

No.1 for trends

CrossStitcher

IDEAS • STYLE • INSPIRATION

52
NEW
DESIGNS

*Christmas
with
friends*



**LAST-MINUTE
MAKES!**

16 mini gifts
for everyone



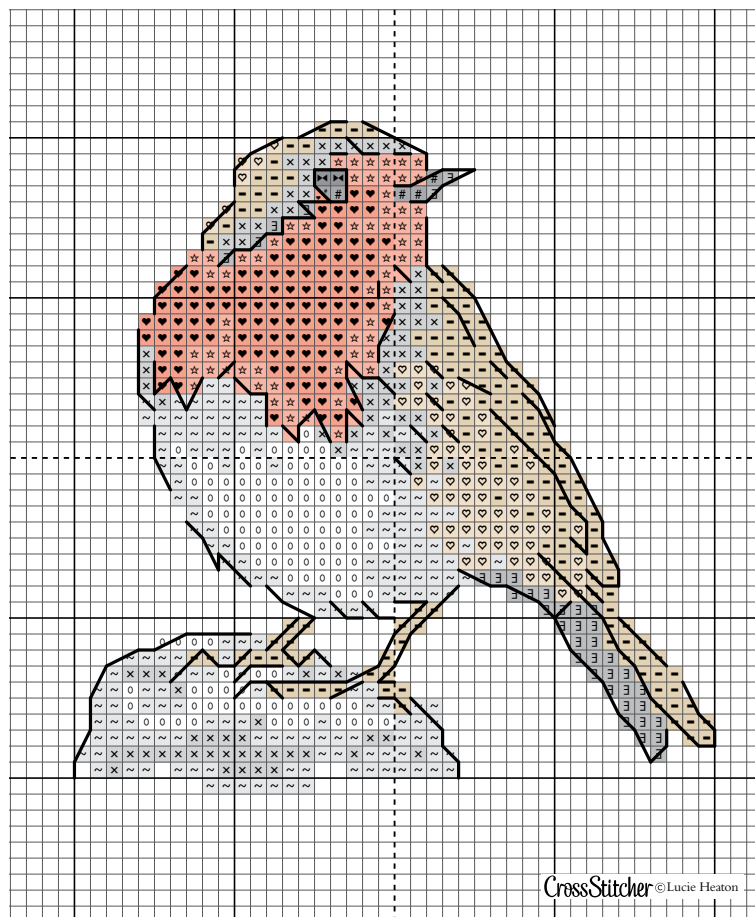
FREE
digital
chart



RED RED ROBIN

Everyone loves this festive fellow! Stitch him up
for a chirpy Christmas dec. He's the last in our
bird series exclusively for digital readers

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
0	White	002	2402
E	318	399	1801
♥	349	013	0212
☆	351	010	0214
#	414	235	1714
x	415	398	1802
■	437	362	2012
♡	738	361	2013
~	762	234	1804
⌘	3799	236	1713
Backstitch in one strand			
—	3799	236	1713
all details			



CrossStitcher © Lucie Heaton

MEET THE DESIGNER: LUCIE HEATON



Long term *CrossStitcher* collaborator Lucie has created this chart exclusively for readers of our digital edition. Passionate about needlework and crafts, she has been designing cross stitch patterns for

18 years and has worked on every theme you can imagine, from baby gifts to tattoos! Her favourite projects are ones she knows people can give to loved ones as gifts. Find out more about her work at www.lucieheaton.com

13
CHARTS
FOR YOU
TO STITCH!



Collect and stitch all 13 birds! There's one in every digital issue of *CrossStitcher* from 2014, so download and start stitching today

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Welcome

Full of comfort & joy for cross stitchers



“MAKE THE WORLD BETTER WITH A SWEATER” Fear not, I wouldn't dream of suggesting you take up a totally different kind of needle! It's just the slogan for Christmas Jumper Day (12 December) and the inspiration behind our puppy cover star. He's proof that you don't need to knit to enjoy a festive woolly. We have the chart for you to create him and his reindeer jumper in glorious cross stitch! (1)

Save the Children is the very worthwhile charity behind Christmas Jumper Day, so why not hold a 'guess the number of stitches' competition among friends and donate the proceeds? (It's 12,330 stitches if you don't fancy counting.) UKAID will double every donation too! Find out more at jumpers.savethechildren.org.uk.

If you're still craving festive things to wear, there's always our stitched Christmas tree earrings (3) and a special something for little ones celebrating their landmark first Christmas (2).

Happy stitching!

Jenny

JENNY DIXON
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

PS There's still time to order a CrossStitcher gift subscription – you'll find great savings on page 62

Keep cosy!

Curl up and take it easy next issue with a gorgeous Belle & Boo project – on sale 12 December!



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www.crossstitchermag.com

1



2



3

Cracker gift or style statement?
You decide...



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LAST-MINUTE GIFT SPECIAL

Stuck for pressie inspiration? We're here to help! We've packed a special eight-page pull-out section with 16 quick and easy ideas you can whip up into mini gifts for everyone on your list.

Just turn to page 43 to get started...

43



HO HO HO

HO
HO
HO

Santa's on his way!
Make sure he stops
at your house with our
merry door sign





CrossStitcher © Emma Congdon

Designed by: Emma Congdon

Design size: 20x9.5cm

Stitch time: 10 hours

Make a... door hanger

Step 1

TRIM your plastic canvas into a hanger shape, following the cutting guide on the chart.

Step 2

DRAW round your plastic canvas on the piece of felt, then cut it out.

Step 3

JOIN the plastic canvas and felt together with blanket stitch in white stranded cotton, stitching through the holes in the canvas.

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
0	168	234	1802
1	310	403	2400
2	353	008	2605
3	606	334	0209
4	801	359	2007
5	964	185	1112
6	3828	373	2103
7	3847	1076	2507
8	3849	1070	1109

Cutting guide

--- Use as a guide for cutting door hanger

Materials

- 14 count plastic canvas, 25x15cm
- White felt, 22x11cm

For stockist details see page 84

**SENSATIONAL
FESTIVE SAVINGS!**

GIVE THAT SPECIAL SOMEONE THE PERFECT GIFT THIS CHRISTMAS!

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**PERFECT
PRESSIE IDEA**



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Love Patchwork & Quilting is the magazine for you if you love fabric, love sewing, and love modern quilting! With projects, features, tutorials and more from all your favourite designers in every issue, you'll be making quilts, cushions, gifts and homestyle all year round. Plus, get a free gift each issue!



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Simply Crochet is a monthly craft magazine from the makers of *Simply Knitting* and *Mollie Makes*. This title is a celebration of all things crochet and is packed with inspiring patterns to make, wear and give, gorgeous photos and helpful advice. Plus, there's a free gift just for you with every issue!

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Outthere

Every month we showcase the latest high street trends, new ideas and inspiring personalities for today's stylish cross stitcher



Tis the season

Deck the halls – and your front door – with Christmas homestyle from Tesco. Featuring trees, wreaths, ornaments and more – including a cute and crafty button bauble – the range is perfect for turning your house into a festive retreat.

www.tesco.com



ALL AGLOW

LIGHT UP your home with candles set in these red wooden heart holders. Mix and match candle colours to create a cosy display for your dining table, lounge or bedroom. You can get them out for Valentine's Day too! www.tch.net



Snuggle down

Stay toasty on chilly nights by curling up under one of these colour-block throws. Made from 80% lambswool – with a bit of man-made fibre for a super-soft feel – they'll keep you warm whatever the winter weather. www.homecandy.com

FESTIVE TABLE

WINE AND DINE in style with these Christmas coasters illustrated with a stag on one side and a robin on the other. They've been created by Edinburgh-based Cherith Harrison, who makes a range of gift and home products inspired by animals and the Scottish countryside. www.cherithharrison.com



RED RED ROBIN

WE LOVE the combo of robins and berries in this stitched tablecloth. The project has been designed by Zweigart and features in our sister title *Cross Stitch Collection's* December issue – on sale now. www.myfavouritemagazines.co.uk



SEASON'S GREETINGS

DON'T HAVE TIME to stitch as many cards as you'd like? Send these Scandi-style cross stitch inspired cards instead! They're available in packs of six from Rosehip, whose collection also includes stationery, gift wrap and tags. www.rosehipcards.co.uk

Christmas cuties

IF, LIKE US, you can't resist our festive sausage dog in his Christmas jumper on page 16, you're also sure to adore these tree decorations. Handmade from felt, they have floppy ears, bells on their collars and Rudolph noses and antlers – too cute! www.notonthehighstreet.com/missshellydesigns



Photograph: notonthehighstreet.com



WORD PERFECT

STITCHING UP our Joy cushion trio on page 24? Take the typographic interiors trend another step by adding a special name or word to your wall. Choose your letters from the vintage shop selection sold by Bonnie & Bell. www.notonthehighstreet.com/bonnieandbell

Heart warmers

WE'RE ALWAYS on the lookout for cross stitched goodies to buy, so adore this range of lavender-scented festive decs from Retreat. Hang them on your tree or around your home for Scandi Christmas style. www.retreat-home.com



TREND SPOTTING

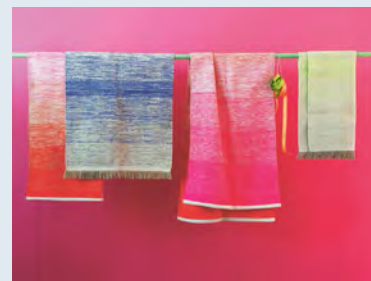
with CrossStitcher production editor Jo Ryan



TONE UP

A BIG HAIR TREND for a while, ombre is now infiltrating homestyle too. Get the look with these colourful buys...

WHO Nellianna makes and sells origami lampshades in all sorts of brights, so you're sure to find the perfect one for your home. www.etsy.com/shop/nellianna



WHAT These neon-hued rugs will add a pop of colour to any room – just what we need during winter's grey days. www.oliverbonas.com



HOW Add some more squish to your sofa with one – or a whole pile – of these cushions, which have been handmade in the UK. www.notonthehighstreet.com/rusticcountrycrafts

THREE OF THE BEST *High Life*

Few landscapes are as awe-inspiring as snow-topped mountains – pay homage with these goodies from Etsy



SHLOMITOFIR Accessorize winter outfits with this statement necklace. It's available in several colourways to match your look.



SARAHKBENNING Mountains meet geometrics in this card, hand-stitched in grey and yellow thread. Send to a pal along with cheery wishes.



MILKANDPAPER Display this graphic-style print in your home and you will be reminded of your favourite peaks every time you see it.



Inside the mind of

MR X STITCH

Forget the latest movie – for our stitchy hero, the best in-flight entertainment involves a needle and aida

Hi everyone! Christmas is coming and Denise is getting fat. I don't know who Denise is, but she always gets a mention at this time of year. I hope you've got all your festive projects in good shape.

It's been great to hear stories from you about stitching while travelling following my column in the October issue. This month, I want to build on my international stitchy adventures by focusing on stitching while flying. Yes indeed, cross stitch is the best thing to pass the time while flying, and I thought I'd clear up a couple of facts that can stop you taking your stitching with you.

Let's cut to the chase – getting scissors through airport security. You can check

on holiday once, but got stopped at security as they felt the scissors were a bit “stabby”. They let me post them home rather than taking them off me, but better to be safe than sorry!

Generally speaking, needles shouldn't be a problem and recently I've only been queried if I've absent-mindedly brought more than one pair of scissors with me, so I think I've got it down pat.

Knitting needles can be problematic – though the aforementioned webpage says you can take them on board. The fact that you can take a lighter on a plane and start a fire, but might not be able to take knitting needles on and start a jumper is a bit bonkers, but who are we to argue?

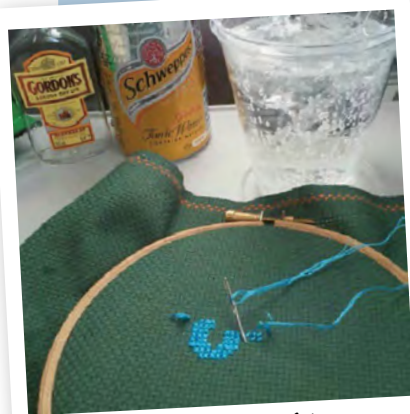
“By the mid point of a flight from Chicago, I'd taught a fellow passenger how to stitch”

the latest rules at UK airports at www.gov.uk/hand-luggage-restrictions, but at the time of writing, in the UK scissor blade lengths have to be less than 6cm to get through. If you want to be really assured, a thread cutter is the best alternative, as it won't cause any trouble.

One of my favourite pairs of scissors are the Total Control Scissors, available from assorted online retailers. They're designed to provide better control when snipping, but I like them because they look like a guitar, so every now and again I bust out a little air guitar riff on the scissors and then wonder what has become of my life... I took those scissors

I've had lots of nice experiences stitching on planes, as it's bound to elicit a response at some point. One of my favourite examples was on a flight back from Chicago, where I was sat next to a guy from Greece. Once he'd plucked up the courage to ask what I was doing, we got chatting and it turned out his grandfather did embroidery. By the mid-point of the flight, I'd taught him how to stitch and he was entertained for the rest of the flight. Who needs a movie when you're getting your stitch on?

Keep sending me your stories, I love to hear them. Until next time, happy stitching everyone!



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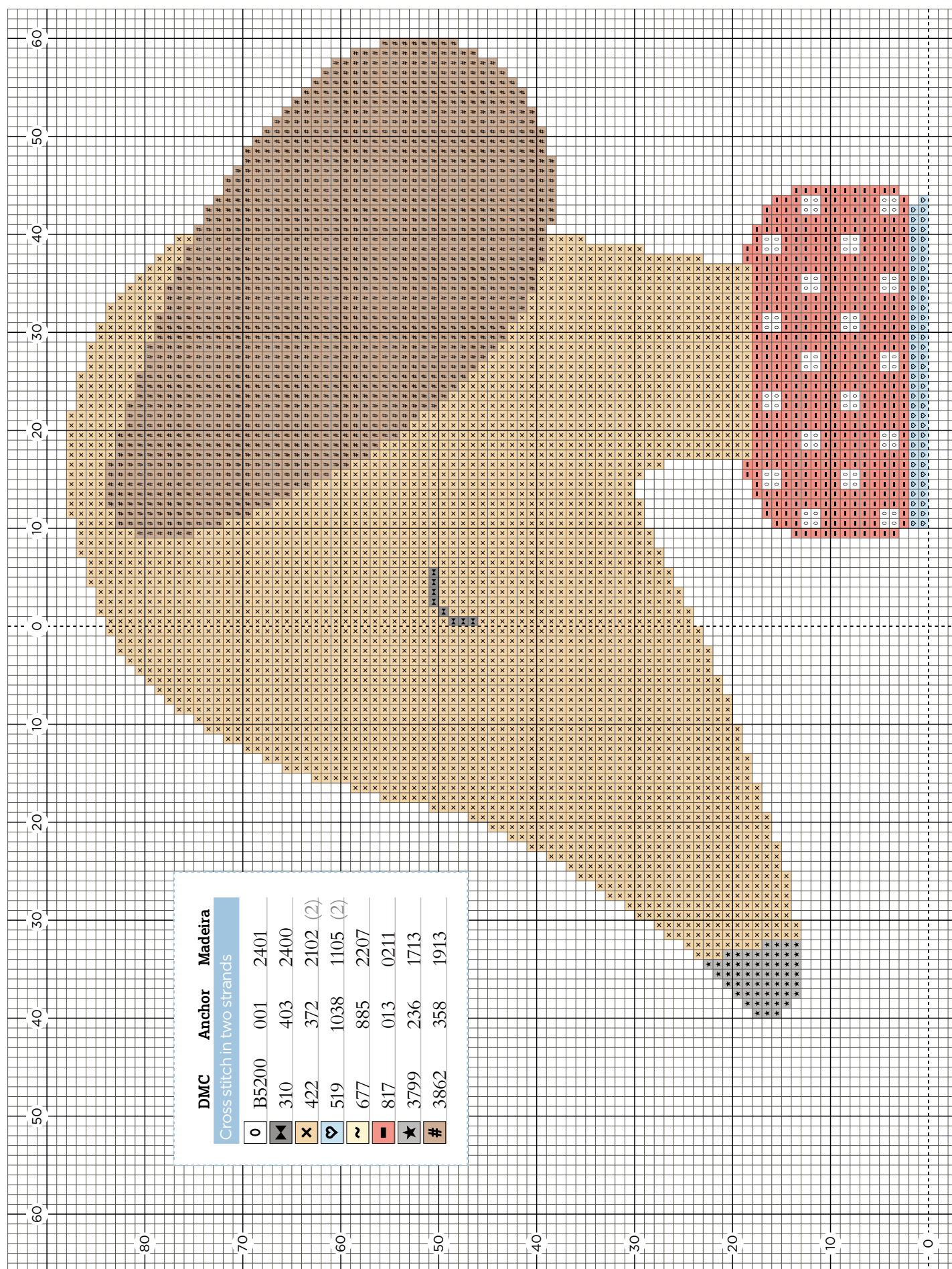
SANTA'S LITTLE HELPERS

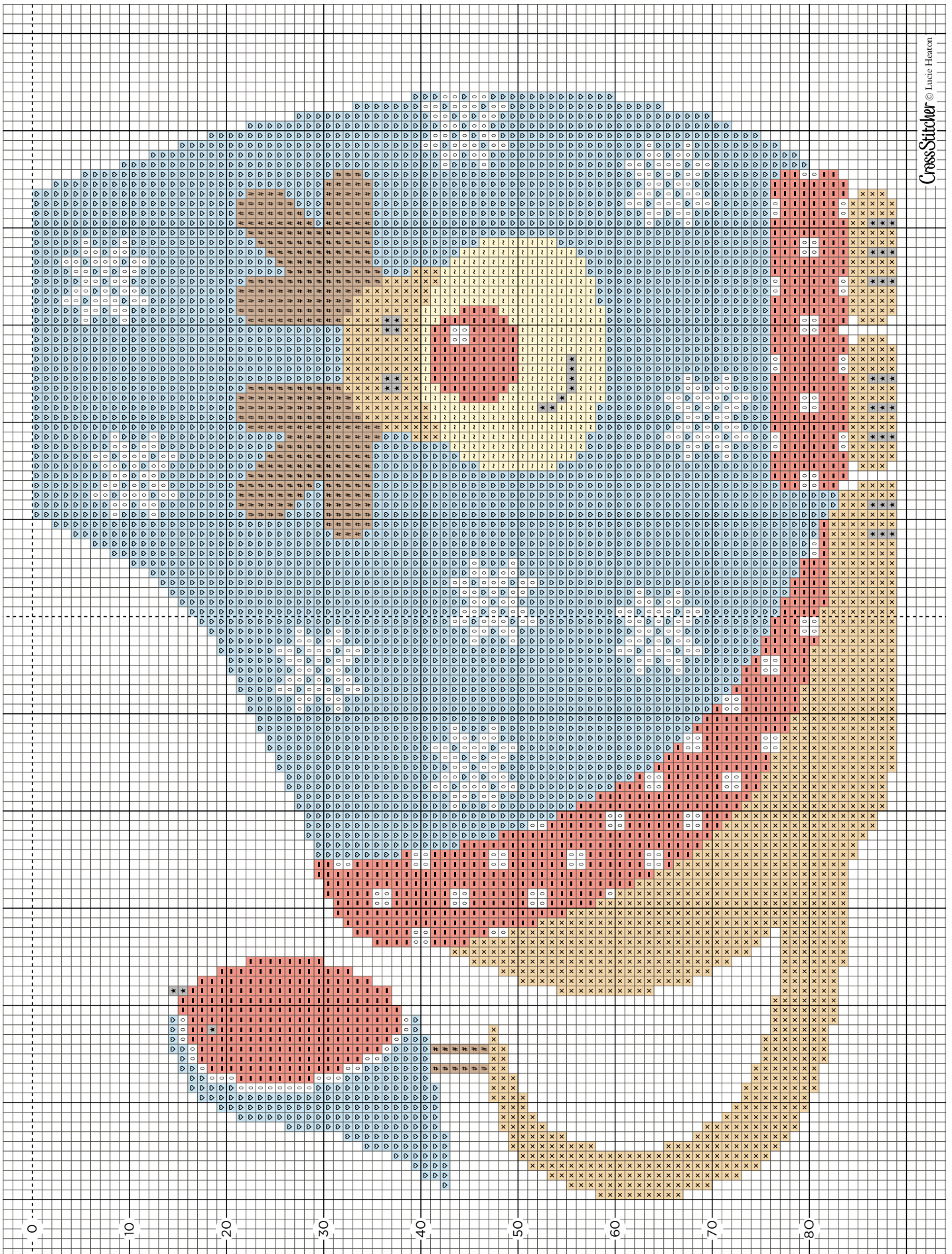
Our sausage dog and his robin friend
are all set for Christmas – stitch them
up for cute and cosy homestyle





SANTA'S LITTLE HELPERS

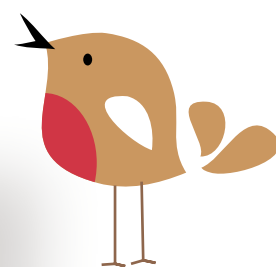




CrossStitcher © Lucie Heaton



Our sausage dog and robin would make a lovely cushion too - just back with red spotty fabric



Materials

- 28 count white linen, 50x40cm
- Wooden frame
- Mount board

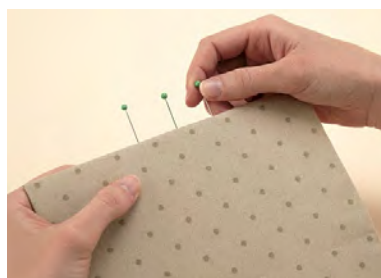
For stockist details see page 84

Designed by: Lucie Heaton

Design size: 32x22cm **Stitch time:** 60 hours

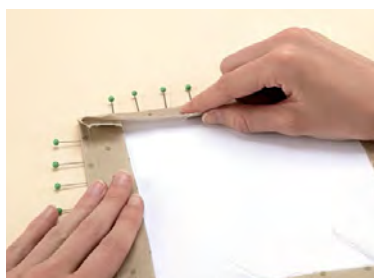
How to... frame a picture

Step 1



CUT a piece of white mount board to fit inside your frame. Place your design centrally over the mount board and pin the fabric around the board to secure, starting at the centre of each side and working outward.

Step 2



PIN around the entire perimeter and check that you are happy with the positioning of your design, then turn over to the reverse. Use double-sided tape to secure the fabric excess around all four sides.

Step 3



SECURE the fabric edges with masking tape and remove the pins. Position your stitching in the frame and back with a second piece of mount board. Seal the edges with more masking tape to finish off.

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Christmas Gift Ideas



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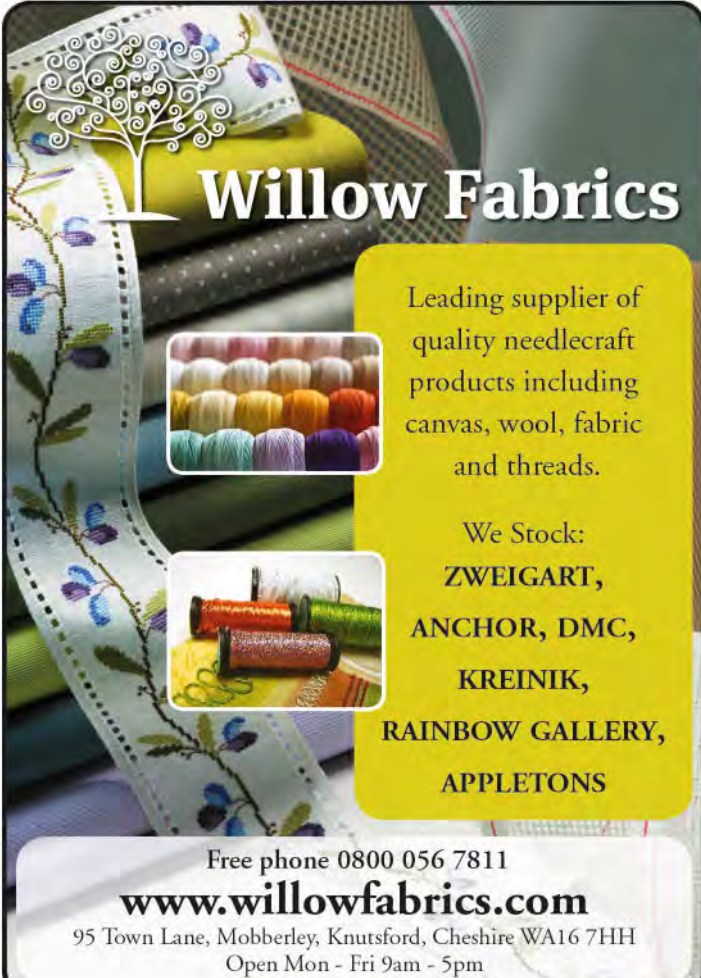


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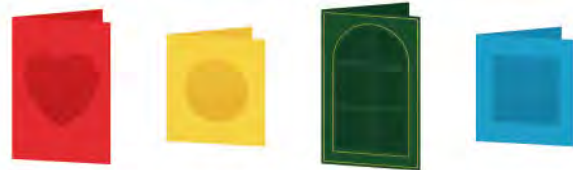
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An interview with...

Lucy Sparrow

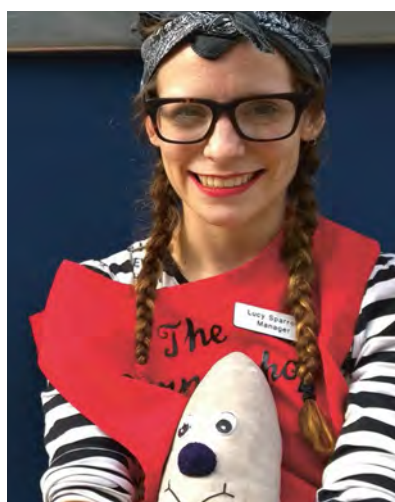
The artist behind the recent hand-stitched felt Cornershop installation in London tells us what inspired her and how she coped with all that stitching

Interview by **Jessica Bateman**

You may have noticed Lucy's Cornershop project in the news recently. For one month, this textile artist took over a disused corner shop in Bethnal Green, East London, and filled it with items she'd recreated in felt by hand. It took her eight months, spending 14 hours a day stitching, but was all worth it once she saw her project capture the public's imagination. We found out what inspired such a feat of endurance...

How did you start using stitching in your art?

I started stitching when I was young. My grandmother owned a fashion shop and I spent a lot of time in the workrooms watching the seamstresses. I also had a fascination with drawing and making things and somehow it all came together.



Where did the idea for the stitched corner shop come from?

Back in 2013, I was thinking about my next exhibition. The previous year, I'd made a series of textile art influenced by the popular Saatchi exhibition Sensation, and I decided I wanted to

make a statement. I worked in a typical corner shop when I was a young girl, so I came up with the idea of recreating that world in felt.

I was concerned corner shops were closing at an alarming rate, having watched a TV programme by Mary Portas. I decided I would find a derelict corner shop and bring it back to life.

What reactions have you had from visitors to the shop?

The response has been incredible. I had more than 11,000 visitors. Queues snaked around the block and we had to let people in a few at a time.

Every now and again people came into the shop thinking it was a real corner shop and asked for cigarettes or lottery tickets. To begin with they were a bit cross and confused but most then saw the funny side and seemed impressed. I was delighted with the response of children who came. Seeing



Months of stitching and still not a detail missed out



“ Making the products was hypnotic – once you’ve made 20 felt cans of soup, you go into a trance ”

them engage with art was magical. It taught me that art is still very powerful if the subject connects with people.

How did you cope, both mentally and physically, with the task of stitching the corner shop?

I spent months researching and photographing corner shops wherever I came across them. Then I drew up an inventory of what I was going to put in mine. Once I’d done that, I set about designing and making the products.

It was almost hypnotic at times – once you’ve made 20 felt cans of soup you go into a bit of a trance. At the same time, I had to track down shop fittings and pick them up all over the country in my little car.

I was exhausted by opening day, but I then had 30 days ahead of me in the shop from 10am until 7pm behind the counter playing the role of shopkeeper. At night I got home and was making

orders for the visitors who had bought things. I’m really not sure how I got through the month.

You’ve had a lot of media attention with the shop. How did this feel?

I never expected the media would latch on to my work in quite the way it did. I was featured in all the broadsheets and tabloids, as well as TV and radio. Magazines, TV crews and journalists from all over the world dropped by to interview me and take photos of the installation. It was exciting to have my work recognised in such a way and by then I realised I’d created something incredibly popular.

What, in your opinion, is the difference between an artist and a crafter?

I think artists approach the subject of textiles from an ideas point of view, maybe to make a statement or to make

people think. Crafters are, I think, more skilled and create objects to give pleasure and to show off their skills. Apart from that, we’re not so different.

Who are your creative heroes?

Tracey Emin, Damien Hirst, the Chapman Brothers and Grayson Perry. They are ideas people who make statements and produce art that makes people think.

What’s next for you and your Cornershop installation?

I’d love to tell you what happens next with the Cornershop, but it’s top secret at the moment so watch this space. I hope to do shows in New York and London next year on a different subject but using a similar technique. I think it’s going to be a really exciting year for me!

sewyouresoul.co.uk

HOME FOR CHRISTMAS



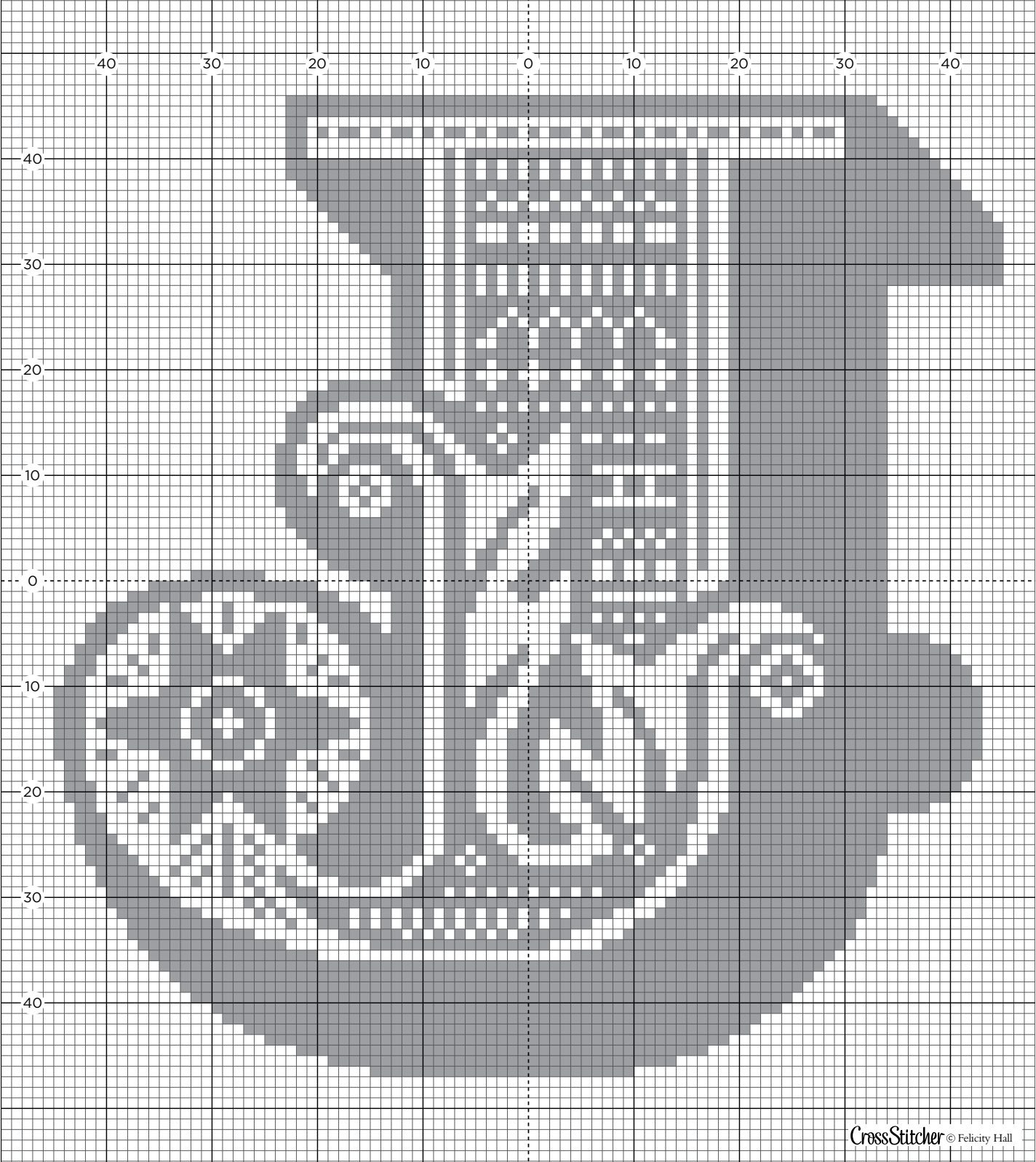
FOR YOUR HOME

Home for Christmas

Cosy up! Our typographic festive cushions will make any room warm and welcoming

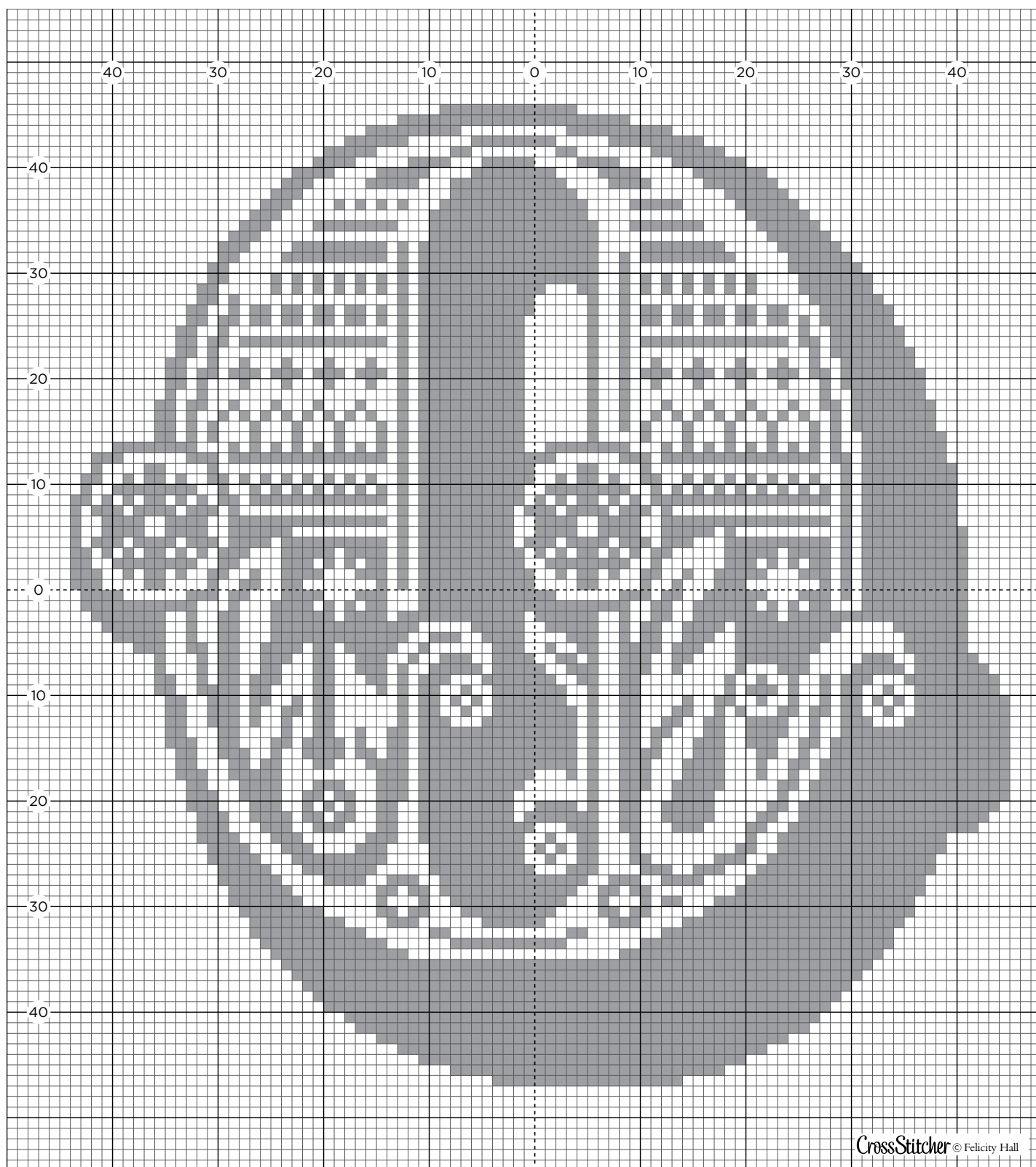


Designed by: Felicity Hall



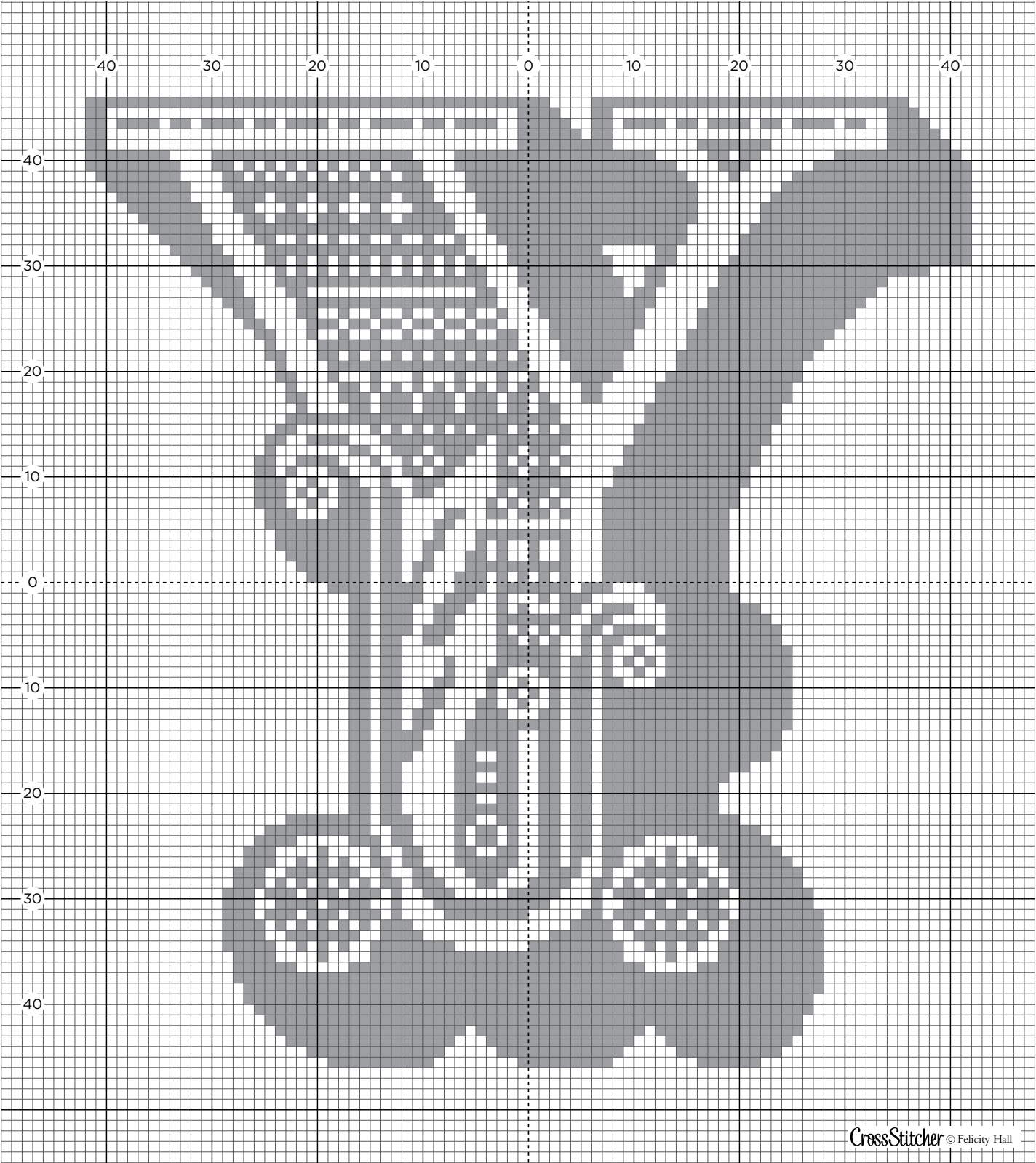
CrossStitcher © Felicity Hall





CrossStitcher © Felicity Hall





CrossStitcher © Felicity Hall



Make a... piped cushion

Step 1



WRAP your bias binding around your piping cord and pin the long edges of the strip together. If you can't find the right colour of bias binding, cut strips of fabric and sew together into one long strip.

Step 2



SWITCH to a machine zipper foot, which allows you to sew closer to the piping cord than a traditional foot. Make sure you sew up to the edge of the piping without sewing over it. The piping should look like the above image once finished.

Step 3



TRIM your stitching to 38x38cm. Pin your piping cord in place on the cushion front, cutting notches in excess fabric at the corners. Trim the piping from the overlap end and nest the fabric over the other end.

Step 4



HEM one long edge on each backing piece. Place your stitching right sides together with the two hemmed pieces of backing fabric and pin. Machine sew as close to the edges of the piping as possible. Turn and insert the cushion pad.



Materials

For each cushion

- 19 count antique white or red evenweave, 45x45cm
- White or red cotton backing fabric, two pieces 26x38cm
- Bias binding, 160cm
- Piping cord, 160cm
- Cushion pad, 40x40cm

For stockist details see page 84

CROSS STITCH IN FOUR STRANDS

J requires seven skeins

O requires four skeins

Y requires five skeins

Choose whatever thread colours you like - just make sure they stand out from the fabric

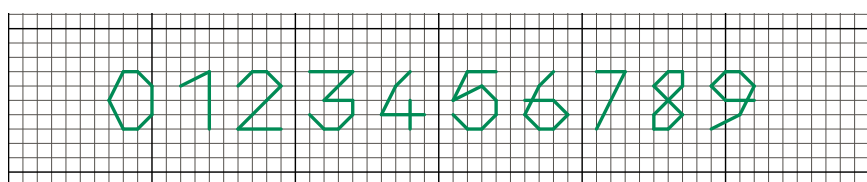


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CROSSSTITCHER
MAG.COM](http://WWW.CROSSSTITCHER
MAG.COM)



FIRST NOËL

New little angel in the family? Celebrate their first Christmas with our festive bib



Materials

- 28 count white evenweave, 40x30cm
- Backing fabric, 35x25cm
- Red ric rac braid, 1m
- Snap fastener
- Button

For stockist details see page 84

Designed by: Lucie Heaton

Design size: 9.5x16cm Stitch time: 10 hours

Make a... bib

Step 1

CREATE a bib template by tracing round your stitching using the photo as a guide for the shape and adding a 1.5cm seam allowance. Or download and print a full-size template from www.crossstitchermag.com.

Step 2

POSITION the template over your stitched fabric. Trim round the shape, then cut an opening in the side of the collar. Cut your backing fabric to the same size.

Step 3

TACK the ric rac braid around the outer edge of your bib along the stitching line (1.5cm in from the outside). Place the front and back right sides together and stitch round all the edges, leaving a gap for turning.

Step 4

TURN your bib right sides out and slip stitch up the gap. Stitch a snap fastener to the two opening ends at the collar and add a button on top for a neat finish.

DMC Anchor Madeira Cross stitch in two strands

0	B5200	001	2401
310		403	2400
349		013	0212
726		295	0109
738		361	2013
739		366	2014
907		255	1410
3846		1090	1103

Backstitch in two strands

3799	236	1713
lettering, numbers, ties		

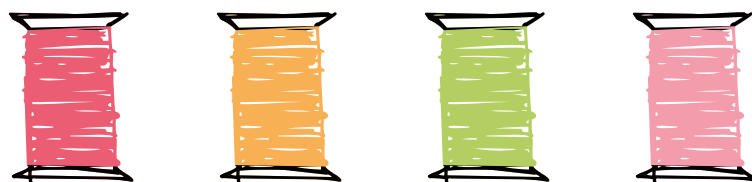
Backstitch in one strand

3799	236	1713
all other details		

FLORAL ESSENCE

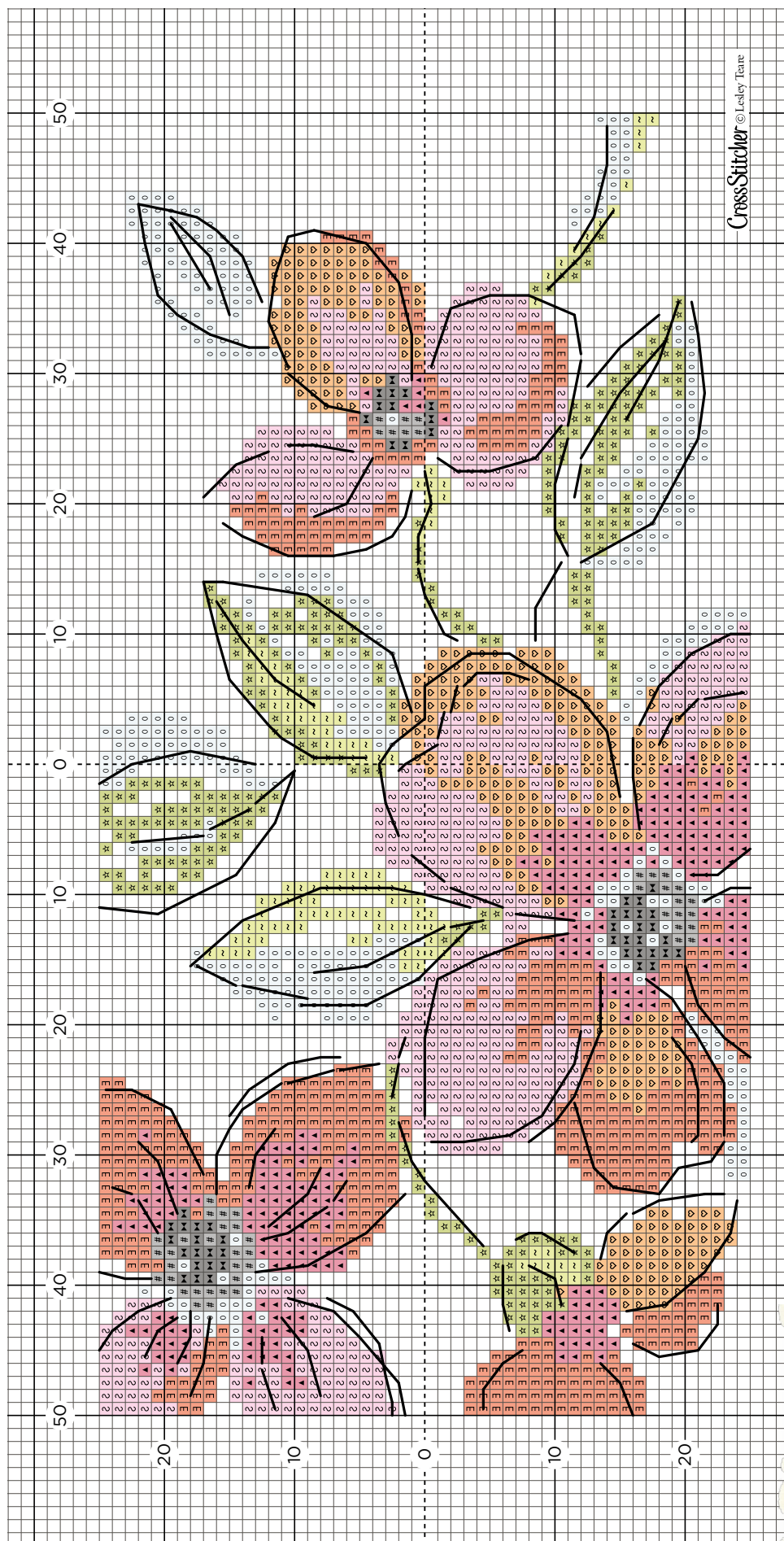
Crafty pals deserve handmade gifts!
Stitch and give our vibrant sewing roll, needle
case and pincushion jar for treats they'll love

Designed by: Lesley Teare



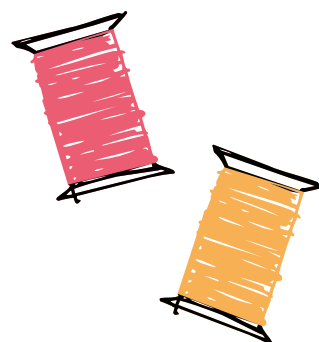
PERFECT
PRESENT





*All these projects
use a 1.5cm
seam allowance*

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
0	B5200	001	2401
☆	166	279	1308
✕	310	403	2400
#	413	236	1713
~	472	253	1414
▲	600	059	0704
E	606	334	0209
♥	721	324	0308
2	3806	1066	0701
Backstitch in one strand			
—	310	403	2400
all details			
French knots in one strand			
●	310	403	2400
flower centres			



Materials

Sewing roll

- 28 count light rustic linen: right front 30x40cm; left front 21x13cm; back 21x31cm
- Print cotton lining fabric, 21x31cm
- Green bias binding, 130cm

For stockist details see page 84



Make a... sewing roll



Step 1

CUT your stitched fabric to the same size as the left front fabric. Bind the left long edge of your stitched fabric and the right long edge of the left front fabric with bias binding.

Step 2

MAKE the ties by cutting two pieces of bias binding, one 25cm long and the other 56cm. For each piece, turn one short end under and topstitch down the length.

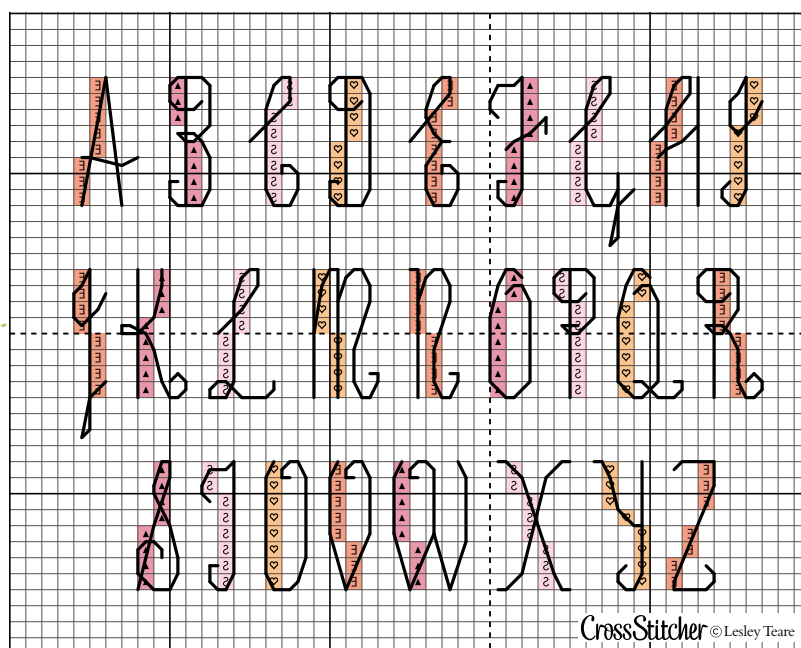
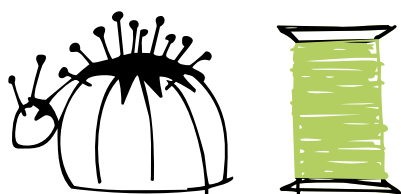
Step 3

PLACE the lining fabric right sides up and position the bound linen pieces right side up on top, matching side edges. Place the linen back on top. Pin the ties between the lining and stitched linen, centrally down the storage roll and matching raw edges.

Step 4

STITCH together all the way round, leaving a gap for turning. Turn right sides out, press and topstitch all the way round. Make pockets by stitching two evenly spaced lines through all three layers of fabric.

*For a personal touch,
use our alphabet
to add the lucky
recipient's initials*



CrossStitcher © Lesley Teare



Make a... needlecase



Step 1

CUT your stitched fabric to the same size as the backing fabric, ensuring the flower is centred vertically and its right edge is 2.5cm in from the right side of your fabric.

Step 2

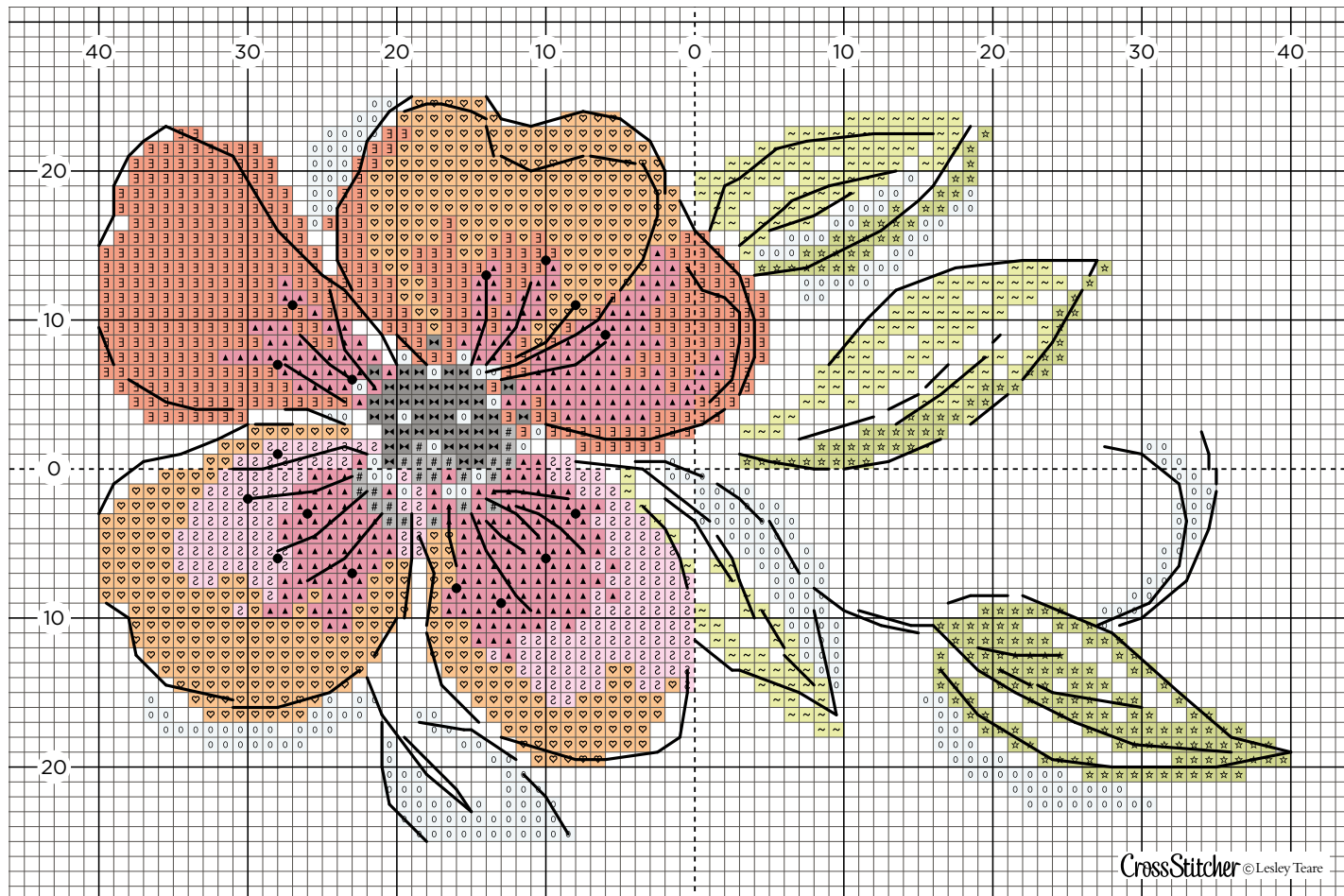
FOLD the tab strip in half lengthways and stitch together. Turn right sides out, turn one raw edge in and topstitch all round.

Step 3

PLACE the fabric pieces right sides together, pinning the tab between them in the centre of the short edge, matching raw edges. Stitch all the way round, leaving a gap for turning. Turn right sides out and press, then topstitch all the way round.

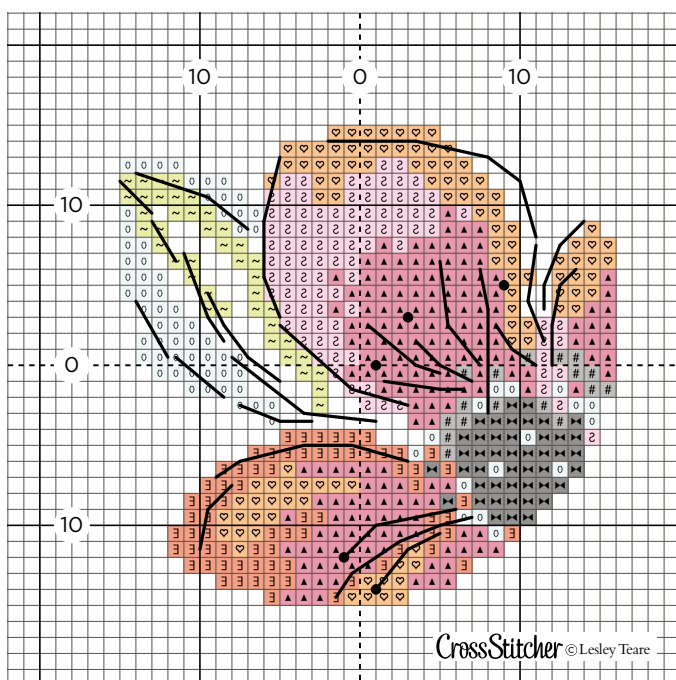
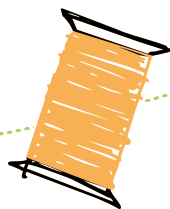
Step 4

POSITION the felt pieces centrally on the inside of the needlecase, then stitch down the centre for the spine. Sew a press fastener on the tab and front cover, then sew a button on the tab.



CrossStitcher © Lesley Teare

Fill your jar with
crafty goodies for an
extra-indulgent gift



Stitch it on aida!
For a faster finish,
choose a 14 count
rustic aida

Materials

Needlecase

- 28 count light rustic linen, 30x35cm
- Print cotton backing fabric, 14x28cm
- Pink felt, 10x24cm
- Orange felt, 10x24cm
- Green tab fabric, 7x6cm
- Press fastener
- Black button

Pincushion jar

- 28 count light rustic linen, 20x20cm
- Kilner jar with screw lid
- Wadding
- Felt, 6x6cm

For stockist details see page 84

Make a... pincushion jar

Step 1

UNSCREW your jar lid and, using the metal disc to draw round, cut out a few pieces of wadding to pad your stitching and a circle of felt for backing.

Step 2

DRAW an 11cm-diameter circle on the wrong side of your stitching and cut it out. Place the wadding then the metal disc face down over the back of your stitching. Gather the linen with a running stitch, so it fits neatly around your metal ring.

Step 3

STITCH the felt over the back of the fabric to cover all the gathers, then push inside the other part of the lid and glue in place.



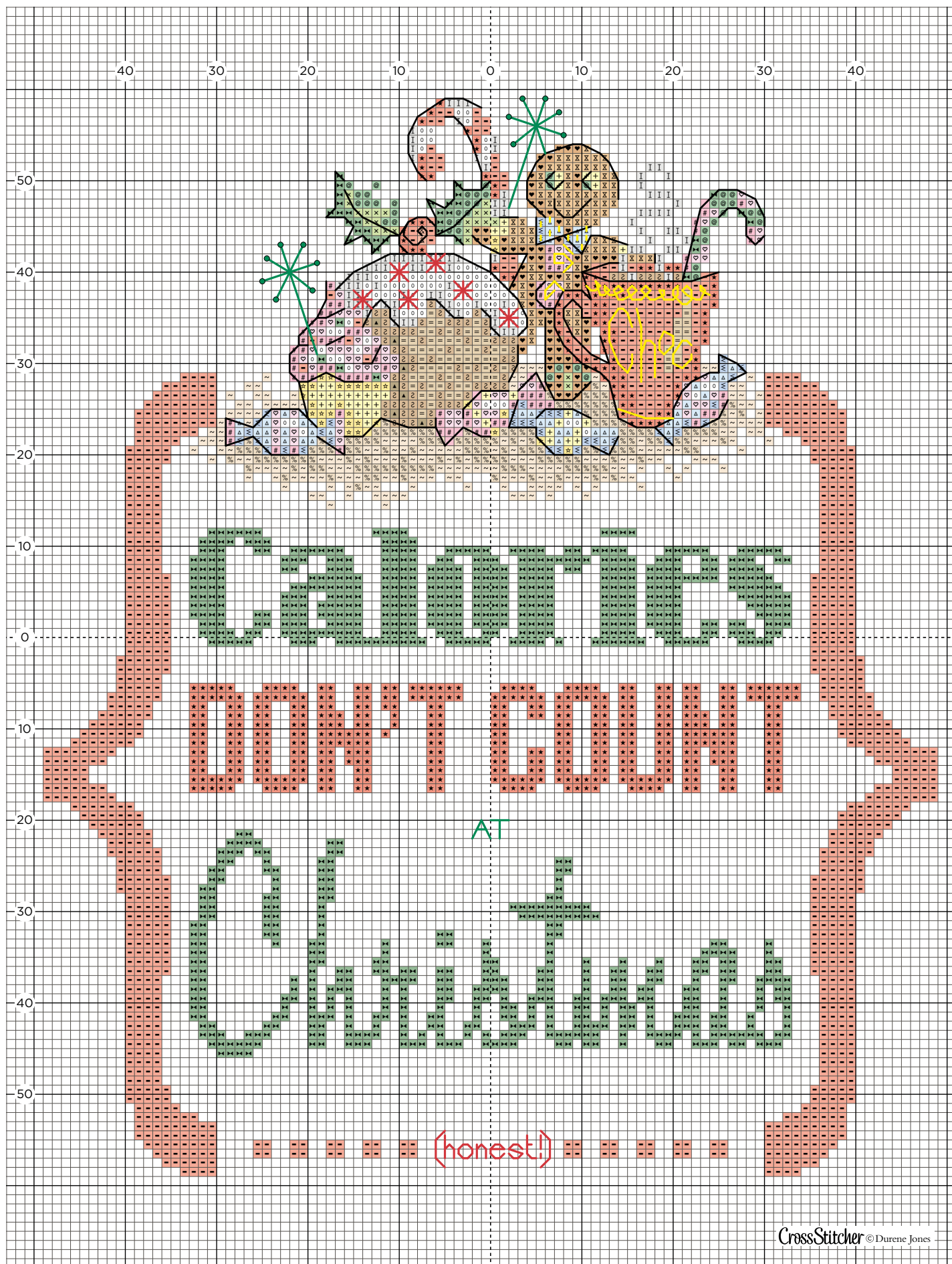
Designed by: Durene Jones
Design size: 21x18cm Stitch time: 22 hours



TREAT YOURSELF

Diet? What diet! Make our
cheeky tote and take it shopping
for sweets to enjoy a little
indulgence this Christmas





DMC Anchor Madeira

Cross stitch in two strands

0	White	002	2402
★	321	047	0510
■	349	013	0212
&	351	010	0214
2	420	374	2104
=	422	372	2102
#	603	055	0701
♥	605	1094	0613
⏮	700	228	1304
@	702	226	1306
×	704	255	1308
★	725	305	0108
+	727	293	0110
%	738	361	2013
~	739	366	2014
I	762	234	1804
△	800	144	0908
≡	809	130	0909
▲	869	889	2105
♥	976	1001	2302
⊗	977	1002	2301

Backstitch in two strands

—	White	002	2402
	cup, gingerbread man		
—	321	047	0510
	cake, lettering		
—	700	228	1304
	star sticks, lettering		

Backstitch in one strand

—	310	403	2400
	all other details		

French knots in two strands

●	700	228	1304
	star sticks		



Materials

- 28 count cream evenweave, 50x50cm
- Cream backing and lining fabric, three 41x31cm pieces
- Red webbing, two 4x80cm pieces

For stockist details see page 84

For a bright finish, line your tote with colourful festive-print fabric



Make a... tote bag

Step 1

TRIM your stitching to the size of your cream fabric. Pin and machine sew your stitched piece and one lining piece together along the top edge. Open out and press. Repeat with the remaining backing and lining pieces.

Step 2

PLACE the two sewn pieces right sides together, lining up the seams at the middle, then pin. Sew all the way round, leaving an opening for turning in the lining. Clip the corners and turn right sides out.

Step 3

PRESS under the raw edges in the lining and sew the gap closed. Push the lining inside, then topstitch round the top. To make the handles, stitch the webbing to the front and back, turning the short ends under.

Your stitching

Drop us a line to pin your projects into our album!
Email your photos to crossstitcher@futurenet.com



Here's the cat cushion I made from issue 282 – I changed the colours from oranges to blues to match my decor.
Ellen Keir, via email



I stitched this design from issue 263. I decided to put it in a frame rather than make a cushion as CrossStitcher had done.
Tatiana Selivanova, Russia



I made this Sherwood Foresters badge (my great grandfather's and great, great uncle's regiment) to remember World War I and II.
Elizabeth Redhead, via email



Here are the Domestic Bliss cushions by Emma Congdon I made from issue 271. I love these two designs.
Justyna Flos, Poland



I made this card for my friend's wedding – the design is from issue 225. My friend is keeping it to remind her of the day.
Agata Zachwieja, Poland



Here's the Tropical Delight design I stitched from issue 267. It was great fun to stitch and I love the bright colours.
Tarja Oksanen, Finland



I made this doll from issue 275 – it's one of a few projects I've recently enjoyed making from the magazine.
Jacqui Barr, via email



Here are some keyrings I've made using the cover gift charts from issue 281. I am really pleased with how cute they are!
Victoria Clark, via email

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CUT OUT
& KEEP

Last-minute GIFT SPECIAL

QUICK MAKES YOU'LL LOVE TO STITCH



16

EASY GIFT
IDEAS

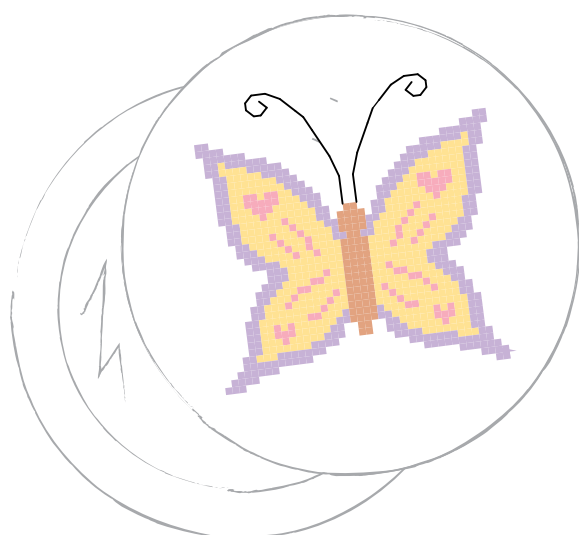


PRESENTS FOR EVERYONE – FOR HIM, FOR HER, FOR LITTLE ONES

Handmade gifts are so special to receive – and even better to give! However, it's easy to feel snowed under when you have all those Christmas pressies to stitch. But don't worry – we're here to help!

We've packed this pull-out section with 16 quick-stitch designs and easy makes for all your friends and family. Be inspired by our gift ideas, and mix and match the designs, and you'll have those pressies whipped up in moments – leaving you more time to get comfy on the sofa and enjoy a mince pie...

Designed by: Sarah Cookland



1 Butterfly mirror

STITCH our butterfly and mount in a handbag mirror for a gal pal. You can buy mirrors in various finishes complete with pouch from www.framecraft.com – they come with full assembly instructions.

2 Handy mending kit

TUCK sewing essentials into a simple pouch. Back with a scrap of fabric and turn and stitch a double hem at the top to make it nice and neat. Ours is machine sewn but it will work well by hand too.

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
	B5200	001	2401
	209	109	0711
	301	1049	2306
	310	403	2400
	452	232	1807
	704	255	1308
	728	306	0113
	961	076	0610
	3846	1090	1103
	3856	311	2301
Backstitch in one strand			
	209	109	0711
	bobbin thread		
	310	403	2400
	all other details		
	704	255	1308
	bobbin thread		
	728	306	0113
	bobbin thread		
	961	076	0610
	bobbin thread		
	3846	1090	1103
	bobbin thread		
French knots in one strand			
	728	306	0113
	top of tree		

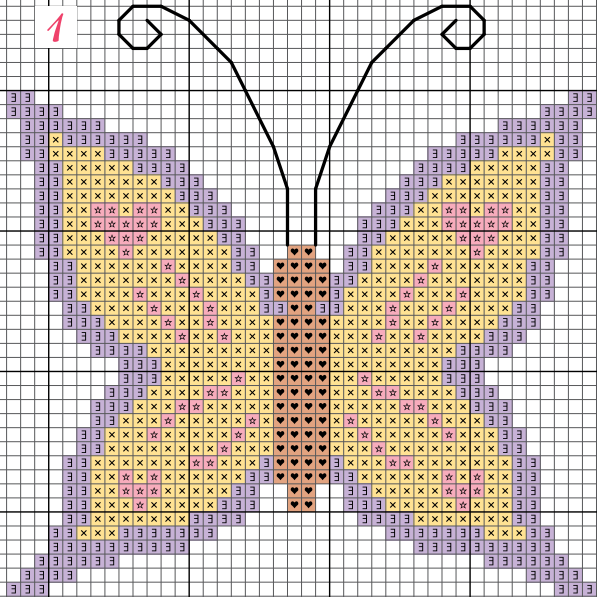


Cut out & keep

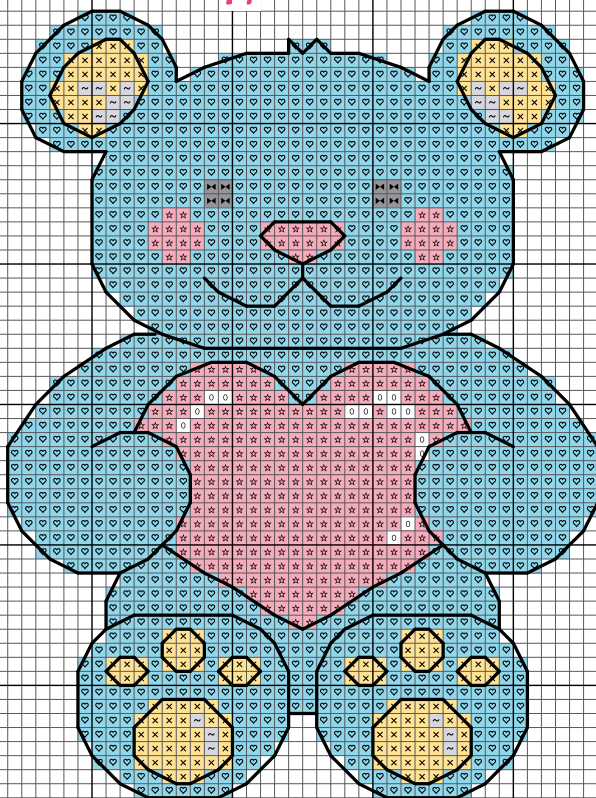
Cut out & keep

Cut out & keep

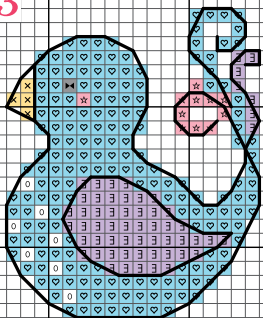
1



14



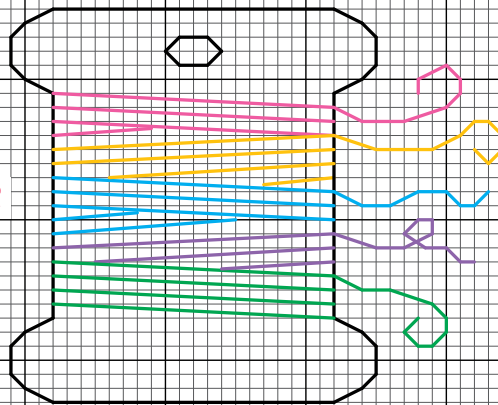
13



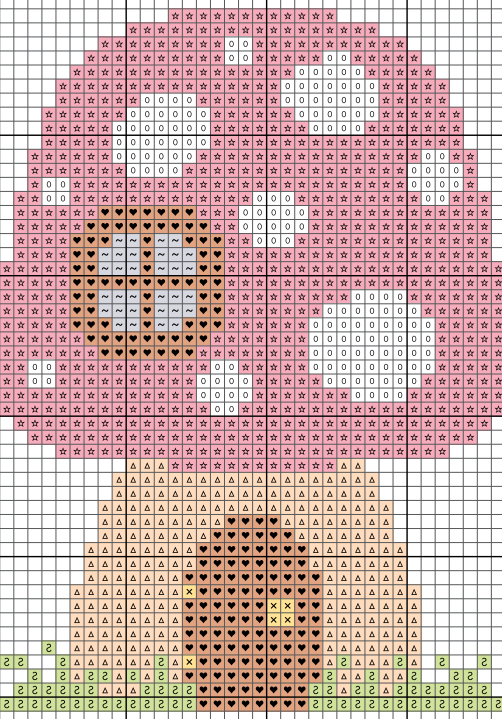
6



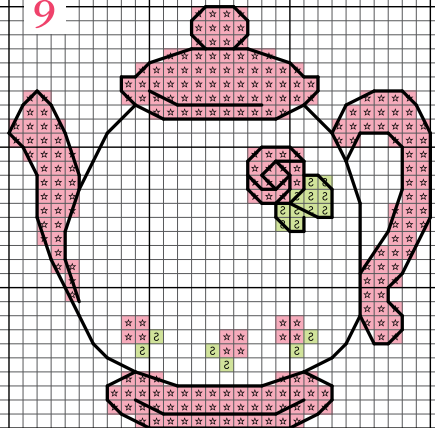
2



5



9



CrossStitcher © Sarah Cookland

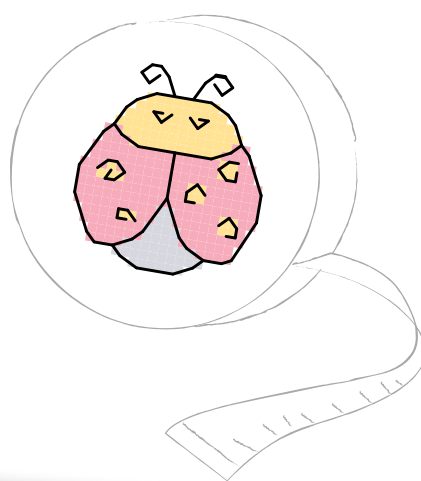


3 Gift card pocket

PRESENT gift cards in a handmade pouch. Place your stitched fabric right sides together with a bit of felt, then stitch the sides and bottom, and hem the top edges.

4 Ladybird tape measure

STICK your stitching round a circle of card the size of your tape measure. Repeat for the back. Stitch together with ribbon in between for the sides and the tape measure inside, leaving a gap for the tape.



5 Toadstool needle case

PLACE a range of needles in a simple case as a great gift for a crafty pal. Back your stitching with plain fabric and stitch felt pages inside, down the spine of your needle case.

6 Christmas earrings

WHIP up cute accessories for festive fun. Stitch two trees on plastic canvases, then trim one square outside the designs. Attach eyepins and earring hooks to the top and add sparkly red beads.





7 Wise owl coin purse

PUT chocolate or real coins in a cute owl purse. Coin purses are easy to make, but if you need a little help go to our guide on www.crossstitchermag.com. You can buy clasps from themakery.co.uk.

8 Russian doll notebook

COVER a notebook for a pal's jottings. Line your stitching with cotton fabric, then turn the edges over and sew along the top and bottom to create pockets to hold the notebook's flaps.

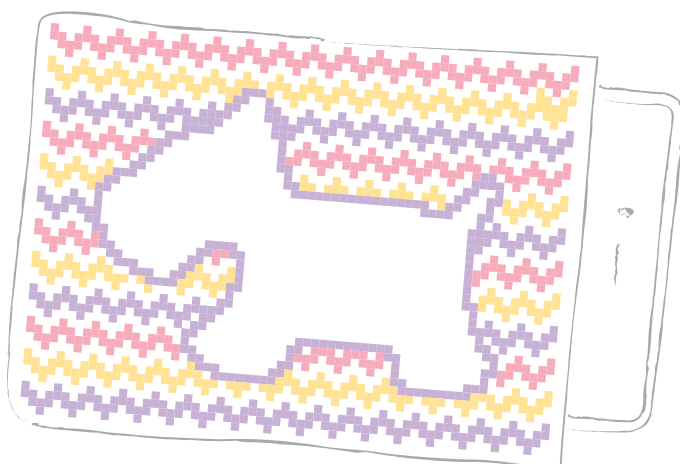


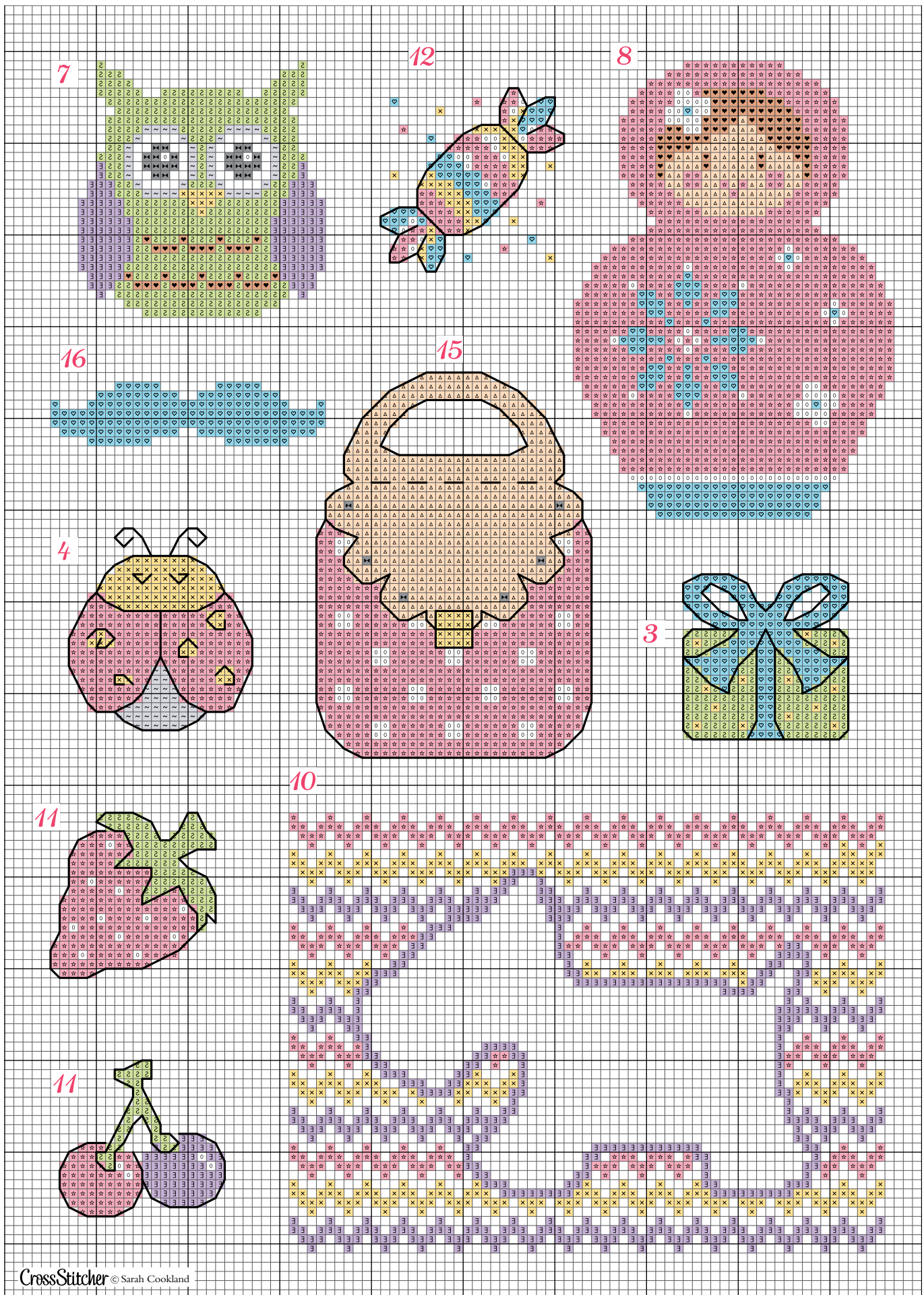
9 Tea time mug cosy

WRAP a colourful mug in our tea time cosy. Simply trim your stitching so it fits round your cup, then hem the edges, add a button and cord loop, and fasten through the handle.

10 Scottie phone case

MAKE a phone case for a gadget addict. Back your stitching with a scrap of felt in a bright co-ordinating colour and hem the top edge for a neat finish.





Cut out & keep

Cut out & keep

Cut out & keep



11 Berry & cherry hairbands

TURN self-cover buttons into cute hair bobbles. Cover your button with your stitching following the instructions on the button packet, then loop a bright hairband through the shank.

12 Sweet treats gift bag

PUT your stitching right sides together with backing fabric. Sew sides and bottom. Stitch a double hem at the top and turn right sides out. Unpick a few stitches on hem sides and thread through ribbon.



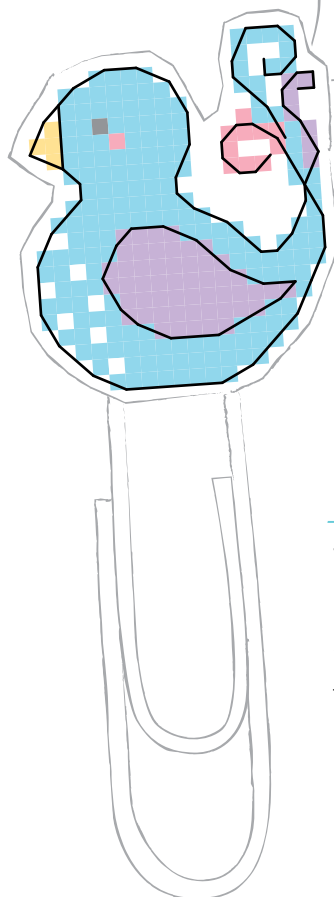
	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
0	B5200	001	2401
E	209	109	0711
♥	301	1049	2306
⌂	310	403	2400
~	452	232	1807
2	704	255	1308
x	728	306	0113
★	961	076	0610
♥	3846	1090	1103
△	3856	311	2301

Backstitch in one strand

—	209	109	0711
bobbin thread			
—	310	403	2400
all other details			
—	704	255	1308
bobbin thread			
—	728	306	0113
bobbin thread			
—	961	076	0610
bobbin thread			
—	3846	1090	1103
bobbin thread			

French knots in one strand

●	728	306	0113
top of tree			



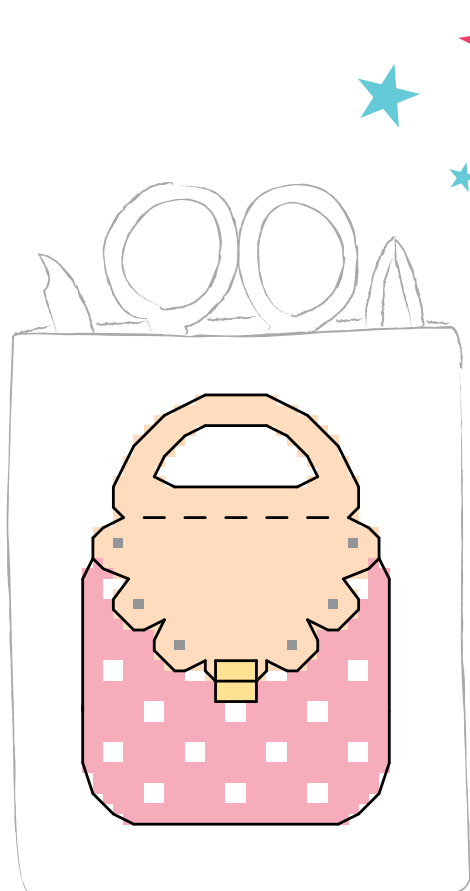
13 Birdie bookmark

WHIP up a simple page marker for bookworms. Stitch your motif on plastic canvas, then trim one square outside the design and glue a bright jumbo paper clip to the back.



14 Teddy plushie

CREATE a cute soft toy for kids. Stitch our teddy and place right sides together with felt. Sew all the way round but leaving a small gap, then turn right sides out, stuff and sew up the gap.



Cut out & keep

Cut out & keep

15 Manicure mini set

SLIP nail-care essentials in a simple stitched pouch. Back your stitching with felt in a co-ordinating colour and hem the top edges for a neat finish.

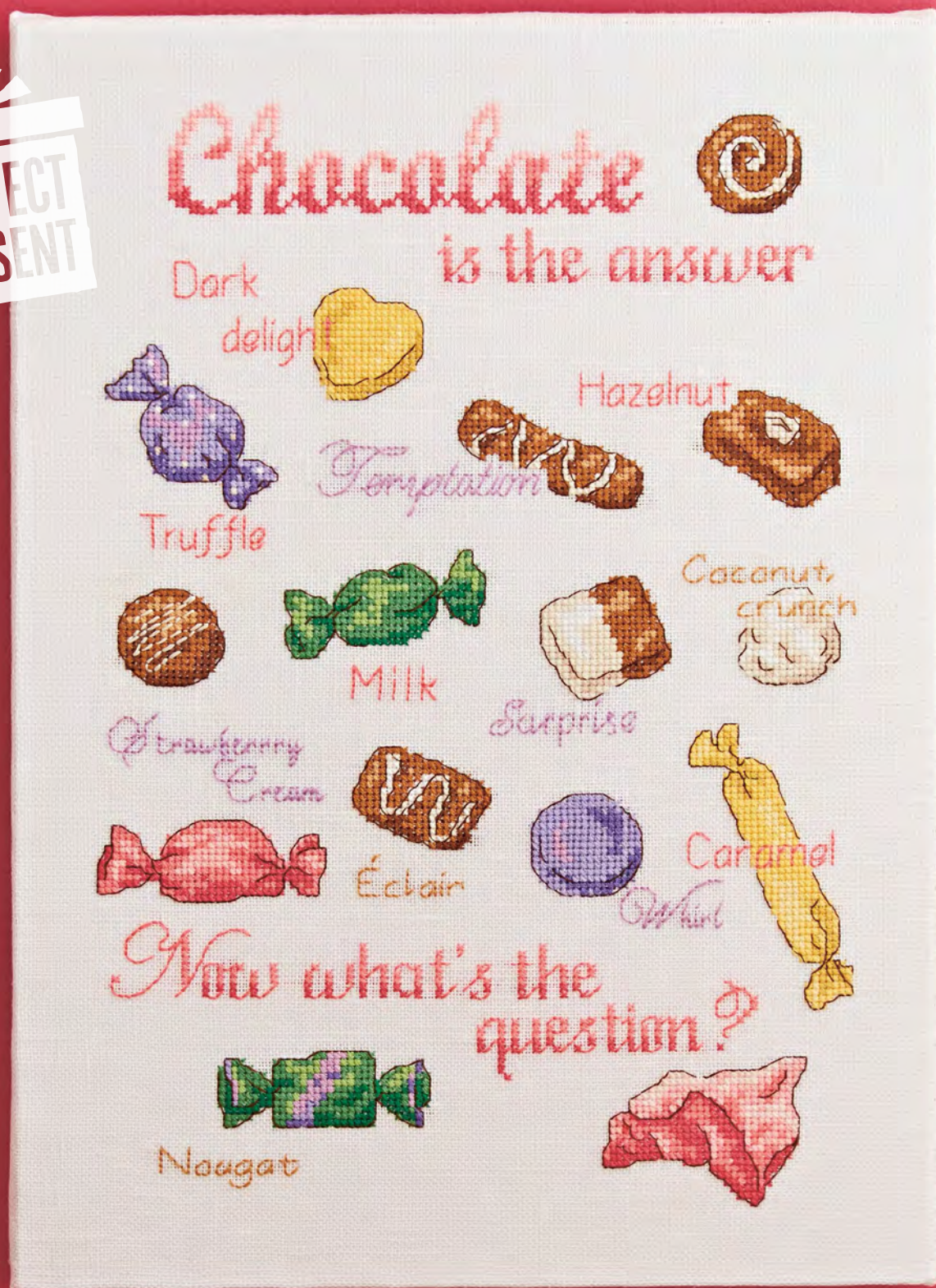
16 Moustache card holder

HEM your stitched fabric, then place on top of a piece of felt. Add a shorter piece of felt to the inside to make pockets and join together with a running stitch all the way round.



Cut out & keep

**PERFECT
PRESENT**

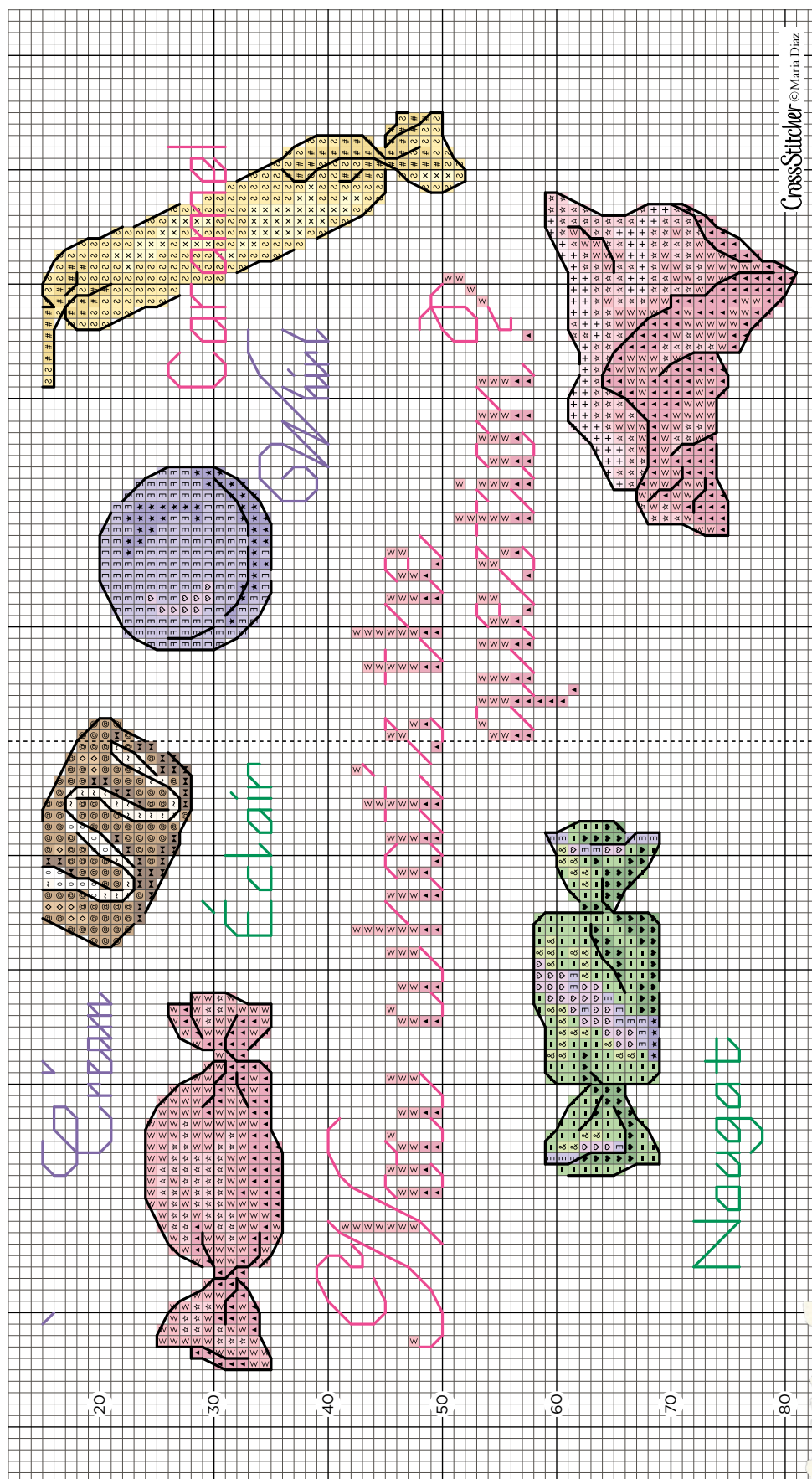


SWEET LIKE CHOCOLATE

Chocoholic? Join the club! Pay tribute to this life essential with our playful picture, pencil case and card



The image shows a complex cross-stitch pattern on a grid. The pattern is designed for a 10x10 grid, with a central 10x10 area and a surrounding 10x10 border. The pattern includes various food items and text labels. The labels are: 'Dark', 'delight', 'Tuffie', 'Coconut', 'Surprise', 'Milk', and 'Cranberry'. The pattern is designed for a 10x10 grid, with a central 10x10 area and a surrounding 10x10 border. The pattern includes various food items and text labels. The labels are: 'Dark', 'delight', 'Tuffie', 'Coconut', 'Surprise', 'Milk', and 'Cranberry'. The pattern is designed for a 10x10 grid, with a central 10x10 area and a surrounding 10x10 border. The pattern includes various food items and text labels. The labels are: 'Dark', 'delight', 'Tuffie', 'Coconut', 'Surprise', 'Milk', and 'Cranberry'.



	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
0	B5200	001	2401
E	155	109	0803
♥	209	108	0711
★	333	119	0903
@	434	310	2009
◇	436	363	2011
▲	601	063	0703
♥	699	923	1303
■	701	227	1305
&	703	238	1307
~	712	926	2101
2	743	305	0113
x	744	301	0112
⬅	801	359	2007
+	818	023	0502
△	842	1080	1910
≡	956	040	0611
☆	957	050	0612
#	3820	306	2509
Backstitch in two strands			
—	209	108	0711
lettering			
—	436	363	2011
lettering			
—	712	926	2101
strawberry cream tops			
—	956	040	0611
lettering			
Backstitch in one strand			
—	938	381	2005
all other details			

Materials

Picture

- 28 count white linen, 50x40cm
- Wood frame with outside measurement of 31x22cm
- White mount board
- Staple gun
- Double-sided tape

For stockist details see page 84



	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
0	B5200	001	2401
1	155	109	0803
2	209	108	0711
3	333	119	0903
4	434	310	2009
5	436	363	2011
6	601	063	0703
7	699	923	1303
8	701	227	1305
9	703	238	1307
10	712	926	2101
11	743	305	0113
12	744	301	0112
13	801	359	2007
14	818	023	0502
15	842	1080	1910
16	956	040	0611
17	957	050	0612
18	3820	306	2509
Backstitch in two strands			
19	209	108	0711
lettering			
20	436	363	2011
lettering			
21	712	926	2101
strawberry cream tops			
22	956	040	0611
lettering			
Backstitch in one strand			
23	938	381	2005
all other details			

Make a... stretched canvas frame

Step 1



CUT a piece of mount board to exactly the same size as the outside edge of your wooden frame. Attach using double-sided tape.

Step 2

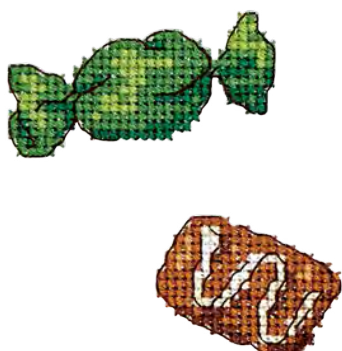


PLACE double-sided tape around the back of the frame. Then mark and match up the centre points on the frame and fabric edges.

Step 3



STRETCH the fabric to the reverse, folding neatly at each corner. Staple the fabric to the back of the frame and secure the raw edges with tape.



Make a... patch card

Step 1

TRIM your fabric to 11x11cm and fray the outer row. Back your fabric with white paper.

Step 2

STICK your fabric to the card front. Machine stitch in place all the way round, close to the edge.

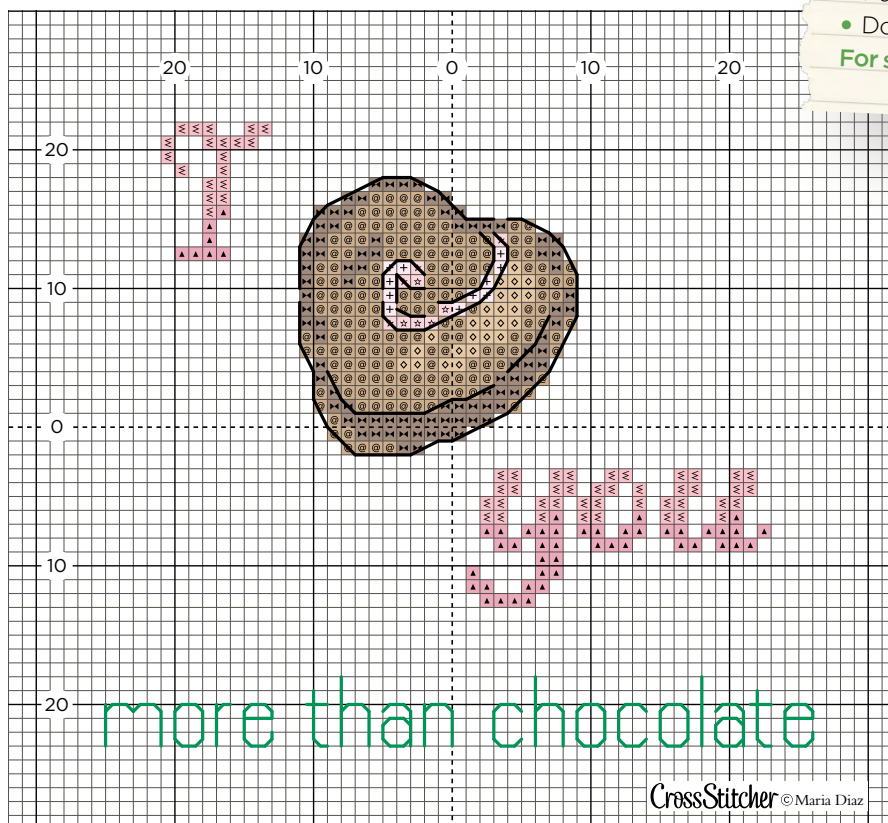


Materials

Card

- 28 count white linen, 20x20cm
- Purple card, 12.5cm square front
- Double-sided tape

For stockist details see page 84



*Our card is perfect
for anniversaries,
Valentine's or any
romantic occasion!*



Make a... pencil case

Step 1



CUT your stitched front to the same size as the cotton fabric pieces. Lay a lining piece face up, with the zip on top and your stitched piece face down on top of that.

Step 2



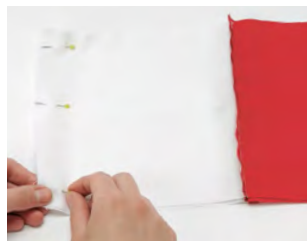
PIN together and sew along the top edges of the zip, using a zipper foot. Open out and repeat, attaching a backing piece and lining piece to the other side of the zip.

Step 3

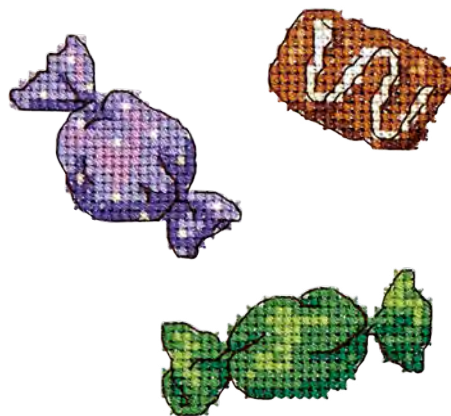


CHECK your pencil case looks like the above image once both sides are attached. Press the seams flat with an iron and open the zip to allow for turning in the next step.

Step 4

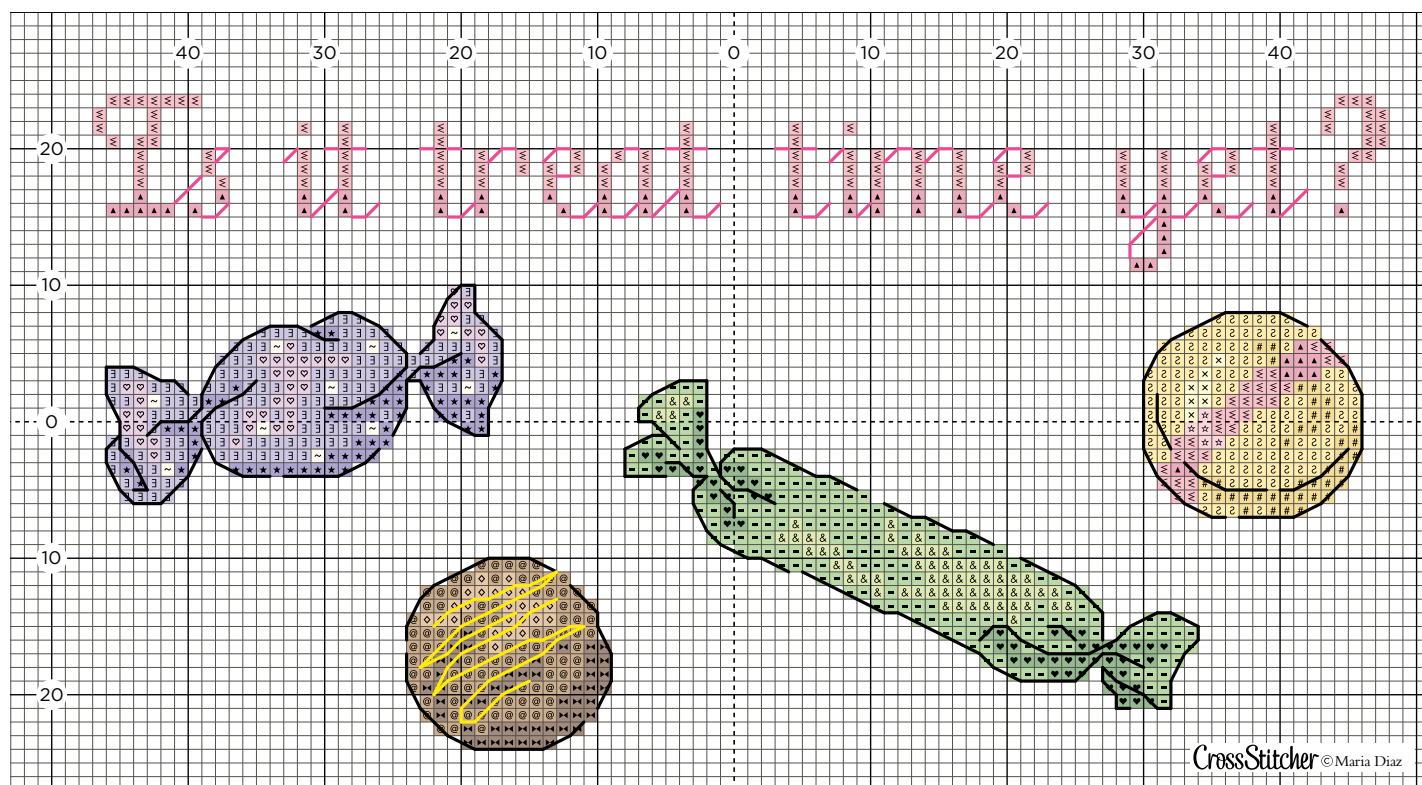


REFOLD with the lining pieces on one side and backing fabrics on the other. Pin and sew. Turn, slip stitch and push the lining inside. Attach the charm to the zip with a jump ring.



Want to give your pencil case a wipe-clean inner? Simply line it with oilcloth rather than cotton

Designed by: Maria Diaz



CrossStitcher ©Maria Diaz

Pick any of our chocolate motifs to make a card or gift tag for a sweet-toothed pal



Materials

Pencil case

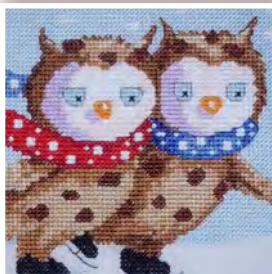
- 28 count white linen, 30x40cm
- White cotton fabric, three pieces 16x24cm
- Purple zip, 20cm
- Chocolate charm
- Jump ring

For stockist details see page 84

Celebrate the **12 Days** of **Christmas** with **CrossStitcher**

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EGG HEADS

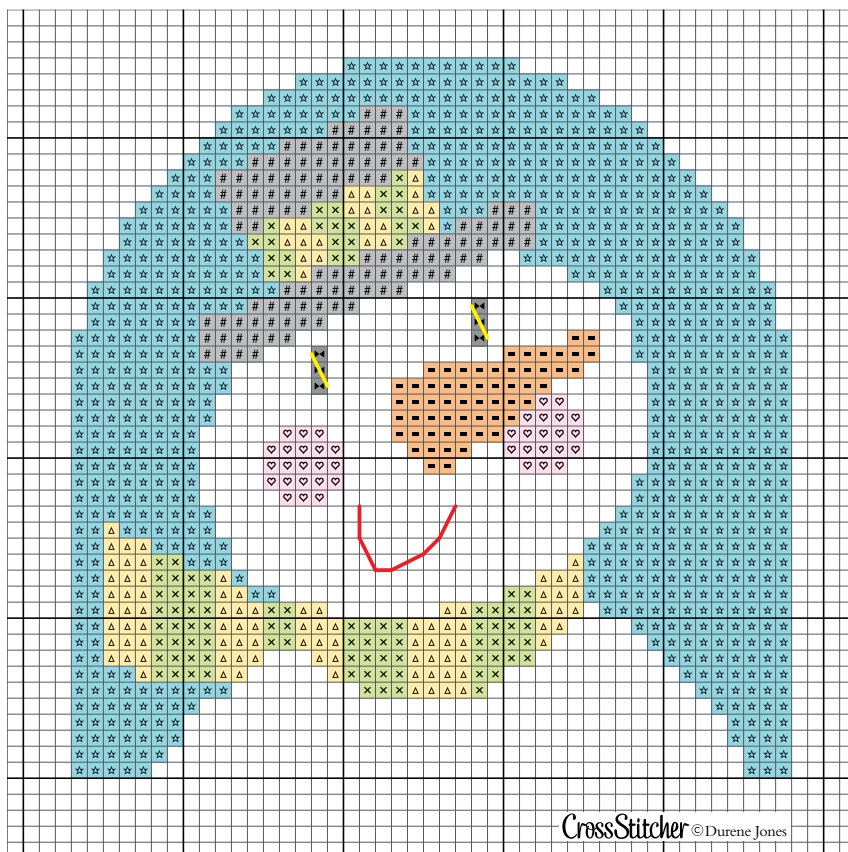
Rise, shine and serve up a cracking Christmas brekkie with our quick and cute cosies

Cross stitch in two strands

DMC	Anchor	Madeira
★ 208	110	0804
✠ 310	403	2400
♥ 349	013	0212
# 413	236	1713
♡ 605	1094	0613
△ 726	295	0109
■ 740	316	0202
✕ 907	255	1410
~ 951	1010	2308
☆ 3845	433	1103

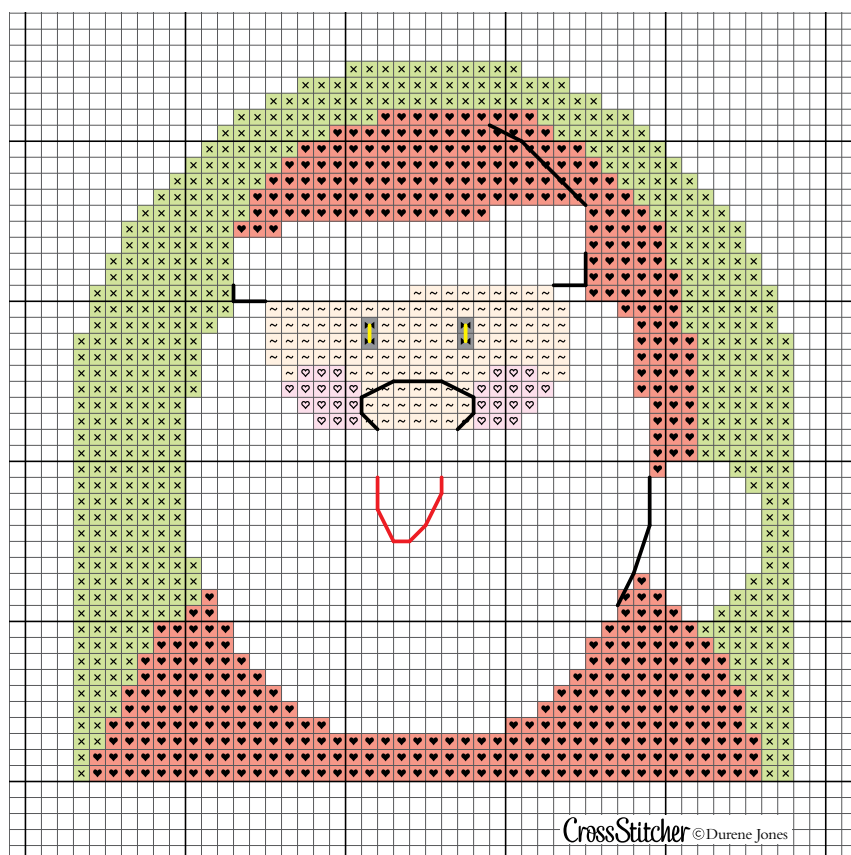
Backstitch in two strands

 B5200	001	2401
eyes		
	310	403
faces		
	349	013
mouths		



CrossStitcher © Durene Jones

Designed by: Durene Jones Design size: 8x8cm each
Stitch time: 5 hours each



CrossStitcher © Durene Jones

Make an... egg cosy

Step 1

TRIM the stitched fabric 1cm outside the curved edge and 3cm below the lower edge. Cut the felt pieces and backing fabric to the same size.

Step 2

PLACE your felt pieces together, then put the backing fabric on top and place your stitched fabric right side down over the backing fabric.

Step 3

STITCH the four layers together around the curved edge, right up to the edge of the stitching. Turn the cosy right sides out and press.

Step 4

HEM the front and back lower edges by turning them under twice and slip stitching in place.



Can't find an egg cup in the right colour? Buy a plain wooden one and paint it instead

Stitch it on aida!
If you prefer to stitch on aida choose a 14 count white aida



CrossStitcher ©Durene Jones

Materials

For each cosy

- 28 count white evenweave, 25x25cm
- White backing fabric, 12x12cm
- White felt, two pieces 12x12cm

For stockist details see page 84



CrossStitcher Digital Edition





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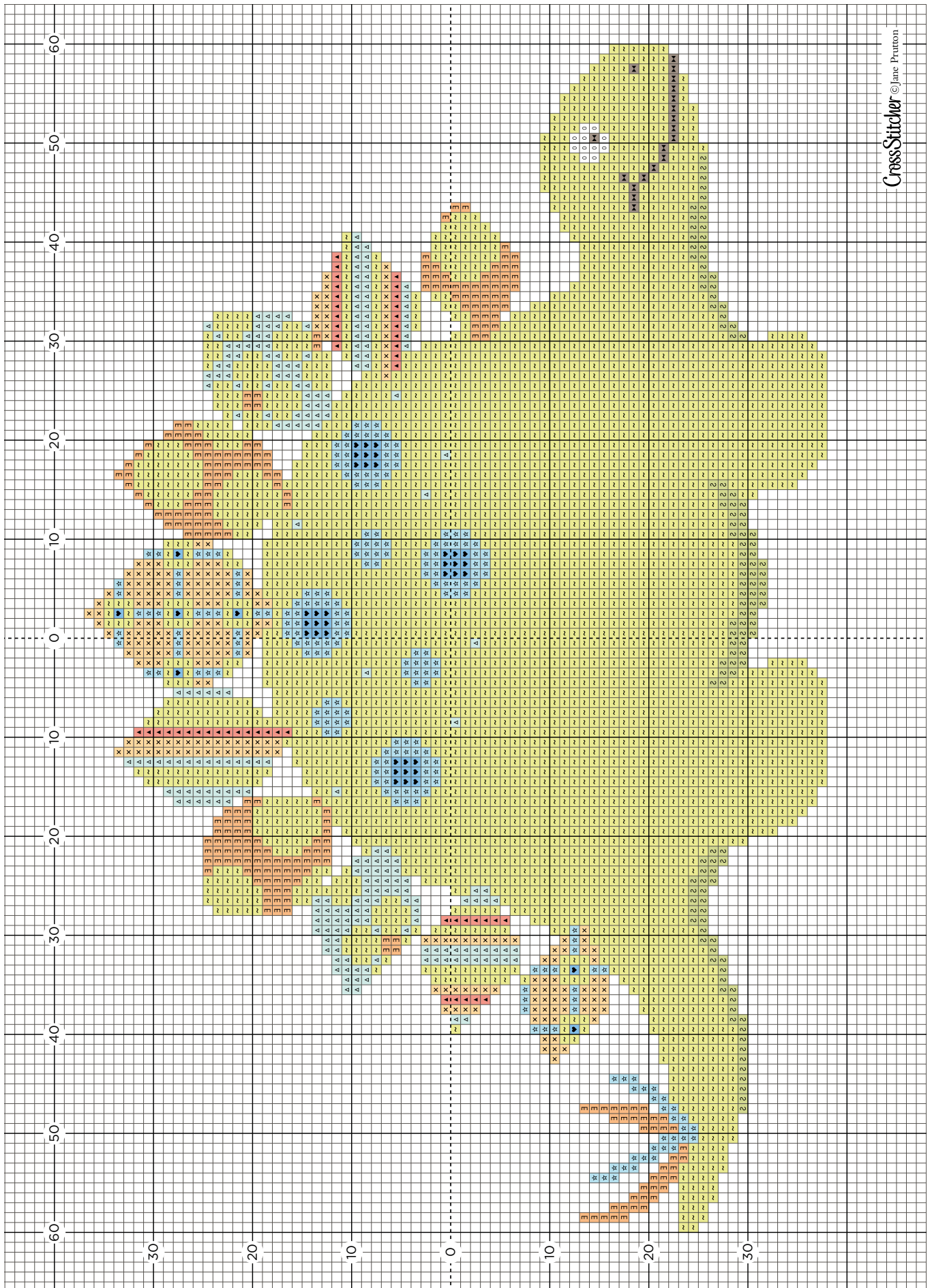
Or call 0844 848 2852 (UK) or +44 1604 251 045 (international)

LITTLE DINO

PERFECT
PRESENT

Youngsters will be roaring mad for our lovable stegosaurus! Stitch him up for a cuddly Christmas gift





Designed by: Jane Prutton

Design size: 19x30cm

Stitch time: 30 hours

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in four strands			
0	White	002	2402
2	166	279	1308
▲	347	1025	0407
△	964	185	1112
⬢	3021	905	1904
~	3819	278	2703 (5)
♥	3843	1089	1102
☆	3846	1090	1103
E	3853	1003	0311
×	3854	313	2301

(5) indicates more than one skein required



Materials

- 20 count antique white evenweave, 40x50cm
- Print cotton backing fabric, 30x40cm
- Soft-toy stuffing

For stockist details see page 84

Make a... shaped cushion

Step 1

PLACE tracing paper over your stitching and draw around the shape, about 4cm away from the edge of the stitching. Ensure your edges curve gently.

Step 2

CUT out your template and draw round it on the back of your evenweave. Pin the cushion back and front right sides together.

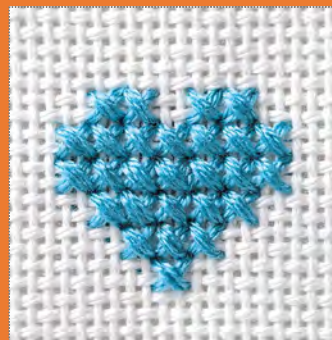
Step 3

STITCH together along the drawn line, leaving a gap for turning. Trim the seams, then turn right sides out and press. Stuff firmly, then sew up the gap.

Keep the four strands together by running them through wet fingers

20 COUNT

Even if you've never tried stitching on evenweave before, we think you'll find using the 20 count variety a breeze. As you can see, the holes are much larger and easier to see than on 28 or 32 count, giving bold, chunky stitches.



POLAR PALS

POLAR PALS

Stitch and send our Arctic cuties to spread a little cheer this Christmas





Designed by: Durene Jones

Design size: 11x8cm each

Stitch time: 5 hours each

DMC Anchor Madeira

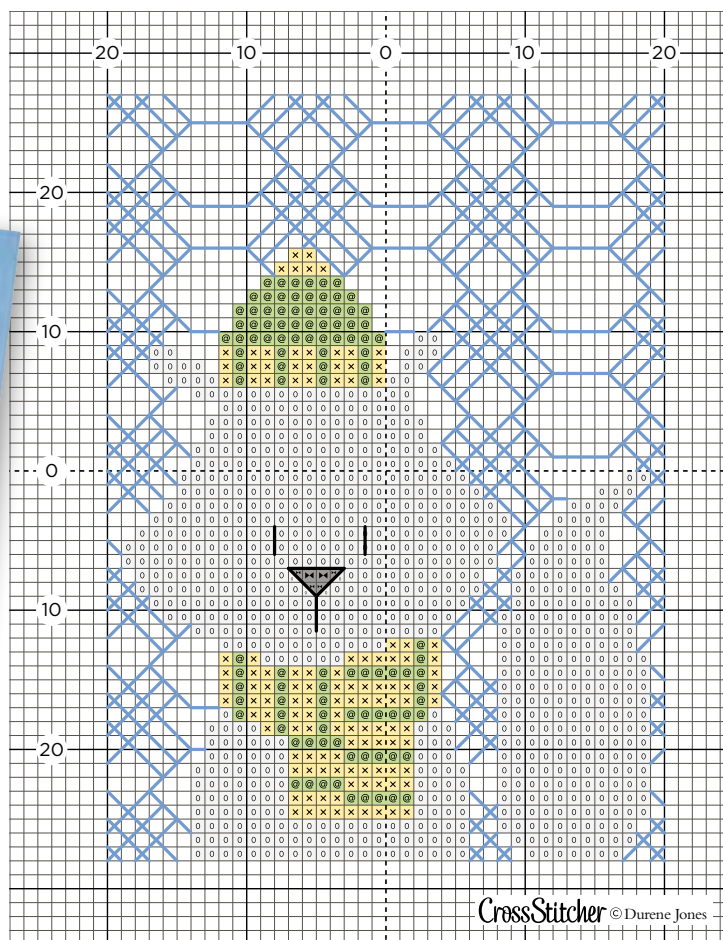
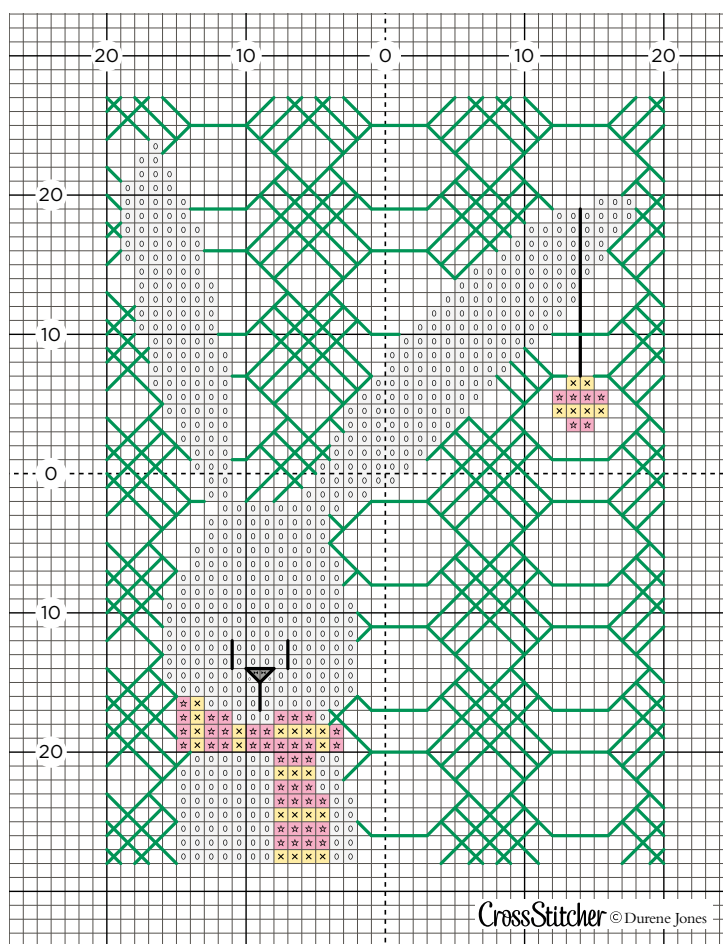
Cross stitch in three strands

0	B5200	001	2401 (2)
♥	208	110	0804
◀	310	403	2400
★	602	057	0702
@	703	238	1307
×	726	295	0109

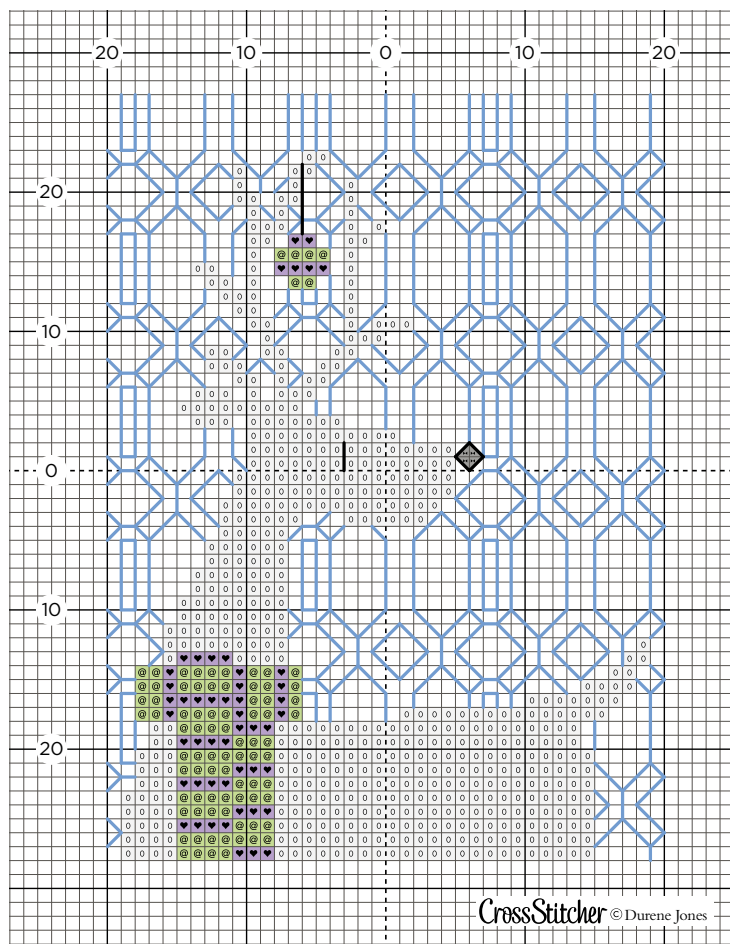
Backstitch in two strands

—	310	403	2400
	all other details		
—	911	205	1214
	background pattern		
—	3841	159	1001
	background pattern		

(2) indicates more than one skein required



DOWNLOAD
& PRINT YOUR
FREE ILLUSTRATED
CARD FROM WWW.CROSSSTITCHER.MAG.COM



How to... mount a card

Step 1

DOWNLOAD your free card mount from our website and print on thin card, or print on paper and stick to thin card. Cut out the aperture and around the card edges.

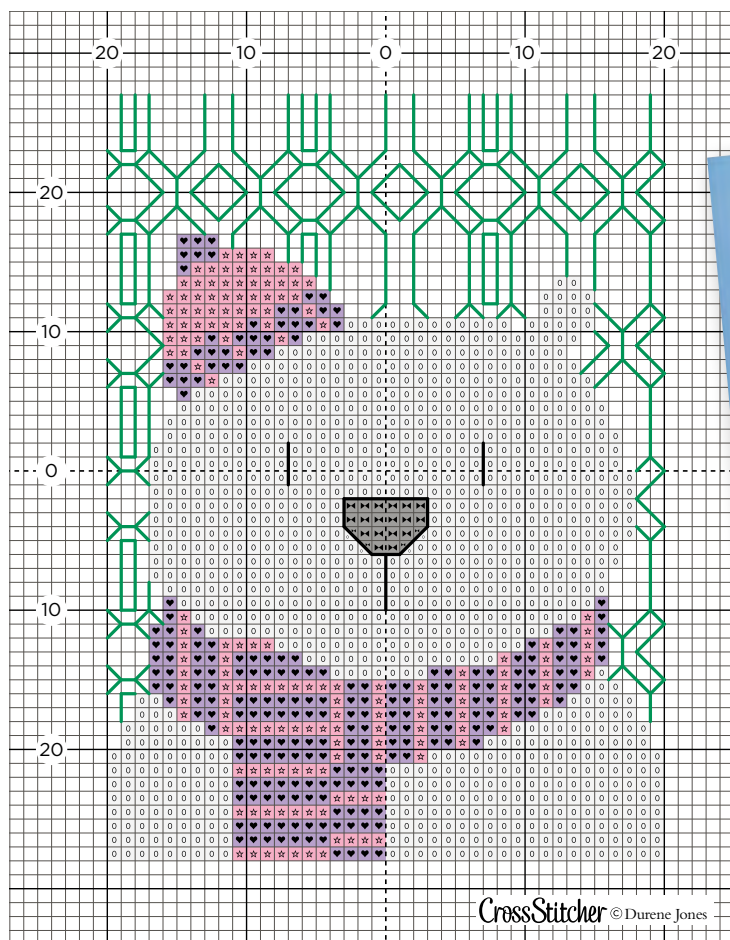
Step 2

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

Step 3

STICK double-sided tape round the back of the card aperture. Then, using the pins as guides, stick the card to the fabric. Stick card over the back of your stitching for a neat finish.

Personalise your card by writing a fun festive greeting at the bottom



Materials

- 25 count green or blue evenweave, 25x25cm
- Thin white card
- Double-sided tape
- Illustrated card mount printed free from www.crossstitchermag.com

For stockist details see page 84

CrossStitcher GIVEAWAYS

This month we've got over £400 worth of exciting products for you!
Giveaways open 14 November – 11 December

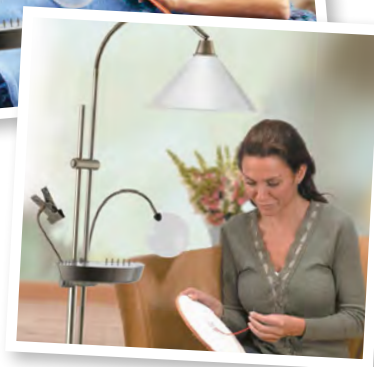


Into the light

ULTIMATE FLOORSTANDING LAMP FROM DAYLIGHT

Light up your stitching with the Ultimate Floorstanding Lamp from Daylight (www.daylightcompany.com). It's packed with features including a flexible gooseneck arm so you can direct the light where you need it or use it as an uplight. It also has optional wheels on the base, a height-adjustable stem, a durable, antique-look finish and 20W energy-saving bulb allowing you to see true colours and work in comfort. Plus, there are three removable accessories: a tray with dust cover, a chart holder and a magnifier. The lamp is priced £199.99 and we have one up for grabs in our give away.

KEYWORD: 286LAMP



Off to sea

THE OWL AND THE PUSSYCAT KITS FROM GOLDLEAF NEEDLEWORK

The Owl and the Pussycat has to be one of our favourite childhood poems, so we love this cross stitch design by Vanessa Wells and available from Goldleaf Needlework (www.goldleafneedlework.co.uk). The design comes as a chart, priced £6.50, or kit, which is priced £18 and includes 14 count aida, DMC threads, needle and chart. We have six of the kits up for grabs in our giveaway.

KEYWORD: 286OWL



Festive cuteness

CHRISTMAS CAT KITS FROM HERITAGE CRAFTS

How cute is this little kitty, who's climbed up the tree and can't get down! Called 'Help', the design by Peter Underhill is new to Heritage Crafts (www.hcrafts.com) and makes a perfect project to stitch and frame for a little one's bedroom this Christmas. Priced £15.75, the kit includes all you need to stitch the design on aida. We have seven kits to give away, so why not try to win one?

KEYWORD: 286CAT



ENTER ONLINE AT
www.crossstitchermag.com

Giveaways are open to UK readers only and winners will be chosen at random. Please note postal entries won't be accepted for these giveaways. For full giveaway terms and conditions turn to page 85



THE Savvy Stitcher

Always wanted to try out a new technique or trend? Every month The Savvy Stitcher shows you just how it's done!

by Zoë Patching

Yes you can! *Crafty Wrapping*

Handmade gifts deserve special wrapping! Set them off with quick and easy pompoms, embellished tags and tape measure flowers

POMPOM TREE

Stack up pressies to look like a Christmas tree and tie a pompom on top





TREATS JAR
Makeover a jar with an old
tape measure and trimmings



Hand-stitching Christmas gifts takes time and love, so why not ensure they look extra special under the tree by hand-crafting your wrapping, too. Fun and thrifty, this is a great way to use yarn, buttons, fabric and threads from your stash, while the creations themselves are sure to be as treasured as the gifts.

It needn't be time-consuming. We show you how to whip up pompoms, tape measure flowers and embellished tags in moments to create enticing wrapping for pressies at Christmas and any other time of the year.



GIFT BAG
Simple embellishments
pep up plain wrapping

MAKE A... POMPOM

Try these easy-to-make bobbles and have fun with colours and sizes

Step 1



CUT out two circles of card with holes in the centre – ours measure 4cm in diameter with 1.5cm diameter holes. Place the discs together, then wrap your yarn around the rings, keeping it as neat and firm as you can.

Step 2



WIND the yarn around the card until you've covered it as much as possible. Once you've completed this first layer, work over it with a second layer, again filling in the gaps to completely cover the card.

Step 3



CONTINUE with as many layers as you can – the more you can do, the fluffier your pompom will be. Ours has five layers. Once complete, cut the wool along the edge, passing your scissors between the two card discs.

Step 4

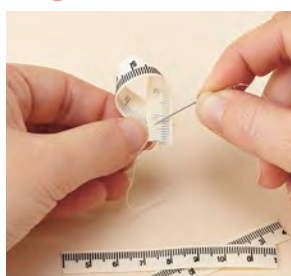


SECURE the pompom by passing a length of yarn between the two discs and knotting it firmly round the middle. Leave the ends long for a hanging thread. Finally, remove the discs and trim any loose ends.

MAKE A... TAPE MEASURE FLOWER

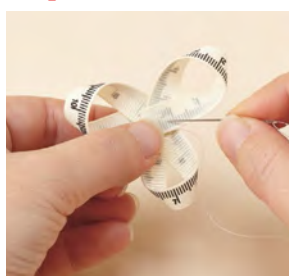
Use an old tape measure or printed ribbon to whip up a 3D floral

Step 1



CUT three lengths, each measuring 8cm, from your tape measure or printed ribbon. Create a petal shape by folding one of the lengths to make a loop. Hold the shape in place with a couple of neat stitches.

Step 2



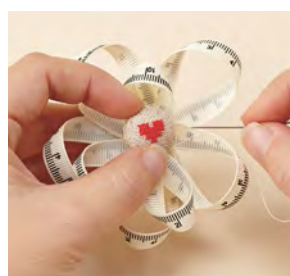
REPEAT step one with the remaining two tape measure lengths. Then start to create your flower shape by stitching the three petals together in a fan, spacing them evenly apart, as shown in the picture above.

Step 3



MAKE the outer petals in the same way, using 11cm pieces. A thimble may help when stitching the pieces together, as the tape measure can be tough on your fingers. Position the two layers together and stitch in place.

Step 4



EMBELLISH the centre of your flower – we stitched a heart motif and made a self-covered button. Once you have completed your flower, secure some baker's twine to the back and tie it to your present.

IF YOU LIKED THIS, YOU'LL LOVE...



PRETTY FABRICS & TRIMS

www.prettyfabricsandtrims.co.uk

This website has a tantalising choice of Christmas crafting goodies that will make gift wrapping a joy. We love the retro-print fabrics.



MY FABRIC HOUSE

www.myfabrichouse.co.uk

Buttons, trims and mini pompom fringing are just some of the trimmings that can be found in this website's Christmas Shop. Look out for their tape measure ribbon.

MAKE A... BUTTON GIFT TAG

Personalise your wrapping with your pal's initial embellished in buttons

Step 1



CUT out a tag shape from card using a craft knife and metal ruler. Draw the initial in pencil on the front. Place the tag on a rubber to protect your table and make evenly spaced holes with a pin around the outline.

Step 2



BACKSTITCH round the initial using an embroidery needle and stranded cotton – we used two strands. Knot the thread to start stitching, and weave the thread through the reverse of the stitches to finish.

Step 3



ADD button embellishments to your letter by piercing the card as you did in step one, spacing your holes evenly within the backstitched outline, then securing the buttons with thread in a matching colour.

Step 4



BACK the tag with a piece of card in a co-ordinating colour to give a neat finish. Then punch the hanging aperture using a hole punch, loop on some baker's twine and tie or peg your tag to your wrapped gift.

Buy 'stitched' ribbon or add a running stitch to plain lengths

Replace ribbon with lace for a vintage-style Christmas!

Combine metallic thread with ribbon for extra-luxe looks



Add mini bells to your wrapping for a festive jingle

Baker's twine looks good tied or you can stitch with it – use a large-eyed needle



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A feast for the eyes! This choice of felt, fabric, ribbons, buttons and bells is ideal for your gift wrapping, and their Crafty Bits & Bobs page is a delight.



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Stitching basics

TOOLS OF THE TRADE

NEEDLES

For basic stitching you'll need a tapestry needle that has a blunt tip and large eye. Use a size 24 needle for most aidas, and a size 26 for evenweaves and linens. Use a sharp embroidery needle for finer details such as backstitch and French knots.

EMBROIDERY SCISSORS

Embroidery scissors are an absolute must-have for stitchers and can be picked up for just a few pounds. Keep yours sharp by only using them to cut threads – that way a decent pair should last you a lifetime.

STRANDED COTTON

Embroidery thread is also commonly referred to as stranded cotton. Each thread length is made up of six strands of cotton twisted together. The chart key will indicate how many strands you'll need to stitch your design with.

HOOPS AND FRAMES

Though not absolutely essential, we do recommend using an embroidery hoop or frame to keep an even stitching tension. Just make sure it's big enough to fit your entire design.

AIDA

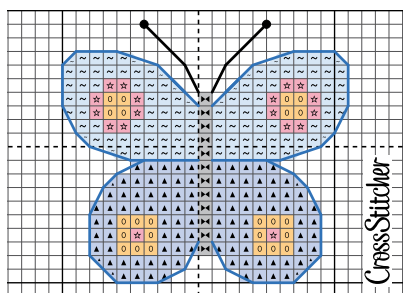
Aida is an ideal choice for cross stitch beginners. 14 count is the most common, although it's available in a huge variety of colours and counts. Each cross stitch is worked over a single aida block, making counting and keeping your place a cinch.

EVENWEAVE

Evenweave is much simpler to work with than you might think. Start with a 25 or 28 count evenweave, such as Zweigart Lugana. Once you're confident, try your hand at a linen version.

THE CHART

START stitching from the centre of the design and your fabric. The centre of our charts are indicated by dotted lines. To find the centre of your fabric, fold it in half and then into quarters.



Reading the chart

EACH square on the chart represents a single cross stitch. Fractionals are half filled squares or squares filled with two different colours.

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
	602	057	0611
	741	314	0202
	3799	236	1713
	3839	176	0906
	3840	120	0907
Backstitch in one strand			
	3799	236	1713
	butterfly antennae		
	3838	940	0905
	all other details		
French knots in two strands			
	3799	236	1713
	butterfly antennae		

THE KEY

ALL THE symbols that appear on the chart are listed in the key with their corresponding thread codes beside them. The key also tells you the different stitches used in the design.

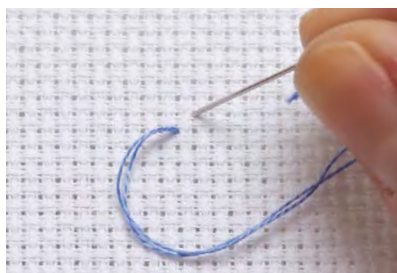
Colour match

IN THE key, the closest column of thread codes listed next to the chart symbols is the thread brand that's used in the design. Similar colour matches are listed alongside it.



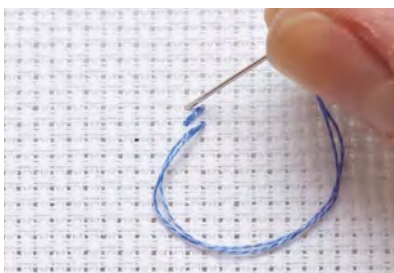
Start stitching... on aida

Step 1



CUT a 40cm thread length, and thread your needle with two of the six strands. Knot one end and start with a waste knot (opposite). Make a diagonal half cross stitch across a single aida block.

Step 2



MAKE a second diagonal stitch to complete your first cross. Alternatively, you can work a row of half cross stitches first, then work back on yourself to complete the stitches.

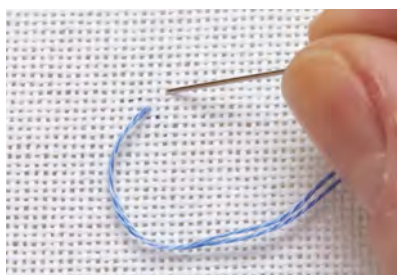
Step 3



THE direction of your diagonals is up to you, just be sure all your stitches cross in the same direction. Otherwise, your design will look uneven. Continue working from the centre outward.

Start stitching... on evenweave

Step 1



INSTEAD of taking your needle diagonally across a single aida block, take your needle diagonally across two evenweave threads, creating a half cross stitch as before.

Step 2



MAKE a second diagonal stitch to complete your first cross stitch. Work each stitch individually or work a row of half cross stitches, then work back on yourself to complete the stitches.

Step 3



CONTINUE working from the centre of your design outward. If you find the extra counting a bit daunting at first, don't give up. We promise it'll become second nature in no time.

BACKSTITCH

Use this easy stitch to give a neat outline and add details

Step 1



WORK your backstitch using a sharp needle, once you've finished the cross stitch. To secure your thread, weave it through the back of your stitches, then bring your needle up to the surface.

Step 2



WORK your backstitch over about 1-3 chart squares at a time, making sure to closely follow the chart. Any longer and your stitches could end up becoming loose and pulling out.

Step 3

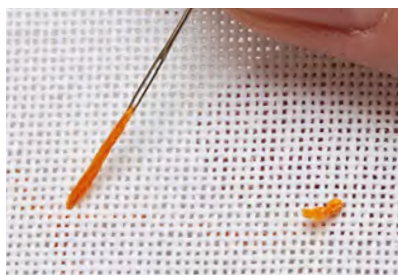


FOR each additional stitch, bring your needle up 1-3 chart squares away from your previous stitch. Then pass it back through the fabric at the same point as your previous stitch.

WASTE KNOT

A simple way to get started stitching

Step 1



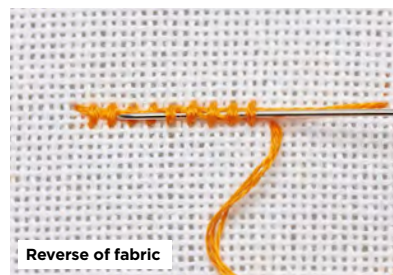
KNOT one end of your thread and take it down through the front of your fabric, about 2cm from your starting point. Then bring it back up to the front of your fabric to make your first stitch.

Step 2



BEGIN stitching your design, making sure you're stitching over your starting thread with each stitch. You can work whole stitches or work half stitches then come back on yourself.

Step 3



ONCE you're happy that your starting thread is secure, snip off the knot. To secure your thread when you've finished stitching, weave it through the back of your stitches as shown here.

LOOP KNOT

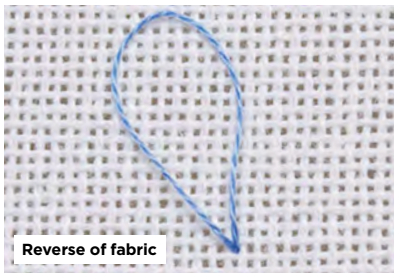
This easy start to your cross stitch is brilliantly neat

Step 1



IF YOU'RE working in two strands, a loop knot is the easiest and neatest method. Cut a single length of thread, twice as long as normal. Fold it in half to create a loop at one end.

Step 2



THREAD your needle with the two tail ends, just as you normally would. Bring your needle up to the front of your fabric, leaving a small loop of thread on the reverse.

Step 3



MAKE a half cross stitch, passing your needle through the loop on the reverse as shown here. Pull all the way to secure the thread. Now continue with your stitching as normal.

FRENCH KNOTS

Go dotty with this simple way to add neat knots to your designs

Step 1



USE a sharp embroidery needle to help pierce the fabric. Bring your needle up at your starting point and wrap your thread once or twice around the needle. Use one strand for a small knot and two for a slightly chunkier knot.

Step 2



HOLD your thread end firmly and take your needle down, ever so slightly over from where you came up. Slide the twisted thread down the needle, so it rests on the fabric's surface, and gently feed the needle through the fabric.

Step 3

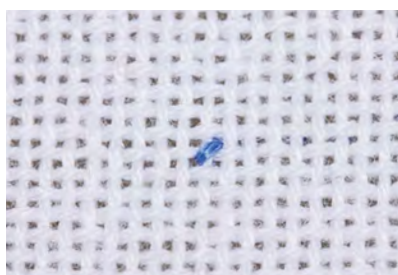


KEEP your thread as taut as possible to prevent the knot becoming loose. Gently pull your thread through to tighten the knot, so that it sits neatly on the surface. And remember, if you don't get it right away, keep practising!

FRACTIONALS

These little stitches are great for adding a bit more detail to your work

Step 1



START with a quarter stitch, working from one corner into the centre. For evenweave, there is already a hole in the centre to stitch into. With aida, you'll need to pierce the centre of the block.

Step 2



MAKE your next quarter stitch in your second colour, coming up from the opposite corner and back down through the centre. You've now created a half cross stitch.

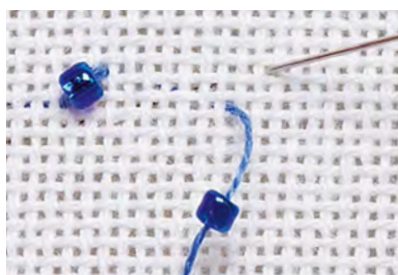
Step 3



FINISH your stitch by making a half cross stitch. Fractionals are shown in the chart either as two symbols opposite one another in a chart square, or by a symbol opposite an empty space.

BEADING

TO ATTACH beads, you'll need a thin, flexible beading needle. Thread with one strand of cotton. Bring your needle to the front of your design, thread on a bead and make a diagonal stitch to secure the bead. If you like, stitch through again for added security.



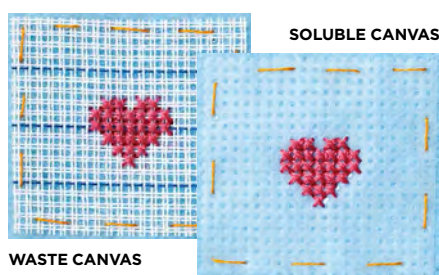
HALF CROSS STITCH

HALF cross stitches are exactly what they sound like – half of a cross stitch. Each diagonal stitch is worked across two evenweave threads or one aida block. They're most often used to create a subtle background in a design.



WASTE AND SOLUBLE CANVAS

WASTE and soluble canvases are used when stitching on plain fabrics and felts. Tack onto your fabric and stitch as normal. Soluble canvas dissolves in water. For waste canvas, soak in water then remove each thread individually.



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www.josyrose.com

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SEAMSTAR

www.seamstar.co.uk

0182 977 0733

For plain and patterned fabrics and all kinds of trims

EFRAME

www.eframe.co.uk

For picture frames for displaying your stitching

HOBBYCRAFT

www.hobbycraft.co.uk

0330 026 1400

For cardstock, paper, paint, glue and general crafting supplies

Your projects

You can make our projects using any materials you like, but if you need help tracking down specific items here are a few hints. Contact details for the suppliers are above or on the opposite page.

LITTLE DINO

20 count Zweigart Bellana evenweave, antique white, ref 3256/101:

Willow Fabrics

Print cotton backing fabric:

Country Threads

Soft-toy stuffing: Hobbycraft

FIRST NOËL

White cotton fabric: Seamstar

Red ric rac braid: Seamstar

POLAR PALS

25 count Zweigart Lugana

evenweave, green, ref 3835/6140,

or blue, ref 3835/504: Willow Fabrics

White card: Craft Creations

Double-sided tape: Fred Aldous

SWEET LIKE CHOCOLATE

28 count Zweigart Cashel linen, white, ref 3281/100: Willow Fabrics

Wooden frame: eFrame

Mount board: Fred Aldous

White cotton fabric: Seamstar

Zip: Hobbycraft

Chocolate charm: Dizzy Beads

Purple card, SF11U-74 violet 125x125mm: Craft Creations

Double-sided tape: Fred Aldous

HOME FOR CHRISTMAS

19 count Zweigart Ariosa evenweave, antique white, ref 3711/101, and red, ref 3711/931: Willow Fabrics

Cotton backing fabric: Seamstar

Bias binding: Seamstar

Piping cord: Gone to Earth

Cushion pad, 40x40cm, ref 64913003:

John Lewis

SANTA'S LITTLE HELPERS

28 count Zweigart Cashel linen, white, ref 3281/100: Willow Fabrics

Wooden frame: eFrame

Mount board: Fred Aldous

TREAT YOURSELF

28 count Zweigart Brittney evenweave, cream, ref 3270/264: Willow Fabrics

Cotton backing fabric: Seamstar

Cotton herringbone tape: The Makery

EGG HEADS

White cotton fabric: Seamstar

White felt: Cloud Craft

HO HO HO

14 count plastic canvas:

Willow Fabrics

White felt: Cloud Craft

FLORAL ESSENCE

28 count Zweigart Cashel linen, light rustic, ref 3281/52: Willow Fabrics

Print cotton backing fabric:

Country Threads

Felt: Cloud Craft

Bias binding: Seamstar

Kilner storage jar with screw lid:

John Lewis





*Give your home some
Scandi Christmas style
with these cross stitched
and embroidered decs
from Retreat*

Shopping guide

Contact details for all the suppliers quoted in this issue,
plus a few of our favourite places for extra inspiration!

BONNIE AND BELL
www.notonthehighstreet.com/bonnieandbell

CHERITH HARRISON
www.cherithharrison.com

COUNTRY THREADS
www.countrythreadspatchwork.co.uk

CRAFT CREATIONS
www.craftcreations.com

DIZZY BEADS
www.dizzybeads.co.uk

FRED ALDOUS
www.fredaldous.co.uk

GONE TO EARTH
www.gonetoeearth.co.uk

HOME CANDY
www.homecandy.com

JOHN LEWIS
www.johnlewis.com

MILKANDPAPER
www.etsy.com/shop/milkandpaper

MISS SHELLY DESIGNS
www.notonthehighstreet.com/missshellydesigns

MY FAVOURITE MAGAZINES
www.myfavouritemagazines.co.uk

NELLIANNA
www.etsy.com/shop/nellianna

OLIVER BONAS
www.oliverbonas.com

RETREAT
www.retreat-home.com

ROSEHIP
www.rosehipcards.co.uk

RUSTIC COUNTRY CRAFTS
www.notonthehighstreet.com/rusticcountrycrafts

SARAH K BENNING
www.etsy.com/shop/sarahkbenning

SHLOMIT OFIR
www.etsy.com/shop/shlomitofir

TESCO
www.tesco.com

THE CONTEMPORARY HOME
www.tch.net

THE MAKERY
themaker.co.uk

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Email us at crossstitcher@futurenet.com

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Welcome to the *CrossStitcher* reader ads page.
Here you can post pleas for help, find a home for your spare stash,
or track down pen pals and clubs in your area – all absolutely free!

Desperately seeking

I run a craft club for older ladies but we need donations – if you have any craft items, charts etc, please get in touch.

Ruth Johal, 18 Alfreda Avenue,
Hollywood, Birmingham B47 5BP

I am looking for the chart for the reindeer cake band kit from issue 245. If you could send it to me, please email.

Susan Griffiths,
Email: griff.108@btopenworld.com

I'm after the kit or chart of Elsa Williams Summer Music Counted Cross Stitch Kit. I am willing to pay the necessary costs. Please email if you can help.

Mandy Gill,
Email: mandygill.home@gmail.com

I am looking for two old charts from *CrossStitcher*. They are Relax with Archie from issue 172, April 2006, and Popcorn from issue 174, June 2006. If you can send them to me, please get in touch.

Celeste Day,
Email: celestehday@hotmail.com

I have the kit that came with *CrossStitcher* issue 196. It is titled Purrfect Partners and is by Margaret Sherry. However, I don't have the chart – if anyone could send it to me, that would be great.

Amy Benson,
Email: lds mama@msn.com

Up for grabs

I am an American woman living in France. I have all of the 447 DMC cotton flosses article 117, plus five discontinued colours. I propose one skein of each colour for 360 euros by a bank made-out cheque in euros or an international postal money order. If you are interested, please write before paying.

Judy Schultz, 2 bis chemin de Lopérec,
29100 Douarnenez, France

CrossStitcher issue 277 (April 2014) for sale – brand new in packaging with free gift. £3.50 plus p&p.

Michelle Jones,
Email: michelleynettejones@gmail.com

Get in touch

Hi, my name is Alexandra and I'm 28. I love cross stitching, crochet, reading, music and films. I would love to hear from people with similar interests or of a similar age in the UK.

Alexandra Pintican,
Email: alex_pintican@yahoo.com

Hi, I'm Sheila from Glasgow. I'm 57 and have a husband, two sons and two granddaughters. I love cross stitching, card making, reading, music and animals. I would like to hear from pen pals who like long chatty letters via snail mail.

Sheila, 52 Clifford Street, Flat 2/1,
Glasgow G51 1PB

I've lost my address book and would like to contact my old pen pals, so if you used to write to me please get in touch!

I'm also looking for new pals. I'm 69, and my hobbies include cross stitch, family history, reading and papercrafts. I'd especially like to hear from people in Devon, but am also keen to hear from those anywhere in the UK.

Carolyn Tory, 92 Old Northern Road,
Baulkham Hills 2153, NSW Australia

Hi! I'm Marta, a 21-year-old student from Poland. I like cross stitching and enjoy turning my pieces into cards and framed pictures. I also like books, films, music and walking in the forest. I am looking for pen pals of any age, from all over the world. All emails and letters answered.

Marta Truszkowska,
Email: ederleziz@gmail.com

Hi, my name is Frith Firman and I'm 58 years old. I enjoy cross stitching, card making, my Shetland sheepdogs and making new friends. I'm looking for pen friends both locally and abroad, about my age, with similar interests.

Frith Firman, PO Box 15,
Bannockburn, Victoria 3331,
Australia



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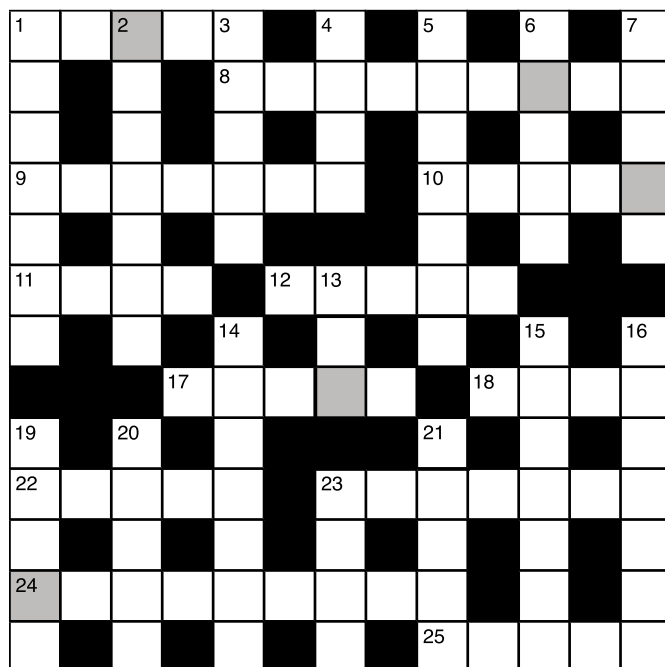
Prize crossword

Across

- 1 Strategic board game (5)
8 Embroidery with white thread (9)
9 Flue (7)
10 --- Claus, Father Christmas (5)
11 --- Blyton, children's author (4)
12 Punctuation mark (5)
17 Festive plant (5)
18 Christmas, ash or elm? (4)
22 --- board, card for stretching stitching (5)
23 Woman destined to inherit a fortune (7)
24 Essential (9)
25 Citrus fruit (5)

Down

- 1 You pull this over Christmas dinner? (7)
2 Show (artwork) (7)
3 Give out bright light (5)
4 Military force (4)
5 Small orange (7)
6 Extreme pain (5)
7 Rich dairy product (5)
13 Wise bird? (3)
14 Race (7)
15 Liberty (7)
16 Tightness of a stitch (7)
19 Improve, alter (5)
20 Rabbit's cage (5)
21 Plastic floor covering (5)
23 Scam (4)



Winning word clue: **This charming messenger might sit on top of your Christmas tree? (5)**

HOW TO ENTER

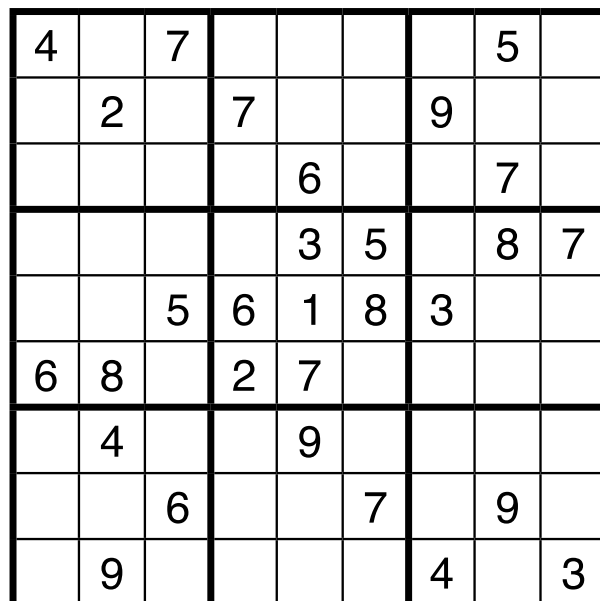
COMPLETE the crossword and rearrange the letters in the shaded boxes to make up a winning word. Then go to www.futurecomps.co.uk/pcw286 to enter online. Postal entries will not be accepted. Competition open **14 November - 11 December 2014**. For full terms and conditions, see page 85.



YOUR PRIZE Five winners will receive goodies from Madeira worth approximately £30. For stockist details, contact EQS on **0116 271 0033** or visit www.eqsuk.com

SUDOKU

USING logic and a process of elimination, fill the blank boxes with numbers so that each row, column and 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9 only once.



Issue 284's winning word **SPARKLER**

Winners: Vanita Roberts, County Antrim; Elizabeth Bamford, Northants; Jane Kirkby, E Yorks; Nataliya Wills, Somerset; Julie Peters, Cornwall

No.1
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- ♥ Cosy **Belle & Boo** scene to fill your home with warmth
- ♥ **Vintage lace** cushion and gifts in spring pastels
- ♥ On-trend **pineapple tote** with luxe sparkly threads
- ♥ **Quick-stitch fun:** keyrings, cute tags & kitten cards



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