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154

inspiring
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PLUS
AROUND THE
WORLD P.47



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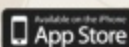
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Welcome

Stitching dilemmas? Whether it's a technique query you need solving, or maybe you're looking for fresh finishing inspiration, or perhaps ideas for your latest project to start... We have **all the answers** for you at *The World of Cross Stitching*. Look no further!

I'll start with the fab **Fizzy Moon exclusive** on page 10 – aren't these two cute?! I think it'll go on my must-make list, to cheer up a friend. Sending it with a quick-make card, using the pretty **pastel Madeira threads** and a pattern from the free chartbook, this'll be a great pressie. With 42 designs to choose from, this book is one we'll all refer to over and over, I'm sure you'll agree!

I've more birthdays to stitch for in a few weeks time... I'll plan to stitch a **pretty floral card** or two (p58), but

till then, some summer style just for me is on the agenda. **Butterfly chic** (p76)? Accessories for my kitchen (p27)? Now this is my new dilemma to solve!



Ruth

Editor
The World of Cross Stitching

PS For top advice to solve your dilemmas and queries, see our **Ask the Experts** section (p33) and look out for our masterclass ideas on page 72 to decorate your cards.

Meet some of our designers...



DURENE JONES
Designer Durene's getting right on-trend with us on page 18, inspired by classic folk art and a wildlife motif, the fox, who is all about town these days!



AMANDA GREGORY
Fabulous florals and all things feminine are Amanda's design forte. We love her shabby chic cards (p68) and cottage garden hydrangea cushion on page 38.



LISA REAKES
With her love for making home decor projects, Lisa's fun chicken chefs are just the ticket to brighten up your kitchen for the summer! See page 27.

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Pick
of the
month

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MUCH MORE THAN A MAGAZINE...

APPS TO GO!

- ✕ Here at *The World of Cross Stitching* we're proud to be online! Download our apps at the Apple newsstand, Google play, Zinio.com, for the Nook and on Amazon for Kindle Fire
- ✕ Join in daily chat on our Facebook group – click 'like' over at www.facebook.com/TheWorldofCrossStitching
- ✕ On Twitter? To catch all of our behind-the-scenes info, follow @WOXScrossstitch



Cross stitch gets digital!
Don't miss out on any stitchy fun – get WOXs for your gadgets

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We bring you all the best projects, advice, news and offers for the month ahead!

YOUR FREE GIFTS!

Chartbook with 42 pretty designs and two packs of pastel Madeira threads

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Free gifts available with print edition only. Overseas gift(s) may vary.

Subscribe and save money

Turn to page 44



Choose a **bonus gift**, plus a fab discount – **SAVE 29%**

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enter & be lucky

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WON!

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- ✕ Appear in the magazine
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Meet our guests

Get to know this month's reader panel, and look out for their favourite projects throughout the issue



**Bernice
Woodhouse**

is an office
worker from
Hull

What was your first cross stitch?

A lion I bought in our local craft shop when I was about 10 years old.

What are you working on?

A DMC kit, 'Boofle Cupcakes'. It's a piece for my kitchen when it's finished as I am a very keen baker too.

Who's your favourite cross stitch designer and why?

My favourite designer would be Santoro and more specifically the Gorjuss kits by Bothy Threads. I have stitched 11 of these fabulous designs.

Fave recent design from the mag?

The Forever Friends bears from issue 225. I stitched it in two weeks and it's been framed and is on display in my living room.



"I find cross stitching really relaxes me"



**Marnie
Duggan**

is a housewife
from Australia

What are you stitching?

I am working on a small sampler for a dear friend who is getting married later in the year.

What is your idea of cross stitch heaven?

To be at my dad's beach house with a slight sea breeze and sunlight on me stitching away in peace!

Who do you like to cross stitch for?

I love to stitch for my daughter, Miss Lilli, who is nine years old.

Favourite recent design?

I like all of them, it's so hard to choose just one. The 'Field of Dreams' from issue 226 was so colourful.



"I like to stitch at night when I have peace and quiet"



**Emma
Nagorski**

is an admin
manager from
Berkshire

How did you start stitching?

I've been a stitcher for 18 years and started when my Year 4 primary school teacher started an after school class.

Who would you say are your cross stitching buddies?

My husband. He doesn't stitch, but sits with me on the sofa watching telly keeping me company.

Who do you like to stitch for?

I stitch gifts for other crafty friends and family as they appreciate the amount of time that goes in to them.

Favourite recent design?

The 'In Full Bloom' draught excluder from issue 225. I just love the colours and the flowers are just so realistic.



"I love to watch how a piece comes together"

We need you!

To be on the panel, email readerpanel@cross-stitching.com – tell us your name, where you're from and include a good-quality photo of yourself. Every panellist gets a preview of the magazine and a gift worth at least £30!



Gift
worth
£30!

THANKS! This month's panel members each get a bundle of Madeira goodies worth £30. It includes 25 thread packs plus a box of accessories filled with gold-plated needles, scissors and more!

Kreinik threads

Tip: the thread type
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the label

Put the softest sparkle in your stitchery



- ✓ Use Blending Filament, Very Fine #4 Braid or Fine #8 Braid for cross stitch on popular fabrics.
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Tip: Kreinik color
5760 Marshmallow is
perfect for stitching snow

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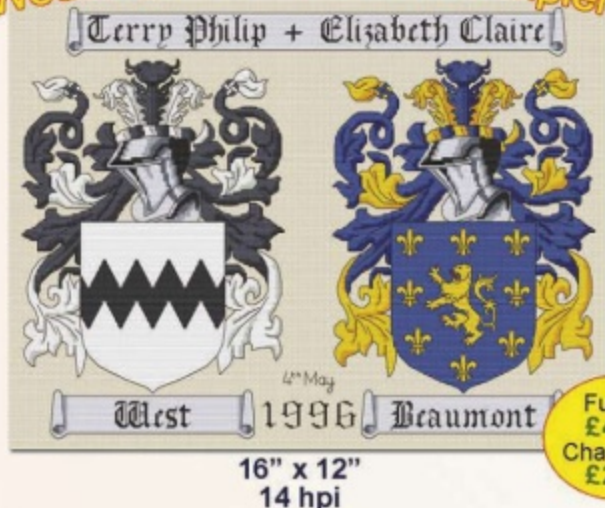
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NEW

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Sydney Opera House
7.6" x 3.5", 14hpi
Marbled Blue Aida
CHART £5 KIT £10



Route 66
6.0" x 4.0", 14hpi
White Aida
CHART £5 KIT £10



Las Vegas
10.0" x 8.5", 14hpi
White Aida
CHART £5 KIT £15



Taj Mahal
11.0" x 7.0", 14hpi
Marbled Blue Aida
CHART £5 KIT £15

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9 EIDER CLOSE, BURTON LATIMER, KETTERING, NORTHANTS, NN15 5TH

Your **FREE** gifts!

You're spoilt for choice this issue with a gorgeous free chartbook of ideas & two Madeira thread packs

Stitch with your FREE THREADS

FREE THREADS & CHART BOOK

Bumper chart book
Stitch lovely cards, tags & gifts with your free Madeira threads

42 NEW DESIGNS
from **Cross Stitching**

PRETTY MADEIRA THREADS
With 20 metres of high-quality Madeira stranded cottons, you'll enjoy stitching up these designs

LOVELY CARDS & GIFT TAGS
Enjoy 42 new patterns by three top designers – their ideas in your chartbook are great for all occasions!

Mouliné
Sticktwist
Six strand floss
6-с.л. мулине
MADEIRA
10m 11y
100% Baumwolle mercerisiert far
100% Cotton mercerised fast
100% Col mercerisé coules
100% хлопок мерсеризированный устойчивый

Mouliné
Sticktwist
Six strand floss
6-с.л. мулине
MADEIRA
10m 11y
100% Baumwolle mercerisiert far
100% Cotton mercerised fast
100% Col mercerisé coules
100% хлопок мерсеризированный устойчивый

Sweet Vintage Style

Say it with flowers...
Create heartfelt sentiments for your nearest and dearest with this blooming lovely alphabet set

Meet the designer
Lucie Heston
Lucie's risen to the challenge of creating this oh-so-pretty floral ABC in just two colours. "I'm a real fan of vintage style and these hues lend themselves perfectly. They are soft and delicate – ideal for girly girls!"

Overseas gift(s) may vary

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The World of Cross Stitching 13

DESIGN BY PAPER ISLAND

Sent with love

Show someone special just how much you care, with this heartfelt stitch of Fizzy Moon and best friend Bunny!

Cuddled up with cute pal Bunny, Fizzy Moon can't wait to open the special card accompanying that sweet-smelling floral gift. And, we're sure the lucky recipient will feel the same sense of excitement when they open this gorgeous scene that you've stitched for them.

Be it Father's Day, a birthday or an anniversary, this charming project makes the perfect present for any special occasion. It's the ideal design for Dad – and much more interesting than socks – but will be just as loved by a hard-to-buy-for teenage girl.

Suitable for stitchers with a bit of experience, Fizzy Moon and Bunny will quickly appear, with blocks of colour in whole and half stitches, plus

Factbox

- ✦ **Stitching Time**
Approx. 40 hours
- ✦ **Type of Stitches**
Cross stitch, fractionals, half cross stitch, backstitch, French knots
- ✦ **Ease of Stitching**
Advanced beginner/intermediate

Full of gorgeous detail

a few fractionals to create the shaping for their noses and eyes. Finish off with plenty of backstitch definition and four French knots. So what are you waiting for? Bring these cute characters to life today! ➤



Meet the character

Fizzy Moon

This adorably fluffy, tufted bear is beloved by many, and is certainly a favourite here at *The World of Cross Stitching*! To find out more about Fizzy and friends, visit www.fizzy-moon.com today!

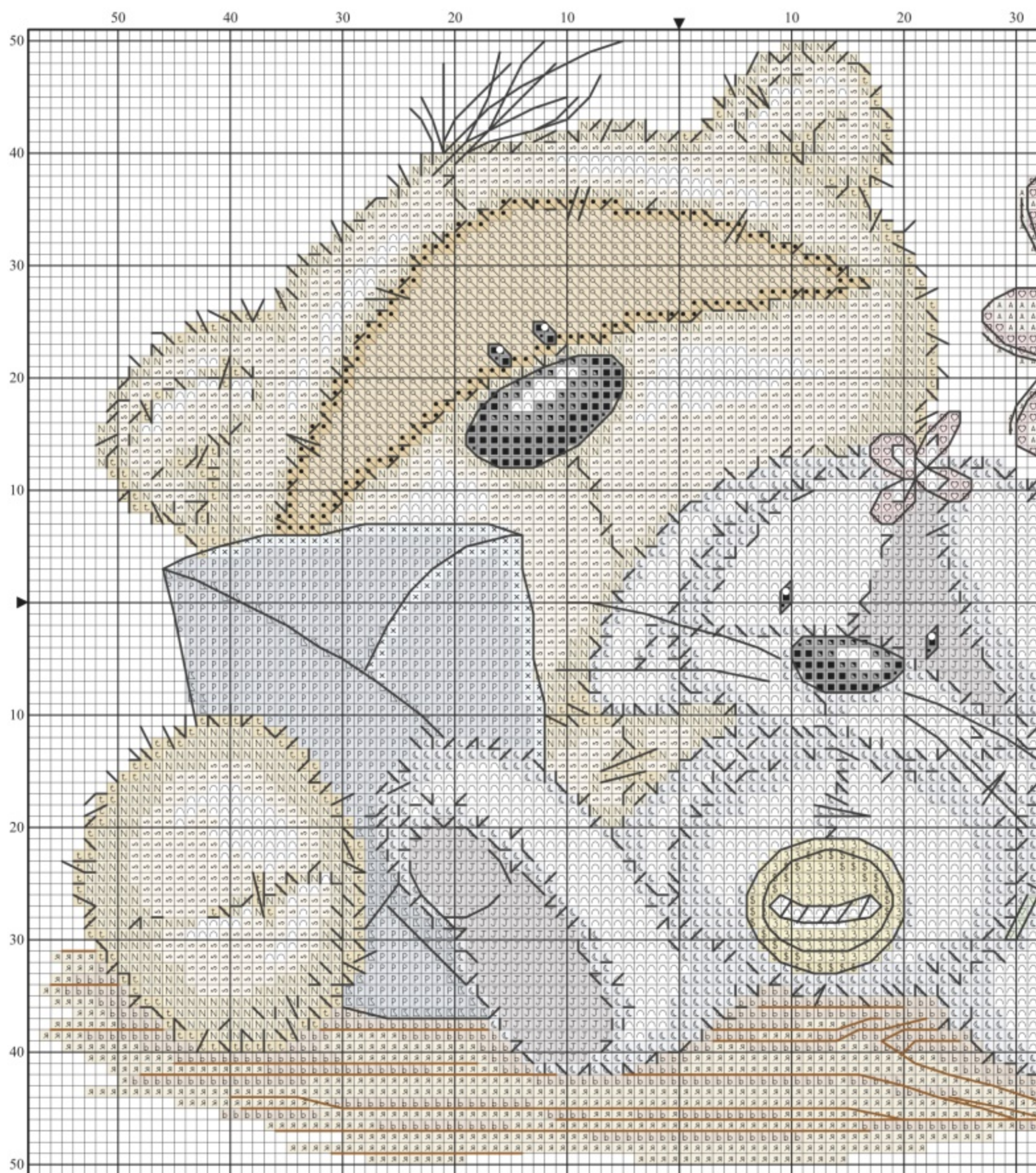


MUST
STITCH
FOR
SPRING!



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Fizzy Moon is
back in this brand
new, exclusive
design, and looking
cuter than ever!



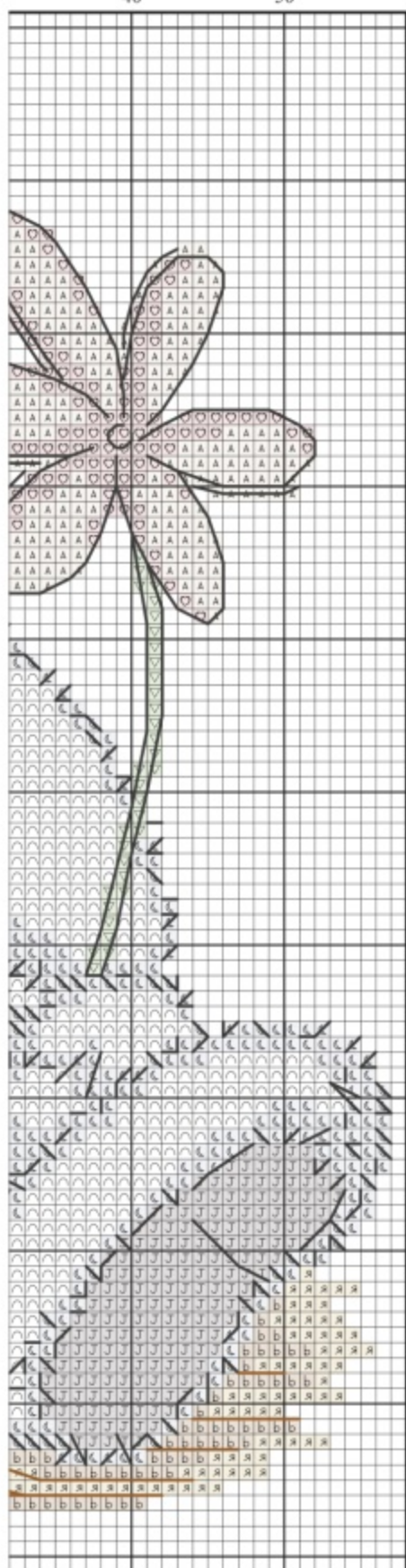
Fizzy Moon chart (left)

Help with French knots

Head over to Cross Stitch TV and follow our guide

French knots are easier than you think with some practice. Simply watch our easy 'How To' video tutorial on www.cross-stitching.com. Our Editor, Ruth, talks you through the process, so you can be sure of a professional finish. Then simply practise on some spare fabric!


Ruth Southern
Editor, The World of Cross Stitching



Fizzy Moon chart (right)

Fizzy Moon key

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
○	blanc	2	2402	white
■	310	403	2400	black
J	318	399	1801	grey
■	436	1045	2011	dark tan
■	437	362	2012	tan
\$	676	891	2208	sand
3	677	886	2207	light sand
s	712	926	2101	cream
t	738	367	2013	light tan
N	739	366	2014	very light tan
℄	762	234	1804	light grey
A	819	271	501	light pink
℄	932	1033	1710	dark petrol blue
♥	963	73	502	pink
P	3752	1032	1708	petrol blue
x	3753	128	909	light petrol blue
■	3799	236	1713	dark grey
▽	3817	875	1702	green

✕ Half cross stitch in two strands

a	543	933	1909	beige
b	3864	376	1910	light brown

✕ Backstitch in one strand

—	3799	236	1713	dark grey
—	3863	379	1912	brown

✕ French knots in one strand

○	blanc	2	2402	white
---	-------	---	------	-------

STITCH COUNT 100 high x 114 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 18x20.5cm (7¼x8¼in)

This design was stitched using DMC stranded cotton

Shopping list

- ✕ Zweigart* 14-count white aida measuring 28x30cm (11x12in)
- ✕ Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- ✕ Size 24 tapestry needle
- ✕ Frame of your choice with a minimum aperture measuring 19x22cm (7½x8½in)

Thread & fabric cost
Approximately £23

*For stockists see page 90

Our PETS of the MONTH

Dog Wanted



14ct Aida 20 x 20cm £17.25

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Bernice READER PANEL

“This is just adorable. I've been struggling to think of something to stitch for my neighbour's baby girl and I think this is perfect, so cute and sweet.”

TOP TIP

Create an adorable gift in half the time by stitching Bunny and the flower on their own!

Your letters

We love to see what you've been stitching and hear your news, so send in your photos, letters and tips



Star Letter

LITTLE RACING STAR

Thought you might like to see a photograph of the cushion I have made for my grandson Jenson who is aged seven – as you can guess, he is into cars and motorbikes, so these patterns were absolutely wonderful for me to work and to make a lasting cushion for him.

They were the card designs from issue 217, by designer Rhona Norrie.

Chrissie Mitchell, Devon

Ruth says: *What a fab cushion, Chrissie. You never know, with his passion for racing cars, your little Jenson might grow up to be like a famous world-champion Jenson!*



✉ **Little racing star**
Chrissie's combined several designs for this transport-theme cushion, for her grandson

Win!

The writer of our Star letter wins both of these Paddington Bear kits – 'Baking Sampler' (£19.99) and 'Sports Sampler' (£19.99) from Bothy Threads!

MORE:

For stockists, email info@bothythreads.com or call ☎ 01900 828844

Prize worth
£39!



Walk in the woods

This is a picture of the largest project I've finished so far – it's a kit by DMC, and shows the complete Woodland Folk gang and is called 'Home is where the heart is'. Embarrassingly, with all the birthday cards, Christmas cards, presents for weddings, golden weddings, as well as welcoming gifts for newborn babies to be done in-between, it took me exactly 25 months to finish it. To tell the truth, I may well have never completed it at all if my teammate Astrid at work had not helpfully supplied me with a large

variety of audio books to listen to while stitching away, hour after hour, each weekend... So, it's quite appropriate that these cute fellows now keep us company on our office wall!

Thank you for introducing these sweet animals to me in the first place, coming home from a long day at work and finding your latest magazine in my letterbox always puts a smile on my face for sure!

Angela Nagel, Germany

Sue: *You're very welcome Angela and it sounds like you're super busy, so to get this done too is a real achievement – well done!*



✉ **Walk in the woods**
Angela discovered the lovely Woodland Folk gang through the mag

WRITE TO US AT: Letters, The World of Cross Stitching, Immediate Media Co, Tower House, Fairfax St, Bristol BS1 3BN

Fishy business

As soon as I saw Ursula Michael's 'Lucky Koi' design in issue 203, I knew I had to stitch it. I love fish and this colourful koi design was the perfect project. I have a fish motif in my bathroom and I wanted to add this design to my wall.

I removed the bamboo border and stitched the fish only. Instead of the Mill Hill seed beads, I incorporated some beads that I had on hand. I think that the pink, green and orange beads lend themselves very well with the koi colours.

I then used some 'tile-like' squares for a border to resemble the tiles in a koi pond. I hope that Ursula likes what I did with this design. It was certainly a pleasure to stitch. Thanks for all your great projects.

Susan Francis,
Ontario, Canada

Fiona: The colours really pop out, Susan, and the clever mosaic-style frame idea is a real inspiration, and super for a bathroom picture. Your adaptations are perfect!

For more colourful design ideas that are great for the home, you'll find plenty of projects in this issue, like the hydrangea cushion on page 38, or the bright Clarice Cliff-style cottage on page 58.

✉ **Fishy business**
It's easy to see why these colourful koi caught Susan's eye



DEDICATED STITCHER!

Here is a photo of me with 'Whispering Winds'. I bought the kit from Country Designs, the size is 40x63cm (16x25in) on 14-count aida. The design uses 96 DMC colours and has 76,300 stitches. It took me 19 months and 1,343 hours to do! I am 71 years of age and I still enjoy my cross stitching.

Stanley Burrows,
Shropshire

Ruth: Wow Stanley, this is a masterpiece and I love that you kept track of your progress with this huge project! It's a pleasure to see such creations.

✉ **Dedicated stitcher**
It took Stanley almost a year to finish this massive design



Far, far away

This is a photo of me with my latest project, which I'm sending to my American penfriend, Martha. I got in touch with her late last year after seeing one of her posts on Pinterest, and we soon started up a correspondence.

She lives in Virginia, hence the map, and I just hope that it will reach her before her birthday. I contacted the designer, Sue Hillis, to compliment her on the design and show her what I'd done with it. Having changed some of the motifs around, I was delighted by Sue's kind and encouraging response.

Hazel Anderson, Sunderland

Rachel: How great that you've struck up a friendship with Martha and have shared interests. Lovely stitching, Hazel.

✉ **Far, far away**
Hazel loved stitching this for a new friend across the pond



Perfect Present



✉ **Mother's love**
Anna made these gifts stitched with love, one for her mum and one for her parents-in-law

MOTHER'S LOVE

I'd like to show you the hearts that I stitched for my mum and my mother-in-law. The rose pendant was made for Mother's Day while the doves were for the 35th wedding anniversary of my in-laws. To create them, I covered heart shapes made from plastic with stitching, using rustic 14-count aida. I embellished them with ribbon in matching colours, to create the perfect gifts for my mums!

Anna Wieckowska,
Poland

Fiona: A celebration of 35 years of marriage deserves a beautiful heartfelt gift, as does Mother's Day, so these pretty hanging treasures are perfect, Anna.

For more gift ideas to stitch, then check out the motifs in our Design Library on page 47. We've lots more original finishing ideas to inspire you.

EMAIL US AT: letters@cross-stitching.com or join our Facebook group at www.facebook.com/TheWorldofCrossStitching



✉ **Top teacher**
Sarah cross stitched this card for a very special colleague of hers

Top teacher

I thought I would show you how I adapted the cake colours from the Design Library from issue 226. I was looking for a quick and special card to make for a teacher I work with in the Reception class at school.

I've been her teaching assistant for a few years now and as it was her 40th birthday, I wanted to show her how much I appreciate all the hard work she puts into her job, and make something special just for her. She had a great day with cake, pressies, balloons and a huge chorus of "Happy Birthday" from the Reception and Year 6 classes' children and staff.

Sarah Poole, Essex

Rachel: She sounds like a real inspiration to you, Sarah! You did a great job adapting the colours of the original design, and we love your card decorations too. For more tips and ideas on decorating cards, turn to page 72 for the second part of our series about embellishing cards.

Seasonal stitches

I thought you might like to see the first of the designs from the free Desk Calendar that came with issue 224 of your magazine, all stitched up. I'm trying to stitch each one over the course of its month but they are over-running slightly as I do have to fit other designs in-between. I really enjoyed this little guy though!

Tina Rea, Rutland

Sue: Sounds like a fun challenge you've given yourself Tina, that will be worth it in the end! This adorable robin is a good start, so good luck with your aim, and do let us see all 12 finished designs when you're done. Special occasion stitching always crops up though, so we know how projects can get a little behind on their schedule!

For stitchers looking to find the free 2015 Stitcher's Desk Calendar, back issues of issue 224 are available – see page 74.



✉ **Seasonal stitches**
Tina's set herself the task of stitching a calendar design every month

Cute keepsake

This was stitched for my husband's niece, Aurora, who born in early March. I loved how it looked in issue 225 and I am really pleased with how it turned out.

Karla Walsby, via email

Rachel: It will make the perfect keepsake for little Aurora as she grows up, Karla.



✉ **Cute keepsake**
This vintage-style baby sampler was just what Karla was looking for

PERSONAL TOUCH

When looking through your issue 227, I saw the bookmarks and instantly thought of my mum. I knew Mother's Day was coming up so I decided to stitch the 'keep calm' chart but make it more feminine and add eyes and lips to make it look a bit comical. I had to stitch it secretly so she wouldn't see it. I know she will like it as it is stitched with love!

Julie Grice, Hull

Ruth: This is great fun, Julie, it certainly made us smile here in the office! We love it when stitchers add their own personality to the designs as you end up with a truly unique project. We hope your mum loved it too.



✉ **Personal touch**
Adapt designs to suit your needs, like Julie did with this bookmark

Subs Stars



Each month we randomly select three subscribers to win a prize as a thank you

This month's winners are:

- ▶ Mrs Yolande McKenzie, Stanton
- ▶ Mrs Lynda Mennell, Scarborough
- ▶ Mrs Jacqueline Forrester, Bardsley

Prizes every month!

This issue's Subs Stars will each receive a Fizzy Moon kit, 'Treetop Friends'. Worth over £24, the kit includes 14-count white aida, pre-sorted threads, size 24 tapestry needle, a colour chart and key. To be in with a chance of winning next month, all you have to do is subscribe!

WRITE TO US AT: Letters, The World of Cross Stitching, Immediate Media Co, Tower House, Fairfax St, Bristol BS1 3BN

Stash builder



✉ **Stash builder**
Liz was inspired to make this fab Celtic card

The Celtic symbols in issue 227 were great, and I have just completed this card for our good friend, Roy's birthday. I'm already stitching another and will build up a little stash to use for cards for family and friends. I've never made cards before but have been inspired by the designs in your magazine.

Liz Day, Marlow

Ruth: *We're thrilled that we've inspired you to try something new Liz. For a first try, it looks really fantastic!*



✉ **Shoe-tastic collection**
These designs are perfect for Ann's shopping buddies!

SHOE-TASTIC COLLECTION

Although I've been busy after Christmas, as soon as issue 226 arrived, I just had to get working on my cards for the coming year and got straight onto stitching the shoes. They only took a short while to complete as I've stitched so many projects over the years – it's my only hobby. On the beige shoe, I used some beads that I had in my workbox instead of the French knots – they fitted well and I

think they look great.

I have lots of girlfriends who love shoe shopping! Now, I'm looking forward to next issue which is bound to keep me busy with projects to fill my birthday card box up.

Ann Wheeler, Northants

Fiona: *We're all quite partial to a nice pair of heels here too, Ann. We hope you like the floral cards on page 68, this month.*



✉ **Chloe the cockapoo!**
Becky adapted the colours of this design to match her friend's pooch

CHLOE THE COCKAPOO!

Here is the cockapoo design from the Pet of the Month in issue 224. I made it into a cushion for my friend's birthday. I also changed the colours to browns to resemble her own brown cockapoo, Chloe. I hope you like it.

Becky Cudworth, Birmingham

Rachel: *Chloe is one lucky pet, Becky, great stitching! And we love that you tried a different finishing idea instead of a card or frame. Your cushion looks wonderful and we are sure your friend will have loved such a unique gift. Turn to page 84 for this issue's all-new Pet of the Month request.*

Family fun

I've recently taken up the hobby of cross stitching and absolutely love it. My two nieces, pictured here, Stacie, nine and Charley, eight, love the hobby as much as I do. Every night after school they both pop in to do some cross stitch with me!

Kayleigh White, Pembrokeshire

Sue: *How fab! A happy family is a cross stitching family, I do believe, Kayleigh!*



✉ **Family fun**
Kayleigh and her beautiful nieces all love to share their stitching passion

SEND US YOUR NEWS

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or write to:
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Immediate Media Co Origin,
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Get in touch on Facebook, too!



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STITCH
A CUTE
GIFT!



Get right on-trend
with this must-stitch
folky fox - fab for
anyone who loves
all things quaint
and quirky!

DESIGN BY DURENE JONES

Crafty like a fox

Combine two top trends in one design – the ornate detail of folk art and our favourite woodland animal, the fox!

Whether it's decorating the side of a vintage gypsy caravan, or embroidered onto a bohemian-style dress, traditional folk art is a style we've long admired. With its whimsical, decorative details, it works perfectly in cross stitch, so we couldn't wait to bring you this fabulous folky fox design by Durene Jones!

Worked in just 12 nature-inspired shades, this quirky project is suitable for stitchers of all abilities. Those with a bit more experience will fly through the whole cross stitches that make up the main body of the fox, then you can concentrate on adding all those beautiful backstitched details. Each intricate little flower is brought to life

Factbox

- ✦ **Stitching Time**
Approx. 30 hours
- ✦ **Type of Stitches**
Cross stitch, fractionals, backstitch
- ✦ **Ease of Stitching**
Beginner

Hardly any fractionals

in a single strand, so make sure to follow the chart carefully. You may find a magnifier will be useful.

We've framed our finished piece, but you could easily make up your design as a cosy cushion – visit our site at www.cross-stitching.com and see the handy 'How To' category. ➤



Meet the designer

Durene Jones

"I think this fun design is a great way to give a traditional artistic style a modern twist. The classic folk palette and intertwined florals work so well with the sweet little fox, plus it won't take too long to stitch!"

Folk-art Fox key

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	blanc	2	2402	white
■	434	310	2009	dark tan
▽	703	238	1307	light green
⊙	725	305	113	yellow
●	741	304	202	orange
●	817	13	210	red
P	822	390	1908	pearl
A	961	76	610	pink
W	976	1001	2010	light ginger
■	3031	360	2003	dark brown

✕ Backstitch in one strand

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
—	blanc	2	2402	white
—	700	229	1302	green
—	975	355	2303	ginger
—	3031	360	2003	dark brown

STITCH COUNT 96 high x 64 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 17.5x11.5cm (6¾x4½in)

This design was stitched using DMC stranded cotton

Bernice READER PANEL



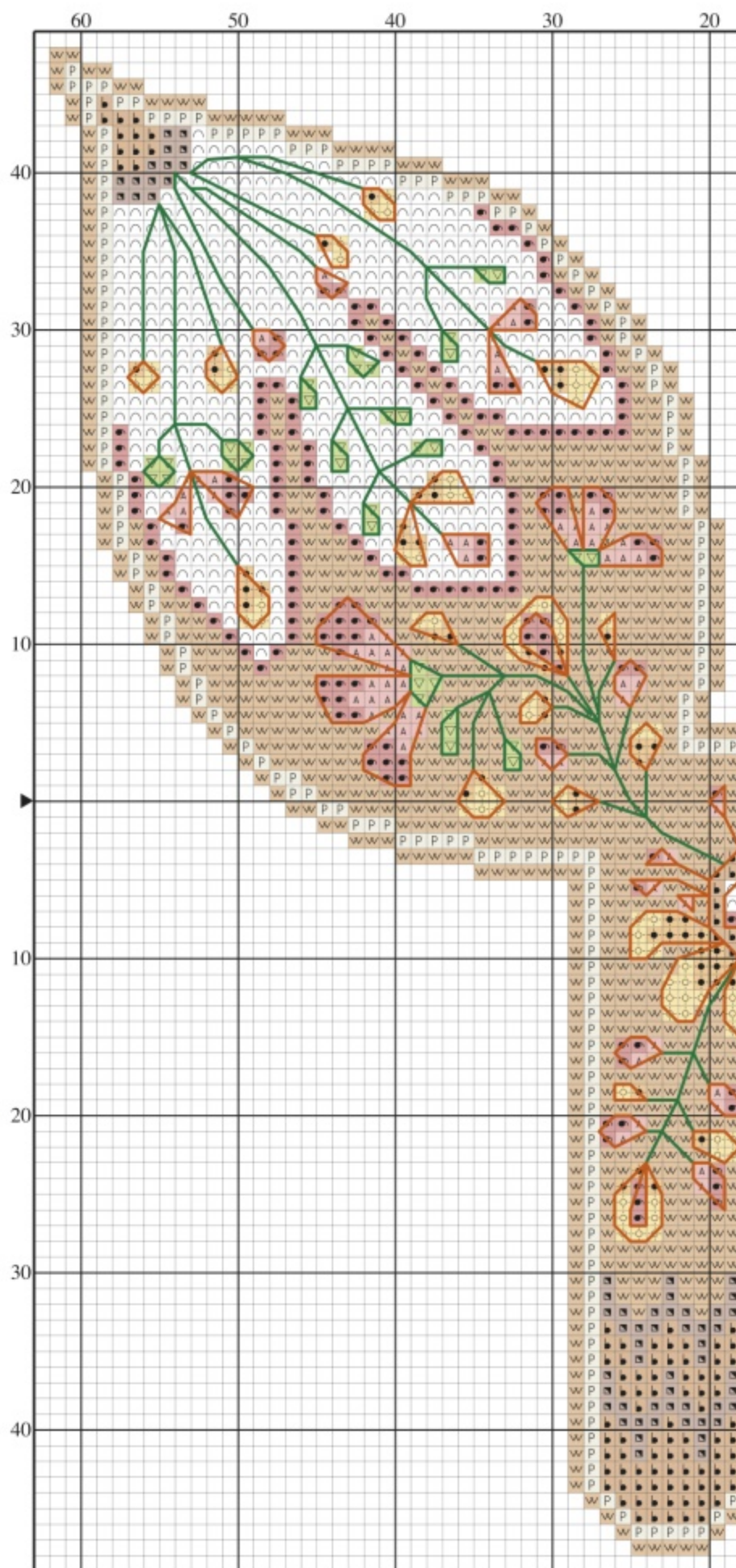
“This fox is just so adorable. The colours are perfect and the design really reminds me of summer and pretty gardens. This would be one to stitch just for me, and I’d display him proudly in my living room.”

Shopping list

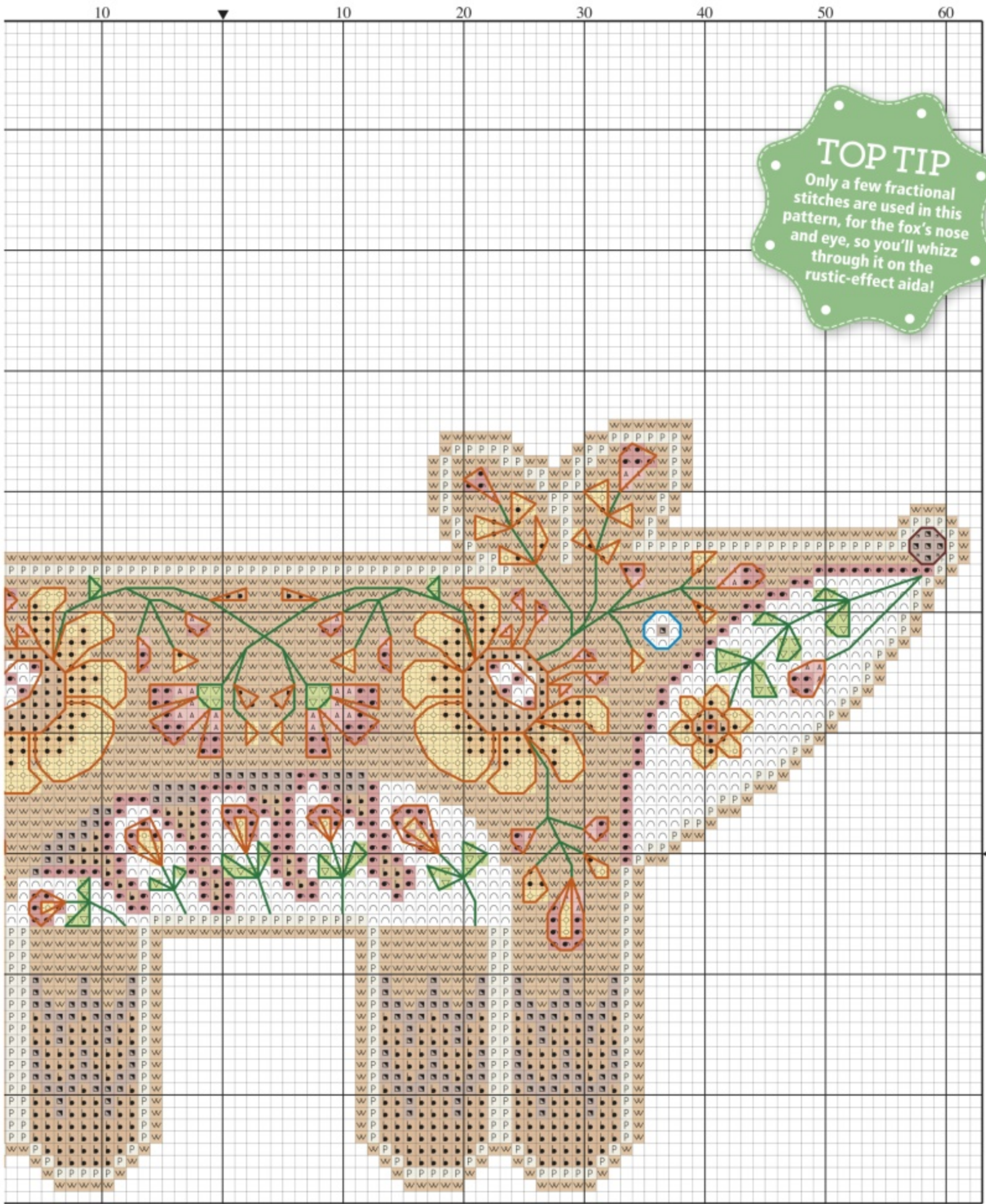
- ✕ Charles Craft* 14-count light oatmeal aida measuring 28x23cm (11x9in)
- ✕ Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- ✕ Size 24 tapestry needle
- ✕ Frame of your choice with a minimum aperture measuring 22x27cm (8½x10½in)

Thread & fabric cost
Approximately £15

*For stockists see page 90



Folk-art Fox chart (left)



Folk-art Fox chart (right)

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PICK OF THE MONTH

Sweet makes

£11.99

NEW BABY

Babies are in for a treat with these new additions from DMC*. Stitch a mini motif onto the wing of the gorgeous green 'Bird soft toy' (GN184), or add a pretty design to the aida pocket of the 'My first spring blanket' (RS2459). The aida inset panels are 18-count aida, so the high count means you can achieve lovely detailed motifs. The finished gifts are soft, sweet and full of sentiment – perfect for a treasured new arrival.

New baby
Make gorgeous stitched gifts for newborns with this new ready-to-stitch range

£15.99

£14.99

SECRET GARDEN

Part storybook, part cross stitch book, *Secret Garden Embroidery* is the hotly anticipated new offering from designer author, What Delilah Did. It's not available until June, so keep your eyes peeled for the elegant front cover with its striking bee and honeycomb design.

Inside you'll find 15 beautiful botanical-themed projects, all in a modern, folky style, and divided into sections catering for different levels of stitcher. Available from Pavilion Craft*, there really is something for all abilities to enjoy in this delightful new book, so keep an eye out and add it to your collection.

Trendwatching... Geometric

Stitching corner
Sit pretty with fab geo-print curtains, cushions and a throw, from Next*

From £18

£3.99 each

Fun fabric to finish off projects
Fabric pieces, measuring 50x70cm (19 3/4 x 27 1/2 in), by Panduro Hobby*

Bold colours and

\$5
Approx. £3.46

Perfect patterns
'Modern Geometric', chart PDF by RedBear Design* (find kits too!)

CHALK UP

WRITTEN IN STITCHES

Designed to look like a chalkboard, these kits from Design Works and available from Past Impressions* feature lovely messages 'sketched' in stitches rather than chalk! 'All You Need Is Love Chalkboard' (2887) and 'Just Be Happy Chalkboard' (2886) both measure 24.5x20cm (9½x8in) when worked on the black 14-count aida that comes with the kit. Also included are the threads, chart, needle and instructions. Turn to page 86 now to find more on-trend and inspiring word art sayings!



LOVE STORY

Delight newlyweds with this unusual but oh-so-sweet wedding record from Twilleys of Stamford. Measuring 14x20cm (5½x8in) on the 14-count cream aida, the design features pretty turquoise hearts, inside which you can stitch personal details of the couple's big day. Buy the kit, 'Happily Ever After' (115375) from Sew and So*.

EASY ADD-ONS

Give your stitched cards a fancy finish with flower gem embellishments from Tiger Stores*. Sparkly gems are perfect for cards – as we previewed in our feature masterclass on page 72. These fresh and fun accents are self-adhesive (easy to use!), and the pack of 60 varied blooms is great value, too.



MODERN CLASSIC

Describing this pattern, designer Barbara Ana says: "A conspiracy is brewing here, the fluffy cat looks so worried and the stag is truly surprised, the two little feathered traitors, whispering and whispering, are up to no good..." And sure enough, 'The Feathered Whisperers' is full of interesting and unusual details, but with a traditional sampler layout.

The recommended fabric is 40-count linen evenweave, stitched over two threads, and the inspiration is a beautiful sampler from 1859, which used wool on canvas. The colours on the back of the original remain bright, but Barbara chose to recreate the more faded colours of the front, for her contemporary version. With a stitch count of 263x259 (including an option border) the black-and-white downloadable chart is available to buy from Creative Poppy Patterns*.

*For stockists see page 90

READER OFFER

For his 'Elegance Miniatures' range, John Clayton has adapted his original Elegance ladies and reduced them in size, without losing any of the exquisite detail. Designs are available as complete cross stitch kits with either 28-count evenweave or 14-count aida. Heritage Crafts* is giving a 20% discount on the stunning designs in this range, including 'Miranda' (MEMI1250) and 'Sarah' (MESH1236) as shown below, normally priced at £16. Enjoy this offer at www.hcrafts.com using the discount code **WOXS229**. Offer valid from 17 April to 26 May 2015.



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patterns make this trend so popular



'Blue Rosette'
Vervaco's chunky cross stitch kit (114101), from Sew and So*



My stitch list
Jot down project notes with these buys by Dotcomgiftshop*



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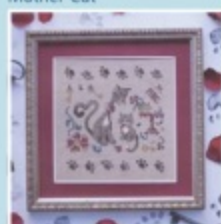


Chart £6.50 (Inc Postage)

Mothers



Chart with button pack £8.95
(Inc Postage)

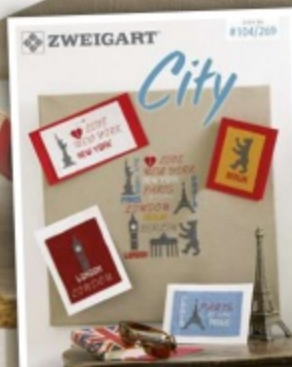
Both designs can be done on Aida or Linen

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Shopping list

- ✕ Zweigart* 14-count white aida measuring 23x20cm (9x8in) for the picture; 15x15cm (6x6in) for the pot holder; 10x10cm (4x4in) for the oven glove and 16-count 8cm (3in) wide white aida band with white trim x the required length, for the tea towel
- ✕ Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- ✕ Sizes 24 and 26 tapestry needles
- ✕ Tea towel, pot holder and oven glove from Wilkinson*

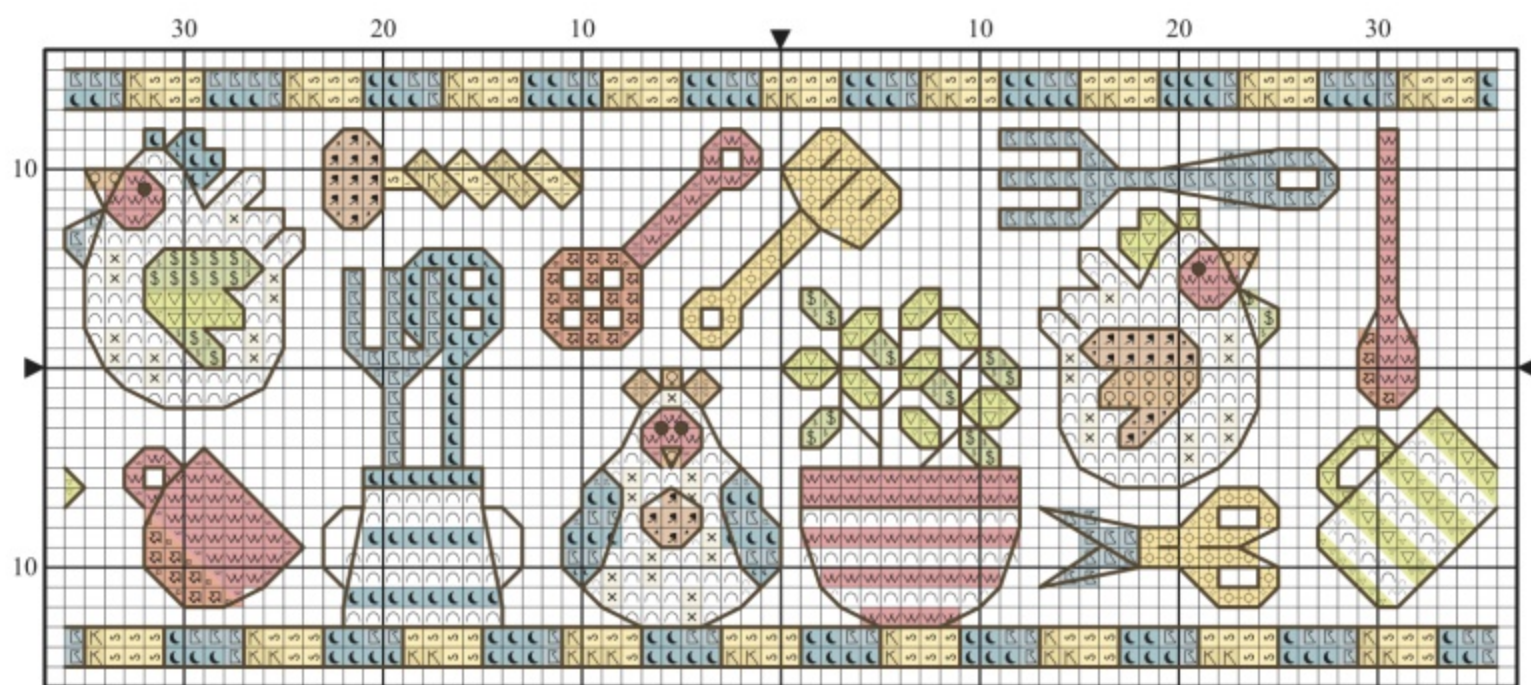
Thread & fabric cost
Approximately £18

*For stockists see page 90

DESIGNS BY **LISA REAKES**

Bon appétit!

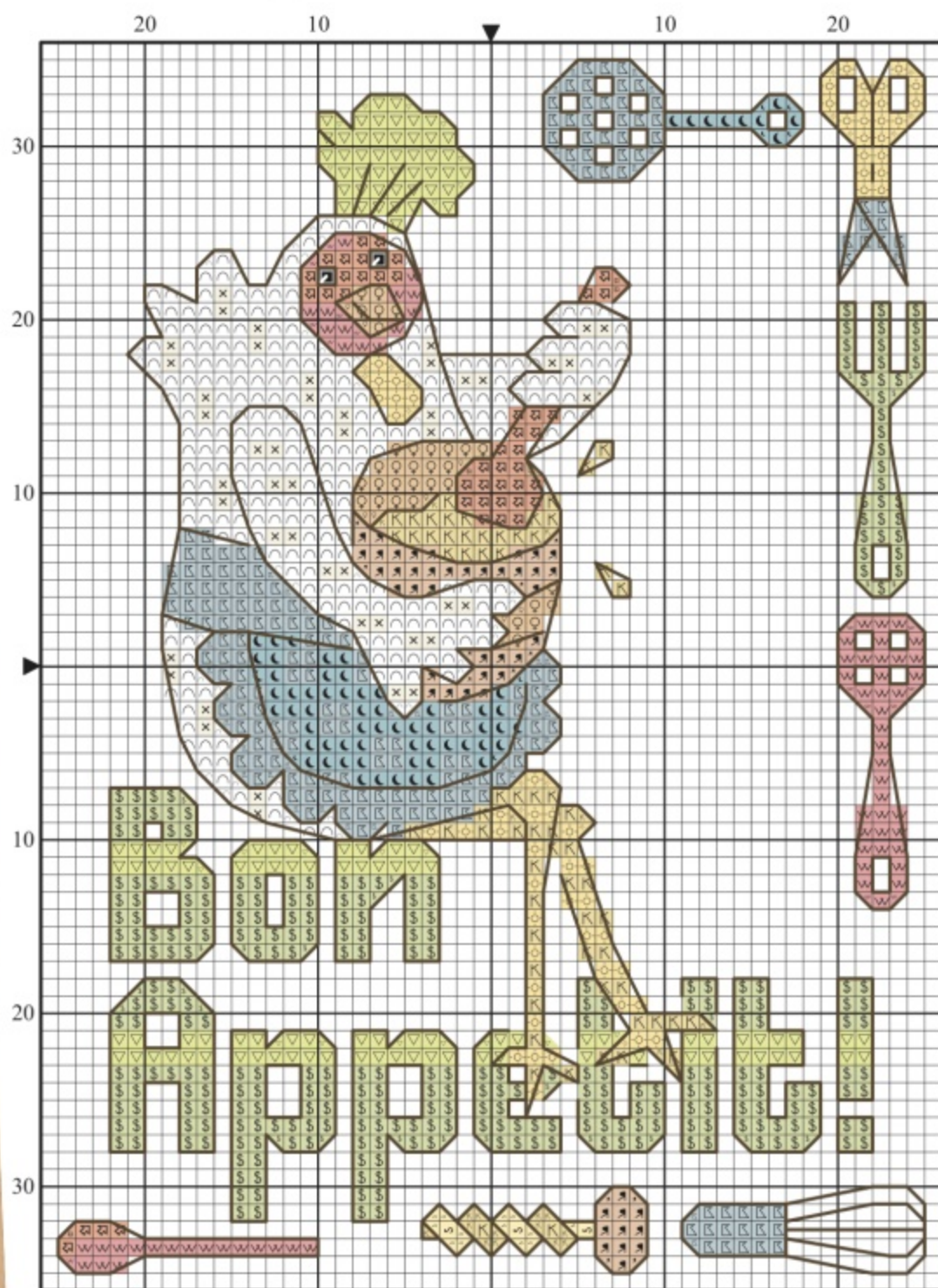
Create a stylish chef's set for someone you know
– these colourful chickens are sure to make them smile!



Tea towel chart repeat

TOP TIP

Stitch some of the individual motifs from these designs to make keyrings, tags and other small gifts



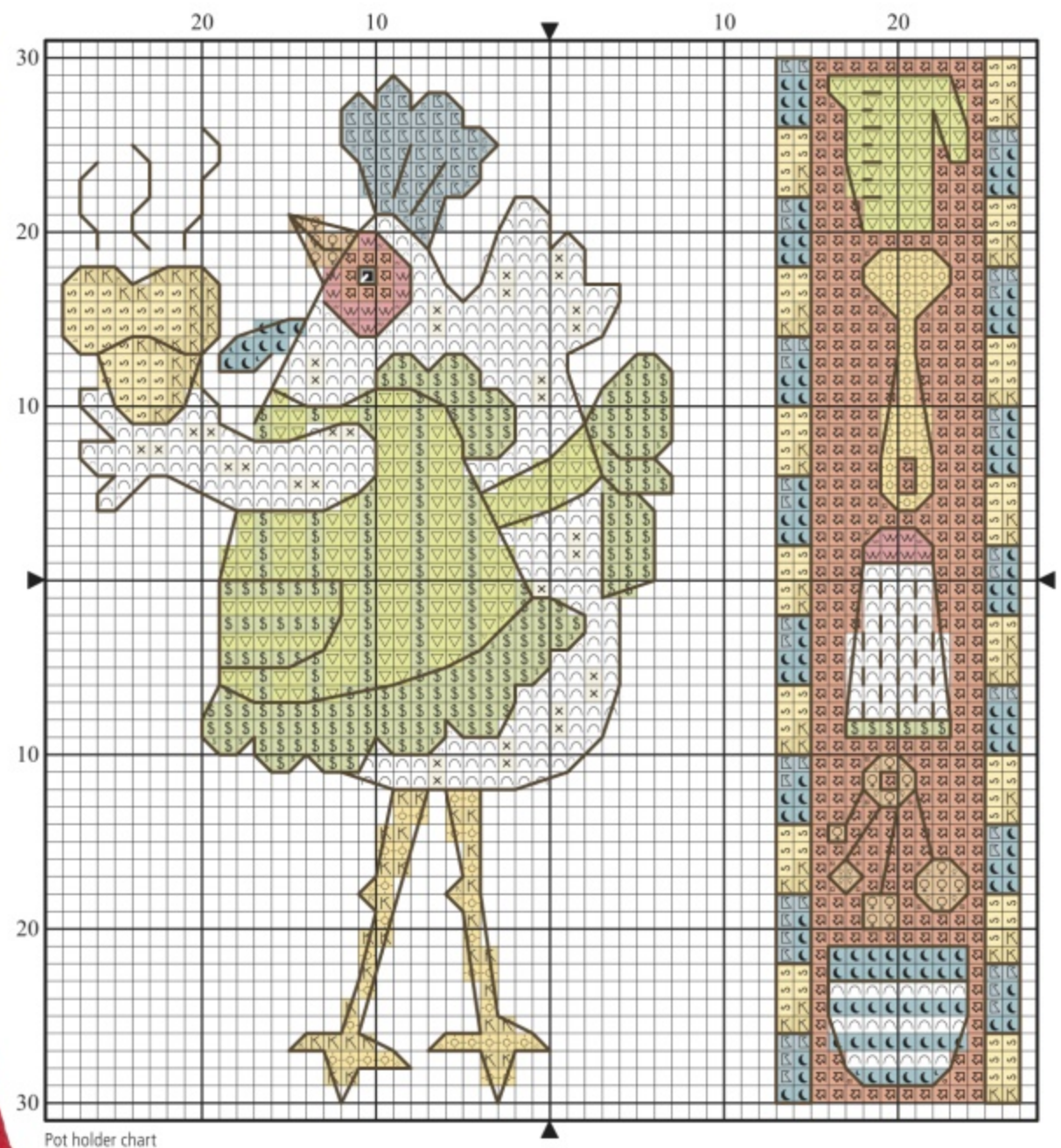
Bon Appétit picture chart



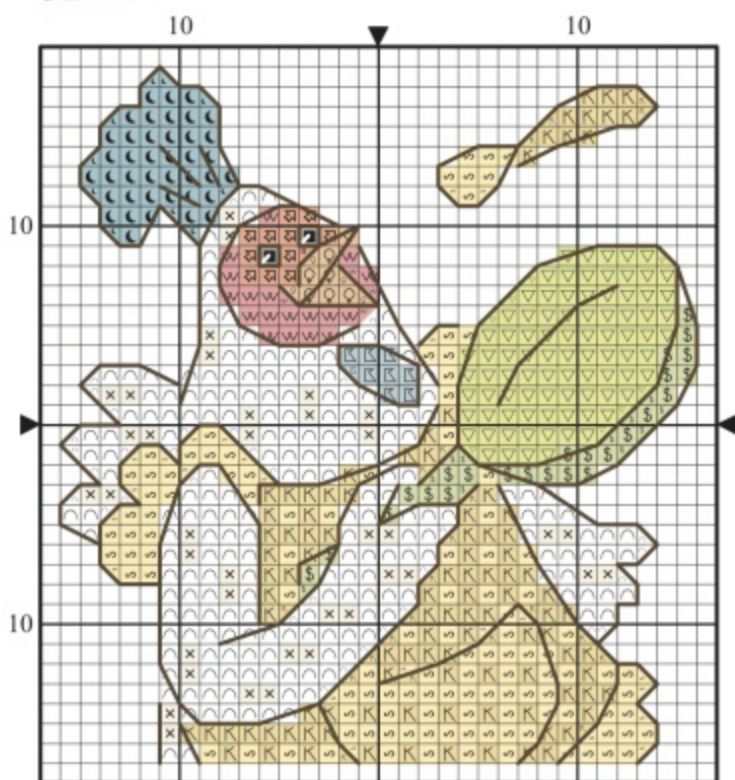
Factbox

- ✦ **Stitching Time**
Approx. 40 hours for the set
- ✦ **Type of Stitches**
Cross stitch, fractionals, backstitch, French knots
- ✦ **Ease of Stitching**
Advanced beginner

Patch onto ready-made items!



Pot holder chart



Oven glove chart





Kitchen Set key

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
○	blanc	2	2402	white
■	310	403	2400	black
■	666	46	210	red
●	743	302	113	yellow
■	906	256	1410	green
▽	907	255	1308	light green
■	920	1004	312	copper
●	922	1003	2306	light copper
×	3033	391	1908	stone grey
■	3765	169	2505	dark turquoise
■	3766	167	1106	turquoise
■	3801	1098	411	light red
■	3820	306	2509	dark straw
■	3822	295	2510	straw

✕ Backstitch in one strand

—	blanc	2	2402	white
—	3021	905	1904	grey

✕ French knots in one strand

●	3021	905	1904	grey
---	------	-----	------	------

MAXIMUM STITCH COUNT 70 high x 72 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 12.5x13cm (5x5¼in)

These designs were stitched using DMC stranded cotton

How to...

trim a tea towel with aida band

1 Cut a piece of 16-count 8cm (3in) wide aida band, making sure it's around 10cm (4in) longer than the width of your tea towel.

2 We fitted four of these border repeats onto our tea towel. Start stitching by folding the aida band in half both ways to find the centre, and begin from here, cross stitching a whole repeat in the centre and continuing the repeats either side until the aida band is stitched for the full width of your tea towel.

3 Once you have stitched your design, tidy up any loose threads on the back, threading them neatly into existing stitches so they don't show through the holes in the aida.

4 Pin the aida band to the tea towel, taking care to get it straight and fold under a neat 2cm (¾in) hem at each side. Machine- or hand-stitch along the edges of the aida band to secure.



Online news

Explore a world of cross stitching without leaving the house – we've found the websites, communities and charts you'll love!

Join us on Facebook

Chat 24/7 on our Facebook page – here's what you've missed!

OUR FAVOURITE POST

Amy Hockaday "This is my latest completed project, the Noah's Ark design from issue 219, which I stitched for my two nephews' room. It took about six months with a few breaks to complete. It was my first time using evenweave."

Like

33 people like this

YOU LIKED

Clare Fairclough "Starting the beading on this beast today!" This Lavender & Lace 'Celtic Winter' design is gorgeous Clare, we are sure it will look fantastic when finished."

Like

58 people like this

And the winner is...

We asked you on Facebook: What do you like to do while stitching?

We all like doing stuff while stitching, be it listening to music, watching catch-up TV or socialising with our crafty friends. And yes, sometimes even eating (beware of sticky fingerprints on your projects!) Whatever you like, you can do it while stitching the adorable Fizzy Moon (p10).

WATCH TV OR MOVIES

78%

LISTEN TO MUSIC/THE RADIO

16%

CHAT TO FRIENDS OR FAMILY

1%

NEED PEACE AND SILENCE WHILE STITCHING

5%

Blogger of the month



For something different, take a look at this Tumblr photoblog, called *Stitching Madness*, by stitcher nightelf-aphra. The updates she shares are photo-based, with regular progress reports and finishes, and we love the variety of crafty projects she gets up to (some fab crochet makes here too!). Plus there are plenty of archived galleries of her finishes over the years – great inspiration!

MORE www.nightelf-aphra.tumblr.com

Websites you'll love

Next time you log on, check out these amazing stichy sites



Not a new site, but it has a new URL address... Find the fab range of kits and charts by award-winning designer Michael Powell here at www.michaelpowellart.co.uk Shop for all sorts, from bookmarks to key fobs and picture triptychs, all in his signature quirky style.



Love Lesley Teare's pretty, colourful designs? Her site at www.lesleyteare.com is just the thing! With 100s of designs, neatly categorised and searchable, so if you fancy something new, this is a great place to start. All are available as chart downloads so you can start right away.



Regular designer for the mag, Shannon Wasilieff, sells PDF downloadable charts, both ones that have appeared in magazines which are no longer available and exclusive patterns at her site. If you love her elegant design style, see www.etsy.com/shop/LastingAllure.

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Ask the experts

Our panel of professionals are here to help you with your cross stitch dilemmas – however large or small



Ruth Southorn

Ruth, our Editor, has been a cross stitcher since she was tiny and is ready to share everything she knows



Anne MacGregor

Anne can answer even the most difficult technical questions with her encyclopedic knowledge and skills



Jenny Barton

Design pro, Jenny has been creating projects for us for years and is ready to take on your design challenges



Fiona Smith

With her ears to the ground for the hottest stitching merchandise, Fiona's all set to search out the stash you need



Katriel Costello

Stitching guru Katriel has worked in the industry for years, so has ample knowledge to answer any queries

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Designer Jenny Barton on stitching a family tree

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Jenny's designed a pair of runners for reader, Angela!

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Help from fellow stitchers on stitching outdoors

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"Help me convert artwork into a stitching pattern!"

35 DESIGN ROUND-UP

Choose from our pick of four fun farmyard designs



Measure up
Cut and stick your motifs onto graph paper when planning a sampler design

Measure up

Q When stitching an alphabet or stitching a few designs together, I just cannot figure out how much room to leave between designs, or how much fabric will be needed. Help!

Othel Lewis, via email

A Ruth says: Spacing out individual motifs is a matter of preference, but when we use alphabet motifs to spell a name or word in the magazine, we tend to leave just one or two aida blocks between each letter. It's only a small amount of 'breathing room' but is proportional to the size of the alphabet.

For samplers, it depends whether you're going for a really full and busy effect, or something a bit more spaced out. This is why it is so important to plan a design carefully before stitching, to make sure your finished chart will look right. Either a computer program, or planning it out onto graph paper, will be invaluable. Once you've worked out the final arrangement of motifs – and all the spaces – it's easy to work out how much fabric you need. See our guide on page 96, in the section called 'Start Cross Stitching'.

Ready to stitch!

Q I've been searching without success, trying to find baby shoes, bibs and teddy bears with aida inserts to stitch on. I used to love the DMC ready-to-stitch range, but my local stitching shop no longer sells them, and I can't find any websites selling them either. Any ideas please?

Vikki Climpson, via Facebook

A Anne says: You're in luck Vikki, as DMC* has just released a brand new

selection of lovely products which might be just what you're looking for – there are toys and hanging storage ideas, and a beautiful blanket, too. See a preview on our Best Buys, page 24.

For bibs with aida panels, I'd also recommend the range available at The Craft Department*, like this one. Priced from just £4.50 and in a great selection of colours and styles, I think you're sure to find something to suit. ➤



Ready to stitch!
This cute bib is just itching for a touch of cross stitch

In the spotlight

JENNY BARTON, CROSS STITCH DESIGNER

Family tree

Q I want to stitch my family tree, but all the kits I've found aren't big enough for my huge family. I think I need to design my own sampler but I don't know how!

Kellie Hadmount, Oldham

A Jenny says: Creating your own chart is a good idea, as a kit might be tricky to adapt. There'll be lots of backstitch involved, so my first tip is to keep details short. Choose your style of backstitch lettering to plot out each name. Then, using graph paper (or on a computer program, which will be much easier), make sure each name is neat, spelt correctly and

centred in a backstitched box.

Once all the names are plotted, you can position them on your tree. Based on your research of who's related to who, create your design using the cut-out boxes and fresh sheets of graph paper, arranging them like jigsaw pieces. When you're happy, use tape to secure them, then connect them by charting lines. Add colour and interest to your design with corner motifs, a border or by filling in gaps with other motifs relating to family professions or interests – these will add extra interest to your stitched heirloom.



Family tree
Careful planning will create a unique record of your family



Stitch with faith

Q I'm looking for a cross stitch pattern for my great niece's confirmation. Hoping you can help?

Patricia Dennison, via Facebook

A Fiona says: You're in luck, Patricia. We've managed to track down this lovely kit made by Vervaco. It's called 'Confirmation Girl Sampler' (PN-0021554) and you can order it from The Happy Cross Stitcher* for £21.58. Everything's included in this sepia-toned kit, including 14-count aida, plus stranded cotton, needle, chart and instructions, as well as an alphabet to personalise the design for your niece. The finished design measures 21x17cm (8¼x6¾in), so it's a fairly average size and shouldn't take too long to complete. What a lovely gift and memento of a special day! And, if you're interested, there is also a similar project featuring a little boy for his confirmation.

Stitch with faith
You can easily personalise this lovely sepia-toned design



Shake and shimmy!

Q My friend has recently started to teach a tribal belly dancing class and we are learning a routine to perform in our first-ever hafla, or belly dance party. I'm trying to find a small and quick-stitch chart with a belly-dancing theme to make a card to say thank you to our teacher.

Sarah Preece, via Facebook

A Ruth says: I have found just the thing, Sarah! 'Bellidance Grace' is a chart download available to buy from AntoninaDesign*, and it's a quick-stitch measuring just 69x40 stitches. So on 14-count aida, it'll be 12x7cm (5x2¾in) which will be a great card to celebrate your hafla. You could even stitch this musical lady wearing colours that match your own belly-dance outfit! Order the chart download for just \$2.99 (approx £2.07).



Shake and shimmy!
Belly dancing is so much fun, and this chart will be fun to stitch, too!

Sparkling clean

Q I find it difficult to iron out creases in my aida when making cards. Is it a good idea to wash the aida to remove creases?

Sarah Mills, West Midlands

A Anne says: Small projects are handled less, so are less likely to have dirty marks and grease from your hands. But to remove any creases from your hoop or from handling the project, we always recommend a gentle handwash (never machine wash). Use mild detergent and lukewarm water, taking care not to wring the damp fabric – you don't want to put those creases back in! Then roll up the work in a towel to remove any excess moisture, and leave it to dry naturally. Take a look at www.cross-stitching.com/faq/washing for more washing tips.

Wishes granted



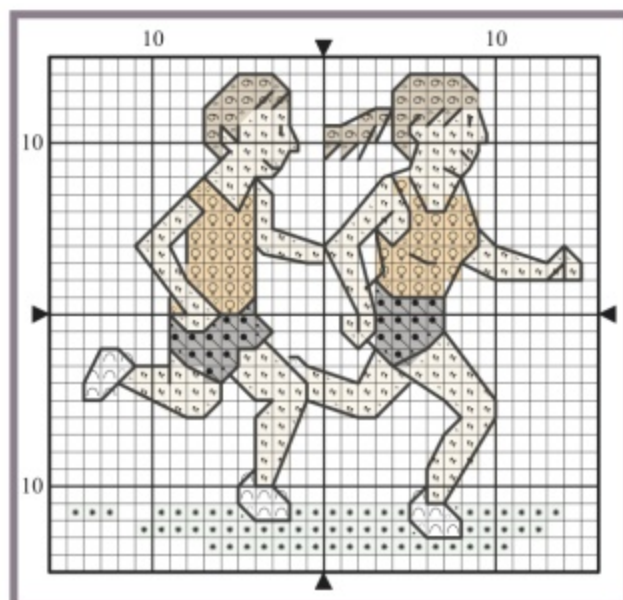
Request a design and our resident design expert, Jenny, might just chart it for you...

A runaway success
Angela wants to thank her running club for all their support

Q I'm hoping you can help me, by designing a male runner and a female runner. I'd like to send a card to the running club I am in, as a thank you for the help they have given me. If you are able to help, it'd be great – they wear orange running tops.

Angela Munn, via email

A Jenny says: Here you go, Angela – a pair of super-fit, super-fast runners for you to stitch! You'll race through this quick and easy design, and it's easy to adapt their hair colours to suit too.



Runners key

* Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
○	blanc	2	2402	white
■	317	400	1714	grey
●	841	1082	1911	brown
✦	948	892	306	peach
*	3072	847	1805	stone grey
♀	3854	313	114	copper

* Backstitch in one strand

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
—	317	400	1714	grey

STITCH COUNT 28 high x 30 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 5x5.5cm (2x2¼in)

This design was stitched using DMC stranded cotton

Please note: Jenny can only fit in fairly small designs and for copyright reasons she is unable to chart logos, or characters from films and TV.

Birdie chart

Q I'm looking for a chart or kit to stitch a bird called a linnet. Ideally I'd like a chart that I can work on 14-count aida. Nothing too large or complex!

Rosemary Maxwell, County Down, NI

A Ruth says: X-Stitch Birds* has a huge selection of designs – both as downloadable charts and kits, and with either 14- or 16-count aida. 'Linnet' measures 17.5x12.5cm (7x5in) on 14-count aida and the chart (0190SD) costs £3.99.



Birdie chart
Join Rosemary and stitch this sweet bird, which is native to the UK

Copyright protection

Q A friend offered to make me a copy of a chart she's not going to stitch herself. She says it's OK, but I'm not sure. I know it's allowed to make working copies for yourself, but I'm not sure about making them for someone else. Can you clarify?

Ann-Charlotte, via Facebook

A Ruth says: Our policy for complete magazines, charts and kits from issues of *The World of Cross Stitching* (and our sister titles here at Immediate Media Co.), is that it is NOT an infringement of copyright if original items are sold. But it's definitely against copyright law for COPIES to be sold. The legal phrase: "no part of the magazine may be resold without permission" refers to the fact that ownership of a design or other content may not be sold without permission. Ownership of the

physical item (the magazine) is yours once you have bought it, so that's like selling a second-hand item. Put simply, there's no copyright infringement unless a copy is made.

So, it would definitely be illegal for your friend to make a copy for you, unless the copyright owner has specified in writing that your friend can do so. I hope this helps to clarify the basics for you, and also for fellow stitcher Lucy Cousins who emailed us with a similar copyright query. We value your support in helping cross stitch designers and the cross stitch industry.



Copyright protection
It's illegal to sell a copy of a chart, but you are allowed to sell the original

STITCHING HELP!

Don't forget to send all your stitchy questions and design requests in to us!

Email us at:
experts@cross-stitching.com

Write to:
Ask the Experts,
The World of Cross Stitching,
Immediate Media Co Origin,
Tower House, Fairfax Street,
Bristol BS1 3BN

Send in queries via Facebook too:



We will try and answer your questions as soon as we can, but if you're working to a specific deadline then do let us know!

Friendly advice

We asked our Facebook fans for tips on stitching in the great outdoors – here's what they said...

facebook



✕ **Dora France:** When I used to stitch in the garden I made sure I had a good organizer and only got one thread out at a time to make sure they would not blow away. As for the chart, I would either rest it on my knee or on the chair arm... I take out a A4-size magnetic board with magnetic strips and they are used to hold the chart in place... no fear of that blowing away!

✕ **Sally McGaffin:** I use a thread organizer, magnetic needle minder and clipboard for my pattern. Everything must be organized and clean! Don't forget your hat and sunglasses too!

✕ **Michelle Sullivan:** I have brought a music stand which has grips for a chart and I've added a magnet for holding needles, plus it moves up and down and tilts.

✕ **Melissa Lampley:** Use ziploc bags for threads and a magnet for your needle.

✕ **Sharon Harris:** If you haven't got a magnetic board use a clipboard to hold your pattern still. You can also put a magnet on it to hold your needles/scissors.

✕ **Noreen Skelton:** I like to sit under a tree in my garden to stitch, as I can enjoy the garden and the sun

doesn't fade my fabric or threads.

✕ **Jean Brock:** Do not leave magnifying glasses on your work in the sun!

✕ **Janet Wilson:** I like to stitch under an umbrella as light-coloured material can be glaring in the sun.

Find us on Facebook and join in with the chat. If you're lucky, your tip might appear here! Just log on to www.facebook.com/TheWorldofCrossStitching and hit 'like' at the top of the page!

QUICK Q&A

I have two large projects and it's too much of a strain on my hands to hold the fabric. Do cross stitch stands accommodate all sizes of fabric, or do I need to use something else?

Jennifer Hammond, via Facebook

Katriel says: *You'll need a stand without a fixed frame, but one where you can switch out different frames. Then you can swap the frame for the most appropriate size, when you need to. Stands that have the option to clamp different frames and hoops are perfect in this regard. Look out for lots of frame stands at Siesta Frames*.*

TECHNIQUE FOCUS

Artistic translation

Q I'd love to import an image of a painting into my computer software to create a large chart, but it won't be until I've finished stitching it that I get to see how it turns out. Learning from trial and error could take years. Can you give me any tips on image size, numbers of colours, editing the chart and avoiding a pixelated look?

Karen Carrollton, USA

A **Anne says:** You're right that many years of trial and error, and hard work, are usually required for professional cross stitch designers to develop their skills. Much depends on the complexity of the design, and the nature of the original photo. Please remember that creating a pattern from a painting is illegal, unless you have the license from the artist. Creating designs from your own artwork or photos is fine, though.

Some things to consider first are: how many thread colours you want to buy; how big you want the design to be; whether you want to use fractionals and backstitch; and how much 'confetti' stitching you want

to do. Answering these questions will eliminate some of the trial-and-error.

Unfortunately, unless you choose a very high stitch count, any computer-generated chart tends to look pixelated. That's why I and my team of charting editors on the magazines never ever convert artwork into charts using automated computer processes. We work 'by eye', which results in better patterns that more closely represent the original artwork, and a less-pixelated effect. Sadly, trial-and-error is the best learning process I can suggest for this, though.

Artistic translation
We convert images into cross stitch charts 'by eye'



THE WORLD OF
Cross
Stitching
KNOW-HOW



Wedding day horses
This will be a great gift for Andrea's horse-mad friend

I 'm looking for ideas for a thank you and wedding cross stitch for my friend, who loves horses.

Andrea Hugo, via Facebook

Fiona says: *Here's a fab design that you could even add the couple's name and wedding date to. 'Horse Duo' (PN-0145086) comes with 14-count aida for £26.55 from Stitcher*, plus there's also a range of card kits. 'Red Wedding Card' (SSN35319, £5.05) even includes a lucky horseshoe motif. Ideal!*

Design round-up

Enjoy a day in the countryside with these fabulous farmyard designs. We've picked four to choose from...

Farmyard
fun

VERSATILE DESIGN

BREEDS OF SHEEP

This chartbook by Amaryllis Artworks from Arts and Designs* includes fleecy Suffolks, Shropshires and more! A craft light will help you stitch their fleece, which is worked in cream with soft grey shading. Fractionals create realistic shapes, and there are French knots in the lettering, too. With this versatile chart, you can even make a quick gift by stitching one sheep as an ornament – instructions are included.

Stitch count – 195 high x 133 wide, 35x24cm (14x9½in) on 28-count evenweave



£4.39

FUN & FRACTIONAL-FREE

HEN FUN



£22.49

From the clarity of the chart to the simplicity of the stitch instructions, this kit from Bothy Threads* (XJR11) is an accessible, straightforward stitch featuring a cheery design by Julia Rigby. Threads in pretty shades are all sorted onto cards marked with symbols and they look so tempting, as does the pastel Zweigart aida. A fractional-free chart, printed over several black-and-white sheets, will all add up to a pleasurable stitching experience, resulting in a happy-go-lucky picture!

Stitch count – 88 high x 194 wide, 15.5x34.5cm (6¼x13¾in) on 14-count light blue aida

DECORATIVE STITCHES

OLD MCDONALD'S FARM

This classic band sampler chart (110863) by The Victoria Sampler from Sew and So* has plenty of detail to stretch you. Try stitching over one thread, plus triple cross stitch, herringbone stitch and more. Hand-dyed threads, silk threads and beads add extra interest.

Stitch count – 175 high x 72 wide, finished size 31x13cm (12½x5¼in) on 28-count evenweave



£9.38

GREAT VALUE SCENE

THE FARM YARD

Stitch a rustic scene by Maria Diaz Designs*, featuring roosters, geese, horses and a farm cat milling about in the yard, with a thatched-roof farmhouse in the background. There are plenty of colour changes in this downloadable chart (WILD0111), with 35 thread shades in the key. It also uses half stitches to add depth.

Stitch count – 146 high x 174 wide, 26x31cm (10½x12½in) on 14-count aida



£4

*For stockists see page 90

THE WORLD OF
**Cross
Stitching**
STITCHER'S
CHALLENGE



Brighten up a reading nook or crafty corner with this floral cushion, stitched in the prettiest shades!



DESIGN BY **AMANDA GREGORY**

Floral fancy

Captured in close-up, the delicate beauty of the hydrangea comes to life with each stitch of this pretty design



Some flowers fade into the background, but not the hydrangea. With clusters of tiny blooms creating a big, bold pom-pom, this plant is a favourite among gardeners and nature lovers, so there'll be no shortage of admirers when you stitch our stunning cushion!

Amanda Gregory has combined subtle shades of purple, blue and cream to create this fabulous flower on a backdrop of fresh white evenweave. Fractional stitches are used to create the flower and leaf shaping, but these are easier to stitch on evenweave, and you'll probably surprise yourself with the speed at which you work through them.

With its fresh colours, this is the

Factbox

- ✦ **Stitching Time**
Approx. 70 hours
- ✦ **Type of Stitches**
Cross stitch, fractionals, backstitch
- ✦ **Ease of Stitching**
Intermediate/ advanced

Stitch on
evenweave
fabric

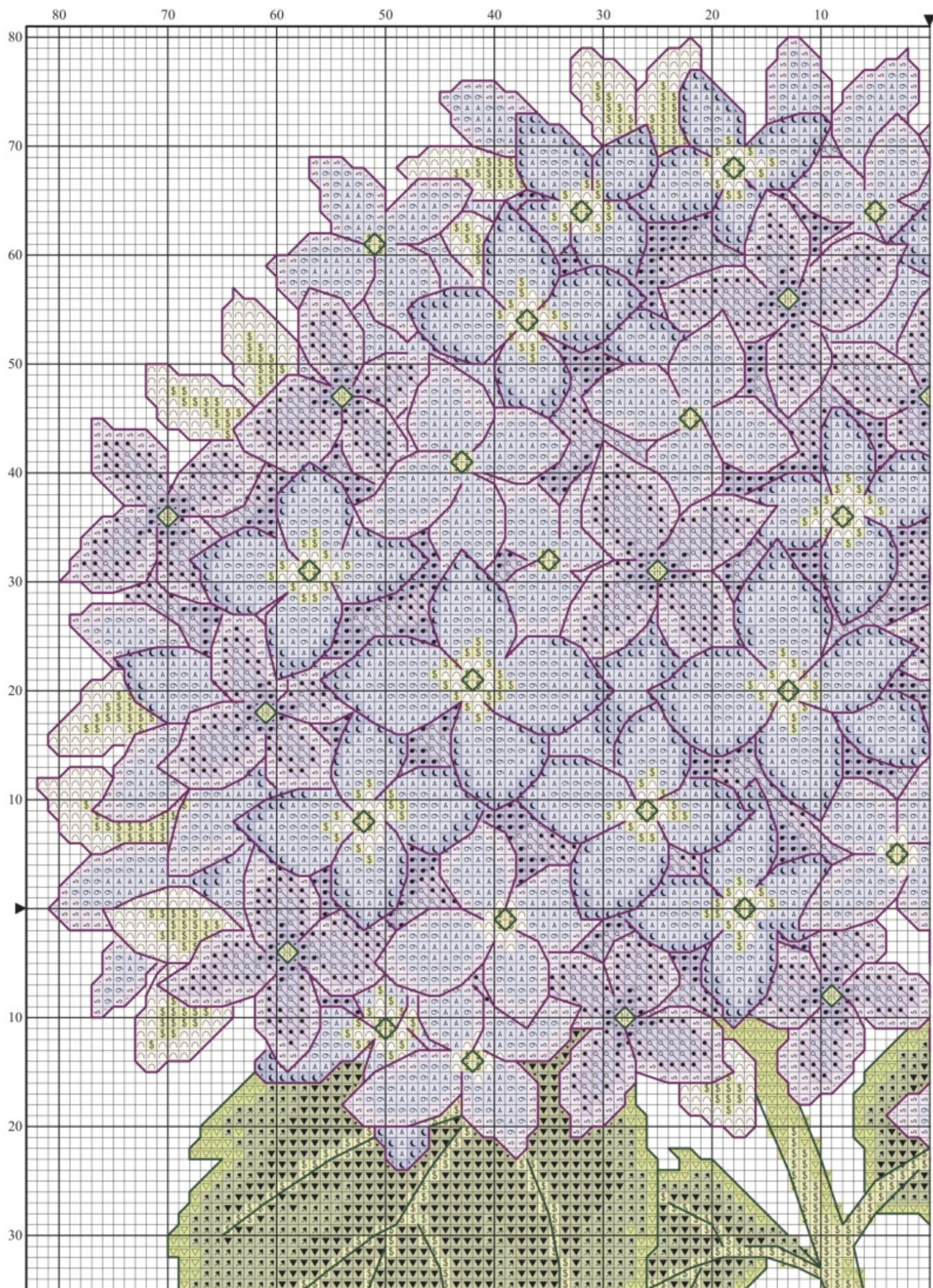
perfect project for you to get your needle into this summer. It's also a great excuse to dust off your sewing machine, so see our easy step-by-step guide to making this Oxford-style cushion on page 43. You'll love creating this beautiful yet practical accent for the home. ➤



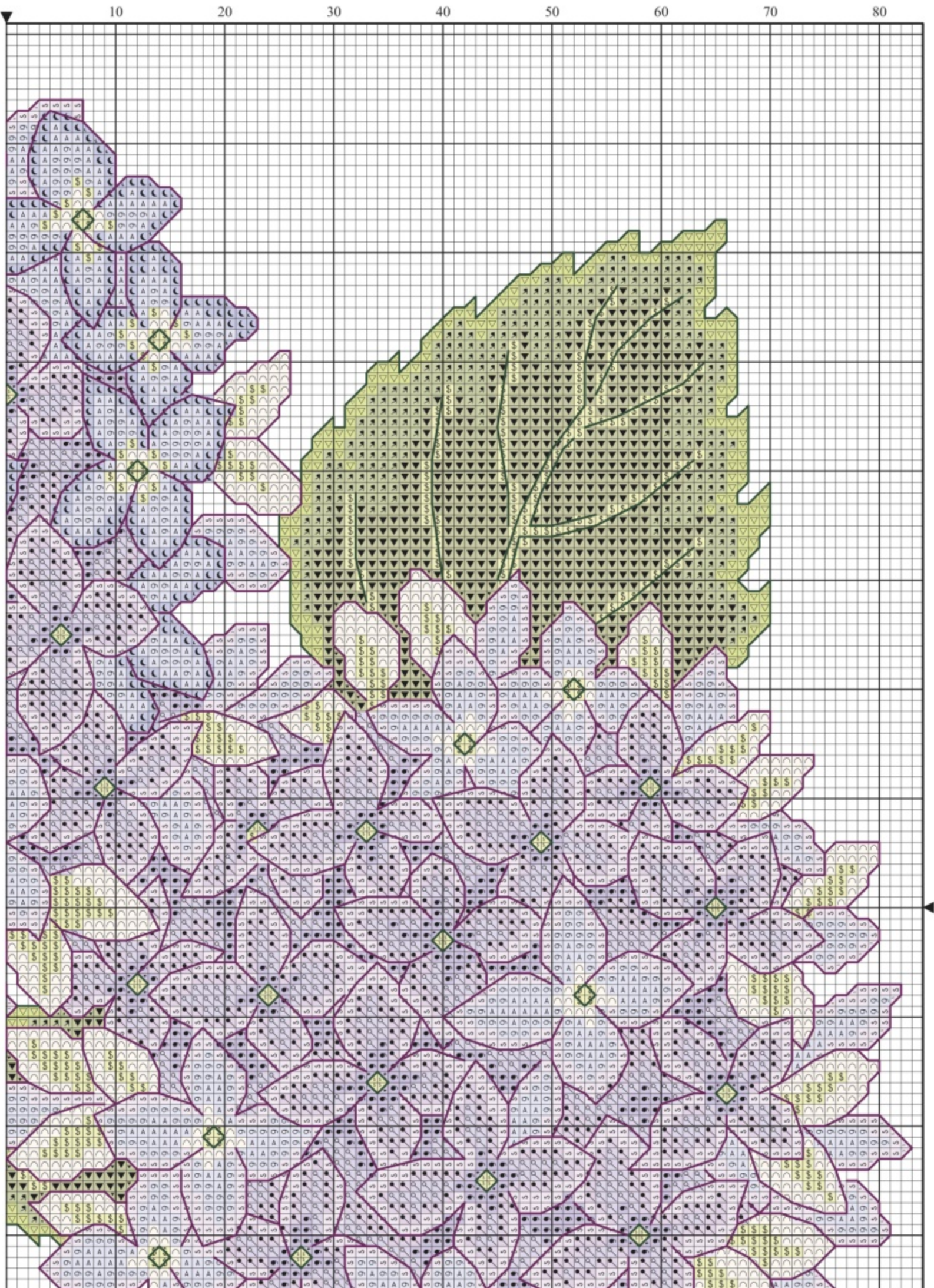
Meet the designer

Amanda Gregory

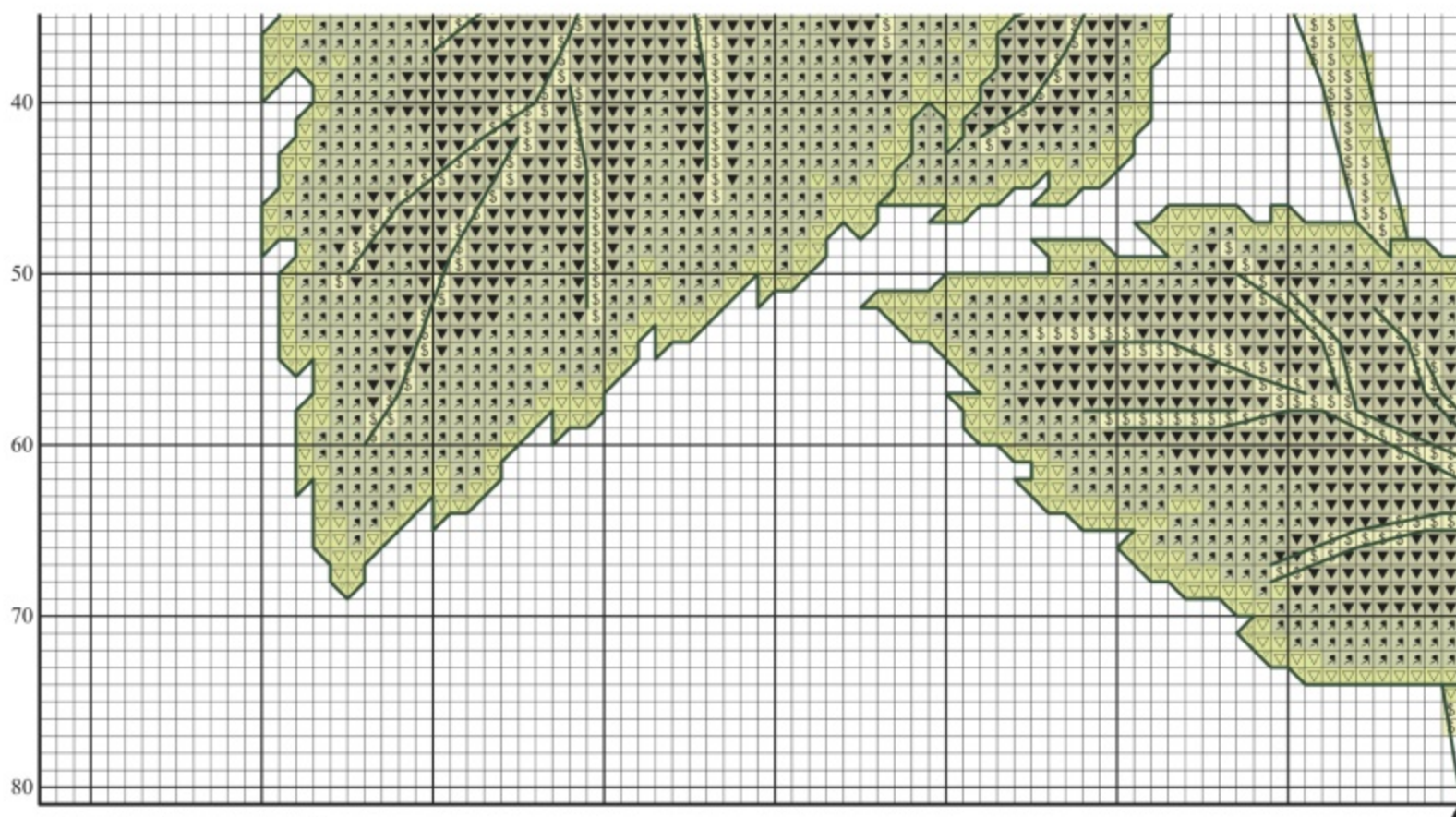
"From spring to autumn, these flowers are a fixture in my garden, and I absolutely love drawing them. With a large design like this one, you can really do justice to the beautiful detail and varied colours."



Hydrangea Cushion chart (top left)



Hydrangea Cushion chart (top right)



Hydrangea Cushion chart (bottom left)



Marnie READER PANEL

“I’ll be stitching this gorgeous floral cushion for myself – it will look absolutely beautiful on my 100-year-old rocking chair, which sits in my bedroom.”

TOP TIP

Put your work in a hoop or stitching frame, as this will help you to achieve an even tension and neater stitching

Shopping list

- ✕ Zweigart* 28-count white evenweave measuring 38x38cm (15x15in)
- ✕ Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- ✕ Size 26 tapestry needle
- ✕ Backing fabric and bias trim of choice
- ✕ Cushion pad to fit

Thread & fabric cost
Approximately £18

*For stockists see page 90

“I really love the shading in this piece. Amanda’s balanced the colours beautifully, bringing out the realistic effect of the hydrangea’s bright green leaves against the delicate flowers. It’s simply gorgeous!”

FIONA, PRODUCTION EDITOR



Hydrangea Cushion key

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
○	ecru	926	2404	cream
●	155	1030	902	purple
\$	165	278	1414	light lime green
▽	166	280	1611	lime green
●	209	98	803	lilac
●	211	342	801	light lilac
●	341	117	901	violet blue
▽	469	268	1503	green
●	470	267	1502	light green
●	3746	110	903	dark purple
●	3747	120	901	light violet blue
●	3839	175	2702	blue

✕ Backstitch in one strand

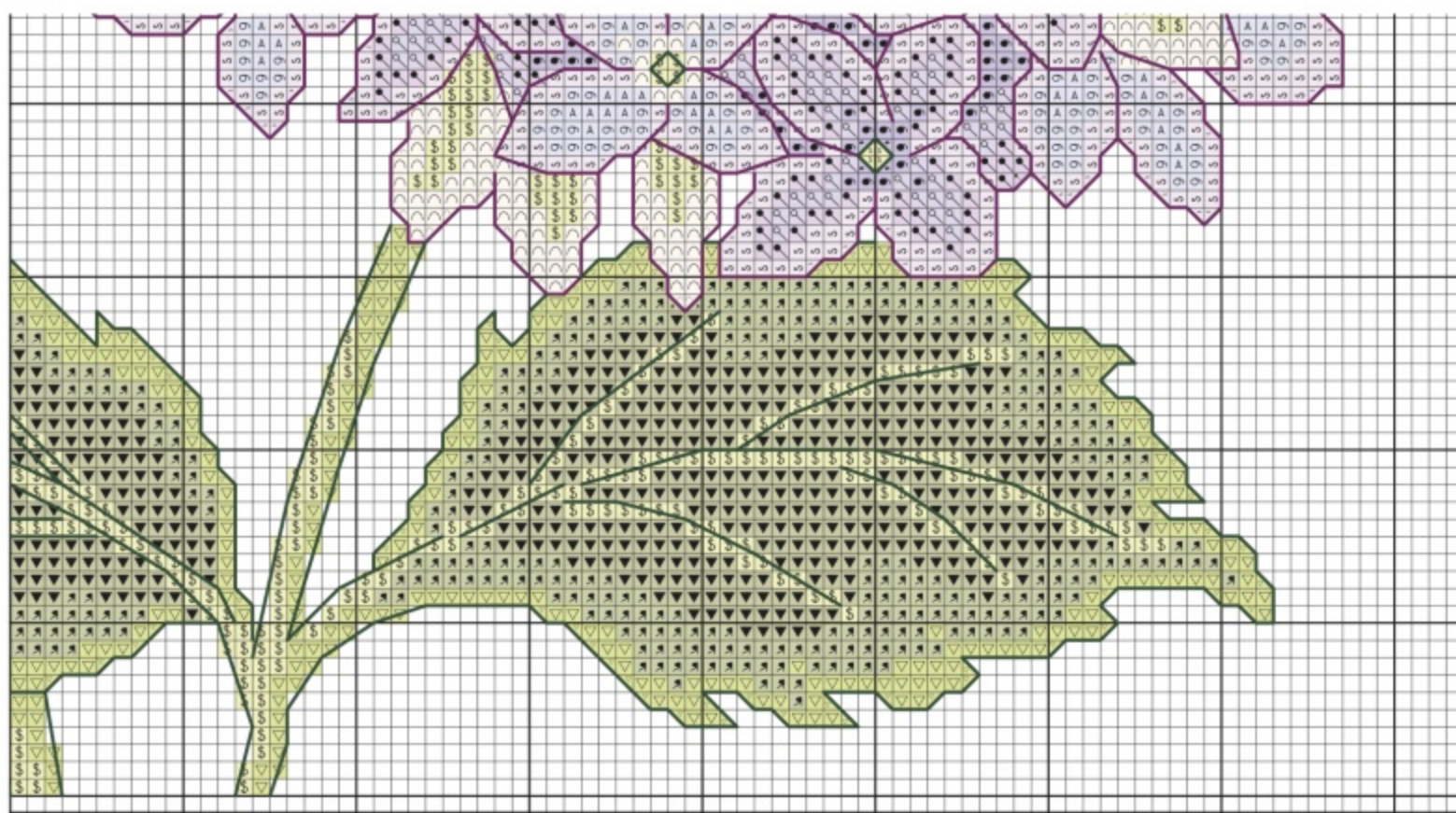
—	154	873	2607	dark mauve
—	934	862	1506	dark green

STITCH COUNT 160 high x 165 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 29x30cm (11½x11¾in)

This design was stitched using DMC stranded cotton





Hydrangea Cushion chart (bottom right)

How to...

make a piped Oxford-border cushion

- 1 Trim your finished** stitched piece to measure 32x32cm (12½x12½in).
- 2 Cut a length** of bias binding measuring 120cm (47in). Create a seam allowance of 1cm (¼in) by turning under around the edges of your stitched design and press. Top-stitch the bias binding to your stitched piece.
- 3 Cut one piece** of backing fabric measuring 43x43cm (17x17in) and two back pieces of 43x23cm (17x9in). Stitch a 1cm (¼in) hem along one long edge of each of the back pieces.
- 4 With right sides** facing, pin these back panels over the large piece of fabric (which will form the front layer of the cushion). Make sure the hemmed edges of the panels overlap in the middle, creating an envelope opening.
- 5 Sew all the** way around the edges of the cushion, using a 1cm (¼in) seam allowance. Turn through and press.
- 6 Pin the stitching** on the cushion front, in the centre. Top-stitch around the edges of the fabric, along the edge where the evenweave meets the bias binding – by sewing through all the layers you'll make the Oxford-style borders. Press. Insert a cushion pad to finish.



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Around the world

DELIGHT LOVED ONES NEAR AND FAR
WITH THESE FUN DESIGNS!

65
TRAVEL
IDEAS



Stitch these sweet and sunny designs by Maria Diaz,
perfect for globe-trotting friends and family

- ✕ 65 quick-and-easy motifs ✕ Maria Diaz's design inspiration ✕ Stitches for every skill level
- ✕ Helpful tips and advice ✕ Unique present ideas for the special people in your life



JET-SETTER

Stitch these vital documents (54) for a frequent flyer, or someone about to embark on a new adventure! Fixed to a hand-sewn passport cover, it'll be fab for a quick gift.



FRIENDS ABROAD!

Your US or UK pals will be so touched by this cheerful sentiment (27 and 31), which is patched onto a Craft Creations* scalloped edge card (SF06U) in pale blue



IN THE SHADE

Go tropical with this cheery rainbow-coloured greeting (24)! We've sewn ours onto a handmade sunglasses case, with felt by Blooming Felt*, for instant style.



JOURNAL DAYS

Keen travellers love to jot down their memories, so they'll be thrilled to receive this journal decorated with patterned paper and a fun flip-flop design (18)



FLYING HIGH

For a fond farewell, try this stitched message (61). We've patched it onto a Craft Creations* deckle edge card (DEC2U) in creative smooth white, with ribbon to finish.



BAGS OF CHARM

Combining this greeting (17) with a stylish Scotsman (36) gives our gift bag a personal touch! Choose any figure, patching your design onto patterned paper first.



HAPPY HANGING

Finish this colourful design (55) using a 10cm (4in) double scroll wire hanger from The Craft Department*. A great Stitch-A-Long project for far-flung friends!



SAY CHEESE!

A simple camera motif (41) is sewn onto a piece of felt, then turned into a keyring with a keyring clip from craft stores. It's an ideal gift for snap-happy holiday makers!

*For stockists, see page 90

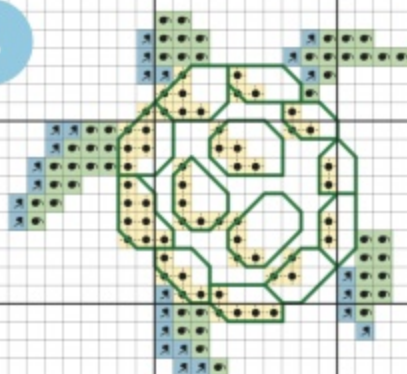
My inspiration

“I love travelling to new places, so finding inspiration was easy. I’ve included beaches, mountains, cities and landmarks, as well as lots of other travel motifs. Wherever you are in the world and whoever you’re stitching for, there are plenty of ideas here for you!”

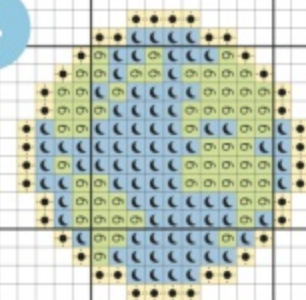
MARIA DIAZ, DESIGNER



1



4



3

From

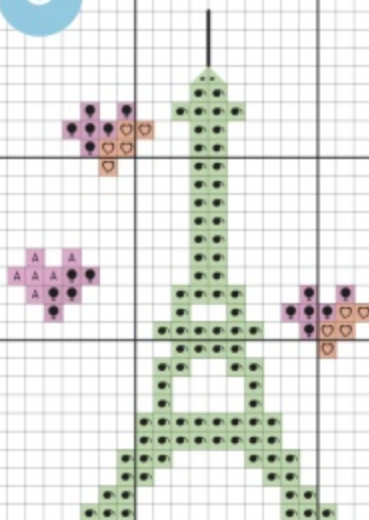
mountains

high

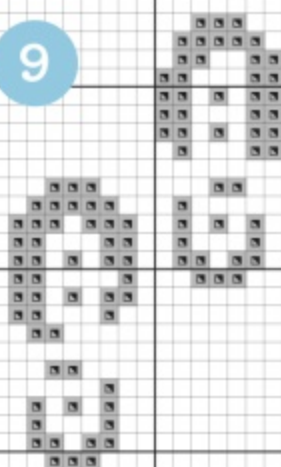
and rivers

deep

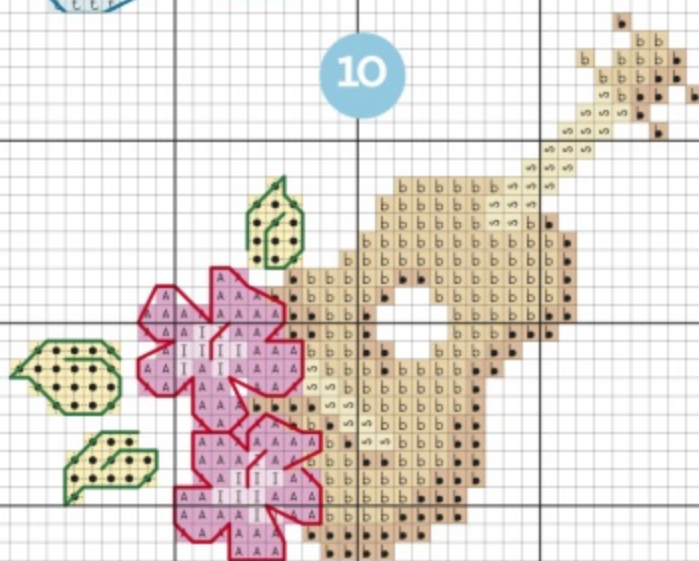
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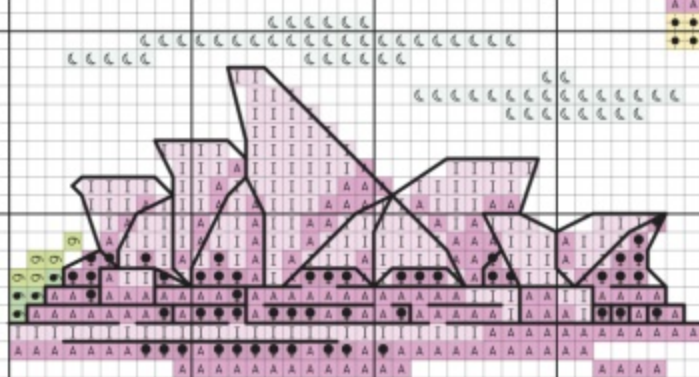
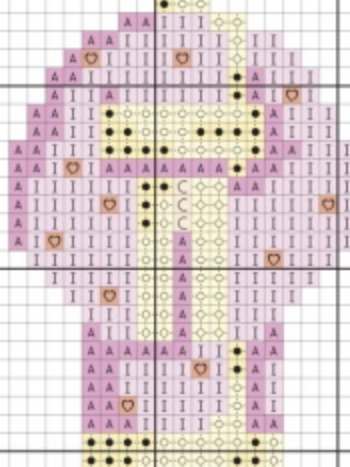
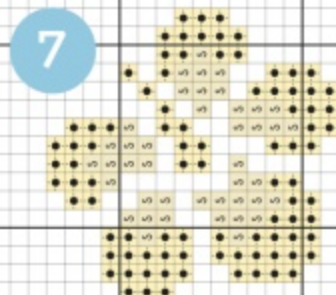
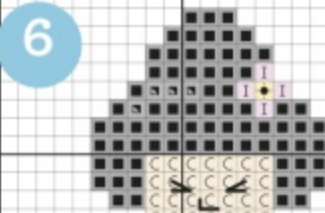
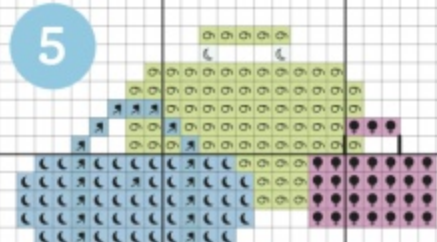
10



12

Happy Birthday from
across the miles

2 Out of sight not out of mind



Around the World key

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	blanc	2	2402	white
♥	304	19	511	dark red
■	310	403	2400	black
■	413	236	1713	grey
■	434	310	2009	brown
b	436	1045	2011	light brown
☾	518	1039	1106	dark blue
t	519	1038	1105	blue
♀	553	98	712	mauve
♥	666	46	210	red
s	676	891	2208	sand
●	701	227	1305	green
○	703	238	1307	light green
●	726	295	109	yellow
☾	747	158	1104	light blue
▼	801	359	2007	dark brown
♀	917	89	706	dark pink
C	945	881	2309	peach
☼	3078	292	102	light yellow
A	3607	87	708	pink
I	3609	85	710	light pink
■	3842	164	1010	very dark blue

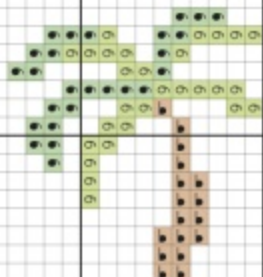
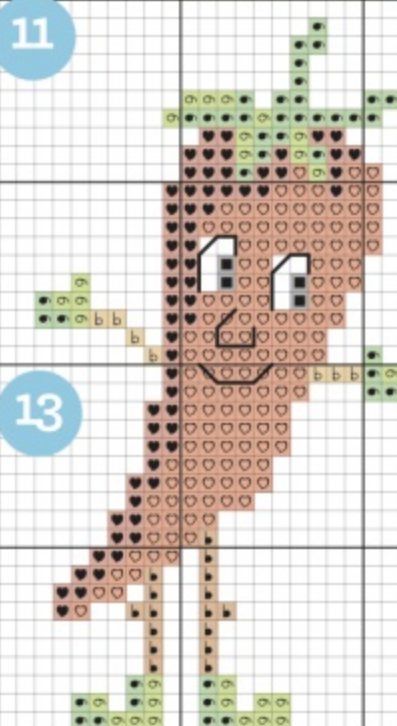
✕ Backstitch in one strand

—	310	403	2400	black
—	666	46	210	red
—	676	891	2208	sand
—	703	238	1307	light green
—	3842	164	1010	very dark blue

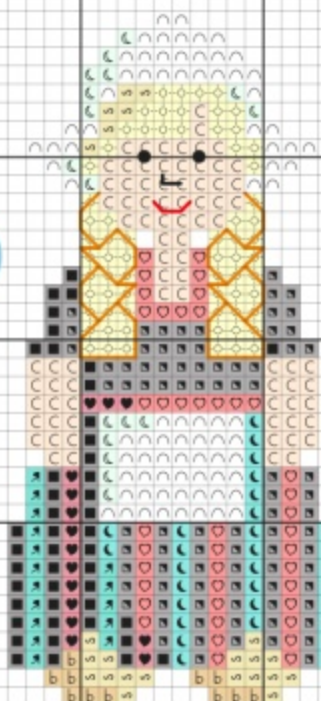
✕ French knots in one strand

●	310	403	2400	black
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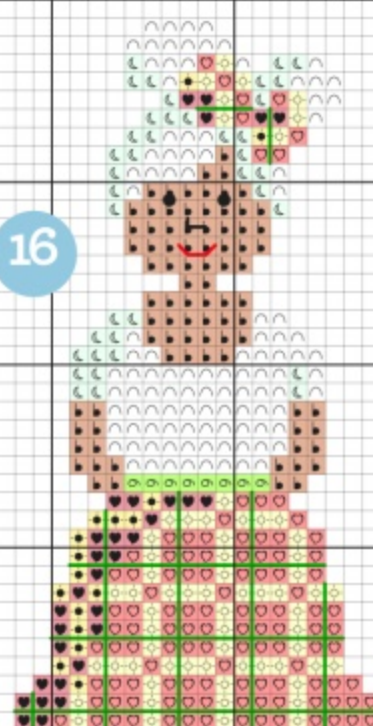
These designs were stitched using DMC stranded cotton



15



16

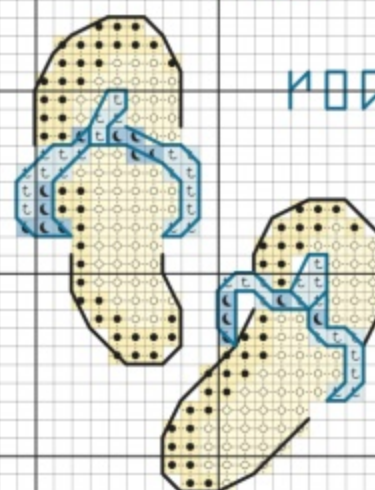


You mean the
world to me

17

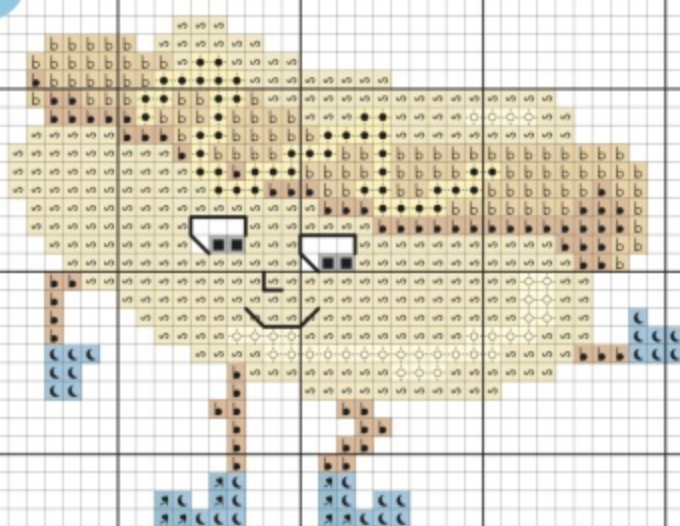
Not done
roaming

18



22

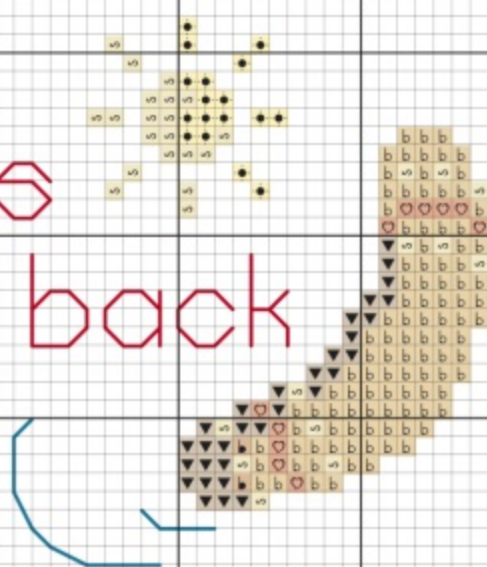
23



26

always
come back

27

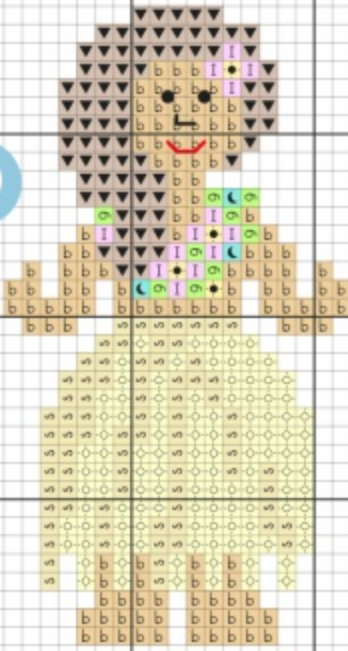


31

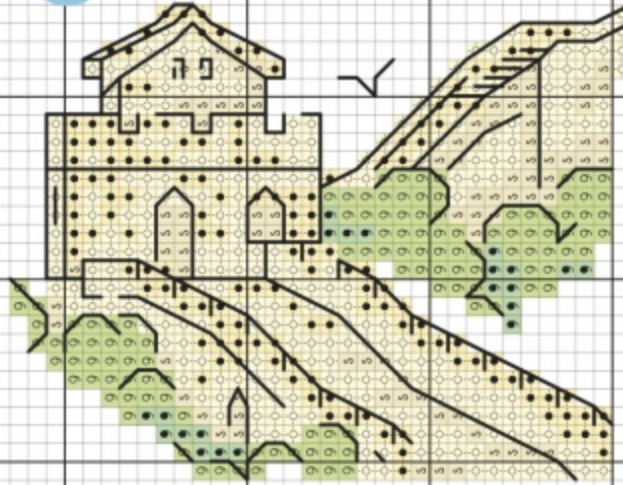
Greetings from
across the pond

FUN
DESIGNS
TO STITCH
& SEND!

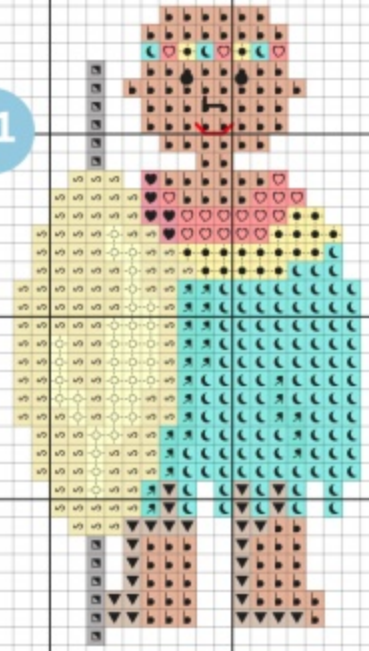
19



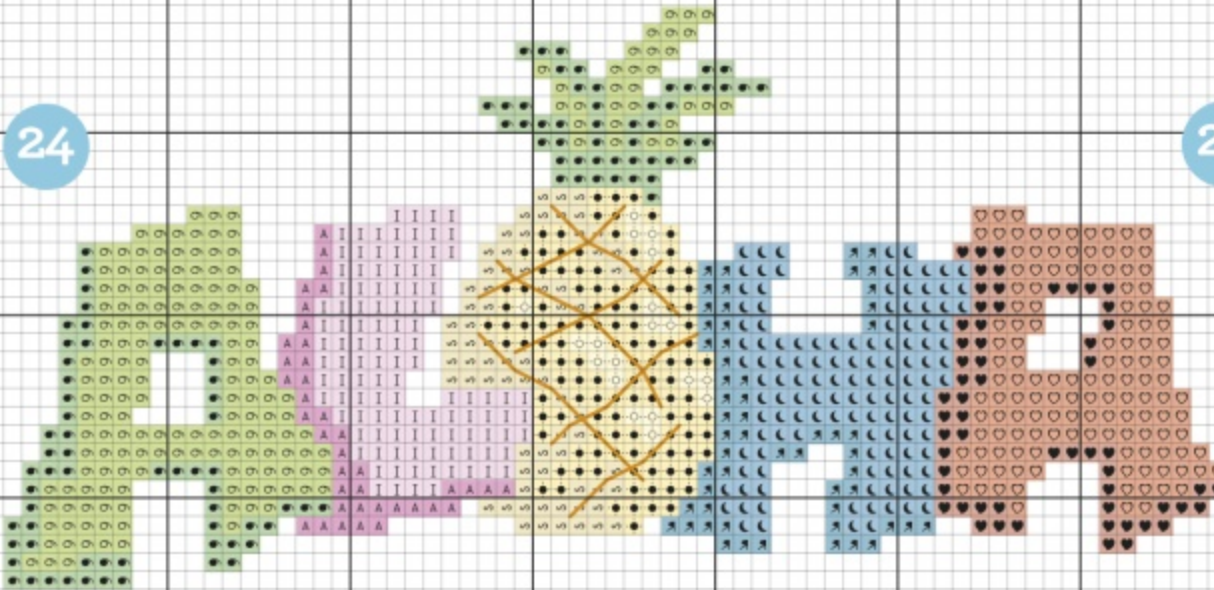
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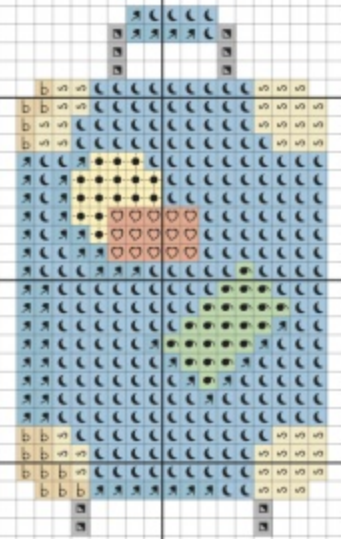
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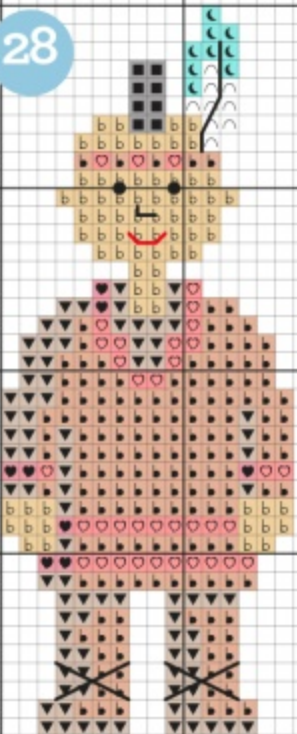
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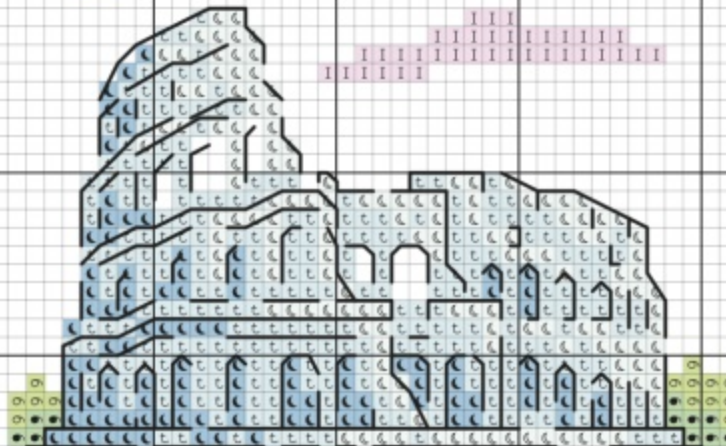
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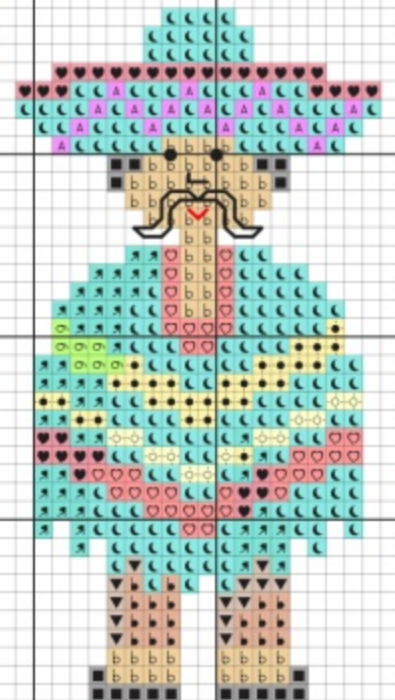
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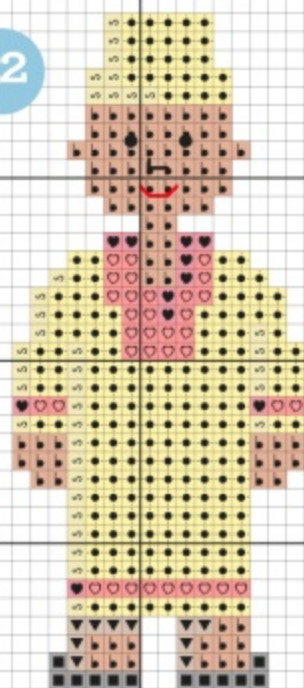
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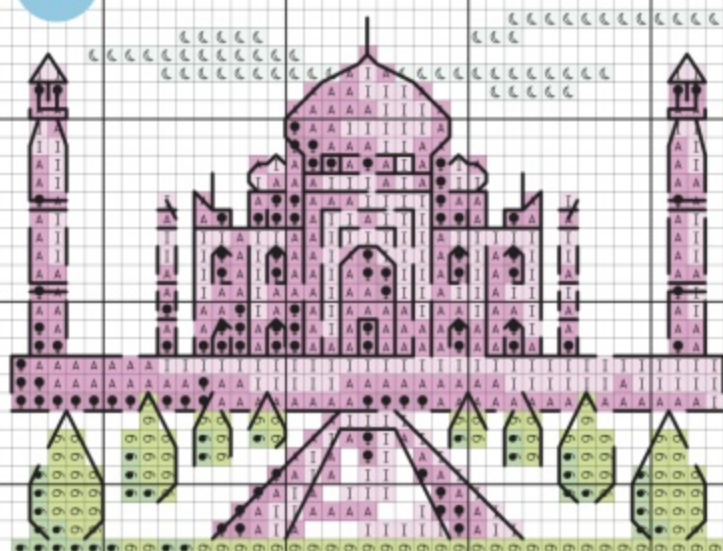
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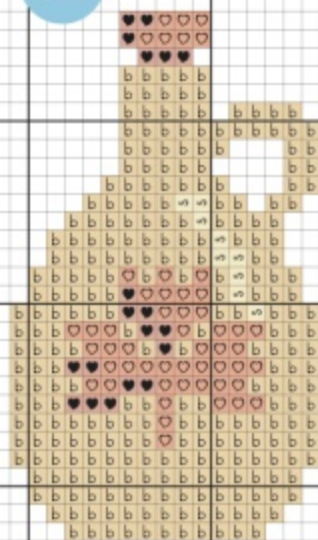
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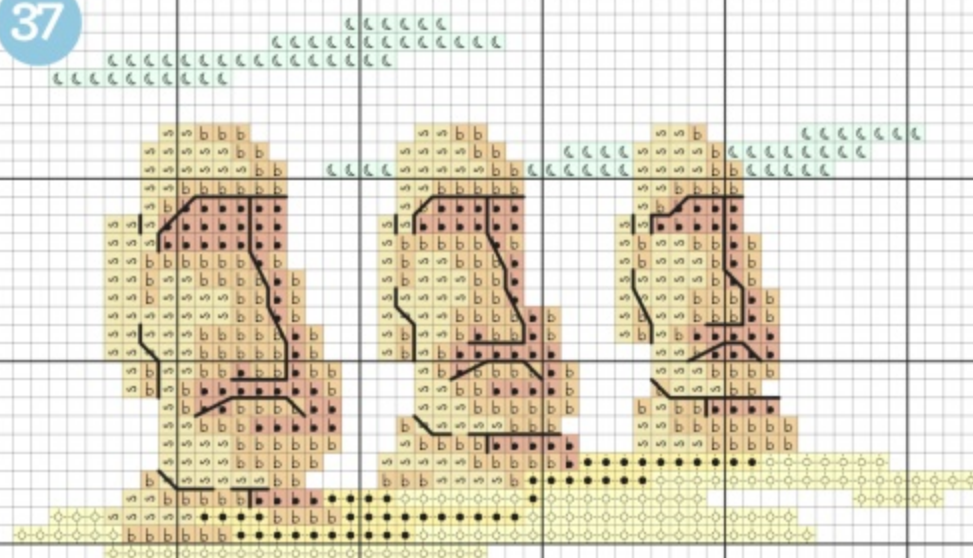
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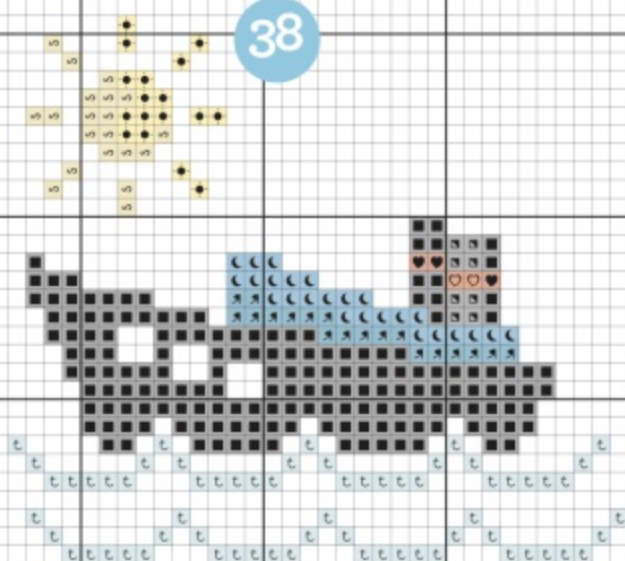
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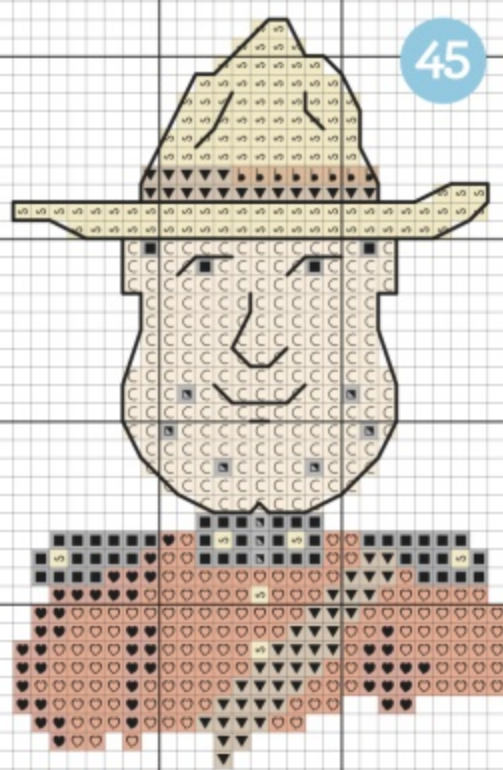


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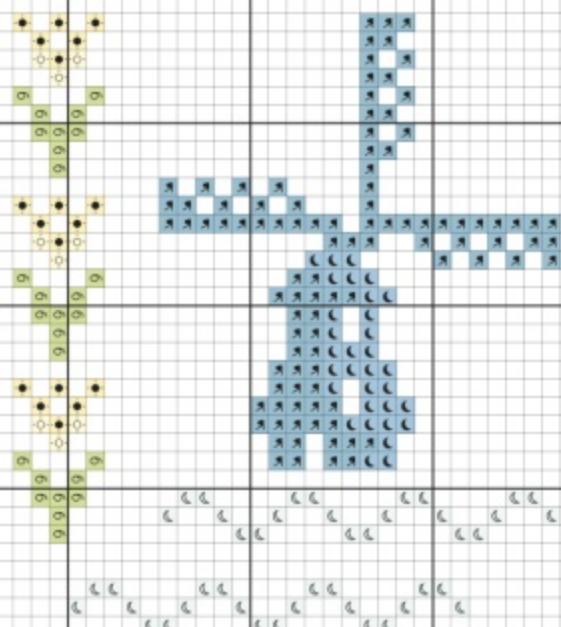


From across the sea

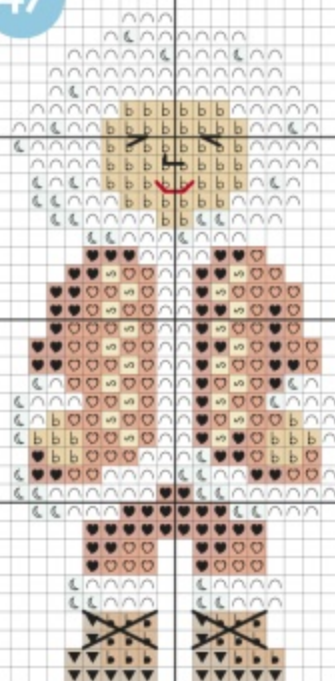
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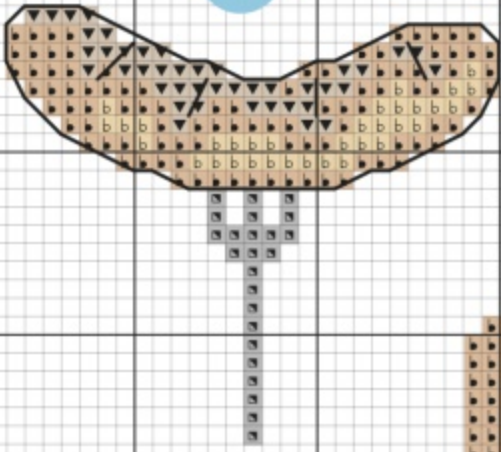
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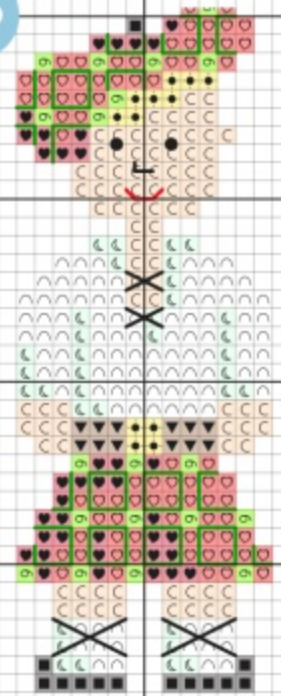
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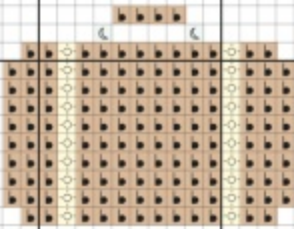
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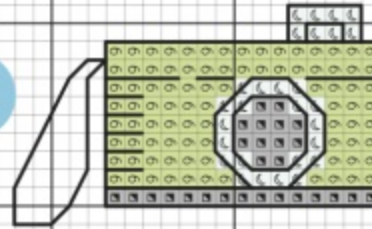
TOP TIP

Mix and match the greetings and motifs to create the perfect card or gift for your recipient

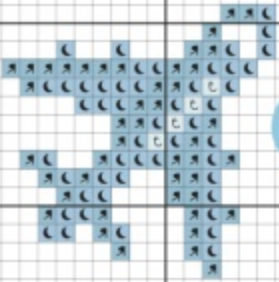
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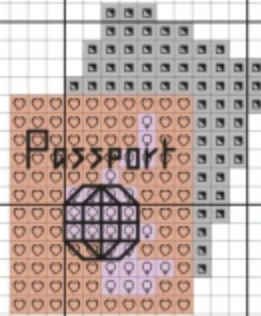
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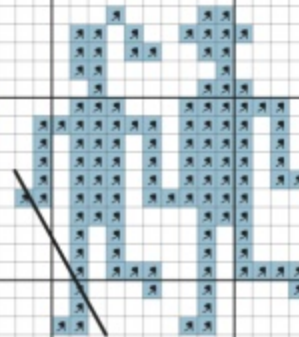
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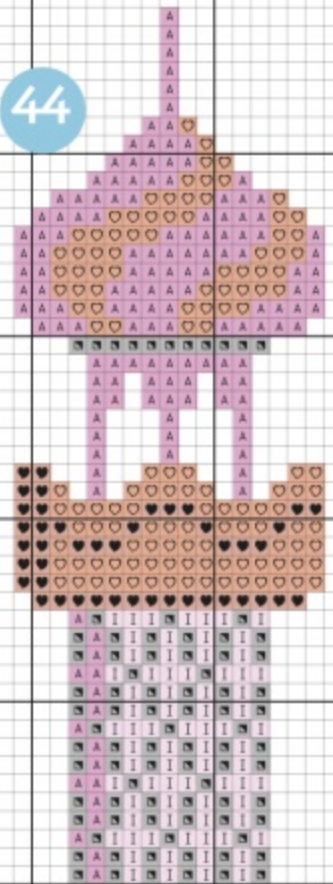
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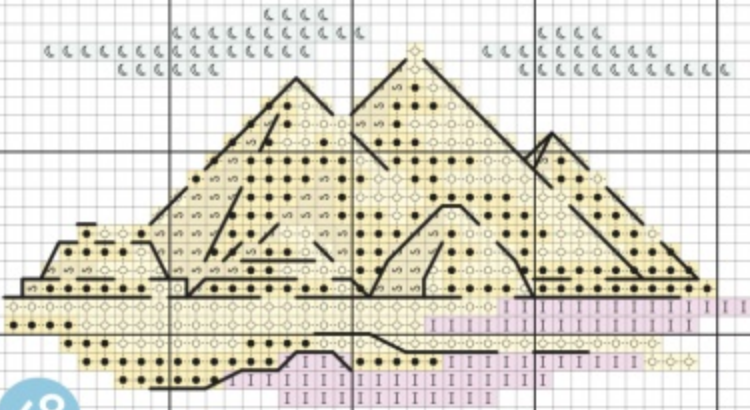
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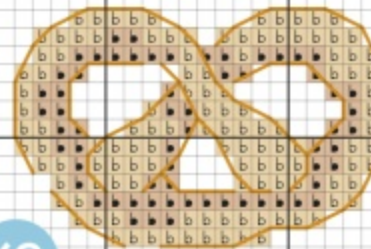
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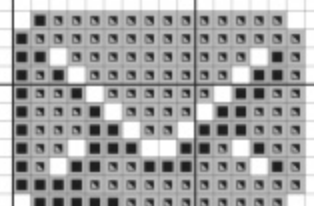
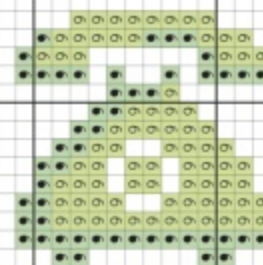
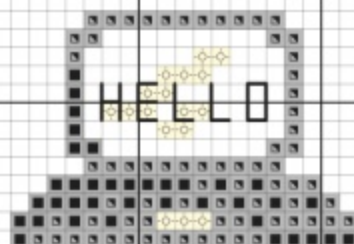
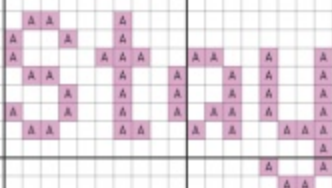
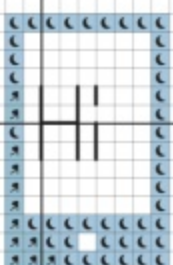
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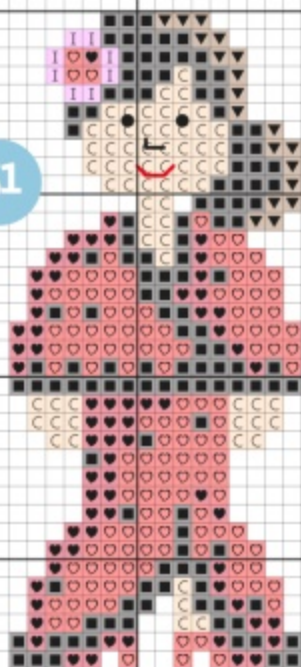


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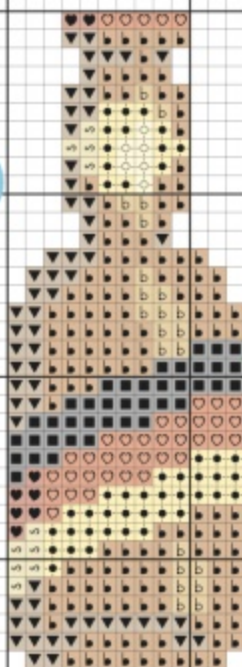


WORKED
IN WHOLE
STITCHES
ONLY!

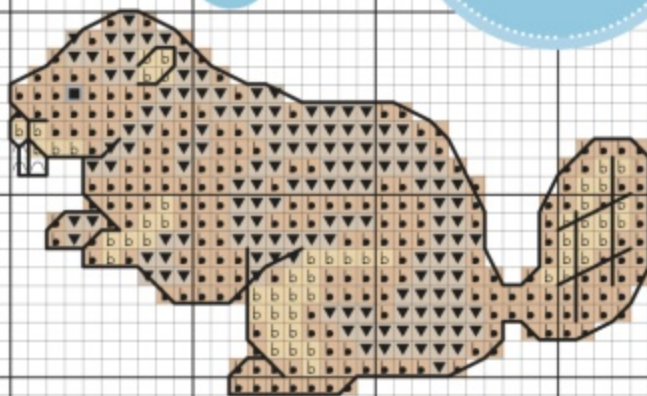
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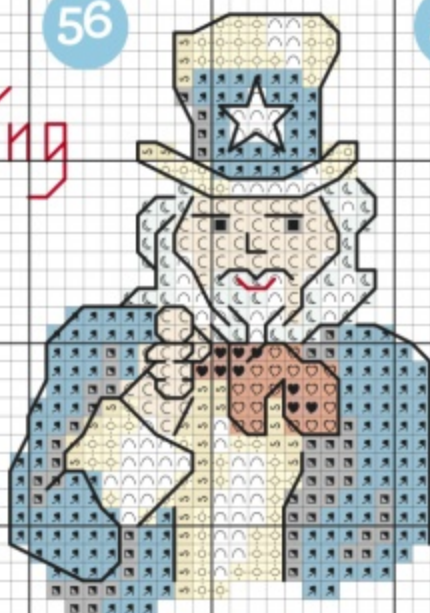


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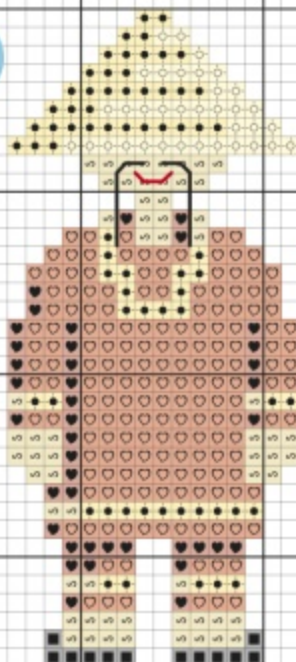


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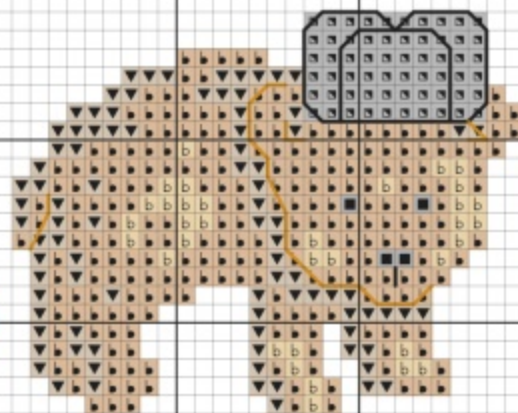
Missing
You



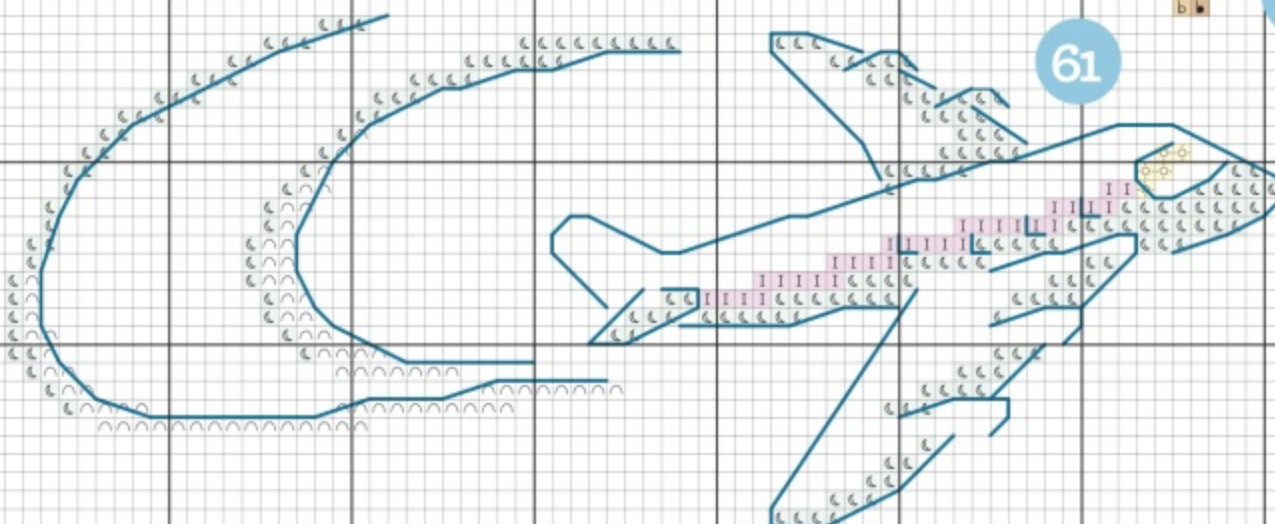
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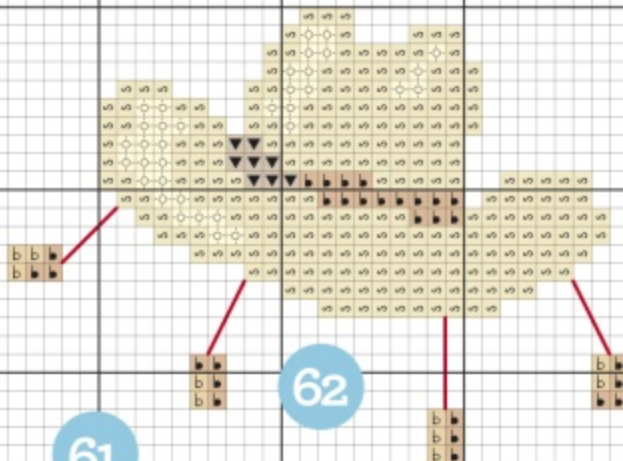
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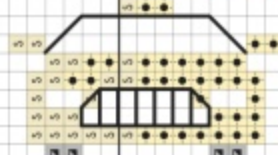
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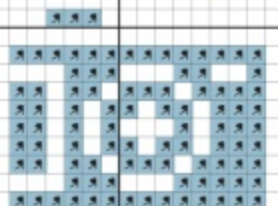
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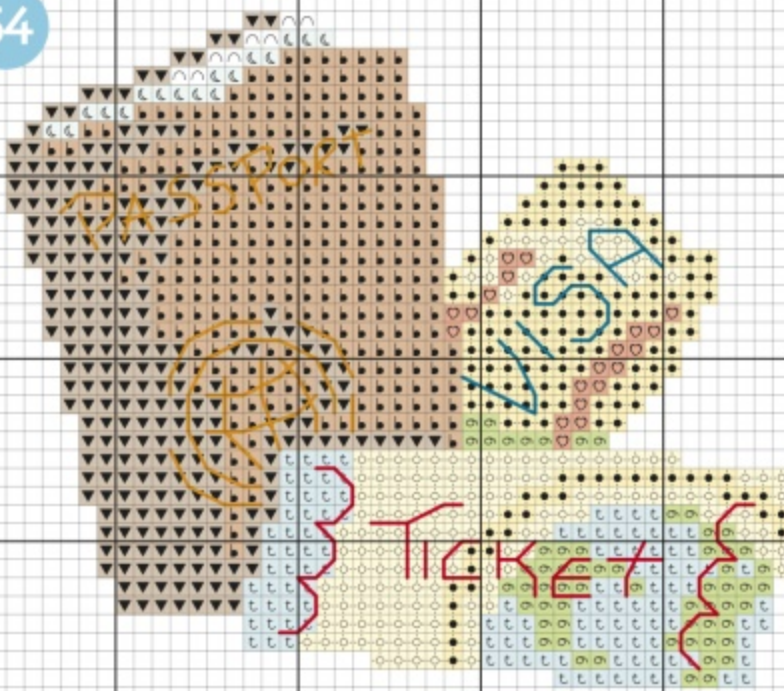
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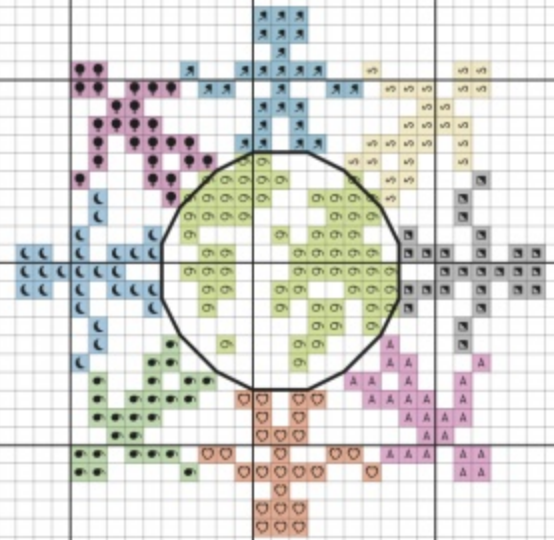


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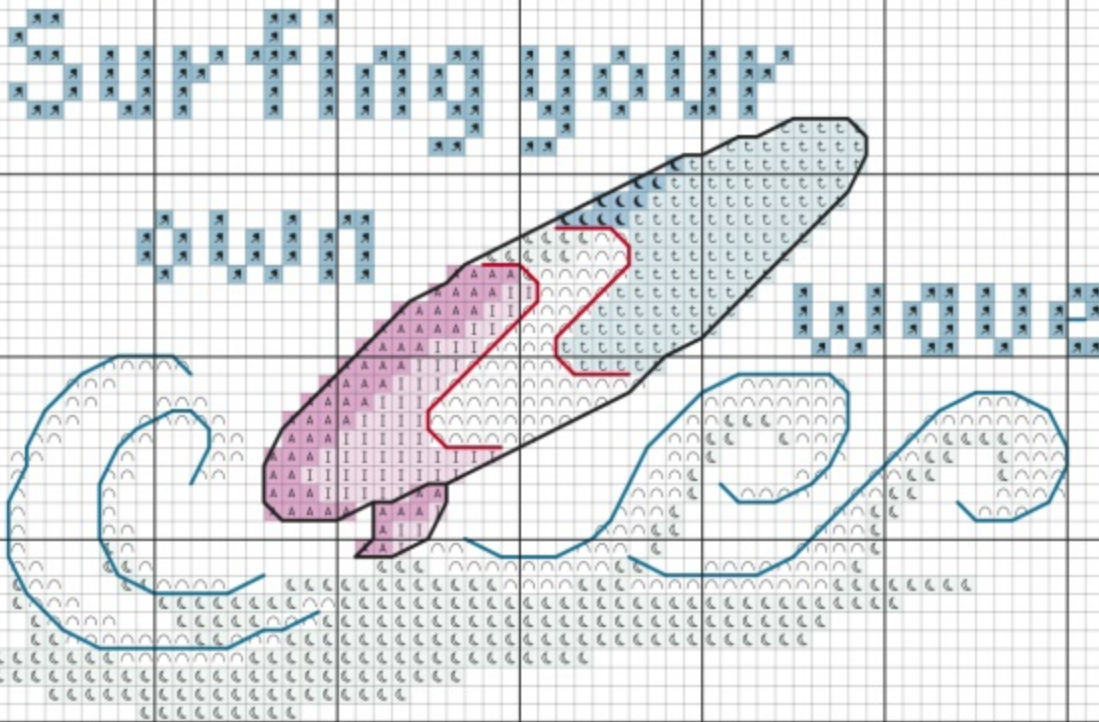
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Join hands

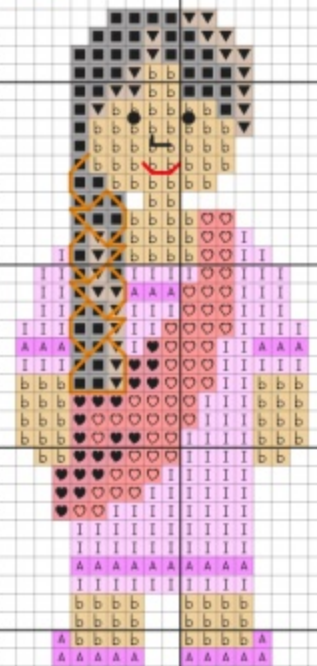


around the world

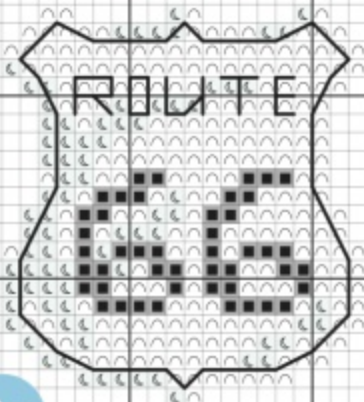
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NEXT MONTH: HOME

From curled-up cats to cosy afternoon teas, it's all about country cottage charm as we celebrate 'home sweet home' in your next Design Library! Head to the shops on 21 May to pick up your copy of issue 230, or subscribe and the issue will be delivered to your door. See page 44 for this month's money-saving subscription offer.



Turn to
page 44
to subscribe



DESIGN BY **SUSAN BATES**

Ceramic chic

Use needle and thread to make your own collectable artwork with this striking Clarice Cliff-style cottage scene



One of the most important – and instantly recognisable – ceramic artists from the 1930s is Clarice Cliff, and her highly-stylised designs are still in demand today. Any fan of antiques' TV shows will know that one of her pieces found in the attic is sure to create excitement!

Inspired by her bold use of colour and landscapes of cottages and trees, this stunning design by Susan Bates has all the impact of Clarice Cliff's work. You'll use bright tangerines and pinks alongside purples and greens for the most breathtaking colour pop against that crisp white aida. And, there's plenty of backstitch to bring all those details sharply into focus, too, so make sure to follow the key closely

Factbox

- ✦ **Stitching Time**
Approx. 40 hours
- ✦ **Type of Stitches**
Cross stitch, fractionals, backstitch
- ✦ **Ease of Stitching**
Intermediate

Amazing
shading
to stitch

so you use the correct colour of thread for each section of backstitch.

Finish this gorgeous project in a complementary frame to make it even more of a talking point once it's hung on your wall. It's the perfect piece for a hallway, ensuring a warm welcome for all your loved ones and guests. ➤



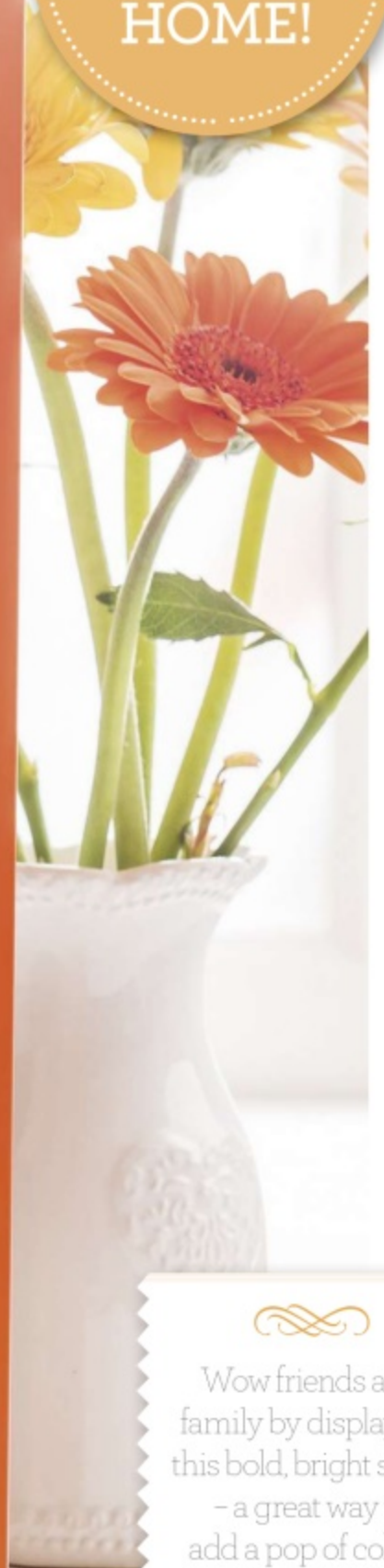
Meet the designer

Susan Bates

"I love Art Deco designs, and find the 1930s such an inspiring time, as so many designers were creating new and exciting work. As fresh today as it was back then, Clarice Cliff's bold style was a joy to draw from."



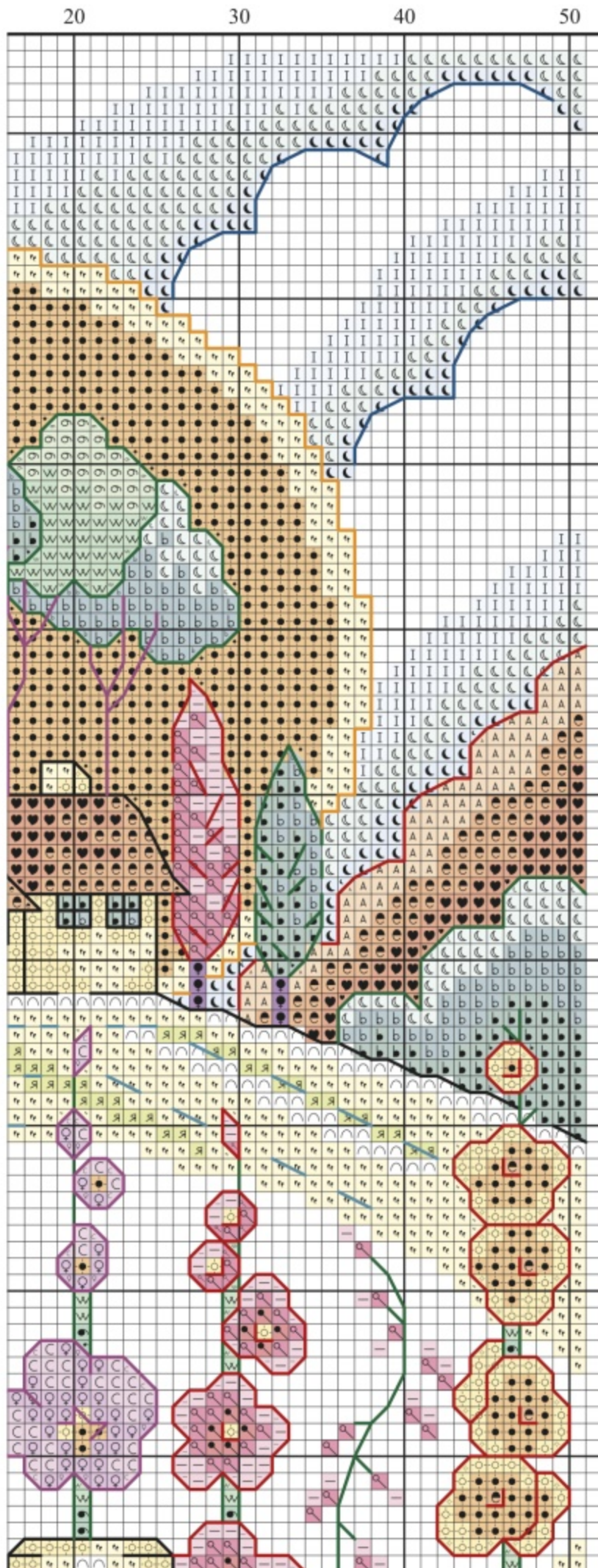
BRIGHTEN
UP YOUR
HOME!



Wow friends and family by displaying this bold, bright scene – a great way to add a pop of colour to your home



Art Deco Cottage chart (top left)



Art Deco Cottage chart (top right)

Art Deco Cottage key

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
⌒	blanc	2	2402	white
●	550	102	714	dark mauve
♀	553	98	712	mauve
⬢	601	63	703	dark pink
⬢	602	57	702	pink
—	604	1094	614	light pink
♥	666	1098	210	red
☀	726	295	109	yellow
⬢	741	304	202	tangerine
☾	747	158	1104	light turquoise
●	910	228	1302	dark mint green
W	913	204	1212	mint green
⬢	947	330	205	bright orange
⬢	955	206	1210	mint green
♀	3078	292	102	light yellow
☾	3325	129	907	blue
A	3341	328	401	peach
C	3608	86	709	lilac
I	3756	1037	2504	light blue
B	3766	167	1106	turquoise
Я	3819	279	1610	lime green
⬢	3848	1074	1108	sea green

✕ Backstitch in one strand

—	310	403	2400	black
—	500	683	1705	bottle green
—	550	102	714	dark mauve
—	741	304	202	tangerine
—	815	44	513	dark red
—	825	162	1011	dark blue
—	910	228	1302	dark mint green

STITCH COUNT 130 high x 102 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 23.5x18.5cm (9¼x7¼in)

This design was stitched using DMC stranded cotton

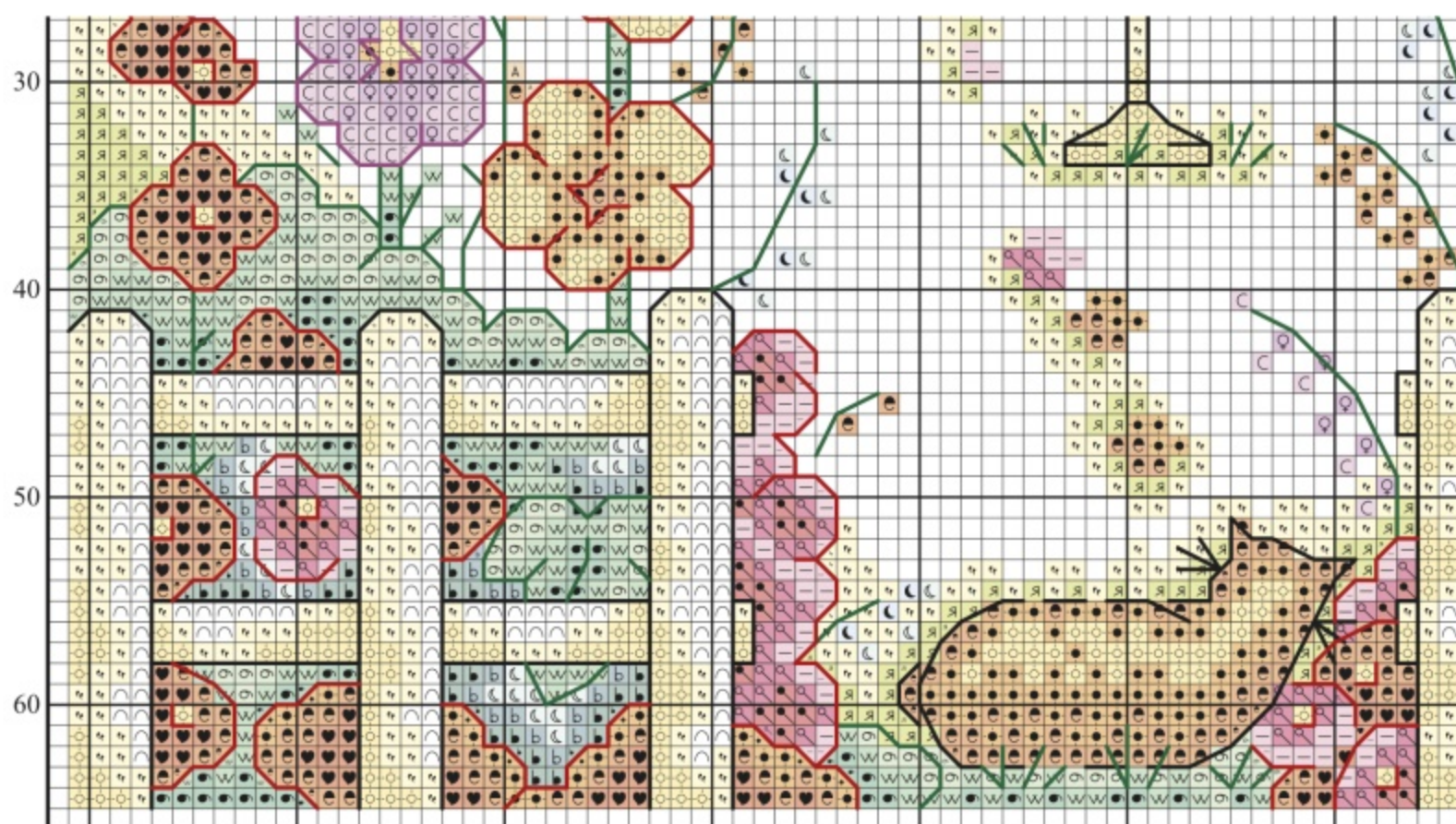
Shopping list

- ✕ Zweigart* 14-count white aida measuring 33x28cm (13x11in)
- ✕ Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- ✕ Size 24 tapestry needle
- ✕ Frame and mount of your choice with a minimum aperture measuring 23.5x18cm (9¼x7¼in)

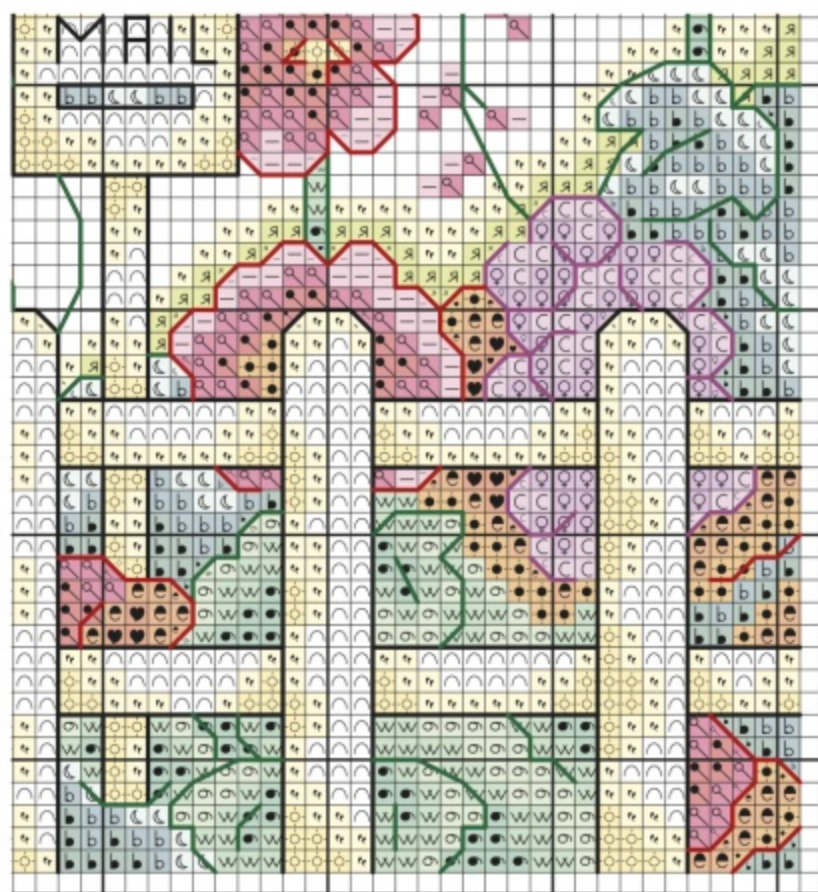
Thread & fabric cost
Approximately £30

*For stockists see page 90





Art Deco Cottage chart (bottom left)



Art Deco Cottage chart (bottom right)



TOP TIP
Organise your threads
onto a clearly labelled
thread sorter before you
start stitching

Emma READER PANEL

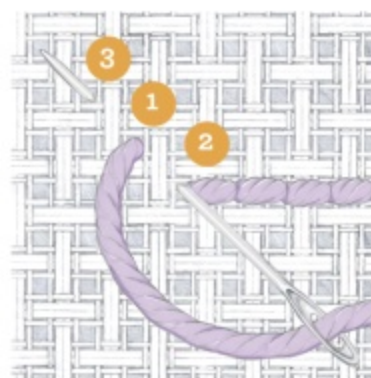


“I love the use of colour in this design, and I adore all the little details Susan Bates has added, such as the cute pussycat at the front gate, and the tiny birds splashing in the birdbath. It's definitely one for my must-stitch list!”

How to...

add backstitch to your design

When you've finished all the cross stitch, thread your needle with one strand (there are seven shades of backstitch in this design, so check the key carefully). Following the backstitch line on the chart, make your stitches as in this diagram. Bring your needle up at 1, down at 2 and back up at 3, stitching in a two steps forward, one step back motion. Keep it neat by using short lengths, to prevent tangles.



Out & About

Get involved in the stitching fun this month – we've rounded up the most exciting campaigns, clubs and events so that you can join in with them all!

THE WORLD OF Cross Stitching CLUB OF THE MONTH

ST. PETER'S CRAFT GROUP, BRISTOL



St Peter's Craft Group meets weekly in their local church hall. There are fifteen ladies currently but there is always room for more people to join. "Everybody brings their own work from cross stitching, knitting and crocheting to tatting and painting. We also work together on various projects such as banners for church, knit blankets for special care babies and hats and scarves for the homeless," says Gail. For more info, email gail_stubbins@talktalk.net.

APPLY: Want to tell us about your club? Write to the address (p17) or email letters@cross-stitching.com

WHERE AM I?

Here I am high up on a famous bit of British soil, which is well known for the monkeys that live here. You can see the port of Algeciras in the background. We went here to celebrate our 25th wedding anniversary, and my favourite mag turned up just in time to come with me!

Anita Holford, by email

Send in your travel snaps!

Send us a photo of yourself with a copy of your favourite mag to 'Where Am I?' at our usual address, on page 17. If you're featured, you'll win a John Clayton kit from the Internationals range by Heritage Crafts*, worth £29.99.

* For stockists see page 90



Sign of the time

British artist Cornelia Parker is replicating the Magna Carta in stitch with the help of over 200 prisoners, lawyers, civil rights campaigners, barons and MPs. The project will unpick the document's rich history by collaborating with those who've been associated with and affected by it since it was first drawn up in 1215.



MORE The free exhibition is on until 24 July at The British Library, London. Visit www.bl.uk for more information

Dates for June

21 MAY

ON SALE: THE WORLD OF CROSS STITCHING

Issue 230 is full of summery ideas, like gorgeous roses, a stunning lions design by Anchor, retro birdies, cupcake toppers using plastic canvas, hot air balloons cards, a DIY-theme ABC set and more besides. Plus a 2-in-1 kit that fashionistas will love: 'Treat Yourself' with display hanger.

5-7 JUNE

THE CONTEMPORARY CRAFT FESTIVAL

BOVEY TRACEY, DEVON

The Contemporary Craft Festival is one of the UK's largest craft events, which sees 200 talented makers selling directly to visitors. Makers include award-winning silversmiths, potters, textile, print and paper artists, jewellers and more. Advance tickets cost £8 (concessions £7, weekend tickets £15/£13), see www.craftsatboveytracey.co.uk for details.

6 JUNE

SEW SIMPLE (SEWING BASICS)

SEW PRETTY, WIMBLEDON, LONDON

For total beginners wanting to know how to use a sewing machine – this three-hour workshop is £40 and you'll learn to set up a machine, load a bobbin, sew basic stitches, hems, and more. Everything for finishing your cross stitches! Visit www.sewpretty.me.uk for details and to book.

21 JUNE

FATHER'S DAY

Stitch your dad a special treat for this Sunday. Get set with issue 230 which has some fab Father's Day gift makes, on sale 21 May.

Learn new skills! Get to grips with your sewing machine, whether you're a real newbie or needing a refresher



Answer: Rock of Gibraltar



OptiVISOR

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The original Optivisor headband but fitted with a lightweight acrylic lens plate. Adjustable side pivots allow the visor to tilt at your fingertips. The headband can be adjusted to fit all head sizes comfortably and can be worn over prescription spectacles or safety glasses. Leather padded headband lined with soft felt for extra comfort.



OptiVISOR AL

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OptiVISOR

A professional quality headband magnifier which has been used by thousands of modellers for the past 30 years. The prismatic glass lenses are ground and polished to precision optical standards, bevel edged and mounted in an interchangeable plastic frame. The Optivisor is supplied with one plate (usually a DA-5) but any other plate can be specified at the time of ordering. Additional plates can be purchased separately.



from
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Buntique (224a Willerby Road, next to Manor Club, HU5 5JR)



See Our Website

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3

Candy
1

For orders
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GIFTS AND
CARDS!

Versatile
and easy
to stitch

Factbox

- ✦ **Stitching Time**
Approx. 2 hours each
- ✦ **Type of Stitches**
Cross stitch, fractionals, backstitch, French knots
- ✦ **Ease of Stitching**
Beginner

Shopping list

- ✦ Zweigart* 14-count white aida measuring 10cm (4in) x required length
- ✦ Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- ✦ Size 24 tapestry needle
- ✦ Fabric of your choice. Ours is Gütermann* 'Kaleidoscope 2 Green' (25_647039_152) from the Ring a Roses collection, and plain green from 'Fat Quarter Bundle – Plain Pastels' (159300) from The Craft Department*. Iron-on interfacing and bias binding of choice

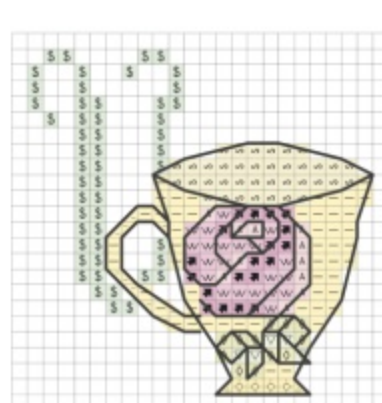
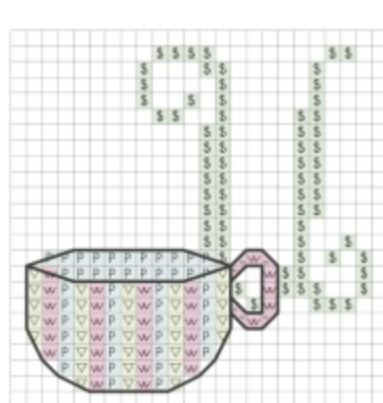
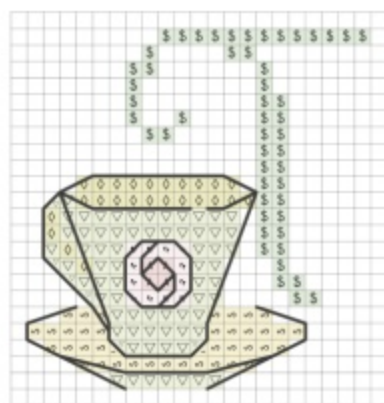
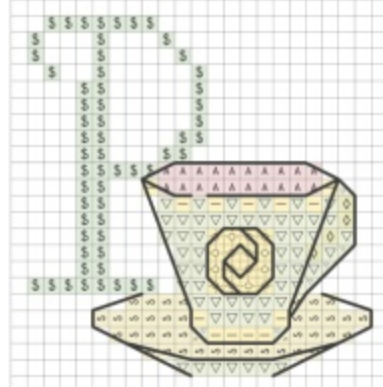
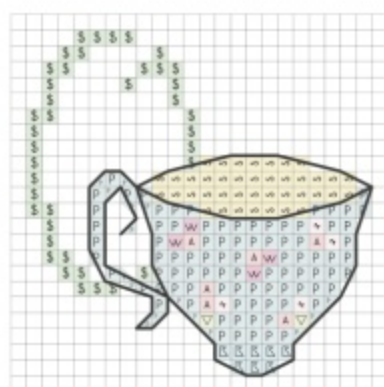
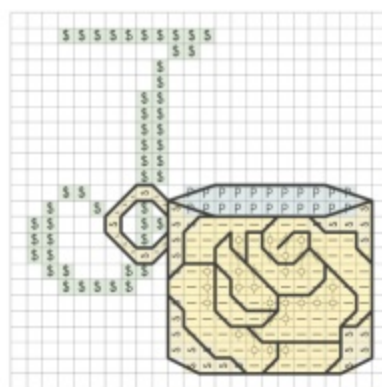
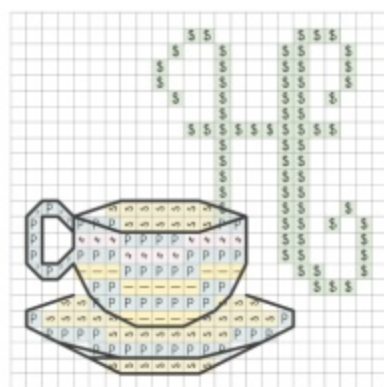
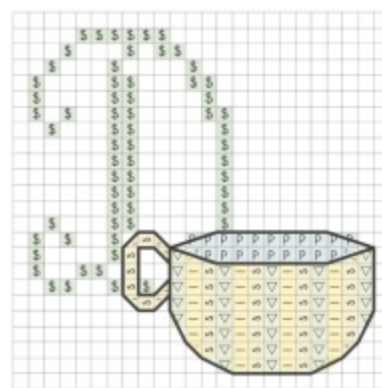
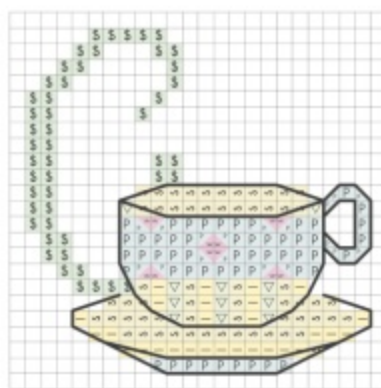
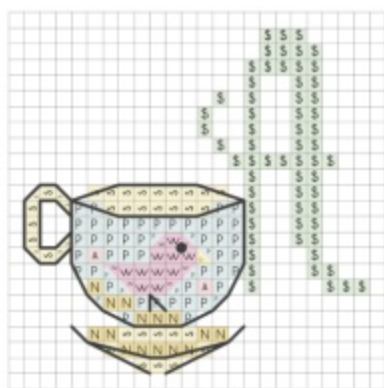
Thread & fabric cost
Approximately £15

*For stockists see page 90

DESIGNS BY **DIANE MACHIN**

Cups of charm

Stitch up this whimsical teacups alphabet set – there are cups that everyone will love!



How to...

make a pretty stitched apron

1 Trim your finished stitching, leaving a 2cm (¾in) border. Turn under a 1cm (½in) hem and topstitch in place.

2 Cut a piece of plain fabric for the pocket – ours is 18x27cm (7x10½in) to be a good size for the five-letter name. Measure yours to suit the chosen name and adjust if needed. To add support to the pocket, add iron-on interfacing

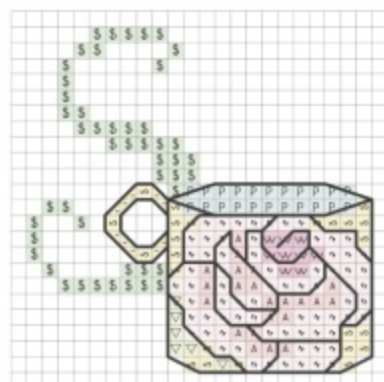
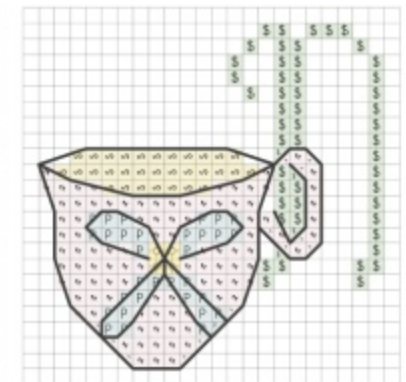
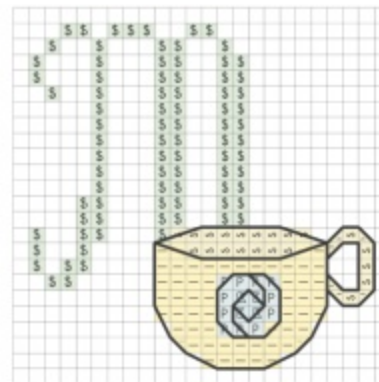
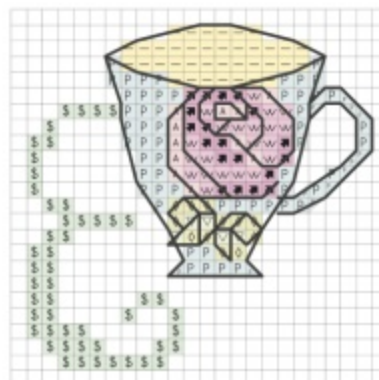
to the back of the fabric. Carefully trim the bottom corners to create curves, then turn a 1cm (½in) hem all around, and topstitch. Pin your stitched piece centrally in place, then sew.

3 Cut a panel of patterned fabric for the apron body – ours measures 30x48cm (11¾x19in), but you can adjust the size if needed. Shape the

corners as before, turn over a 1cm (½in) hem at the sides and bottom edge, and machine sew in place.

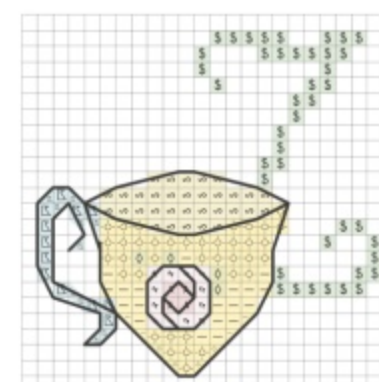
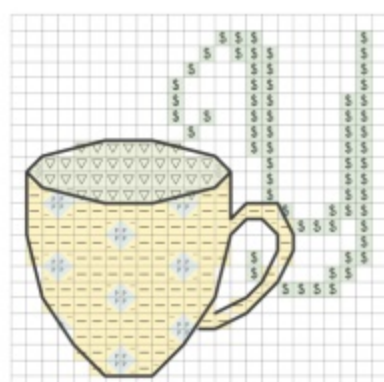
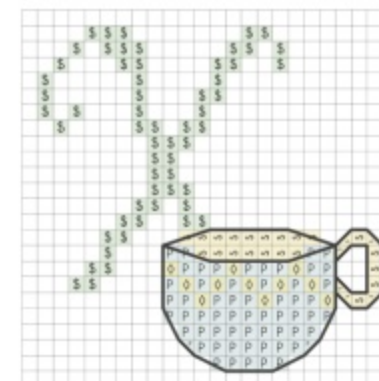
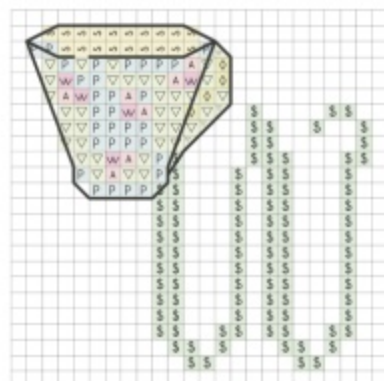
4 Pin your pocket to the apron piece, making sure it is in the centre. Machine- or hand-sew.

5 Sew bias binding to the top (ours matches the pocket), leaving long enough tails for ties.



Emma READER PANEL

“My friends and I love going out for afternoon teas, so this would be a great alphabet to make birthday cards for them all. It'd be especially good if the card contained a voucher for afternoon tea!”



Teacups ABC key

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
▽	369	1043	1309	light green
◇	472	253	1414	lettuce green
□	519	1038	1105	turquoise
S	677	886	2207	sand
○	726	295	109	yellow
—	727	293	112	light yellow
•	818	23	502	light pink
\$	954	203	1207	green
w	962	75	609	dark pink
A	3716	25	503	pink
■	3731	76	506	raspberry
P	3761	928	1001	light turquoise
N	3820	306	2509	straw

✕ Backstitch in one strand

—	317	400	1714	grey
---	-----	-----	------	------

✕ French knots in one strand

●	317	400	1714	grey
---	-----	-----	------	------

MAXIMUM STITCH COUNT 22 high x 22 wide
DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 4x4cm (1½x1½in)

These designs were stitched using DMC stranded cotton

DESIGNS BY **AMANDA GREGORY**

Botanical beauties

Inspired by vintage floral postcards, these elegant designs are sure to delight, whatever the occasion

Luxury
greetings
cards

The study of flora and fauna has produced some of the most stunning illustrations we've seen and for hundreds of years, artists have been painting and sketching perfect replicas of nature's splendour. So, what better way to carry on this tradition than recreating a botanical study in stitches?

Designer Amanda Gregory has captured the detail and delight of some of our favourite blooms in this charming set of postcard-style charts. Plus the garden insects and shabby-chic style ephemera – like the pocket watch and postmarks – are a fun touch. Use a gorgeous colour palette to create the vintage feel, as each card is densely stitched in whole

Factbox

- ✦ **Stitching Time**
Approx. 12-15 hours each
- ✦ **Type of Stitches**
Cross stitch, fractionals, backstitch
- ✦ **Ease of Stitching**
Advanced beginner/intermediate

stitches, fractionals and backstitch.

Turn them into exquisite greetings cards, or mount them in mini frames for a set that's sure to be treasured. However you use them, you'll love to cross stitch them as much as the lucky recipients will enjoy receiving them. ➤



Meet the designer

Amanda Gregory

"I was inspired by nature walks through the countryside, wildflowers blooming in cottage gardens, plus I loved adding the shabby-chic 'layers' of ephemera and collectables. I hope you'll love stitching them too!"

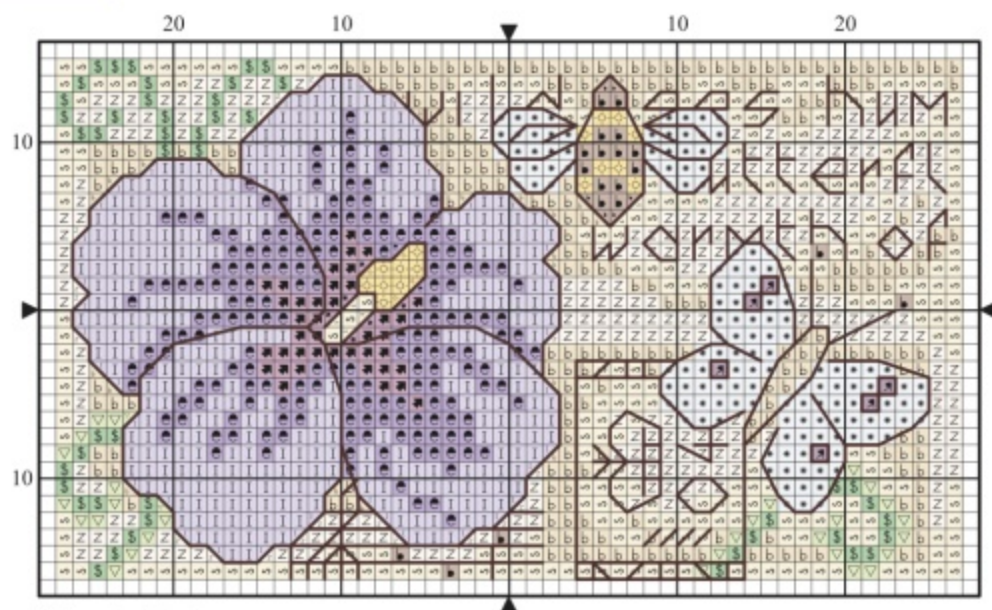


STITCH
ALL SIX
DESIGNS



Friends and family
will adore these
stunning shabby-
chic cards, which are
guaranteed to
stay in bloom!

Project Botanical Bloom Cards



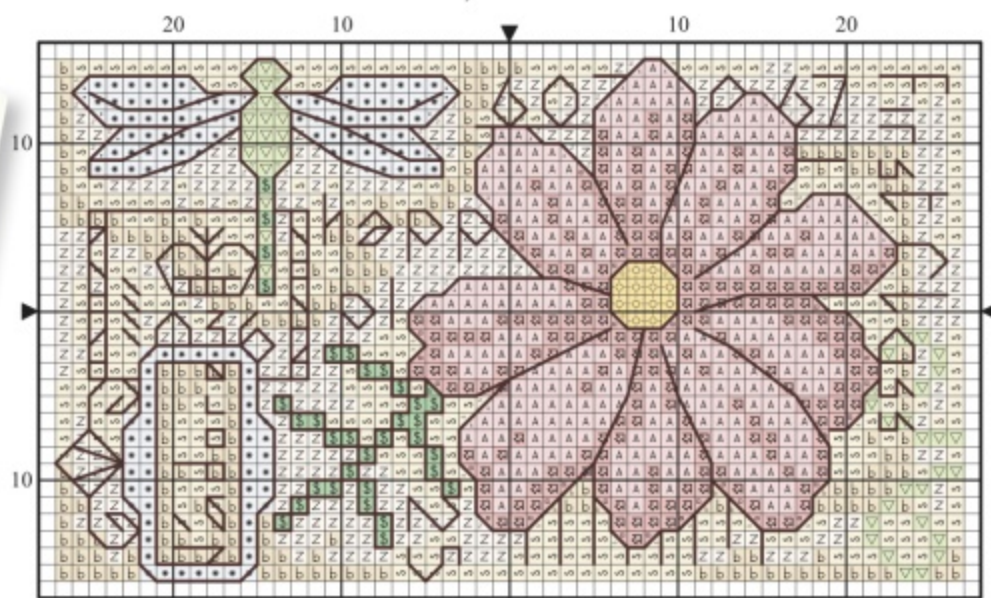
Hibiscus Card chart



Buddleia Card chart

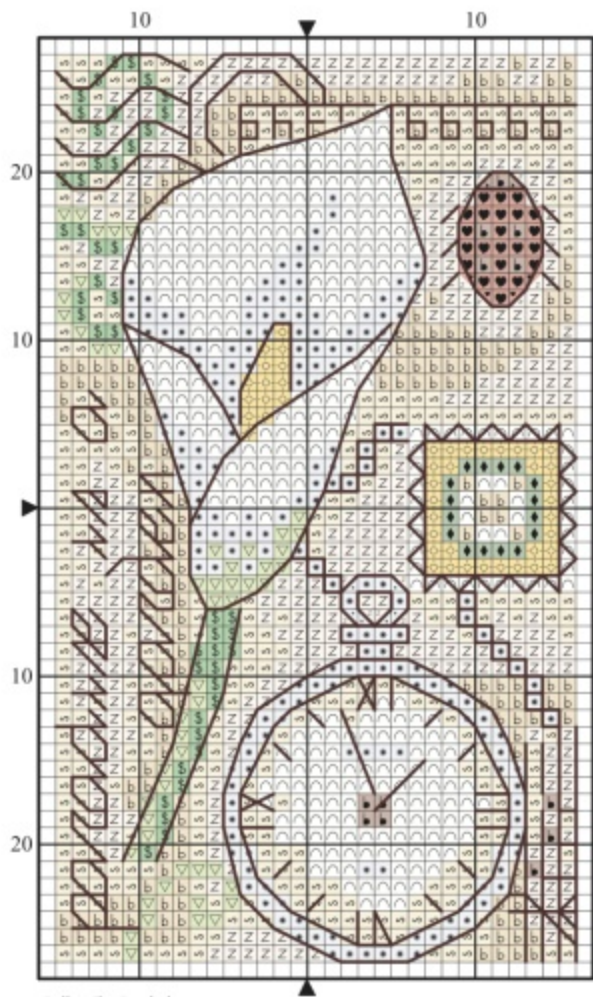


Hollyhock Card chart



Cosmos Card chart





Calla Lily Card chart

Bernice READER PANEL



“These postcard-style designs are something different from the normal greetings cards around. I would stitch one for my stepmother’s birthday, as she loves her garden and appreciates the effort that goes into things like these.”

Botanical Bloom Cards key

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
z	ecru	926	2404	cream
■	154	873	2607	dark mauve
I	155	1030	902	purple
▽	164	240	1209	light green
●	333	119	903	dark purple
♥	347	1025	407	red
b	437	362	2012	tan
☼	728	305	107	yellow
s	739	366	2014	light tan
*	762	234	1804	grey
■	938	380	2005	brown
■	961	76	610	dark pink
◆	986	246	1404	dark green
\$	988	243	1402	green
w	3712	1023	406	salmon pink
A	3716	25	503	pink
■	3835	98	712	mauve
○	3865	2	2403	natural white

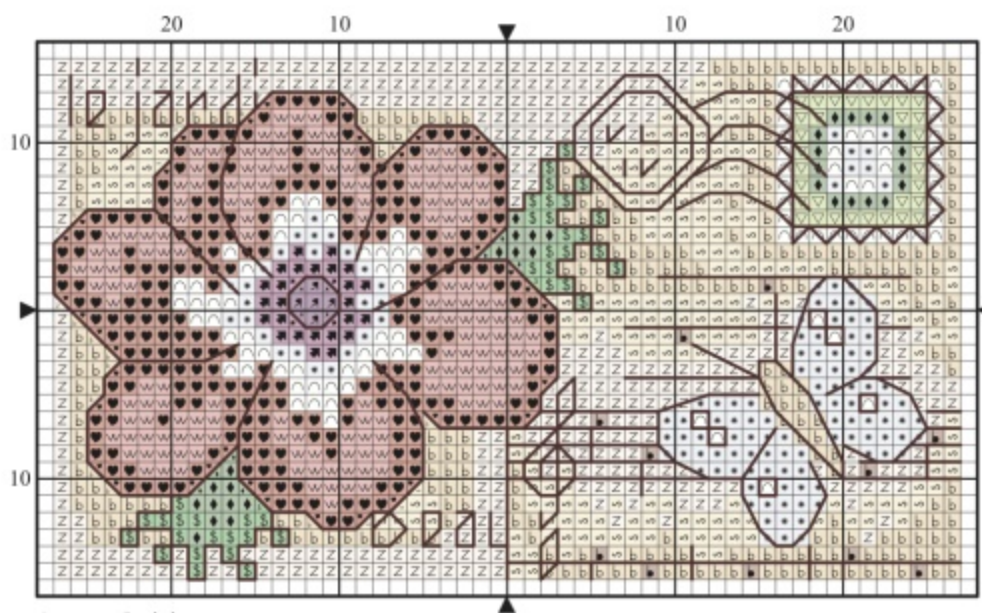
✕ Backstitch in one strand

—	938	380	2005	brown
---	-----	-----	------	-------

MAXIMUM STITCH COUNT 31 x 54 high or wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 6x10cm (2¼x3¾in)

These designs were stitched using DMC stranded cotton



Anemone Card chart



Shopping list

- ✕ Zweigart* 14-count cream aida measuring 10x13cm (4x5in) for each design
- ✕ Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- ✕ Size 24 tapestry needle
- ✕ Craft Creations* single fold cards (SF03U) in Textura Recycled ivory
- ✕ Patterned papers of choice. Ours is 'Kirstie Allsopp 5x5in Paper Charm pack – Lavender Rose' from Hobbycraft*

Thread & fabric cost
Approximately £20

*For stockists see page 90

Ideas to decorate your cards

Part TWO



Did you enjoy our ideas for embellishing your cross stitched cards last issue? Here are even more fab options to give your cards that extra wow factor!

Make it shapely

Another idea to give your card projects a special touch is to try mounting your stitching as a shaped design. Motifs don't always have to be mounted on cards in an aperture or as a regular patch shape – why not give them a unique shaped look?

This will work for absolutely any design, all you need to do is to apply iron-on interfacing to the reverse of your finished project. It won't show through, and it acts to bond the fibres, both of the fabric and of the stitching, so no fraying can occur

when you trim the curves of a shape.

You may like to cut freehand or use a template to draw your pre-planned shape lightly in pencil on the back of your piece. Use sharp fabric scissors and then stick your shape down as usual, with double-sided tape. It'll be sure to add a one-off look to your finished card! Buy lightweight iron-on interfacing in sewing and craft shops, and haberdashery departments.



Perfectly punched

The addition of a punched motif can add a great accent to your design – it's easy to achieve a professional look thanks to the great range of punches available, not just as motifs but also border edges. Simply punch out the shape you want, in coordinating paper to complement your stitching, and fix on to your finished card with double-sided tape or glue. This is a fab option for both masculine and feminine greetings

since punches are available in a wide selection of styles.

Paper punches vary in their price, due to the size of shape they make and also the type of punch (handheld and lever punches are our favourites), but they're fun to collect as an investment! Look out for ones by **Woodware***, **Hobbycraft*** and **Tonic Studios*** or enjoy the very affordable option of buying packs of ready-punched (or ready-die-cut) shapes, available from papercraft suppliers.



Try terrific twine

Twine is very on-trend to add a fun, stripy accent to your cards! Sometimes called baker's twine, there is a wide selection of colours to choose from, mostly combining a colour-with-white, but look

out too for new designs hitting the shops with touches of sparkle threaded in, or even other multicolour mixes. We especially love 'Divine Twine' for a super-soft finish and shades to suit all card styles. Buy 10m for just £1.50.

Other twine styles, like natural hemp (also available in colours beyond the neutral shades you might expect!) and 'button twine', with a slightly linen-like texture, are also really effective. We recommend the range, all available to order from The Ribbon Girl*.



Floral fantasy

Another 3D touch that really adds the wow factor to your cards for the ladies in your life (or gentleman gardeners perhaps?!) is to add paper or fabric flowers. Ready-made blooms in many styles and colours will bring a sweet touch when clustered in a posy-like grouping, or maybe in the corners as we have done here. Look out for flowers with or without stems (if your flowers have stems, simply snip them off – don't use fabric scissors though, as they'll get blunt!) and use Glue Dots* to fix in place.



Shimmer and shine

Including metallic threads is one way to make your cards sparkle, but if your design doesn't lend itself to using metallic threads, try decorating your card with a hint of glitz for a special finish instead. Sequins and adhesive gems are both easy ways to give any card a fancy touch, and you're sure to find the right ones to complement your card, since there's a great range of sizes, colours, shapes and finishes on the

market. Look in local craft shops.

Sequins are easy to fix to your card blank with a strong glue – the 'Micro Dots', £3.99, by Glue Dots* are ideal and mess-free. Or choose adhesive gems which already have a sticky back – tweezers are an easy way to lift them from their backing sheet. Either use an asymmetric scattering for a contemporary look (remember, odd numbers are most pleasing to the eye!) or try a simple row or corner accents, to frame your finished project in style.



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Issue 228

Last month's issue was packed with fresh, fun projects – from Joan Elliott's sweet garden bunny to pretty bunting, a magical pixie house, and friendship Design Library. Plus, card ideas for the new royal baby, a floral clock project and **TWO FAB GIFTS**: an exclusive **Tatty Teddy** kit by DMC, and a **Lavender Fields** chartbook from Heritage Crafts, perfect for the summer!



Issue 227

Bebunni card kit & bookmark chart, sweet kitty, magnolias, Country Companions, vintage sport (part1), carousel horse cards



Issue 224

Joan Elliott 2015 desk calendar Cookie bear, boho dreamcatcher, pretty wedding sampler, colourful robots, Michael Powell exclusive



Issue 226

'Heart of roses' sachet kit adorable bathtime mice, Home Sweet Home sampler, tulips field, hearts bunting, All Our Yesterdays exclusive



Issue 223

Fizzy Moon Christmas card kit festive Country Companions hedgehogs, pet stockings, gingerbread train, cookies sampler, wintry cards



Issue 225

Margaret Sherry hedgehog card kit cute Forever Friends, glam Art Deco lady, stunning space-theme design, baby sampler



Issue 222

Luxury Xmas chartbook & Madeira threads The Snowman & The Snowdog, Gorjuss, chalkboard ice-skate, snowmen decs, robins ABC

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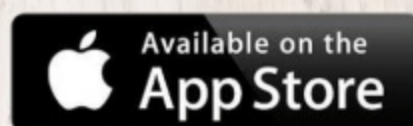


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DESIGN BY **KATE KNIGHT**

Sweet as nectar

Savour the sight and scent of the season's finest wildflowers, just like this fluttering butterfly



On a warm sunny day there's nothing like a spot of al fresco stitching, and what better design to work on than this beautiful scene from Kate Knight? You can almost see the wildflowers swaying softly in the breeze, and hear the gentle flutter of the butterfly's wings as it hovers overhead. So relaxing!

Worked in whole stitches with plenty of fractionals to shape the petals, and clusters of French knots in the centre of each flower, this project is ideal for intermediate stitchers who are confident with the details of a large project. It's a great chance to get to grips with French knots – take a look at our video tutorial at www.cross-stitching.com/how-to/tv for a

Factbox

- ✦ **Stitching Time**
Approx. 70 hours
- ✦ **Type of Stitches**
Cross stitch, fractionals, backstitch, French knots
- ✦ **Ease of Stitching**
Intermediate

Master French knots

refresher if you need one!

A pretty pastel mount and fresh white frame beautifully show off the colours in the scene while not overpowering them, for a stunning finish. Get stitching, and it'll be well worth it to display this uplifting design for a bit of sunshine all year long. ➤



Meet the designer

Kate Knight

"I'm a lover of the great outdoors, and often find myself inspired by the flora and fauna around me. This design feels so bright and inviting to stitch, with lots of details to capture your attention. I hope you enjoy it!"



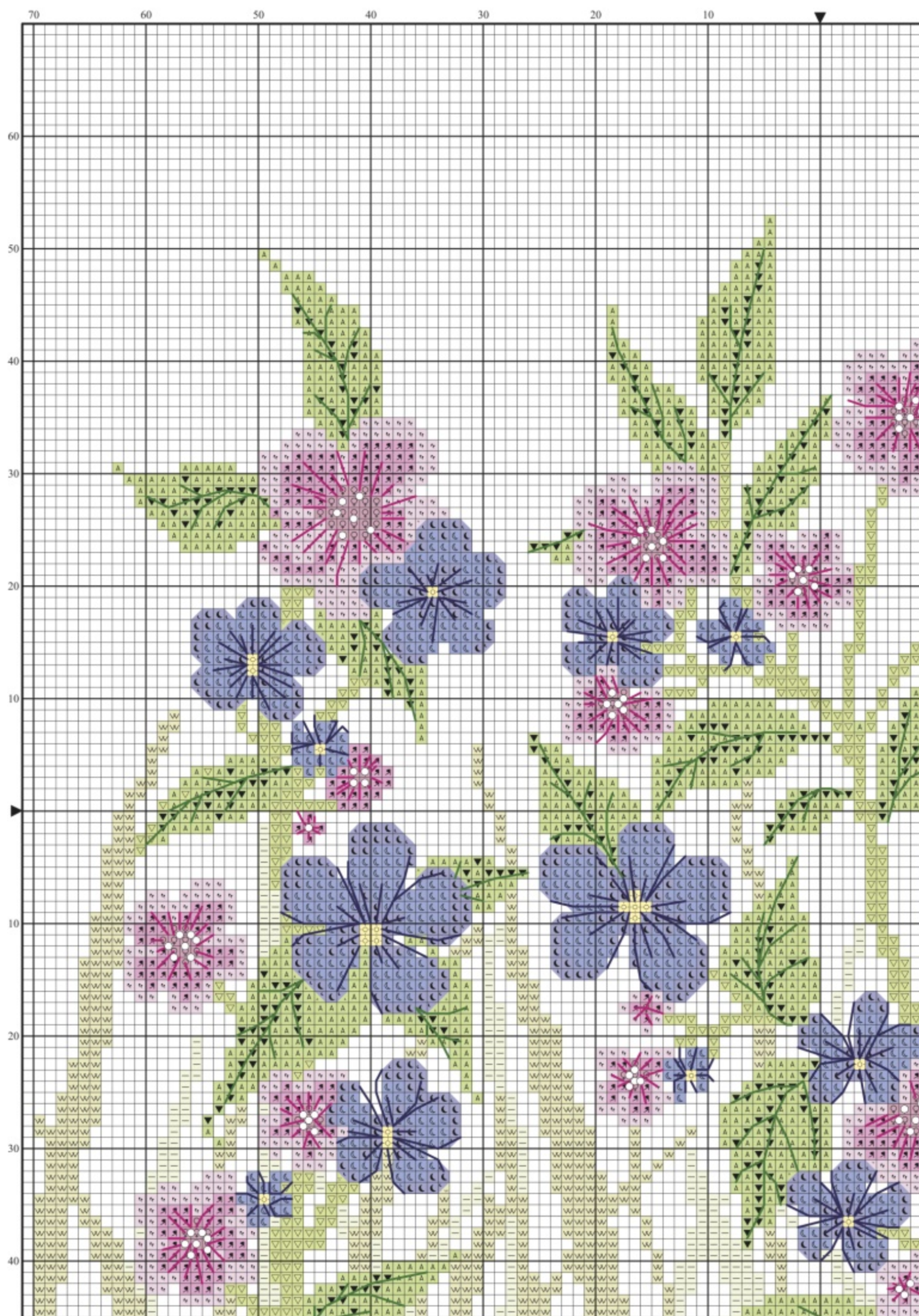
Kate Knight

NEW
SEASON
STYLE!



∞
Bright blooms and
a vibrant butterfly
are the perfect
pairing in this
gorgeous country
scene





Butterfly & Blooms chart (top left)



Butterfly & Blooms chart (top right)

Marnie READER PANEL



“ This pretty meadow scene is lovely. This design would be perfect for my daughter, Miss Lilli, so I would love to stitch this design for her bedroom. ”

Shopping list

- ✕ Zweigart* 14-count white aida measuring 36x36cm (14x14in)
- ✕ Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- ✕ Size 24 tapestry needle
- ✕ Frame and mount of your choice with a minimum aperture measuring 25.5x25.5cm (10x10in)

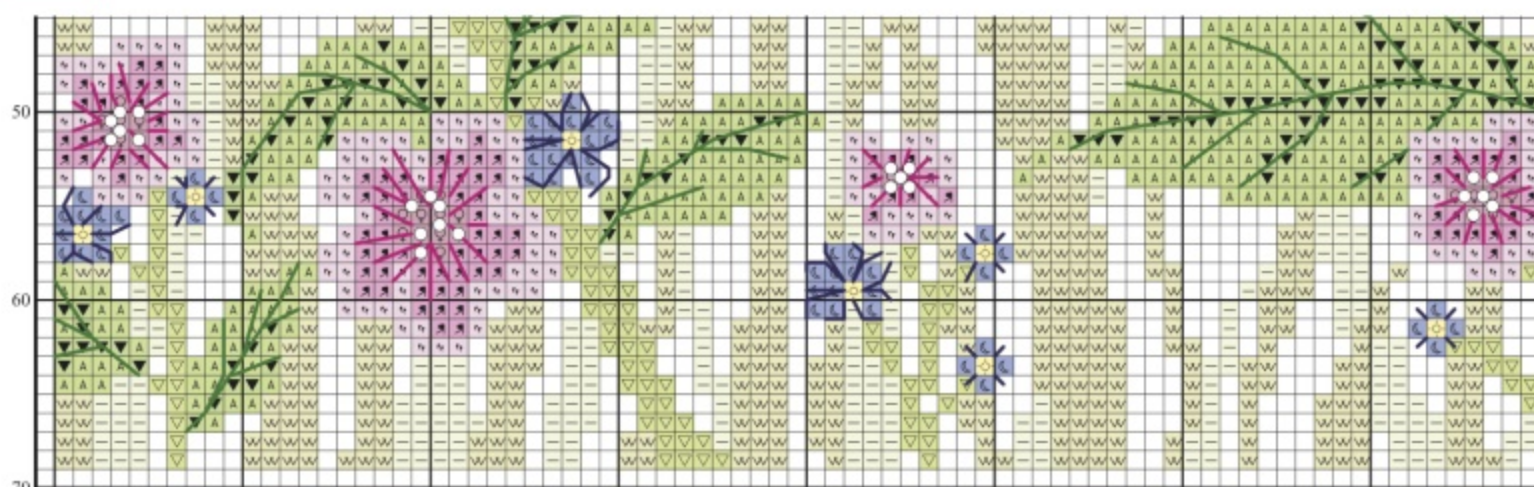
Thread & fabric cost
Approximately £20

*For stockists see page 90

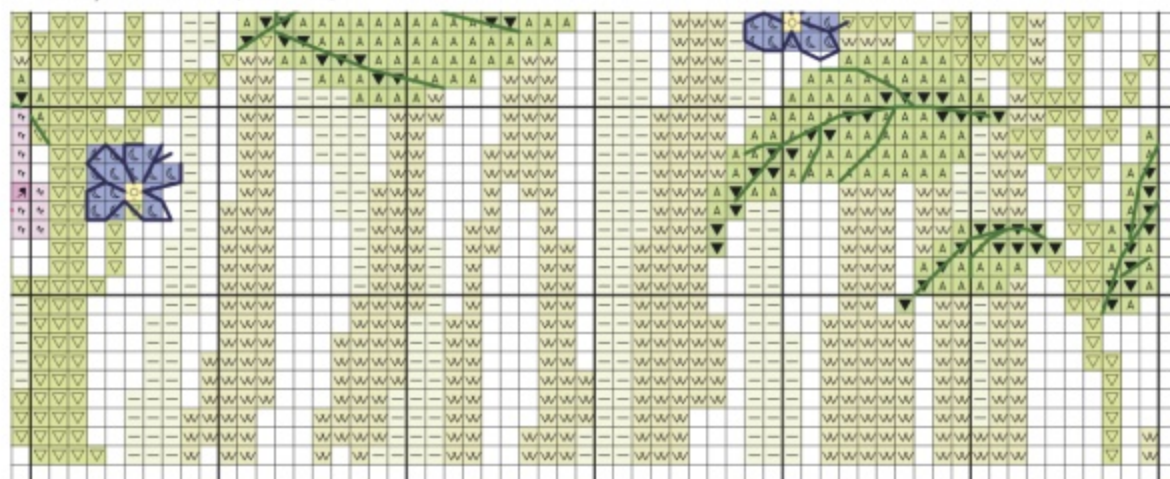


TOP TIP

Stitch a few of the flowers and leaves on their own to create a gorgeous matching greetings card



Butterfly & Blooms chart (bottom left)



Butterfly & Blooms chart (bottom right)



Get creative

We've framed our beautiful butterfly scene, but you might like to try a different finish if your walls are getting full of pictures! How about making a stunning cushion with some fresh, floral fabric to complement your stitching? Here we used 'White Daisy on Pink, Summer Loft' from the Ring a Roses collection by Gutermann*.

Visit www.cross-stitching.com for more making-up ideas. From lovely hangings to practical doorstops, there are loads of projects to inspire you. And don't forget to write to us to share pictures of your finished work! You'll find the address on page 17.



Butterfly & Blooms key

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
○	blanc	2	2402	white
◐	210	108	802	lilac
◑	211	342	801	light lilac
☀	307	289	104	yellow
◓	472	253	1414	lettuce green
◔	550	102	714	dark mauve
◕	702	226	1306	dark green
◖	703	238	1307	green
◗	704	255	1308	light green
◘	718	88	707	dark pink
◙	772	259	1604	very light green
◚	797	139	913	blue
◛	798	131	912	light blue
◜	3607	87	708	pink
◝	3608	86	709	light pink

✕ Backstitch in one strand

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
—	blanc	2	2402	white
—	550	102	714	dark mauve
—	700	229	1302	very dark green
—	718	88	707	dark pink
—	796	134	914	dark blue

✕ French knots in one strand

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
○	blanc	2	2402	white

STITCH COUNT 138 high x 140 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 25x25.5cm (10x10in)

This design was stitched using DMC stranded cotton

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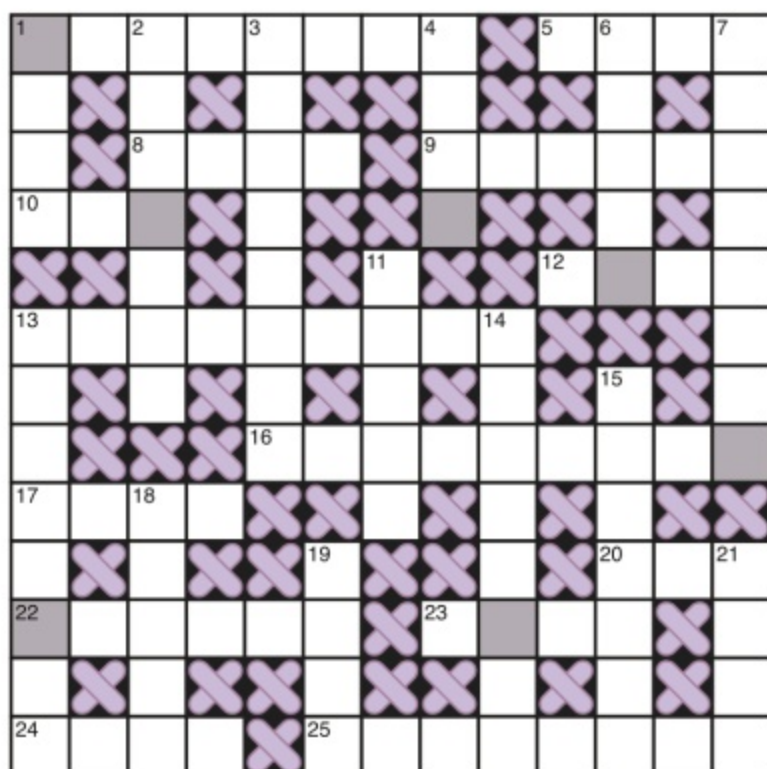
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ACROSS

- 1 Thin Mexican pancake (8)
- 5 Dull steady pain (4)
- 8 Small secluded valley (4)
- 9 Sitting room (6)
- 10 Hot drink (3)
- 12 Wet earthy substance used by a potter (4)
- 13 Yellow wild flower (9)
- 16 Building inhabited by a religious community (9)
- 17 Young cow (4)
- 20 Mischievous fairy (3)
- 22 Concentrate on hearing something (6)
- 23 Formal dress (4)
- 24 Rubber rim of a wheel (4)
- 25 Delay until a future time (8)

DOWN

- 1 Open pastry pie (4)
- 2 Series of boat races (7)
- 3 Frozen dessert (3,5)
- 4 Unite by treaty (4)
- 6 Waterway used by barges (5)
- 7 Ordinary, routine (8)
- 11 Pleasant landscape view (5)
- 13 Piece of jewellery (8)
- 14 Travel document (8)
- 15 Keepsake (7)
- 18 Person who fails to win (5)
- 19 Break in two (4)
- 21 Counterfeit, not genuine (4)

TO ENTER Use the letters in the shaded squares to spell a characteristic valued in a friend (7)

WIN! Furry Tales Prize

Father's Day mouse key

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	blanc	2	2402	white
e	209	98	803	lilac
I	210	108	802	light lilac
b	436	1045	2011	dark tan
o	437	362	2012	tan
N	739	366	2014	light tan
w	754	1012	305	dark peach
■	844	1041	1809	grey
•	948	892	306	peach
□	3755	140	1013	blue
J	3841	9159	1001	light blue

✕ Backstitch in one strand

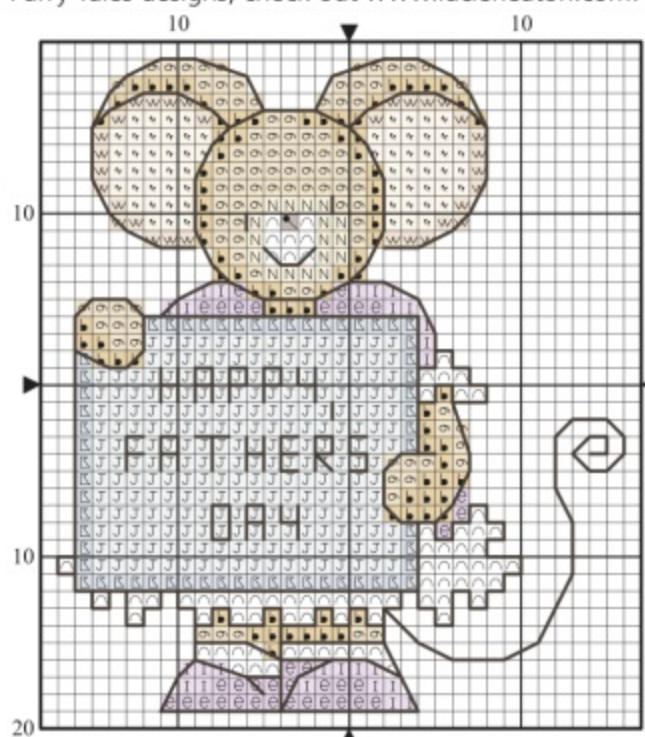
	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
—	844	1041	1809	grey

STITCH COUNT 38 high x 33 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 7x6cm (2¾x2½in)

This design was stitched using DMC stranded cotton

Each month one crossword winner gets an original print of Monty Mouse plus a limited-edition Titch chart, both by Lucie Heaton. To find more adorable Furry Tales designs, check out www.lucieheaton.com!



PRIZES WORTH £300

Light of day

The Twist Portable LED Lamp (D35700) by Daylight* gives high contrast and accurate colour matching – perfect for evenings spent stitching. The twistable shade also lets you

position the light where you need it. This fantastic lamp is worth £75, and we have four to be won – good luck!

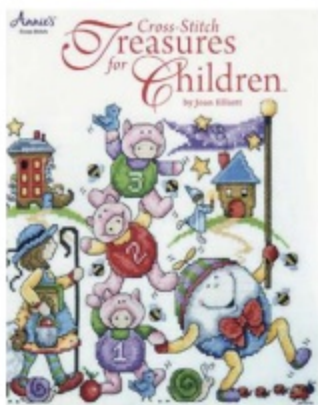


TO ENTER To enter by text message use keyword 'WOXS229LAMP' or if you're entering by post, please label your entry 'Daylight lamp giveaway (WOXS229)'.

PRIZES WORTH £252

Joan's pick

If giving gifts is one of your favourite things, then this fabulous collection of designs from award-winning designer Joan Elliott* is sure to come in handy! Joan is giving away her book *Cross Stitch Treasures for Children*, containing 27 cheerful designs to stitch for little ones, plus four fabulous chart packs – 'Kittens and Flower Pots', 'The Rainbow Trail', 'Rose Goddess' and



'Wisdom of the East'. There's something for everyone, and we have five of these goodie packs up for grabs, which are worth £50.40 each!



TO ENTER To enter by text message use keyword 'WOXS229TREASURES' or if you're entering by post, please label your entry 'Joan Elliott collection giveaway (WOXS229)'.

PRIZES WORTH £255

MAGICAL WONDERLAND STITCH

Get your needle stuck into this enchanting new design from Bothy Threads*. A must-stitch for fans of classic literature, 'Alice In Wonderland' (XFT4) is worked on 14-count hand-dyed Zweigart aida using black stranded cotton for a silhouette effect. With a finished size of 36x26cm (14x10 1/4 in), the kit costs £31.99, but we have eight magical kits to give away.

TO ENTER To enter by text message use keyword 'WOXS229ALICE' or if you're entering by post, please label your entry 'Bothy Threads giveaway (WOXS229)'.



PRIZES WORTH £252

Snip to it!

Fantastic scissors like these by Tonic Studios* are just what we all need in our kit, right? Handy thread snips will make short work of straggly ends, while pinking shears are just the ticket for creating fancy edges on aida patches, and every cross stitcher should have a pair of embroidery scissors. We have seven sets of all three, worth £36 per set, up for grabs!

TO ENTER To enter by text message use keyword 'WOXS229SCISSORS' or if you're entering by post, please label your entry 'Tonic Studios giveaway (WOXS229)'.



HOW TO ENTER

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By text: Text FURRY229 followed by the mystery word, your name and postal address to 87474 eg. FURRY229 Mystery, Name, 123 Any Rd, Anytown AB1 C23. Texts will be charged at 50p plus your standard network tariff rate.

By post: Write your name, address and the mystery word on the back of a postcard or stuck-down envelope and send it to: Crossword WOXS229 Immediate Media Co, 2nd Floor, Tower House, Fairfax Street, Bristol BS1 3BN. **Terms & conditions** as far right except for: closing date for entries is 26 May 2015. One winning entry will be chosen at random from all eligible entries.

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*For stockists see page 90

TEXT ALL229 TO 87474 TO ENTER ALL FOUR GIVEAWAYS FOR £1.50! **

Pet of the month

We know you're huge fans of pets, so why not have us design a cross stitch of a beloved animal?



Design my pet!

Q Could you design me a boxer dog please? I have an 18-month-old called Joey and she is my world – I couldn't live without her! Thank you.

Catherine, via email

A Durene says: The boxer is a gentle giant – a strong, muscular dog with a surprisingly sweet temperament, and I decided to focus on this gentle nature by giving my pooch a slightly submissive pose. Looking up at us from this position, I think she looks particularly cute and cuddly! Technically, a boxer is still a puppy until she is three years old, so Joey is definitely classed as a pup. Hopefully I've managed to capture a good likeness for you, Catherine. I hope too that it'll be a fun stitch for fellow stitcher Rita Wood, who also wrote in with a request for me to create her a boxer.

For the shadow detail I've used pink to reflect Joey's gender, but you can easily change this to blue, or to a more gender-neutral shade if you prefer. A sharp needle will really help you with the backstitch outlines. It looks great mounted in an embroidery hoop and then displayed with a matching colour ribbon.

Shopping list

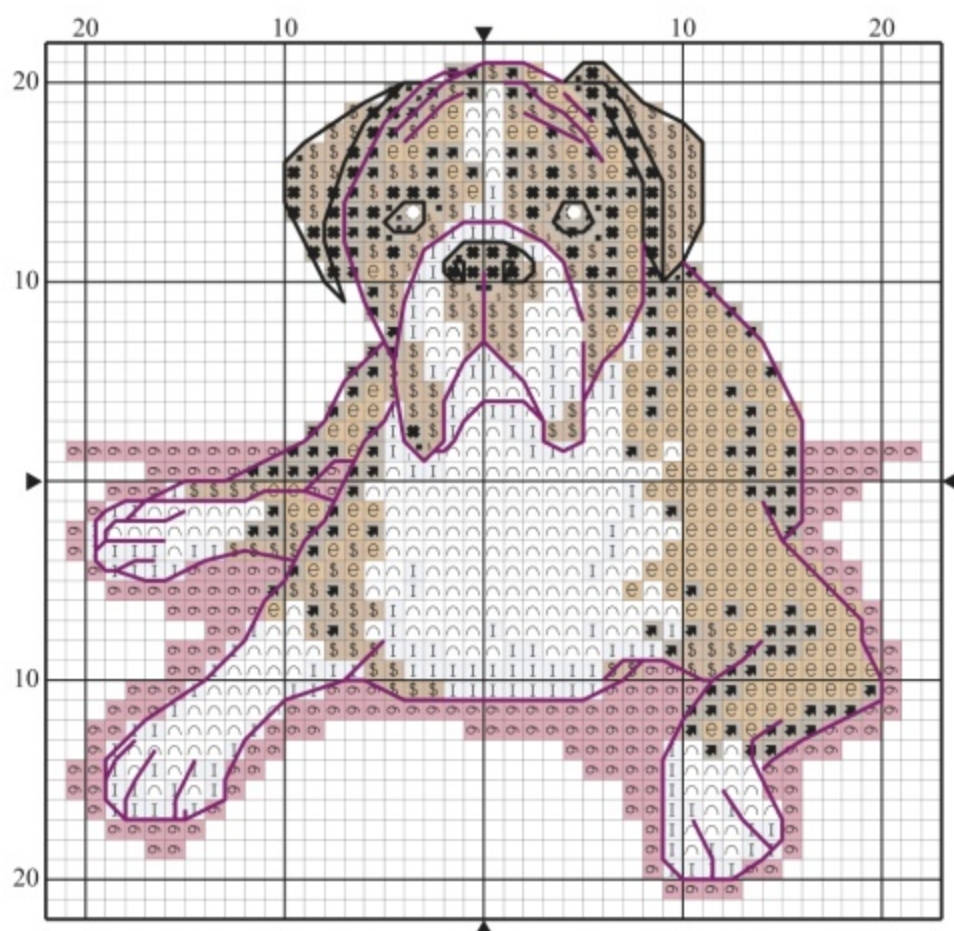
- ✕ Zweigart* 14-count white aida measuring 13x13cm (5x5in)
- ✕ Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- ✕ Size 24 tapestry needle
- ✕ Wooden hoop measuring 10cm (4in), available from The Craft Department*
- ✕ Ribbon of choice

Thread & fabric cost
Approximately £10

*For stockists see page 90

Fun facts about boxers

- **Bred as** fighting and hunting hounds in the 19th century they were prized for their strength and alertness.
- **In WWII** boxers were used as messenger dogs in the trenches.
- **Boxers were** bred from a now extinct German dog breed named Bullenbeisser and English bulldogs.
- **Because of** their playful nature (they love being cuddled) and boundless energy, they are sometimes called the "Peter Pan" of the dog breeds.



TOP TIP

- Personalise your perfect pooch design with their name – use a small backstitch alphabet to plot the details, centrally below the pattern!

Factbox

- ✦ **Stitching Time**
Approx. 6 hours
- ✦ **Type of Stitches**
Cross stitch, fractionals, backstitch, French knots
- ✦ **Ease of Stitching**
Beginner

Easy realistic shading

Boxer key

✦ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	blanc	2	2402	white
■	433	357	2602	dark tan
e	435	1046	2010	tan
I	762	234	1804	grey
■	3021	905	1904	dark smoke grey
■	3733	75	605	pink
\$	3781	1088	2003	grey brown

✦ Backstitch in one strand

—	310	403	2400	black
—	839	1050	1913	dk mink brown

✦ French knots in one strand

○	blanc	2	2402	white
---	-------	---	------	-------

STITCH COUNT 42 high x 43 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 7.5x8cm (3x3in)

This design was stitched using DMC stranded cotton

More pet ideas

British bulldog

Dog lovers will adore this classic poochy portrait from Anchor*, priced at £11.15. 'Bulldog' (PCE223) is a kit with 18-count



white aida and the design includes both fractional stitches and backstitch. It measures in at 11x8cm (4¼x3in) – a small picture that's really big on personality!

Rainbow bright

'Tilt cat' is a striking abstract

design, using over 40 colours in whole stitches with a stitch count of 227x182! By Yiota's XStitch*, the kit comes with a choice of fabrics, from £46.45

(14-count aida) to £50.45 (28-count evenweave), including pre-sorted threads on bobbins.



YOUR VERY OWN PET DESIGN

Furry, feathered, scaly? Send all your animal design requests in to Durene!

Email us at:
letters@cross-stitching.com

Write to:
Pet of the Month, The World of Cross Stitching, Immediate Media Co, 2nd floor, Tower House, Fairfax Street, Bristol, BS1 3BN

Durene will try get to everyone's requests in turn, but if you're working to a specific deadline then do let us know!

DESIGNS BY **RHONA NORRIE**

Say it with stitches

Make every morning a positive start to the day, by hanging these inspirational phrases in your home

Simple yet effective, these stylish little mini canvases from Rhona Norrie are the perfect accessory for any wall. Sometimes we all need a reminder to look on the positive side of life, and what better way to communicate that than by using the beauty of cross stitch?

Each design uses different typography and has a pretty border detail to bring the wise words into focus. They're both fractional-free, so once your whole cross stitch is done, there's just a bit of backstitch on one of the patterns. What's more, with just seven different thread shades in total, after you pick up your needle you'll be finished in no time at all. You can easily complete both in a week, or

Factbox

- ✦ **Stitching Time**
Approx. 10 hours each
- ✦ **Type of Stitches**
Cross stitch, backstitch
- ✦ **Ease of Stitching**
Beginner

Finish
one in a
weekend!

even over a weekend... if you're lucky enough to have a little spare time and some peace and quiet!

In fact, they're so easy to stitch, why not make them as gifts for friends and family, too? After all, you should always 'live the life you love', and if that means cross stitching whenever you can, so be it! ➤



Meet the designer

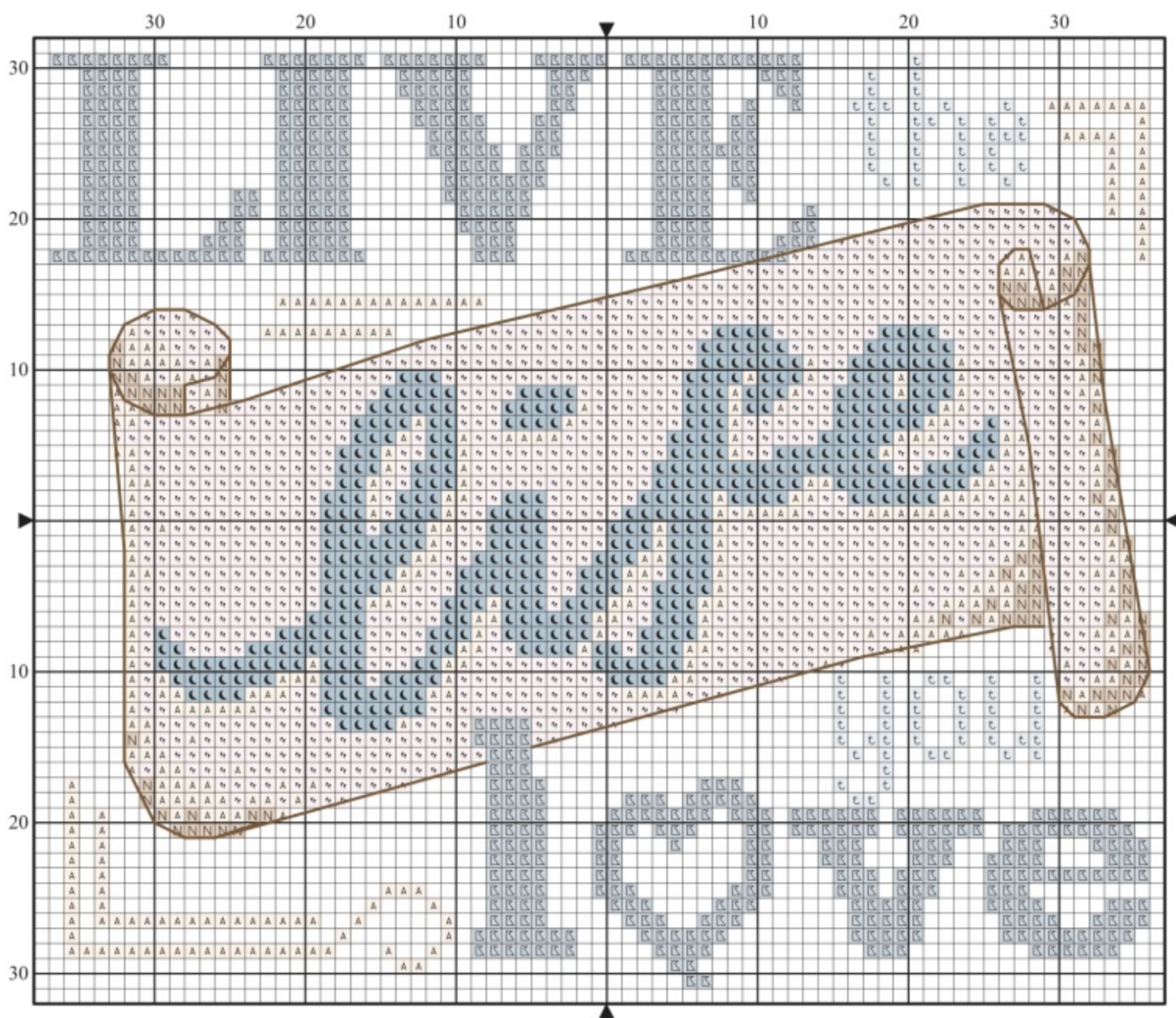
Rhona Norrie

"Sometimes it can seem like there aren't enough hours in the day, and time flies by – often with us wishing it away, as we look forward to the weekend, or an event. These remind us to live in the moment."



STITCH
SWEET
GIFTS

Treasure every moment of stitching these sweet canvases, as they're sure to bring happiness for years to come



Live Life chart



How to...

finish off your
work as a canvas



1 Measure your canvas
frame and mark the halfway points along each edge. Join up the points in

pencil to make a cross on your frame. Use a pin to push through the central point of your cross stitched image – the point where the two '0' grid lines cross on the chart. Push the pin through the centre of the cross on the frame. Now trim the fabric, leaving 5cm (2in) around the frame's edge.



2 Staple the fabric once in the centre of the top bar. Move to the centre of the bottom bar, pulling the

fabric tight, and place the central staple. Keep checking the design placement is correct and repeat, stapling in each of the side bars. Return to the top and staple either side of the original, leaving 2cm ($\frac{3}{4}$ in) between each staple. Repeat on the bottom and sides, pulling fabric taut.



3 To finish
the corners
neatly, grip
the corner of
the piece of
stitching and
pull towards
the opposite

corner. This will create a flap of fabric on either side. Fold each of these in towards the point that you are pulling and secure with a single staple. Repeat with the other three corners and trim excess fabric. To hang it, make a loop by stapling a piece of ribbon or cord to the top edge.

Words of Wisdom key

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
N	407	914	2312	beige
█	813	140	910	blue
◐	826	146	906	dark blue
◑	827	160	1013	light blue
A	950	4146	2309	peach
◐	3712	1023	406	pink
◑	3770	1009	2314	light peach

✕ Backstitch in one strand

—	407	914	2312	beige
---	-----	-----	------	-------

MAXIMUM STITCH COUNT 63 high x 75 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 11.5x13.5cm (4½x5¼in)

These designs were stitched using DMC stranded cotton

TOP TIP

Count your stitches twice to avoid making mistakes and having to unpick your work

Shopping list

- ✕ Zweigart* 14-count white aida measuring 23x27cm (9x10½in)
- ✕ Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- ✕ Size 24 tapestry needle
- ✕ Art canvases measuring 18x13cm (7x5in), available from your local craft store

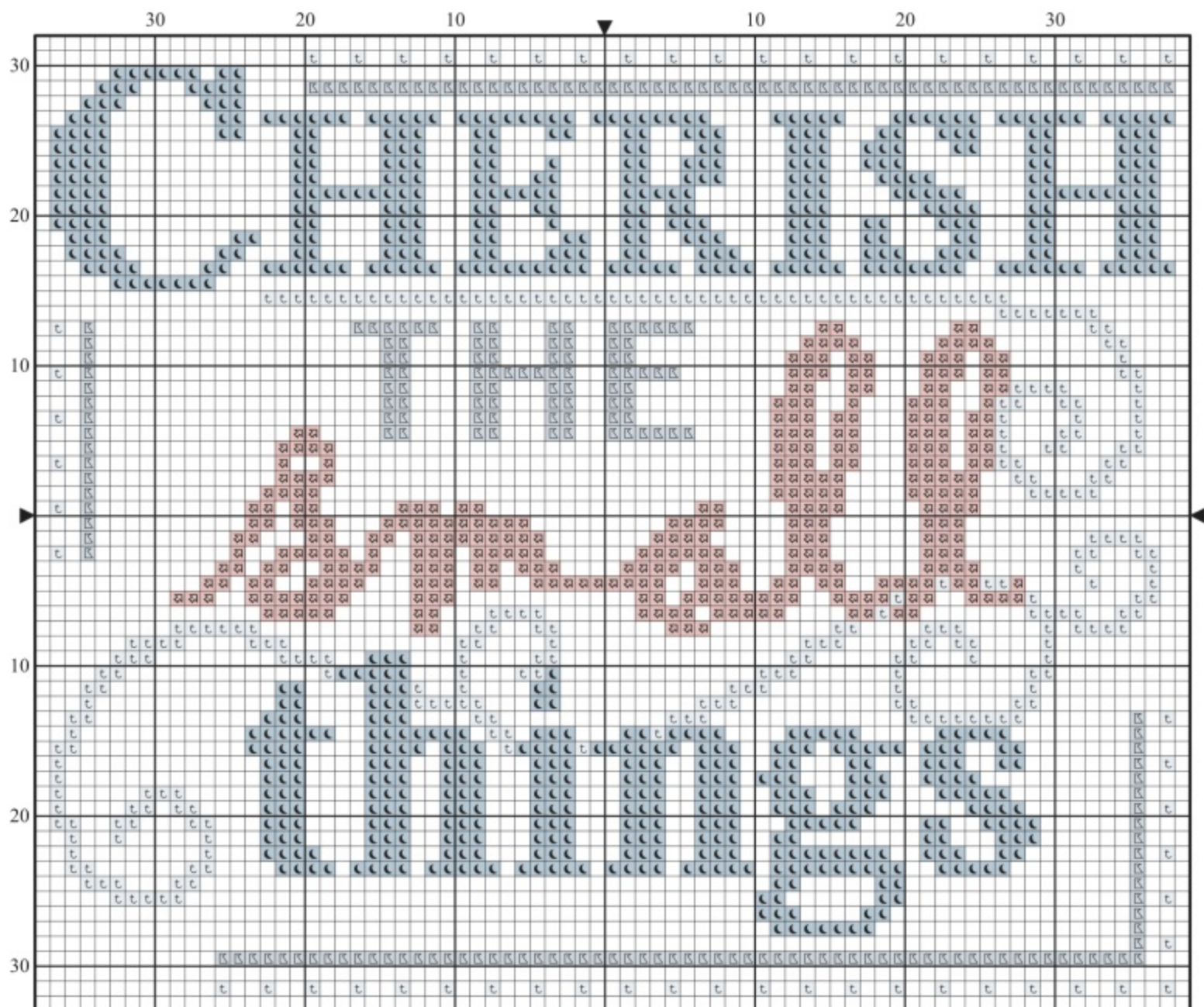
Thread & fabric cost
Approximately £10

*For stockists see page 90

Emma
READER PANEL



“Quotes are all the fashion, and I love stitching ones with different fonts. My brother-in-law and his wife have just got their first home, and they love motivational quotes, so I would love to stitch these for them to decorate their new house.”



Cherish chart

Stockists

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Where to buy your start-up kit – turn to page 96 to see exactly what you'll need

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set,
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How to...

Your beginner's guide to instant stitching success with Anne!



Stitching's a breeze!
Let Senior Technical Editor
Anne show you how it's
done, in this guide

CHOOSE YOUR ESSENTIALS...

Start with these must-have items

1. FABRICS

Begin with either aida or evenweave.

Aida is best for beginners, with regular woven blocks and obvious holes. It's stiffer than evenweave, but will soften slightly as you work. 14-count aida is the most common. It's harder to work fractional stitches on aida, as you'll need to make an extra hole in the fabric, in the centre of the aida block.

Evenweave is a lovely fabric to work on when you have a little more experience. The fibres aren't woven in blocks as with aida, so it's softer and the fine weave has more threads-per-inch – the most commonly used is 28-count. One stitch is usually worked over two threads of the fabric so it has an equivalent design size of 14-count aida. Cross stitching fractional stitches is easier on evenweave, as there's a central hole spare so you don't need to split a block as for aida.



Fabric choices: Aida (left) with obvious holes is better for beginners. Evenweave (right) has a finer weave: see our video at www.cross-stitching.com

2. THREADS

You'll need **stranded cotton** – this coloured thread comes in 8m skeins and is made up of six strands. The count of your fabric will determine the number of strands you use in your needle. Typically for 14-count aida you'll use two strands for cross stitch and just one strand for backstitch. This is indicated in the key or instructions for your project. There are three main brands – DMC, Anchor and Madeira – which are all smooth and easy



to stitch with, and are colourfast to 95°C. Cheaper brands are available, but they're less durable and may not be colourfast.

3. NEEDLES

To cross stitch, use a **tapestry needle**, which has a blunt tip and larger eye than a regular sewing needle. It easily passes through the fibres of aida and evenweave. Different needle sizes are available, with varying lengths and widths, so choose the best for your fabric – see our handy guide. Other needles are useful too... try a fine beading needle for adding bead accents. You may also prefer a sharp-tipped embroidery (or crewel) needle to split aida blocks when stitching fractional stitches.

Tapestry needle	Aida	Evenweave
	6-count	
	8-count	
	11-count	22, 25 & 27-count
	14-count	28-count
	16-count	32-count*
	18-count	36 & 55-count
18 20 22 24 26 28		

*Also includes 22-count Hardanger

START CROSS STITCHING...

Make sure you hit the mark first time, every time with our top tips!

✗ **Choose your project...** With our Factbox guide in every one of our projects, you can make sure you choose the right level for you. Absolute beginners should aim for a design without fractional stitches.

✗ **Buy your materials...** To make sure your design looks great, use our Shopping List for each project, which specifies everything needed, like size of fabric and finishing materials. Using another fabric with different HPI, will give a different finished size of design. Calculate your fabric requirements like this: Stitch count divided by HPI of 'new' fabric choice = new size in inches. Add at least 10cm (4in) on each dimension to allow for mounting, or less for cards.

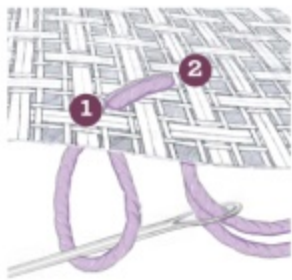
✗ **Get ready...** We always recommend starting in the centre of a design and working outwards. Our charts are marked with two centre arrows so find a symbol close to the centre and begin there.

✗ **Get set...** Find the corresponding centre of your fabric by folding in half and half again. The point where the folds cross corresponds to the centre so this is where your central stitch should go.

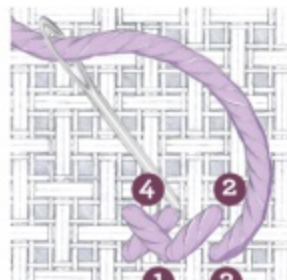
✗ **Get stitching...** Begin your stitches in two strands of thread with a loop start for the neatest way to get going. It uses one double-length (80cm) strand with both ends threaded together. See our diagrams for how to stitch. Finish threads by weaving the left-over 'tail' under a few stitches at the back.

How to stitch

Tackle the basic stitches in our charts...



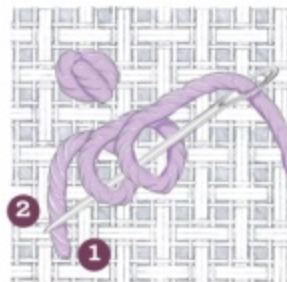
Loop start With both ends of a strand threaded, bring your needle up (1), leaving a loop at the back. Work the first arm of your stitch (2) and secure it by passing your needle through the loop.



Cross stitch Bring the needle up at the bottom left corner (1) and down in the top right (2) for the first 'arm' of the stitch. To work the second arm, come up in the bottom right (3) and down in the top left (4).



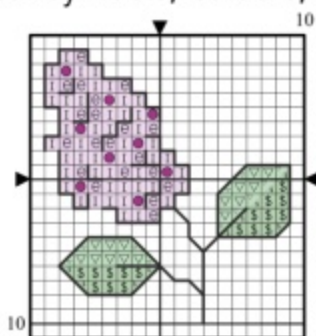
Backstitch Add detail and definition. Bring your needle up at (1) and down at (2), come up again at (3), then back down at (1) and so on, to direct each stitch 'back' towards the line of the growing backstitch.



French knots Easy with practise – come up in the fabric (1), keep thread taut and wrap twice around the needle. Push the needle down, close by, but not in the same hole (2). Split the aida block for a neat knot.

How to read our keys

Clear symbols, colours, & all the info you need!



Symbols

Look for a symbol close to the chart centre – the arrows on our charts easily show the centre so you won't need to count! Find this symbol in the key. The codes in that row show which thread shades to use for cross stitching blocks with this symbol.

Thread brands

The thread shades are listed in separate columns for the different manufacturer brands of thread. For best results, you should stick to one manufacturer for the whole of a design.

Backstitch & French knot shades

The shades used for these are listed under the cross stitch symbols. The number of strands needed for these can vary, so make sure you check how many to use, as specified in the key.

Lilac key

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
e	209	98	803	dark lilac
I	210	108	802	lilac
\$	911	205	1214	green
▽	913	204	1212	light green

✕ Backstitch in one strand

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

✕ French knots in one strand

●	211	342	801	light lilac
---	-----	-----	-----	-------------

STITCH COUNT 19 high x 17 wide
DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 3.5x3cm (1¼x1¼in)

This design was stitched using DMC stranded cotton

Stitch count & Design area

The finished size of your design – in stitches and on a particular fabric. HPI stands for 'holes per inch'.

FRACTIONAL STITCHES

Fractionals let you create rounded edges



Quarter

The chart shows which corner has the fractional. Bring the needle up in that corner and down in the centre of the square, halfway across the diagonal (diagram 1).



Three-quarters

Work a quarter stitch, then, a half stitch across the other diagonal arm of the square as in diagram 2. Like quarters, three-quarters stitches can face any direction.



Two symbols

When two symbols share a square, work a fractional in each colour. Decide on the quarter stitch for the background colour, then a three-quarters stitch for the main one (diagram 3).



Back-to-back

For a stronger outline, work a three-quarter stitch in each colour, stitching them back-to-back (diagram 4). Make sure that the two half stitch arms lie neatly parallel to each other.

Jargon buster!

Use our A-Z of cross stitch to know what's what...

Afghan – a woollen blanket with areas inset for cross stitching, often used for baby designs

Aida band – a narrow strip of aida, available in varying widths, and finished with a decorative edge

Aperture – a hole through which a design is seen in cards or frames

Backstitch – used to add detail and definition. See how to stitch it in our diagram above!

Beading needle – a longer, finer needle than a tapestry needle, used for adding seed beads to a design

Counted stitches – embroidery stitches worked on counted, or evenly woven, fabrics like aida and evenweave. Cross stitch is the most basic counted stitch

Floss – USA term for stranded cotton

Fractional stitches – made from either

a quarter or three-quarters of a cross stitch, these allow you to create 'rounded' edges. See how to make these in our diagrams above!

Half stitch – made up of only one half (one 'arm') of a cross stitch, it gives less dense coverage so an overall lighter effect in the design

Hoop – a wooden or spring-mounted plastic circular frame that holds your fabric taut while

working a design

Longstitch – long backstitches, crossing larger fabric distances

Metallic threads – similar to stranded cottons, these have a metallic finish for shine and sparkle

Perforated paper – toughened paper with a tiny grid of holes, which can be used for stitching instead of fabric

Plastic canvas – plastic alternative to

fabric which won't fray when cut

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

Soluble aida – temporary fabric which, like waste canvas, is used to add cross stitching to non-counted fabrics, and then dissolved away in water afterwards

Stitching over two – term used to describe stitching over two threads of the weave of

an evenweave fabric

Variegated thread – specific type of stranded cotton, in which the colour changes along the length of the thread for a shaded effect

Waste canvas – loosely woven fabric, held together with soluble glue. Used to add designs to clothing and other non-counted fabrics before being moistened and the fibres withdrawn with tweezers

Ruth's STITCHING WORLD

For a place to put your feet up and find some fun & stitchy chat, look no further...

Step back in time... I'm lucky enough to have been given a big bag of vintage embroidered linens. Unwanted by a neighbour who had inherited them, she thought of me as she knows I'm a stitcher.

What a treat to explore all the hard work of decades ago, and to rediscover these handmade homewares, much loved by families past. Tablecloths, napkins, hankies and dressing table mats... practical 'ordinary' items, yet all beautifully decorated – I'm sure they'd have all been special to someone. It's fun to imagine everyday life with so many stunningly stitched bouquets and crinoline ladies!

I'm inspired to stitch pretty and useful homewares for my family mealtimes. Personalised napkins... Heirlooms of the future, perhaps? For now, I'll make the most of these vintage pieces. Worth nothing to some, I can't wait to see the hours of effort (some neat, some not so neat!) go to good use. The upcycled bunting and patchwork cushions I've pinned on our Pinterest board are great inspiration. (See

"I love the idea of repurposing these once-treasured stitcheries!"

www.pinterest.com/worldofxs for more ideas.) What about you... have you inherited any treasured pieces, embroidered by family members?



My Pinterest Picks



Have you got the Pinterest bug yet? Here are three hot ideas I've spotted and pinned to our boards... Find these and lots more, when you visit us: www.pinterest.com/worldofxs

Vintage style: Such beautiful projects, and clever stitchwork



Pretty decor: Made into bunting, these linens live another day!



Upcycling idea: Tablecloth sections made into fab make-up bags

Sudoku

Fill the grid so each row, column & 3x3 box has numbers one to nine

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

WHAT'S HOT

Rescuing vintage linens to give them a new lease of life...

WHAT'S NOT

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2.0" - 2½"	51 - 64mm	Size 2
2½" - 3¼"	64 - 78 mm	Size 3
3¼" - 3¾"	78 - 91 mm	Size 4
3¾" - 4½"	91 - 105mm	Size 5

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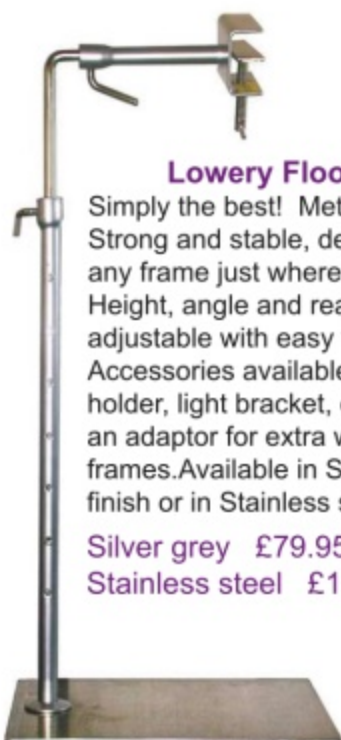
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Topiary Rose by Valerie Pfeiffer
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