

The most beautiful designs

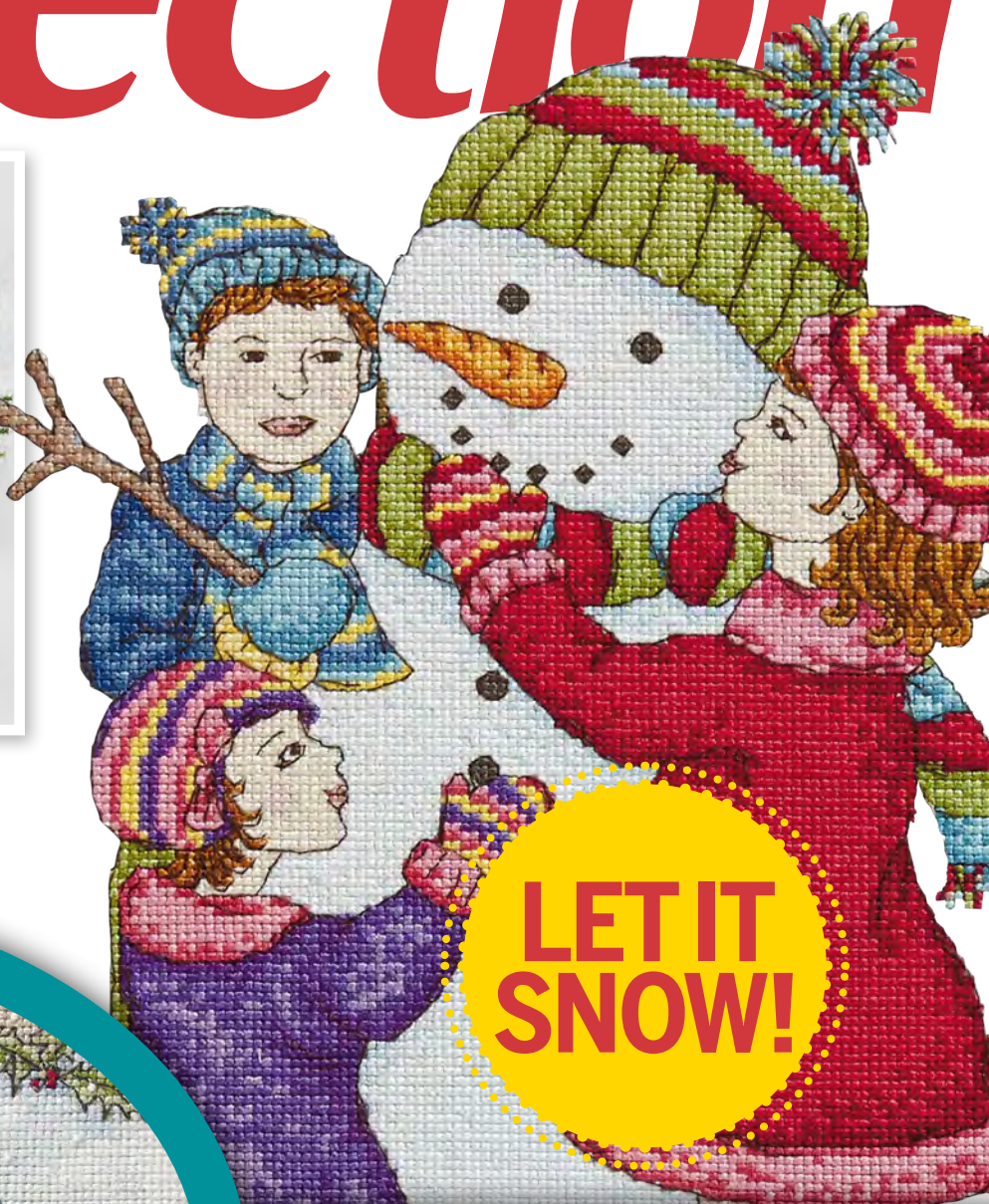
Magical
mini
scenes



CROSS STITCH Collection



WINTER
SPARKLE



Your Cosy Christmas

TREATS
FOR
THE TABLE



LUXURY
CARDS

FESTIVE
WILDLIFE



In this issue...

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Welcome...

Finally December has come around and I am officially allowed to start decorating my home for Christmas. If it were up to me, I would begin in October! So maybe it's no coincidence that our December issue is full of projects that will help you make your home look truly special this year. We've got three beautiful pictures for you to stitch and display with pride – a seriously sweet Country Companions scene from Anchor, Angela Poole's wonderful snowman and the final part of Maria Diaz's epic Santa's Journey. Lesley Teare's subtly shimmering winter posy will also be a pretty addition to your festive décor, but if you need something quicker to stitch, our three hanging decorations from The Prairie Schooler are ideal. We've even thought of your table, with Zweigart's clever repeating robin chart that will give your tablecloth a touch of country chic, and Lesley Teare's irresistible cutlery stockings will provide a thoughtful talking point. So my advice is – ditch the tinsel this year and cross stitch your Christmas decorations instead!

Rebecca

Rebecca Bradshaw

We'd love to feature you on our letters page – email us at CSC@futurenet.com, and send us your best pics!

We've got a gorgeous extra pincushion project to share with you! Sheena Rogers has designed a beautiful Christmas pincushion to match her seasonal birth flower and gemstone series – and given it to us as an extra-special festive stitching pressie. Get the full project by heading to our blog! Download your pincushion chart and making up instructions from www.crossstitchcollection.com

Don't miss...



December Collection

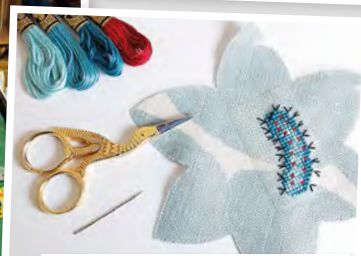
Be inspired by new kits, great ideas and more from the vibrant stitching world

Get stitching for the Craftivist Garden!

Craft is a powerful tool to help improve our wellbeing – many of us would go mad without our stitching! Now the **Craftivist Collective** is setting out to prove that not only is crafting excellent for relaxation, but it's also a wonderful tool for reflection. Sarah Corbett, founder of the Craftivist Collective, has launched the **#wellMAKING Craftivists Garden Project** to show that craft encourages people to contemplate how to improve their own wellbeing and the wellbeing of others, too. "Craft is a lovely way to keep us optimistic and striving for better things", says Sarah, "it's a great tool to think challenging thoughts with the comfort of craft to help us not to feel disempowered". However, Sarah needs your help to make the **#wellBEING Craftivists Garden** a reality! You can join in by cross stitching, embroidering, knitting or crocheting a pretty flower for the Garden. The flowers will be gathered into an installation to be unveiled at the **#wellMAKING Garden Party** in January 2015 – which all participants will be invited to. They even have an **app for Apple and Android** devices which will allow you to upload your flower into a virtual garden map, so you can see it blossoming alongside the rest of the UK. You can find everything you need to get involved in the Garden, including links to a handy kit and the mobile app, by heading to www.craftivist-collective.com/wellmaking. We're joining in on our blog with amazing ideas and flower charts, plus links to a fun cross stitched bug from **Floss and Mischief!** Drop in at www.crossstitchcollection.com



Sarah and a fellow Craftivist at the #wellMAKING Garden launch



Download Floss & Mischief's funky bug to stitch onto your flower!

CHRISTMAS VILLAGE

We can't get enough of **John Clayton's** spectacular cross stitch designs from Heritage Crafts – especially at Christmas! Joining the gorgeous **Christmas Cottage** design featured in our November issue, **Christmas Village** is another fantastically festive design, and you could win one of the seven kits we have to give away! This beautiful design really captures that family Christmas feel with its inviting cottages all lit up to welcome guests, and we can just imagine attending Midnight Mass in the village church. Available from www.hcrafts.com, you could be in with a chance to win the kit by heading to www.futurecomps.co.uk/csc243VILLAGE before the closing date of Thursday 11 December 2014. Keyword: **CSC243VILLAGE**

Win!



A touch of colour

Permin excel at marrying tradition with trend – especially with their range of beautiful fabrics. Created in the same Scandinavian mills used by the company for decades, Permin fabrics are specially adapted to meet the needs of stitchers, with aida, evenweave and linen available in a wide range of sizes, thread counts, cuts and plenty of colours. Not only can you get essentials like white aida and rustic linen, but you can also stitch on beautiful pastel shades – choose from up to 40 colours! To find stockists, email sales@mwfabrics.co.uk or visit www.permin.dk/uk/fabrics

Meet... Online stitching stars!

Melissa's blog – Words and Blooms – is a feast for the eyes, with gorgeous pics of her stitching finishes and lovely flowers

Tell us a bit about yourself. I am married with one son, two cats and a garden which acts like another child – it needs my TLC! I retired recently and the world has bloomed in brilliant shades for me. I have had more time for stitching but I have also started to learn to paint, and have been brushing up on my sewing skills. Life is quite sweet right now.

When did you fall in love with cross stitch? I think it was in 1991 when a lady at work taught me to cross stitch. She had a framed piece featuring a little sheep hanging at her desk. I got curious and asked her about it. The action of stitching those little x's was very meditative and addictive, but it wasn't until I discovered cross stitch samplers and linen that I really fell in love with stitching.

What sort of things do you most like to stitch? I'm mostly a sampler type of gal. I have been stitching larger and larger samplers, the most recent being The Seven Sheep Sampler (292x388 stitches). However, just to balance it out I also like to stitch smalls, making bowls of little pillows. They help me keep up my finishing skills!

What's your biggest stitching disaster? I don't think I have had any stitching disasters, or if I have I have conveniently forgotten. I don't think of stitching mistakes as disasters. I either frog them out or adapt the design to accommodate my mistakes! However, the biggest challenge for me is that with my eyesight it's harder to stitch on linen, particularly any over one



stitching. So I try to be kind to my eyes and avoid or adapt designs to ease the pressure.

Do you have a piece that you're most proud of?

At least two come to mind. First, I am very fond of A Very Fine Sampler by Birds of a Feather. The design really represents my style. The other is Elizabeth Savilles 1841 by Finger Work. I fell in love with the photo of the sampler but it took me a couple of tries after creating my own list of fibers and colour palette before the vision became a reality. If there was a fire and I could grab only two pieces of stitching, those would be the ones!

What's your advice for stitchers with lots of WIPS? Well, I am a one project at a time kind of gal. I like to finish each piece as I go. Any piece that I put aside stands a very good chance of being forgotten because there's a line of charts hopping up and down wanting me to stitch them!

Why did you start your blog? I have had lots of start and stop periods in my cross stitching history. Cross stitching is not a well known craft in Vancouver. In 2008, I resumed stitching again primarily because the internet had enabled me to see that there was an active online stitching community out there, and I discovered there were lots of designers and their work that I did not have access to locally. In September 2008 I wanted to join an exchange group but you needed to have a blog to participate. With gentle support from a couple of stitchers I dove in, started my blog, and have never looked back!

Find Melissa's blog at
**wordsnblooms.
blogspot.co.uk**

Win!



STITCH A MEMORY

A spectacular holiday snap, a stunning landscape, a wonderful memory – we've all have photographs that capture important milestones and special moments. Using photo-charting technology, the team at **Photos 2 Stitch** are able to turn those memories into fantastic cross stitch kits in a variety of sizes and thread counts, so you can recreate the pictures for a personal gift or **extra-special keepsake**. Available from their website, www.photos2stitch.co.uk, Photos 2 Stitch are offering five lucky readers the chance to win a **voucher worth £40** – enough to create a 10x8in kit on 14, 16 or 18HPI aida. You can also use your voucher against a higher value kit if you feel like stitching something bigger! To be in with a chance to win one of these five vouchers, head to www.futurecomps.co.uk/csc243PHOTO before the closing date of Thursday 11 December. **Keyword: CSC243PHOTO**

3 of the best... Quick Christmas decorations



Mistletoe moment, The Ultimate Christmas Cross Stitch Collection, £7.99

Stitch a super sweet hanging decoration with this mistletoe design from *The Ultimate Christmas Cross Stitch Collection*. Designed by Anette Eriksson, the simple mistletoe and bow motif is just one of the amazing décor and style ideas in this fabulous magazine. To buy yours, head to www.myfavouritemagazines.co.uk or www.bit.ly/AppleCSCollection



Charmed Christmas Ornament Kit, Mill Hill, Jade MH164301

How lovely would this stitched bauble look hung on your tree this year? Using jewel coloured threads, sparkling beads and plastic canvas, you can create one of Mill Hill's breathtaking Christmas tree ornaments in no time! Available in a range of gemstone colours, from jade to amethyst, you can find your nearest stockist by visiting www.wichelt.com



Christmas Baubles Kit, StitchKits, £24.50

Created using refreshing shades of jade green and ocean blue, StitchKits' bauble kit contains everything you need to make three quirky and beautiful Christmas decorations. The simple design is a pleasure to stitch, and each kit even comes with three wooden embroidery hoops to display your stitching in! To see StitchKits' full range head to www.stitchkits.etsy.co.uk



Home for Christmas

If you'd like a festive project that will make you rejoice this Christmas then look no further than this jubilant project from **CrossStitcher**! These three cheerful designs by **Felicity Hall** are sure to give you plenty of stitching pleasure with the gorgeously decorated letter designs. They're simple to stitch, too! All you'll need is two thread shades and contrasting fabric – the designs look amazing in red and white. Get the chart and more from the **CrossStitcher December 286** issue, available from www.myfavourite_magazines.co.uk and from www.crossstitchermagazine.co.uk/digital



Long-legged cross stitch

Ideal for creating beautiful braided edges, the long-legged cross stitch is a gorgeous detail for your projects. Often referred to as the Slav or Portuguese stitch, it looks great worked in long rows – perfect for pretty borders. To work this stitch on evenweave, stitch the first leg over four threads forwards and two threads upwards, and work the second leg two threads downwards followed by two threads backwards diagonally. Repeat to create your braid! We'd love to know how you've used this stitch – email your pics to csc@futurenet.co.uk

Shine a light on a new stitching skill with

Craft Lamps
See your work in a better light

Collection's Gadget of the month

Our stitchers share their favourite essential stitching tools – this month, **Laura Boyter** talks to us about her essentials

Find gold plated needles from £3.99 at The Cross Stitch Guild – go to www.thecrossstitchguild.com



"I use gold plated needles for every fabric type and count.

My size 28 needles are probably the tools of my trade that I really couldn't live without – they slip through the fabric more easily! I also love my sharp embroidery scissors, and my clipboard for holding the chart. I've been known to nick my son's felt pens for marking my place on the chart, too! I also have a clock that my hubby modified for me: it's an ordinary wall clock, to which my husband attached a switch so when I'm working on a stitch for *Cross Stitch Collection*, I can time myself.



Hand make your Christmas

Still looking for the perfect gifts to make for your loved ones this Christmas? Check out *Handmade Christmas* – the fantastic new magazine stuffed full of inspiration, ideas and step-by-step guides to amazing crafty projects to make up into *fantastic gifts, homestyle, cards and décor*. With cross stitch charts, recipes, papercraft, knitting and crochet projects, there's something for everyone within the pages of this *luxurious magazine* – you can even learn how to make your own scented soaps, the perfect stocking filler! To get your print copy today for just £7.99, head to www.myfavourite-magazines.co.uk, and to buy a digital issue visit www.bit.ly/AppleCSCollection (under 'Specials') or www.zinio.com



Win!

STUNNING SCISSORS

We stitchers pride ourselves on being surrounded by beautiful things – like the gorgeous charts we stitch, fabulous fabrics and colourful threads. Why should our most **essential stitching tools** be any different? We deserve the best, and the best doesn't get better than these stunning stork scissors from **Ernest Wright and Sons Ltd**. They've been hand-making high-quality scissors in Sheffield since 1902, so they certainly know their blades! Available on their website, www.ernestwright.co.uk, they produce these classic stork gold-style scissors. With their very fine points and hard wearing carbon steel blades, these scissors are **perfect for stitchers** and will last a lifetime – and you could win a pair! We have ten pairs of Stork scissors to give away, so to be in with a chance to win, head to www.futurecomps.co.uk/csc243STORK before the closing date of Thursday 11 December. Keyword: **CSC243STORK**

COMPETITION RULES Giveaways are open to UK readers only and winners will be chosen at random. Enter online using the unique URL between 14 November and 11 December 2014. Further rules can be read on page 63

Jane's

A-Z of Cross Stitch



Each month Jane takes us from A-Z covering all things cross stitch! This month, **W** is for **withdrawing**

Welcome back to Pinks Barn. We have been working our way through the alphabet and are up to **W** for withdrawing fabric threads. This can be done to prepare for hemstitching or similar decorative drawn thread embroidery. The idea is that you create a ladder in the fabric, which can then be decorated with a host of stitches. These stitches are usually worked in the same colour as the fabric as it is the decorative holes that we are looking at rather than the stitches.

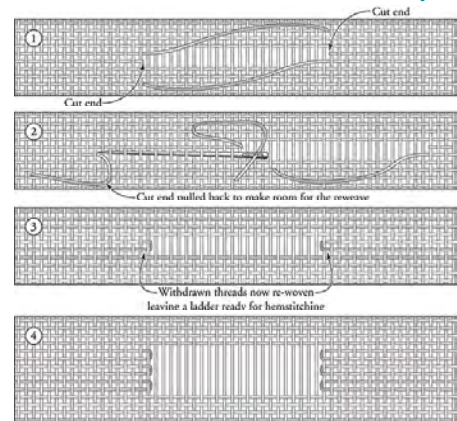
Thread withdrawal If you are working on a narrow band, it is easier to remove the fabric threads from the edge as it leaves longer fabric ends to re-weave. Carefully snip one horizontal fabric thread at the margin of the band and unravel it across the band to the other side, where you cut another adjacent fabric thread and unravel in the opposite direction. You will now have a ladder in the fabric and two fabric whiskers, one at either edge. Working in pairs, re-weave these threads as follows: lift the fabric thread carefully and you will see the cut end of the other whisker. Remove this completely.

Using a needle, weave the point in and out of the fabric threads and slip the loose fabric thread into the eye of the needle and pull gently. When done satisfactorily, you cannot tell where the linen threads have gone. Continue in this fashion, working in pairs until the correct number of fabric threads have been removed and rewoven. Once complete, pull the linen fabric against the grain slightly and the rewoven threads will drop in to position.

CROSS STITCH GUILD NEWS Our Seasons Shades tiles have been best sellers – and this winter design is perfect for December! The design uses cross stitch, other counted stitches and even a little Hardanger. The kits cost £11.99 each and include 28HPI linen, threads, Oliver Twist space dyed cotton, needles and full instructions.



This section from my Floral Garden Band Sampler illustrates three versions of tied hemstitch after the horizontal threads are removed



About Jane Greenoff

As founder of the Cross Stitch Guild and a prolific designer, author and business woman for 30 years, Jane is in constant demand. In addition to running classes, events and stitching holidays, Jane appears twice a month on Create and Craft TV.

To find out more, visit the website or call for details: www.thecrossstitchguild.com
 ☎ Freephone (UK callers): 0800 328 9750 ☎ (from outside UK): +44 (0)1285 713678



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Christmas companions

Join Country Companions Ed and Edwina Hedgehog for a spot of Christmas pudding in this heartwarming rural scene from **Anchor**

Christmas companions



Meet the design team

Hallmark

Since Country Companions was created by artist Kate Veale, it has been one of Hallmark's most popular ranges. Illustrations of the gang of woodland creatures depict scenes of life in the idyllic countryside, and Kate's love of the natural world can clearly be seen. Ed Hedgehog and friends can usually be found lazing under a tree, drifting in a rowing boat or walking in a meadow. The beautiful illustrations feature on cards for all occasions and seasons, but Christmas works particularly well due to the homely and traditional qualities the characters reflect. In more recent years, the characters have been placed in the very safe hands of our team of talented illustrators who have carried on Kate's legacy by drawing hundreds of Country Companions artworks.



Created by Hallmark to make beautifully illustrated cards, the Country Companions pictures have been stunningly translated into wonderful cross stitch charts by Anchor

Deep in the heart of rural England, two residents of the sleepy village of Woodstump are celebrating the festive season by tucking into a delicious Christmas pudding. Our Country Companions, Ed Hedgehog and his mum Edwina, are wrapped up warm in their matching green wellingtons and woolly scarves, enjoying their tasty treat whilst watching a blanket of fresh snow settle on the countryside surrounding their cosy home. Based on the popular Christmas card range from Hallmark, this idyllic and traditional cross stitch chart from Anchor will help you create Country Companions pictures that you can keep forever. This is sure to be stitching you'll want to share too! You'll definitely want to show off the cleverly shaded snow, the lovely long stitch details on the holly motifs, and teeny patterns on the wreath's bow and the festive blanket. You'll also be able to show off your expert French knot skills – there are plenty of them to work, with the pretty white snowflakes as well as the ladybird's spots and Edwina's eyes!

More Country Companions



Sewing Circle

Ref: CTM0017, £21.20



The Seasons

Ref: CTM0018, £21.20



The Gang

Ref: CTM0013, £21.20

For stockists, visit www.makeitcoats.com

Introducing the Country Companions

WELCOME to the wonderful world of the Country Companions – idyllic illustrations celebrating the joy of friendship with four critters and their countryside antics!

Ed Hedgehog the star of our chart – is the pleasingly plump leader of the pack. Dependable and cuddly, he likes to sleep (snoring a lot!) and loves to eat – especially mashed potato and ice cream! Ed's best friend is **Tom Mouse**, a mischievous and cheeky chatterbox who laughs non stop. You're sure to find him fishing or boating or playing with his three pet ladybirds – you can spot two of them in our chart.

Sam Rabbit is part of the gang, and good job too! He's clever, organised and loves to dance, and he's always getting his friends out on adventures and picnics. He loves jumpers – and toast! His twitchy nose can smell food from miles away.

Badger is wise and calm. Despite being a little bit gruff, he's kind hearted and loves jazzy waistcoats, driving his Austin 7, long walks and football. Mostly, Badger loves his three best friends – they're rarely apart.



You can see these four fun characters get up to all sorts in Hallmark's huge range of beautifully illustrated cards at www.hallmark.co.uk, and see Anchor's range of gorgeously stitchable charts at www.makeitcoats.com

Stitching your companions

You will need...

16HPI aida (or 32HPI evenweave), cream 16x16in (41x41cm)

Stranded cotton as listed in the key

Frame with a 9¾x9¾in (25x25cm) aperture, grey

Turn to page 59 for hints and tips!

Stitching the designs

FOLD your fabric in half both ways to find the centre and start stitching at this point. All the cross stitch is worked in two strands over one thread of the aida fabric. You will find it easier to work the main sections first, such as the hedgehogs, door, wreath and holly, before you work the background area. This will help with the placement of your stitches. Do take care when stitching the background as the colours are fairly similar and it's important you choose the correct one each time.

Adding the details

FINISH working all the cross stitch before adding the backstitch details. These are all worked in one strand; the details for the colours used and in what position are shown on the chart and key. Finally, add the French knots using one strand of stranded cotton in the colours shown on the key. ➤

Our stitcher says...

French knots can be tricky – but not impossible! Use our guide on page 57 and a spare piece of fabric to practise if you're not sure

Collection makes...

CARD CRAZY

Just stitch our two central characters – Ed and Edwina Hedgehog – to create a detailed card to send to your loved ones.

MOTIF MAGIC

There are plenty of sweet motifs you can take from this design to stitch onto your other Christmas projects, like the holly or wreath, or the ladybirds with their jug of custard!

COUNTRY KITCHEN

Perfectly at home in the most important room of the house, you could make this picture up into a variety of kitchen accessories – why not stitch it onto an apron, or make up your fabric into a tea towel?

Christmas companions

Christmas companions

Anchor Colour

Cross stitch in two strands

001	Bright white (2)
006	Light pink
008	Medium pink
033	Dark pink
046	Light red
047	Dark red
129	Light blue
146	Medium blue
147	Dark blue
185	Light aqua
187	Medium aqua
188	Dark aqua
235	Medium grey
241	Light green
243	Medium green
244	Dark green
260	Light grass green
266	Dark grass green
292	Light yellow
295	Dark yellow
355	Light brown
357	Medium brown
359	Dark brown
367	Light fawn
369	Dark fawn
390	Light stone
391	Dark stone
399	Light grey
401	Dark grey
403	Black
926	Cream
1031	Light petrol blue
1033	Dark petrol blue
1037	Pale blue (2)
1043	Pale green

Backstitch/long stitch in one strand

*001	Bright white
scarf	
*235	Medium grey
snow, hat, door	
*401	Dark grey
all other outlines and details	
*403	Black
eyes, noses	

French knots in one strand

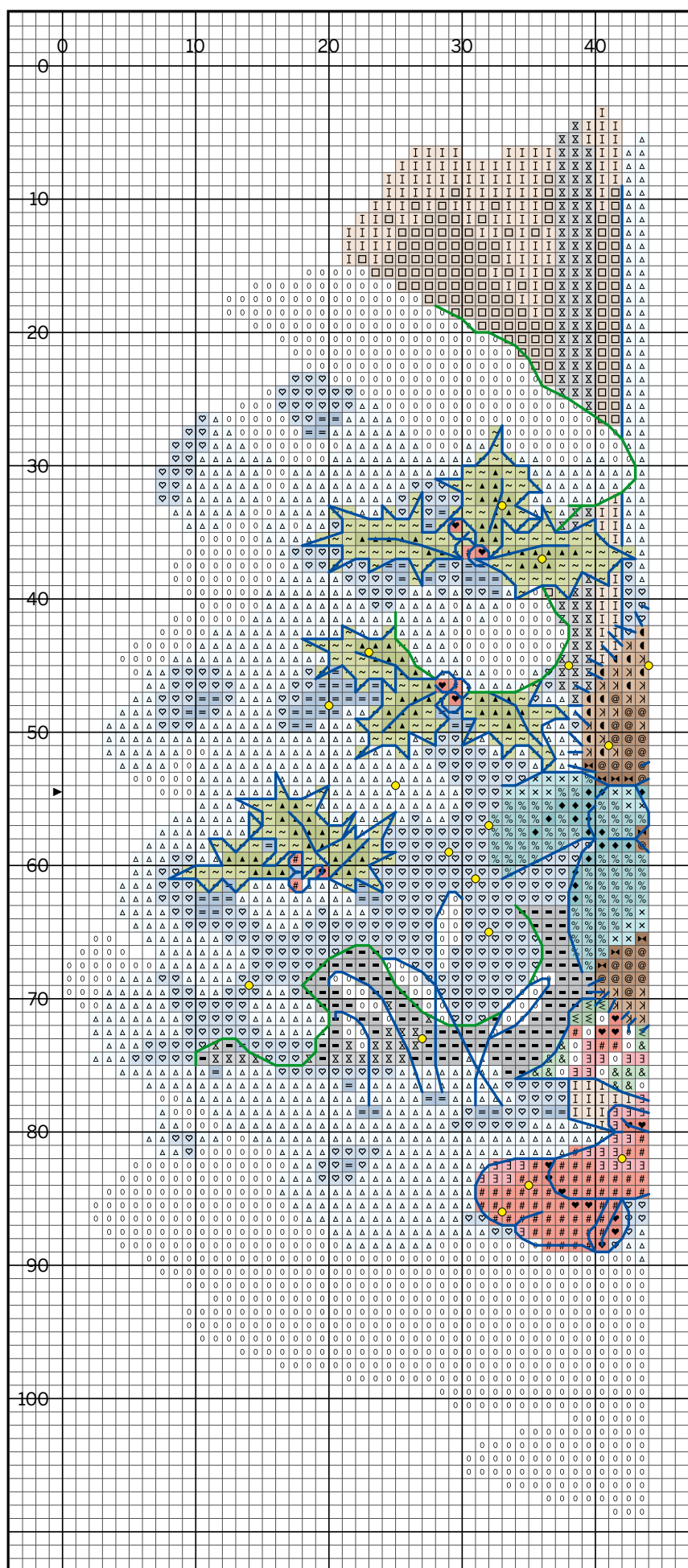
*001	Bright white
snow	
*047	Dark red
pudding berries	
*401	Dark grey
ladybird spots	
*403	Black
eyes, ladybird	

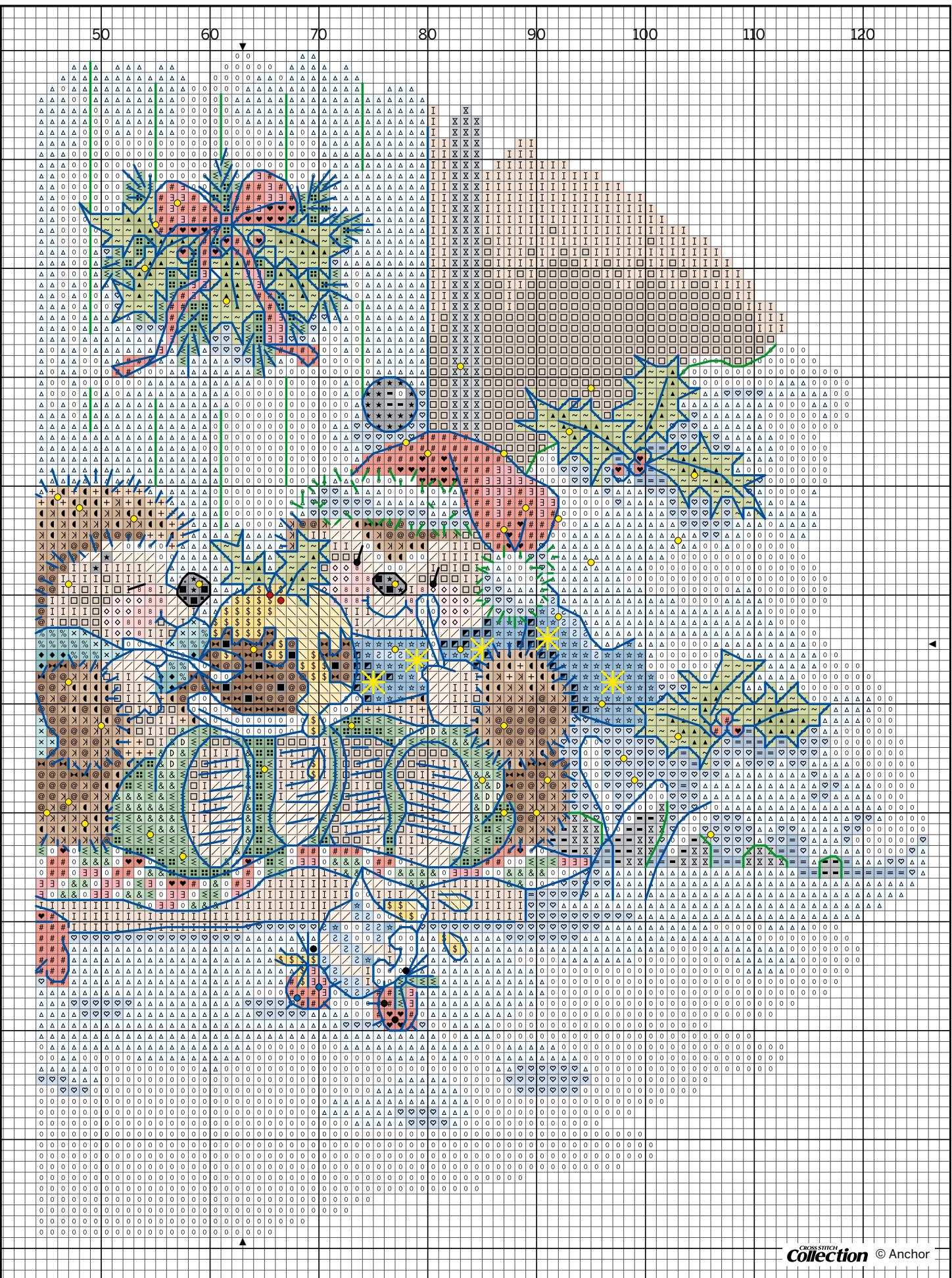
Stitched using Anchor threads on 16HPI aida

Stitch count 109x126 Design area 6¾x7¾in (17x20cm)

*indicates colour is listed earlier in the key

(2) indicates more than one skein required







*Our
stitcher says...*

To stop the red card showing though, slip some white paper behind the linen before you stitch it to the card

Jolly robins

Catch a glimpse of a magical woodland Christmas
with Jenny Barton's delightful duo of robins

Sprigs of holly, a pretty wreath, dainty stockings hung above the door – Jenny Barton's robins look like they're having a very merry Christmas indeed! This whimsical scene makes a spectacular card design and a unique stitch, too. By stitching on 36HPI linen, you'll work plenty of fabulously fine details, such as the shading on the snow covered roof, the warm colouring of the robins' red breast, and the backstitch that creates their delicate feet and feathers. With so much packed into this sweet design, it would be easy to use a 28HPI linen to create a bigger picture as a gift or keepsake – frame it in a neutral wood frame for an amazing effect.

Did you know that robins started appearing on Christmas cards to symbolise the Victorian postmen in scarlet coats who delivered them?

You will need...

36HPI linen (or 18HPI aida), off white, Zweigart Edinburgh Ref: 3217/101, 8x8in (20x20cm)

Stranded cotton as listed in the key

Card white, 8¼x11½in (21x29cm)

Spotty card mount download for free from the *Cross Stitch Collection* blog: www.crossstitchcollection.com

Mounting your card

DOWNLOAD and print your free card mount from the *Cross Stitch Collection* blog, then stick it to a piece of white card to stiffen it. Fold it in half to make your card.

- 1** **TRIM** your stitching to 5¼x4½in (13x11cm) with the stitching placed centrally.
- 2** **STITCH** the design to the centre of the front of the card by machine.

**DOWN
LOAD**
your card mount from
www.crossstitchcollection.com

Jolly robins

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	Colour
Cross stitch in two strands				
	White	002	2402	White
	304	019	0511	Dark red
	434	310	2009	Medium brown
	436	363	2011	Light brown
	647	900	1813	Green grey
	648	231	1814	Grey
	666	046	0210	Light red
	801	359	2007	Dark brown
	841	1082	1911	Sepia
	842	1080	1910	Pale sepia
	920	1004	0312	Dark russet
	921	326	0311	Medium russet
	922	1003	0310	Light russet
	3032	898	2002	Khaki
	3346	267	1407	Dark green
	3347	266	1408	Medium green
	3348	264	1409	Light green
	3756	1037	2504	Pale blue
	3866	926	1901	Off white

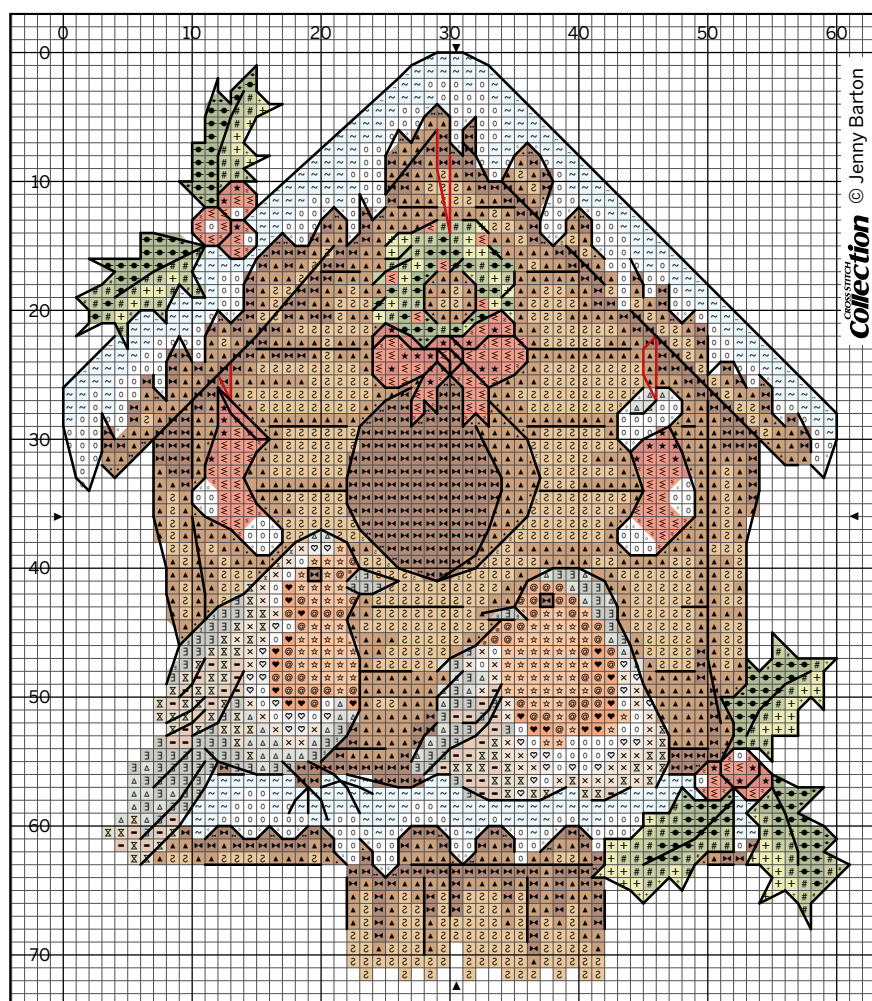
Backstitch in one strand

	*666	046	0210	Light red
string				
	938	381	2005	Very dark brown
all other outlines and details				

Stitched using DMC threads on 36HPI linen over two threads

Stitch count 72x61 Design area 4x3½in (10x9cm)

*indicates colour is listed earlier in the key





Your letters

Write to Cross Stitch Collection Letters, 30 Monmouth Street, Bath BA1 2BW.
Or email us at csc@futurenet.co.uk with your stitching stories



Dawn's finished poppy brooches

Sixteen and counting!

Thank you so much for the poppy chart you issued on Facebook and your blog. I have made and sold 16 of these so far, raising over £30. They are stitched on plastic canvas and have brooch attachments sewn on the back. I plan to carry on stitching them and hopefully I'll double what I've sold so far! I'm really enjoying stitching the poppy design. It has just enough detail to really give it a lovely shaded look without being too time consuming. My first ones took about five hours each but they're getting quicker as I learn the chart! I will be sure to let you know my final tally when I'm done.

Dawn Irving, by email

Collection says: Download your free poppy chart like Dawn! Find us at www.crossstitchcollection.com

Stitching to remember

I have been stitching to remember the World Wars. I have stitched three squares for the World War 1 Centenary Quilt project for Private Edward Vear, who was my great grandfather and Corporal Walter Smith and Private Ernest Redhead, who were both my



Elizabeth's relatives fought in the wars

great, great uncles. I have stitched a further six pictures to remember World War 1 and World War 2. I have stitched three poppies, two memorials and the Sherwood Foresters badge, as Edward Vear and Ernest Redhead were both in the Sherwood Foresters.

Elizabeth Redhead, Lincolnshire

Collection says: Stitch a square for the WWI Centenary Quilt at www.spanglefish.com/firstworldwardcentenaryquilt

Appealing poppies

I have just finished stitching the Collection Poppy Appeal chart for my Mum. I am about to start making a second one, and have donated money raised so far to the Royal British Legion. I've stitched the poppy design onto plastic canvas, as it is a great material for making brooches. I hope you like it



Stitch your poppy on canvas!

– I really enjoyed stitching it, especially onto the plastic canvas, as it was my first time using it. They are pretty once they are finished. My Mum loves the one I made her. I have a couple more family members who are interested in one too. I'm looking forward to making more.

Sophie Watson, by email

Collection says: Thank you so much for taking part in our appeal Sophie – this is a beautiful contribution!

It's so easy to get in touch! Email us at csc@futurenet.co.uk or write to

"I used to stitch for myself — but a person only has so much wall space, so now I stitch for others!"



Maria's musical design

Musical card

I've stitched this Maria Diaz freebie card for my friend, Zana. Considering she has been involved with music all her life, the gramophone design seemed perfect. Zana was the choir director at our church back in the 70's, plus we both sang in a local choral group. Even at 90, her smile and joy in life makes my heart sing. I'm so thankful for designers that come up with such wonderful ideas. This design was a joy to stitch. It was easy, it's an unusual musical item and it's nostalgic. I actually stitched this back in April because I thought it was so lovely. Then when I

found out my sweet friend was having a very special party, I knew this would be perfect for her. Years ago I stitched things and framed them, and kept them for myself. But a person only has so much wall space – now I stitch for others! I get the double joy of stitching and seeing the happiness on someone's face. I want to add that with magazines like yours I'm never lost for ideas and projects. Now if only I could live to 500, I might get them all done.

Irene McIntosh, Oregon

Collection says: Finding a perfect design for a special friend is a great feeling

Festive stocking

This is a Stoney Creek design which I've admired for ages and finally plucked up the courage to do last year. A lot of blood, sweat and tears went into this stitching this!

I really enjoyed the whole stitch but at one point I nearly gave up. Instead of starting at the middle point, I started at the top and worked my way down. All was going well until I came to the squirrel. For some reason I thought I had counted the green wrong, so I unpicked all the stitches and re-did them. It still didn't look right so I did it again. By this time I was sick of it, so I put it away for a couple of months then took it out, looked at it with fresh eyes and started off again. I'm so glad I did and it was a dream to do after that! I'm really hoping 'Santa' leaves Kreinik threads and gold plated needles inside. I've dropped hints but he can be a bit deaf a times!

Lorna Harrison, Aberdeen

Collection says: Your fab stocking was worth the work for sure, Lorna!



Lorna's stitched stocking

Write to us...

We love to hear about your stitching projects and to see the end results!

If you'd like to inspire other readers with your story, please send us a letter by post or email, along with a photo of your project to:

Cross Stitch Collection Letters
30 Monmouth Street
Bath BA1 2BW

csc@futurenet.co.uk

Please make sure that your photo is well lit and a reasonable size (ideally 1mb or larger) so that we can show off your stitching to its full glory!

Happy stitching!

The Collection Team

Your say...

FIVE LUCKY WINNERS receive a fabulous **Willow Fabrics** £10 gift voucher from **Fabrics**

Willow Fabrics are your one stop shop for top brands like Zweigart Anchor and Kreinik with a constantly updated range of products and offers. Call Willow Fabrics on ☎ 0800 0567811 or visit www.willowfabrics.com to sample the huge range of quality materials available

What's happening on Facebook and our blog?

- 1 All 30,000 (wow!) of you have been keeping us up-to-date on our Facebook page
- 2 Sheena Roger's gave us an extra Christmas pincushion project – download it for free on our blog at www.crossstitchcollection.com
- 3 Check our special Christmas tab on the blog – there are so many festive freebies to stitch!
- 4 You've been stitching our Collection Poppy Appeal chart and raising lots of money for The British Legion – find the free chart on our blog

We asked... What are you stitching for Christmas?

"I'm looking forward to starting my Christmas cards. Last year I backed my stitching with felt and a ribbon before attaching to the front of cards so they could be used as decorations."

Jean McEwen

"I'm going to stitch my cards using blackwork patterns and glittery threads." **Angie Hopkins**

"I've stitched the Jingle Bears Stocking from the Donna Kooler Collection" **Gerda Carstens**

"A Christmas tree sampler from The Historical Sampler Co. I want to do it in hot pink on black to match with my decorations" **Jamie Burford**

"I want to stitch more of the beaded Christmas decorations from Mill Hill and also the Noel Lady from Lavender and Lace – although that may not happen THIS Christmas!" **Ali Manifold**

Offer your stitching tips at our Facebook page



<http://on.fb.me/CSCollection>

Everyone's a WINNER!

THE WRITER OF OUR STAR LETTER will receive a gorgeous pack of threads from **Anchor** worth £20! The writers of every other letter we print will receive threads from **Anchor** worth £10.



Visit Anchor's website at: www.makeitcoats.com for FREE crafting projects every month.



Meet the designer...

Lesley Teare

These blooms sure come with a "PUNCH". The bright colours will certainly warm up any cold climate, and add to your Christmas festivities. With the only fractional stitches used on the berries and simple backstitch, this design will be relatively easy to stitch. The vase was based on a glass one I spotted, and I thought it would add a touch of charm with its candy cane style pattern.



Create an interesting seasonal arrangement with gerberas, roses and pine cones by working lots of different patterns and shading to create the detail

Festive florals

Give the gift of everlasting seasonal flowers with **Lesley Teare's** vibrant and rich winter floral arrangement

Fancy stitching a festive floral with a difference this year? Tackle Lesley Teare's gorgeous vase of sparkling roses, gerberas and pine cones! It'll certainly make a change from a poinsettia – with over \$60 million worth of poinsettia's sold in just six weeks each year, everyone's sure to have one already! Lesley's design will stand out from the crowd – the rich reds, bright greens and warm browns look so striking against the crisp white linen, and you'll work clever shading in mostly whole cross stitches to give the different flowers depth and detail. You'll add the gorgeous finishing touch by stitching the backstitch with two different shades of Light Effects thread, which adds a subtle sophisticated shimmer. Stitched up into a chic cushion, Lesley's beautiful florals will be a stunning addition to your décor, or make a great Christmas gift. ➤

Warm up any room
this winter with
Lesley's rich reds and
subtle sparkle



Festive florals

DMC Anchor Madeira Colour

Cross stitch in two strands

154	102	0714	Purple
304	019	0511	Dark red
349	013	0212	Light red
500	683	1705	Dark green
602	057	0702	Light pink
632	936	2311	Dark sepia
777	044	0601	Ruby
814	045	2607	Maroon
819	271	0501	Pale pink
891	035	0411	Dark coral
893	027	0413	Medium coral
898	380	2006	Brown
915	1029	0705	Magenta
950	4146	2309	Pink beige
987	244	1403	Medium green
989	242	1401	Light green
3064	883	2312	Light sepia
3371	382	2004	Black brown
3708	031	0408	Light coral
3804	063	0703	Dark pink

Cross stitch in one strand

950	4146	2309	Pink beige
-----	------	------	------------

Backstitch in one strand

- DMC Light Effects E321
all other outlines and details
- DMC Light Effects E436
pinecones

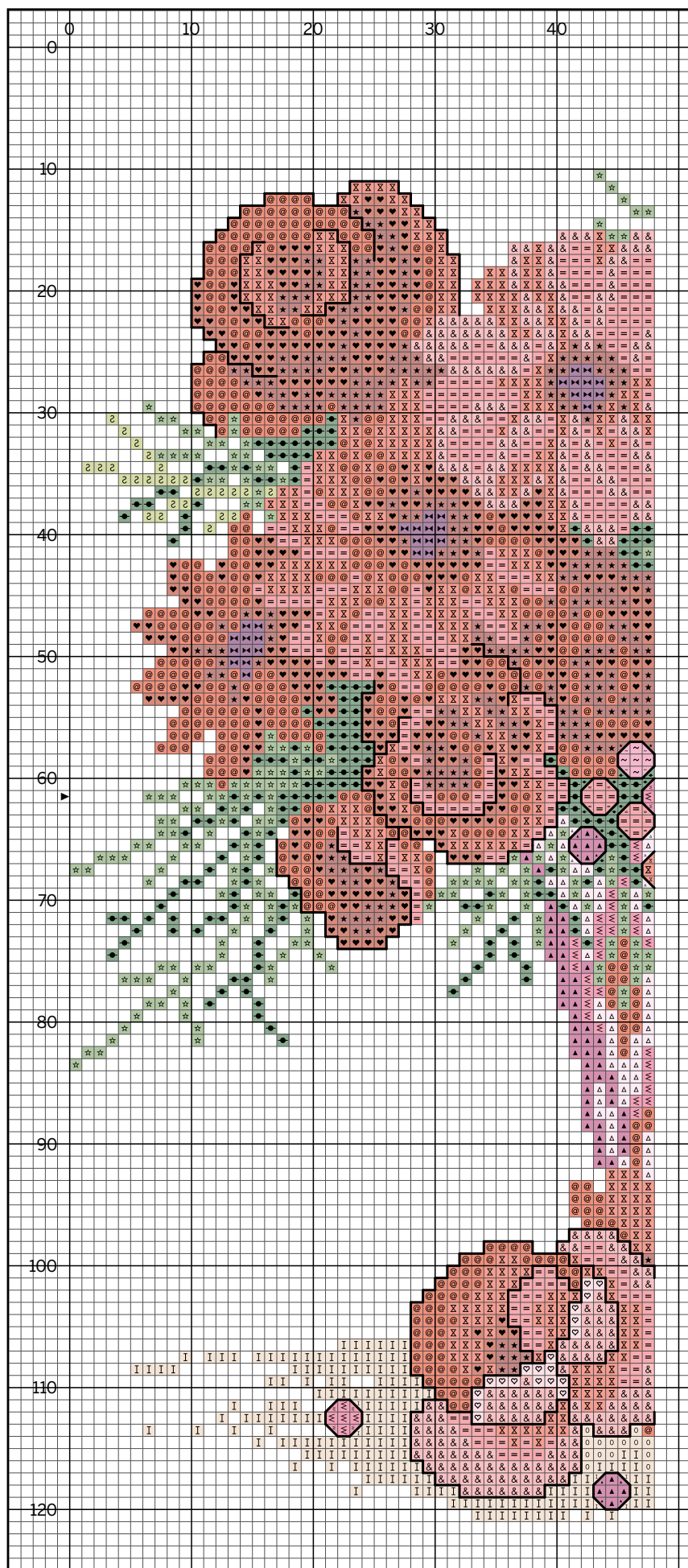
Stitched using DMC threads on 28HPI linen

over two threads

Stitch count 123x122

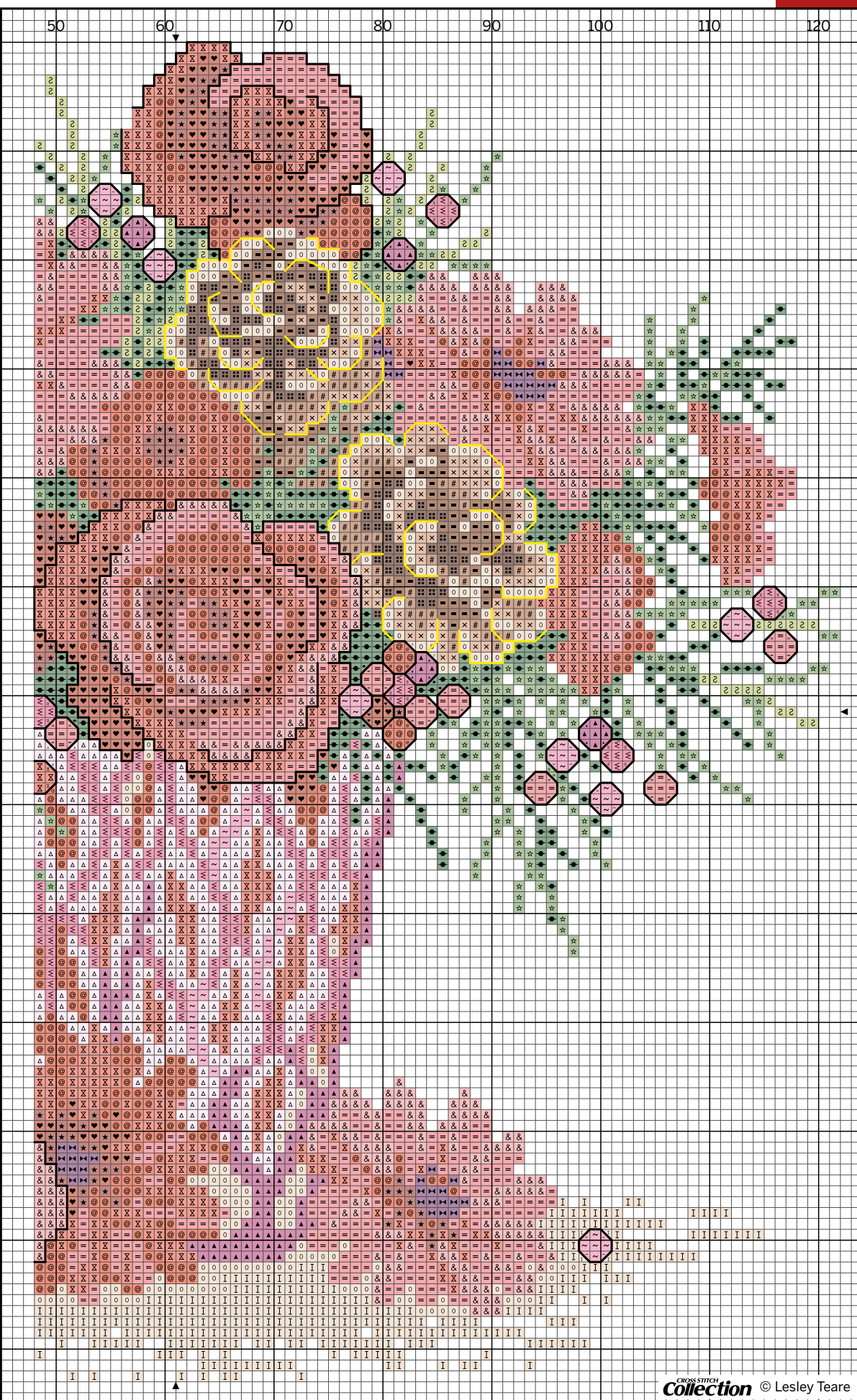
Design area 8¾x8¾in (22.5x22.5cm)

*indicates colour is listed earlier in the key



Tip... using metallic threads

Use lengths of Light Effects thread no longer than 12in (30cm). This is because the thread separates with use and you have to cut it off and start a new length when this happens. You'll waste less thread if you only use short lengths.



Collection
makes...

TERRIFIC TAGS

Take your favourite motif from Lesley's design and stitch it onto a small piece of fabric to create a gift tag for your Christmas gifts – the sparkling pinecones would look super-sweet.

GIFT BAGS

Using a similar method, create gift bags to present special pressies for your loved ones this year – use a backstitch alphabet to stitch the name of the lucky recipient for an extra-personal touch.

SCENTED SACHETS

Sweet-smelling sachets make fabulous stocking fillers – why not use the fallen flowers at the bottom of the design to create a mini-chart for this? Then just fill with festive scents like cinnamon, cloves, orange and star anise.

Stitching your flower design

You will need...

28HPI linen (or 14HPI aida), white, Zweigart Cashel 3281/100, 17x17in (43x43cm). We found our lovely linen at Willow Fabrics. Get yours by calling 0800 0567811 or visit their website at www.willowfabrics.com

Stranded cotton as listed in the key

Cotton fabric 12x32in (31x81cm), white for backing and piping

Piping cord 70in (180cm)

Zip 14in (36cm), white

Cushion pad 16x16in (41x41cm)

Sewing kit including matching thread

Turn to page 59 for hints and tips!

Adding
Light Effects
thread gives
Lesley's design a
touch of festive
sparkle, but the
rich, warm tones
make this a
design you can
display all winter

Stitching the design

FOLD the linen in half both ways to find the centre and start stitching at this point. All the cross stitch for the main design is worked in two strands of stranded cotton over two threads of the linen fabric. There are a lot of similar shades of red so it will be helpful if you pre-sort your threads onto an organiser. The ground area is worked in cross stitch using one strand of pink beige to add a subtle effect.

Adding the details

FINISH all the cross stitch before adding the backstitch details. These are all worked in one strand of DMC Light Effects thread to give the petals and pinecones a subtle shimmer.

Making a cushion cover

TRIM your linen to 16x16in (41x41cm) with the flower design placed centrally. Use a ½in (1.5cm) seam allowance throughout.

1 CUT the white backing fabric into:
Back: two pieces 8½x16in (22x41cm)
Piping strip: two strips 3x32in (8x81cm)

2 JOIN the short ends of the piping strips right sides together to make one long length. Fold the strip in half lengthways with wrong sides together. Place the piping cord inside and tack the fabric strip together close to the piping cord.

3 PLACE the covered cord right sides together round the edge of the stitched linen matching raw edges. Start and finish at the centre of the lower edge and tack into place. You will have to cut and join the two short ends of the fabric and cord to fit exactly when you have tacked it all the way round.

4 PLACE the two backing pieces of fabric right sides together and stitch a ¼in (2.5cm) seam at either end of the longer side. Insert the zip in the gap between these two seams.

5 NOW place the cushion front and back right sides together making sure the piping strip is pushed to the inside and stitch all the way round as close to the piping cord as you can.

6 TURN the cushion cover right sides out, press and put the cushion pad inside to complete.



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DAINTY MAKES

Stitch more
December motifs
with Sheena's
fantastic matching
mini-cushion kit!
Measuring a dinky
5¾in square, the
full kit costs just
£13.99. You can
find it online at:
www.sheenarogersdesigns.co.uk

Fashion fans take note – the new addition to Sheena Rogers' exciting seasonal pincushion series is for you! Symbolising the month of December, this design features the narcissus and beautiful bright blue turquoise. Turquoise has been the gemstone of choice for trendy sorts for thousands of years – Ancient Egyptians used them to decorate royal crowns, Aztecs inlaid them into ceremonial wear, and the Victorians adored them in jewellery. The Victorians were also fond of the narcissus, which had a particular significance in their infamous language of flowers, meaning 'you're the only one'. So, if you know a fashionista stitcher born in December, make sure you stitch Sheena's design for the perfect gift!

You will need...

- 14HPI aida** (or 28HPI evenweave), white, 8x8in (20x20cm)
- Stranded cotton** as listed in the key
- Fabric backing** 6x6in (15x15cm)
- Soft toy filling**

A perfect seasonal gift

Perfectly encapsulating the month of December, Sheena's design also makes an ideal stocking filler. The green and red colour scheme and holly and poinsettia motifs remind us of the season's festivities, whilst the snow white narcissus and ice blue turquoise border speaks of December's winter chill.

Making your pincushion

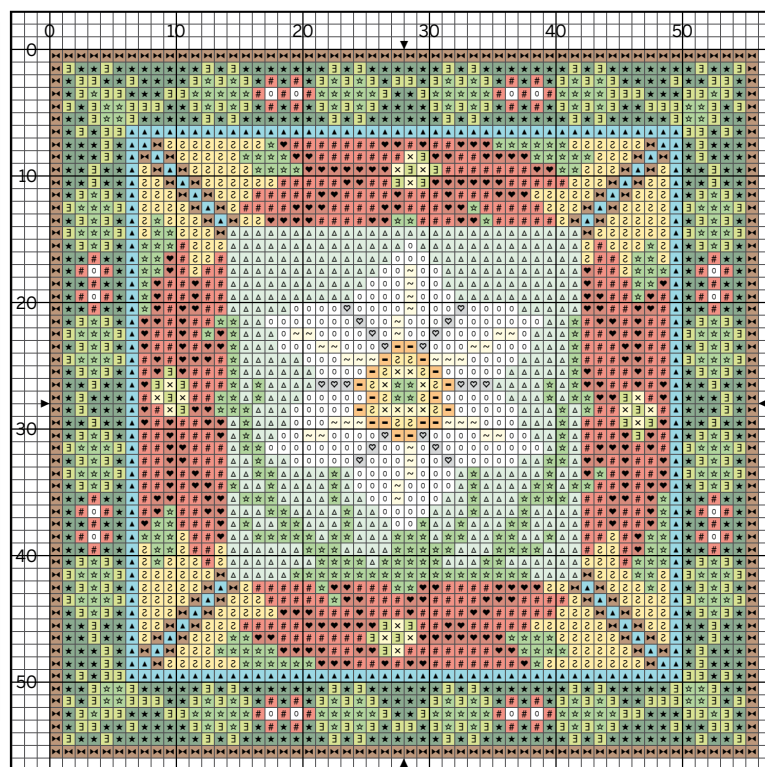
FINISH stitching your flower design, then follow these steps to make your December pincushion:

- 1 TRIM** your aida 1in (2.5cm) around the stitching. Lay right sides together on top of the backing fabric, pinning them together.
- 2 SEW** the two pieces together along the edge of the stitching around three sides and 1in (1.5cm) either end of the fourth side.
- 3 TRIM** all four edges of both the aida and backing fabric to about ¼in (6mm) outside the seam, then snip off the corners.
- 4 TURN** the pin cushion right sides out and stuff with the soft toy filling. Sew up the opening to finish.

December celebrations

DMC	Anchor	Madeira	Colour
Cross stitch in two strands			
 White	002	2402	White
 321	047	0510	Red
 369	1043	1309	Pale green
 415	398	1802	Grey
 699	923	1303	Dark green
 741	304	0203	Orange
 743	305	0113	Dark yellow
 745	300	0111	Light yellow
 746	275	0101	Pale yellow
 801	359	2007	Brown
 814	045	0514	Ruby
 904	258	1413	Medium green
 907	255	1410	Light green
 3845	433	1103	Blue

Stitched using DMC threads on 14HPI aida
Stitch count 56x56
Design area 4x4in (10x10cm)



© Sheena Rogers
collection

December celebrations

Stitch a beautiful narcissus and bright blue turquoise to mark a December birthday with **Sheena Rogers'** perfect pincushion



Our stitcher says... Ring in the new year with a pincushion decorated with carnations and garnets – January's birthstone and flower and the fourth in Sheena's stunning seasonal pincushion series



Stitched with four strands over two threads of 22HPI evenweave, Zweigart's robins grow with a satisfying speed, and the finished motifs look bold and chunky

Country Christmas

Use traditional festive motifs to create sophisticated homestyle with **Zweigart's** charming tablecloth

Decorating the table at Christmas is a fantastic way to express our creative style. For some, that means covering everything in tree shaped confetti and dipping the soup spoons in glitter! For others, it's about adding a simple, handmade touch to your dressed table. Zweigart's elegant robin motifs are perfect for this – the colour palette of chocolate brown and coral red is classic country chic. It's easy to make the design your own too, by measuring the fabric to fit your table's shape and size. It's up to you how much you stitch – if you're short on time, why not decorate the corners for Christmas and fill in the rest throughout the year? It's great if you've got a giant table fit to feed a big family!

Stitching your tablecloth

You will need...

22HPI evenweave antique white, Zweigart Fein Ariosa Ref: 3409/101, to fit your table. Find your evenweave at Willow Fabrics by calling 0800 0567811 or by visiting www.willowfabrics.com

Stranded cotton as listed in the key

Sewing kit including matching thread

Turn to page 59 for hints and tips!

Planning your stitching

MAKING a 26in (66cm) square tablecloth like ours requires 32x32in (80x80cm) of fabric. Measure 5in (13cm) in from the lower and side edge of the fabric ➤

Stitch chunky motifs in
rustic shades for a chic
country tablecloth



Country Christmas

- ▶ and mark with a pin. This is the bottom corner of the chart, which is marked here with a red cross, and you start stitching outwards from here. The chart shows one quarter of the design. If you look at the whole tablecloth diagram you can see how next to repeat the design. The grey shaded bars on the chart show where the design overlaps to help repeat the motif.

Stitching the design

WORK the cross stitch using four strands of stranded cotton over two threads of the evenweave. Add the backstitch using two strands of bright white for the robins' eyes and dark sepia for the rest of the details.

Finishing your tablecloth

TRIM your fabric to 3½in (9cm) outside the lower edge of the stitching all the way round. Next, turn your fabric under 1in (2.5cm) to the wrong side then 1in (2.5cm) again, and machine stitch this hem into place to finish.

Making your tablecloth to fit

MEASURE your table and add around 12in (30cm) all around to drop over the side. Count carefully to ensure the design lies in the corners of your tablecloth and the repeats match up. Work lines of tacking every forty holes on the fabric (20 stitches), and draw these lines on the chart so you can plan how many repeats you need. Cut your fabric 5in (13cm) bigger than your stitched design all the way round for hems and trimming, and finish in the same way as the square tablecloth.

Country Christmas

Anchor DMC Madeira Colour

Cross stitch in four strands

□ □	001	B5200	2401	Bright white
♥ ♥	010	351	0406	Red
■ ■	370	975	2008	Brown
☆ ☆	400	317	1714	Grey
~ ~	892	225	0306	Cream
x x	1082	841	1907	Light sepia
3 3	1084	840	1906	Medium sepia
♥ ♥	1086	3781	1905	Dark sepia

Backstitch in two strands

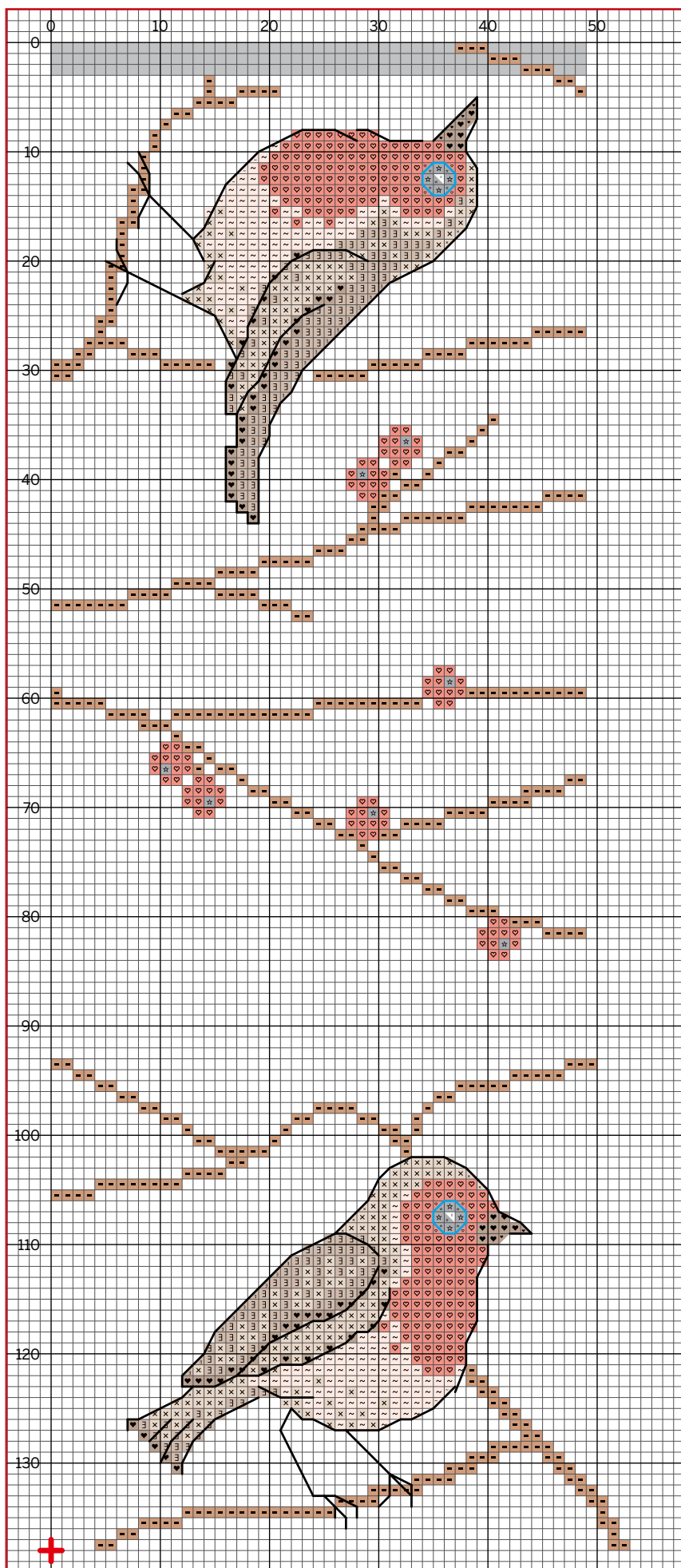
—	*001	B5200	2401	Bright white
				eyes
—	*1086	3781	1905	Dark sepia
				all other outlines and details

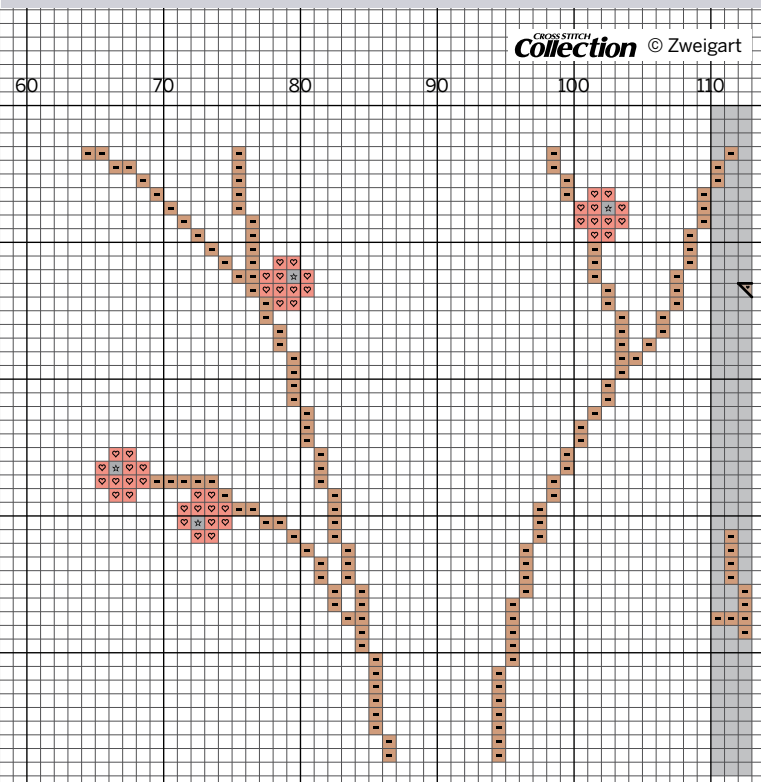
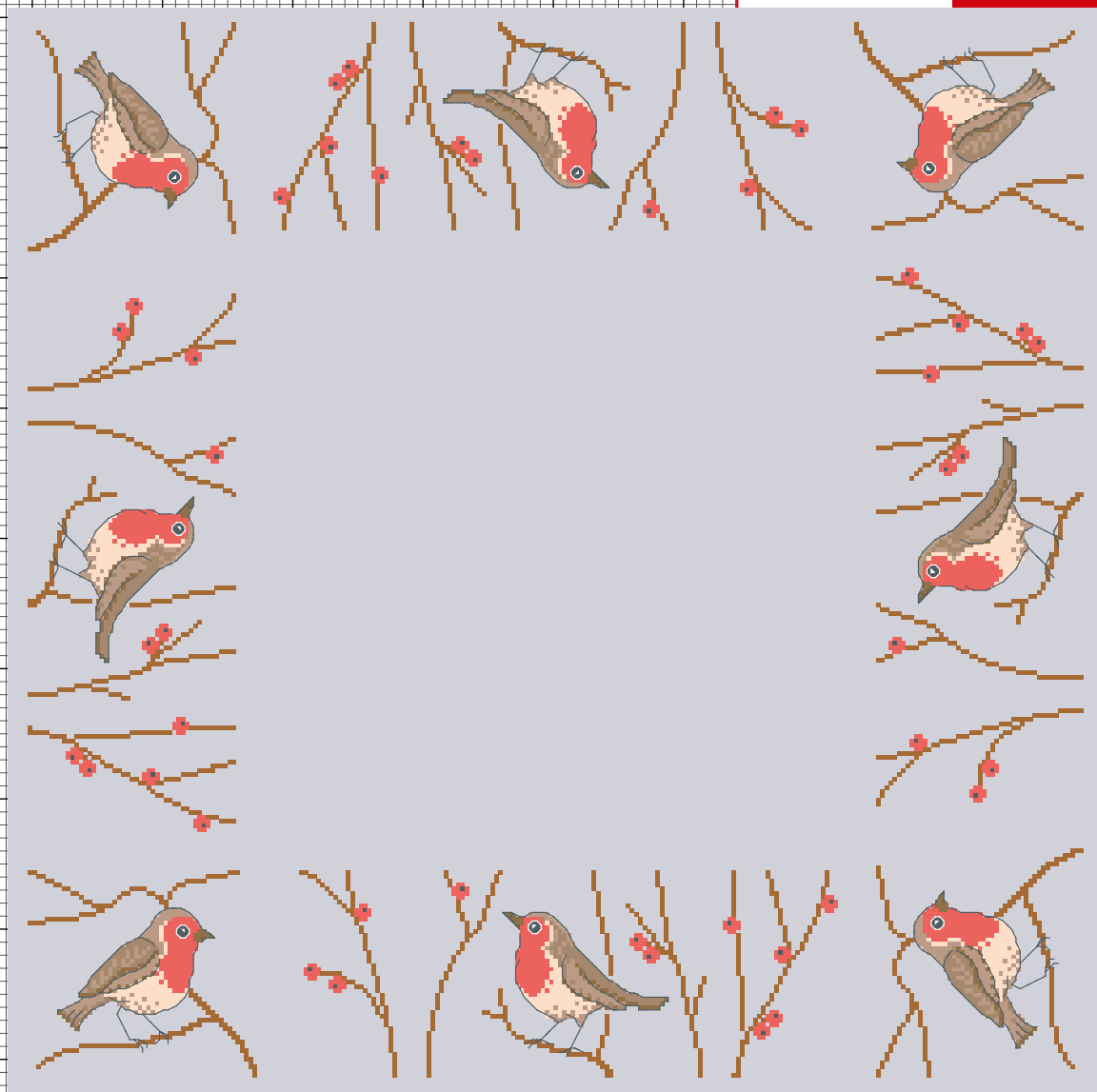
Pattern repeat guide

The grey area is where the pattern repeat on the chart overlaps

Stitched using Anchor threads on 22HPI evenweave over two threads. One repeat stitch count 135x110. Design area 12¼x10in (31x25cm)

*indicates colour is listed earlier in the key





Looking at the diagram above, you can see how the design repeats around the edge of your fabric – use it as a guide as you plan your stitching

Collection makes...

SWITCH SEASONS

If you'd like a tablecloth you can use all year, why not change the robins' red breast to a different colour? Blue, green or yellow would work well.

MOTIF MAGIC

Zweigart's robins and berry-covered branches could be stitched individually to create more tabletop extras – how about napkins, place cards, or even table mats?

GLORIOUS GIFTS

You could stitch these designs up into gorgeous gift bags. Check out our November 242 issue for a great step-by-step guide!

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Winter wonderland

Make sure that it's always a white Christmas by stitching
Angela Poole's cheerful and nostalgic snowman picture

Meet the designer...

Angela Poole

Winter can be such a magical time – it's my favourite season! There's something enchanting about being outside on a crisp, cold day and watching the snow lightly drift from the clear, blue sky and settle softly across



"It's so much fun to disturb the calm with a big snowball fight or by building a snowman!"

the landscape... but it's also so much fun to disturb the calm with a big snowball fight or a by building a huge snowman! Capturing a scene like this was really rewarding. I so enjoyed designing the grinning snowman and choosing the colours for the children's bright clothes – I had a scarlet coat just like this one when I was little too!

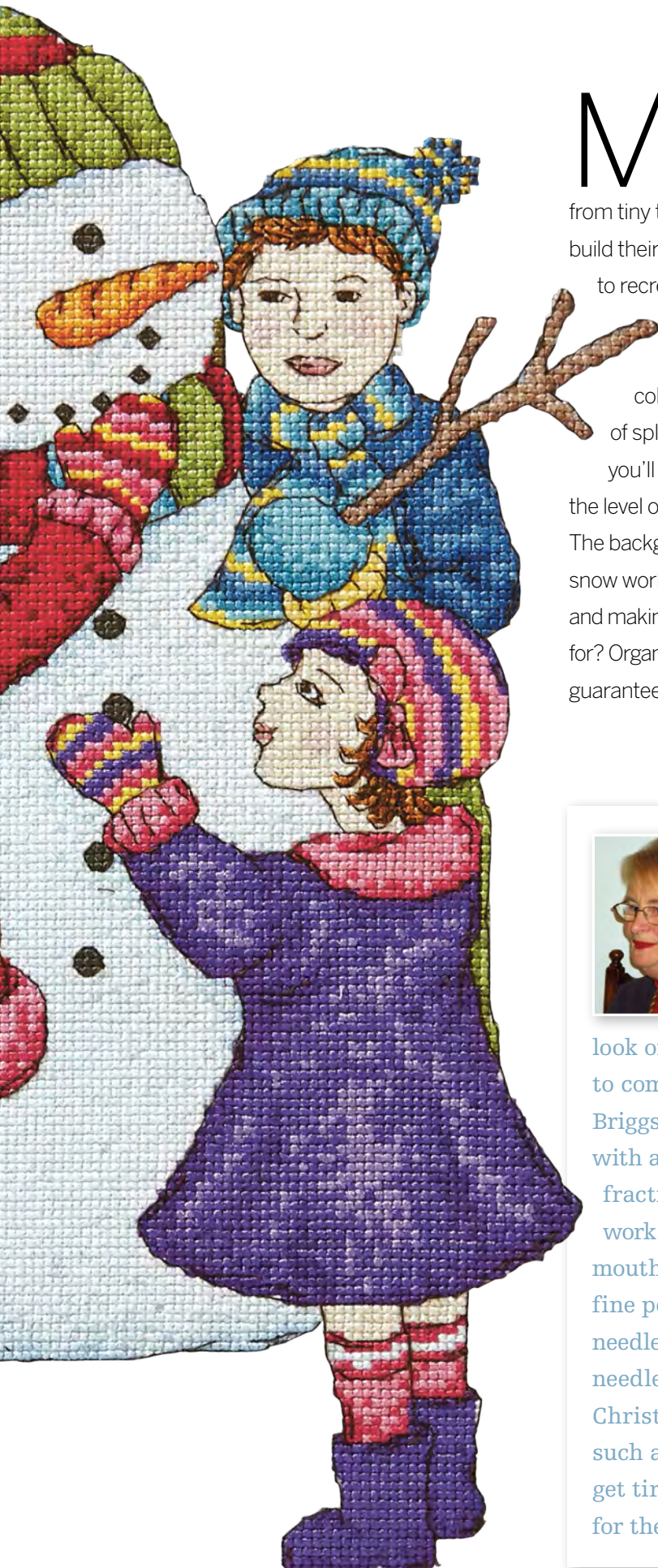
Snow can be a ludicrous amount of fun. It's easy to forget in the chaos that ensues for adults just how much joy can be had from it. The best way to recapture that thrill is to look to our children. They know how to handle the winter onslaught – by donning their cosiest coats and wooliest hats, stealing the nearest carrot and Dad's best scarf and going out to play. Watching your children build a snowman is a magical family moment, and I was really keen to capture this for you to treasure forever. Angela's done a fantastic job – even the little robin on the fence post looks like he's enjoying watching the snowman come to life!

Rebecca

Rebecca Bradshaw



For the regular updates on Angela's work and to see pictures of her latest



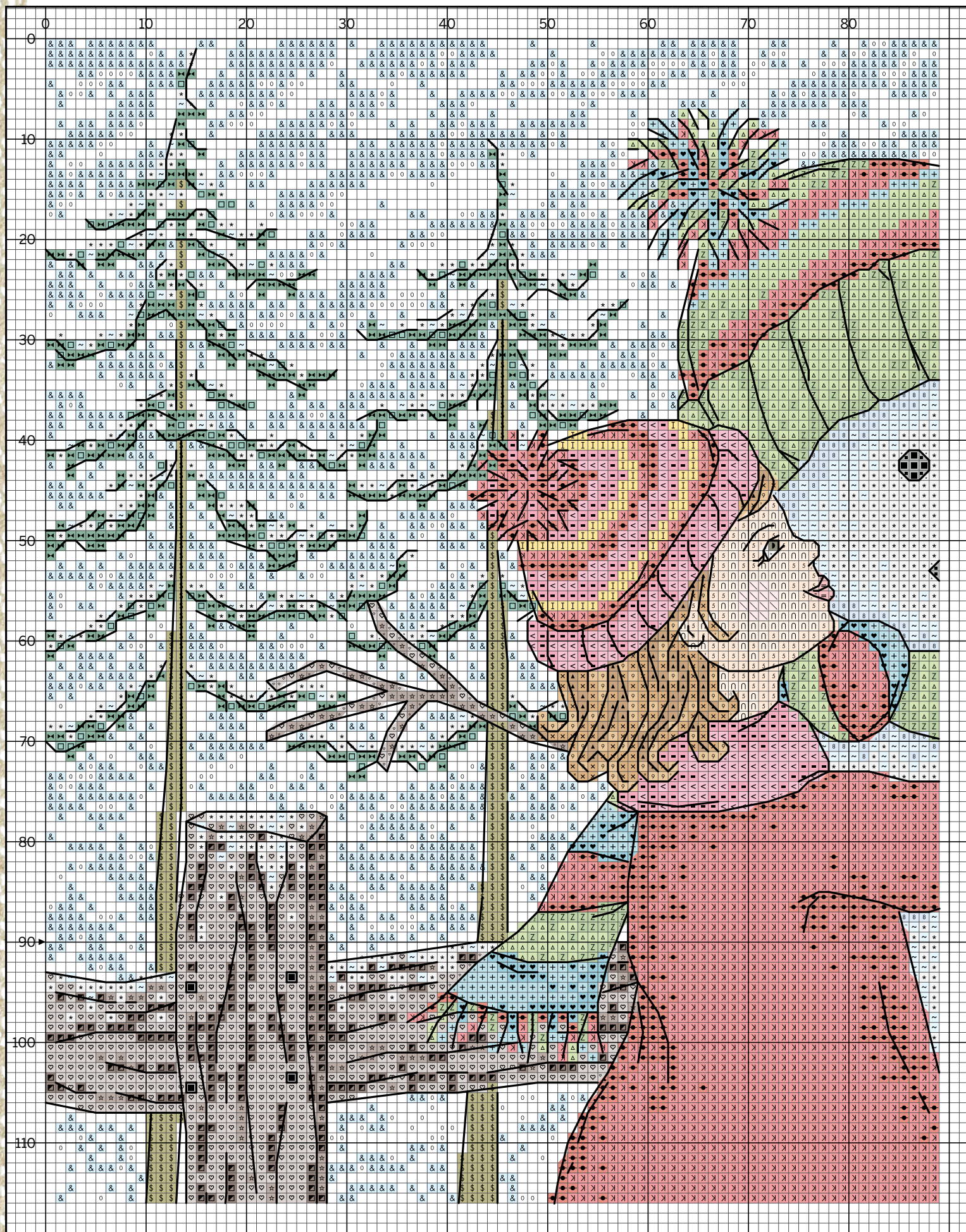
Memories rarely get more precious than those we have of building snowmen during childhood winters. Everyone from tiny tots to great grandparents remembers racing outside to build their icy masterpiece. Angela's design gives you the chance to recreate these happy times with her fantastically fun design. Using a mix of fractional and whole stitches, you'll have a chance to test yourself in between large blocks of colour that are quick and easy to finish. You'll also work lots of split backstitches, especially round the eyes and mouth you'll need a little concentration to place these accurately but the level of detail you can achieve by working them is amazing! The background also looks so effective with parts of the sky and snow worked in one strand instead of two, giving the picture depth and making the main characters stand out. So what are you waiting for? Organise your threads and start building your snowman – we guarantee it's a warmer endeavour than making the real thing!



Meet the stitcher... Jane Thomas

"This snowman project was lovely! I loved working the banks of colour on the children's clothes and the look of expectation on their faces – was he going to come alive like the snowman in Raymond Briggs' classic story? This design was a challenge, with a fair amount of colour changes and a few fractionals, though the fabric was lovely to work with. Working the backstitch around the mouth and eyes was like drawing with a very fine pencil, and I found it useful to have two needles on the go – one very sharp embroidery needle and my usual stitching needle. My next Christmas project is Santa's Journey – it tells such a beautiful story, one that you would never get tired of introducing children to. I can't wait for the next piece of pattern to work!"

designs and to read her exciting blog, visit www.angelapoole.com



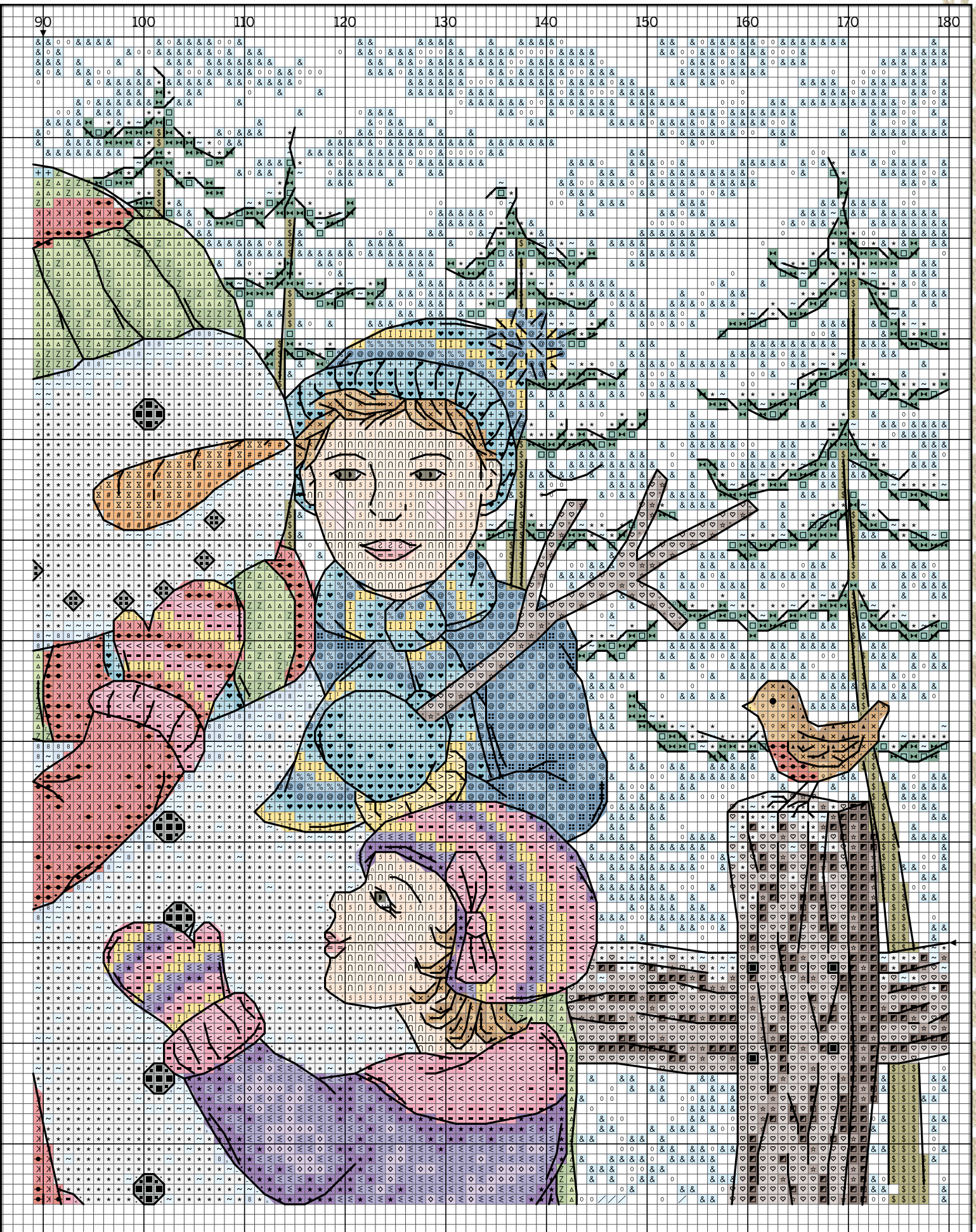
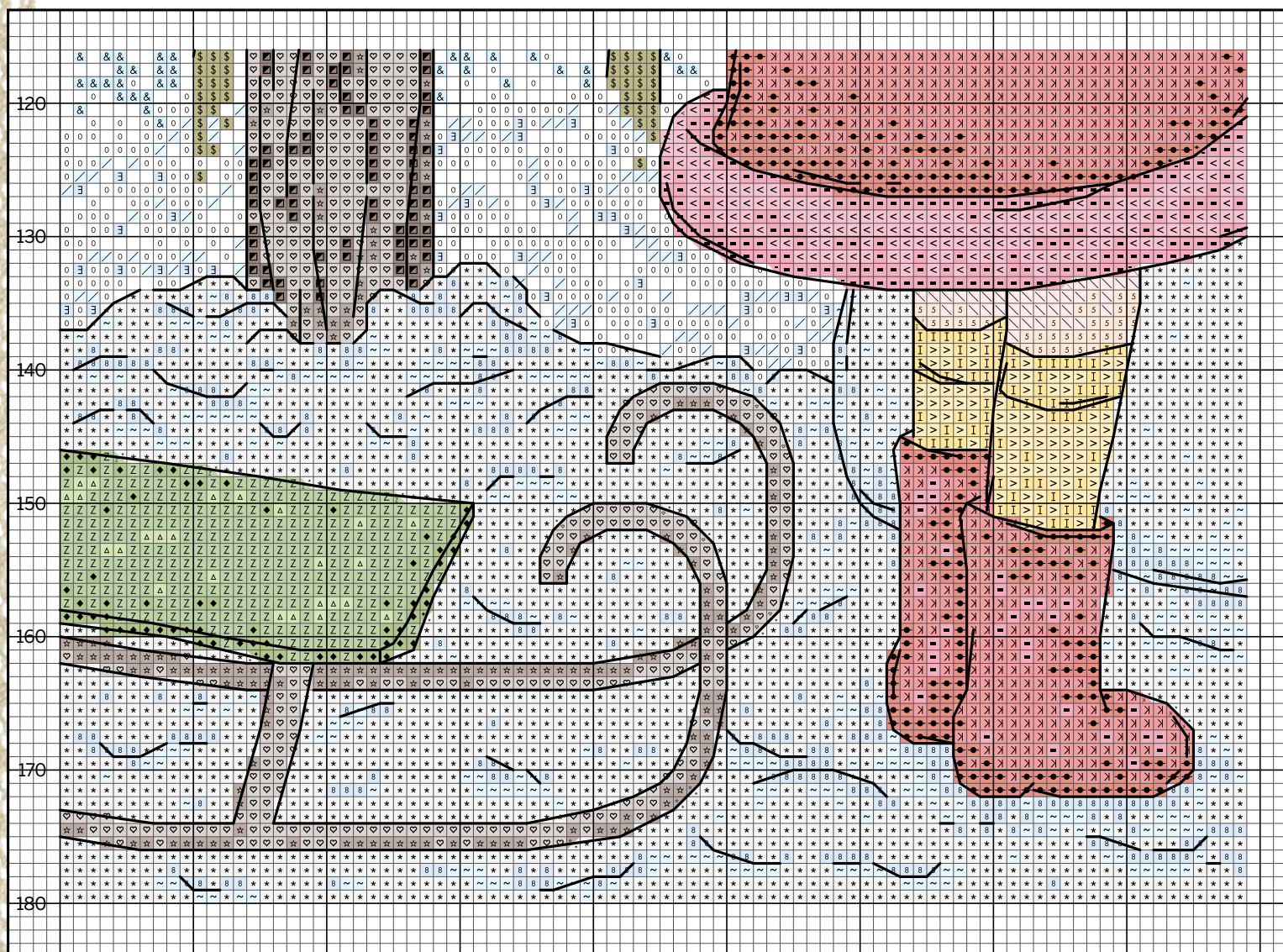


Chart of the month



Tip... Organising your threads

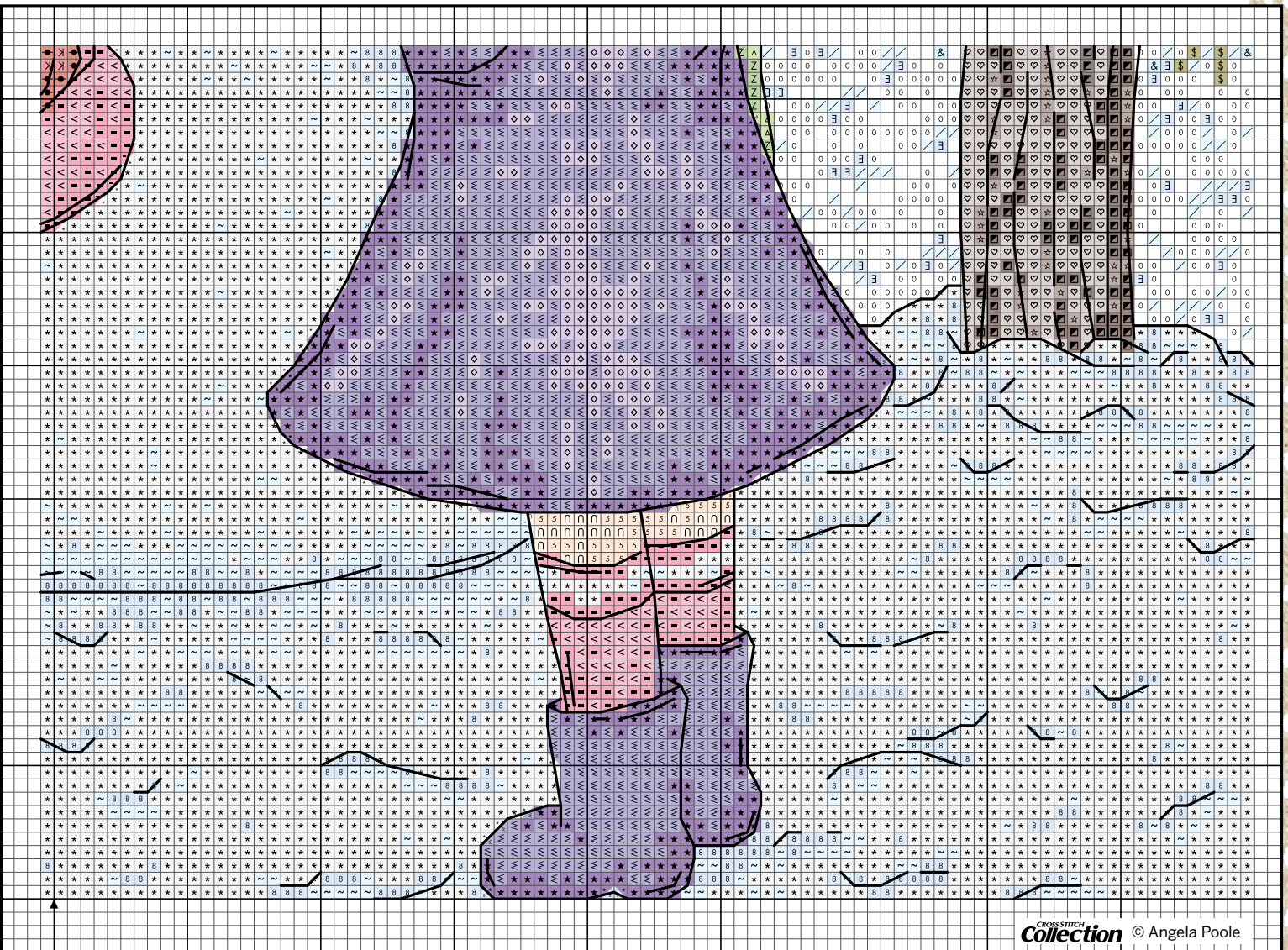
If the labels fall off a skein as you pull out a length of thread then simply loop the remaining thread through a hole in a piece of card and label it with the brand and number for future reference.

Winter wonderland

Anchor DMC Madeira Colour

Cross stitch in three strands

001	B5200	2401	Bright white (5)
029	891	2708	Light red (2)
055	603	0614	Light pink
057	602	0702	Dark pink
109	209	2711	Light purple
110	208	0804	Medium purple
111	3837	2710	Dark purple
128	775	1002	Light blue
167	3766	1111	Medium turquoise
168	807	1108	Dark turquoise
265	471	1308	Light green
266	470	1502	Medium green
268	937	1504	Dark green
273	646	1811	Grey
301	744	0112	Light yellow
305	726	0109	Dark yellow
313	3854	2307	Light orange
856	3011	1606	Moss green
876	503	1703	Light holly green
878	501	1205	Dark holly green



Cross Stitch Collection © Angela Poole

Anchor DMC Madeira Colour Cross stitch in three strands

■ ■	894	152	0813	Dark dusty pink
■ ■	904	3781	1811	Light grey brown
■ ■	944	829	2113	Dark brown
■ ■	968	778	0808	Medium dusty pink
■ ■	977	334	1003	Medium blue
■ ■	978	322	1004	Dark blue
■ ■	979	312	1005	Very dark blue
■ ■	1003	922	0310	Dark orange
■ ■	1006	304	0509	Dark red
■ ■	1009	3770	2314	Light pink beige
■ ■	1011	948	2308	Dark pink beige
■ ■	1026	225	0501	Light dusty pink
■ ■	1037	3856	2504	Very light blue (2)
■ ■	1045	436	2011	Light brown
■ ■	1046	435	2010	Medium brown
■ ■	1082	841	1906	Light sepia (2)
■ ■	1084	840	1905	Medium sepia
■ ■	1086	839	1904	Dark sepia

Anchor DMC Madeira Colour Cross stitch in one strand

■	*001	B5200	2401	Bright white
■	*128	775	1002	Light blue
■	*1037	3856	2504	Very light blue
■	9159	162	1014	Light turquoise

Backstitch in one strand

—	905	3031	1810	Dark grey brown
all outlines and details				

French knots in two strands

● ●	*905	3031	1810	Dark grey brown
Robin's eye				

Stitched using Anchor threads on 28HPI linen

over two threads

Stitch count 180x180

Design area 12¾x12¾in (32.5x32.5cm)

*indicates colour is listed earlier in the key
(2) indicates more than one skein required

Working
lots of shades
gives this design
a varied look,
but the colour
blocks mean
you won't swap
between them
too often and
the design will
quickly grow



Lovely linen fabric is perfect for a design like this with lots of fractionals and split backstitch – no tricky aida blocks to pierce!

Stitching your snowy scene

You will need...

28HPI linen (or 14HPI aida), light blue, Zweigart Cashel Ref: 3281/562, 21x21in (53x53cm). We got our lovely linen from Willow Fabrics. Find yours by calling them on 0800 0567811 or by going online to www.willowfabrics.com

Stranded cotton as listed in the key

Frame with a 12¾x12¾in (32x32cm) aperture, white painted wood

Turn to page 59 for hints and tips!

Stitching the design

FOLD your fabric in half both ways to find the centre and start stitching at this point to ensure your design is positioned correctly on the fabric. The cross stitch for the main design is all worked in three strands of stranded cotton over two threads of the evenweave

fabric. There are several different colours used in this design so make sure you select the correct one each time. It will help to pre sort your threads before you begin too. The cross stitch for the sky and falling snow is all worked in one strand.

Adding the details

FINISH working all the cross stitch before adding the backstitch and long stitch details. These are all worked in one strand of dark grey brown. Do take care to keep the tension of the long stitches even. If you do find that any of the long stitches sag across the fabric at all, then simply work a couple of stitches through the already worked cross stitches on the back to hold them firmly in place. Finally, you can add the French knot used to create the robin's eye using one strand of dark grey brown.

Santa's journey

Complete your delightfully detailed
Christmas masterpiece with the third and
final part of **Maria Diaz's** mega chart





Rudolph and co look impatient to get moving as Santa checks his list! At least they're quick to stitch – you'll work them using whole stitches and simple shading

The finish line is in sight as we reach part three of Santa's journey! This third and final section is the bottom horizontal chunk of the chart, featuring snow topped trees, houses covered in twinkling lights and sweet reindeer waiting impatiently for St Nick to finish checking his long, long list! There are some fabulous details to stitch in this section, particularly the backstitch. From the bows on the festive wreaths, delicate window panes and outlines stitched in one strand, to the golden

sleigh, reindeer antlers and swirling smoke stitched in two, this colourful mix is interesting to stitch and gives the finished picture a varied look. There are plenty of French knots to complete in Maria's third section, too they create glittering fairy lights, pretty flowers and jingling sleigh bells, adding a 3D texture to your festive masterpiece. And don't forget to check out our guide to washing and framing your completed piece – after all that work, you deserve the perfect finish to your picture!

Stitching the final section

You will need...

28HPI linen (or 14HPI aida), light rustic, Zweigart Cashel Ref: 3281/52, 24x24in (61x61cm). We got our lovely linen from Willow Fabrics. To find yours, call them on 0800 0567811 or visit them online at www.willowfabrics.com

Stranded cotton as listed in the key

Frame with a 16x15¾in (41x40cm) aperture, pale pine

Turn to page 59 for hints and tips!

Starting off

STITCH the final part of this design by using the bottom horizontal section of the chart. There is no overlap and the top edge of this chart lines up exactly

with the bottom edge of the central section given in the October issue. If you have tacked horizontal and vertical lines on your fabric as we suggested, remember to mark these corresponding lines on this chart too.

Stitching the design

WORK all the cross stitch in two strands of stranded cotton over two threads of the linen fabric. It's up to you in which order you stitch the designs in this section but do try not to jump over too big a space on the back of the fabric when working stitches of the same colour. To add shading and depth to the snow, some areas of it are worked using half cross stitch in two strands of ➤

Santa's journey

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	Colour
Cross stitch in two strands				
□□	B5200	001	2401	Bright white (5)
♥♥	221	897	0811	Very dark red
▲▲	336	150	1007	Dark blue
■■	347	1025	0407	Dark red
♡♡	351	010	0214	Light red
●●	433	358	2008	Dark brown
⦿⦿	435	365	2010	Medium brown
⦿⦿	436	363	2011	Light brown
⦿⦿	437	362	2012	Tan
■■	517	162	1107	Med blue (2)
■■	518	1039	1106	Light blue (2)
■■	645	1040	1811	Medium grey
□□	646	900	1812	Light grey
▲▲	712	926	2101	Off white
□□	738	361	2013	Cream
\$\$\$	741	304	0203	Dark orange
%%	742	303	0114	Light orange
==	743	305	0113	Dark yellow
\\	744	301	0112	Medium yellow
✱✱	746	275	0101	Pale yellow
■■	817	013	0211	Medium red
■■	844	1041	1810	Dark grey
■■	898	380	2006	V dark brown
□□	950	4146	2309	Pink beige

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	Colour
Cross stitch in two strands				
◆◆	987	244	1403	Dark green
⦿⦿	989	242	1401	Light green
✕✕	3032	898	2002	Khaki
II	3078	292	0102	Light yellow
~	3756	1037	2504	Pale blue
■	3820	306	2509	Dk gold yellow
⦿	3822	295	0112	Lt gold yellow
Half cross stitch in two strands				
□	*B5200	001	2401	Bright white
horizon smoke, trees, santa, sleigh, reindeer				
—	*646	900	1812	Light grey
chimney smoke				
—	*898	380	2006	V dark brown
antlers				
—	973	290	0105	Bright yellow
sleigh, presents, skates				
Backstitch in one strand				
—	*646	900	1812	Light grey
snow on ground and roof tops				

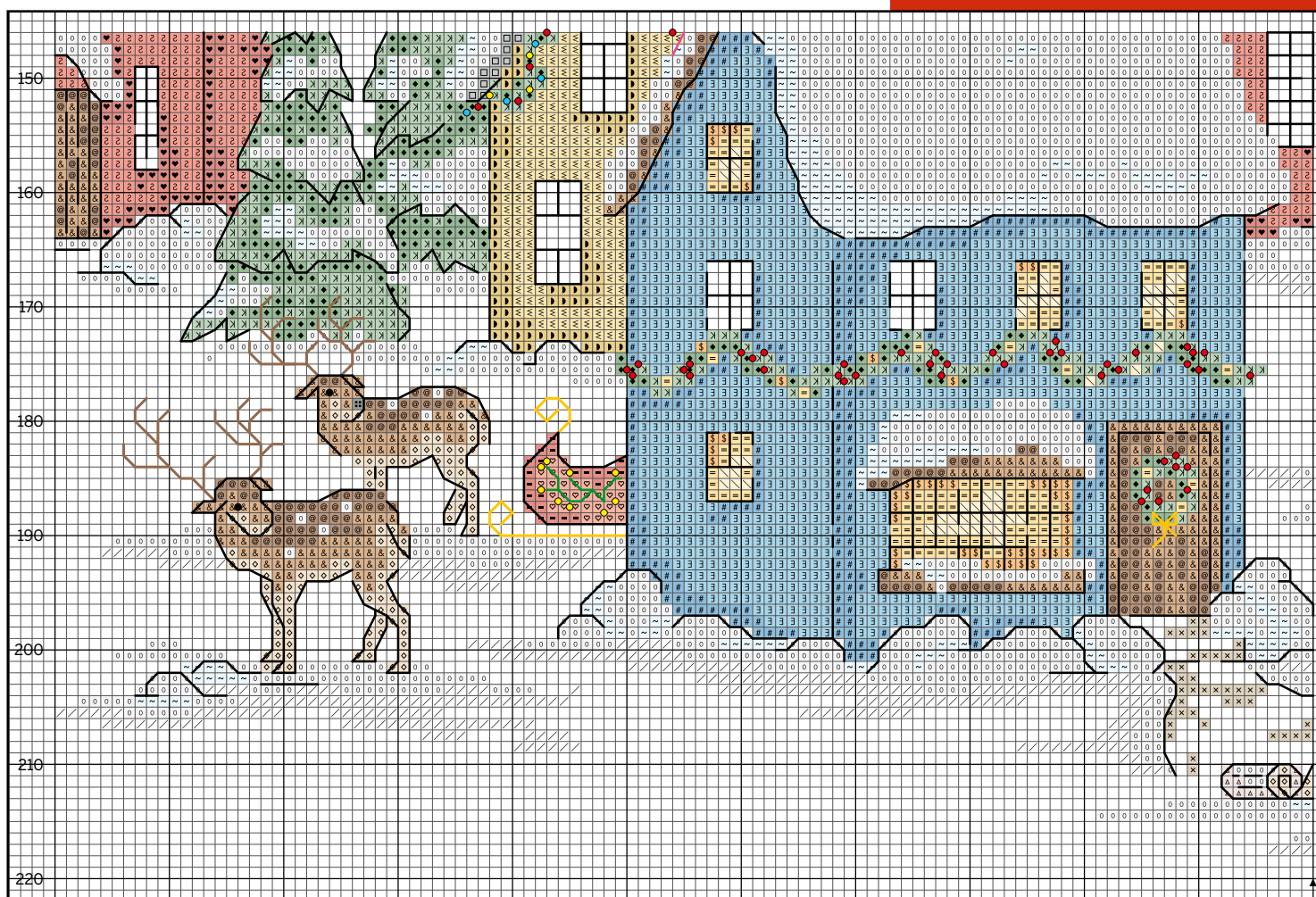
	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	Colour
Backstitch in one strand				
—	702	226	1306	Bright green
sleigh patterns, grass				
—	*844	1041	1810	Dark grey
all other outlines and details				
French knots in one strand				
○	*B5200	001	2401	Bright white
Santa's hat (in the sky)				
●	307	289	0104	Lemon yellow
houses, sleighs				
●	*351	010	0214	Light red
houses				
●	*844	1041	1810	Dark grey
eyes				
●	996	433	1103	Bright blue
houses				

Stitched using DMC threads on 28HPI linen over two threads

Stitch count 220x220

Design area 15¾x15¾in (40x40cm)

*indicates colour is listed earlier in the key
(2) indicates more than one skein required



Santa's journey



Taking care whilst washing and framing your completed picture after all that stitching will help you achieve a stunning finish

► bright white, so make sure you stitch these correctly to achieve this.

Adding the details

FINISH all the cross stitch before adding the backstitch details. There are several different colours used and some areas are worked in two strands and others in one. Each backstitch is represented with a different coloured line on the chart. The details on the key tell you which colour to place where to help with this.

Washing your stitching

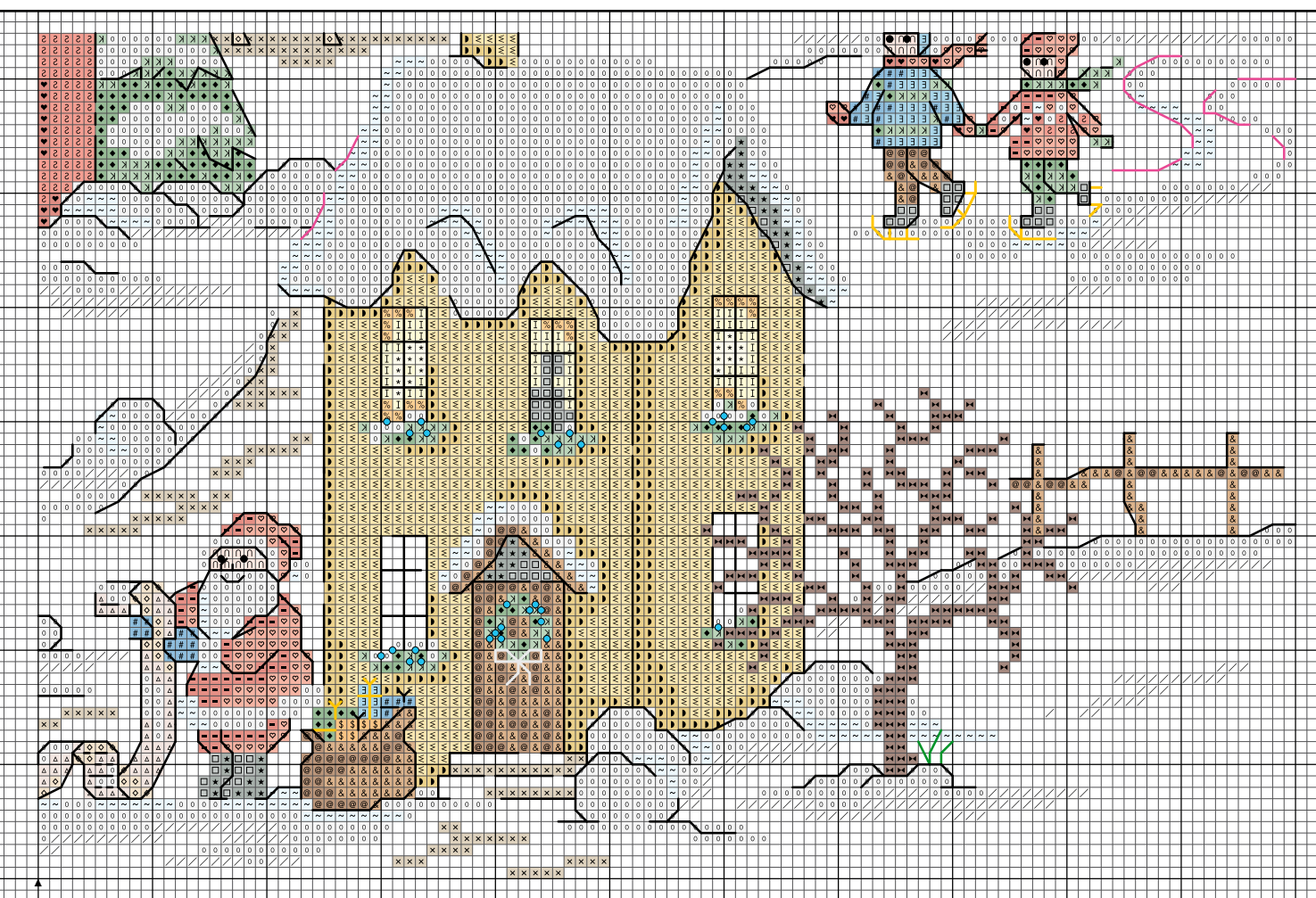
ONCE you have finished this third and final section of the design you can frame your work. As this has taken many hours to stitch, the fabric will have had a lot of

handling so will need to be washed. Fill a bowl with hot water and non biological washing powder and wash the stitched fabric well. If there are any small marks then just rub them gently to remove. You have used 100% cotton fabric and threads so they will be able to cope with hot water. Rinse thoroughly, then squeeze in a towel and iron dry.

Framing your work

TAKE care when requesting a frame for this design. Although we have given the exact measurements of the frame aperture in the shopping list, this is a large piece so the finished size may alter slightly. This is because you pull the fabric as you are stitching, which can stretch it a little, and there may be slight shrinkage after washing. Normally you wouldn't notice any difference but this is a large piece so even a small change in the finished size will make the frame aperture incorrect. Simply take the fabric to your framer and ask them to measure the exact size of the finished stitching so you can get the aperture cut to the correct measurement.

Our stitcher says... Add a little extra texture and sparkle to your picture by replacing some of the French knot fairy lights on the houses and trees with pretty glittering petite beads



Sheena Rogers designs

Mini Cushion Cross Stitch Kits

Each kit includes: 14ct Aida, velvet backing fabric, ready-sorted DMC threads, needle, b&w symbol chart and full instructions. Finished size: 5¼" square.



Christmas Village
Kit Price:
£13.99



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Kit Price:
£13.99

plus p+p per order

For the full range of Mini Cushion Cross Stitch Kits please visit my website:
www.sheenarogersdesigns.co.uk

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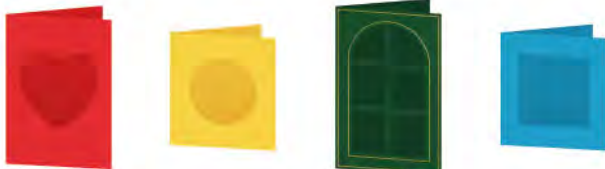
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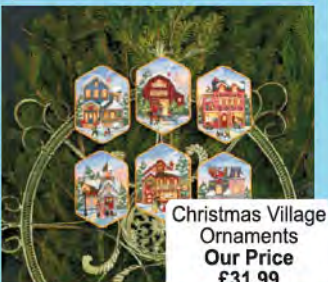
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Very merry pudding

Fruity, festive and full of fun, **Jenny Barton's** mouth watering figgy pudding makes for an irresistible cross stitch card

Now bring us some figgy pudding... never has a line from a Christmas carol been more lustily sang than this dessert demanding classic. After all, what could be better than a cake so boozy you can set it on fire? Well, how about a card design as stuffed with stitching details as this festive pud is with fruit! Jenny's design may be dinky (unlike our pudding portions) but there's plenty of shading to work, as well as a mix of fractional and whole stitches. You'll stitch backstitch in one and two strands in one to help define the motif's outline and in two to write your merry greeting. It's easy to make this card your own, too change the purple background to two of your own favourite shades, or make this design up as a fabric tag to accompany a thoughtful gift.

You will need...

16HPI aida (or 32HPI evenweave), white, 8x8in (20x20cm)

Stranded cotton as listed in the key

Card with a 101x101mm aperture

Mounting your card

PUT your stitched fabric on a padded surface and place the card aperture centrally over the stitching. Stick a pin in each corner to mark this position.

- 1** **STICK** double sided tape round the back of the card aperture then, using the pins as guides, stick the card to the fabric.
- 2** **FOLD** the other side of the card on top and stick in place.

Luxurious and tasty homemade Christmas puddings can be found all over the web, but we love the delicious desserts made by Figgy's in Devon. Order them or find stockists at www.figgy.co.uk

Our stitcher says... If you find the fractionals tricky to work on aida, use a sharp pointed needle to help pierce the fabric threads more easily

Very merry pudding

DMC Anchor Madeira Colour

Cross stitch in two strands

White	002	2402	White
Ecru	387	2404	Ecru
153	095	0801	Lilac
304	019	0511	Dark red
413	236	1713	Grey
470	266	1502	Medium green
471	265	1501	Light green
553	098	0712	Dark violet
554	096	0711	Light violet
666	046	0210	Medium red
839	1086	1914	Brown
937	268	1504	Dark green
3031	905	2003	Black brown
3705	033	0410	Light red
3860	379	1913	Dark sepia
3861	378	1912	Light sepia

Backstitch in two strands

*839 1086 1914 Brown lettering

Backstitch in one strand

*413 236 1713 Grey all other outlines and details

Stitched using DMC threads on 16HPI aida

Stitch count 54x52 Design area 3¼x3¼in (8.5x8.5cm)

*indicates colour is listed earlier in the key





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Christmas sewn up!



Need a last-minute festive stitch, gorgeous handmade gift or décor inspiration? Rachael G Stephens helps you delve into the treasure trove of charts that are free to download from the *Collection* blog

Stitchers are ambitious at Christmas. As the year goes on, our festive stitching list grows and grows. Stitch Christmas cards for everyone in our address book? Of course we will! Make advent calendars for the whole family? I'll have time for that! Fill the stockings with stitched gifts? You'd be mad not to. However, life has a habit of getting in the way, and instead of starting in August with an organised stash, we find ourselves panicking in November. Enter the *Cross Stitch Collection* blog – our website is a treasure trove of quick stitch charts, perfect for cards, gifts and festive features. Best of all, these charts are all free to download! Simply head to www.crossstitchcollection.com and get your last minute Christmas stitching sewn up.



Pretty papers

Add an extra element of festive fabulousness to your stitched Christmas cards by downloading our gorgeous card mounts and patterned papers. They come in a range of patterns and sizes, and are easy to download, print and stick to your aperture and patch cards. We have some that match the beautiful projects featured in *Cross Stitch Collection*, like our bright red spotty card mount for our Jolly Robins project (see page 14 of this issue for Jenny Barton's chart) or the knitting style pattern for Angela Poole's Festive Ted (from our November 242 issue). There is also a plethora of papers like those shown above, featuring traditional favourites like holly, pressies and Santa Claus, amusing animals – polar bear in a scarf anyone? – and even some stylish Scandi designs. **Download all these papers and more for free from our blog at www.crossstitchcollection.com**



Quick Christmas projects

With plenty of ideas, charts and inspiration, you're sure to find a festive design or two on our blog to stitch up this year. There's a huge range of motifs – check out this cute Christmas pudding and the sweet stocking charts by Angela Poole, the gorgeous floral bauble by Lesley Teare and Helen Philipp's trio of traditional charts. They can all be stitched up into great Christmas makes, from gift tags and advent calendars to cards. Why not create Christmas decorations as well? Helen's dove, tree and heart look great hanging on a Christmas tree!

Download all these charts and more for free from our blog at www.crossstitchcollection.com



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and more at
[www.
crossstitch
collection
.com](http://www.crossstitchcollection.com)





Festive cards

Sending a cross stitched card is so special at Christmas. Loved ones appreciate the effort, and we always enjoy the chance to stitch lots of fun and indulgent designs! To make it easier, we've made several card designs available for you to stitch on the blog. You could stitch Lesley Teare's robin motif or her stunning stained glass window tree design, or keep it pretty and classic with pink and purple festive wreaths. For something a little different, you could try your hand at stitching Joan Elliott's colourful folk art angels! **Download all these charts and more for free from our blog at www.crossstitchcollection.com**

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crossstitch
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.com**





Perfect gifts

Find stocking fillers galore in our Christmas gift

section. You can

download charts for full

projects, plus a whole

host of mini motifs

that are ideal for

stitching up into a

variety of lovely

pressies. Lesley Teare's

anemone bookmark is wonderfully

feminine, and the chart comes with a handy guide to

making your hemstitched masterpiece. Sheena

Rogers' fantastic Christmas pincushion also comes

with chart and instructions, as does Maria Diaz's Art

Nouveau inspired handbag charm. If you don't fancy

making any of these items, you can use any of our

motifs to make all sorts of scented sachets, mini

pillows, handkerchiefs, handbag mirrors, keyrings,

pictures, purses... the possibilities are endless!

Download all these charts and more for free from

our blog at www.crossstitchcollection.com

Get all this
and more at
www.crossstitchcollection.com

Links we love

CrossStitcher

www.crossstitchermag.com

Our sister magazine, *CrossStitcher*, has free charts available on their blog, too, with a new freebie each weekend. Make sure you check out their gorgeous festive card mounts.

DMC Online

www.dmc-usa.com

You'll find a host of free designs to download from the DMC website, including a spectacular free Joan Elliott Stardust Fairy project - maybe something to stitch for yourself amongst the Christmas madness!

Papercraft Inspirations

www.papercraftinspirationsmagazine.co.uk

The perfect place to find festive papers, *Papercraft Inspirations* also has a free downloadable advent calendar kit - you can use it to create easy to make boxes to fill with tasty treats for your family to enjoy.

Facebook

www.facebook.com/CSCMagazine

Join in the fun on our Facebook page, where you can share your latest stitching stories, enter exciting giveaways and take advantage of our Friday Freebie - a free chart from our friends on the web every week.

Kreinik Online

www.kreinik.com

Christmas gives us the perfect excuse to bust out the metallic threads to make our stitching really shine. If you haven't worked with it before, why not try one of Kreinik's free to download Christmas charts from their website?

Celebrate the 12 Days of Christmas

www.facebook.com/CSCMagazine

For 12 days in December, we're giving away amazing stitching prizes and irresistible festive charts! Each day will bring a not to be missed treat for a limited time only, so get online for your Christmas stitching extras!

You will need...

25HPI evenweave blue, Zweigart Lugana
Ref: 3835/504, 8x13in (20x33cm)

Stranded cotton as listed in the key

White bias binding 12in (30cm)

Looking
for some fancy
cutlery to match
your marvellous
stitched stockings?
Check out the
festive range at
John Lewis:
www.johnlewis.com

Stitching the design

CUT the fabric into two pieces: 8x8in (20x20cm) for the stitched front and 6x5in (15x13cm) for the back. Stitch the design in the centre of the front fabric. Draw out the name or greeting you want to add to your stocking on graph paper, then stitch it on the stocking, making sure it's central.

Making a cutlery stocking

DRAW a stocking shape around the edge of your stitching using the photo as a guide, or download a template at www.crossstitchcollection.com

- 1 **PUT** your front and back fabric right sides together, then stitch all round the drawn line, leaving the top open.
- 2 **TRIM** the fabric ¼in (6mm) outside the stitching but straight across the line at the top. Turn right sides out and press.

- 3 **BIND** the top of the stocking with white bias binding, then cut a 4in (10cm) piece for the hanging loop. Stitch together down the long edge, tucking the short ends in. Fold in half, then stitch just inside the stocking over the side seam.

Frosted fancies

DMC Anchor Madeira Colour

Cross stitch in three strands

✕✕ B5200 001 2401 Bright white

Backstitch in two strands

— *B5200 001 2401 Bright white
all outlines and details

French knots in two strands

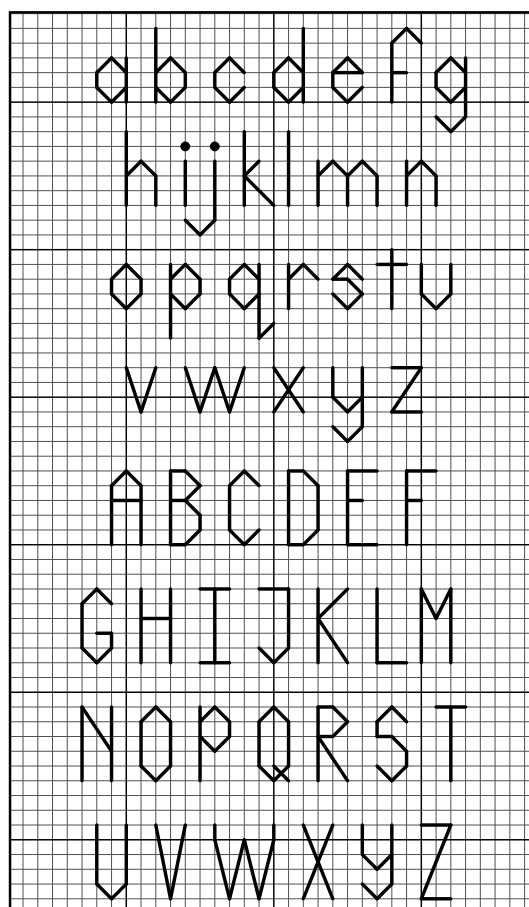
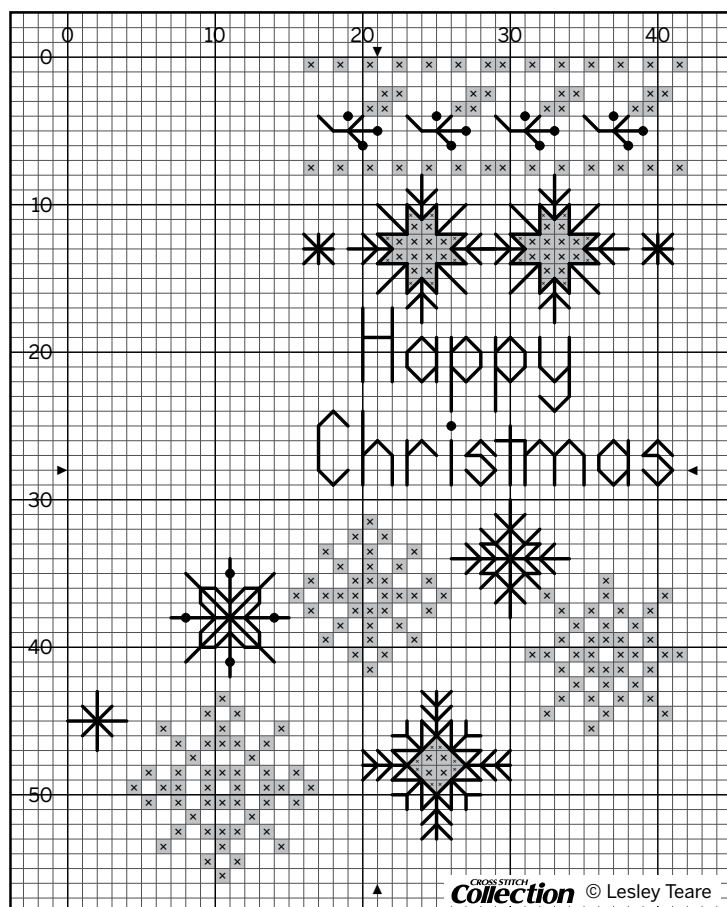
●● *B5200 001 2401 Bright white
snowflakes, lettering

Stitched using DMC threads on 25HPI evenweave over two threads

Stitch count 56x42

Design area 4½x3¼in (11.5x8.5cm)

*indicates colour is listed earlier in the key





Frosted fancies

Decorate your table
this Christmas with a touch
of winter magic by stitching
Lesley Teare's ice-blue and
snow-white cutlery stockings

Create
rustic, folksy
designs by
working earthy
red and green
tones on the
natural and warm
coloured fabric



The night before Christmas

.....
Sweet and jolly, these three mini-scenes from
The Prairie Schooler are perfect for decking
your halls in a multitude of merry ways!
.....

Softly falling snow, Santa's cherry red cheeks, a cosy cottage and a jolly snowman – these three sweet scenes from the distinctive American folk designers at The Prairie Schooler really capture the anticipation of Christmas Eve! Perfect for stitching into Christmas decorations or cards, these designs are ideal if you need a quick stitch in the mad run up to the big day. Each design is worked in

whole cross stitch with plenty of colour blocks and minimal backstitch, and uses a handful of traditional Christmas thread colours alongside warm and earthy brown tones. They can then be made up into all sorts of festive treats to decorate your

*Festive treats to
decorate your home!*

home. You could attach ribbon loops and hang them on your tree, or why not string them along some ric rac to create a festive banner? Check out our *Collection Makes* for more amazing ideas!





Collection makes...

QUICK CARDS

Need a quick-stitch Christmas card? These three charts are the perfect size! Why not find some card in the same festive green as the felt we've used? Craft Creations have a wonderful range at www.craftcreations.com

CUSHION CRAZY

You could stitch them up into mini pillows and put them in a festive bowl to make a cute decorative feature, or create mini pincushions to make a merry stocking filler.

HOOP-LA

You could frame these pics using embroidery hoops and hang on the wall for a lovely display – why not use some festive ribbon to wrap around the hoop for added effect?

Stitching your scenes

You will need...

For each decoration

32HPI evenweave (or 16HPI aida),

sage green, 10x10in (25x25cm)

Stranded cotton as listed in the key

Card white, 3¼x2½in (8x6.5cm)

2oz wadding 3¼x2½in (8x6.5cm)

Felt dark green, 3¼x3½in (9.5x8cm)

Sewing kit including matching thread

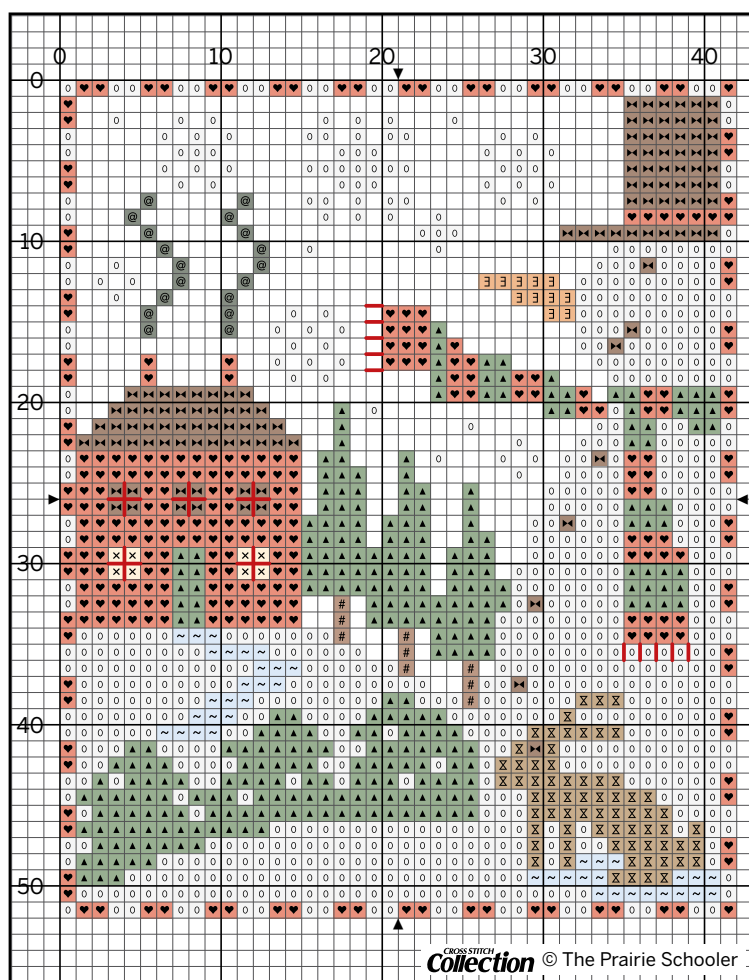
Turn to page 59 for hints and tips!



Stitching the designs

FOLD your fabric in half both ways to find the centre and start stitching at this point. All the cross stitch is worked in two strands of stranded cotton over two threads of the evenweave fabric. When you've finished working all the cross stitch you can add the backstitch details. These are all worked in one strand – refer to the chart and key to see where to place each colour. ➤

Our stitcher says... Count carefully to make sure your snowflakes are placed correctly – stitching them last will help you with this



The Prairie Schooler

Instantly recognisable, the stunning American-folk style designs of The Prairie Schooler have been synonymous with Christmas stitching since they produced their first famous Schooler Santa design over 30 years ago. Created by artist Pam and business whizz kid Nancy, they printed their first leaflets in 1984 and have been going strong ever since. Their designs are inspired by antiques, folklore, fairytales and the wonderful wildlife and nature that surrounds Pam's home. To see The Prairie Schooler's amazing range of nostalgic designs, including more festive fabulousness, visit their website at www.prairieschooler.com, and to read more about Pam, head to our blog to read our exclusive interview!

www.crossstitchcollection.com

The night before Christmas

DMC Anchor Madeira Colour

Cross stitch in two strands

□□	White	002	2402	White
☆☆	356	1013	0402	Dark pink beige
22	729	890	2209	Yellow
xx	738	361	2013	Cream
♡♡	758	9575	2309	Light pink beige
♥♥	815	044	0513	Red
xx	869	889	2105	Golden brown
▲▲	895	1044	1405	Green
# #	898	380	2006	Brown
★ ★	902	897	0601	Dark red
33	921	1003	0311	Orange
~ ~	927	849	1708	Pale petrol blue
■ ■	3371	382	2004	Black brown
@ @	3787	1041	1811	Brown grey

Backstitch in one strand

—	*White	002	2402	White
	eyebrows			
—	*758	9575	2309	Light pink beige
	mouth			
—	*815	044	0513	Red
	lettering, windows			

Stitched using DMC threads on 32HPI evenweave over two threads. Stitch count for each 52x42.

Design area 3¼x2½in (8.5x6cm)

*indicates colour is listed earlier in the key





Create an extra-special personal Christmas greeting by replacing Merry Christmas with a loved one's name – choose a backstitch alphabet and use some graph paper to help with placement

► Making **your decorations**

STICK the wadding to the front of your piece of card.

1 CUT your stitched fabric to ½in (1.5cm) bigger than the card all the way round then place it centrally on top, and fold the edges over to the wrong side and stick or lace into place.

2 TRIM the edges of the felt with pinking shears for a decorative finish then stick to the back of the card.

3 MAKE a hanging loop from a piece of thread and stick to the back to hang your finished decoration.

The night before Christmas

DMC Anchor Madeira Colour

Cross stitch in two strands

	White	002	2402	White
	356	1013	0402	Dark pink beige
	729	890	2209	Yellow
	738	361	2013	Cream
	758	9575	2309	Light pink beige
	815	044	0513	Red
	869	889	2105	Golden brown
	895	1044	1405	Green
	898	380	2006	Brown
	902	897	0601	Dark red
	921	1003	0311	Orange
	927	849	1708	Pale petrol blue
	3371	382	2004	Black brown
	3787	1041	1811	Brown grey

Backstitch in one strand

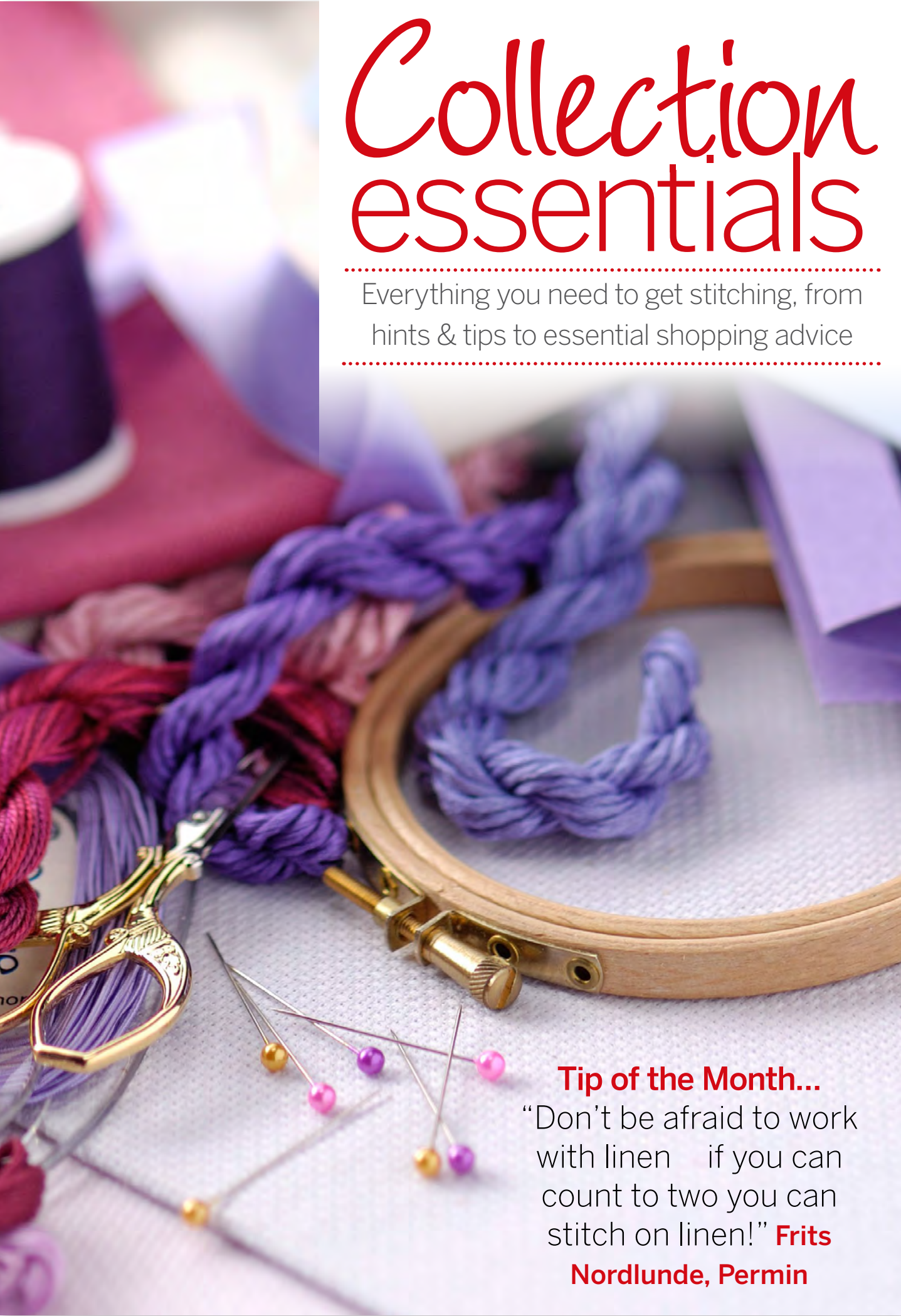
*White	002	2402	White
eyebrows			
*758	9575	2309	Light pink beige
mouth			
*815	044	0513	Red
lettering, windows			

Stitched using DMC threads on 32HPI evenweave over two threads. Stitch count for each 52x42

Design area 3¼x2½in (8.5x6cm)

*indicates colour is listed earlier in the key





Collection essentials

Everything you need to get stitching, from
hints & tips to essential shopping advice

Tip of the Month...

“Don’t be afraid to work with linen – if you can count to two you can stitch on linen!” **Frits**

Nordlunde, Permin

Stitch basics

Discover all you need to know to start cross stitching and lots of helpful hints to make you an expert. Charting editor Abi Barker is your guide...

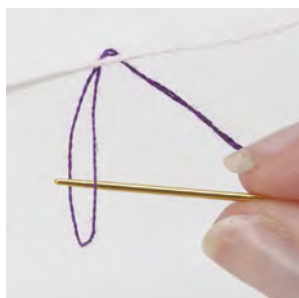
Getting started

Select your needle

Fabric	HPI	Needle
Aida	11-14	Tapestry 24
Aida	16-20	Tapestry 26
Hardanger	22	Tapestry 26
Evenweave	22-32	Tapestry 26
Evenweave	36 and over	Tapestry 28

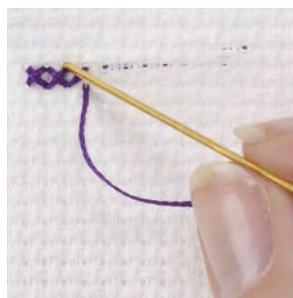
TIP To attach beads, use a beading needle or a size 28 tapestry needle.

Try these three ways to get going, then choose the one that suits you best



Loop start When stitching with two threads

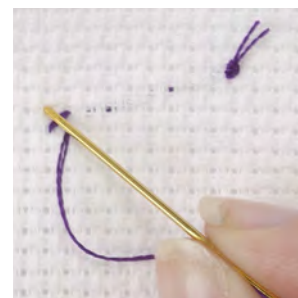
Cut a single thread that's twice as long as you need, and thread both ends through your needle. Come up through the fabric and make a half stitch, then pass the needle through the loop that's formed at the back to secure it.



Loose end start

When stitching with any number of threads

Bring your needle up through the fabric, leaving a little piece of thread at the back. Hold this thread underneath the area to be stitched so that you will secure it with your first few cross stitches.



Waste knot start

When stitching with any number of threads

Knot the end of the thread and take the needle down through the fabric on the right side, a little away from your first stitch. As you stitch towards the knot, you'll secure the thread at the back, then you can snip off the knot.

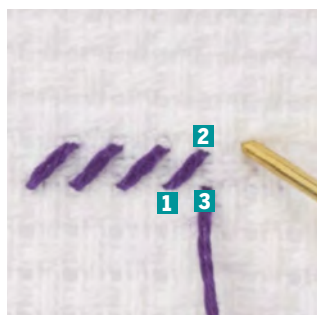
Cross stitch made easy

Learn the basic techniques and you're ready for the projects!



Cross stitch on aida

Aida has groups of threads woven together to form distinct blocks – perfect for beginners. Cross stitches are made over one block of fabric, on any count. A quick way to work a line of stitches is to use half cross stitches going one way, then double back on yourself.



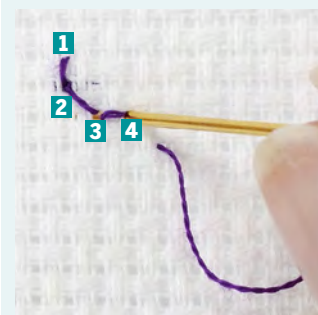
Half cross stitch

This is simply half of an ordinary cross stitch. Bring the needle up at 1, down at 2, up at 3 and so on. Half cross stitches are often used to create a paler area of stitching, for example for the sky or a background, which can give the impression of distance in a design.



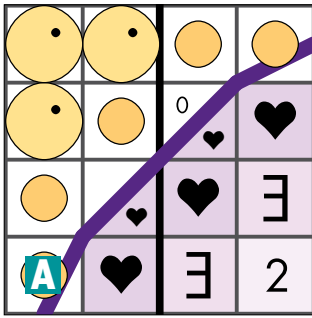
Cross stitch on evenweave

Evenweave and linen fabrics are woven in single threads. Usually you will stitch over two threads, as in the example shown above. As a result of this, a design stitched on 28HPI evenweave will be the same size as one stitched on 14HPI aida.



Backstitch, used for outlines or details, is shown as coloured lines on the chart and is worked after the cross stitch. Bring the needle up at 1, down at 2, up at 3, down at 2, up at 4 and so on, working over one block of aida or two threads of evenweave.

Long stitch is worked the same way, but over more than one block of aida or more than two threads of evenweave.

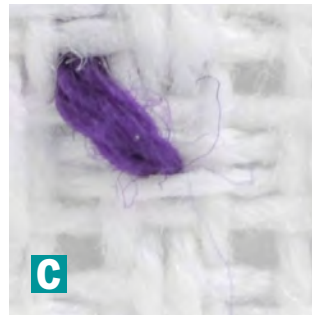


Fractional stitches

A small symbol in the corner of a square (A) indicates a three quarter stitch (B). If two different symbols occupy one



square, make the less prominent colour a tiny quarter stitch (C) then work a three quarter stitch in the other colour (D). The examples



shown are on aida where the centre block has to be pierced to make the quarter stitch (you may want to use a sharper needle for this).



TIP Fractionals are easier to work on evenweave as there is no block to be pierced.

The final details

Many designs feature beads or French knots. These are easy to do, but practise on scrap fabric first

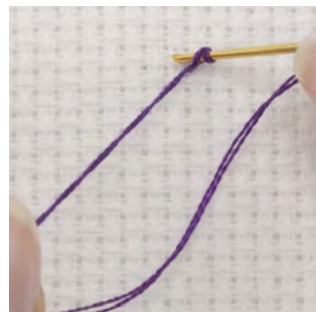
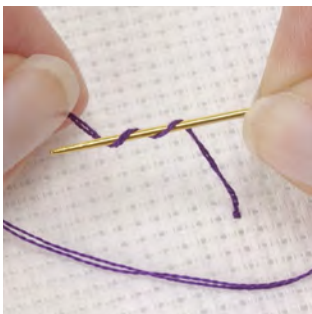


Beads

Attach each bead with a half cross stitch. Bring the needle up at one bottom corner of the square, thread the bead on to the needle and complete the stitch. Use a needle with a small eye, or a beading needle, and sewing cotton that matches the fabric or stitching. Attach more firmly with a whole cross stitch.

French knots

1 Bring the needle up through the fabric. With thumb and forefinger, hold the thread a few inches away from where it came up. Keeping the thread taut, twist the needle twice around the thread.



2 Still holding the thread, push the needle down into the fabric close to where it came out, then pull the needle through gently to form a knot. Don't pull too hard.

TIP Vary the number of twists or strands to make larger or smaller French knots.

When finished...

Taking care of your stitching

Wash your work to refresh the fabric and threads – good quality threads won't run. Use warm water and rinse until the water runs clear. To iron, place your damp stitching on fluffy towels, with a clean white cloth over the top, and press with a warm iron until it's almost dry.

Reading charts and keys

The charts are easy to follow when you know how

Each chart symbol represents one stitch on the fabric.

The key shows the thread colour that the symbols represent, for all stitches. Check how many strands of thread you need for each.

The thread codes in the key are for DMC, Anchor and Madeira colours. We list the threads used to stitch our model first (therefore the design may look slightly different if stitched using another brand).

The arrows on the chart indicate the centre of the chart. On most designs, you'll start stitching here to ensure the design is central. To find the centre of your fabric, fold it in half both ways; the crease in the middle corresponds to the chart centre where you'll make your first stitch.

Daisy key

DMC Anchor Madeira Colour

Cross stitch in two strands

White	002	2402	White
210	108	0802	Light purple
550	101	0714	Dark purple
553	098	0712	Med purple
3866	926	2001	Off white

Half cross stitch in two strands

*550	101	0714	Dark purple
------	-----	------	-------------

Cross stitch using one strand of each colour

211	342	0801	Lilac
DMC Light Effects E5200			

Backstitch in one strand

*550	101	0714	Dark purple
all outlines and details			

French knots in two strands

743	305	0113	Yellow
daisy centre details			

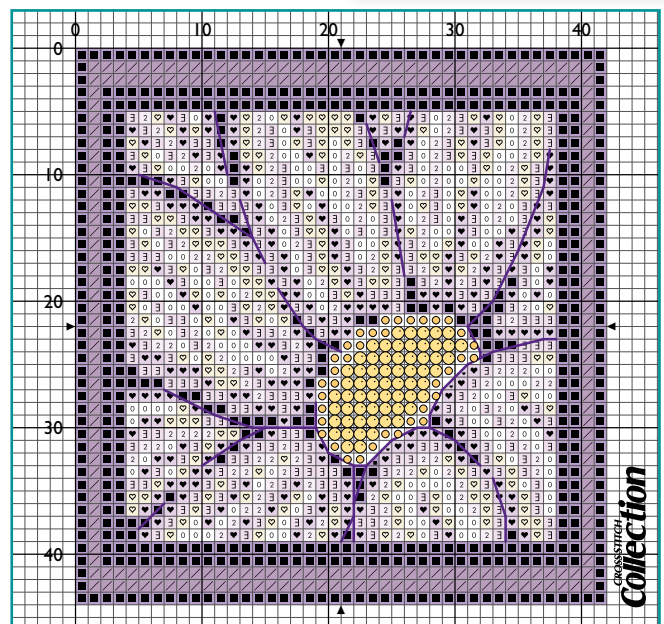
Attach beads with matching cotton

Mill Hill seed beads 02002	Yellow creme
daisy centre details	

Stitched using DMC threads on 14HPI aida

Stitch count 44x42 Design area 3¼x3in (8x8cm)

*Indicates colour is listed earlier in the key



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It's easy to find essential stitching supplies or catch up on a missed copy of *Cross Stitch Collection* with our handy shopping guide

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Collection 239

- ◆ A cheeky meerkat picture by Jayne Netley Mayhew
- ◆ Angela Poole's smart back to school accessories
- ◆ A trio of beautiful Margaret Merrill roses by Lesley Teare
- ◆ An autumnal poem sampler
- ◆ Anchor's stunningly detailed flora and fauna sampler
- ◆ Chart of the month – A delicious harvest veggie basket by Maria Diaz



Collection 241

- ◆ 37 gift charts to stitch in our Christmas Collection
- ◆ The first part of Maria Diaz's Christmas spectacular
- ◆ Countdown to Christmas with a mini stocking calendar
- ◆ Cute boxer pups from Anchor
- ◆ Durene Jones' poppy is the perfect remembrance stitch
- ◆ Chart of the month – A traditional, classic Santa stocking design by Permin



Collection 240

- ◆ Gorgeous homestyle with Zweigart's songbird design
- ◆ An uplifting floral mini wall hanging by Lesley Teare
- ◆ Jenny Barton's Fair Isle style hot water bottle project
- ◆ Sweet stitched sewing kit
- ◆ A beautiful barn owl portrait by Jayne Netley Mayhew
- ◆ Chart of the month – A spectacular autumnal landscape by Maria Diaz



Collection 242

- ◆ A rustic wreath by Lesley
- ◆ Build a delicious and sparkly 3D gingerbread house
- ◆ An embellishment special!
- ◆ Make a table runner and gift bags with Zweigart's baubles
- ◆ Part two of Santa's Journey
- ◆ Stitch a tasty Christmas cake recipe with Angela's hanging
- ◆ Chart of the month – Two Cinderella designs in our Joan Elliott festive special



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Break time!

Relax and take a break to enjoy this month's prize crossword for a chance to win Zweigart fabrics

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Five lucky winners will each receive a pack containing 14HPI aida in cream (3706/264), 14HPI aida in blue (3706/550), evenweave Murano in beige (3984/770) and evenweave Linda in white (1235/1), plus Zweigart's new booklet *Cats* (104/266). Each pack is worth £50! Zweigart has been the worldwide market leader in weaving, dyeing and finishing needlework fabrics for more than 130 years. To find your local stockists call Derwentwater Designs on ☎ 01768 483119; Heritage Crafts on ☎ 01889 572859; EQS on ☎ 01162 710033 or Hee Bee on ☎ 01565 872225.

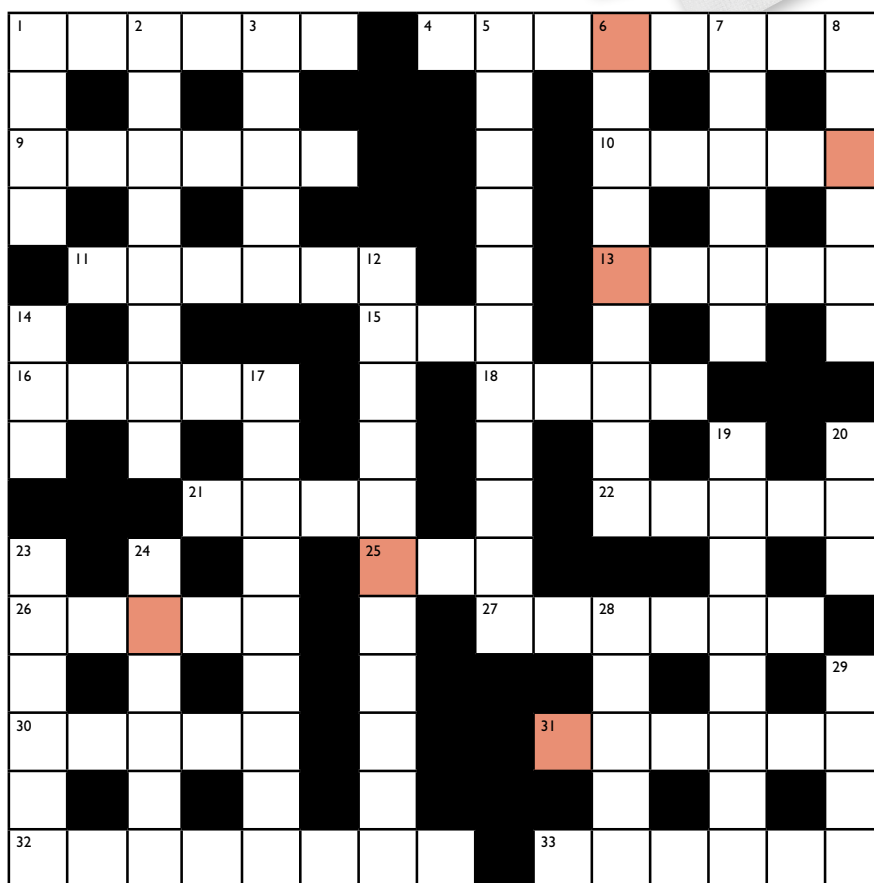


ACROSS

- 1 Large arid area of land (6)
- 4 Flying machine (8)
- 9 Soaks up liquid (6)
- 10 Bird featured on page 14 (5)
- 11 Travelled on ice with blades on feet (6)
- 13 Finishes his journey on page 39 (5)
- 15 December 24th is Christmas (3)
- 16 Pieces of glass that make up windows (5)
- 18 Captain, character created by Jules Verne (4)
- 21 Grows on your head (4)
- 22 Shiny type of thread (5)
- 25 Rand, author of *Atlas Shrugged* (3)
- 26 Begin (5)
- 27 Move in the direction of (6)
- 30 Go into somewhere (5)
- 31 Four stringed instrument played with a bow (6)
- 32 Place of complete happiness (8)
- 33 Field of wild grass (6)

Down

- 1 Fine particles of dirt (4)
- 2 Hang this up on Christmas Eve (8)
- 3 Opposite of left (5)
- 5 Not controlled by anything (11)
- 6 Celebrate this on page 39 (9)
- 7 Animal with no skin pigment (6)
- 8 Metal character in *The Wizard of Oz* (6)
- 12 Put these up on the tree on page 54 (11)
- 14 Curative mineral spring (3)
- 17 Randomly thrown around (9)
- 19 Surprised or alarmed (8)
- 20 Coloured liquid for writing with (3)
- 23 Not awake (6)
- 24 He serves you at a restaurant (6)
- 28 Colour of the character on page 31 (5)
- 29 This stuff makes up the character on page 31 (4)



PRIZE CROSSWORD 242

Across: 1 escapes; 5 baskets; 9 tarts; 10 nourishes; 11 tusk; 12 silly; 13 brie; 16 emerald; 17 depart; 21 easier; 22 journey; 25 ecru; 27 grate; 28 cake; 31 respire; 32 order; 33 monarch; 34 saffron
Down: 1 estate; 2 Christmas; 3 push; 4 sensible; 5 bauble; 6 swim; 7 ether; 8 suspects; 14 green; 15 pearl; 18 Alexander; 19 telegram; 20 fortress; 23 wreath; 24 Tehran; 26 resin; 29 pier; 30 roof
Winning word: BACKSTITCH

Enter online...

For your chance to win Zweigart fabrics, enter online for free at www.futurecomps.co.uk/csc243 xword and fill in the form.

Once you've completed the crossword, the shaded boxes will form an anagram of a type of embroidery. All you have to do is work out what the winning word is, and then fill out the form online no later than Thursday 11 December. For full competition go to page 63.

Competition rules To enter competitions and giveaways enter online between 14 November and 11 December 2014. The winners will be selected at random from all entries. Entries must be submitted by an individual (not via any agency or similar) and unless otherwise stated are limited to one per household. By entering a Competition you give permission to use your name, likeness and personal information in connection with the Competition and for promotional purposes. You warrant that the Competition entry is entirely your own work and not copied or adapted from any other source. If you are a winner, you may have to provide additional information. Details of winners will be available on request within three months of the closing date. You acknowledge and agree that neither the Company nor any associated third parties shall have any liability to you in connection with your use and/or possession of your prize. Further rules can be read in full on page 63.

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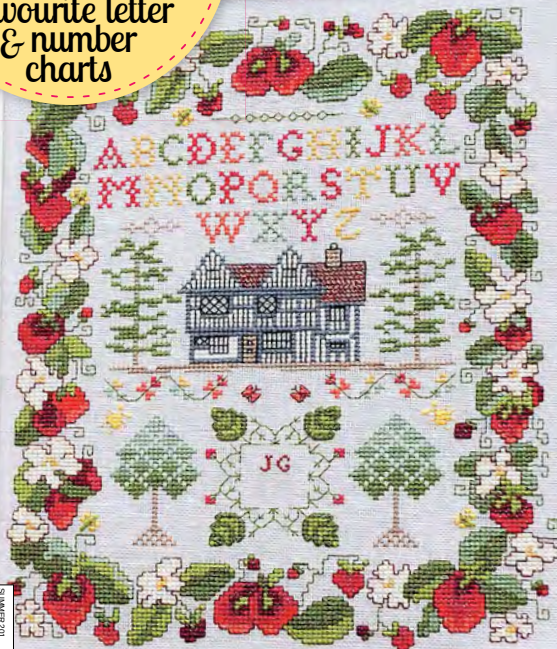
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Crafty ideas

from Rebecca Bradshaw

Welcome to my stitching world – I hope you find lots of inspiration. This month, I'm sharing some of my family's mad Christmas crafting traditions!

Every year we're instructed to "make this your best Christmas ever" and it always makes me laugh! It's almost as if Christmases past have been a bit half hearted, but with some proper effort you could make it really wonderful this year. Usually this effort involves buying expensive gifts, all new table linen or decorating your tree in the latest colour scheme, but to me it's my family's traditions that make every year the best Christmas ever.

I grew up in a very creative family. My Dad made everything from fences to furniture and my Mum can sew anything. Our Christmas traditions were usually centred around things we had made, which were then brought out every year. Many of my own family's traditions have been taken from these childhood memories, and I've added some of my own too. I think it's this mix of old and new that really makes Christmas in our house.

Traditions give your family a sense of belonging though there are some traditions that I have tried and then rapidly dispensed with. A certain Domestic Goddess (who I am a very big fan of) suggested that I should make Christmas morning muffins, as the smell of the cinnamon and orange will come to signify Christmas morning to my children. A great idea and duly I got up extra early one Christmas to make 12 of these delicious bakes. They

took quite a bit of time and they did smell great, but no one wanted to eat a huge muffin when there was so much chocolate around, so I was left with 11½ of them for days to come!

There are other traditions which I started and kept. One year, I dressed teddies for my children in mini versions of their school uniform (slightly mad I know). I didn't want them to get lost in the present frenzy as they had taken me so long to make, so I handed them over as 'special presents' to open during breakfast.

"There are some traditions I've tried to start but rapidly dispensed with!"

They loved them! Since then I have always made them something a bit special for their breakfast present. Last year I did suggest we dispensed with this rather time consuming tradition, but the children were horrified "but we love seeing what you've made us every year Mum!" I wonder if I'll still be doing it once they've left home maybe I'll resort to knitting gaudy jumpers for them and they will beg me to stop!

So, for the best Christmas ever, just carry on with the traditions and add some new ones if you dare though may I suggest not attempting crack of dawn Christmas muffins!



My knitted muffins were more successful than my bakes. I even gave one to Nigella when I met her last year – she loved it!



Time consuming and slightly mad, the mini uniforms I made for my children's teddy bears went down a storm nonetheless!

Share your own
crafty ideas

Email csc@futurenet.co.uk
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Next month in your **January** issue...



Golden Geisha

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- ✿ Stitch a beautiful county kitchen dresser by Maria Diaz
- ✿ Elegant bathroom accessories by Jenny Barton
- ✿ Get ready for the new year with Emma Congdon's diary

PLUS Homestyle from Zweigart, fresh winter florals, a poetry sampler & more!

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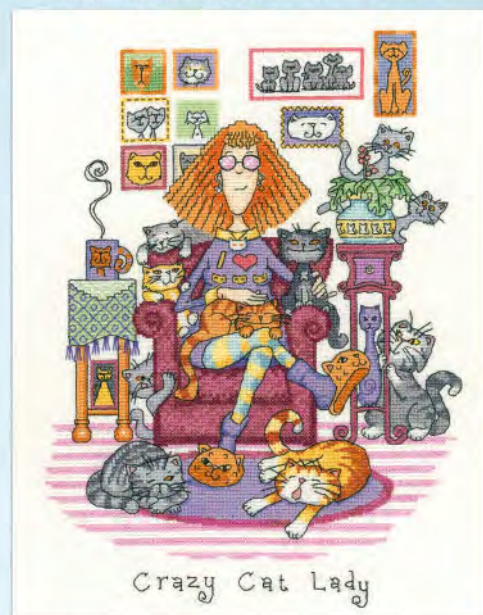
Christmas Kittens by Peter Underhill - 26 x 13cm



Alice by John Clayton - 18 x 25.5cm



Stephanie by John Clayton - 18 x 26.5cm



Crazy Cat Lady by Peter Underhill - 22.5 x 31cm



Alice in Miniature
by John Clayton - 13 x 13.5cm



Victoria in Miniature
by John Clayton - 12.5 x 13.5cm



Scarlett in Miniature
by John Clayton - 12 x 13cm



Hannah in Miniature
by John Clayton - 12.5 x 12.5cm



Sally in Miniature
by John Clayton - 13 x 13.5cm



Claire in Miniature
by John Clayton - 12.5 x 12.5cm



Rebecca in Miniature
by John Clayton - 12 x 13cm



Fleur in Miniature
by John Clayton - 12 x 12cm



Sophia in Miniature
by John Clayton - 13.5 x 13.5cm



Charlotte in Miniature
by John Clayton - 12.5 x 12.5cm



Josephine in Miniature
by John Clayton - 13 x 13cm



Sarah in Miniature
by John Clayton - 13 x 13cm



Flutterbys by Karen Carter
12.5 x 12.5cm



Forty Winks by Karen Carter
12.5 x 12.5cm



Bird of a Feather by Karen Carter
12.5 x 12.5cm

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