

No.1 for designs

CrossStitcher

IDEAS • STYLE • INSPIRATION

117

FRESH
DESIGNS

*Let your stitching
take flight!*



BEST MUM EVER!

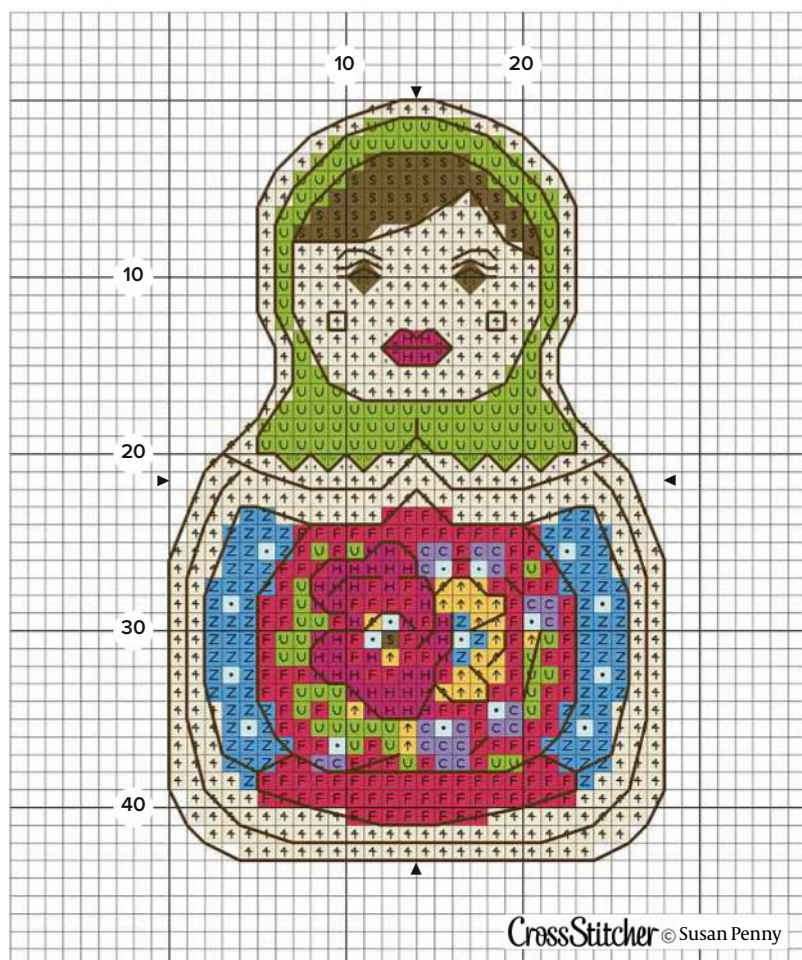
MAKE of the month

Use our Russian doll chart to make a keyring like our wooden one that came free with this month's print edition



Designed by: Susan Penny Stitch count: 43 high x 28 wide
Design size: 8x5cm (3 1/8 x 2 in) Stitch time: 5 hours

This design was stitched on 14 count plastic canvas.



Make a... keyring

Step 1

STITCH your design onto plastic canvas, taking care to finish your thread ends by running them through the back of your stitching. Trim the finished design, leaving one square all round the plastic canvas.

Step 2

CLIP a split ring through a plastic canvas hole at the top of the trimmed shape. Thread satin ribbon through the clip, and then tie in a bow. Finish with a few stitches to hold it in place. If you would prefer the back of your stitching not to show, cover the reverse side with felt.

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
	155	1030	902
	600	078	704
	666	046	210
	725	306	808
	829	906	2113
	907	255	1410
	3843	1089	1102
	blanc	001	white
	ecru	387	ecru
Backstitch in one strand			
	829	906	2113
outlines			

Materials

- White 14 count plastic canvas; 11.5x7.5cm (4 1/2 x 3 in)
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Size 24 tapestry needle
- Satin ribbon; 20cm (8 in) length
- Felt for backing

For stockist details see page 89



NEXT MONTH

FREE ELEPHANT THREAD BOBBINS

Next month's print edition comes with cute elephants to store the ten 2m lengths of bright stranded cotton provided with its kit. Print readers also get a sheet of colourful stickers in the shape of ears, to add to their bobbins.



ISSUE 316
APRIL 2017

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3 March



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www.zweigart.com



Welcome

Celebrate spring, whatever the weather...



ALTHOUGH IT'S EARLY in the year, we already find ourselves dreaming of warmer days. Not that the climate ever gets as warm as we'd like on our North Devon hill buffeted by sea winds! We all look for signs of spring and one of the loveliest is seeing the first butterflies return. We asked designer Emma Congdon to celebrate this with the fabulous circle of butterflies you see on our cover this

issue. If you haven't got time to stitch the whole hoop, just pick your favourite to make a colourful card to brighten your day.

Talking of weather (aren't we always?), we have something children will love. It's one of those things you'll love to pin on the kitchen wall alongside their latest art masterpieces. Our weather chart on page 44 is just the thing to keep the little ones busy, adding the right smiling symbol to each day.

Don't worry we have a treat for mums too! Mother's Day falls on 26 March in the UK, so turn to page 64 to start stitching one of our special cards. They are all framed with cookie cutters and are easy to stitch and put together. We hope you enjoy trying something new.

Happy stitching!

Susan *Martin*

SUSAN & MARTIN PENNY
EDITORS

P.S. We love to hear about your current stitching projects! Send your letters and photos to crossstitcher@dennis.co.uk

Prickly subject...

You'll love our cactus collection in issue 316, on sale 3 March.



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www.crossstitchermag.com

Write to the editorial department at: *CrossStitcher Magazine*, PO Box 172, Northam, EX39 9DY



Send the happy couple congrats with our cute wedding hoops!

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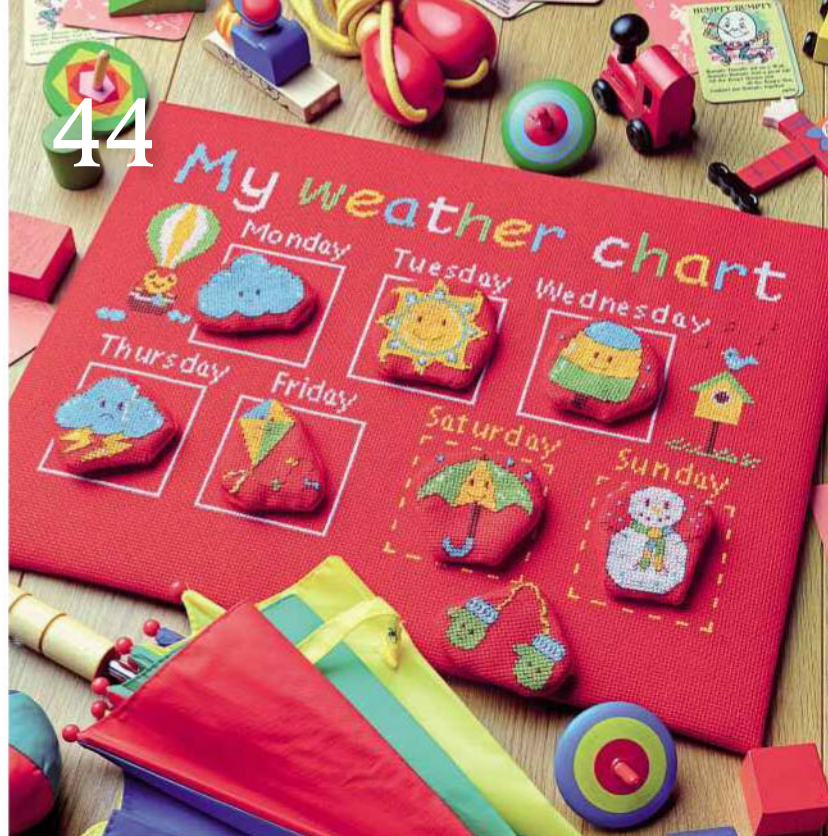


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Our Savvy Stitcher shows how to layer up your work to create some amazing effects.



THE SAVVY
STITCHER
LAYERS
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CrossStitcher

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Overseas readers see page 87

Calls will cost 7p per minute plus your telephone company's access charge.

Outthere

Every month we showcase the latest high street trends, new ideas and inspiring personalities for today's stylish cross stitcher



Modern masterpieces

Charlie Mankin from Stitchsperation is a girl after our own heart! "I love cross stitch. I also love modern design, and after struggling to find truly modern cross stitch patterns, I decided to create my own and so Stitchsperation was born in September 2016," she explains. "I decided to hand paint each cut of evenweave, making the fabric part of the finished piece and making each kit truly individual. I want cross stitch to be accessible to everyone, and not to be perceived, as it so often is, as an old-fashioned or 'granny' craft. My hope is that people will try my kits because they are excited to hang the finished product up in their homes and be proud that they have created a modern piece of art." www.stitchsperation.etsy.com, www.notonthehighstreet.com/stitchsperation



Kit photographs: notonthehighstreet.com 0845 259 1359

SKETCHBOOK SECRETS: Michaela Learner

We take a peek at a designer's early ideas for one of their projects



Michaela created our home motifs on page 76, "I like to make full use of digital art and photos whenever possible. For these motifs, I just looked around my home – laptop, desk, dresser – it was all there to be used. From there the process is simple. Work out the size of the focal point, and its light source. Flesh out the rest of the components, then add detail with backstitch and symbols." www.etsy.com/uk/shop/Chartsandstuff; www.facebook.com/Cross-Stitching-Guild-505181406163813



Turn to page 76 to see Michaela's finished charts and project ideas!



COSTUME COLLECTION

LOVE OUR Russian Doll free gift? Then you need to take a look the giant chart project featuring in *Cross Stitch Collection's* March issue (on sale 3 February). Featuring a whole host of dolls dressed in their national costume, from Japan to Wales, this detail-packed design is perfect for fans of special collections like this. Durene Jones has featured 16 dolls in total – aren't they adorable? Make sure you pick up a copy!



Photograph: notonthehighstreet.com 0845 2591359

LOVE YOU, MUM...

WITH MOTHER'S DAY just around the corner, stitching makes a magical way to show your mum you care. We love the simplicity and beauty of this new design by Hannah Hand Makes. Quick to stitch, the kit comes with a 6in, high-quality embroidery hoop, white Zweigart aida fabric, DMC embroidery thread, needle, pattern, instructions and felt to back your hoop (already cut to size). www.notonthehighstreet.com/hannahhandmakes

SPOT-ON STYLE

RIC-RAC BIAS in a rainbow of colourways? Yes, Frumble now have in stock 25-metre rolls of polka ric-rac available in 15 colours. Shades include Kiwi, Orange, Baby Pink, Cerise, Emerald and much, much more! The overall width is around 15mm and the printed polka dot design is on one side of the trim.

www.frumble.co.uk



Don't stress, stitch!



SEW AND SO are now offering a range of Cross Stitch to Calm charts, designed to both relax you as you stitch and help raise money for the charity Mind. Mind makes sure that anyone with a mental health problem has somewhere to turn for advice and support. There are six calming cross stitch kits to choose from and at least 10% of the sale price of this kit will be donated to Mind, with the aim to raise a minimum of £5,000.

www.sewandso.co.uk

THREE OF THE BEST

Russian Dolls

Have you started stitching your free Russian Doll kit yet? Here are some extra matryoshka doll ideas from Etsy to inspire you...



BRIGHTONBABE

Add a pop of colour to your projects with these adorable Russian Nesting Doll buttons, made from wood and available in packs of 20.



STEFANIEUX

Trim your designs with the choice of Russian doll ribbons available from this shop – simply pick your favourite and order a yard or more.



WRENANDIVY

These Jennie Maizels Russian Doll Iron-On Patches are oh-so-cute and perfect for jazzing up a plain stitched bag or piece of clothing.

TREND SPOTTING

BUTTERFLIES

OUR BEAUTIFUL butterflies on our cover are sure to capture your heart, so we've found three more ways to make it flutter...



WHO

Lesley Teare, one of our favourite designers, is the creator of this sweet Butterflies in Bloom picture, available as a kit.

www.dmccreative.co.uk



WHAT

EE Foundations' Butterflight Taupe fabric's subtle monochrome palette in medium-weight cotton makes it suitable for coordinating with a host of cross stitch projects.

www.frumble.co.uk



HOW

Stitch yourself another gorgeous butterfly in a hoop using this beautiful PDF chart inspired by the Morpho butterfly.

www.flossandmischief.com

SPRING HAS SPRUNG!

PART OF Hobbycraft's new range of cross stitch designs, this Floral Cushion Sampler kit is guaranteed to brighten your sofa or armchair in time for spring. Stitch and treat yourself, or why not make one for Mum? The finished size measures 30.5x30.5 cm (12x12in) and the kit includes needle, chart, threads and cushion cover.
www.hobbycraft.co.uk



CRAFTY BOOKSHELF

Read on to find out our favourite new books for stitchers this month...

▼ MAKE 1-HOUR GIFTS

VARIOUS [C&T Publishing]

The perfect stash-busting book, with heaps of ideas for using up your scraps. There are 16 quick and easy projects from some of your favourite designers: Abbey Lane Quilts, Alexia Marcelle Abegg, Bari J. Ackerman, Sue Kim, Virginia Lindsay, Trish Preston, Sweetwater, Sara Trail, Kasja Wikman and Annabel Wrigley. All the projects can be completed in 60 minutes, with some taking just 30 minutes each!



▲ STITCH, FABRIC, THREAD

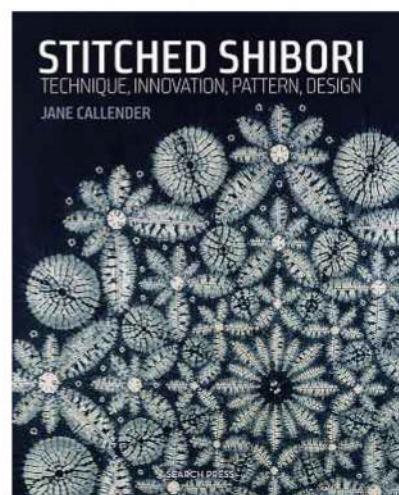
ELIZABETH HEALEY [Search Press]

Create your own unique textiles with over 40 practical exercises from around the world – from corded works of art inspired by Milton Glaser's Bob Dylan album cover to bold embroidered African masks. Plus, there are stitch galleries and 'behind the stitches' features giving insights into sewing movements such as Boro textiles, Gee's Bend quilting and Dorset buttons.

▼ STITCHED SHIBORI

JANE CALLENDER [Search Press]

Expert shibori teacher, Jane Callender, has included both traditional and inventive stitch-resist techniques, a complete dyeing guide and a gallery of her work in this book. The guide to dyeing includes recipes, tips and advice, showing how to dye with both natural and synthetic indigo, in organic and synthetic vats. There's also a guide to a wide range of natural dyes, iron rust and dazzling Procion dyes.





Presenting the hangings - Omar, the project manager, is centre



One of the finished hangings, the end result was truly wonderful



I brought a copy of CrossStitcher to help explain who I was.

Find me online:

www.mrxstitch.com
www.facebook.com/MrXStitch
www.twitter.com/MrXStitch

Inside the mind of

MR X STITCH

Our manbroiderer visits Lebanon to give some special embroideries to some very special women

Hello dear readers. Last year we ran the Stitch for Syria campaign in association with Concern Worldwide UK, in which people were invited to cross stitch their own version of a design I'd created based on a traditional Lebanese embroidery design. Thanks to the generosity of cross stitchers from around the world, Concern received over 900 individual pieces, bursting with colour and filled with love. It was a phenomenal response and a massive thanks to everyone who took part. The designs were stitched together to form three vibrant wall hangings to show our support to the Livelihoods project in Lebanon.

training. By the end of 2016, over 200 women had been through the programme. The course teaches the basics of cross stitch, and when they've completed it, the women can create work that brings them an income.

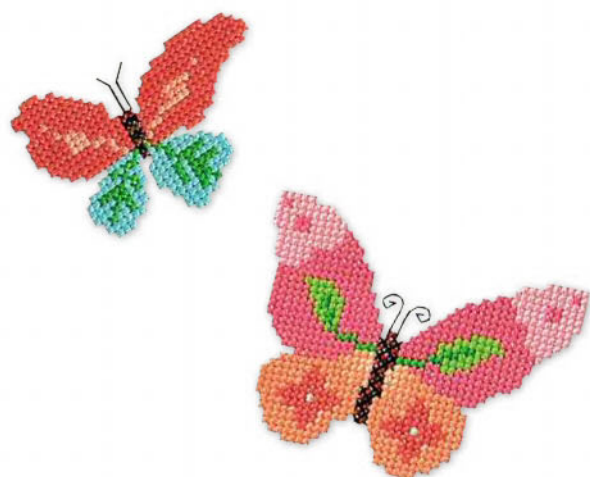
When we unveiled the wall hangings to the group, Rose Caldwell, the CEO of Concern Worldwide UK, explained how the project had come about, mentioning that so many stitchers had included personal messages along with their work, and it was great to see everyone realise that not only were the wall hangings a beautiful addition to their workspace, but they were filled with love, peace and solidarity.

“The designs were stitched together to form three wall hangings to show our support to the Livelihoods project in Lebanon”

Lebanon, bordered by Syria and Israel, is currently home to approximately 1.5 million refugees from Syria. Concern Worldwide is one of several NGOs working in the area. The sheer volume of refugees in Lebanon makes it difficult for people to find work to sustain themselves. So it was terrific to visit the Livelihoods project in Tripoli and find out how embroidery was helping people. Based in the Basmeh and Zeitoonah's Women's Resource Centre, the Livelihoods project meets four times a week, bringing together about 30 women for six weeks of embroidery

The trip to Lebanon, although a quick one, was packed with all manner of emotions for me. Meeting people whose lives had been like mine, who had been removed from their homes and were simply existing in Lebanon with very little to give them hope, was heart breaking, yet the resilience of their spirits was inspiring. It's a bleak situation for them, and so the benefits of the Livelihoods project and the power of embroidery were even more apparent.

If you want to support Concern Worldwide's work, you can visit www.concern.net to make a donation.



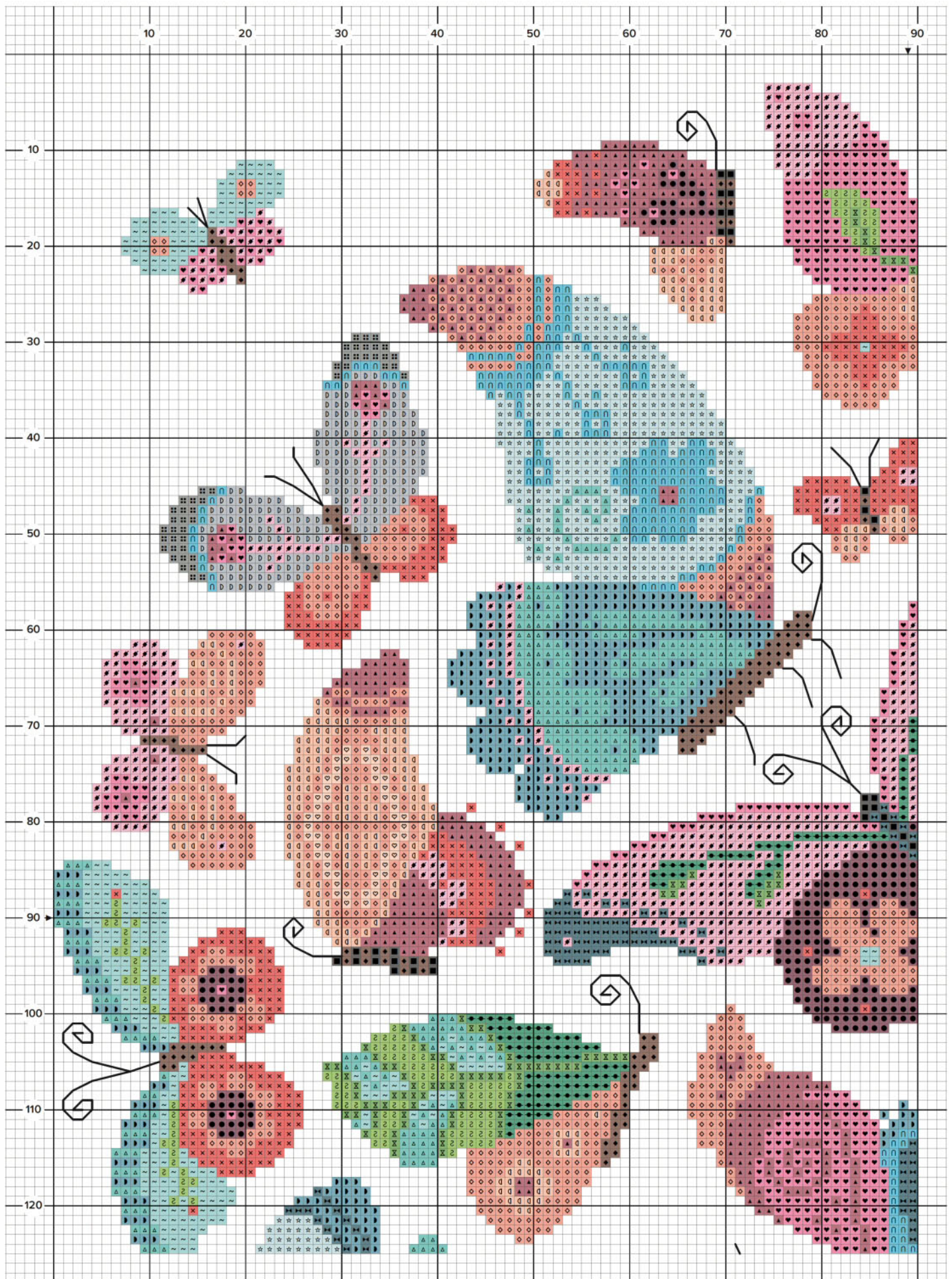
Kaleidoscope of Colour

Make someone special all of a flutter by stitching them our stunning butterfly display – perfect for a spring birthday

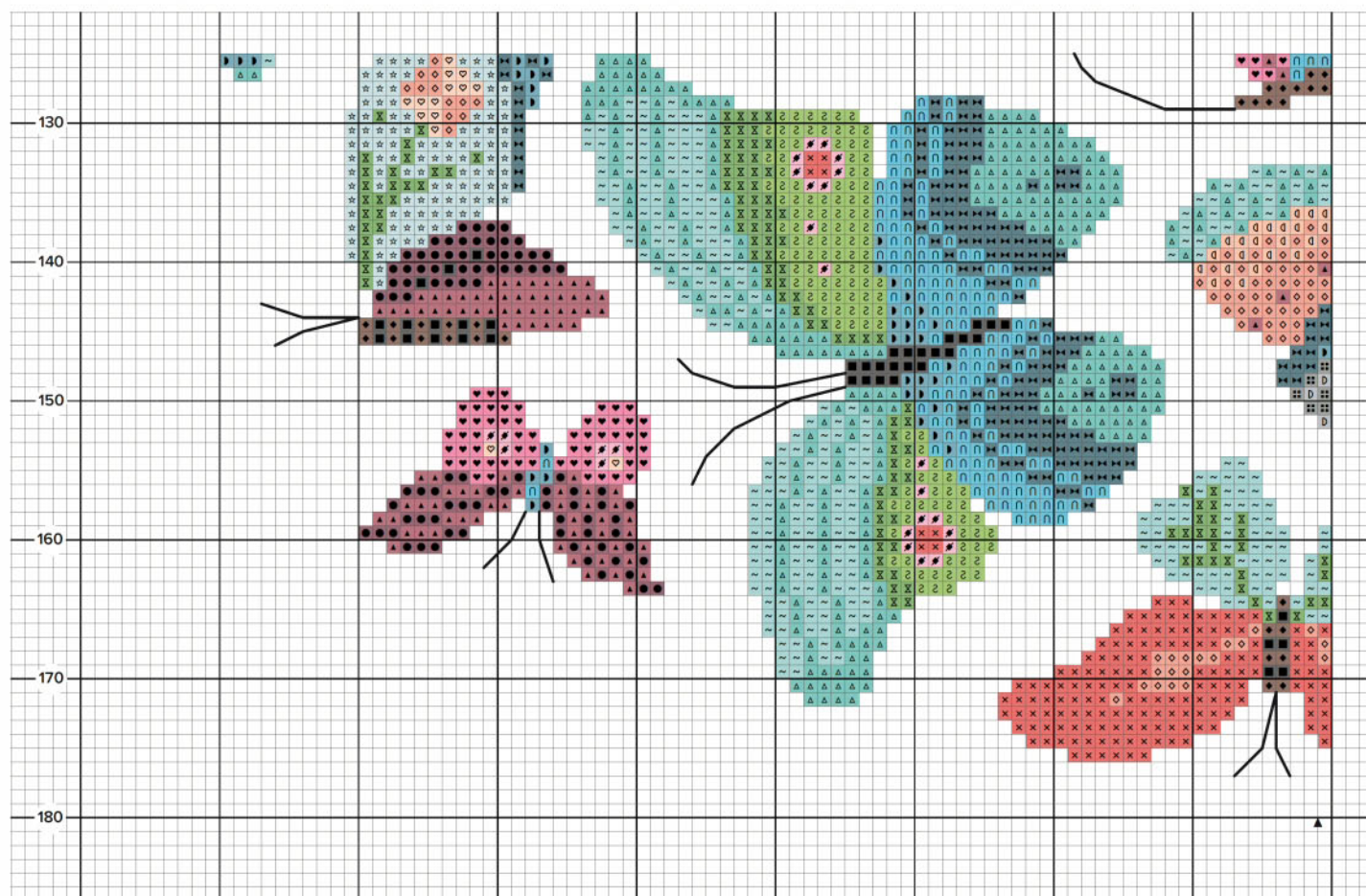




KALEIDOSCOPE OF COLOUR





























Designed by: Emma Congdon Stitch count: 180 high x 178 wide

Design size: 32x33cm (12½x13in) Stitch time: 70 hours

This design was stitched on 27 count evenweave over two threads of fabric.

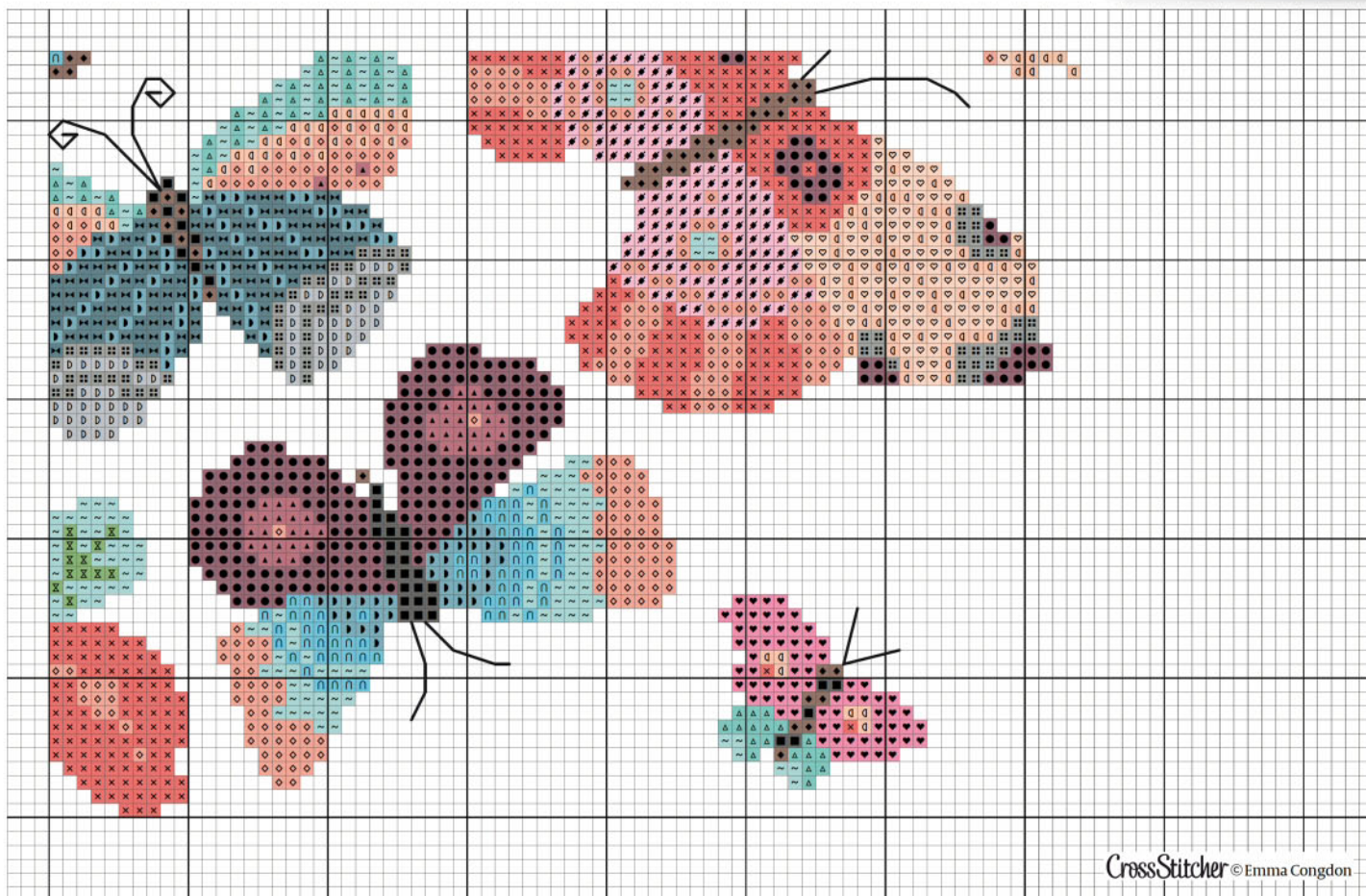
Go for a completely different effect by stitching this design on a dark evenweave fabric instead

DMC	Anchor	Madeira	DMC	Anchor	Madeira		
Cross stitch in two strands			Cross stitch in two strands				
	169	849	1802		959	186	1113
	300	357	2304		964	1092	1112
	310	403	black		967	1012	305
	352	009	303		3350	059	603
	415	398	1803		3685	1028	602
	602	063	702		3808	1068	2507
	605	074	613		3811	1060	1101
	606	335	209		3824	008	2605
	700	228	1304		3846	433	1103
	807	1039	1109	Backstitch in one strand			
	906	256	1411		310	403	black
	907	255	1410	legs, antennae			

Materials

- Zweigart Antique White, 27 count Linda, ref: 1235/101; 51x51cm (20x20in)
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Size 26 tapestry needle
- Wooden quilting hoop, 33cm (13in) diameter

For stockist details see page 89



CrossStitcher © Emma Congdon

Make a... butterfly display

Step 1

FINISH stitching the main design and then stitch more mini butterfly hoops to create a complete display for your wall, if you wish.

Step 2

STITCH the three smaller butterflies outside of the main design on a small piece of yellow evenweave, then frame in a hoop.

Step 3

SELECT butterflies from the main design that can be stitched onto perforated paper. Once the stitching on paper is complete, cut out, leaving one square of blank paper around the stitching. Wrap string around the butterfly's body for the antennae, and attach to fabric mounted in a hoop.





How to... frame your work in a hoop

Step 1



TRIM your stitching and a fabric piece into a circle slightly larger than your hoop. Place the inside hoop beneath the two pieces and the outer hoop on top. Centre and press over your work. Pull taut and tighten the screw.

Step 2



TURN your stitching to the reverse and cut a piece of felt to fit inside the inner circle. Place the felt inside the hoop. You can use a bit of fabric glue to keep it in place. The felt will pad your stitching, and stop anything showing through.

Step 3



USE a glue gun or double-sided tape to begin attaching the first layer of fabric, pulling taut as you go. Repeat for the second layer. Cut a second felt layer to fit over the back of your hoop. Secure with glue or small neat stitches.



A Perfect Pair

Here's to the happy couple! Celebrate the newlyweds' nuptials in style – their portraits in stitches make the sweetest wedding gift

A PERFECT PAIR

Designed by: Durene Jones

Stitch count: 53 high x 51 wide each

Design size: 9.5x9cm (3¾x3½in) each

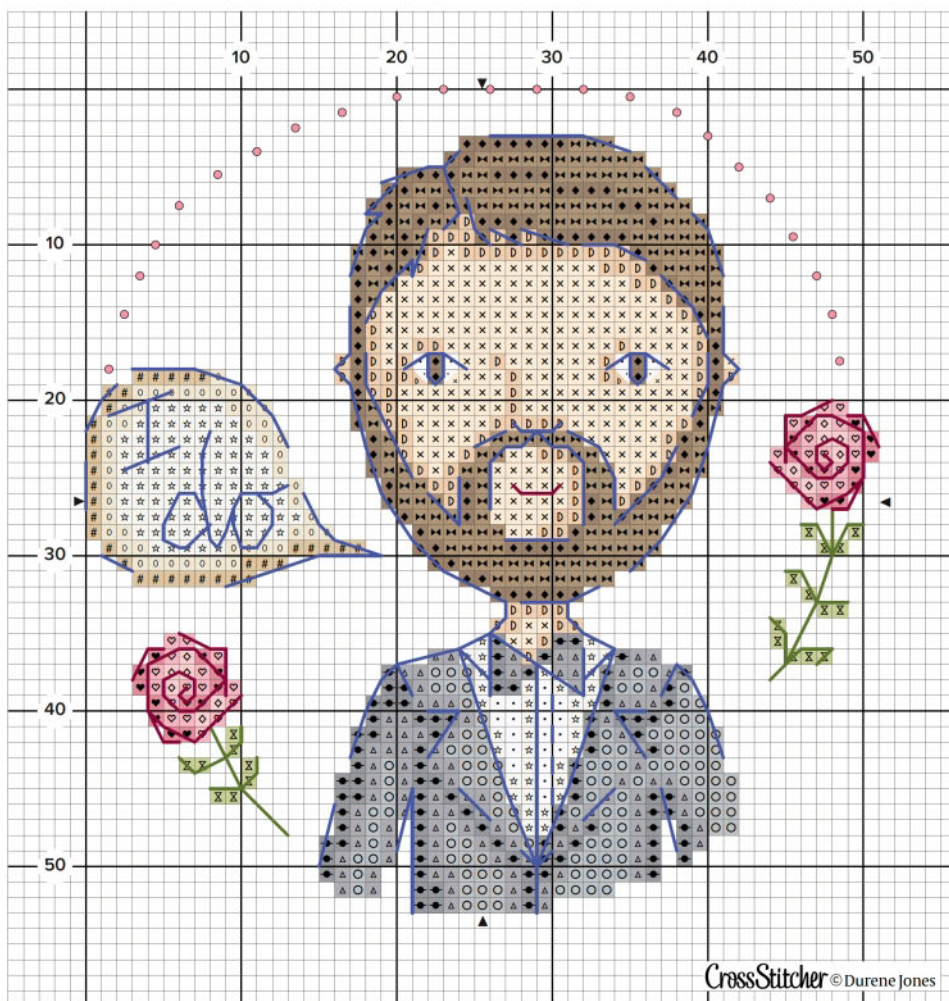
Stitch time: 8 hours each

These designs were stitched on 28 count evenweave over two threads of fabric.

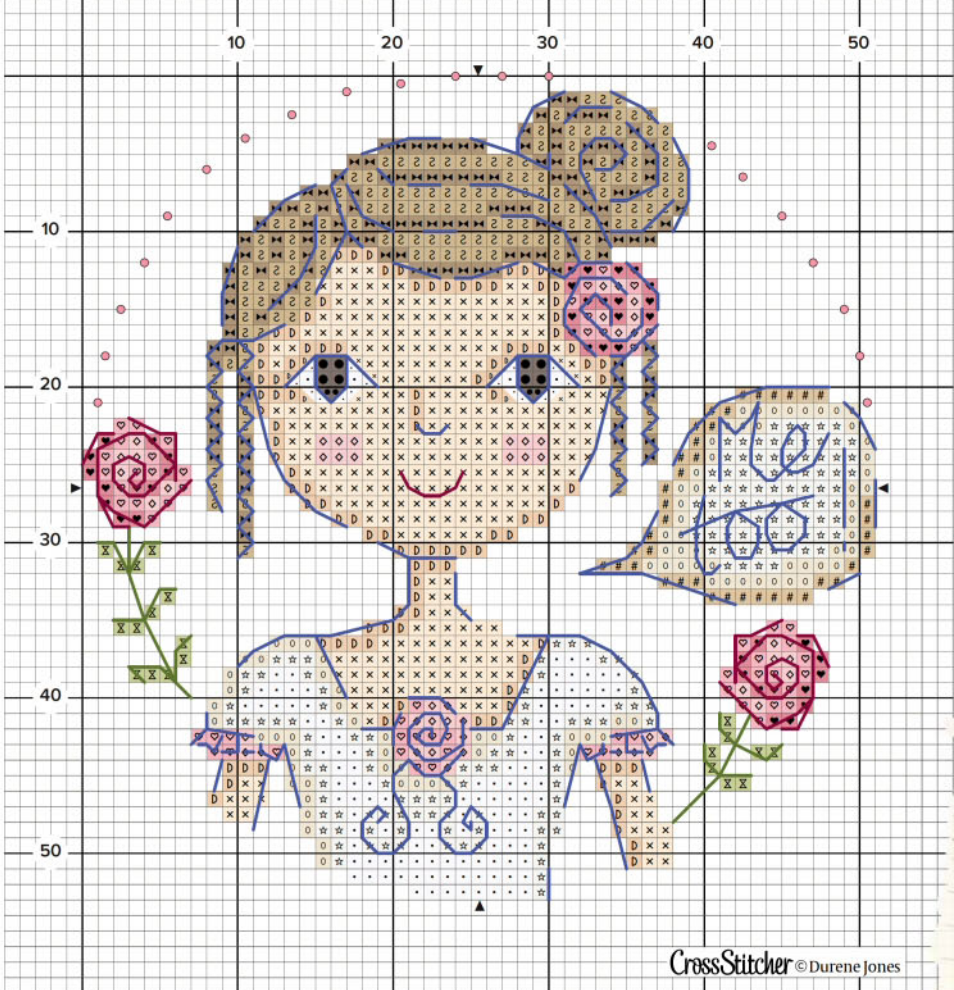


	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
	167	375	2105*
	318	399	1802
	414	235	1801
	415	398	1803
	422	943	2102
	472	253	1414
	738	361	2013
	838	1088	1914
	869	944	2105*
	945	881	2313
	961	076	610
	963	023	608
	3716	025	606
	3770	1009	978
	3865	002	2402
	B5200	001	white
	00	ecru	ecru
Backstitch in one strand			
	470	267	1502
rose foliage			
	838	1088	1914
outlines			
	3831	1006	507
roses			
French knots in one strand			
	3716	025	606
decoration			

*See 'The Key' on page 86.



CrossStitcher © Durene Jones



Materials

For each hoop

- Zweigart Cream 28 count Quaker Bantry, ref: 3993/222; 17.5x17.5cm (7x7in)
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Size 26 tapestry needle
- Wooden embroidery hoop; 10cm (4in) diameter

For stockist details see page 89

- Zweigart Cream 28 count Quaker
- Bantry, ref: 3993/222; 17.5x17.5cm (7x7in)
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Size 26 tapestry needle
- Wooden embroidery hoop;
10cm (4in) diameter

For stockist details see page 89

- Zweigart Cream 28 count Quaker Bantry, ref: 3993/222; 17.5x17.5cm (7x7in)
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Size 26 tapestry needle
- Wooden embroidery hoop; 10cm (4in) diameter

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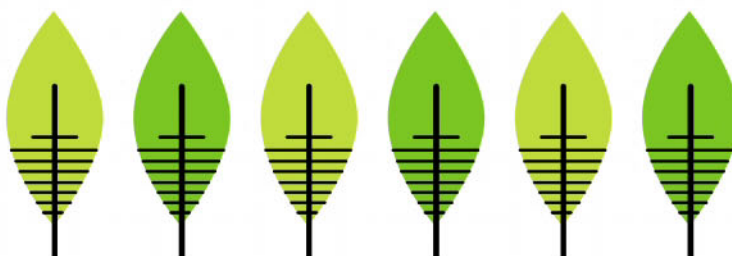
**TURN TO
PAGE 20
TO LEARN
HOW TO FRAME
IN A HOOP**

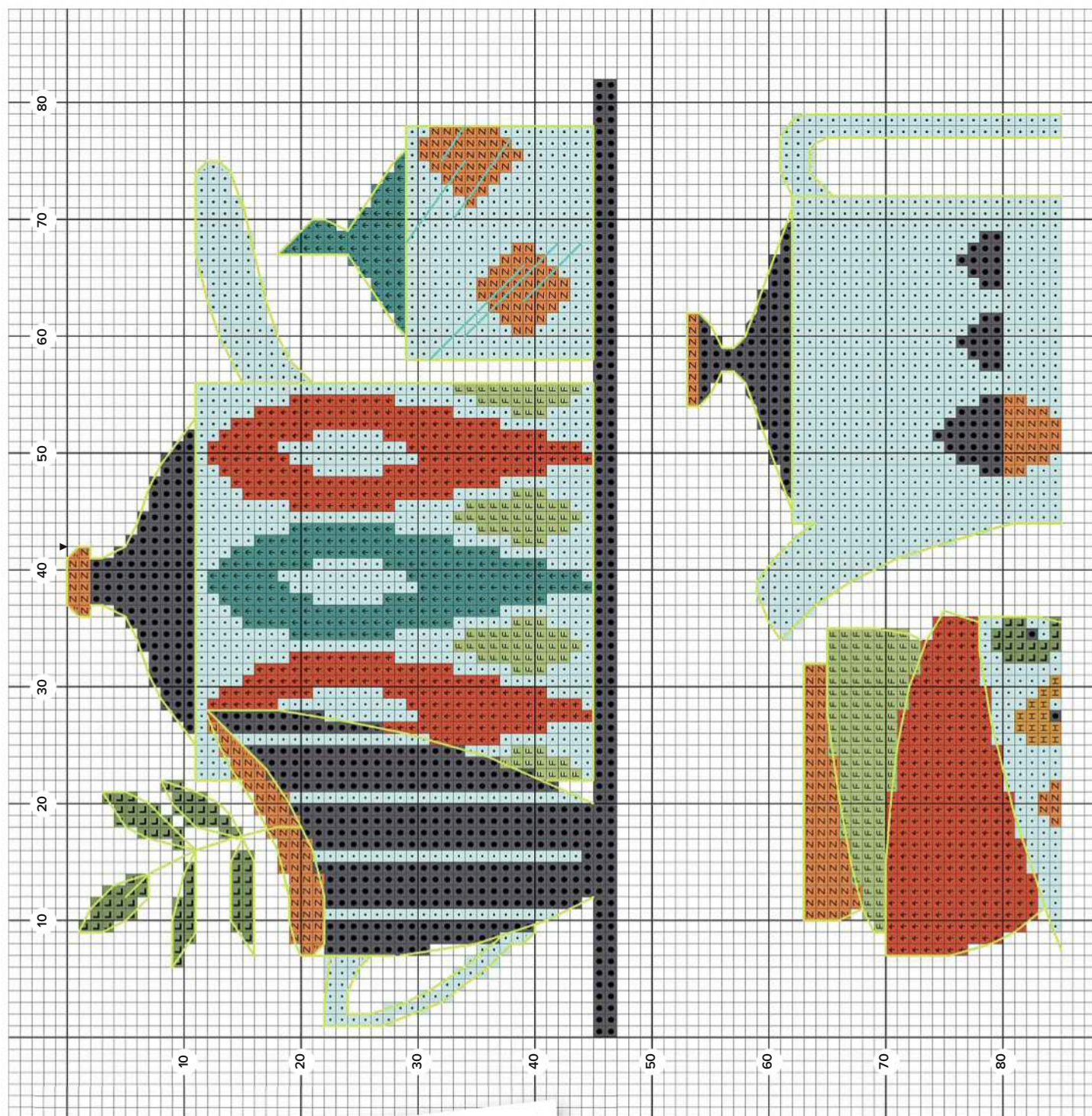


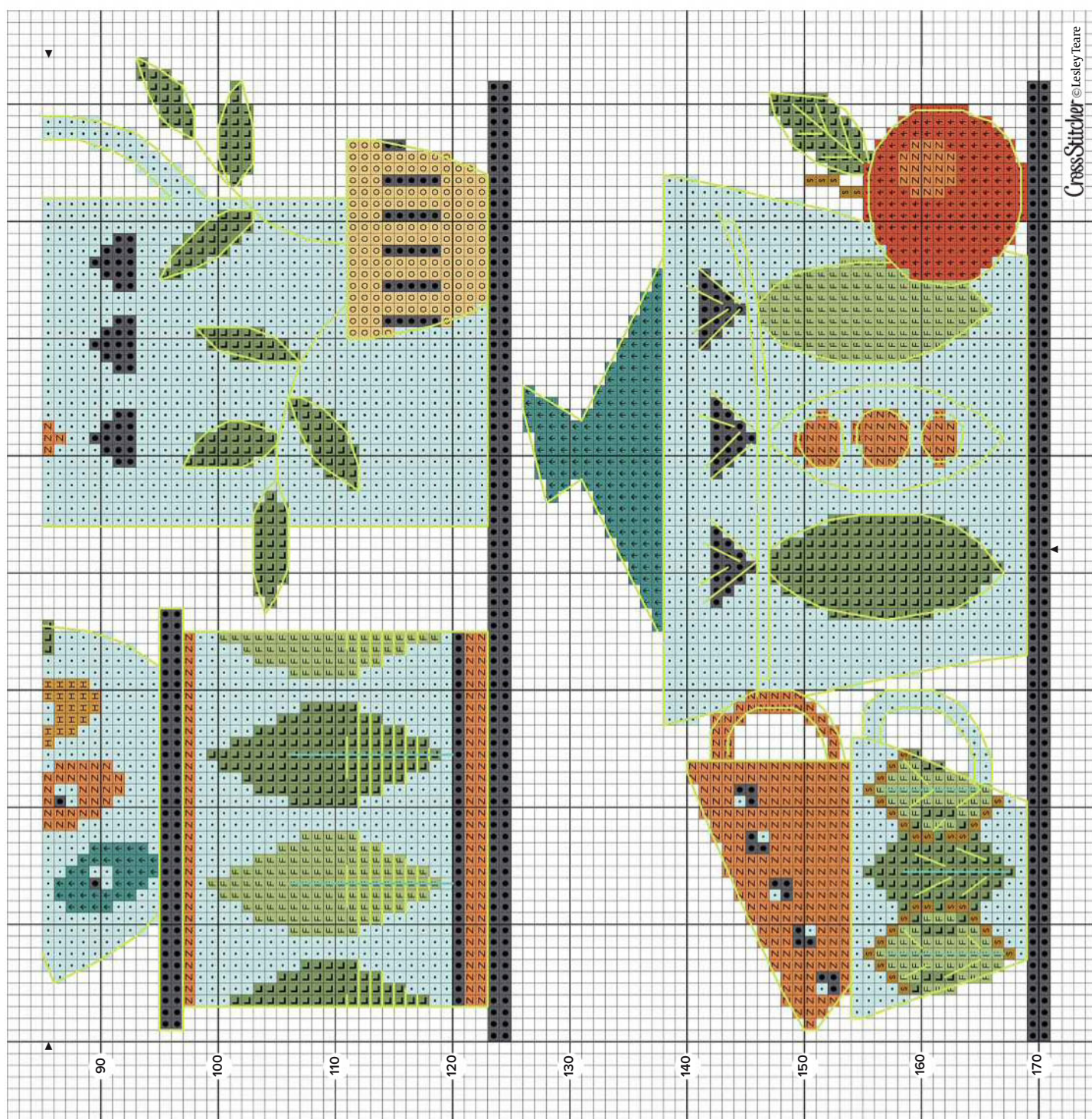
RETRO

REVIVAL

Cook up some colour in your kitchen this spring! Give it stacks of vintage style with our stunning retro shelves picture







Short of time or space? Just stitch your favourite section of the picture and frame it individually

Materials

- Zweigart Light Blue 28 count Brittny, ref: 3270/503; 46x33cm (18x13in)
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Size 26 tapestry needle
- Frame with a 35.5x20cm (14x8in) aperture
- Mount board to fit frame

For stockist details see page 89

Designed by: Lesley Teare

Stitch count: 171 high x 84 wide

Design size: 30.5x14.5cm (12x5¾in)

Stitch time: 43 hours

This design was stitched on 28 count evenweave over two threads of fabric.

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
● ●	413	401	1713
○ ○	676	891	2208
S S	782	308	2212
H H	783	306	2211
4 4	900	333	208
L L	3347	266	1408
F F	3348	264	1409
↑ ↑	3848	1074	1108
Z Z	3853	1003	311
■ ■	B5200	001	white (2)
Backstitch in two strands			
—	310	403	black
pattern details			
Backstitch in one strand			
—	310	403	black
outlines			

(2) indicates more than one skein is required



How to... frame a picture

Step 1



CUT a piece of white mount board to fit inside your frame. Place your design centrally over the mount board and pin the fabric around the board to secure, starting at the centre of each side and working outwards.

Step 2



PIN around the entire perimeter and check you are happy with the positioning of your design, then turn over to the reverse. Use double-sided tape to secure the fabric excess around all four sides.

Step 3



SECURE the fabric edges with masking tape and remove the pins. Position your stitching in the frame and back with a second piece of mount board. Seal the edges with more masking tape to finish off.

THE Savvy Stitcher



AHOY THERE!
Stitch on perforated paper,
then layer up to create this
sweet ship scene on the
rolling waves.

Learning new ways with layers

Zoë Patching knows the best way to add interest to your stitching – add layers! She has three easy ideas for you to try today...



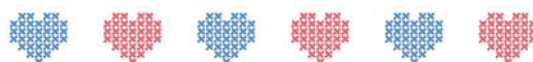
STITCHING IN A BOTTLE

A little acetate bottle has been layered and stitched on top to reveal our mini stitched boat.

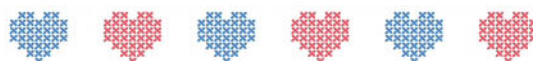


PARK YOUR PINS

Using a variety of different techniques and materials, this van has a tactile finish.



Layering, using different elements to create layers in your work, is simple and fun! We've started with perforated paper layers to create our mini boat scene, where the paper has been cut to create the crest of the waves. Next, keeping on the sea theme, we've created our own boat in an acetate bottle. And who could resist our cute caravan? Its flowery fabric roof, ric-rac awnings and button tyre are a lot of fun and the ribbon and cross stitch layers add the finishing touch! We know you'll have fun making these – enjoy!

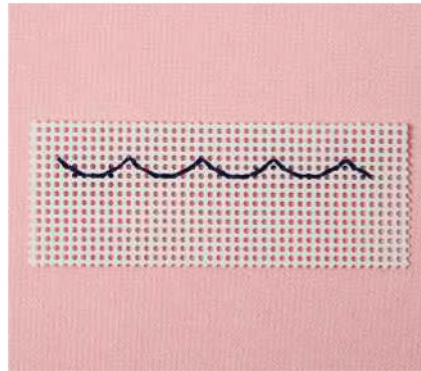


HOW TO... CREATE PERFORATED PAPER LAYERS

Stitch, then layer up, our rolling waves for the perfect sea scene.

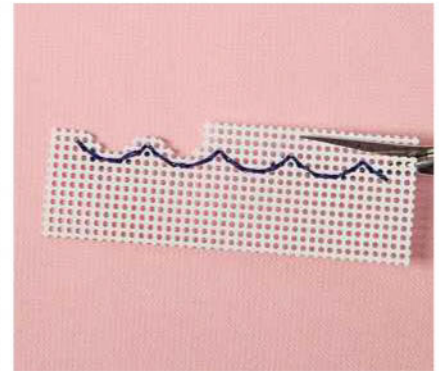


Step 1



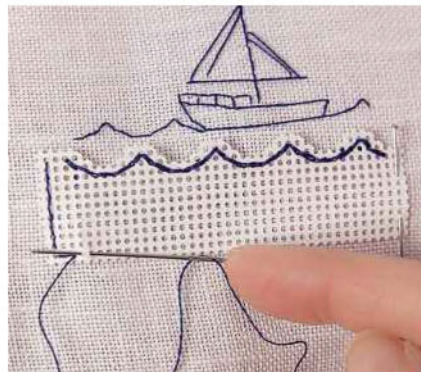
START by stitching the background boat design, using the chart below, onto some 28 count linen, followed by the first layer of your perforated paper waves. Leave at least four perforations around the stitched area.

Step 2



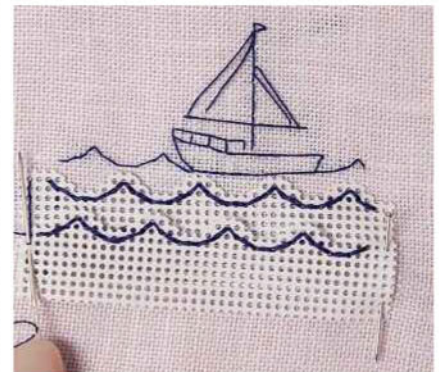
CUT carefully around the stitched waves along the top edge of the perforated paper – backstitched here – leaving a single paper block around your stitching. Neaten the cut edges by trimming the edges to smooth the shape.

Step 3



POSITION this layer over the stitched background, matching up stitches and covering unstitched areas which need to be hidden. Pin in position and backstitch around the sides and bottom edge to hold in place.

Step 4



CREATE the second perforated paper layer, and trim and stitch in position as explained above. To finish, cut an aperture mount from white mount board, with an aperture measuring 5.5x5.5cm.

DMC Anchor Madeira Cross stitch in two strands

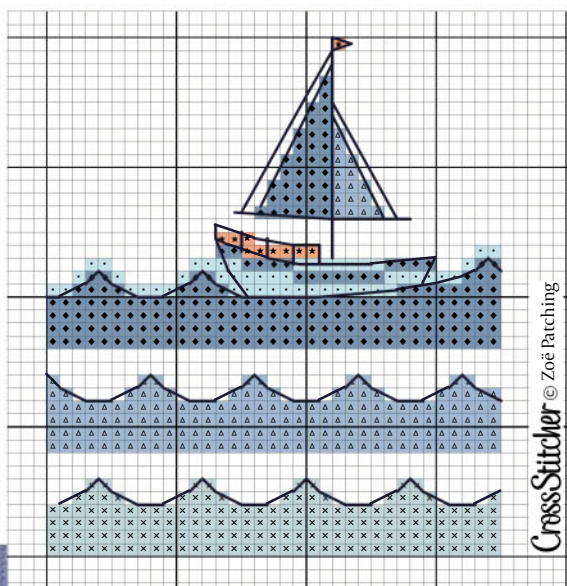
✕ ✕	162	159	903
□ □	335	038	506
● ●	349	013	212
◆ ◆	517	162	1107
★ ★	3340	329	301
△ △	3755	939	909
• •	blanc	001	white

Backstitch in one strand

—	162	159	903
—	335	038	506
—	597	1064	1110
—	823	127	1008
—	3755	939	909

French knots in one strand

●	597	1064	1110
●	blanc	001	white



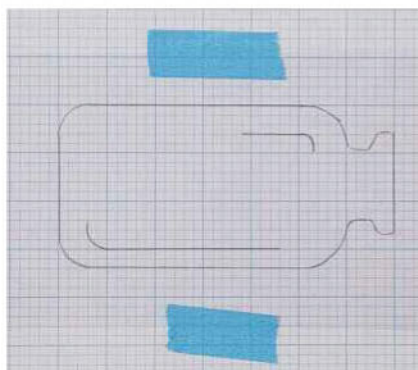
Perforated paper produces a larger stitched area compared to the 28 count linen. Keep checking your stitching to match up the finished size.

HOW TO... ADD AN ACETATE LAYER

Create an acetate bottle to reveal what's in the layer under it.

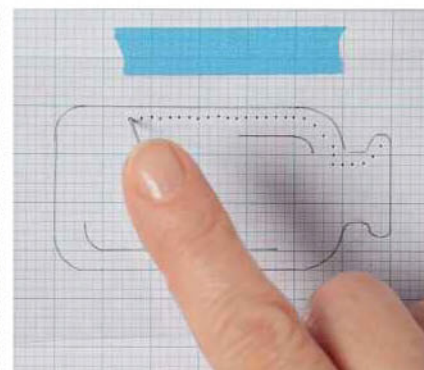


Step 1



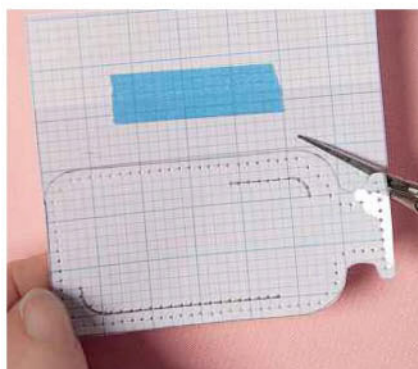
START by tracing the bottle template on this page onto a sheet of graph paper, taking extra care to keep it square to the graph grid. Position your acetate rectangle on top of this and then tape in place.

Step 2



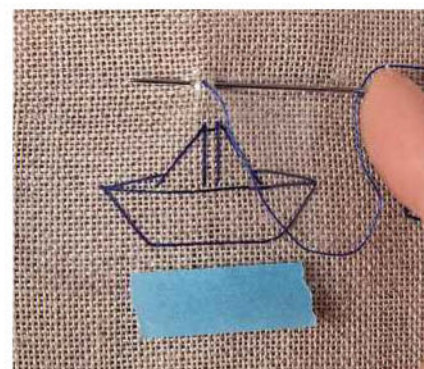
PLACE the graph paper over a piece of craft foam and with a sharp needle make a series of perforations around the bottle outline as shown above – one grid square in from the drawn template outline.

Step 3



KEEP the graph paper in place – the static from the acetate will help to hold it in position, as well as the tape – cut the bottle shape from the acetate, cutting along the drawn bottle outline on the graph paper.

Step 4



POSITION the cut-out acetate bottle over your stitched boat – backstitched here – and hold in place with tape. Finally backstitch around the perforated edge, keeping your stitches square to the fabric as much as possible.



HOBBYCRAFT

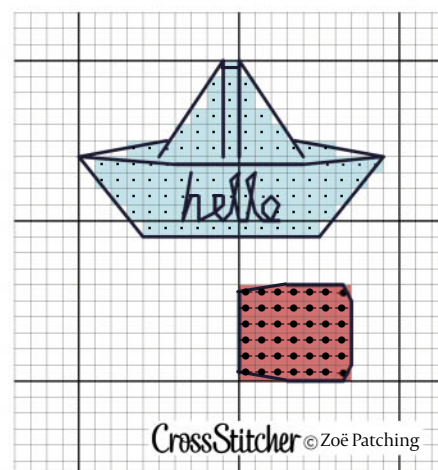
www.hobbycraft.co.uk

A go-to website for all things crafty, acetate sheets are available here, as well as an array of paper, card, fabric, threads and trimmings... the list is endless!



Template

Use your template
at 100%



CrossStitcher © Zoë Patching

HOW TO... LAYER FABRIC AND RIBBON

A great stashbuster, our cute caravan pincushion is made from multiple layers.

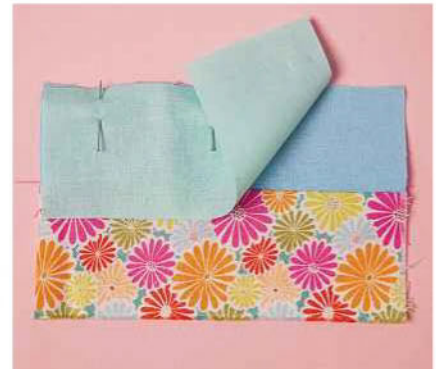


Step 1

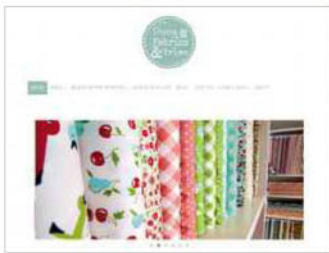


MAKE the layered background fabric first. Cut out three pieces to measure 15x5cm. Place the top and middle fabric right sides together. Pin and machine stitch the long edge, 1cm from the fabric edge. Iron open the seam.

Step 2



PLACE this machine stitched fabric face up and position the third fabric piece on top, matching up the cut fabric edges, as shown above. Pin the layers together and machine stitch, 1cm from the fabric edge.



PRETTY FABRICS & TRIM

www.prettyfabricsandtrims.co.uk

A lovely website full of lovely things! You'll find here a truly tantalising selection of trimmings, fabrics and buttons and accessories... perfect for making over your cute caravan!

Step 3



IRON open the seam next, ready to add layers. Prepare your cross stitched layers by backing with iron-on interfacing. Cut out, leaving a 2-3 linen thread border and buttonhole stitch around the edges.

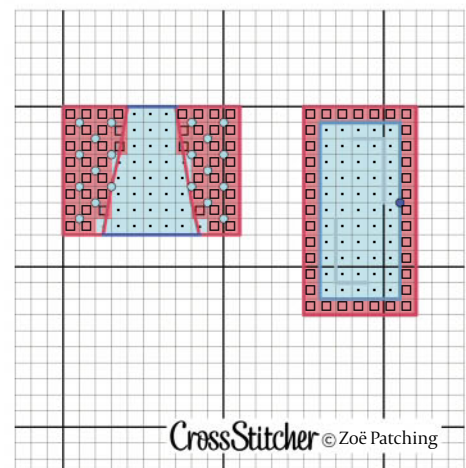
Step 4



TACK and machine stitch a length of ribbon over the visible seams of the backing fabric. Position and machine stitch the cross stitched window and door in place. Add button details, before making into a pincushion.

Template

Use your template at 100%



CrossStitcher © Zoë Patching

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Overseas readers see page 87

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CrossStitcher

Correspondents



Ever wondered what stitchers like us are up to in different parts of the globe? We've asked readers from near and far to become correspondents for us and share with us their cross stitch news...



**Nicola Bywater,
Brisbane,
Queensland,
Australia**

G'day from balmy Brisbane! Weather here is hot, hot, hot!

An online craft group I am part of recently had a call out from Makey Mummas to make hearts to give to mothers who have babies in NICUs (Neonatal Intensive Care Units) on Mother's Day. The lady who posted this request was doing so on behalf of BLISS Bristol, which helps the RBH, among others. I contacted her and explained I'd love to help and that one of my sons was born at 29 weeks (in Australia) so we've been through the highs and lows of a NICU. I also mentioned that I used to live in Bristol – it turns out she lives about two miles from my old house! What a small world!

By the time you read this, the project will be finished, but right now I've just started making the hearts. I'm using lots of techniques including hand-sewn felt, crochet and, of course, cross stitch. I will be making some large cross stitch

hearts but also adding mini appliqué ones to plain crocheted ones. I hope the mummies who receive these hearts enjoy them and know that we are thinking of them.

Me stitching in my beach tent by the local swimming lagoon 1

The swimming lagoon 2

Cross stitch mini hearts to add to the plain crocheted hearts – using the kit that came with CrossStitcher issue 313! 3

Nicola is married with children. She has been cross stitching for 30 years, but is also a dedicated lace maker. She recently worked on a publication for The Lace Guild (UK).



**Fawn Ostriak,
Philadelphia,
Pennsylvania, USA**

It seems like lately, I've been thinking about and writing about cross

stitching more than I've actually been cross stitching. It seems as though I've lost my stitching mojo! I am still following my favourite stitchers via Instagram and blogs, but my own

stitching has sat languishing, getting buried deeper each day under an ever-growing pile of other things which seem to demand more urgent attention. I've even found my cat, Charlie, using my stitching basket as his new bed. Perhaps he is trying to give me a bit of a hint!

So what's a down and out stitcher to do when she's stuck in a creative rut? Some fellow crafters have given me the following tips...

1. Plan a stitching date with friends.
2. Look for new inspiration via magazines (*CrossStitcher*, of course!), Pinterest, or even rummaging through old patterns books.

3. Attend a needlework show or local needle shop to ogle the fabrics and threads.

4. Learn a new craft technique such as beading.

- And 5. The obvious one – just make time and do it.

We all know that once we pick up a needle and make a few Xs, it's virtually impossible not to be reminded of why we all fell in love with cross stitch in the first place. I suppose that's all the



urging that I needed. Time to go move the cat and kickstart my mojo!

Charlie has found a new nap spot **4**

Finding inspiration at the local

needlecraft store **5**

Fawn blogs at her website www.stitch-therapy.com which has featured in many stitching publications.



**Mel Mclardie,
Vietnam**

By the time you read this, spring will (hopefully) have sprung and the sun should be making

it's way from behind some clouds. In my part of the world we are now in the hot and dry season as opposed to the hot and wet one! However, ever the Brit, I can't resist a good spring clean.

The focus has been sorting my stitch stash out. I'm a good 20 years away from retirement but already I have enough stash to keep me going way beyond then. Last year I logged all the charts and kits I have in a social media album. Over 400 apparently. This year I'm determined to be a lot more

selective about what I buy in an effort to narrow it down. Thread-wise I have everything I need, I think, to do what I have planned. In an effort to stay focused I've chosen already what I want to do this year and listed them on my tablet. I did this last year and it worked well, 33 finishes, my best ever!

Storing all this is a work of art! Basically, I have the shelves down the side of our spare wardrobe and a storage box. This weekend I went through all the boxes on the shelves and kitted up into folders all my planned projects for this year. It makes everything so much easier to know where everything is because the vast majority of my supplies I need to order from overseas. I may be missing the odd thread but think I have everything.

So the shelves are tidy, the projects are organised. I'm back in sunny Lancashire in July and usually get a pile of stash delivered whilst I'm there, let's see what happens this year!

Mel has been stitching since she was 14 and is now 42! She has taught all over the world, and now lives and works in Vietnam.



**Michelle Yeoh,
Petaling Jaya,
Malaysia**

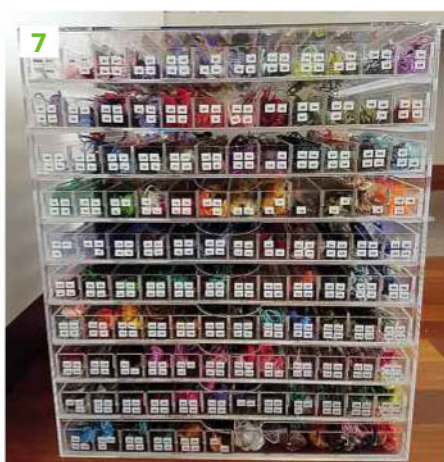
I was told that it is Mother's Day in UK this month. In Malaysia, we

celebrate Mother's Day on the second Sunday of May. My mum was just rifling through her keepsakes and she found an old Mother's Day card which I'd given her and what do you know, I'd added a cross-stitch cake to the card!

March is special to me, for a different reason. It is the birthday month for both my husband and I. It signifies a month of celebration, good food and gifts. Because no matter how old we are, we still love gifts, don't we? Speaking of gifts, I have had very thoughtful customers commissioning birthday gifts for their families and friends.

(The best cross-stitch gift I've ever received is a custom-made storage box filled with DMC floss. It was passed on to me by a dear friend, who had moved on from cross stitch to crochet.)

March is also a time for giving thanks and making new wishes. >>



1. I am extremely grateful that my husband and family has been supportive of my passion and business.

2. I feel blessed to have been able to launch my Nyonya series of cross stitch kits.

3. My wish for myself this year is to keep improving myself, acquire new skills and striking that (somewhat elusive) balance between my family and my business.

4. It has been heartening to see my local cross stitch group become more active in recent months. It is my hope that the group will continue to grow and we will manage to arrange a stitchey meet-up really soon. Then, I'll be able to share our adventures with you.

My mum's Mother's day card **6**

Storage box for DMC floss given to me already filled with threads – the best stitching gift ever! **7**

My very own newly launched Nyonya series kits! **8**

Michelle is a full-time mum and now has her own business, Little Pink Factory, on Facebook and Instagram, designing customised cross stitch portraits for clients.



**Vicky Cole,
Nairobi, Kenya**

Jambo dear cross stitchers.

I'm writing this in Hove in Sussex, not Nairobi – back for a

week's visit, catching up with family and working a little bit.

My current project is called Save The Stitches. It's an enormous blackwork sampler designed by Liz Almond, and features a huge number of different patterns in an interlocking framework. I love the fact that it is so geometrical, and the way the patterns build up from the different repeating elements is very intriguing. It is done in classic blackwork style of a single black thread on white fabric, although Liz has embellished it with gold, silver and bronze metallic threads and beads.

I've joined a Facebook community called Blackwork Journey, where we can ask for advice and share blackwork experiences. There are folk from all over the world who contribute. It is so great that a shared interest can unite people, rather like the CrossStitcher

Correspondents' page!

I did take a brief break from Save The Stitches to stitch this cute little meerkat from a Mouseloft kit, as a card for my mother (she is very fond of meerkats). It took a couple of days and I'm very pleased with how it turned out. Nice to do some cross stitch again after concentrating on Hardanger and blackwork recently.

Well, that's all for now, 'Til next time (when I will be back in Kenya), kwaheri.

My little meerkat for my mum **9**

Some sections from my Save The Stitches sampler **10 & 11**

Vicky is vice-chair of the Kenya Embroiderers' Guild and is married with two children.

WANT TO BECOME A CROSSSTITCHER CORRESPONDENT?

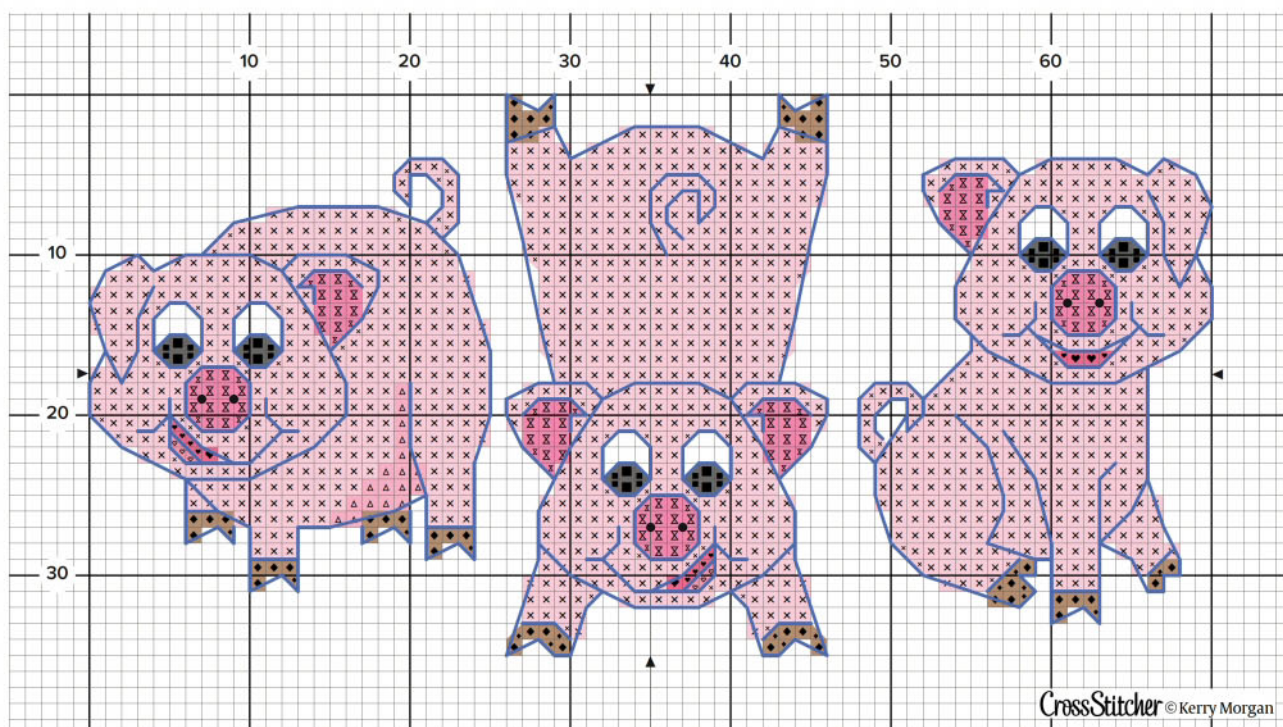
If you think you have what it takes to become one of our correspondents, write to us at crosstitcher@dennis.co.uk.



Hogs & Kisses

Wish a pal a very hammy birthday with our porcine card and cake wrap!

Designed by: Kerry Morgan



Stitch count: 35 high x 70 wide

Design size: 6x12cm (2½x4¾in)

Stitch time: 7 hours

This design was stitched on a 14 count aida band.

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
■ ■	310	403	black
♥ ♥	601	063	703
♡ ♡	893	027	413
△ △	3706	033	309
× ×	3708	031	408
⊗ ⊗	3806	062	701
◆ ◆	3863	379	1912
Backstitch in two strands			
—	310	403	black
Backstitch in one strand			
—	310	403	black
French knots (or buttons)			
●	310	403	black
noses			

Make a... cake band

Step 1

CUT the aida band to fit around your cake, plus overlap. Work all the cross stitch in two strands of stranded cotton, and the backstitch in one strand. You can either stitch the three pigs in the centre, or repeat the design to cover the complete band.

Step 2

SEW a pink button over each pig's nose. Wrap the band around the cake, holding it in place with a pin.

Materials

Cake band

- Zweigart White aida band with pink edge, ref: 7195/14; 9.5cm (3¾in) wide x distance around cake
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Size 24 tapestry needle
- Pink buttons x 3

For stockist details see page 89



Stitch count: 55 high x 43 wide

Design size: 10x8cm (4x3¼in)

Stitch time: 8 hours

This design was stitched on 14 count aida fabric.

Make a... patch card

Step 1

WORK all the cross stitch in two strands of stranded cotton, and the backstitch in one and two strands. Stitch on a pink button to cover the pig's nose.

Step 2

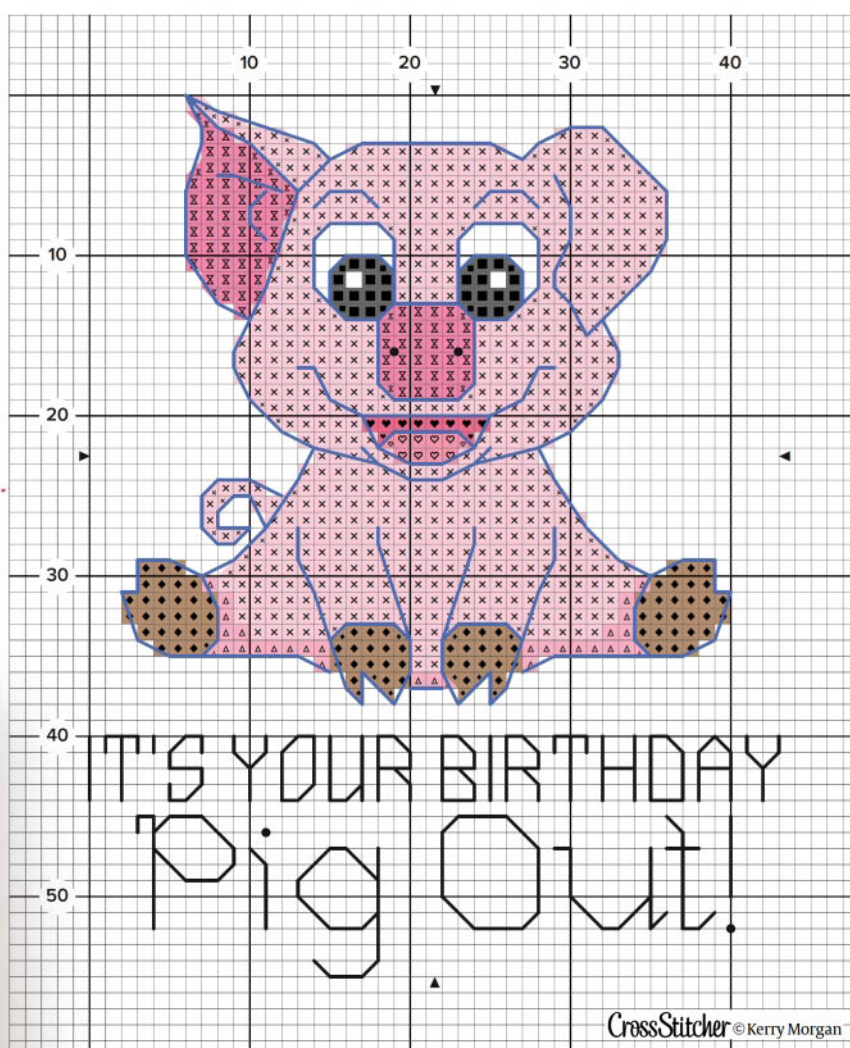
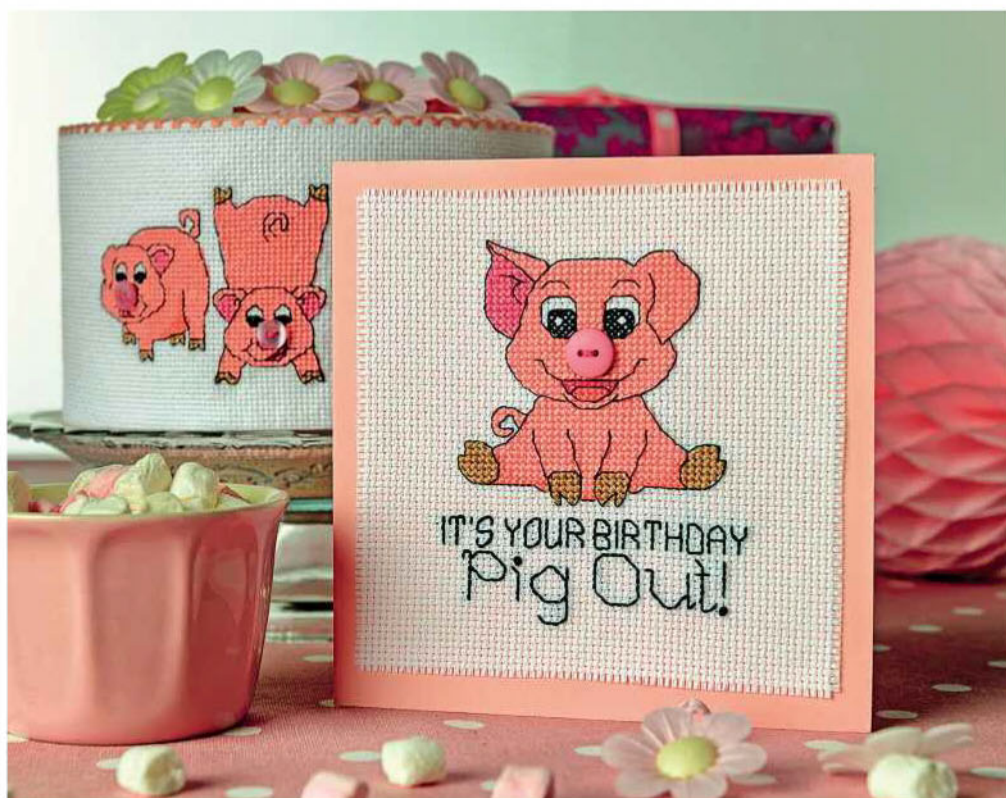
TRIM the stitched aida to fit the front of your card. Remove one aida block from the edge of the fabric on all sides. Use double-sided tape to attach the stitching to the front of the card.

A large pink sequin would also work instead of a button for the pig's nose!

Materials

Card

- Zweigart White 14 count aida, ref: 3706/100; 12.5x12.5cm (5x5in)
 - Stranded cotton as listed in the key
 - Size 24 tapestry needle
 - Pink button
 - Pink card blank to fit design
- For stockist details see page 89





One-of-a-kind pieces like this are usually snapped up quickly.



An interview with...

Tessa Perlow

Embroiderer Tessa Perlow takes make do and mend – and makes it super pretty. She spoke to *CrossStitcher* about what inspires her....

Interview by **Katie Allen**

Tessa Perlow's awesome embroidery skills turn the plainest charity shop finds into must-have fashion.

A real stitch artist, her dream is to put on a show in a gallery – we think it's only a matter of time! We asked the New Jersey-based stitcher what excites her about needle and thread.

Have you always been creative?

I've always loved drawing, making things and being imaginative. My favourite thing to do growing up was drawing people out of magazines with my little sister at the kitchen table.

When did you first get bitten by the fashion bug?

As I grew up I really fell in love with fashion and asked my mum to teach me to sew. By the time I was in high school I had decided I wanted to be a



fashion designer and I was making all of my clothes and sewing every day after school.

What do you love about stitching?

I've always loved embroidery from a visual standpoint – seeing couture

garments in magazines or vintage pieces in a museum.

For me, embroidery combines everything I love – art, fashion, craft and history. It's like painting but with threads and is so dependent on your hands.

What inspired you to begin upcycling clothes with embroidery?

During my degree I did an internship at a design label where I hand-beaded garments. I totally loved the process and seeing how the beading could transform a garment. The summer after, for fun I embroidered a thrift store cream shift dress. It was pretty sloppy but I totally fell in love.

I've been upcycling things most of my life. It started out as a way to save money but I also love the challenge of giving garments new life. Growing up I didn't have too much money to buy fabric, so I would make dresses



Tessa's Etsy shop offers, "Charming and whimsical handmade clothing, accessories, and living items fit for magical individuals."



Tessa always prefers to work with repurposed materials.



“ I love how embroidery can turn something basic into an extraordinary and romantic piece! ”

out of old curtains or cut apart hand-me-downs. My mum is totally my inspiration, she used to make pillows out of old dresses.

Can you tell us more about your process in making your artworks and embroidered clothes?

I usually have a handful of ideas in my mind as well as a million scribbled in my journals. I either try to find a garment that works, or make a simple top. I like to go to a Goodwill thrift store without aim and stumble upon pieces. If I'm ever stumped about what to work on, I go to the library and check out some art and science books.

Why do you love using embroidery so much?

I love how embroidery can turn something basic into an extraordinary and romantic piece. It usually takes me anywhere from one day to a week to complete a project. Usually I am really excited to see how it will turn out and just embroider non-stop until it is finished!

There's so much detail in your work - do you stitch full time?

I currently work part-time at The Market Project which is a really amazing local retail collaborative project in Asbury Park, New Jersey, and I sell my embroidery with them too. It's really easy for me to just work non-stop but it is actually healthy to get out and interact with other makers and friends.

What is it you love so much about stitching flowers in particular?

I've always been in love with flowers! In school when everyone was working in black I was the one with some crazy floral print. Growing up my mum was always gardening; she is also Dutch, which I think contributes to my love of flowers - we always had a lot of tulip folk imagery around the house. There is something about flowers that is incredibly magical.

Can you tell us a little bit about your customers?

I am so lucky that people want to buy and wear my work. My first

customers were friends and family, but I've sold to people all over the world with Etsy. I've done a lot of cool embroidered jean jackets and custom projects for gifts. I've also made a couple of wedding dresses which was a really cool honour.

Do you still have any dream projects that you'd really like to work on in the future?

I have so many! I would love to work on a collection of embroidered performance pieces and incorporate them into a short film.

I'm really excited about embroidery art. I'd love to focus completely on some large-scale pieces I've started that are kind of like embroidered paintings of still lives. I think embroidery is a pretty untapped medium in the world of fine art. This year I want to challenge myself to step out of my comfort zone.

www.etsy.com/uk/shop/TessaPerlowInc

www.instagram.com/tessa_perlow/

Rain or shine...

We forecast some serious fun
for little ones! Whatever the
weather, they'll love marking it
using our charming chart

Designed by: Sarah Cookland



My Weather Chart

Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday Sunday

Gift Idea

My Weather Chart

Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday Sunday

Gift Idea

My Weather Chart

Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday Sunday

Gift Idea

My Weather Chart

Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday Sunday

Gift Idea

My Weather Chart

Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday Sunday

Gift Idea

My Weather Chart

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Sunday

GIFT IDEA

My Weather Chart

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Sunday

GIFT IDEA

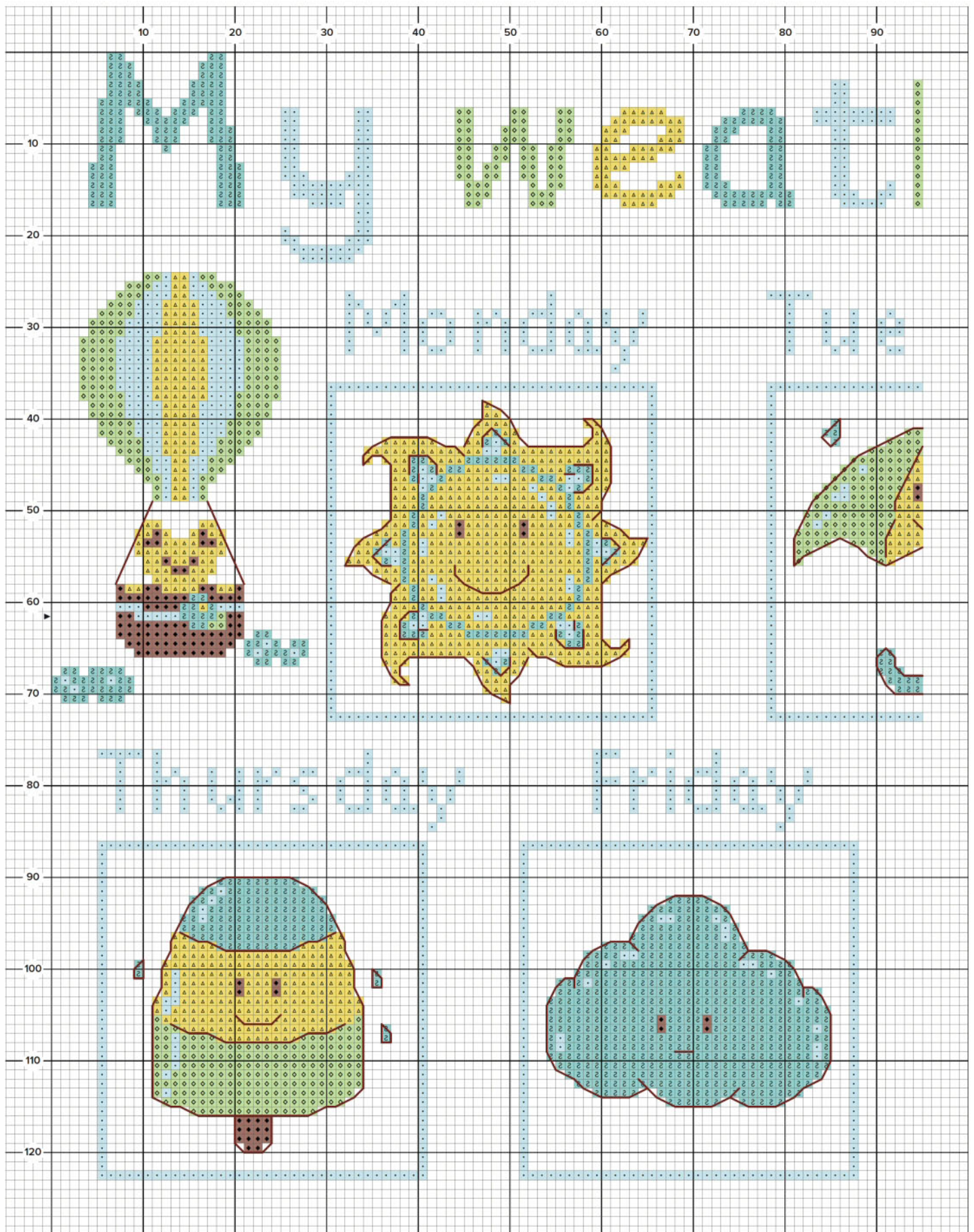
My Weather Chart

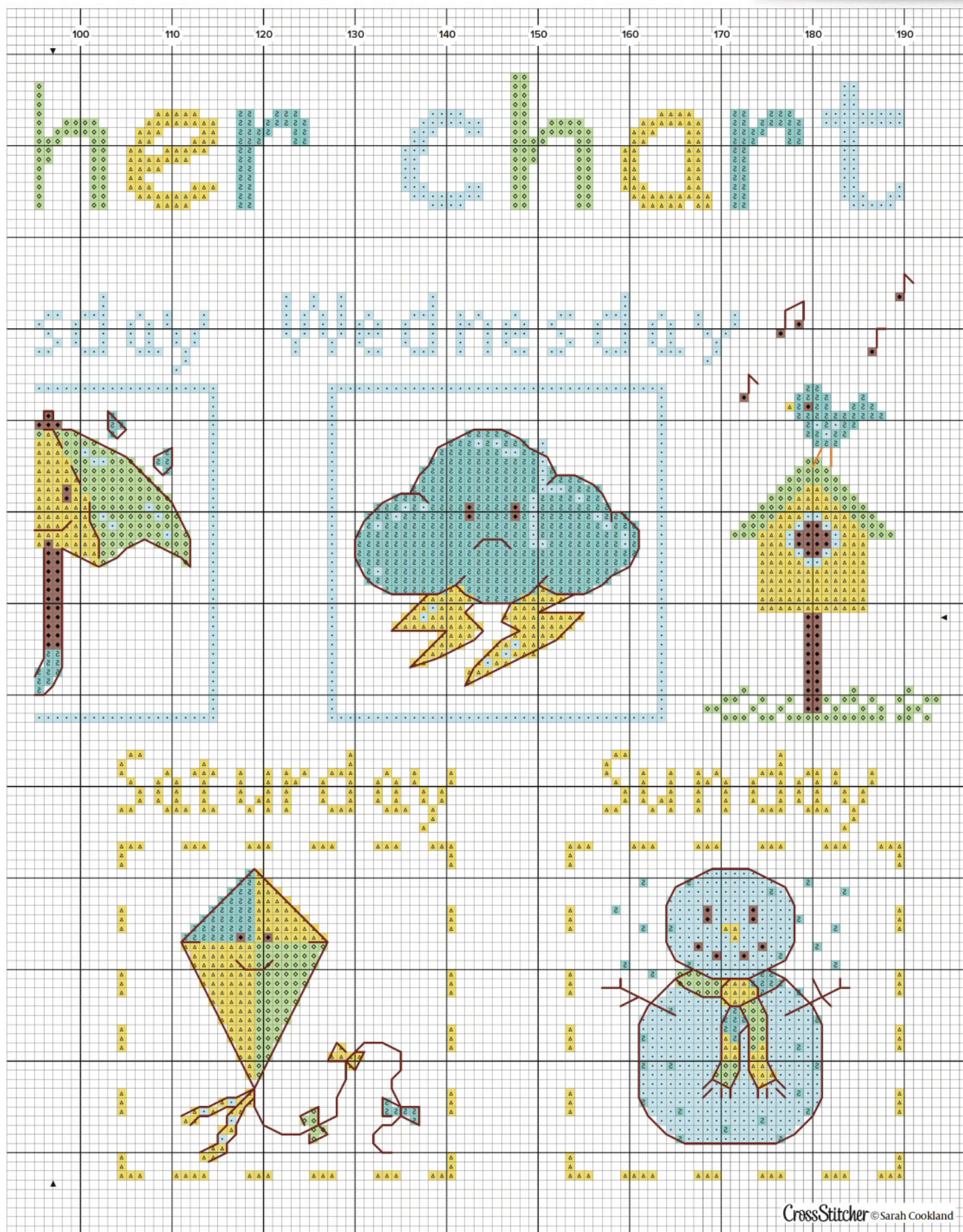
Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday Sunday

Gift Idea

A collection of colorful toys and crafts arranged on a light-colored wooden surface. In the foreground, a large red and yellow bag with a yellow strap and a small yellow bell is partially open. To its right is a red cross-stitched pouch with green and blue floral patterns and a yellow drawstring. Further right is a wooden spinning top with a red center and a yellow and green ring. In the bottom right corner, there are two colorful blocks, one red and one blue. The background features a red cross-stitched fabric with yellow and green patterns.

RAIN OR SHINE





CrossStitcher © Sarah Cookland

The weather symbols should be stitched onto separate fabric pieces
 - see page 48 for how to make the padded moveable symbols

RAIN OR SHINE

Stitch count: 123 high x 194 wide

Design size: 23x35.5cm (9x14in)

Stitch time: 15 hours

This design was stitched on 14 count aida.

Make a... weather board

Step 1

LAY the wadding on top of the art or stiff cardboard, and then over this place your stitching, wrapping the excess fabric around and onto the back of the board. The fabric needs to be held firmly over the board, so to do this either use double-sided tape, or lace across the back, pulling the fabric edges together.

Step 2

COVER the back of the board with the felt rectangle, and then catch stitch around the edges to hold it firmly in place. Stand the board on a work surface, or stitch a hanger to the back.

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
◇ ◇	704	256	1308
△ △	972	298	107 (2)
◻ ◻	3846	433	1103
◆ ◆	3857	936	811
■ ■	B5200 001	white (2)	
Backstitch in one strand			
—	972	298	107
bird's legs			
—	3857	936	811
outlines			
(2) indicates more than one skein is required			

Materials

For each weather symbol

- Zweigart Red 14 count aida, ref: 3706/954; 10x10cm (4x4in)
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Size 24 tapestry needle
- Wadding; 30x40.5cm (12x16in)
- Felt; 10x10cm (4x4in)
- Velcro; 2x2cm (¾x¾in)

For stockist details see page 89



Materials

Weather board

- Zweigart Red 14 count aida, ref: 3706/954; 40.5x51cm (16x20in)
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Size 24 tapestry needle
- Art board or stiff cardboard; 30x40.5cm (12x16in)
- Felt for backing; 30x40.5cm (12x16in)

For stockist details see page 89

Make several of each weather symbol. Park them on Velcro strips on the bottom of the board, so if we have a run of sunny or rainy days you will have enough



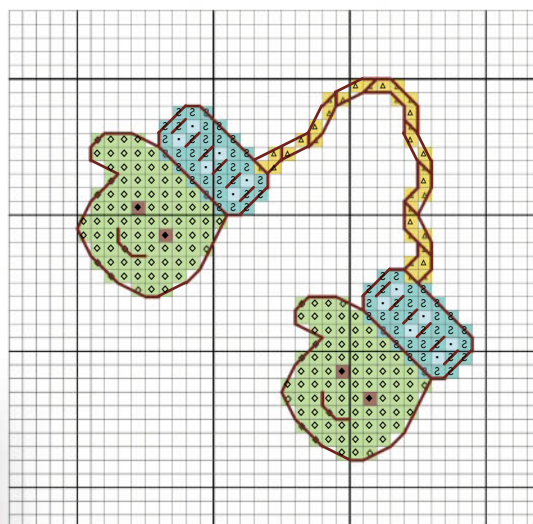
Make a... weather symbol

Step 1

PLACE a stitched weather symbol and a piece of felt, right sides together. Machine stitch around the edge just outside the stitching line, and leaving a small gap at the bottom for turning.

Step 2

TRIM the seam allowance and clip the curves, then turn to the right side, before sewing up the gap. Sew a small piece of Velcro to the back of the weather symbol, and a corresponding piece of Velcro on the weather board.



Max. stitch count: 32 high x 33 wide

Max. design size: 6x6cm (2½x2½in)

Stitch time: 2 hours each

These designs were stitched on 14 count aida fabric.

Letter LIBRARY

ANIMAL TRAIN

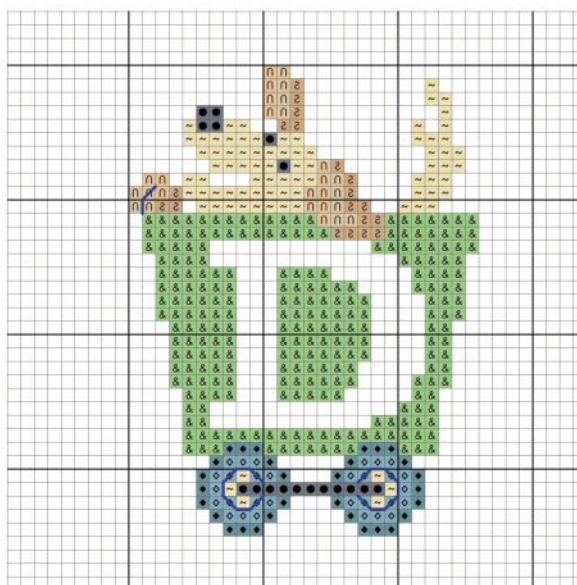
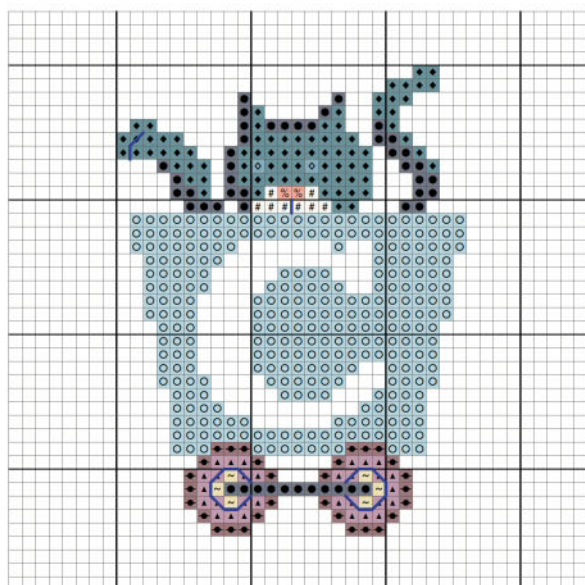
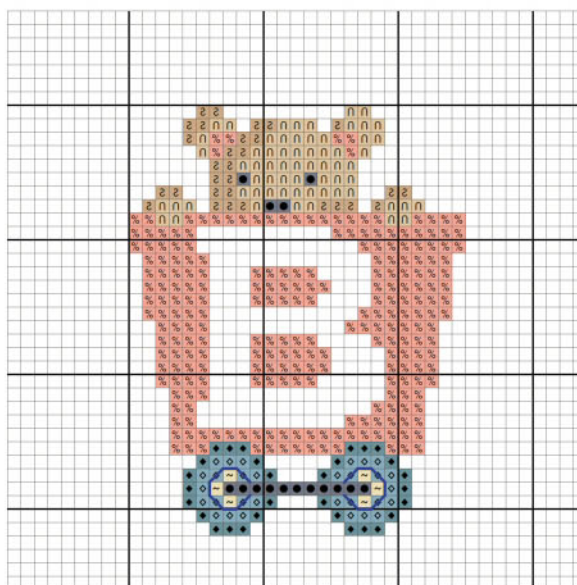
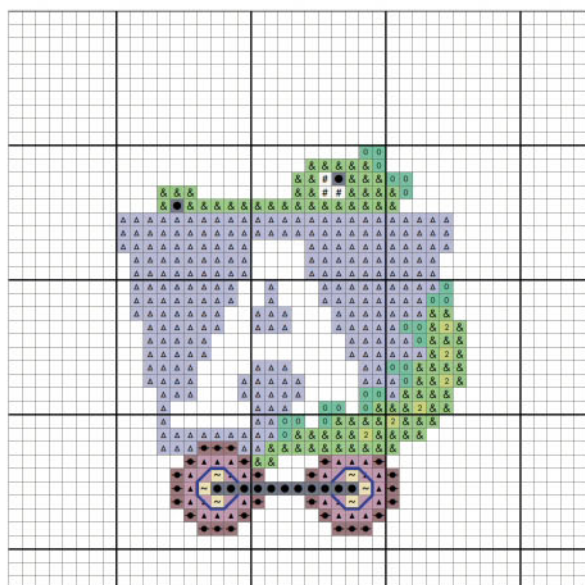
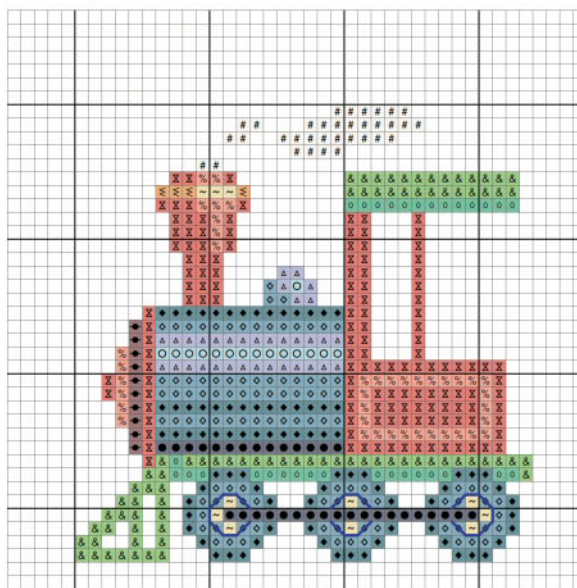
Want to get stitching for a little one? You'll definitely be on the right track with our adorable animal train alphabet!

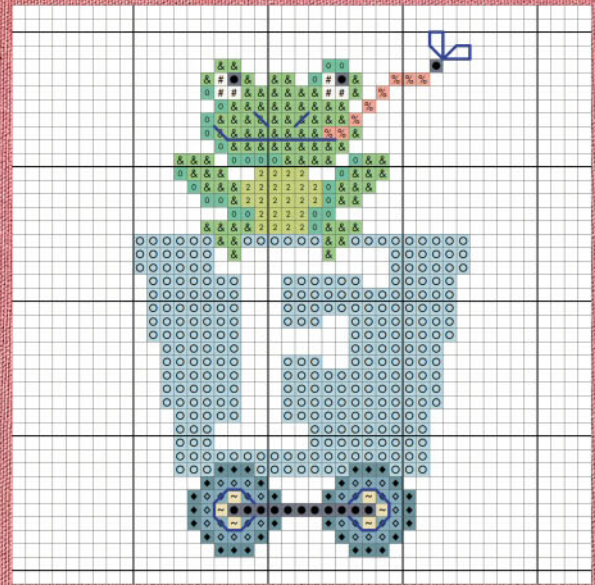
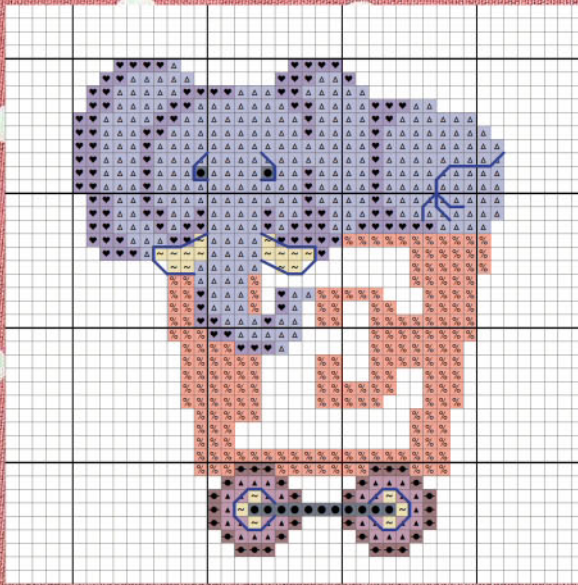


Welcome to this month's alphabet – our animal train motifs are ideal to keep on file for all sorts of occasions.

From quick cards featuring a birthday number, to home décor projects for a child's bedroom using their name, our versatile letters and numbers are the perfect choice and they're so quick and easy to stitch too. This is a set you'll come back to time and time again – enjoy!

Designed by: Maria Diaz

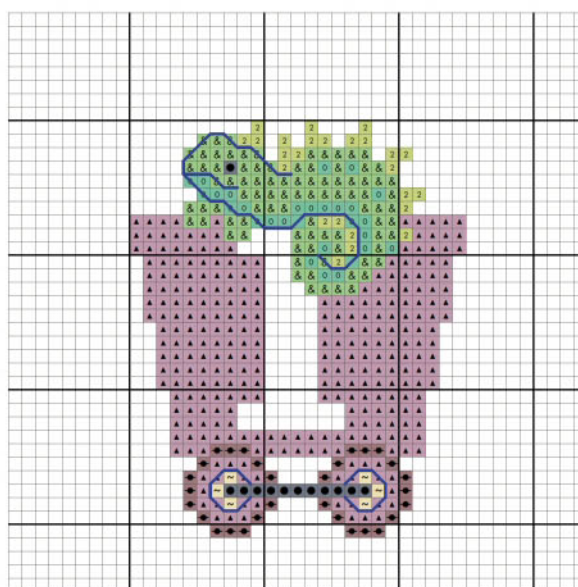
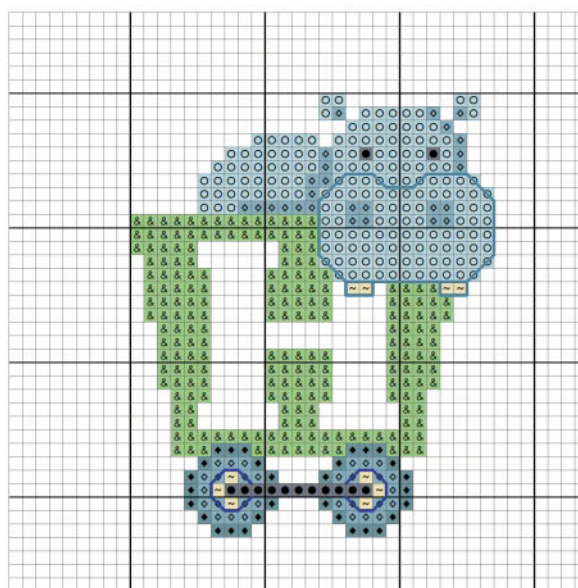
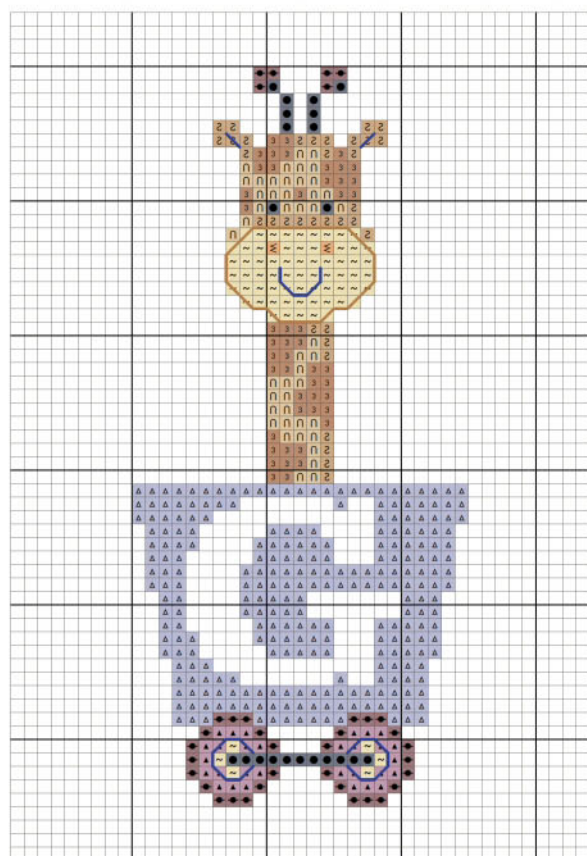




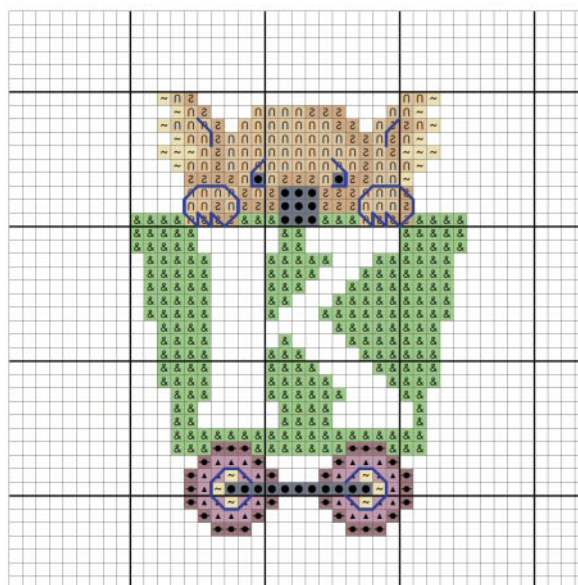
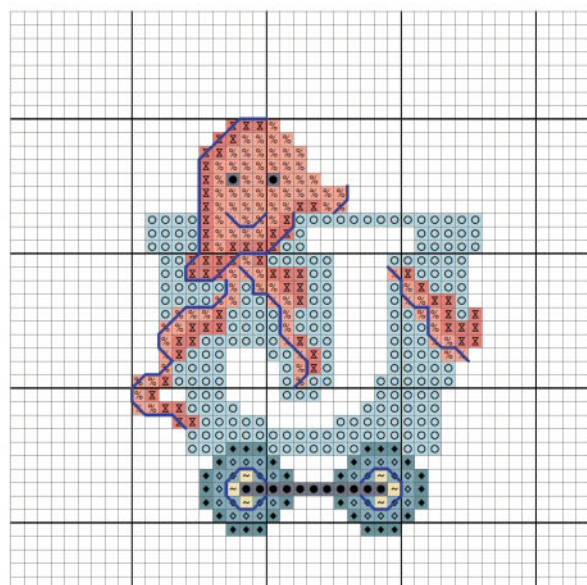
Add a small button to each end of your stitching and stretch your design over mount board for a quick finish

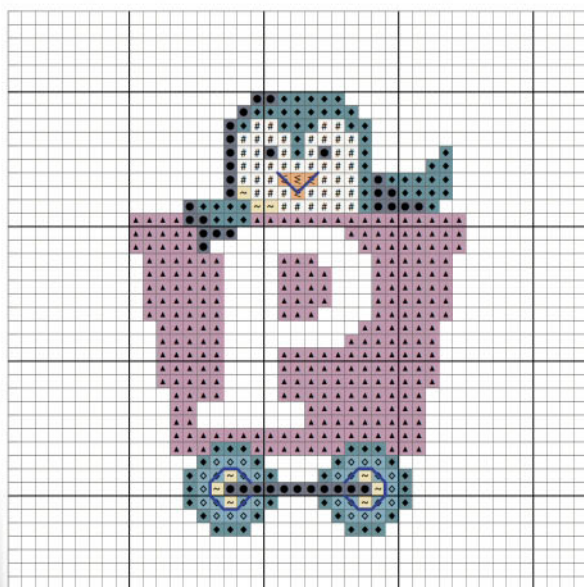
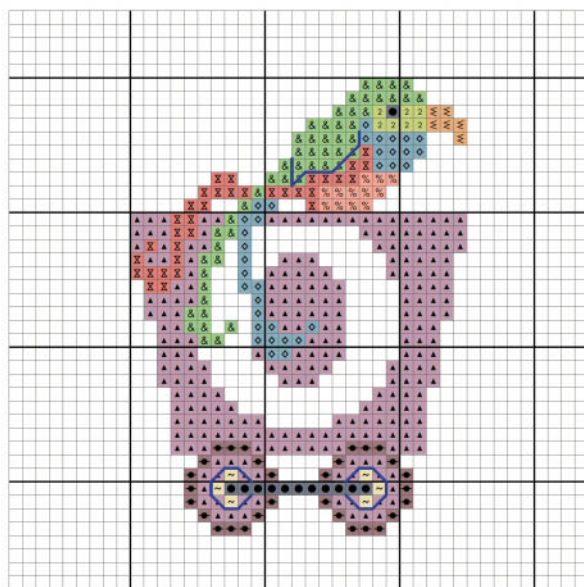
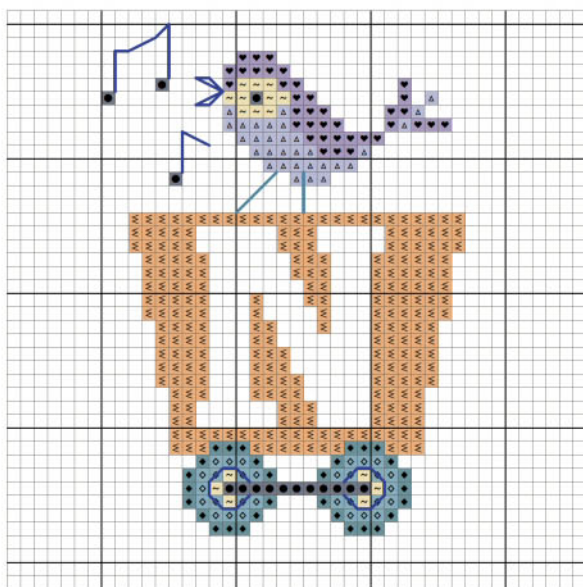
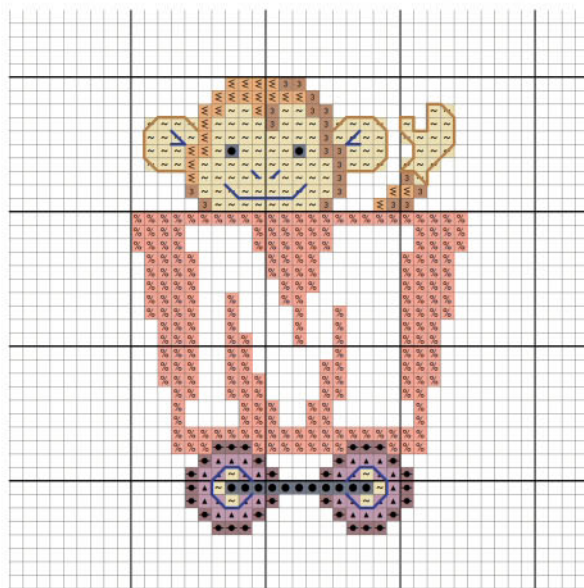
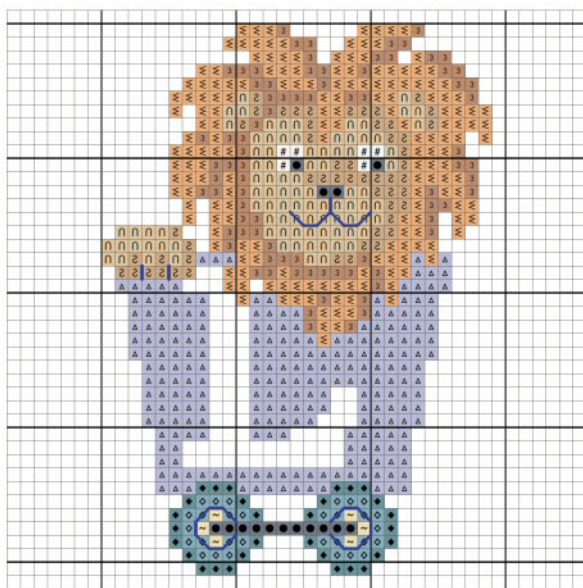


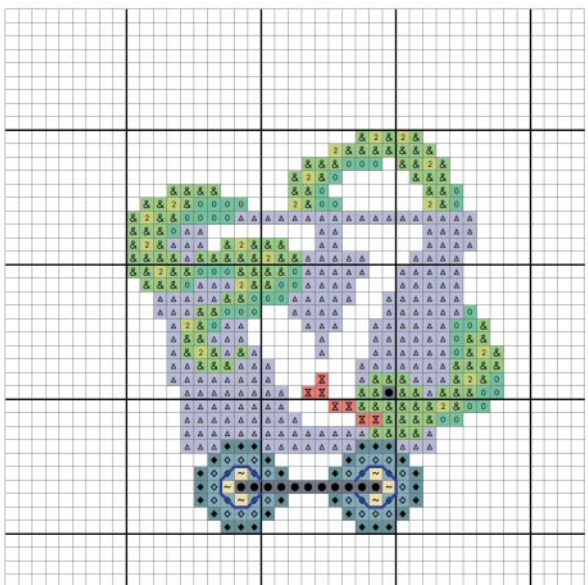
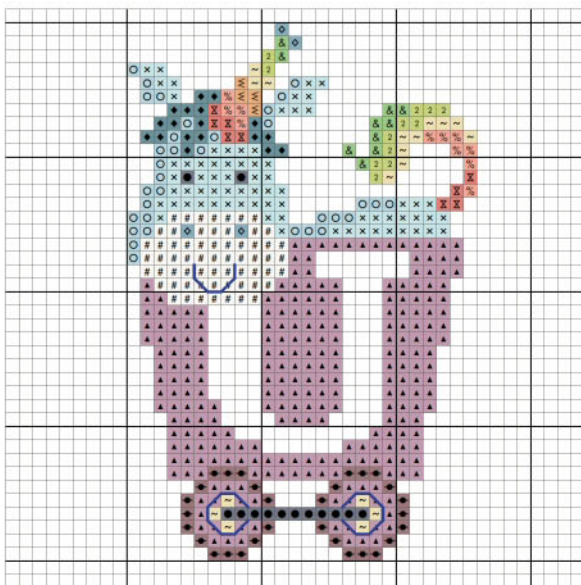
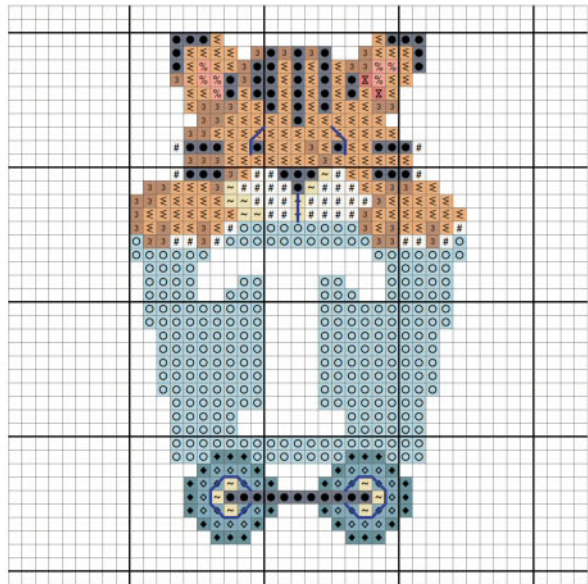
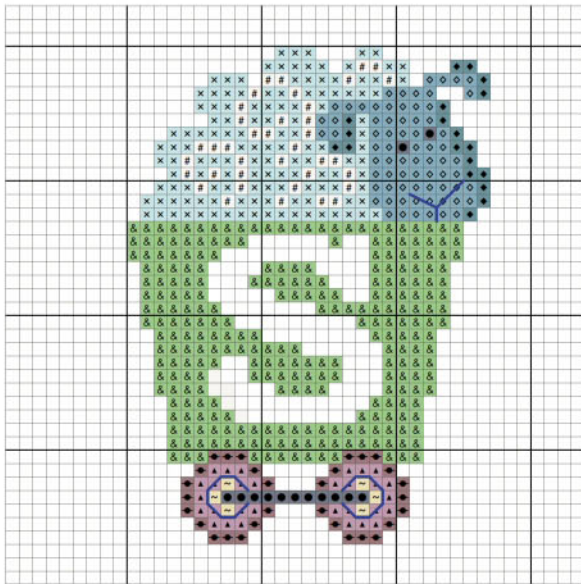
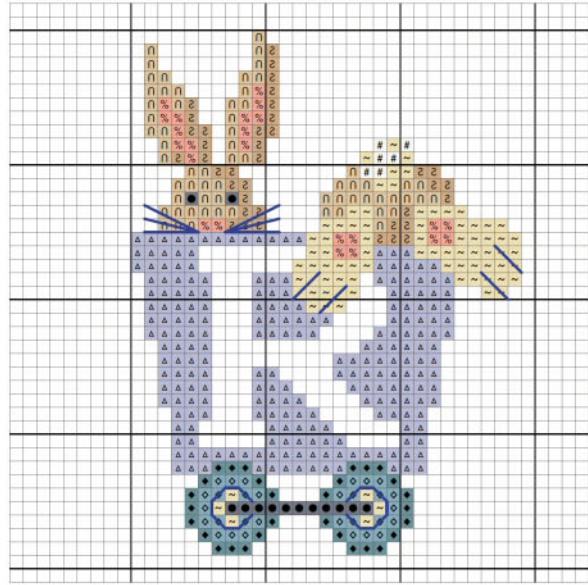
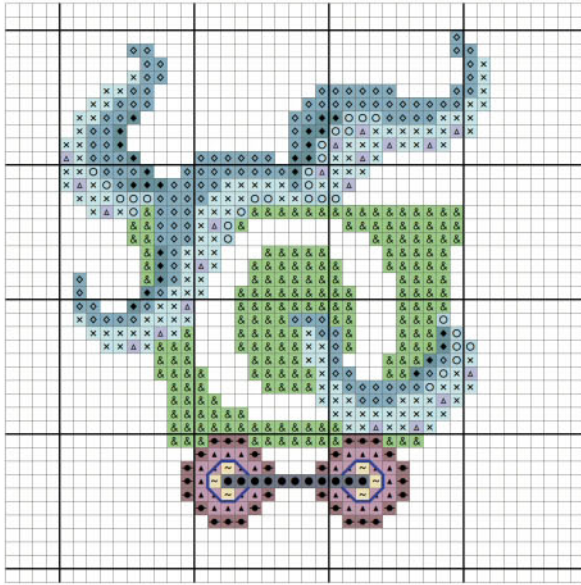
Animal Train was stitched on Zweigart White 14 count antique aida, ref: 3706/101, and each letter is approximately 38 high x 25 wide. The design size for each letter is approximately 7x5cm (2¾x2in), and it took our stitcher 14 hours to complete our alphabet train.

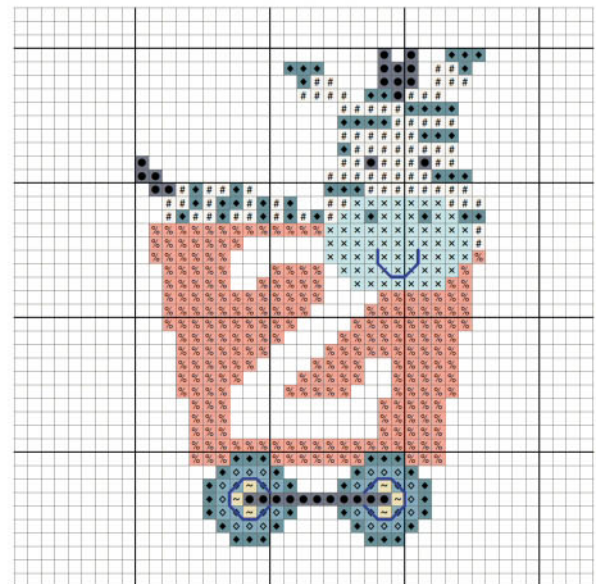
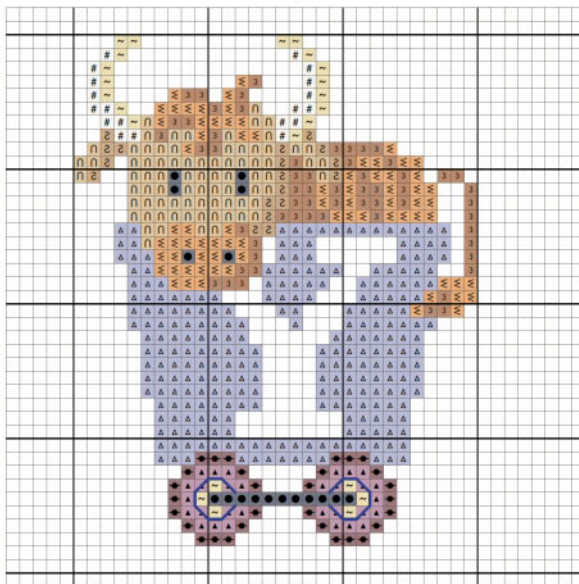
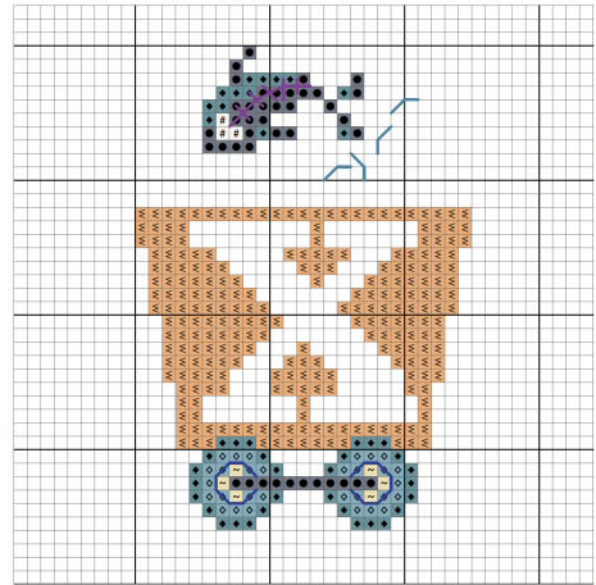
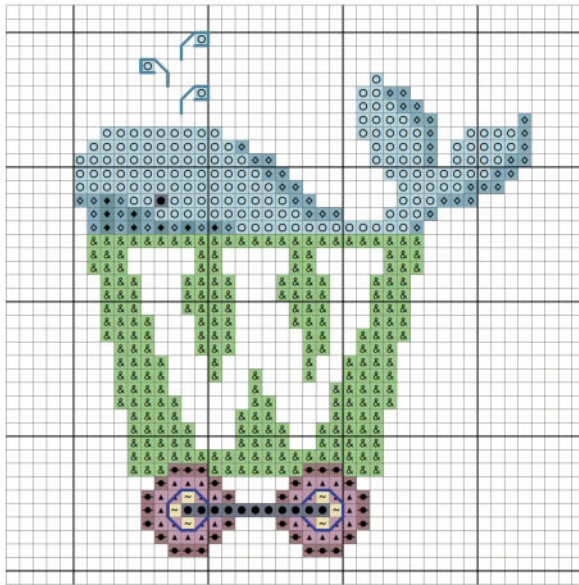


The train carriages
can be stitched in
colours to match a
child's bedroom









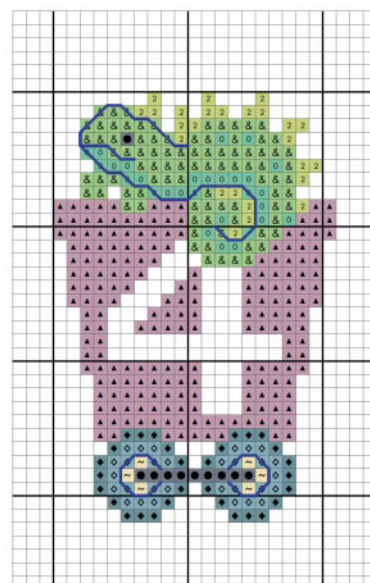
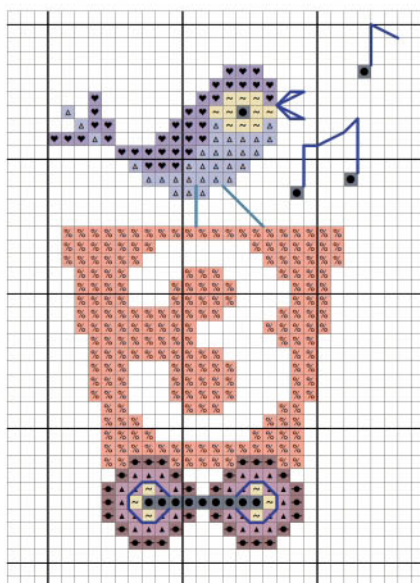
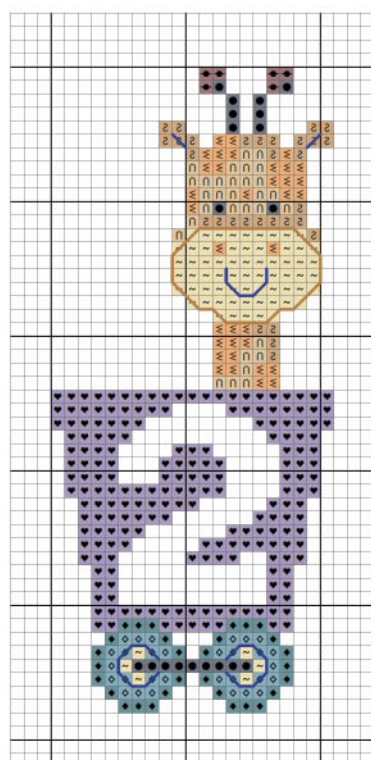
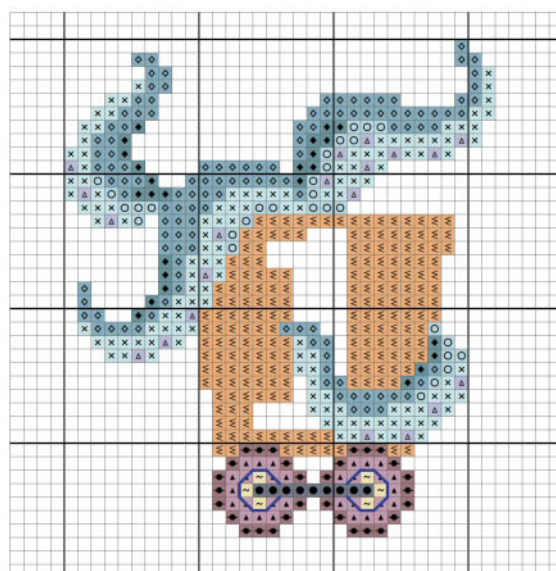
	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
♥ ♥	155	1030	902
● ●	315	1019	810
△ △	341	117	901
⊗ ⊗	350	011	213
% %	352	009	303
2 2	436	1045	2011
◇ ◇	518	1039	1106
~ ~	677	886	2207
& &	704	256	1308

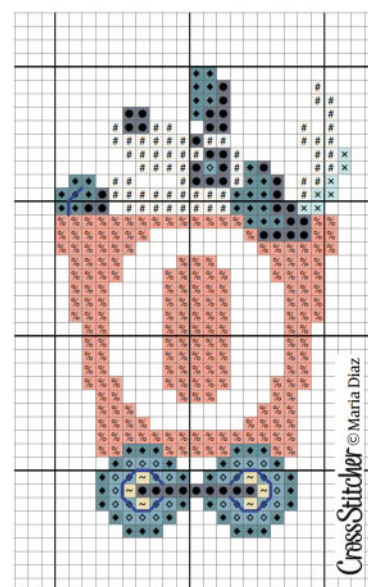
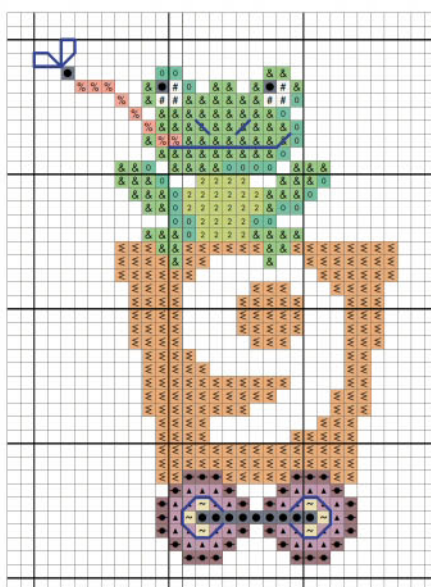
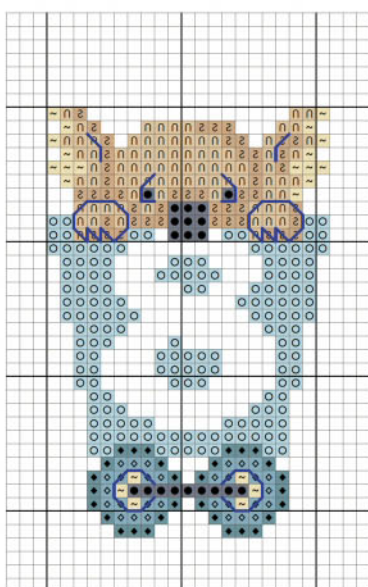
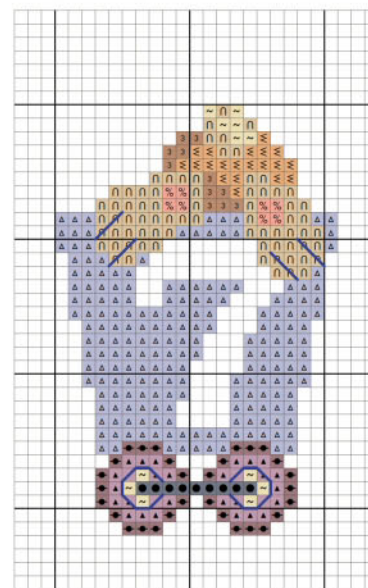
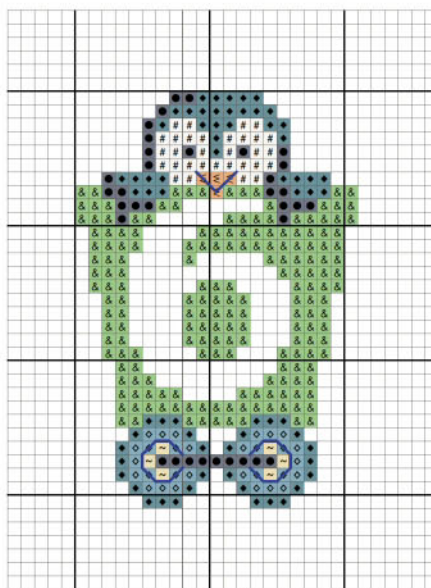
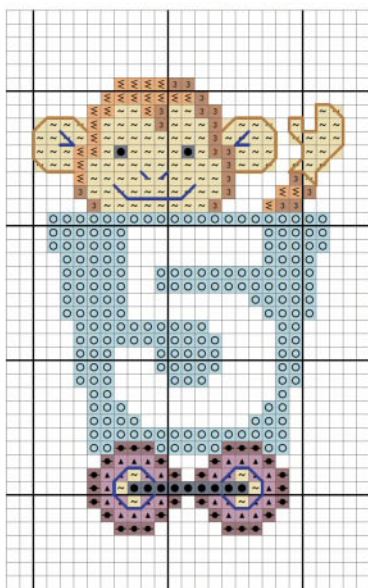
	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
∩ ∩	738	361	2013
× ×	747	158	1104
0 0	912	209	1213
≡ ≡	977	1002	2301
● ●	3750	1036	1712
○ ○	3761	928	1014
◆ ◆	3809	1066	2506
2 2	3819	278	2703
3 3	3826	365	2306

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
▲ ▲	3836	090	711
# #	3865	002	2402
Backstitch in one strand			
—	436	1045	2011
outlines & details			
—	518	1039	1106
outlines & details			
—	3750	1036	1712
outlines & details			
—	blanc	001	white
outlines & details			



Use a row of stitches to 'join' the carriages together to create your train





CrossStitcher © Maria Diaz

More to make...

Mix and match your letters to create more cute animal projects. Here are a few ideas to get you started...

- 1** Create a door sign for a child's room – simply stitch their name and frame it, attaching to the door securely with Velcro sticky pads.
- 2** For a quick birthday card, stitch the engine and the birthday number, then attach as a patch to a card blank.
- 3** Stitch the birth date on one train and name on another to make a gorgeous birth sampler for a baby.

NEXT MONTH...

Coming up in our April issue, we have animal prints alphabet and numbers designed by Maria Diaz – ideal for all sorts of projects for animal lovers young and old. Get to the shops on 3 March to pick up your copy of issue 316, or subscribe and the issue will be delivered to your door. Head over to page 34 for our latest subscription offer.

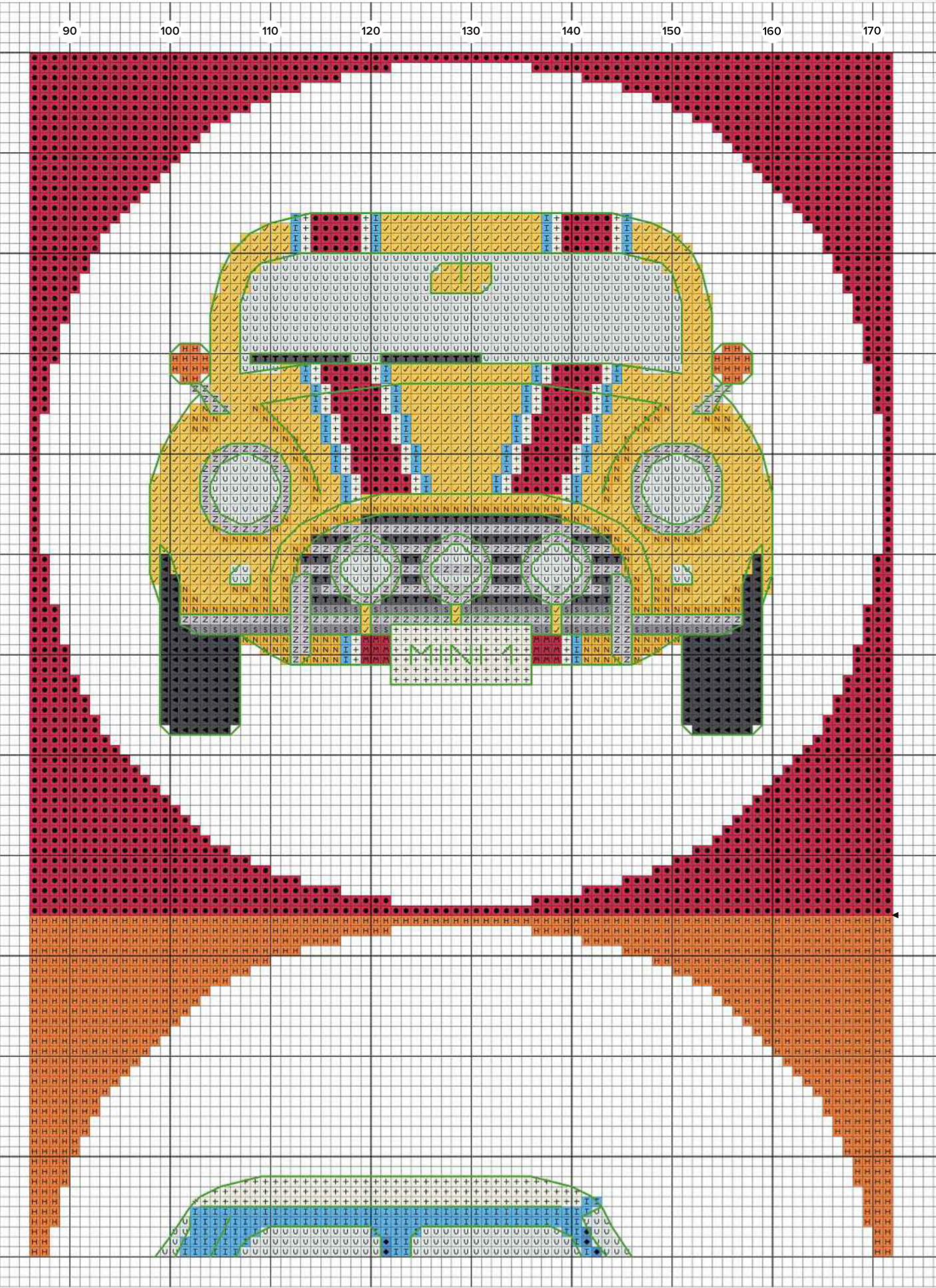




Auto Art



Beep, beep! Our pop art-style cushion features a retro rally of cool cars to help get your home décor into gear...

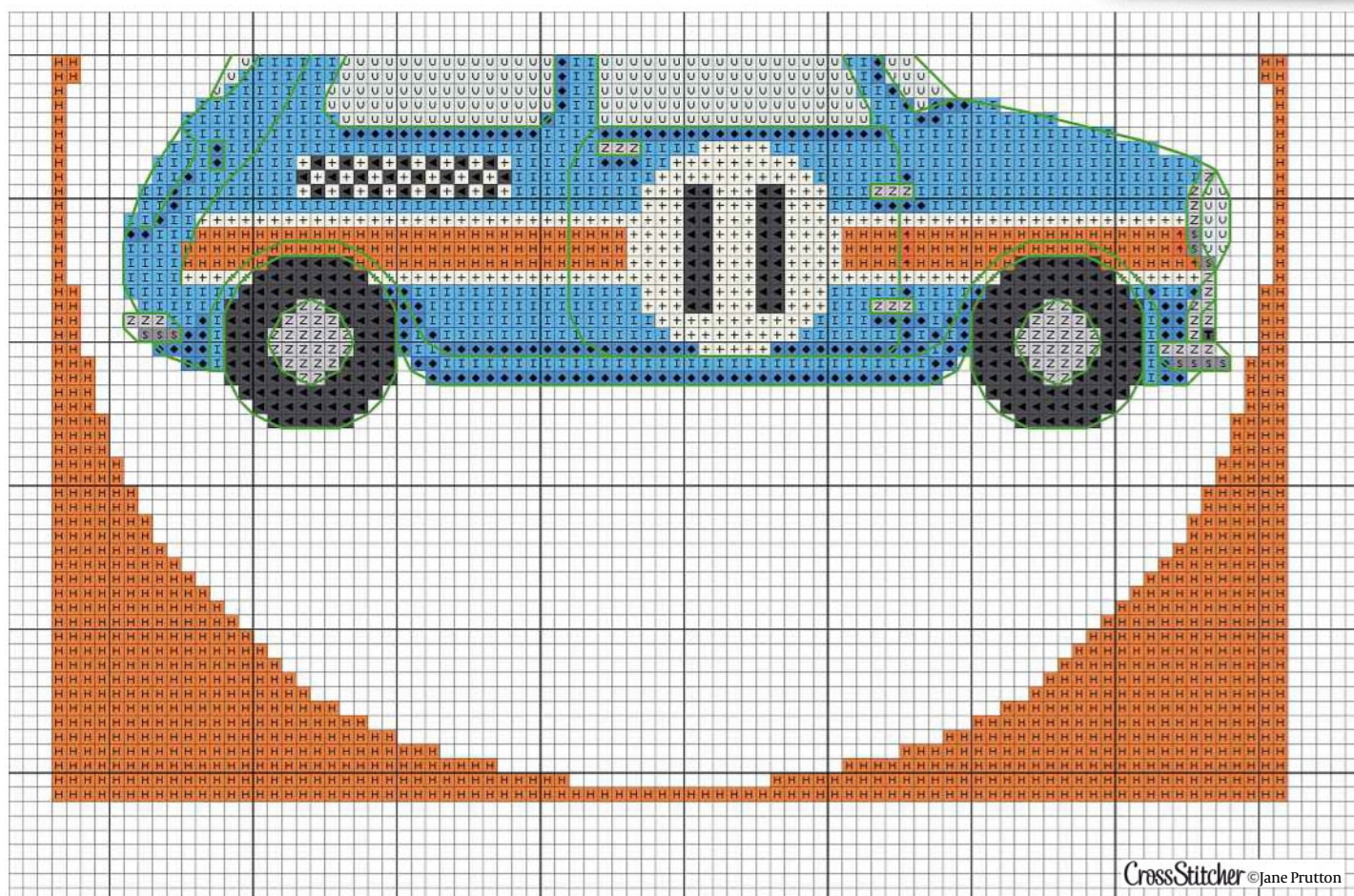


This design was stitched on 14 count aida fabric.

Take extra care with the backstitching which adds the smaller details and brings your cars to life

For stockist details see page 89

(2) indicates more than one skein is required



CrossStitcher © Jane Prutton

Make a... cushion

Step 1

WITH the stitching right-side up, place the backing fabric on top. Pin, then machine stitch, the cushion front and the backing fabric together with a 1.25cm (½in) seam allowance, but leaving a gap at the bottom for turning.

Step 2

TURN to the right side. Insert the cushion pad, and then sew up the gap with small, neat stitches.



BEST MUM EVER

BEST MUM EVER...

Say thank you on Mother's Day with our gorgeous gift-inspired cards, each with a cute cookie cutter frame





Designed by: Durene Jones

Max. stitch count: 38 high x 48 wide

Max. design size: 6x8.5cm (2¼x3¼in)

Stitch time: 3 hours each

These designs were stitched on 14 count aida fabric.

DMC Anchor Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands

N N 605 074 613

↑ ↑ 828 975 1101

+ + 958 187 1114

U U 964 1092 1112

H H 996 433 1103

Z Z 3761 928 1014

S S 3804 068 703

X X 3806 062 701

• • B5200 001 white

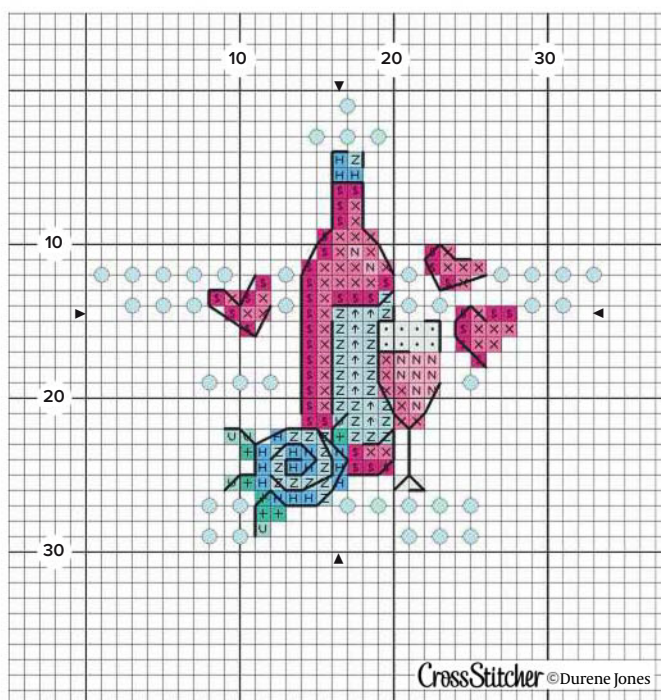
Backstitch in one strand

— 3799 236 1713
outlines

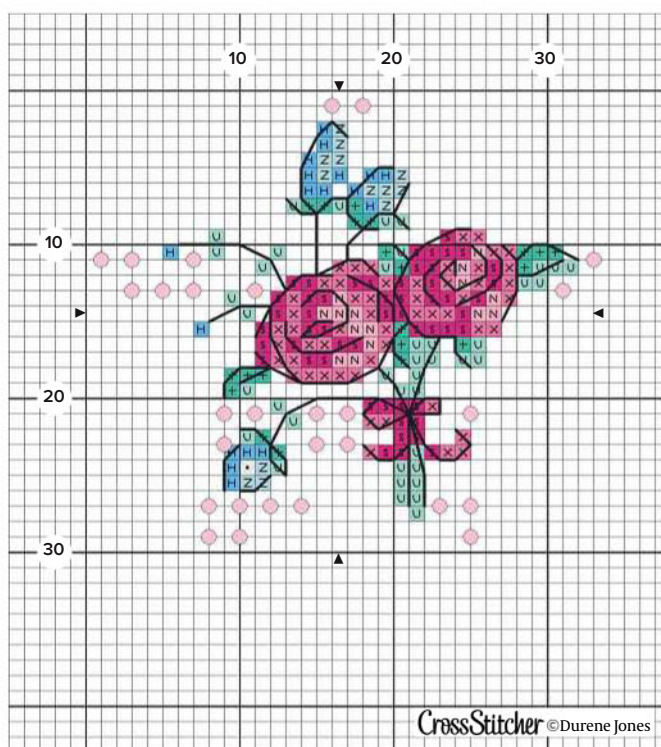
French knots in one strand

● 605 074 613
decoration

● 828 975 1101
decoration



CrossStitcher ©Durene Jones



CrossStitcher ©Durene Jones

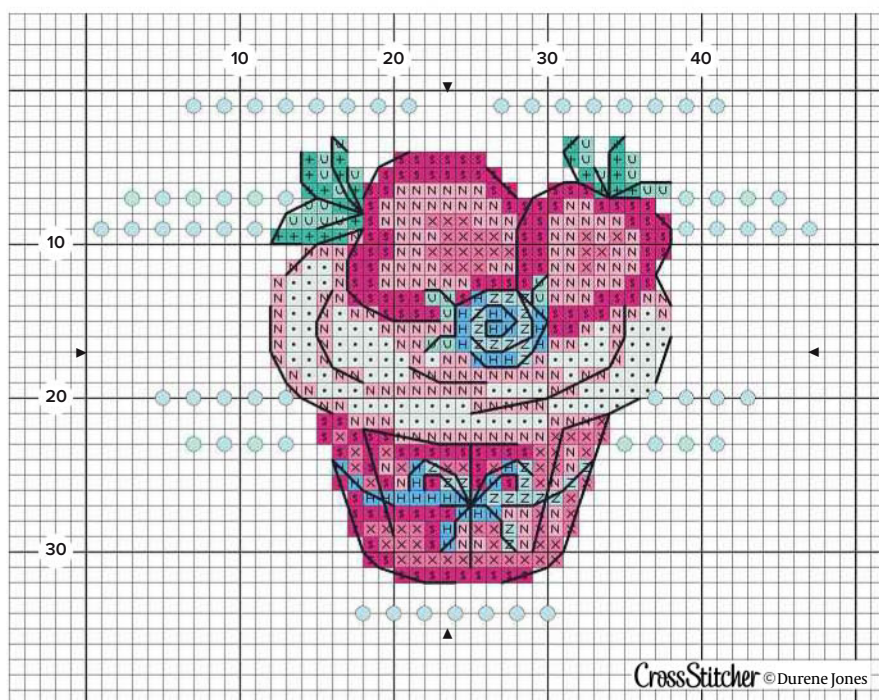
Materials

For each card

- Zweigart White 14 count aida, ref: 3706/100; 13x13cm (5x5in)
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Size 24 tapestry needle
- Ribbon; 1cm wide x 20cm (8in)
- Felt backing; 9x9cm (3½x3½in)
- Cookie cutter; star or heart
- Cream card blank; 14.5x10.5cm (5¾x4¼in) approximately
- Cardboard to back cookie cutter

For stockist details see page 89

Your mum can keep your stitching as a hanging keepsake by detaching the ribbon from the inside of the card



Make a... cookie cutter card

Step 1

WORK all the cross stitch in two strands of stranded cotton, and the backstitch and French knots in one strand.

Step 2

MAKE a cardboard shape to fit inside the cookie cutter. To do this, draw around the cutter, transferring the shape to the cardboard. Cut out using sharp scissors, and then trim away a small amount of cardboard from the edges, until it fits inside the cutter shape.

Step 3

PLACE the cardboard shape on the reverse side of the stitched aida. Make sure that the design is centrally placed on the shape. Draw around the shape with a pencil working on the wrong side of the stitching. Cut out the shape from the aida, adding 1.25cm (½in) outside of the pencil line.

Step 4

WRAP the stitching around the cardboard, cutting 'v' shaped indents to help ease the aida around the shape. Use double-sided tape to attach the stitching to the cardboard.

Step 5

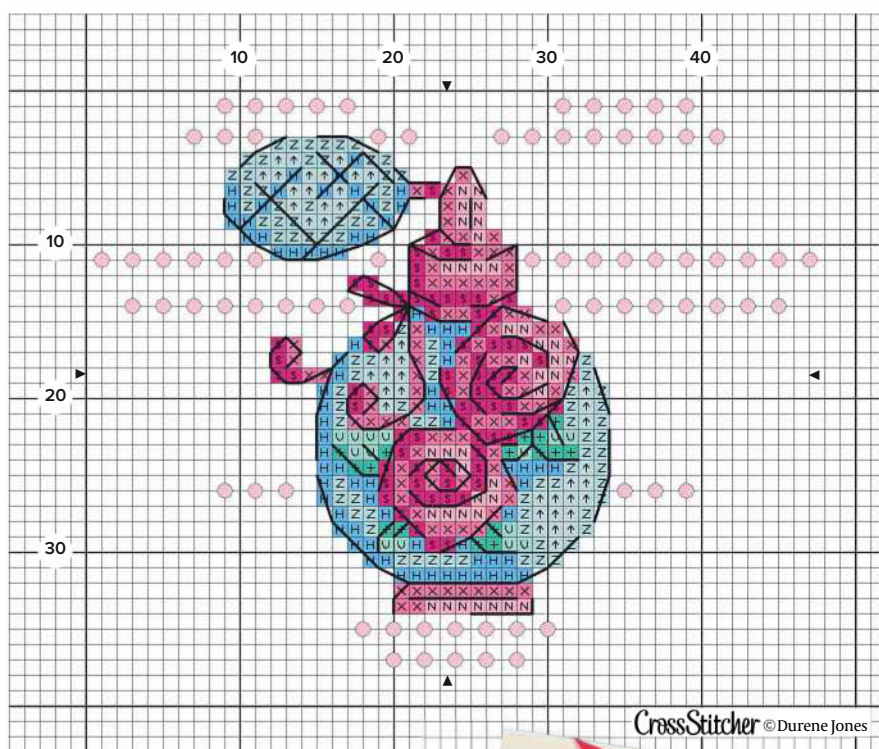
CUT a felt shape to fit the back of the covered cardboard. Stitch or glue this to the back.

Step 6

USE a hole punch to make a hole in the centre top of the card. Cut a length of ribbon long enough to go between the back of the assembled shape, and through the hole to the inside of the card. Sew one end of the ribbon to the felt on the back of the shape. Push the assembled shape back into the cutter.

Step 7

THREAD the other end of the ribbon through the hole in the card, and then glue it to the inside of the card to hold the cutter in place. Make a small bow with the rest of the ribbon, and attach this to the card to cover the hole made in the cardboard.





Baby Steps

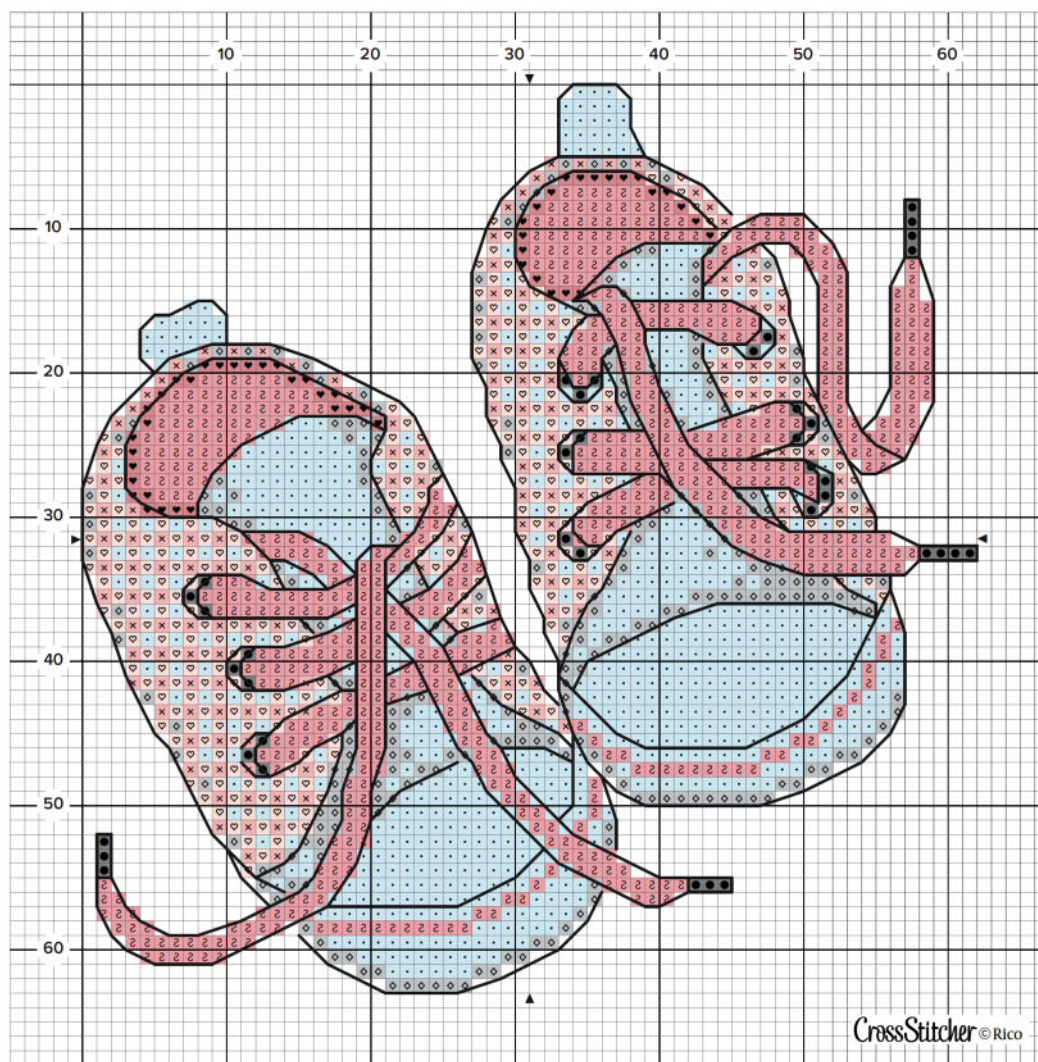
Hello baby! Rico's pair of baby booties can be stitched for a newborn boy or girl and would make a great card too...



MORE TO MAKE...

Our cute booties were taken from Rico Designs' *Little Friends* chart book (No. 126). Visit www.rico-design.de/en for details of your nearest UK stockist.

Buy a double frame if you'd like to follow our idea in the picture, and pair your stitching with another baby memento



Designed by: Rico

Stitch count: 63 high x 63 wide plus name

Design size: 11.5x11.5cm (4½x4½in) plus name

Stitch time: 10 hours

This design was stitched on 14 count aida fabric.

Materials

For each pair of shoes

- 14 count white aida, ref: 3706/100; 26x22cm (10x9in)
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Size 24 tapestry needle
- Frame with a 19x14.5cm (8x6in) aperture

For stockist details see page 89

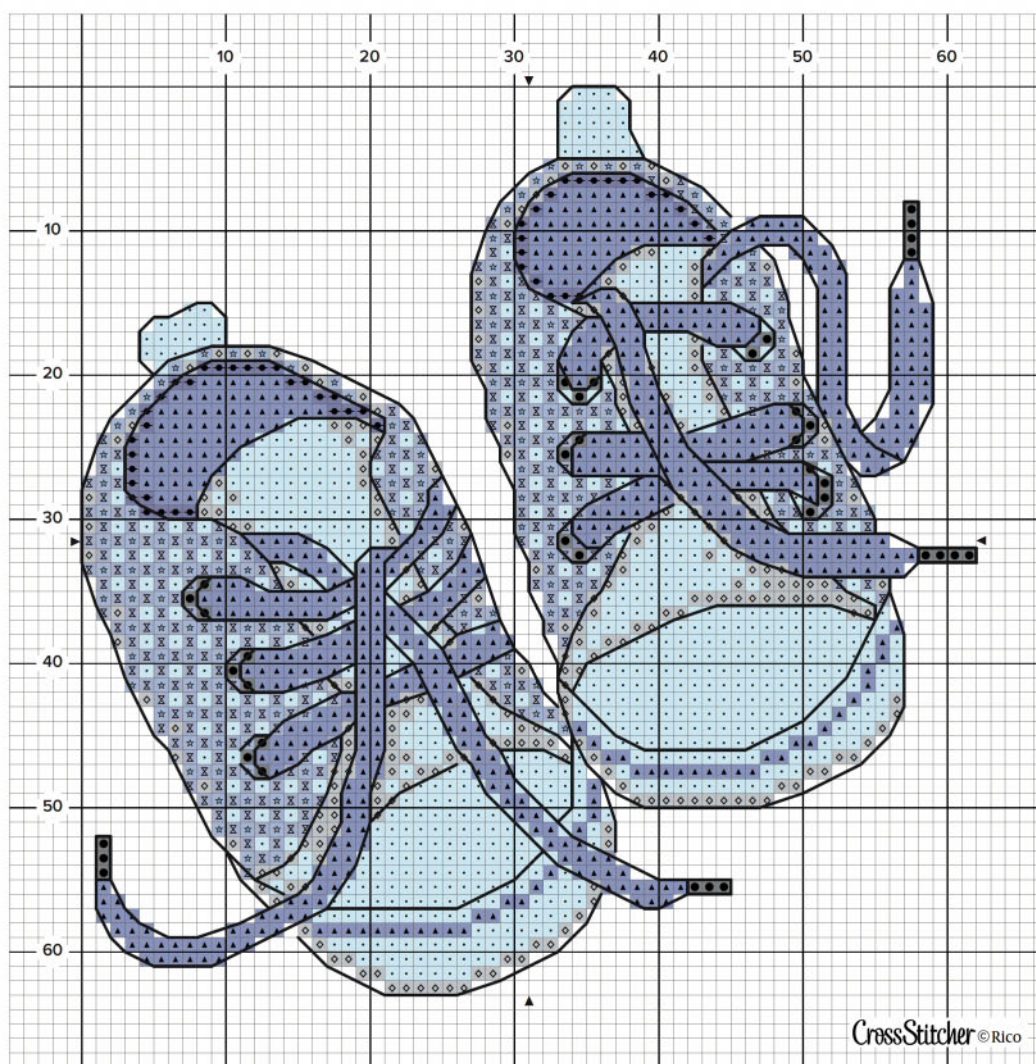
DMC Anchor Madeira Cross stitch in two strands

● ●	413	401	1713
◇ ◇	415	398	1803
⊗ ⊗	794	117	907
● ●	797	931	912
▲ ▲	798	131	911
☆ ☆	809	130	909
♥ ♥	818	073	502
× ×	3354	074	606
♥ ♥	3731	076	506
2 2	3733	075	813
• •	B5200	001	white

Backstitch in one strand

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

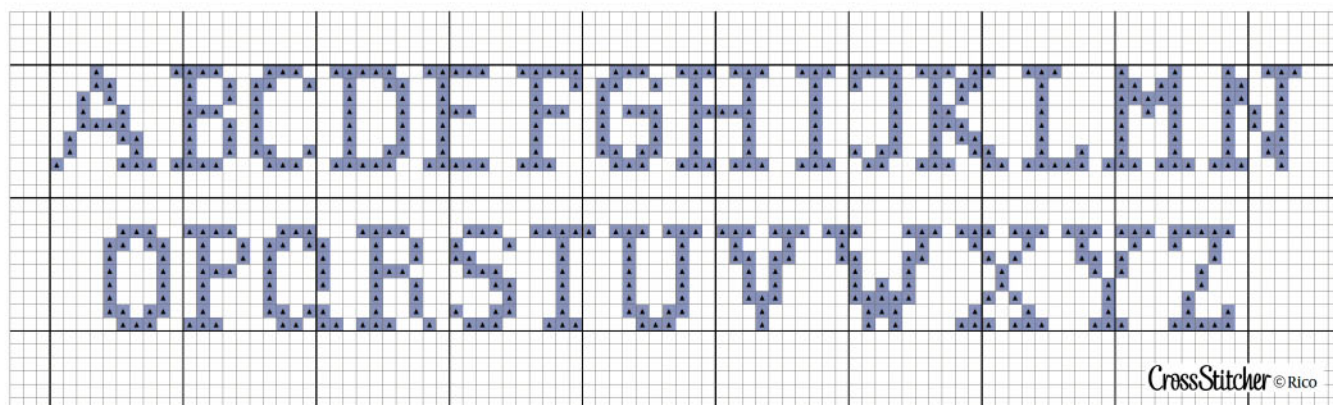
outlines



Designed by: Rico Stitch count: 63 high x 63 wide plus name
Design size: 11.5x11.5cm (4½x4½in) plus name Stitch time: 10 hours

This design was stitched on 14 count aida fabric.

Use our alphabet below to personalise
your stitched keepsake!



Your stitching

Drop us a line to pin your projects into our album!
Email your photos to crossstitcher@dennis.co.uk or write to us at *CrossStitcher*, PO Box 172, Northam, EX39 9DY



I made the Cuddle Up pillow (issue 284) for myself; the Love Birds pillow (issue 262) is a wedding gift for my best friend.
Ashley, San Diego, USA



All ready for the husband! Thank you for a lovely design. I changed colours to match our clothes and changed his moustache to a beard.
Sarah McKeown, South Yorkshire



Here's the Christmas jumpers on a washing line, taken from issue 299. I stitched them for myself last Christmas!
Anna Berry, South Carolina, USA



I changed the Santa mat (issue 312) so some of the wording (and font) is different to suit our family traditions.
Ginny Pledger, Northamptonshire



Here's 'Top Trunks' from issue 310, stitched for my friend Coran's new baby, and made into a cushion by my good friend Lorraine.
Sharon Povey, Buckinghamshire



This is my birdcage keyring that was the free gift in issue 296. It was very simple to stitch - it's like a therapy for me!
Cigdem Saltik, Turkey



I wanted to share with you the yoga mat bag which I made for a friend for her birthday. I used your yoga letter library from issue 308. Her yoga classmates thought it was amazing!
Zena Massey, Hampshire



I stitched the typewriter by Lucy Heaton (issue 290) for my daughter and son-in-law. We customised the typed message.
Yula Oljel, Israel

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Ready, steady, stitch!

We've asked three designers to create a stitching-themed purse using only a limited set of stash-busting supplies... let the challenge begin!

THE CHALLENGE

- One piece of light rustic evenweave
- Five shades of stranded cotton (shown above)
- Up to three mini wooden cotton reels
- One mystery ingredient of your own choice

THE RULES

- The design is to be used for a stitcher's purse
- Only the materials above can be used
- The design must be no larger than 56x56 stitches
- No fractional stitches allowed
- Be creative as possible!

Welcome to our March stitching challenge. This time we've gone for a project with a needlecraft theme. We asked our designers to come up with a purse that a stitcher might keep in her bag. Their thread choices were limited, but they were allowed one mystery ingredient each and each of them had to include a mini cotton reel or three in their design! Read the challenge rules on the left to see exactly what they were given. We hope you'll be inspired to join in too – turn the page to see what our challenge will be for May – we've listed everything you need to take part.

DIANE MACHIN... SEWING FOREVER



"I think every dedicated crafter will appreciate this sentiment, and the older I get, the more accurate it is! I couldn't resist adding sparkly blue thread to the bird motifs as my mystery item, which looks great against the rustic evenweave."

SHANNON WASILIEFF... SEW HAPPY



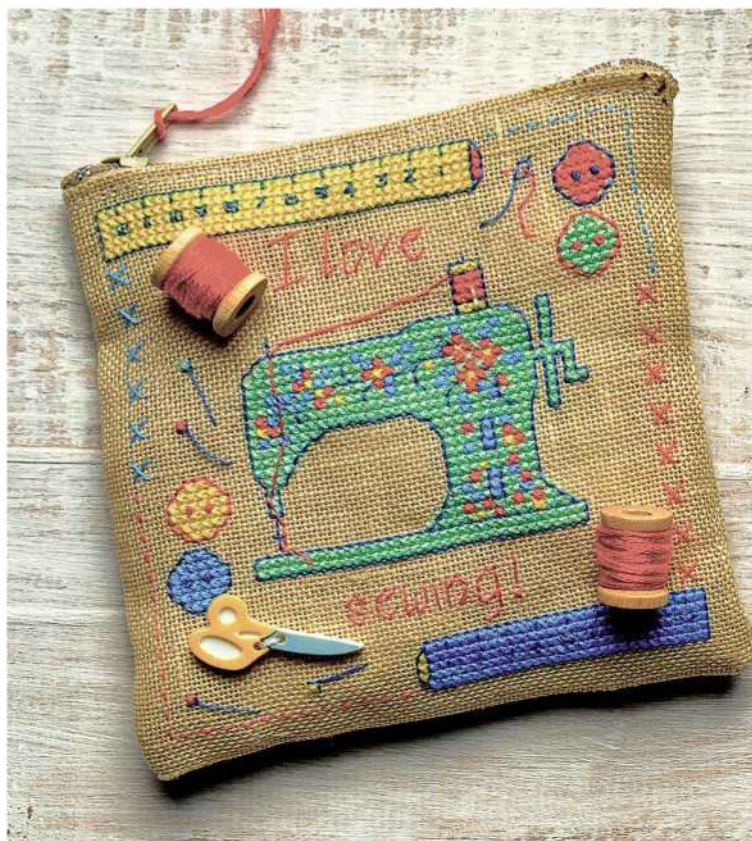
"The colour palette in the challenge is quite different to what I normally go for, so instead of adding a new colour for shading or backstitching, I challenged myself to only use those provided so I could include a strip of lace trim for my mystery item."



SUSAN BATES... I LOVE SEWING



"I saw the scissor shaped button at a local fair, so decided to have this as my mystery item. To add to the sewing theme, the pale green made me think of the sewing machine my mum owned when I was little, as it was this colour. I learnt to sew with this machine, so it has happy memories for me. By using the darker blue as backstitch, things fell into place, especially when I knew that the green sewing machine was going to be the focal point of my design."





Make a... zippered purse

Step 1

CUT a piece of evenweave the same size as your stitched purse front, for the back. Turn over the top edge of the purse front and back, so that you have 7mm (1/4in) above the stitching. Press in place. Open up a 10cm (4in) zip, and then place one side on the reverse side of the stitching, so that the zip is at the top of your purse front, with the teeth facing up. Machine stitch in place, close to the zip's teeth. Repeat for the purse back.

Step 2

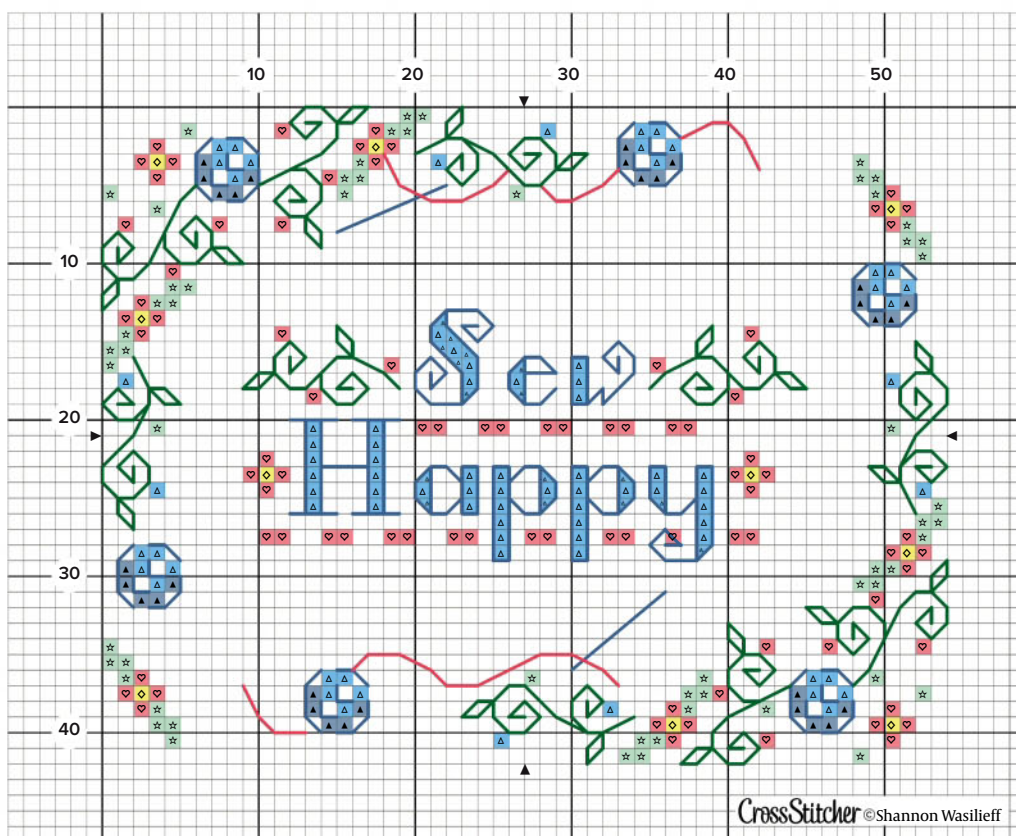
PIN the purse front and back together, aligning the zip. Stitch down the side seams and along the bottom of the purse. Neaten the seams and clip the corners before turning to the right side.














Step 3

WRAP stranded cotton onto the cotton reels, and stitch to the front of the purse, into the positions shown on our photos. Sew the scissor charm to the front of the 'I Love Sewing' purse.

We gave our designers mini cotton reels from Amazon, you can also find them in good craft shops - Etsy is another place you can source them online





	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
	307	289	104
	517	162	1107
	892	028	412
	955	206	1210
	996	433	1103
	E334 light effects		
Backstitch in two strands			
	955	206	1210
	foliage		
Backstitch in one strand			
	517	162	1107
	words, outlines		
	892	028	412
	thread, words		
	955	206	1210
	border		
	996	433	1103
	sewing, decoration		
French knots in one strand			
	517	162	1107
	eyes, buttonholes		
	892	028	412
	buttonholes		

SEE YOUR WORK HERE!

If you would like to take the challenge, post your stitching on our Facebook page and we will then pin it on our Stitching Challenge board on Pinterest... so get designing!

May issue 317 challenge:

Please create a design to go on the front of a modern needlecase. A portion of the design should be formed of a patterned fabric, to be used as a strip.

Materials and rules:

- One piece of white 28 count evenweave fabric
 - Five shades of DMC stranded cotton: 3787 (dark brown-grey), 518 (light Wedgewood), 993 (light aquamarine), 3821 (straw) & 922 (light copper)
 - A piece of Liberty Lawn 'Felicite C' fabric (dimensions of your choice)
 - One mystery item of your own
 - Design size: 56x50 stitches max (to include Liberty fabric within these measurements).
- Although we are not judging your designs, this is a stitching challenge, so please make sure you play fair, and that all parts of the design are your own work, and not copied from any other source.



Let's get
inspired

FABULOUS FURNISHINGS

House proud? You'll love our home décor motifs which can be used for a whole host of interior inspired projects

Designed by: Michaela Learner



Make a... needle case

Step 1

COMPLETE the stitching then fray the edges of the evenweave, carefully removing one thread at a time.

Step 2

PLACE the red felt on top of the white. Fold in half widthways, and then stitch down the fold which will be the spine of the needle case.

Step 3

PIN the stitching on the front of the needle case, making sure you attach it to just one layer of felt. Using a sewing machine, stitch around the edge of the fabric, just inside the frayed edge.

Step 4

TIE the cord or string around the spine of the needle case, adding a few stitches to hold it in place.

For smaller projects, try taking sections of our designs and pick and mix to create new scenes



MATERIALS

Sewing machine

- Zweigart White 27 count Linda, ref: 1235/100; 9x7.5cm (3½x3in)
- Red felt; 11x19cm (4¼x7½in)
- White felt; 11x19cm (4¼x7½in)
- Cord or string; 30cm (12in)

Peg bag

- Zweigart White 14 count aida, ref: 3706/100; 9x14cm (3½x5½in)
- Peg bag

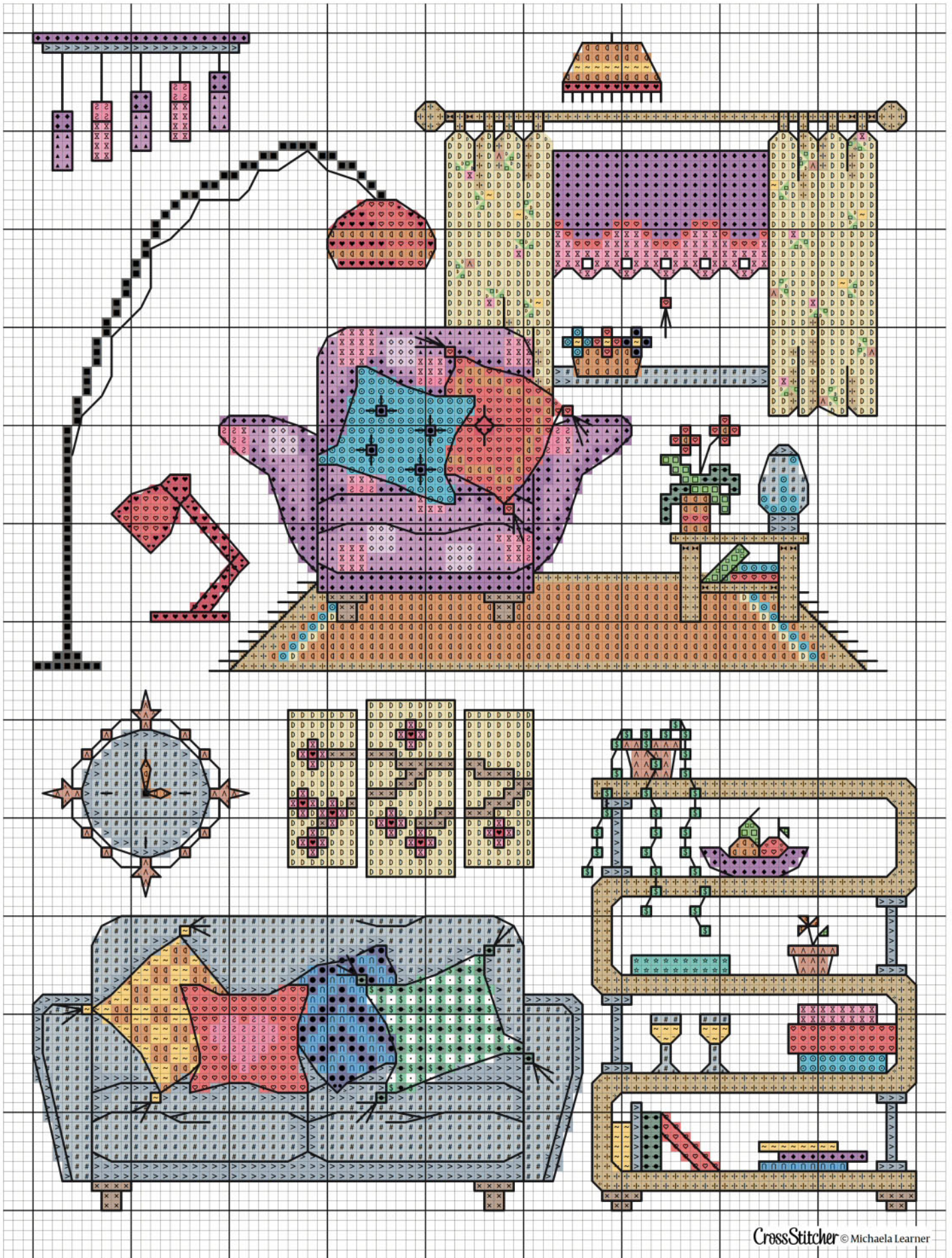
Bath mitt

- Wash mitt with 14 count aida panel

For all

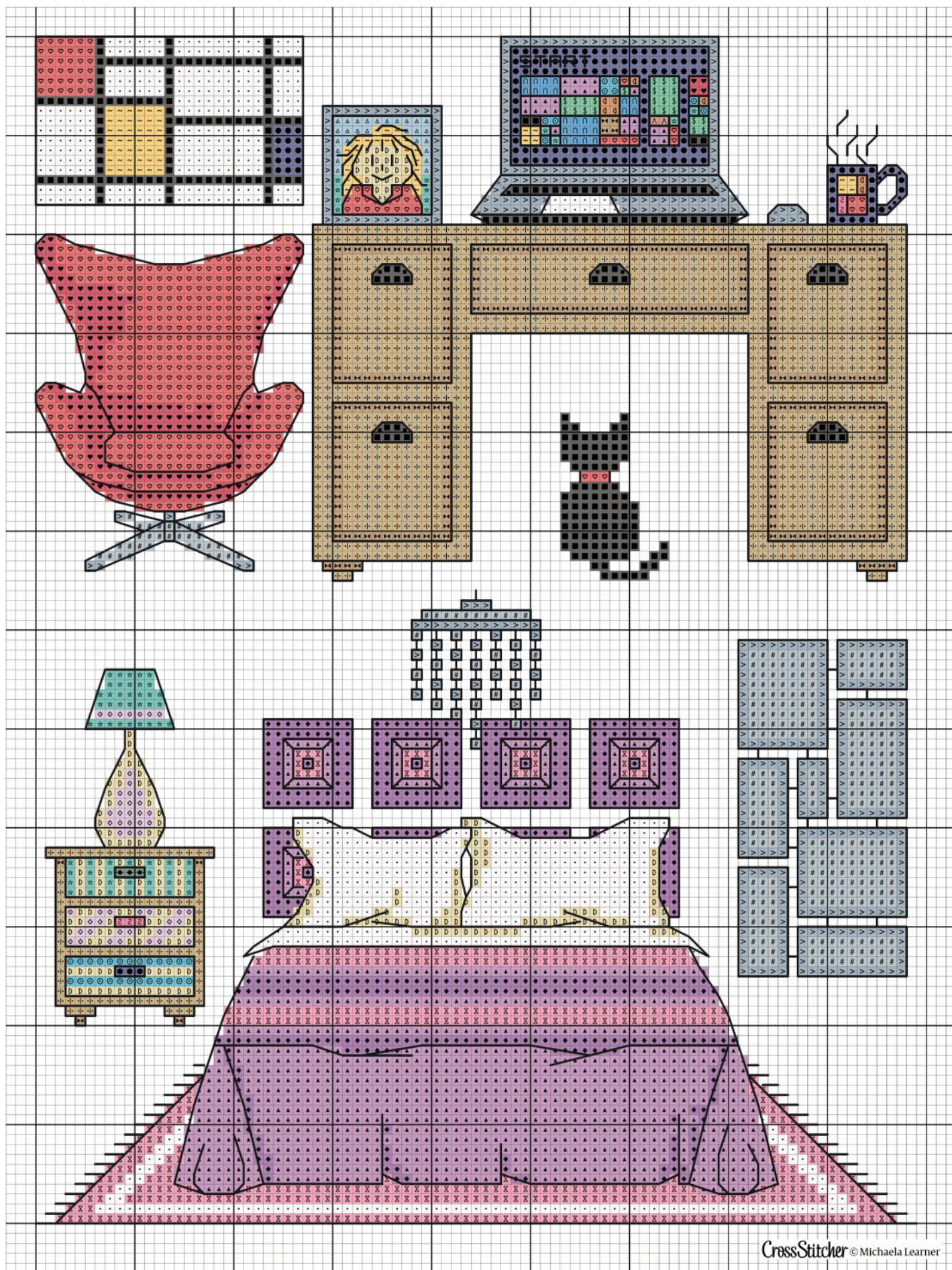
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Size 24 tapestry needle

For stockist details see page 89



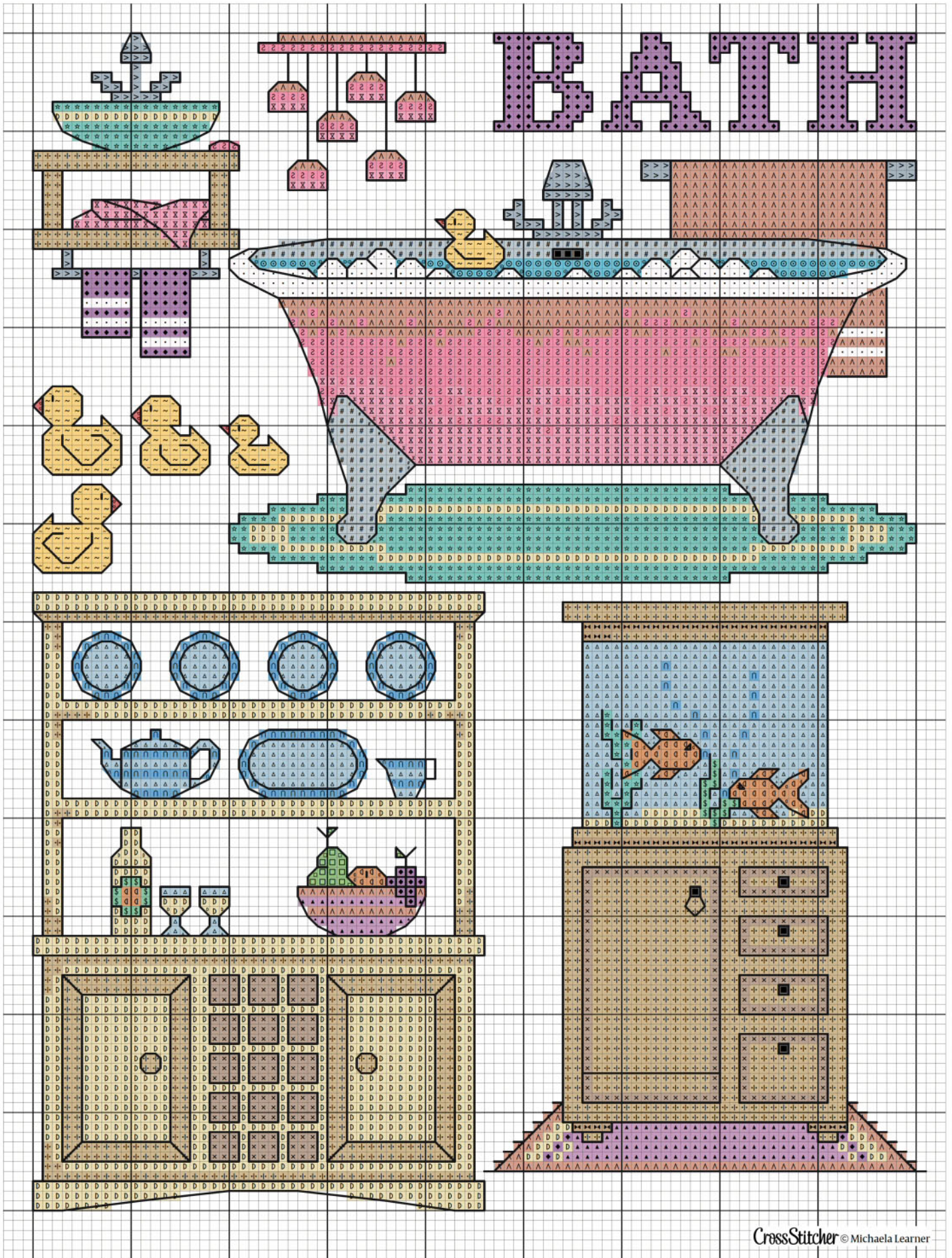
CrossStitcher © Michaela Learner





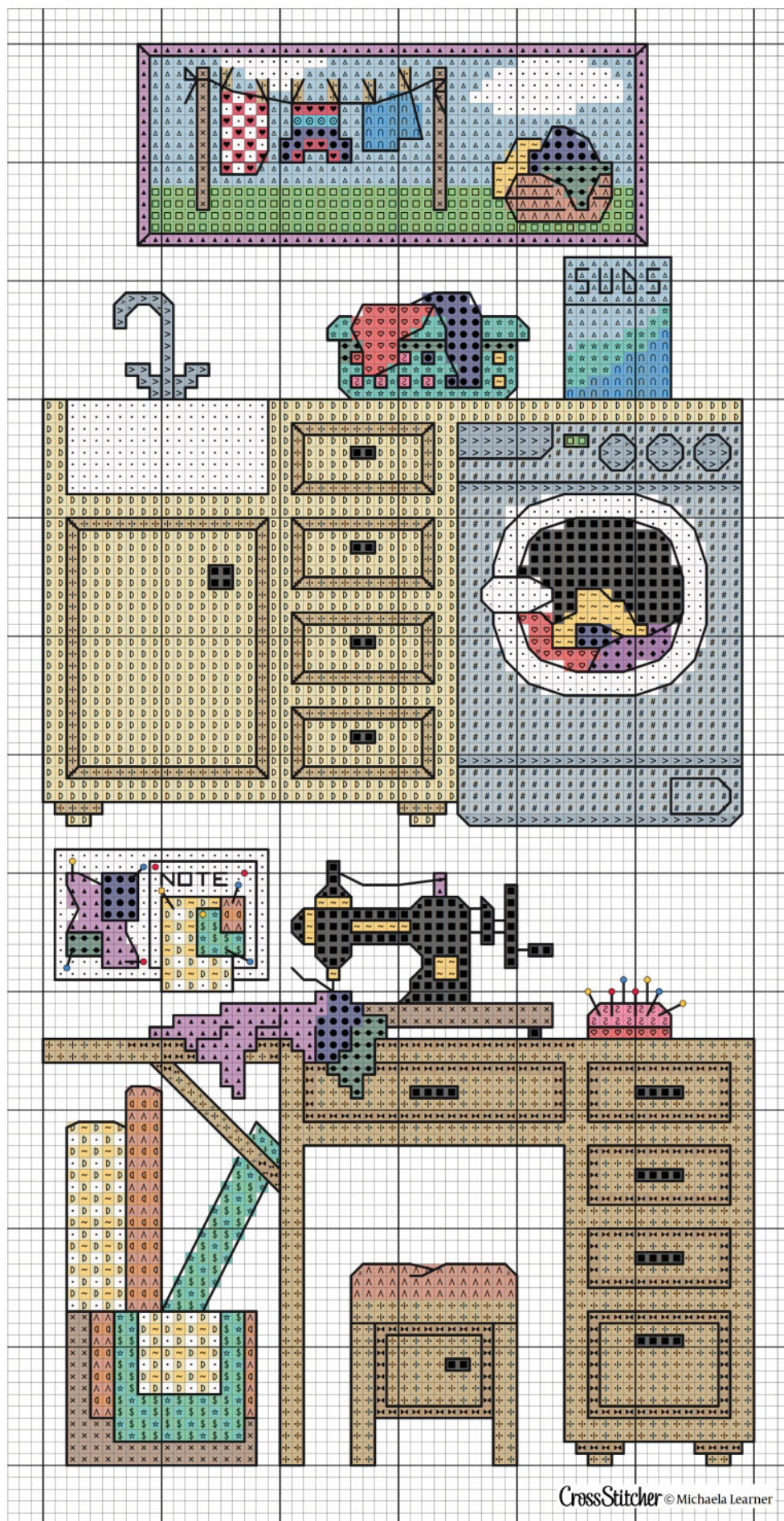
CrossStitcher © Michaela Learner





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CrossStitcher © Michaela Learner

FABRIC & THREADS

Our designs were stitched on 14 count aida and 27 count evenweave over two threads of fabric. The cross stitch is in two strands and the backstitch and French knots are in one strand. The stitch count, design size and stitch time will depend on which motif or scene you choose to stitch.

More to make...

Our home décor motifs are great for all sorts of projects. Here are some more ideas you could make...

- 1** Use waste canvas to decorate a plain hot water bottle cover with the bed design.
- 2** The craft room motifs are perfect for making a birthday card for a stitching friend.
- 3** Stitch four household scenes and attach them to the inside of an empty shoe box to create a mini doll's house for a child.





If you can't find items with a ready-to-stitch panel, work your design on aida band and attach to your item with slip stitches

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
	163	877	1205
	208	111	804
	209	109	803
	211	342	801
	310	403	black
	422	943	2102
	603	052	701
	604	055	614
	666	046	210
	677	886	2207
	704	256	1308
	725	306	808
	797	931	912
	827	160	1014
	841	1082	1911
	913	204	1212
	932	920	1710
	959	186	1113
	3752	1033	1001
	3778	1013	403
	3801	1098	411
	3828	373	2104
	3843	1089	1102
	3846	433	1103
	3853	1003	311
	blanc	001	white
Backstitch in one strand			
	310	403	black
outlines			
French knots in one strand			
	725	306	808
pins			
	3801	1098	411
pins			
	3843	1089	1102
pins			



STITCHING
PRIZES
FOR YOU!

CrossStitcher PRIZE TIME!

We've got some great cross stitch giveaways up for grabs – make sure you enter today for your chance to win!

Giveaways open 3 February – 2 March 2017



£32
prize

Mermaid Cove kit

One lucky winner will receive this Mermaid Cove kit (ref: XE1) from Bothy Threads. Worked on hand-dyed aida, the design is stitched in whole stitches and backstitch, and is embellished with silver metallic thread, sequins, and shells. This charming silhouette of a mermaid, turtles, fish and a seahorse, sparkles when the light catches the metallic thread. The finished size on 14 count aida measures 26x36cm, and it is available from www.bothythreads.com (RRP £31.99.)

Enter by post to the address below, labelling your entry 'MERMAID COVE GIVEAWAY XST315'.

Stitch, Fabric & Thread books

This stunning book by Elizabeth Healey encourages people to experiment and create their own unique textiles. Created for people who are interested in embroidery and stitching generally, *Stitch, Fabric & Thread*, presents the material in a way



£45 of
prizes

that is visually exciting and stimulating and is a treasure trove of over 40 inspiring practical, creative exercises.

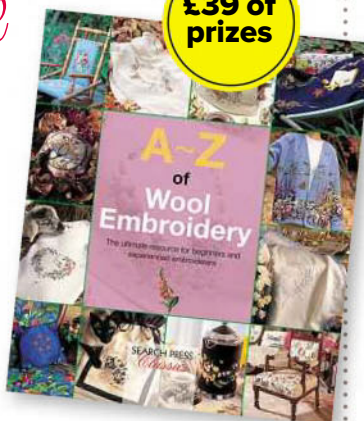
Stitch, Fabric & Thread is published by Search Press (£14.99). Go to www.searchpress.com for more details. We have three copies to give away.

Enter by post to the address below, labelling your entry 'STITCH, FABRIC & THREAD GIVEAWAY XST315'.

A-Z of Wool Embroidery books

The A-Z of Wool Embroidery (£12.99) is a fantastic resource for anyone interested in this particular niche of embroidery. Part of the bestselling A-Z series, this title explores the handiest stitches and techniques to use. Clear step-by-step instructions lead the reader through the stitches themselves, and beautiful designs created by *Inspirations* magazine (Country Bumpkin) in Australia, provide examples for readers to base their work on. There are 900 illustrations and it is the complete guide to every stitch imaginable. Visit www.searchpress.com for more details. We have three books to give away.

Enter by post to the address below, labelling your entry 'A-Z OF WOOL EMBROIDERY GIVEAWAY XST315'.

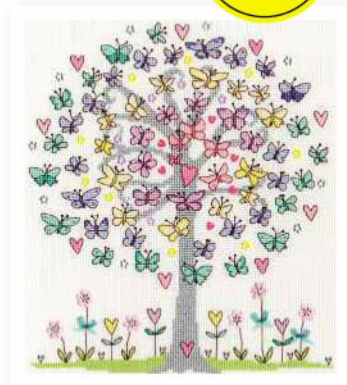


£39 of
prizes

Love Spring kit

Kim Anderson for Bothy Threads has designed a beautiful 'butterfly' tree, adorned with hearts and flowers. The kit has a rather special feel with the addition of metallic thread, Organdy ribbon, sequins and satin flowers as well as the usual contents.

Love Spring (ref: XKA10) is the perfect stitch for March, and one lucky reader will soon be receiving her kit in the post. The finished design, on 14 count white aida, measures 23x26cm, and is available from www.bothythreads.com (RRP £28.49). Enter by post to the address below, labelling your entry 'LOVE SPRING GIVEAWAY XST315'.



£28
prize

HOW TO ENTER

Write your name and address on the back of a postcard or stuck-down envelope together with the name of the giveaway(s) you are entering and send to:
CrossStitcher, PO Box 172, Northam, EX39 9DY.

Competitions open 3 February – 2 March 2017. For competition terms and conditions go to page 89. You may enter multiple prize draws on one postcard.

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JOIN IN!

Take part in our
stitch-along. Start
any time to create
our mystery
design.

LEARN WITH CrossStitcher

Sharpen your stitching skills every month until December with our stitch-along club. Join us for our mystery sampler! If you're new to cross stitch, don't worry we have all the tips you need over the page...

THE ESSENTIAL KIT YOU'LL NEED TO START STITCHING

NEEDLES

For basic stitching you'll need a tapestry needle that has a blunt tip and large eye. Use a size 24 needle for most aidas, and a size 26 for evenweaves and linens. Use a sharp embroidery needle for finer details such as backstitch and French knots.

EMBROIDERY SCISSORS

Embroidery scissors are an absolute must-have. Keep yours sharp by only using them to cut threads.

STRANDED COTTON

Embroidery thread is also called stranded cotton. Each thread length is made up of six strands of cotton twisted together. The chart key will tell you how many strands you'll need to stitch with.

HOOPS AND FRAMES

Though not absolutely essential, we do recommend using an embroidery hoop or frame to keep an even stitching tension.

FABRICS

Aida is an ideal choice for cross stitch beginners. 14 count is the most common, although it's available in a huge variety of colours and counts. Each cross stitch is worked over a single aida block, making counting and keeping your place a cinch.

Evenweave is much simpler to work with than you might think. Start with a 25 or 28 count evenweave, such as Zweigart Lugana. Once you're confident, try your hand at a linen version.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW STITCH-ALONG

This is the third part of our new stitch-along design. Over the year we are featuring twelve seasonal designs that together will become a complete sampler, finishing with the December 2017 issue.

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
	310	403	black
	415	398	1803
	666	046	210
	703	238	1307
	728	305	108
	741	304	201
	762	234	1804
	780	309	2214
	797	931	912
	800	159	908
	809	130	909
	950	4146	2309
	3801	1098	411
	3849	1070	1202
Backstitch in one strand			
	310	403	black
umbrella, birds			
	3801	1098	411
lips			
	3849	1070	1202
flowers			
French knots in one strand			
	780	309	2214
eyes			



Designed by: Susan Penny Stitch count: 36 high x 52 wide

Design size: 6x8cm (2 1/4 x 3 1/4 in) Stitch time: 7 hours

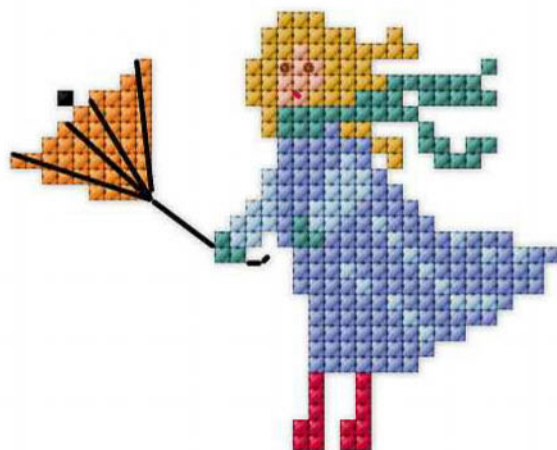
This design was stitched on 28 count linen over two threads of the fabric.

THE KEY

ALL THE symbols that appear on the chart are listed in the key with their corresponding thread codes beside them. The key also tells you the different stitches used in the design. The closest column of thread codes listed next to the chart symbols is the thread brand that's used in the design. Similar colour matches are listed alongside it. Where no close match can be found, you may have to use a different brand of thread for that shade.

THE CHART

EACH square on the chart represents a single cross stitch. Start from the centre of the design and your fabric. The centre of our charts are indicated by arrows at the designs' edges. To find your fabric's centre, fold it in half and into quarters.



HOW TO JOIN OUR STITCH-ALONG

STITCH-ALONGS CAN take many different forms – in our case we're unveiling a new chart in each issue between January and December, with a bonus design in our Summer issue.

To join our stitch-along you will need a 61x41cm (24x16in) piece of platinum 28 count Cashel linen, ref: 3281/770, or 14 count aida to complete the whole design. The finished size is 40x19cm (15 3/4 x 7 1/2 in) which is 221 high x 105 wide. The twelve rectangular designs, one for each month of the year, will all be the same size, and you will be stitching them two columns wide and six rows deep.

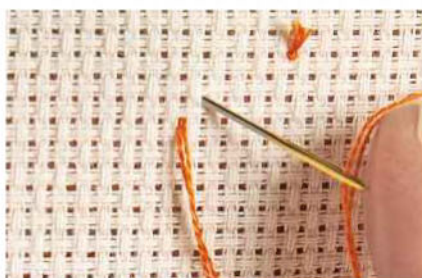
Start with the dark blue stitch in the top left-hand corner of the March design, leaving one square between this and the corresponding blue stitch on the snowman border above.

Update us on your progress by posting photos on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/CrossStitcherMag or you can email us at crossstitcher@dennis.co.uk with your stitch-along photos and we will add them to our new SAL Pinterest board, which we are building up as the SAL progresses. We'd love to see how you're getting on!

NEW TO CROSS STITCH? START RIGHT HERE!

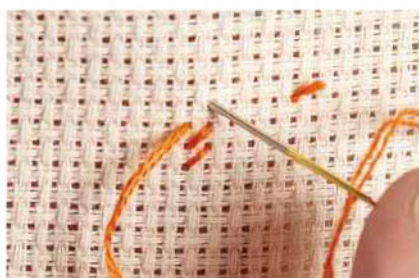
Start stitching... on aida

Step 1



CUT a 40cm thread length, and thread your needle with two of the six strands. Knot one end and start with a waste knot (opposite). Make a diagonal half cross stitch across a single aida block.

Step 2



MAKE a second diagonal stitch to make the cross. You can work a row of half cross stitches first, then work back on yourself to complete the stitches. All the top stitches should face the same way.

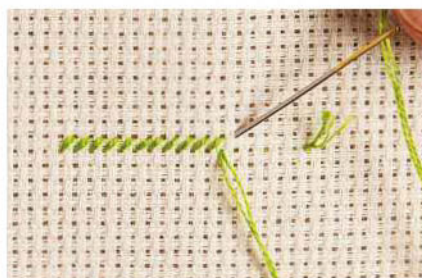
and... on evenweave



INSTEAD of taking your needle diagonally across a single aida block, take your needle diagonally across two evenweave threads, creating a half cross stitch as before.

STARTING A THREAD

1. Away waste knot



KNOT one end of your thread and take it down through the front of your fabric, 2cm from your starting point. Bring it back up to the front of the fabric to make your first stitch. Begin stitching your design, making sure you stitch over your starting thread with each stitch. Once you're happy that your starting thread is secure, snip off the knot. To secure your thread when you've finished stitching, weave it through the back of your stitches.

2. Loop knot



WORKING in two strands makes a loop knot the neatest method. Cut a single length of thread, twice as long as normal. Fold in half to create a loop at one end. Thread your needle with the two tail ends. Bring your needle up to the front of your fabric, leaving a small loop of thread on the reverse. Make a half cross stitch, passing your needle through the loop on the reverse, as shown. Pull all the way to secure the thread then continue with your stitching.

FRENCH KNOTS

Go dotty with this simple way to add neat knots to your designs

Step 1



BRING your needle up at your starting point and wrap your thread once or twice around the needle. Use one strand for a small knot and two for a chunkier knot. Hold your thread end firmly and take your needle down, ever so slightly away from where you came up. Slide the twisted thread down the needle, so it rests on the fabric's surface, and gently feed the needle through the fabric.

ADDING BACKSTITCH OUTLINES & DETAILS

Step 1



WORK your backstitch once you've finished the cross stitch. To secure your thread, weave it through the back of your stitches, then bring your needle up to the surface.

Step 2



MAKE each backstitch over one thread of fabric on aida and two threads if you work on evenweave. Follow the chart to see where to place each one.

Step 2



KEEP your thread as taut as possible to prevent the knot becoming loose. Gently pull your thread through to tighten the knot, so that it sits neatly on the surface.

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For perforated paper, plastic canvases, all kinds of evenweave & aida and threads

Additional items

You can make our projects using any materials you like, but here are the suppliers for any specific items needed this month that aren't listed above as general supplies...

BEST MUM EVER

Star & heart cookie cutters: various suppliers on Etsy, www.etsy.com and eBay, www.ebay.co.uk

READY, STEADY, STITCH

16mm mini cotton reels: various suppliers on Etsy, www.etsy.com and eBay, www.ebay.co.uk



CrossStitcher

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CONTACT US AT

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Chart software
supplied by Iisoft

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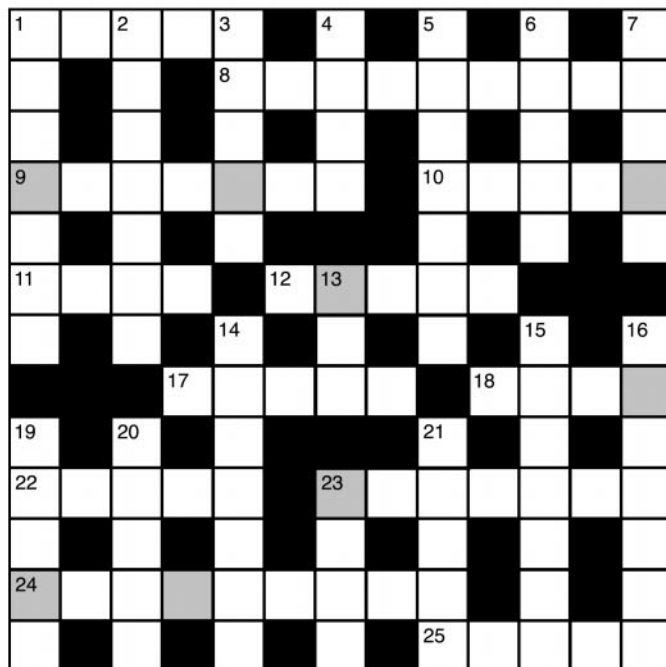
Prize crossword

Across

- 1 Music party (5)
- 8 Find fault with (9)
- 9 Model's runway (7)
- 10 Bread-maker (5)
- 11 Welsh vegetable? (4)
- 12 Smelly black and white animal (5)
- 17 Malice (5)
- 18 Game played on horseback (4)
- 22 Royal racecourse (5)
- 23 Double running stitch (7)
- 24 Property tax (5,4)
- 25 Avoid (5)

Down

- 1 Literary vampire (7)
- 2 Age of consent? (7)
- 3 Large sea (5)
- 4 Luxurious yarn (4)
- 5 Evolutionary theory (3,4)
- 6 Dangerous (5)
- 7 Small fruit (5)
- 13 Collection of cross stitch materials (3)
- 14 Tomb inscription (7)
- 15 Crouched in fear (7)
- 16 Canadian policeman (7)
- 19 Break (5)
- 20 Get rid of (5)
- 21 Sian ---, Welsh meteorologist (5)
- 23 Sixty minutes (4)



Winning word clue: **Three-leaved symbol of Ireland? (8)**

Win!

HOW TO ENTER

COMPLETE the crossword and rearrange the letters in the shaded boxes to make up a winning word.

Write your winning word and 'Crossword 315' on the back of a postcard or stuck-down envelope, adding your name and address, and post it to: *CrossStitcher*, PO Box 172, Northam, EX39 9DY

Competition open:

**3 February –
2 March 2017**

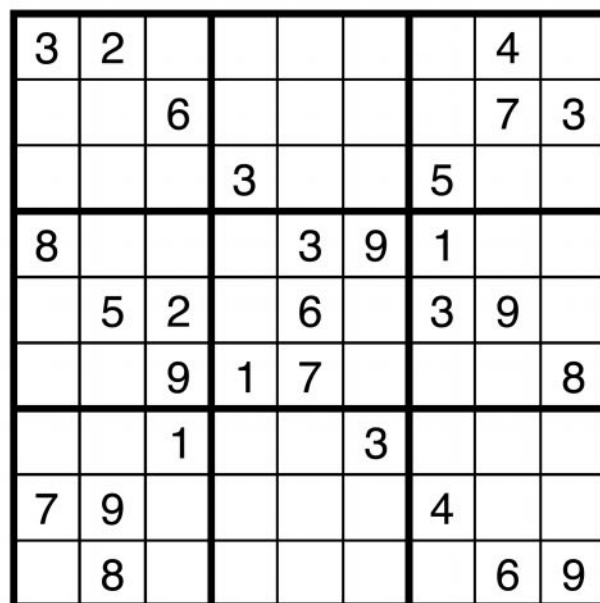
For full terms and conditions, see page 89.



YOUR PRIZE Our winner will receive this gorgeous Bright Eyes kit from Bothy Threads. Worked on 14 count speckled aida, in cross stitch and backstitch, this cute, floppy-eared rabbit, nestling amongst bluebells is a great stitch for spring. Bright Eyes is available from www.bothythreads.com, priced £27.49.

SUDOKU

USING logic and a process of elimination, fill the blank boxes with numbers so that each row, column and 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9 only once.



Issue 313's winning word: **NEW YEAR**

No.1
FOR DESIGNS

In your April

CrossStitcher

Capture springtime in stitches!



ISSUE 316
APRIL 2017

On sale
3 March



Inside this month

- ♥ Celebrate spring with our **beautiful birdhouse picture**
- ♥ Cute **Easter egg cosy** for your chocolate treats
- ♥ The sweetest **chalkboard-style cards** for Easter
- ♥ Pretty **bunny tablecloth & cushion** in pastel threads

YOUR FREE GIFT!

Get organised with our set of 10 elephant bobbins, complete with bright threads.



Contents subject to change. Overseas gifts may vary.

No.1
FOR DESIGNS



117
FRESH
DESIGNS



PACKED WITH
SPRINGTIME
INSPIRATION

FAB IDEAS FOR
GIFTS & YOUR
HOME



Inside...
CrossStitcher
Packed with new ideas and **designs for you**
Just stitch it!

PLUS We show you three fun ways to
use layers with your cross stitching...

