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Cross Stitch GOLD

ISSUE 116

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Seasonal cottage



Stunning cat canvas



Butterflies cushion



Winter wedding gift

PLUS:
OUR PICK
OF THE
BEST EVER
FANTASY
KITS



Pretty in patchwork

Stitch a paisley bag!



DON'T MISS: Thank you cards, bird fountain and more!

IMMEDIATE MEDIA



16 >

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Cross Stitch GOLD



I think you'll agree that on a cold, winter's day there's nothing better than getting cosy and comfortable and settling down with an engrossing cross stitch project. We've put together

a wonderful collection of advanced designs to get that needle working this season and beyond. Lesley Teare introduces us to her brand new cottage series (p4), inspired by the idyllic English village where she walks her dog; while making her debut in *Cross Stitch Gold*, designer Caroline Lord evokes the unique and charming character of the cat through her striking feline portrait (p34). We also celebrate two classic design styles with our cover star, a pretty patchwork piece (p24) with a crisp, fresh feel; and a glamorous yet practical paisley tote bag (p46). Plus, there's a beautiful cushion adorned with lifelike butterflies and flowers (p10); and a personalised winter wedding sampler (p40), which would make a gorgeous gift. I hope you all have a very happy Christmas and New Year, and enjoy snuggling up with some exquisite stitching!

Medina

Medina Bailey, Editor

Medina's choice



24 Burst into bloom



4 Escape to the country

Projects

4 Winter cottage

A picturesque, serene scene featuring a snowy landscape and country cottage

10 Butterflies cushion

Butterflies flutter in between florals in Anne Mortimer's vibrant study of nature

16 Bird fountain

This stunning hoop captures lively winter birds gathering at an opulent birdbath

24 Patchwork cushion

A pretty piece that's been brought to life in raspberry pink and mint green threads

34 Cat canvas

Cat lovers will adore this gorgeous portrait that highlights the feline's finest features

40 Winter wedding sampler

Stitch them a gift to remember with Durene Jones' personalised wedding keepsake

46 Paisley tote bag

A patterned bag with a stylish, elegant look

54 Thank you greetings

Show your appreciation with floral cards



46 Perfectly paisley



40 Celebrate
in style



34 Bright
eyes



54 Just for
you!



16 Flock to the
fountain



10 Dancing
butterflies

Features & regulars

15 Your letters

You share pictures of your latest projects and the fascinating stories behind them

22 Subscribe today

Get a great free gift and save money with our subscription offer

31 New products

We reveal what's new on the cross stitching scene this winter



60 Next issue

Find out which projects are coming up in issue 117 of *Gold*, which is out on 6th January 2015 (UK)

67 Giveaways

Enter our competitions and you could win some amazing stitching prizes



Reviews & advice

51 Reader offer

A winter footwear offer for readers of *Cross Stitch Gold*

52 Kit reviews

Sarah Trevor casts her eye over a selection of fantasy kits



61 Stockists

Find the supplies you'll need to complete all the projects in this issue

62 Stitching guidelines

Detailed instructions, advice and top tips for cross stitch beginners

65 Ask the experts

This issue, you want to know all about fluffy thread, finishing tablecloths and more!

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**GOLD
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Escape to *the country*

This classic cottage, set against a snowy landscape, is the first design in Lesley Teare's brand new seasonal series...



Meet the designer

Lesley Teare

Lesley is a talented cross stitch designer, who lives and works in Suffolk

I've already created all four designs for my cottage series for *Gold* and I'm so pleased with them all – I'm really looking forward to showing them to you over the coming months. This is the first time that I've used one of my painted landscapes to make a cross stitch design, and it was a pleasure to watch it come alive in threads. All of the designs in the series are based on actual buildings in Suffolk, and were taken from sketches I made while out walking my dog, Webley. The flowers in the foreground represent the season, so for this design I chose hellebores (known as Christmas roses) and hardy cyclamen. I think you'll agree that they bring a vivid splash of colour to the snowy scene.

Stitcher's guide

This design is worked on 14-count white aida with 30 different shades of stranded cotton. It uses whole cross stitches in two strands of thread, with fractional stitches, also in two strands, for extra detail. Backstitch adds definition in one and two strands of thread, and longstitch and French knots in one strand complete the design. This project is recommended for advanced stitchers.

How to stitch the cottage scene

- 1 Find the centre of your fabric by folding it in half both horizontally and vertically. Follow the arrows on the chart to find its centre and start stitching from here, working your way outwards.
- 2 Work the cross stitch using two strands of cotton. For every tiny symbol you see on the chart, work a fractional stitch.
- 3 Add the backstitch detail using one or two strands of thread.
- 4 Work the longstitch with one strand of cotton.
- 5 Add the French knots in one strand of thread.
- 6 Check over your finished stitching and prepare for making up.

You will need

FABRIC Zweigart 14-count white aida, measuring 30 x 30cm (12 x 12in)

THREADS Stranded cotton as listed in the key

NEEDLE Size 24 tapestry needle

EXTRAS Frame of your choice with a minimum aperture of 25.5 x 25.5cm (10 x 10in)

FOR STOCKISTS' DETAILS Turn to page 61



stitch tip

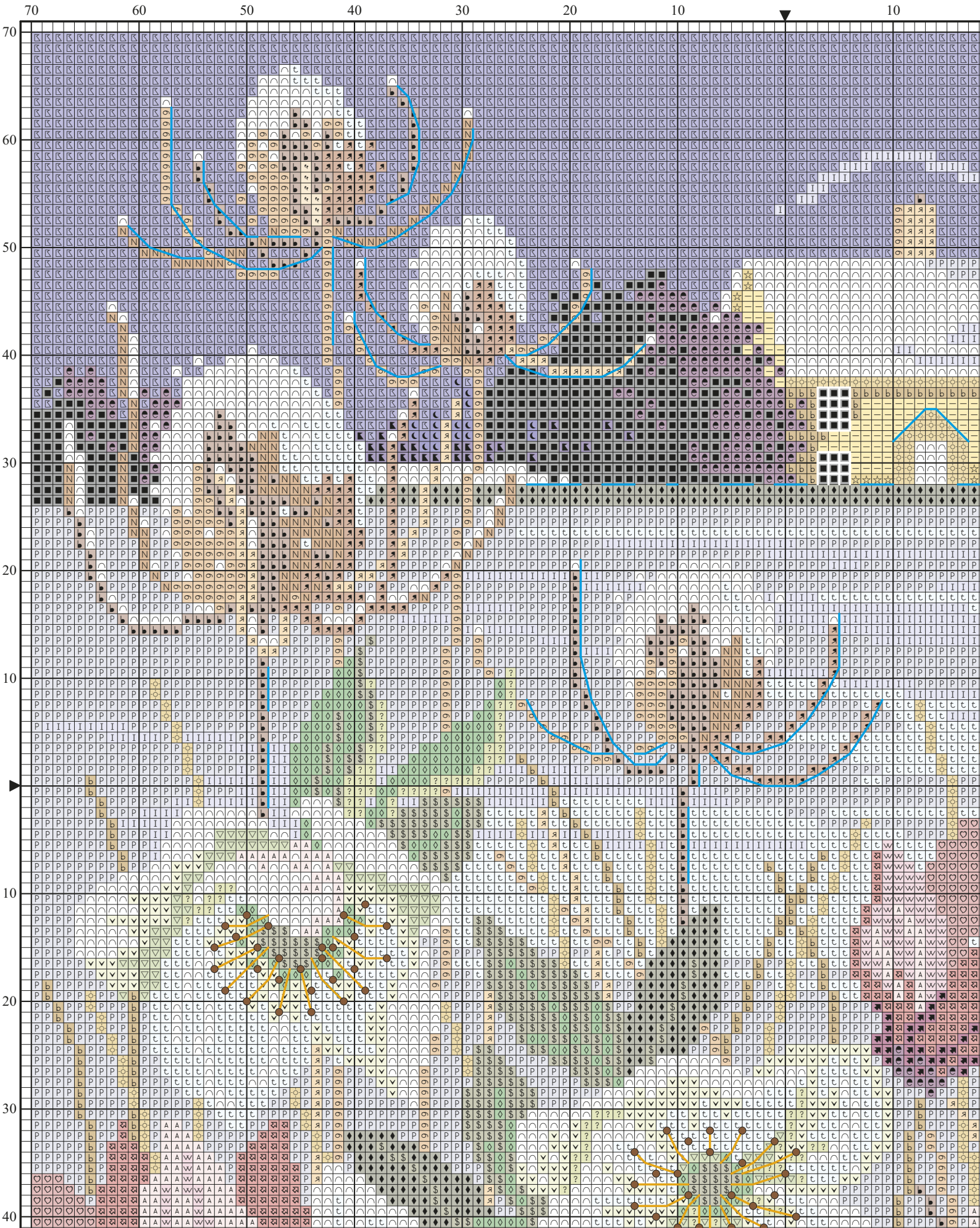
Longstitch is actually quicker to work than backstitch, so don't be put off by the name

Winter cottage

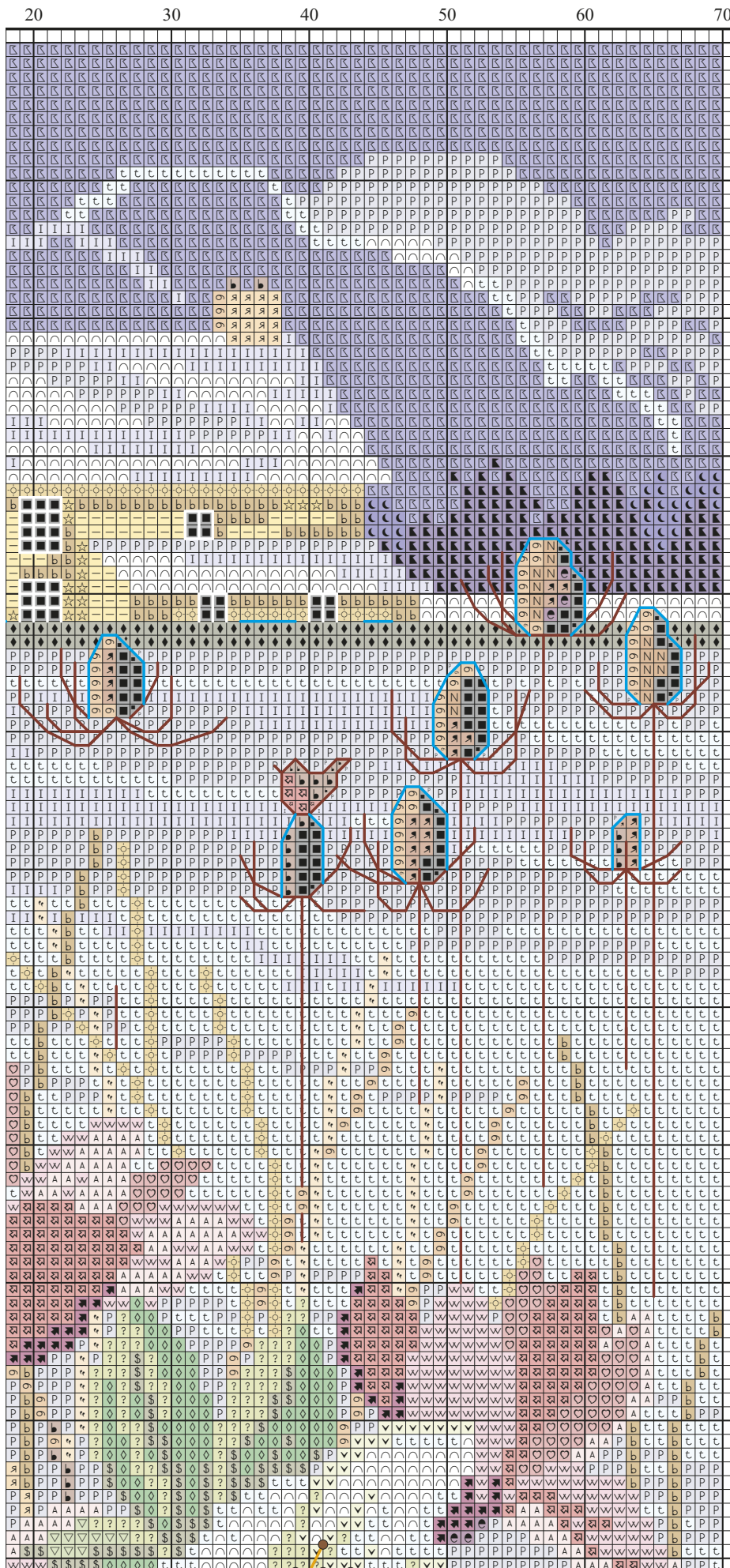
This charming, inviting scene celebrates the beauty of the season



Winter cottage



Top left



Winter cottage key

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
●	154	873	2607	dark mauve
P	159	343	1710	lavender blue
●	301	1049	2305	dark ginger
■	310	403	2400	black
▽	368	214	1310	almond green
Я	402	1047	2307	light ginger
○	729	890	2209	straw
✓	772	259	1604	grass green
■	791	178	904	dark blue
●	792	177	905	blue
■	793	176	906	light blue
■	892	35	412	shocking pink
◆	895	1044	1405	dark green
N	918	341	314	terracotta
\$	937	268	1504	moss green
◇	988	243	1402	green
?	3348	264	1409	lettuce green
w	3708	31	408	pink
A	3713	1020	502	salmon pink
I	3747	120	901	violet blue
t	3756	1037	2504	sky blue
o	3776	1048	2306	ginger
■	3803	69	2609	raspberry
☆	3820	306	2509	gold
—	3822	295	2510	light gold
b	3829	901	2210	dark straw
♥	3832	38	604	dark pink
“	3856	368	2309	apricot
Я	3857	936	2501	dusty rose
∩	3865	2	2403	white

✕ Backstitch in one strand

—	3857	936	2501	dusty rose
—	3865	2	2403	white

✕ Backstitch in two strands

—	3865	2	2403	white
---	------	---	------	-------

✕ Longstitch in one strand

—	3820	306	2509	gold
---	------	-----	------	------

✕ French knots in one strand

●	3829	901	2210	dark straw
---	------	-----	------	------------

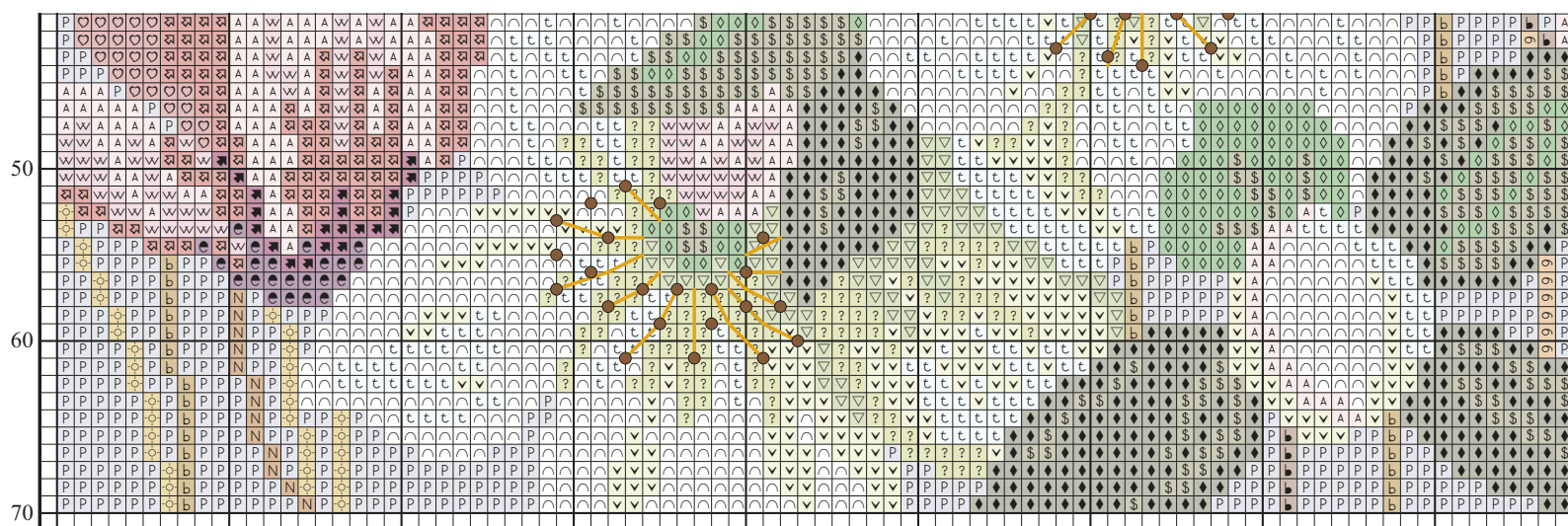
STITCH COUNT 140 high x 140 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 25.5 x 25.5cm (10 x 10in)

SKEINS NEEDED 3 x 159 (lavender blue), 2 x 793 (light blue), 2 x 3756 (sky blue), 2 x 3865 (white)

This design was stitched using DMC stranded cotton





Bottom left



Lesley Teare's Designer Secrets

Middle ground

Painting landscapes is a calming, relaxing experience, but at the same time it also throws up interesting challenges. With this design, the most difficult area to complete was the space in the middle – in between the cottage and the flowers – as there weren't any focal points to include. I tried to create extra interest in this area by adding in shading and drifts of snow.

Super squares

I really like creating square-shaped pieces, as they offer lots of versatility. This design not only looks great framed as a picture, but also made up as a cushion. You'll find instructions for making up cushions on our website at www.cross-stitching.com. You could also stitch some of the flowers to go on a greeting card or gift tag, or the front cover of a notebook or diary.



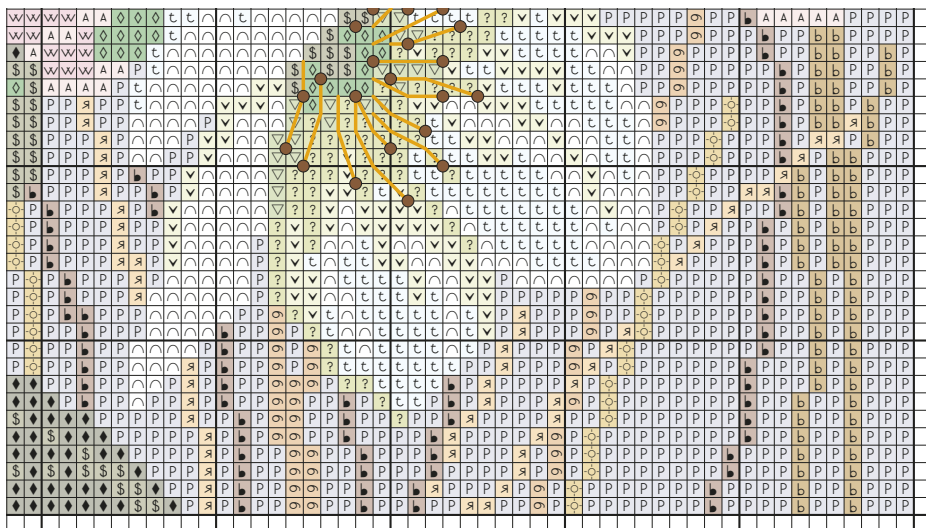
stitch tip

To keep track of the different shades in Lesley's design, arrange your cotton onto a bought or handmade thread sorter before you begin



"I love the contrast that Lesley's created between the cool, crisp tones of the snow, and the brighter, warmer shades of the flowers."

Anne MacGregor, Senior Technical Editor



Bottom right



"We can't wait to bring you the rest of the stunning designs in this brand new series. Why not stitch all four to display in your home or give as a special gift?"

Medina Bailey, Editor

How to frame your stitching

1 Cut mountboard to fit inside your frame, with a 0.2-0.3cm gap around the edge. Mark the centre on the top and bottom edges of the board. Position your stitching on the board, adjusting it until it's central.

2 Measure the gap around the design – it should be the same at the sides and at the top, but slightly bigger at the bottom. Insert pins along the top edge, then stretch the fabric down and repeat along the bottom edge.

3 Turn the board over and, using strong thread, start lacing the top and bottom edges together. Space the stitches 0.5-0.7cm apart, tying in any new length of thread with an overhand knot, so you'll have one continuous thread. Once you reach the other side, go back to the start and pull each thread tightly, one at a time. Sew the end in securely. Fold in the side flaps, insert pins along the edges as before, and repeat the process.

4 If you're using glass, place this inside the frame, along with a mount and spacers, if required. Put the stitching in next, followed by another piece of mountboard. Insert a panel pin into the centre of each side of the frame, to secure all the layers. Turn the frame over to the right side and check that the stitching is positioned correctly.

5 Insert the rest of the panel pins, spacing them evenly every 5-8cm (2-3in). Use strips of wide, acid-free, gummed tape to cover the gaps, and finally, add fitments of your choice.

Coming soon in *Gold*...

Next in our series is Lesley's pretty spring cottage. Set against an uplifting, atmospheric sky, it looks right at home in the picturesque British countryside. You'll find the chart in issue 117 of *Gold*, which is on sale from 6th January 2015 (UK). Turn to page 22 for details of how to subscribe and have every issue delivered to your door.



Dancing *butterflies*

Stitch an eye-catching study of lifelike butterflies and flowers on coloured fabric, and turn it into a cushion to admire...



Meet the designer

Anne Mortimer

A talented artist, Anne has built up an impressive collection of artwork featuring wildlife and botanicals. She's also well known for her cat paintings, which have appeared as charts in previous issues of *Gold*

When I see combinations of colours in nature – like the ones on butterflies' wings – I find that my imagination comes alive. I wanted this design to have a strong sense of movement and a carefree quality, which is why the butterflies are dancing in and among the flowers. Vibrant shades of purple, orange and yellow make up the stunning colour palette, which stands out beautifully on the fresh green fabric. This project will liven up the gloomiest of days and help to bring the outdoors in, especially when venturing out into the cold just doesn't appeal!

Stitcher's guide

This design is worked on 25-count mint green evenweave, over two threads of the fabric, with 18 different shades of stranded cotton. It uses whole cross stitches and fractionals in two strands of thread, along with backstitch in one strand and five different shades. Finally, French knots in one strand and four shades add detail. This project is recommended for advanced stitchers.

How to stitch the butterfly cushion

- 1 Find the centre of your fabric by folding it in half both horizontally and vertically. Follow the arrows on the chart to find its centre and start stitching from here, working your way outwards.
- 2 Work the cross stitch over two threads of the fabric, using two strands of cotton. For every tiny symbol you see on the chart, work a fractional stitch.
- 3 Add the backstitch using one strand of thread.
- 4 Work the French knots with one strand of cotton.
- 5 Check over your finished stitching and prepare for making up.

You will need

FABRIC Zweigart 25-count spearmint Colmar evenweave, measuring 33 x 33cm (13 x 13in)

THREADS Stranded cotton as listed in the key

NEEDLE Size 24 tapestry needle

EXTRAS Backing fabric and 2m of bias binding of your choice; cushion pad to fit

FOR STOCKISTS' DETAILS Turn to page 61

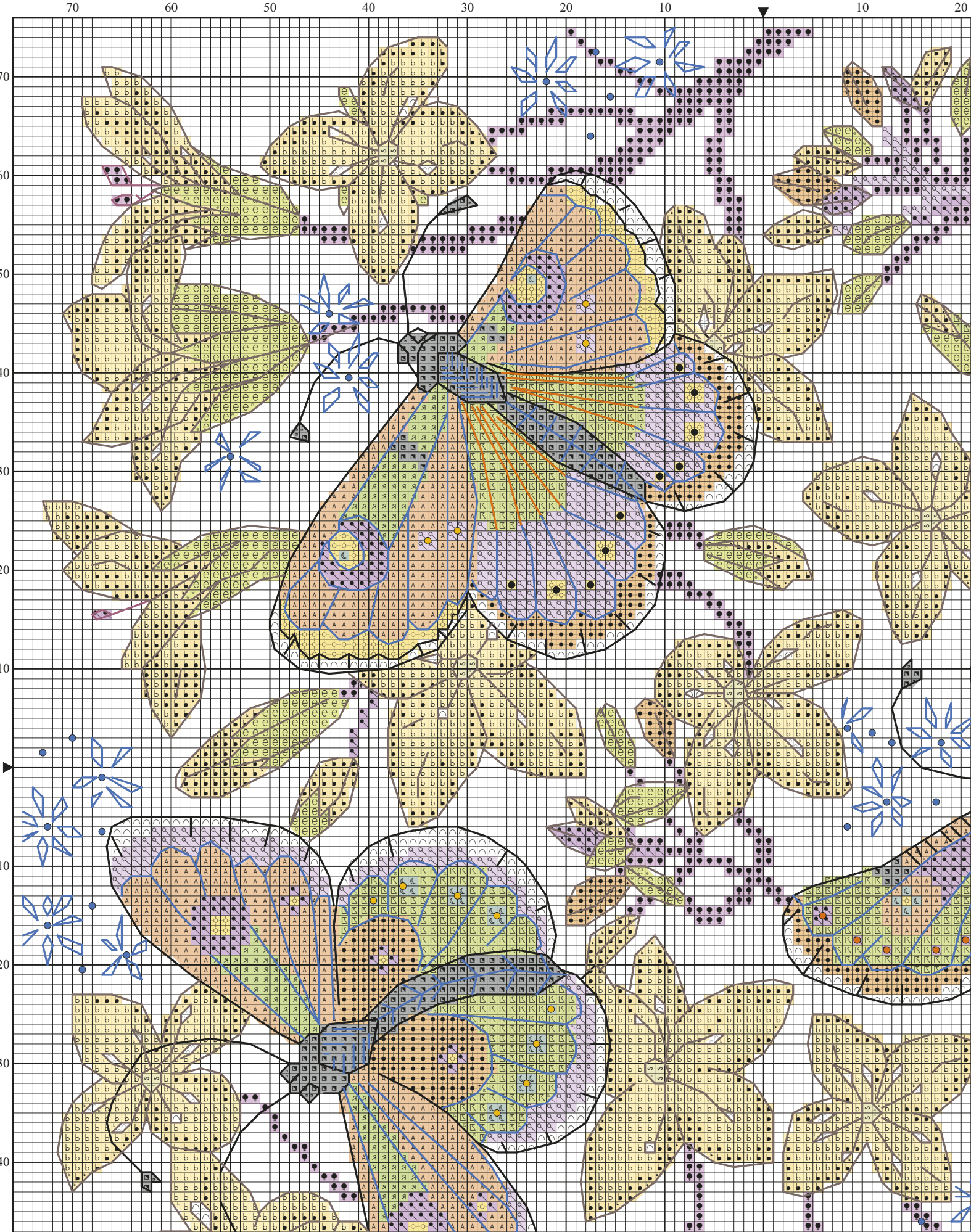
stitch tip

However large your design, limit yourself to using 45cm (17¾in) lengths of thread, to prevent tangles

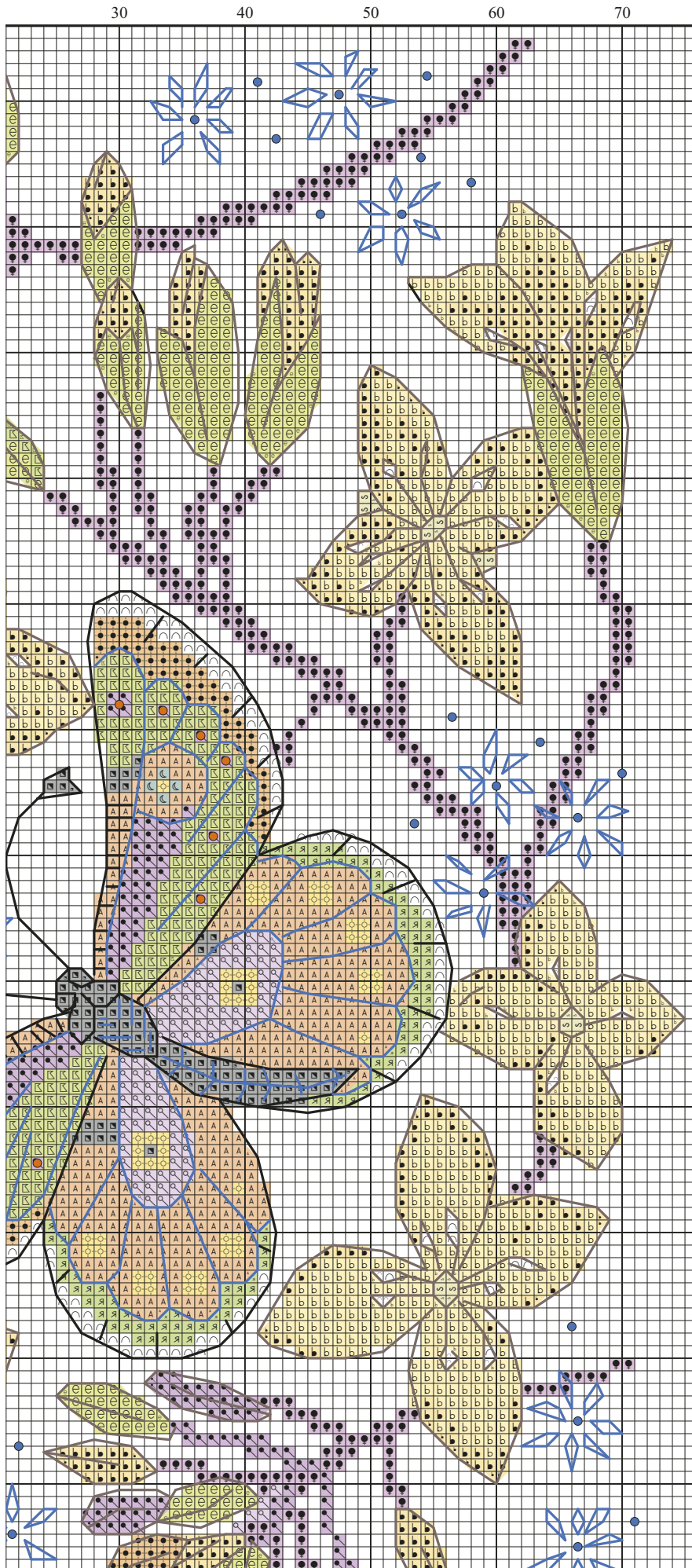
Bring light and life to your stitching
with this magnificent design



Butterfly cushion



Top left



Top right

Butterflies key

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
⌈	blanc	2	2402	white
⌋	208	99	804	lilac
⌋	209	98	803	light lilac
⌋	472	253	1414	very light green
⌋	703	238	1307	dark green
⌋	704	255	1308	light green
⌋	721	324	308	ginger
⌋	725	305	113	dark yellow
⌋	726	295	109	light yellow
⌋	741	304	202	orange
⌋	907	254	1306	green
⌋	973	290	105	yellow
⌋	3799	236	1713	dark grey
⌋	3810	168	1108	sea blue
⌋	3837	111	713	dark lilac

✕ Backstitch in one strand

—	blanc	2	2402	white
—	310	403	2400	black
—	327	101	805	very dark lilac
—	740	316	204	dark orange
—	3799	236	1713	dark grey

✕ French knots in one strand

●	blanc	2	2402	white
●	310	403	2400	black
●	740	316	204	dark orange
●	973	290	105	yellow

STITCH COUNT 150 high x 150 wide

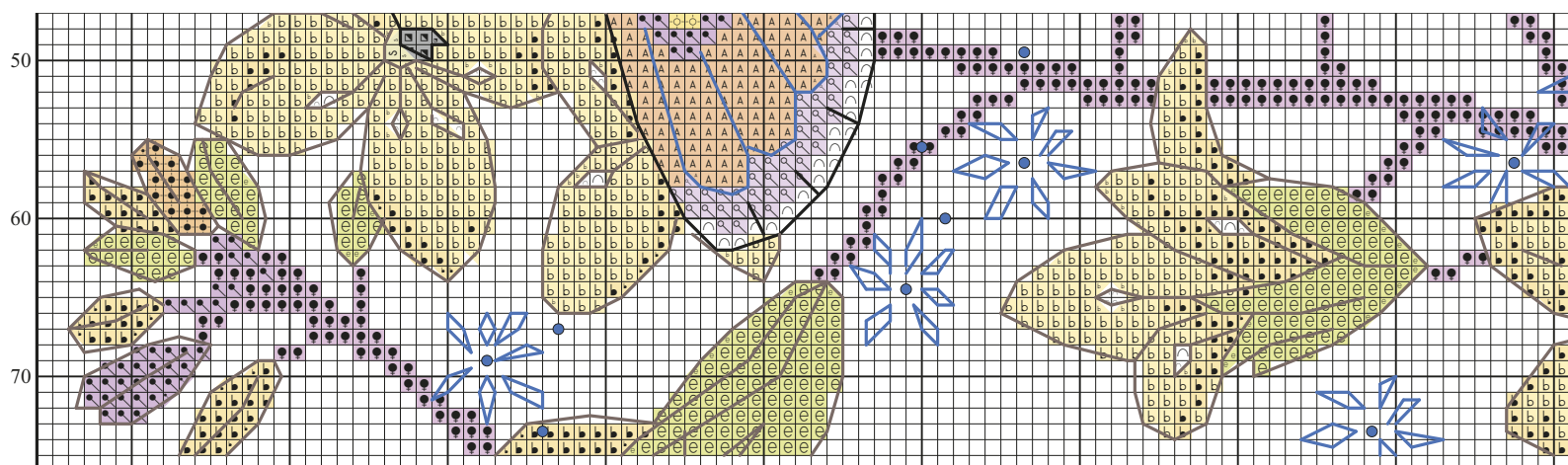
DESIGN AREA 25-count evenweave – 30.5 x 30.5cm (12 x 12in)

This design was stitched using DMC stranded cotton on 25-count evenweave over two threads of the fabric

How to make up the butterfly cushion

- 1 After you've stitched the design in the centre of the fabric, trim the stitched piece so that it measures 31.5cm (12½in) square.
- 2 Cut a piece of backing fabric measuring 46cm (18in) square. Cut two pieces of backing fabric, measuring 46 x 25cm (18 x 10in), and make a 2cm (¾in) double hem along one long edge of each piece. Machine stitch and press.
- 3 With the right sides together, pin the long raw edge of one panel to the top edge of the stitched piece. Do the same at the bottom, so that the two back pieces overlap each other.
- 4 Stitch around the edge using a 1.5cm (½in) seam. Trim the corners, turn through and press.
- 5 Apply the bias binding to the stitched piece, encasing the raw edges, and stitch in place.
- 6 Place the stitched piece centrally onto the cushion, and pin, tack and stitch the edge seam of the bias binding. Insert a cushion pad to finish.

Butterfly cushion



Bottom left



Anne Mortimer's Designer Secrets

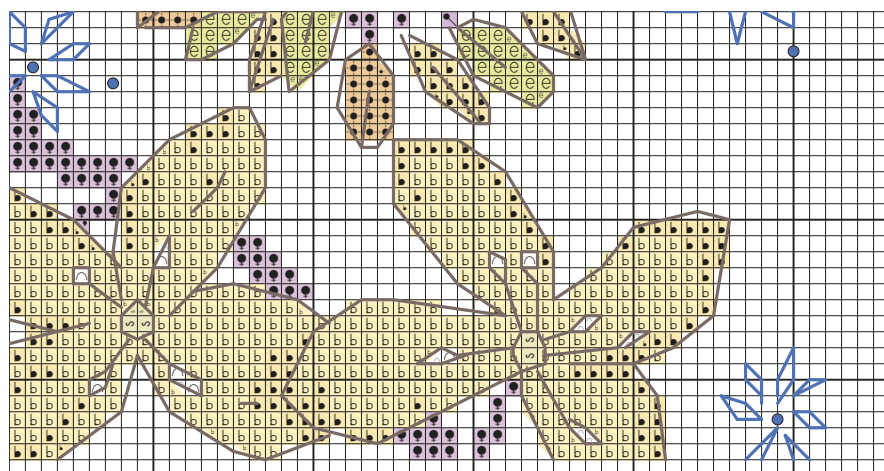
Wonderful world

Nature is my biggest inspiration, and I get most of my design ideas on my daily dog walk along the coastal path where I live. I even keep a notebook and pencil in my coat pocket, so I can scribble down whatever catches my eye!



Beauty of nature

When creating cross stitch projects, you have to ensure that the overall colour composition is just right. This normally entails looking at a colour wheel to pick out complementary shades. However, when you're designing an element from nature, the colour theory has already been done for you – all you need to do is transfer it onto canvas and then a cross stitch chart.



Bottom right

Previously in Gold...

Another cushion featuring a study of flora and fauna appeared in a previous issue of *Gold*. Amanda Gregory's hedgehog piece is stitched in a bold palette of greens, reds, purples and yellows, and framed with bright fabrics for a striking look. You'll find the chart in issue 113 of *Gold* – if you missed it, turn to page 22 for details of how to order back issues.



Have your say



Send your letters and photos to *Cross Stitch Gold*, 9th Floor, Tower House, Fairfax Street, Bristol BS1 3BN or email medina@cross-stitching.com

Write in and share your stitching stories and photos – every one we print wins a fantastic cross stitch gift!

The star letter writer in the next issue of *Cross Stitch Gold* will receive this beautiful Heritage Crafts Irises kit, worth £36, from Sew and So. For further information, visit www.sewandso.co.uk. All other letter writers will receive a mystery kit as a prize.



GOLD STAR LETTER



Joy's Christmas hoop and anniversary sampler

Stitched treasures

I had to write in and show you my completed snowman snowglobe from issue 114. I started it almost as soon as I got the magazine and finished it in less than five weeks. I love the result, so thank you Durene Jones and *Cross Stitch Gold* for the lovely design. I've kept all my *Gold* magazines since the very first issue. I stitched a Maria Diaz design for my dad's retirement, and 12 years ago I made this first wedding anniversary sampler with the sentiment: 'Some things are just meant to be together'.

Joy Gartside, by email

Medina: Thanks for sharing your beautifully stitched projects with us, Joy. Keepsake samplers really do stand the test of time, as you can continue to gain enjoyment from them for years to come.

Fairy fun

I'm halfway through stitching Maria Diaz's Christmas tree fairy from issue 114. It caught my eye as my daughter and granddaughter come round every year to help me decorate my tree, and they always get me a new fairy to go on top. I

seem to have collected quite a few fairies over the years, so I thought this picture would make them smile!

Jackie Worth, Helston

Medina: What a lovely story, Jackie. I can remember making Christmas fairies at school using cardboard and tissue



This fairy will be a sweet surprise for Jackie's daughter and granddaughter

paper – somehow, I don't think they looked quite as elegant as Maria's!

Bauble beauties

It's high time to think about Christmas decorations, so I thought I'd share the first bauble that I cross

Ho, ho, ho!

I've just finished and framed this piece from issue 105 of *Gold*, which was designed by Durene Jones. This picture will be the centrepiece for my Christmas display. I absolutely love it – it's inkeeping with a traditional Christmas design, but with modern colours. I'm so pleased with the way it's turned out and I can't wait to see what the next issues have in store!

Rebecca Price, South Wales

Medina: This jolly design from Durene will make the perfect centrepiece, Rebecca. I hope you've been enjoying stitching our festive projects from issues 114 and 115.



Rebecca loved stitching Santa and friends for her Christmas display

stitched with you. I stitched a small, simple design of a bell on 25-count aida, then stuck it around a Styrofoam ball. I decorated the rest of the ball with white and green threads, and put a yellow ribbon at the top. I gave the bauble to my mum as a Christmas gift, and she liked it so much that this year I've decided to stitch her five more in different colours, so she'll have a set. I hope you enjoy it as much as my mum and I.

Magdalena Drabik, Poland

Medina: What a gorgeous decoration – and very inventive – I love the idea of stitching baubles for the tree. I'm sure your mum will be delighted



Magdalena has been busy stitching baubles for the festive season

with the new additions!

Table talk

I've just started stitching the snowflake cushion by Lesley Teare which was in *Gold* 115. I've been searching for a Christmas table runner for ages and think this design will fit the bill.

Eleanor Lewis, Malvern

Medina: That's a great idea, Eleanor – it'll look very striking on the table. Why not stitch some motifs for matching napkins and place cards, too?



Eleanor is stitching this snowflake design as a Christmas table runner

Flock to the fountain

Lift your mood by stitching this lively, wintry piece, featuring birds that come alive in glorious colour



Meet the designer

Debra Page

Debra lives in Devon with her family and a menagerie of pets. She's well known for her wildlife designs

I'm fascinated by birds and have bird feeders and a stone birdbath outside my kitchen window. I love being able to watch them when I'm cooking, doing the dishes or just daydreaming. This commission was therefore perfect for me, although I must admit that my birdbath at home isn't quite as opulent as the one in this scene! I really enjoyed researching and sketching the different breeds of bird, and adding in their vibrant colours. This piece is ideal if you like getting engrossed in a challenging stitching project. Your finished hoop would look superb in a conservatory or near any window, to 'reflect' the joys of the great outdoors.

Stitcher's guide

This design is worked on 28-count pale blue evenweave, over two threads of the fabric, with 31 different shades of stranded cotton. It uses whole cross stitches in two strands of thread, and fractionals, also in two strands. Backstitch in one strand of cotton and four different shades is used for definition, while French knots in one strand of white cotton are used for the birds' eyes. This project is recommended for advanced stitchers.

How to stitch the birdbath scene

- 1 Find the centre of your fabric by folding it in half both horizontally and vertically. Follow the arrows on the chart to find its centre and start stitching from here, working your way outwards.
- 2 Work the cross stitch over two threads of the fabric, using two strands of thread. For every tiny symbol you see on the chart, work a fractional stitch.
- 3 Add the backstitch detail using one strand of cotton.
- 4 Work the French knots using one strand of white thread.
- 5 Check over your finished stitching and prepare for making up.

You will need

FABRIC Zweigart 28-count light blue evenweave, measuring 46 x 46cm (18 x 18in)

THREADS Stranded cotton as listed in the key

NEEDLE Size 26 tapestry needle

EXTRAS 36cm (14in) diameter wooden hoop from your local craft store

FOR STOCKISTS' DETAILS Turn to page 61

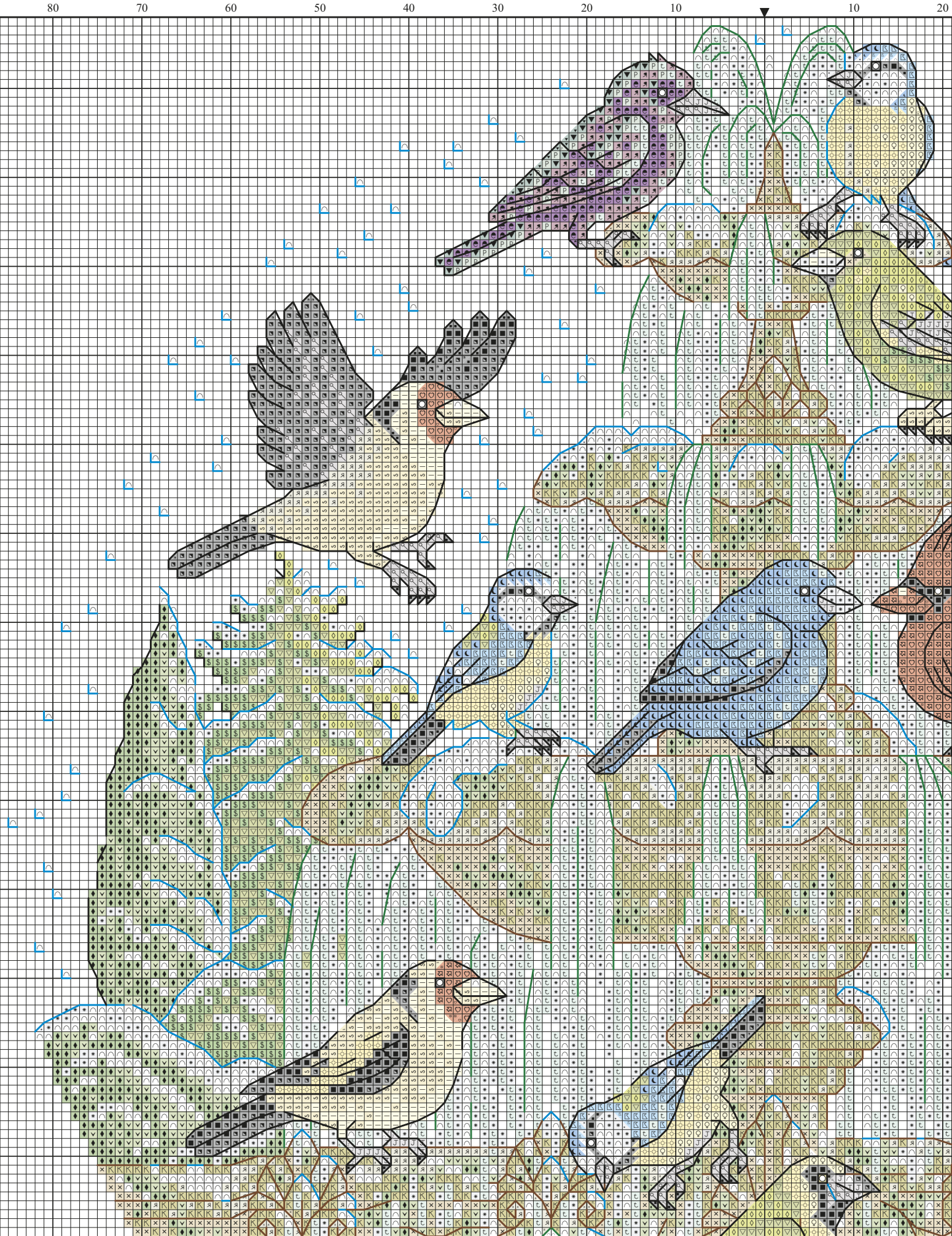
stitch tip

Use Post-it notes as chart markers. The adhesive strip makes them good for marking off areas, as well as acting as a row-by-row guide

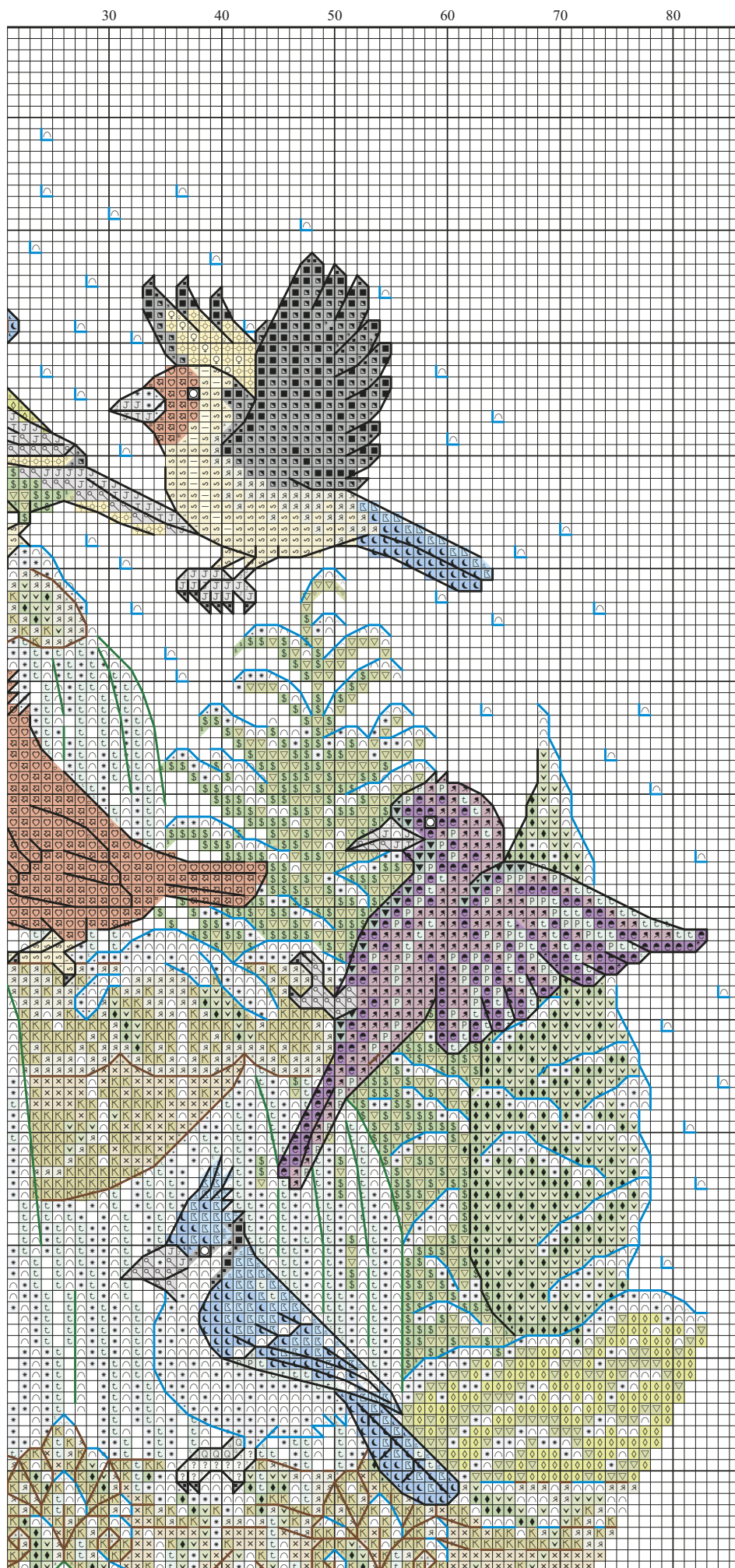


We finished this picture perfect scene with a rustic wooden hoop and bright ribbon

Birdbath hoop



Top left



Birdbath key

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
⌒	B5200	1	2401	white
■	310	403	2400	black
⌒	318	399	1801	grey
⌒	327	101	805	heather
◆	367	217	1312	dk almond green
▼	368	214	1310	almond green
J	415	398	1802	light grey
●	550	102	714	mauve
P	597	1064	1110	turquoise
t	598	1062	1111	light turquoise
♥	606	334	209	bright orange
Я	644	830	1814	light stone grey
⌒	666	46	210	red
S	677	886	2207	sand
☀	727	293	112	yellow
—	746	275	2511	cream
*	762	234	1804	very light grey
\$	905	257	1412	dark green
▽	906	256	1410	green
◇	907	255	1308	light green
Q	927	848	1708	petrol blue
?	928	274	1709	light petrol blue
⌒	996	433	1103	electric blue
×	3022	8581	1812	dark stone grey
K	3023	899	1813	stone grey
♀	3078	292	102	light yellow
■	3799	236	1713	dark grey
▼	3810	168	1108	sea green
☾	3843	410	1102	dark electric blue

✕ Backstitch in one strand

—	318	399	1801	grey
—	926	850	1707	dark petrol blue
—	3787	273	1811	smoke grey
—	3799	236	1713	dark grey

✕ French knots in one strand

○	B5200	1	2401	white
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STITCH COUNT 174 high x 170 wide

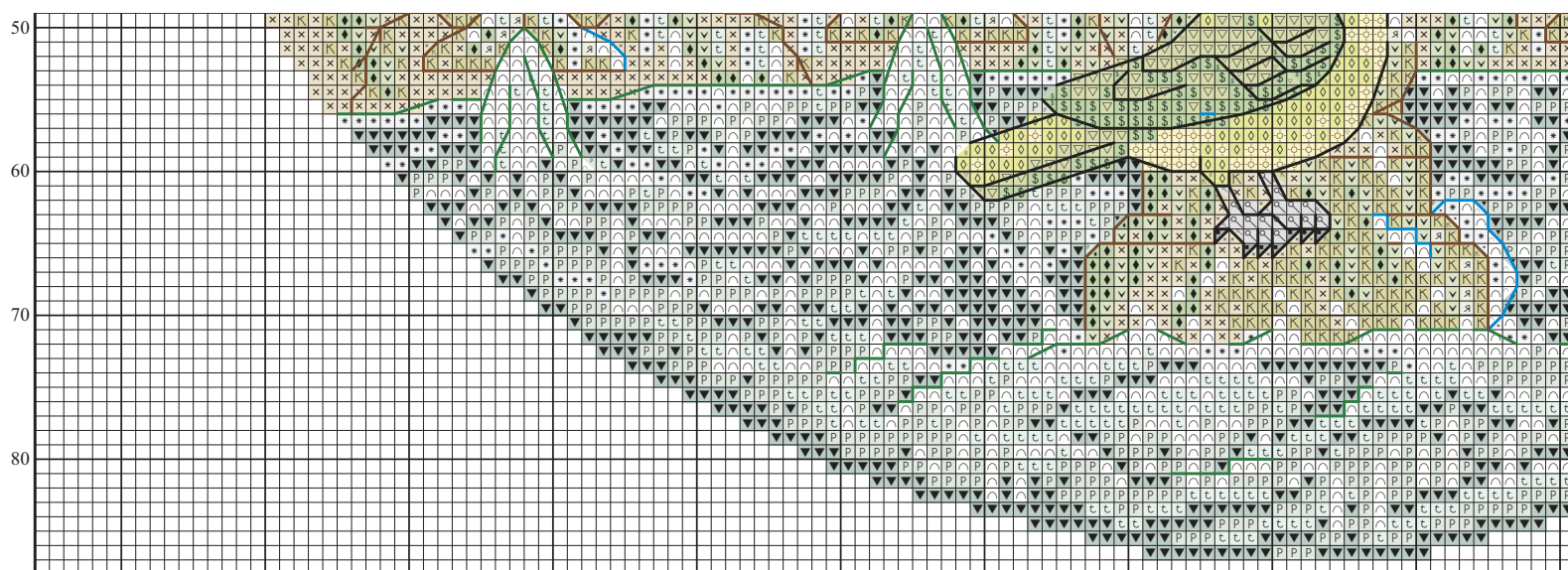
DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 31.5 x 31cm (12½ x 12¼in)

SKEINS NEEDED 3 x B5200 (white), 2 x 598 (light turquoise), 2 x 762 (very light grey)

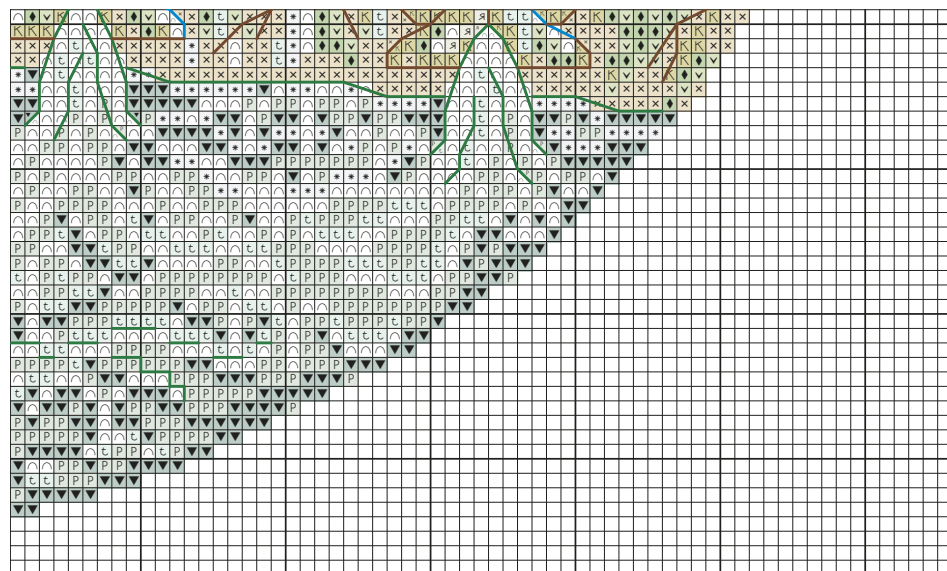
This design was stitched using DMC stranded cotton on 28-count evenweave over two threads of the fabric



Birdbath hoop



Bottom left



Bottom right

How to tackle this project if you're not an experienced stitcher

This design is quite large and has a lot of fractionals and backstitch, and a few French knots, so it's ideal for advanced stitchers. However, if you're a less experienced stitcher and are unsure whether you're ready to take it on, why not stitch part of the design for practice? You could stitch one of the birds and turn it into a card, keyring or coaster. And, if you manage to stitch it without any trouble, there's nothing to stop you from carrying on and having a go at the rest of Debra's charming design.

Coming soon in Gold...

From feathers this issue, to fur in the next... we're bringing you this stunning black Labrador portrait, exclusively from Anchor. Jake the dog's kind, expressive eyes, athletic physique and glossy coat have been captured perfectly through expert shading. He's sure to be a popular stitch among dog lovers everywhere. Look out for issue 117 of *Gold* from 6th January 2015 (UK), or have every issue delivered straight to your door when you subscribe. Turn to page 22 for more information.



Debra Page's Designer Secrets

Concept to completion

Before starting the design, I looked at pictures for reference. I then began sketching, altering the different elements to fit the shape and stitch count of the design. I transferred my sketch into a charting program and added the colours and details. It took me about a week of tweaking until I was happy with it.



Colour play

The stitching stands out well against the powder blue fabric, which lends a pretty feel and is reminiscent of water and sky. You can also experiment with other coloured fabrics, such as duck egg blue, mint green and lilac.



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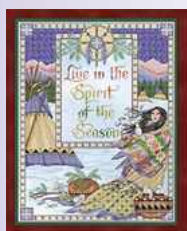
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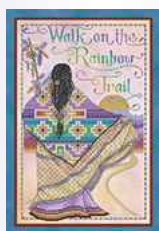
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Burst into bloom

Work this pretty patchwork cushion in gorgeous thread shades to instantly freshen up a room...



Meet the designer

Lesley Teare

Lesley is a talented cross stitch designer, who lives and works in Suffolk

It's always fun combining different patterned 'fabrics' to make stitched patchwork designs, as it gives you a variety of styles and themes to work with. When I created my cushion, I treated each floral, fruit and patterned square as a different element, but kept to the same colour palette of threads so that they'd all co-ordinate well together. The mosaic-like patchwork squares set off the organic floral and fruit forms beautifully, and lend a fresh, neat feel. I love the way that the cushion has been finished off with the extra white evenweave framing the stitching – the plain border provides a welcome contrast against the busy stitched squares in the centre.

Stitcher's guide

This design is worked on 28-count white evenweave, over two threads of the fabric, with 13 different shades of stranded cotton. It uses whole cross stitches in two strands of thread and backstitch in one strand of thread. This project is recommended for intermediate stitchers.

How to stitch the patchwork cushion

- 1 Find the centre of your fabric by folding it in half both horizontally and vertically. Follow the arrows on the chart to find its centre and start stitching from here, working your way outwards.
- 2 Work the cross stitch over two threads of the fabric, using two strands of cotton.
- 3 Work the backstitch using one strand of dark green thread.
- 4 Check over your finished stitching and prepare for making up.

You will need

FABRIC Zweigart 28-count white evenweave, measuring 38 x 38cm (15 x 15in)

THREADS Stranded cotton as listed in the key

NEEDLE Size 26 tapestry needle

EXTRAS Cushion pad to fit

FOR STOCKISTS' DETAILS Turn to page 61

stitch tip

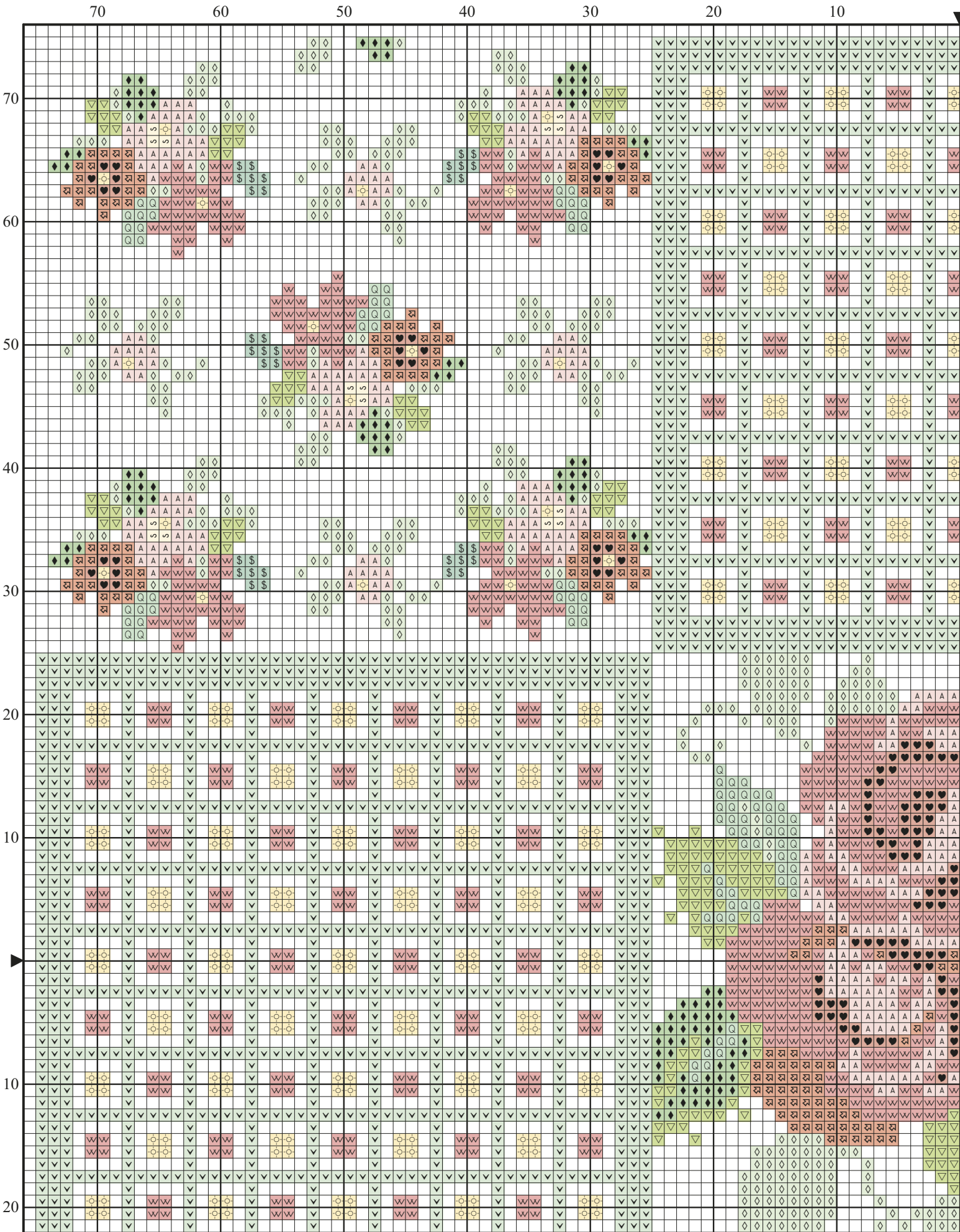
Try changing the very light mint green thread on the geometric patterns to a shade that'll match your décor



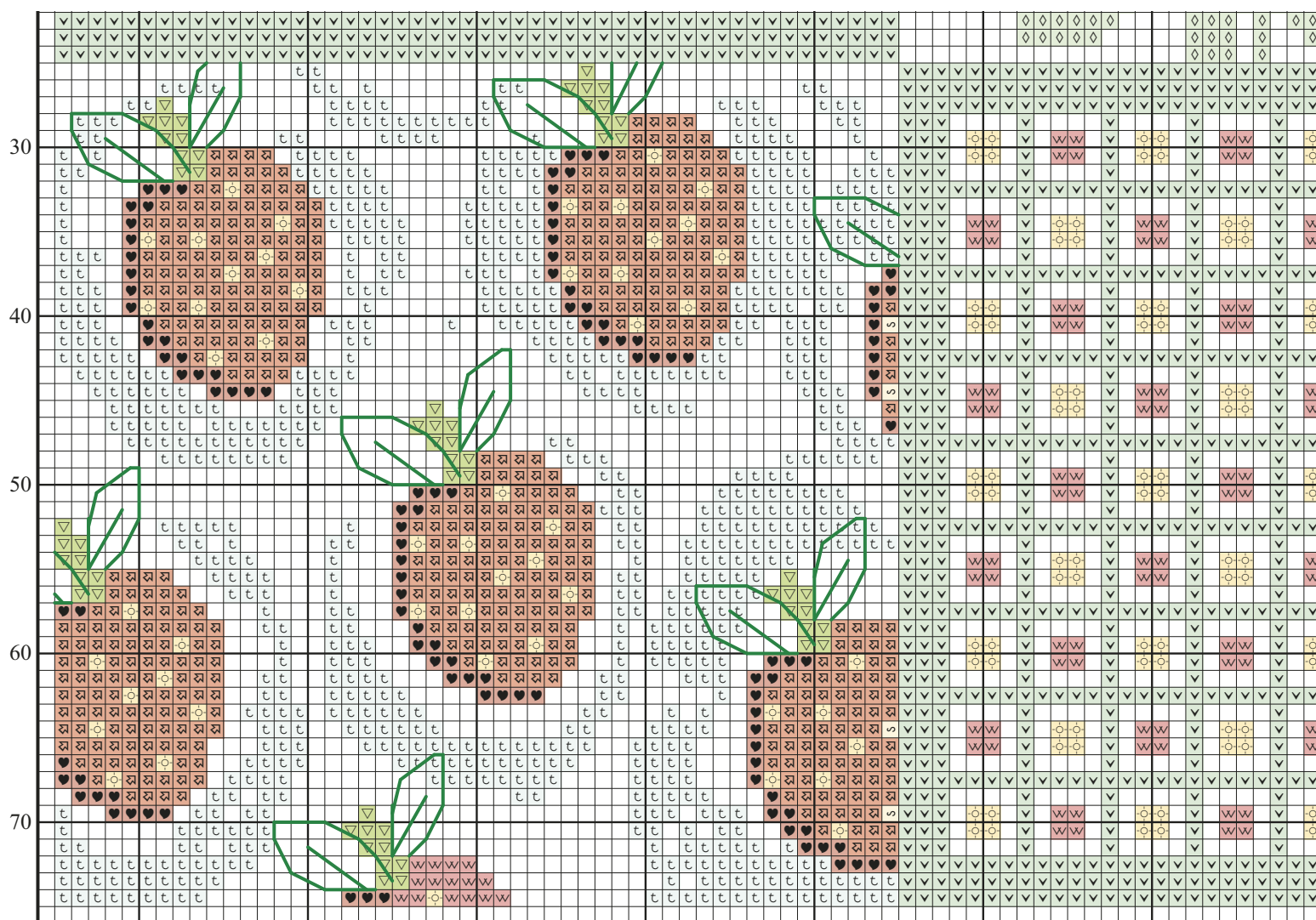


This bright and beautiful cushion will look great in a lounge or bedroom

Patchwork cushion



Top left



Bottom left



Lesley Teare's Designer Secrets

Practical patchwork

Patchwork projects like this are really versatile, as the squares can be stitched individually to make smaller pieces. For example, the strawberry and floral squares could be stitched on their own and finished as cards. You could then work a single strawberry or flower motif for matching gift tags.

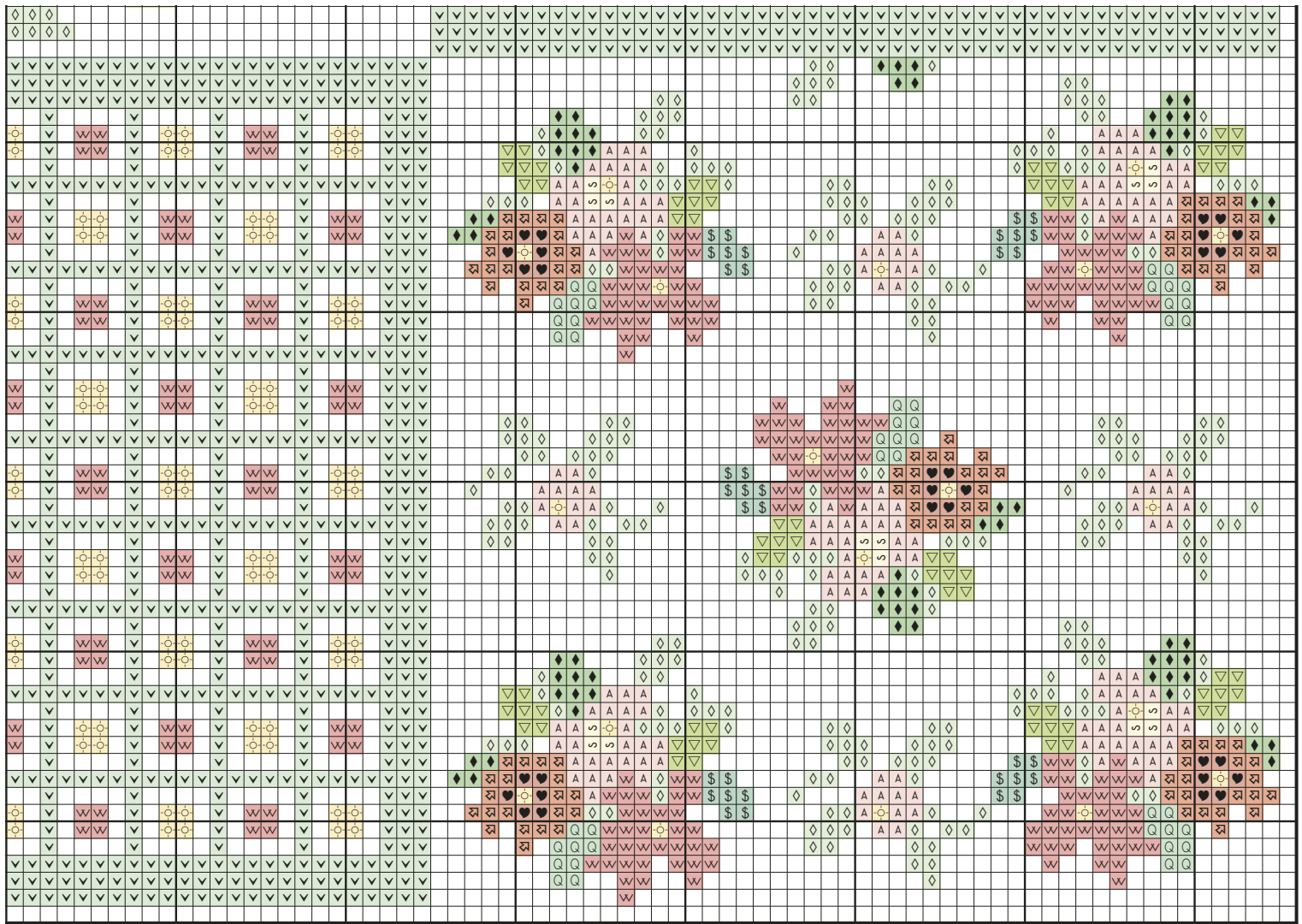


By contrast

With many of the cross stitch designs that I create, I have to work hard to achieve harmony between the separate elements. This design was different, as the geometric squares and free-flowing floral and fruit squares seemed to complement each other naturally from the off.

How to make up the patchwork cushion

- 1 After you've stitched the design in the centre of the fabric, cut two pieces of backing fabric, measuring 38 x 23cm (15 x 9in), and make a 1.5cm (½in) double hem along one long edge of each piece. Machine stitch and press.
- 2 With the right sides together, pin the long raw edge of one panel to the top edge of the stitched piece. Do the same at the bottom, so that the two back pieces overlap each other.
- 3 Stitch around the edge using a 1.5cm (½in) seam. Trim the corners, turn through and press.
- 4 Tack a line of stitching 4.5cm (1¾in) in from the edge of the cushion to create a border. Machine-stitch over the top, then remove the tacking stitches to finish.
- 5 Finally, insert a cushion pad to fit, and enjoy!



Bottom right

Patchwork cushion key

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
♥	321	9046	510	dark red
❖	349	1098	212	red
♦	701	227	1305	dark green
▽	703	238	1307	green
⊙	744	301	112	yellow
t	747	158	1104	turquoise
\$	910	228	1302	dark mint green
Q	913	204	1212	mint green
◇	955	206	1210	light mint green
▽	964	185	1112	very light mint green
A	3326	36	606	pink
W	3705	35	410	light red
S	3823	386	2512	cream

✕ Backstitch in one strand

—	701	227	1305	dark green
---	-----	-----	------	------------

STITCH COUNT 150 high x 150 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 27 x 27cm (10¾ x 10¾in)

SKEINS NEEDED 3 x 964 (very light mint green)

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

Coming soon in Gold...

If stitching Lesley's patchwork cushion has made you feel all warm and cuddly inside, you'll also swoon over this design from Durene Jones! Her ornate heart is crammed with flowers and features a banner of words that will ring true with every stitcher. You'll find this cushion project in issue 117 of *Gold*, which hits newsstands on 6th January 2015 (UK). If you'd like to subscribe and have every issue delivered straight to your door, see page 22.



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Medina Bailey shops for the best new stitching goodies

Shopper's guide

Lighten and brighten gloomy winter days by investing in some brand new cross stitch kits and accessories. We're loving designs with a wintry theme, fun gift ideas and the latest in easy-to-use sewing technology...



Stag spectacle

Featuring a group of majestic deer in the forest, this eye-catching design from DMC has a bold, dramatic presence. The Gathering (BK1465) measures 30 x 20cm (12 x 8in) when stitched on 14-count aida. It's worked in a classic wintry colour palette of brown and green threads, which bring the deer, trees and fallen leaves to life.

To find your nearest DMC stockist, visit www.dmccreative.co.uk or call 0116 275 4000

Winter elegance

John Clayton has been busy creating another stunning design for Heritage Crafts' Elegance range. Dressed to the nines in striking black and dark pink, Stephanie (JLST1223) looks all set to attend a special occasion this winter. The kit is available with 27-count evenweave or 14-count aida, and comes complete with Zweigart fabric, pre-sorted DMC stranded cotton, a needle, and clear charts and instructions. When finished, the design measures 18 x 26.5cm (7 x 10½in). The kit will set you back £35.

For more information, visit www.hcrafts.com or call 01889 575256



Bundles of joy

It's always enjoyable stitching gifts for little ones, particularly when they score highly in the cute and cuddly stakes like these ready-to-stitch owls. The plush soft toys by DMC come in pink (GN141) and blue (GN142) and include a 14-count aida bib, which can be personalised to create a truly special present. They measure 30cm (12in) and retail at £10.99 each.

For stockist details, visit www.dmccreative.co.uk or call 0116 275 4000

Tea, anyone?

If you're on the lookout for a speedy-to-stitch, last minute present for a friend, feast your eyes on this kit from Bothy Threads. Designed by Susan Wheeler, Teapot Mouse features a sweet mouse inside a decorative teapot, surrounded by scrumptious cupcakes. This colourful design, which is worked using cross stitch and backstitch, measures 18 x 18cm (7 x 7in) on 14-count white aida. Find out how you could win this kit, which costs £19.99, by turning to our competition on page 67.

For further information, visit www.bothythreads.com or call 01900 828844



Stitch & sew

Singer has unveiled its most advanced sewing machine yet – the One Plus. Boasting a lengthy list of sewing features, the stylish machine has an LED screen and automatic needle threader for ease of use. It's ideal for finishing off cross stitch projects, such as cushion covers, tablecloths, bellpulls and bags, as it has 231 stitches pre-programmed in, as well as a block alphabet and numbers for personalising designs. Other features include a presser foot sensor, which ensures that the foot is always in the correct position to help prevent the thread from bunching up. The machine retails at £499.

To locate your nearest Singer stockist, visit www.singerco.co.uk

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2014

The last issue of 2014, so we thought we would see out the old year with a variety of products - several kits which have proved best sellers since their introduction throughout the year; another of our popular multibuy promotions; two successful designs which have only just become available again (hold-ups at the supplier); and a couple which may solve any gift problems you might be experiencing. We hope you like our choice.

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Home Is Where The Cat Is
14ct aida 14x17cm

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Japanese Garden
16ct Aida 30x40cm

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Paddington Numbers
14ct aida 58 x 30xcm

£125.00



Vintage Style Collector's Box
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worth £142.50. *A best seller this autumn.*



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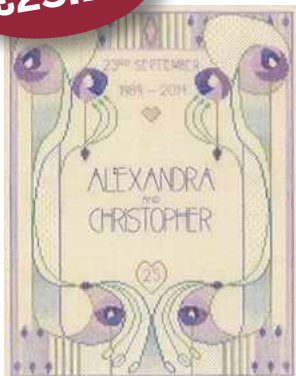
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Tiny Feet
18ct aida 19x16cm

£25.25



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16ct aida 28x23cm

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Bright eyes

This feline study is a captivating sight, stitched on dark evenweave and mounted in a canvas style



Meet the designer

Caroline Lord

Caroline lives in Northamptonshire with her husband, three children and a houseful of cats. Her passions include painting animal portraits and cross stitching

I absolutely adore cats and my own three don't seem to mind posing while I sketch away, which came in handy for this design! My main aim was to capture the true character of the cat by focusing on its facial expression and features. I always think I can tell exactly what my cats are thinking when they gaze up at me, so I wanted to celebrate the wonderful sense of intuition that exists between owners and their pets. If, like me, you're a fan of felines, as well as cross stitching, then I'm sure that you'll love completing this project as much as I loved creating it for you.

Stitcher's guide

This design is worked on 25-count slate grey evenweave, over two threads of the fabric, with 21 different shades of stranded cotton. It uses whole cross stitches in three strands of thread, along with backstitch in one and two strands of white thread to define the design. This project is recommended for intermediate stitchers.

How to stitch the cat portrait

- 1 Find the centre of your fabric by folding it in half both horizontally and vertically. Follow the arrows on the chart to find its centre and start stitching from here, working your way outwards.
- 2 Work the cross stitch over two threads of the fabric, using three strands of cotton.
- 3 Add the backstitch in one or two strands of white thread.
- 4 Check over your finished stitching and prepare for making up.

How to stitch on coloured fabric

If you find stitching on dark fabric difficult, you may want to invest in a light box, which will make it easier to see the holes.

You will need

FABRIC Zweigart 25-count slate Lugana evenweave, measuring 33 x 41cm (13 x 16in)

THREADS Stranded cotton as listed in the key

NEEDLE Size 24 tapestry needle

EXTRAS 30 x 23cm (12 x 9in) blank art canvas from your local craft store

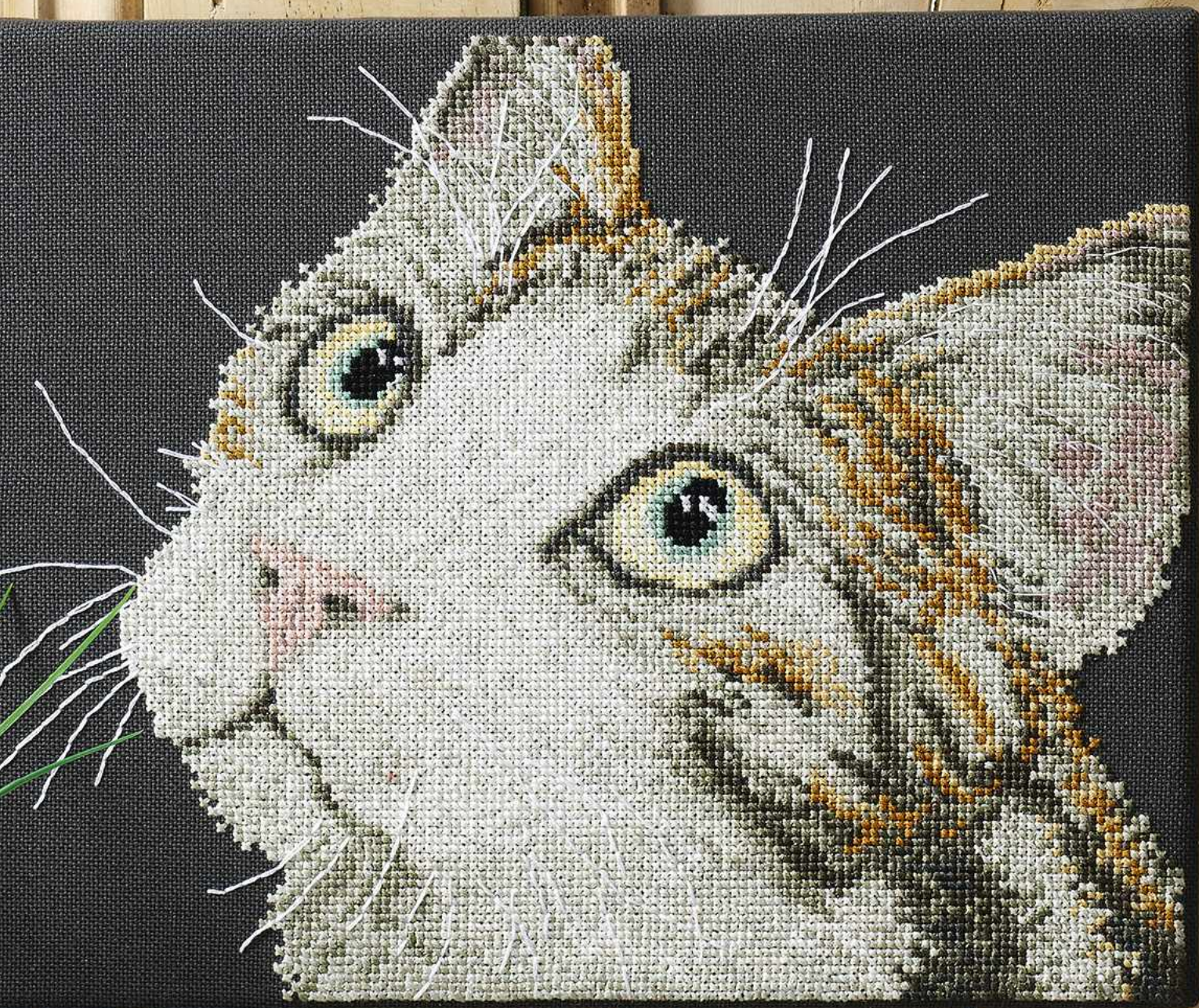
FOR STOCKISTS' DETAILS Turn to page 61

stitch tip

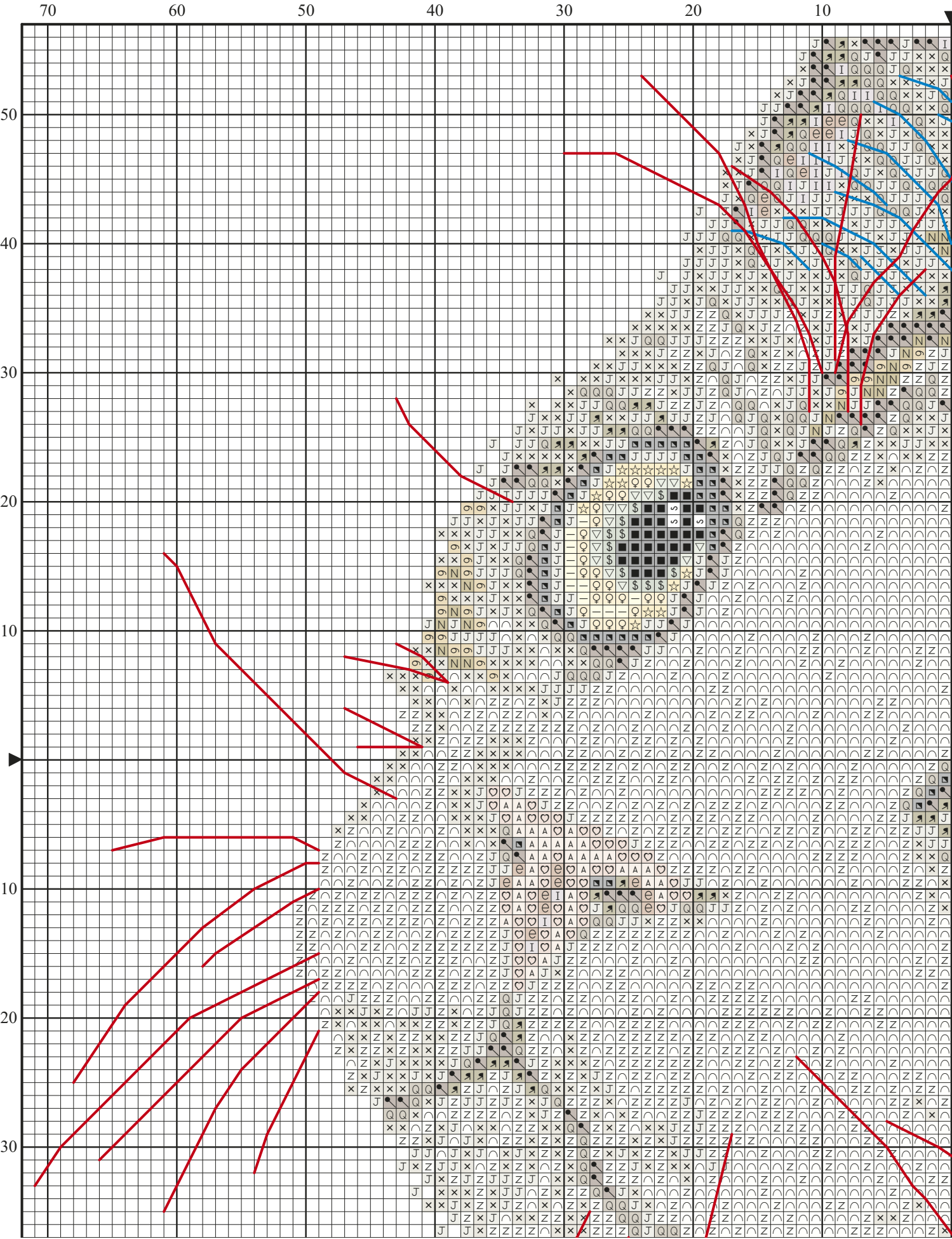
Use Post-it notes as chart markers. The adhesive strip makes them good for marking off areas, as well as acting as a row-by-row guide

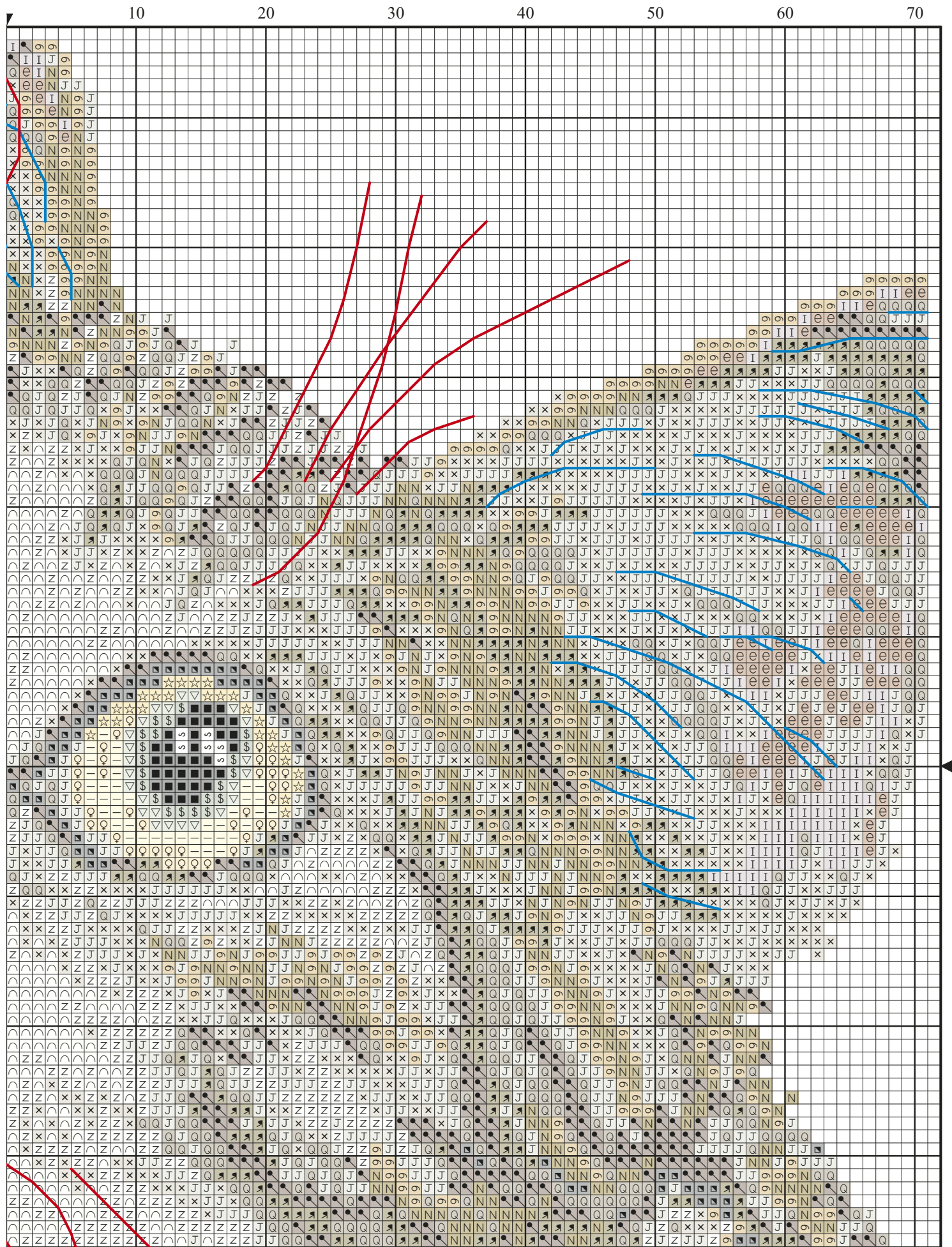


This realistic portrait will
charm cat lovers far and wide



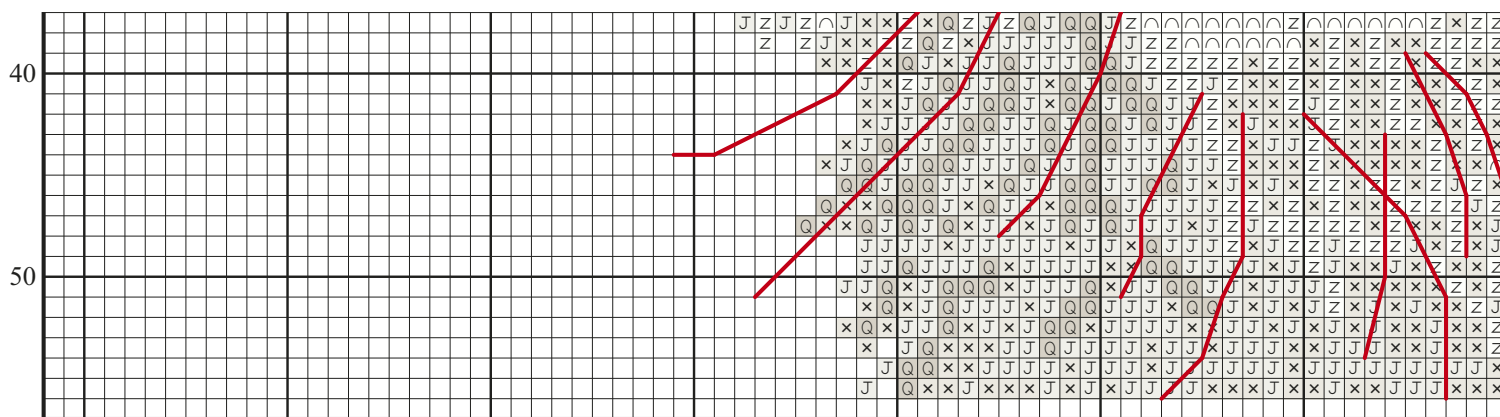
Cat portrait



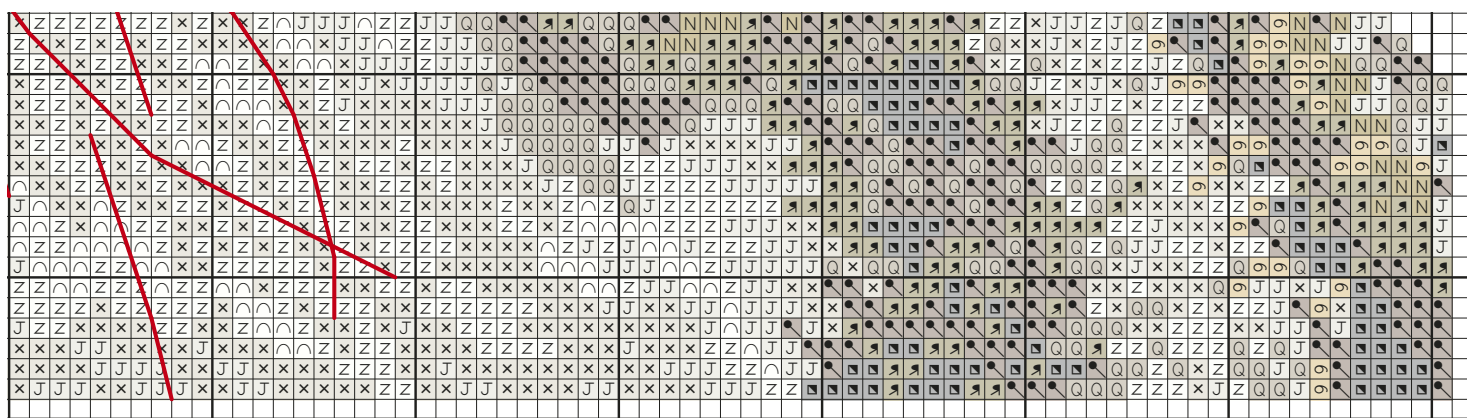


Top right

Cat portrait



Bottom left



Bottom right

How to make up your stitching as a canvas

- 1 Measure your canvas frame and mark the halfway points along each edge. Join up the points to make a cross on the frame. Push a pin through the central stitch of your piece, then through the centre of the cross on the frame. Now trim your fabric, leaving 5cm (2in) around the edge of the frame.
- 2 Staple the fabric to the centre of the top bar. Move to the centre of the bottom bar, pulling the fabric tightly, and place the central staple. Repeat, placing a central staple on each of the two side bars. Return to the top bar and place staples on either side of the original, leaving about 2cm (3/4in) between each staple. Repeat for the bottom bar and side bars.
- 3 To finish the corners, grip one of the corners of your piece of stitching and pull it towards the opposite corner. This will create two flaps of fabric on either side. Fold each of these in towards the point that you're pulling and secure them in place with a staple. Repeat with the other three corners, and trim away any excess fabric.



Caroline Lord's Designer Secrets

In the detail

When creating portraits like this, I work from sketches and photographs, carefully transferring all the details – even the tiniest ones – onto paper using pastels. Then I translate the design into cross stitch. It's a slow process, but I find it really stimulating and rewarding.

Love to stitch

I'm an avid cross stitcher and feel as though my day isn't complete until I've worked that needle. I think it's important to do the things that you enjoy as much as possible, as it helps you to switch off and unwind. Plus, with cross stitch you get the added bonus of working towards an exciting end goal!



Cat portrait key

✕ Cross stitch in three strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
S	B5200	1	2401	white
♥	224	894	813	pink
A	225	271	814	light pink
■	310	403	2400	black
N	420	374	2104	tan
o	422	943	2102	light tan
I	452	232	1807	shell grey
\$	503	876	1702	green
↗	645	273	1811	dark ash grey
Q	646	8581	1812	ash grey
J	648	399	1814	light ash grey
Q	745	300	111	yellow
—	746	275	2511	light yellow
☛	844	1041	1809	smoke grey
x	3024	900	1709	light stone grey
■	3799	236	1713	dark grey
▽	3813	1042	1701	light green
☆	3855	311	2513	yellow
e	3861	378	1912	dark shell grey
∩	3865	2	2403	natural white
Z	3866	926	2101	cream

✕ Backstitch in one strand

—	B5200	1	2401	white
---	-------	---	------	-------

✕ Backstitch in two strands

—	B5200	1	2401	white
---	-------	---	------	-------

STITCH COUNT 112 high x 142 wide

DESIGN AREA 25-count evenweave – 23 x 29cm (9 x 11¼in)

SKEINS NEEDED 2 x 648 (light ash grey)

This design was stitched using DMC stranded cotton on 25-count evenweave over two threads of the fabric

How to stitch using three strands of thread

Caroline has used three strands of cotton to work the cross stitch on this design, as it gives good coverage on the slate grey fabric. It's not that different to stitching with two, but you won't be able to start your thread using the loop method, as this requires an even number of strands. You may also find that your thread twists more easily, so make sure that you let your needle hang down at regular intervals.

"I think it's the incredibly expressive eyes that make this portrait so striking. It'll make a lovely gift for a cat person."
Fiona Baker, Charting Editor

Coming soon in *Gold*...

Feline fans won't want to miss the next cat-themed design that's coming up in *Cross Stitch Gold*. Durene Jones has set her charming cat couple against an enchanting backdrop of Paris at nighttime. This abstract, densely stitched design, worked in gorgeous shades of thread, will keep you engrossed from the first stitch to the last. You'll find it in issue 117, which goes on sale on 6th January 2015 (UK). Turn to page 22 to find out how to get every issue of *Gold* delivered to your door.



Celebrate *in style*

Commemorate a winter wedding with this delightful design, stitched in rich reds, blues and greens



Meet the designer

Durene Jones

Durene loves to create vibrant, lively designs for Gold. She used to work as a graphic designer before venturing into cross stitch

I've designed lots of wedding samplers with spring and summer themes, but one day I wondered, what can you stitch to mark a winter wedding? If you know a couple who are tying the knot over the coming months, this project should provide you with the ideal present. I started off this design by creating the heart-shaped wreath of seasonal flowers, before adding the text and little details, such as the church and snowflakes. The finished piece has turned out perfectly – it's wintry in style without being cold or gloomy. When you personalise the design, remember to plot the letters onto graph paper first.

Stitcher's guide

This design is worked on 28-count white evenweave, over two threads of the fabric, with 24 different shades of stranded cotton. It uses whole cross stitches in two strands of thread, along with fractionals, also in two strands. Backstitch defines the design in one strand of thread and in five different shades, and seed beads are used to add extra panache to the border. This project is recommended for experienced stitchers.

How to stitch the sampler

- 1 Find the centre of your fabric by folding it in half both horizontally and vertically. Follow the arrows on the chart to find its centre and start stitching from here, working your way outwards.
- 2 Work the cross stitch over two threads of the fabric, using two strands of cotton. For every tiny symbol you see on the chart, work a fractional stitch.
- 3 Add the backstitch detail in one strand of thread.
- 4 Attach the seed beads to the design using pink thread.
- 5 Check over your finished stitching and prepare for making up.

You will need

FABRIC Zweigart 28-count white evenweave, measuring 41 x 33cm (16 x 13in)

THREADS Stranded cotton as listed in the key

BEADS Mill Hill seed beads as listed in the key

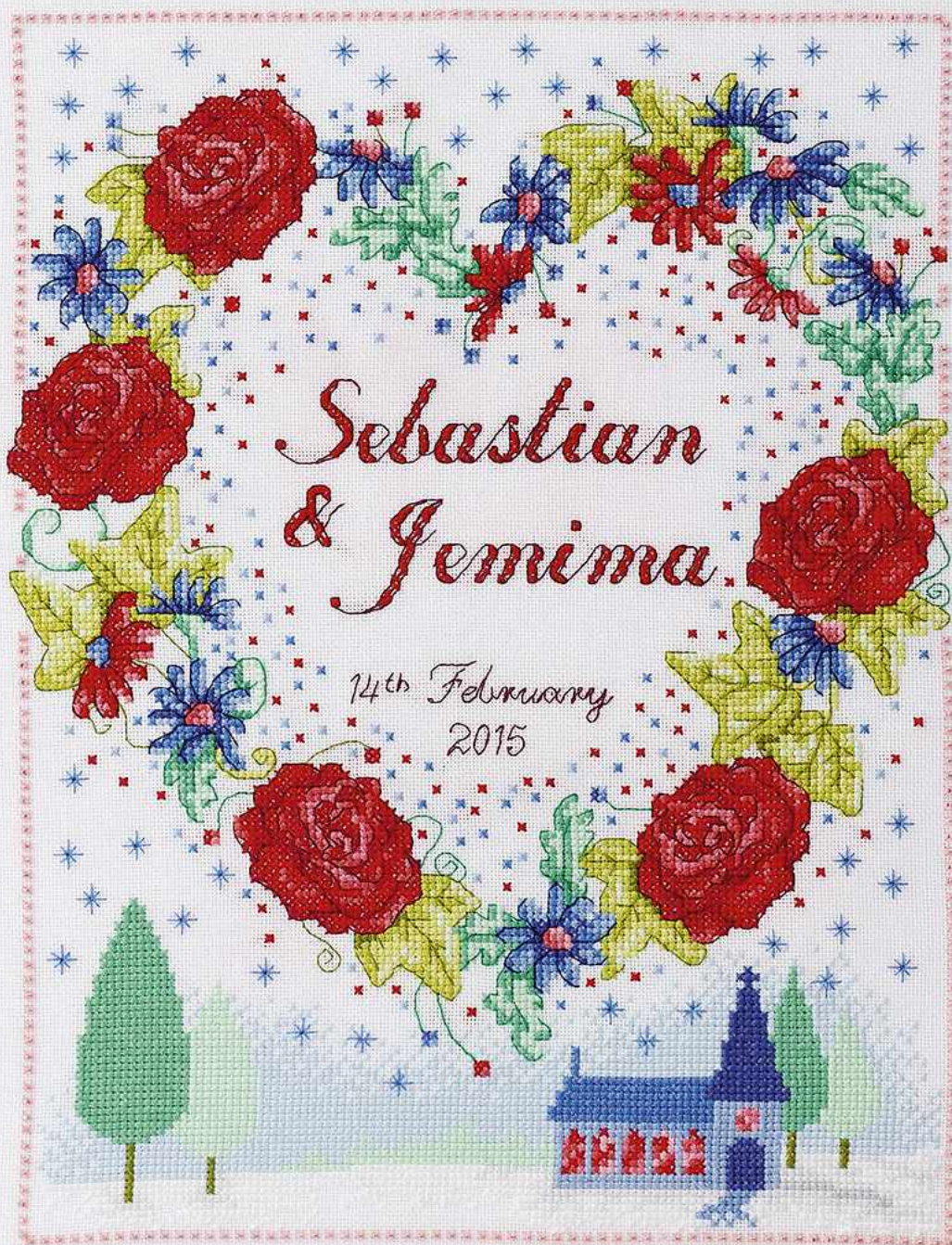
NEEDLE Size 26 tapestry needle; beading needle

EXTRAS Frame of your choice with a minimum aperture of 33 x 29cm (13 x 11½in)

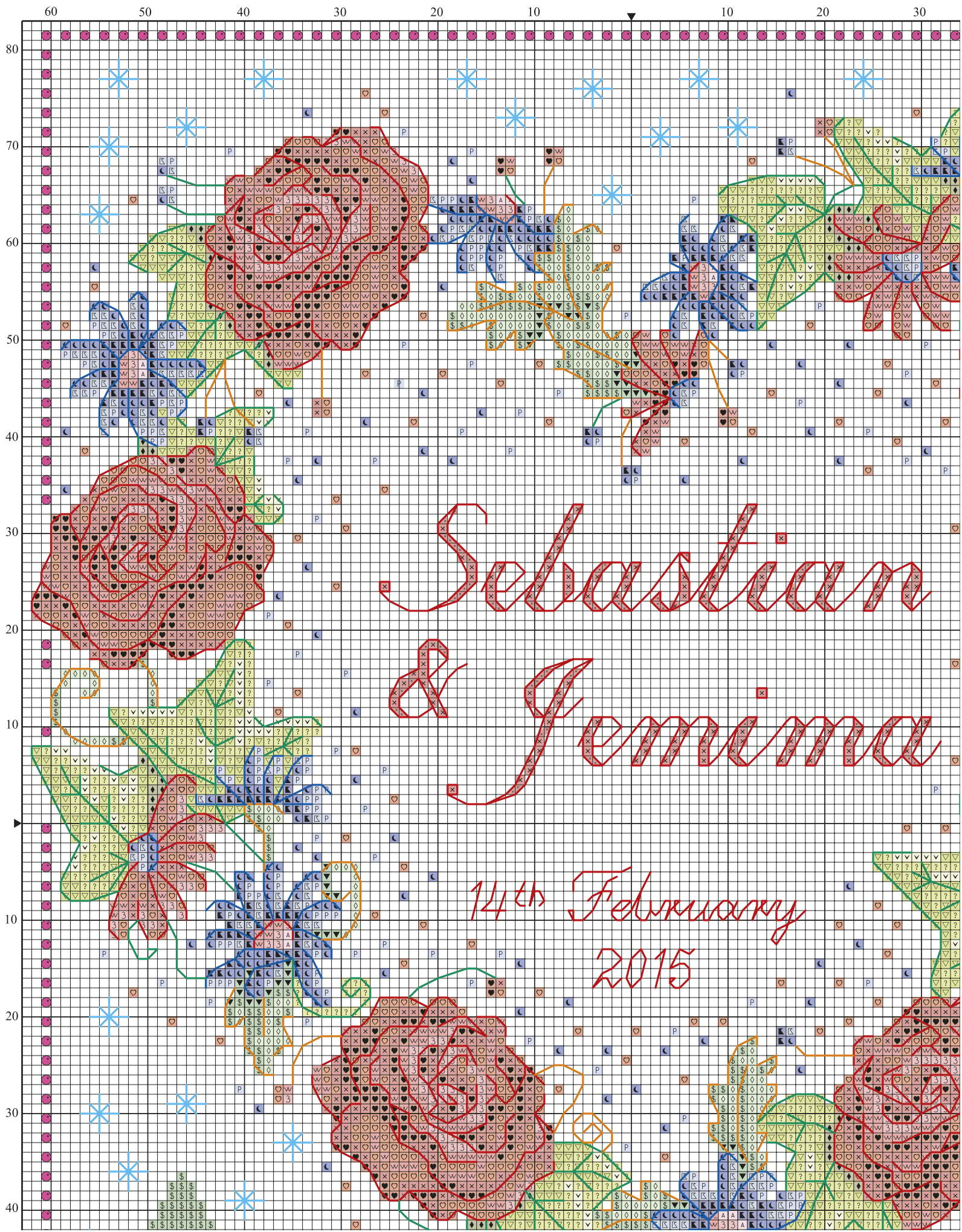
FOR STOCKISTS' DETAILS Turn to page 61



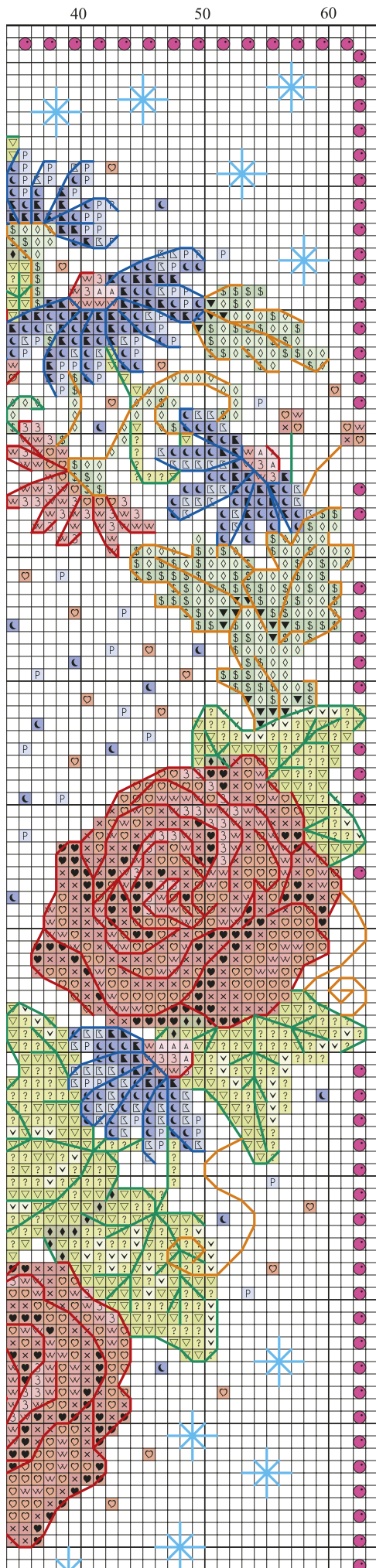
Stitch a sampler that the happy couple
will cherish for years to come



Wedding sampler



Top left



Top right



“Stitching a personalised sampler is a great way of marking a special occasion, especially when the design is as beautiful as this.”
Medina Bailey, Editor

How to attach the seed beads

Use two strands of thread to attach each bead with the bottom arm of a cross stitch. Bring your beading needle up at the bottom left corner of the square, thread a bead onto your needle, and take it down at the top right. To make sure each bead is fixed on firmly, complete the top half of the cross stitch as well, making one thread lie on each side of the bead.

Wedding sampler key

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	blanc	2	2402	white
t	162	9159	1101	very light blue
▽	166	280	1611	lime green
♥	321	9046	510	dark red
⊞	415	398	1802	grey
◆	580	267	1608	green
♡	666	46	210	bright red
*	762	234	1804	light grey
▽	772	259	1604	light green
⬛	797	139	913	very dark blue
⬛	798	131	912	dark blue
⬛	799	145	910	blue
P	809	130	909	light blue
×	817	13	211	red
▼	911	205	1214	dark mint green
\$	912	209	1213	mint green
◇	955	206	1210	light mint green
w	3705	35	410	scarlet
3	3706	33	409	pink
A	3708	31	408	light pink
?	3819	279	1610	light lime green

✕ Backstitch in one strand

—	580	267	1608	green
—	798	131	912	dark blue
—	814	22	601	wine red
—	823	127	1008	navy
—	909	230	1303	very dark green

✕ Mill Hill seed beads

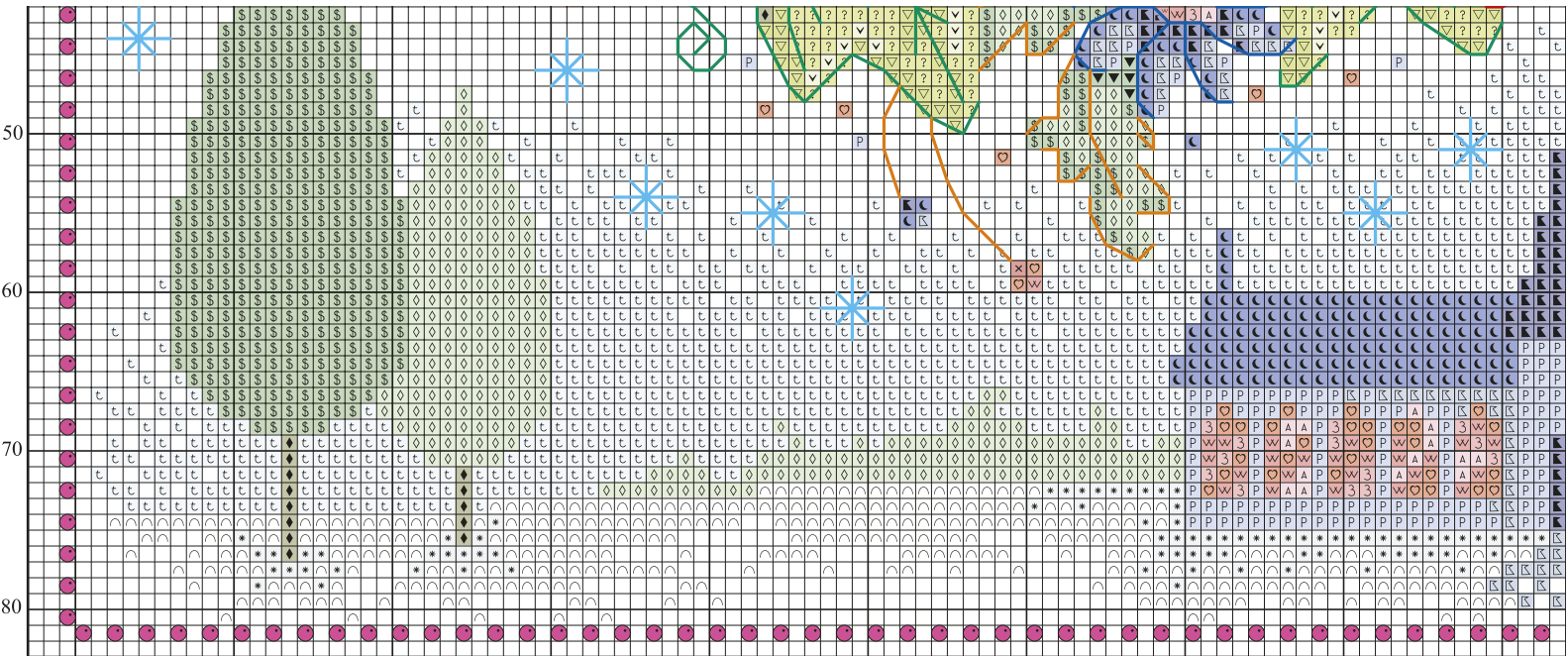
●	02004			frosted tea rose
---	-------	--	--	------------------

STITCH COUNT 164 high x 125 wide

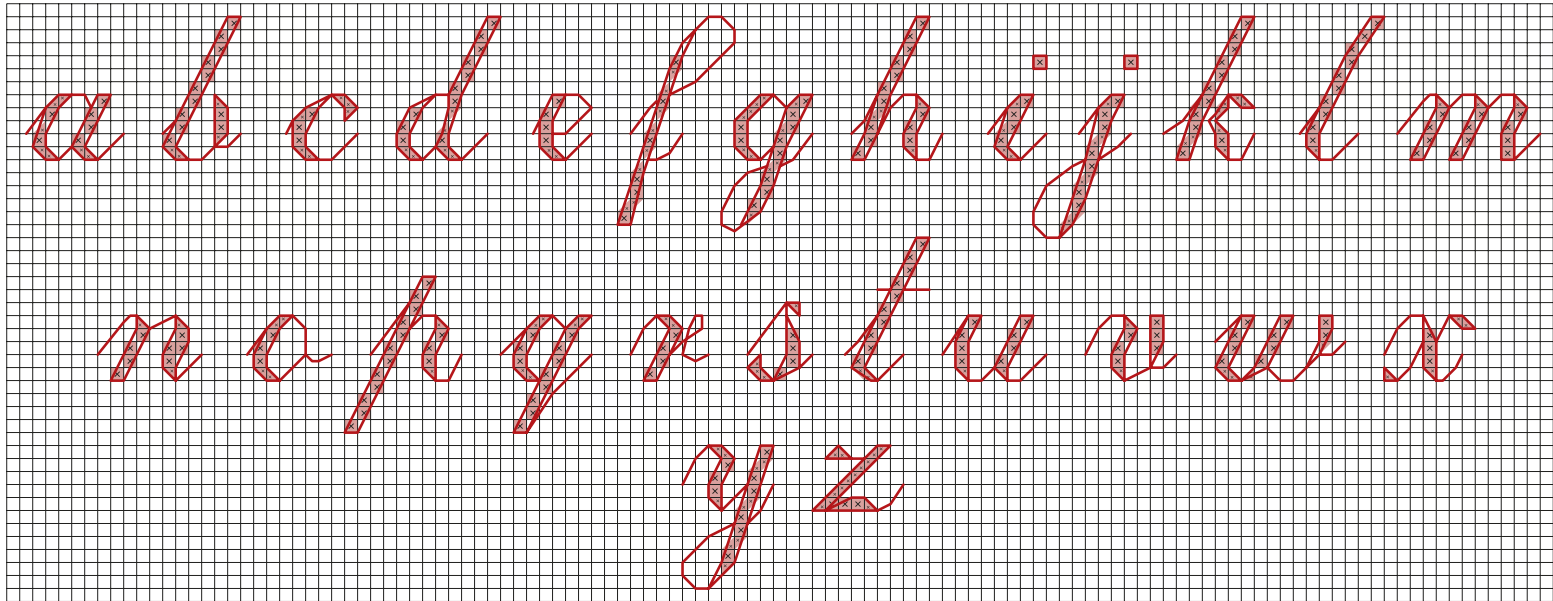
DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 30 x 22.5cm (11¾ x 9in)

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





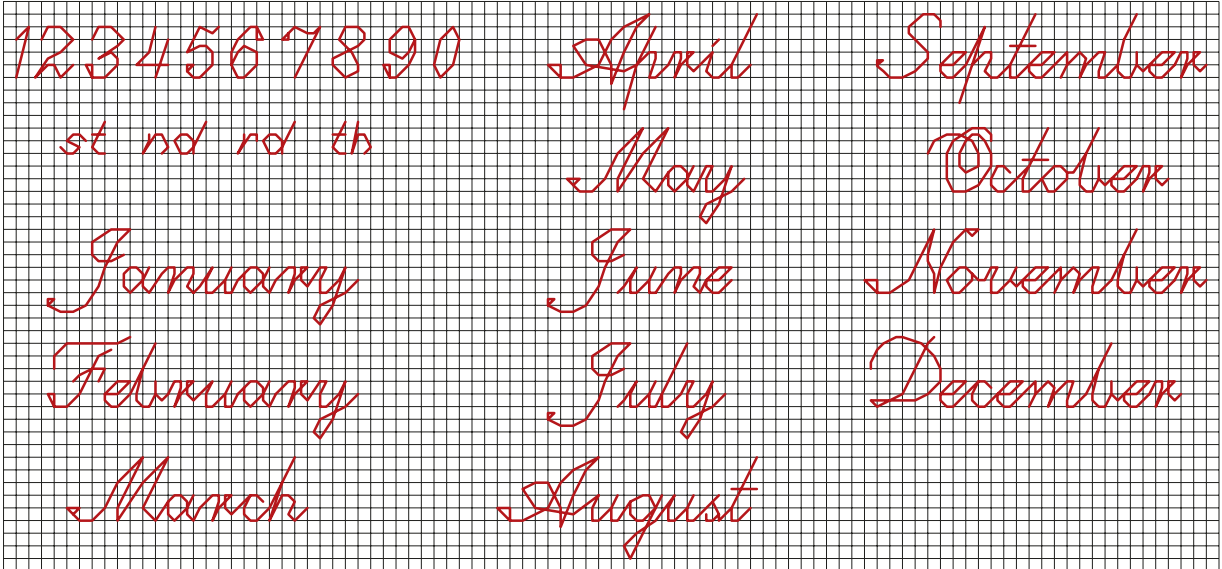
Bottom left



Lower case alphabet

**How to stop
your fabric from
fraying**

The easiest way to seal your fabric edges is with masking tape. Simply cut a length of masking tape for each side of the fabric, and fold it carefully over the edges. The sticky substance on the tape can sometimes stain fabric, so always remember to leave enough material around the actual stitched design. This way, any marks can be trimmed off later or obscured by a frame.



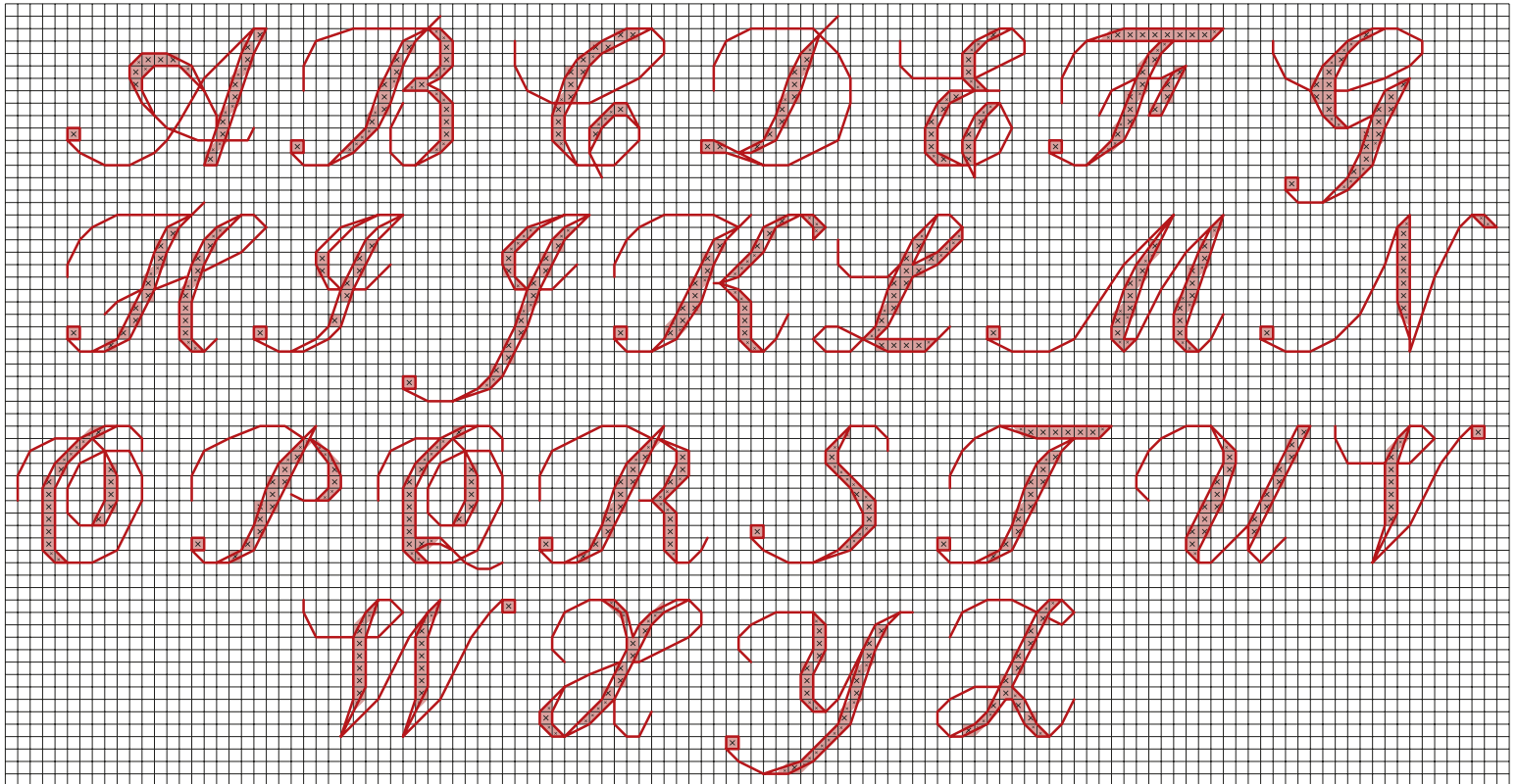
Date chart



Sebastian
& Gemima

14th February
2015

A close-up of a red rose on a cross-stitch pattern. The rose is the central focus, rendered in vibrant red with detailed shading to show its many petals. It is surrounded by green leaves and stems, and other floral elements in blue and yellow are visible in the background, all set against a white grid background typical of cross-stitch patterns.



stitch tip

Use a pointed needle to make backstitching easier – it'll glide through the cross stitch and evenweave layers with ease



Perfectly *paisley*

Step out in style with this stunning tote bag, adorned with a mesmerising array of paisley motifs



Meet the designer

Carol Thornton

Carol is a talented watercolour artist who likes to paint her designs, before converting them into cross stitch charts

I find tote bags really useful, but there's no reason why something practical should look practical. This roomy bag is a case in point – I love elegant paisley patterns, so it was a joy to create. I particularly liked combining sumptuous, architectural scrollwork with decorative paisley. As they're both classical design styles, they complement each other perfectly and create a striking overall effect. But deciding on which thread colours to use was definitely my favourite part of the design process. Your finished bag will be so versatile that you'll be able to use it for any occasion – for a trip to the shops, or as a handbag to take you from day to evening.

Stitcher's guide

This design is worked on Polstitches 28-count Dawn Chorus evenweave, over two threads of the fabric, with 14 different shades of stranded cotton. It uses whole cross stitches in two strands of thread, along with fractionals, also in two strands. Backstitch defines the design in one strand of black thread, while French knots in two strands add extra detail. This project is recommended for experienced stitchers.

How to stitch the tote bag

- 1 Find the centre of your fabric by folding it in half both horizontally and vertically. Follow the arrows on the chart to find its centre and start stitching from here, working your way outwards.
- 2 Work the cross stitch over two threads of the fabric, using two strands of cotton. For every tiny symbol you see on the chart, work a fractional stitch.
- 3 Add the backstitch detail using one strand of black thread.
- 4 Work the French knots in two strands of cotton.
- 5 Check over your finished stitching and prepare for making up.

You will need

FABRIC Polstitches 28-count Dawn Chorus evenweave, measuring 18 x 45cm (7 x 17¾in) for each panel (there are three panels in total)

THREADS Stranded cotton as listed in the key

NEEDLE Size 26 tapestry needle

EXTRAS Backing fabric of your choice

FOR STOCKISTS' DETAILS Turn to page 61

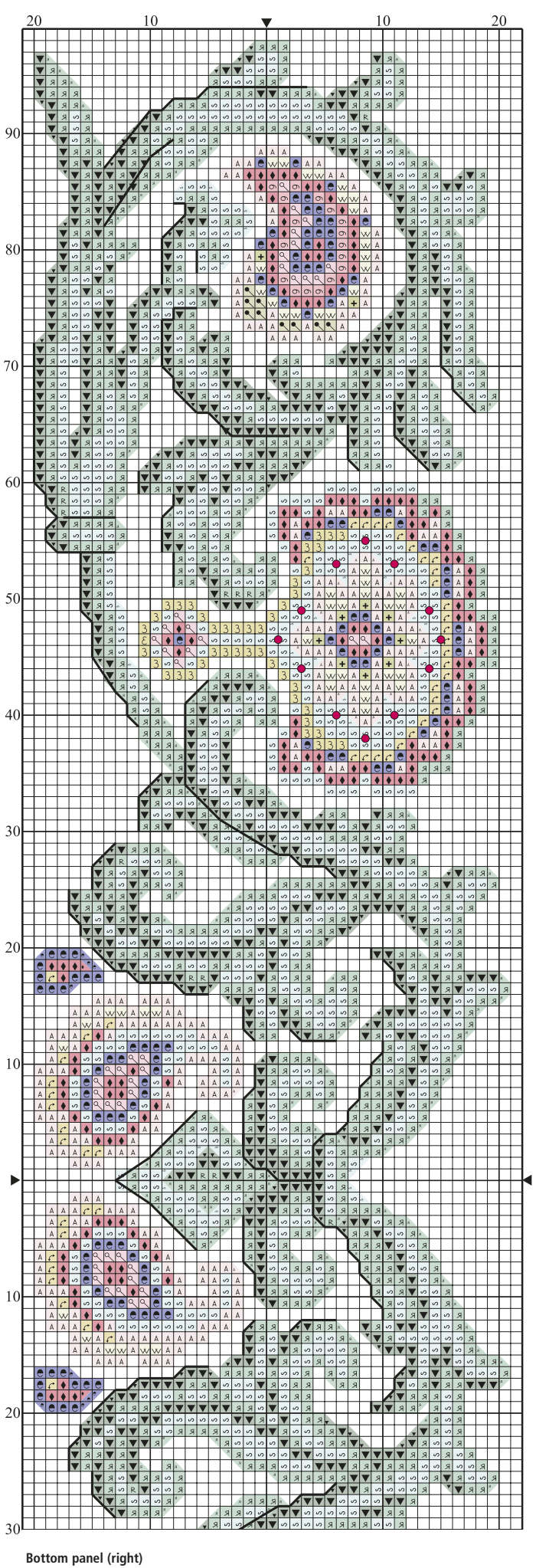
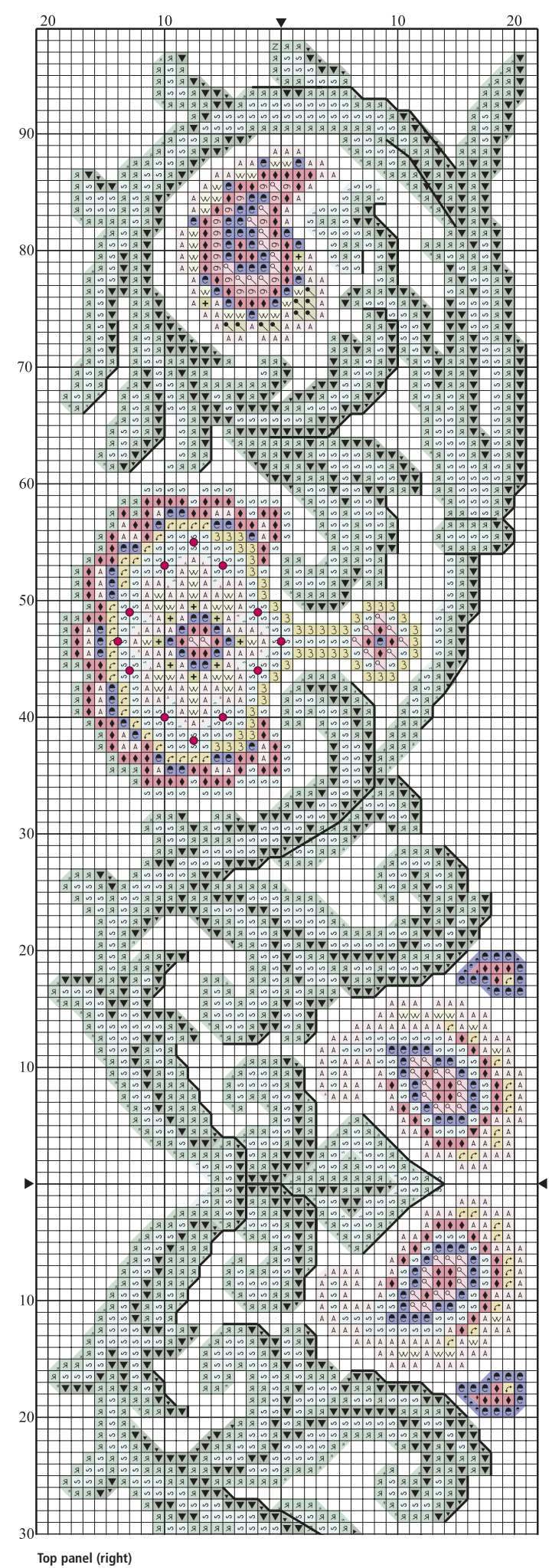
stitch tip

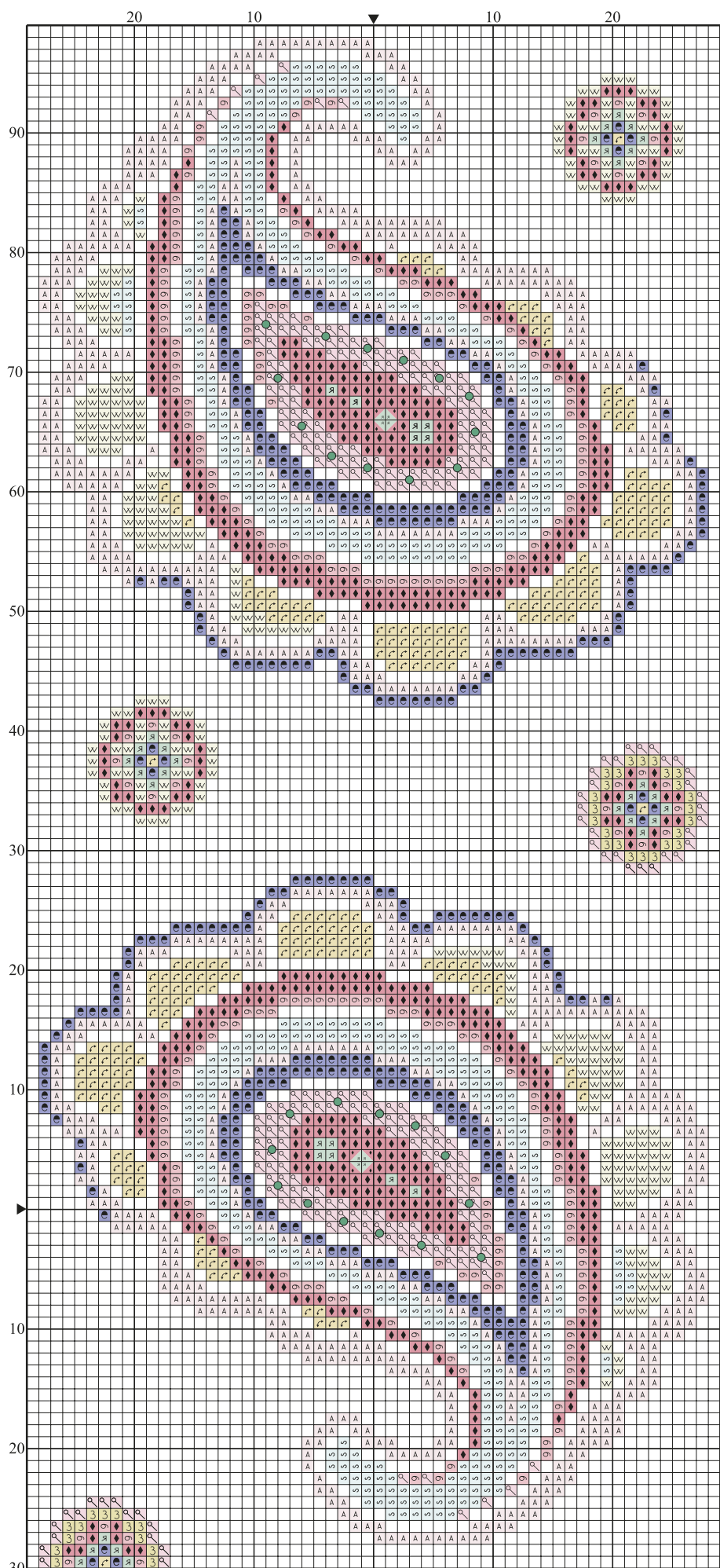
Visit our website at www.cross-stitching.com for advice on different stitching techniques

This beautifully bright design is finished off with fuchsia pink fabric



Tote bag





Middle panel (left)

Paisley bag key

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
W	524	858	1511	light sage green
▼	561	212	1205	holly green
◆	600	63	703	dark pink
○	602	57	702	pink
◇	604	55	614	light pink
■	791	178	904	blue
3	833	945	2203	olive green
↻	834	874	2510	light olive green
⦿	3053	859	1512	sage green
+	3364	260	1603	grass green
A	3727	1016	2610	light plum
■	3816	876	1703	pine green
⋈	3817	875	1702	light pine green

✕ Backstitch in one strand

—	310	403	2400	black
---	-----	-----	------	-------

✕ French knots in two strands

●	600	63	703	dark pink
●	3816	876	1703	pine green

MAXIMUM STITCH COUNT 56 high x 196 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 10 x 35.5cm (4 x 14in)

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

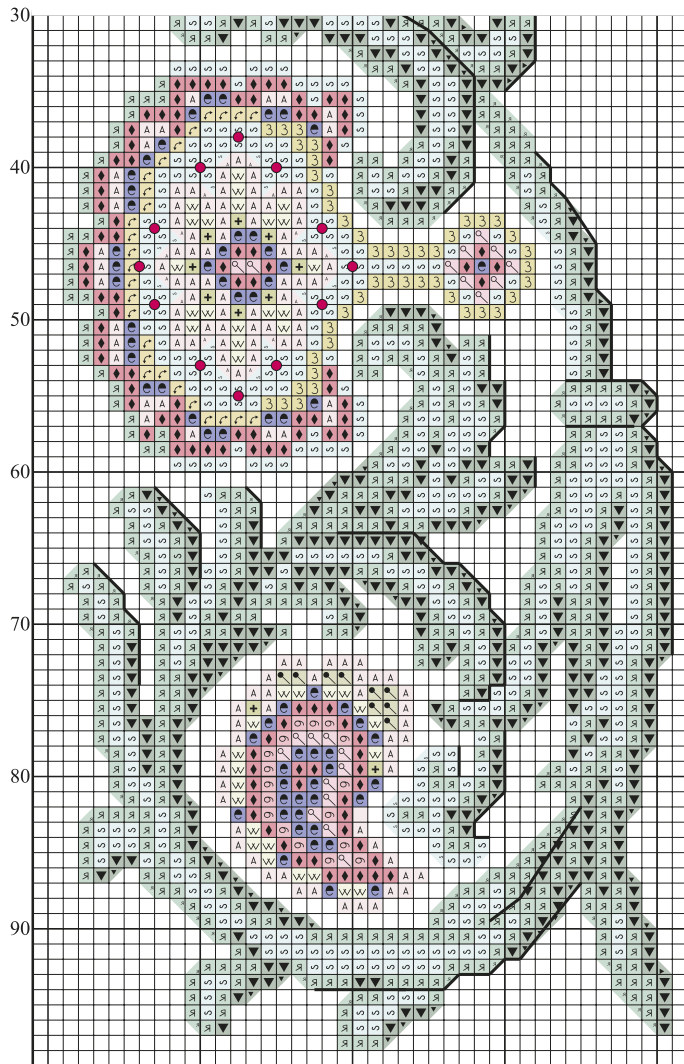
How to make up your stitching as a bag

- 1 Trim your stitched pieces, so the top and bottom panels measure 10 x 37cm (4 x 14½in) each, and the middle panel measures 13 x 37cm (5 x 14½in). Cut four pieces of fabric, measuring 4 x 37cm (1½ x 14½in).
- 2 With the right sides together, stitch the pieces of fabric to the stitched designs in the order shown in the picture on page 47, leaving a 1cm seam allowance. Press the seams open.
- 3 Cut a piece of backing fabric measuring 36 x 37cm (14 x 14½in). With the right sides together, sew the front and back pieces together along the bottom and side seams.
- 4 For the handles, cut two pieces of fabric, measuring 6 x 64cm (2¼ x 25in). Fold each one in half and sew along the long edge, leaving a 1cm seam allowance. Turn through and press.
- 5 Fold the top edge of the bag over 1cm and press. Position the handles at the front and back of the hem 9cm (3½in) in from the edge, and pin and stitch. Topstitch along the top hem of the bag.

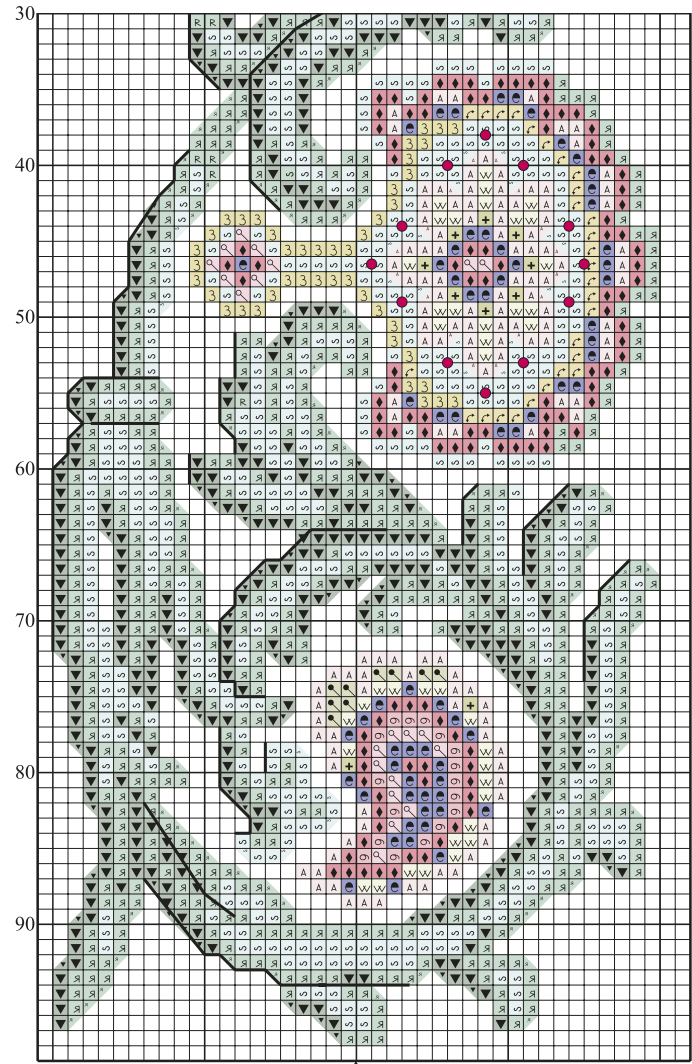
"I agree with Carol – totes shouldn't be boring – and her vibrant paisley design is anything but!"

Fiona Baker, Charting Editor

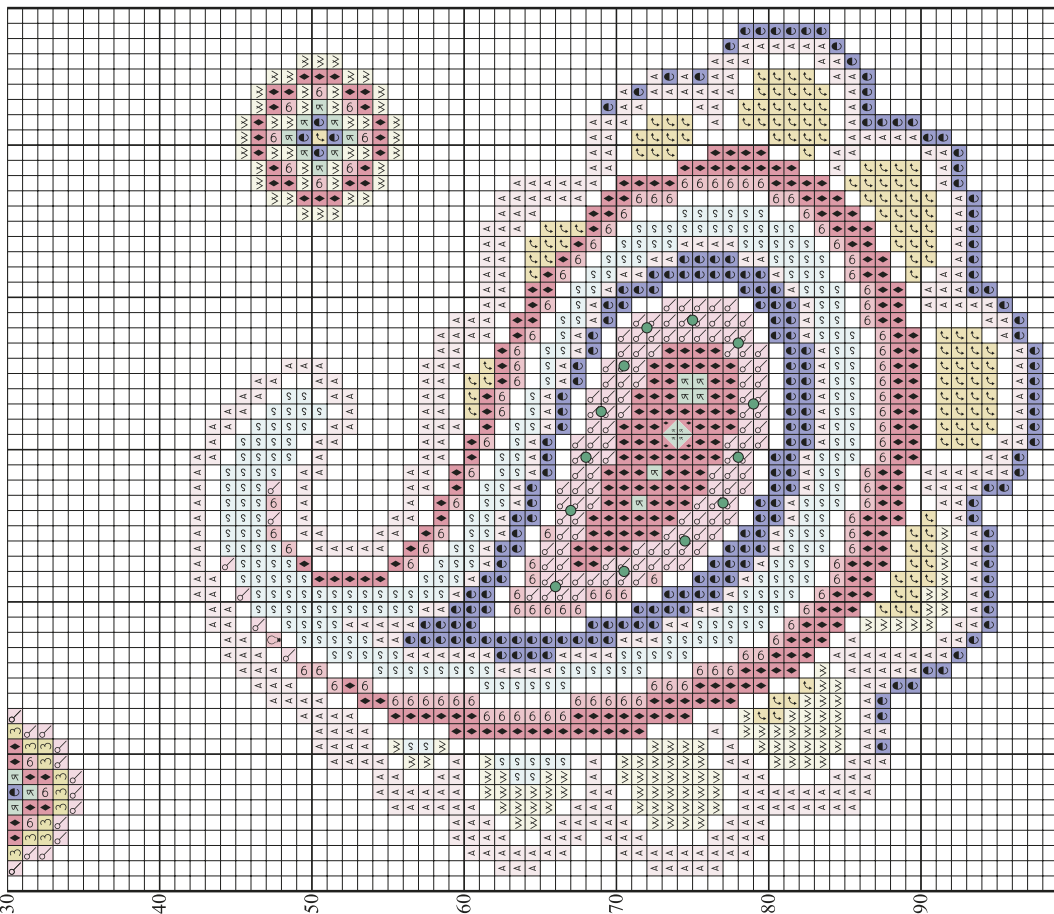
Tote bag



Top panel (left)



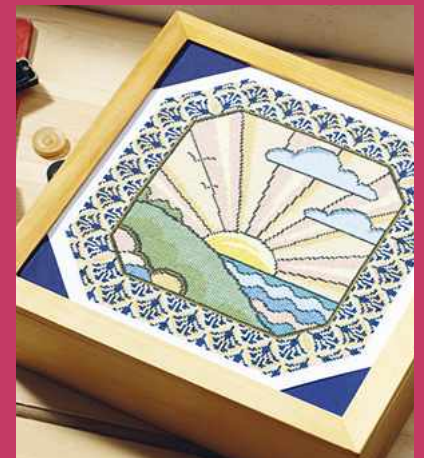
Bottom panel (left)



Middle panel (right)

Coming soon in *Gold*...

There's another project with a classic look on its way in issue 117 of *Cross Stitch Gold*. This stunning wooden box, designed by Maria Diaz, features sunbeam, sea, land and sky motifs in an art deco style, in gorgeous thread shades, including gold metallic. Issue 117 is out on 6th January 2015 (UK). You can find out how to subscribe on page 22.



L-R: navy faux leather, black faux leather, ruby faux suede, camel faux suede



All-weather winter boots for everyone

Get ready to fight the rain, snow and overcast days in cosy comfort with these winter boots, for only £19.99 a pair or two pairs for just £35!

Winter has arrived and with it comes the unpredictability of the British weather. So, be prepared to fight another cold snap of a season with a pair of these ready-for-anything winter boots. With a fleece-lined inner, these winter warmers are perfect for keeping your feet snug and toasty as temperatures plummet, providing an extra layer of comforting cosiness. The slip resistant soles maintain grip on even the most slippery surface so you'll be ready to go every morning, come rain or snow. The sturdy footwear also features a zip front with an extra Velcro fastening strap, making for a secure, adjustable fit. Of course, no one likes wet, soggy feet and with these waterproof boots, yours will stay

warm and dry. Comfortable enough to wear all day long, the boots are perfect for a trip to the shops, walking the dog or simply enjoying the great outdoors. So, step outside in boots that are made for walking and beyond, and be sure-footed in quality and comfort without the high price tag.

Details

Available in black (S120FB) or navy faux leather (S120FN) and camel (S120CM) or ruby (S120RY) faux suede

Men's sizes: 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12

Ladies' sizes: 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8

Upper: manmade/textile

Inner/lining: manmade/textile

Sole: manmade

HOW TO ORDER

By phone: Call 0844 493 5654* quoting 43563

Online: Visit www.clifford-james.co.uk/43563

By post: Send your contact details, address and the codes and quantities of the item(s) you wish to order, along with a cheque made payable to BVG Airflo, to: *Cross Stitch Gold* offer 43563, PO Box 87, Brecon LD3 3BE

Please add £3.95 per order for courier delivery

Terms and conditions apply. Delivery within seven working days to UK mainland only, some exclusions may apply. *Calls cost 5p per minute from BT landlines, calls from other networks may vary. If not completely satisfied with your order, return goods in mint condition and sealed original packaging for a refund within 30 days of receiving your order (postage costs will not be refunded unless faulty). Your contract for supply of goods is with BVG Airflo. A SIGNATURE IS REQUIRED ON DELIVERY.



Dreams come true

Add a touch of fairytale magic to your home with Sarah Trevor's pick of captivating, fantasy-themed kits that all have a happy ending...

Floral fairy

THE WILD CHERRY BLOSSOM FAIRY
(BL1056/56), DMC, £16.99

What's in the kit?

- Black and white chart
- 16-count ivory aida
- DMC stranded cotton
- Needle

Size of finished design

18 x 13cm (7 x 5in)

Stitching this kit

The Flower Fairies characters may have been around since the 1920s, but their appeal is still as widespread today, and, luckily for us, the designs are available to buy as cross stitch kits. This Wild Cherry Blossom Fairy translates beautifully into a stitched piece, with delicate backstitch used to define the fairy's features and wings, as well as the flowers, and half cross stitches filling in the soft background. A handful of French knots create the flower centres, but you could replace them with seed beads if you prefer. As with all Flower Fairies designs, the fairy's clothes are made from her namesake flower, and in this case, her cherry blossom skirt is brought to life in pretty mauve and violet tones.

Where to buy

For stockists, go to www.dmccreative.co.uk or call 0116 275 4000



Make a splash

OCEAN UNICORNS (SLO-002), Kustom
Krafts, £31.46

What's in the kit?

- Black and white chart
- 14-count Zweigart light blue aida
- DMC stranded cotton
- Needle

Size of finished design

30 x 41cm (12 x 16in)

Stitching this kit

As they race through the waves, these beauties look like white horses at first, but look again and you'll see something even more magical – a pair of legendary unicorns. The black and white chart provided in the kit comes as a booklet, split into manageable chunks over 12 pages. It's clear and simple to work from, but make sure that you take extra care to count your stitches when moving on to the next page. The design itself is worked entirely



from corner to corner in whole stitches only. However, the absence of backstitch, fractional stitches and French knots doesn't mean that this design lacks in detail. As you can see, the whole stitches in 44 thread shades succeed in creating beautiful, lifelike movement and atmospheric shading. With so many similar colours used, we recommend parking your threaded needles at the side of your work.

Where to buy

Go to www.sewandso.co.uk or call 01453 889988

After fall

MIDNIGHT (1032), Riolis, £32.99

What's in the kit?

- Colour symbol chart
- 14-count black aida
- Anchor stranded cotton
- Needle

Size of finished design

45 x 35cm (17½ x 14in)

Stitching this kit

If you're looking for an uncomplicated project that still has the wow-factor, look no further than this design. It's worked in simple whole stitches only, and a fair amount of the background is left unstitched, as black aida creates the mysterious backdrop. The majority of the whole stitches are worked in three strands of thread, so that they stand out boldly on the dark fabric, with whole stitches in one strand creating a soft reflection around the moon. When working with three strands, treat your threads with a conditioning product to make them less likely to tangle as you

stitch. Bright white and vivid red threads ensure that the female figure in the foreground stands out, while muted brown and orange shades create the building and trees in the distance.

Where to buy

For stockists, go to www.solocrafts.com or call 01614 647313



Underwater love

SEA GODDESS (2762), Design Works, £38.99

What's in the kit?

- Black and white chart
- 14-count white aida
- Stranded cotton
- Metallic thread
- Seed beads
- Needle

Size of finished design

45.5 x 35.5cm (18 x 14in)

Stitching this kit

Most cross stitch fans will be familiar with the talent of designer Joan Elliott, and this Sea Goddess design by Joan for Design Works is a fine example. The stitched piece itself is made up mostly of whole stitches, and even though it's a large design, it isn't stitched from corner to corner, so it's still a manageable-sized project for all abilities. Whole stitches in two strands of thread are used throughout, as well as luxurious metallic silver thread to add detail to the mermaid's hairband. After you've stitched all of the whole stitches, there's still plenty more work to be done! You'll need to outline all of the



features in the design with extensive backstitch, and sew on white, aqua and purple seed beads to create 3D bubbles and embellishments on the dress. A beading needle and full instructions are included in the kit.

Where to buy

For stockists, go to www.solocrafts.com or call 01614 647313

Spellbinding stitch

MAGNIFICENT WIZARD (S35080), Dimensions, £40.40

What's in the kit?

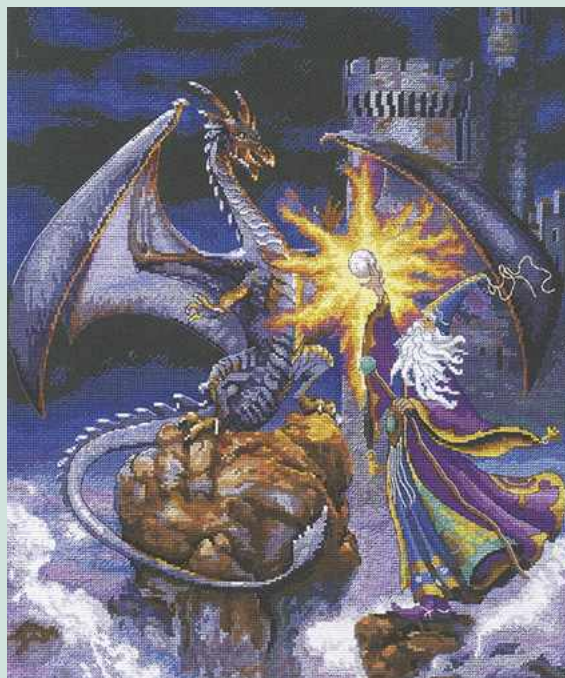
- Colour symbol chart
- 18-count black aida
- Stranded cotton
- Metallic thread
- Two needles

Size of finished design

36 x 30cm (14 x 12in)

Stitching this kit

Since the birth of Harry Potter and friends, more children and adults alike have become charmed by the wonderful world of wizardry. Magnificent Wizard is worked on black aida, which instantly provides an atmospheric background for the 41 different shades of thread. Gold metallic thread is also included in the kit to add an extra-special touch to the dragon. As well as whole stitches, half stitches, backstitch and couching, this chart also requires you to do some cording to add lifelike detail to the wizard's cloak. The kit includes step-by-step instructions to show you how to do this, so don't worry if you haven't attempted cording before. The chart itself is split over two A3



sheets, with a smaller A4 version that helps you to see the overall design. You may find it easier to wear white gloves or place a white pillowcase on your lap as you stitch on the black aida, so you can see the holes more clearly. This magical design will be the perfect gift for Harry Potter fans of all ages!

Where to buy

Go to www.sewandso.co.uk or call 01453 889988

**Win
these
kits!**

We're giving one lucky reader the chance to win all of these kits. To enter, text FANTASY to 87474 or send your name and address on the back of a postcard to: Fantasy kits giveaway, Gold 116, Immediate Media Company Bristol Ltd, 9th Floor, Tower House, Fairfax Street, Bristol BS1 3BN by 6th January 2015. Turn to page 67 for our terms and conditions.

Forest friend

BLISSFUL MOMENT (5678000-01190), Maia, £57.80

What's in the kit?

- Colour symbol chart
- 14-count aida
- Anchor stranded cotton
- Needle

Size of finished design

40 x 30cm (16 x 12in)

Stitching this kit

This aptly named Blissful Moment kit will be a joy to stitch from start to finish. From the delicate butterflies to the pretty flowers, and, of course, the striking fairy in gorgeous attire, you'll love bringing this piece to life. Whole stitches in two and three strands make up the bulk of the design, but you'll also work the background in half stitches in two and three strands, so make sure you pay careful attention to the key. Finally, backstitch is worked in eight shades to define the fairy's features, petals, dragonfly and butterfly, with a few French knots as a final flourish on the flowers.

Where to buy

For stockists, go to www.makeitcoats.com or call 01484 681881



Just for you!

Thank family and friends with these bright and cheery cards, featuring elegant florals in bold shades of thread



Meet the designer

Durene Jones

Durene loves to create vibrant, lively designs for Gold. She used to work as a graphic designer before venturing into cross stitch

It makes sense to stitch thank you greetings at this time of year, so they'll be ready and waiting to send out after the Christmas period. However, as these cards feature pretty florals and aren't wintry in style, you'll be able to make them to show your appreciation at any time of year. They're fairly straightforward to work, but it's worth taking your time with the backstitch and French knots, as if these aren't stitched accurately, it could spoil the overall look. Only eight thread shades have been used, so if the palette of pinks and blues isn't for you, why not try substituting in your own favourite colours?

Stitcher's guide

These designs are worked on 14-count white aida with eight different shades of stranded cotton. They use whole cross stitches in two strands of thread, along with backstitch in both one and two strands to define the designs. Finally, French knots in one strand add detail. These cards are recommended for intermediate stitchers.

How to stitch the floral thank yous

- 1 Find the centre of your fabric by folding it in half both horizontally and vertically. Follow the arrows on the chart to find its centre and start stitching from here, working your way outwards.
- 2 Work the cross stitch using two strands of cotton.
- 3 Add the backstitch detail in one or two strands of thread.
- 4 Work the French knots using one strand of cotton.
- 5 Check over your finished stitching and prepare for making up.

You will need

FABRIC Zweigart 14-count white aida, measuring 15 x 15cm (6 x 6in) for each design

THREADS Stranded cotton as listed in the key

NEEDLE Size 24 tapestry needle

EXTRAS Craft Creations single fold, scalloped edge cards (SCF06U) in creative smooth white (30)

FOR STOCKISTS' DETAILS Turn to page 61

stitch tip

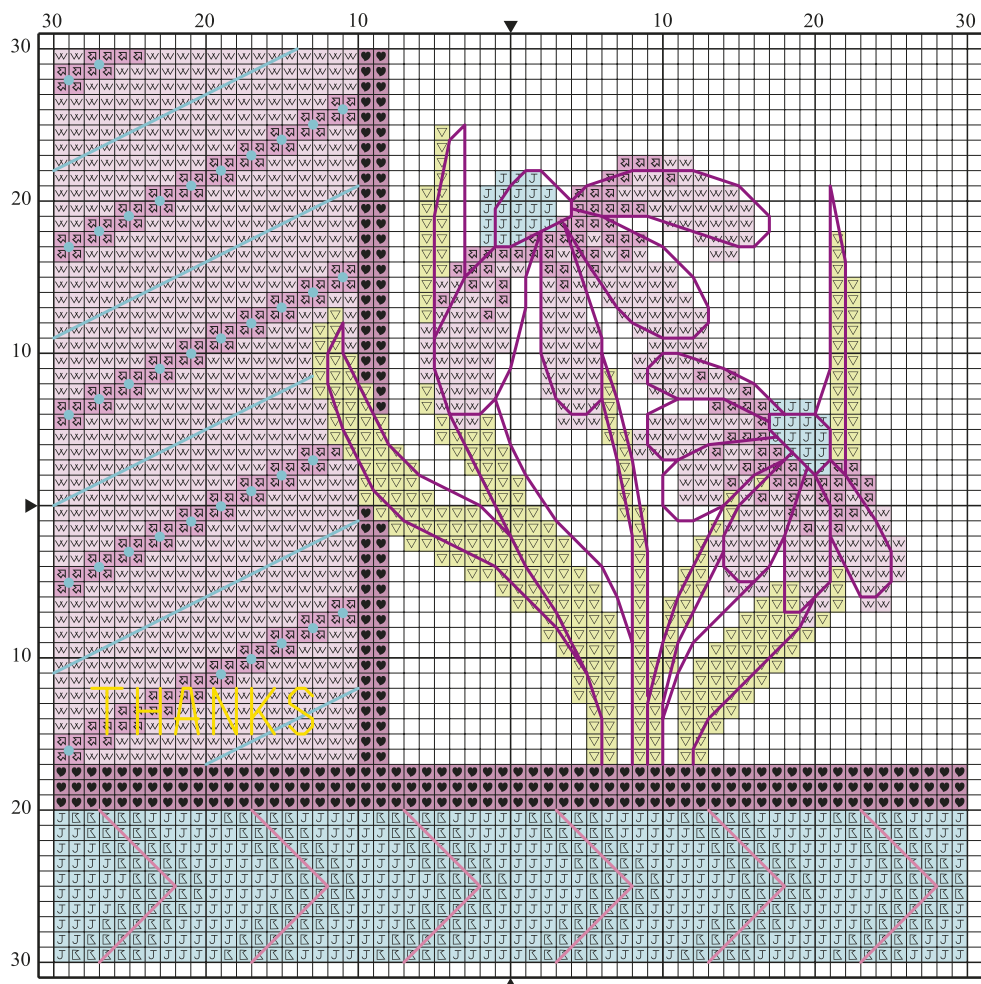
Lost for words? Find the perfect sentiment inside Judith Wibberley's book, *Just the Right Words*, which costs £7.96 from www.amazon.co.uk

Thank you cards

Send these greetings to thank others for festive gifts, or just for being there



Thank you cards



"If one of these stitched greetings landed on my doormat on a cold, dark January morning, it would definitely make my day!"

Medina Bailey, Editor

How to mount your cards

- 1 Trim your aida to within two squares of the stitching, then fray one row of aida all the way around the edge. You can either pull the threads out by hand, or using a pair of tweezers.
- 2 Cut a piece of white paper slightly smaller than your aida and stick it to the back of the stitching, using double-sided tape.
- 3 Place more strips of double-sided tape on the back of the paper, position carefully over the card blank and secure in place.



Durene Jones' Designer Secrets

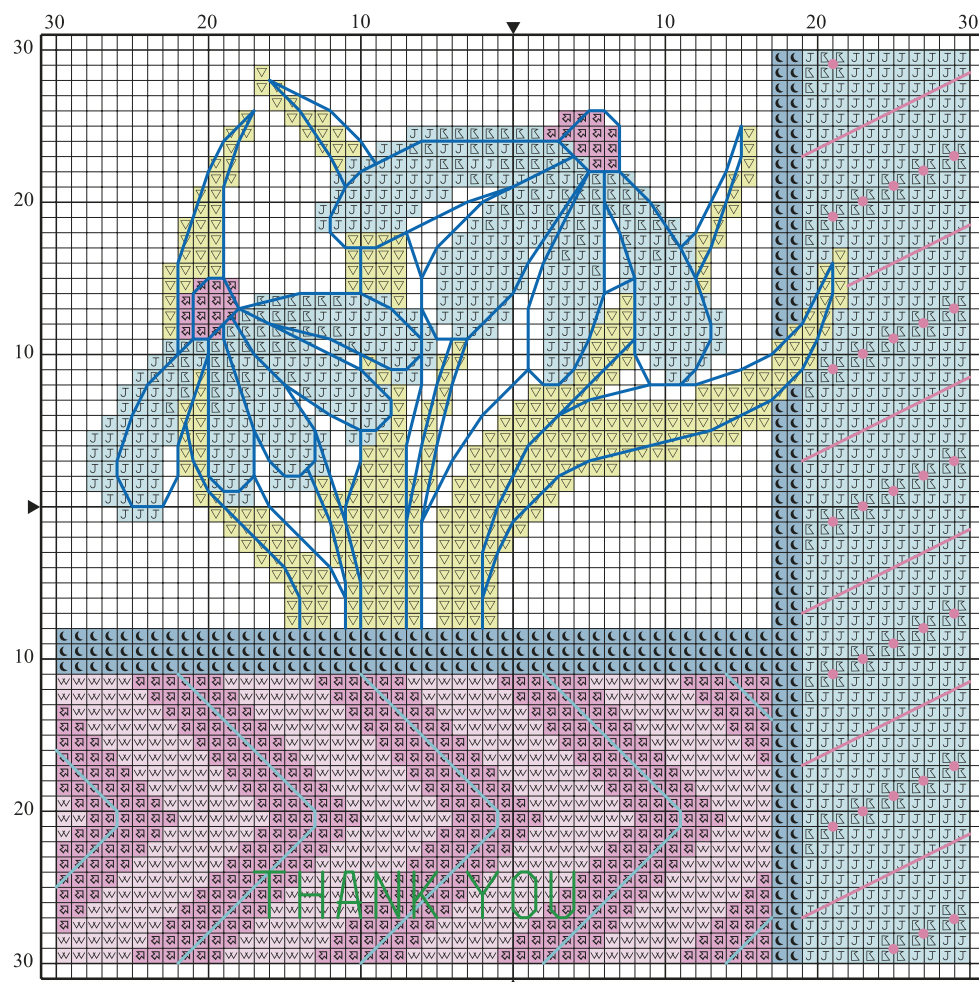
Beautiful blend

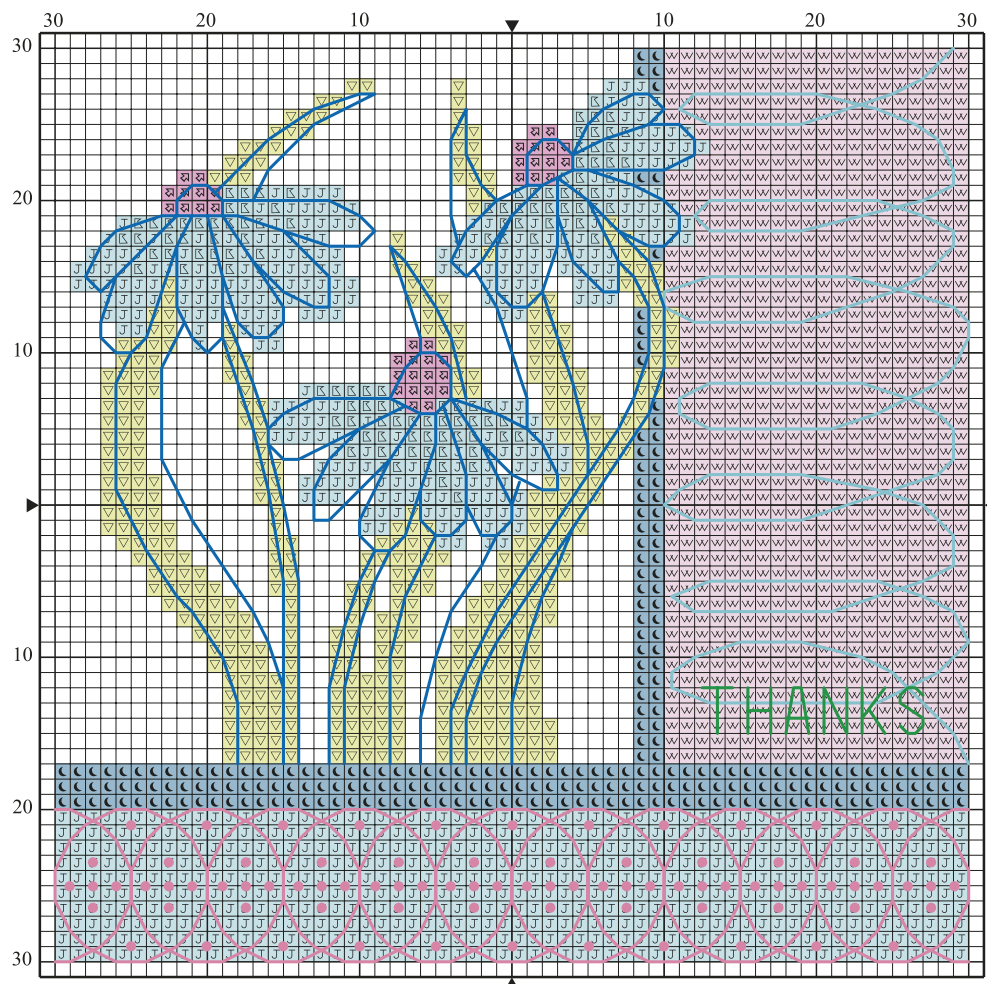
I loved coming up with the geometric patterns for the blocks of colour in this collection. The combination of straight, regimented lines and swirly, feminine patterns creates cards that are bright and bold, as well as pretty and refined.



Divide and conquer

I wanted my designs to be slightly modern in style. The way that they're divided into three sections – one for the flowers, one for the greeting and one for the border strip – as opposed to being presented as a single 'scene', helps achieve a fresh, contemporary effect.





Thank you cards key

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
☾	517	162	1107	dark turquoise
♥	915	1029	705	dark magenta
✕	3607	87	708	magenta
W	3608	86	709	pink
▽	3819	279	1610	lime green
⌘	3844	1089	1102	electric blue
J	3846	1090	1103	light electric blue

✕ Backstitch in one strand

—	517	162	1107	dark turquoise
—	915	1029	705	dark magenta

✕ Backstitch in two strands

—	517	162	1107	dark turquoise
—	915	1029	705	dark magenta
—	3609	85	710	light pink
—	3846	1090	1103	light electric blue

✕ French knots in one strand

●	3609	85	710	light pink
●	3846	1090	1103	light electric blue

STITCH COUNT 60 high x 60 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 11 x 11cm (4¼ x 4¼in)

SKEINS NEEDED 3 x 3608 (pink), 2 x 3846 (light electric blue)

These designs were stitched using DMC stranded cotton



Previously in *Gold*...

If you're enjoying stitching Durene's floral cards, make sure you check out her meadow flowers hoop. It's worked using cross stitch, fractionals, backstitch, French knots and seed beads in pretty pastel shades. You'll find the chart for this design in issue 113 of *Gold*. If you missed it, turn to page 22 to find out how to order back issues.



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Immediate Media Co.,
Sittingbourne, Kent ME9 8PX**

Still to come

Coming soon in *Cross*

Peacock fairy

Escape to an enchanted land with this fantasy design, featuring a beautiful fairy, adorned with peacock feathers, flowers and butterflies. Lesley Teare's pretty design will be a pleasure to stitch in vibrant spring shades...



Issue 117
On sale
6 January
2015 (UK)

Chic art deco box



Parisian
cats

Stitch Gold...

Make it
COATS



Anchor exclusive



Vintage cushion



Spring cottage

Stockist details

Here's your handy directory of the best national retailers for cross stitching materials

COATS CRAFTS UK

Visit www.makeitcoats.com
Call 01484 681881

CRAFT CREATIONS

Visit www.craftcreations.co.uk
Call 01992 781900

CRAFT DEPARTMENT

Visit www.craftdepartment.com
Call 01539 823199

DMC CREATIVE WORLD

Visit www.dmccreative.co.uk
Call 0116 275 4000

FRAMECRAFT

Visit www.framecraft.com
Call 01543 373076

MADEIRA

For stockists, visit www.eqasuk.com
Call 0116 271 0033

MICHAEL WHITAKER FABRICS

Visit www.mwfabrics.co.uk
Call 01535 636903

RIVERBANK WOODCRAFTS

Visit www.riverbank-woodcrafts.co.uk
Call 07860 355820

SEW AND SO

Visit www.sewandso.co.uk
Call 0800 013 0150

TRIMCRAFT

Visit www.trimcraft.co.uk
Email marketing@trimcraft.co.uk

WILLOW FABRICS

Visit www.willowfabrics.com
Call 0800 0567811

US stockists

1-2-3 STITCH

Visit www.123stitch.com
Call 1-800-996-1230

ABC STITCH THERAPY

Visit www.abcstitch.com
Call 1-877-863-9111

ARTS CRAFTS USA

Visit www.artscraftsusa.com
Call 1-301-379-7126

JULIE'S X STITCH

Visit www.juliesxstitch.com

MADEIRA

For stockists, visit
www.taconysewingcentral.com



ANNE MACGREGOR
Senior Technical Editor

Stitching guide

Use the handy diagrams and basic cross stitch advice on these pages to help you get the most out of the designs in *Cross Stitch Gold*

How to read our charts

All 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 tells you what thread colour each symbol corresponds to, and how many strands to use for each cross stitch, backstitch or French knot.

It also gives you the design's dimensions – you'll need these to cut your fabric to size.

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 are given, but they're not always exact equivalents. Avoid mixing more than one brand in the same design. Sometimes you'll need more than one skein of a colour for a design, but there shouldn't be a problem with dye lots if you use the brands quoted in the key.

Each project also includes a shopping list telling you what type and size of fabric to use, what size frame you'll need, and if extra materials are required.

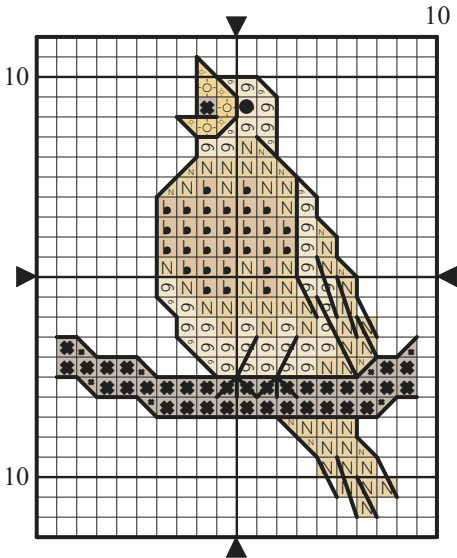
Where to start stitching

Start stitching a chart in the centre of the design – this is the point on the chart where the two black centre lines marked with arrows cross – and work outwards. Refer to the key for the colours to use. To find the centre of your fabric, fold it in half both horizontally and vertically. The centre point will be where these folds intersect. Mark this point with a pin, or run a line of tacking thread along each fold using one strand of a pale colour thread. Bind the raw edges of your fabric to prevent them from fraying while you're stitching by hemming them using a zigzag stitch on your sewing machine, or folding masking tape over the edges.

Bird key

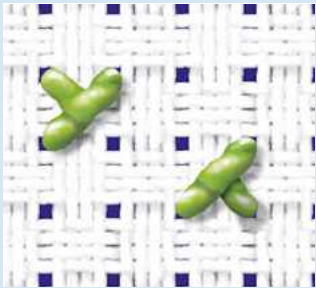
✕	Cross stitch in two strands			
	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
■	433	357	2602	dark tan
■	435	1046	2010	tan
N	436	1045	2011	light tan
○	437	362	2012	very light tan
●	742	303	114	tangerine
—	Backstitch in one strand			
—	310	403	2400	black
●	French knots in one strand			
●	310	403	2400	black

STITCH COUNT 23 high x 18 wide
DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 4 x 3.5cm (1½ x 1¼in)
This design was stitched using DMC stranded cotton

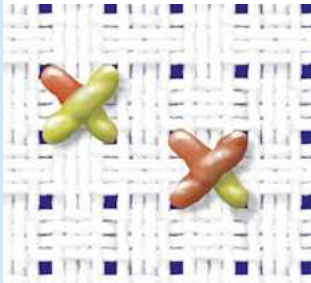


Fractional stitches

A tiny symbol in the corner of a square on a chart is a fractional stitch; it's worked in the same colour as the large version of the symbol.



If there's only one tiny symbol, work a three-quarter stitch (a half cross stitch and a quarter stitch). Bring your needle up at the corner of the square, then take it down at the centre of the square. You'll have to pierce aida fabric (but not if you're stitching over two threads on evenweave). Add a half cross stitch (see top diagram). When two different symbols share a square, make a quarter stitch in one colour and a three-quarter stitch in the other.



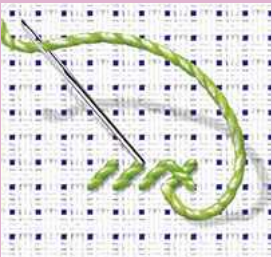
Use the three-quarter stitch for the object that's meant to be in front in the picture, and the quarter stitch for the background colour.

How to cross stitch

Thread your needle with the correct number of strands. Find the centre points on the chart and your fabric to work out where to start. Bring the needle up through the fabric at the bottom left corner of the square, leaving the end of the thread on the back. Take it down at the top right to make a half cross; bring it up again at the bottom right corner,



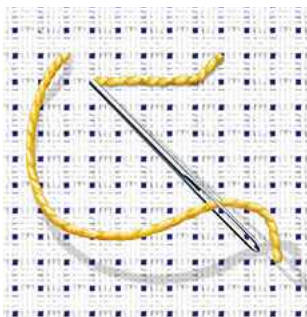
securing the end of thread on the back; take it down at the top left corner to form a cross. Work each cross stitch so that the top halves lie in the same direction. This will make your



finished stitching look neat and tidy. If you're working a block of stitches in the same colour, stitch a row of half crosses first, before completing each cross on the return journey.

Backstitch

Backstitch outlines are added on top of the cross stitches to create extra detail. They can run in any direction. Bring your needle up to start, then take it down one square behind. Bring it up again two squares in front and take it down one square behind again. Continue working in this way along the outline, following the chart.



French knots

French knots, which are used to show tiny details, such as eyes or flower heads, are represented by dots on the chart. Bring your needle up through the fabric, hold the thread taut in your left hand and wrap the needle around it twice. Push the needle back into the fabric, close to where it came up, keeping the thread taut. Pull the thread through until a neat knot is formed on the front.



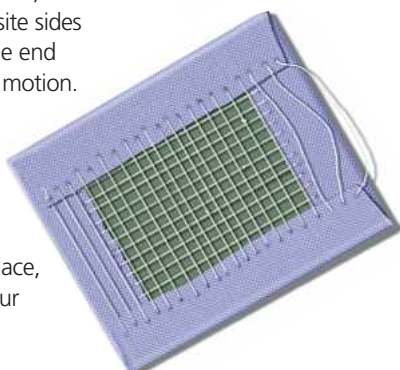
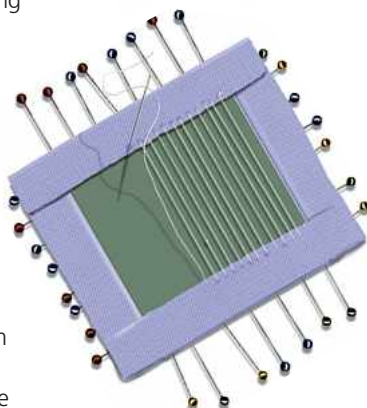
Washing and lacing

To wash your stitching, immerse it in warm water with a little detergent, and rinse it well in cold water. Press it on the back while still damp using an iron on a medium setting. Pad your ironing board with a fluffy towel and push the point of the iron into the back of your stitches, to give them a raised appearance on the front. The best way to stretch your work out over a mount board before framing is to lace it with crochet cotton:

1 Cut your mount board to the size of the frame aperture. Lay the stitching right side up on the white side of the board. Once you're happy with the positioning of the fabric, push a line of pins down each side into the board, as shown (above right).

2 Check your stitching is lined up, then trim the fabric, leaving a 5cm (2in) border. Fold the excess over the back of the board. Thread your needle with a long length of crochet cotton, knot the end and lace two opposite sides together on the back. Start at one end and work in an 'under-and-over' motion. When you reach the other end, adjust the laced threads one by one, before finishing off.

3 Repeat this process on the two remaining edges. Fold down the corners and stitch in place, then remove the pins and put your work in its frame.



Changing thread colour

Finish off the colour you're working with by weaving your needle through a line of four or five stitches on the back of the fabric and pulling the thread through. Cut the thread close to where it emerges and rethread your needle with the new colour. When restarting, leave a short tail of thread at the back of the fabric and cover this with your first few stitches to secure it.

Adding beads

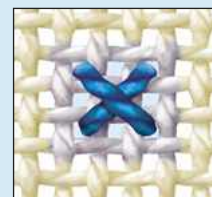
Some designs use seed beads to add detail. These appear as filled dots on the chart and are listed in the key. Add each bead with a half cross stitch. Bring your needle up at the bottom

left corner, thread a bead on your needle and take it down at the top right. For extra security, work the top half of the cross as well, making each strand sit either side of the bead. You'll need a beading needle or size 28 tapestry needle for adding beads.



Aida or evenweave?

Most stitchers start off using aida. This block-weave fabric is divided into squares by a grid of holes. Each cross stitch is worked over one square. Some experienced stitchers prefer the look of evenweaves such as jobelan or linen. They're also woven in a grid but come in a finer count, eg 28- or 32-count. Each cross stitch is worked over two threads of the fabric. Bring the needle up at the bottom left corner of the square



and take it down two holes across and two holes up.

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Ask the experts

Send your questions to medina@cross-stitching.com or Expert Advice, *Cross Stitch Gold*, 9th Floor, Tower House, Fairfax St, Bristol BS1 3BN

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MEDINA BAILEY

Medina is the Editor of both *Cross Stitch Gold* and *Cross Stitch Card Shop*. She's an avid cross stitcher with years of experience and is ready to help you with any of your crafting problems.



Feathered friends

Are there any novelty threads that you can recommend which will give a slightly fluffy texture? I want to stitch a picture of a row of ducklings.

Valerie Moon, Crewe



There are 80 plain and 10 variegated colours in Madeira's Lana range

A Anne: I really like Madeira's Lana thread, as you have control over the level of fluffiness achieved. Each strand is equivalent to between one and two strands of embroidery thread, so you may need to use two strands. If the section you're going to stitch needs to be outlined, it's best to do this first, otherwise you could trap the fibres underneath the stitches. When you've finished stitching, you brush the fibres gently with a (brand new!) toothbrush. To buy a 200m reel of Lana thread for £3.49, go to www.homecrafts.co.uk.

Lose the thread

Part of my cross stitching has gone terribly wrong. I managed to cut the stitches without damaging the fabric, but I still have lots of bits of thread to remove – how do I do this safely?

Donna Emmett, Bucks

A Jo: It's always handy to have a pair of tweezers in your workbox and if they have curved ends, so much the better. But I think that the best way to get rid of loose threads is to use a lint remover. This £4 roller from www.johnlewis.com has a 7.6m roll of adhesive. Just roll it over the fabric a few times, then when the surface is full of thread and not sticky anymore, you can peel it off and use the next section.



A lint roller is a musthave for any stitcher

organised so that I can do some stitching while recuperating. Have you got any tips?

Liz Moore, Cumbria

A Medina: I'd suggest kitting up a couple of projects and putting the materials into separate bags, then making up another little bag with scissors, needles and accessories, which you can keep on your bedside table. This way you won't have to call for assistance every time you need something. I'd also recommend this Hobbycraft lap tray with LED light. It's

Well rounded

I've just finished cross stitching a round tablecloth and I'd like to use fabric to hem the edge. Will this be difficult on a circular cloth?

Reenie James, Essex

A Jo: Not if you use cotton bias binding. As the cotton is cut on the bias, it stretches, so it'll be really smooth around the curves. If you use fabric cut on the grain, there won't be any 'give' and it'll pucker. These bias bindings from Liberty combine practicality with gorgeous design. To use one, just open it out, pin one raw edge to the raw edge of the cloth (with the right sides together), and either hand or machine stitch



Liberty's patterned bias will finish off your projects beautifully

along the fold line. Then, join the beginning and end of the tape with a diagonal seam, turn the bias to the wrong side of the cloth and slip stitch all the way around. The binding costs £1.99 a metre from www.oakroomshop.co.uk.

perfect for crafting and makes a good reading and laptop table, too. It has a non-slip surface, and the cup slot in the corner is great for keeping a pin cushion primed with ready-threaded needles. The tray is available in black, grey, white and red, and should help you out during your (hopefully swift) recovery and beyond. You can buy it for £10 from www.hobbycraft.co.uk.



This portable craft station will come in really handy when you're stitching

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Time for tea

This gorgeous design from Bothy Threads features a curious mouse who's clambered inside a pretty teapot! Created by Susan Wheeler, the charming picture also includes celebratory bunting, a sweet flower and delicious cupcakes, making it perfect to stitch as a birthday gift or to say thank you to a friend who loves afternoon tea. The Teapot Mouse (XSW6) kit, which costs £19.99, comes with 14-count aida, and the design measures 18 x 18cm (7 x 7in) when completed. For more information, visit www.bothythreads.com or call 01900 828844.

We have eight kits up for grabs. The text keyword is MOUSE. See the blue box below for full entry details



Choice charts

The Elegant Stitchery is home to a unique range of cross stitch charts, as well as handcrafted items, such as greeting cards and magnets. The charts pictured here, namely Autumn at Glendalough Valley in Wicklow, Ireland; Christmas Victorian Santa Face; Pink Rose Sunrise; and White Siberian Tiger Face are all brought to life using beautiful shading. You can find out more about the charts, which are worth over £31, and see what else is on offer at www.etsy.com/shop/theelegantstitchery.

We have eight sets of all four charts to give away. The text keyword is ELEGANT. See the blue box below for full entry details



Family of foxes

Brand new from Permin of Copenhagen is The Fox Family (92.4305) range. There are currently three kits in the collection, each as adorable as the next! This design, which is priced at £18, measures 15 x 36cm (6 x 14¼in), is stitched on 14-count aida and comes with pre-sorted DMC threads. To see more great cross stitch kits from Permin, visit the website at www.permin.dk/uk. For stockists, email sales@mwrfabrics.co.uk or call 07983 020189.

We have 12 kits to give away. The text keyword is PERMIN. See the blue box below for full entry details



Take a trip

Fancy going to The Stitching, Sewing & Hobbyscrafts Show, taking place at EventCity in Manchester from 6th to 8th February 2015? Yes please! At the show you'll find the latest stitching supplies, workshops and demos, plus your ticket also allows entry to the Cake International event, running at



the same time. For more information and to buy tickets, which cost £20 a pair, visit www.ichfevents.co.uk or call 01425 277988.

We have 15 pairs of tickets up for grabs. The text keyword is MANCHESTER. See the blue box below for full entry details



The closing date for entries is 6th January 2015.

Enter by post: Write your name and address on a postcard marked with the name of the giveaway you wish to enter, then send it to: Cross Stitch Gold 116, Immediate Media, 9th Floor, Tower House, Fairfax Street, Bristol BS1 3BN.

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