

No.1 for designs

# CrossStitcher

IDEAS • STYLE • INSPIRATION

57

BRAND-NEW  
DESIGNS

BRIGHT & BREEZY  
SEASIDE MAKES!



JUST TO SAY...

Stitch & send greetings  
with mini sampler cards

# MAKE of the month

Stitch our Ellie Elephant design to create a colourful needlecase for your workbox...

Designed by: Susan Penny Stitch count: 39 high x 32 wide  
Design size: 7x6cm (2½x2¼in) Stitch time: 8 hours

This design was stitched on 14 count aida fabric.

## Make an... elephant needlecase

### Step 1

**STITCH** the design onto the centre of 7x7cm (2½x2¼in) white 14 count aida. Use two strands for the cross stitch and one for the decorative backstitch, worked in one strand on top of the cross stitch. Trim once finished, leaving two blank aida squares at the sides and bottom, but leaving the top edge uncut.

### Step 2

**USE** the template to cut two elephant shapes from two 16x10.5cm (6½x4¼in) pieces of beige felt. Place the stitched flap on top of one shape and mark the eye position with a pin. With one strand of black stranded cotton, make a few long stitches to create an eye shape – we made four stitches, with the outer two stitches shorter than the middle two, creating an oval shape. Make two small stitches from the outer corner of the eye to create lashes.

### Step 3

**MAKE** a small pom-pom using any leftover stranded cotton. You will need to wrap lengths of stranded cotton around the prongs of a fork to create a tight bundle covering about 2cm (¾in) of the prongs. While holding the bundle firmly onto the fork, wrap a length of stranded cotton around the middle, going between the prongs to get to the centre position. Tie firmly into a knot, then slip the bundle off the fork. Using sharp scissors, cut around the edge of the bundle to create a pom-pom. Give the pom-pom a trim to create a neat finish. Make a plaited cord and attach the pom-pom to one end.

### Step 4

**PLACE** the two felt elephant shapes together, with the embroidered eye on the outside. Catch stitch the end of the tail to the inside of the left, and slip the unstitched top of the aida between the felt layers – refer to the picture for the correct position. Pin the layers together.

### Step 5

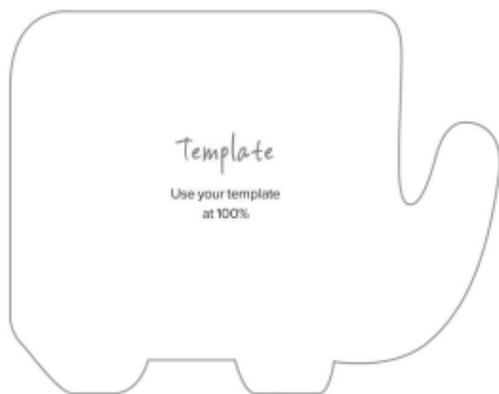
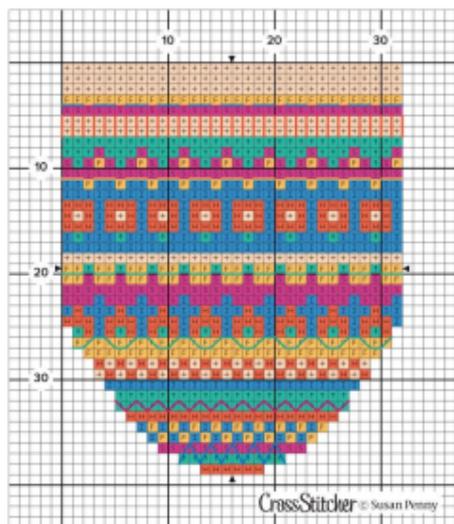
**OPEN** up the aida flap, and then with one strand of the brown stranded cotton, buttonhole stitch around the edge of the elephant, joining the layers together and catching the aida and the plaited tail firmly in the seam.

### Step 6

**USE** three strands of pink stranded cotton to make long stitches in blocks of three for the elephant's toes. Lift the flap and attach the pins to the felt under the flap.



Make another Ellie as a gift for a friend using any spare felt and threads you have already!



### EXCLUSIVE READER KITS!

You can send off for a handy kit containing all the materials you need to make these projects. To order your kit today simply visit [bit.ly/crossstitchershop](http://bit.ly/crossstitchershop).

#### DMC Anchor Madeira Cross stitch in two strands

	608	332	206
	725	306	808
	951	1010	2308
	958	187	1114
	995	410	1102
	3804	068	703

#### Backstitch in one strand

	608	332	206
<i>pattern</i>			
	725	306	808
<i>pattern</i>			
	958	187	1114
<i>pattern</i>			
	995	410	1102
<i>pattern</i>			
	3804	068	703
<i>pattern</i>			

#### Felt finishing stitches

	310 long stitch
	elephant eye detail in one strand
	434 buttonhole stitch
	elephant perimeter in one strand
	3804 long stitch
	elephant toes in three strands

## NEXT MONTH

### DOUBLE PROJECT SPECIAL

Herald in the festive season with two makes – the first part of our Glad Tidings SAL, plus a cute Tinsel Tree beaded brooch!



ISSUE 375  
OCTOBER 2021

On sale  
7 September

COLOR WORLD

Autumn Shades



# ZWEIGART®

MADE IN GERMANY



Autumn shines in all its splendor in the last warm rays of sunshine of the year and the wind whirls colorful leaves through the air. Earthy shades of brown combined with elegant mustard yellow, soft pink and strong rust red reflect this season perfectly in our fabrics.

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Heritage Crafts | Tel: 01889 575 256  
Woolwarehouse | [woolwarehouse.co.uk](http://woolwarehouse.co.uk)  
Stitchtastic | [www.stitchtastic.com](http://www.stitchtastic.com)

[www.zweigart.de](http://www.zweigart.de)

# Welcome

Enjoy the final sights of summer...



**WHAT SAYS SUMMER** to you? Is it the amount of water the garden needs, young voices declaring they are bored, or maybe the chance of a trip to the coast? Like so many families, we love the coast – and are lucky enough to live not far away. As regulars, we hear the local gossip and often the latest story about the increasingly cheeky seagulls taking advantage of visitors. Of course we

couldn't resist this as a subject for cross stitch. Emma Congdon has done us proud with her swooping gull design on page 18. You'll spot beaks full of chips, a whole pasty and even an ice-cream cone, complete with flake!

If your summer is more about plants, then our mini 3D greenhouse design (page 26) is perfect for you. You stitch it all on a single piece of fabric, making it lovely and easy to finish. There's also a very stylish houseplant picture on page 50 if you prefer to grow indoors!

We can always rely on stitching to brighten our homes and our moods, so please let us know if there is a design that would make your day. We always love to have your suggestions.

Happy stitching!

*Susan & Martin Penny*

SUSAN & MARTIN PENNY  
EDITORS

P.S. We love to hear about your current stitching projects! Send your letters and photos to [crossstitcher@warnersgroup.co.uk](mailto:crossstitcher@warnersgroup.co.uk)

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[twitter.com/XStitchmagazine](https://twitter.com/XStitchmagazine)

[www.crossstitchermag.com](http://www.crossstitchermag.com)



**Sleeping  
squirrel**

Stitch our squirrel design  
in our October issue, on  
sale 7 September.



Happy hive:  
Sweet summer  
accessories...

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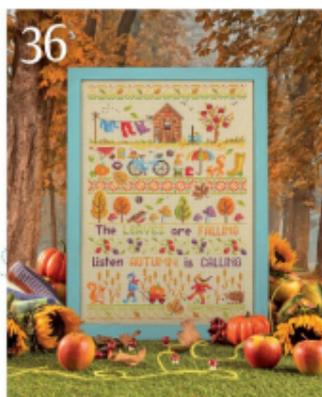
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## Stitcher's SPOTLIGHT

Focus on stitch techniques...

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Our expert shows how to embroider on gingham fabric



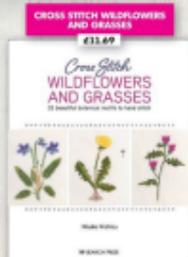
# EXPLORE

our Hobbies & Crafts book store

SAVE 10% OFF STITCHING BOOKS PLUS FREE P+P! UK OFFER ONLY



TREAT YOURSELF!



VISIT: [bit.ly/hacshop](http://bit.ly/hacshop)

# Outthere

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



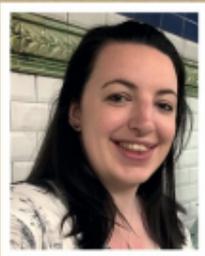
## Forever summer

As summer fades and autumn arrives, stitching provides a great way to capture the magic of summer flowers all year round. Rico's latest chart booklet – No. 174 *Transformation – Dried, Pressed & Loved Flowers* contains fab ideas for using cross stitch to 'preserve a piece of summer' and takes inspirations from pressed flower blooms, all worked in a soft colour palette. Use the pretty motifs to make gorgeous floral napkins, table cloths, wall hangings, cushions and embroidery pictures. For details of your local stockist, visit [www.rico-design.com](http://www.rico-design.com).



## MY CRAFT ROOM: HANNAH BROCKEN

*We get to see a glimpse of a designer's own craft space...*



"I turned my bedroom's cupboard into a craft room which is great because when I'm done crafting I can just shut the doors and hide all the mess! I made sure it had lots of shelves and drawers to keep everything organised and labelled my threads and aida so they are easy to find. I love my pegboard which has all the main bits and bobs I need, both for stitching and also packing up orders, within easy reach. I always make sure to have a stash of kits ready so I can get them out to customers as quickly as possible."  
hanniebeedesigns.etsy.com



"It's got a nice big desk which gives me plenty of space to prepare kits."

"My 'craft room' is a great place to get away from distractions if I'm working on a new pattern."



Drop us a line to [crossstitcher@warmersgroup.co.uk](mailto:crossstitcher@warmersgroup.co.uk) with images of your craft space and a few words about it and our favourites could be featured in a future issue!



## MEET MRS PRICKLES

**NEVER LOSE** a needle again while cross stitching, with the adorable new Mrs Prickles hedgehog needleminder from Caterpillar Cross Stitch! She attaches to the front of your fabric with one magnet and the other magnet secures behind your fabric. Your needle is then held safely on the top enamel piece. We reckon it's the perfect needleminder to use when working our autumn sampler on page 36.

[www.caterpillarcrossstitch.com](http://www.caterpillarcrossstitch.com)



## WATERCOLOUR WONDERS

**DESIGNER AND** artist Dee Herdwickie is collaborating with haberdashery Beyond Measure to create her new gorgeous Watercolour Sampler Cloths based on her original botanical artworks. The six delicate botanical designs include Mimosa, Myrtle and Seed Head, Achillea and Foxglove, and you can customise them by embroidering as much or as little of them as you like. They will launch exclusively with Beyond Measure this month.

[www.shopbeyondmeasure.co.uk](http://www.shopbeyondmeasure.co.uk)

## PIN STRIPES

**LOOKING FOR** a gift idea for a stitching friend? We reckon they'd love this Masu Pincushion with Kokura Textile and Shippo Glass Sewing Pins Set. The handcrafted masu-box pincushion with Kokura Textile is paired with three unique pins that have been created using the Shippo ('Seven Treasures') method.

[www.handsonworkshop.com.au/shop](http://www.handsonworkshop.com.au/shop)



## TREND SPOTTING

### SEAGULLS

**LOVE OUR** cover star seagull cushion? Join the flock with three more sensational seagull ideas...



#### WHO

Anette Eriksson has designed a 'Coastal Four' instant download chart which features four 25cm images, with a choice to stitch on 14 count aida or 28 count evenweave.

[www.anetteeriksson.com](http://www.anetteeriksson.com)



#### WHAT

Cheeky seagulls abound in this new Chip Shack kit which measures 20.5x20.5cm (8x8in) and is available on 14 count aida or 27 count evenweave.

[www.hcrafts.com](http://www.hcrafts.com)



#### HOW

Store a small holiday cross stitch project, such as our cover gift, safely with this fun and stylish zip bag featuring Seagull – an original design by Jin Designs.

[www.northernhighstreet.com/jindesigns](http://www.northernhighstreet.com/jindesigns)

## Raining cats & dogs

**WHO'S TOP** dog or even top cat in your family? A must-stitch for pet lovers, Top Dog and Top cat are both available as kits which contain Zweigart White 14 count aida, pre-sorted stranded cottons, needle, stitch diagram and instructions. Their finished size is 14x27cm and each design uses whole cross stitches, backstitch and French knots. They'd make a fantastic present for an animal-loving friend too!

[www.bothyfindreads.com](http://www.bothyfindreads.com)



## THREE OF THE BEST House plants

Get growing on our house plants design on page 50 – there are pots of great ideas on Etsy as well...



#### NICOLEDEBRUIN

Perfect for trimming cards or cushions, this detailed Green Pot Plant Ribbon is 40mm wide and comes in rolls of 2 Yard lengths.



#### TRIMANDFINAL

Embellish a stitching project with this The Cute Plant Pot with Flowers Iron-on Applique Patch, which measures 3x5cm.



#### MAGICBOBBIN

Pop your latest WIP into this stylish Large House Plant and Flower Fabric Tote Bag which is fully reversible as a bonus feature!

# STITCHING WITH JULIAN



Julian Odessa is sharing the Language of Flowers each month – and this month takes a look at the iris – which represents wisdom and eloquence

**H**ullo! The last year and a half has been a quiet time for us all. But one person you've been able to talk to through even the harshest lockdown is yourself. Sometimes we forget to pay attention to what that inner monologue is saying, but this month's flower can remind us to listen more closely. We're stitching the beautiful iris, flower of wisdom and of eloquence.

Sometimes if I'm having a bad day, I catch myself saying some crappy things inside my own head; "that was so stupid!", "what a dumb thing to say!", "you're a bit useless!". I would never say these things to other people, and yet here I am beating myself up. If I don't catch myself thinking these things, those words end up colouring my day in darker shades of negativity than is necessary. Turns out my inner voice can be very eloquent in its criticisms!

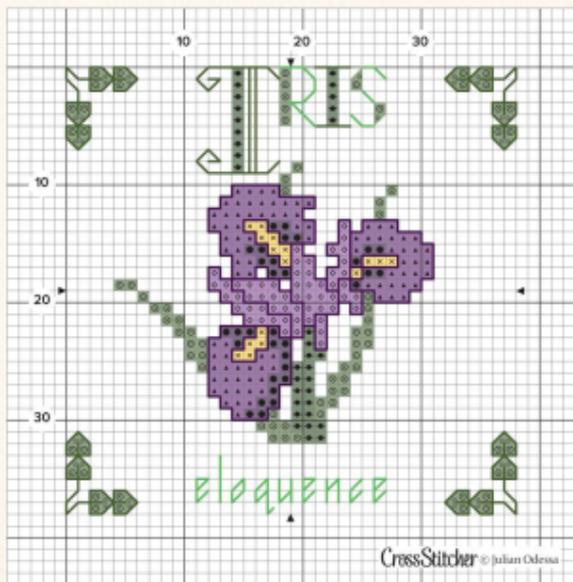
But one thing I've found is that a 'good' or 'bad' day is often a matter of perspective. I can recall days that look rotten on paper but weren't so bad because I was in a good frame of mind (and vice versa). How we perceive the world is influenced, in part, by how we speak to ourselves in the privacy of our own minds. Often that voice has been trained (either by us or by those around us) to speak in a certain way and if it has been trained in the ways of criticism, it can be vicious indeed.

So, what to do if your inner voice is being a bit of a jerk? Cross stitch and kindness, my friends! You can try talking to yourself as if you were talking to a beloved friend. You can

carve out some downtime to re-set those stress levels and indulge in some self-love. I find sitting down to stitch gives me space to check in with myself. Sure, having a conversation with your own inner voice might sound peculiar, but if we don't notice what it's saying we can inadvertently find ourselves with a very poisonous influence inside our skulls. The answer, of course, is to stop beating ourselves up in this way.

With some consistency, warmth, and time, you can actually retrain that inner voice of yours to eloquently lift you up instead of tearing you down. You can also train it to say things like "you definitely need to buy that pattern", "it's ok to take a break right now" and "you're gorgeous and totally deserve cheese!" (both very true things!).

Stitch boldly!  
Julian



CrossStitcher © Julian Odessa

Such a beautiful bloom

You always  
deserve cheese

DMC Anchor Madeira

## Cross stitch in two strands

	209	109	803
	550	101	714
	552	100	713
	726	305	109
	3346	267	1407
	3347	266	1408

## Backstitch in one strand

	550	101	714
petal outlines			
	3346	267	1407
leaves, words			
	3347	266	1408
words			

## CRAFTY BOOKSHELF

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

## RSN ESSENTIAL STITCH GUIDES: BLACKWORK

**BECKY HOGG** [Search Press]

Learn techniques and tips from the best with the RSN's very own tutors in their Essential Stitch Guides series. Out in large format paperback, this title on blackwork is written by graduate apprentice and tutor, Becky Hogg. Follow the detailed instructions and enjoy photos of traditional and contemporary embroideries – there's even a look at the history of blackwork. Learn the stitches and how to create different shading techniques, too.

## CROSS-STITCH LIKE A QUEEN

Described as a celebration of the mantra 'love is love', we think that crafty queens and drag enthusiasts alike will love this book with 25 designs inside. There's also an alphabet template and extra elements so you can make your own custom cross stitch patterns and crafted quotes. Choose from patterns including Disco Ball, Crown and Gown, Pride Flag and much more. Great for making gifts too, this is ideal for fans of RuPaul's Drag



Rose, members of the LGBTQIA+ community, as well as their allies.

## CROSS-STITCH CHRISTMAS COUNTDOWN: 24 MINI STOCKINGS

**SUSAN ACHE**

[Mertingdele Publications]

Yes, it's that time already! Get set for the Christmas season in style with Susan Ache's compilation of two dozen mini stocking charts. Hang up in turn as you begin the countdown to the big day, or stitch all in advance to make a 3D Advent calendar, popping little treats into each one. The booklet contains 24 cross stitch patterns in full colour, a full-size stocking pattern and step-by-step assembly instructions.

# OUR PICK OF AMAZING STITCHING OFFERS!

CrossStitcher readers just pay £1.90 postage for these fabulous deals...

Take advantage of our exclusive offers to UK readers\* and receive special discount prices...

## SEWING GIFT SET

This issue we have a pretty sewing set in an Antique Silver colour on offer. This superior quality set is made by Hemline and contains all the items needed to fill your sewing basket. A great gift for a sewing friend or why not treat yourself?



Each set contains ✨ pair of ornate 9.5cm (3 7/8") sharp tip embroidery scissors with scrolling floral handles ✨ 150cm (60in) magnetic back retractable tape measure ✨ heart pendant thread cutter ✨ non-slip metal thimble ✨ three sewing needles in a glass tube, all packed in an attractive gift box.

So why not get rid of that broken tape measure and blunt scissors and treat yourself to this fantastic looking set?

Sewing Gift Set £26, ref: SGIFT

## MORE OFFERS FOR YOU!

If our sewing gift set offer has tempted you, we've lots more offers with UK postage of just £1.90...



### FOLDABLE SCISSORS

The handy foldable scissors by Hemline have Rose Gold handles with silver coloured cutting blades. They measure 8.5cm when folded away, with the points safely hidden when folded. Easy to assemble, and a must for your project bag, as they are great for snipping threads! **Rose Gold Foldable Scissors for £3.48, ref: ROSESCF**



### MAGNETIC HANGING FRAMES

With jute string attached, this frame come in three sizes. Great for displaying stitching projects and artwork. Each set of frames contains four wooden bars with inset magnets, two for the top and two for the bottom of your fabric. Simply mark your coupon with the size you require. **Magnetic Hanging Frames in three sizes: 13cm £2.55, 21cm £4.70, 30cm £5.40, ref: MAGFR**



### ANCHOR THREAD BUNDLE

Add to your stash with this great 50-skein bundle. This is genuine Anchor-stranded cotton, and your bundle will be mixed with shades across the colour spectrum. Available while stocks last – it works out as each skein being just 45pl!

**50 Skein Anchor Bundle for £41 £22.90, ref: ANCBUN50**



### SUMMER RIBBON BAG

This mixed ribbon bag contains 50m of bright coloured ribbon and baker's twine. Each pack contains 2m each of 25 designs. In each pack you will find a mixture of sheer, satin, grosgrain, gingham, printed and spotted ribbons in a wide range of bright summer colours, at less than 12p per metre! **Summer Ribbon Pack for £5.90, ref: SUMRIB**



**SUMMER COLOURS CARD PACK**

Our summer card pack contains 16 quality cards in four shapes and four beautiful colours. Each pack contains 16 three-fold C6 cards (152x104mm) in Cerise, Lime, Aqua and Canary, with white envelopes. Great for summer birthdays, wedding cards and any designs where you need a bright coloured card. Other combinations for these cards are available on our website.

Summer Colour Card Pack for **£8.75**, ref: **SUM16**



**SPRING COLOURS CARD PACK**

If you are looking for quality window cards to finish your spring birthday and wedding cards, then this mixed pack of cards with white envelopes is just the thing. 16 quality C6 152x104mm cards in four gorgeous soft spring colours – Natural Green, White, Violet and Canary. Each pack comes with 16 white envelopes.

Spring Colour Card Pack for **£8.65**, ref: **SCM16**



**PASTEL RIBBON BAG**

To complement our best-selling Summer Ribbon pack, this pastel pack is ideal for all your crafting needs, where a softer coloured ribbon is needed. Great value with 25 designs of 2m in length, the soft colours can be used to finish cross stitch and crafting projects, card making and gift wrap. A gorgeous pastel ribbon bundle at the same great price as the Summer bundle!

Pastel Ribbon Pack for **£5.90**, ref: **PASRB**



**LLAMA PINCUSHION**

These cute llama pincushions would look great decorating your sewing room, besides being really practical as they hold your pins in style! Each is fully padded and weighted and 9x5x12.5cm in size. Choose from Peach or White, or buy both as they make a great gift for a stitching friend. Please mark the coupon with the colour you require.

Llama Pincushion for **£4.90**, ref: **LLPIN**



For all your cross stitch goodies!  
Any questions?  
enquiries@willowfabrics.com  
Place your order online using the discount code **SUMMER21** to get the lower postage cost that comes with this offer.  
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Or charge my Visa  Mastercard  Maestro   
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Expiry date   /   Card security code     
(Use 3 digits on signature strip)  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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DESCRIPTION	PRICE	QTY	TOTAL
SEWING GIFT SET (SGIFT)	£26.00		
FOLDABLE SCISSORS (ROSECF)	£3.45		
MAGNETIC FRAMES (MAGFE) <small>50%</small>	£		
ANCHOR STRANDED BUNDLE (ANCBUN50)	£22.50		
SUMMER RIBBON PACK (SUMRB)	£5.90		
SUMMER COLOURS CARD PACK (SUMNH)	£8.75		
SPRING COLOURS CARD PACK (SCM16)	£8.65		
PASTEL RIBBON PACK (PASRB)	£5.90		
LLAMA PINCUSHION (LLPIN) <small>COLOR</small>	£4.90		
PLANTASTIC MATERIALS PK (PPPLANTS)	£30.00		
GUYS & GULLS MATERIALS PACK (PPGULLS)	£19.00		
AUTUMN SAMPLER MATERIALS PK (PPAUTSA)	£32.50		
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<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>£</b>		

Feel free to photocopy this offer or write your order on paper if you don't want to cut your magazine

# LIVING WITH CROSS STITCH:

## ROOM TO STUDY

A  
DIFFERENT  
ROOM FOR  
EVERY MONTH  
OF THE  
YEAR!

Our series of cross stitch rooms continues with Zoë Patching's latest design; a study room where you can work in peace

### How to... display your stitching

**WE** used a house shaped wooden box frame, which we painted with a grey emulsion match pot and then made a cardboard triangle to fill in the front. The roof and front were then covered in the paper, normally used for train modelling – both the box and paper are available from online craft and modelling shops.





Designed by: Zoë Patching  
 Stitch count: 52 high x 62 wide  
 Design size: 9.5x11cm (3 7/8x4 1/4in)  
 Stitch time: 6 hours

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

## Materials

- Zweigart Antique White 28 count Cashel, ref. 3281/0101 20x20cm (8x8in)
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Size 26 tapestry needle
- Frame with an 11.5x11.5cm (4 5/8x4 5/8in) aperture

Materials available from [www.willowfabrics.com](http://www.willowfabrics.com)

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
<b>Cross stitch in two strands</b>			
◇ ◇	415	398	1803
▲ ▲	597	1064	1110
♥ ♥	598	1062	1111
× ×	744	301	112
~ ~	745	300	111
· ·	3756	1037	886
• •	B5200	001	white
<b>Backstitch in one strand</b>			
—	414	235	1801
outlines & details			
<b>French knots in one strand</b>			
●	744	301	112
door handles			

Choose your own thread colour scheme for this design if you prefer!

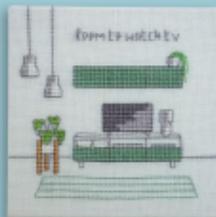
ZOË SAYS



"Working or studying from home has been the norm for many of us over the last 18

months or so. Creating an environment where you can focus on work without distractions is key – whether it's the corner of a room or your home office, or bedroom. Wherever you work, take regular breaks and enjoy the convenience of popping downstairs to make a cuppa or into the garden to catch a few rays."

NEXT MONTH...  
LIVING WITH CROSS STITCH



Don't miss issue 375 October, on sale 7 September, for Zoë's Room to Watch TV...



# GUYS & GULLS

These cheeky seagulls are making waves on our seaside cushion, which is shore to raise a smile!

## CrossStitcher PROJECT PACK

If you would like to stitch Guys & Gulls, we have a materials pack with everything you need to get you stitching right away, and have it delivered straight to your door!



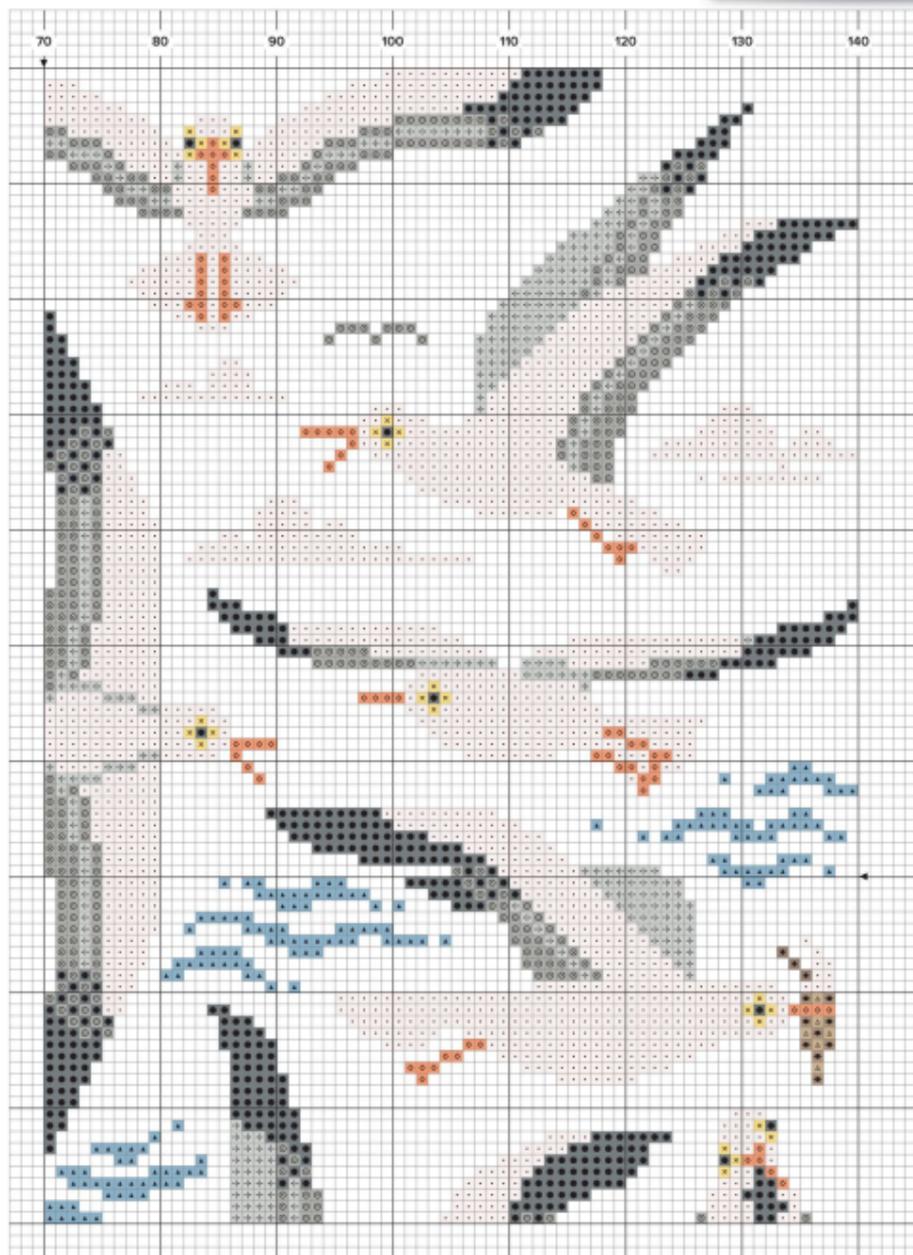
### Your materials pack contains:

- Zweigart 14 count aida in Teal
- Skeins of DMC stranded cotton
- Two gold-plated tapestry needles; size 24 and size 26

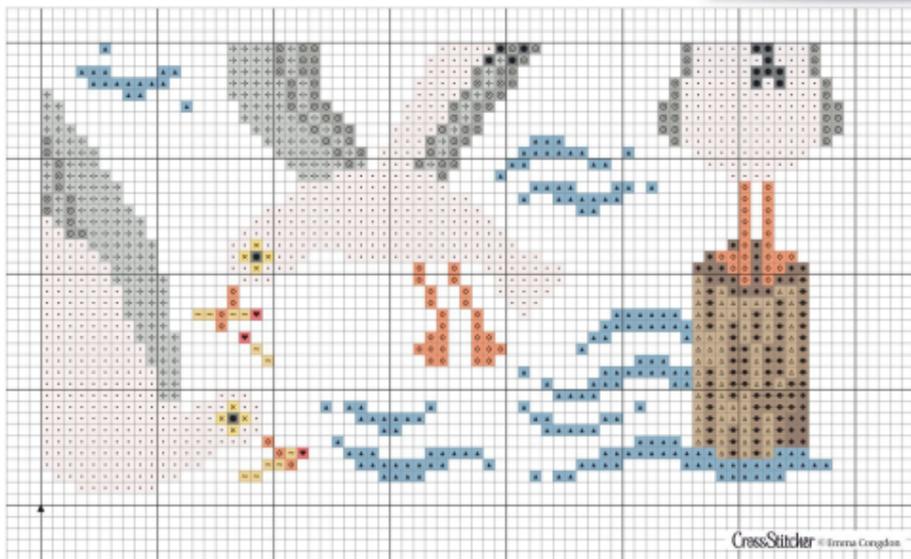
**PLEASE NOTE:** The edging strips, cushion back and cushion pad are not included in the pack.

**How to order:** Fill in the form on page 15 or go to [www.willowfabrics.com](http://www.willowfabrics.com) to order your project pack at the CrossStitcher reader price of £19, plus P&P.









CrossStitcher © Emma Corrydon

## Make a... cushion

### Step 1

**COMPLETE** the stitching, then cut the fabric to 28x28cm (11x11in), with the design in the centre.

### Step 2

**POSITION** the edging strips around the central stitched panel, so that they meet at the corners. When you are happy, cut the corners to 45 degrees, then join the corners with a 1.25cm (½in) seam allowance. Place the stitched panel behind the assembled corners so that the design shows through the window. Turn under the edges of the assembled corner section around the window, so that they just touch the design. Pin, then top stitch using a sewing machine, attaching the assembled corners to the aids. Press.

### Step 3

**PLACE** the cushion front right-sides together with the backing fabric. Pin, then machine stitch around the edge with a 1.25cm (½in) seam allowance, leaving a gap for turning.

### Step 4

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

Extract a seagull or two to make a cute birthday card, you could even add 'The Birthday Gull' using an alphabet if you wish!



### Materials

- Zweigart Tear 14 count aids, ref. 3706/5146; 36x36cm (14x14in)
  - Stranded cotton as listed in the key
  - Size 24 tapestry needle
  - Backing fabric; 43x43cm (17x17in)
  - Cushion front edging strip; 43x10cm (17x4in) x 4 strips
  - Cushion pad; 40.5x40.5cm (16x16in)
- Materials available from [www.willowfabrics.com](http://www.willowfabrics.com)

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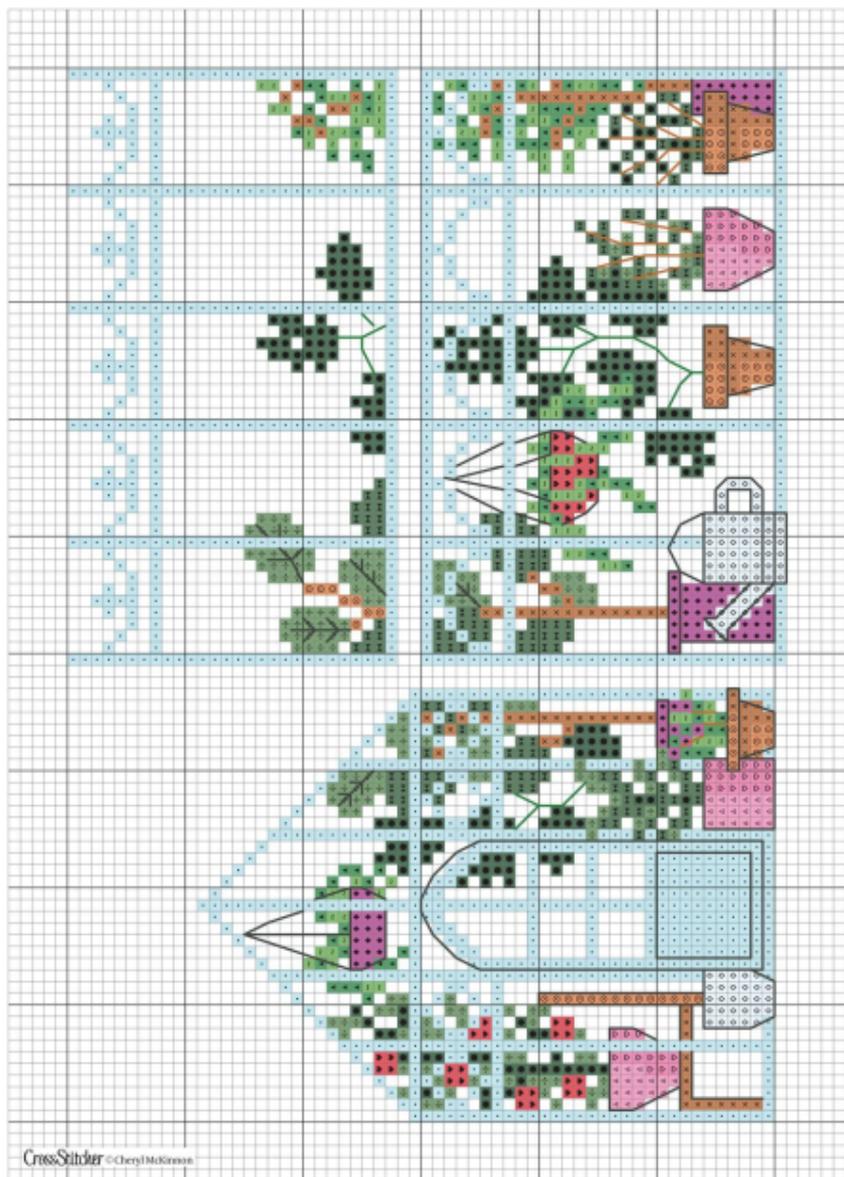


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# ANYTHING GROWS...

Well here's a fancy plants idea! Whip up our 3D greenhouse and you can enjoy the pick of the crops all year round...



CrossStitcher © Cheryl McKinnon



CrossStitcher © Cheryl McKinnon



Designed by: Cheryl McKinnon Stitch count: 49 high x 37 wide – gable ends; 31 high x 51 wide – sides; 28 high x 51 wide – roofs Design size: 9x6.7cm (3½x2½in); 5.6x9.6cm (2¼x3¾in); 5x9.6cm (2x3¾in)  
Stitch time: 30 hours

This design was stitched on 14 count aida fabric.

You can recycle old cereal packets to gather the cardboard needed for this project

### Materials

- Zweigart Pewter 14 count aida, ref. 3609 (713, 43x33cm (17x13in))
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Size 24 tapestry needle
- Cardboard

Materials available from [www.wilowfabrics.com](http://www.wilowfabrics.com)

DMC	Anchor	Maidea	DMC	Anchor	Maidea		
Cross stitch in two strands			Cross stitch in two strands				
◊ ◊	168	274	1803	◊ ◊	989	241	1401
♥ ♥	604	055	614	♦ ♦	3607	087	708
△ △	605	074	613	♥ ♥	3801	1098	411
▲ ▲	702	239	1306	• •	B5200	001	white
~ ~	704	256	1308	Backstitch in one strand			
× ×	976	1001	2302	—	535	1041	1809
⊙ ⊙	977	1002	2012	outlines			
● ●	986	246	1404	—	976	1001	2302
▶ ▶	987	244	1403	stems			
				—	986	246	1404
				stems			



All the materials we used to make our greenhouse are available from [www.willowfabrics.com](http://www.willowfabrics.com)

## Make a... greenhouse

### Step 1

**STITCH** the two greenhouse sides, two gable ends and two roof pieces. Leave at least 4cm (1½in) between each section. Use two strands of stranded cotton for the cross stitch and one for the backstitch.

### Step 2

**COMPLETE** the stitching. Trim each section, leaving about 2cm (¾in) of unstitched fabric around all the edges. Using the stitching as a guide, cut two gable ends, two sides and two roofs from cardboard,

making sure they're exactly the same size as the stitching.

### Step 3

**PLACE** the cardboard shapes on the wrong side of the stitched greenhouse sections, wrapping the unstitched fabric around onto the back of the cardboard for each. Use double-sided tape to hold the fabric to the reverse side of the cardboard, or lace in place across the back.

### Step 4

**PLACE** the assembled sides and gable ends in the correct order, holding each together with pins – you will see that the different coloured flower pots can be seen

from two directions and should be matched at the corners. Using a matching coloured thread, and working on the right side, sew each section to the next, using small, neat stitches down the adjoining edges.

### Step 5

**PLACE** one roof piece on the assembled greenhouse, and then using small stitches, sew it in place. Repeat with the other roof piece, then stitch the roof together along the ridge. Cut a rectangle of cardboard to fit inside the bottom of the greenhouse, then add glue to the edges and push in place.



# Sampler Salutations

Whatever the occasion, our gorgeous greetings cards are super-quick to stitch in a simple sampler style...



Designed by: Durene Jones  
 Stitch count: 53 high x 38 wide  
 Design size: 10x7.5cm (4x3in)  
 Stitch time: 3½ hours each

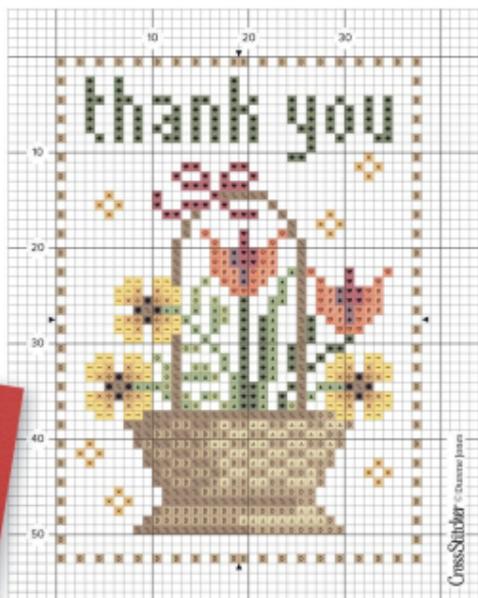
These designs were stitched on 14 count aida fabric.

DMC Anchor Madeira  
 Cross stitch in two strands

♥♥	347	1025	407
%%	420	375	2104
D D	422	943	2102
●●	433	371	2008
◆◆	469	267	1503
▲▲	471	265	1501
◇◇	472	253	1414
△△	677	886	2207
♡♡	721	324	308
# #	722	323	307
~ ~	726	305	109
x x	728	305	108
† †	783	306	2211
◆◆	3726	1018	810
■ ■	3802	1019	810
☒☒	3856	368	2309



CrossStitcher © Durene Jones



CrossStitcher © Durene Jones





CrossStitcher © Doreen Jones



CrossStitcher © Doreen Jones

## Make an... aperture card

### Step 1

**WORK** using two strands of stranded cotton for the cross stitch.

### Step 2

**TRIM** the stitched fabric to fit your card, with the design centrally placed behind the card's aperture.

### Step 3

**ATTACH** double-sided tape to the inside of the card around the edge of the aperture.

### Step 4

**PLACE** the stitching on the table right-side up, and then place the card on top, pressing down firmly on the tape.

### Step 5

**CHECK** which flap will fold onto the back of the stitching, then add strips of double-sided tape and press firmly down to secure.

These cards could easily be framed as mini sampler gifts instead if you prefer

## Materials

### For each card

- Sempredo Cream 14 count aida, 15x11.5cm (6x4½in)
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Size 24 tapestry needle
- Card blank with an 11x8.5cm (4¼x3¼in) rectangular aperture

Materials available from [www.willowfabrics.com](http://www.willowfabrics.com)

# Needles & Motions

Your stitching,  
top tips, online  
chat and more!

Pro  
Tip

Top designers share their  
favourite stitching tips



Megan Caines  
melocadesigns.com

"Needleminders are absolutely essential"

"If you are forever losing your cross stitch needle, then you absolutely must get your hands on a needleminder! They are such a game-changer! No longer will you find yourself sticking your needle through your sleeve (and nearly breaking the washing machine by forgetting it's there). No more horrors of almost swallowing your needle by placing it in your mouth or in between your teeth. And no more

forgotten needles on the floor stabbing your feet or breaking your vacuum! A needleminder will magnetically hold down your needle to ensure that it stays in place when you aren't stitching. A loose magnet goes on the back of your fabric, whilst another decorative magnet goes on the front side of your fabric. You then just place your needle on the decorative magnet and all of your stitchy problems will be solved!"



"At Meloca Designs, we currently have several different needleminder designs available."



I made this sloth matchbox (Issue 369) for my tiny cloth. I'm really pleased with it. It's the first time I've used perforated paper.  
Nicola Syce, Oxfordshire



My daughter Lucy completed the hanging decoration from issue 369. She loved this kit as it was a little different to others.  
Steph and Lucy Beyer, Milton Keynes



Just finished New shoots from your May issue. Such a beautiful, bright sampler. Many thanks for a great magazine.  
Barbara McLachlan, Australia

## “OVER TO YOU...”

We asked our fans on Facebook, “Do you finish one project before starting the next, or have several on the go at once?”

**SARAH LUCIERO** I have to finish the project! I will only put one on hold to work on a gift for someone or to do some Christmas ornaments.

**AMANDA LEIGH MCBRIDE** I prefer to start and finish one at a time. A couple of years ago while trying to do a very large project I thought I would try multiples like other admired stitching friends do. I became frustrated as nothing is ever completed in that state. I am now picking one at a time and completing them to get caught up and feel accomplished.

**JOANNA COLESHILL** I have seven projects on the go – I work on a different one each day of the week. Some are big and some are small – it may take longer to finish them but I never get bored!

**MICHELE DOE** I have a ton of projects going... I think I have “Project ADD”... I’ll stitch a part that has my interest and then start something new. I come back and finish pics over several sessions.

**MONICA RODDEY** I always come within a stone’s throw of finishing one project, and only then move on to the next. But it might take me years – or never – to do the last few stitches or tiny section of backstitching on the previous project.

**DANIELLE L ROWAN** I work on two different pieces – I do mini projects during the day like cards, bookmarks and tags. Then at night-time out comes my main WIP. Even if I hate the piece it needs to be finished before I’ll move onto another one.

“Like” our page on Facebook; [facebook.com/CrossStitcherMag](https://facebook.com/CrossStitcherMag) and join the conversation!



## FIRST PAST THE POST!

JaCey Titus was the first to send us a pic of her teacup bookmark from issue 373 – she wins a selection of DMC stranded cotton skeins in 20 colours of her choice from Willow Fabrics. The first person to stitch and send us a pic of their finished Ellie Elephant from this issue to [crossstitcher@warnersgroup.co.uk](mailto:crossstitcher@warnersgroup.co.uk) will also win this great prize!



## All Sewn Up

**H**i CrossStitcher, Loved making this ‘All Sewn Up’ sewing set from CrossStitcher’s February issue (issue 366) and adding my own touch. I started buying CrossStitcher after taking early retirement and wanting a hobby, I enjoy making the projects that come with the magazine.

The sewing set was a pleasure to make. I lined the needlecase with some material from my daughter’s bedroom curtains that she had when she was around 8 or 9 – she’s now 40. I also added a few extra stitches to the needlecase.

Thank you and keep up the good work,  
Kind regards,

Bev Possnett, Market Harborough

## Stay in touch...

[crossstitcher@warnersgroup.co.uk](mailto:crossstitcher@warnersgroup.co.uk)



CrossStitcher, PO Box 172, Northam, EX39 9DY



@XStitchmagazine



[pinterest.com/xstitchmagazine](https://pinterest.com/xstitchmagazine)

Just finished the fantastic nautical card kit that came with issue 392! Loved it and will send it to a cousin who's keen on sailing.  
Patricia McGuigan, London

I just had to send in my summer purse: issue 391. It was such a delight making it. It had a bit of everything I like to do.  
Ann Downs, Wickau, Scotland

# Autumn ARRIVAL

Our seasonal sampler celebrates the changing leaves, harvest treats and a few woodland animals too!

## CrossStitcher PROJECT PACK

If you would like to stitch Autumn Arrival, we have a materials pack with everything you need to get you stitching right away, and have it delivered straight to your door!



**Your materials pack contains:**

- Sampedro 14 count aida in Cream
- Skeins of DMC stranded cotton
- Two gold-plated tapestry needles; size 24 and size 26

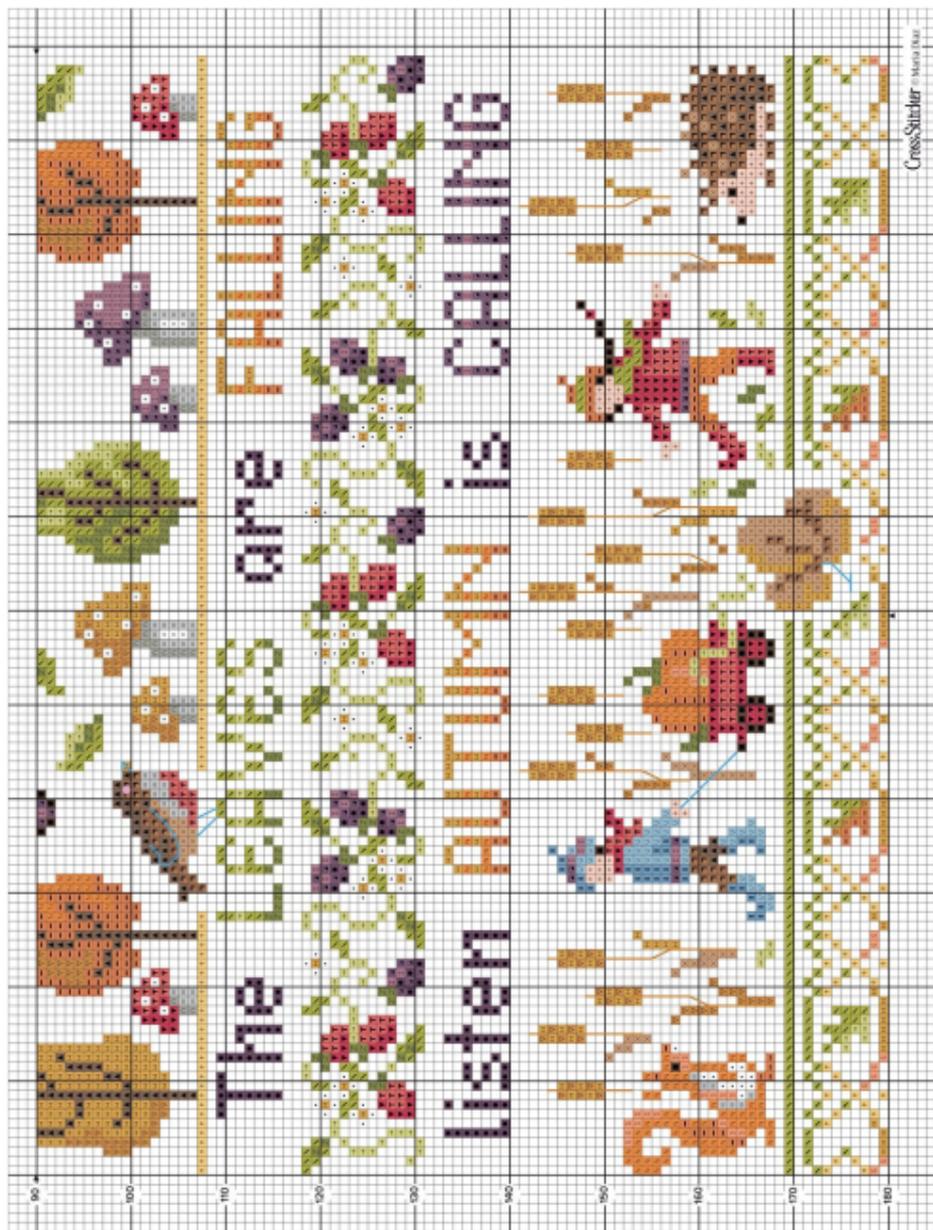
**How to order:** Fill in the form on page 15 or go to [www.willowfabrics.com](http://www.willowfabrics.com) to order your project pack at the CrossStitcher reader price of £32.50, plus P&P.



## PART 3









Designed by: Maria Diaz Stitch count: 180 high x 118 wide  
Design size: 33x22.5cm (13x8 7/8in) Stitch time: 40 hours

This design was stitched on 14 count aida fabric.

Why not work  
the berries and  
toadstool spots  
using seed beads  
for a rich  
3D finish!

### Materials

- Sampedro Cream 14 count aida, 60x50cm (23 1/2 x 19 1/2 in)
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Size 24 tapestry needle
- Frame with a 34x24cm (13 1/2 x 9 1/2 in) aperture
- Mount board to fit frame

Materials available from [www.ellowfabrics.com](http://www.ellowfabrics.com)

TURN TO  
PAGE 55  
TO LEARN  
HOW TO FRAME  
YOUR PICTURE

DMC Anchor Madeira  
Cross stitch in two strands

— =	001	234	1804
→ →	165	278	1414
↘ ↘	166	280	1501
⊥ ⊥	316	1017	809
▼ ▼	349	013	212
⊥ ⊥	351	010	214
< <	353	006	303
⌞ ⌞	435	1046	2010
× ×	437	362	2012
z z	581	280	1609
⌞ ⌞	648	900	1814
N N	741	304	201
v v	783	306*	2211
! !	813	161	1013
U U	827	160	1014
■ ■	898	360	2006
+ +	948	1011	306
H H	3820	306*	2509
↑ ↑	3822	295	2511
S S	3825	323	2307
● ●	3834	100	805
■ ■	3835	098	712
- -	3853	1003	311
▲ ▲	3862	358	1913
• •	blanc	001	white

Backstitch in one strand

—	783	306	2211
—	898	360	2006

French knots in one strand

●	898	360	2006
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\*See "The Key" on page 80.

# Letter LIBRARY

## FAIRGROUND

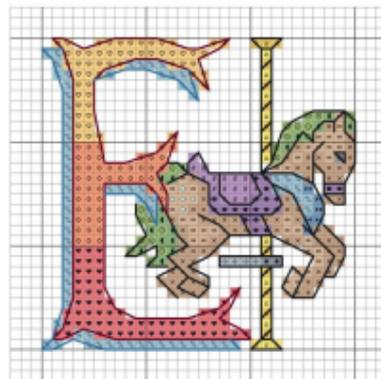
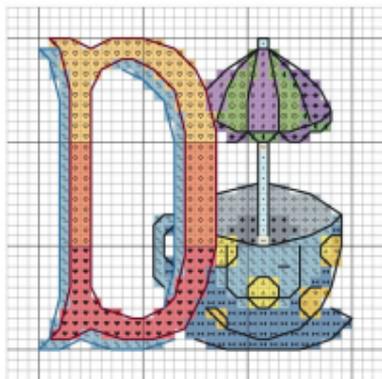
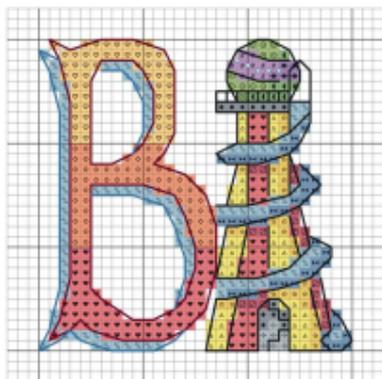
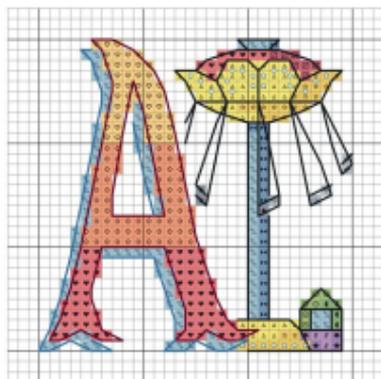
Enjoy all the fun of the fair with our colourful, quirky alphabet and numbers this month!

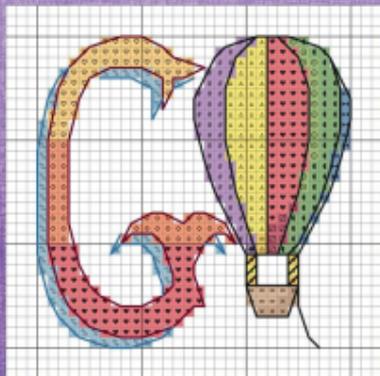
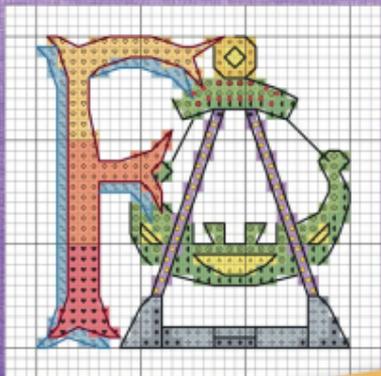


Each month we publish a new letter and number set based on a theme, designed for you to cut out and keep for when you need it

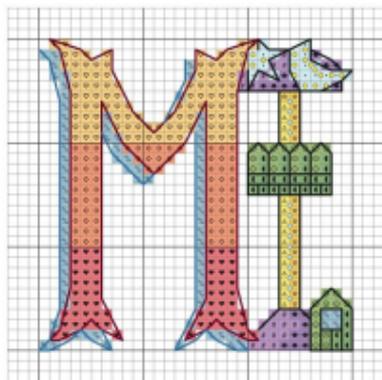
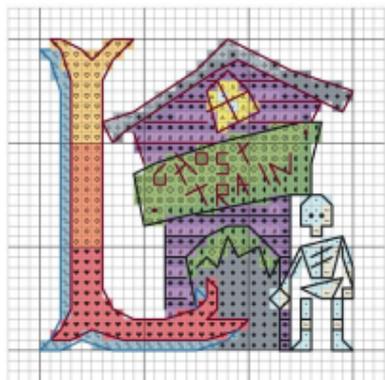
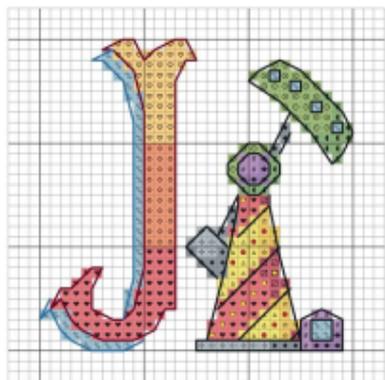
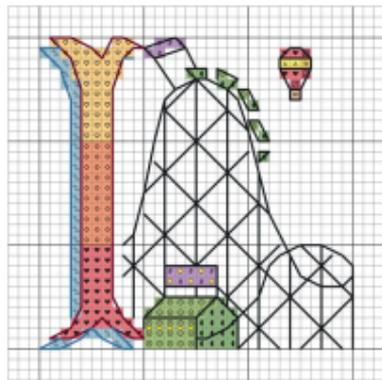
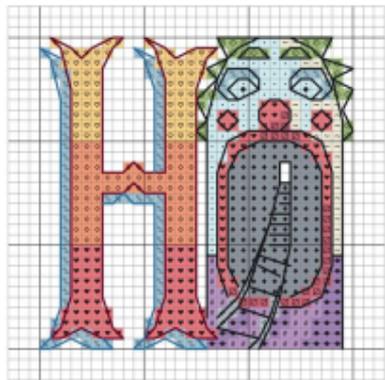
Everyone at *CrossStitcher* HQ loves it when the fair comes to town! On a summer's evening what can beat the thrill of the rides and the hope of winning a prize on one of the stands? So, from helter skelters to ferris wheels, you'll find all the fun of the fair packed into our alphabet and numbers this month - enjoy!

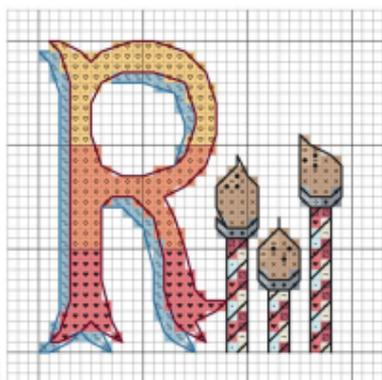
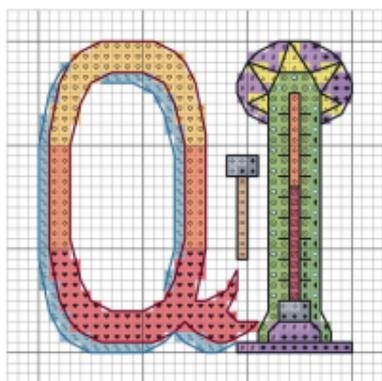
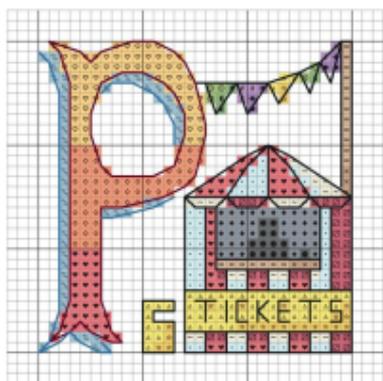
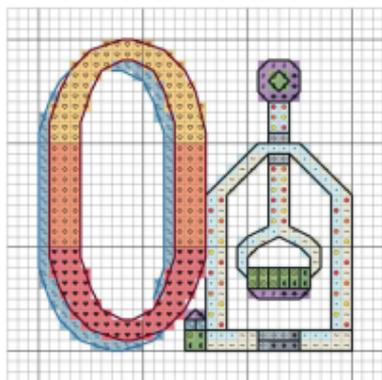
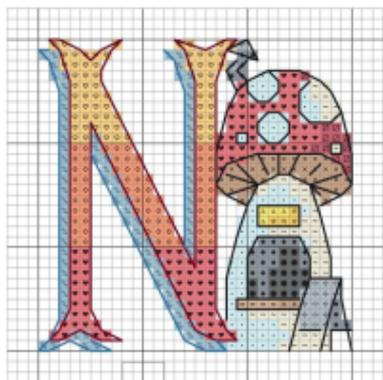
Designed by: Fiona Crouch

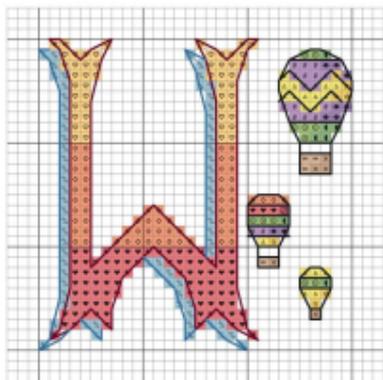
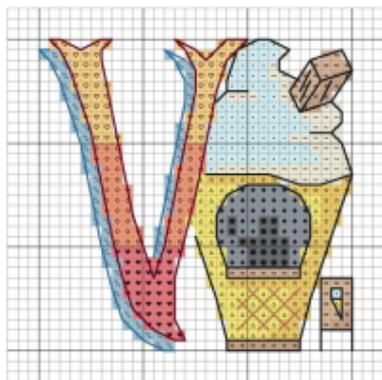
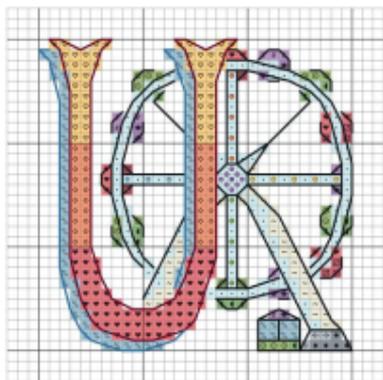
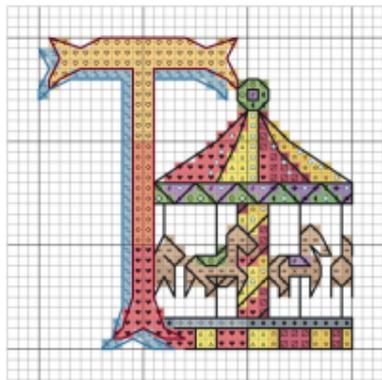




Our fairground alphabet letters were mounted in a card, hoop and a flexi hoop. Each was stitched on 14 count white aida, and each letter is approximately 30 high x 30 wide. The design size for each letter is approximately 5.5x5.5cm (2¼x2¼in), and it took our stitcher three hours to stitch each one.



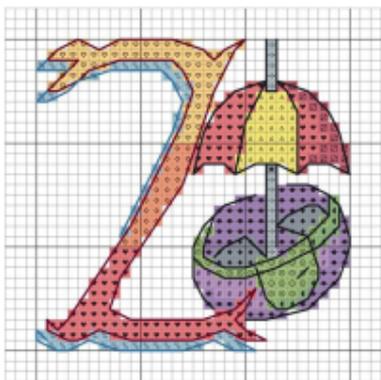
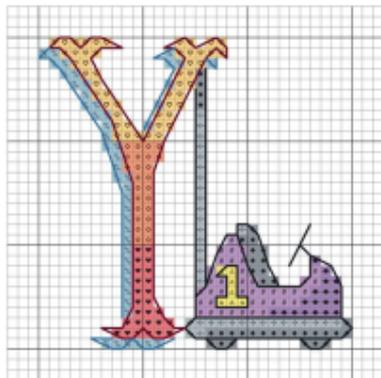
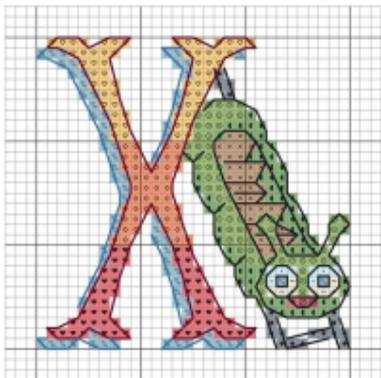




### More to make...

Mix and match your letters to create a fabulous selection of fairground projects. Why not try these three fun ideas for starters...

- 1** Make bunting for a village fête or fair – you can spell out the name of the event on it.
- 2** Use waste canvas to stitch a little one's initial onto the bib of some dungarees.
- 3** Stitch 'Happy Birthday' onto aida band to make a cake wrap for child's birthday with a fairground theme.



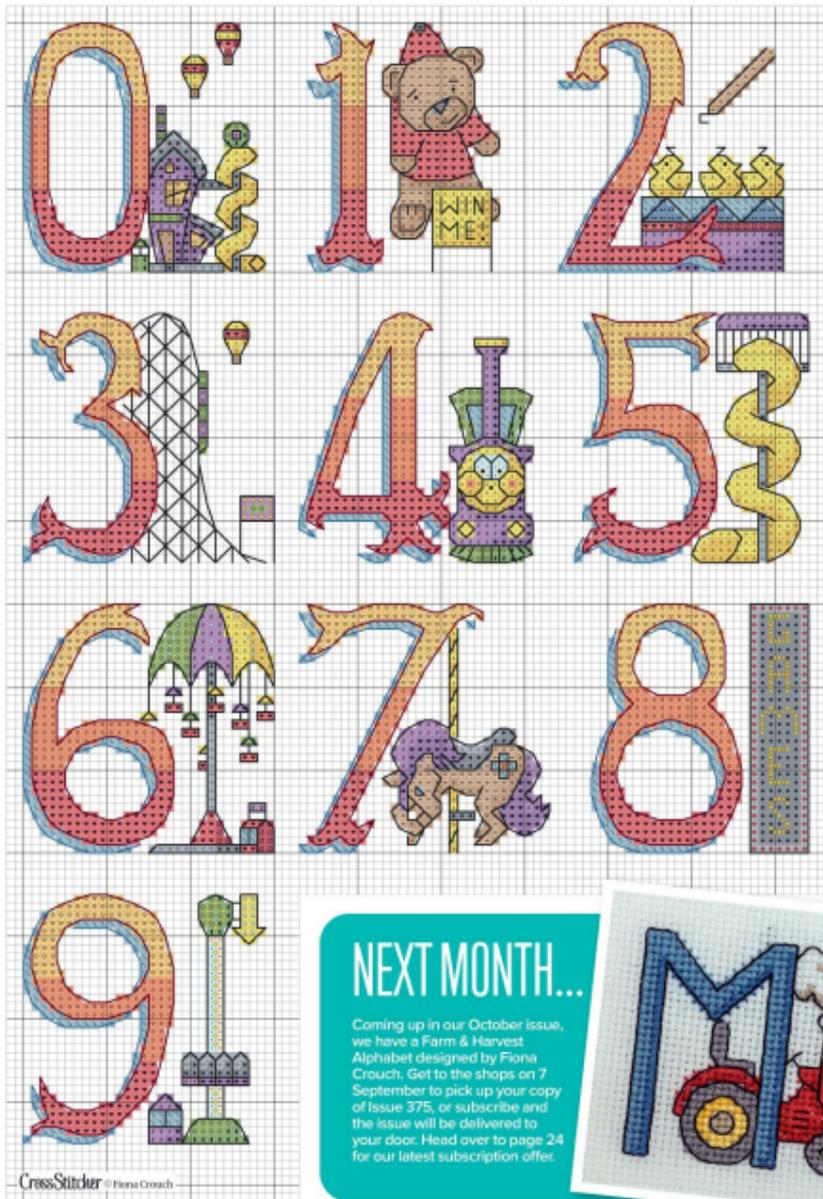
French knots have been used to create the effect of fairground lights

You could also work the letters using bright seed beads to add a little bling to your designs!

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
◆◆	208	111	804
■■	209	109	803
▲▲	307	289	104
●●	310	403	black
◆◆	414	235	1801
⋈	415	398	1803
××	436	1045	2011
══	437	362	2012
☆☆	444	297	106
☒☒	666	046	210

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
~ ~	712	926	2101
♥♥	743	298	2294
⌘⌘	826	161	1012
%%	827	160	1014
↑↑	906	256	1411
◎◎	907	255	1410
◇◇	970	316	204
♥♥	3801	1098	411
••	B5200	001	white

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Backstitch in one strand			
—	310	403	black
outlines			
—	436	1045	2011
details			
—	815	043	513
details			
—	826	161	1012
details			
French knots in one strand			
○	various		
fairground lights			



CrossStitcher © Fiona Crouch

## NEXT MONTH...

Coming up in our October issue, we have a Farm & Harvest Alphabet designed by Fiona Crouch. Get to the shops on 7 September to pick up your copy of Issue 375, or subscribe and the issue will be delivered to your door. Head over to page 24 for our latest subscription offer.



# In My Hoop...

Sue Day has been a *CrossStitcher* reader from our very first issue, back in 1992. Inspired by other readers, this year she finally got around to stitching our first ever covergift!

**B**etter late than never – that's been the motto of several of our readers who have featured in 'In My Hoop' as they shared with us their completed WIPs. But none so far has held on to a covergift from our first issue, only to complete it almost 30 years later, as did Sue Day...

Sue, who lives in Cambridge, began cross stitching after she bought the first issue of *CrossStitcher*. Before our first issue came out she had focussed on embroidery. "Oddly enough, what attracted me to the first issue of *CrossStitcher* was not cross stitch at all," she recalls. "It was the article on stitching

nostalgia inside. I love the social history of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and I am fascinated by all things vintage. After reading the first issue I took out a subscription to *CrossStitcher* and always looked for the Memory Lane feature first. Although the content of the magazine has changed over the years, the range and variety of charts and projects is always interesting, with designs to suit all levels of ability. Even after all these years I still consider myself a novice, but, with practice, I hope to tackle some of the more intricate and challenging projects one day. I love reading the *Needles and Notions* pages to see what other *CrossStitcher* readers have achieved."

## HIDDEN TREASURES

In our February 2021 issue a reader wrote to say that she had just completed the cover kits from issues 6, 8 and 10. "It prompted me to search out all my early copies of the magazine and sure enough, the cover kit from issue 1 was still attached," says Sue. "I thought I would have a go. I cannot think why I did not do it before. To be honest I was a little bit pleased with myself for completing the kit after so long, but also ashamed – it was so easy, I have no excuse.

I have a couple of cottage ornaments that I inherited from my mother, and it will sit nicely alongside them."

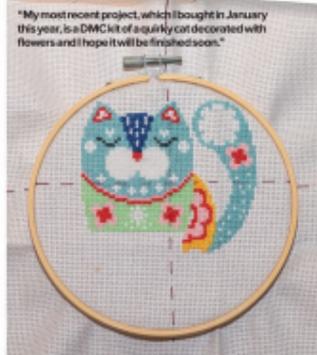
## MORE TO EXPLORE

Sue has worked on many of our designs over the years. "One of my first projects was to adapt a *CrossStitcher* chart for my parents' Golden Wedding Anniversary in 1995. I embellished the original floral design with gold thread and stitched a message in gold over the top to make a special card. I had started the Winnie the Pooh card kit from issue number 74 some years ago, but it was only last year

that I completed it to send to my great niece. During lockdown I also completed the Kokeshi Doll card kit from issue 263 to send to a friend who loves anything Japanese, and I adapted a railway engine chart for her foster son, who has Down's Syndrome and who loves trains. There is one special design I should like to stitch very much. In issue 359 the cover picture is of a cricket match on a village green. It reminds me so much of summers years ago when my late husband played cricket on village greens just like the one in the picture. It will be more ambitious than anything I have done so far. But it would be a wonderful reminder of those happy days."



Sue's finished cottage cover kit sits proudly on display, nearly 30 years in the making...



"My most recent project, which I bought in January this year, is a DMC kit of a quirky cat decorated with flowers and I hope it will be finished soon."

## OUR EDITORS TAKE A TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE...

"It's hard to believe that *CrossStitcher* was conceived 30 years ago! Needlecraft had been a runaway success, and *CrossStitcher* Collection followed that, but we saw the need for a magazine with more variety in size and taste, so *CrossStitcher* was born. Sue joins the happy crowd who have finished that first kit, and enjoyed stitching through the years."

**Martin and Susan Penny**



Do you have a stitching story to share? Drop us a line at [crossstitcher@warnersgroup.co.uk](mailto:crossstitcher@warnersgroup.co.uk) or write to the postal address on page 5 and you and your projects could feature here!



# Simply Plantastic!

FronD of house plants? There's no watering required with our striking trio in patterned pots

## CrossStitcher PROJECT PACK

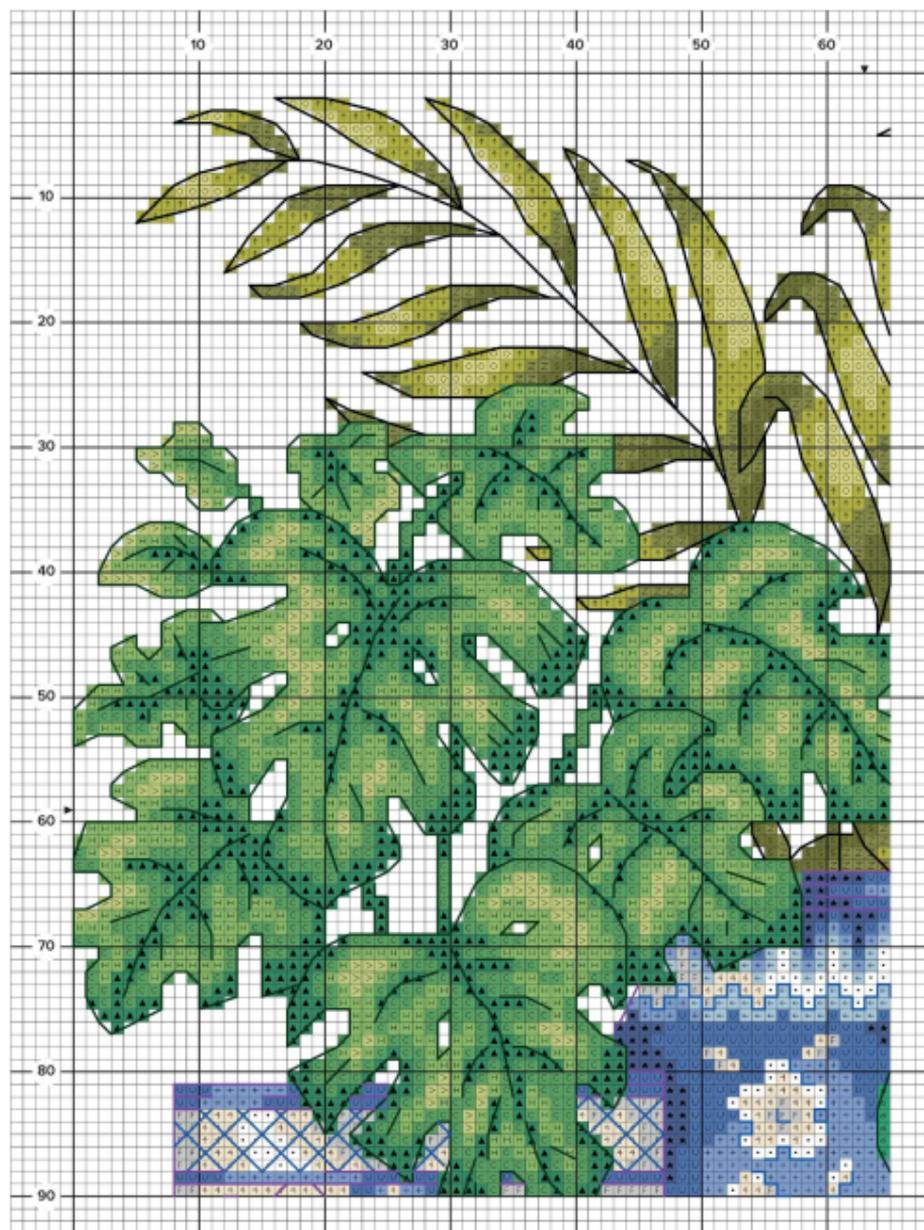
If you would like to stitch Simply Plantastic, we have a materials pack with everything you need to get you stitching right away, and have it delivered straight to your door!



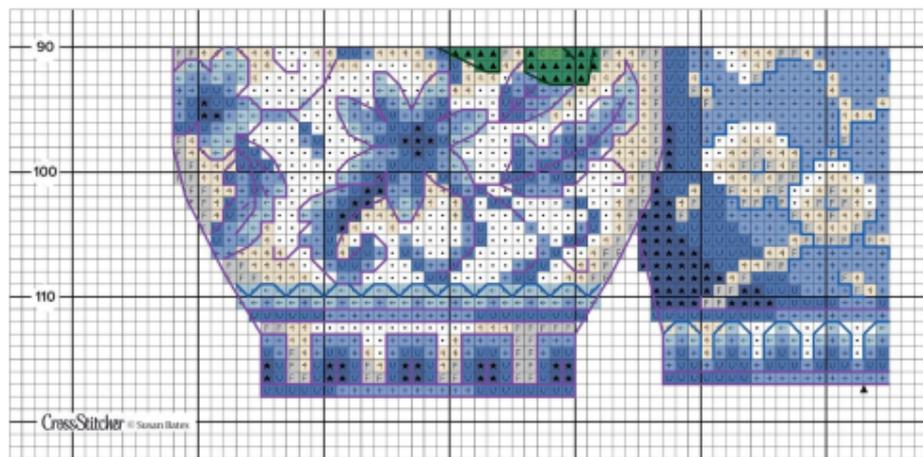
### Your materials pack contains:

- Zweigart 14 count aida in Antique White
- Skeins of DMC stranded cotton
- Two gold-plated tapestry needles; size 24 and size 26

**How to order:** Fill in the form on page 15 or go to [www.willowfabrics.com](http://www.willowfabrics.com) to order your project pack at the CrossStitcher reader price of £30, plus P&P.







Designed by: Susan Bates Stitch count: 118 high x 126 wide  
Design size: 21.5x23.5cm (8½x9¼in) Stitch time: 54 hours

This design was stitched on 14 count aida fabric.

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
<b>Cross stitch in two strands</b>			
F F	001	234	1804
>>	016	254	1308
O O	165	278	1414
↑↑	166	280*	1501
S S	580	281	1608
Z Z	581	280*	1609
▲▲	700	228	1304
C C	702	239	1306
H H	704	256	1308
††	712	926	2101
★★	797	931	912
U U	798	131	911
←→	800	159	908
+ +	809	130	909
N N	909	230	1302
◊◊	911	205	1214
T T	913	204	1212
% %	955	206	1210

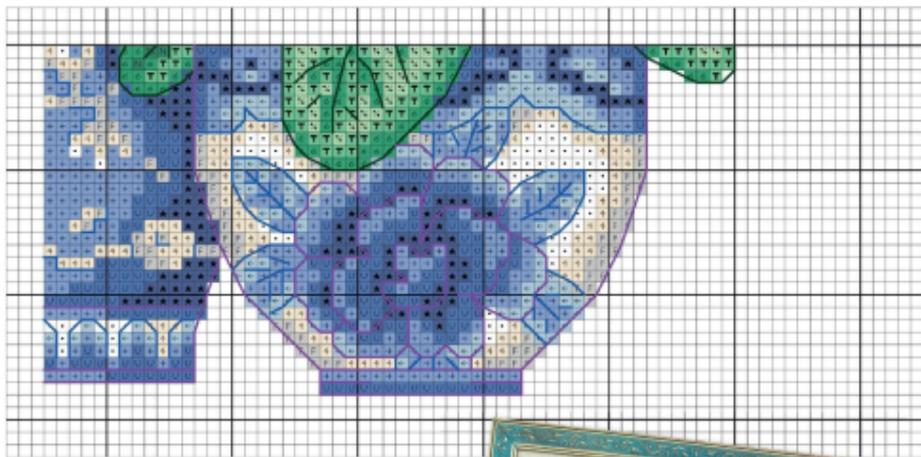
	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
<b>Cross stitch in two strands</b>			
◻ ◻	B5200	001	white
<b>Backstitch in one strand</b>			
—	319	218	1313
	foliage		
—	798	131	911
	system		
—	823	127	1008
	system		
—	935	263	1710
	foliage		

\*See "The Key" on page 89.

## Materials

- Zweigart Antique White 14 count aida, ref. 3706/101, 50x50cm (19½x19½in)
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Size 24 tapestry needle
- Frame with a 24.5x24.5cm (9½x9½in) aperture
- Mount board to fit frame

Materials available from [www.willowfabrics.com](http://www.willowfabrics.com)



There are a lot of subtle colour changes in the leaves – cross off each completed stitch on your chart as you go to help keep track



## How to... frame a picture

### Step 1



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

### Step 2



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

### Step 3



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

# CrossStitcher JUST FOR FUN

## Prize crossword

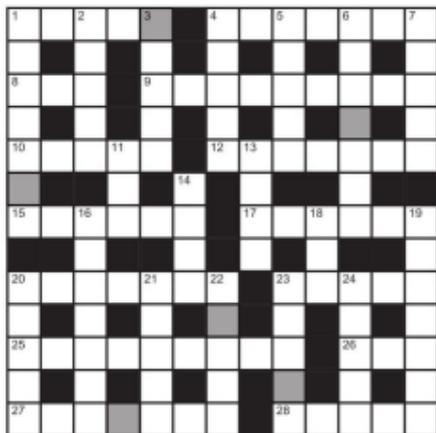
### Across

- 1 2021 Olympic hosts (5)  
4 Lead astray (7)  
8 Mode of transport (3)  
9 Large hairy spider (9)  
10 Three ---, England football anthem (5)  
12 Be uncomfortably hot (7)  
15 Agile (6)  
17 Cauliflower stem (6)  
20 Very large number (7)  
23 Six-ply cotton thread (5)  
25 For or relating to old people (9)  
26 American intelligence service (1,1,1)  
27 Breed of cat (7)  
28 Homeless domestic animal (5)

### Down

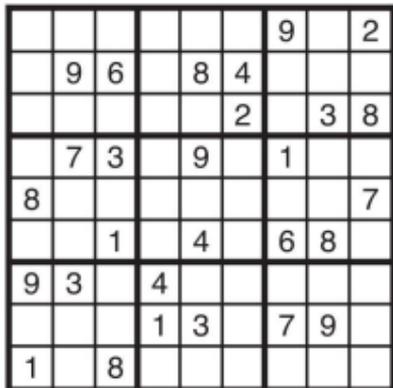
- 1 Evenweave fabric (7)  
2 Basil, pine nut, garlic and olive oil sauce (5)  
3 Musical symbols (5)  
4 Out of ---, in low spirits (5)  
5 Move to music (5)  
6 Space filled with disorganised mess (7)  
7 Ringo ---, Beatles drummer (5)  
11 Part of an ink pen (3)  
13 Threads interlaced through a warp (4)  
14 Nil (4)  
16 Disease carried by mosquitoes (7)  
18 Night bird (3)  
19 Give evidence in court (7)  
20 Fake (5)  
21 Angry (5)  
22 Healthcare worker (5)  
23 Central point (5)  
24 Proposal (5)

Winning word clue:  
**In America, they Fall over this season? (6)**



## SUDOKU

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



## HOW TO ENTER

**COMPLETE** the crossword and rearrange the letters in the shaded boxes to make up a winning word. Write your winning word and 'Crossword 374' on the back of a postcard or stuck-down envelope, adding your name, address and email address and post it to: CrossStitcher, PO Box 172, Northam, EX39 9DY

Competition open:  
**10 August – 6 September 2021**

For full terms and conditions, see page 82.

**YOUR PRIZE** Our winner will receive this Halloween kit full of spooky motifs to stitch! The design uses mostly whole cross stitch, using stranded cotton, variegated and metallic threads to add sparkle. The kit includes aids, DMC and Kreinik threads on a thread card, needle, colour chart and thread specification sheet. Its finished size is 9x33cm, find it at [www.nia-crossstitch.com](http://www.nia-crossstitch.com).



Win!

Issue 372's winning word: **PICNIC**



# PLAN BEE

Bee-hive yourself! That's the plan with these bee-utiful additions to your workbox – a pincushion and matching scissor fob



CrossStitcher © Durene Jones

## Make a... beehive pincushion

### Step 1

**STITCH** the two beehive sides using two strands for the cross stitch, one and two for the backstitch and one for the French knots – the background is filled with alternate sloping panels of backstitch using two strands.

### Step 2

**PIN** the cross stitched front and back right-sides together, and then machine or hand stitch around the curved edge following the outer row of cross stitches, and joining the two layers together. Reduce the seam allowance to 1.25cm (½in) on the curved edge and at the bottom. Clip the curve.

### Step 3

**TURN** to the right side, and stuff firmly – you can add a small bag of rice towards the bottom of the stuffing to give the pincushion weight. Fold in the excess fabric at the bottom, and finger press in place. Insert the cardboard circle and then the felt circle into the bottom of the beehive, then using matching sewing cotton, catch stitch the felt to the aids around the bottom edge.

Designed by: Durene Jones  
 Stitch count: 56 high x 45 wide (beehive);  
 28 high x 28 wide (scissor fob)  
 Design size: 10x8.5cm (4½x3½in);  
 5x5cm (2x2in) Stitch time: 20 hours; 3 hours

These designs were stitched on 14 count aids fabric.

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira		DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands				Backstitch in one strand			
● ●	167	375	2105	—	310	403	black
↑ ↑	210	108	802	—	799	136	910
■ ■	310	403	black	—	3345	268	1406
Z Z	340	118	902	—	B5200	001	white
U U	471	265	1501	—	French knots in one strand		
X X	725	306	808	●	310	403	black
H H	799	136	910	●	dots		
■ ■	898	360	2006	●	(2) indicates more than one skein is required.		
• •	B5200	001	white	Backstitch in two strands			
Background				—	3046	887	2206 (2)

## Make a... scissor fob

### Step 1

**MAKE** a plaited cord from leftover stranded cotton. Use six strands of three different colours and make the cord long enough to hold the scissors when folded. Knot both ends when complete.

### Step 2

**STITCH** the front and back of the scissor fob, using the alphabet to add initials. Once stitched, place the front and back right-sides together. Place the plaited cord between the layers, with the knotted ends in

one corner and facing outwards. Stitch around three sides of the aida, following the outer row of cross stitch, and leaving the bottom open.

### Step 3

**REDUCE** the seam allowance and turn the scissor fob through to the right side. You will need to pull the folded cord out, leaving the knots on the inside. Stuff firmly, tuck in the unstitched aida at the bottom, and sew up with small, neat stitches. Attach your scissors to the cord.



## Materials

- Sampeck White 14 count aida; 15x12.5cm (6x5in) for hive x2; 7.5x7.5 (3x3in) for fob x2
- DMC Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Size 24 tapestry needle
- Felt circle; 5.2cm diameter
- Cardboard circle; 5.2cm diameter
- Toy stuffing

Materials available from [www.lilowfabrics.com](http://www.lilowfabrics.com)

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... those weddings are back on track!



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VISIT: [WWW.HOBBIES-AND-CRAFTS.CO.UK](http://WWW.HOBBIES-AND-CRAFTS.CO.UK)

# GOING COASTAL...

Cornwall based designer Emma Horan found lockdown presented her with a unique opportunity to move to a brand-new St Austell studio

Written by *Lucy Evans*

**F**ancy stitching by the sea, not just on holiday, but all year round? That's what Emma Horan gets to do! With a range of cross stitch kits based on the Cornish coastal landscapes and seascapes, she's happiest being creative in her adopted county, launching her new St Austell studio and shop this year.

Emma, who didn't get hooked on stitching until her mid thirties, re-located to Cornwall a few years ago. There she was inspired to create acrylic paintings of the coast. "As I had also just started stitching I was on the hunt for colourful modern cross stitch and thought I would try and combine the two," she recalls. "I purchased some graph paper but then by chance stumbled upon some cross stitch design software in a second-hand bookshop for 20p so thought I had to give it a proper go. I completed my first design, *St Ives North Harbour* (and stitched three different versions) - I posted the picture on twitter with the hashtag #crossstitch and the response was incredible."

Emma had always loved Cornwall since holidaying there when younger and had wanted to move there for a long time. "I previously lived in cities and worked in fast paced careers so the pace of life and attitude is very different. My husband actually made me a motivational 'Move to Cornwall' poster for my old IT recruitment office wall. We finally took the plunge and moved to St Austell 11 years ago."

The process of Emma turning a coastal view into a cross stitch kit involves several stages. "I love to visit beautiful places and take lots of photographs, so normally have quite a lot of inspiration to base a new design on. Once I have decided on a composition that I like, I draw or paint it on paper. I often combine elements of different photos, removing any people or cars and unnecessary distractions to try and create the basic feel of the location in bright, bold colours.

"I then use this artwork to create a chart. This is the time consuming part as although I do now use a professional cross stitch software programme I still graphically design each little square, picking more vibrant cheerful colours and finishing with black backstitch outlining. The finished chart is then proof stitched to ensure that the symbols are all correct, easy to read, that there is enough thread and also that it's enjoyable for someone to stitch.

"I then complete the charts, paperwork and assemble the kits. As I am also a stitcher I do make a special effort to ensure that the charts are easy to read

with distinctly different symbols for each thread colour. I also try and ensure that I keep my kits to standard sizes so that buying a frame to show off your work is less costly."

Emma personally loves her lighthouse kits as well as her *Abstract Ocean Trio* as it's different to her usual style. As for the most popular kit with customers, it's her design of *Mousehole Harbour*. "I think it's the composition and the brightness of the surfboards and harbour houses," she muses.

Of course with a new space in St Austell, Emma's well placed for tourist visitors, who can come and see her at work. "I get a lot of stitchers travelling to see me whilst on holiday in Cornwall and I absolutely love when they are excited to be in a cross stitch shop and see me

“I get a lot of stitchers travelling to see me whilst on holiday in Cornwall”

designing, see the stitched pieces on display and chat all things stitchy with me. The in-person feedback has been so lovely! I have a Customer Gallery on my website filled with stitchers' finished pieces. I love that they buy my kits, spend so many hours creating them and then take the time to send me a photo of their work. A lot of people do also let me know what stitching that piece meant to them or why the place they were stitching is special."

Although Emma had a small studio base in St Austell for several years, as her business grew she knew she needed to find something bigger, and managed to find something in the midst of lockdown! "As all non-essential retail was shut at the time it meant that there were lots of shops available - I figured it would be great to work from here and also people can visit and buy my kits if they wish," she explains. "I love that my palette of colourful threads are on display, in cones, on bobbins and on my colour charts. I have so much space, a great shop front but also a room for workshops and lessons for future plans."

Each day is spent in the studio, doing paperwork, making and working on new designs. When Emma's working day is done she still gets to enjoy her coastal location, and the benefits that it entails. "When I am not stitching you will probably find me exploring Cornwall with my husband and son, either walking or on the beach. I am always having new ideas and so have loads of projects going on in various stages - I am currently completing designs for a new *Colour Cornwall* colouring book as well as experimenting with small mosaic tiles using a cross stitch chart." Sure confirmation that stitchers need to watch this space!

[www.emmalouiseartstitch.co.uk](http://www.emmalouiseartstitch.co.uk)



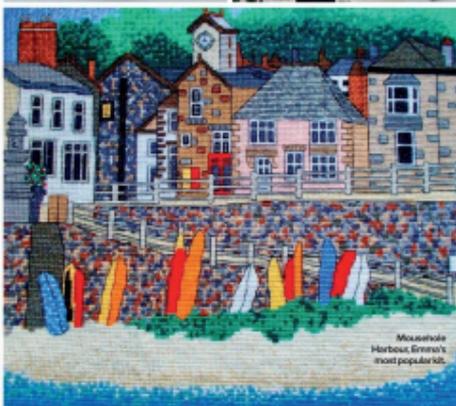
Room with a sea view: Emma's new St Austell studio and shop.



"I actually started stitching, printing and designing at a specific location when I was going through a tough time, my favorite feedback is from customers who have helped in this way as I can relate to how they feel."



"I get my best ideas for designs when walking – even just walking along coast paths in my hometown. My favorite place to stitch is of course on the beach with the sound of the sea."



Moosehole Harbour, Emma's most popular kit.



# SIMPLY PUT...

Store your trinkets in style with our handy 'hello' tray, complete with button corners



CrossStitcher © Emma Congdon

Designed by: Emma Congdon Stitch count: 65 high x 66 wide

Design size: 12x12cm (4½x4½in) Stitch time: 9 hours

This design was stitched on 14 count wide fabric.

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
	907	255	1410
	3806	062	701
	3809	1066	2506
	3846	433	1103

*Make sure that your backing fabric is a stiff fabric such as velvet*

This tray would also be ideal for storing buttons from your stash!



## Make a... trinket tray

### Step 1

**IRON** Vilene onto the back of your finished stitching. Repeat with the backing fabric – it will help to give the tray strength. If you use a stiff fabric like velvet or upholstery fabric, place the backing fabric, right sides facing out, on the back of the design. Pin the layers together.

### Step 2

**COUNT** on one edge of the stitching, 21 squares from the outer stitch, and mark the aida row with a pin. Repeat for the other four sides of the design.

### Step 3

**MAKE** a row of machine stitches, following the pinned aida row around the edge of the design, sewing the

layers together. Carefully cut off the excess fabric, leaving just one aida square outside of the machined row – if you use sharp scissors, and make large cuts rather than small snips, you should find that the fabric doesn't fray. If you find the edges of your fabric are still fraying, apply a thin layer of Fray Check or clear fabric glue to the outer edge.

### Step 4

**PINCH** the four corners of the fabric together to form points, and then sew a button on each side of the point to hold them in place. Fold each side down in turn onto the stitched tray, and then finger press the folds at the bottom of the tray into position.

## Materials

- Zweigart Teal 14 count aida, ref. 3706/5146; 23x23cm (9x9in)
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Size 24 tapestry needle
- Backing fabric; 23x23cm (9x9in)
- Iron-on Vilene; 23x23cm (9x9in) x 2
- Buttons x 8

Materials available from [www.wilowfabrics.com](http://www.wilowfabrics.com)



CREATE A CLASSIC:  
*Yorkshire Terrier*

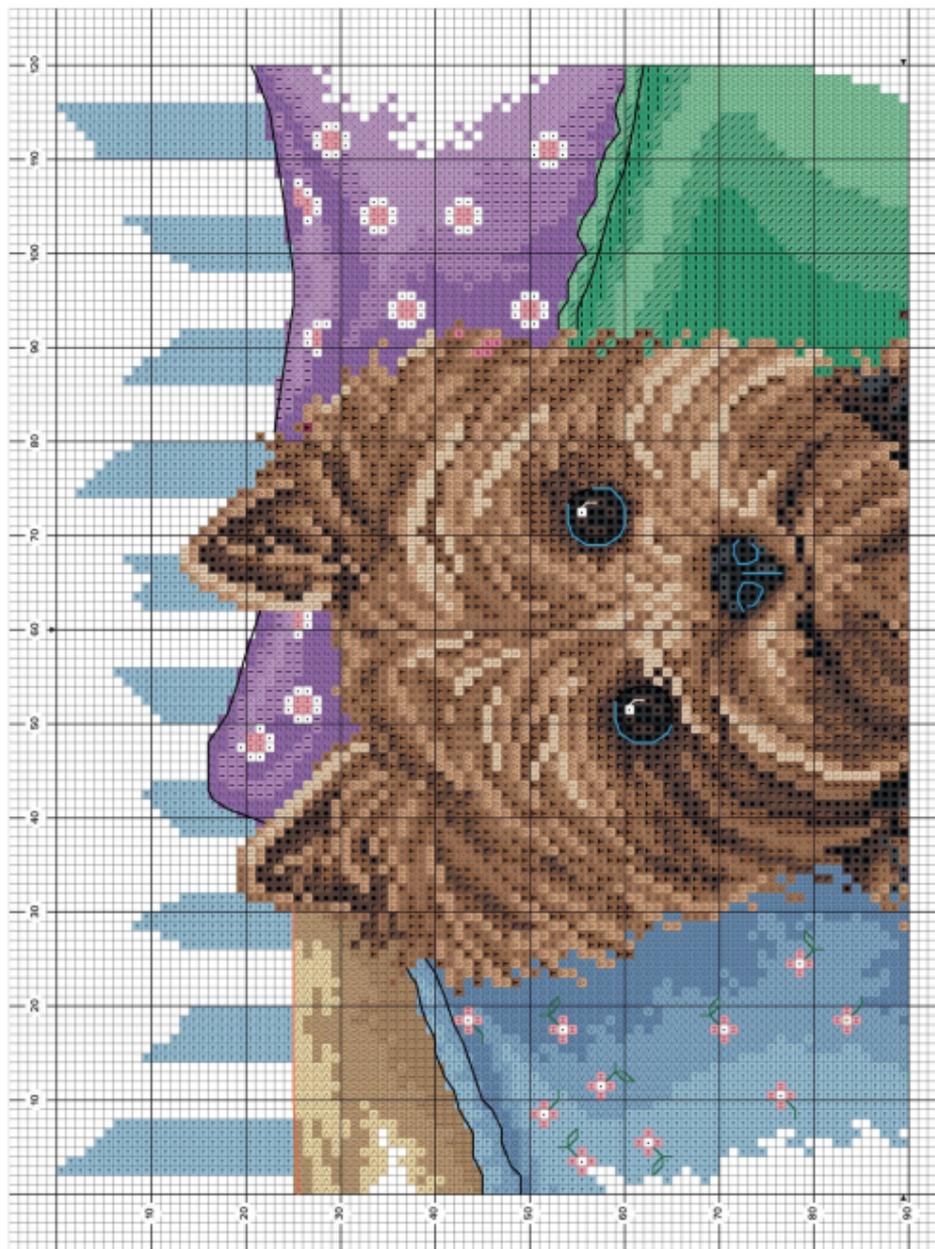
Fall in puppy love with our young Yorkshire Terrier.  
Butter wouldn't melt but he's been up to no good!

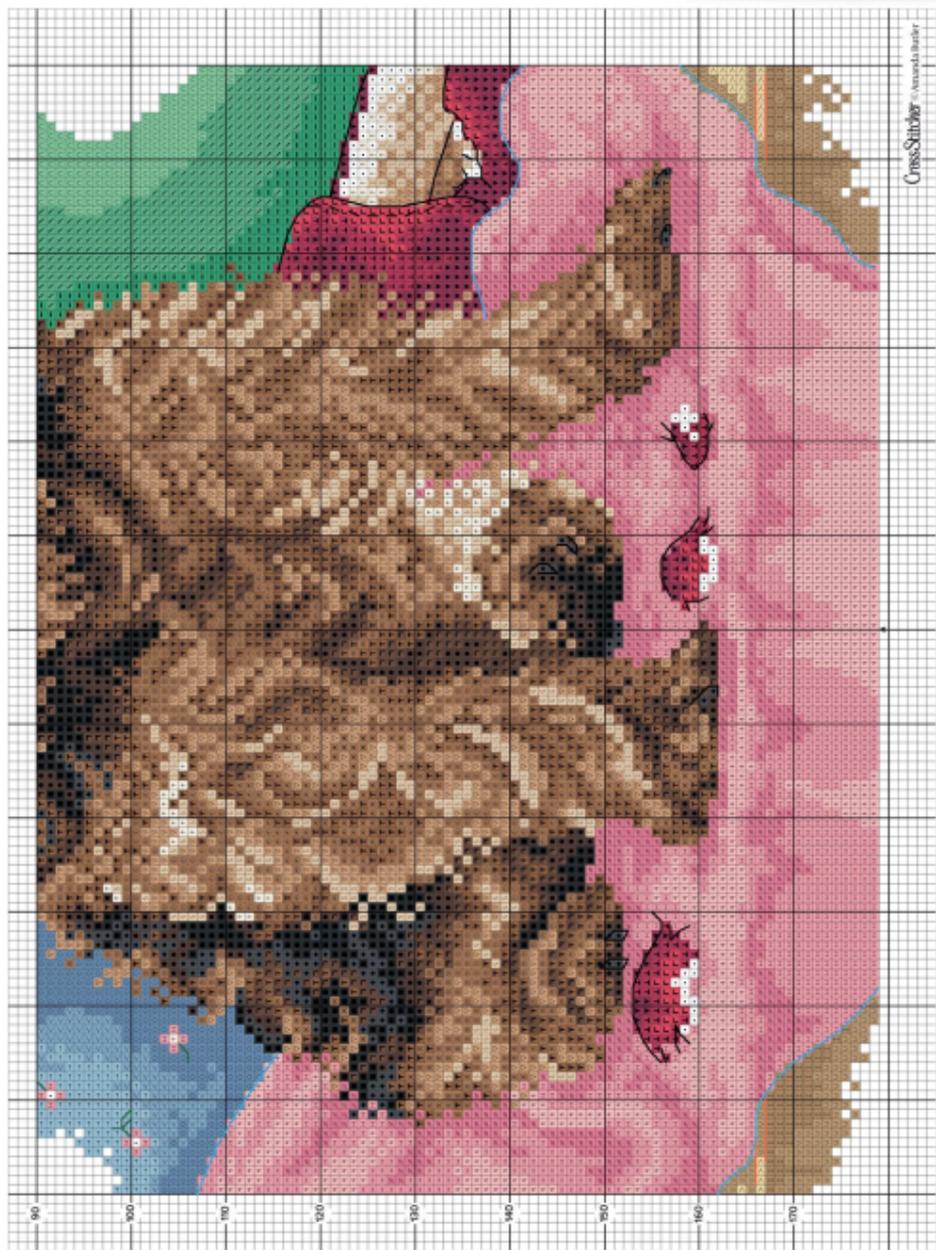


Anyone who has a pup at home, or those of you who've longed to have a dog of your own, are going to find it very hard to resist this adorable design! Our Yorkshire Terrier puppy has been busy attacking the upholstery – oops! Caught in the act, he's using those puppy eyes to try and avert a telling off! Use blended threads to bring his fur coat and innocent expression to life in beautiful detail.



# YORKSHIRE TERRIER







Designed by: Amanda Butler  
 Stitch count: 179 high x 120 wide  
 Design size: 33x23cm (13x9in)  
 Stitch time: 96 hours

This design was stitched on 14 count aida fabric.

## Materials

- Sampedro White 14 count aida; 50x46cm (19x18in)
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Size 24 tapestry needle
- Frame with a 34.5x24cm (13½x9½in) aperture
- Mount board to fit frame

Materials available from [www.willowfabrics.com](http://www.willowfabrics.com)

DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands		
	208	111 804
	209	109 803
	210	108 802
	310	403 black
	321	019 510
	334	977 1003
	422	943 2102
	434	310 2009 (2)
	437	362 2012 (2)
	677	886 2207
	739	366 2014
	801	359 2007
	816	1005 512

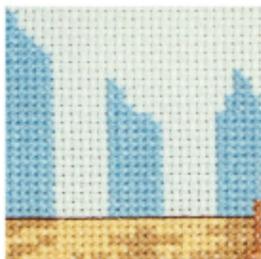
DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands		
	911	205 1214
	912	209 1213
	938	381 2005
	954	203 1211
	962	075 609
	963	023 608
	3325	129 1002
	3716	025 606
	3755	939 909
	3799	236 1713
	3801	1098 411
	3828	373 2104
	B5200	001 white

DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch blend in one strand of each		
	435 + 436	
	712 + B5200	
Backstitch in one strand		
	310	403 black
outlines		
	317	400 1714
eye outlines		
	505	228 1301
cushion		
	801	359 2007
barnet		
	B5200	001 white
eyes		

(2) indicates more than one skein is required.

## HOW TO... TAKE YOUR STITCHING TO THE NEXT LEVEL

We have included some more advanced stitching techniques in this project to help you to develop your stitching skills, ready for your next challenge...



### USING THE FABRIC COLOUR:

Not every area of this design is covered in stitches, the wallpaper for example, is created using alternate stripes of stitched blue and the bare aida fabric in White.



### BLENDED THREAD FOR SOFTNESS:

The beautifully realistic coat of the puppy has been created using blended threads in brown and cream to create extra mid shades that can't be made using regular threads alone.



### SHADING USING STRANDED COTTON:

For a watercolour look some parts of the background are worked using areas which are split into a particular shade of a colour. This creates effective shading with ease.

*Thread up the colours of the puppy's fur on several needles before you begin to save you time later on*

TURN TO  
PAGE 55  
TO LEARN  
HOW TO FRAME  
YOUR PICTURE

## CrossStitcher PROJECT PACK

If you would like to stitch our Yorkshire Terrier picture, we have a materials pack with everything you need to get you stitching right away, and have it delivered straight to your door!



### Your materials pack contains:

- Sampedro 14 count aida in White
- Skeins of DMC stranded cotton
- Two gold-plated tapestry needles; size 24 and size 26

**How to order:** Fill in the form on page 15 or go to [www.willowfabrics.com](http://www.willowfabrics.com) to order your project pack at the CrossStitcher reader price of £39, plus P&P.

# Ready, steady, *stitch!*

We've challenged three designers to come up with a coin purse with the theme of 'nature' to tie in with the autumn season...

**W**elcome to this month's designer challenge! As autumn is just around the corner, we've asked our three designers this month to create a coin purse design inspired by nature. They were asked to make sure it fitted into a design that considered the shape of the coin purse clasp they had to use. They were also limited to seven shades of stranded cotton, as shown on the left. Read on to see our designers' clever results! If you'd like to take on our next challenge, turn to page 75 for details of the challenge for our November issue!

#### THE CHALLENGE

- 14 count cream aida
- Seven shades of stranded cotton (shown above)
- Purse clasp 12cm (4 1/4") - Rose Gold

#### THE RULES

- Create a design to fit a coin purse
- The design should be no larger than 50 x 40 stitches
- Only the materials above can be used
- Be creative as possible!

## CHERYL MCKINNON... WOODLAND FOX



"The oranges seem to work perfectly for a woodland fox, with lush greenery to frame her and the lovely deep purple works well as little flowers. The light areas of her coat are unstitched, but you could easily add Ecru to finish it."

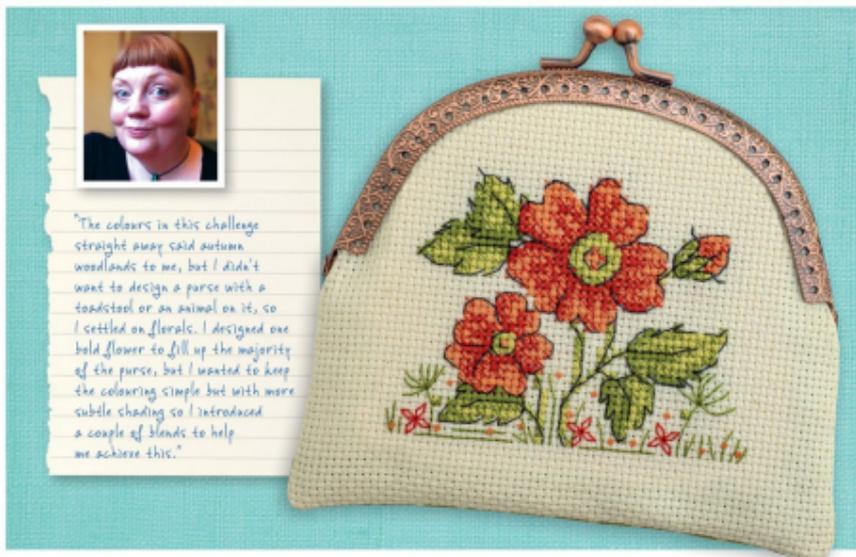


## MARIA DIAZ... NATURE'S WONDERS

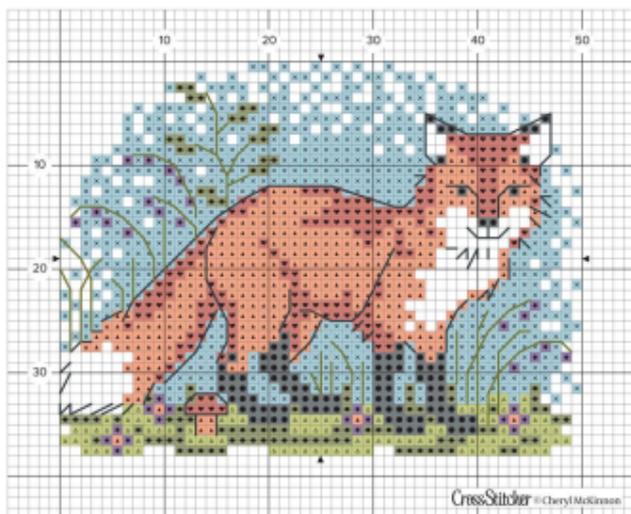


"I am fortunate to be surrounded by nature and manage to see its wonders daily whilst walking my dog. It's not always easy to relate that in such a small project but I hope I have managed it with this little vignette."

## DURENE JONES... PERFECT POSY



"The colours in this challenge straight away said autumn woodlands to me, but I didn't want to design a purse with a toadstool or an animal on it, so I settled on florals. I designed one bold flower to fill up the majority of the purse, but I wanted to keep the colouring simple but with more subtle shading so I introduced a couple of blends to help me achieve this."



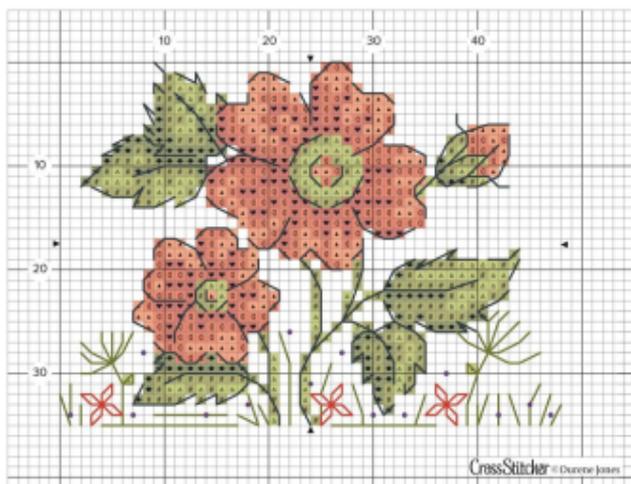
## Make a... coin purse

### Step 1

**START** stitching at the centre of the fabric. Use two strands of stranded cotton for the cross stitch and one strand for the backstitch and French knots. Some of the cross stitches are a blend of two stranded cotton colours – first separate the strands, and then put one of each colour together, making sure they lay flat to create a nice even colour of blended stitch.

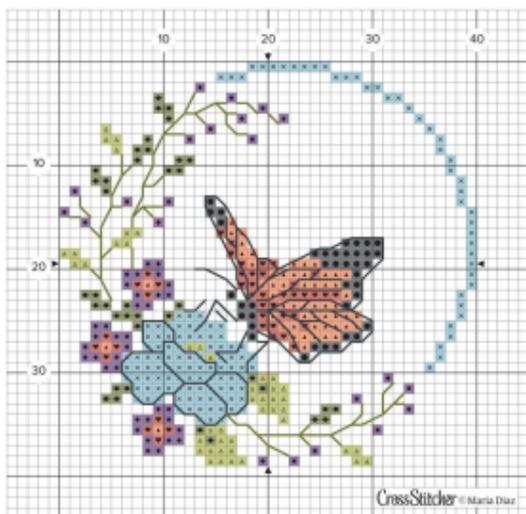
### Step 2

**TAKE** a purse clasp – we used a clasp 12cm (4 $\frac{3}{4}$ in) across the bottom and glue the purse fabric onto the clasp. Clasps come in lots of shapes and sizes, and have different ways of assembling – we used glue, but if you have holes in the clasp, you can sew the fabric through the holes. You will also need a lining for your purse, and maybe a gusset. Very few clasps come with a pattern for the purse shape, so you may need to make one from paper before starting. Please refer to the instructions that come with your clasp for assembling.



The materials our designers used to make their purses are all available from [www.willowfabrics.com](http://www.willowfabrics.com)





	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
<b>Cross stitch in two strands</b>			
● ●	413	401	1713
● ●	581	280	1609
▲ ▲	722	323	307
♥ ♥	900	333	208
× ×	3761	928	1014
△ △	3819	278	2703
◆ ◆	3837	112	713
<b>Cross stitch blend in one strand of each</b>			
# #	581 + 3819		
d d	722 + 900		
<b>Backstitch in one strand</b>			
—	413	401	1713
	<i>outlines, details</i>		
—	581	280	1609
	<i>foliage</i>		
—	900	333	208
	<i>flowers</i>		
<b>French knots in one strand</b>			
●	3837	112	713
	<i>details</i>		

## SEE YOUR WORK HERE!

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

### November Issue 376 challenge:

Please create a design to be stitched on the Rico stitchable Christmas Tree shape as available from [www.willowfabrics.com](http://www.willowfabrics.com). Please fill the whole shape – you don't have to fill it with tree decorations – you could use motifs or even turn it into a festive character.

### Materials and rules:

- Rico stitchable Christmas Tree shape
- Max. stitch count: 22 x 15 stitches
- Six shades of DMC stranded cotton; Light Pearl Grey (028), Spruce Green (3814), Medium Seagreen (959), Bright Red (666), Red Copper (919) & Gold Metallic

Although we are not judging your designs, this is a stitching challenge, so please make sure the design is your own work, and not taken from another source.



# Stitcher's SPOTLIGHT

Susan Penny shows you step by step how to make a pincushion using a technique rather oddly called Chicken Scratch!

The last time I did embroidery on gingham was at primary school. As far as I can remember it didn't have a name, but even then I was fascinated by the technique. I love the simplicity of stitching on gingham fabric, using a few basic stitches to create a regular pattern.



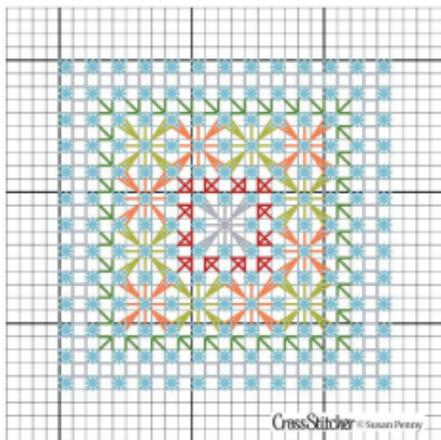
## SIMPLE & EFFECTIVE

Chicken Scratch became popular in the 1930's to 1950's in the USA when it was used to decorate aprons. Chicken Scratch is known by different names around the world, including Amish Embroidery, Snowflake Embroidery, Depression Lace, Australian Cross Stitch and Dentelle Vichy in France. The simplicity of Chicken Scratch is what I enjoy most about it. There are just three basic stitches, and originally to make it look like lace, it was stitched in one colour. I like to mix it up a bit and so I have used several colours and even made up a stitch to fill a space. The order of stitching is important, and you must complete all the Double Cross Stitch (Smyrna Cross Stitch) before adding the decorative stitches. These double cross stitches should be worked on every other square of fabric - I chose the dark green square to work these on my design.

## Make a... pincushion



**COMPLETE** your stitching, then cut your gingham fabric, leaving four gingham squares outside the stitching on all sides. Cut your backing fabric to the same size. Place the gingham and backing fabric rights-sides together, and machine stitch around three sides. Trim any excess seam allowance, clip the corners, then turn to the right side. Stuff, fold in the seam allowance and sew up the remaining side.



Three strands of stranded cotton were used for both the Foundation stitches and the Filling stitches.

## Close up... on stitches



**Woven Circles:** The Woven Circles are worked between the corners of the Double Cross Stitch.



**Three Flower Petals:** Three flower petals radiate out from one corner of a Double Cross Stitch.



**Filling Stitch:** This filling triangular stitch is worked between the Double Cross Stitch with a flower petal over the top.



**Full Flower:** Two flower petals are worked from one point of a Double Cross Stitch, with the second larger petal worked over the top. Two smaller petals are worked either side.

## Double Cross Stitch (Smyrna Cross) - Foundation Stitch

### Step 1



**MAKE** your cross stitch in the usual way, working from bottom left to top right, and then top left to bottom right. Instead of taking the needle to the reverse side of the fabric, made a small stitch back to the centre bottom of the stitch.

### Step 2



**BRING** the needle out of the gingham, then make a stitch from the centre top of the gingham square to the centre of the left side. Using a sharp needle will help you pierce the fabric easier. Keep an even tension without pulling the stitches tight.

### Step 3



**MAKE** the final part of the stitch across the cross's centre. Go through to the back of the fabric, then move on to the next gingham square to be worked. Repeat across the fabric until all the foundation stitches are worked.

## Woven Circle - Filling Stitch

### Step 1



**FINISH** all your foundation stitches, then fill in the rows of decorative stitches. Start with an away knot – bring your needle up close to a corner spoke of a Double Cross Stitch. Take the needle under the spoke in the direction you are working.

### Step 2



**WORK** upwards to the next Double Cross Stitch – slip the needle under the corner spoke without entering the fabric. This is a woven stitch so the needle only enters the fabric at the start and the end of the stitch. Repeat for the next corner spoke.

### Step 3



**MAKE** the last part of the stitch, going under the spoke you first worked, then take the needle back down through the fabric, where it first entered. Secure with one stitch through the Double Cross Stitch at the back before moving on.

## Flower Petal from a Double Cross Stitch

### Step 1



**NOTE** that all petals in this stitch are worked from the same spoke of a Double Cross Stitch. Bring your needle up through the fabric close to a spoke, then slip the needle under the spoke directly above it. Again this is a woven stitch.

### Step 2



**BRING** the needle back down to the first spoke and slip the needle under it making a petal shape. Take the needle under the spoke diagonally opposite, and bring it down to starting spoke. Use your needle to tease the petal shapes into position.

### Step 3



**TAKE** the needle to the spoke to the right of the first spoke. Take the needle under the spoke and back under the starting spoke before taking the needle down through the fabric. Secure each stitch at the back before moving to the next.

## Full Flower

### Step 1



**THE** woven flowers are worked over blocks of nine Double Cross Stitches, and in four quarters. The needle enters the fabric at the stitch's start and end only. Bring your needle up under a spoke and up and under the spoke above.

### Step 2



**RETURN** to your starting spoke. Now take your needle under it and then under the spoke to the left. Take your needle up to the Double Cross Stitch at the top left, and make a stitch under the bottom right corner spoke.

### Step 3



**BRING** the needle back down to where you started making that petal, and take it under the spoke. Repeat for the second petal but take the needle under the bottom and right facing spokes on the Double Cross Stitch at the top left.

### Step 4



**MAKE** this second petal bigger than the first – it's completed by taking the needle back down and under the starting spoke. The needle then goes down and under the left facing spoke on the same, central Double Cross Stitch as shown above.

### Step 5



**MAKE** the left facing single petal to complete the top left quarter of this flower. To do this, take the needle to the Double Cross Stitch directly to the left and under the facing spoke, then back and under the starting spoke.

### Step 6



**CONTINUE** working this flower one quarter at a time, then take the needle to the back by going under the central Double Cross Stitch, then secure with a stitch. After finishing the orange flowers, stitch the green ones in the same way.

## Filling Stitch

### Step 1



**NOTE** you will be working these stitches in different directions, depending where they are on the design. Bring your needle up under a corner spoke of a Double Cross Stitch. Make a stitch up to the Double Cross Stitch directly above, and take the needle under the corner spoke.

### Step 2



**TAKE** the needle down to the Double Cross Stitch diagonally to the left or right, depending which stitch you are working. Take the needle under the corner spoke, and then back to the starting spoke, taking the needle under it. You have completed the triangular part of the stitch.

### Step 3



**MAKE** the petal on top by taking the needle up, diagonally to the Double Cross Stitch to the left or right, and take the needle under the corner spoke. Bring the needle back to the starting spoke and through the fabric to complete the petal. Continue until all petals are complete.

CrossStitcher

# STITCH-A-LONG

GRIMMS' FAIRY TALES:  
**PUSS IN BOOTS**



*Welcome to our stitch-a-long for 2021. Designer Amanda Butler has created an amazing Grimms' Fairy Tale Sampler SAL – and will be unveiling a new scene from their wonderful books each month. In this issue we give you Puss In Boots...*

# GRIMMS' FAIRY TALES SAL

This is the ninth part of this year's stitch-a-long design. Over the year we will be bringing you 12 Fairy Tales. In this issue we give you Puss In Boots.

We have greyed out the border from the first part of the design in the February issue. The grid lines are correct for the complete design, but the centre marks indicate the centre of just this motif.

Designed by: Amanda Butler

Stitch count: 36 high x 26 wide (character only)

Design size: 6.5x4.5cm (2½x1¾in)

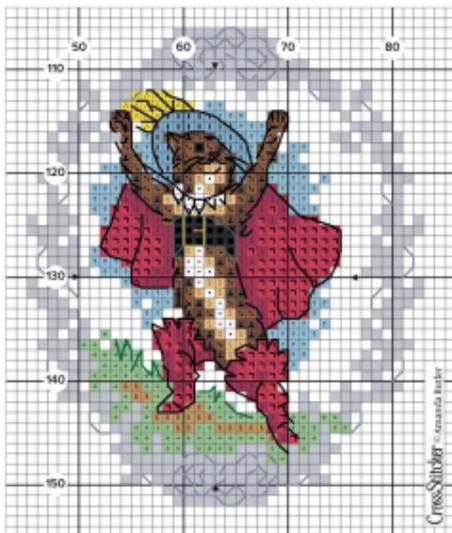
Stitch time: 3 hours

This design was stitched on 14 count aida fabric.

## THE KEY

**ALL THE** symbols that appear on the chart are listed in the key with their corresponding thread codes beside them. The key also tells you the different stitches used in the design. The closest column of thread codes listed next to

the chart symbols is the thread brand that's used in the design. Similar colour matches are listed alongside it. Where no close match can be found, you may have to use a different brand of thread for that shade.



## THE CHART

**EACH** square on the chart represents a single cross stitch. Start from the centre of the design and your fabric. The

centre of our charts are indicated by arrows at the designs' edges. To find your fabric's centre, fold it in half and into quarters.

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
<b>Cross stitch in two strands</b>			
	304	1006	509
	307	289	104
	310	403	black
	434	310	2009
	666	046	210
	676	891	2208
	801	359	2007

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
<b>Cross stitch in two strands</b>			
	3755	939	909
	B5200	001	white
<b>Half cross stitch in two strands</b>			
	164	240	1209
	729	890	2209
	3325	129	1002

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
<b>Backstitch in one strand</b>			
	310	403	black
<small>detail &amp; outlines</small>			
	317	400	1714
<small>back outline</small>			
	895	1044	1405
<small>grass</small>			
	E3852	Light Effects	
<small>buckle</small>			

## HOW TO JOIN OUR STITCH-A-LONG

**WE'RE UNVEILING** a chart from February to January, starting with the border then 12 characters over the year. To join in, you will need to buy a fat quarter; 50x55cm (19½x21½in) of Cream Sampedro aida to complete the design, plus DMC Light Effects Gold E3852 and E5200, and one pack of Mill Hill seed beads, colour Gold 557. The design size will be 210 stitches high x 130 stitches wide, with a finished size of 38x24cm (15x9½in).

**KEEP US POSTED!** Why not join in our special SAL Facebook group at [www.facebook.com/groups/CrossStitcherSAL](http://www.facebook.com/groups/CrossStitcherSAL) to get regular posts and updates from fellow SAL stitchers.

**CROSSSTITCHER PROJECT PACK** If you would like to stitch our Grimms' Fairy Tales Sampler, we have a materials pack with everything you need to get you stitching straight away, and have it delivered straight to your door! Your materials pack contains:

- Sampedro 14 count aida in Cream
- Skeins of DMC stranded cotton
- Skein of DMC Light Effects
- Mill Hill Gold seed beads
- Two gold-plated tapestry needles; size 24 and size 26

How to order:

Go to [www.willowfabrics.com](http://www.willowfabrics.com) to order your project pack at the CrossStitcher reader price of £44.50, plus P&P.

# BEGINNERS START HERE...

New to cross stitch? Our handy guide will take you through all the basic techniques and stitches you need to get you started

## THE ESSENTIAL KIT YOU'LL NEED TO START STITCHING

### NEEDLES

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

### EMBROIDERY SCISSORS

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

### STRANDED COTTON

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

### HOOPS AND FRAMES

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

### FABRICS

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

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

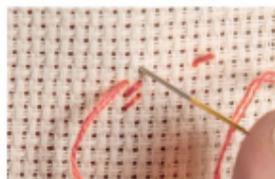
## Start stitching... on aida

### Step 1



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

### Step 2



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

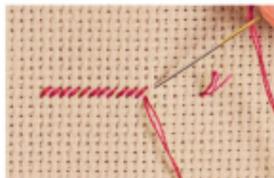
## and... on evenweave



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

## STARTING A THREAD

### 1. Away waste knot



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

### 2. Loop knot



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

## FRACTIONALS

These stitches are great for adding a bit more detail to your work



**START** with a quarter stitch, working from one corner into the centre (with aida, you'll need to pierce the fabric). Make a quarter stitch in your second colour, coming up from the opposite corner and back down the centre. Finish with a half cross stitch. Fractionals are charted either as two symbols opposite one another in a square, or as a symbol opposite an empty space.

## ADDING BACKSTITCH OUTLINES & DETAILS

### Step 1



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

### Step 2



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

## FRENCH KNOTS

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

### Step 1



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

### Step 2



**FEED** the needle gently through the fabric. Try to keep your thread as taut as possible to prevent the knot becoming loose. Gently pull your thread through to tighten the knot, so that it sits neatly on the surface. Keep practising your French knots until you are happy you have perfected the technique.

# CrossStitcher

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## Issue 373 key correction...



Our wren last month had a couple of errors on the key. Please find below the correct symbol for DMC 3821 and shade numbers for the 'T' symbol.

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
<b>UU</b>	3821	305	2510
<b>TT</b>	3852	307	2509

**Competition rules** By taking part in one of our Competitions, you agree to be bound by these Competition Rules. Late or incomplete entries will be disqualified. Proof of postage is required and will not be considered a condition of entry. Entries must be submitted by an individual or by any agency or individual unless otherwise stated. We are limited to one per household. The Company reserves the right to its sole discretion to substitute any prize with one of a similar or comparable value. Unless otherwise stated, the Competition is open for 48 months from the date of publication. The Company reserves the right to add or amend the Competition Rules and any prize information to the competition at any time without notice. Details of winners will be available on request within three months of the closing date. If you are a winner named by you or any other conditions upon you completing with opening when listed in the Competition Rules, you acknowledge and agree that neither the Company nor any associated parties shall have any liability to you in connection with your prize. Competition in issue 373 on sale 10 August - 8 September 2021

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When you have finished with the magazine please recycle it.

NO.1  
FOR DESIGNS

In your October

# CrossStitcher

Cute & cosy projects for the season...



## Inside this month

- ♥ Can you resist our sweet **sleeping squirrel** design?
- ♥ Hello sunshine! Gorgeous **sunflowers vase** picture
- ♥ **Head to the woods** with our set of adorable animal cards
- ♥ **Halloween is here!** Celebrate with our brand-new sampler



## YOUR CHRISTMAS BUMPER PACK!

- ♥ Tinsel tree **beaded brooch** kit
- ♥ **Your first kit** for our exclusive Christmas Stitch-A-Long



Contents subject to change. Overseas gifts may vary.

# CrossStitcher

You can now buy the CrossStitcher kits to go with our CrossStitcher charts

All kits are just £3.95 plus p&p

NB: charts are only available in the relevant issue and do not come with the kits.

## ELEPHANT NEEDLECASE



September 2021, issue 374

## BOOKMARK KIT



August 2021, issue 373

## LUXURY CARD KIT



July 2021, issue 372

## ZIPPED PURSE KIT



Summer 2021, issue 371

## HELLO HONEY CARD KIT



June 2021, issue 370

## HANGING MESSAGE KIT



May 2021, issue 369

## COASTER KIT



April 2021, issue 368

## PINCUSHION PROJECT



March 2021, issue 367

## SPRING CARD KIT



February 2021, issue 366

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## CALENDAR 2021



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## CHRISTMAS GIFT BOX



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## CHRISTMAS CARD KIT



November 2020, issue 363

## TREE DECORATION



October 2020, issue 362

## PINCUSHION KIT



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## PHONE CASE



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## SUMMER PURSE



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## BLOOMS IN BLUE



June 2020, issue 357

## SWEET CELEBRATIONS



April 2020, issue 355

## SPRING WINGS



March 2020, issue 354

## NEEDLECASE



February 2020, issue 353

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# HERITAGE Crafts

Working with talented artists to produce beautiful counted cross stitch designs



William and Robin - 19.5 x 25cm - by John Clayton



William at Christmas - 19.5 x 25cm - by John Clayton



Christmas Cottage - 31 x 22cm - by John Clayton



Christmas Village - 31 x 22cm - by John Clayton



Christmas Dinner - 37.5 x 19cm - by Karen Carter



Christmas Church - 31 x 22cm - by John Clayton



The Supporter

9 x 11.5cm - by Peter Underhill



The Leader

9 x 11.5cm - by Peter Underhill



The Intruder

9 x 11.5cm - by Peter Underhill



Christmas Robins

10.5 x 10.5cm - by Karen Carter



A Christmas Hoop

10.5 x 10.5cm - by Karen Carter



Love Owls

10.5 x 10.5cm - by Karen Carter



The Sewing Room - 37.5 x 16cm - by Karen Carter



Christmas Inn - 31 x 22cm - by John Clayton