

ONLINE MAGAZINE FOR CROSS STITCHERS

The Gift of Stitching

Issue 13 February 2007



WIN A WHOLE SET OF DINKY-DYES SILKS

BEAUTIFUL PASTEL SEWING SET - FINISHING INSTRUCTIONS INCLUDED

WWW.THEGIFTOFSTITCHING.COM

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From The Editor

Hello readers,

After reading this issue you will not be short of ideas for bags. We have three bags to make that incorporate cross stitch - one is Chinese, one has a vintage look and one is a small pocket.

The hand finished items do not stop there. We have a lovely pastel sewing set from Carol Rice of Adventures in Stitching. All the instructions are included for these items.

The Chinese bag and sewing set use silk threads from Dinky-Dyes. I love the colours that Jo Mason from Dinky-Dyes creates. We are giving away a whole set of her beautiful silk threads, a competition you won't want to miss entering!

The Nashville Needlework Market is on this month. Although this market is in the USA there is buzz all around the world on various blogs and cross stitch chat groups. Lots of new patterns from all our favourite designers will be released. You can see two of them below. New designer Colleen Leader from Follow The Leader Designs will be debuting as the market and she has designed a small pocket incorporating

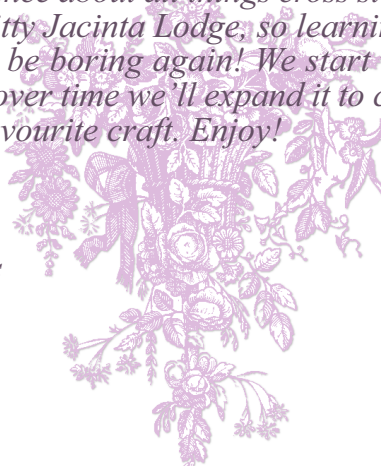
lots of fun stitches and of course you can use your favourite hand dyed threads and fabric.

If you find hand finishing daunting then help is just an email away. If you have any questions or just want a guiding hand, join our Yahoo Group - TGOSM and ask away. Myself and other readers will be more than happy to help. (www.thegiftofstitching.com/chat.php)

Before I sign off I want to mention our new learning series called Easy Peasy Cross Stitch. This great series is in card format which you can print and store as a handy reference about all things cross stitch. It's written by the witty Jacinta Lodge, so learning cross stitch will never be boring again! We start with the very basics, but over time we'll expand it to cover all aspects of our favourite craft. Enjoy!

Kind regards,

Kirsten Edwards
Editor



Queen Sofia's Sewing Bag and Chatelaine



Designed and stitched by Giulia Manfredini
Giulia Puntì Antichi
www.puntiantichi.com

Original Models on display at
the Nashville Needlework Market, February 2007
Room #430 - **Old Willow Stitchery Threads, Inc.**
www.oldwillowstitchery.com

♥ Ask your favourite shop for pre-orders ♥

Sampler Cove Designs



"The Greatest Loss"

Multi-stitch band sampler stitched in AVS threads
by Diane Jourdan of Sampler Cove Designs
Stitch Count - 198 x 379

Wholesale & retail information at European Cross Stitch
<http://www.europeanxs.com>

To be released at the Nashville show February 2007

Designer Profile - Natasha Mlodetski



decorative towels called “rushniks”. A bride's diligence was measured by the quantity, beauty and the complexity of the patterns on these towels. In each area of Ukraine the symbols and the colours of stitching are different. A rushnik is a symbol of hospitality - bread and salt were offered to respected guests on it. Also newborn babies were placed on a rushnik. The rushniks also accompanied people on their journeys. It is very interesting to know all this!

When did you start cross stitching?

I started to stitch when I was a student. At first there was not good quality threads and fabric, but as they became more available my stitching hobby grew. I stitched during the evening and worked full-time for an advertising agency. Up until now, I worked in the creative areas of polygraphy and a web design which I love.

Who taught you to cross stitch?

I always remembered drawing. I studied at art school to become an architect. The university professors taught us students “to think by a pencil” which means to transfer your ideas, emotions and mood onto paper and then transfer them to people. I found this principle very important when being creative!



This month we interview Natasha Mlodetski, a cross stitch designer from the Ukraine. Combining her professional artistic career and her love of embroidery, she has produced a range of designs that appeal to a whole range of stitchers. We recommend visiting her website to view all her wonderful designs.

www.artstitch.dp.ua

They can also be purchased at

www.patternsonline.com

What is cross stitch like in your country?

I live and work in the very beautiful country - Ukraine, where traditional embroidery is still very strong.

In the old days, family clothing was decorated with embroidered symbols. The colours, motifs and regions of embroidery held great significance in families for preserving their health and well being. The embroidered motifs illustrate ancient rituals and myths and different historical periods. Today fashion is returning to ethnic clothing, decorated with traditional motifs.

Traditionally, each girl prepared a dowry before marriage. One item she would have embroidered was



Set of three small designs -
My Lovely Flowers

When and why did you start designing?

It was my husband (also an architect and designer) who always encouraged me to create my own cross stitch designs. He was surprised that I was stitching purchased kits and patterns (beautiful, but not my own) and suggested that I try to stitch something from my own artworks.

As an artist I always preferred the graphic arts and choose a pencil to draw with. When I started designing in embroidery I found, to my greatest surprise that I had lots of colour to work with.

Today I find "drawing" with thread much easier than with paints! There is a lot more creativity in designing for cross stitch than in advertising, which is really commercial art with its own rules.

With a pencil I do the sketch of the future picture, then I take a piece of fabric, defined by the size of stitching and simply begin to "re-sketch" with threads. The basic sketch is different from the finished stitched piece by approximately 60%. There are always nuances which look perfect in sketch, but the technique of stitching asks for another decision.

When the stitching is finished (after numerous unpicking and re-stitching) I start making a chart. I put my stitching in front of me and, cross by cross, I transfer the image to computer format. Creation of the chart - my most unloved part of designing, involves a lot of attention and patience and unfortunately, there is no creativity at all.

What inspires or influences your designs?

My designs are simply living in my head, all I have to do is stitch them! In my art you can see ME, my imagination, mood, emotions and attitude.

With my experience as a professional designer and artist, it is

much easier for me to work with space and in professional talk, there is a lot of "air" in my works. I work hard to get the composition correct so that the design is not stodgy. I would like my designs to give a stitcher happiness and enjoyment of life.

What is your style when designing?

My style comes from my soul. I think that I am working in my own Natasha Mlodetski style!

Do you have any new designs coming out soon?

In January, I released a set of Valentine cards and a new series with a snail character called Mosya. The first of this series is in this month's issue of *The Gift of Stitching*.

I am currently working on a large design called "The World of Rabbits". It is going to be a very funny picture, with a lot of comic details and elements. The design shows what the world would look like if it was occupied by rabbits with all the different countries, occupations and pleasures! I hope to finish this work in the next month. It has taken a long time, but friends and stitchers are looking forward to it and their support inspires me!



Home and Garden with detail above



Snail Moysa Knitting by Natasha Modetski

In the first of a new series, Natasha shares with us her new character creation, Moysa the snail. Moysa is happily knitting with a friend. Lots of colour and free form lines make Natasha's designs playful and unique. Enjoy these happy snails.

Instructions

Design size: 87 x 56 stitches

Finished stitched area:

14/28 count: 6 1/4" x 4" square (16 x 10 cm)

16/32 count: 5 7/16" x 3 1/5" square (14 x 9 cm)

18/36 count: 5 5/6" x 3 1/8" square (12 x 8 cm)

Remember to add enough fabric for finishing. We recommend 4" (10cm) to each side for framing. Complete all cross stitching with 2 ply and all backstitching with 1 ply of six stranded DMC cotton as per key below. See pages 27-28 for stitch diagrams.

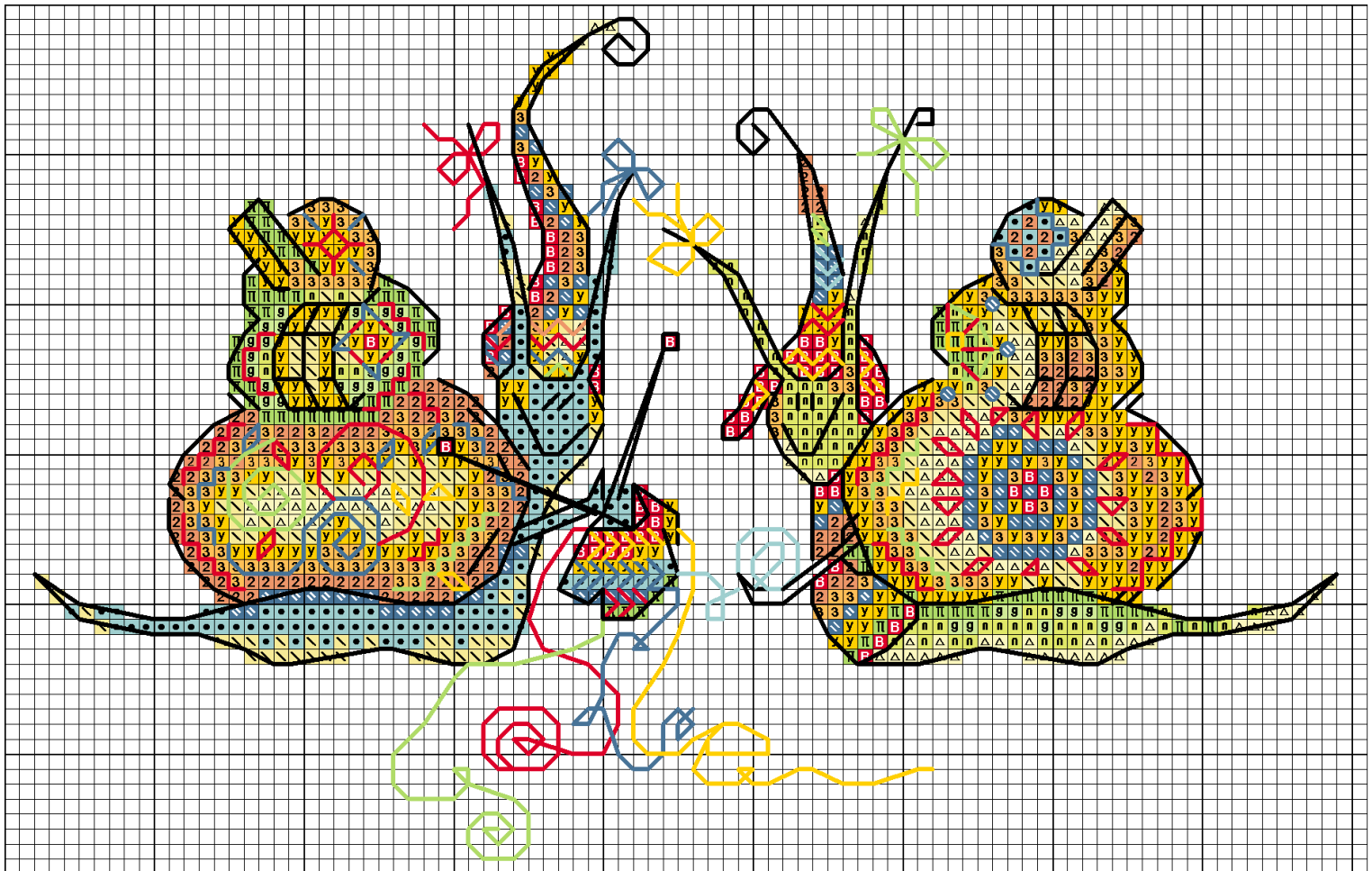


Cross Stitch Symbol Key

B 666	Δ 3078	g 3348	▨ 322	3 742	n 3819
y 444	● 3766	2 922	▧ 727	π 704	

Backstitch Symbol Key

— 666	— 3766	— 310	— 922	— 322	— 704
— 444					



All Things Counted - Blue & White Embroidery of China

Today, the re-creation of traditional folk embroidery is becoming more and more popular among stitchers. In a lot of folk embroidery, cross stitch is the central stitch. Its use can be traced throughout history in countries which have a counted embroidery heritage.

Traditional folk embroidery consisted of home linens and clothing stitched by everyday people. It featured repeating borders and stand alone motifs rich with symbolism which were copied from generation to generation.

Many of us are familiar with the red on white linen of Eastern Europe and the Greek Islands have wonderful cross stitch motifs. This is just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to exploring the folk cross stitch tradition around the world.

This month we focus on the lesser known tradition of cross stitch in China called Blue & White Embroidery. Chinese embroidery is commonly thought of as beautiful silk hangings and coats of the emperor's court. However in the villages, embroidery had its own life in many facets. Blue & White embroidery was one form found in the Southern Western provinces of China. It consisted of indigo thread cross stitched on white cotton.

The materials used were a cotton thread dyed with the indigo plant and cream cotton. A mixture is created by soaking the plant for about two weeks and the strength of the colour will depend on the age of the mixture and the length of standing. The cotton cream fabric is approximately 60 threads per inch. Pieces were embroidered then sewn to larger pieces of cotton to make a garment or household item.

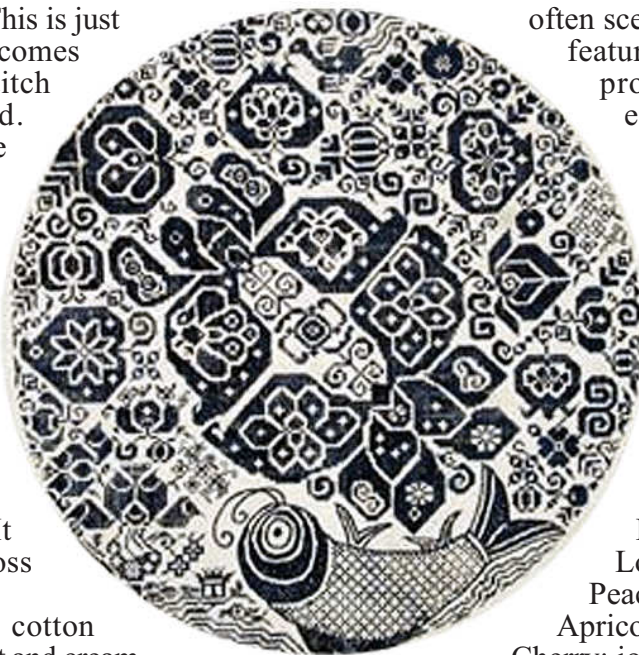
As in many traditional cultures, girls preparing for marriage would embroider their future family's linen. In China this would include simple pieces such as baby bibs, caps, collars and the more ornate pieces like sheets, wall hangings and valances. The cross stitch motifs were passed down from generation to generation. When a household item wore out, the motifs were copied onto a new item. There were variations across families and localities, but

within each area, there was very little variation in style and design. It appears that to the stitcher, the very motif was sacred and should be kept in its pure form as much as possible.

The actual imagery or motifs are complicated in their rendering and interpretation. All of their embroidery had meaning ranging from telling a story, making a joke or providing spiritual protection. Valances were the most ornately embroidered of all the pieces. These consisted of a large band of medallions and the spaces between filled with borders and other motifs. The medallions were often scenes of popular folklore. Simpler items featured symbols to represent good will or protection. The Chinese believed the embroidered motifs would be charms against evil. Little boys often wore a bib which they called a padlock. It was covered in spiritual charms, believed to protect them from being whisked away by evil spirits.

Below is a table of some motifs and their meanings.

- Bat: happiness, long life
- Butterfly: joy, true love, summer
- Crane: longevity, old age, immortality
- Plum: winter, long life
- Lotus: summer, fruitfulness
- Peach: marriage, spring, immortality
- Apricot: beauty
- Cherry: joy
- Pomegranate: favourable influences, prosperity, hope of a large family
- Phoenix: emperor of all birds, peace, prosperity
- Swastika: ancient symbol of good luck
- Fish: wealth, harmony, happy marriage
- Lion: courage, bravery
- Monkey: trickery
- Horse: perseverance
- Apple blossom: beauty, peace
- Chrysanthemum: laughter, easy life
- Peony: love, affection, masculinity, good fortune
- Thunder clouds: rain, good harvest
- Dragon: good symbol of goodness and strength, life itself



Blue & White Embroidery Continue...

Chinese blue and white embroidery was brought to light by scholar Carl Schuster (1904-1969). He was interested in the symbolism of the motifs to help trace migration of ancient societies. He travelled through many of the provinces collecting samples during his travels in 1935-37. His collection is now housed at The Natural Museum, Chicago, USA.

There is also a collection of blue and white embroideries from the province of Sichuan in the Gold Museum, Ballarat, Victoria. Gifted by the daughter of Chinese missionaries George & Robina Arnott-Rogers (1899-1916).

Missionaries to China after the First World War also collected pieces and they encouraged Chinese to sew for the "missionaries embroidery" market.

There is much doubt today whether this type of embroidery is still practised. With the modernisation of China much of the traditional village life no longer exists. It was already in decline during Carl Schuster's travels and he predicted it would become a lost art.

We have created a drawstring bag with a cuff of small medallions incorporating some of the traditional motifs found in the Schuster collection. You will notice that the hem on the cuff is folded to the front which is a feature of this embroidery.

We hope that you enjoy stitching this bag as we help to preserve a small part of this wonderful form of embroidery.

Further reading:

* *Blue and White. The Cotton Embroideries of Rural China*, by Muriel Baker and Margaret Lunt, Sidgwick & Jackson, London

* *The Arnott-Rogers Blue-and-White Embroideries of Sichuan*, by Peg Fraser, Piecework Magazine, Volume XIV, Number 4, Interweave Press, 2006

* *The Blue-And-White Embroidery of Western China*, by Sue Lenthe, Piecework Magazine, Volume IV, Number 2, Interweave Press, 1996

* *Safely Locked to Earth: Padlocks for Chinese Boys*, by Valery Garrett, Piecework Magazine, Volume XIV, Number 6, Interweave Press, 2006

* *Chinese Minority Textiles* from Marla Mallett Textiles

<http://www.marlamallett.com/>

* Online Schuster Collection - The Field Museum

http://www.fieldmuseum.org/research_Collections/

anthropology/anthro_sites/NEA/schuster_gallery.html

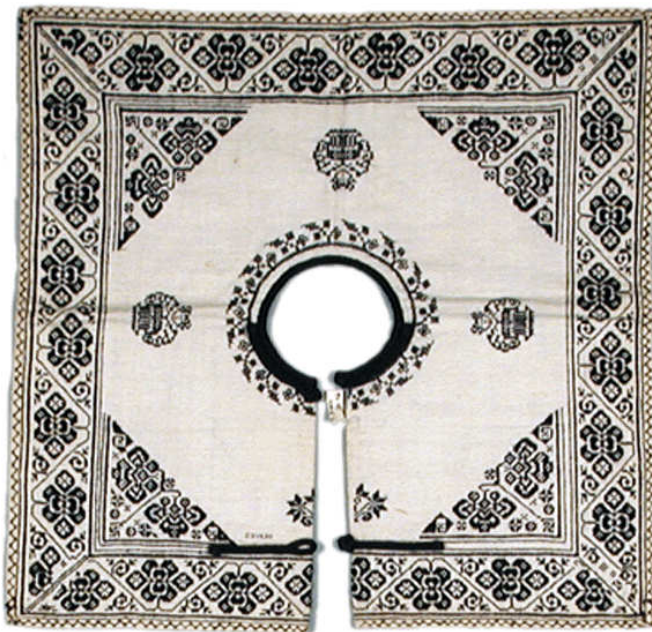
Images are Courtesy of the Schuster Collection in the Field Museum

<http://www.fieldmuseum.org/>

Medallion from a bed valance and a bib

Drawstring Bag

We've designed a drawstring bag in the style of traditional blue and white embroidery from China. Four small medallions make up the cuff of the bag and it is stitched in a dark blue variegated silk from Dinky Dyes. Stitches & Spice has provided the hand dyed linen and homespun fabric for this model and you can purchase a kit from their website.



www.stitchesandspice.com.au
Click on Gift of Stitching Kits

Materials Needed

- 3 skeins of Dinky-Dyes six stranded silk #85 Fantasy Blue
- 28 x 50 cm of 28 count Cashel linen in Spice Sensations Sun & Earth #607 from Stitches & Spice
- 1 Fat Quarter of Spice Blends Midnight Magic Quilters Muslin from Stitches & Spice
- Cream sewing thread
- Dark blue sewing thread

Instructions

1. Stitch the back stitch, Algerian eyelets and back stitches with two ply of silk starting from the centre of the linen. Iron on the reverse when finished.
2. Measure the width of the stitching and write this down. This is the cuff width.
3. From the bottom of the design, count down two threads and withdraw the thread from the linen. Count down another nine threads and withdraw. Repeat this two more times. You should now have four removed threads.

Chinese Blue & White Embroidered Bag

4. Trim the fabric along the bottom withdrawn thread.

5. Traditionally in China, hems were turned towards the front rather than back. Fold the edge along the bottom withdrawn line and then fold again. The folded edge should now sit along the top withdrawn thread. Iron and pin in place, then sew together with hem stitch. Trim the two ends of the cuff to 1/2" and serge (overlock).

6. Fold so right sides are together and sew the two ends together so the design matches.

7. Cut a piece from the quilter's muslin, the width of the cuff x 7", allowing 1/4" seam allowance on each side. Serge the two short ends of the muslin and sew together.

8. Place the cuff piece inside the body piece with top ends together. The right side of the cuff should be against the wrong side of the body. Sew a seam around the top edge of the cross stitch.

9. Turn out bag and turn over cuff so its sitting in the right place. Sew a seam along the bottom of the top border stitching with the dark blue sewing thread. Stay close to the stitching so the thread will not be seen.

10. Cut a circle out from the Quilter's muslin measuring 4" across. Turn the bag inside out and sew a running stitching around the bottom and pull to gather. Pin the circle into place and sew together. Turn out.


11. Cut four lengths of silk 63" long. Tie together and anchor. Attach the other end to a drill, egg beater or other turning device. Twist the threads together until they "kink". Fold the twisted thread in half and let it naturally twist together. Knot both ends.

12. Using a tiny safety pin, insert the cord through the eyelet and out the other eyelet. Pull to even up and close the bag.

13. Finished!

Chart is on the next two pages and see pages 27-28 for stitch diagrams.





Szulett Creations

Versatile & Fun Counted Thread Designs for the Discerning Stitcher.

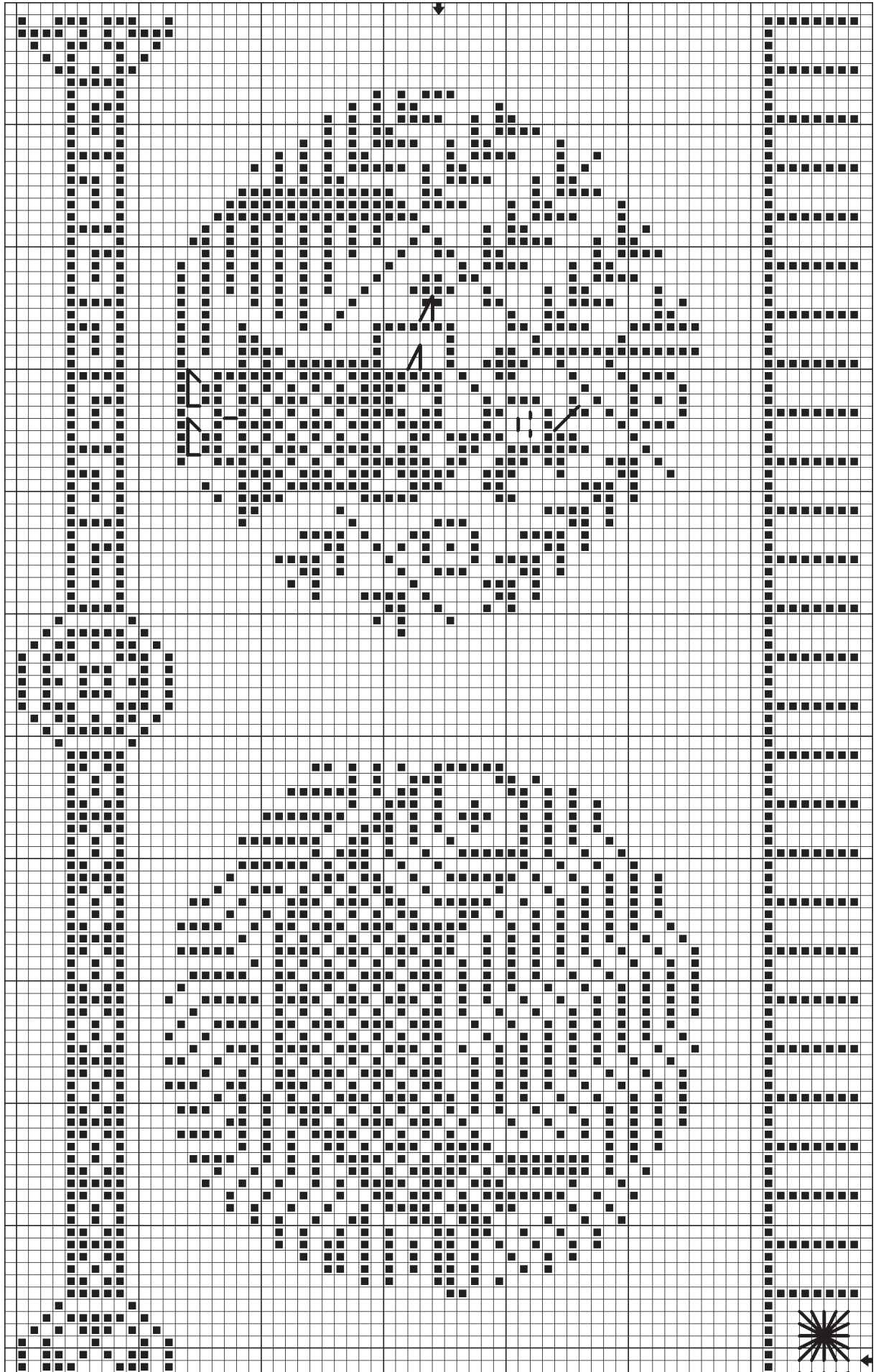
We are proud to announce that we will be publishing Tam's Creations patterns by Tamara Brönnimann, designer.



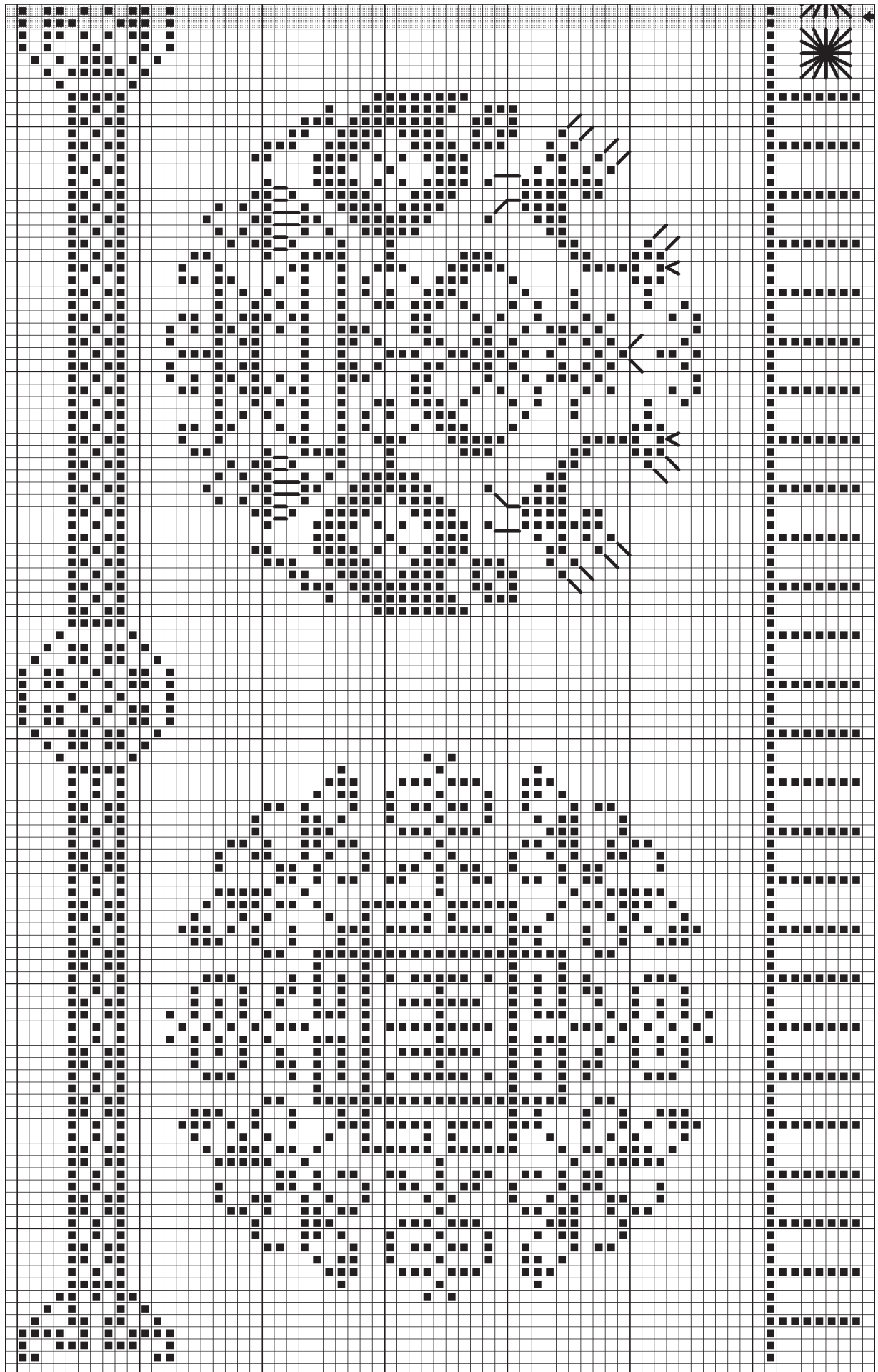
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Chinese Blue & White Embroidered Bag Chart 1



Chinese Blue & White Embroidered Bag Chart 2



The shaded part of the pattern is repeated stitches from Pattern 1

Shopping List

Chinese Bag

Page

— x3 DDS #85 Fantasy Blue
— SS Cashel Linen, #607

Sewing Set

Page

— SS Jobelan, #024
— DDS #8 Mint Ice
— DDS #83 Peach Melba
— DDS #43 Aquamarine

OR

— VC Blue Sky
— VC Dandelion
— VC Summer Sky

OR

— DMC 4160
— DMC 4040
— DMC 4030

Snail Moysa Knitting

Page

— Aida, white
— DMC 310
— DMC 322
— DMC 444
— DMC 666
— DMC 704
— DMC 727
— DMC 742
— DMC 922
— DMC 3078
— DMC 3348
— DMC 3766
— DMC 3819

Mystery Sampler

Page

— DMC 155
— DMC 310
— DMC 414
— DMC 519
— DMC 522
— DMC 580
— DMC 718
— DMC 783
— DMC 798
— DMC 926
— DMC 961
— DMC 3347
— DMC 3354
— DMC 3721
— Linen, Antique White

Love of Stitching

Page

— Antique blue linen
— DMC 35200

Blackwork Photo Frame

Page

— MHPP, Midnight Black
— DMC E415

LOVE

Page

— Aida, White
— DMC 3350
— DMC 3689

Spring Fling Pocket

Page

— Belfash Linen, Lilac
— OWS #101

OR

— DMC 162
— DMC 554
— DMC 3078

Crinoline Lady Ort Bag

Page

— WHD Jobelan, Bittersweet
— OS Bird of Paradise
— OS Lobster
— Summer Roses
— Tide Pool
— Flesh
— Caribbean Seas

OR

— DMC 349
— DMC 351
— DMC 352
— DMC 503
— DMC 739
— DMC 3843

Definitions

DDS: Dinky-Dyes six stranded silk threads

DMC: DMC six stranded thread
MHPP: Mill Hill Perforated Paper
OS: Ozark Sampler Threads
OWS: Olde Willow Stitchery six stranded hand dyed cotton threads
SS: Stitches & Spice Hand Dyed Fabrics
VC: Hand Dyed Fibers by Vikki Clayton six stranded silk
WHD: Wichelt Hand Dyed

Stockists

The DMC Corporation
77 South Hackensack Avenue,
Bldg. 10F
South Kearny, NJ 07032-4688,
USA
Phone: 973-589-0606
www.dmc-usa.com

Olde Willow Stitchery Threads,
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Mentor, Ohio 44060, USA
Tel: 440 205-1863
robin@oldewillowstitchery.com
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Next issue...

Look out for The Sampler Girl and wonderful stitcher's wallet in the March 2007 issue.

This magazine has been written in Australasian English.

Any queries regarding this magazine should be sent to the Editor, Kirsten Edwards at: editor@thegiftofstitching.com

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www.violarium.com



Love of Stitching by Marie-Chantal Lord

In our first issue, Marie-Chantal Lord designed a lovely red heart which could be stitched with one colour. To celebrate Valentines Day, Marie-Chantal has designed us a second heart, this time, white on blue. It also incorporates extra stitches - Algerian eyelets, French knots (dots) and back stitches.

Instructions

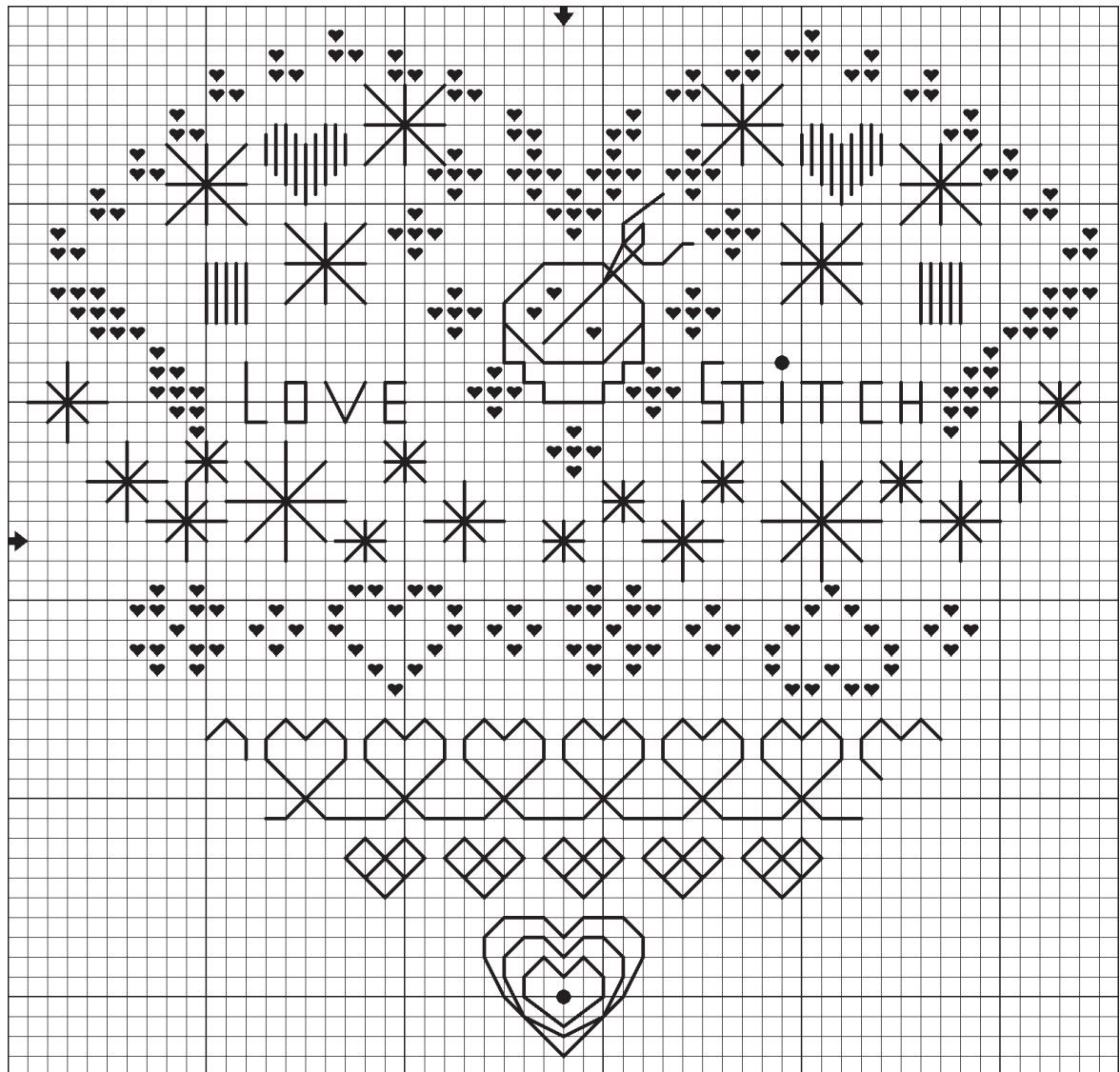
Design size: 53 x 51 stitches

Finished stitched area:
14/28 ct: 3 3/4" x 3 5/8"
(9.5 x 9 cm)
16/32 ct: 3 1/3" x 3 3/16"
(8.5 x 8 cm)

The model is stitched on 28 count antique blue linen. The whole design is stitched with DMC six stranded rayon - 35200 (Snow White). Two ply for cross stitches and Algerian eyelets. One ply for French knots (dots) and back stitches.

For the bullion roses, use 1 ply to satin stitch centre of the rose over six fabric threads. Use 2 ply to create the bullions. Overlap about seven bullion knots around the satin stitch. If you prefer not to sew bullion knots, attach a small white rose charm or button.

See pages 27-28 for stitch diagrams.



Feature Pattern

Pastal Sewing Set by Carol Rice of Adventures in Stitching

Carol Rice from Adventures In Stitching has designed this wonderful set of sewing accessories. She has chosen a range of counted thread and beginner Hardanger stitches, and we have combined them with Dinky-Dyes silk threads and Stitches & Spice hand dyed fabric.

View Carol Rice's other designs at her website

www.adventures-in-stitching.com

The fabric and threads for the sewing set can be purchased from Stitches & Spice. The piece of hand dyed evenweave we have chosen is a wonderful colour mottled with creams, blues and pinks.

www.stitchesandspice.com.au

We've matched the sewing set with a pair of scissors from the Dinky-Dyes range. They are pastel blue (DD-SC-18), but they also have white and pink. Take your pick!

Materials Needed

- The following six stranded silk from Dinky-Dyes - Mint Ice 8, Peach Melba 83, Aquamarine 43.

Alternatively you can use the following hand dyed silks from Vikki Clayton: Blue Sky, Dandelion, Summer Sky. A DMC alternative in their six stranded cotton range is 4160, 4040, 4030.

- 1 piece of 28 count Jobelan, Autumn Glade #024, FE 35 x 60 cm from Stitches & Spice.
- 2 m of matching trim or cord
- Small piece of matching felt
- Invisible or matching sewing cotton
- Small amount fibre fill or ors
- Scissors, pins, tape measure
- Tracing paper, cardboard, quilter's wadding

Instructions for each item start on the next page.



Pastel Sewing Set Instructions - Scissor Fob

Diagrams for all stitches are on pages 27-28.

Dividing the Fabric

1. The photo below right shows how to divide your fabric for the entire set.
2. Measure and remove threads from the fabric to create the divisions. Alternatively baste the divisions with sewing thread.

Scissor Fob



A scissor fob is a small cushion attached to the handle of the scissors. It helps to prevent your scissors from getting lost down the back of the armchair!

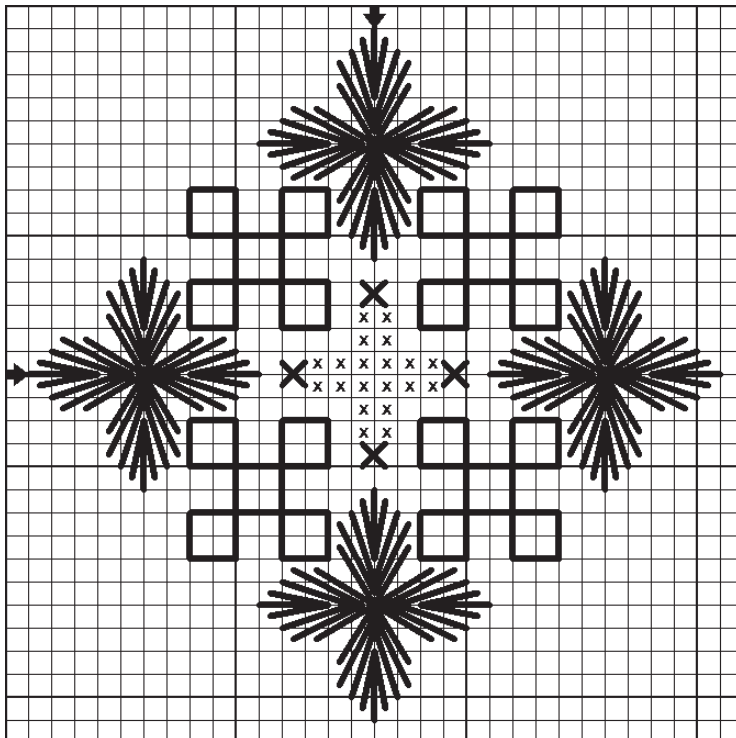
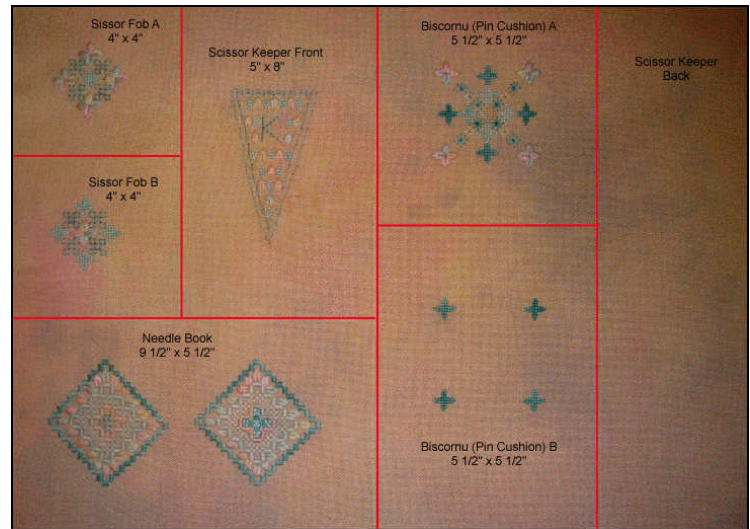
1. Find the centre of Side A on your divided fabric and stitch according to the pattern as follows (use 2 ply for all stitches)

Cross stitch: DD #8

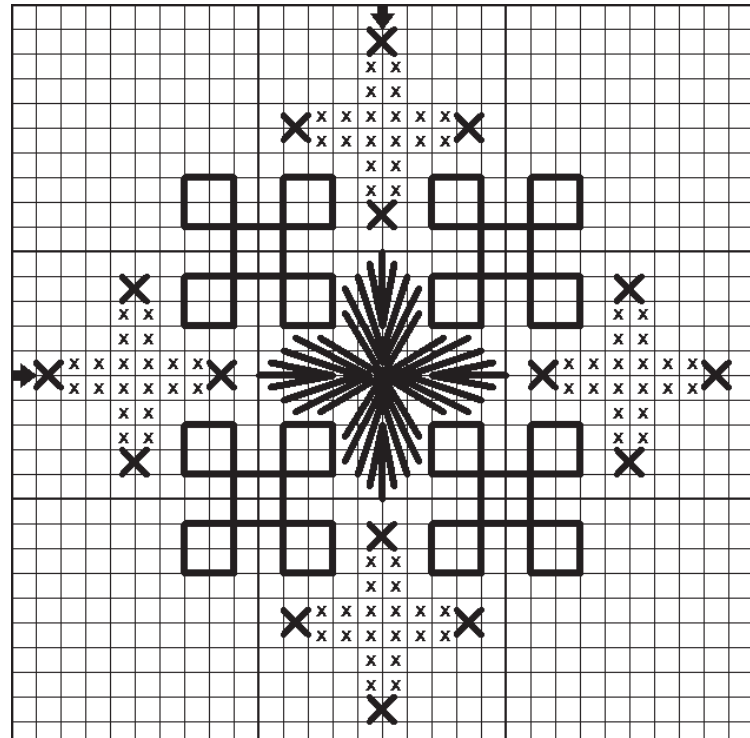
Four-sided stitch: DD #43

Leaf stitch: DD #83

2. Stitch Side B from the centre out using the same threads as above.
3. Cut out the two sides along the division lines.
4. Place right sides together, matching the four corners of the design. Pin into place.
5. Measure 1/4" from the design and sew a running stitch with matching sewing cotton. Leave a small opening on one side.
6. Trim the excess fabric away. Turn out and fill with fibre fill. Tiny stitch the opening closed.
7. Measure 17" of trim. Hand stitch the trim around the fob using tiny stitches. When you come to the end, create a loop with the excess trim, then fold and sew the end next to the start.
8. Thread the loop through your scissor handle. Finished!



Scissor Fob Front



Scissor Fob Back

Pastel Sewing Set Instructions - Biscornu

Biscornu

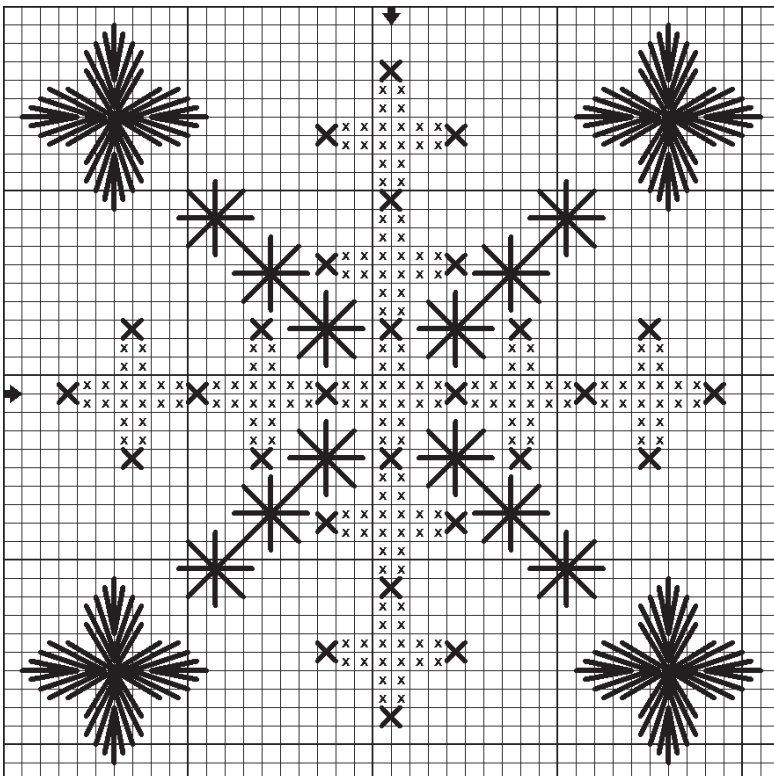
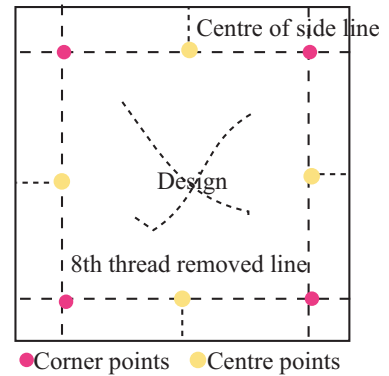


A biscornu is a fancy word for a pin cushion. They are made of two pieces sewn together in an offset way and then the middle is pinched. This gives the biscornu its unique shape and fancy name. You'll impress your friends with this one!

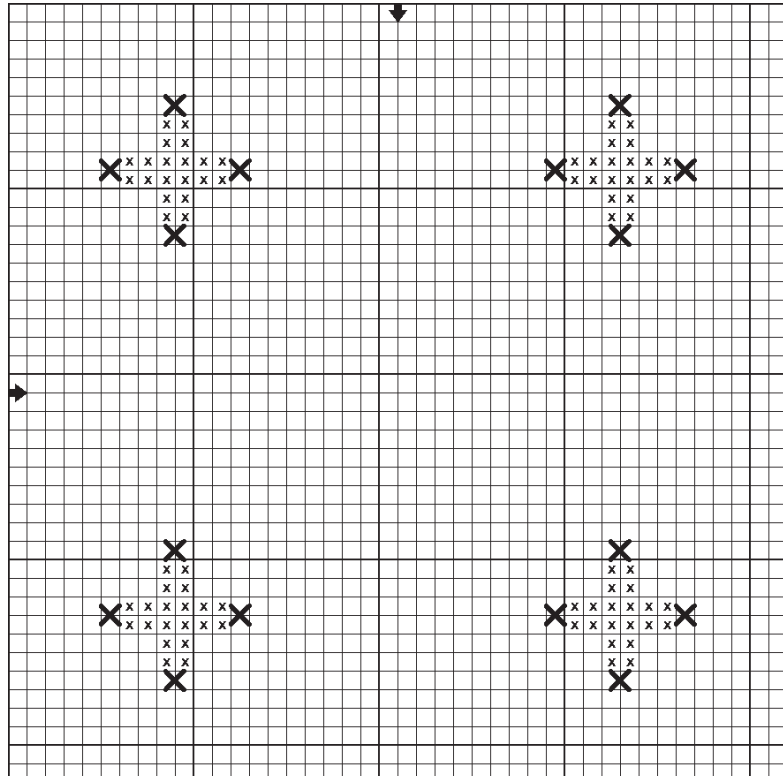
1. Find the centre of Side A on your divided fabric and stitch according to the pattern as follows (use 2 ply for all stitches)

- Centre cross stitch: DD#83
- First circle of cross stitch: DD#8
- First circle of eyelets: DD#43
- Second circle of eyelets: DD#83
- Third circle of eyelets: DD#43
- Outer circle of cross stitch: DD#43
- Outer leaf stitch: DD#83
- Side B
- Cross stitch: DD#43

2. Cut out from fabric along division lines.
3. Count out from the point of the leaf stitches eight threads and remove the eighth thread. Do this on all four sides. Repeat on Side B.
4. Measure the centre of each 8th line and remove the thread at right angles. See diagram. This will create the four corner points and the four centre points.
5. With the right sides together, line up the first corner point on Side A with the first corner point on Side B. Sew together along the remove thread line with sewing thread. Continue around the line matching up corners with centre points. Be as accurate as possible, otherwise the biscornu will look uneven when filled. Leave a small opening on one side.
6. Trim away excess fabric and turn out. Fill with fibre fill and sew opening closed. Leave a tiny opening for the ends of the trim.
7. Cut a length of trim 13" and sew with tiny stitches along the seam line. Tuck ends into small opening and sew closed.
8. With the sewing thread go down into the middle of Side A and come out in the exact centre of Side B. Pull tight so the cushion pinches together. Repeat so the pinch is strong. A small button attached to Side B would look nice.
9. Finished!



Biscornu Side A



Biscornu Side B

Pastel Sewing Set Instructions - Scissor Keeper

Scissor Keeper



This scissor keeper will be a home for your embroidery scissors and keep their fragile tip safe.

1. Find the centre of Side A on your fabric and stitch according to the pattern as follows

Cross stitch: DD#8 (2 ply)
Leaf stitch: DD#83 (2 ply)
Back stitch: DD#43 (1 ply)
Couched stitch: DD#43 (1)

2. Use the alphabet below to personalise your scissor keeper.

3. Back stitch the wavy lines along the top of the design. When you get to the end, do a long stitch all the way to the bottom. Couch this long thread by sewing about six small stitches (over one thread) to hold it in place.

4. Cut out the pieces from the fabric along the division lines.

5. Place the tracing paper on top of Side A and rule a triangle shape with a 1/8" border. Cut this pattern and use it to cut two pieces of cardboard, two pieces of

quilter's wadding and two pieces of felt.

6. Glue a piece of quilter's wadding to one piece of cardboard.

7. Centre Side A stitched piece over the wadding and pin in place. Turnover and glue the sides of the fabric to the cardboard. Alternatively, you could lace.

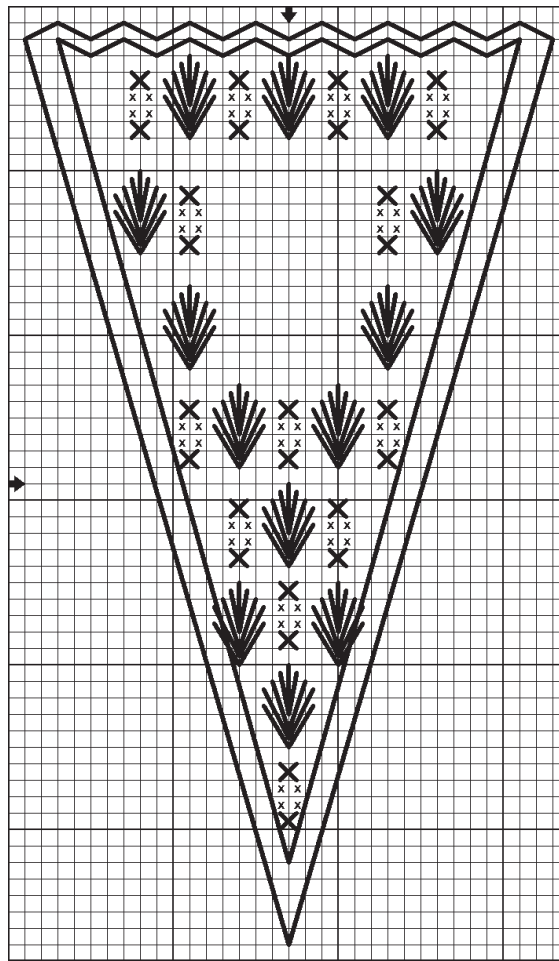
8. Glue a piece of felt to the back. Repeat the whole process with Side B.

9. Place both pieces together, felt sides touching. With sewing thread, sew the two pieces together. Leave the top open.

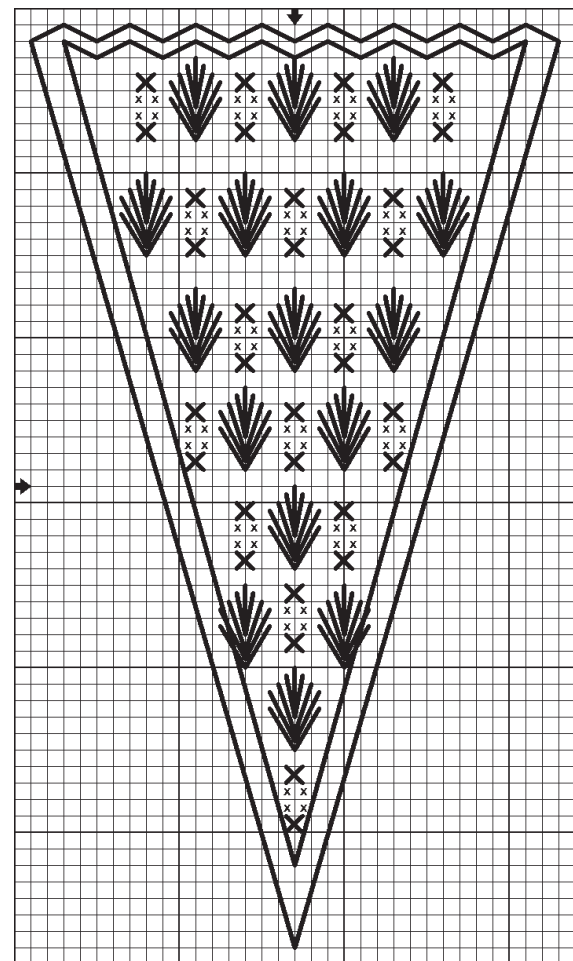
10. Cut a length of trim 19" long. Fold in half and find the centre. Place the centre at the bottom of the keeper and stitch the trim into place with tiny stitches.

11. When you get to the top, use the excess trim to create a handle. Fold and sew the two ends of the trim together.

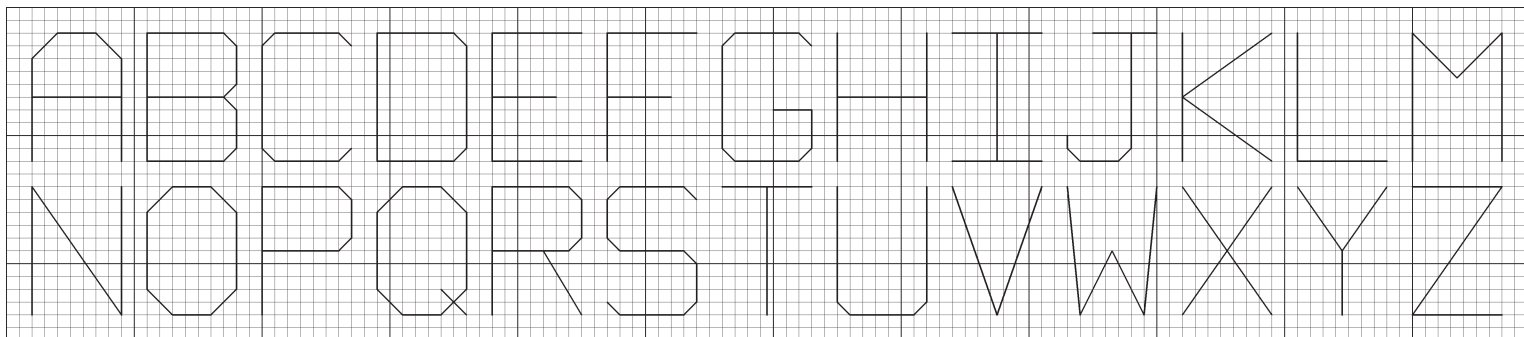
12. Finished!



Scissor Keeper Side A



Scissor Keeper Side B



Needle Book



The needle book will be a great place to store individual and packets of needles. The front piece has a simple Hardanger centre but if you would prefer to not do the Hardanger, just stitch two Side B pieces.

1. In the divided fabric there is one space for the two sides of the needle book. Divide the space in half and half again, then start stitching Side A according to the pattern in the following threads (2 ply for all stitches)

Kloster blocks: DD#83 (then remove threads)

Woven Bars/Dove's Eyes DD#43 (1 ply)

Four sided stitch: DD#8

Kloster blocks: DD#8

Leaf stitches: DD#83

Outer Kloster blocks: DD#43

2. Repeat above for Side B and replace the woven bars and Dove's eyes with four sides stitch in DD#43.

3. Cut out from the fabric leaving a border around each side of 1/2".

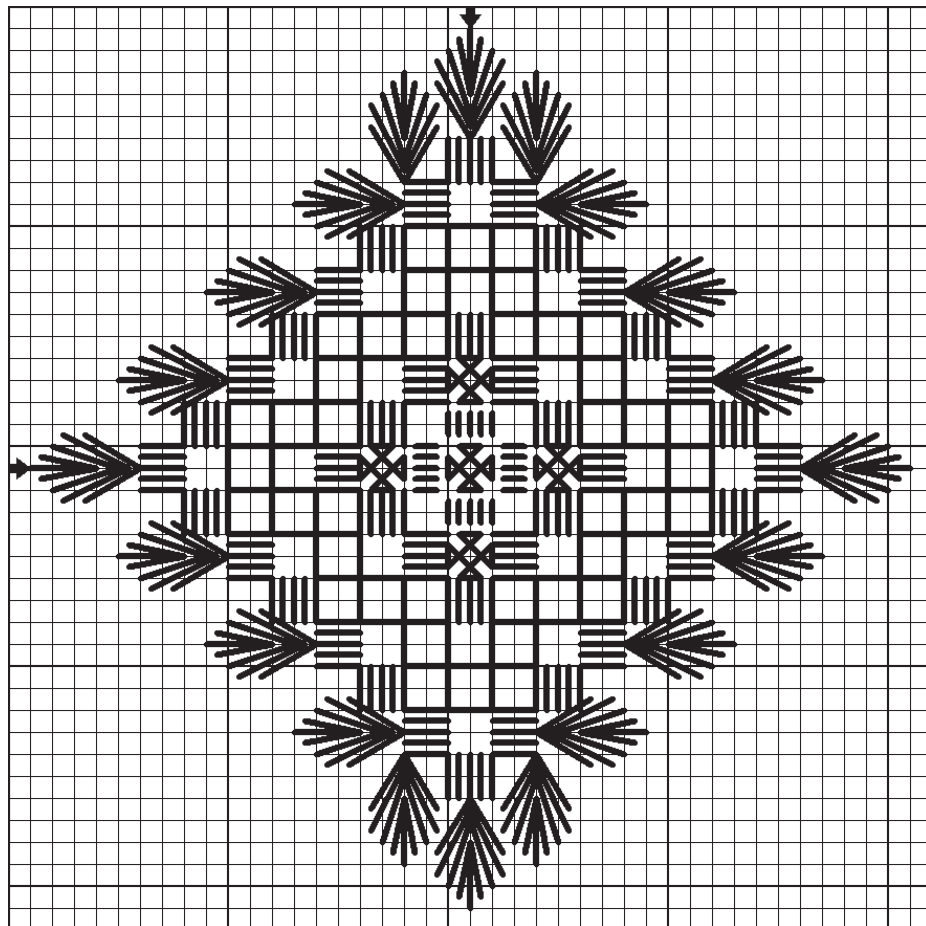
4. Cut out three pieces of felt measuring 2 1/2" each.

5. Fold over the borders of Side A stitched piece and iron. Place a felt piece on the back and sew together with tiny stitches. Repeat for Side B.

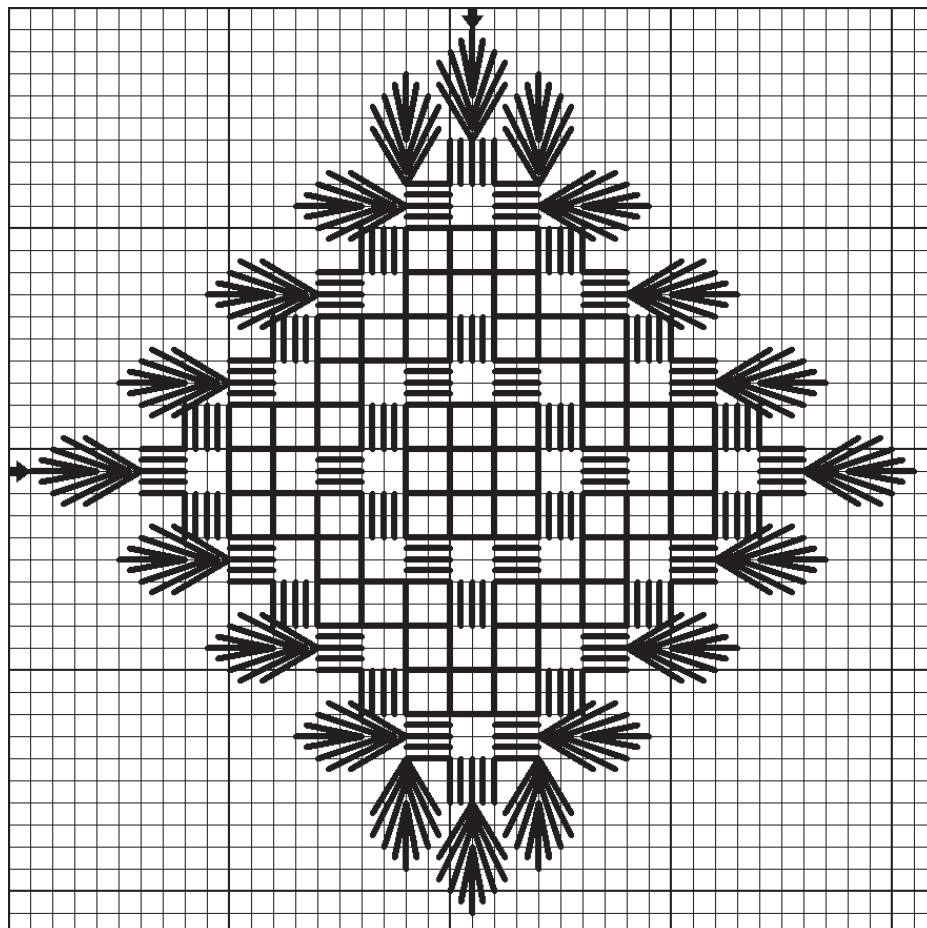
6. Place the two pieces together, felt sides touching with the extra piece of felt in the middle. Down one side sew all three pieces together with sewing thread.

7. Cut a length of trim measuring 13". Open the front of the book, fold the end of the trim and sew to the top left hand corner. Lay the trim diagonally and sew to the middle bottom corner. Turn over the needle book and with small stitches, sew the trim to the spine. Open the back page, lay the trim diagonally towards the bottom right corner. Trim and fold end and sew in place.

8. Finished!



Scissor Book Side A



Scissor Book Side B

With My Grandmother's Hands

With My Grandmother's Hands is a monthly column written by Kirsten Edwards. Kirsten explores the needlework and styles found in her family's collection of vintage embroidery.

Oh, there she is! Draped in flowing skirts decorated with numerous bows and ruffles, and upon her head sits a matching bonnet which shields her lovely features. She is usually seen in her garden picking flowers, sitting on a swing or holding a watering can. Who am I talking about? The Crinoline Lady, of course. Otherwise known as Crinoline Jane, Dolly Varden or even Southern Belle. She was a popular motif in 20th Century embroidery, gracing pillows, underwear pockets, duchess sets, tea cloths, table runners, aprons, cushions - a very popular and ultimate statement of femininity.

Miss Crinoline is popular again. With the revival of vintage embroidery and the "shabby chic" look, an original Crinoline Lady piece will sell for a good price.

In my family's collection I have a number of pieces. These were stitched during the middle of the 20th Century in free form embroidery using the popular stamped embroidery kits of the day. Today she looks a tad dated, but she's still a delight if somewhat overdone.



Small drawstring bag found with second hand goods



I often keep my eyes open in second hand shops or garage sales for interesting pieces of needlework. I was surprised to come home one day with a bag of old linen and when sorting through, I came across a little blue bag with Crinoline Jane stitched on the front. It's an adorable bag which now hangs in my office, and I put my orts in it.

What are orts? Orts are the little pieces of thread leftover from stitching! They are great for stuffing things like pin cushions.

This month I have designed an ort bag for you that has Crinoline Jane on the front. Easy to stitch and make, she'll be a unique addition to your stitching accessories.

Crinoline Lady Ort Bag Instructions

Design size: 84 x 66 stitches

Finished stitched area:
14/28 ct: 6" x 4 3/4" (15.5 x 12 cm)

The model is stitched on 28 count Wichelt hand dyed evenweave, Bittersweet with Ozark Sampler hand dyed six stranded cotton. Instructions continue on the next page.



Crinoline Lady Ort Bag

1. Use a piece of fabric, 28 count 8" x 7" (20 x 18 cm). Cross stitch all stitches with two strands of six stranded cotton according to the key below.

Symbol Key

	Ozark Sampler	DMC
○	Bird of Paradise	349
↑	Lobster	351
☐	Summer Roses	352
	Tide Pool	503
☐	Flesh	739
⊗	Caribbean Seas	3843

2. The flower stems are supposed to mimic orts. Cross stitch the single stitch at the bottom, bring the needle up at the top of the stitch and go down at the base of the flower. Do not pull the stitch tight, let it sit on the fabric

in a wavy line. Secure thread at the back of fabric.

3. When all cross stitches are completed, count 15 threads out from the design and remove the 15th thread of fabric. This will create a border around the design. Fold the sides along this border line and iron to create a neat edge.

4. Cut a piece of cotton fabric 22" x 13" (56 x 32 cm) which matches the blue thread in the design.

5. On each short end, fold the fabric 1/2" twice and sew.

6. On the top edge, fold the fabric twice 1/2" and sew at the bottom of the seam.

7. Position the stitched piece in the middle of one half of the fabric. Pin into place then hand sew a large running stitch around the edge of the

piece to secure to the fabric. Use two strands of Caribbean Seas (DMC 3843).

8. Join the two short edges wrong sides together and sew a seam from bottom to top. Do not sew all the way to the top. Leave about 1/2" open. Turn out the right way.

9. Cut three lengths of floss, 22" (56 cm) and plait them together. Tie small knots at each end.

10. Insert the cord through the top edge of the bag using a safety pin. Tie ends together.

11. Your drawstring bag is ready to hang and store your orts.



Ozark Sampler produces a range of hand dyed threads for six stranded cotton and flouche. Their colours are bright and pretty with lovely variegations. You can purchase the threads and fabric for the above piece from...

www.ozarksampler.com





This month, we would like to introduce you to a new designer who will make her debut at the February Nashville Needlework Trade Show. Colleen Leader has launched her new cross stitch design business and website as

www.followtheleaderdesigns.com

Colleen has designed this pocket for us called Spring Fling. It uses a range of counted thread stitches. She has also adapted the design as a name tag which is great for stitching events like retreats.

Instructions

Design size: 56 x 50 stitches

Finished stitched area:

14/28 ct: 4" x 3 1/2"

(10 x 9 cm)

16/32 ct: 3 1/2" x 3 1/4"

(9 x 8 cm)

Remember to add enough fabric for finishing.

The model has been stitched on 32 count Belfast, Lilac with Olde Willow Stitchery Threads, Midsummer Nights

Dream #101. Colleen recommends the following DMC six stranded cotton as an alternative: 162, 554, 3078.

Stitch the rows of stitches according to the pattern on the next page.

Pocket Finishing

Materials:

- Contrast fabric for lining
- Needle Necessities
- Overdyed Floss #195

1. Cut stitched piece leaving 1/2" seam allowance on all sides. Remember to leave fold at bottom of stitched piece
2. Cut lining the same size as the stitched piece
3. Stitched piece - fold right sides together. Stitch a 1/4" seam allowance down both sides
4. Lining - fold right sides together. Stitch a 1/4" seam allowance down the opposite side from the fold.
5. Slip lining and stitched piece together with right sides facing each other. Keeping top edges even and stitch a 1/4" seam allowance.
6. Turn lining and stitch closed using a 1/4" seam allowance.

7. Fold along top and slip lining into the pocket.
8. Make the cord using six strands of NN overdyed thread. Tie knots about a 1" from ends and trim. Attach cord to side seams of pocket.

The pocket model and finishing instructions are from Veronica Buckwalter from VB Finishing - vballoonlady@msn.com

Name Tag Instructions

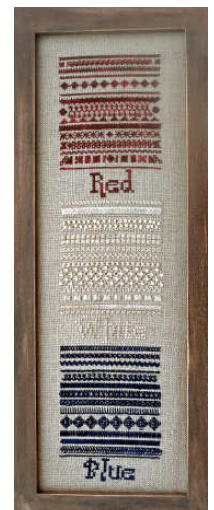
Materials:

- Board & knife to cut board
- Batting
- Double sided sticky tape
- Fabric glue
- Small piece of felt
- Floss for cording: we used DMC 210. You can really use anything that will match your bead choice.
- Beads: we used Mainstays Crafts Glass E beads - Pink and Blue mix

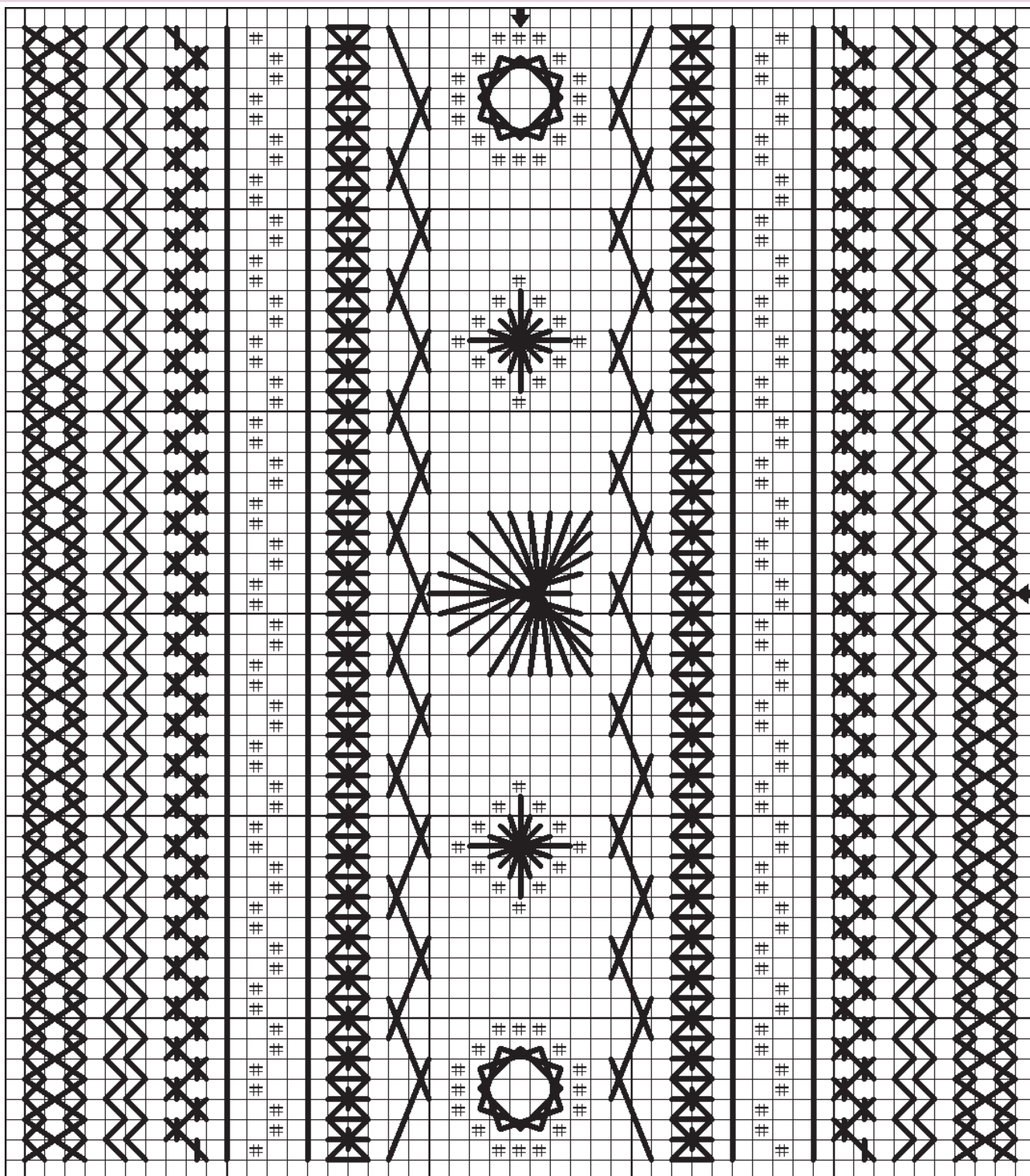
1. Trim fabric 2" beyond design on all four sides.
2. Cut board 1/2" border.
3. Cut two pieces of batting the size of the board.
4. Place batting on board and then center design (wrong side down) on

5. On the back of the board, put double sided sticky tape on the four sides. Fold corners in first, then fold in the short sides, then fold in long sides.
6. Cut felt to size and glue to back of name tag.
7. Attach cording to edges either by whip stitching or gluing.
8. Cut a piece of floss approximately 34" long. Knot one end and tack to back of the name tag.
9. String beads on to the floss, adjusting to the length you want. Knot end and tack to the back of the name tag.
10. Now you are ready to show off your fabulous new name tag at your next stitching function. Won't all your fellow stitchers be so jealous!

The name tag model was finished by Patricia Podziomek of Patricia's Finishing. Her e-mail is podzifour@aol.com



Some of the designs to be released at Nashville Trade Show this month.



- Line 1 & 17 – Oblong Rice Stitch Variation
- Line 2 & 16 – Arrowhead Stitch
- Line 3 & 15 – Backstitched Herringbone
- Line 4,6,12 & 14 – Outline or Stem Stitch
- Line 5 & 13 – Cross Stitch
- Line 7 & 11 – Roman Cross (or Zig Zag) & Upright Cross Variation
- Line 8 & 10 – Herringbone Stitch
- Line 9 – (1st and 5th symbol) Box stitch (repeat 3 times on angle) with cross stitch outline
- Line 9 – (2nd and 4th symbol) Diamond Eyelet center with cross stitched outline
- Line 9 – (3rd symbol) Rhodes Heart Variation

Mystery Sampler - Part 2

18th Century Band Sampler by Long Dog Samplers

Here is part two of our Mystery Sampler by Julia Line of Long Dog Samplers. The 18th Century is considered to be the peak in sampler making history. Samplers of this time were long and thin and featured colourful bands of borders and motifs filled with many types of stitches. These samplers were rolled and stored away as a stitch and pattern reference, and because they weren't hung on a wall, many survived in excellent condition. You can view many fine examples in museum collections today.

Julia Line has been designing under the name Long Dog Samplers for over ten years. Her original designs are inspired by historical samplers. You can view the Long Dog Sampler catalogue and stockists at this website:

<http://perso.orange.fr/longdog/>

Instructions

Design size: 150 x 260 stitches

Finished stitched area:

14/28 count: 10 2/3 x 18 5/8" (27.3 x 47.2 cm)

16/32 count: 9 3/8" x 16 1/4" (23.9 x 41.3 cm)

18/36 count: 8 1/3" x 14 1/2" (21.2 x 36.7 cm)

We recommend that you stitch on an antique white linen, evenweave or Aida of your choice.

Add 4" (10cm) to each side of the above measurements. To start stitching, measure in and down from the top left a 4" (10cm). Start from the top left of the chart.

The design features cross stitch and a little backstitching. Stitch the cross stitches with two ply DMC thread according to the key below. If stitching on 36 count or higher, use one ply. Use one ply for backstitching.

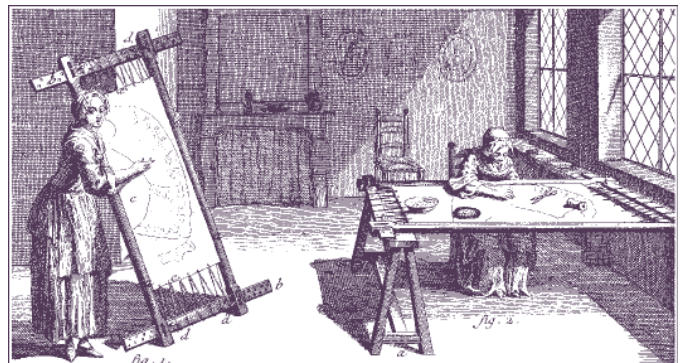
Symbol Key

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| ◀ 961 Dusty rose - dk | ▼ 718 Plum |
| ◆ 798 Delft - dk | ★ 926 Grey green - med |
| ◻ 522 Fern green | ○ 783 Topaz - med |
| ■ 310 Black | + 3721 Shell pink - dk |
| ● 3354 Dusty rose - lt | ■ 3347 Yellow - green-med |
| ▲ 519 Sky blue | × 414 Steel grey - dk |
| ◻ 580 Moss green - dk | |
| ◀ 155 Forget me not Blue | |

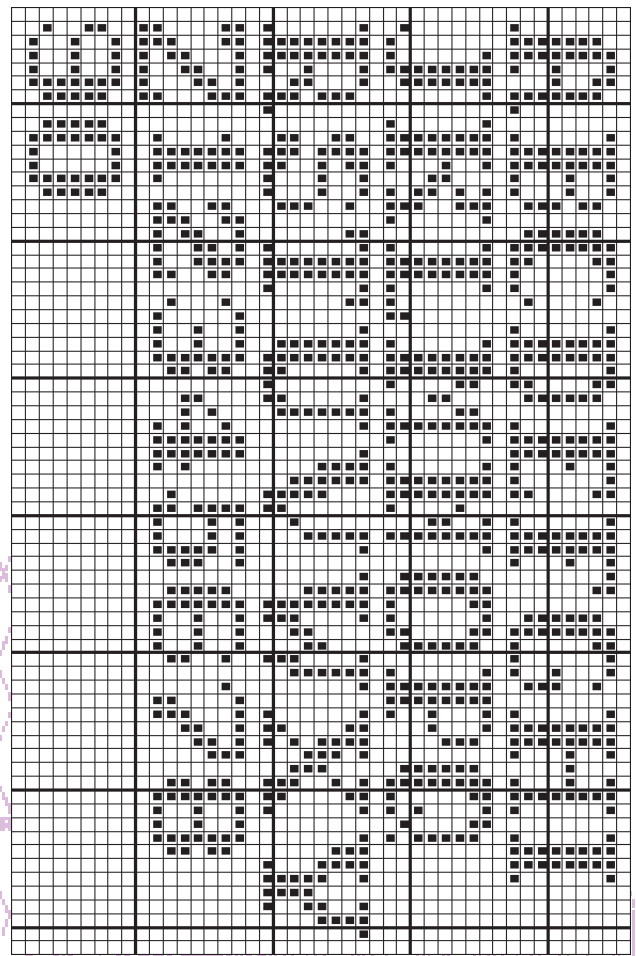
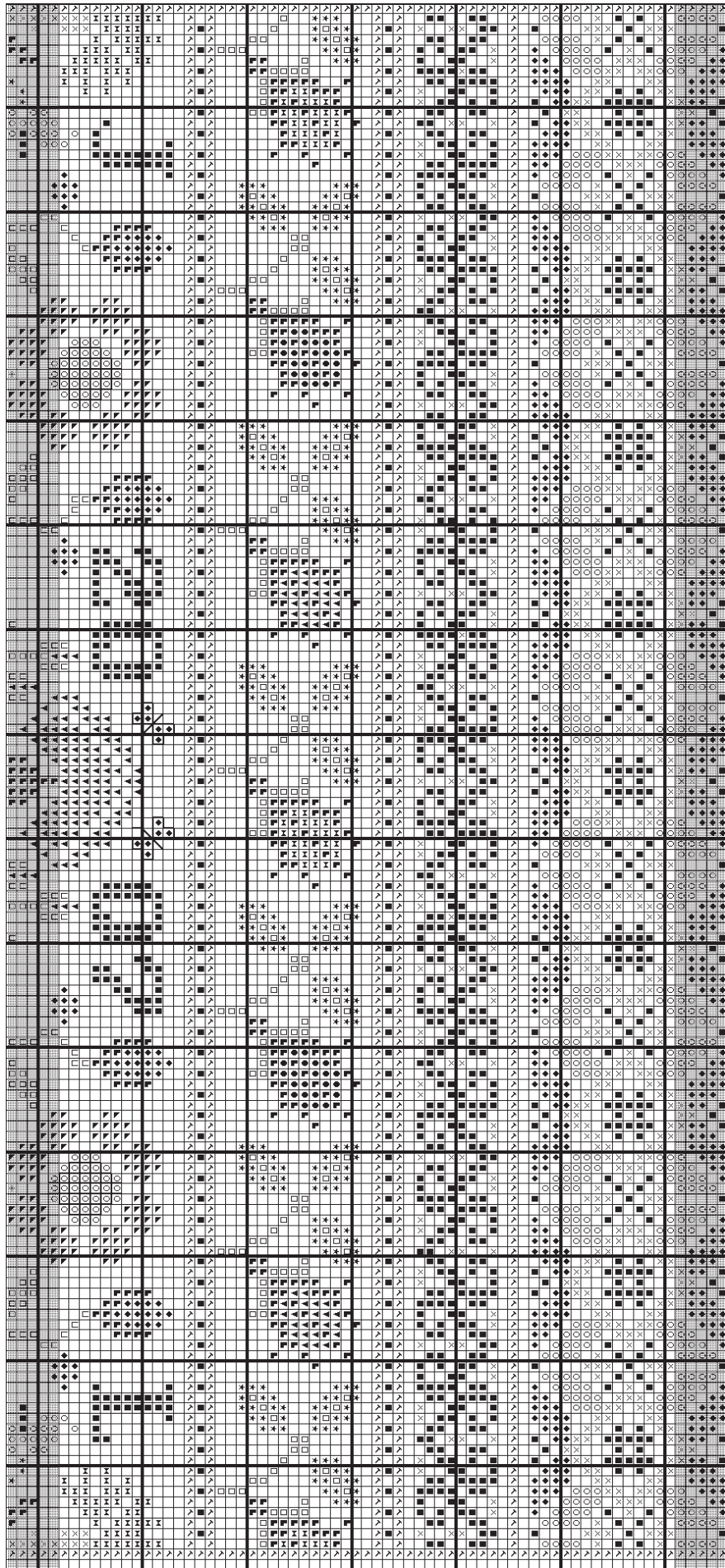


PART 3?

PART 4?



Mystery Sampler - Part 2 Chart



Blackwork with Lynne Herzberg

Inspiration for this month's pattern came from a photo of Lynne's paternal grandmother. Lynne has designed a lace matt board which compliments the antique photo wonderfully. It is backed with black velvet and will look stunning in a simple silver frame. A lovely keepsake for something old.

You can now buy 14 count perforated paper in a range of colours so this design can be altered to suit different photos.

Instructions

Design size: 57 x 57 stitches

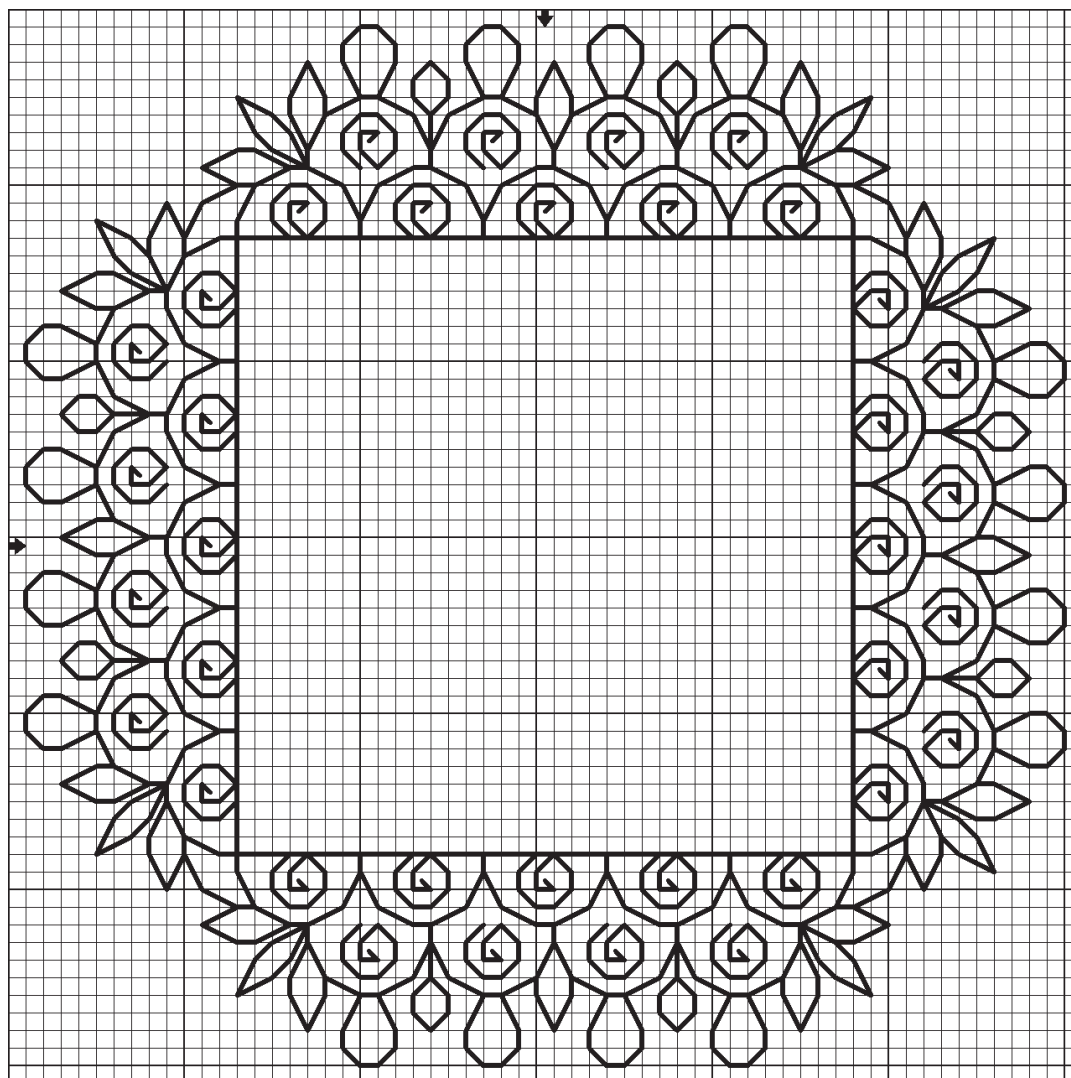
Finished Stitched Area:
14 ct: 4" (10.5 cm) square

You will need a piece of 14 count Mill Hill hand painted Midnight Black Perforated Paper, 5" (13 cm) square. One skein of DMC E415.

Use one ply of thread to stitch in Holbein Stitch.

Diagrams for the Holbein stitch can be found on pages 27-28.

Blackwork is a very old form of embroidery dating back to the Sixteenth Century. It is traditionally stitched with black thread on white using the Holbein Stitch. It was used to decorate clothing. Lynne Herzberg has taken this traditional form of embroidery and applied it to today's fabrics and threads. Join us in this column as Lynne experiments with lines and textures to create designs that are colourful and relevant to today's stitcher.



Product Profile - Dinky-Dyes Hand Dyed Threads



Above: Spring Hearts Sampler designed by Stacey Tippin. Right: Blossoms, free with silk pack purchase.

Dinky-Dyes is primarily a hand dyed thread business established in Perth, Western Australia in 2002 by Jo Mason.

Jo had been stitching since childhood and started cross stitching when she moved to Western Australia three years earlier. She found many threads needed for designs were not available in Australia, or if they were, they were quite expensive. There seemed to be a market for reasonably priced alternative stranded cotton and perle so Dinky-Dyes was established. The following year, stranded silk was added to the Dinky-Dyes line. These have proved to be very popular and are used by a growing number of designers and stitchers alike.

Jo's husband Ian, came up with a play on the word Dinky-Die as a name for the business and although Aussies understand the play on words, it is not generally understood in the rest of the world. Dinky-Die means 'genuine' or 'the real thing' and Dinky-Dyes threads are 'The real thing'.

Although Dinky-Dyes are still distributed in Australia by Jo's friend Marilyn Campbell, Jo and Ian moved to Houston, Texas two years ago due to Ian's work and now have established Dinky-Dyes USA, in Texas. Stores in the US, Canada, UK, Europe and Asia are supplied from Texas.

Dinky-Dyes six stranded

silk base is made to their own specifications in Asia and the cotton threads are dyed on DMC six stranded or perle, 100% cotton thread. Dinky-Dyes threads are suitable for all kinds of hand needlework and quilting and the silks and perle threads are wonderful for bobbin work and crazy quilting.

New colours will be released at the Nashville market this month and there will then be 126 stunning colours in the silk range and 71 colours available in stranded cotton and perle 5, 8 and 12. The full range of 126 colours of cotton and perle is exclusive to Australia and only available through Stitches and Spice.

Jo also designs cross stitch and punch needle and Stacey Tippin, a wonderful artist and designer, also designs exclusively for Dinky-Dyes. There will be several new designs released at Nashville Market this month including Spring Hearts Sampler, designed by Stacey. This is the third in the Season series and will join the very popular Autumn Fire Sampler and Summer's Garden Gate. The Cottage Garde' chart, which was free when the silk pack was purchased, will be retired after Nashville market and Blossoms will take its place. Blossoms will also be free with the purchase of the silk pack needed to stitch it.

Also being released is Spring Fever, which is a limited edition Nashville Market collaboration between Dinky-Dyes and The Cat's Whiskers. Spring Feve' will only be available to stores that attend Nashville market. Details can be found on the Dinky-Dyes website.

Dinky-Dyes also have an exclusive range of 20 different needlework scissors in gold or multi-colours made especially for them. These are very popular with stitchers who like to match their scissor fobs with a pair of Dinky-Dyes coloured scissors.

Jo is also the US distributor for the wonderful designs of her Australian friend Janie Hubble, from The Cat's Whiskers Design Studi' and the beautiful counted thread samplers of Carol Tinson's Heirloom Embroideries from the UK.

Visit the Dinky-Dyes website at...

www.dinkydyes.com



COMPETITION

This month, The Gift of Stitching and Dinky-Dyes is giving away a whole set of Dinky-Dyes silks - 126 colours!

These beautiful soft silk threads in the most amazing set of colours will go to one lucky reader.



Enter at www.thegiftofstitching.com/compfeb07.php

1

Easy Peasy Cross Stitch

Collect these cards and learn to cross stitch

The Gift of Stitching

by Jacinta Lodge of

Stitchalicious



Cut out along dashed lines, fold along centre and glue



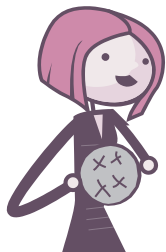
Side B

What you need and how to start

So you want to try this stitching stuff, but aren't sure where to start? Well, it ain't rocket science, and face it, if Granny can do it even though she has no idea how the Internet works, you definitely can. So raid her cupboard, grab some stuff from an embroidery shop or make do with what you have lying around and let's start!

Getting Started

For cross stitch you will need the following...



www.thegiftofstitching.com

www.stitchalicious.com

*Some fabric with a grid - Aida is the best place to start. It comes in different sizes called "counts" - 14 count is what most use.

* Embroidery thread. The thread usually used is six stranded cotton and DMC has a whole range of it.

*A needle with a blunt point. This is called a tapestry needle. If you want to get technical, you need a size #26 needle.

That's it!

Fold the fabric in half and half again and press the corner with your thumb to make a fold in the centre. This is where you start. The middle of the pattern is almost always marked by arrows, so start stitching from there and it will be perfectly centred! No running out of fabric for us!

Preparing the Thread

From the six stranded cotton floss cut about 40 cm (15"). Pull out individual threads from this.

The easiest way is just to pinch one end and pull them out between your fingers. Put two back together again and thread into your needle. Doing it this way will stop it getting twisted and knotty while you stitch. If you are working on 14 count, two strands is the norm.

The First Stitch

Not sure how to start a stitch? You could do a knot, but this puts a lump in the fabric and that's a big no no! It will create a lumpy picture when framed and can look ugly if it's on the back of clothing. There are a couple of techniques to help here:

The Waste Knot

A waste knot is a temporary knot. To do, knot the end of your thread, go through from the front a few inches from your first stitch and then start stitching. As you go, just cover this tail with stitches and

then snip the knot off! Done!

The Loop Start

A bit more tricky, but an absolute snap once you get the hang of it. You need just one thread but cut it twice as long. Then double it over and thread the two ends through the needle together. Now you have a loop at the bottom. Start from the back of the Aida, bring the needle forward through the fabric, leaving some dangling out the back. Then finish that half stitch by going back through the fabric. Slip the needle through the loop and pull tight - and bingo, that thread ain't goin' nowhere! If you wanna be really tricky it's possible to do it all from the front of the fabric ... but I'll leave that up to you to find out!

See Card 2 for the basic stitch and finishing off.

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www.stitchalicious.com

2

Easy Peasy Cross Stitch

Collect these cards and learn to cross stitch

The Gift of Stitching

by Jacinta Lodge of

Stitchalicious



Cut out along dashed lines, fold along centre and glue

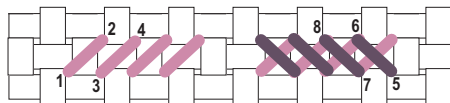
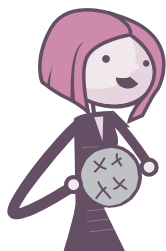


Side B

The basic stitch and finishing off

The Cross Stitch

Ooohhh, time for the all important stitch itself. The cross stitch is made from two diagonal stitches, one on top of the other. It's best to do a block of bottom stitches at once, then go back and do the top stitches for all of them. It can be one line, one colour patch, or one thread, it doesn't matter. Always make sure your bottom stitches are all running in the same direction or it'll look wrong. To make it all a bit clearer, here are the boring numbered instructions:



www.thegiftofstitching.com

www.stitchalicious.com

The Bottom Stitch (The First Half) Bring the needle up at 1, then down at 2 and keep going. Finished that bit? Take a breath, grab a drink, relax with a bit of a shoulder massage and then we hit the second half. Ready? Then let's get out there and finish them off!

The Top Stitch (The Second Half) Come up at 5, go down at 6 and continue. Now come on, how easy was that?

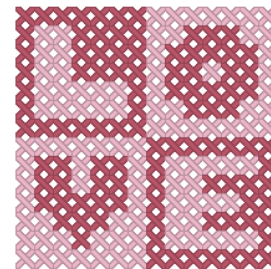
Finishing Off

To finish a thread, simply pass it under the back of the stitches you've already made. Still worried it may come undone in the wash? Just go under the backs of the next stitches in the other direction. Snip the tails - Done!

Now that you've learnt all the basics, here's a simple motif to try...

LOVE will be 1" square if stitched on 14 count Aida.

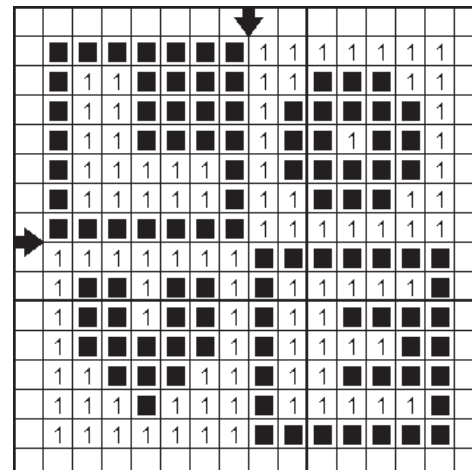
You need...
3" (8 cm) square of white Aida
These two colours in DMC six stranded cotton range - 3350 and 3689.



Use two strands to cross stitch all the squares in 3350 and all the '1' in 3689.

LOVE would make a cute card front, key ring or scissor fob.

Try stitching it with your two favourite colours for something different.

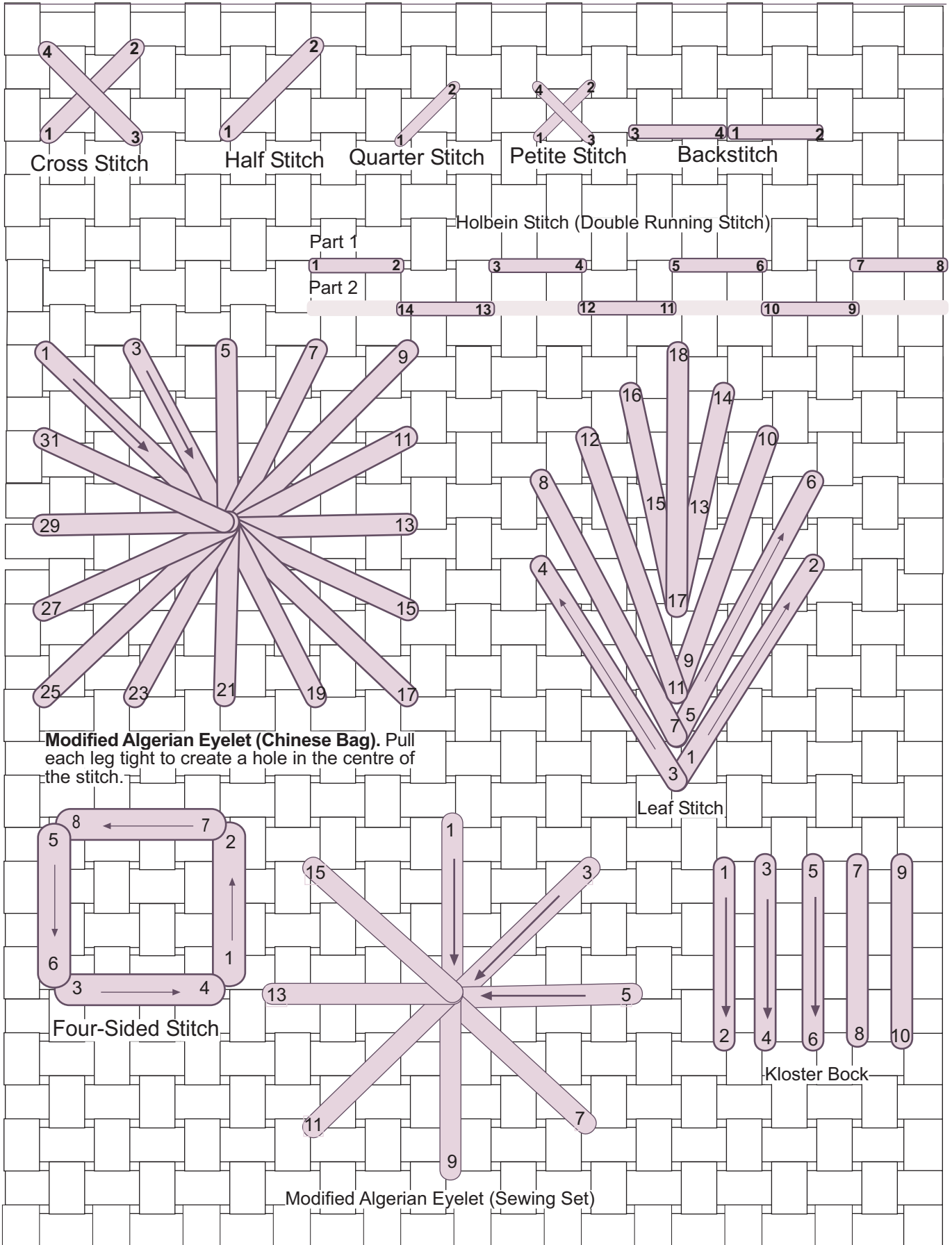


www.thegiftofstitching.com

www.stitchalicious.com

Stitch Diagrams

Each thread you see here equals one thread on evenweave or linen fabric. Come up to the right side of the fabric on odd numbers, and go down on even numbers.



Stitch Diagrams Continue...

Each thread you see here equals one thread on evenweave or linen fabric. Come up to the right side of the fabric on odd numbers, and go down on even numbers.

