

MUST-STITCH! 89 PATTERNS INSIDE

Vibrant florals

Britain's No.1

www.cross-stitching.com

P.18

Enjoy rich shading

147

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ROSE CARDS

P.84

JUST FOR YOU!
Forever
Friends

Anchor

* Vineyard scene * Ideas for kids * Sew lovely * Summer style *



Geek chic stitching
We meet the designers!

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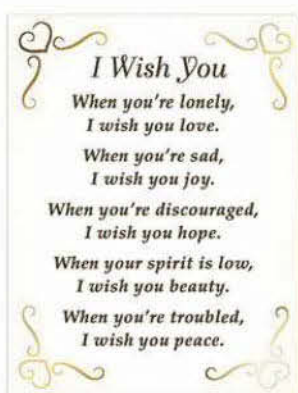
For You, My Daughter

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Order Ref: P306813

Welcome

With summer finally in its element, and all those lovely long daylight hours of stitching ahead of us, it's especially fitting that we're packing this issue full of inspiration for the season! You'll love our joyful patterns, which display all the bounties of this time of year, like the **patchwork-style** picture, which is my current fave, on page 68. In fact – visit our Facebook site now, because we're launching this super project as our first ever **Virtual Stitch-a-Long**. Come and join the fun! Or will you go for the cute **Forever Friends** exclusive, which'll have you flying high? Fab for all occasions, this will be great for stitchers of all abilities, so head over to page 10.

I'm loving spending time out in my garden, enjoying doing my stitching in the fresh open air – if only I had

a garden worthy of the **vibrant blooms** created by Kate Knight (p18), but at least my stitches will make up for my not-so-green fingers! Happy stitching,

Ruth

Editor
The World of CrossStitching



PS Don't miss our fab **FREE gifts**... My chart magnifier's coming in handy, and I hope you'll love it, too. It's already a stash must-have for me – now reading charts is a breeze!



Meet some of our designers...



SUSAN BATES

Susan's gorgeous patchwork design captures the essence of summer. Stitch it as a whole or pick out individual motifs for fab gifts and cards (p68).



KATE KNIGHT

Striking colours and a modern twist to a traditional subject are Kate Knight's signature style, and her stunning bouquet cushion is no different (p18)!



URSULA MICHAEL

Hit the high seas with Ursula's wonderful set of nautical motifs in this month's Design Library (p47). Perfect for a summer spent by the seaside!



MUCH MORE THAN A MAGAZINE... APPS TO GO!

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- ✖ Join in daily chat on our Facebook group – go to www.facebook.com/TheWorldofCrossStitching and click 'like' today!
- ✖ 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

Contents

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

YOUR FREE GIFTS!

Fab chart magnifier and cute Joan Elliott fairy chart

Turn to page 9



Free gifts available with print edition only



26 CHARMING VINTAGE SEWING ACCESSORIES

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Turn to page 44



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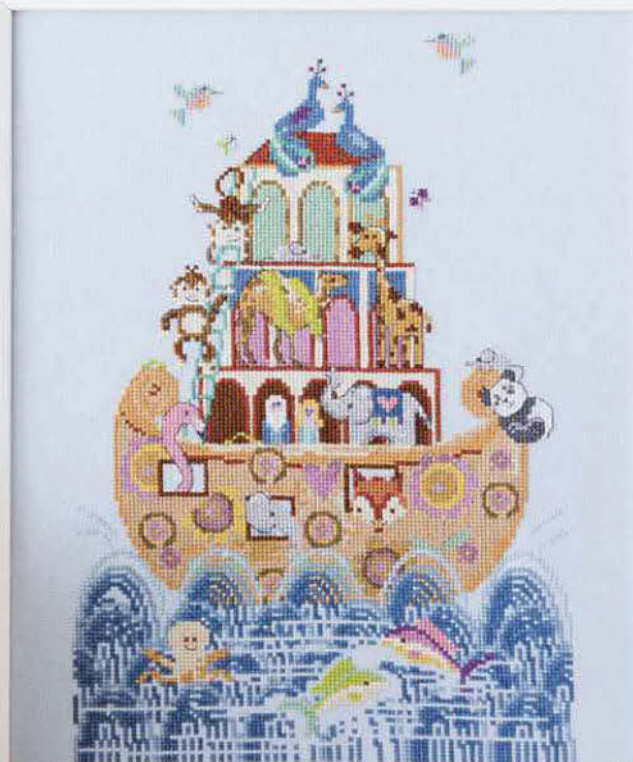
Projects

- 10 Sky's the limit**
Bring this sweet bear to life
- 18 Floral fancy**
Capture the beauty of nature
- 26 Sewing for pleasure**
Create a stitcher's accessories set
- 36 Learning is fun**
Easy-make calendar for kids
- 47 Design Library: Nautical**
Set sail with ocean-inspired charts
- 56 Relax and unwind**
Enjoy a rustic vineyard getaway
- 62 Cupcake of the month**
Tuck into this month's offering
- 68 Pretty patchwork**
Stitch this fab seasonal sampler
- 74 Two by two**
Love this bright Noah's Ark stitch
- 79 Lovely ladybirds**
Make bespoke gifts with this ABC
- 84 Coming up roses**
Striking and stylish occasion cards

84 STUNNING ROSE CARDS



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89
NEW
DESIGNS

74 CONTEMPORARY
NOAH'S ARK

36 KIDS WILL LOVE THIS
FUN CALENDAR



Fun & advice

- 6 Meet our guests**
Say hello to this month's panel
- 14 Your letters**
Stitchy gossip & photos from you
- 24 Best buys**
The latest products, kits & offers
- 31 Ask the experts**
Our pros solve your queries
- 60 Cathy at large**
A look at geeky stitching
- 64 Stitching inspiration**
A gift a year in the making
- 65 Back issues**
Missed a copy? Order it today!
- 66 Out & about**
Stitching events, clubs & causes
- 82 Crossword**
Win exclusive Furry Tales prizes
- 88 Online news**
Click for the latest from the web
- 90 Stockists**
Suppliers of everything in the mag
- 94 Next month**
Sneak a look inside issue 220
- 96 How to stitch**
Beginners start here
- 98 Ruth's stitching world**
Catch up with our editor!

47 DESIGN LIBRARY:
NAUTICAL MOTIFS



56 TAKE A TRIP TO
RURAL FRANCE



Win!

See page 83 to
enter & be lucky

OVER
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- ✱ 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



Aleksandra Pavlova

is a consultant
from Middlesex

How did you start stitching?

I started stitching at school, but after I entered university I stopped as I didn't have enough time. With my pregnancy in 2007, however, I returned to my hobby.

What are you working on now?

I'm stitching a Bucilla birth sampler for my daughter – Princess birth record.

Who do you stitch with?

My six-year-old daughter has started to show interest in what I am doing and has already done some first steps.

Fave design from a recent issue?

'Fragrant Fields' (All Our Yesterdays design) from issue 212. It's so nice.



"I love cross stitching because it helps me to relax"



Jenny Jackson

is a volunteer
charity
coordinator
from Yateley

What are you working on at the moment?

A bookmark with a gardening theme for a local gardening show.

What is your idea of cross stitch heaven?

A colourful design that is interesting to stitch – the brighter the better!

What's your proudest stitching moment to date?

A really intricate sheep design I did for my mum about 12 years ago. She loves sheep and still has it on display.

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

It's hard to choose, but the kitten card from issue 214 is just brilliant!



"It's satisfying to see the design come to life"



Karla Andrews

is a childcare
agency owner
from St Albans

How long have you been a stitcher and how did you start?

I started stitching about nine years ago, my mother-in-law got me into it when my husband (then boyfriend) was working away a lot.

Who do you like to stitch for?

I like stitching for anyone who appreciates the time and effort put into the piece – I also stitch for myself.

What are you stitching?

A project from The Historical Sampler Company for my mum.

Fave design from a recent issue?

I love the fab girly sampler from issue 212, the added touches with the tiny ornaments (butterfly) are lovely.



"Seeing a project progress is a great feeling of satisfaction"

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!

HERITAGE Crafts

Working with talented artists to produce beautiful counted cross stitch designs



Vanessa by John Clayton - 40 x 24.5cm



Deer Park by John Clayton - 32 x 22cm



Josephine by John Clayton - 16 x 27cm



Sarah by John Clayton - 18 x 25.5cm



Louisa by John Clayton - 33.5 x 42cm



Alice in Miniature
by John Clayton - 13 x 13.5cm



Victoria in Miniature
by John Clayton - 12.5 x 13.5cm



Forty Winks
by Karen Carter - 12.5 x 12.5cm



Cycle Race by John Clayton - 20 x 15cm



Sophia in Miniature
by John Clayton - 13.5 x 13.5cm



Sally in Miniature
by John Clayton - 13 x 13.5cm



Bird of a Feather
by Karen Carter - 12.5 x 12.5cm

**NEW CATALOGUE
AVAILABLE NOW**

Please contact us
if you'd like a copy!



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You can see our full range of cross stitch designs at www.hcrafts.com

Get together over a Strawberry Tea

This summer catch up with family and friends over a Strawberry Tea and help women facing breast cancer.



Breast Cancer Care is the only UK-wide support charity helping the thousands of women waking up to the harsh reality of breast cancer every day. Holding a Strawberry Tea is a great way to show your support. It's so simple and a perfect excuse for a summer get together at home or in the garden if the weather is nice. Just keep the tea flowing, add some strawberries and cakes, and ask your guests for a donation.

You can sign up at www.breastcancercare.org.uk/teacake or call 0870 164 9422 for your free Strawberry Tea fundraising kit with everything you need.

And whether you raise £20 or £200 – every penny counts and your support will help people facing breast cancer today.

On average every Strawberry Tea helps fund ten calls to our Helpline so people facing breast cancer can get the support they need.

Sign up today for your free Strawberry Tea kit
www.breastcancercare.org.uk/teacake

Registered charity in England and Wales 1017658 Registered charity in Scotland SC038104

"I held a Strawberry Tea with my Mum at church and raised lots of money so Breast Cancer Care can help families like mine who have mums with breast cancer. We raised the money from Strawberry Teas, a raffle, tombola, selling homemade cards and pink ribbon badges, and everyone loved our pink bunting!"

Iona, age 7

Sponsored by



**breast
cancer
care**
 the breast cancer
support charity

Free This Month

Two **FREE** gifts!

Make the most of our two fabulous gifts – a handy chart magnifier and Joan Elliott's adorable fairy chart

GIFT

1

THE PERFECT STITCHING AID

Measure projects with the ruler on the one side and use the handy fabric gauge on the other side to check your aida count

KEEP IT CLOSE AT HAND

Keep this magnifier close while working on projects with the pretty ribbon provided – just hang it round your neck

READ CHARTS EASILY

Make reading your patterns a breeze! Simply hold it over a section of the chart, and it is instantly enlarged

GIFT

2

FAB FREE CHART

Joan Elliott's quick-stitch fairy magic chart



Karla READER PANEL

“This fairy chart by Joan Elliott is very colourful and cute. I would stitch this and put it in my daughters' bedroom in a white or pink frame.”

DESIGN BY **ANCHOR**

Sky's the limit

Fly up, up and away with this adorable Forever Friends design, full of character and exclusive to you!

Have you ever been so full of joy it's like floating on cloud nine? Well, that's exactly how this little bear is feeling! With a huge grin, a bright red balloon and sunny blue skies as a backdrop, this cute bear couldn't be happier, and we guarantee this heartwarming design is sure to bring a smile to your face, too.

With only a few fractionals and five French knots, this piece is perfect for beginners looking to take on a slightly bigger project. Worked in just a few thread shades, there's enough variation in colour to add depth without being too overwhelming, and as the background is worked in half cross stitches, it'll come together quicker than you might think! Plus,

Factbox

- ✦ **Stitching Time**
Approx. 30 hours
- ✦ **Type of Stitches**
Cross stitch, half cross stitch, fractionals, backstitch, French knots
- ✦ **Ease of Stitching**
Advanced beginner

Lovely shading

there's only a small amount of backstitch to add definition to the star of the show, the little butterfly friend and the eye-catching balloon.

Whether you give it as a gift, or hang it on your wall for a pop of colour, start stitching it today! ➤

Meet the character

Forever Friends

The adorable Forever Friends bears have been around for over 25 years now! Born in 1987, these cute characters bring joy to children and adults alike, all around the world – and they're still as sweet as the day they were created.



Anchor

Forever Friends

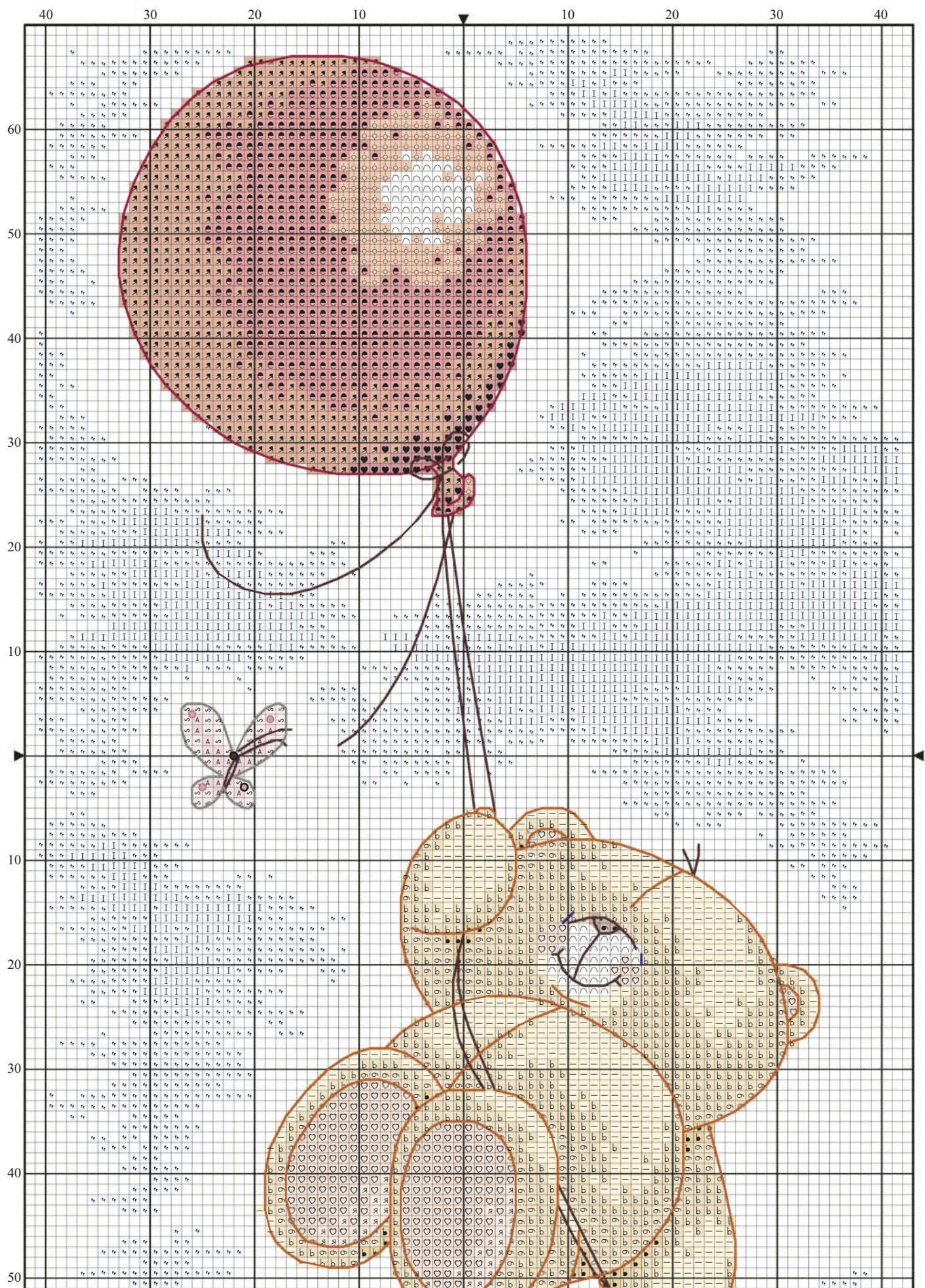
©HMK Cards

CUTE & A
BREEZE TO
STITCH



Bring this sweet little bear to life with your needle and thread – you'll be flying high with the results!





Forever Friends chart (top)

Forever Friends key

✦ Cross stitch in two strands

	Anchor	
∩	2	white
♡	6	light coral
я	8	coral
♥	20	dark red
я	47	red
∩	48	light pink
A	50	pink
⊙	329	orange
●	360	dark brown
b	361	light sand
o	362	sand
—	386	cream
l	1045	tan
e	1098	bright red

✦ Half cross stitch in two strands

te	128	sky blue
I	159	powder blue

✦ Backstitch in one strand

—	22	very dark red
—	360	dark brown
—	371	brown
—	399	grey

✦ Backstitch in two strands

—	360	dark brown
---	-----	------------

✦ *French knots in two strands

●	52	dark pink
●	360	dark brown

STITCH COUNT 138 high x 83 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 25x15cm (9¾x6in)

*French knots in two strands with two twists.
This design was stitched using Anchor stranded cotton



Karla READER PANEL

“The Forever Friends bear is a childhood memory, so I will have to stitch this for myself. I may change the balloon colour to pink or blue, as these are my favourite colours.”

There's more!

Can't get enough of the Forever Friends bears from Anchor*? Then check out these cute kits...



◀ 'Hearts' (FRC223), £11.55



'Floral Bouquet' (FRC107), £13.80 ▶



'Pink Balloon' (FRC216), £11.55 ▶



◀ 'Parcel Delivery' (FRC102), £21.20



'For You' (FRC221), £11.55 ▶

Where to buy

*For stockists see page 90

©HMK Cards

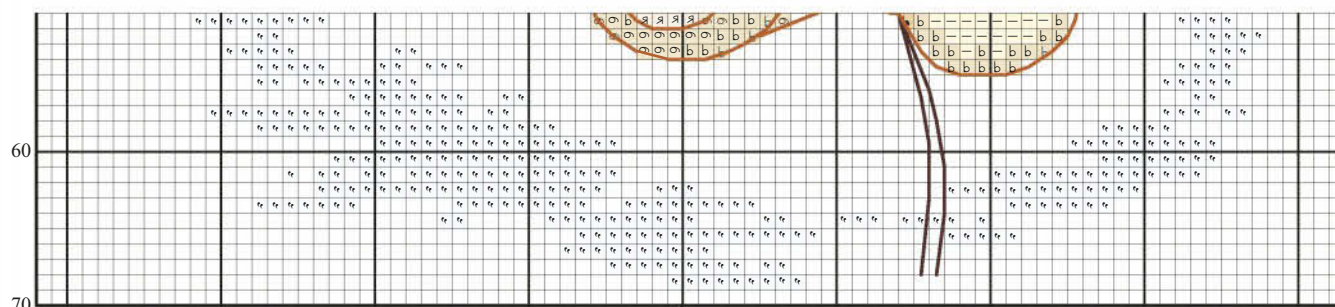
Shopping list

- ✦ 14-count white aida measuring 35x25cm (14x10in)
- ✦ Anchor* stranded cotton as listed in the key
- ✦ Size 24 tapestry needle
- ✦ Frame of your choice with a minimum aperture measuring 27x18cm (10¾x7in)

Thread & fabric cost
Approximately £22

*For stockists see page 90

TOP TIP
When working the larger blocks of colour, thread a few needles in the same shade so you don't have to keep stopping



Forever Friends chart (bottom)

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

ALL BOXED UP

Recently I learnt how to make a fabric box. I am very much a beginner and my sewing skills are still improving! When I saw the bird in a heart design by Belinda Karls-Nace in issue 216, I knew immediately how I wanted to display it. As you can see, I have combined elements from both tree heart designs into one!

Susanne Hopkins, Hove

Ruth: We love your fabric box and adaptation of the two charts Susanne.



✉ **All boxed up**
Susanne has combined her new skill of box making with her love of cross stitching

Win!

The writer of our Star letter wins both of these Paddington Bear kits – 'Baking' (£19.99) and 'Number Sampler' (£31.99) from Bothy Threads!

MORE:

For stockists, email info@bothythreads.com or call ☎ 0844 800 0221



Prize worth £52!



Stitched with love

Here is a photo of my parents with the Pearl Anniversary cross stitch that I made for them for their 30th wedding anniversary. I gave it to them a day early as they went away to Scotland for a week to celebrate this special occasion. I loved using sparkly aida and pearlescent thread to give it that extra special touch. It didn't take too long to stitch and I think it's my favourite piece that I have made so far. I hope you like it too!

Isla Sault, Essex

Sue: We recognise that gorgeous design as the 'Pearl Anniversary – Nia Cross Stitch Sampler' by Nia Cross Stitch. Giving cross stitch pieces for weddings, births and anniversaries is a great way to commemorate such occasions, as they can be personalised with names and dates, making them precious keepsakes for the lucky recipients. And 30 years is quite an achievement! We are sure your parents will proudly display your gift Isla.



✉ **Stitched with love**
Isla's parents posing with the cross stitch she made them for their 30th anniversary

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

Cat's got your chart?

It's very annoying when my cat attacks my cross stitch charts when I am working on a WIP. One night I couldn't sleep because an idea kept popping into my mind. I got out of my bed and went to the spare bedroom, where we store stuff. I took out some wood and cut it to make it size, then sanded it to make it smooth. I cut out my cross stitch chart and glued it on the wood so my cat, whose name is Trouble Boy, can't attack my charts anymore. When I have finished with the chart, I will put white paper over the old chart to cover it and stick a new chart on it.

I have seen some other people have the same trouble with cats or dogs attacking charts, and they can't finish their projects, so I thought that I would write to *The World of Cross Stitching* and let you know so other people can use my idea too!

Samantha Dingwall, Scotland

Fiona: Thanks for the idea Samantha, as we know many of our readers have furry friends who like to 'help' when they are stitching. Hope your cat doesn't cause any more stitching-related problems now you've got this chart holder!



✉ **Cat's got your chart?**
We love Samantha's cat-proof chart holder idea

HOOKED ON YOU

Thank you for your magazine. I purchased issue 213 for the first time and I loved the 'Floral Fantasy' Design Library. I used two of the arrangements to make birthday cards. My daughter loves birds and my friend loves flowers, so it was perfect. You have a new fan who is hooked from her first read.

Rosella, Surrey

Rachel: Your cards look great Rosella, your daughter and friend will love them. Glad you are a fan of the mag!



✉ **Hooked on you**
We have a new fan in Rosella, who loved the designs in issue 213



✉ **Best Bunny**
Marta proudly shows off her first Somebunny to Love project

Best bunny

Here is a picture of my first Somebunny to Love stitching project. I love this cute character and have already started work on the next one. I hope I will stitch more Somebunny patterns in the future. I love most of them! I think they would make great gifts for my family, I'm sure they would love this adorable bunny as much as I do! Do you plan to publish more Somebunny to Love patterns in *The World of Cross Stitching* in the near future?

Marta Truszkowska, Poland

Fiona: You'll be happy to see our Somebunny to Love ballerina on the cover of issue 218 Marta. DMC do quite a few kits in the Somebunny to Love range, so look out for these in your local needlework store or online.

Perfect Present



✉ **Proud as a peacock**
Barb's mother holding the peacock cushion she received from her daughter

PROUD AS A PEACOCK

Ispied the stained glass illustration on the front of issue 214 and thought I could adapt it for a space on one of my walls. Then, I opened the magazine and saw the simple yet elegant peacock, and knew I had to stitch it as well. I used it for the front of a shopping bag I made for my Australian friend's birthday. I then made the cushion cover and gave it to my 88-year-old mother for Mother's Day. She loved it, as you can see from the photo. I have just finished the stained glass design. I needed it to be long and somewhat wider than the illustration, so used white 22-count hardanger fabric, which I dyed with tea. I am very happy with the results.

Barb Walker, Canada

Ruth: What lovely gifts Barb, we especially like that you made the peacock design into a bag and cushion, we're not surprised your mother loved it!

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



✉ **One of a kind**
Hazel made her husband this T-shirt after seeing a design in a past issue

One of a kind

I was re-reading some back issues of your magazine when my husband saw the arcade cross stitch patterns in issue 176 of the magazine. One suggested use for the patterns was a retro T-shirt and my husband had a plain navy one that he wanted me to embellish. I followed the instructions in your magazine carefully, as I had never done anything like this before! I used soluble canvas and some spare colourfast threads I had kept from some previous kits. Now everyone comments on his T-shirt when he wears it, so it has definitely been a big hit! Thank you for the huge variety of patterns and ideas in your magazine – I'm definitely going to be more adventurous with cross stitch from now on!

Hazel Morphew,
Aberystwyth, Wales

Ruth: *The arcade games designs were a favourite of ours in the office too Hazel! You did a wonderful job stitching them on the T-shirt, especially since it was your first time using soluble canvas. Never be afraid to try out new things and finishes, yours turned out fab, and your husband is rightly pleased with such a unique item of clothing.*

Just for me

Lesley Teare's designs from issues 71, 74, 77 and 80 have been my WIP for the last ten years while I have been working on many other quite large projects – all given away. This set will stay with us and now hangs in our hallway. When framing my finished pictures I always put a letter inside the back saying who worked the piece and why, be it a gift or wedding sampler. Perhaps in years to come someone will open up the frame and be interested to find its history. I wanted to let Lesley know that I really enjoyed working on the designs, sitting in our conservatory watching the birds in the garden, several of which are in the designs.

Jean Tingley, Norfolk

Fiona: *We will pass on your message to Lesley, thanks Jean. Putting a letter into framed stitches is a wonderful idea, too!*



Love it!

This is my latest finish, I'm really pleased with it as I designed it myself. The words are what my son said to me at bedtime one night. I thought it was so sweet, it now sits on my bed so I get to look at it every day. It will be something I will cherish forever – I hope you like it as much as I do. My mum sewed it into a cushion for me as I didn't have the confidence. Three generations have been involved with this piece: my mum, myself and, of course, my son.

Bonnie Yahoo, via email

Sue: *We love the idea of commemorating your son's words in cross stitch Bonnie, and your mum did a great job making the cushion.*



✉ **Bag blooms**
Running out of wall space, Linda has displayed her stitching on this bag!

BAG BLOOMS

This bees alphabet was in issue 206 of the mag and I decided it would look great on my new sewing bag. Each pattern was enjoyable because each letter was different. My husband never buys pictures because the walls are adorned with cross stitch but with wall space running out I am always looking for other ideas.

Linda West, Isle of Man

Rachel: *The bright colours of these designs work so well on the black bag Linda, it looks wonderful!*



✉ **Love it!**
Bonnie cross stitched her son's words on a pillow for prosperity



Subs Stars

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

This month's winners are:

- ▶ Mrs G Wood, West Midlands
- ▶ Mrs B Lee, Tyne & Wear
- ▶ Mrs A Smedley, Doncaster

Prizes every month!

This issue's Subs Stars will each be receiving a gorgeous sewing basket with a matching needlecase in stitching-themed fabric, worth over £35. To be in with a chance of winning next month, all you have to do is subscribe!

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

Top card

✉ Top card

The fab card Marion adapted for her daughter's wedding



You asked on Facebook if we ever personalise cross stitches, so I thought you might like to see what I did with a Margaret Sherry design from issue 188 for my daughter's wedding last week. It was a much larger design, but I used only a part of it for their card. Hope you like it!

Marion, via email

Fiona: *You've done a brilliant job adapting the larger design to fit the card Marion.*



✉ Eastern beauties

Irene's framed collection of striking Oriental stitches

EASTERN BEAUTIES

Hope you like this photo of the Orientals I have over my bed. I love stitching and it relaxes me, since being told I have heart and breathing problems I can't do a lot of what I used to do. My daughter got me into it and I love it. I have pictures all over my house!

Irene Carter, Dudley

Ruth: *Cross stitching, and most other hobbies, are a great way to relax Irene. And the feeling of completing a project is unbeatable. We recognise the middle picture as a pattern from issue 210, called 'Oriental Lady'. It looks really nice mounted in coordinating frames with the other Orientals!*

A note... from Margaret

Shop till you drop

We have all done it and probably will continue to for life – buy too many clothes! Going on a shopping trip for something to wear for a special occasion is not always how I would choose to spend a day, but none the less, it's essential.

I leave such excursions to the very last minute, praying that I shall find something

“*The occasion called for being elegant, plus smart and comfortable*”

reasonable in my size, the right length and in an acceptable colour. It doesn't always happen nor, as happened last week, with joy!

There were so many amazing choices from dresses to jackets, tops and trousers, all must-have buys. The occasion this time was my youngest granddaughter's christening,



so being elegant was a must, plus smart and comfortable. The first outfit... floral, floaty complete with magenta jacket – perfect. On catching sight of a sky blue fitted dress and matching jacket, which would be stunning, I had to buy that too. Two blouses, a pair of cream linen trousers, two pairs of strappy sandals, a much-needed waterproof, three pairs of tights and pearl earrings later, I staggered home.

Of course there is not enough room in the wardrobe to accommodate this new hoard. Now I am taking out older garments to find room for the new. This is what I call recycling!

MORE:

Find Margaret Sherry charts online at www.margaretsherrykits.co.uk or find her Margaret Sherry Kits page on Facebook



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DESIGN BY **KATE KNIGHT**

Floral fancy

Bursting with colour and detail, this bright bouquet is the perfect way to add a ray of sunshine to your home



Designer Kate Knight is renowned for giving traditional subjects such as flowers a stylish, contemporary twist, so we're thrilled to bring you this funky display of beautiful blooms, designed exclusively for you! Displayed in a pink polka dot watering can, Kate both clashes and complements the bold colours in this quirky scene for maximum visual impact.

The striking level of realism is achieved by using different tones of the same colour to add depth and shading, and also in the stitching itself, with both fractionals and backstitch to give definition. You'll really want to take your time creating these pretty petals, and it'll also help

Factbox

- ✦ **Stitching Time**
Approx. 65 hours
- ✦ **Type of Stitches**
Cross stitch, fractionals, backstitch, French knots
- ✦ **Ease of Stitching**
Intermediate

Lifelike
backstitch
detail

if you use a sharper needle to work your backstitch. Not only will it pierce the aida blocks more easily, but it'll help with your accuracy, too.

However you choose to display this, make sure it takes pride of place in your home – after all, a project this stunning deserves to be admired! ➤



Meet the designer

Kate Knight

"Flowers are my favourite subject to design, never failing to inspire me with their beauty. This scene is definitely something I would have to brighten up my home, so I hope you love it, too!"



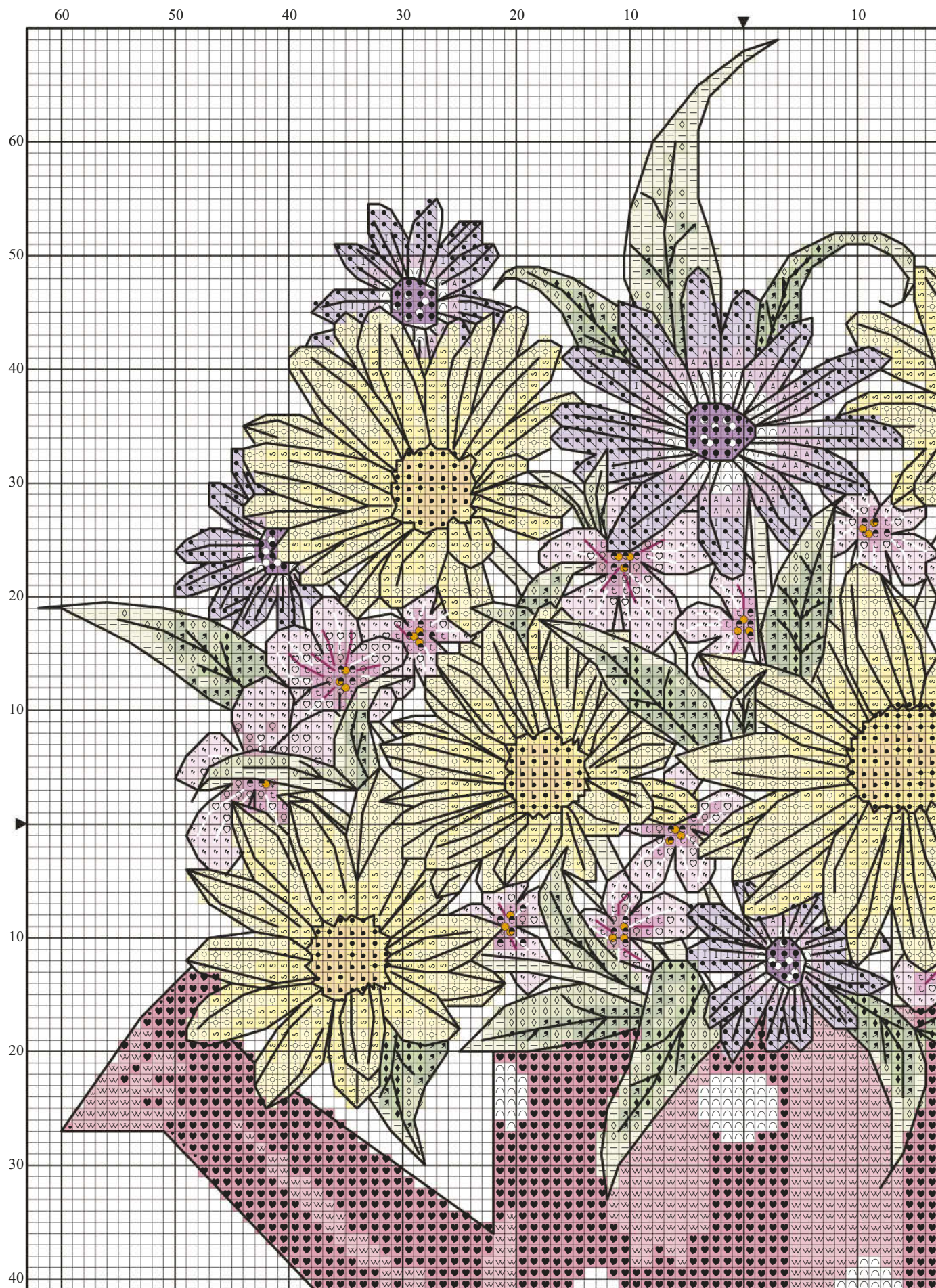
Kate Knight

STITCH
FOR YOUR
HOME

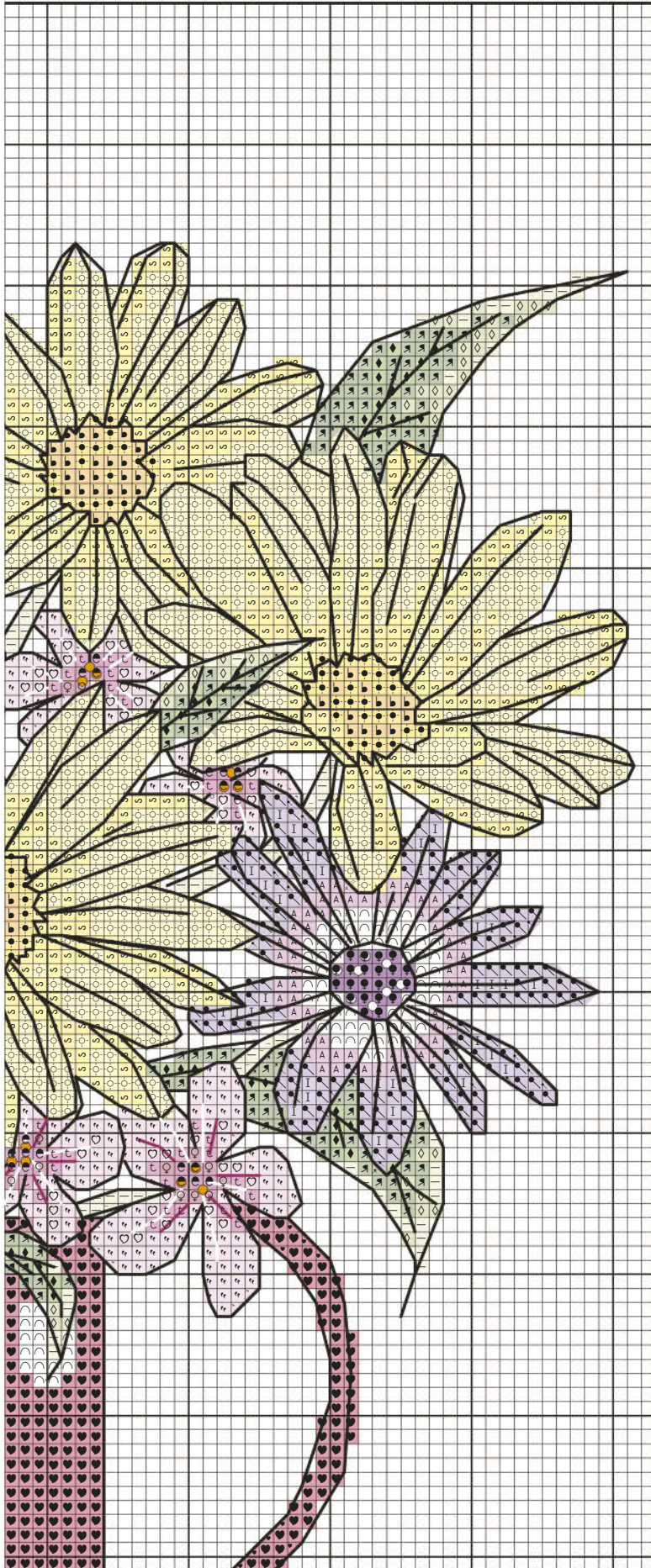


Worked in sunny yellows, pinks and purples, capture the vibrant beauty of nature in this eye-catching design!





Modern Bouquet chart (top left)



Modern Bouquet chart (top right)

Modern Bouquet key

✕ **Cross stitch in two strands**

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	blanc	2	2402	white
☼	307	289	104	yellow
☘	320	215	1311	green
∩	340	118	902	purple
♦	367	217	1312	dark green
◇	368	214	1310	light green
—	369	1043	1309	very light green
☼	445	288	103	light yellow
♀	550	102	714	dark mauve
A	553	98	712	mauve
♥	602	57	702	pink
w	603	55	505	light pink
♀	718	88	707	dark magenta
♂	741	304	202	orange
☼	742	303	114	tangerine
☼	917	89	706	magenta
t	3607	87	708	dark cyclamen
♥	3608	86	709	cyclamen
☼	3609	85	710	light cyclamen
♂	3746	1030	2702	dark purple

✖ Backstitch in one strand

	blanc	2	2402	white
	310	403	2400	black
	917	89	706	magenta

✖ French knots in one strand

○	blanc	2	2402	white
●	742	303	114	tangerine

STITCH COUNT 137 high x 124 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 25x22.5cm (9¾x9in)

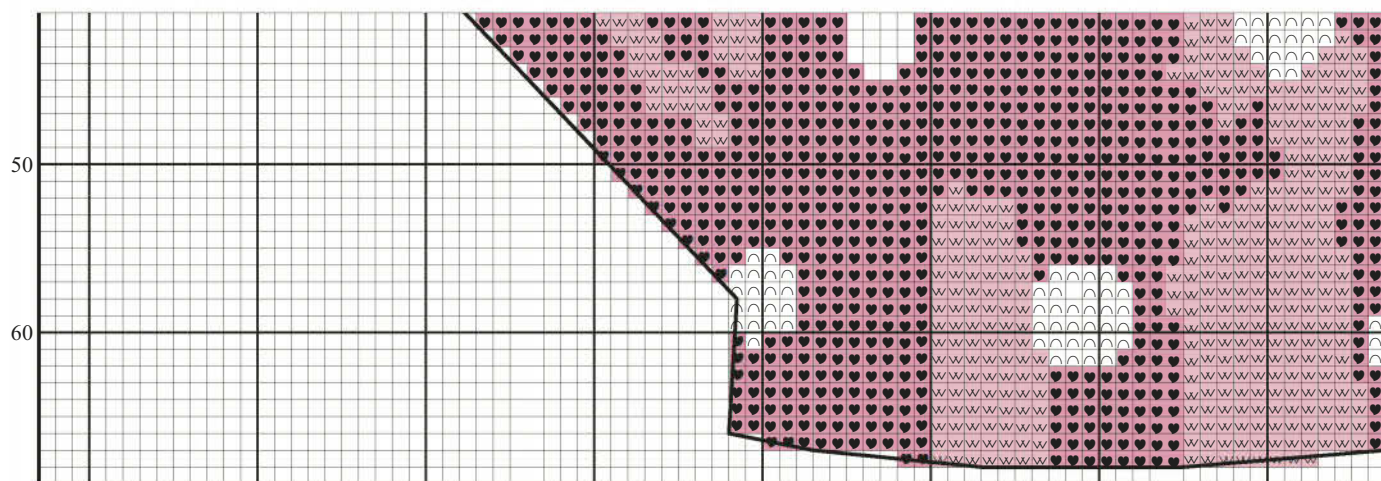
This design was stitched using DMC stranded cotton

Shopping list

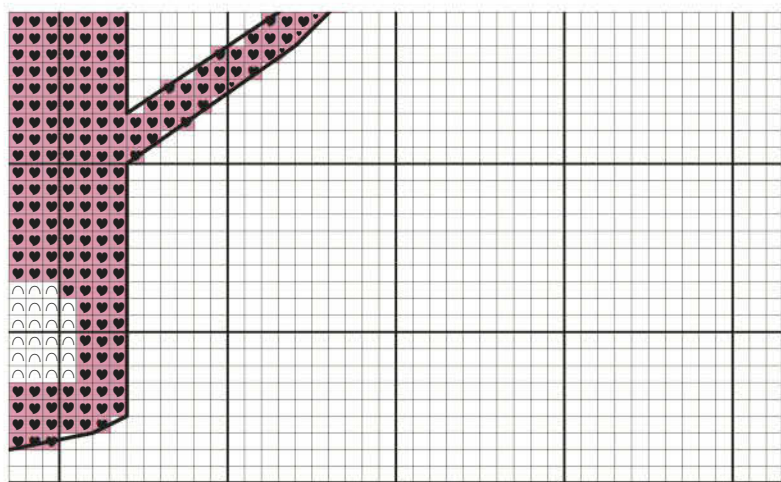
- ✂ Zweigart* 14-count white aida measuring 36x36cm (14x14in)
- ✂ Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- ✂ Size 24 tapestry needle
- ✂ Backing fabric of choice. Ours is spots bright fabric from The Craft Department*
- ✂ Cushion pad to fit

Thread & fabric cost
Approximately £25

*For stockists see page 90



Modern Bouquet chart (bottom left)



Modern Bouquet chart (bottom right)

TOP TIP

Make yourself a thread sorter before you start by punching holes in a piece of cardboard, writing the thread shade or symbol next to each hole, then threading them through



How to...

make a cushion

- 1 Trim your finished** stitched piece to measure 34x34cm (13½x13½in).
- 2 Cut two panels** of backing fabric measuring 34x9cm (13½x3½in) and pin to the sides of the stitching, right sides together. Stitch with a 2cm (¾in) seam allowance and press open the seams.
- 3 Cut two more** panels measuring 43x9cm (17x3½in) and place at the top and bottom of the stitching. Pin and stitch, then press the seams open.
- 4 Cut two back** panels measuring 25x43cm (10x17in). Sew a 2cm (¾in) hem along one long edge of each piece. With right-sides facing, place these panels over the front, so the hemmed edges of the panels overlap in the middle, to create an envelope opening.
- 5 Pin and sew** all around the edges. Turn through and press, then insert a cushion pad to finish.



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CRAFT
series

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from Jelly Roll scraps

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101 Stashbusting IDEAS

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from Jelly Roll scraps
SEE P17



Easy-make pouffe

Itsy bitsy purse

Cotton scraps bag

QUICK & EASY

Sew simple
Create our Russian doll trio

WE HEART HEXAGONS

Pretty patchwork

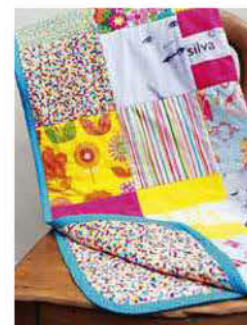
Sweet ap

MAKE BEAUTIFUL GIFTS FROM YOUR FABRIC

9 772054 2060

Don't miss it!

Are you a stashaholic? Are your cupboards stuffed with fabrics, swatches and buttons? You need 101 Stashbusting Ideas – no swatch is safe with this magazine around!



This brand new magazine is packed with 148 pages of stashbusting ideas. With a Jelly Roll Section and Cushion Collection plus beautiful quilts big and small there are heaps of makes here to aid all budding stash raiders. From a contemporary hexagon quilt and appliqué doll face pillows to cupcake bunting there's every idea here to bust your stash and freshen up your home.

AT JUST £7.99 THIS ISSUE INCLUDES:

- * Make an heirloom photo quilt
- * Stitch a memories patchwork quilt
- * 'I started a sewing bee!'
- * Confessions of a stashbuster
- * Itsy bitsy gifts from tiny scraps



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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...



Summer style

£28.80

GET THE LOVE BUG

Not exactly new, but perfect for summer days spent outdoors, these hippie-style kits by Anchor*, designed by Jane Prutton, would make great gifts for teenagers and all the surfer/campers out there. 'Camper Van' (PCE210) and 'Bug Jam' (PCE211) are cute quick-makes for any level of stitcher, and measure 8x11cm (3x4¼in) each when worked on 14-count aida. 'Surf' (ACS34) is aimed at intermediate level stitchers with a bit more experience. Worked on 16-count aida, it measures 33x23cm (12¾x9in) and is a densely-stitched design done in fabulously-bright colours to make an artwork that is sure to be admired.

£10.60

£10.60

Get the love bug
These bright and fun designs will fill your summer with colour

£24.99

STITCHING ON THE GO

Made from a blue spotty fabric with a durable washable surface, this useful bag is the perfect place to carry your stitching when out and about this summer. With a central lined compartment that can be closed with a strong zip, and numerous smaller pockets around the outside, you will be prepared for any journey and won't have to worry about forgetting any stitching stash. Available from The Cross Stitch Guild*, this super bag is selling fast – but not to worry, more are on their way! The bag has a roomy size of 35.5x30.5cm (14x12in).



Trendwatching... neons

Go colour crazy and brighten up

Wire wonders
Add a splash of colour to your home with neon wire homeware by Oliver Bonas*

From
£5



£1.67
each

Light the way
Let your stitching glow with DMC*
Light Effect Fluorescent threads



Approx.
£12

Colour clash
'Kaleidoscope Pattern' by Paula
Howard Patterns*

A STORY TOLD IN STITCHES

TIME SPENT OUTDOORS

Designer Agnès Delage-Calvet has come up with a great idea, telling a story that unfolds as you stitch it. 'A Story Told In Stitches: A Day At The Seaside' (measuring 55 x 326 stitches high by wide) and 'A Story Told In Stitches: A Day In The Garden' (measuring 55 x 325 stitches high by wide) are her latest offering. Both are colourful scenes, full of fun details to stitch. Once done, they can be mounted accordion-style as if it were a little book with 'pages'. Available from Creative Poppy*.



£15



BEST BADGER

The latest release from Genny Haines, called 'Snoozing Badger', features a cute sleeping badger about to be woken by an inquisitive hedgehog. Available from Goldleaf Needlework*, the kit includes 14-count parchment-coloured aida, stranded cotton and a needle, and has an approx. finished design size of 6.5x17.5cm (2½x6.9in). You can also buy the chart for only £6.

LOVE THE ELLY

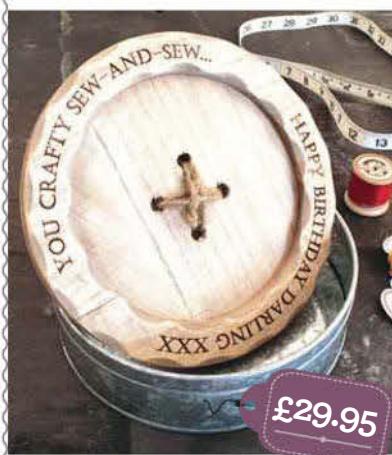
New from Bothy Threads* is the heartfelt 'Love Elly' (XKA5) kit. This charming design features the word 'love' spelt out in gorgeous flowers and a cute elephant. Kit contains chart, needle, beads, sequins, satin hearts, 14-count aida and stranded cotton. Worked in whole cross stitch and backstitch, it has a finished design size of 16x25cm (6¼x10in).



£24.99

BUTTON IT

These chunky, metal storage tins by Cleancut Wood* from shopping favourite Not on the High Street are a lovely way to send a personal, lasting message to a crafty friend – or yourself – while also giving them a convenient place to keep important stitching accessories, plus bits and bobs. The lid is shaped like a button, with jute twine tied in the holes to complete the effect. It comes in two sizes, and can be engraved with up to two messages on the wooden lid. The small sized tin is approx. 8cm (3in) tall and 13cm (5in) in diameter with an internal diameter of approx. 11cm (4½in). The large one, which costs £5 more, has an approx. size of 7cm (2½in) tall and 19cm (7½in) in diameter with an internal diameter of approx. 18cm (7in). We will have several, please!



£29.95

READER OFFER

Minerva Crafts* is offering readers a 20% discount on their range of PURElite craft lamps, including the PURElite 3-in-1 magnifying lamp. This all-in-one floor lamp, table lamp and clip-on light with magnifying glass is a stitching essential that costs £69.99. To enjoy the offer, use discount code MINERVA20 when you shop at www.minervacrafts.com. This offer is valid until 9 January 2015, with one use per customer.



Lite work
Save 20% off this and other PURElite craft lamps from Minerva Crafts

your stitching and home with hot zingy shades

From
£16.50



Neat neon
Store charts in this neon leather document wallet by Deservedly-So*

Reams of ribbon
Decorate cards with satin ribbon from Berisfords Ribbons*



70p
per metre

*For stockists see page 90

DESIGN BY **RHONA NORRIE**

Sewing for pleasure

Stitchers will delight in this vintage accessories set, with its pretty rosebud border. Make it as a gift for a friend who loves to sew

Vintage cotton reels, silver thimbles and old-fashioned sewing machines are wonderful reminders of the past, when the pace of life was slower. But at the same time we can take comfort in these nostalgic designs because we know that the world of craft is still very much alive, and picking up that needle and thread allows us to create our own bit of peace in an otherwise hectic day.

Rhona's sublime sewing set has a strong colour theme, with coral, blue and grey dominating each of these designs, which are made even more attractive with their rosebud and green leaf borders. And with some of the backstitch in standout, colourful shades, you'll enjoy embellishing

Factbox

- ✕ **Stitching Time**
Approx. 20 hours for the set
- ✕ **Type of Stitches**
Cross stitch, fractionals, backstitch, French knots
- ✕ **Ease of Stitching**
Intermediate

Great
stitch
variety

your piece with delicate stitchwork in stranded cottons, especially the old Singer-style sewing machine.

Make the entire set as a gorgeous gift for a stitcher who is a dear friend, or pep up your own craft space with a new piece that celebrates your number-one hobby! ➤



Meet the designer

Rhona Norrie

"I love heritage pieces and anything with a sense of history. So what better way to pay homage to stitching than with a few choice pieces that are instantly recognisable to crafters."



MAKE
A UNIQUE
GIFT



This retro set resonates with echoes of times gone by, yet celebrates a pastime that thrives today



Vintage Sewing Set key

✂ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	B5200	1	2401	white
J	318	399	1801	grey
⬇	334	977	1004	dark blue
⬇	351	10	214	dark coral
⬇	352	9	303	coral
A	353	6	2313	light coral
⬇	414	235	1714	dark grey
⬇	415	398	1802	light grey
N	436	1045	2011	tan
b	437	362	2012	light tan
s	738	367	2013	very light tan
⬇	3325	129	907	blue
t	3841	9159	1001	light blue

✂ Backstitch in one strand

—	352	9	303	coral
—	413	236	1713	very dark grey
—	738	367	2013	very light tan
—	905	257	1412	green

✂ French knots in one strand

●	413	236	1713	very dark grey
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MAXIMUM STITCH COUNT 50 high x 50 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 9x9cm (3½x3½in)

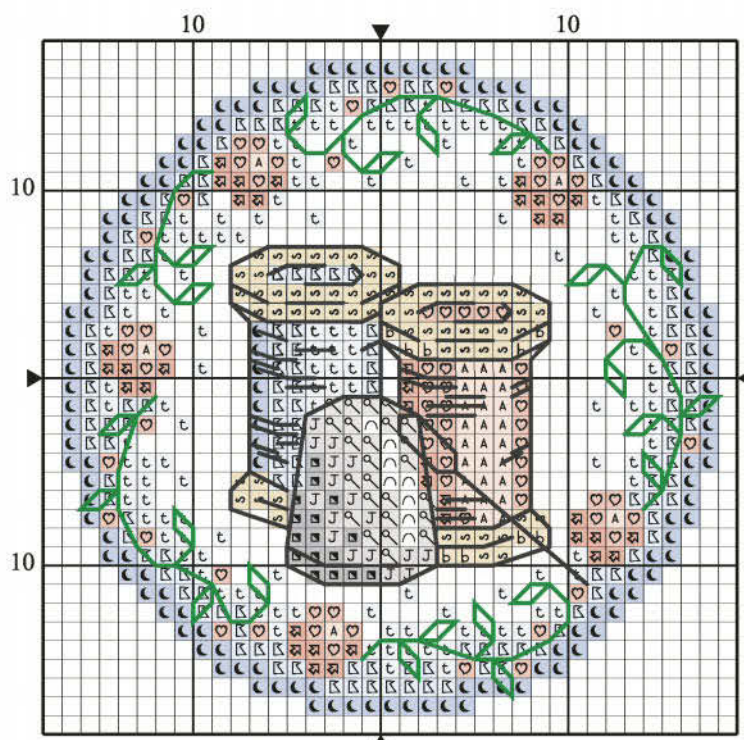
These designs were stitched using DMC stranded cotton

Shopping list

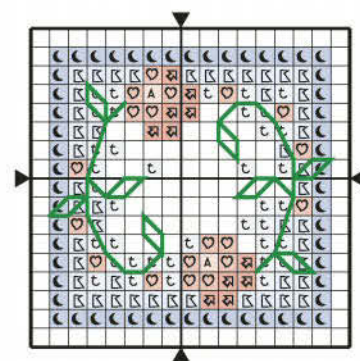
- ✂ Zweigart* 14-count white aida measuring a maximum of 15x15cm (6x6in) for each design
- ✂ Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- ✂ Size 24 tapestry needle
- ✂ Backing fabric, ribbon and button of choice for the needlecase. Ours is Cotton Ornament Tiles 3 fabric, Art-No: 25_647098_276 from the Gütermann* range
- ✂ Large round linen box from Viking Loom*
- ✂ Backing fabric, trim and wadding of choice for the pincushion and scissor fob

Thread & fabric cost
Approximately £15

*For stockists see page 90



Thimble and thread chart



Rosebud chart

TOP TIP

Swap the white aida for cream or pale green to give your stitching even more of a vintage flavour

How to...

make a pretty scissor fob

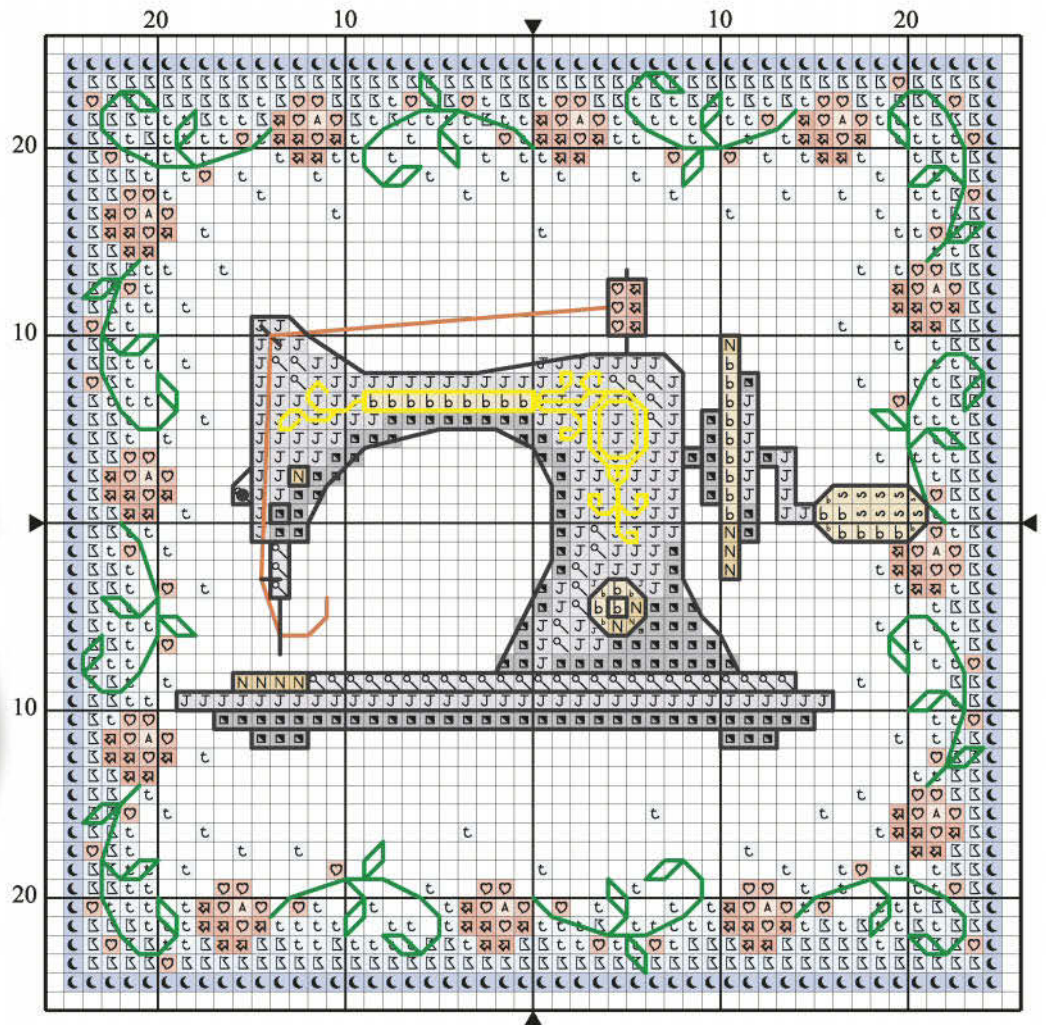
- 1 Trim your stitched** piece so that it measures 5.5cm (2¼in) square. Cut a piece of backing fabric to match.
- 2 Cut a piece** of ribbon the required length and tack in place to the right side of the stitched piece at the corner.
- 3 Place the right** sides of the stitched piece together with backing fabric and ribbon sandwiched in-between. Stitch all the way around, leaving a small gap to turn through.
- 4 Fill the fob** with wadding and stitch the gap closed.
- 5 Attach to your** scissors with the ribbon.



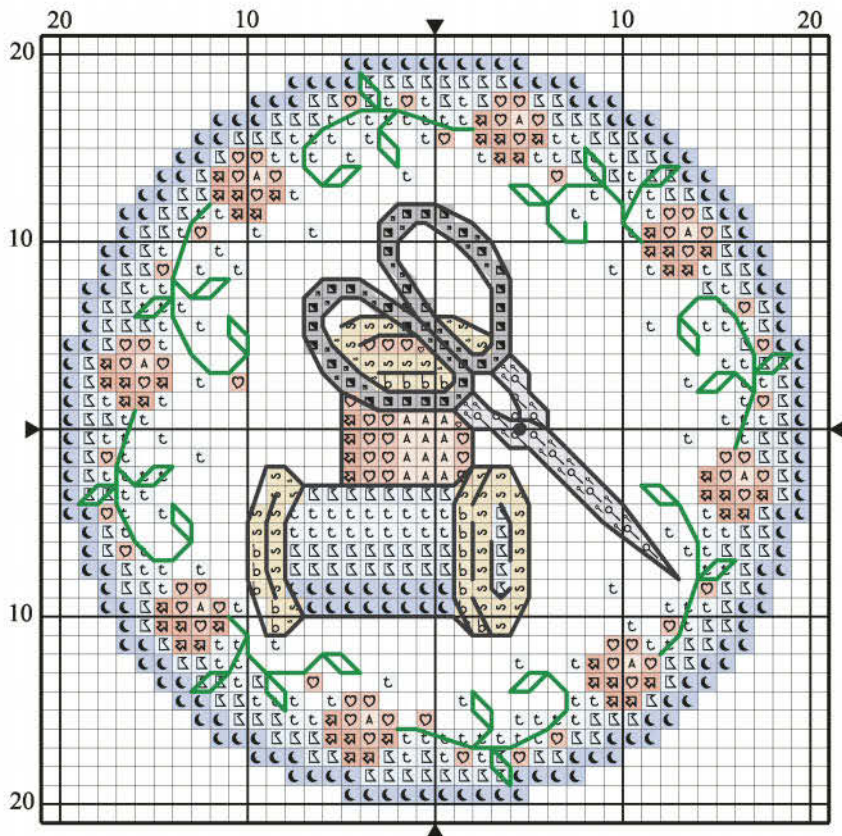
Aleksandra READER PANEL

☺ Rather than making them into items, I would stitch these patterns and stick them onto postcards for my friends who are also interested in handcraft. ☺





Sewing machine chart



Thread and scissors chart



Kreinik threads

Tip: the thread type
and color number
are printed on
the label

Put the softest sparkle in your stitchery



- ✓ Use Blending Filament, Very Fine #4 Braid or Fine #8 Braid for cross stitch on popular fabrics.
- ✓ Thread sizes Medium #16 Braid or Heavy #32 Braid are perfect for cording and trims.
- ✓ Visit www.kreinik.com for the Tokens & Trifles™ perforated paper shapes pictured above.



info@kreinik.com

#kreinik

Tip: Kreinik color
5760 Marshmallow is
perfect for stitching snow

Visit www.kreinik.com
for **free projects**
colour charts
how-to videos
store locator

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

CONTENTS

32 IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Cupcake of the Month designer Durene Jones

33 WISHES GRANTED

Jenny's designed a vintage camera for Marie

34 FRIENDLY ADVICE

Tips for stitching on paper and plastic canvas

34 TECHNIQUE FOCUS

I want to do lettering on plastic canvas, any advice?

35 DESIGN ROUND-UP

The best stitching-themed kits and charts

Just divine...

Q I am looking for a pattern, I think it's called 'Stairway to Heaven'. If anyone knows where I can find it, I'd be grateful.

Patricia Clark, via Facebook

A **Fiona says:** We're not sure if this is the specific design you're looking for, but it's certainly a beautiful one with that name, so I hope it's what you're after Patricia. The stunning 'Stairway to Heaven' chart (WARREN050) is by Heaven and Earth

Designs*, based on the artwork by Jim Warren.

It's a very impressive design, of 298x400 stitches, so it'll measure a finished size of 53.5x71.5cm (21½x28½in) when worked on 14-count aida. Buy the regular downloadable chart for \$13.30 (approx. £7.80) or \$14.70 (approx. £8.60) as a large format download.

This design is sure to be treasured for years to come for its realistic look and wonderful sentiment.



Conversion confusion?
You can use 28-count evenweave for 14-count aida, and vice versa



Conversion confusion?

Q I would like to stitch the design of the 'Flamenco beauty' from issue 198, but am not confident enough to do it on the 28-count evenweave, which is recommended. Will it be the same measurement if I do it on 14-count aida?

Brenda Nix, Burntwood

A **Ruth says:** Yes, if you switch fabrics to work on 14-count aida instead of 28-count evenweave it'll be the same size and you can use the fabric measurements as given in our Shopping List.

Evenweave is not as tricky as you'd think and for an advanced level project like this one, it will even be easier than using aida. This is because there are quite a lot of fractional stitches, which are easier to work on evenweave, as there's no need to split an aida block. Just use the central hole between threads for working the short arm of the fractional stitch. For more tips on using evenweave, why not see my video tutorial in the 'How to' section at our site, www.cross-stitching.com ➤

In the spotlight

DURENE JONES, DESIGNER

Finding balance

Q I've collected a few 'Cupcake of the Month' patterns, and want to use one piece of aida and put all 12 together. How much room do I leave between them? And should I put a border around each, as I don't want the short ones or skinny ones to look lost compared to the taller and wider ones?

Donna Carpenter Shackelford, via Facebook

A Durene says: When deciding what space to leave between motifs, think about their proportions, as you'll want to allow a small gap between each one, but

not so much that they feel too spaced out. Motifs that are scaled for cards, around 10cm (4in), shouldn't need more than 2.5cm (1in) between designs. It's also important to count carefully so your stitching will be central and you have a regular number of motifs in each row and/or column. Although my cupcake designs are created to the same proportions so they'll fit together without too much problem, you're right that borders – in the same style, and colour – will help unify your project if the motifs vary in size.



Finding balance

Peggy Pasquini was inspired to stitch some of our Cupcake of the Month ideas as one giant project – Donna wants to try something similar!



Hand-dyed style
Get an unique finish by using hand-dyed threads

Hand-dyed style

Q I'm interested in starting the sewing accessories from issue 203 – a biscornu pincushion and needlecase – but they require Dragon Floss thread, in the colourway 'sweet pea'. I can't seem to find anywhere that stocks this and I was wondering if you know any stockists or an alternative?

Beth Marshall, via email

A Ruth says: It's great to hear that the pretty set caught your eye. All the details for where to buy the materials needed, including the Dragon Floss thread, are given in the project Shopping List. Then the stockist specifics are listed on page 90 – you can always find specific details of where to track down the essential, but less common, items in our Shopping Lists and stockists pages.

In fact, the Dragon Floss is a one-off hand-dyed thread produced exclusively by Polstitches Designs. This is why no other suppliers have this thread and it's also why we asked them to put together a special offer pack for us. To take a look at the details of this offer, turn to page 28 of issue 203 and to contact Polstitches Designs* see page 90.

Measure up!

Q I've seen a tip alongside one of your projects ('Love story', issue 212) to use the metallic thread shorter than usual, so it reduces wear and fraying. I'm not sure of the recommended thread lengths for stranded cottons or metallics. Please help?

Maria Cantafield, Rochdale

A Anne says: Using a length of thread in your needle that's not too long is good advice for any kind of thread. Whatever thread type you use will wear the more it passes through the fabric holes. Keep stranded cotton lengths to a maximum of 38cm (15in) and metallics between 22-30cm (9-12in) to ensure your stitches stay looking their best.

Exotic beauty

Q I am after a copy of 'Egyptian Angel', the chart by Barbara Baatz. Do you know where I can find this?

Julie Moore, via Facebook

A Katriel says: Unfortunately, the design you're looking for – a chart published by ASN – is one that's now out of print, so it's hard to find this unless you perhaps try eBay or similar. But this Egyptian lady is one I hope you might like instead. 'Egyptian', by Mystic Stitch, is available to buy at Sew and So* as a whole-stitches-only chart (56819) for £8.09. It's a densely worked project, measuring 68x45cm (27x18in) if you work it on the recommended 14-count aida, with a stunning 88 thread colours for the breathtaking shading and detail.



Exotic beauty

Julie is looking for an Egyptian beauty design to cross stitch

Wishes granted



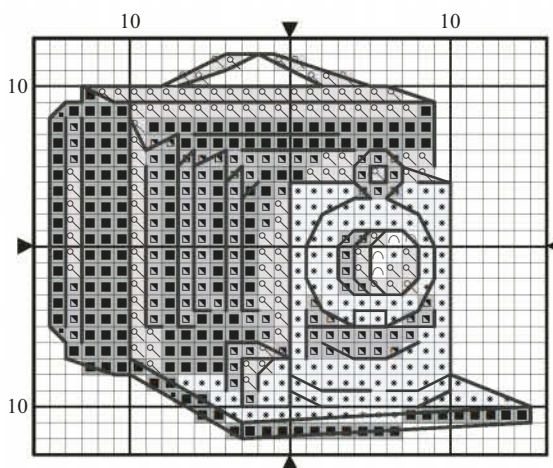
Request a pattern and our resident design expert, Jenny, might just chart it for you...

Q A friend of mine likes cameras, so could you please design a vintage camera that I can stitch on 14-count aida?

Marie Stott, via email

A Jenny says: Stitching something your friend is interested in is a great idea, Marie. I created this design of a folding camera from bygone days just for you to stick with the vintage idea, using just six thread shades. I hope you like it and your friend appreciates the thought.

Picture perfect
Jenny's design is hopefully just what Marie is looking for!



Vintage camera key

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
○	blanc	2	2402	white
■	310	403	2400	black
◐	318	399	1801	grey
◑	414	235	1714	dark grey
*	762	234	1804	light grey

✕ Backstitch in one strand

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

STITCH COUNT 24 high x 30 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 4.5x5.5cm (1¾x2¼in)

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.

Penguin pic

Q I'm looking for patterns and/or kits for cross stitch penguins. Do you know where I can find any? Thank you!

Kris Bruns, Minnesota

A Fiona says: 'Penguin and Chicks' (dw-PN01) is a kit by Derwentwater Designs, available from Sew Inspiring*. With 14-count aida and everything needed to stitch this lovely scene for £9.95, it's a super-sweet design, that'll measure 15.5x14cm (6¼x5½in).



Penguin pic
There are some wonderful nature designs out there, like this cute trio



Taller than average
To make larger projects, buy fabric off the roll

Taller than average

Q I want to make a height chart for my friend's little boy, and was wondering where I could buy aida, or evenweave, in a suitable size?

Tina, via email

A Ruth says: When looking for fabric for any project, it's always possible to buy pieces off the roll to the size you need, as opposed to pre-cut pieces. Once you've decided on the design you're going to stitch, then you just need to calculate the size of fabric needed for that design

as usual – this relates to the stitch count and the count of the fabric chosen, so use our handy guide on page 96 to help you get the correct amount. It's important, of course, not to forget the extra fabric needed to allow for mounting and finishing, so add 10cm (4in) to each dimension for this. Fabric off the roll should be available from suppliers where you usually buy your aida and evenweave, such as DMC*, Anchor* and Zweigart*.

STITCHING HELP!

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

Email us at:
experts@cross-stitching.com

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

Send in queries via Facebook too:



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

Friendly advice

We asked our Facebook fans for tips for stitching on plastic canvas/perforated paper... here's what they said

✂ **Sue Craig:** After you cut around your stitching on the plastic canvas, use a pair of nail clippers to clip the little plastic tags that are left. This gives a really neat finish.

✂ **Roslyn Core:** Keep the back of your stitching neat – stray threads will show through clear plastic canvas.

✂ **Lorna Potter:** Use a needle slightly smaller than the hole, especially when working with paper, to reduce the chance of rips.

✂ **Kayleigh Jade Davies:** For perforated paper, work slow and steady, you will end up with a beautiful design

with a minimal chance of tearing. Also, on a hot day, make sure you have a towel to dry your hands.

✂ **Patricia Bentley-Ivens:** Do not cut too close to the stitching when you are done, it's easy to damage your hard work and make it messy!

✂ **Jacki Huntbach:** Both are so versatile, when you get the hang of it, you will be amazed at what you can make. I've got Xmas decorations made 20 years ago that still look lovely.

✂ **Chris Cooper:** Do not pull the thread too hard when using paper so as not

to tear the paper. Also, use the loop method to start so there are no knots to stick through the work

✂ **Julie Flower:** Perforated paper generally comes in A4 size sheets. To reduce the chance of creasing and bending it, cut it to a more manageable size.

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!

facebook

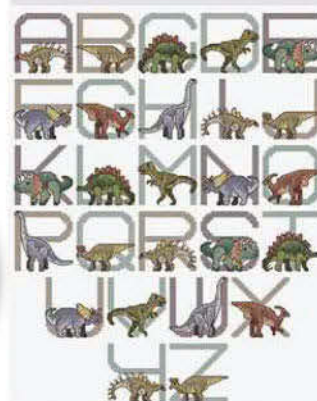


QUICK Q&A

Any ideas for an alphabet for a boy?

Nicole Clay, via Facebook

Katriel says: Here's a fab idea by designer Claire Crompton* – a dinosaur-themed alphabet! Download the PDF of 'Dinosaur Alphabet Sampler' cross stitch chart for £5 and make fun cards, gifts and more. Individual letters, which do contain fractional stitches, have a stitch count of 30x30 stitches or why not stitch the whole thing as a sampler?



Dino ABC
Dinosaurs could be just the thing Nicole is after!

I've a chart that needs both DMC shades 781 and 782. I know that 781 has been discontinued and that I would have to use 782, but do I now need to change 782 to a darker colour?

Lisa Clements, via FaceBook

Anne says: The next darkest colour from 782 is 780, which is quite a bit darker, so what I'd suggest is that you keep 782, but use either 783, or maybe 3852 in place of the 781 as this is a newer colour for that shade.

TECHNIQUE FOCUS

Plastic fantastic

Q My plan is to stitch some lettering onto either paper or plastic canvas, neither of which I've used before. I'm looking for some cute modern bubble lettering patterns in whole stitches that I can use, but so far I've had no luck. Can you recommend any? Also, any tips on using these materials?

Ria Garland, via Facebook

A **Anne says:** You're right that designs for plastic canvas mustn't contain any fractionals. Many of our themed alphabet sets over the years fall into this category. One that springs to mind is the 'Wild thing' animal-print alphabet, from issue 205, since not only was this worked without any fractionals, the style is the bubble-lettering effect I think you're after. Of course you can adapt the letters, stitching them in other shades, so you don't have to stick to the animal-print vibe. The digital edition of issue 205 is available, simply search Apple, Google Play and Amazon stores for *The World of Cross Stitching* and download the app.

Stitch with at least two or three squares around each motif, then you can safely trim them out afterwards with that one-square wide border. Check to see if you're getting good coverage with two strands – sometimes it's better to go for three, for a firmer finish.



Plastic fantastic
Ria wants to stitch an alphabet on plastic canvas



Design round-up

We've hand-picked a selection of the best kits & charts that reflect our love of cross stitching

Stitchy
theme
ideas

SKILL STRETCHER

COUNTING STITCHES IS FOR ME!

You won't be short on smiles as you work this quirky pattern – an Alma Lynne chart, (46935), from Sew and So*. There's no shortage of vibrant thread colours – 29 in all – which is sure to stand out when it's hung above your favourite stitching chair. Plenty of fractionals and a few French knots make it more suitable for a stitcher with a little experience.

Stitch count – 138 high x 90 wide, 24.5x16cm (9³/₄x6¹/₂in) on 14-count aida



JUST SIX THREAD SHADES

LET'S CROSS STITCH



Show off your skills in a modern, word-art style sampler with this pretty chart at Arts and Designs*. Shaped like a butterfly, a stitcher's vocab makes up the wings, with 'I love to cross stitch', thimble and stash just some of the favoured words and phrases.

Stitch count – 119 high x 118 wide, 21x21cm (8¹/₂x8¹/₂in) on 14-count aida

STANDOUT DESIGN

MY CRAFT ROOM

Designed by Ursula Michael for Imagining, this chart booklet from Arts and Designs* is packed with detail. From tape measure shelf edging and heart bunting to a 'don't touch a thing' sign, a crafter's beloved stash is reflected in stitches!

Stitch count – 241 high x 80 wide, 43x14cm (17¹/₄x5³/₄in) on 14-count aida



QUICK START

STITCH BY STITCH

With threads already sorted, you'll be ready to start working on this pretty Anchor* kit (ACS29) straight away. This stitching-themed design shows a range of pastel haberdashery. The chart, in clear black and white symbols, will be easy to follow, and is printed on one side of A3 paper. We're sure you'll find each motif on this well-designed picture a satisfying stitch.

Stitch count – 127 high x 107 wide, 22.5x19cm (9x7³/₄in) on 14-count white aida



*For stockists see page 90

DESIGN BY **LISA REAKES**

Learning is fun

Your kids will love this bright and fun calendar, which features their name, the date and weather!

Make learning fun for your kids with this magnetic calendar and weather chart. Your child can learn the days of the week, months of the year, plus be on top of the weather so nothing is forgotten on the school run like those all-important wellies or sun hat!

Designer Lisa Reakes has created this chart exclusively for readers of the mag. Featuring all of the colours of the rainbow, plus magnets to keep the dates secure, your kids will love changing the motifs every day. Done on 14-count aida and plastic canvas in all simple stitches, it's also a breeze for you to make, and shouldn't take too long to stitch... depending on how much free time

Factbox

- ✕ **Stitching Time**
Approx. 20 hours
- ✕ **Type of Stitches**
Cross stitch, backstitch
- ✕ **Ease of Stitching**
Beginner

Try out
plastic
canvas

your kids allow you after a busy day! This makes a great gift idea, too, as you can personalise it with any child's name using the alphabet chart provided. And don't be afraid to adapt the colours to match your child's favourite shades, just check the key and swap in the chosen colours. ➤



Meet the designer

Lisa Reakes

"Learning the days of the week and months of the year is an important part of children's progress, so I came up with this design to make it a fun process for them, and hopefully for you, too!"



TRY
SOMETHING
NEW WITH
THE WORLD OF
Cross
Stitching

My First Calendar

Poppy Kate

Day Date Month

Wednesday

30th

July

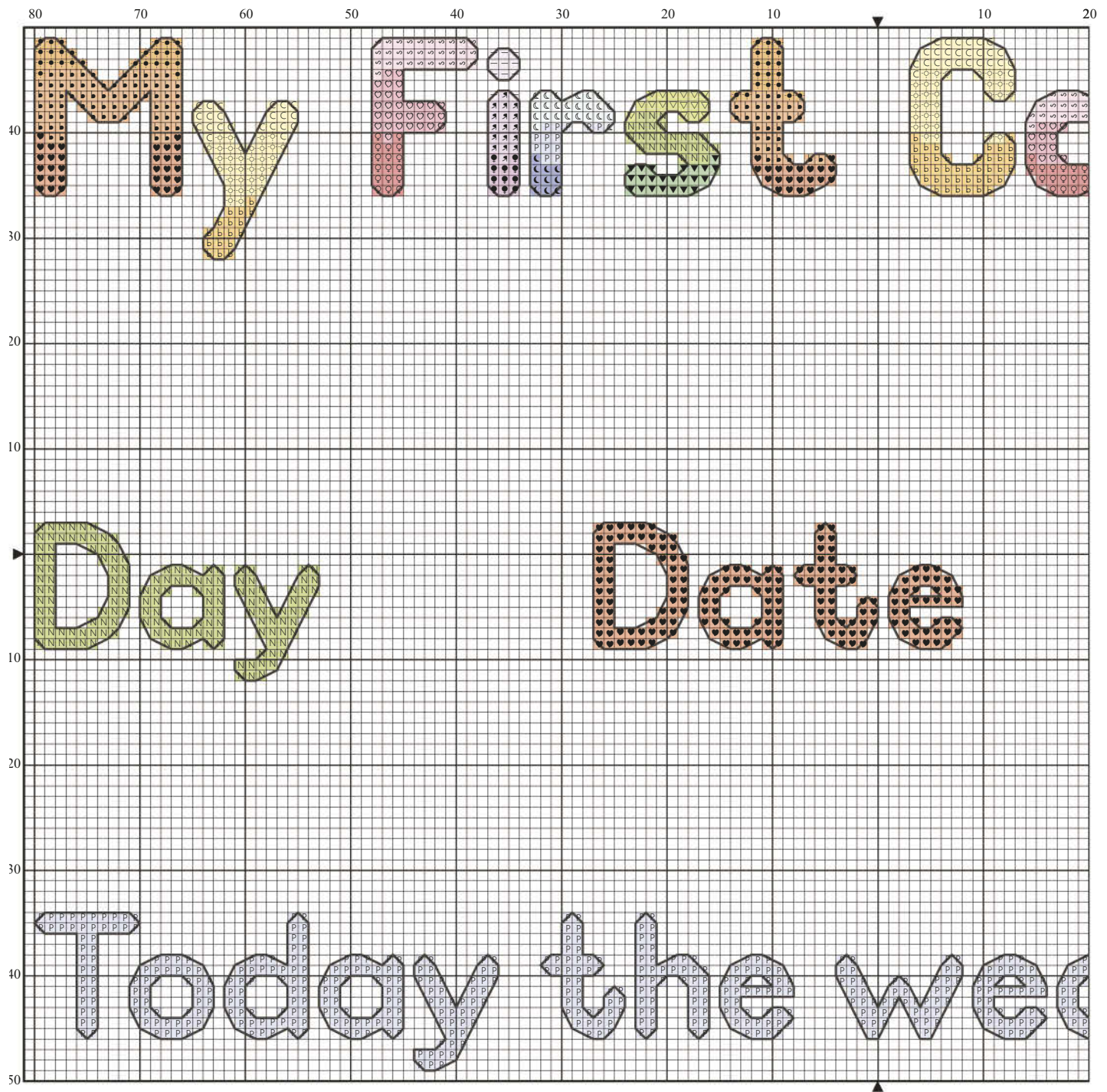
Today the weather is

sunny 

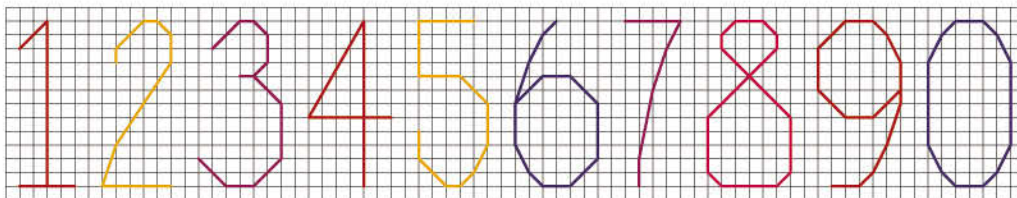


Make learning fun
with this bright
calendar that uses
magnets to make
it easy!

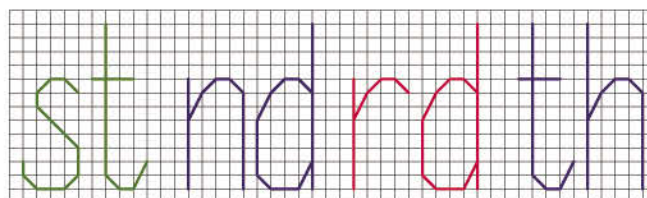




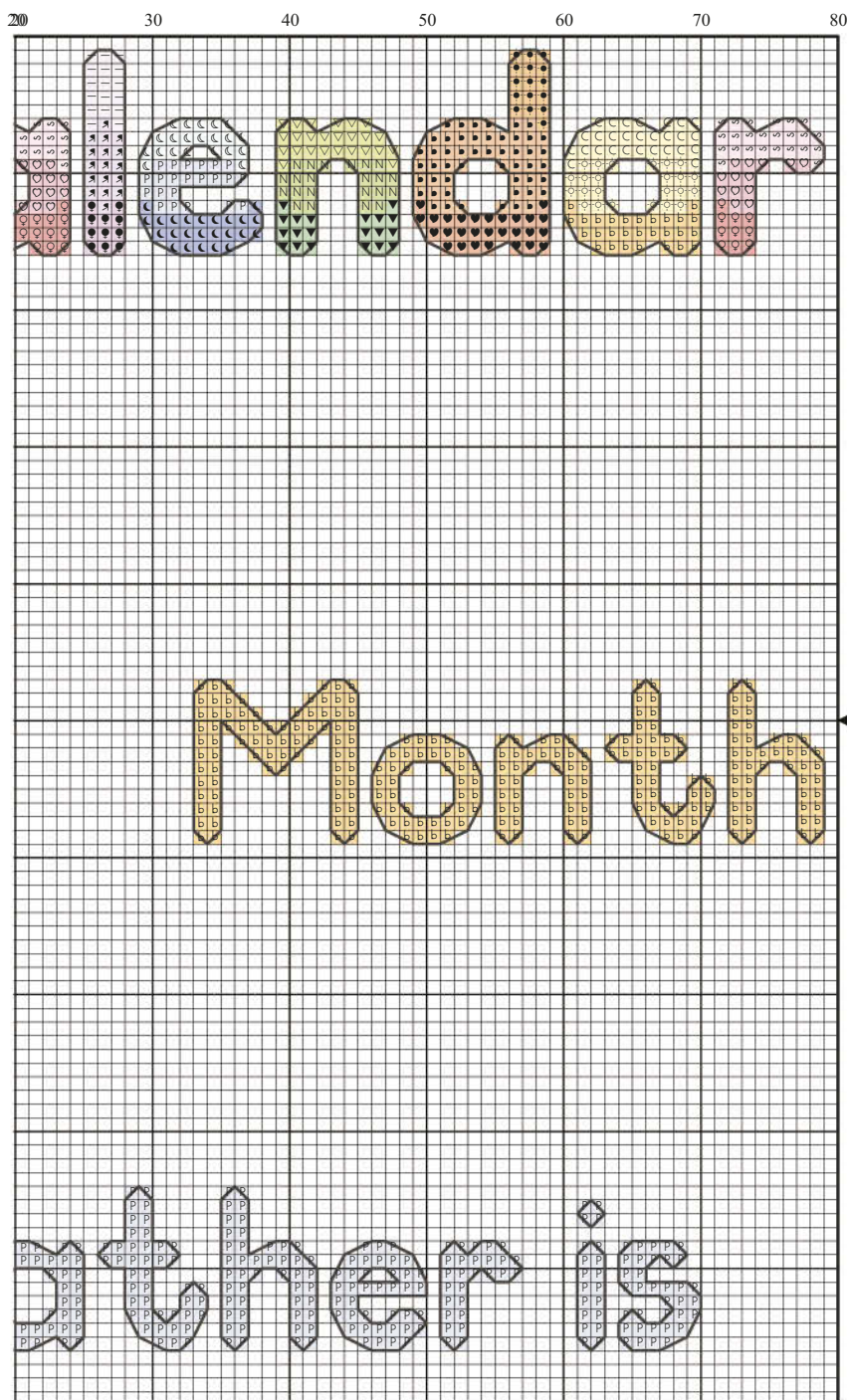
Calendar chart (left)



Numbers chart (left)



Numbers chart (right)



Calendar chart (right)

Shopping list

- ✦ Zweigart* 14-count white aida measuring 46x53cm (18x21in) for the canvas and 14-count plastic canvas measuring a maximum of 13x8cm (5x3in) for the magnetic pieces
- ✦ Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- ✦ Size 24 tapestry needle
- ✦ Blank art canvas measuring 41x30cm (16x12in)
- ✦ Magnetic strips and backing canvas

Thread & fabric cost
Approximately £25

*For stockists see page 90

TOP TIP

When using plastic canvas, cut your design to shape when you've finished all the stitching, leaving a border of one unstitched bar all around

My First Calendar key

✦ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
	209	98	803	lilac
	211	342	801	light lilac
	318	399	1801	grey
	414	235	1714	dark grey
	415	398	1802	light grey
	601	63	703	dark pink
	603	55	701	pink
	605	1094	613	light pink
	666	46	210	red
	700	229	1302	dark green
	702	226	1306	green
	704	255	1308	light green
	726	295	109	yellow
	727	293	112	light yellow
	740	316	204	orange
	762	234	1804	very light grey
	798	131	912	dark blue
	800	144	908	light blue
	809	130	909	blue
	947	330	205	dark orange
	972	298	107	tangerine
	3837	111	713	dark lilac

✦ Backstitch in one strand

	3799	236	1713	very dark grey
--	------	-----	------	----------------

✦ Backstitch in two strands

	601	63	703	dark pink
	666	46	210	red
	700	229	1302	dark green
	798	131	912	dark blue
	809	130	909	blue
	972	298	107	tangerine
	3837	111	713	dark lilac

MAXIMUM STITCH COUNT 98 high x 159 wide
DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 18x29cm (7x11¼in)

This design was stitched using DMC stranded cotton

Aleksandra READER PANEL



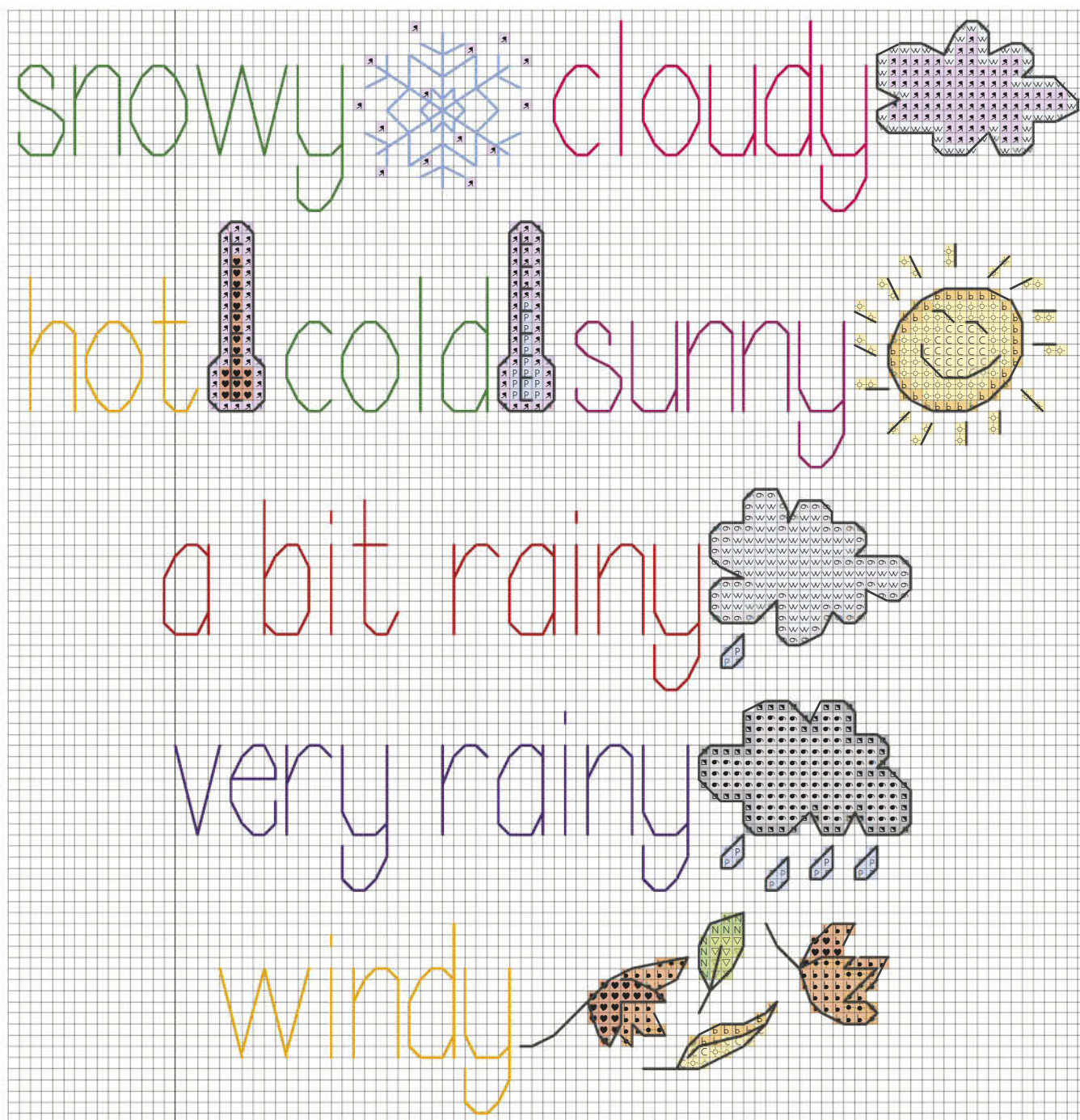
“I think this project idea is great. I would stitch it for my daughter, as it would definitely help her to understand all the dates and months of the year.”

Monday Tuesday
Wednesday Thursday
Friday Saturday Sunday
January February
March April May June
July August September
October November
December

Days and months chart



Alphabet chart



Weather chart

How to...

make your calendar

1 Stitch the main design on aida, and the days, months, dates and weather motifs on plastic canvas.

2 Staple your main design around a 41x30cm (16x12in) canvas. Start at the midpoint of each side, then work all around, keeping the fabric taut as you go.

3 Stick a magnet to the back of the various plastic canvas motifs with double-sided tape.

4 Use another magnet at the back of the canvas to hold the motif. Don't stick this one down, but use it each day to change the dates, days and months, plus weather!



Chart: **£5.50** + p&p* **NEW Fun Sayings NEW** Kit: **£10.50** + p&p*
 *p&p is PER ORDER *p&p is PER ORDER

SS109 Old Ministers **SS110 Old Dieters** **SS111 Where's that mouse**

Old Ministers never die... they just ramble on, and on, and on...

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BUY ANY 2 SAYINGS CHARTS & GET 1 FREE

See website for ALL other designs

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Set sail!

HIT THE HIGH SEAS WITH THESE
OCEAN-INSPIRED DESIGNS

43
NAUTICAL
IDEAS



Stitch these seafaring patterns by Ursula Michaels
whether you are a land lover or sailor!

- ✕ 43 quick-and-easy motifs ✕ Ursula Michaels' design inspiration ✕ Stitches for every skill level
- ✕ Helpful tips and advice ✕ Unique present ideas for your special someone



DOLPHIN DELIGHT

Make a splash with this fun design (31), perfect for any occasion! We patched ours onto a card blank in creative smooth white (DL03U) from Craft Creations*.



SHELL DECOR

Hide away all of life's essentials in a pretty basket with a set of gorgeous shells as decor (41)! We stitched ours on Zweigart* white aida band with a white trim.



DROP ANCHOR

A classic nautical design, this anchor is great for decorating boxes and pots (1). Mount on a large, blue round satin box, available from Viking Loom*.



BE ENLIGHTENED

A guiding light to help you find your place, this lighthouse (8) makes the perfect bookmark. Mount it onto a piece of blue felt and decorate with a tassel.



BOBBING ALONG

Send warm sentiments across the ocean with this cute tug boat design (22). We used a circle aperture card in creative smooth white (AP54U) from Craft Creations*.



SNAZZY SIGNS

Dinner on the patio is the perfect way to end the day, and this motif says it all (33). Patch it onto card decorated with stripy backing paper and mount on a plant pot stick.



KEY KEEPER

Never lose your keys again with this compass keyring (32)! Patch onto a circle of felt in a coordinating colour and add a keyring fitment from local craft stores.



POCKET SAILOR

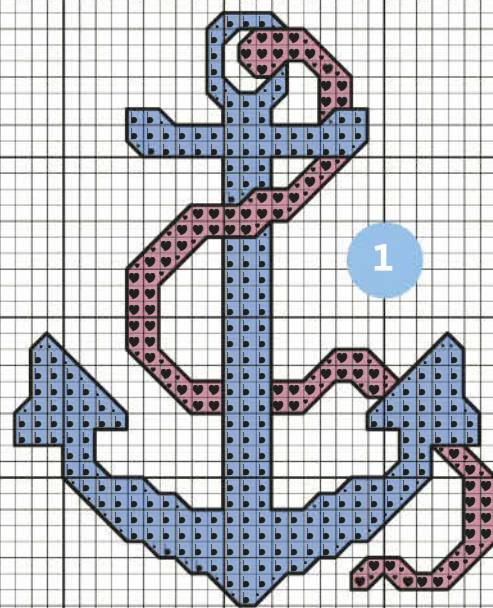
Hit the high seas with this line-up of fabulous yachts (7). We stitched ours onto the pocket of a white shirt to give it an individual look you can't buy in the shops!

*For stockists, see page 90

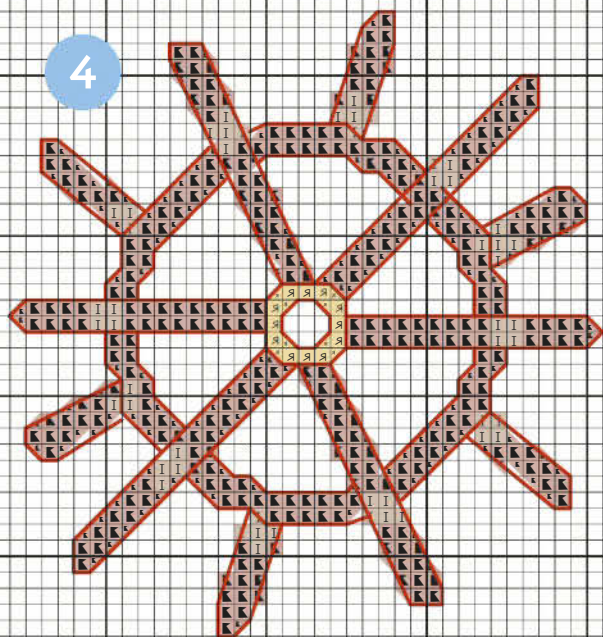
My inspiration

☞ When you think of summer you think of the sun, sea and sand, so this nautical-themed set is perfect while the weather is warm. It's also great for cards and gifts for men, who are often a struggle to find motifs for. Hope you enjoy it! ☞

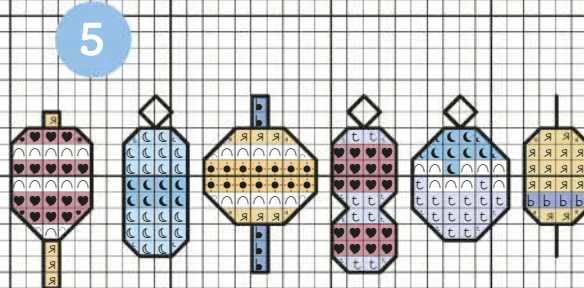
URSULA MICHAEL, *DESIGNER*



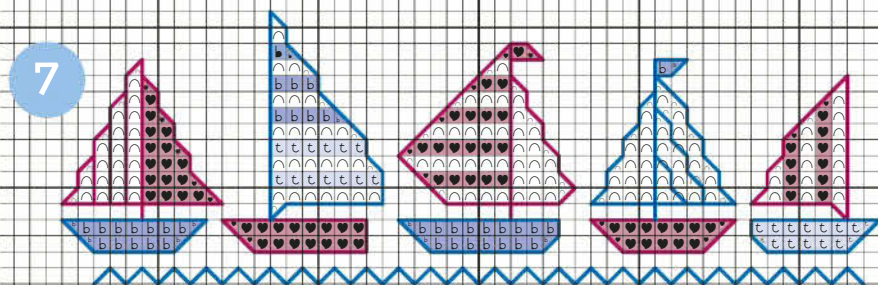
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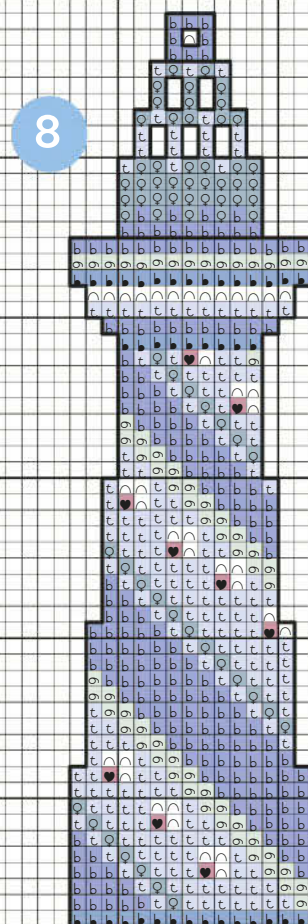
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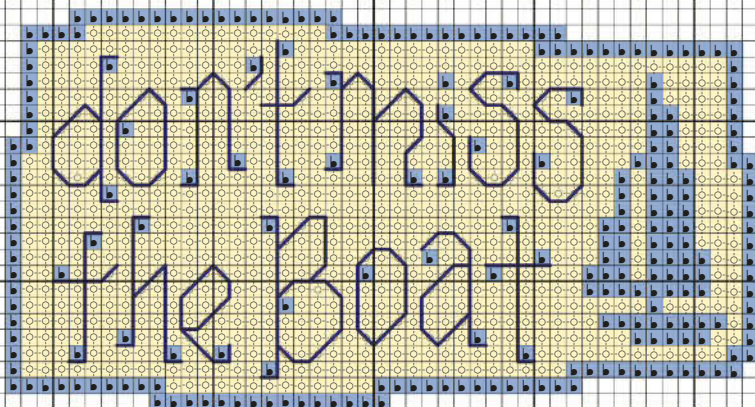
5



7



8



11

Nautical key

✦ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	blanc	2	2402	white
■	310	403	2400	black
■	355	1014	2501	rust red
■	414	235	1714	grey
A	415	398	1802	light grey
♥	498	1006	513	red
—	543	933	1909	beige
○	597	1064	1110	sea blue
⦿	727	293	112	yellow
♥	754	1012	305	peach
b	798	131	912	blue
t	809	130	909	light blue
■	820	133	914	dark blue
●	972	298	107	tangerine
☾	995	410	1102	electric blue
☾	996	433	1103	lt electric blue
■	3371	382	2004	dark brown
N	3778	338	402	light rust red
●	3808	1068	2507	dark sea blue
■	3820	306	2509	dark yellow
I	3863	379	1912	light brown

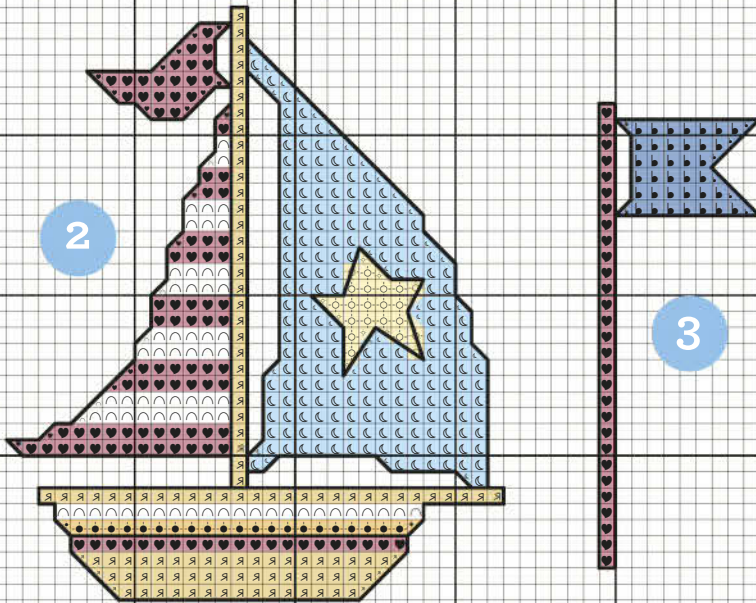
✦ Backstitch in one strand

—	310	403	2400	black
—	355	1014	2501	rust red
—	498	1006	513	red
—	798	131	912	blue
—	820	133	914	dark blue
—	972	298	107	tangerine
—	3371	382	2004	dark brown

✦ French knots in one strand

●	310	403	2400	black
●	798	131	912	blue

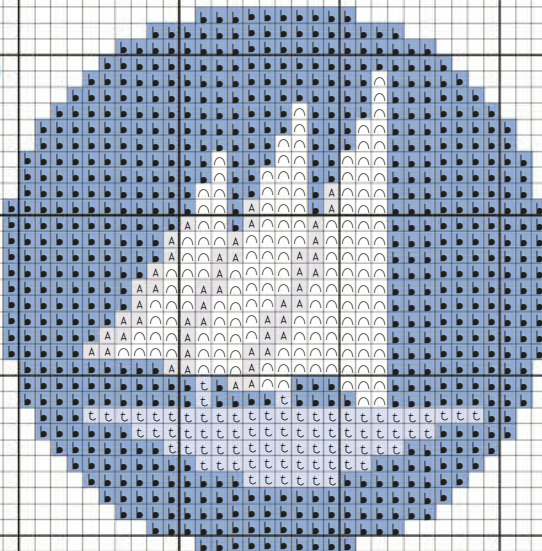
These designs were stitched using DMC stranded cotton



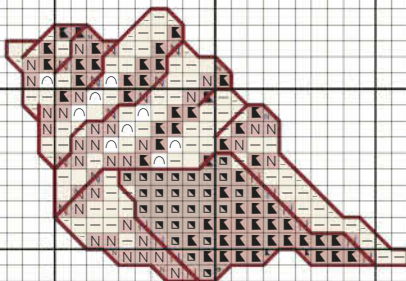
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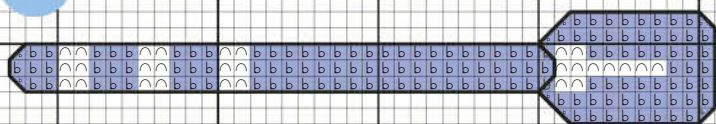
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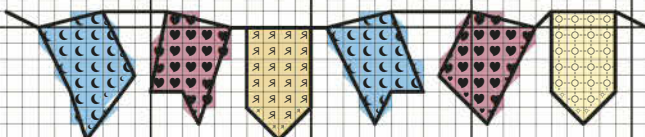
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10



12

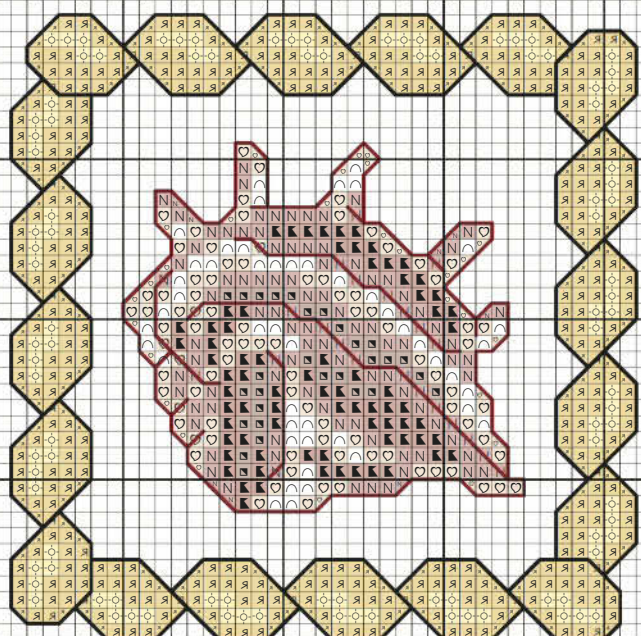


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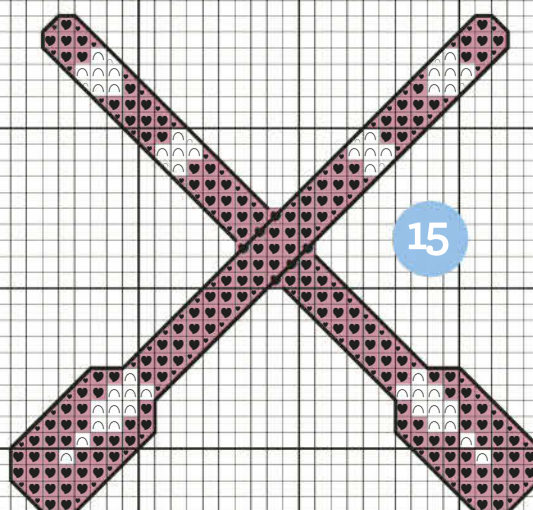
SINK
OR
SWIM

TOP TIP

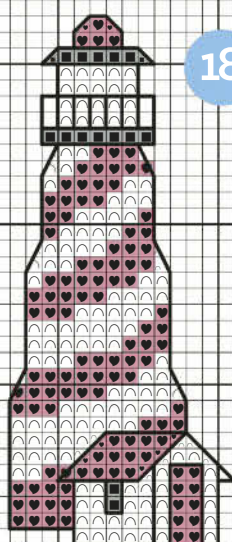
Stitch motifs 7, 37 or 41 onto aida band and attach onto towels and wash cloths for a nautical-themed bathroom



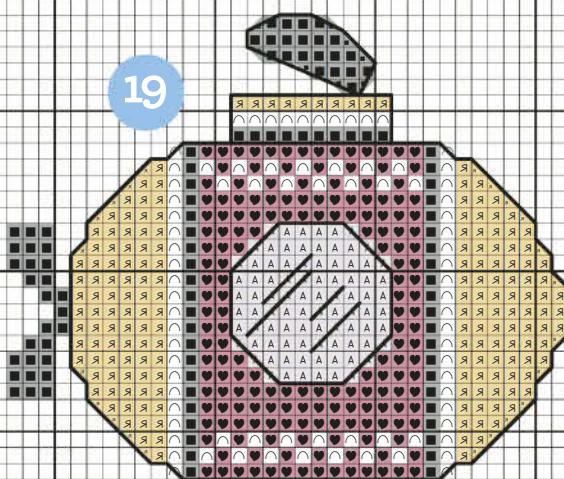
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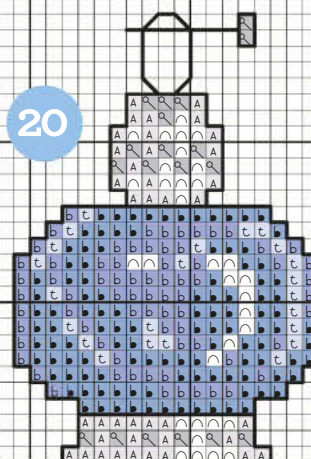
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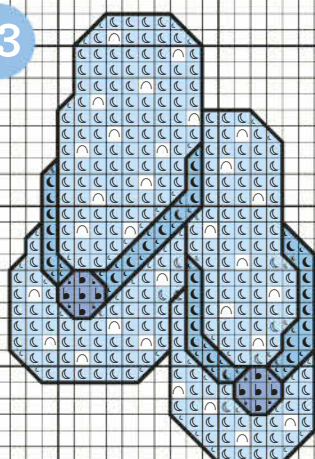
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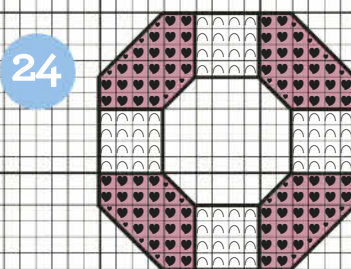
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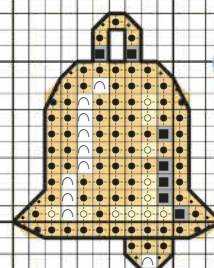
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23



24



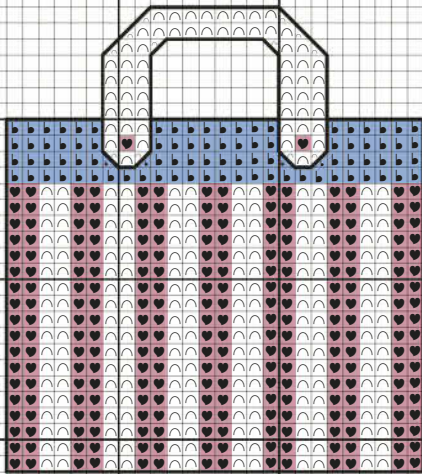
25

“ Lots of these motifs would be fantastic for small gifts and cards, especially for the men in my life, who all love the sea and anything to do with it. I think I will stitch the shell motifs too, then keep them for myself! ”

ANNE, SENIOR TECHNICAL EDITOR

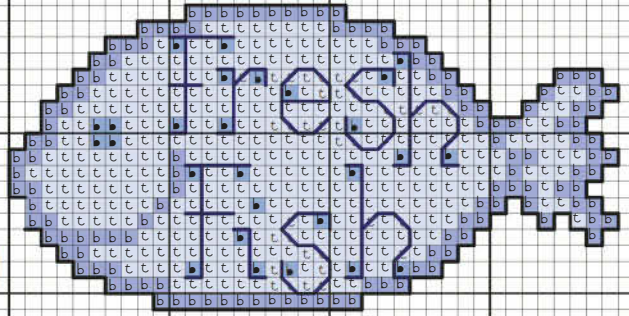


ADD TO
CLOTHES
WITH WASTE
CANVAS



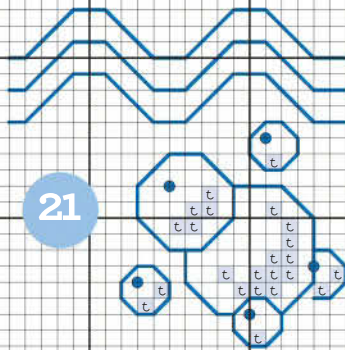
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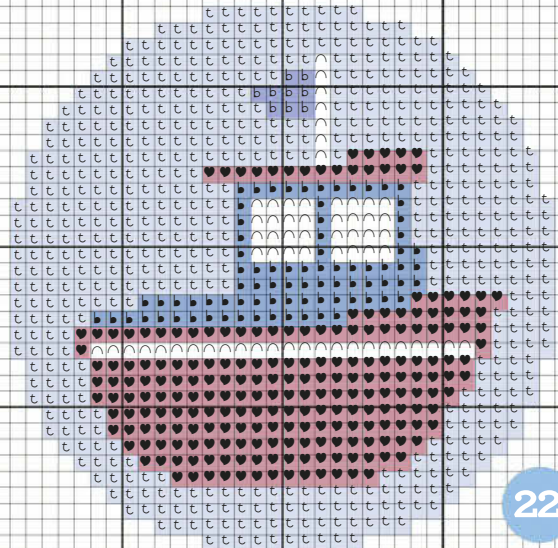


TOP TIP
If you are new to
cross stitching, choose
only whole stitches,
like motifs 6, 22, 30,
34 & 36

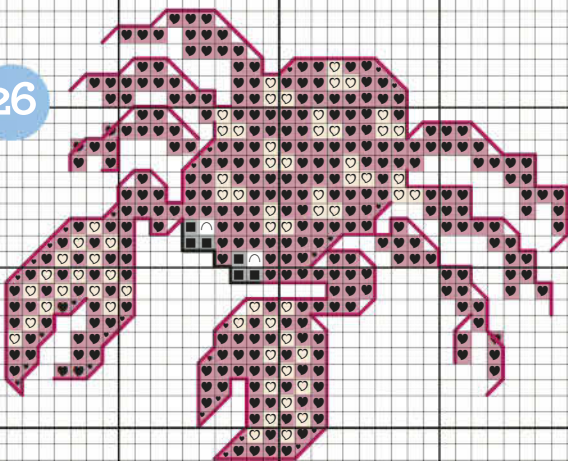
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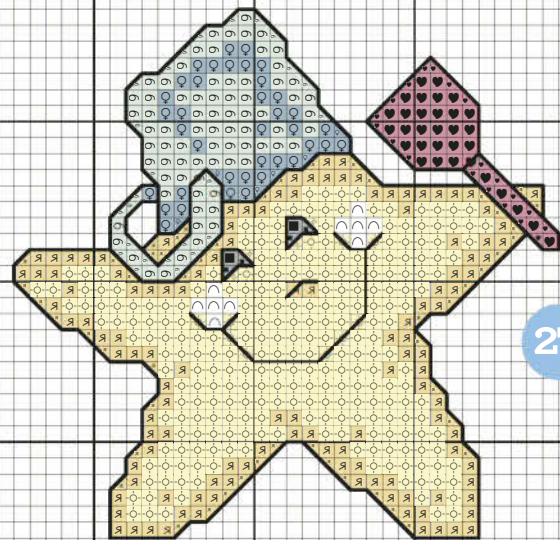
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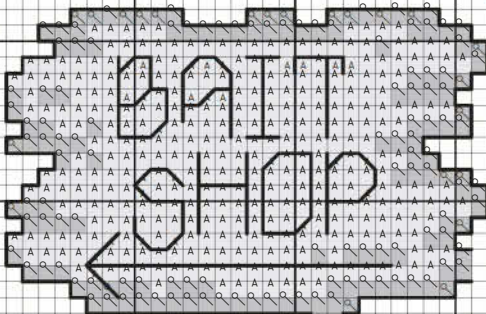
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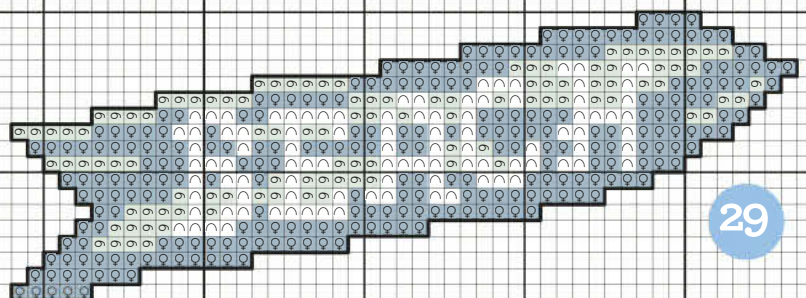
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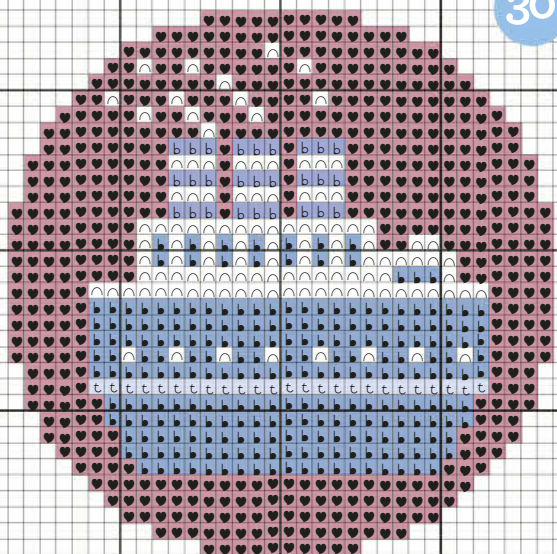


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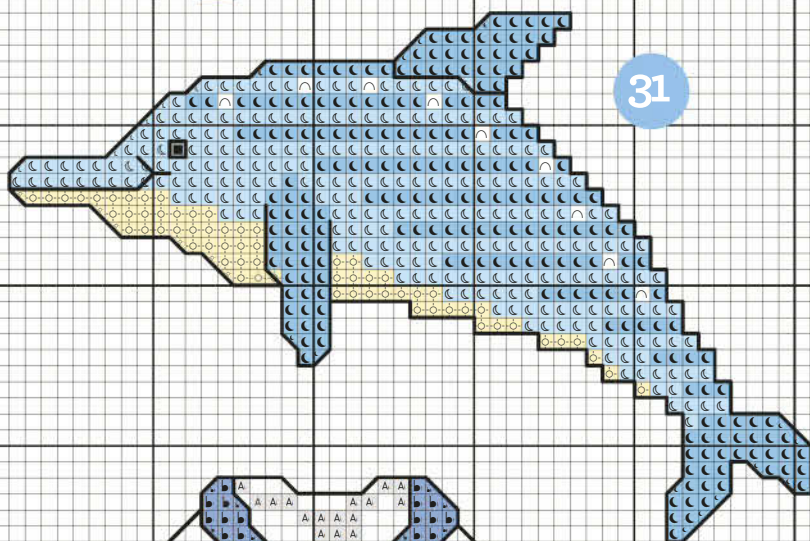


QUICK-
STITCH &
HASSLE-FREE
DESIGNS

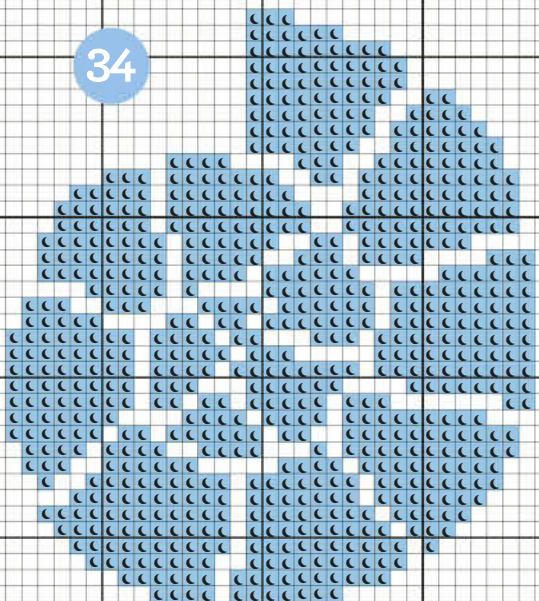
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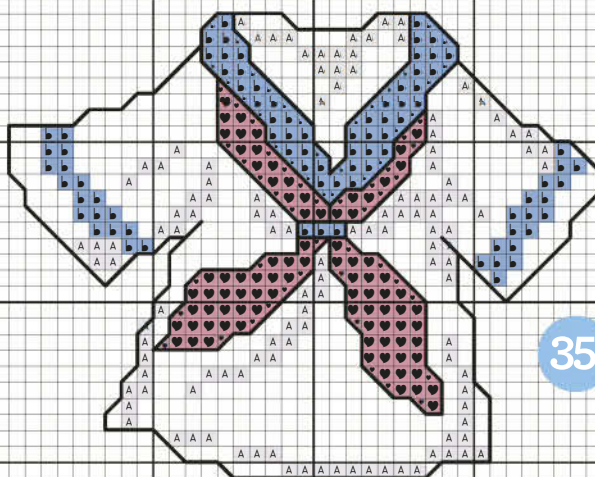
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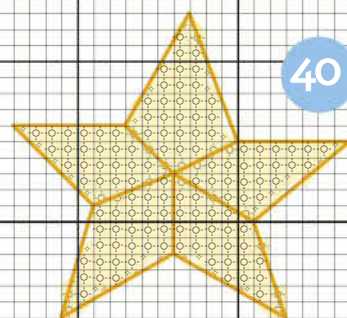
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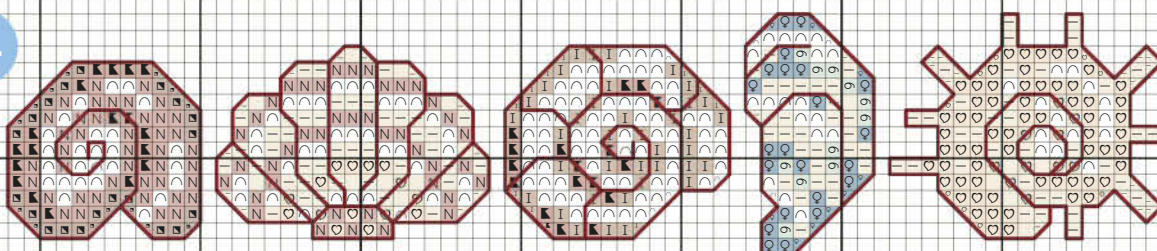
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Bon Voyage

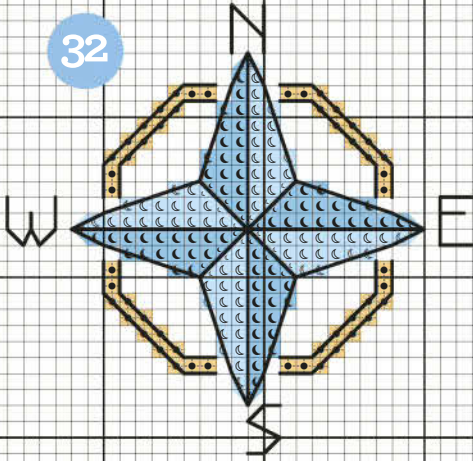
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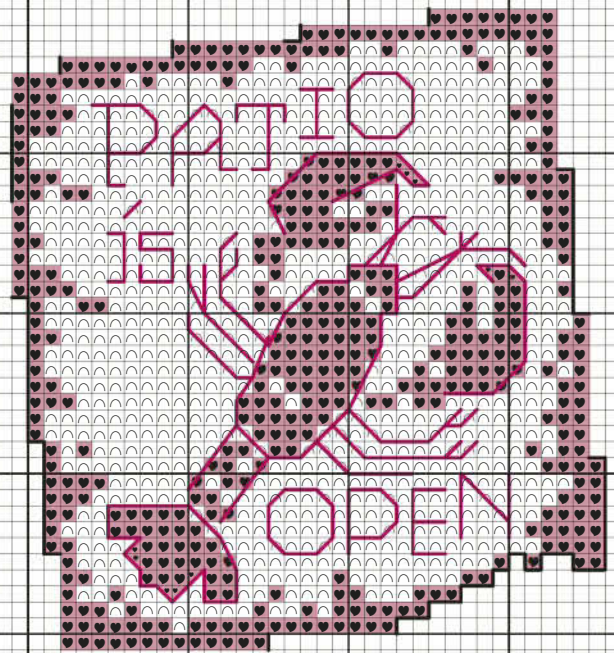
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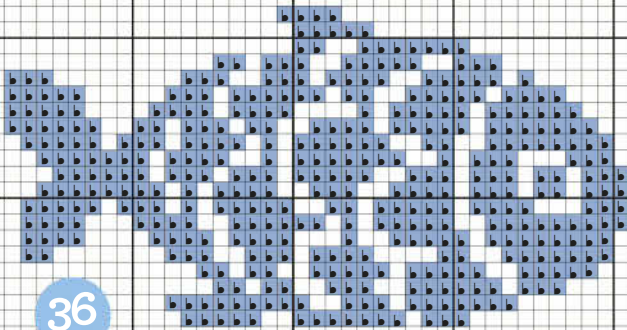
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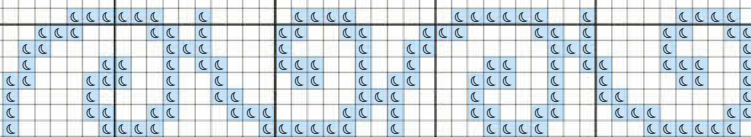


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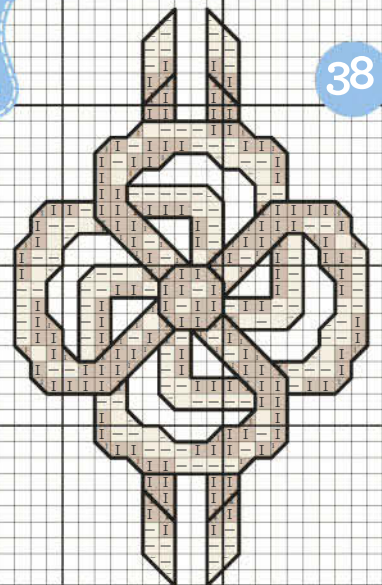


TOP TIP
Choose fractional-free
designs to stitch on
plastic canvas, then
turn them into magnets
for fun gift ideas

37



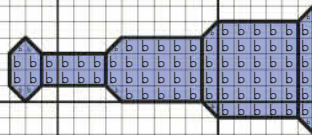
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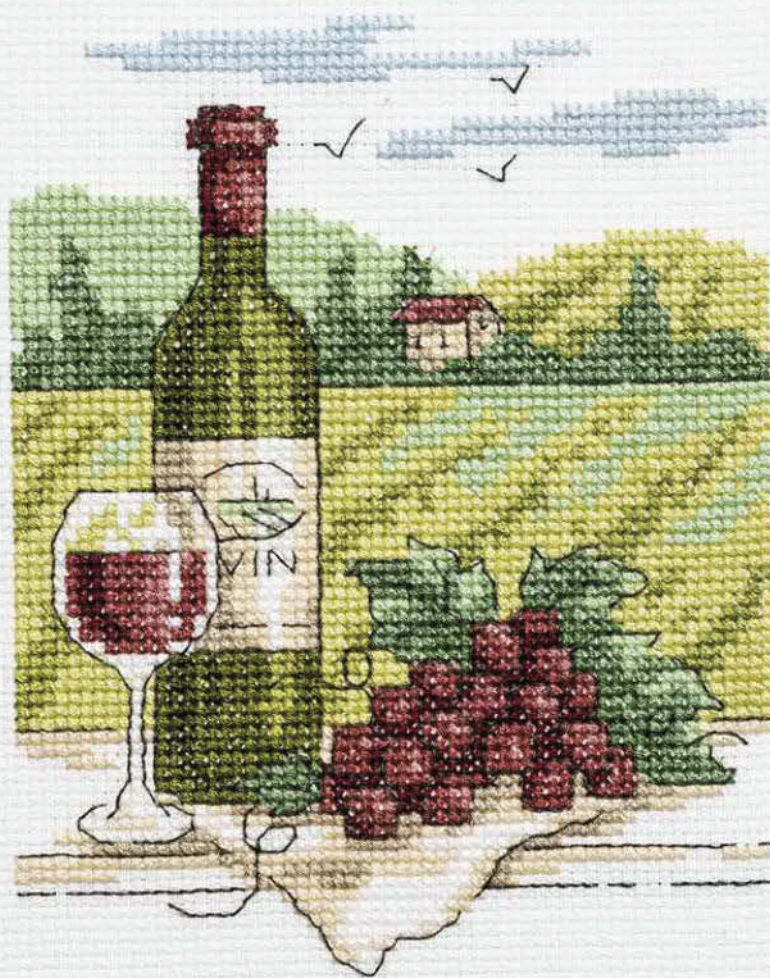
NEXT MONTH: FRUIT & VEG

Get your five-a-day in next month's Design Library, filled with cards and gift ideas, plus fun sayings and sweet designs... all while having fruit and vegetables! Take a trip to the shops on 14 August to pick up your copy of issue 220, or subscribe and the issue will be delivered to your door. Find this month's fantastic money-saving subscription offer on page 44.

Turn to
page 44
to subscribe



GREAT
FIRST
PROJECT



Let this picture-perfect scene featuring the joys of rural France carry you off to sunnier climes – no passport required!



DESIGN BY **MARIA DIAZ**

Relax and unwind

Take a trip to the beautiful French countryside and surround yourself with blue skies, stunning scenery and, of course, the local wine!



What could be more idyllic than indulging yourself in the summer sunshine of the South of France? Imagine relaxing at a delightfully-rustic retreat, sampling a selection of local cheeses and freshly-made bread, all accompanied by a glass (or two!) of fruity red wine from the nearby vineyard – bliss!

If you've ever experienced the delights of these scenic villages, designer Maria Diaz's simple yet charming scene is sure to bring those memories rushing back. And, for those of you who haven't, stitching this picturesque view is sure to transport you there!

Created in whole cross stitch and backstitch only, this design is

Factbox

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

Finish in
under a
fortnight

the perfect way for beginners to show off their newly-discovered skills. Stitch as a gift for a wine-loving friend, they'll be wowed by your talents! Worked in just a few shades, you'll get so absorbed in stitching it'll be finished in no time at all – just like that glass of wine! ➤

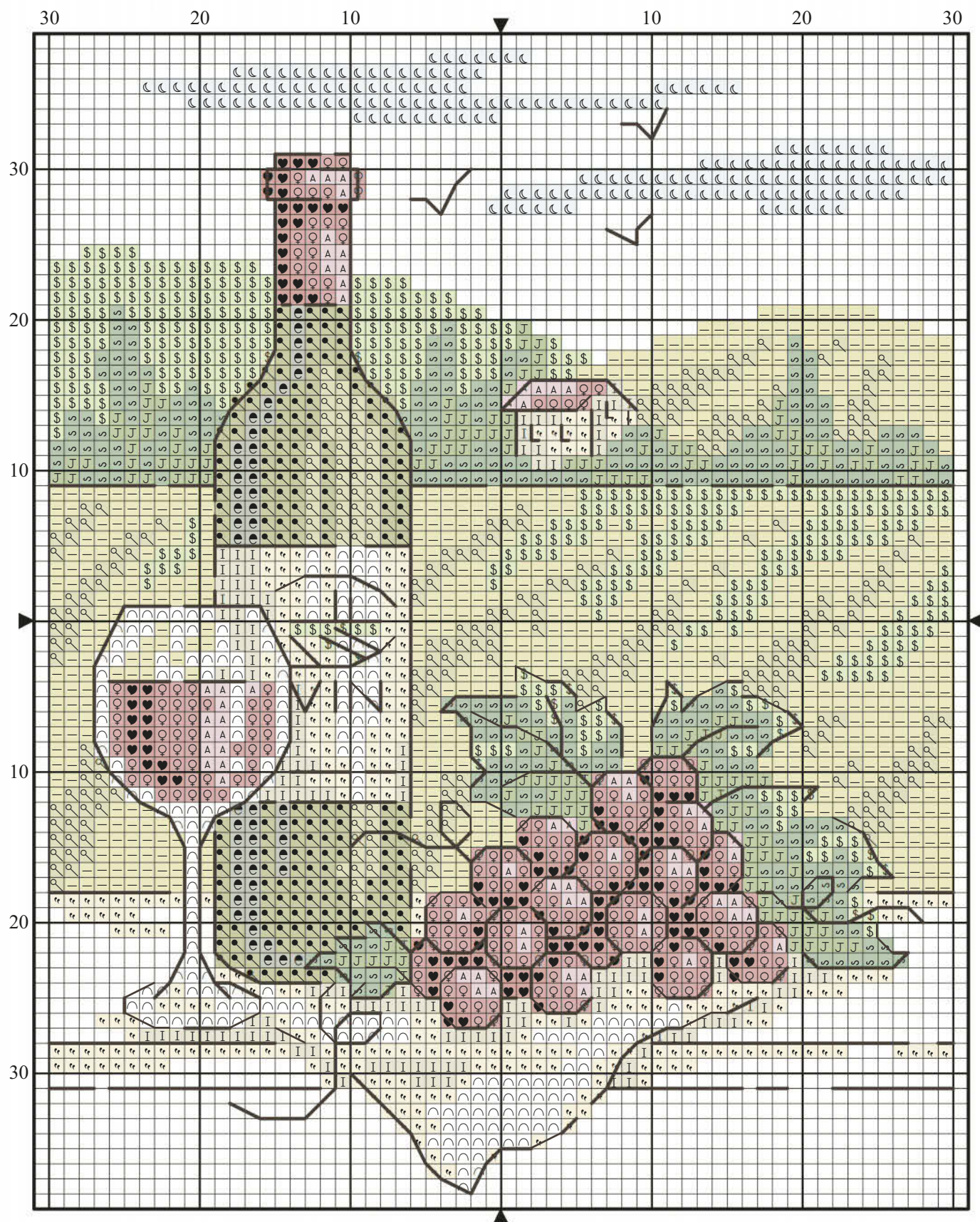
Meet the designer

Maria Diaz

"France is famous for its fantastic wine and this design captures all aspects of it, from vineyard to grape! It's perfect if you're passionate about wine, or as a present for someone who is."



BY
BERT



Vineyard Holiday key

✦ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	B5200	1	2401	white
\$	164	240	1209	soft green
A	223	895	812	shell pink
S	320	215	1311	almond green
●	469	268	1503	dark moss green
Q	471	266	1501	moss green
—	472	253	1414	light moss green
•	739	366	2014	cream
♥	814	22	601	dark red
●	936	269	1507	very dark green
J	987	244	1403	green
Q	3721	896	810	dark shell pink
I	3782	899	1911	stone grey
∩	3841	9159	1001	light blue

✦ Backstitch in one strand

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

STITCH COUNT 76 high x 60 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 14x11cm (5½x4¼in)

This design was stitched using DMC stranded cotton

How to...

add backstitch to your design



If you've not backstitched before, see page 97 to learn the basics, and build your confidence on some scrap aida first. Then, finish all the cross stitch in your actual design before doing the backstitch. With a single strand of cotton, as shown in the key, follow the chart, in a one-step back, two-steps forward motion.

Jenny READER PANEL



“ This reminds me of a trip to a vineyard my husband and I took while on honeymoon in Jersey. I'd put it in our dining room next to our wine rack. Happy times remembered while you choose your wine! ”



Shopping list

- ✦ Zweigart* 14-count white aida measuring 25x23cm (10x9in)
- ✦ Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- ✦ Size 24 tapestry needle
- ✦ Frame of your choice with a minimum aperture measuring 17x15cm (6¾x6in)

Thread & fabric cost
Approximately £18

*For stockists see page 90

TOP TIP

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

Our KITS of the MONTH August

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XMAS CARDS



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Geeky stitching

Cathy Lewis investigates the new trend for science-related cross stitch designs

Science was never my strong point at school. If only there had been a bit of cross stitch involved, I'm sure it would have seemed far less daunting! So I was intrigued to see all sorts of weird and wonderful chemistry, biology, physics and other geeky science-related cross stitch designs available in online crafts stores such as Etsy. The combination of science and stitching struck me as unusual, so I contacted some of the designers to find out more.

IT'S ELEMENTARY MY DEAR

Holly, a stitcher from Staffordshire, creates cross stitch designs based on the elements in the periodic table. Her favourite and most popular designs are 'GeNiUS' and 'TeAcHeR'. Holly spends a couple of days a week designing new pieces. "It's a lot of fun trying to come up with new words that bring a little bit of science into everyday life and I carry the periodic table around with me so that when I have a few moments I can look for more ideas," says Holly.

She's been hooked on stitching since she was four and loves the geometry and repetitive nature of cross stitch. "It suits my organised personality," she says. As well as designing she loves all things science

and sci-fi. She studied geology at university and says that, "Designing some science-based charts was a great way to link two of my passions. I also thought it's a great way to display something a bit different and geeky."

BIOLOGICAL BRILLIANCE

Brittany, who calls herself Nerdy Little Stitcher in her Etsy shop, is a designer based in Los Angeles. Her designs are very eclectic, ranging from detailed anatomy-inspired patterns to science, medical and mathematical cartoons with humorous captions. I particularly like 'Don't trust atoms, they make up everything!' Brittany tells me, "I've always had a deep passion for science. My dad was a scientist and instilled a love and appreciation for human anatomy and biology at a young age." Her favourite designs are the ones based around human anatomy. She says, "Anatomy can be so funny! Lots of strange words that can be easily transformed into puns or wordplay, like 'You're Ovary Acting!'."

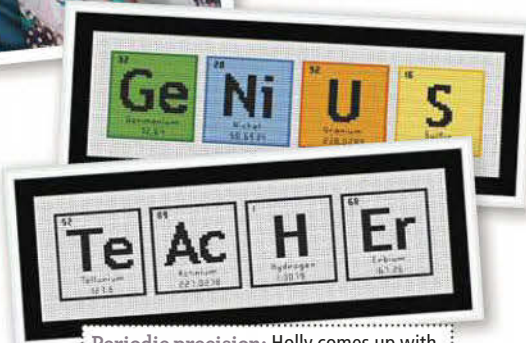
I thought anatomy designs unusual, but I was even more intrigued by designer Alicia Watkins' range of cross stitched microbes. Alicia lives in Connecticut, USA and learnt to stitch at the tender age of six. She started designing a few years ago and received a commission for some cross stitch germs as an unusual gift for a health-conscious friend. "I stitched three for her, they both loved them, and after that I was hooked on designing and stitching microbes."

Alicia now has 70 microbe patterns in her online shop, many of them starting as requests, usually from healthcare, medical or science professionals. As well as researching the microbes, Alicia has also developed a fascination with some of the diseases

Micro-genius: Designer Alicia turns scary microbes into cute cross stitch patterns for health-conscious friends

associated with them. "For me, the most interesting microbes are usually the ones I'd never heard of before; I love learning about completely new things." Alicia's designs are based on real microscopic images, but somehow, when converted to cross stitch, these nasty little bugs look strangely cute – a weird irony that Alicia particularly appreciates. ✕

Anatomy of design: Brittany uses wordplay to create humorous science- and anatomy-inspired patterns



Periodic precision: Holly comes up with cross stitch designs using the elements of the periodic table to create words



Cathy Lewis is a journalist who's worked in craft mags for 20 years. She knows all the goings on and the who's who in the stitching world, and shares it all with us!

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Fiona's sweet treats

A selection of baking goodies for you to stitch and enjoy



Designer Durene Jones has come up with another gorgeous and tasty-looking cupcake. This spiced squash card is a nod towards the change of season, and is full of detail, from the green tendrils wrapping themselves around the cinnamon cream cheese icing, to the patterned cupcake case with cascading leaves that are so iconic of autumn. The use of seed beads also adds an element of texture and interest, bringing this design to life.

This is a great card for friends and family who have a vegetable garden, as this pumpkin would definitely make any green-fingered gardener proud. Taking just a couple of evenings to stitch, or a weekend, it will also be done in no time at all, making it perfect for a last-minute birthday or thank you card.

Filled with sugar and spice and all things nice, you will be heading to the kitchen as soon as you are finished stitching this – to bake up a treat for yourself with all your harvested fruit and vegetables!



Meet the designer

Durene Jones

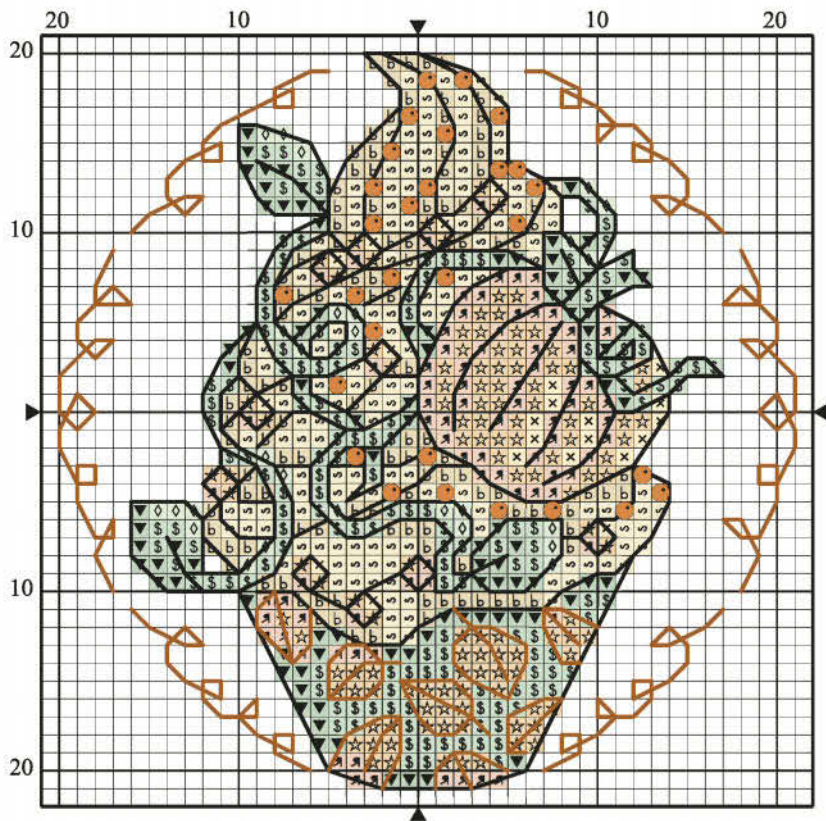
"Enjoy the latest in my Cupcake of the Month series with this tasty spiced squash cupcake. Great for any occasion, this theme inspired me to put on my apron and bake up a batch of these delicious treats!"

Shopping list

- ✕ Zweigart* 14-count white aida measuring 15x15cm (6x6in)
- ✕ Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- ✕ Mill Hill* seed beads as listed in the key
- ✕ Size 24 tapestry needle, beading needle
- ✕ Craft Creations* circle aperture card (AP09U), in pale green

Thread & fabric cost
Approximately £10

*For stockists see page 90



Spiced squash cupcake key

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
b	422	943	2102	tan
s	677	886	2207	sand
▼	911	205	1214	dark green
\$	913	204	1212	green
◇	955	206	1210	light green
▲	3853	1003	311	dark apricot
☆	3854	313	114	apricot
×	3855	311	2513	light apricot

✕ Backstitch in one strand

—	413	236	1713	grey
—	420	374	2104	dark tan

✕ Mill Hill seed beads

●	02042			matte pumpkin
---	-------	--	--	---------------

STITCH COUNT 41 high x 41 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 7.5x7.5cm (3x3in)

This design was stitched using DMC stranded cotton and Mill Hill seed beads

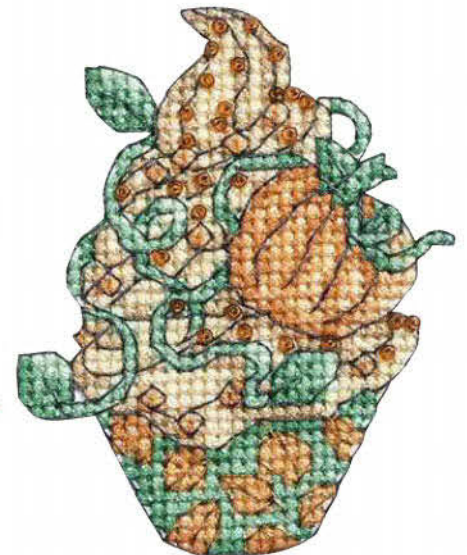
TOP TIP

Always add your beads last, otherwise your threads will catch round them as you stitch

Factbox

- ✕ **Stitching Time**
Approx. 8 hours
- ✕ **Type of Stitches**
Cross stitch, backstitch, beads
- ✕ **Ease of Stitching**
Beginner

Beads add interest



More delicious ideas to enjoy...

Diet no more!

Who hasn't had this thought? And with so many tasty treats around, it's hard not to agree. 'Diet Tomorrow' (CRDT611) by Heritage Crafts* features a cute cat looking longingly at a cupcake. With a finished size of 15.5x23.5cm (6x9¼in), the kit costs £18.99.



Cute cakes

DMC* Mini Cross Stitch Kits range 'Sweet Temptations' (BK1370) has a number of kits costing just £2.99. Each comes with 14-count aida and threads, and measures a small but sweet 7.5x7.5cm (3x3in), making it a quick and tasty stitch.



Pinned it

Rose Cross Stitch Cupcake Pincushion by Irene's Memory Stitches* is a great gift for crafty (and foodie) friends that has zero calories! There is a stitched rose on the top, which is embellished with silvery pearl-headed pins. Costing \$12.00 (around £7), it won't cost the earth and is sure to be used for years to come.



Stitching inspiration

One stitcher has been working on a special gift that has been a year in the making!

Alan Taylor, an engineer from Tucson, Arizona, started cross stitching about 35 years ago. "I bought a kit of penguins walking through a rainbow and changing colours." It was on 18-count aida, and I realise now that was an ambitious first project!" He was hooked, and subscribed to a cross stitch magazine, bought the entire line of DMC floss and started making projects as gifts. "I've loved making things ever since I can remember. My job is highly technical, and I enjoy the technical aspects of crafts such as knitting, crochet, cross stitch and patchwork."

Alan's niece, Alison, is eighteen years old and about to graduate from high school. This talented young lady inspired Alan to stitch a special project to give her as a gift. It all began two Christmases ago, when Alison mentioned that everyone in her family had a stocking that reflected their personalities except for her; hers was nice but was not personal.

"I set out to make her a stocking that incorporated her interests in

Africa, reading and astrophysics," says Alan. Alison will be attending the Millennium Scholars Program for academically strong students pursuing a doctoral degree in science or engineering. "I couldn't be more proud of her," he says. Her interest in Africa is another story. "In middle school the students were given

Stitched with love: The African angel Alan has already stitched as part of the stocking



Making a difference: Alan's niece, Alison, in Rwanda with some of the school girls she helped through her business



seed money to start a business. Alison's group published a book containing letters from girls in Rwanda that highlighted the difficulties they faced in getting an education." For many of these girls, the school was many miles away but did not have any sleeping facilities. "The money Alison's group raised went toward helping the school to build a dormitory so the girls could get an education." Alison has been over to Rwanda twice: once with her mother and a teacher, and the second time by herself. "I was a worried uncle when I learnt that she'd be travelling to Africa on her own, but Alison is a very determined person and everything went well."

So where could Alan get a design to incorporate all these interests? He found a pattern for an angel in a cross stitch magazine. "I believe she represents a Xhosa woman, from south-eastern Africa. When I saw her I knew she would be perfect for this stocking since she covers Christmas and Africa." To represent Alison's interest in astrophysics, Alan found an African star symbol that will go on the toe. Incorporating reading into the stocking is proving to be more of a challenge. "I am considering designing the top of the stocking to look like

a row of books with Alison's name across them," says Alan. The angel will be embellished with beads to represent her jewellery. "I have some rolled-paper beads made in Africa that I may use to embellish the edges of the stocking," adds Alan. The present was intended for last Christmas, but things didn't go according to plan.

"I started the stocking just before Christmas last year and grossly underestimated how much time it would take to complete. I completely missed the Christmas deadline." Alison knows about the project: "I made a mock-up of the finished stocking and presented it to her on Christmas Day so she would have a preview." Alan hopes she will like the finished gift as much as he's enjoyed designing and making it for her. "I'll give it to her before this coming Christmas. Who knows... there might be a small surprise inside!" ✕

It's a stitch: Proud uncle Alan Taylor who is designing and stitching a stocking for his niece



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✕ Issue 218

Last month we gave you fresh stitching ideas, including the cute Somebunny to Love, Patch the cheery scarecrow, a wildflower meadow draught excluder, new babies Design Library, a stitcher's motto, bright alliums, sweet teacup birdies, cat cards and a strawberry ABC! Plus 2 free gifts: a **Vintage Florals chartbook** and **matching hand-painted gift tags**



✕ Issue 217
Roses card kit and The Country Diary of an Edwardian Lady chart Panda pals, Toby Fox, Joan Elliott's toyshelf



✕ Issue 214
Helz Cuppleditch card kit & Anchor kingfisher chart Margaret Sherry mice, Easter chicks, teddy bears' picnic, shabby chic hearts



✕ Issue 216
Luxury chartbook and two packs of Madeira threads Helz Cuppleditch kitten, wedding sampler, city skylines, cute animal cards



✕ Issue 213
Somebunny to Love kit & bookmark chart Mother's Day cards, mug rugs, stained glass flowers, Joan Elliott fairy, fab peacock



✕ Issue 215
2-in-1 Madeleine Floyd butterfly cards kit Fizzy Moon, flower garland, classic birth sampler, springtime street scene, fast-stitch cuties



✕ Issue 212
Felt floral hanging stitch kit & Madeleine Floyd's chickens chart All Our Yesterdays girls, herb garden, butterfly cards, birds

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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

BUNBURY CROSS STITCH GROUP, WEST AUSTRALIA



Meeting every Wednesday from 10am until 3pm, this group of stitchers do a lot of talking, eating of delicious food that they all contribute, plus manage to fit in some cross stitching. Twice a year they go away for a long weekend retreat and every year they make a quilt for charity. They all cross stitch the squares and one of the members, who also does patchwork, makes it up.

APPLY: For more information about this group, contact Maxine King on ☎ 041 793 5250

WHERE AM I?

My partner and I visited one of the most popular vacation spots in Florida this winter, to celebrate my 40th birthday in style! It was a fantastic holiday and I got to fulfil my life-long dream of swimming with dolphins. And, of course, I took my favourite cross stitch magazine with me. I really enjoyed reading it during the long flight, and also by the beach.

Carolina Casanas, Oxford



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



Coffee and cake

Make time for what really matters on Friday 26 September by registering to host a World's Biggest Coffee Morning and help Macmillan Cancer Support raise money for people affected by cancer. This is also a great opportunity to stitch and sell your makes and donate the proceeds to this great charity. So gather friends and family and raise money for Macmillan.

MORE Visit www.macmillan.org.uk/coffee, call ☎ 08456 021246 or text **COFFEE** to 70550 to get your Coffee Morning Kit today



Dates for September

14 AUGUST

ON SALE: THE WORLD OF CROSS STITCHING

Issue 220 is packed with a fab mix of designs for everyone. From a magical pixie sampler and gorgeous sewing room stitch to a rustic country fox and fairytale set sure to delight. Plus, three free Margaret Sherry Christmas mice cards!

11-13 SEPTEMBER

THE STITCHING, SEWING & HOBBYCATS SHOW EVENTCITY, MANCHESTER

The show (previously Creative Stitches & Hobbys) is back at EventCity, Manchester with an inspiring array of creative workshops, talks, demonstrations and all the creative crafting supplies you could ever dream of. Entrance is £7, for more info, visit www.stitchandhobby.co.uk/manchester/autumn/

13 SEPTEMBER

EMBROIDERED BISCORNU WORKSHOP

ALSTONEFIELD MEMORIAL HALL, ASHBOURNE

Make a biscornu on a soft cotton check fabric and then decorate it with buttons or beads. To book, email threadworkshops@gmail.com or call Cathy Reavy on ☎ 01335 310125. It costs £35, including all materials.

19 SEPTEMBER

HAND EMBROIDERED CRAZY PATCHWORK

ELLINGTON, HUNTINGDON

Learn a fantastic hand stitching technique to create blocks, which you then cover in hand embroidered gorgeousness over four workshops. Workshop costs £25. For more info, visit www.beeingcrafty.co.uk/workshops.php

Brilliant biscornu! Learn to make your own biscornu and then decorate it to create a really unique product



Answer: Miami, USA

MariesCrossStitch.co.uk
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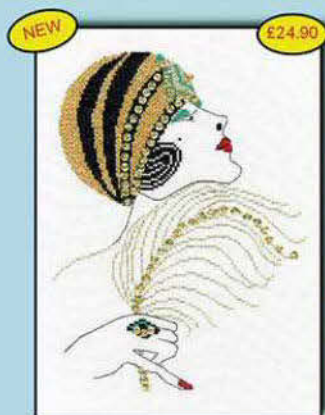
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SA172 River Thames



CS749 Sacha



CS747 Barn Owl



Here are three of our most recent designs -
and a reminder that we have a fantastic range of maps!



SA224 Provence



SA225 Whisky



SA219 Warwickshire Ring

www.choicesembroidery.co.uk

POST FREE in the UK

DESIGN BY **SUSAN BATES**

Pretty patchwork

A must-have for any home, this delightful sampler is packed with charming detail and makes the perfect summer project

Samplers are such a joy to stitch, as they cleverly capture the essence of a subject using lots of smaller designs. And we especially love this gorgeous piece by designer Susan Bates, as each little image is lovingly created to work just as well on its own as it does in harmony with all the others.

Stitch the whole project to make a gift perfect for any occasion, be it a birthday, an anniversary or to bring sunshine into a loved one's life. Or, pick out individual motifs to make a multitude of presents! Turn the little birdhouse into a bookmark for a friend who likes to read or patch the watering can onto a card for an avid gardener, and with designs containing

Factbox

- ✦ **Stitching Time**
Approx. 50 hours
- ✦ **Type of Stitches**
Cross stitch, fractionals, backstitch
- ✦ **Ease of Stitching**
Advanced beginner

Motifs
for every
skill level

all simple stitches and some with fractionals, no matter what your level you're sure to find something just right!

We do suggest you stitch this sampler for yourself first, however. That way, you can easily keep it in mind for future projects, while livening up your living room! ➤



Meet the designer

Susan Bates

"I love designing samplers, as they're so full of interest. Plus, the interchangeable nature of them means you can easily get creative and adapt the motifs and borders to make your own individual pieces!"



STITCH FOR SUMMER

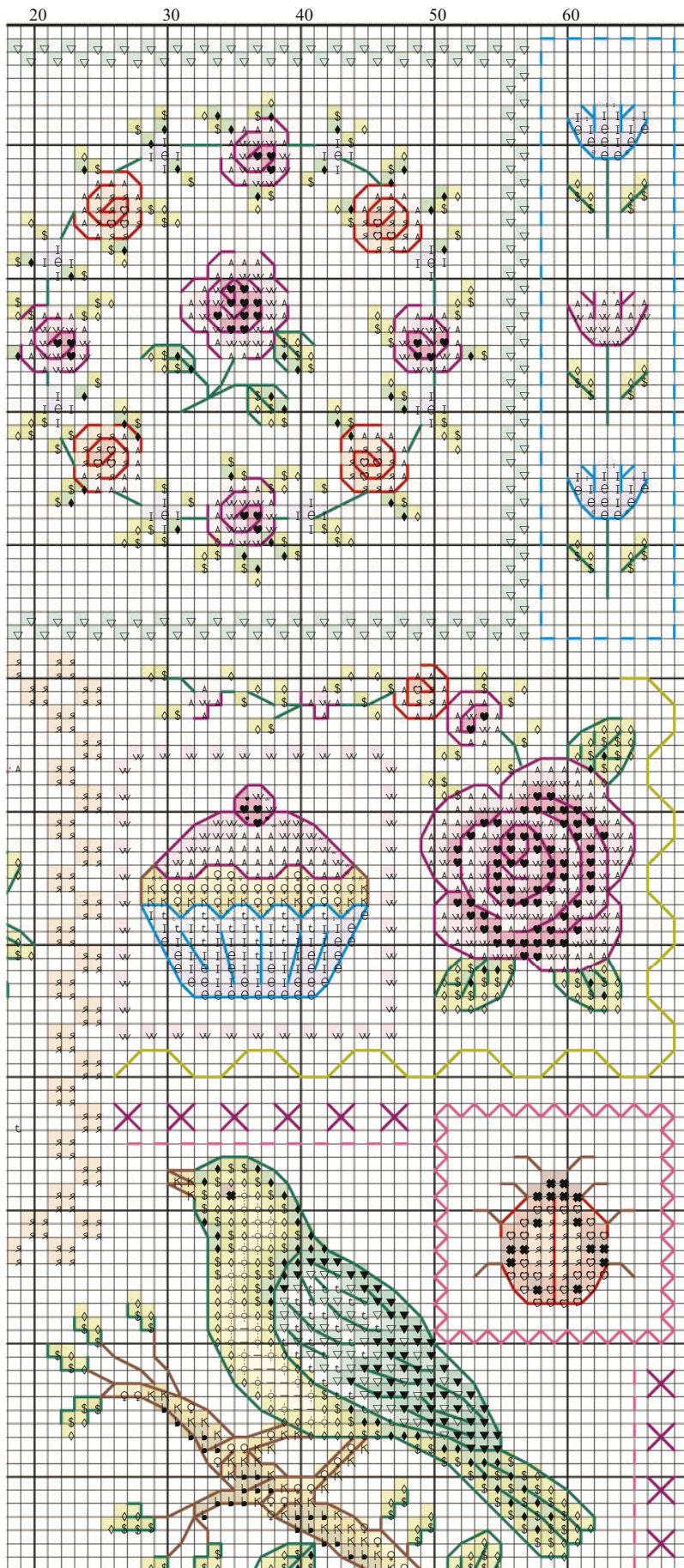


Capture a few of
your favourite things
in stitches with this
fabulous seasonal
sampler





Summer Patchwork chart (top left)



Summer Patchwork chart (top right)

Summer Patchwork key

✦ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
e	155	1030	902	purple
I	159	343	1710	lavender blue
♡	351	10	214	light red
b	420	374	2104	tan
♥	602	57	702	dark pink
w	604	55	614	pink
♦	701	227	1305	dark green
\$	704	255	1308	green
◊	726	295	109	yellow
Q	744	301	112	light yellow
▼	772	259	1604	grass green
t	828	975	1101	baby blue
✱	838	380	2005	dark brown
▽	993	1070	1111	light emerald
—	3078	292	102	very light yellow
я	3341	328	403	peach
A	3713	1020	502	light pink
▼	3812	188	2706	emerald
◇	3819	279	1610	lime green
K	3820	306	2509	straw

✦ Backstitch in one strand

—	150	59	508	cherry red
—	321	9046	510	red
—	351	10	214	light red
—	500	683	1705	bottle green
—	704	255	1308	green
—	791	178	904	blue
—	838	380	2005	dark brown

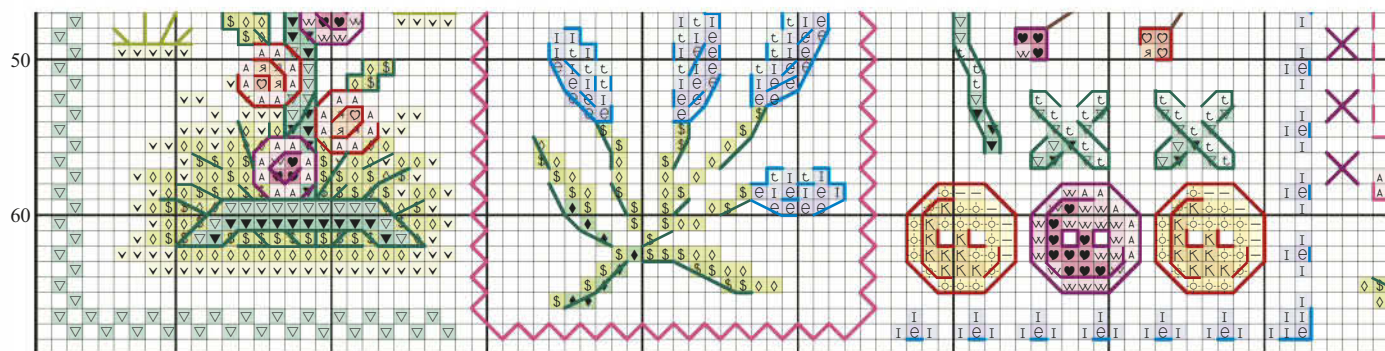
STITCH COUNT 136 high x 136 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 24.5x24.5cm (9¾x9¾in)

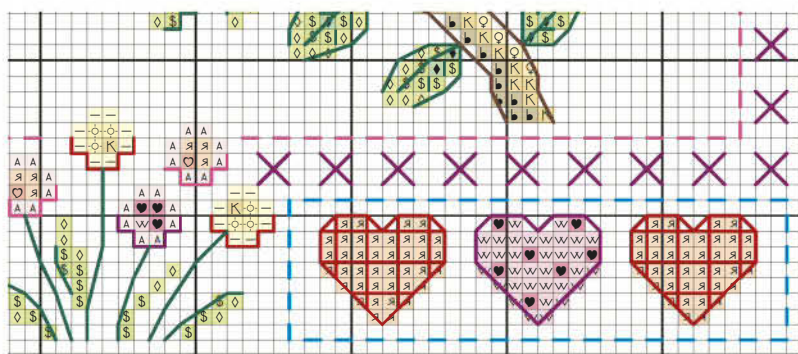
This design was stitched using DMC stranded cotton

TOP TIP

If you are giving a framed design as a gift, make sure you sign and date the back of the frame for posterity, and add a message to the recipient



Summer Patchwork chart (bottom left)



Summer Patchwork chart (bottom right)

Shopping list

- ✂ Zweigart* 14-count white aida measuring 36x36cm (14x14in)
- ✂ Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- ✂ Size 24 tapestry needle
- ✂ Frame of your choice with a minimum aperture measuring 28x28cm (11x11in)

Thread & fabric cost
Approximately £28

*For stockists see page 90

How to...

make a bookmark

Use individual motifs from the sampler to get creative and make cards, tags and gifts. The birdhouse makes a great bookmark; here's how to make one.

1 Trim your stitched piece leaving a 1cm (½in) border all round. Take some tweezers and carefully fray your aida to create a fringe one block wide.

2 Take some felt in a coordinating (and suitably bright) colour, and cut a piece to fit, just bigger than the aida.

3 Place your stitching on top of the felt backing, and pin in place when you are happy with the positioning.

4 Hand sew the stitched piece in place using simple running stitch in a coordinating thread. Take care to place your stitches through the aida holes for a neat finish. Finish off by rounding the felt corners.

Jenny READER PANEL



“I love this sampler because it gives you the option of stitching single motifs so you can make individual greetings cards for friends. Plus, it is very versatile, and I like the variety of colours it uses.”

SIGN UP FOR OUR NEWSLETTER

Sign up free for the Cross-stitching.com newsletter on our site, www.cross-stitching.com, and you'll get the exclusive and free chart for this gorgeous gardening gift tag. Use it to accompany the main picture if you're making it as a gift for a friend, or simply as a quick stitch!



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DESIGN BY **DIANE MACHIN**

Two by two

Use this adorable Noah's Ark to decorate a nursery, or stitch as a gift for a brand new baby

Filled to the brim with two of each animal, this sweet interpretation of Noah's Ark is bursting with cuteness! From the proud peacocks perching on the roof to the cheeky monkeys climbing down the side, and even the collection of sea creatures swimming alongside, there are so many fabulous details kids will love looking at.

Created on light blue evenweave in a variety of stitches, this scene is also a joy to bring to life, as each section brings something new to stitch.

If you've never used evenweave before, give it a go! Watch our handy video tutorial in the 'How To' section at www.cross-stitching.com by our Editor, Ruth, to get you started.

Factbox

- ✦ **Stitching Time**
Approx. 60 hours
- ✦ **Type of Stitches**
Cross stitch, fractionals, backstitch, French knots
- ✦ **Ease of Stitching**
Intermediate/advanced

Packed with cute detail

The soft colour palette makes this design suitable for all children – perfect if you're looking to stitch a gift for a newborn but don't know whether it's a boy or a girl. And, you can easily adapt it into a sampler by adding the baby's name, birth date and weight in backstitch once they're born. ➤



Meet the designer

Diane Machin

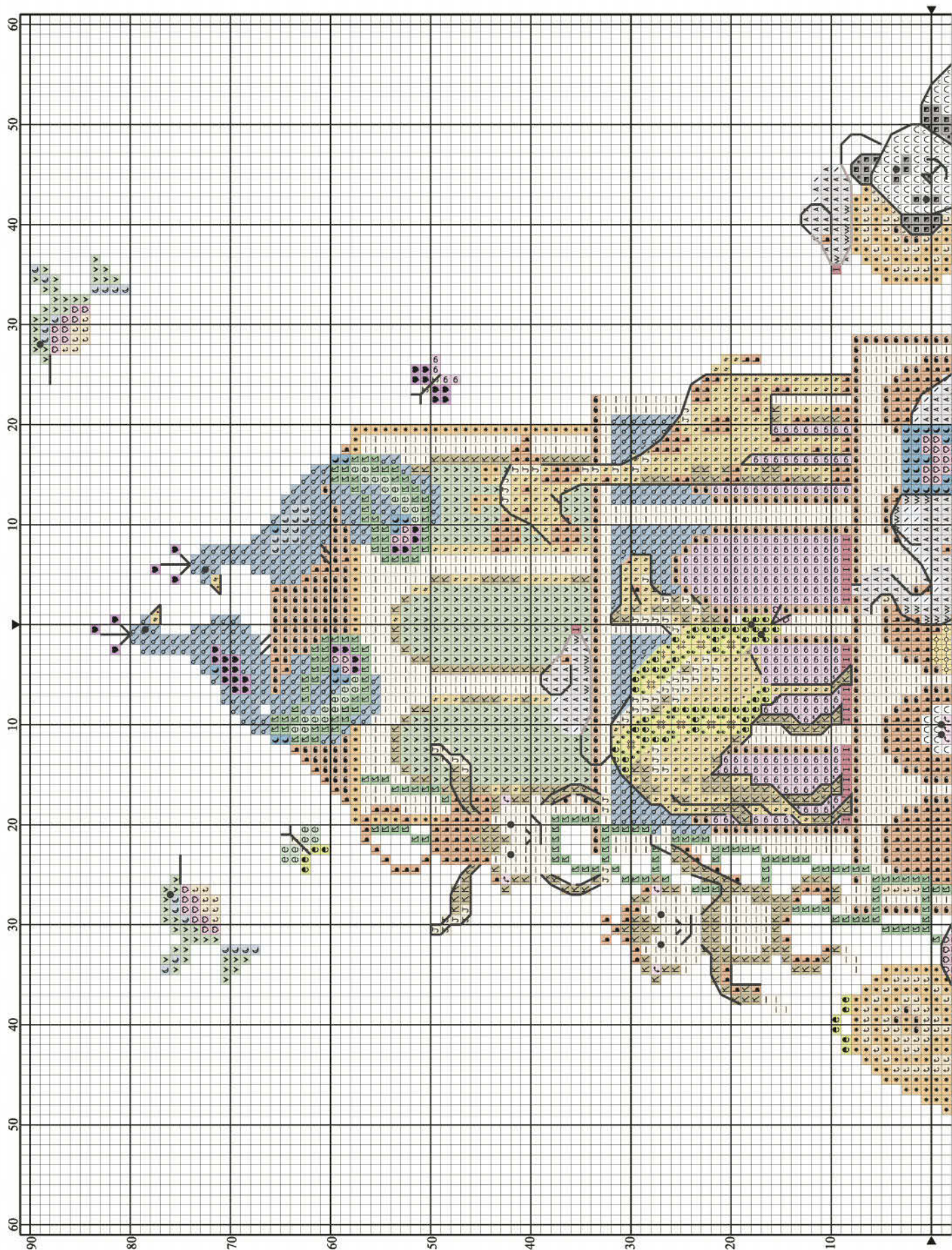
"When designing for children, it's important to create something eye-catching, as well as making it enjoyable for the stitcher to work on. Hopefully, I've managed to achieve both, with a project kids and adults alike will love!"



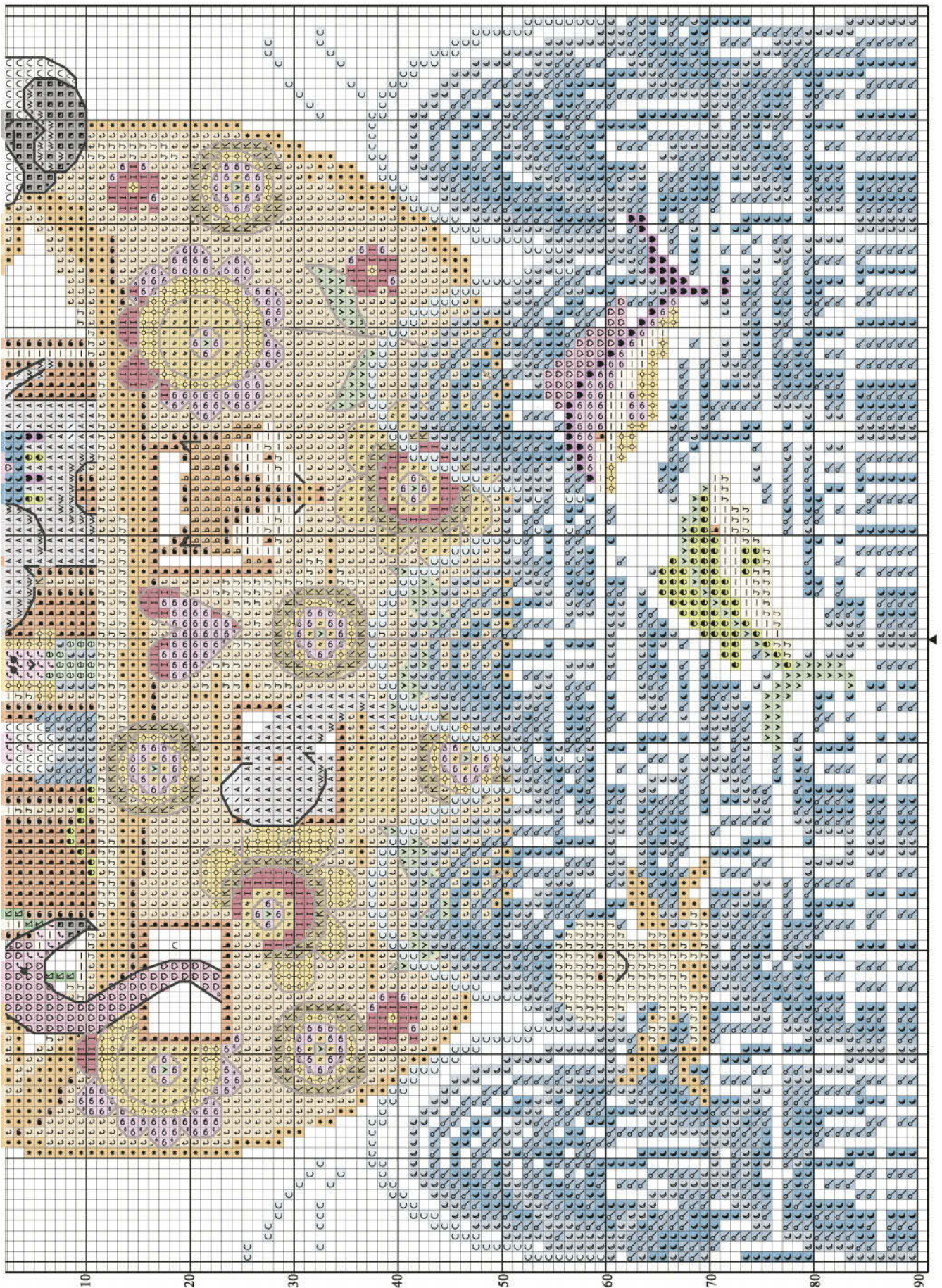
THE WORLD OF
**Cross
Stitching**
STITCHER'S
CHALLENGE



Keep little ones – and yourself – entertained with this colourful, contemporary Noah's Ark filled with animals!



Noah's Ark chart (top)



Noah's Ark chart (bottom)

Noah's Ark key

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	blanc	2	2402	white
I	316	1017	809	plum
■	317	400	1714	dark grey
w	318	399	1801	grey
A	415	398	1802	light grey
K	420	374	2104	hazlenut brown
t	437	362	2012	tan
☾	517	162	1107	dark sea blue
♥	552	99	713	mauve
✓	563	208	1207	light mint green
↻	605	1094	613	light pink
—	712	926	2101	cream
⊙	725	305	113	yellow
⌂	729	890	2209	sand
J	739	366	2014	light tan
∖	762	234	1804	very light grey
☾	813	140	910	blue
🔍	826	146	906	dark blue
C	827	160	1013	light blue
♥	894	31	414	pink
●	907	255	1308	green
👁	920	1004	312	dark copper
b	922	1003	2306	copper
e	964	185	1112	light emerald
♣	975	355	2303	dark ginger
*	977	1002	2302	ginger
🌸	3608	86	709	cyclamen pink
🌿	3851	187	1202	emerald

✕ Backstitch in one strand

—	317	400	1714	dark grey
—	318	399	1801	grey

✕ French knots in two strands

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

STITCH COUNT 180 high x 120 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 32.5x21.5cm (12¾x8½in)

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

Stitch on evenweave

Head over to Cross Stitch TV and follow our guide

Watch our Editor, Ruth, talk you through the process of cross stitching on evenweave.

To view our 'How To' video, visit www.cross-stitching.com and click on the link.

TOP TIP

Make sure to use a frame or a hoop when stitching to keep the tension of your fabric even, giving you neat, uniform stitches

“This busy design is perfect for children of all ages. My little nephew loves animals, so he'll have hours of fun pointing them all out – in fact, I might ask him to count them, as that should keep him busy for a while!”

FIONA, PRODUCTION EDITOR



How to...

wash your finished piece of stitching

It's always a good idea to wash your finished piece. Immerse the stitching in a bowl of warm water with a little detergent and swill it around. Rinse in cold water – but don't wring it out. Iron your damp stitching face down on a fluffy towel, pushing the point of the iron into the back of the stitches to make them stand out.



Shopping list

- ✕ Zweigart* 28-count light blue evenweave measuring 43x33cm (17x13in)
- ✕ Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- ✕ Size 26 tapestry needle
- ✕ Frame of your choice with a minimum aperture measuring 33x26cm (13x10¼in)

Thread & fabric cost
Approximately £30

*For stockists see page 90

STITCH
A LETTER
IN AN
EVENING



DESIGNS BY **LUCIE HEATON**

Shopping list

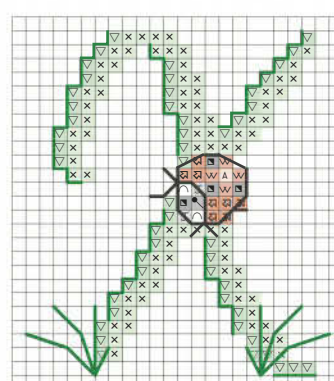
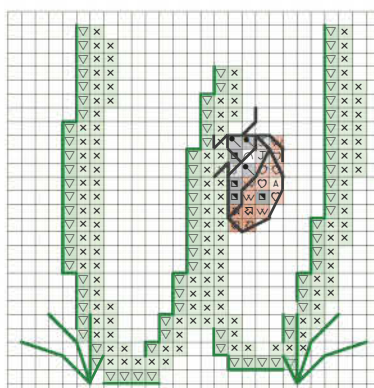
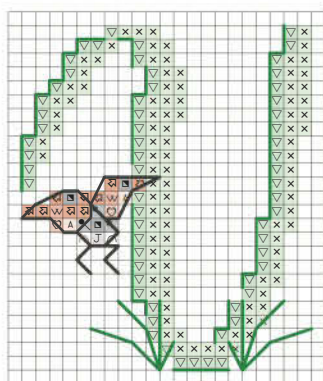
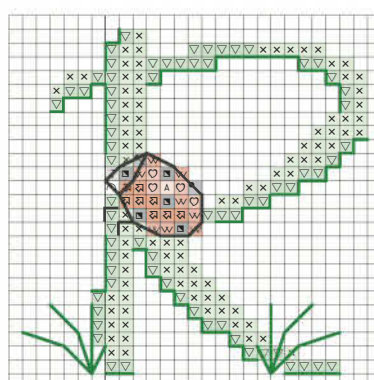
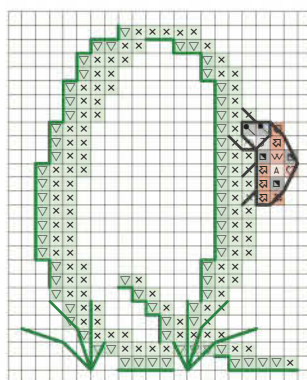
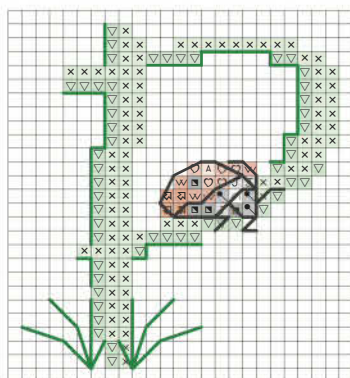
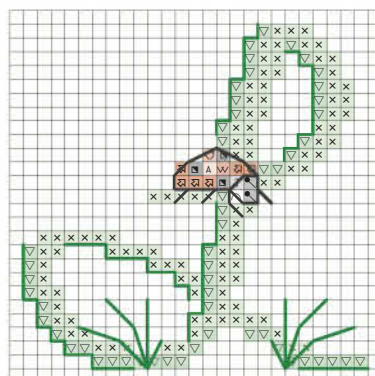
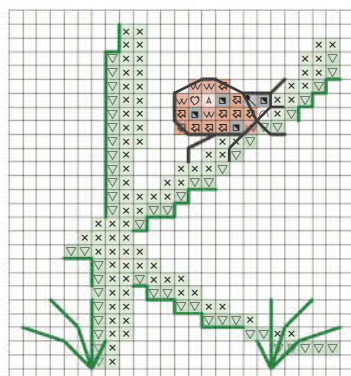
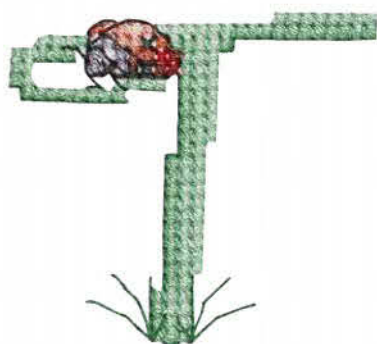
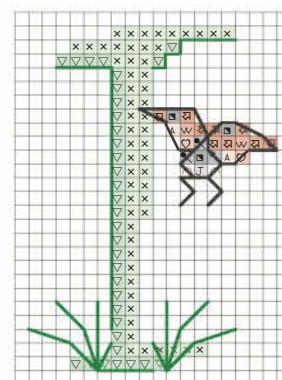
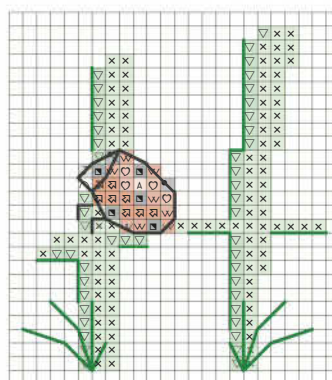
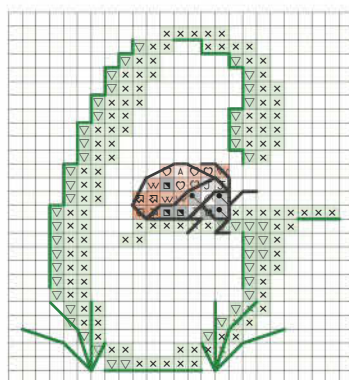
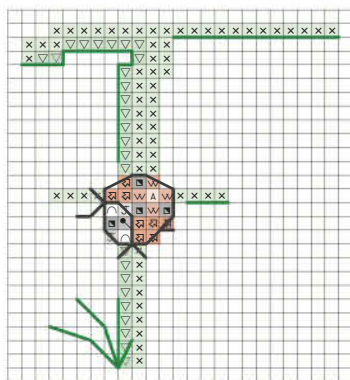
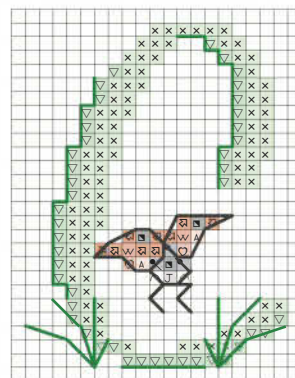
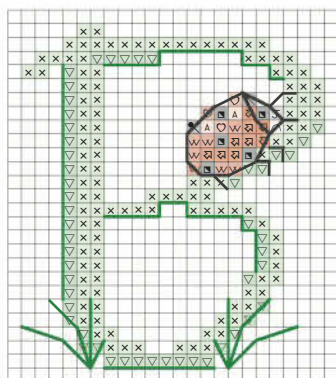
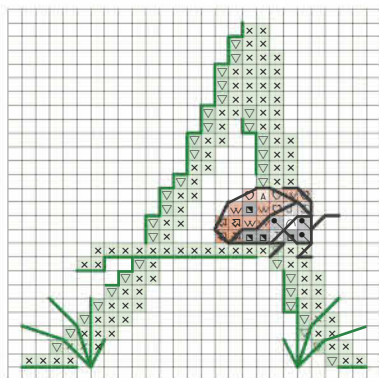
- ✕ Zweigart* 14-count white aida measuring 10cm (4in) x required length
- ✕ Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- ✕ Size 24 tapestry needle
- ✕ Backing board, fabric and ribbon of choice
- ✕ Basket from Lakeland*

Thread & fabric cost
Approximately £12

*For stockists see page 90

Lovely ladybirds

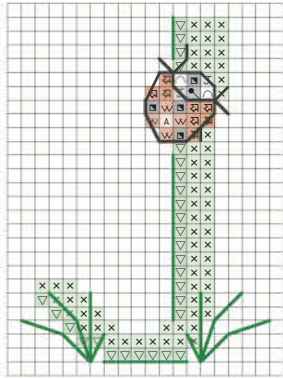
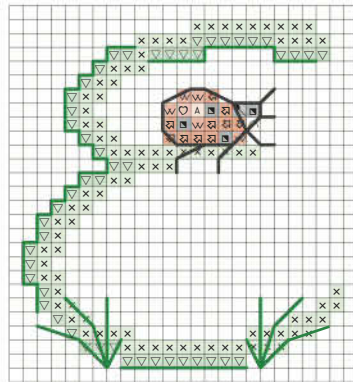
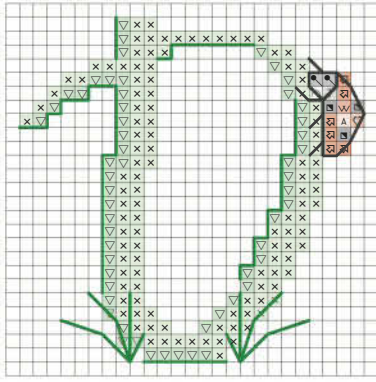
Our newest alphabet is a set of ladybirds – perfect for making bespoke gifts and fab home accessories



Jenny READER PANEL



“My husband spilt some black shoe polish on my bright red coat, so it is now known at my ladybird coat. This design would make us both giggle. I would put it in a little frame in our coat cupboard as a reminder of what happened.”



Ladybird ABC key

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
⌒	blanc	2	2402	white
J	318	399	1801	light grey
⊠	349	1098	212	red
W	351	10	214	light red
♡	352	9	303	coral
A	353	6	2313	light coral
⬛	414	235	1714	grey
▽	913	204	1212	green
×	954	203	1207	light green
■	3799	236	1713	dark grey

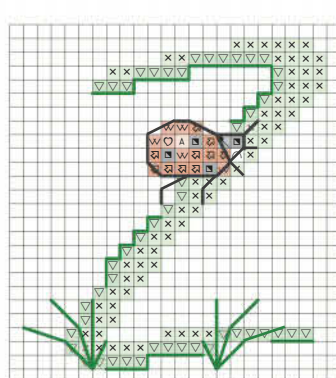
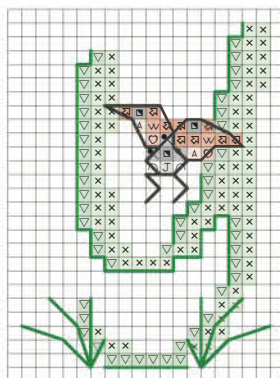
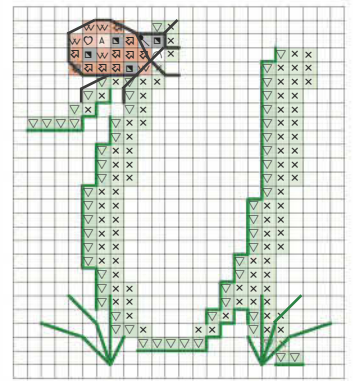
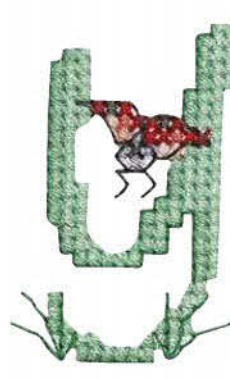
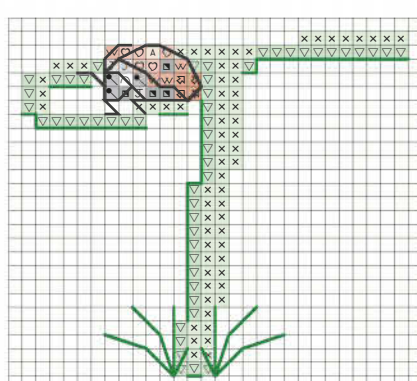
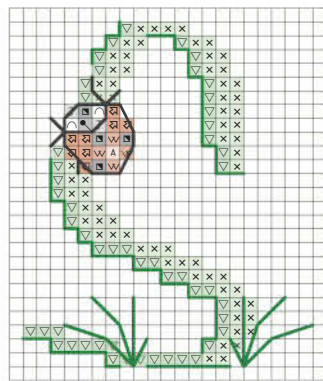
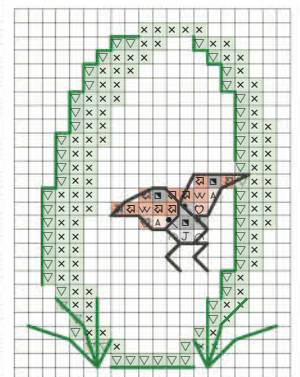
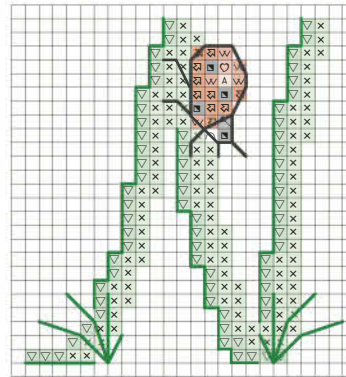
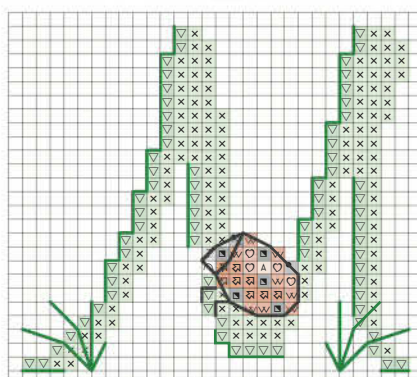
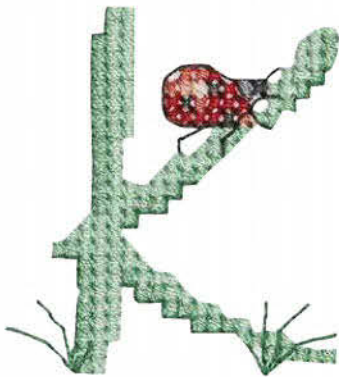
✕ Backstitch in one strand

—	910	228	1302	dark green
—	3799	236	1713	dark grey

MAXIMUM STITCH COUNT 26 high x 28 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 4.5x5cm (1¾x2in)

These designs were stitched using DMC stranded cotton



Factbox

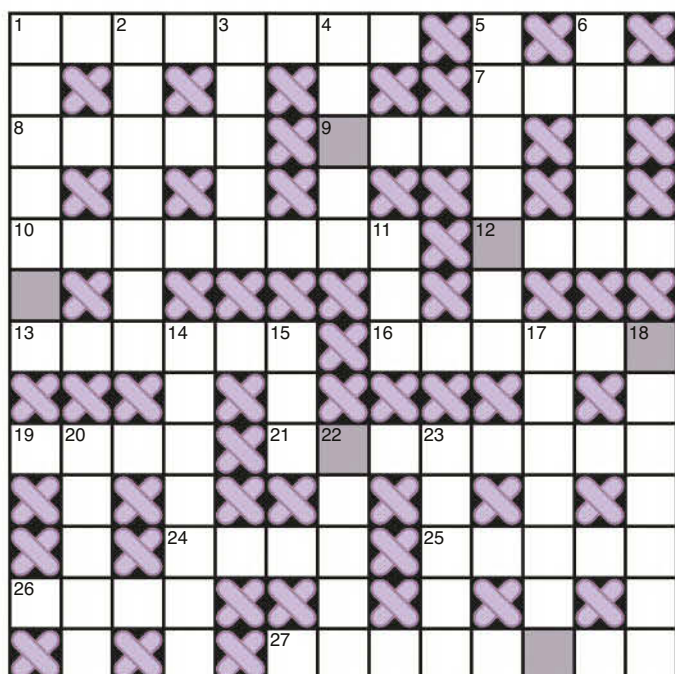
- ✕ **Stitching Time**
Approx. 2 hours each
- ✕ **Type of Stitches**
Cross stitch, backstitch
- ✕ **Ease of Stitching**
Beginner

Easy
for all
abilities

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 Salad vegetable (8)
- 7 Midday (4)
- 8 Least good (5)
- 9 Opening in a wall or fence (4)
- 10 Happy sound (8)
- 12 Oven used to dry clay (4)
- 13 Type of golf club (6)
- 16 Gentle heat (6)1
- 19 Long upholstered seat (4)
- 21 Person who makes hats (8)
- 24 Story, fable (4)
- 25 Lead the way (5)
- 26 US coin worth ten cents (4)
- 27 Woodwind instrument (8)

DOWN

- 1 Yellow flower (7)
- 2 One lap of a track (7)
- 3 Be exactly alike (5)
- 4 Bird of prey (5)
- 5 Canvas sports shoe (7)
- 6 Absorbent cloth used for drying (5)
- 11 Uncooked (3)
- 14 Kitchen appliance (7)
- 15 Male sheep (3)
- 17 Large imposing house (7)
- 18 Crop-gathering season (7)
- 20 Fertile area in a desert (5)
- 22 Perfect (5)
- 23 Light beer (5)

TO ENTER Use the letters in the shaded squares to spell out the name of a countryside activity (6)

WIN! Furry Tales Prize

Graduation mouse key

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	blanc	2	2402	white
Q	318	399	1801	grey
Q	415	398	1802	light grey
b	436	1045	2011	dark tan
o	437	362	2012	tan
N	739	366	2014	light tan
w	754	1012	305	dark peach
■	844	1041	1809	dark grey
•	948	892	306	peach

✕ Backstitch in one strand

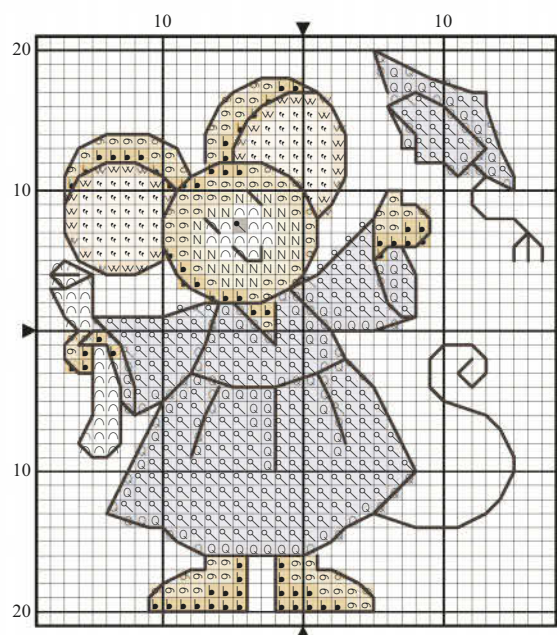
—	844	1041	1809	dark grey
---	-----	------	------	-----------

STITCH COUNT 40 high x 35 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 7.5x6.5cm (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 £299

Let's have fun

Fun with Dancing' (XDO16) and 'Fun with Chocolate' (XDO17) by Bothy Threads* are delightful stitches sure to put a smile on your face. Measuring 28x26cm (11x10in) when worked on 14-count aida, we've got five sets of both kits to give away, worth £29.99 each.

TO ENTER To enter by text message use keyword 'FUN' or if you're entering by post, please label your entry 'Bothy Threads giveaway (WOXS219)'.



PRIZES WORTH £272

CATNAP!

FAB FELINES

Karen Carter's adorable Catz & Co range is a new collection of fab feline designs. Heritage Crafts* is giving away one of each 'Bird of a Feather' (CZBF1215) and 'Forty Winks' (CZFW1213) kits to eight lucky readers. Each kit is worth £17, and comes with Zweigart 14-count aida, DMC stranded cottons sorted on to numbered cards, a needle and clear charts and instructions, and has a finished size of 12.5x12.5cm (5x5in).

TO ENTER To enter by text message use keyword 'CAT' or if you're entering by post, please label your entry 'Heritage Crafts giveaway (WOXS219)'.



PRIZES WORTH £251

Stitchy books

Mini Cross Stitch Motifs (retailing at £9.99) is brimming over with motifs for mini projects, gifts and samplers for all skill levels. Stitchers can mix and match designs, choosing from a wonderful selection of charming, whimsical and appealing patterns, borders and images. Combine cross stitch with classic Liberty prints to create 24 gorgeously stylish, contemporary, hand-stitched designs for you, your home, and your family and friends with *Liberty Cross Stitch*, worth £10.99. Available from Search Press*, we're giving 12 readers the pair of books.

TO ENTER To enter by text message use keyword 'BOOK' or if you're entering by post, please label your entry 'Search Press giveaway (WOXS219)'.



PRIZES WORTH £266

Stitching stash

Willow Fabrics* is giving away a fantastic stitching bundle, worth £26.62 each, to ten readers. The bundle includes 1x Fat Quarter 50x55cm (19¾x21¾) Zweigart 28-count Brittney cotton evenweave, colour 558, Lilac; 1x Fat Quarter 50x55cm (19¾x21¾) Zweigart 14-count aida, colour 100, White; 1x 15cm (6in) embroidery hoop, thread snips, an aida bookmark pack; five skeins of Anchor stranded cotton, ten thread cards and a pack of mixed gold needles. www.willowfabrics.com

TO ENTER To enter by text message use keyword 'BUNDLE' or if you're entering by post, please label your entry 'Willow Fabrics giveaway (WOXS219)'.



HOW TO ENTER

CROSSWORD

By text: Text FURRY219 followed by the mystery word, your name and postal address to 87474 eg. FURRY219 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 WOXS219 Immediate Media Co, 9th Floor, Tower House, Fairfax Street, Bristol BS1 3BN.
Terms & conditions as far right except for: closing date for entries is 20 August 2014. 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

87474 eg. KEYWORD Name email@email.co.uk 123 Any Rd, Anytown AB1 C23. Texts will be charged at 50p plus standard network tariff rate.
***To enter all four giveaways with one text charged at £1.50 (plus your standard network tariff rate), use keyword 'ALL219' followed by the details stated above.**
Online: Enter on our website at www.cross-stitching.com
By post: Write your name and address on the back of a postcard or stuck-down envelope and send it to: *The World of Cross Stitching*, Immediate Media Co, 9th Floor, Tower House, Fairfax Street, Bristol BS1 3BN.
Closing date for all entries: 20 August 2014. Call ☎ 0117 314 8755 if you have a query. Full terms & conditions below.

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*For stockists see page 90

TEXT ALL219 TO 87474 TO ENTER ALL FOUR GIVEAWAYS FOR £1.50!*

DESIGNS BY **ZWEIGART**

Coming up roses

You'll love the simplicity yet striking appearance of these gorgeous rose cards



Worked in pretty pinks, lemon yellows, rich reds and earthy oranges, these vibrant cards are suitable for all sorts of occasions, as they can be used for weddings, birthdays or simply to put a smile on someone's face. And, even though they use whole stitches only and each takes just a couple of hours to stitch, they look sumptuous.

Luxurious depth and detail is created with different shades of the same colour thread, accentuating the petals to perfection. The extreme close up of the rosebuds creates a breathtaking display of the beauty of these sought-after and fragrant flowers. Stitch the entire set and frame as one piece to make a

Factbox

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

Create depth with shading

wonderful artwork, or give individual cards to specific people.

See these beautiful blooms flourish with every stitch as you bring one of these fabulous flowers to life, and, unlike their much-loved, real-life counterparts, these roses are guaranteed not to fade and wilt! ➤

Behind the scenes

The company that brought you these designs



ZWEIGART®

THE needlework fabric

Founded in 1877, Zweigart is a family-run and owned company that has for 130 years produced high-quality needlework fabrics, canvases, table linens and technical textiles in Germany.

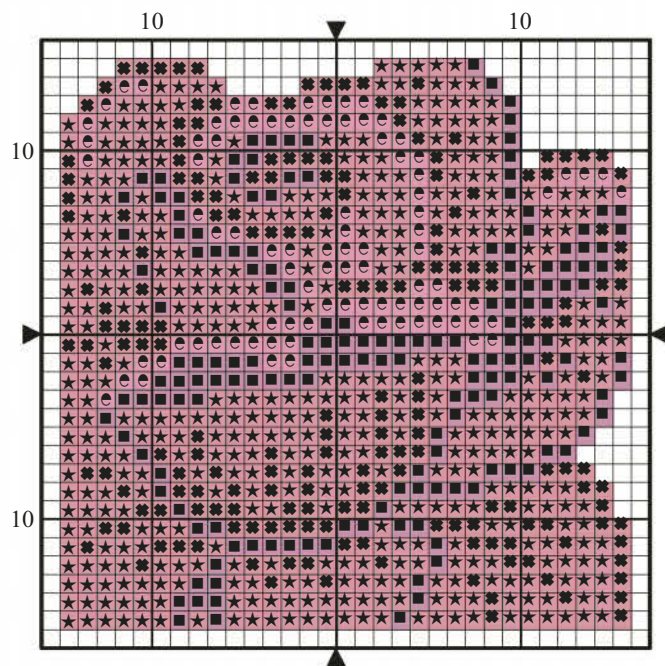
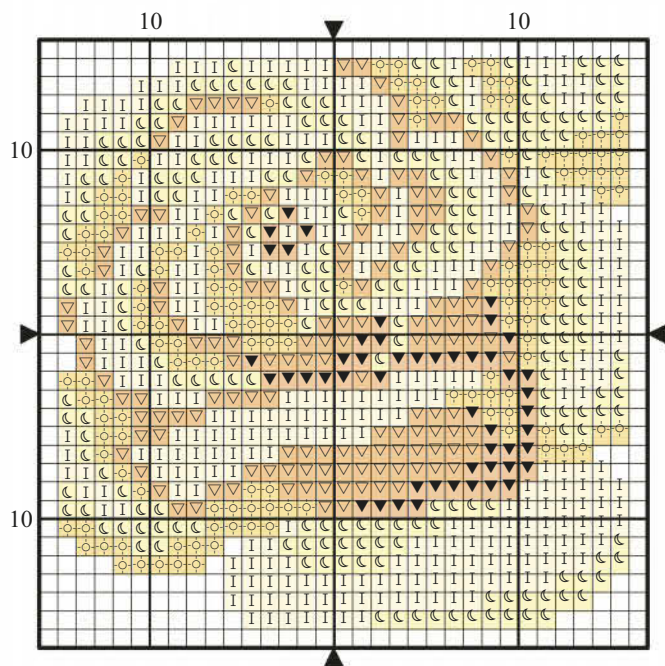


ONLY
WHOLE
STITCHES



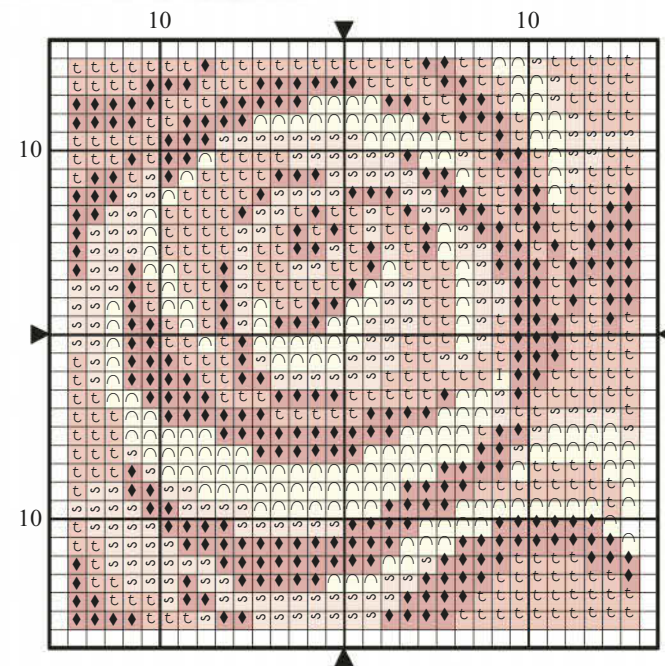
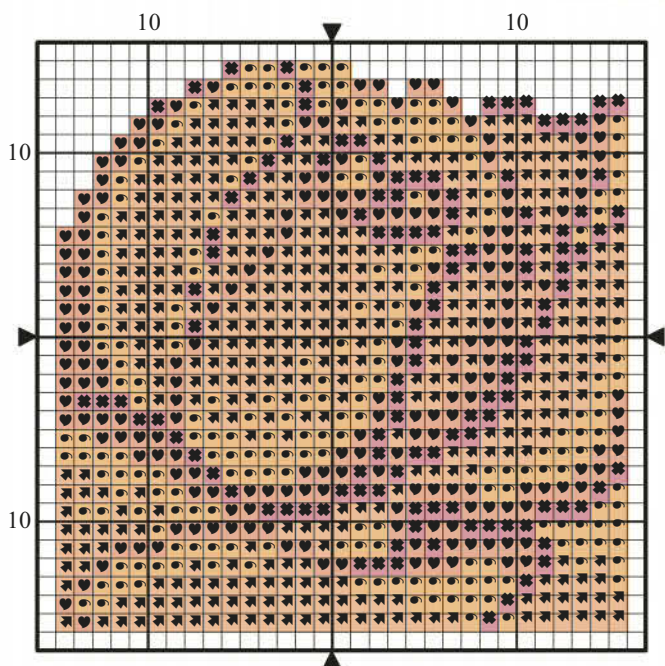
These
all-occasion cards
use only the simplest
of stitches and yet
create stunning little
flower portraits

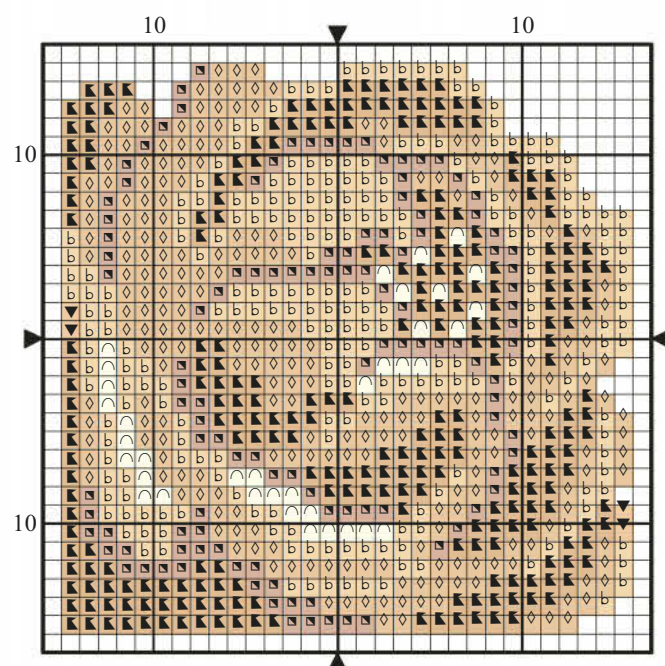
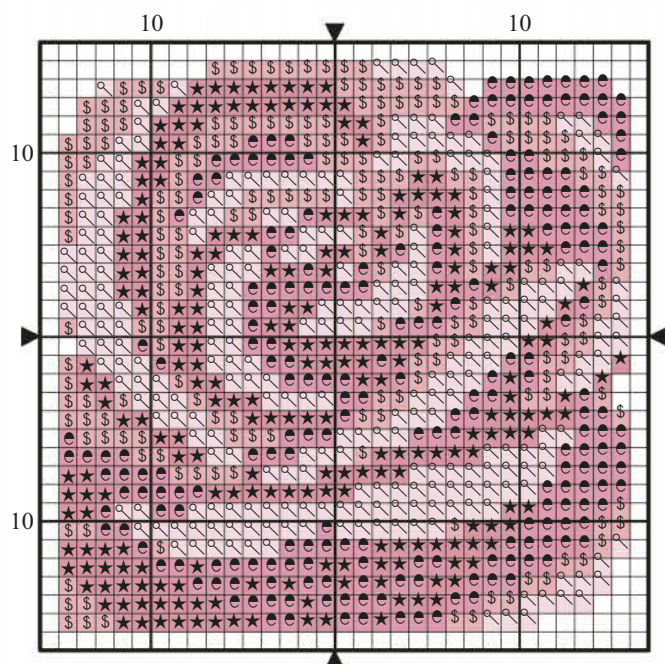




TOP TIP

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





Karla READER PANEL



“I would stitch these all together and frame them for myself and my husband, as roses are my favourite flowers. We had them at my wedding, so this would be a wonderful reminder of the special day.”

Rose Cards key

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	Anchor	DMC	Madeira	
s	6	353	305	peach
t	9	352	303	coral
e	29	891	411	raspberry
\$	40	956	413	candy pink
*	44	815	601	dark red
♥	47	321	511	red
◇	50	957	408	light pink
★	59	150	602	cherry
■	72	3685	2607	dark wine
∩	275	712	2403	cream
☾	293	726	110	yellow
☼	302	743	113	dark yellow
b	313	3825	2307	tangerine
▽	314	741	202	light orange
◀	326	900	208	burnt orange
▶	330	947	205	bright orange
◉	334	606	209	bright scarlet
◼	340	919	313	dark terracotta
I	386	746	2511	light yellow
▼	925	740	204	orange
◇	1003	3853	2302	copper
◆	1024	3328	406	dark coral

STITCH COUNT 31 high x 31 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 6x6cm (2¼x2¼in)

These designs were stitched using Anchor stranded cotton

Shopping list

- ✕ Zweigart* 14-count white aida measuring 10x10cm for each design
- ✕ Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- ✕ Size 24 tapestry needle
- ✕ Craft Creations* single fold, deckle edge cards (DEC7U) in creative smooth white

Thread & fabric cost
Approximately £25

*For stockists see page 90



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

Yuma Mommy "This is a Stitch-A-Photo of an original art piece from a local artist here in the Yukon, Canada. This will be on display in our art centre alongside the original for three months this summer. I am so excited. My hubby and I made the frame for it."



YOU LIKED

Grace Orbeta "It's taken me four months to finish this piece, called 'Butterfly Haven' by DMC. I made it myself using 11-count aida. I worked on it after a day's tiring work, I'm a teacher of fourth graders... takes away the stress!"



And the winner is...

We asked you on Facebook: What's your favourite flower to stitch?



Stitching floral cards or designs is always popular, but if you had to choose between a favourite flower, you seem to prefer stitching up a bouquet. Find this stunning one by Kate Knight on page 18. Also, find gorgeous rose cards on page 84, which are sure to be popular.

ROSE



SUNFLOWER



POPPY



A VARIED BOUQUET



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Blogger of the month



Stitching Times is the blog of mother of three Lynn Bourke from Lancashire. As the site mentions, this is a record of her stitching, travels and life, with regular updates on projects from fave designers like Margaret Sherry, plus ones from Heritage Crafts. Working on a rotation list, she does different projects every week, with progress reports on all of them, plus the daily and weekly happenings in her life.

MORE Visit Lynn at www.crossedstitcher-stitchingtimes.blogspot.co.uk

Websites you'll love

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



Regular designer for the mag, Jenny Bartons' website www.jbcrossstitch.com is a great place to visit if you are a fan of her work. Because many of her charts are downloadable, the prices are kept low, so you can get some great-value designs.



If you want to find a huge selection of charts that are modern and unique under multiple categories, then www.artecy.com is the place to visit. With a batch of exciting new designs added every month, you are sure to find just the thing you are looking for.



Visit www.dmccreative.co.uk to get the latest information on new kits and products. What we really like about the site is their free chart section. There are many options to choose from – they even offer free Woodland Folk charts and a Somebunny to Love design!

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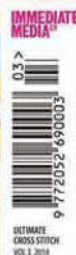
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Cards for kids



New Baby



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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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Sweet elephant
See all the latest must haves, like
this cute chart, on **PAGE 24**



Your projects

Find all the charts, kits, threads
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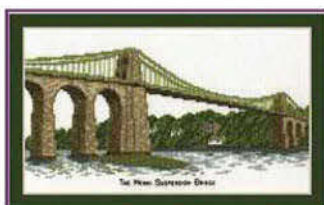
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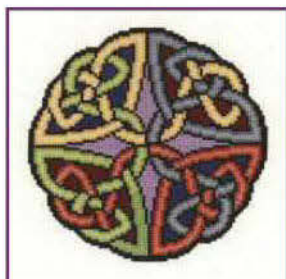
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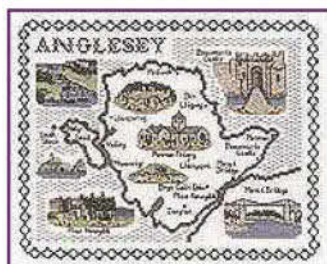
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How to...

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.



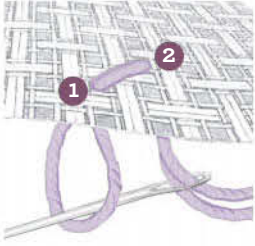
Fabric choices: Aida (left) with obvious holes is better for beginners. Evenweave (right) has a finer weave: see our video at www.cross-stitching.com

2. THREADS

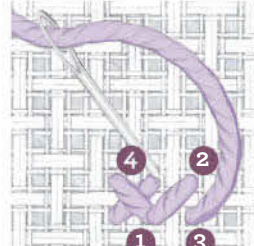
You'll need **stranded cotton** – this coloured thread comes in 8m skeins and is made up of six strands. The count of your fabric will determine the number of strands you use in your needle. Typically for 14-count aida you'll use two strands for cross stitch and just one strand for backstitch. This is 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

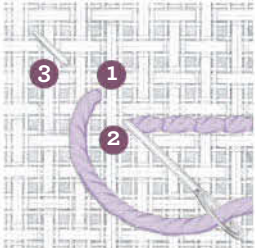
Tackle the basic stitches in our charts...



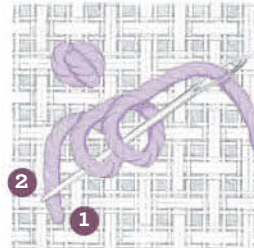
Loop start With both ends of a strand threaded, bring your needle up (1), leaving a loop at the back. Work the first arm of your stitch (2) & secure it by passing your needle through the loop.



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).



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.



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



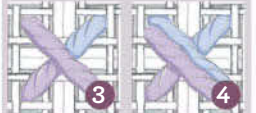
Quarter
The chart shows which corner has the fractional. Bring the needle up in that corner and down in the centre of the square, halfway across the diagonal (diagram 1).



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.



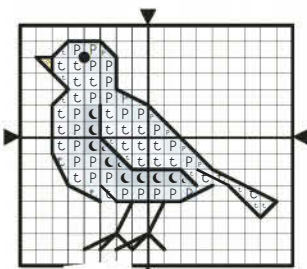
Two symbols
When two symbols share a square, work a fractional in each colour. Decide on the quarter stitch for the background colour, then a three-quarters stitch for the main one (diagram 3).



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.

Bird key

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
t	162	9159	1101	light blue
☀	726	295	109	yellow
☾	813	140	910	dark blue
P	827	160	1013	blue

✕ Backstitch in one strand

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

✕ French knots in one strand

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

STITCH COUNT 13 high x 15 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 2.5x2.5cm (1x1in)

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 & stitchy chat, look no further...

The stitcher's age-old problem has been striking home again for me this week – too many projects, not enough time! I've been trying to finish off some birthday cards, but the dangers of fresh project temptation and new making-up inspiration ideas have been striking...

And, the trouble is, I do always like to live by the saying: strike while the iron is hot!

It's taken lots of stamina to make sure I keep going with my stitching deadlines and not be tempted to start new projects, and I'm even imposing a (temporary!) ban on buying new supplies. I just have to get through a few more bits already in my stash before being tempted to try these new things, I think. But it is tempting, isn't it, when we see those delicious new charts and inspiration (like the fun making-up idea I spotted on Pinterest – I couldn't wait to share it with you here... using a cookie cutter as a frame for a mini motif. Genius!). Well, I'm determined to just 'file these' ideas away and not be distracted from

finishing my current WIPs. Birthday deadlines are looming! Can you resist those temptations? Why not email me your tips: ruth@cross-stitching.com

“I really need to focus on my WIPs and UFOs before new starts!”



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

Cookie cut: What a fabulously unique mounting idea!



Wear it with pride: A pretty, stitched jewel to adorn your outfit!



You're not wrong: Art that tells it like it is! Super to decorate my sewing corner



Sudoku

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

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

WHAT'S HOT

Coming up with new inspiration for mounting my finishes...

WHAT'S NOT

...browsing online for fresh ideas, when I should be stitching!



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