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Cross Stitch GOLD



Flamenco beauty



Sweet springtime rabbit



Retro-inspired hoop

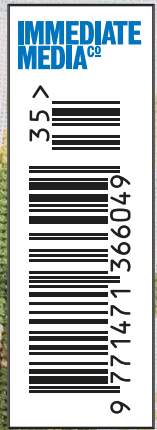


Poppy field in bloom

OVER
720
HOURS OF
NEW SEASON
STITCHING!



Darling Ducklings



Butterfly cluster cushion

DON'T MISS: Mother's Day cards, prizes & more

Cross Stitch GOLD



So what if it's a little cold and dark outside? The beauty of stitching is that it can transport you to a much sunnier, exotic world when you need it most. And that's exactly what we have in mind for you, with this your latest issue of *Cross Stitch Gold*...

We have a beautiful butterfly cushion by Fiona Baker (p52), pretty French bicycle hoop courtesy of Durene Jones (p20) and fabulous Flamenco design from Lesley Teare (p12) – all intended to help you shake off the new year blues and bring a little sunshine into your life! We also have a very cute, jute shopping bag (p46), a perfect gift idea for a shopaholic friend, and of course, there are our seriously adorable cover stars, the darling ducklings by Maria Diaz – a sweet, detailed project to get you in a springtime frame of mind during the remainder of the chilly winter months. We're quackers about them!

Enjoy! And see you next month!

Zeena

Zeena Moolla, Acting Editor

Zeena's choice



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Win £1,042 in prizes!

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We award this medal to designs and products as a mark of our seal of excellence

Little quackers

The bright sun of springtime is positively bursting from this design by Maria Diaz, which features two adorable ducklings, sitting among vibrant wildflowers



Meet the designer Maria Diaz

Maria has always had a passion for needlecraft, since learning to sew as a child on her great-grandmother's ancient foot-treadled Singer. After art college she was lucky enough to land a job as a printer that led to her becoming DMC's first in-house designer, where she worked for eight years. She is now an independent designer and lives in the Midlands with her two little boys, Lincoln and Hudson.

"I love the new life that comes with springtime, and I wanted these little ducks among the flowers to represent this aspect of the season!"

Stitcher's guide

This duckling design is worked on 28-count white evenweave over two threads of the fabric, in 29 shades of stranded cotton. The backstitch is worked in one strand and the cross stitch in one or two strands of thread, and there are a scattering of fractional stitches. This design is suitable for intermediate stitchers.

How to stitch the ducklings

- 1 Find the centre of your fabric by folding it in half both horizontally and vertically. Follow the arrows on the chart to find its centre and start stitching from here, working your way outwards.
- 2 Work the cross stitch over two threads of the fabric using one or two strands of cotton. Check the key to get this right. For every tiny symbol you see on the chart, work a fractional stitch.
- 3 Add the backstitch in one strand of thread.
- 4 Check over your stitching and prepare for making up.

You will need

FABRIC Zweigart 28-count white evenweave measuring 45x45cm (17¾x17¾in)

THREADS Stranded cotton as listed in the key

NEEDLE Size 26 tapestry needle

EXTRAS Frame of your choice with a minimum aperture of 30x30cm (11¾x11¾in)

FOR STOCKISTS' DETAILS turn to page 59

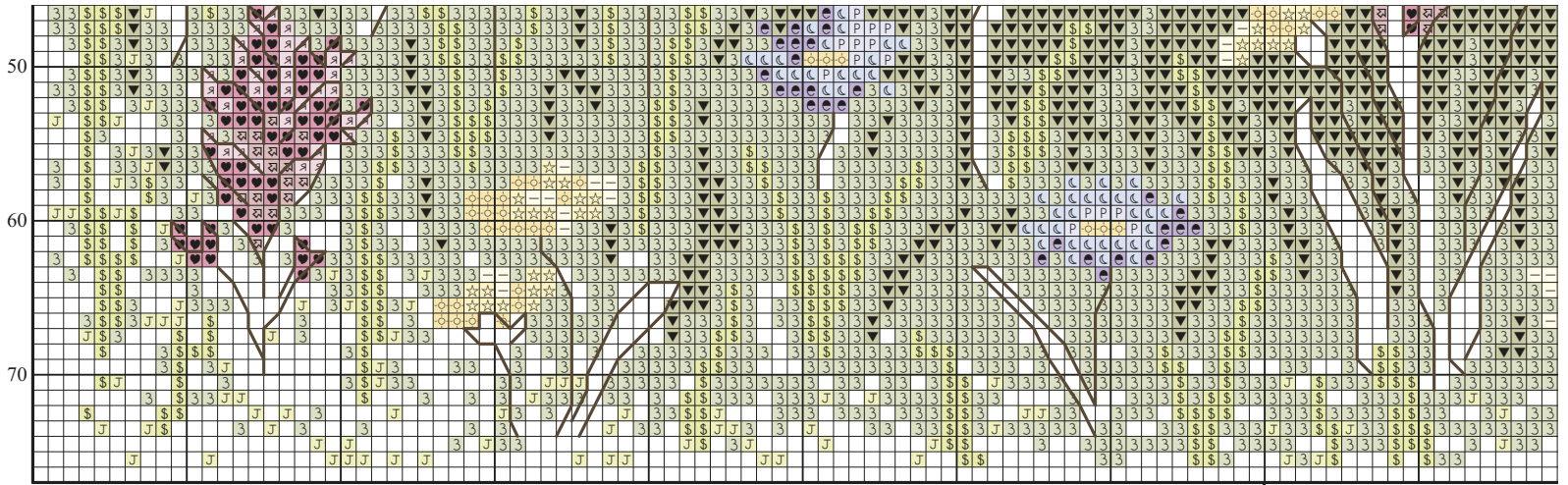
stitch tip

Check the key to ensure you have enough skeins of thread for all the colours needed

Brighten someone's day with
this cheerful duck design



Ducklings scene



Bottom left



Maria Diaz's Designer Secrets

In the frame

I've designed my spring ducklings scene within a circular cross stitched frame, using colours that extend out from the main design. This frame device helps to give the picture additional focus and depth, especially as the bottom part of the scene spills out from this rounded frame shape, offering the finished picture a three-dimensional quality. Just make sure you keep an especially close eye on the chart as you stitch this part of the design, to ensure the circular shape remains nice and smooth.



A gentle outline

I felt that black thread would be too harsh to use for the backstitch in such a sweet and delicate stitched scene, so instead I have used dark smoke grey for the backstitch detail on both the ducklings' faces and the detail on the wildflowers. This dark grey offers strong definition without dominating the spring colours or looking too strong against the

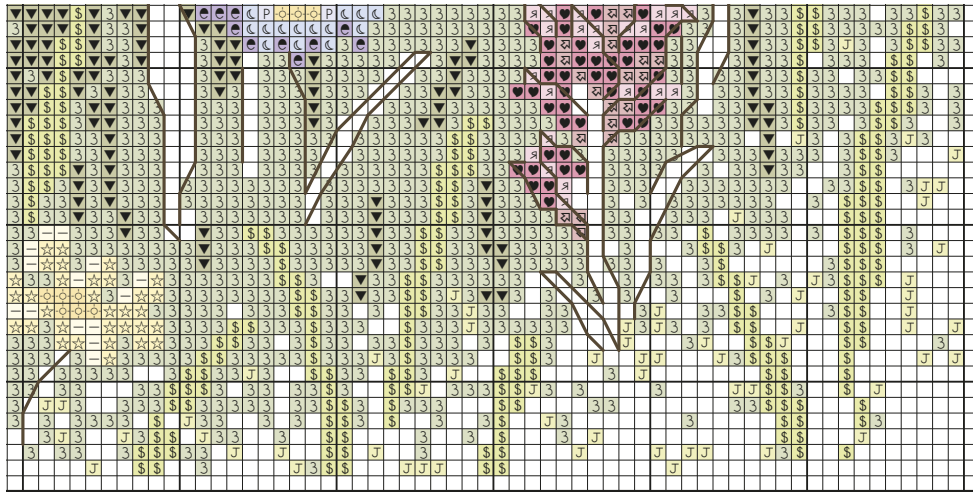
"If you don't have time to stitch the whole thing, the sitting duckling on his own would make a cute card to give any bird-loving friends for their birthday – or even as an Easter card!"

Heather Nugent, Charting Assistant



How to add extra interest

Aside from a few fractionals, this design is fairly straightforward to stitch, featuring blocks of mainly whole stitches in bright colours. If you want to add extra dimension and customise your picture, you could try adding a couple of seed beads to give the spring flowers a touch of sparkle.



“There are five shades of green in this design, so it’s important to keep a close eye on the chart and use the correct colours to achieve a realistic grass effect in your finished scene.”

Fiona Baker, Technical Editor

bottom right

stitch tip
A sharp needle will help you to pierce the fabric for fractionals on evenweave



Coming soon in *Cross Stitch Gold*

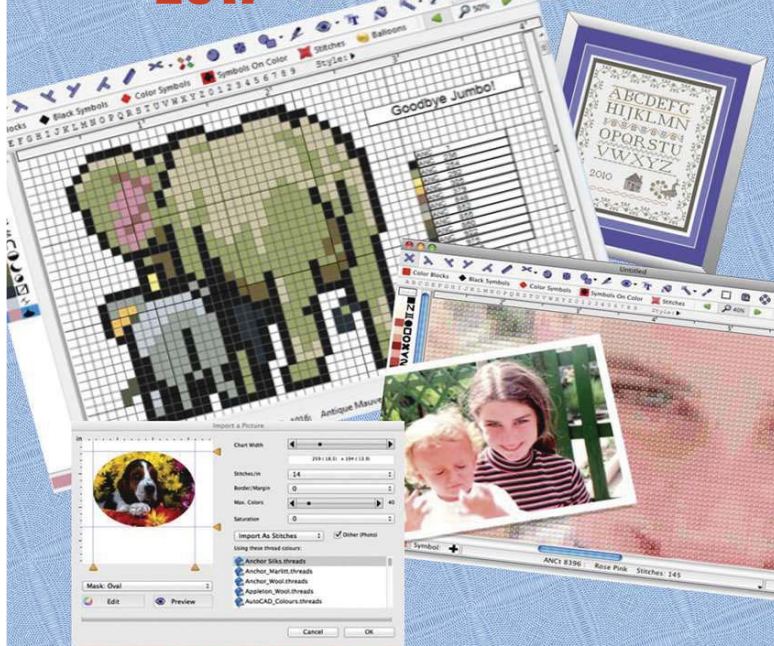
If Maria’s duo of ducks has got you in a flap, you’ll love our pair of parrots designed by Fiona Baker, coming up in the next issue of *Cross Stitch Gold*. These colourful characters are a perfect stitch for nature lovers and will add an exotic touch to any room when finished and framed! With their bright colours standing out against a pale background, they make an enjoyable project for experienced stitchers. You’ll find these feathered friends in issue 136 of *Cross Stitch Gold* (US 60 May/June), on sale 14th February 2017.



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Have your say

Write in and share your stitching stories and photos – every published letter writer will win a fantastic cross stitch gift!

WRITE TO WIN!

The star letter writer in the next issue will receive this traditional Country Cottage sampler kit by Moira Blackburn, worth £27.49. You can buy this kit from www.bothythreads.com or call 01900 828844. All other letter writers will receive a mystery prize.



GOLD STAR LETTER

Cotswold creation

While on holiday this year I visited a lovely picturesque village in the Cotswolds called Bourton-on-the-Water. They have some lovely shops, and among these was a little sewing shop, so of course I had to go in and browse! The owners of the shop designed this kit – it's one where you can adapt elements and personalise it yourself. I changed a few things and put a year date on it. I am so happy with the finished result, and it now hangs proudly

Linda personalised this design to hang in her craft room


in my craft room.
Linda West, Isle of Man

Zeena: Love it! Thanks for sharing! This super sampler would certainly add a touch of style to any craft den.



Get in touch!

 Email: zeena@cross-stitching.com

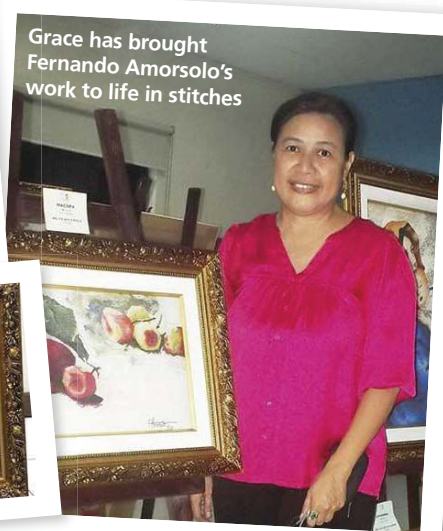
 Write to: Zeena Moolla, *Cross Stitch Gold* magazine, 2nd Floor, Tower House, Fairfax Street, Bristol BS1 3BN

 Join us at: [facebook.com/crossstitchgold](https://www.facebook.com/crossstitchgold)

 Tweet us: @CrossStitchGold



Grace has brought Fernando Amorsolo's work to life in stitches



Works of art

I recently stitched these exhibits for charity. They are artworks by prolific Filipino National Artist Fernando Amorsolo, who is believed to have had a total artistic output in the tens of thousands! His family's art foundation authorised the conversion of 26 of his paintings to cross stitch, working with DMC Philippines.

With aida as canvas, needle as brush, threads as paints and patterns as inspiration, cross stitching brings out the artist in me, albeit a frustrated one! I feel transported to the time and place, capturing the scene side by side with the artist.

Grace Perez, Philippines

Zeena: A fantastic way to look at your hobby, Grace, and what wonderful stitching too – fabulous interpretations of this artist's work.

Christmas magic

I loved Durene Jones' Christmas sampler in issue 132 and decided to get straight to work on it – before realising I was almost out of red cotton! I had to make an emergency trip to my local craft



Pat had to stock up on red thread supplies to stitch this sampler!

store to stock up, and once I'd bought some I was able to get down to it at last. I stitched this section by section, and gave it to my daughter's family, who thought it was wonderful and told me they'll put it on display every Christmas.
Pat Burman, by email

Zeena: I'm so glad you loved Durene's sampler, Pat – it was certainly a firm favourite in the *Gold* office.

Woodland wildlife

I just had to stitch the lovely red squirrel in issue 131 – it was so lifelike and reminded me of visiting the red squirrels in the woods of Formby in Merseyside, which is one of the few places in the UK where you can see these creatures in the wild. My husband and I visit regularly to enjoy the wildlife. I think I will mount this in a round cushion, but I haven't got round to



Carol Thornton's colourful squirrel provided stitch inspiration for Gill

it yet, so thought I'd send a picture of the finished, but unmounted design. I hope you like it as much as I enjoyed stitching it. Thank you to Carol Thornton for a thoroughly enjoyable project.

Gill King, Liverpool

Zeena: What a fab reminder of your squirrel-spotting walks! It sounds a brilliant place to visit.

Fabulous flamenco



You can almost hear the click of castanets as you stitch this beautiful dancer – the perfect project to bring a bright touch of sunny Spain into your living room



Meet the designer Lesley Teare

Lesley is an experienced cross stitch designer, with a degree in Printed and Woven Textiles, and many years of design experience. She is renowned for creating designs for a wide range of stitching magazines, and has a range of cross stitch books to her name too. Lesley lives and works in rural Suffolk, where she enjoys gardening and country walks with her labrador.

“I loved working with the striking colours and bold lines of this Spanish-inspired design, in which I aimed to capture the movement and drama of flamenco.”

Stitcher's guide

This is stitched on 28-count evenweave over two threads of the fabric in 17 shades of stranded cotton and one of metallic thread. It uses cross stitch and fractionals in two strands of cotton or metallic, with backstitch and longstitch in one strand, and French knots in one strand. Beads also feature in the design, which is suited to experienced stitchers.

How to stitch your dancer

- 1 Find the centre of the fabric by folding it in half both horizontally and vertically. Follow the arrows on the chart to find its centre and start here, working your way outwards.
- 2 Work the cross stitch over two threads of the fabric using two strands of cotton or metallic thread. For every tiny symbol on the chart, work a fractional stitch.
- 3 Add backstitch and longstitch in one strand of cotton or metallic.
- 4 Work the French knots in one strand of thread. Add the beads.
- 5 Check over your stitching and prepare for making up.

You will need

FABRIC Zweigart 28-count white evenweave measuring 45x37cm (17¾x14½in)

THREADS Stranded cotton and metallic threads as listed in the key

NEEDLE Size 26 tapestry needle; beading needle

BEADS Mill Hill seed beads as listed in the key

EXTRAS Frame of your choice with a minimum aperture of 32x26cm (12½x10¼in)

FOR STOCKISTS' DETAILS turn to page 59

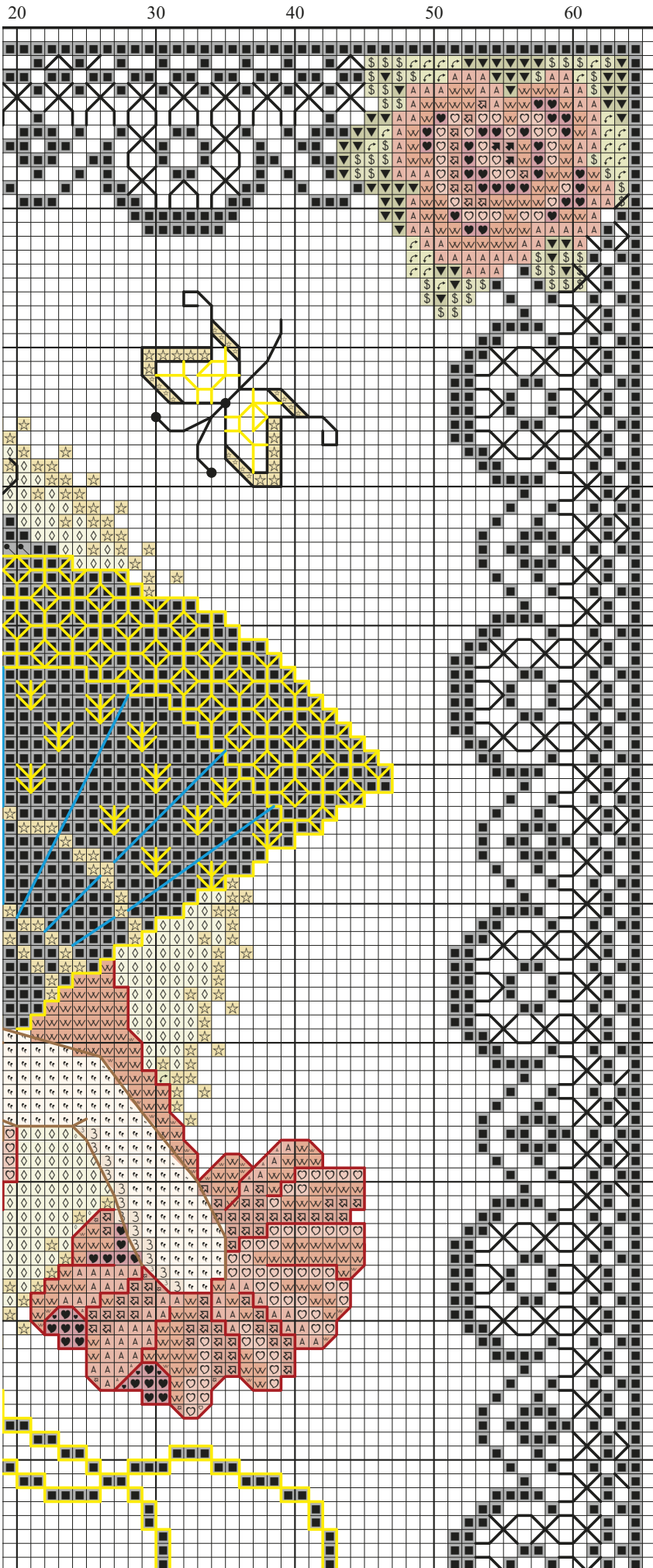
stitchtip
Remember to use a complementary thread shade to attach your gold seed beads



Spanish dancer

This bold and beautiful dancer gives a home a lovely Spanish vibe





Top right

Spanish dancer key

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
■	310	403	2400	black
■	321	9046	510	red
■	349	1098	212	dark coral
■	351	10	214	coral
■	352	9	303	light coral
■	471	266	1501	green
■	754	1012	305	peach
■	772	259	1604	very light green
■	814	22	601	dark red
■	816	1006	513	ruby
■	928	274	1709	petrol blue
■	948	892	306	light peach
■	3346	267	1407	dark green
■	3348	264	1409	light green
■	3771	868	2605	dark peach
■	3799	236	1713	grey

✕ Cross stitch in two strands Anchor Reflecta

☆		300		gold
---	--	-----	--	------

✕ Backstitch in one strand

—	310	403	2400	black
—	814	22	601	dark red
—	816	1006	513	ruby
—	3778	338	402	terracotta

✕ Backstitch in one strand Anchor Reflecta

—		300		gold
---	--	-----	--	------

✕ Long stitch in one strand Anchor Reflecta

—		300		gold
---	--	-----	--	------

✕ French knots in one strand

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

✕ Mill Hill seed beads

●	00557			gold
---	-------	--	--	------

STITCH COUNT 163 high x 129 wide

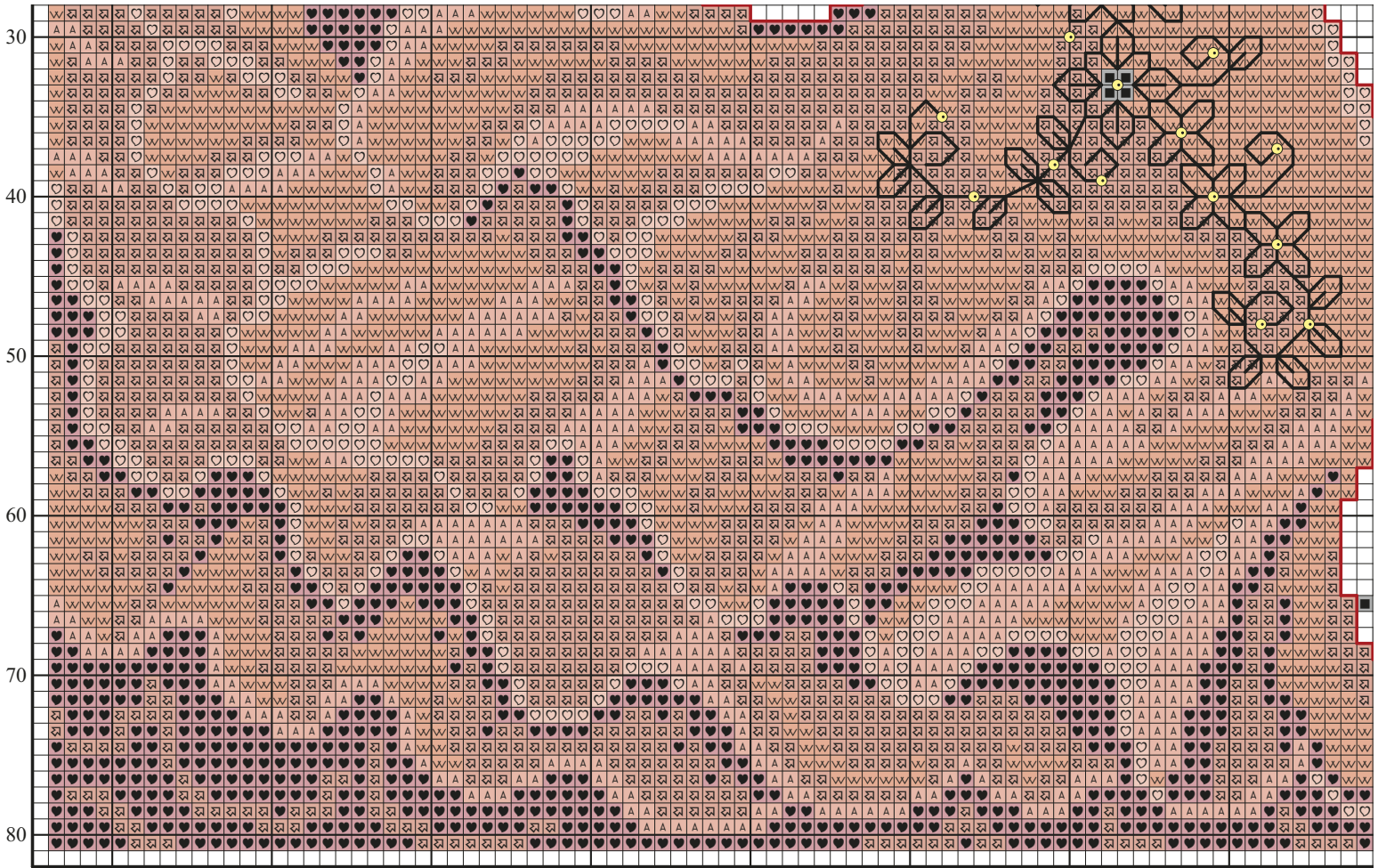
DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 29.5x23.5cm (11½x9¼in)

SKEINS NEEDED 3x310 (black), 2x321 (red), 2x349 (dark coral)

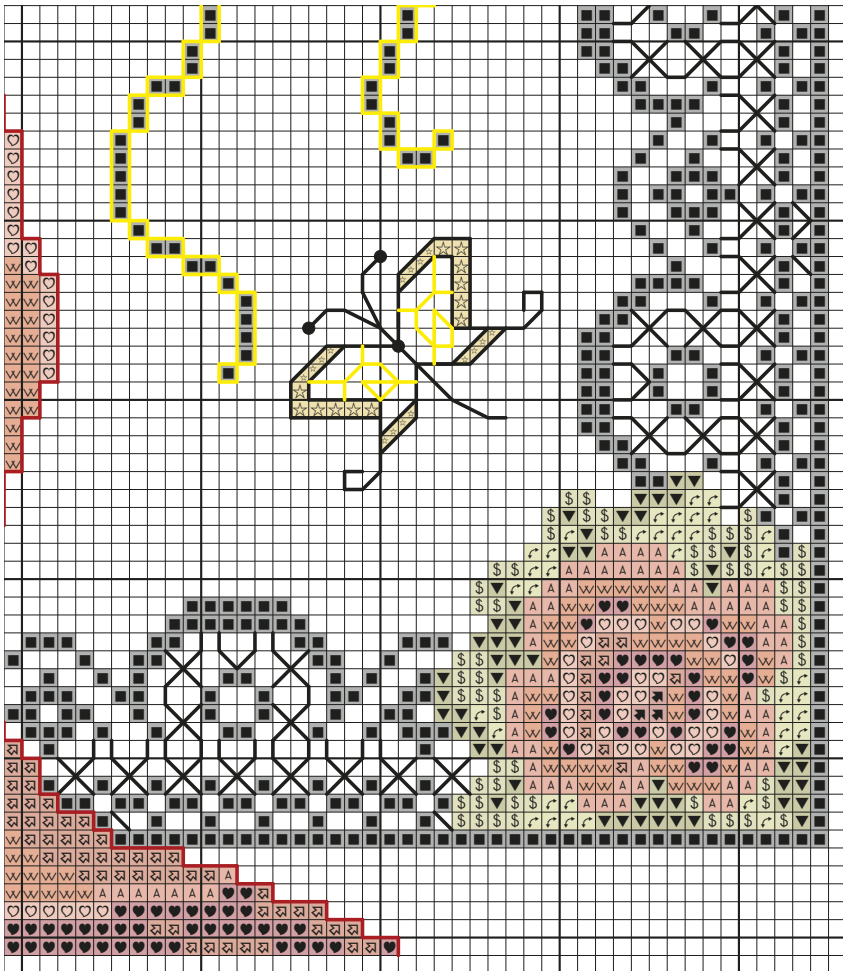
This design was stitched using DMC stranded cotton, Anchor Reflecta metallic thread and Mill Hill seed beads on 28-count evenweave over two threads of the fabric

“I love Lesley’s flamenco design, which really captures the elegance of these incredible dancers. It’s enough to make me want to pack my case and head off to Spanish shores!”
Zeena Moolla, Acting Editor

Spanish dancer



Bottom left



Bottom right

Coming soon in *Cross Stitch Gold*

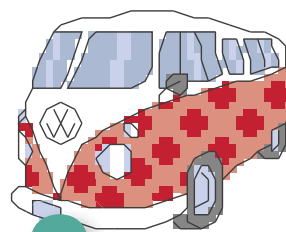
If you like this design, look out for the marvellous Celtic-style project by Shannon Wasilieff that's coming up in the next issue of *Cross Stitch Gold*. Issue 136 (US 60 May/June) hits the newsstand on 14th February 2017.



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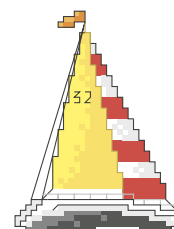
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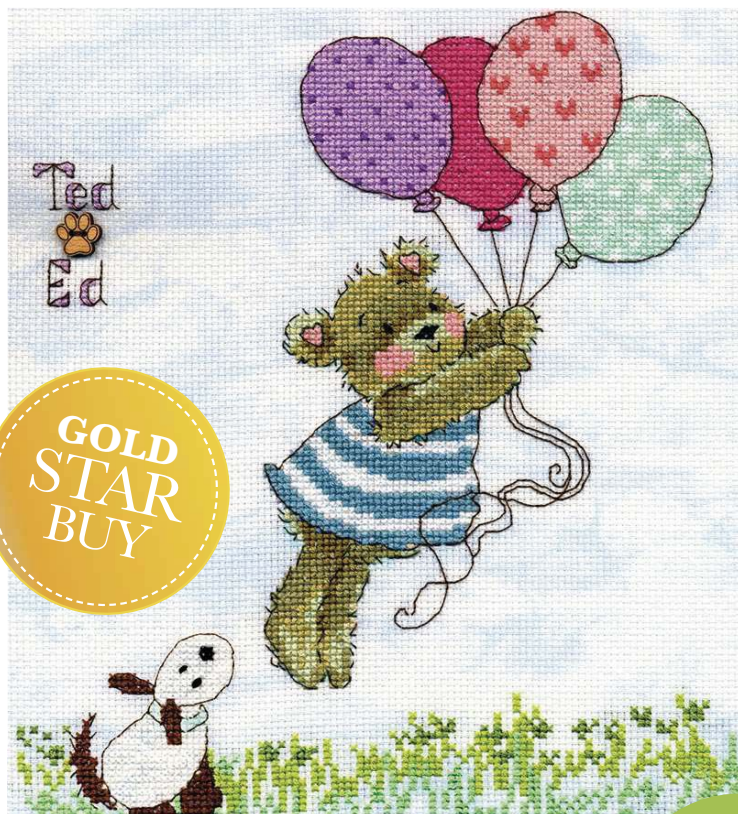
Shopper's guide

It's fun and humour that's captured our imagination this month, with some fabulous kits, plus a bundle of essential accessories picked just for you...

Lift off!

For something fun and utterly adorable, look no further than this design by Margaret Sherry. Up, Up and Away is one of the new Ted & Ed series created exclusively for Bothy Threads, centred around a teddy and his pet dog. In this picture Ted is reaching for the skies with a handful of balloons. Ed is looking on with a worried expression, but Ted is still having fun! The kit comes with 14-count cloudy blue aida, stranded cottons, needle, chart and instructions as well as a signature wooden 'paw print' button to make the Ted & Ed logo. The finished design measures 22x25cm (8.6x9.8in) and it uses whole stitches, backstitch and a few fractionals.

Buy your kit for £17.99 at www.blacksheepwools.com



Cutey pie

If you're a fan of Gorjuss and its sweet, stripy-socked characters, then you'll love this kit from the captivating art brand. You Brought Me Love by artist Suzanne Woolcott has been made into a cross stitch kit by Bothy Threads. We love the pretty additions of ribbon for her hair, and lace and beadwork for her petticoat that really makes the picture come alive. The kit costs £23.99 for a finished size of 16x21cm (6.3x8.26in) and contains 14-count Zweigart aida, needles, pre-sorted stranded cottons and silk ribbon, beads, lace, as well as a heart button. It also has full instructions and clear stitch diagrams, using whole and backstitches. For a little girl, it would make an ideal present.

Available to buy from www.bothythreads.com

One vision

Let there be light with this big and bright LED craft light that – if you'll excuse the pun – brilliantly comes with a mini magnifier, too. With an approximate size of 6x15cm (2.36x5.9in) it's compact and so is nicely transportable and small enough to fit on a crowded craft table! The Vusion Light and Magnifier in silver can be clipped onto a frame, a hoop or a table and has two very bright LEDs, which can be turned on individually or separately depending on how much light you require. Both the lights and magnifier are on flexible arms so you can move them to the best and most comfortable position to stitch. It's a pretty stylish gizmo too, and there are no bulbs to replace – who wouldn't want this on their wishlist?

Available for £20.39 from www.stitcher.co.uk

Stitch this super-cute design!



Here's a bright idea!



Riding high

These three hapless riders appear to be at the mercy of their ponies, who are having a great time at their expense as they gallop along! Horse Play is one of Norman Thelwell's series of amusing drawings that has been made into a cross stitch kit. Enduringly popular, Thelwell's cartoons appeared in *Punch* and famously encapsulated the British countryside with a trademark zany humour. However, it is Thelwell's drawings of little girls and fat ponies, such as this, for which he became best known. The kit to make this charming picture contains fabric, thread, a needle, chart and instructions and comes on 14-count white aida. The finished size is 20x50cm (7.87x19.6in). **Available for £29.99 from www.bothythreads.com**

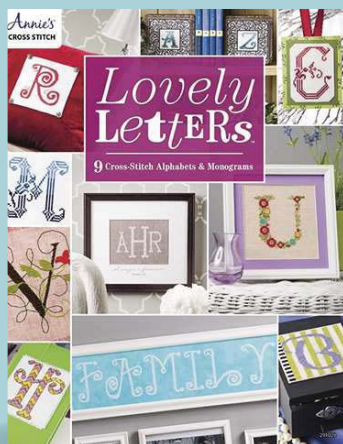


In love with cross stitch

"I am a stitcher and I hoard. Can't even close the closet door. Under the bed, in the drawers, taking over all the floors..." If you can relate to this sentiment, then this amusing sampler is for you. Or perhaps you have a friend who just can't stop stitching! Whether you hang this in your own home or gift it, I'm a Stitcher from My Big Toe Designs is sure to provoke a smile! The finished size is 23x33cm (9x13in) on 28-count evenweave. **Buy the chart for £11.66 from www.sewandso.co.uk**

Amazing alphabets

Finding the perfect lettering to add to a bag, baby gift, pillow or any other project to make it personal can be a chore. Well, it's a chore no longer with this new book by Annie's Cross Stitch. *Lovely Letters: 9 Cross Stitch Alphabets & Monograms* (Search Press) contains nine cross stitch alphabets with three in each category of Clean & Classic, Elegant & Exquisite and Fun & Funky. Straightforward instructions guide stitchers of all abilities to make the letters with one-of-a-kind finishes. Alongside each alphabet is a suggested project detailing skill level, materials needed, stitch count and design size. Easy-to-read charts are printed in black and white, and the variety of alphabet styles should cover all bases, whatever you want to personalise. **Buy for £9.98 from www.past-impressions.co.uk**



Treat yourself to this!

Rock on

If you don't have a Pebble in your sewing box or craft bag already, it's about time you grabbed one of these 'must have' accessories! The fine quality hand sewing needles from John James come in a fun and easy-to-use 'Pebble' case. The quick-flip lid makes your needles instantly accessible and a safe storage away from small hands or pets – we also think that the design and colours are a winning combination! The Specialist Pebble Kit costs £4.21 and contains four pebbles – Tapestry (size 18/24, six needles), Embroidery (size 5/10, 16 needles), Quilting (size 3/9, 16 needles) and Beading (size 10/12, four needles). The kit is available from the JJ Needles website.

Buy from www.jjneedles.com or call 01527 830941. Individual pebbles are available from haberdashery and craft retailers from £1.94 each.

Mini tape measures

Many's the time that we've been out and about and wished we had a tape measure with us. If you're reluctant to raid your sewing box, then these gorgeous mini versions that sport both centimetres and inches are just the thing. Choose from Rusty the Fox, Vintage Doily, Vintage Craft or, our personal favourite, La Petite Rose that has a lovely floral design. Pop one in your handbag or give as a present. Each one comes in a pretty packaged box. **These tape measures cost £2.95 each from www.dotcomgiftshop.com.**

Great for on-the-go stitching



Style on wheels

Durene Jones' latest design is positively oozing with French panache, depicting a vintage-style bicycle festooned with colourful flowers



Meet the designer Durene Jones

Prolific designer Durene Jones creates cross stitch charts for a range of stitching mags. Her work is well loved for its cute and colourful tone, but she is a versatile designer and can turn her hand to any theme or style. Before starting on her creative cross stitch career Durene worked as a graphic designer.

"I wanted to achieve a vintage effect in this design, and I think the mocha cashel linen helps with this. I have used springtime colours that help make this project both cheerful and stylish at the same time!"

Stitcher's guide

This design is stitched on 28-count light mocha cashel linen over two threads of the fabric, using 26 shades of stranded cotton. It uses cross stitch in two strands, blended stitches, backstitch in one or two strands and French knots in one strand. This design is best suited to experienced stitchers.

How to stitch the bicycle hoop

1 Find the centre of your fabric by folding it in half both horizontally and vertically. Follow the arrows on the chart to find its centre and start stitching here, working outwards.

2 Work the cross stitch over two threads of the fabric using two strands of cotton. Some stitches should be worked using a blend of two different colours. Check the chart to get this right. For every tiny symbol on the chart, work a fractional stitch.

3 Add the backstitch in one or two strands of thread, then French knots in one strand.

4 Check over your stitching and prepare for making up.

You will need

FABRIC Zweigart 28-count light mocha cashel linen (3281/0309) measuring 40x40cm (15¾x15¾in)

THREADS Stranded cotton as listed in the key

NEEDLE Size 26 tapestry needle

EXTRAS 9in wooden embroidery hoop, white felt for backing and lace trim of your choice to hang

FOR STOCKISTS' DETAILS turn to page 59

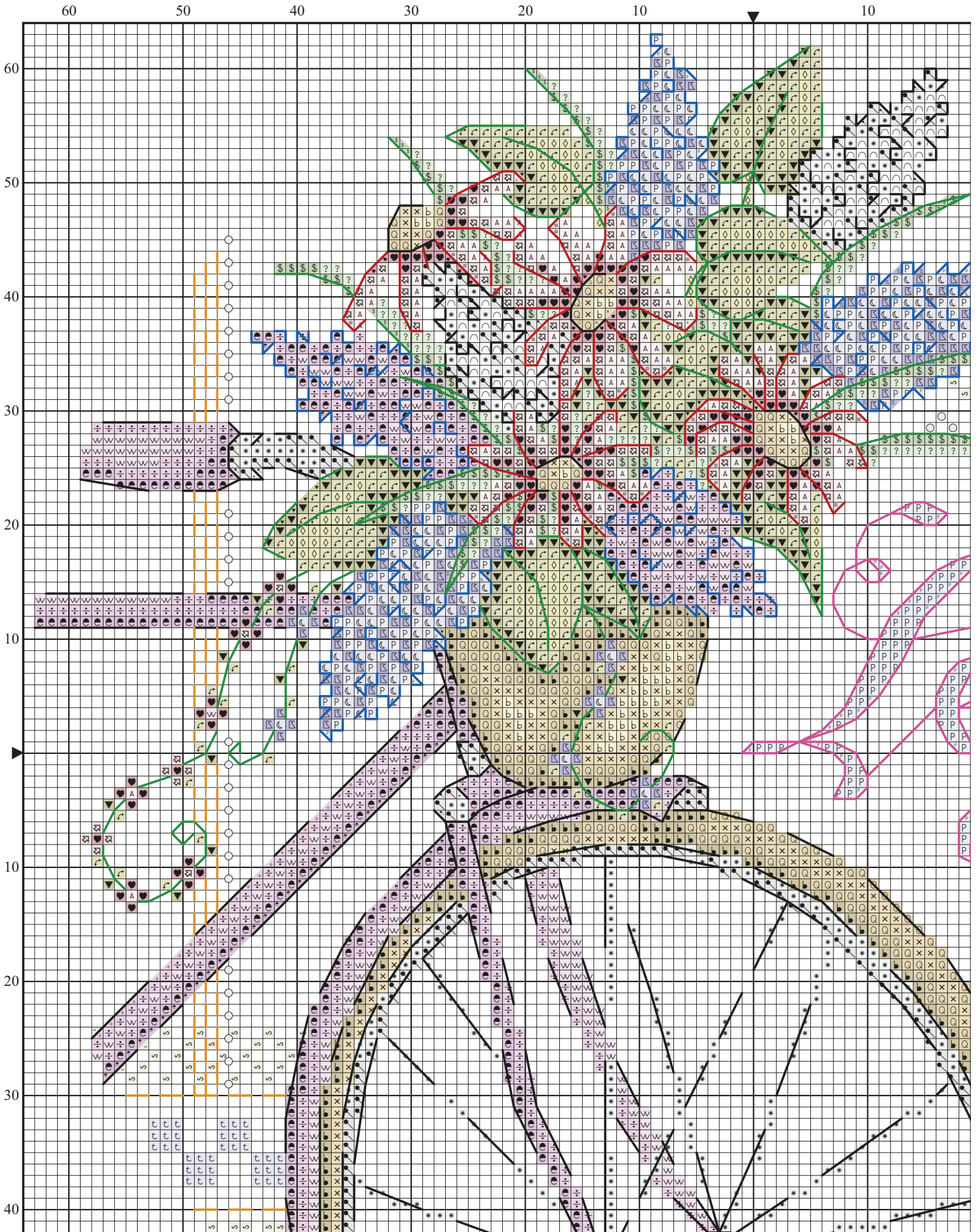
stitch tip
A natural wooden hoop is the perfect frame to complement this design

Bicycle hoop

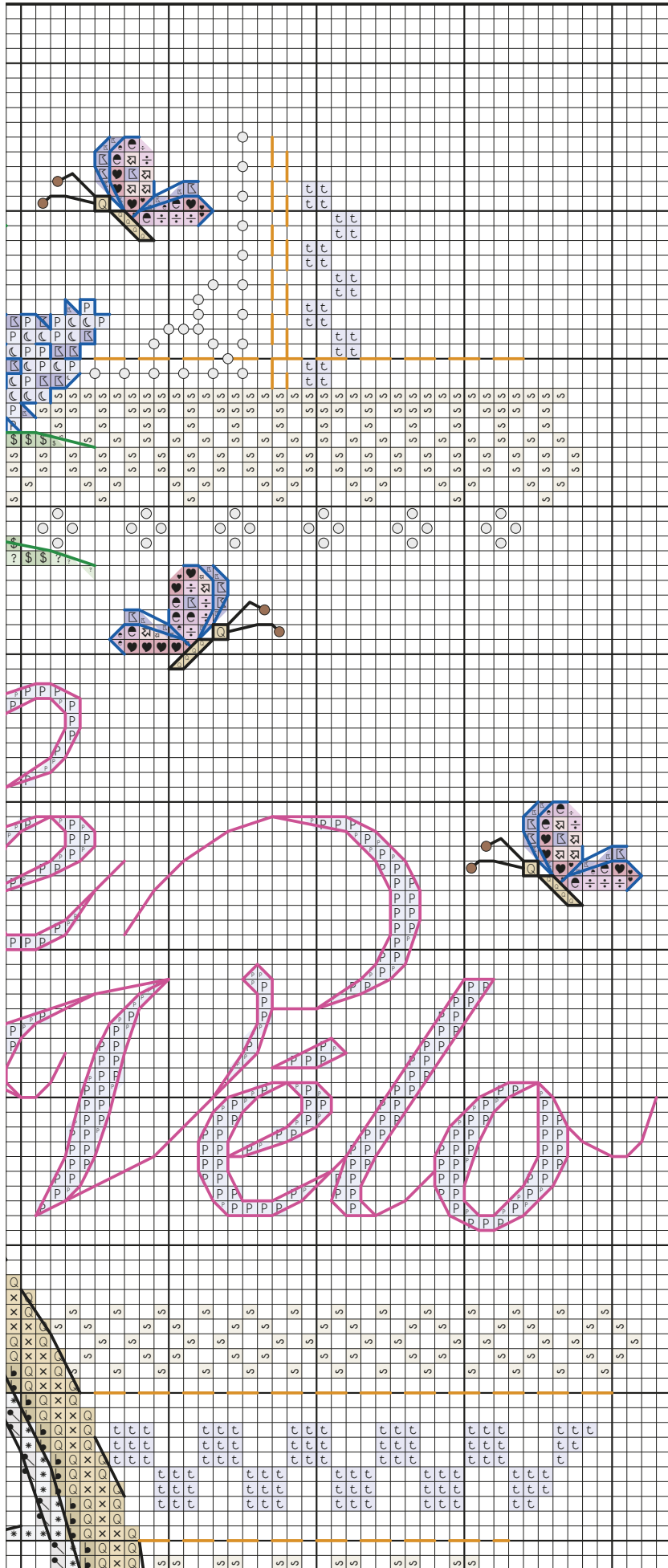
This beautiful design offers a little taste of Paris in the springtime



Bicycle hoop



Top left



Le vélo bicycle key

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	blanc	2	2402	white
☞	151	73	404	pink
w	153	103	2712	lilac
P	157	120	907	light blue
☛	415	398	1802	grey
b	420	374	2104	dk hazelnut brown
x	422	943	2102	lt hazelnut brown
▼	469	268	1503	dark green
☞	471	266	1501	green
◇	472	253	1414	light green
●	553	98	712	mauve
÷	554	90	711	light mauve
b	677	886	2207	sand
*	762	234	1804	light grey
☞	793	176	906	blue
A	818	23	502	light pink
\$	912	209	1213	mint green
?	954	203	1207	light mint green
♥	3733	75	605	dark pink
☾	3747	128	901	very light blue
Q	3828	373	2103	hazelnut brown

✕ Cross stitch in one strand of each

s	blanc	2	2402	white
	822	390	1908	cream
t	157	120	907	light blue
	3747	128	901	very light blue

✕ Backstitch in one strand

—	150	59	508	very dark pink
—	792	177	905	dark blue
—	793	176	906	blue
—	838	380	2005	brown
—	935	861	1505	very dark green

✕ Backstitch in two strands

—	157	120	907	light blue
---	-----	-----	-----	------------

✕ French knots in one strand

○	blanc	2	2402	white
●	838	380	2005	brown

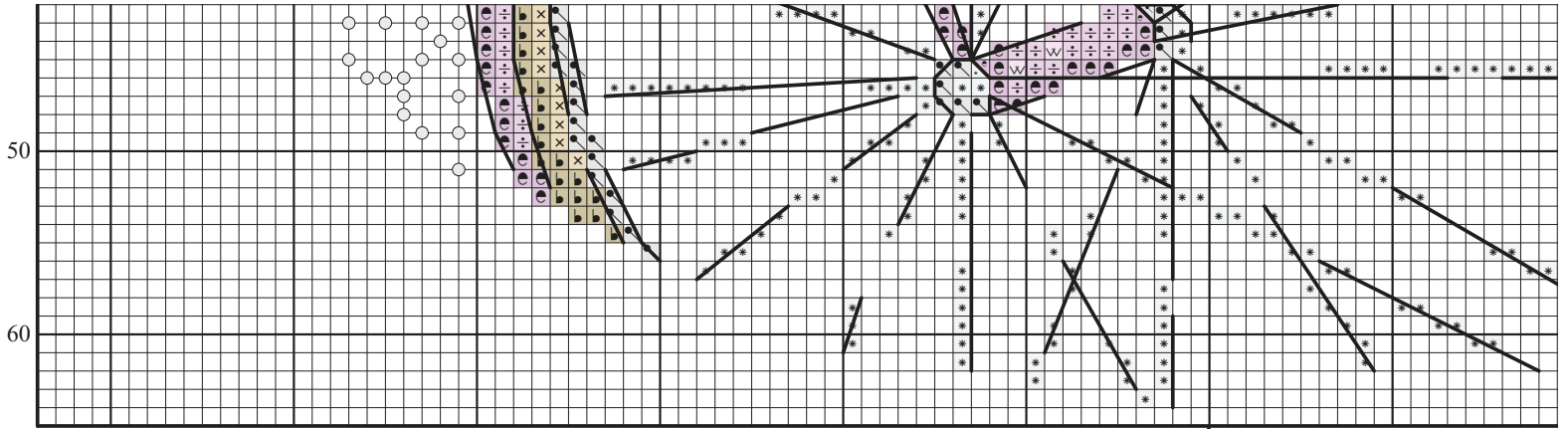
STITCH COUNT 127 high x 126 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 23x23cm (9x9in)

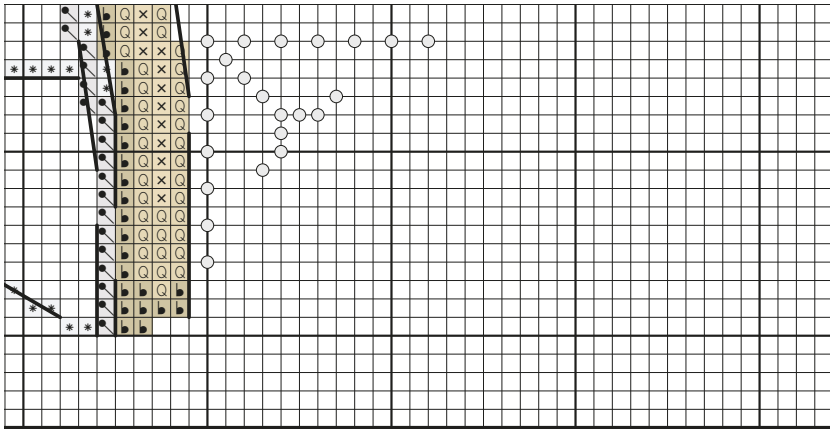
This design was stitched using DMC stranded cotton on 28-count evenweave over two threads of the fabric



Bicycle hoop



Bottom left



Bottom right

"I absolutely love this bicycle design – my favourite elements are the flowers, which are just so realistic and colourful!"

Abi Barker, Charting Editor



Durene Jones' Designer Secrets

A little French fancy

The wording 'Le vélo' offers an additional emphasis on the continental theme of this design, and its swirly, handwritten style aims to complement the pretty stitched images alongside the wording. Backstitch in blue thread helps the letters to stand out perfectly against the muted background of the light mocha cashel linen.



A flurry of French knots

I've used lots of French knots in this design, which help to create the definition and texture of the pattern that surrounds the bicycle and wording. Seed beads can be substituted if you really hate French knots, but the matt texture of thread will work better with the style of this design than sparkly beads, so if you're able to make French knots it will really add to the overall look of the finished piece.

Coming soon in *Cross Stitch Gold*

For anyone who's a fan of Durene's work (so that'll be all of us, then!), the next issue of *Cross Stitch Gold* features a gorgeous 'welcome to our home' sign that we just can't wait to stitch. We're going to have to though, as issue 136 (US 60 May/June) won't be on sale until 14th February 2017. Don't miss it!





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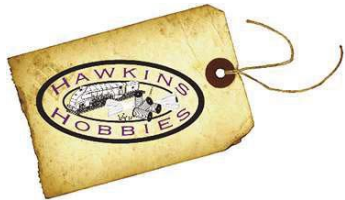
Cheerful CROSS STITCH



From a young age, I have been interested in colour, fabric, and wool. My designs of animals and birds are very well suited to cross stitch as it brings my ideas to life in a simplified and fun manner.

Cross stitching with chunky wool is so much fun, because it enhances both colour and shape... *I love it!*

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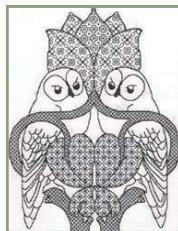


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Field of *dreams*

Bring the sunshine streaming into your home when you stitch this glorious summer scene, featuring a tranquil girl collecting wildflowers in a colourful poppyfield



Meet the designer Susan Bates

Well-loved embroidery designer Susan creates cross stitch charts for a range of craft magazines and has also produced several cross stitching books. She loves the diversity that comes with working as a cross stitch designer, and the fact that it allows her to spend her days working on something she loves!

“This scene is densely stitched but you’ll be surprised how quickly it builds – especially if you thread several needles with a few different colours first”

Stitcher’s guide

The field of poppies design is stitched on 14-count white aida using 31 shades of stranded cotton. It uses cross stitch and fractional stitches in two strands of thread, with backstitch definition in one strand. This piece is suitable for intermediate stitchers.

How to stitch the poppy field

- 1 Find the centre of your fabric by folding it in half both horizontally and vertically. Follow the arrows on the chart to find its centre and start stitching from here, working your way outwards.
- 2 Work the cross stitch using two strands of cotton. For every tiny symbol you see on the chart, work a fractional stitch.
- 3 Add the backstitch in one strand of thread.
- 4 Check over your stitching and prepare for making up.

You will need

FABRIC Zweigart 14-count white aida measuring 43x39cm (17x15¼in)

THREADS Stranded cotton as listed in the key

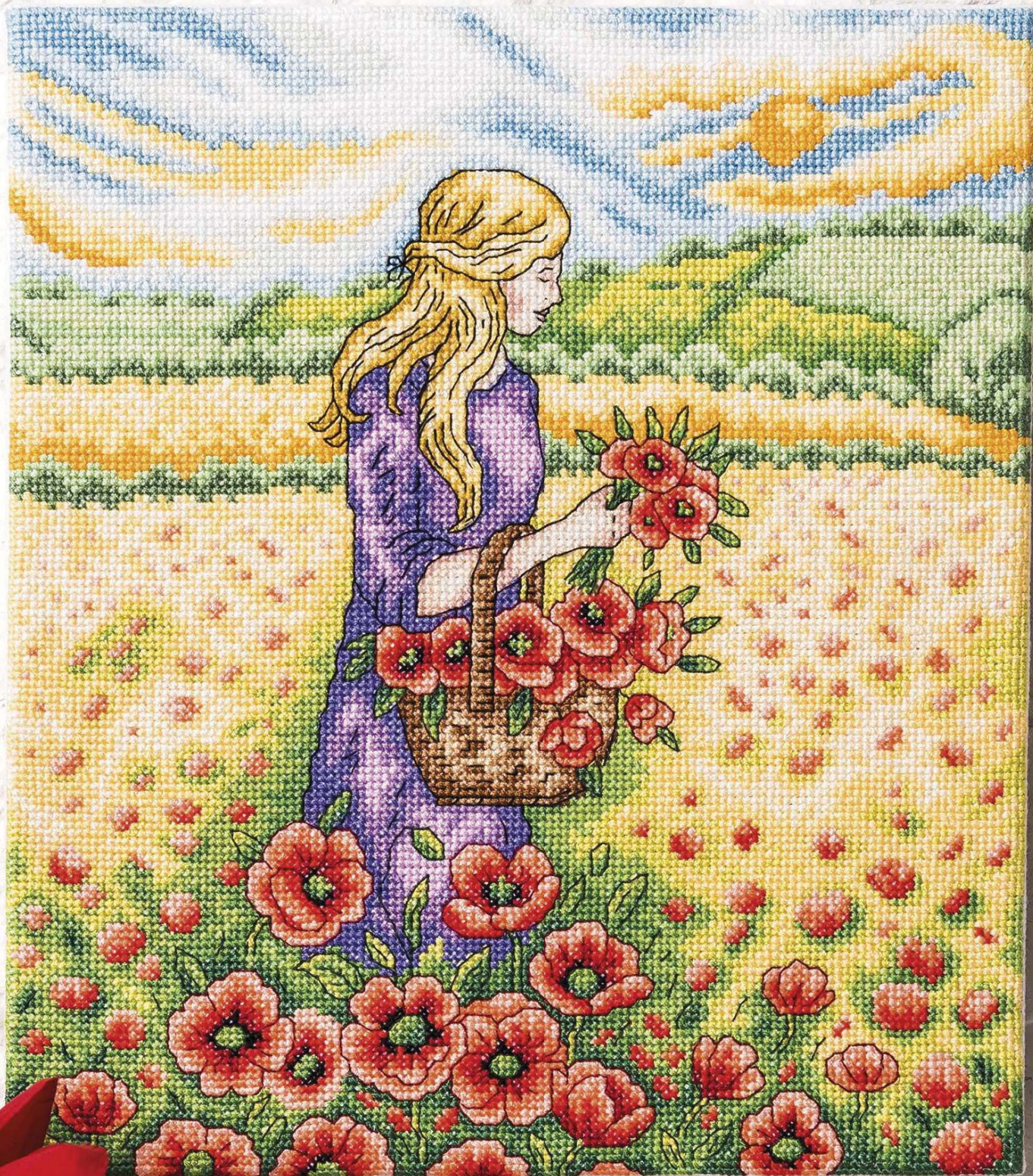
NEEDLE Size 24 tapestry needle

EXTRAS White mount board cut to size

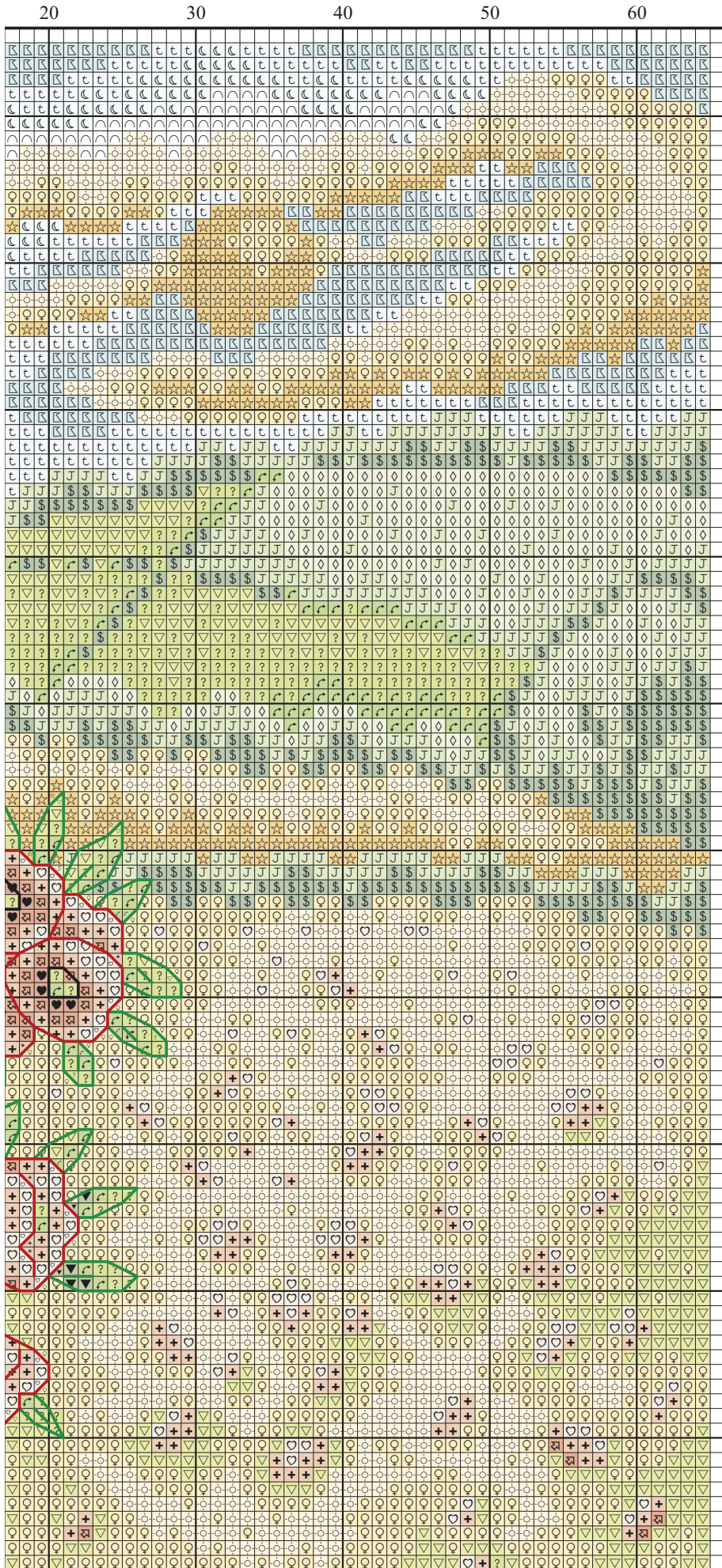
FOR STOCKISTS’ DETAILS turn to page 59

stitch tip

For extra sparkle, green seed beads in the poppy centres would look great



You can almost feel the warmth of the golden sun in this cheerful scene



Top right

Poppy field key

✦ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	blanc	2	2402	white
I	153	103	2712	light lilac
t	162	9159	1101	light blue
J	164	240	1209	light green
÷	209	98	803	lilac
■	310	403	2400	black
\$	320	215	1311	green
♥	321	9046	510	red
◇	369	1043	1309	very light green
♣	434	310	2009	brown
Q	436	1045	2011	light brown
▼	505	210	1312	dark green
⊠	519	1038	1105	blue
⊞	606	334	209	bright orange
↻	702	226	1306	leaf green
?	704	255	1308	light leaf green
∞	712	926	2101	light cream
x	738	367	2013	cream
☆	742	303	114	tangerine
♀	744	301	112	yellow
☺	951	1010	2308	light peach
+	3340	329	301	apricot
⦿	3746	1030	2702	purple
∩	3756	1037	2504	baby blue
3	3779	868	2605	peach
▽	3819	279	1610	lime green
♣	3820	306	2509	straw
☼	3823	386	2512	light yellow
♡	3824	8	302	light apricot

✦ Backstitch in one strand

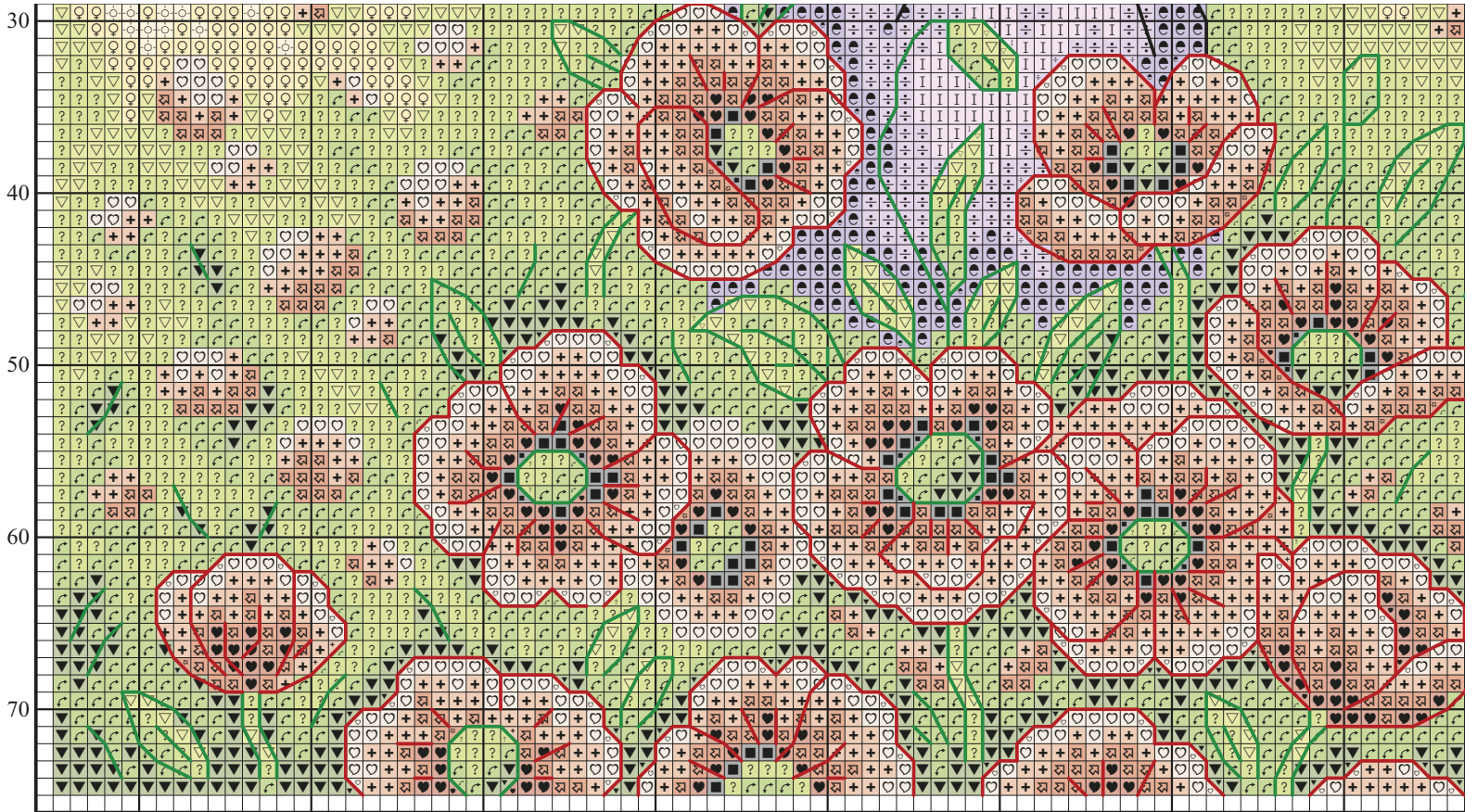
—	310	403	2400	black
—	500	683	1705	very dark green
—	815	44	513	dark red

STITCH COUNT 150 high x 130 wide
DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 27.5x23.5cm (10¾x9¼in)
SKEINS NEEDED 2x744 (yellow), 2x3823 (light yellow)
 This design was stitched using DMC stranded cotton

"I love Susan's joyous design. It would make a great gift for a friend who's been feeling low – all the vibrant colour bursting from this scene can't fail to boost your mood!"

Fiona Baker, Technical Editor

Poppy field



Bottom left



Susan Bates' Designer Secrets

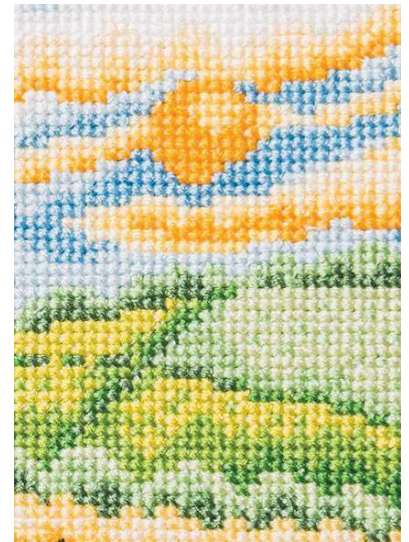
Finish your greens

With eight different shades of green thread used in this design, you can achieve a great level of naturalism on the countryside in this scene. However, it also means it can be more difficult to keep track of which shade you're meant to be using. Take your time and always stitch in a good light to ensure you get the right colours in the right places!



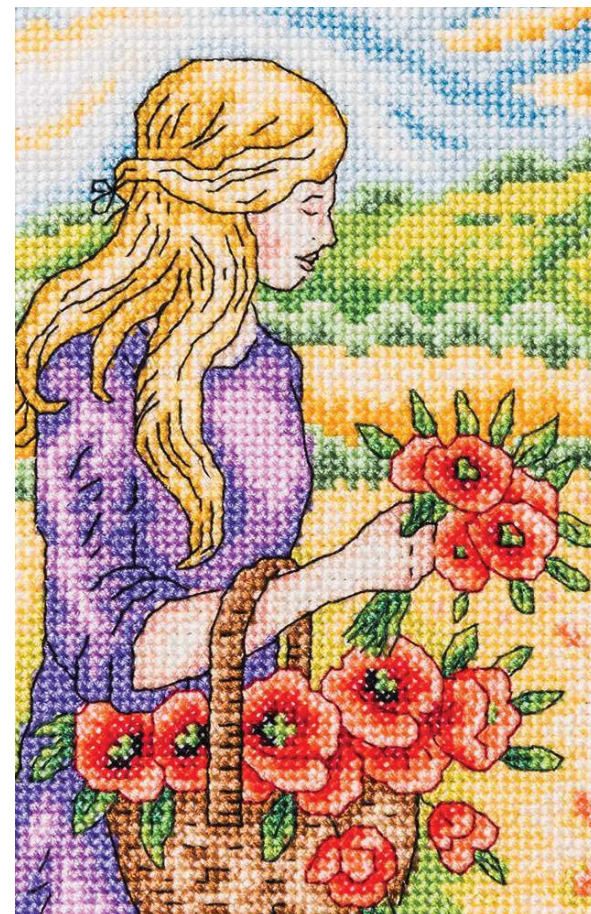
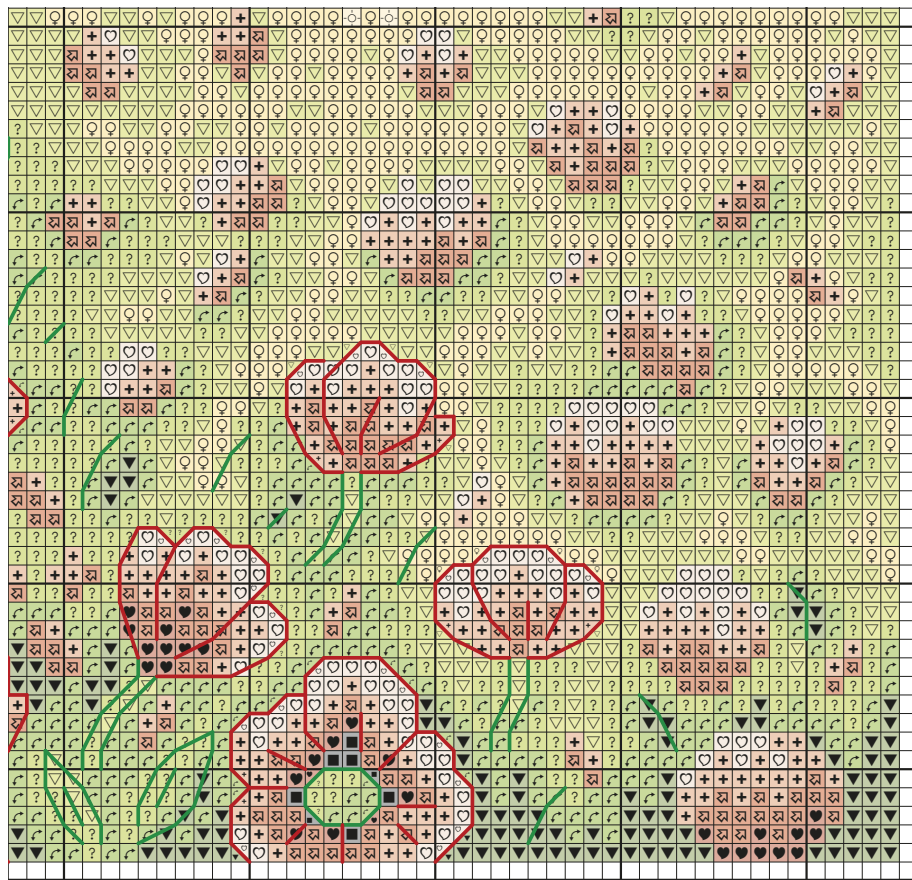
It's in the detail

This picture really comes to life when you add the backstitch detail. There's not a huge amount of it, but it adds essential definition to the girl and the poppies in the foreground to create the focal point of the scene and add a sense of depth. It's especially important to take care when working the backstitch around her face, so you can get her peaceful expression just right.



"If you don't want to mount this as a canvas, it would also look great in a coloured frame that complements the design."

*Zeena Moolla,
Acting Editor*



Bottom right

How to mount your work as a canvas

1 Cut your mount board to the size of the stitched piece. Lay the stitching right side up on the white side of the board. Once you're happy with the positioning of the fabric, push a line of pins down each side into the board.

2 Check your stitching is lined up, then trim the fabric, leaving a 5cm (2in) border. Fold the excess over the back of the board. Thread your needle with a long length of crochet cotton, knot the end and lace two opposite sides together on the back. Start at one end and work in an 'under-and-over' motion. When you reach the other end, adjust the laced threads one by one, before finishing off.

3 Repeat this process on the two remaining edges. Fold down the corners and stitch in place, then remove the pins, and your work is complete!



Coming soon in *Cross Stitch Gold*

For anyone who enjoys working on this design, we've got a treat for you coming up in the next issue of *Cross Stitch Gold*. This farmyard cottage by Joanne Aston is a delight to stitch; an atmospheric country idyll filled with colourful flowers, an ambling stream and a few greedy ducks! Look out for this stunning design in issue 136 (US 60 May/June) of *Cross Stitch Gold*, on sale from 14th February 2017. Find out how to subscribe on page 26.





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QA Ask the experts

Send your questions to zeena@cross-stitching.com or Ask the experts, *Cross Stitch Gold*, 2nd Floor, Tower House, Fairfax St, Bristol BS1 3BN

THE EXPERTS



JO BENNER

Jo is an experienced stitcher and crafter, who writes for several cross stitch magazines. She can help with chart queries and stitching know-how, as well as product questions.



FIONA BAKER

Fiona is the Technical Editor for *Cross Stitch Gold* and our sister magazines. She is a talented cross stitch designer, too, and can answer any of your stitching queries.



SARAH TREVOR

Sarah has worked on cross stitching and craft magazines for over six years. She's an avid stitcher, and is ready and raring to help you with any of your craft or cross stitch dilemmas.

MAGNETIC APPEAL

Q I've seen some magnetic pottery pin dishes on the internet but I'm not sure if they would work. Surely they should be made of some sort of metal? If it is possible, I would love to know how to make them myself as I have a few saucers that have lost their cups!

Christine McGowan, Northampton

A Jo: It's very easy to magnetise your own pottery – simply stick

(with very strong glue) one or two thin magnets to the bottom of your saucer so that they fit flush or inside the rim bit. Alternatively, you can buy flexible A4 magnetic sheets on the internet that can be cut and stuck to the inside or the outside of your saucers. Try it with melamine or plastic as well. For readers who don't have spare china and would like to buy a lidded magnetic pin dish (£5.45) especially for stitching, go to www.cottontailcrafts.co.uk



This magnetised pin dish is great for picking up pins

FLUFFING UP

Q I'm stitching a design with navy blue thread on white fabric and the thread is getting very fluffy – I'm not sure how to rectify it. Can you help?

Pam Long, Sheffield

A Fiona: There could be a couple of reasons for this. Your thread could be too thick for the size of the hole, in which case you may need to stitch with fewer strands. It could also be that you're using cheaper thread, which can be thicker than the major brands because of the amount of dye used. I would suggest using a major brand like DMC or Anchor

HAVE A HEART

Q I theme my sitting room to each season or festivity by using different cushions. So far for Valentine's Day I've only changed the cushions to red but I'm aiming to stitch a cushion (or two) as I'm having a party that day. Can you find me a cushion chart or kit that I can work up quickly?

Marina Hewson, Cambridge

A Fiona: I often use ready-made cushions and attach a piece of cross stitch to the front. You don't have to stitch a big project, just make some little hearts and add one to the centre of each cushion with a decorative running stitch. Remove the hearts after the party and you'll have a blank canvas for another festivity. If you do have time to make a cushion or want to make a special one for next year, this Geometric Rainbow Heart kit is a good choice. The kit costs £60 and has all you need to make the front panel. To buy online go to www.jacquip.com

This cushion isn't just for Valentine's Day!



in future; but, as you've already started, you'll probably have to carry on in the same way as you began. Try using Thread Heaven on them for smoother, less fluffy stitching. You can buy Thread Heaven for £2.49 from www.amazon.co.uk – it really is a wonder product as it helps your thread to glide through the fabric and also prolongs the life of your work by protecting it from mildew and UV rays. Go to



Thread Heaven is great for hand or machine sewing

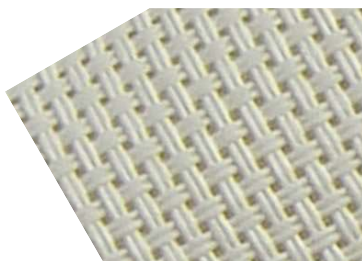
www.threadheaven.com to see how it works and what it does!

FLEXIBLE FABRIC

One of my friends has given me a cross stitch chart that would look fabulous made up as a clutch bag. I am going to line it but I wasn't sure whether to use ordinary aida or a different type of fabric like evenweave. Which sort of fabric would be best?

Sarah Clarke, Loughborough

Jo: I think the answer is vinyl aida. It can be used for a variety of projects, including bags. The advantage is that it's flexible and can be



Vinyl aida is sturdier than aida and more flexible than plastic canvas

cut, shaped or folded and you can use it just like ordinary aida. The range of projects you can use it for is endless. It doesn't fray, so it's perfect for tablemats, gift tags, decorations and wine bottle covers. Go to www.stitcher.co.uk to buy a piece of vinyl aida (£4.40) measuring 46x30cm. Each piece arrives rolled up, so there are no pesky fold-lines!

CUTTING EDGE

I love cross stitch and usually make my designs into cards with bought aperture cards.

A friend has just given me some aperture cutters so I can have a go at making my own cards. I realise I need a good craft mat but I'm not sure which to buy.

Nina Bowen, Chichester

The Hougie Board will help you towards card perfection!



Fiona: Self-healing cutting mats are easy to use and buy from most craft shops, but you may like to try the Hougie Board, which is invaluable for cutting card or fabric. Unlike most cutting boards it has both imperial and metric measurements, so you can choose which suits you best. Scorers are extra at £3.95 for three; they're not needed for fabric but are essential for paper and card. To buy the Hougie Board for £24.95 go to www.hougiecrafts.com or call 01536 762434.

PASSION FOR POLDARK

My cross stitching group are all mad on *Poldark* and can't wait for the next series. As we have loads of fabric and threads between us, we'd love some charts featuring the show, but we don't know if there are any.

Mabel Crossley, by email

Sarah: You're in luck, Mabel! *Stitch Poldark* is a book containing six designs featuring the characters and scenery from the series. You can buy the downloadable book from www.sewandso.co.uk for £8.99, or in paperback form from www.amazon.co.uk. As there is a group of you that will be clamouring over the designs, I would suggest buying the downloadable version as you can print out the charts and enlarge them to a size that suits the stitcher, and you won't all be fighting for the same design! For stitchers who would prefer a kit, you'll find all the designs

TRIUMPH BONNEVILLE

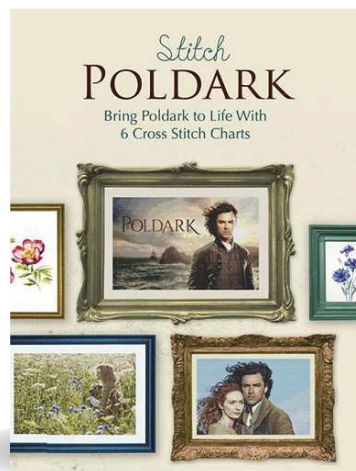
Can you possibly help me to find a kit or a chart for a vintage Triumph Bonneville? It's my dad's retirement soon and as I can't run to buying him his favourite bike I thought I'd stitch him a picture!

Evelyn John, Cardiff

A Sarah: If you head to www.biker-gifts.co.uk you will find all

sorts of Bonneville-themed presents, including this cross stitch kit, which measures 25.5cmx16.5cm (10x6.5in). It costs £22 and all you need to stitch it is in the kit. This design would look great framed and up on the wall!

Find all sorts of motorbike items at www.biker-gifts.co.uk



You'll find *Poldark* jigsaws as well as cross stitch kits and charts at www.sewandso.co.uk

from the book, kitted up at £34.99 each, available from www.sewandso.co.uk

IT'S PERFECTO!

My aunt's hands shake a little when she is threading a needle, but despite this, she can stitch easily. She still stitches little beaded cross stitch designs so the biggest problem is threading

the beading needle. Can you recommend a good needle threader for her, please?

Barbara Miller, Reading

Jo: The Perfecto Automatic Needle Threader has two slots – for thick and thin needles – so all your aunt's sewing needs should be covered. All you do is put the needle into the relevant slot, drape the thread over the machine, press a button and the needle is threaded. If you would like to see how it works you can see a video demonstration at www.perlesandco.co.uk where you can also buy the needle threader for £5.30.

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This must-have selection features over 200 fabulous floral charts to ensure your collection of cross stitch flowers is complete!

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Inside this issue:

- * Don't miss out on popular designer Margaret Sherry's fun animals with flowers cards
- * Make a magnolias card and gift for Mother's Day
- * Stitch a set of Tiffany windows cards filled with bright florals and butterflies
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Retail *therapy*

You'll be the envy of the high street when you hit the shops with this colourful jute bag design by Poppy Benner!



Meet the designer **Poppy Benner**

Talented designer Poppy is the brains behind Tapestry Barn, which offers a selection of fun needlepoint and cross stitch charts and kits, sold via Etsy. She also designs cross stitch charts for various magazines, specialising in colourful and contemporary patterns that are a delight to stitch.

"You don't need many colours to complete this design, but those that I've chosen complement one another well. I hope you enjoy this project – do send a photo when you've finished as I'd love to see your work!"

Stitcher's guide

This shopping bag is stitched on 14-count white aida using 13 shades of stranded cotton. The design uses whole cross stitches in two strands of thread and French knots, also in two strands. It is suitable for intermediate stitchers.

How to stitch the jute bag

- 1 Find the centre of your fabric by folding it in half both horizontally and vertically. Follow the arrows on the chart to find its centre and start stitching from here, working your way outwards.
- 2 Work all the cross stitches using two strands of cotton.
- 3 Add the French knots, also using two strands of cotton. There are six different shades of thread used for these.
- 4 Check over your stitching and prepare for making up. See page 42 for details of how to mount on your jute bag.

You will need

FABRIC Zweigart 14-count white aida measuring 40x50cm (15¾x19½in)

THREADS Stranded cotton as listed in the key

NEEDLE Size 24 tapestry needle

EXTRAS Jute shopper bag of your choice from local stores, with a front panel measuring a minimum of 32x40cm (12½x15¾in)

FOR STOCKISTS' DETAILS turn to page 59

stitch tip

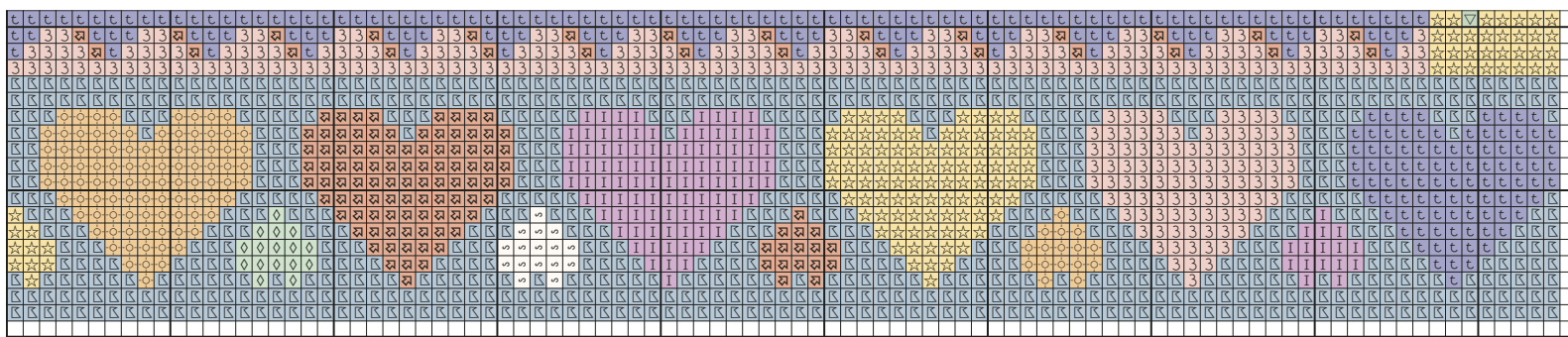
Choose a single stitched floral panel from this design to make up as a card





Hit the shops in style with this fantastic design from Poppy





Bottom right

Shopping bag key

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
s	ecru	926	2404	cream
t	336	149	1007	navy blue
I	552	99	713	mauve
v	605	1094	613	light pink
x	666	46	210	red
y	727	293	112	yellow
z	741	304	202	orange
☆	743	302	113	dark yellow
z	826	146	906	blue
P	828	975	1101	turquoise
3	899	38	506	pink
v	911	205	1214	dark green
4	913	204	1212	green

✕ French knots in two strands

○	ecru	926	2404	cream
●	336	149	1007	navy blue
●	666	46	210	red
●	741	304	202	orange
●	743	302	113	dark yellow
●	899	38	506	pink

STITCH COUNT 135 high x 189 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 24.5x34.5cm (9¾x13½in)

SKEINS NEEDED 3x**ecru** (cream), 3x**336** (navy blue), 2x**743** (dark yellow), 2x**826** (blue), 2x**899** (pink)

This design was stitched using DMC stranded cotton



stitch tip
If you like, you can change the colours of this design to your own choice!

Coming soon in *Cross Stitch Gold*


Here's a sneaky peek at Carol Thornton's gorgeous lighthouse scene, which appears in the next issue of *Cross Stitch Gold*. This fabulous view across the ocean is singing with colour and movement, from the swirling sky to the crashing waves! Look out for this satisfying project, which is coming up in issue 136 (US 60 May/June) of *Cross Stitch Gold*, on sale from 14th February 2017. Find out how to subscribe on page 26.



“Remember to check the key before you start stitching, to ensure you have enough skeins of thread to complete the design – some shades require more than one!”
Fiona Baker, Technical Editor

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Bobbin' along

During cold winter days there is nothing more cheering than spotting the flashy red of a little robin as he bobs along. Now you can stitch your own with this adorable kit from Bothy Threads. Designed by Hannah Dale it comes with 14-count Zweigart aida with a printed speckled background, pre-sorted stranded cottons, a needle, stitch diagram and instructions. To buy, visit www.bothythreads.com or call 01900 828844.



We have 10 Jolly Robin kits worth £27.49 each to give away! The text keyword is GOLD135ROBIN. See the blue box below for entry details.

Cheeky chappie

Stitching this handsome West Highland White Terrier in a flowery meadow is the perfect way to spend a cosy evening! Adapted from a painting by Leslie Stones, this gorgeous Westie design is available from Heritage Crafts. The kit comes with Zweigart fabric, DMC stranded cottons sorted onto numbered cards, a needle, clear charts and instructions. Visit www.hcrafts.com or call 01889 575256 to buy yours.



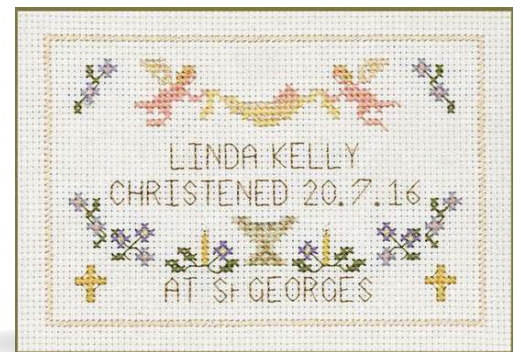
Or, we have 10 kits of The Scamp to give away, worth £25.75 each! The text keyword is GOLD135WESTIE. See the blue box below for entry details.

Super samplers

Can you resist this christening sampler in gentle colours, complete with cheeky cherubs? You can personalise it with the name of the church, the date and name of the child, too. This design is part of the Decorative Textiles range that has joined with Lifetime Samplers to create a new collection of sampler and card kits celebrating life's happy events. The range covers births, marriages and anniversaries, as well as verses and family trees. To buy this, and for 260 other gorgeous designs, log on to www.lifetimesamplers.co.uk or call 0115 940 6968.

£251
in prizes
to win!

We have 23 Small Christening Samplers worth £10.95 each to give away! The text keyword is GOLD135SAMPLER. See the blue box below for entry details.



For all occasions

You'll have all occasions covered with these fabulous card kit bundles from Mouseloft. Each card kit contains 14-count Zweigart aida, DMC threads, a needle and full, easy-to-follow instructions, plus a mounting card and envelope for that professional finish! From birthdays to anniversaries, Easter to Christmas, you can stitch your best wishes and send them to friends and family alike. To buy a card kit (usually around £2.89 each) visit www.mouseloft.co.uk

£260
in prizes
to win!

We have nine bundles, each containing 10 card kits, worth £28.90 each! The text keyword is GOLD135CARDS. See the blue box below for entry details.



The closing date for entries is 13th February 2017.

Enter online: Visit www.cross-stitching.com

Enter by text: Text the KEYWORD followed by your name and email/postal address to 87474. Texts cost 25p plus your standard network rate.

Enter by post: Write your name and address on a postcard marked with the name of the giveaway you wish to enter, then send it to:
Cross Stitch Gold 135, Immediate Media Company Bristol Ltd, 2nd Floor, Tower House, Fairfax Street, Bristol BS1 3BN.

Our rules: UK only. Prizes will be dispatched within 28 days of judging. There are no cash alternatives. Employees of Immediate Media Company Bristol Ltd and contributing companies are not allowed to enter. The judges' decision is final. A list of winners is available upon request. We will use the details you have supplied to gain a better understanding of our magazine readership. By entering a giveaway you are agreeing to receive details of future offers and promotions from Immediate Media Company Bristol Ltd and related third parties. If you do not want to receive this information, please add the words NO INFO at the end of your text or write NO INFO on your postcard.

Bank rose rabbit

This glorious little creature is an absolute joy to stitch, worked in a selection of rich, natural shades and all ready to hop into your home!

stitch tip
Use the loop method to start your thread, to keep the back much neater



Meet the designer Carol Thornton

Watercolour artist Carol sketches and paints her gorgeous works of art before turning them into cross stitch designs. She creates charts for various magazines and has attracted legions of fans who love her distinctive style of artwork, which translates beautifully into cross stitch.

“My rabbit design is a celebration of the British countryside and its wildlife. It features a host of hedgerow flora and, of course, the focal point: a sweet bunny nestling in the foliage!”

Stitcher's guide

This rabbit design is stitched on 28-count white evenweave using 28 shades of stranded cotton. It uses whole cross stitches and fractional stitches in two strands, as well as backstitch, longstitch and French knots in one strand of thread. The design is best suited to experienced stitchers.

How to stitch the rabbit design

- 1 Find the centre of your fabric by folding it in half both horizontally and vertically. Follow the arrows on the chart to find its centre and start stitching from here, working your way outwards.
- 2 Work the cross stitch over two threads of the fabric using two strands of cotton. For any tiny symbols you see on the chart, work a fractional stitch.
- 3 Add the backstitch and longstitch in one strand of grey thread.
- 4 Add the French knots using one strand of dark straw thread.
- 5 Check over your stitching and prepare for making up.

You will need

FABRIC Zweigart 28-count white evenweave measuring 36x40cm (14¼x17¾in)

THREADS Stranded cotton as listed in the key

NEEDLE Size 26 tapestry needle

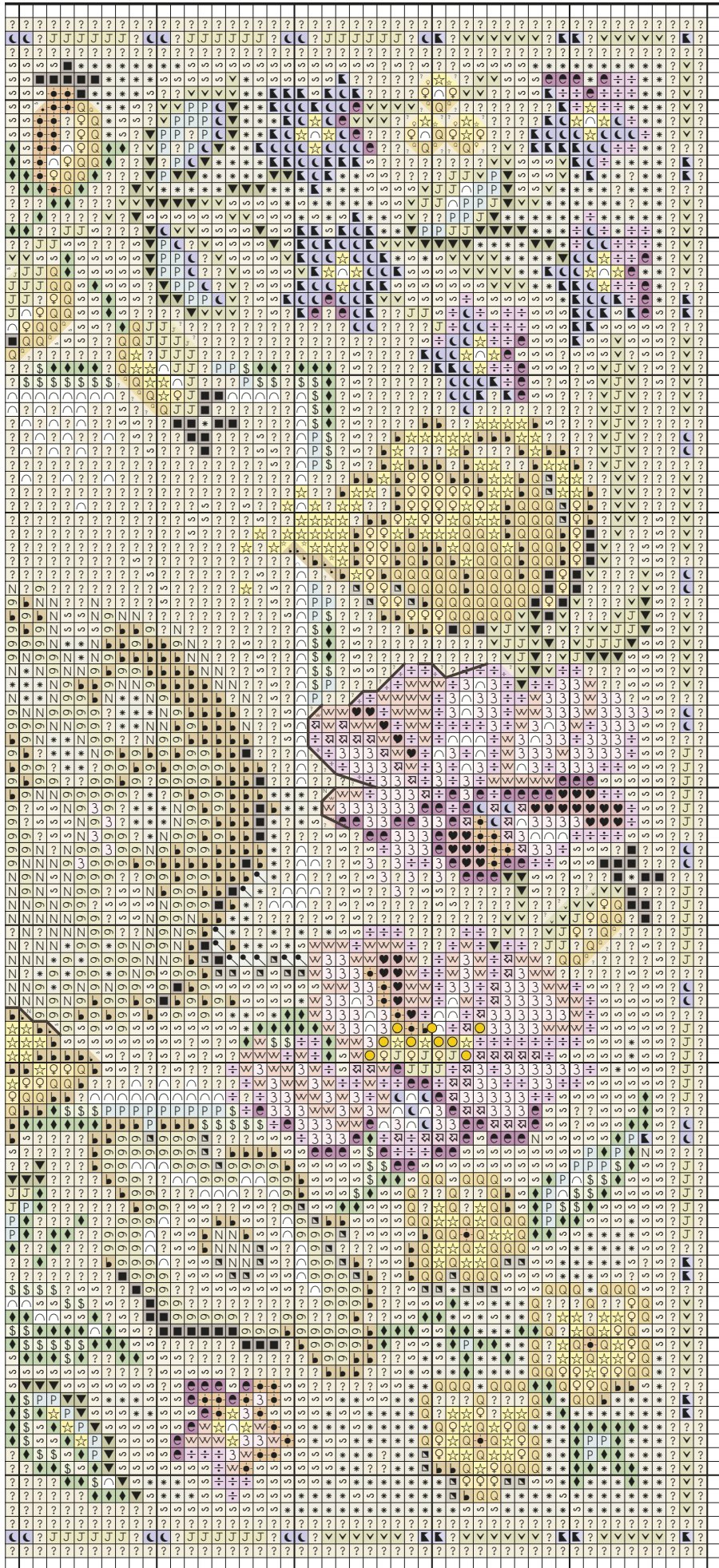
EXTRAS Frame of your choice with a minimum aperture of 22.5x27.5cm (10¾x9¼in)

FOR STOCKISTS' DETAILS turn to page 59

This adorable fellow makes an ideal project for fans of the countryside



20 30 40 50 60 70



Rabbit key

✦ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
☆	307	289	104	yellow
☾	341	117	901	purple
◆	367	217	1312	dk almond green
§	368	214	1310	almond green
∇	471	266	1501	moss green
J	472	253	1414	light moss green
*	644	830	1814	stone grey
■	646	8581	1812	ash grey
☛	648	900	1803	dark ash grey
?	712	926	2101	cream
w	760	1022	405	salmon pink
3	818	23	502	baby pink
■	844	1041	1809	grey
●	922	1003	2306	copper
∇	3011	845	1607	olive green
s	3033	391	1908	beige
b	3045	888	2103	dark straw
o	3046	887	2206	straw
N	3047	852	2205	light straw
☞	3689	49	607	pink
P	3761	928	1001	sky blue
■	3807	122	2702	blue
Q	3820	306	2509	gold
♀	3822	295	2511	light gold
♥	3832	38	604	raspberry pink
e	3834	101	2609	dark violet
÷	3836	90	2713	violet
∩	3865	2	2403	natural white

✦ Backstitch in one strand

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

✦ Longstitch in one strand

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

✦ French knots in one strand

●	3045	888	2103	dark straw
---	------	-----	------	------------

STITCH COUNT 112 high x 140 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 20.5x25.5cm (8x10in)

SKEINS NEEDED 2x3033 (beige), 3x712 (cream)

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



Gardening kits

We've a bumper crop of kits for green-fingered stitchers in this issue, with everything from artistic projects to humorous designs



Bright and beautiful

GARDENING SAMPLER (BK1459), DMC, £28.95

What's in the kit

- Black and white chart
- 14-count white aida
- DMC stranded cotton
- Tapestry needle

Size of finished design

25x33cm (9¾x13in)

Stitching this kit

This is a treat for anyone who loves their garden, whether it's you or someone special to you. It features 12 garden-themed motifs, including flowers sitting in all kinds of rustic pots, and even a cute gnome! Each motif on the sampler can be treated as a project in its own right, making this more relaxing than most large pictures. You may even decide to stitch some images on their own afterwards, as projects for cards and smaller gifts. Most of the detail in this kit is brought about by shading and colour, rather than the use of complex stitches. It's aimed at intermediate stitchers, but experienced stitchers will still find it a joy. Something to stitch in between more complicated designs, perhaps.

Where to buy

Visit www.sewandso.co.uk or call 0800 013 0150 to buy this kit.

Wildflower heaven

WATERING CAN (PN-0007950), Lanarte, £31.98

What's in the kit

- Black and white chart
- 30-count white linen
- DMC stranded cotton
- Tapestry needle

Size of finished design

36x36cm (14x14in)

Stitching this kit

This kit has transformed Marjolein Bastin's work into cross stitch beautifully and as with all Lanarte kits, this exudes luxury. Packaged in a solid cardboard box, the contents are wrapped in tissue paper and on opening, it feels like the start of something special. The fabric *can* be a challenge for stitchers who are used to aida, but it will become second nature in no time. You may benefit from



regular breaks, as the fine weave of the fabric can take its toll on your eyes, though they'll have it easy studying the chart, which is printed on two huge A2 sheets.

Where to buy

Visit www.thehappycross-stitcher.com or call 01325 240192 to buy.

How does your garden grow?

BUTTERFLY WATERING CAN (017-0106), Janlynn, £18.95

What's in the kit

- Black & white chart
- 14-count white aida
- Stranded cotton
- Tapestry needle

Size of finished design

35.5x28cm (14x11in)

Stitching this kit

The watering can is perhaps the most iconic item in a gardener's collection, for it holds the elixir of life for plants and flowers. This summer scene by Christine Graf is full of vivid colour, much of it worked in blocks – which will make this large design come to life quicker than you'd think. We normally recommend that stitchers complete all of the cross stitch

on a design before starting the backstitch.

However, you might prefer to work this design in sections, completing the cross stitch and backstitch before moving onto another area. The chart is very clear, so most stitchers should find this a straightforward – and cheerful – project to follow.

Where to buy

Visit www.sewandso.co.uk or call 0800 013 0150 to buy this kit.



Sow the seeds

RAIN BARREL AND WINDOW BOX (017-0110), Janlynn, £16.95

What's in the kit

- Black and white chart
- 14-count white aida
- Stranded cotton
- Tapestry needle

Size of finished design

35.5x28cm (14x11in)

Stitching this kit

There's so much to enjoy in this spectacular scene, it seems that each time you look you'll see something new. Whether it's the great tit perched on the rain barrel, waiting to take a drink, or the butterfly fluttering into the distance, there is lots of detail here. You can imagine the gardener appearing at any minute to scoop water from the rain barrel, transforming the scene, as the bird flaps away. Maureen McCarthy's design uses cross stitch and backstitch. Most of the backstitch is



worked in one strand and three shades, with a small amount worked in two strands, and pale brown to make the reflection on the handle of the trowel. It's a kit most stitchers will enjoy; the challenge being in the size of the design, rather than the type of stitches used.

Where to buy

Visit www.sewandso.co.uk or call 0800 013 0150 to buy this kit.

Seasons in the sun

FOUR SEASONS COLLAGE (PN-0007961), Lanarte, £68.82

What's in the kit

- Black and white chart
- 27-count ivory evenweave
- DMC stranded cotton
- Tapestry needle

Size of finished design

52x63cm (20½x24¾in)

Stitching this kit

This charming sampler is filled with the wonder of the seasons. Top left is spring with daffodils, crocuses and butterflies, then there's a house sparrow perched on a vintage metal watering can, flanked by a basket of strawberries for summer.

Next, for autumn, a border of nuts and berries for a squirrel to enjoy then, finally, a group of garden birds searching for food in the snow. Cross stitch, backstitch and French knots are used, as are satin stitches for the squirrel's whiskers. Diagrams for the stitches are given. Although Marjolein Bastin is highly



regarded for her artwork, you may prefer to leave her name from the design, possibly replacing it with something else.

Where to buy

Visit www.thehappycross-stitcher.com or call 01325 240192 to buy.

Win these kits!

We're giving you the chance to win all these kits, worth £195! To enter, text GOLD135GARDEN to 87474* or send your name and address on a postcard to: Garden kits giveaway, *Cross Stitch Gold 135*, Immediate Media Company Bristol Ltd, 2nd Floor, Tower House, Fairfax Street, Bristol BS1 3BN by 13th February 2017. *Texts will be charged at 50p plus your standard network rate. Turn to page 45 for terms and conditions.

His haven

MAN CAVE (CRMV1256), Heritage Crafts, £29.99

What's in the kit

- Black and white chart
- 14-count white aida or 27-count evenweave
- DMC stranded cotton
- Tapestry needle

Size of finished design

20x30cm (8x11¾in)

Stitching this kit

For something a little less serious, Man Cave is a great choice. Created by Peter Underhill for Heritage Crafts, it's a fun design with lots of quirky detail. You can get the kit with your choice of 27-count evenweave or 14-count aida. Cross stitch in both one and two strands helps to give the design a 'busy' feel, as do the blended cross stitches. Fractionals add further life and detail. There is one chart for the cross stitch and another for the backstitch – four nice, clear A3 charts in total.

Where to buy

Visit www.hcrafts.com to buy.



Flight of the butterflies

Make your home a haven for some fluttering friends with these butterflies on a bright buddleia plant – stitch the design to create a truly special cushion



Meet the designer Fiona Baker

Fiona has always had a passion for art and design from an early age, and loves the creativity in her role as Technical Editor for *Cross Stitch Gold*, as well as our sister magazines *Cross Stitch Crazy* and *The World of Cross Stitching*.

“I’ve tried to make these butterflies as realistic as possible, basing them on real species. I think this helps to give the cushion added interest, especially for nature lovers! If you don’t want to make the design into a cushion, it would also work well as a framed picture.”

Stitcher’s guide

This butterfly design is stitched on 28-count cream evenweave over two threads of the fabric using 30 shades of stranded cotton. The design uses whole cross stitches and fractionals in two strands, and backstitch and French knots in one strand. It is recommended for experienced stitchers.

How to stitch the cushion

- 1 Find the centre of your fabric by folding it in half both horizontally and vertically. Follow the arrows on the chart to find its centre and start stitching from here, working your way outwards.
- 2 Work the cross stitch over two threads of the fabric using two strands of cotton. Where you see a tiny symbol on the chart, work a fractional stitch.
- 3 Add the backstitch and French knots in one strand of thread.
- 4 Check over your stitching and prepare for making up (see page 57 for step-by-step instructions on making your cushion).

You will need

FABRIC Zweigart 28-count cream evenweave (3270/264) measuring 48x48cm (18¾x18¾in)

THREADS Stranded cotton as listed in the key

NEEDLE Size 26 tapestry needle

EXTRAS Cushion pad to fit and backing fabric of your choice from local stores

FOR STOCKISTS’ DETAILS turn to page 59

stitchtip
A natural wood frame makes a great alternative to mounting this as a cushion

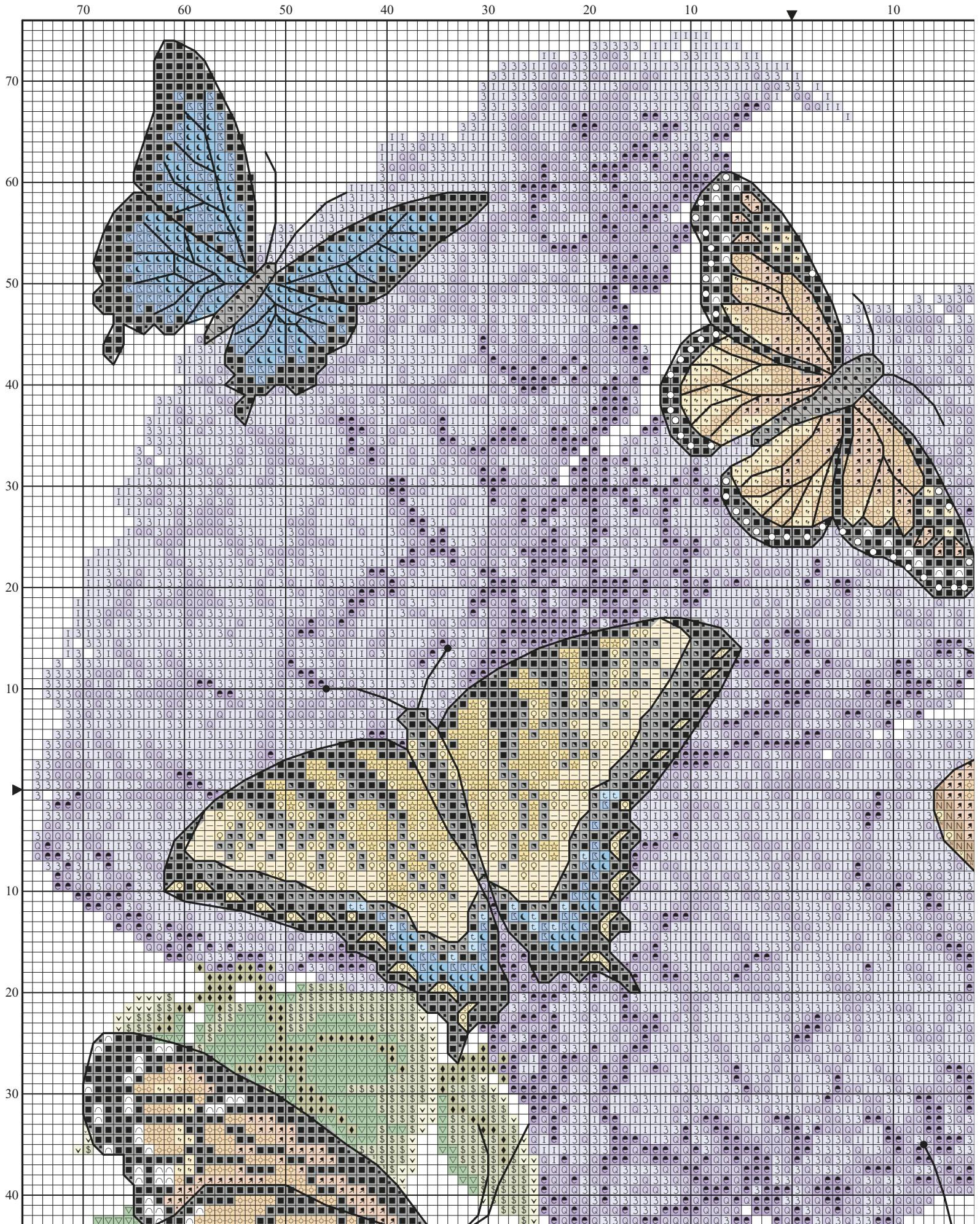


Butterfly cushion

This cushion will look perfectly at home on any comfy sofa!

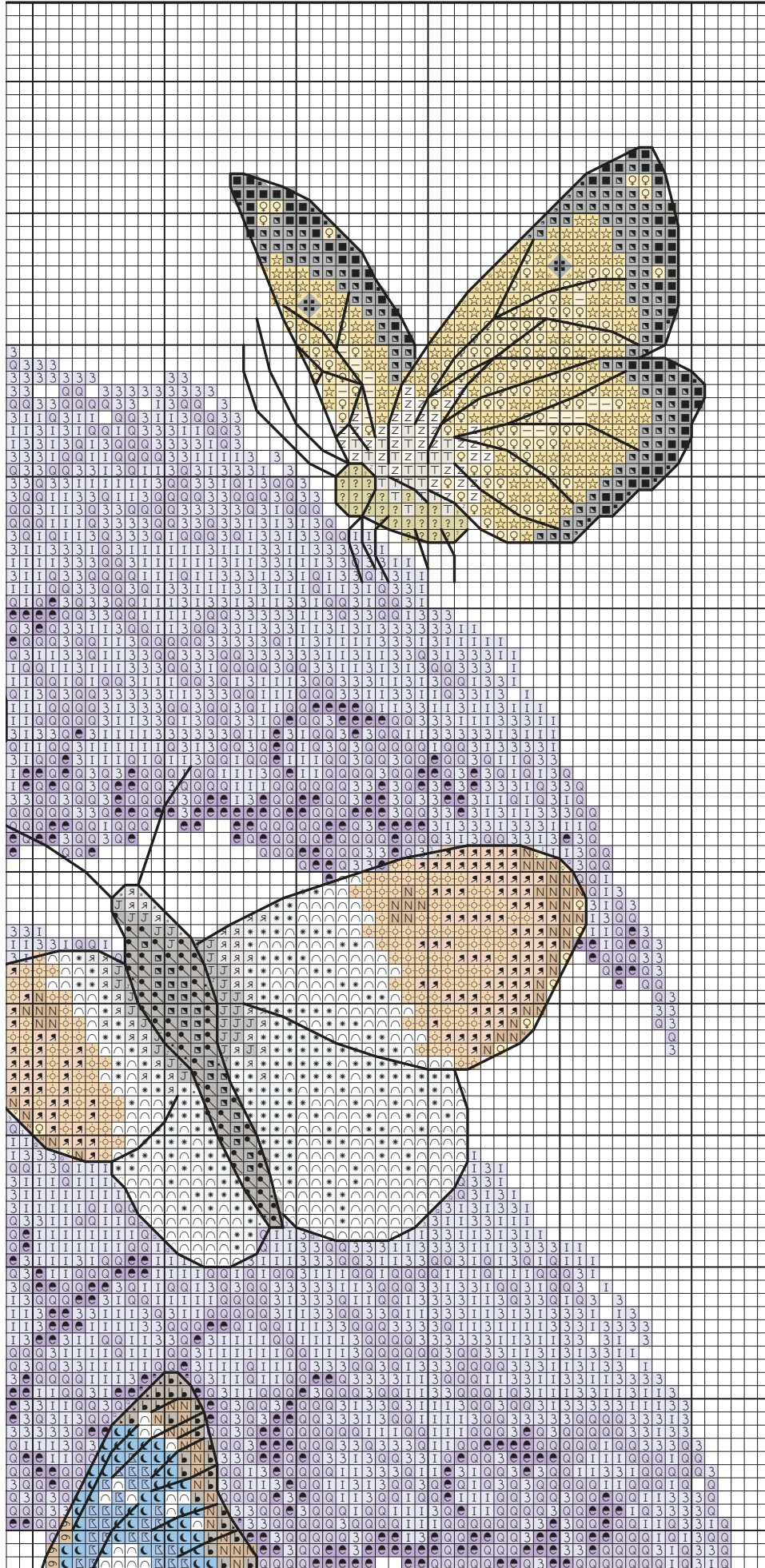


Butterfly cushion



Top left

20 30 40 50 60 70



Butterfly cushion key

✂ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	B5200	1	2401	white
Z	ecru	926	2404	cream
■	310	403	2400	black
■	317	400	1714	dark grey
■	333	119	903	dark purple
■	340	118	902	purple
■	341	117	901	light purple
■	414	235	1809	grey
■	415	398	1802	light grey
■	433	357	2602	dark tan
■	434	310	2009	tan
■	435	1046	2010	light tan
☆	743	302	113	dark yellow
♀	744	301	112	yellow
—	745	300	111	light yellow
*	762	234	1804	very light grey
∨	772	259	1604	lettuce green
∇	988	243	1402	dark green
§	989	241	1401	green
☾	995	410	1102	dark electric blue
t	996	433	1105	light electric blue
?	3023	899	1813	stone grey
T	3024	900	1814	light stone grey
◆	3346	267	1407	grass green
I	3747	120	909	very light purple
■	3799	236	1713	very dark grey
■	3843	1089	1103	electric blue
■	3853	1003	311	dark copper
☉	3854	313	114	copper
☉	3855	311	2513	light copper

✂ Backstitch in one strand

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

✂ French knots in one strand

○	B5200	1	2401	white
●	310	403	2400	black

STITCH COUNT 150 high x 150 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 27x27cm (10¾x10¾in)

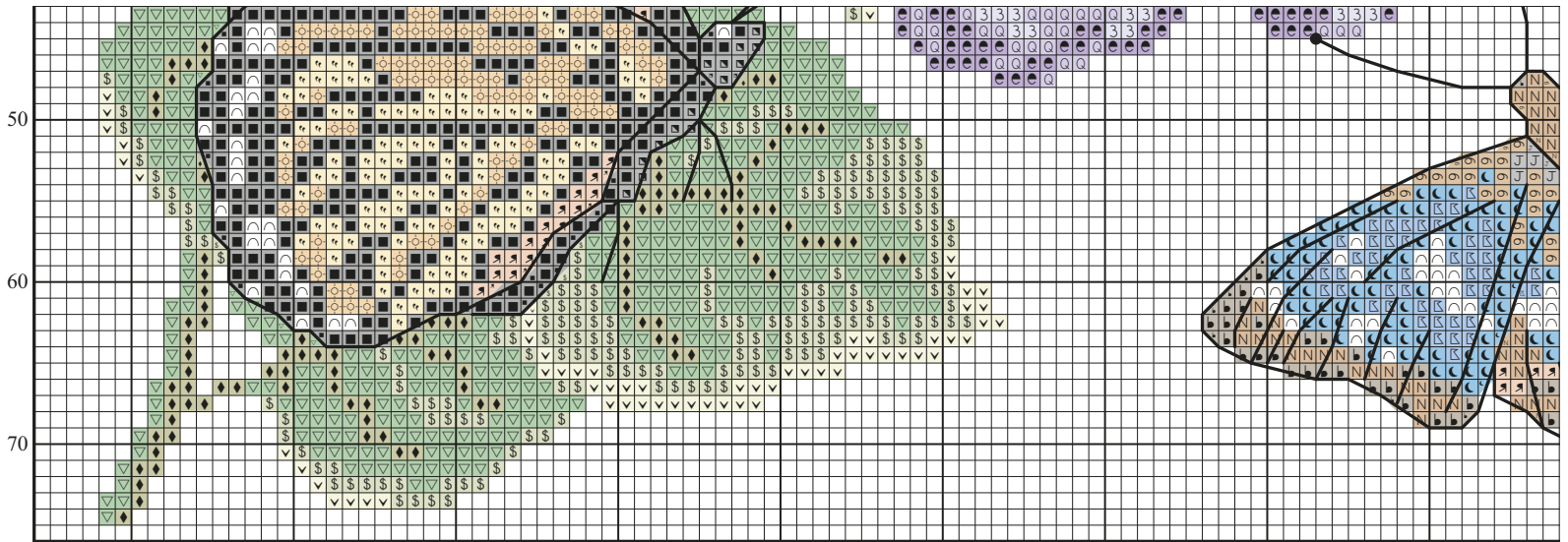
SKEINS NEEDED 2x340 (purple), 2x341 (light purple), 2x3747 (very light purple)

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

“If you’re short of time, try stitching just your favourite butterfly to create a simple but effective birthday card for a special friend.”

Abi Barker, Charting Editor

Butterfly cushion



Bottom left



Fiona Baker's Designer Secrets

Purple reign

The various shades of purple used in this design are vital to achieving the realistic look of the buddleia, though I admit they can be a bit of a headache! There are four shades used for this plant so make sure you don't get them mixed up! Good daylight (or a Daylight lamp) is a must, and it's also a good idea to take regular breaks and not stitch when you're tired and more likely to make mistakes. Please do email us a photo of your beautiful finished design – I'd love to see your work!



Back to black

In these designs black thread doesn't just add essential detail and outline through the backstitch, it is also used to important effect in the cross stitches themselves. Black stitches add striking detail and a delicate 'veined' effect to some species' of butterfly in this design. It is especially effective when used next to the oranges of the Monarch butterfly and the yellows of the Swallowtail.



stitch tip
Iron out any creases in your fabric before you start stitching

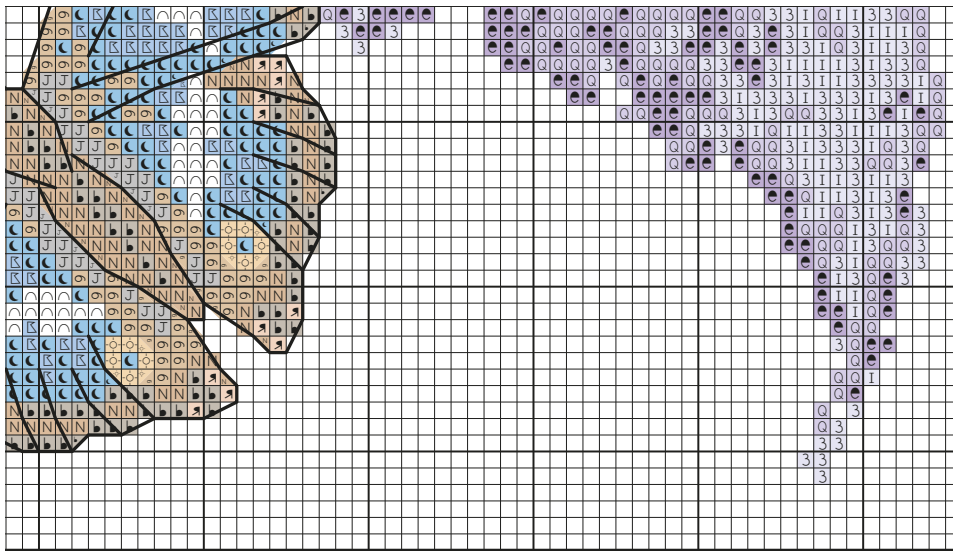
How to keep the back of your work neat

To avoid a mess of threads at the back of your work, thread your needle neatly through the back of other stitches to secure it when you're starting and finishing off. When starting a new area of colour, don't leap from one area to another – instead, finish off neatly then start again, securing your thread with the first few stitches. When using two strands you can use the loop method, which is a neat and tidy way to start your thread.



"I'm so impressed with how Fiona has captured these butterflies – they look so lifelike!"

Zeena Moolla, Acting Editor



Bottom right



“The gentle purples used for the flowers in the background contrasts so well against the strong colours of the butterflies, giving the design a lovely sense of depth.”

Heather Nugent,
Charting Assistant

Signing off

Show pride in your work by discreetly signing it at the bottom, using a thread that's a few shades darker than the fabric.

How to make up the cushion

- 1 Trim the stitched piece so that it measures 42cm (16½in) square, making sure the design is in the centre of the fabric.
- 2 Cut two pieces of fabric measuring 42x28cm (16½x11in) for the envelope-opening back panel. Pin and sew a 1cm (½in) double hem along one long edge of each piece and press.
- 3 With right sides facing, pin one back panel at the top of the cushion and one at the bottom, so that the two pieces overlap each other.
- 4 Pin and sew all the way around the edge of the cushion, using a 2cm (¾in) seam allowance. Trim the corners, then turn through to the right side and press.
- 5 Sew a straight line of stitching all the way around the cushion, 3.5cm (1¼in) in from the outside edge, to create the Oxford border.
- 6 Finally, insert your cushion pad and get ready to admire your handiwork!

Coming soon in *Cross Stitch Gold*

Here on team *Gold* we love getting our teeth into a good cushion project, and we've got another great one coming up in the next issue of the magazine. Carol Thornton's white cyclamen cushion is truly lovely and will add a stylish, summery touch to any home. It's a real treat for experienced stitchers to tackle. Look out for issue 136 (US 60 May/June) of *Cross Stitch Gold*, which will be on sale from 14th February 2017.



Still to come

Coming soon in *Cross*

Warm welcome

Durene Jones' stylish sampler is a thoroughly satisfying project that will make your guests feel right at home

Issue 136
On sale
14th February
2017 (UK)*



Farm cottage



Celtic angel

Stitch Gold...



Cute cards



Floral cushion



Parrot pair



1920s beauty

Lighthouse scene



Stockist details

Here's your handy directory of the best retailers for cross stitching materials

UK stockists

CHARLES CRAFT

For stockists, visit www.dmccreative.co.uk
Call 0116 2754000

COATS CRAFTS UK

For stockists, visit www.makeitcoats.com
Call 01484 681881

CRAFT CREATIONS

Visit www.craftcreations.com
Call 01992 781900

CRAFT DEPARTMENT

Visit www.craftdepartment.com
Call 01539 823199

DMC CREATIVE WORLD

For stockists, visit www.dmccreative.co.uk
Call 0116 2754000

MADEIRA

For stockists, visit www.eqasuk.com
Call 0116 2710033

SEW AND SO

Visit www.sewandso.co.uk
Call 0800 0130150

US stockists

123 STITCH

Visit www.123stitch.com
Call 1-800-996-1230

ABC STITCH THERAPY

Visit www.abcstitch.com
Call 1-281-205-7507

ARTS CRAFTS USA

Visit www.artscraftsusa.com
Call 1-866-621-7779

JULIE'S X STITCH

Visit www.juliesxstitch.com

A bunch of love

Is your mum one in a million? Show her how much you care on Mother's Day with a handstitched floral card from this fragrant selection...



Meet the designer Fiona Baker

Fiona has always had a passion for art and design from an early age, and loves the creativity in her role as Technical Editor for *Cross Stitch Gold*, as well as our sister magazines *Cross Stitch Crazy* and *The World of Cross Stitching*.

"These cards aren't just an ideal way to tell your mum how much you care – they would also make a great greeting for almost any occasion. I think they'd be excellent as thank you cards or even birthday cards, if you don't choose to use them as a Mother's Day project."

Stitcher's guide

These cards are stitched on 28-count white evenweave over two threads of the fabric, using 23 shades of stranded cotton. They are worked in whole stitches and fractionals in two strands of thread, with backstitch definition in one strand. The cards are suitable for intermediate and expert stitchers.

How to stitch the floral cards

- 1 Find the centre of your fabric by folding it in half both horizontally and vertically. Follow the arrows on the chart to find its centre and start stitching from here, working your way outwards.
- 2 Work the cross stitch over two threads of the fabric using two strands of cotton. Where you see a tiny symbol on the chart, work a fractional stitch.
- 3 Add the backstitch in one strand of black thread.
- 4 Check your stitching and prepare for making up.

You will need

FABRIC Zweigart 28-count white evenweave measuring 20x20cm (7¾x7¾in) for each design

THREADS Stranded cotton as listed in the key

NEEDLE Size 26 tapestry needle

EXTRAS Craft Creations scalloped edge single fold cards (SCF06U) in pale yellow (02), purple (05), pink (16) and deep red (18) with hand-cut heart-shaped apertures

FOR STOCKISTS' DETAILS turn to page 59

stitch tip

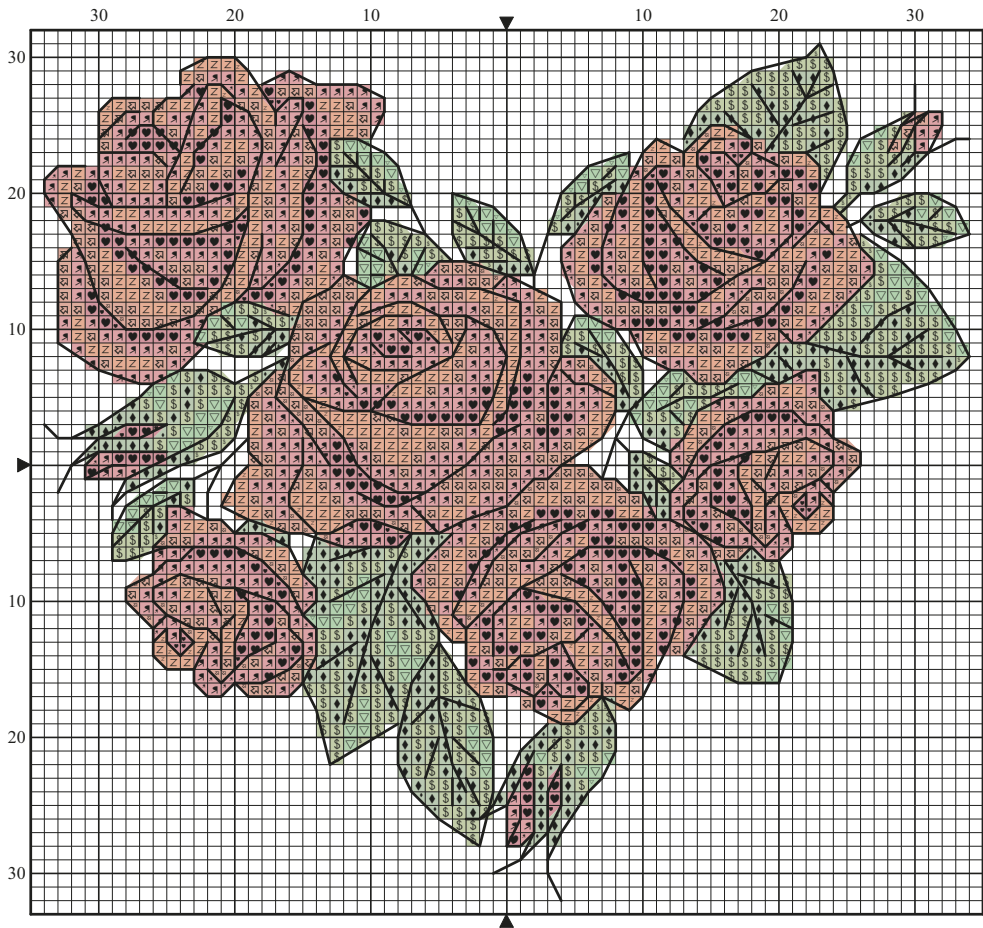
If you give a gift with your card, why not stitch a single flower to make a gift tag?

Mother's Day cards

Red, pink, orange or purple...
choose your mum's favourite
colour and get stitching!



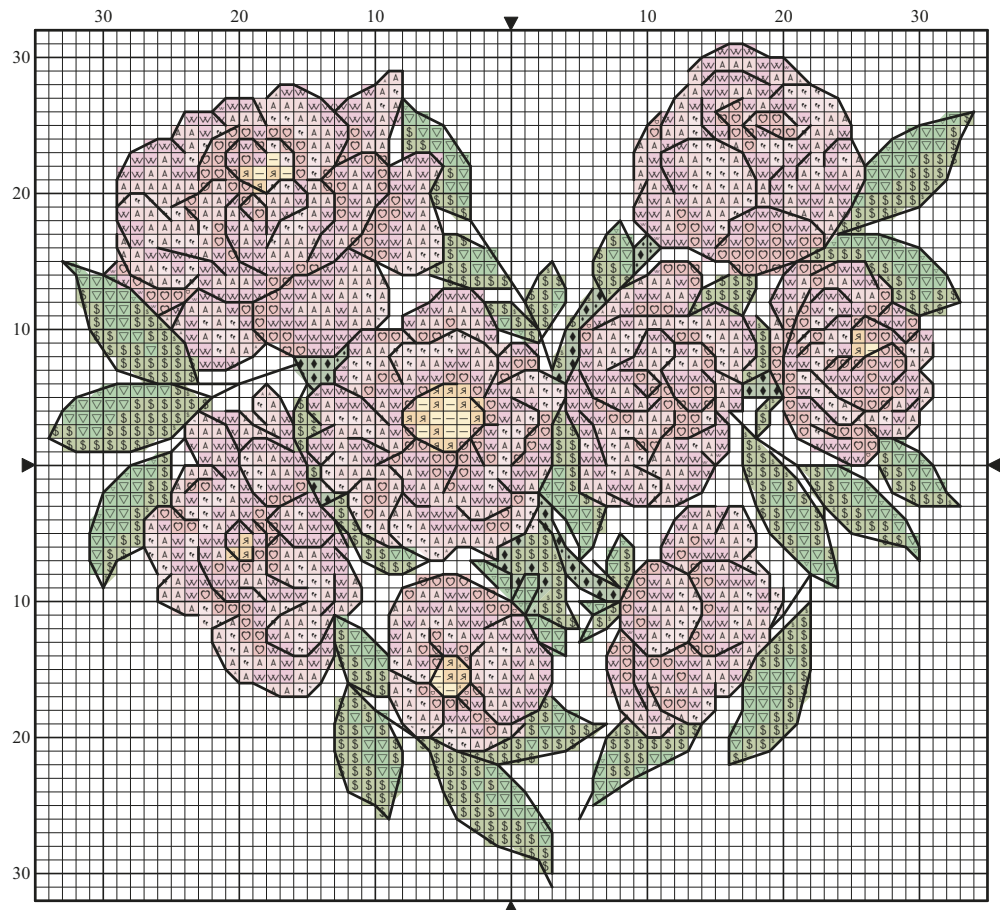
Mother's Day cards



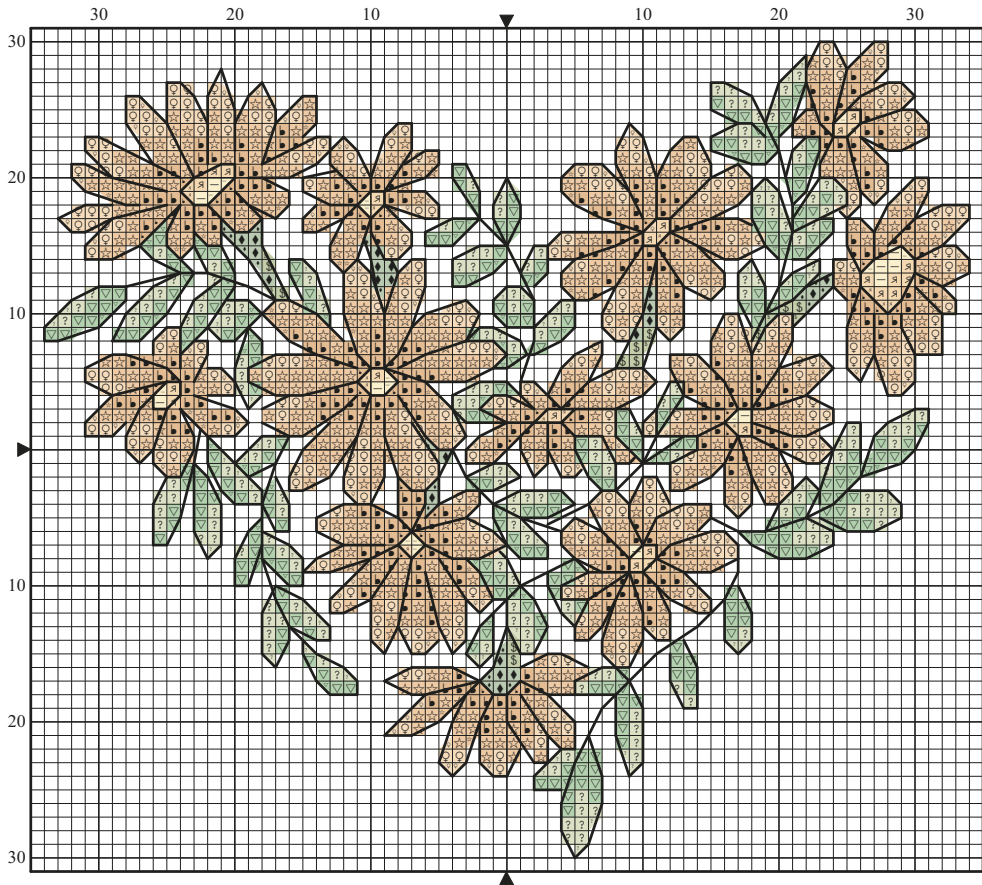
Fiona Baker's Designer Secrets

Shape of my heart

I've designed these Mother's Day floral cards so that they fit perfectly into a heart-shaped mount, though you can also use a plain aperture if you prefer. If you do choose to mount in a heart as we have done on our scallop-edged cards, you'll find some tips across the page that should help get you started.

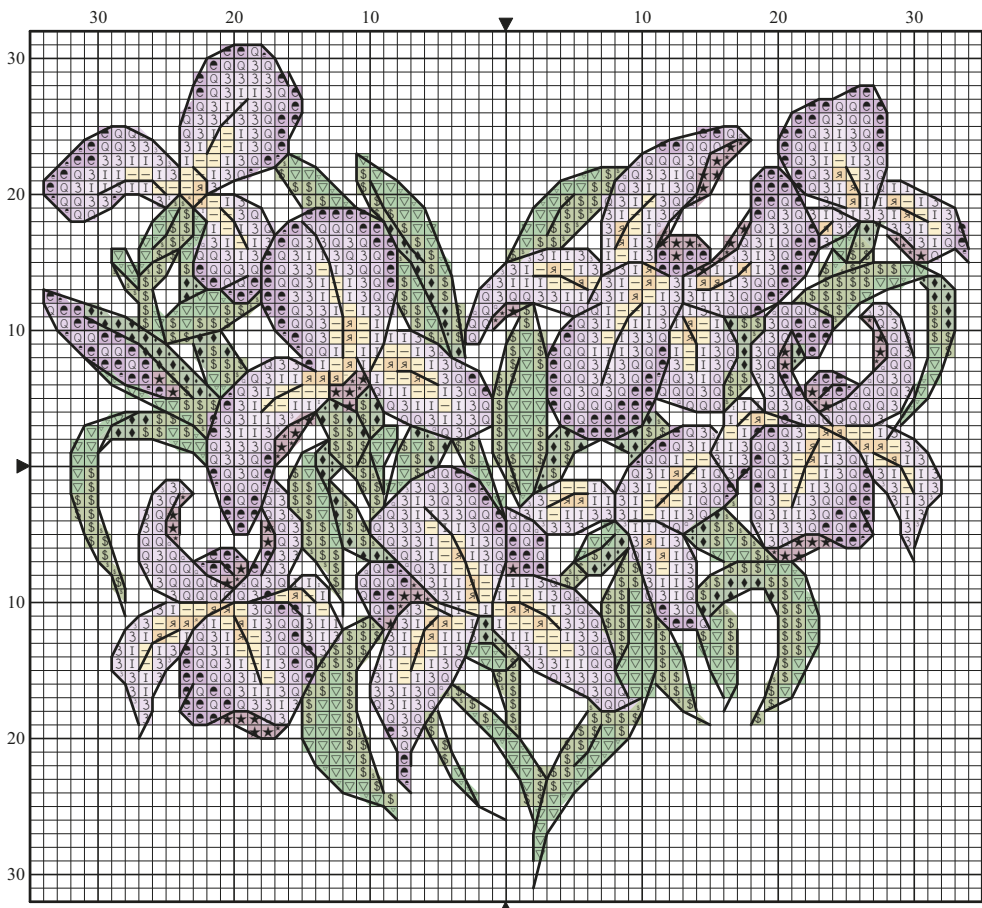


"Why not stitch the set and then you'll always have a pretty card ready when you need one?"
Abi Barker, Charting Editor



"These florals would also look great mounted together in a four-aperture frame!"

Heather Nugent, Charting Assistant



Mother's Day cards key

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
●	208	99	804	dark lilac
○	209	98	803	lilac
3	210	108	802	light lilac
I	211	342	801	very light lilac
■	321	9046	510	dark red
★	327	101	805	mauve
Z	349	1098	212	red
▮	720	326	309	dark orange
☆	721	324	308	orange
♀	722	323	307	light orange
♥	815	44	514	dark ruby
♠	816	1006	513	ruby
♡	961	76	610	dark pink
◊	962	75	609	pink
◊	963	73	502	very light pink
◆	986	246	1404	dark green
§	987	244	1403	green
▽	988	243	1402	light green
?	989	241	1401	very light green
A	3716	25	503	light pink
♠	3854	313	114	apricot
—	3855	311	2513	light apricot

✕ Backstitch in one strand

—	310	403	2400	black
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MAXIMUM STITCH COUNT 63 high x 68 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 11.5x12.5cm (4½x4¾in)

These designs were stitched using DMC stranded cotton on 28-count evenweave over two threads of the fabric



Heart-shaped apertures

Checking for size against your stitching, create a heart template by drawing half a heart on folded paper, then cut out and unfold to form the full shape. Draw around the template on the inside of your card front, then carefully cut out with a craft knife.



FIONA BAKER
Technical Editor

Stitching guide

Use the handy diagrams and basic cross stitch advice on these pages to help you get the most out of the designs in *Cross Stitch Gold*

How to read our charts

All our charts are printed in both colour and symbols. Each square on a cross stitch chart contains a symbol, and each symbol corresponds with one stitch.

The key that accompanies the chart tells you what thread colour each symbol corresponds to, and how many strands to use for each cross stitch, backstitch or French knot. It also gives you the design's dimensions – you'll need these to cut your fabric to size.

The thread numbers listed in the first column of the key refer to the brand that we've used to stitch the design. Conversion numbers for two other brands are given, but they're not always exact equivalents. Avoid mixing more than one brand in the same design. Sometimes you'll need more than one skein of a colour for a design, but there shouldn't be a problem with dye lots if you use the brands quoted in the key.

Each project also includes a shopping list telling you what type and size of fabric to use, what size frame you'll need, and if extra materials are required.

Where to start stitching

Start stitching a chart in the centre of the design – this is the point on the chart where the two black centre lines marked with arrows cross – and work outwards. Refer to the key for the colours to use. To find the centre of your fabric, fold it in half both horizontally and vertically. The centre point will be where these folds intersect. Mark this point with a pin, or run a line of tacking thread along each fold using one strand of a pale colour thread. Bind the raw edges of your fabric to prevent them from fraying while you're stitching by hemming them using a zigzag stitch on your sewing machine, or by folding masking tape over the edges.

Bunch of lavender key

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
I	155	1030	902	purple
e	333	119	903	dark purple
s	842	1080	1910	beige
\$	904	258	1413	dark green
▽	906	256	1410	green

✕ Backstitch in one strand

—	3799	236	1713	grey
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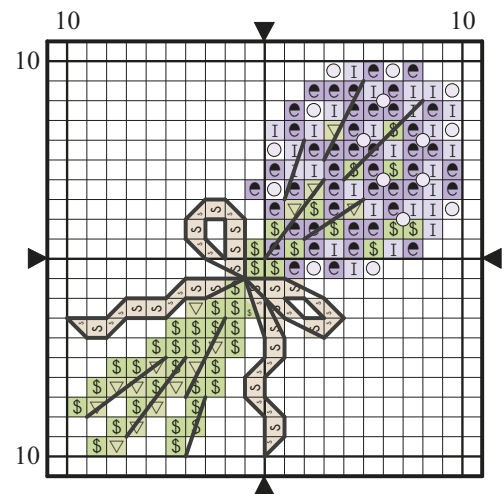
✕ French knots in one strand

○	211	342	801	lilac
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STITCH COUNT 20 high x 20 wide

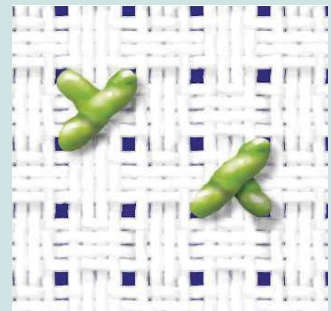
DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 3.5x3.5cm (1½x1½in)

This design was stitched using DMC stranded cotton



Fractional stitches

A tiny symbol in the corner of a square on a chart is a fractional stitch; it's worked in the same colour as the large version of the symbol. If there's only one tiny symbol,



work a three-quarter stitch (a half cross stitch and a quarter stitch). Bring your needle up at the corner of the square, then take it down at the centre of the square. You'll have to pierce aida fabric (but not if you're stitching over two threads on evenweave). Add a half cross stitch (see top diagram). When two different symbols share a square, make a quarter stitch in one colour and a three-quarter stitch in the other.



Use the three-quarter stitch for the object that's meant to be in front in the picture, and the quarter stitch for the background colour.

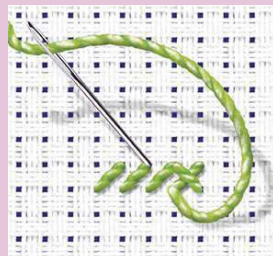
How to cross stitch

Thread your needle with the correct number of strands.

Find the centre points on the chart and your fabric to work out where to start. Bring the needle up through the fabric at the bottom left corner of the square, leaving the end of the thread on the back. Take it down at the top right to make a half cross; bring it up again at the bottom right corner,



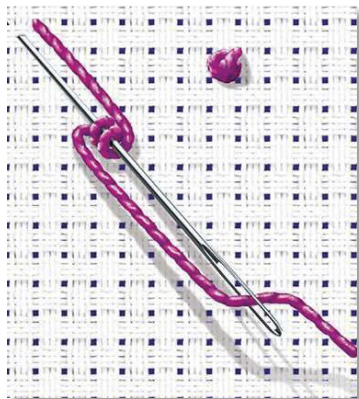
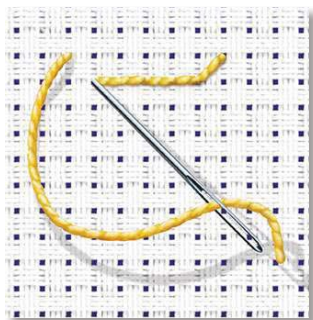
securing the end of thread on the back; take it down at the top left corner to form a cross. Work each cross stitch so that the top halves lie in the same direction. This will make your



finished stitching look neat and tidy. If you're working a block of stitches in the same colour, stitch a row of half crosses first, before completing each cross on the return journey.

Backstitch

Backstitch outlines are added on top of the cross stitches to create extra detail. They can run in any direction. Bring your needle up to start, then take it down one square behind. Bring it up again two squares in front and take it down one square behind again. Continue working in this way along the outline, following the chart.



French knots

French knots, which are used to show tiny details, such as eyes or flower heads, are represented by dots on the chart. Bring your needle up through the fabric, hold the thread taut in your left hand and wrap the needle around it twice. Push the needle back into the fabric, close to where it came up, keeping the thread taut. Pull the thread through until a neat knot is formed on the front.

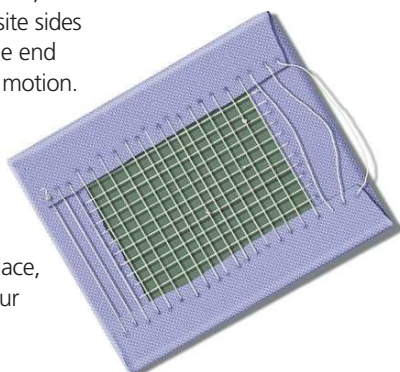
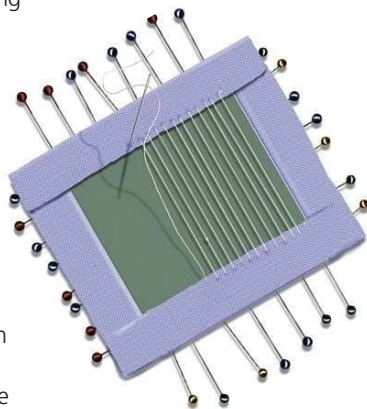
Washing and lacing

To wash your stitching, immerse it in warm water with a little detergent, and rinse it well in cold water. Press it on the back while still damp using an iron on a medium setting. Pad your ironing board with a fluffy towel and push the point of the iron into the back of your stitches, to give them a raised appearance on the front. The best way to stretch your work out over a mount board before framing is to lace it with crochet cotton:

1 Cut your mount board to the size of the frame aperture. Lay the stitching right side up on the white side of the board. Once you're happy with the positioning of the fabric, push a line of pins down each side into the board, as shown (above right).

2 Check your stitching is lined up, then trim the fabric, leaving a 5cm (2in) border. Fold the excess over the back of the board. Thread your needle with a long length of crochet cotton, knot the end and lace two opposite sides together on the back. Start at one end and work in an 'under-and-over' motion. When you reach the other end, adjust the laced threads one by one, before finishing off.

3 Repeat this process on the two remaining edges. Fold down the corners and stitch in place, then remove the pins and put your work in its frame.



Changing thread colour

Finish off the colour you're working with by weaving your needle through a line of four or five stitches on the back of the fabric and pulling the thread through. Cut the thread close to where it emerges and rethread your needle with the new colour. When restarting, leave a short tail of thread at the back of the fabric and cover this with your first few stitches to secure it.

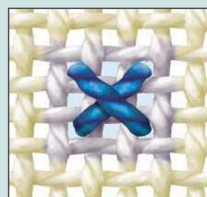
Adding beads

Some designs use seed beads to add detail. These appear as filled dots on the chart and are listed in the key. Add each bead with a half cross stitch. Bring your needle up at the bottom left corner, thread a bead on your needle and take it down at the top right. For extra security, work the top half of the cross as well, making each strand sit either side of the bead. You'll need a beading needle or size 28 tapestry needle for adding beads.



Aida or evenweave?

Most stitchers start off using aida. This block-weave fabric is divided into squares by a grid of holes. Each cross stitch is worked over one square. Some experienced stitchers prefer the look of evenweaves such as jobelan or linen. They're also woven in a grid but come in a finer count, eg 28- or 32-count. Each cross stitch is worked over two threads of the fabric. Bring the needle up at the bottom left corner of the square



and take it down two holes across and two holes up.

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Go for Gold!



Tackle this issue's crossword puzzle and you could win a great prize!

Solve the clues, then rearrange the letters in the shaded squares to spell an British tourist attraction (5,2,6)

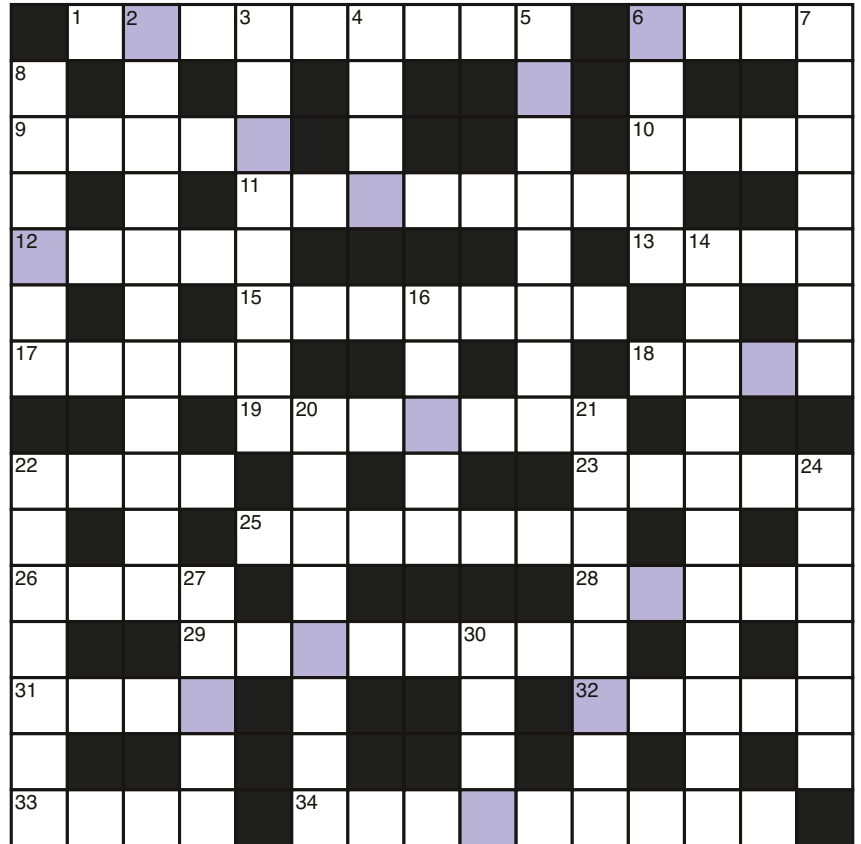
ACROSS

- 1 Capital of Scotland (9)
- 6 Part of a plane (4)
- 9 Hard-wearing fabric used for tablecloths (5)
- 10 Rod that connects a pair of wheels (4)
- 11 Top of the arm (8)
- 12 Cookery herb with a mintlike odour (5)
- 13 Yellow centre of an egg (4)
- 15 Travelling from place to place without a settled home (7)
- 17 Residue in the bottom of a cup (5)
- 18 Predatory feline with a shaggy mane (4)
- 19 Previously (7)
- 22 Stylish or elegant (4)
- 23 Perfect (5)
- 25 Decorative streamer of cloth flags (7)
- 26 Command used to stop horses (4)
- 28 Frequently (5)
- 29 Passage connecting parts of a building (8)
- 31 Simple board game (4)

- 32 Large window built out from a wall (5)
- 33 Chess piece (4)
- 34 US state that borders Canada (9)

DOWN

- 2 Actor who co-stars in the movies Get Shorty and Twins (5, 6)
- 3 Drivel, rubbish (8)
- 4 Loosen the ties of, open up (4)
- 5 Title phrase at the top of a newspaper article (8)
- 6 Exhausted (5)
- 7 Pickled cucumber (7)
- 8 Overjoyed (6)
- 14 Second novel written by Charles Dickens (6,5)
- 16 Distribute in shares (5)
- 20 Water-filled glass tank where fish and underwater animals are kept (8)
- 21 Severely accurate and strict (8)
- 22 Wild yellow primrose (7)
- 24 Unhappy due to a lack of companionship (6)
- 27 Fruit of an oak tree (5)
- 30 Soft fine feathers (4)



How to enter:

Once you've completed the crossword, rearrange the letters in the coloured squares to spell out the name of a British tourist attraction (5,2,6) and text or post your answer for your chance to win this Moira Blackburn Friend's House kit from Bothy Threads, worth £19.99! For full terms and conditions turn to page 45. The closing date for entries is 13th February 2017.

To enter by text:

Text GOLD135XWORD followed by your answer, name, email address and postal address to 87474. Texts will be charged at 50p plus your standard network rate.

To enter by post:

Send your answer, name and address on a postcard to: *Cross Stitch Gold* 135 Crossword, Immediate Media Company Bristol Ltd, 2nd Floor, Tower House, Fairfax Street, Bristol BS1 3BN.

KIT WORTH £19.99 TO BE WON!

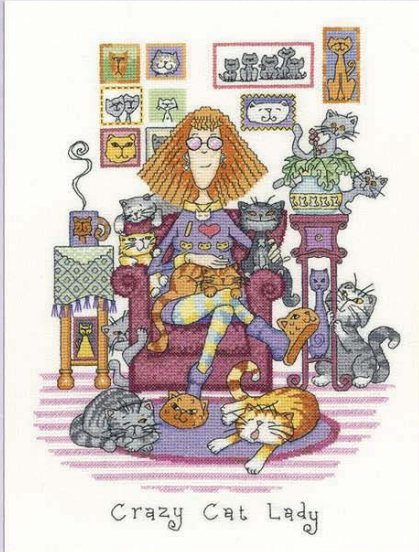


Find the correct answer to the crossword and you could win a traditional Moira Blackburn Friend's House kit from Bothy Threads, worth £19.99!

To buy or view the full Moira Blackburn range, log on to www.bothythreads.com or call 01900 828844 for mail order

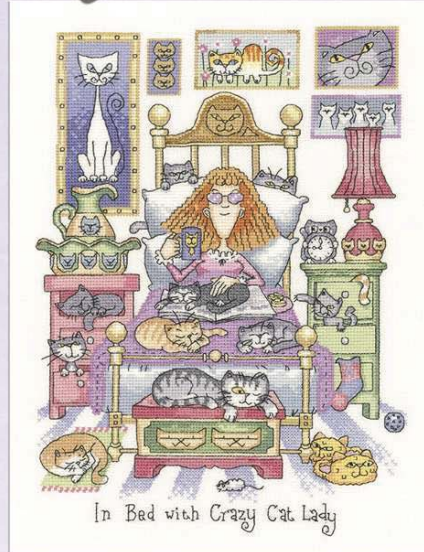
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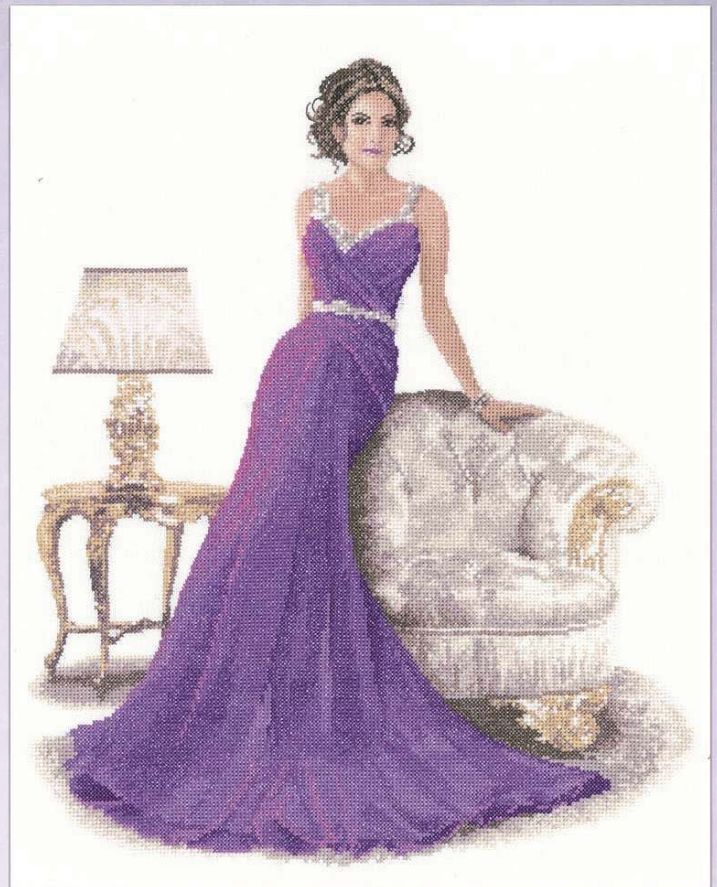
Crazy Cat Lady

Crazy Cat Lady by Peter Underhill - 22.5 x 31cm



In Bed with Crazy Cat Lady

In Bed with Crazy Cat Lady by Peter Underhill - 22 x 30cm



Grace by John Clayton - 32 x 38.5cm



Bird Table

by Karen Carter - 12 x 19cm



Bird Watching

by Karen Carter - 12 x 19cm



Hanging Around

by Karen Carter - 12 x 19cm



Bird Bath

by Karen Carter - 12 x 19cm



Scarecrow

by Karen Carter - 12 x 19cm



A Day's Fishing

by Leslie Stones - 13.5 x 19cm



What Now?

by Leslie Stones - 13.5 x 19cm



The Scamp

by Leslie Stones - 13.5 x 19cm



Sharing The Treat

by Leslie Stones - 13.5 x 19cm



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