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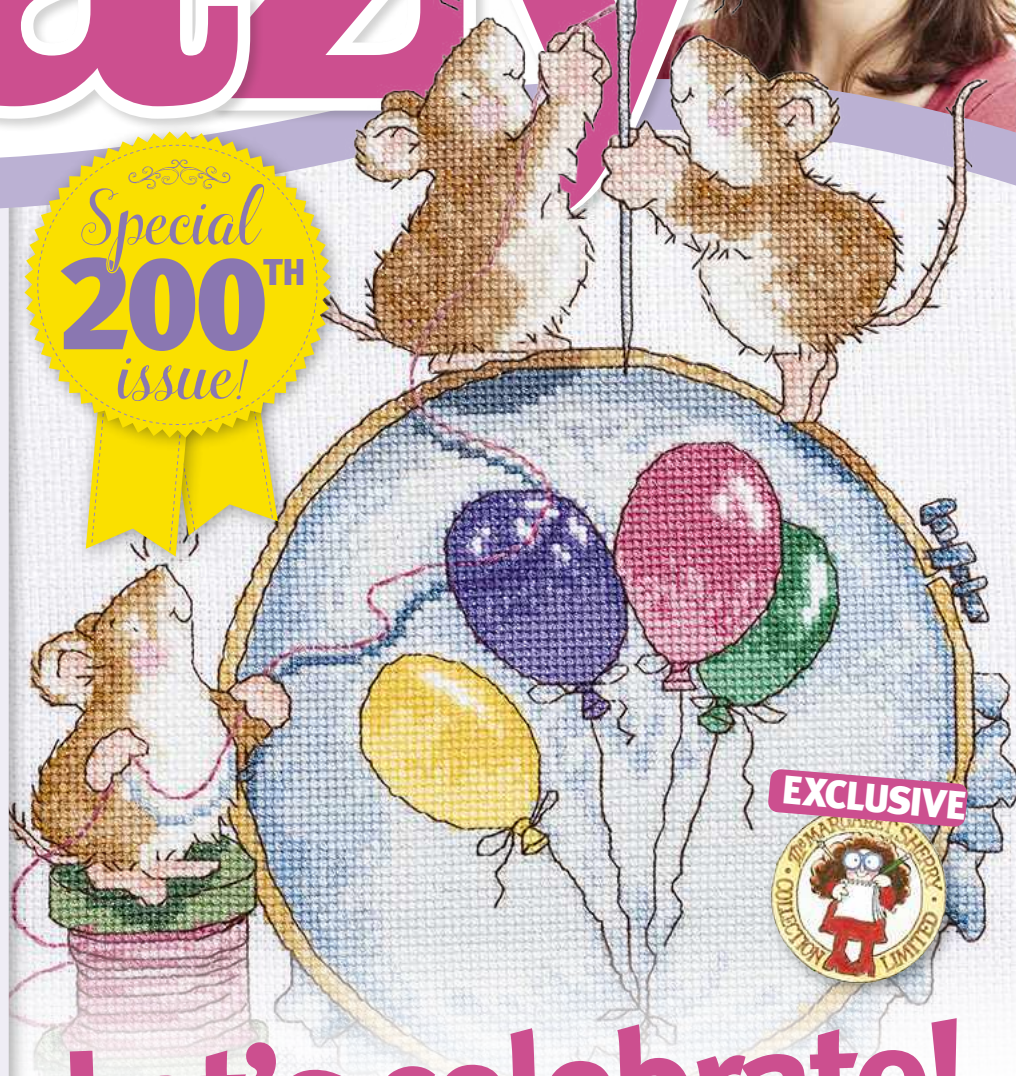
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Meet the team

Look out for these friendly faces inside *Crazy* – they're mad about cross stitch, too!

Steph Maskery

Art Editor

This month...

"Riverdrift House's pretty sampler will look beautiful on my wall!"



Rachel Nott

Production Editor

This month...

"The gardening gift ideas on page 20 will make perfect presents!"



Anne MacGregor

Senior Technical Editor

This month...

"I can't wait to start stitching the beautiful floral abc on page 53!"



Sarah Heys

Charting Editor

This month...

"I'll be getting a head start on birthdays with the cards on page 61!"



Fiona Baker

Charting Editor

This month...

"Stitching the weather designs on page 44 will brighten up my day!"



Benedict Blyth

Art Assistant

This month...

"I wish I could enter all the fab comps – there's over £2,100 in prizes to be won!"



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Cross Stitch Crazy

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Welcome...

...to the 200th issue of *Cross Stitch Crazy*! It's been such an honour to put together this extra-special mag for you, and I hope you'll love the amazing charts inside, contributed by all your favourite designers. As well as the **cutest Margaret Sherry exclusive** on page 10, there's a **luxurious peacock themed gift set** on page 34 by Joan Elliott, and also the **prettiest Rapunzel scene** by Lucie Heaton on page 28 that little girls will adore!

And, as a big thank you to all you loyal *Crazy* readers, there's not just one, but two fantastic free gifts this month! Start with your stylish **Art Deco bookmark and card kit*** to give as a gift for Mother's Day – or as a treat for yourself! – then move onto the beautiful **bonus sampler chart** designed exclusively by Riverdrift House. Happy stitching, and here's to many more years of *Crazy*!



*Free gifts available with print edition only



The *Crazy* team raise a glass in celebration of the 200th issue!

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**TURN TO
PAGE 32
TO FIND
OUT MORE**



We're here for you...

✿ The best choice of designs, with easy-to-follow charts and keys, to suit beginners and more experienced stitchers

✿ A fantastic free gift for you in every single issue, plus an exclusive project to stitch

✿ Helpful stitchy tips from all of your favourite experts, including how to mount and finish your work to its best advantage

✿ Fun features, reader stories and reviews, so you're always the first to find out what's happening in the stitching world

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© The Margaret Sherry Collection 2015

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YOUR FREE GIFTS*

ART DECO-STYLE BOOKMARK KIT

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Over to you...

These stitchers are this month's reader panel stars –
keep an eye out for their comments throughout the issue!



Margunn Selle, Norway

Who taught you to cross stitch?

I learnt at school, but just started stitching
again a couple of years ago. Then I bought
a kit with a cute dog hiding under a blanket
when I was visiting relatives in Denmark.
I was so proud when I finished it!

Which celeb would you most like to stitch?

Viggo Mortensen as Aragorn from *The Lord
of the Rings*. He's awesome!

When you're not stitching, we'll find you...

Knitting with pearls. I actually often use
cross stitch charts as knitting patterns and
knit them instead of stitching them!



Gemma Birt, Leicester

What are you working on at the moment?

I'm currently working on the elegant abc
chart from issue 192 for my daughter,
Jessie. I plan to frame and hang it on the
wall in her bedroom when it's complete.

If you could invent a new cross stitching tool or gadget, what would it be?

I'd love to invent aida that doesn't crease
or stretch your work while you're stitching.

Which project are you most proud of?

This has to be the first one I ever
completed – a Winnie the Pooh birth
sampler for a relative's christening.

Shirley Vels, Chesterfield

How would you describe your stitching style?

Impulsive and scattered! I don't have a list of
projects I want to do, I often go through back issues
and find something that tugs at my heart strings.

How cross stitch crazy are you?

As crazy as I can be with my limited time! I keep my
stitching to hand so when my girls are busy with
their lessons I can squeeze in a few stitches.

Which occasion gets your needle twitching?

I love seasonal stitching, making little items for my
home that reflect what's going on through the year.

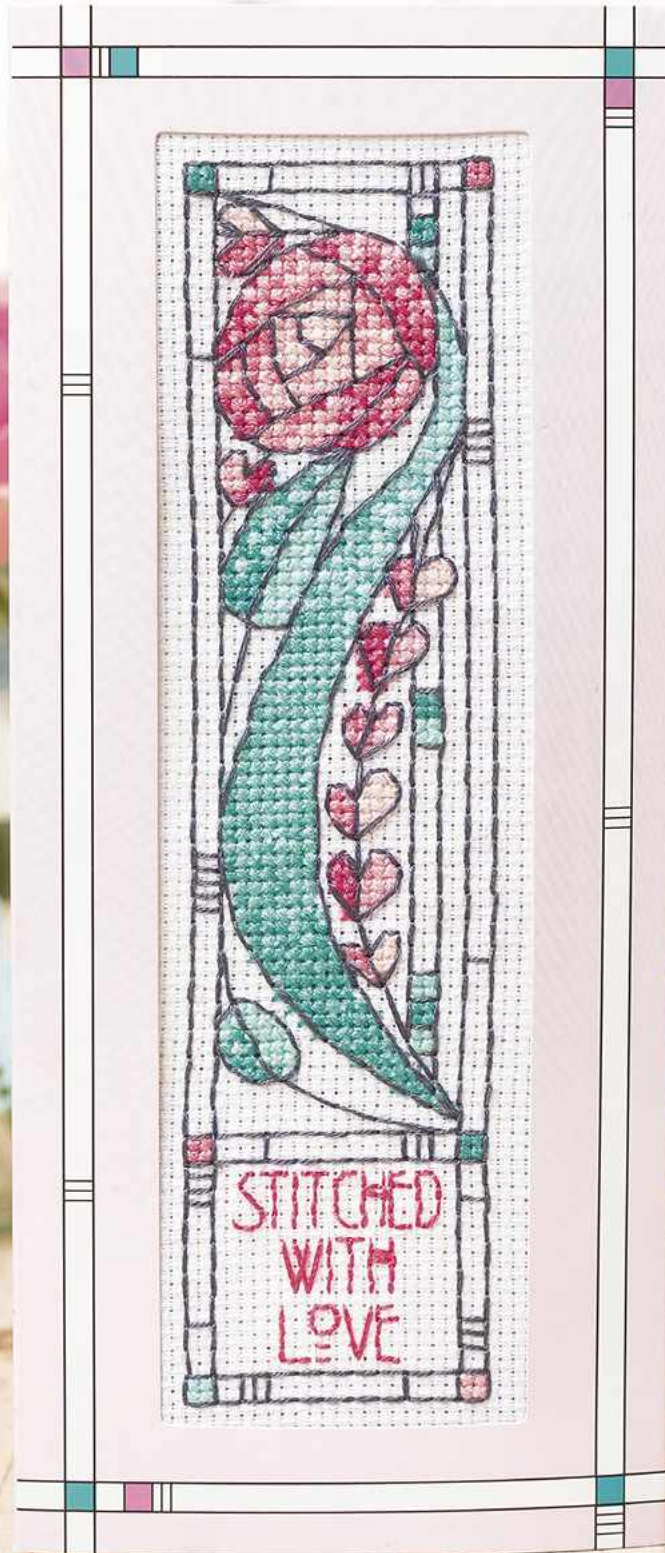


We want to hear from you...

If you'd like to feature in *Crazy*, email crazyreaderpanel@cross-stitching.com or send a
letter marked 'Reader panel' to the address on the left. We'll need your name, address
and a good quality picture of yourself, and if you're chosen, we'll be in touch!

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Exclusive! Art Deco-style bookmark kit

Delight your mum this Mother's Day with this beautiful stained glass effect bookmark and card design

Looking for something special to stitch and send to your mum this Mother's Day? Then look no further than this stylish rose and hearts bookmark and card design, in the elegant Art Deco style. Inside your kit you'll find everything you need to stitch this pretty and heartfelt gift, including an envelope, plus your choice of three stitched sentiments, so you can select the one which works best for you.

The beauty of this design is that it looks wonderfully intricate while actually being easy to stitch, thanks to it being worked in whole stitches and backstitch only. And what's so clever about it is that you can send it as a card using the pretty pink aperture card included, then once your recipient has enjoyed admiring your stitching on their mantelpiece, they can carry on admiring it as a brilliant bookmark, too! We love a gift that keeps on giving, don't you? ●

Art Deco bookmark

▼ DMC ▼ Anchor ▼ Madeira ▼ Colour

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

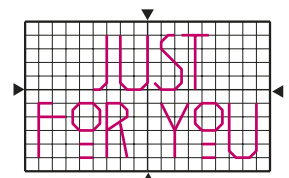
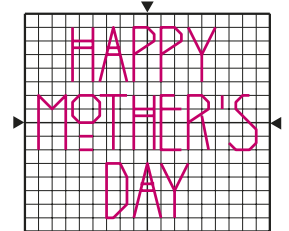
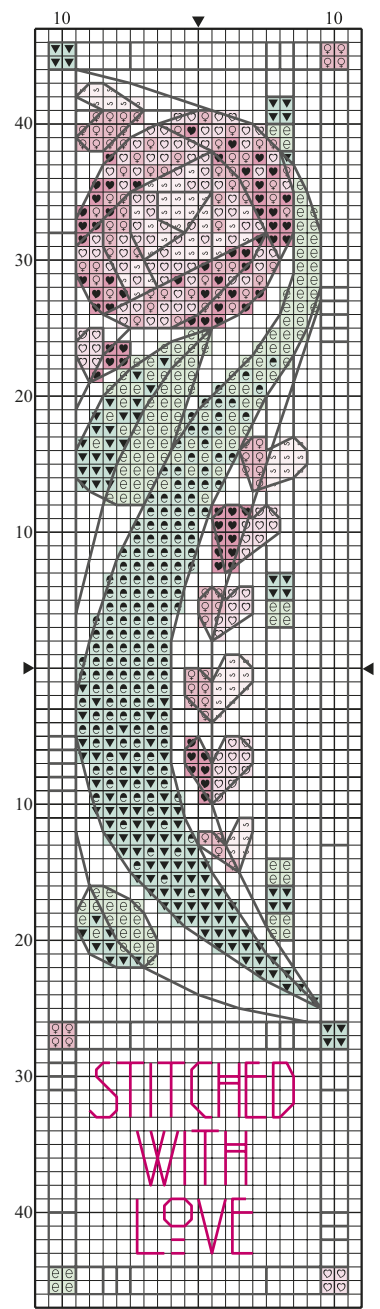
♥	602	57	702	dark pink
♀	603	55	505	pink
♡	605	1094	613	light pink
⚡	818	23	502	very lt pink
▼	958	187	1114	green
●	959	186	1113	light green
e	964	185	1112	very lt green

✕ Backstitch in two strands

—	317	400	1714	grey
—	602	57	702	dark pink

✕ Whole stitches only

Stitch count 92 (h) x 22 (w)
Design area on 14-count fabric
16.5x4cm (6½x1½in)
Stitched by Heather Nugent



PLUS A pretty bonus chart
by Riverdrift House

ReaderSays...



I love all the little touches that make a home welcoming and looking loved, and I think this beautiful design would look great in my entrance hall.
Shirley Vels, Chesterfield

A stitch in time

Join this merry band of stitching mice as they add the finishing touches to their brilliant party balloon design!

Exclusive to Crazy!

They say many hands make light work, so how amazing would six be! With the help of these furry friends and their quick-working paws, Margaret Sherry's too-cute design is bound to be finished just in time to celebrate a special birthday!



StitchTime
50-55 hrs
(Approx)

The soft shading and clever detail give the design a three dimensional feel, while each mouse's perky pose means you can really feel the energy they're each putting into their work.

This would look lovely hung on a wall, or even made up as a cushion. We can almost hear the tiny squeaks of delight! ●

StitchList...

- ✕ Whole cross stitch
- ✕ Backstitch

ShoppingList...

Threads - Stranded cotton as listed in the key

Needle - Size 24 tapestry needle

Fabric - Zweigart 14-count white aida measuring 36x33cm (14x13in). Visit www.sewandso.co.uk or call ☎ 0800 013 0150 to buy

Extras - Frame of your choice with a minimum aperture of 26x24cm (10x9in)



These little mice love celebrating birthdays!



Stitching mice

▼ DMC ▼ Anchor ▼ Madeira

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

∩	blanc	2	2402
I	155	118	902
●	333	119	903
◆	367	217	1312
▽	368	214	1310
○	436	1045	2011
x	437	362	2012
Q	676	891	2208
S	677	886	2207
Z	712	926	2101
○	726	295	109
—	727	293	112
Я	738	367	2013
\$	911	205	1214
?	913	204	1212
☾	931	1034	1711
“	948	892	306
☒	962	75	609
A	963	73	502
3	967	6	304
b	976	1001	2010
♡	3716	25	503
e	3746	1030	2702
⊞	3752	1032	1708
P	3753	128	909
⌚	3756	1037	2504 x2

✕ Cross stitch in one strand

J	318	399	1801
Q	415	398	1802

✕ Backstitch in one strand

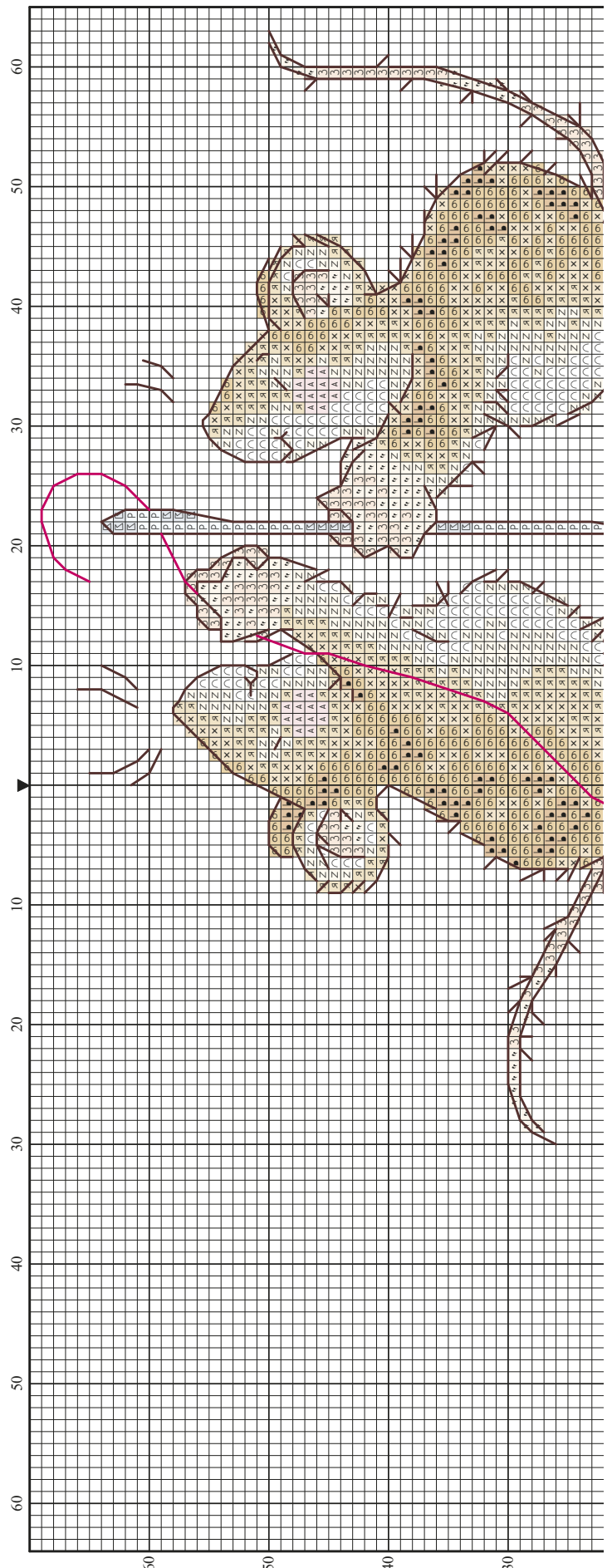
—	898	360	2006
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✕ Backstitch in two strands

—	962	75	609
---	-----	----	-----

✕ Whole stitches only

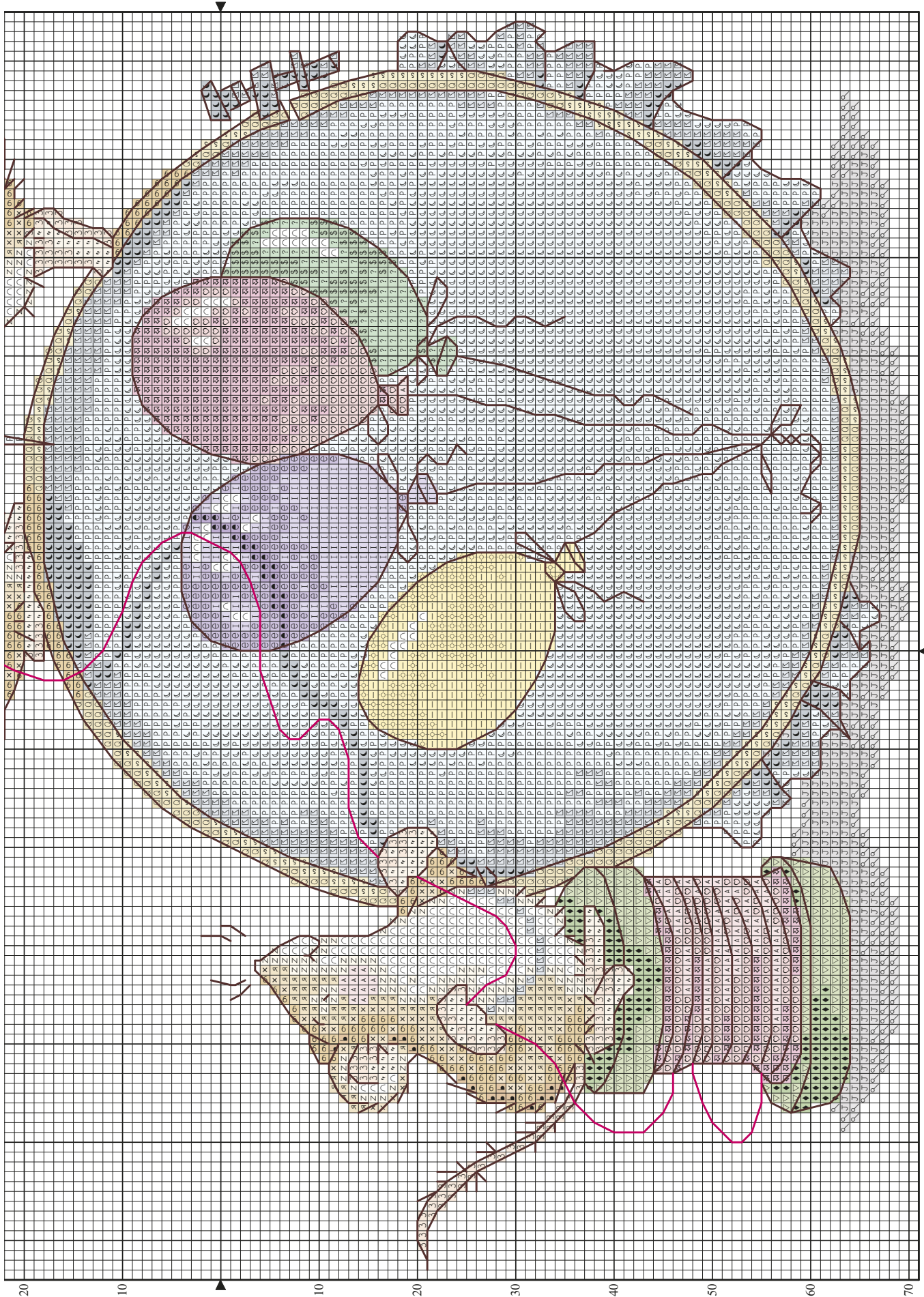
Stitch count 139 (h) x 127 (w)
Design area on 14-count fabric
25x23cm (10x9in)
Stitched by Glenda Dickson



ReaderSays...



I absolutely love Margaret Sherry's design of these three mice. They make me happy and I love the bright colours. I really want to stitch this design for myself to hang in my hobby room.
Margunn Selle, Norway





Your Letters

We love seeing what you've been busy stitching, so send us an email or letter along with a photo and if it gets printed you'll win a prize!

Star letter

Labour of love

This is a picture of a piece of stitching I did for a friend of mine, for her wedding anniversary, featuring a poem she wrote herself for her wedding day. It took me five months to do, and I just managed to post it in time for their wedding anniversary. I've been buying *Crazy* from the first issue and still have them all! They never fail to inspire me when I need help looking for a project for any occasion. Thank you for all your hard work on a brilliant magazine, I've got my friends reading it as well!

Christine Ettles, Bury

Yvette says: What an amazing feat and such a gorgeous gift, Christine. You must be so proud!



You are a winner!
Christine Ettles

Snow sweet

I'd like to say thank you for such a beautiful design, I couldn't put it down! Any chance of more of Faye Whittaker's All Our Yesterdays designs in 2015? Thanks *Crazy* and keep up the good work!

Claire Douglass, Stoke-on-Trent

Rachel says: Ah, you've done a great job on this exclusive from issue 198, Claire. We're big fans of All Our Yesterdays too, so watch this space for more of Faye's designs in future issues of *Crazy*!



► Claire stitched this sweet AOY design

Make a wish

Here's a cute little birthday card that I stitched from issue 198. It's perfect for my work colleague who's celebrating her 30th birthday soon! Thanks for all the super designs, *Crazy*.

Paula Swainson, North Yorkshire

Yvette says: Lucie Heaton's fairies are perfect for celebrations, Paula! This little cutie looks brilliant as a special birthday card. I'm sure your colleague will be thrilled!



▲ Create a mini masterpiece like Paula did with this magical birthday card

WIN!

Each month our star letter winner receives a fantastic prize!

WORTH OVER
£16!



This month's Star letter winner will receive this cute Bluebell Chick-Chat kit by Valerie Pfeiffer from Heritage Crafts worth £16.49! Visit www.hcrafts.com to buy or contact ☎ 01889 575 256.

Knightly flourish

When I saw Lucie Heaton's medieval alphabet in *Crazy* 193 I fell in love with it! So I used it to make a special birthday card for my nephew who's turning nine. His last name is Knight and so I stitched a knight! I stitched the design on plastic canvas using six strands of embroidery thread. It turned out great and I'm sure my nephew will love it. I hope Lucie thinks I did justice to her wonderful design. Now I definitely want to do the entire abc as it's adorable!

Susan Francis, Toronto, Canada

Rachel says: What a fab idea for a real-life Knight! Stitching on plastic canvas will make this a wonderful keepsake.



▲ Lucie Heaton's medieval abc was the perfect choice for Susan's young nephew



▲ Nikki fell in love with this playful jungle animals abc from issue 179

Safari so good

I wanted to show you the picture I stitched for my friend's little boy. It was important to me to make him something special that he could keep and that would last. So when I searched through my back issues of *Crazy*, I found the perfect design using the safari abc from issue 179 to spell out his name. I hope you like it! I'm a subscriber and look forward to receiving *Crazy* every month.

Nikki James, Powys, Wales

Rachel says: This is adorable, Nikki! I'm sure Eli will feel like the king of the jungle with this fun and colourful picture.

Quick stitch!

Send us a picture of your first finished project from this issue of *Crazy*, and you could win First Past the Post!

I've just finished stitching these two cats from the Simply 7 cards in issue 199. I also found the perfect backing paper for this design inside the free Lucie Heaton Occasions chart book that came with the same issue.

Alice Butler, Mansfield

Yvette says: What a pretty finish, Alice. You're this month's speediest stitcher!



▲ Turn your stitching into something you can enjoy every day, like this fab potholder!

Good enough to eat

I thought I'd send you my finished version of the cupcake designs from issue 196's Simply 7. I've added four red buttons and made it into a potholder for my kitchen – so yummy! I hope you like it.

Veronica Paratico, Italy

Yvette says: What a great idea, you'll get loads of use out of this, Veronica! The little buttons in each corner add a bright and cheerful finishing touch. Great work!

Top of the class

I've never written to a magazine before, but I'm such a cross stitch nut and I love *Crazy*! I thought I'd send you a photo of my latest cross stitch project. In Australia we celebrate Teachers' Day in October, so I used your teacher designs from the July issue to create a sampler for my son's teacher. I personalised it by placing the teacher's name on one of the blackboards and my son's name and class on the other. Then I embellished the frame with little apples and pegs to spell out 'Thanks'. She said she'd never received such a beautiful present. I had so much fun doing it.

Christine Day, Brisbane, Australia

Rachel says: All the little details in this design have produced a standout finish. Top marks!



▲ Christine used the teacher motifs in issue 191 to create this stunning sampler

Subs stars



WORTH £36!

Prizes every month!

Each month, three subscribers are selected to win a prize as a thank you for their loyalty to *Crazy*. This month, the winners will each receive two DMC baking-inspired kits worth over £36! For your chance to win, turn to page 32 to subscribe to *Crazy*. See below for this month's lucky winners.

- Mrs A Gunner Subs no: CSCZ60770
- Cheryl King Subs no: CSCZ60851
- Kate Walker Subs no: CSCZ60975

To find out how to become a *Crazy* subscriber, turn to page 32!

YourLetters

Great oak

I'm sending you a photo of my latest project which took me almost 10 years to finish. In the meantime I did other smaller projects of course! This is the first work I've framed. The oak is my favourite tree due to the strength it represents, and I really enjoyed stitching it with all the shades of green. The frame is made of white larch. Thank you so much for a great magazine!

Marica Fava, Italy

Yvette says: This is a very restful design to look at, Marica, and I hope you'll feel proud every time you look at it as you remember all the hard work and love that went into stitching it.



▲ Marica stitched this oak tree design over 10 years

Polar pals

I've just completed Lee Holland's sweet design from issue 198, and thought I'd share it with you. My son is penguin daft, so when I saw this, I just had to stitch it! It was a pleasure to stitch and I look forward to seeing more of his designs in the future. It took me 11 days to complete and I have plans to turn it into a cushion for my son's bed. Thanks for a great magazine and so many brilliant patterns to add to my neverending 'To do' list!

Rachel says: Lee's design had us all cooing in the *Crazy* office, too! Cosying up with these two cuties on a cushion would be just delightful.



▲ This cuddly duo from issue 198 melted Jennifer's heart!



► The recent release of the *Paddington* movie spurred Jainie on to complete her WIP!

Bear necessities

I started this when my youngest daughter was around one (she's now five and a half) as something nice to put in her bedroom, and even had the frame and original artwork ready from her older sister to complete the scene. But other projects got started and completed over the years and, in the meantime, it fell by the wayside. Hearing of the release of the *Paddington* film provided me with the final motivation to finish my stitching! A very long work in progress, but now done!

Jainie Jolliffe, Surrey

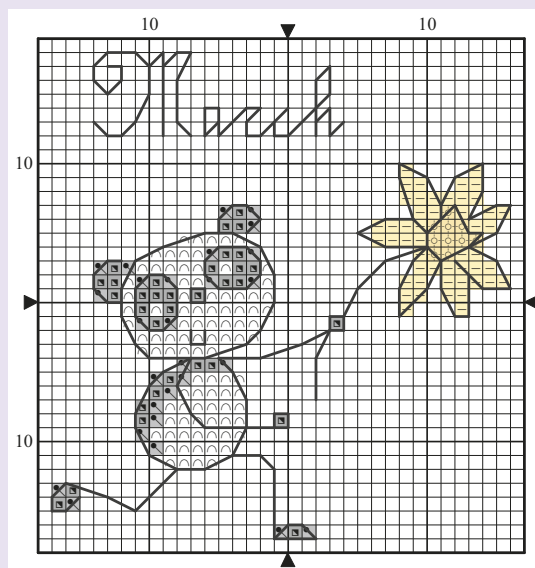
Yvette says: This fun triptych shows it's never too late to finish your work, Jainie!

Cross Stitch quickie!

Next month
APRIL



Our brand new series of quick-stitch pandas kicks off this month!



March panda

▼ DMC ▼ Anchor ▼ Madeira

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

∩	blanc	2	2402
■	414	235	1714
☼	725	305	113
—	726	295	109
■	3799	236	1713

✕ Backstitch in one strand

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

✕ Whole stitches only

Stitch count 35 (h) x 33 (w)
Design area on 14-count fabric
6.5x6cm (2½x2½in)

Celebrity Wordsearch



Rex Features Ltd

L	L	A	B	E	S	A	B	E	L	T	T	O	B
W	A	T	W	H	Y	P	D	P	D	K	F	J	
A	M	L	H	O	T	S	R	R	U	L	W	D	
F	L	O	G	E	E	I	A	I	S	C	R	A	
A	R	C	D	V	C	E	W	Y	N	A	N	O	
N	K	O	L	E	T	O	O	S	U	C	U	I	
I	S	O	B	T	R	C	M	G	E	N	E	D	
E	W	E	A	I	C	N	Y	P	T	C	L	O	
G	J	Y	V	M	N	D	W	R	A	E	N	P	
A	W	F	D	E	O	H	Y	E	I	N	L	A	
S	O	N	N	B	I	R	O	F	S	L	Y	O	
S	A	R	E	Y	O	H	T	O	N	T	L	W	
E	W	H	M	C	K	A	T	I	D	F	O	R	
M	T	J	K	B	H	N	A	Y	R	K	C	A	

All the words in this month's wordsearch relate to Kevin Costner. Words can read up, down, across, backwards and diagonally. Can you see which word is left over?

BASEBALL
COUNTRY ROCK
DANCES WITH / WOLVES
HATFIELDS / AND MCCOYS
JACK RYAN
JFK
MESSAGE IN A / BOTTLE
MODERN WEST
ROBIN HOOD /
PRINCE OF / THIEVES
THE BODYGUARD
THE COMPANY / MEN
TIN CUP
WATERWORLD
WYATT EARP

You can find the answer to this puzzle on page 82!



▲ Debbie used DMC Light Effects threads for a bit of added sparkle

Twoo cute

Thank you for the cute little winter owl in issue 195. I substituted some threads with DMC Light Effects and used the design as Christmas cards. I even managed to find some matching wrapping paper!

Debbie Allen, Bathgate, Scotland

Rachel says: It's a winner, Debbie – we especially love the sparkly pompom hat!

Just for you

I wanted to show you a card I made recently. I stitched it for my best friend who also shares the same hobby as me! I hope seeing my stitching will make her happy.

Marta Wichlacz, Poland

Yvette says: What a sweet thought, Marta. Who wouldn't be thrilled to receive a handstitched card as cute as this?



► This sweet card stitched by Marta makes a thoughtful gift for a fellow sticher



▲ Nicole stitched beautiful Belle by Joan Elliott for her mermaid-loving daughter

Get in touch!

We love to see what you've been busy stitching, so get in touch and tell us all about it, and don't forget to include a picture! Every letter printed wins a super-cute kit from www.Mouseloft.co.uk

Email: crazyletters@cross-stitching.com
Facebook: [facebook.com/crossstitchcrazy](https://www.facebook.com/crossstitchcrazy)
Twitter: twitter.com/crazy_magazine
Write to: Yvette Streeter, Cross Stitch Crazy, 2nd Floor, Tower House, Fairfax Street, Bristol BS1 3BN



Design may vary

WIN!

Belle de Mer

I'm sending you a photo of my finished Joan Elliott mermaid from issue 193. This is the first time I've ever used beads in a design and I'm really pleased with the outcome. I made this for my firstborn daughter as she loves mermaids, hence the name at the top. I knew when I saw it that it was perfect for my girl. I hope you like it as much as I know my daughter will. Now I just have to find a design for my second daughter!

Nicole Thomson, New Zealand

Rachel says: Your stitching of Joan Elliott's mermaid is stunning, Nicole, and the beads add a wonderful extra dimension. The bar's been set very high for daughter number two!

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CelebStitch

Hugh Bonneville

Bring Hugh Bonneville to life in stitches for a *Downton Abbey* or *Paddington* fan!

Most readers probably associate Hugh Bonneville with his role as Robert, Earl of Grantham, star of TV's period drama hit *Downton Abbey*. But he's also appeared in various films too, from his debut in *Mary Shelley's Frankenstein*, to *Notting Hill* where he starred alongside Hugh Grant. More recently you might recognise him as Mr Brown in the new *Paddington* movie!

Worked in whole stitches only, why not stitch Hugh today for a lord or lady in your life? ●

Hugh Bonneville

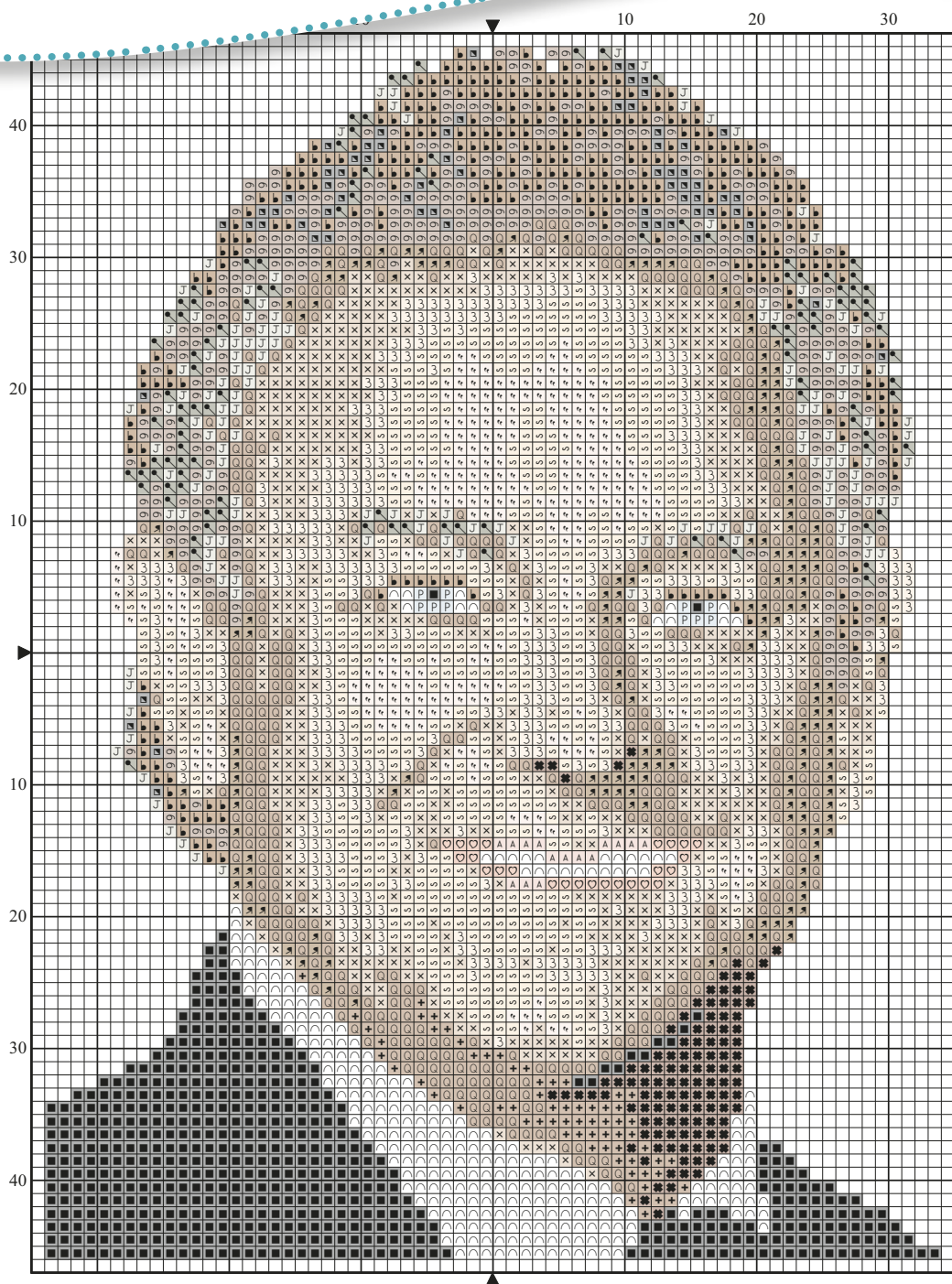
▼ DMC ▼ Anchor ▼ Madeira

* Cross stitch in two strands

⌂	blanc	2	2402
169	1040	1707	
310	403	2400	
413	236	1713	
J	648	900	1814
760	1022	405	
A	761	1021	404
779	360	2005	
P	827	169	1013
3	950	4146	2309
e	3770	1009	2314
s	3774	778	306
b	3781	1088	2003
o	3790	393	1905
+	3860	678	1914
3862	374	1913	
Q	3863	379	1912
x	3864	376	1910

* Whole stitches only

Stitch count 92 (h) x 68 (w)
Design area on 14-count fabric
16.5x12.5cm (6 1/2 x 4 3/4 in)



Reader's pick!
This celeb was chosen by
GEMMA ROSE

Who would you like to see as a *Crazy Celeb* stitch? It might be your favourite actor, a Hollywood icon or even a sporting great! Email your requests to celebstitch@cross-stitching.com or post them to: Celeb stitch, *Cross Stitch Crazy*, 2nd Floor, Tower House, Fairfax Street, Bristol BS1 3BN.

If the celebrity you request is picked to appear in a future issue of *Crazy* then you could be the lucky winner of a fantastic mystery gift.

And, don't forget to email any photos of your stitched celebrities to yvette@cross-stitching.com for your chance to appear on *Crazy's* Letters page and possibly win a prize!

50 Gardening Gift ideas



Perk up a garden or delight a plant-loving friend with a handstitched gift from this blooming lovely collection!
Designed by Jane Henderson

Whether you have acres of gorgeously landscaped gardens, a small allotment, or just a tiny windowsill, tending your plot and watching something grow and flourish is one of life's greatest pleasures. So, we hope you'll get enormous enjoyment from this collection of quick-stitch motifs that are perfect for anyone who loves their plants!

Most of the designs use just whole stitches and backstitch, so are great for whipping up into quick-stitch cards, personalised tags and last-minute gifts for all your green-fingered friends! ●



StitchTime
2-4 hrs
(Each)

StitchList...

- ✕ Whole cross stitch
- ✕ Fractionals
- ✕ Backstitch
- ✕ French knots

ShoppingList...

Threads - Stranded cotton as listed in the key

Needle - Size 24 tapestry needle

Fabric - Zweigart 14-count white aida measuring a maximum of 17x17cm (6½x6½in) for most designs. To buy, call ☎ 01539 823 199 or visit www.craftdepartment.com

Extras - Wooden pegs, basket, seed box and gardening gloves from local high street stores. Backing paper, tag, cord, lollipop sticks and ribbon from local craft stores



Please dig in!



You're so welcome



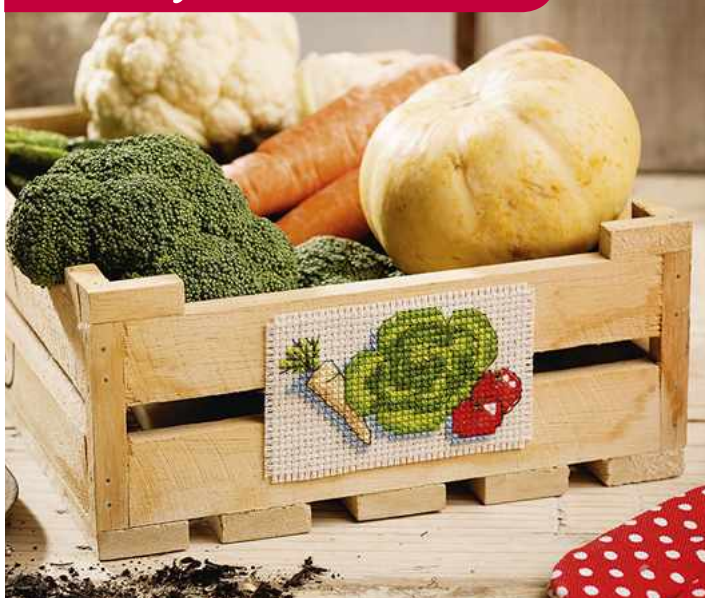
From little seeds...

You knock the spots off!



Pots of love

Pick of the bunch!

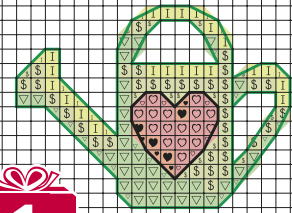


His 'n' hers

Scent with love



You're sweet as honey



1

Gardening

▼ DMC ▼ Anchor ▼ Madeira

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

∩	B5200	1	2401
◇	318	399	1801
●	321	9046	510
■	413	236	1713
◆	414	235	1714
●	434	310	2009
●	435	1046	2010
J	437	362	2012
●	553	98	712
●	554	90	711
●	666	46	210
●	726	295	109
▽	905	257	1412
\$	906	256	1410
I	907	255	1308
○	3078	292	102
•	3325	129	907
C	3346	267	1407
*	3755	140	1013
♥	3801	1098	411
☾	3844	410	911
N	3845	1089	1103
☾	3846	1090	1113

✕ Backstitch in one strand

—	B5200	1	2401
—	413	236	1713
—	414	235	1714
—	3346	267	1407

✕ French knots in one strand

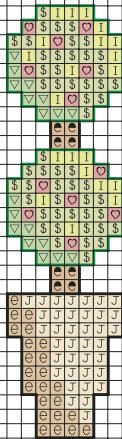
●	413	236	1713
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✕ Whole stitches only

Stitch count 38 (h) x 79 (w)

Design area on 14-count fabric
7x14.5cm (2¾x5½in)

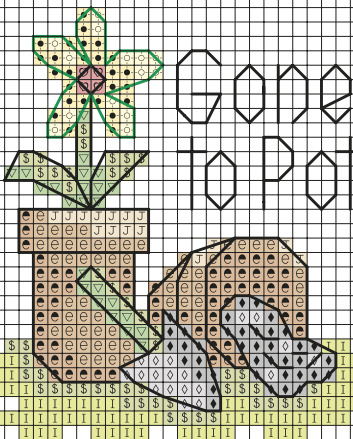
Stitched by Debbie Harding



2

3

► Repeat a smaller design onto aida band to make a charming bookmark for a gardener



4

6

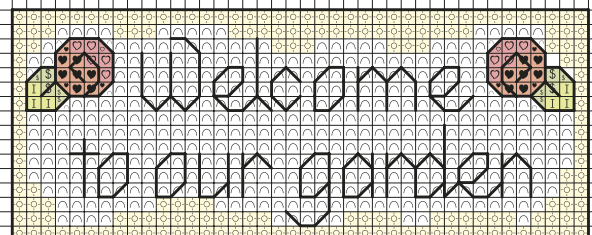
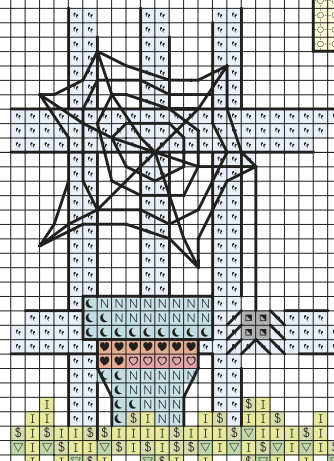
► Stitch your motifs onto natural evenweave or linen to give them a more rustic finish

5



7

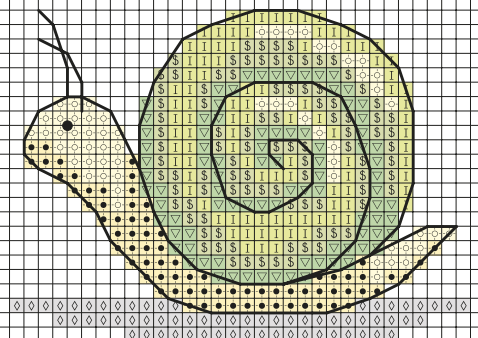
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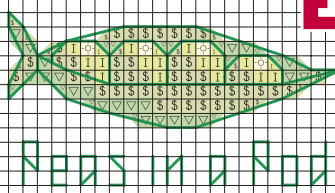
9

► Turn this snail into a handy paperweight (try www.framecraft.com) for a pal who takes life slowly...

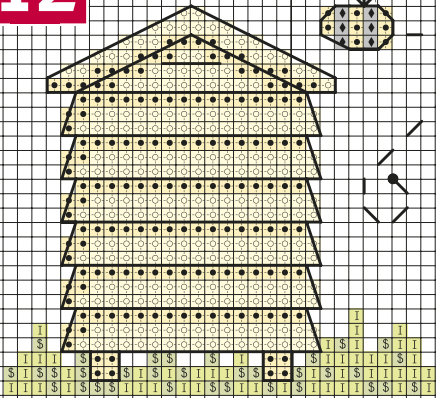
11



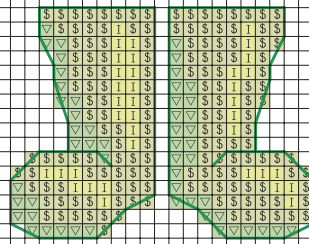
10



12

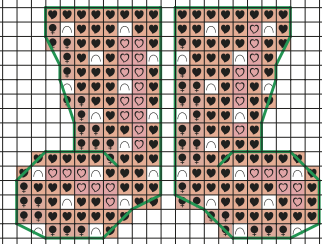


13



HIS

14

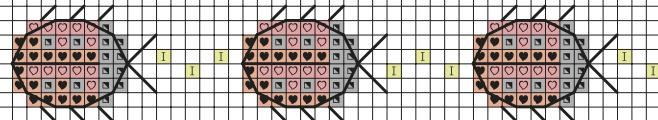


HERS

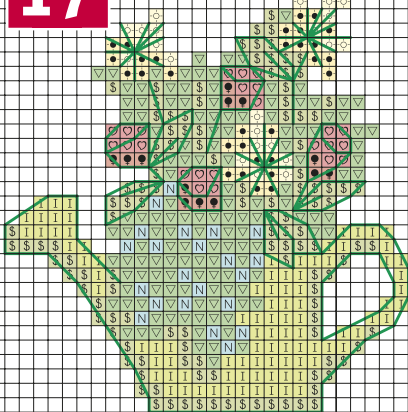
15

► For a lovely last-minute present, stitch a small motif as a gift tag and attach to a bunch of flowers

16



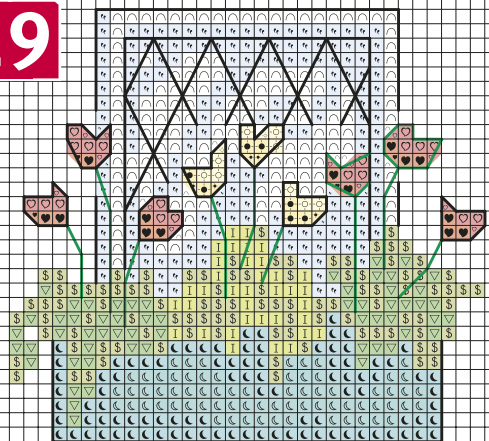
17



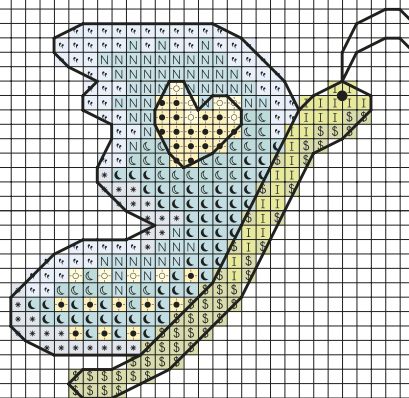
18

► Jazz up a tool belt or apron pocket with a row of these delightfully dotty ladybirds (above)

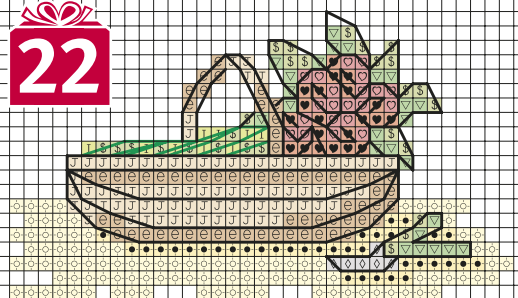
19



20



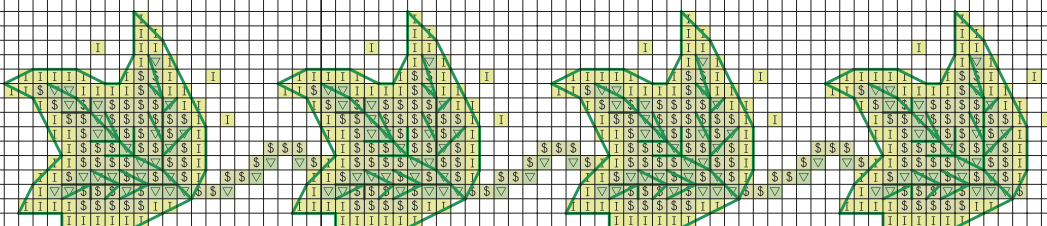
22



21

► Stitch any of the designs using just whole stitches on plastic canvas as a plant poke

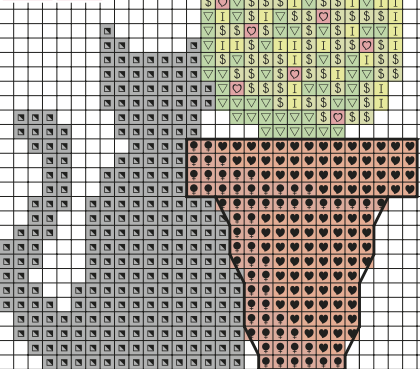
23



More charts over the page



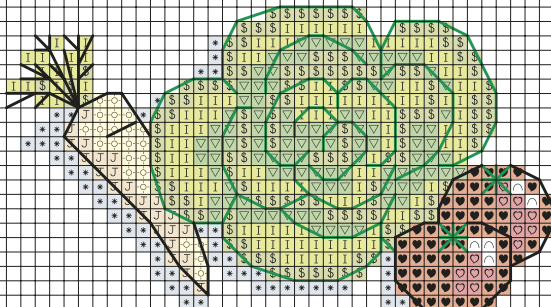
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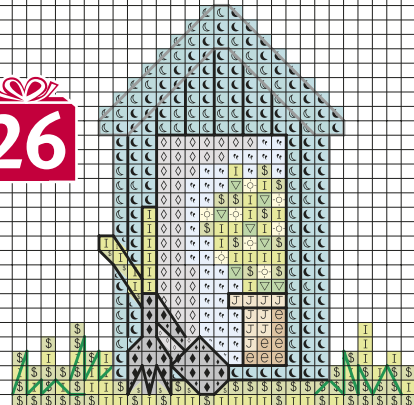
25

► Mount the motif on the left in an aperture card for a cat lover, and try adding backstitch whiskers too!

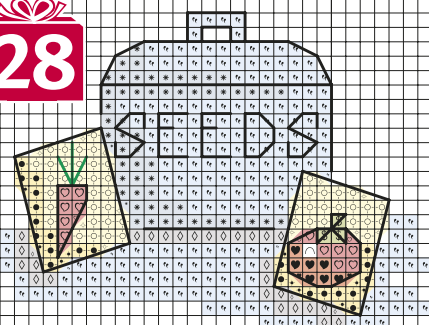
27



26



28



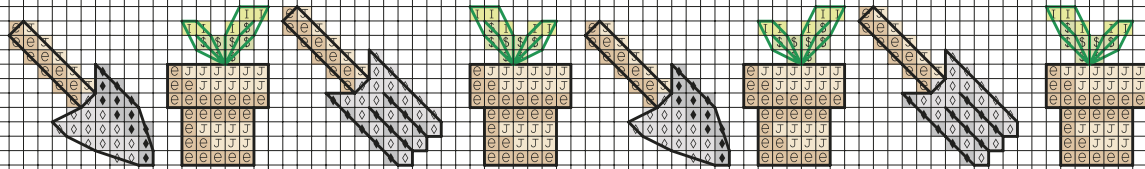
29

► Add a personal touch to a gardening trug by patching on a stitched motif or repeat pattern

30

► Store seed packets in Kilner jars, prettied up with a floral design made into a simple tag

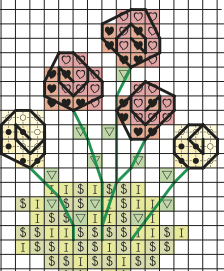
31



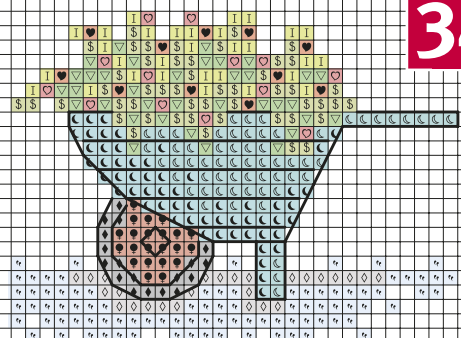
32

► Stitch a garden-themed sampler by plotting out designs on graph paper and adding a phrase or name in backstitch

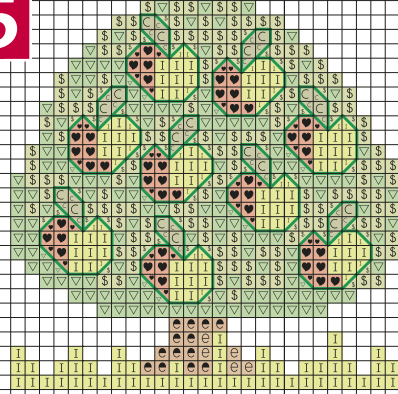
33



34



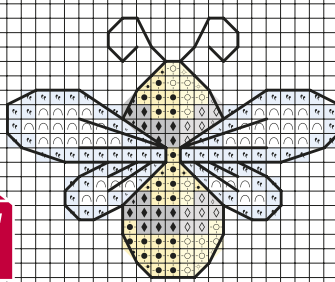
35

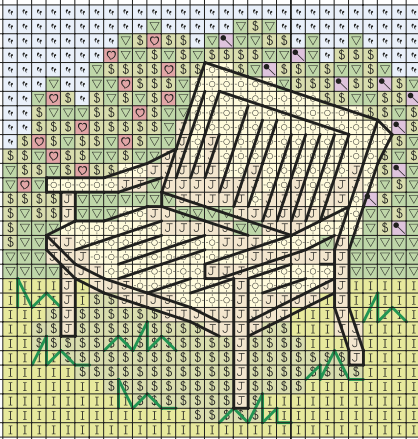


36

► Make a quirky brooch by mounting a motif onto card or felt and attaching a safety pin

37



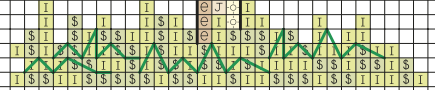
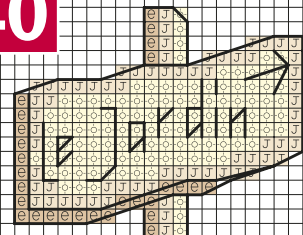


38

39

► Stitch the butterfly below four times, changing the colours, to create a cute picture for a shed

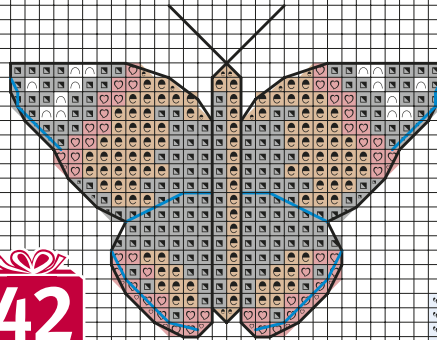
40



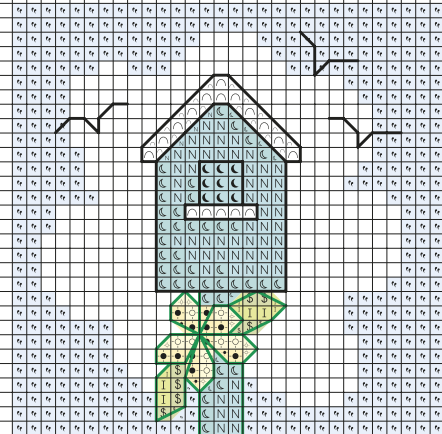
41

► Patch a design onto the front of a plain notebook to be used as a gardening journal

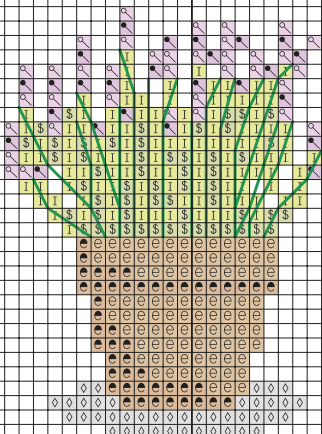
42



43



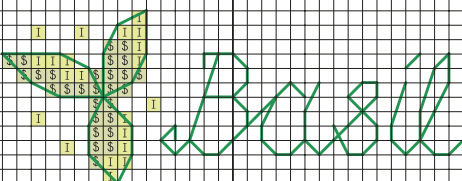
44



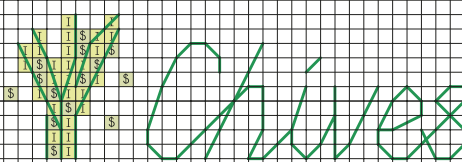
45

► Give a gift of a herb garden with stitched names patched onto each of the plant pots

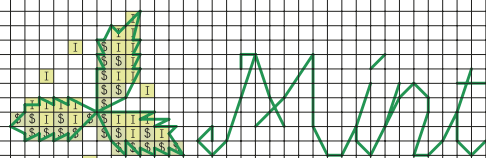
46



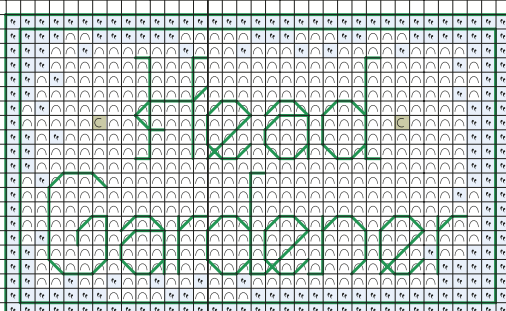
47



49



48



50

► Leave no one in any doubt who's in charge with this design (left) patched onto a gardening apron!

March... Must-haves



This month, Rachel has been searching out springtime treats just for you – here's what she found!



◀ Animal parade

We adore chancing upon new cross stitch sellers, and we have a beauty for you this month. Crafty Like a Fox has a clear talent for turning out highly stylised yet super-sweet cross stitch designs, from llamas wearing hats and shawls, to party lions holding balloons! But our favourites have got to be Owl Pals (top) and Wise and Grey (bottom), featuring two cute koalas. Both measure 55x55 stitches and cost \$27.50AUD (approximately £15) each for a kit.

* Visit www.foxyouaresocrafty.etsy.com to buy



▲ Enjoy life

We couldn't help but smile when we saw this delightfully uplifting new design from DMC's Signature Collection. Live Laugh Love is perfect for those who like to look on the bright side, and would make a wonderful statement hanging in a craft room, or in the bedroom to gently remind you to enjoy each day as soon as you open your eyes! We love the lively springtime shades and joyful mix of flora and fauna, and think it would put a spring in your needle whatever the weather outside your window. The kit comes with 14-count aida, measures 20x20cm (8x8in) and costs £20.99.

* Call ☎ 0116 275 4000 or visit www.dmccreative.co.uk for stockists

▶ Neat treat

If you've made a resolution to keep your crafting stash tidy, then these little wooden drawers are for you! They're just the right size for storing thread spools, tape measures, pins, needles, buttons and ribbon, so you can keep all those stitchy accessories organised and out of the way of curious pets and little ones! Vintage Crafts Sewing Drawers cost £26.95 and measure 16x24x17cm or 6³/₄x9¹/₂x6³/₄in (HxWxD).

* Visit www.dotcomgiftshop.com or call ☎ 0208 746 2473 to buy





▲ Top dog

Whether you're a confirmed cat person, or partial to pooches, we defy anyone not to find this cushion from Vervaco heartmeltingly gorgeous! With his chubby cheeks and strokeable ears, this Sleeping Bulldog Cushion Front Chunky Cross Stitch Kit would make a delectable project to work on! The design uses whole stitches only, yet manages to capture loads of lovely detail. The design costs £25.92 and measures 40x40cm (16x16in).

* Visit www.sewandsoc.co.uk to order, or call ☎ 0800 013 0150

▼ Wish upon a star

If you're after a cuter-than-cute stitch, you're going to fall head over heels for this delightful new range of charts from Lili of the Valley. This is the papercraft company's first foray into cross stitch, and we think they've hit gold! Mid-Summer Night (left), Time Flies (right), Cobweb and Water Lily each feature an adorable fairy enjoying all sorts of antics, from gazing at the stars to tightrope walking, and are available as chart packs for £7 each, or £25 for all four.

* Visit www.liliofthevalley.co.uk or call ☎ 0113 257 8778 to buy



**WIN
with
CRAZY**
(Turn to page 73)

▶ Beautiful people

If you've ever wanted to stitch a personal card or picture with likenesses of your nearest and dearest, this is the book you've been waiting for. *Do-It-Yourself Stitch People* is a step-by-step guide to charting and creating people in cross stitch, showing you in detail how to change hairstyles, facial expressions and clothing to create literally thousands of different characters! There's even a section on cats and dogs so you can add them into your family portraits. Guaranteed to be brilliant fun, you'll never be stuck for special gifts again! The book costs \$45 (approximately £29), or \$35 (approximately £22) as a PDF download.

* To buy, visit www.stitchpeople.com



Splurge or save?

This month, we've picked two alphabet kits to suit your stitching budget, whether you're counting the pennies or splashing out!

A is for...

ABCs don't get more jolly than this bold and bright Alphabet Fun kit from Bothy Threads! The design measures 45x35cm (17 3/4 x 13 3/4 in) and uses whole stitches, backstitch and French knots. The kit costs £34.99 from www.bothythreads.com.



Magic make

Wave your magic needle over this sweet stitch featuring a fairy and a funky abc in a random mix of quirky fonts! The design is stitched on 14-count aida, measures 23x18cm (9x7in) and costs £17.50 for the kit. To buy, visit www.thestitchingshed.co.uk or contact them on ☎ 07876 023 302.



◀ Time to stitch!

The latest addition to The Patchwork Rabbit's 'Finishings' range, this stylish Tim Holtz Pocket Watch is our new favourite way to show off mini cross stitched motifs! A sweet little frame in the shape of a vintage-style pocket watch, it can be hung on a wall by the ring on top, or given as a gift that's sure to be treasured. The aperture measures 4cm (1 1/2 in), and you simply take off the back to pop your stitching inside. We love The Patchwork Rabbit's suggestion of stitching a watch face showing the time and date of birth of a loved one! Buy for just £7.20.

* Visit www.patchwork-rabbit.co.uk to buy, or call ☎ 01380 850 065



Pretty in pink



Recreate the universally adored fairy tale *Rapunzel* for a little one's bedroom with this magical design

Designed by Lucie Heaton

Sitting comfortably? Then let us begin! The story of a young girl being rescued from a tower using her incredibly long locks is a favourite the world over, and we think any child with a love of magic would



StitchTime
30-35 hrs
(Approx)

be thrilled to have Rapunzel adorning their bedroom wall. And, as you stitch this scene into colourful life, you'll feel like you could almost step right inside! Worked in mostly whole stitches and backstitch, this enchanting design would make a gorgeous first project, so weave some magic with your needle today! ●

StitchList...

- ✦ Whole cross stitch
- ✦ Backstitch
- ✦ French knots

ShoppingList...

Threads - Stranded cotton as listed in the key

Needle - Size 24 tapestry needle

Fabric - Zweigart 14-count white aida measuring 36x30cm (14x12in). Visit www.sewandso.co.uk or call ☎ 0800 013 0150 to buy

Extras - Frame of your choice with a minimum aperture of 28x22cm (11x8¾in)





*stitch a happy-ever-after
for your little princess!*

Steph Says...



My niece has watched the Disney film *Tangled* about 100 times, so I'll definitely have to stitch this design for her bedroom wall!

**Steph Maskery, Art Editor,
Cross Stitch Crazy**

Rapunzel

▼ DMC ▼ Anchor ▼ Madeira

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

∩	blanc	2	2402
e	210	108	802
I	211	342	801
318	399	1801	
349	1098	212	
351	10	214	
414	235	1714	
J	415	398	1802
436	1045	2011	
N	437	362	2012
553	98	712	
602	57	702	
603	55	505	
A	604	26	614
725	305	113	
726	295	109	
727	293	112	
738	367	2013	
739	366	2014	
754	1012	305	
762	234	1804	
798	131	912	
P	799	145	910
t	800	144	908
\$	912	209	1213
948	892	306	
954	203	1207	
3845	1089	1102	
3846	1090	1103	

✕ Backstitch in one strand

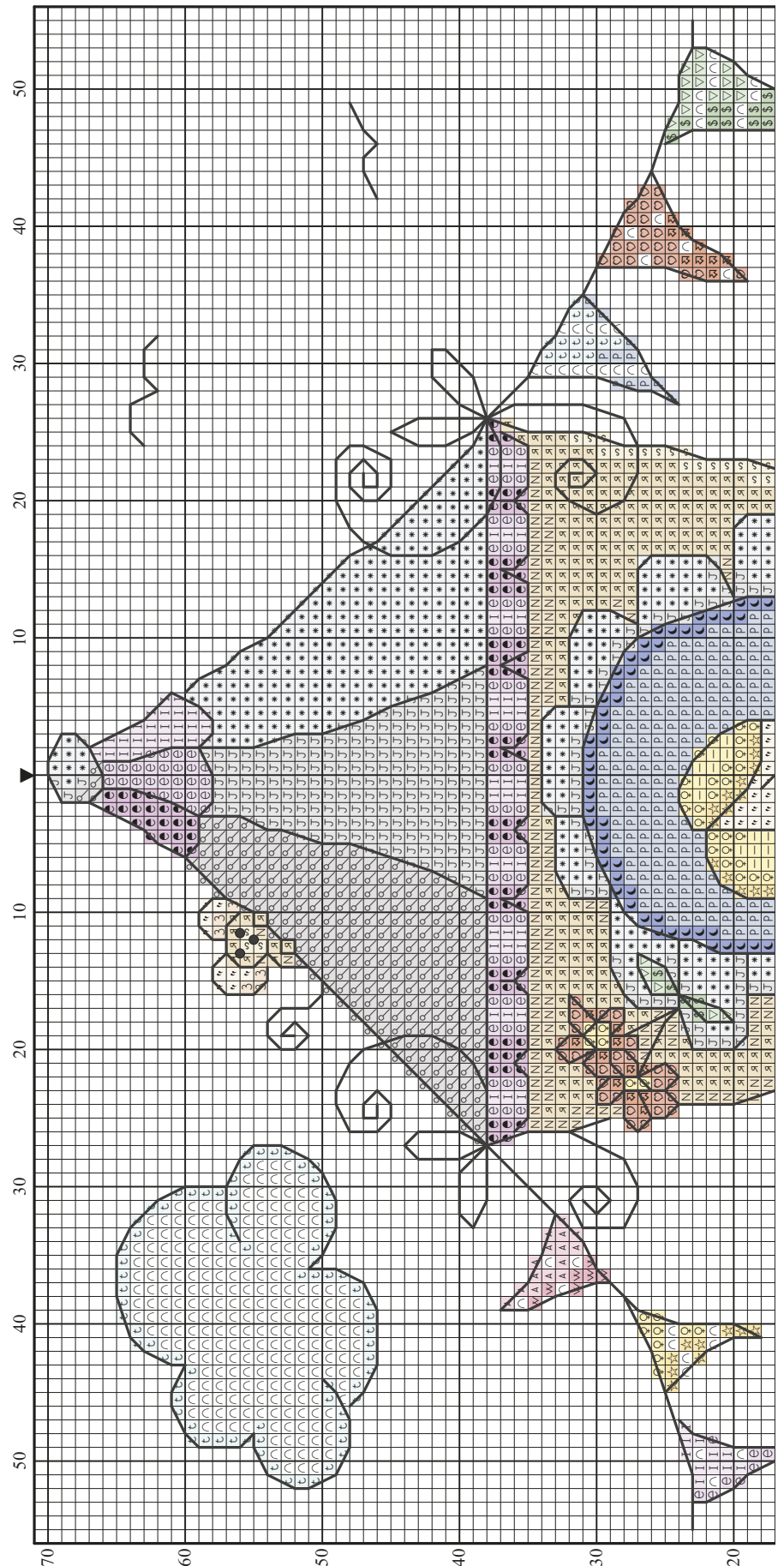
— 3799 236 1713

✕ French knots in one strand

● 3799 236 1713

✕ Whole stitches only

Stitch count 140 (h) x 110 (w)
Design area on 14-count fabric
25.5x20cm (10x8in)
Stitched by Laura Boyter



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Luxury makes



Capture the peacock's majesty and beauty in this elegant trio of mesmerising designs
Designed by Joan Elliott

The peacock's dramatic train of exquisite feathers, embellished with eyespots in ravishing blues and greens, has captivated artists for centuries.

StitchList...

- ✕ Whole cross stitch
- ✕ Fractionals
- ✕ Backstitch
- ✕ French knots



StitchTime
60 hrs
(For the set)

And now you can recreate the peacock's beauty in one of these graceful designs. Experienced stitchers will love the challenge of the large design, while newer stitchers may prefer the card or trinket box, which use whole stitches and backstitch only. ●

ShoppingList...

Threads - Stranded cotton as listed in the key

Needle - Size 24 tapestry needle

Fabric - Zweigart 14-count aida measuring 38x28cm (15x11in) for hanging, 23x23cm (9x9in) for box, 15x15cm (6x6in) for card. Visit www.sewandso.co.uk or call ☎ 0800 013 0150 to buy

Extras - Craft Creations Single Fold Deckle Edged card (DEC3U) in Purple (05). Call ☎ 01992 781 900 or visit www.craftcreations.com to buy. Ribbon from local craft stores. Large Satin Covered Box – Square in Dark Blue from www.vikingloom.co.uk

Impress someone special with this gorgeous gift set





Crazy tip!

To avoid tangles, don't carry your thread across the back of each section – start a new one instead

Peacock set

▼ DMC ▼ Anchor ▼ Madeira

✱ Cross stitch in two strands

⌒	blanc	2	2402
I	155	118	902
■	167	373	1607
■	317	400	1714
J	318	399	1801
■	322	131	1004
▽	368	214	1310
Q	415	398	1802
◇	471	266	1501
▼	472	253	1414
S	676	891	2208
Q	729	890	2209
■	803	148	1006
\$	992	1072	1202
?	993	1070	1111
K	3045	888	2103
◆	3346	267	1407
e	3746	1030	2702 x2
P	3755	140	1013
■	3799	236	1713
■	3814	1074	2706
N	3829	901	2210
■	3846	1090	1103
▼	3847	189	1204

✱ Backstitch in one strand

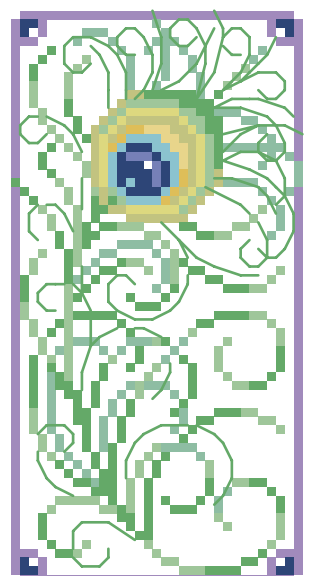
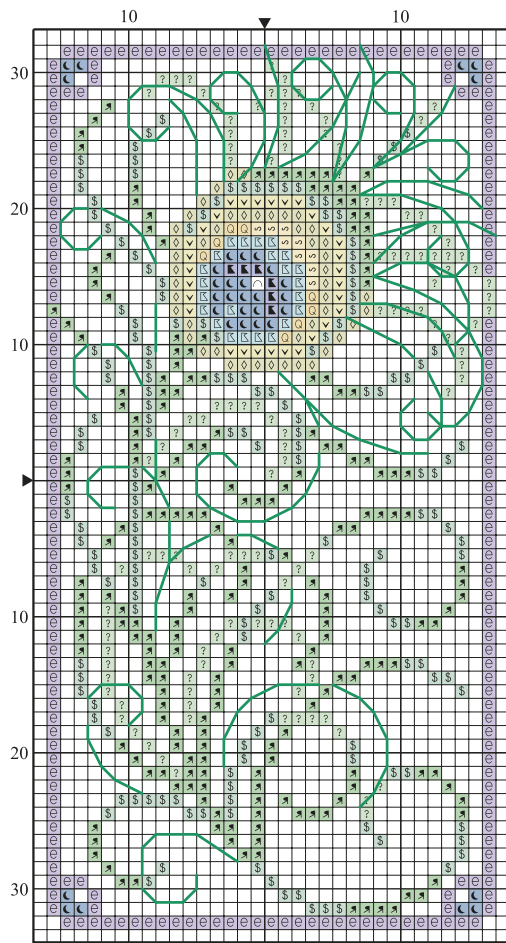
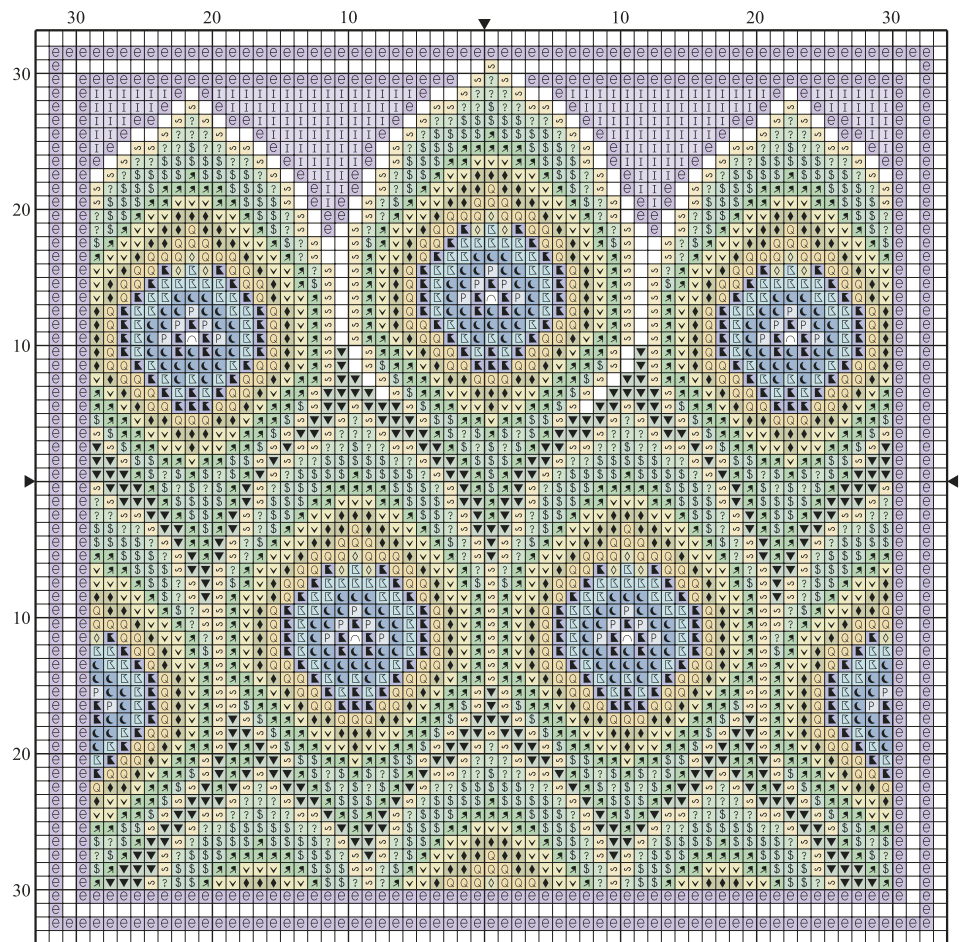
—	803	148	1006
—	3799	236	1713
—	3814	1074	2706

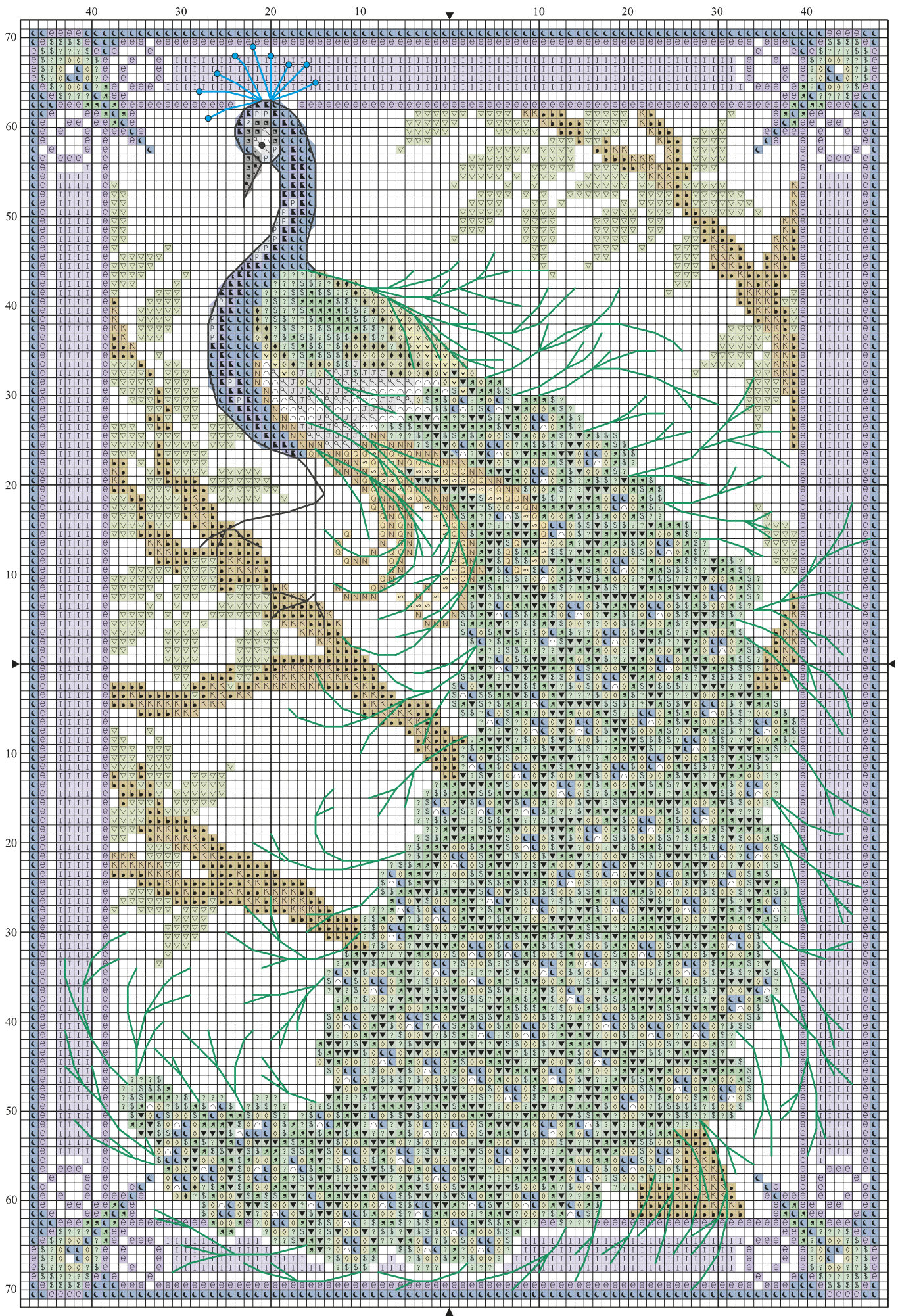
✱ French knots in one strand

●	803	148	1006
●	3799	236	1713

✱ Contains fractionals

Max. stitch count 142 (h) x 95 (w)
Design area on 14-count fabric
26x17.5cm (10¼x6¾in)
Stitched by Pippa Slack





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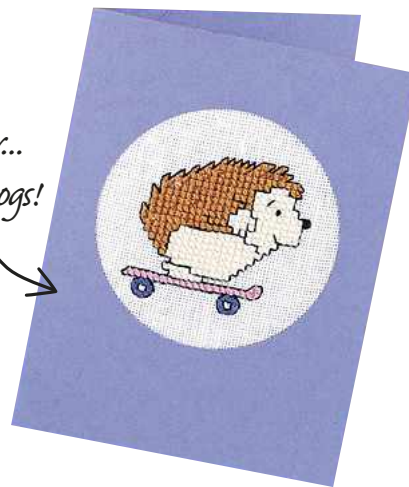
Crazy then and now...

Since it's *Crazy's* 200th birthday, here's a look back at how it's changed over the years – we think we've aged pretty well!

Back in issue 1 we were...



Crazy for...
Hedgehogs!



Getting groovy in our
Cut-out & Keep section



And this cute
penguin kit was
the free gift!

Check out these old covers!



Issue
1

November 1999



Issue
50

September 2003



Issue
100

July 2007



Issue
150

May 2011



We asked you what you love about *Crazy*...

I subscribe to the mag as it was the one I first bought to learn cross stitch and have loved it since. Thank you for teaching me a wonderful craft and having loads of great charts!

Tanya Knight, Somerset

Happy 200th birthday to the most fun and inspiring cross stitch mag! Love your charts and seeing what other stitchers are doing – you make me enjoy my hobby so much more.

Christine Day, Australia

Baaaaarilliant memories as my first cross stitch was published in it, plus I was one of the first on your readers panel. And I can't forget the double page spread ewe did about my sheep and!!

Michelle Sullivan, Birmingham

You're always the first mag I look for in the shops. A great selection of charts and your free gifts are always the best!

Hazel Thomson, Fife

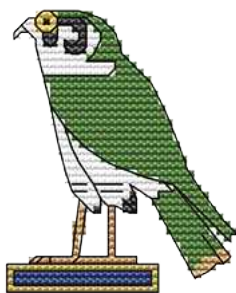
Thanks to all our *Crazy* readers for your support – here's to the next 200 issues!



Previously you've been Crazy for...



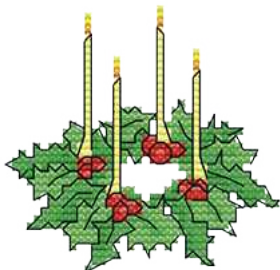
Chinese New Year
Issue 199



Ancient Egypt
Issue 198



Xmas cuties
Issue 197

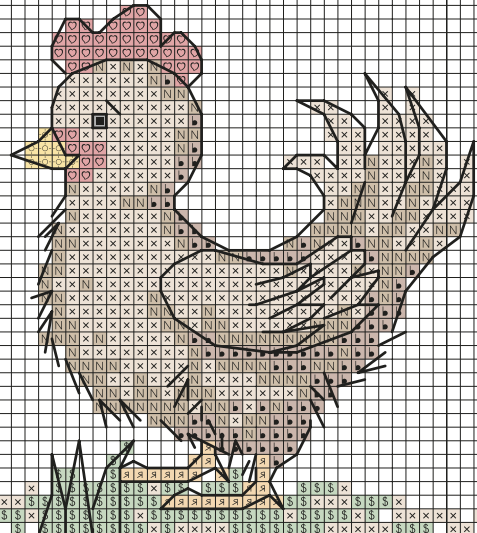
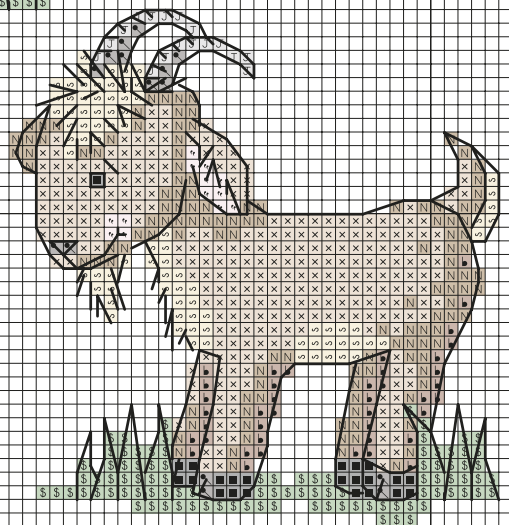
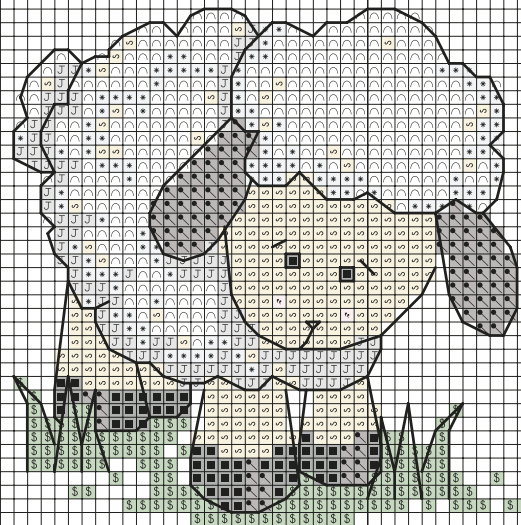
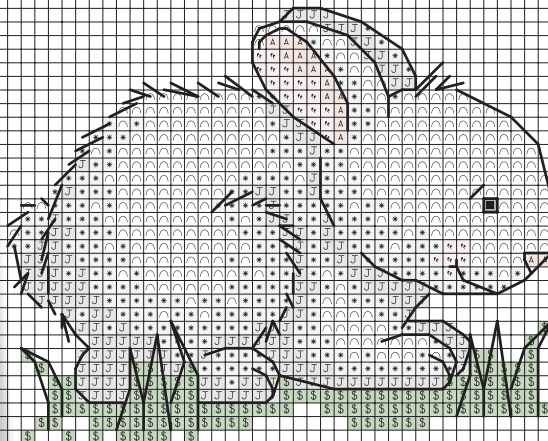
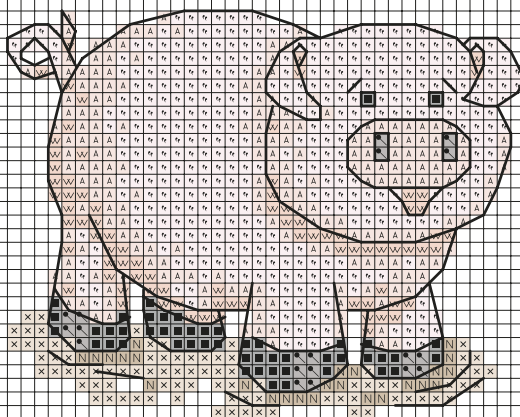


**Christmas around
the world**
Issue 196

Back issues!

Crazy hotline

☎ 0844 844 0385



Farm animals

▼ DMC ▼ Anchor ▼ Madeira

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

∩	B5200	1	2401
■	310	403	2400
●	317	400	1714
J	415	398	1802
S	739	366	2014
☼	743	302	113
W	760	1022	405
A	761	1021	404
*	762	234	1804
+	818	23	502
P	827	160	1013
■	898	360	2006
\$	911	205	1214
♥	3801	1098	411
♦	3818	923	2704
♀	3853	1003	311
♂	3854	313	114
N	3862	374	1913
x	3864	376	1910

✕ Backstitch in one strand

—	310	403	2400
---	-----	-----	------

✕ Whole stitches only

Max. stitch count 40 (h) x 40 (w)
Design area on 14-count fabric
7.5x7.5cm (2³/₄x2³/₄in)

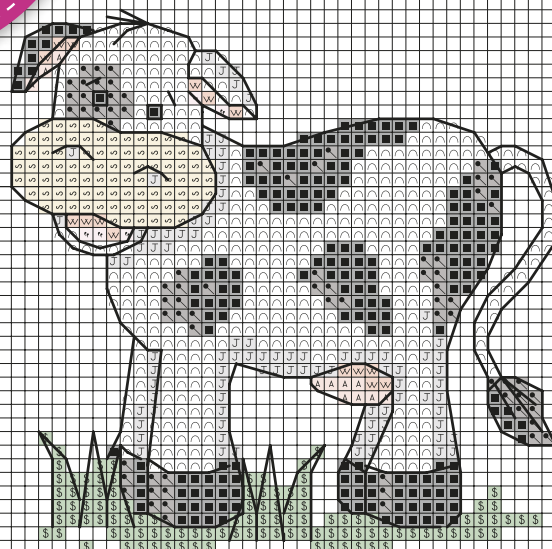
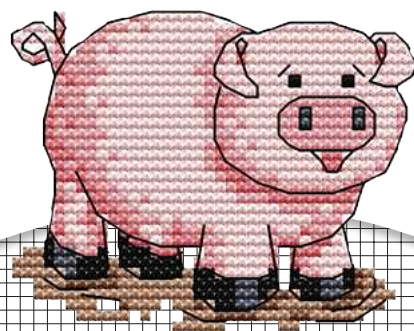
Crazy for... Farm animals

Don't be sheepish, enjoy a quacking stitch with these moo-vellous animals down on the farm!

Designed by Rhona Norrie

*Reader's
pick!*

These designs
were chosen by
TILLY BARKER



What are you crazy for?

Tell us what you're mad about stitching! We'll gather together the most popular requests and ask one of our top designers to create a whole spread of designs – just for you!

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.....Postcode.....

Tel no.....

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Fill in and cut out this coupon (or photocopy it) and send it to:

Crazy for... Cross Stitch Crazy, Immediate Media Company Bristol Ltd,
2nd Floor, Tower House, Fairfax Street, Bristol BS1 3BN or email your
requests to: crazyfor@cross-stitching.com

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£1,022 worth of Zweigart goodies up for grabs!



News that a baby is on the way is one of the most exciting times for any family. A new little life to get to know and shower with love – nothing else really comes close! And as fans of all things cute and baby-related, we're thrilled to bits that Zweigart's latest booklet is a celebration of babies in cross stitch! *Book 268 – Baby Aida* is a delightful compilation of ideas for furnishing a baby's nursery, from door signs to pictures, and to celebrate *Crazy's* 200th birthday, we have 20 to give away as part of a fabulous bundle!

We've teamed up with fabric giant Zweigart to give away 20 prizes which include *Book 268 – Baby Aida*; 0.5m of 14-count Baby Aida in pink; 0.5m of 14-count Baby Aida in blue; 0.5m of 14-count white aida with pink spots; and 0.5m of 14-count white aida with blue spots. Each prize is worth over £51, and will help you get your new arrival starting off to a beautiful and flying start, so make sure you enter today! There are three easy ways to enter this competition, by text, postcard or online – just see the box below to take part. Good luck!

Special
200TH
issue
GIVEAWAY!

HOW TO ENTER

For your chance to win, simply send us your answer by:

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ONLINE Visit www.cross-stitching.com/win to enter for free via the *Cross Stitch Crazy* website

POST Write your name and address on the back of a postcard and send to 'Crazy 200 Zweigart competition', *Cross Stitch Crazy*, 2nd Floor, Tower House, Fairfax Street, Bristol BS1 3BN.

For full terms and conditions turn to page 73. The closing date for all entries is 1st March 2015.



Stylish sayings



Chase grey skies away with your needle as you stitch some welcome sunshine in these all-weather designs
Designed by Emma Congdon

We simply can't resist a pom pom! They look fabulous adorning anything and everything, from mantelpieces to wrapped presents, and especially these heavenly hoops. Queen of typography,

StitchList...

Perfect for beginners

✕ Whole cross stitch



StitchTime
5 hrs
(Each)

Emma Congdon, has come up trumps again with this quartet of charmingly cheering designs that defy anyone to feel blue! Worked in whole stitches only, they make a great first project, and are so easy to frame in their hoops. Simply back with self adhesive felt, then glue on a mini pom pom string to finish. ●

ShoppingList...

Threads - Stranded cotton as listed in the key

Needle - Size 24 tapestry needle

Fabric - Zweigart 14-count white aida measuring 20x20cm (8x8in) for each design. Available from www.willowfabrics.com or ☎ 0800 056 7811

Extras - Embroidery hoop (5in), blue and white pom pom trim, white self adhesive felt and acrylic paint available from local craft stores





*Storm clouds be gone
with these cheerful,
weather-defying wishes!*



YvetteSays...



I've recently moved house and my walls are still looking quite bare. These

designs will definitely cheer them up, and me, too!

Yvette Streeter, Acting Editor, Cross Stitch Crazy

Weather sayings

▼ DMC ▼ Anchor ▼ Madeira

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

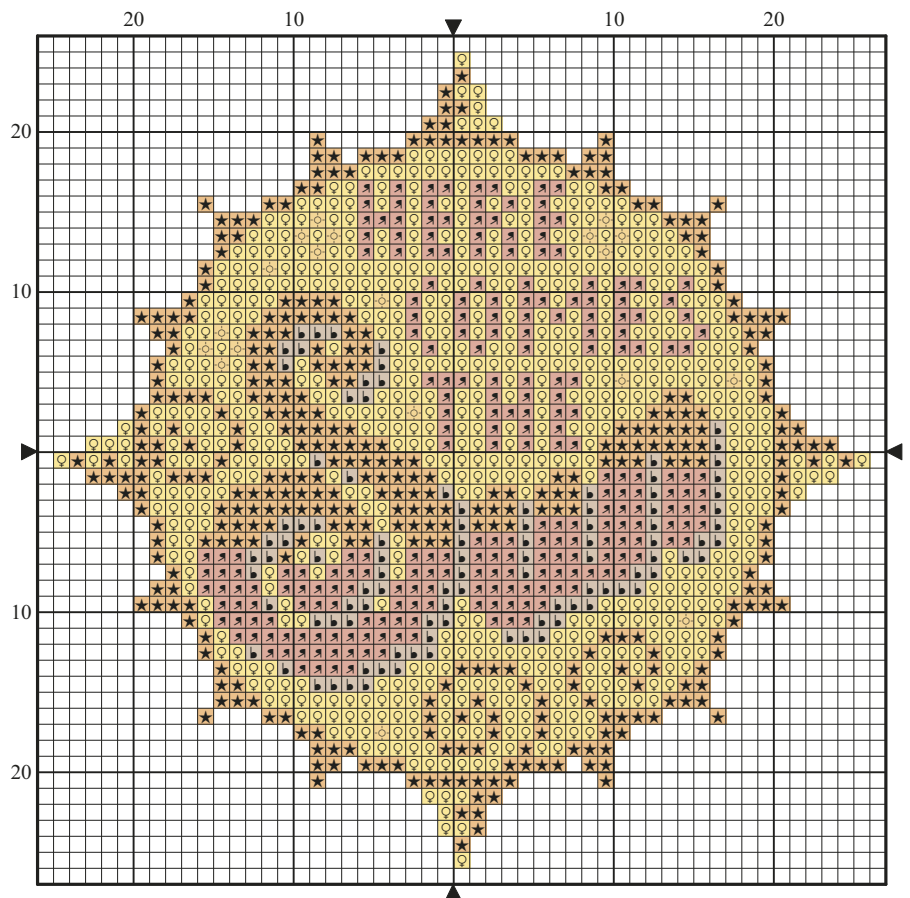
J	168	1096	1708
☼	169	1040	1707
♥	606	334	209
★	740	316	204
☼	742	303	114
☼	801	359	2007
☼	803	148	1006
☼	817	13	210
☼	907	255	1308
☼	946	332	207
☼	959	186	1114
☼	973	290	105
☼	995	410	1102
P	996	433	1103
☼	3812	188	2706
☼	3837	111	713

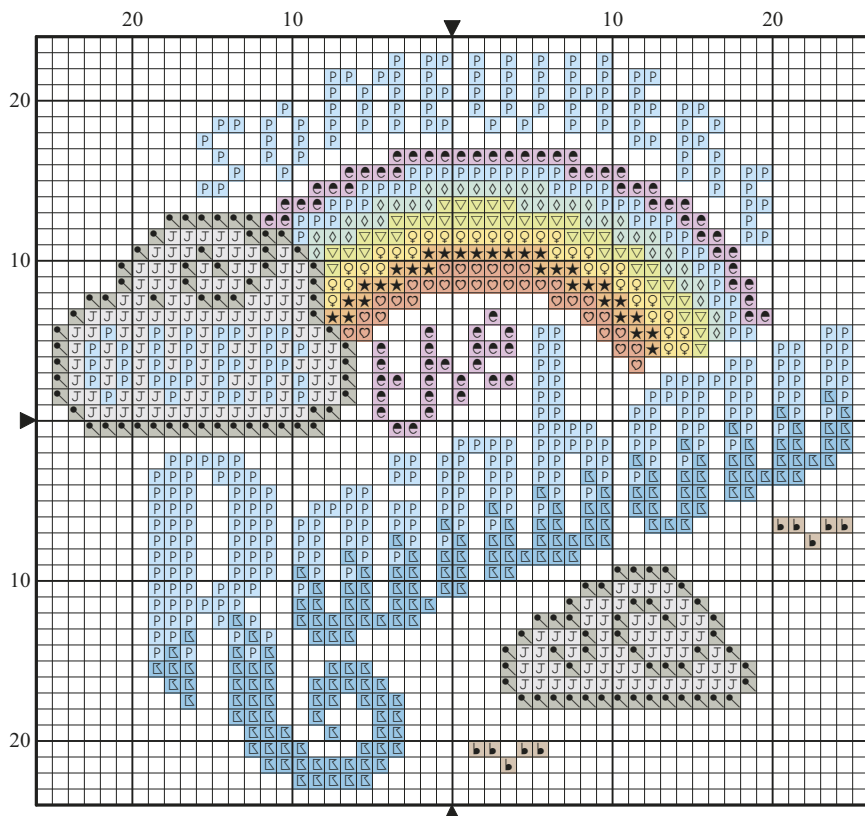
✕ Whole stitches only

Max. stitch count 51 (h) x 51 (w)
Design area on 14-count fabric
9.5x9.5cm (3 1/2 x 3 1/2 in)
Stitched by Val Watkins

Crazy tip!

Personalise your hoop by painting it in the colour of your choice before framing





There's More

If you've enjoyed stitching these designs and would like to stitch more by Emma Congdon, visit her at www.stitchrovia.etsy.com. Meanwhile, here's a few of our favourite weather-inspired charts!



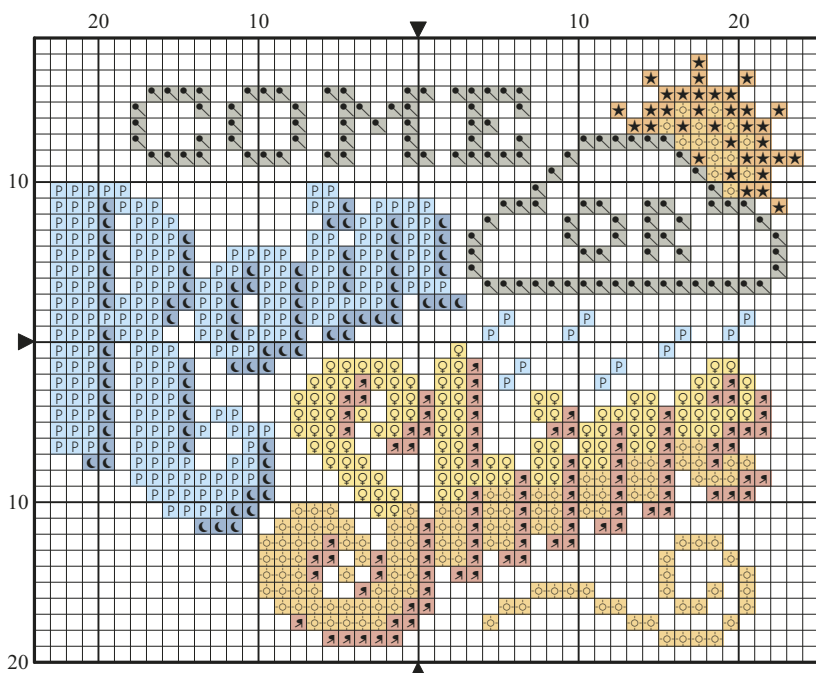
▲ Download the charts to make this cute Sky Mobile for free at Cross-stitching.com



▲ Happy when Skies are Grey, £8.50 for instant download from www.stitchrovia.etsy.com



▲ Cute Rainy Cloud, £1.97 for instant download from www.andwabisabi.etsy.com





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Crazy's Angels



Send your stitching problems to *Crazy's Angels* and watch them leap into action!

Stylish solution

Q I love stitching, and have filled my home with frames, cushions and tons of other decorations, but I'm running out of room! What can I work on next that won't make my house cluttered?

Lily Edwards, County Tyrone

A Sounds like you're as crazy about cross stitch as we are, Lily! Now your home is full of stitching, why not try carrying it instead? This Paisley Coin Purse kit by Felicity Hall is the perfect way to make a stylish statement. It's not difficult to make as it's been designed to suit beginners and experienced stitchers alike, and uses the most basic needlepoint stitch, tent stitch. The kit includes a



▲ Show off your stitching prowess at every opportunity with a handmade purse!

quality antique brass bar clasp and even little extras like a needle threader. And what's lovely is that the back and front are different, as shown above. Also available in three other designs, buy from www.felicityhall.co.uk for £44.95.

A cut above

Q I've stitched a design on perforated paper but I'm not sure how to cut it out. Can I just use scissors or do I have to use a special craft knife?

Cath Stewart, Cheshire

A You don't need to use a craft knife, Cath, just a good pair of scissors. Make sure you use paper scissors (not fabric scissors) and cut around your stitching, leaving a border of at least one complete square. This is to prevent your stitching coming undone or fraying. It can be tricky to judge where to cut on diagonals or curved edges, so you may want to draw on the back of the paper with pencil and follow the lines.

Spring time

Q I've always used a wooden embroidery hoop but recently I've been toying with the idea of buying a plastic spring tension one. Is there any benefit compared to a traditional hand-held wooden hoop?

Tiffany Cole, London

A Unlike a traditional wooden hoop, a spring tension hoop won't leave marks on your fabric or cause creases. A spring tension hoop is made of two parts; a plastic outer ring and a metal inner ring. The inner hoop clamps inside the outer ring and holds the fabric tightly in-between. It's also easy to move around your aida as you progress. However, compared to a wooden hoop, the fabric can move more as you can't tighten a spring hoop, so if you like the fabric to be gripped firmly, this may not be for you. Why not buy one and give it a try? Purchase a 5in hoop for £4.08 or a 7in hoop for £5.62 from The Happy Cross Stitcher at www.thehappy-cross-stitcher.com or by calling ☎ 01325 240 192.

3 of the best cushion kits

Pretty up your home with a cute cushion



COLOUR BURST

Go retro with this Blue-Green Rosette Cushion Front Chunky Cross Stitch Kit. Costing £25.62, it measures 40x40cm (16x16in). Call ☎ 0800 013 0150 or visit www.sewandso.co.uk to buy.



DECO DECADENCE

Inspired by Clarice Cliff, this detailed mini cushion is perfect if you're short on time. Measuring 14.7x14.7cm (5¾ x 5¾in), visit www.sheenarogersdesigns.co.uk to buy for £13.99.



HOME SWEET HOME

This cross stitch Cottage Cushion kit costs £30.99 and contains all you need to stitch it including 4.5-count full colour canvas. Visit www.makeitcoats.com or call ☎ 01484 681 881 for stockists.



▲ For crease-free stitching, try a spring tension hoop

Our TOP TIPS

For teaching kids to stitch

- 1 Start kids stitching on 6-count Binca instead of 14-count aida – it has a much larger grid and comes in a variety of inviting colours.
- 2 Choose simple charts so you don't stretch your child too soon – build confidence with simple designs that can be completed quickly.
- 3 Plastic tapestry needles are perfect for younger children as they're not as sharp as metal needles.
- 4 Let your child choose their first design from a small selection of quick and easy charts. You'll find a great choice of designs in the Kids section of *Crazy*!
- 5 Keep stitching sessions short so your child doesn't lose patience or interest.
- 6 It's good to teach kids to wash their hands before every stitchy session so it becomes a habit for life.
- 7 Working on your own project alongside your child is great for bonding!

On the case

Q I've stitched a design for my boyfriend that I planned to make into a tablet case, but I'm nervous of making it up as I rarely use a sewing machine. Can you recommend a case or kit I could patch it onto?

Robin Vice, Herefordshire

A What a great gift! There's no need to be afraid of making up with this Make Your Own Case For iPad Kit (right) by Love Me Sew. The kit comes with easy-to-follow instructions and diagrams, plus there's a choice of six different styles (Sky Blue and Pink Floral, Blue and Green Floral, Ditsy Blue Floral, Blue and Red Cherry, Navy and Red Nautical, and White and Red Boats) so you can pick one to match your stitching. It comes with fabric, wadding, interfacing, thread and a button. The finished case measures 20.5x26cm (8x10¼in) and costs £14 – to buy, visit www.notonthehighstreet.com.

Keeping it together

Q My granddaughter often comes to visit and I've been teaching her how to cross stitch. She always wants to take it away to finish, but I'm nervous she'll lose it or get it dirty. Can you suggest a solution, Angels?

Polly Moran, Liverpool

A We've found the perfect answer to your dilemma, Polly! This Beginner's Cross Stitch

▼ Use this cool iPad case kit as the basis for your stitching for a special gift!



Carry Kit has been designed precisely for this issue. The handy case is just the right size for your granddaughter to carry around with her, and will keep her stitching safe wherever she takes it. The dainty caddy also includes plenty of fabric, felt, scissors, needles and embroidery thread to make dozens of different projects. Plus, it comes with simple instructions for how to make bookmarks, a phone case and lots more. This brilliant kit costs £20 from John Lewis – visit www.johnlewis.com or call them on ☎ 0345 604 9049 to buy.

▼ This carry case is a brilliant way for kids to keep their stitching neat!



few projects (although it depends on how large each project is). Tried and tested brands such as John James are always a wise idea. If you want your needles to last longer, try upgrading to gold-plated ones. These needles are superior to nickel-plated as they're smoother to stitch with, plus they're hypoallergenic so can be used by stitchers with sensitive skin.

A clear head

Q I've started getting bad headaches when I stitch.

It's not been an issue in the past, but now I can't stitch for long at all before having to stop. Do you know what I can do about this?

Eileen Brook, Bute

A Headaches while stitching are often caused by eye strain, so it might be worth taking a trip to the opticians to get your eyes tested. It's also important to stitch with good lighting – try one with a built-in magnifier lamp such as the PureLite 3-in-1 Magnifying Lamp. It can be used as a floor lamp, a table lamp, or a clip-on light, so will work for you no matter where you stitch. With 21 LED lights that create a natural daylight effect and a quality glass lens with 2x magnification, this should help keep your eyes relaxed. Buy for £58 from www.craftlamps.co.uk or by calling ☎ 01373 454 448.



Longer lasting

Q Is it normal for needles to tarnish before I've finished stitching a project? If not, how can I stop my needle being damaged?

Bethany Sheen, Lincolnshire

A It's unusual for them to tarnish so quickly, although factors such as hand cream, moisture, and the natural chemicals on your skin will speed this up. Tapestry needles are nickel-plated and over time will become blunt and rough, causing them to snag the threads. This would normally be after stitching a

Hello Angels!

Send your stitching problems to *Crazy's Angels* and we'll come to your rescue! Make your questions as crazy as you like and send them to the address listed below.

.....
.....
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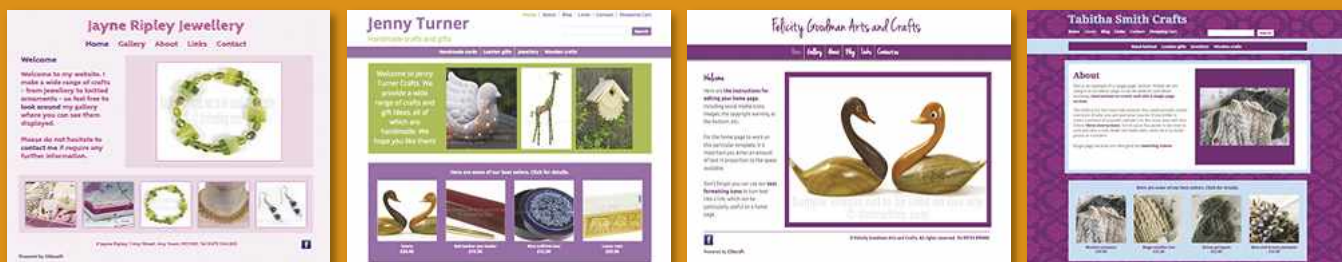
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Fresh florals



Give thanks on Mother's Day by stitching this delicately detailed alphabet to make a beautiful handmade gift she'll want to treasure forever

Designed by Susan Bates

StitchList...

- ✕ Whole cross stitch
- ✕ Backstitch
- ✕ French knots

With intertwined stems and prettiest petals in sunburst shades, this abc has got to be one of the loveliest we've seen. And we hope you'll feel the same as you watch your work blooming into radiant life with every stitch. Thanks to the pretty shades and elegant styling, we think this would make the perfect gift for

Mother's Day on Sunday 15th March. Stitch her name on a fabric purse, create a card with her initial, or spell out 'Mum' on a piece of aida and place in a padded frame for her to use as a jewellery tidy. Simply choose a piece of fabric larger than your frame, add a piece of wadding behind, and position your stitching at the top. Then just wait for the sunny smile! ●

ShoppingList...

Threads - Stranded cotton as listed in the key

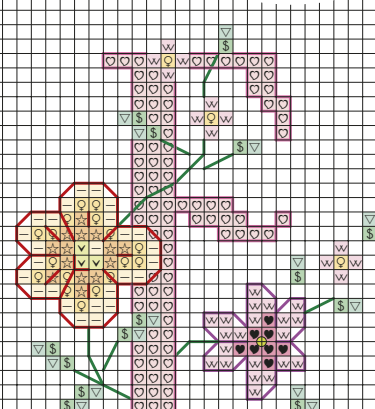
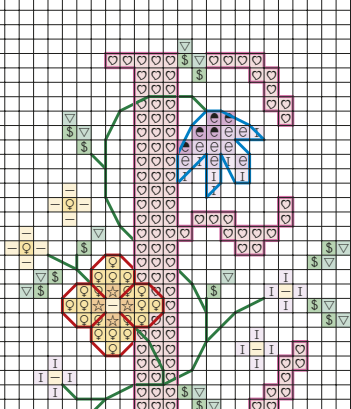
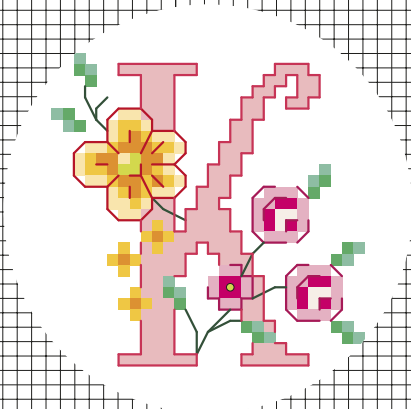
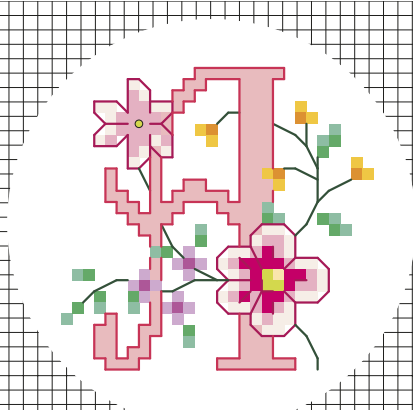
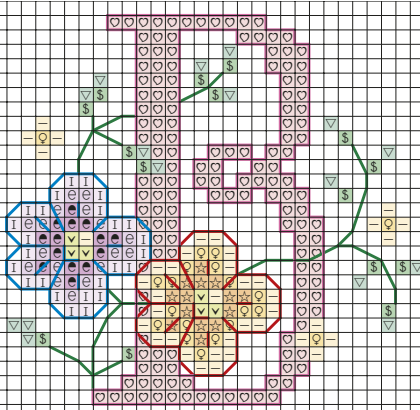
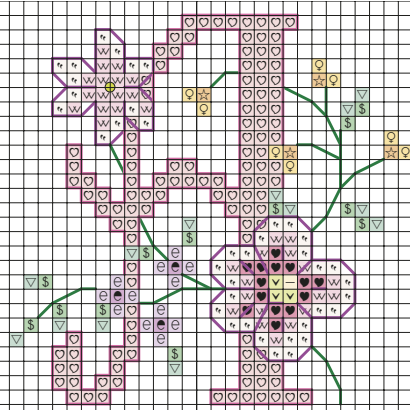
Needle - Size 24 tapestry needle

Fabric - Zweigart 14-count aida measuring 18x28cm (7x11in). To buy, visit www.sewandso.co.uk or call ☎ 0800 013 0150

Extras - Frame with minimum aperture of 18x18cm (7x7in). Backing fabric from local craft stores



Something special for the best mum in the world...



Floral abc

▼ DMC ▼ Anchor ▼ Madeira

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

e	209	98	803
I	211	342	801
e	552	99	713
♥	602	57	702
w	604	55	614
☆	741	304	202
♀	743	302	113
—	745	300	111
☺	819	271	501
▽	993	1070	1111
♡	3716	25	503
\$	3814	1074	2706
▽	3819	279	1610

✕ Backstitch in one strand

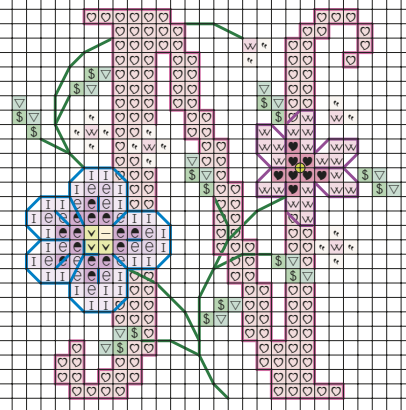
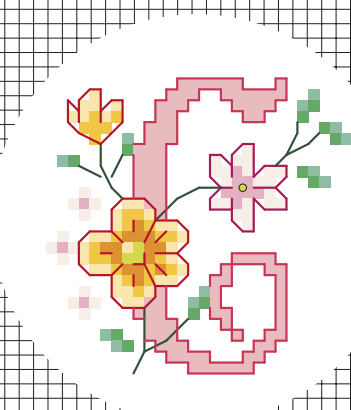
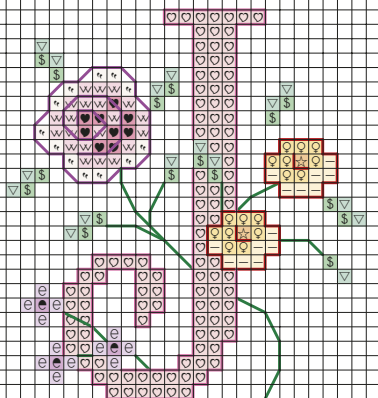
—	150	59	508
—	500	683	1705
—	550	102	714
—	817	13	210
—	3801	1098	411

✕ French knots in one strand

●	3819	279	1610
---	------	-----	------

✕ Whole stitches only

Max. stitch count 29 (h) x 35 (w)
Design area on 14-count fabric
5.5x6.5cm (2x2½in)
Stitched by Marilyn Johnston

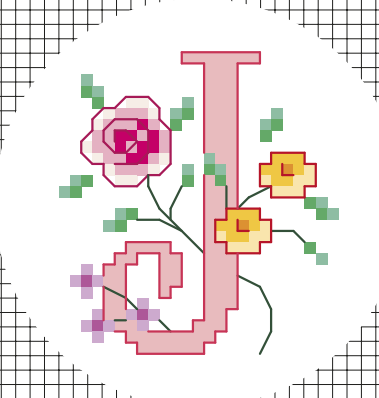
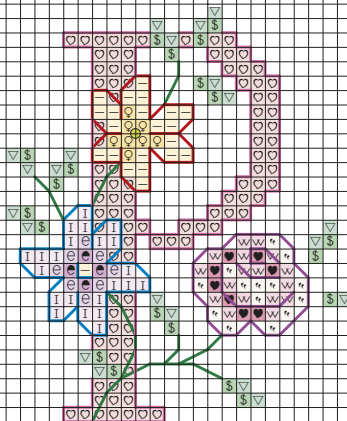
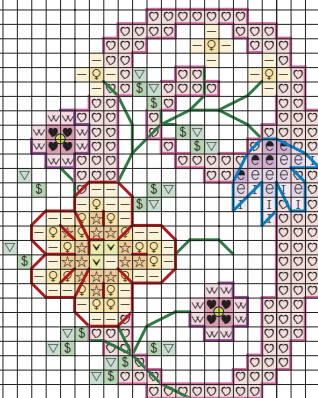
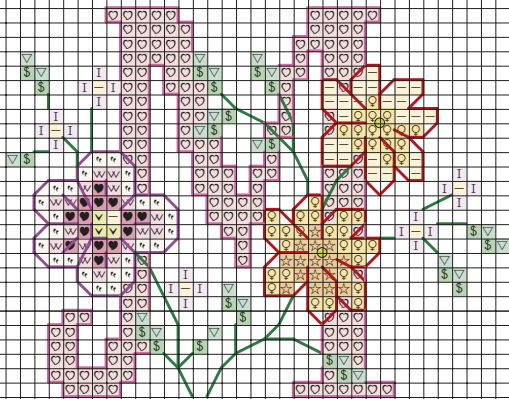
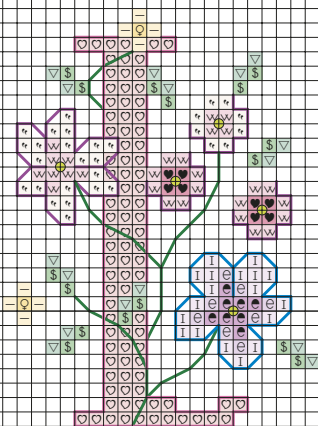
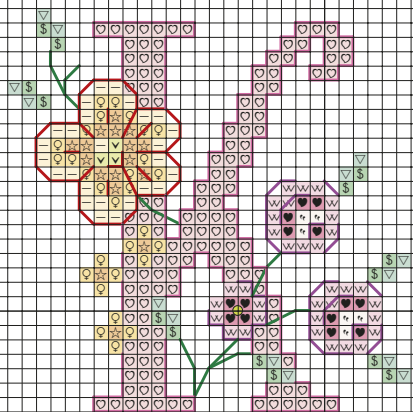
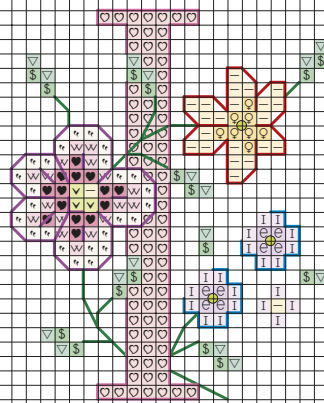
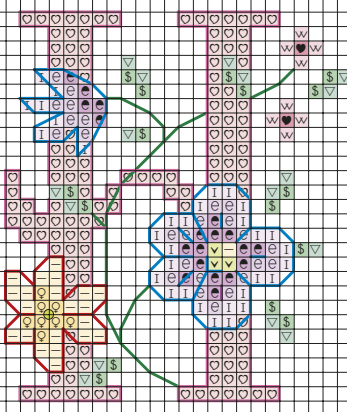
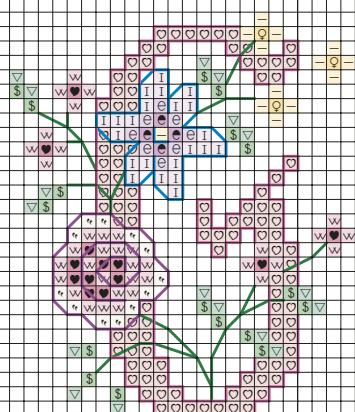
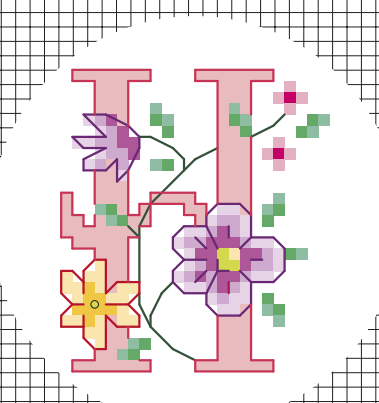
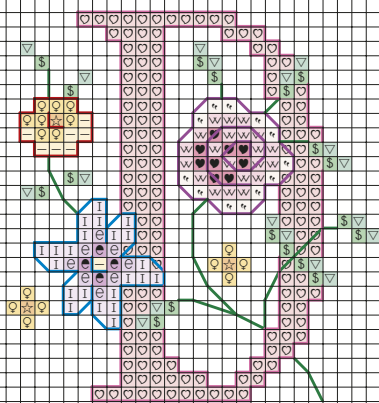


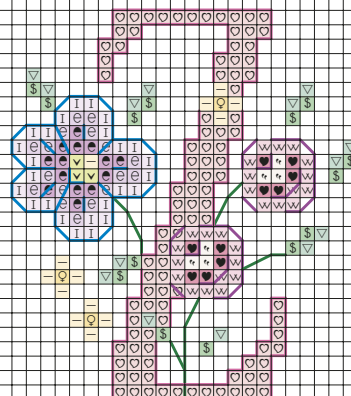
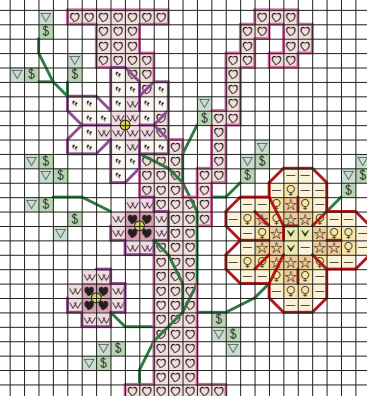
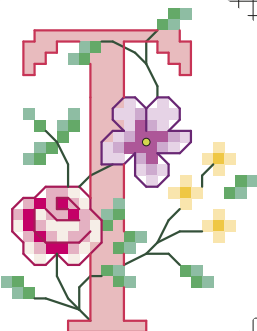
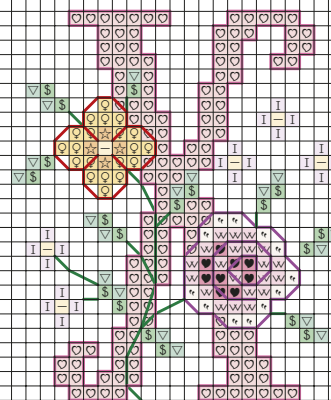
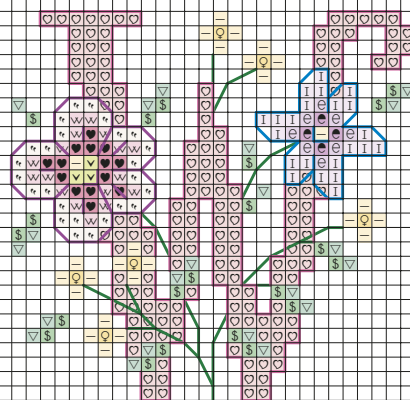
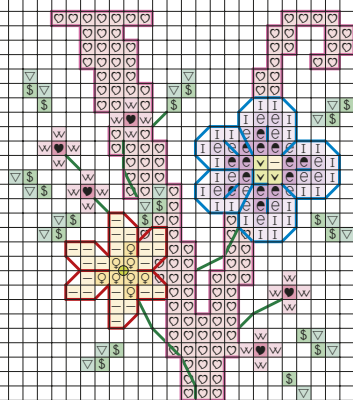
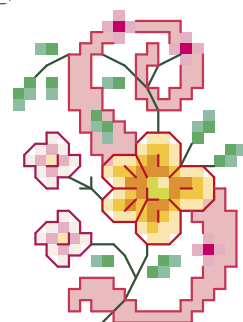
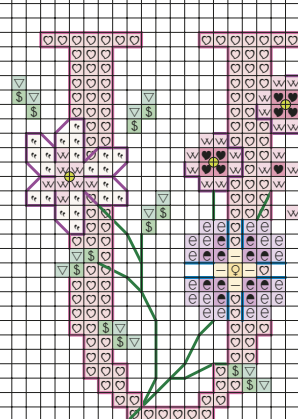
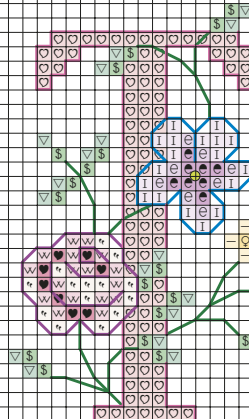
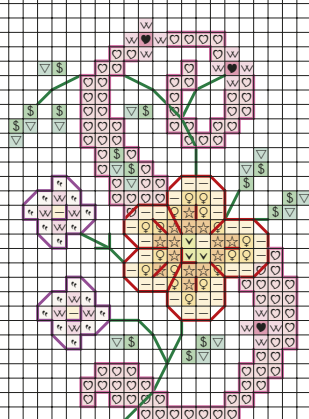
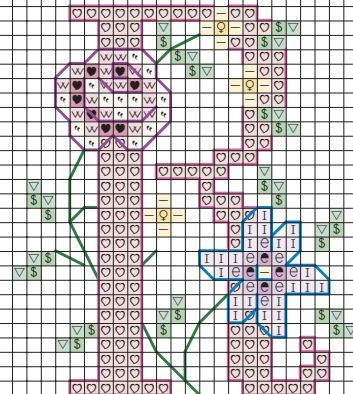
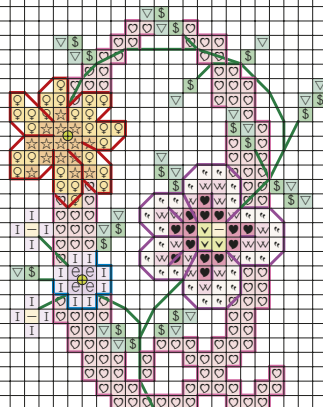
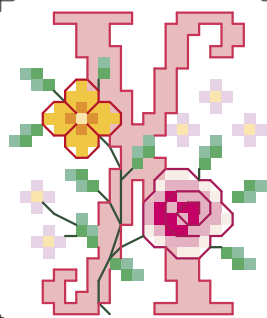
FionaSays...



The art nouveau style of this abc is so delicate and graceful, it would look so sweet in a bedroom. I think I'll stitch my mum's name and patch it onto a make-up bag.

Fiona Baker, Charting Editor
Cross Stitch Crazy





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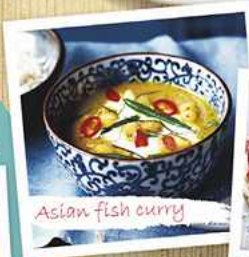
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Stitch & Chat

Catch up on all the gossip from your fellow stitchers and get involved by sharing your photos, stories, views and more!

Cross stitch forever!

I once visited a relative who was snippy about many things, including cross stitch, claiming it was for 'simpletons'! Before a dinner party, I was told not to mention my 'embarrassing hobby' to their friends. When mingling, during pre-dinner drinks, a guest admired my pendant, depicting William Morris's famous 'Strawberry Thief', and without thinking, I said I'd cross stitched it. "Look", she cried to the others, "come and see this beautiful pendant; it's handcrafted – how clever!" My relative's face was a picture, and I've never denied my hobby since!

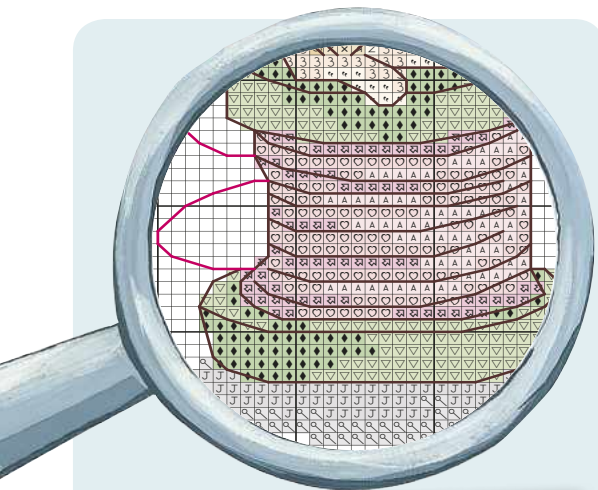
Mrs C Fletcher, Essex

Yvette says: How could anyone be snippy about cross stitch? Not only is it the best hobby ever, it's so versatile, as your pretty pendant shows! I hope this changed your relative's mind!



Coming up:

Got an amusing story about stitching? Send it to us at stitchandchat@cross-stitching.com with a photo for a chance to appear in Crazy and win a prize!



SPOT THE STITCHES!

This is a close-up of one of the charts in this issue of *Crazy* – but which one do you think it is? Send a postcard with the page number the chart is on, along with your name and address, to: Stitch and Chat 200, *Cross Stitch Crazy*, 2nd Floor, Tower House, Fairfax Street, Bristol BS1 3BN by 1st March 2015. The first correct answer pulled out of the hat will win the gorgeous threads pictured on the right!



Your say

Which cross stitch designer would you most like to meet?

Lucie Heaton

"I'd love to meet Lucie Heaton as her designs are so very sweet and cover such a wide subject range. Every time I see one I need to pick up my needle!"

Teresa Price, Essex



Joan Elliott

"Joan's amazing designs range from funny sayings to adorable little bears and fairies to glamorous angels. Plus she's extremely kind to all her fans on Facebook. Talented and humble, a special combination."

Irene McIntosh, Oregon, USA



Emma Congdon

"I just love everything Emma Congdon designs. I'd love to meet her and find out all about her design process. I'm working on my second Emma Congdon design right now, her summer sampler from *Crazy*!"

Debbie Vermeulen, South Africa



Coming up:

What's the best stitchy advice you've ever been given?

Email your answer and a photo to stitchandchat@cross-stitching.com

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This calls for...

1



Time to party!



No special occasion would be complete without bunting, so let's fly the flag in colourful stitches!

Designed by Fiona Baker

...a celebration!

Wishing you...

2



...a happy birthday

Just because...

3



...you're so special

Cut-out&Keep

Quick and easy to stitch one a night!



StitchTime
4-5 hrs
(Each letter)

StitchList...

Perfect for beginners

- ✕ Whole cross stitch
- ✕ Half cross stitch
- ✕ Backstitch

ShoppingList...

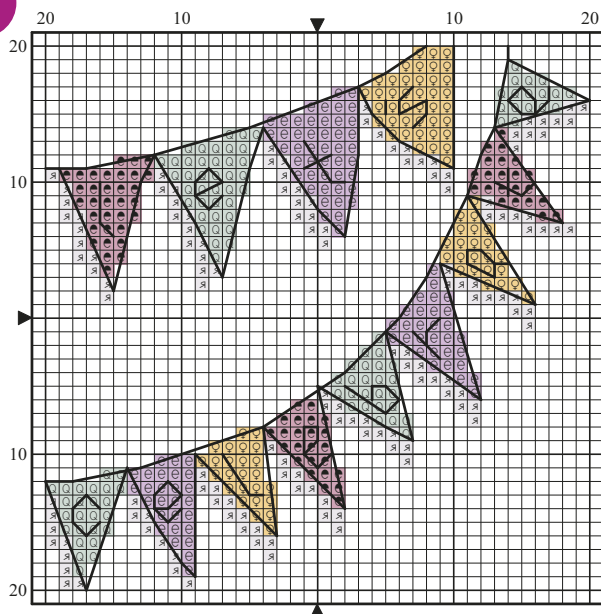
Threads - Stranded cotton as listed in the key

Needle - Size 24 tapestry needle

Fabric - A piece of 14-count white aida measuring 15x15cm (6x6in) for each design. Available from Willow Fabrics, call ☎ 0800 056 7811 or visit www.willowfabrics.com to buy

Extras - Craft Creations Square Aperture Card (AP10U) in Creative Smooth White (30). To buy, visit www.craftcreations.com or contact them on ☎ 0800 056 7811

1



Let's celebrate

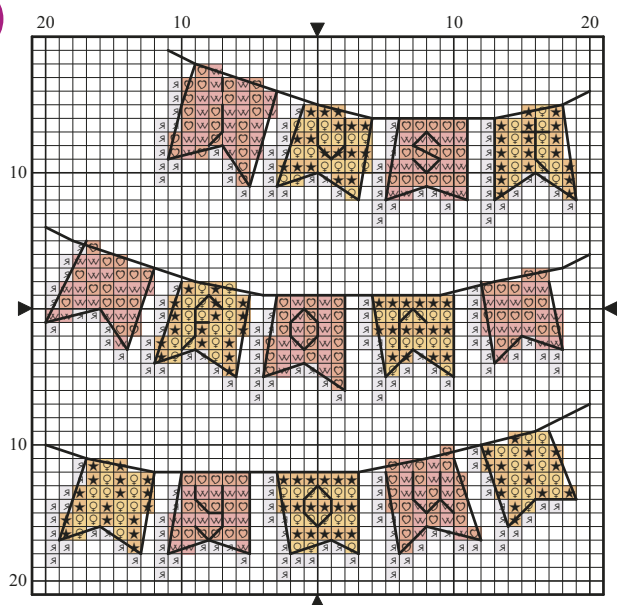
▼ DMC ▼ Anchor ▼ Madeira ▼ DMC ▼ Anchor ▼ Madeira

✕ Cross stitch in two strands ✕ Half cross stitch in two strands

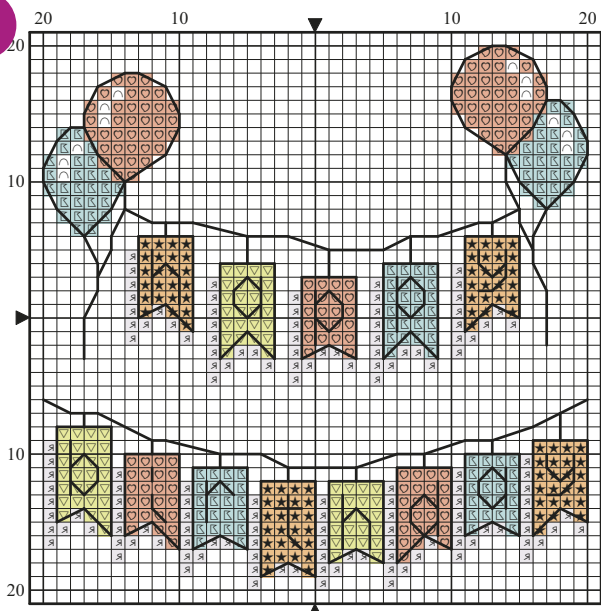
⊖	208	99	804	я	3743	869	2611
⊖	718	88	707	✕ Backstitch in one strand			
♀	972	298	107	—	310	403	2400
Q	3849	1070	1109	✕ Whole stitches only			

Stitch count 40 (h) x 40 (w)
Design area on 14-count fabric 7.5x7.5cm (2³/₄x2³/₄in)

3



2



Just for you

▼ DMC ▼ Anchor ▼ Madeira ▼ DMC ▼ Anchor ▼ Madeira

✕ Cross stitch in two strands ✕ Half cross stitch in two strands

⊖	666	46	210	я	3743	869	2611
★	741	304	202	✕ Backstitch in one strand			
♀	972	298	107	—	310	403	2400
W	3705	35	410	✕ Whole stitches only			

Stitch count 39 (h) x 40 (w)
Design area on 14-count fabric 7x7.5cm (2³/₄x2³/₄in)

Happy birthday

▼ DMC ▼ Anchor ▼ Madeira ▼ DMC ▼ Anchor ▼ Madeira

✕ Cross stitch in two strands ✕ Half cross stitch in two strands

∩	blanc	2	2402	я	3743	869	2611
⊖	666	46	210	✕ Backstitch in one strand			
▽	907	255	1308	—	310	403	2400
♀	972	298	107	✕ Whole stitches only			
⊖	3845	1089	1102				

Stitch count 40 (h) x 40 (w)
Design area on 14-count fabric 7.5x7.5cm (2³/₄x2³/₄in)

To the best dad...

4



...in the whole world!

I'm so lucky...

5



...that we're friends

Hope you enjoy...

6



...your new home

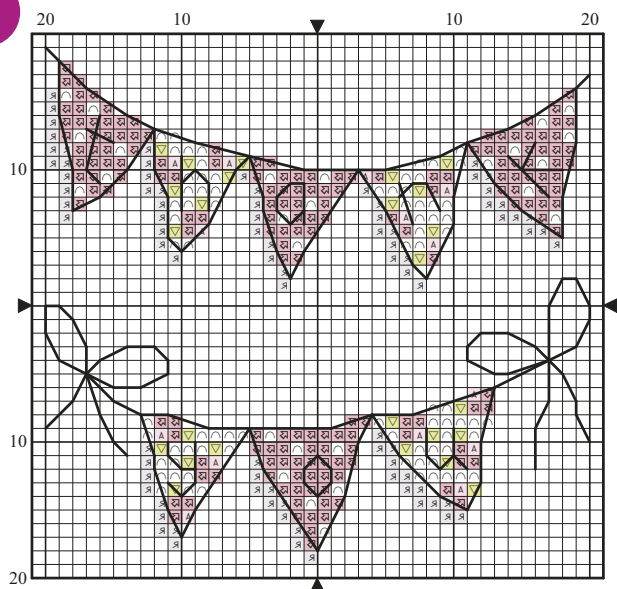
Thank you, mum...

7



...for being so amazing!

5



Thank you

▼ DMC ▼ Anchor ▼ Madeira ▼ DMC ▼ Anchor ▼ Madeira

✕ Cross stitch in two strands ✕ Half cross stitch in two strands

⌂ blanc 2 2402 я 3743 869 2611

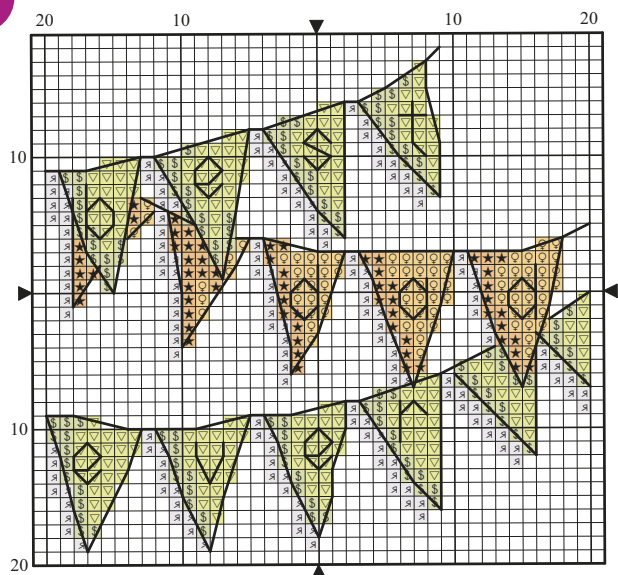
⌂ 603 55 505 ✕ Backstitch in one strand

A 605 1094 613 — 310 403 2400

▽ 907 255 1308 ✕ Whole stitches only

Stitch count 38 (h) x 40 (w)
Design area on 14-count fabric 7x7.5cm (2³/₄x2³/₄in)

4



Best dad ever

▼ DMC ▼ Anchor ▼ Madeira ▼ DMC ▼ Anchor ▼ Madeira

✕ Cross stitch in two strands ✕ Half cross stitch in two strands

★ 741 304 202 я 3743 869 2611

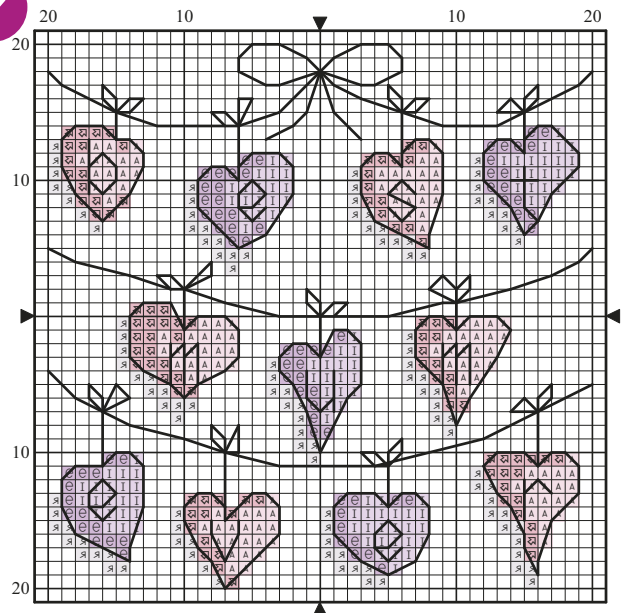
\$ 906 256 1410 ✕ Backstitch in one strand

▽ 907 255 1308 — 310 403 2400

♀ 972 298 107 ✕ Whole stitches only

Stitch count 37 (h) x 40 (w)
Design area on 14-count fabric 6.5x7.5cm (2¹/₂x2³/₄in)

7



Best mum ever

▼ DMC ▼ Anchor ▼ Madeira ▼ DMC ▼ Anchor ▼ Madeira

✕ Cross stitch in two strands ✕ Half cross stitch in two strands

⌂ 208 99 804 я 3743 869 2611

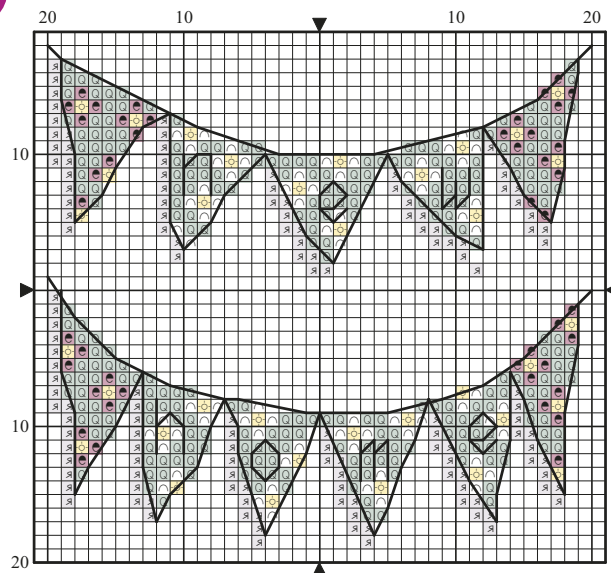
I 209 98 803 ✕ Backstitch in one strand

⌂ 603 55 505 — 310 403 2400

A 605 1094 613 ✕ Whole stitches only

Stitch count 40 (h) x 40 (w)
Design area on 14-count fabric 7.5x7.5cm (2³/₄x2³/₄in)

6



New home

▼ DMC ▼ Anchor ▼ Madeira ▼ DMC ▼ Anchor ▼ Madeira

✕ Cross stitch in two strands ✕ Half cross stitch in two strands

⌂ blanc 2 2402 я 3743 869 2611

⌂ 718 88 707 ✕ Backstitch in one strand

☀ 726 295 109 — 310 403 2400

Q 3849 1070 1109 ✕ Whole stitches only

Stitch count 37 (h) x 40 (w)
Design area on 14-count fabric 6.5x7.5cm (2¹/₂x2³/₄in)

Special
200TH
issue
QUIZ!

How well do you know *Crazy*?

Are you cross stitch crazy? Do you know the mag better than the *Crazy* team? Take our fun quiz to test your knowledge!



1 In which year did the first issue of *Cross Stitch Crazy* go on sale?

- A) 1982
- B) 2012
- C) 1999

2 Challenge Lucie has been going since issue 1, but how many requests has Lucie fulfilled altogether?

- A) 1005
- B) 1200
- C) 1407

3 Bev and Nev are the stars of our popular cartoon strip, but what's the name of their dog?

- A) Trev
- B) Felix
- C) Scruff

4 *Crazy's* Facebook page is growing in popularity every day, but how many likes do we currently have?

- A) Over 30,000
- B) Over 20,000
- C) Over 5,000

5 Which of these celebrities has not featured in Celeb stitch?

- A) Christopher Eccleston
- B) Matt Smith
- C) David Tennant

6 How many editors of *Cross Stitch Crazy* have there been?

- A) 4
- B) 11
- C) 18

7 Our Technical Editor Anne hunts down the perfect designs for you each issue, but what is her pseudonym?

- A) Sergeant Stitchy
- B) Sherlock Anne
- C) Detective MacGregor

8 Which cross stitch designer has appeared in every issue of *Cross Stitch Crazy*?

- A) Maria Diaz
- B) Lesley Teare
- C) Lucie Heaton

How did you score?

70+

There's no doubt about it, you're crazy for *Cross Stitch Crazy* and have been since the very start! You look forward to getting your mag each month and read it from front to back immediately, marking your favourite designs. When you're not reading *Crazy*, you're guaranteed to be busy stitching!

40-60

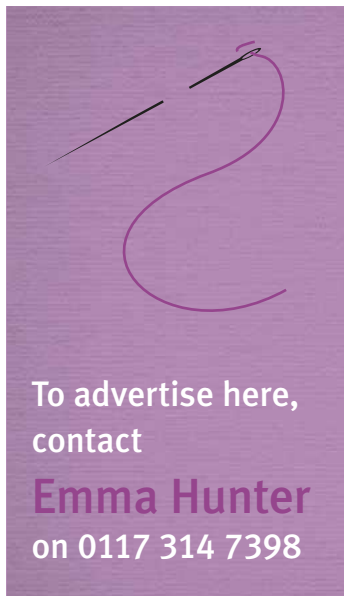
Crazy is your favourite cross stitch mag and you love stitching all the fabulous designs from it. You might not have been with us from the start but you're fully on board now! When you're not stitching or reading *Crazy*, you'll be found chatting to other stitchers on our Facebook page.

0-30

Your knowledge of *Crazy* might not be the best, but we think that's because you spend so much time stitching the designs that it doesn't leave you with much time for reading! Why not treat yourself to a subscription and guarantee a dose of *Crazy* delivered direct to your door each month?

The Answers: 1. A = 0 B = 0 C = 10 2. A = 0 B = 10 C = 0 3. A = 0 B = 0 C = 10 4. A = 10 B = 0 C = 0 5. A = 10 B = 0 C = 0 6. A = 0 B = 10 C = 0 7. A = 0 B = 10 C = 0 8. A = 0 B = 0 C = 10

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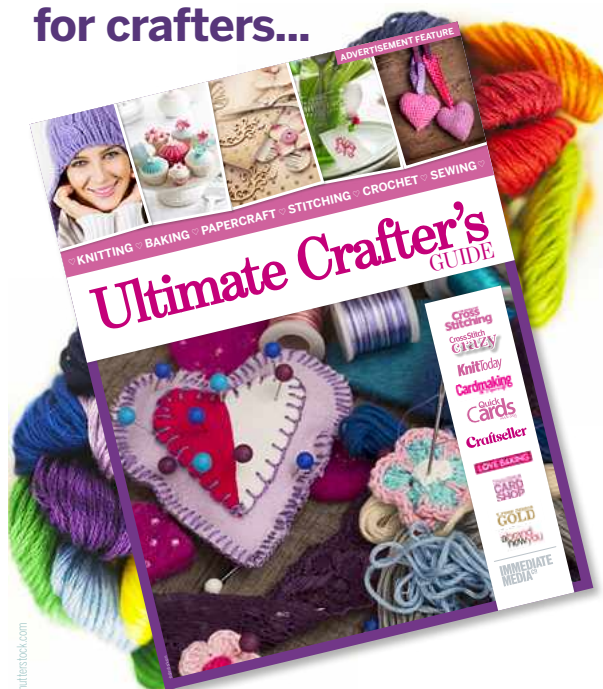
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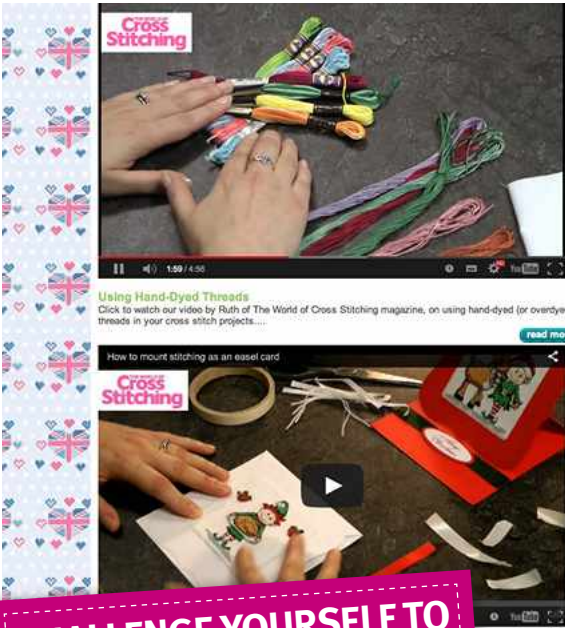
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www.cross-stitching.com

Join us online...

With the best gossip on social media plus top blogs and sites, get online with *Crazy* and get inspired!



CHALLENGE YOURSELF TO TRY SOMETHING NEW!

If you made it your New Year's resolution to try something you've perhaps been a little nervous to attempt before, we have just the idea to pep up your stitching and give you a new perspective on your favourite hobby! Hand-dyed threads make a nice change from regular stranded cottons and produce a beautiful and unique effect of varying tones throughout your work. They come into their own when covering large areas of sea or sky as the gentle shading comes through naturally. For help and inspiration, watch our video on Cross-stitching.com/how-to/tv.

The twittersphere

What you've been tweeting about!



► My MIL is lovely! Part of my Christmas present was an issue of @Crazy_ magazine. Now I just need her to have the kids so I can stitch more!

@MarzD

► Lost my cross stitching needle in my bed... sleeping tonight should be fun.

@kerierson_

► Cross stitching on public transport – just finished another mini project on the way to work today :)

@sallysetsforth



Facebook chat

Here's what you've been chatting about this month!



► I bought some Thread Heaven recently. Wow! What a difference it makes to metallic threads.

Hazel Stitchy Thomson

► My goal for this year is to complete every project I start. First one of the year is Fowl Play from Little People.

Jessica Adams

► Just finished one of my stichy projects with the help of my three-year-old daughter Lucy. I cross stitched two matching designs on a pair of coffee tables. Just have to get glass on top and they're ready to use!

Christine Day

Most liked...

This month's photo is by Tracy Hobden:

"Joan Elliott's Spring Fairy was completed today. I added little butterflies and skirt beading."



Download of the month

www.cross-stitching.com

Enjoy a chirpy stitch with this free chart of a birdy on a rose background – go to 'Charts & Patterns' and search for 'Feathers & Flowers'.



Website of the month

www.hcrafts.com

From John Clayton's elegant ladies to Karen Carter's larger-than-life animals, Heritage Crafts has the design of your dreams!



Blog of the month

justinescrossstitch.blogspot.co.uk

Join Justine on a fun and uplifting journey through everything stitching related from her stash to her current WIPs and recent finishes!

GET IN TOUCH!

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twitter.com/crazy_magazine

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Make a splash!



Give a plain pencil case a breath of fresh sea air with these fun and fabulous ocean-inspired motifs
Designed by Jenny Barton

The sea and its watery inhabitants hold a fascination for us all, but especially children who dream of fantastical underwater adventures. So, we've charted these playful motifs – a mermaid with a



StitchTime
10 hrs
(Each)

fabulously fishy tail, and a shark with fearsomely pointy teeth! Stitched onto light blue aida to add a hint of the sea's azure waters, we've mounted them onto pencil cases, but they'd also work as cards, or stitched onto T-shirts using soluble canvas. Ready, steady, dive in! ●

StitchList...

Perfect for children

- ✕ Whole cross stitch
- ✕ Backstitch

ShoppingList...

Threads - Stranded cotton as listed in the key

Needle - Size 24 tapestry needle

Fabric - Charles Craft 14-count Polar Ice aida measuring 17x25cm (6½x10in) for each design. Visit www.sewandso.co.uk or call ☎ 0800 013 0150 to buy

Extras - Artemio Felt Pencil Case in Grey and Fuchsia. To buy, visit www.craftdepartment.com or call ☎ 01539 823 199 to buy

*Take your needle
on a nautical
adventure!*



ReaderSays...



I really like Jenny Barton's motifs. They're easy to stitch for

a wide range of gifts and are the ideal size to share your cross stitching skills with the younger generation.

Gemma Birt, Leicester

Crazy tip!

Leave at least two blocks of aida all the way around when cutting out the motifs

Pencil cases

▼ DMC ▼ Anchor ▼ Madeira

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

∩	blanc	2	2402
☾	518	1039	1106
☾	519	1038	1105
A	761	1021	404
☼	813	140	910
I	827	160	1013
s	948	892	306
e	958	187	1114
■	3799	236	1713
b	3821	305	2514
b	3822	295	2510

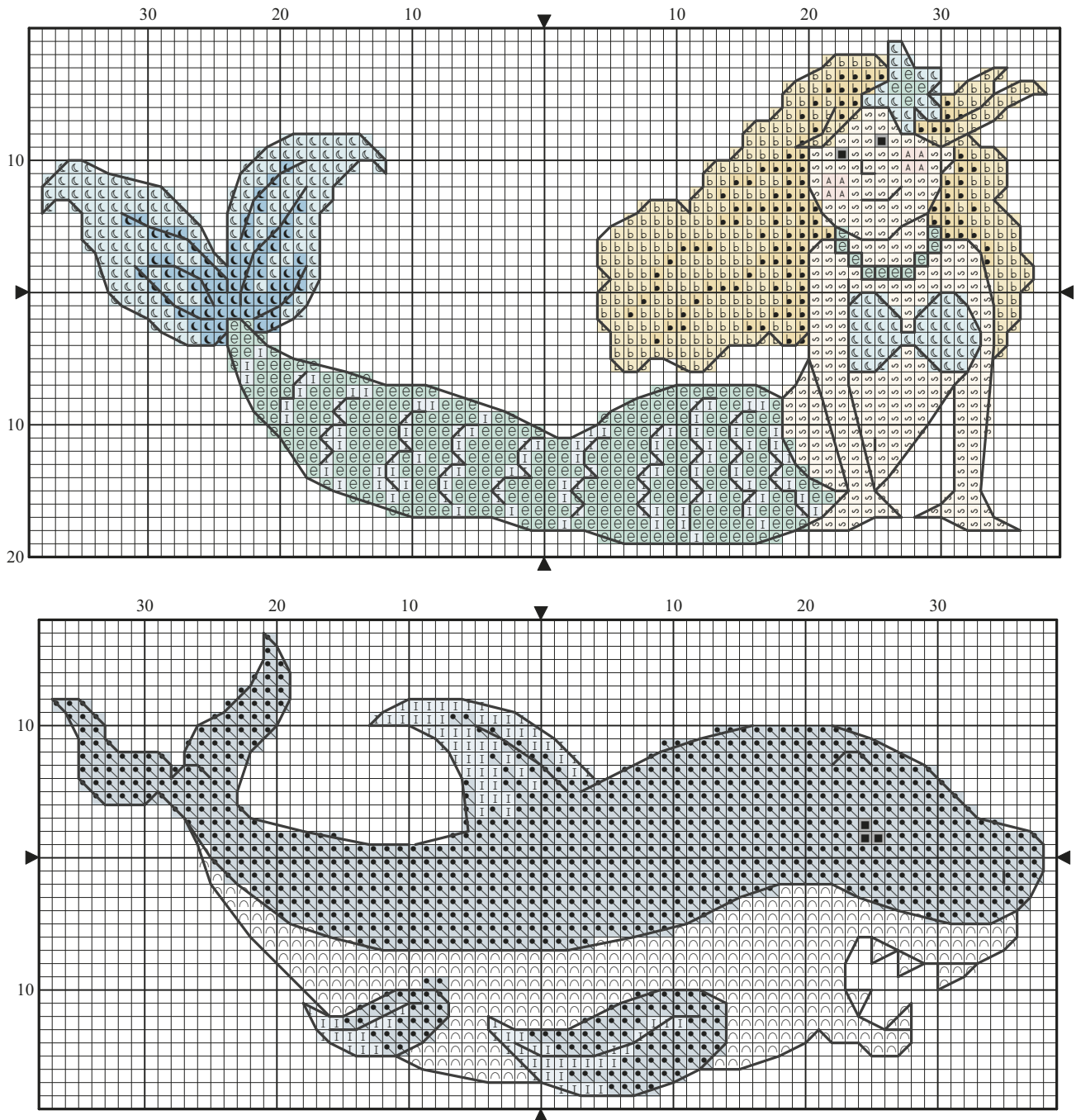
✕ Backstitch in one strand

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

✕ Whole stitches only

Stitch count 38 (h) x 76 (w)
Design area on 14-count fabric
7x14cm (2³/₄x5¹/₂in)
Stitched by Judy Davies





Crazy Kids Stitching

Are you a kid who's mad about cross stitch? Send us a photo and tell us about yourself – if you're featured, you'll win a fab prize!



"I'm Molly and I'm seven years old. I made these pinwheels from *Crazy* with my mum. She's really good at cross stitch and helped me make them. I love my pinwheels, they're so pretty!"

You are a winner!
Molly
from Somerset



FISKARS

I'm a
Crazy kid
stitcher

If you're a young stitcher, we want to know why you started stitching, what you're stitching now and who you stitch for. Simply fill in the coupon below and send us a photo of yourself and your stitching. If you're our Crazy kid stitcher, you'll receive a handy pair of **Fiskars Scissors**!

Name and address:

Postcode:

I am years old

I'm a kid that's crazy about stitching and here's why...

Please ask your parent or guardian to sign here:

PLEASE WRITE ON ANOTHER PIECE OF PAPER IF YOU NEED TO

Fill in and cut out this coupon (or photocopy it) and send it, with a photo, to: *Crazy kids, Cross Stitch Crazy, 2nd Floor, Tower House, Fairfax Street, Bristol BS1 3BN* or email your story and photo to crazykids@cross-stitching.com

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Bothy Threads never fail to impress us with their wide selection of colourful kits, and this Funky Street design by Caroline Rose is no exception! It's worked in whole stitches only so you'll have a finished picture in no time at all. To view the collection or buy this kit, go to www.bothythreads.com or call ☎ 01900 828 844. To be in with a chance of winning one of eight kits worth £24.99, text **CSC200BOTHY** your name, postal address and email address to **87474** (texts will be charged at 50p plus your standard network rate) or label your postcard **'Bothy Threads kits 200 giveaway'**.

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You'll be spoilt for choice at ExCel in London from 27-29th March as one ticket gives you entry to Stitching, Sewing & Hobbycrafts and the Fashion & Embroidery show, all for £8 (£10 on the door)! Visit www.ichfevents.co.uk or call ☎ 01425 277 988 to buy. For a chance to win a pair of tickets, text **CSC200LONDON** your name, postal address and email address to **87474** (texts will be charged at 50p plus your standard network rate) or label your postcard **'London tickets 200 giveaway'**.



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Lili of the Valley charts!

We've been fans of Lili of the Valley's papers and stamps for a while, so we love their new range of charts! The range includes Mid-Summer Night, Water Lily, Cobweb and Time Flies, and we're giving 10 readers the chance to win all four. To buy for £7 each, visit www.liliofthevalley.co.uk. To enter, simply text **CSC200LILI** your name, postal address and email address to **87474** (texts will be charged at 50p plus your standard network rate) or label your postcard **'Lili of the Valley 200 giveaway'**.



Craft Department goodie bag!

We're offering 10 readers the chance to win goodies worth up to £28! Inside each jute bag is a DMC Ready to Stitch toy, a bib with aida insert, a sheet of felt bears and five Madeira threads. Visit www.craftdepartment.com or call ☎ 01539 823 199 for their full product range. For the chance to win, text **CSC200GOODIE** your name, postal address and email address to **87474** (texts will be charged at 50p plus your standard network rate) or label your postcard **'Goodie bags 200 giveaway'**.



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*Enter all four competitions with one text charged at £1.50 plus your standard network tariff rate.

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To enter by post, write your name, address and chosen

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Track it Down



Sherlock Anne's on hand to track down the designs you crave. Send her your requests today!

Shore thing

A good friend of mine is moving to Cornwall soon and I'm going to miss her terribly. I'd love to stitch her a parting gift with a Cornish theme. Please can you help, Anne?

Irene Williams, Northampton

It may be sad but I'm sure you'll enjoy visiting her! Emma Louise Art Stitch offer a wonderful range of Cornish designs that are available to buy as kits and charts. I'm not sure what kind of gift you're looking to stitch, but I hope one of these should fit the bill. Choose from a St Ives North Harbour kit (top) for £14.99, or a Love Cornwall Keyring kit (bottom) that costs £5.02. There's plenty more in the range, so to see them all and to buy, visit www.emmalouiseartstitch.co.uk.



Cheers!

My husband has enjoyed making his own wine for many years and I'd love to stitch him something to celebrate his special hobby. Please can you find me a design?

Pam Tomkinson, by email

How about Wine Board from Permin? I thought the collection of grapes, barrel, wine glass and bottle would certainly appeal to a wine maker. The RRP for this design is £22 and to find your nearest stockist of the kit, email sales@mmwfabrics.co.uk or call ☎ 07983 020 189.

Track it down for me...

Please find the following design for me – I'm crazy for it!
(Continue on another sheet if necessary)

The design I want and why

.....

.....

My name and address.....

.....

Email

Tel.....

Send to: **Track it down**, Cross Stitch Crazy, Immediate Media Company Origin Ltd, 2nd Floor, Tower House, Fairfax Street, Bristol BS1 3BN. Please include one request per coupon. Do use a photocopy if you don't want to cut up your magazine. You can also send an email straight to Sherlock Anne at: trackit@cross-stitching.com

Crazy for koala bears

My sister-in-law is mad about koalas. Please can you find a design for me to stitch for her 60th birthday present?

Susan Prince, Lichfield

This Koala cross stitch kit is a beautifully realistic design that would make a great birthday gift. Inside the kit you'll find everything you need to stitch it, including 16-count cream aida and DMC stranded cotton, and it measures 18x25.5cm (7x10in) when stitched. To buy the kit for £20.25, visit www.sewandso.co.uk or call on ☎ 0800 013 0150.



Ferret about

My daughter has recently adopted a pet ferret called Betty. I've been looking everywhere for a design of a ferret but am not having much luck! Can you help?

Diana Goodgier,
Southend-on-Sea

How sweet, Diana! Janne Designs sell a wide selection of realistic animal kits, including six cute ferret designs. Our favourites are the Ferret Portrait (top), which costs £21.50 and the adorable Ferret Twins kit (bottom) which costs £22.50. To see the range or to buy, visit www.jannedesigns.co.uk or call ☎ 0116 270 7239.



Feathered friends

We live on a farm, but don't keep many animals any more and I really miss our beloved pet ducks! Please can you find me a realistic mallard design to stitch for myself to remind me of them?

Shirley McCulloch, *Norfolk*

I have a feeling you'll like this mallard design which appeared in issue 111 of our sister magazine, *Cross Stitch Gold*. It's no longer on sale, however you can order a back issue for £6.35 including free UK P&P. The design measures 125x99 stitches and is worked in 28 shades of thread. To buy the magazine, go to www.subscribeonline.co.uk/gold or call ☎ 0844 844 0385.



Special hobby

I find stitching therapeutic, and have really embraced it since my husband passed away last year. I spotted a chart by Cherry Wood Design Studios on Rhona Norrie's blog called *Eat, Sleep, Stitch*, which sums up my life! I'd love to stitch it but can't find it anywhere.

Sunetra Gill, *Solihull*

You've certainly discovered a fab design, Sunetra! The *Eat Sleep*

Stitch chart pack includes four designs to stitch as a picture, mini cushion, bolster cushion and bookmark. As well as the apt saying, you'll enjoy stitching the pretty daisies and colourful butterflies. I haven't managed to find this chart pack for sale in the UK, but it's possible to order it from America. However, it's quite expensive; the chart itself only costs \$7 (approximately £4.50), but shipping to the UK is \$25.95 (approximately £16.50). It may also be worth keeping an eye on eBay in case anyone is selling this chart. If you'd like to buy this chart pack, go to www.robinsnestdesigns.com.

Chart choice

This month: *Geisha girls*

Add a touch of the Orient to your home this spring with our pick of beautiful geisha charts

Beaded beauty

£10.58, Sakura Blossom by Cross Stitching Art
www.sewandso.co.uk ☎ 0800 013 0150

This elegant design is brought to life with 24 shades of stranded cotton, while metallic threads and yellow seed beads add a special finishing touch. Cross Stitching Art recommend this design is worked on 32-count light blue Belfast linen, but if you prefer stitching on aida, opt for 16-count and the finished design will turn out exactly the same size.

Picture perfect

£9.86, Beauty by the Pond by Kustom Krafts
www.sewandso.co.uk ☎ 0800 013 0150

The largest of all our chosen geisha designs, this chart measures 58.5x40.5cm (23x16in) when stitched on 14-count aida. A vivid palette of 39 thread shades is used to bring to life the geisha and her surroundings in this picturesque waterside scene that will look simply stunning hanging in your home.

Serene scene

£8.50, Songbirds from Catkin Embroidery
www.catkinembroidery.com ☎ 0117 971 5802

Rich red, luscious green and gorgeous metallic thread are used to work this pair's elegant robes and parasol, and the sweet little birds fluttering nearby. Catkin Embroidery also sell *Feathered Friends*, a blackwork version of this design, and if you prefer to buy either as a whole kit, they're available with either 14-count aida or 28-count evenweave for £29.95.

Floral fancy

£4, Delightful Geisha by Lesley Teare
www.lesleyteare.com

Lesley specialises in Oriental designs and we can see why! She certainly has a beautiful eye for detail, charting realistic flowers and butterflies, intricate detail on the robes and the delicate floral hairband in this design. Visit the website to see her full collection.



Challenge

Lucie

Crazy designer Lucie Heaton loves to bring your ideas to life, so send in yours today!



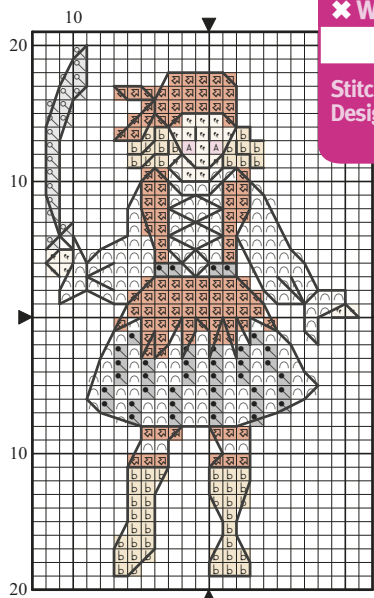
Ahoy me hearties!

Would you be able to chart me a girl pirate, Lucie? My daughter's mad about them and wants to be a pirate when she grows up(!), so I'd love to stitch a female version for her.

Jemima Walter, Hampshire

I hope this lady is suitably swashbuckling, Jemima!

Lucie



Girl pirate

▼ DMC ▼ Anchor ▼ Madeira

✦ Cross stitch in two strands

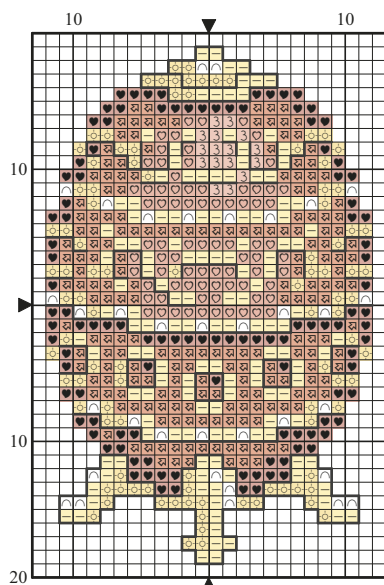
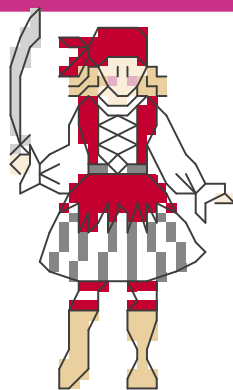
⌒	blanc	2	2402
⊠	349	1098	212
⊠	414	235	1714
⊠	415	398	1802
b	437	362	2012
A	604	26	614
•	948	892	306

✦ Backstitch in one strand

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

✦ Whole stitches only

Stitch count 39 (h) x 23 (w)
Design area on 14-count fabric
7x4cm (2³/₄x1¹/₂in)



Fabergé-style egg

▼ DMC ▼ Anchor ▼ Madeira

✦ Cross stitch in two strands

⌒	blanc	2	2402
♥	347	1025	407
⊠	349	1098	212
♥	351	10	214
3	352	9	303
⊠	725	305	113
—	726	295	109

✦ Backstitch in one strand

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

✦ Whole stitches only

Stitch count 38 (h) x 24 (w)
Design area on 14-count fabric
7x4.5cm (2³/₄x1³/₄in)

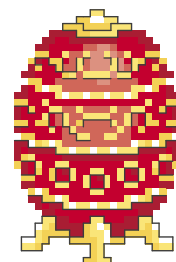
Egg-cellent

My oldest granddaughter, Emily, is fascinated by the history and story of Fabergé and their beautiful jewelled eggs. I'd be so grateful if you could use your fabulous talents to design a Fabergé-style egg on its stand for me to stitch for her as a wonderful surprise!

Mrs McBride, Merseyside

I hope I've done this justice and that Emily is thrilled with your stitched gift, Mrs McBride!

Lucie



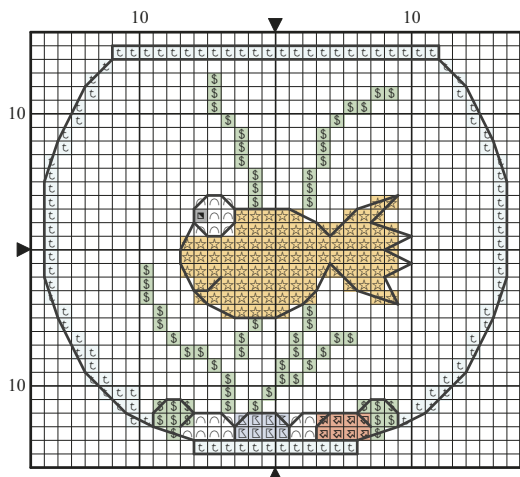
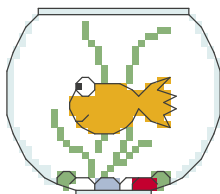
Fish tails

Please could you design a goldfish in a bowl for me, Lucie? My three-year-old niece keeps asking for a pet but isn't allowed, so I'd love to stitch one for her instead!

Peggy Edwards, Leicester

How about this fishy little fellow, Peggy?

Lucie



Goldfish in a bowl

▼ DMC ▼ Anchor ▼ Madeira

✦ Cross stitch in two strands

⌒	blanc	2	2402
⊠	349	1098	212
☆	742	303	114
⊠	799	145	910
t	800	144	908
\$	912	209	1213
■	3799	236	1713

✦ Backstitch in one strand

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

✦ Whole stitches only

Stitch count 30 (h) x 34 (w)
Design area on 14-count fabric
5.5x6cm (2¹/₄x2¹/₂in)

Break a leg

Could you chart me an emu with a bright pink cast, Lucie? My friend has had an operation on her foot and the emu is a reminder of a long running joke between us, so hopefully it'll cheer her up!

Toni Miles, Slough

I love the funny request, Toni – this should definitely work!
Lucie

Emu in plaster

▼ DMC ▼ Anchor ▼ Madeira

✳ Cross stitch in two strands

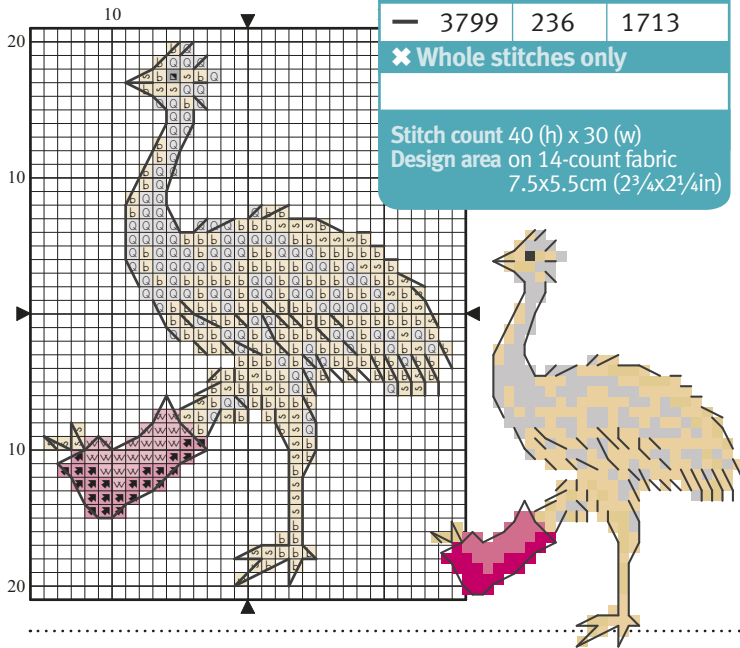
Q	318	399	1801
b	437	362	2012
■	602	57	702
w	603	55	505
s	738	367	2013
■	3799	236	1713

✳ Backstitch in one strand

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

✳ Whole stitches only

Stitch count 40 (h) x 30 (w)
Design area on 14-count fabric
7.5x5.5cm (2³/₄x2¹/₄in)



Basset Hound

▼ DMC ▼ Anchor ▼ Madeira

✳ Cross stitch in two strands

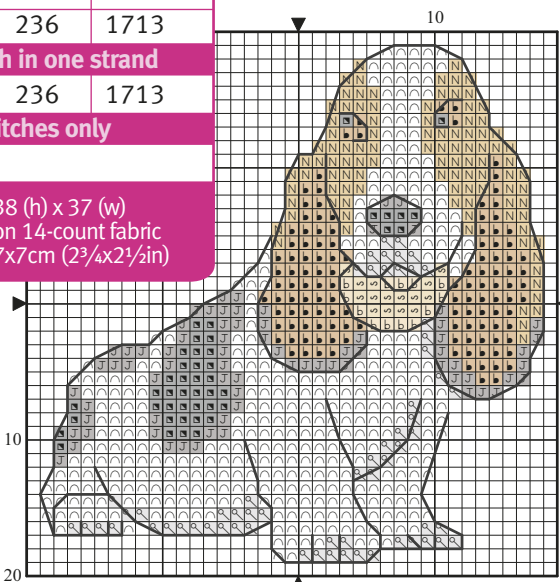
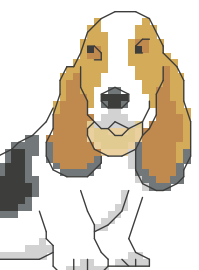
∩	blanc	2	2402
J	317	400	1714
Q	415	398	1802
b	435	1046	2010
N	436	1045	2011
b	437	362	2012
s	738	367	2013
■	3799	236	1713

✳ Backstitch in one strand

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

✳ Whole stitches only

Stitch count 38 (h) x 37 (w)
Design area on 14-count fabric
7x7cm (2³/₄x2¹/₂in)



Sweet tooth

I'd like a chart of a Basset Hound with a doughnut in its mouth, please! My dog always pinches my food and can't resist a bite from a doughnut, so I'd love to stitch this cute design.

Mary Ivens, County Down

A doughnut-eating dog? Love it! Does this fellow look familiar?

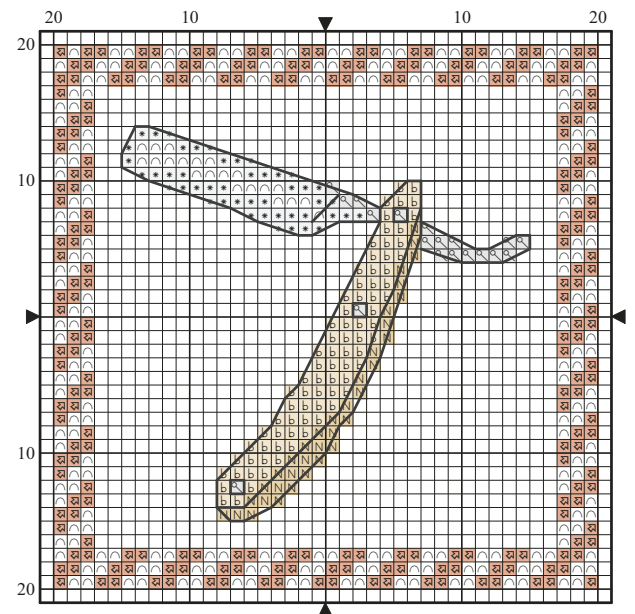
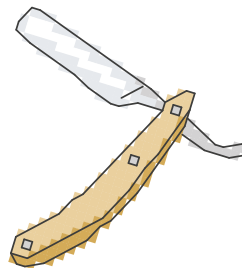
Lucie

Cutting edge

My friend is opening a barber shop, so I'd like to make a special card for him to say congratulations. Could you design a small chart for me please, Lucie, incorporating a cut throat razor?

Emma Heath, by email

How about this, Emma?
Lucie



Cut throat razor

▼ DMC ▼ Anchor ▼ Madeira

✳ Cross stitch in two strands

∩	blanc	2	2402
J	349	1098	212
Q	415	398	1802
N	436	1045	2011
b	437	362	2012
*	762	234	1804

✳ Backstitch in one strand

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

✳ Whole stitches only

Stitch count 40 (h) x 40 (w)
Design area on 14-count fabric
7.5x7.5cm (2³/₄x2³/₄in)

I challenge Lucie...

If there's something you would like to have charted, challenge me, Lucie, and I'll come up with the goods. Please note, I can only fit in fairly small designs and for copyright reasons I'm unable to chart characters from films and TV – but go on, make it something crazy!

My chart request

I'd like this chart because

Your name and address

Fill in and cut out this coupon (or photocopy it) and send it to:
Challenge Lucie, Cross Stitch Crazy, Immediate Media Company Bristol Ltd, 2nd Floor, Tower House, Fairfax Street, Bristol BS1 3BN, or email: challengelucie@cross-stitching.com

In crazy next month

On sale from 24th February

Bunny love

Bring Beatrix Potter's Peter Rabbit to life in this exclusive stitch that'll charm all!



Anchor

FREE
6 PRETTY BOBBINS
WITH 12M OF
THREAD!*

*Free gifts available with print edition only



All this



Feathered friends

A beautiful garden bird abc

Easter fun

We show you how to make these quirky chickens!

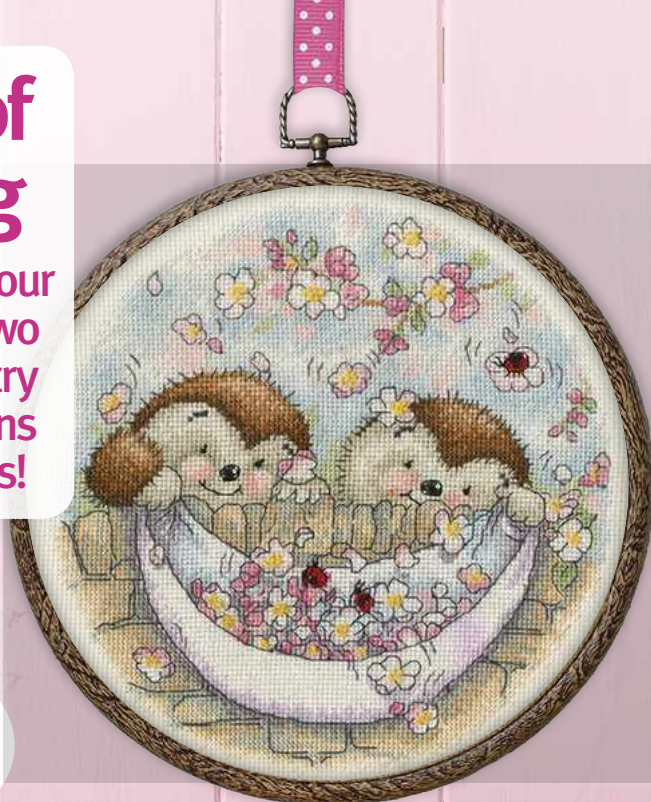


Joys of spring

Brighten your day with two cute Country Companions hedgehogs!

Anchor

Country Companions



Time to stitch!

Fun cuckoo clocks for kids



and more in issue 201

Let's party!

50 colourful and cute birthday gift ideas



Grow your own

Be inspired by vintage seed packets

From all good newsagents

To subscribe ☎ 0844 844 0388

Contents are subject to change.

Cross stitch made easy



“Welcome to cross stitch! You’ll soon learn how it’s done – my guide here tells you everything you need to know to get started”

With Anne MacGregor

How to use our charts and keys

We’re sure you’ll want to start stitching our gorgeous designs straight away. Here’s how to follow our charts and keys...



Perfect for beginners

Small, quick-to-stitch designs, such as the berry juice opposite, are ideal to try if you’re new to stitching. For lots more simple designs, take a look at these:

- **PAGE 16**
Cute panda
- **PAGE 20**
Gardening gift ideas
- **PAGE 40**
Farm animals
- **PAGE 53**
Floral abc
- **PAGE 61**
Bunting cards

Reading a chart

► Our charts are printed in both colour and symbols. Each square on a cross stitch chart contains a symbol, and each symbol corresponds with one stitch. The key that accompanies the chart will tell you what colour thread each symbol corresponds to, so you know which one to thread your needle with.

Where to start

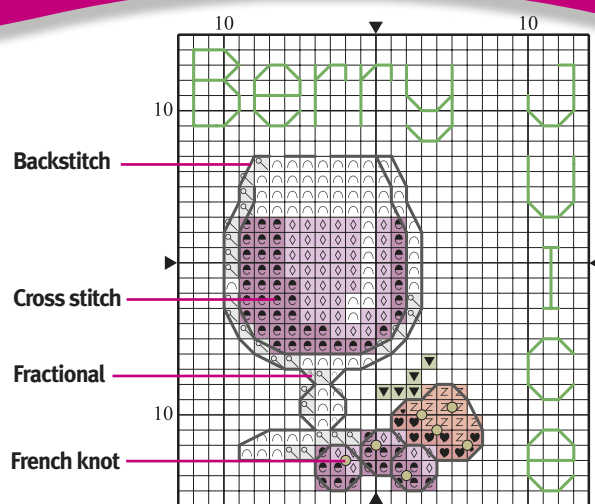
► The centre of most cross stitch charts is specially marked. This is the best place to start stitching, so you end up with the design stitched in the middle of the fabric. The centre of our charts is where the heavy vertical and horizontal lines intersect. To find the centre of your fabric, fold it in half horizontally, open it up and fold it vertically. When you open the fabric again, you’ll find the creases mark the centre.

Following our keys

► All of our Crazy charts have keys that tell you how many strands of thread to stitch in (most thread is six-stranded), the thread numbers needed, the size of the design and whether there are backstitch lines, French knots or fractional stitches. The thread numbers listed in the first column of the key refer to the brand that we’ve used to stitch the design. Conversion numbers for two other brands of threads are given. These are not always exact equivalents, but are the closest match available.

Finding what you need

► Each of our projects includes a shopping list, telling you what type and size of fabric you’ll need. It also tells you what size frame and mount you’ll need to finish it off. If we’ve made anything out of the ordinary from our stitching, we’ll tell you what you need to recreate it.



Symbol and colour that corresponds to the chart

Type of stitch and number of strands

Stitch count – how many stitches high and wide the design is

Berry juice

▼ DMC ▼ Anchor ▼ Madeira

✱ Cross stitch in two strands

∩	B5200	1	2401
z	351	10	214
Q	415	398	1802
◇	553	98	712
♥	817	13	210
▼	3347	265	1408
●	3834	101	2609

✱ Backstitch in one strand

—	413	236	1713
—	701	227	1305

✱ French knots in two strands

●	730	924	1607
---	-----	-----	------

✱ Contains fractionals

Stitch count 29 (h) x 25 (w)
Design area on 14-count fabric
5.5x4.5cm (2x1³/₄in)

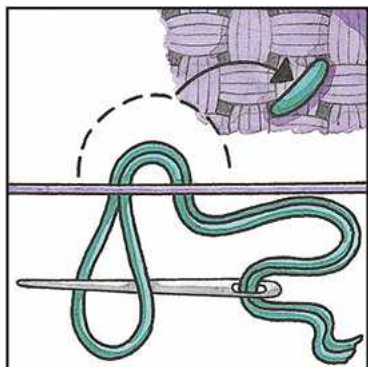
Design area – what the design will measure when stitched on the specified fabric

The three main brands of thread we use. The first column is always the one that we’ve used to stitch the design

Thread number represented by the symbol

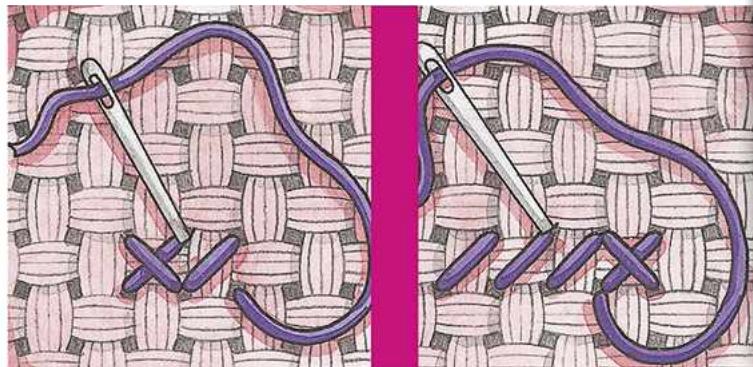
Cross-stitching.com
The non stop stitching site

Don’t forget to log on to our website, Cross-stitching.com, to check out video tutorials, handy tips and much more!



Starting your thread

► The following can only be done with an even number of strands. Cut thread to twice the length you need. Separate one strand and double it over. Thread the needle with the ends, forming a loop. Bring the needle up through the fabric. As you take it down, pass it through the loop and pull firmly.

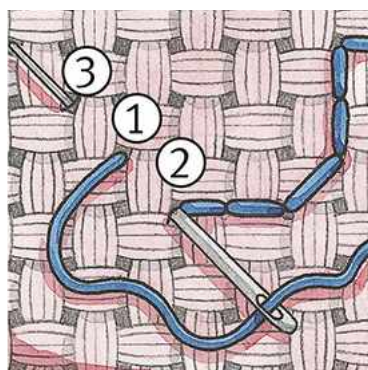


Cross stitch

► Make a cross stitch for each symbol on the chart. Bring the needle up at the bottom left corner of a square and down at the top right corner. This is a half cross stitch. Bring the needle up again at the bottom right corner and back down at the top left. This is a completed cross stitch.

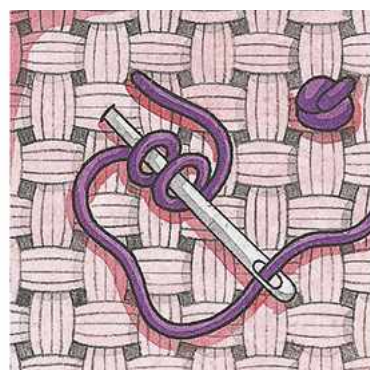
TIP Work each stitch in the same order so the top arms of your cross stitches lie in the same direction.

TIP Working a row of half cross stitches, then completing the cross stitch on the return journey, is a quick way to work; especially when stitching blocks of colour.



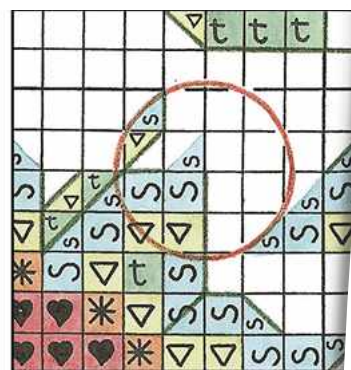
Backstitch

► Backstitch is shown by a coloured line and is added to stitching to create detail. Work the backstitch over individual blocks on aida, or pairs of threads on evenweave. Bring the needle up through the fabric at 1 and take it down at 2, up at 3 and so on, so that you are working back on yourself.



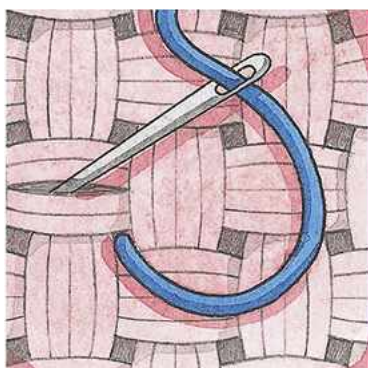
French knots

► French knots appear as dots on your chart. Bring the needle up through the fabric, hold the thread down with your left hand and wind it round the needle twice. Still holding the thread taut, take the needle down one thread or part of a block away. Pull through until a neat knot is formed.



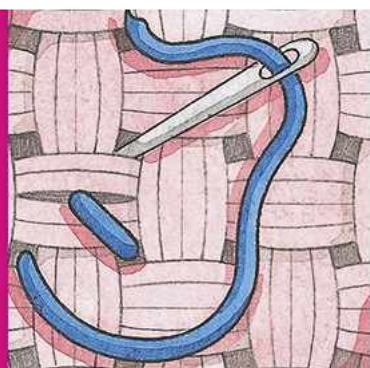
Spotting fractionals

► A fractional stitch is represented on a chart by a smaller version of the main symbol, in a corner of the square. It will show you which corner the fractional stitch should occupy. Quarter and three-quarter stitches are shown in the same way on your chart.

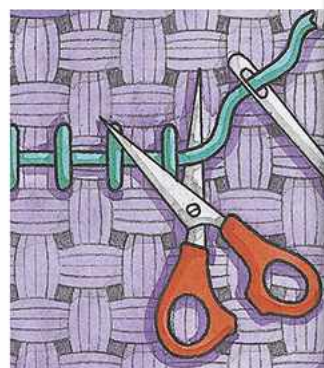


Fractional stitches

► To make a quarter stitch, bring the needle up at the corner of a square and take it down through the centre, halfway across the diagonal, splitting the aida block. To turn this into a three-quarter stitch, make a half cross stitch across the other diagonal of the square. This creates a half cross stitch



across the quarter stitch. If you have to make two fractional stitches back-to-back in the same square, you'll need to decide which is a quarter stitch and which is a three-quarter stitch. Usually, the three-quarter stitch is made in the foreground colour of the design.



Finishing your thread

► Once you've finished stitching, finish off your threads by running your needle through the back of several stitches that you've already completed. Snip off the ends neatly with a sharp pair of embroidery scissors, as close to your fabric as possible.

AFGHAN – a woollen blanket or rug with areas for cross stitching

AIDA – the most common cross stitching fabric, made up of blocks of weave

AIDA BAND – a strip of aida with a decorative edge, used to adorn towels, bookmarks, etc. Comes in various widths

APERTURE – the space through which a design is shown (mainly on cards and in frames)

BEADING NEEDLE – a long, fine needle that slides easily through seed and bugle beads

DESIGN AREA – the measurement of the finished design, depending on the count of fabric used

EVENWEAVE – fabric made from evenly-spaced woven threads. It's softer and more flexible than aida

FABRIC COUNT – the number of holes per inch on your fabric. The higher the number, the finer the fabric is

FABRIC SIZE – the size of fabric needed for the design, including allowance for framing

FRACTIONAL STITCH – stitches made from a quarter or three-quarters of a cross stitch

HALF STITCH – the first arm of the cross. Used to give a less dense stitch to lighter areas

HOOP – a plastic or wooden frame that holds your fabric taut while you stitch on it

JOBELAN – a specific type of evenweave fabric

KEY – a list of all the threads and stitches used in a design, and their respective chart symbols

LONG STITCH – long backstitches that extend over larger areas of the fabric, to depict sky or grass etc

PERFORATED PAPER – toughened paper, perforated with tiny holes

PETIT POINT – tiny stitches, one quarter the size of a cross stitch, for detailed areas of stitching

PLASTIC CANVAS – a plastic alternative to fabric, ideal for making decorations and bookmarks

SAMPLER – traditional stitching, demonstrating a variety of stitches

SATIN THREADS – silky threads that add a subtle sheen

SKEIN – an 8m length of stranded cotton, divisible into six strands

STITCH COUNT – the number of stitches (vertical and horizontal) that make up a design

STITCHING OVER TWO – term used to describe stitching over two threads on evenweave fabric

WADDING – padding used to add depth to stitching when it's mounted inside cards

WASTE CANVAS – loosely woven fabric, held together with soluble glue. Often used to add designs to clothes and softer fabrics

WHOLE STITCH – a complete cross stitch as opposed to half, quarter and three-quarter stitches

Teabreak



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

Fill in the blanks in the grid so that every row, column, and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1-9.

Once you've completed the grid, text* the numbers in the blue squares to us and you'll be in with a chance of winning this gorgeous Vintage Crafts Deluxe Sewing Set from Dotcomgiftshop worth £14.95! To buy, visit www.dotcomgiftshop.com or call ☎ 0208 746 2473.

TO ENTER: *Text CSC200SUDOKU followed by your answer, name, email address and postal address to 87474. Texts will be charged at 50p plus your standard network rate. For full terms and conditions turn to page 73. To enter by post, send your answer, name and address on a postcard to: Crazy 200 Sudoku, Cross Stitch Crazy, 2nd Floor, Tower House, Fairfax Street, Bristol BS1 3BN. The closing date for entries is 1st March 2015.



TEXT
your
entry!*

Solution
Celeb wordsearch
The missing word is
WATERWORLD

*The Buttons...
Bev, Nev and co will have you in stitches!* By Rhys Reed



KEEP THE SPIRIT OF YOUR LOVED ONE WITH YOU ALWAYS

I Am With You Still

*I give you this one thought to keep,
I am with you still, do not weep.*

*I am a thousand winds that blow,
I am the diamond glints on snow.*

*I am the sunlight on ripened grain,
I am the gentle autumn's rain.*

*When you awaken in the morning's hush,
I am the swift, uplifting rush,
Of quiet birds in circled flight.*

*Do not think of me as gone,
I am with you still, in each new dawn.*



I AM WITH YOU



*Genuine
Diamond*

*Teardrop-shaped
Created Opal*

*Solid Sterling
Silver*



Shown actual size

A Fine Jewellery Exclusive Available only from The Bradford Exchange

Treasure the everlasting bond you and your loved one share with an exclusive new jewellery creation – the 'I Am With You' Diamond & Created Opal Ring. Finely handcrafted in solid sterling silver, the ring features a luminescent teardrop-shaped created opal set among beautifully sculpted sterling silver waves. The opal glows with rosy pinks and sparking blues, reminiscent of the dawning of a new day, and a genuine diamond, like a sparkling sun, rises above the horizon. The ring band is engraved with words that your loved one would want you to cherish: 'I am with you still in each new dawn'.

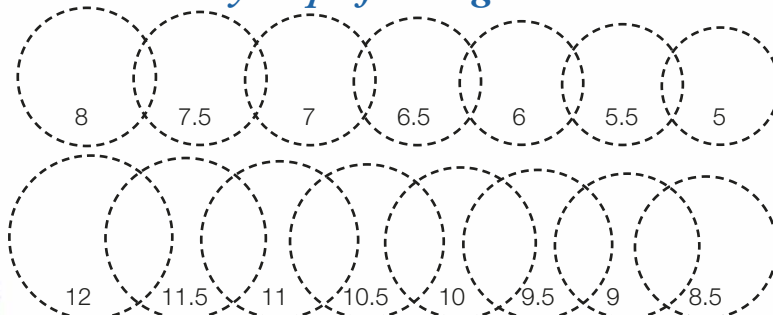
A Beautiful Keepsake... A Remarkable Value

This ring is a remarkable value at just £99.96, payable in 4 easy instalments of only £24.99 (plus £6.99 S&H)*, and is backed by our unconditional, 120-day, money-back guarantee. Available in whole and half sizes from 5-12, each ring arrives with a Certificate of Authenticity, a custom-designed presentation case and poem card. To order, there is nothing to pay now – simply complete and return the Reservation Application today so that you don't miss out!

Find your perfect ring size below



*Your ring arrives in a
deluxe presentation box*



Place one of your rings on the chart and match a circle with the inside of your ring.
Whole & half sizes 5-12 are available.

Please ensure the hand on which the ring will actually be worn is measured, as a ring size will be about 1/2 a size larger on the hand used for writing.

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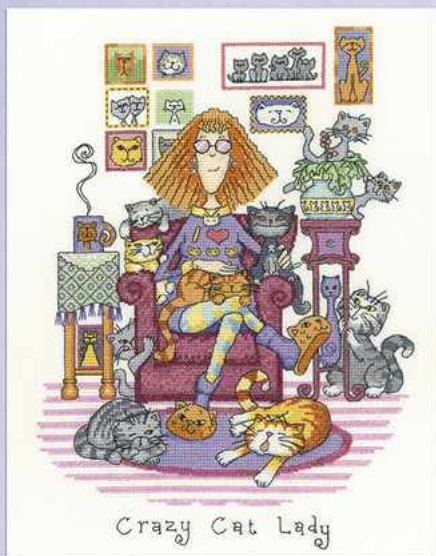
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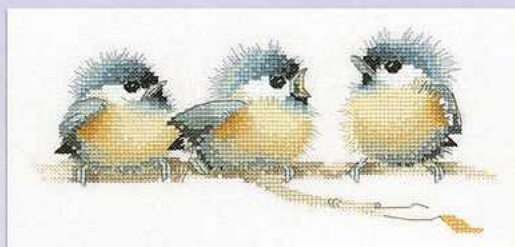
Working with talented artists to produce beautiful counted cross stitch designs



Roxy by John Clayton - 22.5 x 16cm



Crazy Cat Lady by Peter Underhill - 22.5 x 31cm



Sitting Pretty by Valerie Pfeiffer - 20.5 x 9cm



Three Little Maids by Valerie Pfeiffer - 19 x 9cm



Jasmine by John Clayton - 18 x 26.5cm



Alice in Miniature
by John Clayton - 13 x 13.5cm



Victoria in Miniature
by John Clayton - 12.5 x 13.5cm



Scarlett in Miniature
by John Clayton - 12 x 13cm



Hannah in Miniature
by John Clayton - 12.5 x 12.5cm



Sally in Miniature
by John Clayton - 13 x 13.5cm



Claire in Miniature
by John Clayton - 12.5 x 12.5cm



Rebecca in Miniature
by John Clayton - 12 x 13cm



Fleur in Miniature
by John Clayton - 12 x 12cm



Sophia in Miniature
by John Clayton - 13.5 x 13.5cm



Charlotte in Miniature
by John Clayton - 12.5 x 12.5cm



Josephine in Miniature
by John Clayton - 13 x 13cm



Sarah in Miniature
by John Clayton - 13 x 13cm



Maria in Miniature
by John Clayton - 12 x 13cm



Miranda in Miniature
by John Clayton - 12.5 x 13.5cm

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