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Cross Stitch GOLD



Picture of elegance



Stitch your family tree



Pretty peony cushion



Adorable panda pair

Anchor

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IMMEDIATE MEDIA Co
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Country retreat



Kids' height chart

DON'T MISS: anniversary cards, best buys & more...

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Cross Stitch GOLD



Just because it's still a bit nippy outside, it doesn't mean we can't enjoy some sunshine in our stitching! Banish the winter blues with our pretty pink peony cushion (p12) or coastal cottage scene from Anchor (p22), then brighten up a child's bedroom with our cute woodland-themed height chart (p38). If you love embellished designs, turn to page 4 for Lesley Teare's Art Deco lady – this glamorous party girl is bound to get you in the mood for Christmas parties and New Year celebrations! As a fan of shabby-chic style, I think Lesley's kitchen dresser (p52) will look great on my own kitchen wall, and I love the family tree project on page 30, too – all the little details really bring it to life.

In between stitching this issue's fab projects, I hope you'll also check out what other *Gold* readers have been busy doing (p11), and peruse our pick of best buys (p18). There's still time to grab some last-minute gifts and sneak in some Christmas stitching, if you're quick!

Sarah x

Sarah Trevor, Editor

Sarah's choice



52 Country kitchen



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GOLD EXCELLENCE AWARD

Puttin' on *the glitz*

Stitch in the lap of luxury – our stunning Art Deco design is embellished with lavish-looking metallic threads and glistening seed beads



Meet the designer

Lesley Teare

Lesley lives and works in rural Suffolk. She designs for many of the best cross stitch magazines, as well as for cross stitch books

The term 'Art Deco' refers to the decorative arts of the 1920s and 1930s, and the modernistic style associated with them. It's often characterised by rich colours, bold geometric shapes and lavish ornamentation. And so, my fashionable Art Deco lady, otherwise known as a 'flapper', exudes luxury and glamour! This is brought about by the decorative feathers, fringing, flowers, beads and jewellery that would have been worn for an evening out, perhaps dancing the night away to a Charleston – a well-loved jazz dance. The fan was a popular addition to a flapper's outfit, and the stylised flower details on this one are evocative of that era.

Stitcher's guide

The Art Deco lady is worked on 28-count white evenweave over two threads of the fabric, using 24 different shades of stranded cotton and one shade of metallic thread. The design uses whole cross stitches and fractionals in two strands of cotton or metallic thread. Backstitch in one strand is used for definition, while silver-coloured seed beads add the final touch. This intricate design is recommended for experienced stitchers.

How to stitch the Art Deco lady

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 or metallic thread. For every tiny symbol you see on the chart, work a fractional stitch.

3 Add the backstitch using one strand of cotton or metallic thread. Seven different shades are used, so check the key to see which to thread your needle with.

4 Attach the seed beads using two strands of thread.

5 Check over your finished stitching and prepare for making up.

You will need

FABRIC Zweigart 28-count white evenweave measuring 38x34cm (15x13½in)

THREADS Stranded cotton and metallic threads as listed in the key

BEADS Mill Hill seed beads as listed in the key

NEEDLE Size 26 tapestry needle; beading needle

EXTRAS Frame of your choice with a minimum aperture of 28x24cm (11x9½in)

FOR STOCKISTS' DETAILS turn to page 59



stitch tip

When using metallic thread, stitch slowly to ensure that the thread lies neatly for the best reflection of light

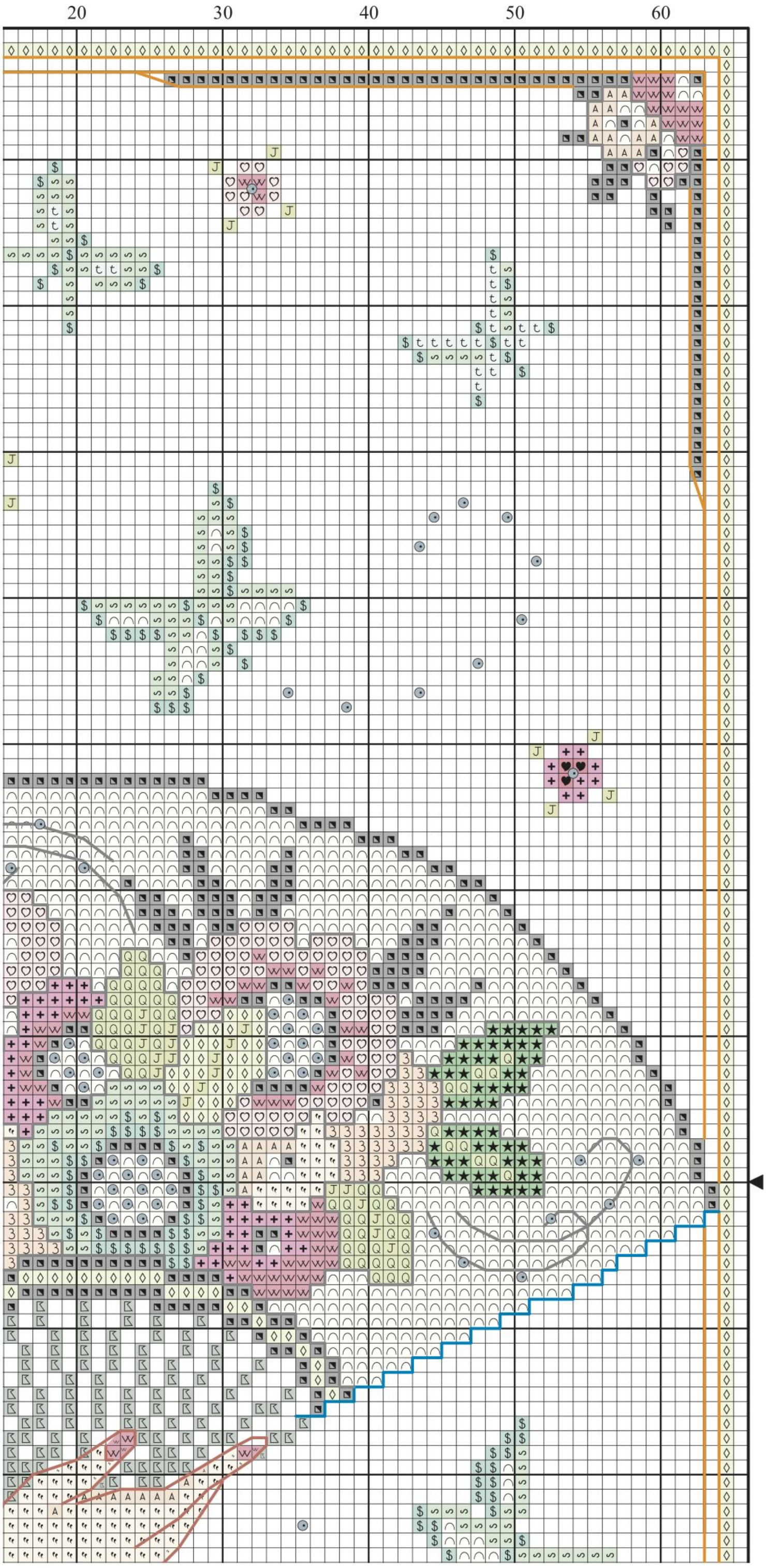


The seed beads add extra dimension and sparkle to this flapper girl's gorgeous dress

Art Deco lady



Top left



Top right



Lesley Teare's Designer Secrets

Finishing touch

If you look closely, you'll notice that I have repeated the pink flower pattern on the fan in the corners of my design. This helps to give this period piece a 'complete' look.



A real treat

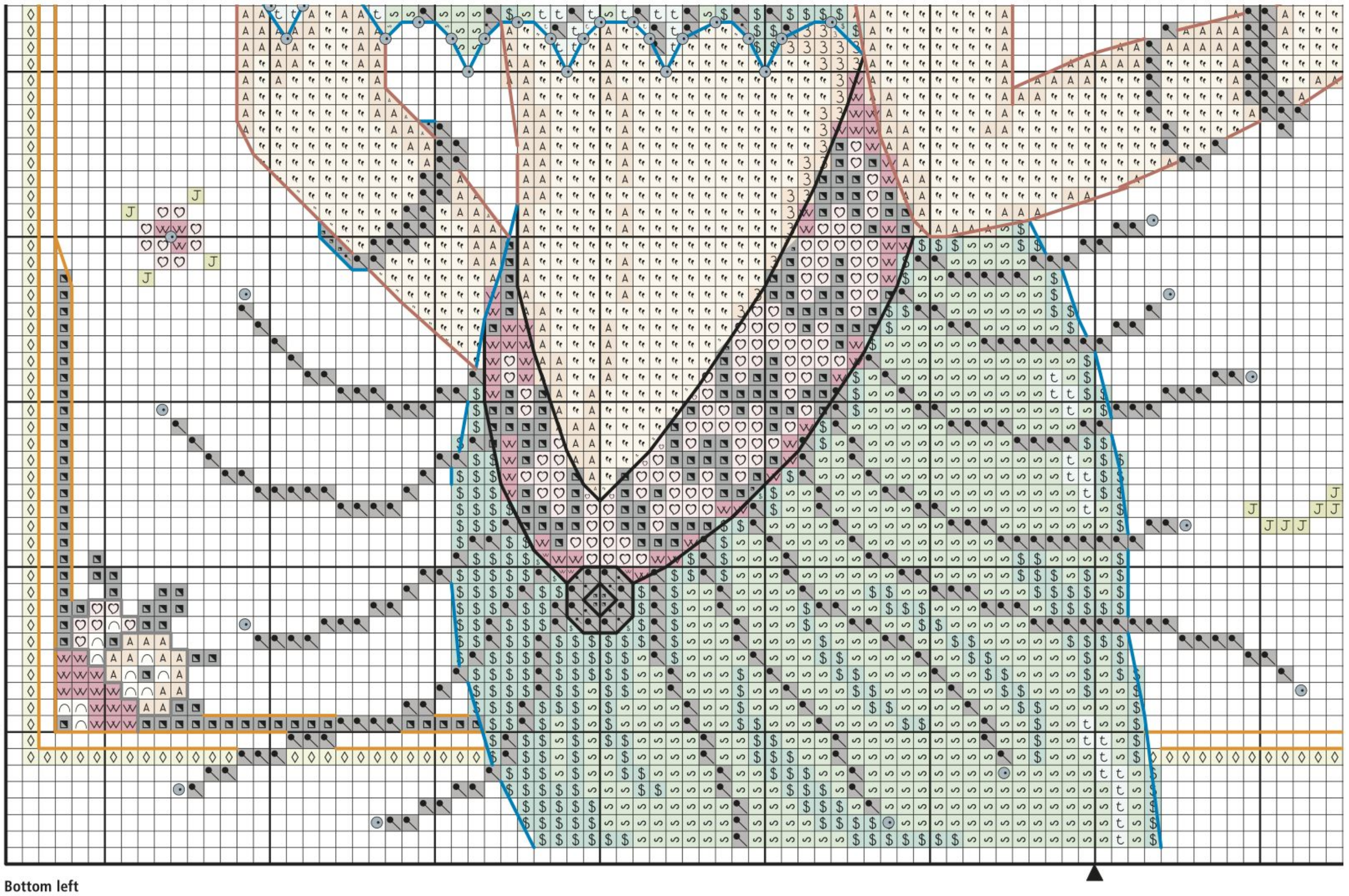
I love to design elegant ladies, and have created many in the past, but I have to say that this project has been one of the most enjoyable. It was a delight to create something stylish, sophisticated, bejeweled, glitzy and glam… all of my favourite things!



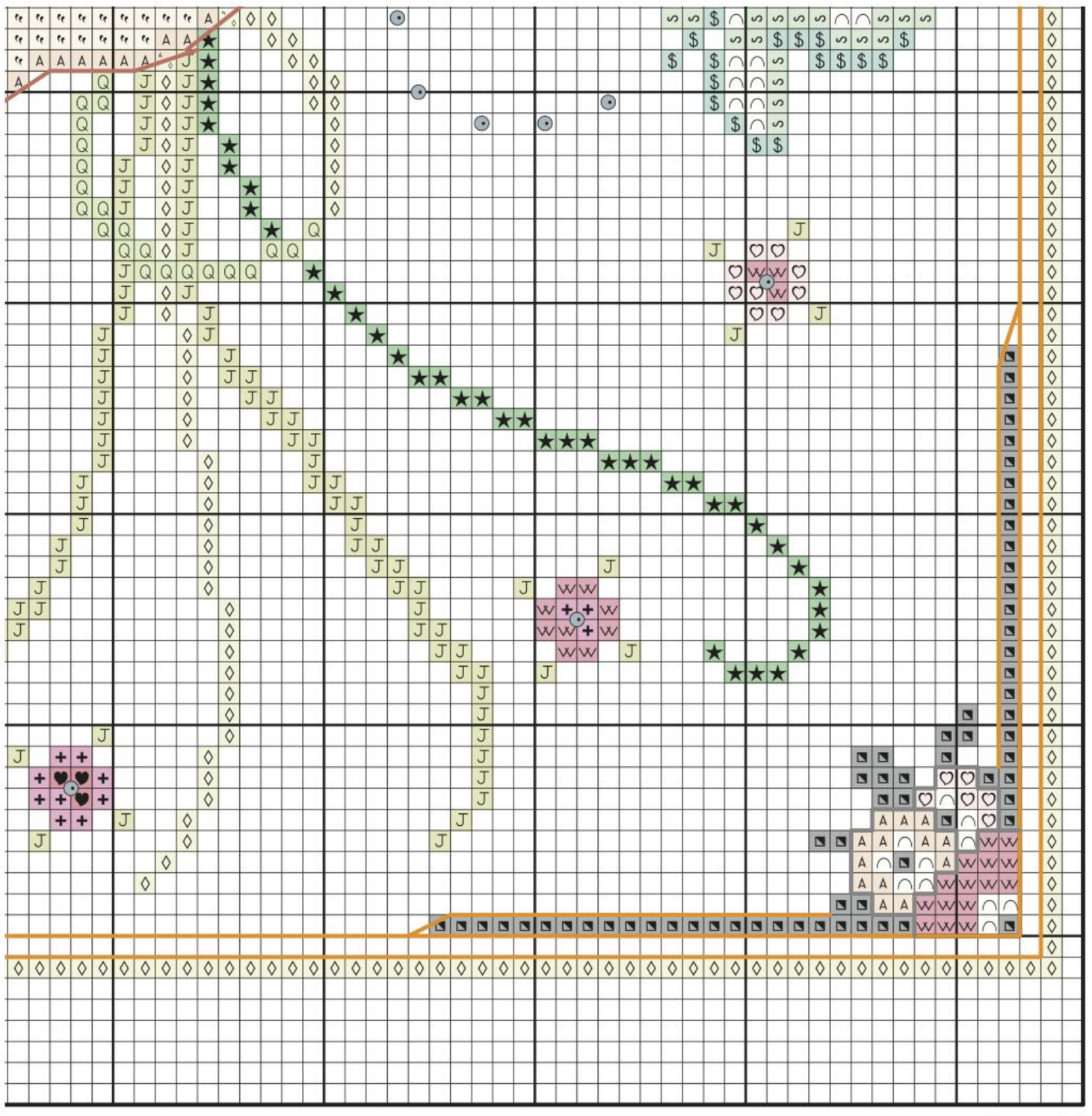
"I've been to 1920s-themed parties and it's fun to dress up in the fashions of the day. This design really captures that flapper style"

Sarah Trevor, Editor

Art Deco lady



Bottom left



Bottom right



"I love the final stages of stitching a design like this. Adding the swirly backstitch and sparkling seed beads will be so much fun!"
Abi Barker, Charting Editor

Art Deco lady key

Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
Q	164	240	1209	green
t	747	158	1104	turquoise
A	754	1012	305	peach
◊	772	259	1604	light green
✖	838	380	2005	dark brown
b	898	360	2006	brown
K	926	850	1707	petrol blue
r	948	892	306	light peach
$	958	187	1114	emerald green
S	964	185	1112	lt emerald green
★	988	243	1402	dark green
J	3348	264	1409	grass green
♥	3350	42	603	dark pink
♡	3713	1020	502	pale pink
+	3731	76	506	pink
W	3733	75	605	light pink
3	3771	868	2605	dark peach
◥	3799	236	1713	grey
▼	3812	188	2706	dk emerald green
×	3847	189	1204	teal
∩	3865	2	2403	natural white

Cross stitch in two strands DMC Light Effects

↖	E317			titanium

Backstitch in one strand

—	310	403	2400	black
—	741	304	202	orange
—	3350	42	603	dark pink
—	3768	779	1107	dark petrol blue
—	3778	338	402	terracotta

Backstitch in one strand DMC Light Effects

—	E317			titanium

Mill Hill seed beads

●	02022			Silver

STITCH COUNT 155 high x 130 wide
DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 28x23.5cm (11x9¼in)

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

How to attach the seed beads

Lesley has used silver seed beads to embellish her design. You will need to use a beading needle to attach these, as a tapestry needle has a larger eye that will not fit through the centre of the beads. After you've worked all the cross stitch and backstitch, attach each bead using two strands of cotton in the same colour as the stitches underneath. Some of the beads occupy a whole square on the chart and can be attached with a whole cross stitch, but most of them will need to be attached using a couple of small stitches. Bring the needle up where the bead is indicated on the chart, thread the bead onto the needle, then take the needle back down, close to where it came up. Repeat with a second stitch to fix the bead extra securely.



Coming soon in *Cross Stitch Gold*

Fans of Lesley Teare's beaded beauties will be thrilled to hear that next month she's bringing us yet another treat. This mesmerising mermaid design is dripping with pearly seed beads and worked in a palette of aqua and azure blue, creating the most magical underwater scene. You can find it in issue 126, on sale from 5th January 2016 (UK).



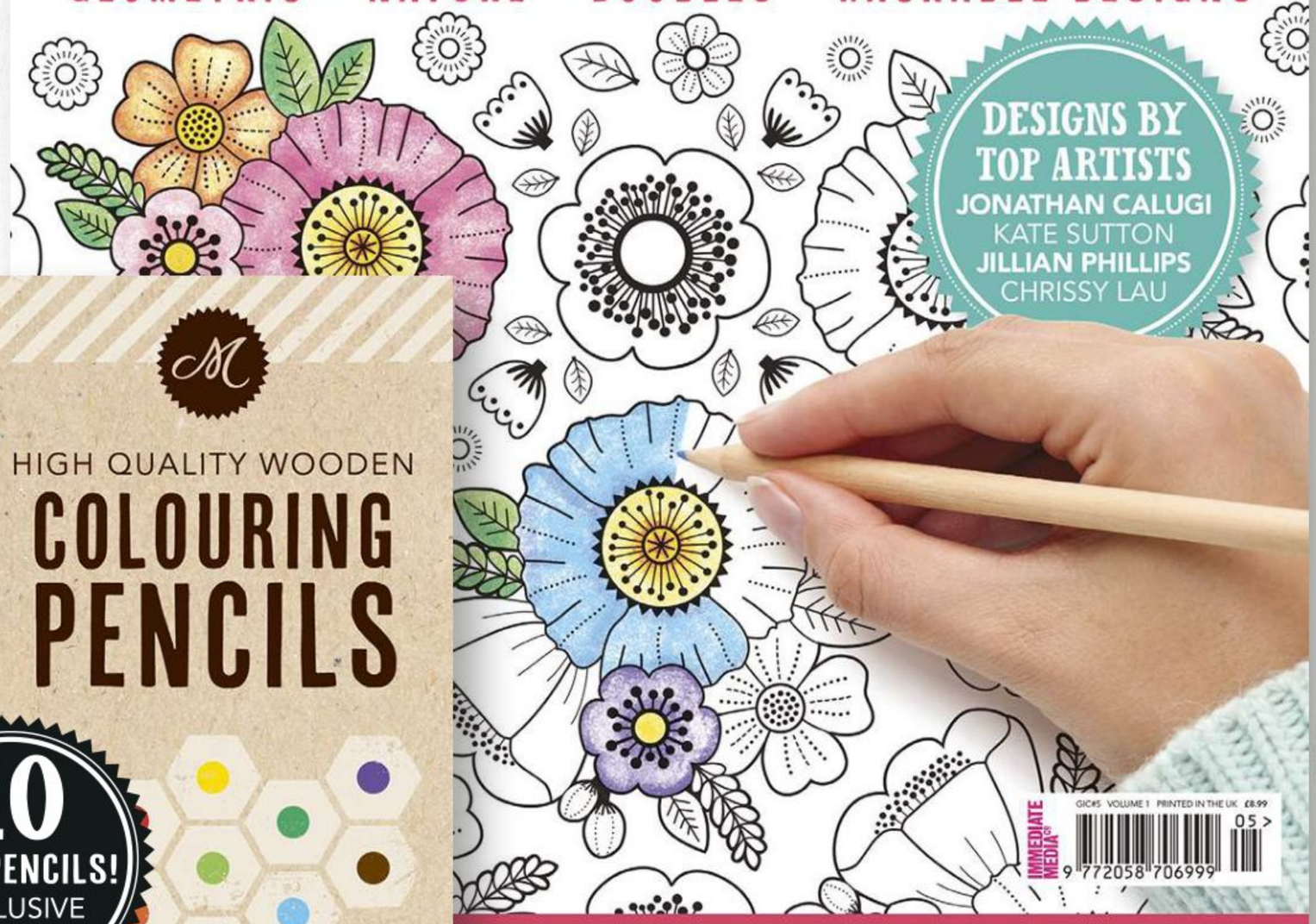
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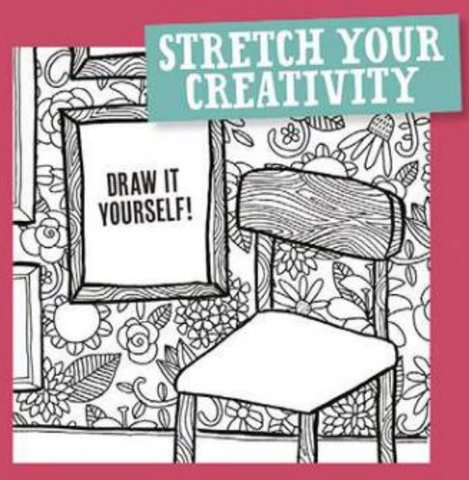
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The star letter writer in the next issue of *Cross Stitch Gold* will receive *Modern Cross Stitch* by Hannah Sturrock, worth £12.99. Go to www.amazon.co.uk to buy. All other letter writers will receive a mystery prize.



Oriental beauty

This is the geisha with butterflies by Lesley Teare, which I stitched from issue 89 of *Gold*. She was a joy to stitch, even on black fabric, which can be hard on the eyes. I put a white tea towel on my knee when I was stitching so I could see what I was doing. The colours just seem to pop off the fabric and the beads and metallic thread add something special to her. Happy stitching!



Black fabric provided a dramatic background for Sue's geisha

Sue Craig, Fife

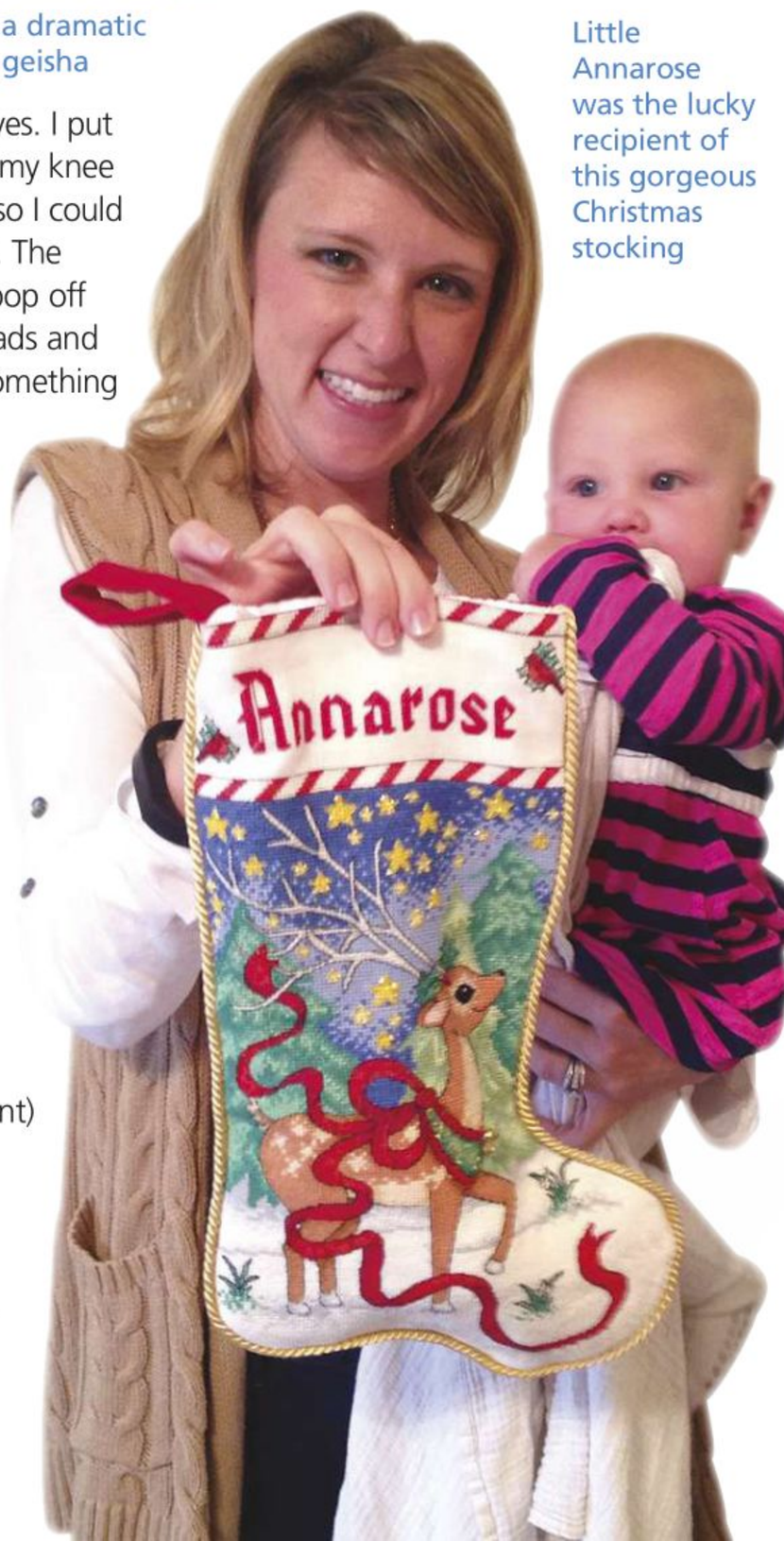
Sarah: Oriental designs always catch my eye, too, Sue. I'm so pleased to hear you enjoyed bringing this beauty to life.

Special delivery

When a former neighbour (and student) asked me to stitch a Christmas stocking for her third child, I was eager to find the perfect chart and get started. I looked through back copies of *Gold* and found this adorable deer stocking in issue 115. Her only stipulation was that the stocking had to be personalised, so I added candy cane stripes and found a tall, narrow font for the name. I also added blending filament to some of the snowy areas and filled in any open spaces. As you can see, Janelle was most appreciative of a gift that is sure to become a keepsake for Annarose.

Jeanette Brickman, Illinois

Sarah: Janelle looks thrilled! You've done a wonderful job stitching this Christmas stocking and putting your own twists on the chart. Well done, Jeanette!



Little Annarose was the lucky recipient of this gorgeous Christmas stocking

Season's greetings

I stitched this lovely festive cushion by Carol Thornton from issue 114. I started it just before the holidays 2014, but did not finish it until January this year. I loved stitching it and was so pleased with the way it turned out. I sewed it into a pillow using a piece of green fleece for the back. This Christmas, I will have it on my sofa along with a pillow featuring ornaments from a previous festive issue of *Gold*.

Sharye Hardesty, Arizona



Sharye got this cushion wrapped up in time for this Christmas

Sarah: This is such a bright and colourful design, Sharye – what a lovely present to stitch for yourself!

Blackwork beginner

I have finally finished and framed this blackwork angel from issue 96. This was my first attempt at doing blackwork, and I found it challenging, but rewarding to stitch. I selected a lambswool linen, which I feel gives it a softer appearance than pure white fabric. I hope you like my effort!



Sandra has finished her blackwork angel with a suitably elegant frame

Sandra Yates, by email

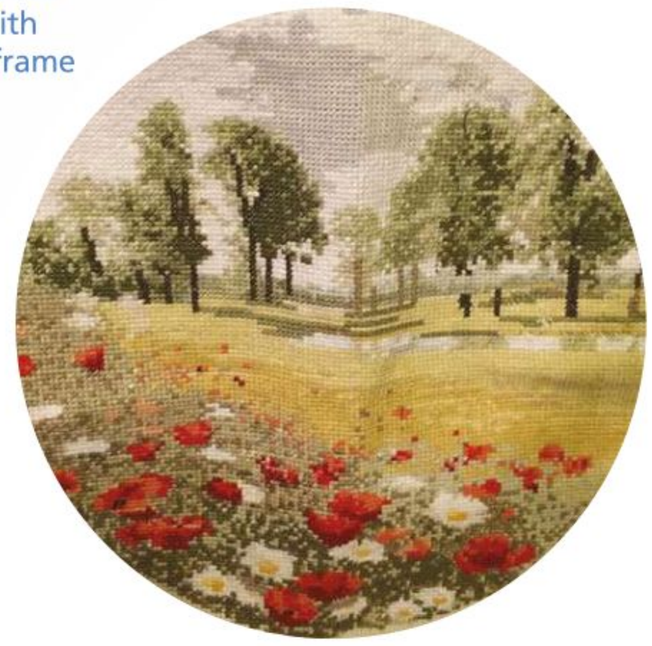
Sarah: For a beginner, your blackwork skills look second to none, Sandra. You should be very proud of your work!

Summer's dream

I stitched this Summer Meadow design by John Clayton for Heritage Crafts last summer, as a thank you gift for my sister-in-law. It turned out beautifully and she loved the finished project.

Esther Wilson, Texas

Sarah: This scene is beautiful, Esther, and I can see how much you must have put into it. I'm not surprised your sister-in-law was impressed!



John Clayton's Circles range is an ever-popular choice for stitchers!

Bold *blooms*

Soften the look of any room with this glorious cushion, bedecked with a bunch of stunning peonies



Meet the designer

Angela Poole

As well as designing in cross stitch, Angela is Commissioning Editor of *Papercraft Inspirations* magazine. She has a degree in Textiles and Surface Pattern

The peony is a popular flower for obvious reasons, especially for brides in their wedding bouquets. It's also one of my personal favourites – I have them in my garden at home, and their dramatic large blooms are so eye-catching. I only wish the flowers lasted a little longer each year! I thoroughly enjoyed researching, sketching and charting these peonies for you. My design is achievable for intermediate stitchers, as it uses whole stitches only and just a small palette of colours. So, if you've fallen in love with these blooms, why not put needle to fabric? The flowers themselves can be difficult to grow, after all!

Stitcher's guide

This gorgeous peony cushion is worked on 28-count white evenweave over two threads of the fabric, using 12 different shades of stranded cotton. The design uses whole cross stitches in two strands of thread. Backstitch in one strand of cotton is used to outline the design. This stylish project is recommended for intermediate stitchers.

How to stitch the peony 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.

3 Add the backstitch detail using one strand of cotton. Two different shades are used, so check the key to see which to thread your needle with.

4 Check over your finished stitching and prepare for making up.

stitch tip

You could stitch this pretty design on a natural-coloured fabric, if you prefer

You will need

FABRIC Zweigart 28-count white evenweave, measuring 52x52cm (20½x20½in)

THREADS Stranded cotton as listed in the key

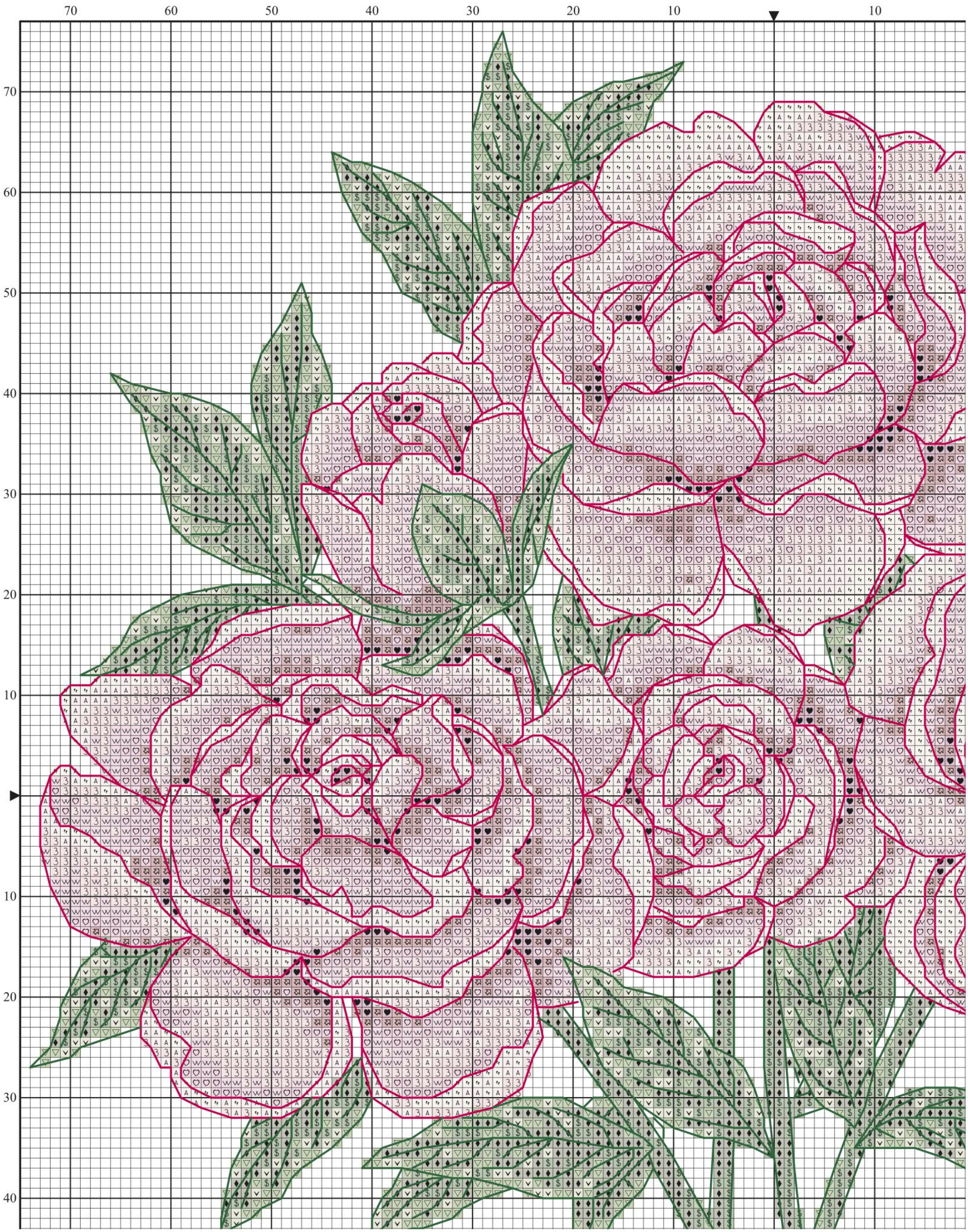
NEEDLE Size 26 tapestry needle

EXTRAS White evenweave for backing fabric, cushion pad to fit

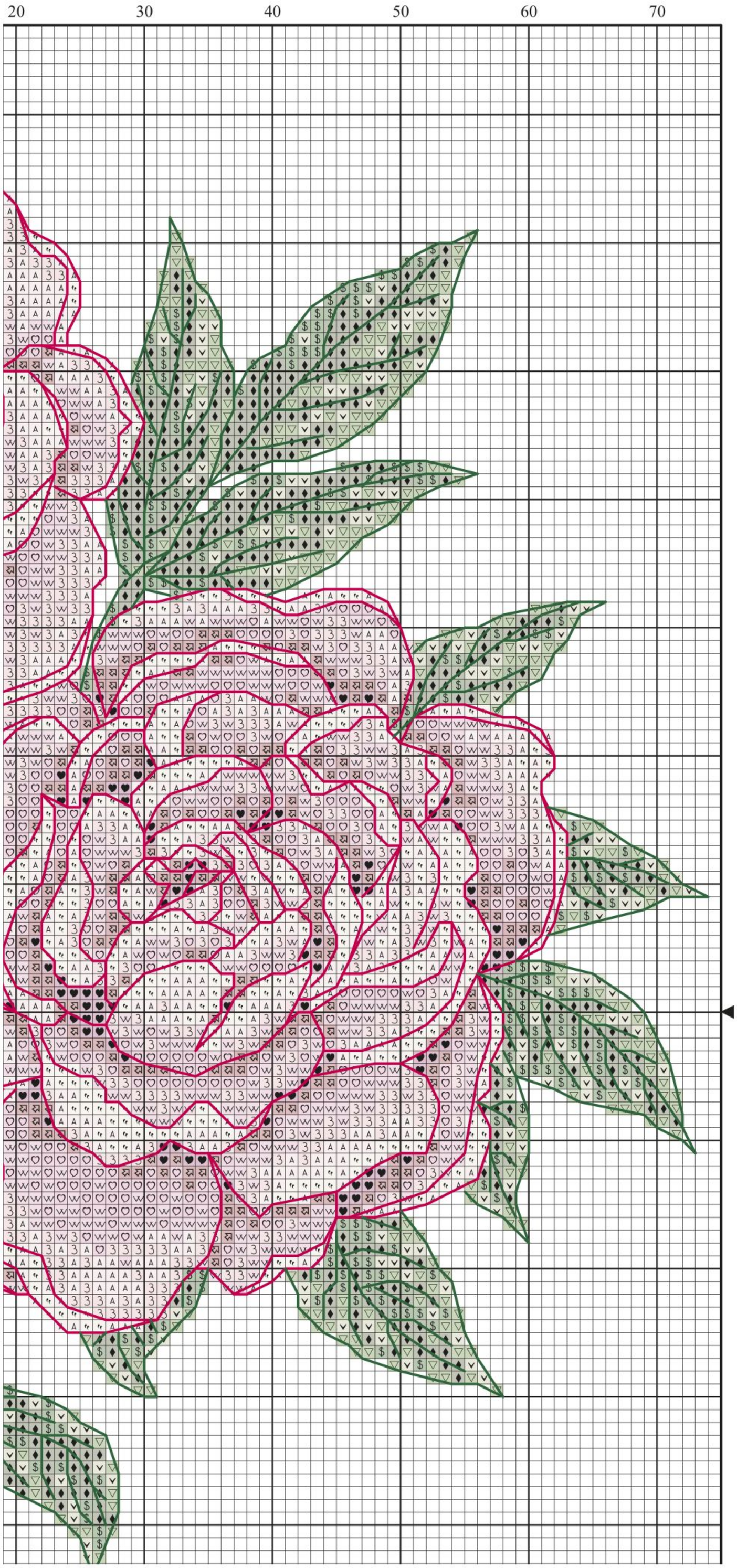
FOR STOCKISTS' DETAILS turn to page 59

Instantly update your home with this beautiful cushion

Peony cushion



Top left



Peonies key

Cross stitch in two strands

	Anchor	DMC	Madeira	
A	48	818	502	light baby pink
♡	60	3689	606	light pink
ঋ	66	3688	605	pink
♥	68	3687	604	dark pink
3	73	963	607	very light pink
v	213	524	1511	very light green
▽	215	320	1512	light green
$	216	367	1311	green
'	271	819	814	powder pink
♦	878	501	1704	dark green
w	1094	604	613	baby pink x 2

Backstitch in one strand

—	68	3687	604	dark pink
—	683	500	1705	very dark green

STITCH COUNT 151 high x 148 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 27.5x27cm (10¾x10½in)

SKEINS NEEDED **2x48** (baby pink)

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

How to make up the cushion

1 Trim the stitched piece so that it measures 46cm (18in) square, making sure the design is in the centre of the fabric.

2 Cut two pieces of fabric measuring 46x28cm (18x11in) 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.

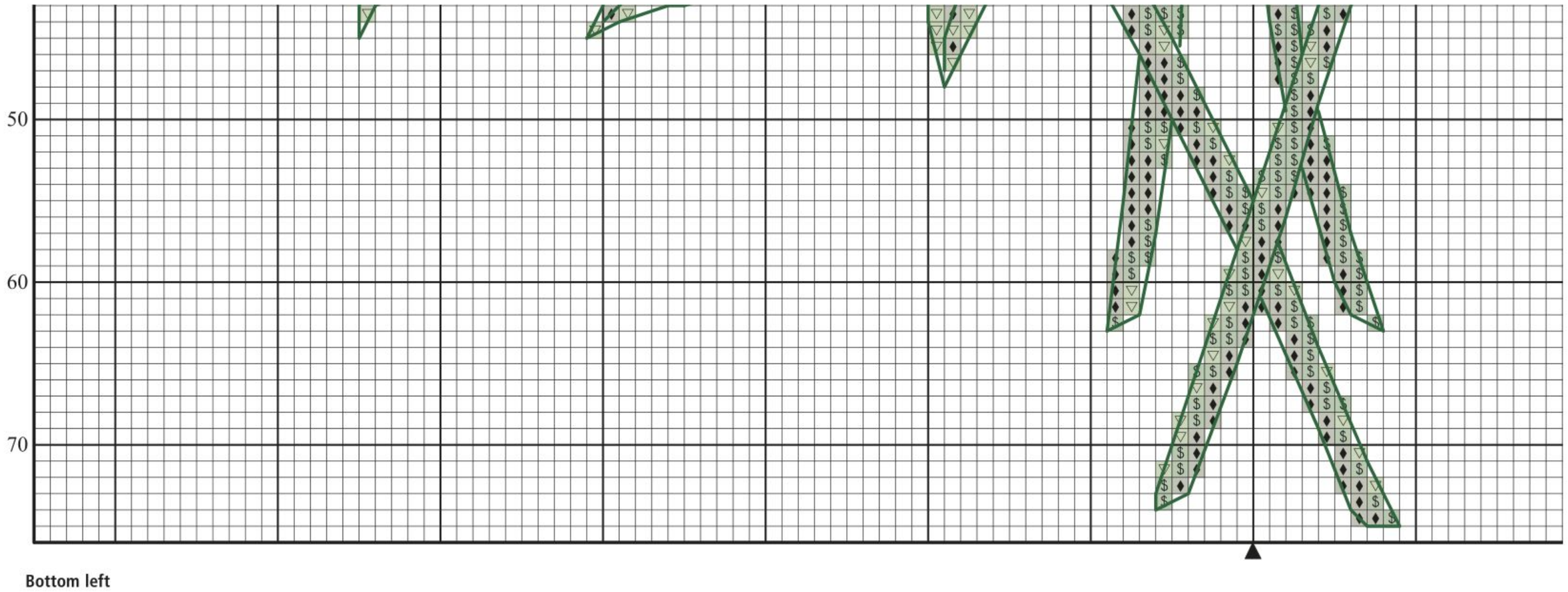
5 Sew a straight line of stitching all the way around the cushion, 4cm (1½in) in from the outside edge, to create the Oxford border.

6 Insert your cushion pad to finish.

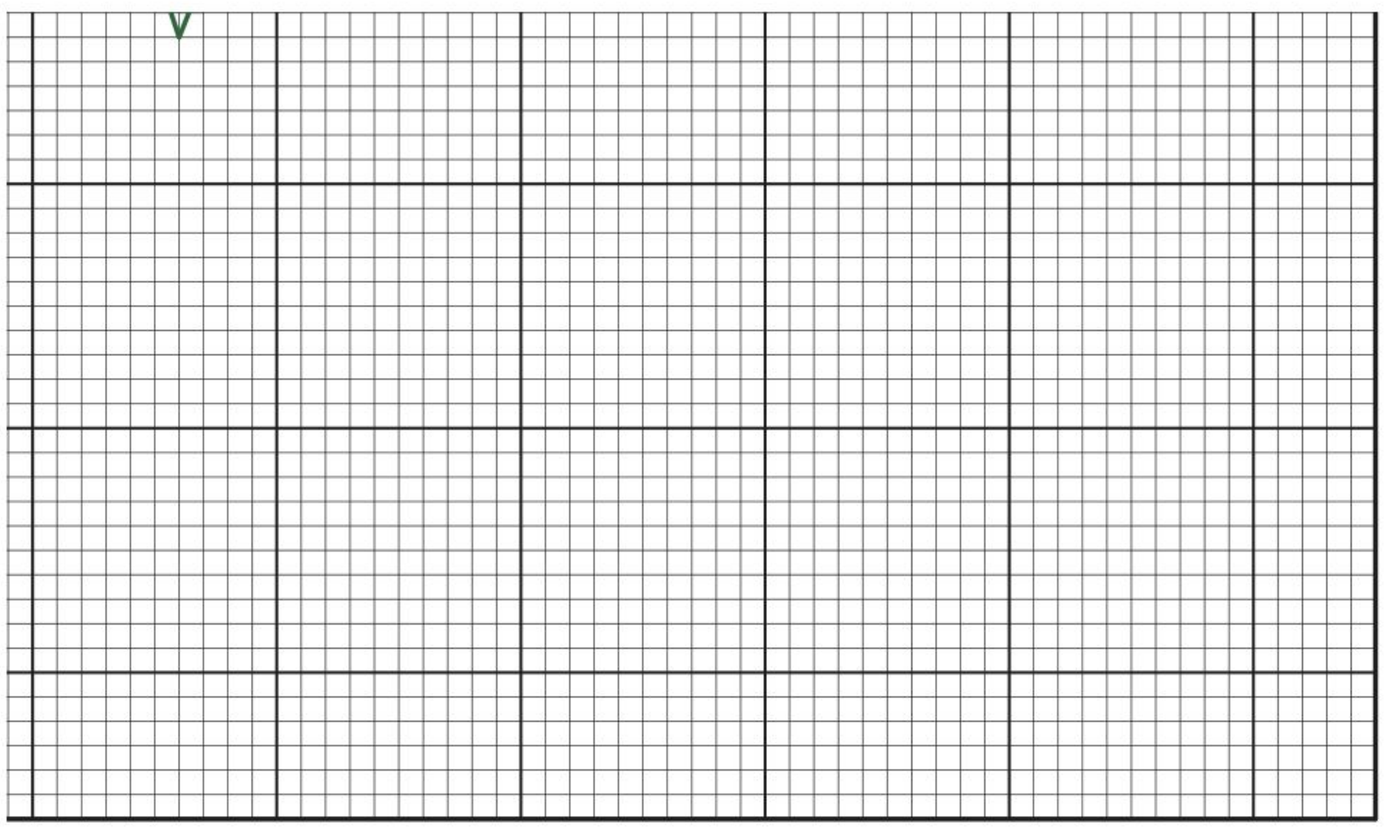
"Angela's cushion could also be finished with pink bias binding or a border of floral fabric, for an equally elegant look"
Fiona Baker, Technical Editor

Top right

Peony cushion



Bottom left



Bottom right



Coming soon in *Gold*

For more fabulous florals, don't miss this pretty Paris Fleuriste design by Abby White in the next issue of *Gold*. Worked on black fabric, it has a bold yet romantic style, typical of vintage French advertising. Issue 126 of *Cross Stitch Gold* is on sale from 5th January 2016 (UK), or turn to page 28 to subscribe.





Angela Poole's Designer Secrets

Vintage frills

I always think of peonies as the showstopper flowers of any garden. Their stunning blooms have so many delicate frilly petals, that they often remind me of a vintage petticoat!

Keep it simple

I'm always amazed by the effects you can achieve using a small colour palette. For this project I've used just 12 shades, with the petals ranging from the palest pink to a dark vintage blush. Sometimes, less is more.



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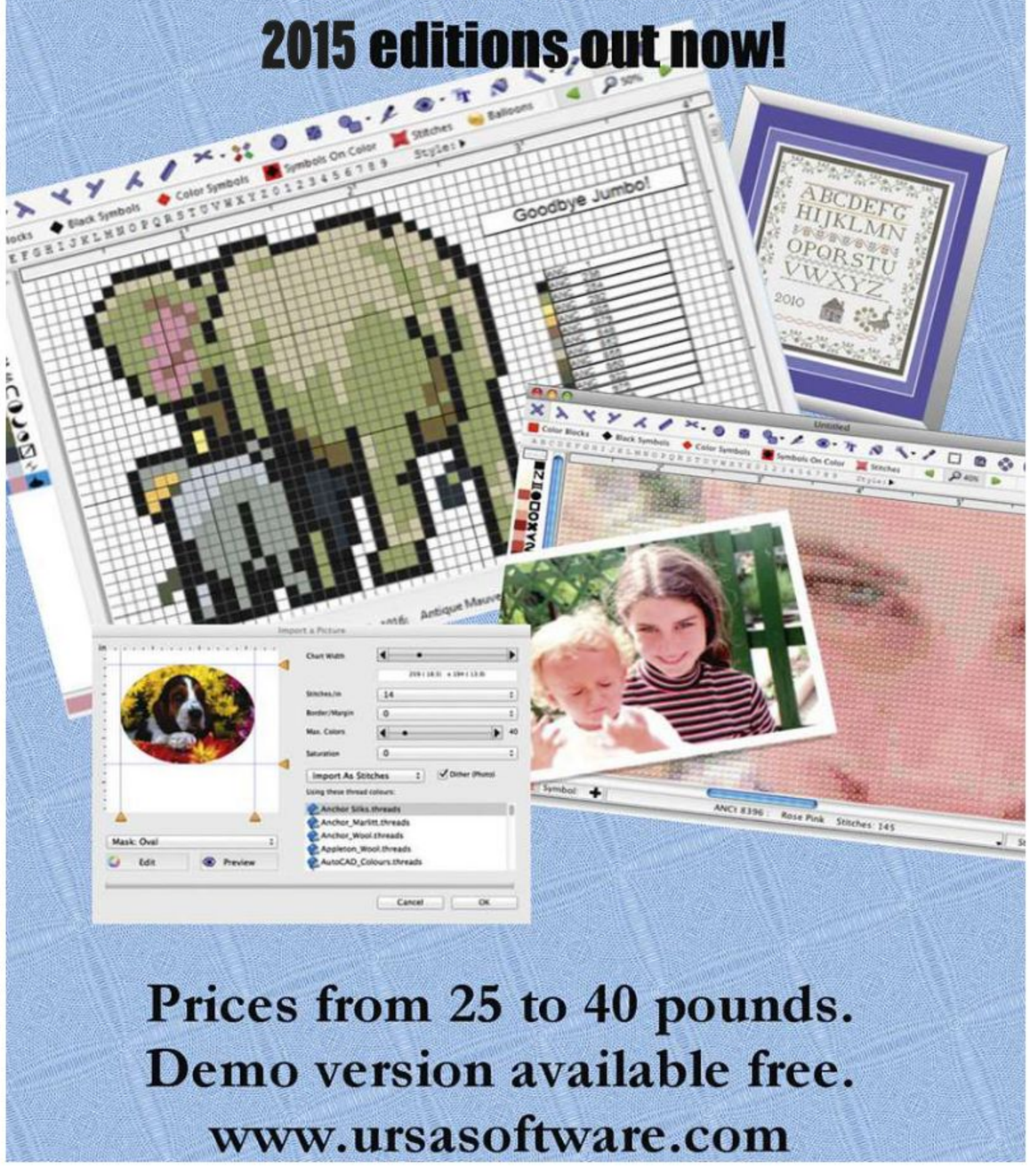
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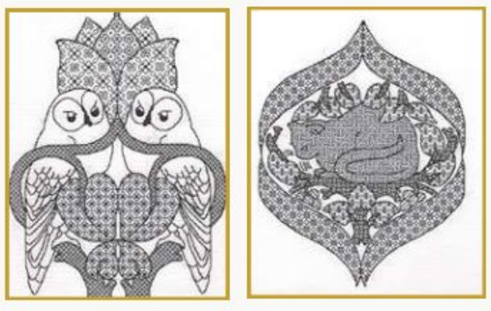
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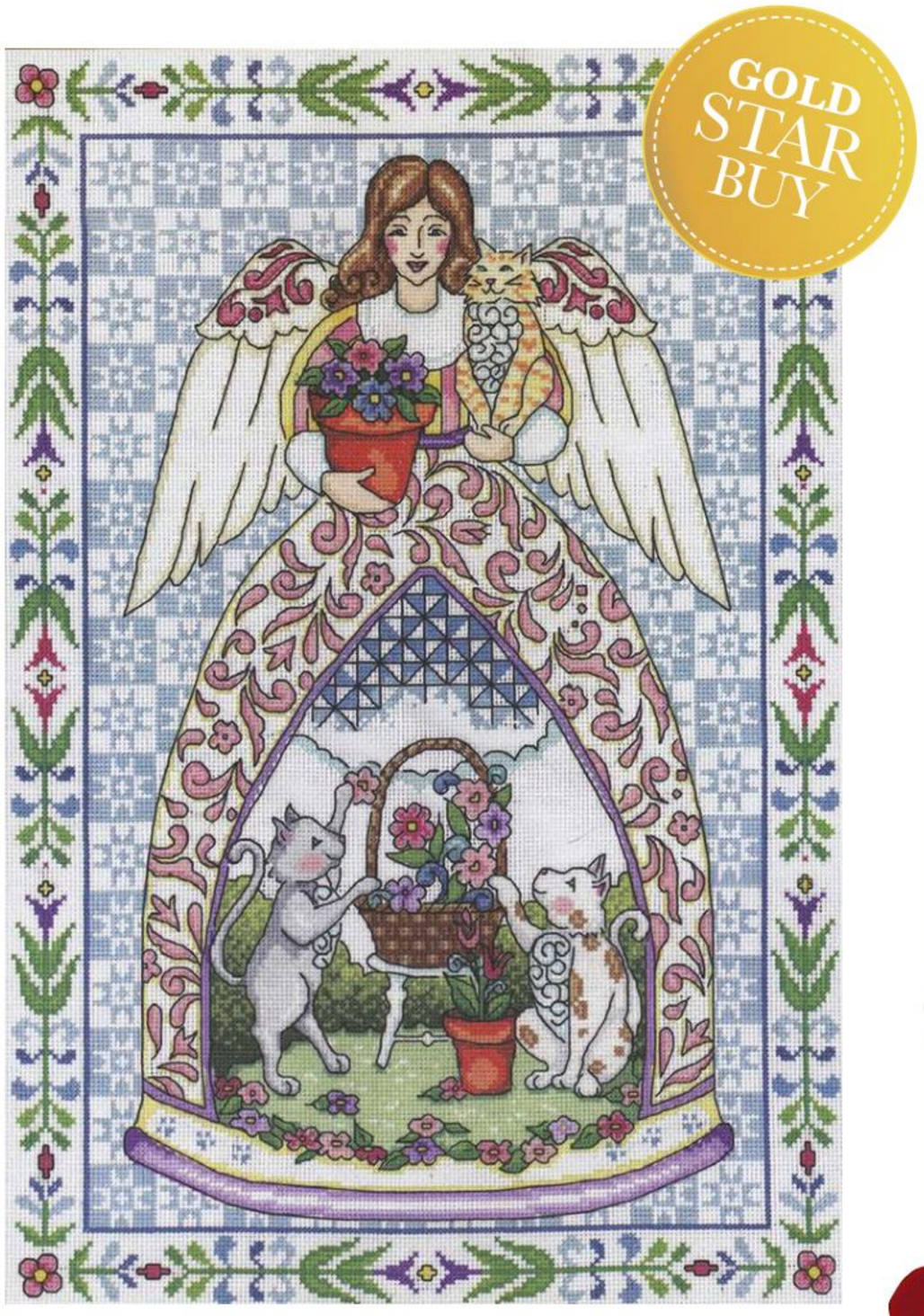
Shopper's guide

Wrap up those last-minute Christmas gifts with Sarah's choice of charts, kits and accessories, before looking ahead to a host of new-season stitches

Heaven sent

Herald the start of spring with this angelic new kit from Design Works. Kitty Angel is a large design measuring 51x35.5cm (20x14in), packed full of detail on a background of 14-count ivory aida, in a palette of pastels and brights. It's a purr-fect choice for cat lovers, of course, with three pretty kitties to stitch. The geometric patchwork patterns make us think of traditional American quilts, and the floral border is sure to make you smile as it blooms beneath your needle! Once you have finished this gorgeous design, you might like to stitch some of the patterns within it again, to make smaller cards and gifts such as bookmarks. Buy the Kitty Angel kit for £24.99.

Visit www.sewandso.co.uk or call 0800 0130150



Cute, cuddly Christmas pals

There's still time to whip up a gorgeous gift for baby's first Christmas – just take one of these adorable ready-to-stitch cuddly toys and add a name or mini motif to the aida bib. Priced at £14.99 each, Christmas Reindeer and Christmas Teddy are super-soft, with a handy Velcro strap for keeping them attached to a pushchair or cot. They're a lovely gift idea for older siblings wanting to welcome a new arrival, and as each toy comes with its very own gift box, you won't even need to wrap it up!

Visit www.dmccreative.co.uk or call 0116 2754000 for stockists





My true love gave to me

Brighten up your walls at Christmas with this charming sampler, inspired by the lively festive tune we all love to sing! Designed by Jody Rice from Satsuma Street, the chart comes as a PDF download for £8.09, and includes two different versions. You can choose to stitch the 12 scenes individually as ornaments if you prefer, but we think the sampler is a stunning showpiece. Jody's characters, including a cheery milkmaid and leaping lord, are a real highlight!

Visit www.satsumastreet.etsy.com



The perfect accessory

Every stitcher needs two pairs of embroidery scissors – one for their craft box and one to wear! Beautifully etched in wood and suspended from an antique-style chain, these pretty necklaces are a tribute to one of our most trusty tools, with a nod to classic vintage style. They come presented in a colourful wax-sealed box and will make a perfect gift for anyone who loves to stitch or sew, but we wouldn't blame you if you keep them to yourself. Choose from Stork, Swan, Rooster, Art Deco, Classic and Decorative designs, priced at £18 each.

Visit www.notonthehighstreet.com/frillyindustries for details

Mirror, mirror

'Create Something Special' says the label on this Cross Stitch Mirror kit, and we're sure you will do using the lovely threads and fabric inside. The delicate rose motif is worked in pink and white, with green leaves and a black background for contrast. Using whole stitches only, it's ideal for cross stitch beginners – simply finish it off with the metal mirror and frame included. Buy the kit for yourself or a friend for £8.

Visit www.marksandspencer.com or call 0333 0148000 to buy





A piece of history

Following in the footsteps of their WW1 Nurse and Land Girl designs, this Soldier is the newest addition to Goldleaf Needlework's range. He'll make a wonderful project to remember those who fought in the First World War as we commemorate the centenary. The kit is stitched on 14-count Parchment coloured aida, with a finished size of around 24x8.5cm (9½x3½in). It costs £20 for the full kit, or £6.50 for the chart.

Visit www.goldleaf needlework.co.uk or call 01482 571120 to buy

Spring colours

There are 36 little pencils in this pretty pot, so plenty of choice when it comes to crossing off coloured squares on your chart. If you love to mark off stitches as you go, then this set is sure to come in handy. It's decorated with a design of blue tits and bluebells – a perfect excuse to look ahead to the new season and choose yourself some fresh, springtime designs. Buy it for £2.95.

Visit www.dotcomgiftshop.com or call 020 87462473 to buy



So retro!

Brand new and brimming with fun designs, this book by Jane Prutton is one that all abilities will enjoy dipping into. It's great for gifts, whether you're stitching for a wedding or new baby – we particularly love the cute animals inspired by soft toys! You can decorate your home with these stylish stitches, too. How about an apron adorned with scrummy cupcakes, or a cool campervan cushion for a teenager's bedroom? There's even an alphabet for personalising your projects. *Retro Fun in Stitches* costs £9.95.

Visit www.amazon.co.uk to buy



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2 in 1 Magnifier CFPL05

Illuminated hands free magnifier which can be used free standing or worn around the neck. Magnification x2 or for really close-up work x6. Also has two integrated lights (3 x AAA batteries not included)

£16.75



Periwinkle Box 7D

Size 4.5cm square x 3.5cm high
Includes 18ct Aida, plastic canvas, lining, wadding, chart and instructions

£13.60



Marguerite
NG19



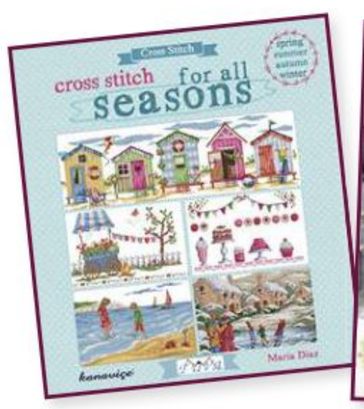
Red Acorn
NG14



Daffodils Darks
NG40

Show off your glasses with these fabulous tapestry cases from Cleopatra's Needle. Kits include printed canvas, thread, needle, lining and instructions. Cord is not included.

£23.00 each



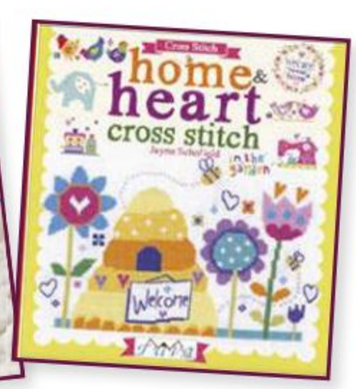
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£9.99



Crochet For The Absolute Beginner
SE081
£10.99



Home & Heart Cross Stitch
2019
£10.99

"I don't know what to get"

A thought experienced by many of us at this time of year when considering presents for friends and relatives.

So with time running out we thought we'd offer just a few ideas which might solve the problem.

We've highlighted a range of products for crafters of all skill levels ranging from books to boxes but if nothing takes your fancy why not visit us online and pick from a wider range of accessories and kits?

THE ULTIMATE STITCHING GIFT

+ one FREE chart from those pictured



DMC Wooden Collectors Box With 150 Skeins Of Thread

7200A

A beautiful vintage style box containing 150 skeins of DMC threads whose RRP alone is £142.50. There is a top compartment for accessories and a cross stitch chart and linen fabric is included to personalise the box.

32x28x23cm **£125.00**

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9x24cm



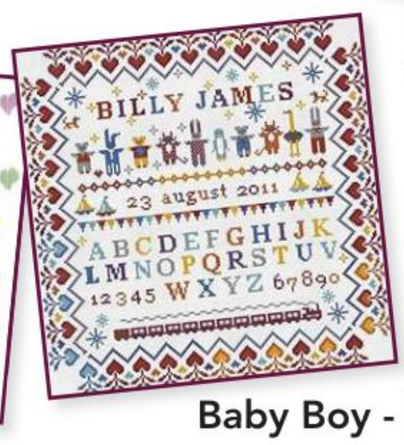
Baby Boy K04
14ct Aida 28x14cm
£20.75



Love Baby Girl
XKA7
14ct Aida 28x22cm
£24.00



Teddy Baby 021-1785
14ct Aida 28x35cm
£20.25



Baby Boy - Little Boy
RR065
14ct Aida 33x33cm
£23.00



Sleeping With Teddy Bears
PN–0143730 14ct Aida 16x30cm
£24.90

BIG EVENT IN 2016?

If you've a special event in the coming year, what better way to remember the day than by stitching a 'memory' for friends or family. There are a variety of products, from cards to afghans, which cover virtually every occasion you might think of – births, weddings, anniversaries, christenings, retirement etc. So why not create a special gift for that special occasion?

Enjoy your stitching and the celebration!
Ps. Lots, lots more online.



Mother C136
14ct Aida 9x23cm
£18.95



Roses and Champagne Card
CDG12 16ct Aida
£8.75



Sister
C137 14ct
£18.95



18th
C123 14ct
£16.95



Bunny Easter Card
CK-BGE
14ct Aida
£7.50



Butterflies and Daisies Card
CDG24 16ct Aida
£8.75



Engaged
C141 16ct
£19.95



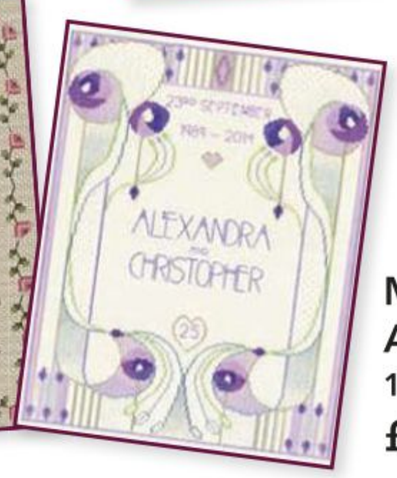
Wedding Happiness
2002/45.158
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Bride and Groom 3D Card
NUBG
14ct perforated paper 11cm High
£12.95

Anchor

At home by the sea

Enjoy the tranquility of this coastal cottage scene, with its bright blooms and a stunning sea view

Stitcher's guide

This pretty cottage scene is worked on 14-count white aida using 41 different shades of stranded cotton. The design uses whole cross stitches in two strands of thread, with half cross stitches in two strands for the sky and sea in the background. Backstitch defines the design in one strand of cotton and eight different shades, while French knots add detail to the flowers in two strands and six different shades. This densely stitched design is recommended for experienced stitchers.

About the design

Picture the most serene setting for a holiday by the sea, and this exclusive design from Anchor just about sums it up. Step out of the pretty thatched cottage into beautiful mature gardens, then just a few short steps down to the coastal path and a view to the azure blue water beyond. We couldn't imagine a better place to relax in the sunshine with some stitching! This is an advanced project with a large design area that is entirely covered with stitches. It's worked on 14-count white aida and contains no fractionals, but there are lots of half stitches adding depth to the scene, as well as plenty of backstitch and French knots to add detail to the flowers and cottage. This wonderful level of detail creates a truly picturesque finish, and with a bit of patience and a careful hand, you're sure to enjoy every stitch!

How to stitch the cottage

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.

3 Work the half cross stitch in two strands of cotton, making sure all your stitches lie in the same direction.

4 Add the backstitch detail using one strand of cotton. Eight different shades are used, so check the key carefully to see which one you need.

5 Add the French knots to the design in two strands of cotton. Six different shades are used, so check the key carefully to see which one you need.

6 Check over your finished stitching and prepare for making up.

You will need

FABRIC Zweigart 14-count white aida measuring 46x46cm (18x18in)

THREADS Anchor stranded cotton as listed in the key

NEEDLE Size 24 tapestry needle

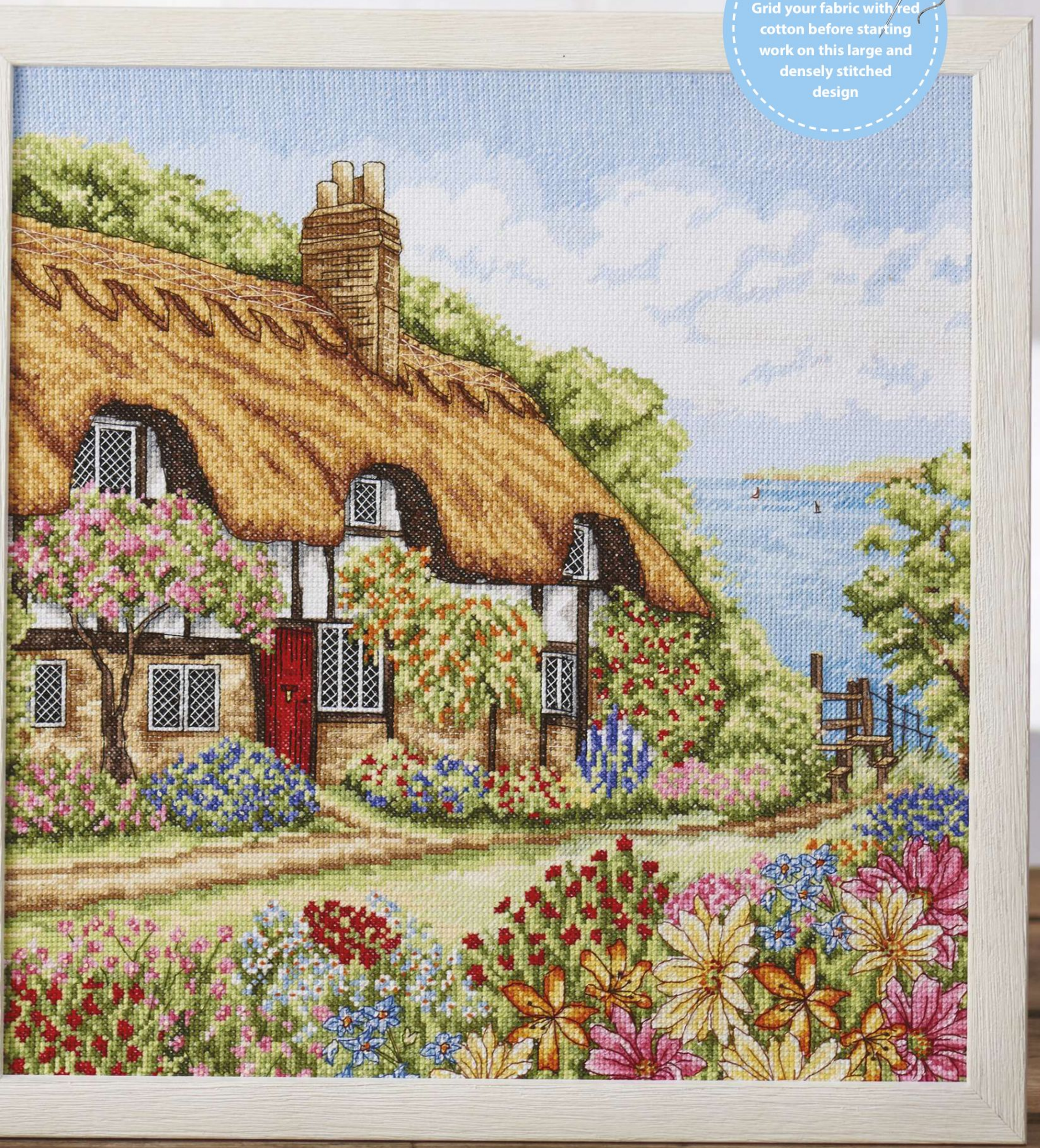
EXTRAS Frame of your choice with a minimum aperture of 36x35.5cm (14¼x14in)

FOR STOCKISTS' DETAILS turn to page 59



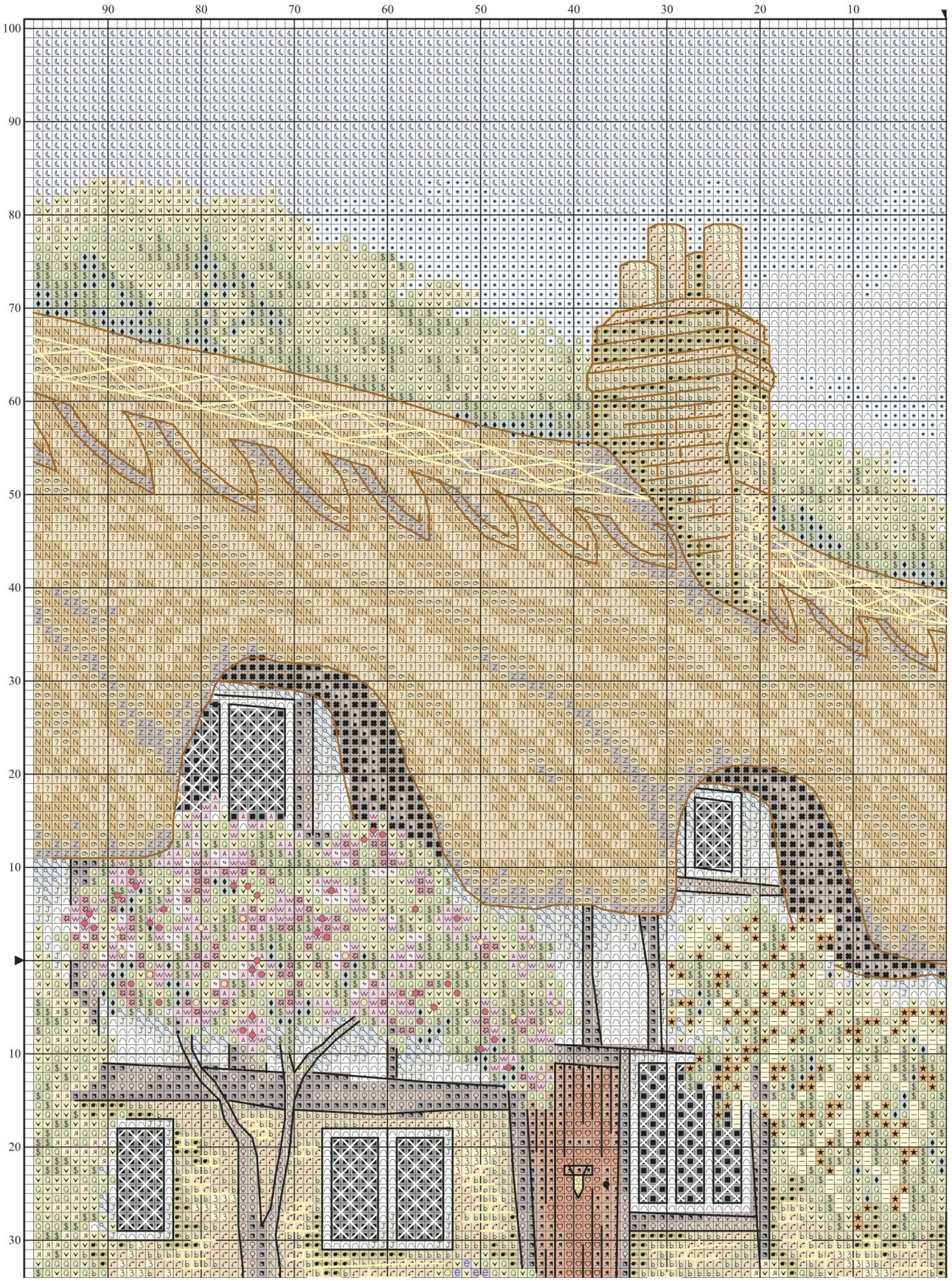
stitch tip

Grid your fabric with red cotton before starting work on this large and densely stitched design

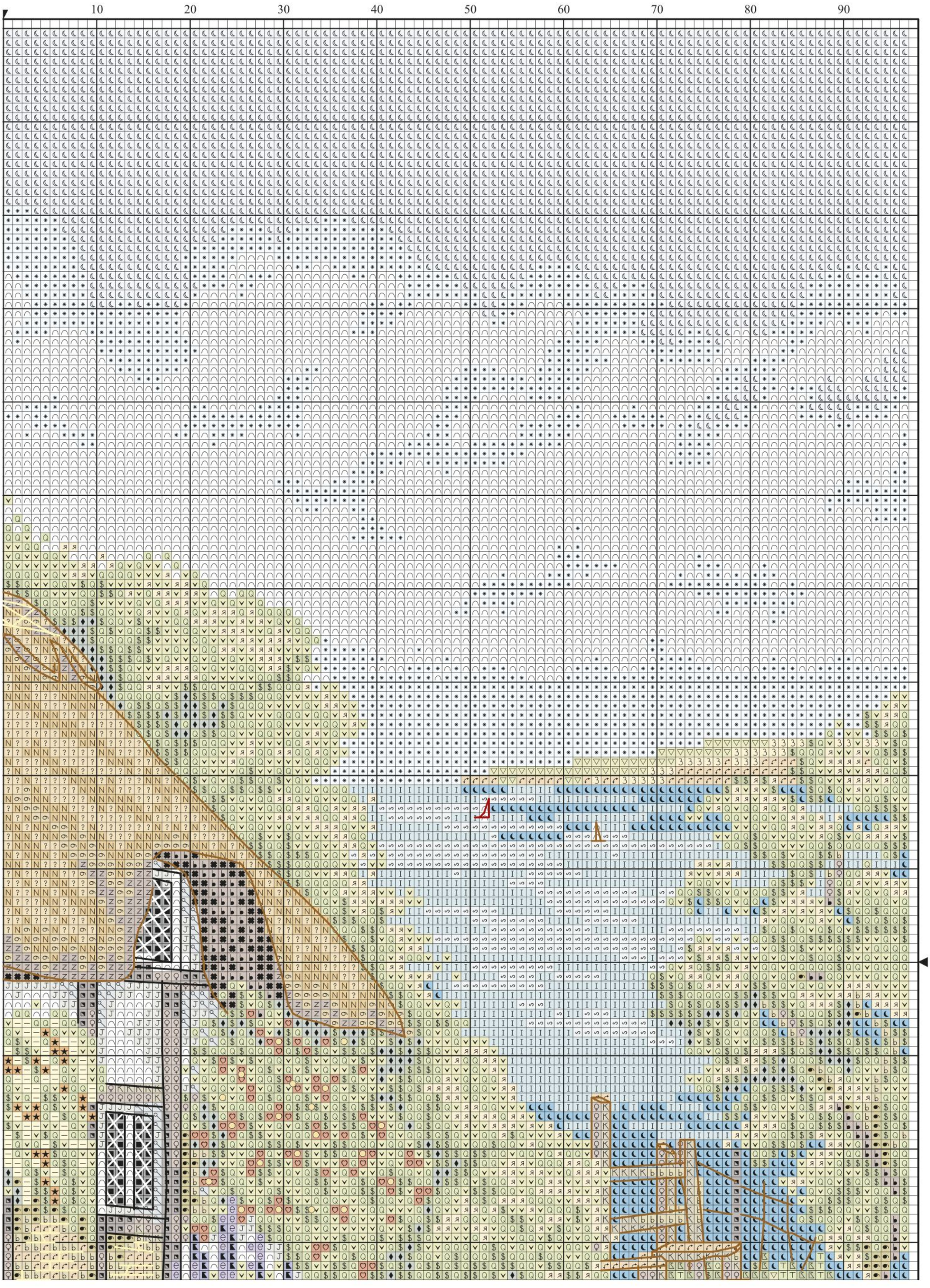


Step away from the hustle and bustle and retreat to a calmer place each time you pick up this project

Coastal cottage

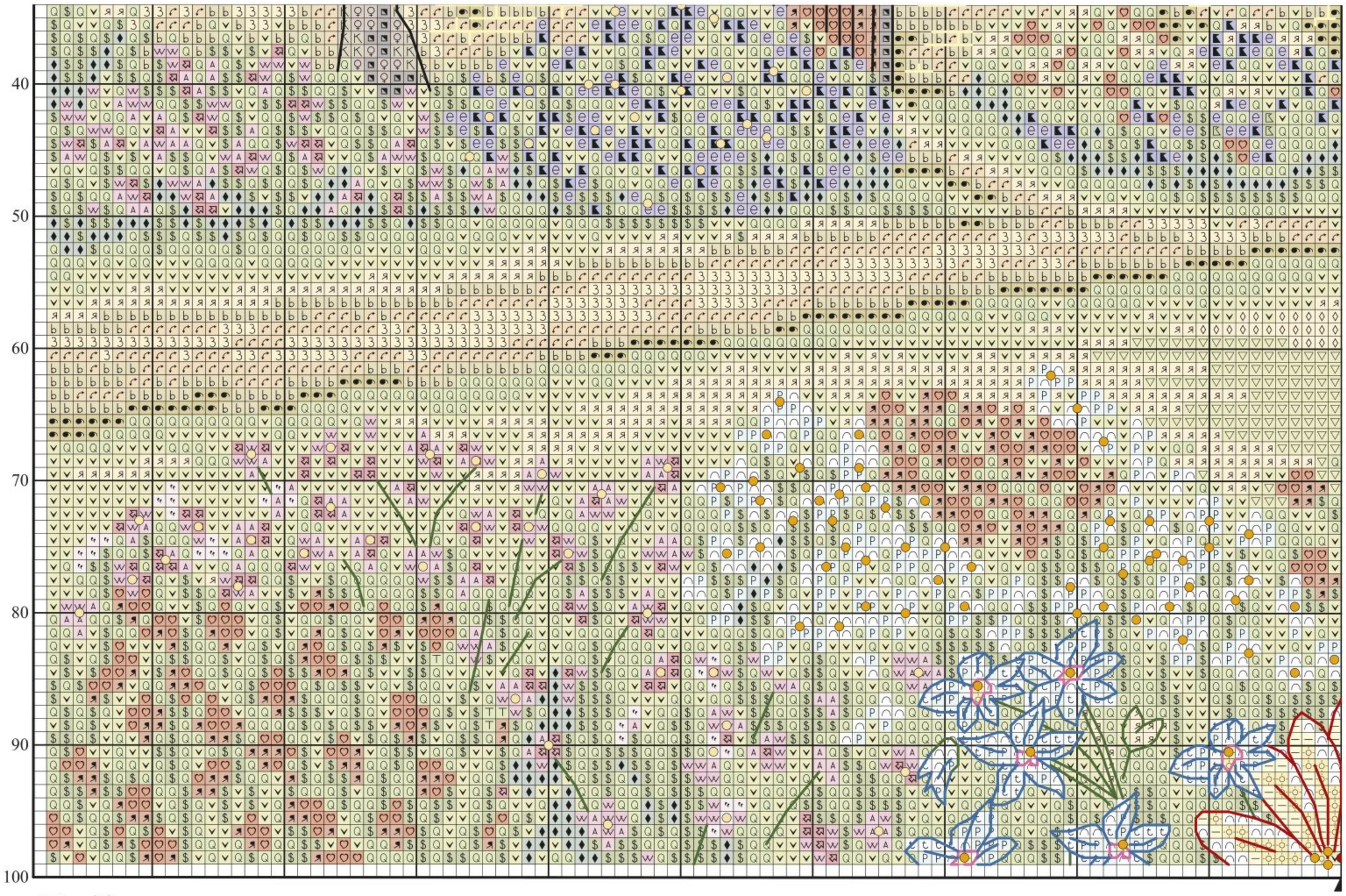


Top left

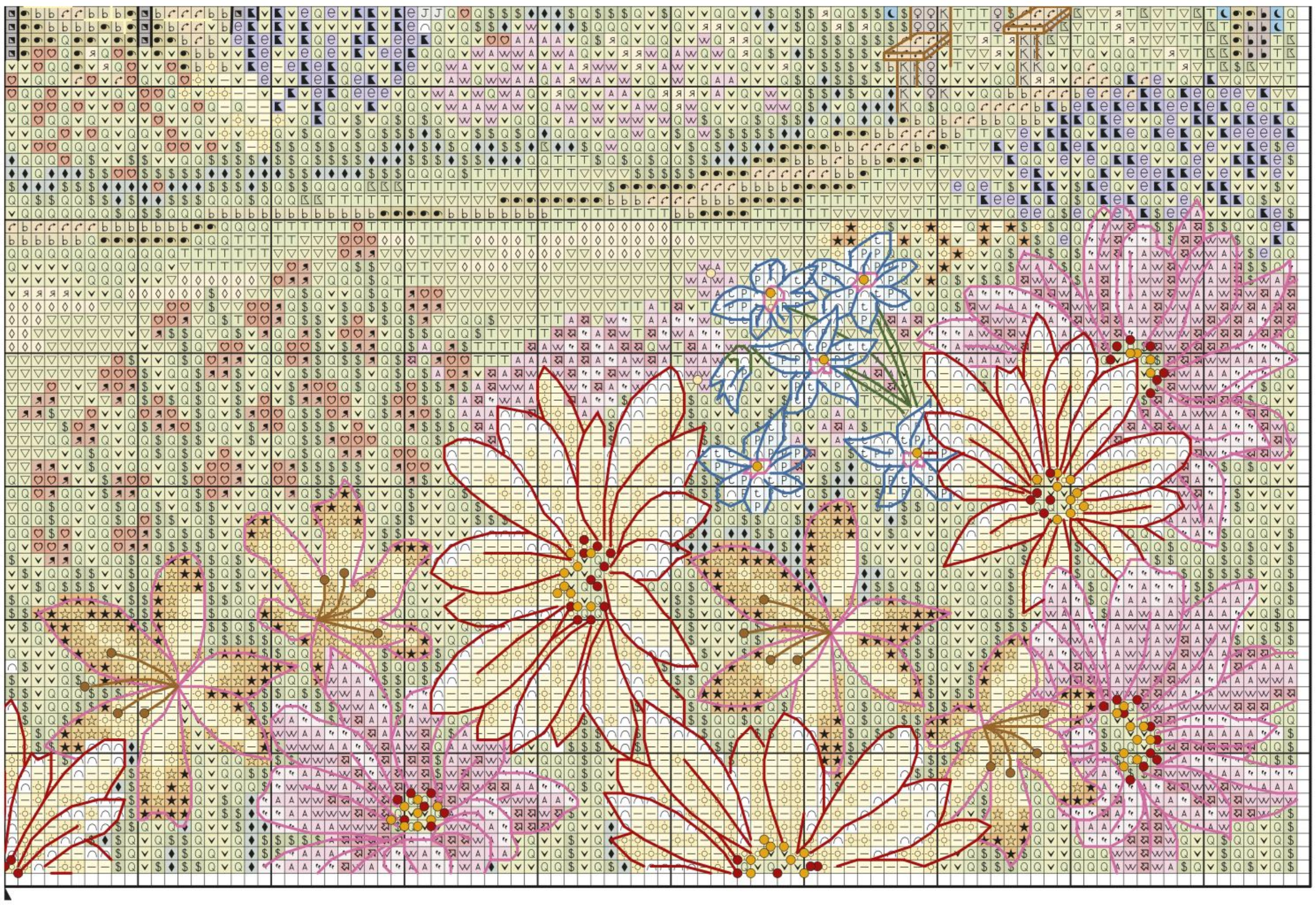


Top right

Coastal cottage



Bottom left



Bottom right

Coastal cottage key

Cross stitch in two strands

	Anchor	
◠	1	white x 2
w	26	pink
ঝ	38	dark pink
♡	46	light red
◪	47	red
'	48	very light pink
A	50	light pink
℮	118	purple
t	128	light blue
P	144	blue
◤	177	dark purple
v	253	light green x 2
Q	265	green x 2
$	267	dark green x 2
♦	269	very dark green
—	292	yellow
☼	295	dark yellow
я	300	light yellow
☆	303	light orange
?	311	tan
★	316	orange
b	360	dark brown
N	363	dark tan x 2
9	369	light brown
Z	371	brown
b	373	chestnut brown
◕	375	dark chestnut brown
✖	382	very dark brown
3	386	pale yellow
J	397	light grey
🔍	399	grey
■	403	black
↶	942	light tan
K	1084	light sepia

Cross stitch in two strands

	Anchor	
♀	1086	sepia
◥	1088	dark sepia

Half cross stitch in two strands

	Anchor	
*	128	light blue
☾	159	light turquoise x 2
▽	253	light green x 2
T	265	green x 2
◺	267	dark green x 2
◊	300	light yellow
I	1038	turquoise
◖	1039	dark turquoise
∽	9159	very light turquoise

Backstitch in one strand

	Anchor	
	1	white
	22	dark red
	269	very dark green
	371	brown
	386	pale yellow
	403	black
	979	dark blue
	1088	dark sepia

French knots in two strands*

	Anchor	
●	38	dark pink
●	47	red
●	292	yellow
●	316	orange
●	360	dark brown
●	403	black

STITCH COUNT 199 high x 195 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 36x35.5cm (14¼x14in)

SKEINS NEEDED **2x1** (white), **2x159** (light turquoise), **2x253** (light green), **2x265** (green), **2x267** (dark green), **2x363** (dark tan)

* wrap twice around the needle

This design was stitched using Anchor stranded cotton



Designer Secrets

Beautiful backstitch

There a few areas in this design where the backstitch is worked over large areas, rather than being stitched square by square. This creates lovely long lines – perfect for recreating the lattice windows, for instance, which are a beautiful feature of this cottage. You can also see longer backstitches on the chimney stack, thatched roof and





Coming soon in *Gold*

Next issue, we've got another glorious garden design for you to stitch in the shape of this sampler from The Historical Sampler Company. Issue 126 of *Cross Stitch Gold* is on sale 5th January 2016 (UK).



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Sarah x

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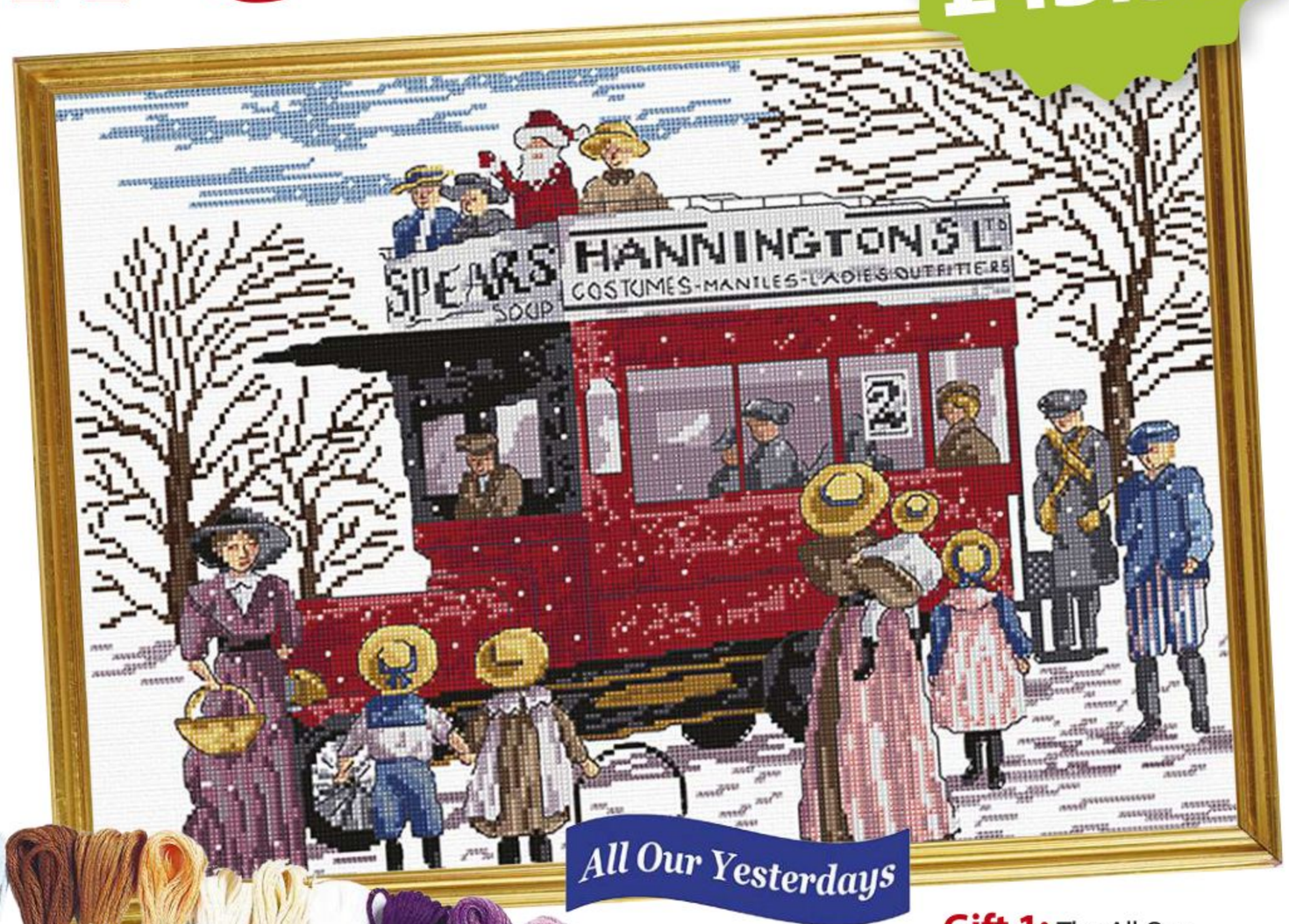
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The tree *of love*

Make your most cherished loved ones the stars of your next project, with our cross stitched family tree



Meet the designer

Nia Rhind

Nia lives in Wales with her family. She loves creating personalised samplers and designs for special occasions

Home is where the heart is, and at the heart of every home is the family. That's why my heartwarming design will appeal to most stitchers. It's worked in pretty pastel shades and has a whimsical feel, with butterflies, bees and birdhouses for extra detail. I have included alphabet charts so that you can add in your own names to make the piece special to you. And I've presented the family tree as a hanging, but it could be framed instead – it would also make a lovely cushion to cuddle up to! The really nice thing about this piece is the fact that you can add names to it over the years, so it can be a work in progress to admire, as your family grows.

Stitcher's guide

This family tree is worked on 28-count antique white evenweave, using 26 shades of stranded cotton. The design uses whole cross stitches in two strands of thread, with backstitch definition in one strand. French knots in one strand are used to embellish this pretty design, which is recommended for intermediate stitchers.

How to stitch the family tree

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.

3 Add the backstitch to the design using one strand of cotton. Six different shades are used, so check the key carefully to see which to thread your needle with.

4 Work the French knots in one strand of cotton.

5 Check over your finished stitching and prepare for making up.

How to work the French knots

The French knots in this design are shown as small, filled brown and black circles on the chart. To work one, thread your needle with two strands of thread and bring it up through the fabric where you want the knot to form. 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 but not into the same hole. Keeping the thread taut, pull the needle and thread through the fabric, leaving a neat French knot sitting on top.

You will need

FABRIC Zweigart 28-count antique white evenweave, measuring 38x35cm (15x14in)

THREADS Stranded cotton as listed in the key

NEEDLE Size 26 tapestry needle

EXTRAS Backing fabric of choice, dowel rod and ribbon from local shops

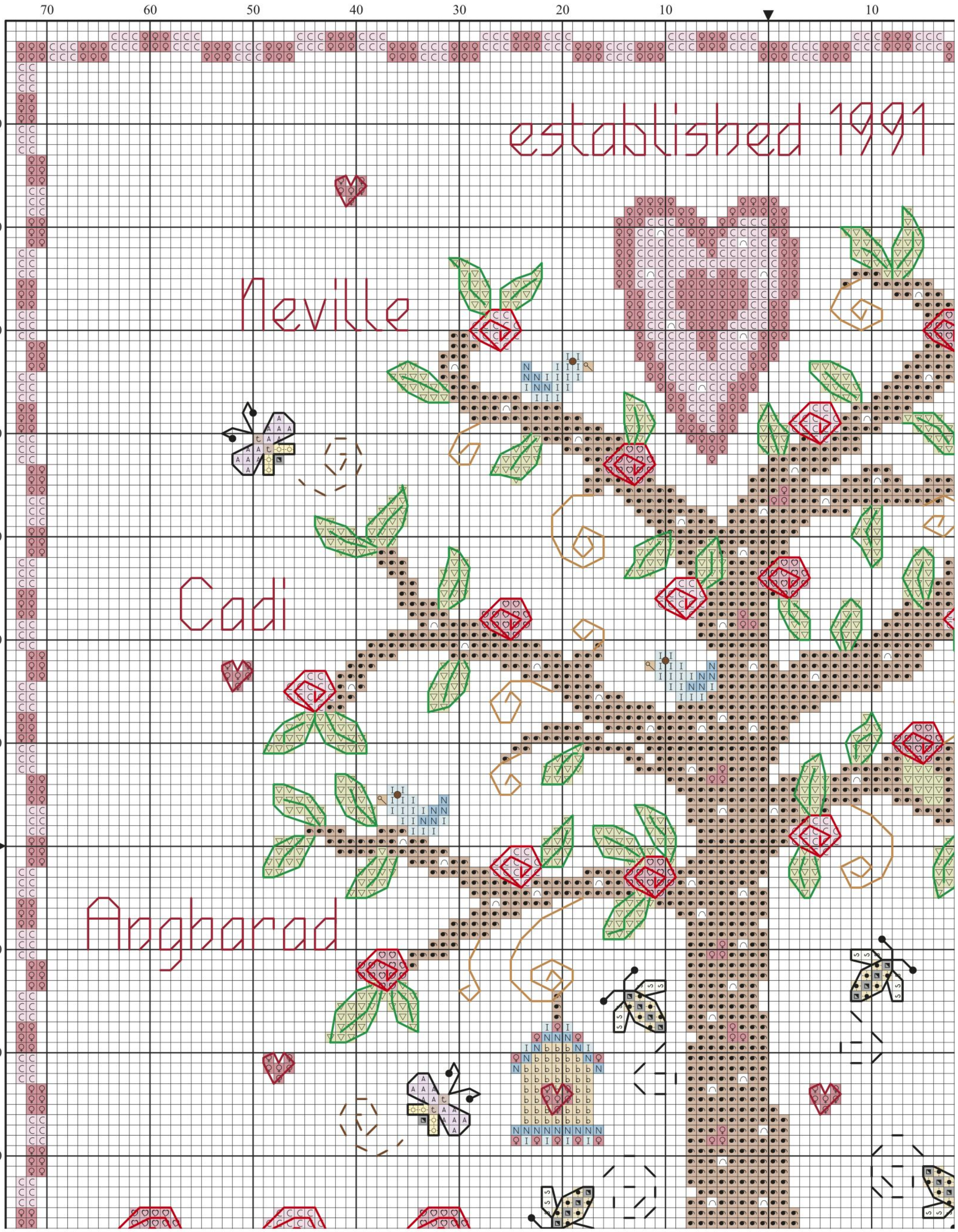
FOR STOCKISTS' DETAILS turn to page 59



stitch tip

Place your fabric in a frame so you have both hands free for working the stitches, especially the French knots

You'll be proud to display this pretty project in your home


70
60
50
40
30
20
10
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40
30
20
10
10
20
30
established 1991
Neville
Cadi
Angharad

Top left



Family tree key

Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
◠	B5200	1	2401	bright white
A	210	108	802	lilac
♀	326	59	508	rose pink
☾	340	118	902	purple
b	422	943	2102	light tan
🔍	435	1046	2010	tan
N	518	1039	1106	dark blue
I	519	1038	1105	blue
J	562	210	1205	green
♡	603	55	505	pink
C	605	1094	613	light pink
◔	632	936	2311	brick red
☼	727	293	112	yellow
♥	814	22	601	red
t	839	1050	1913	brown
▽	3348	264	1409	grass green
◹	3799	236	1713	grey
●	3855	311	2513	apricot
S	3866	926	2101	cream

Backstitch in one strand

326	59	508	rose pink
435	1046	2010	brown
562	210	1205	green
814	22	601	red
839	1050	1913	brown
3799	236	1713	grey

French knots in one strand

839	1050	1913	brown
3799	236	1713	grey

STITCH COUNT 158 high x 146 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 28.5x26.5cm (11¼x10½in)

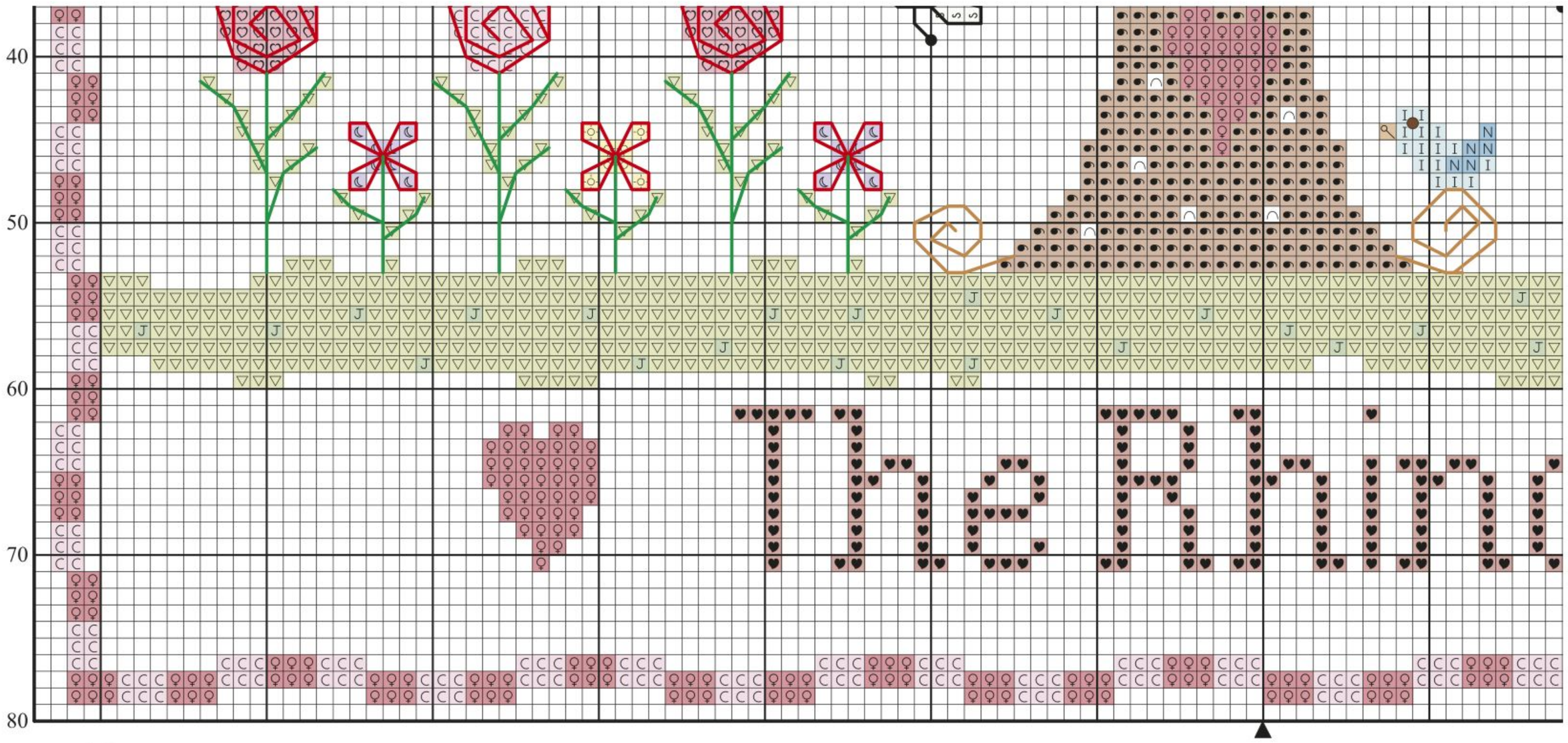
This design was stitched using DMC stranded cotton on 28-count evenweave over two threads of the fabric



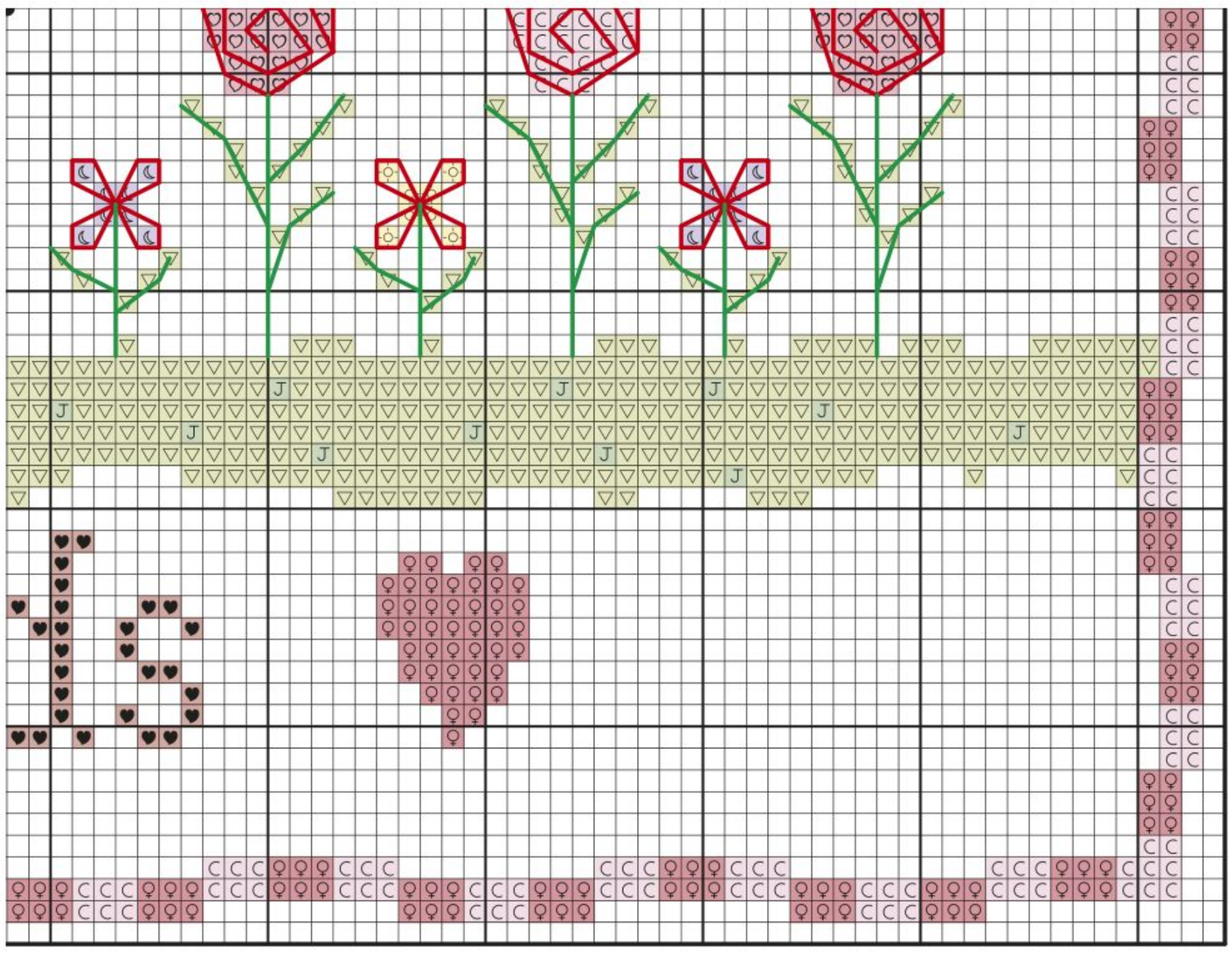
stitch tip

If you'd like more space for names around your tree, simply leave a wider gap between the tree and border

Top right



Bottom left



Bottom right

"This design is beautiful – it'll make a lovely anniversary gift for my parents, with their names at the top of the tree. In the space above the tree, I'll add their anniversary"
Sarah Trevor, Editor



Nia Rhind Designer Secrets

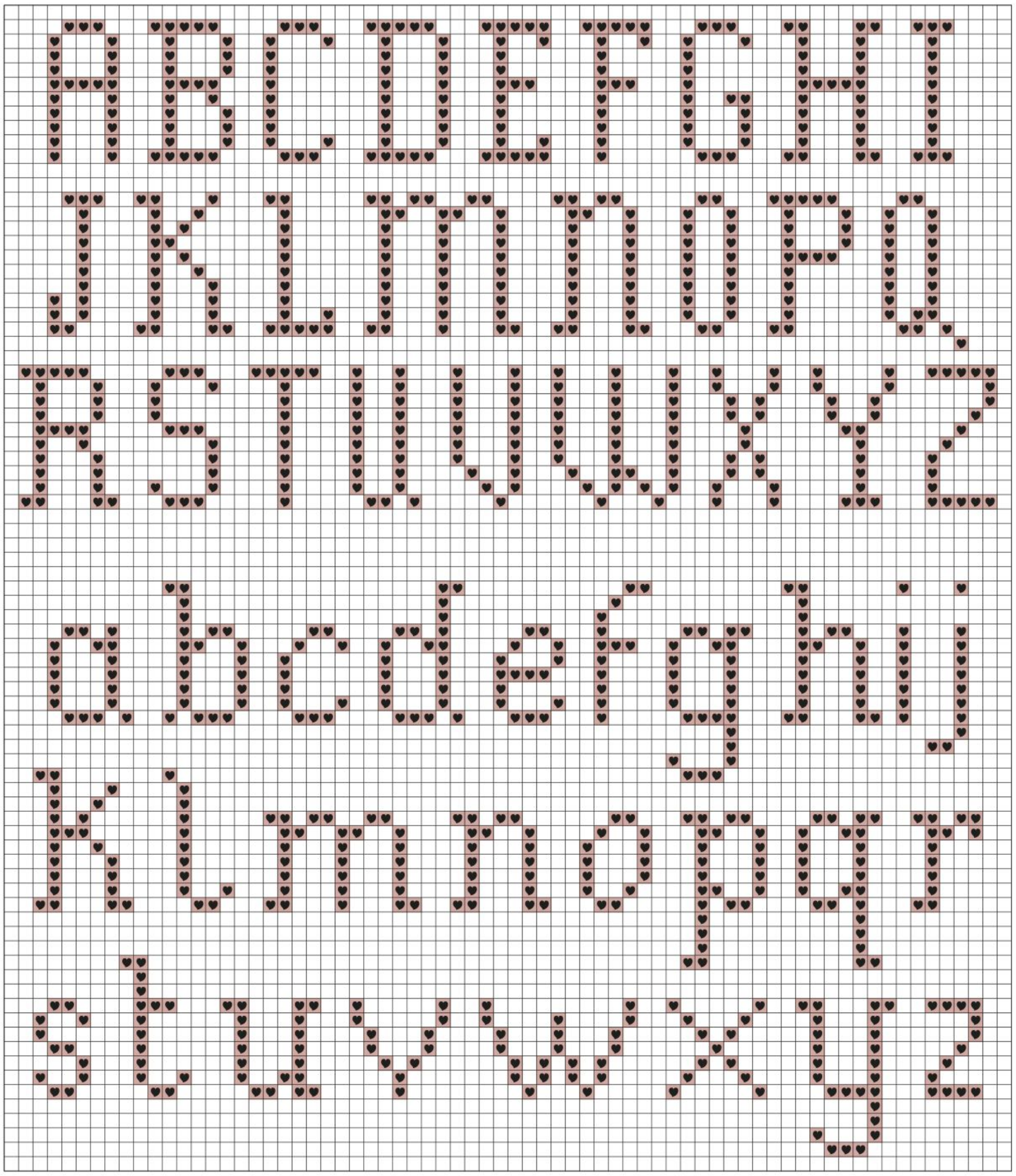
Just for you

I love creating designs that can be personalised, so that you know there is no other cross stitch in the world the same as yours. You could go one step further with this design and make the hanging with fabrics from special items of clothes (baby clothes, for example) that remind you of the people on the family tree.



A finer finish

Although my design doesn't make use of fractional stitches, I've still worked it on 28-count evenweave instead of aida. I think the evenweave gives the piece more of a heritage feel, perfect for a design like this, that will likely be passed down through the generations.



How to make up the hanging

1 Trim the stitched piece, so it measures 32x29cm (12½x11½in).

2 Cut 16 pieces of backing fabric measuring 10.5x9cm (4¼x3½in) for edge panels. Arrange the pieces in a desired order. With right sides together, sew the short sides of three pieces together, leaving 1cm (½in) seam allowance. Repeat. With right sides together, sew the short sides of five pieces together, leaving 1cm (½in) seam allowance. Repeat. Press.

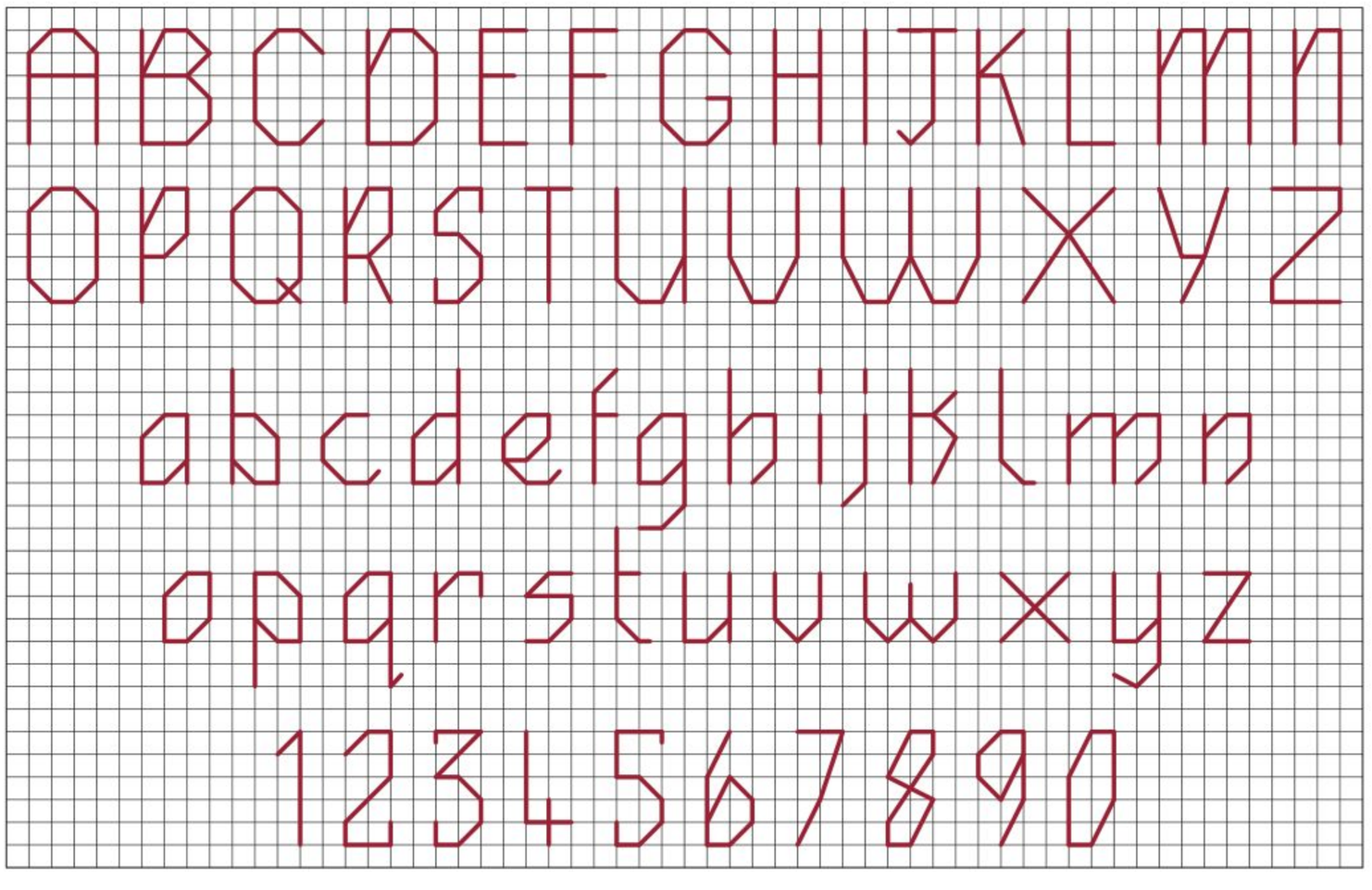
3 With right sides together, leaving 1cm (½in) seam allowance, sew the top and bottom panels of three squares to the edge of your stitching. Repeat with the side panels. Press the seams open.

4 To make the tabs, cut two pieces of backing fabric measuring 10x14cm (4x5½in). Fold in half along the long edge with right sides together and sew 1cm (½in) along the long side. Turn through and press.

5 Cut one 41x44cm (16x17½in) piece of fabric for the back panel. Place right sides together with the front panel, sandwiching the tabs at the top.

6 Pin and sew all the way around the edge with a 1cm (½in) seam, leaving an 8cm (3in) opening for turning through. Trim corners, turn through and slip stitch gap closed. Press and insert on a dowel rod with ribbon to hang.





Ask the experts

Send your questions to sarah@cross-stitching.com or Expert Advice, *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.

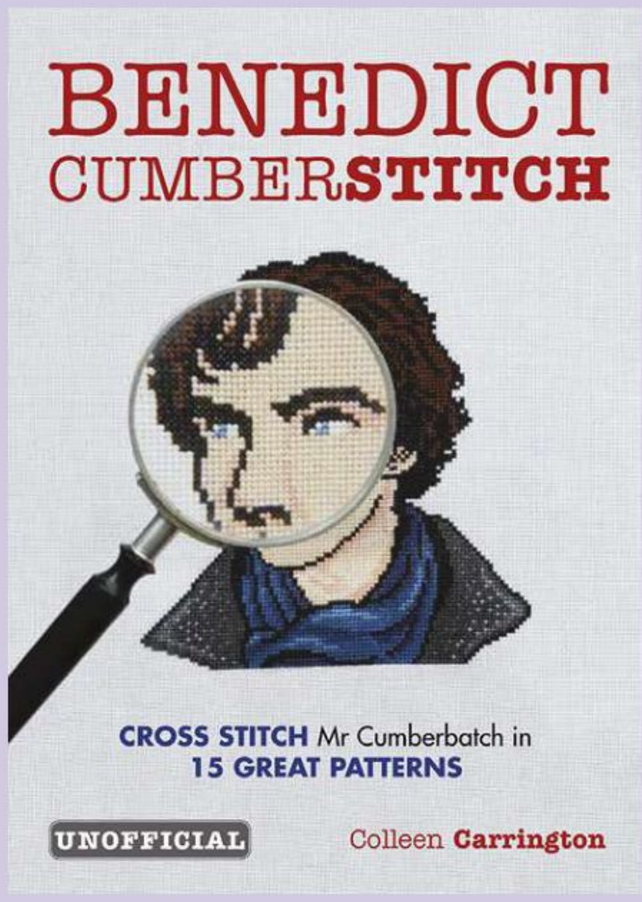


SARAH TREVOR
Sarah has worked on cross stitching and craft magazines for over six years. She's an avid stitcher, and is ready and raring to help you with any of your craft or cross stitch dilemmas.

STAR SEARCH

Q Is it possible to buy a Benedict Cumberbatch or *Sherlock* cross stitch kit or chart? My 15-year-old granddaughter is crazy about him and I might just get the 'Best Granny in the World' award if I manage to present her with a finished picture for her birthday!
Lesley Pritchard, Bolton

A Jo: *Benedict Cumberstitch* is the unofficial guide to stitching the *Sherlock* star (or becoming the best Gran in the world!). The book was launched to coincide with his star role in *Hamlet* at the Barbican and contains 15 different designs for you to stitch. Don't limit yourself to making a picture though; stitch him onto an apron, a cushion, tote bag or even a pillowcase. With waste canvas, the sky's the limit! To buy the book for £6.95, visit local bookshops or log on to www.amazon.co.uk



Capture the popular Mr Cumberbatch in stitches!

PAINTED FABRIC

Q I've seen some wonderful hand-painted fabric for cross stitch, but it's quite expensive so I thought I would have a look at painting some myself. What are the correct paints to use?
Catherine Talbot, Colchester

A Fiona: Ordinary paint will dry hard and fill the holes, so you need to use one such as Dylon Fabric Paint, and not too much of it. Try out your technique on a piece of 14-count aida – simply cut your fabric to the size you need and tape the corners to some greaseproof paper before painting. For grass and sky effects, try using a sponge paintbrush or a piece of natural sponge for a soft finish. You will need to follow the instructions for the paint you are using. A six pack of Dylon (containing red, blue, yellow, silver, white and black) can be bought for £15.99 by calling 01793 327022 or from www.kidzcraft.co.uk

Dylon is a safe and easy fabric paint to use



LACING WITH THREAD

Q When I mount my cross stitch, I usually place it over a board and a piece of wadding and lace it at the back. I used to lace it with some strong linen thread, but they don't make it anymore. I've tried using sewing thread doubled, but wasn't able to pull it very tight before it snapped. Is there a thread that you can recommend, please?
Donna Bryne, Belfast

A Sarah: Hemline's strong linen thread is a great choice. It comes on a 20m spool and you can buy it for just £1.29 from www.dunelm.com or call 0345 1656565.



Hemline's Linen Thread is available in white or black

To lace a design, you'll need a piece of mountboard, and wadding if you want a padded look. Cut your board to the same size as the frame aperture. Position the stitching over the board and make sure it's central, then push a line of pins down each side, into the board. Check your stitching is lined up, then trim the fabric, leaving a 5cm (2in) border and folding any excess over the back of the board. Thread your needle with a long length of thread, knot the end and lace two opposite sides together on the back, working in an 'under-and-over' motion. When you reach the other end, adjust the laced threads one by one, before finishing off. Repeat on the two remaining edges. Fold down the corners, stitch in place, then remove the pins and put your work in the frame.

TASTY STITCH!

Q Where can I find a lovely cross stitch kit featuring baking? It's for my daughter who lives in South Africa – stitching and baking are two of her favourite things!
Melissa Forbes, Sussex

A Sarah: **Designed by Cathy Squire, Bake is one of eight baking-related designs from Bothy Threads. You might like to check out the others too, but I love the English country kitchen feel of this one, complete with bunting, pretty pottery and a cat in a cosy corner! Cross stitch kits with little motifs are so easy to finish – complete one in an evening, or on your journey to work. When finished, the design measures 25x25cm (10x10in), and the kit contains everything you need to stitch it, including 14-count cream aida. To buy the Bake cross stitch kit for £24.99 go to www.bothythreads.com or call 0844 8000221.**



This is just one of a series of baking designs from Bothy Threads

SPECIAL STORAGE

Q I was lucky enough to be given my gran's old sewing box, but unfortunately it's falling to bits. Can you tell me where I can get another similar traditional one? It's the sort with concertina drawers.
Esther Greenough, Devon

A Jo: Cantilevered sewing boxes are a design classic. Does yours have legs or is it one without? Traditionally they came with legs, but nowadays you can also buy them without legs for smaller homes. You really do feel you're having a good sewing session when you pull out all those drawers and see everything you need! A three-tier box with legs (measuring 21x42x43.5cm /8¼x16½x17in) costs £59.80 from www.sewing-online.com. They also have small and medium boxes without legs.

Sewing Online stocks sewing boxes in maple, pine or oak



KEEP CALM

Q My friend and I were looking for a retirement gift online and we spotted a clock with 'Keep Calm and Cross Stitch' on it. We now want to buy it, but I can't find the website anywhere. Can you point me in the right direction?
Janice Boyle, Newport

A Sarah: **It took a bit of time, but we got there in the end! This clock is supplied by Zazzle, and the reason why they are not universally available is because they are printed on acrylic by demand. A large clock (square or circle) measuring 27.5cm (10¾in) diameter costs £25, and a medium clock measuring 20cm (8in) costs £21, with your choice of 14 background colours. There are some other fabulous cross stitch clocks at www.zazzle.com, and you can even upload your own cross stitch design or image to make a customised clock!**



Choose from 14 different background colours when you buy this cool clock

SATIN SOFT

Q Can you tell me what the difference is between DMC satin thread and ordinary floss? I would like some tips for using the satin thread as I hear it can be tricky to use.
Amy Fewless, Philadelphia

A Fiona: They are a bit trickier to use than stranded cotton, but not as tricky as metallic threads – in fact, a lot of people use them instead of metallics as they create a lovely shimmery effect. The threads are made of rayon and this means they are more difficult to use as rayon is very slippery and shiny. Satin threads have six strands and you will usually need to use two for cross stitch, just like normal stranded cotton. Make sure you use shorter lengths than normal, to prevent tangles and knots, and run the thread across Thread Heaven conditioner to help keep the slippery strands under control. Buy a skein for 95p from www.sewandso.co.uk or call 0800 0130150 for mail order.

DMC's satin threads give a smooth, silky, light-reflective finish



SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY

Q I need a very special cross stitch design for two relatives, who are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary. Can you help?
Janette Wrighton, Aberdeen

A Fiona: **We have a range of anniversary cards in this very issue, Janette, including a lovely golden one for 50 years! Turn to page 60 to find the charts.**

If you fancy trying a different technique, how about this 3D-effect card from The Nutmeg Company? When stitching on perforated paper, don't pull the threads too tightly or you may tear the paper – however, if you do, you can stick some tape on the back and stitch through it. The kit contains everything you need, including 14-count perforated paper, threads, backing paper, envelope, and instructions on how to cut out and fold the card to assemble it. Buy the kit for £9.95 from www.past-impressions.co.uk or call 020 83353930 to order by phone.



Stitching on perforated paper is much easier than you may think

Grow *with love*

Little ones grow fast! Keep track of their growth each season with our woodland-themed height chart



Meet the designer

Lucie Heaton

Lucie is a freelance cross stitch design with a passion for needlework and crafts

It's always fun to see how much your little ones have grown, and my height chart is something that you'll both enjoy using. They'll be delighted as they overtake the fox, working their way up past the butterflies, owl, woodpecker and finally, the squirrel. If you're introducing a child to cross stitch, why not encourage them to stitch one of the animals – a butterfly, perhaps – on a smaller piece of fabric? Worked in lovely bright thread shades, my height chart will look right at home in a child's bedroom. You'll need to hang it on a wall or door, making sure the stitched measurements are accurate from the floor.

Stitcher's guide

The height chart is worked on 14-count white aida, using 26 shades of stranded cotton. This design uses whole cross stitches in two strands of thread. Backstitch in one strand of cotton is used to add definition. This cute design is recommended for all stitchers.

stitch tip

Find lots of helpful stitching tutorials online at Cross-stitching.com

How to stitch the height chart

1 Find the centre of your fabric by folding it in half both horizontally and vertically.

2 Follow the arrows on the chart to find its centre and start stitching from here, working your way outwards.

3 Work the cross stitch using two strands of cotton.

4 Add the backstitch detail using one strand of cotton.

5 Check over your finished stitching and prepare for making up.

You will need

FABRIC Zweigart 14-count white aida, measuring 90x25cm (35½x10in)

THREADS Stranded cotton as listed in the key

NEEDLE Size 24 tapestry needle

EXTRAS Duplex Dots fabric from www.myfabrics.co.uk. Dowel rod and ribbon of your choice to hang

FOR STOCKISTS' DETAILS turn to page 59

How to add dates

If you want to make a permanent record of your child's milestones, you might like to add some backstitched dates to the height chart. Just remember to leave the back of the stitching accessible when making up, so that you can add this detail later. Alternatively, you could stitch each date onto a patch of aida and hand-sew the patch in place. You could even use a fine-tip fabric pen to write the dates on!

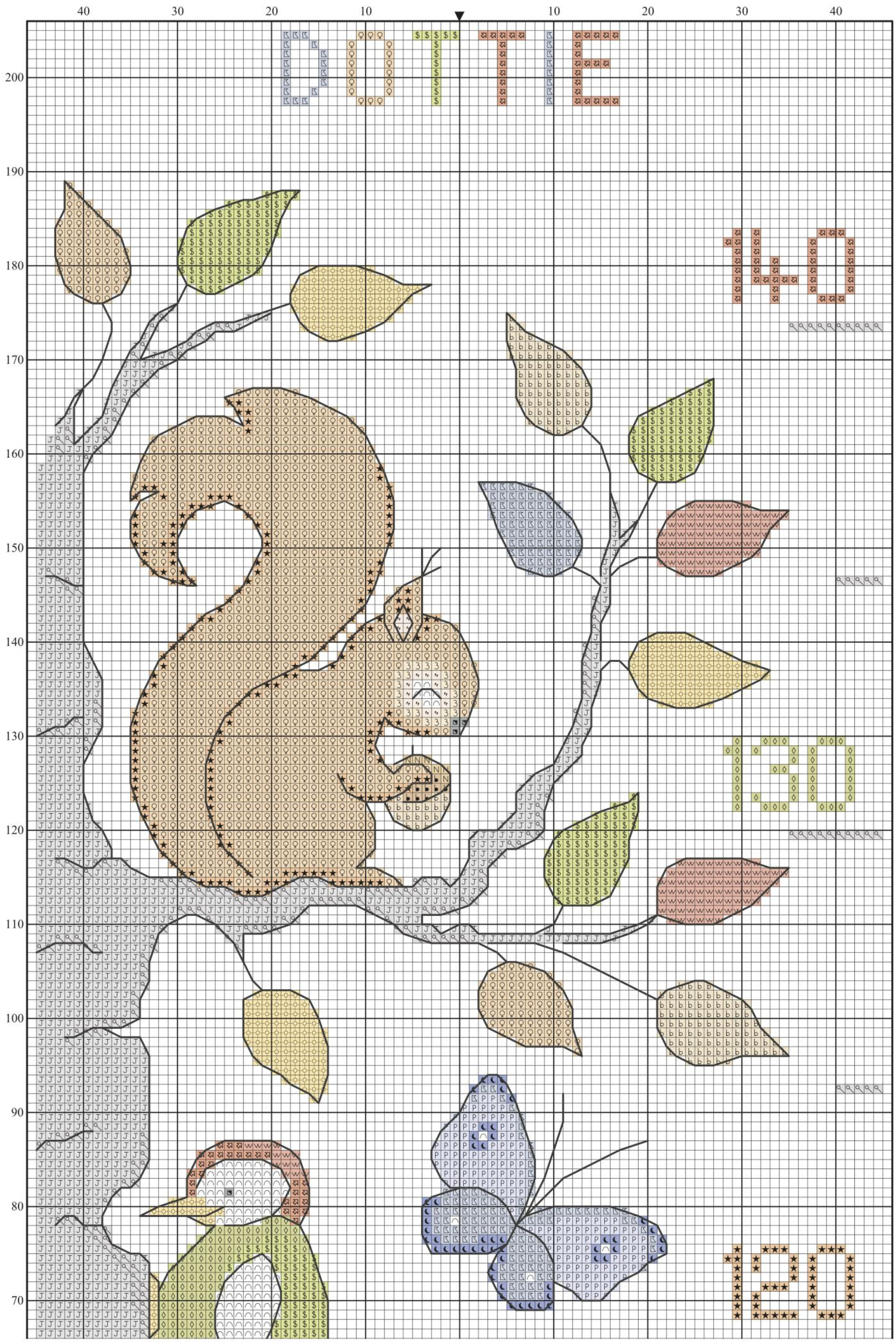
"What a fun and colourful project for a little one's bedroom"

Fiona Baker, Technical Editor

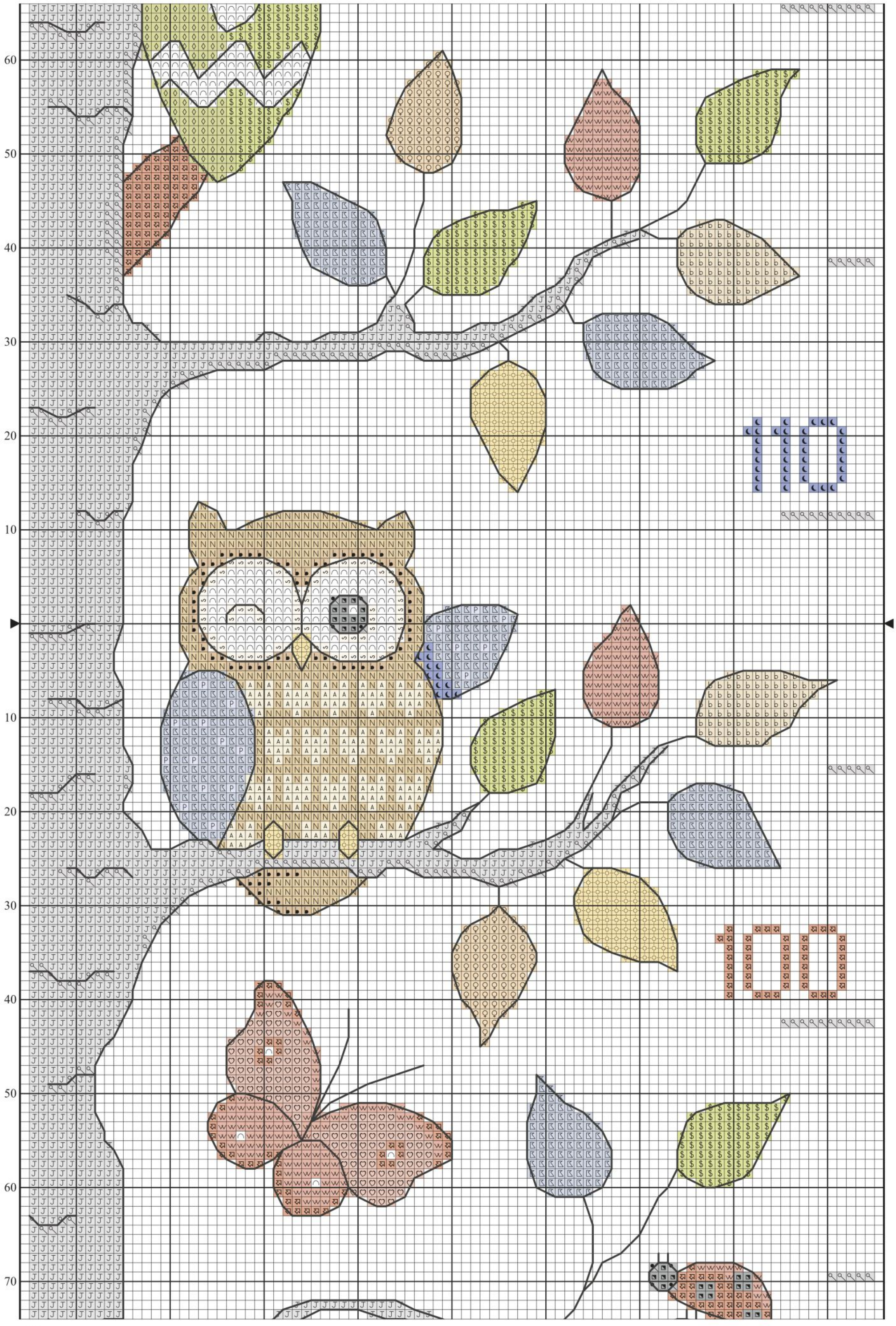


Kids will love measuring themselves against this fab height chart!

Height chart

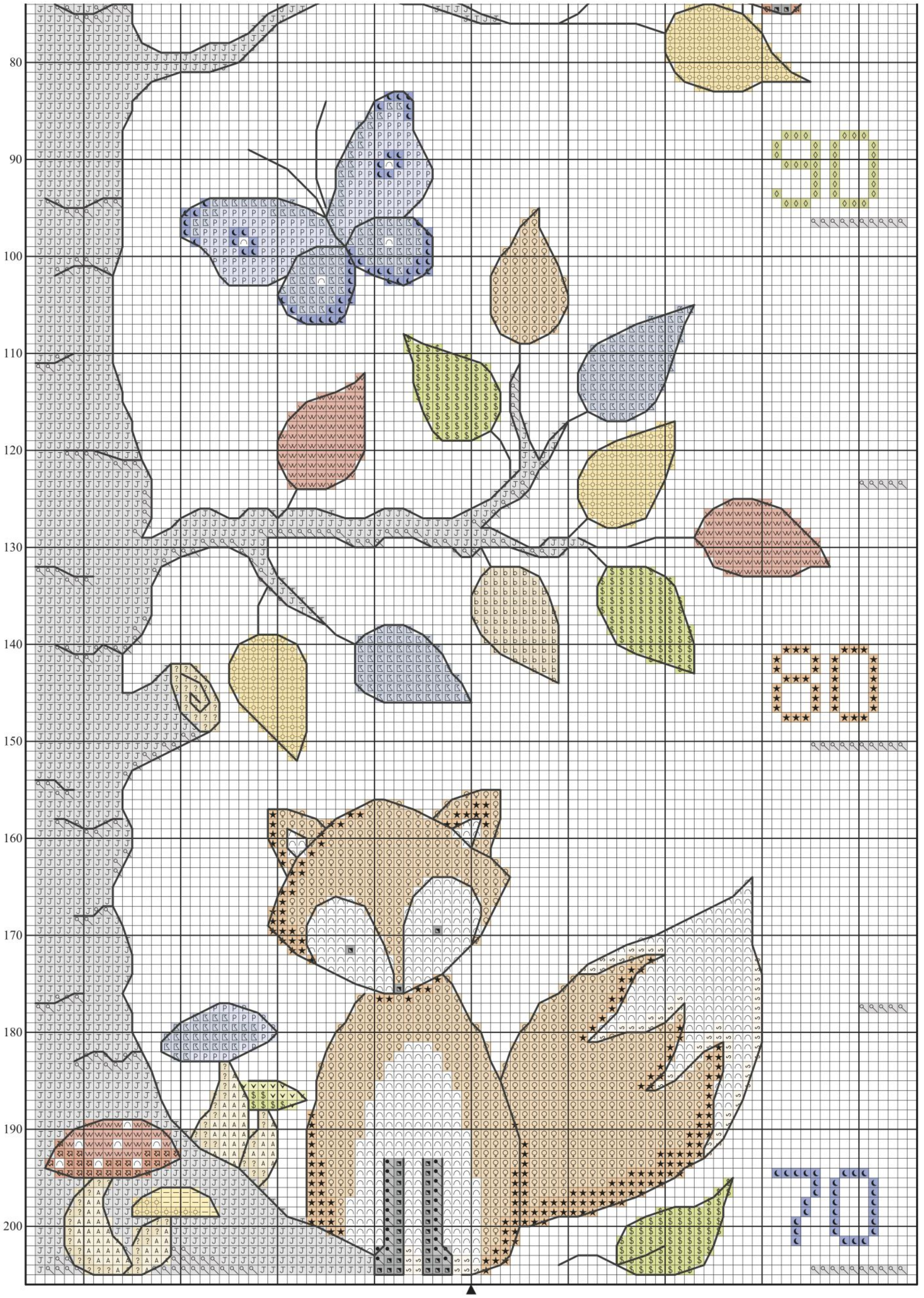


Top



Middle

Height chart



Bottom



Lucie Heaton's Designer Secrets

Just name it

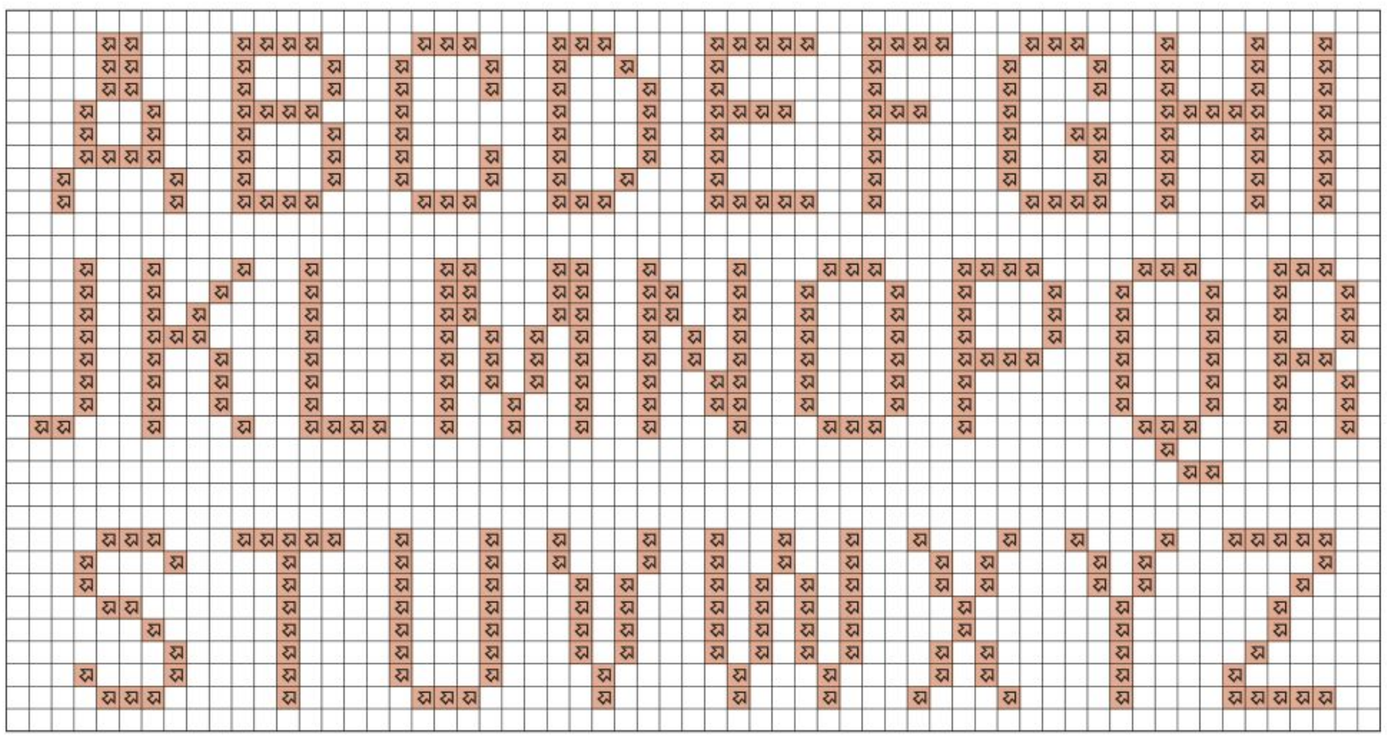
I have added a child's name at the top of my height chart, but if you're stitching this for a household with more than one child, you could either squeeze in another name or two, or leave the names off altogether.





Friendly theme

I decided to use woodland animals on my height chart, as I think they make a lovely theme for a child's bedroom. You'll find lots of other coordinating bedroom items – duvet covers, alarm clocks, curtains – in high street shops.



Height chart key

Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	blanc	2	2402	white
v	165	278	1414	light lime green
$	166	279	1611	lime green
↖	318	399	1801	grey
⊿	349	1098	212	dark red
w	351	10	214	medium red
♡	352	9	303	light red
↖	414	235	714	dark grey
J	415	398	1802	light grey
b	435	1046	2010	brown
N	436	1045	2011	light brown
b	437	362	2012	tan
◊	581	280	1609	dark lime green
s	712	926	2101	light cream
★	721	324	308	dark orange
♀	722	323	307	orange x 2
☼	725	305	113	dark yellow
—	726	295	109	yellow
?	738	367	2013	dark cream
A	739	366	2014	cream
☾	798	131	912	dark blue
◺	799	145	910	blue
◟	951	1010	2308	peach
◥	3799	236	1713	very dark grey
P	3840	130	907	light blue
3	3856	368	2309	apricot

Backstitch in one strand

——	3799	236	1713	very dark grey

STITCH COUNT 410 high x 90 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 74.5x16.5cm (29¼x6½in)

SKEINS NEEDED **2x722** (orange)

This design was stitched using DMC stranded cotton

How to make up the hanging

1 Trim your stitched piece, leaving 2cm (¾in) all the way around.

2 Cut two pieces of fabric, measuring 79x10cm (31x4in) for side panels. With right sides facing, pin to sides of stitching, using a 2cm (¾in) seam allowance, and machine-stitch in place.

3 Cut one piece of fabric, measuring 32x10cm (12½x4in) for bottom panel, and one piece measuring 32x14cm (12½x5½in) for top. With right sides facing, pin to the top and bottom of your stitching using a 2cm (¾in) seam allowance. Stitch in place.

4 Cut a piece of fabric, measuring 96x32cm (38x12½in), for the back of your hanging. With right sides facing, pin fabric to your stitched panel, and machine-stitch all around, leaving a 2cm (¾in) seam allowance, and a small opening at the bottom to pull through. Slip stitch the opening closed and press.

5 Pull through so that the stitching is facing outwards, and press. Fold over 2cm (¾in) at the top, and sew in place to make a space for the dowel.

6 Insert a dowel and ribbon of your choice for hanging.

Previously in *Gold*

If you love sitching fun designs for kids, then how about this hot air balloon design by Durene Jones? This design featured in issue 120. To order a back issue, visit www.buysubscriptions.com/backissues



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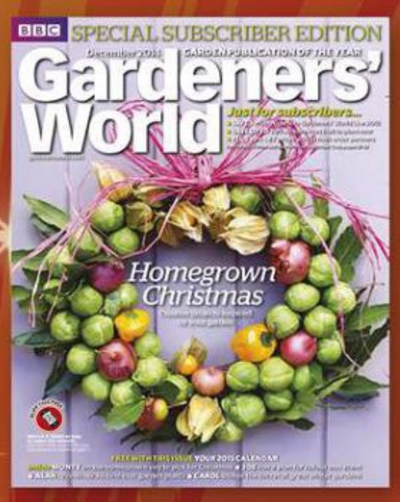
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Into the *wild*

The distinctive giant panda makes a fine subject for cross stitch, and the addition of a beautiful baby makes Maria's sweet scene even better!



Meet the designer

Maria Diaz

Maria studied Fine Art at university and previously worked for DMC Creative World, before becoming a freelance cross stitch designer

I've long been fascinated by the giant panda, and experts are still learning new things about these rather elusive creatures. They were once believed to live quite solitary lives, but research shows that this is almost certainly not the case. I'm keeping my ears open to hear of any other new discoveries. And in the meantime, I have my panda design to keep me company!

This scene of a mother and baby is a joy to stitch in whole cross stitch and backstitch, with fractionals used only for the pandas' eyes. It's quite a small palette of colours, but together they work really well on the soft background of cashel linen.

Stitcher's guide

This panda portrait is worked on 28-count taupe cashel linen, using 15 different shades of stranded cotton. The design uses whole cross stitches and fractionals in two strands of thread, with backstitch in one strand for definition. This charming design is recommended for intermediate stitchers.

How to stitch the panda portrait

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.

3 Add the backstitch detail using one strand of cotton. Three different shades are used, so check the key to see which one to thread your needle with.

4 Check over your finished stitching and prepare for making up.

You will need

FABRIC Zweigart 28-count flax cashel linen evenweave, measuring 40x40cm (16x16in)

THREADS Stranded cotton as listed in the key

NEEDLE Size 26 tapestry needle

EXTRAS Frame of your choice with minimum aperture of 28x32cm (11x12½in)

FOR STOCKISTS' DETAILS turn to page 59

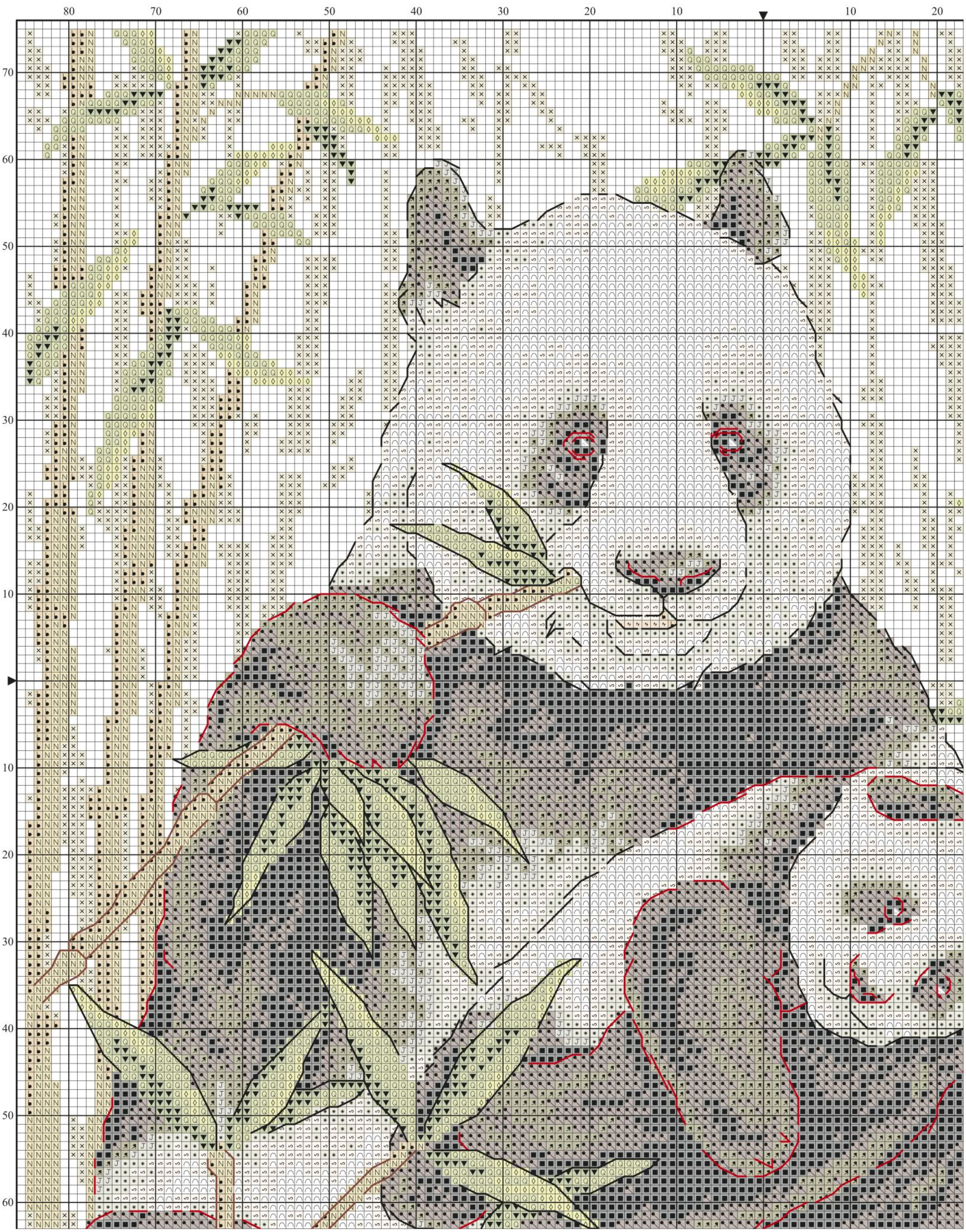


stitch tip

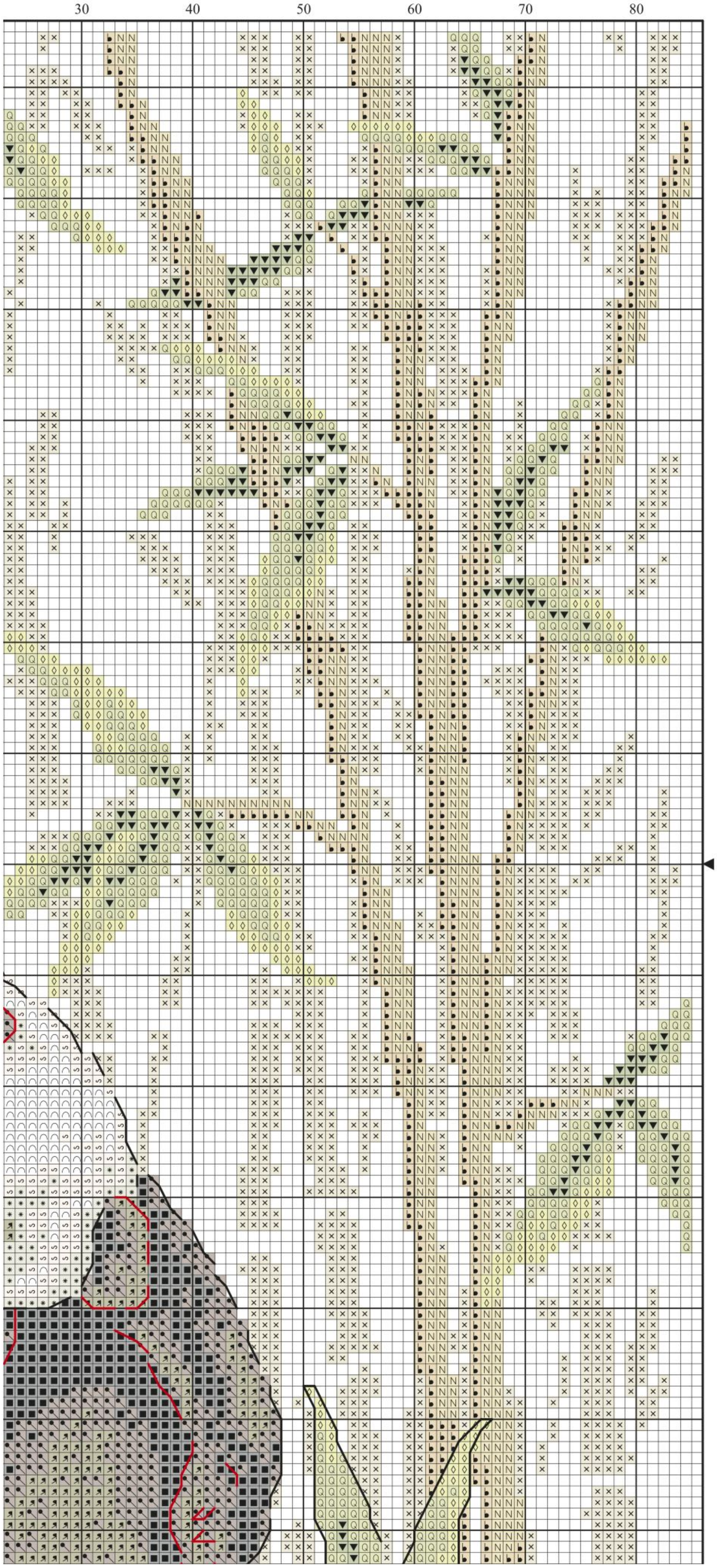
Finish your stitching with a white, black or green frame, to complement the colours

Our striking design is worked in a harmonious palette of natural shades

Panda family



Top left



Top right

Panda family key

Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
◠	B5200	1	2401	white
s	ecru	926	2404	cream
◊	165	278	1414	lime green
■	310	403	2400	black
b	422	943	2102	tan
*	644	830	1814	beige
◪	645	273	1811	dark ash grey
J	647	1040	1813	ash grey
N	676	891	2208	sand
◤	844	1041	1809	grey
×	3047	852	2205	straw
▼	3347	265	1408	green
Q	3348	264	1409	light green
◟	3771	868	2605	peach

Backstitch in one strand

—	B5200	1	2401	white
—	435	1046	2010	brown
—	844	1041	1809	grey

STITCH COUNT 150 high x 170 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 27.5x31cm (10¾x12in)

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

How to frame your stitching

1 Cut mountboard to fit inside your frame, with a 2-3mm gap around the edge. Mark the centre on the top and bottom edges of the board. Position your stitching on the board, adjusting it until it's central, then push a pin into each edge.

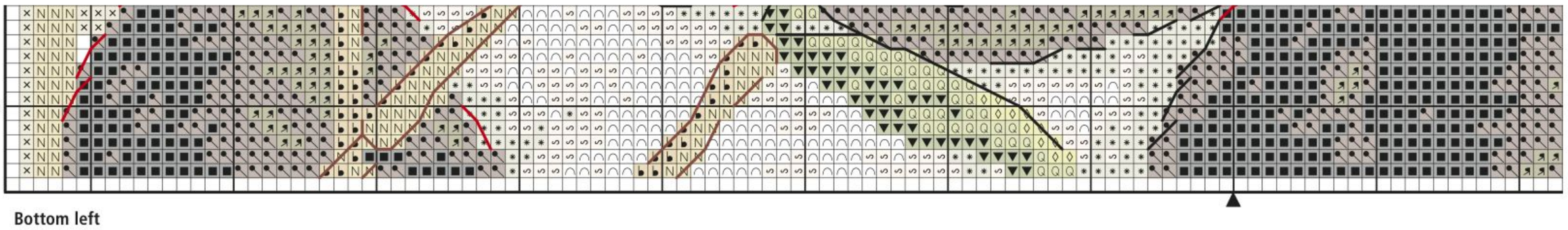
2 Measure the gap around the design – it should be the same at the sides and at the top, but slightly bigger at the bottom. Insert pins along the top edge, then stretch the fabric down and repeat along bottom edge.

3 Turn the board over and, using strong thread, start lacing the top and bottom edges together. Space the stitches 0.5-0.7cm (¼in) apart, tying in any new length of thread with an overhand knot, so you'll have one continuous thread.

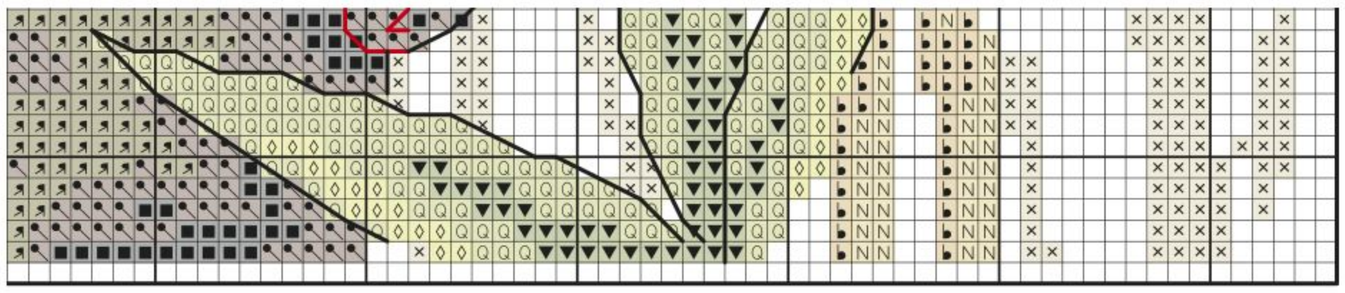
4 Once you reach the other side, go back to the start and pull each thread tightly, one at a time. Sew the end in securely. Fold in the side flaps, insert pins along the edges as before, and repeat the process.

5 If you're using glass, place this inside the frame, followed by a mount or spacers. Put the stitching in next, followed by another piece of mountboard. Insert a panel pin into the centre of each side of the frame, to secure all the layers. Turn the frame over to the right side.

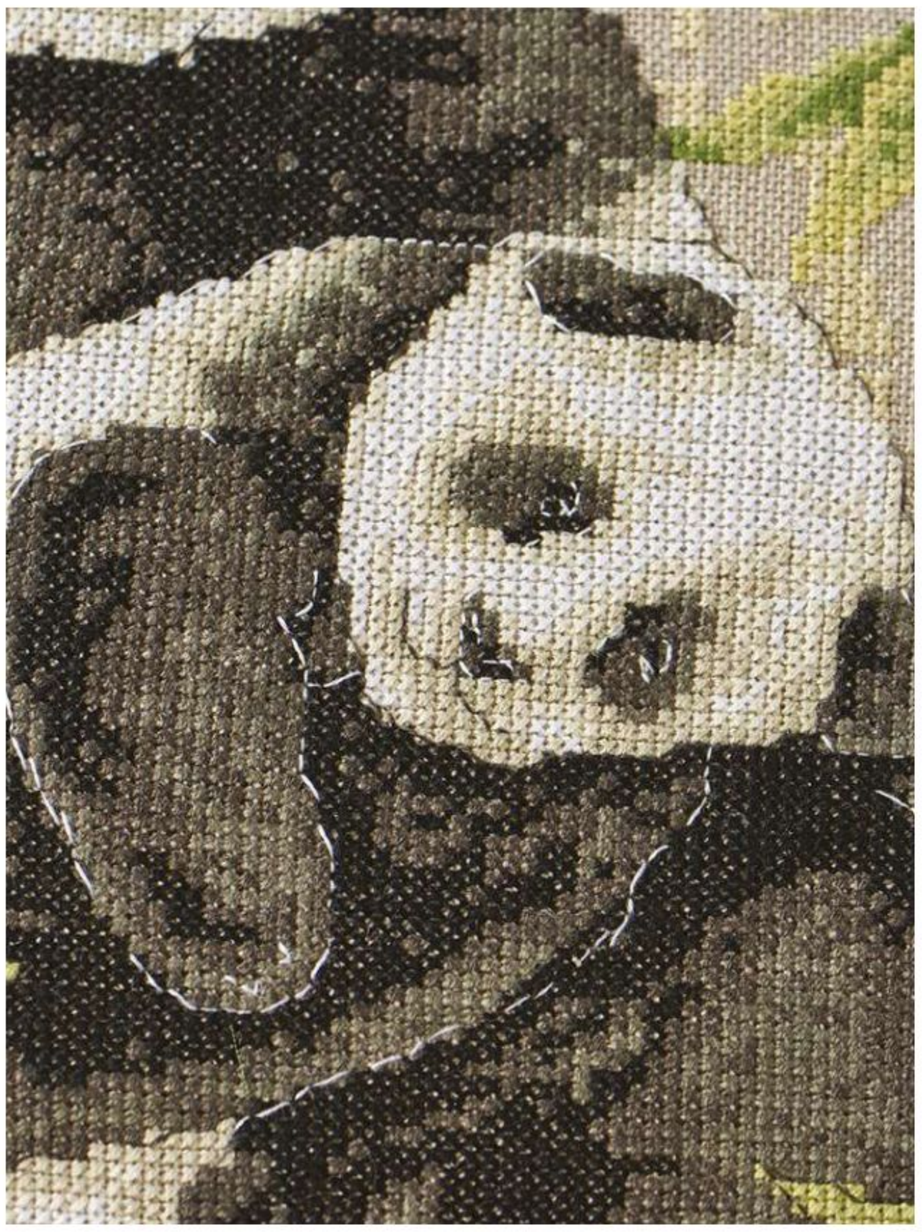
6 Check that your stitching is perfectly positioned before you begin inserting the rest of the panel pins. Space the pins evenly every 5-8cm (2-3in), making sure that you place one close to each corner. Use strips of wide, acid-free, gummed tape to cover the gaps. Finally, add the fitments of your choice to display your picture on the wall.



Bottom left



Bottom right





Maria Diaz's Designer Secrets

Bamboo border

The diet of a wild panda is 99% bamboo, so it seemed only right to include this in the scene. It also makes an attractive, natural frame for the lovable pandas.





Real life inspiration

The closest I could get to observing these creatures in the wild, was to watch Edinburgh Zoo's live Panda Cam online. While the habitat wasn't natural, it was still useful to sketch the pandas and observe their behaviour.

"Ruth, the editor of *The World of Cross Stitching*, is mad about pandas and I know she has her eye on this design! It's the perfect gift for a panda lover"
Sarah Trevor, Editor

Coming soon in *Cross Stitch Gold*

We're bringing you more wildlife to stitch in the next issue, with Carol Thornton's beautiful blue tits. This scene will make a perfect project to say goodbye to winter and hello to spring! Issue 126 of *Cross Stitch Gold* is on sale from 5th January 2016 (UK), or turn to page 28 to subscribe.



You could be a winner!

To be in with a chance of winning these fantastic goodies, simply text us, send us a postcard, or enter online at www.cross-stitching.com

Chance to win £1,037 in prizes

Show time

Cross stitch, sewing, knitting, quilting …find supplies and inspiration for all these and more at the Stitching, Sewing & Hobbycrafts show. Held in Manchester from 4th-6th February 2016, there will be over 100 stands, plus craft demos and workshops to take part in. Tickets cost £10 per day on the door. Visit www.ichfevents.co.uk or call 01425 277988 for details.





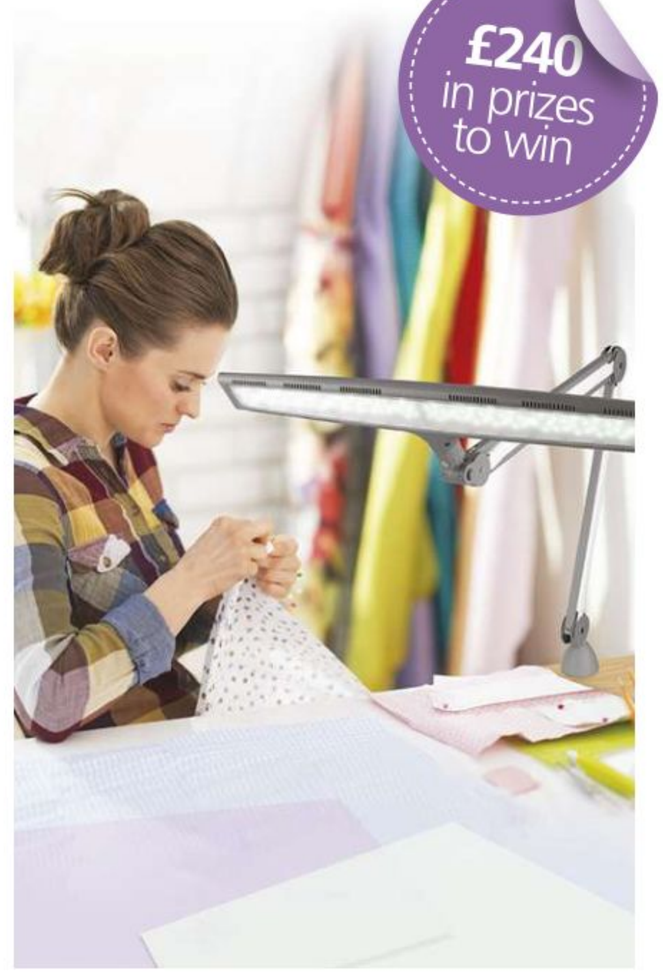
£260 in prizes to win

We have 13 pairs of tickets to give away to this show, worth £20 a pair. The text keyword is GOLD125TICKETS. See the blue box below for full entry details.

Light up your life

The Luminos from Daylight is a powerful LED lamp with an excellent spread of light that is fully dimmable. The adjustable arm has a reach of 112cm (44in) – perfect for your largest cross stitch projects! This lamp costs £240 (there is also an optional table base and floorstand available separately). Visit www.daylightcompany.com or call 020 89641200 for stockists.

We have one Luminos lamp to give away. The text keyword is GOLD125LAMP. See the blue box below for full entry details.



£240 in prizes to win

Home sweet home

Home is a lovely new design from Nia Cross Stitch, and you're seeing it here first! The stitched design measures 12x29cm (4¾x11½in) on either 14-count aida, or 28-count evenweave when worked over two threads. You can buy the full kit with antique white aida and DMC threads for £24, or a chart pack for £9. To buy this design (also available in Welsh), and see the full range, visit www.nia-crossstitch.com or call 01792 897695.

We have 28 chart packs up for grabs. The text keyword is GOLD125HOME. See the blue box below for full entry details.

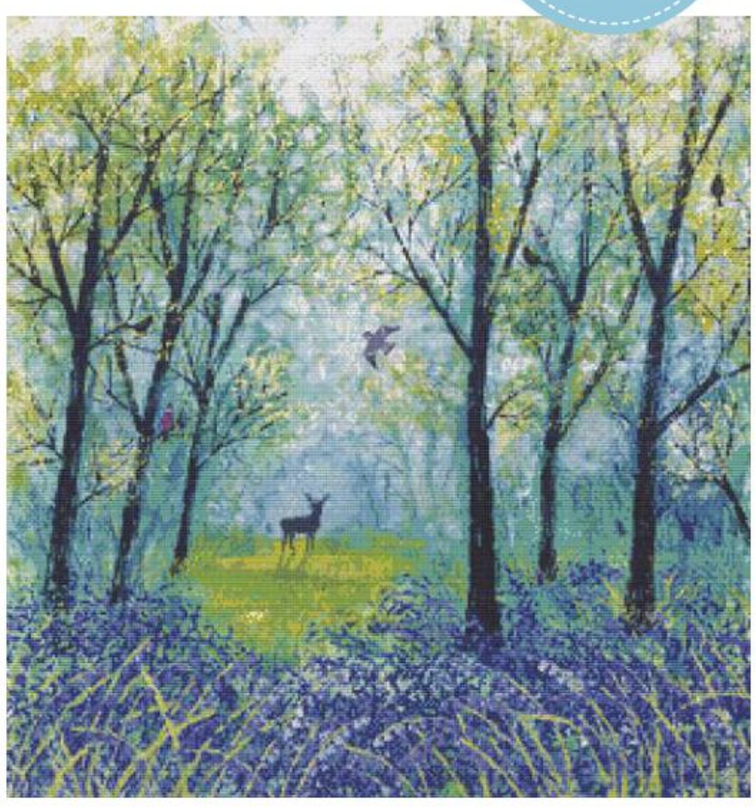


£252 in prizes to win

Bluebell wood

Beyond the Blue is designed by British artist, Jo Grundy. And it's easy to see why this stunning design is so popular. Worked using pre-sorted DMC threads on 14-count aida, it's a joy to behold, *and* to stitch! The finished piece measures 52.5x52.5cm (20¾x20¾in), and the kit costs £71.32 from www.geckorouge.co.uk or call 020 30442851.

We have four kits to give away. The text keyword is GOLD125BLUE. See the blue box below for full entry details.



£285 in prizes to win

The closing date for entries is 5th January 2016.
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* 125, Immediate Media Company Bristol Ltd, 2nd Floor, Tower House, Fairfax Street, Bristol BS1 3BN.
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 online: Visit www.cross-stitching.com

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.

Country *kitchen*

Our charming dresser, packed full of collectable china, conjures up images of a homely family kitchen



Meet the designer

Lesley Teare

Lesley designs for many of the best cross stitch magazines, as well as for cross stitch books

I am lucky enough to have a dresser to display my assortment of blue and white china – it really makes the kitchen feel warm and homely. Although this dresser is similar to mine, the china has more of a shabby-chic style, with full-blown roses and patchwork hearts. I've also added a couple of floral arrangements, some stripy jugs and a metal bread bin to complete the look. Plus, of course, a pot of tea and a tower of tempting cupcakes! All together, I think they create a very inviting display. This design is fresh and bright, and will look fabulous as a framed picture to hang amongst your collection of treasured china and trinkets.

Stitcher's guide

This kitchen dresser is worked on 28-count white evenweave over two threads of the fabric, using 25 different shades of stranded cotton. The design uses whole cross stitches in both one and two strands of cotton, plus some fractionals in two strands. Backstitch in one strand of cotton is used to outline the design. French knots in one strand are used to embellish the plates and cakes. This charming project is recommended for experienced stitchers.

How to stitch the dresser

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. For every tiny symbol you see, work a fractional stitch.

3 Add the backstitch detail in one strand of cotton. Three different shades are used, so check the key to see which to thread your needle with.

4 Work the French knots in one strand of thread.

5 Check over your finished stitching and prepare for making up.

stitch tip

Use a highlighter pen to mark off the backstitch on your chart as you go, to ensure you don't miss any out

You will need

FABRIC Zweigart 28-count white evenweave measuring 38x32cm (15x12½in)

THREADS Stranded cotton as listed in the key

NEEDLE Size 26 tapestry needle

EXTRAS Frame of your choice with a minimum aperture of 27x23cm (11x9in)

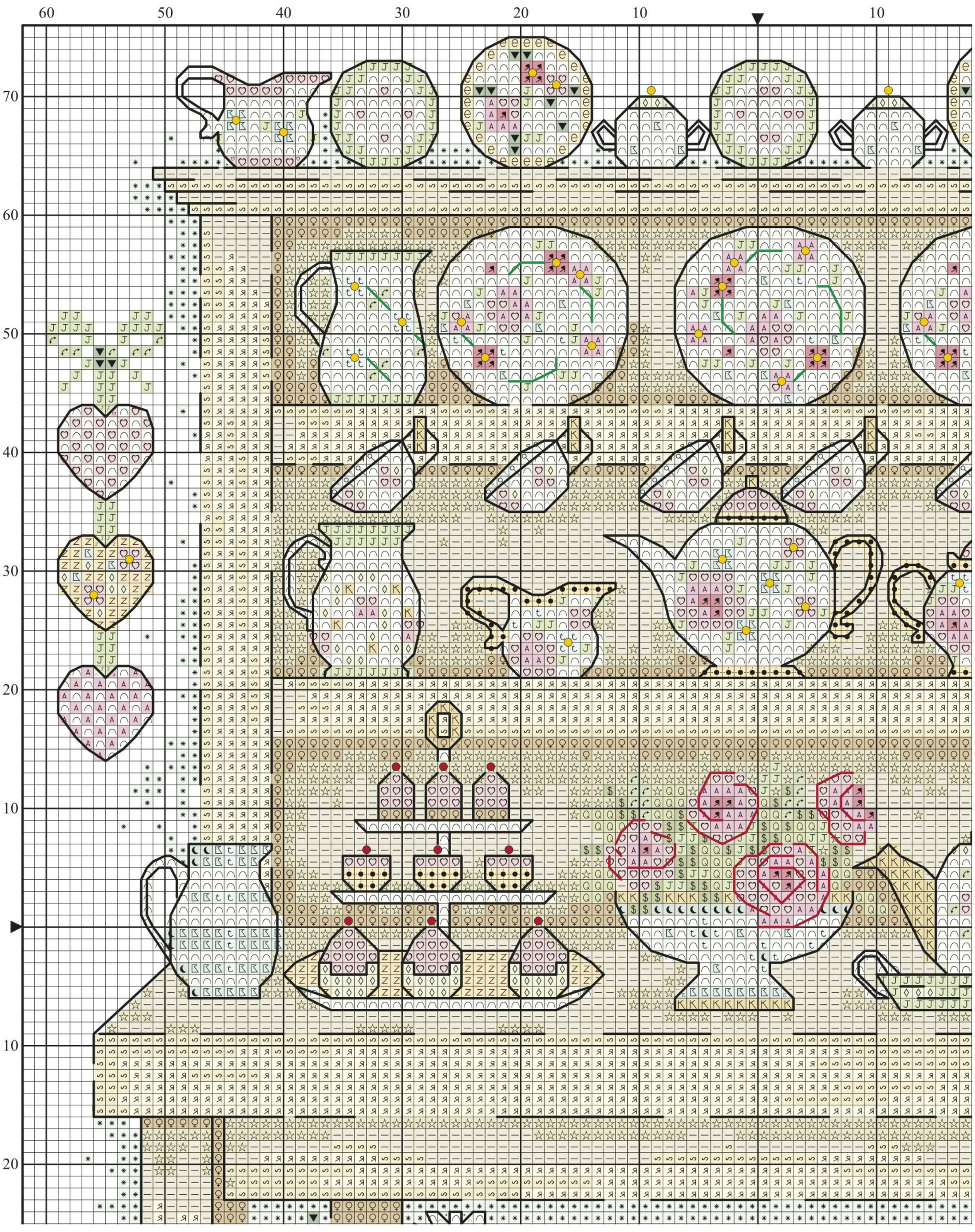
FOR STOCKISTS' DETAILS turn to page 59

Kitchen dresser

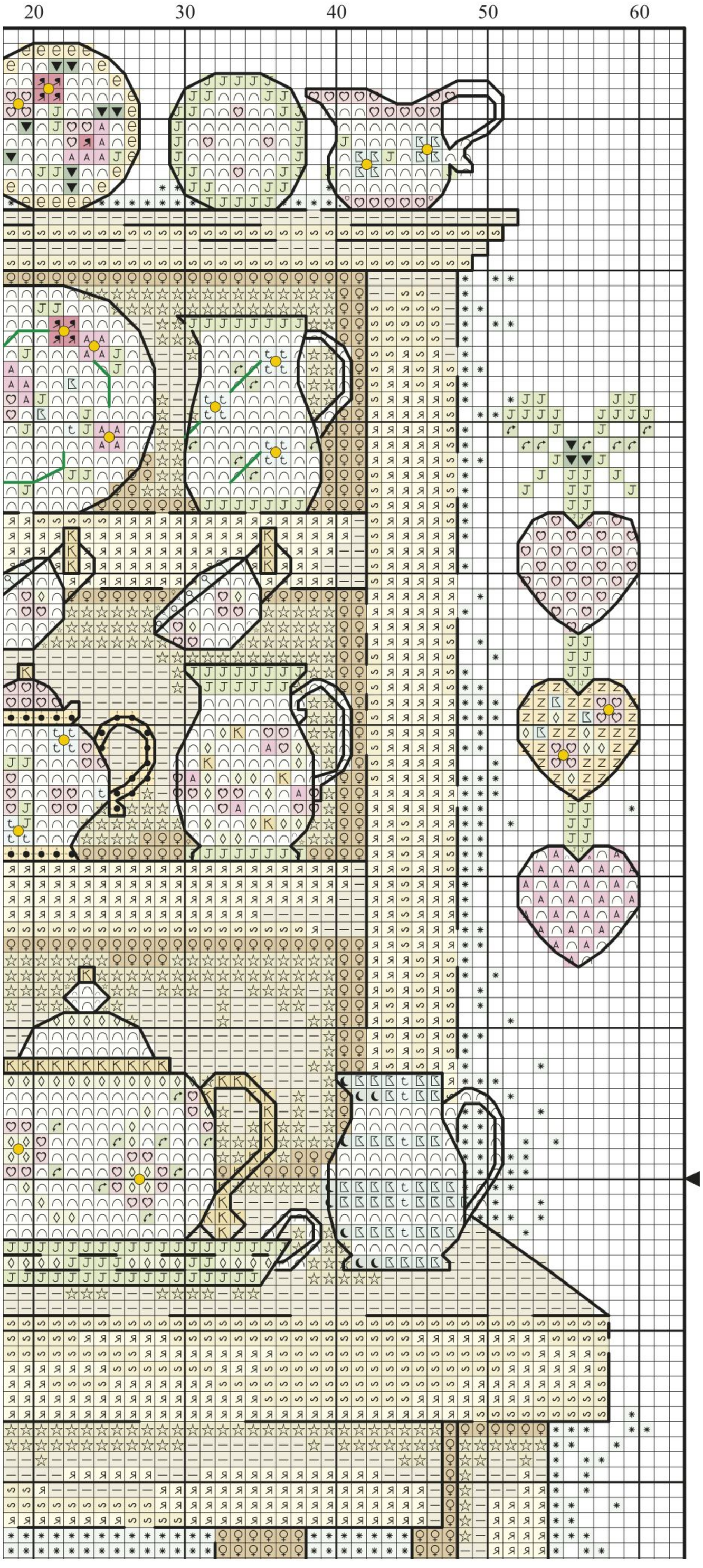
Dream of owning a dresser but don't have the room? This one takes up a fraction of the space!



Kitchen dresser



Top left



Top right

Kitchen dresser key

Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
J	164	240	1209	light green
▼	320	215	1311	dark green
↶	368	214	1310	green
$	470	267	1502	moss green
☾	597	1064	1110	dark turquoise
◺	598	1062	1111	turquoise
s	677	886	2207	sand
●-	744	301	112	dark yellow
я	746	275	2511	light yellow
t	747	158	1104	light turquoise
◊	772	259	1604	very light green
A	962	75	609	pink
♀	3045	888	2103	dark straw
☆	3046	887	2206	straw
–	3047	852	2205	light straw
↖	3072	847	1805	grey
Q	3348	264	1409	grass green
↗	3350	42	603	dark pink
♡	3716	25	503	light pink
K	3821	305	2510	gold
z	3823	386	2512	yellow
+	3854	313	114	apricot
e	3855	311	2513	light apricot
∩	3865	2	2403	white x 2

Cross stitch in one strand

*	3072	847	1805	grey

Backstitch in one strand

—	320	215	1311	dark green
—	844	1041	1809	dark grey
—	3350	42	603	dark pink

French knots in one strand

●	3350	42	603	dark pink
●	3821	305	2510	gold

STITCH COUNT 149 high x 123 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 27x22.5cm (10½x8¾in)

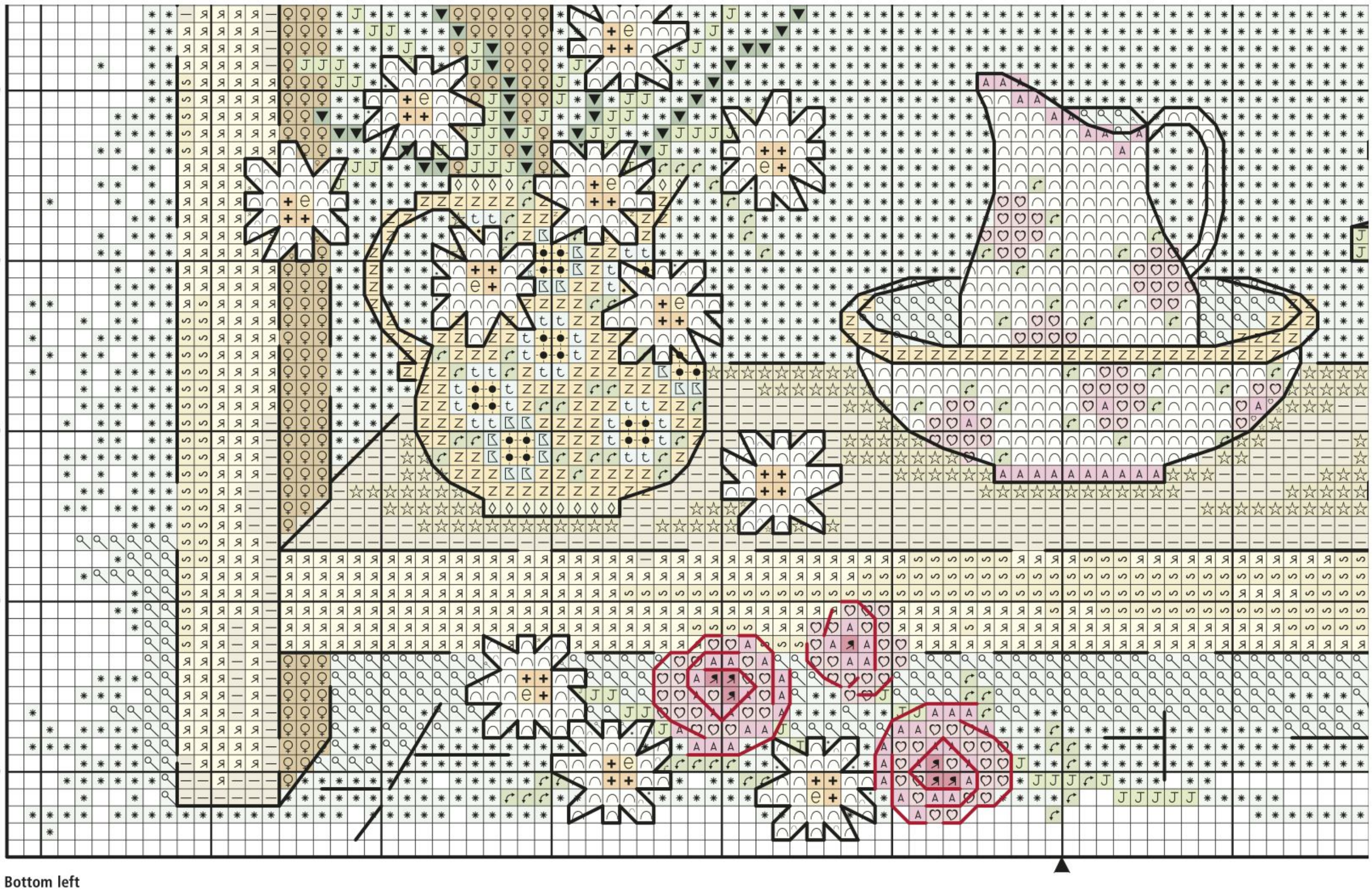
SKEINS NEEDED **2x3865** (white)

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

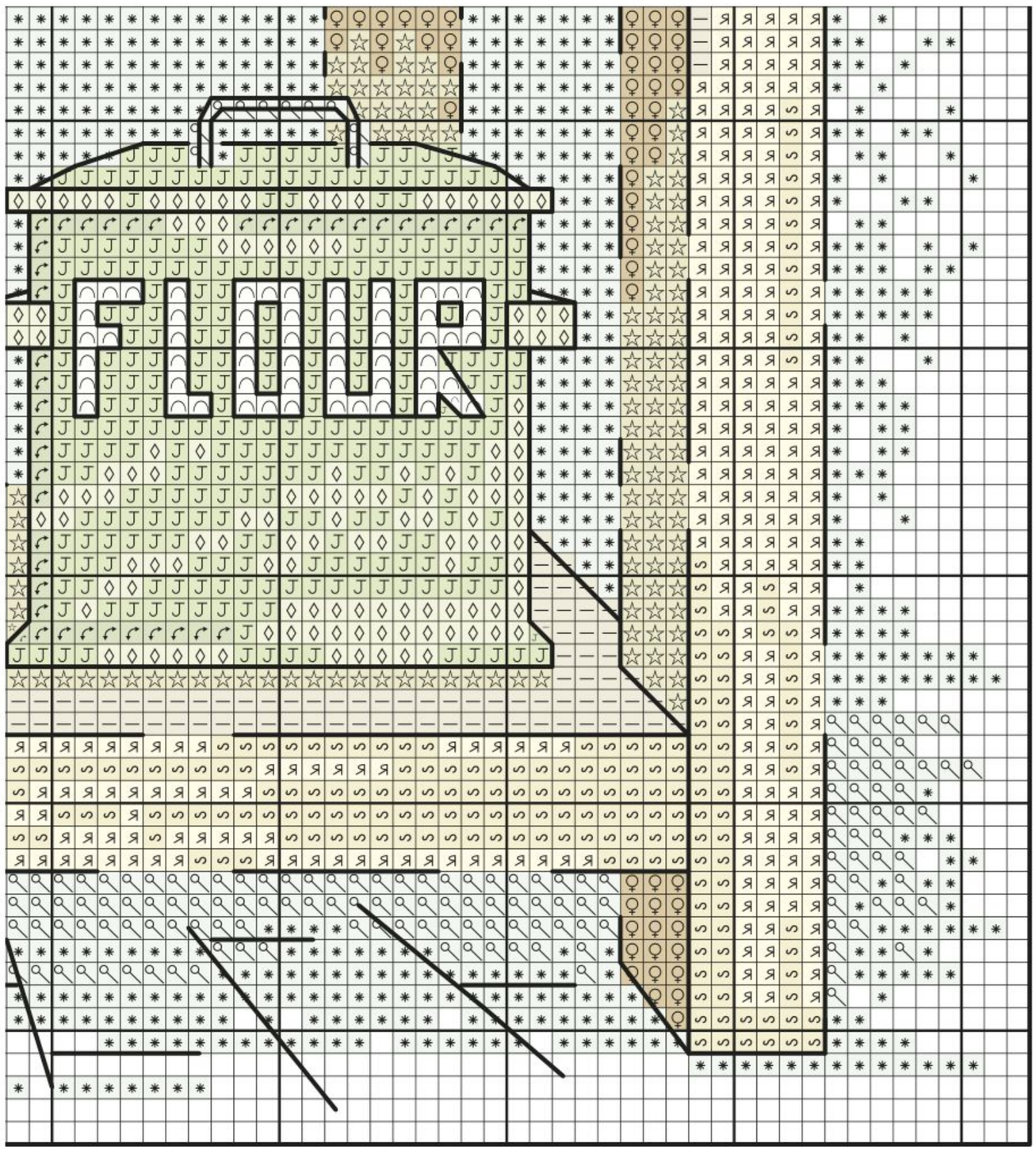
Keeping the back of your work neat

With any cross stitch project, it's important to keep the back of your work as neat as possible, to avoid nasty tangles and knots, which could cause problems when it comes to framing. To prevent such problems, thread your needle through the back of other stitches to secure it when you are starting and finishing off. When starting a new area of colour don't leap from one area of fabric to another, simply finish off neatly and start again, securing your thread with your first few stitches. With an even number of strands you can use the loop method to start. And when finishing off, try to snip the end off as close to the fabric as possible.

Kitchen dresser



Bottom left



Bottom right



Lesley Teare's Designer Secrets

So subtle

For this design I wanted to create a collection of china that coordinated, but that wouldn't be repetitive to stitch. Subtle changes in colour and pattern have helped to achieve this.





Change it up

I'm particular about the positioning of the china on my own dresser at home, and tend to rearrange it all every six months or so – other people may not notice it, but to me, it's like giving the room a makeover!

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Personalised Coat of Arms Cross Stitch

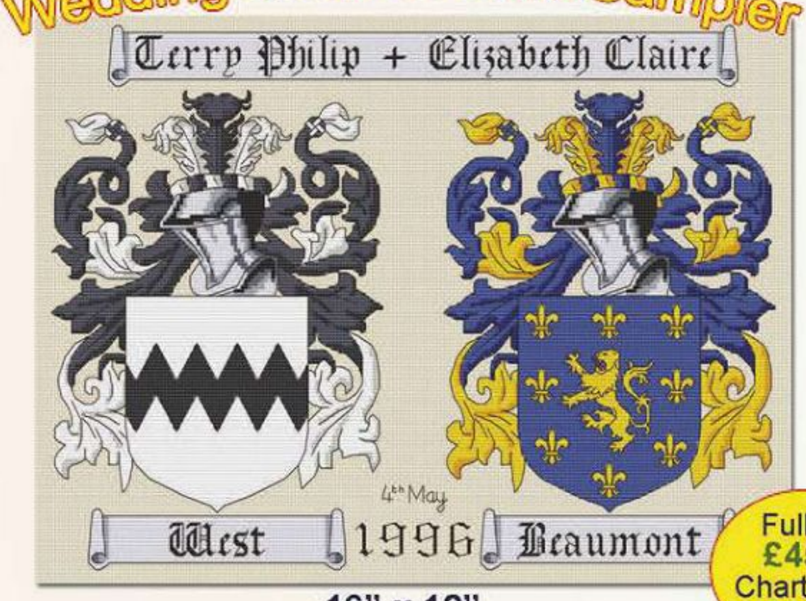
Simply let us know the surname you wish to have and we will research the crest and colours and create the design for you.



7" x 10"
14 hpi

Full Kit £25.00
Chart Only £15.00

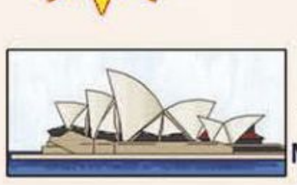
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14 hpi

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7.6" x 3.5", 14hpi
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CHART £5 KIT £10



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



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

PHOTO CHARTING SPECIALISTS

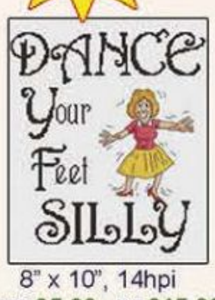
Convert a favourite photo into a cross stitch chart or kit.

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Your choice of size and fabric count



NEW Dance Themed Cross Stitch Designs



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8" x 10", 14hpi
CHART £5.00 KIT £15.00



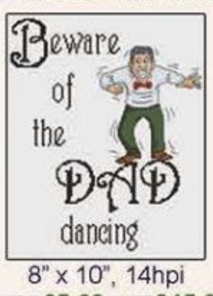
8" x 10", 14hpi
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9 EIDER CLOSE, BURTON LATIMER, KETTERING, NORTHANTS, NN15 5TH

Coming soon in *Cross*

Oh-so chic!

Add a touch of Parisian charm to your home this spring with this stylish, vintage poster-style design

Issue 126
On sale
5th January
2016 (UK)



Elegant greetings





Underwater maiden

Stitch Gold...



Gift for a gardener



Feathered friends



Floral draught excluder

Contents are subject to change

Stockist details

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

COATS CRAFTS UK
Visit www.makeitcoats.com
Call 01484 681881

CRAFT CREATIONS
Visit www.craftcreations.co.uk
Call 01992 781900

CRAFT DEPARTMENT
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MADEIRA
For stockists, visit
www.taconysewingcentral.com

Years *with you*

A milestone wedding anniversary deserves an extra-special stitched card, and these designs are the perfect way to capture the moment



Meet the designer

Durene Jones

Durene is a popular designer who creates projects for many cross stitch magazines

The overall theme for my cards is love and togetherness, but the individual cards are striking in their own ways. The motifs were very much decided by the colour associated with each anniversary year. So being red, the ruby one became hearts, the gold one became lovely yellow roses, and so on. It was the ideal opportunity to add in a little luxury with sparkling threads, as a landmark anniversary really is a moment to celebrate and treasure. I loved creating these designs, and imagining the happy couple as they receive their card in the post, or at a special party! You could adapt these cards for birthdays, too, by replacing the lettering with a birthday greeting instead.

Stitcher's guide

These cards are worked on 14-count white aida using 18 shades of stranded cotton and three shades of metallic thread. The designs use whole stitches and fractionals in two strands of cotton or metallic thread. Backstitch in both one and two strands defines the designs, and French knots in one strand of cotton or metallic thread add detail. They are suitable for advanced stitchers.

How to stitch the anniversary 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 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 detail in one or two strands of cotton. Check the key to see how many strands to thread your needle with.

4 Work the French knots in one strand of cotton or metallic thread.

5 Check over your finished stitching and prepare for making up.

You will need

FABRIC Zweigart 14-count white aida measuring 16x15cm (6½x6in) for each design

THREADS Stranded cotton and metallic threads as listed in the key

NEEDLE Size 24 tapestry needle

EXTRAS Craft Creations single-fold oblong cards (SF03U) in creative linen white (43). Backing paper of your choice

FOR STOCKISTS' DETAILS turn to page 59

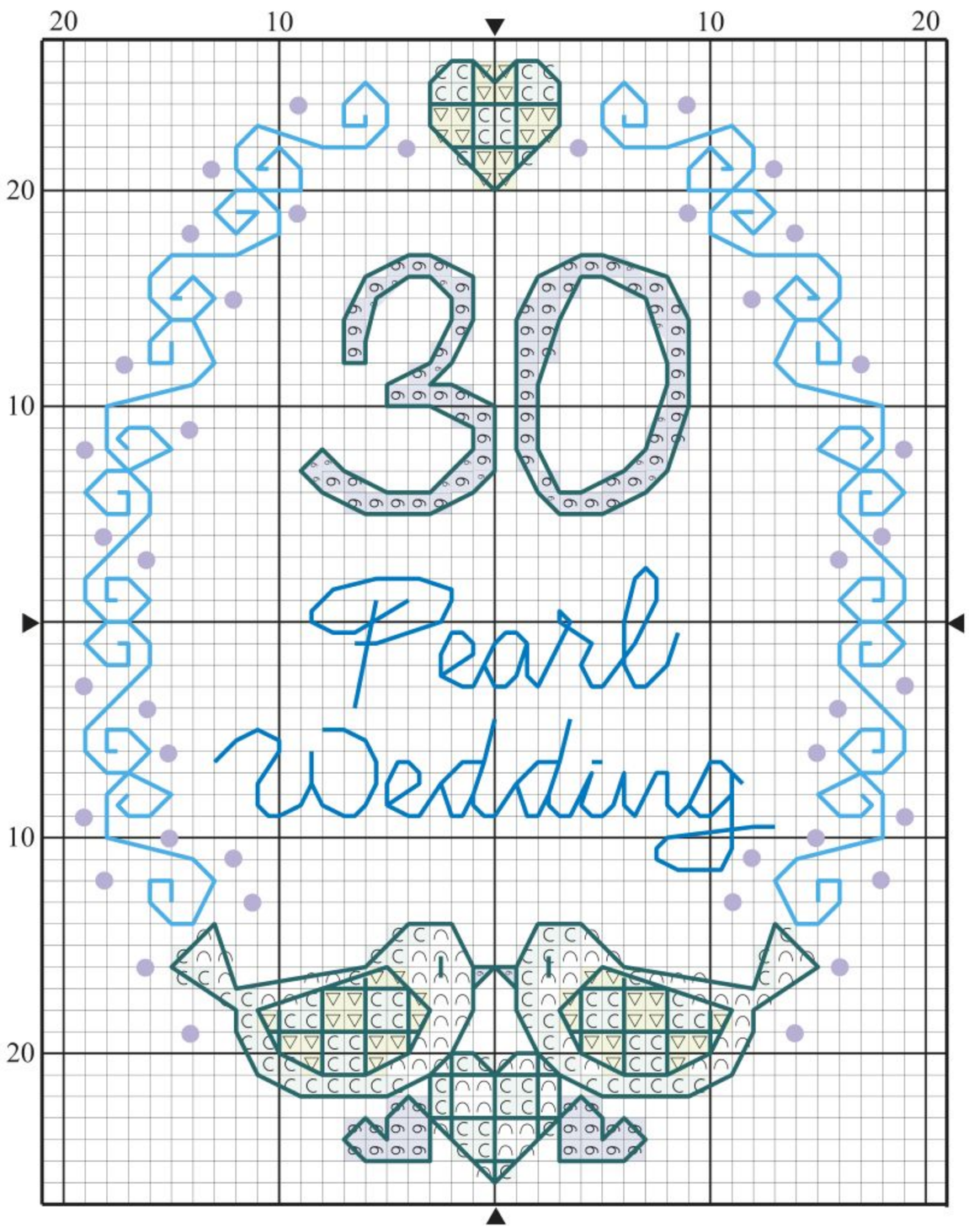


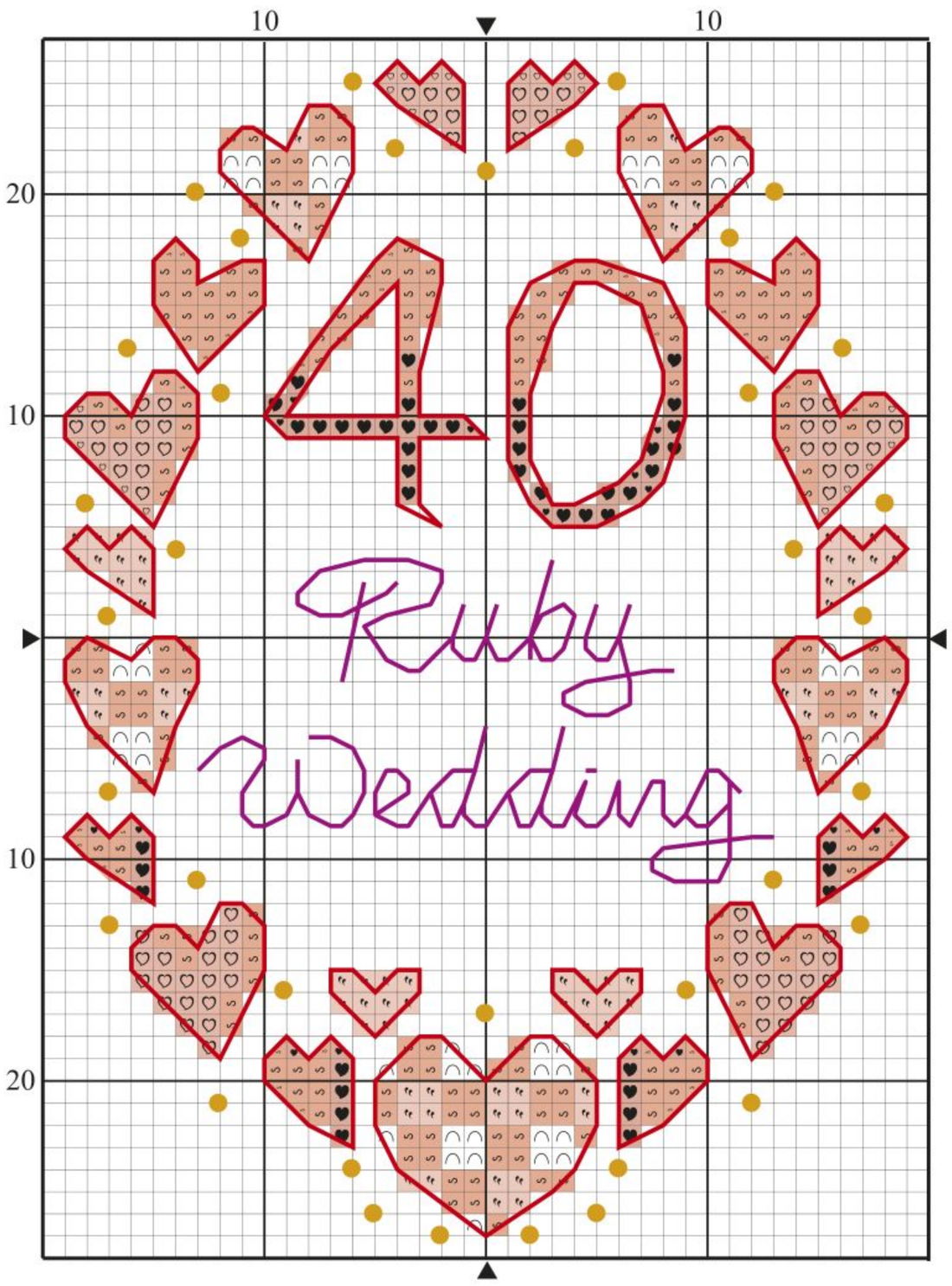
stitch tip

Colour code your envelopes, using silver for 25, 30 and 60 years, red for 40 years and gold for 50 years

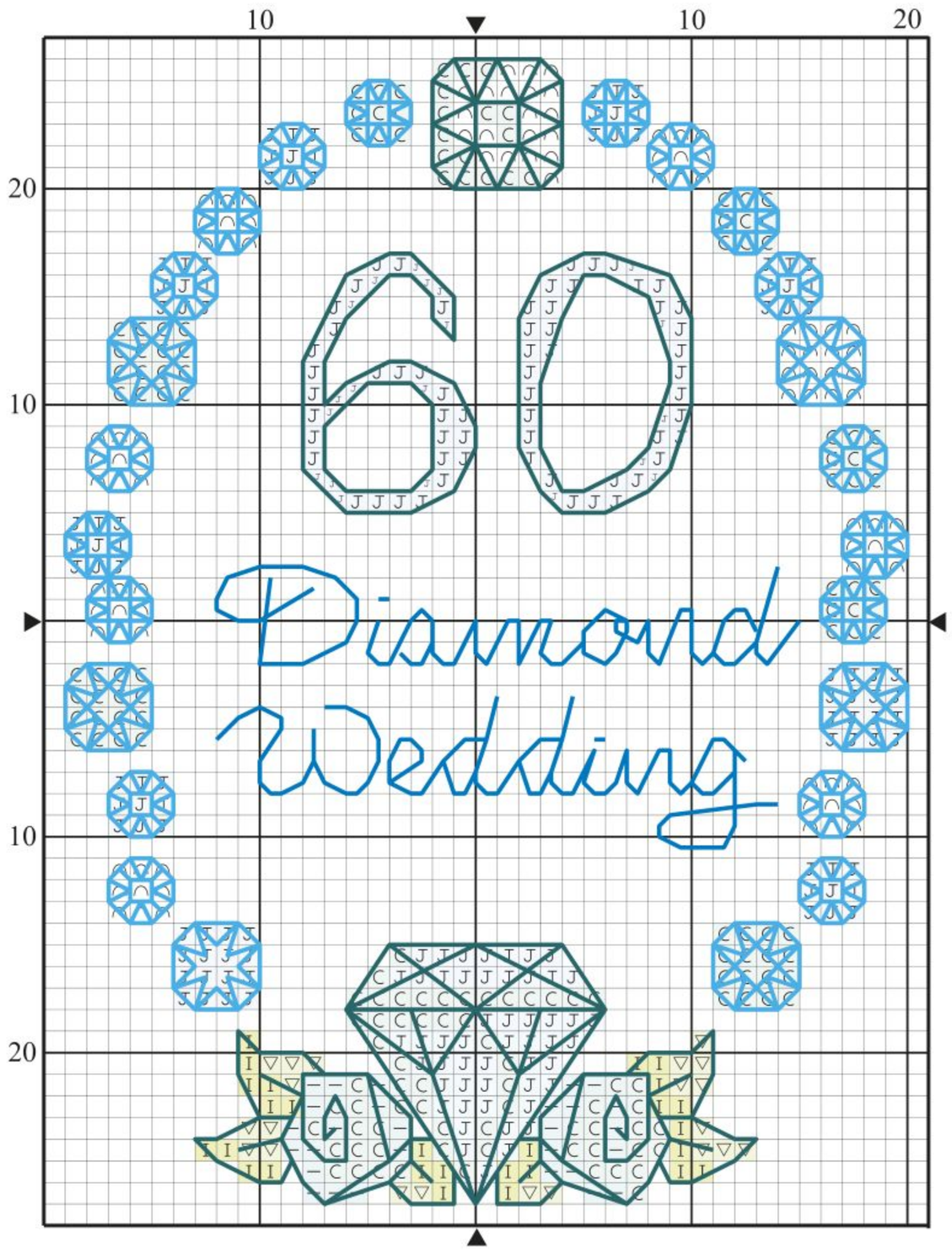
With metallic threads and glittery mounts, these cards really are something special


Silver
Wedding
25


30
Pearl
Wedding

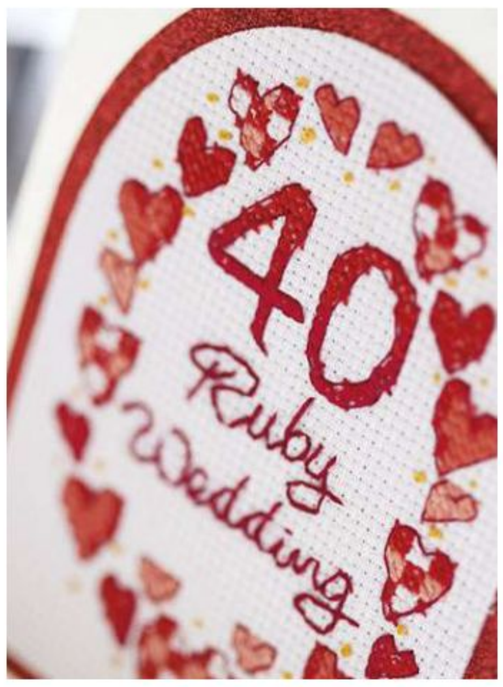

40
Ruby
Wedding


Gold
Wedding
50



"The glittery mounts look really special, but you could mount your designs in classic oval aperture cards for a simpler finish if you prefer"

Sarah Heys, Charting Editor



Anniversary cards key

Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	B5200	1	2401	white
I	165	278	1414	green
b	166	280	1611	dark green
♥	321	9046	510	dark red
s	349	1098	212	red
♡	351	10	214	light red
'	352	9	303	very light red
☼	727	293	112	yellow
C	747	158	1104	light sky blue
▽	772	259	1604	very light green
–	800	144	908	light blue
*	809	130	909	blue
●	3820	306	2509	straw
e	3822	295	2511	light straw

Cross stitch in two strands DMC Light Effects

J	E5200			white
↖	E415			pewter
9	E3747			sky blue

Backstitch in one strand

	420	374	2104	brown
	519	1038	1105	dark sky blue
	815	44	513	very dark red
	931	1034	1711	delft blue

Backstitch in two strands

	420	374	2104	brown
	815	44	513	very dark red
	931	1034	1711	delft blue

French knots in one strand

●	3820	306	2509	straw

French knots in one strand DMC Light Effects

●	E415			pewter
●	E3747			sky blue

MAXIMUM STITCH COUNT 53 high x 40 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave)

– 9.5x7cm (3¾x3in)

These designs were stitched using DMC stranded cotton and DMC Light Effects

How to make up the cards

1 When you have finished stitching, wash and press your finished design.

2 Back with iron-on interfacing and trim the top of the design into an arch, then trim the remaining straight sides, leaving a few squares of the aida around your stitching as a border.

3 Use the shape of your fabric to cut out a piece of backing paper, which is 1cm (½in) bigger than your stitched piece

4 Using double-sided tape, stick your stitched piece onto your backing paper and then stick both pieces onto the centre of your single-fold card.

Coming soon!

Perfect for any birthdays, thank yous, and many other occasions, these Oriental fans by Fiona Baker are a must-stitch. Capture the delicate beauty of Japanese blooms, dainty butterflies, dragonflies and birds, each within a pretty gold border. These designs will be yours to stitch in issue 126, on sale 5th January 2016 (UK), or subscribe today on page 28.





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.

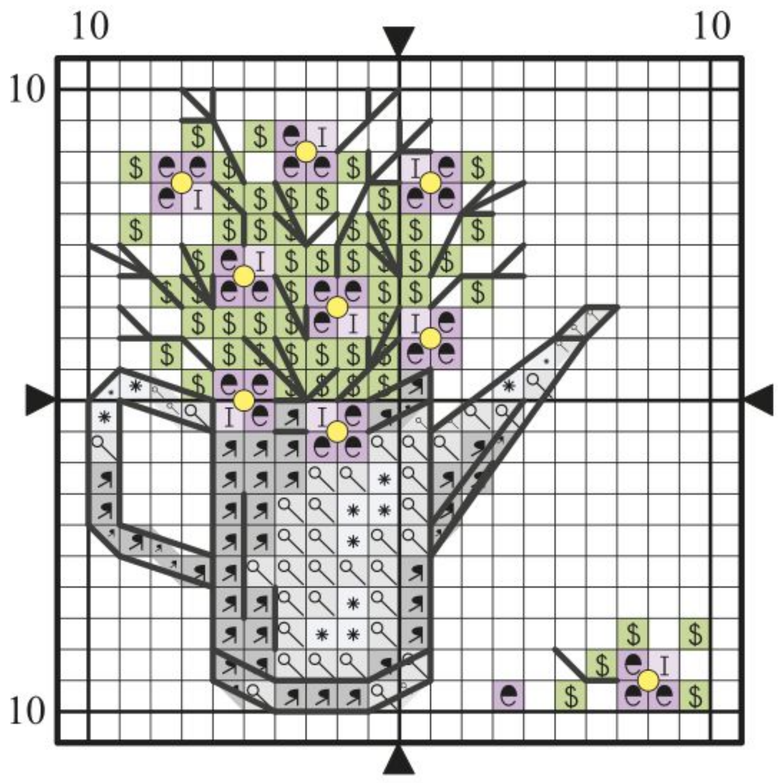
The key that accompanies the chart tells you what thread colour each symbol corresponds to, and how many strands to use for each cross stitch, backstitch or French knot. It also gives you the design's dimensions – you'll need these to cut your fabric to size.

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.



Flowers in watering can key

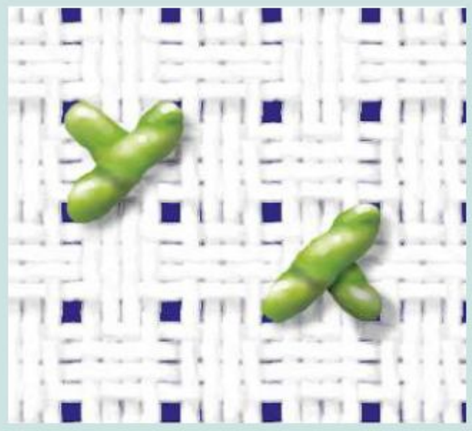
Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
e	208	99	804	dark lilac
I	210	108	802	lilac
↗	414	235	1714	grey
↖	415	398	1802	light grey
$	702	226	1306	green
*	762	234	1804	very light grey
Backstitch in one strand				
—	413	236	1713	dark grey
French knots in one strand				
●	744	301	112	yellow

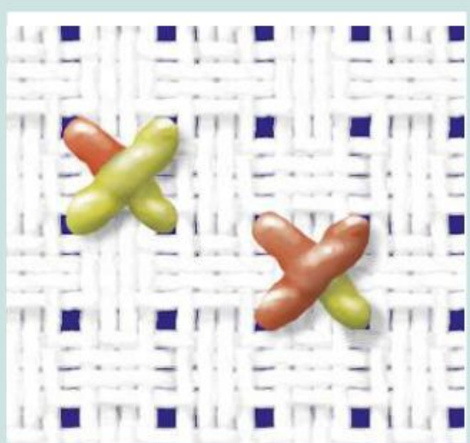
STITCH COUNT 20 high x 20 wide
DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 3.5x3.5cm (1½x1½in)

This design was stitched using DMC stranded cotton

Fractional stitches



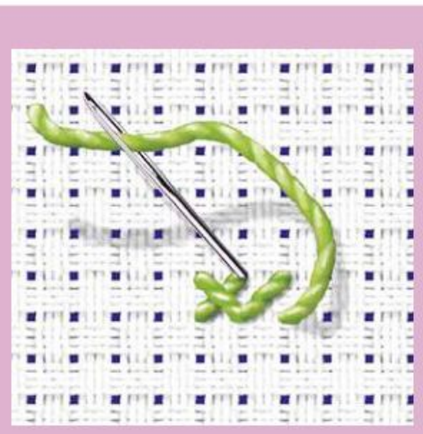
A tiny symbol in the corner of a square on a chart is a fractional stitch; it's worked in the same colour as the large version of the symbol. If there's only one tiny symbol, work a three-quarter stitch (a half cross stitch and a quarter stitch). Bring your needle up at the corner of the square, then 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.

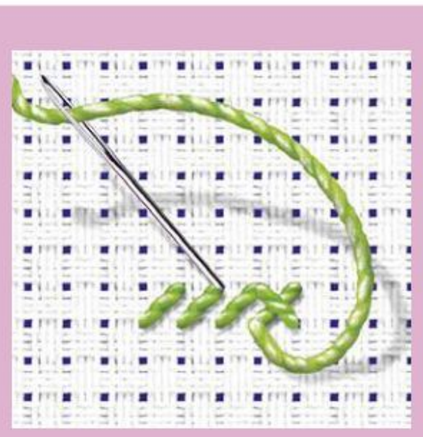


Use the three-quarter stitch for the object that's meant to be in front in the picture, and the quarter stitch for the background colour.

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,

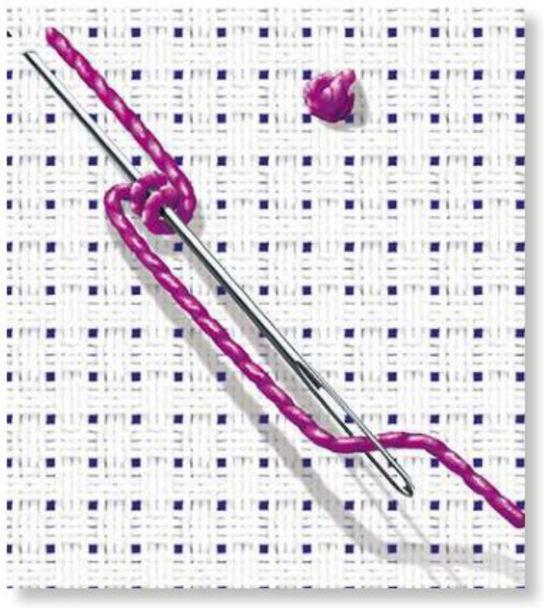


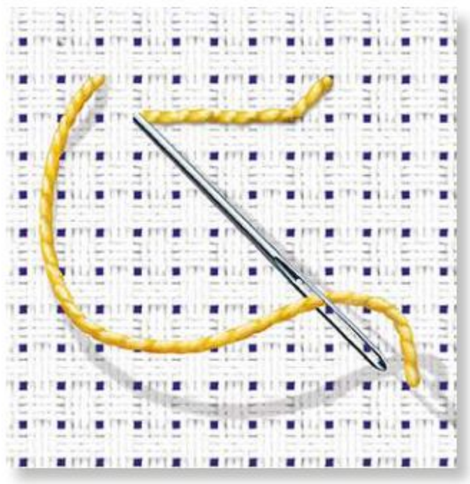


securing the end of thread on the back; take it down at the top left corner to form a cross. Work each cross stitch so that the top halves lie in the same direction. This will make your finished stitching look neat and tidy. If you're working a block of stitches in the same colour, stitch a row of half 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.





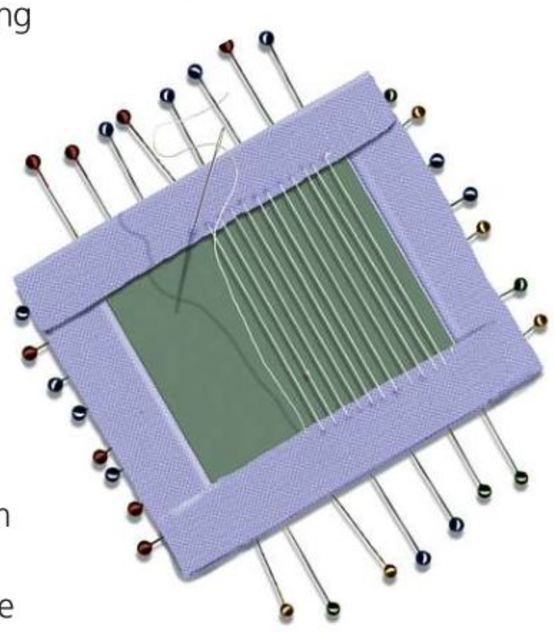
French knots

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:

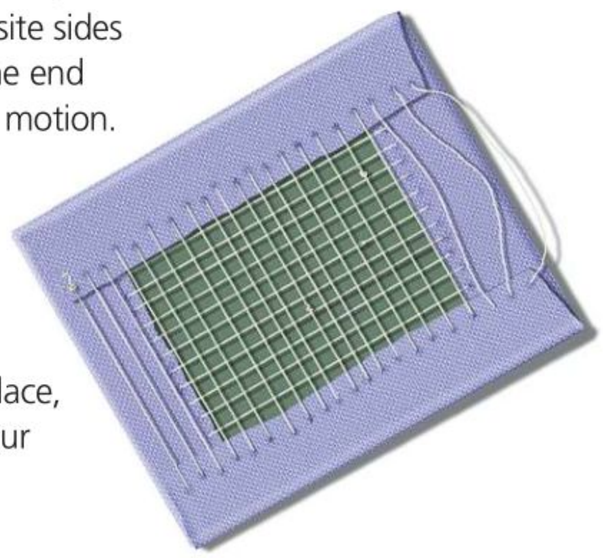




1 Cut your mount board to the size of the frame aperture. Lay the stitching right side up on the white side of the board. Once you're happy with the positioning of the fabric, push a line of pins down each side into the board, as shown (above right).

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.

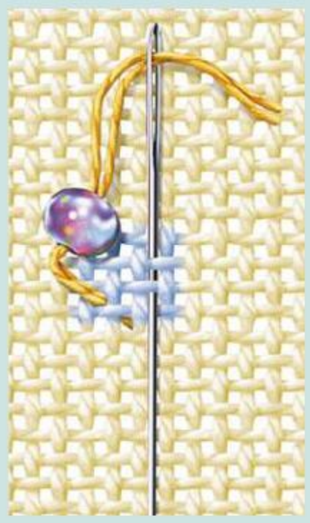


Changing thread colour

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.

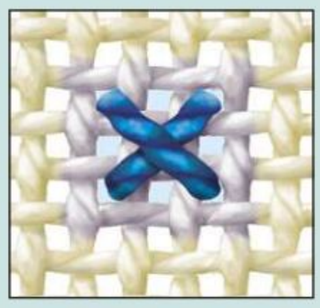
Adding beads

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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Enter & win!

Tackle this issue's sudoku puzzles and you could win a fantastic prize!

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

Intermediate

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

Difficult

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

How to enter:

Once you've completed either of the grids, text the three numbers in the coloured squares or send them on a postcard (following the instructions below) for your chance to win a beautiful Irises kit from Heritage Crafts! For full terms and conditions turn to page 51. The closing date for entries is 5th January 2016.

To enter by text:

Text GOLD125SUDOKU followed by your answer and intermediate/difficult, name, email address and postal address to 87474. Texts will be charged at 50p plus your standard network rate.

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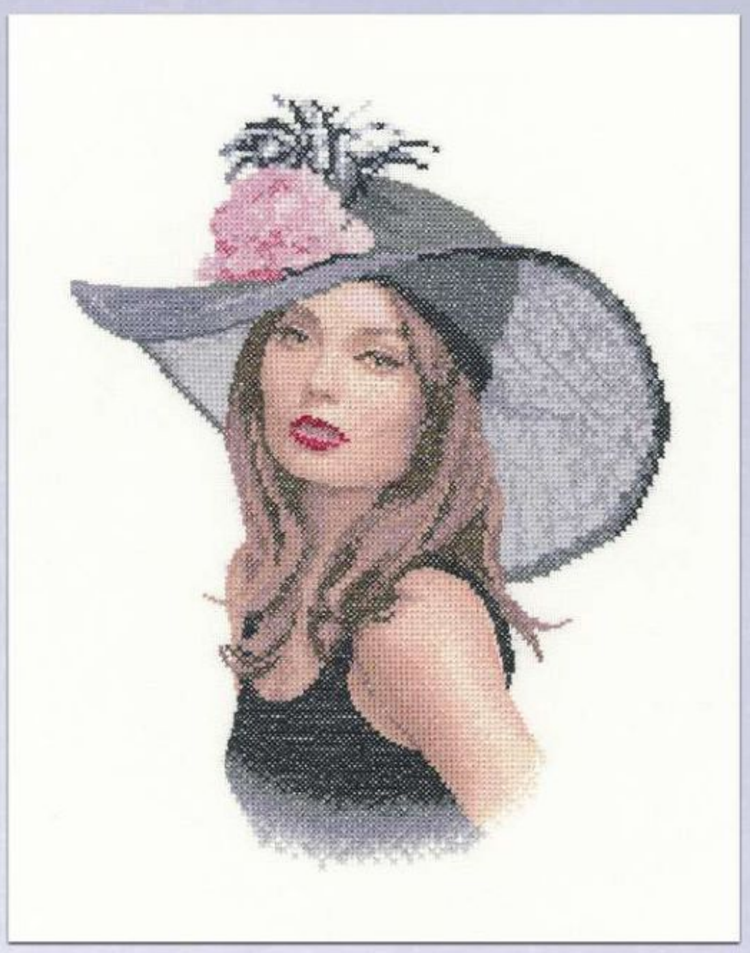
Working with talented artists to produce beautiful counted cross stitch designs



Happy Hens *by Karen Carter* - 20 x 11cm



Hoot of Owls *by Karen Carter* - 20 x 11cm



Rachel *by John Clayton* - 20 x 26cm



Fish 'n' Chips *by Karen Carter* - 20 x 11cm



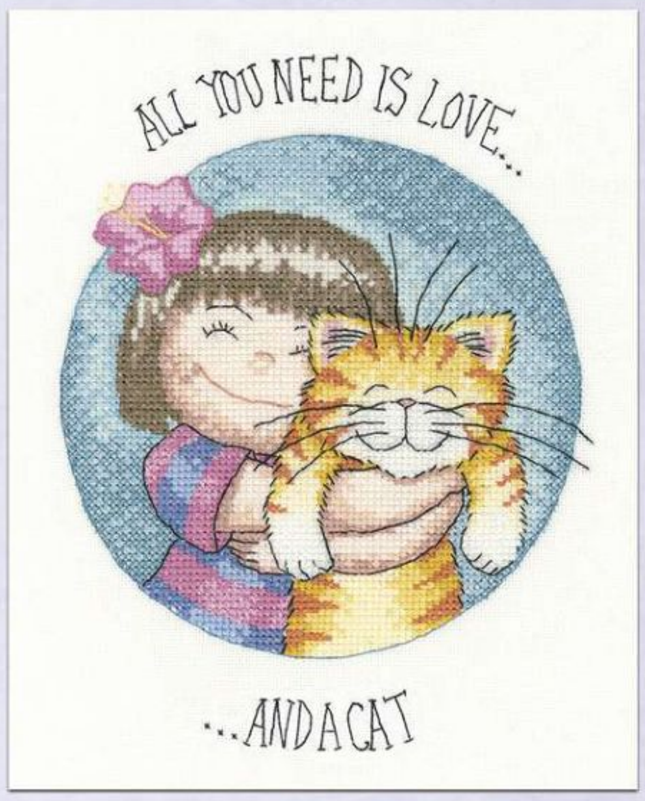
Are We There Yet? *by Karen Carter* - 20 x 11cm



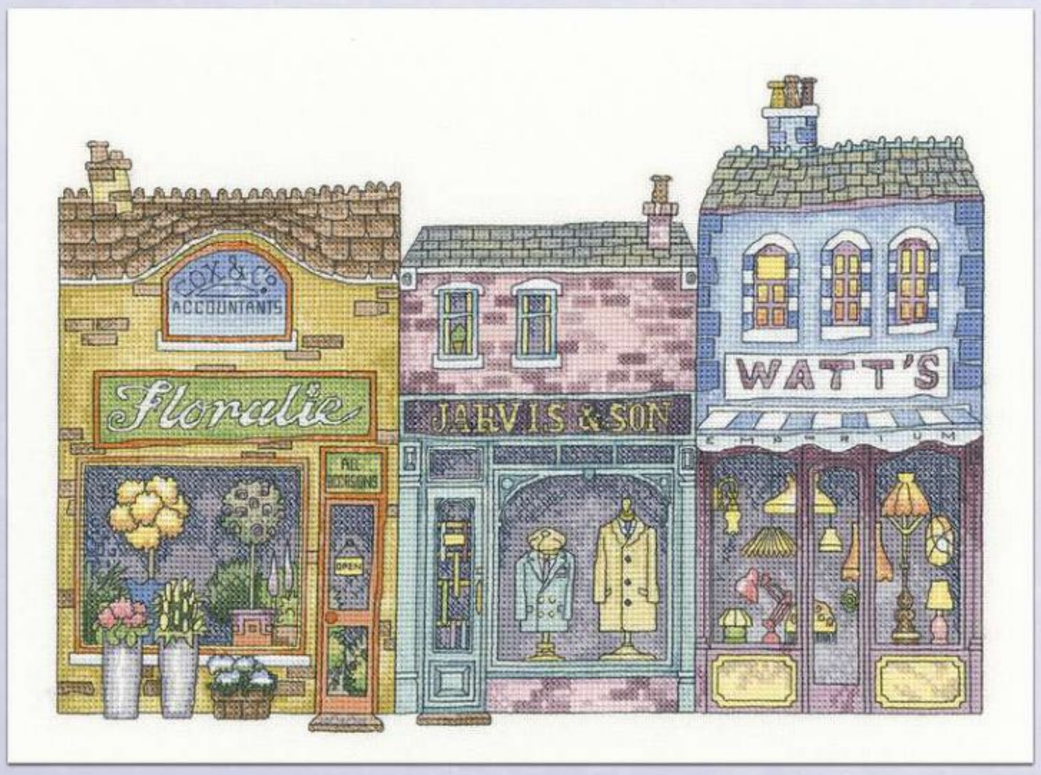
Beach Huts *by Karen Carter* - 20 x 11cm



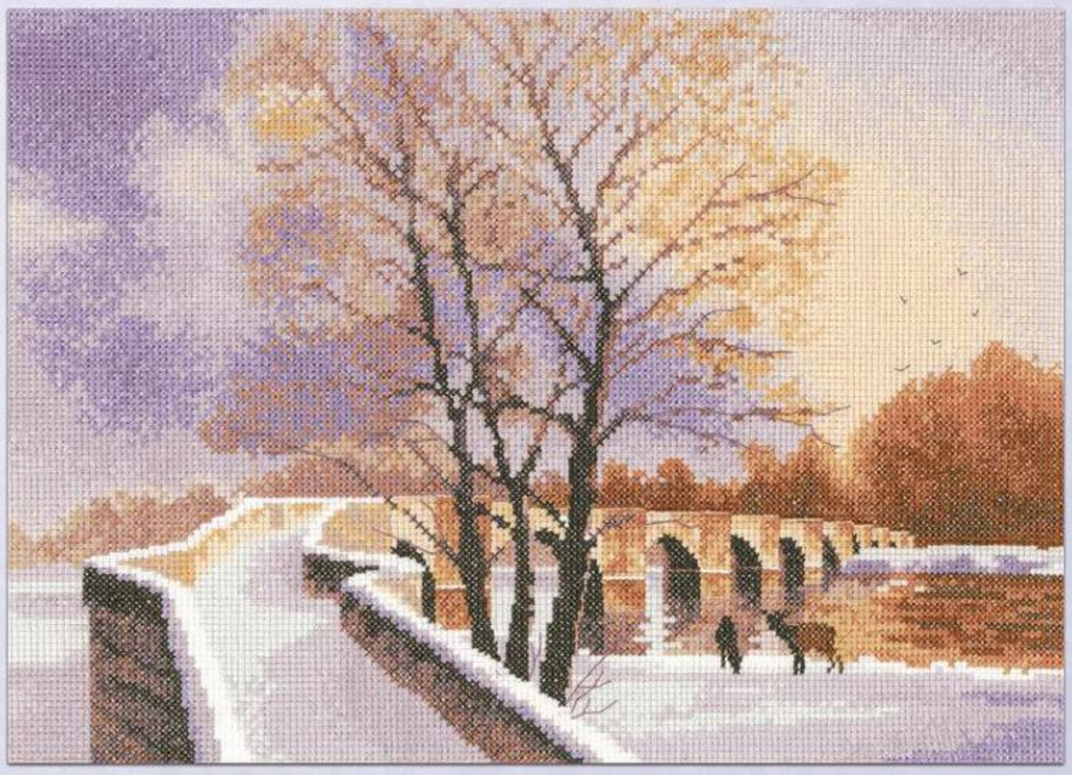
Boats *by Karen Carter* - 20 x 11cm



All You Need is Love and a Cat
by Peter Underhill - 14.5 x 19cm



High Street *by Peter Underhill* - 30.5 x 21.5cm



Packhorse Bridge *by John Clayton* - 31 x 22cm

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