

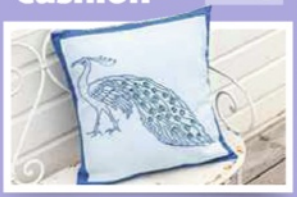
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Make a trendy peacock cushion P.18



Easy whole stitches





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MOTHER'S DAY CARDS P.26



COUNTRY COMPANIONS

Hello Ed Hedgehog!

Anchor

❀ Home ideas ❀ Gifts for mums ❀ Teach the kids ❀ Floral chic ❀









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Sophia in Miniature
by John Clayton



Charlotte in Miniature
by John Clayton



Fleur in Miniature
by John Clayton



Claire in Miniature
by John Clayton



Scarlett in Miniature
by John Clayton



Sally in Miniature
by John Clayton



Hannah in Miniature
by John Clayton



Rebecca in Miniature
by John Clayton



Josephine *by John Clayton*



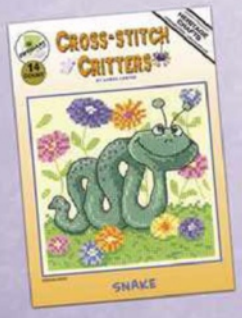
Sarah *by John Clayton*



Isabella *by John Clayton*



Gabriella *by John Clayton*





Cow *by Karen Carter*



Elephant *by Karen Carter*



Giraffes *by Karen Carter*



Lion *by Karen Carter*

You can see our full range of cross stitch designs at **www.hcrafts.com**

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Welcome

Looking out for **fresh new ideas**… keeping up with the latest looks for our projects… staying on top of the interiors trends for finishing our stitches, and photo shoots to show them off… With us, your hobby will never be left behind with last year's looks!

We've more **wonderful new projects** and features to inspire you this month. Country Companions are classics in stitches, but this brand new design of **Ed Hedgehog** on page 10 surely feels as fresh as a daisy and will fit right in, in any home. Likewise for the chic, and I'm excited to say, **quick-to-stitch peacock** cushion (p18).

Designer Poppy Benner's sharing her take on the **fun trend** for word-art with her quirky sayings (p84), so I'm looking forward to raising a few smiles with those. With our **new finishing ideas** too, like Rhona Norrie's tempting mug rugs on page 63, we're all spoilt for choice with fresh inspiration.



Where will you start?

Ruth

Editor
The World of Cross Stitching

PS Don't miss our round-up of online news (p43), out-and-about **inspiration** (p37) plus shopping ideas (p24) – our fingers are on the pulse in every part of the mag!

Meet some of our designers...



DIANE MACHIN
Classy flowers never go out of style and designer Diane's fab four-seasons project this month is in the style of a stained-glass window. See page 38.



POPPY BENNER
A regular on our 'Ask the Experts' panel, (p31), Poppy's created the fun designs on page 84 for us. We challenge you not to have a giggle while you stitch!



JOAN ELLIOTT
Renowned for her intricately-detailed designs, and especially her much-loved fairies, Joan's certainly not disappointing us with a stunner on page 72.









MUCH MORE THAN A MAGAZINE...

APPS TO GO!

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



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

YOUR FREE GIFTS!

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Somebunny to Love kit with picture mount, plus cute dog bookmark chart



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



63 STITCH UP THESE GREAT MUG RUGS

Subscribe and save money

Turn to page 44



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Win!

See page 83 to enter & be lucky

OVER £1,079 OF PRIZES WILL BE WON!



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Be on the panel!

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

Meet our guests

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



Anna Lempkowska

is an environmental engineer from Poland

When did you start stitching?
I started to stitch about two years ago. I found a blog about cross stitching and tried it. I liked it so much that now I can't stop.

Who's your favourite cross stitch designer and why?
At the moment I don't have a favourite designer, but in issue 193 my favourite was 'London Calling' designed by Maria Diaz. I made one and it's wonderful.

Who do you like to stitch for?
I love to stitch for my friends and family, especially for my husband.

Fave design in a recent issue?



My favourite design was 'It's puppy love!' from issue 206. I'm going to make one, the dog is so cute!

"I love to create something new and see the process of making it"



Jacqueline Morris

is a carer from Sussex

What was your first cross stitch project?
I stitched something for my mum... She loves herbs and spices, she's always cooking with them so I found a design and made it for her. It's a Janlynn kit called 'Herbs and Spices'.

Three words that describe you?
Happy, Friendly, Sensitive

What is your idea of cross stitch heaven?
I guess owning my own stitch shop! Then I could eat, sleep and breathe everything to do with cross stitching.

What has been your favourite design from a recent issue?
I've never stitched anything to do with Christmas before, so was thrilled with the Christmas characters in issue 210.



"Every design I have done so far I have given away as a gift"



Alexandra Pintican

is a nanny from London

What are you working on?
I am working on a lovely seaside scene for my mum. She loves the seaside and we used to go every summer when I was a child.

What is your idea of cross stitch heaven?
An evening off work with my stitching, a DVD box set in the background, a glass of wine... and time to spare on finishing my project.

Fave design in a recent issue?
I loved the Gorjuss design from issue 206, I hope you feature more.

Why do you love cross stitching?
It's such a relaxing way of spending an afternoon and it gives you a great sense of accomplishment when you finish a project.



"Stitching is like riding a bike, once learnt it's a skill for life"

We need you!

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



Gift worth £30!

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

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Inspirational **features**, **displays**, **workshops** and **demonstrations** for all creative crafters

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Two FREE gifts!

Enjoy your sweet Somebunny to Love kit to make this cute picture, plus a lovely puppy bookmark chart

GIFT 1



Inside your kit...

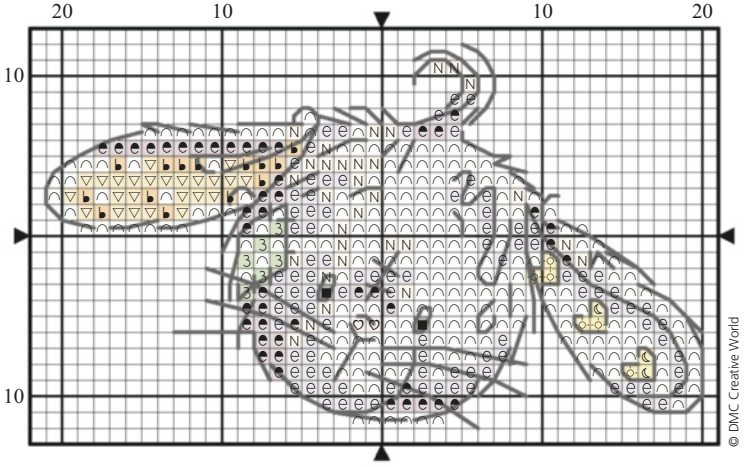
To help you sort your threads, here is a list of the colours and number of lengths inside your free kit:

White x 4	Mauve x 1
Grey x 3	Pink x 1
Green x 1	Light mauve x 2
Yellow x 1	Apricot x 1
Light yellow x 1	Light apricot x 1
Peach x 2	**Total:** 18 lengths

Factbox

Stitch in an evening

- **Stitching Time**
  Approx. 3-4 hours
- **Type of Stitches**
  Cross stitch, backstitch
- **Ease of Stitching**
  Beginner



© DMC Creative World



© Designed by Michael Abrams

www.dmccreative.co.uk

Somebunny to Love key

Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	
∩	blanc	white
■	535	grey
3	563	green
-o-	726	yellow
☾	727	light yellow
N	948	peach
e	3042	mauve
♡	3713	pink
e	3743	light mauve
b	3854	apricot
▽	3855	light apricot

Backstitch in one strand

—	535	grey

STITCH COUNT 24 high x 41 wide
DESIGN AREA 14HPI (28-count evenweave) – 4.5x7.5cm (1¾x3in)

This design was stitched using DMC stranded cotton

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There's more!

Enjoyed stitching this Somebunny to Love kit? Then check out these other cross stitch kits from DMC*



'April Showers' (BL187/51), £14.99

www.dmccreative.co.uk



'Eskimo Kiss' (BL024/51), £14.99



'Story Time' (BL185/51), £14.99



'Spring Bouquet' (BL586/51), £14.99

Where to buy

*For stockists see page 90

How to... use your picture mount



1 Cute Somebunny's face is pre-cut in your mount (included in your kit, on the back of the kit packaging) to make the aperture for your stitching. Gently pop out the piece to make the aperture, taking care not to damage the mount – use sharp paper scissors if you need to for a really neat finish.

2 Pop your finished Somebunny to Love stitching in your mount. Take care to space the edges of the stitching evenly within the curved shapes of the aperture for a seamless result. Secure your stitched piece in position on the back, with tape, and finish in a frame of your choice, all set to display in pride of place!

Free! Cutest bookmark

GIFT 2

Stitch this bookmark chart – it'll make a great gift for animal lovers and readers alike!



TOP TIP

Adapt this design to your favourite colour balloon, bird or even customise the dog's fur and collar colours to suit who you're making it for

Alexandra READER PANEL



"I'm always looking for bookmark charts as they are easy to stitch and make great gifts for any occasion. All my friends, myself included, are bookworms so there is always someone I can stitch these for."

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SWEET, SIMPLE DESIGN



Bring this adorable hedgehog into your home, he's sure to brighten up any room with his cute smile!

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DESIGN BY **ANCHOR**

Just for you

Bring the joys of spring home with this cheerful Country Companion design

Ed Hedgehog – the delightful country friend with his rosy cheeks and shy smile – looks sweeter than ever with his daisy held tightly and happy bees buzzing close by in this exclusive design for *The World of Cross Stitching* readers. You can almost feel the sunshine on your face and smell the aroma of fresh flowers, making this the perfect project to work on while blossoms start showing their faces outside.

As the pattern contains only a few fractionals and some backstitch to add texture to this adorable hedgehog, Ed, it's perfect whatever your stitching level, and would make a lovely gift for a friend. Though we think this little guy is so cute you might find it hard to part with him once finished!

So get started on this design, it's sure to put a smile on your face and brighten up your day as you stitch. And, once finished, it'll bring a touch of spring warmth into your home, wherever you display him.

Only a few fractionals

Factbox

- **Stitching Time**
  Approx. 35 hours
- **Type of Stitches**
  Cross stitch, backstitch, fractionals
- **Ease of Stitching**
  Advanced beginner



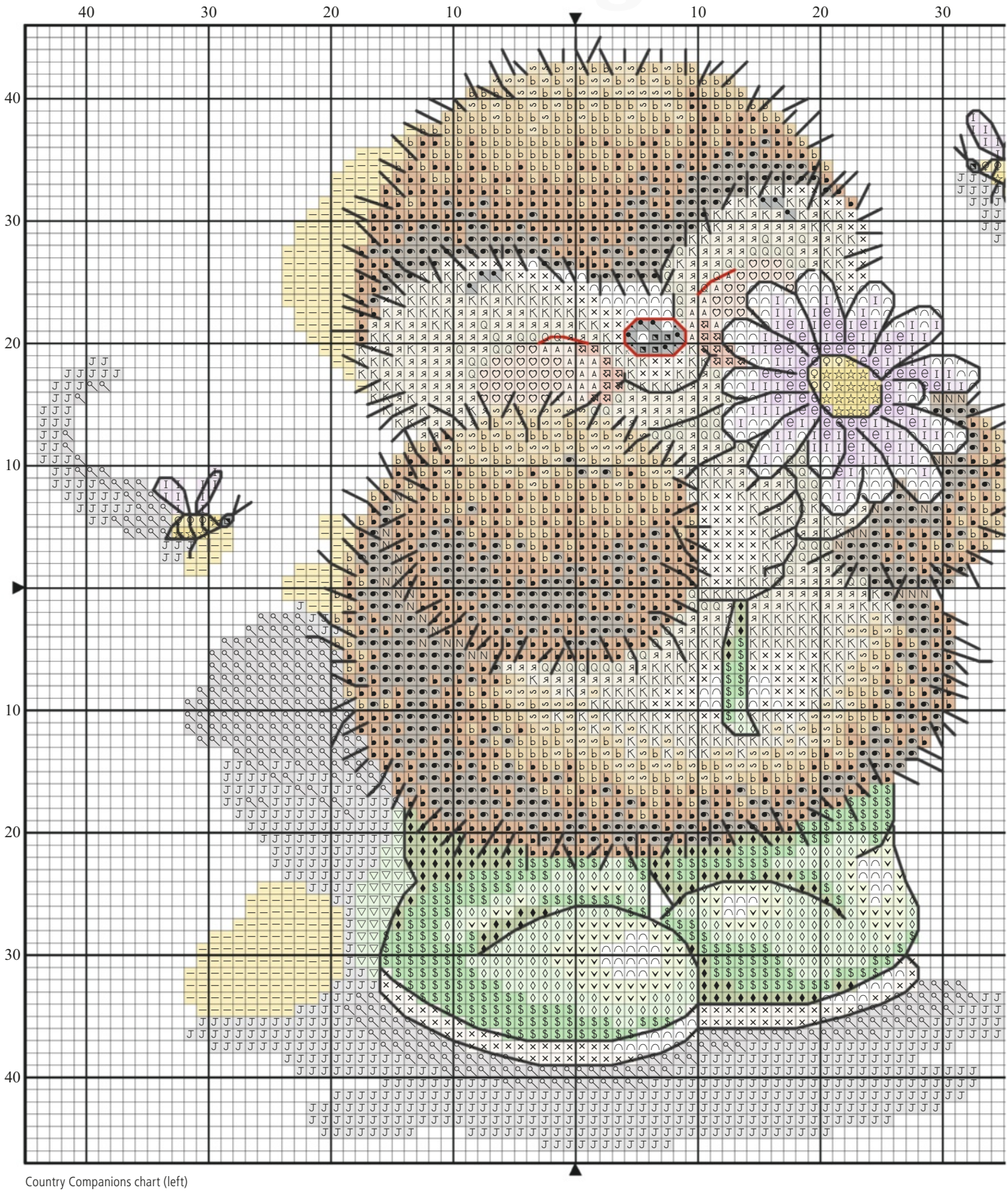
Meet the Character

Country Companions

Ed Hedgehog and his loveable Country Companion friends are much-adored for raising cheer. With their sweet nature and oh-so-cute designs, they are the perfect projects to stitch throughout the year.

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Country Companions chart (left)



Anna READER PANEL

"I love this design, so I will definitely be stitching it. This hedgehog, with his sweet welly boots and flower will be perfect for this spring. I think once finished and framed it'll look good hanging in my bedroom."

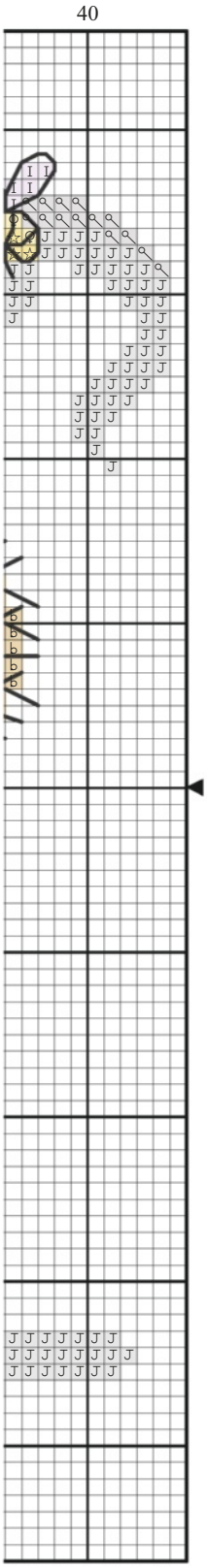
How to...

frame your work

You can save a lot of money on professional framing by learning how to lace and frame projects yourself. Visit www.cross-stitching.com and click on the 'How To' tab, then the making-up category for our step-by-step guide.

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Country Companions chart (right)

Country Companions key

Cross stitch in two strands

	Anchor	
∩	1	white
♡	6	light pink
A	8	pink
✠	9	dark pink
℮	109	lilac
◊	241	light green
$	243	green
♦	244	dark green
☆	291	dark yellow
♀	295	yellow
I	342	light lilac
♭	355	brown
◕	357	dark brown
N	359	very dark brown
ᔕ	367	light tan
b	369	tan
K	390	beige
я	391	stone grey
↖	401	dark grey
◣	403	black
Q	899	dark stone grey
×	926	cream
v	1043	very light green

Cross stitch in one strand

▽	241	light green
–	295	yellow
J	398	light grey
↖	399	grey

Backstitch in one strand

——	401	dark grey
——	403	black

STITCH COUNT 91 high x 89 wide

DESIGN AREA 16 HPI (32-count evenweave) – 14.5x14cm (5¾x5½in)

This design was stitched using Anchor stranded cotton

Shopping list

- 16-count cream aida measuring 25x25cm (10x10in)
- Anchor* stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Size 26 tapestry needle
- Frame of your choice with a minimum aperture of 18x18cm (7x7in)

Thread & fabric cost
Approximately £30

*For stockists see page 90

There's more

Love this design? Then get these other fabulous Country Companions kits from Anchor*



'Big Bouquet' (CTM0102), £11.55



'One O' Clock, Two O' Clock bookmark' (CTM2000), £10.95





'Watering Time' (CTM0107), £11.55

'My Heart' (CTM0108), £11.55

Where to buy

*For stockists see page 90

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TOP TIP

You can personalise this picture by changing the colour of Ed's wellies or the flower to your favourite colours



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Your letters

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



Star Letter

FROM THE HEART

When I saw this lovely Birthday Bunny in your 200th issue I knew I had to stitch it! Instead of presenting it on the card, I sewed a heart for my friend as a birthday gift. She loved this little creature so much! I hope you like my idea of the Birthday Bunny heart.

Asia Zimnowoda, Aberystwyth

Ruth: *This is such a great idea Asia, and makes a fab gift for your pal. We absolutely love it and might try making it here in the office, too!*



From the heart
Asia turned a cover card kit into a unique and oh-so-sweet gift for her friend

Dino birthday

Just had to say thank you for your great magazine. I was sorting through my pile of magazines and found a great card for my dad's 80th birthday. It was in issue 181, the friendly dinosaurs. I really enjoyed doing it. Every time I looked at the face of this chap it made me smile. Livvi thought it was cool and she thinks her great grandad will really like it. I hope so, too. At least I am too old to be sent to my room for being cheeky (I hope).

Lynne Sheppard, via email

Fiona: *We loved that set of dinosaur designs, too, Lynne, created for us by Durene Jones back in issue 181 of* The World of Cross Stitching. *This little character certainly has a face that makes you smile. Although she designed them with children in mind, I think they make great cards for 'kids' of any age, especially those who are young at heart!*

It's wonderful to hear that you're still finding inspiration and ideas in your back issues, as we aim to provide ideas that are timeless for all types of occasions.



Dino birthday
Livvi loves this cute dinosaur card for her great grandad

Win!

The writer of our Star letter wins both of these fab Paddington Bear kits – 'Baking' (£19.99) & 'Number Sampler' (£31.99) from Bothy Threads!



Prize worth £52!

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

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Top teacher

Following on from Cathy Lewis' article 'Stitching in schools' in your issue 210, I wanted to share my experience with you. As a primary school teacher who loves cross stitch, it seemed an obvious choice when I was picking an after school club to run. The children – aged seven to 11 – loved it and really rose to the challenge, first learning the basics, then following charts for simple designs. They were so proud of what they had created and were always really keen to move on to their next project.

What made it really worthwhile was when I was leaving the school, two of the children presented me with cards that they had designed and stitched themselves. This showed that the children had really caught the cross stitch bug and I'm glad it's a skill that they will take with them through their lives.

Louise Edwards, via email

Ruth: *We love to get letters like this Louise, especially when you hear that the next generation is learning about our hobby and, by the looks of their cards, doing very well. It's so nice that they wanted to show their appreciation to you, and with such lovely stitched cards.*



Top teacher
Louise's students stitched she'll really treasure

PURRFECT PICTURES

Here are some pictures of my cross stitch cats. The charts come from a book called *Cats of the World* by Jayne Netley Mayhew and Nicki Wheeler. They took me over a year to complete the set. Each picture has a flower of each season on them, and I am very pleased with the end result.

Janet Varty, Durham

Fiona: *These cat designs are great Janet. And those floral touches, will mean they'll make a wonderful set to hang in the home, either year-round all together or in rotation with the seasons.*



Purrfect pictures
Cat-lover Janet created this fab kitty set – so lifelike!



Pinned it
Nina cleverly adapted our tuffet for a non-festive look!

Pinned it

Here is a picture of my adaptation of the tuffet from issue 183, which I'm using as a pincushion. I love it and think it looks amazing. I also really enjoyed stitching it and finishing it off. I am thinking of giving it to my mum, as she loves to stitch as well.

Nina Powell, via email

Sue: *What a fab pincushion Nina. The original design was for a festive tree decoration, in reds, greens and gold, but we love how you have adapted the design, using coloured aida, to make a handy pincushion. We think you should keep this one for yourself and stitch another one for your mum so you can both enjoy the idea! Or maybe get your mum all the threads and fabric she needs, plus of course the pattern, as we're sure she'll love stitching this for herself!*

Perfect Present



Recipe for success
Deborah's daughter shows off her sampler, complete with French knot success!

RECIPE FOR SUCCESS

My 14-year-old daughter loved the 'Recipe for Love' sampler in issue 188 and desperately wanted to make it for her grandmother, who had just got a new kitchen. I originally did the French knots, as I struggled to teach my left-handed daughter how to do them. However, being the independent young lady she is, she went online and watched Ruth's tutorial, and ripped my French knots and did them herself! Grandma was thrilled with the gift and I am so proud of my daughter for finishing it.

Deborah Found-Bloodworth, Middlesex

Rachel: *Well done to your daughter Deborah. She did a great job!*

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

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Elegant lady
Angela turned the 'Hannah' chart into a gorgeous card for a friend

Elegant lady

As a subscriber of your magazine for some years, I always look forward to it dropping on the mat each month. I was absolutely delighted with the free chart of 'Hannah' in issue 206 and knew it was just the thing for a great friend's birthday card. I really enjoyed stitching the design and thought you would like to see how I mounted it onto a card.

I love John Clayton designs and look forward, hopefully, to some more of his miniatures. Issue 206 seemed an extra special one for me with the Gorjuss, beach huts and shoes designs. Keep it up!
Angela Burt, Lincs

Ruth: *John Clayton's designs are always popular Angela, and this one seems to have really hit a chord with stitchers. His designs are lovely and, as the range is called, 'elegant'.*

This card you made for your friend is so beautiful, with the colour of the card mount really complementing the design. You friend is surely lucky to receive this card that will stand out from the rest on her mantlepiece!

Why not visit Heritage Crafts website, to find more miniature designs in the range, plus bigger patterns in the Elegance collection?*

Pirate's treasure

Having just completed my very first cross stitch in May this year I spotted the pirate ship cushion in your magazine, issue 203. I loved it and thought it would be such a fun keepsake to give to my two-year-old grandson. I have to admit that it was slightly challenging and took me rather longer than the suggested approximate time of 60 hours, but I was so pleased with the result. Thank you, I'm now hooked and think my next project will be the 'Stitcher's Haven' sewing room design, from back in your issue 204.
Kate Johnston, Dumfries



Pirate's treasure
Kate's done a great job on this gift for her grandson

Fiona: *We are so happy you have found cross stitching and are enjoying it Kate. It's such a fantastic hobby, and we think it's right to pick a stitching-themed design to treat yourself!*



Magical stitches
Maria shows off her two framed projects

MAGICAL STITCHES

These are my completed 'Wizard' and 'Sorceress' projects from Heritage Crafts. I loved stitching both designs although some parts were a challenge. My daughter chose the frames, which really complement the fabric. I love your magazine as it never stops inspiring me to cross stitch.
Maria Aurora Brown, Derbyshire

Rachel: *These are really gorgeous Maria – it's a shame these kits have now been discontinued.*

Finished!

After discovering a love for cross stitching when I was young, I never really found the time to complete a project. Now, just 16 years later, I finally have.

Here's my first completed project just in time for my daughter's 16th birthday. Fortunately, now I have found the time, my other daughters won't have to wait so long before they get theirs!
Kelly Wood, Yorkshire

Sue: *No matter how long it takes to finish a project Kelly, the end result is always worth it, and sure to be appreciated by the lucky recipient.*



Finished!
It might've taken Kelly a while to finish, but the end result is great

Subs Stars

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

This month's winners are:
- Mrs C Merrick, Ellesmere Port
- Miss Barbara Tolley, Walsall
- Miss Jenna Wanstall, Kent

To subscribe turn to page 44



Prizes every month!

This issue's Subs Stars will each receive one of these gorgeous vintage-style storage boxes. To be in with a chance of winning next month, all you have to do is subscribe!

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

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Tasty gifts



Tasty gifts
Winni's present she stitched for her daughter

Here's a picture of the mobile phone case and card that I made for my daughter's birthday. Because cupcakes are very hot this year, I made this chart from issue 199 as a present for her. I like making cross stitch presents into something special. Thanks so much for all the inspiration.

Winni de Vries, Sweden

Rachel: *Your daughter will love these Winni. And it's fab how you adapted the cupcake design with your own colours.*



Ahoy, me hearties!
Clare's grandson Zach is chuffed with the cushion she made

AHOY, ME HEARTIES!

Having originally made the 'Knights' Castle' cushion from issue 187 for my eldest grandson, Charlie, I was searching for a design suitable for his younger brother, Zach, who is almost three years old. So I was delighted when I saw this pirate design in issue 203. Now Zach loves his pirate cushion so much that he's now having his bedroom redecorated with pirate everything!

Clare Evans, Blackpool

Sue: *Your cushion is fantastic Clare, we can understand why Zach loves it so much. And, this is a superb gift to make for your grandchildren, something special from granny!*

A note... from Margaret

Paging through the year



I'm sitting at my desk feeling a beautifully brand new diary. There is nothing quite like a pristine year diary. One of my little pleasures is filling it in for the year, even though it may have started a few weeks ago (better late than never!). I find writing on that first clean page so tempting where as later in the year, dates such as April 9th

> *"One of my little pleasures is filling in a diary for the year"*

or November 23rd, mean little.

Have you ever opened a diary randomly at any date, wondering just what may happen on that particular day? Each one has a unique personality yet to be revealed, clear only when it has been lived. What a pleasure to write family birthdays, meetings and commitments, but more of a joy for me is to press on the brightly coloured little dots to mark those special days. (Am I becoming obsessive?)

I have to admit to being one of those irritating persons who make a copious New Year's resolution lists and almost never keep any of them. This year my good intentions include replying promptly to letters, going to bed before 1am, weeding the flower beds weekly, cleaning the car, worming the dog, completing a crossword before beginning another one and definitely never missing a birthday or deadline! There will be no excuse for that being so well organised with my superb new diary. Or at least I am hoping not!

MORE:
Find Margaret Sherry charts online at www.margaretsherrykits.co.uk or find her Margaret Sherry Kits page on Facebook

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DESIGN BY **ZWEIGART**

Proud as a peacock

Create this noble feathered friend using just basic stitching skills and two thread colours

Spread your stitching wings by taking on this stunning minimalist project. A peacock is much-loved for its vibrant tail plumage when spread in a wide fan. Here, the design has been bravely pared down to use just two jewel-coloured cottons and feature a tail that trails the bird, for an oh-so-trendy designer look.

Being minimalist with the colour palette and detail still creates a very striking image. This splendid peacock stands proud against a simple light blue evenweave background and is made into a cushion with a border that echoes the turquoise shades.

Despite the apparent simplicity of the design, there is still movement and flow in the scene as the feathers cascade down to the ground, the green 'eyes' rippling through the plumage to great effect.

Simple whole cross stitches and backstitch are all that you need to complete this majestic bird, so get stitching and impress all by making it a vibrant centrepiece on your sofa.

Factbox

Stunning in two shades

- **Stitching Time**
  Approx. 30 hours
- **Type of Stitches**
  Cross stitch, backstitch
- **Ease of Stitching**
  Beginner



READER OFFER

Save money with us! Get the same Zweigart 28-count Brittney Lugana evenweave fabric in light blue (503) that we used in this project to make this stunning cushion from Willow Fabrics*. Readers of the magazine can get an exclusive 10% discount off their purchase of the fabric by using code WOXS2014 on the website, www.willowfabrics.com.



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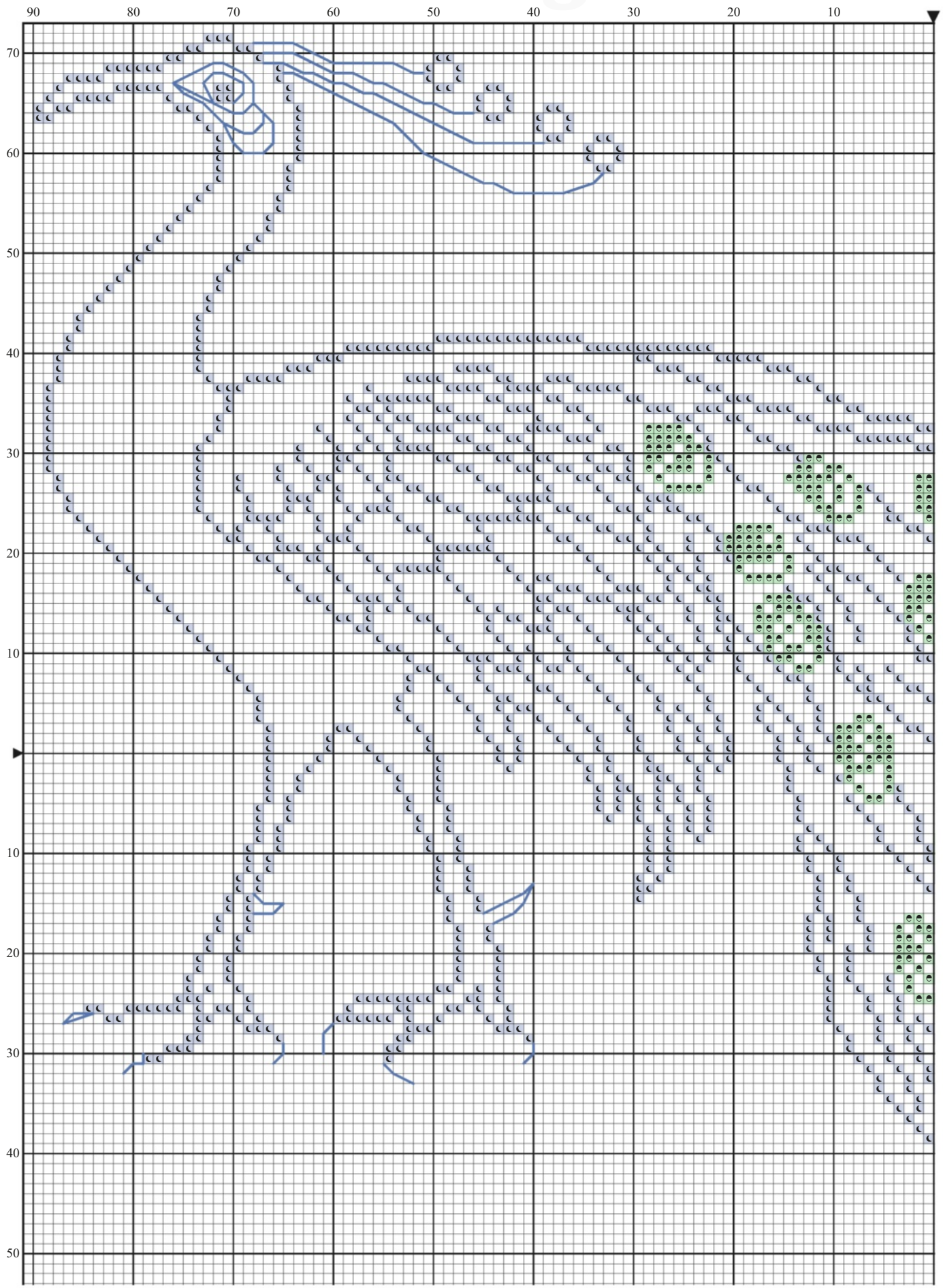


STUNNING YET SIMPLE DESIGN

Choose to stitch this simple but dramatic project for maximum impact, from minimum effort!

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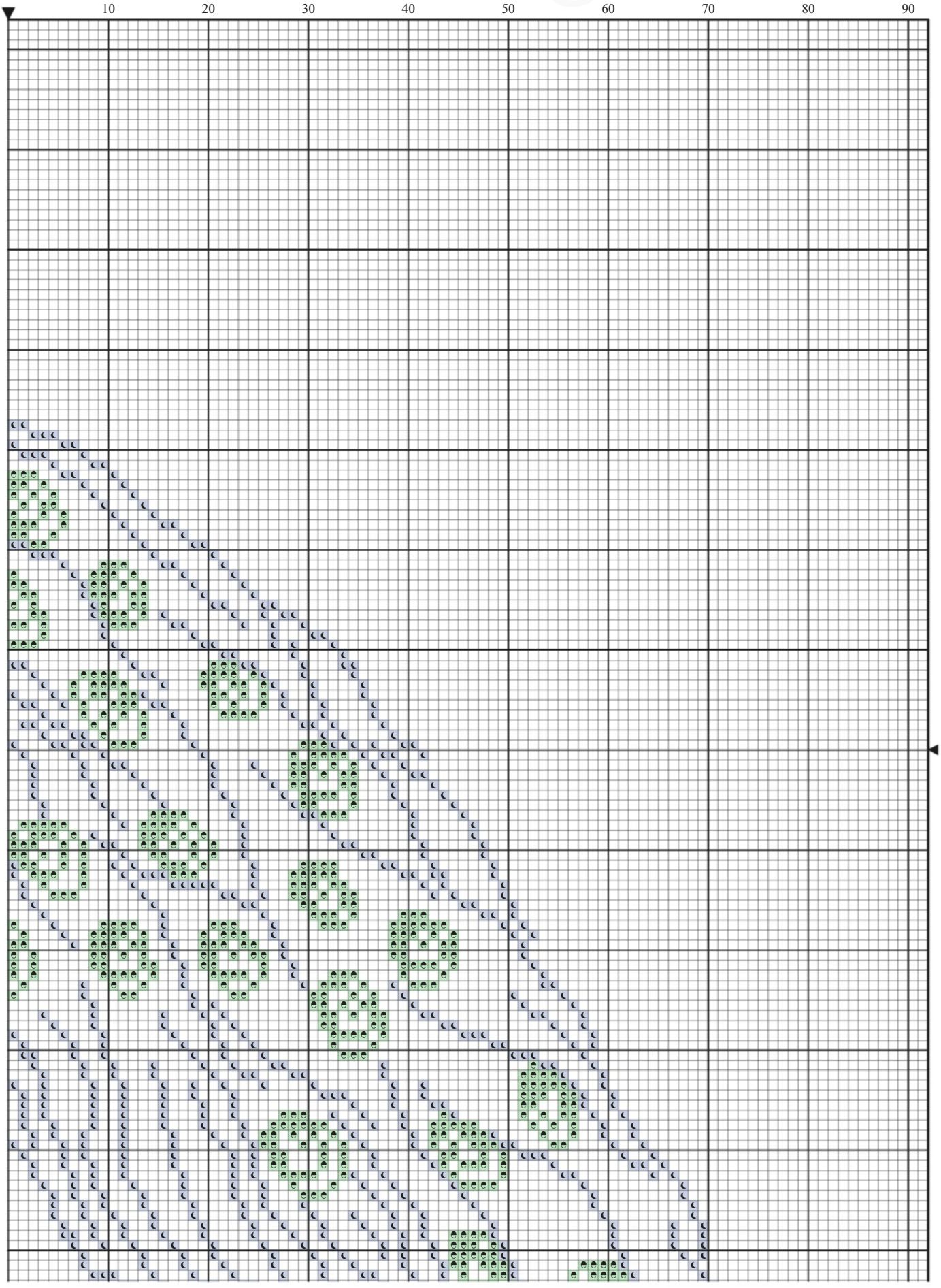
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Proud Peacock chart (top left)

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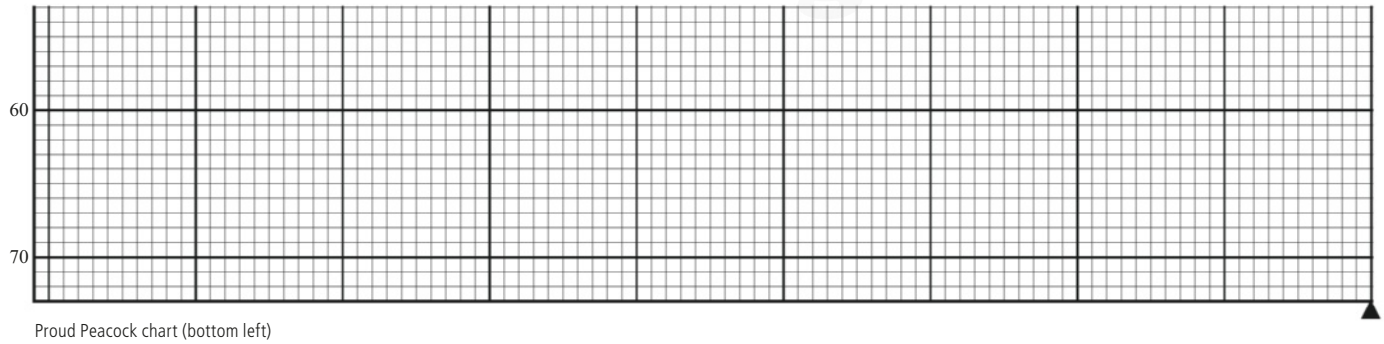
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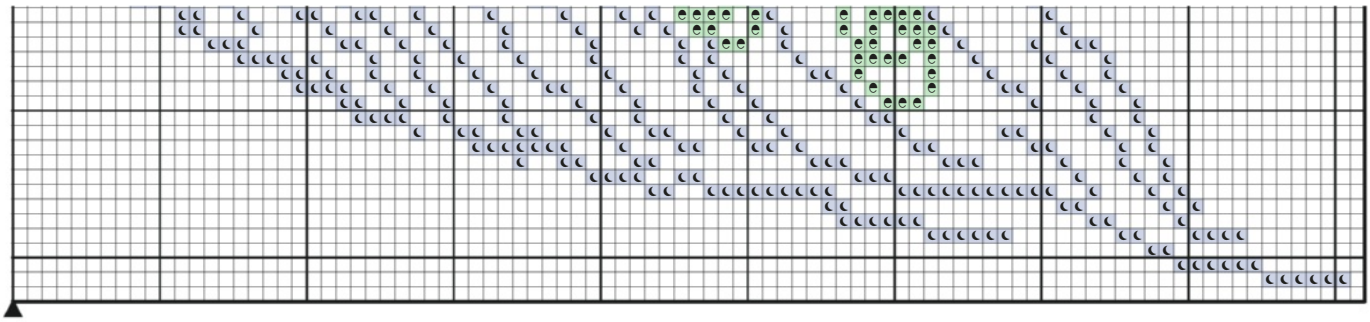
Proud Peacock chart (top right)

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Proud Peacock chart (bottom left)



Proud Peacock chart (bottom right)

How to... make a cushion



1 Trim your finished stitched piece to 39x39cm (15½x15½in).

2 Cut two panels of backing fabric measuring 39x6cm (15½x2½in) and pin to the sides of the stitching, right sides together. Stitch, by hand or machine, with a 2cm (¾in) seam allowance and press open the seams.

3 Now cut two more panels to 43x6cm (17x 2½in) and pin at the top and bottom of the stitching, as before with right sides together. Stitch then press open the seams.

4 Cut two back panels measuring 27x43cm (10½x17in). Press and sew a 2cm (¾in) hem along one long edge of each piece. With right sides facing, place these panels over the front, so the hemmed edges of the panels overlap in the middle, to create an envelope opening.

5 Pin and sew all around the edges. Turn through and press, then insert a cushion pad to finish.



Jacqueline READER PANEL

"This elegant peacock looks amazing... I love the simplicity of this, it is actually very beautiful and would be a lovely addition to my home. It would take pride of place on my sewing chair for all to see."

Proud Peacock key

Cross stitch in two strands

	Anchor	DMC	Madeira	
☾	162	517	1106	blue
◓	189	3812	2706	green

Backstitch in one strand

	Anchor	DMC	Madeira	
—	162	517	1106	blue

STITCH COUNT 144 high x 181 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 26x33.5cm (10¼x13in)

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

Shopping list

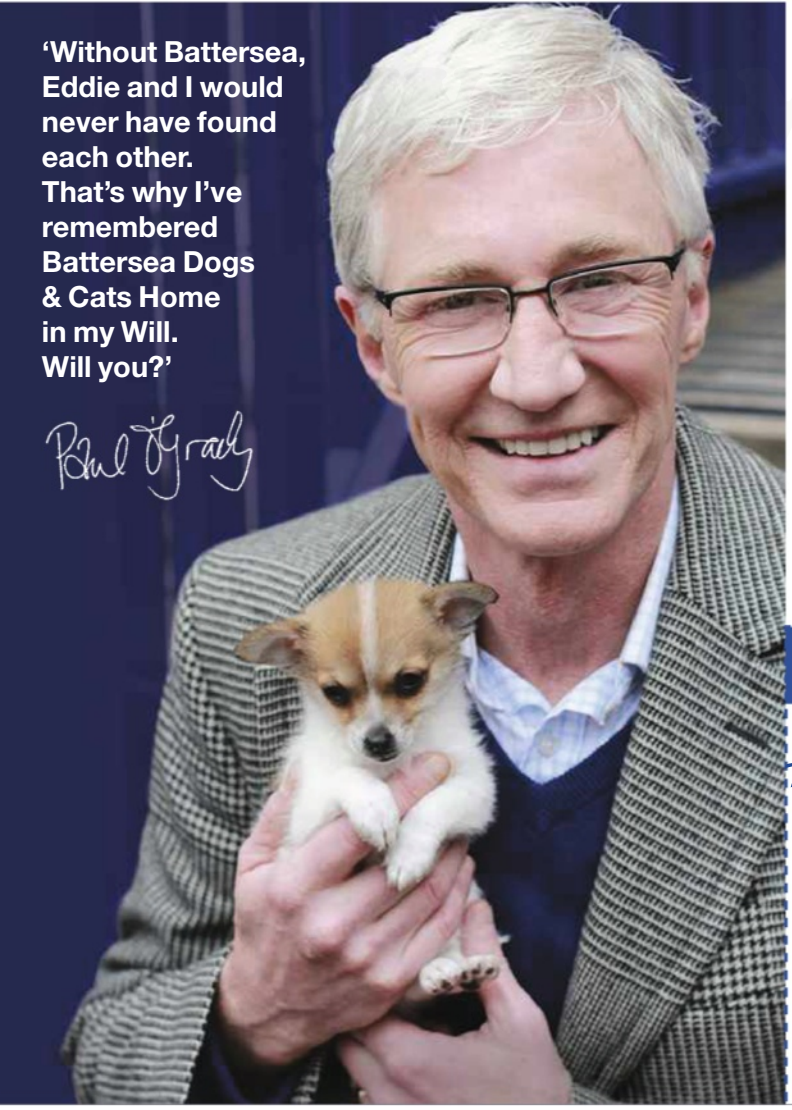
- Zweigart* 28-count Brittney Lugana evenweave in light blue (503), measuring 41x41cm (16x16in)
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Size 26 tapestry needle
- Backing fabric of choice
- Cushion pad to fit

Thread & fabric cost
Approximately £10

*For stockists see page 90

TOP TIP
Worked in whole stitches for the cross stitch and with simple counting, this is a fantastic project for beginners to build up confidence using evenweave

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Our Best Buys

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



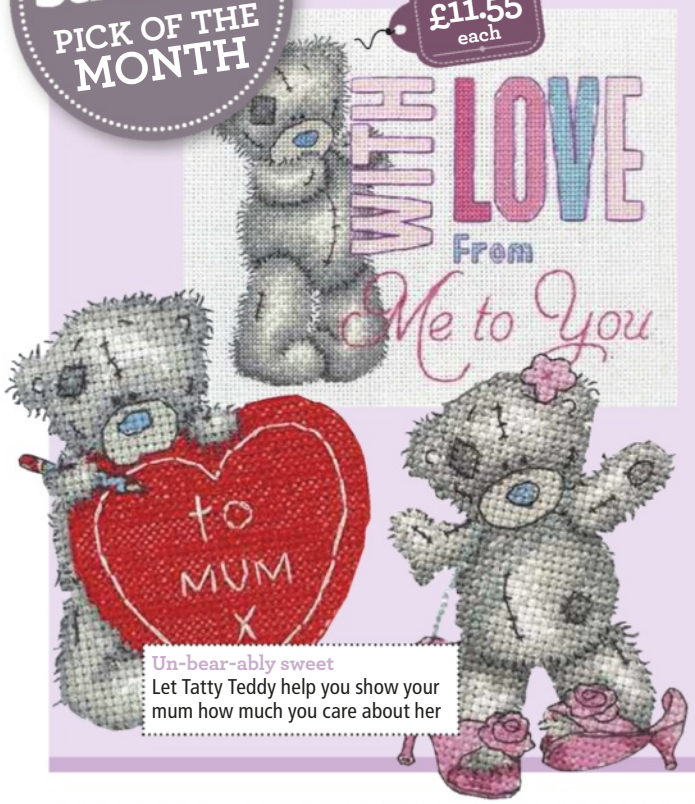
FLY AWAY

Sheena Rogers Designs* has a new mini cushion kit, filled with butterflies and their caterpillars! She's well-known for her little cushion stitches, and this pretty one, 'Butterfly Study', is sure to be sought-after. The kit includes 14-count white aida, ready-sorted DMC threads, needle, black velvet backing fabric, chart and full instructions (filler not included). The finished design size is 14.7x14.7cm (5¾x5¾in). In whole cross stitches with some backstitching, it's not only beautiful, but easy too.

Look out as well for a feature interview with Sheena herself, including her design inspiration for this kit, next issue! On sale 27 February.

Bear hugs

THE WORLD OF Cross Stitching PICK OF THE MONTH



Un-bear-ably sweet
Let Tatty Teddy help you show your mum how much you care about her

UN-BEAR-ABLY SWEET

Tatty Teddy, the adorable grey bear with the blue nose, is a great way to show your mum how much you love her – stitch this cute bear as the perfect gift. And with new kits from Anchor*, such as the delightful 'Dress Up' (TT40) showing the bear playing in her mum's shoes and necklace, plus the simple but heartfelt message in the 'With Love' (TT229) design, you are sure to make your mum happy. And if you want to be even more specific, stitch 'To Mum' (TT36), made straight from the heart! All kits use 14-count aida, with finished sizes of 11x8cm (4¼ x3in), 16x22cm (6¼x8½in), and 9x9cm (3½x3½in) respectively.

Trendwatching...Red hot!

Paint the town and your home



All boxes checked
Get fab Emily Red woven storage baskets from Berry Red*



Can it!
Keep needles and buttons safe in this enamel tin from Fairwind*



An apple a day
Sink your teeth and pins into this pincushion from Dotcomgiftshop*

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SEW LOVELY

CRAFTY DECOR FOR ALL

Inspired by a sewing-icon epidemic seen across fashion, homewares, stationery and jewellery, Papermania's 'Sew Lovely' collection offers the ultimate haberdashery feel. Embellish stitched cards or projects with stitching-themed items like buttons and charm packs, adhesive fabric tapes, adorable ribbons and bows. Complementing the range too are patterned papers and alphabet stickers. Find these and other fabulous products in Papermania's 'Sew Lovely' range from docrafts* creativity stores.



CAT FANTASY

Based on artwork by Sherry Shipley, we love 'Feeling Groovy'. This new design shows a sublime feline reclining in a watercolour-style background. In whole cross stitch only, this pattern is from Celtic Rose Needlework* by post or emailable download.





FRIENDS FOR LIFE

Meet 'Little Minx & Friends'! Brand New to Goldleaf Needlework's* Genny Haines collection, stitch the whole gang – Little Minx, Poppy Pony and Cosmo the Cat – in this cute design. The kit includes a chart with key, pre-sorted DMC threads, 14-count white aida and a needle. The finished design size is 11x23cm (4¼x9in) and a chart is available for just £8.50.

FAIRYTALE ENDING

This beautiful tribute to needlework by Barbara Ana is called 'Stitchingly Ever After'. Featuring a collection of stitcher's treasures, like a tomato pincushion with strawberry emery bag, no fewer than three pairs of scissors, a hoop holding a stitched piece, a spool of thread and a tiny threaded needle, it's so pretty. Available from Creative Poppy* as a chart, it is designed to be personlised – add your initial in the tiny hoop and date at the base of tree! Birds, butterflies and flowers also grace the pattern with the lady stitcher at the foot of the tree, and the lovely title to the piece running from the spool, as if it's just been stitched.



*For stockists see page 90

red with this luscious colour, of all things hot



Soft hearted
Settle into your stitching chair with this cushion from Debenhams*

Doggy days
Get stitching on 'Dancing Dalmatians' by Anchor*



READER OFFER



These 3D cross stitch kits from Past Impressions*, available in small or large, create beautiful boxes with sophisticated silhouette designs of black and gold. Each kit has 16-count aida and everything to make the box, including alternative silhouette charts, and a blank chart if you fancy creating your own. Usual price £13.50 and £20.50 respectively, Past Impressions is offering a 20% discount off the these silhouette boxes. Claim your discount at www.past-impressions.co.uk with the code **WOXS213**. Offer until 5 March 2014.

SAVE £££s!

Boxed up
Save 20% off these large and small silhouette 3D boxes

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DESIGNS BY **DEBBIE CRIPPS**

We love you mum!

Let your mum know how much you appreciate her by cross stitching a handmade card



We love our mums 365 days of the year, but make a special fuss of her on Mother's Day with a card that you have made especially for her. These simple floral designs are easy to stitch and convey your heartfelt message perfectly.

Designer Debbie Cripps has made these cards zing with an extra special touch, by adding brightly coloured felt buttons. Attach the fun embellishments just as you would a normal button, and when you have finished all the cross stitch. There is just a little backstitch to shape the flowers and in the messages, too.

Patch the finsihed stitching onto the cards with a little double-sided tape – a great modern look. We've used white square cards with a pretty scalloped edge, but you could use plain squares or even a pastel shade to complement the stitching! No matter what you choose, that special lady in your life will really appreciate such a unique card, so don't delay, 30 March will be here soon!

Perfect for beginners

Factbox

- **Stitching Time**
  Approx. 4-5 hours each
- **Type of Stitches**
  Cross stitch, backstitch
- **Ease of Stitching**
  Beginner



Meet the designer

Debbie Cripps

"I hope all the mums out there who receive these cards realise how loved they are! I really enjoyed designing these special messages of appreciation with the added felt flowers, as mums deserve to be spoilt."

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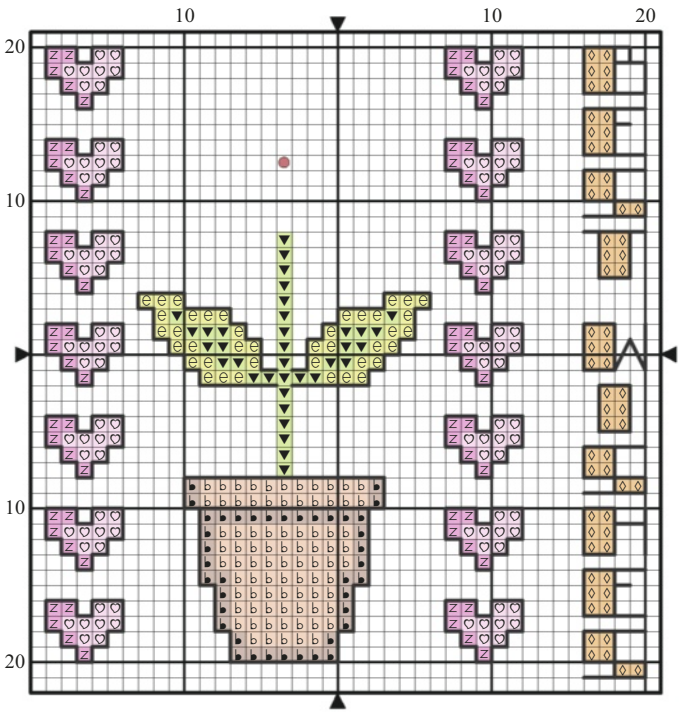
ADD TEXTURE WITH BUTTONS

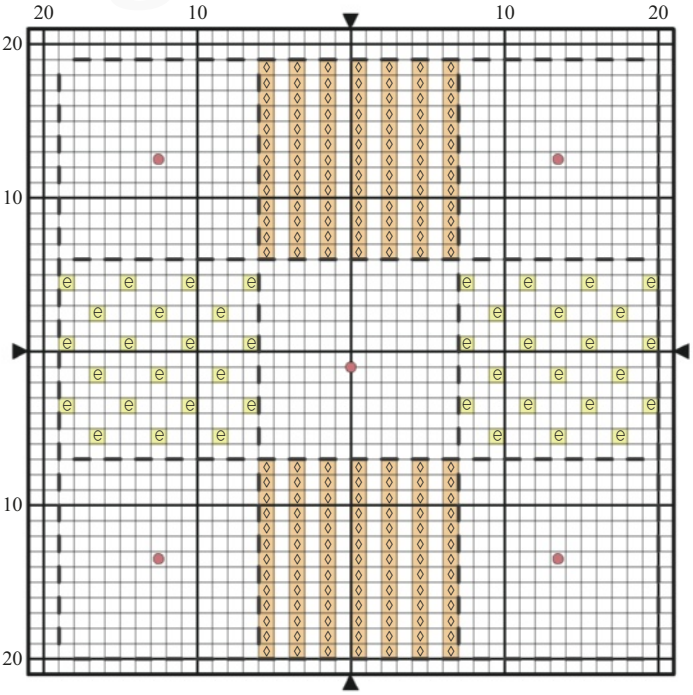


Let your mum know how much she means to you with a special stitched sentiment on these gorgeous cards

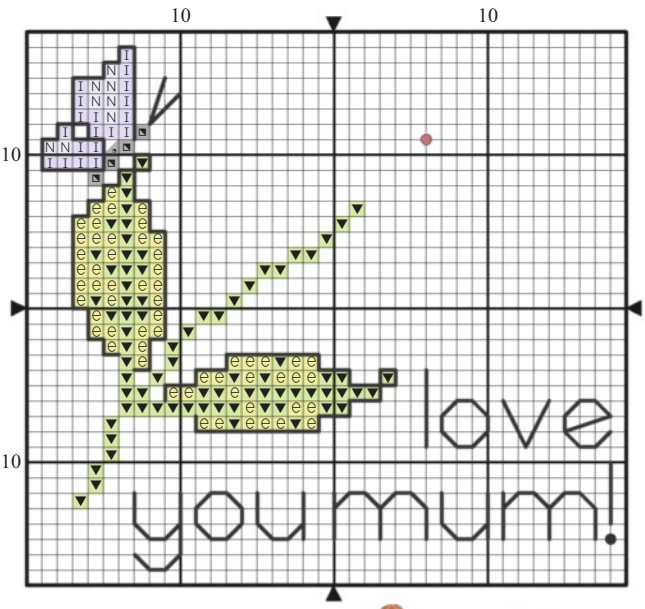
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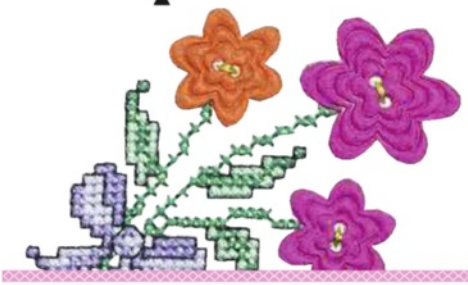












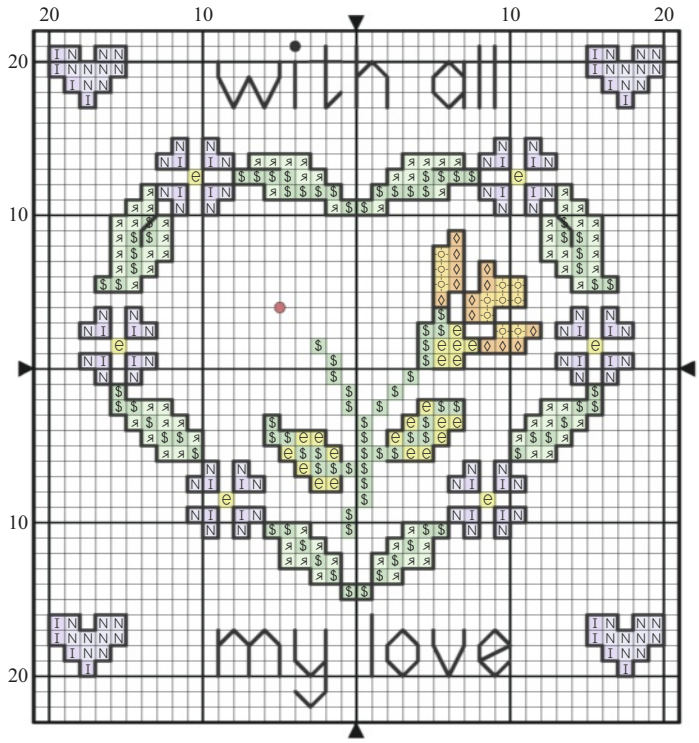
Alexandra READER PANEL

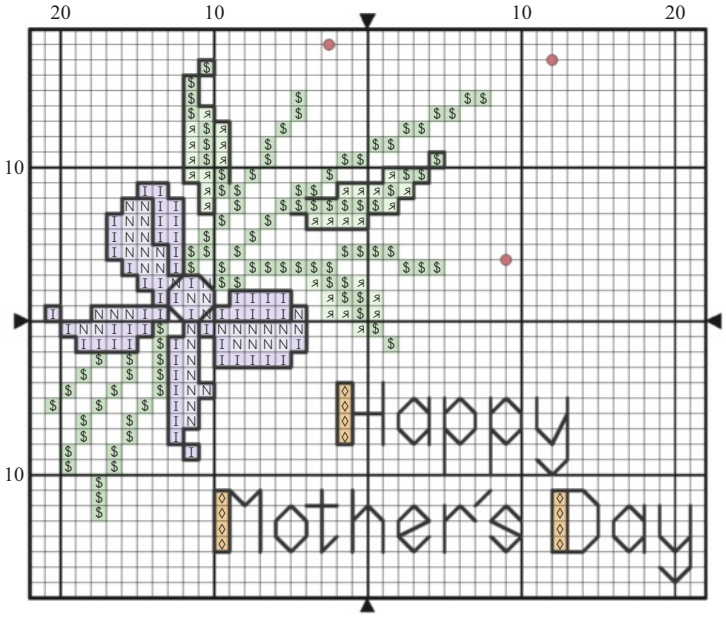


"These Mother's Day cards are such a great idea, I will definitely stitch one for my mum. The 8 March is International Women's Day, so I will be making these cards for all my female friends, too."

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Mother's Day Cards key

Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
I	155	1030	902	purple
b	301	1049	2306	brown
◊	741	304	202	orange
▼	904	258	1413	green
e	907	255	1308	light green
$	911	205	1214	mint green
я	954	203	1207	light mint green
☼	973	290	105	yellow
Z	3607	87	708	pink
♡	3609	85	710	light pink
N	3747	120	901	violet
◥	3799	236	1713	grey
b	3853	1003	311	ginger

Backstitch in one strand

——	3799	236	1713	grey

French knots in one strand

●	3799	236	1713	grey

Placement of felt buttons

●				

MAXIMUM STITCH COUNT 43 high x 42 wide
DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 8x7.5cm (3x3in)

These designs were stitched using DMC stranded cotton and Crafttime Felt Buttons

Shopping list

- Zweigart* 14-count white aida measuring 15x15cm (6x6in) for each design
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Size 24 tapestry needle
- Craftime Felt Buttons, Brilliant Blooms (BF1407) available from The Craft Department*
- Single fold, 13cm (5in) square white cards with scalloped edges from local craft stores

Thread & fabric cost
Approximately £15

*For stockists see page 90



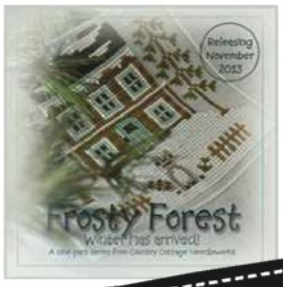
TOP TIP

Use a bright coordinating thread from the design to sew on the buttons, just keeping a neat tension so they lie flat and snugly against the fabric

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The Patchwork Rabbit

Seek inspiration, find joy...



Country Cottage Needleworks' new series Frosty Forest begins shipping in November! Fabric, thread and button options available. Don't miss out!

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Heritage Crafts on Tel. 01889 575 256

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Ask the experts

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



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



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



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



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



Poppy Benner
Poppy's years of experience working in the cross stitching industry give her invaluable knowledge

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32 **IN THE SPOTLIGHT**
Terry West of Elite Designs will find your coat of arms

33 **WISHES GRANTED**
Jenny's hearing bells with this design for Claire!

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Help from fellow stitchers on organising your threads

34 **TECHNIQUE FOCUS**
Tips on finishing off padded ornaments

35 **DESIGN ROUND-UP**
The best countryside designs and kits out there



Off to the park
The 'stitch and park' method is perfect for designs with lots of confetti stitches

Off to the park

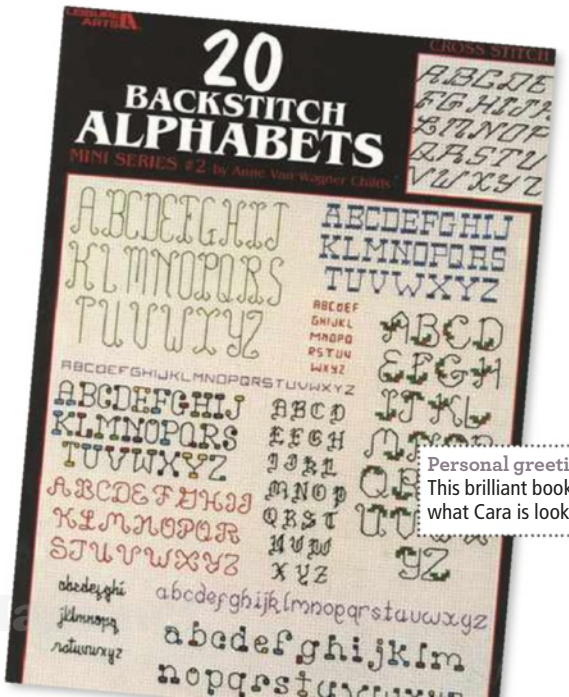
Q I was looking at some WIP photos on a stitchy website and I noticed that a lot of stitchers working on larger projects are leaving threads hanging loose on the front of their work. Please can you tell me about this technique?
Shona McMillan, via Facebook

A **Ruth says:** What you've spotted in those Works-in-Progress is the 'stitch and park' method. I've a perfect way to illustrate this technique too with one of my own WIPs, this leopard design. 'Stitch and park' is most commonly used in designs involving so-called 'confetti' stitching, which is when a lot of isolated stitches of different colours are used, so you'd have to jump around with your thread length and this might make counting tricky. Just stitch a bit then bring your needle up a little way away, in the general direction of where the next area of stitches is. Now 'park' your needle to one side, and start again with a different colour. If you don't fancy 'parking' lots of separate needles, just unthread and re-thread when you need to.

Personal greetings

Q I enjoy stitching birthday cards for family and friends and often want to add names or short messages. Where can I find a selection of alphabets to stitch, which would allow me to personalise the cards I give?
Cara Clarke, West Bromwich

A **Fiona answer:** Personalising your stitching – whether on cards or larger designs – is such a lovely way to make your work extra special for a gift, or to add a great finishing touch if you're keeping a record on your own projects for generations to come. This useful chartbook from Leisure Arts is available at Sew and So* and, as the title suggests, has lots of backstitch options you can refer to. *20 Backstitch Alphabets* (62193) is priced just £2.99 – a great investment that can be used for a multitude of projects for years to come! Or, you can go through old magazines and tear out any alphabets you find to create a library as a reference for future stitching. ➤



Personal greetings
This brilliant book is just what Cara is looking for

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In the spotlight

TERRY WEST, DESIGNER, ELITE DESIGNS



What's in a name?
Let Terry and his team create a personalised heraldic design for you!

What's in a name?

Q I'm hoping that you can help me. I'm trying to find a chart for my family name's coat of arms, Robinson. I've found charts in America but, unfortunately, they do not ship to the UK. Is there anywhere locally that you know of that may do them?
Julie Robinson, via email

A **Terry says:** I'm sure we can help as here at Elite Designs* in the UK we research and create coat of arms cross stitch designs. We can look into your Robinson family name and create a design you'll enjoy stitching. It's simple… you'd need to let us know as much as possible about your name's origins (if you know them!), helping us track which country your name is from. We use various websites for our research, taking care to cross reference the design. Then, using the templates in our charting software, we manually draw up the shield and match the colours, so you can be sure of an accurate chart. All designs have around eight-ten colours and use whole stitch, fractionals and backstitch, so are suited to a stitcher with some experience. Order a kit, £25.00, with 14-count ecru aida or chart for £15.00.



Tone on tone
Vikki can adapt this design to her needs

Tone on tone

Q I'm wondering if you know of any flower designs that are all in white? I'd love to stitch a tablecloth for the Communion table at my church, and the embroidered cloths tend to be white on white.
Vikki Climpson, via Facebook

A **Ruth says:** This sounds like a lovely idea Vikki – there are some classic single-colour flower designs by Artecy Cross Stitch* that you may like. We found this one, 'Flower Design', which would look nice on a square cloth. It's actually worked in black on a white fabric, but would be easy to work in white for a tone-on-tone finish. The size will be 37x37cm (14½x14½in) when worked on 14-count aida, or it'd be easy to adapt for a rectangular idea. Repeat a row of flowers down the centre of a rectangle cloth and then add the leaf flourishes in the corners! Buy the chart for $15.95 (approx. £10).

The new black!

Q I saw in one of your letters' pages how a stitcher adapted a design, working on black fabric. I'm afraid of starting as I have never tried it before. I only use 14- or 16-count aida.
Marie, Portugal, via email

A **Poppy says:** Stitching on a black fabric is a little more difficult than working on white aida. You'll certainly be fine to use either a 14- or 16-count aida though, as both are available in black by Zweigart* and Willow Fabrics* who ship overseas. My top tip is to use a white cloth, like a towel, on your lap while you stitch as this will mean the aida holes show up better as you stitch, and build confidence. Now just take your time!

Fabric substituting

Q I have purchased a couple of charts, but one suggests using a 28-count linen fabric by Wichelt in 'lambswool' shade and the other, a 32-count Zweigart linen, in a shade described as 'natural raw'. However, I have never been comfortable with linen and prefer to work on other types of evenweave. Can you suggest any alternatives in evenweave, in similar colours?
Gill Gibbons, via email

A **Anne says:** Wichelt* fabrics are not widely available in the UK, so we've not been able to find comparisons in the Wichelt range I'm afraid Gill. But I can certainly suggest a couple of Zweigart* options which would suit both of your projects. Instead of the 28-count lambswool linen, I'd try Zweigart's Brittney (Lugana), which is a 28-count evenweave, in colour 264, which is a creamy shade or, if you prefer a more beige option, choose 779. And for the 32-count natural raw linen, go for Zweigart's Murano fabric, which is a non-linen 32-count evenweave in a modal/cotton blend in colour 3021.



Fabric substituting
Gill is looking for a substitute to Wichelt linen fabric

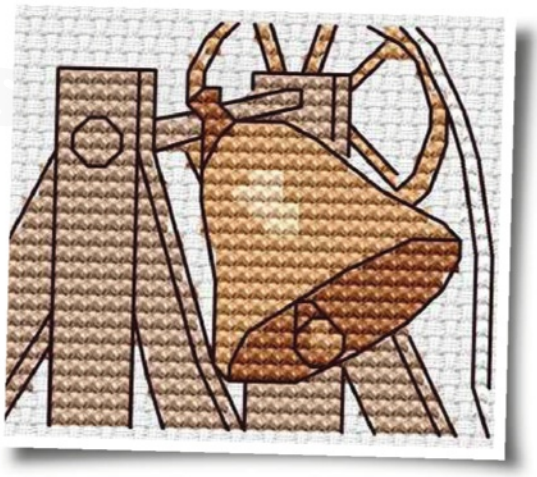
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Wishes granted



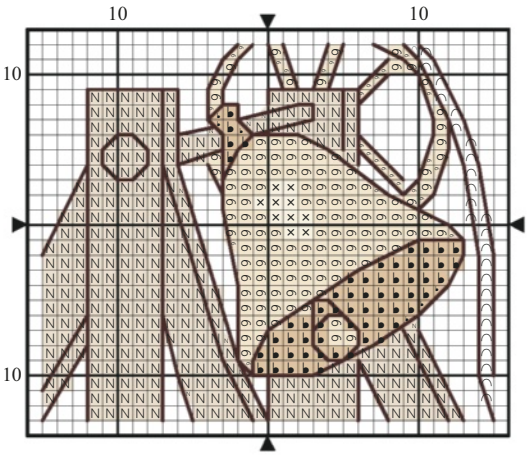
Request a design and our resident design expert, Jenny, might just chart it for you…



Chiming bells
This design by Jenny should be music to bell ringer Claire's ears

Q I am a church bell ringer and would love a small design, which I could stitch using waste canvas as a motif onto my T-shirts for when I go ringing. Many thanks.
Claire Willetts, via email

A **Jenny Says:** I love your idea of stitching bells onto your T-shirt Claire, and hopefully you will like the design I came up with. I wanted to show the rope and mechanism used to ring the bells, so have included them in the design. Good luck with the T-shirt, I'm sure it will look fab!



Church bell key

Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	blanc	2	2402	white
b	435	1046	2010	dark tan
9	437	362	2012	tan
×	739	366	2014	light tan
N	842	1080	1910	beige

Backstitch in one strand

——	3371	382	2004	brown

STITCH COUNT 25 high x 30 wide
DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 4.5x5.5cm (1¾x2¼in)

This design was stitched using DMC stranded cotton

Please note: Jenny can only fit in fairly small designs and for copyright reasons she is unable to chart logos, or characters from films and TV.

Marriage memories

Q I have just returned from Malcesine, Italy where my grandson was married in the castle on Lake Garda. Could you help me find a design of it to stitch for the happy couple?
Margery Huggett, Peterborough

A **Fiona says:** Here's a design from the Fine Art collection by Cross Stitch Collectibles, available to buy at Wye Needlecraft*. 'Malcesine am Gardesse' (KL-33) is offered as a chart (£12) or kit (£85.30), measuring 49.5x48.5cm (19½x19¼in). Only whole stitches are used.



Marriage memories
Margery will love stitching this memento of her grandson's wedding



Reusable fabric
Unpicking may affect the fabric fibres, but only briefly!

Reusable fabric

Q I recently had to unpick a design. The aida is perfect for a new design I want to stitch. Can I reuse my fabric and do I need to wash it first?
Claire Boston, Southport

A **Ruth says:** Yes, you'll definitely be fine to use that same aida! Gently hand wash it, using a mild detergent like Fairy Liquid or one for handwashing clothes, and then dry it, ideally without wringing, so as not to scrunch and distort the fibres again. Press flat with another piece of fabric on top, like a tea towel, then it will be perfect to reuse. This method should work for aida and evenweaves, as long as no fibres were damaged when unpicking. Evenweave fibres may take a little more time at the washing stage to 'recover' back to normal, so to speak, but it won't show when you restitch, especially for densely worked designs.

STITCHING HELP!

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

Email us at:
experts@cross-stitching.com

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

Send in queries via Facebook too:



We will try and answer your questions as soon as we can, but if you're working to a specific deadline then do let us know!

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Friendly advice

facebook

We asked our Facebook fans what were their tips for keeping their thread organised – here's what they said…



Becki Chamberlain: I punch holes into some cardboard and loop the threads through. I have also got space to write colour names and code numbers next to each one.

Cheryl Gardner: I wind my threads onto bobbins and store them in number order in boxes.

Cleota Ostermaier: I use Floss-A-Way bags to store them. I also have a computer spread sheet as well as an app on my phone. If I find a project that I'd like to start I can just generate a shopping list on my phone and then head to my local craft store.

Dominique Adamou: I've got a set of plastic drawers and made dividers. Then I sorted my threads in numbers, 200-299, 300-399, and so on.

Fernandez Beth: I have a thread organiser with its corresponding colour number pasted above. All my thread organisers are placed in a plastic container.

Leigh Neri: All my threads are stored on bobbins, in boxes by brand and number with an Excel spreadsheet checklist attached to each box lid, so I can mark off if any are getting low.

Anji Mae: Little craft bags with the number written on the front. All the small odd strings fit right in with the original floss.

Dorothy Hartel: If a thread company provides a master list of threads, I print it out and inventory what threads are in my stash.

Find us on Facebook and join in with the chat. If you're lucky, your tip might appear here! Just log on to www.facebook.com/TheWorldofCrossStitching and hit 'like' at the top of the page!

TECHNIQUE FOCUS

The World of Cross Stitching KNOW-HOW

Finishing line

Q I love making little padded ornaments, but I feel my finishing is letting me down, especially when it comes to adding trims like ricrac or lace to the edges of my hangings. Any tips?
Jeannie Coxson, Northumberland

A **Anne says:** I hope I can help build your confidence Jeannie! Practise with square or rectangle hangings first, rather than circle or other shapes like hearts – then you can build up to them. But the principle is the same, so here's my heart step-by-step guide…
1. Trim your finished stitching with a border of 2.5cm (1in) all around. Cut a backing fabric piece the same size. Pin your trim around the edges of the stitched piece. Start in a corner and pin to the right side, with the trim facing in.
2. Go all the way round, adjusting to get the ruffles even, and overlap the lace ends folding them for a neat finish. It helps to tack the trim in place when you're getting the hang of things, then take out the pins. Pin your backing fabric on top (right sides facing) and sew with a 1cm (1/2in) seam allowance, leaving a gap for turning. This sews the pieces together and fixes the trim.
3. Cut small notches at the corners of your shape (and along the curves if your shape has them) to reduce bulk, and turn through. Stuff firmly – it'll use more stuffing than you think to be nice and firm! – then slipstitch the gap closed for a nice, tidy finish.







QUICK Q&A

My eight-year-old son is getting an interest in cross stitching – he enjoys helping with some of the whole stitches on my projects. I'd love to find some boyish charts or kits he can do himself.
Charlotte McHaddan, via email

Jenny says: *I have the perfect thing in my own range Charlotte! These space motifs are very kid-friendly with no fractionals, using just 10 colours for the whole set. Start off on 11-count aida using three strands and he'll love them. Buy the set of four motifs (JBDC1246) for download at JB Cross Stitch*, £1.99.*



Boys rule
These fun designs are perfect for Charlotte's son

I have ordered some binders for my mags, but I'm finding it hard to know which issue is the January one for each year. How can I find this out?
Lauren Treaguest, via Facebook

Fiona says: *We've always had 13 issues in a year (the 13th is always a Christmas one, on sale in around November). Our launch issue in 1997 was a December one, so 1998 began with Jan issue 2. More recently, Jan 2013 began with issue 198 and now 2014 with issue 211.*

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Design round-up

Country charm ideas

We've hand-picked a selection of kits & charts capturing the beauty of the countryside

MULTIPLE PATTERNS

LANDSCAPES

This paperback-bound chartbook with 50 landscapes to admire will be a pleasure to flick through as well as to stitch from! Featuring quaint cottages to panoramic coastal views, everyone's fave scene is catered for in this mini book available from Sew and So*. This entire collection is just one book in a series by designer Maria Diaz.

Max stitch count – *112 high x 136 wide, finished size 20x24.5cm (8x9¾in) on 14-count aida*



CHALLENGE YOURSELF

IN A WELSH VALLEY



Recreating this detailed scene will be a labour of love – but what an incredible picture to reproduce in stitches. The chart pack by The Cross Stitch Pattern Gallery from Country Designs* has a black-and-white chart over 15, but not all fully printed, A4 sheets. You'll need 39 thread colours to conjure up this rendition, reproduced from a painting full of romantic calm.

Stitch count – *171 high x 260 wide, 30x45cm (12x18in) on 14-count aida*

COLOURFUL DESIGN

DUTCH FIELDS

Rows of brightly coloured tulips in a field feature in 'Dutch Tulips Landscape' (PCE0806) by Anchor from Past Impressions*. Anchor fans will appreciate the pre-sorted threads, allowing you to get off to a quicker start. Half cross stitch is used in this abundant design, some colour blending and only a few fractionals, so it'll be great for intermediate stitchers.

Stitch count – *202 high x 88 wide, 32x14cm (12½x5½in) on white 16-count aida*



LOTS OF DETAIL

THE WATCH

The tranquility of nature is captured perfectly in this densely worked scene, showing the British countryside, in which a stag stands still near a woodland stream. Inside this kit (BK940) by DMC*, all of the beautiful thread shades are pre-sorted and the black-and-white chart is printed on one side of paper. There are some useful diagrams and helpful cross stitch tips, too, in this quality kit for intermediate stitchers.

Stitch count – *128 high x 192 wide, 20x30cm (8x12in) on antique white 16-count aida*



*For stockists see page 90

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Over 200 exhibitors
The Spring
Knitting
Stitching
Show
Olympia Central, London
13th – 16th March 2014
Buy tickets at: www.theknittingandstitchingshow.com/spring
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• 180 practical workshops
• Make and take sessions
plus galleries, demonstrations and inspirational features
Products to help you with:
twistedthread
UPPER STREET EVENTS
Knitting – Sewing – Dressmaking – Quilting – Crochet – Cross Stitch – Interiors – Textile Art – Crafts
For more information and to book tickets call: 0844 848 0159
Fabrics supplied by Fabrics Galore

Out & About

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

The World of Cross Stitching Club of the Month

PROUD PINOY STITCHERS CLUB, MANILA



Once a month members of this friendly club get together. Bringing food, they buy, sell and trade stash, show off their WIPS, and have a tutorial on different cross stitch techniques.
For more info, email Margaret Rose Tipton at margaretrose.tipton@gmail.com.

APPLY: **Email letters@cross-stitching.com or write to the address on page 17 and tell us about your club**

Antique Textile Fair

The unique characteristic of the Textile Society's Fairs is the quality of the objects for sale. You'll find beautiful things from India, Africa, Italy, Spain, France, England, China, Japan, and you will see a range of traditional and historical costumes, vintage fashion right down to collectable fragments and ephemera.

MORE **Sun 2 March 2014 at the Armitage Centre, Fallowfield, Manchester M14 6HE**



Dates for March

27 FEBRUARY
ON SALE: THE WORLD OF CROSS STITCHING
In issue 214 of the mag, we have a card kit of Helz Cuppleditch's oh-so-cute kitten, plus adorable Margaret Sherry mice. There is a gorgeous gardening plate by Helen Brindley – just in time for spring, a fun UK sampler and the sweetest teddy bear's picnic design, plus so much more!

18 MARCH
HAND EMBROIDERED LANDSCAPES
ROSELAND MEWS STUDIO, CORNWALL
An introductory course into embroidering landscapes including winter scenes using a range of embroidery skills – crewel, stumpwork, ribbon embroidery. This course is open to all levels of ability, so students can either follow prepared kits or create their own designs. The one-day course costs £35, for more info, visit www.lynhervalley.co.uk/roselandmewsstudio.

20-23 MARCH
SEWING FOR PLEASURE
NEC, BIRMINGHAM
Get all the very latest supplies, ideas and innovations in the stitching world. Entry costs £10, which includes the opportunity to glean advice from industry experts and get involved with hands-on activities, and shop-til-you-drop of course! For more info, visit www.sewingshow.co.uk

30 MARCH
MOTHER'S DAY
Show your mum how much you appreciate her with a specially stitched card and gift. Make a mug rug on page 63, or stitch one of the floral Mother's Day cards on pages 26 and 78.

Sew happy! Pick up supplies and get new ideas at the Sewing For Pleasure show in Birmingham



WHERE AM I?



Here is a picture of my husband and I (with issue 208) at the Fall 2013 Thunder Beach Motorcycle Rally in the 'Sunshine State'. I always take my stitching to the beach! Our good friend Rick Pilgreen, who works at the Rally, took the picture.

Lynn Smith, USA

Send in your travel snaps!

Send us a photo of yourself with a copy of your favourite mag to 'Where Am I?' at our usual address, on page 17. If you're featured, you'll win a John Clayton kit from the Internationals range by Heritage Crafts*, worth £27.99.

* For stockists see page 90



Answer: Panama City Beach, Florida, USA

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DESIGN BY **DIANE MACHIN**

Colours of the year

Enjoy the challenge of this 'garden window' that frames four show-stopping floral displays with elegance and style



This beautiful design depicts four floral stained-glass panels in a dazzling display. Enjoy this gorgeous view of the changing seasons, no matter what time of year!

A large colour palette makes the picture especially vibrant, and the flowers really come to life. Threads of black backstitch cleverly recreate the stained-glass effect, while the white fabric gives the illusion of light shining through.

This richly shaded project is fab if you've some stitching experience, with fractional stitches and plenty of backstitch giving definition and detail.

Stitch this design including the four-way frame as charted, or choose just one panel and stitch it as a small picture. You could even stitch each season separately to give as gorgeous gifts throughout the year.

And if you fancy a change from a canvas like ours, why not mount the design in a classic wood frame to complete the look of stained glass in a real window frame?

Factbox

French knot free!

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



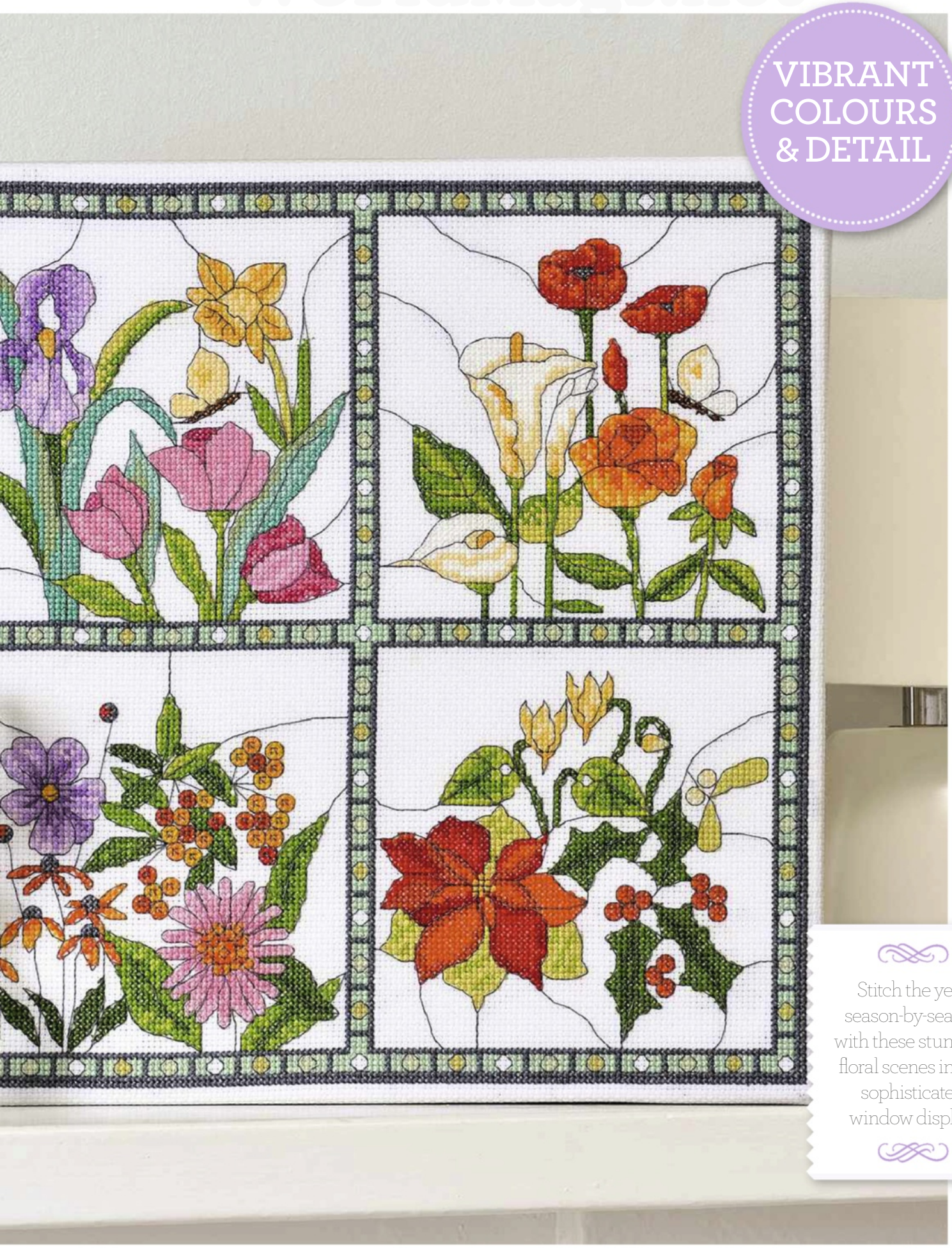
Meet the designer

Diane Machin

"This bold stained-glass design gave me the chance to chart some of my favourite flowers. Yellow daffodils herald the arrival of spring at last, while velvety poppies are a promise of the warmth of the months ahead."

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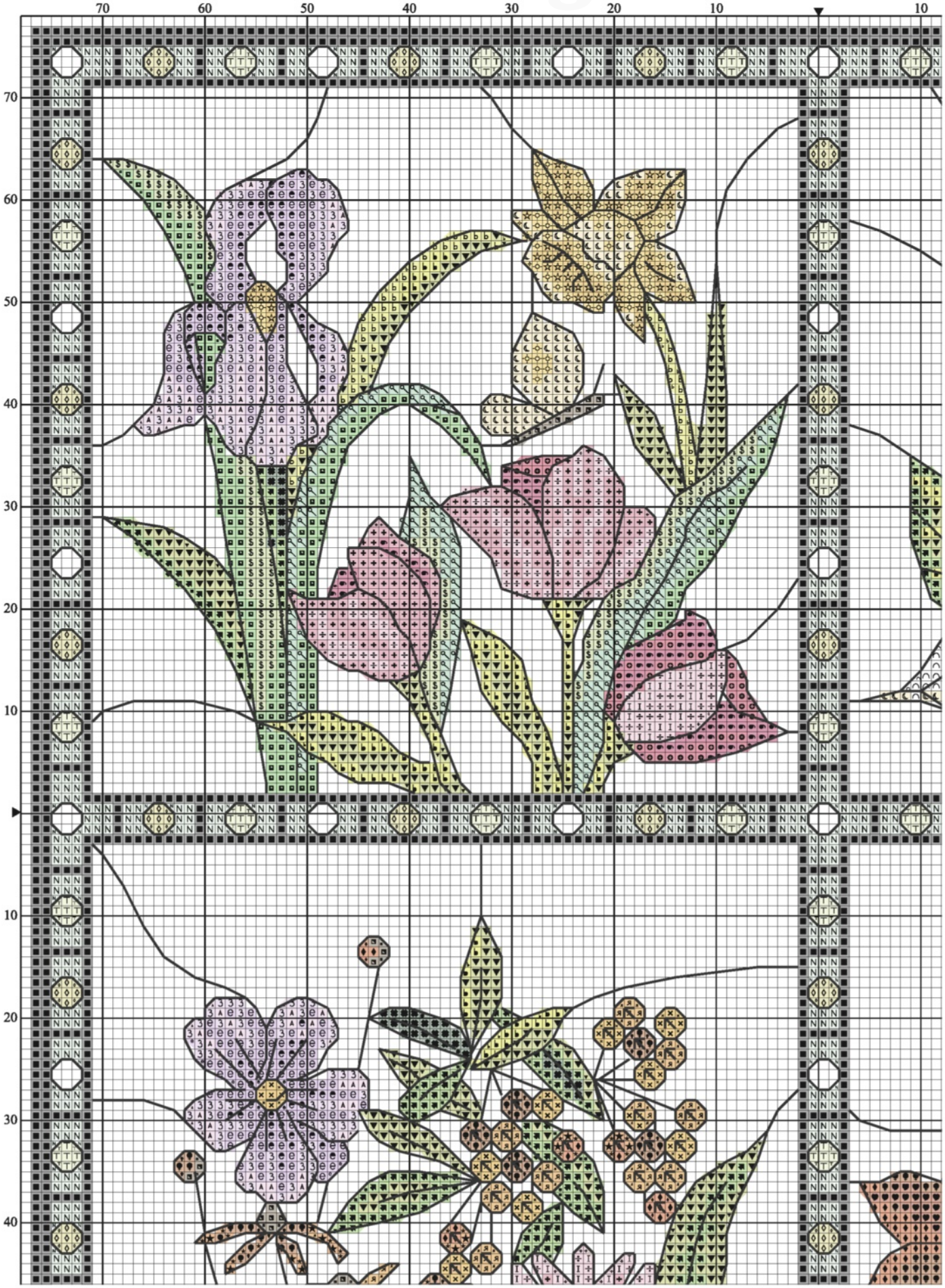


VIBRANT COLOURS & DETAIL

Stitch the year season-by-season with these stunning floral scenes in this sophisticated window display!

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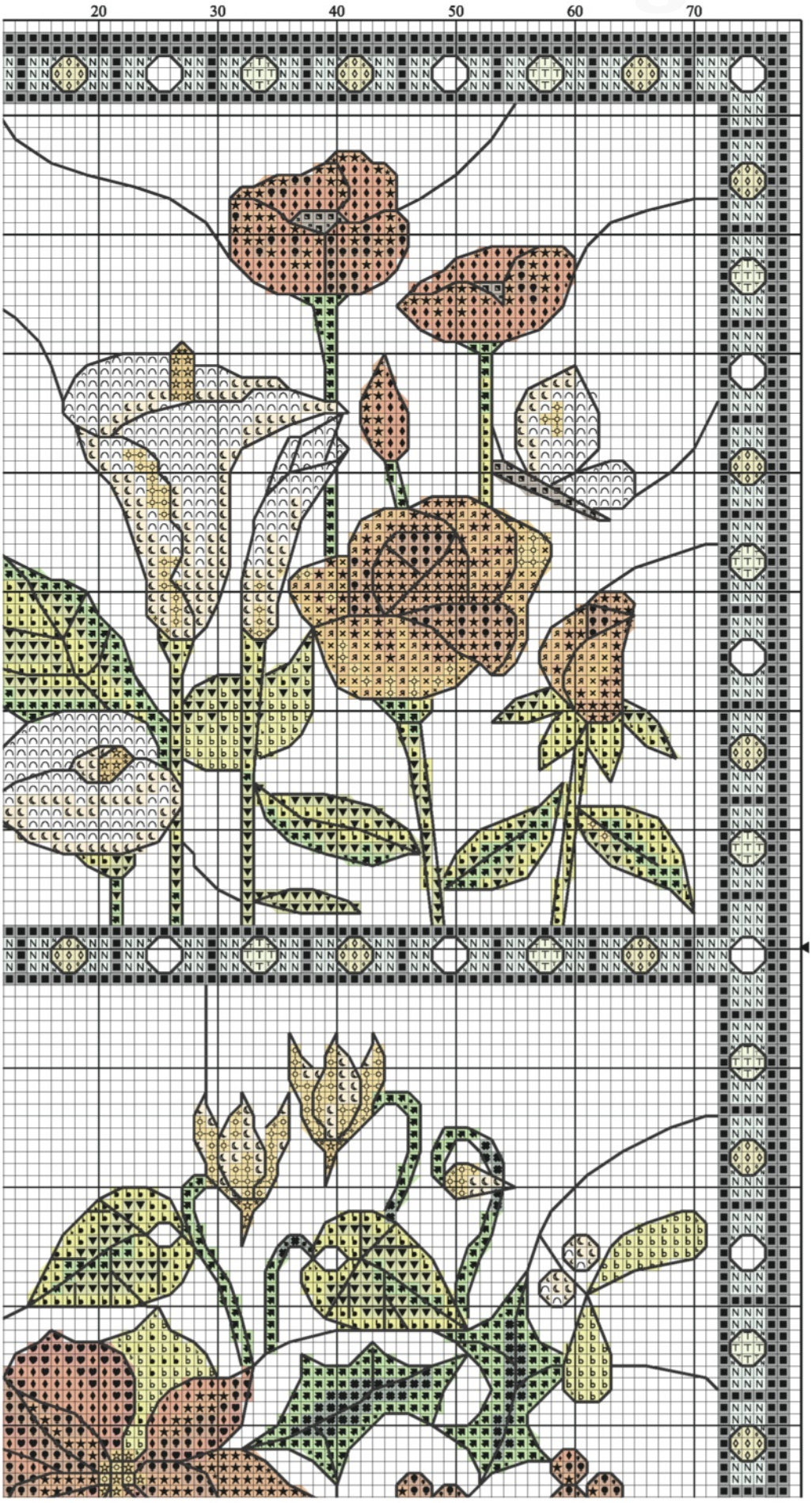
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Four Seasons Stained Glass chart (top left)

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Four Seasons Stained Glass chart (top right)

Shopping list

- Zweigart* 14-count white aida measuring 43x43cm (17x17in)
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Size 24 tapestry needle
- 30x30cm (12x12in) canvas

Thread & fabric cost
Approximately £38

*For stockists see page 90

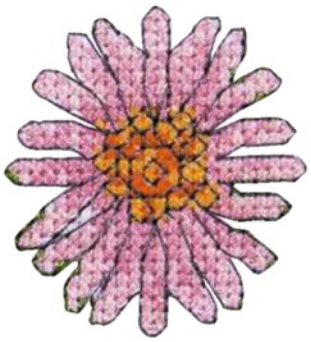
TOP TIP

With such a large colour palette, it'll be good to use a thread sorter with punched holes to organise your threads

"This design is a wonderful way to enjoy lots of flowers. After I've stitched the whole thing, I think I'll do the spring one again for a gift, as my mum's fave flowers are all there!"

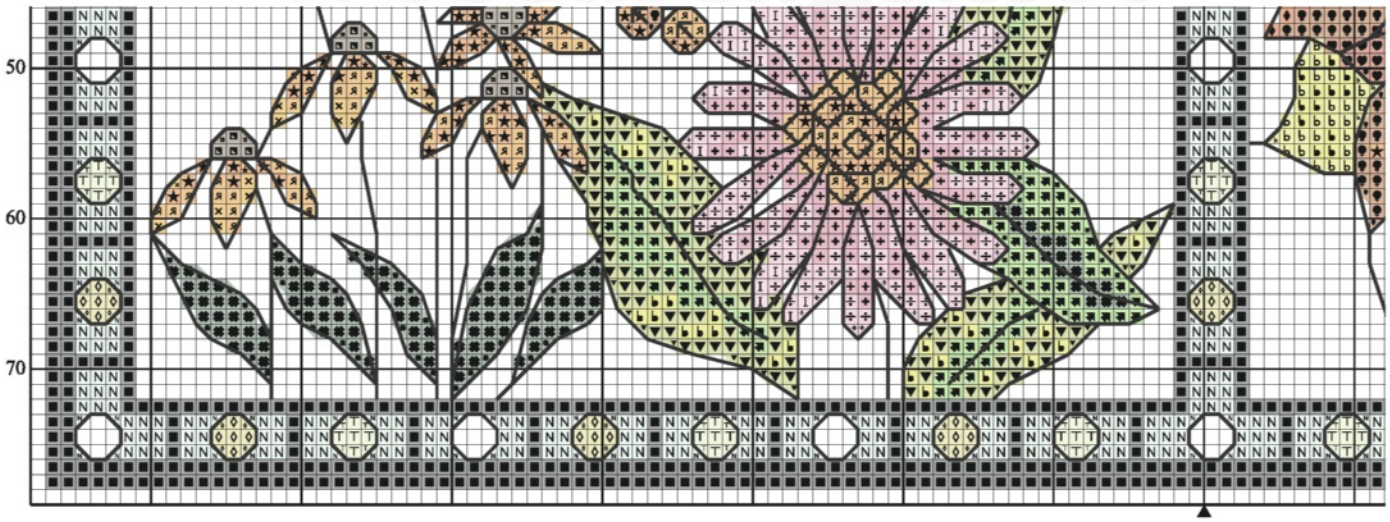


RUTH, *EDITOR*



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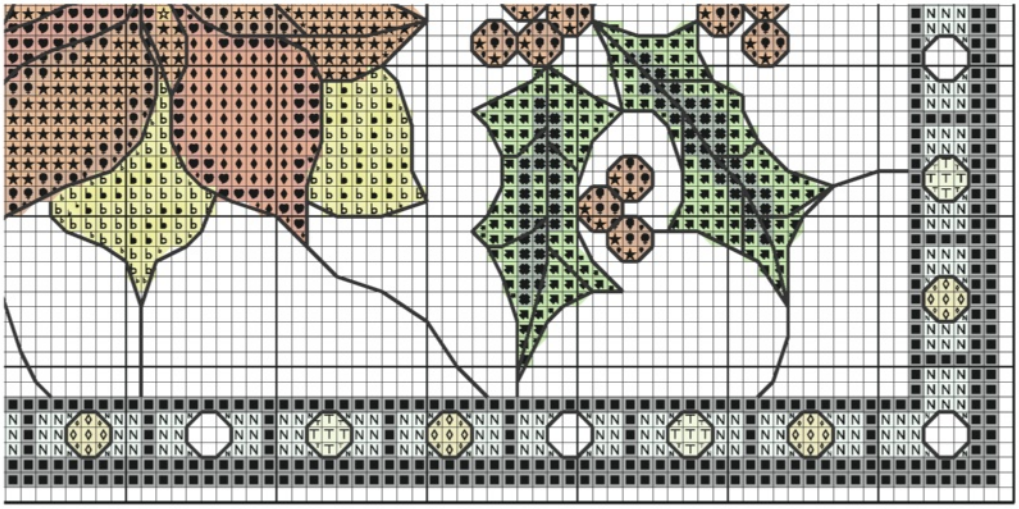


Four Seasons Stained Glass chart (bottom left)

Anna
READER PANEL



"My good friend is having a birthday soon and she loves flowers, so this stained-glass window would be perfect. It will look fabulous on her kitchen wall. I better start soon because it's a very big design and will take some time, so I best hurry up!"



Four Seasons Stained Glass chart (bottom right)



Four Seasons Stained Glass key

Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	blanc	2	2402	white
A	153	103	2712	very light lilac
e	208	99	804	dark lilac
e	209	98	803	lilac
3	210	108	802	light lilac
■	317	400	1714	dark grey
♥	321	9046	510	dark red
$	368	214	1310	almond green
T	369	1043	1309	lt almond green
◥	433	357	2602	brown
◊	472	253	1414	lettuce green
N	564	206	1208	mint green
⊕	600	63	703	very dark pink
◕	602	62	702	dark pink
+	603	57	701	pink
÷	604	55	614	light pink
I	605	1094	613	very light pink
♦	666	46	210	red
Я	741	304	202	orange

Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
☆	742	303	114	tangerine
☼	743	302	113	yellow
☾	745	300	111	light yellow
●	900	326	208	burnt orange
✱	904	258	1413	very dark green
◤	905	257	1412	dark green
▼	906	256	1410	green
◣	907	255	1308	light green
★	947	330	205	dark orange
×	972	298	107	dark yellow
↖	993	1070	1113	lt emerald green
b	3819	279	1610	lime green
◘	3851	187	1202	emerald green

Backstitch in one strand

——	317	400	1714	dark grey

STITCH COUNT 155 high x 155 wide
DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 28x28cm (11x11in)
SKEINS NEEDED **3x317** (dark grey)
This design was stitched using DMC stranded cotton

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Online news

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

Find us online

www.cross-stitching.com

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www.twitter.com/woxscrossstitch

www.pinterest.com/worldofxs

www.youtube.com/crossstitchtv

Join us on Facebook

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



YOU LIKED

Sarah Ickx Like us, you loved this design – one of the charts from the Joan Elliott 'Fantasy Collection' Stitcher's Diary, free with issue 198 – that Sarah stitched and showed us on our Facebook page.

Like

92 people like this

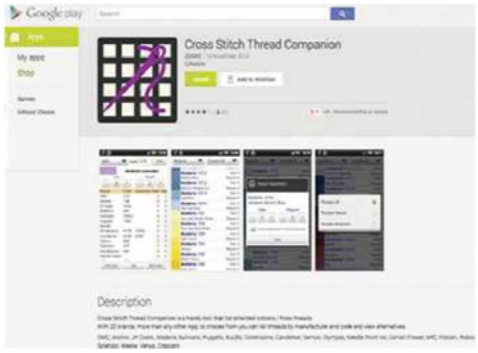
OUR FAVOURITE POST

Amanda Niblock We loved how Amanda worked this Dimensions 'Alphabet Birth Cross Stitch Record' sampler on green aida. She said: "Just finished this for my new nephew!"

Like

56 people like this

App of the month



The Cross Stitch Thread Companion App is a handy tool for keeping track of what threads you have and which you need. It has more than 20 brands, most of which you probably won't need, but does feature the three main brands of DMC, Madeira and Anchor. There is also a colour swatch viewer so you are able to match threads or choose similar shades. Best of all, it is free! Download it for android phones at the Google play store.

And the winner is...

We asked you on our site: How do you get creative with your stitching?



Cross stitching is a creative craft in itself, but here at *The World of Cross Stitching* we also like adapting patterns and kits to personalise them with either lettering, colours or changing the design completely. Here's how you get creative with your stitching – why not be inspired by our ABC charts on page 67?

PERSONALISING WITH NAMES AND DATES 28%

ADAPTING CHARTS WITH FAVOURITE COLOURS 35%

STITCHING ON A DIFFERENT COLOUR FABRIC 23%

I LIKE TO DESIGN MY OWN ORIGINAL CHARTS 60%

Websites you'll love

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



This small family run business sells unique kits with pre-wound threads on card bobbins. **www.yiotas-xstitch.com** also sells patterns, which contain whole stitches only, making it easier and faster to finish your project. Patterns are available by post or by email.



www.stitchinsparks.co.uk is a home-based business, which is dedicated and focused on creating unique, fun and attractive cross stitch kits! Each kit is handmade once your order is received, and they also offer custom-made designs so you can create something special.



www.lifetimesamplers.co.uk offers a collection of modern and traditional samplers by Lauren Fraser Turner. Designed with the pleasure of the stitcher in mind, the colour charts are easy to read, threads are ready sorted and patterns are all in whole stitches.

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Britain's No.1

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Kreinik

Threads



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Choose the easy-to-use Very Fine #4 Braid™ or the slightly thicker Fine #8 Braid™ for bolder looks



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Connect with Kreinik online

Kreinik Mfg. Co., Inc. USA
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Available in stores and online.

Visit www.kreinik.com

- Thread colour charts
- Stitching tips & videos
- Hundreds of free projects
- International Store Locator

Floral Fantasy

CELEBRATE SPRING! WE'VE GOT FLOWERS FOR EVERY OCCASION



Stitch this bounty of springtime blooms, in this oh-so-versatile collection, especially for you

✖ 36 quick-and-easy motifs ✖ Lesley Teare's design inspiration ✖ Stitches for every skill level
✖ Helpful tips and advice ✖ Unique present ideas for your special someone

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BEAUTIFUL BLOOMS

Stitch this bright butterfly and flower border onto aida band (36)! Then use it to decorate flower pots or jars of sweets or cookies – these make great gifts!



EGGCELLENT

This floral egg wrapped in a pink bow is perfect for Easter (30)! Mount it like ours in a pale yellow circle aperture card (AP53U) from Craft Creations*.



SOFT AND SCENTED

Floral motifs, like these primroses, are perfect for decorating trinket and beauty boxes (21)! Mount it in the top of a linen box, large round, from Viking Loom*.



SPRING NOTES

Decorate your gardening notebook with a fabulous stitched jug of blooms (23)! Patch the design like we did onto a notebook from any high street store.

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BOX OF DELIGHTS

Spring is all about the birds and flowers, perfectly captured in this sweet motif (12)! Mount it in a 10cm (4in) circular wooden hoop from local craft shops.



GOOD ENOUGH TO EAT

Make your tea party something really special with daffodil cupcake toppers (15)! Stitch onto 14-count clear plastic canvas, available from The Craft Department*.



BEST BLOOMS

You can never go wrong with flowers, especially when sending good sentiments (32)! Mount in a pale yellow circular aperture card (AP09U) from Craft Creations*.



HANGING FLOWERS

Bring a bit of nature indoors with this gorgeous hanging (31)! Our 10cm (4in) butterfly wire hanger is available from The Craft Department*.

*For stockists, see page 90

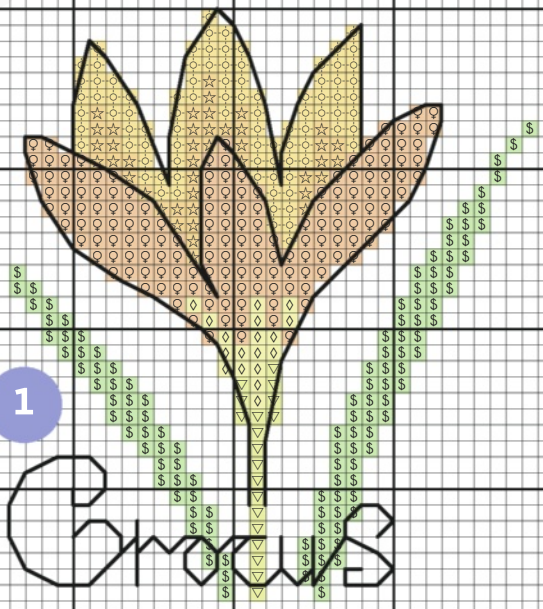
My inspiration



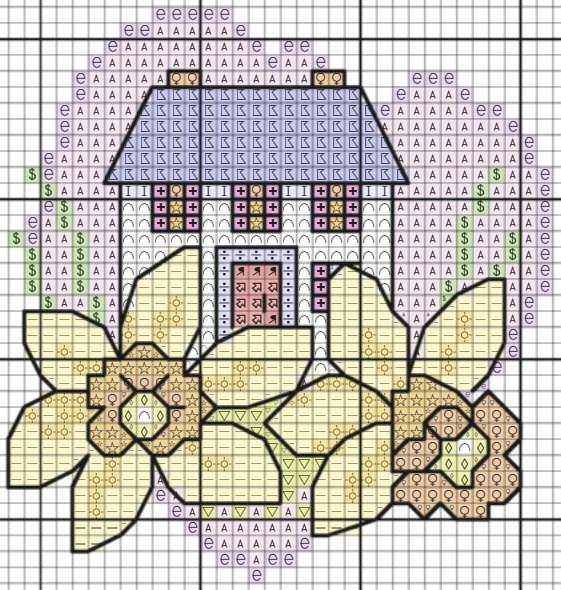
"I love spring, when the weather starts warming up and all the beautiful flowers I planted months ago start to push through the soil and open up their petals. I've tried to capture here some of the colours and variety that make this season so special."

LESLEY TEARE, *DESIGNER*

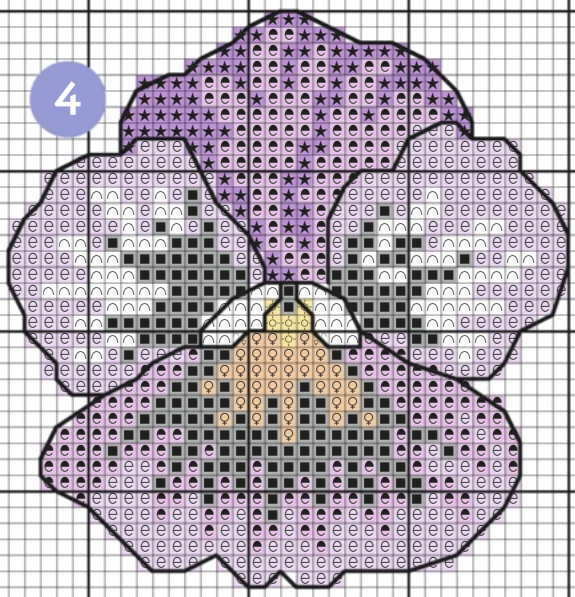
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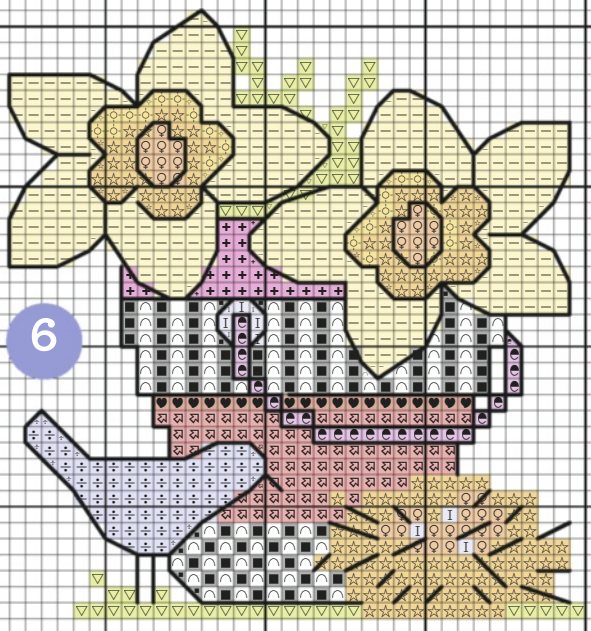
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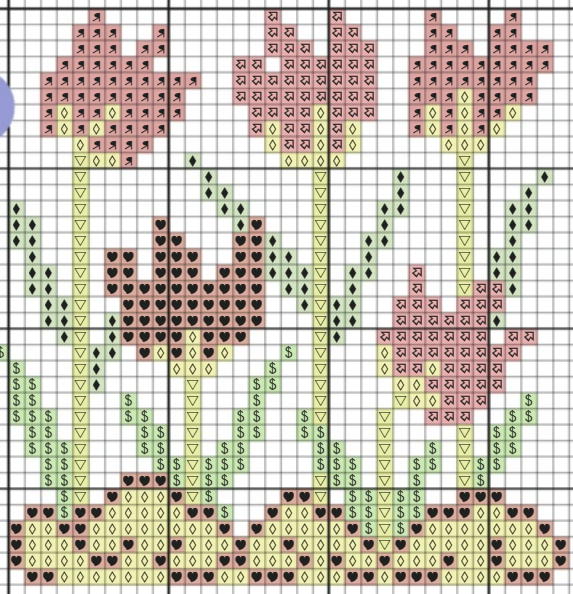
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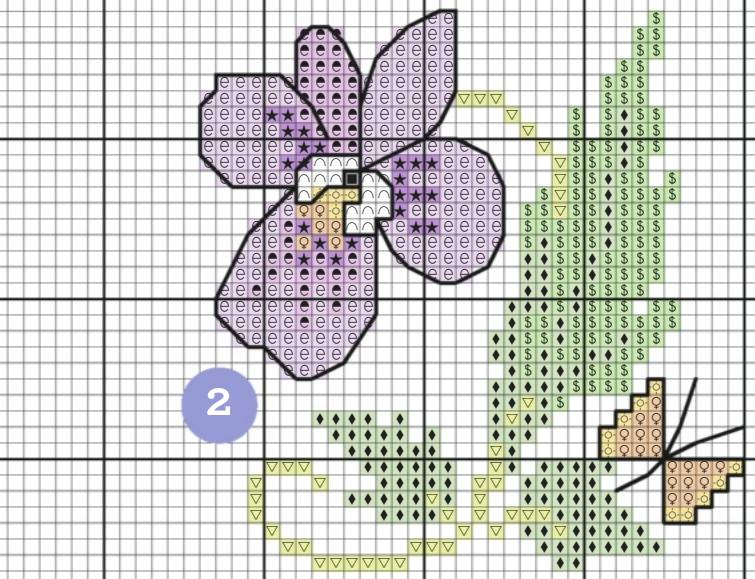
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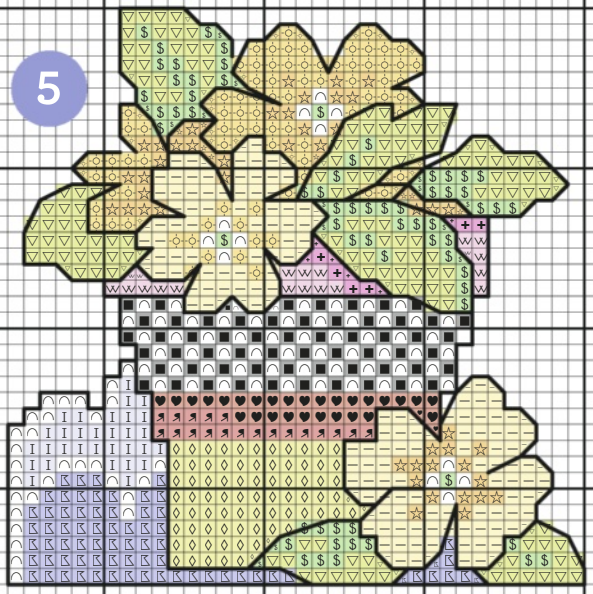


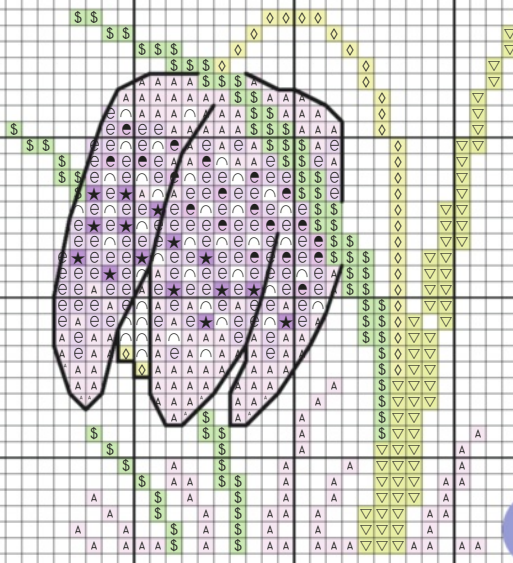
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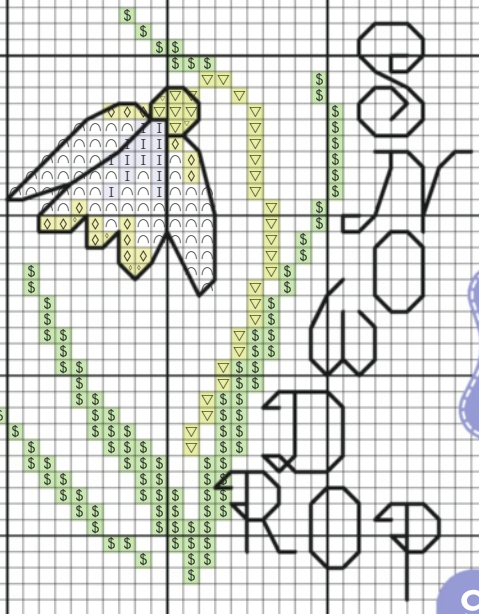


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Spring Flowers key

Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
◠	B5200	1	2401	white
A	153	103	2712	light mauve
÷	156	939	902	purple
e	209	98	803	lilac
♥	304	19	511	dark red
■	310	403	2400	black
–	445	288	103	yellow
★	550	102	714	dark mauve
♦	562	210	1205	pine green
▽	704	255	1308	leaf green
◪	718	88	707	dark magenta
♀	721	324	308	orange
☆	742	303	114	tangerine
↗	817	13	210	red
◲	891	29	411	pink
$	905	257	1412	dark green
☼	973	290	105	dark yellow
+	3607	87	708	magenta
w	3608	86	709	light magenta
I	3747	120	901	light purple
◊	3819	279	1610	lime green
◓	3837	111	713	dark lilac
◺	3838	176	2702	blue

Backstitch in one strand

——	310	403	2400	black

French knots in one strand

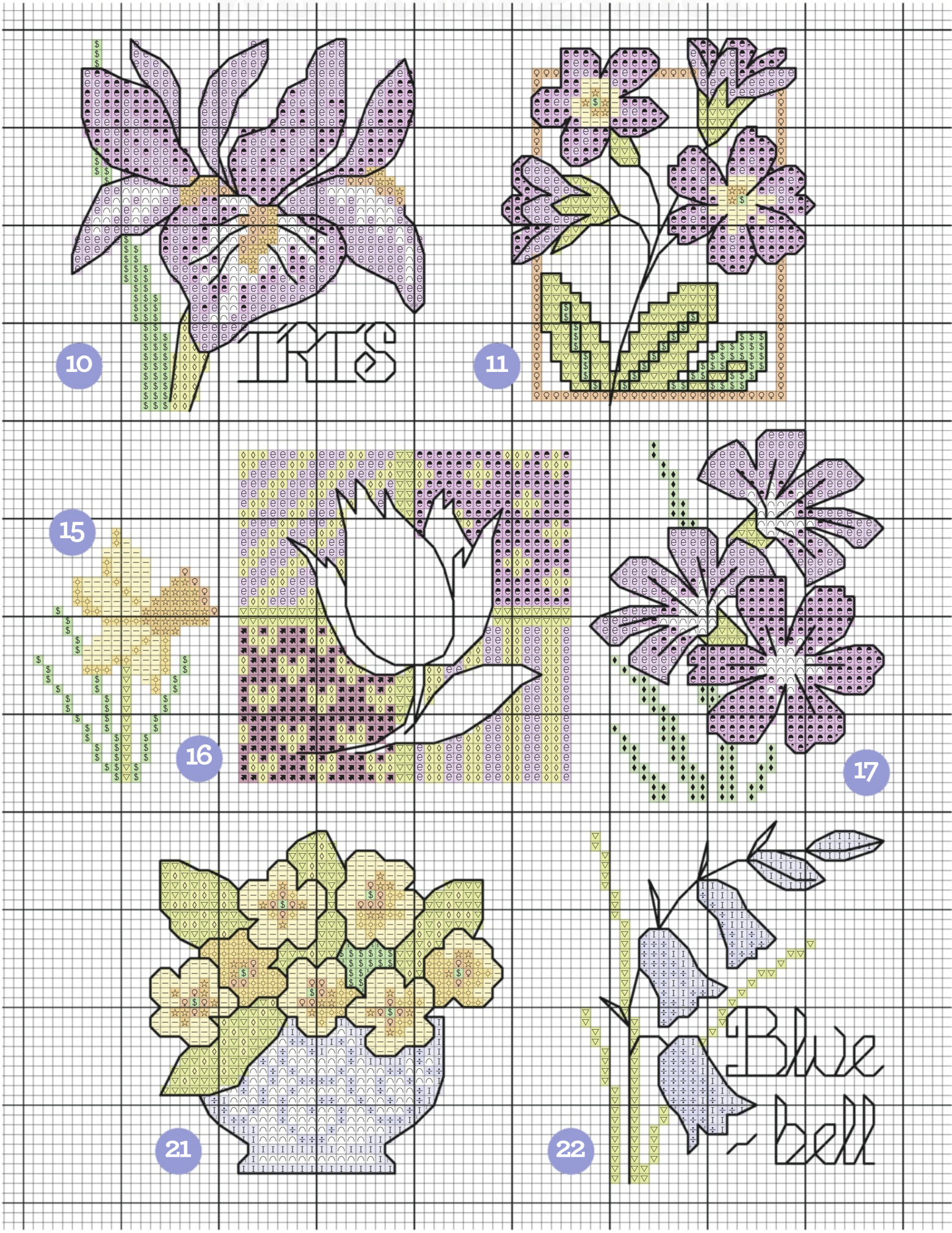
●	310	403	2400	black

These designs were stitched using DMC stranded cotton

TOP TIP

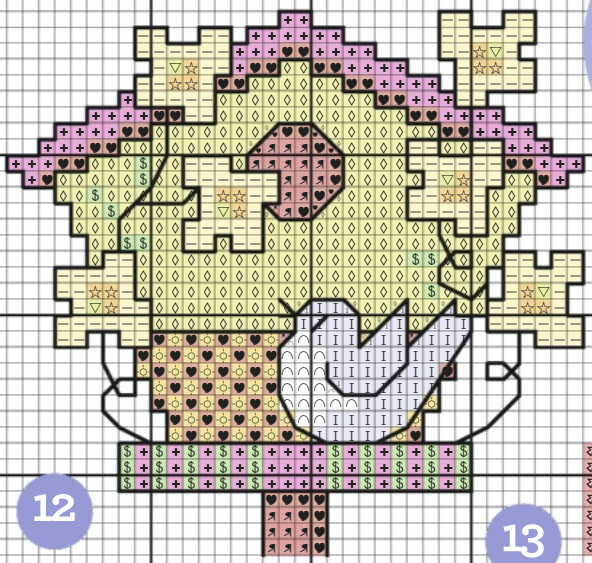
Create the backstitch with a one step forward, two steps back motion. See our 'How To' guide on page 96 for more guidance

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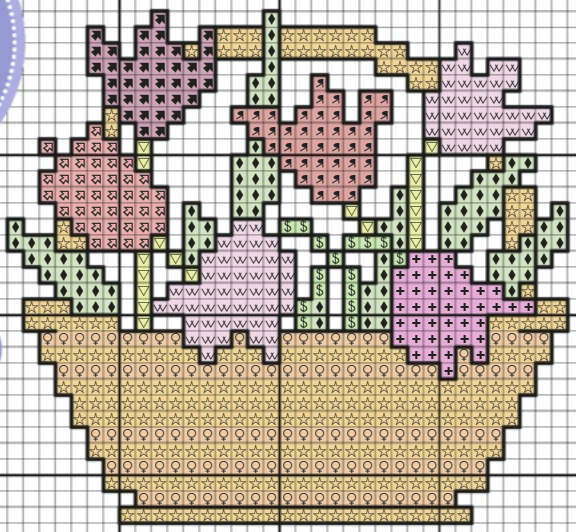


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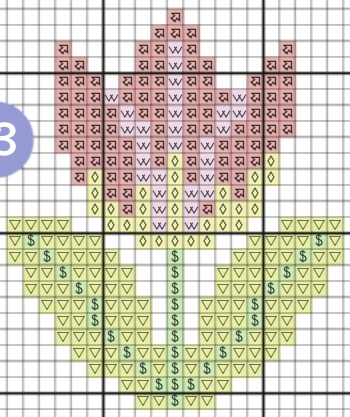
QUICK TO STITCH AND FULL OF DETAIL



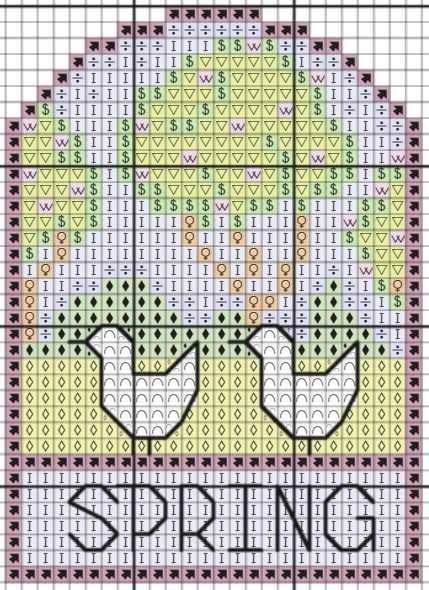
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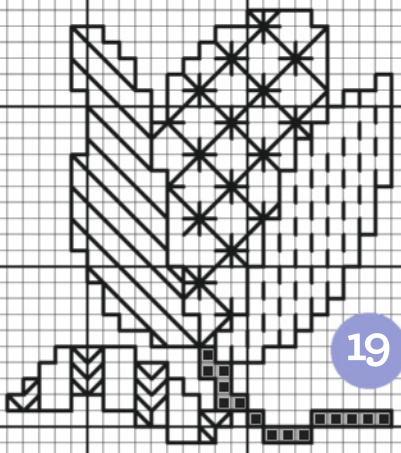
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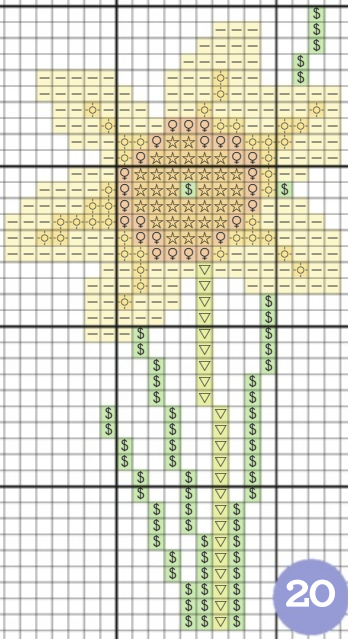
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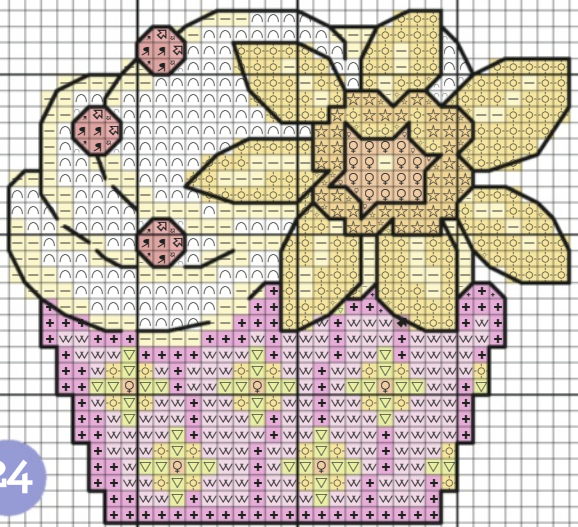
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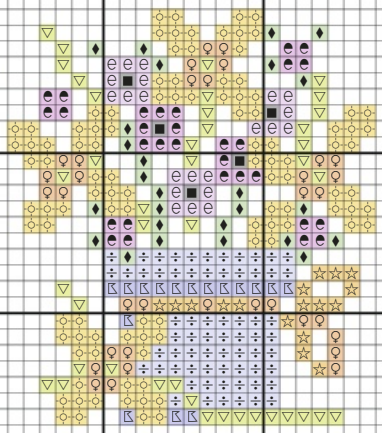


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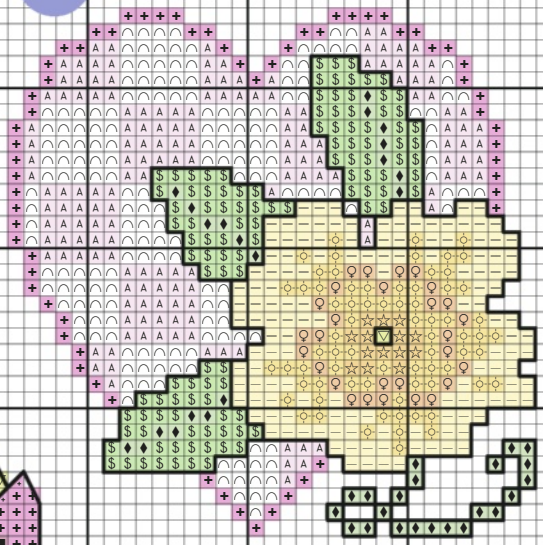
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LOOK OUT FOR WHOLE STITCH ONLY MOTIFS!

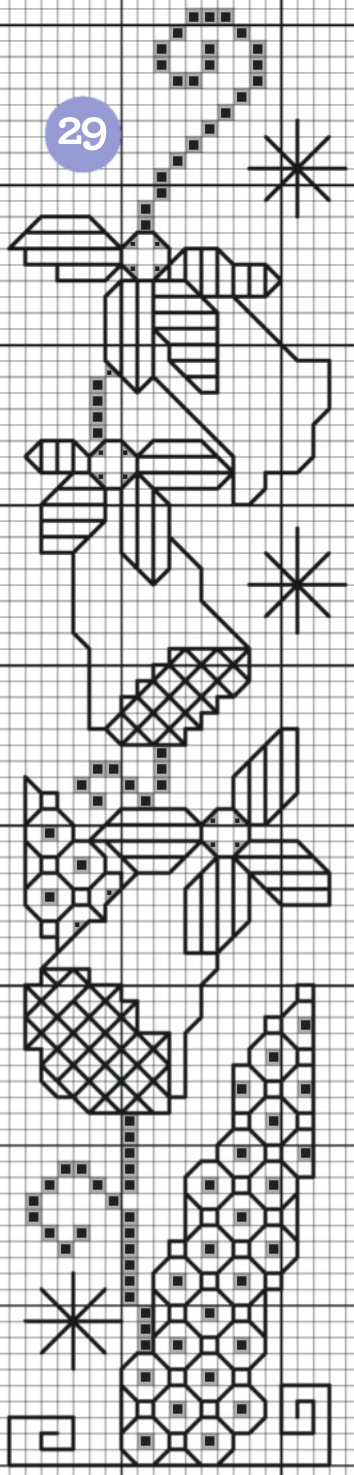
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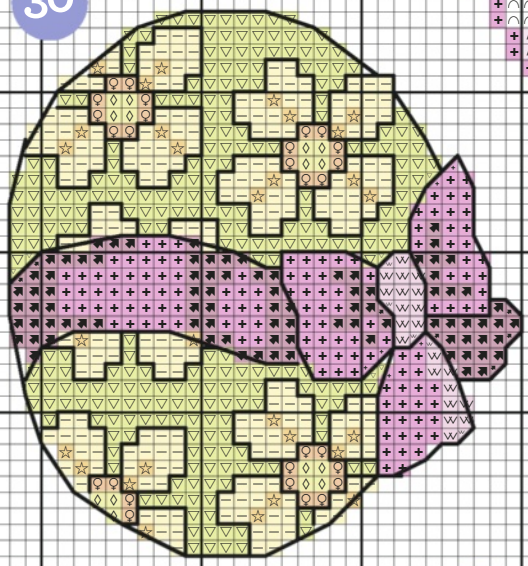
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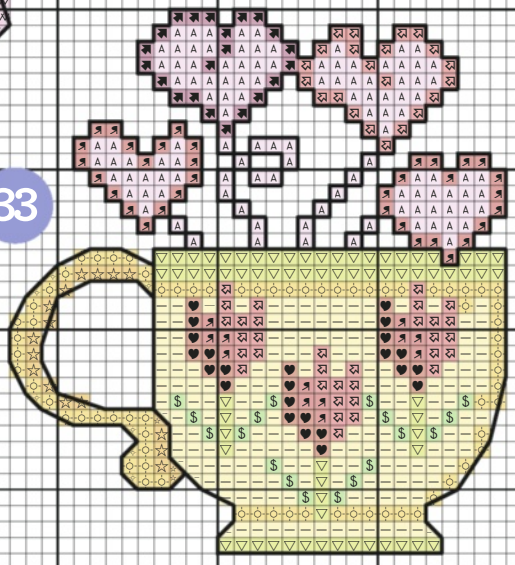
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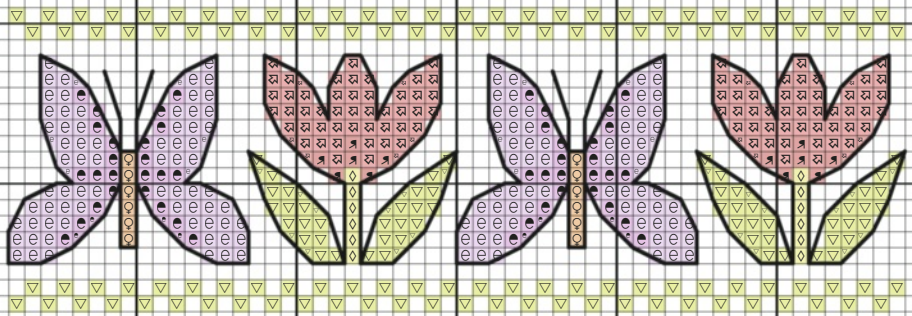
33



TOP TIP

Keep the reverse side of your fabric neat by anchoring each new thread tail under some nearby stitches

36



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NEXT MONTH: IN A ROW

Rhona Norrie has created a fantastic and versatile Design Library of borders and repeats, perfect for multiple projects and purposes. Get to the shops on 27 February to pick up your copy of issue 214, or subscribe and the issue will be delivered to your door. Find this month's great subscription offer on page 44.

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GET THE KIDS CREATING



Shopping list

- Zweigart* 11-count white aida measuring 15x20cm (6x8in) for each design
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Size 22 tapestry needle
- Craft Creations* square aperture cards (AP10U) in bright green and raspberry. Single fold, deckle-edge cards (DEC7U) in purple and bright blue.
- Artemio felt pencil case in fuchsia (ARFE5403), available from The Craft Department*
- Plastic hoop frame, pencil pot and CD wallet of your choice

Thread & fabric cost
Approx £22 for all the designs

*For stockists see page 90

DESIGNS BY **LISA REAKES**

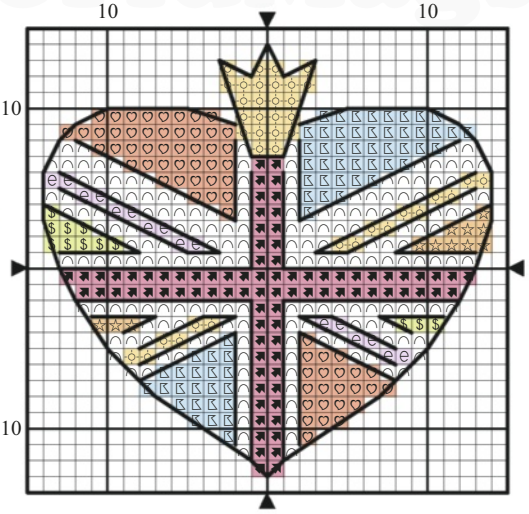
Creative play

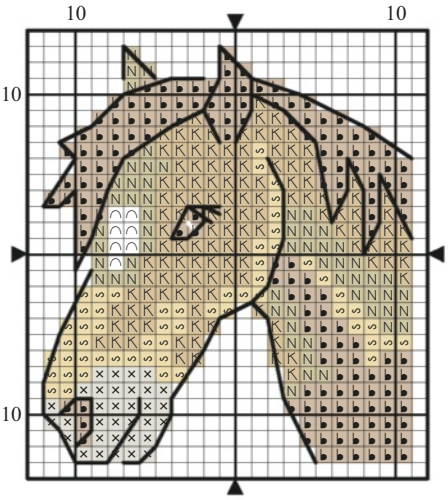
Pass the stitching bug along to your kids with this fun set of designs created especially for them

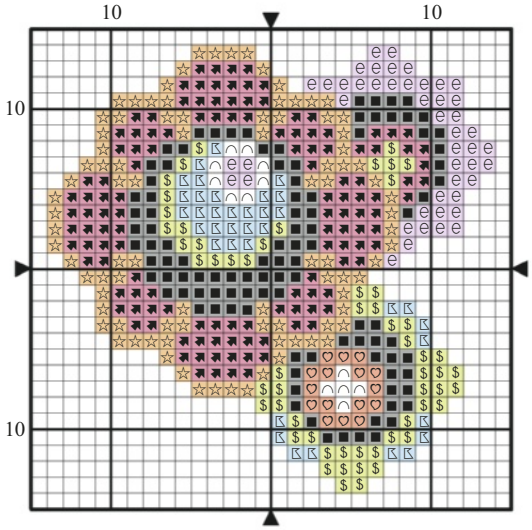
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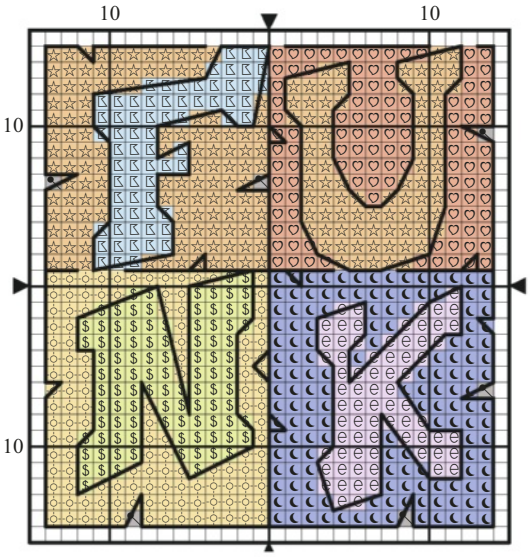
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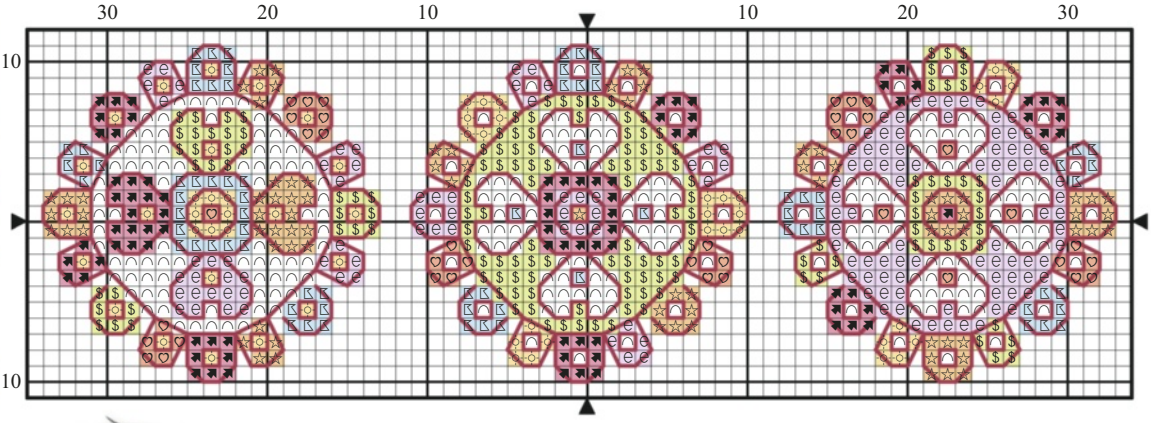




"I definitely know a few kids who would love to stitch these patterns. I also like that there are different designs for girls and boys, as at a certain age they start favouring different things. The bright colours and quirky motifs are sure to get them interested."



FIONA, PRODUCTION EDITOR



Keep the kids busy!

Factbox

- **Stitching Time**
  Approx. 10 hours each
- **Type of Stitches**
  Cross stitch, backstitch
- **Ease of Stitching**
  Beginner



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Meet the designer

Lisa Reakes

"I love it when my daughter and her friends enjoy playing at crafty things, and seeing her interested in my stitching was the perfect inspiration for me to come up with these designs. I hope your kids enjoy them, too."

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How to... get kids hooked!

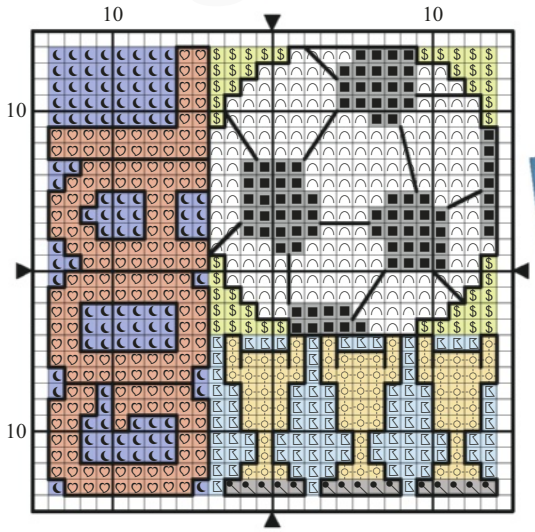
1 Use the right needle. A size 20 or 22 tapestry needle is ideal and slips through the holes of the child-friendly 11-count aida easily.

2 Stick to small easy-to-follow motifs, like these. These will stitch up quickly and give kids a feeling of achievement they'll love.

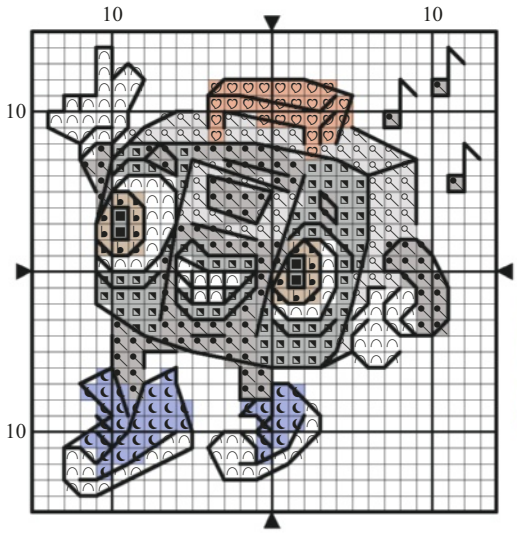
3 Choose subjects that your kids are interested in. This will hold their attention and add to the enjoyment.

4 Let them decide whether they want to use a small hoop or not. It will keep their fabric flat and taut, which can help them get their needle in the right place. But often small hands find it more comfortable to hold the fabric without a hoop – so give them the choice for what's right for them.

5 Use our 'How to' guide on page 97 to teach them the different stitches. Let them practice on scrap aida, until they feel confident.







Kids Stitching key

Cross stitch in four strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	blanc	2	2402	white
e	209	98	803	lilac
■	310	403	2400	black
◣	317	400	1714	grey
◣	318	399	1801	light grey
♡	349	1098	212	red
◣	413	236	1713	dark grey
N	420	374	2104	tan
◤	602	57	702	pink
×	612	832	2108	beige
$	704	255	1308	green
s	729	890	2209	straw
☆	741	304	202	orange
☼	743	302	113	tangerine
☾	798	131	912	blue
A	818	23	502	light pink
◸	996	433	1103	electric blue
b	3781	1088	2003	brown
K	3829	901	2210	dark straw

Backstitch in one strand

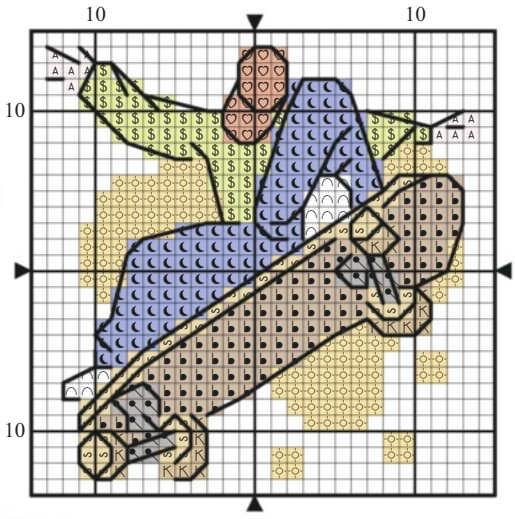
—	310	403	2400	black
—	917	89	706	magenta

MAXIMUM STITCH COUNT 30 high x 67 wide
DESIGN AREA 11 HPI (22-count evenweave) – 7x15.5cm (2¾x6in)

These designs were stitched using DMC stranded cotton

TOP TIP

When kids are learning to stitch, let them choose their own small design from ones like these and keep stitching sessions short to stop them getting bored





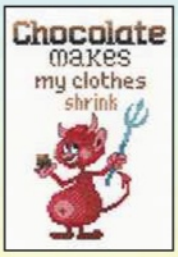
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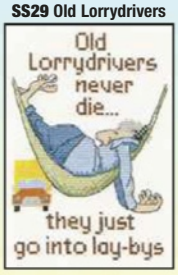
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Right royal stitching

Could cross stitch be gracing the walls of royal residences? **Cathy Lewis** has been finding out…

We all know that hand-stitched items make the best gifts. But Heather Gibson, an avid stitcher from Gavinton in the Scottish Borders, has taken it to another level by stitching lovingly-crafted presents for her other passion – the Royal family.

Heather's first royal gift was a beautiful sampler to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, by Riverdrift House. It took about a month, but her efforts were rewarded by a lovely letter from Buckingham Palace, together with a booklet of photographs showing the Queen throughout her reign. Heather says, "I felt very appreciated, and honoured that my work had been recognised."

After Kate, the Duchess of Cambridge, revealed she was pregnant, Heather knew straightaway which design to stitch for the new baby. She'd seen on a documentary that Prince William had had a Beatrix Potter theme in his nursery when he was a baby. Heather says, "Beatrix Potter is a very classic theme that I thought would work well, and be suitable for a boy or girl." The design took her four weeks to stitch, and as a finishing touch she added Prince George's name as soon as it was announced. She posted the sampler to William and Kate a week after the birth, together with a letter wishing them every happiness for the future. Just over a month later Heather was surprised and thrilled to receive a thank you letter from the busy parents.



"Congrats!": Heather Gibson with her stitched gifts and thank you letter from the Royal family

I asked Heather what she loves most about the Royal family. She says, "They are so iconic to Britain and have always been there for the people of this country, no matter what."

Heather's passion for giving doesn't stop at Royalty. She also finds time to make gifts and cards for friends and family. "It's such a nice feeling when someone opens a gift and to see them appreciate the amount of skill and time that went into it."

Crafting is a way of life for Heather. She has been cross stitching since the age of four, having taught herself after watching her gran. Her biggest cross stitch project to date is a quilt, which has taken her over three years to complete!

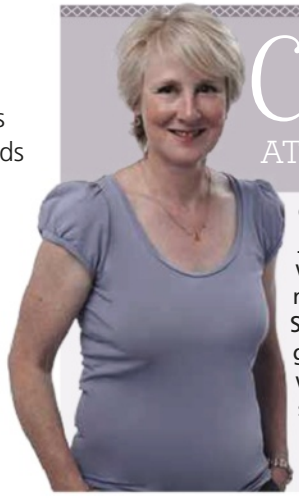
So, what's her next project? "I've a book cover to stitch for one of my favourite authors. I'm also having some of my artwork published at the beginning of the year, and I'd love to do some more stitching for celebrities.'

What about more celebration stitching for the Royals? "I sent Prince George a hand-stitched Christening card recently, but Zara's baby in the New Year is the next big event, and then of course the baby's Christening after that." ✖

Fit for Royalty!

The tradition of giving gifts to Royalty goes back many hundreds of years, and includes some unusual gifts, such as a cheetah to George III and a giraffe to George IV. The Queen too has received some quirky gifts, often reflecting materials or craftsmanship specific to that country. These include a collection of shells from the Seychelles, cowboy boots from the USA, a canary from Germany, jaguars and sloths from Brazil, and an elephant called Jumbo from Cameroon.

STITCH A GIFT



Cathy AT LARGE

Cathy Lewis is a journalist who's worked in craft mags for 20 years. She knows all the goings on and the who's who in the stitching world, and shares it all with us!

WorldMags.net



DESIGNS BY **RHONA NORRIE**

Time for tea!

Room enough for a cuppa and a biscuit… stitch these charming mug rug designs for your mum

Shopping list

- Zweigart* 14-count white aida measuring 20x25cm (8x10in) for each design
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Size 24 tapestry needle
- Backing fabric, wadding and bias binding of choice

Thread & fabric cost
Approximately £22

*For stockists see page 90

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Mug Rugs key

Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	B5200	1	2401	white
◊	164	240	1209	light green
e	209	98	803	dark lilac
I	210	108	802	lilac
■	310	403	2400	black
◣	312	979	1005	dark blue
◖	322	131	1004	blue
◥	414	235	1714	dark grey
↖	415	398	1802	grey
b	434	310	2009	dark tan
ɔ	436	1045	2011	tan
$	703	238	1307	green
☼	725	305	113	yellow
–	745	300	111	light yellow
♡	760	1022	405	pink
A	761	1021	404	light pink
*	762	234	1804	light grey
N	801	359	2007	brown
P	809	130	909	light blue
▼	905	257	1412	dark green

Backstitch in one strand

——	310	403	2400	black
——	312	979	1005	dark blue

MAXIMUM STITCH COUNT 55 high x 93 wide
DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 10x17cm (4x6½in)

These designs were stitched using DMC stranded cotton

New finishing idea

Factbox

- **Stitching Time**
  Approx. 20 hours each
- **Type of Stitches**
  Cross stitch, fractionals, backstitch
- **Ease of Stitching**
  Intermediate

Anna READER PANEL



"These mug rugs will make the perfect gift for my mum – she will love them because I will have made them for her. I can also adapt these mug rugs with designs of her favourite flowers and cupcakes."



How to...

make a mug rug

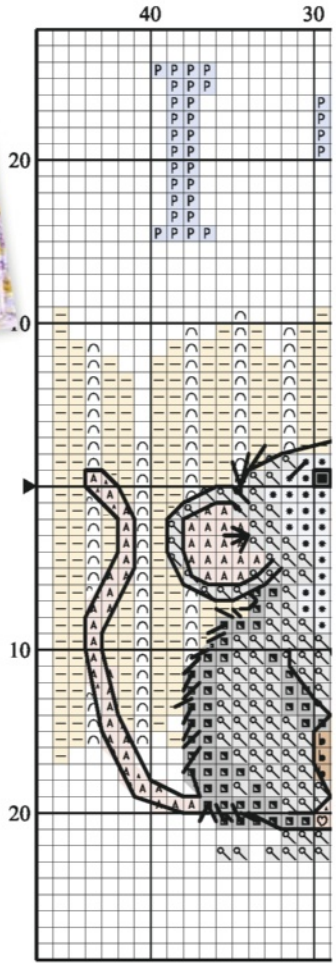
1 Gently wash and press your finished stitching, then trim to measure 15x23cm (6x9in).

2 Cut one piece of backing fabric and one piece of wadding the same size as the stitched piece.

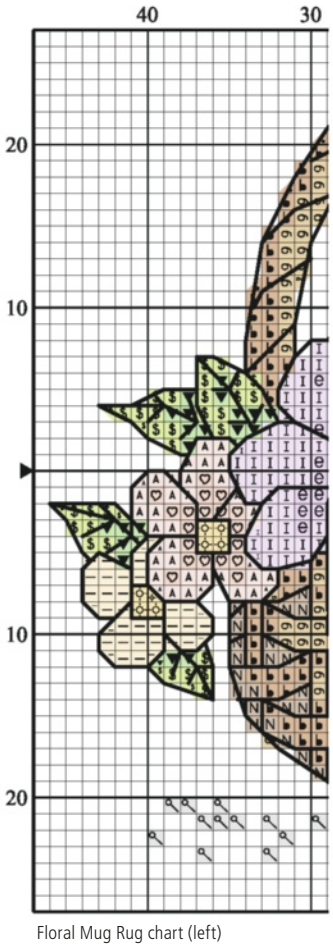
3 Sandwich the three layers together so that the stitched piece is on top with the right side uppermost, the backing fabric on the bottom and the wadding as the middle layer. Tack all three layers together.

4 Pin the bias binding to each raw edge, making sure that the raw edges are turned in for a neat finish. Machine stitch in place to secure all the layers.

TOP TIP
As tempting as it may seem, don't leave all the fractionals until last as they are easily lost. Work them as you go along.



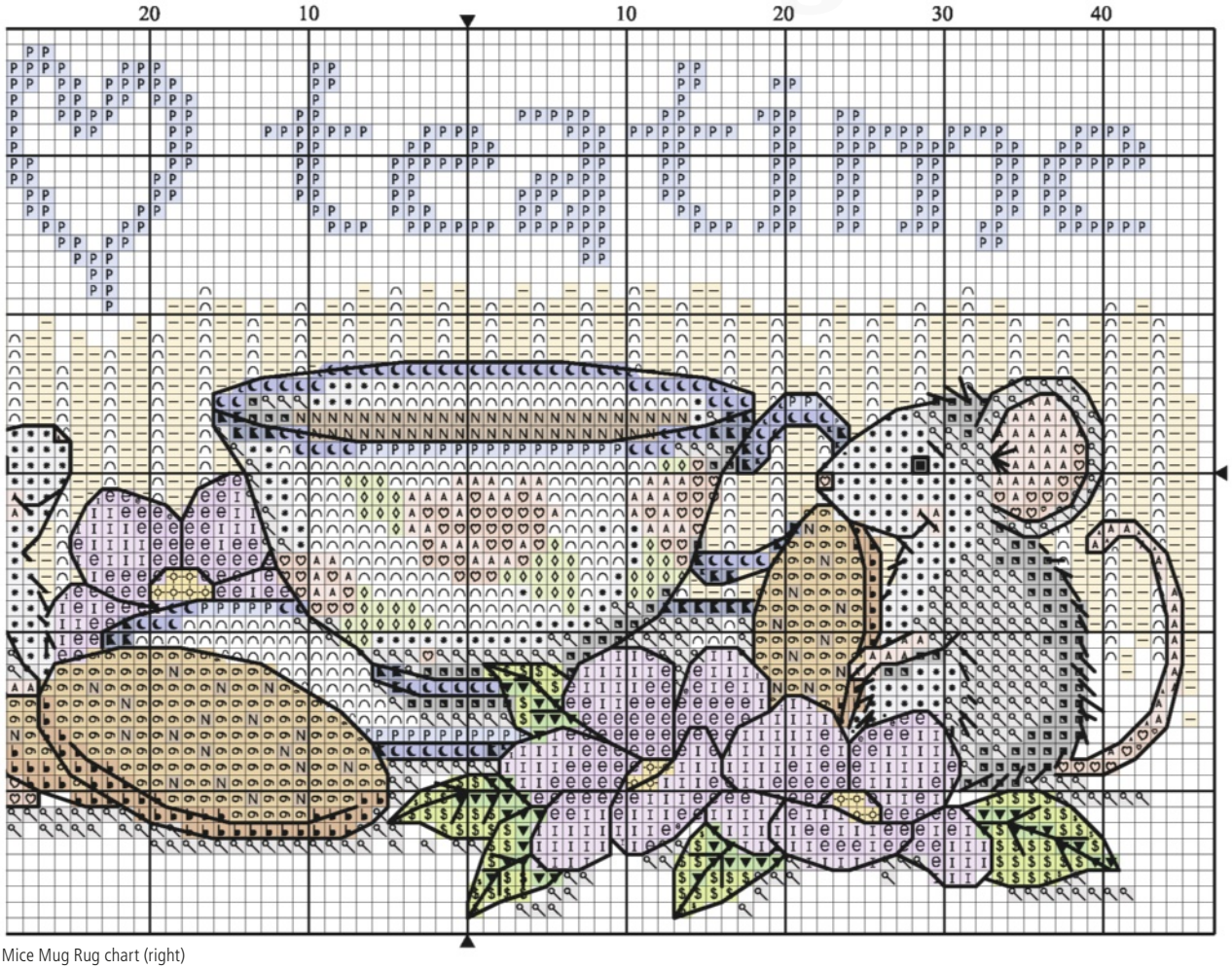
Mice Mug Rug chart (left)



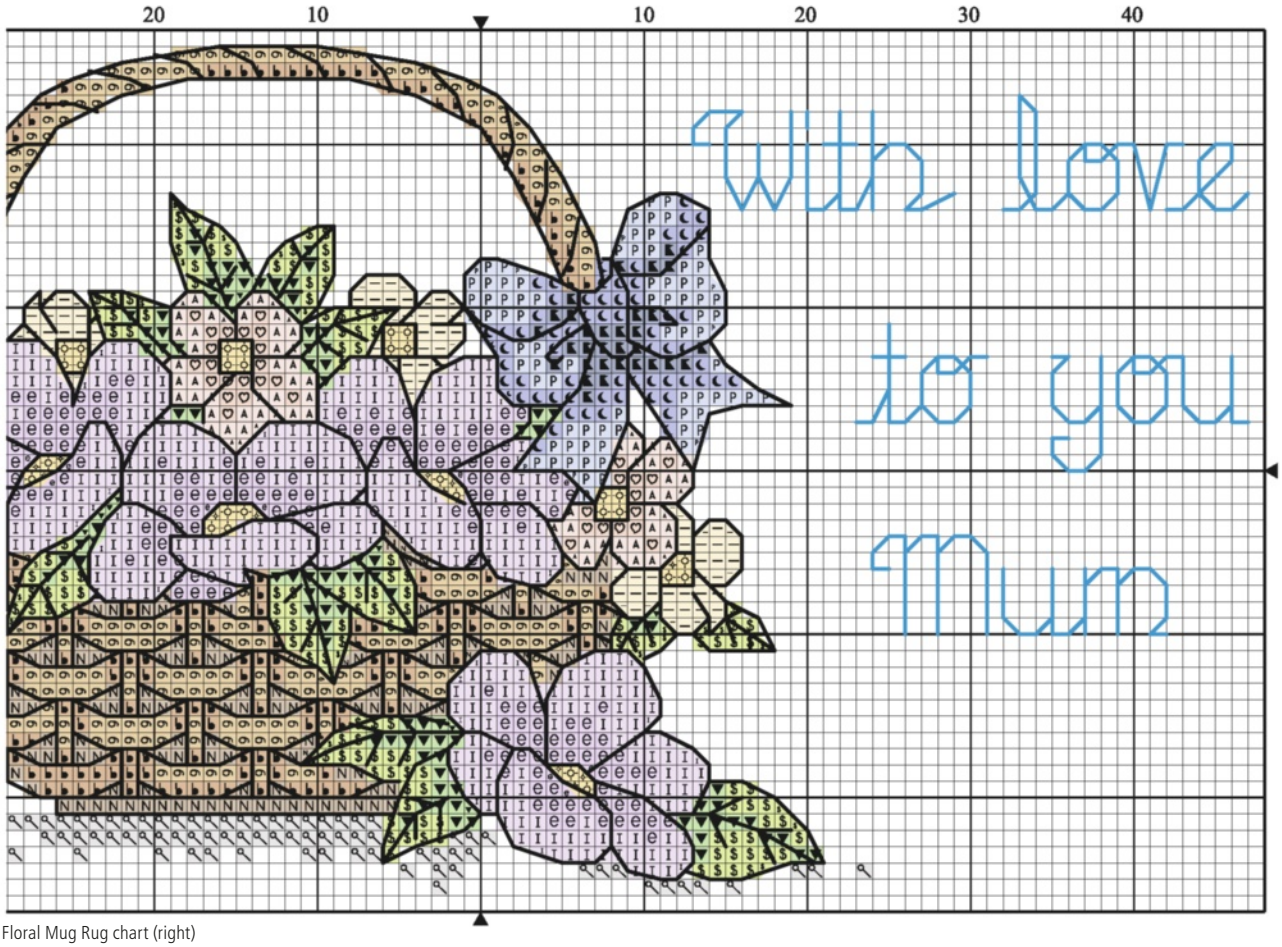
Floral Mug Rug chart (left)

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Mice Mug Rug chart (right)



Floral Mug Rug chart (right)

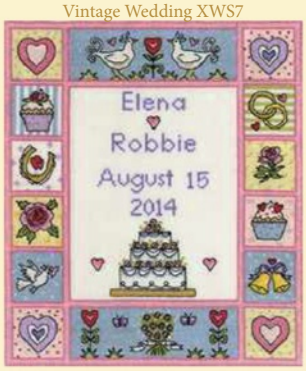
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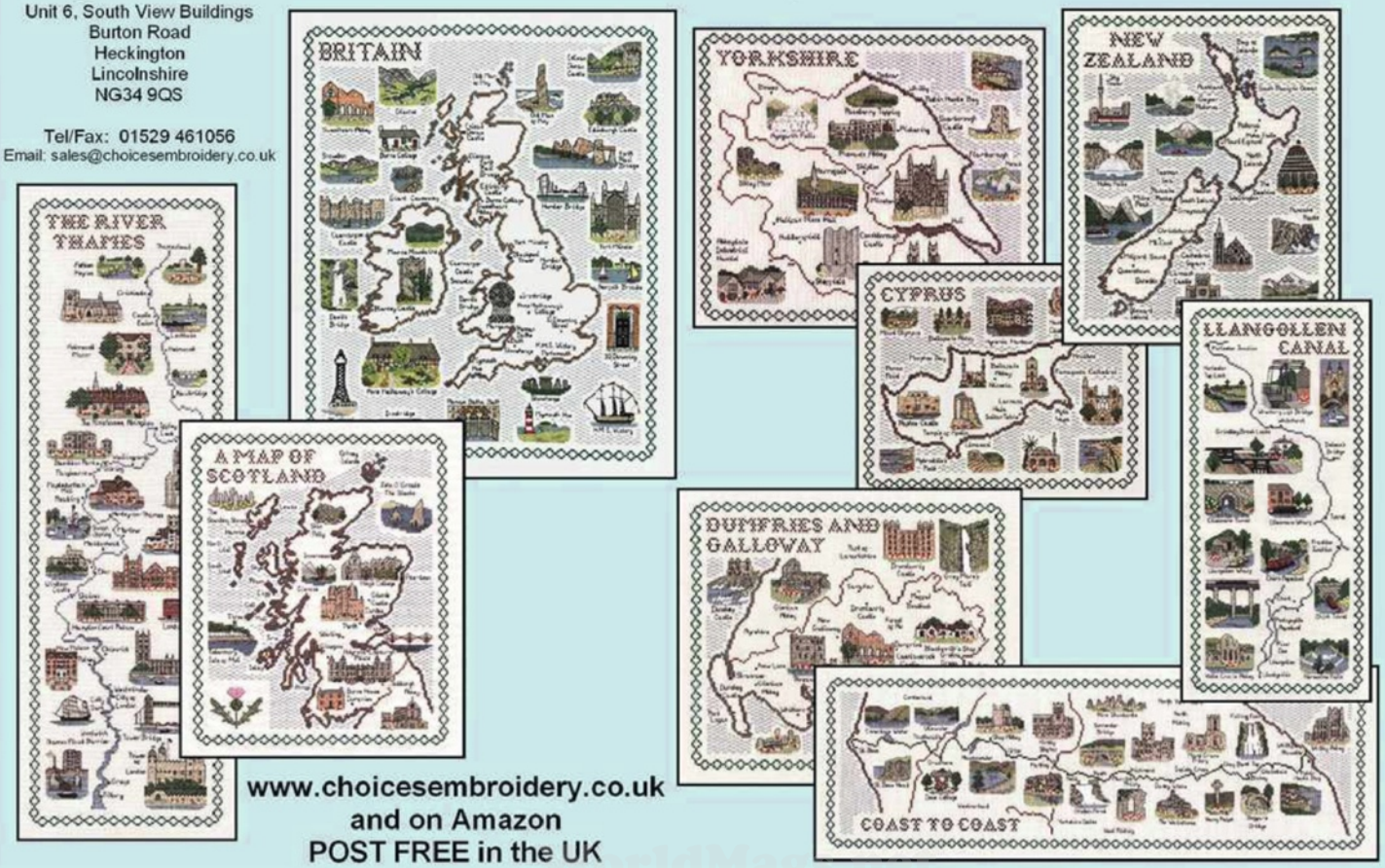
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DESIGNS BY **AMANDA GREGORY**

Patch perfect

Get crafty and create something unique with this fabulous patchwork-themed alphabet

Shopping list

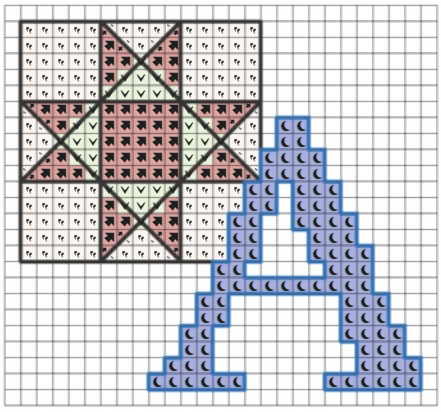
- Zweigart* 14-count aida measuring 15cm x desired length
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Size 24 tapestry needle
- Wicker basket of choice from high street stores

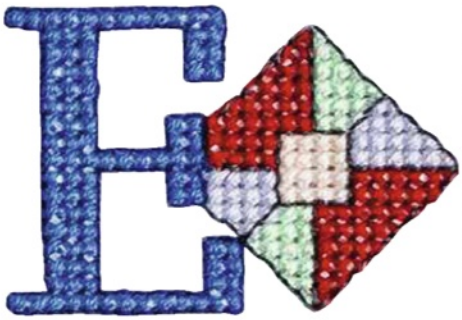
Thread & fabric cost
Approximately £20

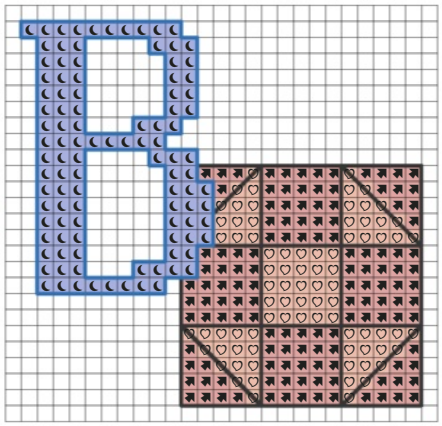
*For stockists see page 90

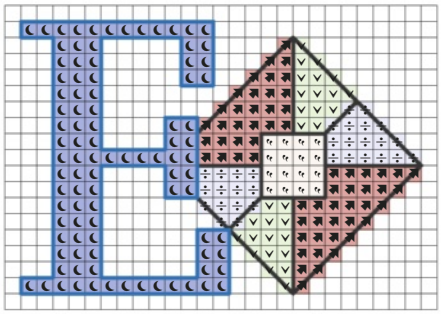
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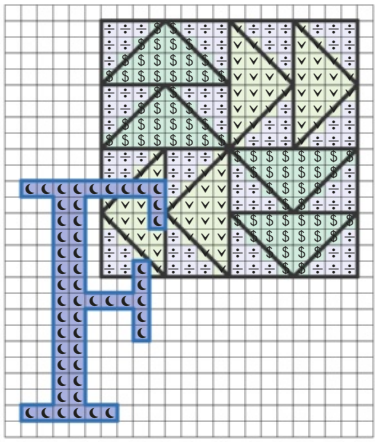
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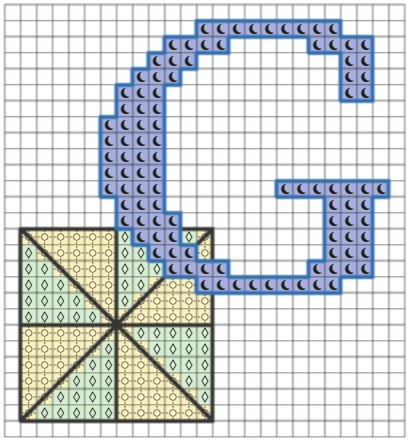


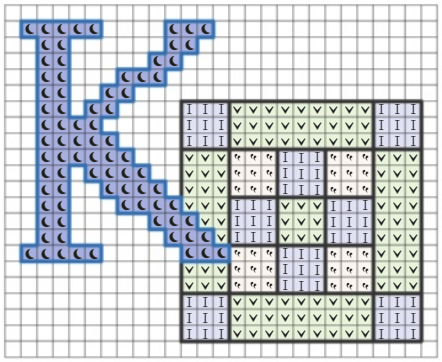


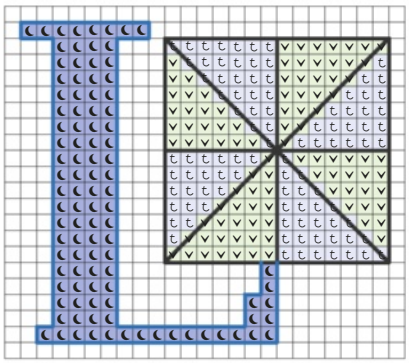


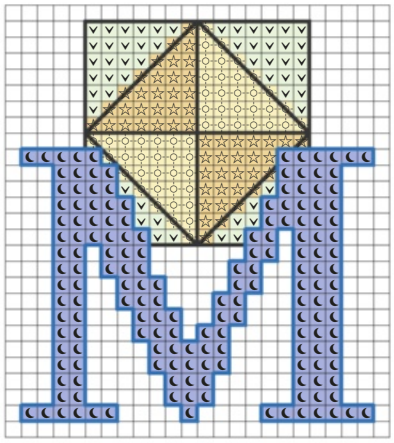


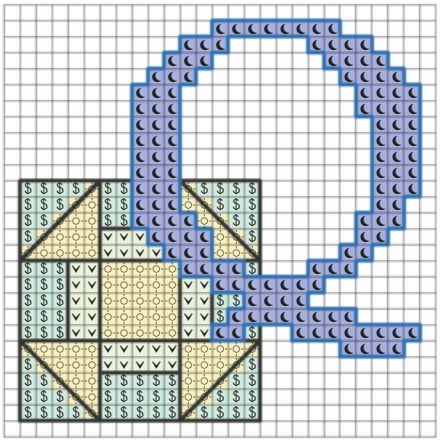


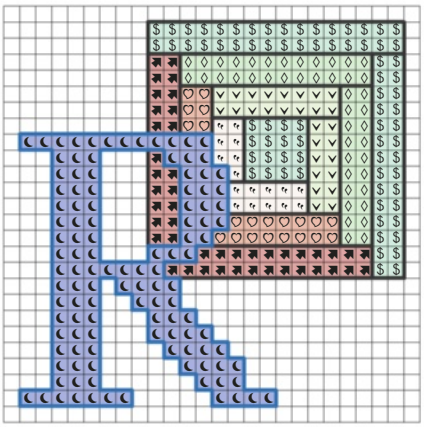


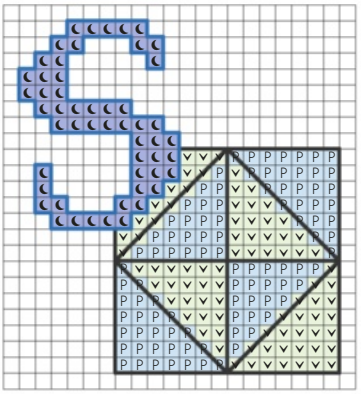






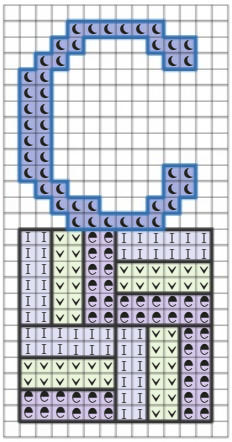


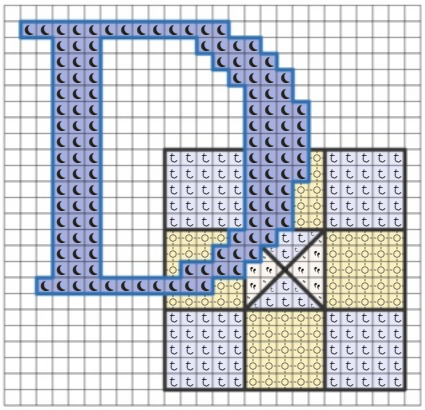


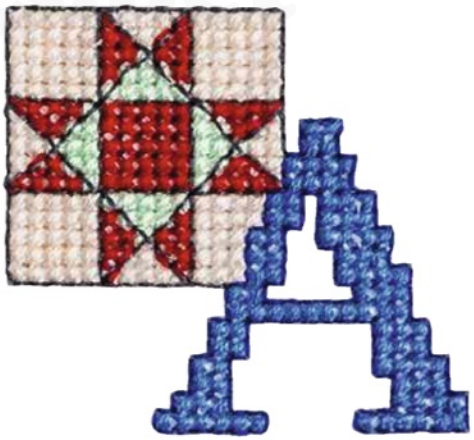


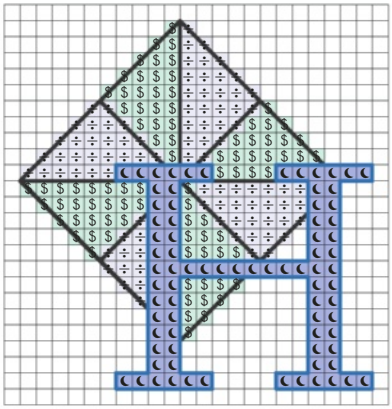
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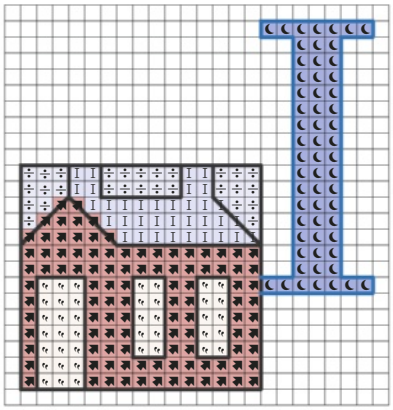
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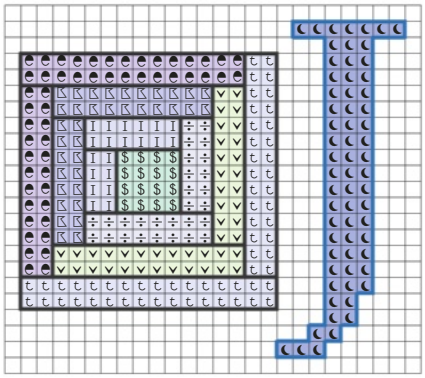


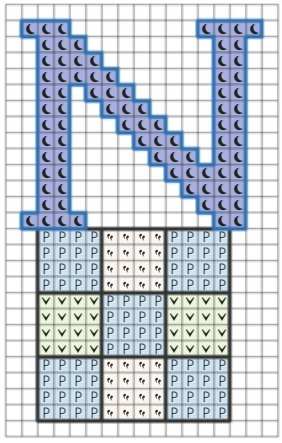


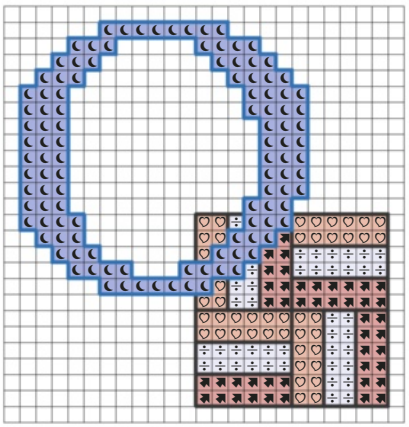


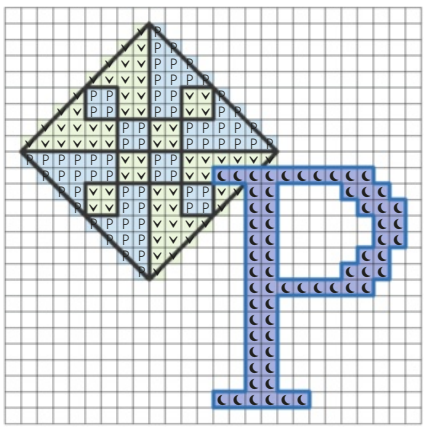


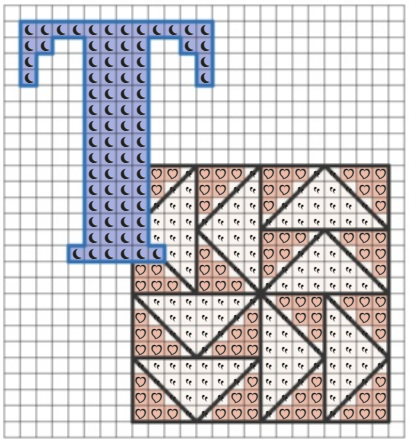












COMING UP NEXT MONTH

Joan Elliott has created the cutest lamb alphabet for you. Featuring sweet, fluffy lambs surrounded by spring flowers, this ABC is sure to become a favourite so look out for the charts in issue 214, on sale 27 February.

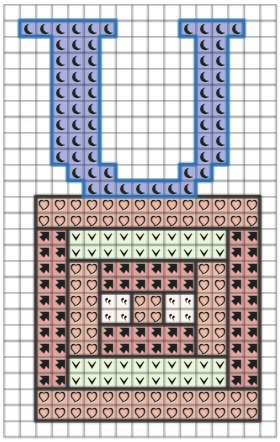


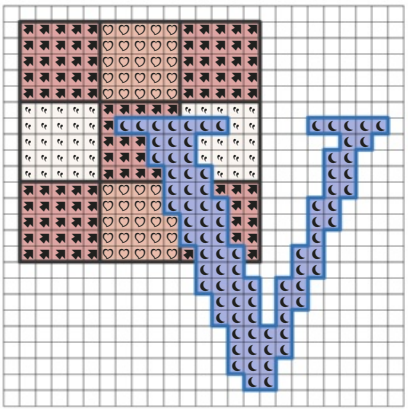
TOP TIP

Keep all alphabets that you see in magazines in a folder. When you need an alphabet to add to a card or sampler, you'll have a selection to choose from

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Patchwork ABC key

Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
I	156	939	902	purple
♡	351	10	214	coral
☼	726	295	109	yellow
☆	742	303	114	tangerine
☾	798	131	912	dark blue
◥	817	13	210	red
◊	913	204	1212	green
v	955	206	1210	light green
$	958	187	1114	emerald
P	996	433	1103	electric blue
◓	3746	1030	2702	dark purple
÷	3747	120	901	light purple
◟	3770	1009	2314	peach
◱	3838	176	905	blue
t	3840	130	907	light blue

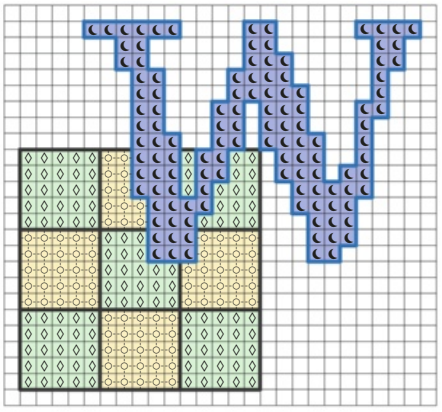
Backstitch in one strand

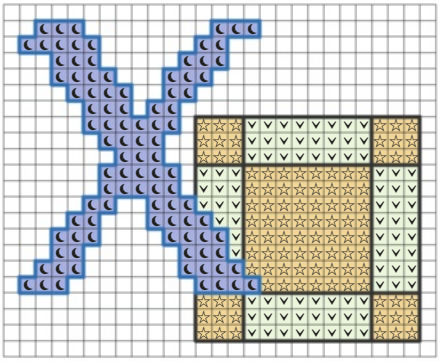
—	413	236	1713	grey
—	820	133	914	royal blue

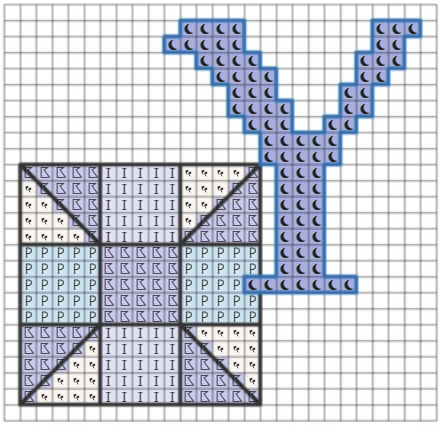
MAXIMUM STITCH COUNT 25 high x 25 wide

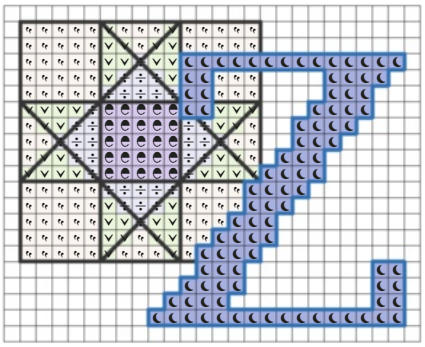
DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 4.5x4.5cm (1¾x1¾in)

These designs were stitched using DMC stranded cotton









Great for all abilities

Factbox

- **Stitching Time**
  Approx. 2 hours for each letter
- **Type of Stitches**
  Cross stitch, fractionals, backstitch
- **Ease of Stitching**
  Beginner

Jacqueline READER PANEL



"I have been waiting ages for something like this to come along. I dabble in a bit of quilting, too, and the thought that now I can personalise my 'stash box' seems an amazing idea. I cannot wait to get my hands on this!"

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DESIGN BY **JOAN ELLIOTT**

Rainbow delight

Enjoy a floral flourish of spring with this stunning fairy portrait, full of colour and life



This nimble fairy surrounded by flowers and butterflies is the perfect way to herald the arrival of spring. A rainbow of colours cascade from her chestnut locks and fingertips in a delightful design, full of hope and promise!

Designer Joan Elliott uses a large jewel-inspired colour palette for this vibrant and vivacious project. Layer upon layer of detail has been used to create a picture that really springs to joyous life. Careful shading in the floaty, silken panels of her skirt and wings add depth and movement.

The metallic threads and beads add extra sparkle to this exquisite fairy portrait. The design is also stitched on hand-dyed 28-count evenweave from Polstitches Designs – the blush of pink in the background brings warmth to the scene. Sprinkle some magic yourself with this gorgeous design as you bring it to life with each stitch. It's sure to become a favourite in the house.

Factbox

Use beads for glitz

- **Stitching Time**
  Approx. 90 hours
- **Type of Stitches**
  Cross stitch, fractionals, backstitch, French knots, beads
- **Ease of Stitching**
  Intermediate



Meet the designer

Joan Elliott

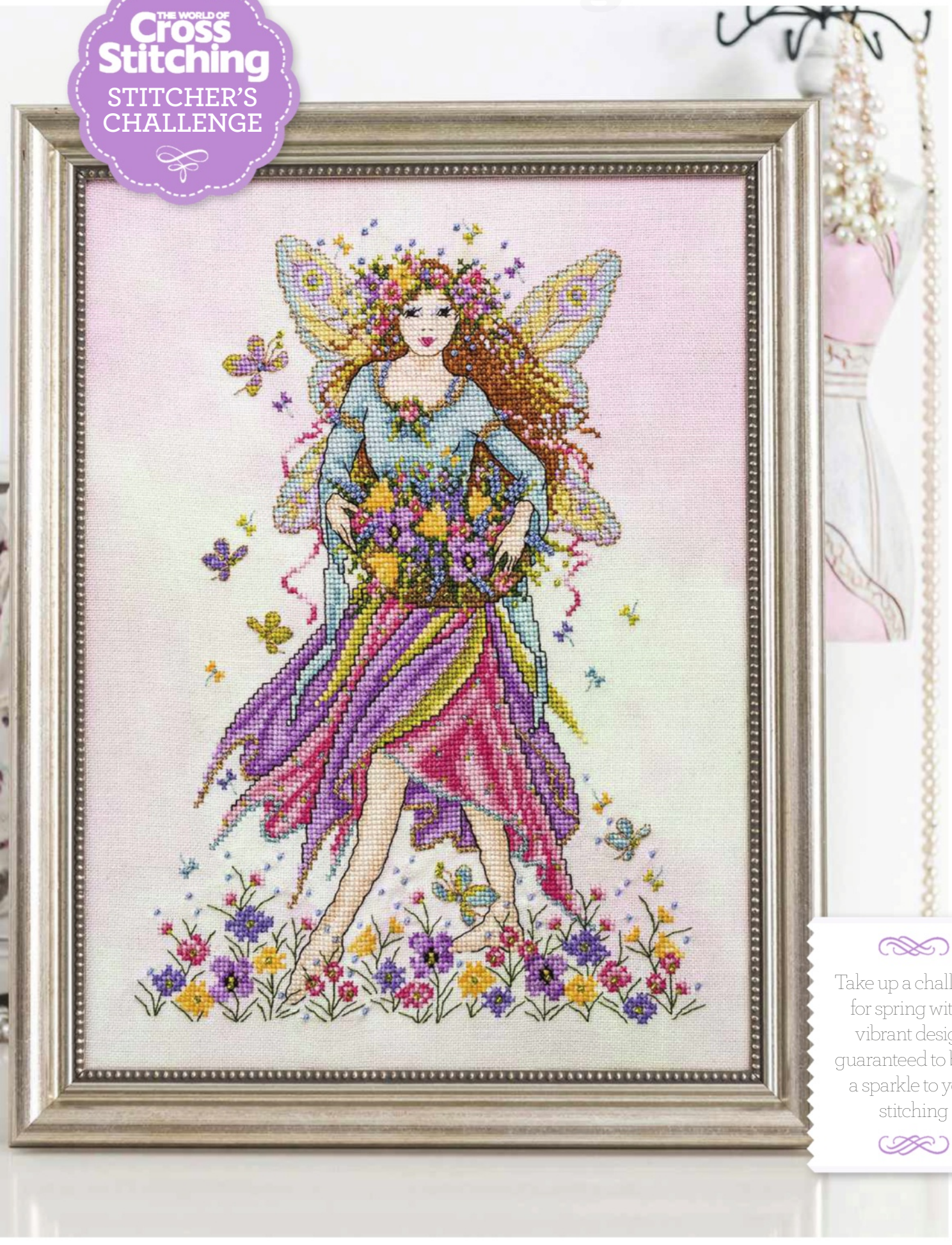
"I tried to create a figure in a fantasy scene that came alive with the colours and themes of spring and early summer – and using such an extravagant palette was a joy. And her name? Of course, she is called Jewel!"

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THE WORLD OF Cross Stitching

STITCHER'S CHALLENGE



Take up a challenge for spring with a vibrant design, guaranteed to bring a sparkle to your stitching

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Jacqueline
READER PANEL

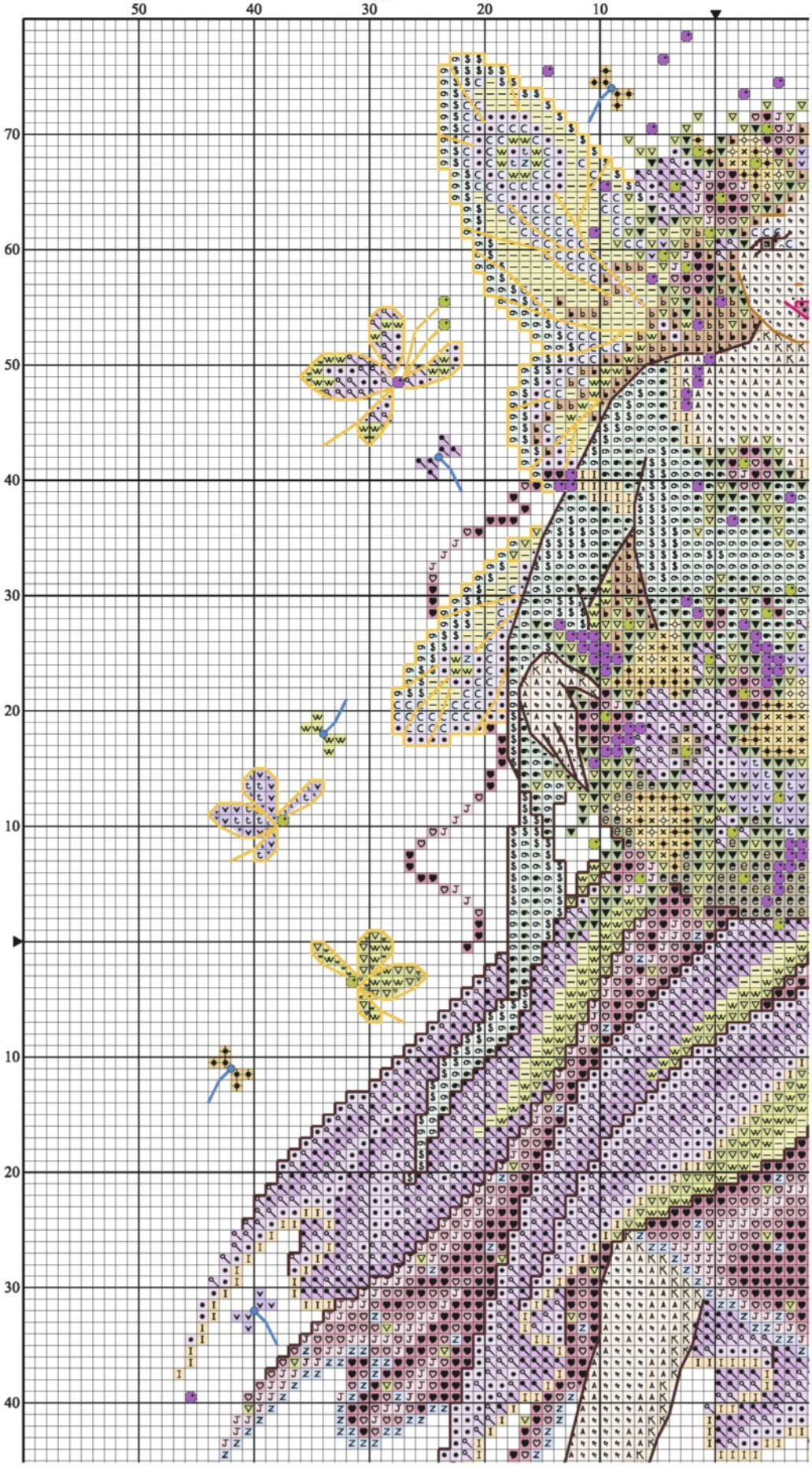


"Being a massive Joan Elliott fan, this is a design not to be missed. It is absolutely stunning and really pretty. I love the colours used throughout it and, to be honest... I just love all of it. This design would have pride of place in my home, I would create a 'fairy' wall and that would mean I would have to just stitch lots more of Joan Elliott's beautiful fairy designs."

TOP TIP

When using metallic threads, try a larger needle than normal. The hole in the fabric is made bigger so the thread can pass through more easily

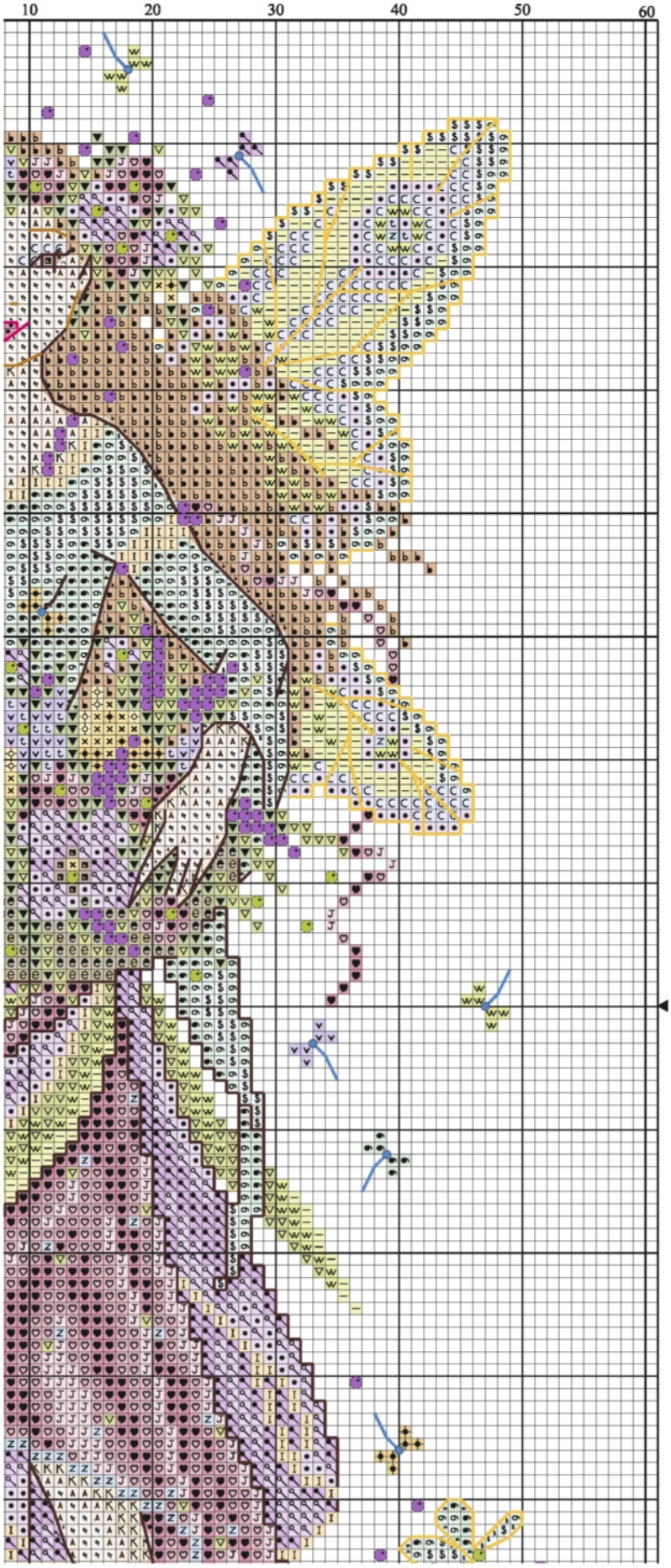




Springtime Fairy chart (top left)

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Springtime Fairy chart (top right)

Springtime Fairy key

Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
t	155	118	902	light purple
–	165	278	1414	light lime green
w	166	279	1611	lime green
	208	99	804	dark lilac
	209	98	803	lilac
*	210	108	802	light lilac
e	420	374	2104	tan
▽	581	280	1609	green
	597	1064	1110	dark turquoise
	598	1062	1111	turquoise
♥	602	57	702	dark pink
♡	603	55	701	pink
J	605	1094	613	light pink
	742	303	114	dark yellow
×	743	302	113	yellow
	744	301	112	light yellow
e	869	375	2105	dark tan
K	945	881	2309	dark peach
A	951	1010	2308	peach
b	975	355	2303	ginger
▼	3345	268	1406	dark green
	3371	382	2004	dark brown
v	3746	1030	2702	purple
C	3747	120	901	light violet blue
'	3770	1009	2314	light peach
$	3811	1060	1101	light turquoise
b	3826	1048	2306	dark ginger

Cross stitch in two strands Kreinik #4 braid

Z	014			sky blue
I	3280			citrine

Backstitch in one strand

	602	57	702	dark pink
	869	375	2105	dark tan
	3345	268	1406	dark green
	3371	382	2004	dark brown

Backstitch in one strand Kreinik #4 braid

	014			sky blue
	3280			citrine

French knots in one strand Kreinik #4 braid

●	014			sky blue

Mill Hill seed beads

●	02006			ice blue
●	02031			citrine

STITCH COUNT 159 high x 119 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 29x21.5cm (11¾x8½in)

This design was stitched using DMC stranded cotton, Kreinik #4 braid and Mill Hill seed beads on 28-count evenweave over two threads of the fabric

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Our KITS of the MONTH February



Bouquet Wedding 24x19cm
14ct cream Aida £22.50

BIG EVENT IN 2014?

If you have a big event on the horizon, why not stitch a memory of the occasion? These Vervaco kits are just a few of the timeless designs available and are best sellers year after year.



Tiny Feet 19x16cm
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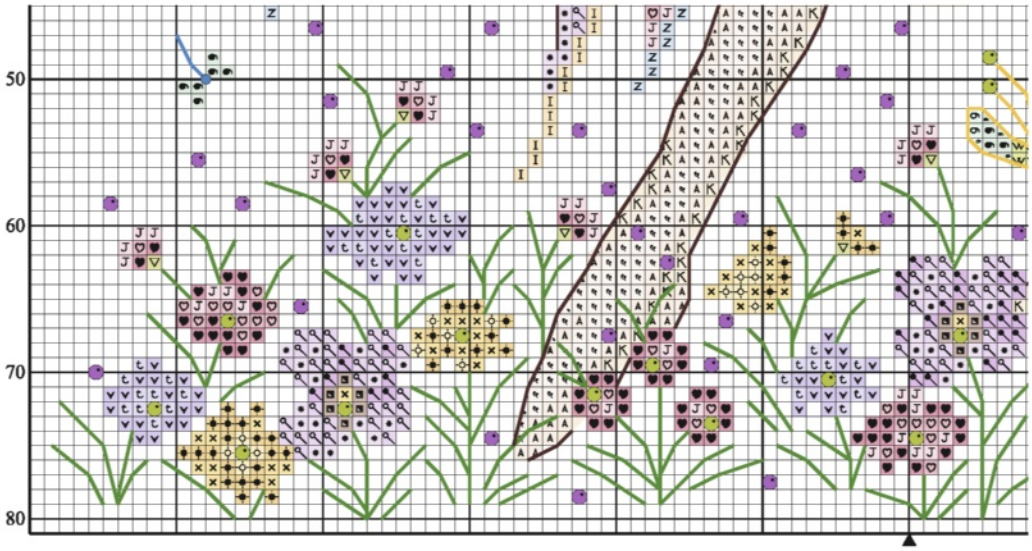


To Have and to Hold 20.5x23.5cm
14ct Cream Aida £22.35

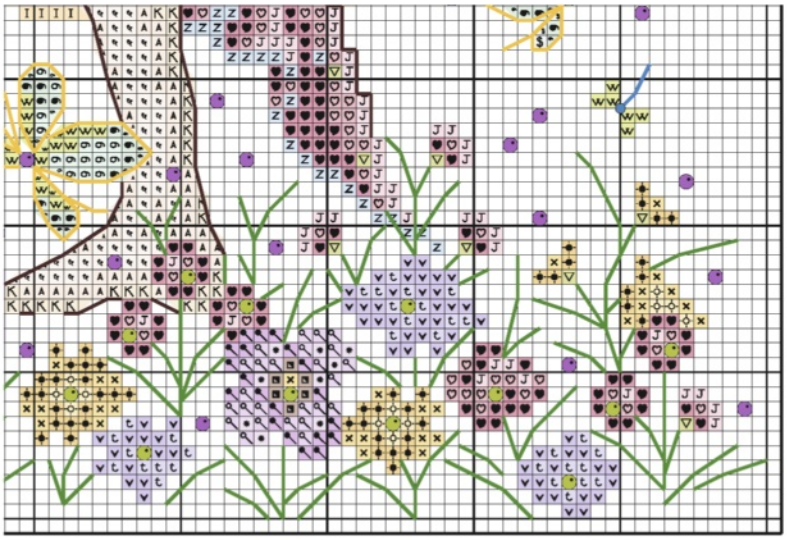
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Springtime Fairy chart (bottom left)



Springtime Fairy chart (bottom right)

How to... add seed beads

To attach your beads, use a whole cross stitch to help keep the beads upright and create a consistent finish. Attach the bead to the design with the bottom arm of a cross stitch (picture, left) and then add the top arm of the stitch, making sure that each strand falls on either side of the bead to help hold it upright (picture, right).





Shopping list

- Polstitches Designs* 28-count Jobelan evenweave (Fairy Dreams) measuring 41x33cm (16x13in)
- Stranded cotton and metallic thread as listed in the key
- Mill Hill* seed beads as listed in the key
- Size 26 tapestry needle; beading needle
- Frame of your choice with a minimum aperture of 33x23.5cm (13x9¼in)

Thread & fabric cost
Approximately £36

*For stockists see page 90

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Temptations Lancaster LA2 7HQ	01524 261868
The Quilted Sheep Ltd Cumbria LA7 7PN	01539 565800

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Sewing Machines and Crafts(Crafts Upstairs) Keighley BD21 1AD	01535 609466
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Woodseats Sewing Machines Ltd Sheffield S8 0RY	0114 255 2822

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Exeter Sewing Machine Company Exeter EX1 2LD	01392 275660
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Fiona's sweet treats



A selection of baking goodies for you to stitch and enjoy

Mother's Day is the perfect time to show your mum how much you appreciate everything she did for you, and probably still does! That's why this sublime rose cupcake design from Durene Jones is the perfect way to say thank you to your mum.

The pink and purples used blend perfectly with the pistachio icing and sugary-looking leaves, making this design really stand out on the white aida. And, because it is done in whole stitches with a little backstitch to really define the details, it is easy to make and shouldn't take more than a couple of evenings to finish.

We mounted ours in a raspberry coloured card blank, but you could choose any of the colours used in the design, like purple or green. You could also add extra touches with embellishments or use a metallic pen to write your message inside.

This design would also work well as a birthday card, just leave out the 'Happy Mother's Day' message.

I'd better get stitching, as I want this one done in plenty of time!





Meet the designer

Durene Jones

Durene's ever-popular Cupcake of the Month series continues with another delicious design and, excitingly, an update for the New Year. This March 2014 sees another Cupcake in her new series – all calorie-free!

Shopping list

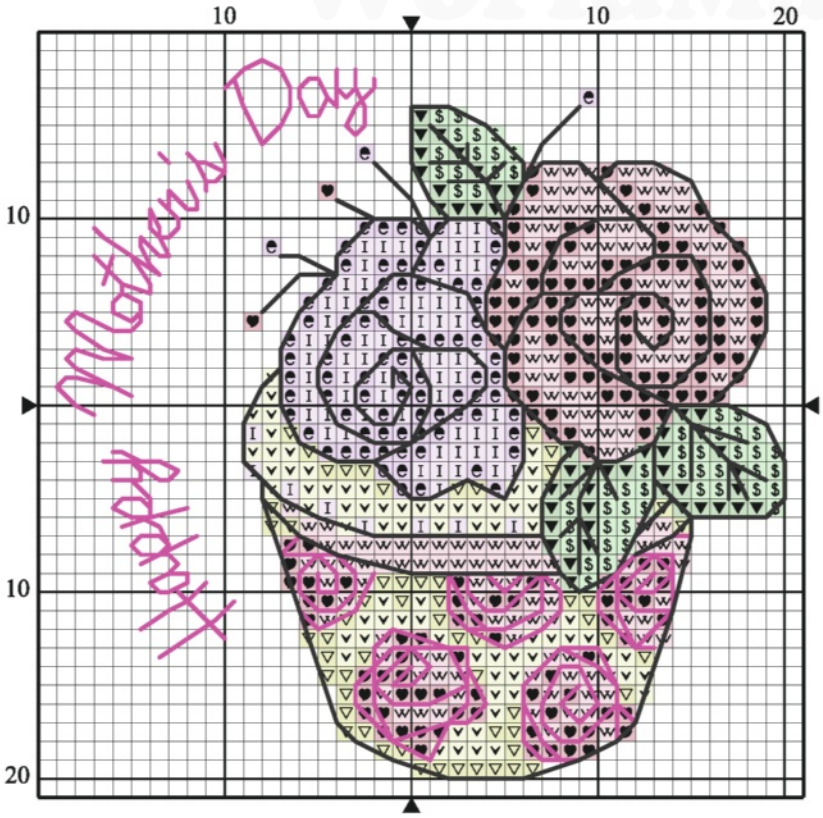
- Zweigart* 14-count white aida measuring 15x15cm (6x6in)
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Size 24 tapestry needle
- Craft Creations* circle aperture card (AP09U), in raspberry

Thread & fabric cost
Approximately £10

*For stockists see page 90

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Mother's Day cupcake key

Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
e	209	98	803	dark lilac
I	211	342	801	lilac
♥	603	55	505	pink
w	605	1094	613	light pink
v	772	259	1604	light grass green
▼	911	205	1214	dark green
$	913	204	1212	green
▽	3348	264	1409	grass green

Backstitch in one strand

—	413	236	1713	grey
—	601	63	703	dark pink

STITCH COUNT 39 high x 39 wide

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

This design was stitched using DMC stranded cotton

TOP TIP

If your handwriting lets you down, print out typed messages or buy lettering stickers to create your own messages. Simply add your signature underneath!

Factbox

Quick and easy card

- **Stitching Time**
  Approx. 8 hours
- **Type of Stitches**
  Cross stitch, backstitch
- **Ease of Stitching**
  Beginner



More lovely baking ideas...

In the bag

Made using unbleached, cotton canvas, these personalised cupcake tote bags by Hannah Stevens* are the perfect size for stashing your Work-in-Progress. Add your mum's name below the image for a fab and unique Mother's Day pressie. Bags cost £8 each.



Little stitchers



This 'Little Stitch Fairy Cake' kit with sparkles by Looby Lou Designs*, suitable for children aged 8+, is designed to introduce little ones to the world of stitching. Costing £20, it contains 8-count aida, threads and needle, plus a flower to pop on top.

Top marks



This year let your mum know she is the best with this cute 'World's Greatest Cupcake Maker' bookmark chart from PinoyStitch*. As it is an instant download you can pay by credit card, choosing your own currency. Costing £1.60, it has a finished size of 12.7x5cm (5x2in) on 14-count aida, using 10 thread colours.

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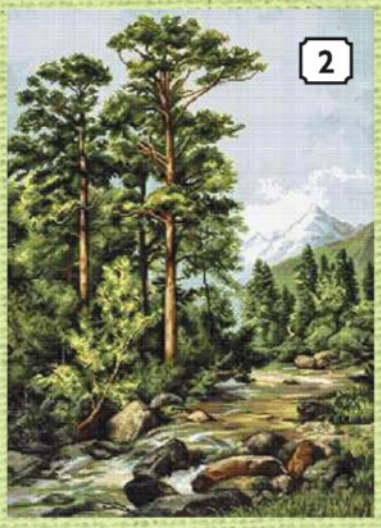
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Counted cross stitch kits - aida fabric count and design area as stated. Each kit has fabric, stranded cotton *, needle, chart and instructions. (Kits marked * include wool & acrylic yarn, not stranded cotton)

1. Forever - ~~RSP £29.99~~ Our Price £24.99 - 16 count; 36 x 22cm
2. Mountain River - ~~£57.99~~ Our Price £45.00 - 18 count; 34 x 47cm
3. Mother & Child - ~~£39.99~~ Our Price £29.99 - 16 count; 39 x 28cm
4. Tropical Orchids - ~~£59.99~~ Our Price £45.00 - 14 count; 34 x 34cm
5. Friendly Shelter - ~~£34.99~~ Our Price £29.99 - 16 count; 28 x 35cm
6. Old Street - ~~£39.99~~ Our Price £29.99 - 14 count; 40 x 30cm *
7. Girl with Goose - ~~£14.99~~ Our Price £12.99 - 14 count; 14 x 20cm
8. Ducklings - ~~£14.99~~ Our Price £12.99 - 14 count; 20 x 12cm
9. French Lavender- ~~£24.99~~ Our Price £19.99 - 14 count; 25 x 25cm *

Large format paperbacks; full colour patterns, diagrams, instructions

10. Cable Cocoons & Hats (Crochet) - Our Price £5.99 (5 patterns)
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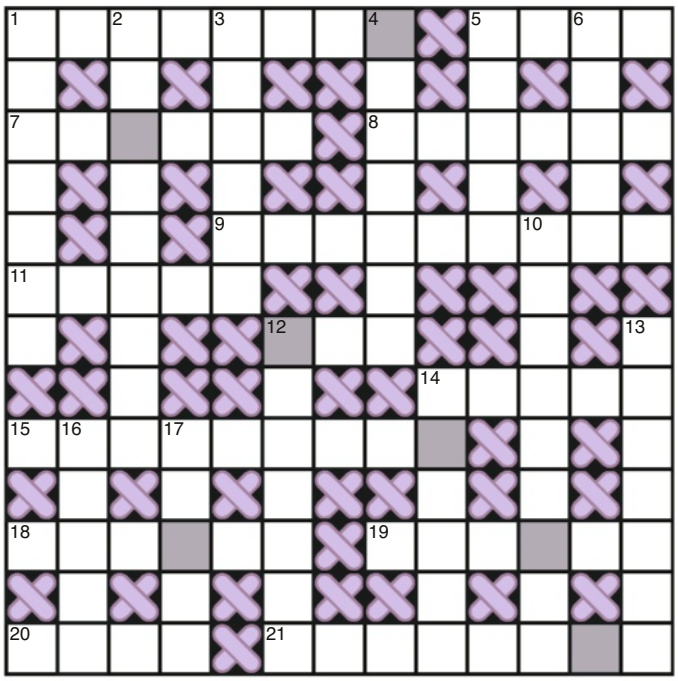
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Enter to win!

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

PLUS

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



ACROSS

1 Long-tailed game bird (8)
5 In addition (4)
7 Small shiny ornamental disk (6)
8 Rock used for sculpture (6)
9 Sleep during the winter (9)
11 Untidy (5)
12 Part, portion (3)
14 Inexpensive (5)
15 Become louder gradually (9)
18 Occur in plentiful numbers (6)
19 Reddish-brown hair colour (6)
20 Rung on a ladder (4)
21 Animal with antlers (8)

DOWN

1 Hobby, leisure activity (7)
2 Intricately beautiful in design (9)
3 Forge (6)
4 Violent storm (7)
5 Protective garment (5)
6 Division, break (5)
10 Exciting undertaking (9)
12 Kitchen appliance (7)
13 Type of wrench (7)
14 Supporting pillar (6)
16 Automated machine (5)
17 Drink noisily (5)

TO ENTER **Use the letters in the shaded squares to spell out the name of a gift given on Mother's Day (7)**

WIN! Furry Tales Prize

Heart mouse key

Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	blanc	2	2402	white
◖	322	131	1004	dark blue
♥	349	1098	212	red
✿	351	10	214	light red
♭	436	1045	2011	dark tan
∽	437	362	2012	tan
N	739	366	2014	light tan
W	754	1012	305	dark peach
✎	844	1041	1809	grey
'	948	892	306	peach
◺	3755	140	1013	blue

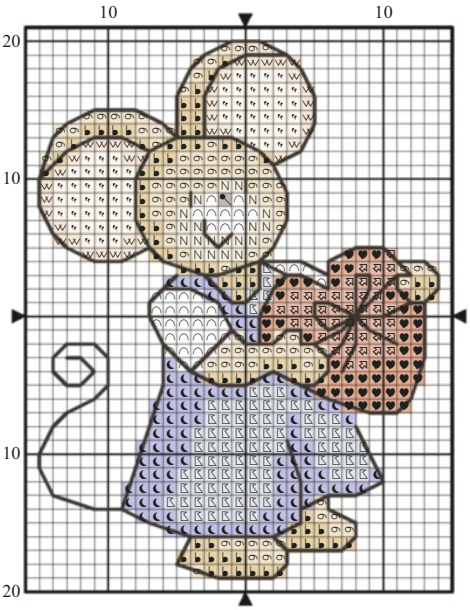
Backstitch in one strand

——	844	1041	1809	grey

STITCH COUNT 39 high x 29 wide
DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 7x5.5cm (2¾x2in)

This design was stitched using DMC stranded cotton

Each month one crossword winner gets an original print of Monty Mouse plus a limited-edition Titch chart, both by Lucie Heaton. Check out www.lucieheaton.com to find more adorable Furry Tales designs!





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PRIZES worth over £1,079!

PRIZES WORTH £263

Light me up

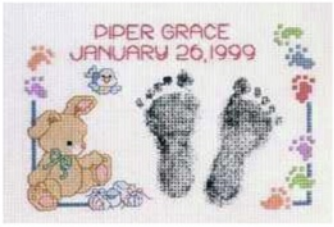


Daylight* has upgraded its Slimline table lamp to LED. The beautiful, elegant design allows wide light coverage and boasts low-heat, shadow-free and flicker-free light to reduce eye strain while enabling perfect colour-matching. Daylight has two lamps, valued at £119.99 each, to give away to readers, along with a LED Neck Magnifier (£11.99), which can be used either as a neck or table magnifier for crafting and sewing.

TO ENTER **To enter by text message use keyword 'LED' or if you're entering by post, please label your entry 'Daylight Slimline lamp giveaway (WOXS213)'.**

PRIZES WORTH £300

Plenty of kits



Minerva Crafts* has a huge collection of cross stitch kits, suitable for every skill level. They're giving away a goody bag of assorted cross stitch kits worth £100 to three lucky readers. Visit www.minervacrafts.com for their selection.

TO ENTER **To enter by text message use keyword 'MINERVA' or if you're entering by post, please label your entry 'Minerva Crafts giveaway (WOXS213)'.**



PRIZES WORTH £250

CRAFTASTIC!



Paine Free Crafts* offers high quality, detailed, downloadable PDF charts with no backstitching, fractionals or speciality stitches. Easy-to-follow black-and-white charts, with a full colour representation of the stitched design and thread usage guide are all included. We've teamed up with them to give readers the chance to win 50 x £5 vouchers for use on the site. Individual charts range in price from £5 to £10, so your prize voucher is worth at least 50% off any individual chart!

TO ENTER **To enter by text message use keyword 'VOUCHER' or if you're entering by post, please label your entry 'Paine Free Crafts giveaway (WOXS213)'.**



PRIZES WORTH £263

Stitched artwork



Yiota's XStitch*, producer of cross stitch kits and charts, is giving away 28 patterns (worth £9.40 each) of 'Tree of Life' based on the painting by Klimt. The pattern has whole stitches only with around 40 colours, and a finished size (if worked on 14-count aida) of 28x45cm (11x17¾in).

TO ENTER **To enter by text message use keyword 'PATTERN' or if you're entering by post, please label your entry 'Yiota's XStitch giveaway (WOXS213)'. Please provide your email address**

HOW TO ENTER

CROSSWORD

By text: Text FURRY213 followed by the mystery word, your name and postal address to 87474 eg. FURRY213 Mystery, Name, 123 Any Rd, Anytown AB1 23C. Texts will be charged at 50p plus your standard network tariff rate.
By post: Write your name, address and the mystery word on the back of a postcard or stuck-down envelope and send it to: Crossword WOXS213 Immediate Media Co, 9th Floor, Tower House, Fairfax Street, Bristol BS1 3BN.
Terms & conditions as far right except for: closing date for entries is 5 March 2014. One winning entry will be chosen at random from all eligible entries.

GIVEAWAYS

By text: Text the giveaway's keyword (see above) followed by your name, email and postal addresses to 87474 eg. KEYWORD Name email@email.co.uk 123 Any Rd, Anytown AB1 23C. Texts will be charged at 50p plus standard network tariff rate.
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ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD FROM ISSUE 212: ACROSS: 1 Teaspoon, 5 Bass, 8 Room, 9 Origin, 10 Moo, 12 Flaw, 13 Transport, 16 Labyrinth, 17 Each, 20 Cub, 22 Trudge, 23 Teak, 24 Yank, 25 Blustery. **DOWN:** 1 Trim, 2 Acrobat, 3 Proposal, 4 Nook, 6 Angel, 7 Sandwich, 11 Lobby, 13 Tapestry, 14 Tireless, 15 Knuckle, 18 Churn, 19 Kerb, 21 Busy. **MYSTERY ANSWER: BLUETIT**

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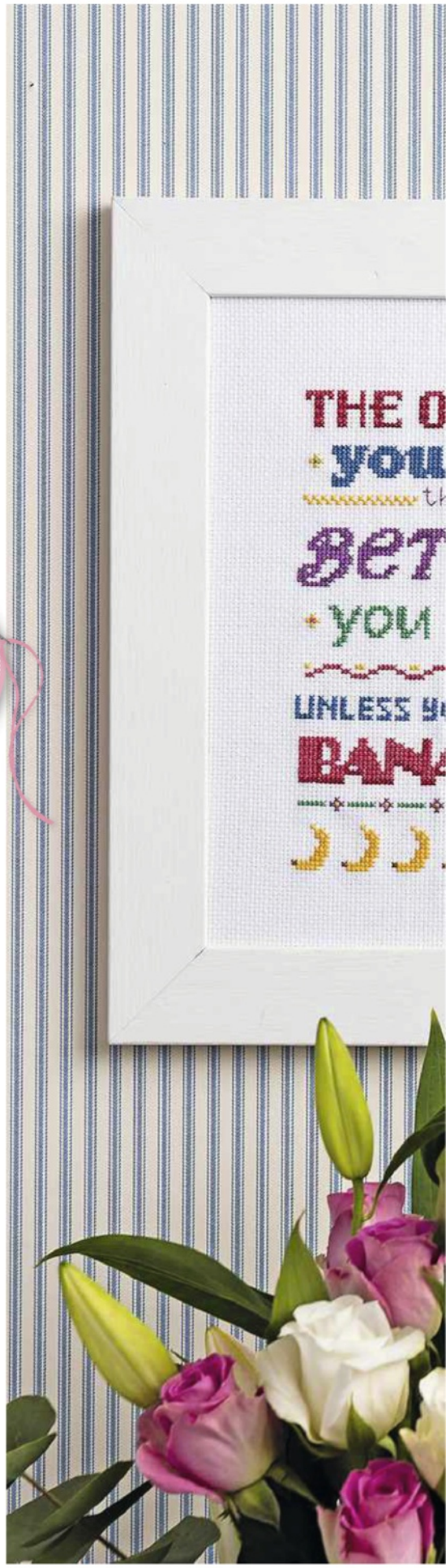
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DESIGNS BY **POPPY BENNER**

A way with words

Be sure to have the last word when you cross stitch these catchy sayings, that'll guarantee smiles all round



Make a loved one laugh with one of these funny phrases, perfect as a small picture, hanging or other gift. The messages will appeal to all kinds of people with their quirky sentiments!

The hot trend for typographical – or lettering-based – artwork is really captured here with these whimsical ideas, and they're sure to appeal to anyone, of any age. Either displayed in your own home or made for a funny gift, they're are perfect for a beginner as they only contain whole stitches and the smallest bit of backstitch. And with limited shading, they'll be really quick to make too.

Designer Poppy Benner's had fun with these quirky sayings, and you could easily put your own creative touch to them too. In fact, these designs are great for using up left-over threads from your stash, as the colourful lettering is all about making a statement. Or choose a coloured aida to show them off even more. Now go on and get cross stitching a smile for someone!

Factbox

Whole stitches only

- **Stitching Time**
  Approx. 15 hours each
- **Type of Stitches**
  Cross stitch, backstitch
- **Ease of Stitching**
  Beginner



Meet the designer

Poppy Benner

"I'm not very good at telling jokes, but I love funny sayings to make my friends and family smile. These are two of my favourites, that I thought would be fab to display and enjoy all year round!"

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STITCH IN A WEEKEND



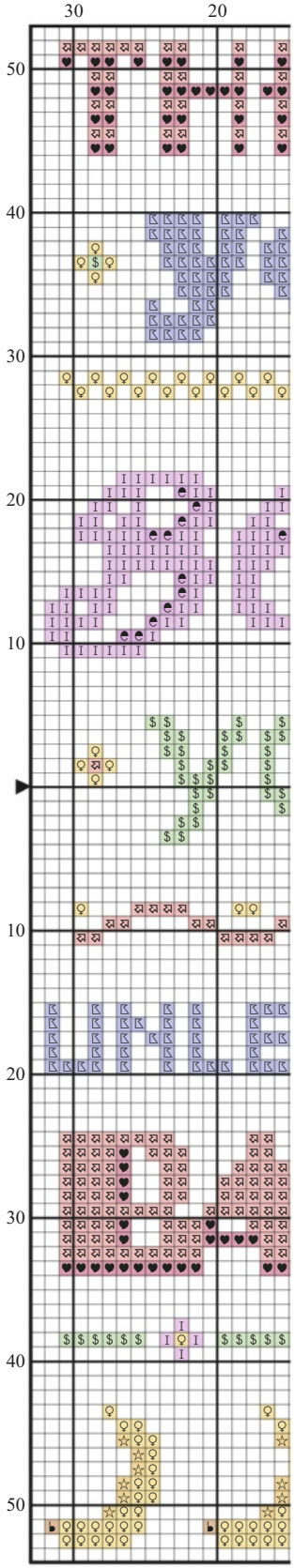
Stitch a witty saying for a loved one and you'll really get the message across that you care!

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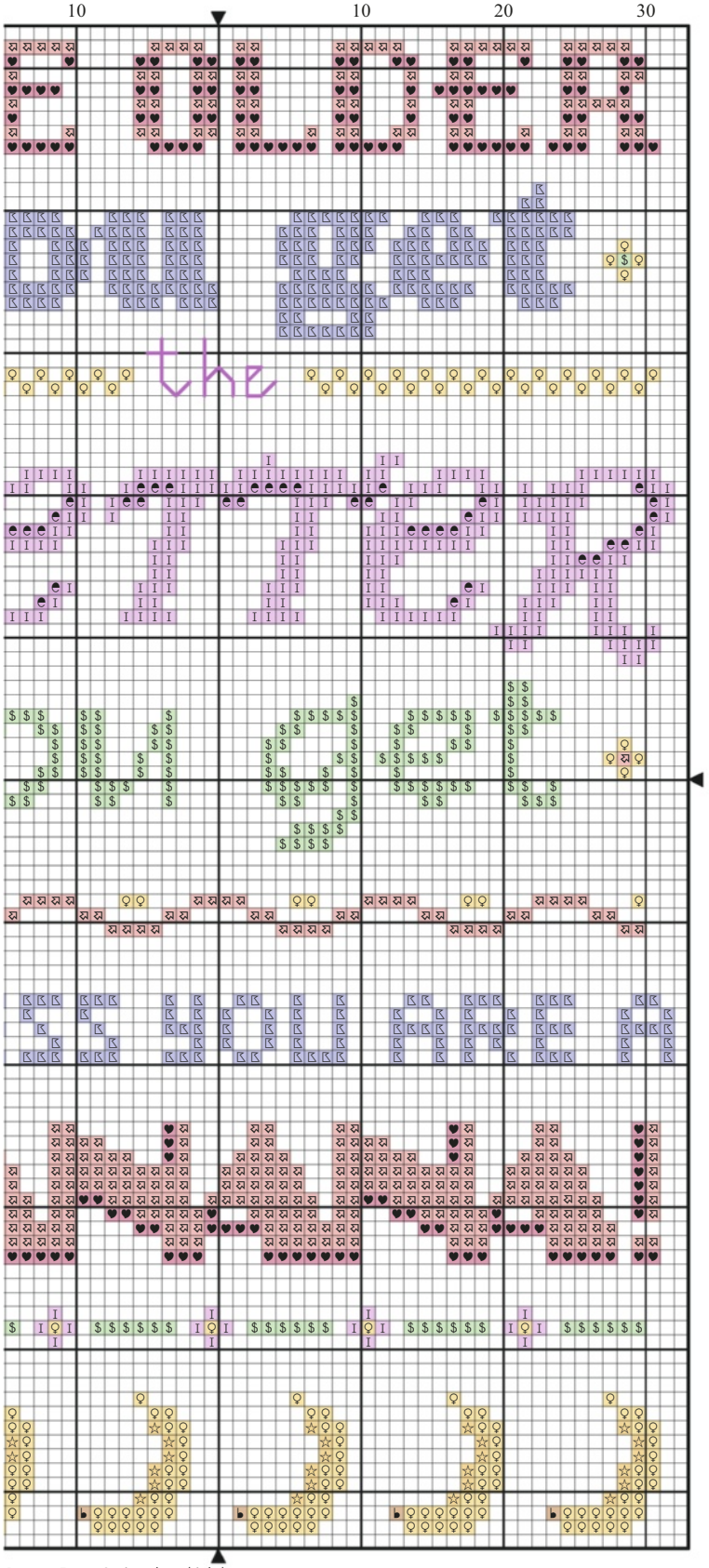
Ice Cream Funny Saying chart



Banana Funny Saying chart (left)

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Banana Funny Saying chart (right)

Funny Sayings key

Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
◺	322	131	1004	blue
✖	335	38	506	pink
b	434	310	2009	dark tan
◔	436	1045	2011	tan
◓	552	99	713	dark mauve
I	553	98	712	mauve
☆	742	303	114	dark yellow
♀	743	302	113	yellow
$	912	209	1213	green
♥	3831	1006	507	dark pink

Backstitch in one strand

—	322	131	1004	blue
—	553	98	712	mauve

MAXIMUM STITCH COUNT 107 high x 64 wide
DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 19.5x11.5cm (7½x4½in)

These designs were stitched using DMC stranded cotton

Shopping list

- Zweigart* 14-count white aida measuring 30x23cm (12x9in) for each design
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Size 24 tapestry needle
- Frame of your choice with a minimum aperture of 26x19cm (10¼x7½in) for each

Thread & fabric cost
Approximately £12

*For stockists see page 90

Alexandra READER PANEL



"These fun saying designs are such a great way of reminding ourselves not to take life too seriously. I would make this for myself as a cover for my journal, as I think it would look really nice."

TOP TIP
If you fancy a bolder look than our contemporary white frame ideas, choose a colour from the threads used, to complement the stitching

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Issue 212

In last month's issue we gave you the All Our Yesterdays girls, a twittering garden birds set, fabulous herb garden, girly sampler, laundry day set, inspirational butterfly cards, a charming dress-up dolls design and a love story cushion for Valentine's Day. Plus *two* free gifts: **a felt floral hanging stitch kit and Madeleine Floyd's chickens chart for country charm**



Issue 211

2014 Stitcher's Diary & a Guide to Decorative Stitches Forever Friends, tree of life cushion, thank you cards, ombre blackwork chic



Issue 210

Jolly Rudolph card kit & Lili of the Valley festive chart Tatty Teddy, funky reindeer, Oriental scene, cute hedgehogs, garland cards



Issue 209

Christmas chart book & 2 Madeira thread packs Margaret Sherry's carolling cats, cute puppy, metallic 12 Days of Christmas tree



Issue 208

Fizzy Moon calendar & an exclusive 'The Snowman' chart, cheery robin, Santa's train, wintry woodland, stunning wreath



Issue 207

Festive penguin card kit & a 'Live, Laugh, Love' sampler chart, Country Companions, Art Deco lady, Boofle, watercolour rose



Issue 206

Country Diary poppy card kit & Heritage Crafts' elegant lady chart, Gorjuss exclusive, Asian elephant, beach huts

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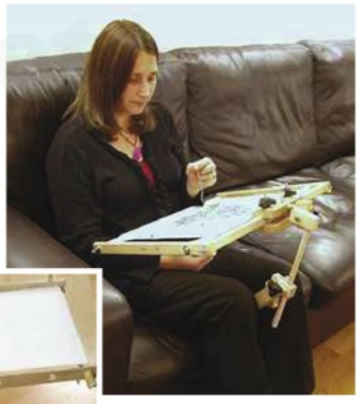
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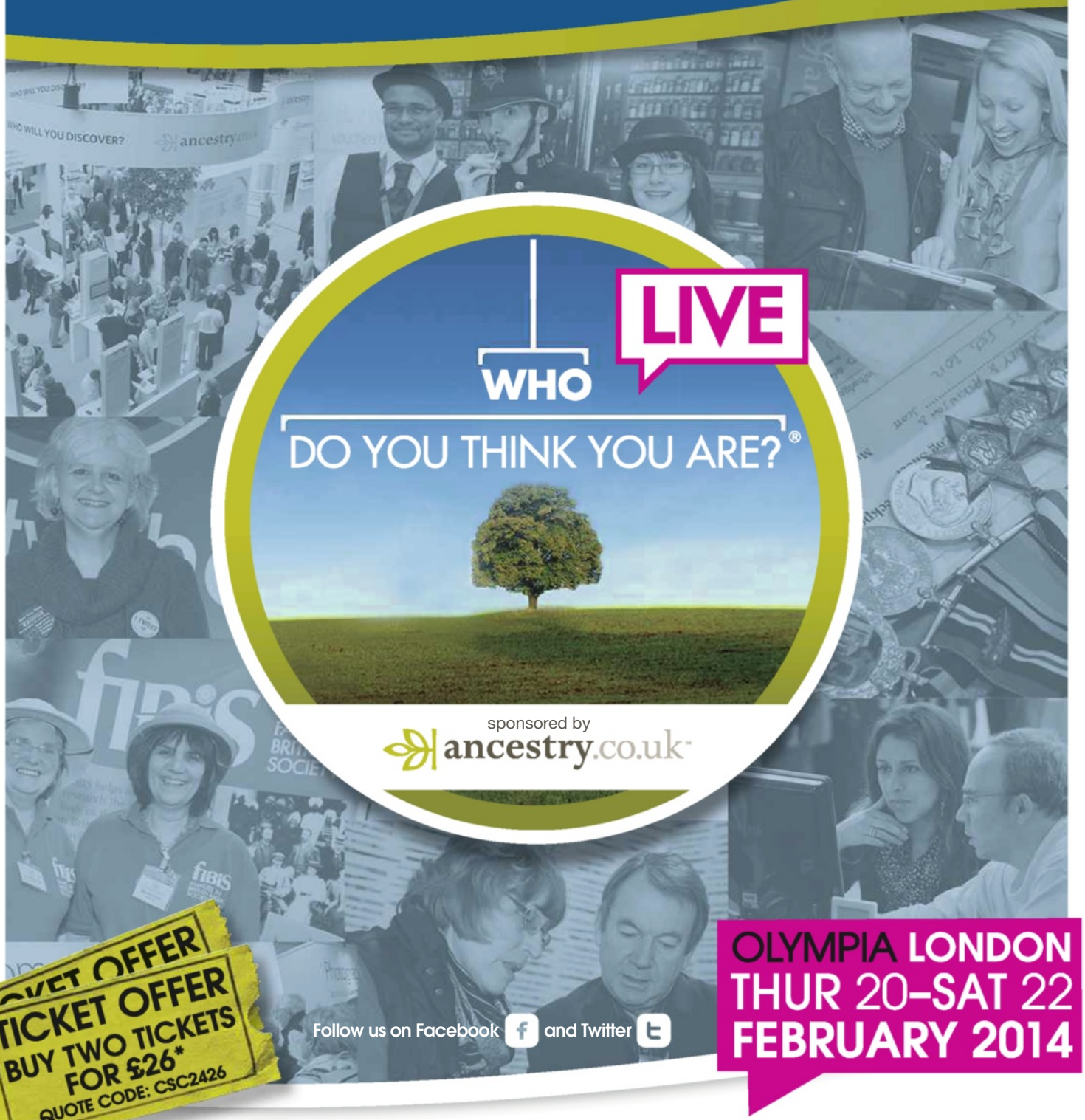
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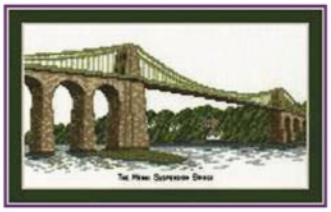
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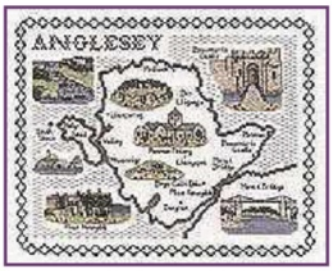
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THE WORLD OF Cross Stitching

Britian's No.1

ISSUE 214 ON SALE 27 FEB



SEW DELIGHTFUL
Stitch this sublime sewing-themed design, perfect for your craft room



THE GREAT OUTDOORS
You'll love this stylish circular design for beautiful garden style



CHIC HEART HANGINGS
Make these gorgeous shabby chic heart hangings for your home



CUTEST CARDS
Charming chicks for you to send wonderful Easter greetings

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"Just for you!"

The World of Cross Stitching EXCLUSIVE

Enjoy cross stitching Margaret Sherry's cuties in our brand new exclusive



RECIPE SAMPLER

Love stitching, love baking? Go for this charming spring cottage recipe design



TEDDY BEAR'S PICNIC

Challenge yourself with this fun and colourful scene that the kids will love

PLUS MUCH MORE

- Joan Elliott's cute & fluffy frolicking lamb alphabet
- Your cross stitching queries answered by our experts
- Fabulous UK sampler with all the famous icons
- Stitch borders & repeats with this month's Design Library
- Your stories, inspiration & letters… plus much more

STITCH AN ADORABLE KITTEN CARD TODAY!

Oh-so-sweet kit with everything you need inside

Your fab free gift includes:

- 14-count aida
- 20 lengths of stranded cotton
- Tapestry needle
- Illustrated card
- Envelope

2 FREE GIFTS!





Anchor

PLUS...

Celebrate nature's beauty with our kingfisher free chart!

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How to...

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



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

CHOOSE YOUR ESSENTIALS...

Start with these must-have items

1. FABRICS

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

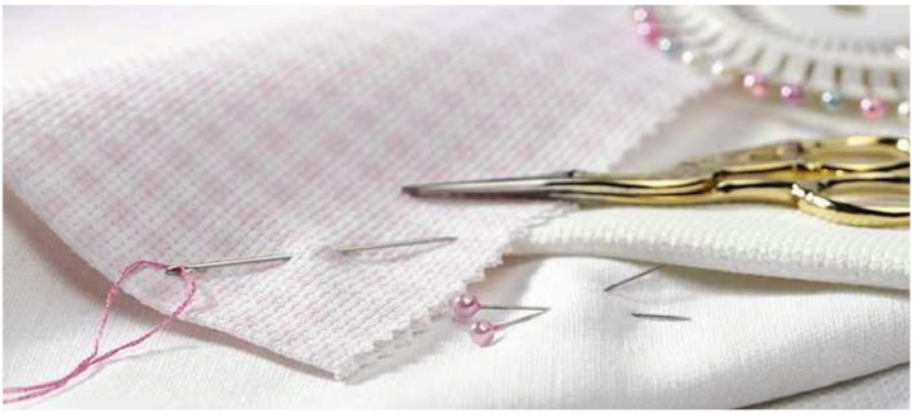
Evenweave is a lovely fabric to work on when you have a little more experience. The fibres aren't woven in blocks as with aida, so it's softer and the fine weave has more threads-per-inch – the most commonly used is 28-count. One stitch is usually worked over two threads of the fabric so it has an equivalent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



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

2. THREADS

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

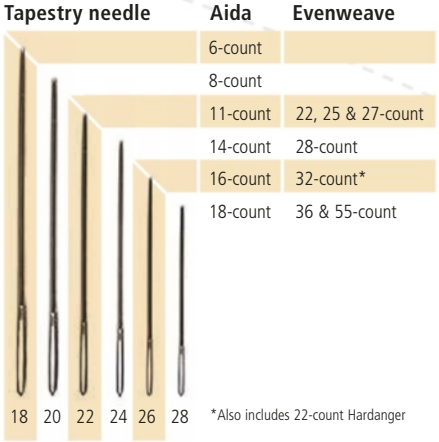




to stitch with, and are colourfast to 95°C. Cheaper brands are available, but they're less durable and may not be colourfast.

3. NEEDLES

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



START CROSS STITCHING...

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

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

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

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

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

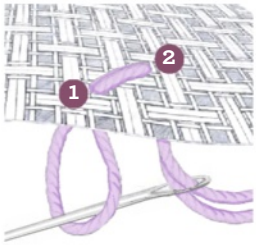
Get stitching... Begin your stitches in two strands of thread with a loop start for the neatest way to get going. It uses one double-length (80cm) strand with both ends threaded together. See our diagrams for how to stitch. Finish threads by weaving the left-over 'tail' under a few stitches at the back.

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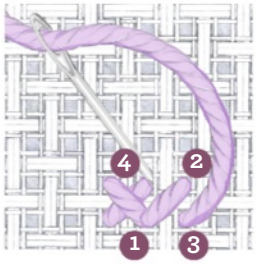
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How to stitch

Tackle the basic stitches in our charts…



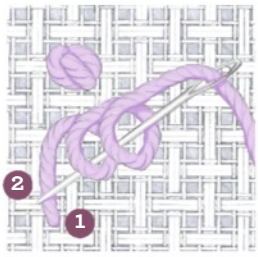
Loop start With both ends of a strand threaded, bring your needle up (1), leaving a loop at the back. Work the first arm of your stitch (2) & secure it by passing your needle through the loop.



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



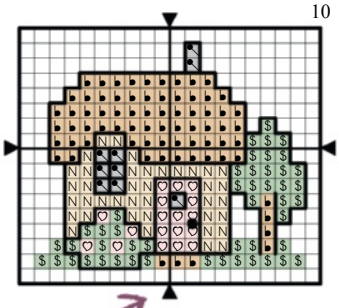
Backstitch Add detail and definition. Bring your needle up at (1) & down at (2), come up again at (3), then back down at (1) & so on, to direct each stitch 'back' towards the line of the growing backstitch.



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

How to read our keys

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



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

Thread brands
The thread shades are listed in separate columns for the different manufacturer brands of thread. For best results, you should stick to one manufacturer for the whole of a design.

Backstitch & French knot shades
The shades used for these are listed under the cross stitch symbols. The number of strands needed for these can vary, so make sure you check how many to use, as specified in the key.

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

Cottage key

Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
$	320	215	1311	green
◥	414	235	1714	grey
♭	435	1046	2010	dark tan
N	738	367	2013	tan
♡	3716	25	503	pink
Backstitch in one strand				
—	310	403	2400	black
French knots in one strand				
●	310	403	2400	black

STITCH COUNT 15 high x 18 wide
DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 3x3.5cm (1x1¼in)

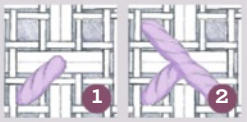
This design was stitched using DMC stranded cotton

FRACTIONAL STITCHES

Fractionals let you create rounded edges



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





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



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





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

Jargon buster!

Use our A-Z of cross stitch to know what's what…

Afghan – a woollen blanket with areas inset for cross stitching, often used for baby designs
Aida band – a narrow strip of aida, available in varying widths, and finished with a decorative edge
Aperture – a hole through which a design is seen in cards & frames
Backstitch – used to add detail & definition. See how to stitch it in our diagram above!
Beading needle – a longer, finer needle than a tapestry needle, used for adding seed beads to a design
Counted stitches – embroidery stitches worked on counted, or evenly woven, fabrics like aida & evenweave. Cross stitch is the most basic counted stitch
Floss – USA term for stranded cotton
Fractional stitches – made from either a quarter or three-quarters of a cross stitch, these allow you to create 'rounded' edges. See how to make these in our diagrams above!
Half stitch – made up of only one half (one 'arm') of a cross stitch, it gives less dense coverage so an overall lighter effect in the design
Hoop – a wooden or spring-mounted plastic circular frame that holds your fabric taut while working a design
Longstitch – long backstitches, crossing larger fabric distances
Metallic threads – similar to stranded cottons, these have a metallic finish for shine and sparkle
Perforated paper – toughened paper with a tiny grid of holes, which can be used for stitching instead of fabric
Plastic canvas – plastic alternative to fabric which won't fray when cut
Skein – an 8m length of stranded cotton, divisible into six separate strands
Soluble aida – temporary fabric which, like waste canvas, is used to add cross stitching to non-counted fabrics, & then dissolved away in water afterwards
Stitching over two – term used to describe stitching over two threads of the weave of an evenweave fabric
Variegated thread – specific type of stranded cotton, in which the colour changes along the length of the thread for a shaded effect
Waste canvas – loosely woven fabric, held together with soluble glue. Used to add designs to clothing & other non-counted fabrics before being moistened & the fibres withdrawn with tweezers

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Ruth's STITCHING WORLD

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

The trouble with working on stitching for gifts is that you can't always work on it when you want to – it might spoil the surprise to stitch with recipients nearby. So I've been sorting out my stash storage, for those times when I can't stitch. Remember a few months ago, I mentioned that fun acronym SABLE – Stash Acquired Beyond Life Expectancy? Well, I really needed to get organised!



Bringing order: My stitching storage solutions are working

I'm chuffed that organising my threads is all done. I use plastic bobbins to wind up my skeins and store them numerically in plastic cases. And I've been sorting through all my fabrics and charts too this month. (My New Year's resolution to not over-purchase is underway!) Why not check out my new blog update about how I'm keeping on top of my stash at www.cross-stitching.com? And do let me know about your storage tips too, whether it's threads, fabrics or any other stitching supplies, by dropping me an email… ruth@cross-stitching.com

I think working out what's best for me has really paid off lately, as now I'm confident I can find what I'm looking for much more easily. It can only be a good thing, can't it, with more time for stitching after all!

"Keeping on top of my stash means I can find what I'm looking for!"

Sudoku

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

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

WHAT'S HOT

Tangle-free threads, thanks to my tidy bobbins…

WHAT'S NOT

…when I buy more skeins, I'll soon need more bobbin boxes!

My Pinterest Picks

Have you got the Pinterest bug yet? Here are three hot ideas I've spotted and pinned to our boards… Visit **www.pinterest.com/worldofxs** to find these and lots more!



Tidy trims: Keeping pretty ribbons neat on decorative spools



Storage in a hoop: With pockets for storing tools, I love this idea!

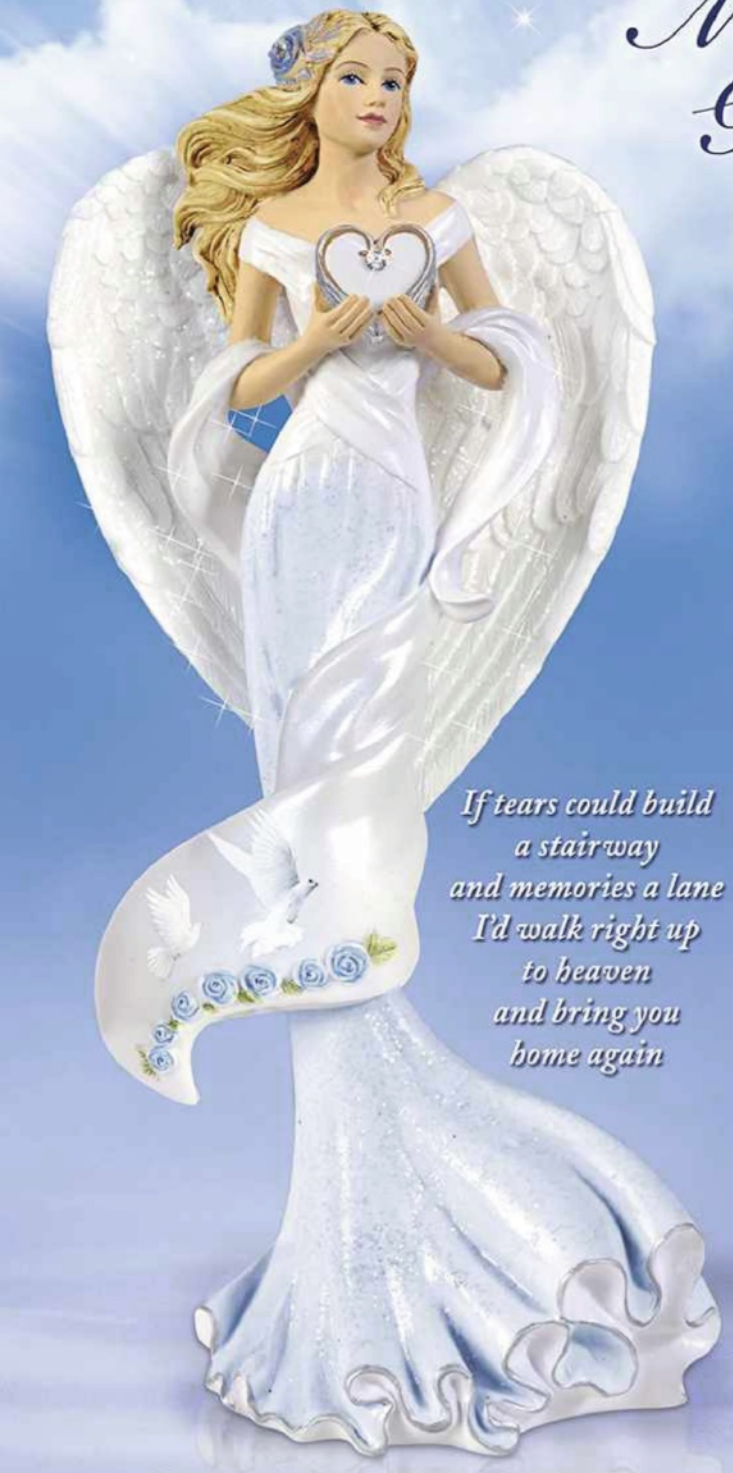


Dream organisation: A heavenly sewing room is what I'm wishing for

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