

Acorn Sampler Sewing Case

an original design by Ellen Chester



with my Needle

Acorn Sampler Sewing Case

This project includes a sewing case with a removable mattress-style pincushion, a gathered pocket, and a place to put bone rings for holding your embroidery threads. Directions to make two needlework "treasures"—a needlebook and a scissors weight—are also included. If desired, the sewing case design can also be made as a sampler.

The following stitches are used: cross stitch, cross stitch over one, alternating double backstitch, backstitch, closed herringbone, double-sided Italian, four-sided, montenegrin, mosaic, small rice, satin, smyrna cross, tent, vertical elongated cross, and gobelin. Nun's stitch is used on the needlepage. If desired, the majority of these stitches can be replaced with cross stitch.

Stitching directions, charts, stitch diagrams, and detailed assembly instruction are included in this package.

Model Information

Linen: 32-count Autumn Gold linen (Lakeside Linens, Inc.); 32-count Toasted Almond linen (#3609-333-55, Zweigart)

Recommended amount of linen to buy:

To make the project as a sampler, you will need one piece of 32-count Autumn Gold linen, 9 inches wide by 16 inches high.

To make the project as a sewing case with "treasures", you will need one piece of 32-count Autumn Gold linen, 27 inches wide by 18 inches high, and one piece of 32-count Toasted Almond linen, 7 inches wide by 5 inches high.

Fibers: Sampler Threads (ST) from The Gentle Art, overdyed thread from Weeks Dye Works (WDW), and DMC cotton perle #12, color 842, for the nun's stitch edging on the needlepage.

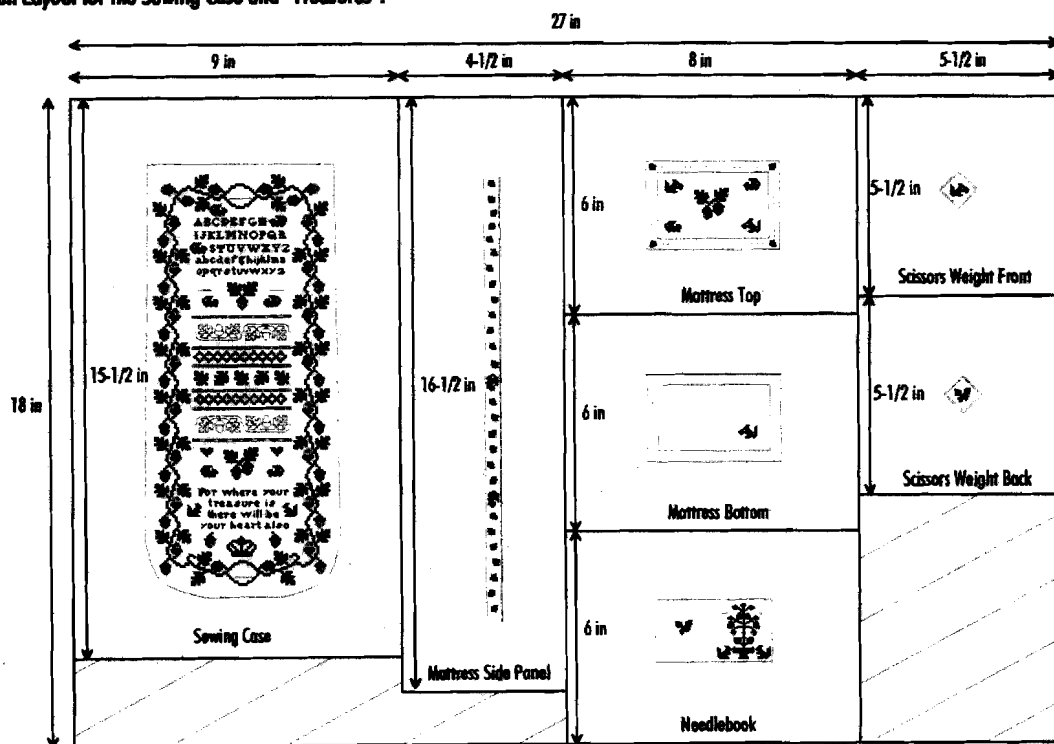
Symbol	Model Thread	DMC Substitutions ¹	Symbol	Model Thread	DMC Substitutions ¹
m	Mulberry ST	3857, 3858	T	Tiger's Eye WDW	780, 781, 782
↑	Charcoal WDW (2 or 3 skeins ²)	3799		Cidermill Brown ST (acorns)	3863, 3864
c	Cognac WDW (1 or 2 skeins ³)	301, 400		DMC cotton perle #12, color 842	
×	Hazelnut WDW (2 skeins)	433, 434			

¹ Overdyed floss is not uniform in color, so the DMC substitutions are only approximate. If using DMC threads, you will not get the same look as on the model. When more than one DMC substitution is listed for a particular overdyed floss, use the DMC colors randomly for the stitches indicated by that symbol.

² Two skeins of Charcoal WDW are required for the sampler project, and three are required if you do the sewing case and "treasures".

³ One skein of Cognac WDW is required for the sampler project, and two are required if you do the sewing case and "treasures".

Suggested Linen Layout for the Sewing Case and "Treasures":



Credits:

Linen: Lakeside Linens & Designs, Inc.; PO Box 165; Clear Lake, WA 98235-0165
Linen: Zweigart; Joan Taggart, Ltd.; 262 Old New Brunswick Rd, Unit E; Piscataway, NJ 08854
Sampler Threads: The Gentle Art; 4081 Bromo Road; New Albany, OH 43054
Weeks Dye Thread: Weeks Dye Works; 1510 Mechanical Blvd., Suite 103; Garner, NC 27529
Scrimshaw: Scrimshaw by Marcy, Marcy Pumpshat

Finishing: The Binding Stitch; 8 Taunton Ave.; Dennis, MA 02638; phone-508-385-2444
Finishing: Primitive Traditions; 286 Oak Lane; Gettysburg, PA 17325; phone-717-334-7217;
 email-cathycampbell@superpa.net
Stitch Diagrams, Editing, and Photography: T. L. Chester

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Acorn Sampler Sewing Case

General Directions

Carefully check the notes for each chart. On some of the charts each square represents two linen threads, and on others each square represents one linen thread.

Unless otherwise specified, stitch this project in cross stitch over two linen threads using two plies of embroidery thread. Use two plies of embroidery thread for all tent, satin, and backstitches, and one ply for all the cross stitches going over one linen thread.

The tent-stitch and cross-stitch-over-one-linen-thread areas may have up to four individual stitch symbols in each chart square. The special directions tell which of these over-one stitches to use in the various motifs.

Special Directions

Sampler and Sewing Case

Caps on the large acorns. Stitch the three- and five-stitch rows (or columns in some cases) of each large acorn cap in one stitch, but randomly change the stitch used from one acorn cap to the next. Suggested stitches are cross, montenegrin, closed herringbone, tent, smyrna cross, double-sided Italian, mosaic, gobelin, small rice, satin, vertical elongated cross, and four-sided stitch, or alternate smyrna crosses with cross stitches. Perhaps you have other favorite stitches that you want to use. Let your imagination run wild, and enjoy!

Leaves. To make things easy, we have used the symbol *m* for Mulberry, *T* for Tiger's Eye, and *c* for Cognac.

Squirrels. Tent stitch each squirrel using two plies of embroidery thread.

Alphabet and verse. Cross stitch over one linen thread.

Center sampler design:

Bands 1 and 11. Stitch in alternating double backstitch using two plies of Charcoal WDW. Note that there is an irregularity to the pattern in the center of each band.

Bands 2 and 10. Backstitch using two plies of Hazelnut WDW. Don't substitute the double running stitch for the backstitch if you are using overdyed thread because the colors will not blend properly.

Bands 3, 5, 7, and 9. Stitch in four-sided stitch using two plies of Charcoal WDW.

Bands 4, 6, and 8. Cross stitch using the colors indicated on the chart.

Crown. In order to center the crown horizontally, move it one linen thread to the right from where it is shown on the chart.

Personalization.

Sampler. In the oval area at the top of the vine, using one ply of Charcoal WDW, cross stitch, over one linen thread, your first and last initials using the alphabet found on the sampler. Do not stitch the line. It is only there to help you position your initials.

Stitch the current year on the line in the oval area at the bottom of the vine using cross stitch over one linen thread and one ply of Charcoal WDW.

Numerals are charted on page 3. Do not stitch the line. It is only there to help you position the date.

Below the alphabet at the top of the sampler, I added the initials of my two children. These were cross stitched over one linen thread using one ply of

Charcoal WDW. You may want to add the initials of someone who is dear to you.

Sewing Case. Personalize as described above, but stitch the year in the top oval and your initials in the bottom one.

Basting Lines. If making the sewing case, put in the basting lines as shown on the chart. The basting lines will be very important in the assembly process. Be accurate with placing your stitches, and use a thread that shows up well on the gold linen. Omit the basting lines if you are making the sampler.

Mattress Pincushion

Top. Using two plies of Charcoal WDW, backstitch, over two linen threads, the two rectangles that form the border. Tent stitch the leaves in the corners, and cross stitch their stems over one linen thread. Using two plies of Charcoal WDW, stitch a line of straight stitches around the three sides indicated on the chart; each of these stitches will cover two linen threads, and there will be three linen threads between each stitch. In the bottom area, cross stitch your name using the alphabet provided on the sewing case. This area is ten-threads high, and the alphabet is seven-threads high. On the model, two empty linen threads were left above the tallest letters, and one below. However if your name contains a lower case "g", "i", "p", or "q", you will need to leave only one linen thread above the tallest letter, and you will also need to shorten the descending letters by one stitch. If desired, fill in the areas on either side of your name with more straight stitches.

Tent stitch the squirrels. Stitch their acorn caps using cross stitch over one linen thread. Satin stitch the remainder of the acorns using two plies of Cidermill Brown ST.

For the two large acorns near the center, stitch the acorn caps using two of your favorite stitches like you did previously on the sewing case. Satin stitch the remainder of the acorns using two plies of Cidermill Brown ST.

Bottom. Using two plies of Charcoal WDW, backstitch, over two linen threads, the two rectangles forming the border. Tent stitch the squirrel. Cross stitch the acorn cap over one linen thread. Satin stitch the remainder of the acorn using two plies of Cidermill Brown ST.

Side panel. Backstitch, over two linen threads, the top and bottom lines. Tent stitch the leaves, and add a single cross stitch over one linen thread for each stem. Tent stitch the two squirrels.

Needlebook

Using two plies of Charcoal WDW, backstitch, over two linen threads, the outside border.

Tent stitch the vase body, stems, leaves, and squirrels. Cross stitch, over one linen thread, the acorn caps and the handles of the vase. Satin stitch the remainder of the acorns with two plies of Cidermill Brown ST. Cross stitch, over one linen thread, your initials using the alphabet on the sewing case. There are lines on the chart to show you the correct placement. Do not stitch the lines.

Needlepage. (This is the only piece that is stitched on toasted almond linen.) Using cotton perle, place nun's stitches around the outside of the needlepage: start at the top center and stitch clockwise around until you reach the bottom center, then turn the linen over to the back and continue stitching to the starting spot. This will give a nice look to both pages when the needlepage is folded closed in the finished project. Make sure that you have your linen oriented in the correct direction before tent stitching the squirrel. Stitch the

Acorn Sampler Sewing Case

acorn cap using cross stitch over one linen thread. Satin stitch the remainder of the acorn using two plies of Cidermill Brown ST.

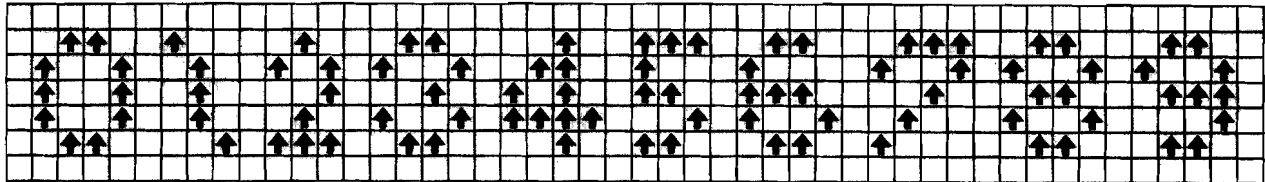
Scissors Weight

Front. Tent stitch the squirrel. Cross stitch, over one linen thread, the acorn cap. Satin stitch the remainder of the acorn with two plies of Cidermill Brown

ST. Backstitch, over two linen threads, the two diamond-shaped outlines using two stands of Charcoal WDW.

Back. Follow the instructions given earlier for the acorns and diamond shapes. Tent stitch the leaves.

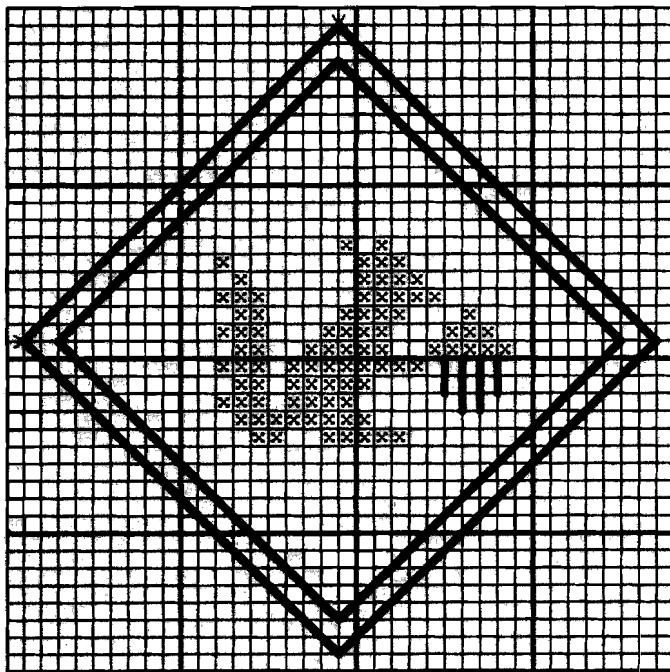
Numerals for Personalization



Charts for the Acorn Sampler Sewing Case

Each square on these two charts represents one linen thread.

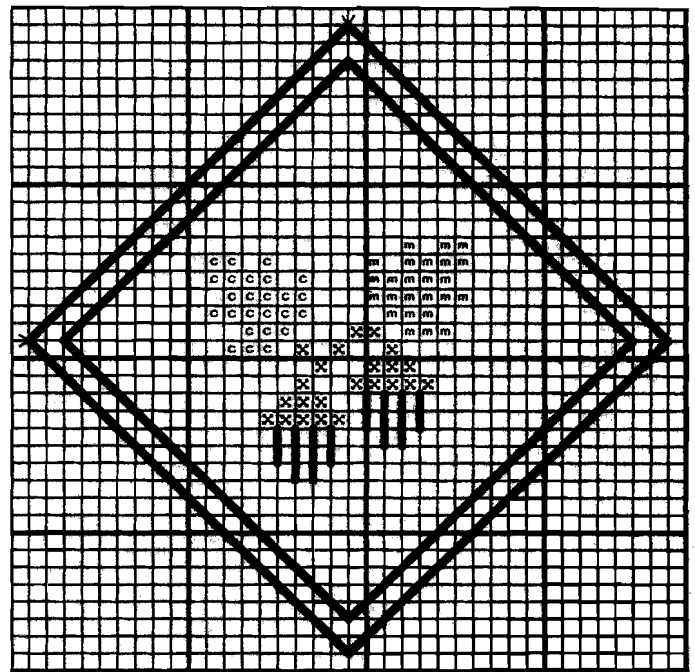
Scissors Weight Front



Stitch count for each piece: 36 by 36

Symbol	Model Thread	DMC Substitutions
m	Mulberry ST	3857, 3858
↑	Charcoal WDW	3799
c	Cognac WDW	301, 400

Scissors Weight Back



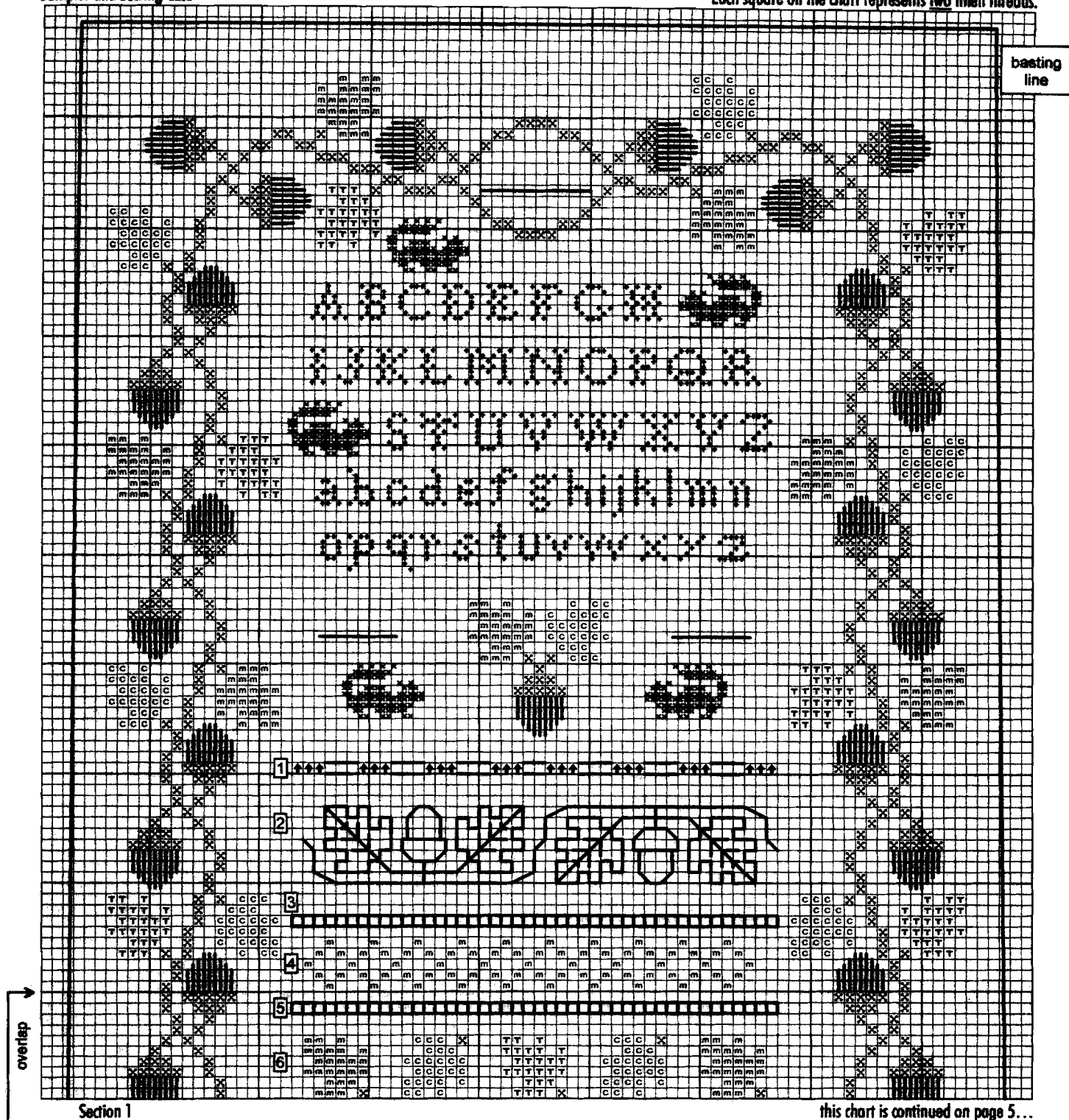
Stitched area: 1-1/8 by 1-1/8 inches

Symbol	Model Thread	DMC Substitutions
×	Hazelnut WDW	433, 434
	Cidermill Brown ST (acorns)	3863, 3864

Charts for the *Acorn Sampler Sewing Case*

Sampler and Sewing Case

Each square on the chart represents two linen threads.



Stitch count for the sampler and sewing case: 78 wide by 184 high

Stitched area: 4-7/8 by 11-1/2-inches

Symbol Model Thread
m Mulberry ST
↑ Charcoal WDW
c Cognac WDW

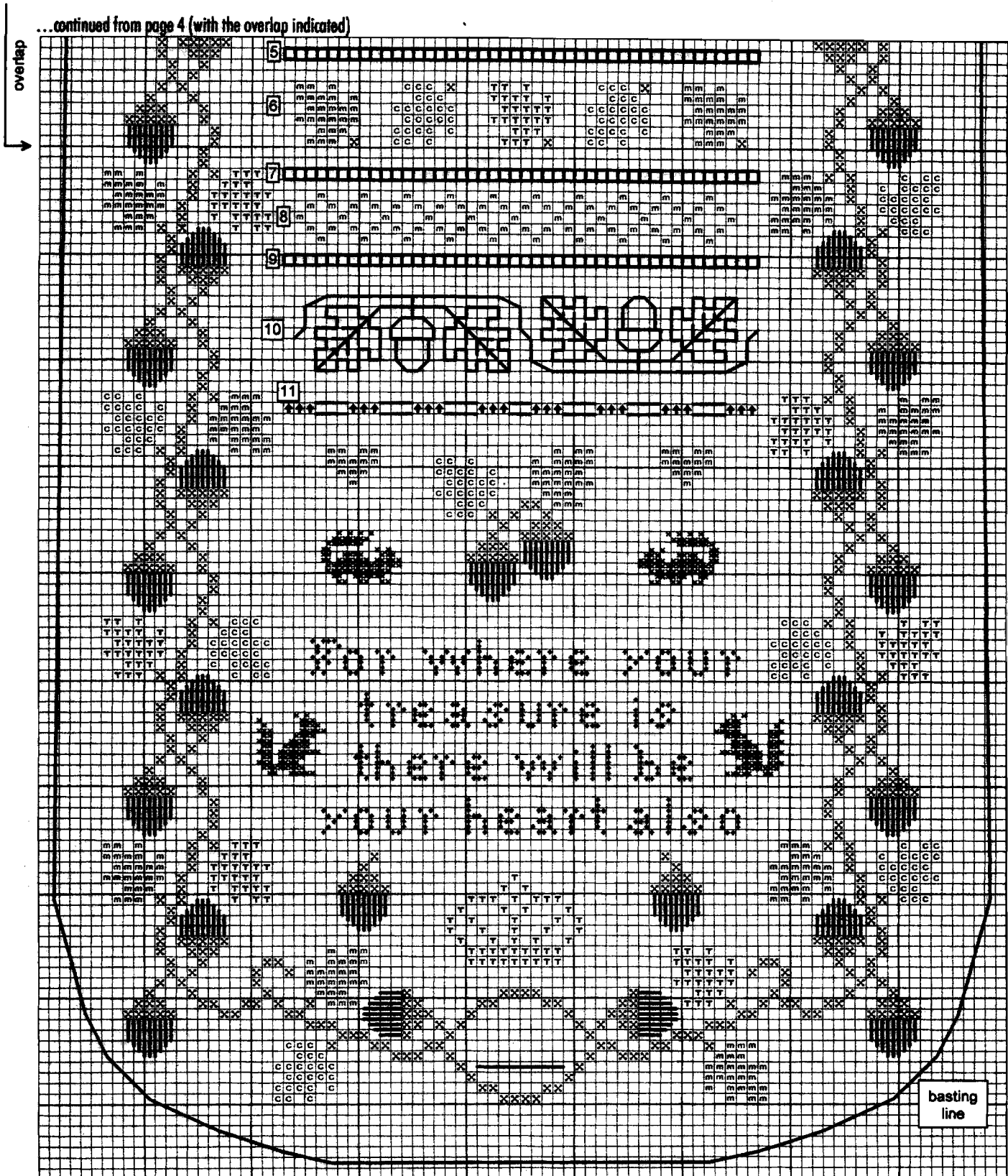
DMC Substitutions
3857, 3858
3799
301, 400

Symbol Model Thread
X Hazelnut WDW
T Tiger's Eye WDW
Cidermill Brown ST (acorns)

DMC Substitutions
433, 434
780, 781, 782
3863, 3864

Charts for the *Acorn Sampler Sewing Case*

...continued from page 4 (with the overlap indicated)



Section 2

Symbol	Model Thread
m	Mulberry ST
↑	Charcoal WDW
c	Cognac WDW

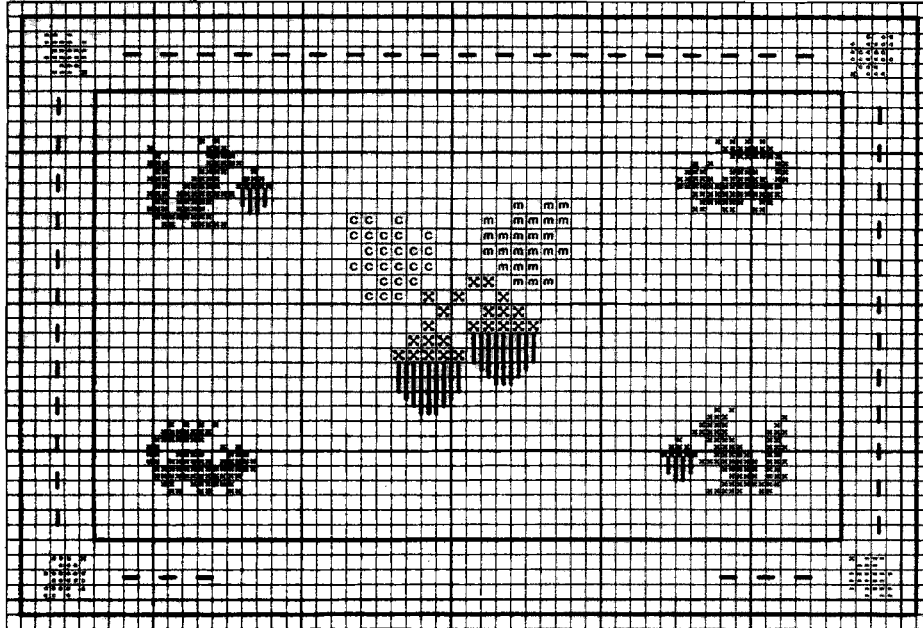
DMC Substitutions
3857, 3858
3799
301, 400

Symbol	Model Thread
×	Hazelnut WDW
T	Tiger's Eye WDW
	Cidermill Brown ST (acorns)

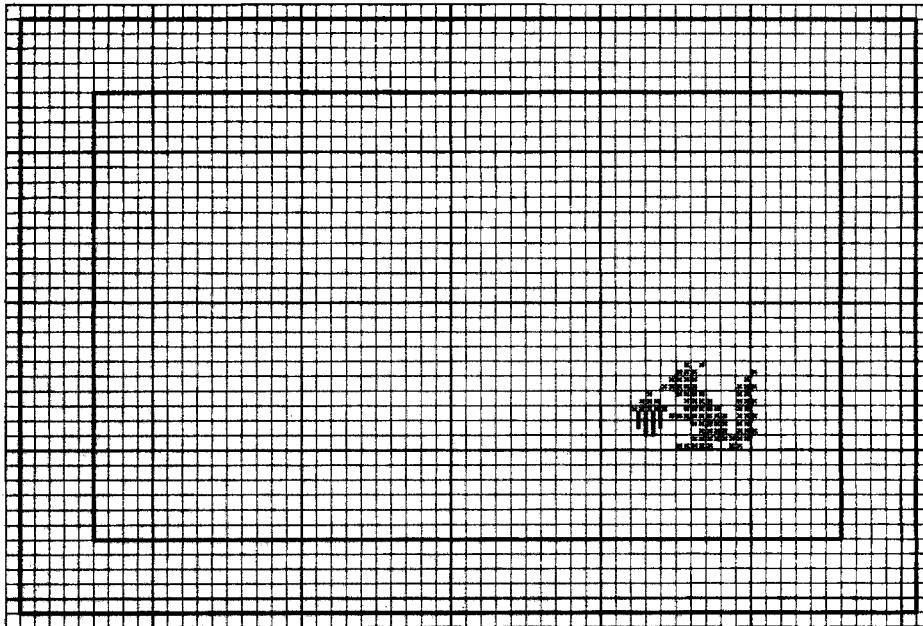
DMC Substitutions
433, 434
780, 781, 782
3863, 3864

Charts for the *Acorn Sampler Sewing Case*

Matress Pincushion Top



Matress Pincushion Bottom



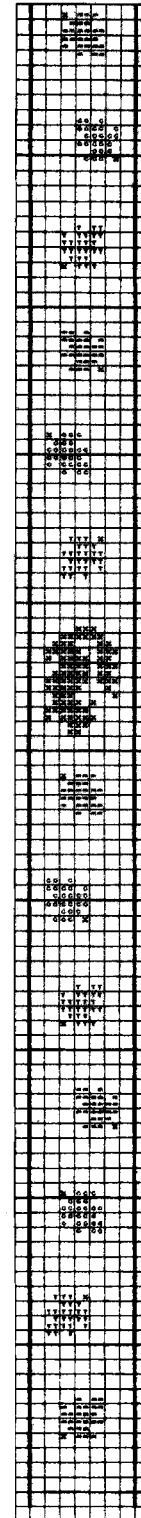
For the top and bottom,
Stitch count: 60 wide by 40 high

Stitched area: 3-3/4 by 2-1/2 inches

Symbol	Model Thread	DMC Substitutions
m	Mulberry ST	3857, 3858
↑	Charcoal WDW	3799
c	Cognac WDW	301, 400
x	Hazelnut WDW	433, 434
T	Tiger's Eye WDW	780, 781, 782
	Cidermill Brown ST (acorns)	3863, 3864

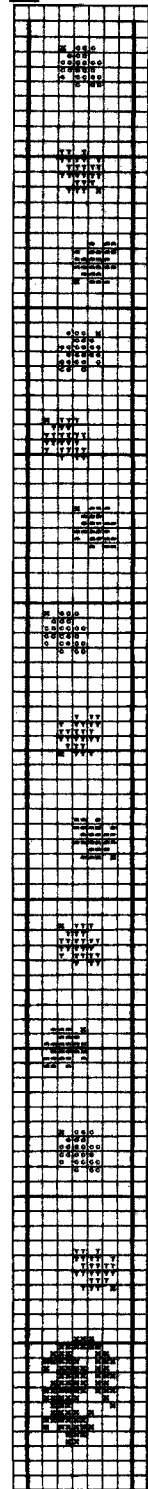
Each square on these charts represents two linen threads.

Matress Pincushion Side Panel, section 2, no overlap



Stitch count: 200 wide by 7 high
Stitched area: 12-1/2 by 1-1/2 inches

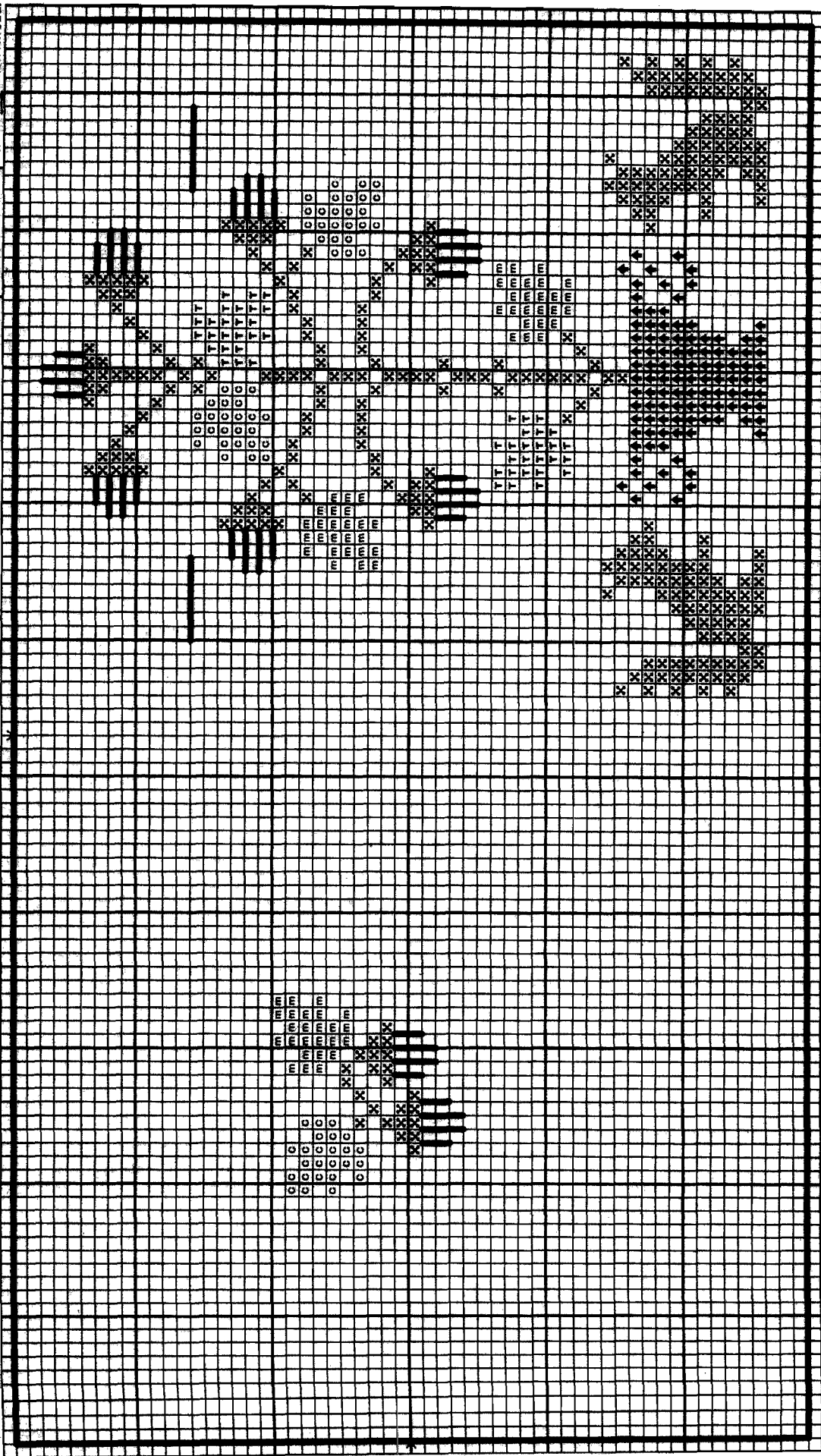
Matress Pincushion Side Panel, section 1



Charts for the Acorn Sampler Sewing Case

Needlebook

Each square on the chart represents one linen thread.



Stitch count: 104 wide by 58 high

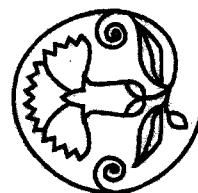
Stitched area: 3-1/4 by 1-3/4 inches

Symbol	Model Thread
m	Mulberry ST
↑	Charcoal WDW
c	Cognac WDW

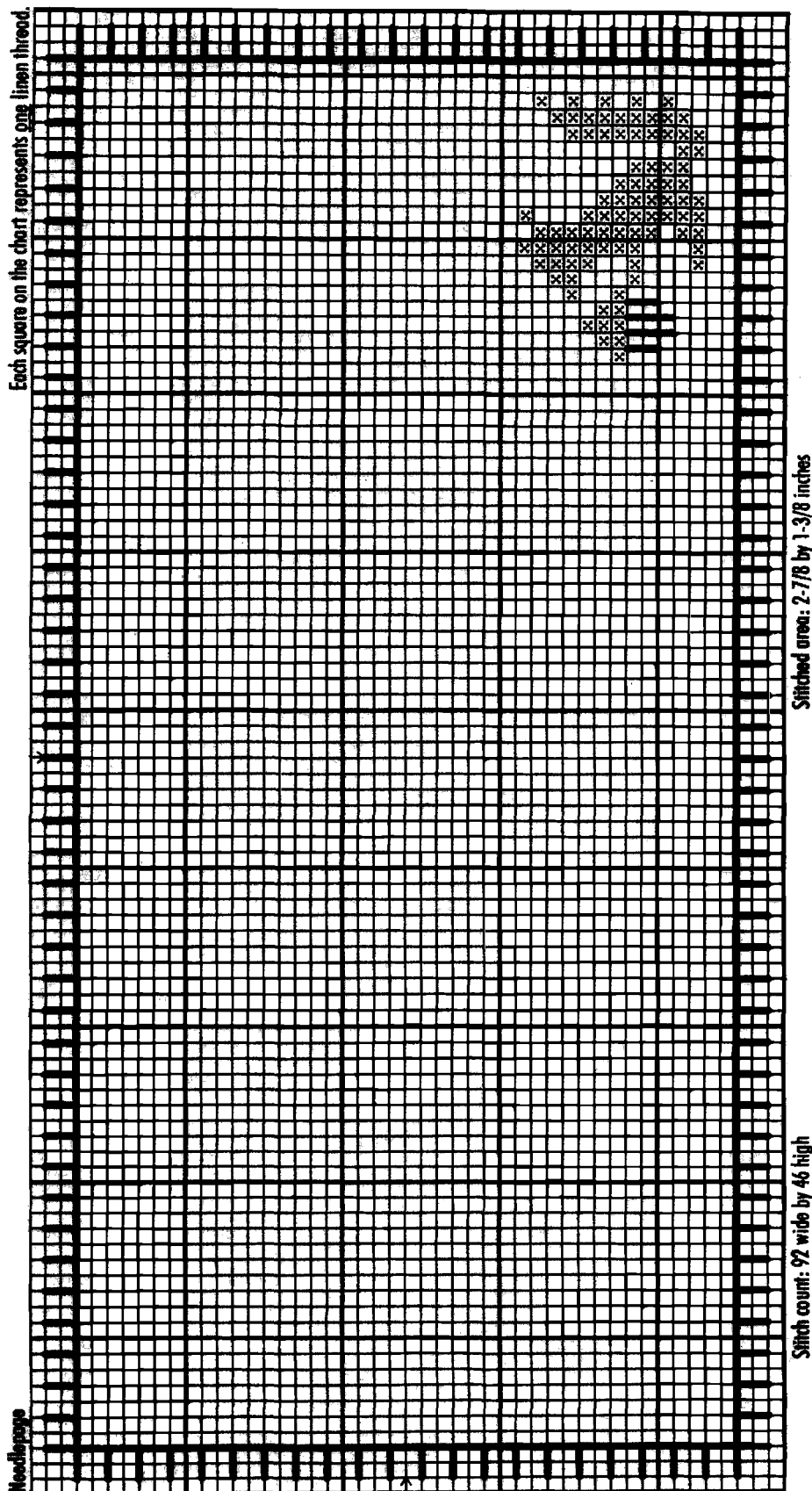
DMC Substitutions
3857, 3858
3799
301, 400

Symbol	Model Thread
x	Hazelnut WDW
t	Tiger's Eye WDW
	Cidermill Brown ST (acorns)

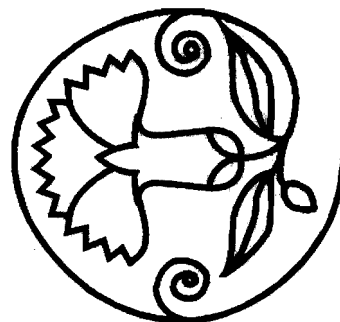
DMC Substitutions
433, 434
780, 781, 782
3863, 3864



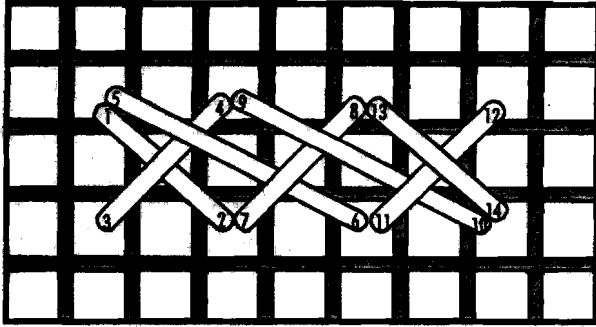
Charts for the *Acorn Sampler Sewing Case*



Symbol	Model Thread	DMC Substitutions
x	Hazelnut WDW	433, 434
	Cidermill Brown ST (acorns)	3863, 3864
	DMC cotton perle #12, color 842	

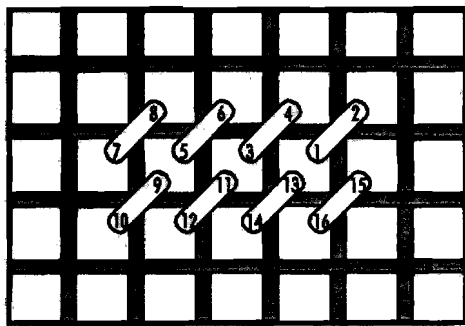


Stitch Diagrams for the *Acorn Sampler Sewing Case*

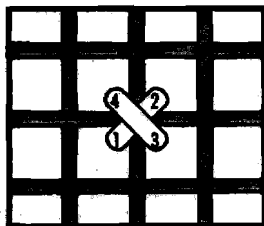


Closed Herringbone Stitch

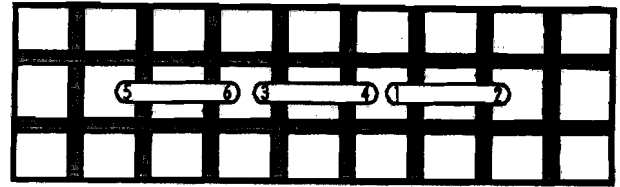
Steps 1-2 create a short stitch necessary to begin a row. Steps 3-6 establish the pattern that is repeated across the row. Steps 13-14 show how to create the short stitch needed to end the row.



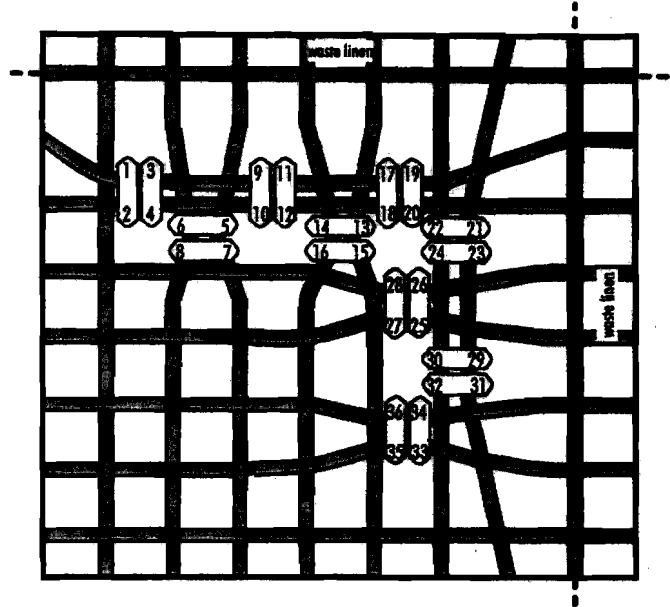
Tent Stitch



Cross Stitch Over One Linen Thread

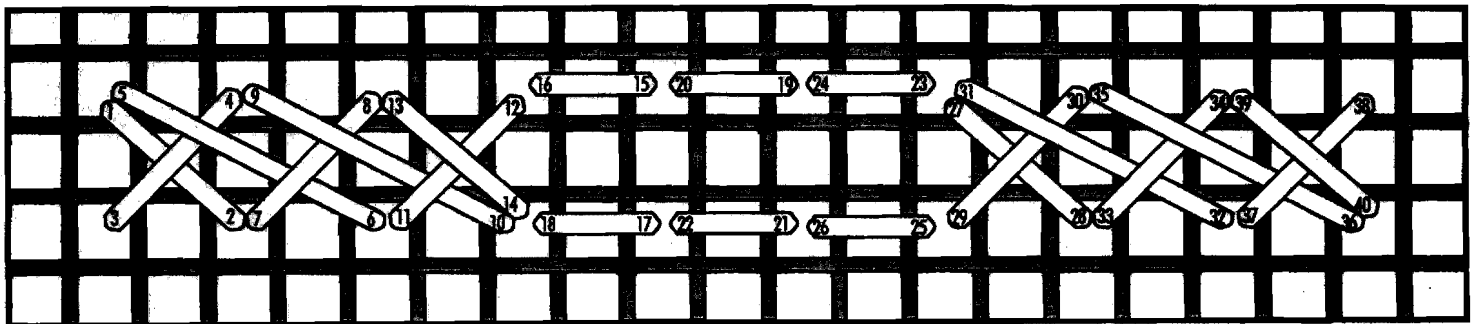


Backstitch
(over two linen threads)



Nun's Stitch

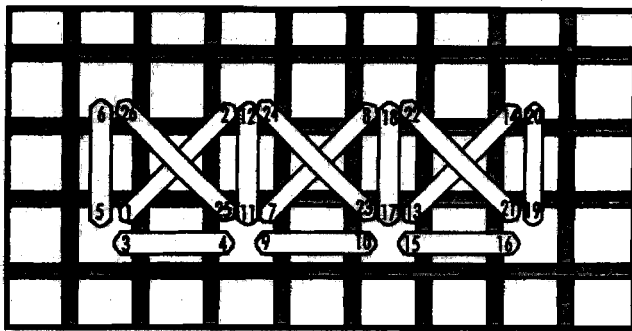
The nun's stitch is a pulled stitch. It is used to finish an edge and is most often applied to all four sides of a piece. Edges finished with nun's stitches will not unravel. The diagram establishes the pattern to follow on all four sides of the needlepage, and shows how to turn a corner. After completing the nun's stitches (all the way around the needlepage), remove the linen threads immediately to the outside, shown by the dashed lines in the figure. Use the vacant channels as guides and cut away the waste linen. Be careful not to cut any of your nun's stitches.



Alternating Double Backstitch

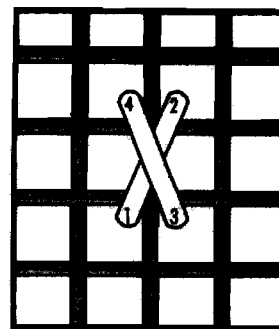
Three closed herringbone stitches (steps 1-14) are alternated with two rows of three backstitches each (15-26). Steps 27-40 begin the next repetition of the pattern. Note that in this project, in the middle of bands 1 and 11 on the Sampler and Sewing Case chart, there are two pairs of only two backstitches each rather than the usual three. This change is marked on the chart and is required in the middle of these bands to properly center them.

Stitch Diagrams for the *Acorn Sampler Sewing Case*



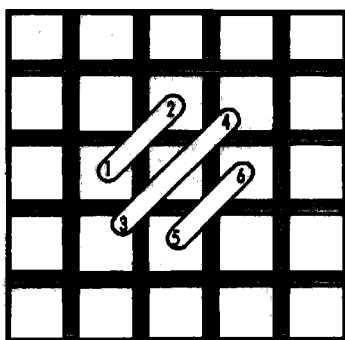
Double-Sided Italian Stitch

Steps 1-6, 7-12, etc. show the pattern that is repeated to make a row. Note that the crosses are not completed until later. When you reach the end of the row, add a vertical stitch, 19-20 in this example, before changing direction to complete the crosses.

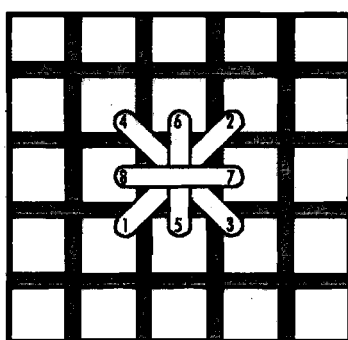


Vertical-Elongated Cross Stitch

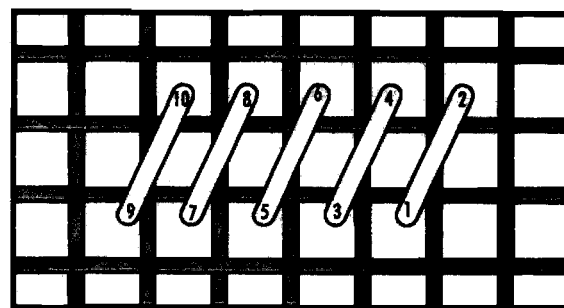
When using this stitch, place two stitches, side-by-side, for each symbol on the chart.



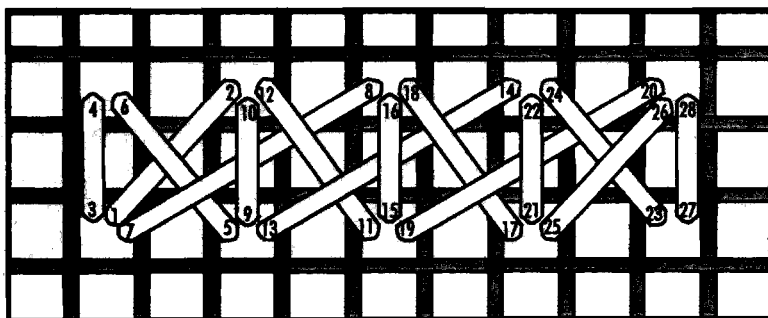
Mosaic Stitch



Smyrna Cross

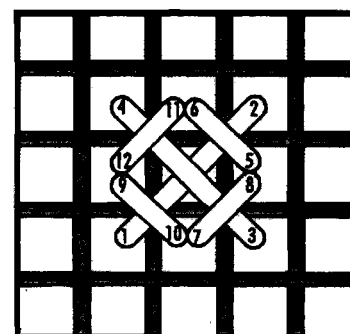


Gobelin Stitch

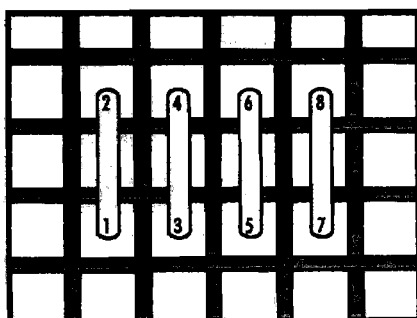


Montenegrin Stitch

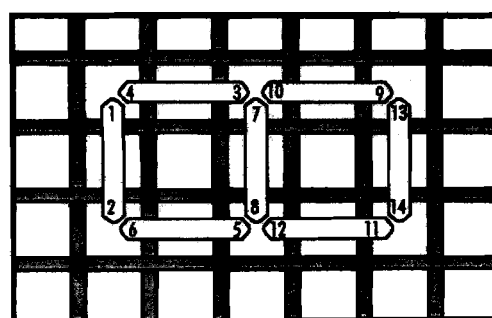
The illustration shows how to start and end a row. Steps 9-14 establish the pattern which is repeated across a longer row. To finish a row, shorten the last long diagonal stitch (here it is 25-26) and end with a vertical stitch (27-28).



Small Rice Stitch



Satin Stitch
(over two linen threads)



Four-Sided Stitch

Assembly Instructions for the *Acorn Sampler Sewing Case*

Supplies

3/4 yard of medium-weight interfacing such as Pellon
1/2 yard of lining fabric
Sewing thread to match the lining fabric
6-1/2 inches of 1/4-inch-wide elastic
5-by-10 inches of upholstery interfacing such as Skirtex. (If unavailable locally, contact The Binding Stitch; 8 Taunton Ave.; Dennis, MA 02638; phone-508-385-2444; <http://www.bindingstitch.com/>)
1/4 yard of 1/4-inch-thick batting
cardstock
Charcoal WDW, 1 skein
Cognac WDW, 1 skein
Tigers Eye WDW (leftover from stitching the case)
Bead or button for the sewing case closure
Small bead or button for the needlebook closure
Small decorative bead(s) for the scissors weight, optional
7, 3/4-inch bone or horn rings
Spray adhesive or glue (such as Aleene's "Tacky" Glue)

Twisted Cord

To make a twisted cord, cut each thread 3-times the length required for the finished cord. Put the threads together in parallel making sure they are even, and knot both ends. Tie or clamp one of the knotted ends to something sturdy. Lightly pull the threads taut, and twist the free end clockwise until the twisted threads begin to kink. Keeping the twisted threads taut, grab the middle point of the twisted threads, bring the free knotted end to the fixed knotted end, and fix them both in place. Still keeping the threads taut, pinch and hold the threads about 4 inches from what is now the free end, and release the free end. It will turn counterclockwise on its own into the final shape. Smooth out this section; then pinch again a few inches closer to the knots, release the previous pinch, and smooth. Continue pinching, releasing, and smoothing until the entire length is finished. Then remove the knotted ends and tie them together using a single overhand knot.

Important Pressing Tips

Always press lightly with a pressing cloth between your work and the iron. Overdyed threads must not be exposed to water or steam. Use only a dry iron for pressing linen stitched with overdyed threads. Straighten and press all of your stitched pieces, and make sure all the corners are square.

Assembling the Sewing Case

Cut two pieces of medium-weight interfacing, 15-by-9-inches. Center the stitched linen on one of the pieces of interfacing and pin in place. With the linen on top, machine stitch all the way around the piece, one linen thread inside the basting stitches. Remove the basting stitches.

Mark a 15-by-9-inch rectangle on the lining fabric with the 15-inch side parallel to the selvage edge, and cut this out. Align and pin the remaining piece of interfacing to the wrong side of the lining. Machine stitch around the edges leaving a 5/8-inch seam allowance.

Pocket. Mark a 10-1/2 by 8-1/4-inch rectangle on the lining fabric with the 8-1/4-inch edge parallel to the selvage edge, and cut this out. Fold this in half across the short sides by bringing the wrong sides together. Check to make sure the folded piece is 10-1/2 by 4-1/8-inches. Press the fold.

Referring to Figure 1, put in a line of machine stitches 1/4-inch from the folded edge. Put in a second line of machine stitches 3/8-inch from the first

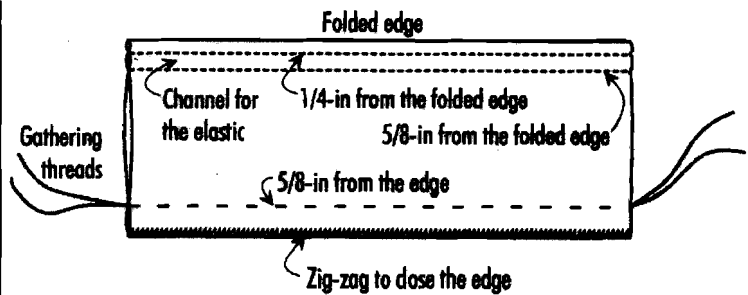


Figure 1

line (5/8-inch from the folded edge). These two lines of stitches form a channel for the elastic. Using the longest stitch available, machine stitch a gathering stitching line 5/8-inch from the opposite edge of the pocket. Using a small, tight zigzag stitch, sew the two long edges together.

Cut a piece of elastic 6-1/2-inches-long, and thread it through the pocket channel. Gather the pocket along the elastic so that the sides of the pocket fabric are aligned with the ends of the elastic. Leave 5/8 inch ungathered on both sides, and pin the ends of the elastic in place. Adjust the gathers evenly, making sure that none fall within 5/8 inch of the sides. Gather the bottom of the pocket using the gathering threads so that the pocket bottom is the same width as the elasticized top.

Measure 4-1/2 inches from the bottom edge of the lining assembly, and mark each side with a small snip in the seam allowance. Place the pocket right-side down, with the folded edge pointed down, on the right side of the lining assembly. Referring to Figure 2, center the pocket on the lining with the gathering line aligned between the snip marks. Machine stitch through all the layers on the pocket gathering line.

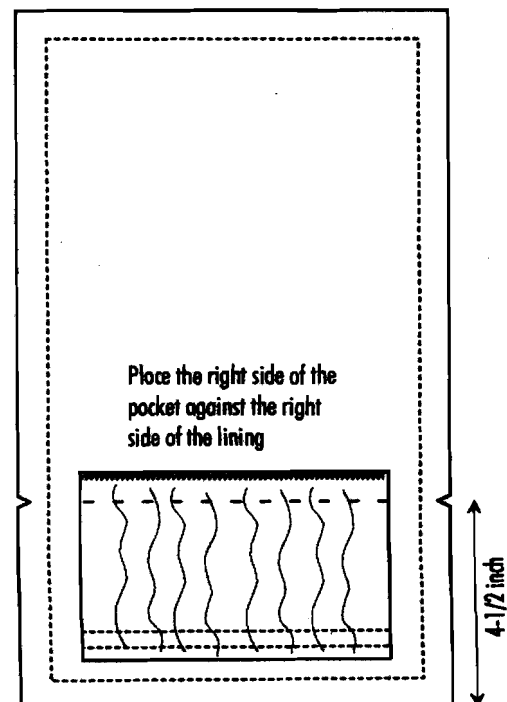


Figure 2

Assembly Instructions for the *Acorn Sampler Sewing Case*

Referring to Figure 3, flip up the pocket along the gathering line, into its final position, and pin in place. Machine stitch the sides of the pocket to the lining

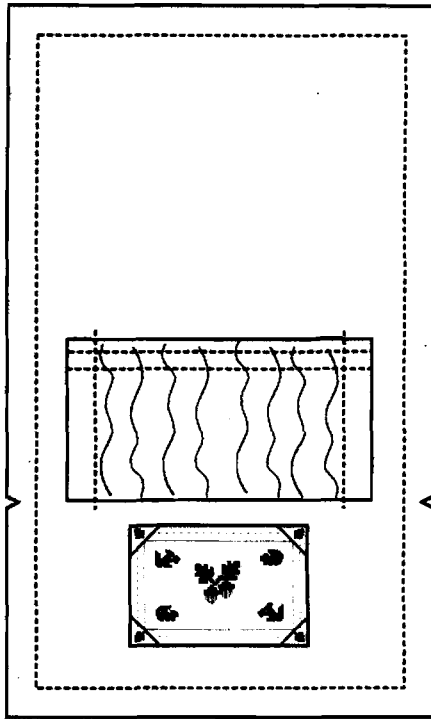


Figure 3

using a 5/8-inch seam allowance.

Mattress. Leaving a 1/4-inch allowance around the outside, trim away the excess linen from the mattress top, bottom, and side panel. Leaving two or three linen threads, trim off the corners of the side panel to reduce bulk. Fold the edges of the linen pieces to the back along the backstitch lines and press.

Align the mattress bottom and side panel making sure the squirrels are not upside-down. Join the mattress bottom to the side panel by starting in a corner and lacing the matching backstitch lines together. Fold and join the ends of the side panel in a corner using tiny stitches.

Cut two pieces of upholstery interfacing, each 2-3/8 by 3-3/8-inches. Cut 12 pieces of 1/4-inch-thick batting, each 2-3/8 by 3-3/8-inches. Align and stack all these pieces together, with the interfacing on the outside, to make the mattress form. Whip stitch the mattress form together so that it is approximately 1/2-inch thick. Starting 1/8-inch from an edge, push the needle through all the layers and out the other side. Move the needle over 1/2 inch and push it through all the layers in the opposite direction. Continue stitching around the edge of the mattress until you reach the starting point.

Insert the mattress form into the mattress linen assembly. Pin the mattress top in place. Join the mattress top to the side panel by lacing the backstitch lines together.

Make a twisted cord using two, 48-inch-long pieces of 6-ply Cognac WDW.

Position the mattress 1/2-inch below the gathered pocket, centered side-to-side. Pin the lining to mark the corners of the mattress. Leave the pins and remove the mattress. Turn the assembly over and draw the mattress outline

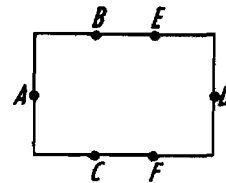


Figure 4

onto the interfacing using the pins as a guide. On the mattress outline, mark the six points, A-F, that are 1-1/4 inch from the corners as shown in Figure 4.

Thread the twisted cord in a carpet needle or another large-eye needle. Sew one end of the cord to the interfacing near point A using sewing thread—be careful that your stitches don't show through the lining. Bring the large needle and cord through point A to the lining side. Put the mattress in place, draw the cord over the top corner of the mattress, and push the needle through the lining assembly at point B. Come back up at point C, draw the cord over the bottom corner, and go down again at point A. Adjust the tension so that the mattress will be held securely but not so tightly that you can't remove it. Holding the cord in place, remove the mattress. On the interfacing side, tightly wrap tape around the cord near point A, then cut the cord at the center of the tape. Sew the cord to the interfacing, stitching through the tape. Repeat at points D, E, and F.

Final assembly. Place a straight edge across the linen on the tails of the squirrels under the alphabet. Make sure the straight edge is aligned with the linen threads, and mark the two places where the straight edge crosses the sides by making small snips in the seam allowances.

Place the lining assembly and the linen assembly with their right sides together and with the four snip marks aligned. Check and adjust the alignment along the sides and, when satisfied, pin the pieces together at the edges. Carefully machine stitch all but the short, straight end following the previous machine-stitched outline on the linen assembly as a guide. Trim the seams leaving a 1/4-inch allowance. Turn the work inside out through the opening to bring the right sides to the outside. Press the edges. Close the opening with hand stitches.

Using three plies of Tiger's Eye WDW in the needle, attach the rings as indicated in Figure 5.

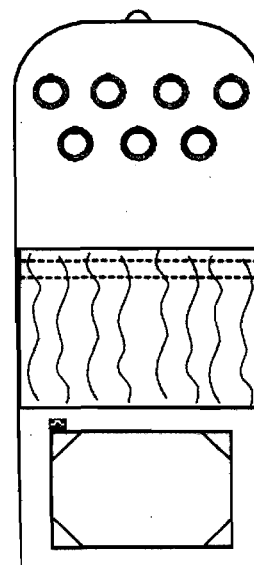
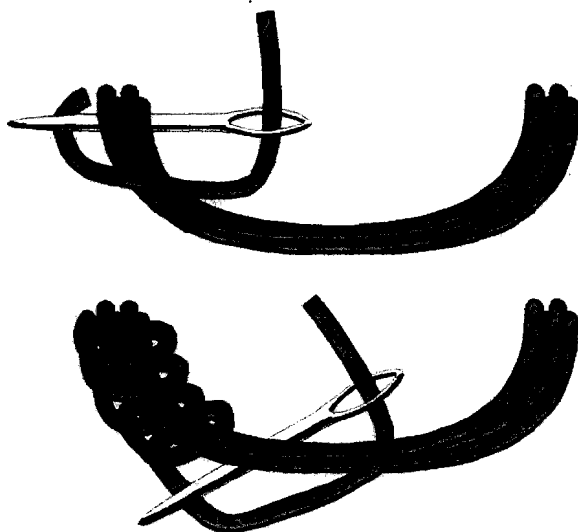


Figure 5

Assembly Instructions for the *Acorn Sampler Sewing Case*

Attach a bead or button in the center of the two leaves over the acorn that is under the alphabet.

Mark the center of the curved edge of the sewing case with a pin, and measure 3/8-inch on either side of this mark. Using Tigers Eye WDW, make a detached buttonhole loop for the button closure.



Detached Buttonhole Loop

Working with three plies of thread in your needle, put in nine foundation plies in the manner shown in the top diagram. This is the foundation bar and is the beginning of your loop. Next, using three plies of thread in the needle (only one ply is shown in the diagram), come up with your needle next to one end of the foundation bar, and fill the length of the bar with a series of buttonhole stitches. When you reach the far end of the bar, end the thread securely in the fabric.

Assembling the Scissors Weight

Cut two pieces of cardstock, 3/4-inch square. Cut two pieces of batting to match the cardstock squares. Attach one piece of batting to each cardstock square using spray adhesive or a few drops of glue. Place the batting side down on the wrong side of the linen, centering the embroidery. Leaving a 1/4-inch allowance beyond the edges of the cardstock squares, trim away the excess linen. Fold the linen around the edges of the squares and lace in place.

Make a twisted cord using two, 22-inch-long pieces of 6-ply Charcoal WDW.

Using one ply of the Charcoal WDW, lace together the backstitches of the two sides of the scissors weight beginning two backstitches from the top corner and working away from the top. As you near your starting point, insert both

ends of the twisted cord into the opening. Finish the lacing, stitching through the cords to secure them in place. In the model, we also put an overhand knot in the doubled cord and worked it down onto the edge of the weight before tightening.

Tassel. Detailed instructions for making tassels are available in many needlework resources (for example, *Fine Lines*, Winter, 1997, and the *Just CrossStitch* Holiday issues, 2001 and 2002). Here are abbreviated instructions for the tassel on our scissors weight model:

Make 12 loops of six-ply Charcoal WDW over a 1-inch-long form. Run a two-ply piece of embroidery thread under the loops and tightly tie the loops together. Remove the loops from the form and smooth. Create the neck of the tassel by first tying it with two plies of the embroidery thread, and then wrapping the neck four additional times with one of the tails of the thread you just tied on. Be sure to wrap in the direction that tightens the knot. Pull the wrapping tight, thread a needle with the loose end of the wrapping thread, and securely anchor the end of the thread under the wrapping. Cut the loops apart at the bottom of the tassel and trim to the desired length.

If desired, before attaching the tassel, add a decorative bead or beads. Attach the tassel to the bottom of scissors weight.

Assembling the Needlebook

Trim the excess linen leaving a 1/4-inch allowance beyond the design. Cut medium-weight interfacing the same size as the linen. Align and pin the interfacing to the wrong side of the linen. Machine stitch the linen and interfacing together, one linen thread outside the backstitched line. Fold the needlebook closed to mark the center, crease, and open it again. Being careful not to cut your linen, cut an opening in the interfacing along the fold line.

Cut two, 1-1/2 by 1-3/4-inch pieces of upholstery interfacing. Put a piece in the front and back of the needlebook between the medium-weight interfacing and the linen.

Cut a piece of lining fabric the same size as the linen. Pin the right side of the lining to the right side of the linen. Leaving an opening on the bottom edge for turning, machine stitch the lining to the linen assembly using the previously stitched line as guide. Diagonally trim the allowances at the corners to reduce bulk. Turn the right sides out, and then press. Hand stitch the opening closed. Fold the needlepage in half vertically, and crease. Align the crease on the needlepage with the fold on the lining. Backstitch the needlepage to the lining along the fold using thread matching the linen.

Attach a bead to the edge of the back cover at the center. Make a detached buttonhole loop using Charcoal WDW, as earlier, at the center of the front cover edge to fit over the bead.

Enjoy!

