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Cross Stitch GOLD



Wedding present



Pretty kitchen hanging



English harbour view



Chic sewing sampler



11
BRAND NEW
BEAUTIFUL
PROJECTS



Gorgeous geisha



Fancy floral cushion

DON'T MISS: sleeping cat, vintage cards & more

Cross Stitch GOLD



If you're anything like me, nothing gives you more pleasure than giving your lovingly stitched pieces away to your nearest and dearest, and in this issue we have plenty of gorgeous gift ideas

to inspire you this spring. Turn to page 20 now to find Nia Rhind's stunning wedding sampler, guaranteed to delight a special couple, while the elegant lace cards with pretty roses and feminine accessories (p60) will be perfect to say thank you, happy birthday, or just to show you care.

The honeysuckle cushion on page 12 will be a truly enthralling project to work your needle through, and if you'd like to brighten your home with more soft furnishings, you'll find our favourite cushion kits reviewed on page 50.

I love seeing all the beautiful things you've stitched from *Gold*. If you'd like to be considered to appear on our letters page (p11), email a photo to sarah@cross-stitching.com, or share it with fellow stitchers on our *Cross Stitch Gold* Facebook page. See you next time!

Sarah
x

Sarah Trevor, Editor

Sarah's choice



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... and choose between a polka dot sewing basket or a woodland-print craft tote bag

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Enter our competitions for your chance to win cross stitch kits, craft lamps and more!

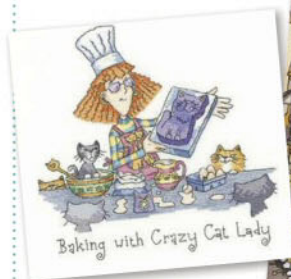
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Win **£1,070** in prizes!



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Eastern *promise*

Step into an exotic world when you stitch
Lesley Teare's bold and beautiful geisha



Meet the designer Lesley Teare

Lesley is an experienced and talented cross stitch designer who lives and works in Suffolk

I've created many geisha designs throughout my career, but it's a theme I never tire of, and there's always another idea in my head that I just have to get down on paper! The central design is circular, and in Japanese design circular shapes are a symbol of intuition and inspiration, which are both important qualities to have as a stitcher! Set within a square, the four corners add a sense of symmetry to the piece, helping to bring balance. I loved the whole process of designing this chart, but I particularly enjoyed creating the detail in this lovely lady's hair, with tiny flowers to mirror the larger ones in the border, and little bows to mimic the shape of the butterflies. She really is a beauty.

Stitcher's guide

The elegant geisha is worked on 28-count white evenweave using 27 different shades of stranded cotton and one shade of metallic thread. The design uses whole cross stitches and fractional stitches in two strands of thread. Backstitch in one strand of thread is used to define the design, while French knots in one strand add detail to the butterflies and flowers. Finally, seed beads are used to embellish this design, which is recommended for experienced stitchers.

How to stitch the geisha

- 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 or metallic thread. For every tiny symbol you see, work a fractional stitch.
- 3 Add the backstitch detail in one strand of cotton or metallic thread.
- 4 Work the French knots using one strand of cotton or metallic thread.
- 5 Attach the seed beads using two strands of thread in a gold-coloured cotton. Find tips on page 8.
- 6 Check over your finished stitching and prepare for framing.

You will need

FABRIC 28-count white evenweave, measuring 35x35cm (13¾x13¾in)

THREADS Stranded cotton and metallic thread 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 minimum aperture of 25.5x25.5cm (10x10in)

FOR STOCKISTS' DETAILS Turn to page 59

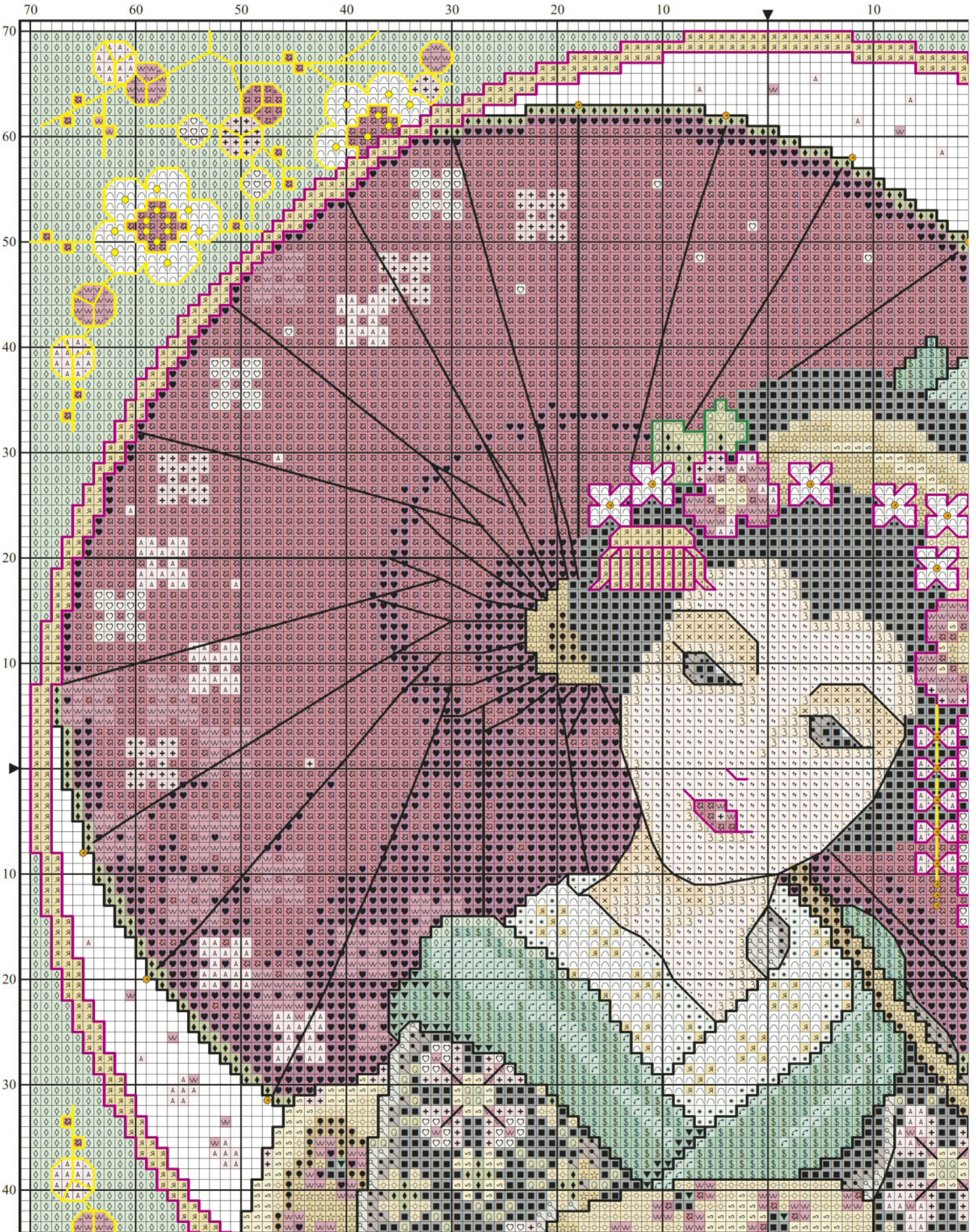
stitch tip

Use shorter lengths than usual when working with metallic thread, as this reduces fraying and breakage



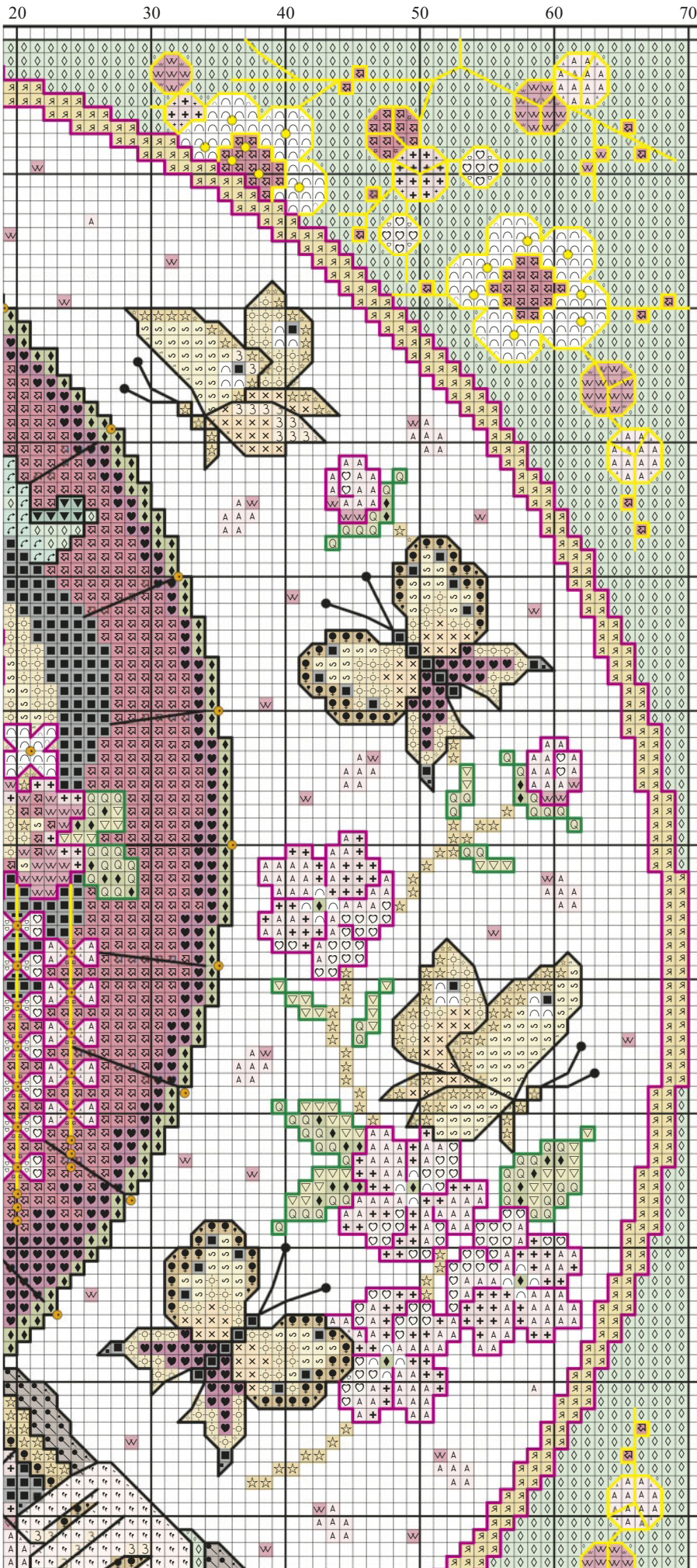
A gold-coloured frame picks up on the gorgeous golden accents in this piece

Elegant geisha



Top left

6 Cross Stitch Gold



Elegant geisha key

✦ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
○	blanc	2	2402	white
■	310	403	2400	black
×	402	1047	2307	copper
◆	470	267	1502	green
◊	471	266	1501	light green
▽	472	253	1414	very light green
◊	647	1040	1813	grey
◊	676	891	2208	sand
◊	677	886	2207	light sand
☆	729	890	2209	dark sand
♡	819	271	501	baby pink
◊	844	1041	1809	dark grey
§	943	188	1203	dk emerald green
3	945	881	2309	peach
◊	959	186	1114	emerald green
◊	964	185	1112	lt emerald green
▽	991	1076	1204	ocean green
*	3072	847	1805	light grey
⊠	3350	42	603	dark pink
+	3354	36	2610	light pink
A	3713	1020	502	very light pink
w	3733	75	605	pink
◊	3770	1009	2314	light peach
♥	3803	69	2609	cerise
⦿	3829	901	2210	old gold

✦ Cross stitch in two strands Anchor Reflecta

я	300			gold
---	-----	--	--	------

✦ Backstitch in one strand

—	310	403	2400	black
—	469	268	1503	dark green
—	3685	1028	602	dark cerise

✦ Backstitch in one strand Anchor Reflecta

—	300			gold
---	-----	--	--	------

✦ French knots in one strand

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

✦ French knots in one strand Anchor Reflecta

●	300			gold
---	-----	--	--	------

✦ Mill Hill seed beads

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

STITCH COUNT 140 high x 140 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave)
– 25.5x25.5cm (10x10in)

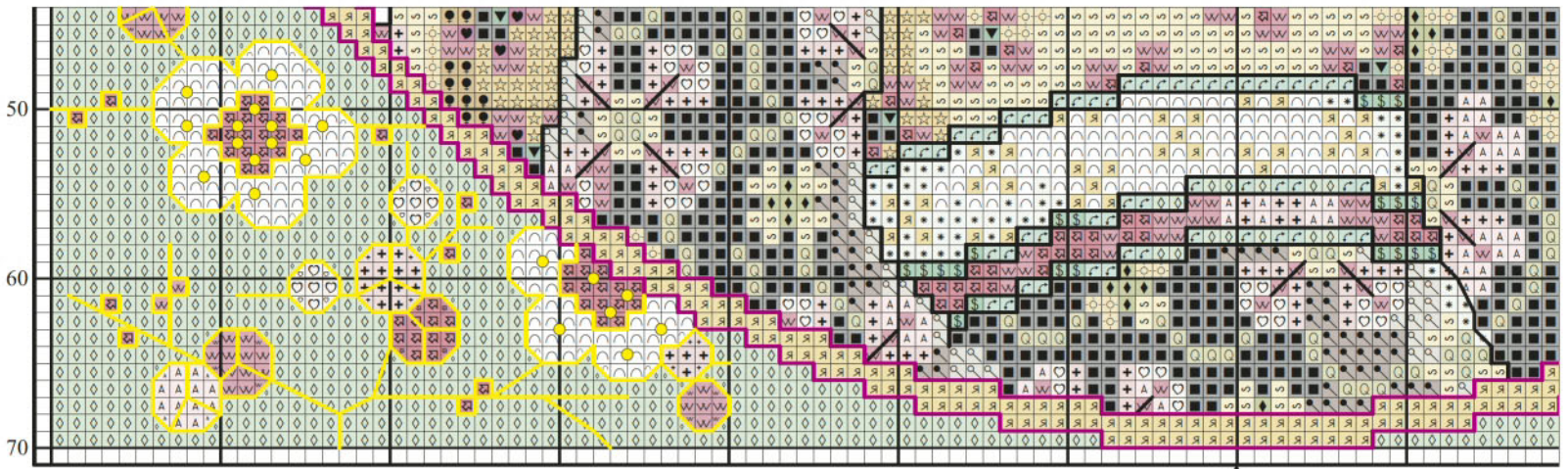
SKEINS NEEDED 3x964 (sea green), 3x3350 (rose pink)

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

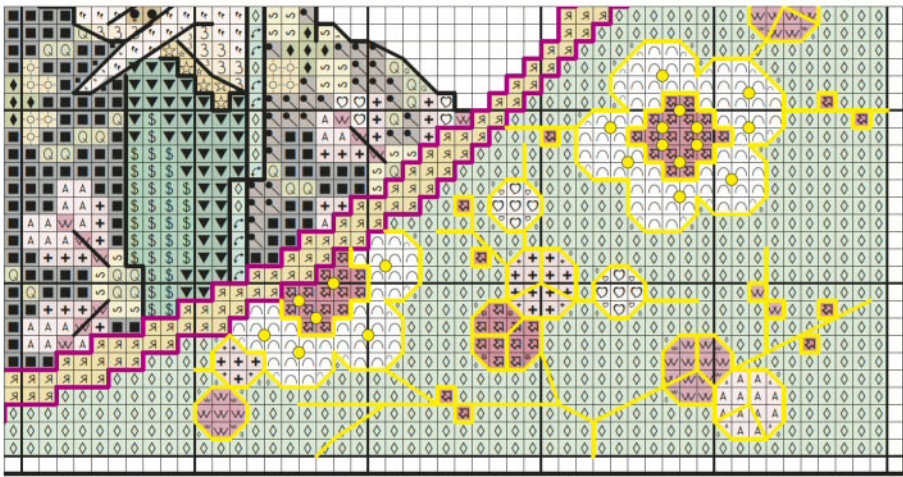
How to work the French knots

To work one, thread your needle with one strand 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. Keeping the thread taut, pull the needle and thread through the fabric, leaving a neat knot sitting on top.

Elegant geisha



Bottom left



Bottom right

"Lesley has created a truly enchanting piece, alive with colour and with a level of detail to engage any stitcher"
Fiona Baker, Technical Editor

How to attach the seed beads

Use a beading needle to attach seed beads to the parasol and hairband. After you've completed the stitching, use two strands of gold-coloured cotton to attach each bead with the bottom arm of a cross stitch. Bring your needle up at the bottom left corner of the square, thread a bead onto your needle, and take it down at the top right. Complete the top half of the cross stitch as well, making one thread lie on each side of the bead to fix it firmly in place.



Lesley Teare's Designer Secrets

My inspiration

If you're interested in Japanese art and design, you'll often find interesting ceramics in museums. I love the V&A in London, and find their exhibitions simply awe-inspiring.



The perfect spot

Sometimes you stitch a design and then find you have nowhere to put it – you can't quite find the right spot for it in your home. I find that Eastern designs work very well in my home office, as they bring a sense of calm as I'm working, and I love to look at them if I'm having a creative block.

Previously in Cross Stitch Gold

Try a smaller oriental-style project with Fiona Baker's set of elegant fan cards from issue 126. Stitch one for a special birthday or to say thank you – these greetings will delight anyone with a taste for luxury. To order a copy, call 0844 2456967, visit www.buysubscriptions.com/backissues or turn to page 26 for more details.





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Goldwork Kits by Carolyn

Tulips - Spring

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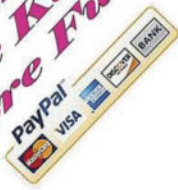
"Carolyn Gayton",
9 Ryefield Close,
Solihull,
West Midlands,
B91 1PP

Size of stitched area 16 cm x 16 cm Frame not included



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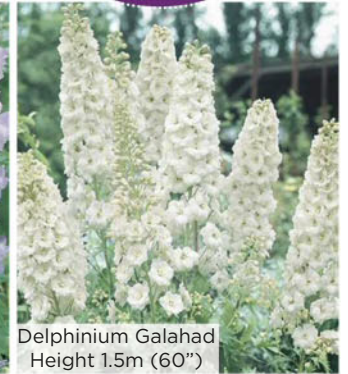
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Height 90cm (36")



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Height 1.8m (72")



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Height 90cm (36")



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Height 90cm (36")



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This elegant design was created by *Gold* favourite, Lesley Teare

Just for me

I've been stitching for years now, but always for other people. I love Japanese designs so when my daughter brought me the 100th issue of *Gold*, I saw this beautiful geisha and I decided I would stitch something for myself for once. It took a while, working on other projects in between, but I'm delighted with the result! I used to think I wouldn't have patience for cross stitch but I have proved

Debbie is pleased with this special reminder of a wonderful holiday

myself wrong! There are so many designs I see and want to do but it's impossible to stitch them all!

Janice Verdejo, Tenerife

Sarah: It sounds like you've been so generous with your stitching, Janice – you certainly deserve to keep this beautiful geisha all to yourself!

Feeling inspired

I treated myself to a subscription to *Gold*. It's such a delight to find so many designs I want to stitch every issue. I'm currently working on Lucie Heaton's ballerina from issue 127 and have a to-do list as long as my arm! Thanks to the team for such a great magazine!

Susan Walter, Preston

Sarah: It's our pleasure. Please do show us your finished piece!

Postcard perfect

This is my favourite thing I've ever stitched! We go to Sorrento on holiday each year, and when I found this Sorrento Hotel kit from Dimensions, I knew I had to stitch it. I started it last May and my

husband and I chose the frame as a present for my birthday in October. It now has pride of place in our lounge.

Debbie Sewter, Dawlish

Sarah: What a wonderful way to capture such a beautiful place.



Special lady

I have Ehlers-Danlos syndrome (EDS), hypermobility type.

I made friends with a lovely lady, Jodie, who also has EDS, and is very poorly with it. Despite this, she's raised over £23K for The Sick Children's Trust, who help families to stay with kids receiving treatment.

Her fundraising logo is a zebra with a purple ribbon tied around its tail. This is because zebras never have the same stripes, and people with EDS never have the same symptoms.

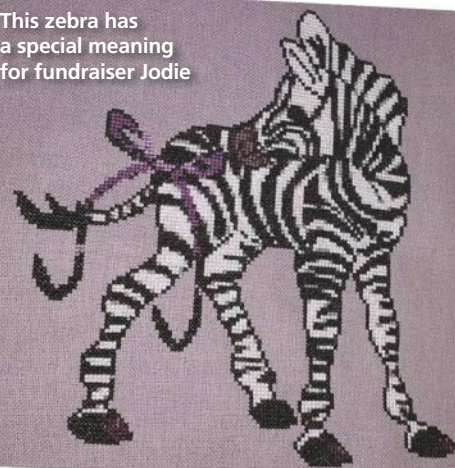
I asked my designer friend, Susanne Schmidt, to chart Jodie's logo and she sent me the mauve fabric. This will be

WRITE TO WIN!

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



This zebra has a special meaning for fundraiser Jodie



made into a 'hug' cushion for Jodie – it just needs making up. The second finished piece will be framed and raffled to raise funds for The Sick Children's Trust. Finally, I want to stitch one to keep myself!

Jamie Rowe, Kettering

Sarah: Jodie sounds like an inspiring lady. Good luck with the raffle!

Winning stitch

I won this Live Simply kit by Emma Congdon and it's now hanging in my hall. I do all my own framing. I love stitching and have completed all sorts of projects in the past. I must have stitched hundreds of pictures, cards and samplers over the years. I'm retired now and I'm always out and about, but I still find plenty of time for stitching.

Patricia Bond, Clacton-on-Sea

Sarah: Your stitching looks perfect, Patricia, and I'm so impressed by your framing. Turn to page 57 or go to www.cross-stitching.com to find lots more new crafty competitions to enter!



This winning design by Emma Congdon hangs in Patricia's hallway



Flora & fauna

Honeysuckle makes a fragrant addition to any garden, and is the perfect spot for this beautiful feathered friend to sing his sweet song



Meet the designer

Anne Mortimer

Anne studied Natural History Illustration and has been a professional artist and illustrator for over 30 years

The petals of the honeysuckle flower are so striking, ranging from bright yellow to deep magenta. Intertwined here with tiny red strawberries and delicate white flowers, you have a pretty palette that really comes alive on blue fabric – this soft background brings depth in a way that white fabric would not. When I see the honeysuckle in my own garden, I'm always reminded of its virtues in any season. Birds eat its berries and shelter there in autumn, while in summer the lovely scent attracts butterflies and other insects. In this design, a songbird adds life to the flowers and creates a focal point, while still blending in thanks to his bright feathers.

Stitcher's guide

This cushion is worked on 25-count medium blue lugana evenweave over two threads of the fabric, using 15 different shades of stranded cotton. The design uses whole cross stitches and fractionals in two strands of thread. Backstitch in both one and three strands of cotton is used to outline the design, and for extra detail, French knots are worked in one strand of thread. This elegant project is recommended for experienced stitchers.

How to stitch the honeysuckle 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. For every tiny symbol you see, work a fractional stitch.
- 3 Add the backstitch detail using one or three strands of cotton.
- 4 Add the French knots to the design in one strand of thread.
- 5 Check over your finished stitching and prepare for making up.

You will need

FABRIC Zweigart 25-count medium blue lugana evenweave, measuring 45x45cm (17¾x17¾in)

THREADS Stranded cotton as listed in key

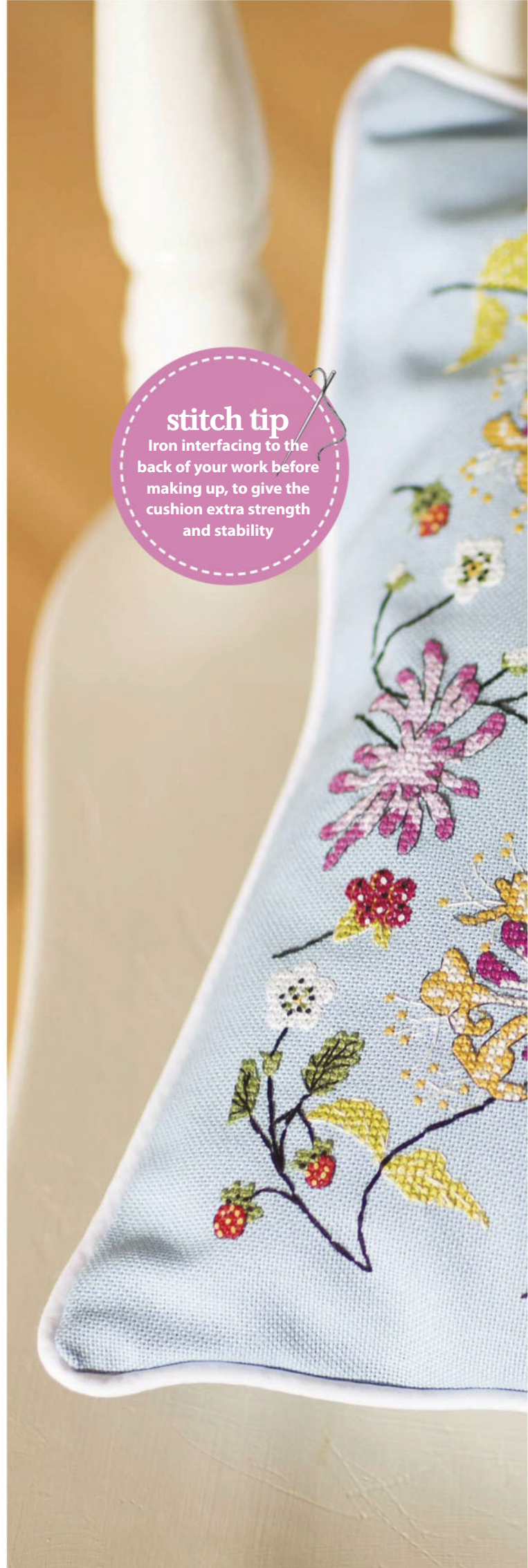
NEEDLE Size 22 tapestry needle

EXTRAS Piping, white bias binding, backing fabric and cushion pad to fit from local craft shops

FOR STOCKISTS' DETAILS Turn to page 59

stitch tip

Iron interfacing to the back of your work before making up, to give the cushion extra strength and stability



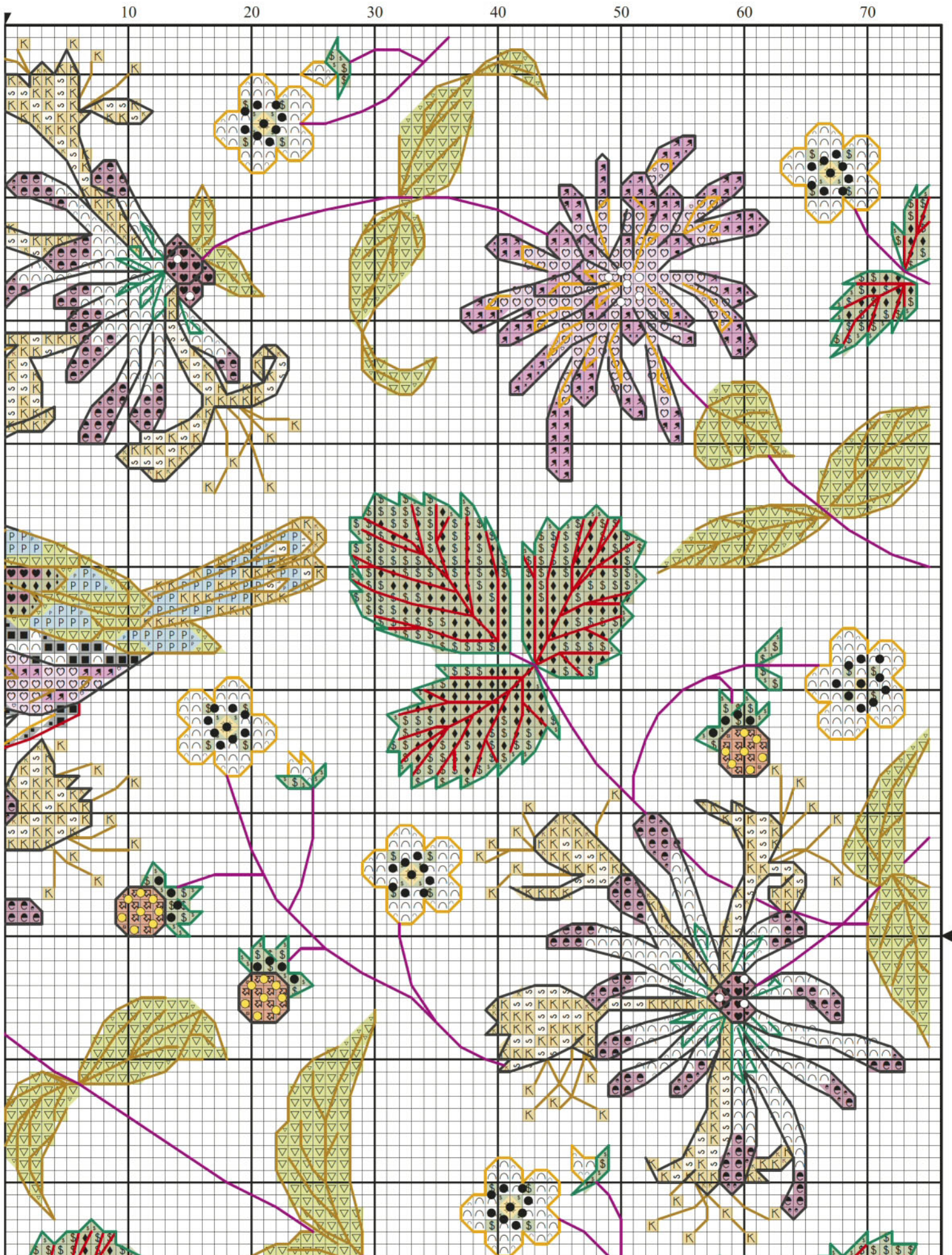


An abundance of French knots add texture to this sophisticated floral project

Honeysuckle cushion

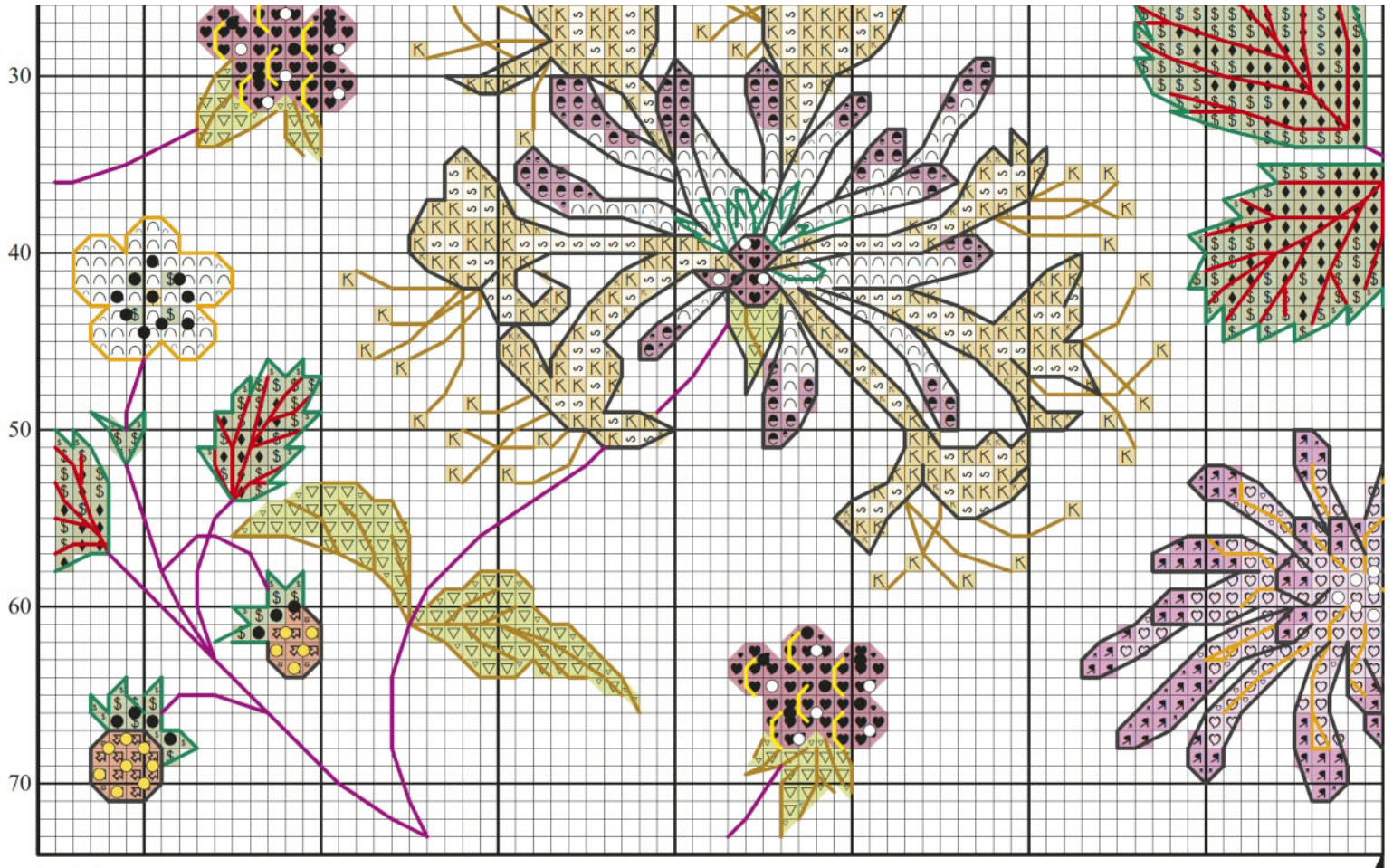


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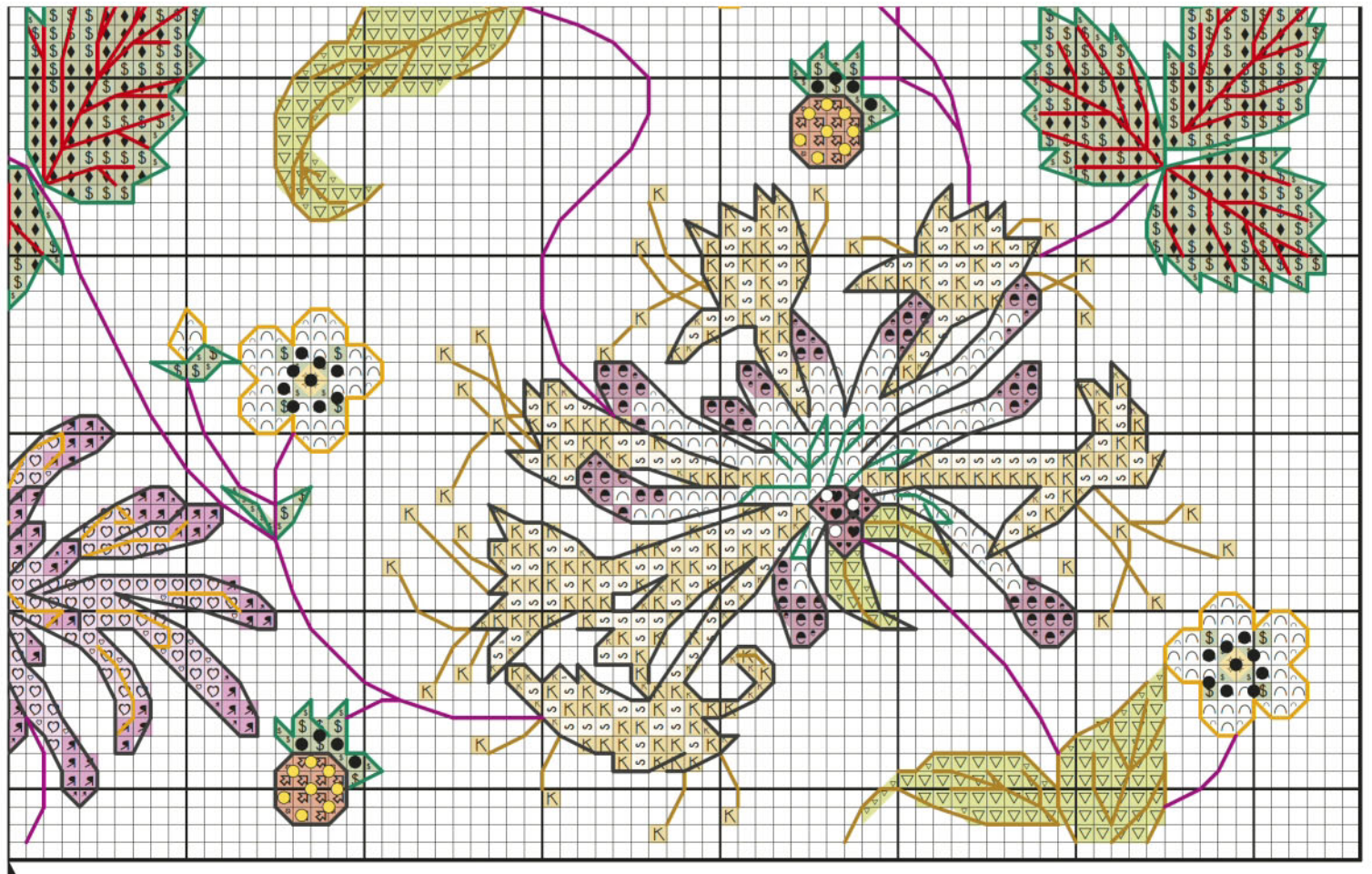


Top right

Honeysuckle cushion



Bottom left



Bottom right



Anne Mortimer's Designer Secrets

A fine fabric

Evenweave is a must when stitching a cushion, especially when there is so much blank space around the stitching and lots of it is on show. It has a softer finish, making it a better match for soft furnishing fabric.



Defining colours

There are seven shades of backstitch in my design. Some areas call for a darker outline to make them stand out, such as the stems worked in three strands, but I've used one strand for the rest. I like to try and replicate the colours in nature as closely as possible, while still making the project enjoyable to stitch.

How to make up the cushion

1 Trim your stitched piece so it measures 36x36cm (13.5x13.5in), making sure the border is equal on all four sides.

2 Cut two pieces of backing fabric measuring 36x18cm (13.5x7in) and turn a 1cm (1/2in) double hem on each piece, along one long side.

3 Pin and tack a piece of white bias binding, with the piped edge on the inside, 1cm (1/2in) away from the edge, around your stitched piece. Snip into the

bias binding at the corners to help it lie flat.

4 Place your backing pieces on top of your stitched piece, with right sides facing, and with the hemmed edges overlapping at the centre. This will create the envelope opening.

5 Machine-stitch all the way around the edge of the cushion, using a 1cm (1/2in) seam allowance.

6 Turn through and press flat. Insert a cushion pad to finish.

stitch tip

There's an abundance of French knots in this design. If you're not a fan of them, try using seed beads in matching colours instead

"I think anyone would have trouble giving this one away as a gift – it's just so lovely! I love working on evenweave, so it'll be a wonderful project to stitch for my new home"

Fiona Baker, Technical Editor

Previously in Cross Stitch Gold

Stitch more delights from an English country garden with this spring hanging from issue 127. Designed by Durene Jones, the beautiful birdhouse hanging features a bed of blooms and a little feathered friend making herself at home – it's the perfect way to celebrate spring. To order a back copy of issue 127, call 0844 2456967, log on to www.buysubscriptions.com/backissues or turn to page 26.

Honeysuckle cushion key

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	blanc	2	2402	white
♥	150	59	508	cherry red
▽	166	280	1611	lime green
■	310	403	2400	black
⊠	349	1098	212	red
∞	712	926	2101	cream
⊖	718	88	707	dark magenta
⊙	743	302	113	yellow
P	807	168	1108	turquoise
◆	3346	267	1407	dark green
§	3347	265	1408	green
⊠	3607	87	708	magenta
♥	3609	85	710	pink
K	3820	306	2509	straw

✕ Backstitch in one strand

—	blanc	2	2402	white
—	310	403	2400	black
—	712	926	2101	cream
—	807	168	1108	turquoise
—	3346	267	1407	dark green
—	3799	236	1713	dark grey
—	3820	306	2509	straw

✕ Backstitch in three strands

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

✕ French knots in one strand

○	blanc	2	2402	white
●	310	403	2400	black
●	349	1098	212	red
●	743	302	113	yellow

STITCH COUNT 146 high x 150 wide

DESIGN AREA 25-count evenweave – 29.5x30.5cm (11½x12in)

This design was stitched using DMC stranded cotton on 25-count evenweave over two threads of the fabric





Shopper's guide

From floral designs to stylish storage, step into spring with these fresh, bright and inspiring ideas from the stitching world

Sew stylish!

Proving that storage doesn't have to be purely functional, this pretty coral sewing box is packed with stylish features, from the dotty interior and coordinating handle to the smooth rounded corners. It costs £30.50 and measures 16x23x11cm (6x9x4½in), which is just enough room for all the essentials – needles and scissors in the removable tray, threads and aida pieces in the larger section underneath, and pins in the handy pincushion under the lid. This is just the kind of elegant accessory we'd expect from the chic French company, Bergere de France, and would make a really special gift.

Visit www.bergeredefrance.co.uk to buy



Pretty and practical



GOLD STAR BUY

Best of friends

Recently added to the Highland Family range by Genny Haines, this Spring design is the second in the series, and features a Highland cow and his little woolly friend snuggled up in the hay. It measures 11.5x20cm (4½x8in) and is stitched on 14-count pale blue aida using mainly whole stitches and backstitch, but you'll also work fractionals for extra detail, and half cross stitch for the animals' straw bed. If you prefer to use your own fabric and threads, you can buy a chart for £6.50, but a full kit is also available for £18. Look out for the Summer and Autumn designs, coming soon!

Visit www.goldleafneedlework.co.uk or call 01482 571120 to order

Easter treat

If you're looking for a stichy Easter gift for a loved one (or yourself!) that doesn't cost the earth, this cute needle minder could be just the thing. Made in the USA by Whimsical Edge Designs, the sweet sheep features an elegant blue pattern and measures around 5cm (2in) wide. Place it on the corner of your work, and the magnets will keep it secure, as well as providing a safe place to set down your needle in between stitching sessions. The Vintage Blue Sheep needle minder costs £5.15.

Buy from www.needlegoods.etsy.com



Keep your needle safe



Gypsy queen

Designed by Nora Corbett and inspired by a romantic image of her own mother, this enchanting piece is the newest design from Mirabilia, and a must-buy for experienced stitchers. The Gypsy Queen measures an impressive 45x25.5cm (17¾x10¾in) and is worked on Permin Milk Chocolate 32-count linen over two threads of the fabric, but it's not just the fabric that makes this piece so delicate and detailed. Kreinik Very Fine Braid, variegated thread, Mill Hill seed beads and teardrop beads are all combined beautifully to create her colourful clothes and vibrant jewellery. The chart costs £10.76 and you can buy it, and all the materials, from Sew and So.

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

Peony perfection

Enjoy the fine beauty of the peony flower in this Coral Peonies kit from Dimensions. Typical of the Gold Collection, it's a large design measuring 28x40.5cm (11x16in), rich with delicate detail and beautiful shading to recreate each gently curving leaf and petal. The bold blooms, captured in close-up, are stitched on 14-count ivory aida in bright pinks and greens, and you'll also work lots of black half stitches to bring texture and depth to the finished piece. Buy this kit for £34.36.

Go to www.sewandso.co.uk or call 0800 0130150 to buy



A touch of magic

It's always nice to have a variety of themed designs in one handy collection, which is why we love the project books from Rico Design. *Floral Magic* (No. 153) is their newest offering, and it contains beautiful posies, presented as tablecloths, hangings and cushions. Buy it for £10.15.

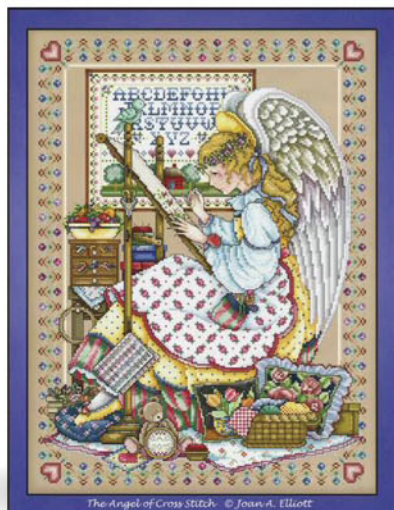
Visit www.spinningjenny.co.uk or call 01756 749200

Labour of love

Angels are always a favourite subject in cross stitch, and even more so when the angel is a stitcher herself! We think this is a stunning piece to grace any stitching room wall, but what we love most of all about this project by Joan Elliott is that it uses every single colour in the DMC range of stranded cotton – that's 454 shades!

So you can have fun digging into your stash and using up leftover colours you thought you might never need. The Angel of Cross Stitch will measure 43x33cm (17x13in) when stitched on 14-count aida or 28-count evenweave, and the chart pack costs \$16 (around £11.50), plus P&P.

Visit www.joanelliott.wordpress.com for more details and to buy



Say it with roses

With the antique look of a fine French fabric, this floral piece by DMC is guaranteed to add a vintage touch to any home and would look lovely either as the centre of a cushion, or framed and hung on the wall. Rose Fantasy measures 30.5x21cm (12x8in) and is brought to life on 16-count white aida, with plenty of detail to keep you engaged. The turquoise blue background is particularly striking, and makes the perfect canvas for a spray of roses in pink, peach and yellow. Buy this kit for £29.99.

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

NEW FROM BOTHY THREADS



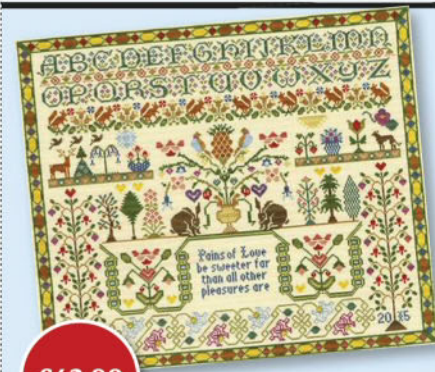
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New from Bothy Threads, a wonderful range of traditional cross stitch sampler kits designed by Moira Blackburn.

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XS5 33x52cm

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Happily *ever after*

This celebration sampler is like a delicious wedding cake, filled with layers of love and laughter, and topped with hearts and flowers!



Meet the designer

Nia Rhind

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

I really enjoy a good wedding – it's a chance to celebrate with family and friends, and a great opportunity to show your love in stitches. This sampler is bright, fun, and full of lovely little details, including the personal details of the bride and groom. I've chosen traditional wedding imagery such as horseshoes, lovebirds and wedding rings, but the style of design and the addition of stylised lettering helps to give them a more modern feel. Just like making a showstopping wedding cake, this design will require time, care and attention, but the finished result will be more than worth it. It's also perfect as a special gift to celebrate an anniversary.

Stitcher's guide

This wedding sampler is worked on 28-count white evenweave over two threads of the fabric, using 16 shades of stranded cotton, two shades of Satin thread and one shade of metallic thread. The design uses whole cross stitches and fractional stitches in two strands of thread. Backstitch in one strand of cotton or metallic thread is used to define the design, while French knots in one strand and seed beads add extra detail. This design is suitable for experienced stitchers.

How to stitch the sampler

- 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, Satin thread or metallic thread. For every tiny symbol you see, work a fractional stitch.
- 3 Add the backstitch detail in one strand of cotton or metallic thread.
- 4 Work the French knots using one strand of cotton.
- 5 Attach the seed beads using two strands of white cotton.
- 6 Check over your finished stitching and prepare for framing.

You will need

FABRIC 28-count white evenweave, measuring 40x35cm (15¾x13¾in)

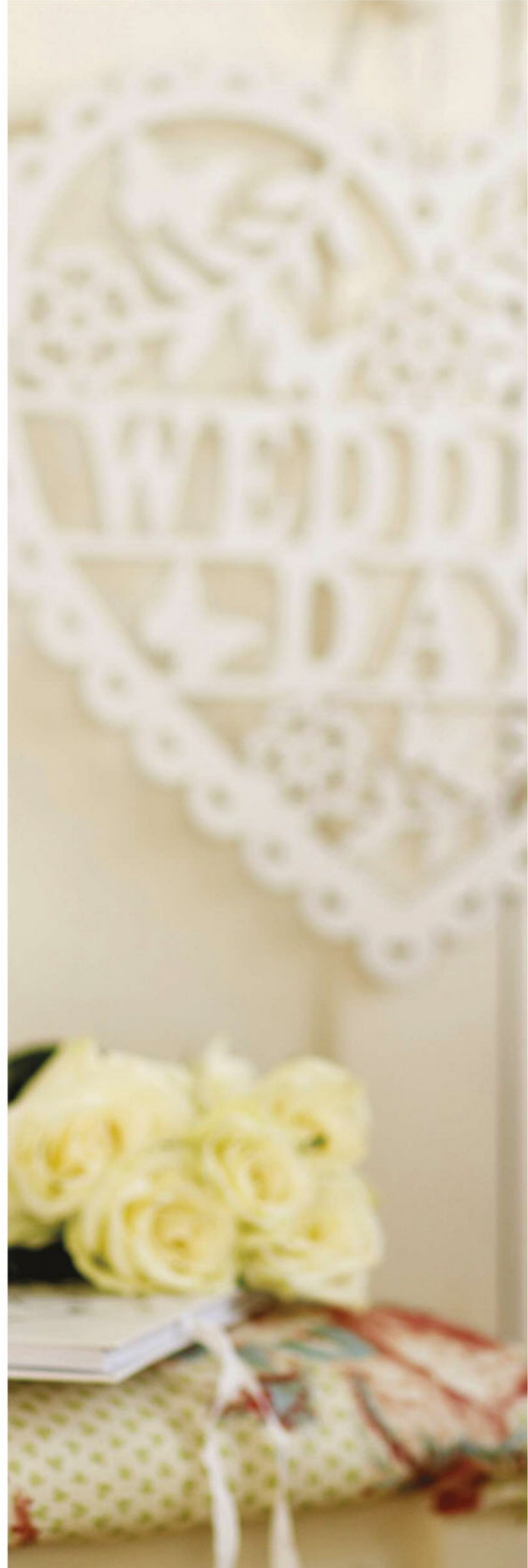
THREADS Stranded cotton; Satin and metallic thread as listed in the key

BEADS Mill Hill seed beads as listed in key

NEEDLE Size 26 tapestry needle; beading needle

EXTRAS Frame of your choice with a minimum aperture of 30x25cm (12x10in)

FOR STOCKISTS' DETAILS Turn to page 59



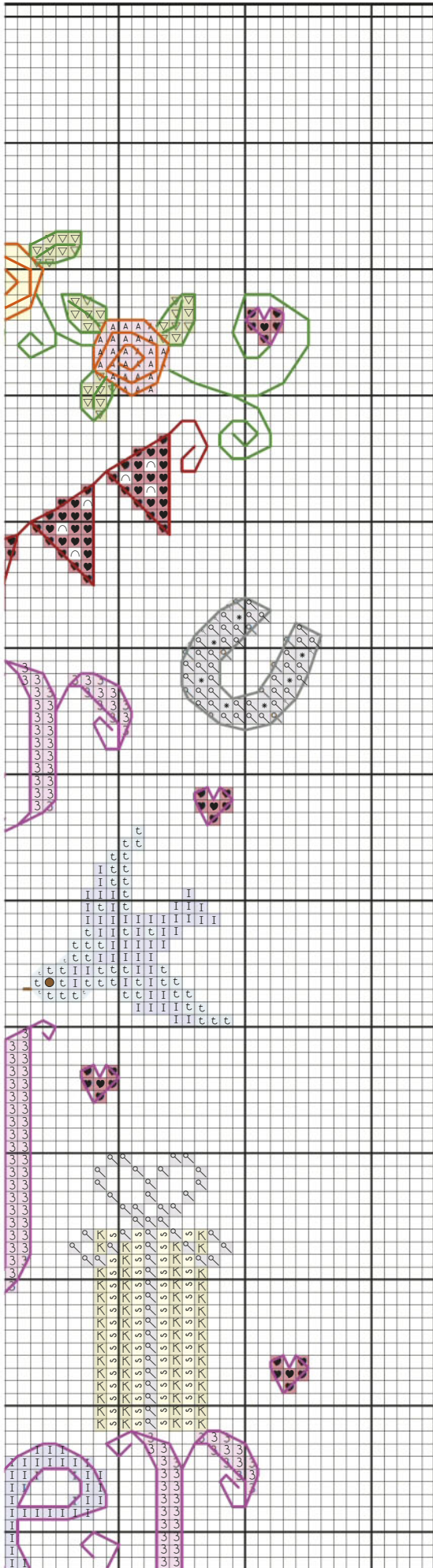
Personalise this pretty design with details of a special day



Wedding sampler



Top left



Top right

Top tips for working with speciality threads

1 Satin thread and metallic thread are made up of six divisible strands, just like stranded cotton, so you can separate the strands in exactly the same way and use one or two strands, depending on your design.

2 Both threads tend to be very springy and slippery to use, especially Satin threads which are made from rayon. To help make the process easier, use shorter lengths of thread, and try running a damp sponge or some Thread Heaven conditioner along the thread to tame it before stitching.

3 If the thread tends to slip out of the needle as you work, you can knot the thread to the needle. Do this by doubling one strand of thread, then passing the cut ends through the eye. Pass the tip of the needle through the loop at the other end, pulling tight to secure the thread to the needle.

4 Always work slowly to help prevent tangles and make your stitching neater. It's important that your stitches lie neatly, especially with Satin and metallic thread, as this gives the best reflection of light.

Personalise this design

Use the alphabet and number charts over the page to customise your design with names and a date. It's best to plot everything out using a pencil and some graph paper first, to get the spacing right. When you're happy with the positioning and spacing of the lettering, start stitching.

Wedding sampler key

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	B5200	1	2401	white
♥	326	59	508	rose pink
I	341	117	901	purple
\$	562	210	1205	pine green
⊠	603	55	505	pink
A	605	1094	613	light pink
s	746	275	2511	cream
t	827	160	1013	blue
b	839	1050	1913	brown
e	915	1029	705	magenta
K	3046	887	2206	straw
-	3078	292	102	yellow
▽	3348	264	1409	grass green
3	3609	85	710	fuschia

✕ Cross stitch in two strands DMC Satin thread

🔍	S415			satin grey
☀️	S3820			satin gold

✕ Cross stitch in two strands DMC Light Effects

*	E168			silver
---	------	--	--	--------

✕ Backstitch in one strand

—	326	59	508	rose pink
—	562	210	1205	pine green
—	605	1094	613	light pink
—	814	22	601	ruby
—	839	1050	1913	brown
—	915	1029	705	magenta
—	3820	306	2509	gold

✕ Backstitch in one strand DMC Light Effects

—	E168			silver
---	------	--	--	--------

✕ French knots in one strand

●	839	1050	1913	brown
●	3046	887	2206	straw

✕ Mill Hill seed beads

⦿	03015			snow white
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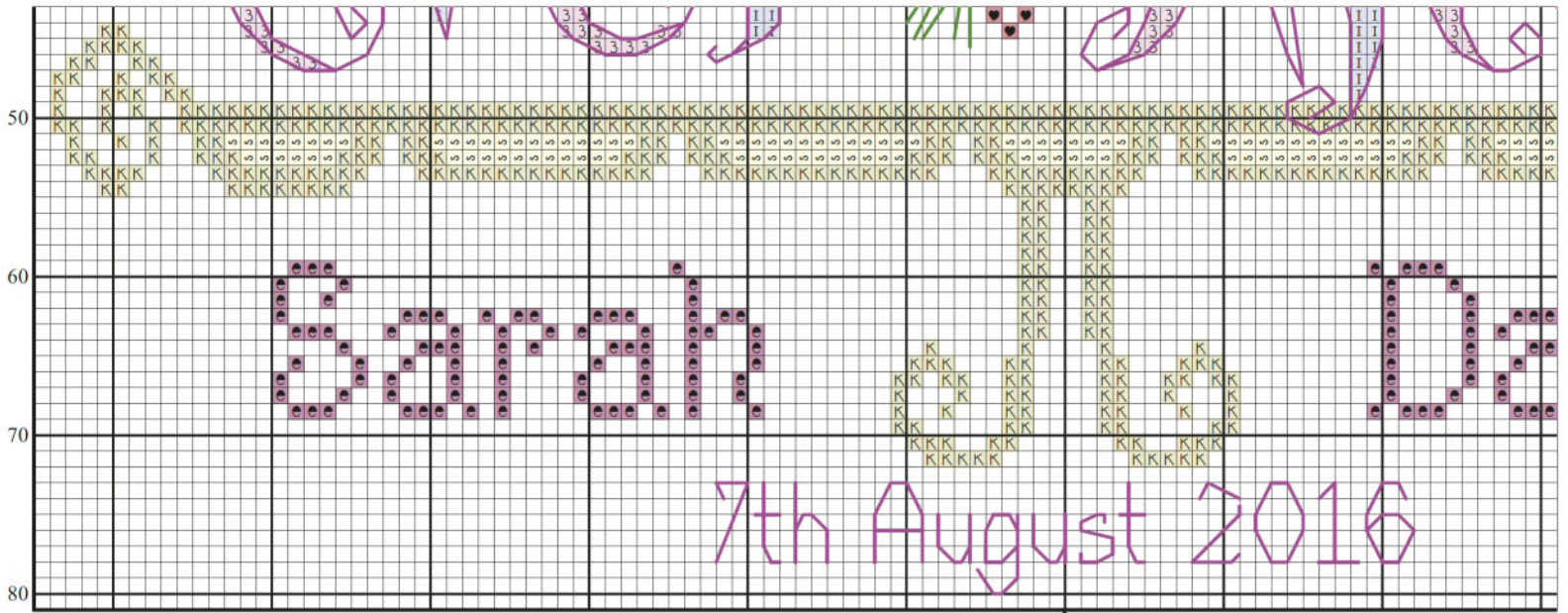
STITCH COUNT 160 high x 128 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave)
– 29x23.5cm (11½x9¼in)

This design was stitched using DMC stranded cotton, DMC Satin thread and DMC Light Effects on 28-count evenweave over two threads of the fabric

“I love how Nia has incorporated both Satin and metallic thread into this design. These threads reflect the light and help to give the sampler a special-occasion feel”
Sarah Trevor, Editor

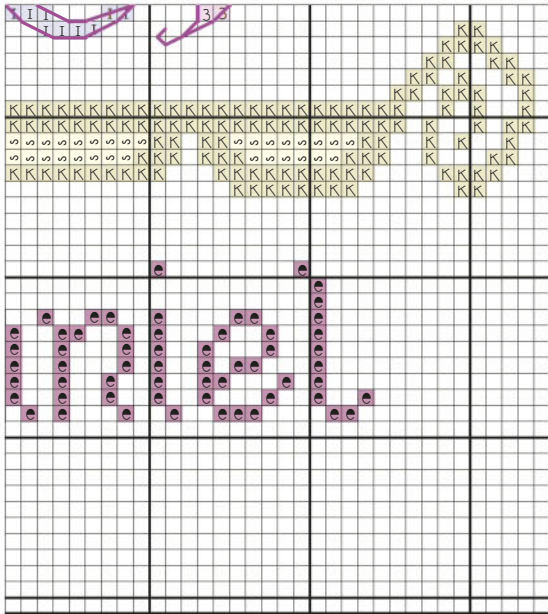
Wedding sampler



Bottom left



Alphabet



Bottom right



Numbers



Nia Rhind's Designer Secrets

Keeping it interesting

Personally, I find densely stitched designs can test my patience, and much prefer designs that incorporate lots of small motifs and lettering, with some white space in between. This is definitely a piece that you can pick up and put down easily. Just choose a motif and off you go!



Punchy pink

I've used rose pink as a sort of accent colour in this design – the bright pink shade helps to balance out all the other softer colours in the sampler, and gives the overall design a bit of punch.

"Nia has a unique style, and I love her trademark lettering. I can't wait to stitch this design for my friend's summer wedding!"

Sarah Heys, Charting Editor

Previously in *Cross Stitch Gold*

Nia created this beautiful family tree for us back in issue 125, so if you love her wedding sampler you won't want to miss this project, too. Add the names of your loved ones to create a truly personal piece that can be stitched as your family grows. To order a back copy, call 0844 2456967, visit www.buysubscriptions.com/backissues or turn to page 26.



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Sarah, Editor, *Cross Stitch Gold*

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Harbour view

Catch a breath of fresh coastal air and let the calm wash over you, as you stitch this picturesque harbourside scene



Meet the designer

Carol Thornton

Carol loves to paint her designs in watercolour, before converting them into stitches

Holidaying in your home country – otherwise known as a ‘staycation’ – is becoming more and more popular, and it’s easy to see why! The UK is a small island, so we’re lucky that we’re never far from the sea, and there are so many pretty coastal towns and villages that deserve a visit. I love Cornwall and Devon in the south west, as well as the rugged coastline of Northumberland, but this design definitely has more of a sunny southern feel to it. I imagined I was staying at a B&B and watching the view from my window as I painted this scene. Blue skies, azure water, bobbing boats, cobbled streets and a classic English pub – what more could you possibly want from a holiday destination?

Stitcher’s guide

This coastal design is worked on 14-count white aida using 33 different shades of stranded cotton. The design uses whole cross stitches and fractional stitches in two strands of thread. Backstitch in one strand of cotton is used to define the design, while French knots in one strand are used for the flowers and the seagulls’ eyes. This design is suitable for experienced stitchers.

How to stitch the coastal scene

- 1 Find the centre of your fabric by folding it in half both horizontally and vertically. Follow the arrows on the chart to find its centre and start stitching from here, working your way outwards.
- 2 Work the cross stitch using two strands of cotton. For every tiny symbol you see, work a fractional stitch.
- 3 Add the backstitch detail in one strand of cotton. Four different shades are used, so check the key carefully to see which one you need.
- 4 Work French knots for the flowers and birds’ eyes using one strand of cotton.
- 5 Finally, check over your finished stitching and prepare for framing.

stitch tip

Densely stitched designs tend to distort, so use a large scroll frame to keep your fabric taut and square

You will need

FABRIC 14-count white aida, measuring 35x35cm (13¾x13¾in)

THREADS Stranded cotton as listed in the key

NEEDLE Size 24 tapestry needle

EXTRAS Frame of your choice with minimum aperture of 25.5x25.5cm (10x10in)

FOR STOCKISTS’ DETAILS Turn to page 59

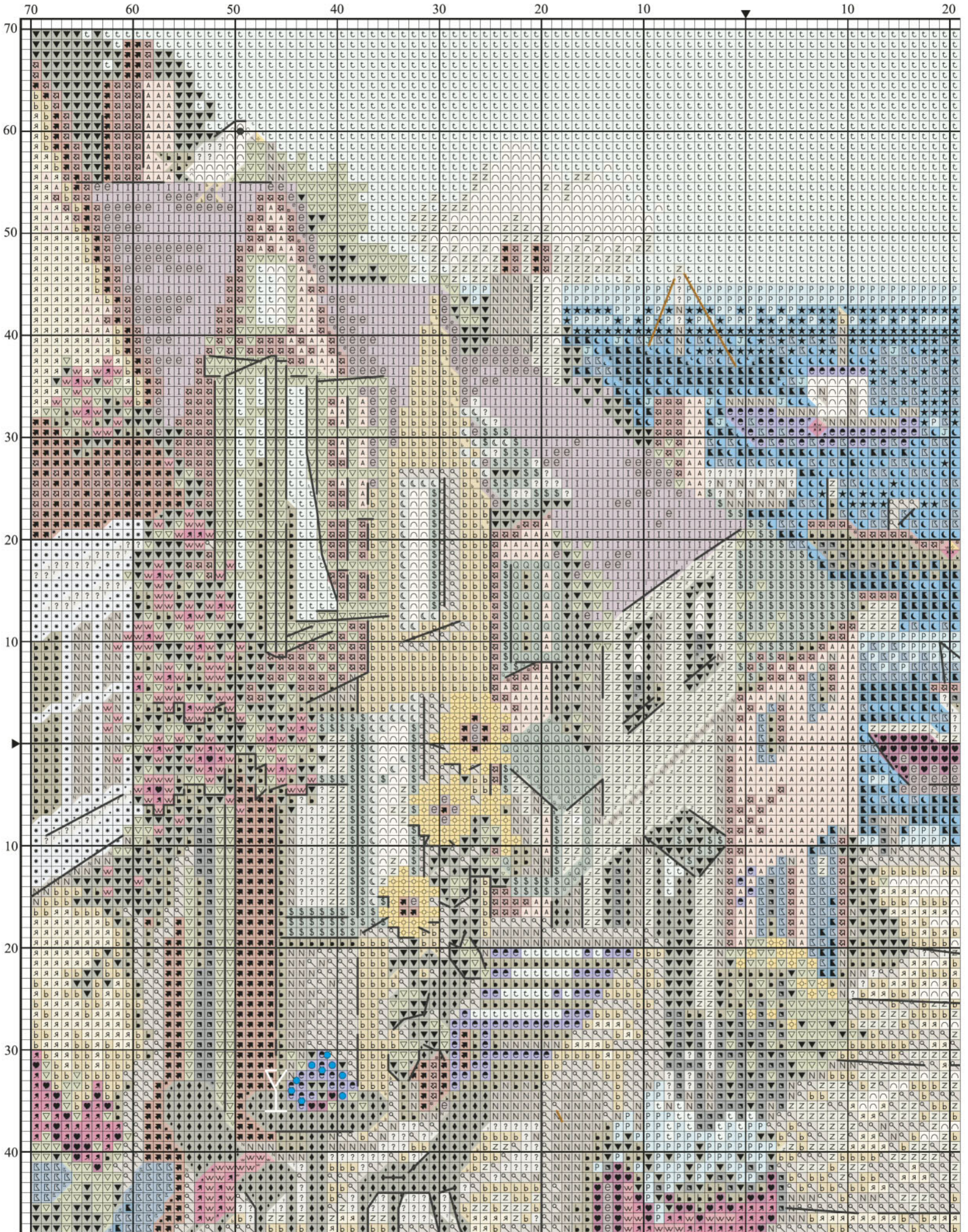


Coastal scene

Enjoy this view out to sea without leaving the comfort of your armchair

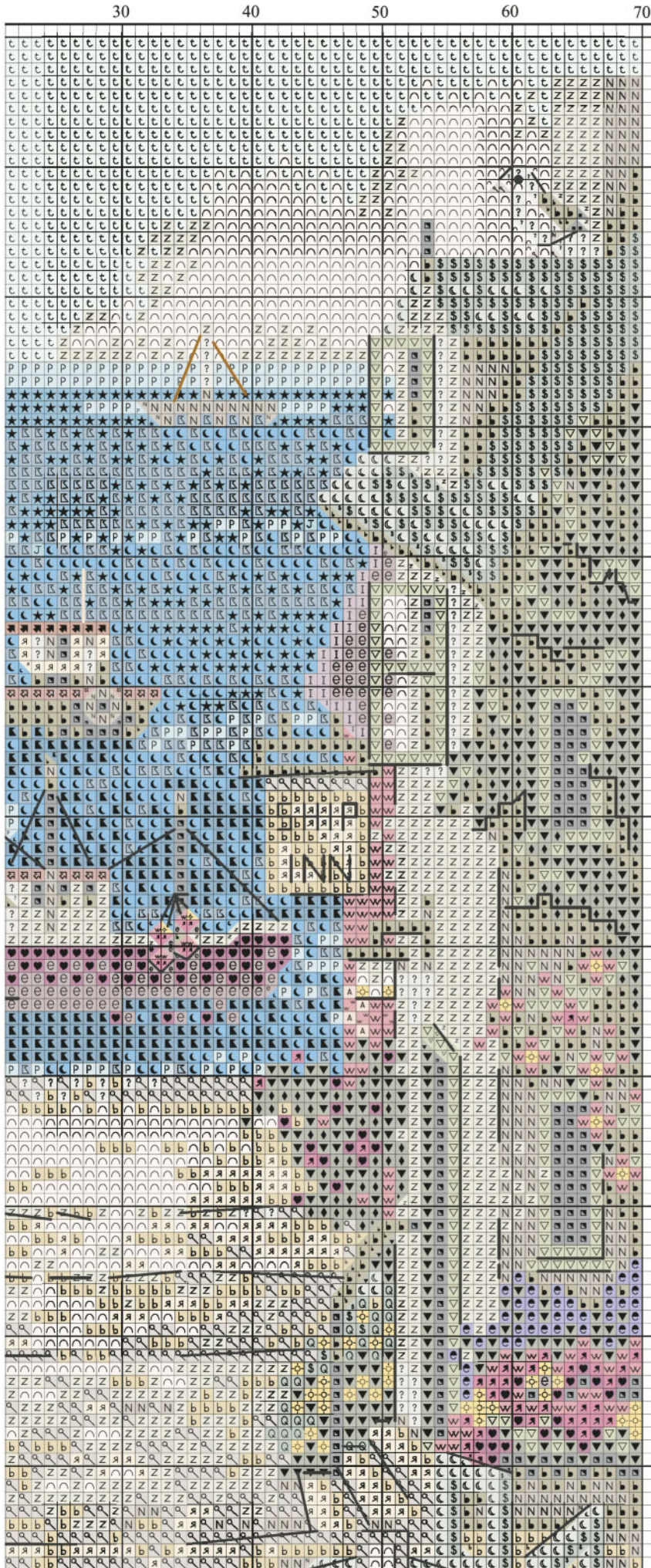


Coastal scene



Top left

30 Cross Stitch Gold



Top right

Coastal scene key

✦ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	ecru	926	2404	cream
A	353	6	2313	coral
b	422	943	2102	tan
◆	500	683	1705	bottle green
▼	501	878	1704	sage green
Q	502	877	1703	light sage green
★	518	1039	1106	dark turquoise
P	519	1038	1105	turquoise
☞	612	832	2108	beige
Z	644	830	1814	light beige
b	645	273	1811	smoke grey
N	646	8581	1812	ash grey
?	648	900	1709	light ash grey
☼	728	305	107	yellow
я	739	366	2014	light tan
*	762	234	1804	light grey
t	775	1031	1001	very light blue
●	793	176	906	plum
█	825	162	1011	blue
█	826	146	911	light blue
§	926	850	1707	dark petrol blue
☾	927	848	1708	petrol blue
w	956	40	506	pink
☾	995	410	1102	dark electric blue
I	3041	871	806	antique mauve
▽	3053	859	1512	grey green
e	3740	873	2614	dk antique mauve
▣	3778	338	402	terracotta
■	3799	236	1713	grey
♥	3803	69	2609	raspberry
я	3804	63	704	shocking pink
▣	3830	5975	401	dark terracotta
J	3844	1089	1103	electric blue

✦ Backstitch in one strand

—	ecru	926	2404	cream
—	646	8581	1812	ash grey
—	762	234	1804	light grey
—	3799	236	1713	grey

✦ French knots in one strand

●	793	176	906	plum
●	3799	236	1713	grey

STITCH COUNT 140 high x 140 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave)

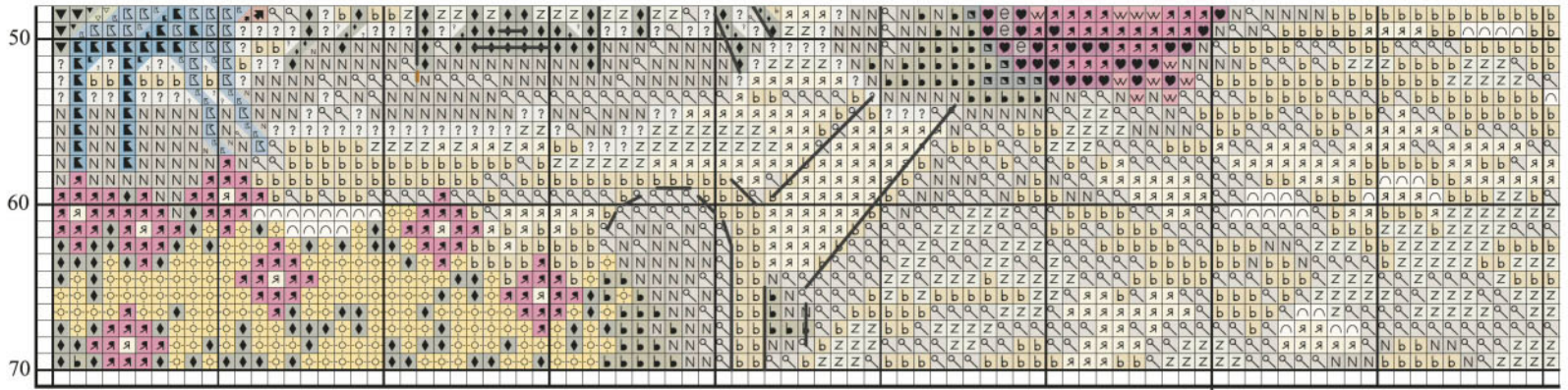
– 25.5x25.5cm (10x10in)

This design was stitched using DMC stranded cotton

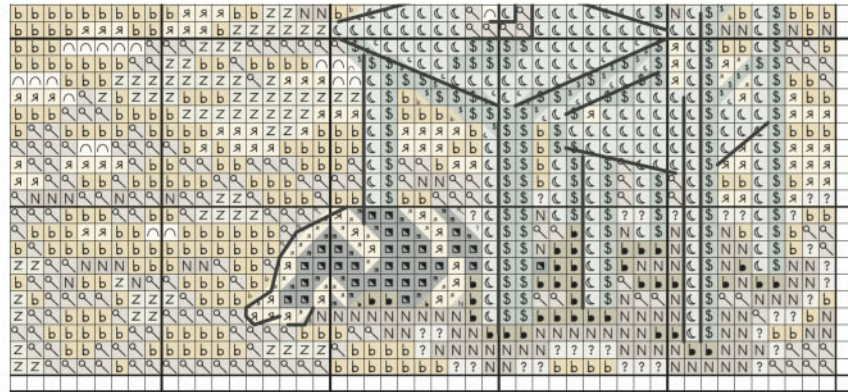
How to prevent eye strain

It's important to take regular breaks from stitching, to keep your eyes fresh and focused – and even more so with densely stitched pieces like this one. Use a magnifier to zoom in on a certain area, and a craft light to make things brighter so you don't need to squint.

Coastal scene



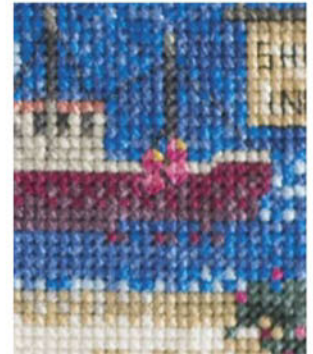
Bottom left



Bottom right

How to work the fractional stitches

To work a fractional stitch on aida, you need to be able to make a central hole in the square, and for this you will need a sharp needle. Put down your tapestry needle and use a crewel needle instead – it will allow you to pierce the fabric more accurately, therefore making your stitches neater.



This is a densely stitched design where the fabric is completely filled, so all the fractional stitches share a square with another fractional. In most cases, the fractional in the foreground is worked as a three-quarter stitch, while the colour in the background is worked as a quarter stitch – this

helps to create the right perspective. If there is a diagonal backstitch line in between the fractionals, work each colour as a quarter stitch and add the backstitch line to complete the square. See page 64 for more details.

“This beautiful design has inspired me to book a summer holiday by the sea. Perhaps it will have the same effect on you!”

Abi Barker, Charting Editor



Carol Thornton's Designer Secrets

A favourite haunt

One of my favourite things to do at the seaside is to eat fish and chips – an English tradition! Whether they're from the chip shop or the local pub, somehow they just taste better by the sea. We usually go to a lovely old pub called the Ship Inn on our holidays, so I had to include a pub with this name in my design!

You're so square

Square designs like this one are really versatile – they're ideal as framed pictures, canvases or cushions, so you can decide how you want to finish your work. If you're making a cushion, I always think a fabric border looks nice, as it acts in the same way as a mount in a frame. Choose a colour that appears in the design, but one that isn't too prominent.

Coming soon in *Cross Stitch Gold!*

From coastal England to the Venetian waterways, next issue you can indulge in your very own gondola ride when you stitch this piece from Michael Swanson. Issue 129 is on sale from 3rd May, or you can have the issue delivered direct to your door when you subscribe to *Cross Stitch Gold*. Turn to page 26 for details.



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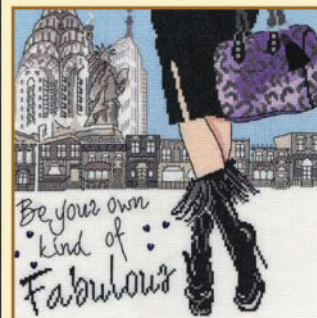
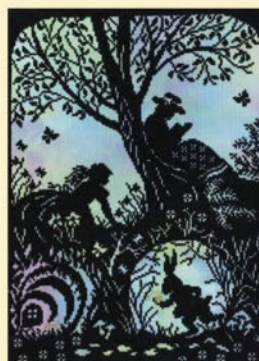
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THE EXPERTS



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

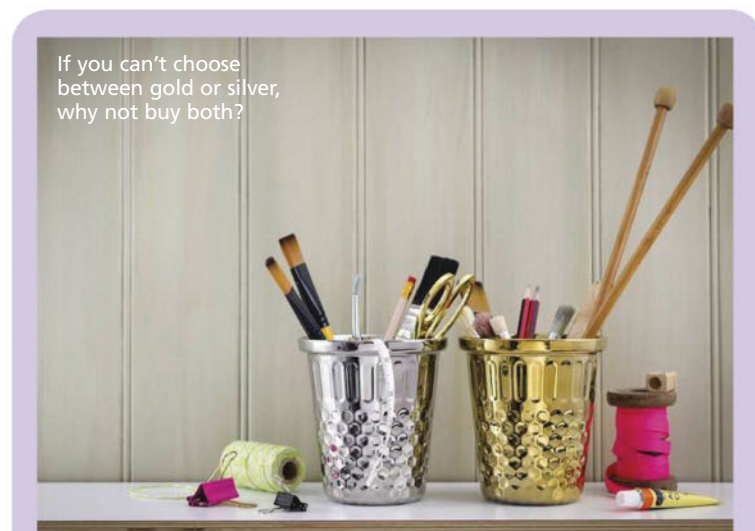
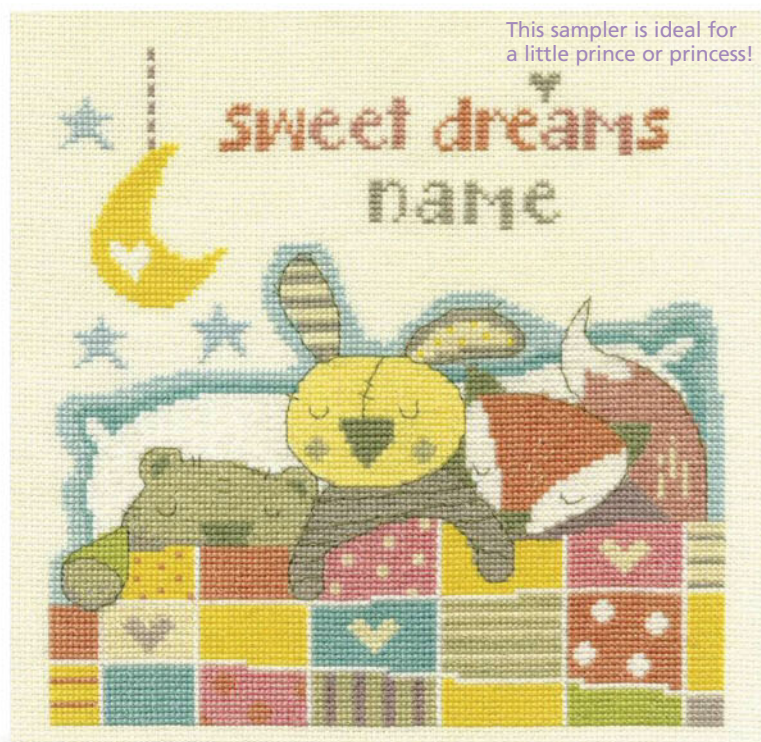
Sarah has worked on cross stitching and craft magazines for over six years. She's an avid stitcher, and is ready and raring to help you with any of your craft or cross stitch dilemmas.

BUNDLE OF JOY

Q My niece is expecting a baby but doesn't know the sex. I'd like to stitch a sampler and fill the name in when I know what it is. All the samplers I've found are either pink or blue. Can you find me a kit that's suitable for either, please?
Susan Charlton, Esher

A *Sarah:* How about this DMC For The Little Ones Sweet Dreams sampler? The picture of the cute stuffed toys tucked under a patchwork blanket will suit any décor and any child! Designed by Jayne Schofield, it measures 20x20cm (8x8in) and the kit contains 14-count white aida,

This sampler is ideal for a little prince or princess!



If you can't choose between gold or silver, why not buy both?

CLUTTER-FREE STORAGE

Q Finally, I have created my own sewing space and I'm kitting it out with accessories. I'd like to buy pretty yet practical storage for all my bits and bobs – please help!
Hazel Longbridge, Sutton

A *Fiona:* Vintage pressed glass dishes are good for storing buttons and embellishments – you can easily see what you need and the dishes are inexpensive to

pick up at charity shops and car boot sales. A pretty china teacup is also good for storing a pincushion in.

For bigger items, such as scissors, rulers and erasable pens, this 13cm (5in) upside down Giant Thimble Tidy is ideal and it will suit your room's theme! It's available to buy in gold or silver for £10 from www.redcandy.co.uk or call 0121 2247728.

stranded cotton, a needle, chart and instructions.

Stitch the main part of the design and wording in advance, then add the little one's name as soon as you know it. To buy this kit for £14.99, log on to www.debscrossstitch.co.uk or call 01253 771230.

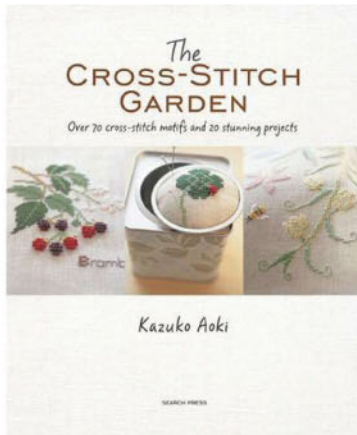
FABULOUS FLOWERS

Q I've spent winter daydreaming about stitching in my new summerhouse, looking out onto my lovely garden. Flowers are my passion so I would love a bumper

selection of floral charts to choose from. Is it more economical to buy chart collections or books?

Gail Toogood, Wilts

A *Sarah:* Lucky you, Gail! I love decorating bags and cushions with pretty floral borders and motifs. I'd say a book is the best option. Japanese embroidery artist Kazuko Aoki's new book, *The Cross Stitch Garden*, contains over 70 wildflower motifs, including pansies, violas, poppies and roses, plus 20 making up ideas. Don't be put off if you haven't turned your



Pick your favourite flower to turn into a pretty home accessory

stitching into a pillowcase or a pincushion before, as you'll find handy step-by-step diagrams for all the projects. To buy this book for £12.31, log on to www.amazon.co.uk or visit your local book shop.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Instead of buying celebration cards, I like to make all of mine from scraps of aida and leftover thread. I'd like to start adding professional-looking greetings inside, so I want to print a message, but how do I do it?

Margaret Thurling, Isle of Wight

A Jo: It's easy to print a message, greeting or rhyme onto pretty coloured or patterned paper from a computer and place it in the centre of your card. You can fix it by gluing or even machine-stitching all around using your choice of decorative stitch

If you don't own a computer, these little rubber stamps from Poundland stores work well and cost just £1! Practise on scrap paper before applying to your card so you don't have to worry about ruining a stitched card.

METALLIC MADNESS

Q I've been using metallic thread on a perforated card project and it's fraying badly. It seems quite cheap and I'm happy to spend more on a thread that works. What thread would you recommend I use?

Melissa Channing, Hammersmith

A Jo: Card can cause enough friction to fray the thread. It's best to use one or two strands; have a little practice and just go down a strand at a time until you're happy with the coverage and the ease of stitching. DMC Rayon thread and machine embroidery threads can all be used. Kreinik Metallic Cord 1 is also popular and costs from £2.12 for a 50 metre spool, so it's very economical, too. It's available in 26 colours and you can buy it from local craft shops and at www.amazon.co.uk



Go for a quality metallic thread when stitching on perforated card

TIPS FOR TOWELS

Q I'd really like to embellish some towels for my kitchen. Do you have any tips for cross stitching on towels?

Tessa Sweet, Christchurch

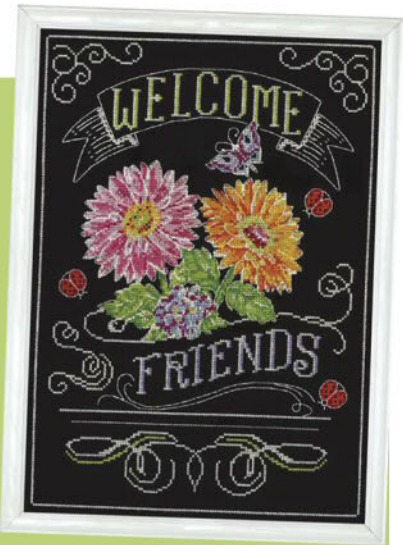
A Fiona: There are a couple of ways to cross stitch on towels. One is to stitch on aida band, then wash it and sew the band to a standard pre-washed towel (make sure that both are washed on a hot cycle though). This is an economical method as you can pick up towels cheaply in supermarkets and home stores, and it also means that your stitching won't show on

OH-SO STYLISH CHALKBOARD

Q I found a chalkboard-style cross stitch kit in my local charity shop, but unfortunately it was gone when I went back the next day. I hesitated as it was stitched on black fabric and I've never worked on that before. Can you recommend a chalkboard-style kit and do you have any tips for stitching on dark fabric?

Emily Newton, Newton Abbott

A Jo: This Design Works Welcome Friends Chalkboard kit is reasonably priced at £12.74 from www.amazon.co.uk. It's a fairly large design, measuring 35.5x25.5cm (14x10in), but it isn't densely stitched so won't be daunting as a first project on dark aida.



Replicate the trend for chalkboard home accessories

When stitching on dark fabric, try to work in daylight and put a white pillowcase on your lap to help you see the holes in the fabric much more easily. At night, shine a lamp down on your work and put a small LED torch on your lap to shine light upwards.



Personalise your towels with pretty cross stitch motifs

the back of the towel. You do need to use threads that are colour fast as your towel will be washed often.

You can also buy ready-to-stitch towels with aida band inserts. DMC, Rico Design and Janlynn products are widely available online and in some craft shops. This Janlynn Kitchen Towel measures 60x40cm (23½x15¾in). Buy it for £7.19 and see the full range at www.sewandso.co.uk, or call 0800 0130150.

PERFECT PRESENT

Q I'm looking for a birthday gift for my cross stitch-mad mum. I have no idea about stitching so I need some help! Do you have any ideas?

Polly Boardman, Fife

A Sarah: As a keen stitcher, she probably has all the supplies she needs, and often choosing a kit or a chart is a personal preference, so it would be wise to rule that out.

Looking around we've found this gorgeous Desk Bunny with little scissors that fit into the plastic body, making ears out of the handles. As the carrot is magnetised, your mum will be able to use it as needle storage when she's not stitching, or for paper clips, which will be handy for keeping pages of charts together. To buy it for £22 with free delivery, log on to www.iwantoneofthose.com



This sweet bunny scissor holder will help to maintain a tidy stash



Use rubber stamps to print your own greeting

Teabreak *time!*

Put the kettle on and start stitching this cheerful hanging, guaranteed to brighten up the kitchen!



Meet the designer

Rhona Norrie

Rhona is an experienced stitcher and designer who is always drawing, and began her career as a greeting card artist

My morning always starts by having a cuppa – in fact, tea features regularly in my day! It's a lovely ritual, and one that I'm sure many readers will share, so I hope everyone will enjoy my design with its upbeat motto and pretty china cups. I've added a wide border to this piece, complete with stripes and ditsy floral motifs, so there's lots of detail to keep your fingers busy as you drink endless cups of tea! The finished piece looks great as a hanging for the kitchen, and will make a fun display to greet you each morning as you pop the kettle on. Alternatively, why not give it as a special gift to a tea-loving friend who you love to catch up with over a cuppa?

Stitcher's guide

This cheerful design 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 and fractional stitches in two strands of thread, plus half stitches in two strands for the background and swirls of steam. Backstitch in one strand of cotton is used to define the design, while French knots in one strand add detail to the pink flowers around the edge. This design is recommended for experienced stitchers.

How to stitch the teatime hanging

- 1 Find the centre of your fabric by folding it in half both horizontally and vertically. Follow the arrows on the chart to find its centre and start stitching from here, working your way outwards.
- 2 Work the cross stitch using two strands of cotton. For every tiny symbol you see, work a fractional stitch.
- 3 Work the half cross stitch in two strands of thread
- 4 Work the backstitch detail in one strand of cotton. Six different shades are used, so check the key carefully to see which one you need.
- 5 Add the French knots using one strand of yellow cotton.
- 6 Check over your finished stitching and prepare for making up.

You will need

FABRIC 28-count white evenweave measuring 35x40cm (13¾x15¾in)

THREADS Stranded cotton as listed in key

NEEDLE Size 26 tapestry needle

EXTRAS Gütermann backing fabric from the French Cottage range. Buttons, 30cm (12in) dowel rod and ribbon from craft shops

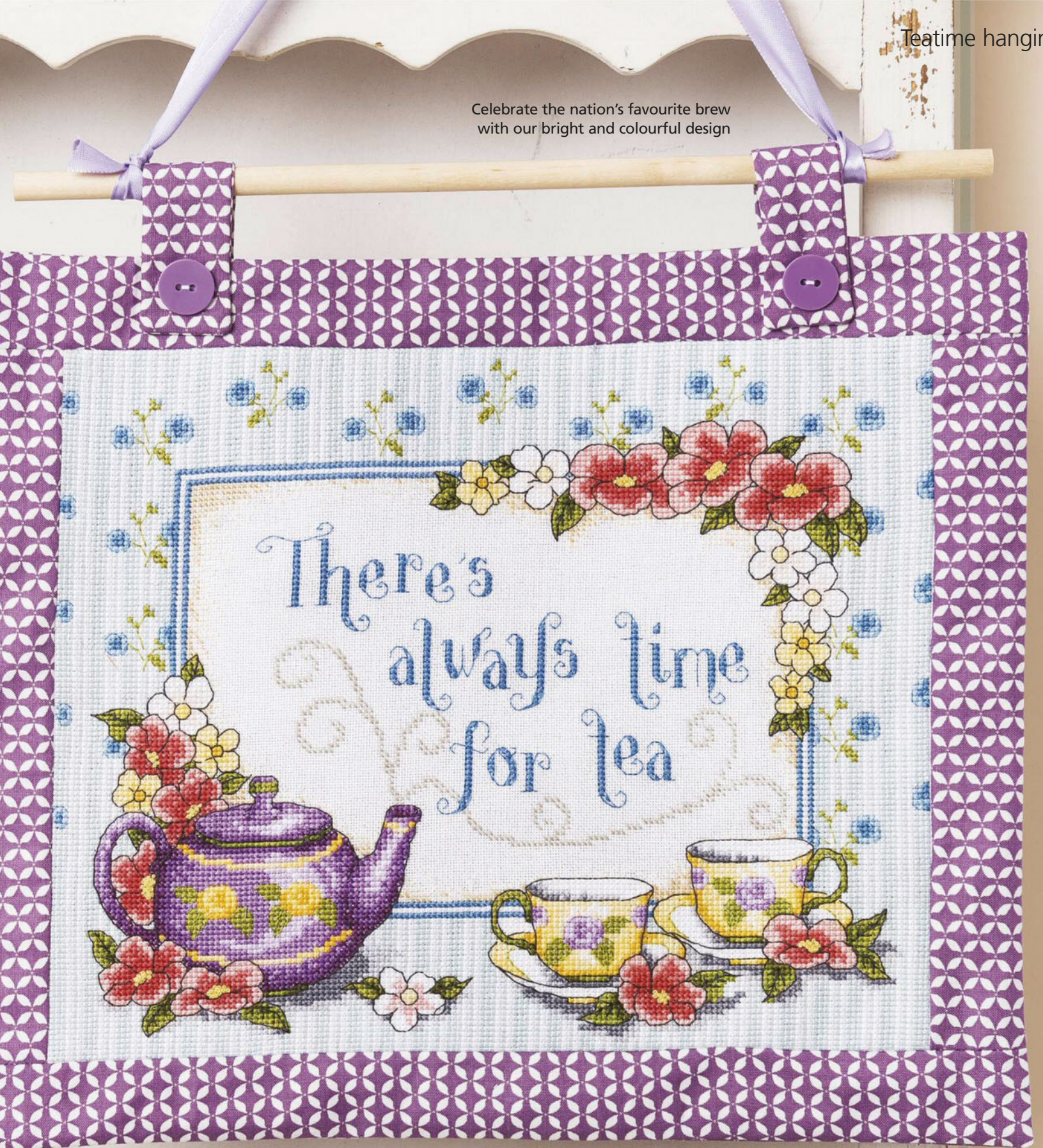
FOR STOCKISTS' DETAILS Turn to page 59



stitch tip
Stitch on blue gingham aida and omit the border for a much quicker finish



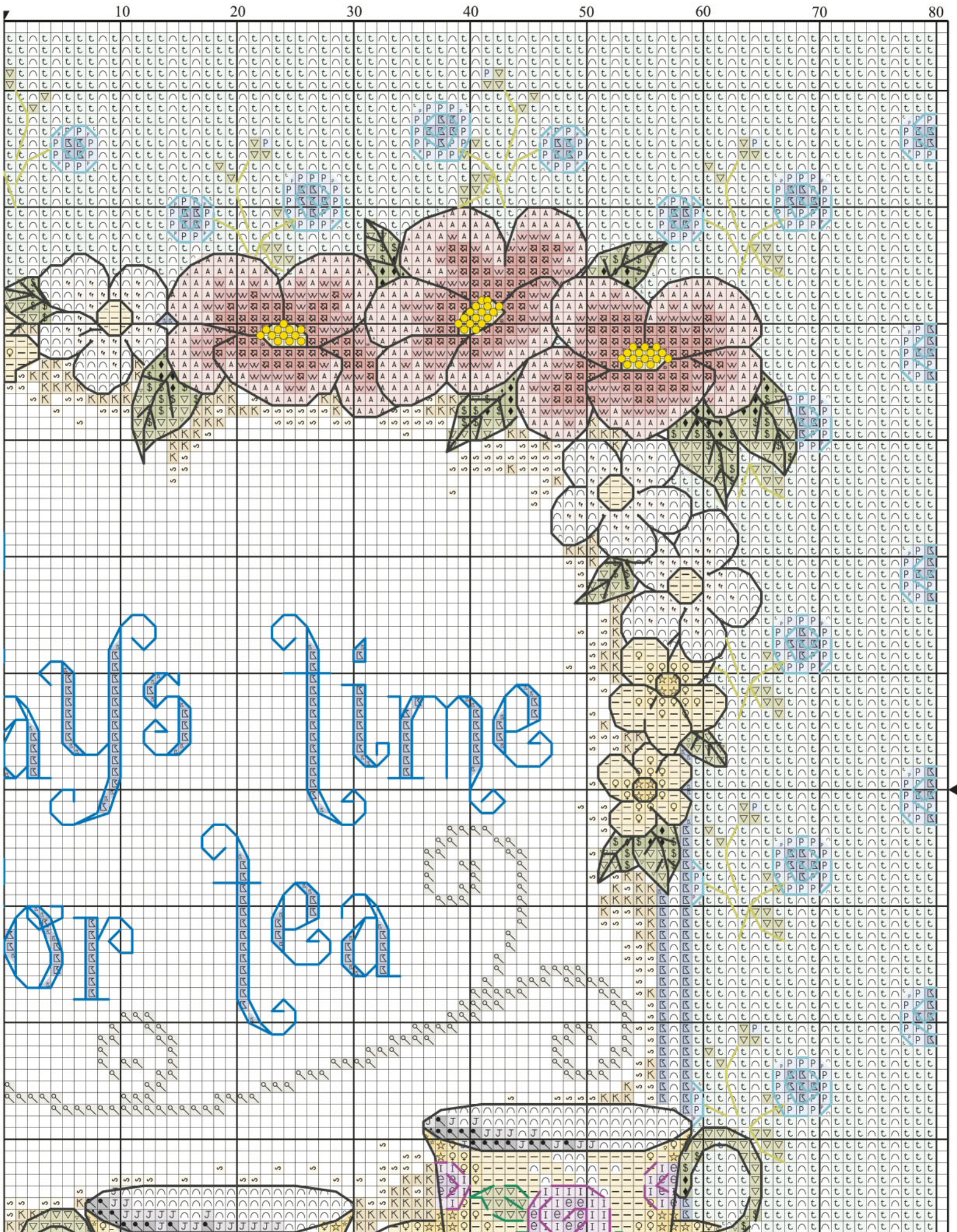
Celebrate the nation's favourite brew with our bright and colourful design



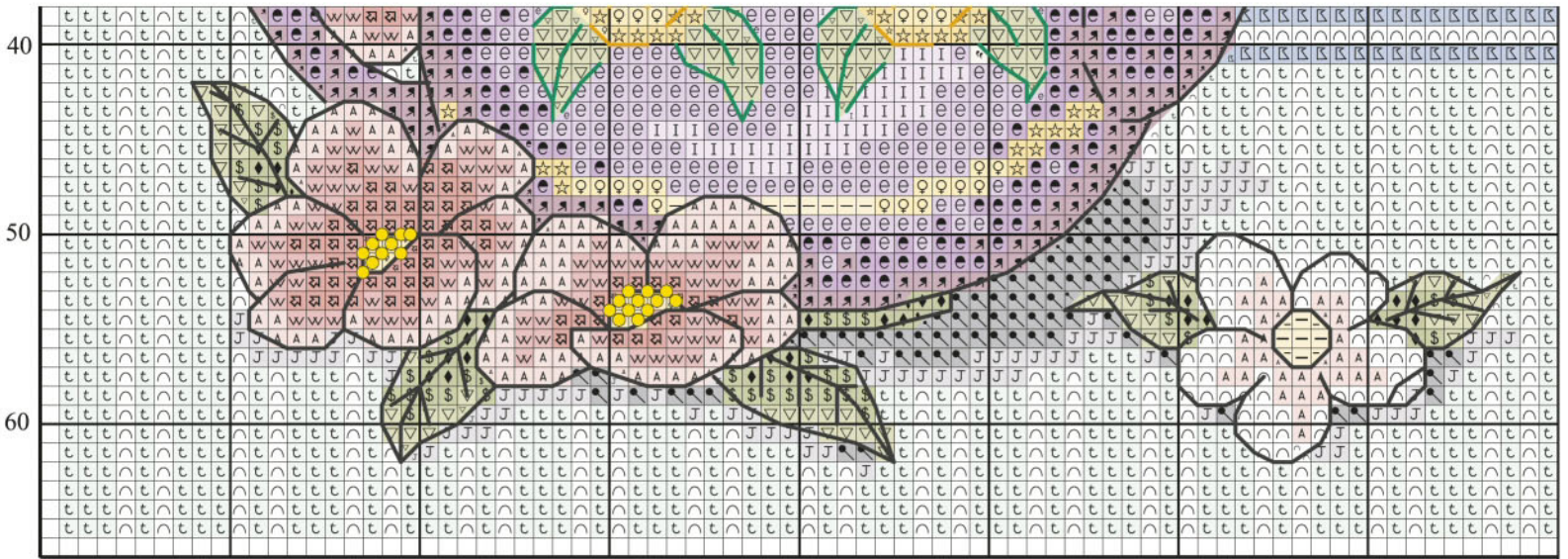
Teatime hanging



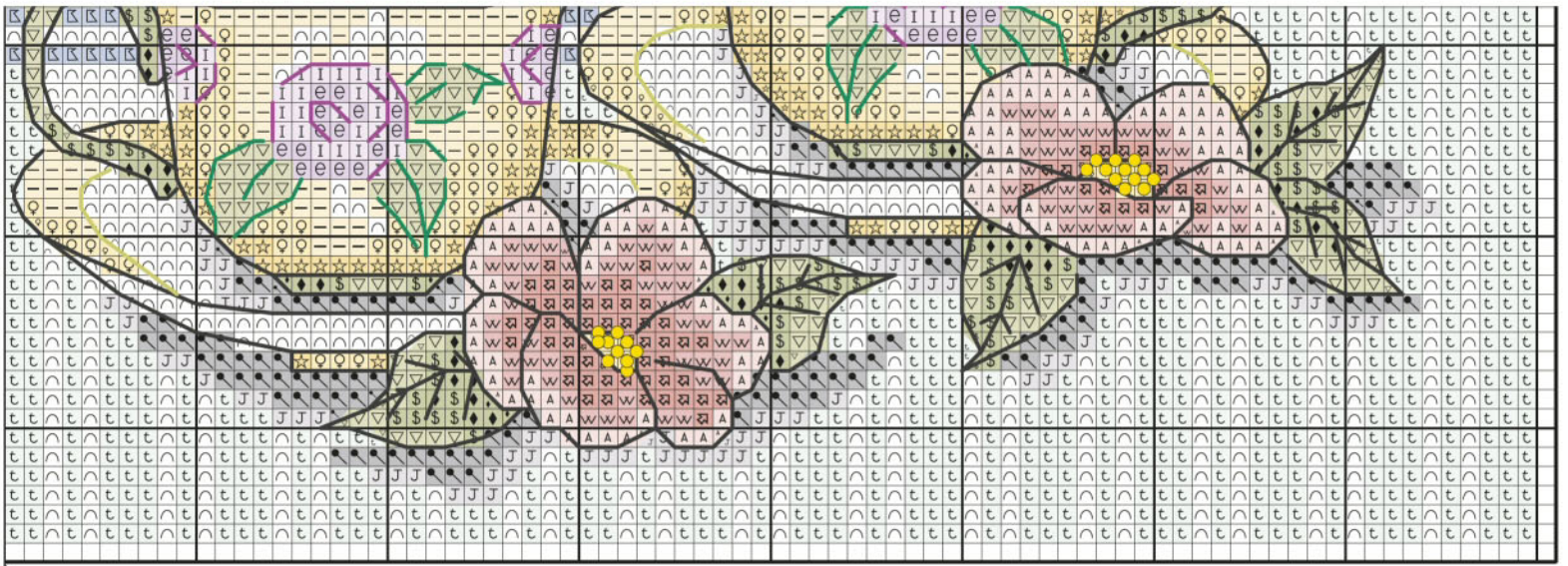
Top left



Top right



Bottom left



Bottom right



Rhona Norrie's Designer Secrets

Keep it neat

When you're working lettering on a design, it's so important to work each letter individually, without trailing your threads across at the back. As you can see here, there are no blue threads visible through the fabric, and the whole effect is much neater. It's worth taking the extra time to make sure you get it right.

Craft addict

I don't often stitch my own designs, but there's a friend of mine who I think will like this one a lot, so I might just stitch it for her! I tend to stitch in the evenings, and I often have two or three cross stitch projects on the go at the same time. I recently started to crochet, too, and I'm always excited about trying new crafts.

"If you like the sparkly effect of seed beads, try replacing the French knots in this design with beads in a similar shade"

Sarah Heys, Charting Editor

How to adapt this design

Try breaking this design down into smaller parts to create different kinds of projects. The teapot would look great on its own and could be made into a smaller design to frame in a wooden embroidery hoop. Or, stitch a teacup on its own with a 'Time for tea' greeting underneath as a sweet card. The floral motifs will make lovely gift tags, too!



Teatime hanging key

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	B5200	1	2401	white
●	208	99	804	dark lilac
◐	209	98	803	lilac
I	211	342	801	light lilac
■	327	101	805	heather
▣	334	977	1003	dark blue
■	414	235	1714	grey
J	415	398	1802	light grey
◆	469	268	1503	dark moss green
§	470	267	1502	moss green
▽	471	266	1501	light moss green
☆	728	305	107	gold
♀	744	301	112	yellow
—	745	300	111	light yellow
A	761	1021	404	light salmon pink
t	775	1031	1001	light blue
•	819	271	501	baby pink
P	3325	129	907	blue
■	3328	1024	406	dark salmon pink
w	3712	1023	405	salmon pink

✕ Half cross stitch in two strands

⊞	648	900	1814	ash grey
s	712	926	2101	light cream
K	738	367	2013	cream

✕ Backstitch in one strand

—	209	98	803	lilac
—	322	131	1004	delft blue
—	334	977	1003	dark blue
—	470	267	1502	moss green
—	471	266	1501	light moss green
—	728	305	107	gold
—	3799	236	1713	dark grey

✕ French knots in one strand

●	744	301	112	yellow
---	-----	-----	-----	--------

STITCH COUNT 131 high x 159 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave)
– 24x29cm (9¼x11¼in)

SKEINS NEEDED 3x B5200 (white), 3x 775 (light blue)

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

How to make up the hanging

- 1 Trim your stitched piece, leaving a 2cm (¾in) border all the way around.
- 2 Cut two pieces of fabric, each measuring 26x5cm (10x2in) for the side panels. With right sides facing, pin one panel to each side of stitching and machine-stitch in place using a 1cm (½in) seam allowance.
- 3 Cut two pieces of fabric, each measuring 36x5cm (14x2in) for the bottom and top panels. With right sides facing, pin to the top and bottom of your stitching and stitch in place using a 1cm (½in) seam allowance.
- 4 Cut a piece of fabric measuring 36x30cm (14x12in) for the back of your hanging. With right sides facing, pin fabric and stitched piece together, then machine-stitch all around, using a 1cm (½in) seam allowance, and leaving a small opening at the bottom.
- 5 Turn hanging through to the right side, slip stitch the opening closed and press.
- 6 Cut two pieces of fabric, each measuring 7x14cm (2¾x5½in) for the tabs. Fold these in half lengthways, with right sides



facing, and machine-stitch along one end, using 1cm (½in) seam allowance. Turn through to the right side and press. Turn a double hem on each remaining short end and sew in place.

7 Sew the tabs onto your hanging, using the photo as a guide. Sew on the buttons for decoration. Insert a dowel and ribbon of your choice for hanging.

"We drink a lot of tea in the *Cross Stitch Gold* office, so this lovely hanging will fit right in!"
Abi Barker, Charting Editor

Coming soon in *Cross Stitch Gold*!

If bright and colourful designs are your cup of tea, then you're sure to love this gorgeous vintage caravan by Durene Jones – another classic English pastime! You can find this summer scene in issue 129, on sale from 3rd May (UK). To subscribe to *Cross Stitch Gold* today, call 0844 2456967 or visit www.buysubscriptions.com/gold or turn to page 26 now.



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- ✓ 3 pretty ribbons
- ✓ 3 plain cards & 3 aperture cards plus 6 envelopes
- ✓ 4 mini ribbon bows
- ✓ Giant fold-out chart
- ✓ PLUS a re-usable project wallet!



This treasured collection of samplers and motifs is packed with gorgeous charts from the UK's best cross stitch designers. With 123 designs to choose from, you're really spoilt for choice!

Get stitching:

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- ✓ Family heirloom project
- ✓ Home sweet home sampler
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- ✓ Quick and easy motifs for last-minute gifts
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- ✓ Spring garden designs



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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
£1,329
in prizes

Let there be light

If you need maximum light for complex stitching projects, look no further than Daylight's Task Lamp XL. Powered with 84 Daylight LEDs, you'll see all the finer details, contrast and true colours in your work.

There's an even spread of light from the 58cm (22½in) wide shade, while the multi-position head also allows you to direct the light where it's needed. To buy or find stockists, log on to www.daylightcompany.com or call 020 89641200.

We have two lamps to win, worth £150 each. The text keyword is GOLD128LAMP. See the blue box below for entry details.



£300
in prizes
to win!

Cat mad!

Feline fans will go crazy for the Cats Rule range of kits designed by Peter Underhill for Heritage Crafts, and we love the latest offering, Baking with Crazy Cat Lady, worth £22.75. All

kits are available with 14-count aida or 27-count evenweave, and come with pre-sorted DMC threads. To order or find out more, log on to

www.hcrafts.com or call 01889 575256.

We have 11 kits up for grabs to lucky Gold readers. The text keyword is GOLD128CAT. See the blue box for entry details.



£250
in prizes
to win!

Home sweet home

If you're feeling inspired by our cushion kit reviews on page 50, you'll put this prize to good use! From Bergère de France's embroidery range, the bumper bundle includes a cushion back with zip (worth £7.30) and 40x40cm (16x16in) cushion insert (worth £6), plus backing for a draught excluder (worth £9.10) and a filler pad for draught excluder (worth £7.30). You'll find these items and lots more at www.bergeredefrance.co.uk. **Enter today to be in with a chance of winning one of nine bundles, worth over £29 each.**

The text keyword is GOLD128CUSHIONS. See the blue box for entry details.



£267
in prizes
to win!

Centre stage

We've long been captivated by the magical world of Michael Powell's designs and we're sure you will be spellbound by his latest additions. Place du Marché is made up of three designs, which can be displayed individually, or hung together to make up a beautiful triptych.

To buy, visit www.michaelpowellart.co.uk or call 02920 496000. **We have five of the centre blue design, Place du Marché I to win, worth £48.99 each. The text keyword is GOLD128POWELL. See the blue box for entry details.**



£245
in prizes
to win!

The closing date for entries is 3rd May 2016.

Enter online: Visit www.cross-stitching.com

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

Enter by post: Write your name and address on a postcard marked with the name of the giveaway you wish to enter, then send it to: Cross Stitch Gold 128, Immediate Media Company Bristol Ltd, 2nd Floor, Tower House, Fairfax Street, Bristol BS1 3BN.

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

Afternoon snooze

Pretty petals make a lovely shady spot for this cute kitty, dozing peacefully in the garden



Meet the designer

Amanda Gregory

Amanda is a talented watercolour artist, cross stitch designer and dressmaker, based in the West Country

Cat lovers are sure to recognise this typical moggie behaviour – somehow, cats always manage to find the sunniest patch of grass for their naps! I often look out of the window to see my own cat snuggled down under the pot plants, and I wish I could go out and join her in the sunshine. Recently, I decided to capture the moment in a sketch, which then turned into a watercolour and then into a cross stitch design. And here it is! I hope you enjoy stitching the different elements of this scene – the soft shaded fur of the grey pussycat, the fresh green grass, warm terracotta pots, and an array of blooms that bring a vibrant splash of colour.

Stitcher's guide

This sweet scene is worked on 28-count white evenweave over two threads of the fabric, using 29 different shades of stranded cotton. The design uses whole cross stitches and fractional stitches in two strands of thread, plus half stitches in two strands for the grass in the foreground. Backstitch in one strand of cotton is used to define the design in five shades, while French knots in one strand add detail to the lilies. This design is recommended for experienced stitchers.

How to stitch the sleeping cat

- 1 Find the centre of your fabric by folding it in half both horizontally and vertically. Follow the arrows on the chart to find its centre and start stitching from here, working your way outwards.
- 2 Work the cross stitch using two strands of cotton. For every tiny symbol you see, work a fractional stitch.
- 3 Work the half cross stitch in two strands of thread.
- 4 Work the backstitch detail in one strand of cotton. Five different shades are used, so check the key carefully to see which one you need.
- 5 Add the French knots using one strand of dark pink cotton.
- 6 Check over your finished stitching and prepare for framing.

You will need

FABRIC 28-count white evenweave measuring 30x40cm (12x15¾in)

THREADS Stranded cotton as listed in key

NEEDLE Size 26 tapestry needle

EXTRAS Frame of your choice with minimum aperture of 23.5x30.5cm (9¼x12in)

FOR STOCKISTS' DETAILS Turn to page 59

stitch tip

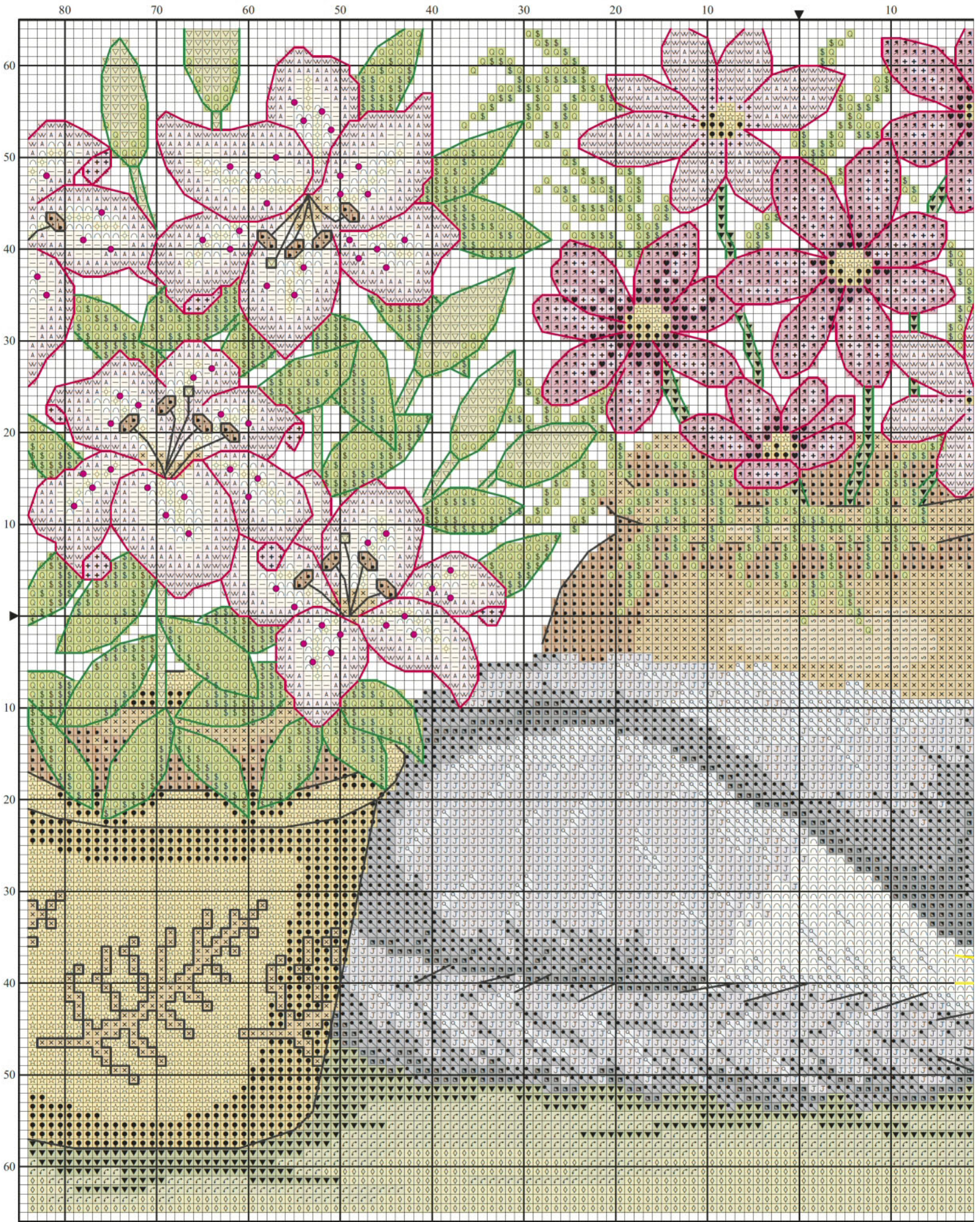
Work the cat's white fur last of all, so the area is handled less and the white stitches stay fresh and bright



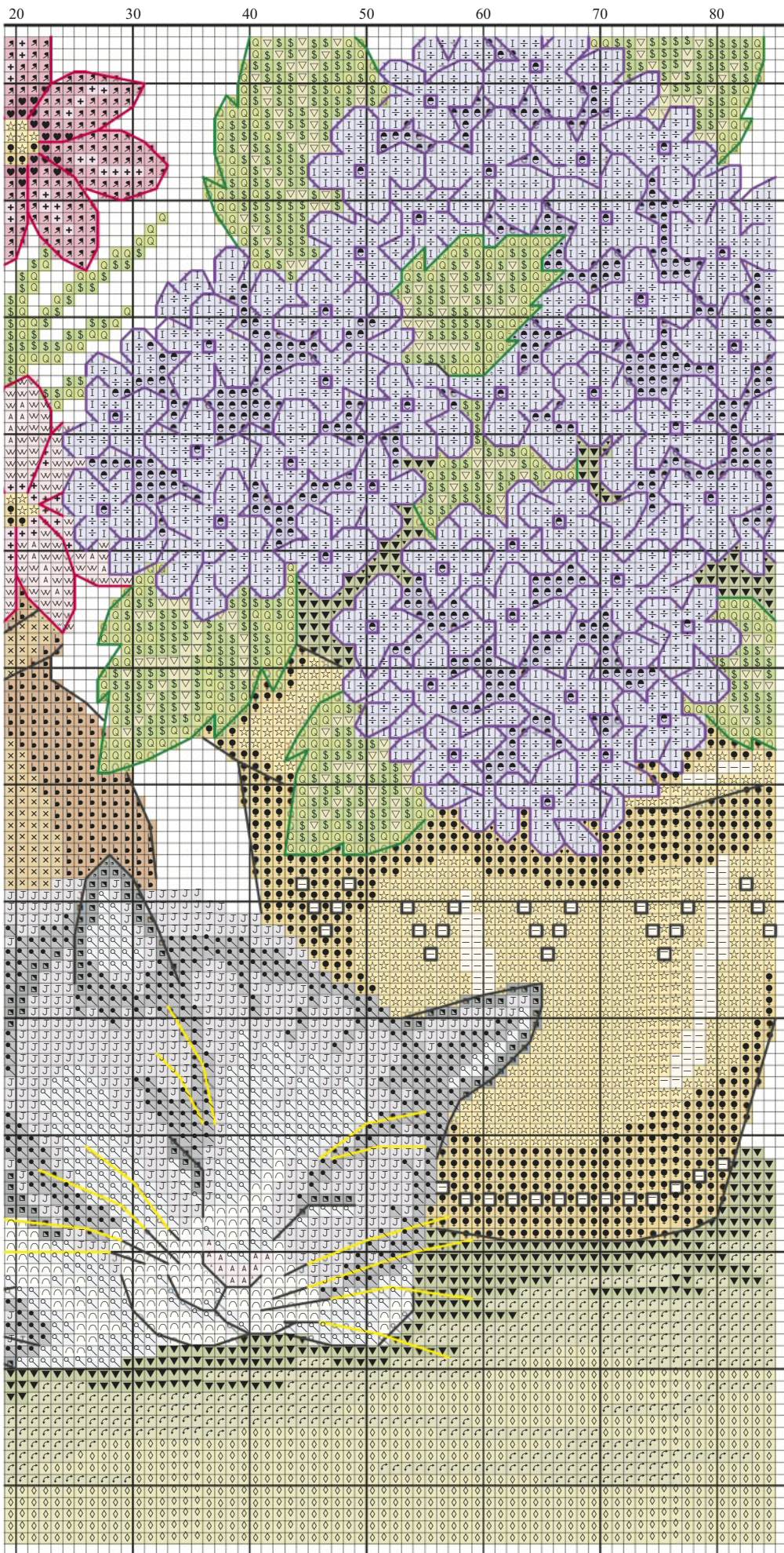


Amanda's design is the perfect stitch
for sunny days spent in the garden

Sleeping cat



Left



Sleeping cat key

✦ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
●	340	118	2702	dark purple
●	341	117	902	purple
■	413	401	1714	dark grey
■	414	235	1801	grey
J	415	398	1802	light grey
■	434	310	2009	brown
×	436	1045	2011	light brown
▼	470	267	1502	dark moss green
▽	472	253	1414	light moss green
♥	602	57	702	dark pink
■	603	55	505	pink
+	605	1094	613	light pink
§	702	226	1306	leaf green
Q	704	255	1308	light leaf green
—	712	926	2101	cream
§	738	367	2013	dark cream
Q	762	234	1804	very light grey
A	818	23	502	baby pink
w	963	73	503	dusty rose pink
○	3078	292	102	light yellow
I	3747	120	901	light purple
●	3820	306	2509	dark yellow
☆	3822	295	2511	yellow
○	3865	2	2403	white

✦ Half cross stitch in two strands

■	471	266	1501	moss green
◇	472	253	1414	light moss green

✦ Backstitch in one strand

—	327	101	805	violet
—	601	63	703	very dark pink
—	934	862	1506	avocado green
—	3799	236	1713	very dark grey
—	3865	2	2403	white

✦ French knots in one strand

●	602	57	702	dark pink
---	-----	----	-----	-----------

STITCH COUNT 129 high x 169 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave)
— 23.5x30.5cm (9¼x12in)

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

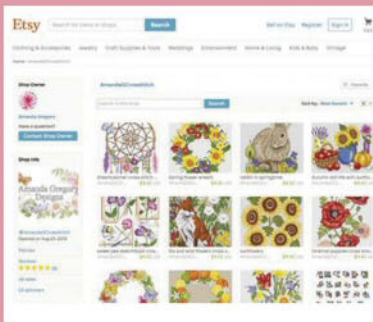




Amanda Gregory's Designer Secrets

Time to shop

I've recently opened up an online shop (www.etsy.com/shop/AmandaGCrossStitch) selling some of my charts as downloads. I did want to call it Amanda Gregory Cross Stitch, but I couldn't use my full name as it was already being used by someone else, so that is why I am Amanda G!



Cosy cushion

You could easily turn this piece into a cushion instead of having it framed. There's a lot of pink in it, so it makes a good choice for a little girl who loves cats, and you can use pink or purple backing fabric to finish the look.

How to work the French knots

The French knots in this design are shown as small, filled dark pink circles on the chart. To work one, thread your needle with one strand 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. Keeping the thread nice and taut, pull the needle and thread through the fabric, leaving a neat little French knot sitting on top.



How to keep the back of your work neat

It's important to keep the back of your stitching as neat as possible. A messy back can sometimes lead to problems when framing your work, because the clumps of thread at the back can create lumpy stitching at the front. To avoid this, try to thread your needle neatly 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. When finishing off, try to snip the end off as close to the fabric as possible – this will give your work a neater finish.



"Amanda's design is so lifelike. My cat Chester loves to snooze under the bush in our garden, keeping me company while I tend to the flowers"

Sarah Trevor, Editor

Previously in *Cross Stitch Gold*

We love to bring you must-stitch designs of your favourite pets, including this glossy-coated golden retriever from issue 122. With those big brown eyes, how could you possibly resist him? To get hold of a back copy for £6.35, call 0844 2456967 or visit www.buysubscriptions.com/backissues



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Cosy cushions

Snuggle up with your stitching and make something special to accent your home. There's a design for every décor in this selection of kits...

Ethnic jewel

INDIAN PAISLEY SWIRL (C150212),
Enchanted Needle, £26

What's in the kit

- Colour symbol chart
- 14-count white aida
- DMC stranded cotton
- Tapestry and beading needles
- Beads and sequins

Size of finished design

22x22cm (8¾x8¾in)

Stitching this kit

You can tell in an instant that this kit has been put together with love. It's all been carefully packaged up by hand, inside a reusable wallet, which is great for carrying your threads and chart around in. Wendy Burdis, the designer at Enchanted Needle, says she was inspired by Indian sari fabric when creating the design, which is bold, with an almost seamless transition from turquoise at the edges to lime green at the heart. The cushion is worked on aida and completely covered in whole cross stitches and fractionals, with metallic threads, beads and sequins adding extra dimension and creating the illusion of sparkling jewels. Your finished stitching would make a beautiful cushion for a bedroom.

Where to buy

Visit www.enchanted-needle.co.uk or www.etsy.com/shop/enchantedxneedle



Blue beauty

FLEUR DE LIS (2075),
Thea Gouverneur, £45

What's in the kit

- Black and white chart
- 27-count white Jobelan
- DMC stranded cotton
- Tapestry needles

Size of finished design

33x48cm (13x19in)

Stitching this kit

Thea Gouverneur is well known for her floral designs – both her father and her maternal grandfather were bulb growers and exporters in the Netherlands, so it's small surprise. This fine kit is part of her Flower Collection and has a regal air about it, making it a great addition to any formal room in your home – a dining room perhaps, or a guest bedroom. Much of the fabric is left unstitched, but this is a large design and very routine in its layout, which calls for very neat stitches – an untidy stitch



would stand out a mile! The design is worked in whole cross stitches and backstitch only. There is no key with the chart, but you'll find the symbols from the chart are shown on the thread sorter. We chose the kit with 27-count Jobelan, but this design is also available to buy with 16-count aida (2075A).

Where to buy

Email sales@mwfabrics.co.uk or call 07983 020189 for local stockists

Prized petals

HYDRANGEA SPRAY (42-372),
Eva Rosenstand, £69.95

What's in the kit

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

Size of finished design

40x45cm (15¾x17¾in)

Stitching this kit

Eva Rosenstand branded kits are synonymous with quality, and Hydrangea Spray is certainly no exception. It comes with a clear black and white chart split across two A3 pages, and loaded thread organisers, so you can get straight on with the task at hand. This is a densely-stitched project worked in whole cross stitches, with only small blocks of solid colour. With over 30 different thread shades used, it's a relief to find them pre-sorted. The hydrangea is a popular



shrub in UK gardens, and this cushion is a great way to bring their delicate beauty into the comfort of your home. Place it somewhere the light shines in, such as a conservatory or garden room, to show your stitching off in all its glory.

Where to buy

Email sales@mwfabrics.co.uk or call 07983 020189 for local stockists

Full of life

BAZAAR, Anette Eriksson, £34.99

What's in the kit

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

Size of finished design

40x40cm (15¾x15¾in)

Stitching this kit

This mesmerising design came to being after Swedish designer, Anette, took a trip to Turkey and was taken by the vivid and ornamental expressions in the textiles she saw. However, she felt a more gentle colour palette would suit her Scandinavian style better, so used softer lilacs and greens. This design is worked entirely in half stitches, but as it contains over 40,000 stitches we recommend it for the more experienced stitcher! It requires careful counting and serious patience to stay on track, but the finished results are well worth it.

Where to buy

Go to www.stitcher.co.uk or call 0161 4647310



We're giving you the chance to win all six cushion kits, worth £227! To enter, text GOLD128CUSHION to 87474* or send your name and address on a postcard to: Cushion kits giveaway, Cross Stitch Gold 128, Immediate Media Company Bristol Ltd, 2nd Floor, Tower House, Fairfax Street, Bristol BS1 3BN by 3rd May 2016. *Texts will be charged at 50p plus your standard network rate. Turn to page 43 for full terms and conditions.

Win these kits!

Simple elegance

POPPIES II PILLOW (PB120), Luca-S, £24.65

What's in the kit

- Black and white chart
- Zweigart 25-count white Lugana evenweave
- Anchor stranded cotton
- Linen backing fabric
- Zip
- Tapestry needle

Size of finished design

40x40cm (15¾x15¾in)



Stitching this kit

If you're the sort of stitcher who manages to complete a project, but struggles to frame it or make it up afterwards, this kit will appeal. It contains not only the materials needed to stitch the design, but also linen backing fabric and a zip to transform it into a striking cushion cover, although you will need to buy the cushion pad. The poppies are stitched on 25-count Zweigart Lugana with pre-sorted Anchor stranded threads, using whole cross stitch. The chart is large and clear, spread across three A3 sheets. You can machine-stitch or hand sew the cushion cover, depending on the effect you want to achieve. If you'd like to stitch a set of stylish cushions for your sofa, look out for Poppies I and Poppies III in the same range.

Where to buy

Email sales@mwfabrics.co.uk or call 07983 020189 for local stockists

Feline fun

TEA TIME (BK1434), DMC, £26.99

What's in the kit

- Colour symbol chart
- 14-count white aida
- DMC stranded cotton
- Tapestry needle

Size of finished design

15x25cm (6x13in)

Stitching this kit

Three playful cats are helping themselves to the milk jug and cakes for their very own tea party! The designer, Janet Pidoux, is a member of the Society of Feline Artists

and has done a brilliant job of capturing each of these cats' personalities. Worked on 14-count aida in cross stitch, half cross stitch and backstitch, this is a good project for intermediate stitchers. While not directly marketed as a cushion kit, it would look great presented in this way. The pastel pink, blue and purple thread shades and the theme of the scene would make it a sweet addition to a child's bedroom.

Where to buy

Go to www.dmccreative.co.uk or call 0116 2754000 for local stockists



Sewn *with love*

Put needle to fabric and pay homage to the art of sewing, with Maria Diaz's stunning sampler



Meet the designer

Maria Diaz

Maria is a respected freelance designer who draws much of her inspiration from nature, books and art galleries

Like most stitchers, I feel an affinity with lots of crafts, including sewing – and so it was great fun to combine all those familiar sewing notions and materials together in one sampler. There's an old Singer sewing machine – a stalwart piece of kit for any seamstress – as well as threads, needles, scissors, tape measures and more, each one an achievable motif to work on. I've used quite dark, muted shades to give this piece an antique feel, and the raw linen evenweave also adds to this effect. Whether you're a beginner sewer embarking on your first project, or you have lots of experience, I hope you'll find this sampler inspiring.

Stitcher's guide

This sewing sampler is worked on 28-count cashel raw linen evenweave, using 22 shades of stranded cotton and one shade of metallic thread. The design uses whole cross stitches in two strands, while backstitch in both one and two strands of thread is used to add definition. This gorgeous design is recommended for advanced stitchers.

How to stitch the sewing sampler

- 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.
- 3 Add the backstitch to the design using either cotton or metallic thread. Both one and two strands are used, so check the key to see how many to thread your needle with.
- 4 Check over your finished stitching and prepare for framing.

You will need

FABRIC Zweigart 28-count cashel raw linen evenweave measuring 35x45cm (13¾x17¾in)

THREADS Stranded cotton and metallic thread as listed in the key

NEEDLE Size 26 tapestry needle

EXTRAS Frame of your choice with minimum aperture of 26x34cm (10¼x13½in)

FOR STOCKISTS' DETAILS Turn to page 59

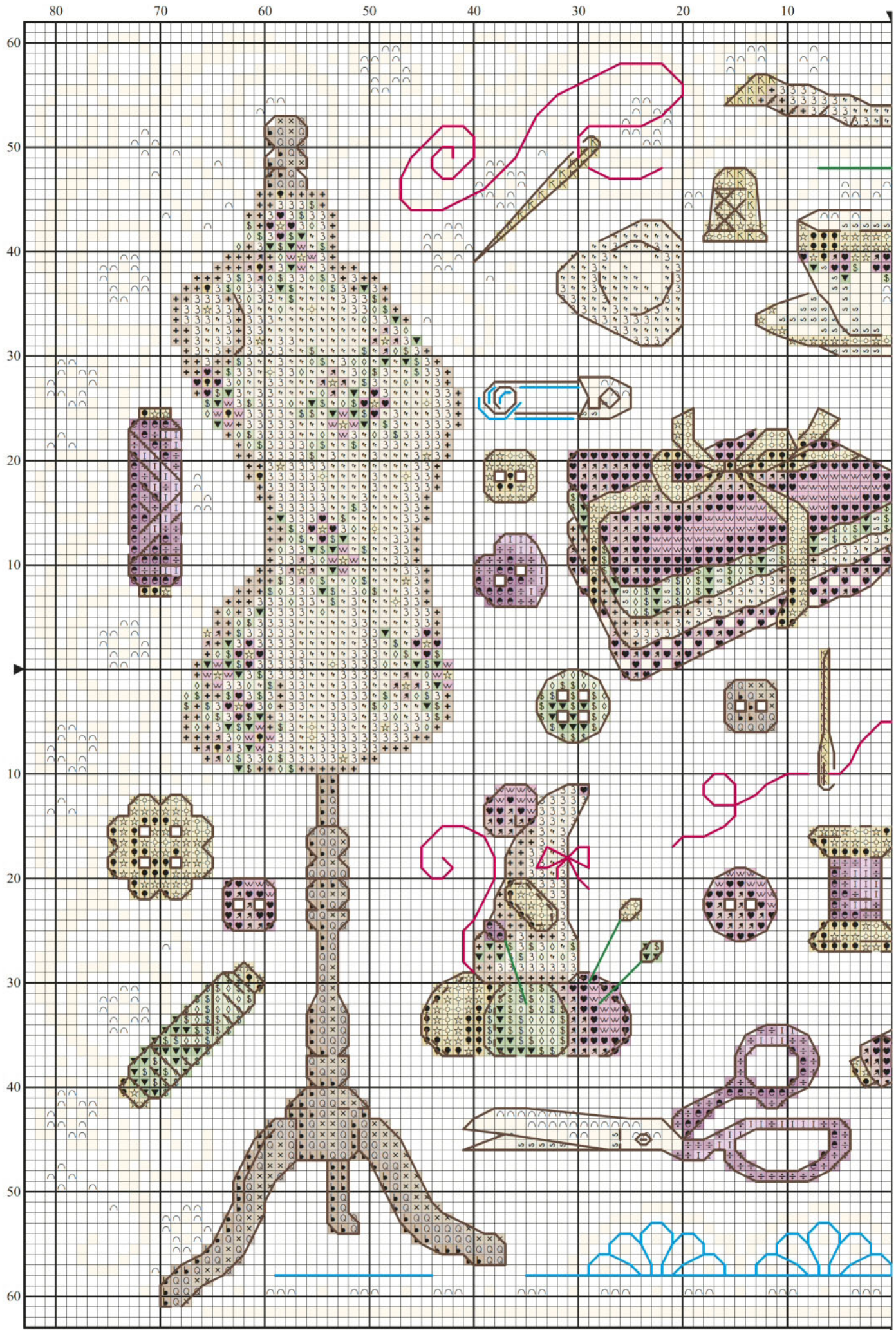


stitch tip
Use the loop method to start your thread. This will keep the back neat and make framing much easier

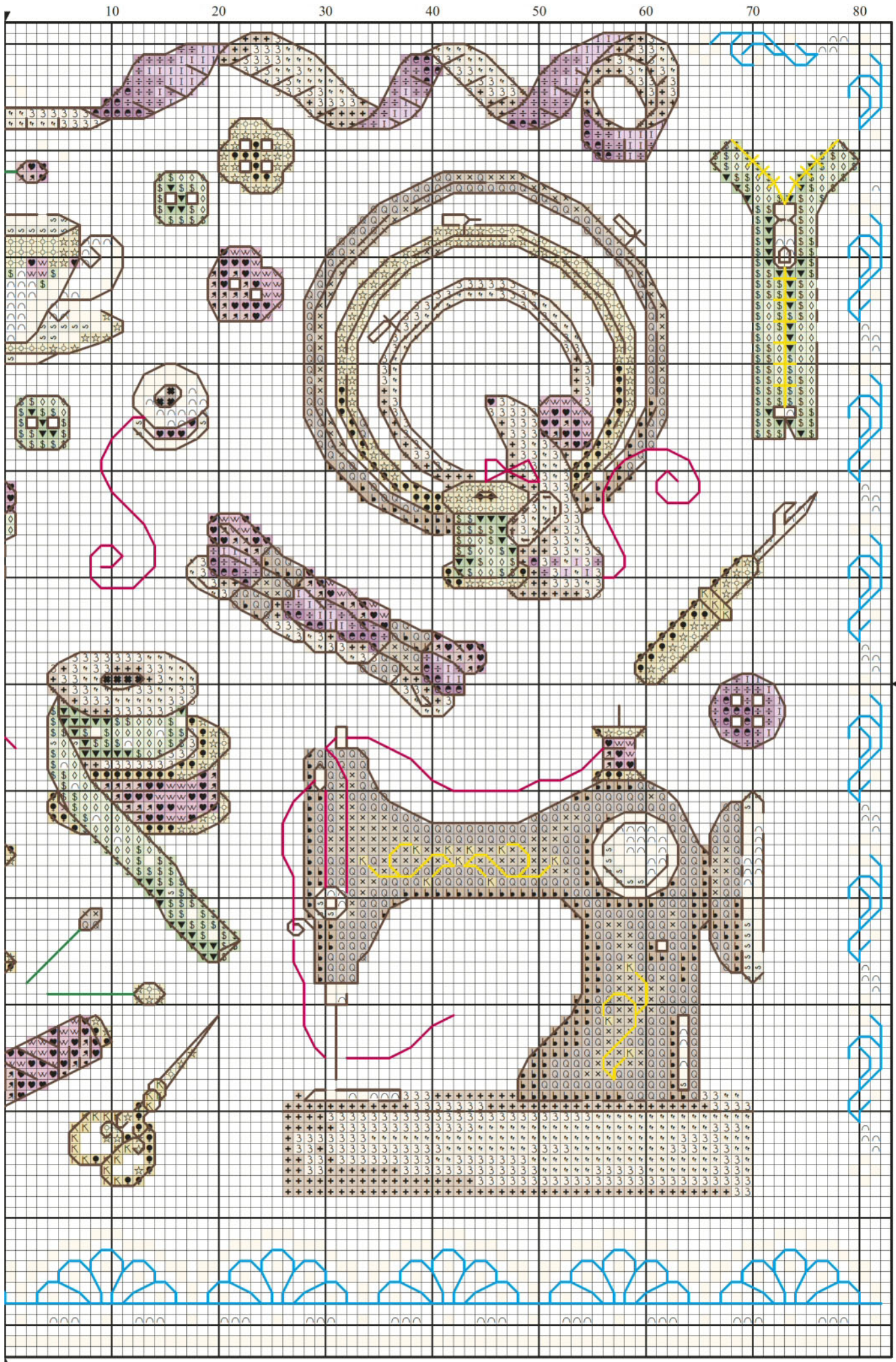


Needlewomen everywhere will appreciate the beauty of this timeless piece

Sewing sampler



Left



Right



Maria Diaz's Designer Secrets

Pins and needles

When I'm stitching for long periods or I lose myself in a project, I sometimes get pins and needles in my arms and legs, which can be horrible – and cause unnecessary delays. To prevent this, I try to pause frequently to get up and stretch, wriggle and move about. It really seems to work!



A hint of sparkle

To lift the colour scheme and add a bit of interest to this design, I've used some light gold metallic thread in certain areas. You really don't need a lot to get the effect – just a little bit here and there. I love it when a design calls for metallics, but you have to be careful you aren't just adding them for the sake of it.

Sewing sampler key

✦ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	blanc	2	2402	white
▼	367	217	1312	dark green
\$	368	214	1310	green
◇	369	1043	1309	light green
⋈	543	933	1909	light beige
Ⓢ	644	830	1814	beige
☆	676	891	2208	sand
⊙	677	886	2207	light sand
—	712	926	2101	cream
●	729	890	2209	dark sand
×	841	1082	1911	brown
3	950	4146	2309	peach
+	3064	883	2312	dark beige
⊛	3371	382	2004	dark brown
⌘	3726	1018	810	plum
♥	3731	76	506	dark pink
♣	3781	1088	2003	mocha brown
Q	3790	393	1905	stone grey
w	3833	1023	609	pink
⦿	3834	101	2609	dark violet
÷	3835	98	712	violet
I	3836	90	2713	light violet

✦ Cross stitch in two strands DMC Light Effects

K	E3821			light gold
---	-------	--	--	------------

✦ Backstitch in one strand

—	3371	382	2004	dark brown
---	------	-----	------	------------

✦ Backstitch in one strand DMC Light Effects

—	E3821			light gold
---	-------	--	--	------------

✦ Backstitch in two strands

—	712	926	2101	cream
—	3371	382	2004	dark brown
—	3731	76	506	dark pink

STITCH COUNT 123 high x 164 wide

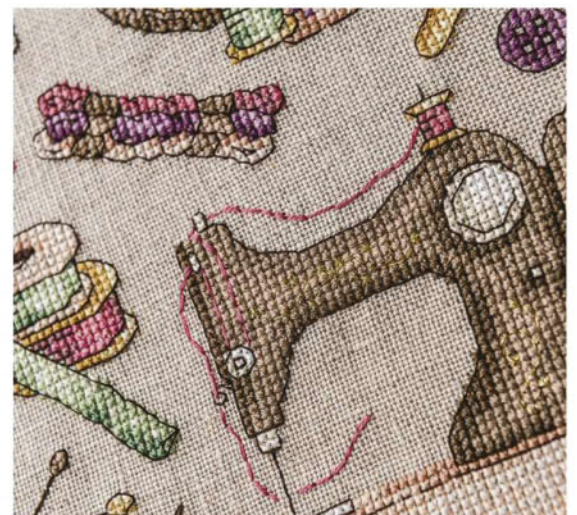
DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave)

– 22.5x30cm (8¾x11¾in)

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

Coming soon in *Cross Stitch Gold!*

Maria will be back in our next issue with this delightful summer fairy, robed in a pretty yellow dress, and circled by butterflies and flowers. She'll make a wonderful project to stitch as the days get warmer and longer. Don't miss issue 129, on sale 3rd May (UK).



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Still to come

Coming soon in *Cross*



Issue 129
On sale
3rd May
2016 (UK)*

Floral charm

Welcome guests to your home
this summer with this beautiful
lily table runner

Fairytale dream



Pretty floral pillow



Stitch Gold...



Summer's here!



Make a splash!



With love from Venice



Just for dad



Countryside charm

Stockist details

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

UK stockists

COATS CRAFTS UK

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

CRAFT CREATIONS

Visit www.craftcreations.com
Call 01992 781900

CRAFT DEPARTMENT

Visit www.craftdepartment.com
Call 01539 823199

DMC CREATIVE WORLD

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

GÜTERMANN

Visit www.myfabrics.co.uk
Call 020 33265482

MADEIRA

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

SEW AND SO

Visit www.sewandso.co.uk
Call 0800 0130150

US stockists

123 STITCH

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

ABC STITCH THERAPY

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

ARTS CRAFTS USA

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

JULIE'S X STITCH

Visit www.juliesxstitch.com

*Contents are subject to change

Elegant greetings

With lacy borders and pretty rose-themed motifs, these beautiful cards have a feminine feel, perfect for birthdays or as a special surprise for mum



Meet the designer

Durene Jones

Durene worked as a graphic designer before venturing into cross stitch, and loves to create intricate designs like these

As a young child, I always dreamed of having my own dressing table, filled with perfume bottles and pretty trinkets, so I was delighted to be asked to create this set of flowery and feminine greetings. Stitched on grey evenweave in shades of white, pink, cream and green, the cards have a refined look, with added lustre from shiny Satin thread and opal seed beads. I've used pink rose motifs to tie the four designs together, so they make a cohesive set as well as standing out individually. I think they're great for all ages, too. Why not stitch the single rose stem for a lady who loves her garden, or the pretty bonnet for a young bridesmaid?

Stitcher's guide

These lacy cards are worked on 25-count pewter lugana evenweave over two threads of the fabric, using 16 shades of stranded cotton, plus one shade of Satin thread. The designs use whole cross stitches and fractionals in two strands of cotton or Satin thread. Backstitch in one strand of cotton defines the designs, and French knots worked in one strand add detail. Finally, seed beads are added to the borders. These cards are recommended for experienced stitchers.

How to stitch the lace cards

- 1 Find the centre of your fabric by folding it in half both horizontally and vertically. Follow the arrows on the chart to find its centre and start stitching from here, working your way outwards.
- 2 Work the cross stitch using two strands of cotton or Satin thread. For every tiny symbol you see on the chart, work a fractional stitch.
- 3 Add the backstitch detail using one strand of cotton.
- 4 Work the French knots on the design in one strand of dark pink cotton.
- 5 Attach the seed beads using two strands of white thread.
- 6 Check over your finished stitching and follow the making up guidelines (p62).

You will need

FABRIC Zweigart 25-count pewter lugana evenweave measuring 18x16cm (7x6¼in) for each design

THREADS Stranded cotton and DMC Satin thread as listed in the key

BEADS Mill Hill seed beads as listed in the key

NEEDLE Size 22 tapestry needle; beading needle

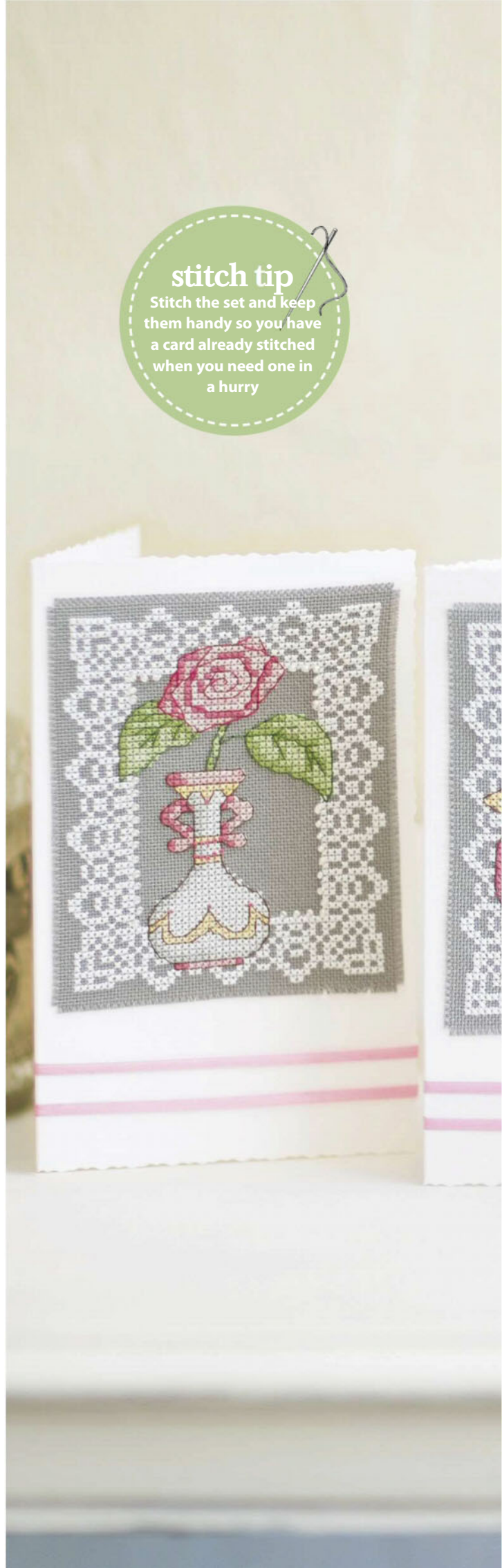
EXTRAS Craft Creations single-fold oblong cards with a deckle edge (DEC2U) in white (30). Ribbon of your choice from local craft shops

FOR STOCKISTS' DETAILS Turn to page 59



stitch tip

Stitch the set and keep them handy so you have a card already stitched when you need one in a hurry

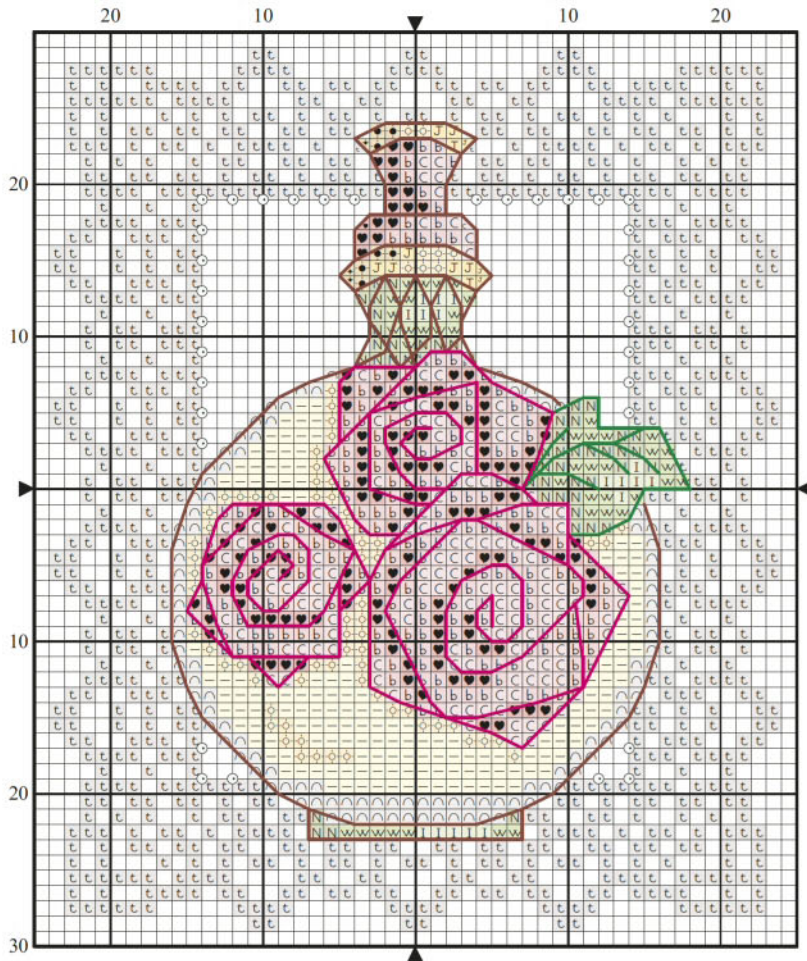


“To make your card extra special, use an elegant italic script for the greeting inside”
Sarah Trevor, Editor



Practise your beadwork with these four designs, featuring delicately beaded borders

Lace cards



Perfume bottle

How to mount your cards

- 1 Trim your evenweave to within three squares of the stitched border, then fray one row of evenweave all the way around the edge.
- 2 Cut a piece of white paper slightly smaller than your evenweave, and stick this to the back of your stitching using double-sided tape.
- 3 Place more strips of double-sided tape on the back of the white paper.
- 4 Position the stitching on your card, using the picture on the previous page as a guide and ensuring you leave enough room for the ribbon detail (optional). Once you are happy with the position, peel off the tape's backing and stick the design in place.
- 5 Carefully glue two pieces of ribbon along the bottom of the card, folding over the edges to secure in place.

"These designs would also make pretty pictures, hung together on a bedroom wall. You'll be able to pick up standard 12.7x10cm (5x4in) frames at home stores for very reasonable prices and then paint to match your décor"
Sarah Heys, Charting Editor



Durene Jones' Designer Secrets

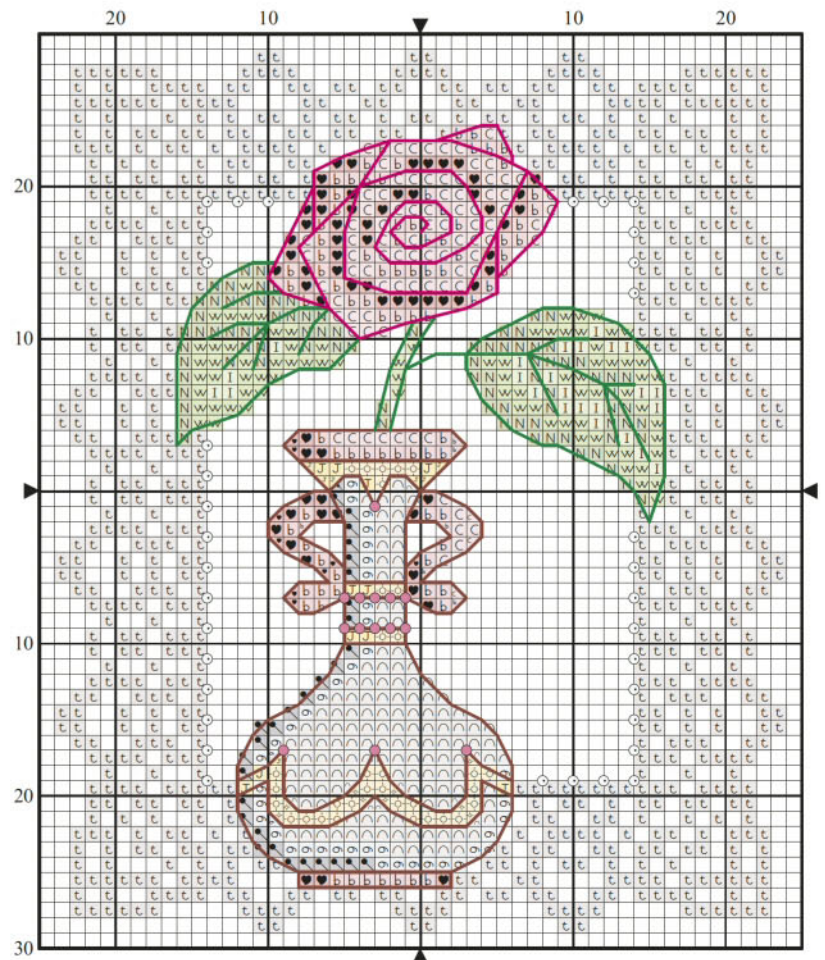
Subtle colours

I knew I wanted to keep the colour scheme of these cards fairly simple, to ensure they looked very ladylike and elegant. Once I'd chosen the grey fabric, the rest of the colours were fairly obvious – pretty pinks for the roses, soft green for the leaves, crisp white for the lace borders, and pale creamy shades for much of the other detail. The backstitch colours are slightly darker to create contrast.

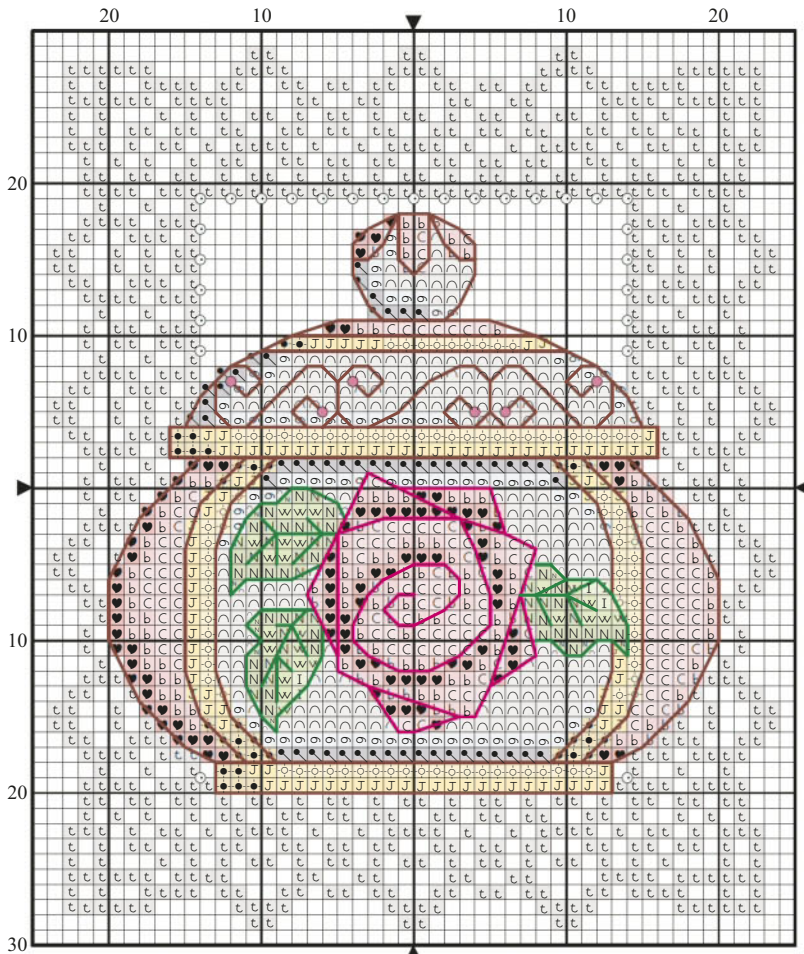


Clean and tidy

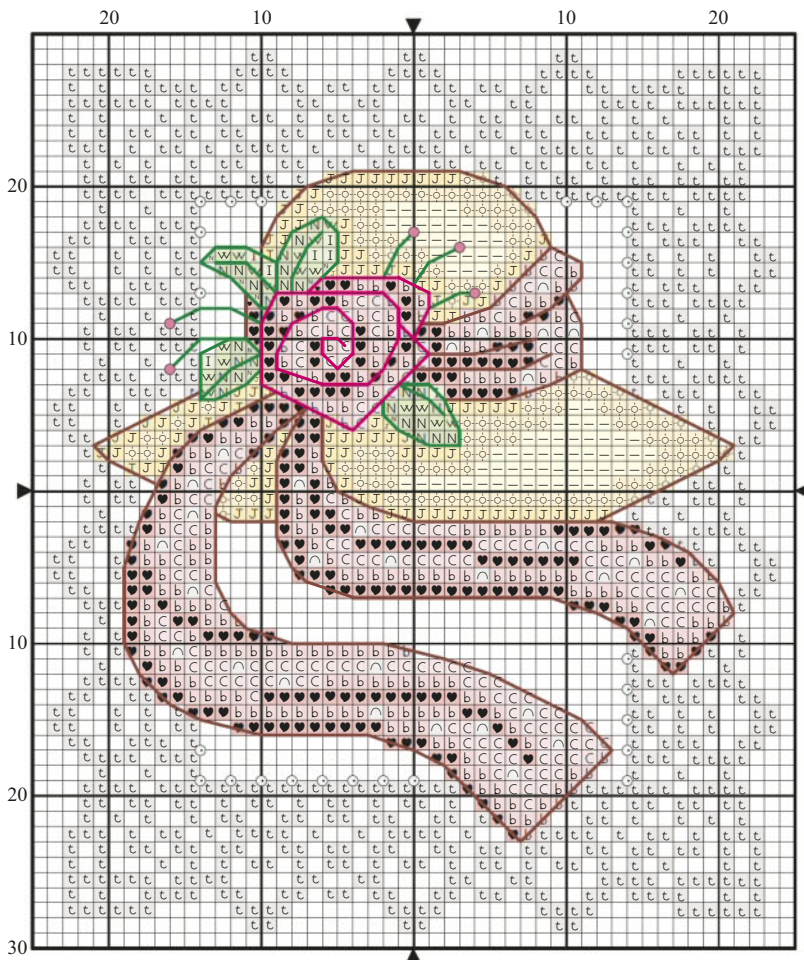
Because lots of pale threads have been used in these designs, I'd recommend washing and drying your stitching before you mount it in a card. Not only will this brighten the stitches, it will also freshen up the fabric and help to get rid of any creases that may have been made from a hoop or by your hand.



Vase



Trinket



Hat

Lace cards key

✦ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	B5200	1	2401	white
w	164	240	1209	light green
I	369	1043	1309	very light green
⌘	415	398	1802	grey
J	744	301	112	yellow
⊙	745	300	111	very light yellow
—	746	275	2511	cream
o	762	234	1804	very light grey
♥	961	76	610	dark pink
C	963	73	502	very light pink
N	989	241	1401	green
b	3716	25	503	pink
●	3821	305	2510	straw

✦ Cross stitch in two strands DMC Satin thread

t	S5200			satin white
---	-------	--	--	-------------

✦ Backstitch in one strand

—	839	1050	1913	brown
—	986	246	1404	dark green
—	3831	1006	507	plum

✦ French knots in one strand

●	961	76	610	dark pink
---	-----	----	-----	-----------

✦ Mill Hill seed beads

○	03041			white opal
---	-------	--	--	------------

STITCH COUNT 58 high x 48 wide

DESIGN AREA 25-count evenweave
– 12x10cm (4¾x3¾in)

These designs were stitched using DMC stranded cotton, DMC Satin thread and Mill Hill seed beads on 25-count evenweave over two threads of the fabric



How to make even stitches

Use the 'stab' method rather than the 'sewing' method when you stitch these designs. This means that you should complete each part of the cross stitch in a separate motion, instead of running the needle through two holes at once in the same movement. The sewing method may seem a lot quicker, but it's much more likely to distort your fabric and create messy stitches.



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.

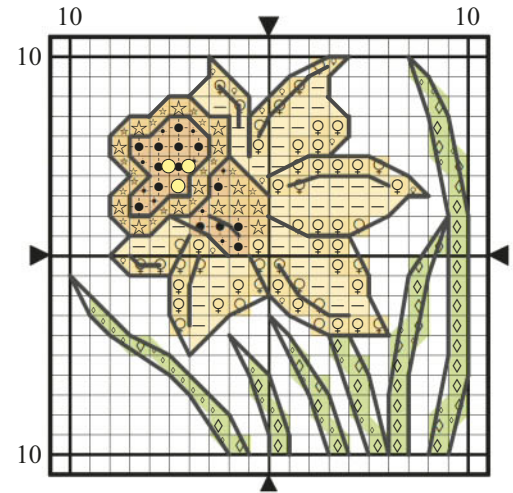
The key that accompanies the chart tells you what thread colour each symbol corresponds to, and how many strands to use for each cross stitch, backstitch or French knot. It also gives you the design's dimensions – you'll need these to cut your fabric to size.

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.



Daffodil key

✦ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
◇	703	238	1307	green
●	741	304	202	orange
☆	742	303	114	light orange
♀	743	302	113	yellow
—	744	301	112	light yellow

✦ Backstitch in one strand

—	535	400	1809	grey
---	-----	-----	------	------

✦ French knots in one strand

●	743	302	113	yellow
---	-----	-----	-----	--------

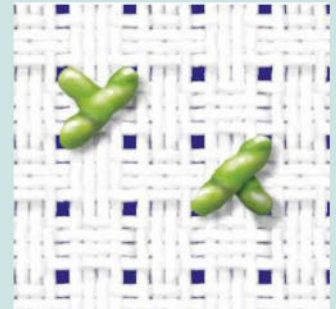
STITCH COUNT 20 high x 20 wide

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

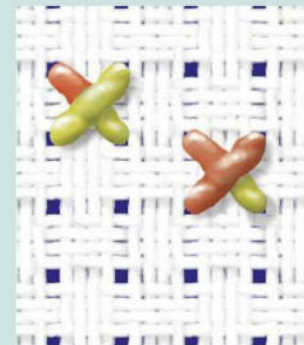
This design was stitched using DMC stranded cotton

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.

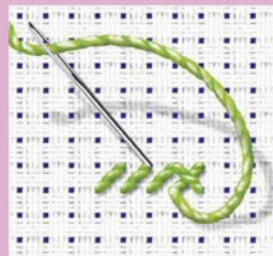
How to cross stitch

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,



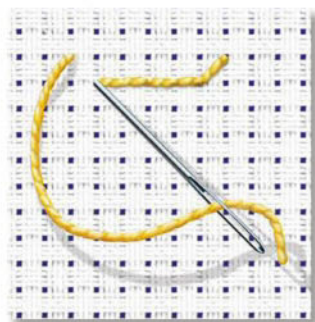
securing the end of thread on the back; take it down at the top left corner to form a cross. Work each cross stitch so that the top halves lie in the same direction. This will make your



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.

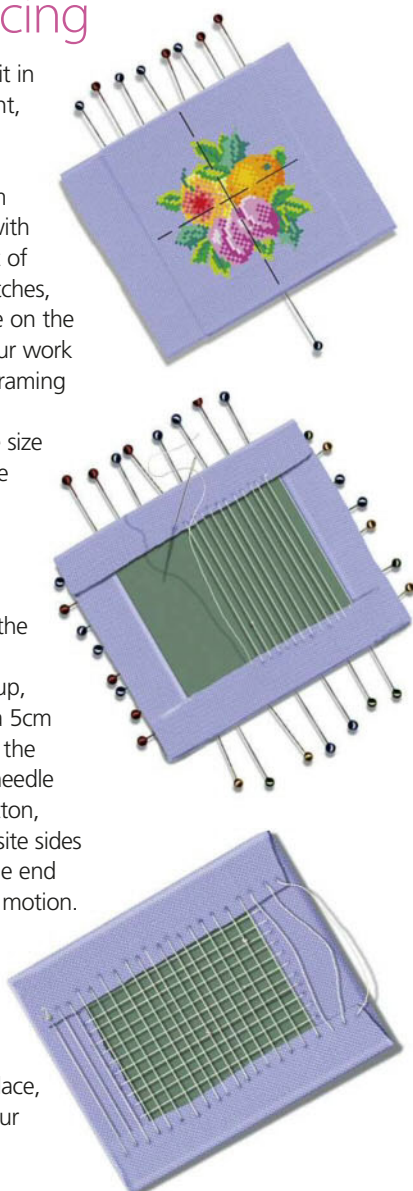
Washing and lacing

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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Go for Gold!



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

Difficult

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

Intermediate

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

How to enter:

Fill in a grid so that every row, column, and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1-9. 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 either a Green Tree or Country Cottage kit by Moira Blackburn for Bothy Threads! The closing date for entries is 3rd May 2016. For full terms and conditions, turn to page 57.

WIN BOTHY THREADS KITS!

Submit a correct answer and you could win a traditional Moira Blackburn kit! The lucky winner of the intermediate puzzle will receive Friend's House (bottom) from Bothy Threads, worth £19.99, and the winner of the difficult puzzle will win Green Tree (top), worth £24.49.

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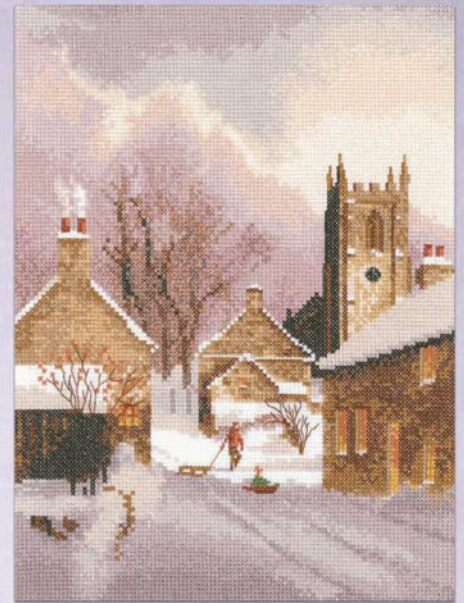
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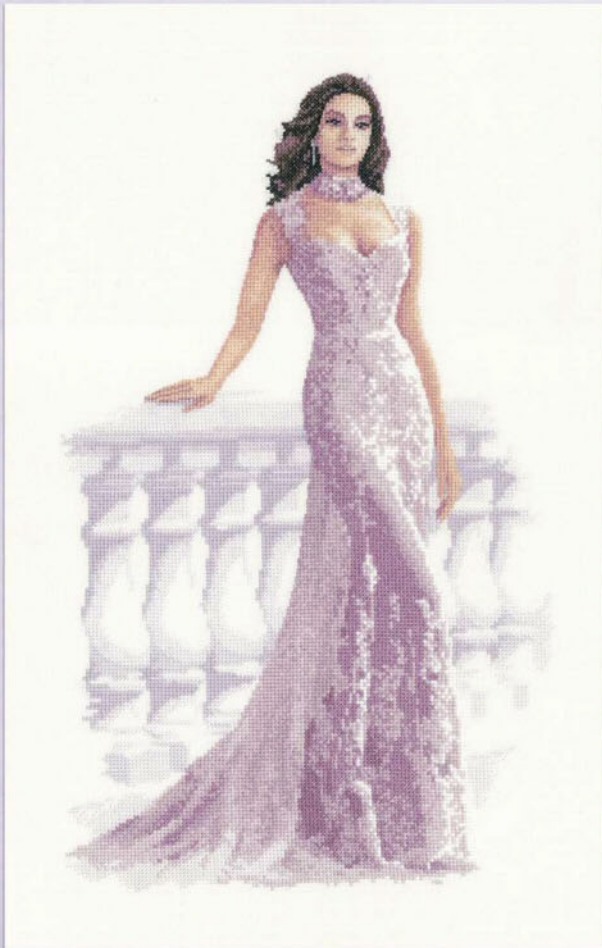
Little Fisher by Warwick Higgs - 20 x 28cm



Harvest Mice
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Blue Tits
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Francesca by John Clayton - 24.5 x 40.5cm

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