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ANGEL HOOP

Divine design
by Stitchrovia



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96

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CHARTS
TO START
TODAY

BEAUTIFUL BEADED DECS



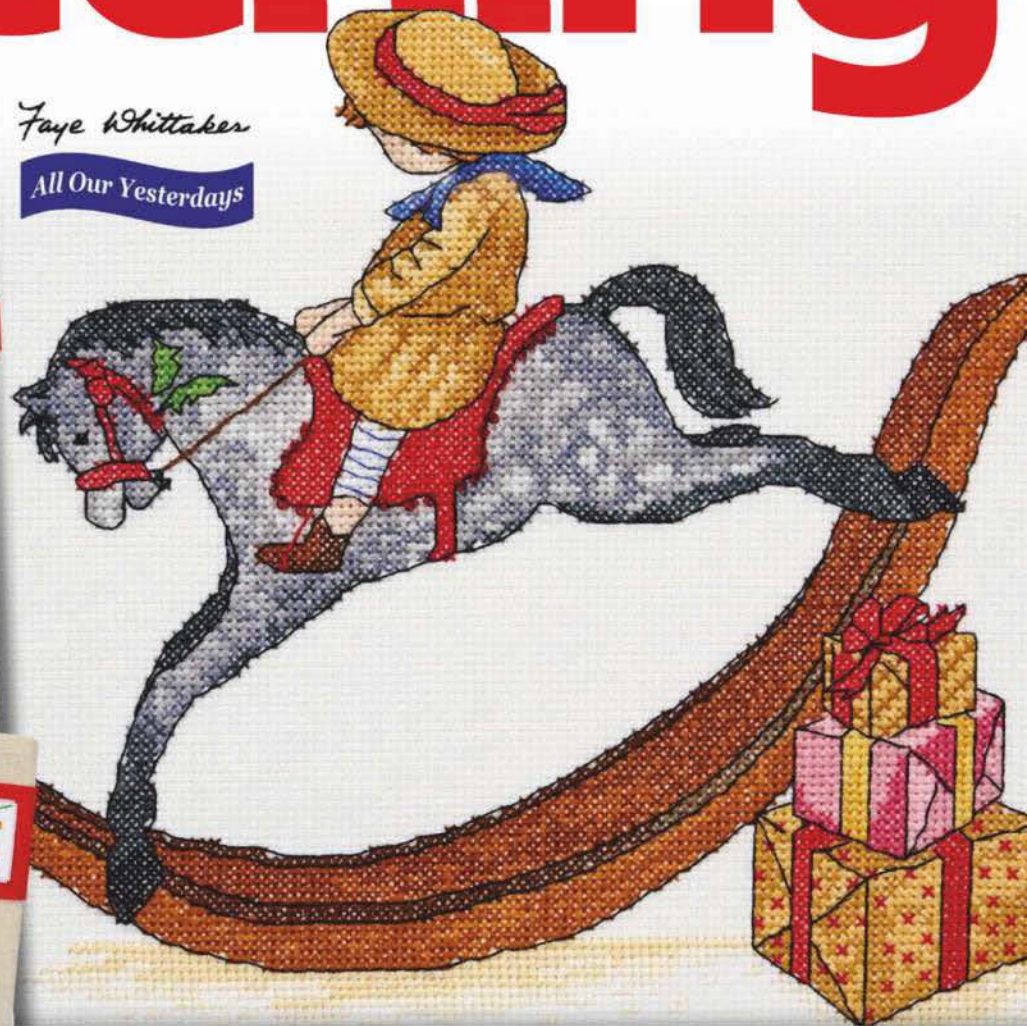
PLUS

FOLK ART
CHRISTMAS



Faye Whittaker

All Our Yesterdays



❖ Fireplace hoop ❖ Victorian ice rink ❖ Festive ABC ❖ 3D Santa's home ❖



Fruity wreaths
New from Homestitchness

DURENE JONES CHRISTMAS INTERVIEW **P34**

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Welcome

How Christmassy are you feeling? This is our second festive issue of the season (just one more to go!) and you'll just **love flicking through** and tagging which projects are next on your list. Our cover star, a rocking horse by Faye Whittaker, is **gorgeously nostalgic**, but there's so much inside this issue to suit all tastes and levels. Durene Jones has created a stunning set of motifs based on **'The Twelve Days of Christmas'**, perfect for cards and décor. We've also enjoyed a little chat with Durene **so grab a cuppa** and turn to page 34.

Many of you have started on Fiona Baker's 3D Santa's workshop last issue, so we hope you'll be super happy to see that the second part is a **mini model of Santa's house**, with a peek inside!

Not everyone wants to just stitch Christmas, so we've included a lovely **Victorian ice skating** scene by Maria Diaz, as well as a beautiful set of **winter fruit cards** by Jenny Van De Wiele, which can be adapted for all sorts of occasions. And last but not least, we hope you all love our



2026 Margaret Sherry calendar – enjoy her fun illustrations all year round. Turn the page for our full contents. Merry stitching!

Vicki

The World of Cross Stitching



Meet some of our designers...



FAYE WHITTAKER

Artist Faye is known for her *All Our Yesterdays* paintings – this festive rocking horse design is a nostalgic nod to a different era, lovingly converted into stitch.



GAIL BUSSI

Stateside designer Gail creates wonderfully homely and quirky charts that are a joy to stitch. Her fireside hoop chart is just the cosy winter project for you.



MARIA DIAZ

We always love to see what Maria comes up with next and this Victorian ice skating scene is simply gorgeous. With added 'fur' for a dimensional touch.



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STITCHING HELP!



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www.instagram.com/worldofcrossstitching

Don't forget to send all your stitchy questions and design requests in to us!

Email us at:
theworldofxstitching@ourmedia.co.uk

Write to:
**Ask the Experts,
The World of Cross Stitching,
Our Media Ltd,
Eagle House, Bristol
BS1 4ST**

Send in queries via social media:

We will try and answer your questions as soon as we can, but if you're working to a specific deadline then do let us know!



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We bring you all the best projects, advice, news and offers for the month ahead!

YOUR FAB GIFTS!

Turn to page 8

You'll be busy all year round with our Margaret Sherry calendar and Joan Elliott angel chart sheet!



Gifts available with print edition only. Overseas gift(s) may vary.



10 ALL OUR YESTERDAYS ROCKING HORSE

Subscribe and save money

WORTH £45!



Turn to page 26

Subscribe today and get this adorable 'Hedgehog and Toadstool' stitch kit, included in this issue's 2026 calendar, plus six issues for just £29.49!

This free gift kit offer is available to new UK print subscribers only and subject to availability. Offer ends 31 October 2025.

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CROSS STITCHING IS FOR EVERYONE!

We are *The World of Cross Stitching* and we want our magazine to reflect the world we live in. We're committed to creating content that is inclusive and celebrates the diversity of the cross stitch community. Stitching is for everyone, regardless of ethnicity, faith, culture, age, disability, sexual orientation or gender identity. We have begun work on a plan to drive meaningful change, but we know it's a work in progress. We want to listen to you, our readers. If you have any questions or thoughts, get in touch at theworldofxstitching@ourmedia.co.uk

- ✂ Get a sneak preview
- ✂ Appear in the magazine
- ✂ Receive a stitchy gift

Meet our guests

Get to know this month's reader panel, and look out for their favourite projects throughout the issue



Carine Wolfenden

is a retired school science technician from Southampton

Most recent fave WOXS design?

I really like Emma Congdon's 'Jigsaw Heart' from issue 359 (June 2025). I'm tempted to make the jigsaw pieces all separate but can't quite decide.

What are you currently working on?

A painting called *The Garden of Earthly Delights* by Hieronymus Bosch, the PDF chart produced by Maria Oliveira. I decided I had too many threads and I needed a project to keep me alive. My theory is that I can't die before this project is finished, so my incurable cancer is just going to have to wait!

Have you gotten anyone you know into stitching?

Proudest moment of my life was when I received a birthday card from my 26-year-old daughter. Even more amazing was that the design was one I'd used as a card for my own mother years ago.



Caroline Zbroch

is a digital marketing specialist from Athy

How did you start stitching?

I discovered cross stitch when I was pregnant. I'd never picked up a needle before and didn't know a thing about it, so I learnt everything from the internet and my kind neighbour, Kate, who is a talented crafter! I couldn't find a hobby that stuck, but cross stitch changed that completely.

Three words that describe you?

Creative, thoughtful, resilient.

Who do you like to stitch for?

I like to stitch for myself because there's no pressure – I can just enjoy the process and create what feels right in the moment. That said, I've also stitched for loved ones and friends, which is special.

A WOXS design you love?

'Greek Goddess' from issue 362 (Sept 2025). I'll stitch her someday because

she's stunning with her peacock. The design combines everything I adore in a pattern – elegance, intricacy and a touch of nature.



Emily Millman

is a sales consultant from Telford

What are you stitching now?

Currently, I'm stitching a memorial poem to give to a coworker who recently lost her father.

Your fave WOXS design?

The 'Fruity Bookmarks' from issue 359 (June 2025)! I've been looking for some bookmark designs to make for a friend who loves reading for a while and these were perfect when I saw.

Your favourite designer? Why?

I love Satsuma Street's patterns because they are so colourful and often quite simple to do, all the while looking very intricate and detailed!

What's your proudest or most memorable stitching moment?

Finishing my first cross stitch in lockdown once I started again after my 10 year hiatus. It was a medium-sized hedgehog and I keep it on display in my bedroom!



We need you!

Email theworldofxstitching@ourmedia.co.uk to be on the panel – tell us your name, where you're from and include a good quality photo of yourself. Every panellist gets a preview of the magazine and a gift worth at least £25!



Gift worth
£27!

THANKS! This month's panel members each get 'The Girl with Gifts' from Luca-5*. Each kit comes with the necessary materials to complete this picturesque piece, ready for the wonderful holidays.

*For stockists see page 82



Furry Tales

Collect a chart from the adorable Furry Tales® family, designed by Lucie Heaton

Elf Mouse key

✦ Cross stitch in two strands

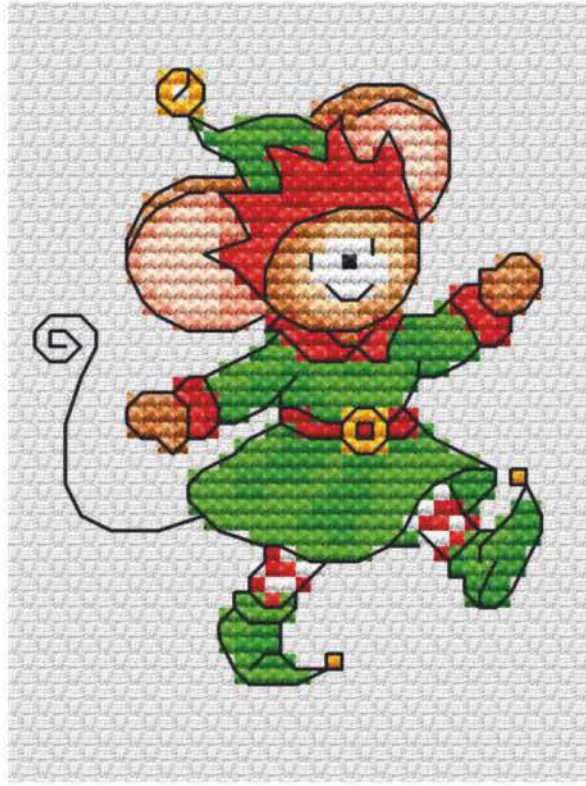
	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	blanc	2	2402	white
♥	349	1098	212	red
↗	351	10	214	coral
■	436	1045	2011	tan
○	437	362	2012	light tan
§	703	238	1307	green
▽	704	255	1308	light green
●	725	305	113	yellow
∞	739	366	2014	cream
W	754	1012	305	peach
∞	948	892	306	light peach
■	3799	236	1713	grey

✦ Backstitch in one strand

—	3799	236	1713	grey
---	------	-----	------	------

STITCH COUNT 40 high x 34 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 7.5x6cm (2¾x2½in)



Lizzie is in the festive spirit dressed up and ready to be Santa's little helper! Sporting the holiday's iconic colours, her elf ensemble will delight everyone. You can turn Lizzie into a personalised card, or a hanging tree decoration with some candy cane ribbon to match her stripy socks!

Missed a chart?



ISSUE 364

Monty is playing a melodic tune on his trumpet, an ideal stitch for a musician.

ISSUE 363

Celebrate Day of the Dead on 1-2 November with this costumed mouse!

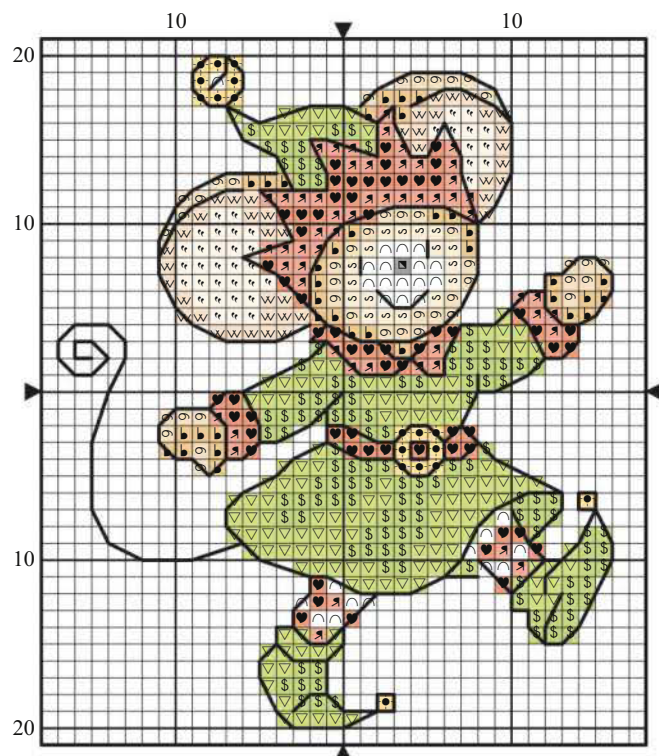


ISSUE 362

With a wheelbarrow full of goodies, Lizzie is taking part in the autumn harvest.



For back issues, call ☎ 03330 162 137 or visit www.ourmediashop.com/world-back-issues



Your **EXCLUSIVE** gifts

Enjoy your 2026 Margaret Sherry calendar with six new charts, plus a festive angel by Joan Elliott



SIX CHARTS TO STITCH!

Enjoy stitching this sweet new selection of Margaret's iconic animal illustrations throughout the year.



PLANNING AHEAD

There's space to fill in all of your important occasions and we've included the magazine on sale dates, too – you'll never miss an issue again!

YOUR BONUS CHART

This beautifully nostalgic design by Joan Elliott is an all-time favourite from the archives as your bonus fold-out chart.





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Project Packs

Get the complete project packs for your favourite **The World of Cross Stitching** designs every issue!*

We are providing **project packs** containing the fabric, threads and other accessories needed to complete the charts from the magazine - all delivered to your door! It's so much quicker and easier than searching for each product you need individually.

Visit **www.lakesideneedlecraft.co.uk** to order your project pack and get stitching right away!

*Magazine charts are not included



DESIGNED BY **FAYE WHITTAKER**

Timeless ride

Bring in the festive joy with our latest *All Our Yesterdays* design, evoking the nostalgia of a vintage Christmas



While Christmas Day in modern times features many more gadgets than yesteryear, we'd like to think that there are still children who will be unwrapping and jumping straight onto a rocking horse this year! Artist Faye Whittaker painted this scene as a nod to last-century nostalgia and we've lovingly converted it into a chart for you to stitch this Christmas.

This is a fabulous design for beginners to try something a little more challenging, as it's less densely stitched. You'll be using whole and half stitches to shape the beautiful scene, adding detail with backstitch and feathering to the edges with more half stitch. There are even a

Factbox

- ✕ **Stitching Time**
Approx. 40 hours
- ✕ **Type of Stitches**
Cross stitch, half cross stitch, backstitch, beads
- ✕ **Ease of Stitching**
Intermediate

Decorate
with beads

few beads to accent the saddle edge and berries on the reins. For a quicker finish or even a large greetings card, you could leave out the garland. If you know someone expecting a baby this winter, this would make a wonderful birth sampler by adding their name and birthday. ➤



Meet Faye Whittaker

“I was inspired to paint this from a wonderful childhood memory of my favourite Christmas morning. I was overcome with sheer delight to see this Victorian rocking horse sat beneath the decorated tree, along with the wrapped presents. Oh, those were the days!”

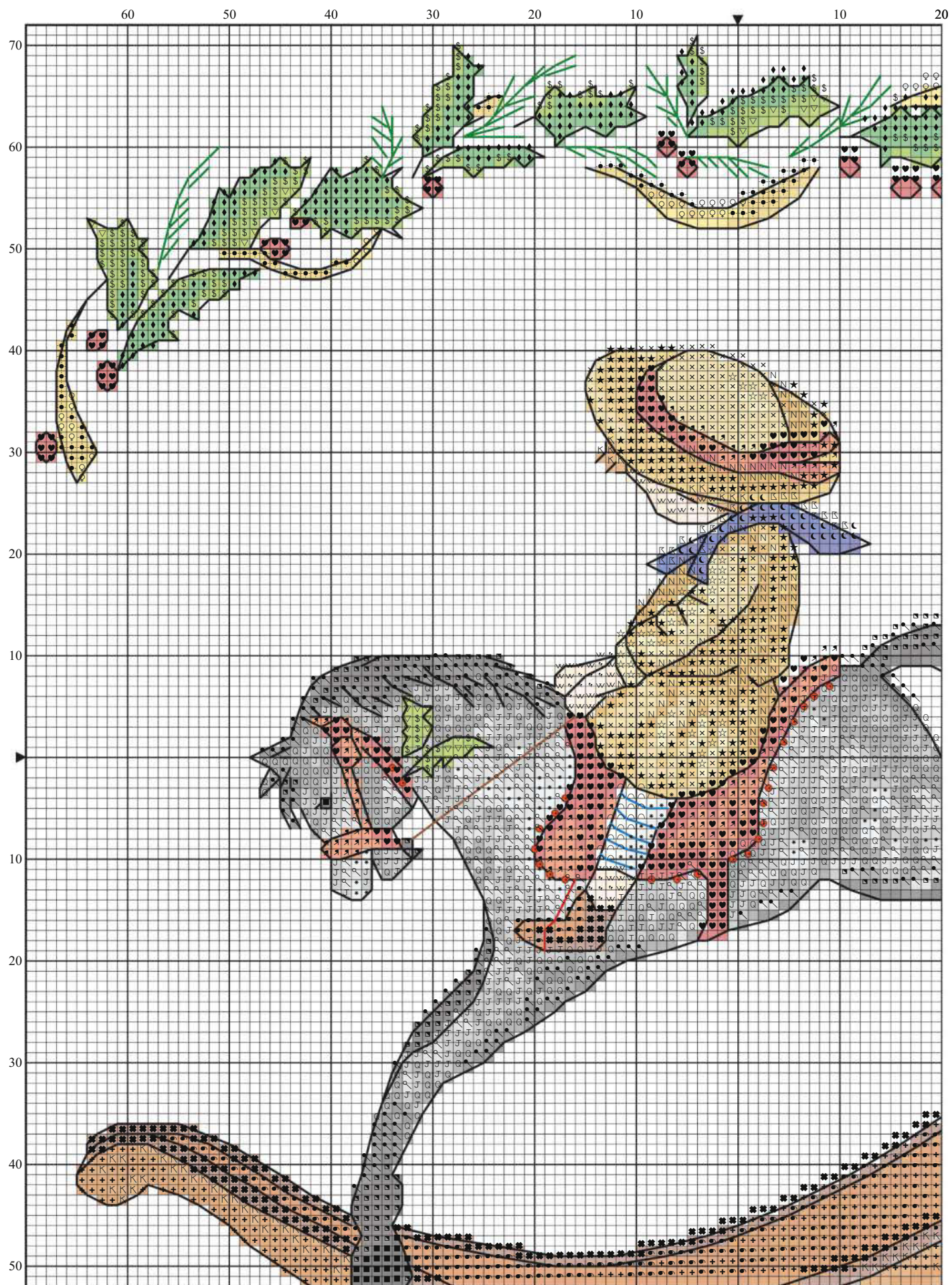


Faye Whittaker

All Our Yesterdays

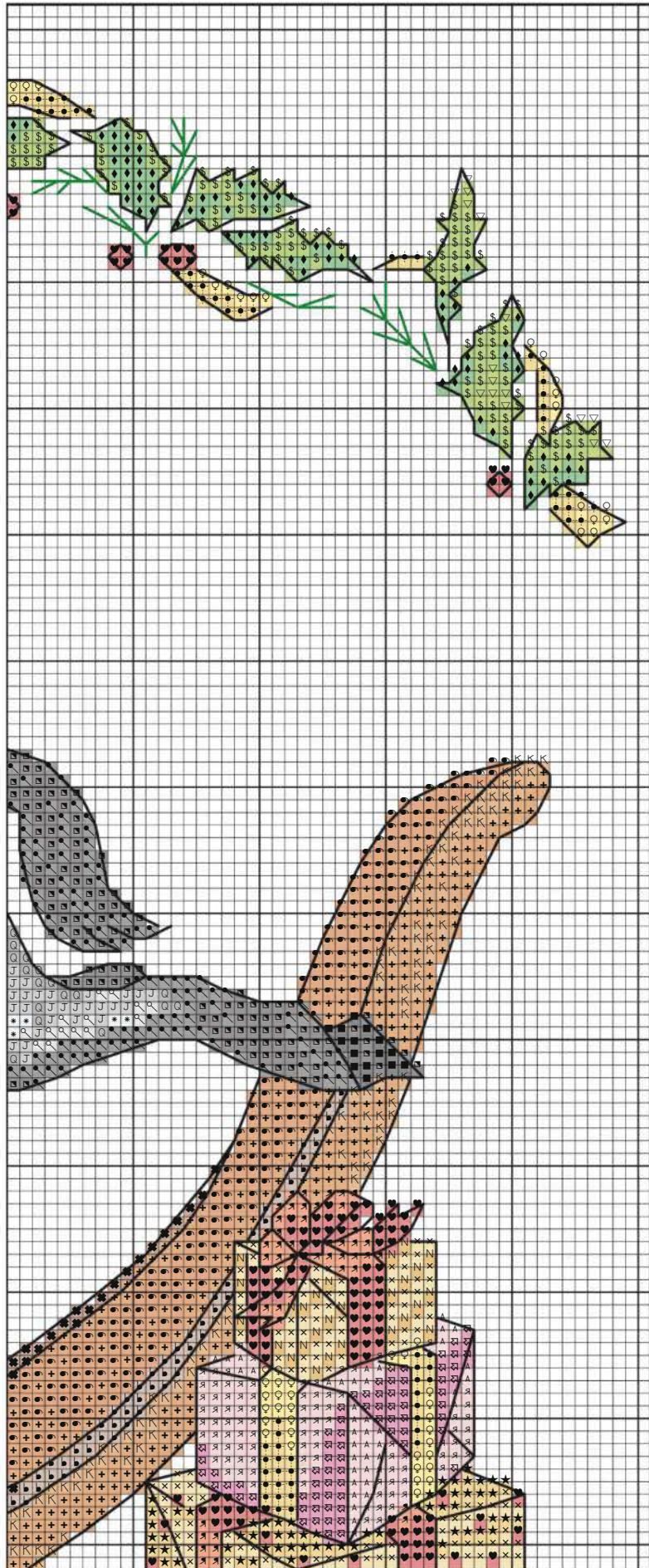
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Rocking Horse chart (top left)

20 30 40 50 60 70



Rocking Horse chart (top right)

Rocking Horse key

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	blanc	2	2402	white
∩	02	398	1709	light tin grey
J	03	399	1802	tin grey
A	151	73	404	light pink
■	310	403	2400	black
■	350	11	213	red
■	413	400	1809	dark grey
Q	414	235	1714	grey
×	676	891	2208	sand
☆	677	886	2207	light sand
◆	700	229	1302	dark green
\$	702	226	1306	green
▽	703	238	1307	light green
★	729	890	2209	dark sand
*	762	234	1804	light grey
N	782	308	2212	tan
☾	797	139	913	dark blue
☾	798	131	912	blue
♥	817	13	210	dark red
■	898	360	2006	chestnut brown
■	975	355	2303	dark ginger
K	976	1001	2010	light ginger
Я	3354	36	2610	pink
■	3731	76	506	dark pink
■	3770	1009	2314	light peach
w	3774	778	306	peach
■	3790	393	1905	brown
■	3799	236	1713	charcoal grey
●	3821	305	2510	straw
♀	3822	295	2512	light straw
+	3826	1048	2306	ginger

✕ Half cross stitch in two strands

☼	677	886	2207	light sand
—	746	275	2511	cream

✕ Backstitch in one strand

—	310	403	2400	black
—	797	139	913	dark blue

✕ Backstitch in two strands

—	817	13	210	dark red
—	898	360	2006	chestnut brown
—	3814	1074	2706	sea green

✕ Mill Hill seed beads

●	03049			rich red
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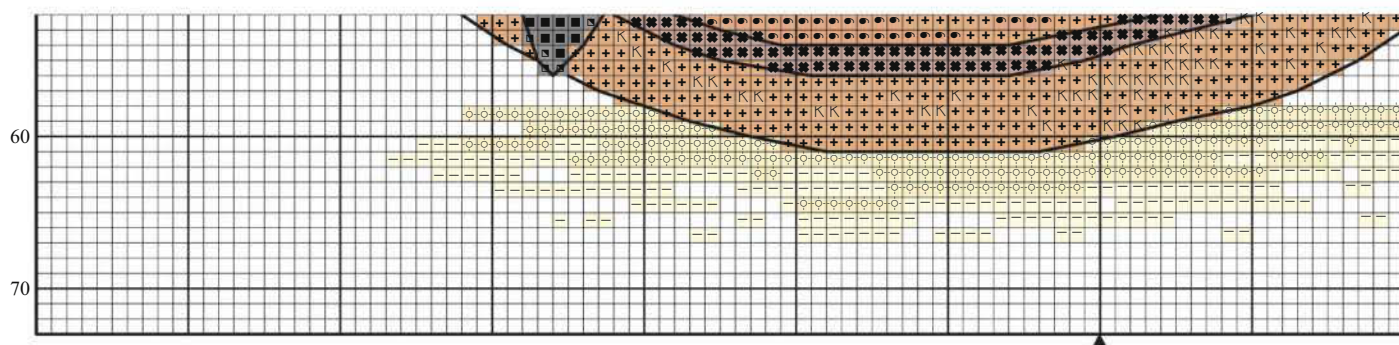
STITCH COUNT 143 high x 139 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 26x25cm (10¼x10in)

STITCHED BY Sam Lowe

ILLUSTRATION CONVERTED BY Fiona Baker

This design was stitched using DMC stranded cotton and Mill Hill seed beads



Rocking Horse chart (bottom left)

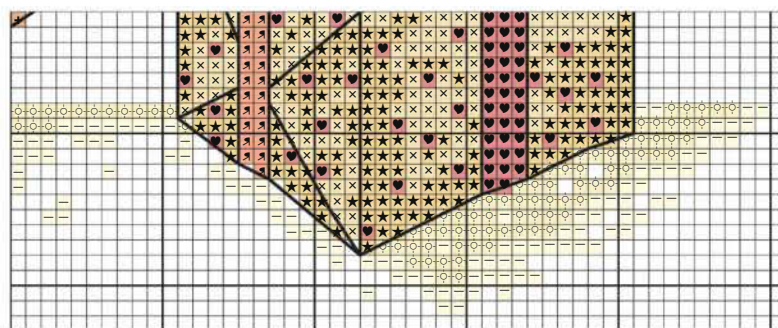
Project pack

If you would like to stitch 'Rocking Horse', Lakeside Needlecraft is providing a materials pack with the fabric, threads and any other accessories you need. Visit www.lakesideneedlecraft.co.uk to order your project pack and get stitching right away!

Shopping list

- ✦ Zweigart* 14-count white aida measuring 46x46cm (18x18in)
- ✦ Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- ✦ Mill Hill* seed beads as listed in the key
- ✦ Size 24 tapestry needle; beading needle
- ✦ Frame of your choice with a minimum aperture of 31x30cm (12¼x12in)

*For stockists see page 82



Rocking Horse chart (bottom right)

TOP TIP

Work through the key in order, doing the cross stitch, half cross stitch, backstitch then beads for a professional-looking finish



Carine READER PANEL

“This design by Faye Whittaker would make a lovely decoration for a child's room, especially one with a Christmas birthday. You could make it less Christmassy by stitching just the rocking horse and the child. The added shadow, whilst small, really adds a nice touch.”

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and her Guardian
Owls



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Your letters

We always love to see your stitches (and smiles!), so do send the team your photos, letters and tips today!



Star Letter

CREATING A KEEPSAKE

My best friend Jo is a brilliant, strong and caring person. Her dad, Bob, sadly has mixed vascular dementia and Alzheimer's. Since 2020 she has moved back to care for him. They were gifted a kitten in 2021 and Bob named the kitten Jeff, so he was here to stay!

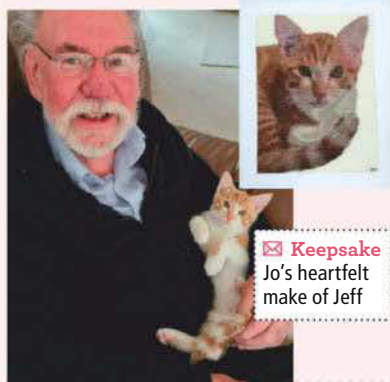
Unfortunately, in 2024, Bob was very unwell and admitted to hospital. He thankfully recovered enough to return home. To keep the memories alive, Jo has made books of photos. While in hospital, Bob remembered Jeff as being black (something to do with the dementia because Jeff is very much ginger!), so when Jo asked if I could do a cross stitch of Jeff – I got designing!

It wasn't easy due to him being white and ginger meaning it took a lot of different shades of the same colour, as well as some colours you wouldn't think. I was amazed how well the face came out and you could tell it was him. Bob was so surprised to receive the piece and continued to notice it as a new addition to the mantelpiece for days – he had no excuse

to get the colour of Jeff wrong now! I have been doing cross stitch for several years, but I think this is the most special.

Joanna Timothy, Staffordshire

Vicki: Aww, Jo must be very grateful to have you as a friend, Joanna. You did a brilliant job in bringing Jeff to life with stitches. Well done!



Keepsake
Jo's heartfelt
make of Jeff

Win!

Worth
£65

This issue's star letter winner will receive three wintry designs from Heritage Crafts* – 'Donkey's Wish' (RRP £27.99), 'Penguin Santa Card' (RRP £9.80) and 'Festive Robin' (RRP £27.90).

MORE: For more details visit www.hcraftsdirect.com



Busy with Beatrix

As a lifelong lover of all things Beatrix Potter, her animal characters feature in some of my favourite pieces. The sampler was completed many years ago; I couldn't resist it when I found the kit. The Tailor of Gloucester is one of my most-loved characters, especially as we lived in Gloucester for some years and often visited the tailor's shop.

My husband found the chart for the Christmas Tree in an odd bin – based on a scene from *The Fairy Caravan*, it was a treat to sew and frame. The rabbits were an amazing charity shop find as I have worked a similar scene, in sugar, for a Christmas cake. I'm always on the lookout for new challenges. You never know where or what will inspire you next. Life is full of surprises.

Dot Penn, via email

Fiona: Your collection is fantastic, Dot. We're sure this makes a wonderful display in your home and that everyone admires it.



Busy with Beatrix
Dot has stitched many illustrations by Beatrix Potter



Village venture
Diane stitched the whole village series from 2021!

VILLAGE VENTURE

I started the 'Christmas Village' series from issues 312-314 (November-Special 2021) just before Christmas last year, and in between different projects over this year – I have finally completed it! I absolutely love cross stitching and these 3D patterns are my favourite and I would love to see some more designs to make. Hope you like my Christmas village.

Diane McCumiskey, via email

Sienna: This is incredible, Diane! We love how you set up the village with the twinkling lights, the backdrop and even the fake snow – it looks fantastic! For those who want to stitch the village series, you can purchase digital back issues on our app, which is available on both Apple and Android devices. The patterns are also for sale individually on our Etsy store*.

WRITE TO US AT: Letters, The World of Cross Stitching, Our Media Ltd, Eagle House, Bristol BS1 4ST

Crafty Christmas

Finished the last of the bumper kit from issue 352 (December 2024). I had a lot of fun making these. I got my first cross stitch kit for my 11th birthday and over 30 years later I haven't stopped. I work in a call centre so I'm able to stitch in between calls. I find it very relaxing as my job can be very stressful at times. The tags will be used for Christmas presents this year. My 10-year-old niece will love the card, and the bookmark is going to be a gift to myself.

Natasha Baron, Lancaster

Claire: You're sorted for Christmas this year, Natasha!



Home spun



I used a pattern from issue 273 (November 2018). This was Durene Jones' 'Scandi Advent Calendar'. I didn't use all the designs, but I bought new napkins for Christmas and I wanted to make them Christmassy – after looking through all my WOXS copies (I have every issue), I thought these designs would be great.

I made four for us and two for my son (on black napkins as he only ever does a dark wash!). Hope you like them as much as I do. They were quick and easy using waste canvas – the worst bit was pulling out all the threads!

Helen Knight, Grimsby

Parvin: The pair of you have a matching set now, Helen! Waste canvas is very handy, but it can be quite fiddly at times.

MAKING THEIR DAY EXTRA SPECIAL



Sharing my 'Matilda' from issue 333 (June 2023). It was an enjoyable challenge, especially the single and double back stitch. I then decided to turn the finished piece into a tote bag for my granddaughter's 13th birthday. Her middle name is Matilda! I lined the bag with 'Matilda and Friends' fabric from Remnant House*. The 'Birthday Cards' from issue 337 (October 2023) was also a delight to stitch. I am quite excited to see what she thinks. Thank you again for producing an amazing magazine full of lovely projects.

Zena Massey, Hampshire

Hannah: I always enjoy a fun making up project, and this one is brilliant, Zena. She is definitely going to love it.

Handmade holidays

I live near Boston, USA and my husband gifted me a subscription to your magazine. It lightens my day when I find it in my mailbox! Thought you might like to see the monogrammed napkin rings I made for Christmas using the 'Victorian Xmas ABC' in issue 327 (Special 2022). It's given me the idea to make them for all our celebrations using your wonderful cross stitch alphabets! Merry Christmas!

Christine Auger, via email

Vicki: Loving the napkin rings, Christine, they complement the poinsettias beautifully! These will now become a tradition in your household during the Christmas dinners, ready to be used year after year. How delightful.

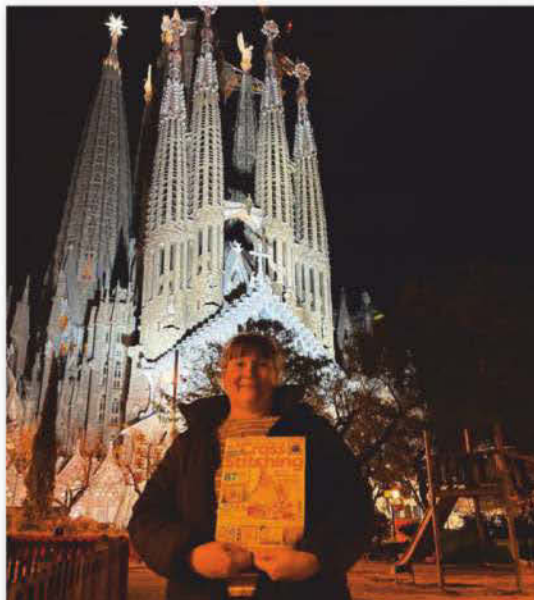
Handmade holidays
Make napkin ring holders that will be admired by guests



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I received issue 357 (April 2025) just before I went on holiday so took it with me to read on the plane. Fantastic issue. I took some photos with my magazine outside the Basílica de la Sagrada Família. Construction started in 1882, the final tower is due to be completed in 2026, with some final decorations to be completed in 2030-2032. Beautiful place.
Dot Fenwick, Glasgow



Mix and match

Here is a photo of the Margaret Sherry gifts from issue 352 (December 2024). I decided to stitch the gift tags together as a picture, the holly in the middle is from the 'Festive ABC' in the same issue.

Ursula MacLennan, via email

Fiona: We love seeing how our readers make up projects, and combining the gift is a sweet idea, Ursula. You've also proven we can mix-and-match designs across the issue as well, so thank you for giving us some stitching inspiration. Can't wait to see what you make next!

Send in your travel snaps!

Send us a photo of yourself with a copy of your favourite issue or stitching to 'Where Am I?' via email or post to our address on the bottom of page 18. Don't forget to share your answer, too!



✉ Festive friends

Deb made a sweet calendar for her daughter and fiancé as a present

FESTIVE FRIENDS

Here's a photo of the cross stitch I made from Durene Jones' 'Christmas Friends' Design Library from issue 351 (November 2024). As there was some space under the gnomes, I attached a calendar. I managed to finish it all and gave it to my daughter and her fiancé as a present. They were delighted as they both love gnomes. They especially loved the design I had chosen and the sentiments on the banner. I know it is not perfect, but I hope you like what I have done. Thank you for a great magazine. I hope you have a brilliant Christmas and wish you all a very Happy New Year.

Deb Thawley, via email

Hannah: Aw, what a lovely gift, Deb. The calendar is a very good shout, and I'm sure they used it plenty this year.



✉ Mix and match

Finished in a stylish green frame, Ursula combined many designs

ARTISTIC ENDEAVOUR

Hello dear team, this is my latest project. It's a very small design which I enjoyed a lot. It's from the designer, Elcin Ozcan, and her works are very neat and come out very well. Have a nice day!

Marica Fava, Italy

Parvin: Gustav Klimt's The Kiss is already full of so much detail, making it into a mini masterpiece is quite the talent. We can't wait to see what frame you pick out for it, Marica.



✉ Artistic

The Kiss by Klimt as a mini make

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Get in touch on Facebook, too! Each letter printed only in *The World of Cross Stitching* and not in any other cross stitching magazines will win a crafty mystery prize!

Answer: Barcelona, Spain

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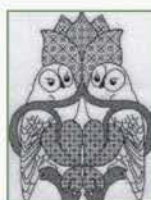
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DESIGNED BY **MARIA DIAZ**

Wintry elegance

Travel back to Victorian times when you stitch this beautiful frozen lake scene with added texture

No matter what era you're born in, when the first frost of the season appears, anticipation grows for what fun the winter will bring. Wrapped up warm in their plush fur-trimmed coats and wool scarves, our skaters are dressed to impress as they glide over the ice in this frosty winter wonderland. Maria Diaz's design is an ode to the wholesome wintry activity, this time set in the Victorian era as she adds another to her iconic period designs.

Worked on crisp blue evenweave for a chilly background, she's included silver metallic thread for the ice and snow, making the scene even more sparkly. Turkey work has been used for the furry cuffs and edging of the

Factbox

Stretch your skills

- ✦ **Stitching Time**
Approx. 45 hours
- ✦ **Type of Stitches**
Cross stitch, fractionals, half cross stitch, backstitch, turkey work, beads
- ✦ **Ease of Stitching**
Advanced

coats, which may sound like a tricky technique but there's a detailed tutorial on page 25 for you.

Finished in a moulded silver frame with a blue mount adds another layer of opulence to the vintage scene, making it a timeless piece to stitch. ➤



Meet Maria Diaz

“With this design, I attempted to create a real feel of dynamic movement across the rink, which I think I've achieved with the central couple and little girl to the left. The swish of coats, the scarves catching in the wind, who else wants to be on the ice?”

www.mariadiazdesigns.com

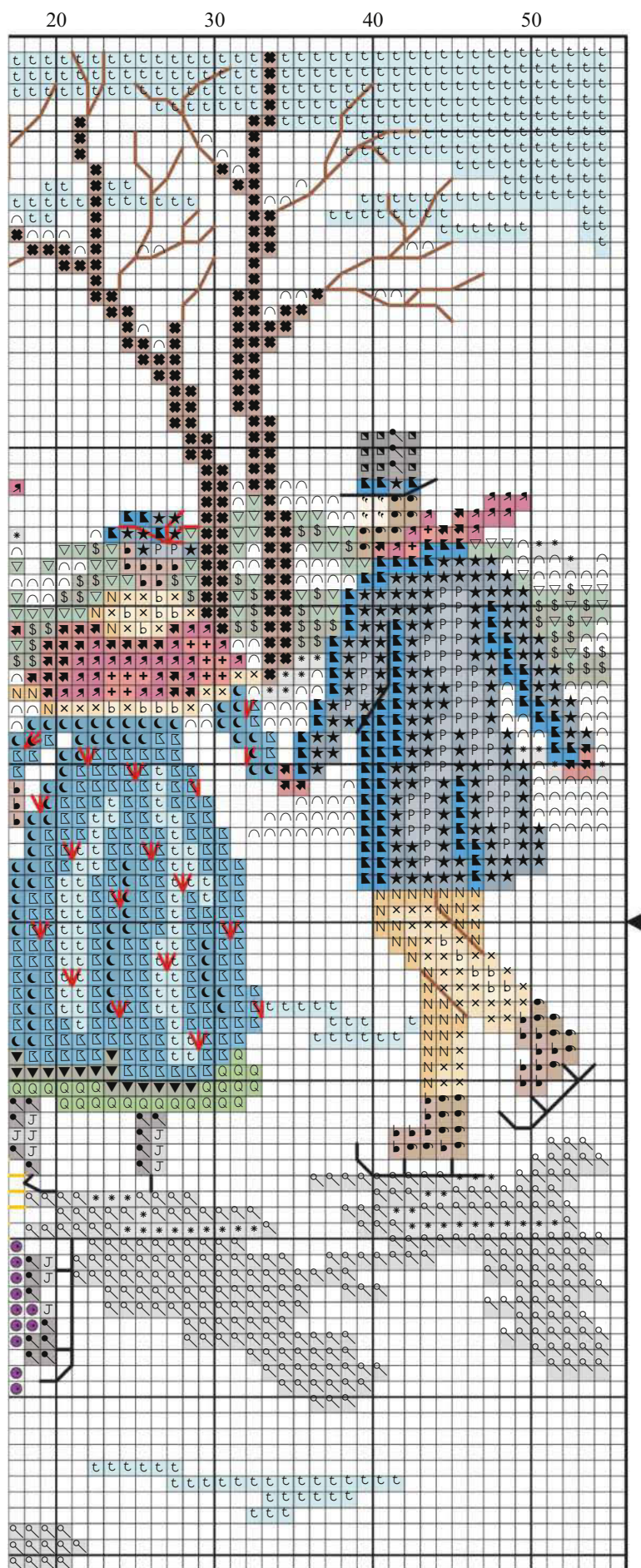


THE WORLD OF
**Cross
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STITCHER'S
CHALLENGE





Victorian Ice Rink chart (top left)



Victorian Ice Rink chart (top right)

Victorian Ice Rink key

✦ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	B5200	1	2401	white
☞	317	400	1714	dark grey
J	318	399	1801	grey
▼	319	212	1313	dark green
Q	367	217	1312	green
?	368	214	1310	light green
N	436	1045	2011	tan
x	437	362	2012	light tan
⌘	498	1006	513	ruby
\$	501	878	1704	dark sage green
▽	502	877	1703	sage green
☾	517	162	1107	dark blue
⌚	518	1039	1106	blue
t	519	1038	1105	light blue
b	739	366	2014	light cream
⌘	814	22	601	dark ruby
⌚	823	127	1008	navy blue
b	839	1050	1914	brown
★	930	1035	1712	delft blue
P	931	1034	1711	light delft blue
•	950	4146	2309	peach
☼	3031	360	2003	dark beige
+	3328	1024	406	salmon pink
♥	3687	68	604	dark pink
⌘	3688	66	605	pink
w	3689	49	607	light pink
■	3799	236	1713	charcoal grey
●	3862	374	1913	beige

✦ Cross stitch in two strands DMC Light Effects

*	E415			pewter
---	------	--	--	--------

✦ Half cross stitch in two strands

☞	318	399	1801	grey
---	-----	-----	------	------

✦ Backstitch in one strand

—	437	362	2012	light tan
—	3031	360	2003	dark beige
—	3687	68	604	dark pink
—	3799	236	1713	charcoal grey

✦ Turkey work in three strands

—	436	1045	2011	tan
—	738	367	2013	cream
—	3688	66	605	pink

✦ Mill Hill seed beads

●	02085			brilliant orchid
---	-------	--	--	------------------

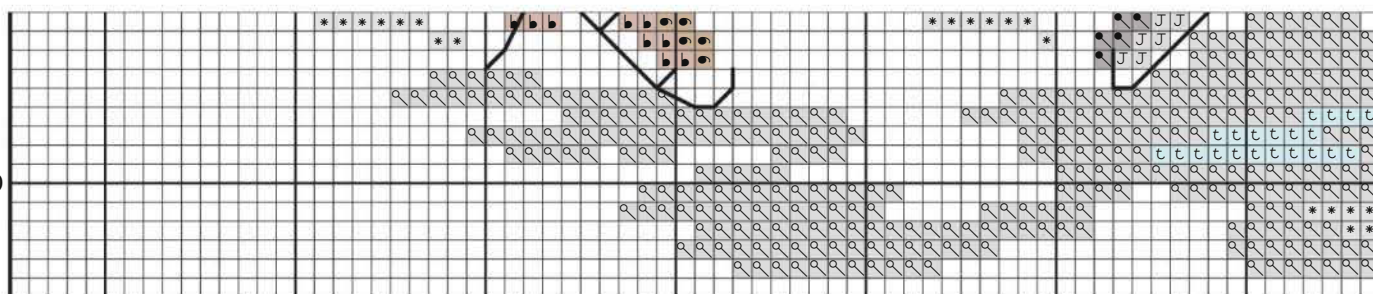
STITCH COUNT 110 high x 109 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 20x20cm (7¾x7¾in)

STITCHED BY Debbie Hart

This design was stitched using DMC stranded cotton, DMC Light Effects and Mill Hill seed beads on 28-count evenweave over two threads of the fabric

50

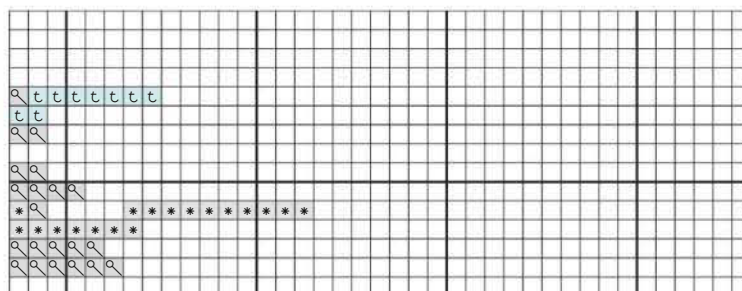


Victorian Ice Rink chart (bottom left)

Emily READER PANEL



“ This may be my favourite design out of all of them! I love the colours and the outfits that the people are wearing, it is just so classic. This is one that I would frame and display in my home all year round. ”



Victorian Ice Rink chart (bottom right)



Shopping list

- ✕ Zweigart* 28-count ice blue (550) evenweave measuring 36x36cm (14x14in)
- ✕ Stranded cotton and metallic thread as listed in the key
- ✕ Mill Hill* seed beads as listed in the key
- ✕ Size 24 tapestry needle; beading needle
- ✕ Frame and mount of your choice with a minimum aperture of 20.5x20cm (8x7¾in)

*For stockists see page 82

Project pack

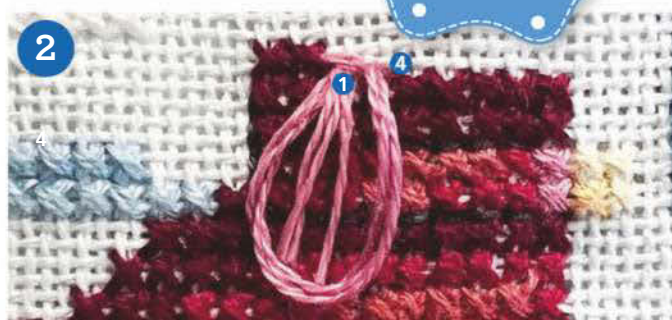
If you would like to stitch 'Victorian Ice Rink', Lakeside Needlecraft is providing a materials pack with the fabric, threads and any other accessories you need. Visit **www.lakesideneedlecraft.co.uk** to order your project pack and get stitching right away!

*How to...***do turkey work stitch**

Turkey work stitch is used to add a textured 'furry' effect to some of the figure's overcoats in this design. Thread your needle with three strands of thread in the colour indicated by the key. Ensure the length is long enough to complete a whole row of turkey work stitches before you begin.

TOP TIP

Add the turkey work stitches last of all so it sits on top of your design, and doesn't get caught in your needle as you stitch



1 Starting at the left of the bottom turkey stitch line as indicated on the chart, take the needle through the second hole in from front to back (1), leaving a short tail of thread at the front. Bring the needle through the adjacent hole to the left (2), then down through the hole to the right of your original (3). The first locking stitch is complete.

2 Bring the needle through the original hole (1) again to the front and, leaving a small loop of thread, take it back down two holes to the right (4). Make sure the loop doesn't pull all the way through.

3 Thread the needle back up through the hole to the left (5) and down two holes to the right (6), creating another locking stitch across the top of the loop.

4 Continue this pattern of stitches until you reach the end of the line. Then, bring the needle through to the

front in the hole of the last loop and snip off to the same length as all the other loops.

5 Repeat this process for all the rows in the section, creating a new row of turkey work stitches for each line on the chart. You'll find it easier working from the bottom up. This allows you to see each line of stitches develop as they're being formed, preventing the loops hanging down from above and obstructing your view.

6 Snip through all the loops one by one, being careful not to miss any. Comb through the threads with a needle to fluff them up slightly and separate the individual strands for the best finish.

7 Trim the threads down to form a soft, raised fuzz – do this slowly and carefully to shape it to the area around your cross stitches, using our photos as a guide.

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Timeless ride
DESIGNED BY FAYE WHITTAKER

Bring in the festive joy with our latest All Our Yesterdays design, evoking the nostalgia of a vintage Christmas

Factbox Decorate with beads

- **Stitching Time** Approx. 40 hours
- **Type of Stitch** Cross stitch, half cross stitch, backstitch, French knots
- **Level of Difficulty** Intermediate

Meet Faye Whittaker

As I was inspired to paint this from a wonderful childhood memory of my favourite Christmas morning, I was overcome with sheer delight to use this Victorian rocking horse and baby in this festive design, along with the vintage presents. Oh, those were the days! 19

THE WORLD OF Cross Stitching

96 NEW TO-DO CHARTS TO TRY TODAY!

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Fireplace boogie • Victorian ice rink • Festive ABC • 3D Santa's home

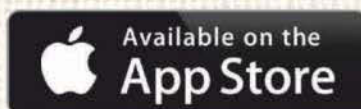
Trinity reveals New from DMC! • DUNEEN JONES CHRISTMAS INTERVIEW 84

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**THE WORLD OF
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DESIGNED BY **FIONA BAKER**

Snow place like home

Join us in the last part of the North Pole village series as we pay a visit to Santa's sweet abode

For a man who spends the busiest time of the year packing presents, travelling across the world in his robust sleigh and reindeer friends, he too needs a place to kick his legs up comfortably. For the second part of the North Pole instalment, open the door to peek inside Mr and Mrs Claus' home, dressed to the nines in festive décor with a roaring fire and a reindeer barn fitted next door.

Just like the first part, you'll be working with plastic canvas and building each piece together – turn to page 33 for our handy tutorial on how to construct the Claus abode! While only one of each chart is required, you could stitch as many

Factbox

- ✗ **Stitching Time**
Approx. 80 hours
- ✗ **Type of Stitches**
Cross stitch, backstitch
- ✗ **Ease of Stitching**
Beginner

Part two
of series

reindeer your heart desires. If you make the whole gang, they could pull the sleigh from the first part!

Ensure you're not left off of Santa's 'nice' list by completing your winter wonderland with the elf workshop in issue 364 (November 2025) to make your very own wholesome Christmas display. ➤



Meet Fiona Baker

“I've so enjoyed creating these mini models to make and add to the Christmas decoration box! I always think no home is complete without a little black cat curled up by the fire too. Can you spot his feline friend having fun behind the workshop as well?”

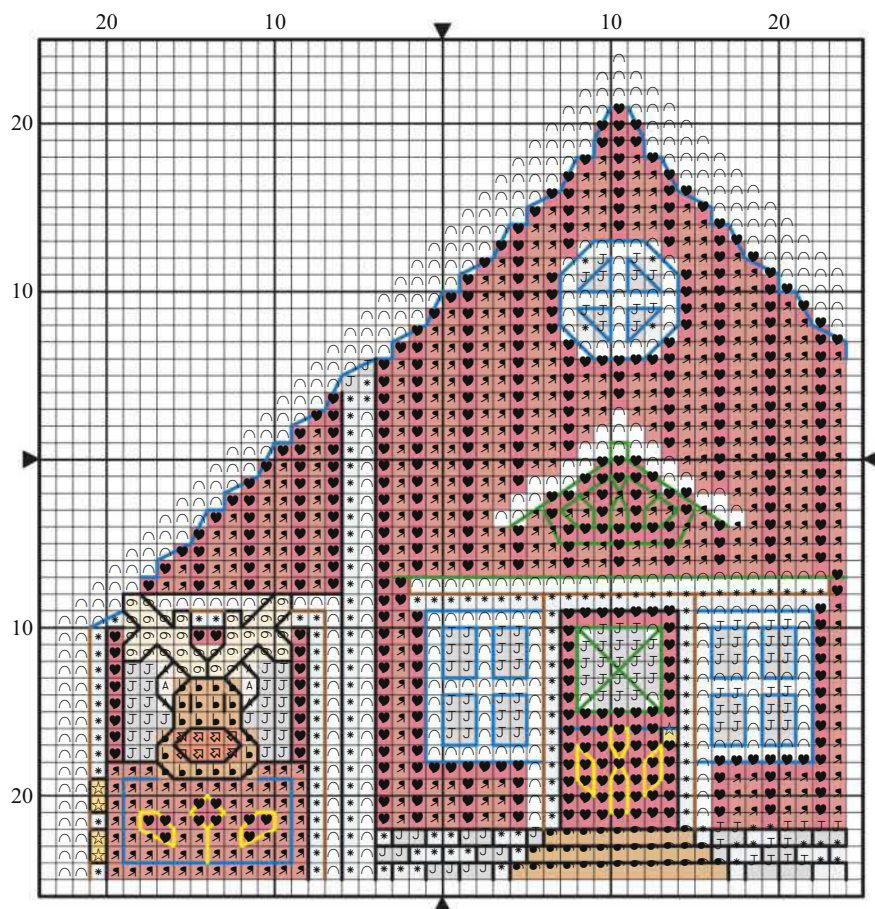
www.fionabakerdesign.etsy.com



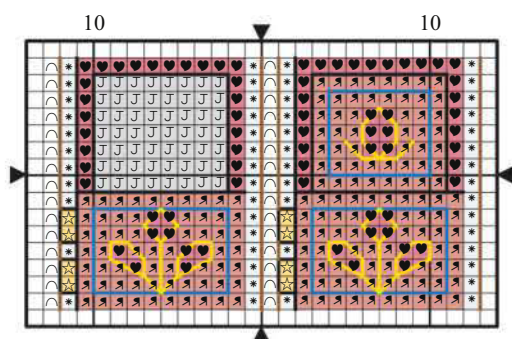


TRY
SOMETHING
NEW WITH
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Santa's House – chart A (front)

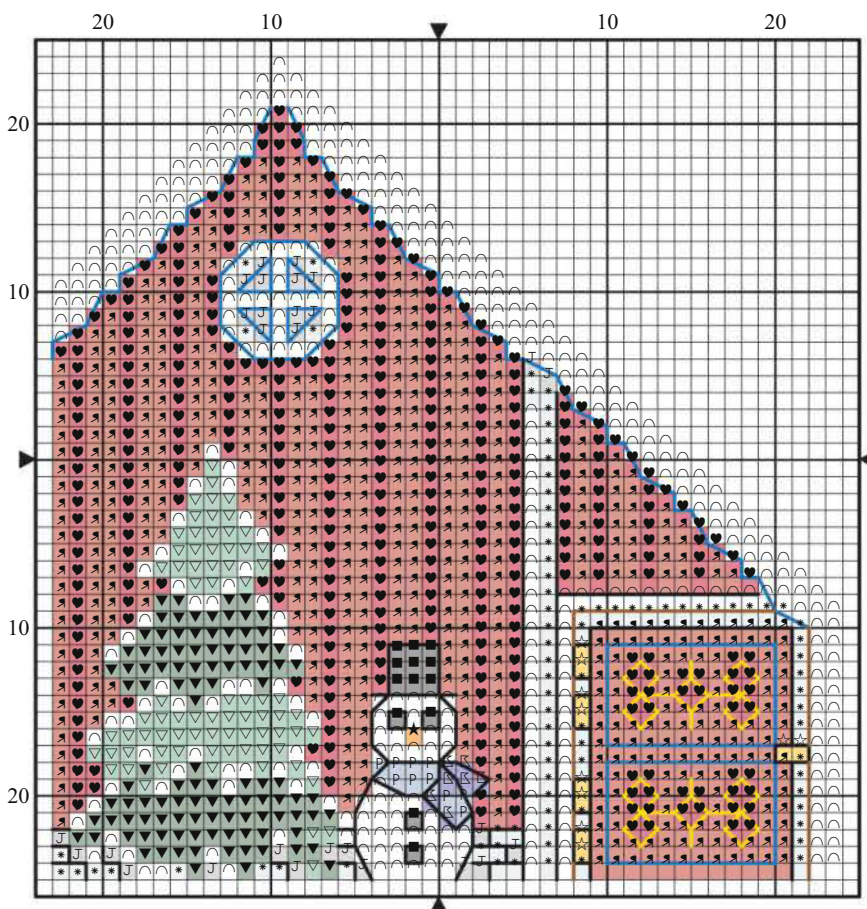


Santa's House – chart D (left side)

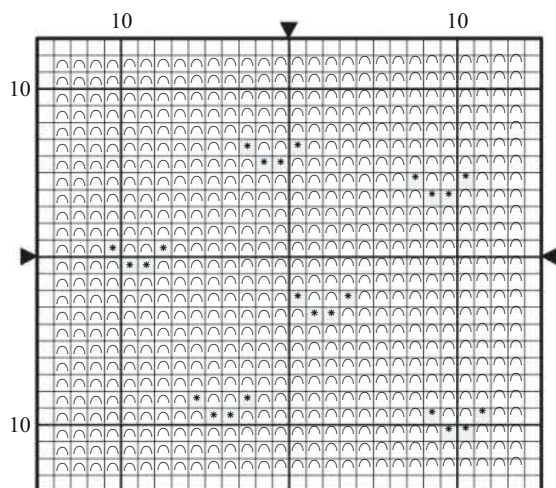
Shopping list

- ✂ 14-count clear plastic canvas cut approx. 10 squares larger than the stitch count for each piece (2x A4 sheets total) from Lakeside Needlecraft*
- ✂ Stranded cotton and metallic thread as listed in the key
- ✂ Size 24 tapestry needle
- ✂ Extra stranded cottons and acid-free high-tack craft glue of your choice from local stores

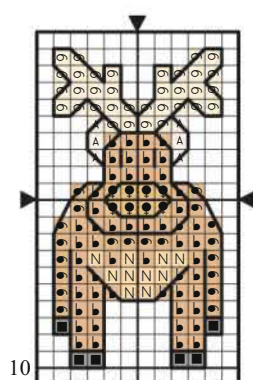
*For stockists see page 82



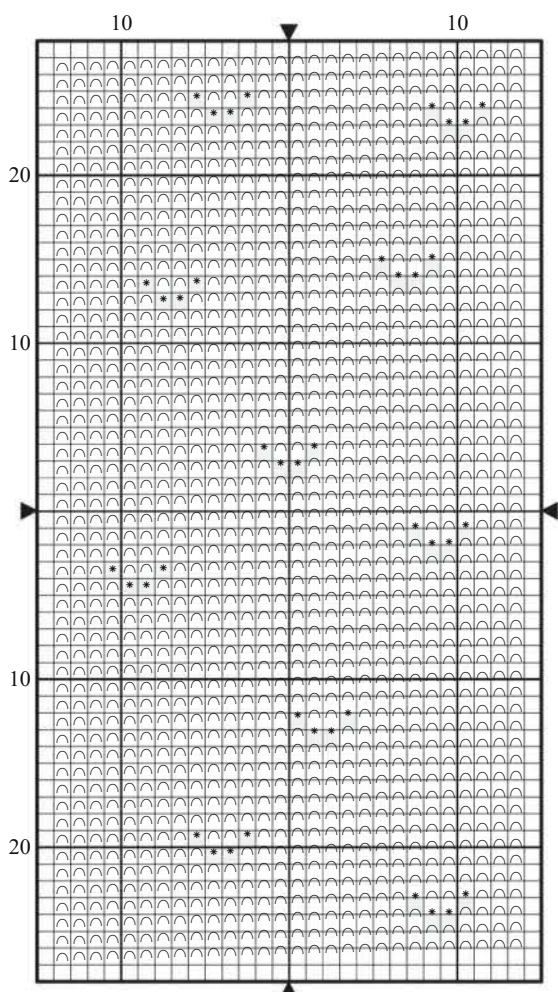
Santa's House – chart B (back)



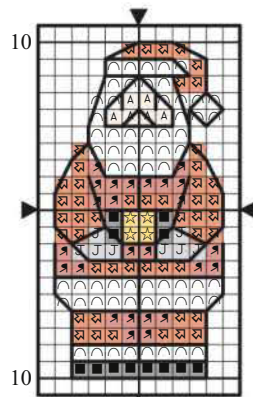
Santa's House – chart G (roof right)



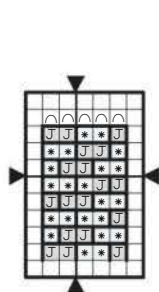
Santa's House – chart N (reindeer)



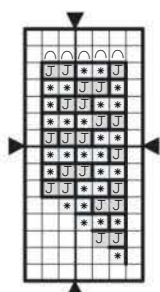
Santa's House – chart H (roof left)



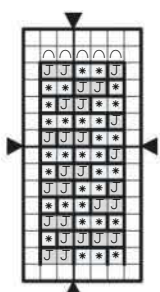
Santa's House – chart M (Santa)



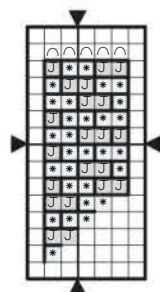
Santa's House – chart I (chimney left)



Santa's House – chart J (chimney front)



Santa's House – chart K (chimney right)



Santa's House – chart L (chimney back)

3D North Pole - part 2 key**✕ Cross stitch in two strands**

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	B5200	1	2401	white
A	225	271	814	shell pink
■	310	403	2400	black
J	318	399	1801	grey
↗	347	1025	407	salmon pink
▼	561	212	1205	holly green
↖	604	55	614	pink
⬆	666	46	210	red
?	703	238	1307	green
○	739	366	2014	cream
★	741	304	202	orange
☆	743	302	113	yellow
☼	745	300	111	light yellow
*	762	234	1804	light grey
●	780	309	2211	dark gold
●	782	308	2212	gold
⬜	793	176	906	cornflower blue
P	799	145	910	blue
♥	815	44	513	ruby
⬇	976	1001	2010	ginger
▽	3816	876	1703	pine green
N	3827	311	2012	light ginger

✕ Cross stitch in two strands DMC Light Effects

●	E3821			light gold
---	-------	--	--	------------

✕ Backstitch in one strand

—	B5200	1	2401	white
—	310	403	2400	black
—	318	399	1801	grey

✕ Backstitch in two strands

—	B5200	1	2401	white
---	-------	---	------	-------

✕ Backstitch in two strands DMC Light Effects

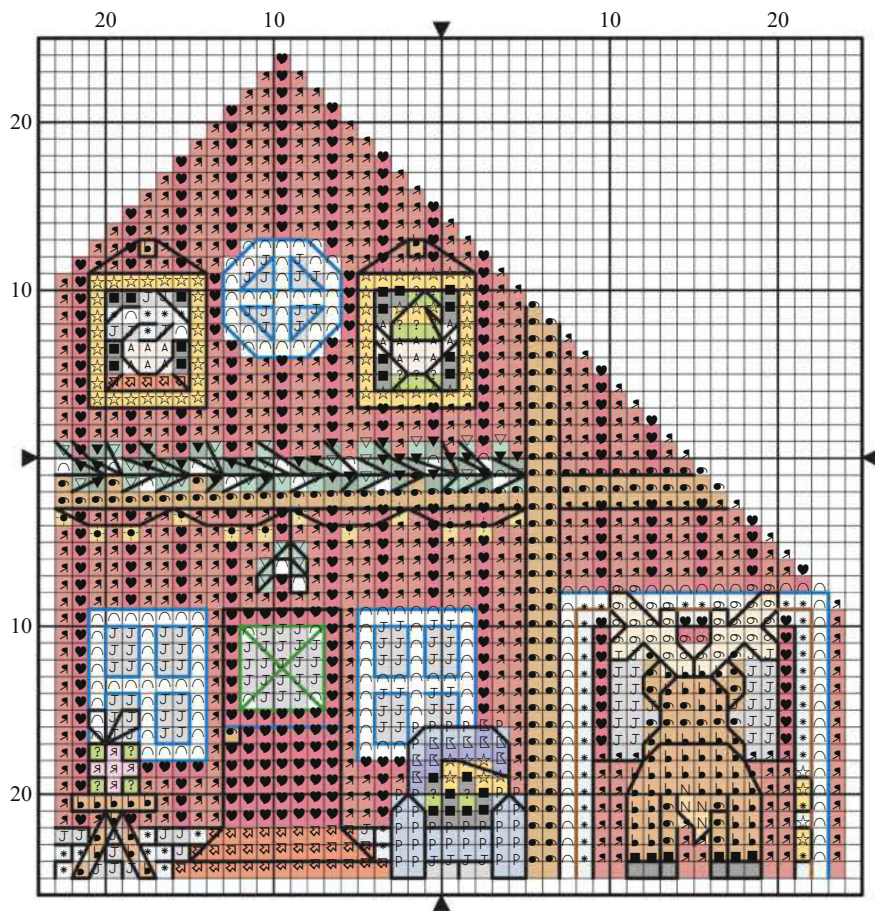
—	E3821			light gold
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MAXIMUM STITCH COUNT 55 high x 47 wide**DESIGN AREA** 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 10x8.5cm (4x3¼in)**EXTRA SKEINS NEEDED** 3x B5200 (white), 2x 347 (salmon pink)**STITCHED BY** Alison Love

These designs were stitched using DMC stranded cotton and DMC Light Effects

TOP TIP

You'll find the loop method of starting easier on plastic canvas as there's less give in the material for anchoring under nearby stitches

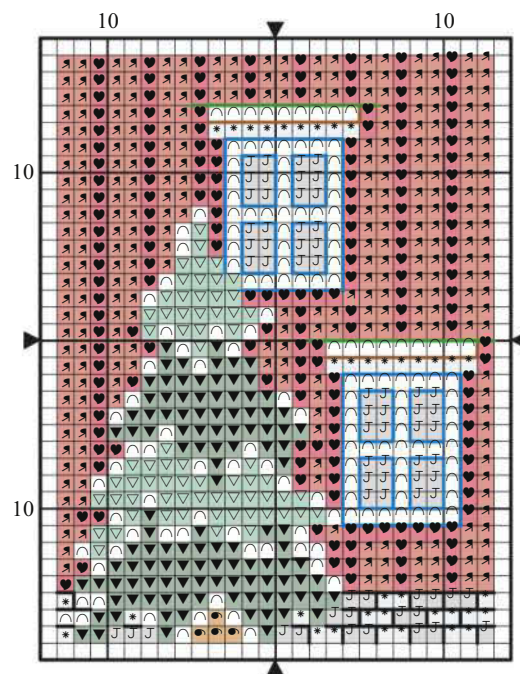


Santa's House – chart E (inside front)

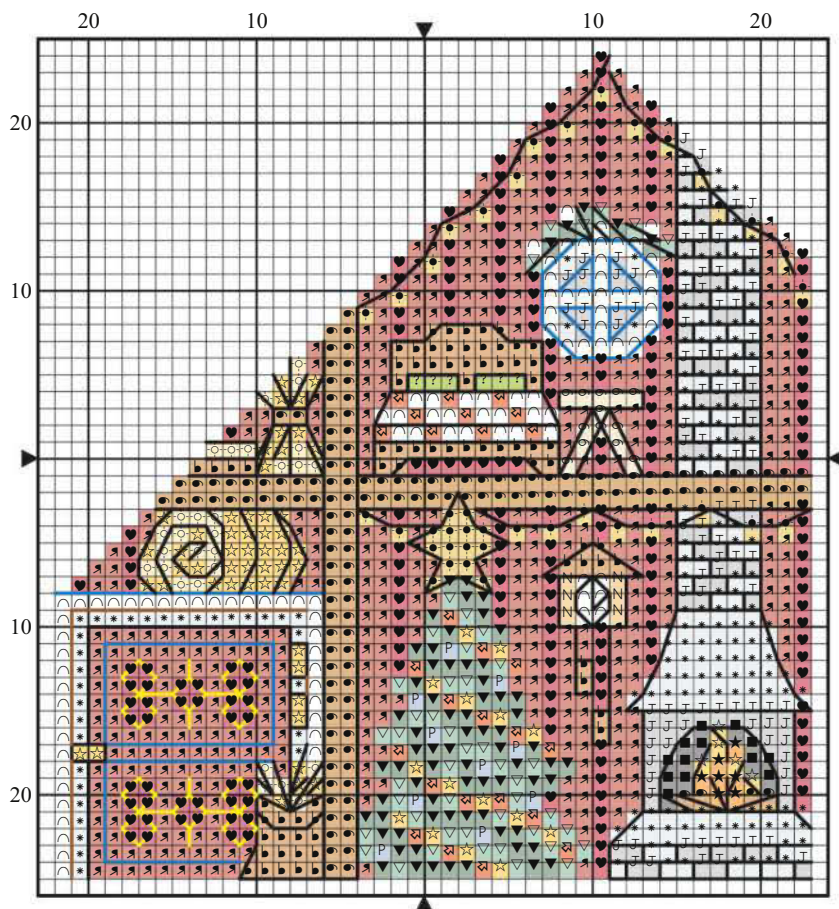


SCAN ME

Scan the QR code to learn how to whipstitch and overstitch at www.gathered.how



Santa's House – chart C (right side)



Santa's House – chart F (inside back)

How to...**assemble the
3D Santa house**

Pieces to stitch: A (front) x1, B (back) x1, C (right side) x1, D (left side) x1, E (inside front) x1, F (inside back) x1, G (roof right) x1, H (roof left) x1, I (chimney left) x1, J (chimney front) x1, K (chimney right) x1, L (chimney back) x1, M (Santa) x1, N (reindeer) x as desired

NOTE: Once you've finished stitching, cut out all the completed pieces leaving a one square border. Be careful not to snip into any holes containing stitches, then follow the tutorial for the construction. All over stitching and whip stitching done using three strands of thread, unless specified.

1 Whipstitch the side edges of pieces B (back) between the C (left side) and D (right side) pieces using white thread.

2 Join piece F (inside back) to the inside of the side pieces, sewing down both vertical edges, leaving a gap of one square from the front so it sits slightly inside the model base. We used white thread for the left side and the ruby thread shade for the right to match adjoining stitches.

3 Place pieces A (front) and E (inside front) together with reverse sides facing, so they're positioned back-to-back. Overstitch them together around the bottom, across the slanted top edges and on one side using white thread. We chose to have it opening on the left, so left this edge unstitched.

4 Whipstitch the top short edge of both roof pieces together using white thread so it forms a triangular structure. Overstitch the remaining exposed edges of the roof using white thread.

5 Place the roof on top of the model and stitch (or carefully glue) the long edges to the top of the slanting edges of the back (B) and inside back (F) pieces. If you plan to stitch the chimney in position, rather than glue, leave the short edges open for now to make the chimney stack much easier to attach as this way you have access to both sides.

6 Whipstitch the chimney (I, J, K and L) pieces together using the grey thread shade, with the slanted bottom pieces between the corresponding flat bottomed ones, so it forms a complete structure. Overstitch around the top edge using white thread.

7 Position the chimney on top of the shorter roof section, with the slanted edges flush against it. Line it up with the chimney stack on the inside front piece design, then stitch (or very carefully glue) in place around the bottom edges. If you left the roof unattached from step 5, finish sewing this in place along the short edges as before.

8 Whipstitch the unstitched short edge of the joined front pieces to the corresponding side wall edge, ensuring the front of the workshop is facing outwards. This creates the hinge for the model to open out.

9 Overstitch around the remaining exposed bottom edges of the model. We used white thread for a snowy look.

10 To stand the Santa (M) and reindeer (N) pieces up, cut out small pieces of plastic canvas from the off-cuts and glue them to the back of the stitching, so they protrude outwards at right angles from the base, as pictured. Hold in place for the glue to fully set before standing up.

In the spotlight

Durene Jones

Durene has been designing for 21 years and is loved by our readers. Here she tells us what she enjoys about Christmas and the cross stitch community



Memories: Durene today, and with her grandma as a child



Cool camper:
From issue 262
(Dec 2017)



Wrapped up:
See page 39!

look quite worn as they have been passed down through generations, and a lot are homemade, but that's what makes them more special.

What do you enjoy about the cross stitch community?

It's a great environment for advice or guidance. If you find a good group to join, it can be a very supportive space to share the things you are currently stitching and receive tips and tricks from more experienced stitchers, especially if you're a beginner. You're always learning new things, or how others do things you may not know about. Cross stitchers are generally very friendly and welcoming people – we always love to encourage each other so it's a very good place to feel a sense of belonging and to build lasting friendships.

What's happening for 2026?

I'm looking forward to seeing my new friendship stitch-a-long for *The World of Cross Stitching* next issue – I hope you love it as much as I do! ❄️

MORE: You'll find Durene on Facebook at [@durenejonescrossstitch](https://www.facebook.com/durenejonescrossstitch), or on her Etsy store [durenejcrossstitch.etsy.com](https://www.etsy.com/shop/durenejcrossstitch)

What do you love about designing for Christmas?

It's a fun and magical time of year where anything is possible. A great excuse to be bright, colourful and fun, which fits me very well. While I love all the novelty aspects of Christmas, designing snowmen is what draws me in the most. I think it probably goes back to my love of building snowmen as soon as there was any snowfall in our back garden when I was younger!

Do you have a festive childhood memory?

My childhood Christmases were in the 70s and 80s, so I daresay they were quite different to now. I loved

the run-up to the big day, including things such as getting an advent calendar every year and opening a door everyday to see what picture was hidden behind, or decorating my grandma's Christmas cake with my mum. We would roll out marzipan and icing, get out the biscuit tin of decorations – it all seemed so special to me as a young child. Once done, it was a sign Christmas was nearly here.

What traditions do you follow?

Nowadays the cake is shop-bought, but I do love making the house look festive. I love getting the decorations out and remembering things I'd forgotten about – some decorations



Snow cute:
From Gold
issue 114
(2014)

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Meet Emma Congdon

Stitchrovia



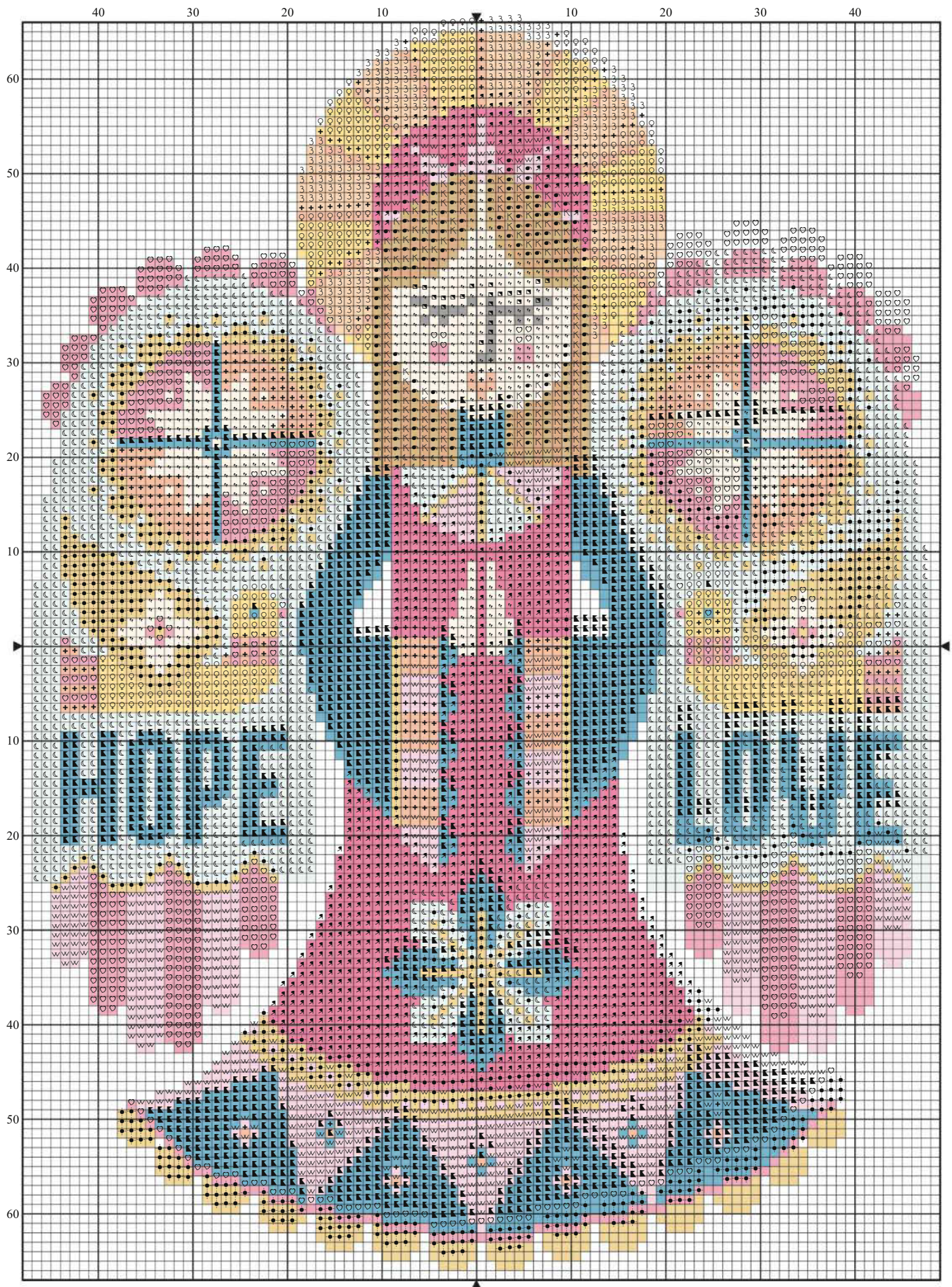
“This angel brings with her a gentle nod to the traditional Christmas story and also acts (I’d like to think) as a happy guardian to the household during the festive period.”

www.stitchrovia.etsy.com

DESIGNED BY **EMMA CONGDON**

Divine tidings

With a dash of retro elegance, this angel hoop will add joy and colour to your collection of Christmas décor



Angel Hoop key

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
K	434	310	2009	tan
■	602	57	702	dark pink
♥	603	55	505	pink
W	605	1094	613	light pink
♀	725	305	113	yellow
●	729	890	2209	sand
☾	747	158	1104	sky blue
☼	948	892	306	light peach
+	3340	329	301	dark peach
3	3341	328	403	peach
■	3799	236	1713	grey
●	3829	901	2210	dark sand
■	3842	164	1010	blue

STITCH COUNT 131 high x 95 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 24x17cm (9½x6¾in)

EXTRA SKEINS NEEDED 2x747 (sky blue)

This design was stitched using DMC stranded cotton

How to...

stitch on dark fabric

It can be difficult to work with dark fabric compared to lighter coloured fabrics, so here are some tips on how to get started! To help the holes show up while you're stitching, place a white sheet on your lap. It's much easier to work with dark fabrics in a hoop or frame, as this will stretch the weave a little when taut, but if you're still struggling, then we recommend investing in a magnifier lamp to help you see the holes more clearly. Remember to take breaks to avoid eye strain and to stitch in good light, preferably daylight. For some projects, you can use three strands to make the stitches fuller with less show-through from the fabric behind.



Shopping list

- ✕ 14-count royal blue aida measuring 33x33cm (13x13in)
- ✕ Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- ✕ Size 24 tapestry needle
- ✕ 10in wooden embroidery hoop and paint of your choice from local stores

*For stockists see page 82

Factbox

Ideal
beginner
project

- ✕ **Stitching Time**
Approx. 30 hours
- ✕ **Type of Stitches**
Cross stitch
- ✕ **Ease of Stitching**
Advanced beginner

TOP TIP

Bind ribbon around your hoop for a pop of colour. Or if you do paint it, ensure it's dry before framing your stitching inside

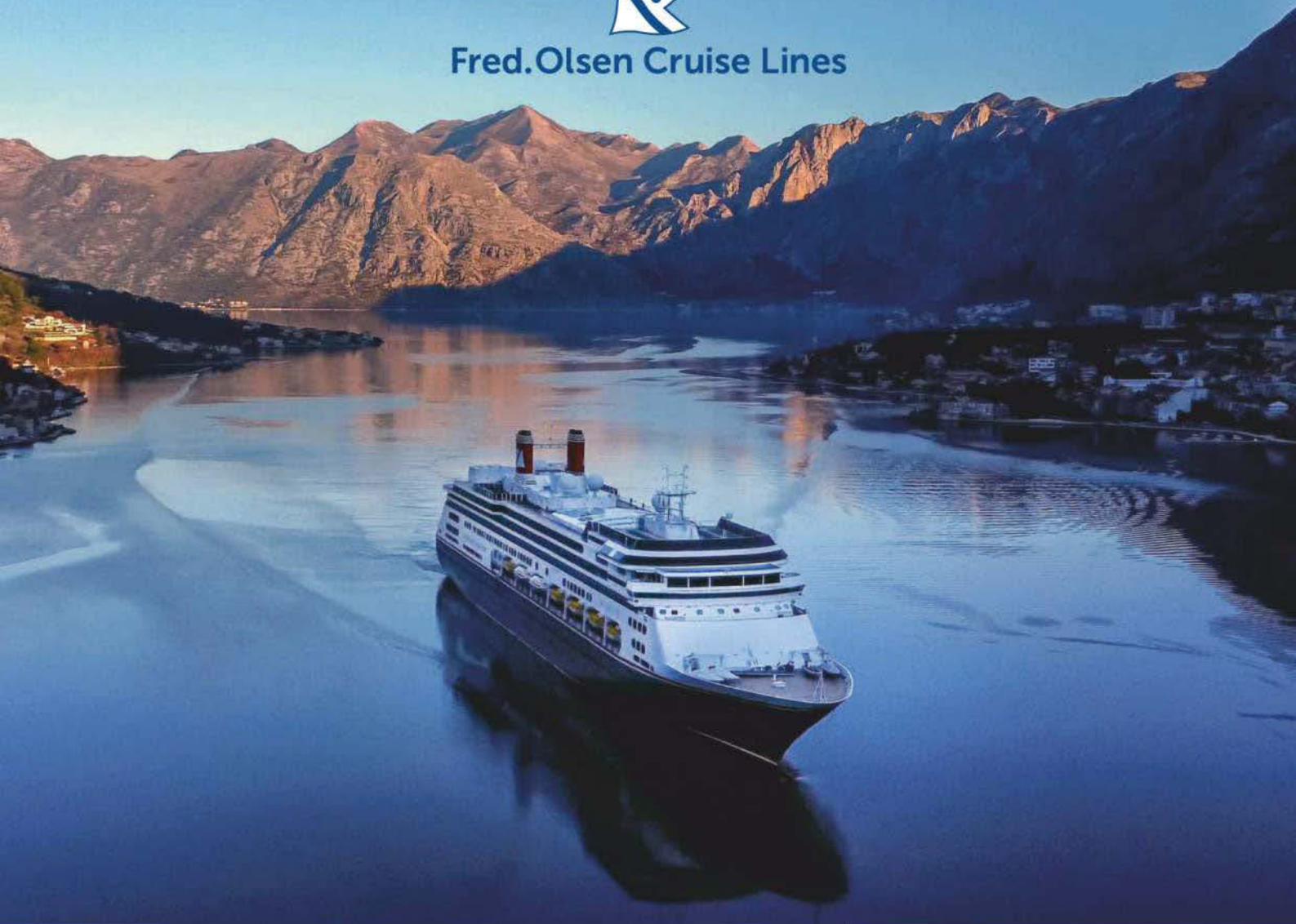
There's more



This chart is from *Merry Stitchmas* by Emma Congdon (£16.99). There are 24 bright, joyful, and contemporary festive patterns in her signature style for you to stitch and enjoy for all the Christmases to come. Available to purchase now, visit www.davidandcharles.com for more information.



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On the first day...

A FOLK ART-STYLE LIBRARY INSPIRED
BY THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

31

FESTIVE
IDEAS



Honour the iconic Christmas song with these
festive folk art mini makes by Durene Jones

- ✕ 31 quick-and-easy motifs ✕ Durene Jones' design inspiration ✕ Stitches for every skill level
- ✕ Helpful tips and advice ✕ Unique presents, home décor ideas, and more!



WINTER WISHES

Handmade Christmas cards add a touch of delight to the gift giving, so why not make a batch with your desired motif (we picked 6) and affix onto complementing card?



WINE NOT?

If you haven't tried perforated paper before, then now's the time! We turned motif 24 into a novelty hanging for a wine bottle and finished off with some red ribbon.



FESTIVE FANCIES

Elevate your cake with a 14-count white 2in aida band with gold scallop edge (7107/181) from Lakeside Needlecraft* with the golden rings border (29) repeat.



LITTLE DRUMMER BOY

Create a bespoke table setting with stitched napkins, using 14-count soluble canvas (21) and complementary napkin ring (13), patched onto a band of felt.



PIED PIPER

A fun way to make name cards for the table, using the alphabet (25) and your chosen designs. How about for one you stitch the piper piping (8) a fanciful tune?



MAIDS A-MILKING

Store your festive sweets in this personalised jar with the maid and her cute cow (2, 23). Use acid-free double-sided tape when sticking onto the jar.



GOING CRACKERS

Go the extra creative mile and make your own Christmas crackers by adding a simple, yet sweet, motif (15). It'll make for a great conversation starter at the party!



PARTRIDGE PAL

Simple yet sweet, the partridge in a pear tree motif (19) works ideally as an aperture card, capturing the spirit of the season. Post the card to loved ones this Christmas.

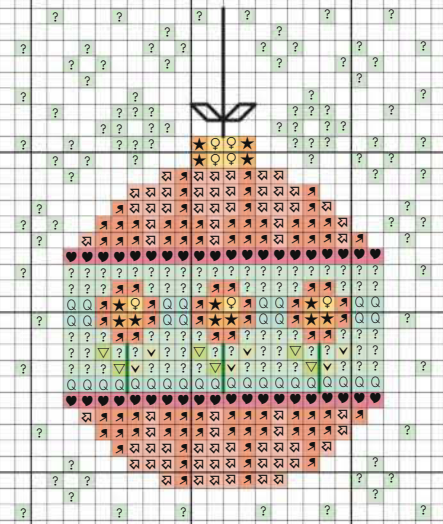
*For stockists see page 82



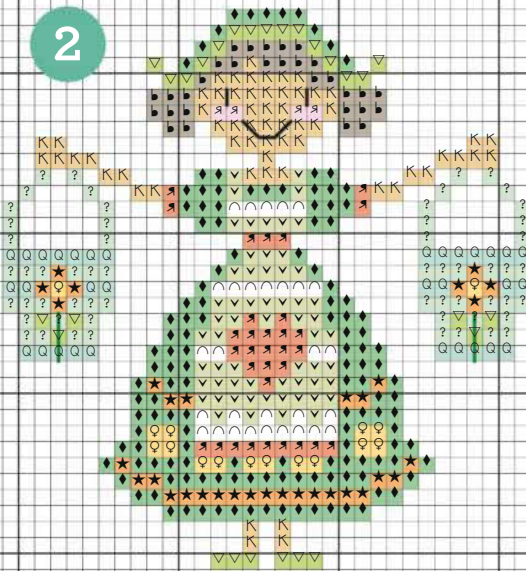
Meet Durene Jones

“The song ‘Twelve Days of Christmas’ always puts me in a festive mood as soon as I hear it, even if I can’t always remember the words – designing this set was no different. It was such a pleasure to bring to life all the motifs in their bright Christmas colours.”

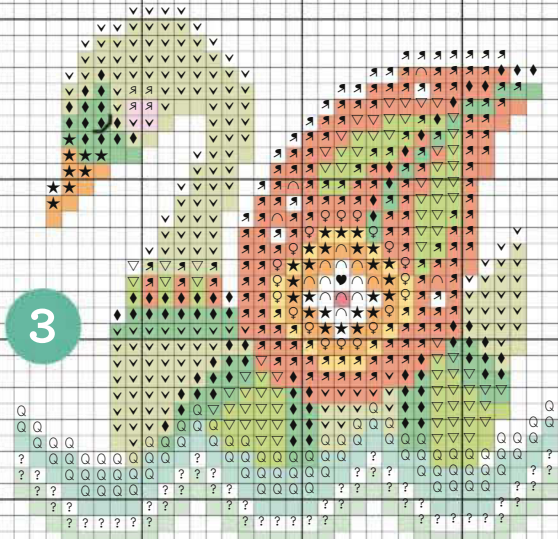
www.DureneJCrossStitch.etsy.com



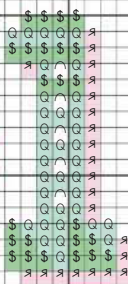
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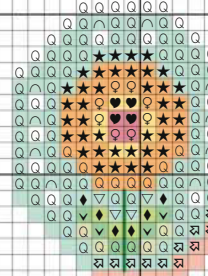
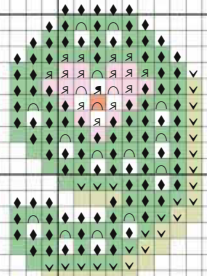
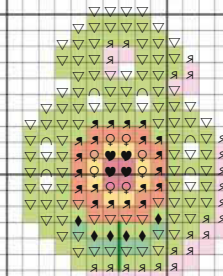
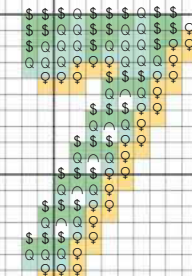
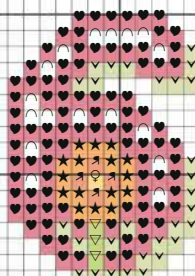
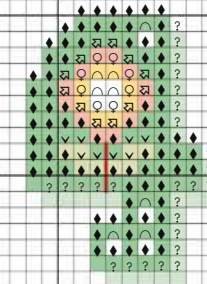
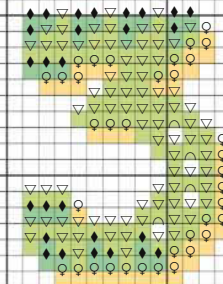
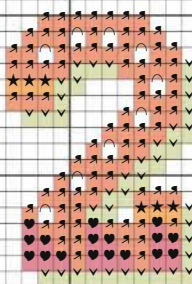
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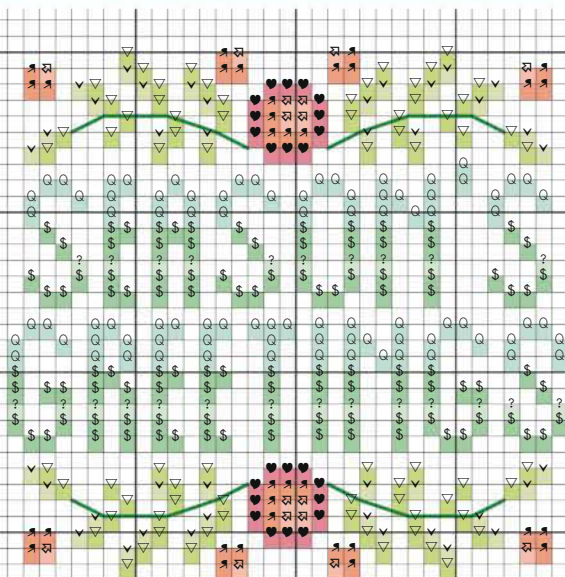


3



4





5



6

Twelve Days of Christmas key

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	B5200	1	2401	white
∇	16	254	1308	pistachio green
■	310	403	2400	black
✶	349	1098	212	red
✶	352	9	303	coral
■	433	357	2602	dark tan
K	436	1045	2011	tan
✶	605	1094	613	pink
◆	700	229	1302	dark green
∇	703	238	1307	green
★	740	316	204	orange
♀	743	302	113	yellow
♥	815	44	513	ruby
•	950	4146	2309	peach
Q	959	186	1114	mint green
?	964	185	1112	light mint green
\$	3814	1074	2706	dark mint green

✕ Backstitch in one strand

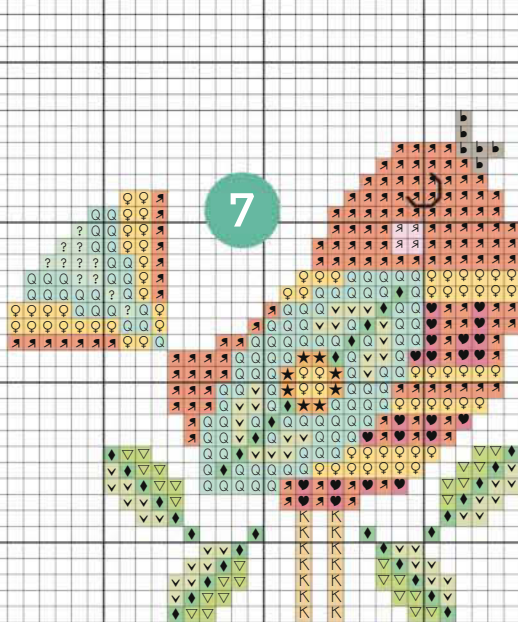
—	310	403	2400	black
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✕ Backstitch in two strands

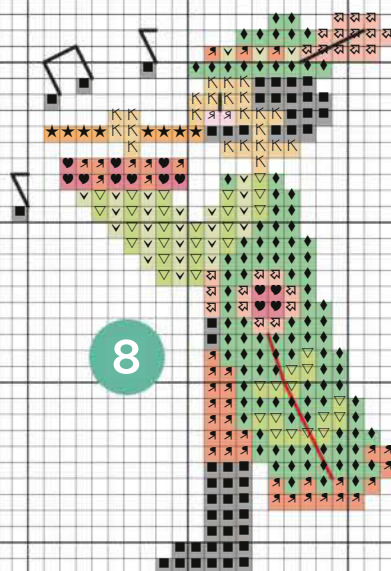
—	16	254	1308	pistachio green
—	700	229	1302	dark green

STITCHED BY Michelle Brookes

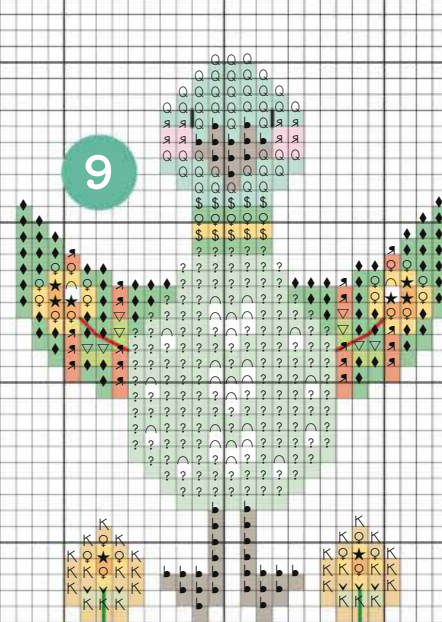
These designs were stitched using DMC stranded cotton



7

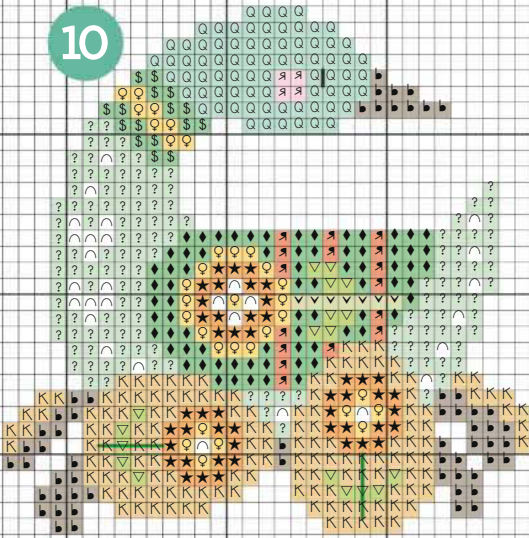


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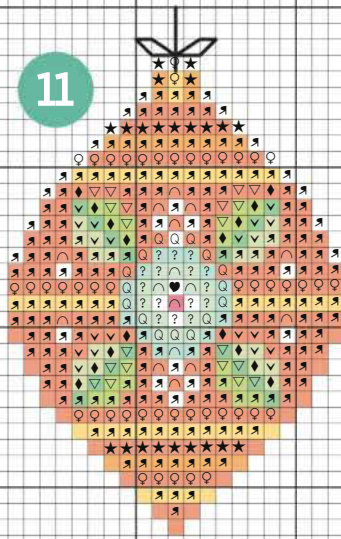


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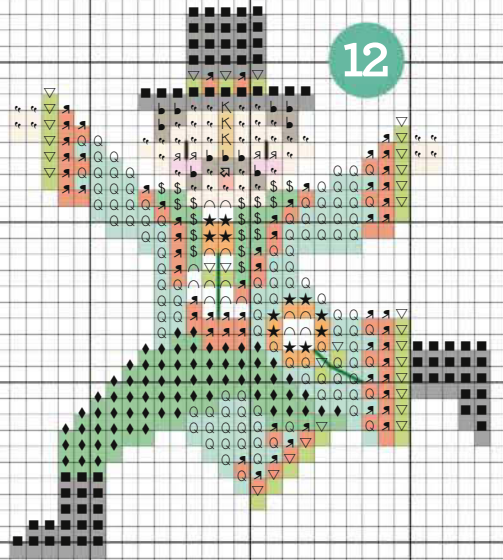
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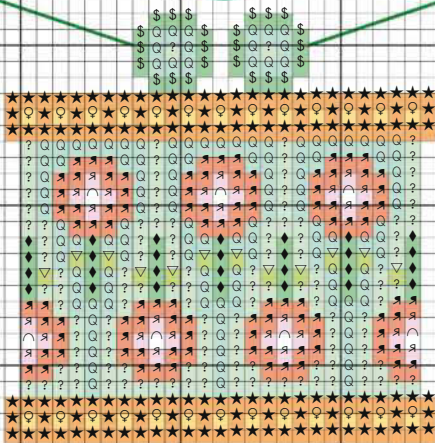
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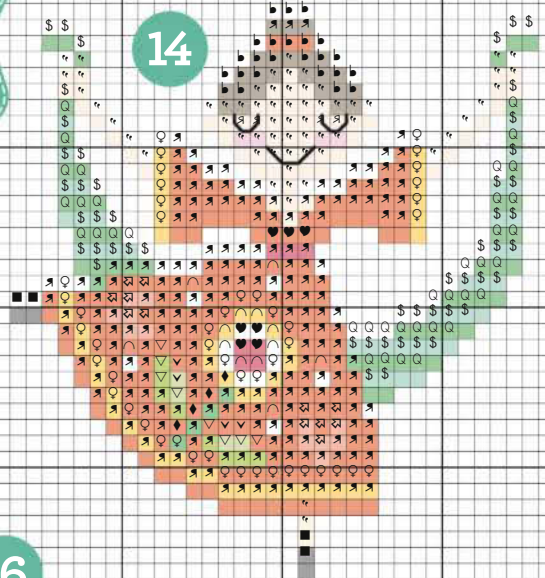
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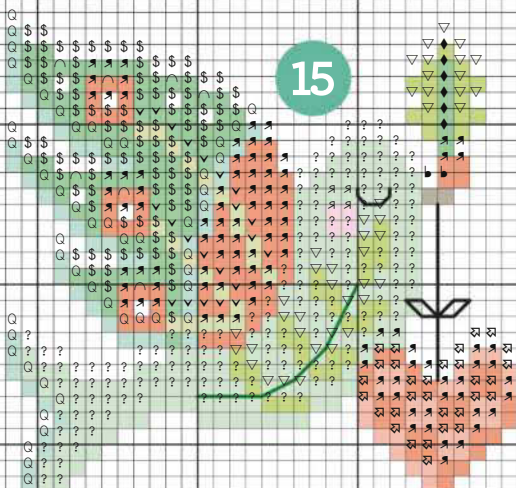
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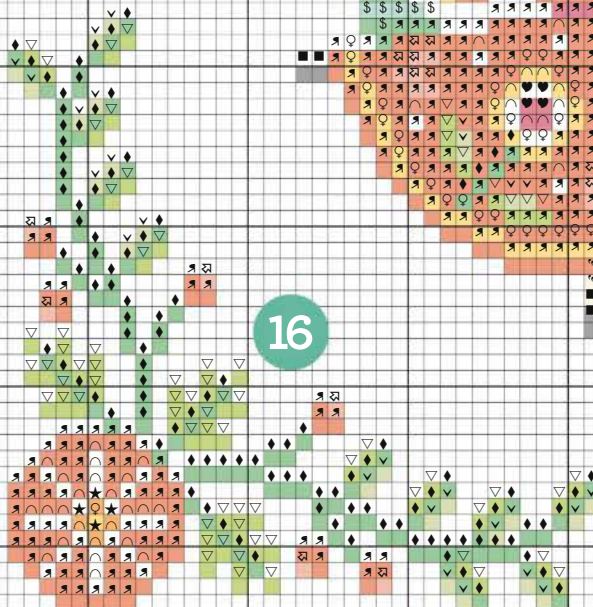
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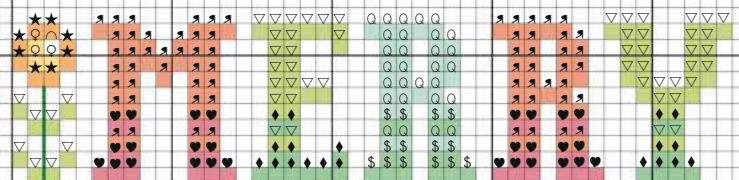
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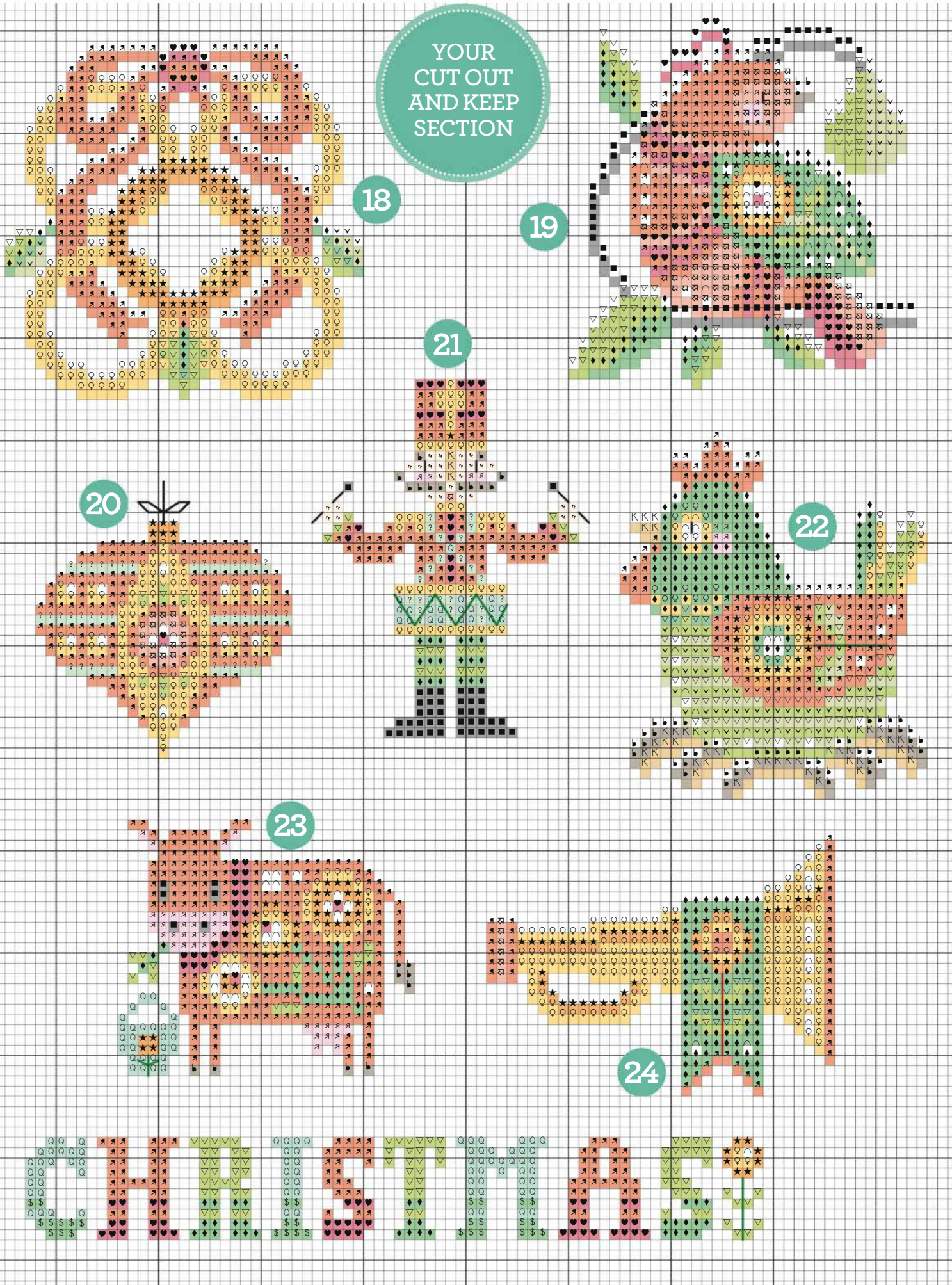
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17



YOUR
CUT OUT
AND KEEP
SECTION



A B C D E F G H I J K L M
N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

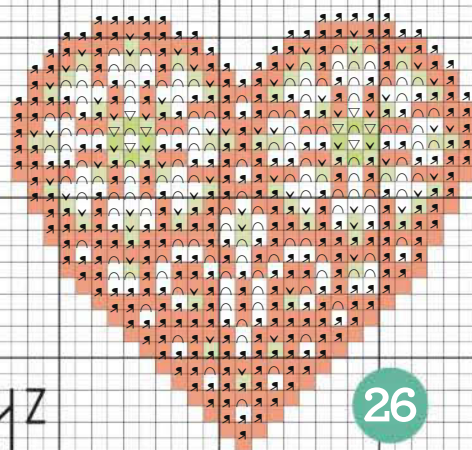
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a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q r s t u v w x y z

27

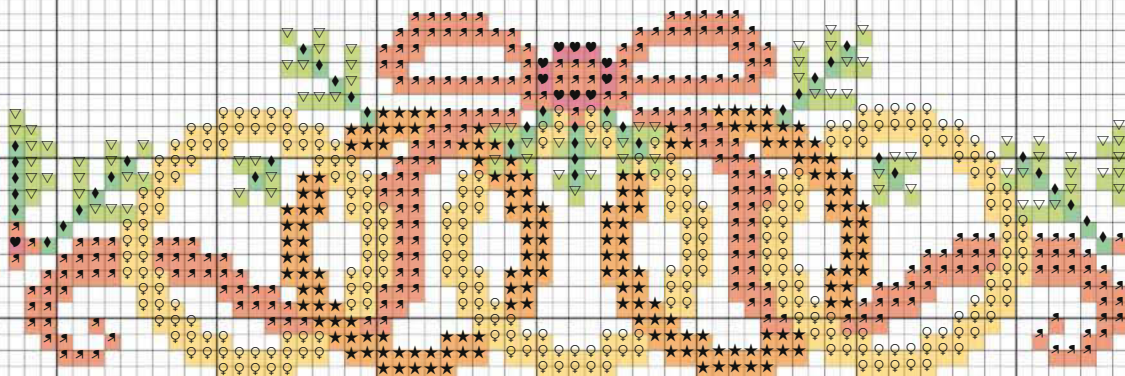
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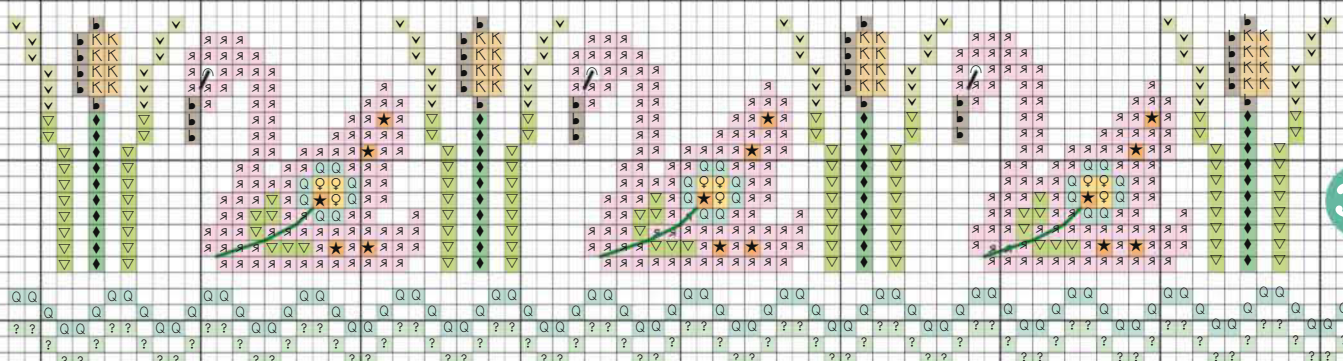


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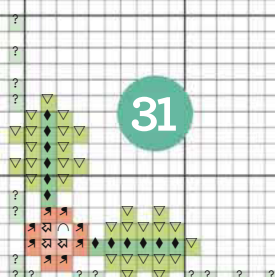
STITCH
THIS SET
EVERY
YEAR



29



30



31

NEXT MONTH: WINTER VILLAGE!

Designed by Gail Bussi, our next Design Library is wholesome and inviting, celebrating the community during the merriest time of year. Get to the shops on 29 October to pick up your copy of issue 366, or subscribe and the issue will be delivered straight to your door. You can find this month's money-saving subscription offer on page 26.

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page 26
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DESIGNED BY **DURENE JONES**

Merry dwellings

Let these beaded beauties light up your Christmas tree with their sparkly style and tactile finish

Your Christmas tree can never have too many decorations, so be sure to make room for this set of beaded cottages in a variety of shapes, styles and colours. Durene has designed these welcoming and cosy abodes to look like iced gingerbread houses – wouldn't it be a dream to live in one of these delicious, sugary homes?

For those who haven't stitched with beads before, especially on plastic canvas, this project will help you feel more confident. Add your beads using a whole cross stitch in two strands of matching colour thread for a neat finish. Secure each bead to the canvas with the bottom arm of the stitch then add the top

Factbox

- ✗ **Stitching Time**
Approx. 15-16 hours each
- ✗ **Type of Stitches**
Cross stitch, beads
- ✗ **Ease of Stitching**
Intermediate

Fun with beads

arm, making sure that one strand falls on either side of the bead to keep it upright, before moving onto the next.

If you have a particular festive colour scheme, why not mix and match the bead shades? Or customise with your loved one's favourite colour to make a bespoke gift this year. Bring in the shine! ➤



Meet Durene Jones

“Snowy cottages at Christmas always bring a feeling of comfort. What could be better than lovely beaded cottages with an added feel of festive glamour? I'll be making a lot of these this year to give to people as delightful Christmas gifts.”

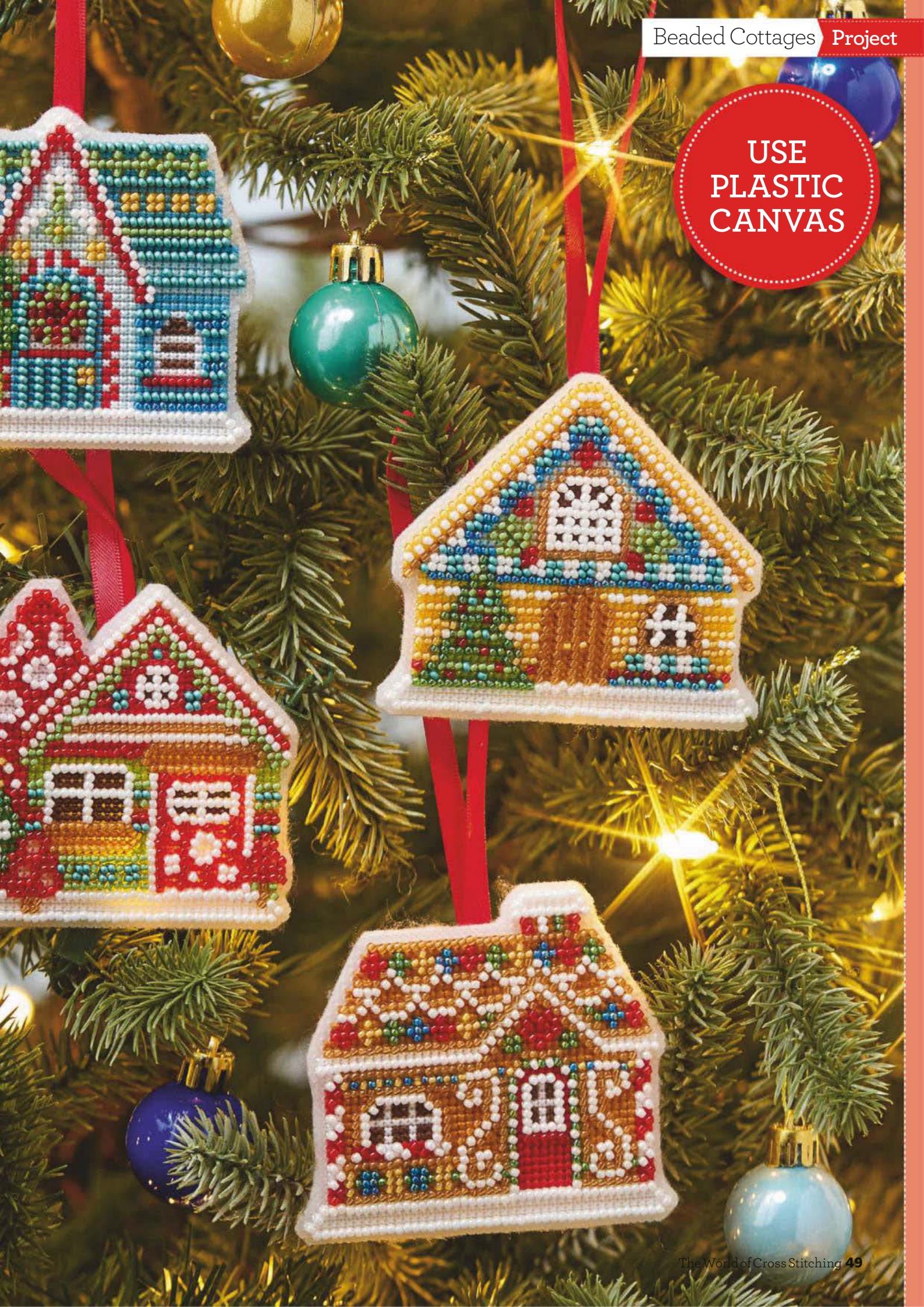
www.DureneJCrossStitch.etsy.com

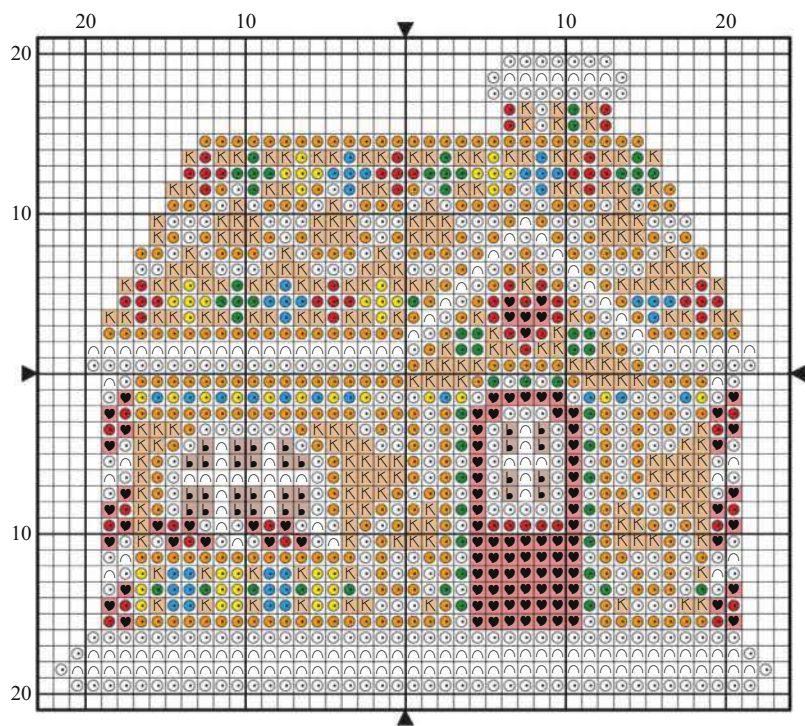


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USE
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CANVAS





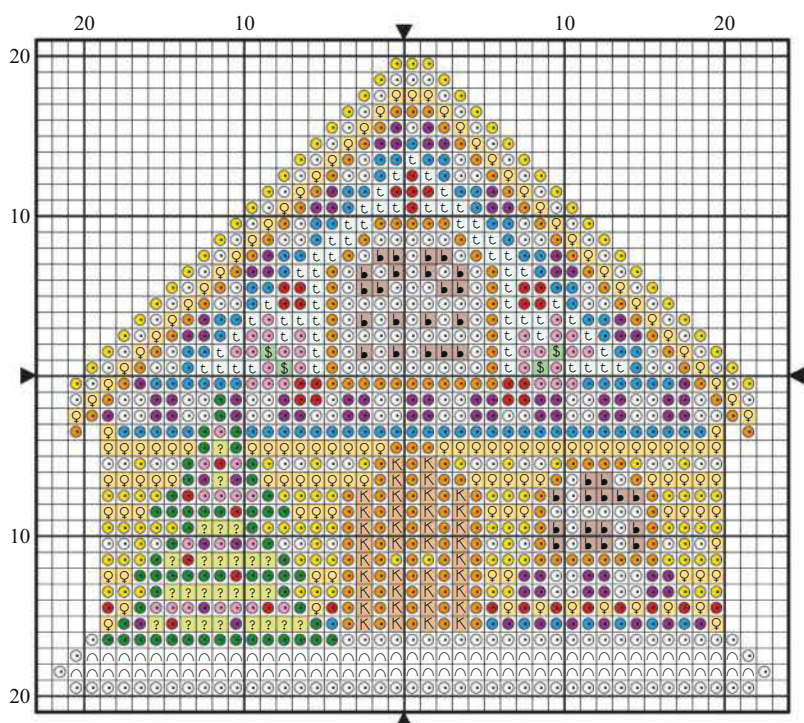
TOP TIP

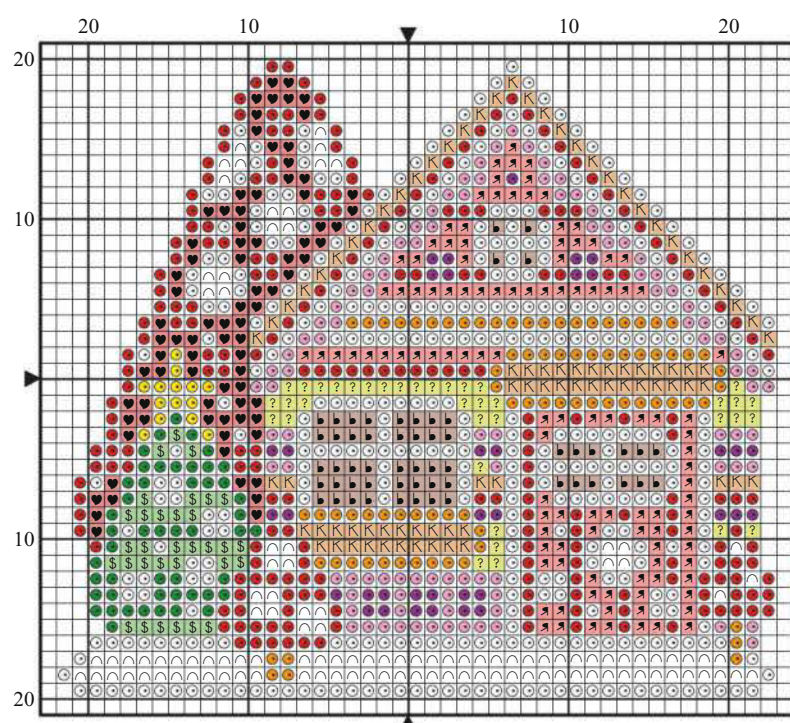
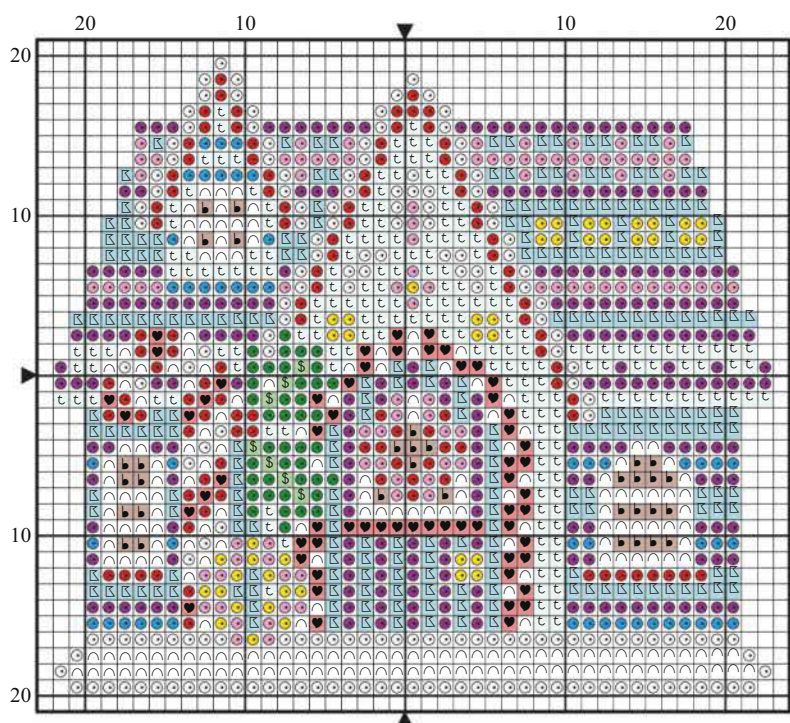
Never use your fabric scissors on plastic canvas – keep those sharp! Use paper scissors or a craft knife and cutting mat if you have them

How to...

make your beaded decorations

- 1 Cut around your** completed stitching leaving one square of canvas around the edges, trimming off any bumps along the edge of the plastic as you go.
- 2 Back your cut** out shapes onto white felt using acid-free double-sided tape.
- 3 Cut around your** felt following the shape of your canvas cut out, trimming the edges and corners for a smooth finish.
- 4 Attach a loop** of ribbon to the back of the felt using a few small stitches to secure it in place. To ensure it's positioned centrally, follow the centre arrows on the chart so it hangs nicely on your tree.





Beaded Cottages key

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	B5200	1	2401	white
\$	701	227	1305	leaf green
Q	743	302	113	yellow
t	747	158	1104	light blue
⌊	807	168	1108	blue
♥	817	13	210	red
■	898	360	2006	brown
?	907	255	1308	green
K	976	1001	2010	ginger
⌋	3705	35	410	pink

✕ Mill Hill seed beads

●	00167			Christmas green
○	00479			white (x3)
●	02013			red red
●	02041			maple
●	02088			opal capri
●	02104			grasshopper
●	02105			sweet corn
●	03507			satin turquoise (x2)

STITCH COUNT 40 high x 45 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 7.5x8cm (2¾x3¼in)

STITCHED BY Lisa Draycott

These designs were stitched using DMC stranded cotton and Mill Hill seed beads (multiple packets listed where required to stitch the full set)

Project pack

If you would like to stitch 'Beaded Cottages', Lakeside Needlecraft is providing a materials pack with the fabric, threads and any other accessories you need. Visit www.lakesideneedlecraft.co.uk to order your project pack and get stitching right away!

Carine READER PANEL



“I love the idea of using beads, which should make it all the more Christmassy. I'd probably want to use really bright sparkly ones. The colours are a little more interesting than the usual plain red and green.”



“I’ve already started planning who I’m going to give each of these decorations to. After all of that, I will definitely start working on stitching the whole set for both me and my mum. These are decorations we’d both want to have on our trees. I can’t wait to see her reaction when she receives these.”

Shopping list

- ✂ 14-count clear plastic canvas measuring 10.5x11cm (4x4¼in) for each design from Lakeside Needlecraft*
- ✂ Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- ✂ Mill Hill seed beads as listed in the key from Lakeside Needlecraft*
- ✂ Size 24 tapestry needle; beading needle
- ✂ White felt, red ribbon and acid-free double-sided tape of your choice from local stores

*For stockists see page 82

There’s more

Inspire your stitching with seasonal products at Lakeside Needlecraft, www.lakesideneedlecraft.co.uk



◀ New designs from Bothy Threads, such as ‘Woodland Wreath’, £22.49



▶ Christmas Coaster kit by Heritage Crafts, £10.80



◀ DMC threads in festive colours and metallics, starting from £1.75



Shop with us!

Welcome to *The World of Cross Stitching* Etsy store where you’ll find easy-to-follow cross stitch charts in a broad range of themes and styles. Prices start from just £5 for an instant PDF download complete with full-colour and black-and-white charts, instructions and beginners’ guide.





A MERRY
ABC FOR
YOUNG
AND OLD!

Meet Poppy Benner



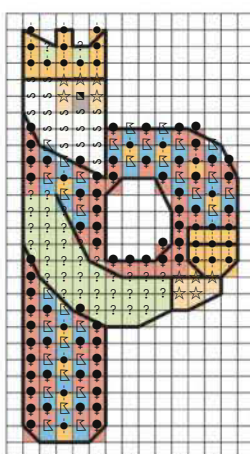
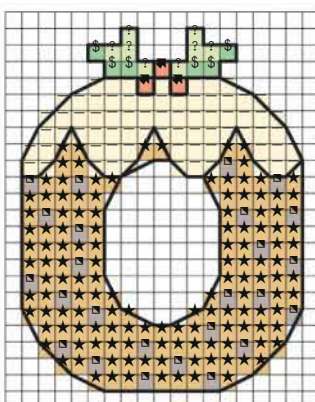
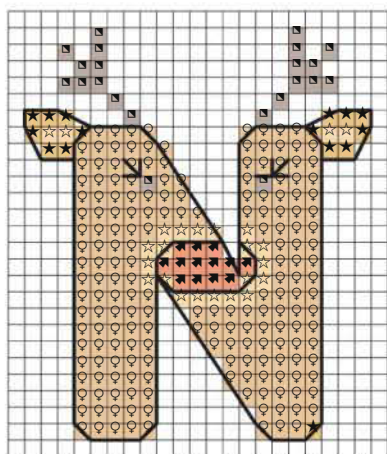
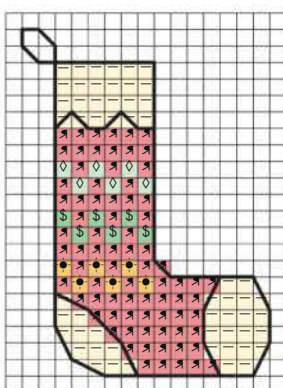
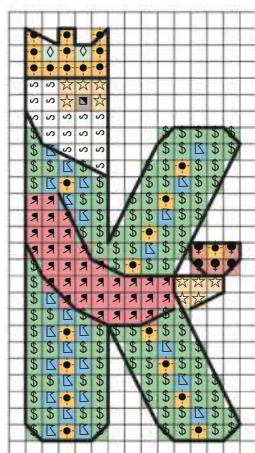
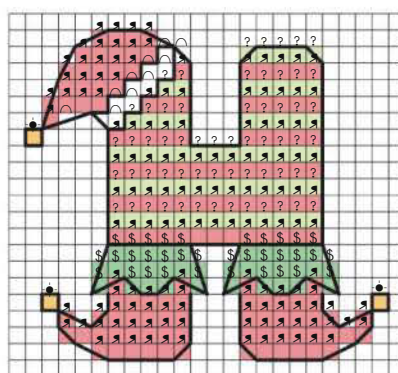
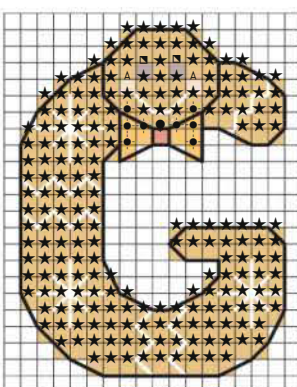
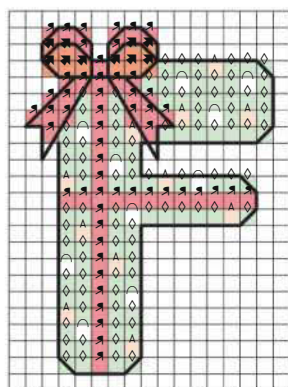
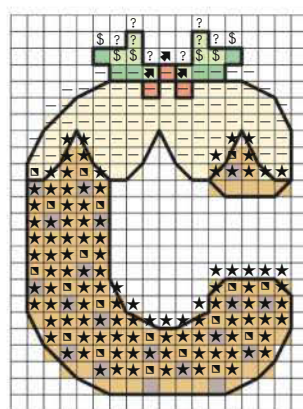
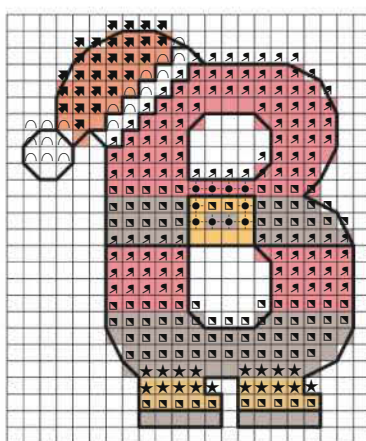
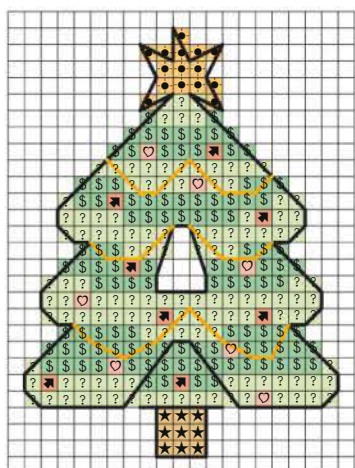
“You will repeatedly come back to this alphabet set for gifts or bespoke place cards. These merry motifs are quick and easy, so you’ll have plenty of time to stitch them before the big day!”

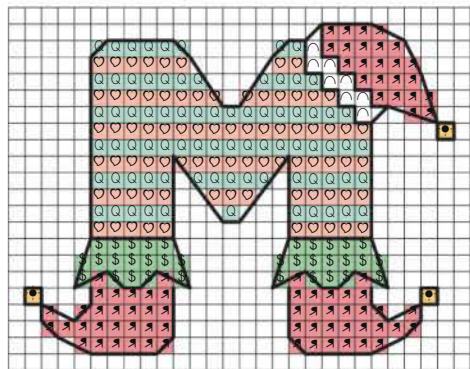
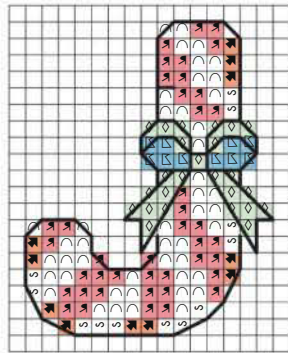
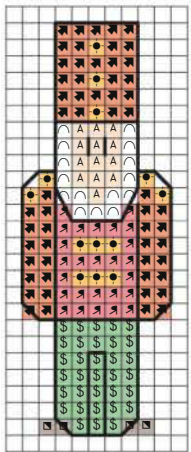
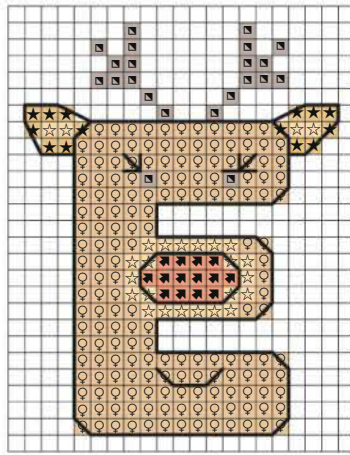
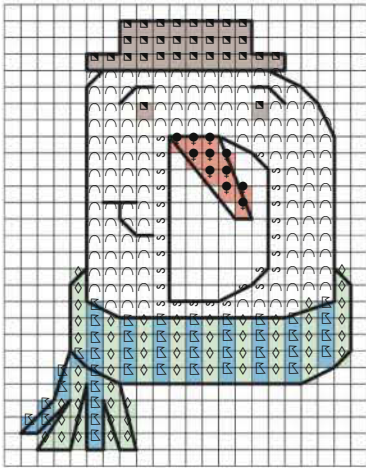
www.TapestryBarn.etsy.com

DESIGNED BY **POPPY BENNER**

Special stocking

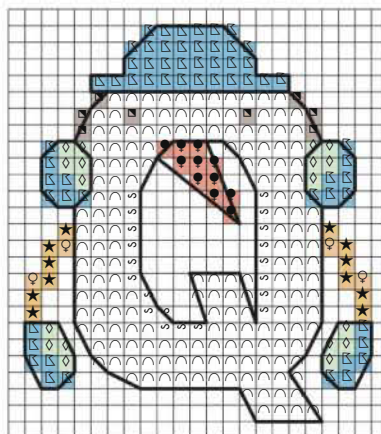
An illustrative alphabet set that can be used to decorate stockings, make amusing tags and more





**SIENNA,
PRODUCTION
EDITOR**

“I was planning to make a pair of personalised stockings for my little nieces this Christmas, and I’m sure they’ll be overjoyed to see their names spelt out with this illustrative alphabet set. Each design is so creative!”



Christmassy ABC key

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	blanc	2	2402	white
?	164	240	1209	green
♡	352	9	303	coral
⬢	518	1039	1106	blue
⬢	666	46	210	red
A	754	1012	305	peach
★	782	308	2212	dark gold
♀	783	306	250	gold
■	844	1041	1809	grey
●	946	332	207	orange
Q	958	187	1114	mint green
◇	964	185	1112	light mint green
●	972	298	107	tangerine
⬢	3801	1098	411	light red
§	3814	1074	2706	sea green
—	3823	386	2512	yellow
☆	3827	311	2012	ginger
∞	3866	926	2101	pearl

✕ Backstitch in one strand

—	blanc	2	2402	white
—	844	1041	1809	grey
—	972	298	107	tangerine

MAXIMUM STITCH COUNT 26 high x 26 wide
DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 4.5x4.5cm (1¾x1¾in)

STITCHED BY Lisa Draycott

These designs were stitched using DMC stranded cotton

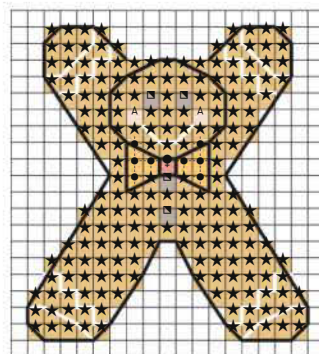
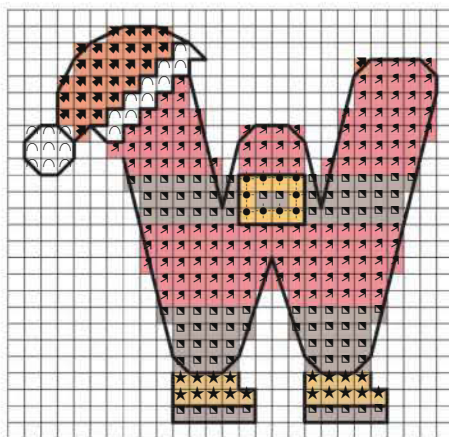
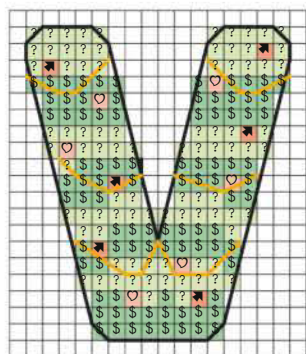
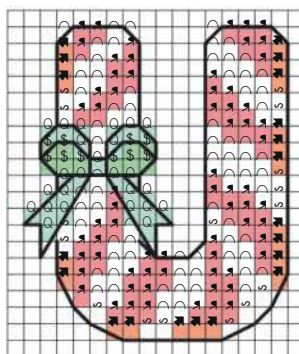
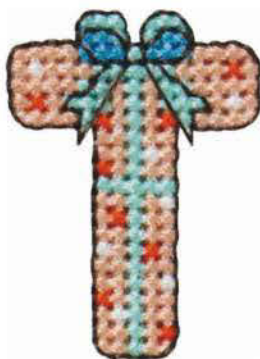
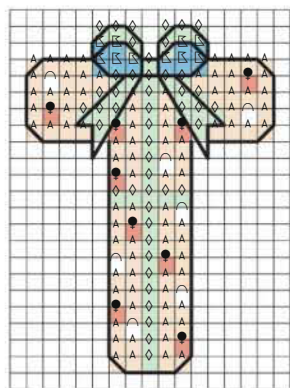
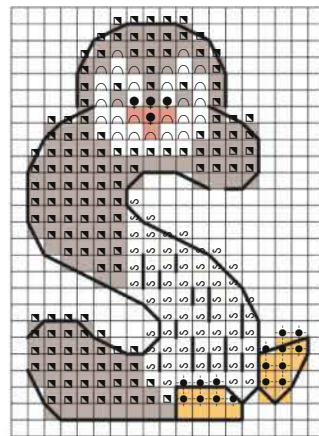
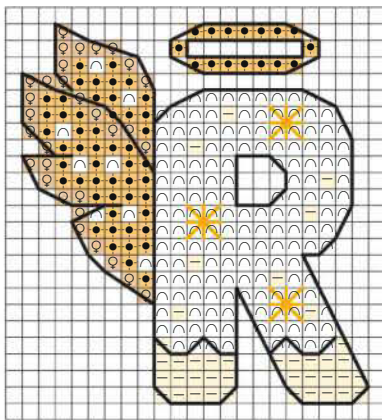
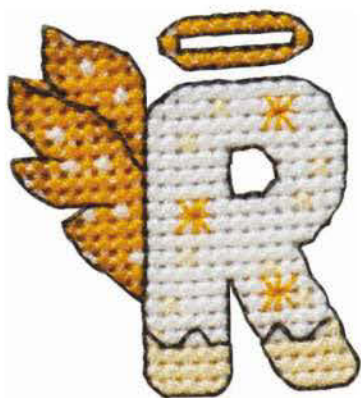
TOP TIP

Add iron-on interfacing to the back of your completed stitching then sew it onto a store-bought stocking cuff for a quick and easy finish

Shopping list

- ✕ Zweigart 2in wide 14-count white aida band cut to desired length from Lakeside Needlecraft*
- ✕ Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- ✕ Size 24 tapestry needle
- ✕ Stocking and medium-weight iron-on interfacing of your choice from local stores

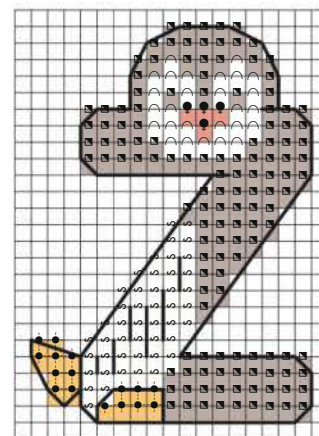
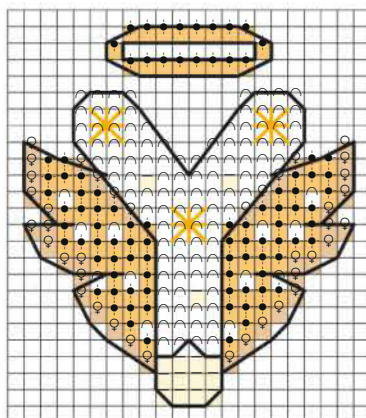
*For stockists see page 82



Easy to
stitch

Factbox

- ✦ **Stitching Time**
Approx. 3-4 hours each
- ✦ **Type of Stitches**
Cross stitch, backstitch
- ✦ **Ease of Stitching**
Beginner



SWEET
HOOP MAKE
FOR THE
HOME



Meet Gail Bussi



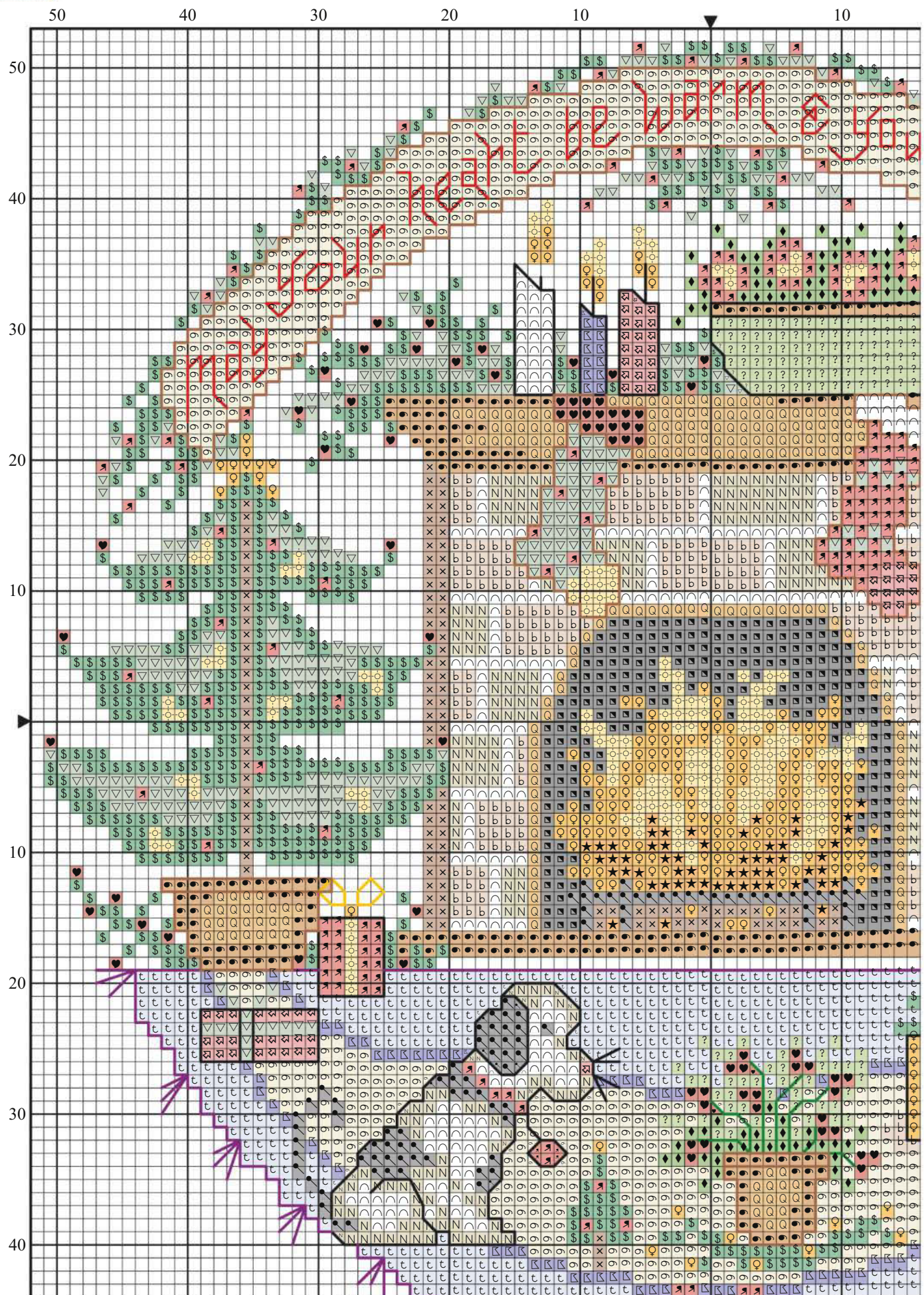
“There’s no better feeling than gathering around the warm fire in winter. I’ve chosen to create a nostalgic scene with a decorated tree, gifts and the family dog and cat, hoping for some treats!”

Instagram: @myenchantedcottage

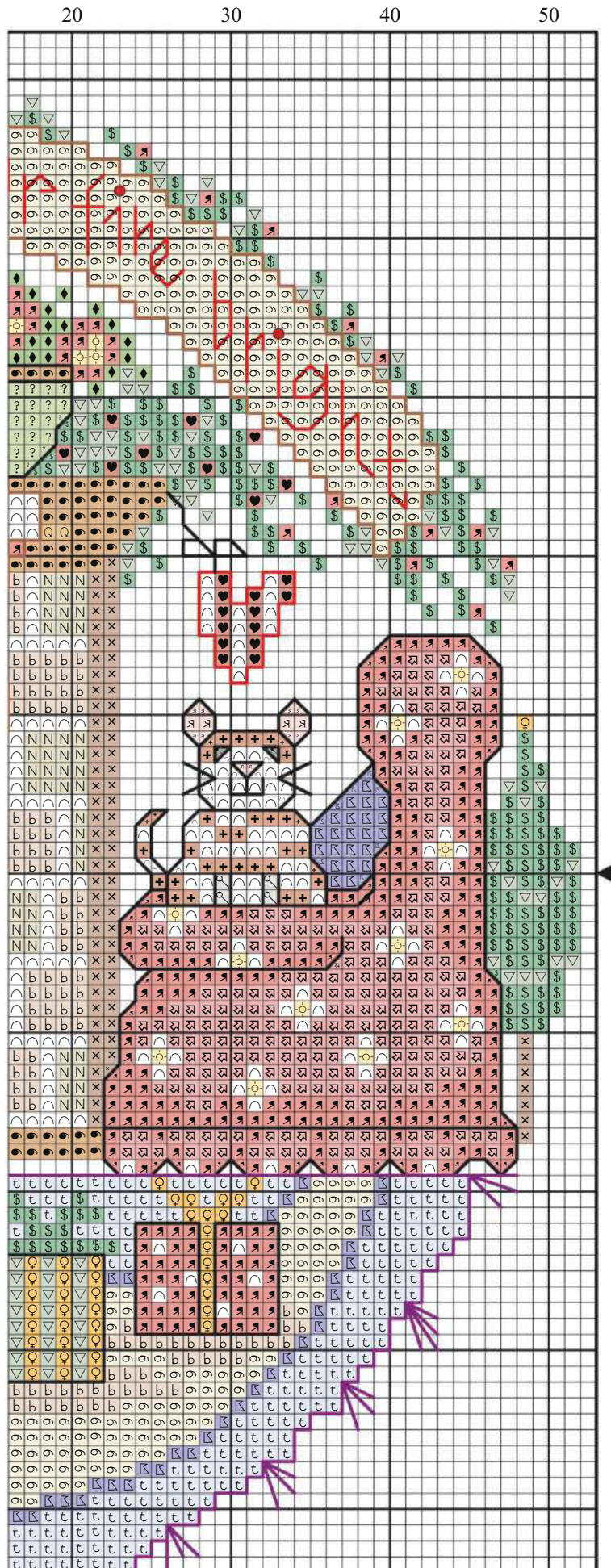
DESIGNED BY **GAIL BUSSI**

Keeping warm

Curl up by this blazing hearth surrounded by your nearest and dearest during Christmastime



Cosy Fireplace Hoop chart (top left)



Cosy Fireplace Hoop chart (top right)

Cosy Fireplace Hoop key

✦ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	blanc	2	2402	white
t	157	120	907	light blue
♥	347	1025	407	red
+	356	5975	2502	rust red
◆	367	217	1312	dark green
?	368	214	1310	green
■	413	236	1713	dark grey
☐	415	398	1802	grey
●	435	1046	2010	tan
Q	436	1045	2011	light tan
▽	503	876	1702	sage green
☐	535	400	1809	smoke grey
★	741	304	202	orange
Q	742	303	114	tangerine
☐	744	301	112	yellow
я	761	1021	404	light pink
■	793	176	906	blue
N	3032	903	2002	beige
o	3033	391	1908	light beige
я	3328	1024	406	dark pink
я	3712	1023	405	pink
\$	3815	877	1205	pine green
x	3863	379	1912	brown
b	3864	376	1910	light brown

✦ Backstitch in one strand

—	347	1025	407	red
—	367	217	1312	dark green
—	535	400	1809	smoke grey
—	742	303	114	tangerine
—	793	176	906	blue
—	3790	393	1905	dark beige

✦ French knots in one strand

●	347	1025	407	red
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STITCH COUNT 103 high x 103 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 18.5x18.5cm (7¼x7¼in)

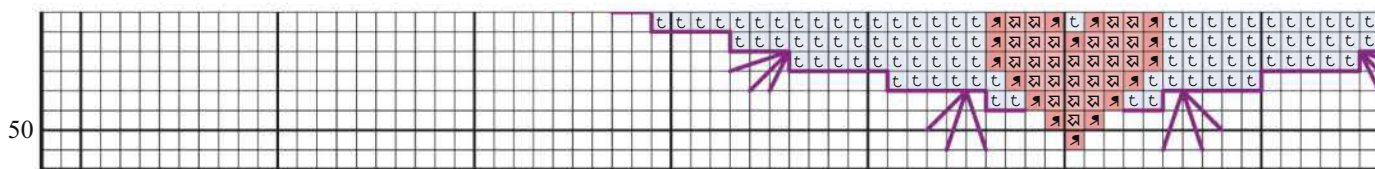
STITCHED BY Alison Love

This design was stitched using DMC stranded cotton

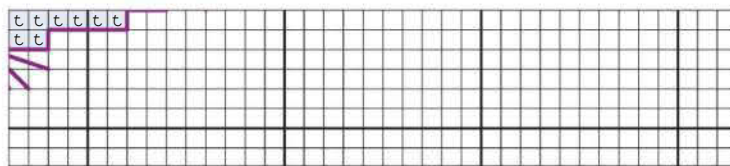
Shopping list

- ✦ DMC* 14-count ecru aida measuring 28x28cm (11x11in)
- ✦ Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- ✦ Size 24 tapestry needle
- ✦ 8in wooden embroidery hoop and white felt for backing of your choice from local stores

*For stockists see page 82



Cosy Fireplace Hoop chart (bottom left)



Cosy Fireplace Hoop chart (bottom right)



Caroline READER PANEL

“ This reminds me of holiday pieces from the 90s – full of nostalgia and charm. I would display it in a classic wooden hoop on the wall during the holidays or prop it on the mantelpiece. It’s the kind of piece that will bring comfort and timeless tradition to any home. ”

Factbox

- ✦ **Stitching Time**
Approx. 45 hours
- ✦ **Type of Stitches**
Cross stitch, fractionals, backstitch, French knots
- ✦ **Ease of Stitching**
Intermediate

Practise your fractionals

Project pack

If you would like to stitch 'Cosy Fireplace Hoop', Lakeside Needlecraft is providing a materials pack with the fabric, threads and any other accessories you need. Visit www.lakesideneedlecraft.co.uk to order your project pack and get stitching right away!



TOP TIP

Try a chenille needle to work fractional stitches on aida – the sharp point will make splitting the aida blocks much easier



Ask the experts

Our panel of professionals is here to help you with your cross stitch dilemmas – however large or small



Fiona Baker
Senior Technical Editor



Hannah Erskine
Charting Assistant



Vicki Atkinson
Editor

GET IN TOUCH FOR STITCHING HELP

Don't forget to send all your stichy questions and design requests in to us!

Email us at:
theworldofxstitching@ourmedia.co.uk

Send in queries via Facebook too:
@The World of Cross Stitching

Write to:
**Ask the Experts,
The World of Cross Stitching,
Our Media Ltd,
Eagle House, Bristol
BS1 4ST**



Cross stitch with the kids

Q What's the best age for kids to start cross stitching? My four-year-old daughter is keen to try but I feel this is too young to be handling needles and scissors. What do you think?

Alice Decker, Berkshire

A Hannah: There are some safe stitching options for little ones to use – but they should still be carefully supervised at all times, of course. Look out for children's safety scissors and also needles made from colourful plastic, which are perfect for small fingers, and no sharp point! Get this pack of two for 85p from DMC* (1763U/1), and let your daughter have a go using wool on tapestry canvas to begin with. This stiff material has large, square holes, which are perfect for helping younger crafters to see and hold. You could then progress onto chunky 6-count aida and work from there.

*For stockists see page 82

Fabric conversions

Q I bought a *Cross Stitch Gold Festive Collection* magazine to complete some of the beautiful patterns, only to realise they were mostly done on 28-count fabric which is much too fine for me to use. I hope you can tell me if it's possible to convert it to using aida, and how I go about it please?

Sandra Bewick, via email

A Fiona: Sure thing, Sandra – you don't actually need to do any calculations to switch between 28- and 14-count fabrics, as they both work out the same. Stitching over two threads of the fabric on the evenweave equates to the same size stitch as over one block on aida, so these can be substituted like-for-like. Just be aware of the stitch types in the patterns though. You'll find fractionals and French knots trickier to do on aida, as you'll need to split the middle of the blocks, so this may be why they were originally intended for evenweave in the magazine. To help, use a sharp pointed needle to make piercing the blocks easier. Or why not have a go on evenweave with a small motif – you may find it easier than you think.



TECHNIQUE FOCUS

Stitch and shake

Q Do you have instructions on how to make a shaker card, placing a small cross stitch inside the shaker window?

Rhonda Fung, via email

A Fiona: We'd recommend using a pre-made card kit, such as this Snow Globe 5x7 Card Kit (11620024SGK) from Katy Sue Designs*, costing £19.99. The set includes 10 white oval aperture cards, each with a clear plastic display globe and box to send it in, plus a 3g packet of Polar White Flower Soft. To display your cross stitch inside, first glue the display globe into place behind the oval aperture, sprinkle the

'snow' inside the dome, then stick an additional piece of clear acetate over the top, sealing it inside. This will prevent the tiny bits from getting caught in the stitches and fabric when it's shaken. Now, mount your stitching behind the acetate using acid-free double-sided tape around the outside edges, so your stitched design shows through the dome. Add another piece of white card or paper across the back to hide reverse side. Now it's ready to shake!



Stitch and shake
Try something new with a novelty shaker card



Learn about selvedge
Find out what the edge stitches mean on your fabric

Learn about selvedge

Q Do you know what this orange line down the side of my aida is for? It didn't come with instructions as to what to do with it.

Ida Alamy, via email

A Name: The orange-coloured line in the selvedge of a piece of fabric is usually an indicator it is Zweigart* branded. This is their trademark and a recognised sign of quality fabrics that are colourfast, easy-care and precise in the weaving. It could be that previous fabrics you've purchased have been other brands or come from kits with the selvedge already cut off. It's a good idea to cut off the selvedge before stitching, as it can distort the fabric as you stitch where the weave isn't freely moving across the whole piece.

Making your own patterns

Q I would love to know more about designing my own patterns. Any advice?

helen_marie_moore, via Instagram

A Vicki: We love to see our readers exploring their creativity! Check out our detailed article on the subject over on our website: www.gathered.how – just search "How to make your own cross stitch pattern" for a guide to the different methods and tools required. There are also tutorials to follow for creating your first designs on a computer or using graph paper.

Moo-ey Christmas!

Q Have you ever designed a Highland cow Christmas pattern before?

Barbara Haddle, via Facebook

A Name: We have indeed, Barbara! If you download a digital edition of issue 312 (November 2021) you'll find this fabulous ginger-haired

cow sporting holly sprigs and berries on their horns to welcome in the festive season. Designed by Lucie Heaton, this festive winter collection also includes a hare and robin design too, which you may also enjoy stitching to make the full set.

Moo-ey Christmas!
This set by Lucie Heaton is the ideal Christmas project



Wishes granted



Request a design and our resident design expert, Jenny, might just chart it for you...

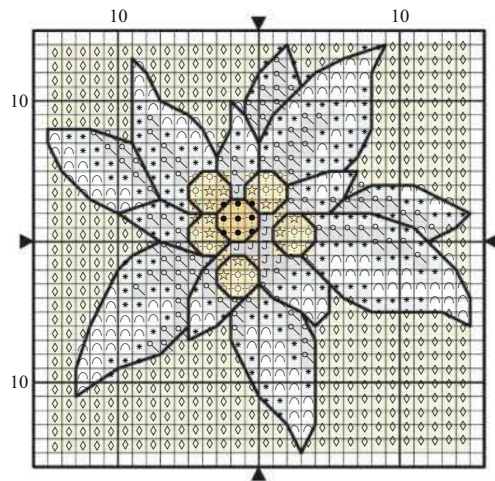
Musical memories

Sunny saw a music box playing 'Edelweiss' when on holiday

Q When I was in Tasmania, I found a needlecraft store that sold music boxes playing 'Edelweiss' from *The Sound of Music*. This brought back so many memories for me and my daughter as we love the movie and the flower itself. Could you design a chart of one of these for me?

Sunny Johnson, via email

A Jenny: I hope you enjoy this design, Sunny! It'll look wonderful as a keyring using plastic canvas, or into an adoring pin so you and your daughter can match together.



Edelweiss key

✦ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	blanc	2	2402	white
J	318	399	1801	dark grey
⌘	415	398	1802	grey
◇	524	858	1511	green
☆	676	891	2208	sand
⊙	677	886	2207	light sand
●	729	890	2209	dark sand
*	762	234	1804	light grey

✦ Backstitch in one strand

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
—	317	400	1714	very dark grey

STITCH COUNT 29 high x 30 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 5.5x5.5cm (2x2¼in)

Please note: Jenny can only fit in fairly small designs and for copyright reasons she is unable to chart logos, or characters from films and TV.

QUICK Q&A

What are the absolutely must-have tools for cross stitch? I'm just starting out.

Abigail C., via Facebook

Fiona: The great thing is you don't need much to get started! You'll need fabric and threads, but the choice here is yours, or will be dictated by the pattern instructions – we'd recommend starting off with 11- or 14-count aida. You'll also need a tapestry needle, appropriately sized for the fabric (see page 78) and some embroidery scissors. Extras include a hoop or frame, thread sorter and storage options.

No place like gnome

Q I really loved the 3D gnome decoration kit last year. Are you doing more like this? I would love to make a set for my tree this year and gift to friends who admired the last one.

Gloria, via email

A Vicki: You're in luck – we have a whole family of these colourful Scandi-inspired gnomes available as a PDF download pattern from the Gathered Shop: www.gatheredshop.com. Just like our gift in 2024, this set is also designed by Heather Nugent. The PDF includes full instructions to make them up, including how to add the cute pom-pom bobble to their hats! With lots of block shading they'll be easy to interchange for your own choice of colours too, allowing you make more variants on the design – perfect for all your gnome-loving friends!



No place like gnome
Make adorable Scandi gnomes for your home!

Stitch-A-Long

Join in on our 12-month calendar stitch-a-long 'A Year of Joy' by **Durene Jones**



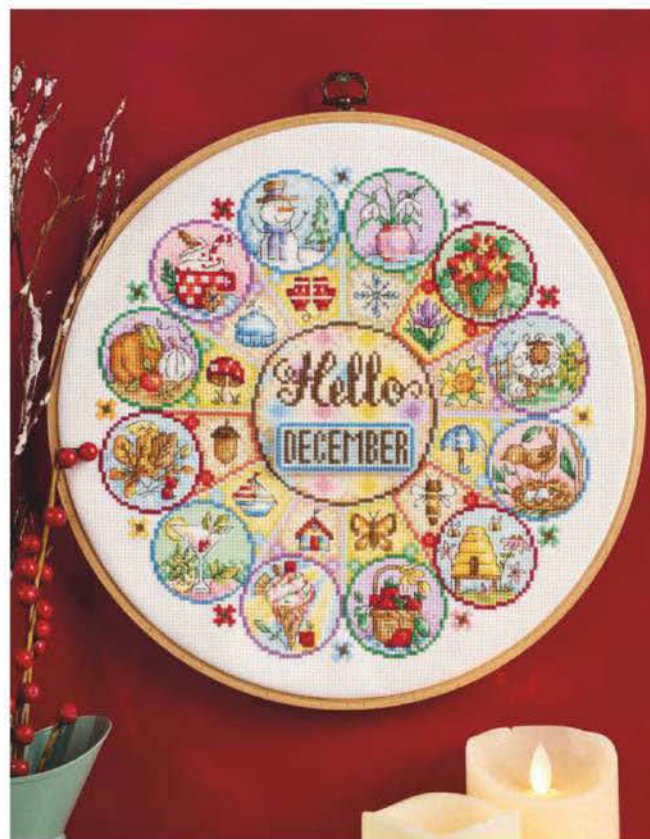
What a year it has been! We have reached the final part of our 'A Year of Joy' SAL. I hope you enjoyed each step of the way in crafting your own calendar to use every year – it'll be a timeless attraction in your home. For December, I designed a frosty friend as this is the ideal time of year to make snowfolk, all the while staying warm with a pair of cosy mittens. You can substitute the thread colours to match your own pair!



Send us photos of your finished calendars, hanging in pride of place, either by email or on our social channels – you'll inspire others too! If you've missed some parts, don't fret as the full chart will make its appearance on the WOXS Etsy store soon. Excited for the next stitch-a-long? I am!

Guide to stitching your Stitch-A-Long (SAL)

- **The key and Shopping List** includes the thread colours, extra skeins and materials you'll need to stitch the whole SAL.
- **To start stitching** the SAL border, first find the centre of the fabric by folding it in half and half again. The point where the folds cross is where the central stitch of the border design should go.
- **Once the border** is finished, it's easy to fill in each month's SAL design in the spaces provided. Work around the border in a clockwise direction using our photo as a guide, starting with January in the one o'clock position.
- **Stitch each corresponding** month name on plastic canvas and cut out with a one square border – be careful not to snip into any holes containing stitches.
- **Cut self-adhesive** magnetic strips to size and stick on the reverse side of the plastic canvas month names.
- **At the end** of the SAL, back the completed piece with iron-on interfacing and mount in an 11in display frame or hoop.
- **Position the opposing** magnetic strips on the reverse of the fabric to attach the month names in the middle of your completed hoop display – you can easily swap each month as the year goes by.



A YEAR OF JOY: Missing the border?

You can download a chart of the outline by scanning the QR code or visiting www.gathered.how



NEXT ISSUE: NEW SAL!

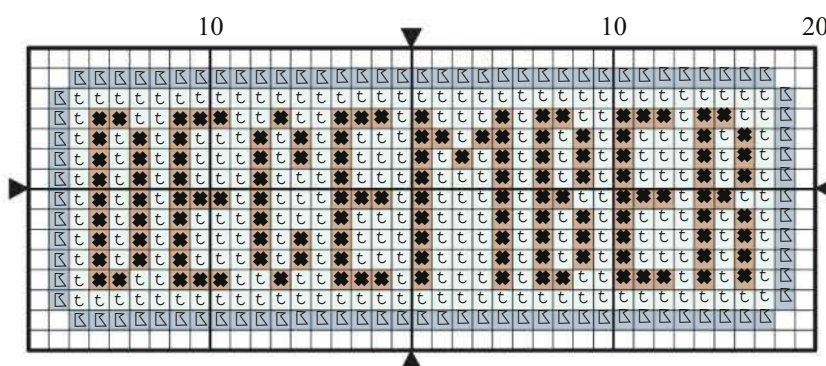
We are celebrating wonderful friendships, big and small, old and new. 'For the Love of Friends' is our 2026 stitch-a-long that showcases the very best elements of friendship – from spending time, to making memories and cherishing each other, show your friend how much you appreciate them with this design.



Shopping list

- ✦ Zweigart* 14-count white aida measuring 36x36cm (14x14in)
- ✦ 14-count clear plastic canvas cut approx. 10 stitches larger than the stitch count for each month name design from Lakeside Needlecraft*
- ✦ Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- ✦ Size 24 tapestry needle
- ✦ 11in beech wood hanging display frame from Lakeside Needlecraft*
- ✦ Self-adhesive magnetic strips and medium-weight iron-on interfacing of your choice from local stores

*For stockists see page 82

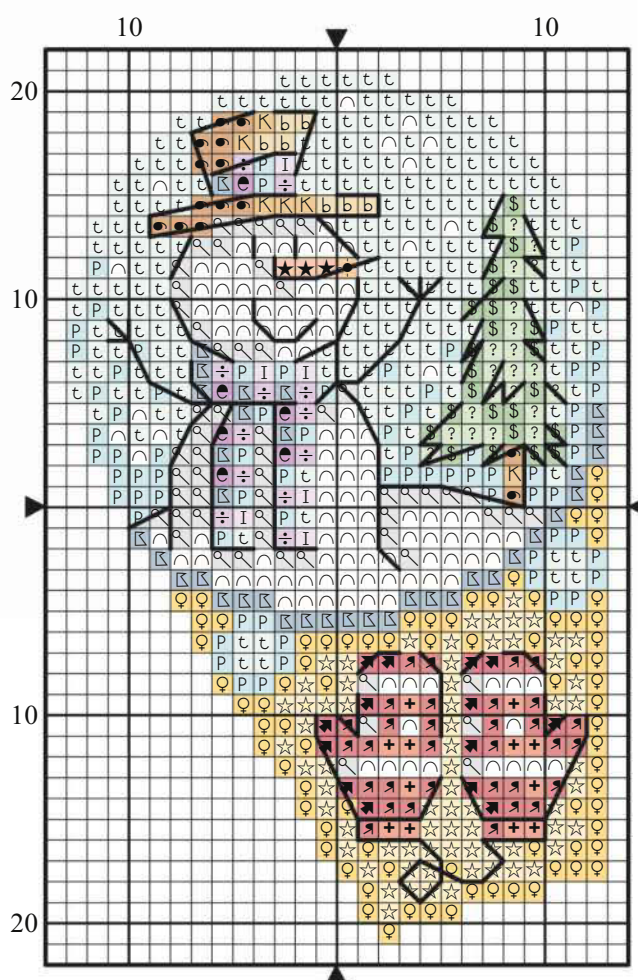


TOP TIP

Once you've finished this final section, wash and iron your aida after a whole year of being handled and stored to ensure it's looking its best

Project pack

If you would like to stitch 'A Year of Joy', Lakeside Needlecraft is providing a materials pack with the fabric, threads and any other accessories you need. Visit **www.lakesideneedlecraft.co.uk** to order your project pack and get stitching right away!



A Year of Joy SAL key (all parts)

✦ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	blanc	2	2402	white
∩	02	397	1709	grey
∩	208	99	804	dark lilac
∩	209	98	803	lilac
I	211	342	801	light lilac
+	351	10	214	coral
∩	434	310	2009	dark tan
K	436	1045	2011	tan
Q	471	266	1501	moss green
◇	472	253	1414	light moss green
P	519	1038	1105	blue
s	712	926	2101	light cream
b	738	367	2013	cream
♀	743	302	113	yellow
☆	745	300	111	light yellow
✦	815	44	513	ruby
✦	817	13	210	red
t	828	975	1101	light blue
◆	910	228	1302	dark green
\$	912	209	1213	green
?	955	206	1210	light green
♣	963	73	502	pink
♥	3708	31	408	candy pink
⊠	3760	161	1107	dark blue
⊠	3781	1088	2003	brown
★	3853	1003	311	dark apricot
⊙	3854	313	114	apricot

✦ Backstitch in one strand

—	3799	236	1713	charcoal grey
---	------	-----	------	---------------

STITCH COUNT (FULL) 134 high x 134 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 24.5x24.5cm (9½x9½in)

EXTRA SKEINS NEEDED 2x828 (light blue), 2x3781 (brown)

STITCHED BY Niki Byrne

These designs were stitched using DMC stranded cotton

Factbox

- ✦ **Stitching Time**
Approx. 10 hours
- ✦ **Type of Stitches**
Cross stitch, backstitch
- ✦ **Ease of Stitching**
Beginner

Last part
of series

Brilliant content you can trust

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Enter to win!

Each month we have exciting giveaways for readers with loads of prizes up for grabs

PRIZES WORTH £273

Time for bed

Taken from John Clayton's 'Thread Bears' collection, this adorable bear William is reading a festive story to a sleeping Mr Mouse, all snuggled up in bed. There are seven kits available of 'Bedtime Story' (RRP £38.95) from Heritage Crafts*, so enter today to be in the chance of winning this sweet kit full of everything you need to get started!

TO ENTER Visit our website www.gathered.how/woxs



PRIZES WORTH £275

Festive fabric

Fabric is always a necessity in our stitching toolkit and when we find something in a new style it somehow makes its way into our baskets... If you're looking for something new for your stash, then Zweigart* is offering pre-cut sections of their 14-count gold sparkly fabric, alongside a festive needlework booklet. There are 25 bundles available for lucky winners, so try your luck to be in the chance of winning this set worth £11!

TO ENTER Visit our website www.gathered.how/woxs



PRIZES WORTH £240

SNOWY WAY WINTER WONDERLAND



Get your snow shoes on and step into a quaint village that is dressed to the festive nines in bountiful wreaths, twinkling lights and ruby red ribbons. 'Christmas Eve' (RRP £40.04) from Luca-S* is a magical winter wonderland depicting villagers wandering through the snow, building snowmen and having a merry ride in a traditional horse-drawn sleigh. The backdrop of a colourful sunset overlooks the idyllic scenery. As we are all too familiar with the buzzing excitement of Christmas Day, it's always good to wind down before the celebrations begin and cross stitching this piece will definitely help with that as you mindfully work on each stitch.

This design will be a labour of love as you work on it to get yourself in the holiday spirit. It uses 47 thread colours for the detailed shading to create realistic detail. The kit also comes with 18-count aida, needle, chart and instructions so you can easily get stuck in. Six lucky winners have the chance of winning this fantastic kit, but be sure to visit the Luca-S website for more stitching newness, especially their festive selection.

TO ENTER Visit our website www.gathered.how/woxs

TO ENTER:

Visit our website, www.gathered.how/woxs and select the Competitions tab to enter and for full terms and conditions. Closing date for all entries: **28 October 2025**. No entries by post or text message.

TERMS & CONDITIONS:

Promoter: Our Media Ltd, a company registered in England and Wales with company no. 05715415. Promotion excludes Our Media employees, contractors and anyone connected with the competition or their

direct family members. The closing date for all entries is **28 October 2025**. Open to UK mainland residents aged 18+ only. By entering, you agree to be bound by the rules of the promotion. Only one entry per person, per competition allowed. No responsibility accepted for lost, delayed, ineligible or fraudulent entries. Winning entries chosen at random from all eligible entries. Winners will be notified within 28 days of closing date. The draw is final, no correspondence will be entered into. For details of winners, send an SAE within two months of the closing date. If any winner

cannot be contacted within 28 days of the closing date, the promoter will offer the prize to a runner-up. The promoter reserves the right to substitute the prize with one of the same or greater value, with no cash alternative. The Promoter reserves the right to amend these terms and conditions or to cancel, alter or amend the promotion at any stage, if deemed necessary in its opinion, or if circumstances arise outside of its control. Personal information will be used as set out in our Privacy Policy: visit ourmedia.co.uk/policies for more details.

Our Best Buys

All the hottest cross stitch must-haves for your shopping list, plus an exclusive offer to make your pennies go further...

THE WORLD OF
**Cross
Stitching**
PICK OF THE
MONTH

Magical minis



Magical minis

Make a delightful winter village to be admired by all those who visit

From
£15.95

A VISIT TO THE VILLAGE

We love getting creative with cross stitch and this miniature town with an assortment of buildings from The Nutmeg Company* is at the top of our to-stitch list this winter. The 'Winter Village' series has three new additions – 'St. Nicholas Church', 'Yew Tree cottage' and a 'Christmas tree' – ideal for a wintry expansion of a pretty town. There are kits available for individual components, varying in price, yet the contents remain the same as each building comes with 14 and 18-count aida, threads, felt, pre-cut plastic canvas shapes, needle, chart and full instructions. Get ready to make your own mini village to display this Christmas!



£46.50

FURRY FRIENDS

Your little ones will absolutely love to have a stocking with their name on it, especially if it comes with an adorable bear, smiling rabbit and sweet fox bundled up warm in the snow. This 'Woodland Animal Stocking' by Dimensions from Very Crafty* will spark joy in every stitch and spread a smile on their face when they see this hanging from the mantelpiece. The kit includes 14-count light blue aida fabric, pre-sorted cotton threads, a needle, chart and instructions. It'll be even more of a delight to see this stocking filled to the brim with many presents on Christmas morning, so definitely add this to your list of festive makes.

4 fab finds...

Pretty snow globes with whimsical scenes and characters



£8.50

Safe and sound

Keep your needles near with this sweet snow globe needle minder from CottonAndClayUK* on Etsy.



£36.50

Let it snow

Cotton Club Crafts* have a four-piece snow globe pattern kit with PDF chart and your choice of fabric.



FREE

Shake it up

Capture the magic of the holidays with this free PDF of a traditional snow globe design from DMC*.



£9.73

Cosy critters

The Frosted Pumpkin Stitchery* has a PDF pattern of four adorable animals ready for the winter.

CHRISTMAS CARE

TREAT YOURSELF

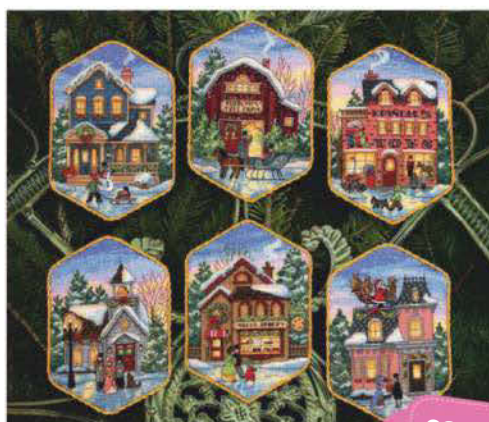
Make the countdown to Christmas Eve even more fabulous with 24 days of mindful stitching. The brand-new '2025 Cross Stitch Advent Calendar' from Stitchfinitly* gives you the opportunity to take time for yourself with an envelope to open each day, gradually building up a handmade heirloom to treasure for years to come. Pre-order is available on the Stitchfinitly website for guaranteed delivery by 1 December, while stocks last. Each sale supports the WellChild charity.



BETTER DAYS AHEAD

Every cloud has a silver lining, and while the Sycamore Gap tree was a tragic loss, the beauty lies within the positive sprout sightings emerging from the stump. 'Tree of Hope' is a new release from Bothy Threads* as a result of the overwhelming success of Lucy Pittaway's 'Sycamore Gap'. The finished design measures 26x26cm (10¼x10¼in) and the kit is beautifully boxed in Bothy Threads' plastic-free packaging, along with everything you'd need. Add this wonderful kit to your own wishlist this Christmas and start your stitching year with a promise of hope.

£36.99



FOR THE TREE

Traditional and timeless, this Dimensions 'Xmas Village' ornament set from Wool Warehouse* is going to be a classic staple in your home. For the six designs, you will receive 18-count aida, stranded cottons, needle, large chart design and making up instructions. Stitch the whole set or gift individual ornaments to loved ones so each has a handmade treasure.

£25.99

NICELY NORDIC

You can never have too many tree decorations, especially those that are handmade. This set of Nordic Christmas Decorations by Anchor from Minions of Craft* will add folk art flair to your evergreen. Each kit contains all the necessary materials to make all five designs – tree, house, heart, Dala horse and partridge – such as 14-count aida, red backing felt, stranded cottons, needle, chart and instructions. If you're struggling to find a present for a crafty friend, especially for Secret Santa, this is a great way to give the recipient something simple to start with and hopefully they'll stitch into the year ahead.



£14.50

READER OFFER

To celebrate the success of our recently launched Gathered Shop*, we are offering our readers an exclusive discount on PDF patterns! Use code **XMASWOXS15** at checkout. Offer ends 31 December 2025.



Crafty Christmas
Discover seasonal makes so you're ready for Christmas day

Prices and info correct at time of printing. Visit company websites for T&Cs, delivery fees may apply.

DESIGNED BY **JENNY VAN DE WIELE**

Fruit and foliage

A timeless card set in an earthy colour palette that will be well loved by your nearest and dearest

There's not a better way to make your day than when the postman arrives and in your pile of letters you discover a hand-stitched card. While this time of year can be the busiest in terms of getting the stitching done and organised, it's also a good opportunity to slow down and celebrate the people we're spending the season with. Jenny's wreath cards encompass all occasions and add that handmade charm we all love.

Quick to stitch, why not make the whole set so you're prepared for all celebrations? There are some isolated stitches, so we'd recommend backing the linen with iron-on interfacing before stitching to hide trailing threads.

Factbox

- ✗ **Stitching Time**
Approx. 7-8 hours each
- ✗ **Type of Stitches**
Cross stitch, fractionals, backstitch, French knots
- ✗ **Ease of Stitching**
Intermediate

Use
aperture
cards

Customise the greetings with a previous alphabet set you've saved from the magazine. Whichever fruit of the season you choose to stitch, from pears to figs, pomegranates to cranberries and more, these cards are a delightful way to show loved ones that you're thinking of them. ➤



Meet Jenny Van De Wiele

Homestitchness

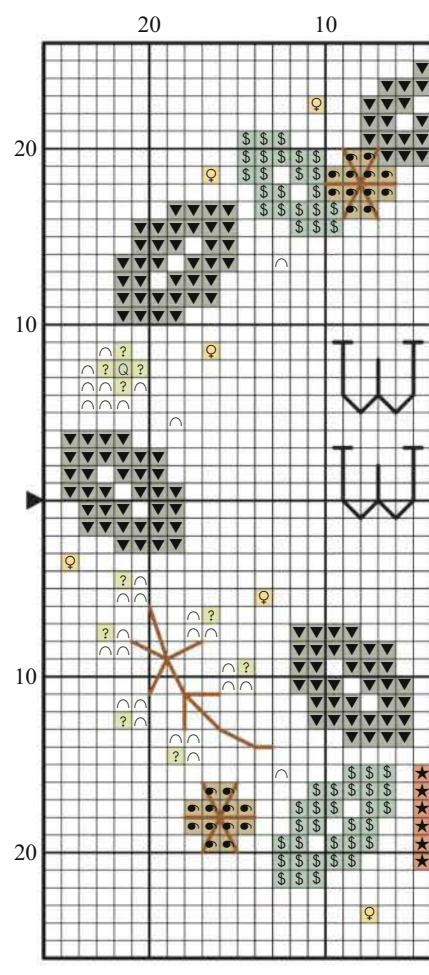
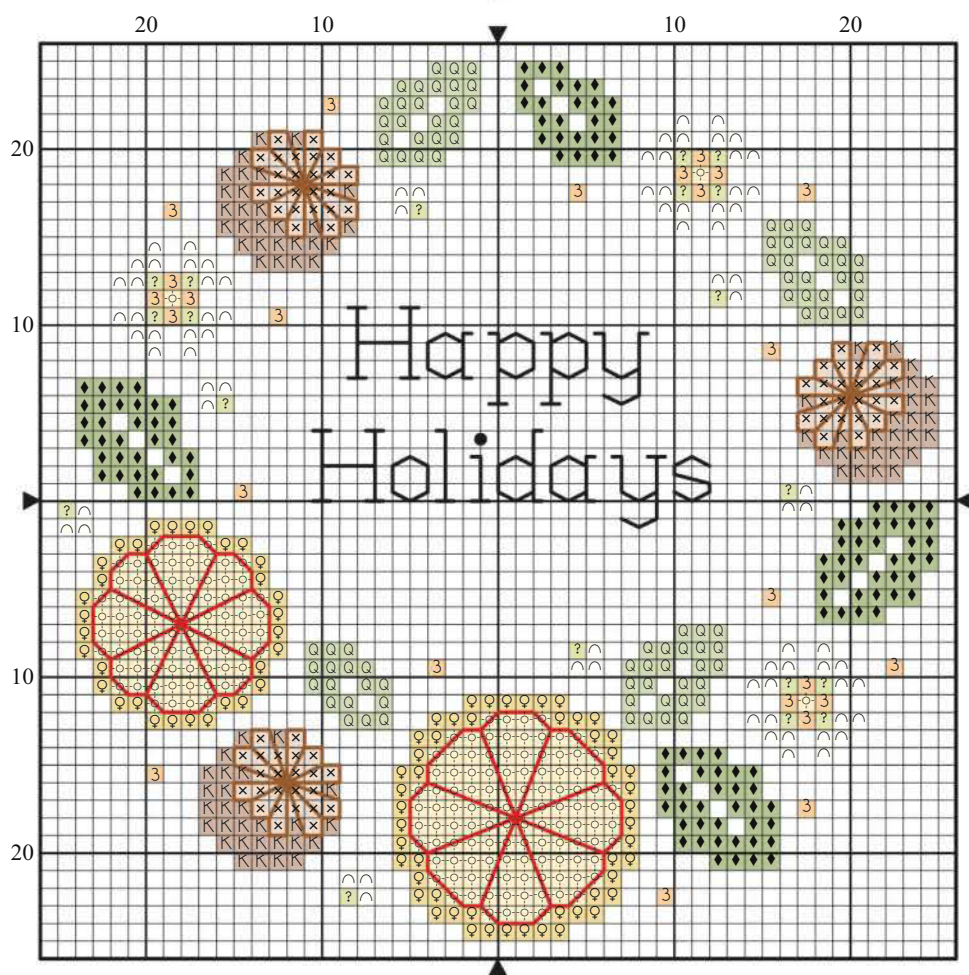
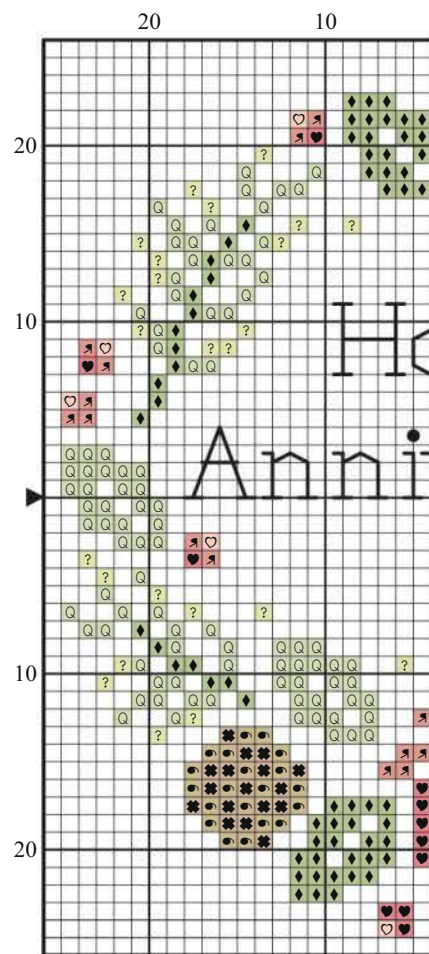
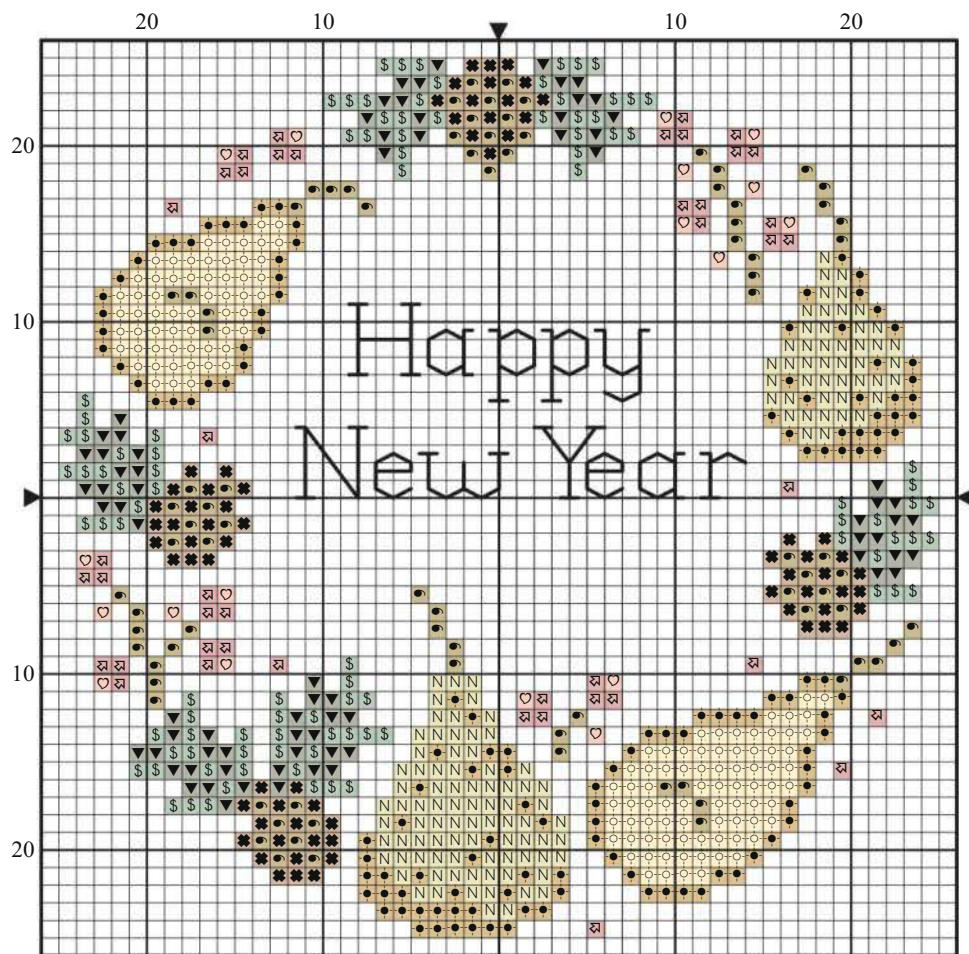
“Adding fruit to these winter wreaths brings such a warm and festive quality! I find a hand-stitched card is always well received by loved ones at Christmas, so I hope you enjoy this set as much as I did designing it!”

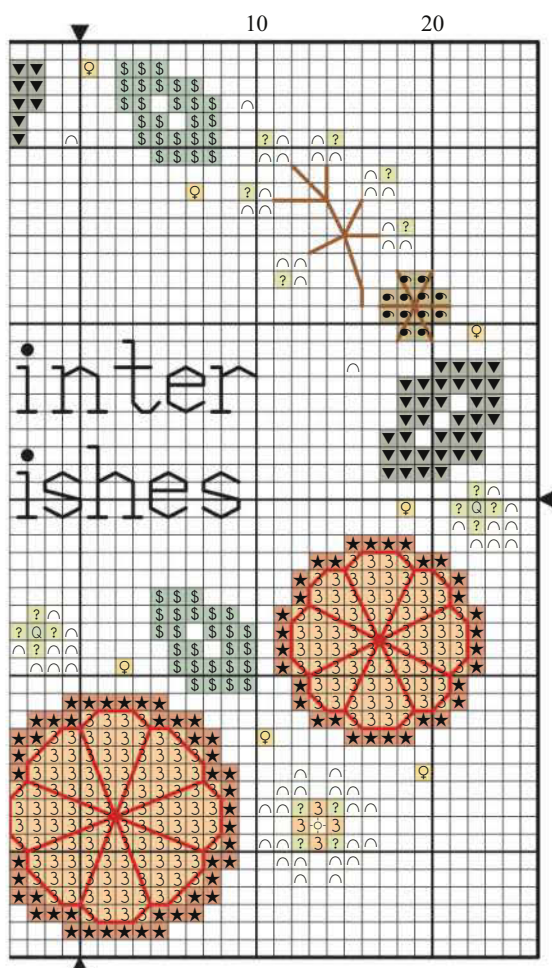
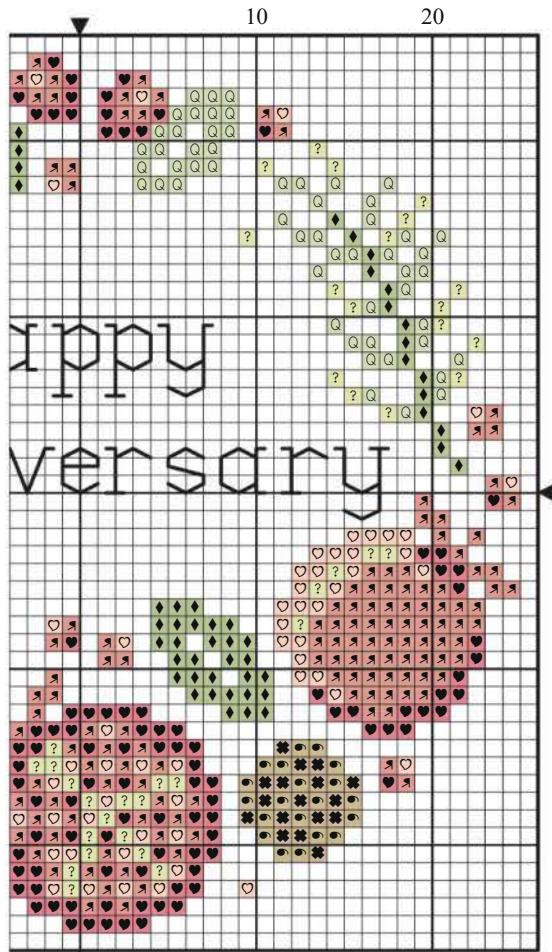
www.homestitchness.etsy.com



SIX
IN THE
SET







Winter Wreath Cards key

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
▲	347	1025	407	red
●	420	374	2104	hazelnut brown
▼	500	683	1705	bottle green
\$	502	877	1703	sage green
○	745	300	111	yellow
♥	760	1022	405	pink
✱	801	359	2007	brown
♥	815	44	513	ruby
★	921	884	311	copper
◇	966	206	1209	sea green
◆	987	244	1403	dark green
Q	989	241	1401	green
●	3045	888	2103	dark straw
N	3046	887	2206	straw
?	3348	264	1409	grass green
☼	3722	1027	812	shell pink
♀	3821	305	2510	gold
3	3854	313	114	apricot
K	3863	379	1912	dark beige
×	3864	376	1910	beige
∩	3865	2	2403	natural white

✕ Backstitch in one strand

—	500	683	1705	bottle green
—	801	359	2007	brown
—	3865	2	2403	natural white

✕ Backstitch in two strands

—	500	683	1705	bottle green
---	-----	-----	------	--------------

✕ French knots in two strands

●	500	683	1705	bottle green
---	-----	-----	------	--------------

STITCH COUNT 50 high x 50 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 9x9cm (3½x3½in)

STITCHED BY Angela Griffin

These designs were stitched using DMC stranded cotton on 28-count linen over two threads of the fabric

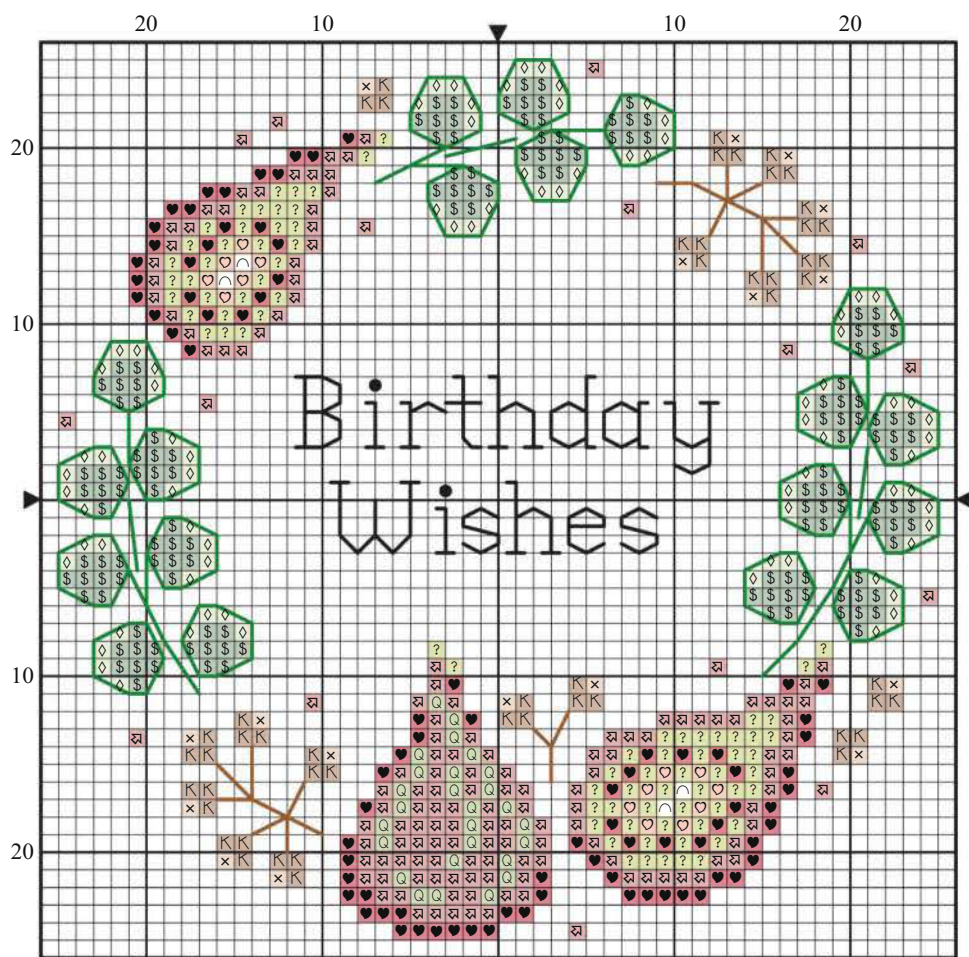
TOP TIP

Ensure you have even tension with every stitch – if you pull too hard the fabric may pucker, or too loose and they can gape

Shopping list

- ✕ Zweigart 28-count stone (52) cashel linen measuring 18x18cm (7x7in) for each design from Stitchtastic*
- ✕ Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- ✕ Size 24 tapestry needle
- ✕ White circle aperture cards and acid-free double-sided tape of your choice from local stores

*For stockists see page 82



Emily READER PANEL

“I would stitch the fruit designs and then add the lettering closer to the occasion so I can pick specific ones depending on what fruit the receiver likes! I love the small details that are incorporated into each design.”



Project pack

If you would like to stitch 'Winter Wreath Cards', Lakeside Needlecraft is providing a materials pack with the fabric, threads and any other accessories you need. Visit www.lakesideneedlecraft.co.uk to order your project pack and get stitching right away!

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Next month in

ISSUE 366
ON SALE
29 OCT

THE WORLD OF Cross Stitching

The UK's No.1



ALL MAPPED OUT

Make a map of Christmas, detailing all the fun bits in the run-up to the day!



FLUFFY AS SNOW

Margaret Sherry's seasonal kitty is wrapped up and ready for winter



WINTER WARMERS

Bundle up warm with these winter accessories and turn them into cards

WOMANLY WISDOM

The wise goddess, Athena, is next in our Greek portrait series



Getting ready for the holidays



Tatty Teddy is back and is dressed up as a Christmas pudding for festive fun!



The Me to You oval, Tatty Teddy Signature and Bear logo are all registered Trade Marks of Carte Blanche Greetings Ltd. © Carte Blanche Greetings Ltd.



ARCTIC BEAUTY

Perry Abdel-Hadi's enchanting frosty scene inside a polar bear silhouette



O HOLY NIGHT

A Nativity alphabet set by Durene Jones to turn into thoughtful present tags

PLUS MUCH MORE

- ✕ Novelty cat and dog tree toppers by Cheryl McKinnon
- ✕ Gail Bussi's whimsical winter village Design Library
- ✕ A preview to our 2026 'For the Love of Friends' SAL
- ✕ Your cross stitching queries answered by our experts
- ✕ Your stories, inspiration & letters... plus much more

MRS SANTA 3D DECORATION

COLLECT A NEW CONE!

Stitch the latest in our super-cute cone decorations series – the wonderful lady who stands by Santa's side, Mrs Claus! You'll love stitching this new design in festive shades ready to hang on your tree!

Your festive gift includes:

- Plastic aida
- Bakers twine
- 36 lengths of stranded cotton
- Printed chart and instructions



TO SUBSCRIBE ☎ 03330 162 147 CAN'T WAIT FOR NEXT ISSUE?



How to...

Beginner? Follow Fiona's guide to instant stitching success!

CHOOSE YOUR ESSENTIALS...

Start with these must-have items

FABRICS

Most stitchers start off using **aida** – a block-weave fabric, which is divided into squares by a grid of holes, making it an ideal fabric for beginners. Each cross stitch is worked over one square.

Or you may prefer **evenweave**, which is also woven in a grid but in a finer count. Each cross stitch is usually worked over two threads of the fabric (shown below), making it the equivalent size to stitching on aida (eg. 28-count evenweave would produce the same size finish as 14-count aida). Fractional stitches are easier to work on evenweave, as there's a central hole spare so you don't need to split a block as you do for aida.



THREADS

You'll need **stranded cotton** – this coloured thread comes in 8m skeins and is made up of six strands. There are three main brands – DMC, Anchor and Madeira – which are all smooth and easy to stitch with, and they're colourfast to 95°C. Cheaper brands are available, but could be less durable and may not be colourfast. Less than one full skein of each thread will be required for a design, unless indicated at the bottom of the key for that project.

NEEDLES

Use a **tapestry needle** which has a blunt tip and large eye. It easily passes through the fibres of aida and evenweave. Different needle sizes are available, so choose the best for your fabric – see our guide on the right. It's a good idea to have a sharp (crewel) needle, to split aida blocks when stitching fractionals, and a thin beading needle is useful too.



Stitching's a breeze!
Let Senior Technical Editor Fiona show you how it's done in this reference guide



Tapestry needle	Aida	Evenweave
	6-count	
	8-count	
	11-count	22, 25 & 27-count
	14-count	28-count
	16-count	32-count*
	18-count	36 & 55-count

*Also includes 22-count hardanger

How to read our charts & keys

Clear symbols, colours & all the info you need!

CHARTS Made up of coloured squares containing symbols that represent squares to be stitched on the fabric. A tiny symbol denotes a fractional stitch in the corner of the square in which it's to be worked. The centres of our charts are marked with arrows on the edge of each side. To find the corresponding centre of your fabric, fold it in half horizontally and then vertically – the point where the creases cross marks the centre. Start stitching here to ensure the design is positioned in the middle of the fabric.

SHOPPING LIST Contains type and size of fabric, recommended needle, and details of other products to frame or finish your project in the same way we have. Using another fabric with different HPI will alter the finished size of a design. Calculate your fabric size like this: stitch count divided by HPI of new fabric choice = new size in inches. Add at least 15cm (6in) to each dimension to allow for mounting in a frame, but less (between 5-10cm) for cards or home furnishings.

FACTBOX Includes an approx. stitching time, types of stitches found in the design and a difficulty level – this can help you decide if a project is suitable for your skills (beginner, intermediate or advanced).

KEY The key alongside a chart will tell you what colour thread each symbol corresponds to, along with the following information:

Thread brands

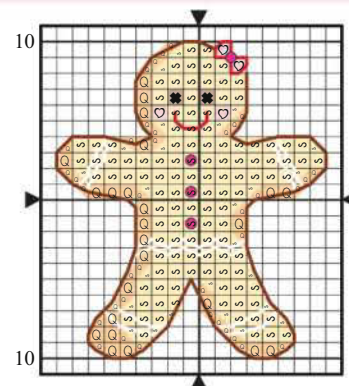
Different manufacturer thread shades are listed in separate columns. For best results, stick to one manufacturer for the whole of a design. The first column is the brand we used to stitch the design.

Backstitch & French knot shades

The shades used for these are listed under the cross stitch symbols. The number of strands needed for these can vary, so make sure you check the key so you know how many strands to use.

Stitch count & design area

This indicates the finished size of your design – in stitches and on the particular fabric we've used. HPI stands for holes per inch.



Gingerbread Girl key

✱ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
✱	3371	382	2004	brown
♥	3716	25	503	light pink
Q	3854	313	114	apricot
S	3855	311	2513	light apricot

✱ Backstitch in one strand

—	B5200	1	2401	white
—	301	1049	2306	ginger
—	3831	1006	507	dark pink

✱ French knots in one strand

●	961	76	610	pink
---	-----	----	-----	------

STITCH COUNT 20 high x 17 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 3.5x3cm (1½x1¼in)

This design was stitched using DMC stranded cotton

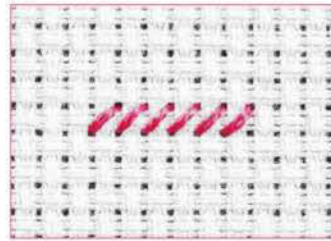
How to stitch

Tackle the basic stitches in our charts...



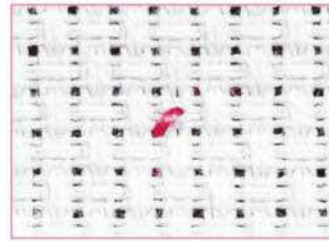
Cross stitch

Each coloured square on the chart represents a whole cross stitch. Bring the needle up at the bottom left corner of a square and down at the top right corner. Then, bring the needle up at the bottom right corner and down at the top left to complete a stitch (starting corner positions can be reversed if preferred).



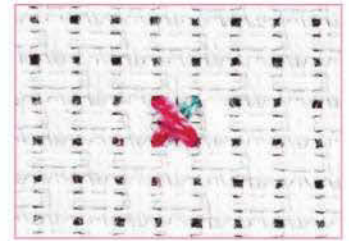
Half cross stitch

Half cross stitch is identified with a different symbol on the chart and key to the cross stitches, and consists of one arm of the stitch only. Work each half cross stitch in the same direction as you would the top arm of your full cross stitches for a neat and consistent look to your project.

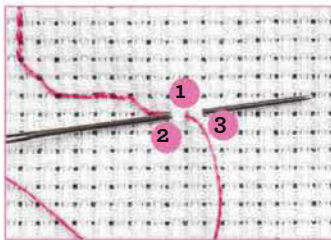


Fractional stitches

To make a quarter stitch, bring the needle up at the corner of a square and take it down through the centre, halfway across the diagonal, splitting the aida block (above left) or through the central hole if using evenweave. To turn this into a three-quarter stitch (above right, shown in pink thread), make a half cross stitch across the

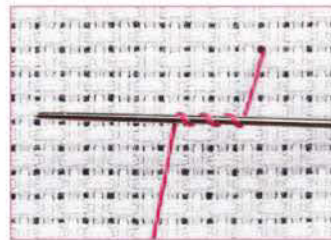


diagonal of the square. To make two fractional stitches in the same square, you'll need to decide which is a quarter stitch (shown above, in blue) and which is a three-quarter stitch. Usually, the three-quarter stitch (shown above, in pink) is made in the foreground colour of the design – look at the composition of the design carefully to decide which is which.



Backstitch

Backstitch is shown by a coloured line and is added to stitching to create detail. Work the backstitch over individual blocks on aida, or pairs of threads on evenweave. Bring the needle up through the fabric at 1 and take it down at 2, up at 3 and so on (see above), so that you are always working back on yourself.



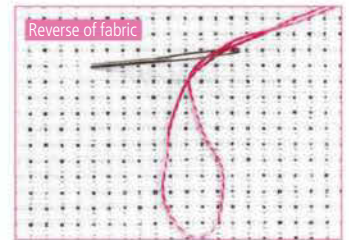
French knots

French knots appear as large dots on the chart. Bring the needle up through the fabric, then holding the thread with one hand, wind it around the needle two or three times. Holding the thread taut, take the needle down part of an aida block (or one thread on evenweave) away. Pull through until a neat knot is formed.



Beads

Beads appear as a circle with a dot on the chart. To attach seed beads, use a whole cross stitch with two thread strands to help keep the beads upright – attach the bead with the bottom arm of a cross stitch and then add the top arm of the stitch, making sure that one strand of thread falls neatly on either side of the bead.



Starting your thread

The loop method is the neatest way to start but can only be done with an even number of strands. Cut a 40cm (16in) thread length, pull out one strand and fold it in half. Thread the needle with both ends, forming a loop at the end. Bring the needle up through the fabric and back down through the loop, then pull to secure.

HOW TO ALTER THREAD SHADES IN A DESIGN

Swap colours to suit your preferences for skin tones, stashbusting & more...

Thread colours are arranged in shade 'families' – these are groups of colours that create a gradient of shading. It helps to look at a shade card for the full palette when making colour comparisons (available from DMC and Anchor) as these are arranged within the shade families already. You can swap threads like-

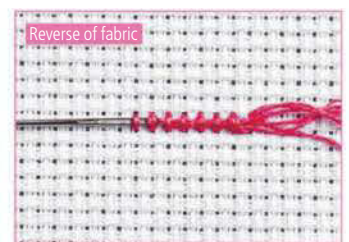
for-like to equivalent shades of another family, ie. light, medium and dark. You may want to change the hue of an entire pattern, or use up threads already in your stash to save money. You can also alter skin tones to create different ethnicities. We've included some examples of skin shade families below,

but feel free to experiment with your own. You'll need to select alternatives for mid-tones, highlights and shadows, depending on how many shades are included in a design. For example, if only one shade is used select the mid-tone, then add highlight and shadow tones either side of this as required.

Highlight	3770	948	754
Mid-tone	3774	754	3771
Shadow	950	3771	758

Highlight	712	437	407
Mid-tone	739	436	3772
Shadow	738	435	632

Highlight	842	3864	840
Mid-tone	841	3863	839
Shadow	840	3862	838



Finishing your thread

Once you've finished stitching, finish off your threads to keep them secure by running the needle through the back of several stitches that you've already completed. Snip off the ends neatly with a sharp pair of embroidery scissors, as close to your fabric as possible.



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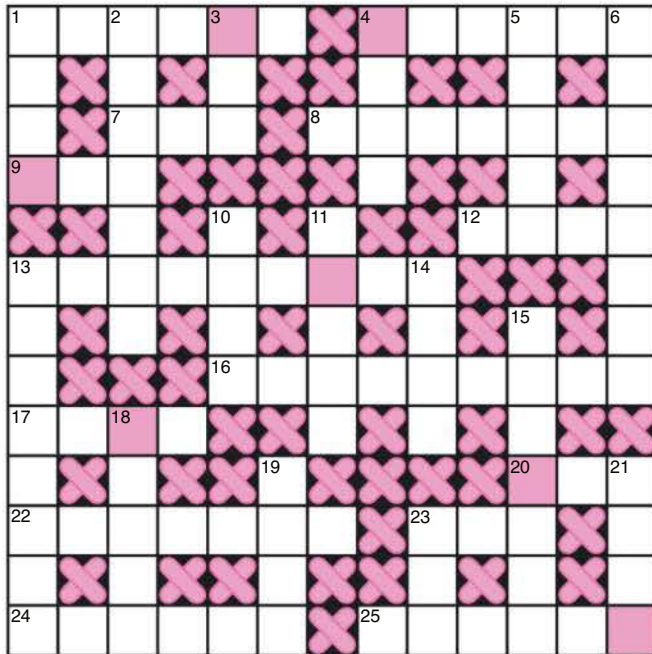


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Take a break!

Put down your needle and pick up a pen to complete our crossword and sudoku puzzles



Solve the clues then rearrange the letters in the shaded squares to spell a shade of red (7)

ACROSS

- 1 Enjoy to the full (6)
- 4 Non-transparent (6)
- 7 Original, recently created (3)
- 8 Small dense group of trees (7)
- 9 Cup (3)
- 12 Male deer (4)
- 13 Round like a ball (9)
- 16 Chatty (9)
- 17 Receive in salary (4)
- 20 Writing fluid (3)
- 22 Rum-flavoured chocolate centre (7)
- 23 Not bright (3)
- 24 Like better (6)
- 25 Everyday (6)

DOWN

- 1 Wander (4)
- 2 Protracted (7)
- 3 Use needle and thread (3)
- 4 Woodwind instrument (4)
- 5 Warm bedspread (5)
- 6 Motivate and liven up (8)
- 10 Raised line on a guitar neck (4)
- 11 Reprimand (5)
- 13 Avoid discussing or dealing with (8)
- 14 Jump (4)
- 15 Least amount (7)
- 18 Course taken (5)
- 19 Hazy image (4)
- 21 Eager (4)
- 23 Partnership of two (3)

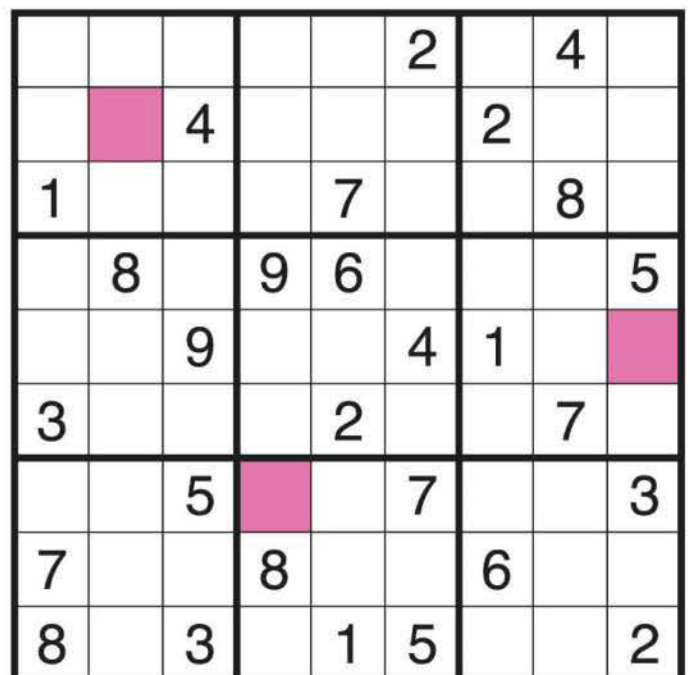
Enter to win!



Once you've completed the crossword or sudoku, send in your answers (see below for details) for the chance to win a handy Furry Tales magnetic needle minder, featuring the gorgeous Lizzie Mouse, designed by Lucie Heaton.

To enter by post: Write your name, address and your crossword or sudoku answer on the back of a postcard or stuck-down envelope and send it to: Crossword/Sudoku WOXS365, The World of Cross Stitching, Our Media Ltd, Eagle House, Bristol BS1 4ST. For full terms and conditions, turn to page 67. Please note that you can no longer enter by text message. **Closing date:** 28 October 2025.

Fill the grid so each row, column and 3x3 box has numbers one to nine. Send us the numbers in the shaded squares to enter the competition.



ISSUE 364 SOLUTION: ACROSS: 1 Rainbow, 5 Study, 7 Phial, 8 Emerald, 9 Amicable, 10 Camp, 11 Eclair, 14 Upbeat, 18 Knee, 19 Shortage, 22 Gruyere, 23 Stink, 24 Slate, 25 Descend. **DOWN:** 1 Replace, 2 Initial, 3 Balsa, 4 Weekly, 5 Seek, 6 Dilemma, 10 Cub, 12 Central, 13 Ace, 15 Examine, 16 Tweaked, 17 Thread, 20 Risks, 21 Here. **SOLUTION: CASHMERE**

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