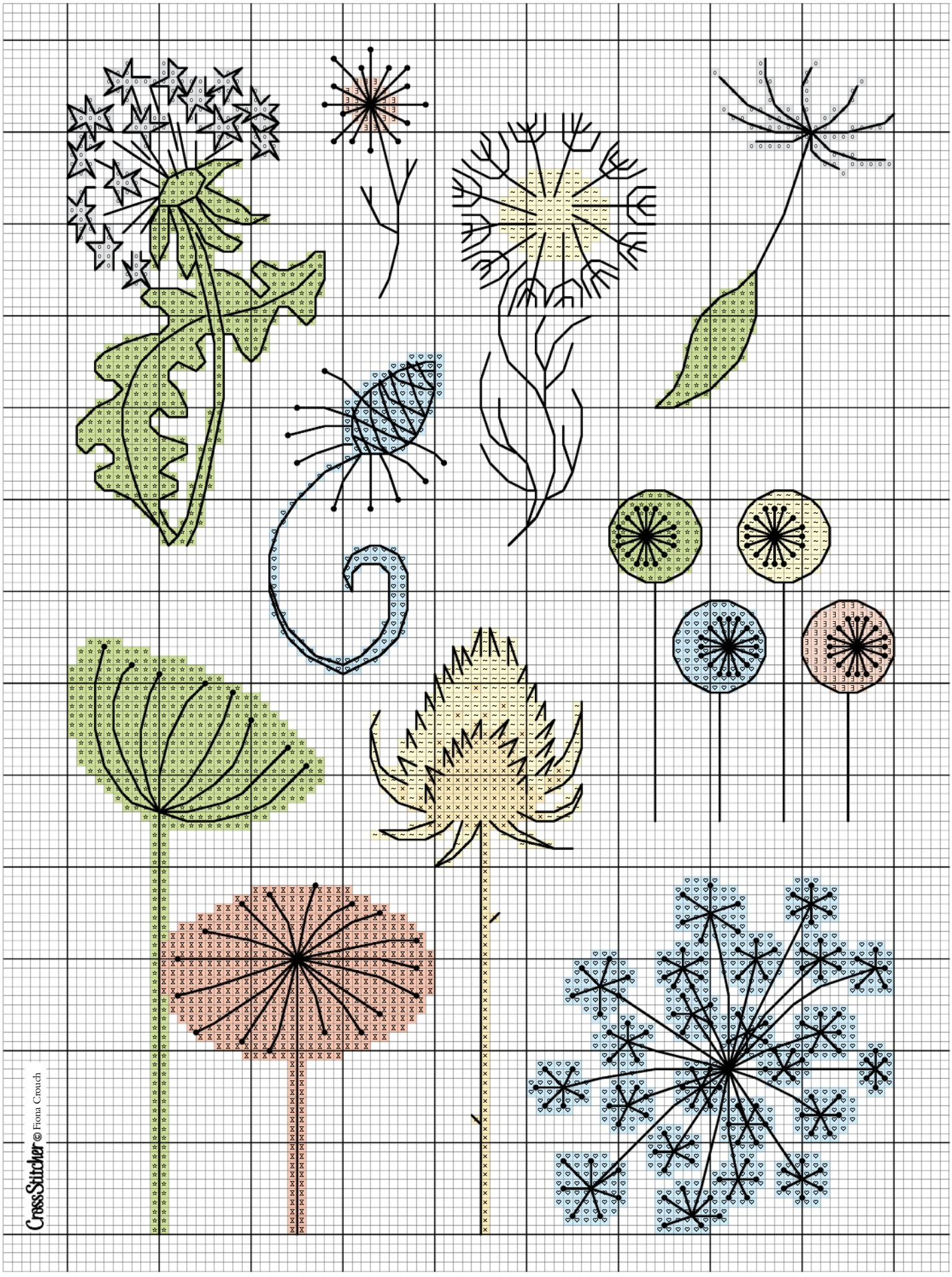
PLACE the two fabrics right sides together and stitch all the way round, leaving a gap for turning. Turn the fabrics right sides out and slip stitch the gap closed.

Step 3

FOLD the shape in half with the flap sticking above the top and stitch together down both sides. Sew a button to the front and a length of baker's twine to the top of the flap.

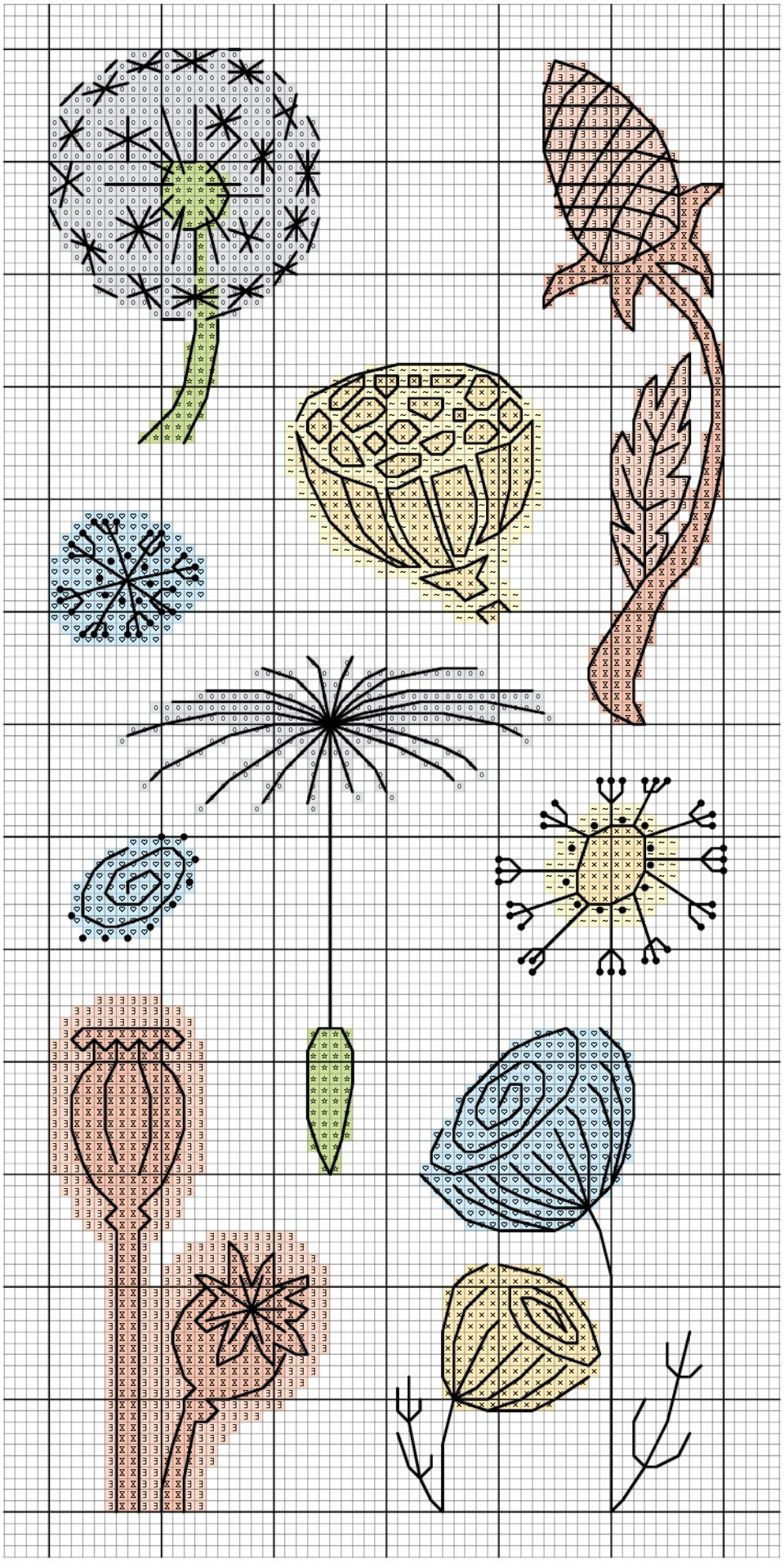
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CrossStitcher © Fiona Crouch

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	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
0	B5200	001	2401
×	727	293	0110
☆	907	255	1410
∃	967	006	2503
~	3078	292	0102
⧖	3824	008	0303
♡	3841	159	1001
Backstitch in one strand			
—	317	400	1713
	all details		
French knots in one strand			
●	317	400	1713
	seed heads		

What to make

There are heaps of things you can make and decorate with these seed head motifs. Here are some ideas...

1 Give a pair of gardening gloves a makeover by either using waste canvas or attaching a patch.

2 Create a thank-you card for a pal and personalise it by stitching their name.

3 Make a fabric sachet and stuff with dried lavender to hang up in your wardrobe.

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CrossStitcher PROJECT KITS

BY POST

Buy the materials you'll need to stitch five of our favourite projects from this issue



Home Comforts picture

page 34, by Maria Diaz

YOUR KIT CONTAINS:

- **28 count evenweave or 14 count aida • Needle**
- **Full skeins of stranded cotton • Charts**

CrossStitcher price: £14.99 (evenweave) OR £11.99 (aida)



Wish Upon a Jar

page 45, by Lucie Heaton

YOUR KIT CONTAINS:

- **28 count evenweave OR 14 count aida • Needle**
- **Full skeins of stranded cotton • Chart**

CrossStitcher price: £24.99 (evenweave) OR £21.99 (aida)



Raining Cats & Dogs

page 52, by Durene Jones

YOUR KIT CONTAINS:

- **28 count linen OR 14 count aida • Needle**
- **Full skeins of stranded cotton • Charts**

CrossStitcher price: £19.99 (linen) OR £16.99 (aida)



Vintage Rose

page 63

YOUR KIT CONTAINS:

- **28 count linen OR 14 count aida • Needle**
- **Full skeins of stranded cotton • Chart**

CrossStitcher price: £38.99 (linen) OR £35.99 (aida)

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Strawberry Summer

page 41, by Lucie Heaton

YOUR KIT CONTAINS:

- **28 count linen OR 14 count aida**
- **Needle • Full skeins of stranded cotton • Chart**

CrossStitcher price: £29.99 (linen) OR £27.99 (aida)

ORDER FORM

Project description	Price	Sub. price*	Quantity	Total	Code
Home Comforts picture (evenweave)	£14.99	£13.49			603199
Home Comforts picture (aida)	£11.99	£10.79			603200
Wish Upon a Jar (evenweave)	£24.99	£22.49			603205
Wish Upon a Jar (aida)	£21.99	£19.79			603206
Raining Cats & Dogs (linen)	£19.99	£17.99			603207
Raining Cats & Dogs (aida)	£16.99	£15.29			603208
Vintage Rose (linen)	£38.99	£35.09			603201
Vintage Rose (aida)	£35.99	£32.39			603202
Strawberry Summer (linen)	£29.99	£26.99			603203
Strawberry Summer (aida)	£27.99	£25.19			603204

Postage and Packing

To UK: £2.99 To Europe, Russia, USA and Canada: £3.95 To ROW: £6.95	£

Grand total £

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3. **By post:** send this coupon to:
I Love Cross Stitch, Brunel House, Forde Close, Newton Abbot TQ12 4PU

To get your subscriber discount when ordering by phone or online, simply quote the code **SUBS10** – a 10% discount will automatically be applied to your order. Terms and conditions apply – **visit www.ilovecrossstitch.co.uk/terms-and-conditions**

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CrossStitcher GIVEAWAYS

This month we've got over £440 worth of exciting products for you!
Giveaways open 2 May – 29 May

Be Inspired

TICKETS TO THE CHILTERNS CRAFT & DESIGN SHOW

Find loads of stitching inspiration this summer at the Chilterns Craft & Design Show. At Stonor Park, in Henley-on-Thames, from 22-25 August, the show promises more than 200 exhibitors offering lots of crafty ideas and shopping. Plus, with a food area, live music, show garden and kids' entertainment, your whole family is sure to have a great day! Adult tickets cost £7.50 (£5.50 in advance). Senior tickets are £6.50 (£4.50 in advance). Children get in free with a parent – otherwise, it's £3. As a special advance offer, you can buy 10 adult or senior tickets and get one free. Order at www.ichfevents.co.uk or call 01425 277988. We have 15 pairs of adult tickets up for grabs in our giveaway.

KEYWORD: 279SHOW



Stitch a Landmark

MONNOW BRIDGE KITS FROM SYBILLA DAVIS DESIGNS

Did you know Monnow Bridge in Wales is Britain's last mediaeval fortified river bridge still with its gate tower? We think it's definitely worth a visit! Thanks to Sybilla Davis (www.sybilladavisdesigns.co.uk; 01726 63394), we can stitch it, too. Her Monnow Bridge kit, priced £15.99, captures the landmark beautifully. The design is stitched on 14 count Zweigart aida and the kit contains everything you need. We have seven kits up for grabs.

KEYWORD: 279BRIDGE



Summer Chic

ELEGANT LADIES KITS FROM CBK DESIGNS

We wish we could look as sophisticated as the lady in this design adapted from artwork by Yvette Jordan. She is part of the Elegant Ladies series from CBK Designs (cbkdesigns.co.uk; 01903 501462), who also sell Yvette Jordan's London Ladies series of women against Union Jack backgrounds. The Elegant Ladies kits contain aida, DMC threads, needle, instructions and chart, and are priced either £22 or £27. Four readers will each win one of the £27 kits in the series – the particular design will be a lucky dip.

KEYWORD: 279ELEGANT



ENTER ONLINE AT
www.crossstitchermagazine.co.uk

Giveaways are open to UK readers only and winners will be chosen at random. Please note postal entries won't be accepted for these giveaways. For full giveaway terms and conditions turn to page 85.

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THE Savvy Stitcher

Always wanted to try out a new technique or trend? Every month The Savvy Stitcher shows you just how it's done!

by Sarah Griffiths

WorldMags.net

Yes you can!

Perfect Pleats

Add an extra dimension to your sewing projects with this easy fabric-folding technique



ZIP PURSE

Diagonal pleats give a little zing to our cute pouch

WorldMags.net



CLUTCH BAG

Our asymmetric clutch is perfect for showing off a simple pleated panel



TOTE

Smocked pleats add a smart finish to a plain tote

Pleats are a way of folding fabric. You may be familiar with them on clothes, but they are a great way to add a three-dimensional effect to any piece of plain fabric.

If you've never worked with pleats before, try a few of our techniques to give your sewing projects extra flair.

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HOW TO... KNIFE PLEAT

This is the simplest type of pleat and really easy to perfect

Step 1



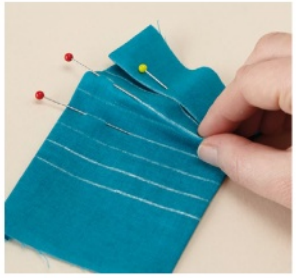
CUT a strip of fabric about three times longer than your desired finished size. Mark lines along it at even intervals. Practise on paper if you're unsure of pleat or fabric size.

Step 2



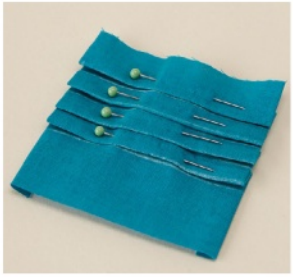
FOLD over the raw edges of your piece of fabric about 5mm to the reverse and press them down with an iron. This will give a hemmed finish to your pleats.

Step 3



PLACE a pin along the first and third marked line. Fold your fabric, bringing the two pins together. Pin in place and repeat, working your way down the fabric.

Step 4

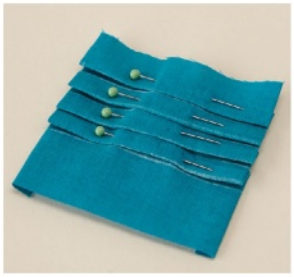


FINISH folding all the pleats, then press them in place for a crisp crease. Topstitch along the edges of your pleats, catching the folded edge of your fabric.

HOW TO... TWISTED PLEAT

Add a twist to your knife pleats to achieve these diagonals

Step 1



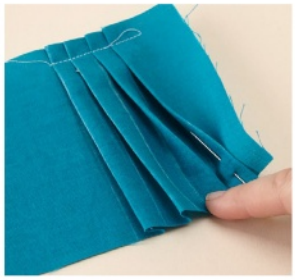
PREPARE a strip of fabric as though you are creating knife pleats, marking and folding the fabric as described above. Press the pleats in place.

Step 2



BASTE along the lower edge of your fabric to ensure one edge of the pleats is secured in position, then remove the pins from each pleat.

Step 3



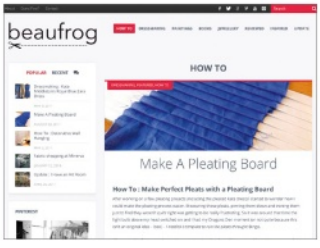
FINGER press each fold in the opposite direction and pin in place. This will create a diagonal fold and a slightly uneven upper edge.

Step 4



BASTE along the upper edge of your pleats, removing the pins as you come to them. Press the pleats in place wth an iron to finish.

IF YOU LIKED THIS, YOU'LL LOVE...



BEAUFROG

www.beaufrog.co.uk

Check out this website for heaps of sewing tips and tricks, including a great tutorial on making your own pleating board from simple materials.



V AND CO.

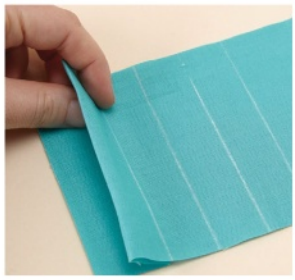
www.vanessachristenson.com

Don't feel like actually folding all those pleats? Look up Vanessa's faux pleated pillow pattern for an easy way to create the look just by using strips of fabric.

HOW TO... SMOCKED PLEAT

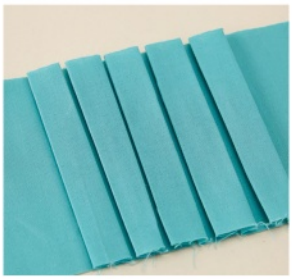
These three-dimensional pleats are an easy way to get a wow finish

Step 1



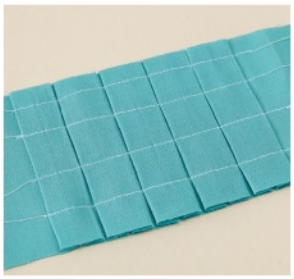
MARK your strip of fabric at even intervals. Fold along the second line, so that the first line meets the third one underneath your strip. Pin and press in place.

Step 2



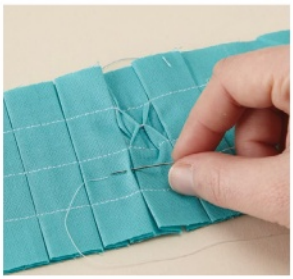
TURN your piece of fabric 180 degrees and repeat the folding technique from step one to create a pleat with two folds underneath it. Repeat until all your fabric is folded.

Step 3



SEW evenly spaced lines across your smocking. For perfect squares, space your lines the same distance apart as the measurement across the top of one pleat.

Step 4



BRING your needle up in the centre of one pleat. Make a small stitch in both edges of the pleat and draw them together with a few stitches. Repeat for all pleats.

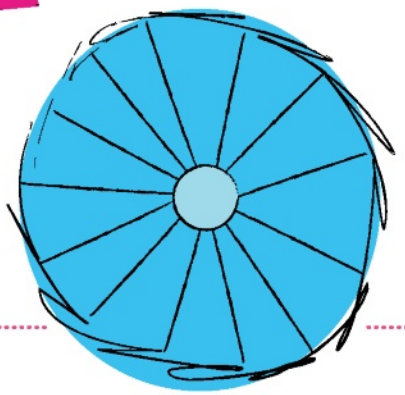
GREAT WAYS... TO USE PLEATS

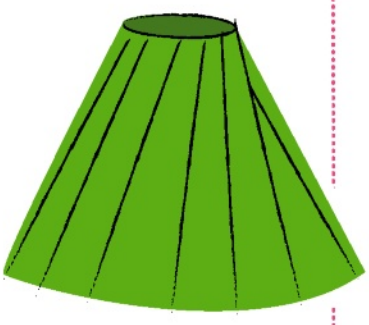
Here are some ideas for using your pleating skills to pep up your projects



Create a row of trim by smock pleating wide ribbon

Make decorative rosettes using knife pleats in a circle





Use diagonal pleats to make a stylish lampshade



BRETT BARA

www.brettbara.com

Brett Bara, founder of Brooklyn Craft Company, shows how to add pleats to your drapes and shares lots of other inspiring crafty projects for your home.

OUR PINTEREST BOARD

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Visit our Pinterest board to find a special board dedicated to The Savvy Stitcher. You can pin all these designs and find inspiration for more!

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Stitching basics

TOOLS OF THE TRADE

NEEDLES

For basic stitching you'll need a tapestry needle that has a blunt tip and large eye. Use a size 24 needle for most aidas, and a size 26 for evenweaves and linens. Use a sharp embroidery needle for finer details such as backstitch and French knots.

EMBROIDERY SCISSORS

Embroidery scissors are an absolute must-have for stitchers and can be picked up for just a few pounds. Keep yours sharp by only using them to cut threads – that way a decent pair should last you a lifetime.

STRANDED COTTON

Embroidery thread is also commonly referred to as stranded cotton. Each thread length is made up of six strands of cotton twisted together. The chart key will indicate how many strands you'll need to stitch your design with.

HOOPS AND FRAMES

Though not absolutely essential, we do recommend using an embroidery hoop or frame to keep an even stitching tension. Just make sure it's big enough to fit your entire design.

AIDA

Aida is an ideal choice for cross stitch beginners. 14 count is the most common, although it's available in a huge variety of colours and counts. Each cross stitch is worked over a single aida block, making counting and keeping your place a cinch.

EVENWEAVE

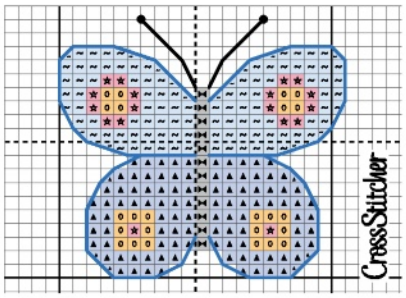
Evenweave is much simpler to work with than you might think. Start with a 25 or 28 count evenweave, such as Zweigart Lugana. Once you're confident, try your hand at a linen version.

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THE CHART

START stitching from the centre of the design and your fabric. The centre of our charts are indicated by dotted lines. To find the centre of your fabric, fold it in half and then into quarters.



Reading the chart

EACH square on the chart represents a single cross stitch. Fractionals are half filled squares or squares filled with two different colours.

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
☆	602	057	0611
0	741	314	0202
⋈	3799	236	1713
▲	3839	176	0906
~	3840	120	0907
Backstitch in one strand			
—	3799 butterfly antennae	236	1713
—	3838 all other details	940	0905
French knots in two strands			
●	3799 butterfly antennae	236	1713

THE KEY

ALL THE symbols that appear on the chart are listed in the key with their corresponding thread codes beside them. The key also tells you the different stitches used in the design.

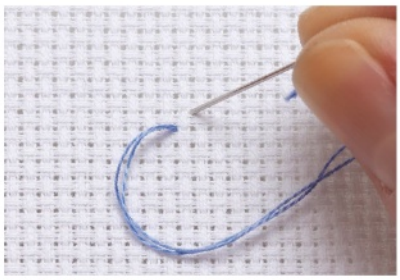


Colour match

IN THE key, the closest column of thread codes listed next to the chart symbols is the thread brand that's used in the design. Similar colour matches are listed alongside it.

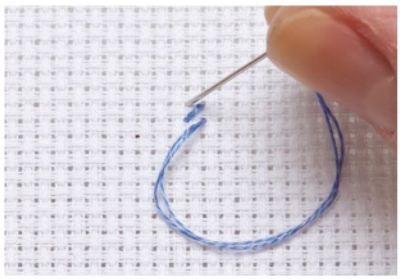
Start stitching… on aida

Step 1



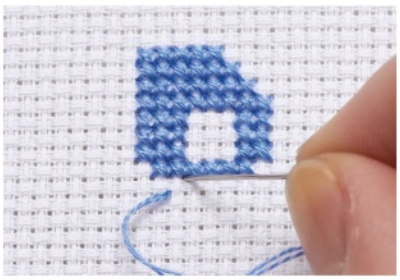
CUT a 40cm thread length, and thread your needle with two of the six strands. Knot one end and start with a waste knot (opposite). Make a diagonal half cross stitch across a single aida block.

Step 2



MAKE a second diagonal stitch to complete your first cross. Alternatively, you can work a row of half cross stitches first, then work back on yourself to complete the stitches.

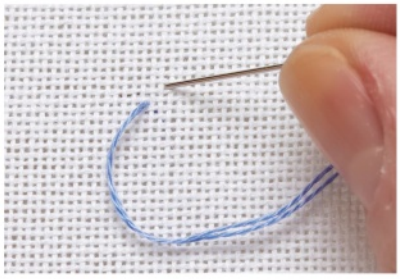
Step 3



THE direction of your diagonals is up to you, just be sure all your stitches cross in the same direction. Otherwise, your design will look uneven. Continue working from the centre outward.

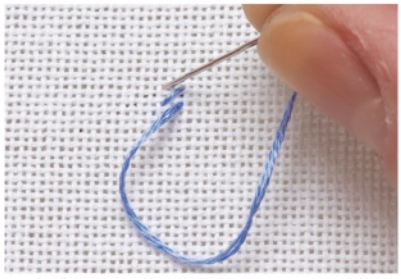
Start stitching… on evenweave

Step 1



INSTEAD of taking your needle diagonally across a single aida block, take your needle diagonally across two evenweave threads, creating a half cross stitch as before.

Step 2



MAKE a second diagonal stitch to complete your first cross stitch. Work each stitch individually or work a row of half cross stitches, then work back on yourself to complete the stitches.

Step 3



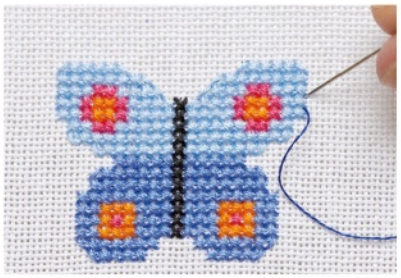
CONTINUE working from the centre of your design outward. If you find the extra counting a bit daunting at first, don't give up. We promise it'll become second nature in no time.

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BACKSTITCH

Use this easy stitch to give a neat outline and add details

Step 1



WORK your backstitch using a sharp needle, once you've finished the cross stitch. To secure your thread, weave it through the back of your stitches, then bring your needle up to the surface.

Step 2



WORK your backstitch over about 1-3 chart squares at a time, making sure to closely follow the chart. Any longer and your stitches could end up becoming loose and pulling out.

Step 3

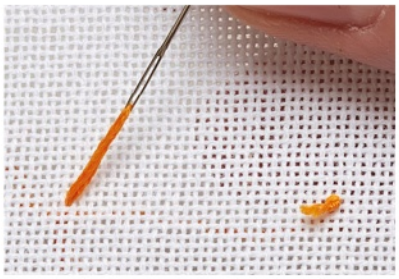


FOR each additional stitch, bring your needle up 1-3 chart squares away from your previous stitch. Then pass it back through the fabric at the same point as your previous stitch.

WASTE KNOT

A simple way to get started stitching

Step 1



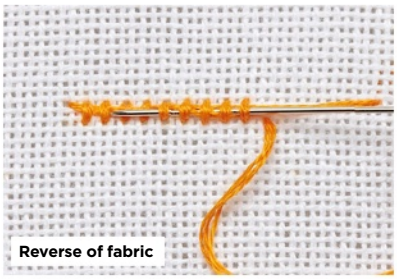
KNOT one end of your thread and take it down through the front of your fabric, about 2cm from your starting point. Then bring it back up to the front of your fabric to make your first stitch.

Step 2



BEGIN stitching your design, making sure you're stitching over your starting thread with each stitch. You can work whole stitches or work half stitches then come back on yourself.

Step 3



ONCE you're happy that your starting thread is secure, snip off the knot. To secure your thread when you've finished stitching, weave it through the back of your stitches as shown here.

LOOP KNOT

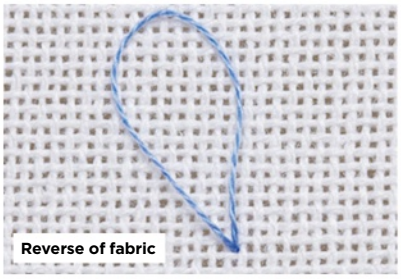
This easy start to your cross stitch is brilliantly neat

Step 1



IF YOU'RE working in two strands, a loop knot is the easiest and neatest method. Cut a single length of thread, twice as long as normal. Fold it in half to create a loop at one end.

Step 2



THREAD your needle with the two tail ends, just as you normally would. Bring your needle up to the front of your fabric, leaving a small loop of thread on the reverse.

Step 3



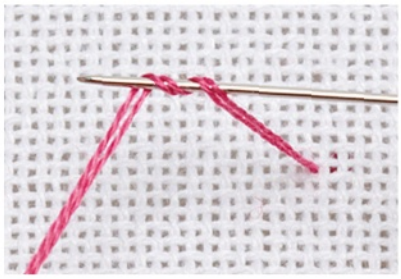
MAKE a half cross stitch, passing your needle through the loop on the reverse as shown here. Pull all the way to secure the thread. Now continue with your stitching as normal.

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FRENCH KNOTS

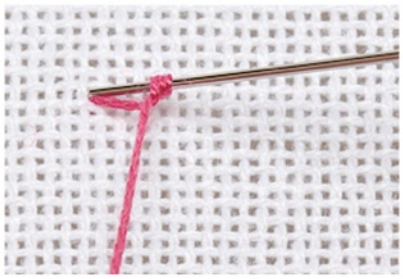
Go dotty with this simple way to add neat knots to your designs

Step 1



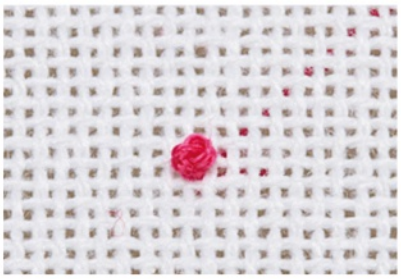
USE a sharp embroidery needle to help pierce the fabric. Bring your needle up at your starting point and wrap your thread once or twice around the needle. Use one strand for a small knot and two for a slightly chunkier knot.

Step 2



HOLD your thread end firmly and take your needle down, ever so slightly over from where you came up. Slide the twisted thread down the needle, so it rests on the fabric's surface, and gently feed the needle through the fabric.

Step 3

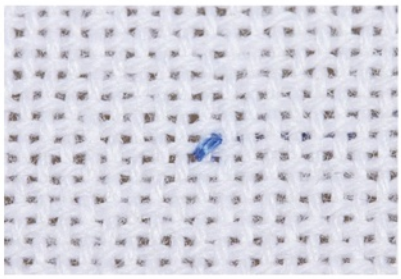


KEEP your thread as taut as possible to prevent the knot becoming loose. Gently pull your thread through to tighten the knot, so that it sits neatly on the surface. And remember, if you don't get it right away, keep practising!

FRACTIONALS

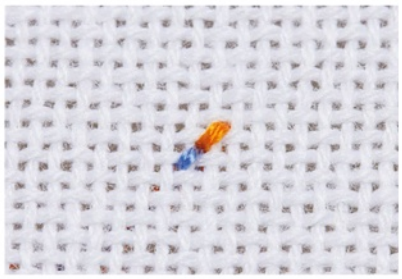
These little stitches are great for adding a bit more detail to your work

Step 1



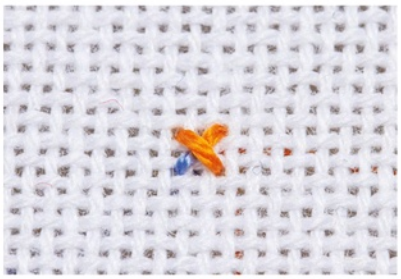
START with a quarter stitch, working from one corner into the centre. For evenweave, there is already a hole in the centre to stitch into. With aida, you'll need to pierce the centre of the block.

Step 2



MAKE your next quarter stitch in your second colour, coming up from the opposite corner and back down through the centre. You've now created a half cross stitch.

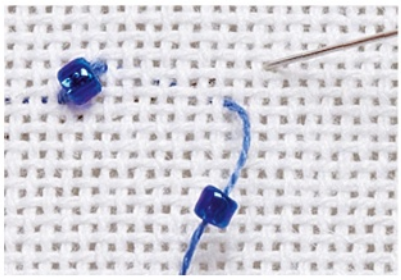
Step 3



FINISH your stitch by making a half cross stitch. Fractionals are shown in the chart either as two symbols opposite one another in a chart square, or by a symbol opposite an empty space.

BEADING

TO ATTACH beads, you'll need a thin, flexible beading needle. Thread with one strand of cotton. Bring your needle to the front of your design, thread on a bead and make a diagonal stitch to secure the bead. If you like, stitch through again for added security.



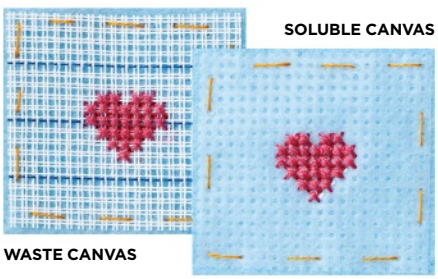
HALF CROSS STITCH

HALF cross stitches are exactly what they sound like – half of a cross stitch. Each diagonal stitch is worked across two evenweave threads or one aida block. They're most often used to create a subtle background in a design.



WASTE AND SOLUBLE CANVAS

WASTE and soluble canvases are used when stitching on plain fabrics and felts. Tack onto your fabric and stitch as normal. Soluble canvas dissolves in water. For waste canvas, soak in water then remove each thread individually.



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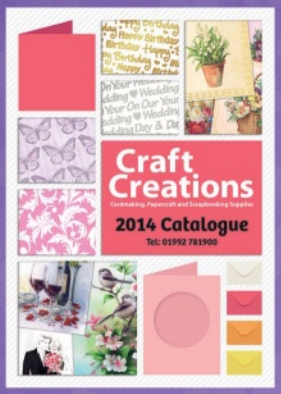
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Your projects

You can make our projects using any materials you like, but if you need help tracking down specific items here are a few hints. Contact details for the suppliers are above or on the opposite page.

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14 count waste canvas: Willow fabrics
Light blue felt: Wool Felt Company

FLY MY WAY
14 count plastic canvas: Willow fabrics
Copper chain and jump rings: Bijoux Beads
Brooch pins: Hobbycraft

SEW NEAT
28 count Zweigart Brittney white evenweave, ref 3270/100: Willow Fabrics
20cm wooden embroidery hoop: Sew and So

DADDY COOL
White card: Fred Aldous
Double-sided tape: Fred Aldous
3D foam pads: Fred Aldous

TAKE NOTE
28 count Zweigart Cashel cream linen, ref 3281/222: Willow Fabrics
Calico: Fabrics Plus
Cotton webbing tape: Seamstar
A6 Notebook: WHSmith
Cream backing fabric, Better Value Cotton: Seamstar
Zip: Hobbycraft

CARAVAN CLUB
28 count Zweigart Brittney white evenweave, ref 3270/100: Willow Fabrics
Blue backing fabric, Better Value Cotton: Seamstar
Cushion pad: Design-a-Cushions

RAINING CATS & DOGS
28 count Zweigart Cashel cream linen, ref 3281/222: Willow Fabrics
Wooden frame: eFrame
Mount board: Fred Aldous

HOME COMFORTS
28 count Zweigart Brittney white evenweave, ref 3270/100: Willow Fabrics
Wooden frame: eFrame
Mount board: Fred Aldous
White fabric, Better Value Cotton ref F/plain white: Seamstar
White card: Fred Aldous

WHALE OF A TIME
28 count Zweigart Cashel linen, pale blue, ref 3281/562: Willow Fabrics
Cream backing fabric, Better Value Cotton: Seamstar
Bias binding: Seamstar
Piping cord, size 2: Gone to Earth
Cushion pad: Design-a-Cushions

STRAWBERRY SUMMER
28 count Zweigart Cashel light rustic linen, ref 3281/52: Willow Fabrics
Natural fabric, Better Value Cotton, ref F/1513: Seamstar
Dowel: B&Q
Striped ribbon: Seamstar

VINTAGE ROSE
28 count Zweigart Cashel light rustic linen, ref 3281/52: Willow Fabrics
Cream backing fabric, Better Value Cotton: Seamstar
Wood-effect bag handles: Siesta Frames
Cotton wadding: Cotton Patch

GONE TO SEED
28 count Zweigart Cashel light rustic linen, ref 3281/52: Willow Fabrics
Baker's twine: The Makery
Brown card: Hobbycraft

WISH UPON A JAR
28 count Zweigart Brittney ivory evenweave, ref 3270/264: Willow Fabrics
Wooden frame: eFrame
Mount board: Fred Aldous

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These cute and quirky stitched wooden pendants from Alice Cook Designs are perfect for summer



Shopping guide

Contact details for all the suppliers quoted in this issue, plus a few of our favourite places for extra inspiration!

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www.facebook.com/alicecookdesigns

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FRED ALDOUS
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www.gonetoearth.co.uk

HINTONS
www.hintonshome.com

JO CLARK DESIGN
www.joclarkdesign.co.uk

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I am after the Make a Wish chart designed by Margaret Sherry from issue 215, June 2009. It's of a mouse blowing a dandelion clock. If you could send it to me, please get in touch.
Belinda Allen,
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I'm trying to get hold of a copy of the Guess How Much I Love You pattern that was in issue 250, March 2012. Please contact me if you can help.
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I am looking for a copy of the Christmas 2005 issue, which features the final four designs in Margaret Sherry's 12 Days of Christmas series. Please contact me if you can help.
Debbie Hatch,
coldebhatch@btinternet.com

I adore the Love is in the Air cushion from issue 249, February 2012, and would be grateful if someone could send me the chart. Many thanks.
Sophie Clough,
Email: sophieclough@hotmail.co.uk

I'm looking for the charts of the winter and spring window scenes by Lesley Teare from the January and April 2003 issues. Please get in touch if you can help.
Pat Friendship,
Email: pat@friendshiphome.co.uk

Up for grabs

I have the following available, for a donation to charity: Mystic Stitch – Bellagiio Promenade, a complete and unused kit; Country Threads – ABC Bear, a complete kit; and Mirabilia – Queen of Peace, pattern only. If you are interested, please contact me.
Margaret Ford,
Email: margaretford706@btinternet.com

For sale: two almost new cross stitch books – 2-hour Country Cross Stitch and 2-hour Cross Stitch Flowers. Selling for £6 each (plus £3 p&p), or both for £10. They contain lots of little designs, ideal for cards or motifs.
Elizabeth,
Email: elizabethyflower@gmail.com

Get in touch

I am a Dutch lady who loves cross stitching and making personalised stitched gifts. I'm looking for penpals who know English well, to share my hobby with. I also like books and learning about cultures and habits. I have a husband, son, daughter and two guinea pigs.
Monique Spierenburg, De Stoutheuvel 95, 5632 MP Eindhoven, Netherlands

Hello, I'm Mangalika. I enjoy cross stitching, gardening, and all types of crafty work. I am 55 years old, married and have two children. I would love to find friends of the crafty type to share ideas and patterns.
Mangalika Jayasundera, 118/44, New Airport Road, Ratmalana, Sri Lanka.
Email: mangalikaja@yahoo.com



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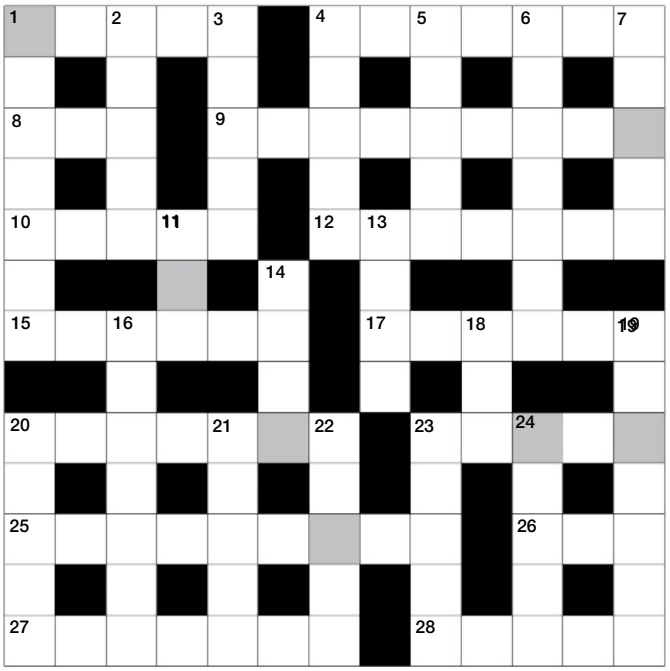
Prize crossword

Across

1 Cold dish (5)
4 Fractional stitch often used to soften outlines (7)
8 Possess (3)
9 Mobile phone message (9)
10 Artist's stand (5)
12 Disaster (7)
15 Serious (6)
17 Customer (6)
20 Nationalist (7)
23 Book of photographs (5)
25 Building designer (9)
26 Top card (3)
27 Craft scissors (7)
28 Measure of gold purity (5)

Down

1 Intermittent rainfall (7)
2 Breathing organs (5)
3 Satan (5)
4 Padded bed covering (5)
5 Sporting venue (5)
6 Circus swinging apparatus (7)
7 Baton race (5)
11 Female sheep (3)
13 Cross stitch variation resembling four small cross stitches (4)
14 Courageous man (4)
16 The Pope's residence (7)
18 Unwell (3)
19 Storm (7)
20 Minor car crash (5)
21 Graham Norton's nationality (5)
22 Belonging to them (5)
23 Loft (5)
24 Former PM, Tony --- (5)



Winning word clue: **You might see these furry recyclers at the tennis? (7)**

HOW TO ENTER

Win!

COMPLETE the crossword and rearrange the letters in the shaded boxes to make up a winning word. Then go to www.futurecomps.co.uk/pcw279 to enter online. Postal entries will not be accepted. Competition open

2 May - 29 May 2014

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SUDOKU

USING logic and a process of elimination, fill the blank boxes with numbers so that each row, column and 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9 only once.

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

Issue 277's winning word RABBIT

Winners: Christie Brumhead, East Yorkshire; Leah Colquitt, Merseyside; Mary Volkering, Essex; Claire Davis, East Sussex; Vicky Phillips, Preston

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