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EXCLUSIVE

Bubbles at BATHTIME

deb

* Sampler * Spring countryside * Wishing well * For the home *



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Welcome

Armed with a cross stitch chart, needle and a few threads, I love that I can create a piece of art (plus enjoy a spot of relaxation as well). I'm sure you feel the same, so we've plenty of ideas in this issue to do just that! Warm loved ones' hearts... give your home a one-off look... **Where will you start?**

For something cute, it has to be Helz Cuppleditch's **sweetie-pie mice** on page 10. This bathtime baby is making us all say "ahh". And stitching it will be as much fun for you as the finished piece will be for the lucky recipient.

What about the **All Our Yesterdays garden sampler** – this exclusive is on page 26, and the motifs will be good for fast-finish cards too, I think. Same goes for the fun heart garland (p18). But first I'm freshening up my



bedroom, as I'll stitch this month's **free sachet kit** to pop in my wardrobe with a little lavender. So pretty!

Until next time, enjoy your stitching,

Ruth

Editor
The World of Cross Stitching

PS Don't miss our special treats for you! Save money with a subscription AND you'll get a **free Gorjuss kit** (p44), plus see our Reader Offer on page 25 and giveaways (p83).



Meet some of our designers...



HELZ CUPPLEDITCH

Helz's bubbly bathtime scene is made extra-magical with sweet shading and metallic threads for iridescent accents! See page 10 now and get started.



LISA REAKES

Mix and match! Easy whole stitches! What's not to like about Lisa's fun plastic canvas idea to create charming hearts bunting? Turn to page 18 now.



HELEN PHILIPPS

Look out for Helen's special Home Sweet Home sampler (p62). Her modern take on a classic is great for any home, and would be a fab house-warming gift.

10



26



71



18



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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YOUR FREE GIFTS!

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A gorgeous 'heart of roses' hanging sachet kit with everything you need



Free gifts available with print edition only



76 ROWS OF FLOWERS – FRESH AS SPRING

Subscribe and save money

Turn to page 44



Choose your **bonus cross stitch kit** from the adorable Santoro's Gorjuss collection by Bothy Threads

Subscription offer available to new UK subscribers only and with print edition only

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THE WORLD OF CROSS STITCHING (ISSN 1460-1970) is published 13 times a year by Immediate Media Bristol, LTD. Tower House, Fairfax Street, Bristol BS1 3BN UK. Distributed in the U.S. by Circulation Specialists, Inc. 2 Corporate Drive, Suite 945, Shelton, CT 06484. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The World of Cross Stitching, PO Box 37495, Boone, IA 50037-0495.

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enter & be lucky

OVER
£1,057 OF
PRIZES
WILL BE
WON!



- ✕ Get a sneak preview
- ✕ Appear in the magazine
- ✕ Receive a stichy gift

Meet our guests

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



Gillian
Kelk

is a newspaper
publisher from
Indiana, USA

First cross stitch project?

The first one since I really got serious about stitching was a massive fractal, done on black aida.

What is your idea of cross stitch heaven?

Sitting on the deck of my cabin with a cup of tea and listening to the hummingbirds and finches on the feeders while stitching.

Who do you like to stitch for?

Usually I just stitch for myself, but recently I have started making cards for various occasions.

Fave design from a recent issue?

I love doing Christmas projects so issue 221 is getting a workout right now. If I have to pick a fave design I would have to say the 'Tis The Season'.

"I find stichy people to be some of the most generous people"



Siri
Hjelsvold

is a student from
Gjøvik, Norway

How did you start stitching?

My grandmother left cross stitch kits when she passed away. It was a few years before I started one, but once I did, I was completely hooked.

Who're your stitching buddies?

My mother, her sister and her mother are all cross stitchers.

What's your proudest stitching moment?



My boyfriend cross stitched a picture for me as a present. It was made extra special by the fact that he learnt cross stitching just to make that picture.

What's been your favourite design from a recent issue?

I really loved the 'Three Wise Men' design from issue 222.

"I love the peace of mind cross stitching gives me"



Jacqui
Chamberlain

is a kitchen
porter from
Durham

How long have you been a cross stitcher?

I've been a cross stitcher since I was around 10. I loved the patterns my grandma used to do, so when I was old enough, she taught me how to stitch and I've been hooked ever since.

What are you stitching?

A butterfly cushion. There have been a few ups and downs, but it's coming along nicely and I can't wait to finish.

Which three words describe you best?

Perfectionist, loving and happy.

Favourite recent design from an issue?

My fave design was the 'Robins ABC' from issue 222. They are gorgeous and made my Christmas cards extra special.



"I enjoy making cards as they give that personal touch"

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!

The ultimate **stitching, knitting & crafting** shows!

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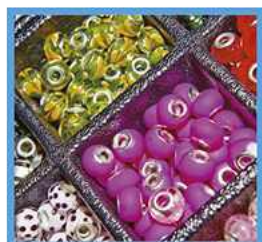
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Your FREE gift!

Stitch this gorgeous 'heart of roses' hanging sachet kit to add a stylish decorative touch to your home



Inside your kit...

To help you sort your threads, here is a list of the colours and number of lengths inside your free kit:

Pink x2

Light pink x3

Light green x2

Dark pink x2

Green x1

Total: 10 lengths

Floral sachet key

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

●	pink
♡	light pink
§	light green

✕ Backstitch in one strand

—	dark pink
—	green

STITCH COUNT 33 high x 36 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 6x6.5cm (2¼x2½in)

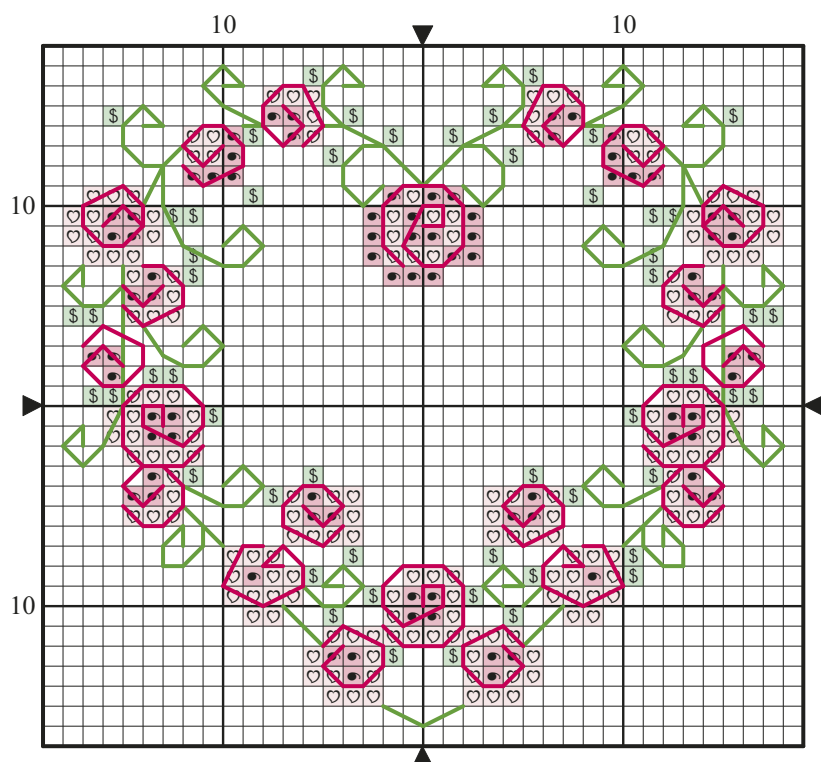
This design was stitched using stranded cotton from your coverkit



Meet the designer

Lesley Teare

"Stitch your way into spring with this beautiful roses design I created especially for you. The pretty pink roses will brighten up any home. Great as the sachet, it can also easily be made into a card for someone special."



Gillian READER PANEL



“I really like this design. It’s a simple idea that I could stitch over and over again and give to friends as a ‘just because’ gift. Because of the simple colour palette, it is easy to change the colours, too!”

Factbox

- ✕ **Stitching Time**
Approx. 4 hours
- ✕ **Type of Stitches**
Cross stitch, backstitch
- ✕ **Ease of Stitching**
Beginner

Fab
finishing
idea

How to...

make your hanging sachet

1 Draw a paper circle template 11cm (4½in) in diameter and place onto the stitched piece making sure that the stitching is central. Cut the circle out. Alternatively, you can download our circle template from the ‘Charts & Patterns’ section on our website at www.cross-stitching.com.

2 Cut a circle of the backing fabric using the same template. Hand- or machine-stitch around both pieces to prevent fraying.

3 Fold the ribbon piece in half to form a loop. Pin the ends of the ribbon at the top of the heart design, making sure the loop lies downwards.

4 Pin together the front and back circles, right sides facing and with the ribbon attached to the wrong side, so when you turn through it is on the inside of the sachet. With a 1cm (¼in) seam allowance, hand- or machine-stitch all the way around, leaving a small gap at the bottom open. Turn through and press flat.

5 Fill your decoration with the wadding, taking care to make sure it is evenly distributed. Pin the gap and slip stitch closed for a neat finish.



TOP TIP

Wherever possible each backstitch should be the same length as a cross stitch. This will give your stitching a neat finish

COMING UP NEXT MONTH

After the success of our calendar free with issue 221, adorable Bebbunni is back. Make this oh-so-sweet card, perfect for Mother’s Day or any happy occasion. With everything you need included in the kit, you can get started straight away and make a special card the lucky recipient will always treasure. Find issue 227 on sale 26 February.



DESIGN BY **HELZ CUPPLEDITCH**

Make a splash!

Nothing could be cuter than an adorable little mouse having a bath, so stitch this sweet scene for your water baby!



Everyone knows that a kid's bathtime wouldn't be complete without an excess of bubbles and toys – how else do you keep them distracted when you're cleaning behind their ears? So, this mummy mouse has made sure her little one has his rubber ducky and favourite boat, ready for sailing on those foamy seas when it's time to have a wash!

This colourful design is packed full of charm, like the loving look on baby's face as he gazes up to his mum. Worked in a variety of stitches, it has the extra technique element of Light Effects metallic thread to add iridescent shimmer to the bubbles. All in all, it's a great project for confident beginners or if you have bit more

Factbox

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

Metallic thread adds shine

experience then you'll breeze right through in a few weeks.

So much fun to stitch, this duo are a great addition to any bathroom wall, especially if you've got children – just make sure it's not hung within splashing distance! ➤



Meet the designer

Helz Cuppleditch

"Bathtime can often end up with more water on the floor than in the tub, so this cutie is definitely being well behaved! Whether you've got little ones of your own, or just love these sweet mice, I hope you'll enjoy my design."

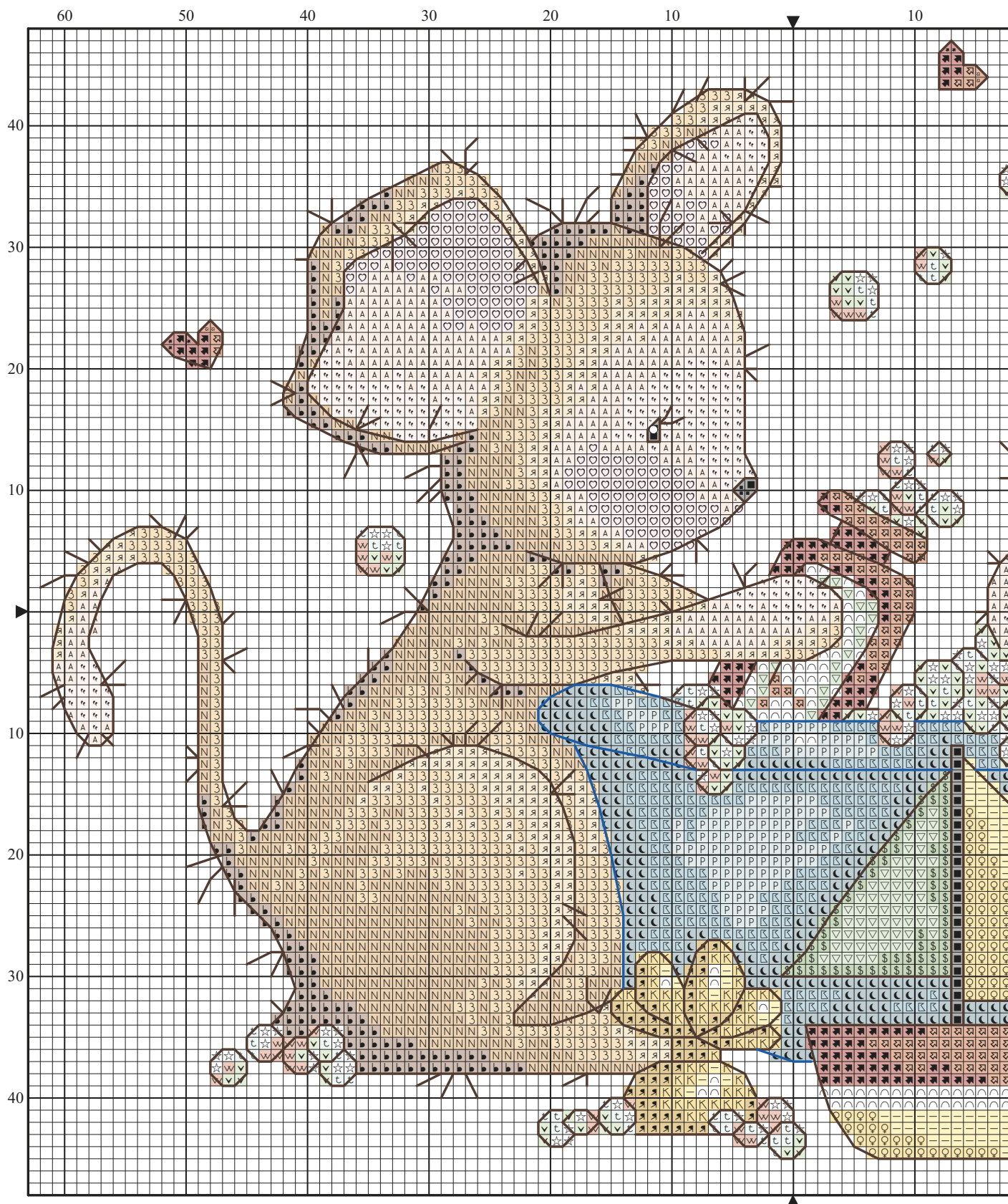


FULL
OF CUTE
APPEAL



Take time out to relax and unwind with this super-cute moment between mum and baby at bathtime!



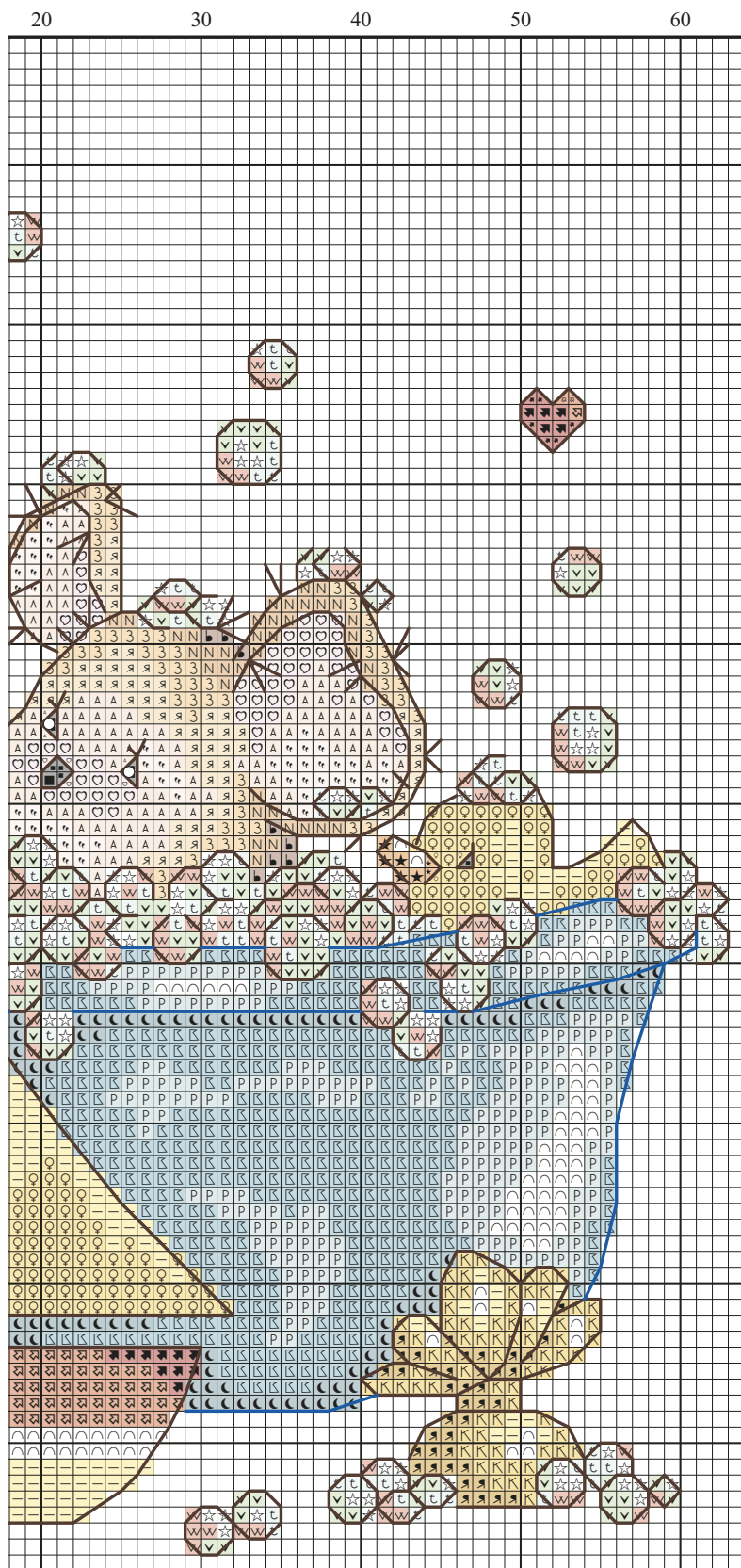


Bathtime Mice chart (left)



Jacqui READER PANEL

“These are so cute. I will really enjoy stitching this and it'd be perfect for my niece with the bright colours and adorable mice. I love the details in this design, from the rubber duck to the bubbles and the sail boat, they all add up to make this a really wonderful picture.”



Bathtime Mice chart (right)

TOP TIP

Minimise wear and tear on metallic thread by making sure you use a shorter length in the needle than you would for stranded cotton

Bathtime Mice key

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
○	blanc	2	2402	white
■	301	1049	2303	dark ginger
■	310	403	2400	black
■	350	11	213	red
■	352	9	303	coral
■	402	1047	2307	light ginger
■	721	324	308	orange
■	725	305	113	yellow
■	727	293	112	light yellow
■	728	307	107	gold
■	747	158	1104	blue
■	783	306	2509	dark gold
■	807	168	1108	dark turquoise
■	817	13	210	dark red
■	818	23	502	pink
■	912	209	1213	dark green
■	951	1010	2308	peach
■	954	203	1207	green
■	955	206	1210	light green
■	3761	928	1001	light turquoise
■	3766	167	1106	turquoise
■	3770	1009	2314	light peach
■	3776	1048	2306	ginger
■	3856	368	2309	dark peach

✕ Cross stitch in two strands DMC Light Effects

☆	E5200			metallic white
---	-------	--	--	----------------

✕ Backstitch in one strand

—	300	352	2304	brown
—	3765	169	2505	vy dark turquoise

✕ French knots in one strand

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

STITCH COUNT 94 high x 125 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 17x23cm (6¾x9in)

This design was stitched using DMC stranded cotton and DMC Light Effects

Shopping list

- ✕ Zweigart* 14-count white aida measuring 28x33cm (11x13in)
- ✕ Stranded cotton and metallic thread as listed in the key
- ✕ Size 24 tapestry needle
- ✕ Frame of your choice with a minimum aperture measuring 20x26cm (8x10¼in)

Thread & fabric cost

Approximately £28

*For stockists see page 90

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

LEARNING IS FUN

When I saw the calendar project in issue 219, I decided to create two, one for my two granddaughters Isabelle and Aveline and I'm working on another for my other granddaughter Franchesca. My son, his wife and of course Isabelle and Aveline were thrilled to bits with my effort when I gave it to them as a Christmas present.

Jeanette Smardon, Bristol

Ruth: *You did a great job Jeanette, the final project looks great!*



☒ **Learning is fun**
Jeanette, with finishing off help from her husband, made this magnetic calendar



Cushioned in love

Saw your magazine for the first time recently and just couldn't resist buying it, especially when I saw The Snowman and The Snowdog!

I have always loved cross stitch and passed down that passion to my eldest daughter. When she visited me last month from Malaysia, she brought along a stack of lovely cross stitch designs that she had done for me. Since there are already many framed works up on the walls, I decided to turn them into cushions instead.

We both find this hobby very therapeutic and I believe

you've got yourself two regular customers from now on! A lovely magazine indeed.
Soo Ling Howard, Ireland

Fiona: *These cushions are fabulous Soo... and so is the cross stitching! Glad you and your daughter are enjoying the magazine. Every issue you'll find over 80 new charts with plenty of finishing ideas that'll inspire you. This month we show you how to make plastic canvas bunting on page 18 and a decorative hanging sachet on page 9 using your free cover gift.*

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!



☒ **Cushioned in love**
Soo turned the finished stitches from her daughter in to lovely cushions

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

Finished!

This is a photo of my latest finished picture. It's around two feet wide and it's been an ongoing work in progress for the past four years. I stitched it as a present for my husband, who is in the picture with our eldest daughter. The original photo was taken 36 years ago.

The chart was designed for me by Hilary Brown of Crafts Unlimited, working from the photo, a scene of a landscape in Shropshire and the poem which I found quite by chance, and which inspired the whole idea. She's done a great job, as usual, as with all the other charts she's come up with for me, including a three-foot dragon and a pig-headed octopus!

By the time I finished it I was getting rather fed up of it, but now it's been framed, I can enjoy it and be amazed at the patience I had in doing it!

Lindsey Blasé, via email

Sue: *It is great to hear about the inspiration behind personal designs, and we are sure your husband appreciated all your hard work on this gift Lindsey. Sounds like you are a fan of stitching unique designs that have been created especially for you. Enjoy your finished piece.*



✉ **Finished!**
Lindsey was inspired by a poem to create this design

JUST FOR YOU

Here's a picture of a cross stitch I made for my friend who gave birth to a beautiful baby girl, called Isabella in October. She arrived a month early but, luckily, I'd finished it in August after three months of working on it. It's called 'Safari Bus Birth Record' by Vervaco.

Isla Sault, Essex

Rachel: *We are sure baby Isabella and her parents loved her birth sampler Isla, the colours are really wonderful.*



✉ **Just for you**
Isla made this birth sampler for baby Isabella, who arrived a month early!

Perfect Present



✉ **Gone to the birds**
Sue used some of the designs from our Madeleine Floyd chart to make this bookmark

GONE TO THE BIRDS

Here is a picture of a Christmas present I made for my friend Sandra. She loves to receive anything cross stitched and, as she has some much-loved chickens in her garden, I thought that stitching some of the chickens from the Madeleine Floyd sampler chart that came with issue 212 onto aida band would make an ideal and different present.

Sue Judd, Peterborough

Ruth: *We are huge fans of Madeleine Floyd's designs too Sue, and the chickens sampler has got great feedback from stitchers. If you are interested in animals, check out our Pet of the Month design of Siamese cats on page 42.*



✉ **Pretty peacock**
Susan's mum just finished this stunning cross stitch

Pretty peacock

I've been stitching for a few years now and I got my mum into cross stitching as well. Her name is Margaret Pennell. She is 72 and is my best friend and my rock. She has just finished this piece from Joan Elliott and I'd love to surprise her by seeing it published in *The World of Cross Stitching* magazine. Thank you.

Susan Simmons, via email

Fiona: *This is a stunning project Susan, your mum should be very proud of all her hard work. We hope she'll appreciate this surprise! We recognise the design by Joan Elliott – called 'Majestic Peacock', it is a Design Works kit. For more beautifully detailed ideas that she might like, check out our wishing well design on page 56 or windmill on page 76.*

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

Gorgeous Birds of a feather

This is the cushion I made from the Gorjuss design in issue 222. Although it's a wintry design, I think it will have to stay out all year.

Zoe Searis, via email

Sue: *This cushion is definitely too good not to display all year round Zoe. You did a great job – I especially like the spotty fabric you chose.*

☑ **Gorgeous**
Zoe is a huge fan of
Gorjuss designs



☑ **Celebrate a birth**
Laura's mum stitched
this birth sampler for her

Celebrate a birth

Here is a photo of me with my completed birth sampler stitched by my clever mum. I am very pleased with it and I hope you like it to.

Laura Brown, Derbyshire

Rachel: *What a lovely sampler and gift to get Laura!*

Birds of a feather

In October my sister-in-law sent me a copy of your magazine, issue 221, the first time I had seen it. Inside was the delightful robin chart by Madeleine Floyd. I have completed five and sent them to close family members. I love Madeleine Floyd's bird drawings, so was delighted to see this chart.

I have been stitching for a number of years but have never seen your magazine before, I love it. My husband bought me a year's subscription as a Christmas present, so I shall be able to enjoy your issues for the coming year.

Liz Hutton, via email

Ruth: *Welcome to The World of Cross Stitching family Liz! You will be sure to get all of the free gifts as a subscriber, so look forward to many more designs to enjoy this year!*



☑ **Learn your ABC**
Barbara used alphabets featured in the
mag to make these blankets for her nieces

LEARN YOUR ABC

Here are two lovely blankets I made using the alphabet sets featured in your mag each month. The 'Lovely lambs' is from issue 214 and 'Picnic treats' cherries from issue 193. I added my own stitching on the two squares that didn't have the alphabet. My nieces loved the blankets. I've made so many things from your magazine.

Barbara Crispano, Florida, USA

Fiona: *These are lovely Barbara, we can see why your nieces would be so pleased to receive them. We love the alphabet sets too, find the latest one on page 71.*



☑ **Birds of a feather**
Madeleine Floyd fan Liz
loved our free robin chart

Snow fun

My older daughter is an Outdoor Education Instructor and often sends me photos of 'the office' – the beautiful Brecon Beacons. As soon as I saw the winter scenes cards from issue 223 I had to do this one for her. I used sparkly aida to give the snow an extra frosted look. I hope you like it.

Marion Scott-Williams, Co. Durham

Fiona: *These cards were really lovely, and we can see why they'd be perfect for her Marion. Find vintage-looking shoes cards for all occasions on page 86 this month.*



☑ **Snow fun**
Marion stitched this for her daughter
who works in the great outdoors

Subs Stars



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

This month's winners are:

- ▶ Mrs C Jones, Penarth
- ▶ Mrs Bernice Richards, Royston
- ▶ Mrs Amanda Hollinshead, Sheffield

Prizes every month!

Well done to these three lucky winners who will each be receiving a gorgeous vintage-style storage box. Perfect for keeping your stitching accessories safe and in one place, this sweet box is pretty as well as practical!

To
subscribe
turn to
page 44

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

Dogs life

When my friend got pregnant, I wanted to stitch something personal. I found the puppy chart in issue 151, 2009). As my friends have two dogs, I thought it would be fun to celebrate the newest addition to their family.

Stephanie Luyten,
via email

Sue: Two dogs and a baby...
your friend will be busy Steph!



✉ **Dogs life**
Stephanie welcomed Janne to the world with this baby bib

Ever after

For the past three years I've been stitching since my daughter got me into it one Christmas. I love it so much I don't think I've gone a day since without stitching. I thought you might like to see the wedding sampler I made for my son and his now wife. I used the charts from issue 204's Design Library. I hope you like them.

Pam Rogers,
St Leonards-on-Sea

Rachel: We're impressed with your creativity Pam, as it takes some skill to combine charts and come out with a gorgeous design. Find this month's Design Library on page 47.



✉ **Life's a beach**
Agnieszka made decorative hangings from the beach huts design in a back issue

LIFE'S A BEACH

The beach houses from issue 217 were great. But I like to try doing it in my own way, so I didn't stitch the whole picture, but rather made some of the houses as small, decorative cushions. I also changed the colours to suit my needs and used matching ribbons. I hope to find other interesting

projects in future magazines.

Agnieszka Gozdecka, Poland

Ruth: We love these mini decorations Agnieszka. How clever to adapt a larger design like this! Check out our pretty Chinese lanterns design on page 36, as you could make decorations from these lanterns too!



✉ **Oriental dream**
Maria is very proud of her latest and biggest finish

ORIENTAL DREAM

This is my biggest project ever. I bought the booklet about eight years ago and when I began making it, I never thought that I was going to finish. Over the years, I have put it aside many times. But a couple of months ago I made the last stitch. It is now waiting for a frame and then to be hung in our living room where it already has its spot picked out. I hope you like it because I fell in love with this picture the minute I saw it.

Maria Jensen, Sweden

Fiona: This detailed design, called 'The Eight Immortals' by Pinn Stitch, depicts a group of legendary beings and is a wonderful project. Well done on your finish Maria.

SEND US YOUR NEWS

Don't forget to send all your letters and photos in to us!

Email us at:
letters@cross-stitching.com

or write to:
The World of Cross Stitching,
Immediate Media Co Origin,
Tower House, Fairfax Street,
Bristol BS1 3BN

Get in touch on Facebook, too!



Each letter printed only in *The World of Cross Stitching* and not in any other cross stitching magazines will win a crafty mystery prize!



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

DESIGN BY **LISA REAKES**

With all my heart

Make these fabulous heart garlands, easy when worked in all whole stitches on plastic canvas!

We love the shabby-chic look, so these pretty patterned hearts we have turned into a garland are right up our street! From stripes and polka dots to flowers and gingham, you'll love stitching these whole cross stitch only designs. Worked on plastic canvas, you won't need a hoop to make these! To keep interest, they are done in different sizes and shapes, leaving you with a unique decoration for your home or for a special occasion.

Stitch them all or choose your favourite patterns and repeat as many as you like for a coordinated finish that is sure to impress all. And taking only around five hours each to stitch, you'll whizz through the patterns

Factbox

- ✕ **Stitching Time**
Approx. 5 hours each
- ✕ **Type of Stitches**
Cross stitch
- ✕ **Ease of Stitching**
Beginner

Try out plastic canvas

over a couple of evenings... or weeks, depending on time available!

Cheery colours will put a smile on your face, and the finished decoration is sure to delight. Find our tips on making up your garland on page 22. So, start now and create something you'll love for years to come, no matter what the occasion or event! ➤



Meet the designer

Lisa Reakes

"I love decorating my home with handmade items, so I really enjoyed designing these heart patterns for you. The garland would look wonderful hung in any room. I'm busy stitching more for my friends, too!"

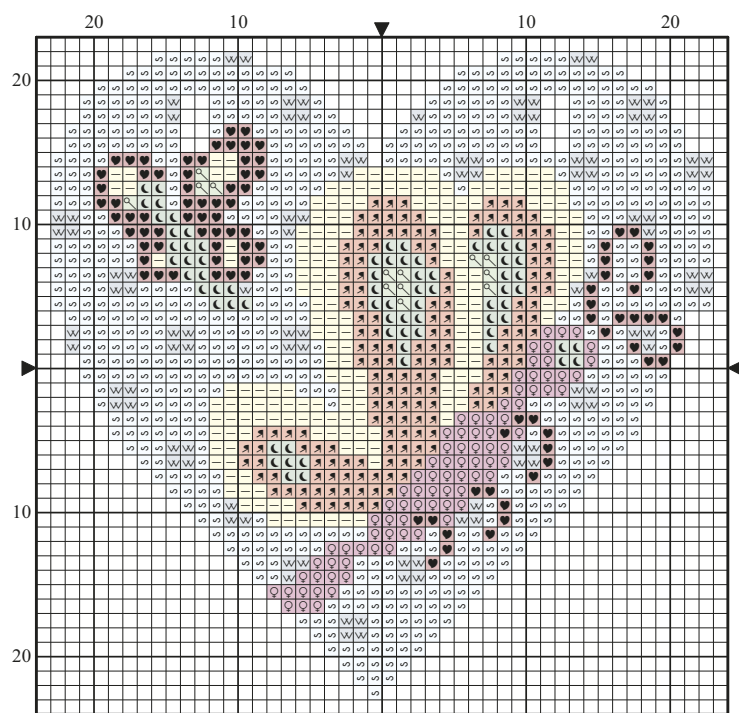




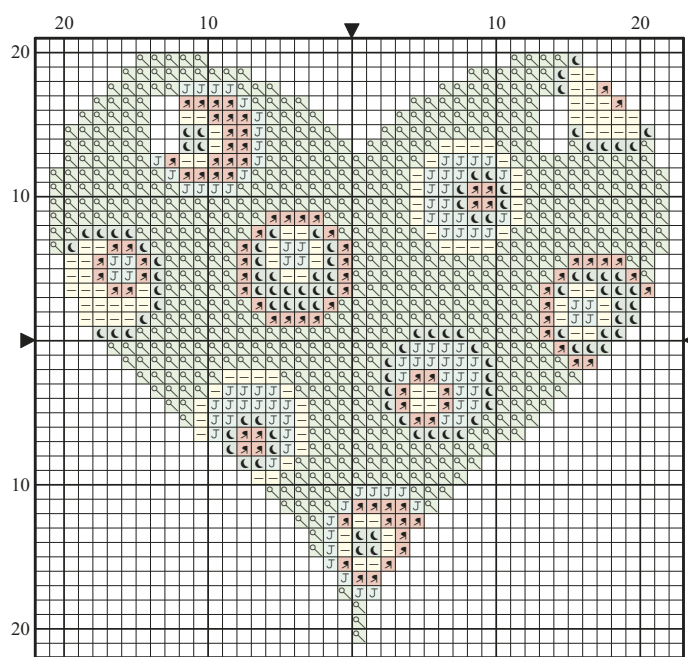
Home is where the heart is when it comes to these pretty garlands, perfect for any special occasion!



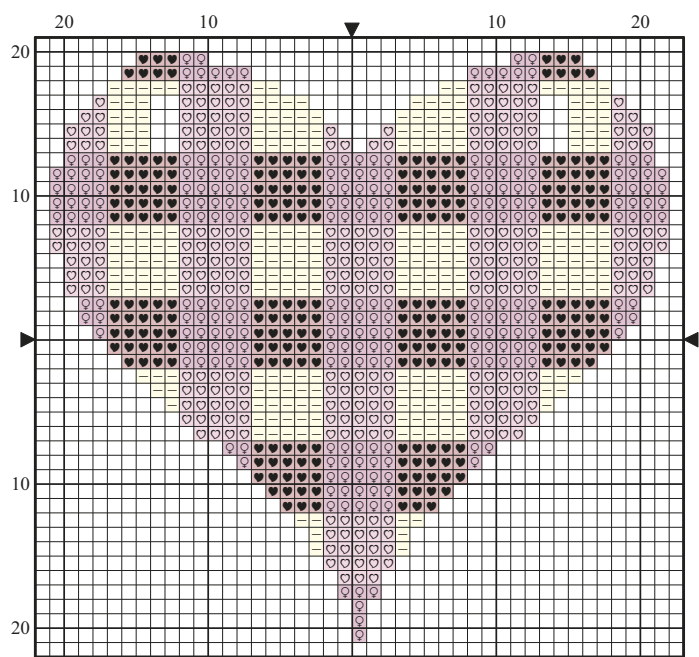
Project Heart Garland



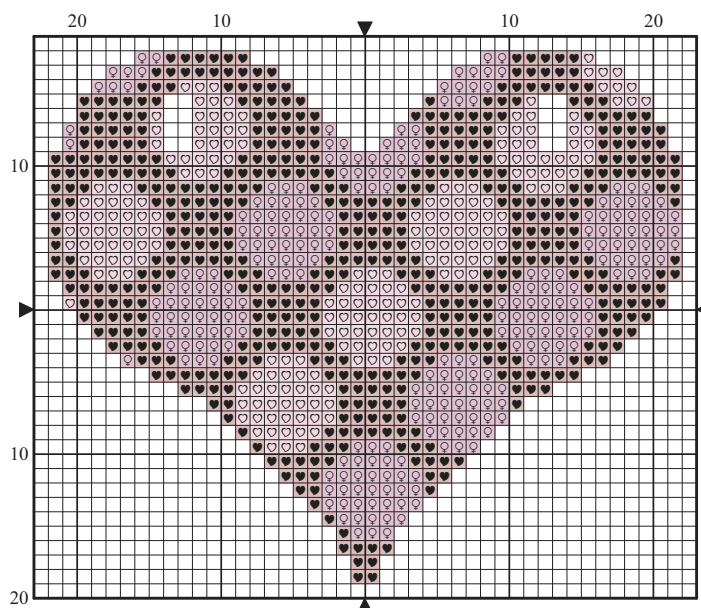
Butterfly Heart chart



Bubbles Heart chart



Pink Gingham Heart chart



Pink Spots Heart chart

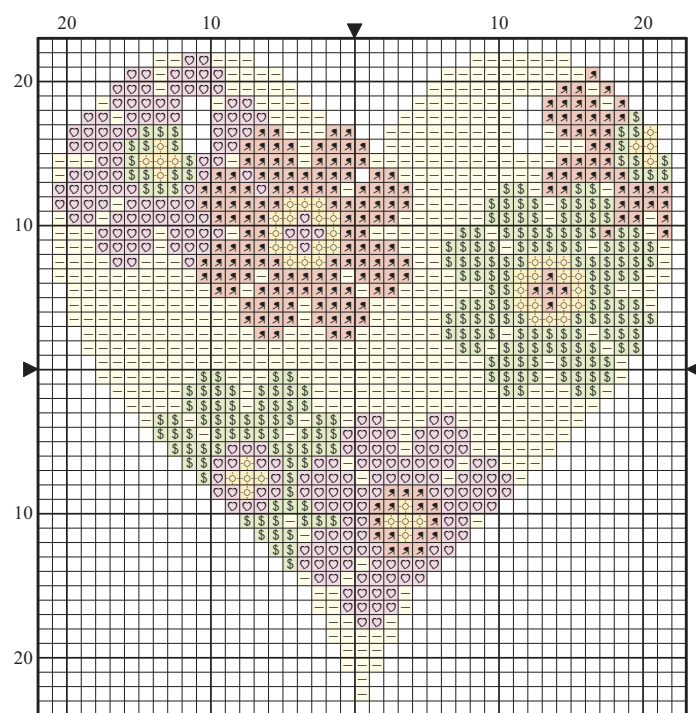
Shopping list

- ✂ 14-count clear plastic canvas, measuring 10x10cm (4x4in) for each design, available from The Craft Department*
- ✂ Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- ✂ Size 24 tapestry needle
- ✂ Ribbon of choice, measuring 4mm wide

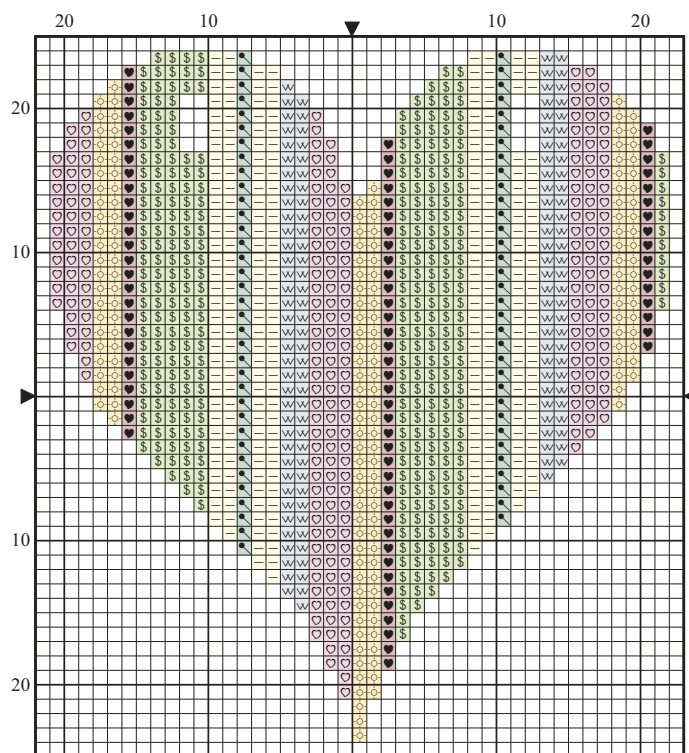
**Thread & plastic canvas cost
Approximately £15**

*For stockists see page 90

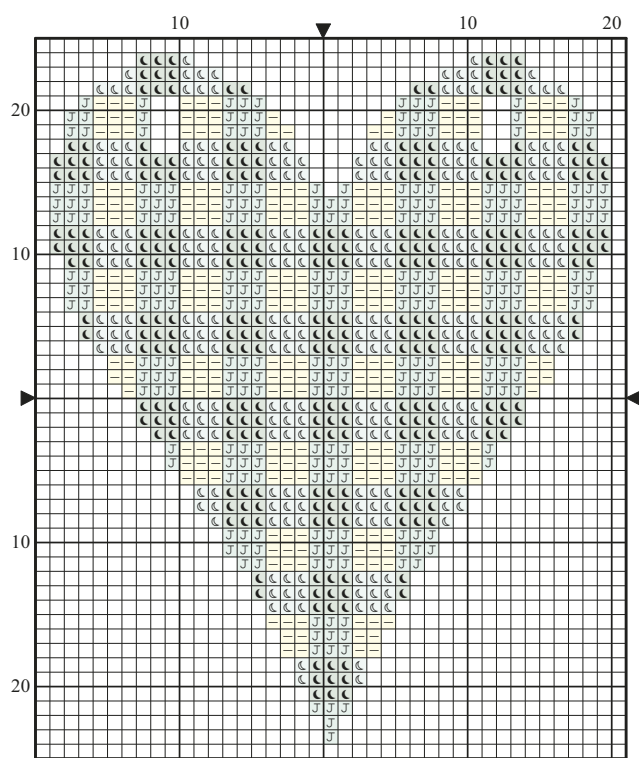




Flowers Heart chart



Colourful Stripes Heart chart



Blue Gingham Heart chart

Siri READER PANEL



“These hearts would be great to brighten up a room. I would make some for my friends who are also university students, as there are strict rules as to what they are allowed to hang up in their rooms. The ribbon makes these easy to hang up without nails or tape.”



How to...

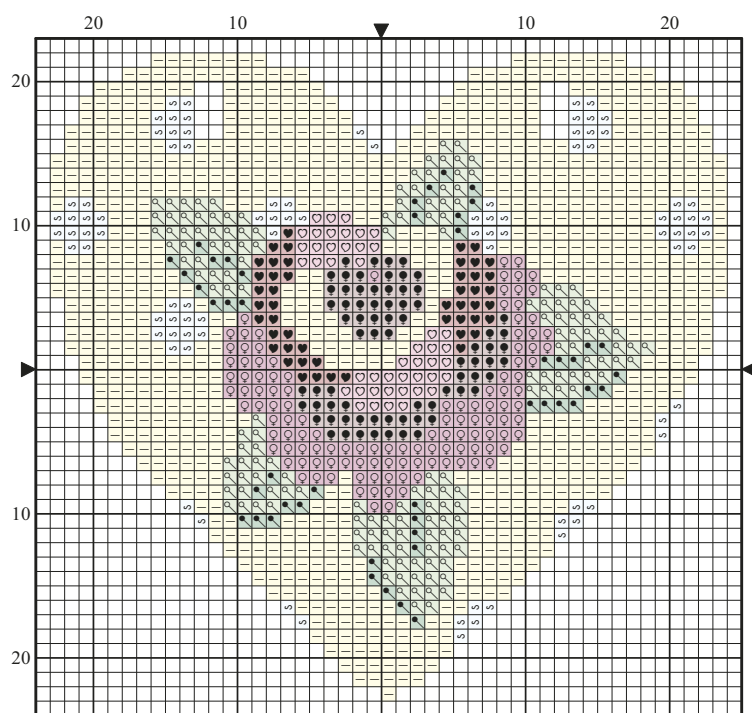
make a plastic canvas garland

1 Stitch each design in the centre of a plastic canvas piece. Plan first to use the sheet economically for your design placement – either cut out pieces for each design, leaving 5cm (2in) all the way around to give you something to hold on to. Or don't cut it to size first, and stitch the hearts close together with just enough room to cut them out. For two strands of cotton as here for 14-count

canvas, use a loop start and work over one bar of the canvas, and remember you can't use it in a hoop or frame.

2 When finished, cut out each heart following the shape of the design. Always leave one full square of canvas at the edges, so the stitches are secure.

3 Carefully cut slits at the unstitched lines at the top of the hearts. Thread ribbon through making sure it's not twisted.



Rose Heart chart

Heart Garland key

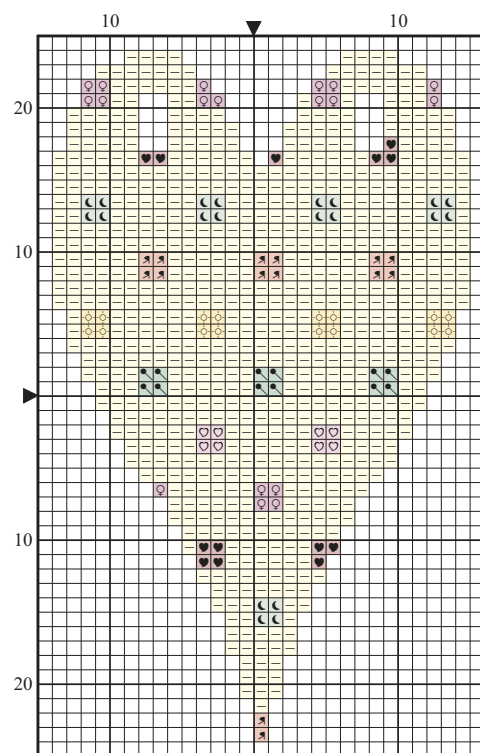
✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
\$	164	240	1209	soft green
⬆	352	9	303	coral
☾	597	1064	1110	dark turquoise
J	598	1062	1111	turquoise
⊙	744	301	112	yellow
—	746	275	2511	cream
☾	747	158	1104	light turquoise
♀	3687	68	604	dark pink
♥	3688	66	605	pink
♡	3689	49	607	light pink
♣	3740	873	2614	mauve
w	3752	1032	1708	blue
s	3753	128	909	light blue
🍃	3816	876	1703	pine green
🌿	3817	875	1702	light pine green

MAXIMUM STITCH COUNT 48 high x 47 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (14-count evenweave) – 9x8.5cm (3½x3¼in)

These designs were stitched using DMC stranded cotton



Colourful Spots Heart chart



...Spring is just around the corner...



A010 Spring Surprise

Kit: **£10.50** each
Chart: **£5.50** each
+ p&p*

*p&p is PER ORDER



A011 Bluebell Bunny

Kit: **£26.95**
Chart: **£6.50**
+ p&p*



A019 Daffodill Lake

Kit: **£26.95**
Chart: **£6.50**
+ p&p*



BS01 Bluebells Biscornu

Chart: **£5.50** + p&p*



BS03 Primroses Biscornu

Chart: **£5.50** + p&p*

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Fairy Godmother
Joan Elliott
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Victorian Christmas Lady
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Chart £11.99
Chart/Fabric £18.49



Pixie Blossom Collection
On Polstitches Strawberries
and cream
Chart £9.65
Chart/Fabric £17.90

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SAVE £1.50

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Our Best Buys

All the hottest cross stitch must-haves for your shopping list, plus an exclusive offer to make your pennies go further...



Hello Kitty!



£26

£19.20

New designs spotted
Stitch everyone's favourite white kitty with these designs by Anchor

NEW DESIGNS SPOTTED

Anchor introduces its new and exciting Hello Kitty Range, a character loved throughout the world. This cute kitty has been popular with children for many years. Depicted as a white Japanese bobtail cat with a red bow, you can get the 'Birth Sampler' (HKY0017), which is a great modern take on a birth record, and measures 16x16cm (6¼x 6¼in) when worked on the 14-count aida provided.

And 'A Day in the Life' (HKY0014) measures 28x28cm (11x11in) using the 14-count aida, and features the kitty getting up to fun activities each day! Both are from the 'Hello Kitty One Spot Collection' by Anchor*, available now.



£8.99

TOP CARDS

This compilation of 37 individual designs all with their own pattern card, by Maria Diaz Designs* and published by Tuva, is perfect for projects on the go. With greeting cards and other small projects in mind, the designs have been grouped so each can be worked individually or as part of a set.

We like that the patterns are easy to follow, using a limited colour palette and very little backstitch. Also that the handy-sized cards are practical to use. The vintage feel to this collection includes silhouettes and old-fashioned sewing patterns to create the figurative charts. It's a great new collection of charts to stitch for all occasions.

Trendwatching... Maps

Why not bring the international trend

Colour me happy
Colourful map cross stitch pattern by Anette Eriksson*



\$5
(Approx.
£3.30)



Button it!
Add map buttons to designs with these buttons from Bombus Ltd*

£5
For a pack
of 10



£9.50

Design a vintage map!
Set of 3 notebooks, one with graph paper, from Hampton Blue*

HAVE A HOOT

SAY IT IN STITCHES

DMC* have teamed up with six of the UK's top cross stitch designers to create a new collection of cross stitch kits for 2015. The first collection, 'Say it with cross stitch', is by Jane Schofield, who has created a range of modern and vibrant designs. The use of colour blocking is simple yet effective and makes these kits easy to stitch. You'll have a hoot stitching 'Family' (BK1531) and 'Friendship' (BK1430), both measuring 20x20cm (8x8in) when worked on 14-count aida.



MIND THE NEEDLE

Kee your needles handy while stitching and safe when finished with these cute wooden magnetic needle minders. Choose your favourite design from three choices, all needle minders are made of wood and have been finished to protect your embroidery fabric. Get one (or all three if you can't choose a favourite, like us!) from A Needle Runs Through It*.

OH MARIA!

New in the Elegance Miniatures range from Heritage Crafts* is 'Maria Miniature' (MEMR1251). Available with 28-count evenweave or 14-count aida fabric, you'll end up with a beauty with a finished size of 13x12cm (5x4¾in).



STITCHED SLOGAN

The latest designs from Frances Collett* are these slogan cross stitch kits to adorn your walls! The kits contain everything you need, including Frances' own-design fabrics for a unique look, rather than aida, and her designs include the printed lettering for you to stitch as they don't include charts. They have the fabric, a wooden hoop, needle, threads and instructions.

We love 'Sweet Dreams' slogan (415097), measuring 15cm (6in) across and the 'Home Sweet Home' slogan (409496), which is 20cm (8in) across.



READER OFFER

The Vanessa Wells Collection includes historical designs as well as some wonderful animal designs, like 'The Owl and the Pussycat', featured below, which costs £18 and measures 15.5x17cm (6x6½in) when worked on 14-count aida. Goldleaf Needlework* is giving a 20% discount off any designs on their site, including those of Vanessa Wells. To enjoy this offer, use discount code **WOXS226** at www.goldleafneedlework.co.uk. You can also call ☎ 01482 571120, stating the code over the phone. Offer valid from 23 January to 3 March 2015.



Nursery Rhymes
Save 20% off
'The Owl and
Pussycat' by
Vanessa Wells

SAVE
£££s!

of travel into your stitching world?

'Countries I've visited'
Record your travels in stitches with
this PDF chart from ConceptStitches*



Decorate cards with tape
MT Map Japanese Washi tape
by The Paper Parlour*



*For stockists see page 90

DESIGN BY **FAYE WHITTAKER**

Garden of delights

Capture the nostalgic charm of days gone by with this adorable springtime sampler and its selection of outdoor motifs



Thoroughly absorbed in the task at hand, these little gardeners are busy looking after their delicate plant, giving it the love and attention it needs to flourish and grow. As all us stitchers know, there is much satisfaction to be had in watching something come to life as a result of the time and effort you've put into it, just like you'll get from this sentimental sampler.

The sweet central scene is bordered by garden-inspired designs, making it the perfect gift for a green-fingered friend or family member. Or, you could simply hang it in your home as a reminder of those sunny spring days that are on their way!

Stitched in a soft, subtle colour

Factbox

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

A good skill stretcher

palette using a variety of techniques, you'll want to keep this chart handy as the surrounding individual motifs also make lovely cards and quick-stitch gifts. So, get started today and watch this pretty project blossom, ready to welcome in the new season. ➤



MAKE FOR THE NEW SEASON

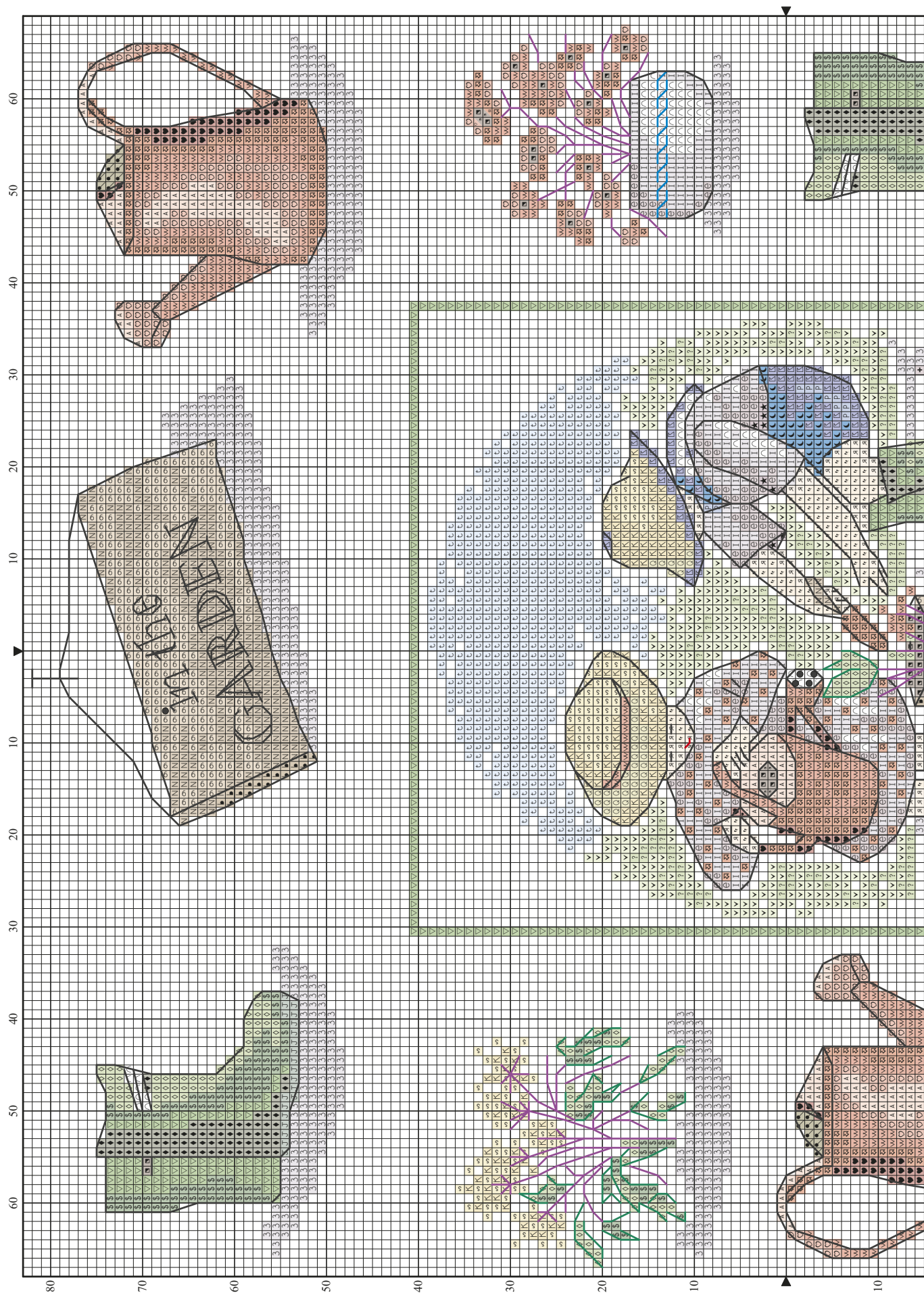


Faye Whittaker

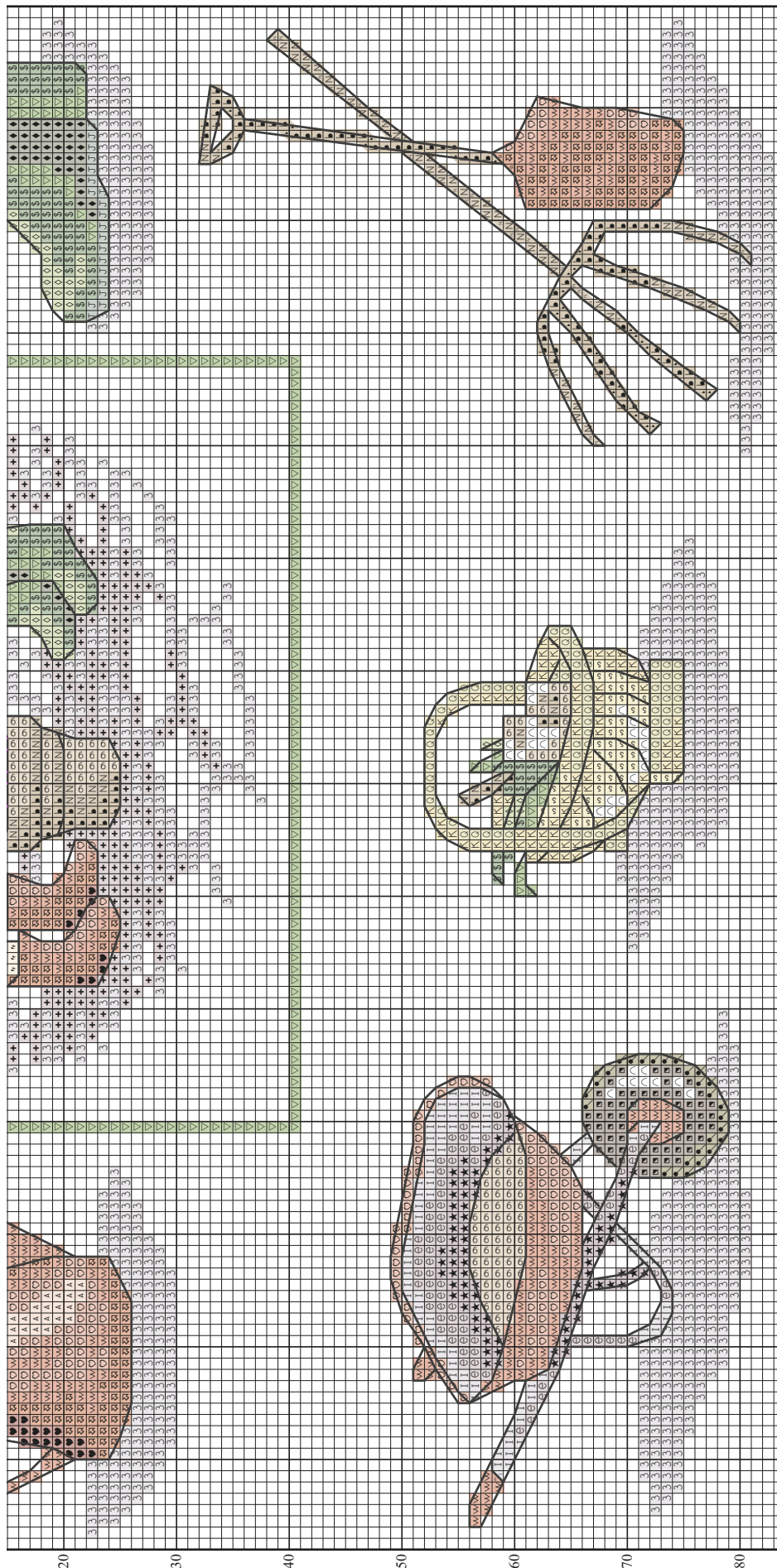
All Our Yesterdays

Stitch this enchanting
All Our Yesterdays
chart for the gardener
in your life, lovingly
designed exclusively
for you!





All Our Yesterdays chart (top)



All Our Yesterdays chart (bottom)

TOP TIP

Sort your threads before you start stitching. Use a shop-bought thread sorter, or make your own by punching holes in a piece of cardboard

How to...

make a hanging

- 1 Trim your finished** design to within 3cm (1¼in) of your stitching all the way around.
- 2 Cut four panels** of fabric: two 35x11cm (13¾x4½in) pieces for the sides, one 11x43cm (4½x17in) for the bottom and one 18x43cm (7x17in) for the top.
- 3 Place the side** panels and your stitched piece right sides together, pin and machine- or hand-sew, with a 2cm (¾in) seam allowance.
- 4 Pin the bottom** panel of fabric and your stitched piece right sides together. Stitch in place with a 2cm (¾in) seam. Repeat with the top panel.
- 5 Cut a piece** of backing fabric the same overall size as your front panel. Place the right sides together, pin and sew all the way round starting at the top and stopping 8cm (3in) away from your starting point. Trim the corners to reduce bulk, press seams and turn through to the right side. Slip stitch the gap closed.
- 6 Pin the top** of the panel over to form a 6cm (2¼in) hem. Sew a top stitching row, 3cm (1¼in) down from the top to form a casing for the rod.

All Our Yesterdays key

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
○	blanc	2	2402	white
●	311	164	1006	very dark blue
◆	319	1044	1313	very dark green
◇	320	215	1311	green
■	322	131	1005	dark blue
■	334	977	1004	blue
■	350	11	213	red
■	351	10	214	dark coral
■	352	9	303	coral
■	353	6	2313	light coral
■	367	217	1312	dark green
■	368	214	1310	light green
■	645	273	1811	ash grey
■	676	891	2208	sand
■	677	886	2207	light sand
■	840	1084	1912	brown
■	841	1082	1911	light brown
■	842	1080	1910	very light brown
■	844	1041	1809	dark ash grey
■	926	850	1707	petrol blue
■	950	4146	2309	dark peach
★	3041	871	806	dark mauve
■	3042	870	2612	mauve
■	3046	887	2206	straw
■	3743	869	2611	light mauve
■	3774	778	306	peach
■	3777	1015	2502	rust red

✕ Cross stitch in one strand

+	3042	870	2612	mauve
3	3743	869	2611	light mauve

✕ Half cross stitch in two strands

?	368	214	1310	light green
✓	369	1043	1309	very light green
t	3325	129	907	light blue

✕ Backstitch in one strand

—	322	131	1005	dark blue
—	351	10	214	dark coral
—	367	217	1312	dark green
—	413	236	1713	grey

✕ Backstitch in two strands

—	367	217	1312	dark green
---	-----	-----	------	------------

✕ French knots in one strand

●	413	236	1713	grey
---	-----	-----	------	------

STITCH COUNT 165 high x 135 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 30x24.5cm (11¾x9½in)

This design was stitched using DMC stranded cotton

There's more

Love the nostalgic designs by Faye Whittaker*? Check out these patterns, all available as kits and charts



◀ 'Seaside Memories' kit, £27.95



'Higher' kit, £18.75 ▶



'Starfish Finder' chart, £7.99 ▶



◀ 'Dolly Chain' chart, £7.95

Where to buy

*For stockists see page 90

All Our Yesterdays

Shopping list

- ✕ Zweigart* 14-count white aida measuring 41x36cm (16x14in)
- ✕ Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- ✕ Size 24 tapestry needle
- ✕ Backing fabric of choice. Ours is 'Rough Stripe – Light Green' by Tilda, from Groves*
- ✕ Wooden hanging rod measuring 41cm (16in), available from Stitcher*

Thread & fabric cost
Approximately £30

*For stockists see page 90



Gillian READER PANEL

“Any time I see gardening-themed projects I think of my grandfathers who were both keen gardeners. I like the individual motifs around the main picture and I can see myself using those to make cards and gift tags for gardener friends.”

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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Jenny's designed a wolf to answer Kira's request!

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Help from fellow stitchers on stitching on plastic canvas

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"Petit point and cross stitch, what's the difference?"

35 DESIGN ROUND-UP

Spring has sprung with our design collection



Go large or go home
Hands-free magnifiers can be useful when you are stitching

Go large or go home

Q A few years ago I had a magnifier that I used for my cross stitching. It was a green band that went round my forehead and had a piece in front that held a magnifying lens. I've looked all over for another but cannot find one. Can you help? Many thanks.

Mary Watson, Castleton

A **Anne says:** I know the product you're referring to Mary – a head-mounted magnifier made by a US-based company called Mag Eyes. We've searched and don't think

it is possible to order this product from a UK stockist, so if you want a replacement you'd need to order this online from Amazon perhaps.

However, other hands-free magnifiers are available. Try this one, the 'Illuminated Headband Magnifier' sold by Magnifico*. There's a similar adjustable headband, into which four sets of interchangeable lenses, for 1.2x, 1.8x, 2.5x and 3.5x magnification, clip in and out, and it even has a battery-operated headlight. Order one for £25.95.

Tick, tock, tick, tock

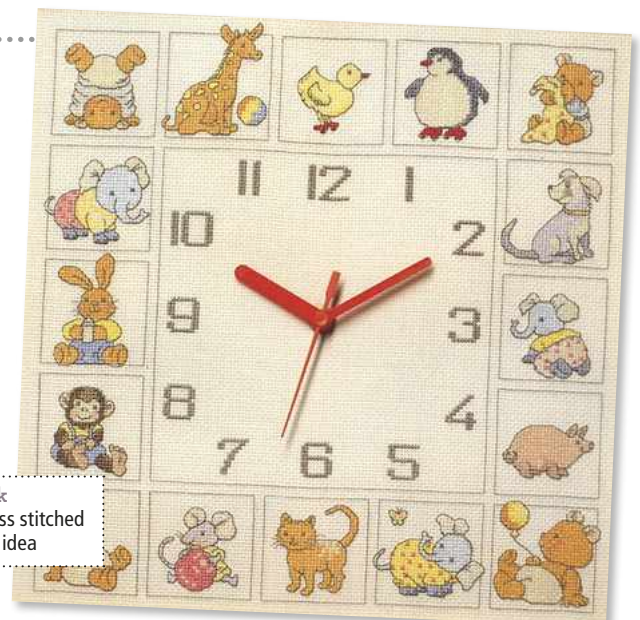
Q Do you know of a pattern which can be used as a clock for a nursery? Thank you!

Lisa Jackson, via Facebook

A **Katriel says:** It sounds like a sweet idea to make a stitched clock to decorate a nursery Lisa – what a perfect idea, either for a little one of your own or as a gift to new parents. I've looked around and found this cute kit, which I think should fit in with all kinds of decor styles and is perfect for a nursery. 'Happy Friend Clock Face' (59295) is a

cross stitch kit designed by Permin, and is available to buy at Sew and So*. It contains 16-count antique white aida, stranded cotton threads, needle and chart, and costs £29.25, for a finished product measuring 27x27cm (10½x10½in). The clock mechanism is not included in the kit, but these are readily available to buy – for example, 'Clock Mechanism' (87204) also at Sew and So*, for £4.99. ➤

Tick, tock, tick, tock
Create a gorgeous cross stitched clock for a unique gift idea



In the spotlight

SARAH HEYS, CHARTING EDITOR

Virtual design

Q I want to try my hand at making my own cross stitch patterns, but I don't know what kind of computer software to use, or how to get started. Any ideas?

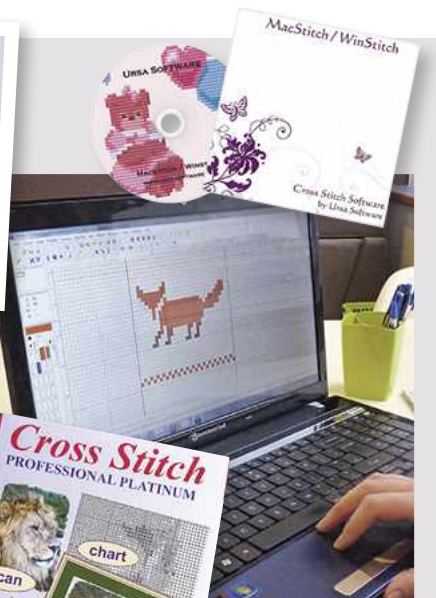
Shayla Amador Benavidez, USA

A Sarah says: The software we use at *The World of Cross Stitching* mag has been especially written by a software company for our publishing needs, but there are lots of options on the market.

Depending on what you're looking for, and the kind of computer you have, you can narrow down some of the options, but here are a couple of choices that I think are

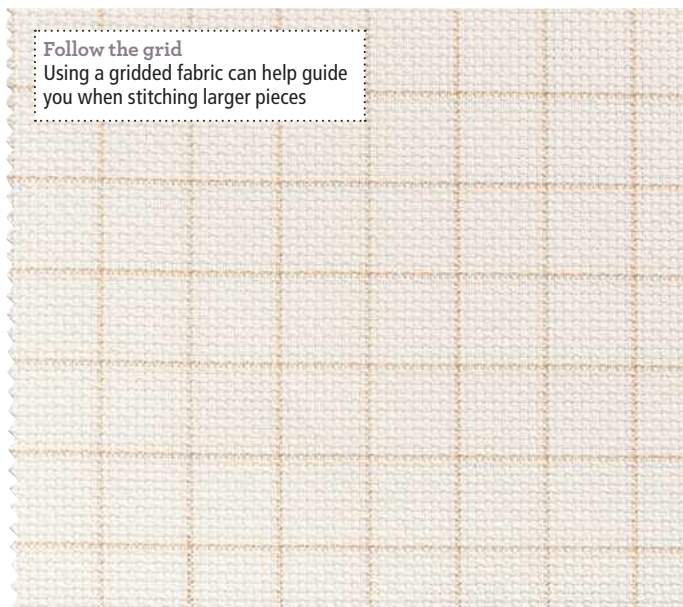
great. WinStitch by Ursa Software* costs £40 and is a basic option for getting started, and has both PC and Mac versions. I also like the features on the Cross Stitch Professional Platinum software, priced £75 from DPSoftware*.

Most software packages allow you to create charts from your own photos, and you can also enjoy free motif libraries included.



Virtual design
Choose the right charting
software for you

Follow the grid
Using a gridded fabric can help guide you when stitching larger pieces



Follow the grid

Q I like the idea of stitching larger designs, but I'm reluctant to give anything too big a try as I lose count of my stitches so easily. Can you give me any tips so I can tackle those bigger projects without messing up all the time?

Jeanie Morrelson, Birmingham

A Anne says: I think one of the best tips I can give you Jeanie is just to make sure you take your time and don't rush when counting areas of colour. Personally speaking, I'm much more prone to mistakes when I'm tired or in a hurry, so avoid stitching in these situations.

On a practical level, one thing I can really recommend for you is to use a gridded fabric. These are just like regular aida, but have the 10x10 square gridlines (like our charts) printed on to the fabric as a guide. You stitch as normal using the guidelines to help your counting, and then at the end of your project the lines just wash out, so there's no trace. Find the fabrics in various counts from DMC* and also by Zweigart*.

Pin-pointing

Q I usually use the loop method, but I'm getting annoyed by all my threads ending up with one piece shorter than the other. Some fellow stitchers online have mentioned the pinhead method, but I'm not sure what this is and how it's used.

Danielle, via email

A Ruth says: The pinhead method for starting off threads is useful for a single stitch in isolation, for example, a single-stitch snowflake, where there are no other stitches nearby for you to secure your new thread at the back.

You'll make a pair of really tiny stitches around the aida fibres in a tight loop or figure-of-eight cross-section through the fabric – you're using the threads of your aida (or evenweave) to secure the thread tail, as these stitches will be hidden underneath your finished cross stitch.

Start by coming up, then, go down again nearby into the middle of the aida block, so you need to split the block much like you'd work a fractional stitch (diagram 1). Tighten this little stitch, taking care not to pull the thread through of course, then make another tiny stitch just like it, back in the opposite direction and towards



Pin-pointing
Use the pinhead method to start off threads for isolated stitches

the first one, and pulling securely to make the figure-of-eight (diagram 2).

Hopefully your stitches will be so small you'll barely be able to distinguish between them, then you hide them with your normal cross stitch over the top (diagram 3 with the pinhead stitches underneath the main stitch). The tails – both of the starting thread end and when you weave in after working the stitch – can be trimmed as usual.

Wishes granted



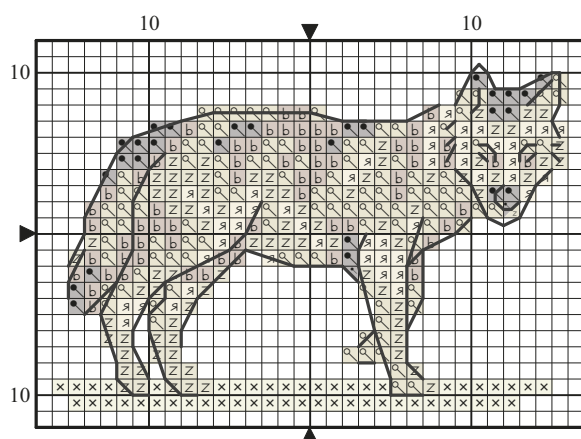
Request a design and our resident design expert, Jenny, might just chart it for you...

Pack leader!
Jenny has designed this chart of a wolf for Kira

Q I was wondering if you can help with a small, simple wolf pattern? I'm going to use it on notebook and sketchbook covers, and would like to be able to adapt it for different colours. I've been trying to chart my own with the whole wolf, but can't get it right. I hope you can help!

Kira, via email

A Jenny says: I hope this is just what you are looking for Kira. Done in just seven thread colours, it should be easy to adapt to what you want for your book covers.



Wolf key

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
■	317	400	1714	grey
×	524	858	1511	grey green
□	3032	903	2002	stone grey
■	3033	391	1908	beige
■	3782	899	1911	lt stone grey
■	3790	393	1905	brown

✕ Backstitch in one strand

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

STITCH COUNT 22 high x 32 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 4x6cm (1½x2¼in)

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.

Jolly hockey sticks

Q It's my son's 21st birthday next year and I'd love to stitch him a hockey picture for his wall. Can you help find a design?

Yvonne Ives, by email

A Fiona says: This kit from Thea Gouverneur Designs, called 'Hockey', features hockey players in full action. The kit contains everything you need, for a compact finish measuring 14x14cm (5½x5½in) when worked on the 18-count aida provided.



Jolly hockey sticks
Worked in whole stitches, 'Hockey' costs £17 from Arts and Designs*

Feeling the tension!
For advice on lacing and framing pieces, visit our website for step-by-step guides



Feeling the tension!

Q When stitching cards I seem to stretch the aida and distort the straight lines. It doesn't look great when I stick it on a card as the lines aren't square to the edge and even if I try to pull the aida back into shape, it doesn't work. Do you have any advice or tricks to use?

Natasha Thickitt, via email

A Ruth says: My first tip for card apertures... A little less tension is actually better than you'd use for a picture, as any possible distortion from too much

tension will be very obvious indeed. Follow our step-by-step guide to mounting in the 'How to' section of our site: www.cross-stitching.com/tv/how-mount-your-stitching-aperture-card.

Plus, keep the aida nice and secure with a strong double-sided tape. There'll be no wobbling out of alignment – one that's prone to losing it's stickiness may lead to your fabric getting the droops! We use one known as Redline tape. Widely available in craft stores and online, it's super-strong.

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 their tips for stitching on plastic canvas – here's what they said...

facebook



✖ **Deby Young:** Stitch with two strands and then back with felt using a glue gun. Also, only use patterns with whole stitches.

✖ **Grace Greenhalgh:** Use scissors to cut edges really close with no bits sticking out. Don't use your best stitching scissors, it makes them blunt in no time!

✖ **Cheryl Naisbitt:** I always use the loop method to start my threads and run the needle through the back of the stitches to tie off.

✖ **Anji Mae:** I always use a needle smaller than the hole, let the thread untwist often

and never run long strings. When cutting I make a rough cut with scissors, then go back with fine-tip sharp scissors to trim up the finished piece.

✖ **Elizabeth Rush:** If you tend to stitch tightly, have a small pair of jewellery pliers handy to pull the needle through to finish threads.

✖ **Lou Caissie:** I cut my pieces out after I am done as I find holding smaller pieces harder than a big piece.

✖ **Kelly Stitchnmomma:** Two strands of stranded cotton are usually sufficient, but you can use three for better coverage.

✖ **Marilyn Pattenden:** I hate finishing off stitching projects, so plastic canvas is ideal for me as I just cut one square away from the embroidery and hey presto!

✖ **Frances Redhead:** I tend to use plastic canvas to make decorations, so I back it with felt so that the slightly messy back can't be seen.

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!

TECHNIQUE FOCUS

To the point

Q What's the difference between petit point and cross stitch? How different is the resultant texture and is it possible to combine the two in one project?

Dawn Callaghan Donaldson, via Facebook

A **Anne says:** This is a really great query Dawn, thank you. Petit point is a lovely technique and not really widely used in cross stitch, but when it is, I think it can be very effective.

Petit point is worked as a half cross stitch but each stitch is over one thread of the evenweave (so it cannot be worked on aida), and yes, it is usually worked within a design that also uses cross stitch (working over the two threads). So four petit point stitches will take the same area as one whole stitch, if that makes sense. The result is fabulous detail in a small area!

We combined petit point with cross stitch in the 'Southern Belle' design from issue 86 to great effect.

To the point
Petit point adds extra detail to small areas, as four petit point stitches cover the same area as one whole cross stitch, as above. This technique was used to do the face in this project by Sue Page.



THE WORLD OF
**Cross
Stitching**
KNOW-HOW

QUICK Q&A

Some of the card designs you feature have patterned papers used in the aperture – can you tell me how you use both this and add the stitching, too?

Melody Barnabas, via email

Anne says: The ideas we show for making up cards with patterned paper aren't actually aperture cards Melody, they're usually single-fold cards which just have the stitching applied to the front as a patch. So adding a pretty piece of crafting paper is easy, with more double-sided tape.



Pretty papers
Patch patterned paper and your stitching to cards

Love to see all your projects made up into cushions or hangings – I'm running out of space to put framed pictures. I have a sewing machine, but I have no idea how to use it. Can you help?

Kelly Winterton, via email

Fiona says: I'd look into how much it would be to join a beginner class at local patchwork and sewing shops. These can be very inspiring, not only to learn the basics, but to develop your skills with fellow crafty people!

Design round-up

We've hand-picked a selection of kits & charts so you can bring in spring with needle & threads

Spring
flowers
designs

BLENDING ADDS DETAIL

SPRING TIME CHART LEAFLET

So cheerful – a show of beautiful pastel tulips bloom out from a galvanised metal watering can, in this chart (55887) by Sue Hillis Designs from Sew and So*. Shading is enhanced by blending different colours in the needle at the same time. Otherwise it features only a few fractional stitches, some half stitch and no French knots, so it's a nice quick-make for stitchers with some experience.

Stitch count – 112 high x 89 wide, 20x16cm (8x6½in) on 14-count aida



£6.75

DESIGNS FOR EVERYONE

SPRING MINI MOTIFS



£3

This motif library from Maria Diaz Designs* gives you the chance to stitch all your favourites of the season, from lambs to daffodils. Refresh your hobby with this downloadable seasonal chart – six pages of colour-accented motifs for fast-finishes you'll love.

Max stitch count – 33 high x 47 wide, size 6x8.5cm (2½x3½in) on 14-count aida

CHALLENGE YOURSELF

SPRING

Spring has truly sprung in this design by The Cross-Eyed Cricket and available at Arts and Designs*. The word 'spring' is in pretty-patterned letters that are adorned with flowers, bonnets and even bunting. Fractional stitches and backstitch add detail to this design and there is a meaty palette of 51 shades to enjoy. Designed to be worked on linen evenweave over two threads, 'Spring' will be a lovely challenge for the season.

Stitch count – 61 high x 263 wide, 11x47cm (4½x18¾in) on 28-count linen evenweave

£5.60



GREAT VALUE

SPRING FLOWER BOOKMARK

In this Vervaco bookmark kit, to buy at Sew Essential* you'll find a pleasing panel of crocuses, forget-me-nots, tulips and lily of the valley created entirely in whole stitches and just a little backstitch, on the large, black-and-white symbol chart. The threads are pre-sorted and the instructions very comprehensive in this value-for-money kit.

Stitch count – 102 high x 27 wide, 18x5cm (7¼x2in) on 14-count cream aida

£8.71



*For stockists see page 90

DESIGN BY **DURENE JONES**

Sparkle and shine

Light up your life with this Eastern-inspired scene, complete with beautiful cherry blossoms and pretty little bluebirds!

Delightfully dainty and adorned with shimmering sequins, this colourful set of Chinese lanterns is the perfect way to decorate any girly space in a home. The soft pastels are ideal for adding some colour to a wall, and who could resist such subtle shading and detail? This project is guaranteed to bring a breath of fresh air to your pile of wintery WIPs, and also allows you to show off your stitching repertoire!

As our Stitcher's Challenge design for this issue, you'll work whole cross stitches, fractionals, backstitch and French knots onto a delicate blush pink aida, then finish the piece with a selection of pink and white sequins for a textured twinkling effect. We're

Factbox

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

Add sparkling sequins

sure you'll agree, the sparkling final result is definitely more than worth it!

Mount in an eye-catching frame and give as a gift to that tricky teenager you find so hard to buy for, or hang it in your bedroom to add a fabulously feminine touch. ➤



Meet the designer

Durene Jones

"Chinese lanterns are always so beautiful, with their pretty patterns and colours, so I was thrilled to be able to design this chart for you. I couldn't resist giving it a super-girly twist with sequins for extra sparkle!"



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



Indulge your needle and thread in this gorgeous design and shake off those winter blues with its sweet spring shades

Chinese Lanterns key

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
t	162	9159	1101	light blue
v	369	1043	1309	light green
b	420	374	2104	dark tan
x	422	943	2102	light tan
♥	600	63	703	dark pink
◊	602	57	702	pink
w	604	55	614	light pink
☆	725	305	113	dark yellow
♀	727	293	112	yellow
P	800	144	908	blue
☾	809	130	909	dark blue
◆	911	205	1214	dark green
▽	954	203	1207	green
A	963	73	502	very light pink
—	3078	292	102	light yellow
N	3828	306	2509	tan

✕ Backstitch in one strand

—	413	236	1713	grey
—	600	63	703	dark pink

✕ French knots in one strand

●	727	293	112	yellow
---	-----	-----	-----	--------

✕ Placement of Trimits sequins

●	97920			pink
○	97993			white iris

STITCH COUNT 90 high x 125 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 16.5x23cm (6½x9in)

This design was stitched using DMC stranded cotton and Trimits sequins

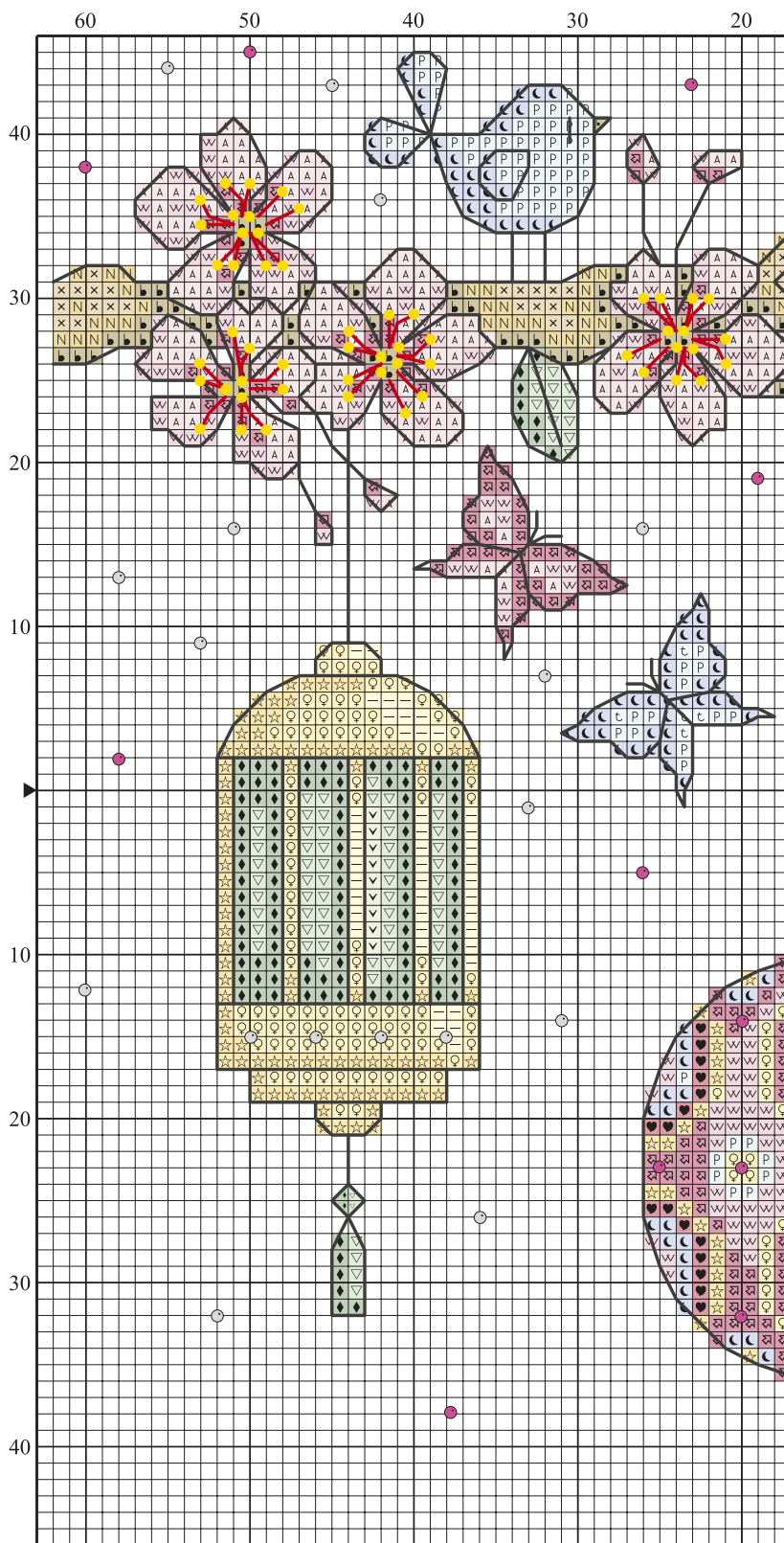


Shopping list

- ✕ Zweigart* 14-count blush aida (4110) measuring 28x33cm (11x13in)
- ✕ Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- ✕ Trimits* sequins as listed in the key
- ✕ Size 24 tapestry needle
- ✕ Frame of your choice with a minimum aperture measuring 21x26cm (8¼x10¼in)

Thread & fabric cost
Approximately £22

*For stockists see page 90



Chinese Lanterns chart (left)

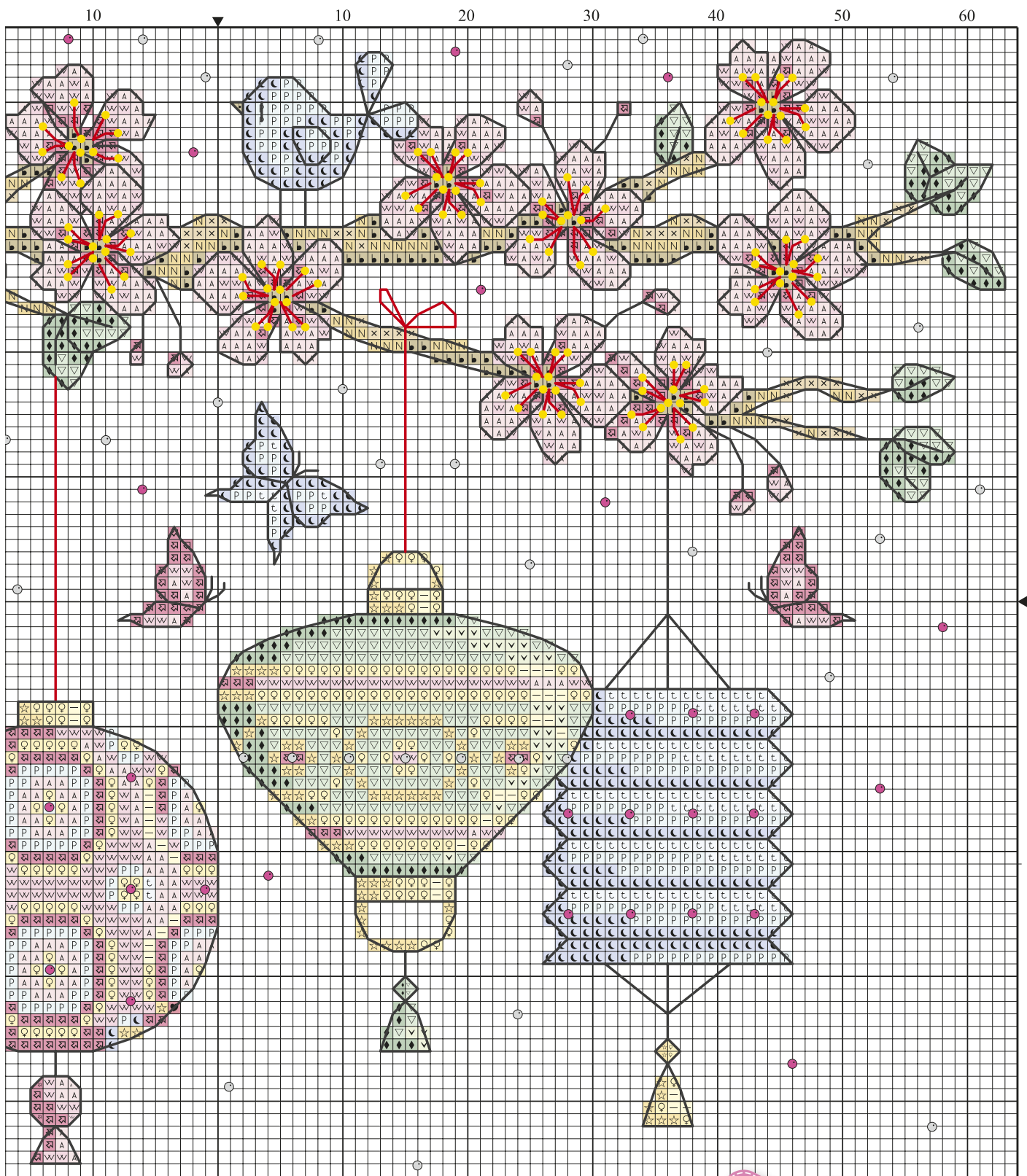
How to...

add sequins to your design

Using one strand of thread to match your sequins, bring your needle up as indicated. Thread the sequin on (try a fine beading needle if the hole is too

small). Stitch down over the sequin edge, not tilting it and pull the thread taut. If you prefer, use a central French knot or a seed bead to fix each sequin.





Chinese Lanterns chart (right)

“What a pretty project! I can think of tons of friends who would love me to stitch this design for them, so I'd better stock up on sequins and pink aid!”

FIONA, PRODUCTION EDITOR



TOP TIP

Like any other embellishment, make sure to finish all other stitches before adding the sequins at the end

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Perfect Elegance

READER
STORY

Lack of wall space led keen stitcher Julie McDonald to try her hand at an afghan, with spectacular results. We found out more...

The World of Cross Stitching reader Julie McDonald, from Washington state in the USA, is an avid stitcher. Taught by her grandmother when she was in her teens, Julie quickly developed a passion for the craft. "It's like painting with a needle. I love the smell and feel of the different fabrics, the amazing plethora of colours of thread and the endless pattern designs. I enjoy seeing the project unfold as I stitch".

Like many keen stitchers, however, Julie has a problem when it comes to displaying her work. She told us, "I've been stitching for almost 30 years, and I've run out of wall space for all of the designs I love. I give lots of them away, but there are some that I like so much, I want to decorate my house with them."

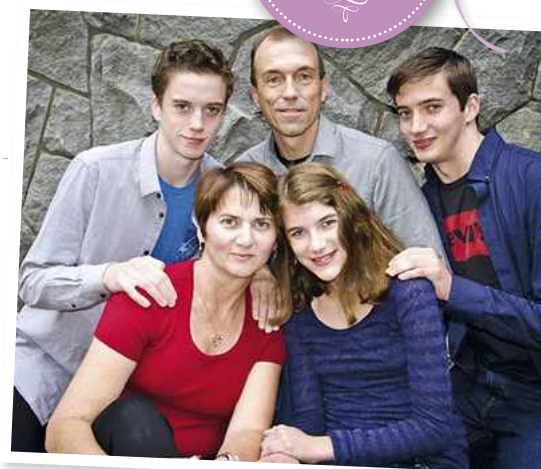
The solution came in the form of an afghan. "I love the 'Elegance Miniatures' from Heritage Crafts so

much that I wanted to do all of them, so I thought an afghan would be the way to go", she says. "The designs are very realistic, yet the patterns are not complicated. The end product looks so vivid you would think it was a photograph. They're truly amazing."

One stitch at a time

Julie chose a 28-count linen evenweave fabric called Country French, by Wichelt*. "It drapes well, and the colour was neutral enough for all of the designs to stand out and to go with the decor in my home." She has been working on the project for two months now, with each pattern taking about a week to stitch. "I'll continue to add more Elegance Miniatures designs as they come out until I run out of room. I've just been winging it and spacing the ladies relative to the other designs on the fabric." With such a relaxed and confident approach, Julie obviously has a good eye for design!

We wondered how she manages to fit her stitching around a busy family life... Married to Andy for over 20 years, she has three teenage children, Ben, Levi and Rachel.



Family comes first: Avid stitcher Julie McDonald pictured here with her husband and kids

Since 2006, she's also run an online stitching store, Julie's X Stitch*. "My husband was the one to encourage me to start my online store. He is very supportive of my craft and does my technical support for the website.

Julie's also proud to be a breast cancer survivor for about six years now. "When something like that

“Stitching is like painting with a needle”

happens, you learn quickly what's truly important to you, and for me it's being a good mother. That's why I chose to work from home."

With more Elegance designs being released (the latest miniature for Julie to enjoy is 'Maria'), then we think she will continue to be busy including more ladies in her afghan project. Over the years Julie's interest in stitching has broadened into other forms of needlework too. "My ancestors are Norwegian, and I love their traditional hardanger stitching. I've recently taught myself how to do this too. Needlework is a basic part of our history as humans, and especially women so I'm committed to keeping it alive." We couldn't agree more, and are looking forward to seeing how the finished afghan will turn out! ✕



My fair lady: Julie's afghan so far, with several Elegance Miniatures showing, and Fleur framed from the Elegance range (above, left). From top to bottom, left to right: in miniature, Fleur, Sally, Charlotte, Claire, Hannah and Alice all from Heritage Crafts* (right)



*For stockists see page 90

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 I have two elderly Siamese cats, which I love dearly. One is a Chocolate point and the other is a Lilac point. I would love a design that shows my beautiful pets together which I could keep forever.

Nicola Ryder, via email

A Durene says: Siamese cats are really gorgeous, so I can see why you would want to preserve your two cats in stitches Nicola. I had fun researching the different types of Siamese cats to ensure I got the colouring right for your two. I hope you like what I have come up with, and enjoy stitching your cats Nicola.

For readers with Siamese with different colouring, simply swap out the threads colours to match your furry friend, and stitch away!

We have mounted ours in a coordinating-coloured card, but you could frame it if you want to hang it on the wall. Just make sure to allow for some extra aida fabric onto the measurements to ensure enough for framing. Also, when choosing a mount for your stitching, try and pick out a colour that already features in the design, as you will find this helps lift it once its framed!

Shopping list

- ✕ Zweigart* 14-count white aida measuring 15x15cm (6x6in)
- ✕ Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- ✕ Size 24 tapestry needle
- ✕ Craft Creations* square aperture card (AP53U) in marine blue

Thread & fabric cost
Approximately £10

*For stockists see page 90

Fun facts about Siamese cats

- **Originally from Thailand** (Siam), they're the first breed of the Orient.
- **Their eyes are** blue because the gene responsible for the coat pattern also restricts the amount of pigment (which is responsible for green or brown colours) in the eyes.
- **They are great** at learning tricks and even better at training their owners to do what they want!
- **They're very** talkative and love welcoming visitors to their home.

More pet ideas

Do not disturb!

'A Favourite Place' (BK1436) shows a cat resting on a windowsill. Designed by Janet Pidoux and available from DMC*



for £26.99, it has a finished design size of 20x25cm (8x10in) when worked on 14-count

aida. This one is sure to be appreciated by cat lovers!

Something fishy

'Koi Fish' is done in full cross stitches only. Using 111 colours, this one is for the dedicated.

You'll end up with a piece that measures 49x72cm (19½x28¼in) when worked on 14-count aida. For \$5.09 (approx. £3.23) you can download the chart from XSquaredCrossStitch*.



YOUR VERY OWN PET DESIGN

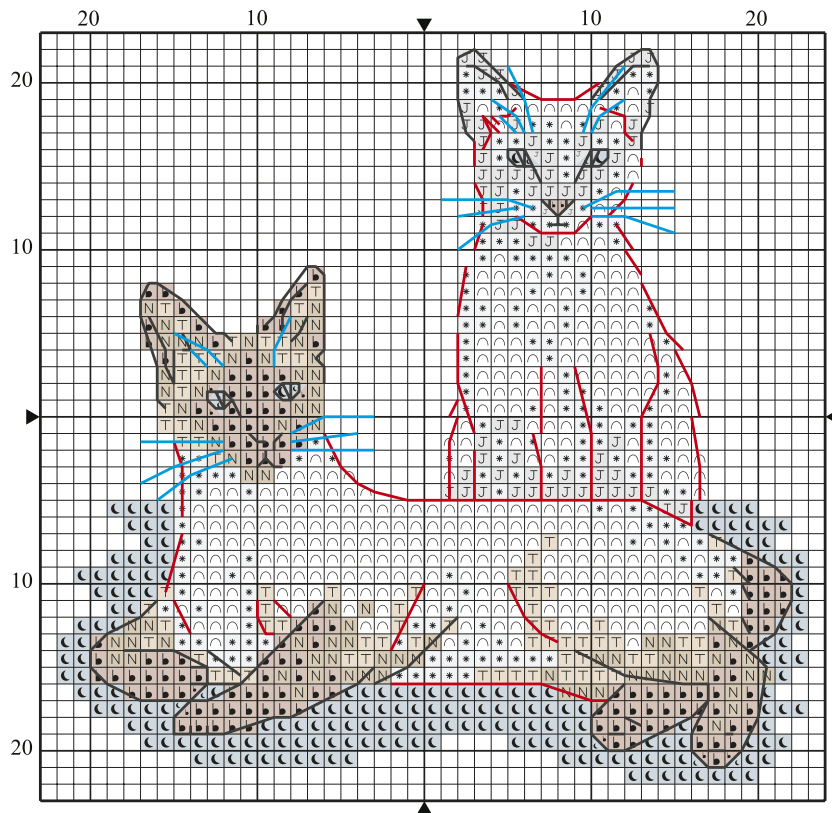
Furry, feathered, scaly? Send all your animal design requests in to Durene!

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!



TOP TIP

Double-sided tape is best for sticking stitching into card blanks, as it doesn't make the mess that glue does

Factbox

- ✦ **Stitching Time**
Approx. 5-6 hours
- ✦ **Type of Stitches**
Cross stitch, fractionals, backstitch
- ✦ **Ease of Stitching**
Beginner

Purr-fect for beginners

Siamese cats key

✦ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	blanc	2	2402	white
J	415	398	1802	light grey
*	762	234	1804	very light grey
◐	813	140	910	blue
◑	839	1050	1913	dark brown
N	840	1084	1912	brown
T	842	1080	1910	light brown

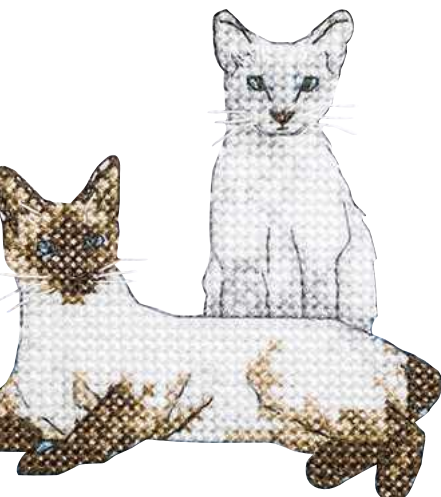
✦ Backstitch in one strand

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
—	blanc	2	2402	white
—	414	235	1714	grey
—	3799	236	1713	dark grey

STITCH COUNT 44 high x 45 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 8x8cm (3¼x3¼in)

This design was stitched using DMC stranded cotton



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THE WORLD OF
Cross
Stitching

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

SEW BEAUTIFUL



This group of cross stitchers has been going for 11 years. Members' ages range from mid-30s to mid-60s. Meeting every other Wednesday at the All Saints Church Hall, Hale Barns, just south of Manchester, most members are cross stitchers, but they also tackle tapestry, knitting, crochet and cardmaking. For more info, contact Sandra Whydle at whydle@aol.com or call her ☎ 07807 878873.

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

WHERE AM I?

Once again I am in one of Cornwall's most picturesque hamlets huddled around a harbour, where my family come every year, along with enough cross stitching to do over our joyous two week holiday. The man on the boat in the background is my father going out to catch dinner.

Shahna Thwaites, via 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



Hatched, Matched, Dispatched – & Patched!

14 MARCH – 1 NOVEMBER 2015

Bursting with textile treasures, this exhibition at The American Museum in Britain, in Bath, brings together breathtaking objects commemorating family milestones. Stitched memories on show will include detailed quilts made in response to a marriage, birth or death.

MORE The exhibition runs from 14 March until 1 November 2015 and entrance for the museum & exhibition costs £10. For more details, click <http://americanmuseum.org> online.



© AMIB 2015

Dates for March

26 FEBRUARY

ON SALE: THE WORLD OF CROSS STITCHING

Issue 227 is filled with fabulous designs for all. From a fluffy kitten to the adorable Tom Mouse from the Country Companions. There's a magnolia bedroom set, not to mention a sporty idea for the guys. And your free gifts are the oh-so-cute Bebunni in a complete card kit, plus a bookmark chart.

6 MARCH

PAINTING WITH THREADS – LANDSCAPES

BROOK FARM, ELLINGTON, HUNTS

Create a unique work of art by watercolour washing a background that you will embroider using simple stitches to produce a stunning landscape picture. Costing £35, visit www.beeingcrafty.co.uk for more info on how to book.

19-22 MARCH

SEWING FOR PLEASURE

NEC, BIRMINGHAM

Filled with all the latest supplies and ideas in the stitching world, this show has plenty to inspire and help refine your craft. Tickets are £10.50 (seniors £9.50) or £12.50 (£11.50) on the door, visit www.sewingshow.co.uk

25 MARCH

RSN 'OVERSIZED' BEAUTIFUL BUTTON WORKSHOP

ANTHROPOLOGIE, BATH IN FASHION 2015

Be inspired and make your own embellished and embroidered over-sized 'buttons' as fashion accessories. Costing £25, including materials, you can find full details at www.bathinfashion.co.uk.

Brilliant buttons! Be chic with unique buttons made at this Bath in Fashion week RSN workshop



Answer: Mousehole, Cornwall

Sweet treats

DESSERT ANYONE? THE FAVE PART OF ANY MEAL, YOU'LL LOVE THIS CHART SET!

46
TASTY
IDEAS



Stitch these sweet designs by Ursula Michael
that are sure to be enjoyed by all

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



BIRTHDAY TREAT

Stitch a pretty cake and candles design (16) for someone special on their big day! Patch onto a gift bag from a local store to make a unique wrapping for a present.



SWEETIE JAR

This design of tasty treats (17) is ideal for sweet-toothed loved ones! Back your stitching with iron-on interfacing so it stays fray-free when trimming, and decorate a jar.



STRAWBERRY DELIGHT

Stitch a choc-covered strawberry (42) as the perfect tag for homemade treats! Ours is mounted onto felt for an extra-special touch, before layering to dress up this gift.



SLICE OF HAPPINESS

Cake and a card! What friend wouldn't be happy with this fab card design (19)? Mount in a square aperture card from Craft Creations* (AP10U) in pale cream.



CELEBRATORY CAKE

True love in a baked delight, this design (39) is perfect for special occasions! Patch onto handmade paper and mount onto card for a fancy gift tag like ours.



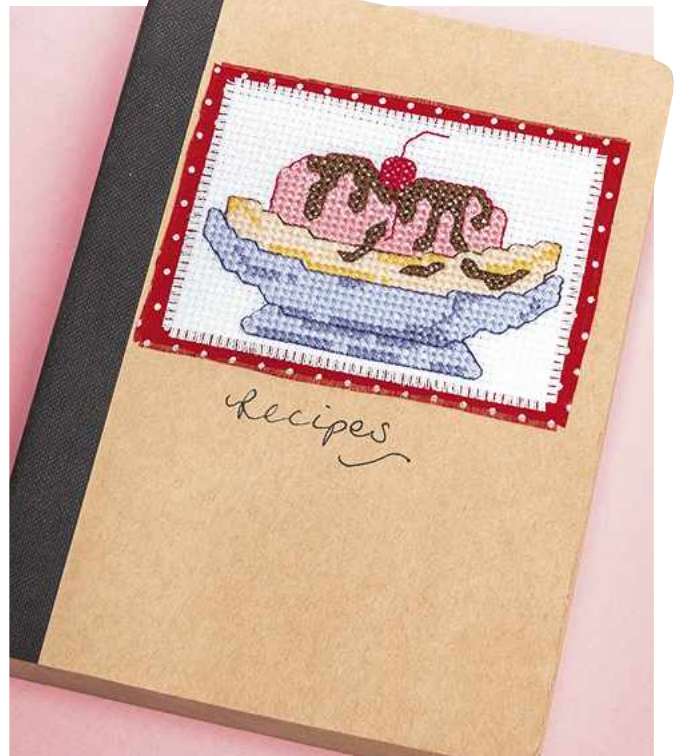
SWEET GREETINGS

Let your friends know you wish them the best of days with this message (22)! Ours is mounted onto a card blank from Craft Creations* (DEC7U) in bright red.



JUST DESSERTS

Give napkins a makeover with a tasty design (20)! Patch onto a shop-bought napkin. To strengthen it, back the motif with iron-on interfacing before stitching it in place.



TIME TO SPLIT

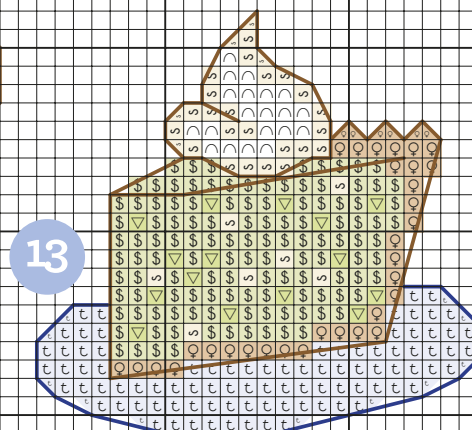
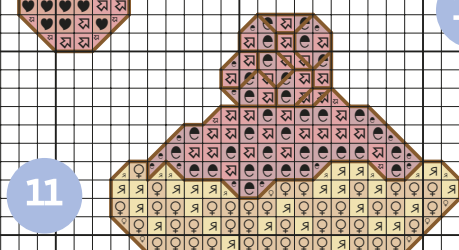
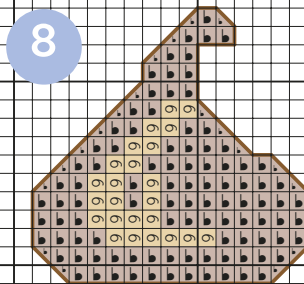
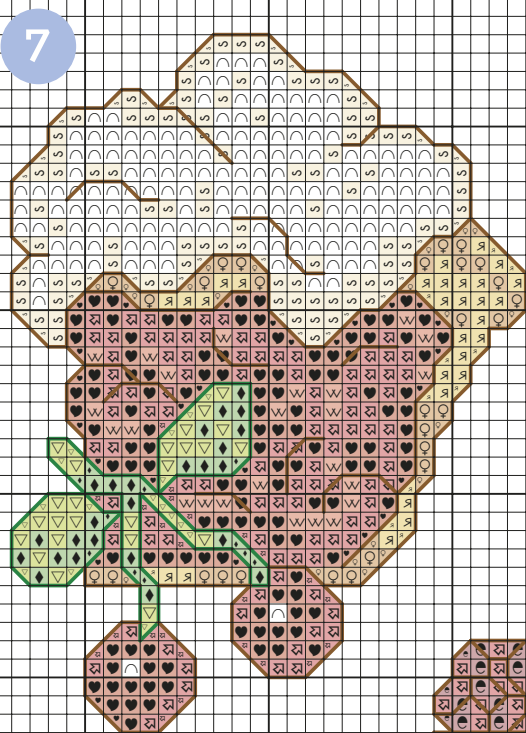
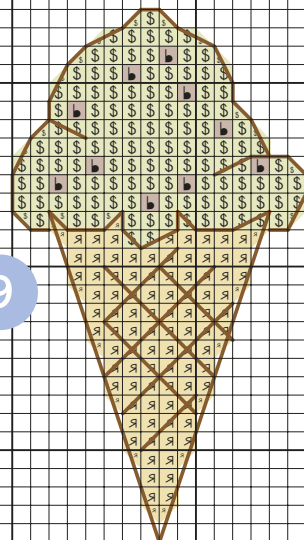
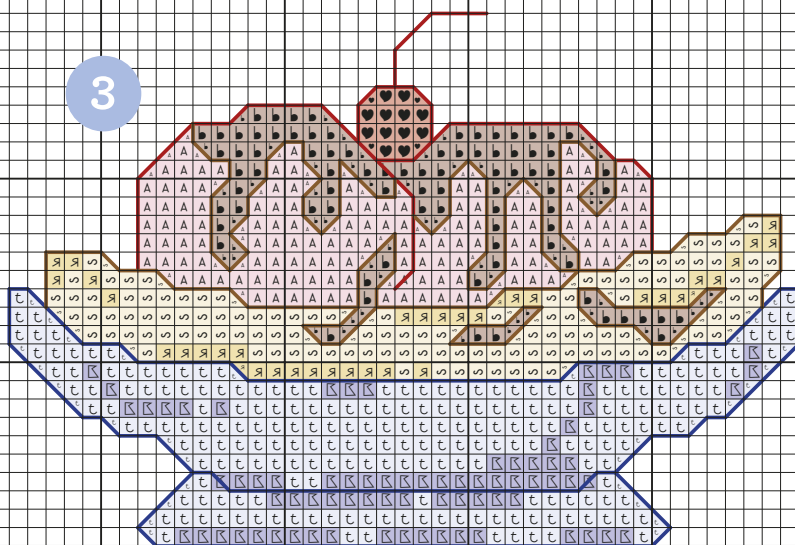
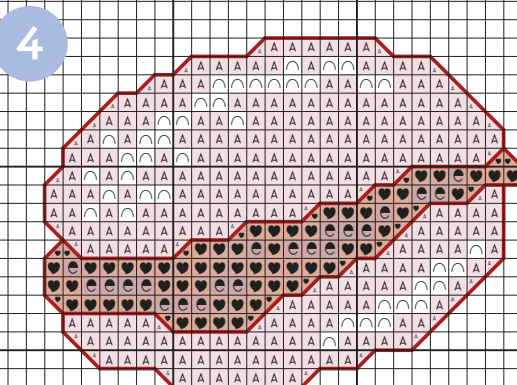
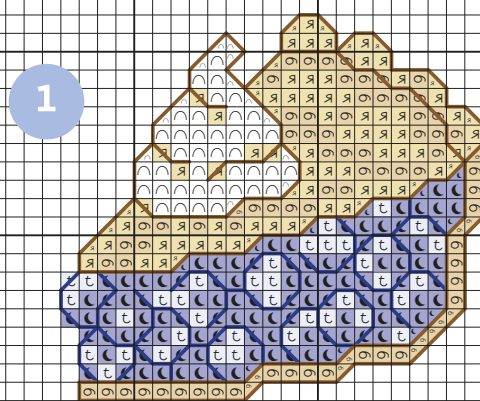
A classic dessert still loved today, this banana split motif (3) is just what the chef ordered! Mount onto backing paper and patch onto a notebook to brighten it up.

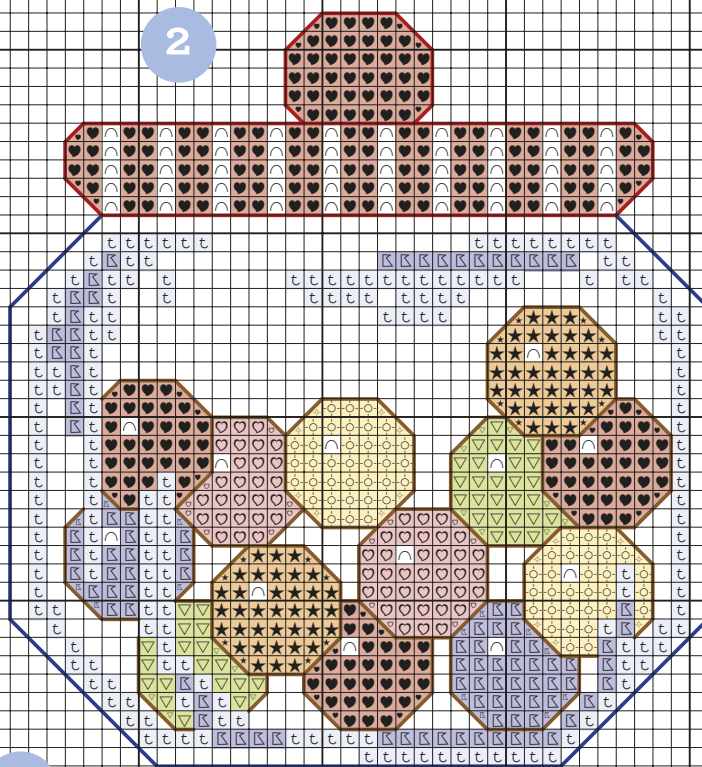
*For stockists, see page 90

My inspiration

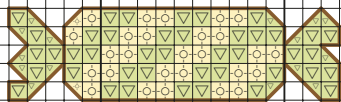
“ Like many of you, I love a tasty treat at the end of a meal... or over a hot cup of tea! I had fun coming up with these designs of favourite desserts and goodies that my family and I enjoy, for all kinds of occasions. I hope you like them! ”

URSULA MICHAEL, *DESIGNER*

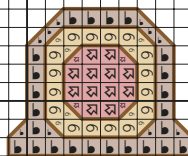




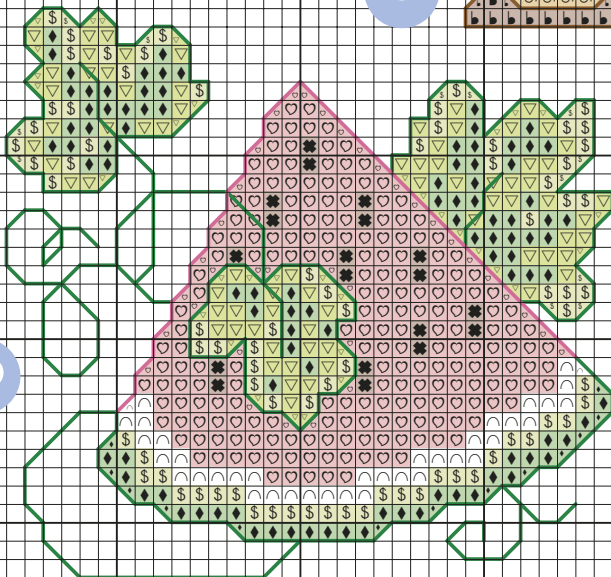
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6



10



Desserts key

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

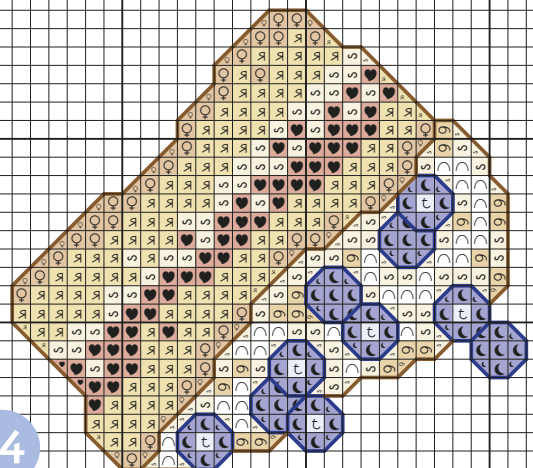
	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
⌋	blanc	2	2402	white
t	157	120	907	light blue
☾	158	941	905	dark blue
♥	321	9046	510	dark red
w	351	10	214	coral
N	434	310	2009	dark tan
o	436	1045	2011	tan
♦	701	227	1305	dark green
▽	704	255	1308	green
⊙	726	295	109	yellow
s	739	366	2014	light tan
★	741	304	202	orange
◐	777	43	509	raspberry
⌋	793	176	906	blue
■	898	360	2006	brown
♀	976	1001	2010	ginger
\$	3348	264	1409	grass green
✱	3371	382	2004	dark brown
♡	3706	33	409	pink
A	3708	31	408	light pink
■	3801	1098	411	red
я	3821	305	2514	straw

✕ Backstitch in one strand

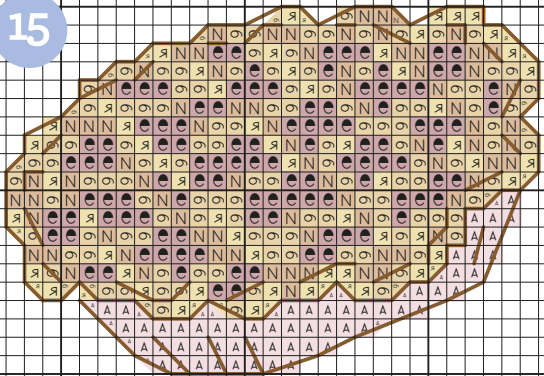
	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
—	blanc	2	2402	white
—	158	941	905	dark blue
—	321	9046	510	dark red
—	701	227	1305	dark green
—	777	43	509	raspberry
—	898	360	2006	brown
—	3371	382	2004	dark brown
—	3801	1098	411	red

These designs were stitched using DMC stranded cotton

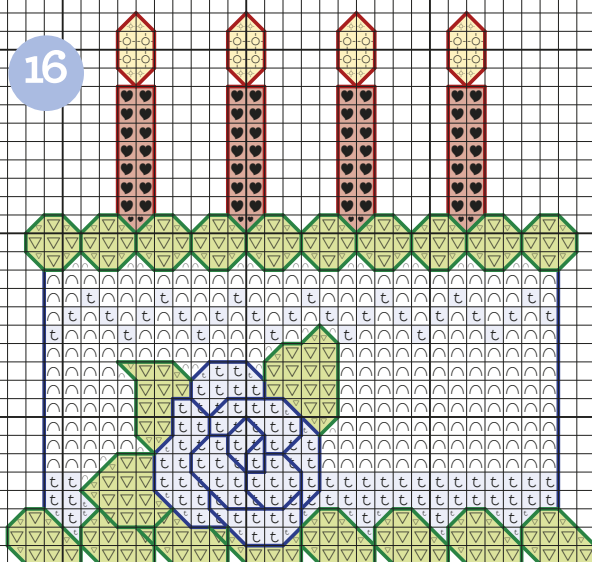
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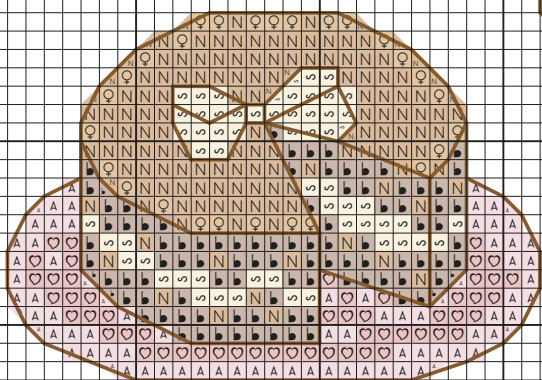
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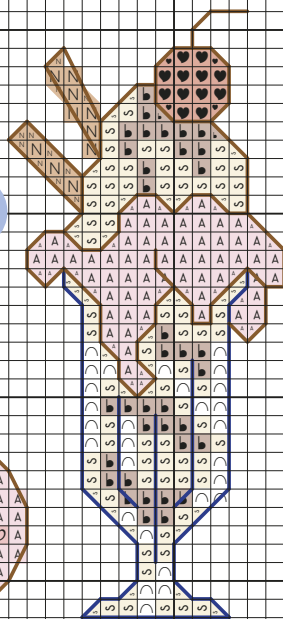
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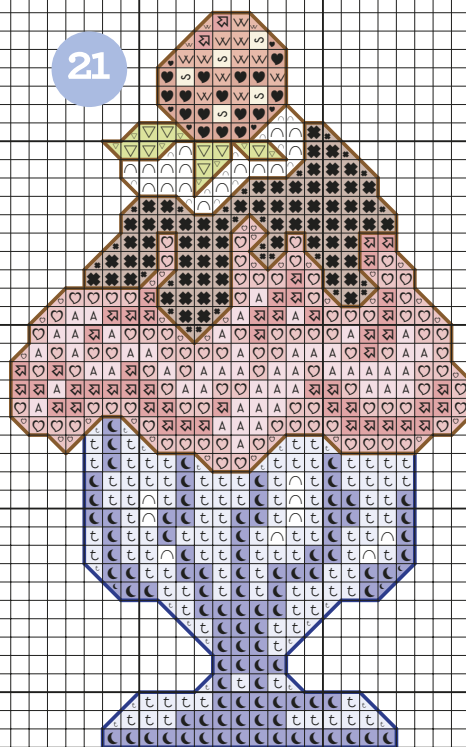
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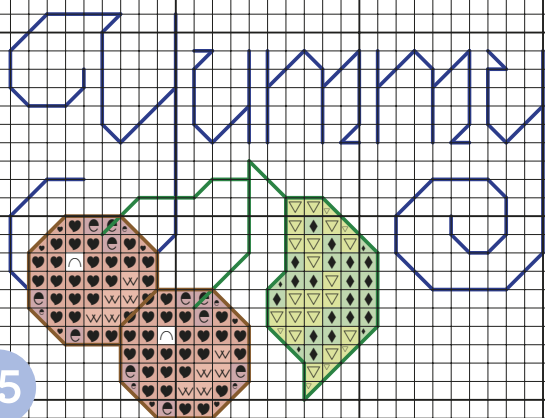
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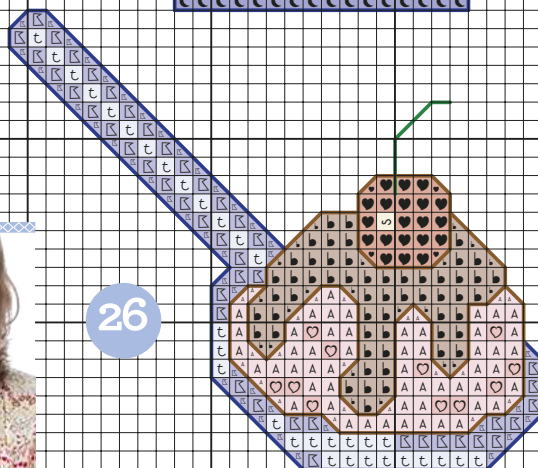
21



25



26



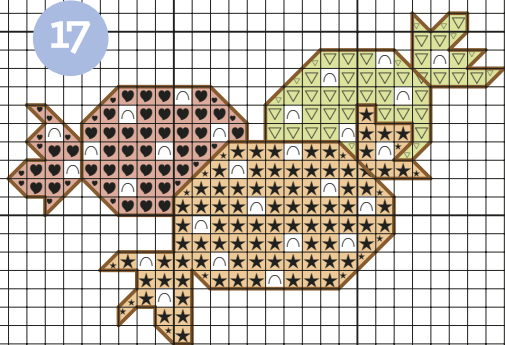
“Who doesn’t like a nice piece of cake? That’s why this collection of charts is so great, as I can stitch treats, both indulgent and healthy, as cards and gifts for my pals – plus a few for me too! These motifs will definitely be put to good use”

RUTH, EDITOR

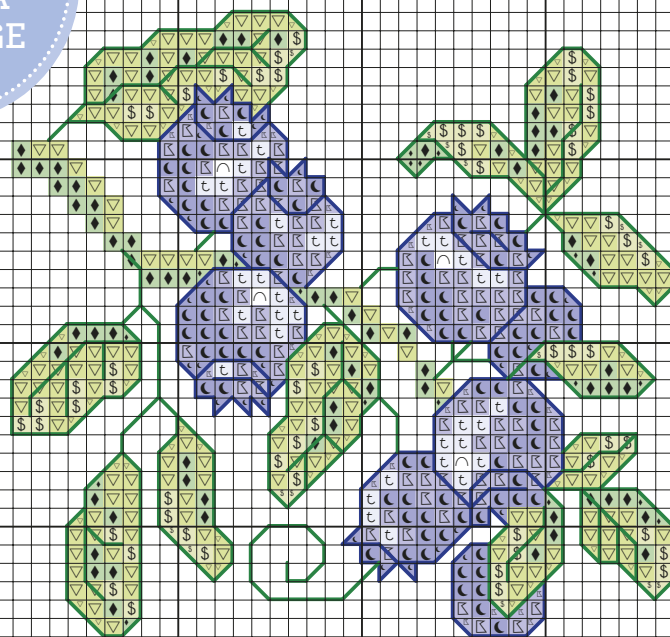


MAKE IT
PERSONAL
WITH A
MESSAGE

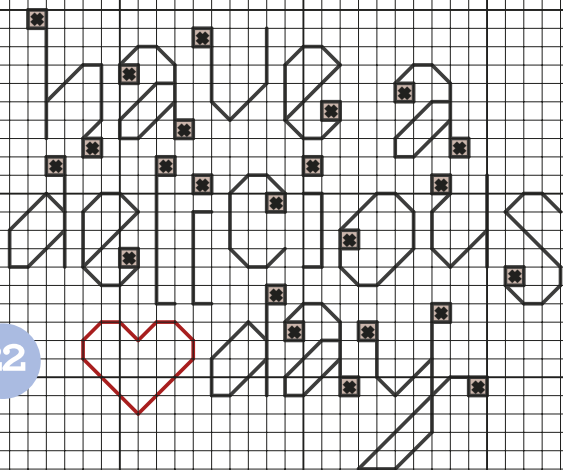
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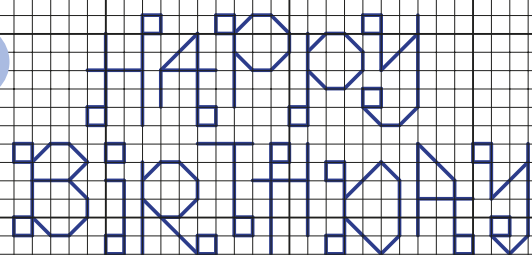
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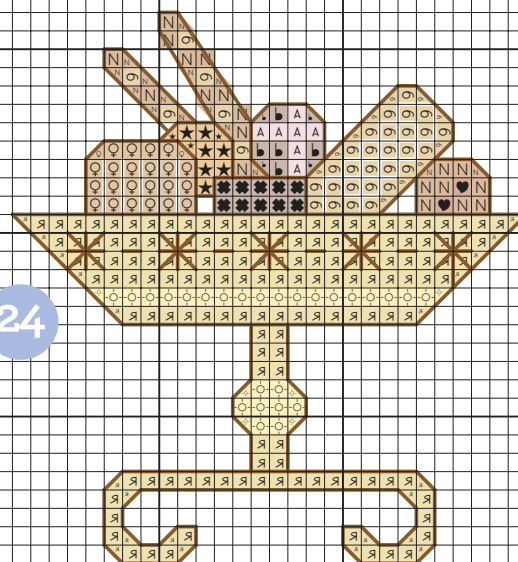
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23



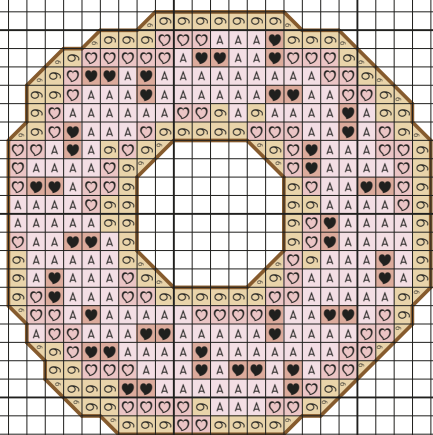
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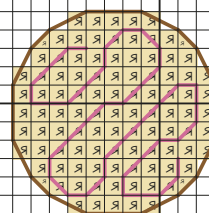
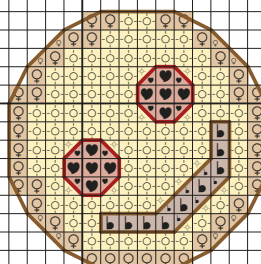
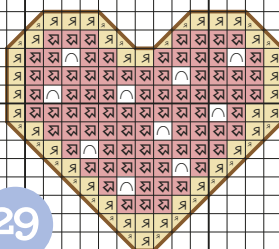
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Congratulations

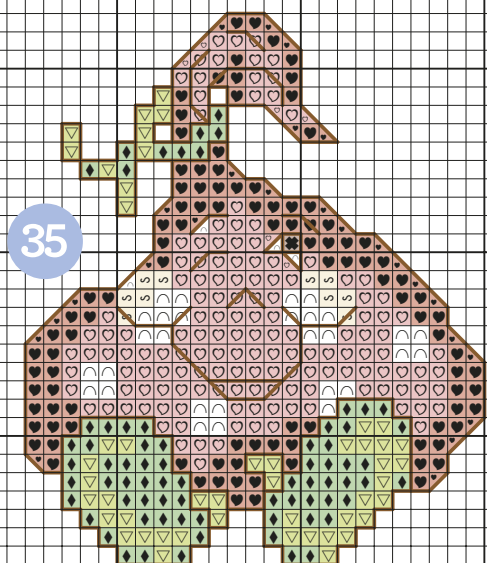
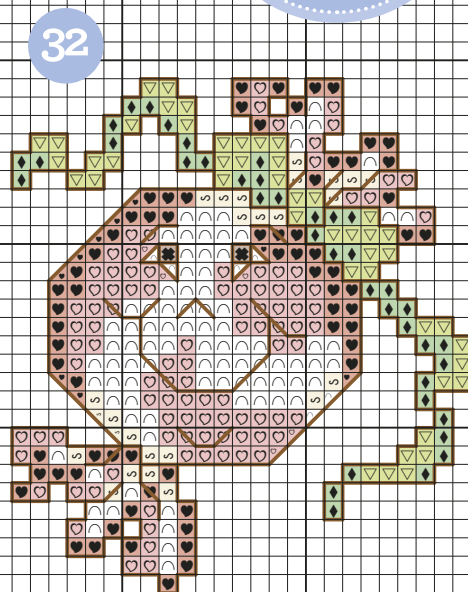
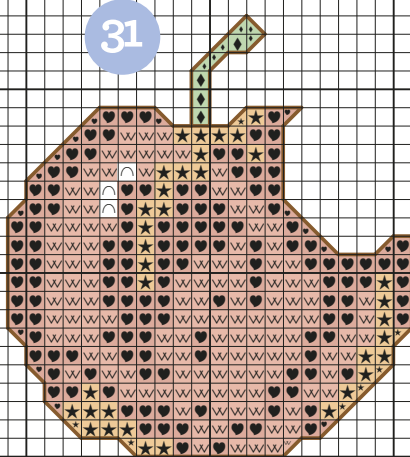
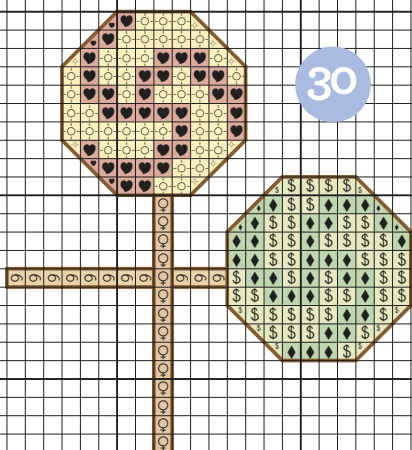
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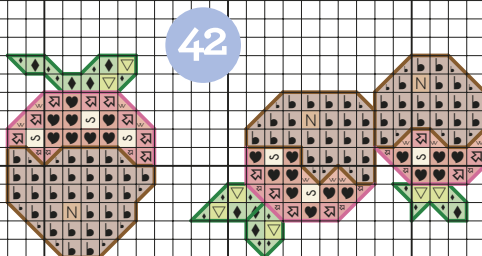
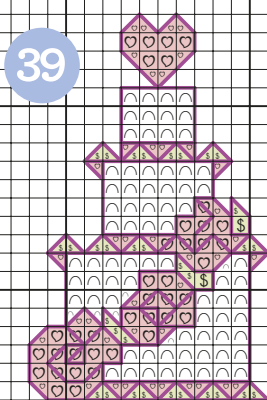
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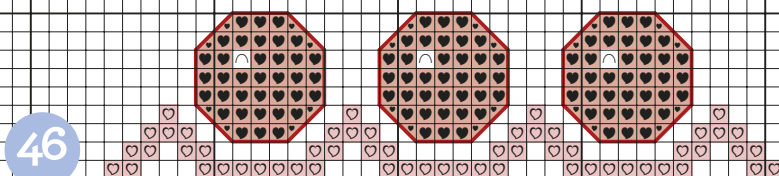
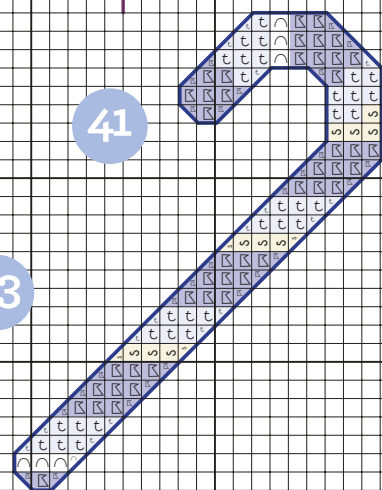
SWEET
TREATS TO
STITCH FOR
LOVED
ONES

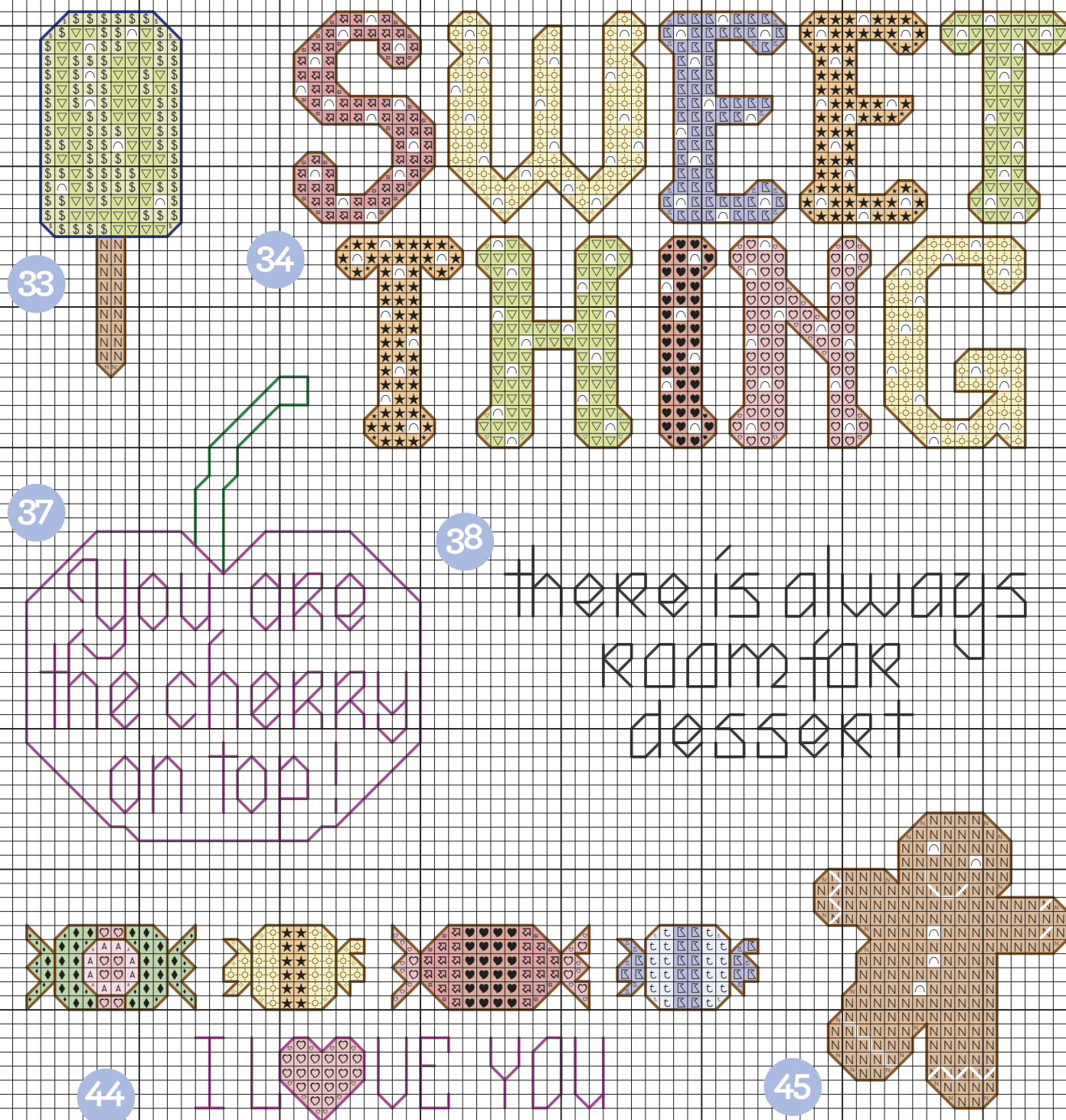


everything
is better with
icing on top



43





NEXT MONTH: CELTIC

Designer Rhona Norrie has come up with a gorgeous collection of Celtic designs just for you in next month's Design Library. Get to the shops on 26 February to pick up your copy of issue 227, or subscribe and the issue will be delivered to your door. Find this month's money-saving subscription offer with the fab gift options of Gorjuss stitch kits, on page 44.



INSPIRE
WITH THIS
PRETTY
SCENE

Wishes aren't just the
stuff of fairytales...
Make yours come
true with the power
of positive thinking -
and stitching!



DESIGN BY SHANNON WASILIEFF

Dreams can come true

Breathe life into this delicately detailed wishing well and let this beautiful design be an inspiration to you every day



With our busy lives and hectic schedules, we can often be heard exclaiming “I wish I was more organised”, “I wish I had more time to relax” or even “I wish I was stitching right now!” Well, instead of wishing your life away, why not take time out to try and make it happen? Sometimes all we need is a little bit of space to be calm and reflect, which is where this gorgeous piece comes in.

As you sit and stitch this beautifully ornate wishing well, decorated with winding trails of oh-so-pretty flowers, let your mind focus on its heartfelt phrase, and motivate you towards positive action. Don’t let your mind wander too much though, as no one would wish to unpick rows

Factbox

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

Easy to stitch on evenweave

of wrongly stitched squares!

Worked on 28-count evenweave, this project is the perfect addition to any home, and would also make a thoughtful gift for someone special. So, start stitching today, and make fantasy become a reality. ➤



Meet the designer

Shannon Wasilieff

“I’ve always felt there was something special about wishing wells – that feeling of dropping in a silver coin and hoping your dreams would come true. I’d love it if this stitched version made that magic happen for you!”

Wishing Well key

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
I	155	1030	902	light purple
◆	319	1044	1313	dark green
\$	320	215	1311	light green
e	333	119	903	purple
▽	367	217	1312	green
✓	368	214	1310	very light green
■	433	357	2602	dark tan
N	435	1046	2010	tan
o	437	362	2012	light tan
я	739	366	2014	very light tan
⊠	893	33	413	dark pink
♡	894	31	414	pink
?	943	188	1203	dark emerald
◇	3851	187	1202	emerald

✕ Half cross stitch in two strands

x	367	217	1312	green
---	-----	-----	------	-------

✕ Backstitch in one strand

—	319	1044	1313	dark green
—	938	380	2005	brown

✕ French knots in one strand

●	728	305	107	gold
●	938	380	2005	brown

STITCH COUNT 128 high x 97 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 23.5x17.5cm (9¼x7in)

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

Shopping list

- ✕ Zweigart* 28-count antique white evenweave measuring 33x28cm (13x11in)
- ✕ Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- ✕ Size 26 tapestry needle
- ✕ Frame or hand rotating frame (JC1212) measuring 30cm (12in), available from The Craft Department*

Thread & fabric cost
Approximately £16

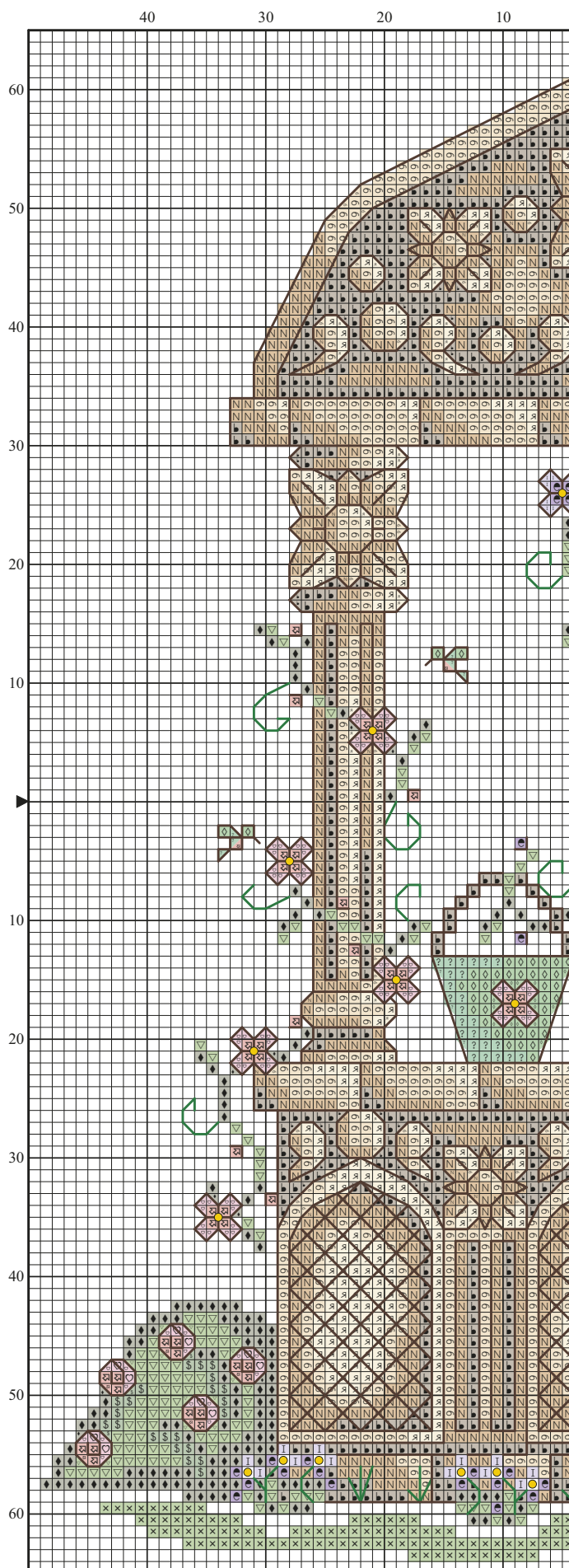
*For stockists see page 90



Siri READER PANEL



“ This fits really well with my general preference for fantasy-related images. I especially like how simple it is, yet the idyllic nature of the scene along with the wording gives a fairytale feel. It'd look really great on my desk as daily motivation. ”



Wishing Well chart (left)

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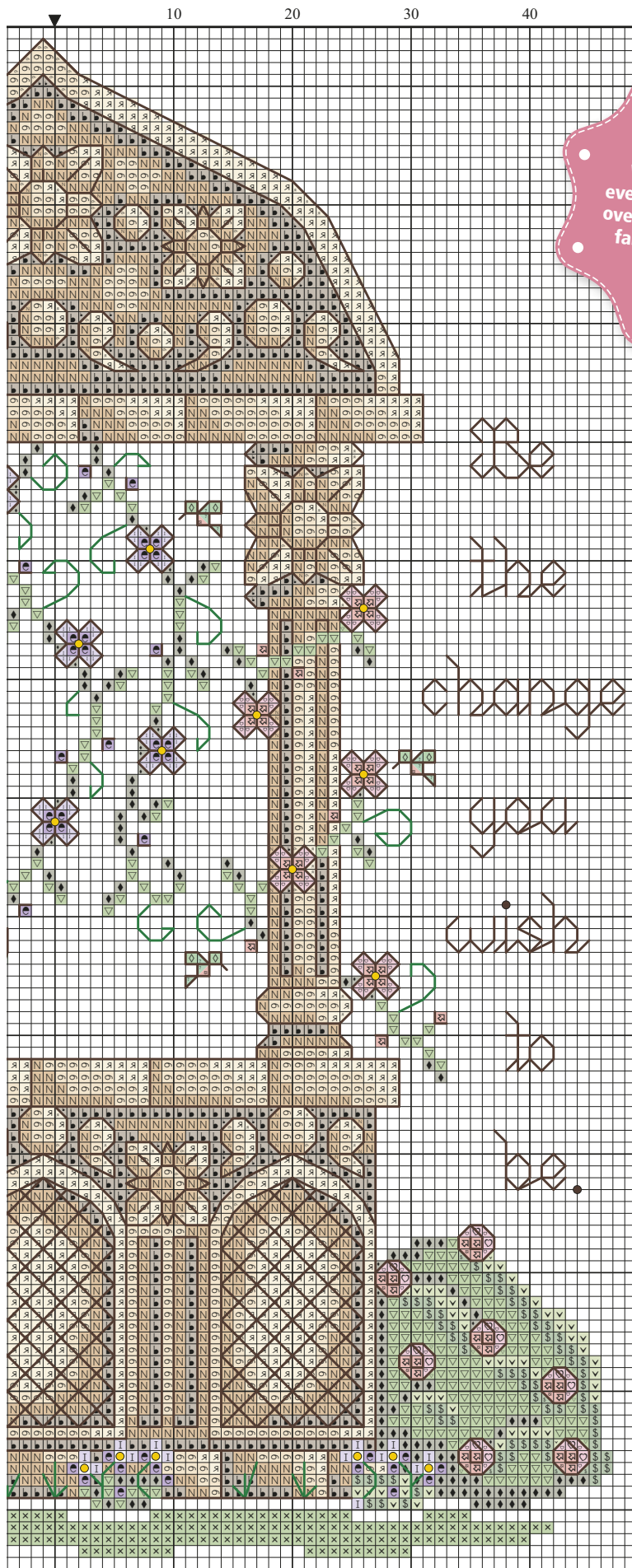
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Wishing Well chart (right)

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✕ Issue 225

Stitch in the change of season with the fabulous designs in issue 225! There are the cute Forever Friends bears, a glamorous Art Deco lady, pretty spring bulbs draught excluder, vintage-chic baby sampler, stunning space design done on glow-in-the-dark aida and Joan Elliott's spring Design Library. Plus your **FREE** gift: **an adorable Margaret Sherry hedgehog card kit**



✕ Issue 224

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



✕ Issue 221

Bebunni calendar & Madeleine Floyd robin chart Margaret Sherry's sledging cats, Furry Tales, winter forest, Halloween ABC



✕ Issue 223

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



✕ Issue 220

3-in-1 Margaret Sherry Christmas mice cards Pretty poppies, garden pixies, fantastic Mr Fox, copyright-free ideas, stitcher's haven



✕ Issue 222

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



✕ Issue 219

Handy chart magnifier and fairy chart Forever Friends bear, stunning floral cushion, Noah's Ark design, vineyard scene, rose cards

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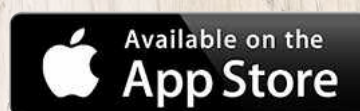


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DESIGN BY **HELEN PHILIPPS**

A house in the sun

Enjoy this fresh springtime sampler to hang in pride of place in your house or as a special gift for a friend

Sampler queen Helen Philipps has created this stylish yet simple design just for you. Worked in mainly whole stitches with the smallest of backstitch detail and on 14-count aida, it's a perfect project for stitchers of all abilities. It'd be a great make for less experienced stitchers wanting to sink their teeth into something a bit bigger, yet not too intimidating.

The fresh colour palette of garden shades will make this design a delight to stitch while the evenings are still cool. As you work on it, you will be transported to finer days in the outdoors with every stitch.

When you're done, this lovely design will make a wonderful

Factbox

- ✕ **Stitching Time**
Approx. 25 hours
- ✕ **Type of Stitches**
Cross stitch, backstitch
- ✕ **Ease of Stitching**
Beginner

Build up your confidence

decoration for any wall in your home. Or, why not make it for a friend who has moved house as a unique housewarming present? You could add their name and house number in backstitch to personalise it.

So what are you waiting for? Get out your stitching supplies and start work on this pretty sampler today! ►



Meet the designer

Helen Philipps

"I love creating samplers, as they are so versatile. This one was particularly a joy, as it reminds me of the sunny days ahead when I can look forward to being out in the garden enjoying the fine weather."



STITCH
FOR
SPRING

Usher in warmer weather with this delightful sampler of the prettiest house and garden!



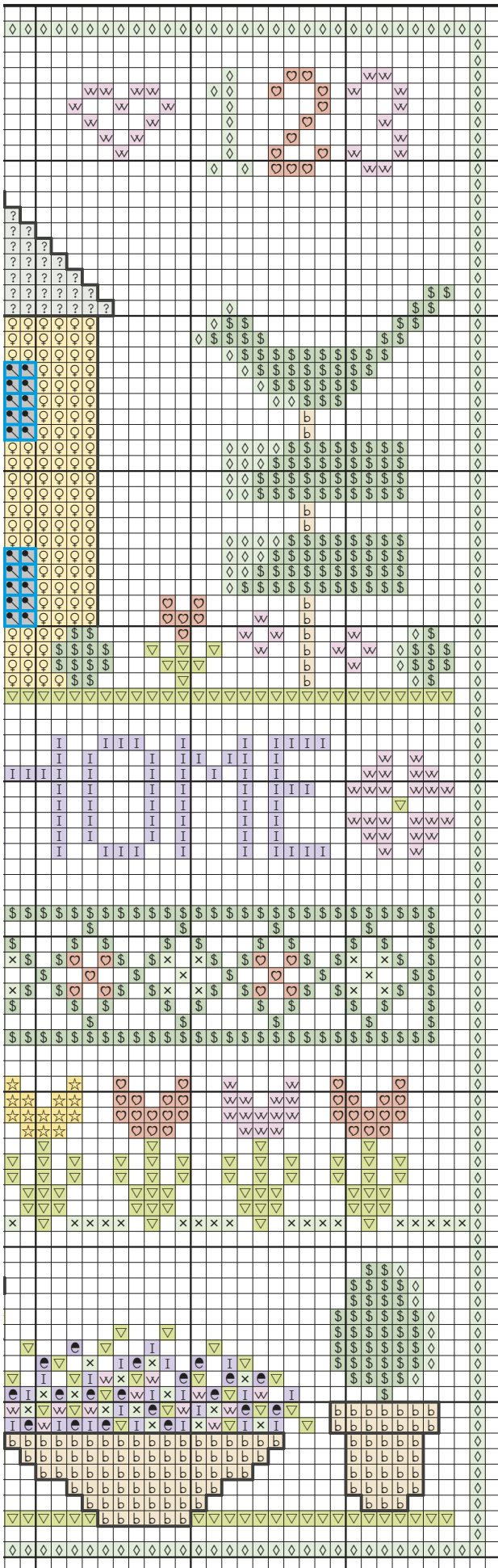
House Sampler chart (left)

20

30

40

50



House Sampler chart (right)

TOP TIP

You can't go wrong if you stitch on aida – it's great for beginners and the more experienced alike, plus it comes in lots of colours!



House Sampler key

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
z	ecru	926	2404	cream
I	340	118	902	light purple
♥	351	10	214	red
☛	414	235	1714	grey
N	436	1045	2011	tan
b	437	362	2012	light tan
▽	704	255	1308	leaf green
\$	912	209	1213	green
?	927	848	1708	petrol blue
◇	954	203	1207	mint green
x	955	206	1210	light mint green
☆	973	290	105	bright yellow
w	3608	86	709	pink
e	3746	1030	2702	purple
♀	3822	295	2510	yellow

✕ Backstitch in one strand

—	ecru	926	2404	cream
—	414	235	1714	grey
—	436	1045	2011	tan

STITCH COUNT 99 high x 98 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 18x18cm (7x7in)

This design was stitched using DMC stranded cotton

Siri READER PANEL



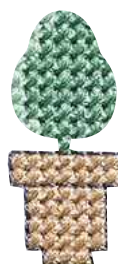
“I love the style of this sampler! My mother was given a pillow in the same style by a friend many years ago and it became a favourite with my whole family. I would stitch this and make it into a pillow for my mother.”

Shopping list

- ✕ Zweigart* 14-count white aida measuring 28x28cm (11x11in)
- ✕ Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- ✕ Size 24 tapestry needle
- ✕ Frame of your choice with a minimum aperture 23x23cm (9x9in)

Thread & fabric cost
Approximately £16

*For stockists see page 90



DESIGN BY **LESLEY TEARE**

Floral fantasy

Create a piece of modern art for your home
with this striking yet simple design



With its bold design and vibrant colours, this design is sure to stand out in your home and make a stunning piece of artwork. Designed using no fractional stitches, with the smallest amount of backstitch and a smattering of French knots, this project is great if you're a less experienced stitcher looking for a bigger project to work on.

The running stitch used to separate the quadrants of the design is a basic stitch in embroidery, too. Easy to do, the stitch is worked by passing the needle in and out of the fabric over larger distances.

This versatile design can be stitched as one piece, or why not work it as four separate pieces and

Factbox

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

Fractional
free

finished off in matching frames for an alternative, yet just as stylish, display?

No matter what you decide to do, this pattern will be a delight to stitch, and you'll make quick work of larger areas working in one colour. So get out your threads and fabric and start on this artwork for your home! ➤



Meet the designer

Lesley Teare

"I love creating patterns in a few bold shades.

The design really stands out and is also easy to adapt if you want to use alternative colours. I think it makes for a striking finished effect, that's also fun to stitch!"

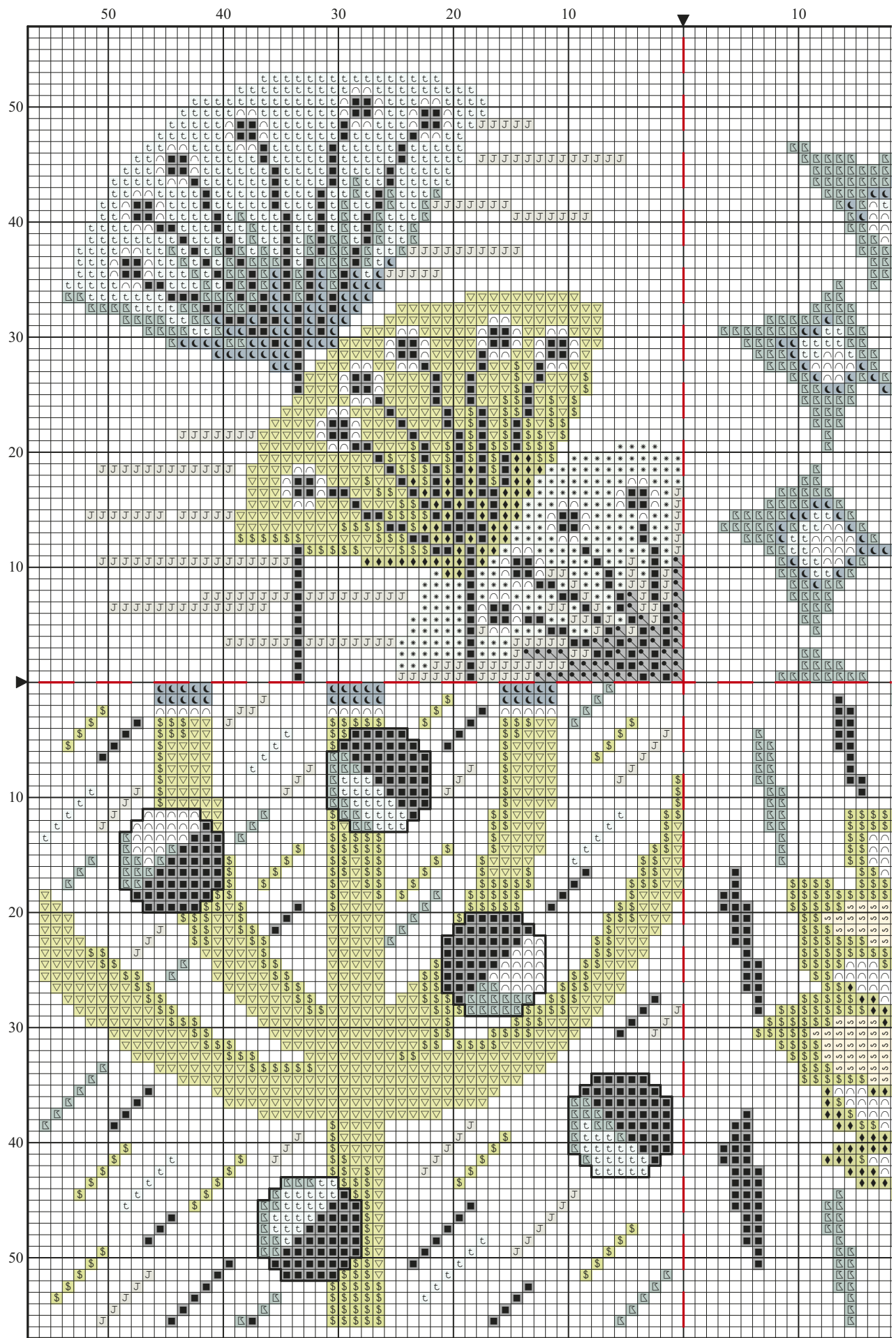


MAKE
FOR YOUR
HOME

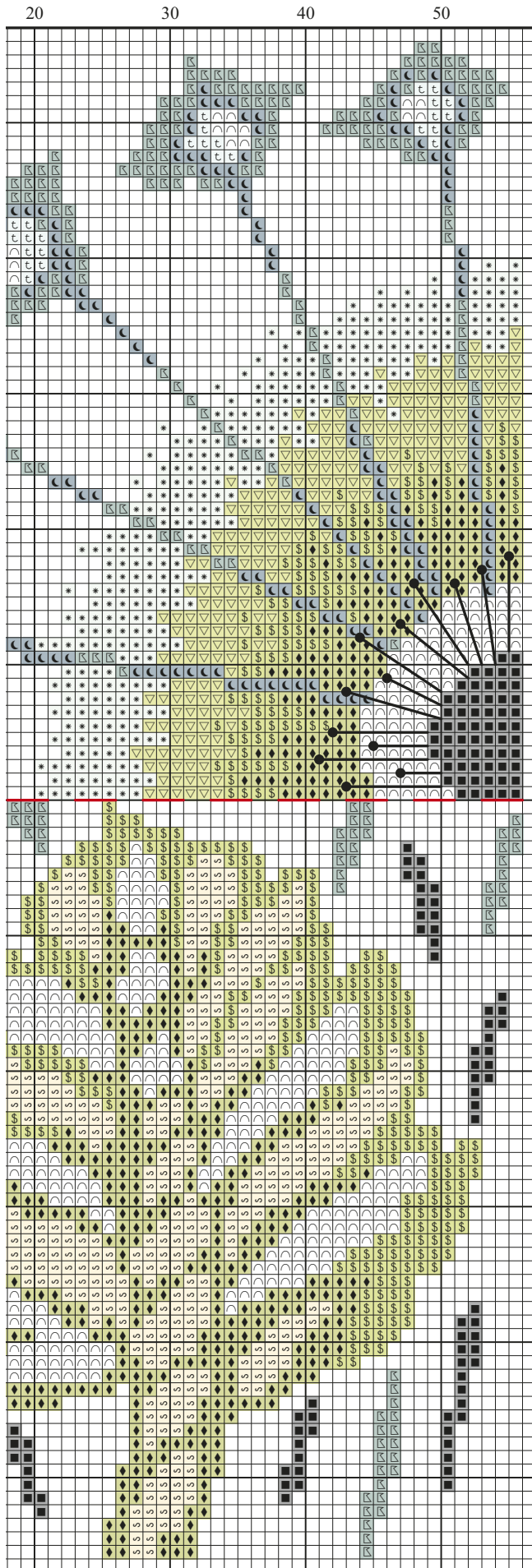


Create this vibrant
floral artwork in
stitches for your
home to add a pop of
colour to any room





Contemporary Florals chart (left)



Contemporary Florals chart (right)

Shopping list

- ✕ Zweigart* 28-count cream evenweave measuring 36x36cm (14x14in)
- ✕ Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- ✕ Size 26 tapestry needle
- ✕ Canvas measuring 25x25cm (10x10in) available from local craft stores

Thread & fabric cost Approximately £15

*For stockists see page 90

TOP TIP

If you are giving a stitched piece as a gift, make sure you sign and date the project for posterity

Contemporary Florals key

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
⌒	B5200	1	2401	white
\$	166	279	1611	dark lime green
■	310	403	2400	black
■	535	400	1809	grey
◆	581	280	1609	moss green
J	647	1040	1813	ash grey
*	3072	847	1805	light ash grey
☾	3809	1066	2507	dark turquoise
☾	3810	168	1108	turquoise
t	3811	1060	1101	light turquoise
▽	3819	278	1610	lime green
s	3823	386	2512	cream

✕ Backstitch in one strand

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

✕ Running stitch in one strand

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

✕ French knots in one strand

●	310	403	2400	black
---	-----	-----	------	-------

STITCH COUNT 112 high x 112 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 20.5x20.5cm (8x8in)

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

“This contemporary design would work well in most homes, plus the colour palette is so striking. I know a friend who would love this for her home, and she just happens to have a turquoise colour scheme!”

RACHEL, ART ASSISTANT



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

Jenny Robinson: "Made the 'Summer Patchwork' from issue 219 into a cushion for my mum's birthday. First time I have attempted turning my projects into something other than cards or tags." You did a great job Jenny!

Like

83 people like this

YOU LIKED

Barbara Homewood: "Started the circular part of the dreamcatcher design from issue 224 today. I am unable to stitch for too long as I suffer from fibromyalgia and end up in agony from sitting still for too long."

Like

100 people like this

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www.pinterest.com/worldofxs



www.youtube.com/crossstitchtv

Blogger of the month



And the winner is...

We asked you on Facebook: What do you do with the ABC sets in the mag?

We love alphabet sets as they are so versatile. Whether you stitch up whole names or use individual letters for cards, the possibilities are endless. Each month we bring you a new set to stitch, like this colourful art one on page 71!

MAKE NAME PLAQUES

28%

STITCH LETTERS AS CARDS

22%

STITCH INDIVIDUAL INITIALS

36%

MAKE SAMPLERS USING THE WHOLE SET

14%

The Redheaded Stitcher is a girl who, unsurprisingly, is a redhead who likes to craft and read. Besides regular updates on her stitching projects (many we recognise from *The World of Cross Stitching*), she posts other updates like her 'Photo a day' challenge, book reviews and other interests she has in the crafting world. A great way to spend some time seeing what a fellow stitcher is up to!

MORE Visit the blog for more info at www.redheadedstitcher.wordpress.com

Websites you'll love

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



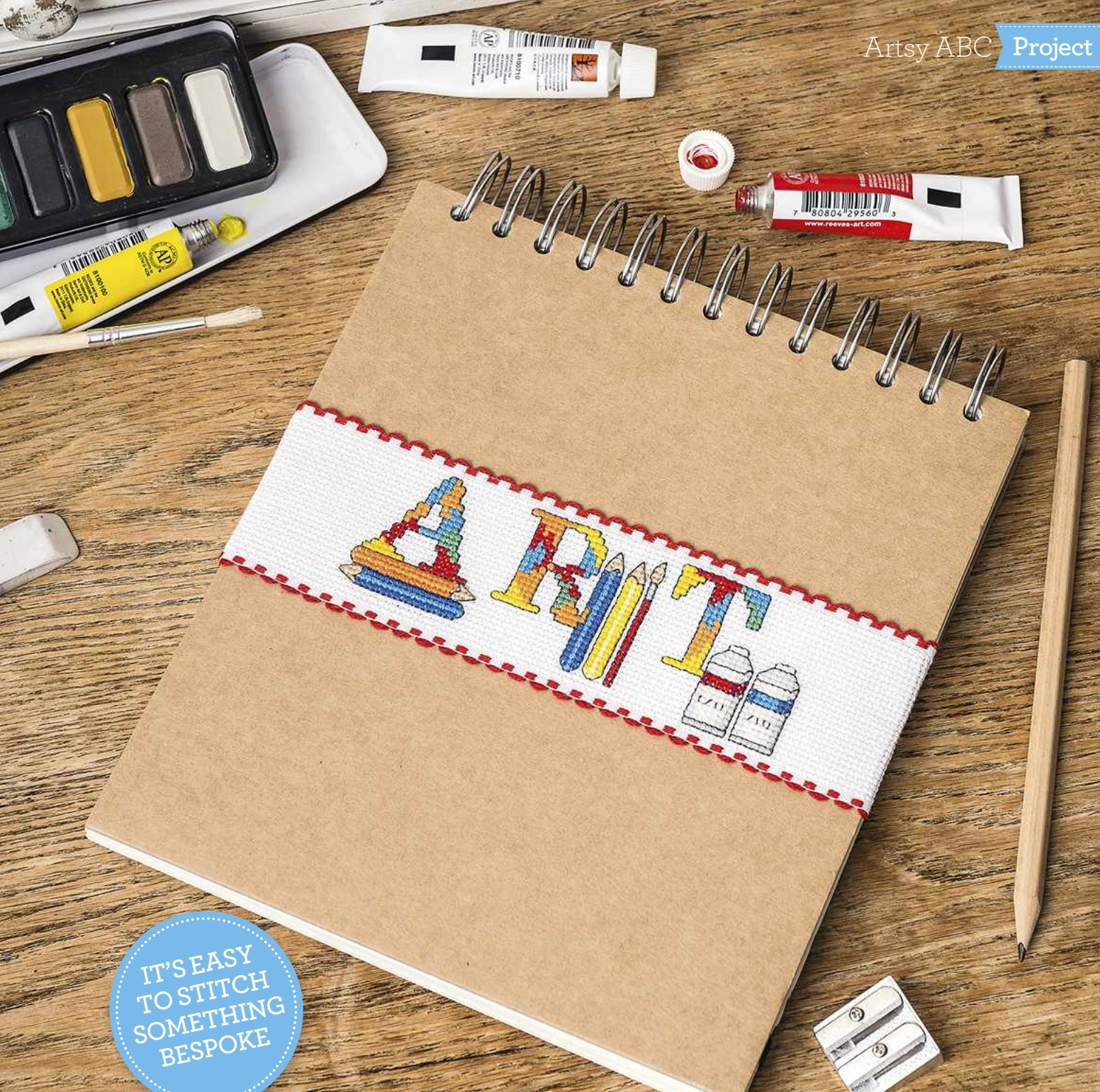
Well-known British crafting brand Lili of the Valley has launched a fabulous range of counted cross stitch charts featuring their beloved iconic characters! Available from www.liliofthevalley.co.uk, this site is one to keep an eye on as new designs are added.



Find beautiful, creative stitching projects at www.stickkits.co.uk that will make a lovely addition to your home. Hosted on the Amazon platform, customers can find projects easily as they are categorised by techniques, collections or finished item.



At www.purplepatchdesign.co.uk find bright and colourful designs to suit every budget. There's a full range of over 200 designs in all shapes and sizes that are available as both chart packs and complete kits. All kits are handmade before being posted out worldwide.



IT'S EASY
TO STITCH
SOMETHING
BESPOKE

DESIGNS BY **AMANDA GREGORY**

Shopping list

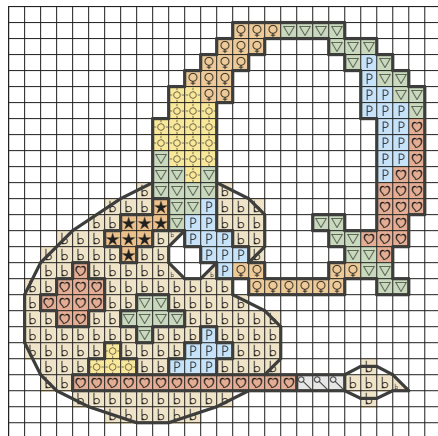
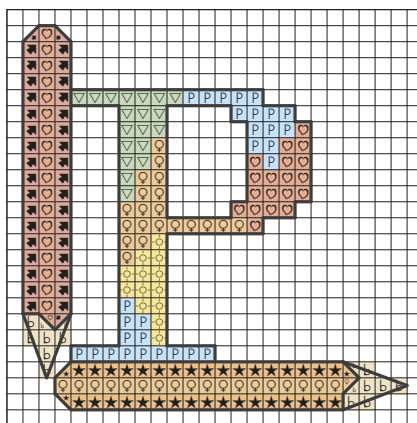
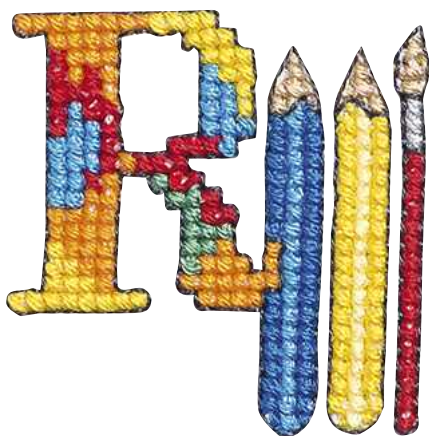
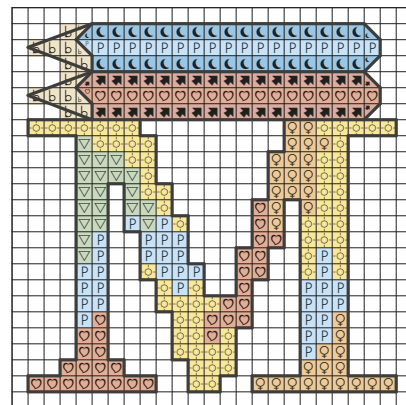
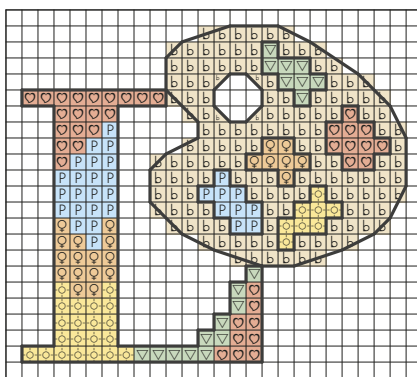
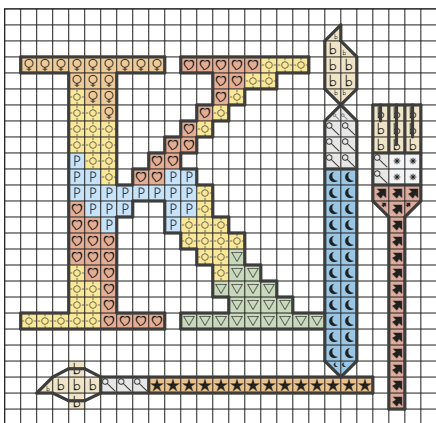
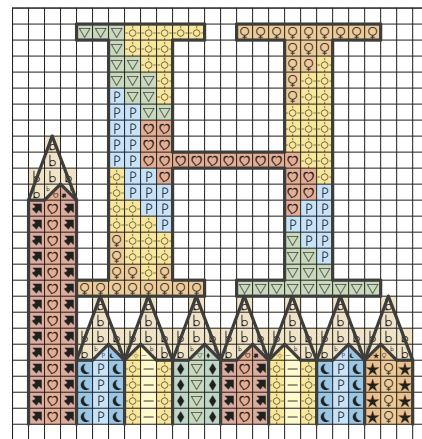
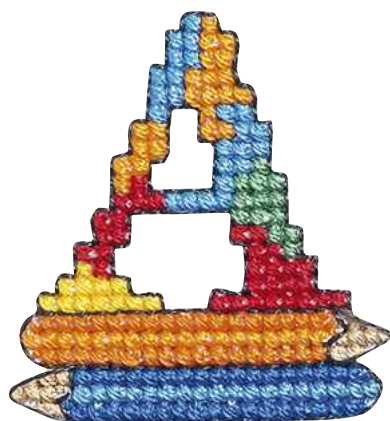
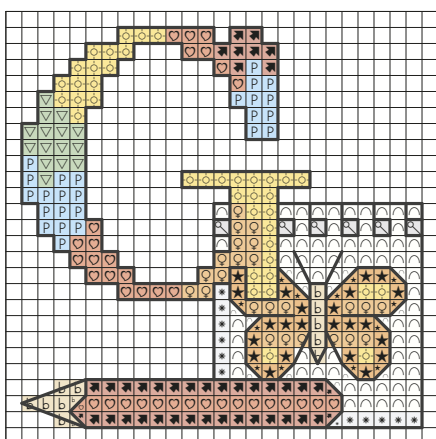
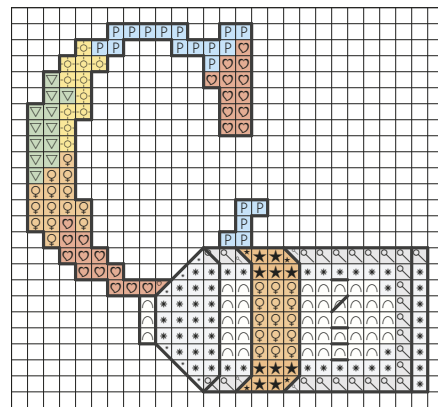
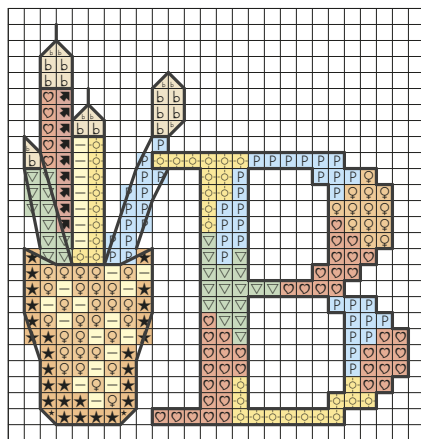
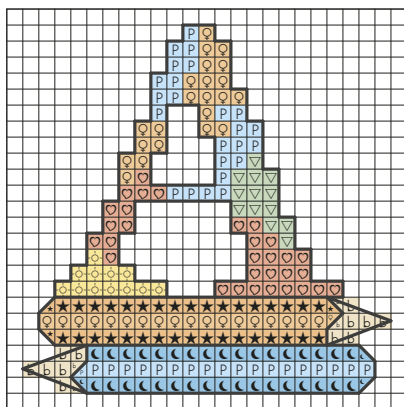
- ✕ Zweigart* 16-count white aida band with red trim, measuring 5cm (2in) wide x desired length
- ✕ Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- ✕ Size 26 tapestry needle
- ✕ Art sketchpad from local craft stores

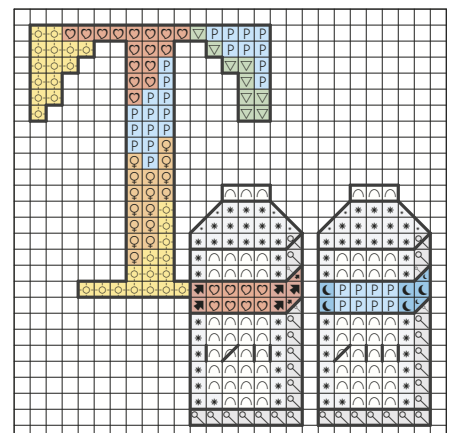
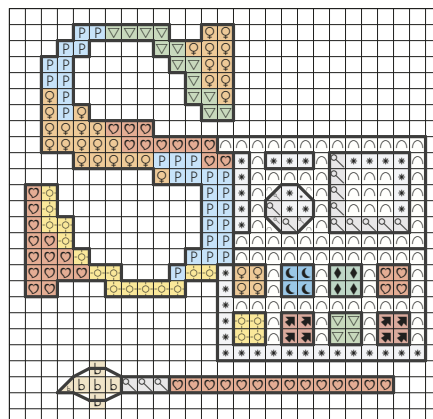
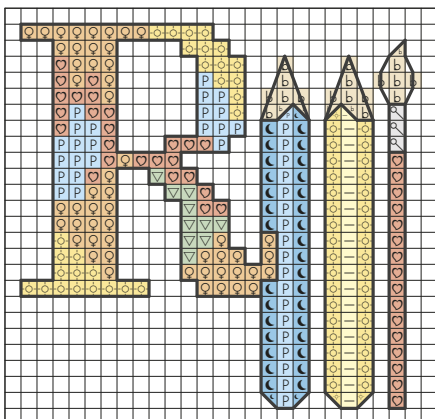
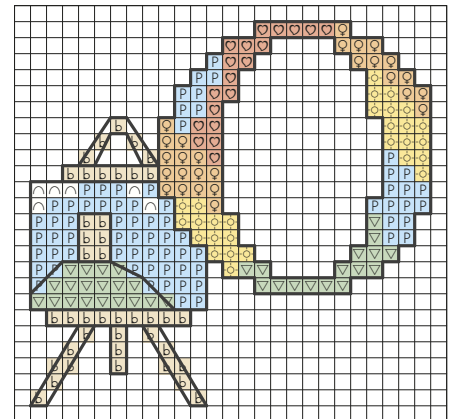
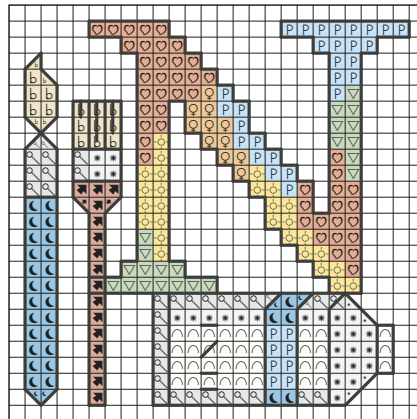
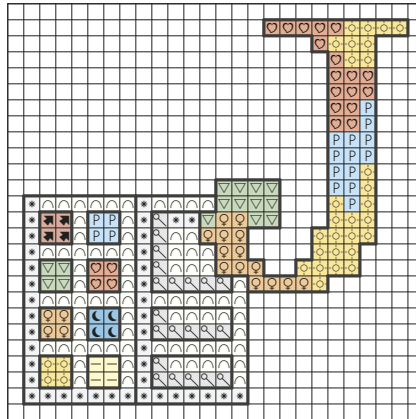
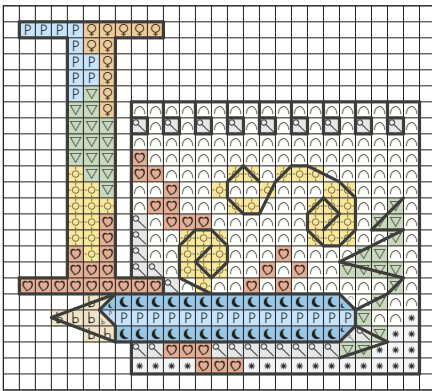
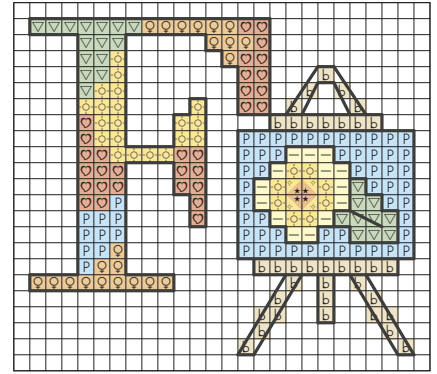
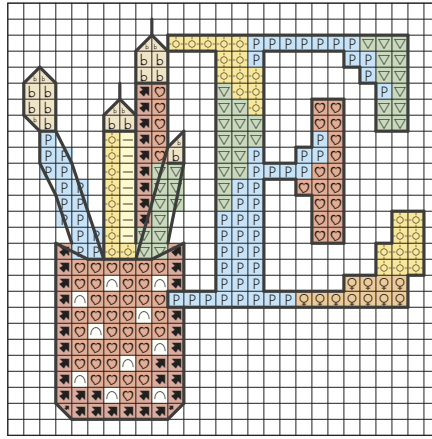
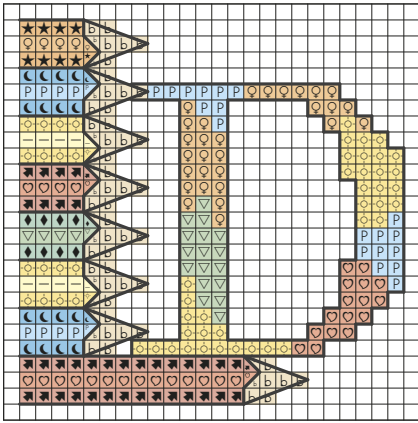
Thread & fabric cost
Approximately £15

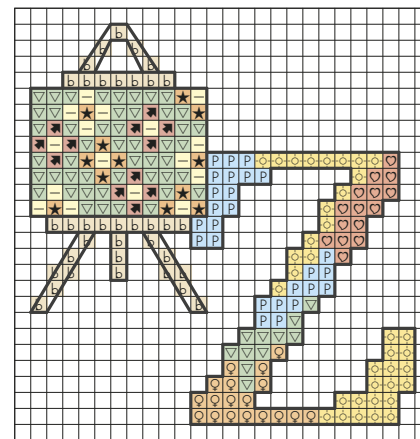
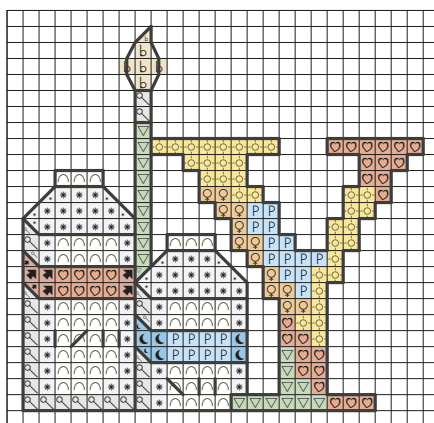
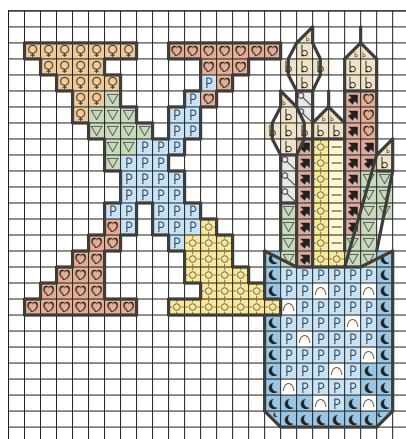
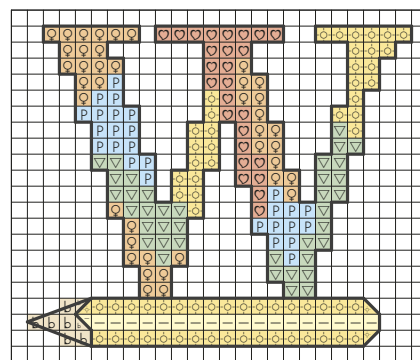
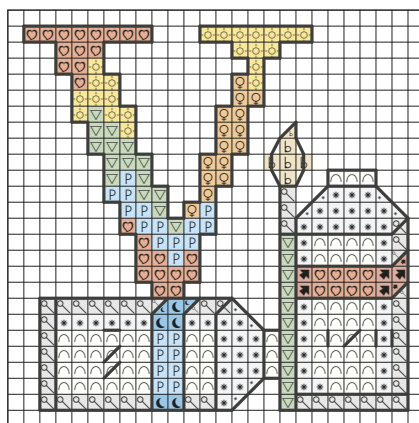
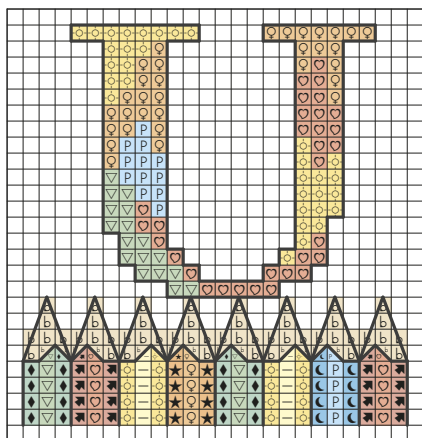
*For stockists see page 90

Artist at work!

Unleash your colourful and creative side with this fab new alphabet set







Artsy ABC key

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
■	304	19	511	dark red
■	415	398	1802	grey
■	445	288	103	light yellow
■	666	46	210	red
b	738	367	2013	cream
Q	741	304	202	orange
*	762	234	1804	light grey
◆	910	228	1302	dark green
▽	912	209	1213	green
★	970	925	205	dark orange
☼	973	290	105	yellow
☾	995	410	1102	dark blue
P	996	433	1103	blue
○	3865	2	2403	natural white

✕ Backstitch in one strand

—	413	236	1713	dark grey
---	-----	-----	------	-----------

MAXIMUM STITCH COUNT 25 high x 25 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 4.5x4.5cm (1¾x1¾in)

These designs were stitched using DMC stranded cotton



Stitch
in an
afternoon

Factbox

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

Gillian READER PANEL



“I love different alphabets and have quite a collection of them. I like to personalise gifts by stitching a person's initial to use as a gift tag and this one would be great for kids' and adults' birthdays and other happy occasions.”



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DESIGN BY **SUSAN BATES**

Field of dreams

With rows of beautiful flowers and a bright blue sky, this uplifting scene is full of the joys of spring



While we love to stitch cute characters and sweet cards for family and friends, sometimes it's nice to be able to indulge our needle and thread in a project you can really get into, like this picture perfect scene.

The detailed shading of the vibrant tulip field gives you a wonderful sense of perspective, so you can almost imagine gazing out that rustic farmhouse window, feeling the first rays of warm spring sunshine on you. And, who could resist the charm of that wonderful windmill in the distance among the fluffy white clouds?

A densely stitched piece worked in over 30 different thread shades, you'll need to make sure you get

Factbox

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

Great detail on aida!

organised before starting this work of art. Make your own thread organiser by punching holes in a piece of card, then loop a different thread through each hole, writing the symbol and thread code next to it. That way, you'll breeze through the colour changes, bringing this scene alive with ease. ➤



Meet the designer

Susan Bates

"I love working on designs with a bit more depth, so this fresh project was a pleasure to create. The pretty purples and yellows look lovely together, and are a great way to add a splash of colour to your home."



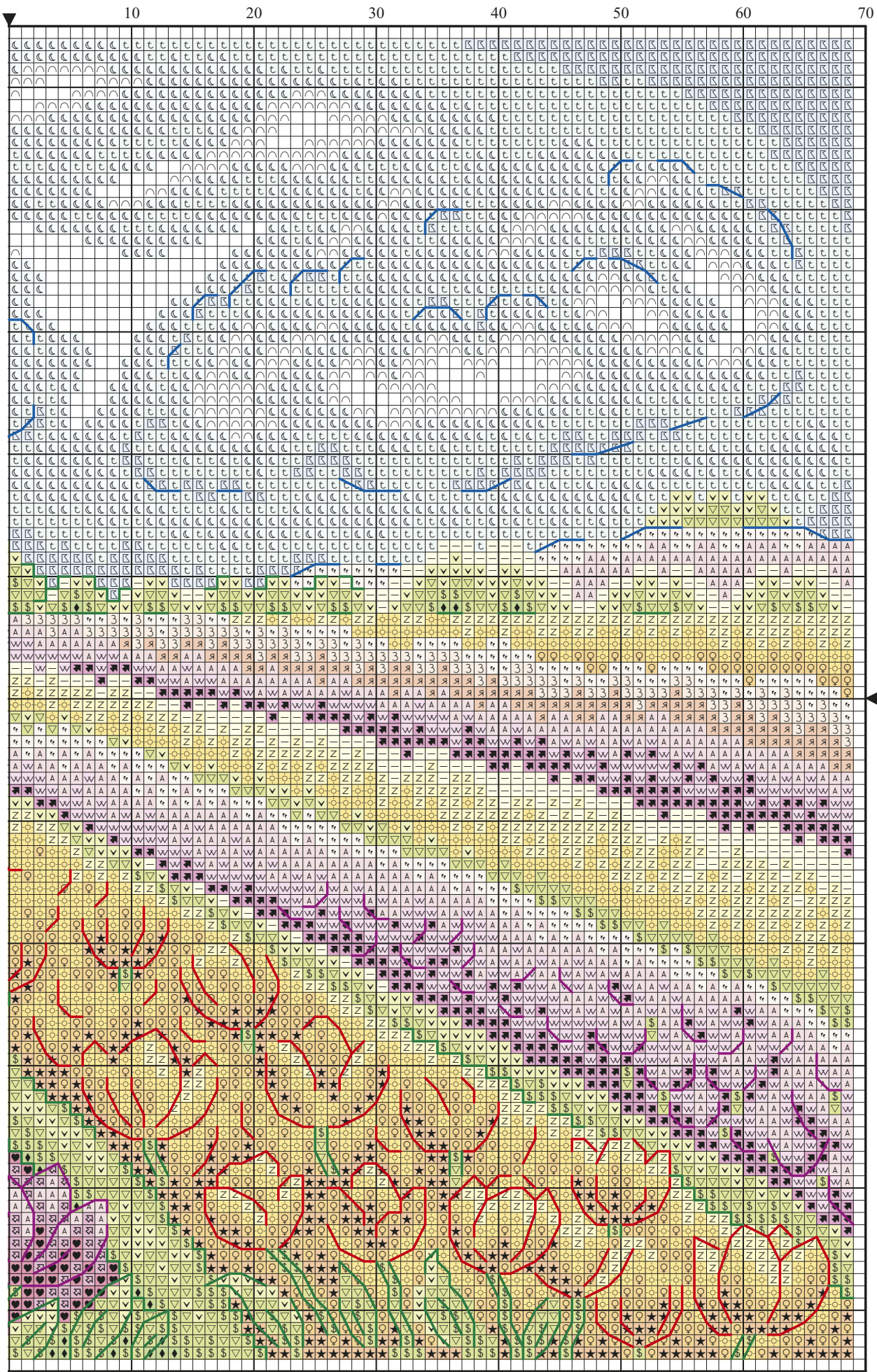
GO ON
HOLIDAY IN
STITCHES



Capture the fresh
feel of a new season
with a breathtaking
landscape you'll
love stitching from
start to finish







Wonderful Windmill chart (right)

Wonderful Windmill key

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	B5200	1	2401	white
A	151	73	404	light pink
∨	165	278	1414	light lime green
∇	166	280	1611	lime green
N	435	1046	2010	tan
o	437	362	2012	light tan
Z	445	288	103	light yellow
x	644	830	1814	stone grey
Q	646	8581	1812	dark stone grey
◆	702	226	1306	green
\$	704	255	1308	light green
★	721	324	308	orange
s	739	366	2014	very light tan
Q	742	303	114	tangerine
—	746	275	2511	cream
t	747	158	1104	turquoise
+	819	271	501	baby pink
b	840	1084	1912	brown
o	973	290	105	yellow
□	3325	129	907	blue
■	3340	329	301	apricot
■	3607	87	708	light plum
w	3609	85	710	very light plum
∩	3756	1037	2504	light blue
♥	3804	63	704	dark pink
■	3806	62	701	pink
3	3824	8	2605	light apricot

✕ Backstitch in one strand

—	304	19	511	red
—	798	131	912	dark blue
—	814	22	601	dark red
—	838	380	2005	dark brown
—	986	246	1404	dark grass green

STITCH COUNT 108 high x 138 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (2

8-count evenweave) – 19.5x25cm (7¾x9¾in)

SKEINS NEEDED 2x3756 (light blue)

This design was stitched using DMC stranded cotton

TOP TIP

Use a sharp needle when working the few fractionals there are in this design, to help you when piercing the aida blocks

Shopping list

- ✕ Zweigart* 14-count white aida measuring 30x36cm (12x14in)
- ✕ Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- ✕ Size 24 tapestry needle
- ✕ Frame of your choice with a minimum aperture measuring 19.5x25cm (7¾x9¾in)

Thread & fabric cost
Approximately £35

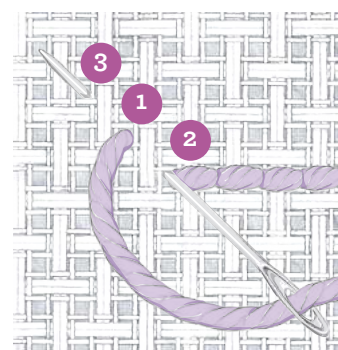
*For stockists see page 90



How to...

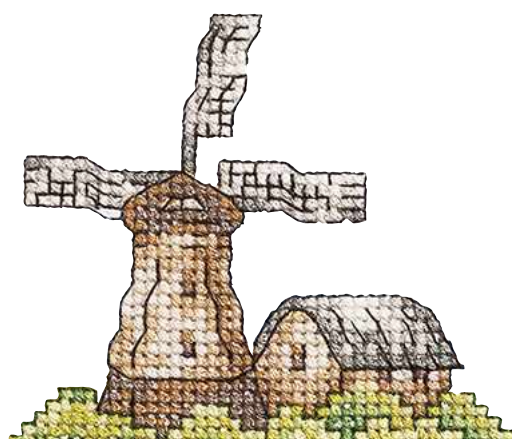
add backstitch to your design

When you've finished all the cross stitches, load your needle with one strand of thread as indicated in the key. Following the backstitch line on the chart, make your stitches as in this diagram. Bring your needle up at 1, down at 2 then back up at 3, stitching in a two steps forward, one step back motion. To prevent the thread fuzzing from wear, use short lengths.



Jacqui READER PANEL

“This looks almost like a painting and is perfect for brightening up the home in spring. With the rows of flowers and the windmill in the background, the only problem I'd have is deciding if I should keep it for myself or give it to a friend as a wonderful birthday present.”



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Nick Baker

TV wildlife expert

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Post & packing	£3.50	£3.50
Grand total		

* plus P&P

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms _____

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Postcode _____ Telephone _____

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

PAYMENT METHOD

- 1 I enclose a cheque/PO for £ _____ made payable to Jacobi Jayne & Company.
- 2 Please debit my card (Visa/Visa Debit/Mastercard/Maestro) by the above amount.

Card Number

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

Signature

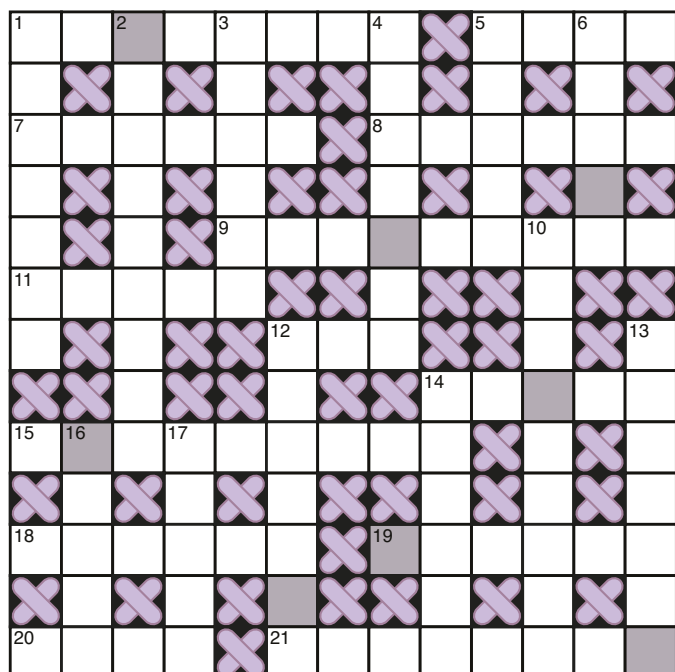
☐ Tick this box if you don't want to receive mailings from anyone other than us.



Enter to win!

With our crossword and freebies there are loads of prizes up for grabs

Enter by text, postcard
or online for the chance
to be lucky in our
amazing giveaways



ACROSS

- 1 Spiny animal that rolls up into a ball for protection (8)
- 5 Knock against with a jolt (4)
- 7 Small piece of gold (6)
- 8 Almost (6)
- 9 Luxurious chauffeur-driven car (9)
- 11 Worn and shabby (5)
- 12 Expanse of salt water (3)
- 14 Declare void, cancel (5)
- 15 Yellow maize eaten as a vegetable (9)
- 18 Bracelet without a clasp (6)
- 19 Calm and undisturbed (6)
- 20 Toy teddy (4)
- 21 Type of firework (8)

DOWN

- 1 Truthfulness (7)
- 2 Biscuit made with wholemeal flour (9)
- 3 In a level and regular way (6)
- 4 Canal boat with a high ornamental curved end (7)
- 5 Metal alloy (5)
- 6 Fruit with a hard rind and juicy flesh (5)
- 10 Exactly the same (9)
- 12 Favourable result, achievement (7)
- 13 Stupid mistake (7)
- 14 Branched horn on the head of a deer (6)
- 16 Large marine mammal (5)
- 17 Keen, full of enthusiasm (5)

TO ENTER Use the letters in the shaded squares to spell out a spring-flowering bulb (8)

WIN! Furry Tales Prize

Kite mouse key

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
○	blanc	2	2402	white
●	322	131	1004	dark blue
■	351	10	214	red
■	436	1045	2011	dark tan
○	437	362	2012	tan
▽	563	208	1207	green
N	739	366	2014	light tan
W	754	1012	305	dark peach
■	844	1041	1809	grey
■	948	892	306	peach
■	3755	140	1013	blue

✕ Backstitch in one strand

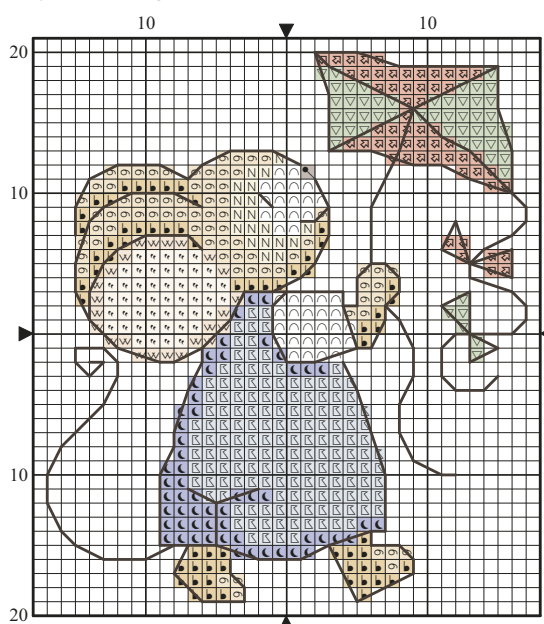
—	844	1041	1809	grey
---	-----	------	------	------

STITCH COUNT 39 high x 34 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 £277

Well travelled

Everyone likes travelling, so Zweigart*'s new booklet 'City' is perfect, as it has cross stitch ideas from world-famous spots. Ten lucky readers will win 50cm of both 25-count Lugana evenweave in blue and 27-count Linda Schülertuch evenweave in white, plus the City booklet, worth £27.73 per bundle.

TO ENTER To enter by text message use keyword 'WOXS226CITY' or if you're entering by post, please label your entry 'Zweigart giveaway (WOXS226)'.



PRIZES WORTH £250

Shop till you drop

We've teamed up with Readicut to give away a £25 voucher to each of 10 lucky readers! At Readicut International* (est. 1928) there's a vast range of cross stitch kits and needlecraft available to buy online or over the phone from all the major brands and manufacturers. Winners will be able to

spend their vouchers on fab designs like the ones shown here, plus plenty more available from the best-loved designers and brands in the world.

TO ENTER To enter by text message use keyword 'WOXS226VOUCHER' or if you're entering by post, please label your entry 'Readicut International Voucher giveaway (WOXS226)'. Please be sure to supply your email address to receive your digital voucher, if you win.



PRIZES WORTH £280

LIGHT MAGNIFICENT

The MAGniflex is ideal for all types of detailed work including cross stitch. The large 14.5cm (5¾in) semi-rimless 1.75x magnifying lens allows close-work activity, while the flexible arm allows you to position the light, from low energy LEDs, exactly where it's needed. The clamp lock system stays firmly in place and can be clamped on to a table, trolley or bed. Daylight* are giving four lucky readers the chance to win a lamp, worth £70 each!

TO ENTER To enter by text message use keyword 'WOXS226LAMP' or if you're entering by post, please label your entry 'Daylight Lamp giveaway (WOXS226)'.

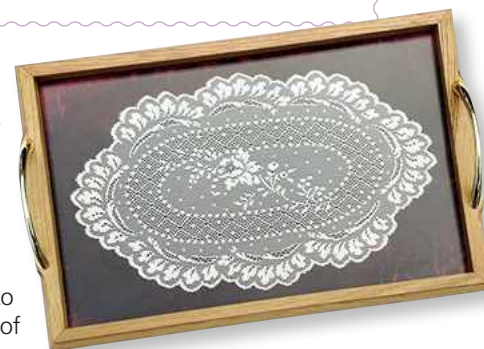


PRIZES WORTH £250

Perfect display

Fireside Reflections*, who hand-produce frames and trays for crafters to show off their work, have 10 of their rectangular trays to giveaway. These trays, made of natural oak, measure 18x28cm (7x11in) and are worth £25 each. They are constructed with sealed-in glass to protect your work from spillage and are finished with burnished brass handles.

TO ENTER To enter by text message use keyword 'WOXS226TRAY' or if you're entering by post, please label your entry 'Fireside Reflections Tray giveaway (WOXS226)'.



HOW TO ENTER

CROSSWORD

By text: Text FURRY226 followed by the mystery word, your name and postal address to 87474 eg. FURRY226 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 WOXS226 Immediate Media Co, 2nd Floor, Tower House, Fairfax Street, Bristol BS1 3BN.
Terms & conditions as far right except for: closing date for entries is 3 March 2015. One winning entry will be chosen at random from all eligible entries.

GIVEAWAYS

By text: Text the giveaway's keyword (see above) followed by your name, email and postal addresses to

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DESIGNS BY **DEBRA PAGE**

If the shoe fits!

Step into the perfect pair of pretty footwear with these charming vintage-chic shoe cards

So many women across the globe have a love affair with shoes, and who can blame them? Finding the perfect pair is a triumph in itself! With this in mind we got designer Debra Page to create this pretty set of vintage-chic shoes that are sure to please all tastes.

Great for all occasions, the lucky recipient of one of these delightful cards is sure to appreciate it as much for the work you put in as for the gorgeous design. Or, why not stitch all six together as a fabulous sampler for any shoe-aholic friends you have?

Worked in a variety of stitches, you'll get to test your skills while finishing a card in just a few evenings. You'll also enjoy working with this

Factbox

- ✕ **Stitching Time**
Approx. 8 hours each
- ✕ **Type of Stitches**
Cross stitch, fractionals, backstitch, French knots
- ✕ **Ease of Stitching**
Advanced beginner

Stitch
in a
weekend

pretty colour palette and each shoe is surrounded by blooms and hearts to complete the card.

So get out your threads and needles and start work on stitching a card that is sure to put a smile on anyone's face, especially all the shoe-loving ladies in your life! ➤



Meet the designer

Debra Page

"I loved coming up with the designs for these cards, not to mention the lovely shoes. Like many of you, my closet is overflowing with shoes! Perfect for all occasions, I hope you enjoy stitching them."

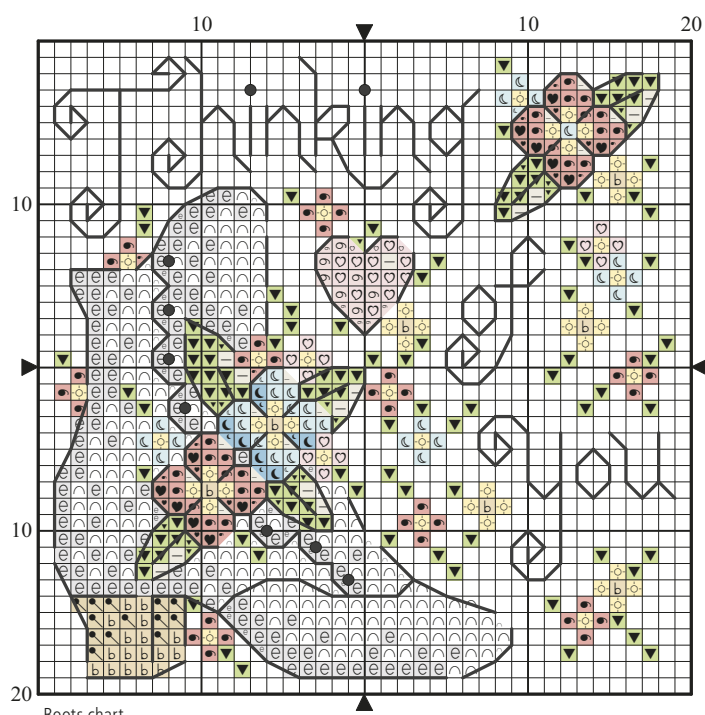


STITCH
THE FULL
SET!



Create your perfect
shoe collection
in stitches, with
these gorgeous
card patterns





Boots chart

Vintage Shoes Cards key

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	B5200	1	2401	white
♡	151	73	404	light pink
♥	347	1025	407	red
e	415	398	1802	light grey
b	422	943	2102	light tan
⬇	518	1039	1106	blue
⬇	519	1038	1105	light blue
▼	703	238	1307	leaf green
—	712	926	2101	cream
⬇	726	295	109	yellow
s	739	366	2014	dark cream
⬇	3328	1024	406	salmon pink
⬇	3354	36	2610	pink
⬇	3828	373	2103	tan
w	3848	1074	1108	green
z	3849	1070	1109	light green

✕ Backstitch in one strand

—	3799	236	1713	dark grey
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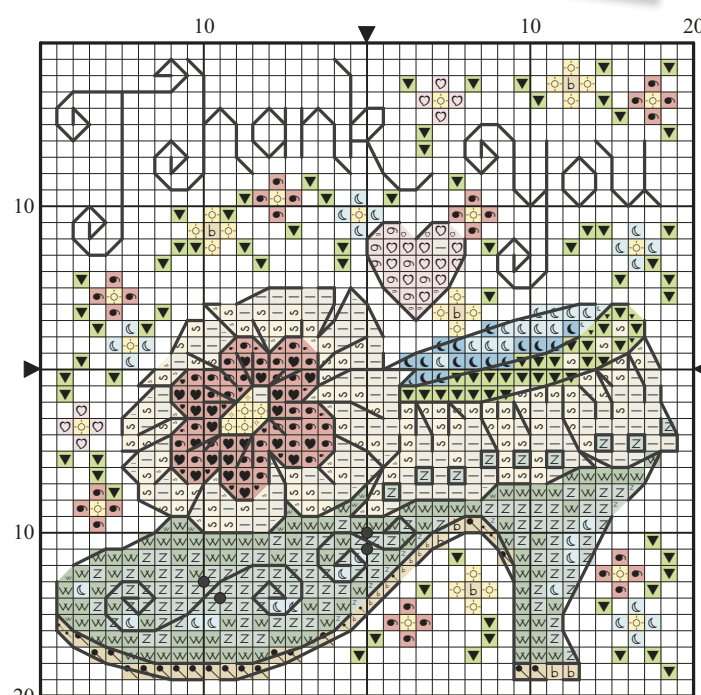
✕ French knots in one strand

●	3799	236	1713	dark grey
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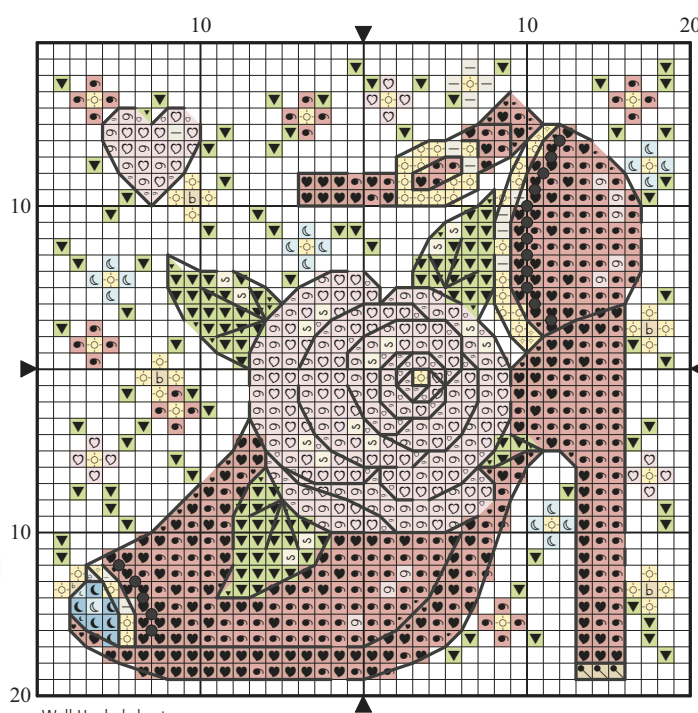
STITCH COUNT 38 high x 38 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 7x7cm (2¾x2¾in)

These designs were stitched using DMC stranded cotton



Frills and All chart



Well Heeled chart



Shopping list

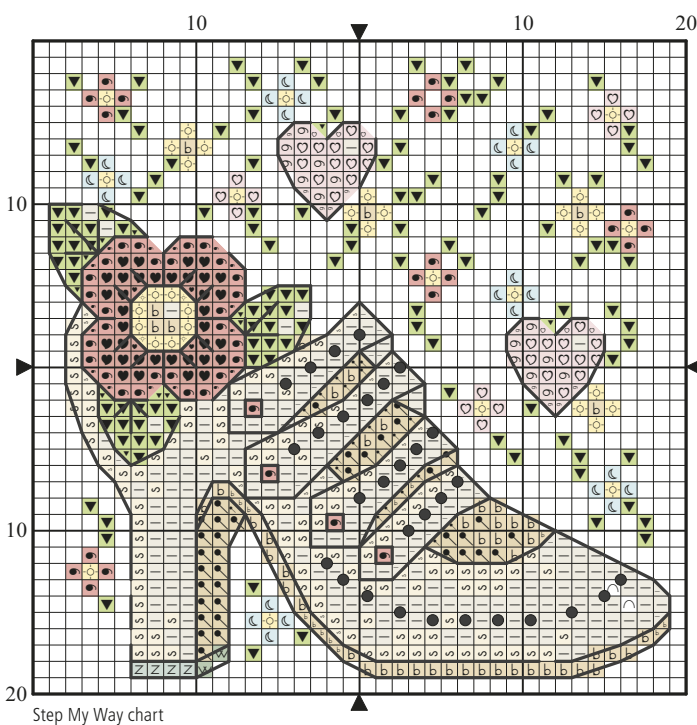
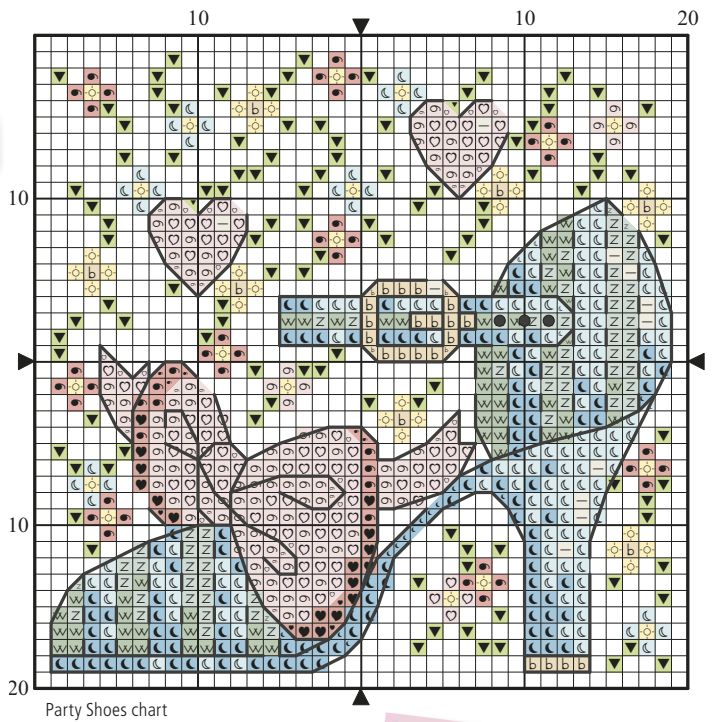
- ✕ Zweigart* 14-count white aida measuring 10x10cm (4x4in) for each design
- ✕ Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- ✕ Size 24 tapestry needle
- ✕ Craft Creations* square aperture cards (AP10U) in pale yellow and pink

Thread & fabric cost
Approximately £18

*For stockists see page 90

TOP TIP

Plenty of French knots add detail in these designs, so see our 'How to' video at www.cross-stitching.com if you need a reminder of this technique



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Buy your basic stitching stash and products we've featured

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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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Get great new kits to stitch and accessories, **page 24**



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Find all the charts, kits, threads & accessories featured in this issue

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**Cross
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Europe £54; Rest of World £69

Distribution: Frontline

Printed in England by: William Gibbons

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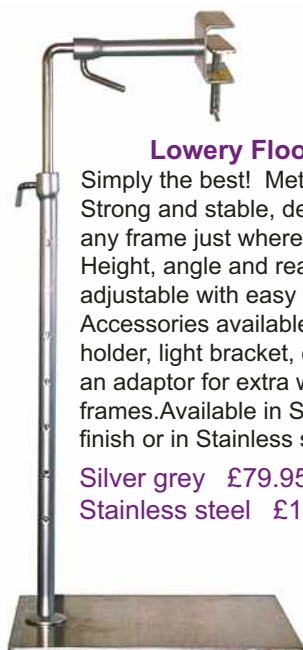


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Next month in

ISSUE 227
ON SALE
26 FEB

Britain's No.1

THE WORLD OF Cross Stitching



STUNNING SAMPLER

Try decorative stitches and beautiful beads for a Moroccan-style design



HERE'S TOM MOUSE

Exclusive! This Country Companions pal is out enjoying his garden



ALL THE FUN OF THE FAIR

Send the prettiest carousel horse cards – use metallic threads for sparkle!



MAGNOLIA CHIC

Quick-to-make florals – stitch pretty gifts for Mother's Day

Contents subject to change. Gift(s) only with print edition, and overseas gift(s) may vary

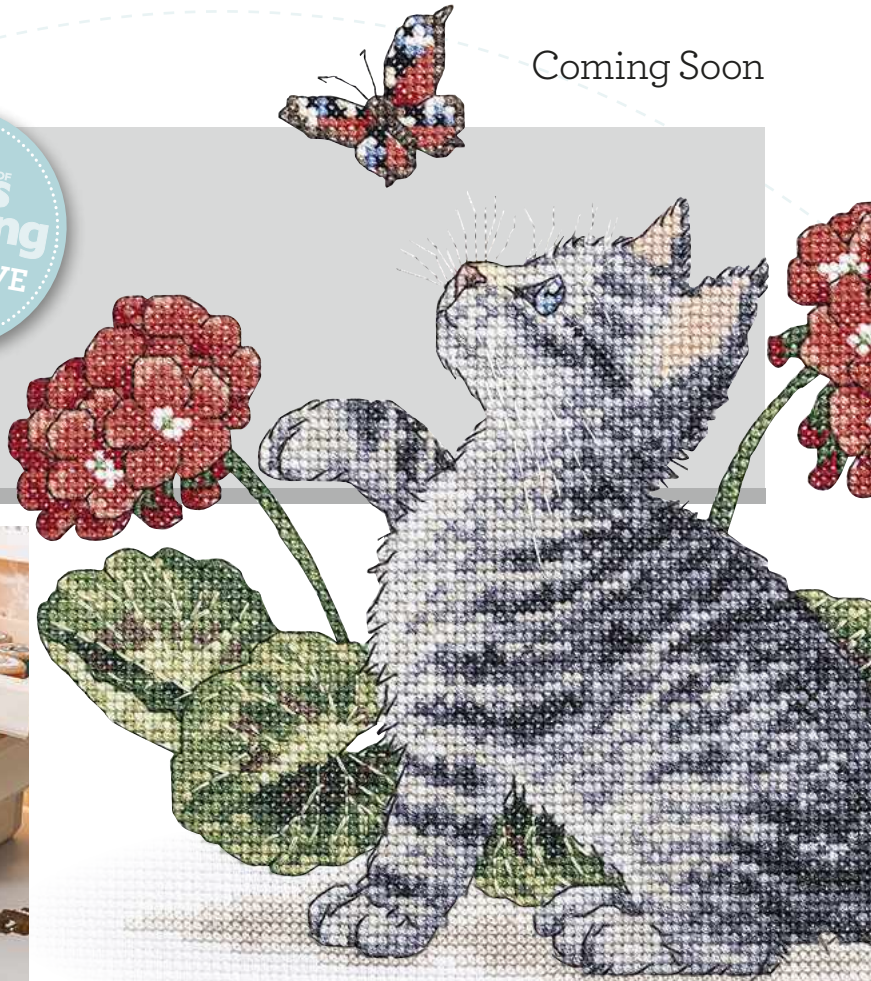
Stitch our curious kitty today!

Put your feet up and make this project of an adorable furry feline and his butterfly friend



"HELLO THERE!"

Stitch our girly teddy – she's so sweet to make and give to a loved one



FOR SPORTS FANS

It's a winner! Enjoy the first in a new series of vintage-look sport posters

PLUS MUCH MORE

- ✗ Easter eggs ABC – stitch gifts and messages to celebrate
- ✗ Your cross stitching queries solved by our expert panel
- ✗ Enjoy Celtic art with our fab Design Library: 40+ motifs
- ✗ Pet of the Month – will your animal friend be featured?
- ✗ Your stories, inspiration & letters... plus much more

SWEET BEBUNNI IS BACK – FREE CARD KIT

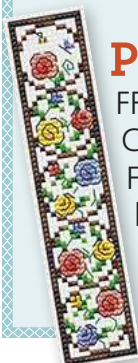
With everything included for an adorable card, fab for Mother's Day!

Your free stitch kit includes:

- 14-count aida
- 18 lengths of stranded cotton
- Tapestry needle
- Pretty card & envelope

PLUS...

FREE CHART!
Fancy florals bookmark chart



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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.



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.



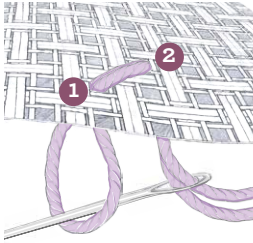
Fabric choices: Aida (left) with obvious holes is better for beginners. Evenweave (right) has a finer weave: see our video at www.cross-stitching.com

2. THREADS

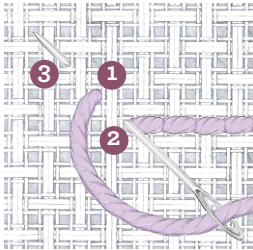
You'll need **stranded cotton** – this coloured thread comes in 8m skeins and is made up of six strands. The count of your fabric will determine the number of strands you use in your needle. Typically for 14-count aida you'll use two strands for cross stitch and just one strand for backstitch. This is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

How to stitch

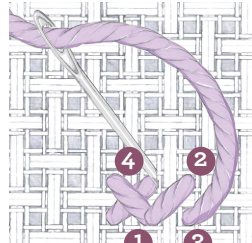
Tackle the basic stitches in our charts...



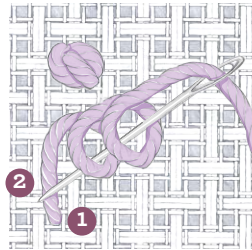
Loop start With both ends of a strand threaded, bring your needle up (1), leaving a loop at the back. Work the first arm of your stitch (2) & secure it by passing your needle through the loop.



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



Cross stitch Bring your needle up at the bottom left corner (1) & down in the top right (2) for the first 'arm' of your stitch. Work the second arm, coming up in the bottom right (3) & going down in the top left (4).



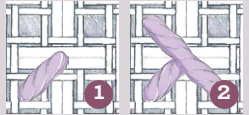
French knots Easy with practice – come up in the fabric (1), keep the thread taut & wrap twice around the needle. Push the needle down, close by, but *not* in the same hole (2). Split the aida block for a neat knot.

FRACTIONAL STITCHES

Fractionals let you create rounded edges



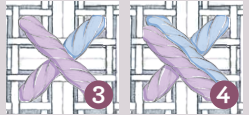
Quarter
The chart shows which corner has the fractional. Bring the needle up in that corner and down in the centre of the square, halfway across the diagonal (diagram 1).



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-quarter stitches can face any direction.



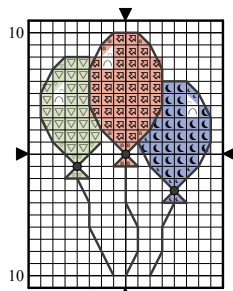
Two symbols
When two symbols share a square, work a fractional in each colour. Decide on the quarter stitch for the background colour, then a three-quarters stitch for the main one (diagram 3).



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.

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.

Balloons key

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
☐	blanc	2	2402	white
☐	321	9046	510	red
☐	798	131	912	blue
☐	989	241	1401	green

✕ Backstitch in one strand

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

✕ French knots in one strand

●	3799	236	1713	grey
---	------	-----	------	------

STITCH COUNT 20 high x 14 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 3.5x2.5cm (1½x1in)

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'.

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 & frames

Backstitch – used to add detail & 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 & 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, & 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 & other non-counted fabrics before being moistened & the fibres withdrawn with tweezers

Ruth's STITCHING WORLD

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

I've been lucky enough to go to a couple of friends' birthday celebrations this past month – always a fun opportunity for stitching cards! But I wanted to tell you about the fabulous cakes on offer at both parties. Anyone who knows me will know I'm never going to pass up the chance for a good bit of cake, but I admit it was very inspiring to see the amazingly-decorated treats.

The stunning displays of sugarcraft – roses at one and a knitting-theme for the other (balls of wool from rolled icing, with chopstick needles!) made me want to get tips from the star bakers in question, for a stitching-theme party. I giggled with the clever lady responsible for the 'woolly' cupcakes about making thread skeins in all colours of the rainbow, thanks to food colouring mixes, and what about edible lace? I was wowed by it all, and my mouth's still watering at the thought. When I got home, I had to start browsing for sugary ideas on Pinterest... check out some of them here, plus see more on our online boards.

“Having yet another birthday won't be so hard with goodies like these!”

Have you ever indulged in a special stichy-themed bake? Or, maybe even more impressively, you've created one yourself? Why not let me know?



Delicious! Stichy-themed bakes would be too good to miss

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



Cake magic: Here's to a colourful spool-filled birthday!



Sugar notions: Stichy accessories that are too delicious to eat (almost!)



Sweet Singer: Inspired by a classic – what a talented cake decorator!

Sudoku

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

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

WHAT'S HOT

Practising my baking skills to get those cakes just right...

WHAT'S NOT

...a new-found sugarcraft hobby means even less stitching time!

KEEP THE SPIRIT OF YOUR LOVED ONE WITH YOU ALWAYS

I Am With You Still

*I give you this one thought to keep,
I am with you still, do not weep.*

*I am a thousand winds that blow,
I am the diamond glints on snow.*

*I am the sunlight on ripened grain,
I am the gentle autumn's rain.*

*When you awaken in the morning's hush,
I am the swift, uplifting rush,
Of quiet birds in circled flight.*

*Do not think of me as gone,
I am with you still, in each new dawn.*



I AM WITH YOU



*Genuine
Diamond*

*Teardrop-shaped
Created Opal*

*Solid Sterling
Silver*



Shown actual size

A Fine Jewellery Exclusive Available only from The Bradford Exchange

Treasure the everlasting bond you and your loved one share with an exclusive new jewellery creation – the 'I Am With You' Diamond & Created Opal Ring. Finely handcrafted in solid sterling silver, the ring features a luminescent teardrop-shaped created opal set among beautifully sculpted sterling silver waves. The opal glows with rosy pinks and sparking blues, reminiscent of the dawning of a new day, and a genuine diamond, like a sparkling sun, rises above the horizon. The ring band is engraved with words that your loved one would want you to cherish: 'I am with you still in each new dawn'.

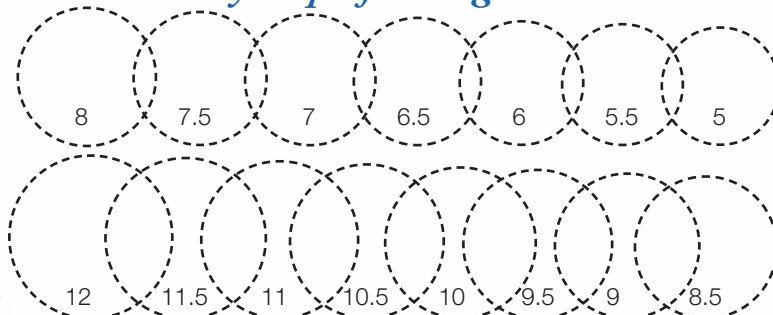
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*Your ring arrives in a
deluxe presentation box*



Place one of your rings on the chart and match a circle with the inside of your ring.
Whole & half sizes 5-12 are available.

Please ensure the hand on which the ring will actually be worn is measured, as a ring size will be about 1/2 a size larger on the hand used for writing.

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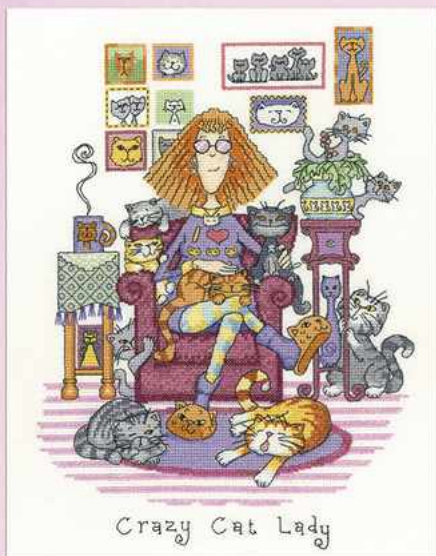
Order Ref:P312625

HERITAGE Crafts

Working with talented artists to produce beautiful counted cross stitch designs



Roxy by John Clayton - 22.5 x 16cm



Crazy Cat Lady by Peter Underhill - 22.5 x 31cm



Toccata in Green
by Valerie Pfeiffer - 9 x 34.5cm



Sonatina Rose
by Valerie Pfeiffer - 9 x 34.5cm



Jasmine by John Clayton - 18 x 26.5cm



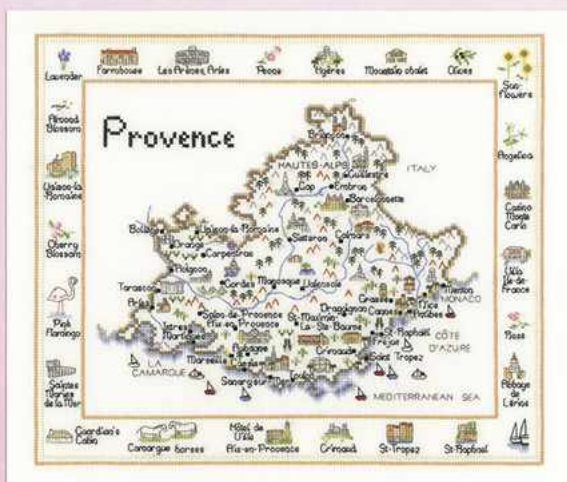
Cat in Box
by Peter Underhill - 13 x 11.5cm



Maria in Miniature
by John Clayton - 12 x 13cm



Miranda in Miniature
by John Clayton - 12.5 x 13.5cm



Provence by Susan Ryder - 31 x 26.5cm



Moon Watchers
by Valerie Pfeiffer - 12.5 x 25.5cm



Gabriella by John Clayton - 27 x 43.5cm

You can see our full range of cross stitch kits, charts & fabric at www.hcrafts.com

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