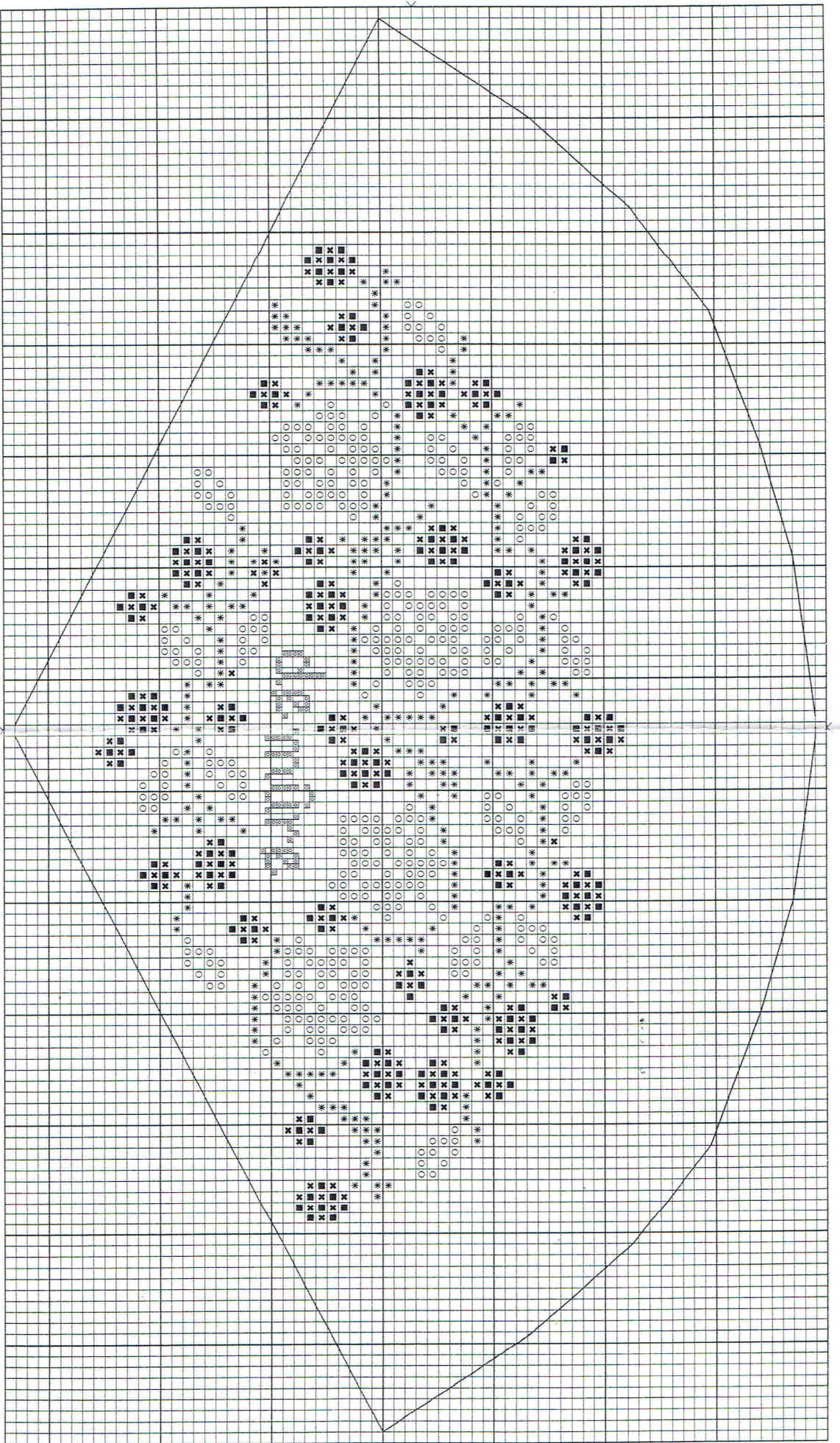




*All About Berries Club ~ Dyeing to Stitch  
THE BERRY PATCH ~ BLACKBERRY  
(The solid lines denoting the fan shape are not intended to be stitched, but to use as a reference.)*

**ERICA MICHAELS**  
NEEDLEART DESIGNS

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# Linen Berry Finishing

## Counted Thread Design

### Template for finishing the linen berries

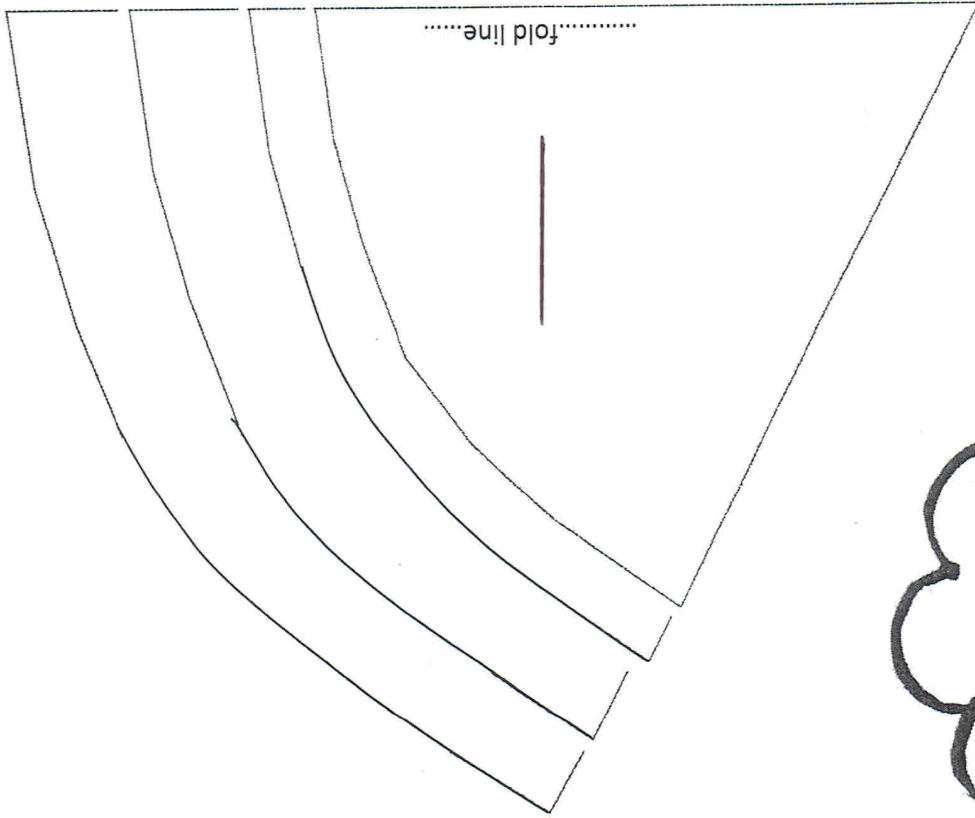
Make a full size paper pattern using these templates, which represent one half of the shape. There are four templates here, superimposed on top of each other. The largest template is for 28 count fabrics, then 32 count, 36 count and the smallest for 40 count. Trace the size you need - I keep a template for each fabric count handy to use whenever I'm finishing berries.

- *Always, always, always...check your template before cutting your fabric.*
- *Use lightweight fusible interfacing to stabilize your fabric – cut the interfacing using your template (there are no seam allowances). Place and fuse the interfacing to your stitching per the manufacturer's directions.*
- *Trim your fabric 1/2" away from the edge of the fused interfacing to create your seam allowances.*
- *Fold right sides together and stitch up the straight seam; do not stitch clear to the point – leave a couple of stitches for ease. This allows some room for the turning.*
- *Trim the seam allowance and press the seam open and flat as much as possible without setting creases in your stitching.*
- *Turn right sides out.*
- *Using a strong thread, make gathering stitches around top/circular edge.*
- *Pull the gathering threads until the opening is partially closed, and begin stuffing the berry – beginning with a bit of yarn in the tip.*
- *Pull the opening closed until it is where you want it, and secure the threads.*
- *It is not necessary to close the opening completely.*
- *Continue stuffing until you get the desired firmness.*

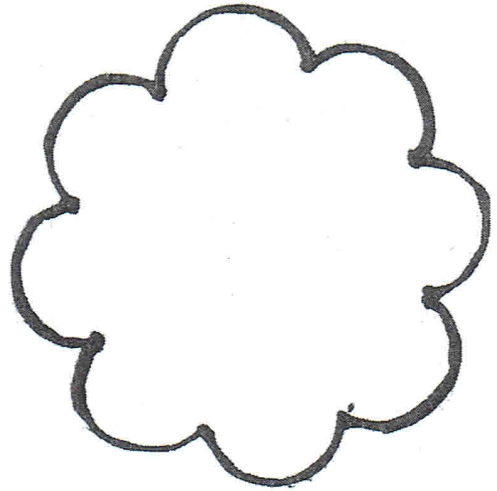
The berry is ready for your decorative top treatment. In most cases, I prefer to embellish the top material (usually felted wool) first, and then attach the entire piece to the berry.

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This scallop-shape cap is one I often use. Please note that this template is not to scale and you may need to adjust depending on the size of your berry and your desired finish.



# Blackberries

## A Berry Patch Berry for Dyeing to Stitch The Linen Berry Collection

We're visiting the berry patch directly with this series!

Each berry design is very close to monochromatic, but uses two colors of floss and Smyrna crosses and standard cross stitches to create the subtle texture and tonal detail in each design.

Hand-dyed and overdyed fabric and flosses are unique colors; please keep in mind that your finished project will be uniquely your own.  
Stitch Count: 126 wide x 72 high

36 count "Berry Brew" linen from R&R Reproductions

Weeks Dye Works:

- ✕ Mulberry 1316 Smyrna Crosses
- Mulberry 1316 Cross Stitches
- Kohl 3900 Smyrna Crosses
- \* Kohl 3900 Cross Stitches

### Stitching Instructions

Use one ply of the floss over two threads for all smyrnas and cross stitches on the 36 count linen. The words are stitched one-over-one using Mulberry. A small chart with the English translation to "Blackberry" is provided on the reverse side of this page if you prefer that.

*Please refer to the enclosure for details on stitching each of the berry motifs in the design. The smyrnas can make it seem full and tight - I think it adds texture, but you may prefer a different look.*

### RESOURCES:

R&R Reproductions & Weeks Dye Works

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### Assembly

Use the enclosed template to cut a piece of lightweight fusible interfacing; adhere this to the wrong side of your stitching per manufacturer's instructions. It will help the fabric maintain its shape when you fill the berry. Trim your fabric 1/2" away from the interfacing to create your seam allowances.

*The enclosed template is sized for the model as shown. You will need to adjust the size if stitching on another count of fabric.*

With right sides together, fold the piece so the two straight sides line up together. Machine stitch to just a few stitches from the point (this allows for some room to turn right side out). Trim that seam to about 1/4". Turn right sides out, gently coaxing the point of the berry as far as it will go, but don't force it; it doesn't need to be extremely pointy. Press the seam open as much as is possible.

With a strong sewing thread, make gathering stitches around the circular top of the berry shape. Fill the berry with your favorite filling and pull the gathering stitches so you have an opening just under 1" in diameter. Knot to secure the gathering threads in place. Add more filling to fill the crown of the berry; there is no need to close the opening entirely; tuck the raw edges inside as you work.

The cap for this berry is Snow Cream wool, cut from the enclosed scalloped template. Cut three leaf shapes of the Kudzu wool and one from the darker Juniper houndstooth wool. All templates are provided in this chartpak; trace the shapes onto freezer paper for easier cutting of the shapes.

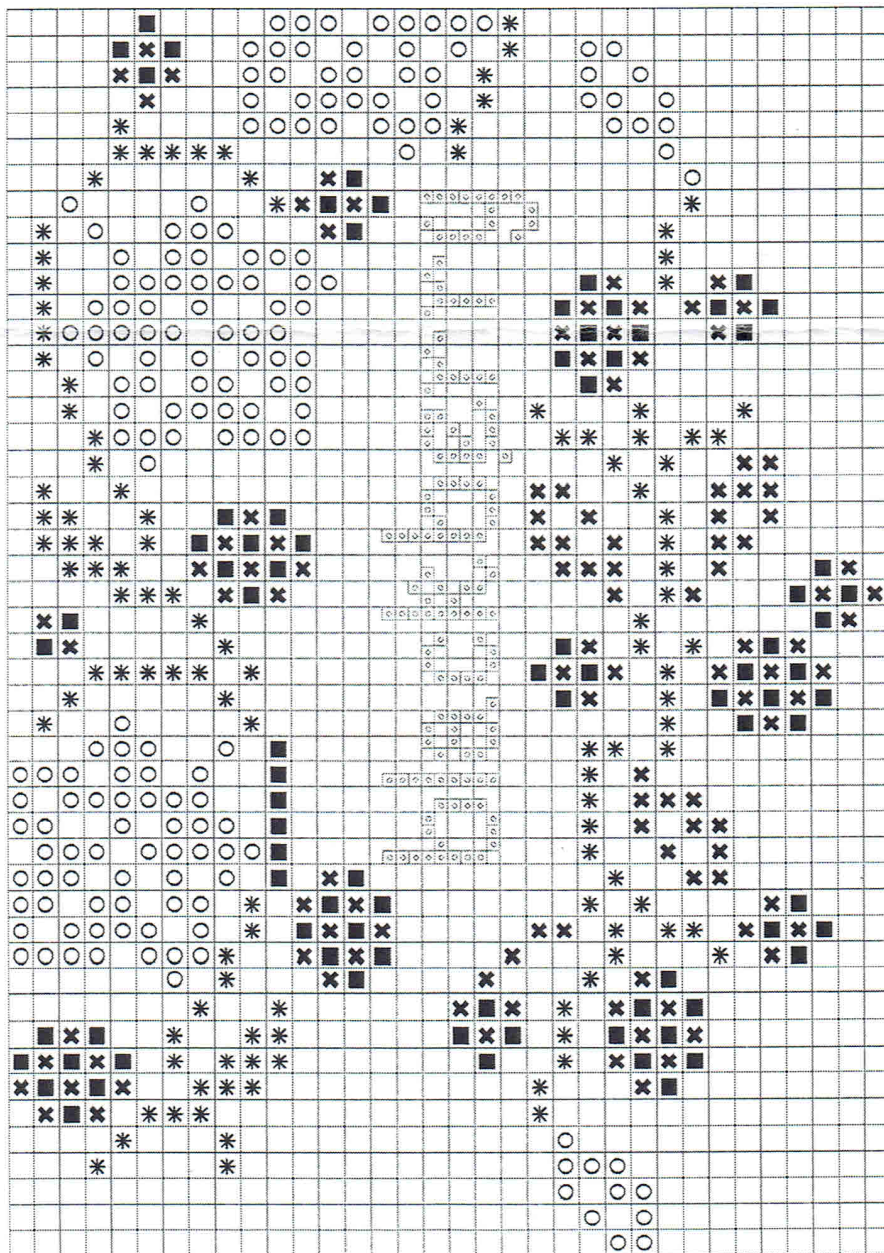
- Arrange the leaves at the center of the cap and secure with floss.
- Make three (3) loops - mine are about 3/4" high - at the center of the length of ribbon. Secure the loops together with floss and attach to the center of the cap.
- Arrange the cap on the berry to your liking using pins to it hold in place while you attach it. Use two (2) ply of matching floss and stitch at the inner points of the scalloped cap to secure.
- Add the wool 'jelly-roll' pin as you like. Knot the ends of the ribbon.

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# Blackberries

A Berry Patch Berry for Dyeing to Stitch



This partial chart is not precisely the same as the overall chart due to spacing issues with the different lettering; one or two motifs have been omitted.

Count and stitch from the larger berry at the center left of "blackberry" and/or the portion of the vine below "...berry". Everything should fit just fine.

Use this chart if you prefer to use the English word.

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