

No.1 for trends

# CrossStitcher

IDEAS • STYLE • INSPIRATION

45

FRESH NEW  
PROJECTS



STITCH WHAT YOU  
*Love*

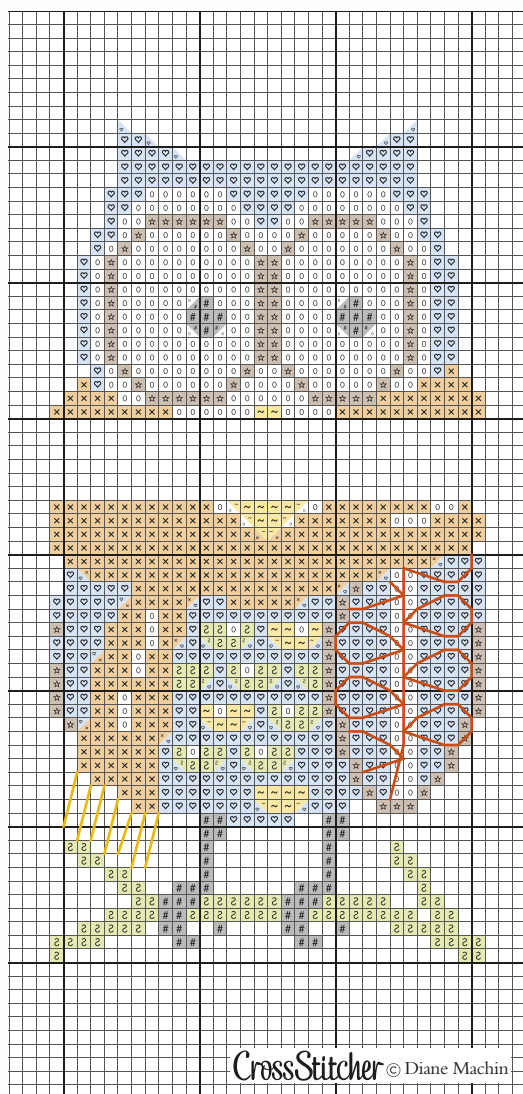
# MAKE OF THE MONTH

What a hoot! With our wise owl case and keeper, you'll always be able to find your scissors

Designed by: Diane Machin

Case design size: 10x6cm

Stitch time: 9 hours



CrossStitcher © Diane Machin

## Make a... scissor case

### Step 1

**CUT** your aida into the following sizes: 13x8cm for the owl's head, 9x8cm for the owl's body and 5x5cm for the scissor keeper. Cut your felt into these sizes: 13x8cm for the case and 5x5cm for the scissor keeper.

### Step 2

**STITCH** your design onto the aida, positioning the owl's head 1.5cm from the top of the fabric and centrally across. Position the body 1cm from the top of the aida and centrally across.

### Step 3

**HEM** the top of the body section by turning the top edge over 0.5cm twice and stitching in place with tiny stitches on the back.

### Step 4

**PLACE** the body right sides up on top of the owl's head fabric, matching the lower edges and sides. Place the felt right sides together with the owl.

### Step 5

**STITCH** together all the way round 0.5cm from the edge of the stitching but curving the top corners. Leave a small gap along one side for turning. Turn right sides out and slip stitch closed.

|                             | DMC   | Anchor | Madeira |
|-----------------------------|-------|--------|---------|
| Cross stitch in two strands |       |        |         |
| 0                           | White | 002    | 2402    |
| #                           | 414   | 235    | 1801    |
| 2                           | 472   | 253    | 1414    |
| x                           | 722   | 323    | 0307    |
| ~                           | 743   | 305    | 0113    |
| ♥                           | 827   | 160    | 1002    |
| ☆                           | 840   | 1084   | 1912    |
| Backstitch in two strands   |       |        |         |
| —                           | 743   | 305    | 0113    |
| scarf                       |       |        |         |
| Backstitch in one strand    |       |        |         |
| —                           | 722   | 323    | 0307    |
| pattern                     |       |        |         |

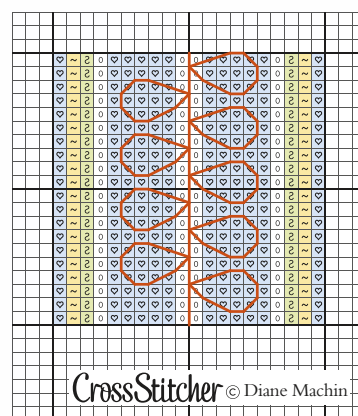
## Make a... scissor keeper

### Step 1

**PLACE** your stitched fabric right sides together with the felt back. Fold the cord in half to make a loop and put the two ends in one corner between the aida and felt.

### Step 2

**STITCH** together all the way round, leaving a small gap for turning. Turn right sides out, stuff, then slip stitch the gap closed. Loop the cord on your scissors.



CrossStitcher © Diane Machin





*Have a crafty pal? Stitch our case and add a good pair of scissors for a gift they'll love*

### Materials

- 14 count white aida, see step-by-step for sizing
- White felt, see step-by-step for sizing
- White cord
- Soft-toy stuffing

For stockist details see page 84

## NEXT MONTH

### FREE DRESS-UP GIRL CARD

Send a friend spring wishes with a cute card – accessorized with patterned fabrics!



ISSUE 289  
MARCH 2015

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6 February



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# Welcome

To a month of designs to fall in love with



## “LOVE WHAT YOU DO”

We're taking a broader view of love here at *CrossStitcher* HQ as we tumble head-over-heels towards the month of romance. February shouldn't just be the time for valentines (though of course, we've already chosen our favourites on page 64), it should be about all the things we love. Let's start with what we love to do – how about a celebration of cross stitch in cross stitch with a mini motto (2) to hang in your craft corner?

If someone you love is tying the knot this year, it's time to get to work on a special sampler. We have a very contemporary three-part design (3) that you can stitch in full or just select your favourite panel.

And if you haven't fallen in love with Paris already, you will when you make our vintage-style romantic sampler, mug cosy and quick-stitch keyring. Create it as a reminder of a special holiday – or maybe as a hint to a certain someone that you'd like to be swept away!

As always, please tell us about what you love to stitch best. We love to hear from you.

Happy stitching!

Jenny

JENNY DIXON  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

## Little birdies!

Just some of the little Mother's Day treats we have for you next issue. In shops 6 February



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[www.crossstitchermag.com](http://www.crossstitchermag.com)



A romantic reminder to tuck in your handbag!



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## THE SavvyStitcher

*Try something new every issue*

### 73 Pockets

Give crafty makes extra pizzazz with our easy ways to add pockets to pillows, pincushions and placemats

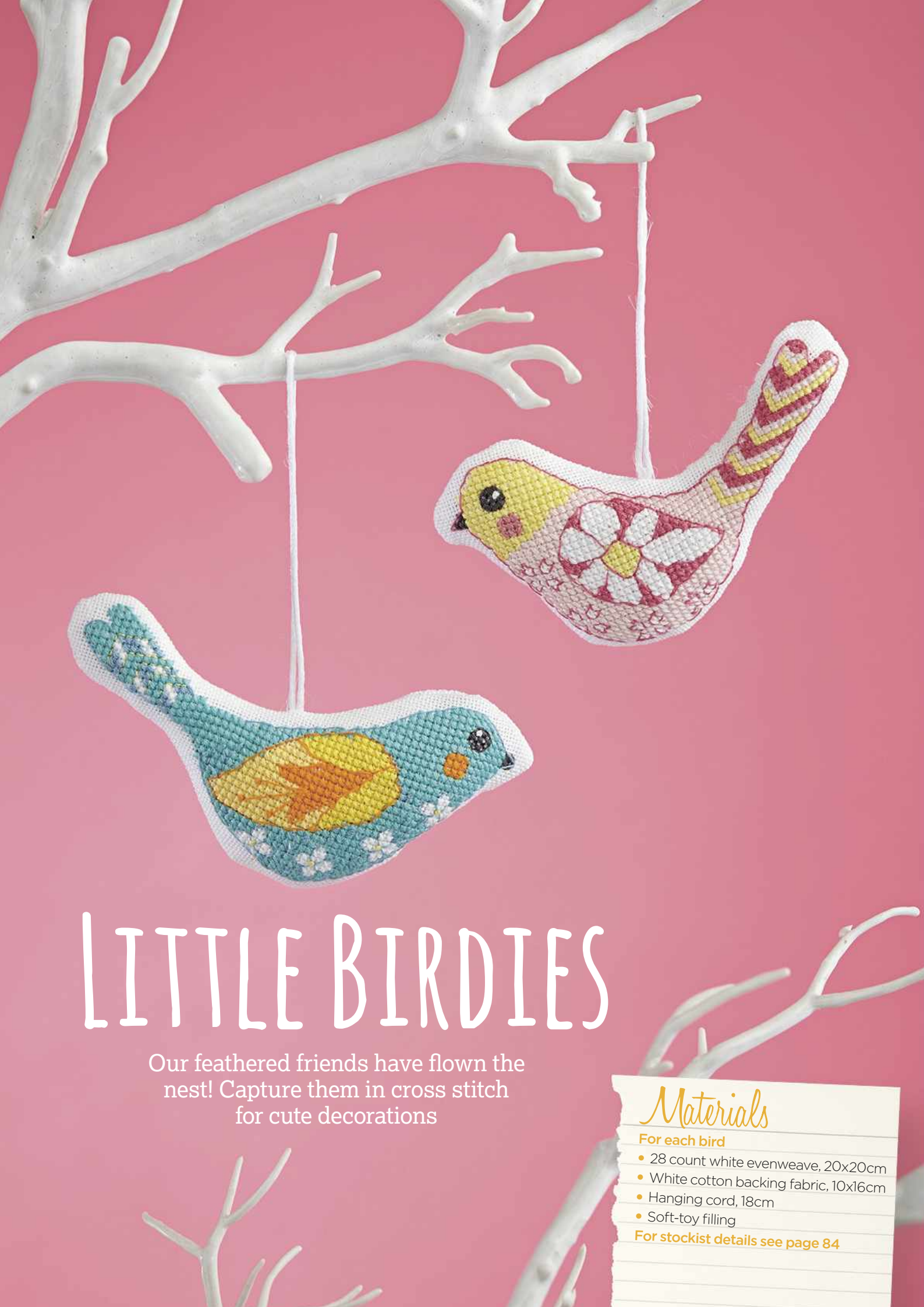


THE SAVVY  
STITCHER  
POCKETS

73







# LITTLE BIRDIES

Our feathered friends have flown the nest! Capture them in cross stitch for cute decorations

## Materials

### For each bird

- 28 count white evenweave, 20x20cm
- White cotton backing fabric, 10x16cm
- Hanging cord, 18cm
- Soft-toy filling

For stockist details see page 84



### Cross stitch in two strands

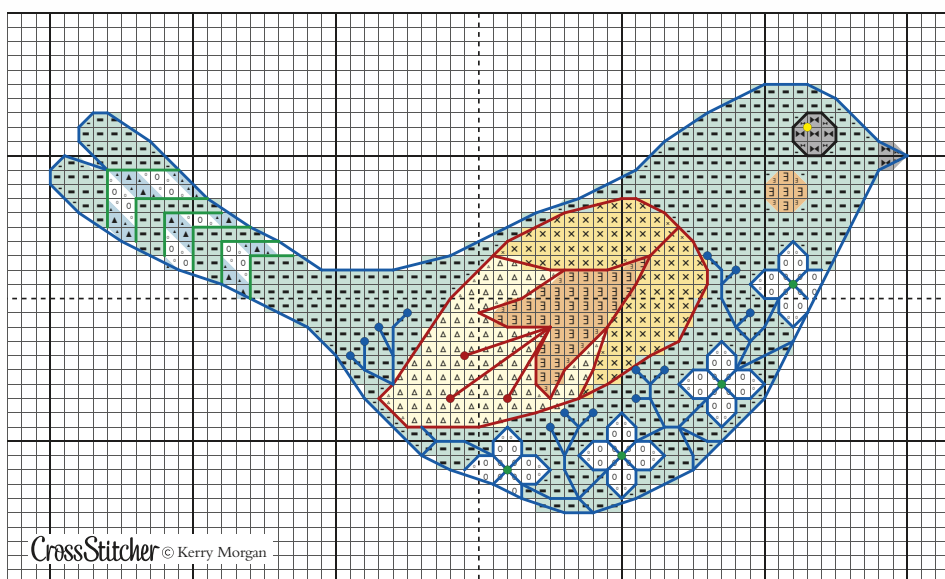
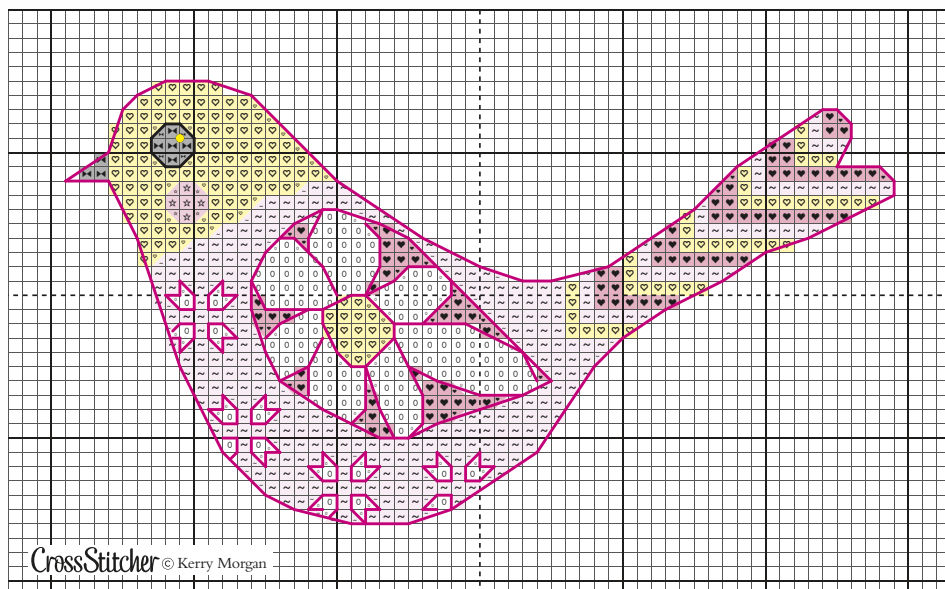
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|---|-------|------|------|
| 0 | White | 002  | 2402 |
| ▲ | 597   | 1064 | 1110 |
| ♥ | 602   | 057  | 0702 |
| × | 726   | 295  | 0109 |
| ♥ | 727   | 293  | 0110 |
| E | 740   | 316  | 0202 |
| △ | 744   | 301  | 0112 |
| ~ | 818   | 023  | 0502 |
| ■ | 959   | 186  | 1113 |
| ☆ | 962   | 075  | 0609 |
| ◀ | 3799  | 236  | 1713 |

### Backstitch in one strand

|   |                   |      |      |
|---|-------------------|------|------|
| — | 597               | 1064 | 1110 |
|   | right-facing bird |      |      |
| — | 602               | 057  | 0702 |
|   | left-facing bird  |      |      |
| — | 727               | 293  | 0110 |
|   | tail feathers     |      |      |
| — | 740               | 316  | 0202 |
|   | wing              |      |      |
| — | 3799              | 236  | 1713 |
|   | eyes              |      |      |

### French knots in two strands

|   |                  |      |      |
|---|------------------|------|------|
| ● | White            | 002  | 2402 |
|   | eyes             |      |      |
| ● | 597              | 1064 | 1110 |
|   | branches pattern |      |      |
| ● | 727              | 293  | 0110 |
|   | flower centres   |      |      |
| ● | 740              | 316  | 0202 |
|   | stamens          |      |      |



Designed by: Kerry Morgan Design size: 7x10cm each Stitch time: 3½ hours each

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

*These bird motifs  
would also make a  
sweet birthday card  
for a gal pal*

## Make a... 3D bird

### Step 1

**CUT** the evenweave to the same size as the backing fabric. Place the fabrics right sides together, enclosing the two ends of the cord at the centre top for a hanging loop.

### Step 2

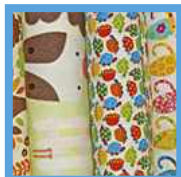
**STITCH** together all the way round, leaving a gap along one side for turning. Trim and clip the seams, then turn the bird right sides out, stuff and sew the opening closed.

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SPRING SHOWS SPRING SHOWS SPRING SHOWS SPRING SHOWS SPRING SHOWS



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SEWING  
& HOBBYCRAFTS**  
show



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for pleasure

**Fashion  
Embroidery  
& Stitch**



## STITCHING SEWING & HOBBYCRAFTS

EVENTCITY, MANCHESTER :: 6 - 8 FEBRUARY 2015

## STITCHING, SEWING & QUILTING/HOBBYCRAFTS

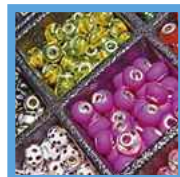
SECC, GLASGOW :: 5 - 8 MARCH 2015

## SEWING FOR PLEASURE/FASHION EMBROIDERY & STITCH/HOBBYCRAFTS

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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



## Perfectly poised

An Anglepoise. Super-sized. Could it get any better? Just the thing for brightening our craft corner, this lamp's gone straight to the top of our lust list. Find it, as well as the desk and other goodies pictured, over at Occa-Home.

[www.occa-home.co.uk](http://www.occa-home.co.uk)



## GET FRESH

**BRING SPRING** into your bedroom with this colourful bedding from the At Home with Ashley Thomas collection for Debenhams. We can't get enough of the cool mint and hot pink tones.

[www.debenhams.com](http://www.debenhams.com)



*Roll up, roll up!*

*Stitching our circus animals cushion on page 60 for a little one you know? Pair it with this beanbag from Woouf for hours of playtime fun.*

[www.cuckooland.com](http://www.cuckooland.com)



Photograph: notonthehighstreet.com

## STREETS OF PARIS

**IF YOU** love our Parisian gift set on page 16, we think you'll also adore this chic lampshade. Featuring a vintage-style map of the romantic city, it's been handmade in Devon and is sure to add a touch of *je ne sais quoi* to any room.

[www.notonthehighstreet.com/graceandfavourhome](http://www.notonthehighstreet.com/graceandfavourhome)



## VINTAGE STYLE

**TREASURE YOUR** sewing machine? Show it some TLC with this crafty cover – one of the tempting projects in our sister magazine *Cross Stitch Collection's* February issue, out now.

[craft.buysubscriptions.com](http://craft.buysubscriptions.com)

## BIRDS OF PARADISE

**INSPIRED BY** our Little Birdie decorations on page 8, we've put these glam coasters on our wish list. If you like them as well, be sure to check out the matching placemat, cushion and lampshade designs.

[www.homecandy.com](http://www.homecandy.com)



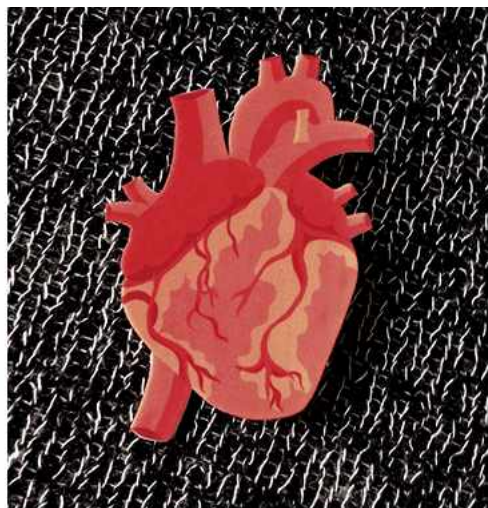
## Mini makes

**WE'VE DEVELOPED** a bit of an obsession with teeny hoops recently, so can't resist this cutie. Inspired by traditional 'home sweet home' samplers, it comes as a kit to stitch and you can choose from a brooch or necklace. A gorgeous accessory for spring!

[www.flossandmischief.com](http://www.flossandmischief.com)







## Heart of mine

**AFTER AN** unusual take on the traditional Valentine's motif? Pin this anatomical brooch to your jumper for a quirky look.

[www.thelittlematters.co.uk](http://www.thelittlematters.co.uk)

## TAKE A SEAT

**SURELY NO** stitcher could resist these French-style dining chairs! They're the perfect mix of craftiness and elegant luxe.

[www.notonthehighstreet.com/baroqueandroll](http://www.notonthehighstreet.com/baroqueandroll)



Photograph: notonthehighstreet.com

## TREND SPOTTING

with CrossStitcher production editor  
Jo Ryan



## WALK IN THE WOODS

### MUSHROOM AND TOADSTOOL

designs are popping up everywhere, so sprinkle a little forest magic in your home with these buys.

### WHO

Oliver Bonas is right on trend with this glass decoration, which comes in four sizes up to 38x23cm.

[www.oliverbonas.com](http://www.oliverbonas.com)



### WHAT

This printed cushion from George will give your craft chair extra squish.

[direct.asda.com](http://direct.asda.com)



### HOW

Keep cosmetics tidy on your travels with this monochrome zipped bag.

[www.paperchase.co.uk](http://www.paperchase.co.uk)

## THREE OF THE BEST *All my love*

Embrace Valentine's Day with these three love-inspired goodies we spotted on Etsy



### PISTACHIOPRESS

This letterpress-printed card features Dala horses made up of cross stitches. Perfect for friends or your Valentine!



Photograph: Andrea Radford

### ANDREARADFORDDESIGNS

Layered cross stitch – what a great idea! This print from an original stitched piece deserves pride of place in your home.



### CLOUDCRAFTSHOP

Makeover a cardi with these handstitched wooden buttons. Each one has different coloured threads for a unique look!



## Inside the mind of

# MR X STITCH

Robots creating cross stitch? Our crafty hero wades into the machine-embroidery debate

**W**e have a few robots in action this issue (see page 36). This got me thinking about how much technology is seeping into the world of needle and thread.

Sewing machines have become smarter and more technological, and in many ways it's terrific to think of the creative capabilities that are now available.

If you have a computer and the time to learn the methods, a whole world of possibilities opens up. Once you've got your head around stitch dimension and direction, you can play around with layering styles and create detailed work, without ever needing a thimble.

This kind of digitised technique has had a huge impact on cosplay – a type

cross stitch – no great surprise – but there aren't many examples of people using machines as the primary tool for this job.

I've had machines doing cross stitch at shows where I've been exhibiting, and it's been quite a polemic concept. Some people are fascinated as they watch the machine build a design with accuracy and speed. Others are not so impressed. I hear the phrase "you're cheating" a lot.

I can understand – a fundamental part of the pleasure of cross stitch is the process of stitching by hand. But I would query whether washing clothes in a machine is cheating, or whether driving rather than walking is cheating. It's just applying technology to a method, which normally leads to a quicker outcome.



DOLORES, MY MONTGOMERY WARD SEWING MACHINE



DIGITISED CROSS STITCH MADE BY A MACHINE – PRETTY NEAT, DON'T YOU THINK?

“I don't think the world of cross stitch has much to fear from the robot future”

of performance art. Amateur costumiers are able to embellish their designs with all kinds of patterns and shapes. While there's nothing quite like the slow craft of hand embroidery to create an epic effect, it's good to know some technical barriers are slowly subsiding.

But what's all this got to do with cross stitch, I hear you ask. It's a fair question. I've been playing around with digital machine embroidery software for a couple of years and have explored making cross stitch on a machine. I realise that's a controversial statement and I hope you're sitting down while reading it. It's true, machines can make

If someone produces cross stitch and claims it to be a handicraft when it's machine-made, that is cheating. But for those of us who are exploring the intersection between digital production and needlework, it's an exciting frontier.

I don't think the world of cross stitch has much to fear from the robot future; the process of stitching engages people in profound ways. But there's a lot of scope with machines and it's a genre that has barely started to find its feet.

If you're interested in this topic, be sure to check out two columns – Ghost in the Embroidery Machine and Gear Threads – on my website.

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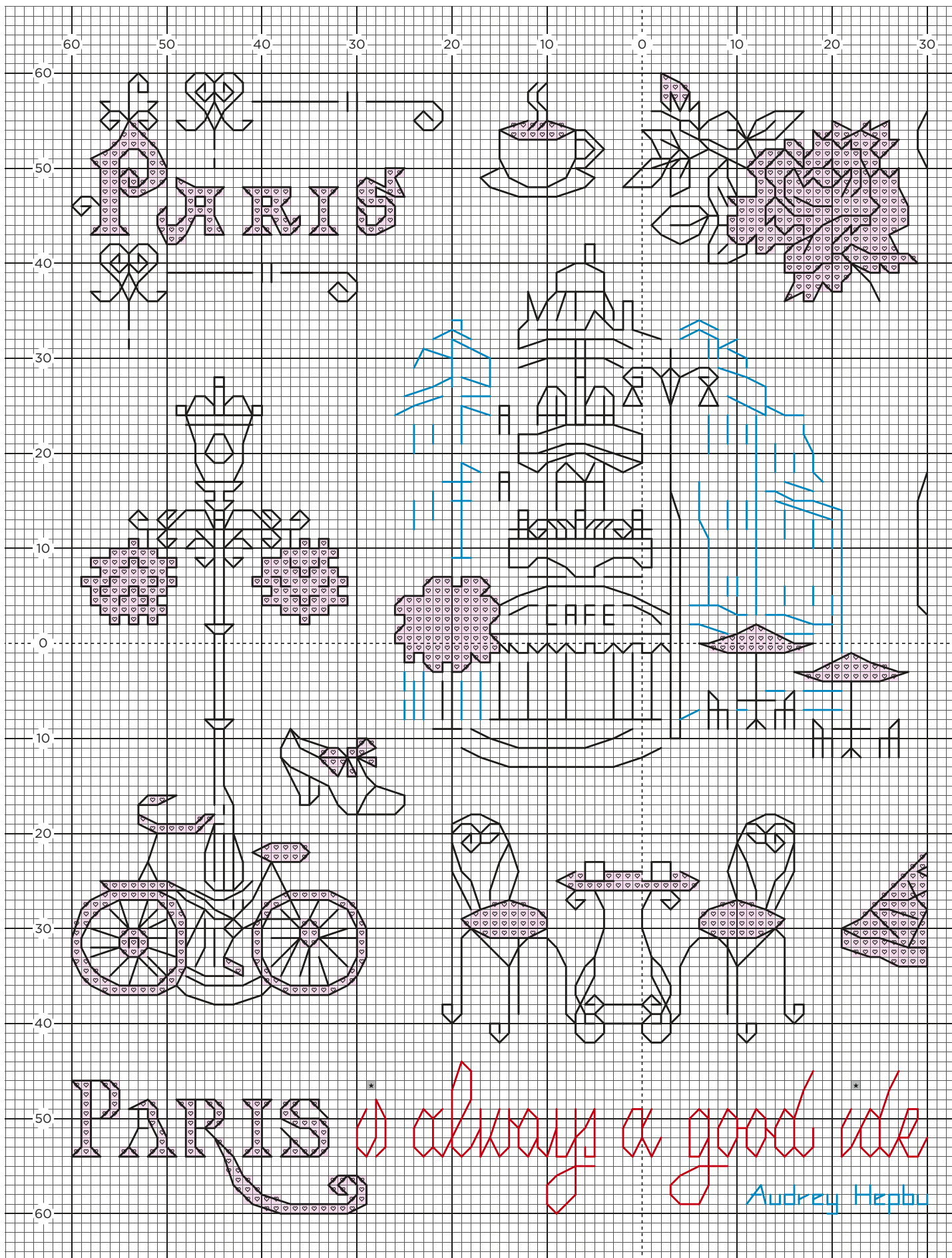




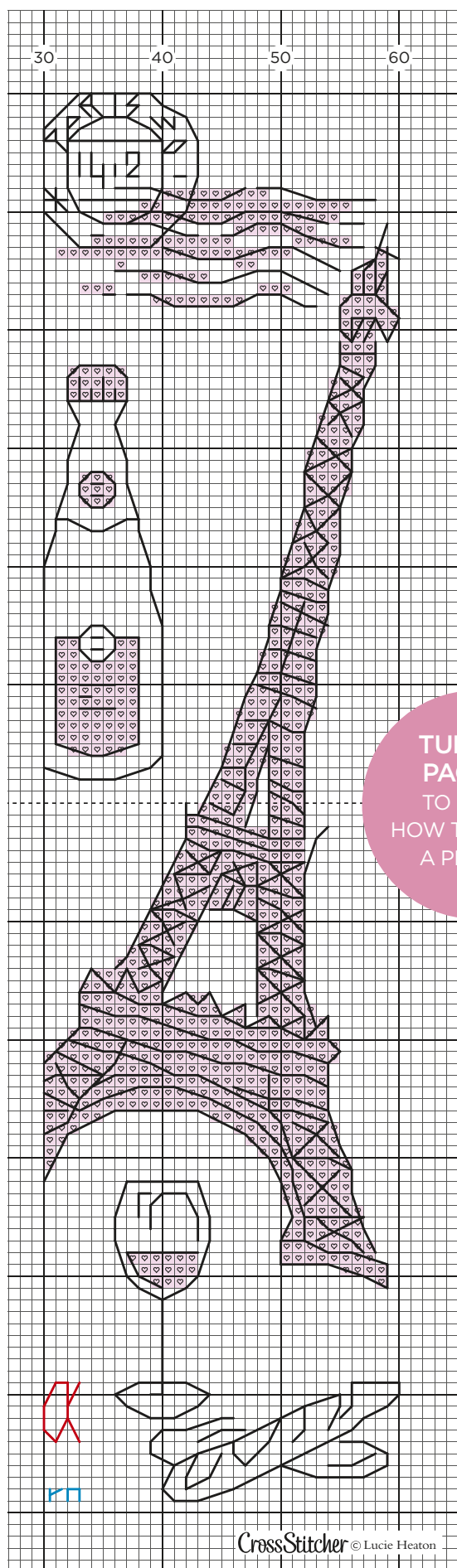
# *J'adore Paris*

Ooo la la. Treat someone special to our souvenir-style picture, keyring and mug cosy full of vintage romance

Designed by: Lucie Heaton  
 Picture design size: 22x22cm Stitch time: 16 hours







TURN TO  
PAGE 58  
TO LEARN  
HOW TO FRAME  
A PICTURE



|                             | DMC  | Anchor | Madeira  |
|-----------------------------|------|--------|----------|
| Cross stitch in two strands |      |        |          |
| ★                           | 317  | 400    | 1714     |
| ♥                           | 3689 | 049    | 0607 (2) |
| Backstitch in two strands   |      |        |          |
| —                           | 317  | 400    | 1714     |
| lettering                   |      |        |          |
| Backstitch in one strand    |      |        |          |
| —                           | 317  | 400    | 1714     |
| all other details           |      |        |          |
| —                           | 414  | 235    | 1801     |
| lettering, building         |      |        |          |

(2) indicates more than one skein required

Stitch your favourite Paris  
motif for a quick-make  
birthday card

## Materials

### Picture

- 28 count white evenweave, 45x45cm
- Wooden frame
- Mount board

For stockist details see page 84



## Materials

### Mug Cosy

- 28 count white evenweave, 20x30cm
- White cotton backing fabric, 10x27cm
- Pink ribbon
- Pink button

For stockist details see page 84





## Make a... mug cosy

### Step 1

**TRIM** your stitching to 10x27cm. Place your backing fabric on top, right sides in, and sew along the top, bottom and right side. Turn right side out.

### Step 2

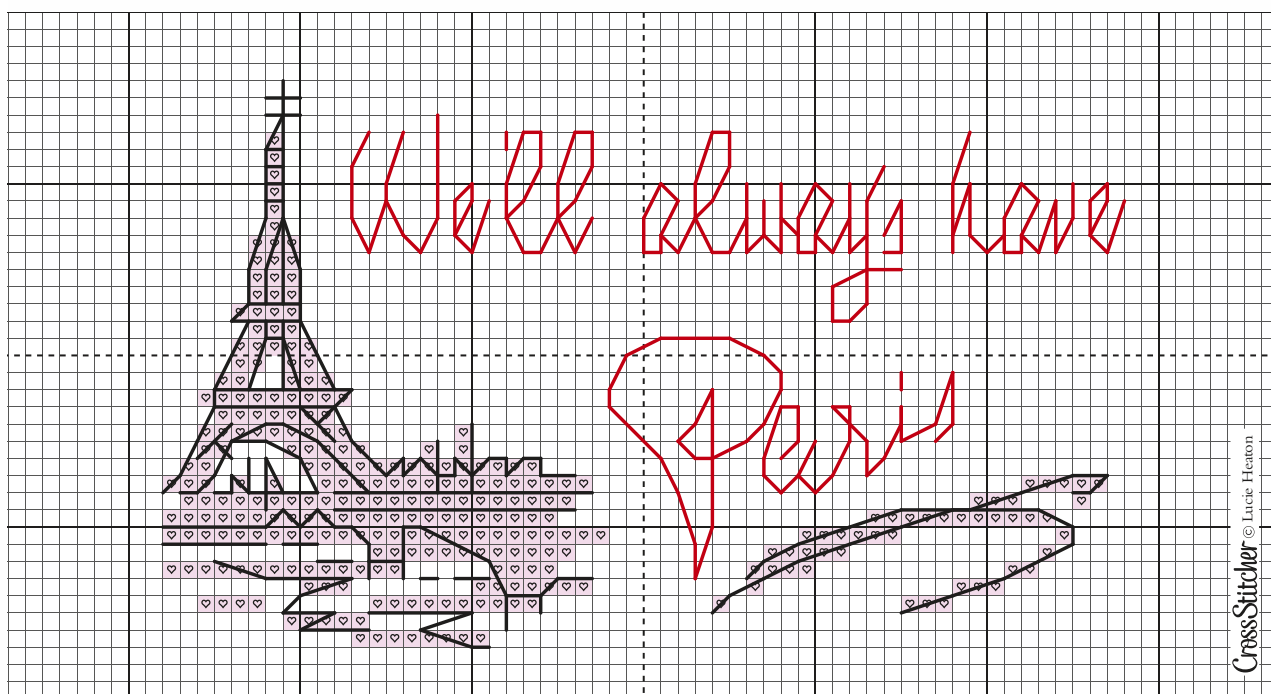
**PRESS** under the remaining raw edges. Fold the ribbon in half to make a loop to fit over your button. Tuck the ends into the unstitched side, then top stitch down.

### Step 3

**STITCH** the button to the other side. Wrap the cosy around your mug and loop the ribbon around the button to hold in place.

|                                                                                     | DMC               | Anchor | Madeira |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|--------|---------|
| Cross stitch in two strands                                                         |                   |        |         |
|    | 3689              | 049    | 0607    |
| Backstitch in two strands                                                           |                   |        |         |
|  | 317               | 400    | 1714    |
|                                                                                     | lettering         |        |         |
| Backstitch in one strand                                                            |                   |        |         |
|  | 317               | 400    | 1714    |
|                                                                                     | all other details |        |         |

*Got a favourite mug? Make your cosy fit by measuring its circumference. Then add a seam allowance and cut your fabric to this length*



CrossStitcher © Luce Heaton



## Make a... keyring

### Step 1

**TRIM** your stitching 2cm outside the edges, then cut your backing fabric to the same size.

### Step 2

**FOLD** the ribbon in half to make a loop. Place the ends right sides together at the top of the fabric, and place your backing fabric right side down on top. Stitch all the way round, leaving a gap.

### Step 3

**TURN** right sides out, stuff and sew up the gap. Finally, thread the split ring through the ribbon loop.

*Hang a Paris-themed charm  
from your keyring for a  
cute finish*

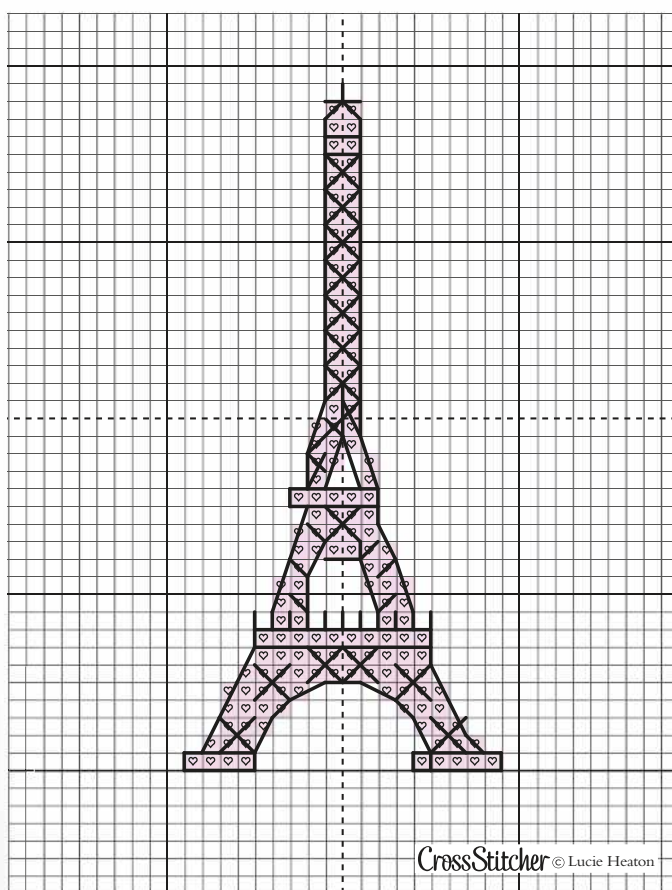
|                             | DMC  | Anchor | Madeira |
|-----------------------------|------|--------|---------|
| Cross stitch in two strands |      |        |         |
| ♥                           | 3689 | 049    | 0607    |
| Backstitch in one strand    |      |        |         |
| —                           | 317  | 400    | 1714    |
| all details                 |      |        |         |

## Materials

### Keyring

- 28 count white evenweave, 20x20cm
- White cotton fabric, 11x8cm
- Stuffing
- Pink spot ribbon, 7cm
- Split ring

For stockist details see page 84



CrossStitcher © Lucie Heaton







Marianne's cross stitch is 3D and super-sized



*An interview with...*

# Marianne Van Ooij

Meet the Dutch designer whose giant cross stitch-style map installation put a 21st-century spin on the traditional craft

Interview by **Jessica Bateman**

**F**ans of Pinterest will have spotted a picture of a huge wall map formed of cross stitch decals being pinned a lot recently. Putting an interior design twist on the technique, this installation filled the lobby of the Dutch Design Hotel Artemis in Amsterdam.

It was created by Dutch designer Marianne Van Ooij, whose work includes textiles, ceramics, furniture and more. We sat down to find out about her creative background and what inspired her to take cross stitching off fabric and on to walls.



**Tell us a bit about yourself**

I am a Dutch product designer living and working in Brooklyn, New York. I design, teach and am part of a creative consultancy, which is a group striving to provide products and services that matter.

**What gave you the idea to use cross stitch designs in your work?**

One day, after I'd been to a design show and was immersed in creative ideas, I was researching a clothing project. As I flicked through fashion books, I had the idea of using cross stitches for decor.

**How did the cross stitch wall decals come about?**

Umbra, the company that produces the cross stitches, had asked me to look into ideas for wall decor, so I sent them this idea. They loved it immediately.

**Tell us about the cross stitch map**

The Dutch Design Hotel Artemis invited me to take part in a show in their lobby and asked me to fill a rather large wall space with 'something'. After considering different ideas, I realised the cross stitches would be perfect.

The idea for the map came from the pattern on a collection of my vases that were also being exhibited there. It took about five hours to install and it's made up of 1,000 crosses.

When we were almost finished, one of the local people helping me insisted we make three crosses on the map red – the symbol of Amsterdam – which was a great idea.





Left: three red crosses symbolise Amsterdam

Above and right: 1,000 crosses and no aida grid, but still not a wonky stitch in sight



“It’s always enjoyable when your work inspires people to open up about their own experiences”

It was fun to hear the comments of hotel staff and visitors and watch their reactions. It’s always enjoyable when your work inspires people to open up about their own experiences and ideas.

#### Do you practice stitching or any other crafts in your spare time?

My mother taught me how to sew clothing at an early age – I made my first pair of trousers when I was 11. I have also knitted big parts of my wardrobe. But most of that is in the past now.

I’m less skilled in needlecraft – in my hands, things tend to start looking messy really quickly!

#### How would you describe the creative cultures in Brooklyn and the Netherlands?

The countries and their cultures are definitely different – more so than I had imagined before moving. But

both are characterised by a focus and energy to get things done and to explore new things.

If pressed, I would say that in the US people design for practical use, while the Dutch start from a more conceptual perspective.

Here in New York, I find there’s a collaborative spirit, while in the Netherlands designers tend to approach their work as individuals.

#### Who or what gives you inspiration for your work?

My inspiration usually comes from an idea or a concept. That can be anything, but I often start by exploring our perception and behaviour, or by looking into a product’s production method or intended use.

I then try to look for ways to incorporate this information into the final design, and to find the right means to express it.

#### You work in many disciplines.

##### Do you have a favourite?

My main concern is the expression of an idea or the telling of a story, so the medium comes second. I like how this gives me the opportunity to explore different techniques.

#### Who are your creative heroes and why?

I’m in awe of the numerous unnamed designers who created the beautiful and timeless Chinese ceramics from the Ming period. Even after 600 years the work still looks contemporary, which I find extraordinary.

#### What’s next for you?

I’m excited about exploring the opportunities offered by 3D printing, as well as looking back in history to find inspiration for new ceramic work.

[www.studiooooj.com](http://www.studiooooj.com)





# Sew in Love

Stitching your No.1 passion? Course it is!  
Show your adoration with our crafty tribute

Designed by: Emma Congdon

Design size: 9x9cm

Stitch time: 5 hours

|                             | DMC  | Anchor | Madeira |
|-----------------------------|------|--------|---------|
| Cross stitch in two strands |      |        |         |
| ☆                           | 318  | 235    | 1802    |
| ♥                           | 552  | 099    | 0713    |
| ~                           | 554  | 095    | 0711    |
| 0                           | 822  | 390    | 1908    |
| ×                           | 3819 | 278    | 2703    |

TURN TO  
PAGE 58  
TO LEARN  
HOW TO FRAME  
A PICTURE

Our design would  
also be perfect  
as a card for a  
crafty pal



CrossStitcher © Emma Congdon

## Materials

- 28 count white linen, 30x30cm
- Wooden frame
- Mount board

For stockist details see page 84

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

# Your stitching

Drop us a line to pin your projects into our album!  
Email your photos to [crossstitcher@immediate.co.uk](mailto:crossstitcher@immediate.co.uk)



I made this Love Bug cushion from CrossStitcher's June 2013 issue as a birthday gift for my brother.  
Anna Wiekowska, via email



I have stitched this butterfly necklace, which was the cover gift with issue 282. I can't wait to wear it!  
Dheivanai Nagappan, via email



I stitched this doll design from the February 2014 issue and made her into a cushion for my daughter.  
Justyna Flos, via email



Here's the camel I stitched from issue 21. The project was a card, but I decided to frame it for my wall.  
Suzy Butler, via email



I fell in love with this patchwork sampler from issue 222. I stitched it on gingham aida to match the design.  
Anna Szwedzinska, via email



This beautiful design from issue 201 was ideal for grandchild number five – I made it into a birth sampler.  
Janine Rickards, via email



Here are some gift tags I have made to give little girls. I've added their initials in the corners.  
Violetta Rucińska, via email



I love this little bunny from issue 277. I couldn't decide what colour to stitch it in, so now I have two!  
Agnieszka Gozdecka, via email

## Stay in touch...

[crossstitchermag.com](http://crossstitchermag.com)



[facebook.com/CrossStitcherMag](https://facebook.com/CrossStitcherMag)



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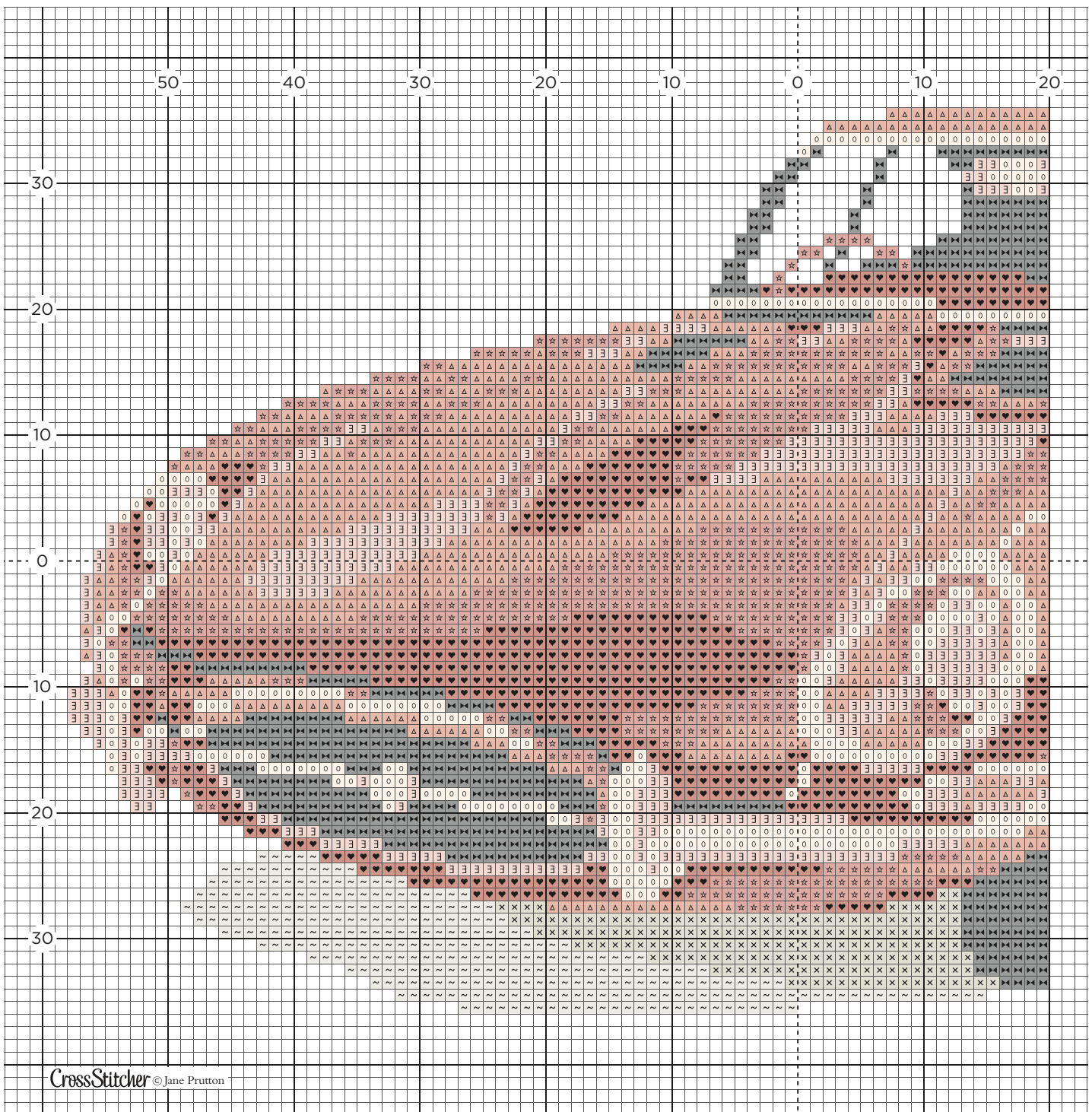
[pinterest.com/xstitchmagazine](https://pinterest.com/xstitchmagazine)



# Retro WHEELS

All guys love a classic car! Treat your man this Valentine's to our red sporty model. Vroom vroom!



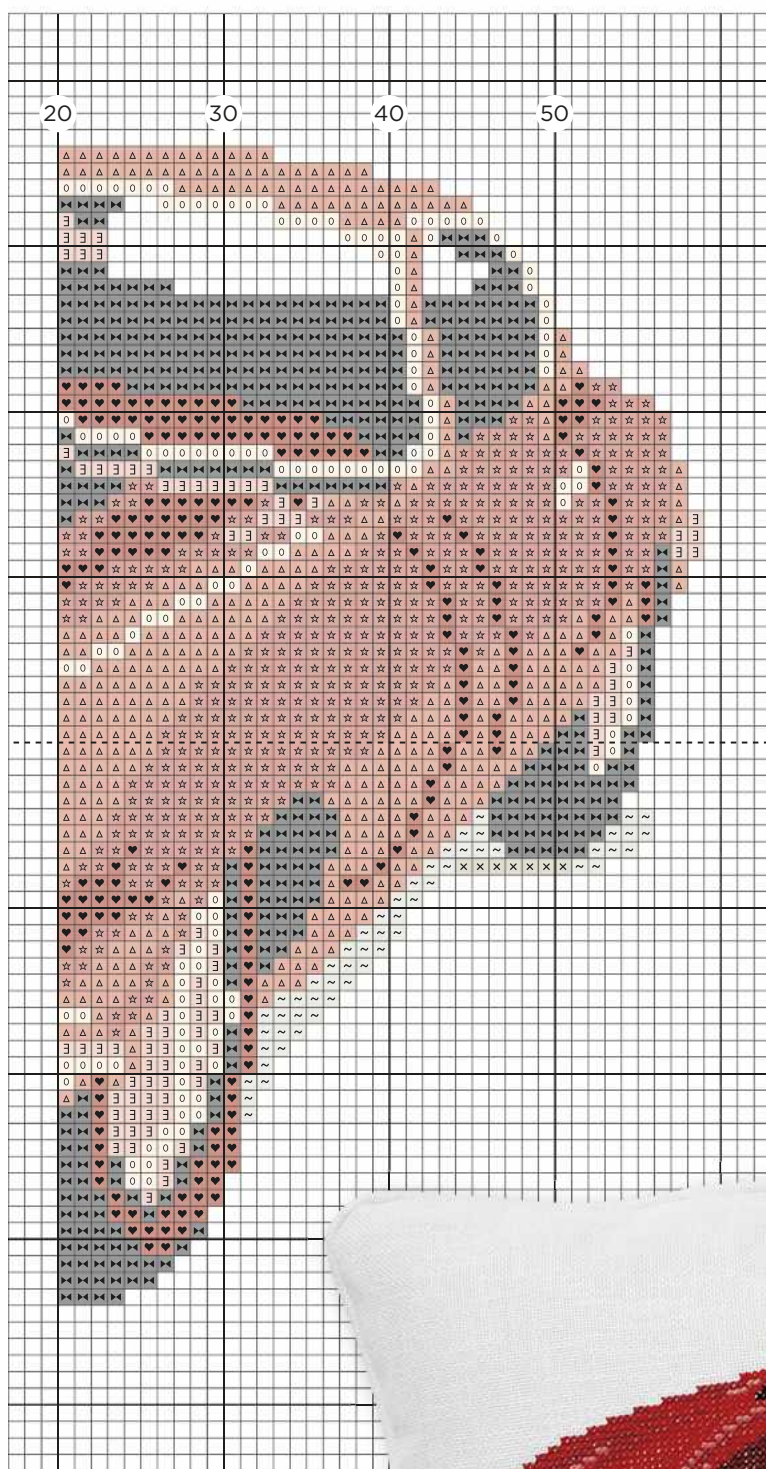


## Materials

- 19 count antique white evenweave, 40x50cm
- Cotton backing fabric, two pieces 21x42cm
- Off-white bias binding, 180cm
- Piping cord, 180cm
- Cushion pad, 30x40cm

For stockist details see page 84





Designed by: Jane Prutton

Design size: 20x31cm

Stitch time: 28 hours

|                              | Anchor | DMC  | Madeira  |
|------------------------------|--------|------|----------|
| Cross stitch in four strands |        |      |          |
| ★                            | 019    | 304  | 0407 (2) |
| ♥                            | 022    | 815  | 2501 (2) |
| E                            | 033    | 3706 | 0409     |
| ~                            | 390    | 3033 | 1907     |
| x                            | 391    | 3782 | 1906     |
| ⋈                            | 403    | 310  | 2400     |
| 0                            | 926    | 712  | 1908     |
| △                            | 9046   | 666  | 0510 (2) |

(2) indicates more than one skein required





**TURN TO  
PAGE 63  
TO LEARN  
HOW TO MAKE  
AN ENVELOPE  
CUSHION**

*Rather hang your car on the wall?  
Opt for a modern frame in a bold  
co-ordinating colour*

## Make a... **piped cushion**

### Step 1



**WRAP** your bias binding around the piping cord and pin the long edges of the strip together. If you can't find bias binding in a matching colour, cut strips of leftover evenweave and sew them together into a long strip.

### Step 2



**SWITCH** to a machine zipper foot, which allows you to sew closer to the piping cord than a traditional foot. 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 31x42cm. Pin your piping cord in place on the cushion front, cutting notches in excess fabric at the corners. Trim the piping away from the overlap end and nest the fabric over the other end.

### Step 4



**PLACE** your stitching right sides together with two hemmed pieces of backing fabric, then pin. Machine sew as close to the edges of the piping as possible. Turn right sides out and insert your cushion pad to finish.





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**knit & stitch it 15**

**27th February-1st March 2015**

**FIVE, Farnborough**

*www.knitandstitch-it.org.uk*

## The Exhibition for needle crafters, stitchers and knitters

*Three fun-filled days of Craft  
Inspiration.*



**Make it a date in your diary**

27 February - 1 March 2015, 10am-5pm  
(3.30pm Sunday)

**FIVE, Farnborough, Hants, GU14 6XL**

**Book in advance and save**

1 day adult pass £7.50, 1 day concession pass £6  
Concession, over 60, registered disabled & students

3 day adult pass £15, 3 day concession pass £12  
3 day pass offered on a "three for the price of two" basis -  
only available in advance

Accompanied U16's free of charge

**How to book**

www.make-it.org.uk or call 08444 771 000  
NB. Small booking fee applies

Group bookings call 01784 212 887  
(10 persons or more)



# CrossStitcher Digital Edition







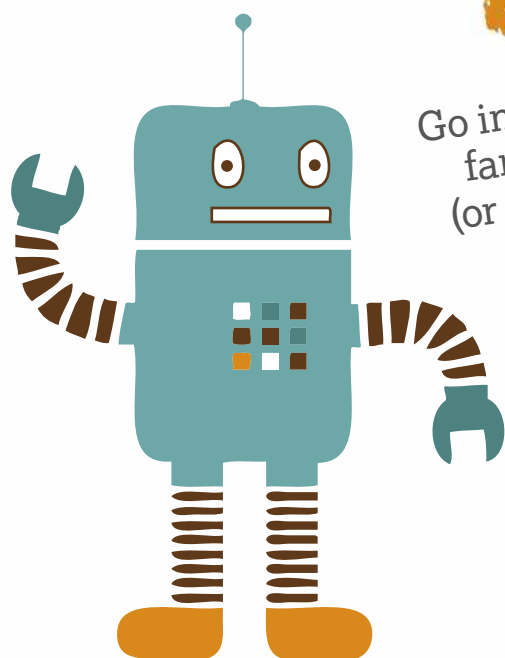
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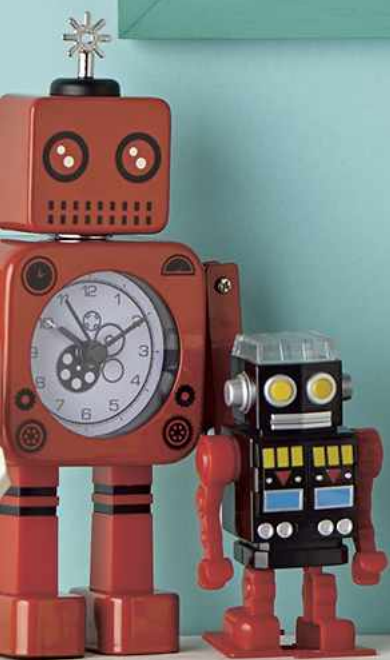
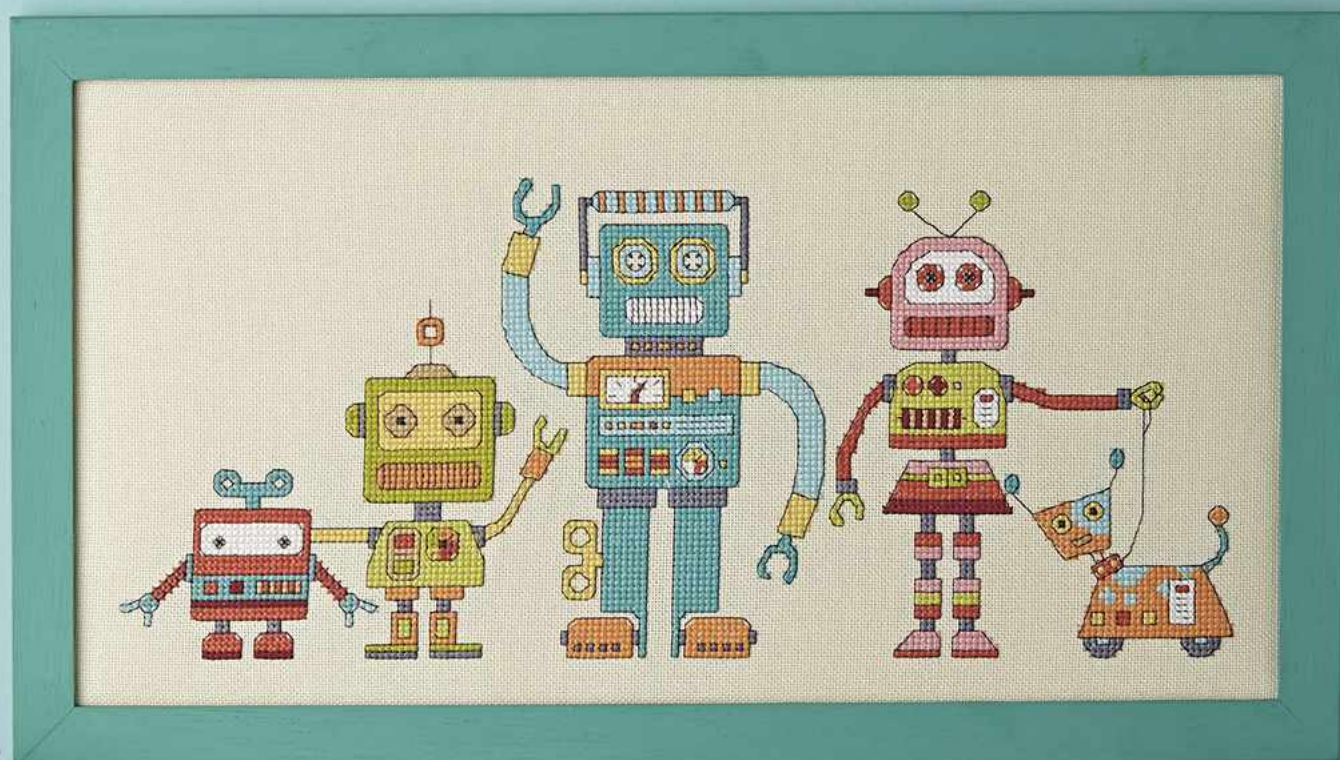
# ROBO PALS



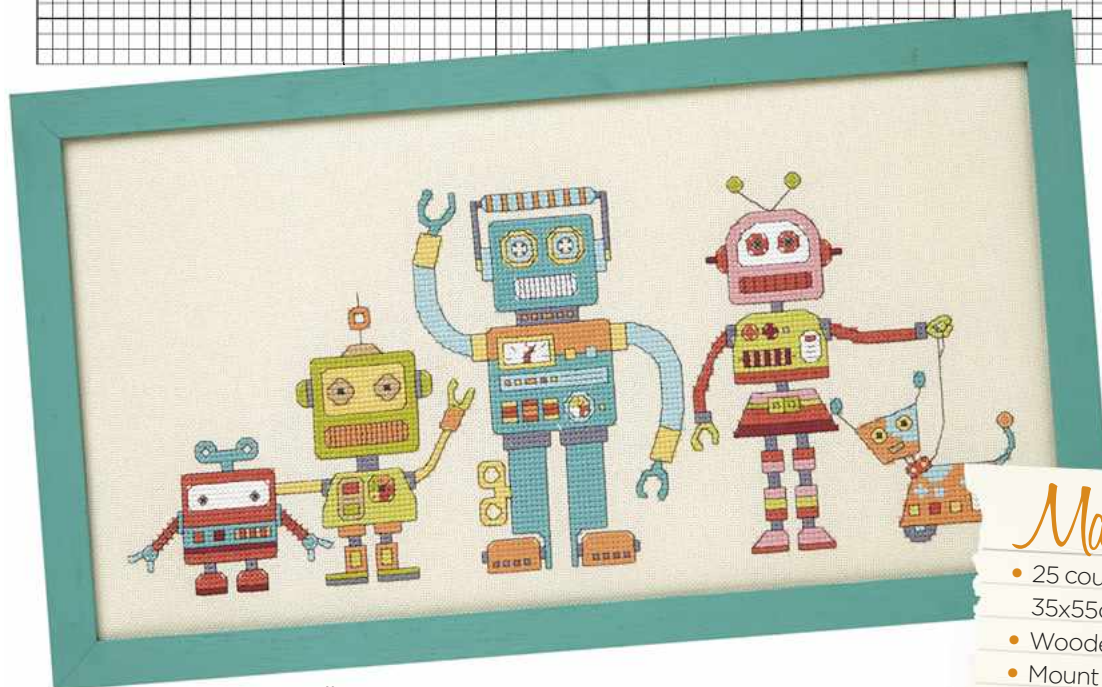
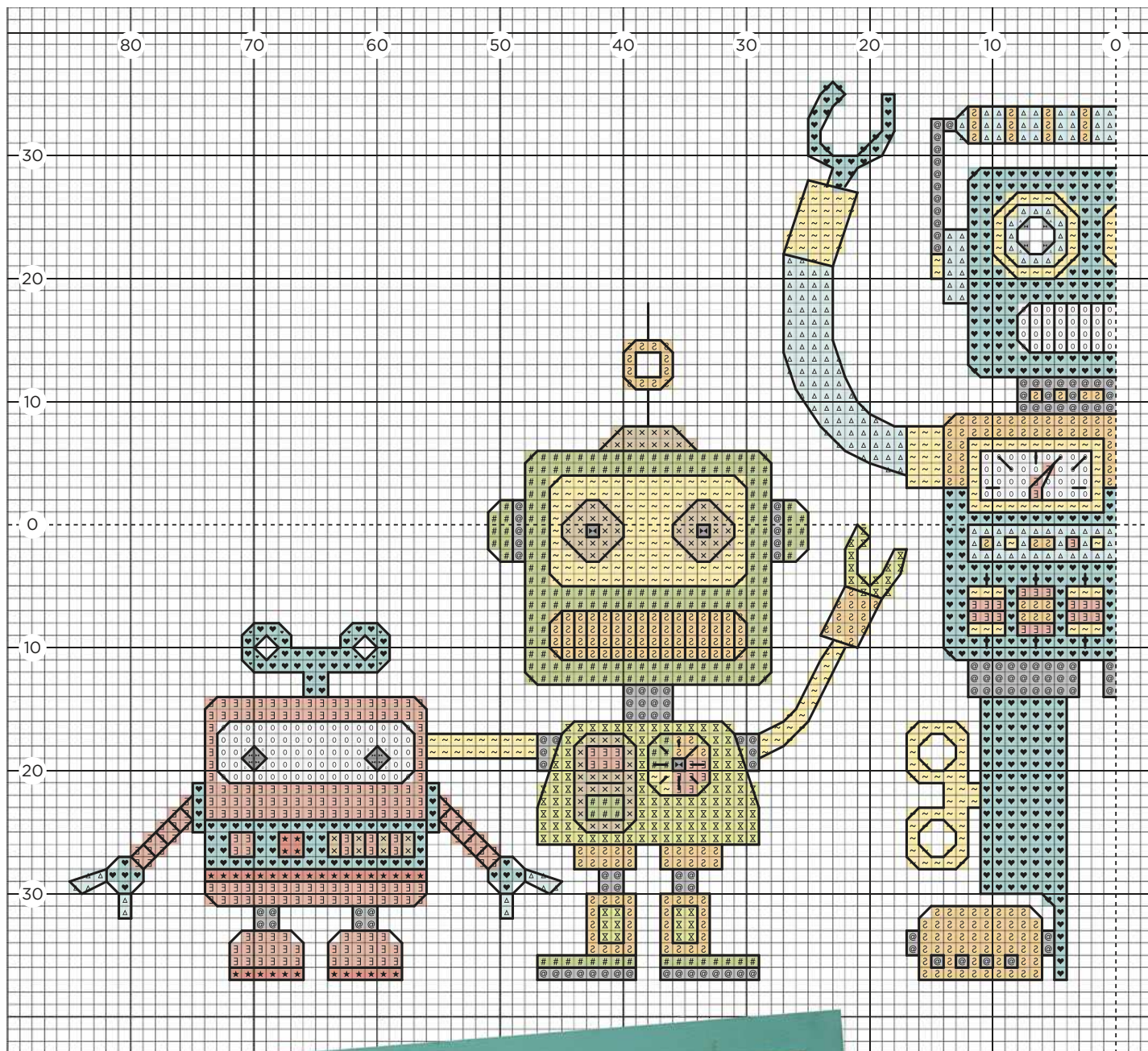
Go intergalactic with our space-age family – perfect for a little kid's (or grown-up kid's) bedroom wall



*Our robots would make a great sampler  
for a new baby - just stitch their name and  
birth date underneath*







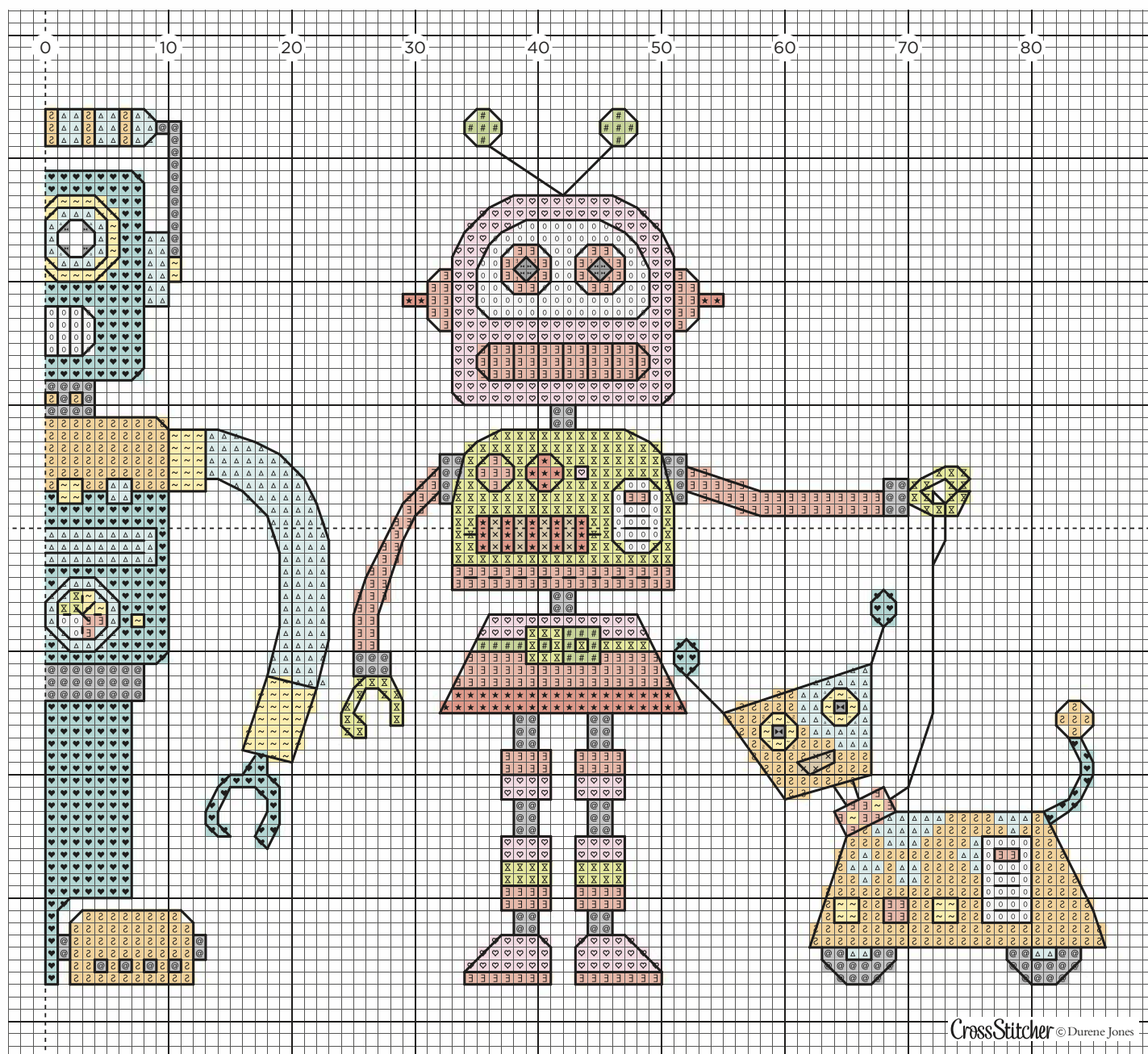
**TURN TO  
PAGE 58**  
TO LEARN  
HOW TO FRAME  
YOUR PICTURE

## Materials

- 25 count deep cream evenweave, 35x55cm
- Wooden frame
- Mount board

For stockist details see page 84





CrossStitcher © Durene Jones

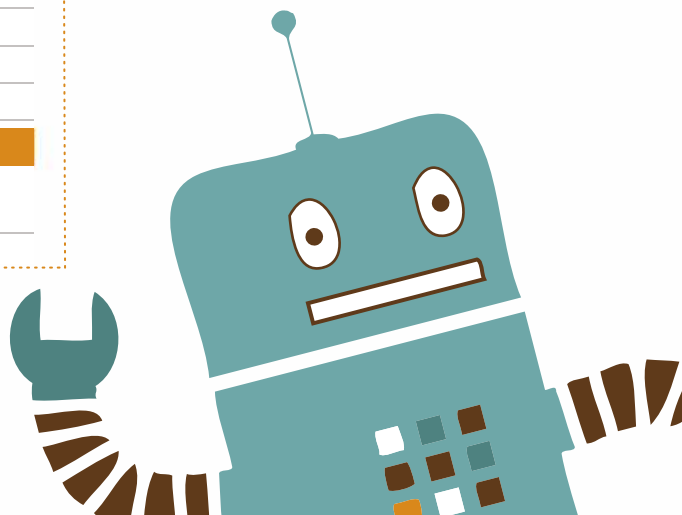
| DMC                           | Anchor | Madeira  |
|-------------------------------|--------|----------|
| Cross stitch in three strands |        |          |
| 0                             | White  | 002 2402 |
| #                             | 166    | 279 1308 |
| E                             | 351    | 010 0214 |
| @                             | 414    | 235 1801 |
| x                             | 422    | 372 2102 |
| 2                             | 722    | 323 0307 |
| ★                             | 816    | 043 0512 |
| ♥                             | 958    | 187 1114 |

| DMC                           | Anchor | Madeira  |
|-------------------------------|--------|----------|
| Cross stitch in three strands |        |          |
| △                             | 964    | 185 1112 |
| ♥                             | 3326   | 036 0813 |
| ✕                             | 3799   | 236 1713 |
| ⌘                             | 3819   | 278 2703 |
| ~                             | 3822   | 295 0112 |
| Backstitch in one strand      |        |          |
| —                             | 3799   | 236 1713 |
| all details                   |        |          |

Designed by: Durene Jones

Design size: 15x34cm

Stitch time: 25 hours





# Pocket Pandas

Ahhh. Give a cosy scarf some cuteness  
with our mummy and baby bears



Designed by: Sarah Cookland  
 Mummy design size: 17x11cm  
 Baby design size: 8x5.5cm  
 Stitch time: 3¼ hours each

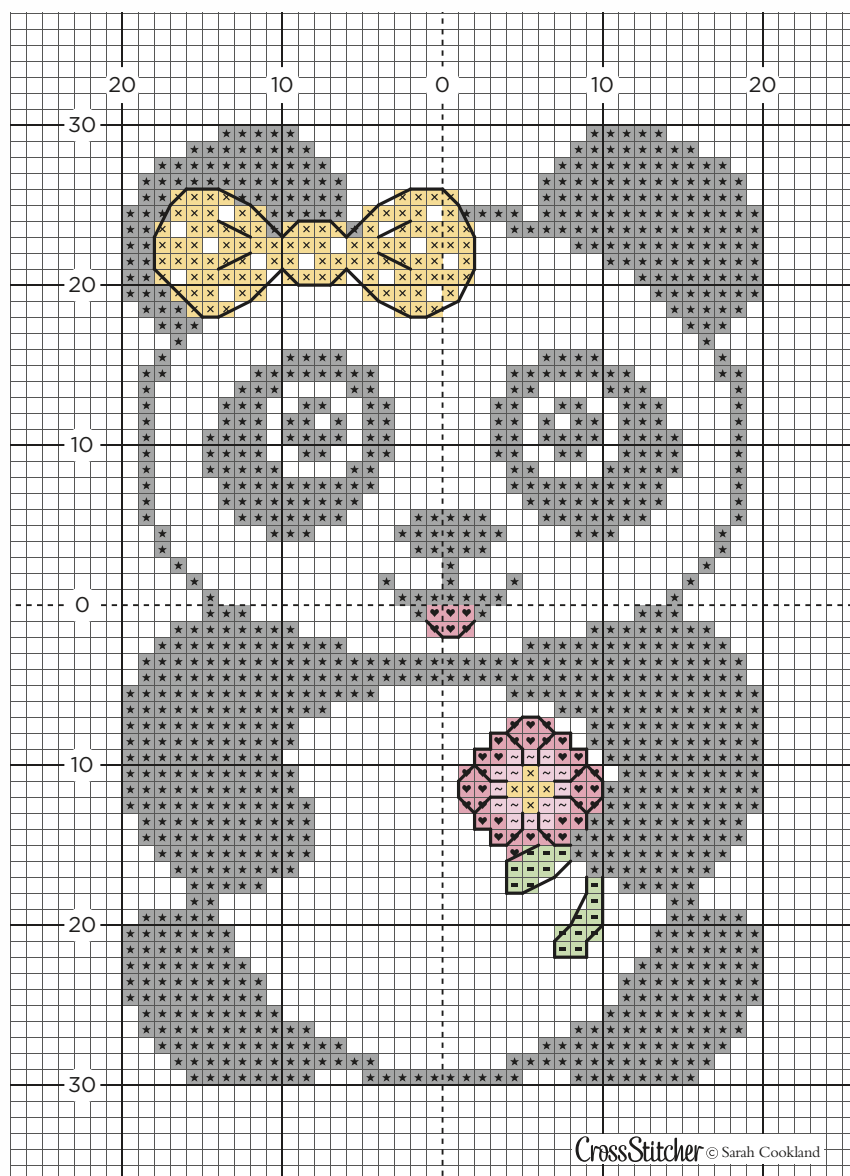
|   | DMC | Anchor | Madeira  |
|---|-----|--------|----------|
| ★ | 310 | 403    | 2400 (2) |
| ■ | 702 | 226    | 1306     |
| ~ | 957 | 050    | 0612     |
| ♥ | 961 | 076    | 0610     |
| × | 972 | 298    | 0107     |

Backstitch in two strands  
for 18 count evenweave

Backstitch in one strand  
for 36 count linen

|   |             |     |      |
|---|-------------|-----|------|
| — | 310         | 403 | 2400 |
|   | all details |     |      |

(2) indicates more than one skein required



CrossStitcher © Sarah Cookland

## Make a... panda scarf

### Step 1

**DRAW** around the outside of your stitching on the wrong side, giving the panda straight sides and curving around the legs and ears.

### Step 2

**PLACE** right sides together with the backing fabric and stitch around your drawn line, leaving a gap. Turn right sides out, stuff, then sew the opening closed.

### Step 3

**MAKE** pockets in your scarf by turning one end up and stitching down the sides and two thirds of the way along. Then pop your pandas inside.

We stitched the flower with the mummy and the bow with the baby, but you can stitch any combo you like

## Materials

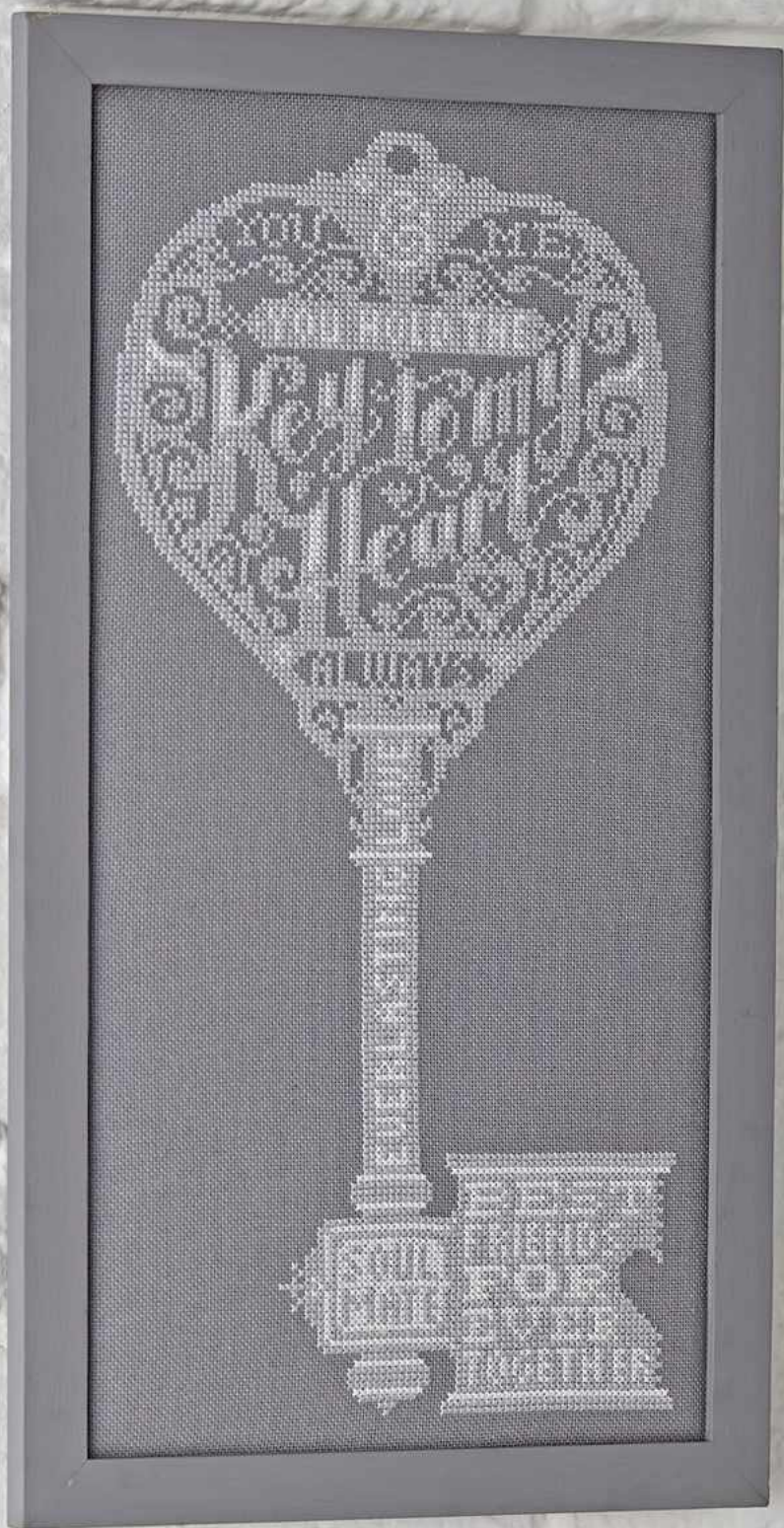
### Mummy panda

- 18 count white evenweave, 40x30cm
- White cotton backing fabric, 23x17cm
- Soft-toy filling

### Baby panda

- 36 count white linen, 25x20cm
- White cotton backing fabric, 14x12cm
- Soft-toy filling

For stockist details see page 84

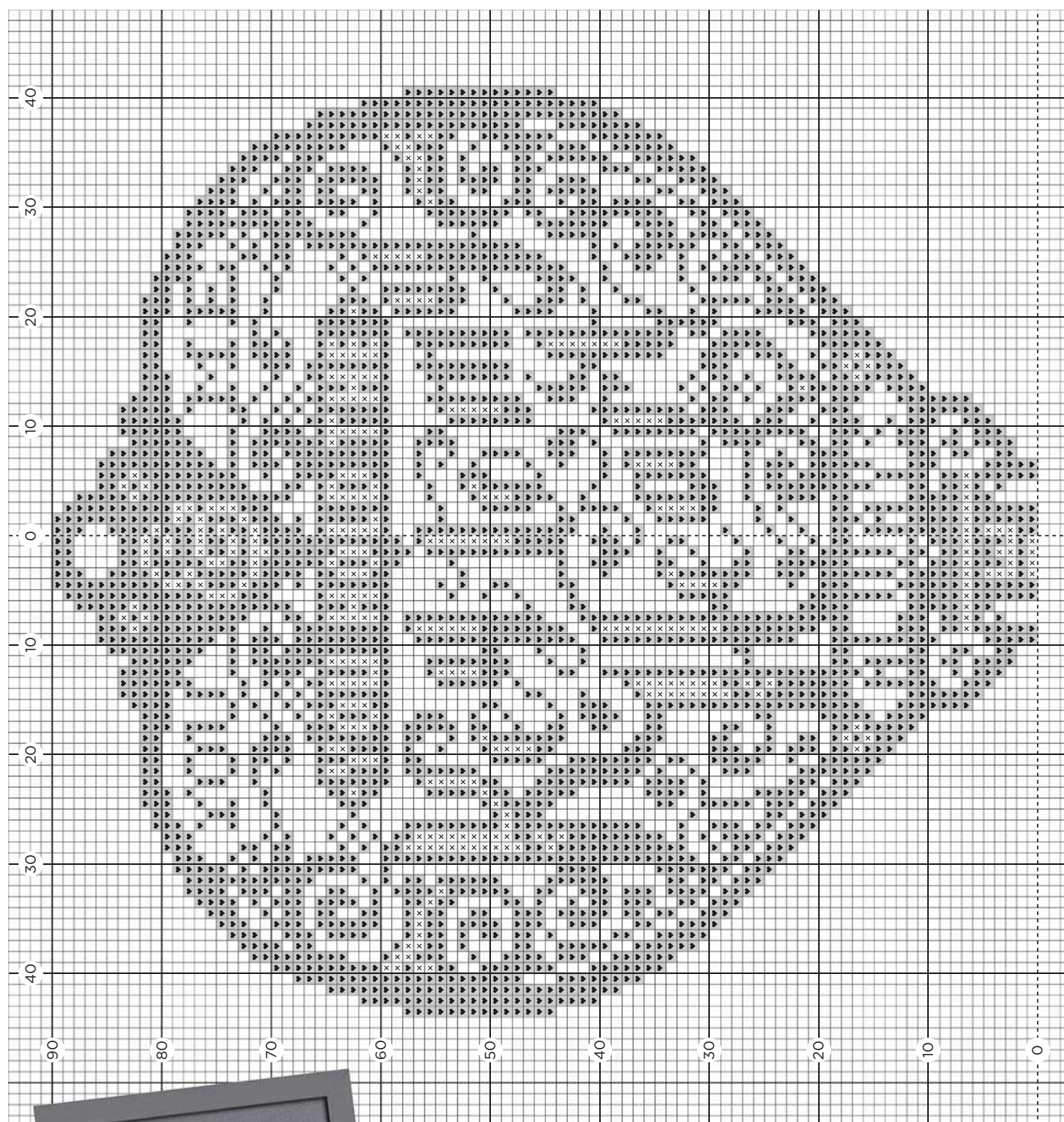






# Locked on you

Found Mr Right? Celebrate your XXL  
love with our XXL typographic key



*Have a bright home? Change  
your fabric and thread colours  
for the perfect match*

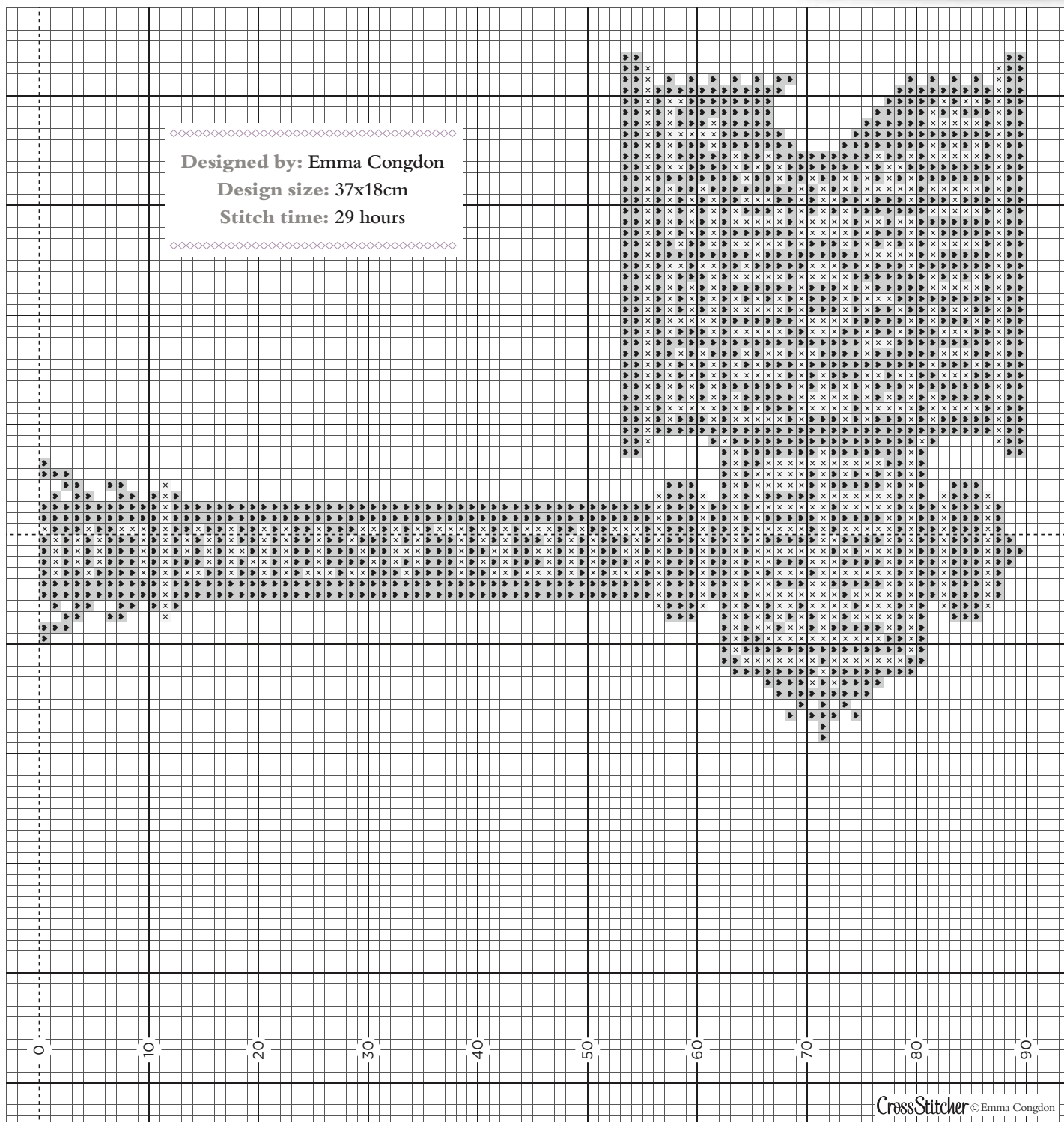
**TURN TO  
PAGE 58**  
TO LEARN HOW  
TO FRAME  
YOUR PICTURE



Designed by: Emma Congdon

Design size: 37x18cm

Stitch time: 29 hours



CrossStitcher © Emma Congdon

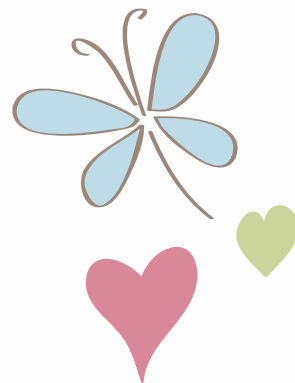
|                               | DMC   | Anchor | Madeira  |
|-------------------------------|-------|--------|----------|
| Cross stitch in three strands |       |        |          |
| ✕                             | White | 002    | 2402     |
| ♥                             | 415   | 398    | 1802 (4) |

(4) indicates more than one skein required

## Materials

- 25 count grey evenweave, 50x35cm
- Wooden frame
- Mount board

For stockist details see page 84



# Love Story

The title 'Love Story' is written in a brown cursive font. It is surrounded by decorative elements: a light blue flower and a pink heart to the left, a pink heart and a light blue flower to the right, and a green flower above.

Friend getting married? Celebrate the new  
Mr & Mrs with our special wedding trio  
– and a glass of bubbly!







Designed by: Lesley Teare

Max design size: 19x14cm

Max stitch time: 24 hours each

|                             | DMC  | Anchor | Madeira |
|-----------------------------|------|--------|---------|
| Cross stitch in two strands |      |        |         |
|                             | 310  | 403    | 2400    |
|                             | 369  | 1043   | 1309    |
|                             | 563  | 208    | 1207    |
|                             | 564  | 206    | 1208    |
|                             | 602  | 057    | 0702    |
|                             | 604  | 055    | 0614    |
|                             | 644  | 391    | 1814    |
|                             | 746  | 275    | 0101    |
|                             | 963  | 023    | 0503    |
|                             | 3021 | 905    | 1904    |
|                             | 3811 | 1060   | 1111    |

#### Backstitch in two strands

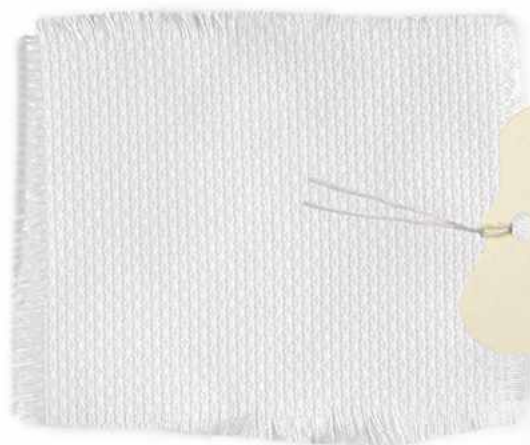
|           |     |     |      |
|-----------|-----|-----|------|
|           | 640 | 393 | 1905 |
| lettering |     |     |      |

#### Backstitch in one strand

|                   |     |     |      |
|-------------------|-----|-----|------|
|                   | 310 | 403 | 2400 |
| eyes              |     |     |      |
|                   | 602 | 057 | 0702 |
| lips              |     |     |      |
|                   | 640 | 393 | 1905 |
| all other details |     |     |      |

#### French knots in two strands

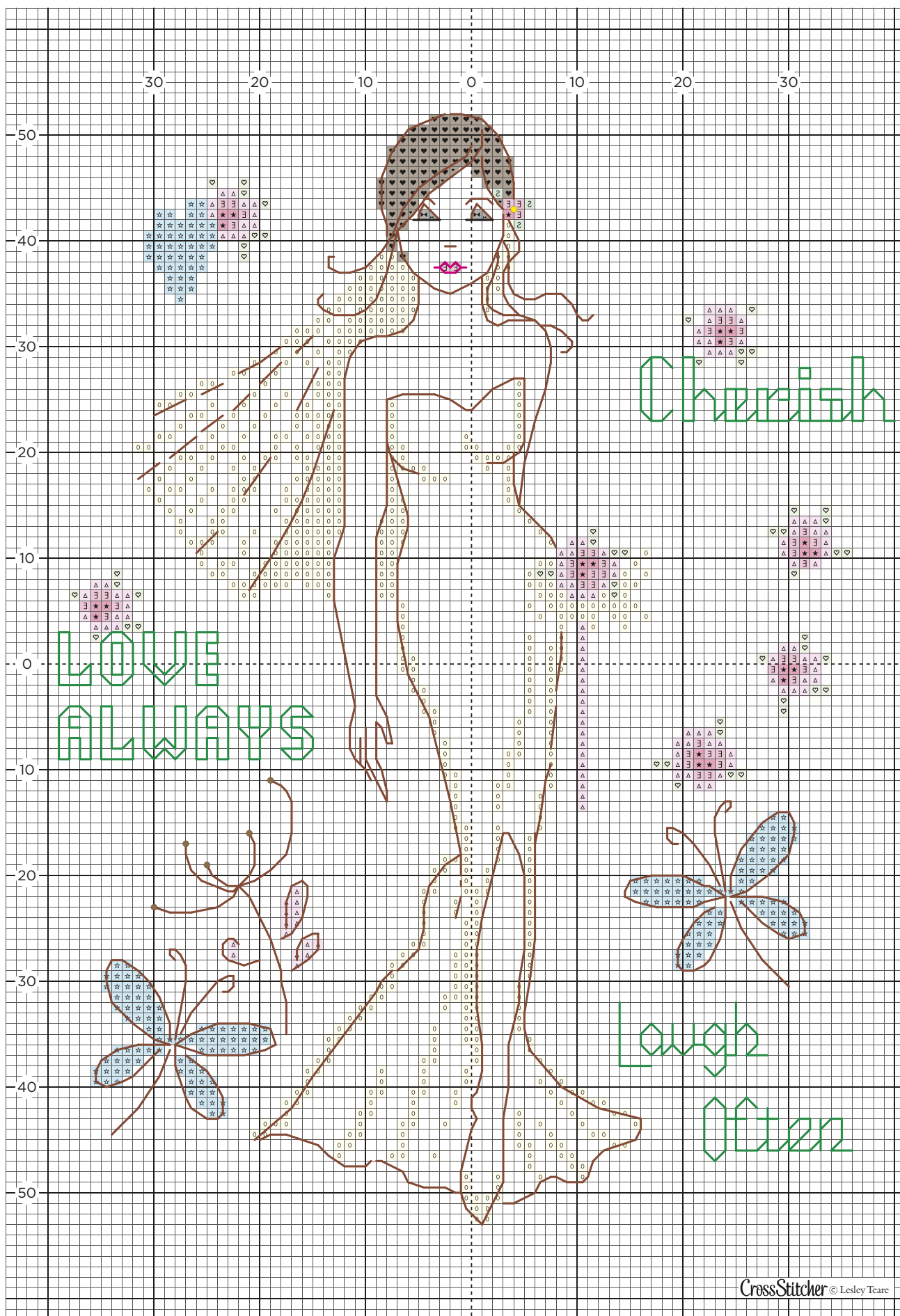
|                |     |     |      |
|----------------|-----|-----|------|
|                | 640 | 393 | 1905 |
| plants         |     |     |      |
|                | 746 | 275 | 0101 |
| flower in hair |     |     |      |



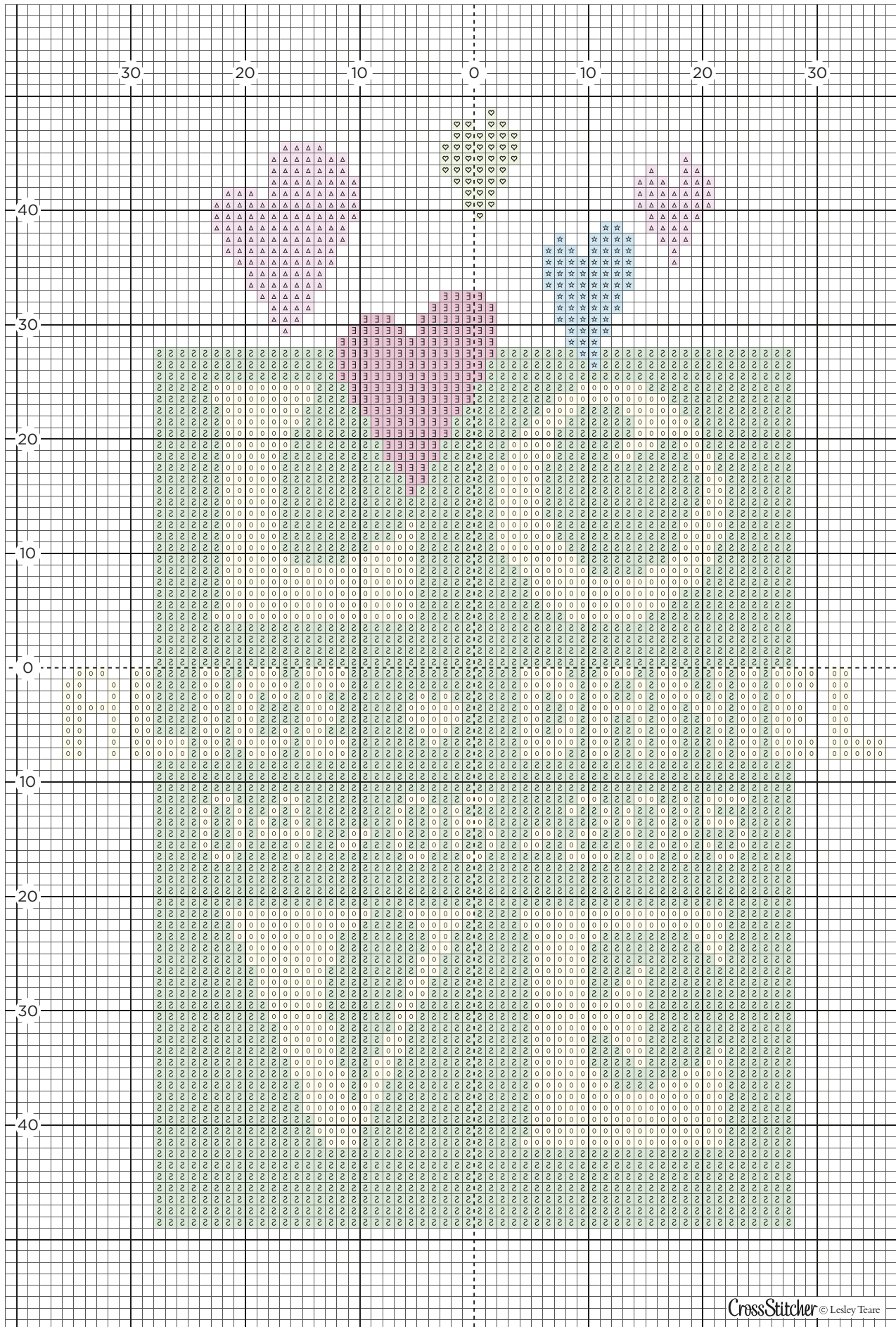
Stitch it on aida!  
If you prefer  
stitching on aida  
use a 14 count  
white aida







# LOVE STORY



CrossStitcher © Lesley Teare



|                             | DMC  | Anchor | Madeira |
|-----------------------------|------|--------|---------|
| Cross stitch in two strands |      |        |         |
|                             | 310  | 403    | 2400    |
|                             | 369  | 1043   | 1309    |
|                             | 563  | 208    | 1207    |
|                             | 564  | 206    | 1208    |
|                             | 602  | 057    | 0702    |
|                             | 604  | 055    | 0614    |
|                             | 644  | 391    | 1814    |
|                             | 746  | 275    | 0101    |
|                             | 963  | 023    | 0503    |
|                             | 3021 | 905    | 1904    |
|                             | 3811 | 1060   | 1111    |

## Backstitch in two strands

|           |     |     |      |
|-----------|-----|-----|------|
|           | 640 | 393 | 1905 |
| lettering |     |     |      |

## Backstitch in one strand

|                   |     |     |      |
|-------------------|-----|-----|------|
|                   | 310 | 403 | 2400 |
| eyes              |     |     |      |
|                   | 602 | 057 | 0702 |
| lips              |     |     |      |
|                   | 640 | 393 | 1905 |
| all other details |     |     |      |

## French knots in two strands

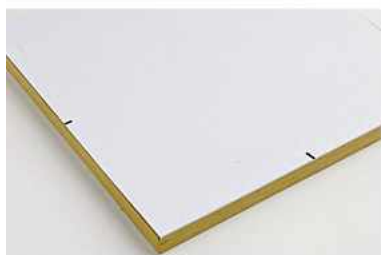
|                |     |     |      |
|----------------|-----|-----|------|
|                | 640 | 393 | 1905 |
| plants         |     |     |      |
|                | 746 | 275 | 0101 |
| flower in hair |     |     |      |



No time to stitch all three? Pick your favourite for a faster finish

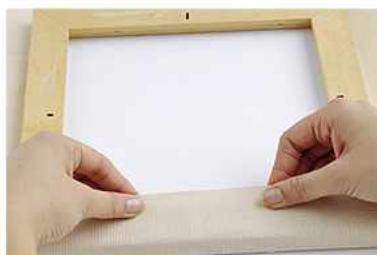
## Make a... stretched canvas frame

### Step 1



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

### Step 2

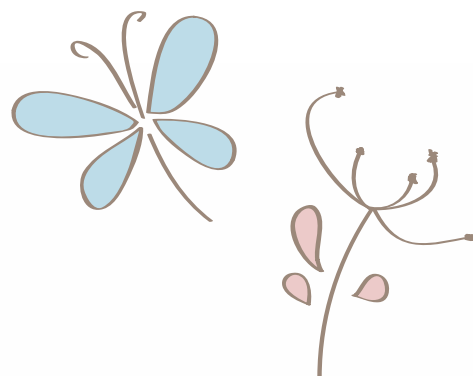


**PLACE** double-sided tape on the back of the frame. Mark and match up the bottom corners on the frame and fabric edges.

### 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.



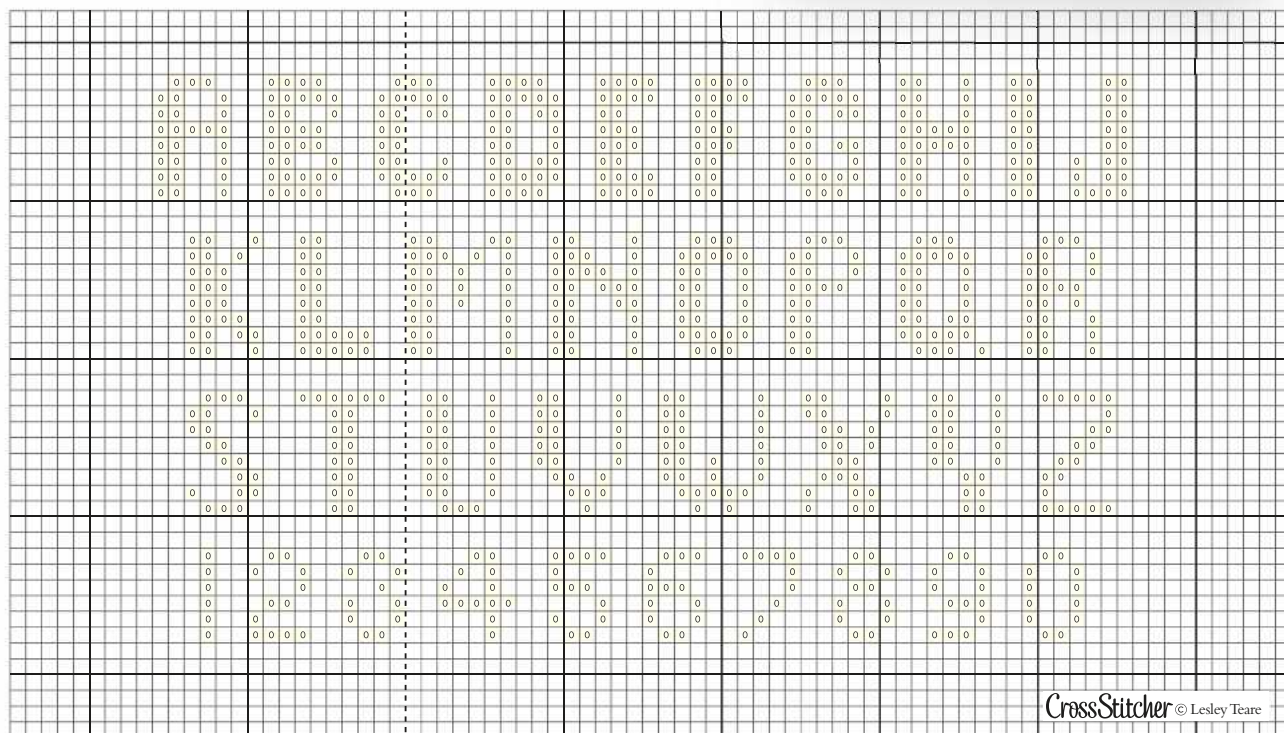
*Stitch a heart  
or butterfly for  
a matching card*

## Materials

### For each picture

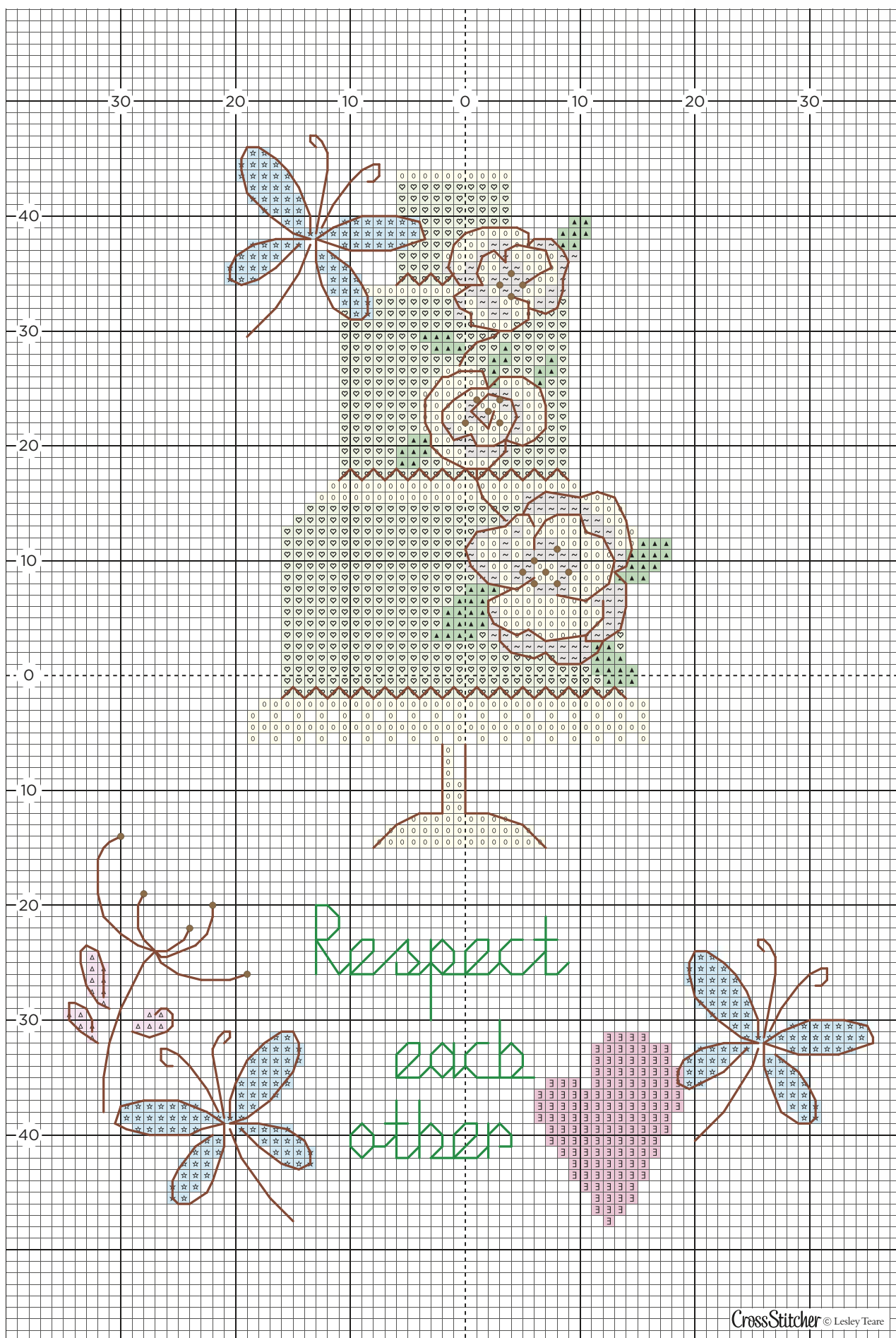
- 28 count white evenweave, 40x35cm
- Wood frame with outside measurement of 24x18cm
- White mount board
- Staple gun
- Double-sided tape

For stockist details see page 84



CrossStitcher © Lesley Teare





CrossStitcher © Lesley Teare







Cacti are right on trend! Stitch your own mini Mexico with our colourful quintet – green fingers not required

Designed by: Lesley Teare

Design size: 10x21cm

Stitch time: 18 hours

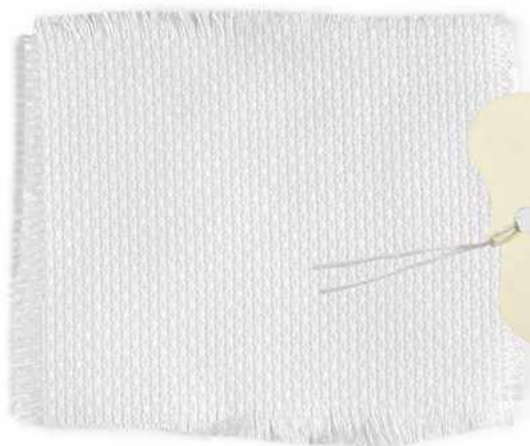
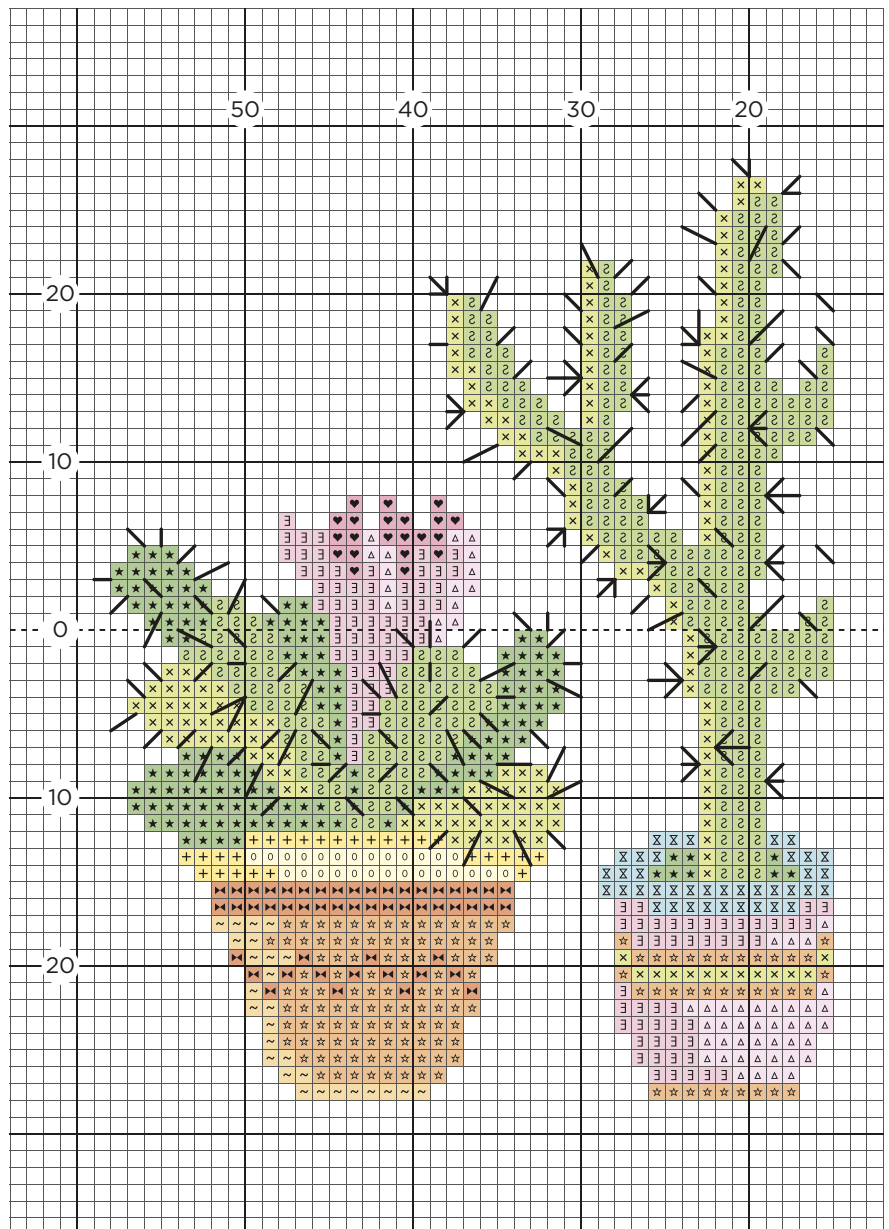
DMC Anchor Madeira  
Cross stitch in two strands

|    |      |      |      |
|----|------|------|------|
| ♥  | 602  | 057  | 0702 |
| ⊞  | 604  | 055  | 0614 |
| 2  | 703  | 238  | 1307 |
| +  | 726  | 295  | 0109 |
| ◀▶ | 900  | 333  | 0208 |
| ★  | 905  | 257  | 1412 |
| △  | 963  | 023  | 0503 |
| ⊗  | 964  | 185  | 1112 |
| o  | 3078 | 292  | 0102 |
| x  | 3819 | 278  | 2703 |
| ☆  | 3853 | 1003 | 0311 |
| ~  | 3854 | 313  | 2301 |

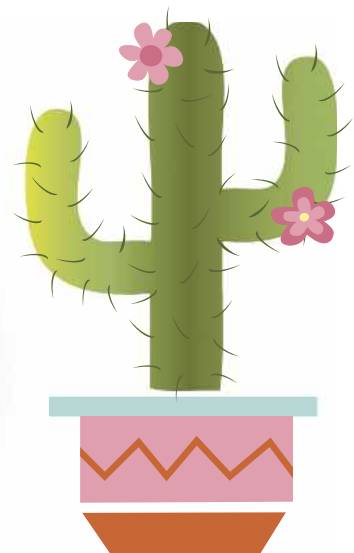
Backstitch in one strand

|   |     |     |      |
|---|-----|-----|------|
| — | 310 | 403 | 2400 |
|---|-----|-----|------|

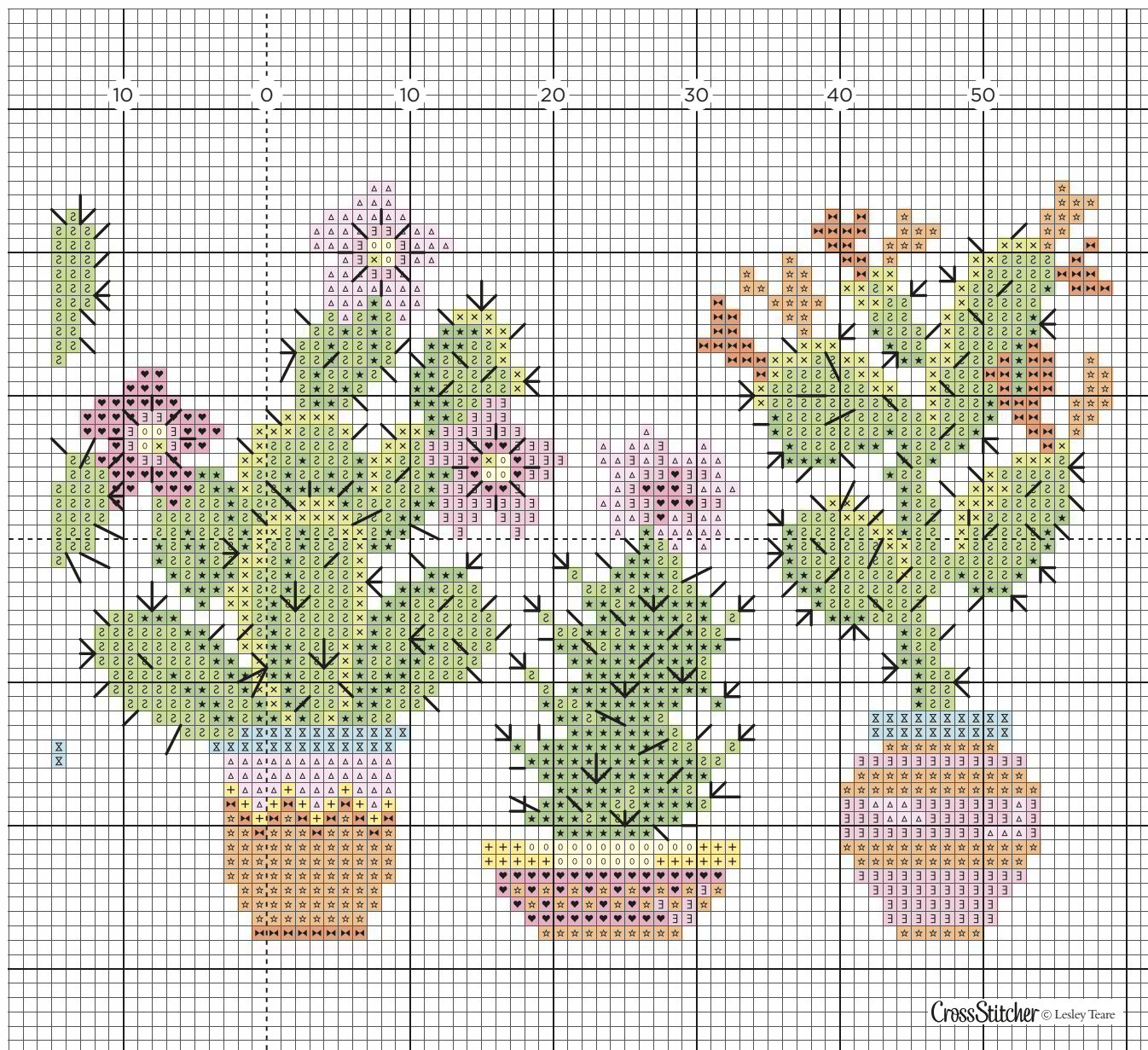
all details



Stitch it on aida  
If you prefer  
stitching on aida  
use a 14 count  
white aida

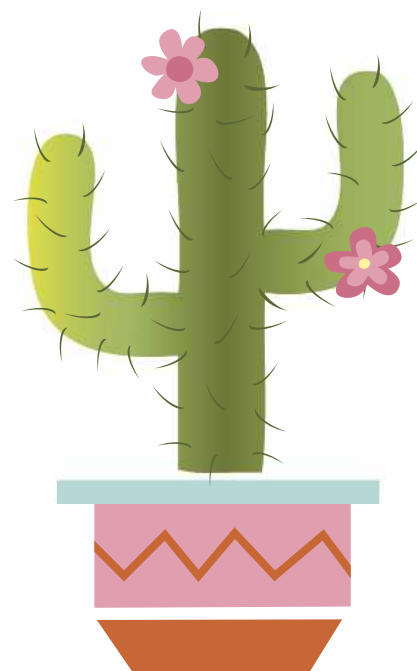






*For a faster finish, stitch  
the spines where you like,  
rather than closely  
following the chart*





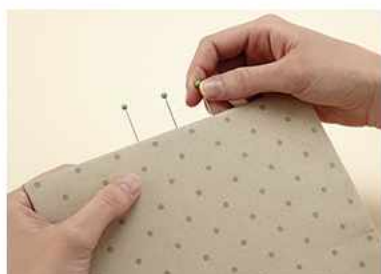
## Materials

- 28 count white evenweave, 30x40cm
- Wooden frame
- Mount board

For stockist details see page 84

## 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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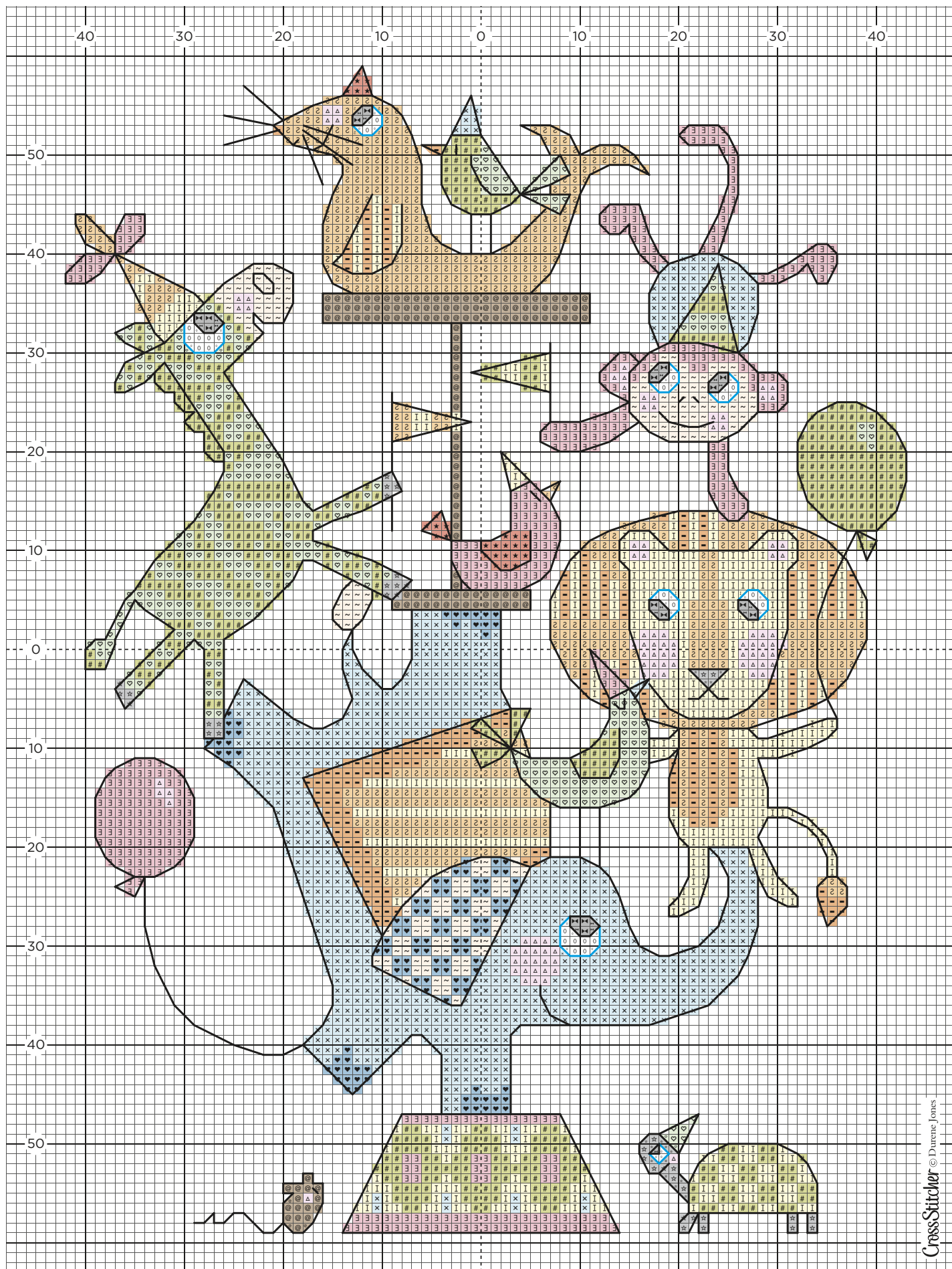
# ANIMAL ANTICS

Step right up! Sprinkle a bit of  
big top magic and enchant little  
ones with our cute circus stars











|                             | DMC   | Anchor | Madeira |
|-----------------------------|-------|--------|---------|
| Cross stitch in two strands |       |        |         |
| 0                           | White | 002    | 2402    |
| ~                           | Ecru  | 387    | 2404    |
| △                           | 151   | 023    | 0502    |
| ♥                           | 164   | 240    | 1209    |
| #                           | 166   | 279    | 1308    |
| ★                           | 321   | 047    | 0510    |
| ☆                           | 414   | 235    | 1801    |
| ×                           | 519   | 1038   | 1105    |
| I                           | 744   | 301    | 0112    |
| E                           | 3733  | 075    | 0504    |
| ♥                           | 3760  | 162    | 1107    |
| @                           | 3790  | 903    | 1905    |
| ⌂                           | 3799  | 236    | 1713    |
| ■                           | 3853  | 1003   | 0311    |
| 2                           | 3854  | 313    | 2301    |

#### Backstitch in one strand

|   |                   |     |      |
|---|-------------------|-----|------|
| — | White             | 002 | 2402 |
|   | eyes              |     |      |
| — | 3799              | 236 | 1713 |
|   | all other details |     |      |

## Make an... envelope cushion

### Step 1

**TRIM** your stitching to 28x37cm. Hem one long edge on each backing piece. Right sides in, lay your first hemmed piece over your stitching.

### Step 2

**LAY** your second hemmed piece on top, so the two pieces overlap each other in the centre. Pin along the hem to hold in place. Pin around the edges of your cushion cover.

### Step 3

**STITCH** all the way around the outside edge of your cushion cover. Trim excess fabric at the corners, then turn right sides out and press.

### Step 4

**CREATE** side flaps on your cushion by stitching a line 3cm from each short edge through the back and front. Finally, place your cushion pad inside.



Designed by: Durene Jones Design size: 19x13cm Stitch time: 24 hours

*Our circus animals would make  
a fun sampler or toy bag too*

## Materials

- 32 count light rustic linen, 40x40cm
- Cotton backing fabric, two pieces 37x20cm
- Cushion pad, 25x30cm

For stockist details see page 84



IN MY HEART

# In my Heart

Send love and wishes  
with our woodland  
critters – perfect for  
Valentine's and any  
other day!









Designed by: Diane Machin

Max design size: 10x7cm each

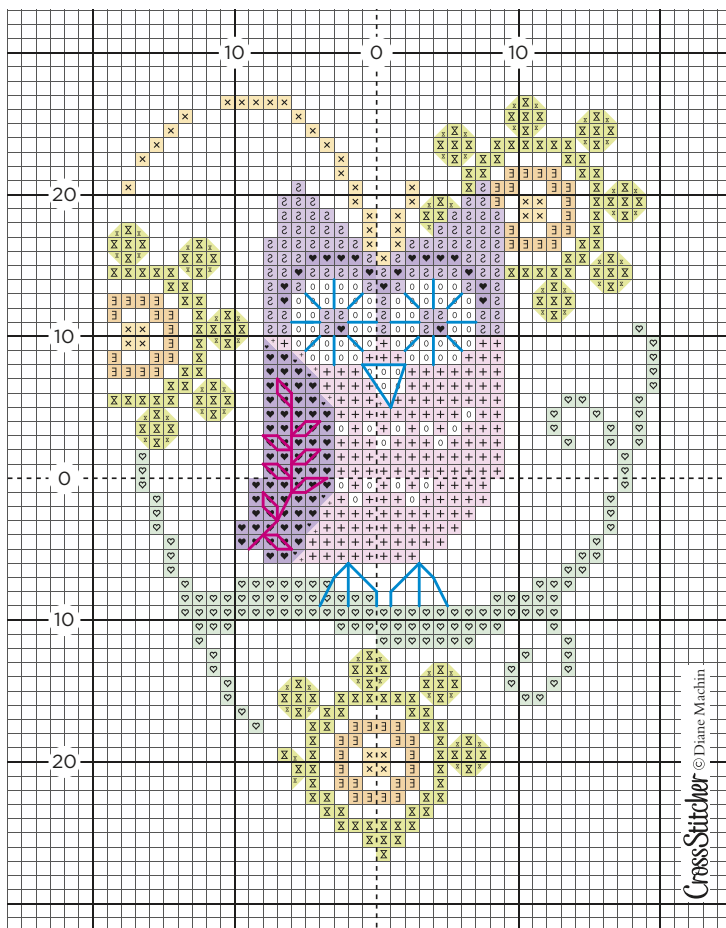
Stitch time: 4 hours each

|                             | DMC   | Anchor | Madeira |
|-----------------------------|-------|--------|---------|
| Cross stitch in two strands |       |        |         |
| 0                           | White | 002    | 2402    |
| ♥                           | 208   | 110    | 0804    |
| 2                           | 209   | 109    | 0711    |
| △                           | 453   | 231    | 1806    |
| X                           | 472   | 253    | 1414    |
| +                           | 605   | 1094   | 0613    |
| @                           | 646   | 1040   | 1812    |
| E                           | 741   | 304    | 0203    |
| x                           | 742   | 303    | 0114    |
| ~                           | 743   | 305    | 0113    |
| ■                           | 807   | 168    | 1108    |
| ♡                           | 955   | 203    | 1210    |
| #                           | 970   | 925    | 0204    |
| ★                           | 992   | 1072   | 1202    |
| ☆                           | 993   | 1070   | 1201    |

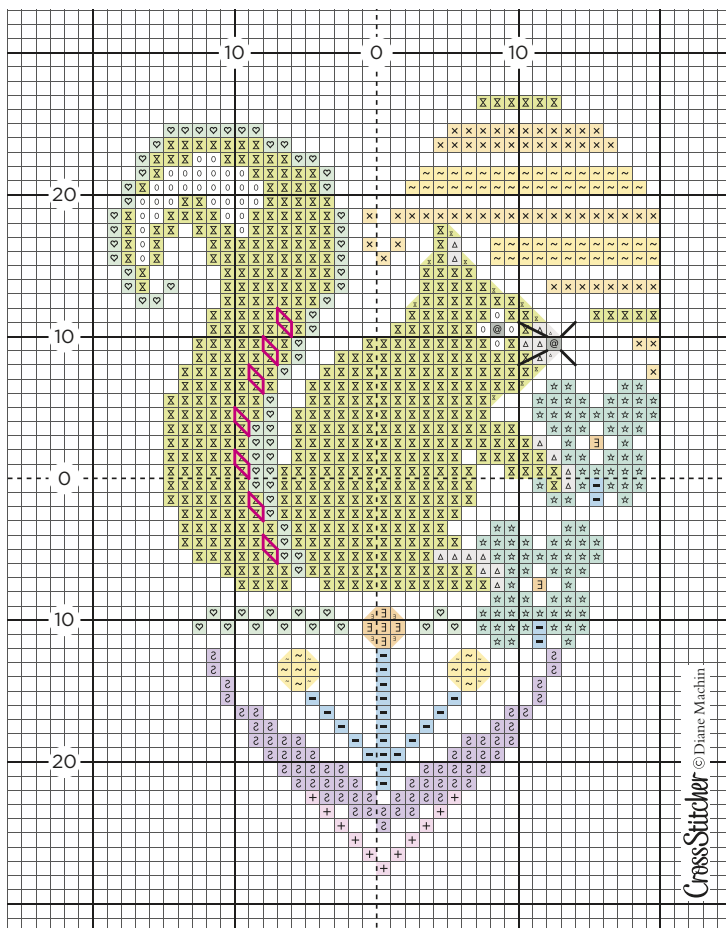
#### Backstitch in two strands

|   |               |      |      |
|---|---------------|------|------|
| — | White         | 002  | 2402 |
|   | birds         |      |      |
| — | 646           | 1040 | 1812 |
|   | fox, squirrel |      |      |
| — | 826           | 161  | 1012 |
|   | owl           |      |      |
| — | 992           | 1072 | 1202 |
|   | birds         |      |      |

GO TO [WWW.CROSSSTITCHER.MAG.COM](http://WWW.CROSSSTITCHER.MAG.COM)  
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YOUR **FREE**  
HEART APERTURE  
CARD

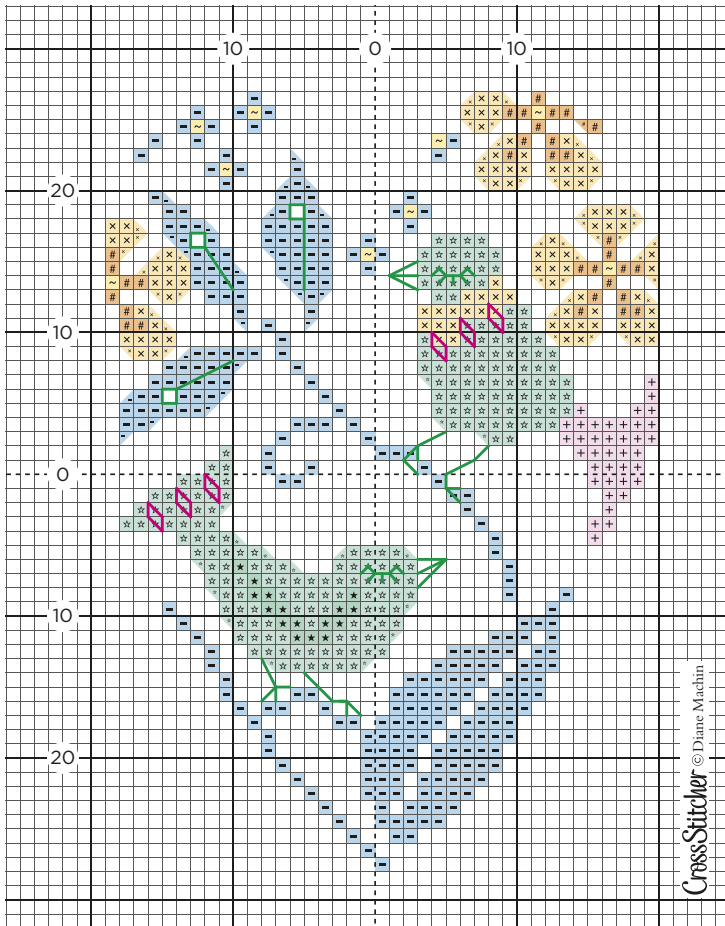


CrossStitcher © Diane Machin



CrossStitcher © Diane Machin





CrossStitcher © Diane Machin

## How to... mount a card

### Step 1

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

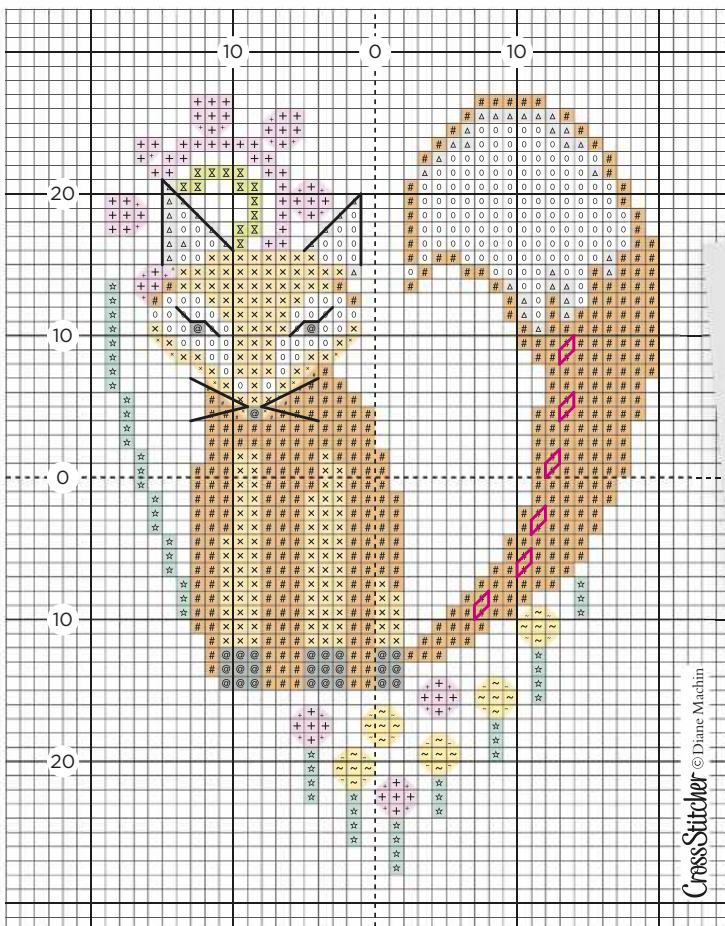
### Step 2

**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 around 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.

*Our heart-shaped designs would also look lovely as a notebook cover*



CrossStitcher © Diane Machin



## Materials

- 28 count white linen, 30x20cm
- Thin white card
- Double-sided tape
- Card mount printed free from [www.crossstitchermag.com](http://www.crossstitchermag.com)

For stockist details see page 84



Let's get  
inspired

# TO THE LETTER

Email? Pah! Go back to good old pen and paper with our 21 stationery motifs

Designed by: Fiona Crouch

## MATERIALS

### Envelope band

- 32 count grey linen, see step-by-step for sizing
- Grey backing fabric, see step-by-step for sizing

### Pencil tin

- 32 count grey linen, 20x40cm
- Cotton backing fabric, 13.5x27cm
- Empty food can

### Stamp tin

- 32 count grey linen, 20x40cm
- Cotton backing fabric, 11x29cm
- Empty treacle tin

For stockist details see page 84

## Make an... envelope band

### Step 1

**MEASURE** round your envelopes. Cut a strip of backing fabric and your stitching 3cm longer than your measurement and 7cm tall. Lay the two strips right sides together.

### Step 2

**SEW** along the two long edges and turn right sides out. Press the raw ends under and top stitch. Oversew the two ends together and slip round your envelopes.





*You'll always be able to find  
stamps and pencils*



## Make a... stamp or pencil tin

### Step 1

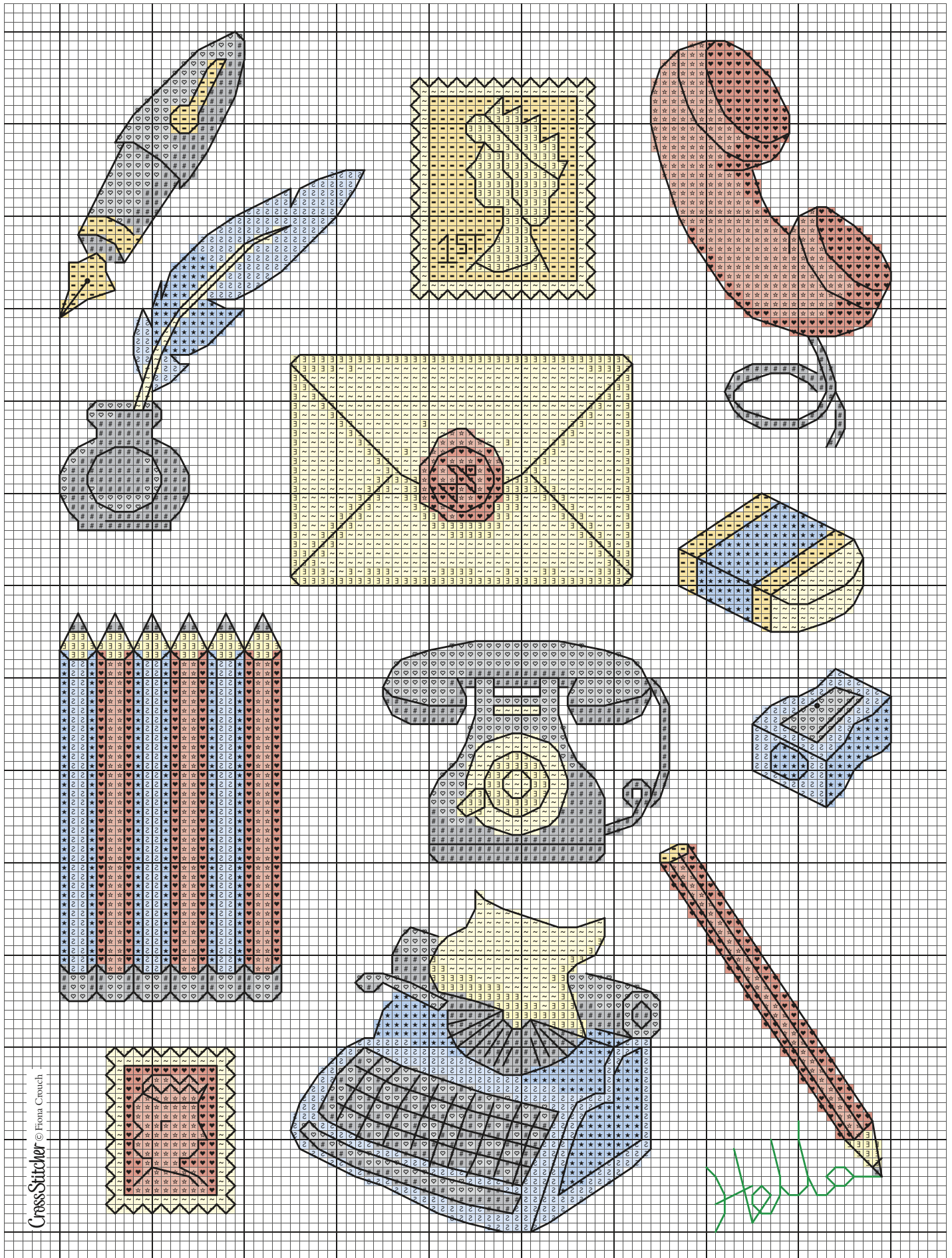
**TRIM** your stitching to the same size as your backing fabric, then place right sides together. Stitch along the top long edge.

### Step 2

**OPEN** the fabric out and place the short edges of the evenweave and backing fabric right sides together. Stitch to make a tube.

### Step 3

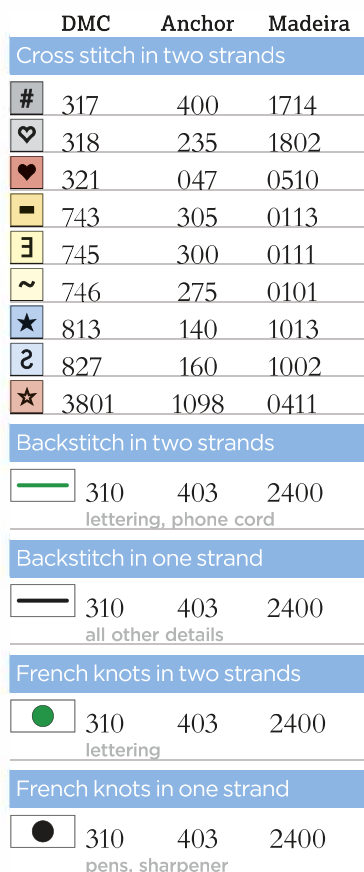
**TURN** right sides out, then fold the bottom long edges under. Top stitch round the top and bottom edges. Slip over your tin.



CrossStitcher © Fiona Crouch







## What to make

There are lots of accessories  
you can make from our motifs  
- here are some ideas...

- 1 Stitch the telephone and whip up a cover for a small address book.
- 2 Work several repeats of the pencils and make a pencil case.
- 3 Stitch a design on aida and back with felt to create a coaster for your office.

# CrossStitcher BACK ISSUES

Missed an issue? Order your back issues in print or as digital editions today and keep on cross stitching!



Issue 282 • August 2014



Issue 283 • September 2014



Issue 284 • October 2014



Issue 285 • November 2014



Issue 286 • December 2014



Issue 287 • January 2015

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## Find even more back issues in digital format!

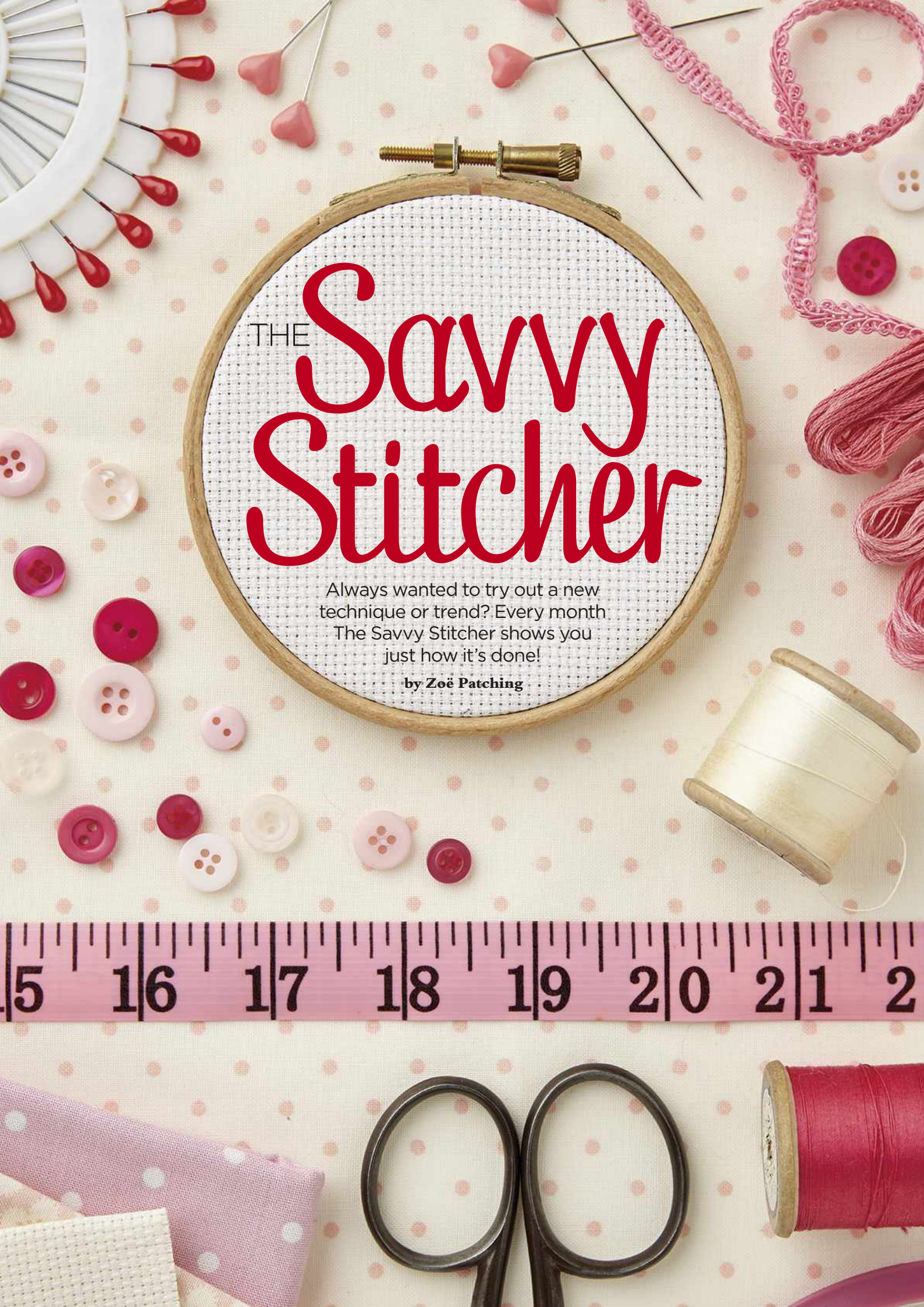
Search for CrossStitcher in the App Store for iPad and iPhone



Go to Zinio for Android or PC/Mac  
**[www.zinio.com/crossstitcher](http://www.zinio.com/crossstitcher)**







# 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!* **Pockets**

Give crafty makes extra pizzazz with our easy ways to add pockets to pillows, pincushions and placemats



**MINI PILLOW**  
Little ones will adore our  
bunny cushion - don't forget  
to add a sweet treat or two!





**PLACEMAT**  
Add a pocket to an old tea towel for upcycled homestyle



Pockets are not only useful for stashing bits and bobs, they can also give your projects a whole new look. They are simple to make too, and with a little planning it's easy to incorporate them into your designs.

You can add pockets to all sorts of projects, but here we show you how to whip up a bunny pillow, birdie pincushion and tea towel placemat. Perfect treats for friends or yourself!



**PINCUSHION**  
Use fabric scraps from your stash for this chirpy make



## MAKE A... BUNNY MINI PILLOW

Create a pocket cushion with a cute split design

### Step 1



**TRACE** your design on two pieces of fabric using a water-soluble pen or blue pencil. Split the design so you have the top section on one fabric piece and the lower part on the other for the pocket. Backstitch the outline.

### Step 2



**LINE** the pocket front by folding over the top raw edges of your stitched fabric and lining. Then place the turned edges together and pin. Slip stitch them together by making a small straight stitch along the folded edge.

### Step 3



**POSITION** the pocket on the main section and pin in place. Appliqué your rabbit's ears by ironing Bondaweb to the back of patterned fabric, cutting the shapes out, ironing in place and adding a running stitched edge.

### Step 4



**MAKE** your cushion by marking out its shape on the reverse of the fabric. Place your backing fabric over the front and pin. Machine stitch around the guidelines, leaving a gap. Turn, fill and slip stitch closed.

## MAKE A... BIRDIE PINCUSHION

Keep pins, needles and threads safe and handy in this chirpy make

### Step 1



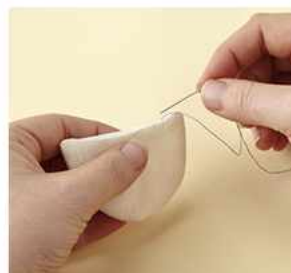
**MAKE** a pocket template (see page 85) and trace it on your fabric. Place your backing fabric over the pocket front and pin in position. Machine stitch from A to B as shown on the template.

### Step 2



**TRIM** the excess fabric around the pocket, leaving a 1cm seam allowance. Make zig zag snips around the curved edge of the pocket. This will help the pocket to sit smoothly once complete.

### Step 3



**TURN** the pocket right side out and iron it if necessary. Slip stitch the opening together. Start making the pincushion bird by tacking around the template on patterned fabric.

### Step 4



**POSITION** the pocket on the bird, dome it a little and slip stitch to secure. Place the backing fabric on top, machine stitch from A to B as shown on the template, turn, stuff and stitch the gap closed.

## IF YOU LIKED THESE, YOU'LL LOVE...



### THE FOX IN THE ATTIC

[www.thefoxintheattic.com](http://www.thefoxintheattic.com)

Bursting with embroidered toys, cute decorations, pincushions and other goodies, this website is a must-visit if you're after inspiration and ideas.



### LIBERTY

[www.liberty.co.uk](http://www.liberty.co.uk)

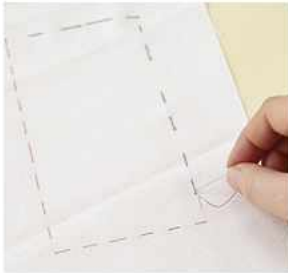
Discover a tempting array of beautiful fabrics in Liberty's signature prints, and spend hours browsing the haberdashery section full of sewing treasures.



# MAKE A... TEA TOWEL PLACEMAT

Transform old kitchen linen into on-trend tableware

## Step 1



**CROSS** stitch your design on evenweave or aida, then measure out the dimensions of the pocket (ours is 18x8cm) and tack around the outside. Cut your backing fabric to the same dimensions, adding a seam allowance.

## Step 2



**PLACE** your backing fabric over the design and pin. Machine stitch the fabrics together, leaving an opening for turning. Cut diagonally across the seam allowance at each corner, then iron the seam allowance open.

## Step 3

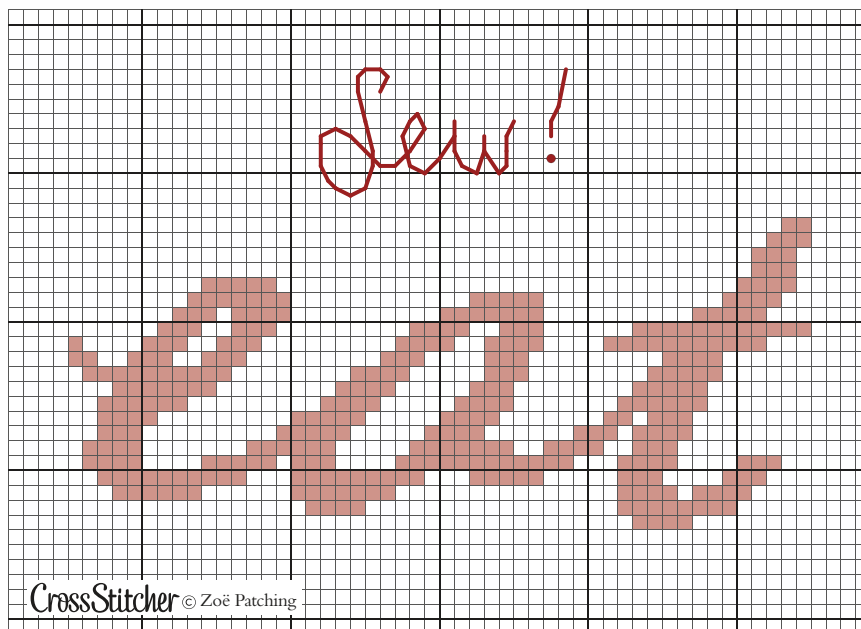


**TURN** the pocket right sides out, using a pin to help tease out the pocket corners if necessary. Slip stitch the opening together. Trim and hem your tea towel to the size you would like your placemat to be.

## Step 4



**POSITION** your pocket where you want it on the placemat, then pin. Finally, secure it in place by machine stitching a fraction in from the pocket edge, using a running stitch with thread in a co-ordinating colour.



FIND YOUR  
RABBIT AND  
PINCUSHION  
TEMPLATES  
ON PAGE 85



### MAKER CRATE

[www.makercrate.com](http://www.makercrate.com)

Enjoy a wealth of handmade projects and goodies perfect for gifts or yourself. We love their embroidery hoop wall pocket – just the thing to help keep our craft corner tidy!



### OUR PINTEREST BOARD

[www.pinterest.com/xstitchmagazine](http://www.pinterest.com/xstitchmagazine)

Visit our Pinterest board to find a special board dedicated to *The Savvy Stitcher*. You can pin all these designs and find inspiration for more!

# CrossStitcher COMPETITION

Win fantastic products from  **ZWEIGART®** in our exciting competition!

# WIN!

**ZWEIGART'S RANGE** of fabrics in soft neutral tones is right on trend and perfect for setting off all sorts of cross stitch designs. **We have 10 sets of three fabrics up for grabs!** Your prize includes 1m of each of these fabrics: 25 count Lugana in white, 14 count aida in vintage and 32 count Belfast linen in grey. These beautiful fabrics are ideal for chic spring projects. As part of your prize, Zweigart is including the **Cats ideas book** featuring heaps of designs, from romantic black-and-white silhouettes to cute and colourful kitties, so enter our amazing competition today!

Just answer this question:

**What colour is the Lugana you win?**

**A** Black **B** White **C** Red

Competition open 9 January – 5 February 2015

PRIZES  
WORTH  
OVER  
**£1000!**

## YOUR PRIZE

One metre of each of these fabrics:

- 25 count Lugana (ref 3835) in 100 white
- 14 count aida (ref 3706) in 1079 vintage
- 32 count Belfast linen (ref 3609) in 786 grey

**PLUS** the Cats ideas booklet (ref 266)

The total value of each prize is £105.70

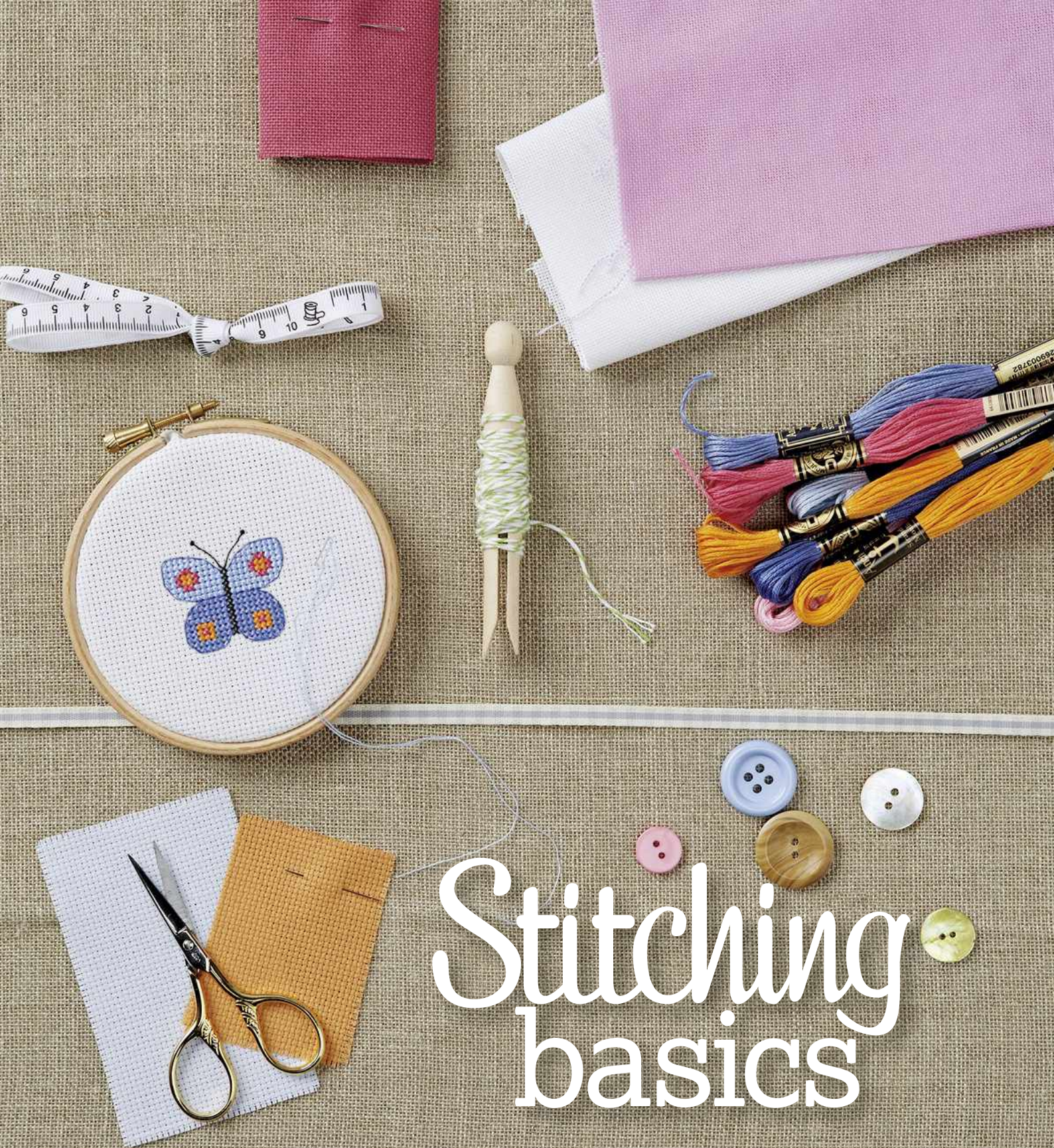


*Stitch cute kitties  
for all sorts of makes*

ENTER ONLINE AT  
[www.crossstitchermag.com](http://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.





# 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.

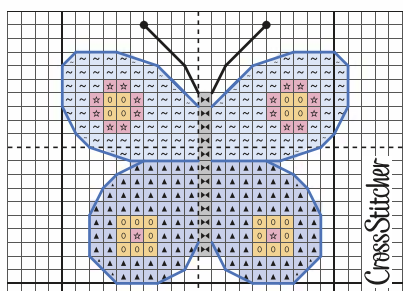
### EVENWEAVE

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.

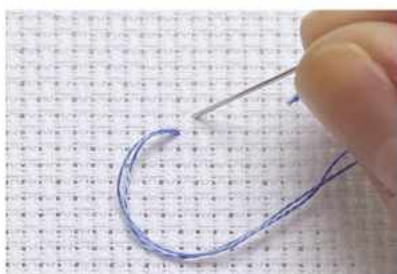


### Reading the chart

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

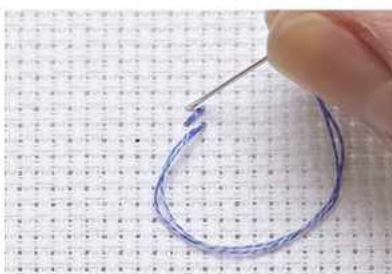
## Start stitching... on aida

### 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.

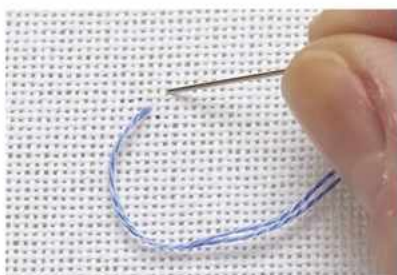
### Step 3



**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.

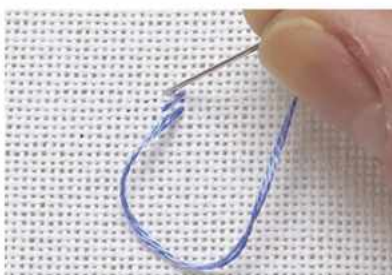
## Start stitching... on evenweave

### 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.

## 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.

|                                                                                   | 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 |        |         |





## 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

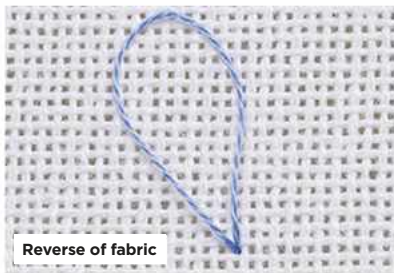
This easy start to your cross stitch is brilliantly neat

### Step 1



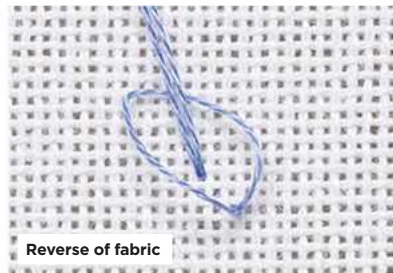
**IF YOU'RE** working in two strands, a loop knot is the easiest and neatest method. Cut a single length of thread, twice as long as normal. Fold it in half to create a loop at one end.

### 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.



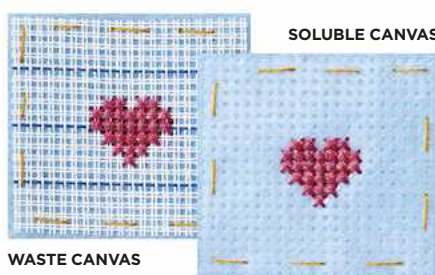
## HALF CROSS STITCH

**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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# Stockists

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

## Get started

For stitching fabric, threads and all the basic supplies you need, try one of these top stockists...

### WILLOW FABRICS

[www.willowfabrics.co.uk](http://www.willowfabrics.co.uk)

0800 056 7811

For evenweave, aida and all kinds of stitching fabrics

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[www.barnyarns.co.uk](http://www.barnyarns.co.uk)

0176 569 0069

For Anchor, DMC and Madeira threads and all kinds of haberdashery supplies

### COTTON PATCH

[www.cottonpatch.co.uk](http://www.cottonpatch.co.uk)

0121 702 2840

For stuffing, wadding, interfacing, Bondaweb, scissors and all kinds of haberdashery supplies

### JOHN JAMES NEEDLES

[www.jjneedles.com](http://www.jjneedles.com)

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For all kinds of needles and needle packs

### SIESTA FRAMES

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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 BIRDIES

White cotton fabric: Seamstar

White cord: similar from The Makery

### POCKET PANDAS

18 count Zweigart Davosa white evenweave, ref 3770/100: Willow Fabrics

36 count Zweigart Edinburgh white linen, ref 3217/100: Willow Fabrics

White cotton fabric: Seamstar

### SEW IN LOVE

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

Wooden frame: eFrame

Mount board: Fred Aldous

### IN MY HEART

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

White card: Craft Creations

### VINTAGE WHEELS

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

White cotton fabric: Seamstar

Bias binding: Seamstar

Piping cord: Gone to Earth

Cushion pad, 30x40cm, ref 64913101: John Lewis

### IN A PRICKLE

Wooden frame: eFrame

Mount board: Fred Aldous

### ROBO PALS

25 count Zweigart Lugana deep cream evenweave, ref 3835/252: Willow Fabrics

Wooden frame: eFrame

Mount board: Fred Aldous

### ANIMAL ANTICS

32 count Zweigart Belfast natural and white dot linen, ref 3609/5379: Willow Fabrics

Cotton backing fabric: Seamstar

### LOCKED ON YOU

25 count Zweigart Lugana grey evenweave, ref 3835/7036: Willow Fabrics

Wooden frame: eFrame

Mount board: Fred Aldous

### J'ADORE PARIS

Wooden frame: eFrame

Mount board: Fred Aldous

Cotton backing fabric: Seamstar

Pink ribbon and button: similar from The Makery

Split ring: Fred Aldous

### TO THE LETTER

32 count Zweigart Belfast grey linen, ref 3609/786: Willow Fabrics

Cotton backing fabric: Seamstar

### LOVE STORY

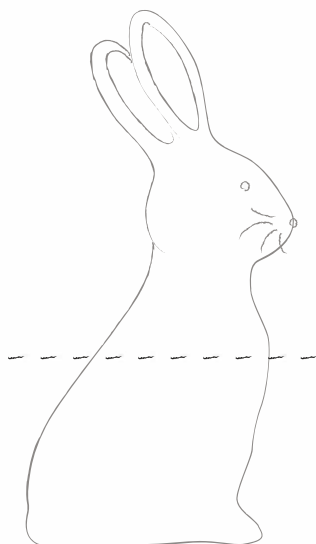
28 count Zweigart Trento white evenweave, ref 3453/100: Willow Fabrics

Wooden frame: eFrame

Mount board: Fred Aldous

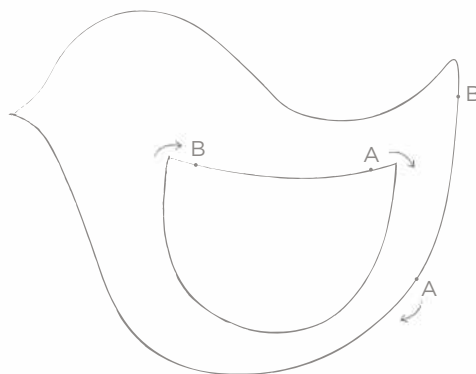






Photocopy your templates at 200%

- Machine stitch from A to B
- - - Pocket line



## Shopping guide

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

**ANDREA RADFORD DESIGNS**  
[www.etsy.com/shop/andrearadforddesigns](http://www.etsy.com/shop/andrearadforddesigns)

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[www.cuckooland.com](http://www.cuckooland.com)

**CRAFT CREATIONS**  
[www.craftcreations.com](http://www.craftcreations.com)

**CROSS STITCH COLLECTION**  
[craft.buysubscriptions.com](http://craft.buysubscriptions.com)

**DEBENHAMS**  
[www.debenhams.com](http://www.debenhams.com)

**FLOSS & MISCHIEF**  
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**FRED ALDOUS**  
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[themakery.co.uk](http://themakery.co.uk)

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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'm after the chart and key for the heart sampler from the May 2014 issue – it was the main project on the cover. If anyone can help me, please email.  
Kylie Wilson,  
Email: misskyliewilson@gmail.com

I've completed the stitching on a few projects but can't find the instructions to assemble them! If anyone could send me the instructions for the owl cushions and Christmas wreath from issue 233, and the teacup cosy and napkins from issue 230, I'd be grateful. Thank you!  
Emma Warren,  
Email: emw293@gmail.com

I am looking for the reindeer cake band chart from issue 245. If you could send it to me, please get in touch.  
Nesta Willis,  
Email: rollergirl83@orange.net

I'm after *The Ultimate Joan Elliott Cross Stitch Collection*. Please email if you would be able to send me a copy.  
Sharon Johnston,  
Email: shazzyjo40@btinternet.com

I'm looking for *The Best of Margaret Sherry* bookazine. Please email if you could send me a copy.  
Marian Cooper,  
Email: marian2ivor@yahoo.co.uk

I am looking for *CrossStitcher* issue 250, March 2012 – I would like to stitch the teacups cushion. If you could send it to me, please get in touch.  
Bronwyn Schier,  
Email: bschier@bigpond.net.au

I'm looking for the October 2009 issue of *CrossStitcher* – in particular the chart of the lop-eared rabbit. Please contact me if you are able to send it to me.  
Emily Musso Stuart,  
Email: emilybear4@gmail.com

I am looking for a copy of *CrossStitcher* issue 284, which had the Belle & Boo charts. If you could send it to me, please get in touch. I am based in London.  
Agnieszka Klosko,  
Email: agnieszka.klosko@yahoo.co.uk

I'm on the hunt for charts of Christmas stockings designed by Joan Elliott. If you could send any to me, please email.  
Peg Thiessen,  
Email: piecefulpeg@gmail.com

I am looking for the 150th birthday issue from August 2004, complete with kit. Please email if you could send it to me.  
Liz Windaybank,  
Email: lizandjohnw@virginmedia.com

## Get in touch

Hello, I'm 41 years old and married with one grown-up daughter. I enjoy cross stitch, cardmaking and papercrafts. I also

love Filofaxing, stationery, Disney and so much more! I would like female pen pals from anywhere and of any age.  
Sharon Howard, 9 Poppy Close,  
Belvedere, Kent DA17 6GN

Hello! My name is Dana. I am 40 years old, have been married for 13 years and live in the USA. I love all forms of crafts – knitting, crochet, sewing and cross stitch – as well as reading. I would love to have a pen pal from the UK, Ireland or Germany. Hope to hear from you!  
Dana Dunphy, 385 Massey Church Road, Smyrna, DE 19977 USA

Hi, my name is Jane. I have three children. I am 37, love cross stitch, tapestry, reading, quilting, theatre and painting. I would like some more pen pals who like sending letters via snail mail.  
Jane Cox, 19 Boyatt Crescent,  
Allbrook, Hampshire SO50 4LP



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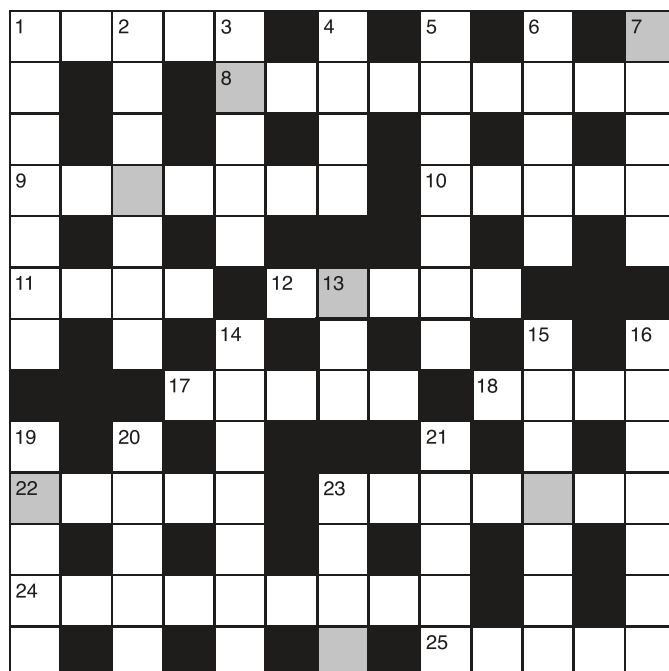
## Prize crossword

### Across

- 1 My Big Fat --- Wedding, TV show (5)  
8 Poorly (3-6)  
9 Italian rice dish (7)  
10 I Have A ---, ABBA hit (5)  
11 Coloured part of the eye (4)  
12 Watery snow (5)  
17 Woven decorative edge (5)  
18 Labyrinth (4)  
22 Respond (5)  
23 Nunnery (7)  
24 Counted-thread embroidery (9)  
25 Piece of academic writing (5)

### Down

- 1 Native of Newcastle? (7)  
2 Sweetly flavoured root vegetable (7)  
3 Young person (5)  
4 Tight curly hairstyle (4)  
5 Female deity (7)  
6 Celestial body (5)  
7 Device to hold a cross stitch project in place (5)  
13 Hawaiian garland (3)  
14 Leon ---, Marxist revolutionary (7)  
15 Mother and father? (7)  
16 100 years (7)  
19 Dishonest financial incentive (5)  
20 Type of canoe (5)  
21 Reptile (5)  
23 Large black bird (4)



Winning word clue: **Will you receive these scented beauties from your loved one? (7)**

### HOW TO ENTER

**COMPLETE** the crossword and rearrange the letters in the shaded boxes to make up a winning word. Then go to [www.crossstitchermag.com](http://www.crossstitchermag.com) to enter online. Postal entries will not be accepted. Competition open **9 January - 5 February 2015**. For full terms and conditions, see page 85.

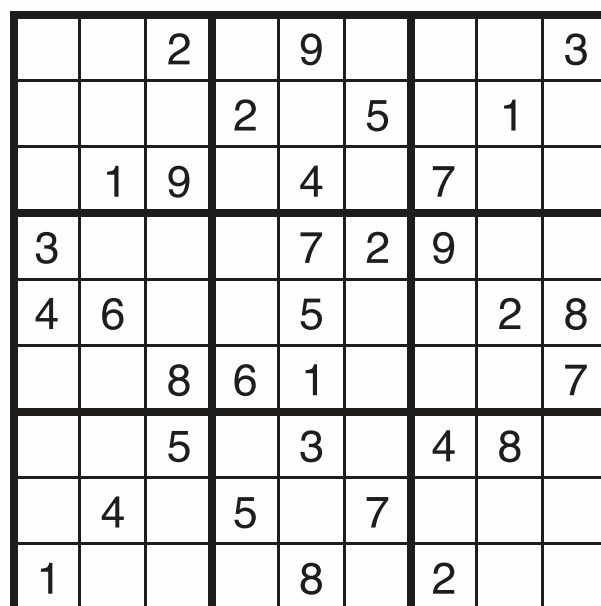
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### SUDOKU

**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 286's winning word **ANGEL**



No.1  
FOR TRENDS

In your March

# CrossStitcher

Gifts & homestyle to celebrate spring



## Inside this month

- ♥ **Beautiful butterflies**  
stitched on fabric and paper
- ♥ Colourful **spring sampler**  
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- ♥ Birdie cards & special  
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