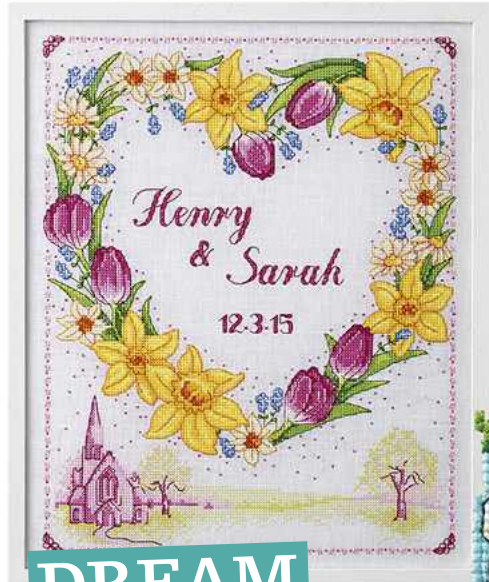


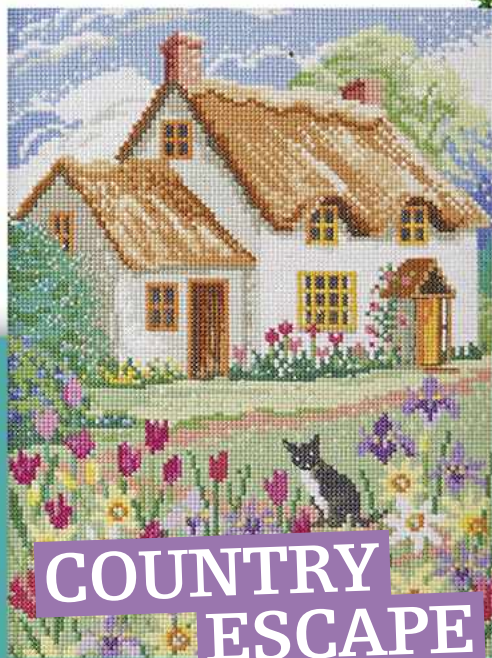
The most beautiful designs

Perfect gift tags

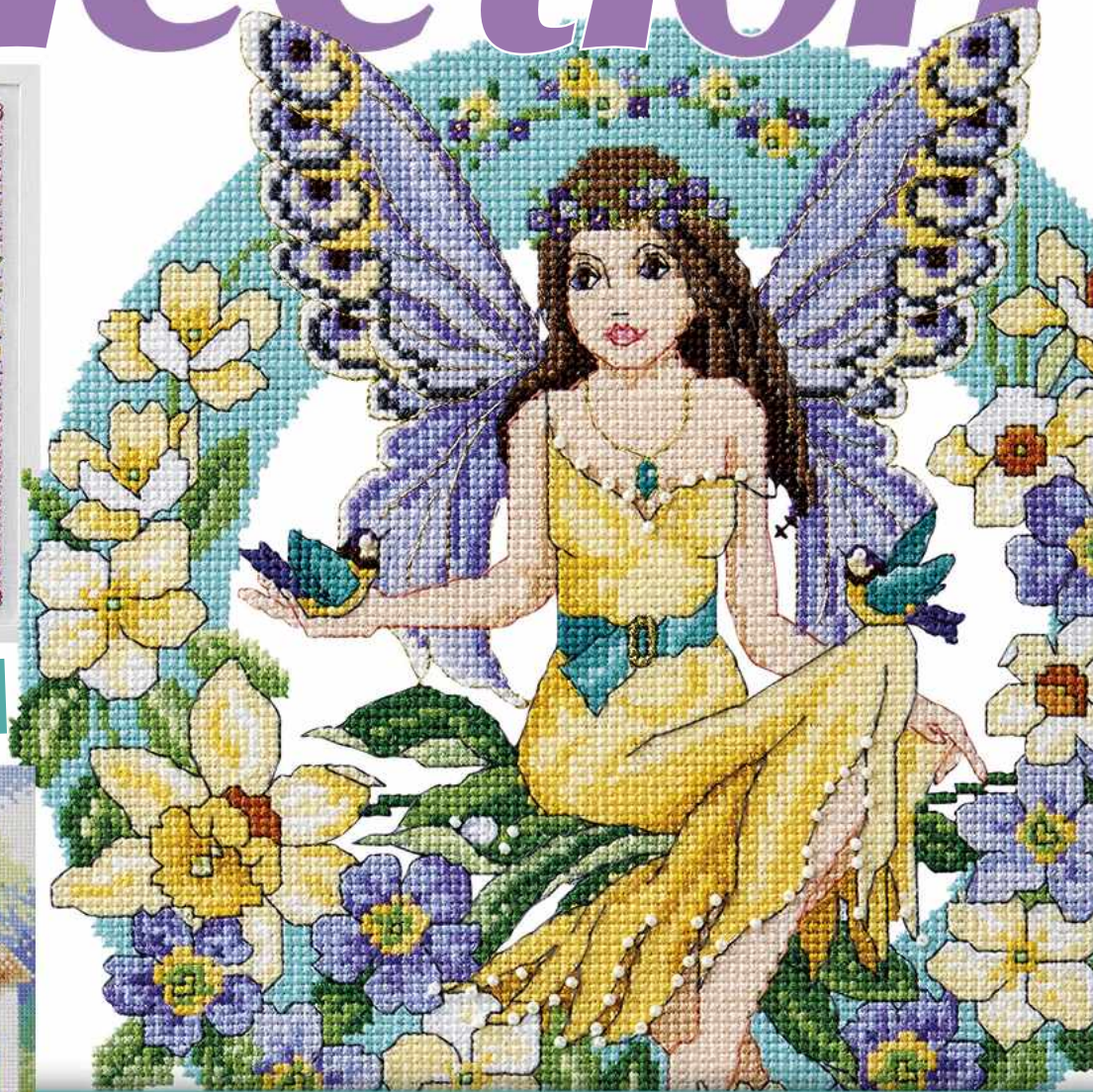
CROSS STITCH Collection



DREAM
WEDDING



COUNTRY
ESCAPE



Joys of Spring

✿ NEW! Butterfly fairy ✿ Mother's Day gifts & cards
✿ Accessories to make your stitching even better!



SPRINGTIME
ALPHABET

TWEET
GREETINGS



LONDON
PRIDE



In this issue...

Designs to stitch

- 9 London town** – Capture the capital's buzz with Melanie Wakins-Patel's homage to the city
- 14 Sensational essential** – A stylish case patterned with Jenny Barton's rural scene to keep scissors safe
- 18 Butterfly fairy** – Lesley Teare's elegant fairy is enjoying the spring sunshine with her bluebird pals
- 22 Treasured tags** – Sweet appliqué gift tags to give you a chance to learn a new skill and show your love
- 30 Made with Love** – Stitch Jenny Barton's Mother's Day card on glittering linen for extra pizzazz!
- 33 Home from home** – This issue's *Chart of the Month* invites you to step into a country haven
- 40 Spick & span** – Brighten up laundry day with Maria Diaz's breezy, sketchy design
- 46 March cheer** – This month's birth flower and gemstone are celebrated in Sheena Rogers' pincushion
- 48 Leafy letters** – Make some pretty personalised gifts for Mum with Zweigart's delicate alphabet
- 53 Spring wedding** – A heartfelt memento to mark a special date for a beloved couple in your life

Stitching Inspiration

- 4 March Collection** – Exciting news, gorgeous kits, inspiration, real stitching stories and more
- 7 Jane Greenoff's page** – Learn to work zig zag hemstitch as Jane reaches the end of her A-Z column
- 26 Meet Meg Evershed** – We have a chat with the talented 3D cross stitch designer to find out about her inspirations and top stitching advice
- 65 Next month** – Enjoy a sneaky preview of April's projects
- 66 Crafty ideas** – Rebecca Bradshaw tells us how cross stitching has helped her learn to draw!

Giveways & Offers

- 4 Great giveaways** – Enter today for a chance to win one of our amazing stitching prizes
- 16 Your letters** – Win threads or fabric vouchers by sharing your cross stitch stories and pictures
- 24 Subscribe** – Save up to £32 on the shop price with our fantastic offer and never miss an issue!
- 64 Break time!** – Relax and enjoy our crossword. You could win fabulous Zweigart fabrics

Collection Essentials

- 59 Stitch basics** – Charting editor Abi Barker's guide to everything you need to get started on this month's projects
- 62 Shopping Collection** – Seen something that's inspired you? Find out where you can buy it
- 63 Back issues and binders** – What do you need to complete your collection?





Welcome...

This issue is all about celebrating lighter days, brighter evenings and the promise of spring in the air! Almost every project has this spirit in mind, from our gorgeous butterfly fairy with her glimmering embellishments on page 18, to our oh-so tempting *Chart of the Month* on page 33. Lesley Teare's enticing Home from home is inspired by the thatched cottage and flower-filled gardens she sees around her in beautiful Suffolk. Wouldn't you love a country retreat like that? Mothering Sunday gets a look in too, with Jenny Barton's glittering card on page 30, and an entire alphabet of leafy letters courtesy of Zweigart, plus some fab ideas of how to use them to make lovely personalised gifts for your mum, or anyone else you think deserves a special handmade present! Then there's Angela Poole's pretty appliqué gift tags on page 22 – just the thing for making any present that bit more special!

Rebecca

Rebecca Bradshaw

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

Don't miss...

Turn to page 26 to read our interview with amazing stitcher and designer Meg Evershed. Meg specialises in creating beautiful 3D cross stitched miniature buildings, including a rather grand Windsor Castle and some lovely flower-strewn cottages. Get an insight into her design process, distractions, disasters and much more!



March Collection

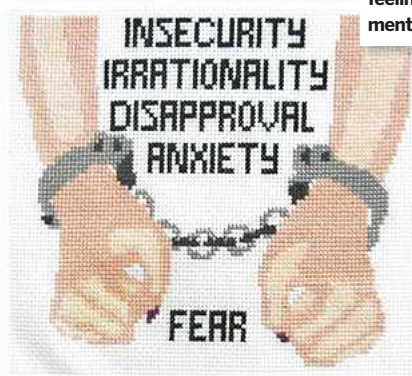
Be inspired by new kits, great ideas and more from the vibrant stitching world

Stitching out Stigma

Over the last year, *Collection* has heard of so many great ways that cross stitch is helping people improve health and wellbeing. From LoveQuilts UK and the wellMaking Craftivist Garden, to the dozens of readers who have stitched for our *Collection* Poppy Appeal and those who find cross stitch helps them cope with a range of mental and physical illnesses, we've been utterly impressed! Then we discovered Stitching Out Stigma, a fantastic group that are developing a crafting project to help raise awareness about mental health and break down the barriers associated with it. Natalie, a founding member of Stitching Out Stigma, said she came up with the idea during her own stay in a mental hospital, and is now passionate about raising awareness. Natalie thinks cross stitch is the perfect therapy: "I find cross stitch to be a distraction, a time occupier, a confidence booster and a really good way to put creativity to good use." Natalie and the Stitching Out Stigma team need your help! They invite you to create a 10x10in aida square decorated in a way that expresses



Stitch your feelings about mental health



your feelings about mental health. There are no rules, and the team plan to stitch everyone's donated squares together into a rich tapestry. Their aim is to get as many people as possible to stitch squares and help spread a positive message about mental illness. You can find out more about Stitching Out Stigma at www.stitchingoutstigma.co.uk, or discover them on Facebook.

ULTIMATE GADGET

Love to combine high tech gadgetry with your favourite hobby? Then you need to enter our competition to win

one of **The Daylight CompanyTM's** amazing **A3 Wafer Light Boxes!** A light box is so handy – you can use it trace shapes, personalise charts by adding alphabets or help you design your own cross stitch projects! **The Daylight CompanyTM**

have made it so easy to use, too – it's a tiny 0.8cm thick and has dimmable LED lights that provides an even spread from edge to edge, and is super low heat. The Wafer Light Box comes in a range of sizes and colours – see them all on their website at www.daylightcompany.com. We've got two **A3 Wafer Light Boxes** to give away, worth a whopping £149.99 each! To be in with a chance to win, just go to www.crossstitchcollection.com before the closing date of Thursday 5th March. Keyword: 246LIGHT



Win!



Highland Fling

We get equally enthused about the countryside and kitchenware, which is why we just love Katie Alice's gorgeous Highland Fling Stag range. Inspired by a woodland walk through the Deer Park at Burghley House, Katie Alice has created a pretty kitchenware range covered in stunning stag motifs interwoven with polka dot patterns and pink-purple tartan. Find out more about Katie Alice at www.katie-alice.co.uk

Meet...Online stitching stars!

Donna from StitchyDon's Cross Stitch Blog is a really busy bee, stitching and sharing her WIPs!

Tell us about yourself. I am 34 from Plymouth. I have been stitching for over 17 years and I love everything about it. Other than stitching I also love to run and have participated in many half marathons.

When did you fall in love with cross stitch? I was always a crafty person and I navigated towards fibre crafts. I used to enter local craft fairs and sell my goods. One day I was in a newsagent looking for inspiration and I saw this little kit of daisies attached to a magazine. It was a simple kit but something about it drew my eye and then I was hooked, completing over 100 pictures since!

What sort of things do you most like to stitch? I love all sorts of designs and have a varied taste. I like everything from cute designs to larger more realistic designs. I find this stops me getting bored as I am always working on something different. I also like to bring variety to the types of things I am stitching, for example I am stitching a large HAED design in cotton threads and I am also experimenting with using hand-dyed threads on smaller projects.

What's been your biggest stitching disaster? I was stitching a project that I absolutely loved on evenweave fabric when I accidentally snipped a thread of the fabric. At the time I was devastated as it was a beautiful piece of work and I thought it was ruined. However – once I had calmed down! – I managed to fix the broken thread with one from the edge of the fabric and it looked as good as new. I was able to complete the project and it looked great.



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

One of the pieces I am most proud of is called The Great Escape and it was a paid for stitch along from Abi Gurden of The Stitch Specialists. This was a piece that took me right out of my comfort zone as it was the first time I had ever attempted anything other than cross stitch. The stitches came together to create a lovely owl with a cute mouse on a branch. I was pleased with this because even when the stitches got hard I continued with it and it might not be perfect but I think it looks pretty good.

Why did you start your blog? I started to blog for two main reasons. The first was that I didn't have many people around locally who shared my passion and it was a way of connecting with people who are just as crazy about stitching as I am! It opened up a whole new world to me of threads, fabrics and designs. Secondly it has become a way to create a

permanent record of my work. I don't really journal so I love that my blog has become a way to keep details of my work so that I can always look back on it.

Anything to add? I would just like to say don't be afraid to expand your stitching. There is a lot of information out there, from magazines to the internet. One thing I have found is that stitchers are a friendly group of people. If you are struggling with anything there is always somewhere to look or someone to ask.



Donna's blog provides stitchy ideas and lots of cheeriness!



Find Donna's blog at donnascrossstitch.blogspot.co.uk



SUPER STITCHY DAY OUT!

Immerse yourself in the craftiest show in town by entering our competition to win tickets to **The Sewing for Pleasure Show at the Birmingham NEC!** Sponsored by Hobbycraft, it's the ultimate stitching, knitting and beading show in town, with amazing shops, exhibitions and workshops for you to explore, and the demonstrations from their panel of experts is not to be missed! Cross stitchers will love the West End Embroidery demonstration – you can add amazing counted stitches to your repertoire, such as the diagonal tent stitch in Kreinik braid! It takes place on 19-22 March. Buy tickets from www.sewingshow.co.uk or enter our competition to win one of 10 pairs of tickets. To find out how to enter just head to www.crossstitchcollection.com before the closing date of Thursday 5th March 2015. Keyword: 246SHOW

3 of the best... Spring Birds



Early Starts, Lesley Teare, I Love Cross Stitch, £32.99

Peeping out through the snow and ice, magnolias are one of the first flowers to bloom at the end of Feb, making them the ultimate spring flower. This kit from Lesley Teare shows off their pink petals, with stunning redstarts perched on the delicate branches. Get the kit with full skeins of thread from www.ilovecrossstitch.co.uk



Embroidered Morning, DMC, BK1451

Fresh greens, bright pinks, fluttering butterflies and an extraordinary cross stitched bird – no wonder we think DMC's spectacular spring project is a delight to stitch from start to finish. Worked on crisp, white fabric, you'll love using a multitude of vibrant colours to create your seasonal bird picture! For stockists' details, visit www.dmccreative.co.uk



Love Birds, Bothy Threads, £27.49, XKA3

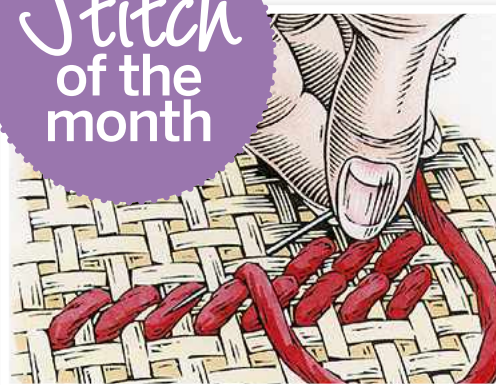
Stitch with gorgeous bright spring colours and create delicate, ornate details in cross stitch and backstitch with Bothy Threads' beautiful birdcage picture. The stunning stylised birds are even whistling a cheerful tune, making this design a truly heartening project. The full kit even comes with pretty appliqué flower sequins! Find it at www.bothythreads.com



All aboard!

What a cute design! This sweet set by **Durene Jones** takes a traditional toy and reinvents it. There are charts for an engine, three carriages and a vintage-look station which doubles up as a bag to store the set safely. The cunning elastic loop and button details allow you to connect the train in whichever order you choose. We can imagine small children (and perhaps a few adults) creating journeys for the friendly characters peeking out of the windows – choo choo! Find the charts and more in **CrossStitcher's March 289 issue**, available in print from craft.buysubscriptions.com and as a digital magazine from **iTunes** and www.zinio.com

Stitch of the month



Tent stitch

Tent stitch is also known as canvaswork stitch or continental tent stitch, which inevitably makes us think of holidays! Tent stitch is sometimes mistaken for a cross stitch but uses a third more wool and creates a far thicker and hardier stitch, making it ideal for furnishings. Tent stitch is characterised by full, even stitches at the front and long slanting stitches at the back, the latter of which causes the distortion of the canvas for which the stitch is named. To form these diagonal stitches take your needle under the stitches from right to left, supporting the stitches and forming a fuller stitch. Just ensure you don't use tent stitch in one direction and half cross stitch in the other! We'd love to know how you've used this stitch – send a photo of your creations to us at CSC@dennis.co.uk.

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Collection's Colour of the month

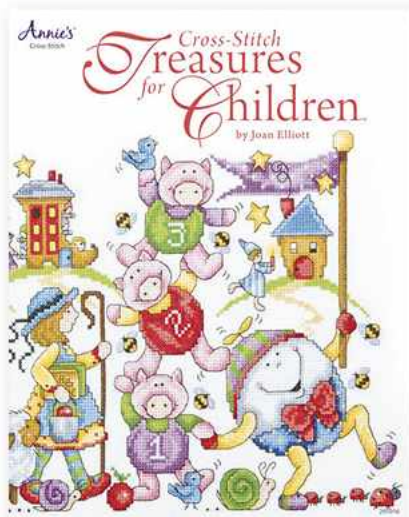


We asked Collection's favourite designer's to tell us what thread colour they couldn't live without. **This month, Lesley Teare tells us why she adores vibrant pink.**

I couldn't live without DMC 3607. I find it lifts other colours, mixes well with all the shades I normally use and it just makes me smile. I've used 3607 for my Anemone Wreath and Japanese Gold designs for *Cross Stitch Collection*, and I even use it as an accent colour in my home. The colour reminds me of Bengal Rose, one of the Designer Gouache paints I used a lot as a textile designer. I like strong colours and the series of 3609, 3608, 3607, 718, 917 and 915 are a group that I use time and again, as they work well with acid greens and hot reds and oranges and mauves – I think such bright shades can make a design really zing!

Give florals edge with this hot hue!





Treasures for Children

Capture the precious and magical world of children in cross stitch with this fantastic book by the one and only **Joan Elliott**. With a range of wonderful projects from nursery rhymes, birth samplers, fairies and dragons, you can create pictures, cards, nameplates and hangings to treasure forever! All of Joan's designs use a delightfully bright colour palette, reflecting the fun and frolics in a child's life, and there are plenty of cute characters to stitch that any child will love! So, if you're expecting the arrival of someone special, or want to create the perfect gift for a terrific tot, you're sure to find the ideal pattern in

Joan's fabulous book. Find it for just £9.99 at

www.searchpress.co.uk

PURE ELEGANCE

We can't get enough of **John Clayton's Elegance range**. With beautiful ladies dressed in gorgeous costumes packed with delicate details and stitched in elegant colours, these kits from Heritage Crafts are the ultimate in sophisticated stitching – you can find the full range at www.hcrafts.com.

His Elegance Miniatures make a perfect quick-stitch too – you'll stitch the head and shoulders of one of his stunning designs on a smaller scale without losing any of the detail. They're perfect for giving John Clayton's complex designs a try, and we've got 10

wonderful Maria Miniature kits (worth £14.49!) to give away if you feel like giving it a go! To be in with a chance to win, head to www.crossstitchcollection.com before the closing date of Thursday 5th March 2015. Keyword:246MINI



COMPETITION RULES Giveaways are open to UK readers only and winners will be chosen at random. Enter online using the unique URL between 6th February & 5th March 2015. 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, Z is for **Zig Zag hemstitch**

Welcome back to **Pinks Barn**, where I'm already planning the nuts and bolts of the Spring Knitting and Stitching Show in March. This is the last of my columns

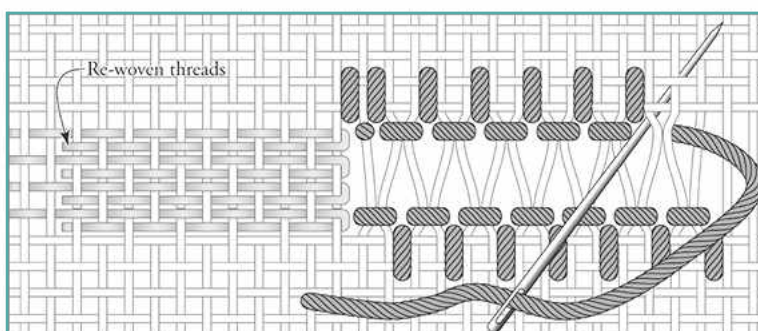
looking at the A-Z of Cross Stitch but I do have something very special up for sleeve for further issues! I think the letter Z may be the hardest letter of all, but I have decided to share my thoughts on zig zag hemstitch.

Zig Zag hemstitch Hemstitch bands are a particular favourite of mine and I love to add them to band samplers. The trick is to take it in small stages, use a fabric you can see clearly and work in a good light. The example below shows one of many ways to withdraw and reweave fabric threads. Carefully snip one horizontal fabric thread at the margin of the band. Unravel it across the band to the other side, where you'll cut another adjacent fabric thread and unravel it in the opposite direction. You will now have a ladder in the fabric and two fabric whiskers, one at either edge. Working in pairs, lift the fabric thread and you will see the cut end of the other whisker.



A variety of hemstitch examples in the CSG sampler, including zig zag hemstitch

Remove this completely. Using a needle, weave the point in and out of the fabric threads, slip the loose fabric thread into the eye of the needle and pull gently. When done satisfactorily, you can't tell where the linen threads have gone. Find more details in my book *The New CrossStitcher's Bible* and at www.thecrossstitchguild.com



CROSS STITCH GUILD NEWS I have spent the last few months revamping our website, www.thecrossstitchguild.com, and am sure you will see an enormous improvement in the way it works. I'm looking forward browsing it on my iPad. Do drop by to see what you think!

About Jane Greenoff

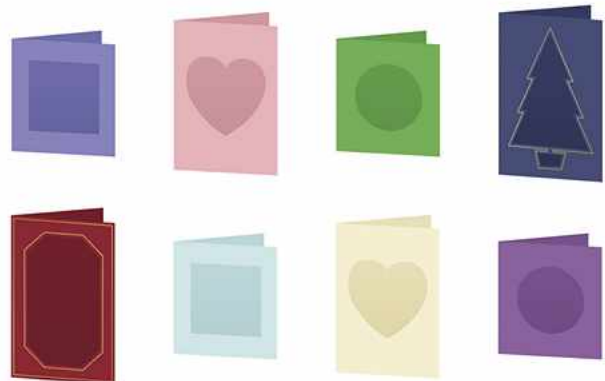
As founder of the Cross Stitch Guild and a prolific designer, author and business woman for 30 years, Jane is in constant demand. In addition to running classes, events and stitching holidays, Jane appears twice a month on Create and Craft TV.

To find out more, visit the website or call for details: www.thecrossstitchguild.com
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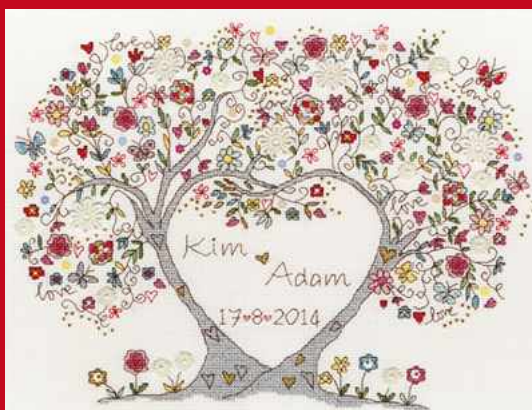
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*Selected Lines Only - While Stocks Last

London town

Capture the spirit of London with this vintage-inspired design from **Melanie Wakins-Patel** for Anchor





Charming vintage details such as the fine floral patterned crockery and postmarks will really stand out thanks to careful use of backstitch and long stitch

London is one of the world's culture hotspots, and a fantastic place to enjoy a great cup of tea! Melanie Wakins-Patel has picked out some of the city's major attractions, including the Tower of London, Big Ben, and, of course, a very elegant afternoon tea complete with beautifully patterned china. As befits the capital's buzz, this design is packed with detail, with lots of half stitches and precise areas of backstitch placement. While you can stitch the project on aida, we think you'll find it much

easier to complete the fractional stitches on evenweave as we have done. The gorgeously rich texture is created through the many different shades of stranded cotton used – do take a moment or two to sort them before you start! You'll find it easier if you concentrate on one element of the design at a time rather than trying to work all the stitches in the same colour, and this will give you the pleasure of seeing each of the different motifs appearing one by one too!

More city scenes from Anchor



Westminster Clock
Ref: PCE0803, £18.75



Amsterdam
Ref: PCE08014, £18.75



St Peter's Basilica
Ref: PCE08015, £18.75

For stockists, visit www.makeitcoats.com

Stitching your sampler

You will need...

32HPI evenweave (or 16HPI aida),
off white, Zweigart Murano Ref: 3984/101,
20x17in (51x43cm)

We got our evenweave from Willow Fabrics. Find yours by calling 0800 0567811 or go online to www.willowfabrics.com

Stranded cotton as listed in the key

Frame with a 12½x9½ in (32x24cm)
aperture, silver

Stitching the design

FOLD your fabric in half both ways to find the centre point and start stitching here. The depth and dimension of the design is achieved by using cross stitch in two strands and one strand and also including half cross stitch in one strand. Refer to the

key carefully to make sure you select the correct thread and number of strands each time. Make sure all your half cross stitches face in the same direction for a neater finish.

Adding the details

FINISH working all the cross stitch and then add the backstitch and long stitch details using one strand of stranded cotton throughout. There are nine different colours used for these outline details and they are shown on the chart by different coloured lines and the description is given for them in the key. Take care when working the long stitches to make sure they don't sag across the fabric. You can work some small stitches on the back of the fabric to secure the longer stitches if this happens.

Finally work the French knots using two strands for each of the knots.

London town

Anchor	Colour
Cross stitch in two strands	
	002 White
	234 Light grey
	301 Light yellow
	361 Dark cream
	372 Light fawn
	373 Medium fawn
	374 Dark fawn
	388 Light taupe
	392 Dark taupe
	397 Very light grey
	399 Medium grey
	853 Dark straw
	858 Light green
	859 Medium green
	860 Dark green
	885 Medium cream
	887 Light golden yellow
	888 Med golden yellow
	889 Dark golden yellow
	890 Gold
	891 Dark yellow
	893 Very light pink
	894 Light pink
	895 Medium pink
	896 Dark pink
	898 Light brown
	905 Dark brown
	956 Light straw
	1086 Medium brown

Anchor	Colour
Cross stitch in one strand	
	*002 White
	*234 Light grey
	274 Pale blue
	387 Light cream
	*388 Light taupe
	*392 Dark taupe
	*397 Very light grey
	*399 Medium grey
	849 Light blue
	*850 Medium blue
	*853 Dark straw
	*858 Med golden yellow
	*885 Medium cream
	*888 Med golden yellow
	*893 Very light pink
	*894 Light pink
	*895 Medium pink
	*896 Dark pink
	*898 Light brown
	900 Light green grey
	*905 Dark brown
	921 Dark blue
	*956 Light straw
	1040 Dark grey
	1041 Very dark grey
	*1086 Medium brown
	8581 Dark green grey

Anchor	Colour
Half cross stitch in one strand	
	*002 White
	*234 Light grey
	*274 Pale blue
	*397 Very light grey
	*399 Medium grey
	*849 Light blue
	*850 Medium blue
	*893 Very light pink
	*894 Light pink
	*895 Medium pink
	*896 Dark pink
	*921 Dark blue

Backstitch/long stitch in one strand

	*002 White
	*387 Light cream
	*860 Dark green
	*889 Dark golden yellow
	*890 Gold
	*895 Medium pink

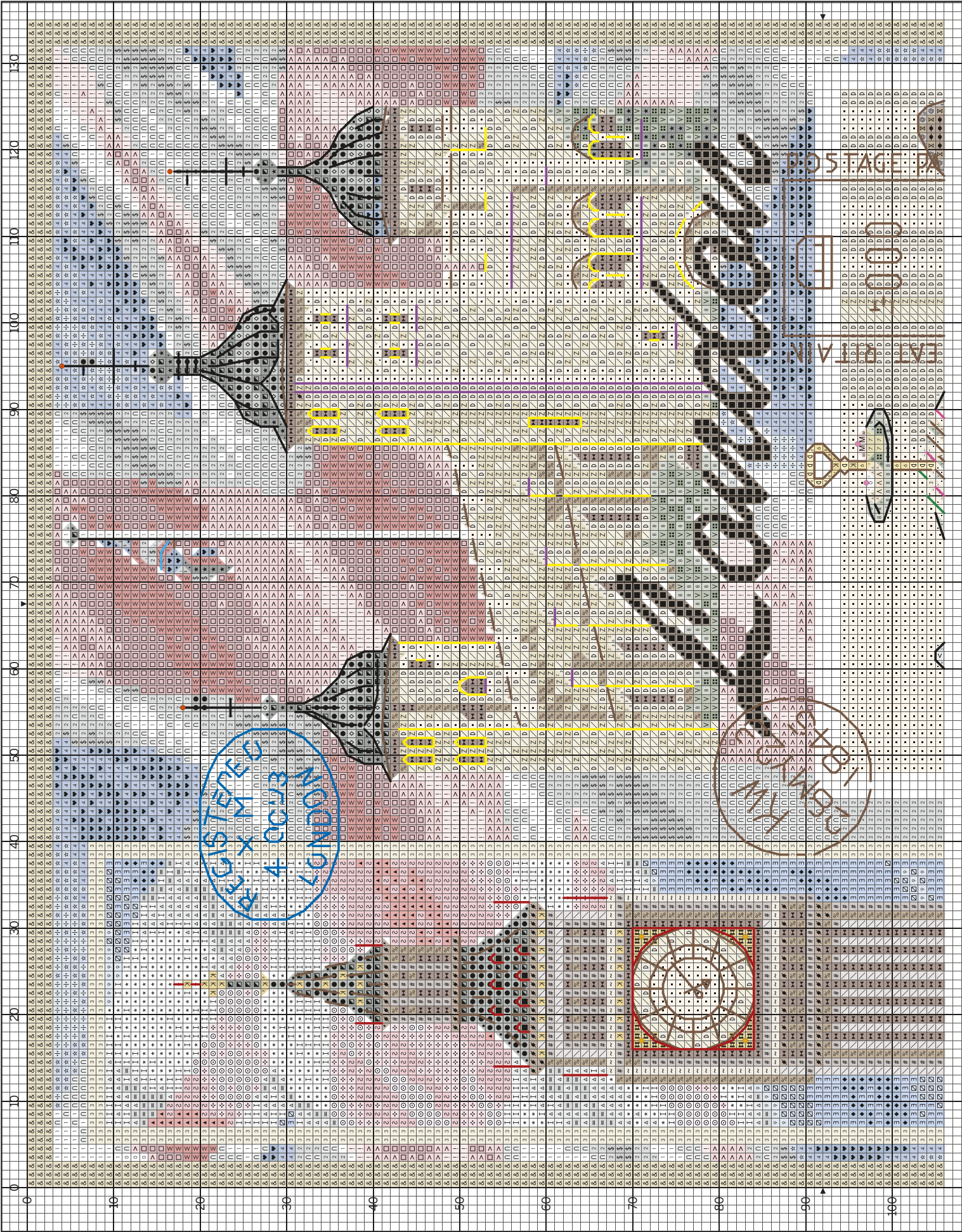
Anchor	Colour
Backstitch/long stitch in one strand	
	*905 Dark brown
	*1041 Very dark grey
	*1086 Medium brown

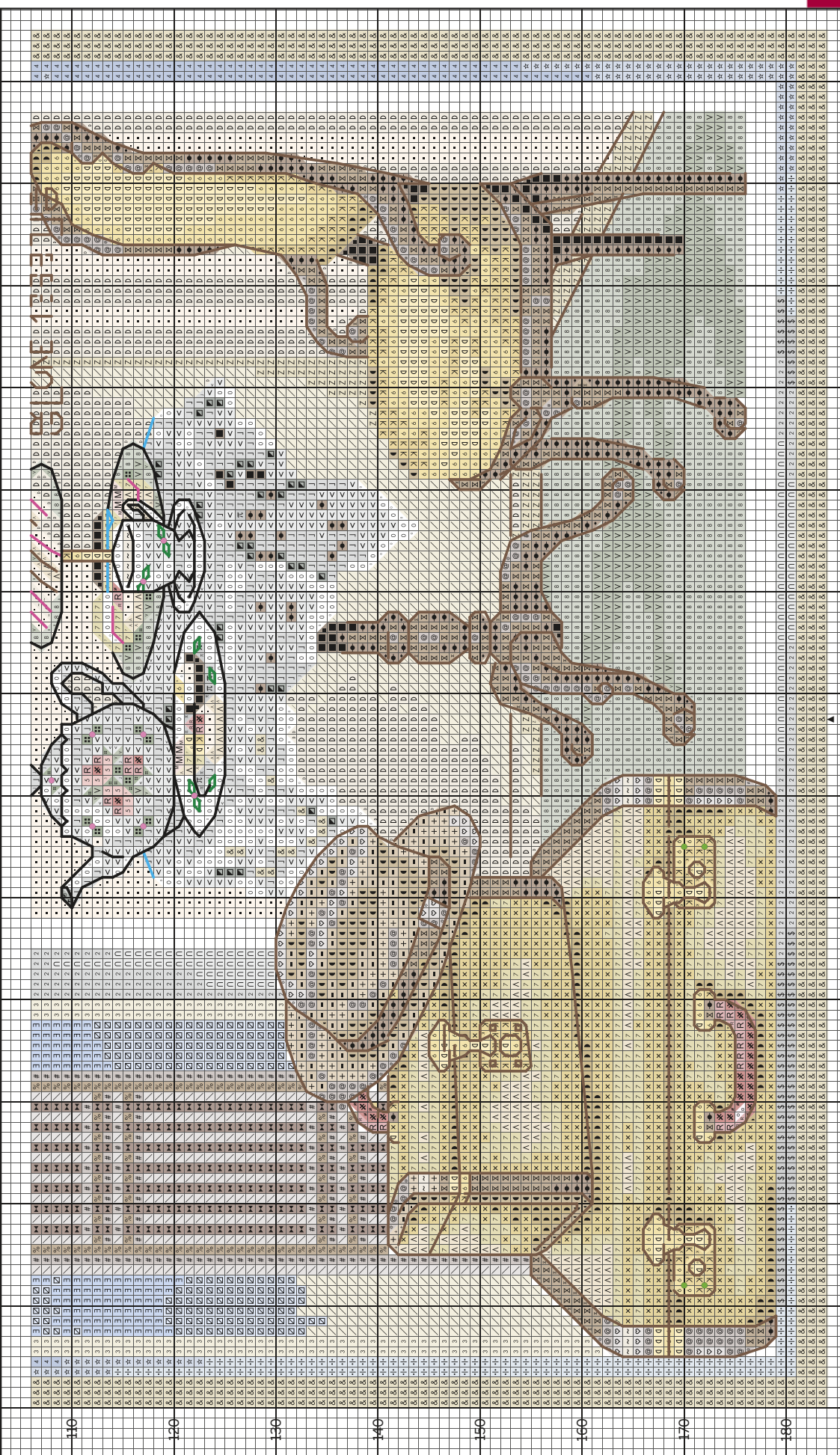
French knots in two strands

	*890 Gold
	*895 Medium pink
	*905 Dark brown
	*1041 Very dark grey

Stitched using Anchor threads on 32HPI evenweave over two threads
Stitch count 184x135
Design area 11½x8½in (29x22cm)
*indicates colour is listed earlier in the key

London town





Our stitcher says... What a beautiful project! I loved the effects created by all the different strands of colour. The half stitches were tricky, but very satisfying to do!

Collection makes...

TEA TIME!

Lift out the section of the chart showing the afternoon tea to make a really cute card or invitation to send to a friend.

MARK THE SPOT!

Big Ben would make an amazing bookmark. Leave out the background for a quicker stitch.

STITCH THE SET

Look out for another fabulous landmark project, appearing in *Cross Stitch Collection* magazine soon!

Find your lovely sky-blue Zweigart linen at Willow Fabrics by calling 0800 0567811 or going online to www.willowfabrics.com

You will need...

32HPI linen (or 16HPI aida), blue, Zweigart Belfast

Ref: 3609/562, 12x20in (30x50cm)

Stranded cotton as listed in the key

White felt 7x8in (15x20cm)

Cotton lining fabric blue 7x8in (15x20cm)

Stitching the design

CUT your linen in half to give two pieces 12x10in (30x25cm) for the front pocket and back section.

1 USING the red outlines on the chart as your guide to the design edge, start by tacking these onto the centre of both pieces of fabric as you'll need them later for making up.

2 STITCH the front pocket section below the lower curved line on one piece of fabric. Stitch the back section above the lower curved line (clouds and smoke) onto the other piece of linen.

Making a scissor case

TRIM the stitched fabrics ½in (1.5cm) outside the tacked lines and cut the lining fabric into the same shapes as your stitched pieces.

1 TURN the edges of the linen to the wrong side so that they are folded right up to the tacking lines and press.

2 CUT the felt to the same sizes as the turned over linen then place underneath the turned under edges and tack into place.

3 PUT the lining pieces right sides up over the wrong side of the stitched linen pieces, turn the edges under to meet and slip stitch in place all the way round. Remove tacking stitches.

4 PLACE the stitched pocket on top of the stitched back and sew together down each of the sides – simply oversew in four strands of blue cotton, or try using knotted blanket stitch.

Sensational essential

DMC Anchor Madeira Colour

Cross stitch in two strands

□□	White	002	2402	White
♥♥	317	400	1714	Dark grey
☆☆	414	235	1801	Medium grey
△△	415	398	1802	Light grey
@@	451	233	1808	Purple grey
☺☺	523	859	1510	Sage green
# #	642	392	1903	Dark khaki
××	644	391	1814	Light khaki
~ ~	822	390	1908	Cream
★★	936	846	1507	Dark green
××	3013	853	1605	Grass green
◀▶	3021	905	1904	Grey brown
■ ■	3363	262	1602	Medium green
2 2	3364	261	1603	Light green
▲▲	3836	090	0711	Light violet
♡♡	3866	926	1901	Off white

Backstitch in one strand

—	838	1088	2005	Brown
---	-----	------	------	-------

all other outlines and details

French knots in two strands

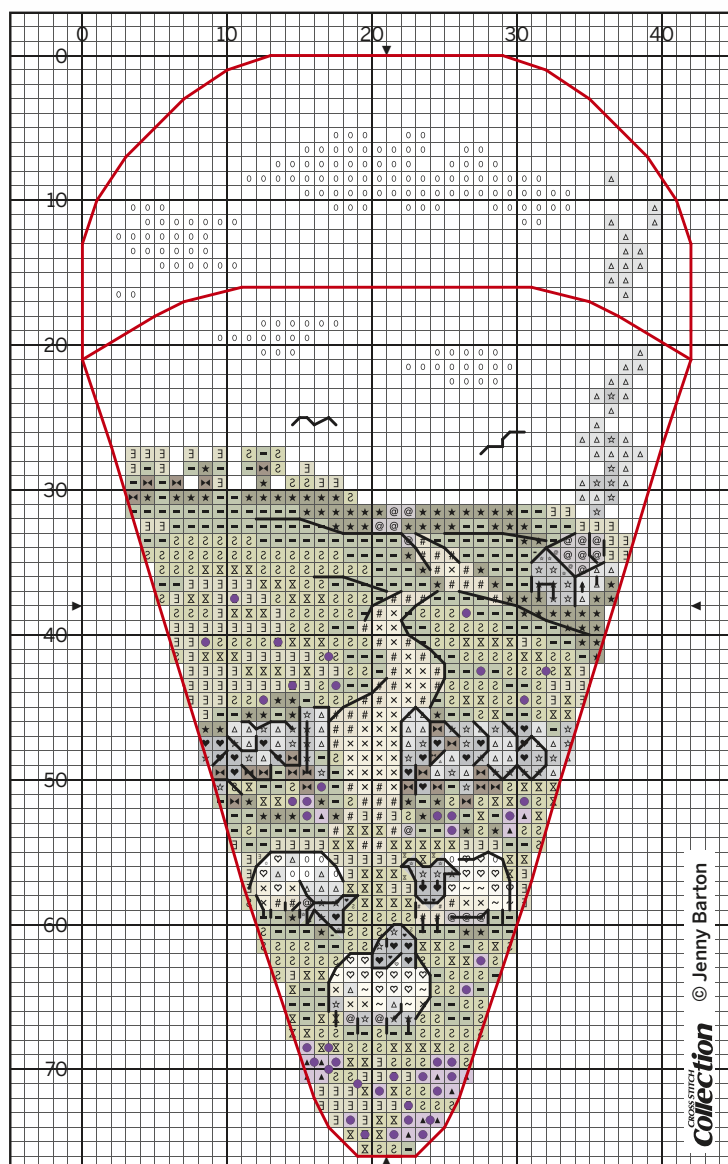
●●	3834	100	0805	Dark violet
----	------	-----	------	-------------

flowers

Stitching guide

— Use as a guide for scissor keep shape (refer to stitching instructions)

Stitched using DMC threads on 32HPI linen over two threads
Stitch count 76x42
Design area 4¾x2½in (12x6.5cm)



Sensational essential

Make a gorgeous traditional
scissor case using **Jenny Barton's**
clever two-part landscape design

Tip... Pretty finish

Find a helpful tutorial
for knotted blanket stitch
(also known as Antwerp
Stitch) at [www.nordic
needle.net](http://www.nordic
needle.net)



Your letters

Write to *Cross Stitch Collection* Letters, Tower House, Fairfax Street, Bristol BS1 3BN.
Or email us at CSC@dennis.co.uk with your stitching stories



Zuzana's sweet pair would look fab hung on a bedroom wall!

Sleeping Beauty

This is the first of a set of pictures that I am sewing on the theme of Fairy Tales. Sleeping Beauty took me 52 hours to make, using vintage fabrics, with a mixture of machine embroidery and hand sewing. I painted the face, and then sewed in the details of the hair, eyebrows and so on. The finished picture is about 40x40cm.

Lucy Levenson, by email

Collection says: Absolutely dreamy, Lucy. We love all the different blossoms and the rich red of Beauty's hair! The painted details are gorgeous too.



Lucy's works of art mix thread, paint and fabric

Grab some Zzzs

I managed to finish this project called 'Nap time' just before Christmas. It took me almost two years to complete because I was stitching several other projects at the same time and didn't have much time for this one. I'm glad I finally completed the stitching – now I just need to find a frame for it...

Zuzana Venhodova, Doncaster

Collection says: What a sweet picture. We almost didn't spot the kitten nestled in there at first!

I've missed! Missed an issue? Can't find that elusive design? Can't get a back issue? Try our reader noticeboard...

I'm seeking the second half of the 'Flowers of Britain' chart that appeared in Issue No. 144. I would appreciate it if anyone who might be able to help me locate a copy of this issue or the chart could get in touch. The issue came out in 2007. I have issue 143 with the first half of the

chart, but my copy of Issue 144 seems to have taken off on a journey of its own! I'm happy to cover print and postage costs as needed.
Maureen Fastenau,
Unit 3, 57 Keele Street, Collingwood,
Victoria 3066, Australia
mfastenau@netspace.net.au



Email or write to...

CSC@dennis.co.uk – 'I've missed!',
Cross Stitch Collection, Tower House,
Fairfax Street, Bristol BS1 3BN

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

"I added up all the projects I want to stitch – it came to 59!"



Tom's guitar is the first instrument he's stitched

The project was very fun to work on – I made the picture as a gift for a friend.

Tom Brealey, Swadlincote

Collection says: A very impressive effort. We're sure your friend will love it!



Strumming along

I have been working on this cross stitch of the guitar for about eight weeks, roughly stitching for about three hours at a time. I really like the cross stitch of the guitar. This is the first musical instrument I have produced in cross stitch and I think it is cool and amazing.

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
Tower House, Fairfax Street,
Bristol BS1 3BN

CSC@dennis.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

Who's stitching along?

Wondering who else is taking part in our stitch along (SAL)?

Meet Sharon Stevens

I thought I'd join in with the smalls SAL. I've got a set of Halloween cubes, a Lizzie Kate monthly series from years ago and Santa's Village that I want to finish this year so will be working on these. I love taking part in SALs although I do have a tendency to wander off course with them during the year! Not all my projects will be new starts, a lot of them are UFOs. Originally I was only planning on working on 31 different charts for January but when I added up all the projects I want to stitch, it came to 59! So I've decided to go with that and try to complete them all...



Your say...

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

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 Getting to know all our SAL members has been fab! See if you've been featured at www.crossstitchcollection.com/sal-members/

2 Puppies have been melting our hearts, and, it seems, yours too!

3 Fairies, floral designs, butterflies and birds are brightening up even the dreariest days.

4 Some of you are seeking sites specifically aimed at cross stitching men.

We asked... Are you stitching any special pressies at the moment?

"I'm just getting on with Snow White for my granddaughter." *Susan Bolton-Bosco*

"A wedding sampler but can't say what or who for as they may see this!" *Anne Hanley*

"I've almost finished a picture for my niece who just arrived today!" *Lisa Hague*

"Autumn Fairy by Lena Lawson as a gift to myself." *Debbie Hier*

"A Michael Powell for my sister's birthday." *Helen Jones*

"An eagle with an American flag. It's for my daughter who's in the National guard. She's deploying in June." *Dotty Blakey*

"Wedding samplers for my future step-grandsons – one is getting married in March, the other in July." *Janet Fisher Cobb*

Offer your stitching tips at our Facebook page  <http://on.fb.me/CSCollection>

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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.

Butterfly Fairy

.....
Capture the very essence of the new season
with **Lesley Teare's** opulent spring fairy
.....

Surrounded by fragrant narcissi and shy wood anemones, Lesley Teare's butterfly-winged fairy looks like she's just paused to enjoy the early spring sunshine with her bluebird companions before flitting off to seek the next flower-filled corner of the garden. With strands of DMC Light Effects thread and a scattering of

pearly seed beads, this design has a gorgeous glimmer that adds to its sumptuous appeal. Split the scene into smaller sections so you can dip in and out with ease. This is a wonderfully consuming project due to all the fractionals and backstitch – just the thing to keep you busy through the last of the winter evenings!

Stitching your fairy scene

.....

You will need...

28HPI linen (or 14HPI aida), white, Zweigart Cashel
Ref: 3281/100, 17x17in (43x43cm)

We got our linen from Willow Fabrics. Find yours by calling 0800 0567811 or go online to www.willowfabrics.com

Stranded cotton as listed in the key

DMC Light Effects thread as listed in the key

Seed beads as listed in the key

Frame with a 10¼x10¼in (26x26cm)
outer dimension

Felt 10¼x10¼in (26x26cm), for backing

Before you begin

PLAN ahead before settling down to stitch this design, with its many different elements. To help with the counting it's best to stitch the fairy's body first then her wings and birds. Once this is stitched, add the flowers in the wreath behind her and finally the background of the wreath. By working in layers in this way you will find it far easier to position all of your stitching correctly.

Stitching the design

START by working the cross stitch as the other stitches and elements are worked beside or on top of this. The cross stitch is worked in two strands of stranded cotton over two threads of the linen fabric. The metallic cross stitches are worked in two strands of DMC Light Effects thread. Long pieces of this



Butterfly fairy

► thread may twist and separate, so work with lengths of no more than 12in (30cm) to avoid this.

Adding the backstitch and French knots

COMPLETE all the cross stitch before adding the backstitch details. These are all worked in one strand over two threads of the fabric. Use very dark green for the flower centres, dark pink beige for the fairy, dark pink for the lips, DMC Light Effects thread for the fairy's wings and grey for the remainder of the outlines and details.

Next add the French knots using one strand of light yellow for the flower centres.

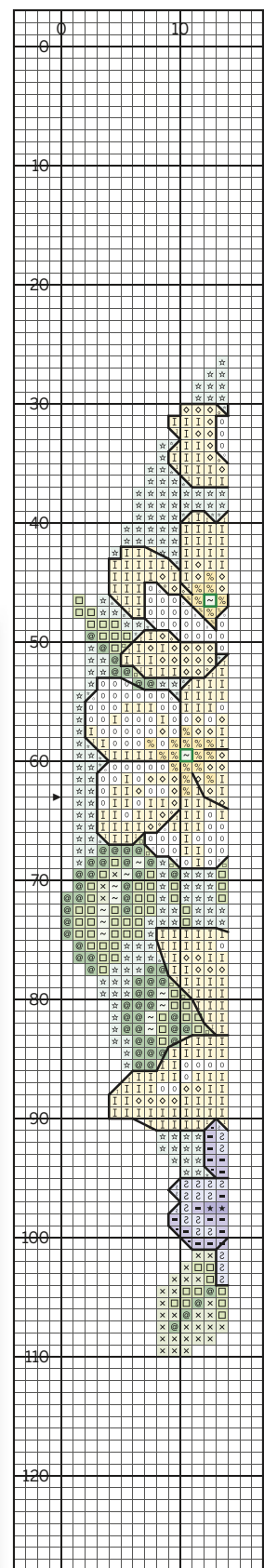
Attaching the beads

FINISH your design and add a scattering of three-dimensional detail by attaching Royal Pearl seed beads to your stitching. You can attach these invisibly by sewing them on with a half cross stitch using thread to match the stitches beneath rather than the bead so that the stitches don't show up.

Framing your picture

SHOW your picture off with a frame especially cut for the design. Ask your framer for a flat, plain wooden frame about 1in (2.5cm) deep and get them to cut it to the dimensions in the shopping list. The sizes stated are the outer dimensions of the frame. This isn't how we'd normally give a frame size but for this sort of stretched canvas effect the outside size is the important one. Ask the framer to cut a piece of white mount board to fit exactly over the finished frame.

- 1 ATTACH** the mount board on top of the frame with double-sided tape.
- 2 POSITION** your finished stitching centrally over that and push pins through the edge of the fabric and into the mount board.
- 3 PLACE** double-sided tape over the back of the frame and stretch the fabric tightly round to the back and stick into place. Fold the corners neatly so you have a 90° angle at the edges.
- 4 STITCH** the piece of felt over the back of the frame for a neater effect, then sew a small curtain ring to the top of the centre back for hanging.



Butterfly fairy

DMC Anchor Madeira Colour
Cross stitch in two strands

□□	White	002	2402	White
■	155	109	0803	Medium purple
×	164	240	1209	Light green
★	333	119	0903	Dark purple
2	341	117	0901	Light purple
■	413	236	1713	Grey
◆	700	228	1304	Very dark green
●	701	227	1305	Dark green
□	703	238	1307	Medium green
≈	728	306	0113	Dark yellow
%	743	305	0113	Medium yellow
◇	744	301	0112	Light yellow
~	772	259	1604	Pale green
■	838	1088	2005	Dark brown
■	840	1084	1912	Light brown
+	945	881	2309	Medium pink beige
#	958	187	1114	Medium teal
×	964	185	1112	Light teal
\$	3716	025	0606	Light pink
♡	3747	120	0901	Pale purple
△	3770	1009	2314	Light pink beige
♥	3812	188	2706	Dark teal
×	3819	278	2703	Lime green
I	3823	386	2511	Pale yellow
■	3837	111	0713	Violet
▲	3853	1003	0311	Dark orange
■	3854	313	0311	Light orange
E	DMC Light Effects E3821			

DMC Anchor Madeira Colour
Backstitch in one strand

	*413	236	1713	Grey
all other outlines and details				
	*700	228	1304	Very dark green
flower centres				
	3778	1013	2312	Dark pink beige
fairy				
	3832	028	0506	Dark pink
lips				
	*DMC Light Effects E3821			
wings				

French knots in one strand

●	*744	301	0112	Light yellow
flower centres				

Attach beads with matching cotton

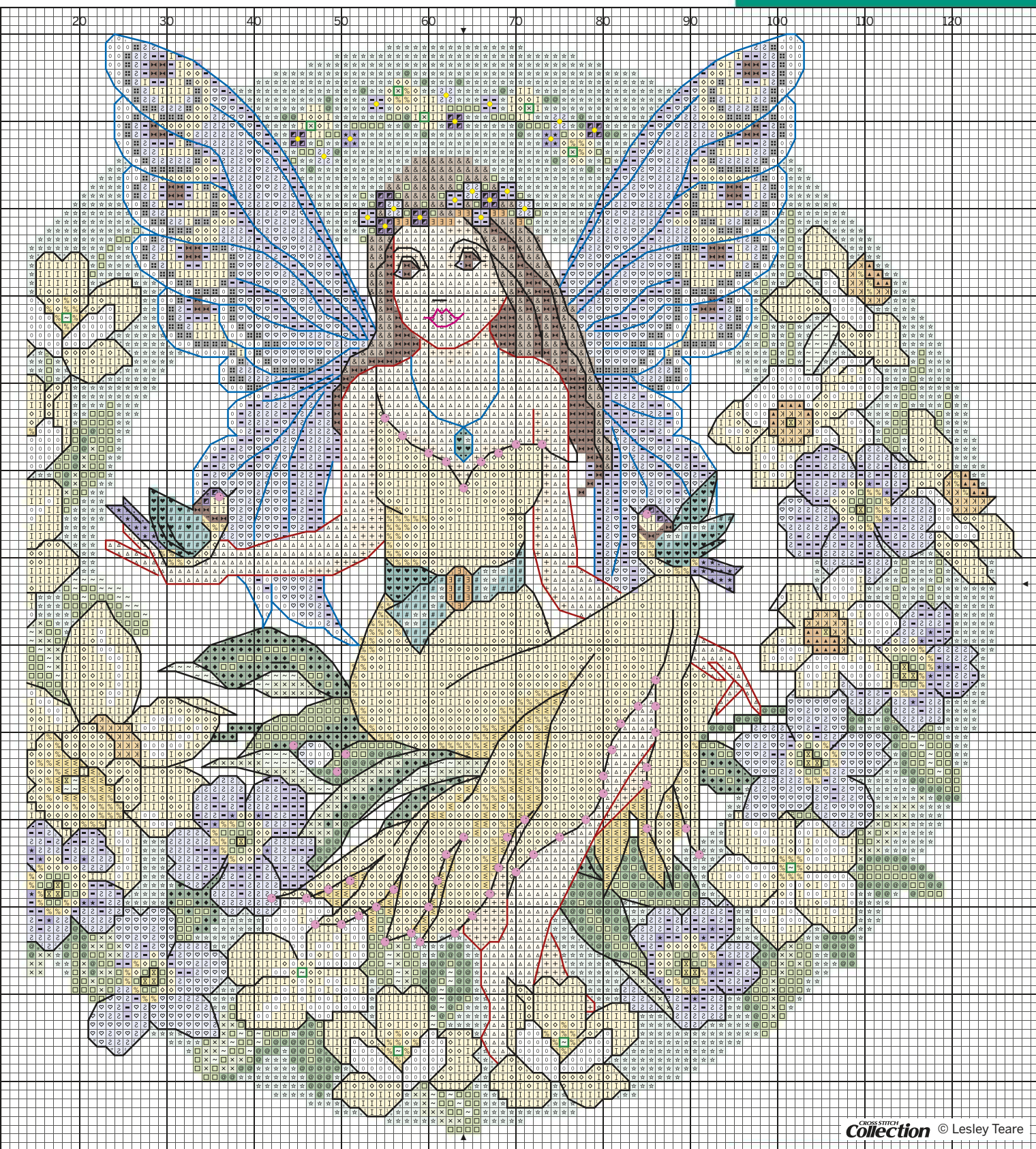
●●	Mill Hill seed beads 03021	Royal Pearl
clothing		

Stitched using DMC threads on 28HPI linen over two threads
Stitch count 126x128
Design area 9x9in (23x23cm)

*indicates colour is listed earlier in the key

Our stitcher says... Keep careful track of all the backstitch to make sure the different aspects of the picture really stand out.

Attach your seed beads with a beading needle. These are thinner than regular needles and come in a range of sizes – size 10 or 12 will be best for this project.



Find pretty printed fabric for your appliqué hearts at The Cotton Patch – they have lots of assorted patterns in their charm packs. Go online to www.cottonpatch.co.uk

Treasured tags

Make that thoughtful present extra-special by adding **Angela Poole's** pretty appliqué gift tags

You will need...

For each tag:

28HPI linen (or 14HPI aida), light sand, 8x9in (20x23cm), Zweigart Cashel Ref: 3281/224

Stranded cotton as listed in the key

Print fabric small scrap for appliqué

Light weight interfacing 4x2in (10x5cm)

Black eyelet

Narrow ribbon fuchsia

Turn to page 58 for hints and tips!

Make a gift tag

TRIM your fabric into two pieces: 8x6in (20x15cm) for the stitched front and 5x3in (13x8cm) for the back. Stitch the design on the front piece of fabric.

1 **CUT** out a heart shape from a scrap of print fabric and attach to your design in the position shown on the chart using a tiny running stitch.

2 **POSITION** your interfacing glue side down on the back of your stitched fabric and trace around the blue outline in pencil. Cut this out then iron the interfacing in place over the design.

3 **PLACE** the stitched front and linen back wrong sides together and then machine stitch just outside your bright running stitch outline.

4 **TRIM** the fabric through both layers ¼in (6mm) outside your stitching and fray the edges. Punch an eyelet within the curved top. Thread ribbon through to finish.

Treasured tags

Anchor DMC Madeira Colour
Cross stitch in two strands

♥ 086	3608	0709	L pink
★ 094	3834	0706	Violet
✕ 265	471	1308	L green
◻ 275	746	0101	L yellow

Backstitch in two strands

— 089	917	0706	D pink
lettering			
— 123	158	0914	Blue
tag outlines			

Backstitch in one strand

— *089	917	0706	D pink
flowers			
— 101	550	0713	Purple
flowers			

Anchor DMC Madeira Colour
Backstitch in one strand

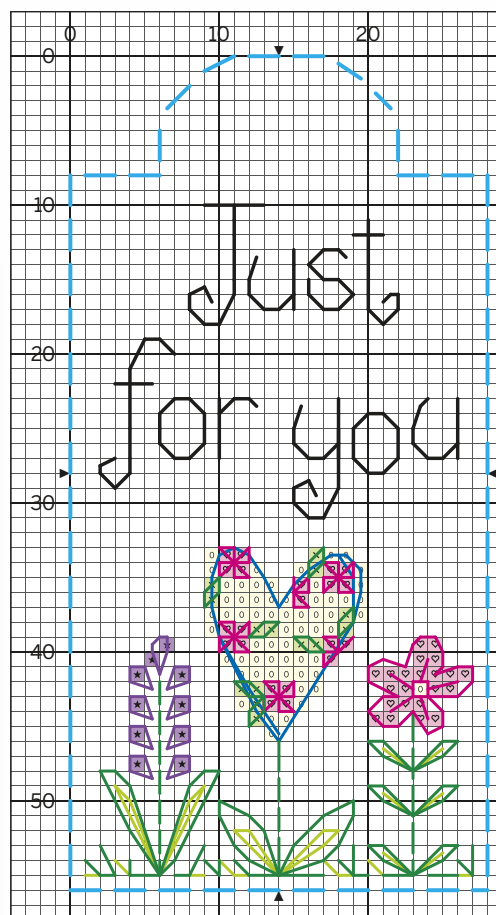
— *123	158	0914	Blue
flowers			
— 217	319	1312	D green
stems and leaves			
— *265	471	1308	L green
stems and leaves			

French knots in two strands

●● *089	917	0706	D pink
lettering			

Stitched using Anchor threads on 28HPI linen over two threads
Stitch count for each 56x28
Design area 4x2in (10x5cm)

*indicates colour is listed earlier in the key





Collection © Angela Poole



Learn a **NEW skill!**

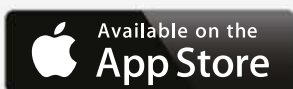
This project offers the perfect chance to give appliqué a go. There are plenty of step-by-step guides online, including YouTube videos such as Jenny Doan's tutorial for beginners at www.youtube.com/watch?v=9vKcyymFkyk. Alternatively, just cross stitch the heart-shaped panel as shown!



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Above: Meg sits down with some shade cards to choose the colours she'll use in her next 3D project.



In conversation with... Meg Evershed

Take a trip to tiny town to discover Meg Evershed's early stitching attempts, that infamous Windsor Castle creation and how she goes about designing her miniature marvels. Ali Binns chats to Meg



Meg Evershed is known for her wonderful 3D stitching, which is unique in the cross stitch world. She owns and runs The Nutmeg Company, which specialises in 3D cross stitch and sells kits to make her miniature cross stitch cottages (so intricate and so detailed!), as well as card kits and the very popular 3D penguins. We caught up with Meg and asked her about her cross stitching, past, present and future.

What led you to start creating your 3D cross stitch designs? I always enjoy a challenge! When my children were small I made a lot of toys, and I gradually worked out how to use the techniques I learnt from that to make three dimensional cross stitch pieces.

What inspires your projects? I think the idea for any new project develops by osmosis. Many things contribute to it and gradually everything comes together in a lightbulb moment! Most designers will say that they're inspired by the natural world, and who wouldn't be? It's a source of amazing beauty and there is always something new to fascinate. On a more practical level, I find great designers like Fabergé will generally provide



Image credits: Stitched pieces © Geoff Brooke; pictures of Meg © Anne Hewitt

Above: Each of Meg's houses has a name that helps to conjure up the world it inhabits. We love the grand Dower House, in the centre above, and the sweet haberdashers Sew Good!

inspiration and I frequently visit a local auction house for pre-sale viewings. I always find pottering about among the art and antiques coming up for auction especially helpful. When we lived in the south (Meg is now based in Reeth, Yorkshire), I used to love going to the V&A or other museums. In fact, I think inspiration can be found almost anywhere but one thing I try to avoid doing is spending a lot of time looking at the work of other cross stitch designers. The osmosis process makes it fatally easy to start stitching other people's ideas instead of your own!

"I draw on graph paper until something emerges that I'm happy to stitch"



Meg's first stitching

Like many of us, Meg first learnt to stitch at school, and she's even kept her first works of art. "As I recall, I learnt to stitch at junior school, aged about 8. I stitched on dark red binka canvas and made mats for a dressing table." We're guessing she was pretty skilled even then, because we can only remember finishing one piece, but here there are three! We wondered what Meg would tell her younger cross stitch self that she's learnt through experience, and Meg told us, "Enjoy what you're doing! Like many people, I went to a school that emphasised academic achievement and working with your hands didn't seem to be important. I'd encourage anyone to enjoy the craftwork they love – it's skilled work of great value." Wise words indeed.

What's your typical process when planning one of your 3D marvels?

Once the idea is formed, the most important part is to get the shape right. We often describe the interior of a 3D piece as a skeleton and the stitching as the skin. Like anything, the frame inside will determine the finished shape. Once that is right, the areas of stitching are easily marked out and then decisions have to be made about working doors, windows, mouldings and so on, so that the finished piece will be recognisable as a particular style of building. When the stitching is completed, it's stretched over the skeleton, like skin, and the separate pieces are then stitched together to form the required shape. The same techniques are used to make boxes or Christmas decorations.

Do you have somewhere special you prefer to work? We occupy the first purpose-built live/work unit in the Yorkshire Dales. We have a showroom, a workroom and living accommodation, so there's always somewhere to go and work out a new design.

How do you design your projects?

I'm old-fashioned! I draw on graph paper until something emerges that I'm happy to stitch. If it's a really complicated piece which needs mirror images or something similar, I might chart part of it on a computer to help get the measurements right. ➤



Above: Easter in the Cotswolds (left) and Dales Cottage (right) are ideal projects for anyone with a love of spring flowers – the tree growing up the side of the cottage is gorgeous!

► How could budding designers have a go at creating a stitched house like yours? If someone wanted to have a go at doing a miniature of their own home, I'd say, start with the shape. Have a look at your house from the outside and make a model of it from something that will stand up easily. We use plastic canvas but you could use cardboard. Once the shape is right, lay the skeleton flat on the fabric you are using and mark out the areas you need to stitch, walls, roof and so on.

"Working on the Windsor Castle piece, I felt like one of the luckiest people alive!"

How do you cope with annoying interruptions when you get to trickier bits? I think you'd have to live in a convent to completely avoid unwanted interruptions. It's always going to happen. You just have to decide what's more important – dealing with the interruption or explaining that your work needs to take precedence. Sometimes it's one – sometimes the other.

What's the greatest distraction?

When I'm working I don't have any problem concentrating, but the biggest distraction is the life going on around you! There'll be a call that you have to take or you suddenly realise you've run out

of eggs and need them for supper. Even if the day is tranquil, eventually it comes to an end when you really wanted just one more hour...

What's your favourite ever piece you've designed?

Aargh! There are lots of pieces which I'm quite fond of. I really enjoyed developing the Pantomime Houses – it was such fun to devise all the characters so that the stories could be depicted on the walls of the houses. I do like some of the pieces in the book we did for Vive books – *3D Cross Stitch Cards* – particularly the black and gold piece, 'Tea and Gossip' and some years ago Jenny Dixon commissioned a piece which showed the rooms of a house from the attic to the kitchen. This was actually a flat piece but I loved working out all the details of the rooms.

Do you have a favourite piece by another designer?

I have always loved Michael Powell's work. The houses and cottages he designs have such character. I don't have time to stitch any so we have one of his prints in our home.

What has been your most unusual commission?

I haven't taken a commission since stitching Windsor Castle, which is probably the most unusual request I've had. Unfortunately, time is a factor now, but I still



Look out
for our
EXCLUSIVE
Meg Evershed
house design
coming
soon!

love a challenge. Working on it, I felt like one of the luckiest people alive!

What has been your worst cross stitch disaster?

I've had a couple of pieces on perforated paper that were eventually abandoned. There were a few greetings cards, for example, that looked fine on graph paper but not so fine when stitched! I started work on an igloo once that I gave up on. It wasn't a disaster but I just wasn't happy with it – it was too flat!

What's the best piece of cross stitch design advice you've ever been given?

Hmm – that's a tough one! When I first started out in this industry I worked with a company called Fabric Flair. It was run by Len and Pat Turner and I learned a great deal from the two of them. Their reactions to ideas helped me to understand what stitchers did and didn't want. I think it's important to remember, however, that there is always a chance that you will produce something that you really love and everyone else thinks is mediocre at best!

Any plans for the future you can share with us?

We plan to be at a number of stitching shows this year and we love to meet people there. I will be quite happy if, at the end of this year, I feel I've produced designs that people enjoy stitching. There are loads of things I'd still love to design in cross stitch! Time is the restraining factor, but I'm always hoping for inspiration for something completely different...

Above, from left to right: How could you resist popping into this cute café for a cuppa?; the design A Gardeners' World offers the perfect escape from a busy urban life.

Stand up and celebrate

Meg doesn't just design 3D buildings, she also has a range of pretty greetings cards, which make perfect keepsakes and, you've guessed it, they are 3D too. Meg doesn't really do ordinary cross stitch! If you're feeling inspired by these pretty cross stitch cards, and you fancy having a go yourself, you'll find kits, but also perforated paper for your own designs on Meg's website, www.3dcrossstitch.co.uk



See more of Meg's work at www.3dcrossstitch.co.uk



Made with love

.....
Create a dazzling cross stitch card for Mother's Day with
Jenny Barton's sweet bird design on glittery fabric
.....

Traditionally known as Mothering Sunday, this special day continues to honour the bond between mother and child. We think that one of the best ways to celebrate your mum is with a handmade card, so this design by Jenny Barton is ideal! The central motifs are worked in contrasting colours with easy-to-stitch shading. Take care when working the backstitch – some areas are stitched in one strand and others in two so refer to your chart and key for positioning.

You will need...

32HPI linen (or 16HPI aida), white glitter, Zweigart Belfast Ref: 3609/111, 8x8in (20x20cm)

Stranded cotton as listed in the key

Card white, 7½x22½in (19x57cm)

Floral print card mount free to download from www.crossstitchcollection.com

How to mount your card

DOWNLOAD your free floral print card mount from our blog. Fold your white card in three then stick the paper to the central section.

1 **CUT** out a 6x6in (15x15cm) aperture in the centre of your downloaded floral printed paper, using a craft knife.

2 **POSITION** your stitched design inside the aperture using double-sided tape. Fold in the right-hand side of the card and stick it down.

Extra-special mums deserve extra special gifts – check out Alex Monroe's Haberdashery Collection to find a beautiful piece of stitching themed jewellery to match your handmade card at www.alexmonroe.com

Made with love

DMC Anchor Madeira Colour

Cross stitch in two strands

□□	White	002	2402	White
■	320	215	1311	Med green
×	368	214	1310	Light green
△	369	1043	1309	V light green
●	413	236	1713	Grey
■	451	233	1808	Dark taupe
□	453	232	1806	Light taupe
♥	518	1039	1106	Dark blue
~	519	1038	1105	Light blue
2	959	186	1113	Med aqua
*	964	185	1112	Light aqua
*	3687	068	0604	Dark pink
■	3688	075	0605	Med pink
□	3689	049	0607	Light pink
■	3812	188	2706	Dark aqua

Backstitch in two strands

— *3687 068 0604 Dark pink
birdcage, tag

Backstitch in one strand

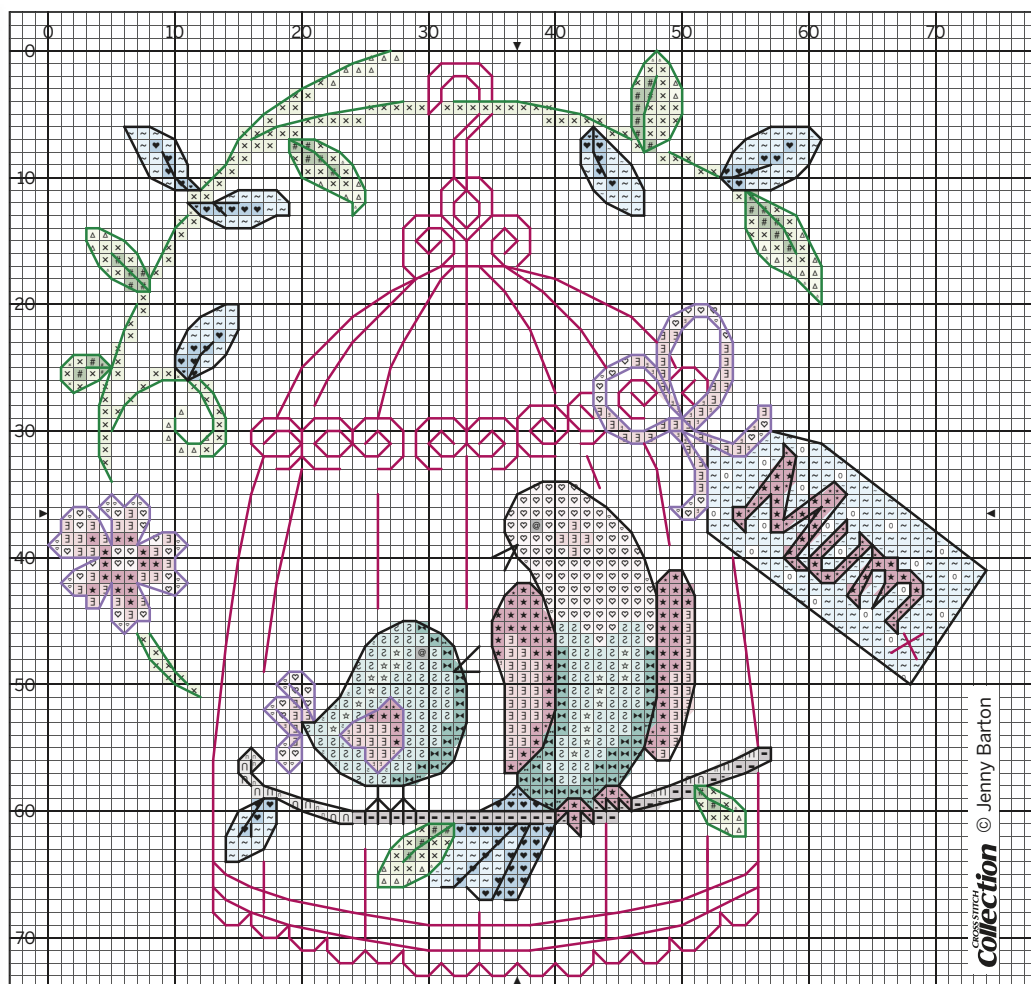
— 367 216 1312 Dark green
branch, leaves
— *413 236 1713 Grey
tag, birds, leaves
— *3687 068 0604 Dark pink
bird, bow, flower

Stitched using DMC threads on 32HPI linen over two threads

Stitch count 73x74

Design area 4½x4½in (11.5x11.5cm)

*indicates colour is listed earlier in the key



Our stitcher says... You could stitch the tag motif and bow onto a small piece of fabric to make a mini gift tag to attach to a pressie

New!

CSC brand new blog!

- Great sneak previews
- Ideas & guides for extra makes
- Exclusive offers & freebies
- Heaps of inspiration – look out for our Monday Mood Boards!



Cross Stitch Collection's commissioning editor and all round stitching expert, Rebecca Bradshaw, picks her favourite projects from our latest issue. Today, she tells us why Jenny Barton's Holiday Essentials is her favourite project from our July issue "It's holiday time and I think when you've planned and waited so long for your annual holiday it's..."

Continue reading...



Copy the answer to the question into your answer to each question's "yes/no" column, which is available at the end of the column. www.pearsoned.com

[illegible]

We love Emma Langley's bright and fun, hand-painted designs in the July £27 issue of *Great British Cookery*. The edge-to-edge graphic design looks amazing and so much fun to watch, with a range of different and interesting themes you won't want to miss. It's hard to miss, in fact, that we've also seen...

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Create your own sunny springtime retreat with
Lesley Teare's idyllic cottage and garden



Meet the designer...

Lesley Teare

I love painting and designing cottages, especially thatched ones, and this picture is based on the ones I can find here in Suffolk. As flowers are another favourite subject of mine to paint, this combination was a dream for me to



“This cottage and the flowers I love to paint is a dream combination for me”

work on. Most days I only have my lovely black labrador Webs to follow me round the garden but I can imagine this quizzical black cat sitting watching the bees and butterflies amongst the flowers. This picture of an idyllic cottage on a spring day will be easy to stitch with mostly whole cross stitches and very little backstitch. With an array of tulips, narcissi and irises that fill the garden, this colourful picture will hopefully be a joy to stitch.

For regular updates on Lesley's work and to see pictures of her latest designs, visit her at **www.lesleyteare.com**





Welcome in spring with a new project packed with fresh floral details. This dreamy cottage by Lesley Teare is the rural retreat we all dream of, with a garden boasting just about every favourite spring bloom – tulips, daffodils, narcissi, irises and more! This is a lovely project to take your time over as it's a real delight to watch the picture emerge as you work. Big blocks of colour keep the design from being too complicated or fiddly, and you'll only need to work a small number of backstitches. A scattering of tiny pink French knots provide the finishing touch as the camellia flowers on the bush at the side of the cottage. Don't forget to give the little black cat his French knot eyes and nose!

When I asked Lesley to design a cottage set in the springtime, I had in mind a really traditional country cottage with a path in front and a whole host of spring flowers in the garden – in my mind's eye I could see the really full, slightly chaotic look that cottage gardens have. I'm really pleased with the finished

design and I love Lesley's addition of a black and white cat – it really gives the design a focal point. This should be an enjoyable design as it's stitched in blocks of colour. It makes me think of one of those painting by numbers kits where you paint sections of colour but in this case you stitch blocks of colour. I would start by stitching the cottage, completing each part of it in turn, before stitching the trees and bushes, then the garden and all its beautiful vibrant flowers, and finally the bright March sky with ribbons of cloud.



Rebecca

Rebecca Bradshaw

Chart of the month

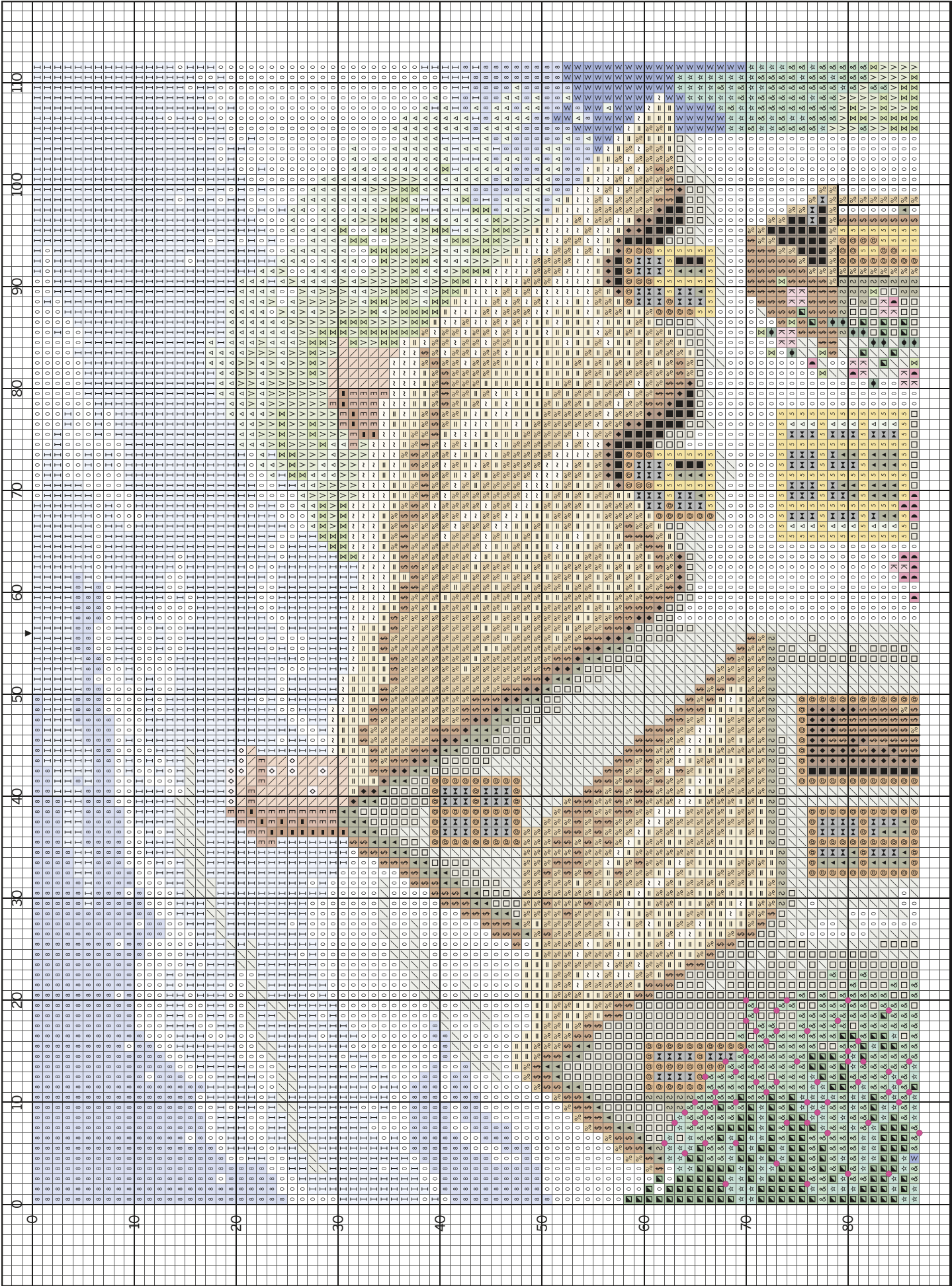
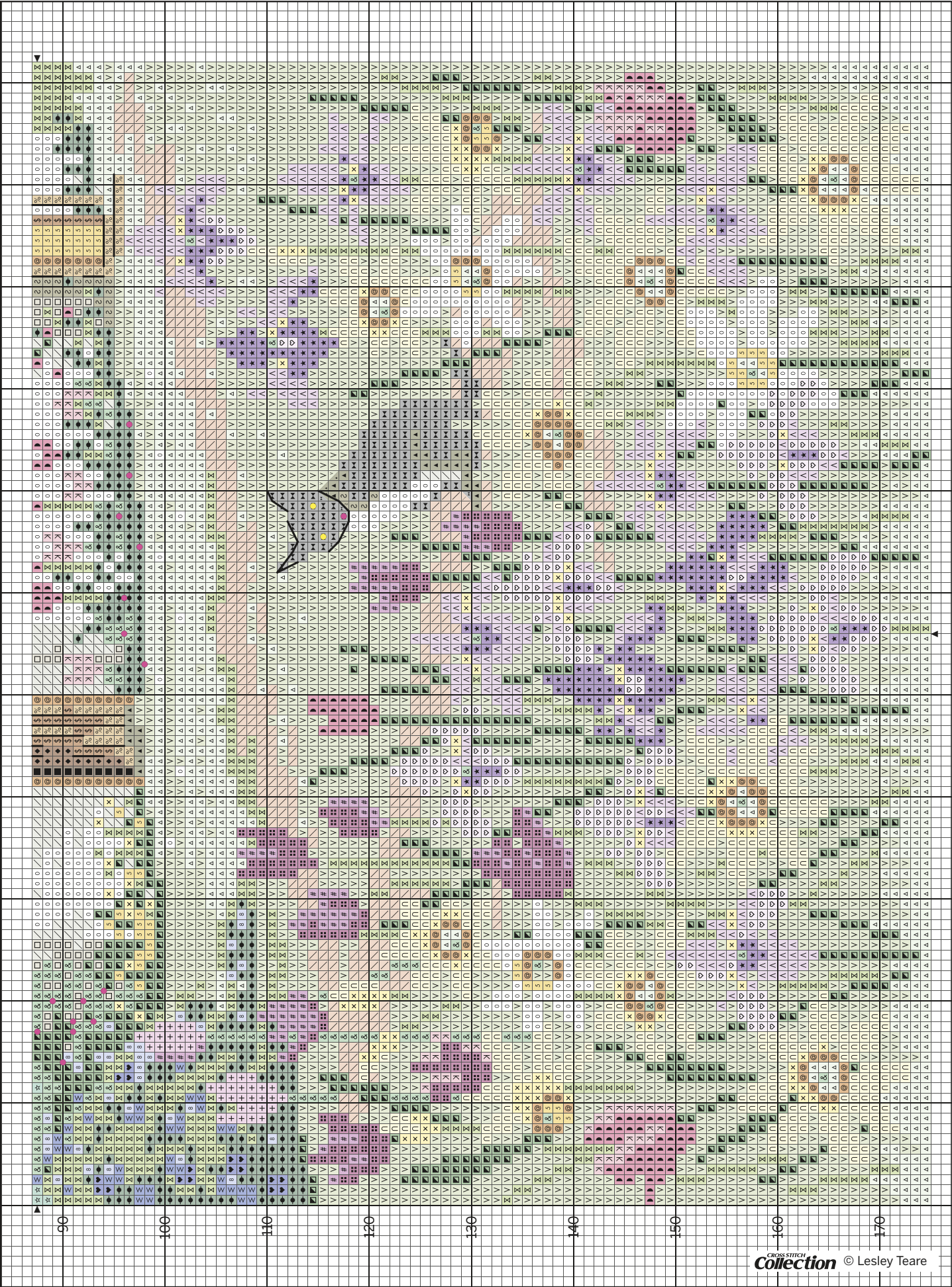


Chart of the month





Perfect French knots are all about the tension – ideally you should need to wriggle the eye of the needle slightly to pull it through the twists you've made

Stitching your sampler

You will need...

28HPI evenweave (or 14HPI aida), white, Zweigart
Brittney Ref: 3270/100 21x16in (53x41cm)

We got our evenweave from Willow Fabrics.
Find yours by calling 0800 0567811 or visit them
online at www.willowfabrics.com

Stranded cotton as listed in the key

Frame with a 12½x8in (32x20cm) aperture, lime
washed wood

Turn to page 58 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 make sure your
design is positioned correctly. This design is fairly
simple to stitch as there are big blocks of colour so the
counting is quite easy.

If you would prefer to work on aida, then this design
would be easy to stitch on this fabric instead as there is
very little backstitch and only a few fractional stitches.

Working the cross stitch

WORK all the cross stitch in two strands of stranded
cotton over two threads of the evenweave
fabric. There are several close shades of
green so you need to check the chart and key carefully
to make sure you select the correct one.
You will probably find it easier to work only one element
at a time, such as the house, cat and flowers, before
you move on to the background areas of sky and grass.
By working in separate sections like this you will find it
easier to identify the colours used and also for counting
from one area to another.

Adding the details

FINISH all the cross stitch before adding the outlines
and details. These are worked in backstitch using one
strand of grey. Finally add the French knots using one
strand of white for the cat's eyes and light pink for the
camellia flowers and cat. To avoid clumping the French
knots together, take care to position them as shown on
the chart. If you'd prefer to enhance the garden's
laidback feel, just stitch them randomly over the bush.



Meet the stitcher...

Jane Thomas

"One of the greatest pleasures of
cross stitch is seeing the design
begin to emerge on the fabric and

it was a delight seeing the picture of the cottage
and garden coming to life. By stitching one part
at a time rather than all the stitches of one
colour, it makes it feel like it's growing faster!
Each time I finished stitching for the day I took
the fabric out of the frame and hung it over the
back of a chair so I could have the pleasure of
watching it grow."

Home from home

DMC Anchor Madeira Colour

Cross stitch in two strands

□□	White	002	2402	White (2)
~ ~	Ecru	387	2404	Ecru
V V	164	240	1209	Very light green (2)
A A	209	109	0711	Medium purple
♡ ♡	211	342	0801	Light purple
3 3	356	1013	0402	Medium sepia
• •	433	358	2008	Dark brown
\$ \$	434	310	2009	Medium brown
% %	436	363	2011	Light brown
• •	505	211	1206	Dark green
■ ■	701	227	1305	Dark grass green
X X	703	238	1307	Light grass green
x x	726	295	0109	Medium yellow
s s	728	306	0113	Dark yellow
= =	738	361	2013	Cream
▨ ▨	758	9575	2309	Light sepia
A A	772	259	1604	Pale green
♥ ♥	792	941	0905	Very dark blue
I I	800	144	0908	Light blue
8 8	809	130	0909	Medium blue
◊ ◊	819	271	0501	Very light pink
& &	912	209	1213	Light green
■ ■	917	089	0706	Dark magenta
X X	962	075	0609	Medium pink
☆ ☆	992	1072	1202	Medium green
■ ■	3021	905	1904	Brown grey
2 2	3022	8581	1903	Dark green grey
□ □	3023	899	1902	Med green grey
▨ ▨	3072	397	1805	Light green grey
n n	3078	292	0102	Light yellow
# #	3607	087	0708	Medium magenta
+ +	3608	086	0709	Light magenta
▲ ▲	3787	1041	1811	Graphite
■ ■	3799	236	1713	Grey
■ ■	3804	063	0703	Dark pink
★ ★	3837	111	0713	Dark purple
◀ ▶	3838	940	0905	Dark blue
⊗ ⊗	3853	1003	0311	Orange
■ ■	3858	936	0810	Dark sepia

Backstitch in one strand

—	*3799	236	1713	Grey
all other outlines and details				

French knots in one strand

● ●	*White	002	2402	White
cat's eyes				
● ●	3713	1020	0608	Light pink
flowers, cat				

Stitched using DMC threads on 28HPI evenweave over two threads

Stitch count 175x112

Design area 12½x8in (32x20cm)

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



Our stitcher says... Using a frame will make it much easier to work on a solidly stitched design like this country cottage. A good stretcher frame is a wise investment – try www.needleneeds.co.uk for a luxury one for your wish list.

Spick & span

Make laundry day a doddle with this sweet and simple windswept design by **Maria Diaz**

Spring cleaning isn't just about polish and paint brushes, it's a chance to tidy things in style. How about a lovely drawstring bag – cross stitched, naturally. Maria has just the thing. Her design promises to neaten bedrooms or round up all those soft toys in the nursery in one fell swoop. Even teddy gets a wash and dry on this line – we can't resist his cute little nose and dreamy expression. There's plenty of texture in this delicate design, thanks to the number of strands used to stitch

different areas. Half cross stitches keep things speedy, while adding some lovely subtle shading to the individual motifs. Backstitch provides the crisp outlines and just a couple of French knots give eyes to the bluebirds. The backstitch, shading and unfilled motifs provide the design with its special sketchy feel. We love the sense of movement suggested by just a few light grey backstitches – this is clearly a really breezy day just perfect for drying all that laundry!

Stitching your laundry bag

You will need...

28HPI evenweave (or 14HPI aida), white, Zweigart Brittney Ref: 3270/100 23x19in

We got our evenweave from Willow Fabrics. Find yours by calling 0800 0567811 or visit them online at www.willowfabrics.com

Stranded cotton as listed in the key

Cotton lining and backing fabric
24x58in (61x147cm)

Thick piping cord 45in (114cm)

Sewing kit – usual essentials including matching thread

Starting off

MEASURE 4½in (11cm) up from the lower edge of the evenweave and centrally across in order to position your stitching correctly on the fabric. This marks the centre of the lower edge of the design and you need to stitch upwards from this point.

Stitching the design

WORK all the cross stitch in two strands over two threads of the evenweave fabric. Some areas are worked in half cross stitch using two strands in order to achieve the depth and dimension of the design. ➤



Our stitcher says...

"The design is lovely and would look great on any light-coloured fabric."

Spick & span

► The backstitch details are worked using two strands of dark pink for the clothes lines and light grey for the movement lines. The rest of the backstitch is worked using one strand of dark bluebell for the birds and dark grey for the remainder of the outlines and details.

Finally add the French knots using one strand of dark petrol blue for the birds' eyes. ►

Tip... You can work this design on a ready-made bag

Simply cut a piece of waste canvas a little larger than the finished design size, then stitch through the canvas. When you've completed the stitching, wet it to remove the starch and pull out all of the canvas threads for a neat finish.

Spick & span

DMC Anchor Madeira Colour

Cross stitch in two strands

✱✱	341	117	0901	Medium bluebell
■	612	832	2108	Brown
□	744	301	0112	Yellow
♡	761	1021	0404	Light pink
✱	930	1035	1712	Dark petrol blue
2	931	1034	1711	Med petrol blue
△△	3747	120	0901	Light bluebell
■	3839	176	2702	Blue

Half cross stitch in two strands

~	415	398	1802	Light grey
×	932	1033	1710	Light petrol blue

Backstitch in two strands

—	316	1017	0809	Dark pink
shopping lines				
—	*415	398	1802	Light grey
movement lines				

Backstitch in one strand

—	161	176	0906	Dark bluebell
birds				
—	414	235	1801	Dark grey
all other outlines and details				

French knots in one strand

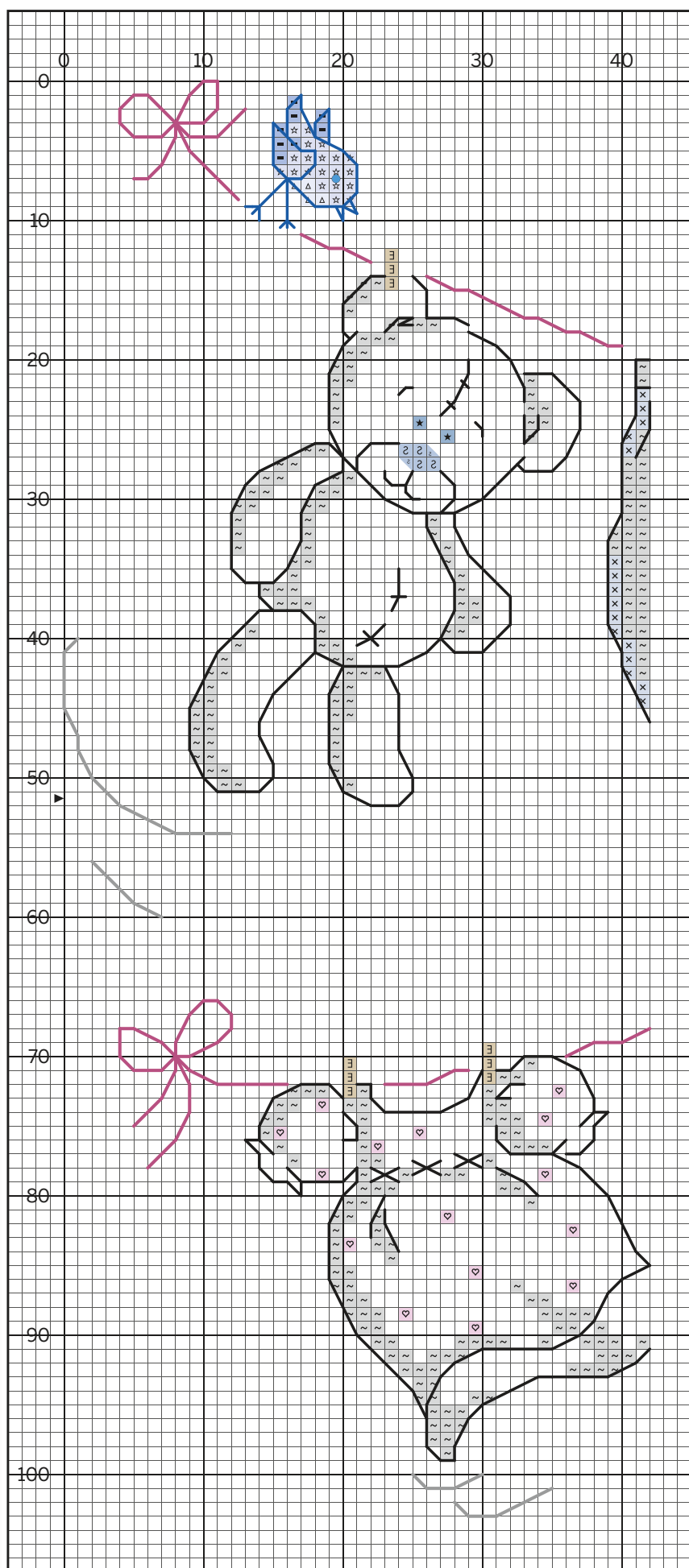
●	*930	1035	1712	Dark petrol blue
bird's eyes				

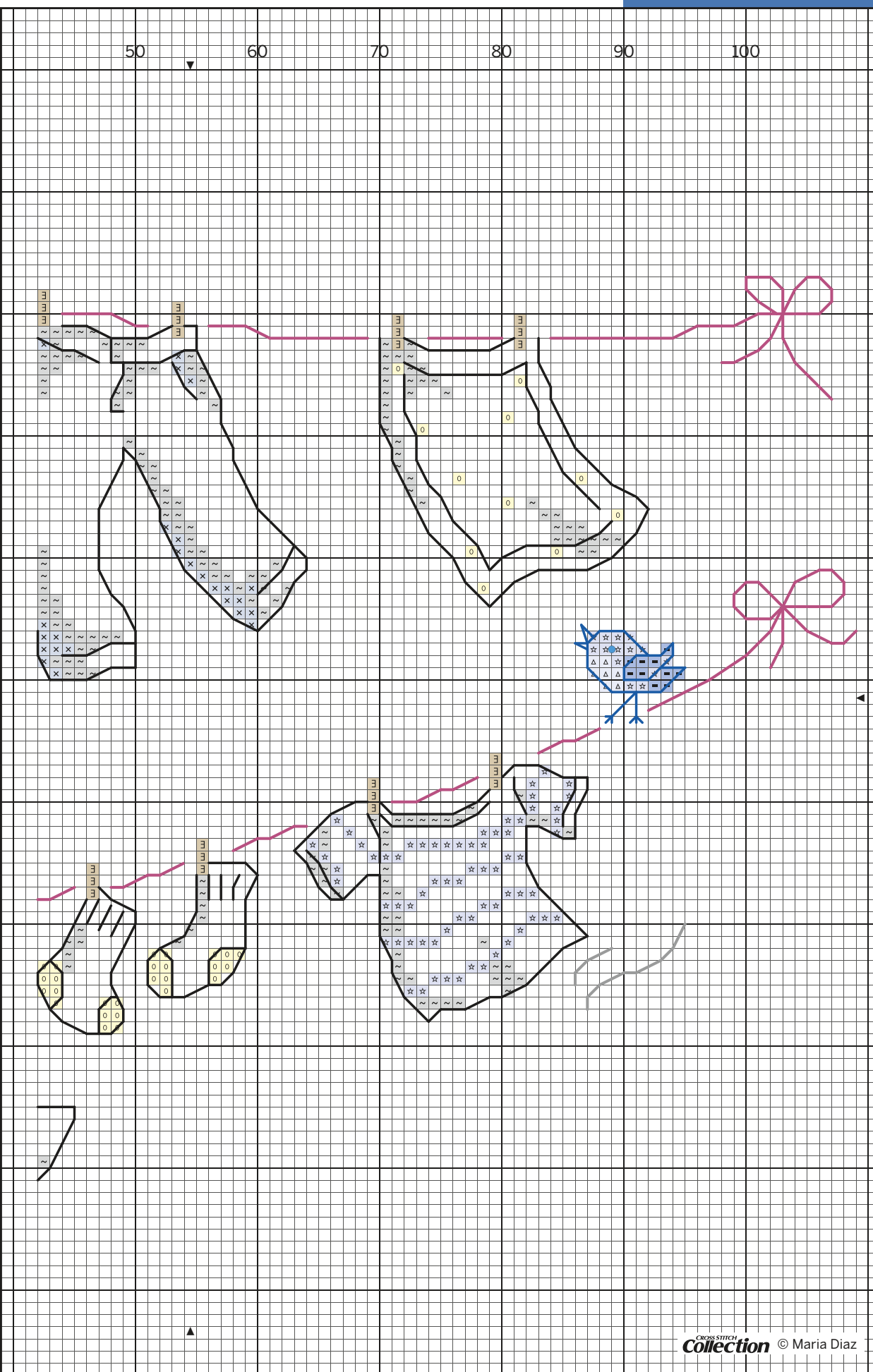
Stitched using DMC threads on 28HPI evenweave over two threads

Stitch count 103x109

Design area 7½x7¾in (19x20cm)

*indicates colour is listed earlier in the key





Collection makes...

STITCH & SEND

Single out the teddy motif to stitch a special card.

CHEER UP CHORES

Stitch the design onto a smaller piece of fabric to make into a peg bag to cheer up the chores. Find a simple tutorial here www.talesfromahappyhouse.com

SAY HELLO

Use just one of the washing line designs to celebrate the arrival of a new baby girl or boy into the world.

Top tip...

Take care to stitch your thread ends in securely, then snip them off close to the fabric to ensure they don't show through to the front.

Show off your backstitch – the single strands outline motifs crisply, while two give the whole piece a sense of movement!



► Making your laundry bag

TURN your stitching into a large drawstring laundry bag with plenty of room for clothes.

1 CUT your white cotton fabric into three pieces, each measuring 23x19in (58x48cm). Use one piece for the laundry bag back and two for the lining.

2 PLACE the back and stitched front right sides together and stitch down the sides and along the bottom. Repeat with the lining fabric, leaving a small opening along one side for turning later.

3 INSERT the lining into the bag outer right sides together and matching side seams then stitch

together around the top. This lining will prevent your carefully stitched design catching on anything inside the laundry bag.

4 TURN the bag right sides out through the gap then slip stitch it closed.

5 STITCH a casing channel 3in (8cm) down from the top edge then 1in (2.5cm) below this.

6 SNIP one side seam between the casing lines. Thread the cord through the casing and knot the ends together.

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DAINTY MAKES

Stitch more
March 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.sheenangersdesigns.co.uk

We love the romantic yet tragic Greek myth about the daffodil. Spurned by his beloved Echo, heartbroken Narcissus found solace gazing at his own reflection but couldn't tear himself away. The first daffodil grew where he lay, and ever since the flower has been associated with vanity. We're pleased to say there's a much sunnier side to this bloom – it's also connected to far happier things. This makes it ideal for Sheena's series, which brings together flowers and birthstones for each month. The daffodil is a symbol of St David's Day on 1 March, and is traditionally given on Mother's Day too. In the Language of Flowers, it stands for friendship, chivalry and respect. It's also the symbol of March birthdays, alongside the gemstone aquamarine, which Sheena has incorporated into her design with blue-green stitches in the border. Known as the stone of courage, this gemstone is the perfect companion for the cheerful daffodil.

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

Our stitcher says... Sheena Rogers' next seasonal design is sure to dazzle – the April birthstone is diamond! Find the chart in our April 247 issue, out 6th March

Making your pincushion

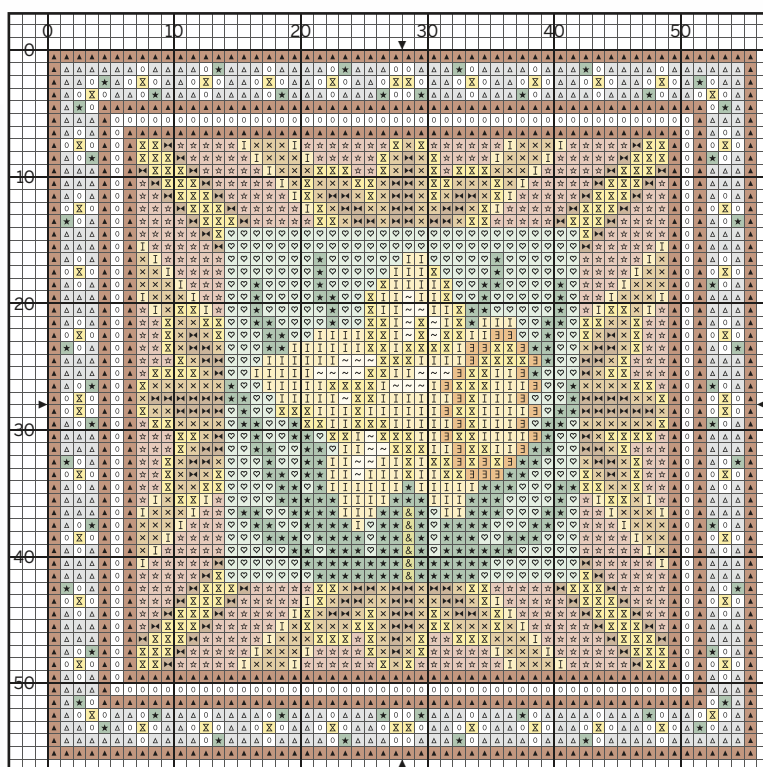
FINISH stitching your flower design, then follow these steps to make your March pincushion:

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

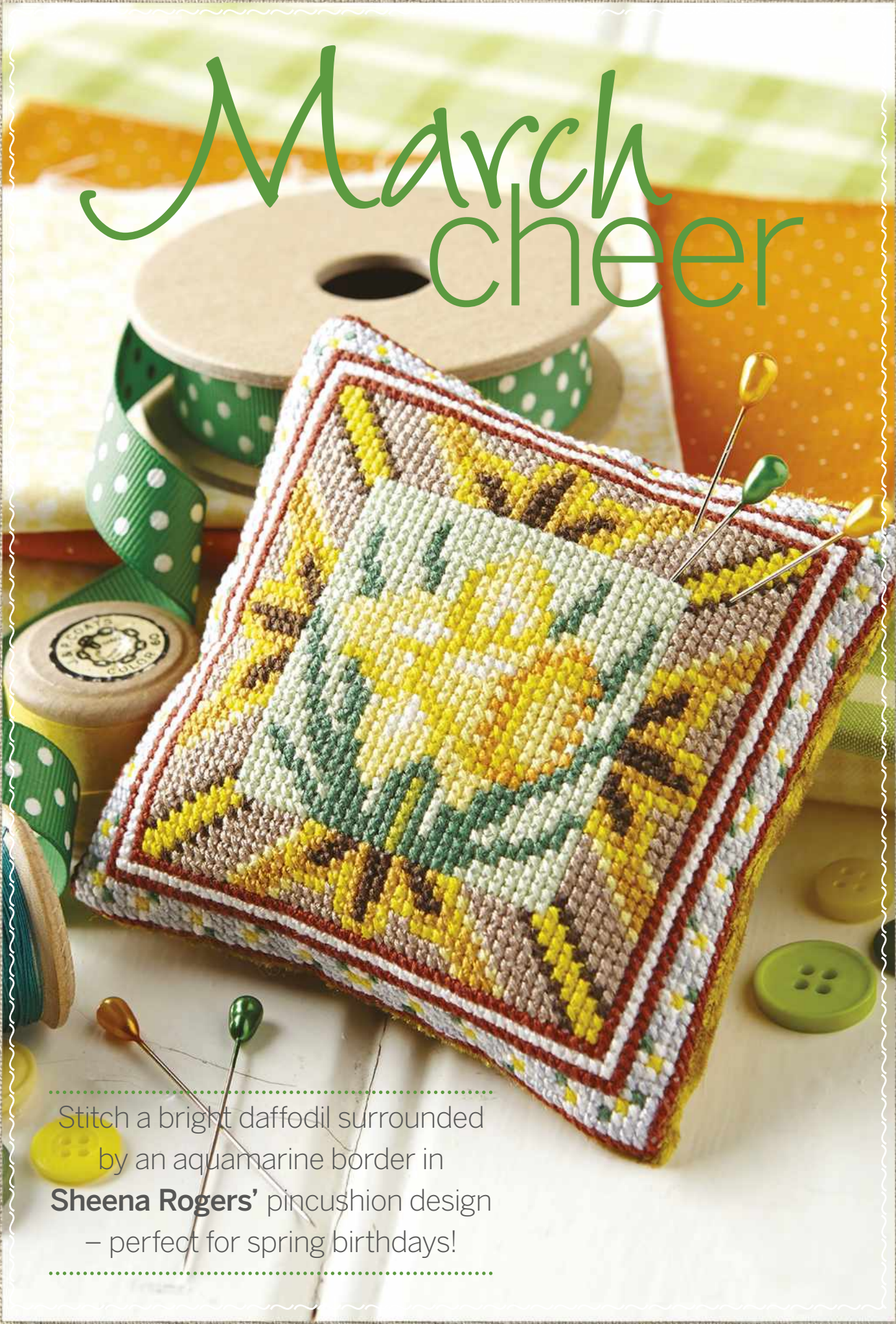
March cheer

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	Colour
Cross stitch in two strands				
□□	White	002	2402	White
&&	166	279	1308	Lime green
♡♡	369	1043	1309	Light green
△△	415	398	1802	Grey
××	444	291	0105	Dark yellow
★	505	211	1206	Dark green
	727	293	0110	Medium yellow
33	741	304	0203	Orange
~~	746	275	0101	Light yellow
××	783	307	2212	Bronze brown
☆☆	841	1082	1911	Sepia
▲▲	918	341	0314	Russet
■	3031	905	2003	Brown

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



March cheer

A photograph of a cross-stitch pincushion with a daffodil design, surrounded by sewing supplies like thread spools and buttons. The pincushion is square with a wide border and a central daffodil motif. It is surrounded by various sewing items: a large wooden spool of green thread with white polka dots, a smaller spool of yellow thread, several green buttons, and a few pins with green and yellow heads. The background is a soft-focus orange and green.

Stitch a bright daffodil surrounded
by an aquamarine border in
Sheena Rogers' pincushion design
– perfect for spring birthdays!



Leafy letters

Treat Mum to some personalised gifts this Mothering Sunday with **Zweigart's** pretty letter motifs



These daintily lettered designs from Zweigart are the perfect way to personalise your gift to Mum this year. With a whole alphabet to choose from, you can stitch any message you like and really make her day!

Stitch a loving message to really make her day!

The cross stitch is worked using two strands of stranded cotton over two threads of the linen fabric. When this is all complete, just add the backstitch details using one strand of dark blue.





Are you
stitching this?

Share your pics and
stitching stories at

[www.facebook.com/
CSCMagazine](http://www.facebook.com/CSCMagazine)

Collection makes...

COLOUR IT UP

Teeny flowers are easily
changed to another
colour – just choose a
light and dark shade.

PIN IT

A single initial would
make a pretty brooch.

EMBELLISH

Add a letter to an
existing scarf, apron or
even a laptop case.

Stitching an alphabet sampler

You will need...

28HPI linen (or 14 HPI aida), light rustic, Zweigart
Cashel Ref: 3281/52

Alphabet Sampler: 16x14in (41x36cm)

We got our linen from Willow Fabrics. Find yours by calling 0800 0567811 or go online to www.willowfabrics.com

Stranded cotton as listed in the key

Frame with a 9x6½in (23x16cm) aperture, dark wood

Sewing kit usual essentials including matching thread.

Make an alphabet sampler

SIMPLY fold your fabric in half both ways and stitch from the centre outwards.



Making your gift band

You will need...

28HPI linen (or 14HPI aida), light rustic, Zweigart
Cashel Ref: 3281/52

Gift Band: See instructions for sizing

We got our linen from Willow Fabrics. Find yours by calling 0800 0567811 or visiting them online at www.willowfabrics.com

Stranded cotton as listed in the key

Cotton lining fabric see instructions for sizing

Ric rac braid, cream see instructions for sizing

Sewing kit usual essentials including matching thread.

Make a gift band

MEASURE round your present and cut your linen to 6in (15cm) wide and the length round your present ➤

Leafy letters

	Anchor	DMC	Madeira	Colour
Cross stitch in two strands				
	001	B5200	2401	Bright white
	168	807	1108	Dark blue
	242	989	1209	Green
	928	3761	1014	Light blue

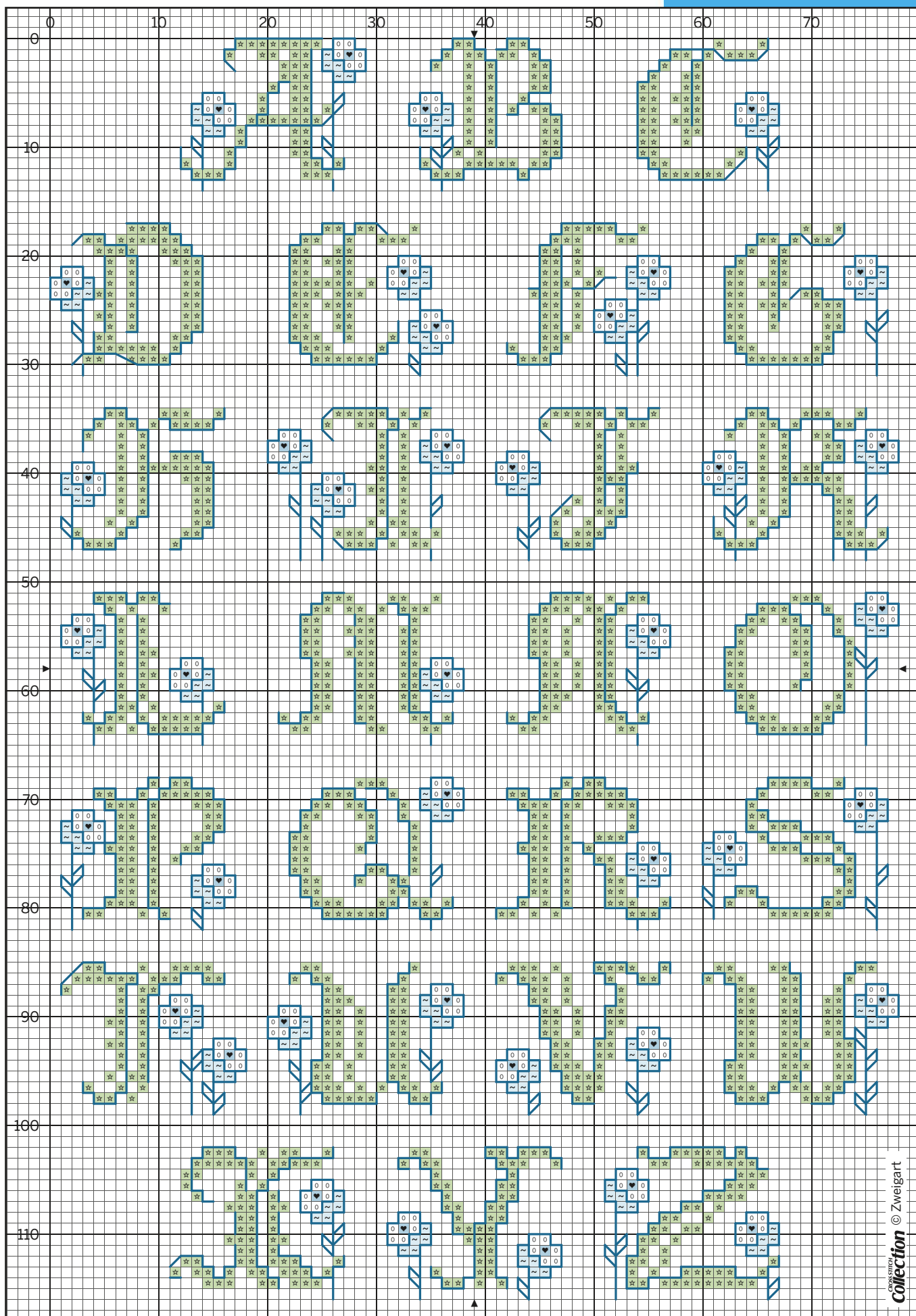
Backstitch in one strand

 *168	807	1108	Dark blue
all outlines and details			

Stitched using Anchor threads on 28HPI linen over two threads
Sampler stitch count 116x78
Design area 8¼x5½in (21x14cm)

*indicates colour is listed earlier in the key

Draw your selection of letters on graph paper before you stitch. Position the letters to look good by eye – try around two stitches space between each.



➤ including 1in (2.5cm) for overlapping the ends. Stitch your chosen initial in the centre.

1 **TRIM** your stitched linen to 3in (8cm) wide with the stitching placed centrally, then cut the lining fabric to the same size.

2 **TACK** the ric rac braid to the top and bottom of the linen strip placing the centre of the braid $\frac{1}{2}$ in (1.5cm) in from each edge.

3 **PLACE** the lining fabric and stitched linen right sides together and stitch down both long edges using a $\frac{1}{2}$ in (1.5cm) seam allowance.

4 **TURN** your band right sides out and press, then turn the short ends under and topstitch.

5 **WRAP** your band round the present, then overlap the ends and stitch into place.



Making your purse sampler

You will need...

28HPI linen (or 14 HPI aida), light rustic, Zweigart Cashel Ref: 3281/5214x10in (36x25cm)

Stranded cotton as listed in the key

Cotton lining fabric, cream 4x12in (10x30cm)

Ric rac braid, cream 13in (33cm)

Zip 5in (13cm)

Sewing kit usual essentials including matching thread

Make your purse

CUT your linen fabric into two pieces: 10x10in (25x25cm) for the front and 4x6in (10x15cm) for the

back. Fold the front fabric in half both ways and stitch the word MUM in the centre.

1 **TRIM** your stitched linen to the same size as the back piece with the design placed centrally. Cut the lining fabric into two pieces the same size.

2 **TURN** the top edge of the front fabric over $\frac{1}{2}$ in (1.5cm) to the wrong side and press then repeat with the back piece.

3 **PIN** the turned over fabric edges to the zip making sure that the fold just touches the zip teeth and that the zipper end is placed $\frac{1}{2}$ in (1.5cm) from one end. Stitch the zip into place close to the folded edges.

4 **TACK** the ric rac braid around the outer edge of the sides and bottom of the front piece placing the centre of the braid $\frac{1}{2}$ in (1.5cm) in from the edge.

5 **STITCH** the purse back and front together down both sides and across the bottom with a $\frac{1}{2}$ in (1.5cm) seam allowance. Repeat with the two pieces of lining fabric.

6 **TURN** the purse right sides out then place the lining inside, matching seams. Turn the top edges under and slip stitch them in place to cover the inside of the zip.

7 **ATTACH** a flower charm or button to the zip pull for a sweet finish.

Make a novel edging border for your purse using ric rac braid. For a pretty contrast, match the shade to a stranded cotton instead of the linen!



Spring Wedding

Create a magical memento of the big day with
Durene Jones' contemporary twist on a classic gift





Meet the designer...

Durene Jones

I often design wedding samplers and cards for the big day but they always seem to be aimed at the summer months – July and August – and I started to think about the people who get married the rest of the year. This one is aimed at couples getting married earlier in the year, with the heart wreath made up of spring flowers in lovely fresh colours. The church at the bottom is in paler colours and the blossom and leaves just appearing on the trees. The look I was going for was lively and full of promise. It was such an enjoyable design to produce overall – I really enjoyed selecting a range of different sizes of spring flowers, and not just the usual daffodils to make the heart-shaped wreath.



Pick out each of the motifs with a deeper shade of backstitch so that they look beautifully well defined against the soft shading of the design

As the first spring flowers begin to unfurl, this feels like the perfect time to celebrate a union – whether that's an anniversary or wedding. Durene's design offers a refreshingly contemporary keepsake with the chance to spell out the couple's name and date in a stylish script. Crisp white linen and a simple pale frame allow the colours of the spring blooms to stand out. The design itself is relatively straight forward, and offers a great chance to practise the neatness of your French knots! Sprinkle them liberally around the heart garland and border. You can even replace them with seed beads for a more luxurious touch. Whichever you choose, make sure you remind your framer to add 'spacers' so that there's plenty of room for them behind the glass of your gorgeous gift.

Stitching your sampler

You will need...

28HPI linen (or 14HPI aida), white, Zweigart Cashel Ref: 3281/100, size, 20x18in (51x46cm)
We got our linen from Willow Fabrics. Find yours by calling 0800 0567811 or visit them online at www.willowfabrics.com

Stranded cotton as listed in the key
Frame with a 12¾x10½in (32x27cm) aperture, white

Turn to page 58 for hints and tips!

Tip...

swap French knots for beads

You can add tiny beads in the place of the French knots – we like Mill Hill seed beads: 'Opal Hyacinth' 02082. Attach with a half cross stitch.

Stitching the design

FOLD your linen fabric in half both ways to find the centre and begin stitching at this point. Stitch each of the separate areas of the design one at a time before you move on to the next one to help with your counting and positioning.

Work the outer border lines after you have finished stitching everything else.

The cross stitch for the main part of the design is worked in two strands of stranded cotton over two threads of the linen fabric. The cross stitch for the church and tree in the foreground is worked using one strand for the cross stitch.

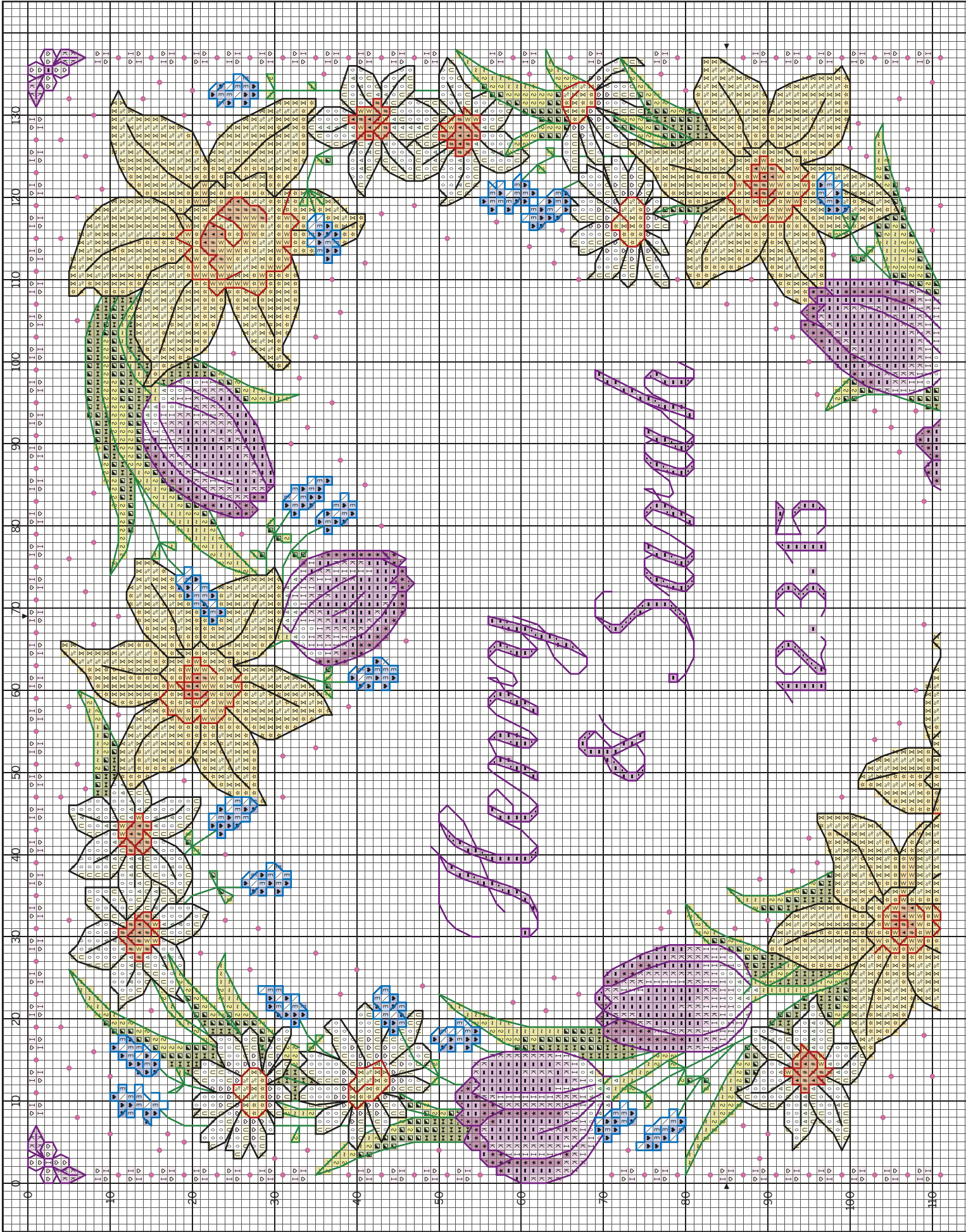
Adding the details

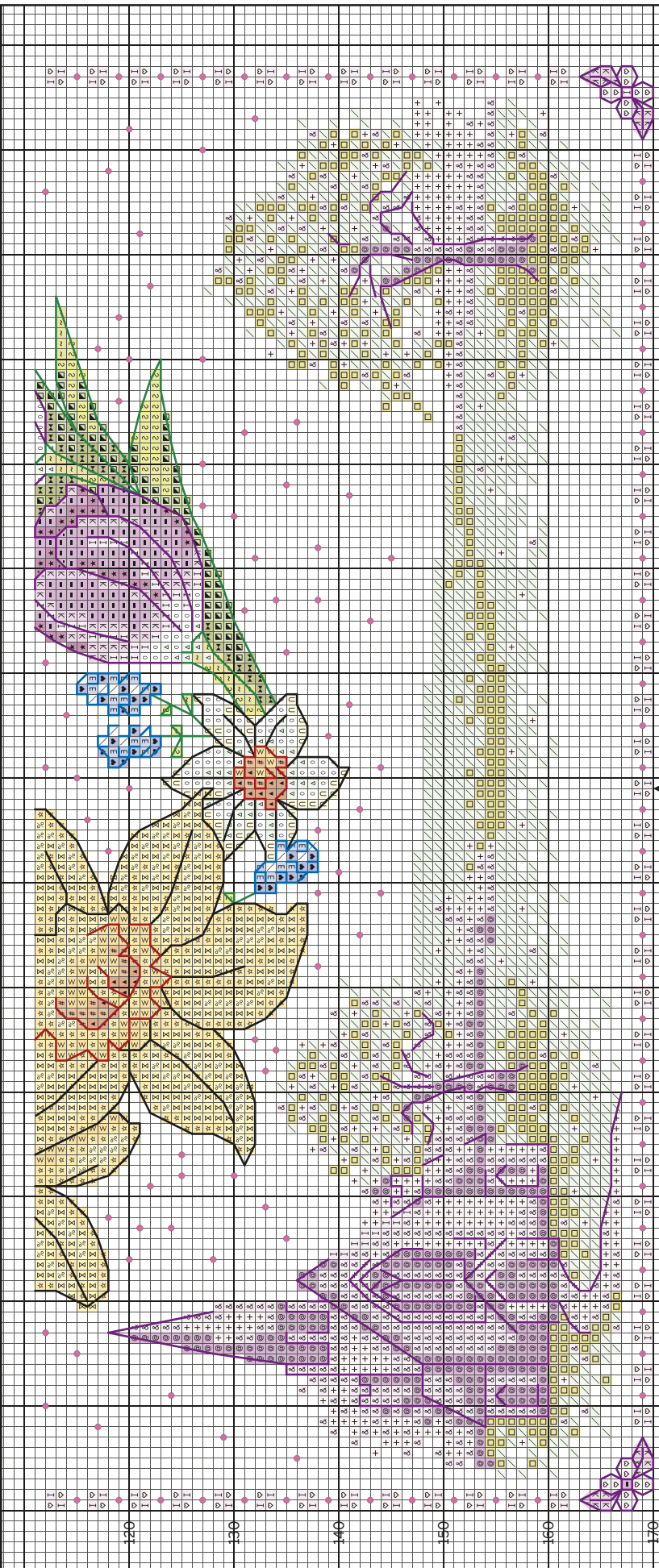
FINISH working all the cross stitch and then add the backstitch details. These are all worked using one strand of stranded cotton in the colours listed in the key and shown on the chart. Finally, add the French knots which are sprinkled across the background using one strand of medium pink.

Personalising your sampler

DRAW out the names and dates on a piece of graph paper to ensure you get the spacing and positioning correct within the flower wreath, then use the number and alphabet chart to personalise your sampler. ➤







© Durene Jones

Collection

Spring wedding

DMC Anchor Madeira Colour
Cross stitch in two strands

White	002	2402	White
445	288	0103	Bright yellow
703	238	1307	Medium green
718	088	0707	Dark pink
720	326	0309	Dark orange
721	324	0308	Medium orange
725	305	0108	Dark yellow
726	295	0109	Medium yellow
772	259	1604	Pale green
775	128	1001	Pale blue
905	257	1412	Dark green
907	255	1410	Light green
963	023	0503	Pale pink
972	298	0107	Light orange
3078	292	0102	Light yellow
3607	087	0708	Medium pink
3608	086	0709	Light pink

DMC Anchor Madeira Colour
Cross stitch in two strands

3609	085	0710	Very light pink
3819	278	2703	Very light green
3839	176	2702	Medium blue
3840	120	0907	Light blue

Cross stitch in one strand

*772	259	1604	Pale green
*963	023	0503	Pale pink
*3607	087	0708	Medium pink
*3609	085	0710	Very light pink
*3819	278	2703	Very light green

Backstitch in one strand

301	1049	2306	Dark russet
797	132	0912	Dark blue

DMC Anchor Madeira Colour
Backstitch in one strand

915	1029	0705	Very dark pink
986	246	1404	Very dark green
3776	1048	2302	Light russet

French knots in one strand

*3607	087	0708	Medium pink
-------	-----	------	-------------

Stitched using DMC threads on 28HPI linen over two threads
Stitch count 170x138
Design area 12x9¼in (30x25cm)

*Indicates colour is listed earlier in the key

Collection makes...

PRECIOUS MEMORIES

This design would also make a lovely cover for a photo album for the happy pair.

SWEET GREETINGS

Pick out your favourite blossoms from the design, such as the narcissi, and stitch them onto a small piece of aida or linen to make a pretty thank you card.

SPEEDY STITCH

If you're short on time, you can make this a quicker stitch by leaving out the church and trees at the bottom of the sampler.

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Collection essentials

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

Tip of the Month...

"If you are new to cross stitch, never fear, it really is as easy as pie." **Sophie Simpson,**
What Delilah Did

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...

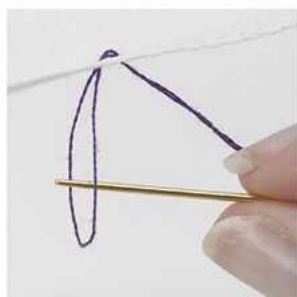
Getting started

Select your needle

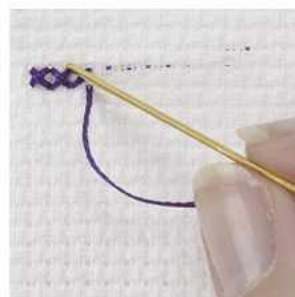
Fabric	HPI	Needle
Aida	11-14	Tapestry 24
Aida	16-20	Tapestry 26
Hardanger	22	Tapestry 26
Evenweave	22-32	Tapestry 26
Evenweave	36 and over	Tapestry 28

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

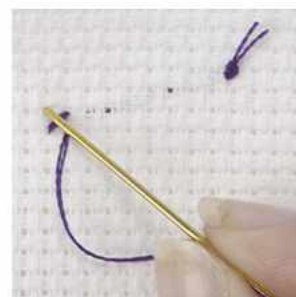
Try these three ways to get going, then choose the one that suits you best



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.

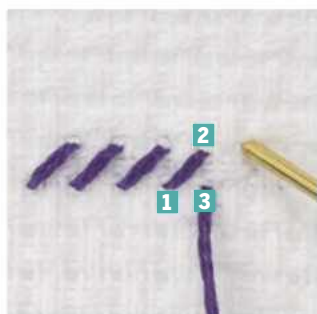
Cross stitch made easy

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.



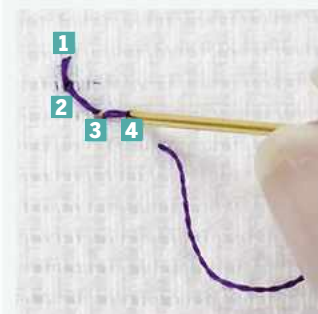
Half cross stitch

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.

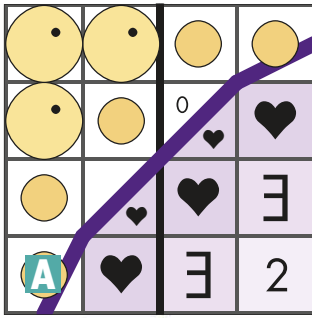


Cross stitch on evenweave

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.

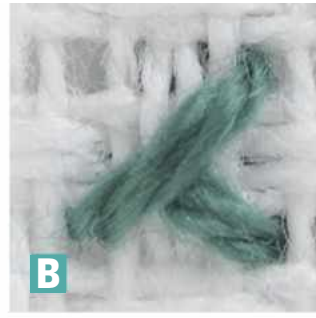


Backstitch, used for outlines or details, is shown as coloured lines on the chart and is worked after the cross stitch. Bring the needle up at 1, down at 2, up at 3, down at 2, up at 4 and so on, working over one block of aida or two threads of evenweave.
Long stitch is worked the same way, but over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

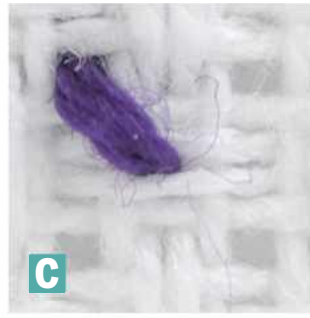


Fractional stitches

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

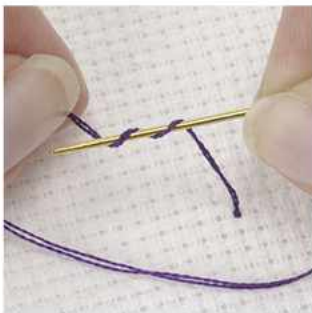


Beads

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 is 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

00	White	002	2402	White
33	210	108	0802	Light purple
55	550	101	0714	Dark purple
553	553	098	0712	Med purple
3866	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

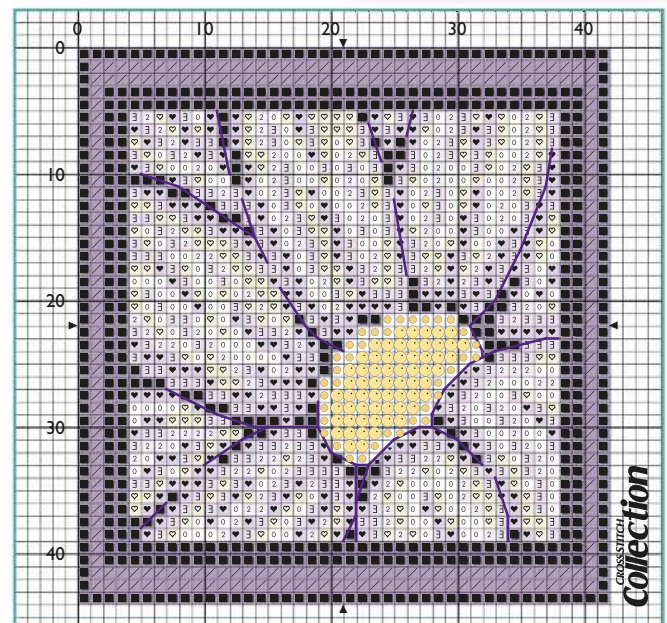
Mill Hill seed beads 02002	Yellow creme
----------------------------	--------------

daisy centre details

Stitched using DMC threads on 14HPI aida

Stitch count 44x42 Design area 3 1/4 x 3 in (8x8cm)

*Indicates colour is listed earlier in the key



Shopping Collection

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

Stockists

Seen something that's inspired you?
Here's where you can buy it...

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DP SOFTWARE

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Software for creating charts for cross stitch and tapestry

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Bespoke and ready-made picture frames and mounts for displaying your stitching

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Breaktime!

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

Fabulous prizes

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.

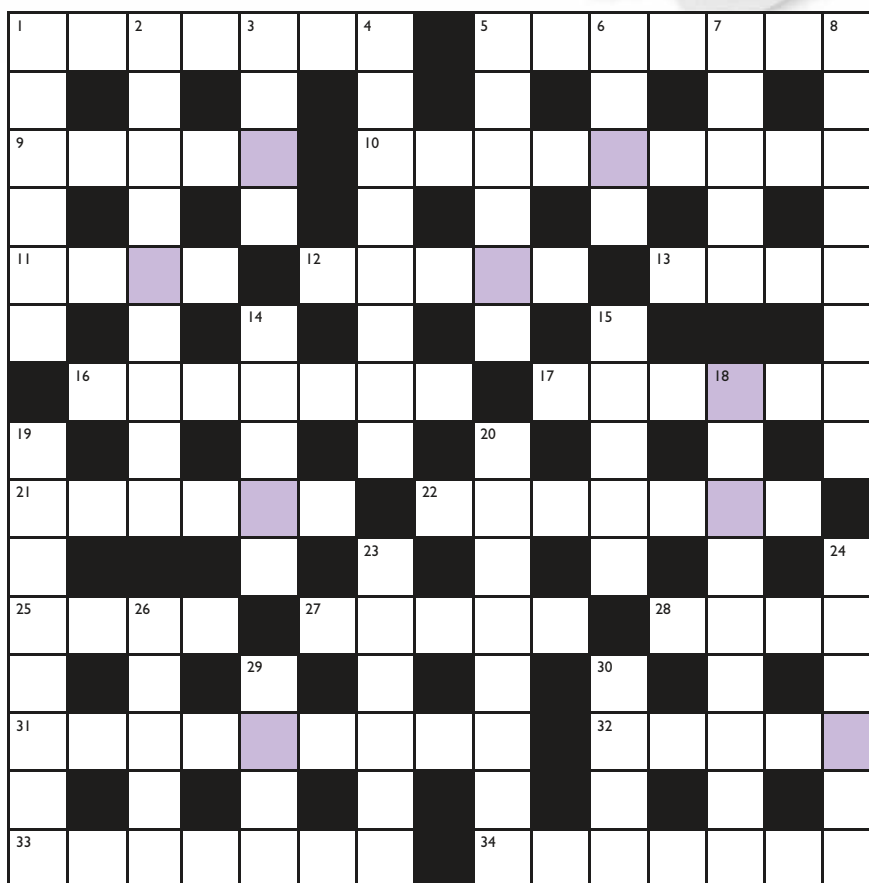


ACROSS

- 7 Make a poke for this on page 14 (7)
- 5 Justifications or reasons (7)
- 9 Archaic language of Roman empire (5)
- 10 Difference or modification (9)
- 11 Make this featuring a birdcage on page 30 (4)
- 12 Stitch this mythical character on page 18 (5)
- 13 Interwoven thread structure (4)
- 16 Bigger than (7)
- 17 Find a picture of this city on page 9 (6)
- 21 Celebrate her day on page 48 (6)
- 22 Create this country dwelling on page 33 (7)
- 25 Corridor or passageway (4)
- 27 Velocity over a distance (5)
- 28 King of the jungle (4)
- 31 Craft for travelling underwater (9)
- 32 Nationality of Gabriel Byrne & Pierce Brosnan (5)
- 33 Vending (7)
- 34 Concludes or resolves (7)

Down

- 1 Choose or pick (6)
- 2 Translate (9)
- 3 Drop down in water (4)
- 4 Disclosed or unveiled (8)
- 5 Mistakes (6)
- 6 Outer garment with long sleeves (4)
- 7 Backbone (5)
- 8 Light from our nearest star (8)
- 14 Visages (5)
- 15 Being young (5)
- 18 Stately or respected (9)
- 19 Given special stress or meaning (8)
- 20 Top and front of the face (8)
- 23 The season celebrated throughout this issue (6)
- 24 12 of these in a foot (6)
- 26 Fabric tab to indicate ownership (5)
- 29 Cab (4)
- 30 Circular data storage medium (4)



PRIZE CROSSWORD 245

Across: 7 breaths; 8 ketchup; 10 inventor; 11 trumps; 12 carts; 13 increased; 16 inhabitants; 19 classical; 20 cover; 22 sachet; 24 Labrador; 25 desired; 26 buttons
Down: 1 grandad; 2 Valentines; 3 white; 4 yesterday; 5 ebru; 6 puppies; 9 frantically; 14 astronauts; 15 varieties; 17 floated; 18 heroine; 21 about; 23 hair
Winning word: CROSS

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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 5 March 2015. For competition terms and conditions go to page 63.

Competition rules To enter competitions and giveaways, enter online between 6 February and 5 March 2015. 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.

Next month in your April issue...



Vintage treats

Stitching you can't miss...

- * Lesley Teare's teacup overflowing with spring flowers
- * Part one of Maria Diaz's gorgeous doll's house
- * Chic 1920s fashion plates from Michaela Learner

PLUS A cute baby gift set, dazzling diamonds, a sunny Easter card & more!

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ON SALE Friday 6 March

Crafty ideas

from Rebecca Bradshaw



Welcome to my stitching world – I hope you find lots of inspiration. This month, I'll tell you how to develop a talent you never knew you had!

The one talent I really admire is being able to draw. As a child I used to envy Eve Taylor because she could draw anything. I would sit in art lessons trying to sketch a bowl of fruit only to have it end up looking like a few random potatoes. Meanwhile Eve produced a beautiful still life.

I have tried, many times, to learn but always failed miserably. Maybe that's why I love sewing

instead. Someone else produces the pattern and all I have to do is recreate it. Trace a line sketch onto fabric, embroider over and it looks as though I can draw!

Cross stitch is even better as there's even less room for error. Talented artists spend hours and hours creating a beautiful chart and I just copy it with a needle and thread, and then I can look like the clever one!

People always tell me that I'm really creative but to me you need to be able to draw to qualify for such a compliment. Yes, I can stitch and – after many many years at it – I'm proud to say that I'm quite good now! But never in all that time have my drawing abilities even vaguely improved. Quite some time ago I did decide that I would have a go at designing cross stitch – a real

challenge for me! Obviously creating my own design would have been rather unrealistic, so I thought I'd trace someone else's.

I'd always loved the paintings my great aunt used to have on her living room wall. The painter was Helen Allingham. She was a Victorian watercolour artist and her paintings of English cottages and gardens are so beautiful. I found a print of one, put a sheet of graph paper over it and proceeded to trace everything.

Turning the flowing lines of the painting into squares wasn't easy but required technical skill rather than artistic ability, so I worked at it bit by bit. I discovered that for the smaller elements like the people's faces I didn't have enough squares to copy them well so I decided to stitch these areas over one thread, which

"I would sit trying to sketch a bowl of fruit only to have it end up looking like a few random potatoes"

quadrupled the number of stitches I could use. Once it was stitched up I was thrilled and it looked like at long last I could draw, even though no one who knew me was so easily fooled! So if like me you haven't been blessed with the drawing gene, I dare you to have a go for yourself. And please do share what you get up to!



Graph paper, colouring pencils and lots of lovely vibrant threads – all the tools you need to make you look like an artist!

Share your own
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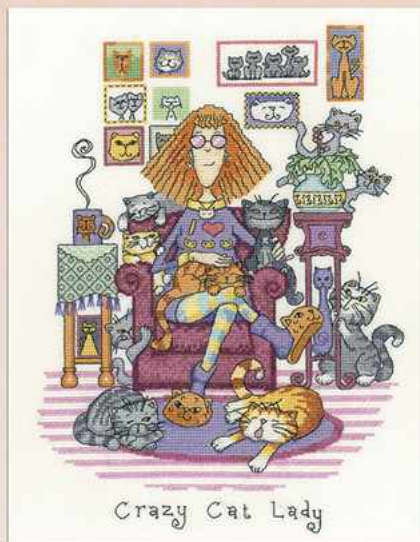
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Little Fisher by Warwick Higgs - 20 x 28cm



Crazy Cat Lady by Peter Underhill - 22.5 x 31cm



Roxy by John Clayton - 22.5 x 16cm



Jasmine by John Clayton - 18 x 26.5cm



Maria in Miniature
by John Clayton - 12 x 13cm



Miranda in Miniature
by John Clayton - 12.5 x 13.5cm



Josephine in Miniature
by John Clayton - 13 x 13cm



Sarah in Miniature
by John Clayton - 13 x 13cm



Pink Lily
by Sue Hill - 11 x 20.5cm



Alice in Miniature
by John Clayton - 13 x 13.5cm



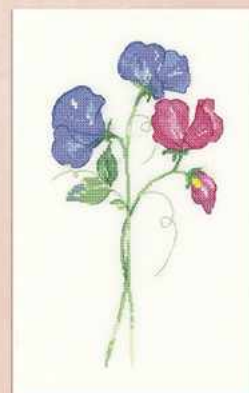
Claire in Miniature
by John Clayton - 12.5 x 12.5cm



Fleur in Miniature
by John Clayton - 12 x 12cm



Sophia in Miniature
by John Clayton - 13.5 x 13.5cm



Sweet Peas
by Sue Hill - 11 x 20.5cm



Sally in Miniature
by John Clayton - 13 x 13.5cm



Hannah in Miniature
by John Clayton - 12.5 x 12.5cm



Victoria in Miniature
by John Clayton - 12.5 x 13.5cm



Charlotte in Miniature
by John Clayton - 12.5 x 12.5cm

You can see our full range of cross stitch kits, charts & fabric at www.hcrafts.com

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