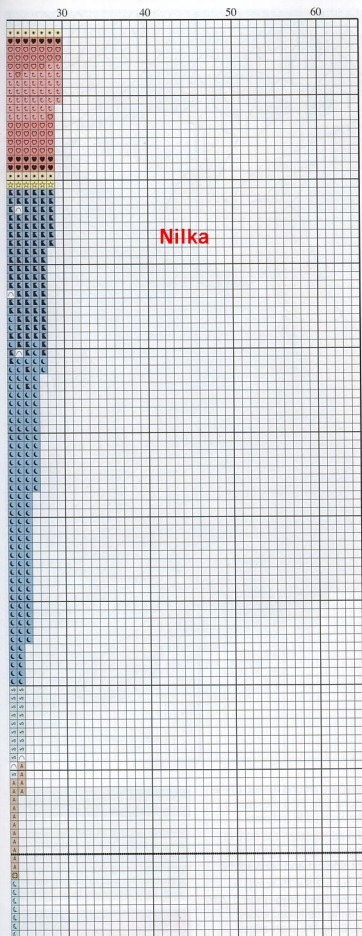


**Nilka**







Top right

## CHRISTMAS STOCKING KEY

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
★ Cross stitch in two strands				
∩	blanc	2	2402	white
♥	347	1025	0407	dark red
☾	518	1039	1106	blue
☾	519	1038	1105	light blue
—	712	926	2101	cream
☉	738	367	2013	straw
☉	739	366	2014	light straw
*	745	300	0111	cream
N	761	1021	0404	pink
+	819	271	0501	very light pink
✱	839	1050	1913	dark brown
✱	840	903	1912	brown
A	841	1082	1911	light brown
∖	842	1080	1910	very light brown
▼	911	205	1214	dark green
▽	913	204	1212	green
I	955	206	1210	light green
☛	976	1001	2010	tan
b	977	1002	2302	light tan
3	996	433	1103	bright blue
♥	3328	1024	0406	red
t	3712	1023	0405	light red
█	3760	161	1107	very dark blue
s	3761	120	1001	very light blue
★	3820	306	2509	gold
☆	3822	295	2511	light gold
☉	3823	386	2512	very light gold
☉	3843	410	1102	dark bright blue
☉	3854	313	0114	orange
b	3855	311	2012	apricot
★ Backstitch in one strand				
—	347	1025	0407	dark red <i>Santa's mouth</i>
—	3799	236	1713	dark grey <i>all other backstitch</i>
★ Backstitch in two strands				
—	3822	295	2511	light gold <i>lettering</i>
★ French knots in one strand				
●	3799	236	1713	dark grey <i>teddy bear's eyes</i>

★ STITCH COUNT 196 high x 128 wide

## ★ DESIGN AREA

14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 35 x 23cm (14 x 9 1/4in)

16 HPI – 30.5 x 20cm (12 1/4 x 8in)

18 HPI – 27.5 x 18cm (11 x 7 1/4in)

This design was stitched using DMC stranded cotton.







## LUCIE HEATON'S DESIGNER'S SECRETS

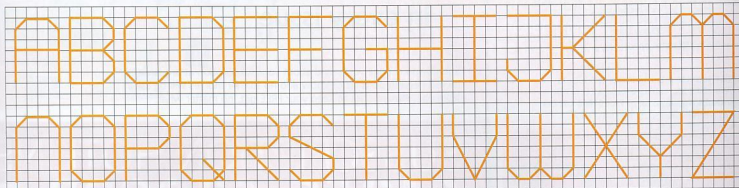
### STOCKING SHAPES

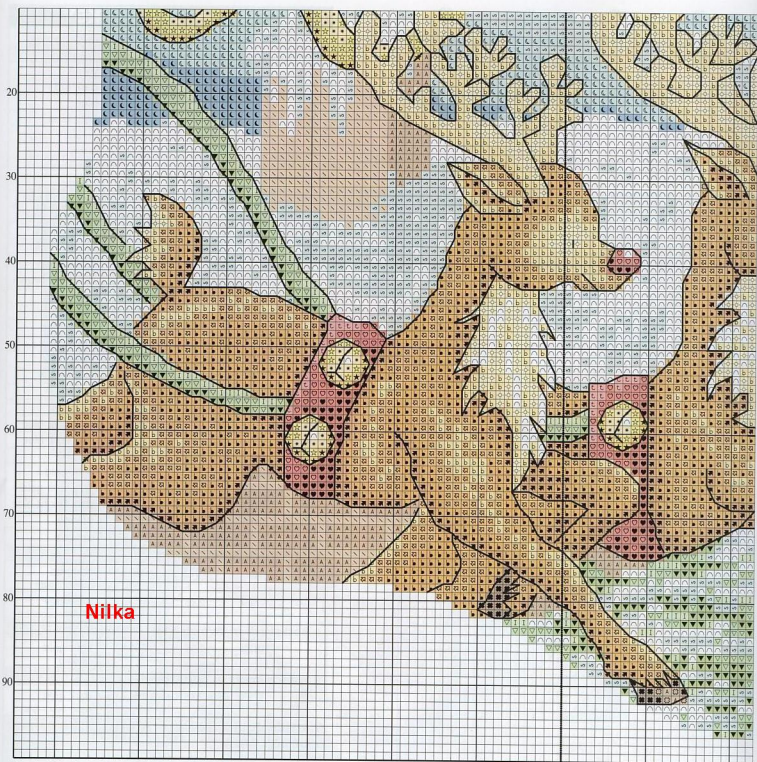
This is the second stocking I have designed for *Cross Stitch Gold*, and I do love this project. It was inspired by a Christmas card I received, which showed Santa in his sleigh with the reindeer turning a corner. I immediately realised what an excellent stocking an image of this shape would make. I like the way the reindeer extend out onto the foot of the stocking, as if they are hurrying forward to deliver gifts to well behaved boys and girls. The reindeer with the bright red nose is, of course, Rudolph. As for his friend, well that must be Dasher!



### BEAUTIFUL BACKGROUND

I wanted to include detail in the background of the design, as I know *Cross Stitch Gold* readers prefer more advanced and detailed projects. Peaceful, snow covered roof tops seemed the ideal choice, but I didn't want the background to get too fiddly, with a lot of backstitch detail detracting from the main image of Santa and his reindeer. I therefore decided not to include any backstitch, but to provide detail with colour changes and shading. I think this works really well, and also gives the impression of speed – Santa is racing through the sky with the roof tops blurring below.





### How to make up the stocking

**1** Draw an outline around the completed stitching, 2.5cm (1in) away from the edge of the stitching, to make the stocking shape. Cut along this line and then cut a piece of backing fabric the same size as the trimmed stitching.

**2** Pin the front to the back, with the right side of the stitching on the inside. Leaving the top edges open, machine or hand stitch all round the stocking 1.2cm (½in) from the outside edge. Clip the seam allowance at the curves to ease shaping the stocking when it is turned through.

**3** Fold and press 6mm (¼in) around the top of the stocking to the wrong side. Fold the creased edge 1.8cm (¾in) to the wrong side and press.

**4** Using matching thread, slipstitch the hem in place, ensuring that the stitches don't show. Turn the stocking right side out and press lightly.

**5** To make a hanger, cut a 2.5 x 25.4cm (1 x 10in) piece of aida. Fold and press under 1.2cm (½in) along the sides. Bring the folded edges together and slipstitch. Bring the short edges together to form a loop. Slipstitch the raw edges of the loop inside the stocking, next to the left seam.

### Gold Stitching Tip

We have included an alphabet so you can personalise your stocking with the lucky recipient's name – to make sure Santa knows who he is giving the present to! It's best to plot this out on graph paper before you begin stitching.

