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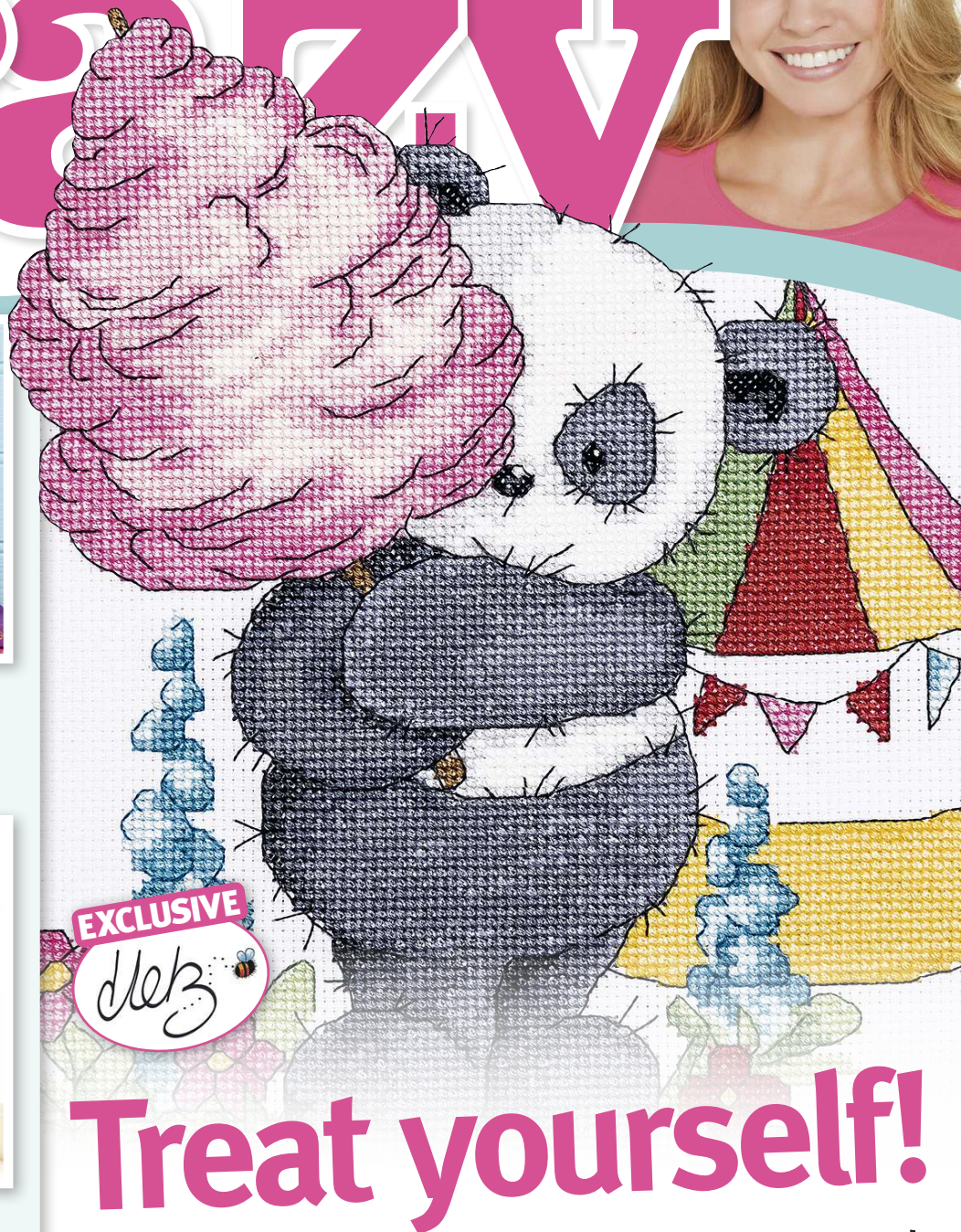
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Helz

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May 2015 /
Issue 202
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Meet the team

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

Steph Maskery
Art Editor

This month...
"Fiona's colourful robot cards on page 61 are perfect for birthdays!"



Rachel Nott
Production Editor
This month...
"Kids and mums alike will be loving Steve Backshall on page 19!"



Anne MacGregor
Senior Technical Editor
This month...
"The adorable teddy bear birth sampler on page 34 is so sweet!"



Sarah Heys
Charting Editor
This month...
"I'm so excited to see the British Craft Awards winners on page 39!"



Fiona Baker
Charting Editor
This month...
"Jenny Barton's cheeky monkeys on page 42 will make you smile!"



Benedict Blyth
Art Assistant
This month...
"I'd have loved the bright animal bunting on page 68 as a kid!"



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Welcome...



...to May's issue of *Crazy*! We've plenty of projects for your must-stitch list this month, but the first has to be your gorgeous free heart frame kit*. Turn to page 8 and you'll find two sweet stitches to choose from – pick your favourite and start today!

Whatever your stitchy style, there's something for everyone inside. Turn to page 10 for the cutest exclusive from Helz Cuppleditch – a little panda having fun at the fair! And, on page 34 there's a charming baby sampler, perfect for welcoming a little one. Or, if you're looking for something fun and funky, add a pop of colour to your home with the stylish cityscapes on page 28!

Crafters will love the pretty patchwork squares on page 53 – stitch a selection to make your very own quilt-style design. Plus, we have the most beautiful butterfly hoop on page 44, 50 wedding gift ideas on page 20 for those of you with friends tying the knot, and more. Happy stitching!

Chelle x



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*Free gift available with print edition only

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Your May issue of *Crazy*



EXCLUSIVE!

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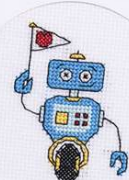
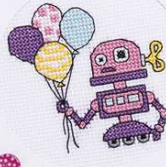
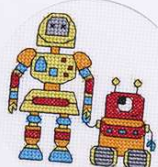
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Grow old
along with
me
the best is yet to be

YOUR FREE GIFT*

PRETTY WOODEN HEART FRAME

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with
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Stitching

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in your passion – not to mention **fab freebie gifts** and **over 80 patterns** in every issue! Plus, we have vibrant social media sites and an active website forum full of fellow stitchers to share your stories with – so subscribe today and try **5 issues for just £5!**

Ruth

Ruth, Editor
The World of Cross Stitching



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Over to you...

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



Andrea Haggart, Fife

Which design are you most proud of?

A Titanic design I stitched many years ago.
It had lots of French knots which I managed
to do and the finished design looks great.

Which celeb would you most like to stitch?

Enid Blyton – I adored reading her books
when I was growing up and still have them
all now, ready to pass on to my children.

What's your favourite design from a recent issue of Cross Stitch Crazy?

Next on my must-stitch list are the weather
designs from issue 200. I love their
simplicity and they'll look so good together.



Laura Owen, Czech Republic

Which occasion gets your needle twitching?

Any and every occasion! I do like wedding
samplers though, they're so romantic.

Who taught you to cross stitch and how long ago did you start stitching?

I taught myself to cross stitch, with the help
of YouTube, books and magazines. I started
stitching in July 2014, so not that long ago!

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

An automated needle threader – just pop
the thread into the tool and out pops your
already threaded needle!

Shahna Thwaites, Chichester

How would you describe your stitching style?

Nothing seems to phase me because I love it so much. I'll sit for
ages reading instructions to see how it's supposed to be done,
then go around altering things to make it more my style!

How cross stitch crazy are you?

Every item of furniture in my house is covered in cross stitch!

What are you working on at the moment?

At the moment, I'm stitching anything and everything to do with
Easter! I like to stitch things relating to the time of year.



BE AN INSIDER

We want to know what you think. After all, the more we know about you, the better placed we
are to bring you the best magazine possible. So, we'd like to invite you to join our online
reader panel 'Insiders'.

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other relevant issues.

We look forward to hearing from you soon!

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Exclusive!

Folksy-style wooden heart frame kit!

Add some stitchy style to your home with this fabulously pretty free gift

The desire for shabby chic shows no sign of waning, and at *Crazy* we're still fully behind the trend!

This simply stylish wooden heart frame, painted with a whitewash effect for a rustic, country feel, will look great in any interior and is just delightful filled with pretty blooms in zingy spring shades. How sweet would it look hanging over your kitchen door handle, dangling from a mantelpiece, or hooked over an ornate bedroom mirror?

Inside your kit you'll find a piece of 14-count white aida plus enough threads to stitch one of the sweet charts below.

Whichever design you choose to stitch – either the butterfly or the bee – you can be sure of a perfectly pretty finish. What's more, both charts are worked mainly in whole stitches, with just a small amount of backstitch to bring the flowers and insects to life, making them a gentle project for new stitchers, while being equally pleasurable for experienced stitchers in the mood for a quick stitch! We're sure you won't be able to resist stitching and making up your kit as soon as it lands in your lap, so do please send photos of your finished frame to me at yvette@cross-stitching.com. Enjoy! ●

Floral hearts

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	Colour
⌘	ecru	926	2404	cream
A	225	271	814	very light pink
■	317	400	1714	grey
\$	564	206	1208	light green
♥	602	57	702	very dark pink
W	761	1021	404	light pink
▼	912	209	1213	green
☀	3078	292	102	yellow
3	3354	36	2610	pink
⌘	3733	75	605	dark pink

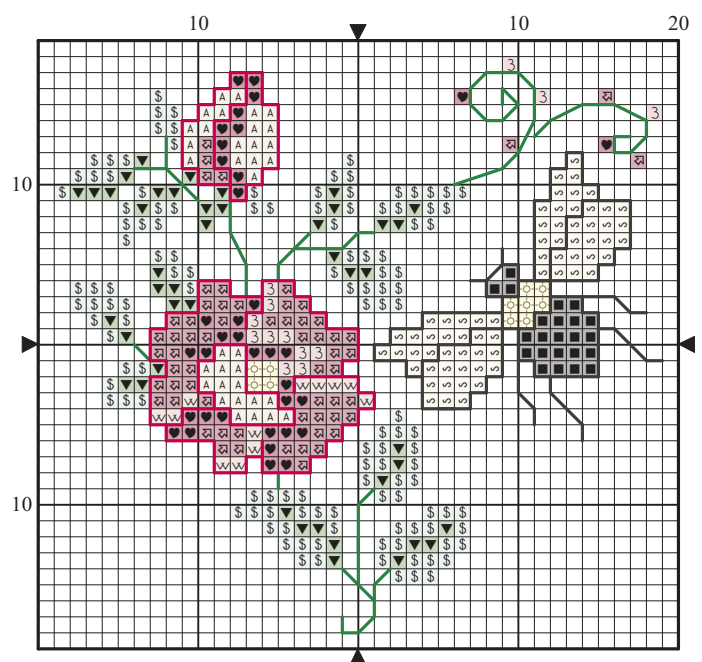
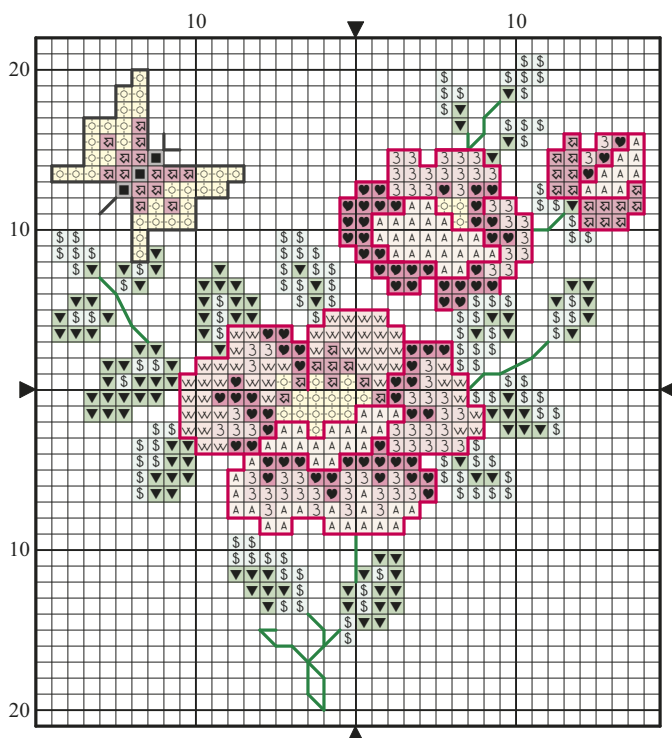
✕ Backstitch in one strand

—	317	400	1714	grey
—	912	209	1213	green
—	3733	75	605	dark pink

✕ Whole stitches only

Max. stitch count 41 (h) x 38 (w)

Design area on 14-count fabric 7.5x7cm (3x2¾in)



Fun at the fair

Get ready for a stitchy adventure as you join Helz Cuppleditch's oh-so-adorable panda on his first trip to the fairground
Exclusive to Crazy!

Remember your first visit to the fair? The music as the rides go up and down and round about, the scent of candy floss, and the huge scale of the attractions – it's all too enthralling! We can't wait to relive the whole



StitchTime
30-40 hrs
(Approx)

experience with our sweet panda friend. Worked in mainly whole stitches and backstitch, with a sprinkling of fractionals and a single French knot, this darling design would suit any level of stitcher and would look sweet made into a cushion or hanging in a pastel bedroom. We hope you enjoy the ride! ●

StitchList...

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

ShoppingList...

Threads - Stranded cotton as listed in the key

Needle - Size 24 tapestry needle

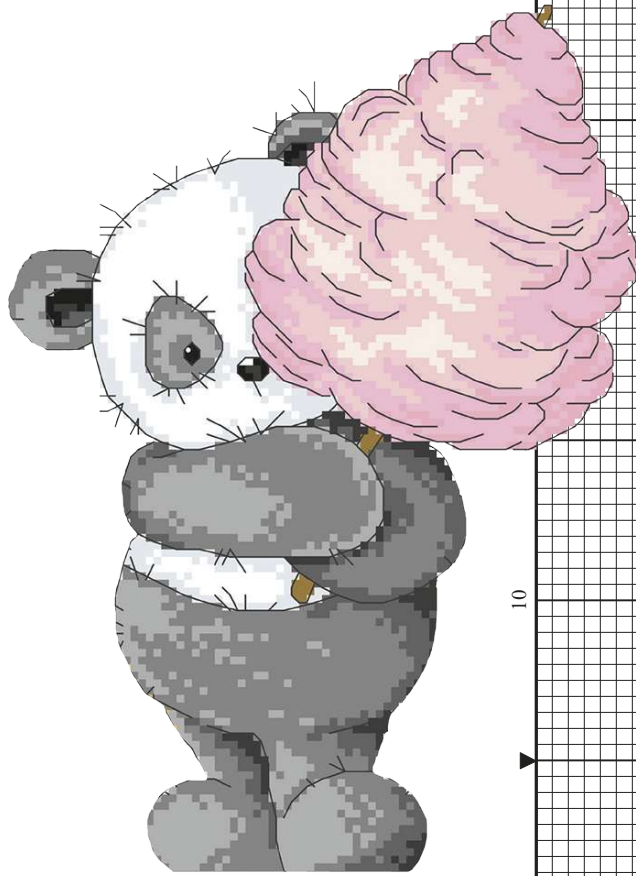
Fabric - Zweigart 14-count white aida measuring 30x30cm (12x12in). Visit www.willowfabrics.com or call ☎ 0800 056 7811 to buy

Extras - Frame of your choice with a minimum aperture of 22x21cm (8½x8¼in) available to buy from local craft stores





*Stitches don't get much sweeter
than this super-cute panda!*



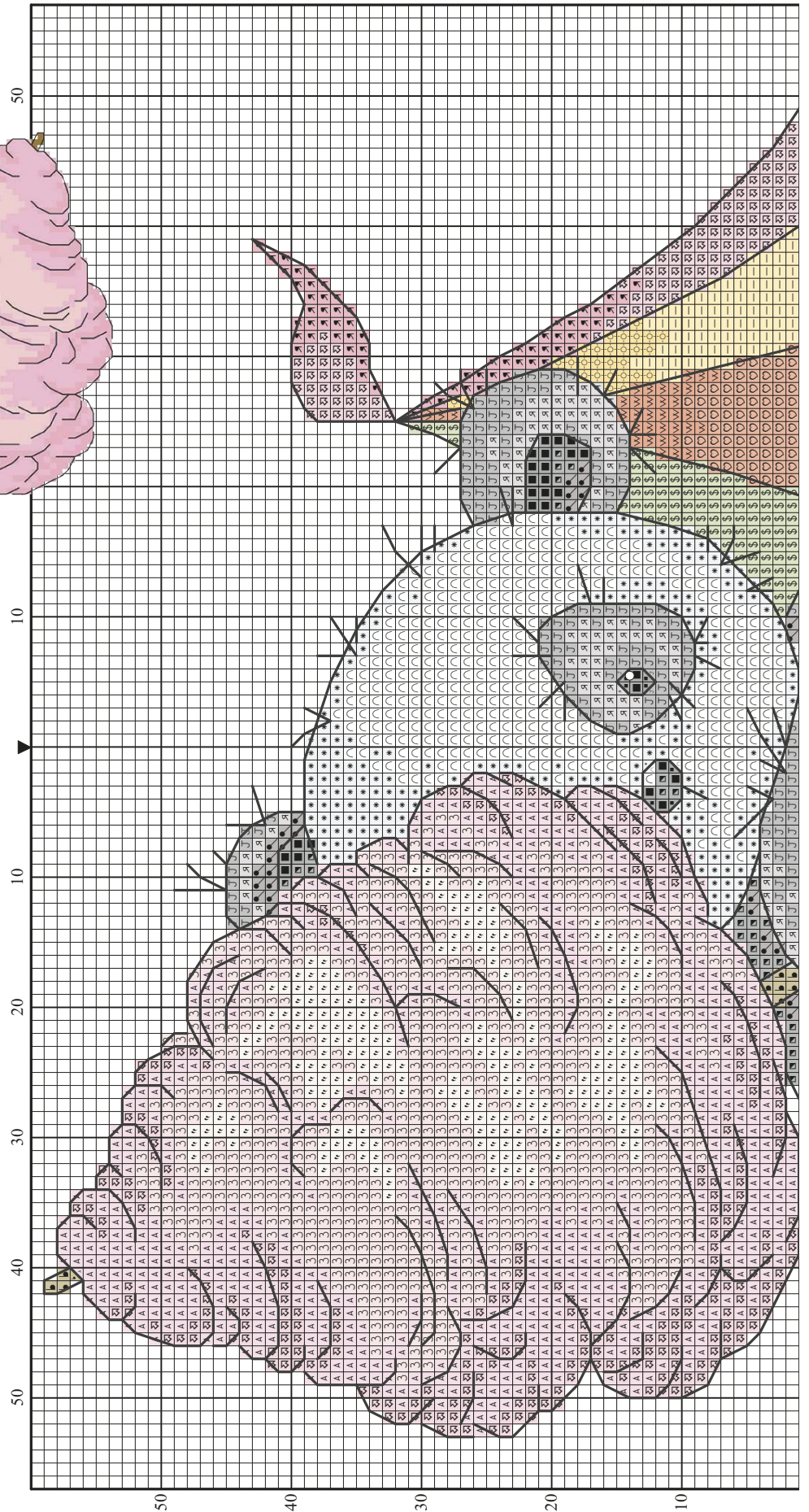
RachelSays...



Any design featuring pandas has got to be a good thing in my book! Helz has

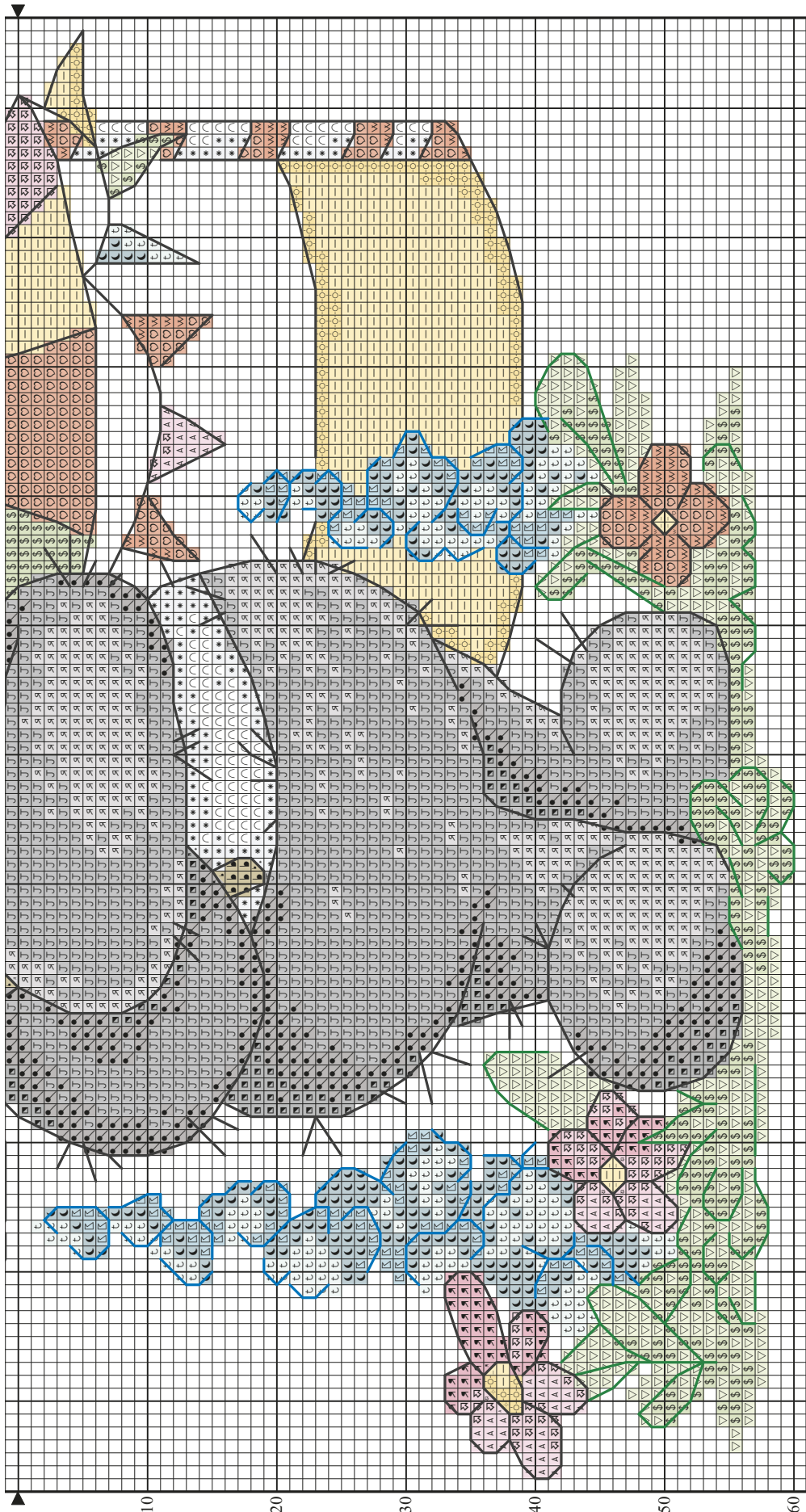
skilfully incorporated so much character into this bashful little fellow, and I love the cheery bright shades of the marquee and flowers in the foreground. A must stitch!

Rachel Nott,
Production Editor,
Cross Stitch Crazy



Crazy tip!

Add the backstitch last to produce a crisp and professional-looking finish



Fairground panda

✧ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
∩	blanc	2	2402
■	310	403	2400
☛	317	400	1809
я	318	399	1801
W	349	1098	212
♥	350	11	213
\$	368	214	1310
▽	369	1043	1309
J	414	235	1714
▩	420	374	2104
↗	603	55	505
☼	604	26	614
A	605	1094	613
⊙	743	302	113
—	744	301	112
t	747	158	1104
*	762	234	1804
☒	807	168	1108
“	819	271	501
3	963	73	502
☾	3766	167	1106
▣	3799	236	1713

✧ Backstitch in one strand

—	367	217	1312
—	3799	236	1713

✧ Backstitch in two strands

—	3765	169	2505
---	------	-----	------

✧ French knots in one strand

○	blanc	2	2402
---	-------	---	------

✧ Contains fractionals

Stitch count 119 (h) x 112 (w)

Design area on 14-count fabric
21.5x20.5cm (8½x8in)

Stitched by Glenda Dickson



Your Letters

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

Star letter Paper power

You are
a winner!
**Nikki
James**



I thought you might like to see the 3D card I stitched from issue 195, the Winter's night design by Meg Evershed. This was the first time I'd used perforated paper to stitch on and I was really impressed with the result, it looks so effective! *Crazy* has such a great range of projects, I look forward to seeing more designs using perforated paper in future issues.

Nikki James, Powys

Yvette says: What a beauty, Nikki, I'm so impressed with your perforated paper skills!

WIN!

Each month our star letter winner receives a fantastic prize!



This month's Star letter winner will receive this beautifully detailed sunny St Ives North Harbour kit worth £14.99! Visit www.emmalouisestitch.co.uk for more information or to buy.

WORTH
£15!

Labour of love

Here's a photo of my latest project that I thought I'd share with you all. I completed this Eddie Stobart design last year when I was signed off work with a prolapsed disc. It was a very challenging project as there were lots of squashed stitches which I'd never attempted to do before, as well as lots of fiddly backstitch. I'm very pleased with the way it's turned out and the recipient was just as delighted!

Maria Hutchinson, York



▲ Maria took her stitching to new heights with this detailed design

Rachel says: What an accomplished stitch, Maria – I can't imagine how many stitches are in this masterpiece! I hope you're fully on the road to recovery now.

▼ Newcastle United
legend Alan Shearer
scores for Allison!



Fever pitch

I thought I'd share my latest celeb stitch with you. It's Newcastle United legend, Alan Shearer. I bought the kit from Jann Designs and it was an absolute joy to stitch from start to finish.

Allison Dodds, Newcastle

Yvette says: This is an amazing likeness, Allison – what a stunning project. I think your needle skills are just as impressive as Alan's talent on the pitch!

Blonde ambition

My latest project, the Rapunzel from issue 200, was stitched for my five-year-old granddaughter, Isla, who already has long blonde hair but wants to grow it as long as Rapunzel's! She loves this stitched picture, so I'm going to frame it for her to hang on her bedroom wall.

Diane Osgothorpe, Barnsley

Rachel says: How could any little girl resist this gorgeous stitch, Diane? You've done a fab job!



▲ Lucie Heaton's delightful Rapunzel is a hit with Diane's granddaughter



Hello dolly

I'd like to show you my latest completed project, four mini Russian dolls from issue 179 of *Cross Stitch Crazy*. I made them into bag and keyring charms. They were lovely to stitch and I'll be able to swap them around. They'll be used everyday.

Linda West, Isle of Man

Rachel says: What cuties, Linda! The tiny seed beads add such a pretty touch. I hope you get much joy from using these little charmers every day. Gorgeous work, well done!

▲ These little Russian dolls will be enjoyed by Linda every day

Quick stitch!

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

Going cuckoo

I just loved doing this little Stitch o'clock project from issue 201.

Once I'd started it I just couldn't put it down! I decorated a hoop using ribbon and added bows and flowers. I hope you like it.

Linda Jackson, Cumbernauld

Yvette says: Congratulations, you're our quickest stitcher this month, Linda! You've decorated the hoop so prettily with the alternating red and yellow ribbon, and the little flowers and bows add a cutesy touch!



1st
PAST THE
POST!

Feel the love

I wanted to share some of the cards that I've stitched and made recently after subscribing to *Crazy* in the new year. I found great inspiration from Lucie Heaton's Special Occasions chart book which came free with issue 199, and made a Mother's Day card using the alphabet in issue 200.

I'm absolutely loving getting back into cross stitching!

Leah Sweet, Somerset

Rachel says: I love the way you've used the free papers to mount you stitching onto your cards, Leah. I'm also delighted that we've rekindled your love of cross stitching!



▲ Leah's passion for cross stitch has been reignited thanks to *Crazy*!

Pretty in pink

Here's a photo of a picture that I stitched with love for my six-year-old daughter. She loves the design and the pink frame that it's in too. I think replacing the letter 'O' with a rose looks so cool, I hope you do too!

Ela Rozbicka, Poland

Rachel says: Your daughter looks over the moon with her pretty picture, Ela, and I love the raspberry pink frame you've chosen!

► Ela is spreading the love in flowers for her little daughter



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Prizes every month!

Each month, three subscribers are selected to win a prize as a thank you for their loyalty to *Crazy*. This month, winners will receive this adorable Fizzy Moon kit worth £24.99! For your chance to win, turn to page 32 and subscribe to *Crazy* today. See below for this month's lucky winners.

- Mrs O'Neill Subs no: CSCZ62240
- Mrs Alcock Subs no: CSCZ40272
- Mrs Brown Subs no: CSCZ62676

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

YourLetters



▲ Joan Elliott's mermaid from issue 193 looks simply stunning in all her stitched beauty!

Maritime beauty

I've finally framed this beautiful mermaid from issue 193 that I finished recently. I really enjoyed stitching this Joan Elliott design and I'm very proud of the result. I hope that you like it.

Veronica Paratico, Italy

Rachel says: We do like it very much, Veronica. You've captured this watery beauty in ravishing stitches. I'm sure Joan Elliott would think the same, too!

Easter treats

Here are some egg cosies that I stitched. They'd look good on the table at Easter, or on any day for that matter. Children will love finding all the eggs underneath!

Violetta Rucinska, Poland

Yvette says: These felt egg cosies are so simple yet so effective, Violetta. They make a sweet addition to the breakfast table. You could even surprise little ones with chocolate eggs underneath!



▲ Violetta's Easter bunnies make a colourful and sweet statement at the breakfast table!



▲ Sue's cute stitching of Popcorn the Bear finds a happy home on Dervla's shelf!

Top of the pops

This is our friends' little girl, Dervla, with the Popcorn cross stitch picture that I stitched for her for Christmas. She ran through to her room and put it on her shelf, and by her expression I think she liked it!

Sue Craig, Fife

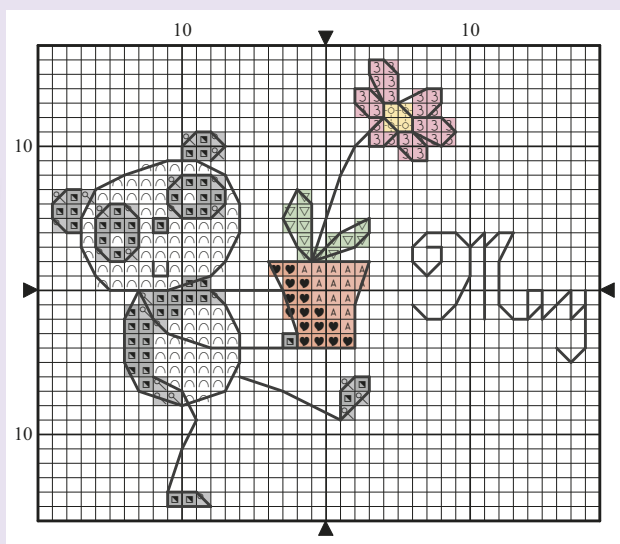
Rachel says: Dervla's happy face certainly does say it all, Sue. I think it's clear she definitely loves her Popcorn picture! What a very thoughtful gift to give, and I'm sure this little bear will be treasured by Dervla for years to come.

Cross Stitch quickie!

Next month
JUNE PANDA



We're full of the joys of spring and hope you will be too when you stitch this cuter-than-cute panda!



May panda

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
∩	blanc	2	2402
♥	349	1098	212
A	351	10	214
⦿	414	235	1714
3	603	55	505
⊙	725	305	113
▽	912	209	1213
■	3799	236	1713

✕ Backstitch in one strand

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

✕ Whole stitches only

Stitch count 31 (h) x 37 (w)

Design area on 14-count fabric
5.5x7cm (2¼x2½in)

Celebrity Wordsearch



GETTY IMAGES LTD

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

AFTER EARTH
ALI
BAD BOYS
ENEMY OF / THE STATE
FOUR GRAMMYS
FRESH PRINCE
I AM LEGEND
INDEPENDENCE / DAY
JADEN
I ROBOT
MEN IN BLACK
PHILADELPHIA
RAPPER
THE PURSUIT / OF HAPPYNESSE
TREY
WILLOW
WILL SMITH

All the words in this month's wordsearch relate to Will Smith. Words can read up, down, across, backwards and diagonally. Which word is left over?

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

Home sweet home

Here's the first thing that I've ever cross stitched for myself. I love this Riverdrift House bonus chart from issue 200 and it looks perfect on my wall. I buy *Crazy* every month and normally stitch little gifts for other people, but loved this design so much

I decided to stitch it for my home. I'm very happy with it.

Sue Dennis, Burton-on-Trent

Yvette says: I'm so pleased you're keeping this one for yourself, Sue!



▲ Sue's first piece of cross stitching for herself!

Break a leg

Here's my emu with a broken leg that Lucie designed for me in her Challenge Lucie section in issue 200. I love it! Yet again Lucie has come through with a brilliant design – my friend was over the moon with it, so a massive thank you, Lucie, and to all at *Crazy* towers. You do a fantastic job and I love buying *Crazy* every month.

Toni Miles, Slough
Rachel says: This made us smile, Toni – we're glad your friend loved it!

► This emu friend was a Challenge Lucie special!



Design may vary

Get in touch!

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

Email: crazyletters@cross-stitching.com

Facebook: [facebook.com/crossstitchcrazy](https://www.facebook.com/crossstitchcrazy)

Twitter: twitter.com/crazy_magazine

Write to: Yvette Streeter, Cross Stitch Crazy, 2nd Floor, Tower House, Fairfax Street, Bristol BS1 3BN



WIN!



► A few of the Valentine cards Sheila stitched this year using designs from *Crazy* issue 199

Bear necessities

In every issue of *Crazy* I love looking at the Challenge Lucie pages. I've yet to send in a challenge, but Lucie does a wonderful job designing people's requests. In issue 199 she came up with a design of a teddy, and I couldn't resist stitching him and making him into one of a handful of Valentine cards I stitched this year. The other two cards were from the same issue. So far I've stitched the elephants and the swans and am looking forward to completing the set. I'd best be quick before your next issue comes out, as I'm sure there'll be more to catch my eye!

Sheila Littlewood, Cumbria

Yvette says: We're big fans of Lucie too, Sheila! Hope you find plenty to inspire you this issue.

Birds adore peanut butter

Just
£2.49
330g jar

Flutter Butter™ Feeder Jar simply twists in - no messy hands. Includes hanging chain + wall bracket.



**Nutty and irresistible.
The no-salt peanut butter
that's safe for birds.**

“What's great on your toast is bad for garden visitors – ordinary peanut butter has way too much salt.

The brilliant new answer for birds is Flutter Butter™ that's rich and nutritious with no added salt. Give your birds a body-building protein boost this winter.”

Another quality product from



**Living
with
Birds**

Nick Baker
TV wildlife expert



**Exclusive
Starter Pack**
Feeder + one jar
just **£9.95***
saving **£2.49**

It's so easy to order:

- livingwithbirds.com/nutty
- **0800 072 0130**

- Send this order form to FREEPOST RTJL-YTRA-YZTK, Jacobi Jayne & Co, Herne Bay CT6 7LQ

Quote code CW84 when ordering online or by phone to receive your Exclusive Starter Pack discount

Qty	Price	Total
Flutter Butter™ 330g jar	£2.49	
Flutter Butter™ Feeder	£9.95	
Exclusive Starter Pack: Feeder + 1 jar	£12.44 £9.95	
Post & packing	£3.50	£3.50
Grand total		

* plus P&P

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms _____

Address _____

Postcode _____ Telephone _____

E-mail _____ Will only be used in case of delivery difficulties.

PAYMENT METHOD

1 I enclose a cheque/PO for £ _____ made payable to Jacobi Jayne & Company.

2 Please debit my card (Visa/Visa Debit/Mastercard/Maestro) by the above amount.

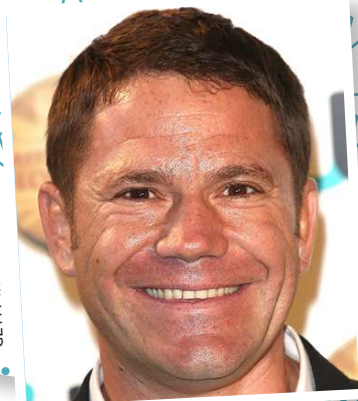
Card Number

Expires / Issue No CV code Last 3 digits on back of card

Signature

☐ Tick this box if you don't want to receive mailings from anyone other than us.





CelebStitch

Steve Backshall

Adventure-seeker Steve is a must-stitch for wildlife fans and *Strictly* addicts!

This action man waltzed into our living rooms during last year's *Strictly Come Dancing*, and now he's quickstepped his way into the pages of *Crazy*! Although he and professional dance partner Ola Jordan impressed us with their moves, Steve is actually best known for his work as a wildlife presenter. Travelling the world, hanging out with dangerous animals, and exploring jungles and volcanos is all in a day's work for this brave adventurer!

This design is worked in whole stitches only, so it's perfect for all abilities. If you're a beginner, don't be nervous about picking up your needle – take a leaf out of Steve's book, be bold and give it a go! ●

Steve Backshall

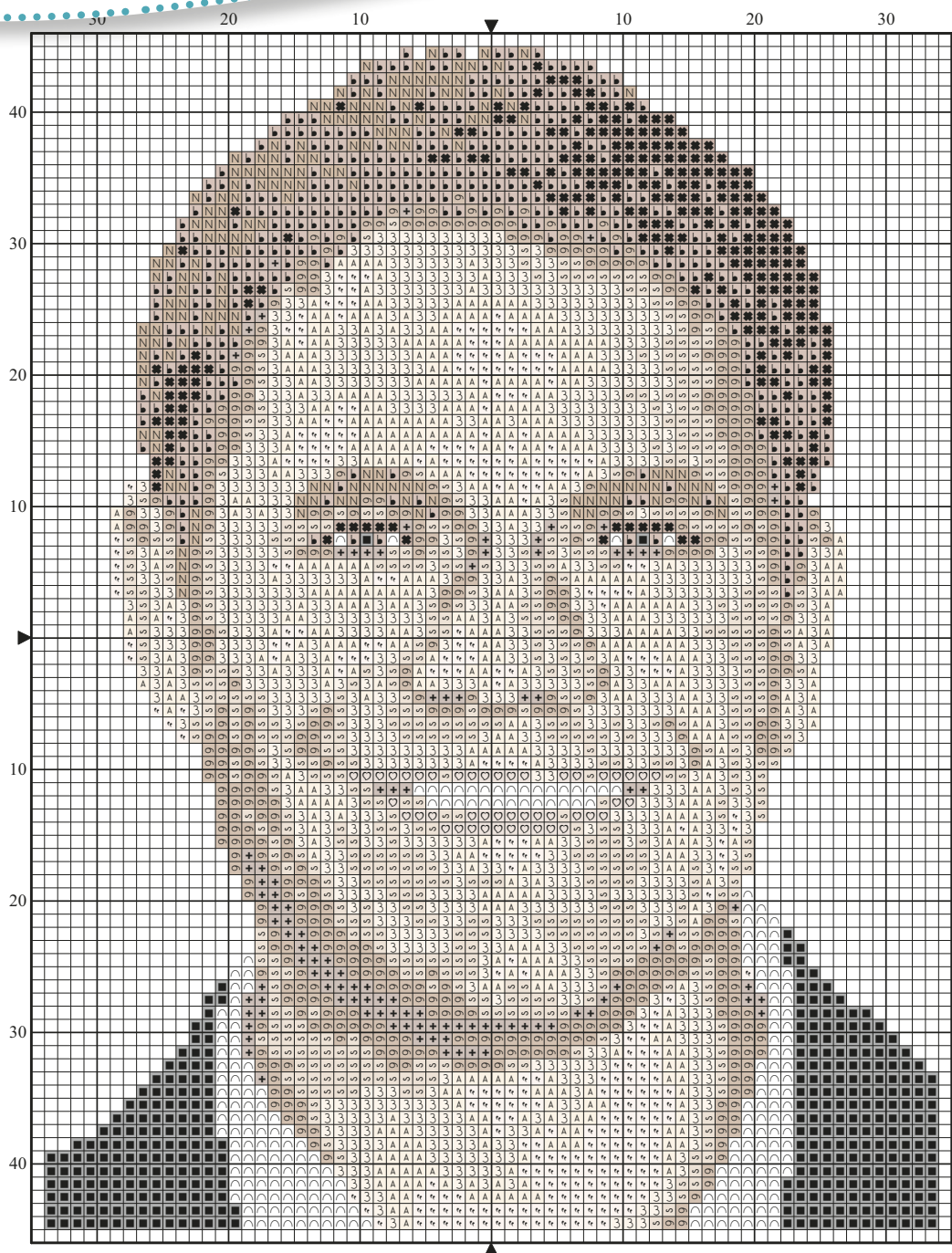
✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
○	blanc	2	2402
■	310	403	2400
✿	838	380	2005
■	839	1050	1914
3	950	4146	2309
“	3770	1009	2314
A	3774	778	306
N	3781	1088	2003
♡	3859	1013	2310
+	3862	374	1913
○	3863	379	1912
∞	3864	376	1910

✕ Whole stitches only

Stitch count 90 (h) x 68 (w)

Design area on 14-count fabric
16.5x12.5cm (6½x4¾in)



Reader's
pick!
This celeb was
chosen by
**KIM
BAIRSTOW**

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

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

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

50 wedding Gift ideas



Give your special day even more reasons to be treasured with this heart-filled collection of darling wedding designs
Designed by Durene Jones

We can hear the merry peal of wedding bells! If they're ringing for you, we hope you'll enjoy leafing through this cute collection of love-filled motifs.

They're just the right size for adorning stationery, wedding favours and tableware, and are so quick to stitch, they'll prove a wonderfully relaxing break from all your other big day preparations. You can easily change the shades used in these designs to match the colours you've chosen for your day, then use the alphabet to personalise your makes. ●



StitchTime
2-4 hrs
(Each)

StitchList...

- ✕ Whole cross stitch
- ✕ Backstitch

ShoppingList...

Threads - Stranded cotton as listed in the key

Needle - Size 24/26 tapestry needle

Fabric - Zweigart 14-count white aida measuring a maximum of 10x10cm (4x4in) for most designs. Zweigart 16-count 4.5cm (1¾in) wide white aida band with white trim, cut to desired length. 14-count plastic canvas measuring 5x5cm (2x2in) for each cufflink. To buy, visit www.sewandso.co.uk or call ☎ 0800 013 0150

Extras - Square Aperture card (AP10U) in Creative Smooth white (30). Visit www.craftcreations.com or call ☎ 01992 781 900 to buy. All other items are handmade or from high street stores



Together forever



Hope to see you!



With this ring...

For the best man



Let's drink to us!



To a cute couple



Thank you for coming



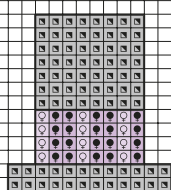
The newlyweds!



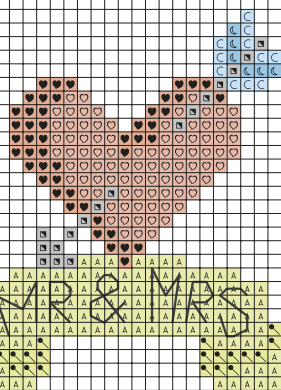
Enjoy our special day



1



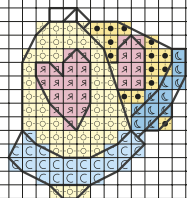
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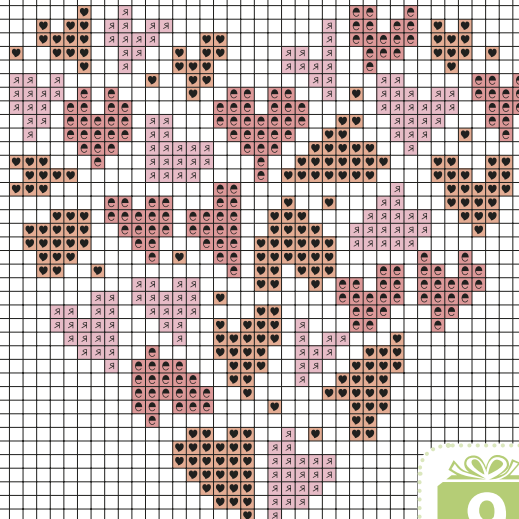
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► Stitch small floral designs on perforated paper then scatter over tables like confetti

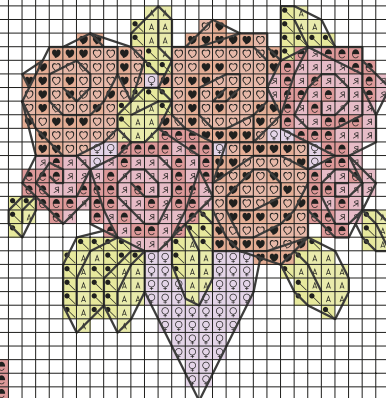
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7



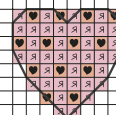
5



6

► Adorn plain white favour boxes and bags for guests with a pretty stitched motif

8



Wedding motifs

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
∩	B5200	1	2401
●	208	99	804
♀	209	98	803
♥	349	1098	212
♡	351	10	214
■	414	235	1714
▼	420	374	2104
☼	445	288	103
☼	601	63	703
Я	603	55	505
☼	907	255	1308
—	951	1010	2308
☼	973	290	105
☼	995	410	1102
☼	996	433	1103
☼	3024	900	1814
A	3819	279	1610

✕ Backstitch in one strand

—	349	1098	212
—	907	255	1308
—	995	410	1102
—	3799	236	1713

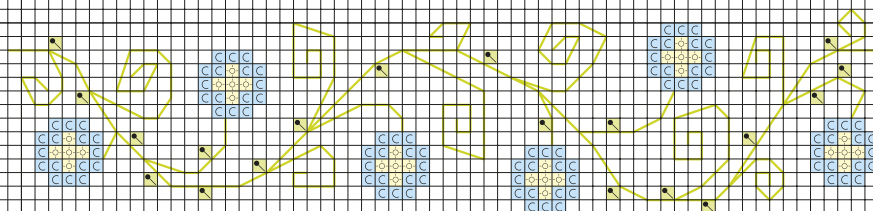
✕ Whole stitches only

Max. stitch count 38 (h) x 210 (w)
Design area on 14-count fabric
7x38cm (2¾x15in)
Stitched by Lisa Cooke

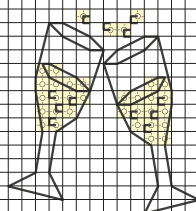
9

► Decorate napkins and table runners with the floral flourish below – change the colours to suit you

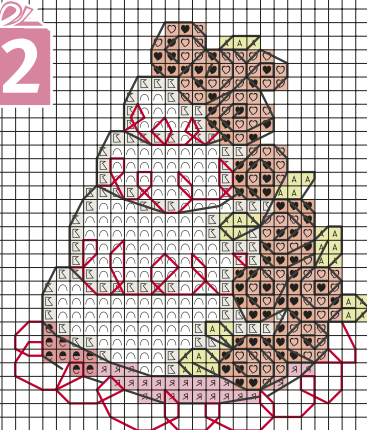
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11

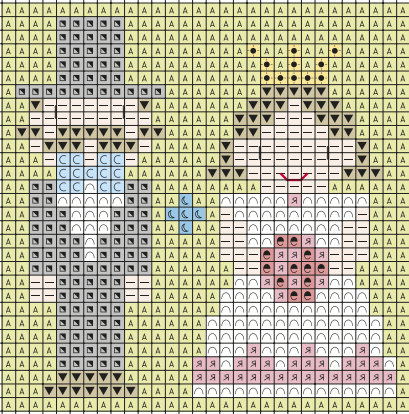


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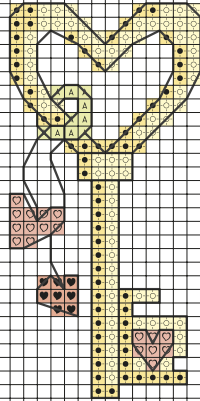


13

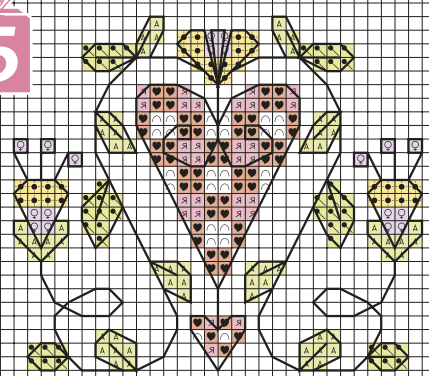
► Stitch a wedding sampler to remember your day using your favourites from this set



14



15



16

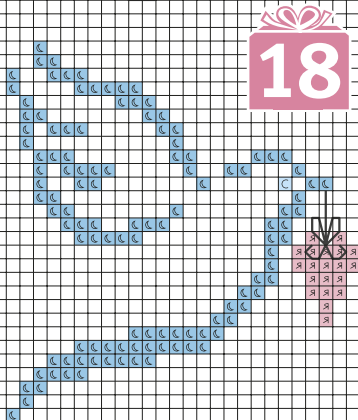
17

► Make a special card to give your bride or groom to open on the morning of your wedding day

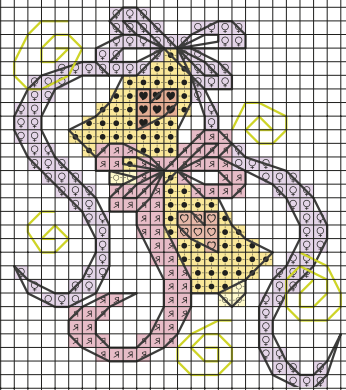
19

► Pick an iridescent aida to stitch any of these motifs onto for a glamorous finish

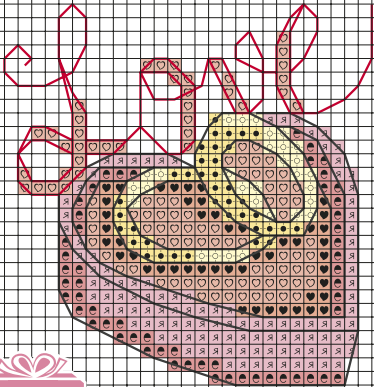
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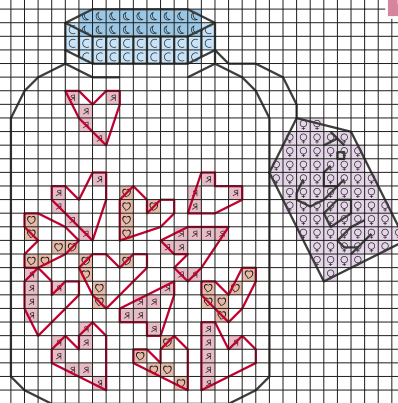
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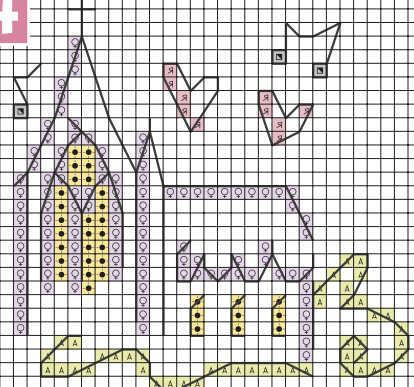
20



23



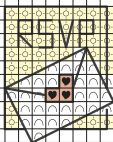
24



22

► Getting married in a church? Use the design on the far right to embellish your order of service

25



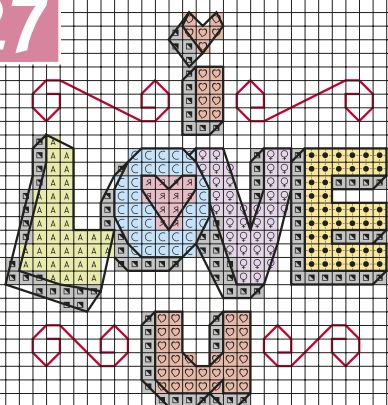
26

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ
abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz
0123456789

More charts over the page

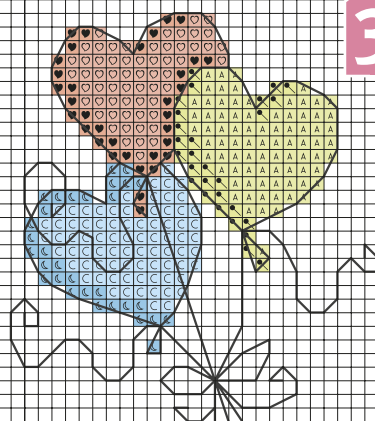


27



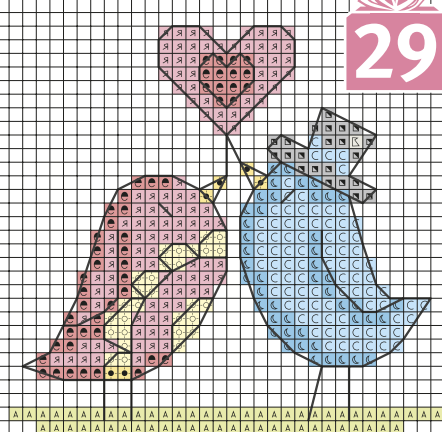
28

► Create a craft table to keep little guests happy with aida, needle, thread and these bold charts

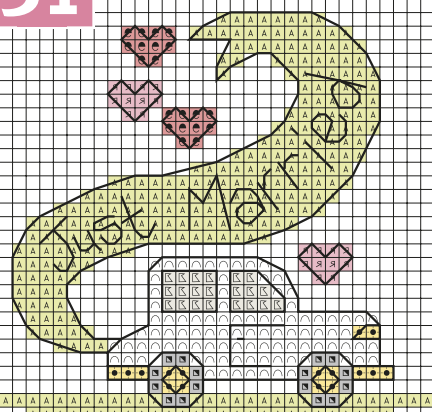


30

29



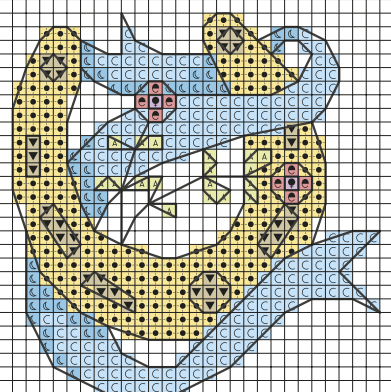
31



32

► Use your favourite motif and the backstitch abc to send out thank you cards after the day

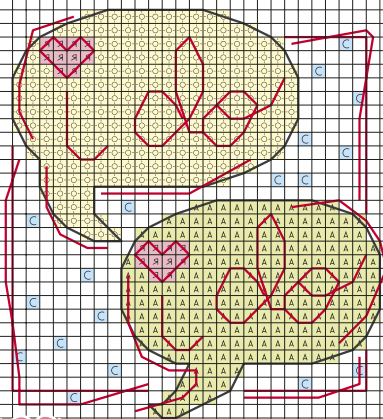
33



35

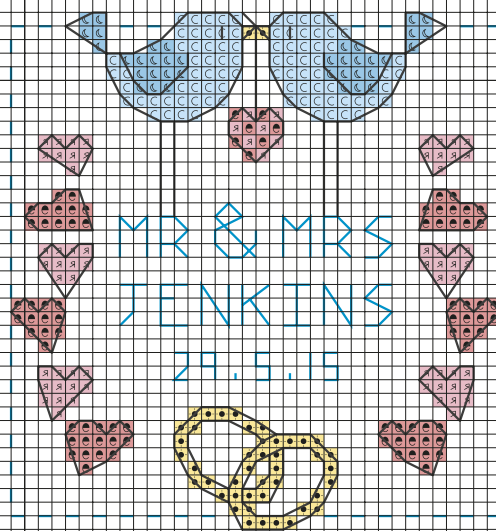
34

► Invite guests to leave a message in a keepsake book embellished with one of these designs

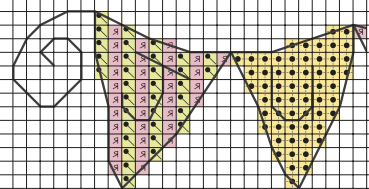


36

► Stitch mini motifs onto aida band and tie around your cake for a fancy flourish



38

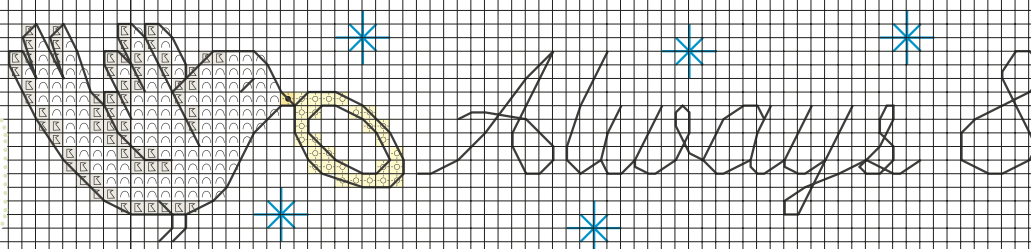


37

39

► Use waste canvas to stitch these doves (right) on two white pillowcases for your wedding night

40

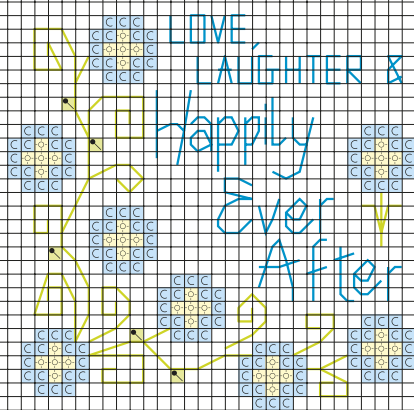




41

42

► Mount one of the square designs in a small white frame to remind you of your day



43

44

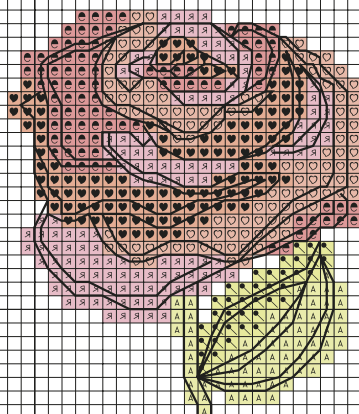
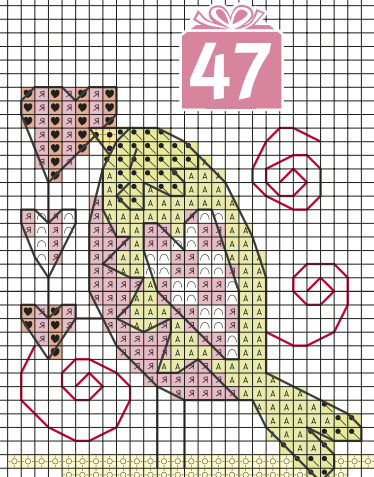
► Stitch a small motif onto plastic canvas and tie round favour bags of heart-shaped sweets

45

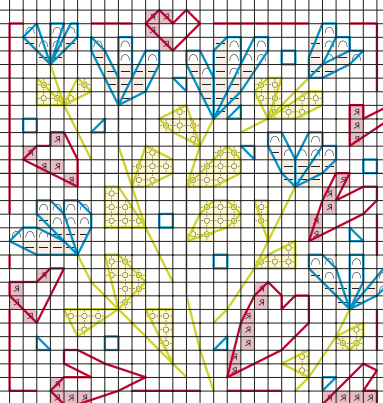
46

► Pick a smaller design and patch onto tags to attach to thank you gifts for your bridesmaids

47

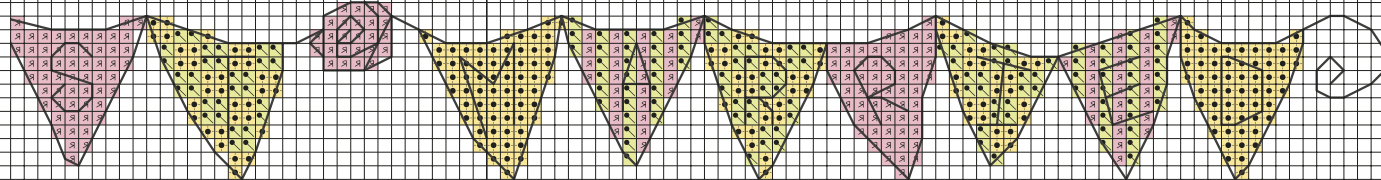


49



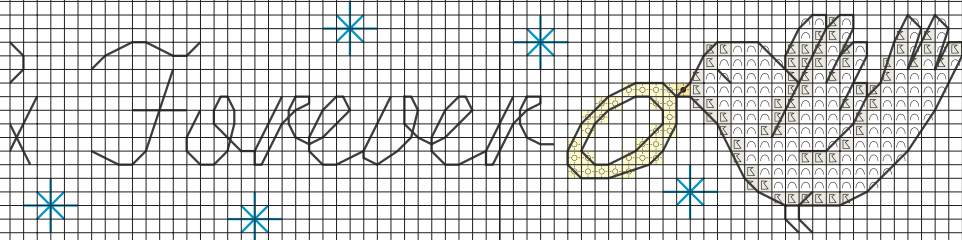
48

► Patch the vibrant rose above onto a clutch bag to carry with you during the evening celebrations



50

► Many of these motifs could be used to stitch anniversary or engagement cards too



May... Must-haves



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



◀ Fresh fabrics

If you're as dotty about gorgeous fabric as we are, you'll love the scrumptious new selection from Fabric Rehab! Great for using in all sorts of handmade projects from bags to cushions to aprons, simply patch your stitching onto the front to produce something truly awe-inspiring. Pictured here is the gorgeous Lovebirds and Flowers range in Red, Yellow, and Purple, each costing £11.20 a metre.

* To buy, visit www.fabricrehab.co.uk



▶ Tuck in!

Following hot on the heels of the too-cute Teapot Mouse (see page 82 for how to win one!), Baking Mouse from Bothy Threads is an uplifting stitch full of vibrancy and colour. We think it would appeal to anyone with a love of baking or who just enjoys eating cakes! The kit costs £19.99 and measures 18cm (7in) square when finished.

* Visit www.bothythreads.com or call ☎ 01900 828 844 to buy



▲ Oh-sew-sweet

Create a buzz with your needle as you work this simple but satisfying honeycomb and bee design. The Honey Bee cross stitch kit costs \$26 (approximately £17) and contains Zweigart 14-count linen aida for a gorgeously rustic finish, along with Finca Mouline embroidery thread, two John James needles (a spare one just in case!), plus some handy cross stitching tips to ensure a super-smooth stitching journey. Or, if you've plenty of stitchy stash already, you can buy the design as a chart only for just \$6 (approximately £4).

* To buy, visit www.modernneedleworks.etsy.com



▲ Prints charming

Surrounding yourself with gorgeous things is a quick way to happiness, and no one does gorgeous quite like Liberty of London! Pop these elegant small Sewing Scissors and Case in your bag for stitching on the move, and choose your pretty protective fabric case from a range of prints. Pictured here are Margaret Annie Print B, Hera Print and Betsy Print (left to right). Each set costs £7.95 and would make a lovely gift for a fellow crafter.

* Visit www.liberty.co.uk or call ☎ 0207 734 1234 for more information or to buy

► All taped up

There are so many ways to use this eye-catching butterfly-adorned tape – use strips to mount your stitching on the front of a card or gift tag, wind around the edge of a hoop instead of ribbon for a customised effect, or decorate the cover of a plain notebook. The box acts as a handy dispenser too, and contains four tapes in pink, pale blue, lemon yellow and ivory, each giving you five metres of tape. Butterflies Set of Four Paper Tapes costs £4.50 from Paperchase.

* To buy, visit www.paperchase.co.uk



◀ Out of this world

Take your needle on an inter-stellar journey with Bobo Stitch! Roaring Rocket Glow in the Dark cross stitch kit is beautifully bright by day and enchantingly glowy and ethereal by night. It would make a stunning statement in any child's room and is sure to earn you serious Brownie points! The kit costs £30 and includes a full alphabet so you can personalise it with your child's name.

* Visit www.bobostitch.co.uk or call ☎ 07879 477 253 to buy



▼ Art of the matter

If you're an appreciator of fine art, you're in for a treat with this brand new collection of cross stitch kits from DMC. Working in collaboration with London's National Gallery, six of their most important artworks have been turned into cross stitch, so you can watch with wonder as famous paintings by Van Gogh, Renoir, Monet and Seurat gradually come to life before your very eyes! Pictured here are Seurat's *Bathers at Asnières*, Van Gogh's *A Wheatfield, with Cypresses*, and Renoir's *The Skiff* (clockwise from left), all £35 each.

* For stockists, visit www.dmccreative.co.uk or call ☎ 0116 275 4000



Splurge or save?

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

Cosy quartet

Snuggle up to this folk-style cushion adorned with four dolls in decreasing sizes. The Russian Doll cross stitch kit costs £60 and includes 10-count aida, English tapestry wool and a bag to keep your stitching in. To buy, visit www.pearlandearl.co.uk or call ☎ 01903 884 449.



Doll face

We can't help but smile when we look at this chirpy design from Bothy Threads! Slightly Dotty Russian Dolls costs £19.99 for the kit and measures 26x26cm (10x10in) when finished. Call ☎ 0800 013 0150 or to order online, visit www.sewandso.co.uk.



Weekend

Trip of a lifetime



Visit London, Paris and New York this weekend in tantalising technicolour – no passport required!
Designed by Jody Rice

Fancy a mini break? Somewhere cosmopolitan and achingly hip? Well we have just the place in mind! From London's Tower Bridge, to New York's Statue of Liberty, via Paris's Eiffel Tower, let Jody whisk you away on a



StitchTime
7-10 hrs
(Each)

truly unforgettable journey in dazzling shades! The inky black aida gives the impression of a night's sky, making the colours pop with vibrancy, while all three designs are worked in whole stitches with minimal backstitching so anyone can give them a try! Question is, where will you travel to first? ●

StitchList...

Perfect for beginners

- ✖ Whole cross stitch
- ✖ Backstitch

ShoppingList...

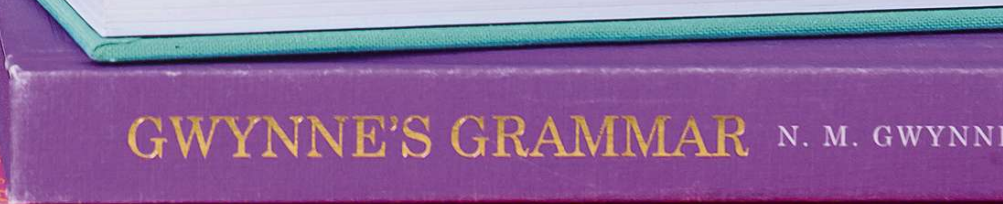
Threads - Stranded cotton as listed in the key

Needle - Size 24 tapestry needle

Fabric - Zweigart 14-count black aida measuring 15x20cm (6x7¾in). Visit www.sewandso.co.uk or call ☎ 0800 013 0150 to buy

Extras - 13x15cm (5x6in) canvas available from local craft stores





Weekend

Cityscapes

✳ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
∩	B5200	1	2401
я	165	278	1414
\$	166	280	1611
◆	208	99	804
■	310	403	2400
T	318	399	1801
t	340	118	902
3	351	10	214
A	353	6	2313
⊙	445	288	103
—	554	90	711
▼	580	267	1608
●	600	63	703
♥	666	46	210
s	747	158	1104
Z	798	131	912
e	807	168	1108
⊙	917	89	706
▽	954	203	1207
◇	957	50	504
÷	959	186	1114
I	964	185	1112
N	3341	328	403
e	3608	86	709
w	3705	35	410
⌂	3766	167	1106
b	3812	188	2706
K	3829	901	2210
x	3840	130	907
⌂	3852	306	2514

✳ Backstitch in two strands

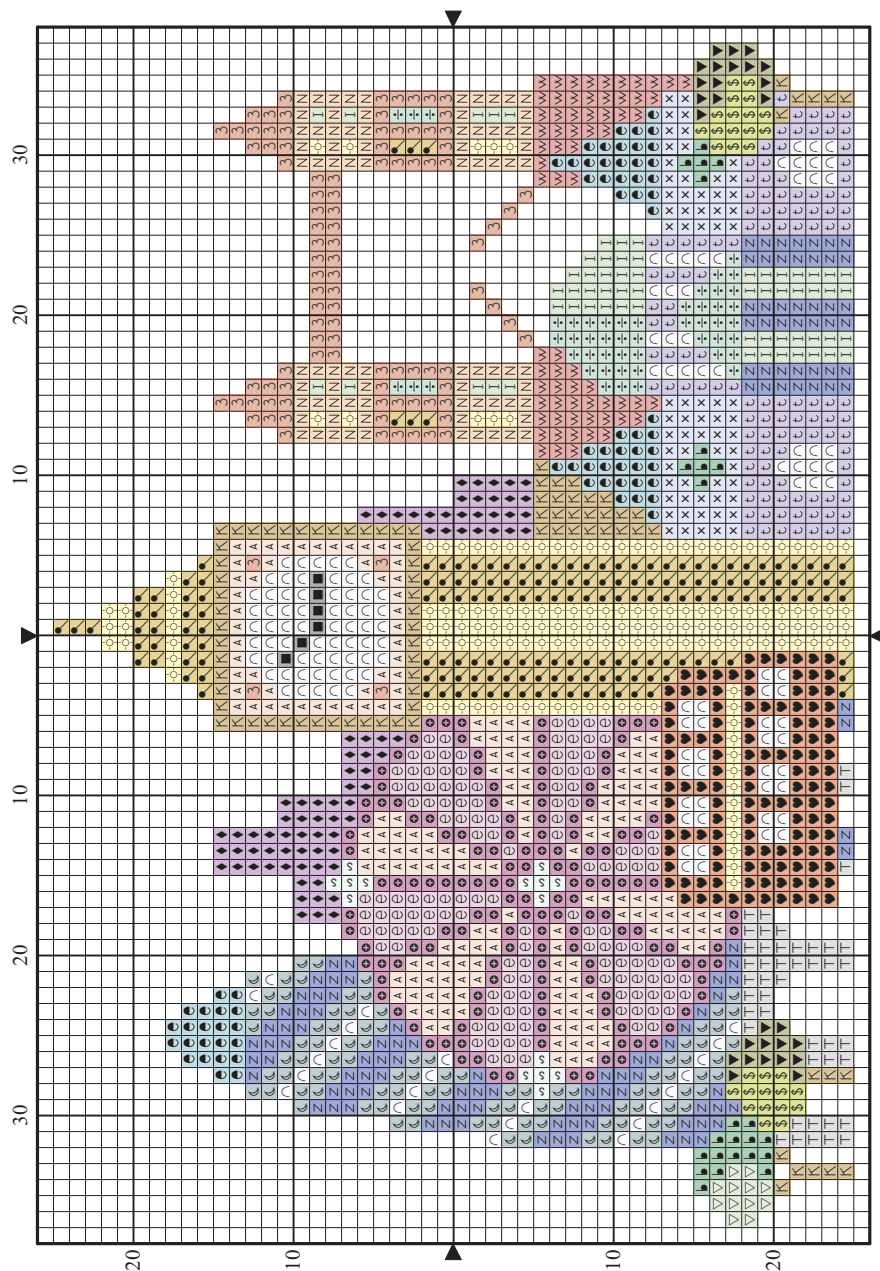
—	807	168	1108
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✳ Whole stitches only

Stitch count 50 (h) x 74 (w)

Design area on 14-count fabric
9x13.5cm (3½x5¼in)

Stitched by Jane Dicker



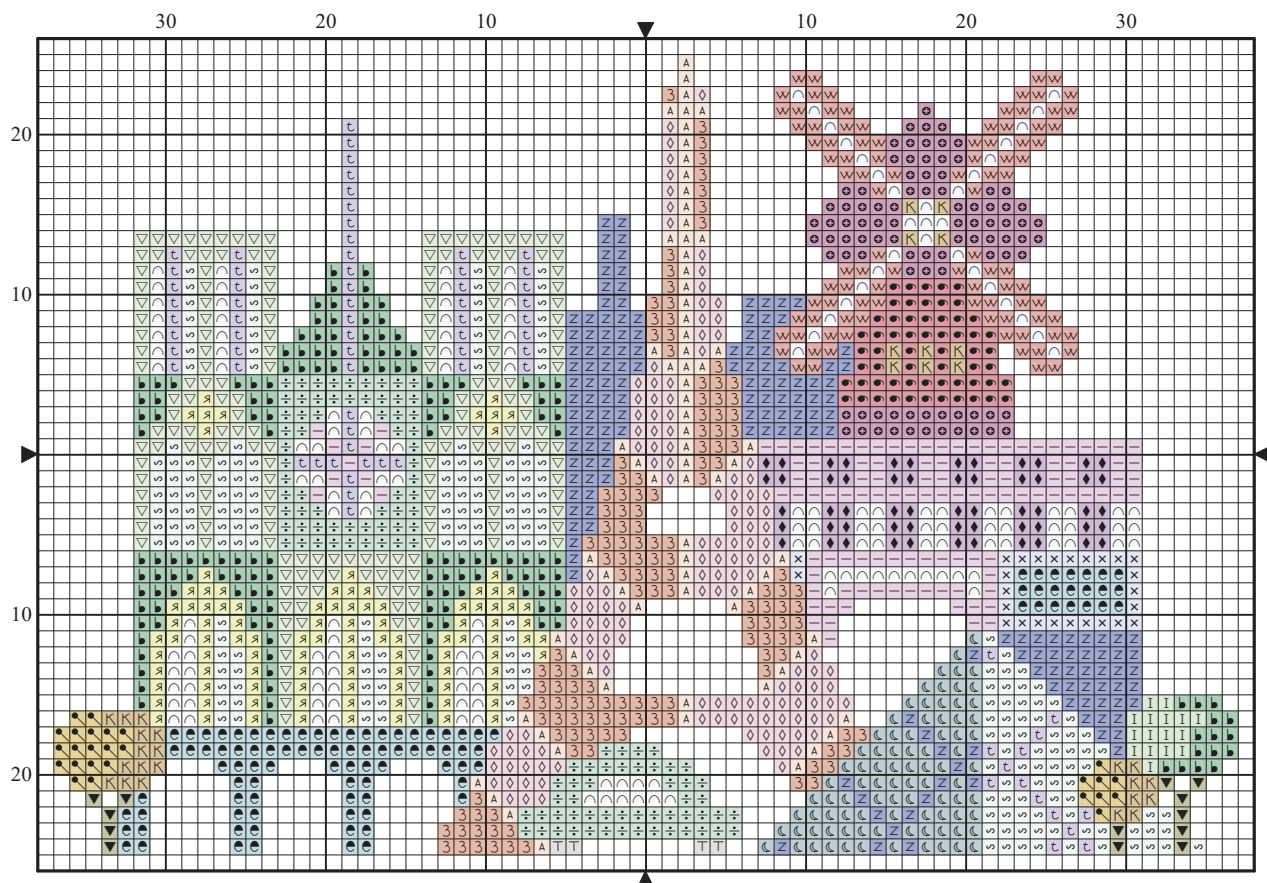
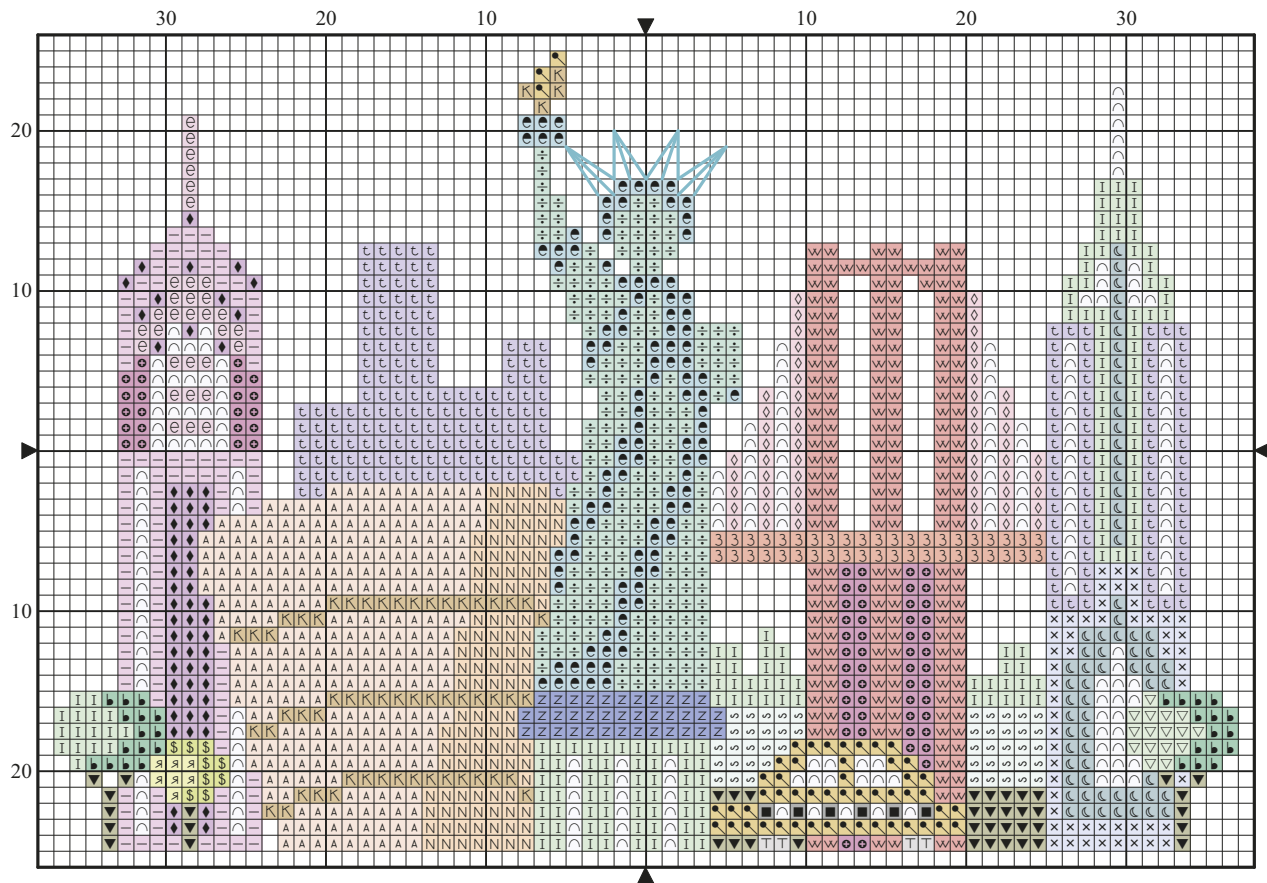
ReaderSays...



I normally stitch on white or cream aida, and even though I have a drawer full of different coloured fabric, I haven't found a perfect design to use them for, until now! I also recently visited the Tower of London to see all the poppies so this cityscape will bring back happy memories.

Shahna Thwaites, Chichester





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My first teddy



Lesley's birth sampler is sure to be a cherished gift, so welcome a new little life with a big bear hug

Designed by Lesley Teare

Saying hello to a newborn is one of life's greatest pleasures, so mark the occasion with a beautiful birth sampler they'll be able to treasure forever. This charming



StitchTime
25-30 hrs
(Approx)

design uses a comprehensive array of stitches – backstitch for detail and to create the soft effect of teddy's fur, fractionals for crisp definition, and French knots to add focus to the hearts and bows. Take your time, pour your love into every stitch and we're sure you'll be rewarded with a sweet baby smile! ●

StitchList...

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

ShoppingList...

Threads - Stranded cotton as listed in the key

Needle - Size 24 tapestry needle

Fabric - A piece of Zweigart 14-count white aida measuring 30x35cm (11¾x13¾in). To buy, call ☎ 0800 056 7811 or visit www.willowfabrics.com

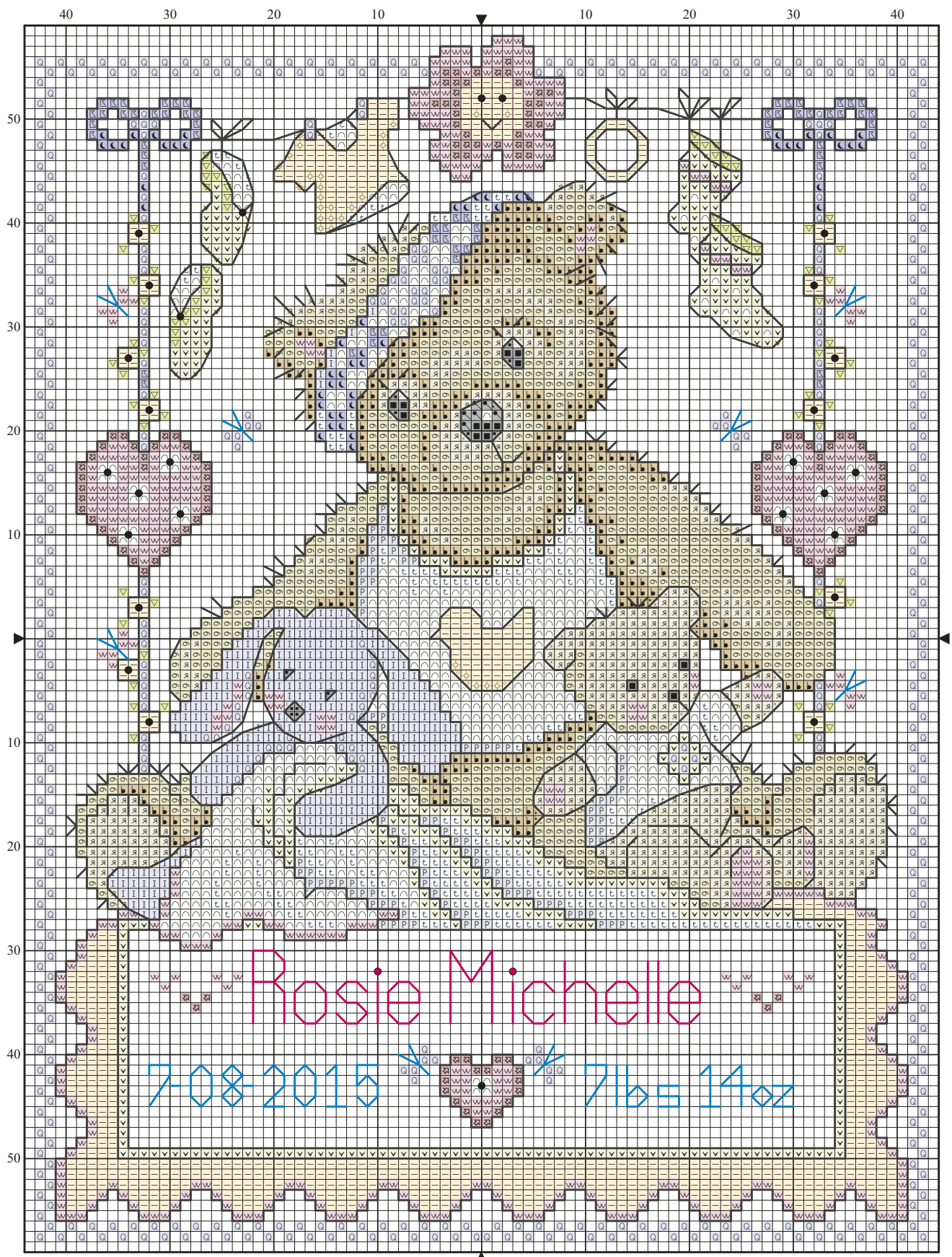
Extras - Frame of your choice with a minimum aperture of 17x22cm (7x8½in)

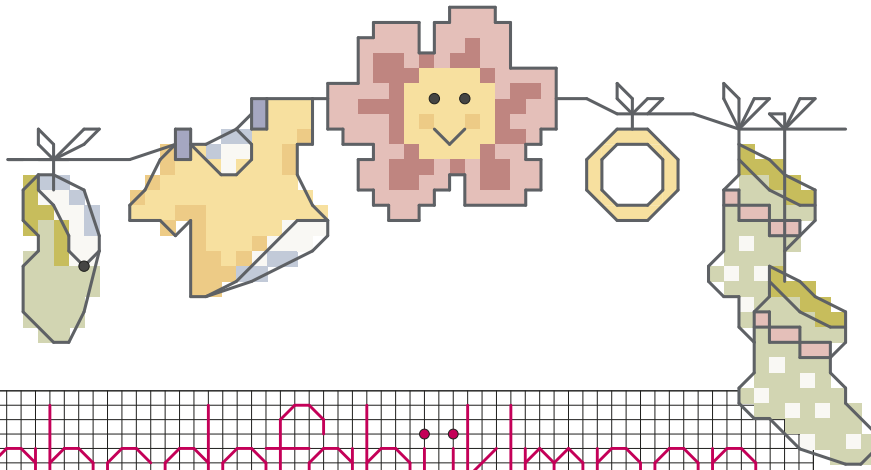




*Celebrate baby's arrival
with this sweet sampler*







Teddy birth sampler

✱ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
■	310	403	2400
Q	341	117	902
■	413	236	1713
—	745	300	111
∨	772	259	1604
■	3045	888	2103
○	3046	887	2206
Я	3047	852	2205
■	3688	66	605
W	3689	49	607
I	3747	120	901
P	3752	1032	1708
t	3753	128	909
∇	3819	279	1610
☾	3838	176	2702
■	3839	175	906
☼	3855	311	2513
∩	3865	2	2403

✱ Backstitch in one strand

—	413	236	1713
—	3687	68	604
—	3839	175	902

✱ French knots in one strand

●	310	403	2400
●	3687	68	604
●	3839	175	902

✱ Contains fractionals

Stitch count 116 (h) x 86 (w)

Design area on 14-count fabric
21x15.5cm (8¼x6¼in)

Stitched by Gillian Muggeridge

There'sMore

Lesley Teare's teddy designs are not to be missed, and here are a few more charts that you'll love to stitch! For more information or to buy, visit www.lesleyteare.com



▲ Summer Ted (LJT013), 30x25cm (12x10in), £4



Lavinia Catherine Brown ▲ All Aboard Birth Sampler (LJT072), 25x50cm (10x20in), £4



▲ Teddies Teatime (LJT012), 25x25cm (10x10in), £4

YvetteSays...



Whoever you decide to stitch this teddy for is one lucky baby! New parents will

also appreciate the personal feel of this stitched piece, as well as all your time, effort and skill. It's the perfect gift!

Yvette Streeter,
Acting Editor,
Cross Stitch Crazy



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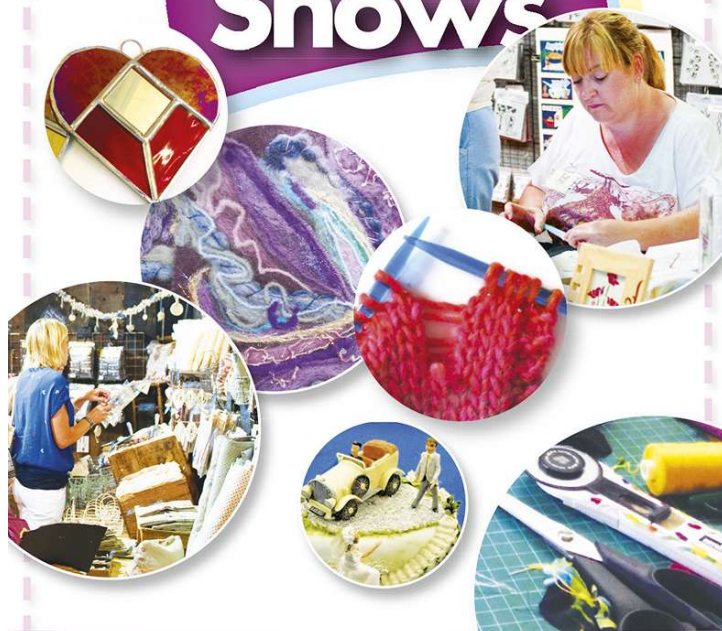
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▼ The ICHF team won the award for Best UK Stitching Show with their Hobbycrafts Show

Meet the winners ...chosen by you!



We've counted the votes for The British Craft Awards and are delighted to reveal this year's worthy winners. Drum roll please!

After several nailbiting months for craft companies and designers the length and breadth of the country, the time has finally come for us to reveal the winners in the prestigious British Craft Awards 2015! To celebrate, we held a fabulous awards ceremony where nominees enjoyed a glass of fizz plus entertainment from The Singing Waiters before finding out the results. Turn the page to see all the winners, and to read their messages of thanks! An unbelievable number of you cast your votes, so thank you so much for sharing your favourites with us. And, if you were one of the voters, take a look now to see if you're the winner of an amazing prize worth £200! ►



▲ Crazy's Acting Editor Yvette congratulates Siobhan Harrison of April Rose Illustration on her win



▼ A fabulous awards ceremony was held for the nominees at the NEC

CraftAwards

RETAILER: NORTH EAST

The Viking Loom, York

"We're overwhelmed to have won! We're always trying to improve how we work and this award gives us confidence that our customers feel we're moving in the right direction."

Romy Cordingley,
Director



RETAILER: SOUTH WEST

Material Needs, Somerset

"It's wonderful news. We do try our best for our customers and appreciate their support. This award is a great compliment to Burnham-on-Sea, so thank you to everyone who voted!"

Katherine and John Edwards,
Owners



RETAILER: MIDLANDS

Wye Needlecraft, Derbyshire

"With so many votes and lovely comments for their outstanding service and range of stock in 2014, Wye Needlecraft are a worthy winner!"

Yvette Streeter,
Acting Editor,
Cross Stitch Crazy



RETAILER: SCOTLAND

Nifty Needles, West Lothian

"Thank you to everyone who voted for us. It's a lovely pat on the back for all the staff in the shop and we really appreciate people taking the time to show it in this way."

June Stevenson,
Owner



RETAILER: WALES

Michael Powell Cross Stitch Art, Cardiff

"I'm absolutely thrilled to win this award again, and I'd like to say thanks so much to everyone who voted for me to win in the British Craft Awards 2015!"

Michael Powell,
Owner



RETAILER: NORTH WEST

Black Sheep Wools, Warrington

"It's always a great honour for us to win this award as it means a lot to us, so I'd like to say thank you so much to everyone who took time out to vote for us again this year."

Carol Mulvey,
Managing Director



RETAILER: EAST ANGLIA

Threads and Patches, Bletchley

"We are just overwhelmed at being voted for for the third year in a row. Our customers make us what we are. My fantastic team of staff also need a huge cheer!"

Sally White,
Owner



RETAILER: SOUTH EAST

Faye Whittaker's Pier Shop, Brighton

"I'm so thrilled that my shop has won this retail award for the South East. Thank you to everyone who voted for us in the British Craft Awards 2015!"

Faye Whittaker,
Owner



FAVOURITE DESIGNER

Joan Elliott

"I'm so grateful as this is such an honour. Thank you everyone who voted, and thanks to all the other nominated designers for their beautiful contributions to the stitching world."

Joan Elliott



ULTIMATE LICENSED CHARACTER

Gorjuss from Bothy Threads

"It's fabulous to win this award for Gorjuss again. It's great, simply 'Gorjuss'!"

Kate Golby,
Bothy Threads,
Owner



▼ (Left to right) Fiona and Ruth from *The World of Cross Stitching*, Yvette from *Cross Stitch Crazy*, and Medina from *Cross Stitch Gold* attended the ceremony



THE CROSS STITCH KIT COLLECTION YOU CAN'T RESIST

Gold Collection by Dimensions

"With their exquisite depth of detail and beautiful designs, it comes as no surprise to us that this fab collection got your votes!"

Yvette Streeter, Acting Editor, Cross Stitch Crazy



BEST UK ONLINE RETAILER

www.sewandso.co.uk

"F&W Media are delighted Sew and So have continued to demonstrate their focus on their customers with this award." **Bel Youldon, Business Development Director, F&W Media International**



BEST UK STITCHING SHOW

Hobbycrafts, NEC from ICHF

"I'd like to thank all of the voters, plus everyone at ICHF. Also, I'd like to say a special thank you to all of the contractors who work so hard to make the show such a success."

Adam Elkins, ICHF



RETAILER WHO WENT THE EXTRA MILE

Material Needs, Somerset

"It's wonderful to win the 'Big One'. It's a great honour for us and particularly for our staff and for those who shop in Burnham-on-Sea."

Katherine and John Edwards, Owners



SMALL BUSINESS YOU LOVE TO SUPPORT

Historical Sampler Company

"We're delighted to receive this award – it's the first time we've won anything! Thank you to everyone who voted for us."

Joanne Stellig, Director



FAVOURITE THREAD

DMC Stranded Cottons

"As always, it's a real privilege for DMC to win an award voted for by your readers, especially one as prestigious as 'Favourite Thread'."

Jonathan Thompson, Executive Director, DMC Creative World



BEST STITCHY NEWCOMER

Siobhan Harrison

"This is fantastic! It's been great working with Immediate Media and seeing my artwork translated into cross stitch, and I'm glad the readers love bringing it to life."

Siobhan Harrison, April Rose Illustration



▼ The Singing Waiters provided the entertainment during the evening!

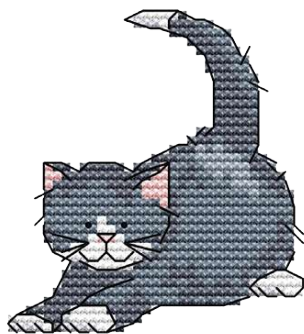


Have you won this year's brilliant prize bundle?

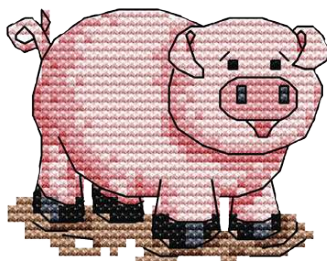


Everyone who voted in the 2015 British Craft Awards was entered into a draw to win a fab prize of a year's worth of crafting goodies. A huge congratulations to this year's lucky winner, Susan Howorth!

Previously
you've been
Crazy for...



Cute cats
Issue 201



Farmyard animals
Issue 200



Chinese New Year
Issue 199



Ancient Egypt
Issue 198

Back issues!

Crazy hotline

☎ 0844 844 0385

Monkeys

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

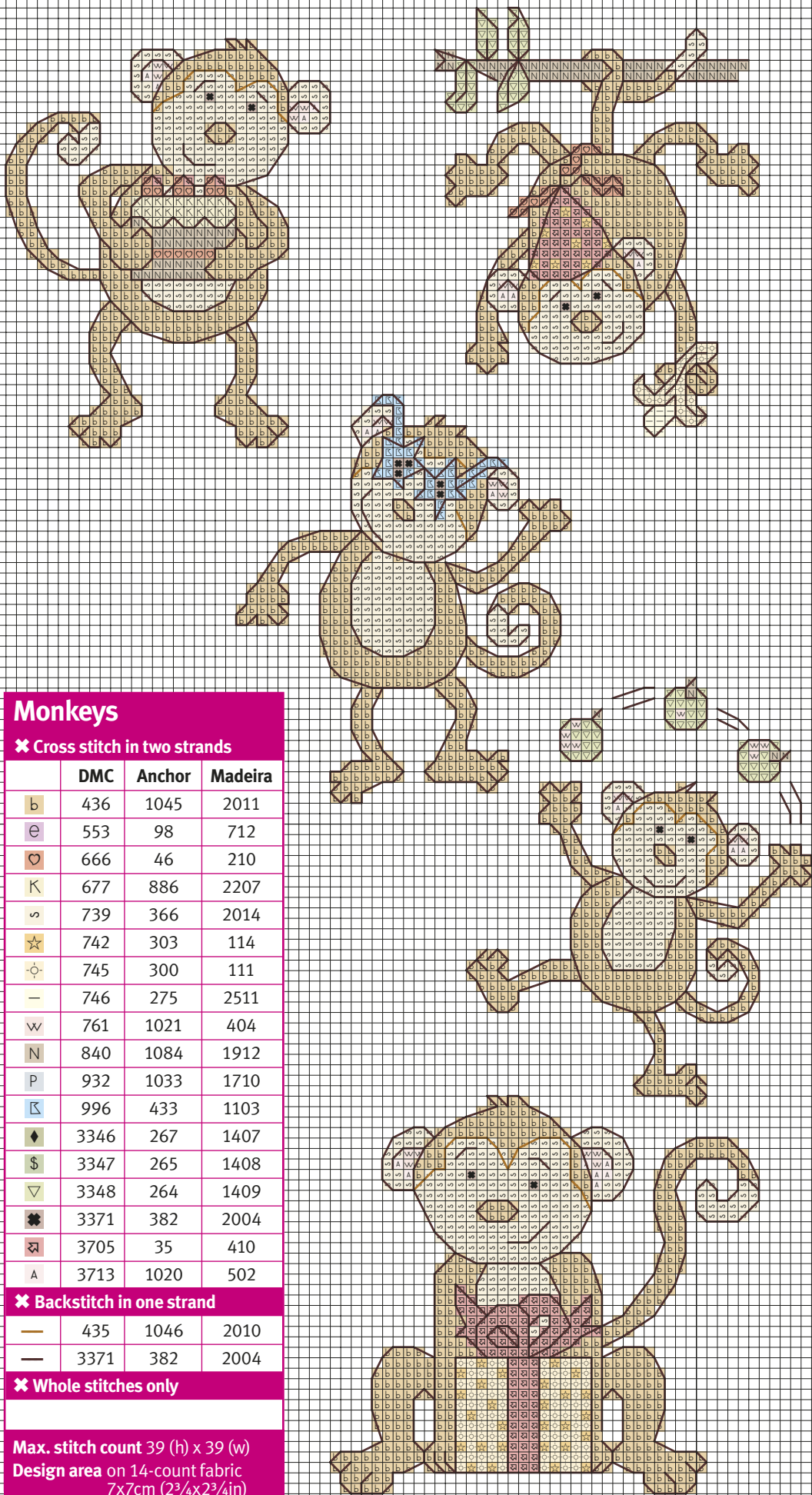
	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
b	436	1045	2011
e	553	98	712
♥	666	46	210
K	677	886	2207
s	739	366	2014
☆	742	303	114
☼	745	300	111
—	746	275	2511
w	761	1021	404
N	840	1084	1912
P	932	1033	1710
⊠	996	433	1103
◆	3346	267	1407
\$	3347	265	1408
▽	3348	264	1409
✿	3371	382	2004
☞	3705	35	410
A	3713	1020	502

✕ Backstitch in one strand

—	435	1046	2010
—	3371	382	2004

✕ Whole stitches only

Max. stitch count 39 (h) x 39 (w)
Design area on 14-count fabric
7x7cm (2¾x2¾in)



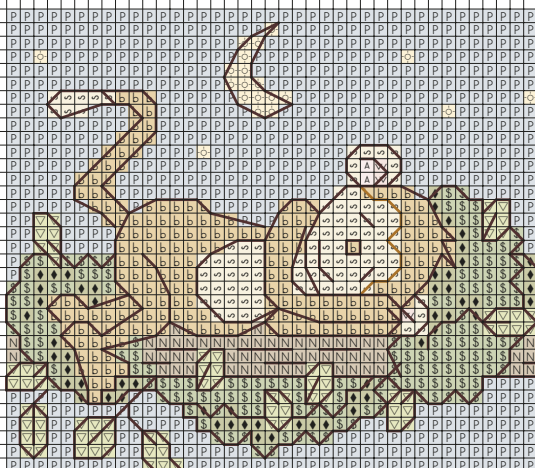
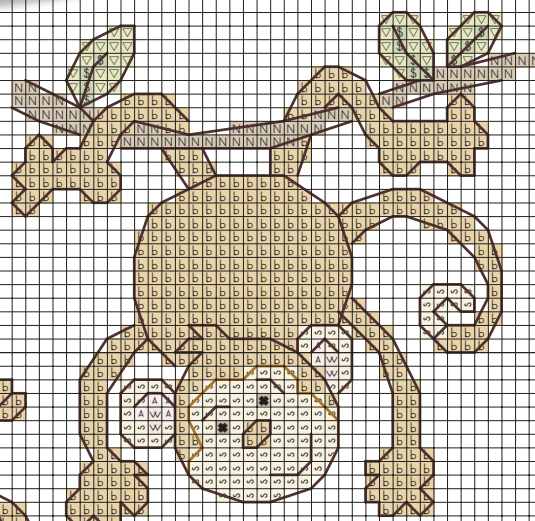
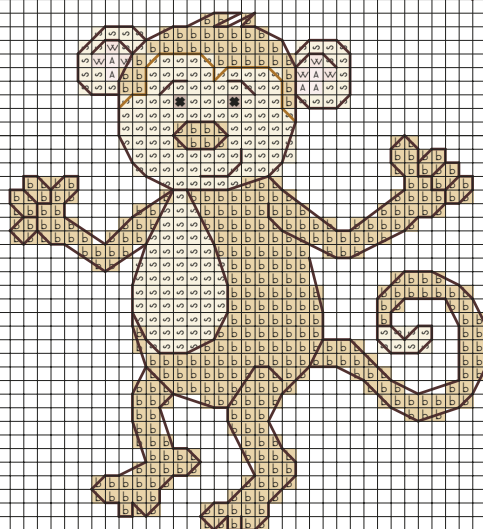
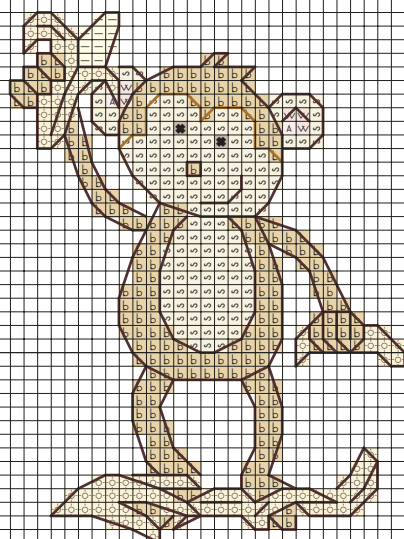
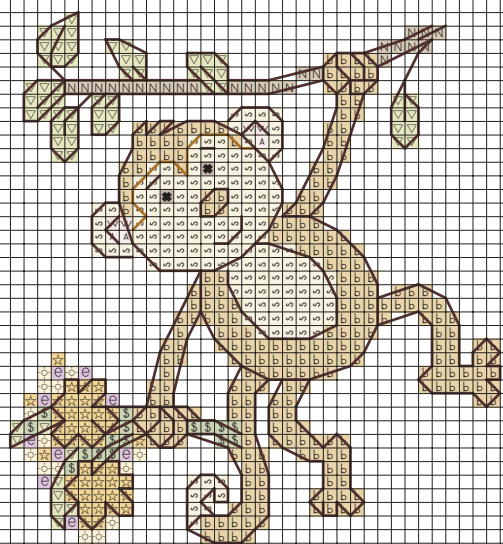
Crazy for... Monkeys

It's time to swing into action
and tame these cheeky chaps
with your needle and thread!

Designed by Jenny Barton



*Reader's
pick!*
These designs were
requested by
**SARAH
HOWLEY**



What are you crazy for?

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

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2nd Floor, Tower House, Fairfax Street, Bristol BS1 3BN or email your
requests to: crazyfor@cross-stitching.com

Flutter and fly



Ring the changes with this colourful circular design, bursting with oh-so-pretty butterflies and blooms! Designed by Lucie Heaton

Stitch this elegant scene for your home and fill each day with the cheering sight of beautiful butterflies, dancing amid the new-season flowers. Worked in stunning shades of coral and mauve with backstitch



StitchTime
20-25 hrs
(Approx)

and French knots for extra detail, it's a treat for any stitcher and is sure to make a gorgeous gift, too! Circular designs look lovely mounted in wooden embroidery hoops – paint yours white like we have to create a fresh finish, or pick out a colour from the design such as pink or green for a unique look. ●

StitchList...

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

ShoppingList...

Threads - Stranded cotton as listed in the key

Needle - Size 24 tapestry needle

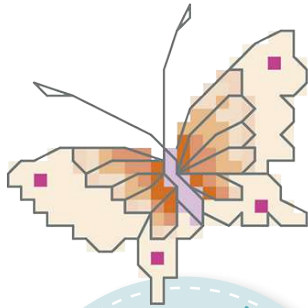
Fabric - A piece of Zweigart 14-count white aida measuring 30x30cm (11³/₄x11³/₄in). To buy, visit www.willowfabrics.com or call ☎ 0800 056 7811

Extras - 8in wooden embroidery hoop. To buy, visit www.sewandso.co.uk or call ☎ 0800 013 0150





*Brighten up your home
with this pretty picture!*



Crazy tip!

Hide the back of your stitching by sticking self-adhesive felt on the reverse

Butterflies

✦ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
●	208	99	804
÷	209	98	803
3	210	108	802
I	211	342	801
★	608	332	206
♥	718	88	707
☞	948	892	306
\$	958	187	1114
▽	959	186	1113
∇	964	185	1112
A	967	6	304
♀	3340	329	301
×	3341	328	403
☞	3607	87	708
W	3608	86	709
♥	3609	85	710
◆	3812	188	2706
?	3824	8	2605
☞	3847	189	1204

✦ Backstitch in one strand

—	317	400	1714
---	-----	-----	------

✦ French knots in one strand

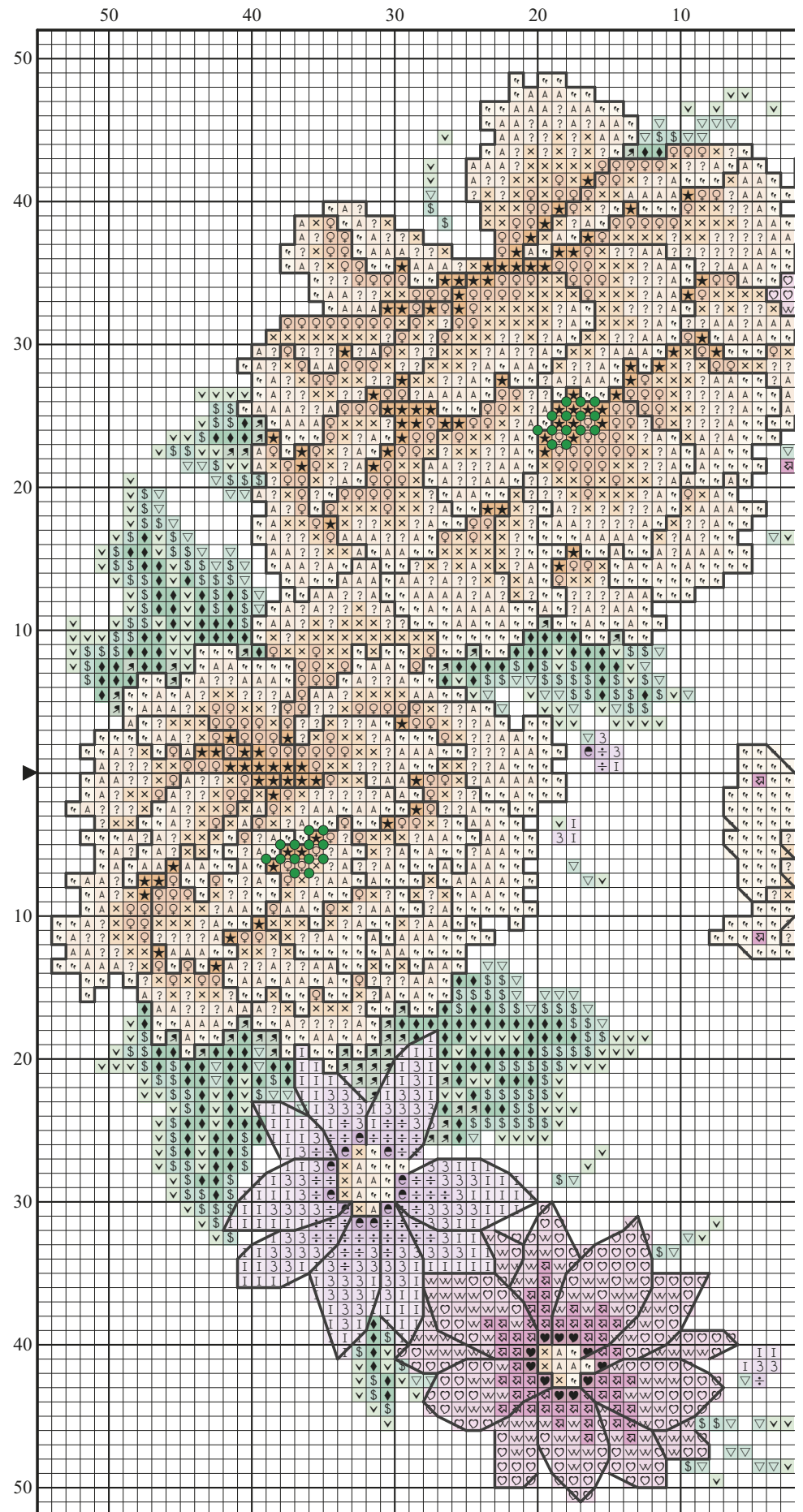
●	964	185	1112
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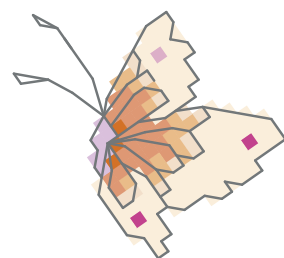
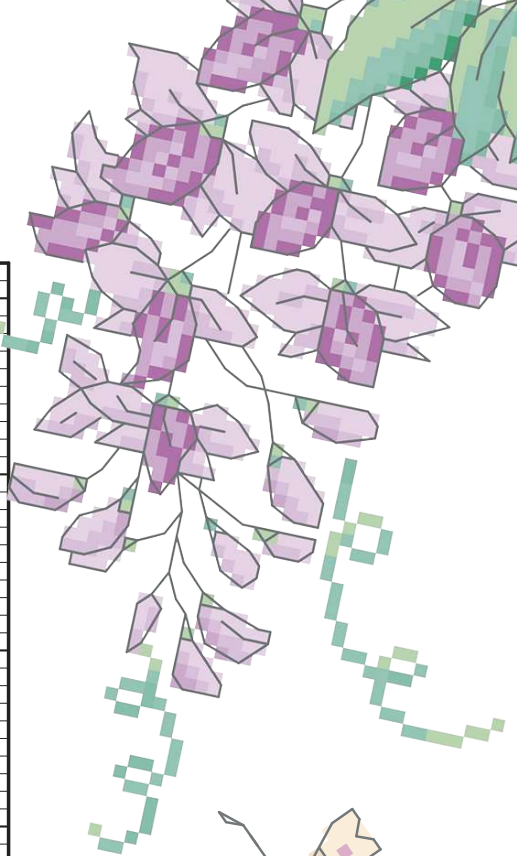
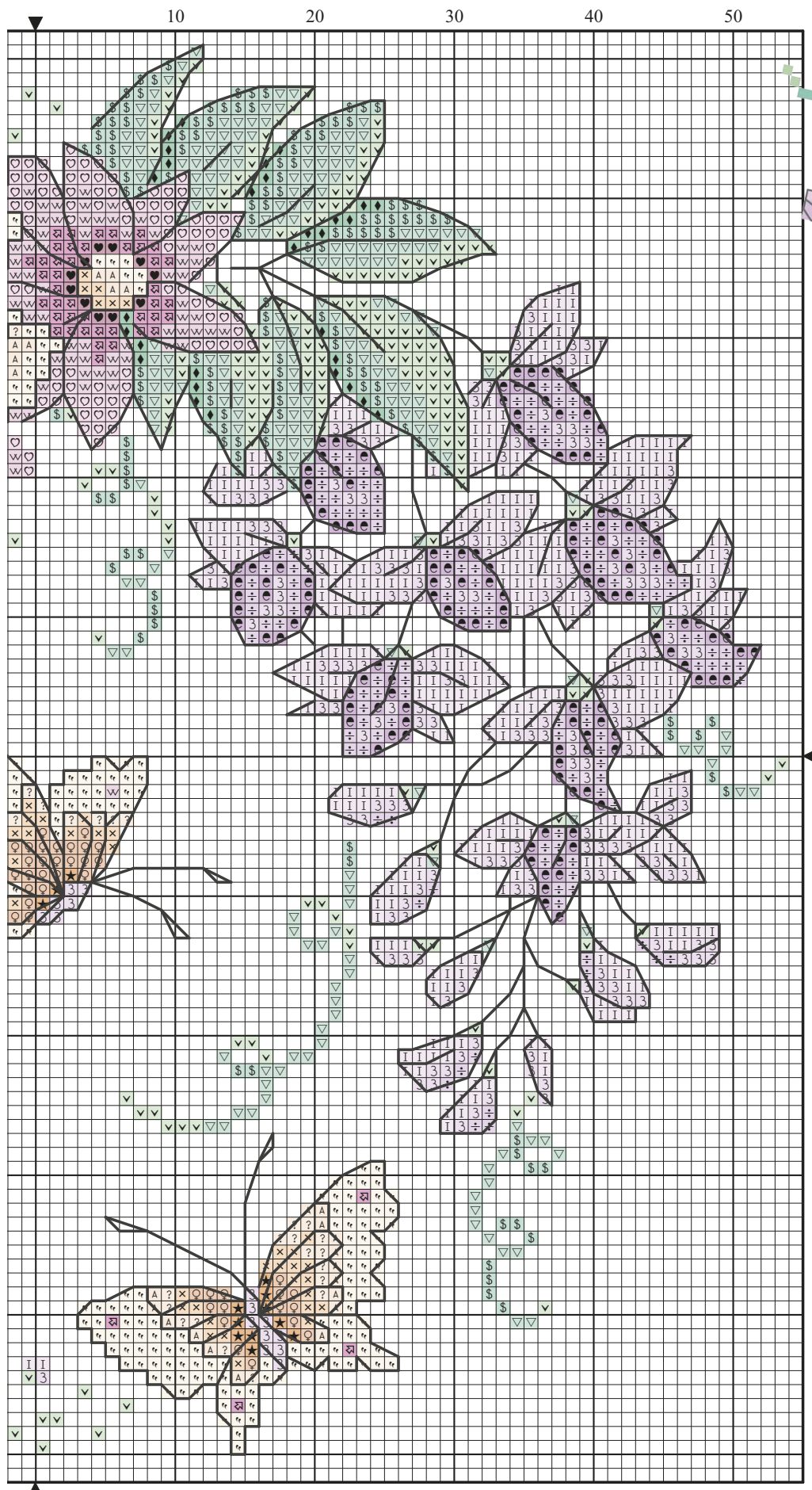
✦ Whole stitches only

Stitch count 102 (h) x 108 (w)

Design area on 14-count fabric
18.5x19.5cm
(7 1/4 x 7 3/4 in)

Stitched by Sharon Cooper





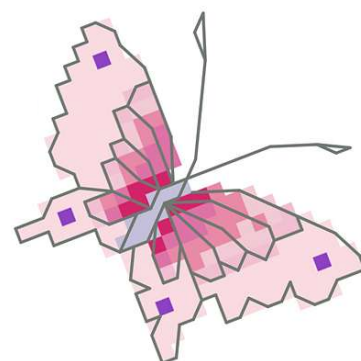
Steph Says...



I love how Lucie has captured these pretty butterflies amongst the flowers.

In fact, these individual motifs would also make lovely greetings cards or gift tags.

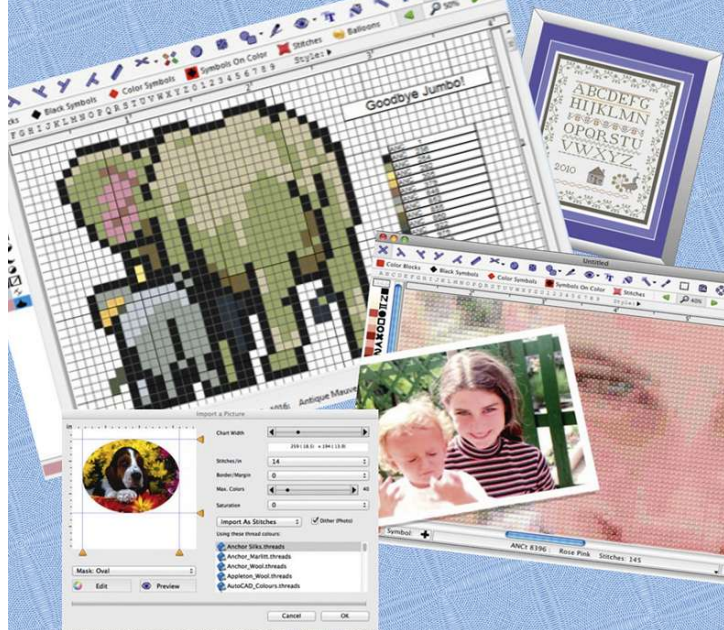
Steph Maskery, Art Editor,
Cross Stitch Crazy



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the ultimate
lifestyle guide
for crafters...



www.cross-stitching.com

Crazy's Angels



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

Dodging damp

Q My house is quite old and is prone to damp and mildew. On several of my stitched pieces the threads have become ruined because of it. How can I protect my future stitching?

Nikki Harcourt, London

A What a nuisance, Nikki. I'd suggest using Thread Heaven thread conditioner and protectant when stitching your next piece. This wonder product coats your threads as you stitch, protecting against mould, mildew and UV rays. It also makes the thread more manageable which will improve the neatness of your stitching, as well as the ease with which you stitch. To use, simply



▲ Thread Heaven can help extend the life of your stitching

smooth and coat each strand individually, then stitch away. To buy Thread Heaven for just £3.65, call ☎ 01325 240 192 or visit www.thehappycross-stitcher.com.

Question of time

Q I saw some double-pointed sewing needles in a shop and am baffled as to what they could be for. Can the Angels enlighten me please?

Tina Sarsons, Manchester

A Twin-pointed needles have been designed to help speed up your stitching. They do, however, need to be used in conjunction with a hands-free frame, as one hand needs to be kept above and the other below the stitching at all times. To use, you just stitch straight up and down through the fabric without turning the needle. A good tip for using them is to loop the thread over a finger to keep the

thread taut, as this will prevent twisting, and remember to store them in a case, not a pincushion. To buy an assorted pack of Twin Pointed Quick Stitch Needles (one each of size 22, 24 and 26) for £1.45, visit www.jjneedles.com.

Safe storage

Q I recently spilt a mug of coffee over my sewing bag and ruined a load of thread, as well as the piece I was working on. Can you recommend a new bag that will save my work from my clumsiness?

Beverly Lane, Bristol

A Oh dear, Beverly, what a shame! We certainly can help, with this Butterflies & Bees Craft Bag from Craft Department. Not only is it very pretty to look at, it also features a handy plastic-lined storage compartment so your stitching should be safe from future mishaps! The bag has wooden handles and a zip, and measures 31x28x9cm, which is just the right size for storing any cross stitch projects. To buy one for £11.99, call ☎ 01539 823 199 or visit www.craftdepartment.com.

3 of the best adorable owls

Stitch cute feathered friends with loads of personality!



MINI MAKE

This cute and quick-stitch Owl is part of the Tiddlers range from www.mouseloft.co.uk and costs just £1.39. The design fits in a 64mm diameter circle, ideal for mounting in an aperture card!



NIGHT OWL

This sweet Owl by Karen Carter is an essential stitch for any owl lover! The kit includes 14-count blue aida and costs £13.99. To buy, call ☎ 01889 575 256 or visit www.hcrafts.com



PARLIAMENT OF OWLS

We love Slightly Dotty Owls from www.bothythreads.com – they're sure to brighten up any space! Measuring 26x26cm (10 1/4 x 10 1/4 in) when finished, this colourful kit costs £24.99.



Our TOP TIPS

For making up

- 1** Before you start, think carefully about what you want your stitching to be made into as you may want to leave a wider border around your work.
- 2** Instead of buying expensive frames, save money by turning your designs into wall hangings or cushions.
- 3** For a no-sew project, try covering a footstool or mounting your stitching in a firescreen (available to buy from www.sewandso.co.uk).
- 4** Before making up, back your stitching with iron-on interfacing to stop fraying and give a more professional finish.
- 5** For a quick make, patch a small design onto a shop-bought object, such as a pencil case or make-up bag.
- 6** Embroidery hoops make great-value frames, and look fab when painted.
- 7** Customise your clothes! Try stitching onto clothes using waste or soluble canvas.
- 8** Visit Cross-stitching.com/how-to/making-up for more fantastic ideas!

Little monster

Q My 10-year-old brother is interested in doing some crafting with me, but he doesn't yet have the patience for cross stitch. Is there a fun sewing project I could introduce him to?

Bella Naylor, London

A It's great that your brother wants to stitch with you, and we know he'll have fun making this Geek & Co Monster Sewing Workshop. This kit has been designed for kids aged between eight and 12 years, so it's perfect for your brother. Inside you'll find a variety of ideas for funky little monster designs, complete with a handy manual explaining the basic techniques of hand sewing. A great selection of printed fabrics, felt, thread, stuffing and other materials are supplied, so he can choose the options that inspire him. There's also enough fabric to make more if he gets a taste for it, which we hope he will. Buy this kit for £17.60 from www.debenhams.com.

Pin free

Q I really enjoy making up my stitched projects, but unfortunately I don't enjoy pinning my designs in position before machining. The pins keep getting jammed inside my machine – is there another way?

Kelly McCloud, Devon

▼ Inspire kids to pick up a needle with this fun monster kit



A Here's a couple of ideas for you, Kelly. Firstly, you can try tacking stitches. This is where you hand-stitch the fabric pieces together using long, loose stitches. This works well, but does involve unpicking your stitches afterwards which takes a bit of time. Secondly, you could try Collins Wash Away Wonder Tape. This works in a similar way to double-sided tape, but won't leave a sticky residue on your needle and easily washes away. Buy it for £5.75 from www.sewessential.co.uk.



▲ Try this easy alternative to pins

No knots

Q I'm not fond of doing French knots.

Is there an alternative stitch?

Jane Brindley, Lancashire

A Lots of people like to use seed beads instead of French knots as they do give a nice finished effect, but this requires buying beads that match your design, which is not always ideal. Another choice is to do a straight vertical stitch, which cuts through half a block of aida – however this gives the effect of a small line, rather than a circle. You could also try a colonial knot. This is done by bringing the needle up through the fabric, then wrapping the thread around the needle with the tail of the thread towards the eye of the needle. Next, you bring the thread over the needle and under the tip, creating a figure of eight, then insert the needle into the fabric

next to your entry point (making sure not to go back through the same hole) and pull, holding the tail end of the knot to prevent it from falling through. The finished effect is larger than a French knot, but the most similar in appearance.

Big and bold

Q I want to stitch a large design, but I know I easily get impatient! Can you suggest some large designs that are also quick to stitch?

Enid Belmont, Guernsey

A It can be frustrating stitching complex designs, and we certainly have a few UFOs hidden away! Have

you tried stitching a simple design but on a larger scale, using 8-count aida? It's a great trick for making impressive stitches in no time. There's a brilliant book by Jacqui Pearce called *Supersize Stitches* which is full of colourful ideas for stitchers just like you, Enid. Buy for £16.99 from www.jacqui.co.uk.



▲ Go XXL with this book of quick-stitch designs

Hello Angels!

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

.....

Date sent.....

Name and address.....

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

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Patch it up!



Work the quilting trend in cross stitch with these contemporary-style patchwork squares – then use them to create all manner of gorgeous gifts!

Designed by Diane Machin



StitchTime
3-4 hrs
(Each square)

StitchList...

- ✕ Whole cross stitch
- ✕ Fractionals
- ✕ Backstitch

Whether you're lucky enough to own a patchwork quilt that's been handed down through the generations, or you've decided to start the trend with your own handmade quilt, we think you'll love getting your needle out for these super squares! Each of the 26 designs can be mixed and

matched to your heart's content, and made into all manner of delightful pieces, from purses to notebooks to stool covers. This is a great opportunity to use up any leftover threads you may have in your stash, which will make your pieces completely unique. Or pick threads that tone with the decor in your home for a beautifully cohesive feel. ●

ShoppingList...

Threads - Stranded cotton as listed in the key

Needle - Size 24 tapestry needle

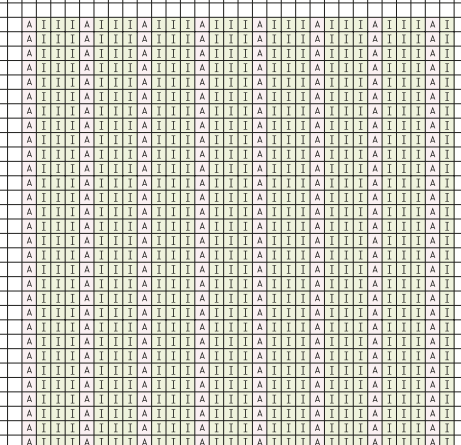
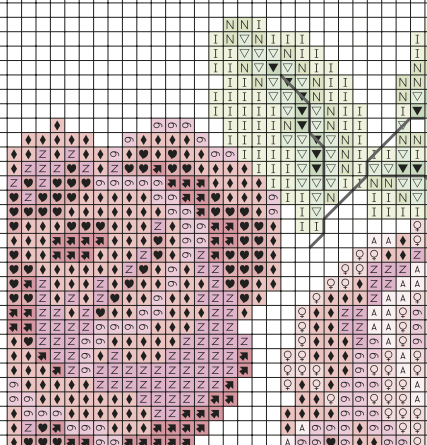
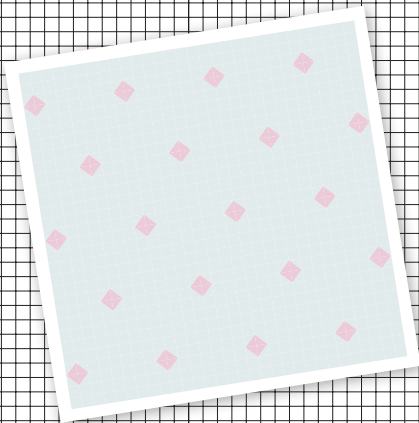
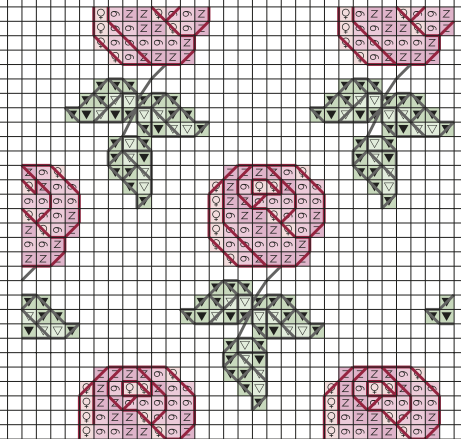
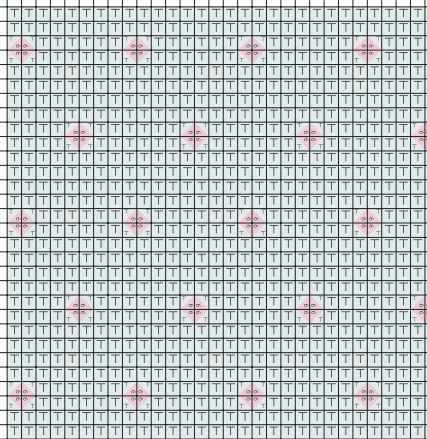
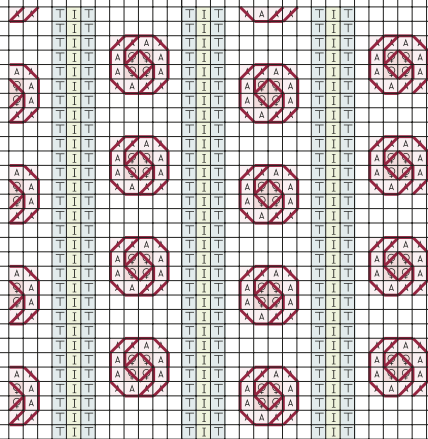
Fabric - Zweigart 14-count white aida measuring 15x15cm (6x6in) for each square. To buy, visit www.sewandso.co.uk or call ☎ 0800 013 0150

Extras - Backing fabric of your choice, buttons, zip

Mix and match these patchwork squares for a look that's so you!



OneNighters



Patchwork squares

✂ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
N	368	214	1310
I	369	1043	1309
3	519	1038	1105
☼	727	293	112
☛	815	44	513
A	818	23	502
▼	912	209	1213
▽	954	203	1207
◆	961	76	610
⊙	962	75	609
♥	3350	42	603
♀	3716	25	503
Z	3731	76	506
T	3761	928	1001

✂ Backstitch in one strand

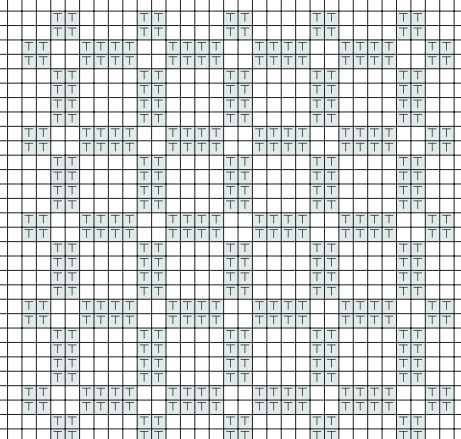
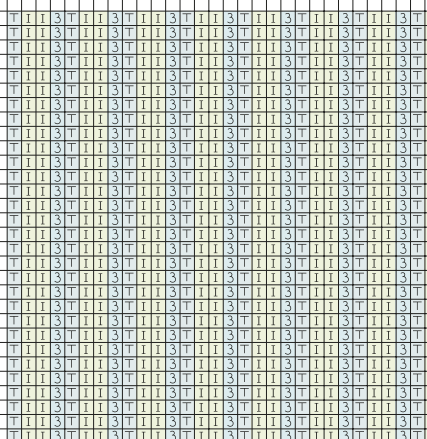
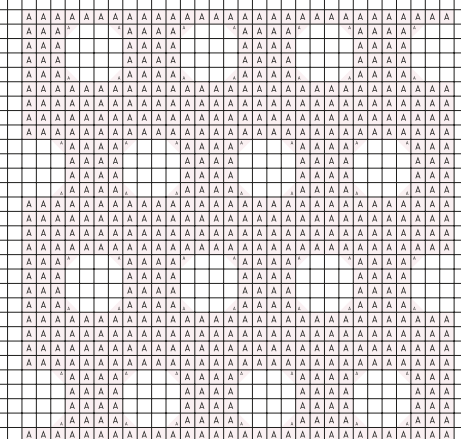
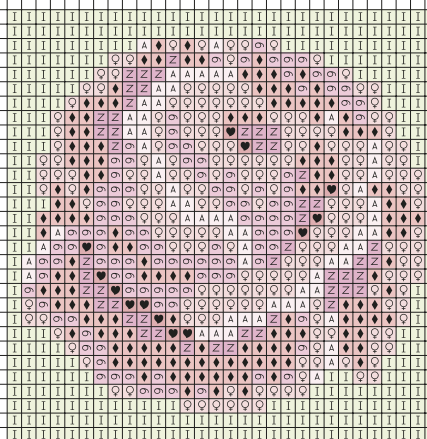
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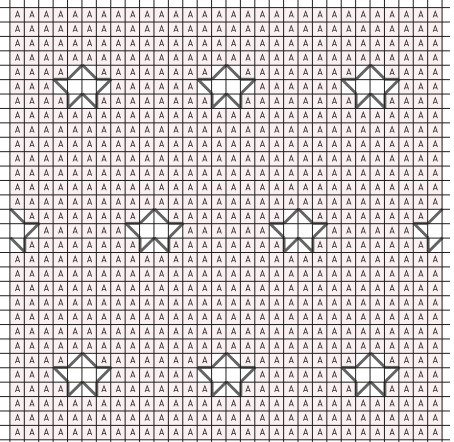
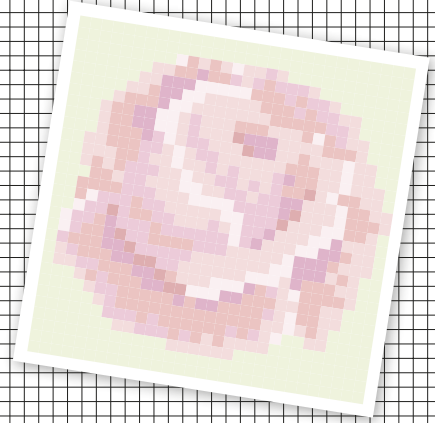
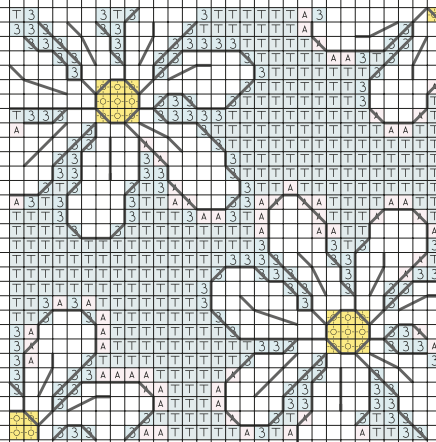
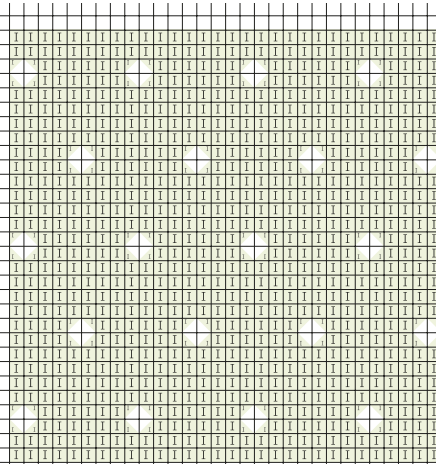
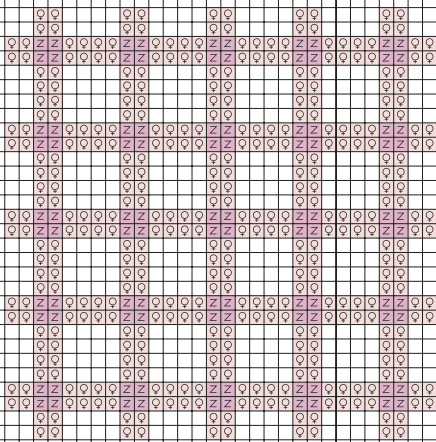
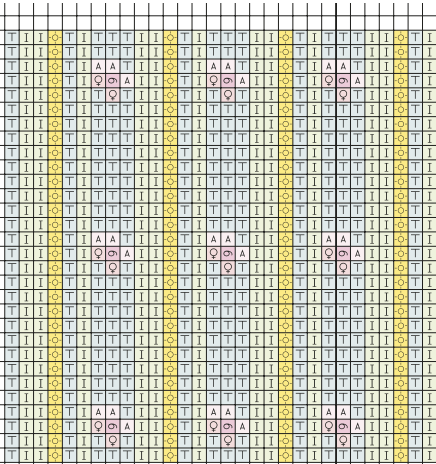
✂ Contains fractionals

Stitch count 30 (h) x 30 (w)

Design area on 14-count fabric
5.5x5.5cm (2 1/4x2 1/4in)

Stitched by Judy Davies



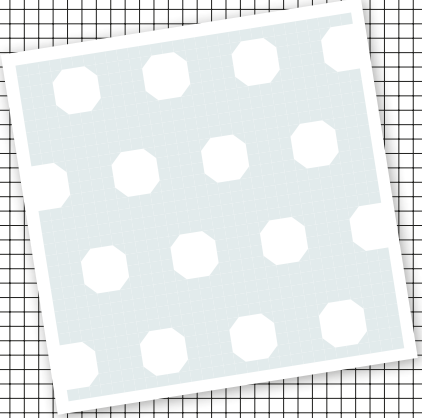
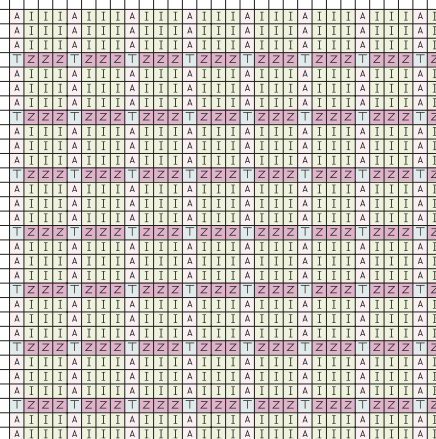
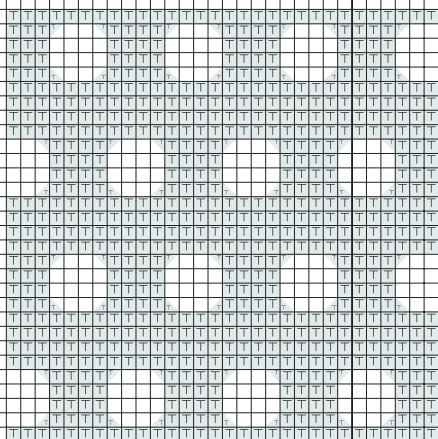
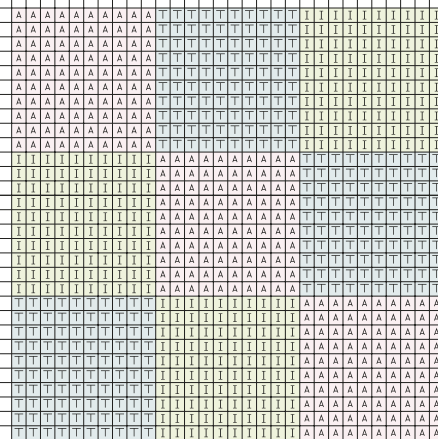


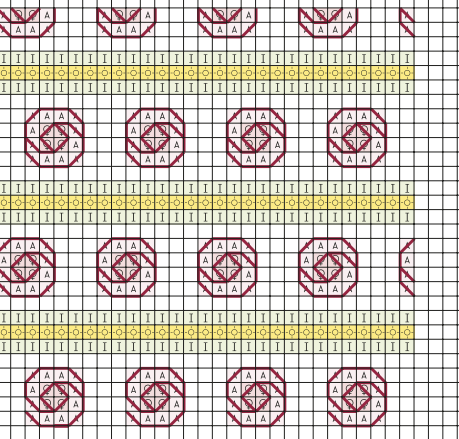
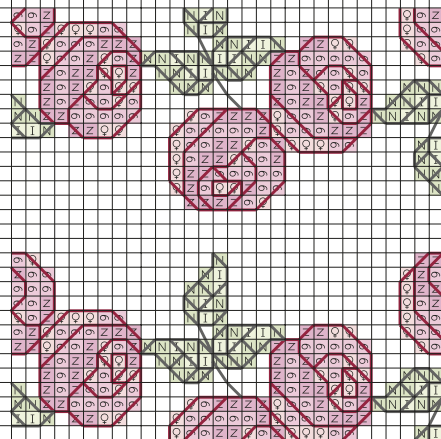
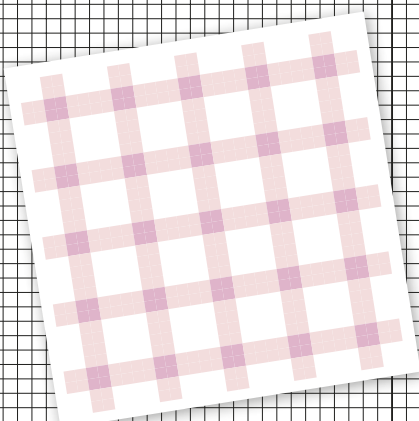
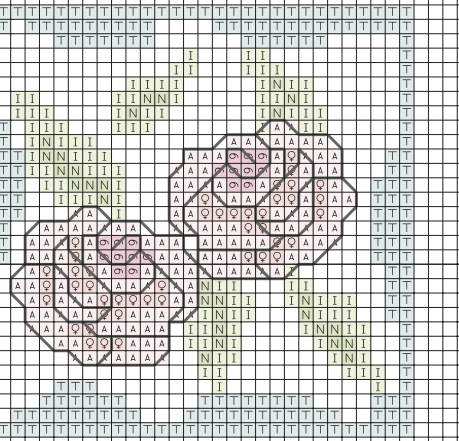
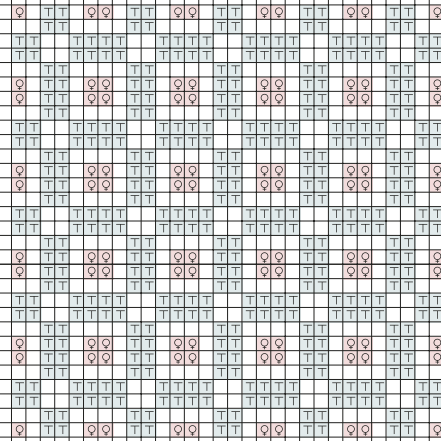
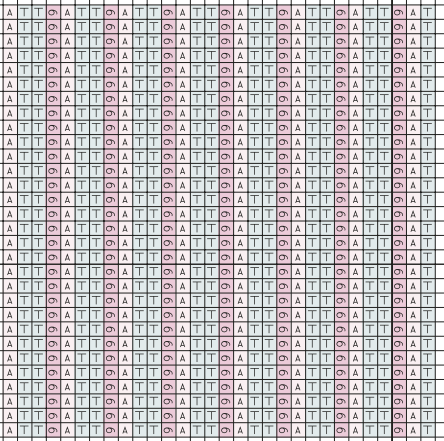
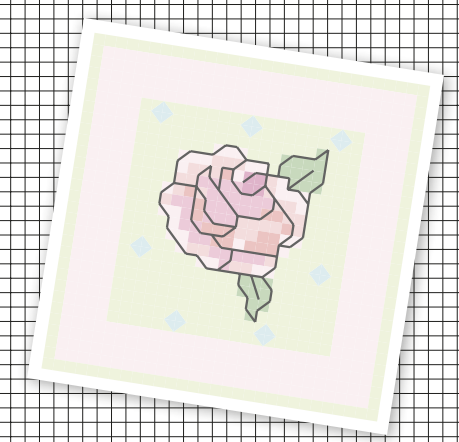
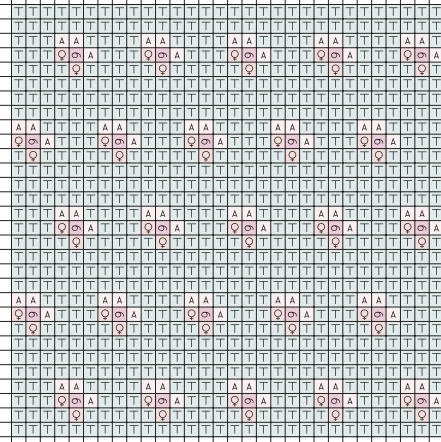
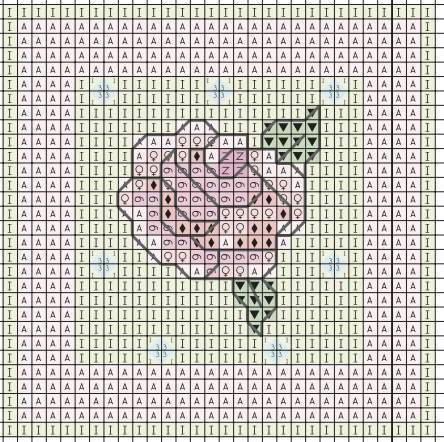
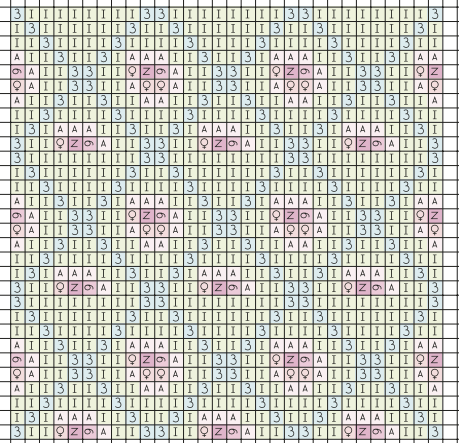
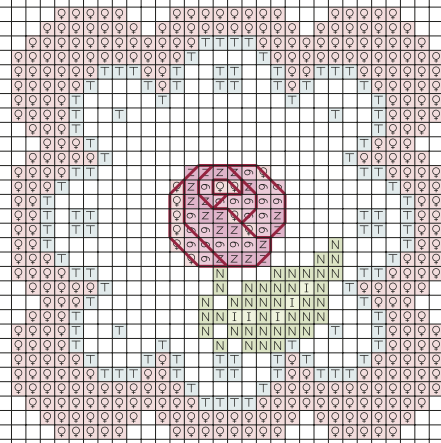
ReaderSays...



With both my mum and mother-in-law's birthdays approaching, I'd use these lovely squares to make quick but individual gifts. I know they'll appreciate them and will treasure their gifts for a long time.

Andrea Haggart, Fife





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Issue 201 April

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Rosee Woodland, Editor

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Stitch & Chat

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Show us your stash!

We asked you on Facebook to share photos of your stichy stash with us and you did! Here's a few of our favourites...



"This was my grandad's bureau which came to me a few years ago. It's hard to tell from the photo, but it's about seven feet tall with lots of little compartments in the top."
Helen Rolf



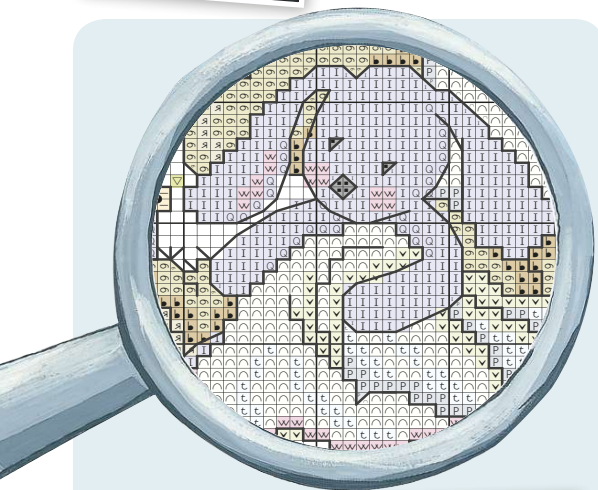
"I'm happy to say I can pretty much start any project from here, it's an amazing stash that's taken me years to build up."
Natalie Trenner



"Oh dear, taking these photos I think my stash is getting too big!" **Jan Wells**

Coming up:

Got a fun story about your favourite hobby? Send it in to us with a photo to stitchandchat@cross-stitching.com for a chance to appear in Crazy and win a lovely prize!



SPOT THE STITCHES!

This is a close-up of one of the charts in this issue of Crazy – but which one do you think it is? Send a postcard with the page number the chart is on, along with your name and address, to: Stitch and Chat 202, Cross Stitch Crazy, 2nd Floor, Tower House, Fairfax Street, Bristol BS1 3BN by 1st May 2015. The first correct answer pulled out of the hat will win a gorgeous thread and chart book pack!

TAKE PART TODAY...

WIN with CRAZY

...and if you're featured, you'll win a prize!

This month's Stitch and Chat winners will each receive a fabulous pack of stichy goodies including a wonderful set of Madeira threads and two chart booklets, similar to the amazing prize pictured here!

For your chance to be featured, send your pictures and comments to Stitch and Chat, Cross Stitch Crazy, 2nd Floor, Tower House, Fairfax Street, Bristol BS1 3BN or email stitchandchat@cross-stitching.com.



Your say

What's the number one reason you love stitching?

"I love stitching because I was taught by my grandma. I still use her needles and frame, and put a bobbin with her handwriting on it in with the thread of every project."



Angie Channell,
West Virginia

"My thoughts are spinning non-stop all day, but with a needle in my hand, stitching a design for a loved one, my mind is at peace, as I see my work take shape."



Katherine Boening,
Florida

"It brings me so much joy. The creation of a picture with thread, the challenge of following a chart, it's truly a gift from the heart. Love it!"



Teonë Axougas,
Sydney, Australia

Coming up:

How many designs do you think you've stitched altogether?

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

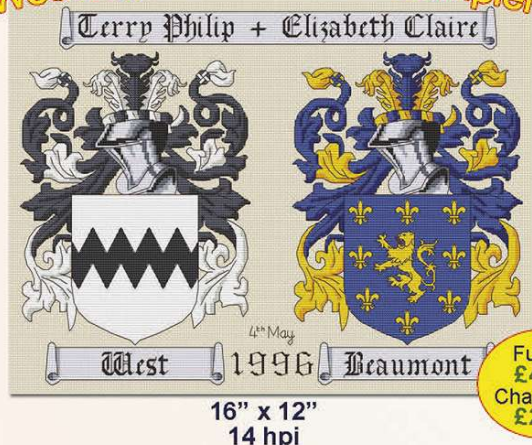
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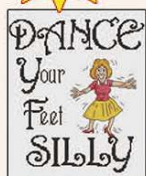
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Someone told me...

1

CUT OUT
AND KEEP



Future's bright



Stitch and send cheery greetings for all occasions with these universally appealing robot cards!

Designed by Fiona Baker

...it's your birthday!

Party balloons...

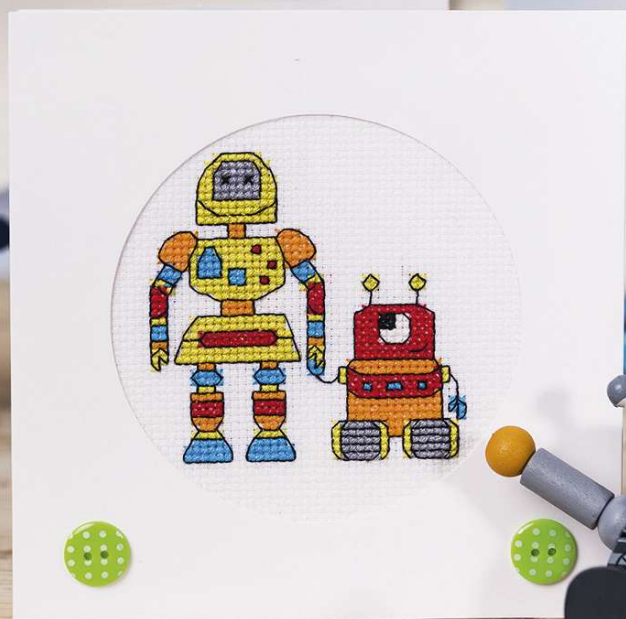
2

For my mum...

3



...for the birthday girl!



...I love you so much

Cut-out&Keep

Quick and easy to stitch one a night!



StitchTime
4-5 hrs
(Each card)

StitchList...

Perfect for beginners

- ✕ Whole cross stitch
- ✕ Backstitch

ShoppingList...

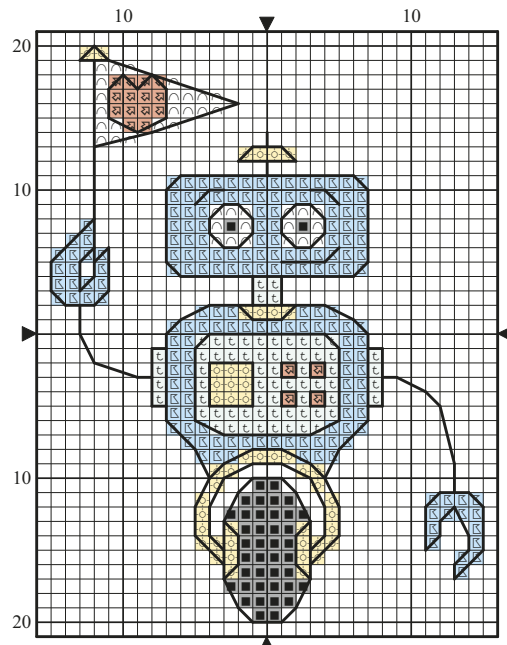
Threads - Stranded cotton as listed in the key

Needle - Size 24 tapestry needle

Fabric - A piece of Zweigart 14-count white aida measuring 15x15cm (6x6in). To buy, visit www.sewandso.co.uk or call ☎ 0800 013 0150

Extras - Craft Creations Circle Aperture card (AP52U) in Creative Smooth White (30) available from www.craftcreations.com. Buttons from local craft store

1



Robot with flag

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

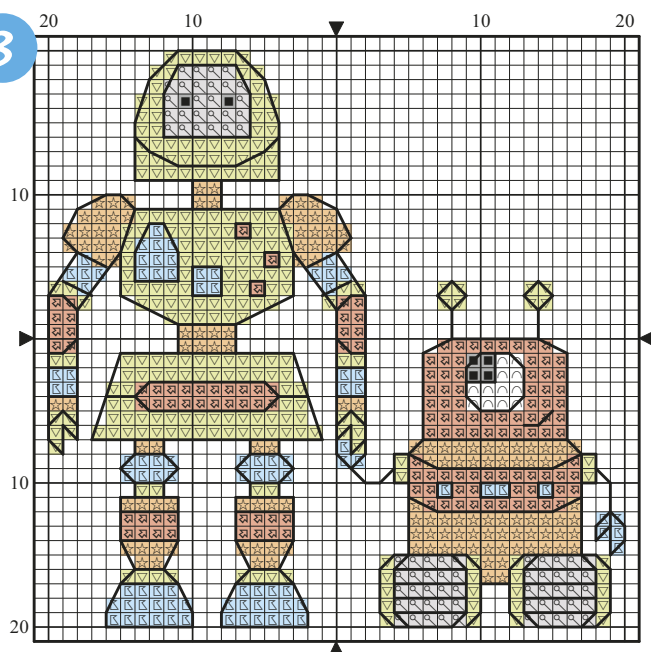
✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira		DMC	Anchor	Madeira
∩	blanc	2	2402	⊞	996	433	1103
■	310	403	2400	✕ Backstitch in one strand			
⊞	666	46	210	—	310	403	2400
⊙	726	295	109	✕ Whole stitches only			
t	747	158	1104				

Stitch count 40 (h) x 30 (w)

Design area 14-count fabric 7.5x5.5cm (2³/₄x2¹/₄in)

3



Adult and baby robots

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

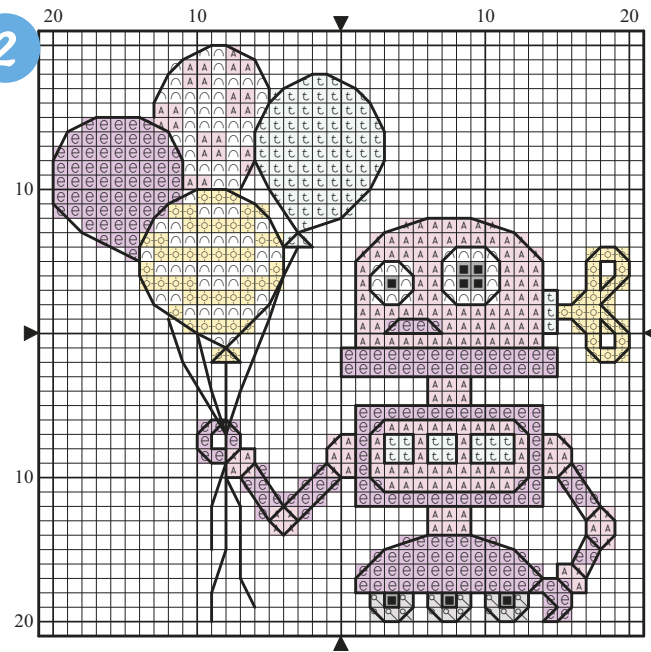
✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira		DMC	Anchor	Madeira
∩	blanc	2	2402	⊞	996	433	1103
■	310	403	2400	▽	3819	279	1610
⊞	318	399	1801	✕ Backstitch in one strand			
⊞	666	46	210	—	310	403	2400
☆	741	304	202	✕ Whole stitches only			

Stitch count 40 (h) x 40 (w)

Design area 14-count fabric 7.5x7.5cm (2³/₄x2³/₄in)

2



Robot with balloons

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira		DMC	Anchor	Madeira
∩	blanc	2	2402	⊙	726	295	109
■	310	403	2400	t	747	158	1104
⊞	318	399	1801	✕ Backstitch in one strand			
e	553	98	712	—	310	403	2400
A	604	55	614	✕ Whole stitches only			

Stitch count 40 (h) x 40 (w)

Design area 14-count fabric 7.5x7.5cm (2³/₄x2³/₄in)

You're so cool...

4



...I love your style!

It's your party...

5



...let's shake it up!

Turn up the music...

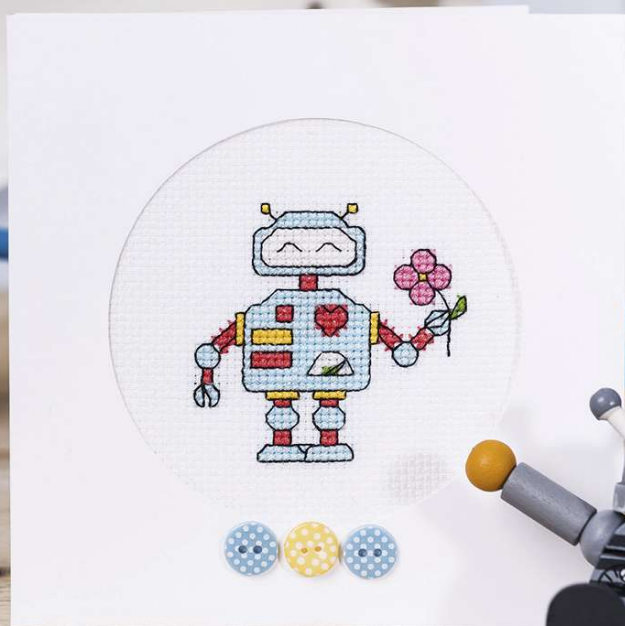
6



...show us your moves!

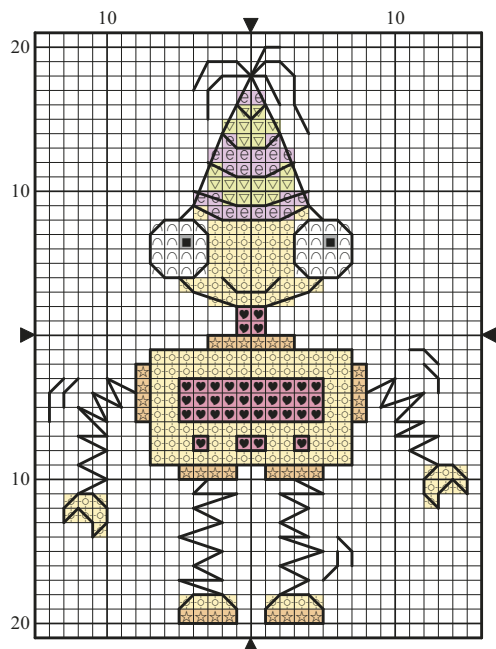
Our friendship...

7



...is so special to me

5



Birthday robot

✂ Cross stitch in two strands

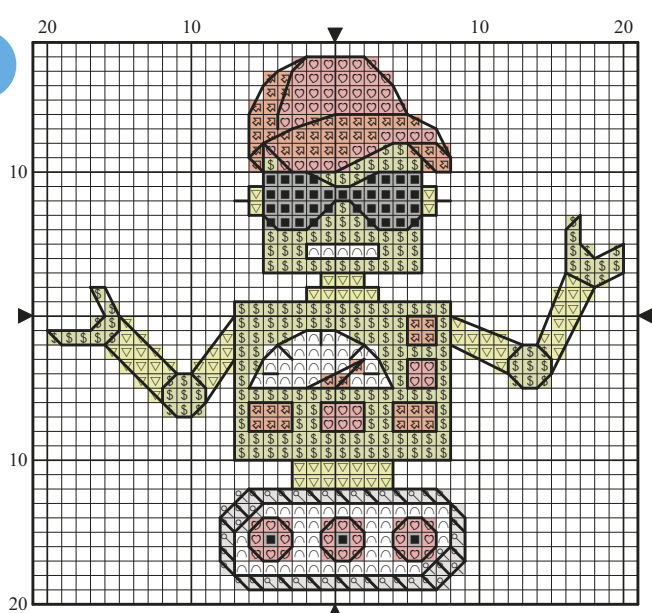
✂ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira		DMC	Anchor	Madeira
∩	blanc	2	2402	☆	741	304	202
■	310	403	2400	▽	3819	279	1610
e	553	98	712	✂ Backstitch in one strand			
♥	602	57	702	—	310	403	2400
☼	726	295	109	✂ Whole stitches only			

Stitch count 40 (h) x 29 (w)

Design area 14-count fabric 7.5x5.5cm (2¾x2in)

4



Robot with sunglasses

✂ Cross stitch in two strands

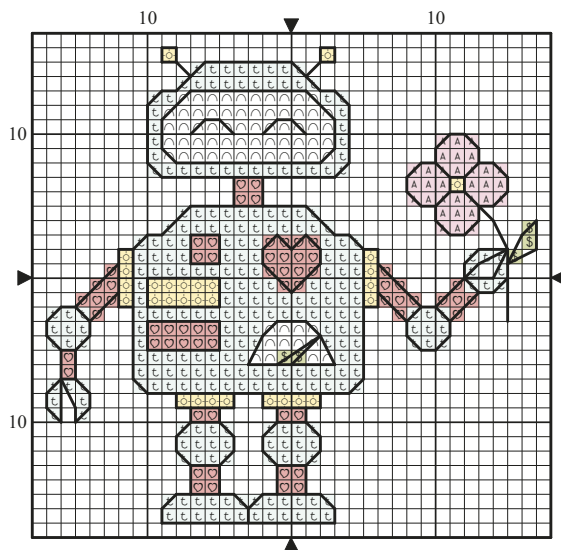
✂ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira		DMC	Anchor	Madeira
∩	blanc	2	2402	♥	3705	35	410
■	310	403	2400	▽	3819	279	1610
☼	318	399	1801	✂ Backstitch in one strand			
☼	666	46	210	—	310	403	2400
\$	906	256	1410	✂ Whole stitches only			

Stitch count 37 (h) x 40 (w)

Design area 14-count fabric 7x7.5cm (2½x2¾in)

7



Robot with flower

✂ Cross stitch in two strands

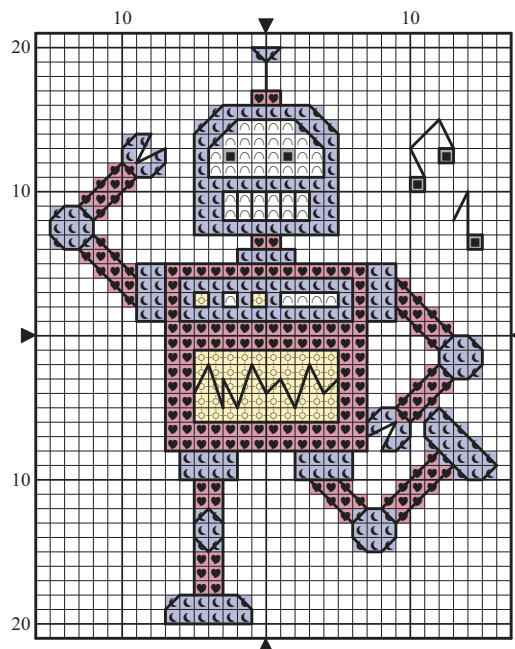
✂ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira		DMC	Anchor	Madeira
∩	blanc	2	2402	♥	3705	35	410
A	604	55	614	✂ Backstitch in one strand			
☼	726	295	109	—	310	403	2400
t	747	158	1104	✂ Whole stitches only			
\$	906	256	1410				

Stitch count 33 (h) x 34 (w)

Design area 14-count fabric 6x6cm (2¼x2½in)

6



Robot dance

✂ Cross stitch in two strands

✂ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira		DMC	Anchor	Madeira
∩	blanc	2	2402	☼	726	295	109
■	310	403	2400	✂ Backstitch in one strand			
☼	322	131	1004	—	310	403	2400
♥	602	57	702	✂ Whole stitches only			

Stitch count 40 (h) x 31 (w)

Design area 14-count fabric 7.5x5.5cm (2¾x2½in)

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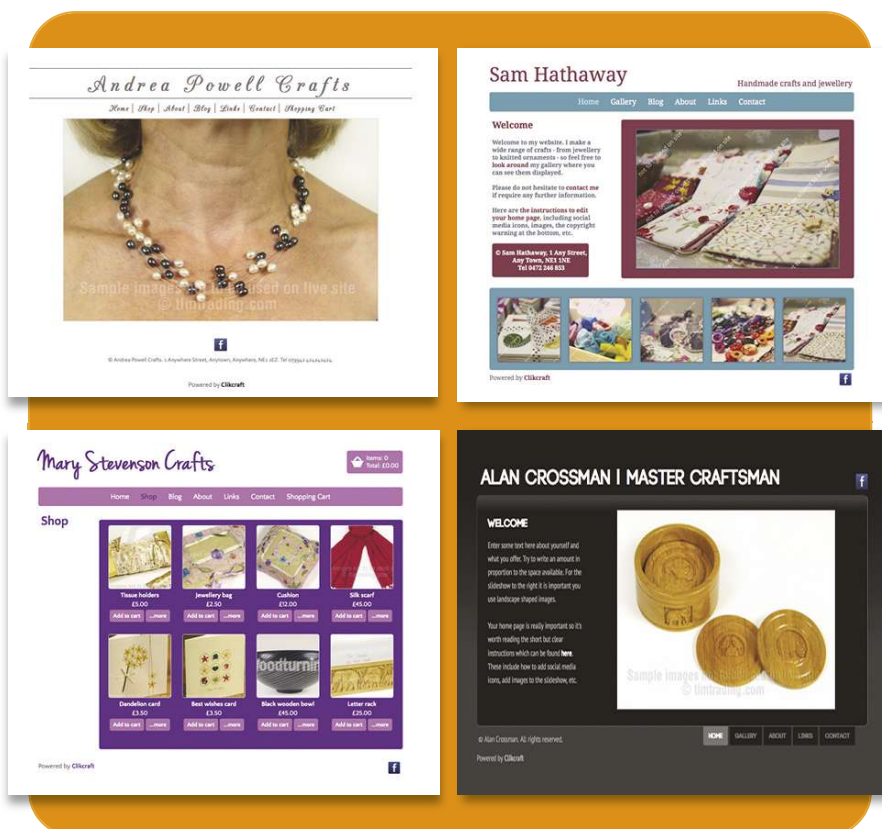
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INDULGE YOUR LOVE OF MODERN CROSS STITCH!

If you're a fan of contemporary cross stitch, you just have to take a look at wonderful website www.tinymodernist.com. Set up by cross stitcher and designer Cheryl McKinnon, the site is full of handy guides from stitching basics such as how to wash and iron your work, to how to mount your stitching onto a box canvas frame. You'll also find an amazing array of Cheryl's own charts to buy and download as instant pdfs in a fabulous range of styles, from rockabilly to popular culture via more traditional-looking samplers. One look and we're sure you'll be hooked!

The twittersphere

What you've been tweeting about!



- Super busy day at work and straight into a custom cross stitch order now I'm home, feeling super productive today! #positivethinking @FlutterbyButton
- Time for a cheeky hour or two on the @LucieHeaton cush, today's starting point @Crazy_magazine #crossstitch @LyndasCraftRoom
- Just another 'less barely fit the design on the fabric' moment, LOL #crossstitch @CraftingGeek

Facebook chat



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

- Been busy stitching small projects from old magazines :)

Kim Harris

- I got my subs copy of *Crazy* today and have to make a start on Durene Jones's zingy bunnies! Fabric cut, thread sorted, away I go!

Marie Webb

- Had a really good day out yesterday, and I got in for free courtesy of tickets won from *Cross Stitch Crazy*!

Joanna Morton at Stitching, Sewing, Hobbycraft & Cake International

Most liked...



This month, your favourite stitch is by Sandz Hook: "My most recent finish... 25,840 stitches. Started Sept 2014 and finished tonight... very proud!"



Download of the month

www.cross-stitching.com

Send a friend a tasty message with this quick-stitch card – simply go to 'Charts & Patterns' and search for 'Sweet Greetings'.



Website of the month

www.katzxstitch.co.uk

This website is a haven of accessories, threads (all the main brands and more), fabric and carefully selected kits and charts.



Blog of the month

www.cherrymenlove.com

If you love all sorts of crafting, you'll adore Cherry Menlove's beautiful tutorials, including how to make this needlebook.

GET IN TOUCH!

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Into the woods



Little ones will love this cute quartet of woodland friends – stitch them today before they hop and scurry away!

Designed by Jayne Schofield

These sweet creatures are looking for a new home, and they've decided yours looks a lovely place to make their new nest! Worked in bold, bright shades which will appeal enormously to little ones, each animal is small enough to keep your child busy and engaged.



StitchTime
4-5 hrs
(Each)

They'll love watching their design coming to life with every whole stitch, although depending on your child's age, they may need help positioning the backstitch at the end. Once finished, back the aida with iron-on interfacing, stitch the edges under to make a neat shape, and alternate with fabric shapes to create your bunting! ●

StitchList...

Perfect for children

- ✗ Whole cross stitch
- ✗ Backstitch

ShoppingList...

Threads - Stranded cotton as listed in the key

Needle - Size 24 tapestry needle

Fabric - A piece of Zweigart 14-count white aida measuring 15x15cm (6x6in) for each. To buy, call ☎ 0800 013 0150 or visit www.sewandso.co.uk

Extras - Fat Quarter Fabric Bundle – Spots Bright. To buy, visit www.craftdepartment.com or call ☎ 01539 823 199. Bakers twine of your choice.



Bring out the bunting
to celebrate these cuties!



CrazyKids

ReaderSays...



I love this bunting, it's so cute and really fashionable right now. The

little woodland animals are adorable, and I think this project would be fun to stitch.

Laura Owen, Czech Republic

Crazy tip!

Measure each piece of aida carefully so the rectangles are the same for each animal

Woodland friends

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	Anchor	DMC	Madeira
∩	1	B5200	2401
⌘	62	3805	703
I	95	211	801
▽	186	959	1113
⌚	234	168	1708
■	235	414	1707
▼	254	907	1301
N	277	830	2114
⌚	337	3778	403
⌚	942	738	2013
⌚	1047	402	2307

✕ Backstitch in one strand

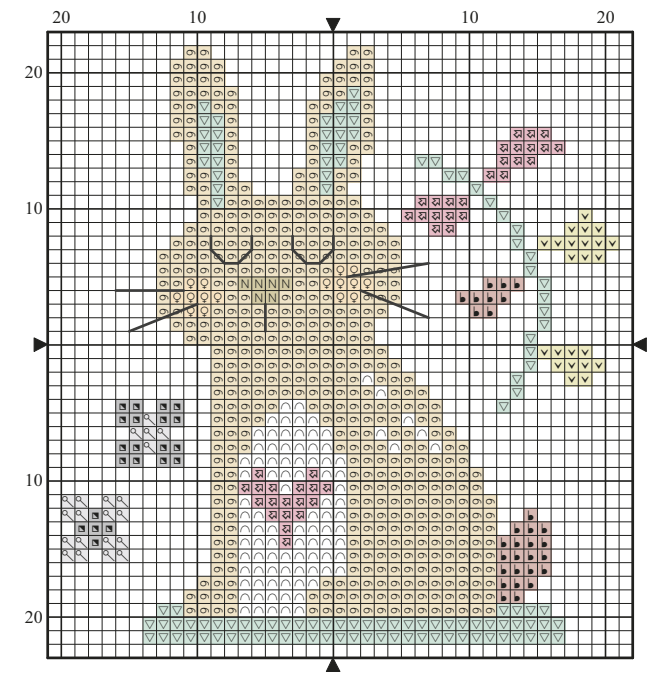
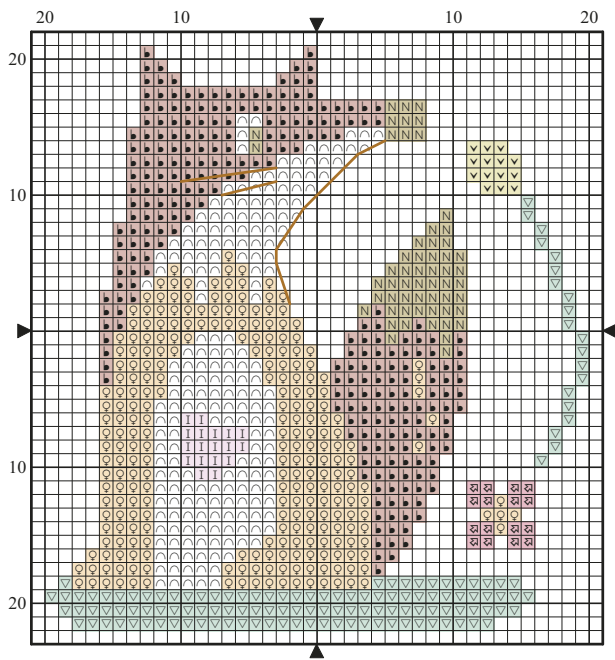
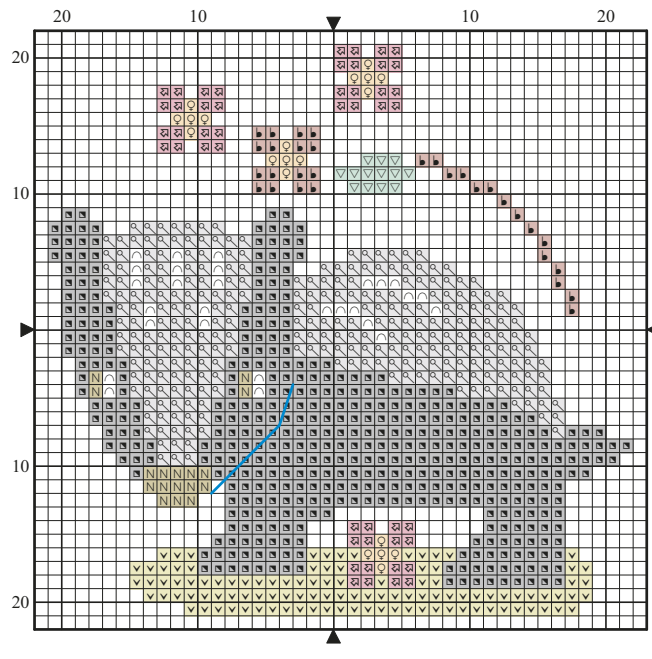
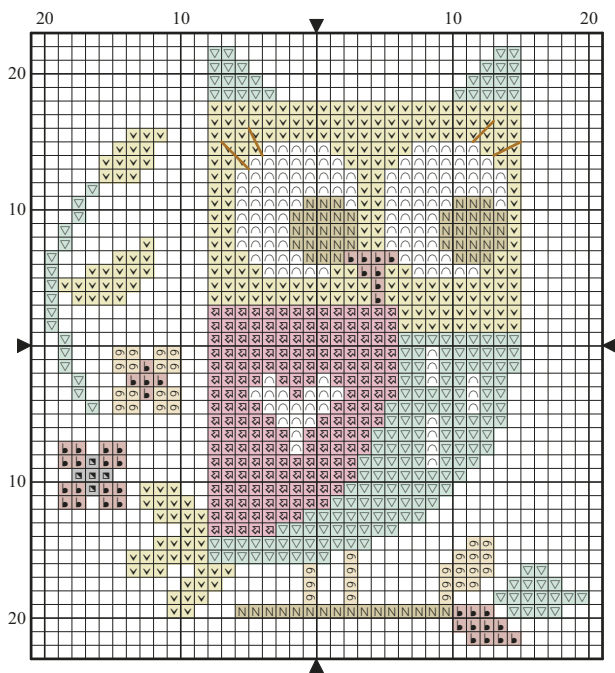
—	234	168	1708
—	235	414	1707
—	277	830	2114

✕ Whole stitches only

Max. stitch count 44 (h) x 43 (w)

Design area on 14-count fabric
8x8cm (3¼x3in)

Stitched by Sandra Doolan



Crazy Kids Stitching

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



You are a winner!
Eva
from London

"Grandma Jan is teaching me to cross stitch. We're making a card and I had fun picking all the threads. I love watching my grandma teaching the children to cross stitch at the school she works at."



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

Name and address:

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I am years old

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

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

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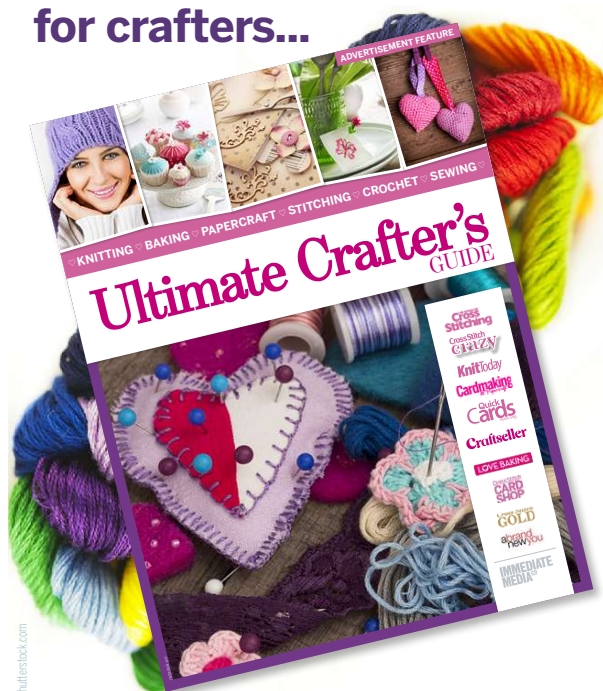
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Creative Crafts Show Tickets!

The Creative Crafts Show at Sandown Park in Surrey from 3rd-5th September is the ideal place to indulge your stitching passion! See the latest in craft trends, ideas and products, plus interactive workshops, demonstrations and displays. We have 16 pairs of tickets up for grabs, worth £16 per pair. To book, visit www.sccshows.co.uk and save £1.50 on each ticket booked in advance, using the code PR1. For a chance to win, text **CSC202SANDOWN**, your name, postal address and email address to **87474** (texts will be charged at 50p plus your standard network rate) or label your postcard 'Creative Crafts Show Sandown 202 giveaway'.

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Mouseloft kits!

Mouseloft is the perfect place to find quick stitches, adorable mini designs and super-cute kits. From furry friends to cars and campervans, you'll be amazed at the huge collection of designs on offer. This month, 11 lucky readers will win a set of 10 Stitchlets kits (pictured right), including five brand new designs! Visit www.mouseloft.co.uk to see their full range and to buy. For your chance to win a set of Stitchlets kits, text **CSC202MOUSELOFT**, your name, postal address and email address to **87474** (texts will be charged at 50p plus your standard network rate) or label your postcard 'Mouseloft kits 202 giveaway'.

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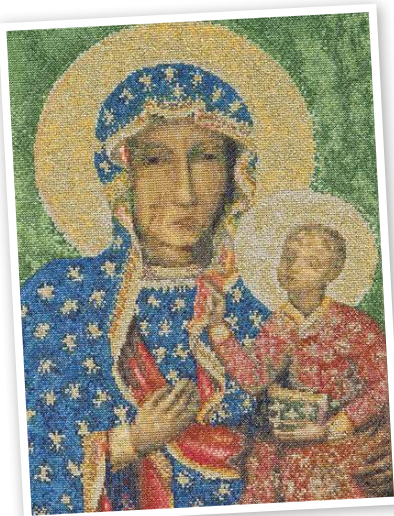
Sherlock Anne's on hand to track down the designs you crave. Send her your requests today!

Piece of history

I'd be really interested to stitch a design of the Black Madonna of Czestochowa, also known as Our Lady of Czestochowa. Do you know if such a kit exists?

Carole Edwards, Taunton

You're in luck, Carole, as Thea Gouverneur recently added this realistic Black Madonna of Czestochowa design to her Icon series. The kit includes gorgeous metallic threads and 16-count aida, and the design measures 30x20cm (12x8in) when finished. If you'd like to buy this kit for £60, drop an email to sales@mwfabrics.co.uk or call ☎ 07983 020 189 for local stockist details. Other designs of



Thea's that might interest you include Our Lady of Vladimir, Our Lady of the Gate of Dawn, Mother of God and The Holy Virgin of Kazan, all of which can be found within the Culture section at www.theagouverneur.com.

Footie fan

My cousin is an avid fan of Partick Thistle Football Club, and I'd love to stitch the logo for him. Do you know of any designs?

Heather Gibson, Berwickshire

We get a lot of requests for football club logos but unfortunately, due to copyright reasons, it's not possible for cross stitch companies to sell designs featuring these logos. Sorry, Heather! As an alternative, I did wonder if you might like the Scottish Thistle products from Textile Heritage, which both feature this attractive

prickly plant. You can buy the Ancient Thistle Bookmark kit for £7.95 or a Scottish Thistle Coaster kit for £5.95. Both kits contain everything you need to make the gifts, and can be bought from www.textileheritage.com or by calling them on ☎ 01355 229 446.



Track it down for me...

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

The design I want and why

.....

.....

My name and address.....

.....

Email

Tel.....

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

Butterfly garden

I'm creating a wall of cross stitched wreaths, and a design with butterflies would be a wonderful addition. Please can you search for one for me?

Margaret Hyde, Texas

This sounds like a lovely collection, Margaret. How about this Floral Heart by DMC, featuring a pair of beautiful butterflies, sweet ladybirds and pretty flowers making a heart-shaped wreath? The kit includes 14-count aida and the design measures 20x20cm (8x8in) when stitched.



This kit costs £17.99 and is available online or from local stockists. To find your nearest one, call ☎ 0116 275 4000 or visit www.dmccreative.co.uk.

A taste of the Orient

I really enjoy stitching geishas, peacocks and other oriental-inspired designs. Do you know of any new cross stitch books or chart packs with lots of charts that match this theme?

Joy Bavers, Barnsdale

Yes, I know just the thing, Joy. Our sister magazine, *Ultimate Cross Stitch Oriental* is on sale now with 182 stunning designs, from gorgeous geishas to elegant florals and picturesque scenes to pretty motifs. You'll find simple and more advanced charts from expert designers such as Lesley Teare and Joan Elliott, and I'm sure you'll find plenty to inspire your stitching. This magazine is available in all



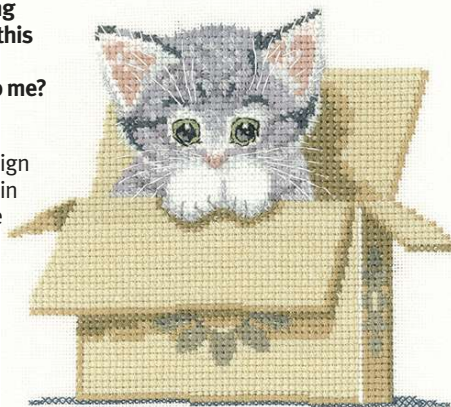
good newsagents for £7.99. Alternatively, you can have a copy delivered with free UK P&P from www.buysubscriptions.com/oriental or call ☎ 0844 844 0385 and quote 'Oriental'.

Sitting kitty

My good friend Carole is a keen stitcher, and has just got herself a little grey cat called Chester. Another friend of mine recently mentioned she'd seen a cross stitch design of a kitten who looked just like him, peeping out of a box. I'd love to buy this for Carole, but I'm not sure where to look. Can you help me?

Jane Elliott, West Yorkshire

I think this might be the design you're looking for, Jane. Cat in Box is the latest in The Little Darlings range by Peter Underhill. This cute little grey kitten looks adorable peeping up over the side of his temporary home, and we're sure he'll



appeal to your cat-loving friend! The finished design measures 13x11.5cm (5x4½in) and the kit is available with either 14-count aida or 27-count evenweave. To buy for £15, visit Heritage Crafts' website at www.hcrafts.com or call ☎ 01889 575 256.

Diamonds are forever

My nana and grandad will be celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary this year, and I'd like to stitch something special. Do you know of any designs?

Amy Shield, Camborne

When it comes to anniversaries, some of my favourite designs are from Nia Cross Stitch. Choose from Diamond (left), costing £19 for a kit or £8 for the chart, or Pen Blwydd Priodas Wedding Anniversary (right), which costs £6 for a chart and looks great as a cushion. Provide their details when purchasing, and Nia will personalise the chart for you for free! To buy, visit www.nia-crossstitch.com or call ☎ 01792 897 695.



Chart choice

This month: *Frogs*

You'll jump for joy when you see our roundup of the best frog charts to stitch this spring

Sent with love

£3.50, My Froggy Valentine by Chartsandstuff
www.Chartsandstuff.etsy.com

Available as an instant download, this cool, colourful chart is the perfect stitch for a loved one with a sense of humour, whatever time of year! We love the way the pretty blackwork detailing in the heart adds a classic touch to this oh-so-modern design, worked in whole stitches and backstitch only.



Just for you

£2.45, Funny Frog Greetings by Lucie Heaton
www.lucieheaton.com

With nine different froggy greetings, this chart provides the perfect design for every occasion from engagements to birthdays, and even a marriage proposal if you can wait until the leap year in 2016! As each design measures no more than 40x40 stitches, you'll be able to finish each one in an evening.



Make a splash

£2.49, Froggy Friends by Jenny Barton
www.jbcrossstitch.com

Froggy fans will love this fun picture by Jenny Barton. The design is worked mainly in whole stitches, with backstitch to outline the four cute characters, and a few French knots for their eyes. Find our video tutorial for French knots at Cross-stitching.com.



Frog prince

\$5.99 (approximately £3), Frogscornu by Barbara Ana Designs
www.creativepoppypatterns.com

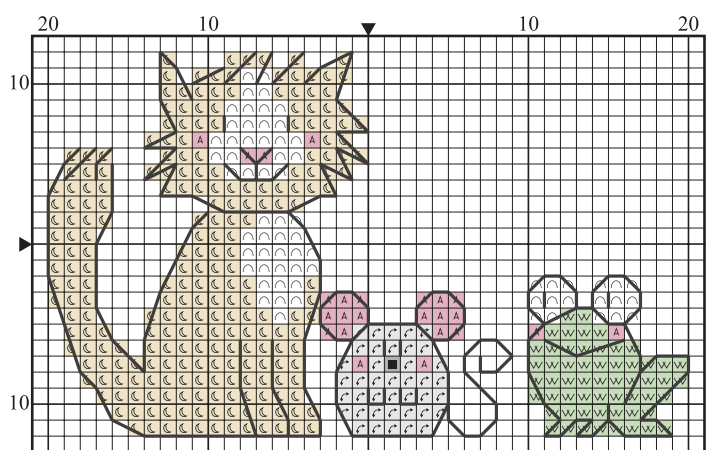
It's always nice when you can put your stitching to good use, and that's certainly the case with Barbara Ana Designs' quirky Frogscornu, the perfect pincushion or needle holder. Biscornus aren't as tricky as you may think – the design only measures 68x68 stitches and includes full making up instructions.



Challenge

Lucie

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



Cat, mouse and frog

✂ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
∩	blanc	2	2402
↶	415	398	1802
A	604	55	614
∩	738	367	2013
W	954	203	1207
■	3799	236	1713

✂ Backstitch in one strand

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

✂ Whole stitches only

Stitch count 24 (h) x 40 (w)

Design area on 14-count fabric
4.5x7.5cm (1³/₄x2³/₄in)

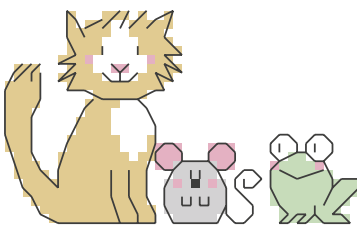
Terrific trio

I have two best friends that I've known for over 35 years, and we each have a unique collection. Lynne collects frogs, Jan collects cats and I collect mice. I'd love it if you could design a chart of all three that I could stitch for them.

Jo-Anne Brossard, Canada

What a fun idea, Jo-Anne. Here's your cute little trio to stitch!

Lucie

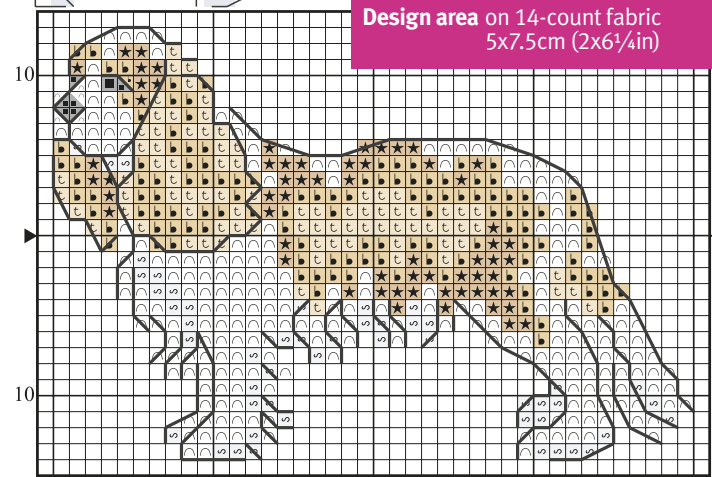
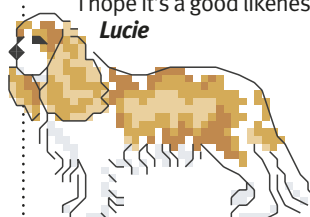


Poorly pup

Can you please chart me a King Charles Spaniel, Lucie? My grandmother has one who's been ill over the last year, so I'd like to stitch him for her as a present.

Elizabeth May, via email

I'm sure your grandmother will be touched by this sweet sentiment. I hope it's a good likeness.



King Charles Spaniel

✂ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
∩	blanc	2	2402
★	435	1046	2010
■	436	1045	2011
t	437	362	2012
s	762	234	1804
■	3799	236	1713

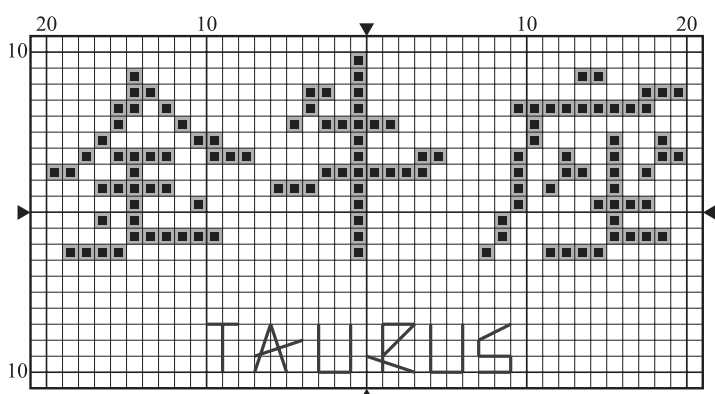
✂ Backstitch in one strand

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

✂ Contains fractionals

Stitch count 27 (h) x 40 (w)

Design area on 14-count fabric
5x7.5cm (2x6¹/₄in)



Chinese Taurus symbol

✂ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
■	3799	236	1713

✂ Backstitch in one strand

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

✂ Whole stitches only

Stitch count 20 (h) x 40 (w)

Design area on 14-count fabric
4x7.5cm (1¹/₂x2³/₄in)

In the stars

Would it be possible for you to create a Chinese design for the star sign Taurus, Lucie? It's my mum's birthday in May, and I'd like to stitch a card or picture of her birth sign in Chinese as she likes Chinese characters.

Karen Robinson, via email

No problem, Karen. This design will be really quick to stitch, and you could easily change the colour, too!

Lucie

Dales pony

✳ Cross stitch in two strands

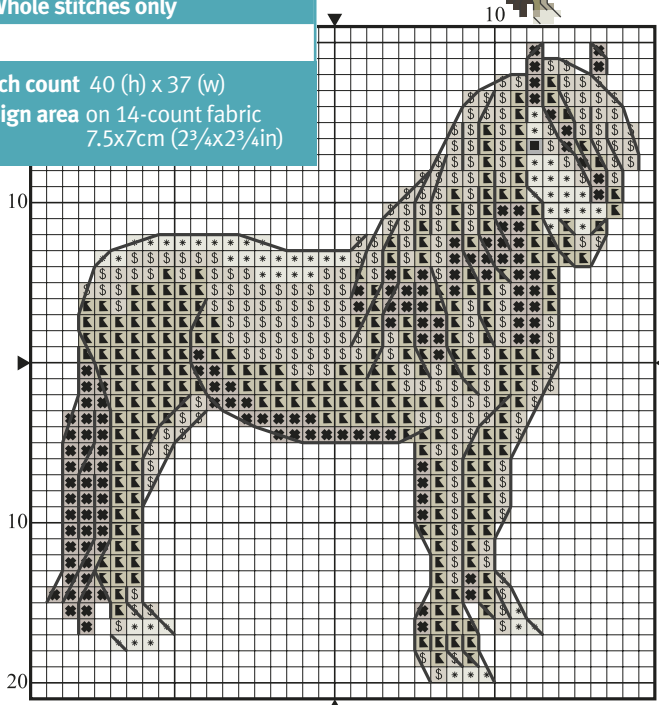
	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
■	645	273	1811
\$	646	8581	1812
*	647	1040	1813
■	844	1041	1911
■	3799	236	1713

✳ Backstitch in one strand

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

✳ Whole stitches only

Stitch count 40 (h) x 37 (w)
Design area on 14-count fabric
7.5x7cm (2³/₄x2³/₄in)



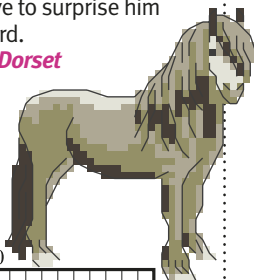
Pony tales

Can you chart a Dales pony for me please, Lucie? My brother-in-law will be 70 in April and breeds Dales ponies, so I'd love to surprise him with a special card.

Denise Hughes, Dorset

How about this little fellow?
He's so sweet!

Lucie



ChartRequest

Bee and glow worm

✳ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
★	435	1046	2010
A	604	55	614
☼	725	305	113
Я	726	295	109
3	800	144	908
■	912	209	1213
W	954	203	1207

✳ Backstitch in one strand

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

✳ Whole stitches only

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

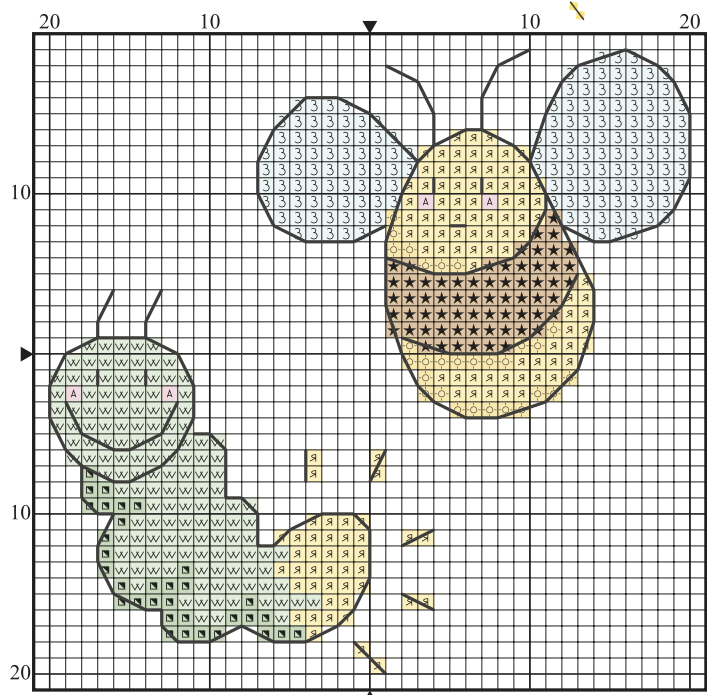
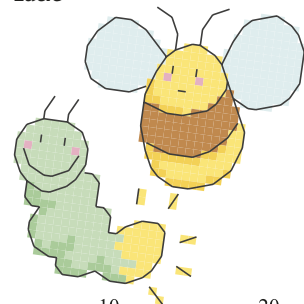
All lit up

I know a funny saying about a bee and a glow worm that I'd like to stitch. Could you please chart me a sad-looking bee looking longingly at a happy glow worm, whose bottom half is lit up? Thanks!

Ella Mitchell, Rotherham

Here you are, Ella. What an intriguing request!

Lucie



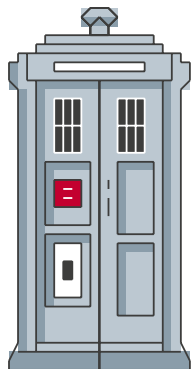
Over and out!

My eldest granddaughter would go mad for a design of one of the old blue police phone boxes, so I'd love it if you could chart one, Lucie!

Liz Ray, Oxfordshire

Happy to help, Liz. I'm sure your granddaughter will be pleased with your thoughtful stitch!

Lucie



Police phonebox

✳ Cross stitch in two strands

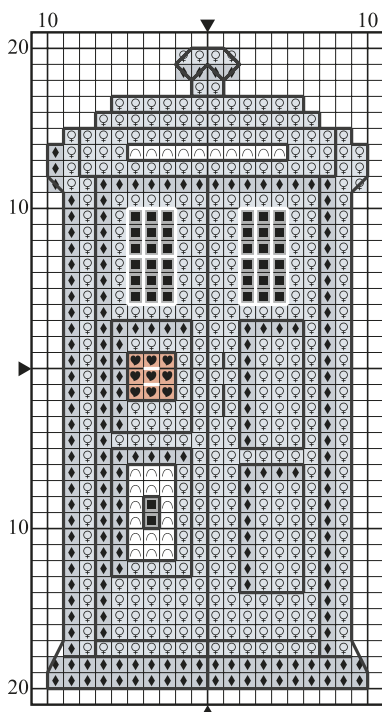
	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
∩	blanc	2	2402
♥	349	1098	212
◆	931	1034	1711
♀	932	1033	1710
■	3799	236	1713

✳ Backstitch in one strand

—	blanc	2	2402
—	3799	236	1713

✳ Whole stitches only

Stitch count 40 (h) x 20 (w)
Design area on 14-count fabric
7.5x4cm (2³/₄x1¹/₂in)



I challenge Lucie...

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

My chart request

I'd like this chart because

Your name and address.....

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

In crazy next month

On sale from 16th April

Fly away

Bright and modern, this birdcage cushion is a joy to stitch



FREE
MARGARET
SHERRY
CARD KIT!*

*Free gift available with print edition only



All this



Just for you, dad

Cute cards to give for Father's Day

Vintage travel

Set sail with 50 globetrotting gift ideas from a bygone era!



Classic beauty

Add style and grace to your home with Joan Elliott's elegant lady



Caravan cuties

The prettiest pencil cases ever!



and more in issue 203

Roll up, roll up...

...and stitch these sweet circus scenes for a little one's room!



Prehistoric pals

Delight dino-loving kids with this abc

Turn to page 32 to subscribe and save!

Contents are subject to change.

Cross stitch made easy



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

With Anne MacGregor

How to use our charts and keys

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



Perfect for beginners

Small, quick-to-stitch designs, such as the letter A opposite, are ideal to try if you're new to stitching. For more simple designs to get you started, take a look at these:

- ▶ **PAGE 16**
May panda
- ▶ **PAGE 20**
Wedding gift ideas
- ▶ **PAGE 42**
Cheeky monkeys
- ▶ **PAGE 53**
Patchwork squares
- ▶ **PAGE 61**
Robot cards

Reading a chart

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

Where to start

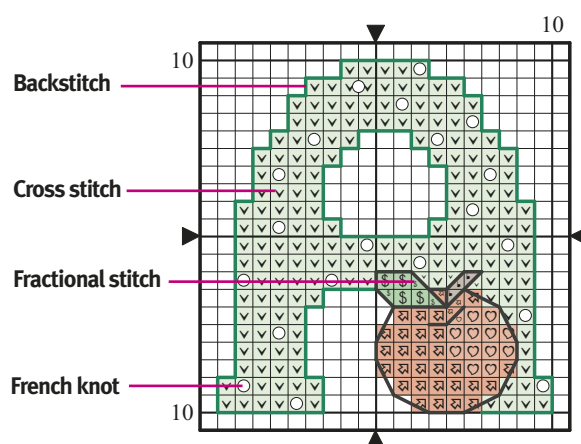
► The centre of most cross stitch charts is specially marked. This is the best place to start stitching, so you end up with the design stitched in the middle of the fabric. The centre of our charts is where the heavy vertical and horizontal lines intersect. To find the centre of your fabric, fold it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

Following our keys

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

Finding what you need

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



Symbol and colour that corresponds to the chart

Type of stitch and number of strands

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

A is for apple

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
■	349	1098	212
■	350	11	213
■	433	357	2602
■	954	203	1207
■	988	243	1402

✕ Backstitch in one strand

—	911	205	1214
—	3799	236	1713

✕ French knots in one strand

○	blanc	2	2402
---	-------	---	------

✕ Contains fractionals

--	--	--	--

Stitch count 20 (h) x 19 (w)

Design area on 14-count fabric

3.5x3.5cm (1 1/4x1 1/4in)

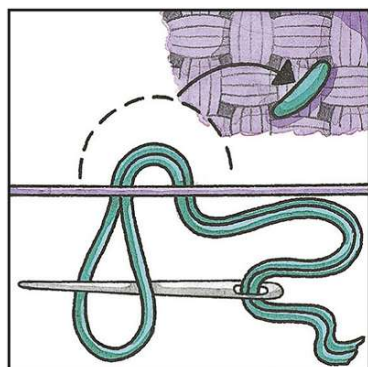
The three main brands of thread we use. The first column is always the one that we've used to stitch the design

Thread number represented by the symbol

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

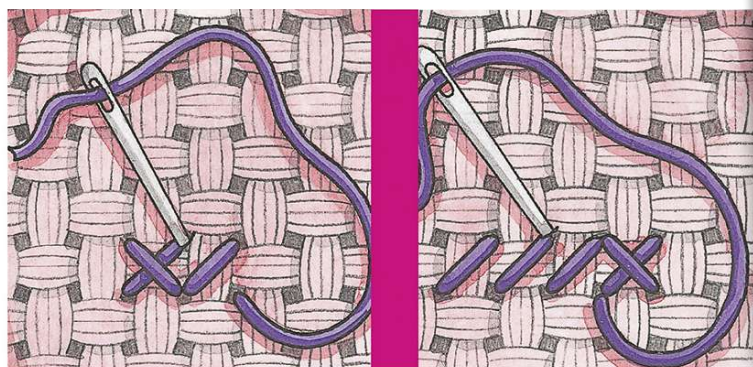
Cross-stitching.com
The non stop stitching site

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



Starting your thread

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

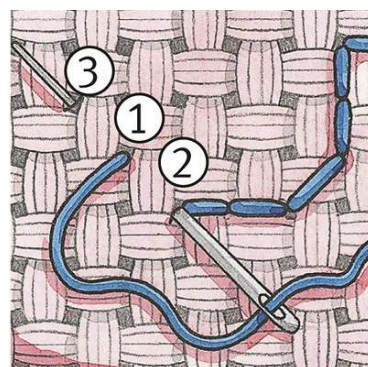


Cross stitch

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

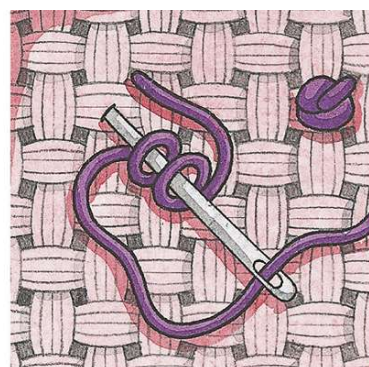
TIP Work each stitch in the same order so the top arms of your cross stitches lie in the same direction.

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



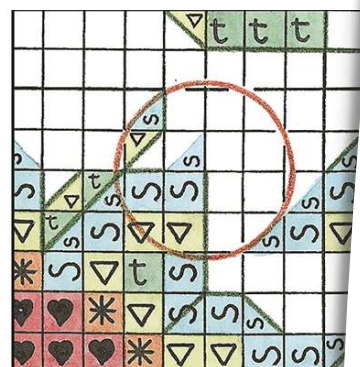
Backstitch

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



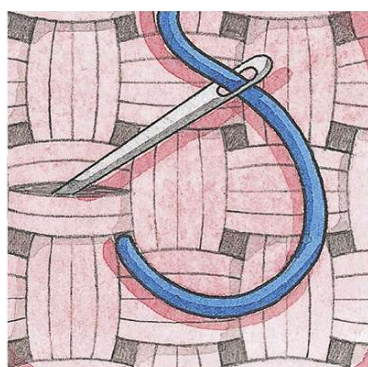
French knots

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



Spotting fractionals

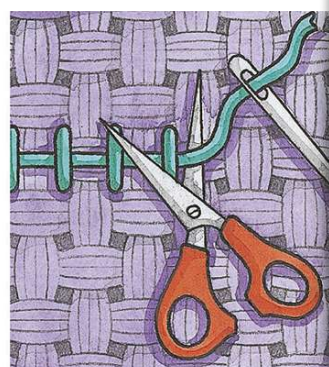
► A fractional stitch is represented on a chart by a smaller version of the main symbol, in a corner of the square. It will show you which corner the fractional stitch should occupy. Quarter and three-quarter stitches are shown in the same way on your chart.



Fractional stitches

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

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



Finishing your thread

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

JOBELAN – a specific type of evenweave fabric

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

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

PERFORATED PAPER – toughened paper, perforated with tiny holes

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

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

SAMPLER – traditional stitching, demonstrating a variety of stitches

SATIN THREADS – silky threads that add a subtle sheen

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

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

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

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

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

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

Teabreak



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

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

Once you've completed the grid, text* the three numbers in the blue squares to us and you'll be in with a chance of winning this sweet Teapot Mouse kit from Bothy Threads! The kit measures 18x18cm (7x7in) and costs £19.99. For more information visit www.bothythreads.com or call ☎ 01900 828 844.

TO ENTER: *Text CSC202SUDOKU followed by your answer, name, email address and postal address to 87474. Texts will be charged at 50p plus your standard network rate. For full terms and conditions turn to page 73. To enter by post, send your answer, name and address on a postcard to: Crazy 202 Sudoku, Cross Stitch Crazy, Immediate Media Company Bristol Ltd, 2nd Floor, Tower House, Fairfax Street, Bristol BS1 3BN. The closing date for entries is 1st May 2015.



TEXT
your
entry!*

Solution

Celeb wordsearch
The missing word is
Rapper

The Buttons...

Bev, Nev and co will have you in stitches! By Rhys Reed



Coleshill Accessories

www.coleshillaccessories.co.uk



Pinking Shears

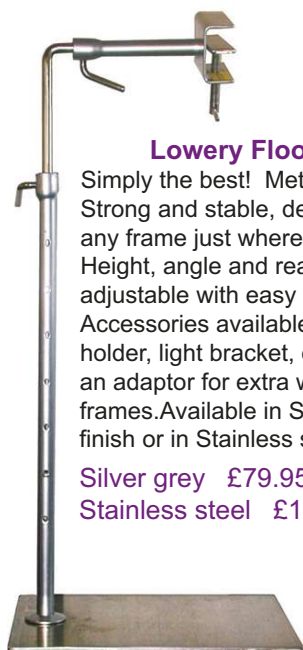
Lightweight, super sharp.
Best quality!
Best price!
£17.95



Magnifying Chart Aid

Keep your place on a cross stitch chart. Place the metal board under your chart and the magnifying clear plastic square on top. The red grid lines keep your place as you stitch. The corner magnets hold needles and scissors securely. Size 10cm x 8cm.

Complete Chart aid £15.95
Magnifying Top only £10.95



Lowery Floor Stand

Simply the best! Metal construction. Strong and stable, deep clamp holds any frame just where you want it. Height, angle and reach fully adjustable with easy to use levers. Accessories available include chart holder, light bracket, daisy dish and an adaptor for extra wide frames. Available in Silver grey satin finish or in Stainless steel

Silver grey £79.95
Stainless steel £139.99



Handeze Gloves

Relieve pain from arthritis, tendonitis, carpal tunnel etc. while stitching or knitting.

Available in **beige** or **slate blue** with or without the extra wrist strap, which gives more support.

To measure for size place hand on piece of paper. Mark the paper each side of the knuckles, at the base of the fingers. Measure the distance between the 2 marks and select size.

2.0" - 2 1/2"	51 - 64mm	Size 2
2 1/2" - 3 1/4"	64 - 78 mm	Size 3
3 1/4" - 3 3/4"	78 - 91 mm	Size 4
3 3/4" - 4 1/2"	91 - 105mm	Size 5

Regular £19.95 Wrist Support £20.95



Needle Park Avenue

Stitch faster by parking your working threads on the Needle Park. Have more needles threaded and darn in your threads less often. Magnetic

£7.95



De Luxe set of Knit-Pro Interchangeable needles

in tough, rainbow coloured birch. The birch wood tips screw into the cables, enabling you to change size quickly and economically. You can knit round or straight. Great for arthritic hands. Has 8 pairs of needles sizes 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, 5.0, 5.5, 6.0, 7.0, 8.0mm. and 4 cables to make 60, 80, 100 and 120 cms circular needles.!

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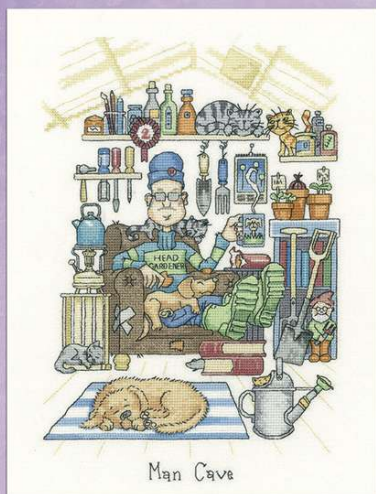
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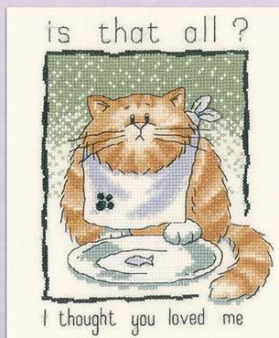
Distracted by Peter Underhill - 23.5 x 14cm



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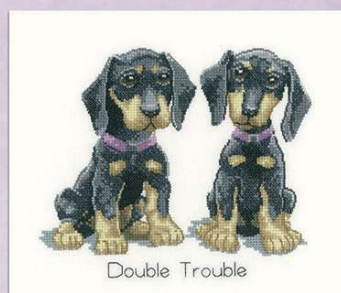
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by John Clayton - 11 x 31cm



Corsican Village
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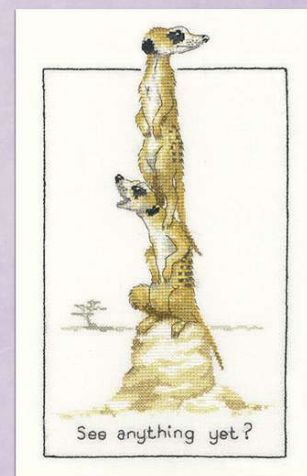
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