Robin gift tags

Christmas pets

Winter alphabet

Festive cards

Snowman & friends

Ultimate CrossStitch Christmas

210 charts inside

Festive cottage

Christmas wreath

YOUR FAVOURITE CHRISTMAS DESIGNS

✱ Nativity scenes ✱ Gingerbread house ✱ Cute penguin tags ✱ Pretty snowflake cards ✱ Fairy lights tableware ✱ Tree decorations and more

Elf stocking

Snow globes

Advent calendar

ourmedia
GET INTO CRAFT 62

Your luxury collection of seasonal designs

Katriel Costello, editor

Welcome...

Welcome to this collector's edition of *Ultimate Cross Stitch*, we're thrilled to bring you this Christmas themed issue filled with sumptuous seasonal projects. Whether you are stitching decorations for your home or creating cards and gifts for friends and family, we have the perfect project inside.

Setting off the festivities this year is Santa, grinning as he flies across the skies in his sleigh, delivering a sackful of presents to excited children. If you're stitching for little ones this year, choose the fun elf stocking and personalise it with their name so they can hang it from the mantelpiece year after year. They'll also love the special advent calendar we have for them – a smiling snowman with a moveable carrot nose that counts down the days.

Decorating your home at this time of year is always something to look forward to and we have plenty of bright designs to choose from. A snowman wall hanging will welcome guests, while decorative typography can be displayed to delight all who visit your home. There are 'family rules', which will raise a smile, and festive words which you can stitch as cards or tree decorations.

Every Yule, card and gift designs are always hotly anticipated and we have plenty here to inspire you – from traditional nativity cards to festive pets, there's every type of festive greeting. And gifts range from yummy foodie seasonal treats to sweet, quick-to-stitch makes you'll love to gift to your favourite people.

As always, our present to you is clear, full colour and symbol charts as well as gorgeous photography to inspire you as you stitch, plus handy hints and tips that will give you a helping hand.

From all the *Ultimate Cross Stitch* team – a Merry Christmas!

Katriel

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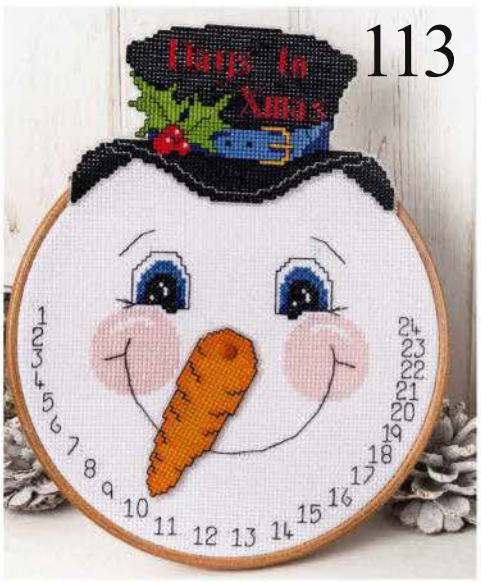

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Meet The Team

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Stitch a friendly greeting

Season's greetings

Extend a warm welcome at Christmas time with this jolly holiday sign, which is sure to get guests feeling the festive spirit

Designed by Durene Jones

Bright, colourful and with a sweet, heartwarming sentiment, this fun design is the perfect hanging to decorate your home throughout December. This project is ideal for beginners looking to take on something a bit more challenging. You'll get a chance to work a few fractionals in the lettering, use backstitch to define the shading detail and add French knots to finish. For those with a bit more experience, try adapting the thread shades to personalise your design – shade it to match your own front door, or make the snowman's winter woollies your favourite colour.

You will need

Threads: Stranded cotton as listed in the key

Needle: Size 24 tapestry needle

Fabric: 14-count white aida measuring 31x26cm (12¼x10¼in)

Extras: Permin 32cm Red Heart Bellpull

"I love putting a funky twist on a traditional style, so this whimsical hanging was great fun to design. There's lots of shading detail, with the smiling snowman offering a friendly greeting to your house guests."

Durene Jones, designer

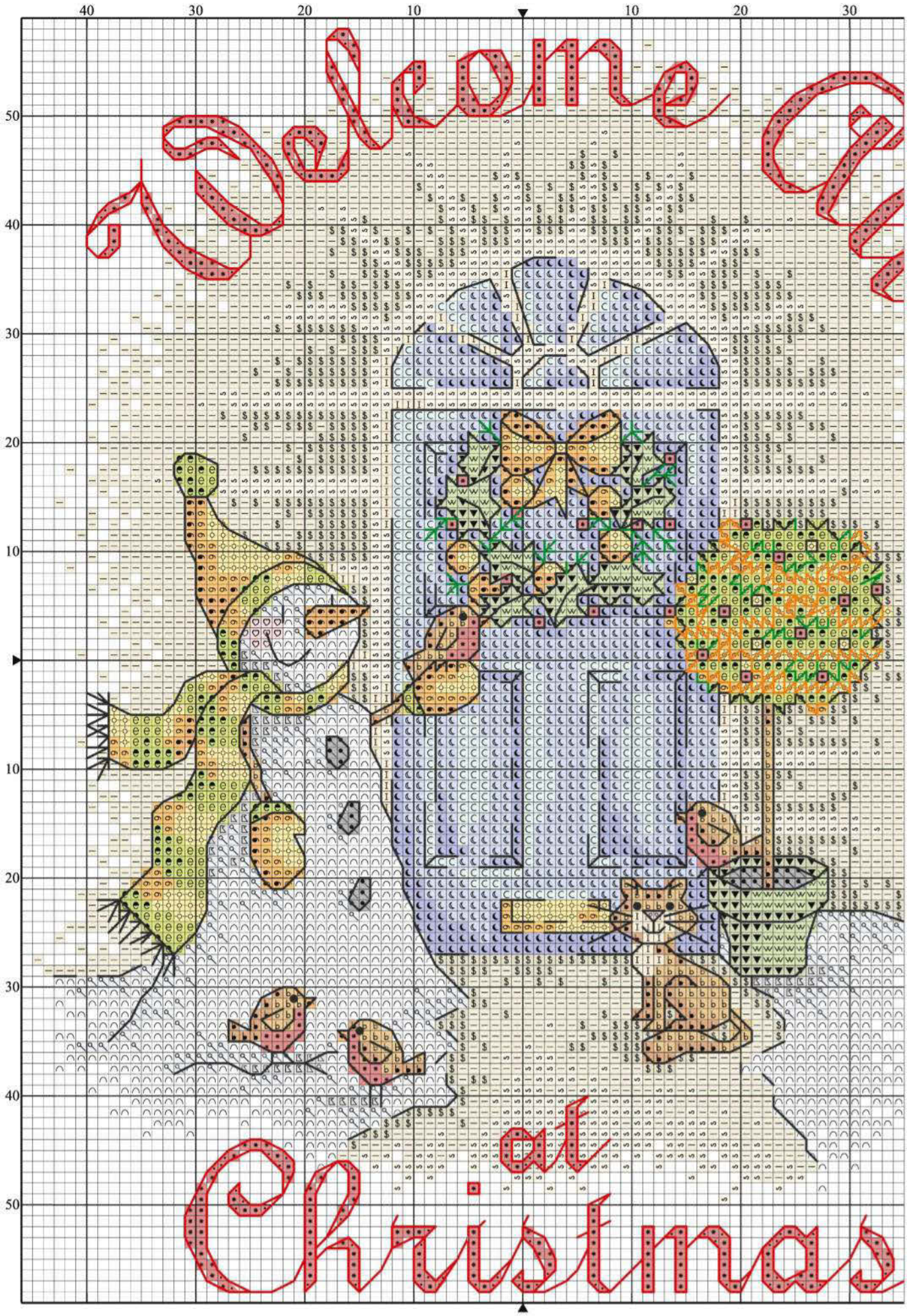
Stitching Factbox

Stitching time: Approx 50 hours

Type of stitches: Cross stitch, fractionals, backstitch, French knots

Level: Advanced beginner/intermediate

If you're expecting company over for Christmas, stitch this hanging to make your guests feel at home


Welcome
Christmas

How to make a hanging

1 Following the instructions below, gently wash and press your stitching if needed, then trim to size 27x22cm (10¾x8¾in).

2 Cut four panels of fabric: two 27x10cm (10½x4in) pieces for the sides, one 10x34cm (4x13½in) for the bottom and one 13x34cm (5x13½in) for the top.

3 Place the side panels and your stitched piece right sides together and pin all the way around. Machine or hand stitch, using a 2cm (¾in) seam allowance.

4 Place the bottom panel of the fabric and the stitched piece right sides together and pin all the way around. Stitch with a 2cm (¾in) seam. Repeat with the top panel.

5 Cut a piece of backing fabric the same size as the front panel. With right sides facing, pin them together and sew around the edge with a 2cm (¾in) seam, leaving a small opening at the top. Trim the corners to reduce any bulk in the fabric, turn through to the right side and neatly slip stitch the gap closed.

6 Press a 3cm (1¼in) hem at the top of your hanging. Topstitch along that edge, leaving the sides open to form a channel. Insert the hanging rod into the channel to finish.

Welcome sign key

Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	B5200	1	2401	white
w	164	240	1209	light green
↖	414	235	1714	grey
⊼	415	398	1802	light grey
b	434	310	2009	tan
b	436	1045	2011	light tan
e	704	256	1410	leaf green
s	712	926	2101	cream
☼	726	295	109	yellow
I	739	366	2014	dark cream
●	741	304	202	orange
↖	762	234	1804	very light grey
C	800	144	908	sky blue
*	817	13	210	red
e	907	255	1308	bright green
♡	963	73	502	pink
♌	972	298	107	dark yellow
▼	989	241	1401	green
–	3033	391	1908	stone grey
$	3782	899	1911	dark stone grey
☾	3839	175	902	blue
☾	3840	130	907	light blue

Backstitch in one strand

—	741	304	202	orange
—	816	1006	513	dark red
—	909	230	1303	emerald green
—	3799	236	1713	dark grey

French knots in two strands

●	3799	236	1713	dark grey

STITCH COUNT 116 high x 90 wide
DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 21x16.5cm (8¼x6½in)

This design was stitched using DMC stranded cotton

How to wash your work

Fill a bowl with warm water and mild detergent, and place stitching in the bowl to soak. After a few minutes, rinse in cold water until all the detergent has been washed out, then lay flat out on a clean towel and leave to dry. Finish by ironing your stitching, face down on a fluffy towel. Push the point of the iron into the back of the stitches to raise them at the front.

"This welcome design is such a beautiful project. Working on it will get you in the holiday spirit and it will be a wonderful way to display your work and give your friends and family some joy as they come to visit."

Hannah Erskine, charting assistant

Full of festive spirit

Puppy love

Let your family wake up to this super-cute puppy design on Christmas day

Designed by Debra Page

You'll love bringing this festive project to life, as every section of this densely worked design is full of interest. Whether you're stitching the roaring fireplace, the pretty wreath on the mantelpiece or the intricate patterns on the tree decorations, there's plenty to keep your attention – not forgetting the star of the show! The rich colours and depth of detail make this scene so realistic, but we've embellished it further with pretty fairy light beads to give that extra special touch to this gorgeous design. For both the stitcher and the recipient, this really is the gift that keeps on giving, so give this puppy a home today!

You will need

Threads: Stranded cotton as listed in the key

Needle: Size 24 tapestry needle, beading needle

Fabric: 14-count white aida measuring 36x30cm (14x12in)

Extras: Beads and light bulb embellishments of choice. Frame of your choice with a minimum aperture of 25.5x20.5cm (10x8in)

Stitching Factbox

Stitching time: Approx 80 hours

Type of stitches: Cross stitch, fractionals backstitch, beads, embellishments

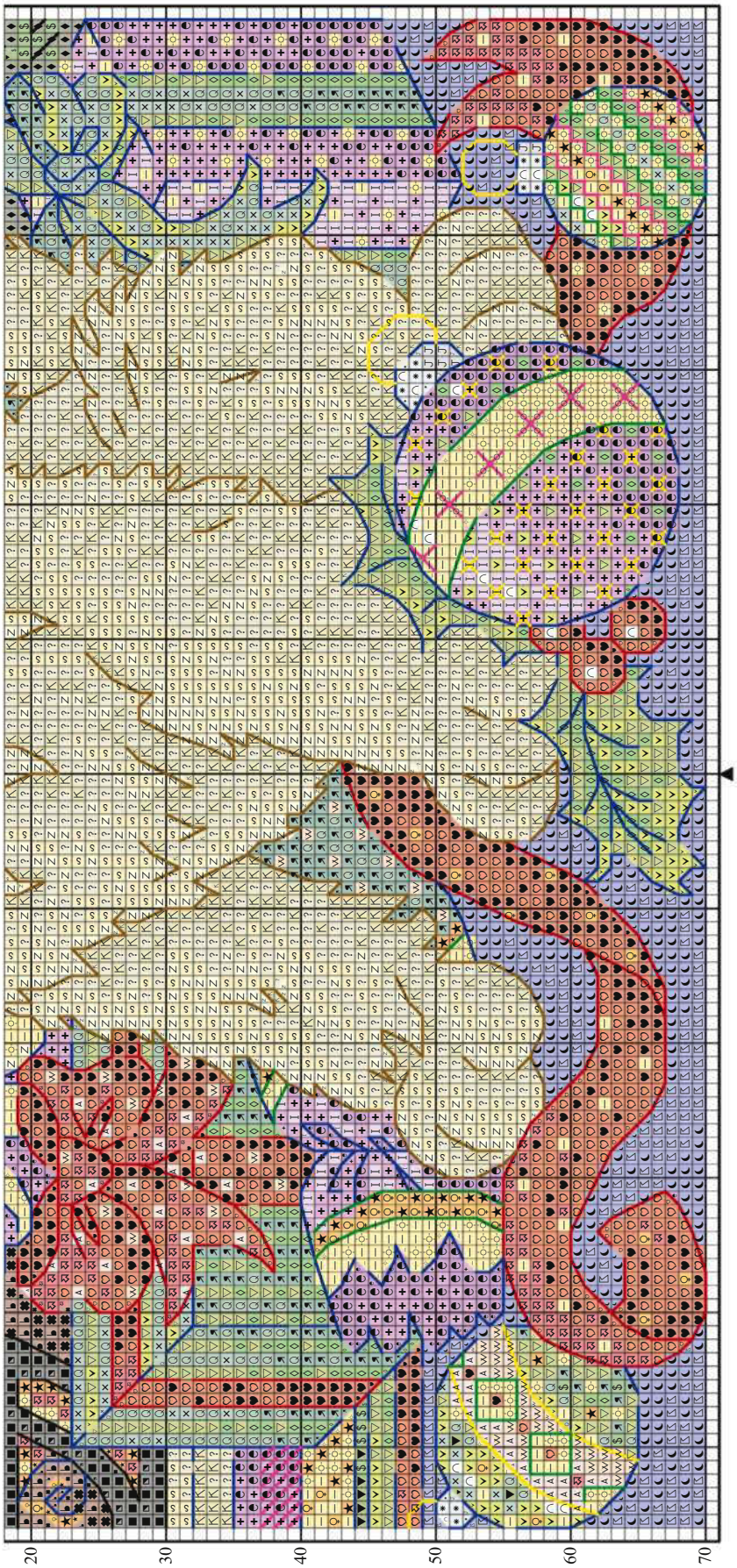
Level: Intermediate

Tip

Attaching these fancy fairy light embellishments is easy – use matching stranded cotton to fix them securely with a few stitches

A dog is for life, not just for Christmas, so stitch this heart-warming design for your home – it's sure to be treasured forever

"This design was easy to come up with – all I did was picture my perfect Christmas scene! I could almost smell the pine scent, feel the warmth of the fire and see the puppy running around my living room." **Debra Page, designer**



Using up your stash

The many baubles on the Christmas tree behind the puppy come in a wide variety of colours and patterns and they offer the perfect opportunity to use up any leftover threads you may have.

Puppy key

Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	B5200	1	2401	white
◓	208	99	804	dark lilac
I	210	108	802	lilac
■	310	403	2400	black
◥	317	400	1714	grey
♦	319	224	1313	very dark green
♥	321	9046	510	dark red
$	367	217	1312	almond green
J	415	398	1802	light grey
+	553	98	712	mauve
♡	666	46	210	red
S	677	886	2207	sand
☼	726	295	109	yellow
–	727	293	112	light yellow
★	741	304	202	orange
♀	742	303	114	tangerine
Z	746	275	2511	cream
*	762	234	1804	very light grey
◊	905	257	1412	dark green
▽	906	256	1410	green
v	907	255	1308	light green
b	938	380	2005	brown
▼	987	244	1403	grass green
K	3046	887	2206	straw
?	3047	852	2205	light straw
✖	3371	382	2004	dark brown
W	3771	9575	403	dark peach
A	3779	868	2605	peach
◙	3799	236	1713	dark grey
◪	3801	1098	411	light red
☾	3838	176	2702	dark blue
◱	3839	175	902	blue
t	3840	130	907	light blue
◪	3847	189	1204	dark sea green
Q	3848	1074	1108	sea green
×	3849	1070	1109	light sea green

Backstitch in one strand

—	310	403	2400	black
—	814	22	601	very dark red
—	3799	236	1713	dark grey
—	3828	373	2103	tan

Backstitch in two strands

—	666	46	210	red
—	726	295	109	yellow
—	905	257	1412	dark green

Pearl 5mm round beads

○				

Embellishment placement

●				

STITCH COUNT 140 high x 112 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 25.5x20.5cm (10x8in)

SKEINS NEEDED **2x319** (very dark green), **2x367** (almond green)

This design was stitched using DMC stranded cotton, 5mm round pearl beads and embellishments

Stitch decorative typography

Family festivities

Encourage your family to eat, drink and be merry this year with these light-hearted Christmas messages

Designed by Emma Congdon

Stitch away the pressures of Christmas and enjoy making this modern trio by Emma Congdon – then display them at home to keep everyone in the holiday spirit. These upbeat wordy samplers are great projects for skilled stitchers as they involve French knots as well as backstitch and whole stitches. A vibrant colour scheme is a great way to highlight these all-important family rules at Christmas time!

You will need

Threads: Stranded cotton and metallic thread as listed in the key

Needle: Size 24 tapestry needle

Fabric: 14-count white aida measuring 40x35cm (15¾x13¾in) for the large design, 31x27cm (12¼x10½in) for the medium design, and 15x15cm (6x6in) for the small design

Extras: Stretched canvases measuring 25x20cm (10x8in) and 16x12cm (6¼x4¾in), and a white square aperture card of choice from local stores

Stitching Factbox

Stitching time: Approx 50 hours for the set

Type of stitches: Cross stitch, backstitch, French knots

Level: Advanced beginner/intermediate

Tip

It will be easy to repeat-stitch your favourite expression from these designs and make it into cards and gift tags for family and friends

Use a simple mount for these designs and let the colours stand out

40
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Merry Christmas
Peace
Joy
Love
Faith
Hope
Trust
Spread Cheer
And Be Merry

Christmas rules key

Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
◠	B5200	1	2401	white
☾	166	280	1611	lime green
e	414	235	1714	dark grey
s	415	398	1802	grey
t	420	374	2104	brown
▼	500	683	1705	bottle green
b	699	923	1303	dark green
▽	701	227	1305	green
●	722	323	307	orange
A	762	234	1804	light grey
●	915	1029	705	dark magenta
C	917	89	706	magenta
↖	959	186	1114	emerald
J	964	185	1112	light emerald
I	3609	85	710	pink
■	3799	236	1713	charcoal grey
↖	3819	279	1610	light lime green

Cross stitch in two strands DMC Light Effects

ꟻ	E415			pewter

Backstitch in one strand

—	701	227	1305	green
—	917	89	706	magenta
—	3799	236	1713	charcoal grey
—	3819	279	1610	light lime green
—	3847	189	1204	teal

Backstitch in one strand DMC Light Effects

—	E415			pewter

French knots in two strands

●	3819	279	1610	light lime green
●	3847	189	1204	teal

MAXIMUM STITCH COUNT 119 high x 90 wide
DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 21.5x16.5cm (8½x6½in)

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

"If all the family pile round to yours at Christmas time, then it would be great to have one of these on display in your living room. All families could probably do with a festive rule reminder now and again!"

Emma Congdon, designer

Uses whole stitches only

Round robin

Welcome guests into your home with a vibrant and modern variation on a traditional Christmas wreath

Designed by Durene Jones

Just because it's freezing outside doesn't mean we have to stop stitching our favourite florals – there's a whole riot of colour to be found in holly leaves, ripe berries and lush green foliage. This Christmas wreath is bursting with bold winter hues – stitchers looking for a challenge will enjoy the complex modern style made with whole stitches, backstitch and French knots. With a red robin at the centre, it'll add a splash of colour to your home.

You will need

Threads: Stranded cotton as listed in the key

Needle: Size 24 tapestry needle

Fabric: 14-count white aida measuring 35x35cm (13¾x13¾in)

Extras: 9in wooden embroidery hoop, white paint, pompom trim and ribbon of your choice from local stores

Stitching Factbox

Stitching time: Approx 35 hours

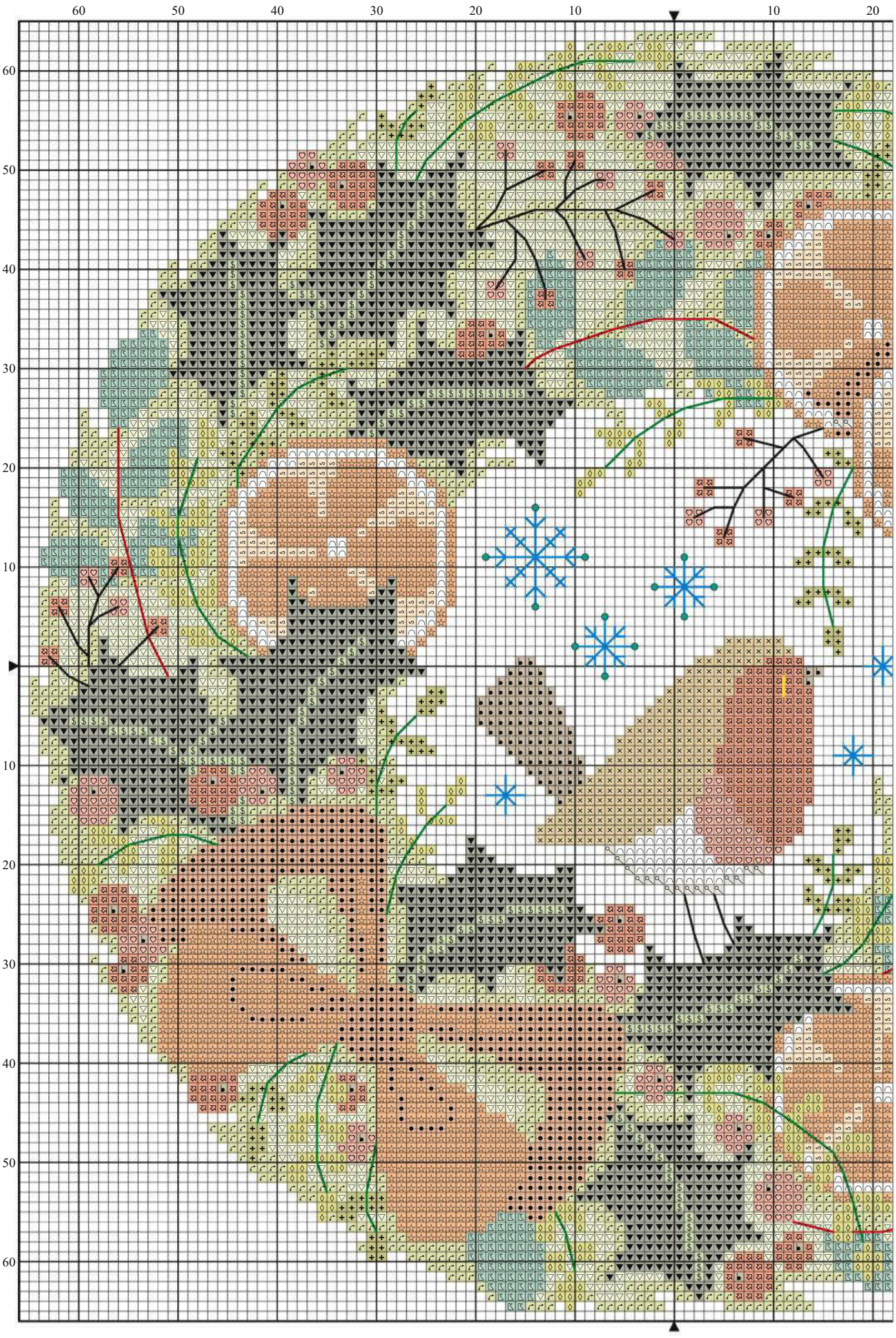
Type of stitches: Cross stitch, backstitch, French knots

Level: Intermediate

Add a pompom trim to your hoop frame for a tactile touch

Tip

Only add backstitch to your design after you've completed all the whole stitches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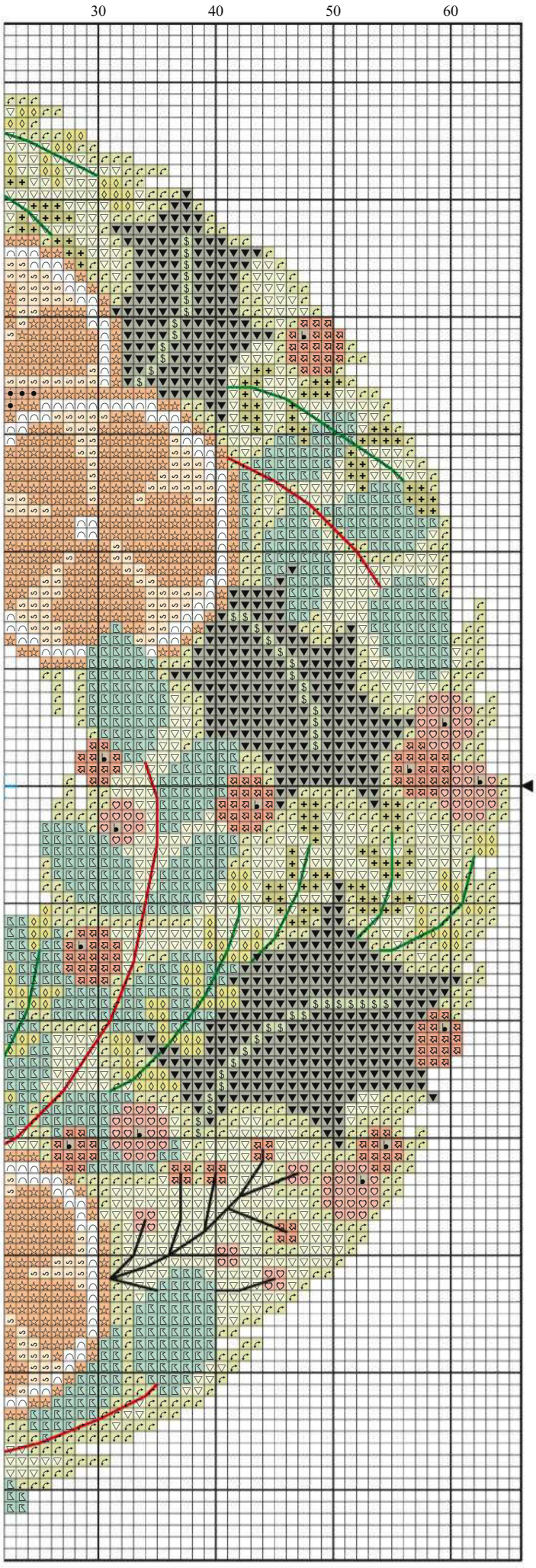


Robin wreath key

Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	blanc	2	2402	white
▼	319	224	1313	dark green
ж	350	11	213	red
♡	352	9	303	coral
$	368	214	1310	green
☆	721	324	308	orange
+	732	281	1612	olive green
◊	734	279	1610	light olive green
b	869	375	2105	brown
●	920	1004	312	copper
◺	993	1070	1111	ocean green
↖	3024	900	1814	grey
×	3828	373	2103	light brown
s	3856	368	2309	peach

Half cross stitch in two strands

▽	772	259	1604	light grass green
◜	3348	264	1409	grass green

Backstitch in two strands

—	937	268	1504	avocado green
—	991	1076	1204	dark ocean green
—	993	1070	1111	ocean green
—	3021	905	1904	dark grey

Backstitch in three strands

—	3031	360	2003	mocha brown

French knots in one strand

●	993	1070	1111	ocean green

STITCH COUNT 129 high x 130 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 23.5x23.5cm (9¼x9¼in)

SKEINS NEEDED **2x319** (dark green)

This design was stitched using DMC stranded cotton

Stitching close-up

We like how Durene has used backstitch sparingly in this design. So, instead of outlining each element of the wreath, she has added backstitch definition to the sprigs of foliage that are intertwined with the oranges, holly leaves and the rest of the wreath details.

Stitch a seasonal scene

Home for Christmas

Stitch a touch of nostalgic style this season with a picturesque row of pretty houses

Designed by Shannon Wasilieff

From the charming tiled rooftops adorned with freshly fallen flakes, to the beautifully decorative lamp posts, these sweet dwellings look so inviting. Build this delightful street stitch by stitch, using a sweet pastel colour palette against a soft blue aida to add to the wintery feel. And, as you stitch each section, you'll discover new little details that never caught your eye before, like the traditional porches and wrought-iron fences. Bring it all to life in whole stitches, fractionals and backstitch, then a sprinkling of seed beads to create the snow flurries. Whatever the weather outside, you're sure to stay cosy stitching this scenic scene.

You will need

Threads: Stranded cotton as listed in the key

Needle: Size 24 tapestry needle, beading needle

Fabric: 14-count pale blue aida measuring 26x50cm (10x20in)

Extras: Mill Hill seed beads as listed in the key. Frame of your choice with a minimum aperture of 17x37cm (6½x14½in)

Stitching Factbox

Stitching time: Approx 45 hours

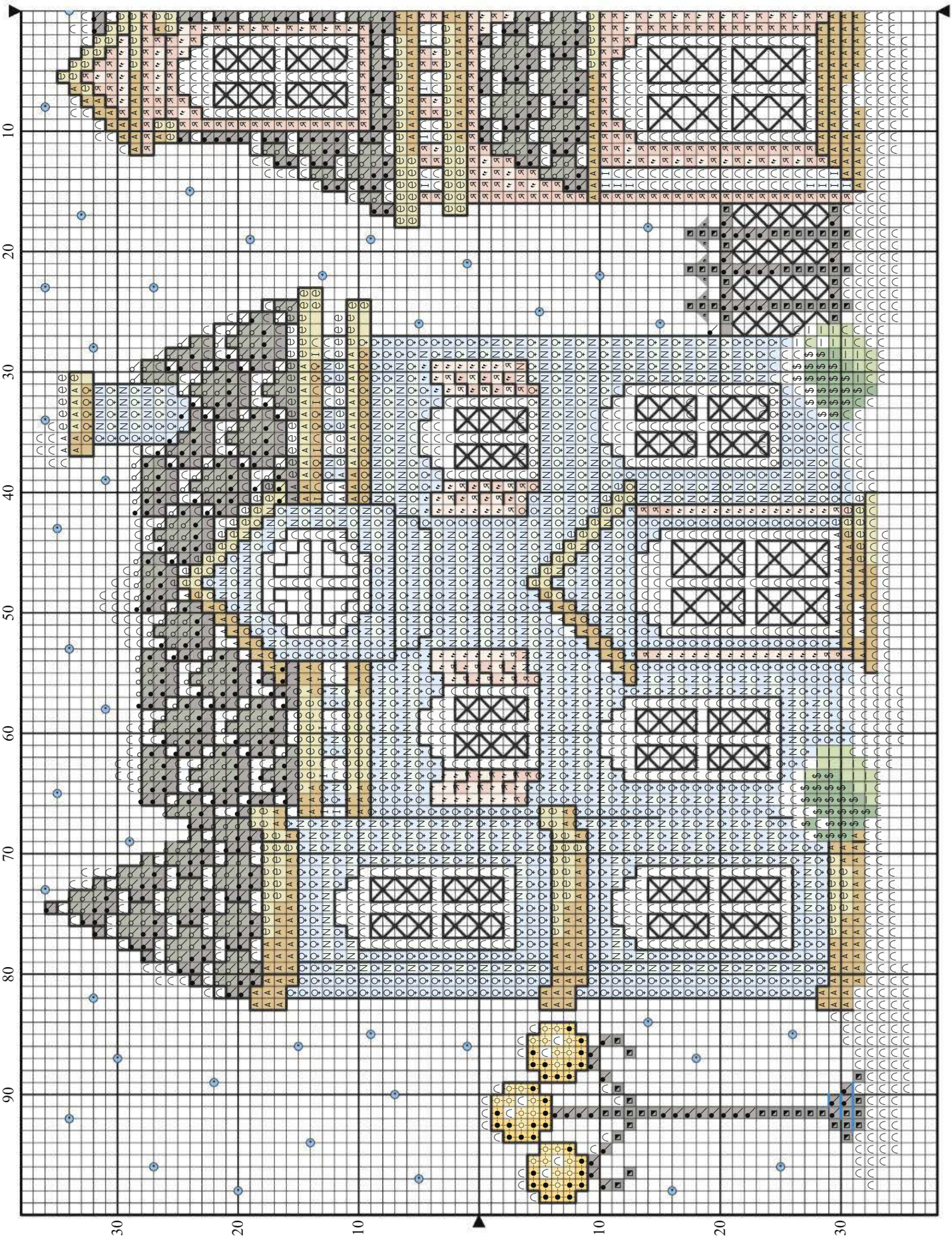
Type of stitches: Cross stitch, fractionals, backstitch, beads

Level: Intermediate

Stroll down the sweetest of avenues with Shannon's design – the perfect way to travel this season

Tip

Only add backstitch to your design after you've completed all the cross stitches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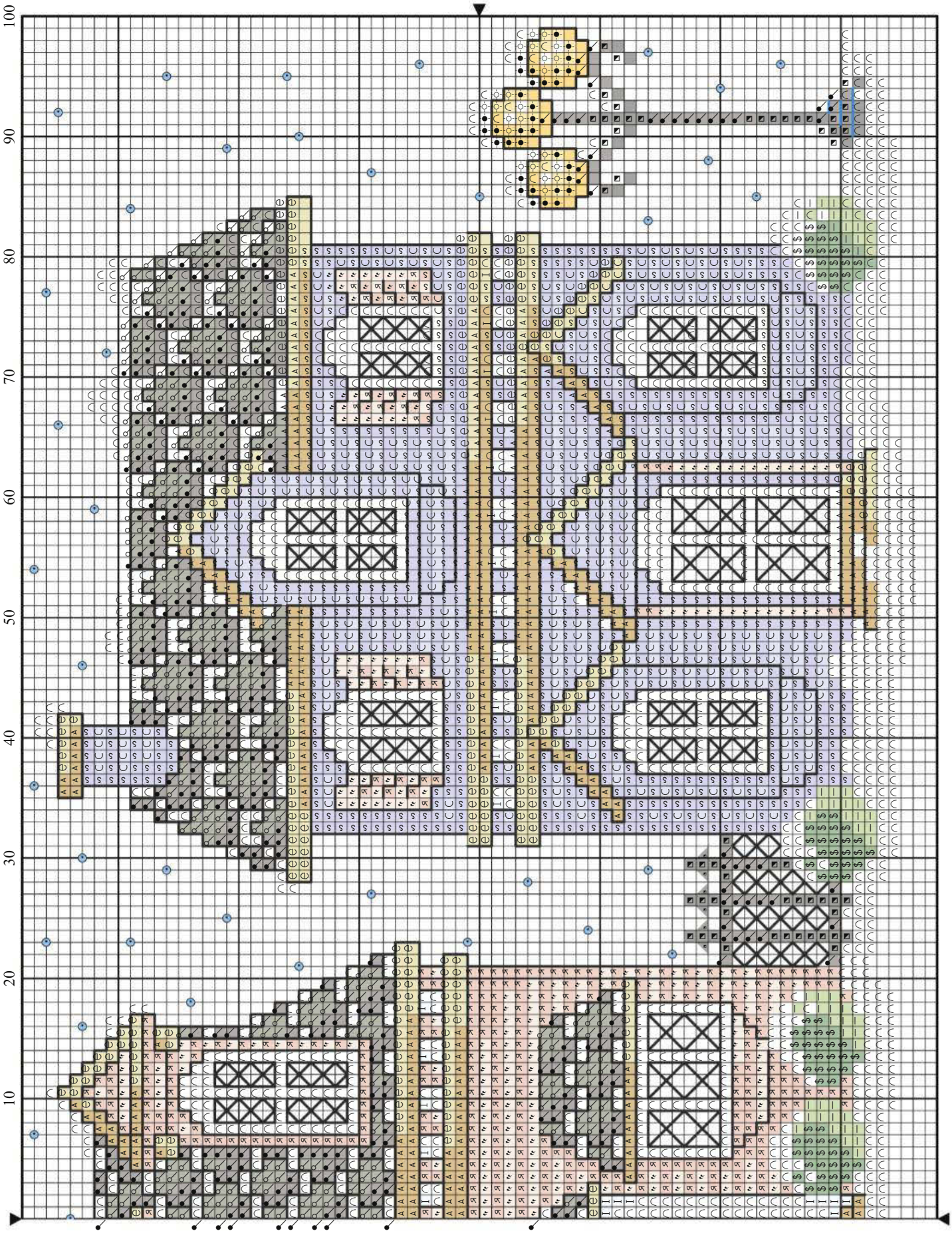
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Stitching close-up

Shannon has created a wonderful snowy sky by adding white seed beads to pale blue aida fabric, and it looks so effective. For the exact placement of each little bead, follow the chart carefully. Use white thread to match the colour of the seed bead.

Winter street key

Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	B5200	1	2402	white
Я	152	894	2310	coral
S	156	939	2702	violet
🔍	169	1040	1707	light grey
'	225	271	814	light coral
🔍	317	400	1714	grey
$	320	215	1311	green
—	368	214	1310	light green
●	743	302	113	yellow
☼	744	301	112	light yellow
N	775	1031	1001	light blue
A	3045	888	2103	light brown
e	3046	887	2206	dark straw
♀	3325	129	907	blue
C	3747	120	901	very light violet
I	3753	128	909	very light blue
◣	3799	236	1713	dark grey

Backstitch in one strand

——	B5200	1	2402	white
——	3799	236	1713	dark grey

Mill Hill seed beads

●	00479			white

STITCH COUNT 74 high x 198 wide
DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 13.5x36cm (5¼x14¼in)

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

"Working with different colour fabrics is so much fun, as it really adds another dimension to your stitching. In this design, the blue complements the wintery feel and creates a quick and easy background too."

Shannon Wasilieff, designer

Stitching ideas

To add an extra touch of magic to this design, try stitching the windows of the houses in DMC Light Effects glow-in-the-dark thread. This looks like a normal white thread – until the lights go out! What a surprise to spot on a festive mantelpiece.

Tip

To pick up beads, wrap Sellotape around your fingertip, with the sticky side facing out. Hold the bead in place on the tape as you insert the needle through the bead

How to frame your picture

Using a mount as well as a frame isn't always necessary, especially if you opt for a chunky frame, like this one. We chose our white frame to complement the pale blue fabric and to highlight the snowy scene. Remember, it's important to go for a frame colour and style that won't overshadow your stitching.

Stitch your letters onto evenweave for a detailed finish

Stitch a letter in an evening

Classic Christmas

String up the fairy lights, trim your Christmas tree and cuddle up inside your festive jumper to stitch a jolly phrase using this traditional holiday alphabet

You will need

Threads: Stranded cotton as listed in the key

Needle: Size 24 tapestry needle

Fabric: 28-count flax cashel evenweave measuring 15cm (6in) x desired width

Extras: Stiff cardstock and cord of choice from local stores

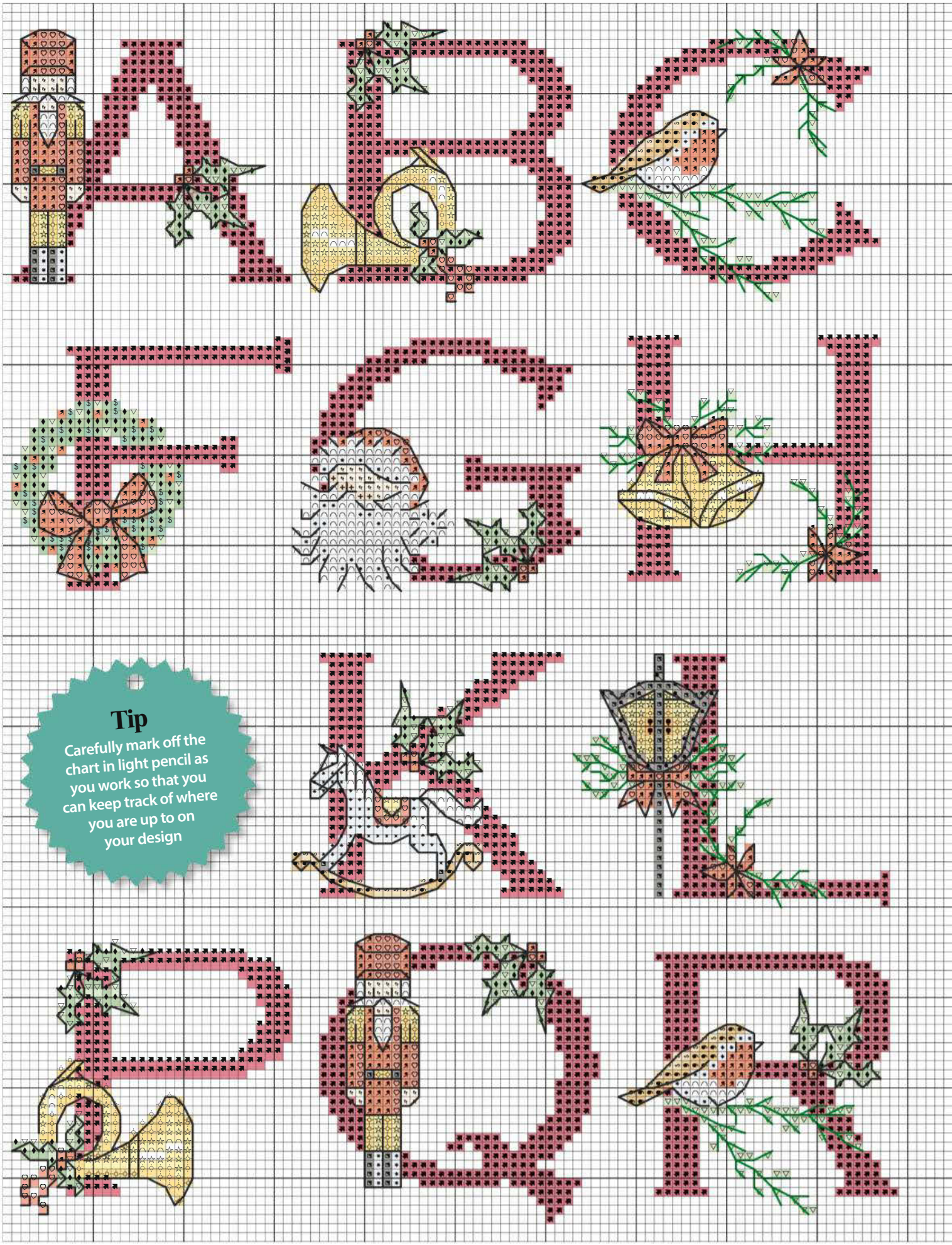
Designed by Lucie Heaton

Stitching Factbox

Stitching time: Approx 3-4 hours each

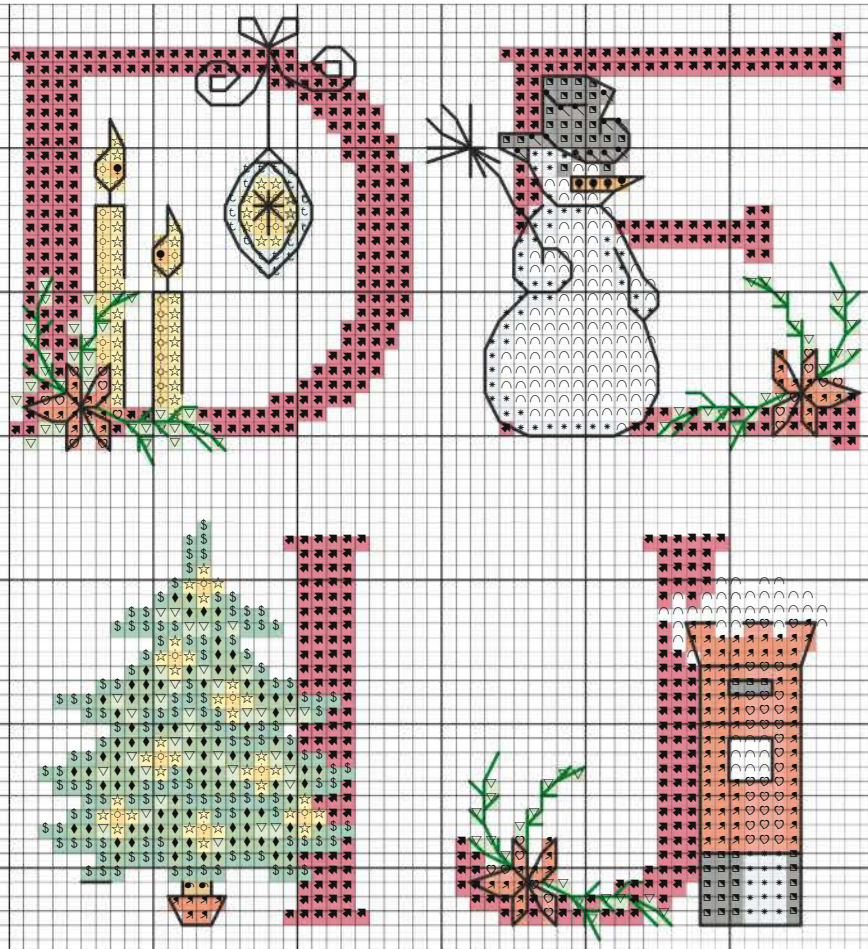
Type of stitches: Cross stitch, backstitch

Level: Intermediate



Tip

Carefully mark off the chart in light pencil as you work so that you can keep track of where you are up to on your design



Christmas ABC key

Cross stitch in two strands

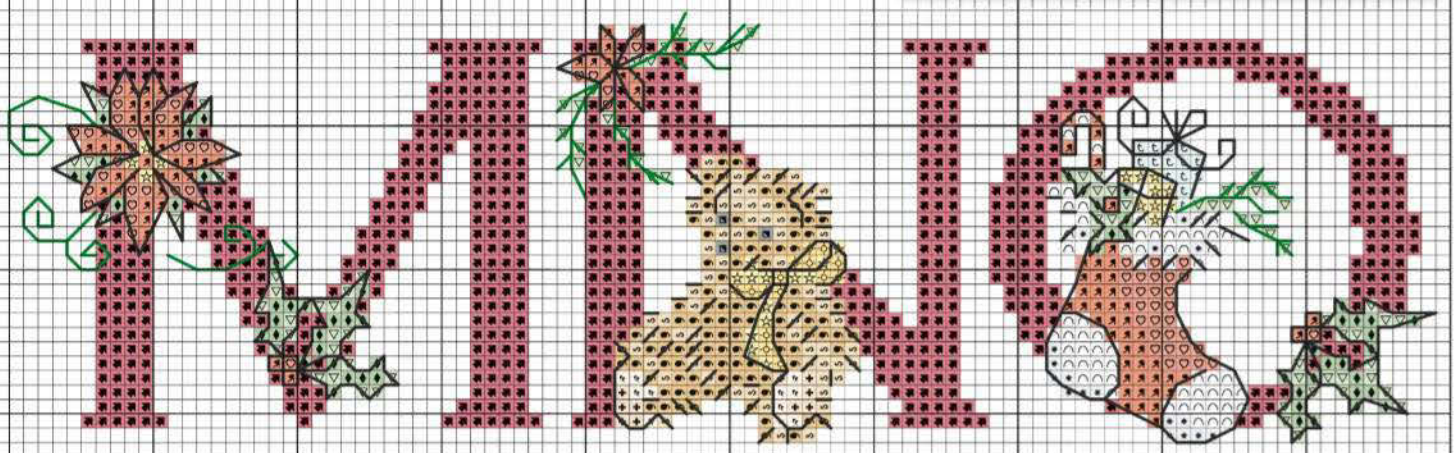
	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	B5200	1	2401	white
◥	317	400	1714	grey
◪	349	1098	212	red
♡	351	10	214	coral
◕	436	1045	2011	tan
∽	437	362	2012	light tan
☼	725	305	113	yellow
☆	727	293	112	light yellow
●	741	304	202	tangerine
+	754	1012	305	peach
*	762	234	1804	light grey
t	800	144	908	blue
◪	815	44	513	ruby
$	910	228	1302	dark green
♦	912	209	1213	green
'	948	892	306	light peach
▽	955	206	1210	light green
◥	3799	236	1713	dark grey

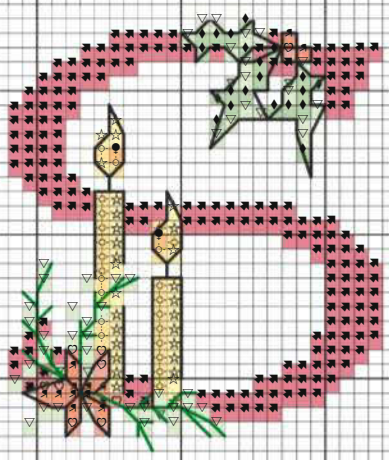
Backstitch in one strand

—	910	228	1302	dark green
—	3799	236	1713	dark grey

MAXIMUM STITCH COUNT 32 high x 43 wide
DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 6x8cm (2¼x3in)

These designs were stitched using DMC stranded cotton





Stitching close-up

Each of the motifs decorating the letters will work well stitched on their own. Restitch them as gift tags or repeat stitch your favourite onto an aida band and make a festive border to decorate the mantelpiece. You could even make a mini Christmas sampler for your home using several of these traditional motifs.

Tip

Get into the habit of counting your stitches twice, it'll save you having to unpick them when you realise you've counted wrong

"I tend to like a traditional Christmas, with wreaths and mistletoe and lots of red and green, so this alphabet is my personal favourite. I might stitch a Merry Christmas sign for my door."

Heather Nugent, charting editor

Brighten up!

Make your Christmas shine!

Give Christmas dinner a unique stitchy touch using glimmering fairy lights to liven up your favourite festive table setting

You will need

Threads: Stranded cotton as listed in the key

Needle: Size 24 tapestry needle

Fabric: 28-count white evenweave measuring 12x12cm (4¾x4¾in) for the coaster, 18x45cm (7x17¾in) for the placemat and two pieces 10x55cm (4x21½in) for the table runner

Extras: Backing fabric and felt of choice from local stores

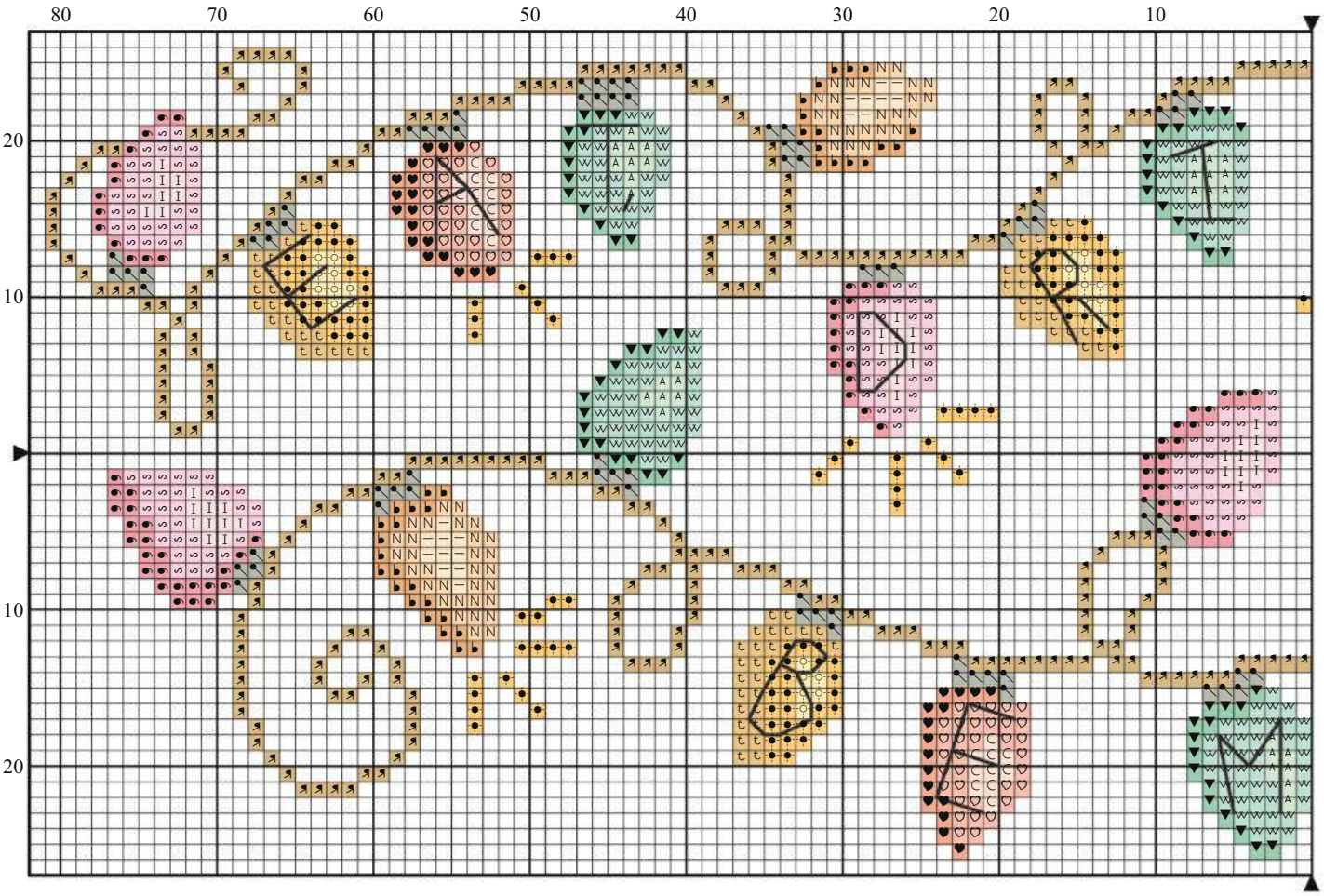
Designed by Durene Jones

Stitching Factbox

Stitching time: Approx 25 hours for the set

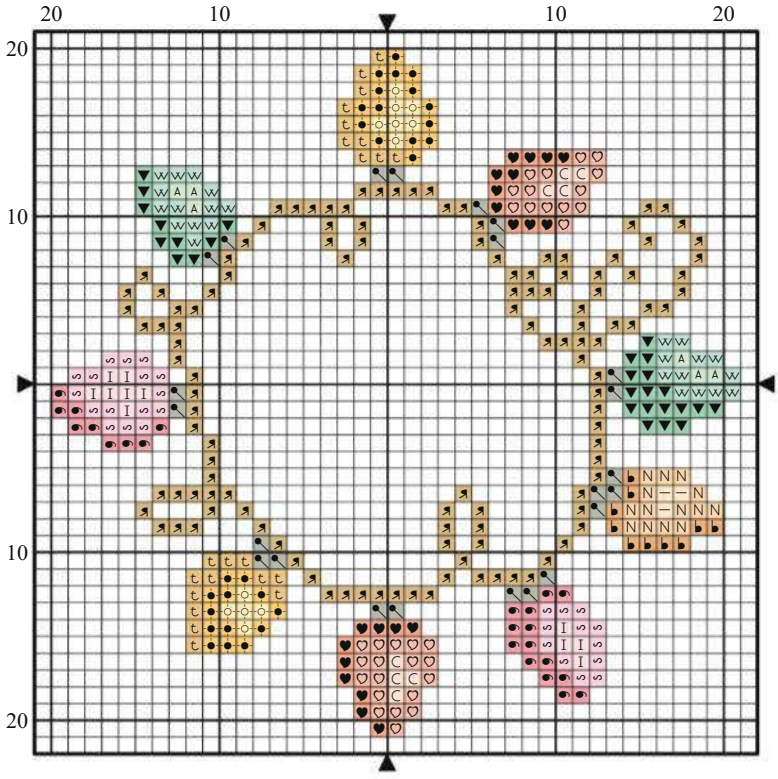
Type of stitches: Cross stitch, backstitch

Level: Intermediate



Placemat

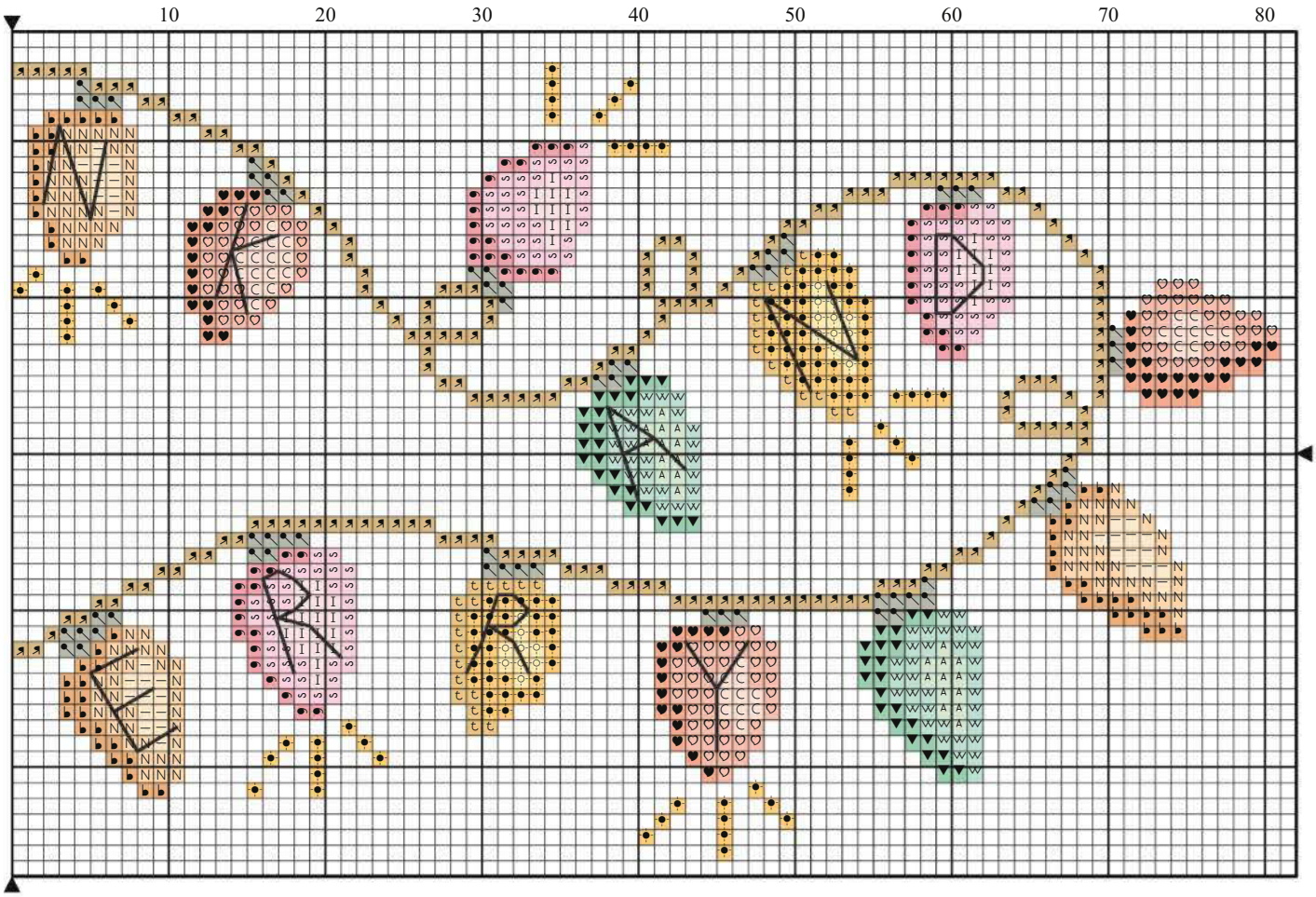
Coaster



Nothing says Christmas like bright and colourful lights, so why should your tree and the front of your house have all the fun? Get your table into the spirit as well with these multi-hued strands of bulbs! Stitch a repeating pattern on a thin strand of aida or evenweave to craft a table runner, or create individual placemats and coaster for everyone seated at your holiday table. Or, do it all and have a perfectly matching set for Christmas dinner using the handy instructions on the next page as your guide. Best of all, you can easily whip up these useful decorations with a minimum of hassle, as they require whole stitches only. What a fab way to make your Christmas truly shine.

"I love these Christmas decorations! They're very unusual and I love how bright and warm these stitches are. You could even add different wording and use these projects for whatever occasion you like."

Katriel Costello, editor



For the coaster

1 Using a circular template, cut out your stitched piece – ours measured 8.5cm (3½in) diameter, plus a 1cm (¾in) seam allowance. Back the stitching with a piece of iron-on interfacing to prevent the fabric from fraying.

2 Cut out a matching piece of white felt.

3 With right sides facing, carefully stitch around the edge leaving a 3cm gap for turning. Trim off excess felt and turn the right way out. Press and slip stitch the gap closed.

Table set key

Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
	169	1040	1707	grey
	350	11	213	red
	352	9	303	coral
C	353	6	2313	light coral
	720	326	309	orange
N	722	323	307	light orange
	742	303	114	tangerine
	744	301	112	yellow
t	783	306	2509	gold
	943	188	1203	dark green
	956	40	506	dark pink
s	957	50	504	pink
w	959	186	1114	green
I	963	73	502	rose pink
A	964	185	1112	light green
	3829	901	2210	tan
–	3856	368	2309	peach

Backstitch in one strand

——	310	403	2400	black

MAXIMUM STITCH COUNT 52 high x 162 wide
DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 9.5x29.5cm (3¾x11½in)

These designs were stitched using DMC stranded cotton

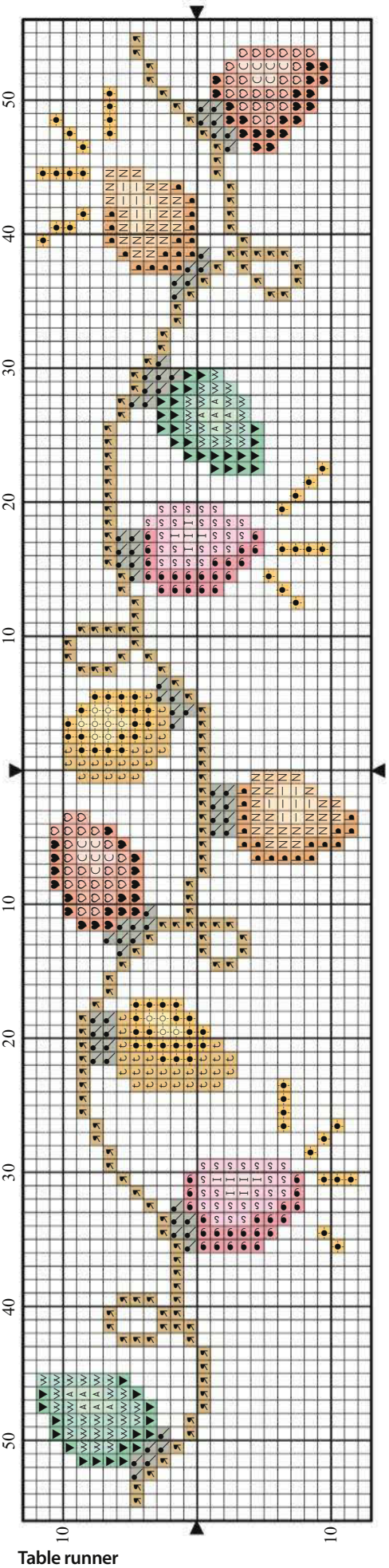


Table runner

How to make the table runner

1 Cut your two stitched pieces to 116x7cm (45x2¾in) and back with iron-on interfacing. We repeated the pattern six times on each side to create this length but you can make it longer or shorter by doing more or fewer repeats.

2 For the centre panel, cut your backing fabric to 116x23cm (45½x9in). For your back panel, cut the fabric to 116x33cm (45½x13in).

3 With right sides facing, pin one of the stitched pieces to the top edge centre panel and stitch a 1cm (¾in) seam. Repeat this process along the bottom edge with your remaining stitched panel.

4 With right sides facing, pin your back and front pieces together. Stitch a 1cm (¾in) seam around all edges leaving a 4cm (1½in) gap for turning through. Turn, press and slip stitch the gap closed along the bottom edge with your remaining stitched panel.

For the placemat

1 Cut out the stitched piece to measure 41x14cm (16x7½in) and back with iron-on interfacing.

2 For the top panel, cut the backing fabric to 41x19cm (16x7½in), and cut another piece of fabric measuring 41x32cm (16¼x12½in) for the back panel.

3 With right sides facing, pin the top panel to your stitched piece. Stitch them together along the top edge of your stitched piece with a 1cm (¾in) seam, and iron seam flat.

4 With right sides facing, pin your back and front pieces together. Stitch a 1cm (¾in) seam around all edges leaving a 4cm (1½in) gap for turning through. Turn, press and slip stitch the gap closed.

Tip

Wash your fabric before stitching, as both aida and evenweave tend to shrink

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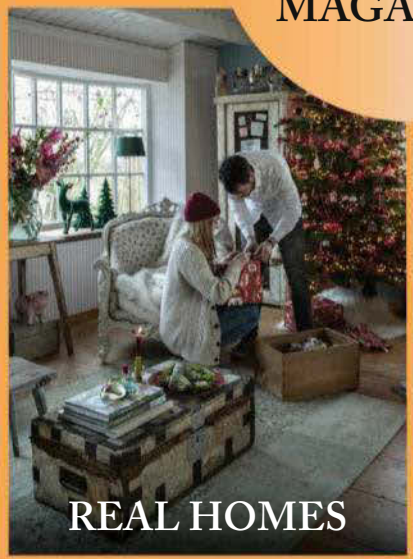

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Stitch a modern classic

Frosty friends

Take a day off from the frantic festive flurry to sit back and stitch this happy snowman and his thoughtful robin pals

Designed by Durene Jones

When a magical snowman needs help getting dressed on a snowy afternoon, his robin friends are more than happy to help. Join in the fun when you stitch these cute characters using whole stitches, fractionals and backstitch.

We love the textured details of the snowman's hat and scarf, plus the subtle shading throughout the scene – it makes it easy to get lost in this winter wonderland. Cuddle up on the sofa and stitch this hoop for a buddy of your own to warm their heart in the colder months.

You will need

Threads: Stranded cotton as listed in the key

Needle: Size 24 tapestry needle

Fabric: Fabric Flair 14-count Cotton Sky aida measuring 38x38cm (15x15in) from www.sewitall.com

Extras: 9in wooden embroidery hoop, white paint, white felt for backing and ribbon of choice from local stores

Stitching Factbox

Stitching time: Approx 60 hours

Type of stitches: Cross stitch, fractionals, backstitch, French knots

Level: Intermediate

Tip

Each length of cotton that you use should be about as long as your forearm

Paint your wooden hoop white to make your finish look even frostier

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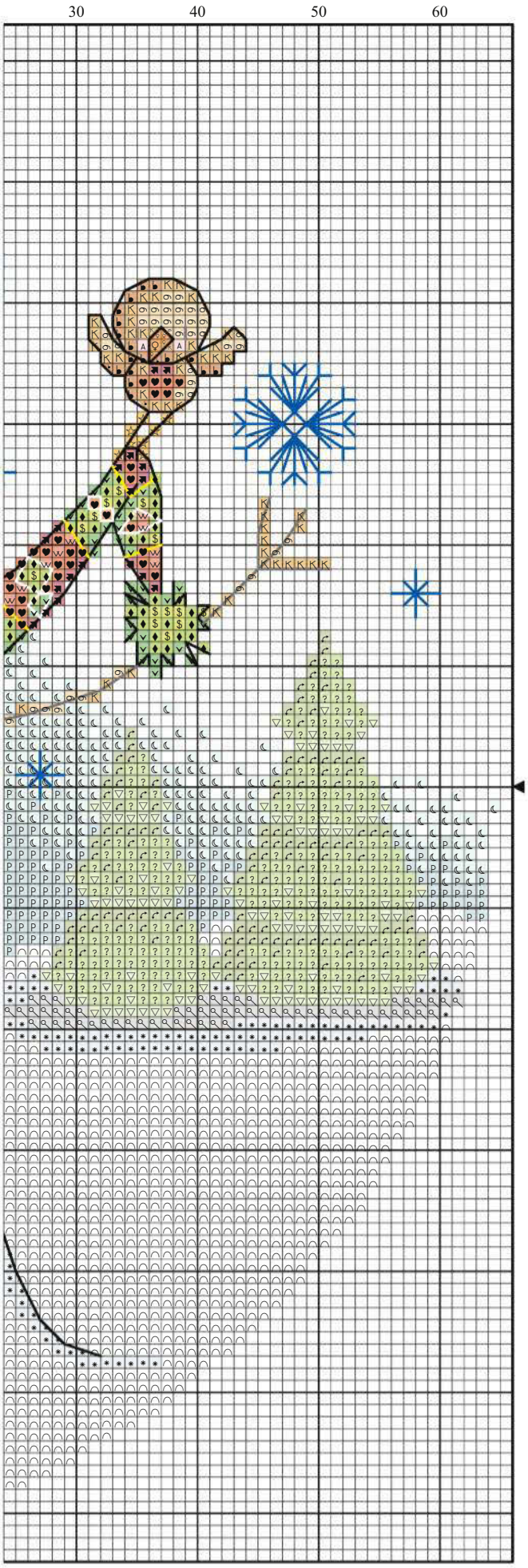

Snowman hoop key

Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	blanc	2	2402	white
?	164	240	1209	soft green
♥	349	1098	212	red
w	351	10	214	coral
▽	369	1043	1309	almond green
↖	415	398	1802	grey
b	434	310	2009	dark tan
K	436	1045	2011	tan
ɔ	437	362	2012	light tan
v	701	227	1305	green
♦	703	238	1307	light green
♀	740	316	204	orange
☆	742	303	114	tangerine
☾	747	158	1104	sky blue
*	762	234	1804	light grey
↗	816	1006	513	ruby
$	907	255	1308	parrot green
↗	946	332	207	dark orange
A	963	73	502	pink
↶	989	241	1401	forest green
P	3761	928	1001	blue

Backstitch in one strand

—	blanc	2	2402	white
—	310	403	2400	black
—	3846	1090	1103	turquoise

Backstitch in two strands

—	blanc	2	2402	white
—	310	403	2400	black
—	444	291	106	yellow

French knots in one strand

●	310	403	2400	black

STITCH COUNT 125 high x 130 wide
DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 22.5x23.5cm (9x9¼in)
SKEINS NEEDED **3xblanc** (white)
This design was stitched using DMC stranded cotton

Stitching close-up

Durene has added careful detail to the snowman's face to give him a friendly look. His cheeks have a gentle blush in pale pink stranded cotton and his smiling eyes are made from two long stitches. Best of all, his beaming smile is created from seven neat French knots in black thread – for more on how to do these stitches, see page 131.

Make an advent calendar

Count down

Fill every day before Christmas with fun when you stitch this fab folk art advent calendar

Designed by Durene Jones

The weather may be chilly, but the colours in this advent calendar are bright and warm. Add some holiday cheer to your home when you stitch these Scandi-inspired motifs – get them all stitched by December 1st to make this lovely advent calendar, or stitch one a day for the whole month as a fun winter challenge. You could also use the colourful motifs on their own, without numbers, to make a set of quick and easy gift tags.

You will need

Threads: Stranded cotton as listed in the key

Needle: Size 24 tapestry needle

Fabric: 14-count white aida measuring 10x10cm (4x4in) for each design

Extras: Stiff cardstock, felt, ric rac, ribbon and backing fabric of choice from local stores

Stitching Factbox

Stitching time: Approx 3-5 hours each

Type of stitches: Cross stitch, backstitch

Level: Beginner

Make each stitch into a little pocket for hiding holiday treats and sweets

Tip

With their lack of shading, block colours and small size, these motifs will use up any leftover threads you may have in your stash

Tip

The backstitch is what brings each of these motifs to life, so take your time and keep neat tension for a crisp finish

Stitching close-up

As well as the usual black, Durene uses a few bright thread colours for the backstitch details on this advent calendar. Dark pink, emerald and blue are the colours she has opted for, and these threads give a softer edge to these individual motifs, creating a more colourful look to the whole design overall as well as creating a pleasing finish to each motif.

Advent calendar key

Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	B5200	1	2401	white
W	600	63	703	dark pink
A	603	55	505	pink
♥	666	46	210	red
♦	700	229	1302	leaf green
☼	743	302	113	yellow
☾	747	158	1104	sky blue
◣	803	148	1006	navy blue
$	907	255	1308	green
ↄ	948	892	306	peach
▽	964	185	1112	light emerald
▼	3812	188	2706	emerald
◒	3837	111	713	purple
P	3844	1089	1102	blue
t	3846	1090	1103	light blue

Backstitch in one strand

310	403	2400	black
600	63	703	dark pink
3812	188	2706	emerald
3844	1089	1102	blue

MAXIMUM STITCH COUNT 30 high x 29 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 5.5x5.5cm (2¼x2in)

These designs were stitched using DMC stranded cotton

"I like this project for its bold design and modern flavour. The folk art features are a bit Scandinavian, as well, and Scandi style is always a winner in my book."

Hannah Erskine, charting assistant

Tip

Keep your work looking neat by making sure all your stitches lie in the same direction and by finishing threads off properly

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Make a Christmas stocking

Special delivery

Santa Claus is coming to town and your family can be all ready to greet him on 24th December, when you stitch this colourful stocking to hang proudly

Designed by Faby Reilly

A homemade Christmas stocking is a thing to be treasured and it can be passed down the family for generations to come. You'll find an alphabet chart here so you can personalise the top of your stocking, or you can leave yours blank if you prefer. Faby's smiling elf is never happier than when she's working on Christmas eve, helping Santa to deliver presents to the excited boys and girls. All of her many gifts are toppling to the floor!

You will need

Threads: Stranded cotton and metallic threads as listed in the key

Needle: Size 24 tapestry needle, beading needle

Fabric: Fabric Flair 28-count Icy Topaz evenweave measuring 70x55cm (27½x21½in) from www.sewitall.com

Extras: Mill Hill seed beads as listed in the key. Backing fabric and ribbon of choice from local stores

Stitching Factbox

Stitching time: Approx 85 hours

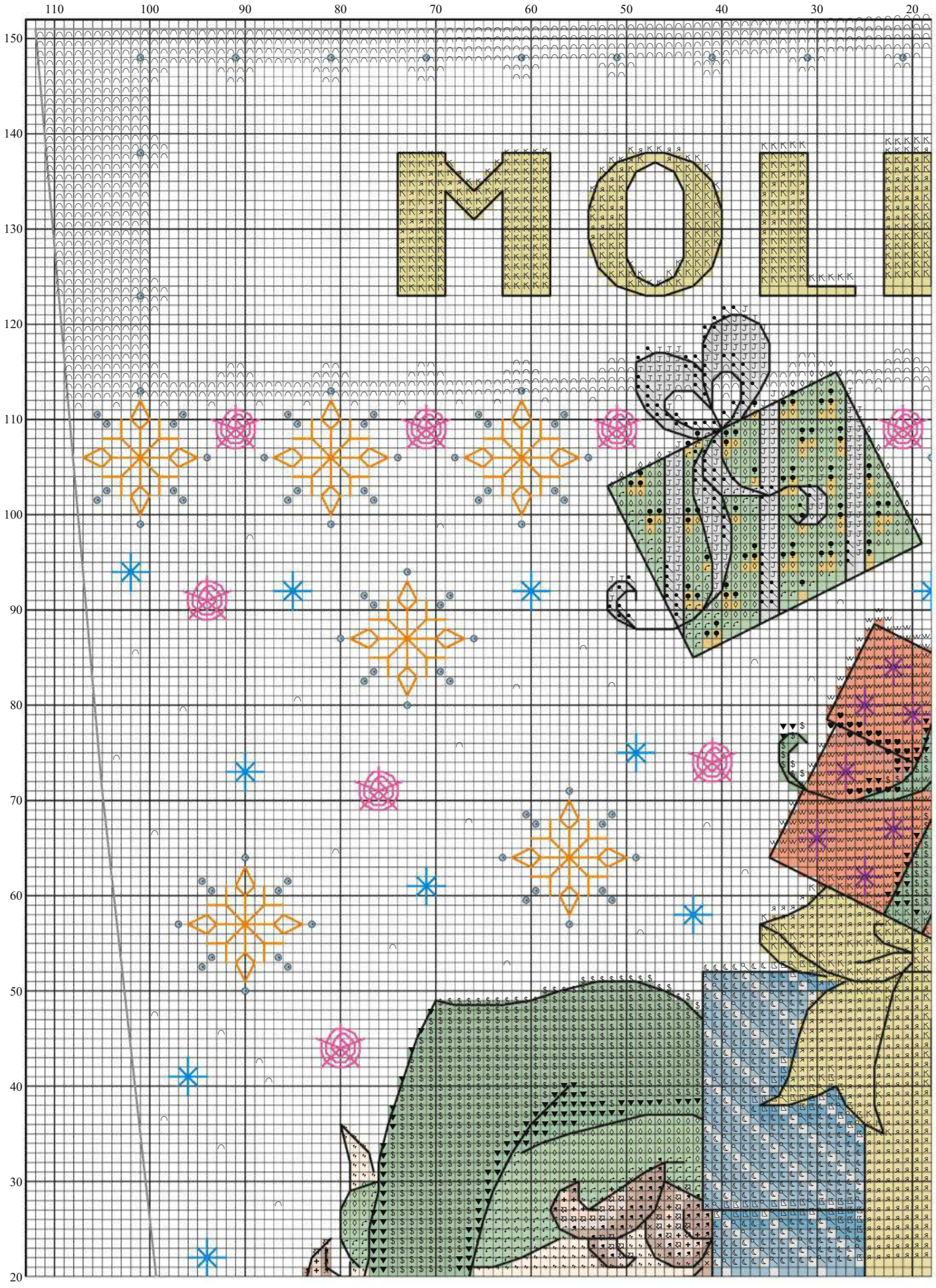
Type of stitches: Cross stitch, backstitch, diamond eyelets, round eyelets, spider web stitch, beads

Level: Advanced

This stocking looks even better when it's packed with Christmas gifts

Tip

It's simple to add a child's name to the stocking, just remember to measure your letters and plot the word out carefully before you start stitching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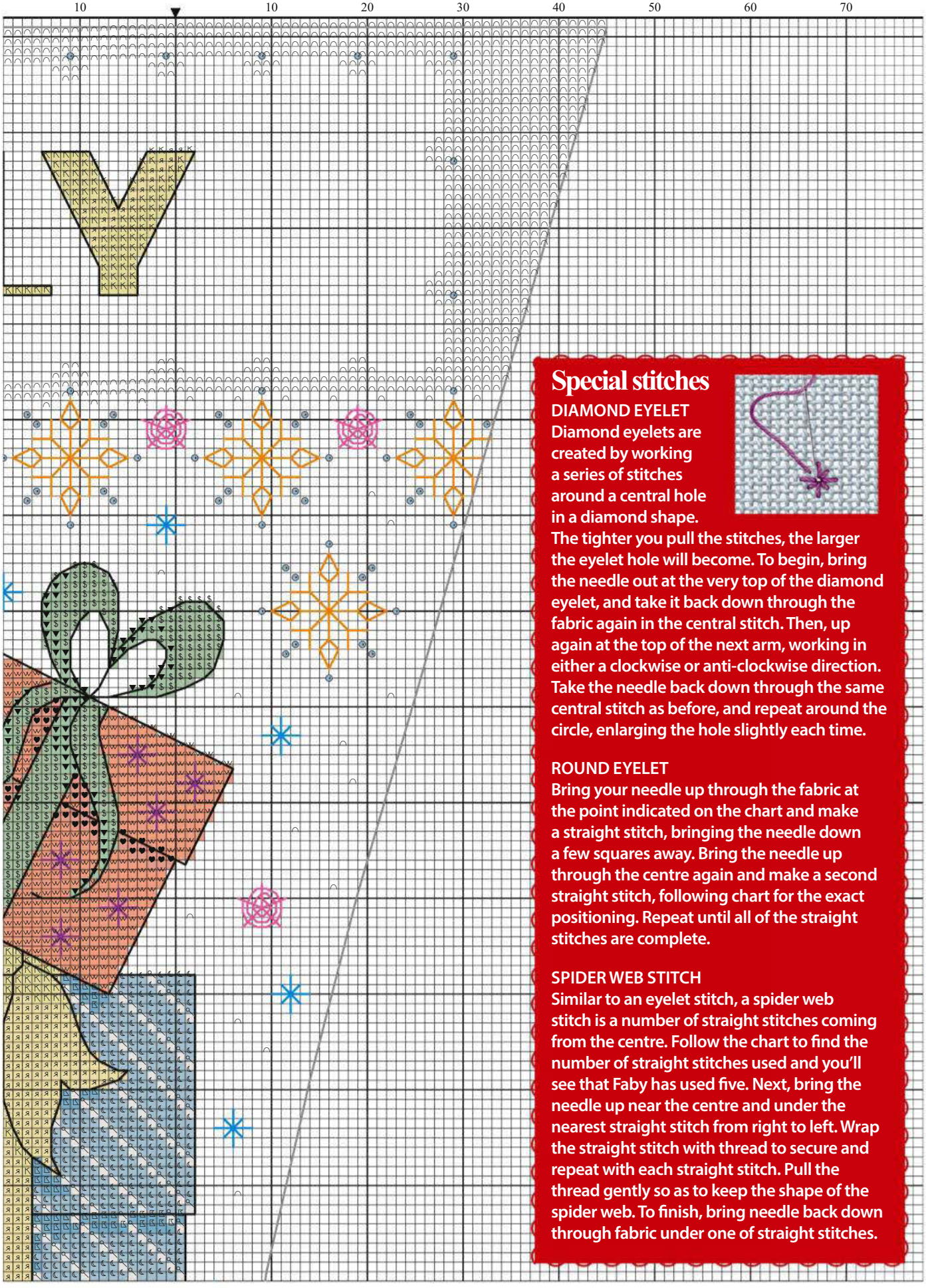
MOLL

Top left



Special stitches

DIAMOND EYELET

Diamond eyelets are created by working a series of stitches around a central hole in a diamond shape.

The tighter you pull the stitches, the larger the eyelet hole will become. To begin, bring the needle out at the very top of the diamond eyelet, and take it back down through the fabric again in the central stitch. Then, up again at the top of the next arm, working in either a clockwise or anti-clockwise direction. Take the needle back down through the same central stitch as before, and repeat around the circle, enlarging the hole slightly each time.

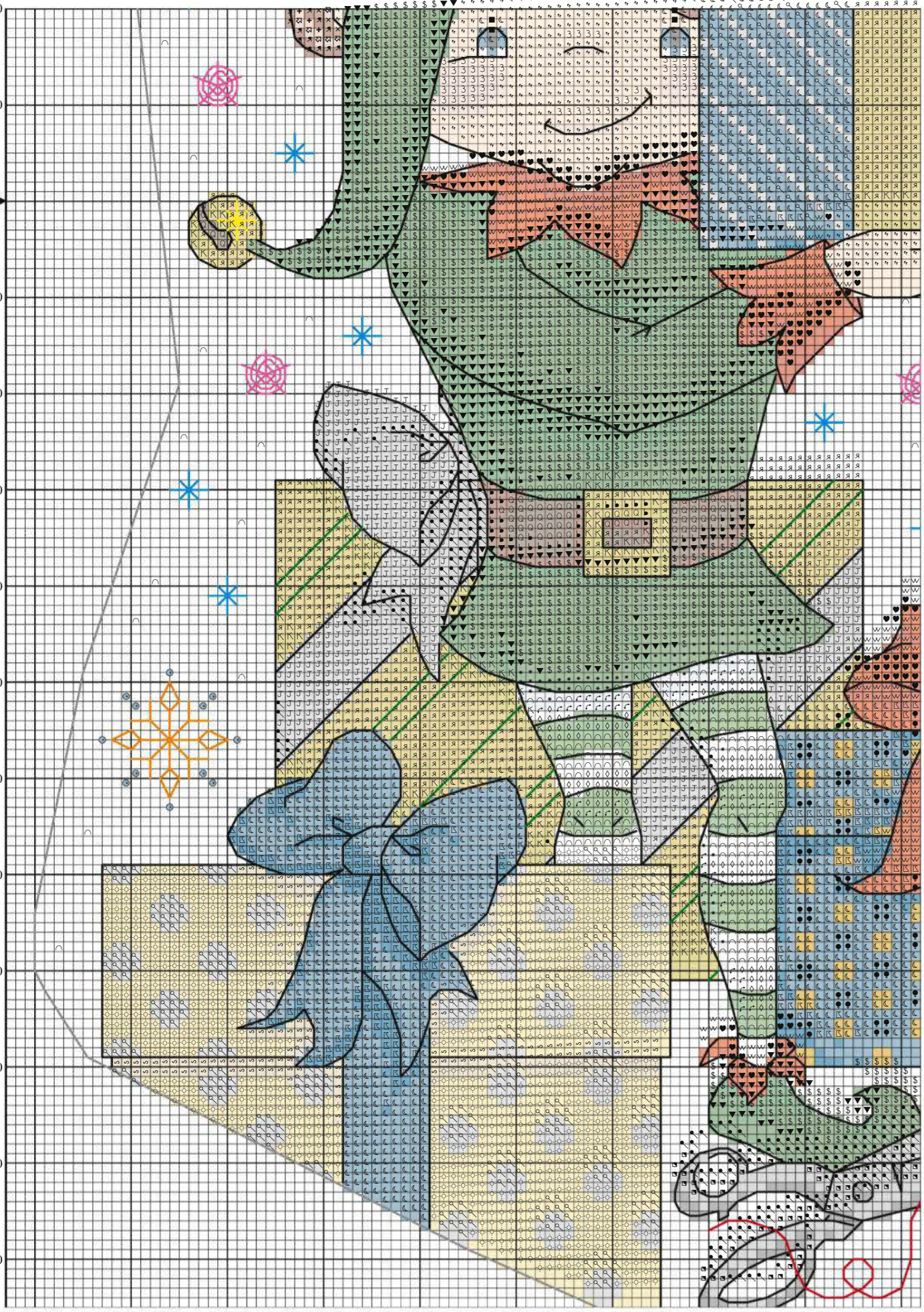
ROUND EYELET

Bring your needle up through the fabric at the point indicated on the chart and make a straight stitch, bringing the needle down a few squares away. Bring the needle up through the centre again and make a second straight stitch, following chart for the exact positioning. Repeat until all of the straight stitches are complete.

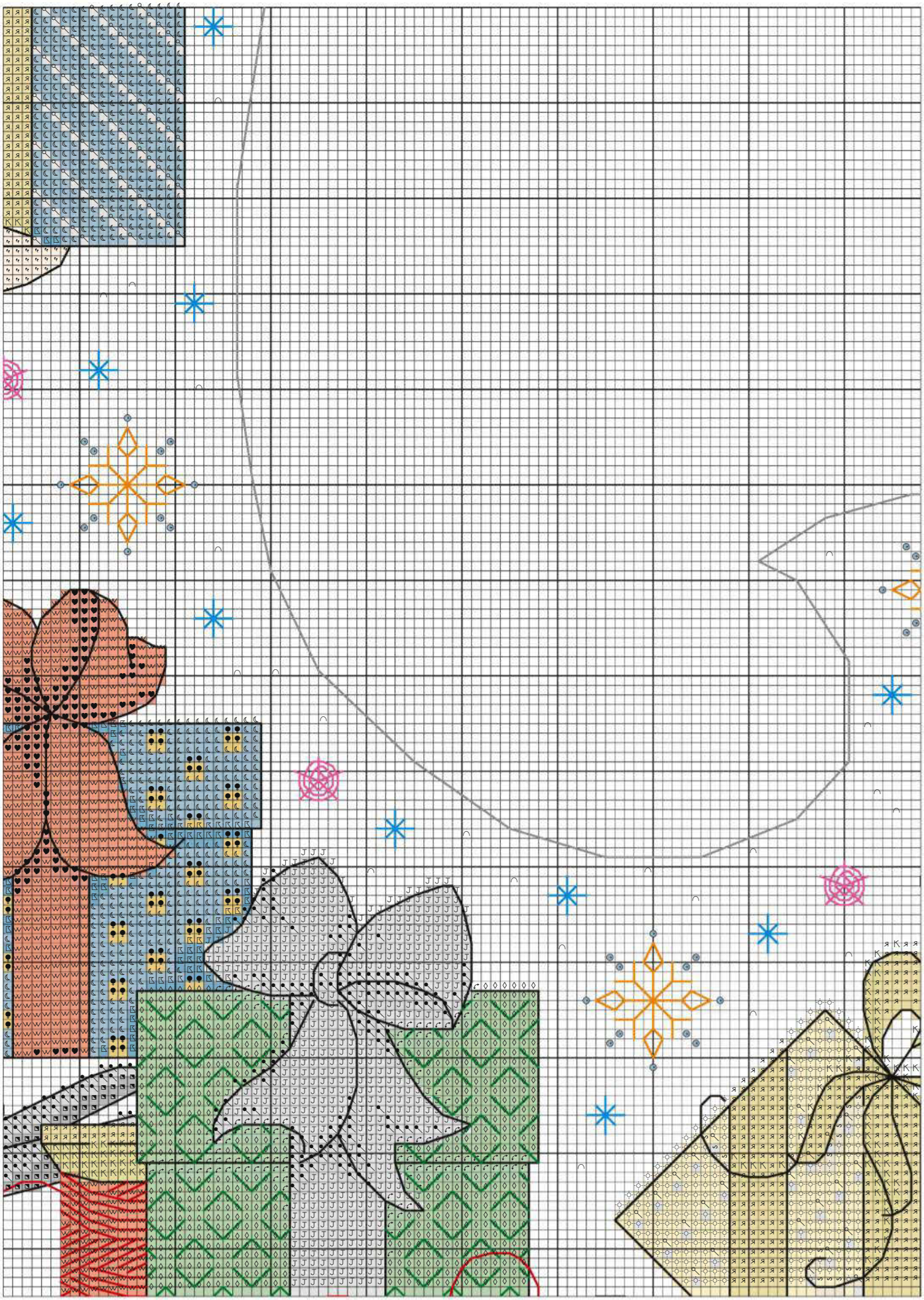
SPIDER WEB STITCH

Similar to an eyelet stitch, a spider web stitch is a number of straight stitches coming from the centre. Follow the chart to find the number of straight stitches used and you'll see that Faby has used five. Next, bring the needle up near the centre and under the nearest straight stitch from right to left. Wrap the straight stitch with thread to secure and repeat with each straight stitch. Pull the thread gently so as to keep the shape of the spider web. To finish, bring needle back down through fabric under one of straight stitches.

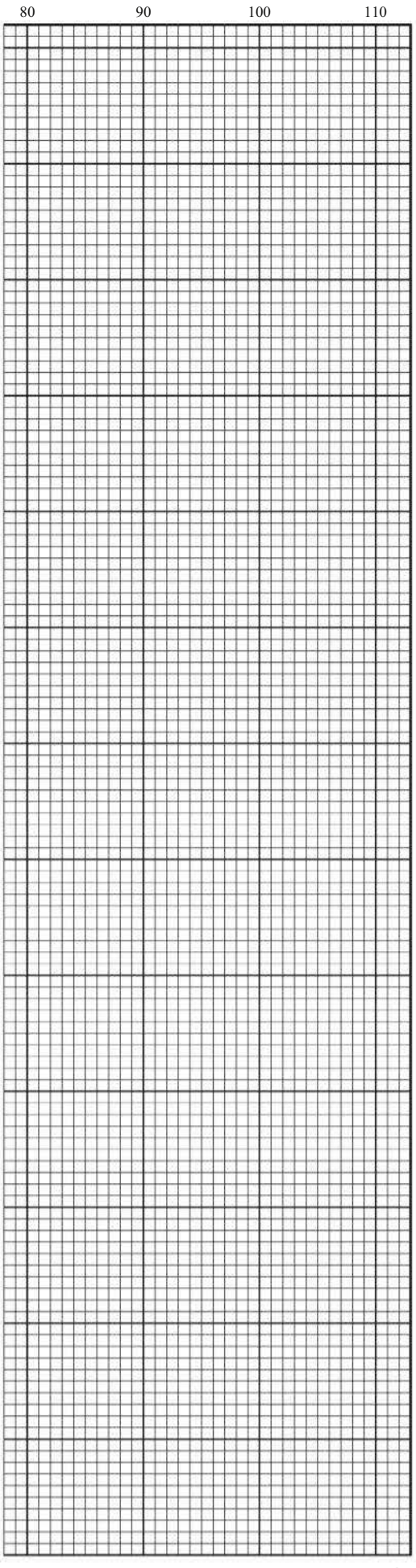
Top middle



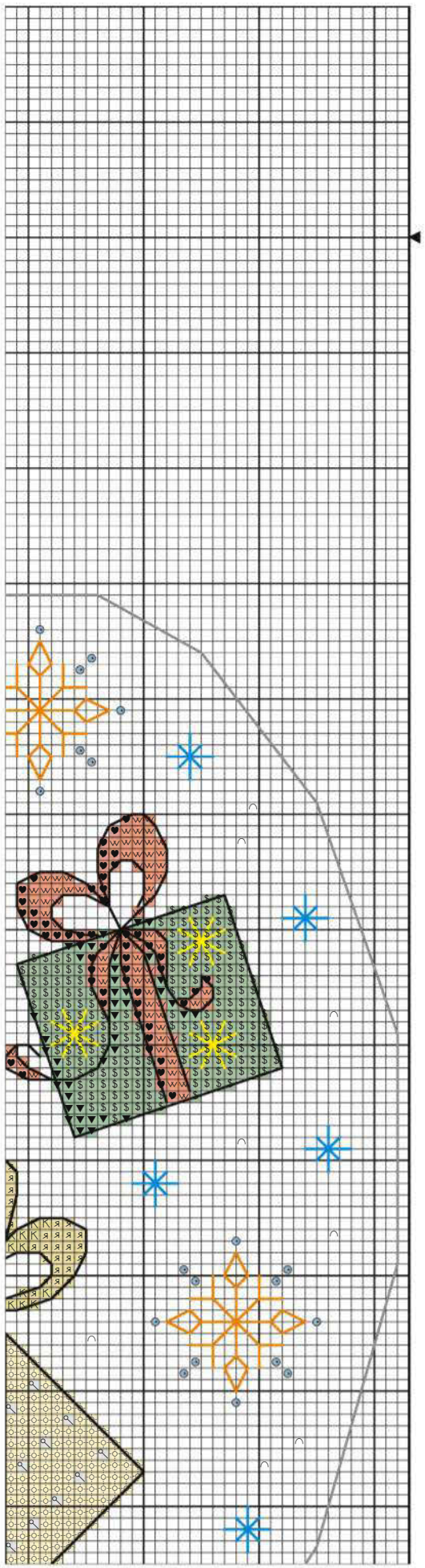
Middle left



Middle centre



Top right



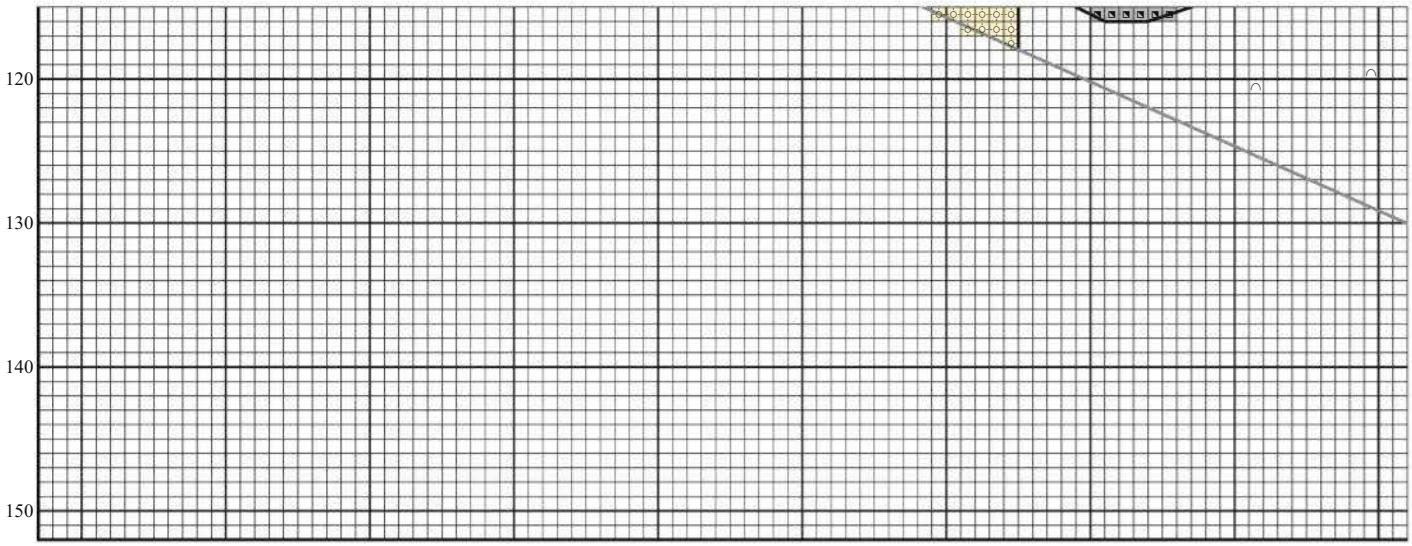
Middle right

"A cheeky elf carrying presents for Santa makes a great focal point for this homemade stocking – it's a wonderful design to stitch for little ones this Christmas."

Katriel Costello, editor

Stitching close-up

Metallics are a must for special Christmas pieces like this, and Faby has used DMC Diamant in dark gold and pewter to add seasonal sparkle to some of the parcels in this design. Remember to use a good thread conditioner to make the metallic threads easier to work with.



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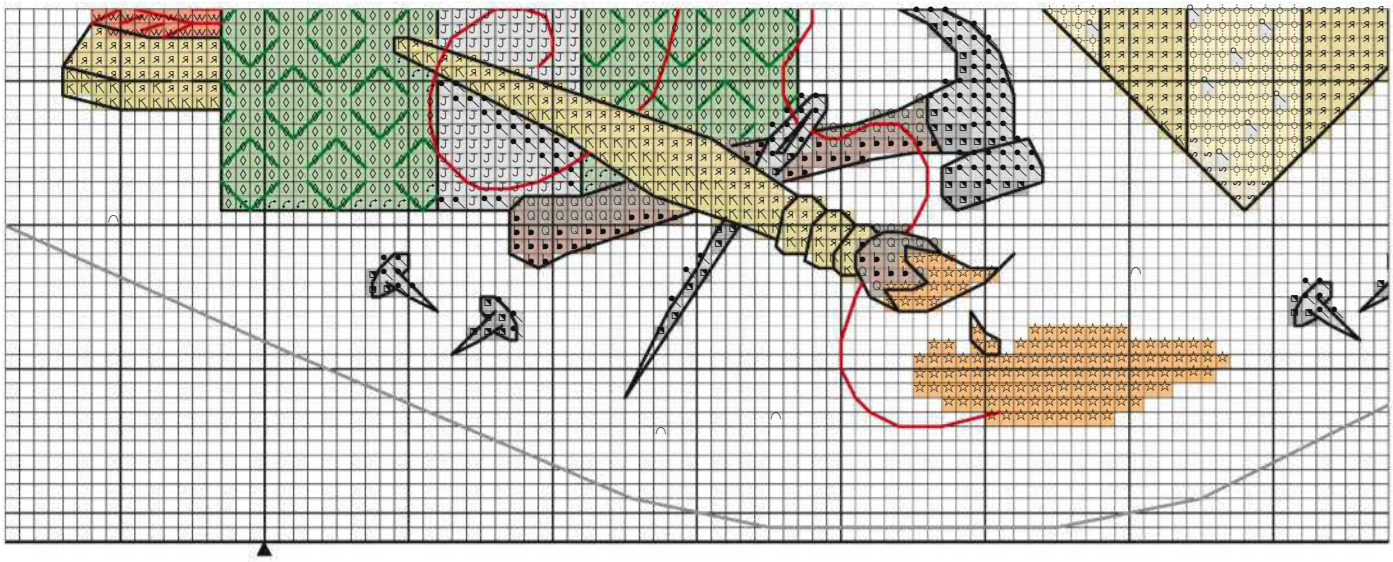
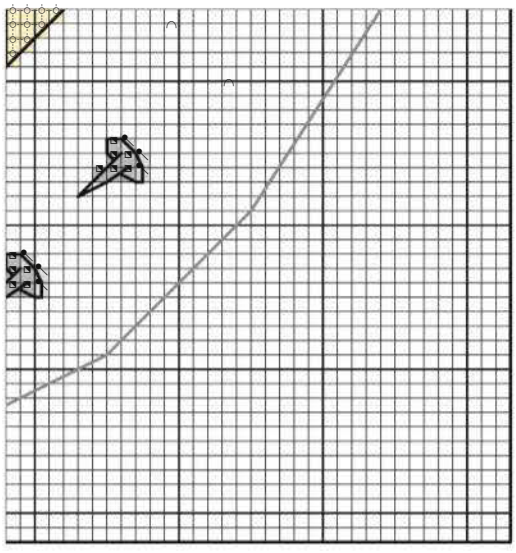


Bottom centre



Bottom right

How to make up the stocking

1 Using the stocking outline from the chart as a guide, draw around stocking, leaving a 1cm (½in) border of fabric as a seam allowance along the sides and bottom and an 8cm (3in) border at the top. Cut out along this line.

2 Use your stitched piece as a template, cut out a piece of backing fabric and two pieces of lining fabric the same size.

3 With right sides together, pin one of the lining pieces to the stitched pieces, along the top edge only. Sew in place with a 1cm (½in) seam allowance. Press the seam open, then lay the panel out flat on the table, right sides facing up. This is now called panel A.

4 Pin and sew the other lining piece to the backing fabric in the same way, with right sides together. Lay this panel out flat on the table. This is now panel B.

5 Lay panel A on top of panel B so that the right sides are facing. Pin around the edge using a 1cm (½in) seam allowance, leaving a gap on the straight edge for turning through.

6 Trim and clip notches into the curves to allow the stocking to lie flat. Turn the stocking through and slip stitch the gap closed.

7 Tuck the lining down into the stocking, smoothing out the corners. Iron flat then sew on a loop of ribbon for hanging.

For children

How to stitch a name

To stitch a different name onto the stocking, plot out your letters on a piece of graph paper first to make sure you get the spacing and positioning right before you start stitching on the stocking itself.

Stocking key

Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	blanc	2	2402	white
■	310	403	2400	black
↖	318	399	1801	grey
♥	321	9046	510	dark red
◥	414	235	1714	dark grey
J	415	398	1802	light grey
Q	433	357	2602	brown
∽	613	831	2109	beige
W	666	46	210	red
☼	677	886	2207	sand
+	758	868	2313	dark peach
*	762	234	1804	very light grey
K	825	162	1011	dark blue
☾	826	146	906	blue
K	833	945	2203	olive green
Я	834	874	2510	light olive green
♭	898	360	2006	dark brown
$	909	230	1303	dark green
↶	911	205	1214	green
◊	912	209	1213	light green
'	3774	778	306	light peach
3	3779	4146	2605	peach
▼	3818	923	2704	very dark green
◪	3858	1007	811	rosewood
◪	3859	1013	2310	light rosewood
×	3863	379	1912	coffee brown

Cross stitch in two strands DMC Diamant

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
↖	D415			pewter
●	D3852			dark gold

Cross stitch in two strands DMC Color Variations

☆	4075			wheat field

Backstitch in one strand

—	310	403	2400	black

Backstitch in one strand DMC Diamant

—	D415			pewter

Backstitch in two strands

—	blanc	2	2402	white
—	321	9046	510	dark red

Diamond eyelet in one strand DMC Diamant

—	D415			pewter
—	D3852			dark gold

Round eyelet in one strand DMC Diamant

—	D3852			dark gold

Spider web stitch in two strands

—	blanc	2	2402	white

Mill Hill seed beads

●	02010			ice

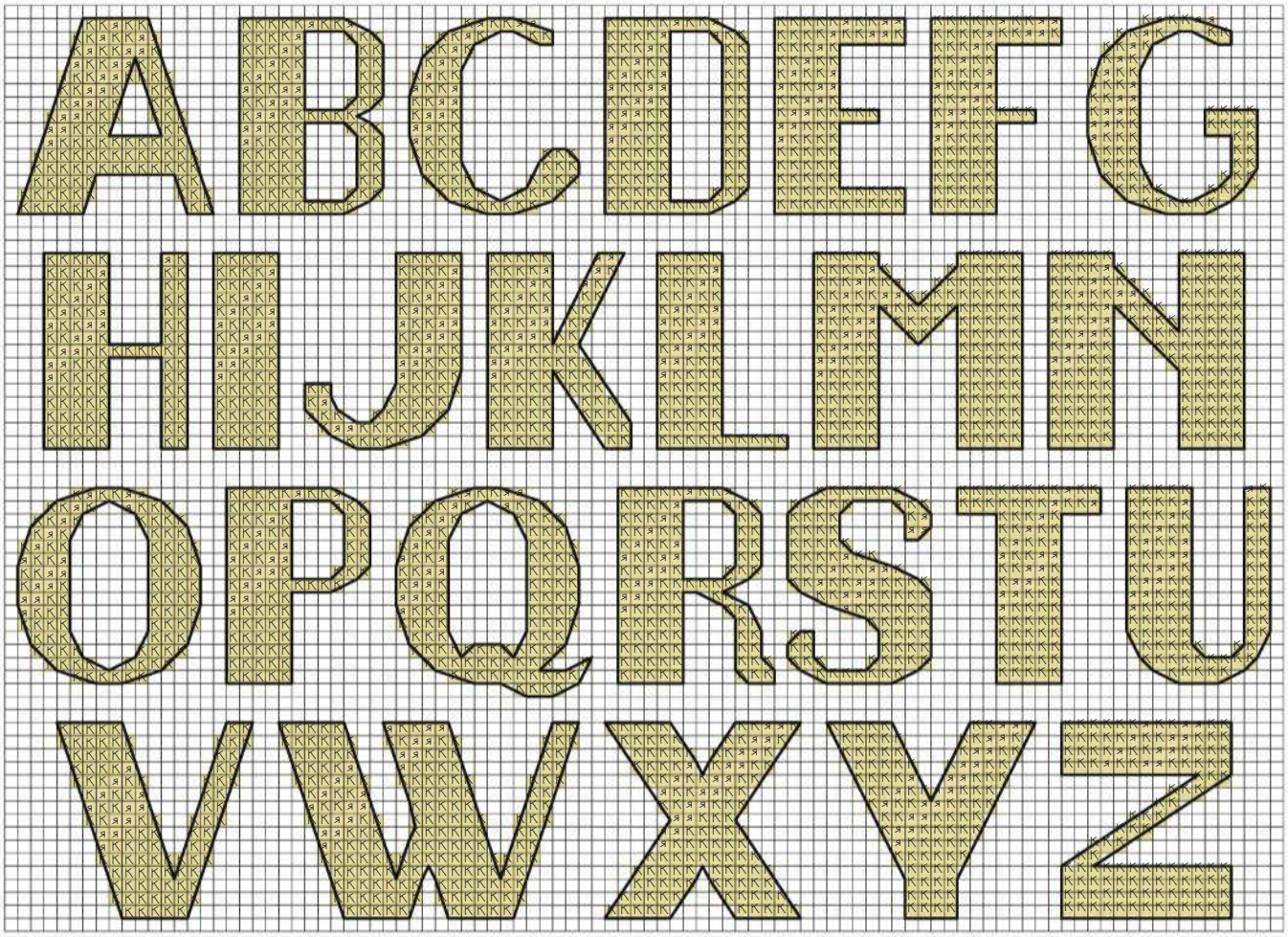
Stocking outline – do not stitch

STITCH COUNT 302 high x 224 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 55x40.5cm (21½x16in)

SKEINS NEEDED **2xblanc** (white), **2x677** (sand), **2x826** (blue), **2x834** (light olive green), **2x909** (dark green)

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



ABC chart

Stitch a delightful tag to make your gift even more appealing

Rockin' robins

Make your wrapping totally unique and festive this year, by stitching a selection of these cute robin gift tags to accompany your presents

Designed by Durene Jones

You will need

Threads: Stranded cotton as listed in the key

Needle: Size 24 tapestry needle

Fabric: 28-count cream cashel evenweave measuring 12x10cm (4¾x4in)

Extras: Kraft cardstock cut to size and baker's twine of your choice from local stores

Stitching Factbox

Stitching time: Approx 3-5 hours

Type of stitches: Cross stitch, fractionals, backstitch, French knots

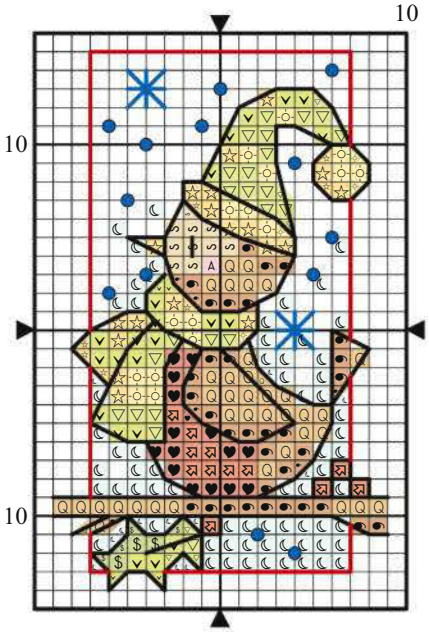
Level: Intermediate

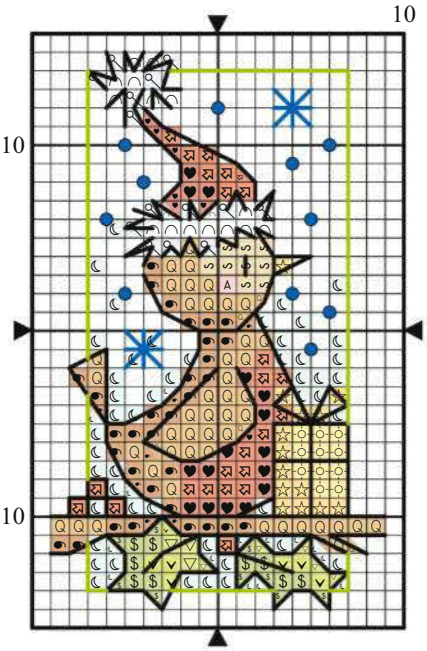
Tip

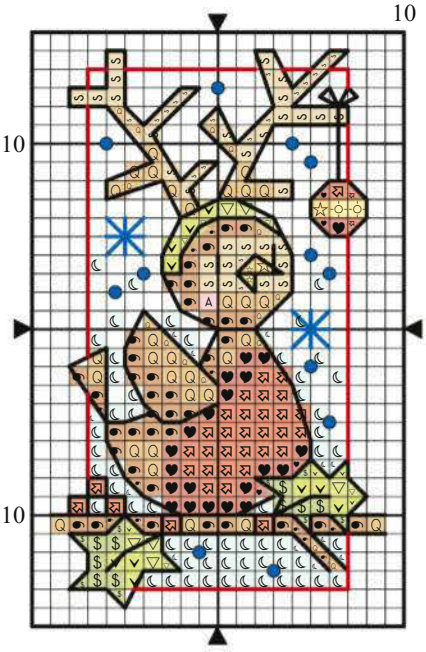
Feel free to mix and match the thread shades of the robins' clothes to create your own colour scheme

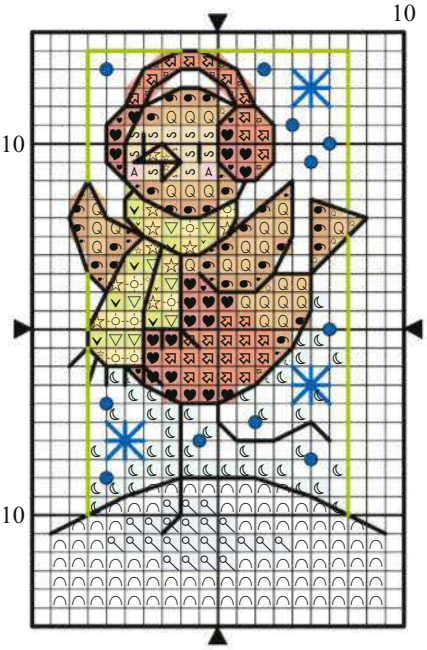
Stitching ideas

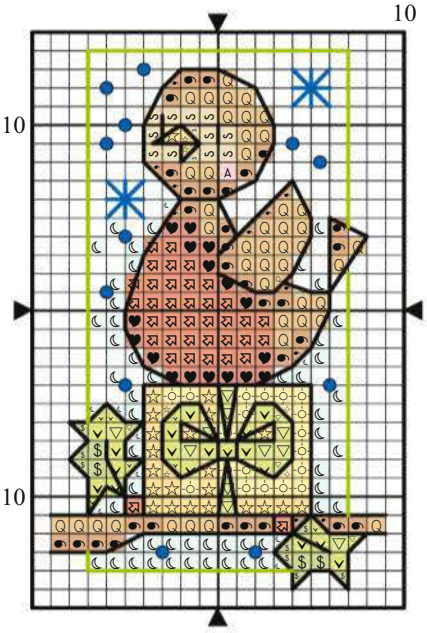
If you like each of the robins in this cute collection, you could try stitching all eight of them to display in your home this Christmas. Stitch each robin character in a line on the same piece of fabric – just make sure you allow an equal amount of space between each one.





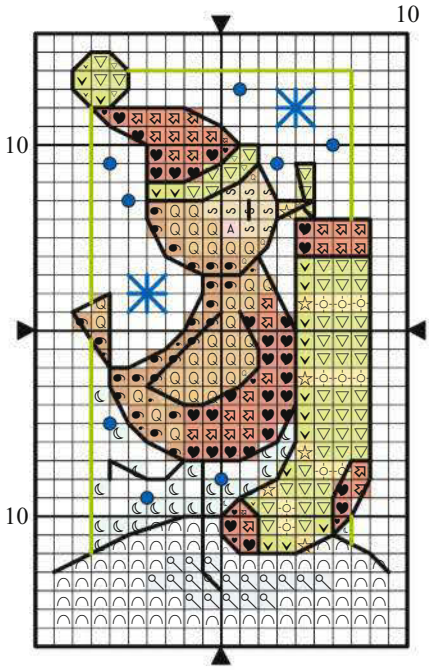


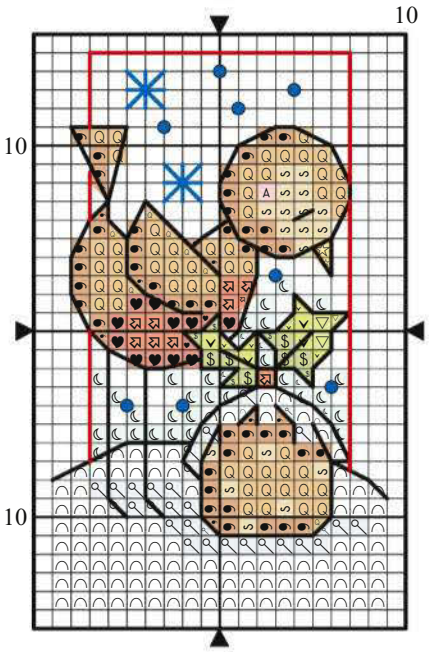


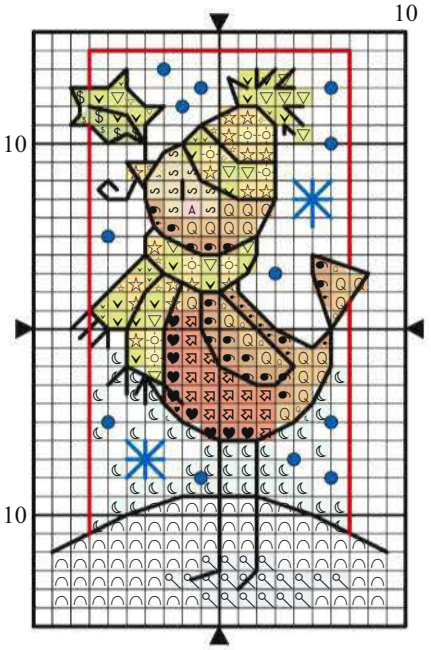


Stitching close-up

In just 31 by 18 stitches, Durene has managed to create robins in little scenes against snowy backgrounds. A gift, holly and a fetching Santa hat are all depicted in this design, with French knots as snow and pretty snowflakes in blue backstitch.







How to mount your gift tags

Cut out your design, leaving four or five squares (eight or 10 rows) of fabric around the edge. Fray the edges a little by pulling out a few threads all the way round, then back the stitching with white paper. Carefully stick the design to your chosen base card using strips of double-sided tape, then punch a hole in the top of the tag as shown, and finally thread baker's twine through, for a festive finishing touch.

Tip

Kraft card looks great with these tags, but you could also mount on coloured card for a vibrant look

Robin tags key

Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	B5200	1	2401	white
♥	304	19	511	ruby
●	434	310	2009	tan
Q	436	1045	2011	light tan
ম	666	46	210	red
☆	725	305	113	dark yellow
☼	726	295	109	yellow
S	738	367	2013	cream
☾	747	158	1104	blue
ৎ	762	234	1804	grey
$	906	256	1410	green
v	907	255	1308	light green
A	3716	25	503	pink
▽	3819	279	1610	lime green

Backstitch in one strand

—	310	403	2400	black
—	666	46	210	red
—	907	255	1308	light green
—	3846	1090	1103	turquoise

French knots in one strand

●	3846	1090	1103	turquoise

MAXIMUM STITCH COUNT 31 high x 18 wide
DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 6x3.5cm (2¼x1¼in)

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

"These tags will take experienced stitchers very little time to complete, so you can stitch and mount the whole collection easily – all ready to add a personalised touch to your wrapping."

Hannah Erskine, charting assistant

Whole stitches only

Nativity scenes

Stitch Joseph, Mary, baby Jesus, the Three Kings and all the traditional figures

Designed by Maria Diaz

How to mount your design in a card

1 First, prepare your completed stitching by washing it in a bowl of warm water and mild detergent. Lie it flat on a clean fluffy towel to dry out thoroughly.

2 When completely dry, place the card aperture over the stitching. When you are happy with the positioning, place a few pins carefully around the aperture to mark your place.

3 Turn the card over and stick double-sided tape around the edge of the aperture. Using the pins as a guide, place the card back over your stitching and stick the fabric in place.

4 Place a piece of white paper or wadding behind the stitching for a neat finish. Add double-sided tape to the extra card flap and carefully stick to the back of the card aperture.

You will need

Threads: Stranded cotton and metallic thread as listed in the key

Needle: Size 24 tapestry needle

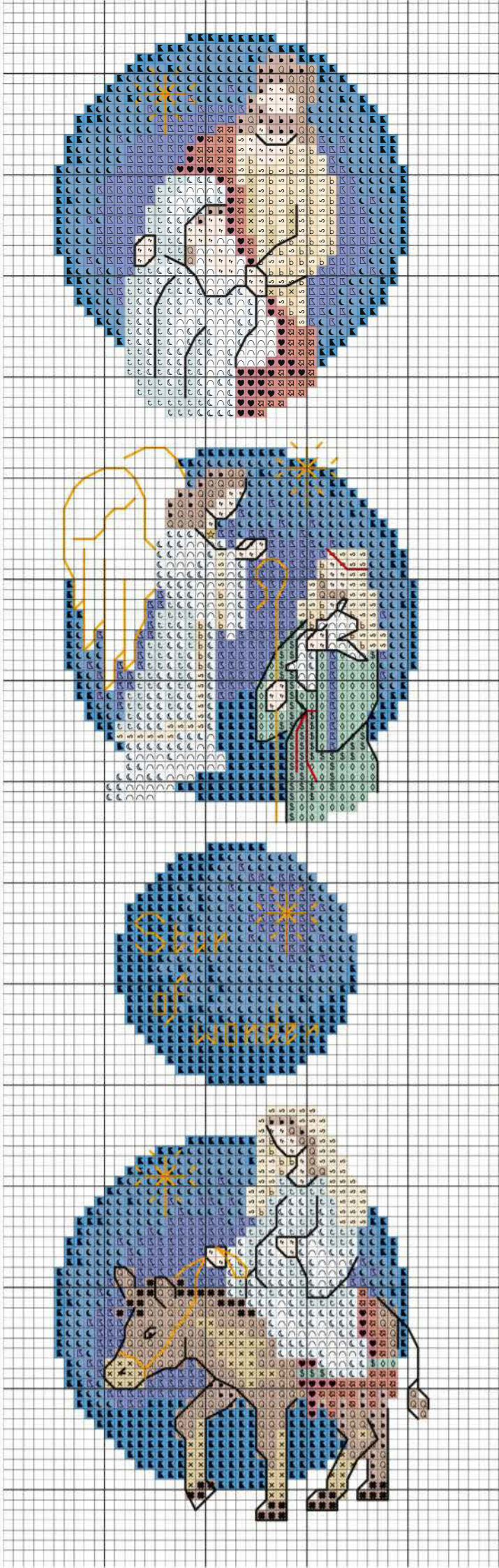
Fabric: 14-count white aida measuring a maximum of 15x15cm (6x6in) for each design

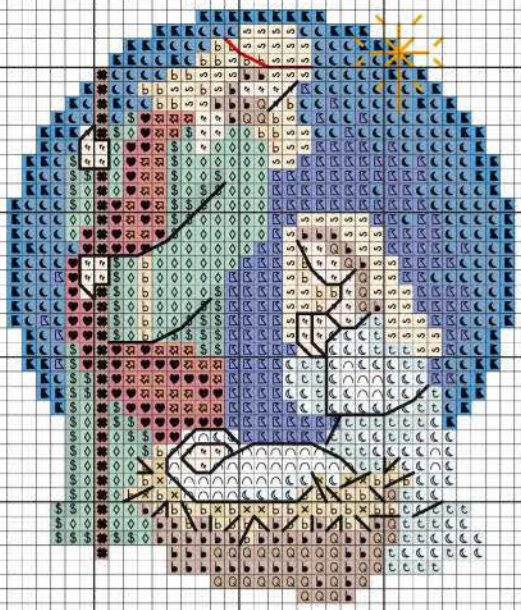
Stitching Factbox

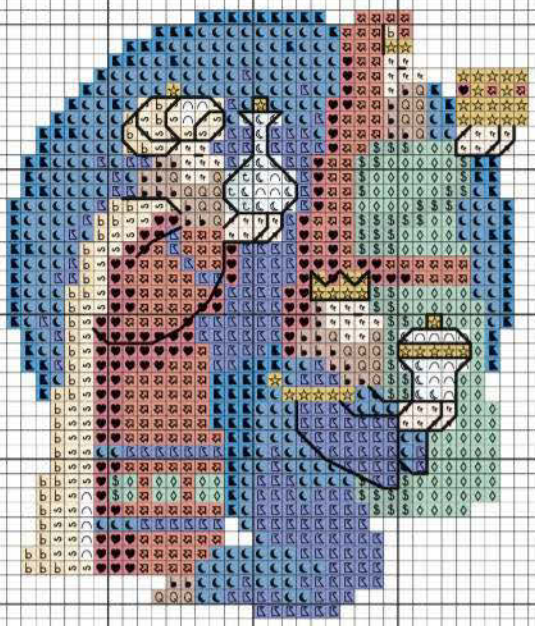
Stitching time: Approx 3-4 hours each

Type of stitches: Cross stitch, backstitch

Level: Advanced beginner







Nativity scenes key

Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	blanc	2	2402	white
刃	321	9046	510	red
b	437	362	2012	tan
∽	739	366	2014	cream
☾	796	134	914	dark blue
⍂	798	131	912	blue
♥	816	1006	513	ruby
◣	823	127	1008	navy blue
♭	839	1050	1913	brown
'	950	4146	2309	peach
◊	993	1070	1111	green
✖	3031	360	2003	dark brown
☾	3756	1037	2504	baby blue
t	3761	928	1001	sky blue
×	3828	373	2103	hazelnut brown
$	3848	1074	1108	teal
Q	3863	379	1912	beige

Cross stitch in two strands DMC Light Effects

☆	E3852			dark gold

Backstitch in one strand

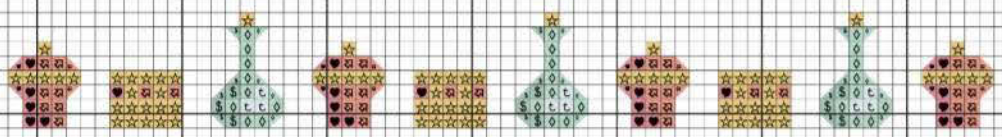
—	321	9046	510	red
—	3031	360	2003	dark brown

Backstitch in one strand DMC Light Effects

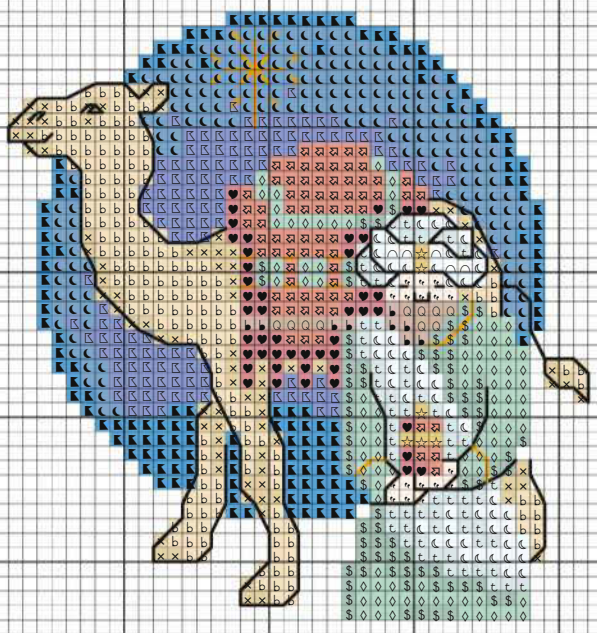
—	E3852			dark gold

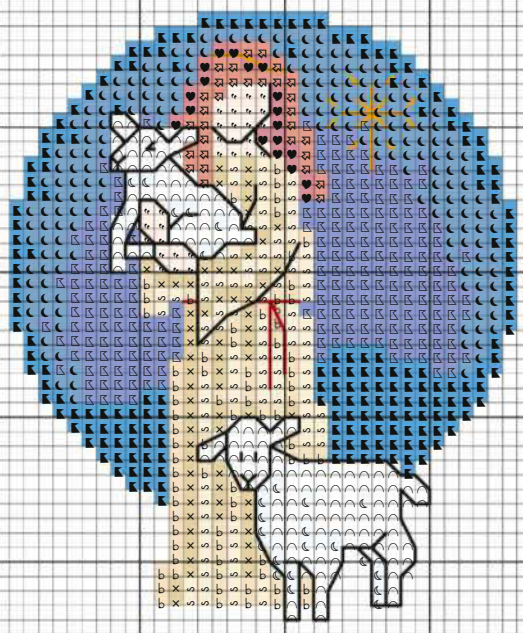
MAXIMUM STITCH COUNT 42 high x 69 wide
DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 7.5x12.5cm (3x5in)

These designs were stitched using DMC stranded cotton



Gold · Frankincense · Myrrh · Gold





Quick to stitch

Pets at Christmas

Stitch these oh-so-sweet pals and send seasonal greetings with love to your friends and family this year

Designed by Durene Jones

Great for all ages, these adorable cards will raise a smile with your friends and family this season. And, from the robin perched atop the kitty's head to the perfectly wrapped pressies piled under the tree, it'll be a treat to recreate the fab little details. This set is also easy to personalise – why not mix and match the sentiments for different recipients and change up the colours to use thread from your stash? Simply stitch on 14-count aida, and then patch onto a square card blank. These are designs you'll want to keep, so go ahead and spread some cheer this season.

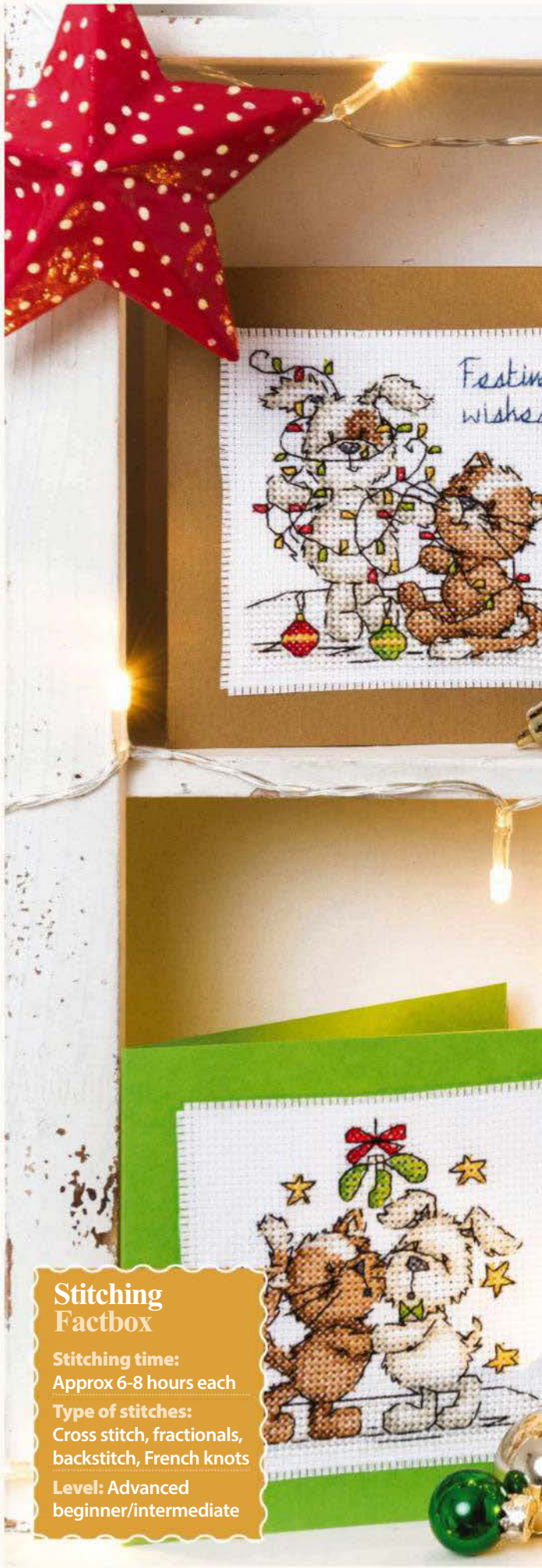
You will need

Threads: Stranded cotton as listed in the key

Needle: Size 24 tapestry needle

Fabric: 14-count white aida measuring 15x15cm (6x6in) for each design

Extras: Single fold cards measuring 120x120mm in Lime and Kraft card from local craft shops



Stitching Factbox

Stitching time: Approx 6-8 hours each

Type of stitches: Cross stitch, fractionals, backstitch, French knots

Level: Advanced beginner/intermediate

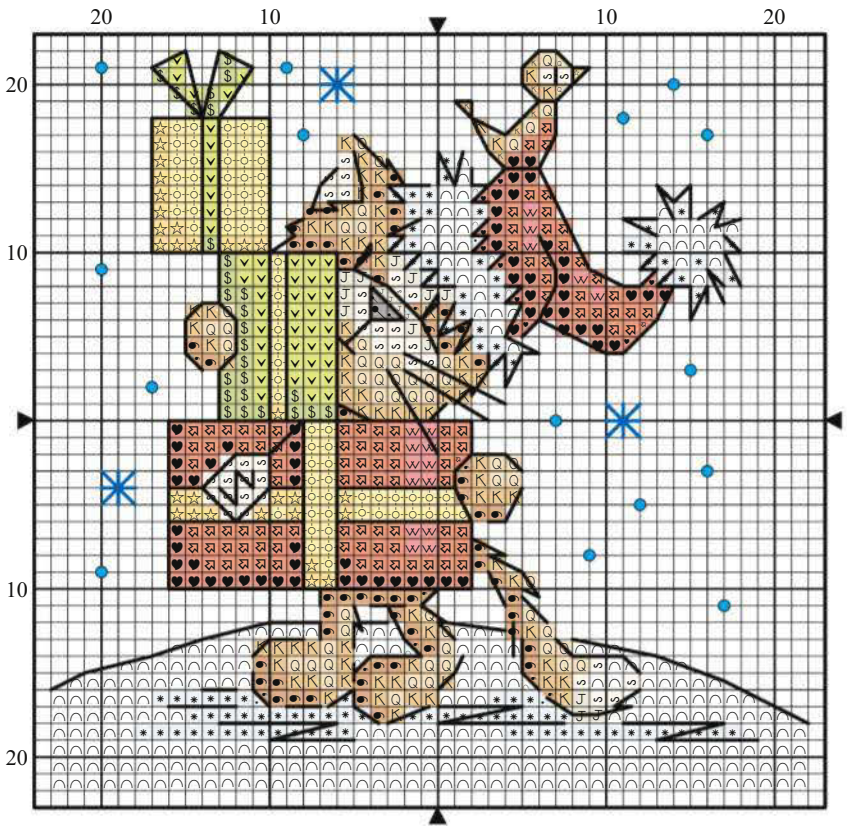
These adorable designs will be such fun to stitch and they're sure to delight your lucky recipients

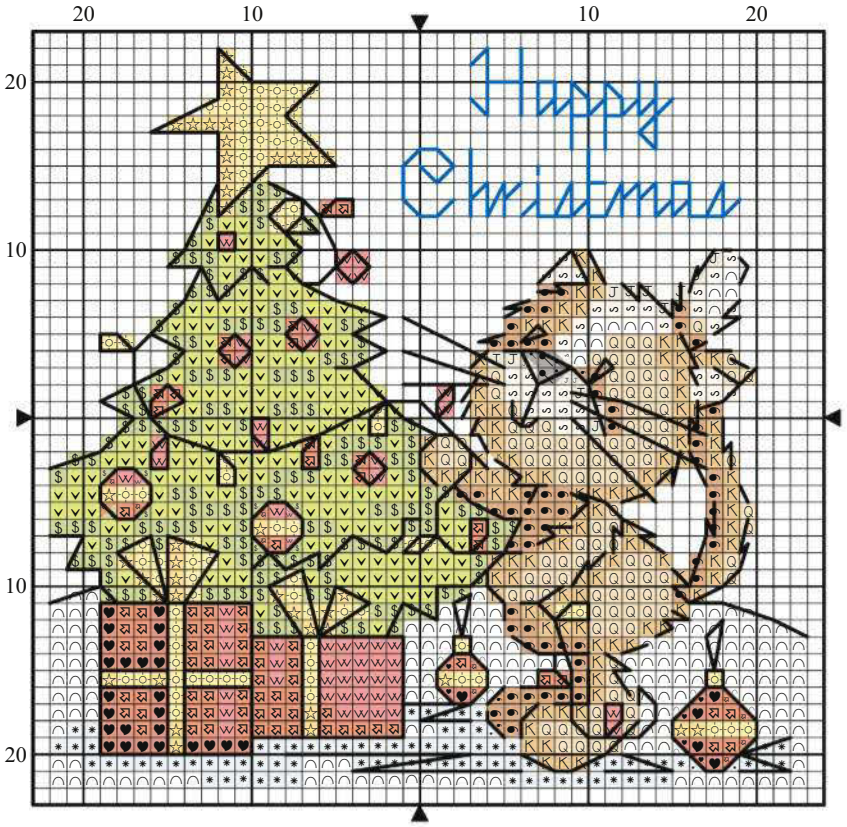
Stitching close-up

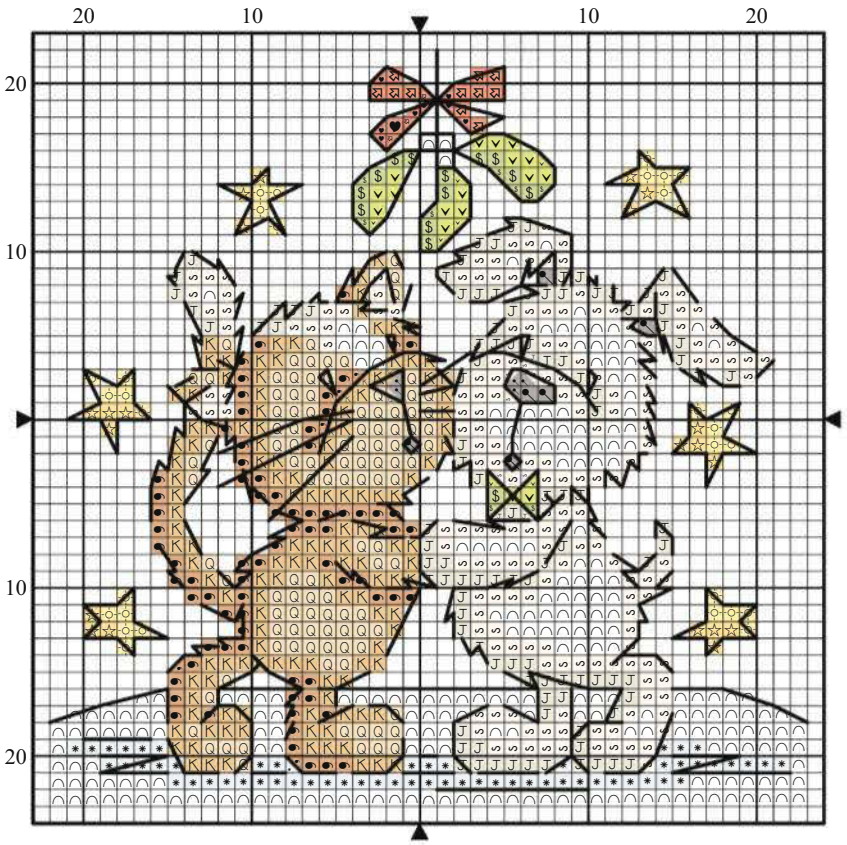
To prove that not all cats and dogs fight like, well, cats and dogs, Durene has shown one cuddly pair under the mistletoe – although they look pretty surprised to find themselves there! A simple colour palette shows the dog in white and cream and the cat in tan with the brighter colours in the design limited to the mistletoe, bow and stars details, to great effect.

How to wash your stitching

It's always a good idea to wash your finished piece before framing it. Immerse the completed stitching in a bowl of warm water with a little detergent and swill it around. Rinse in cold water – but don't wring it out. Iron your damp stitching by placing it face down on a fluffy towel, making sure to push the point of the iron into the back of the stitches to make them stand out at the front.







"Stitching such playful, loveable designs will be a treat in itself in the run up to Christmas and these cards are sure to make the recipient smile."

Hannah Erskine, charting assistant

Cute cards key

Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	blanc	2	2402	white
s	ecru	926	2404	cream
↖	317	400	1714	grey
♥	321	9046	510	dark red
◕	434	310	2009	dark tan
K	436	1045	2011	tan
Q	437	362	2012	light tan
J	644	830	1814	beige
ж	666	46	210	red
☆	725	305	113	yellow
☼	726	295	109	light yellow
*	762	234	1804	light grey
$	906	256	1410	green
v	907	255	1308	light green
w	3705	35	410	scarlet

Backstitch in one strand

—	310	403	2400	black
—	3765	169	2505	turquoise

French knots in one strand

●	3761	928	1001	blue

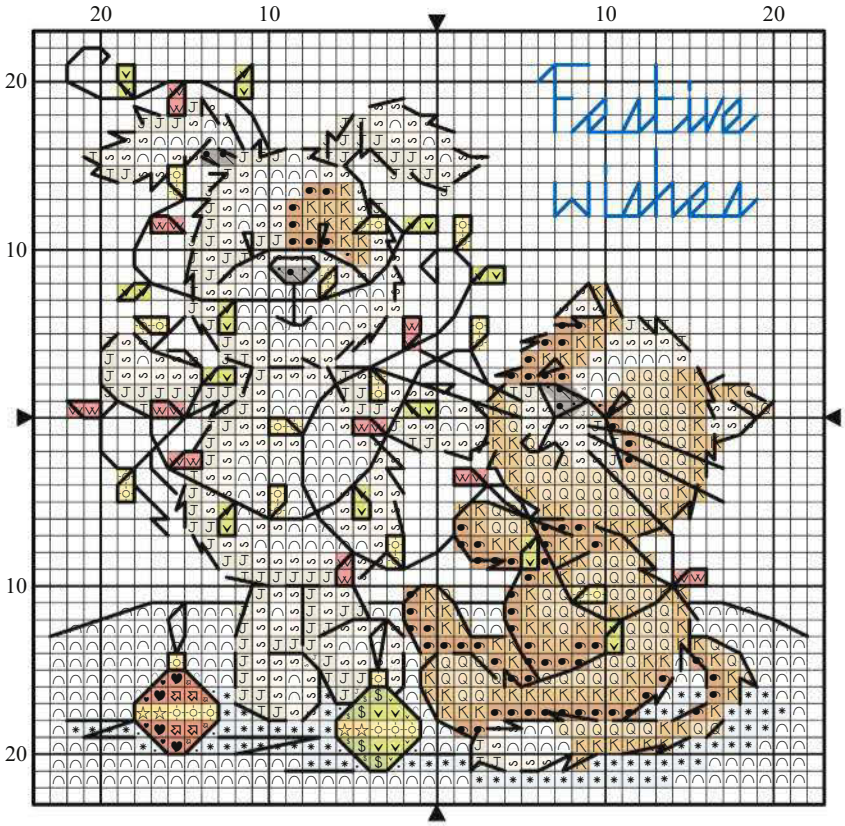
MAXIMUM STITCH COUNT 45 high x 45 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 8x8cm (3¼x3¼in)

These designs were stitched using DMC stranded cotton

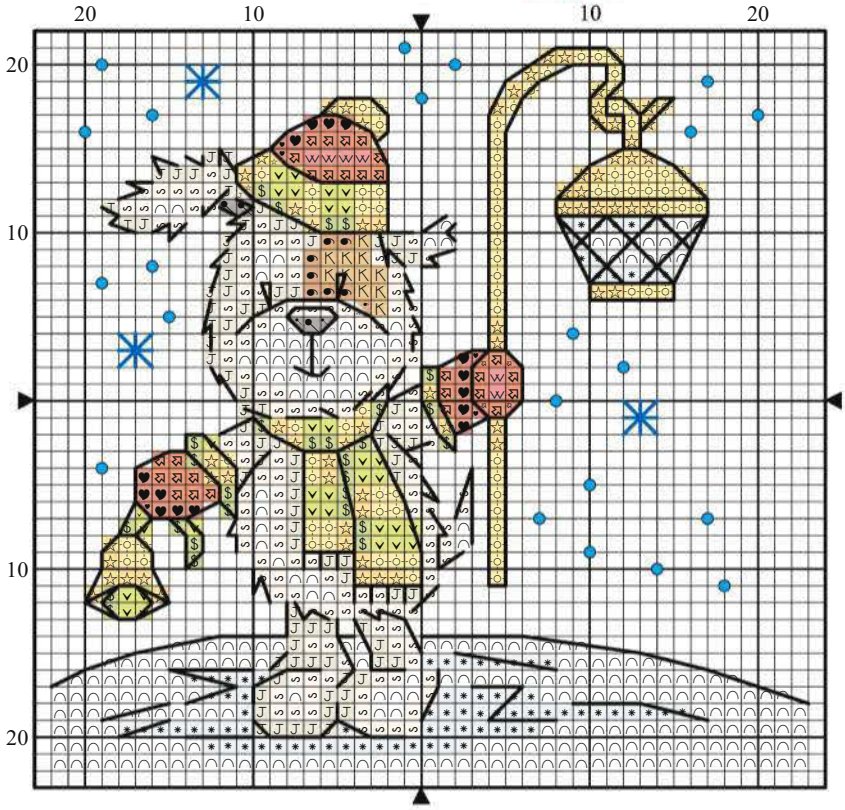
How to work the French knots

To work a French knot, bring the needle up through the fabric where you want the knot to form. Hold the thread down with your left hand and wind it round the needle twice. Still holding the thread taut, push the needle down through the fabric, close to where it came up. Pull your thread to create a neat knot.



"I had so much fun creating these little darlings. There's something so special about the Christmas season, and I tried to capture some of that excitement in these cards. I do hope you enjoy stitching them." ***Durene Jones, designer***

Tip
Let your needle hang down between stitches to avoid twists and possible knots in your thread



Dress to impress

Pick your favourite festive costume and spend a happy few hours stitching the cutest Christmas card for someone special

You will need

Threads: Stranded cotton as listed in the key

Needle: Size 24 tapestry needle

Fabric: 14-count white aida measuring 15x15cm (6x6in) for each design

Extras: Cards and backing paper of your choice from local craft stores

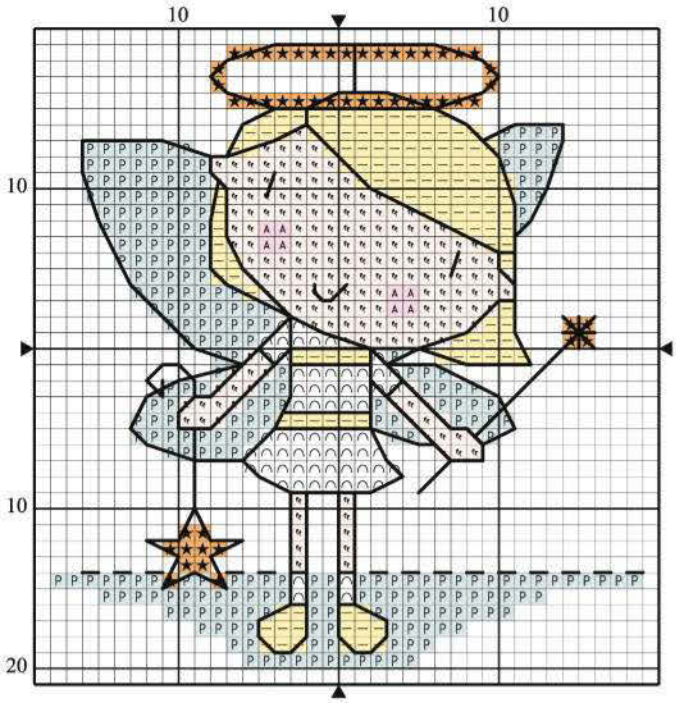
Designed by Durene Jones

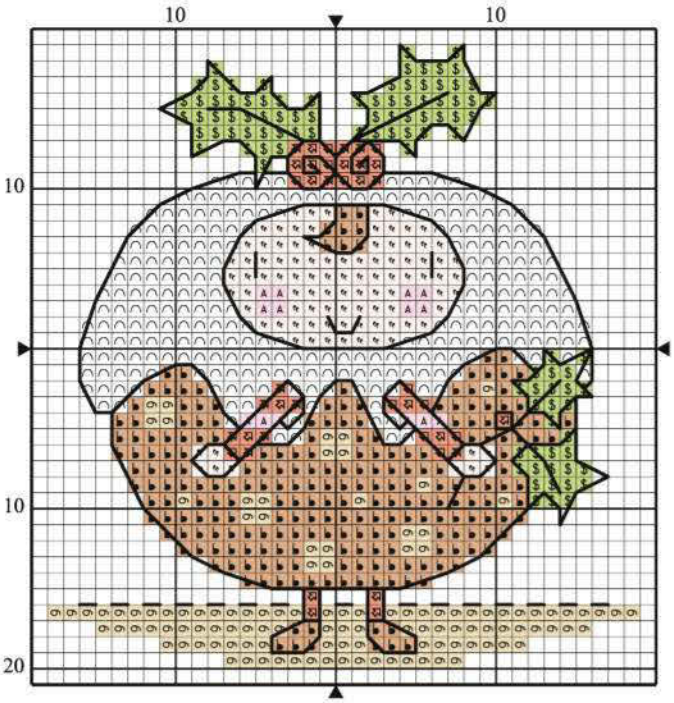
Stitching Factbox

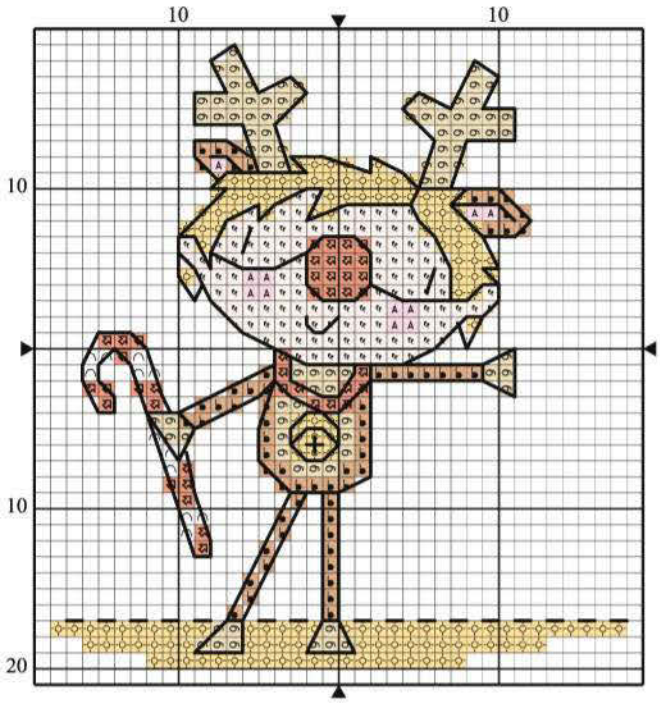
Stitching time: Approx 5-6 hours each

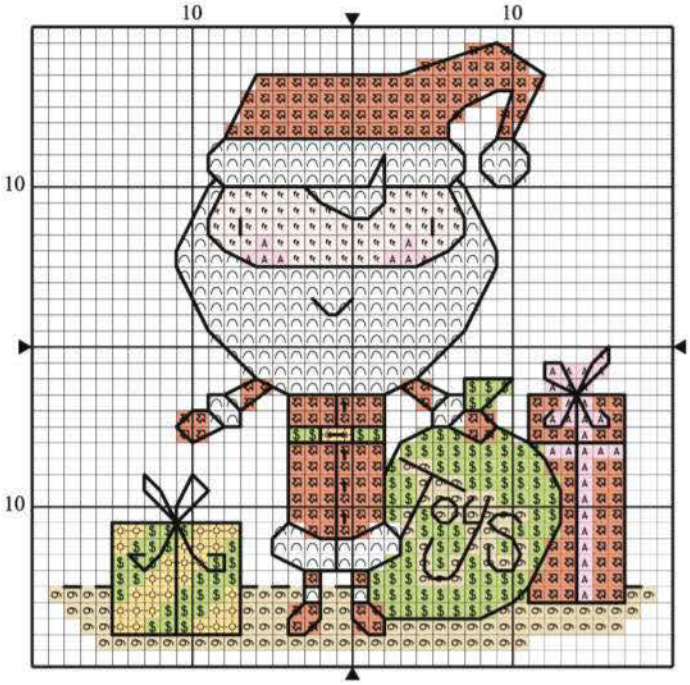
Type of stitches: Cross stitch, backstitch

Level: Beginner









How to mount your cards

1 Trim your aida to within six squares of the stitching, then fray one row of fabric all the way around the edge. You can either pull the threads out by hand or by using a pair of tweezers.

2 Cut a piece of white paper slightly smaller than your fabric, and stick this to the back of the stitching using double-sided tape.

3 Place more strips of double-sided tape on the back of the paper.

4 Add patterned paper to your card blank.

5 Position the stitching centrally over the paper on the card blank. Once you are happy with the position, carefully stick the design in place.

Tip

Buy decorative backing papers for these cards, or download free papers and bonus printables from www.gathered.how

Fancy dress cards key

Cross stitch in two strands

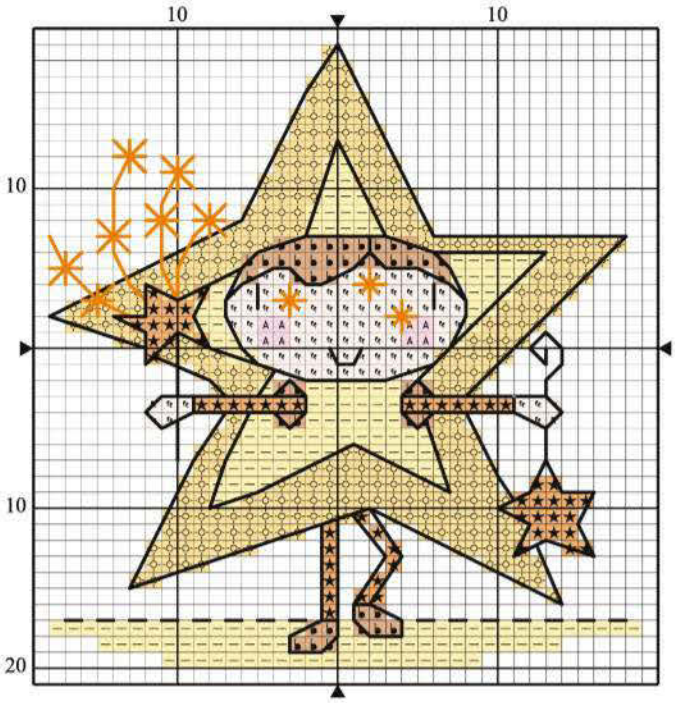
	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	blanc	2	2402	white
✕	349	1098	212	red
b	434	310	2009	tan
A	605	1094	613	pink
$	703	238	1307	green
☼	725	305	113	yellow
–	727	293	112	light yellow
ᔕ	738	367	2013	light tan
★	740	316	204	orange
t	3753	128	909	blue
P	3761	928	1001	sky blue
'	3770	1009	2314	peach

Backstitch in one strand

——	310	403	2400	black
——	349	1098	212	red
——	740	316	204	orange

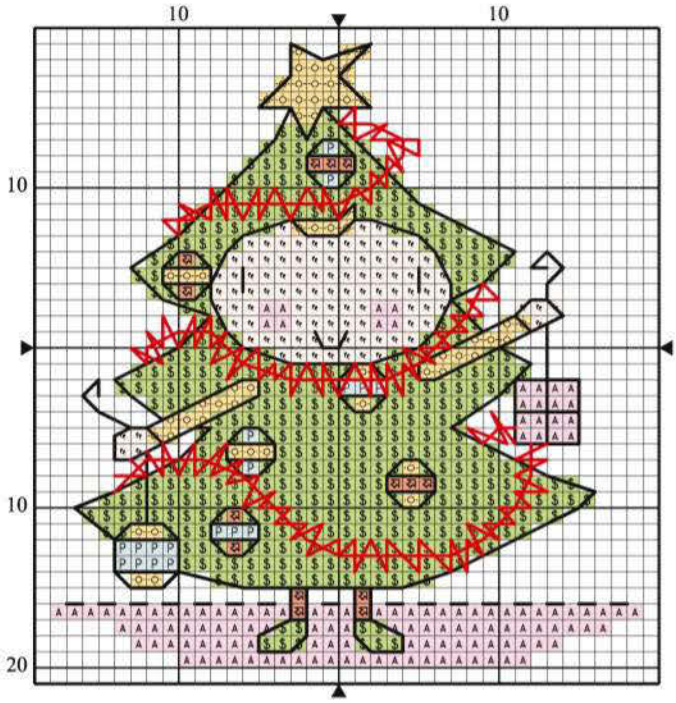
MAXIMUM STITCH COUNT 39 high x 38 wide
DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 7x7cm (2¾x2¾in)

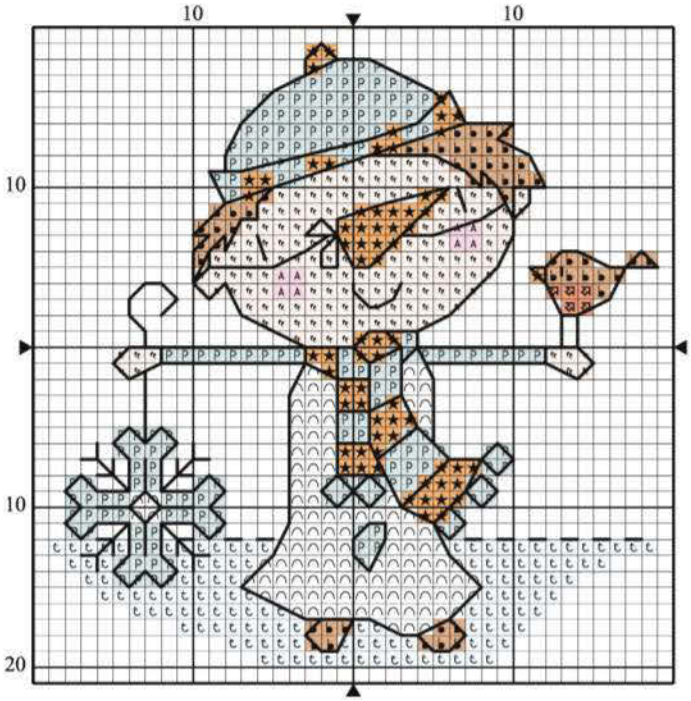
These designs were stitched using DMC stranded cotton



"This fun set of cards will suit all the family, which is good news because each design is so adorable you won't be able to decide which chart to pick, so why not make them all? They won't take long to stitch!"

Heather Nugent, charting editor





Stitch six seasonal scenes

Snowy landscapes

Stitch six picture-perfect seasonal cards, these circular greetings are ideal for winter birthdays and all-occasion celebrations

Designed by Jenny Barton

Each charming chart in this collection makes for a relaxing and quick-to-finish stitch – and they'd be perfect for all levels of stitchers, for so many different occasions. Stitch to celebrate a winter birthday or anniversary, a thank you, or even just to let a loved one know you're thinking of them. Worked in a soft palette of frosty colours, you'll achieve the painterly effect of these landscapes using mainly whole cross stitches, some in two strands, some in one, for a real sense of 3D depth, then a little backstitch to bring out the details. Each fits neatly in a circular aperture card blank too, excellently colour matched for a perfect finish. Stitch them for your stash, ready to have to hand to send to loved ones.

You will need

Threads: Stranded cotton as listed in the key

Needle: Size 24 tapestry needle

Fabric: 14-count white aida measuring 15x15cm (6x6in) for each design

Extras: Circle aperture cards of choice from local stores

Stitching Factbox

Stitching time: Approx 8-10 hours each

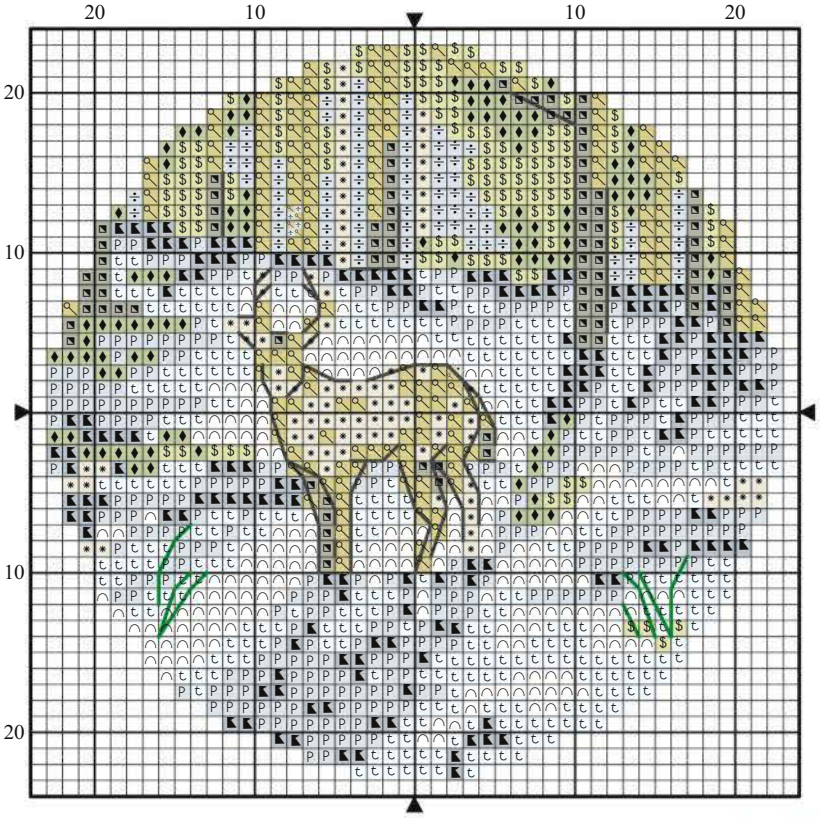
Type of stitches: Cross stitch, fractionals, backstitch

Level: Beginner/ advanced beginner

You'll love these scenic, all-occasion cards, with each wintery view so perfectly framed in a circle

Tip

Sky blue and crisp white cards make the perfect colours for these snowy scenes



How to mount an aperture card

1 Trim your finished stitching just smaller than the card front. Lay the card blank with the aperture over the aida, so the circle is aligned with the design. Mark where the aperture edges will be, with pins.

2 Turn the card over and stick double-sided tape around the inside of the aperture. With the pins as a guide, place the card back over your fabric and fix.

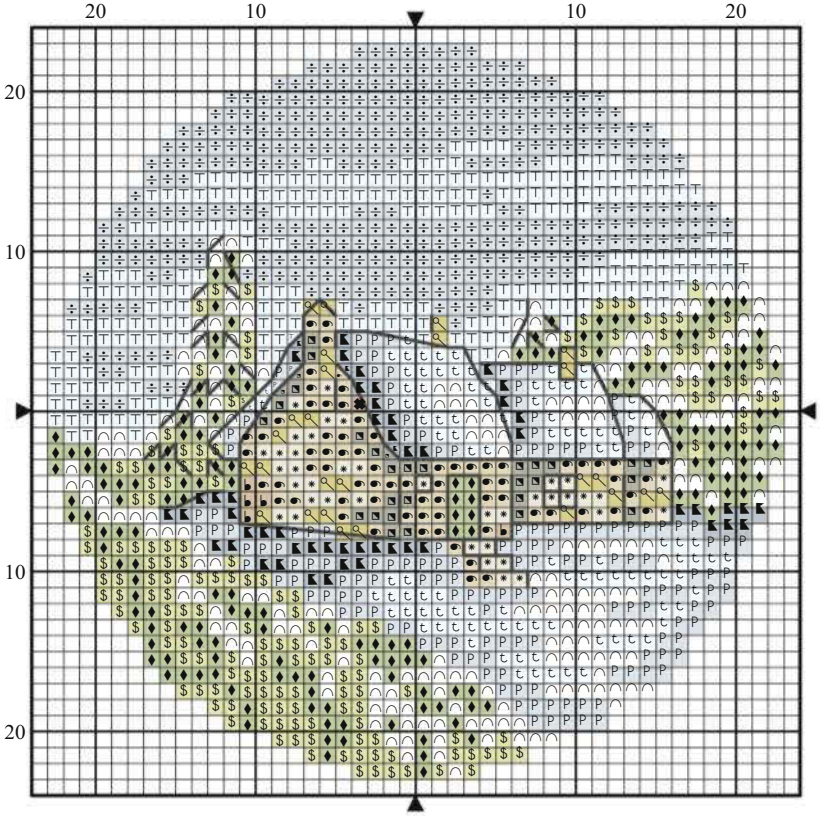
3 Insert a piece of white paper behind the aida, to prevent show-through of the card blank colour. Then fix down the card flap securely with a piece of double-sided tape.

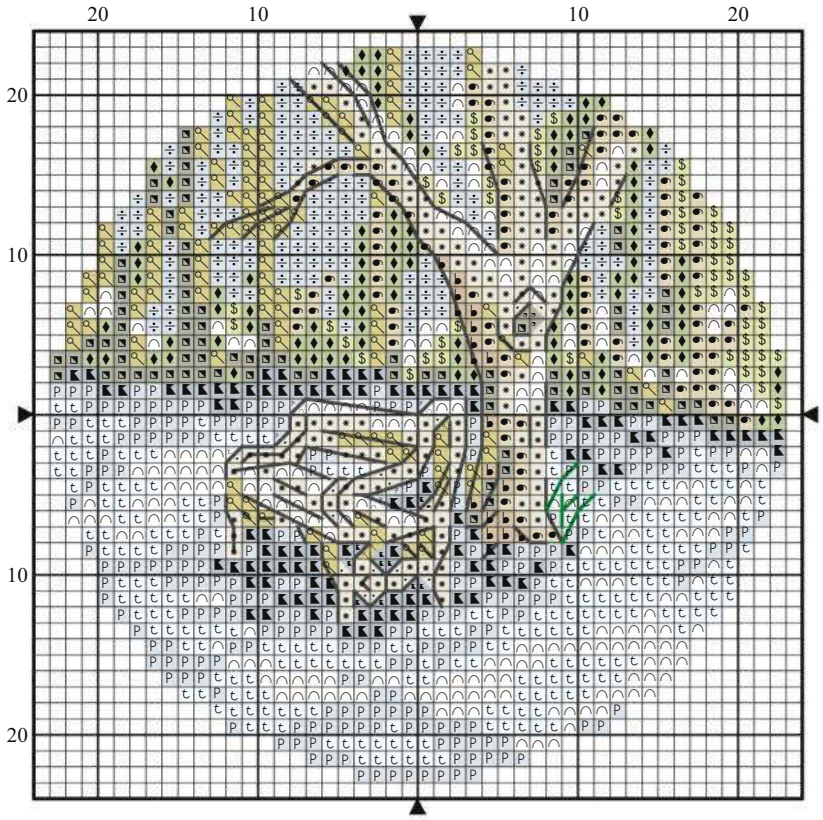
Tip

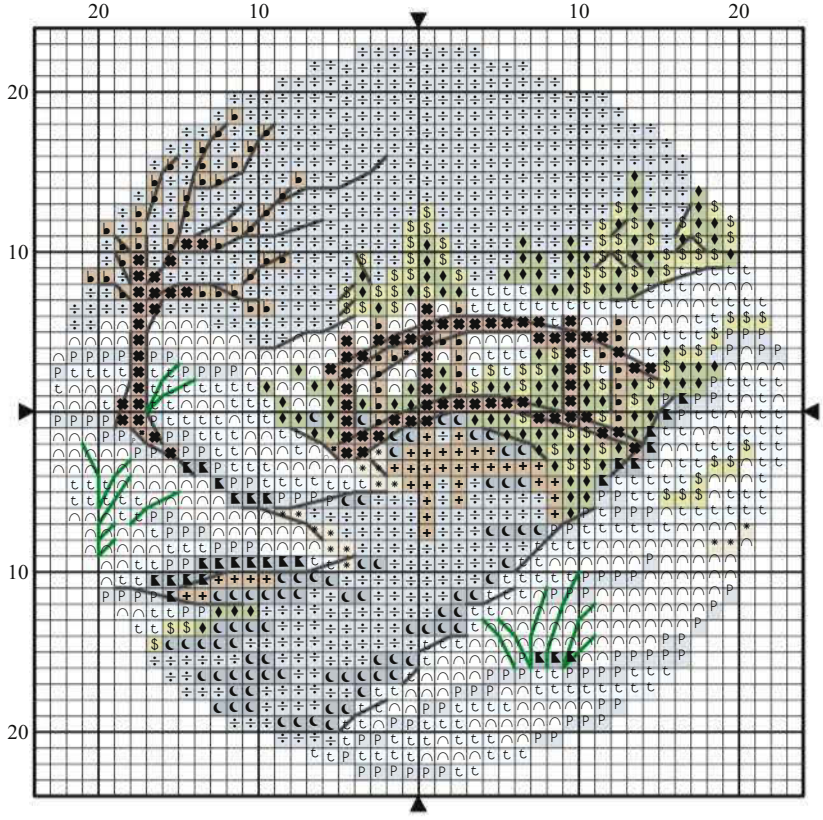
Why not choose your fave design and frame it in a mini embroidery hoop for a sweet, quick-stitch gift?

Stitching close-up

Having no backstitch in the foreground of a design and a little in the background is a trick designers use to bring perspective to a scene. Here, Jenny has left the shrubbery and the snowy ground undefined while the backstitch starts at the stone steps of the cottage and the trees to the left of the houses. It's a great way to add depth.







Winter scene cards key

Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	blanc	2	2402	white
●	642	903	1905	stone grey
*	644	830	1814	beige
✱	839	1050	1913	dark brown
b	840	1084	1912	brown
◣	931	1034	1711	dark blue
✎	3023	899	1813	ash grey
♦	3347	265	1408	dark green
$	3348	264	1409	green
P	3752	1032	1708	blue
t	3756	1037	2504	baby blue
◥	3787	273	1811	smoke grey

Cross stitch in one strand

+	840	1084	1912	brown
☾	931	1034	1711	dark blue
÷	3752	1032	1708	blue
T	3756	1037	2504	baby blue

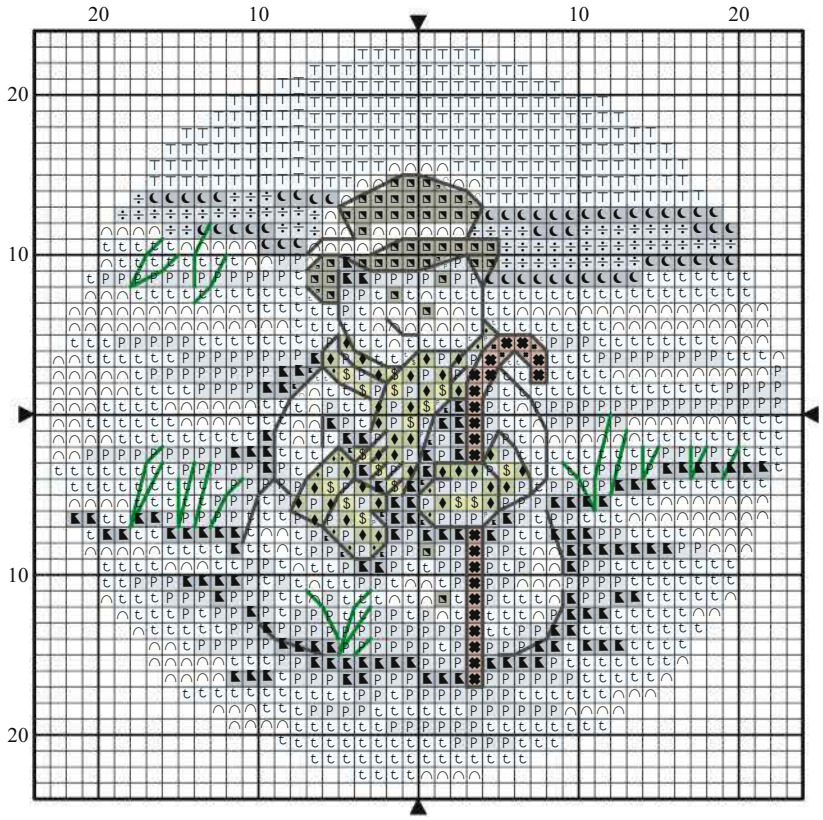
Backstitch in one strand

—	413	236	1713	grey
—	642	903	1905	stone grey

MAXIMUM STITCH COUNT 46 high x 46 wide
DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 8.5x8.5cm (3¼x3¼in)

These designs were stitched using DMC stranded cotton

"I love the effect of these circular designs – it makes me imagine looking out of the window on a cold winter's day and admiring the view. I'm sure your lucky recipients will be thrilled with these cards." ***Jenny Barton, designer***

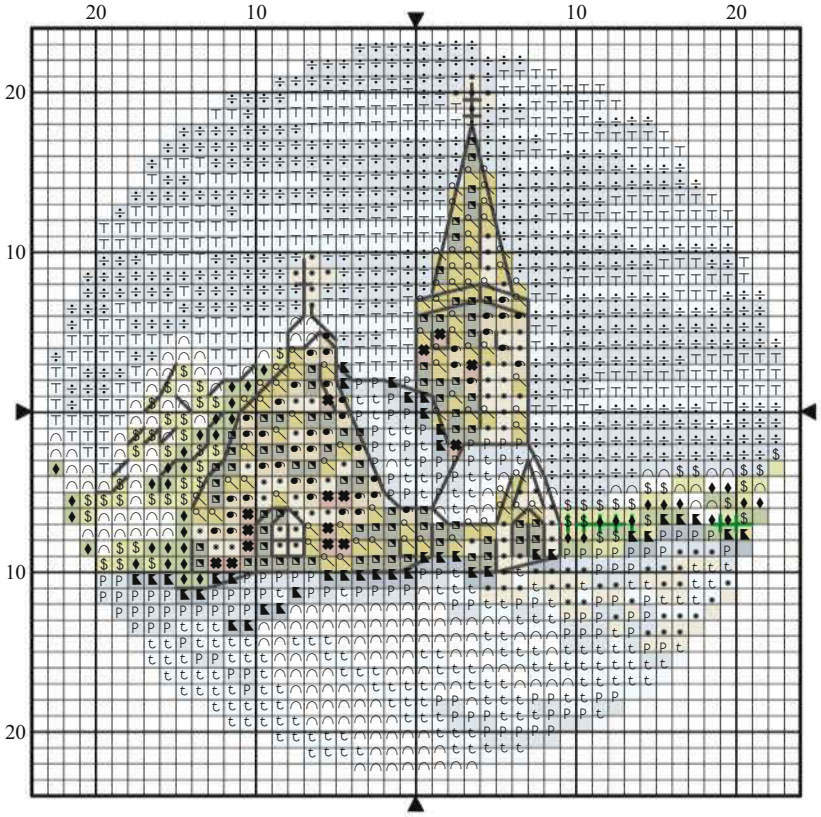


Stitching knowhow

We love the narrow colour palette Jenny has chosen for her wintery scenes. Blues in different shades, and white all convey the cold and the snow, with greens and greys used to create the landscape, the cottages and trees. The threads chosen express the feeling of winter well.

"Several of my family members have winter birthdays, and these pretty cards would be ideal to stitch and send. Plus the small design size means they'll be nice and quick to finish."

Fiona Baker, technical editor



Each of Lesley's designs is based on a much-loved Christmas carol

Peace & love

Stitch traditional cards

We all love a good carol service at Christmas, so limber up your needle for a festive sing-a-long

You will need

Threads: Stranded cotton as listed in the key

Needle: Size 24 tapestry needle

Fabric: 14-count white aida measuring 12x12cm (4¾x4¾in) for each design

Extras: Single fold cards, backing fabrics and lace trim of choice from local stores

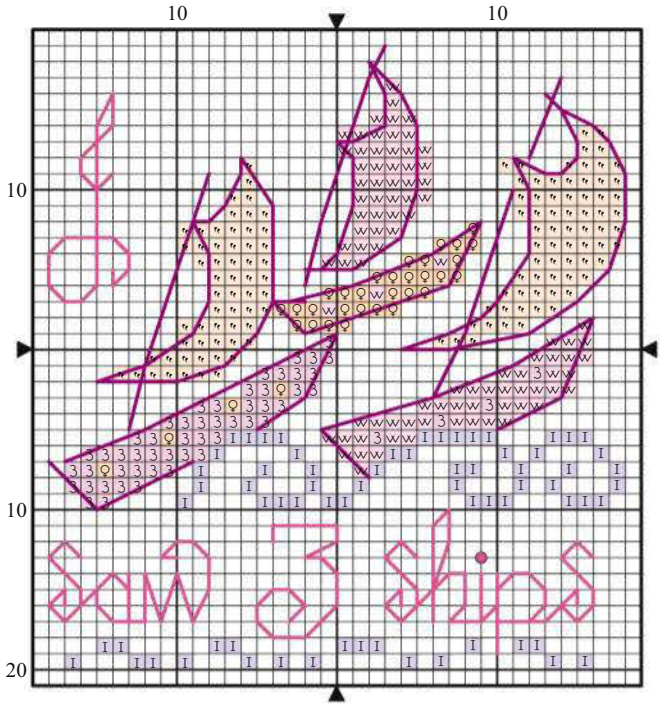
Designed by Lesley Teare

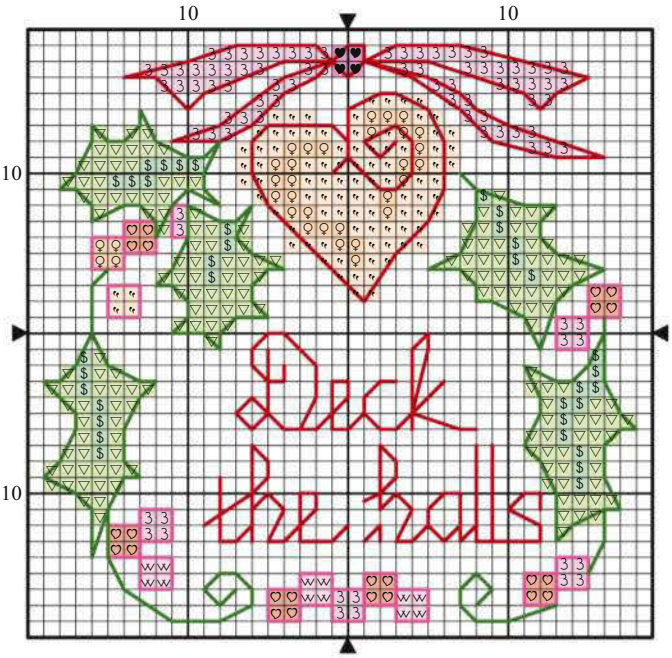
Stitching Factbox

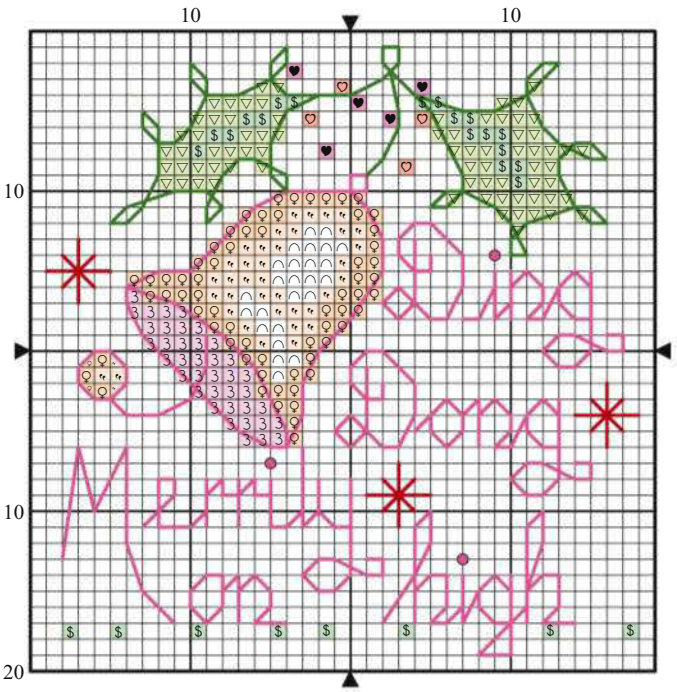
Stitching time: Approx 4-5 hours each

Type of stitches: Cross stitch, fractionals, backstitch, French knots

Level: Beginner/ advanced beginner





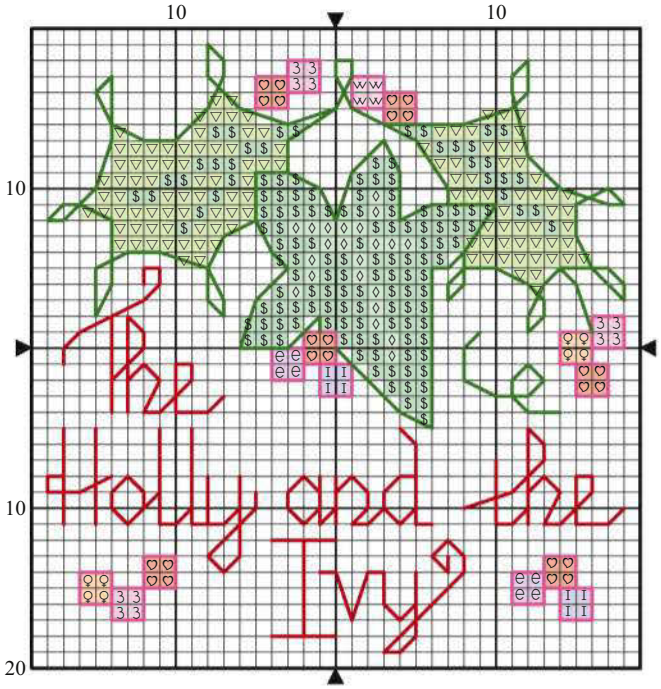


Tip

Make sure you always stitch in a good light, such as a Daylight bulb or near a window

Neat backstitch

Work the backstitch after completing all of the cross stitch to make sure these defining lines stand out against the stitches that are already there. This is equally as important for small designs as it is for big. When working backstitch, use short lengths of thread then let your needle dangle down regularly to allow the thread to untwist for really neat stitches.



Carol cards key

Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	blanc	2	2402	white
I	155	1030	902	purple
▽	164	240	1209	green
e	209	98	803	lilac
♡	351	10	214	coral
w	605	1094	613	pink
A	818	23	502	baby pink
$	913	204	1212	mint green
◊	964	185	1112	emerald
'	967	6	304	peach
♀	3341	328	403	dark peach
♥	3607	87	708	plum
3	3608	86	709	light plum

Backstitch in one strand

	351	10	214	coral
	3607	87	708	plum
	3608	86	709	light plum
	3837	111	713	dark lilac
	3851	187	1202	dark emerald

French knots in one strand

●	3607	87	708	plum
●	3837	111	713	dark lilac
●	3851	187	1202	dark emerald

MAXIMUM STITCH COUNT 39 high x 38 wide
DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 7x7cm (2¾x2¾in)

These designs were stitched using DMC stranded cotton

Finishing ideas

The length of lace used to finish off this card gives it a luxurious look, especially with the pretty scalloped edged cards, patterned papers and frayed stitching. All in all, it adds up to an extra-special handmade card.

Stitch with seed beads

Sparkle and shine

Send luxury Christmas greetings to friends and family – our classy bauble cards are sure to dazzle and delight

Designed by Faby Reilly

Making your Christmas cards stand out from the crowd has never been easier, thanks to these bauble cards and their contemporary palette of magenta pink and lime green, with golden accents and shimmery gold beads. Adding seed beads is a breeze and will add a touch of glitz that's so welcome at this time of year. Three of Faby's lovely bauble charts feature a fun festive greeting while the others make an impact on their own, but they all make a perfect card for anyone who brings a bit of sparkle to your life. Patch them onto gold card blanks for a fab finish.

Tip

Stick a piece of white paper behind your patch stitching to prevent show-through of the gold-coloured card blank

Stitching Factbox

Stitching time: Approx 6-8 hours each

Type of stitches: Cross stitch, backstitch, beads

Level: Intermediate

You will need

Threads: Stranded cotton as listed in the key

Needle: Size 24 tapestry needle, beading needle

Fabric: 14-count white aida measuring 15x15cm (6x6in) for each design

Extras: Mill Hill seed beads as listed in the key. Square single fold cards of choice from local stores

Make a style statement with contemporary colours when you stitch these glittery bauble cards

How to make a patch

1 When you have completed all of your stitching, trim your aida to within two squares of the stitches, then fray one row of fabric all the way around the edge. You can either pull the threads out by hand or using a pair of tweezers.

2 Cut a piece of white paper slightly smaller than your aida, and stick this to the back of the stitching using a piece of double-sided tape.

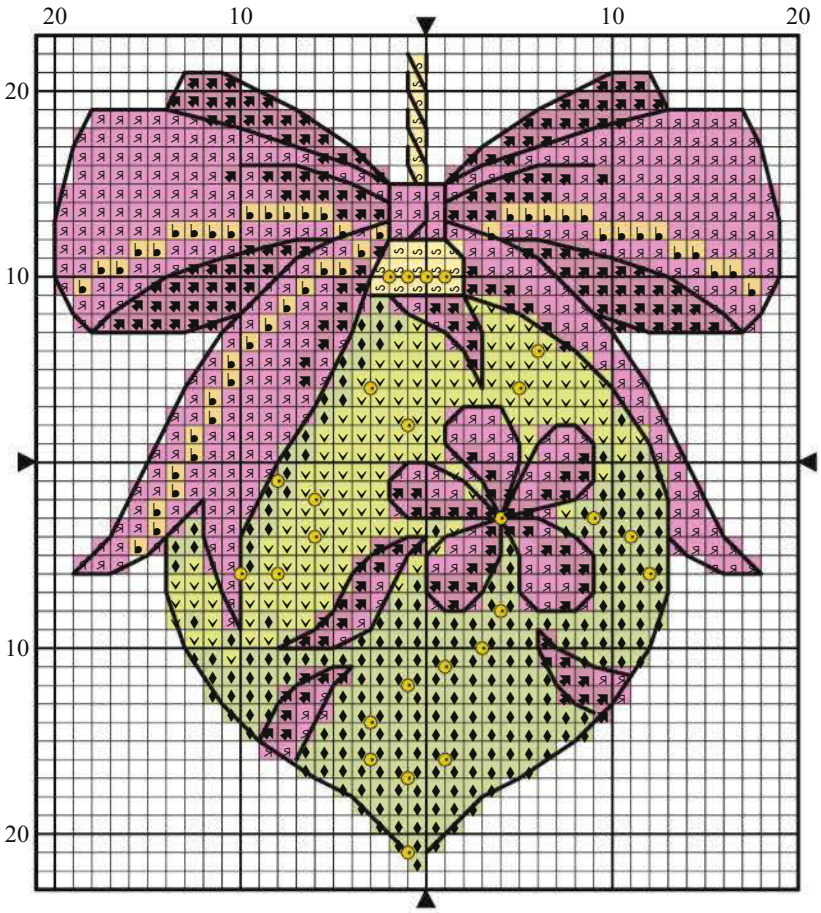
3 Finally, use double-sided tape to attach your stitching to the card.

Tip

We love the luxurious colours used for these baubles, but you can go more traditional if you prefer

"I couldn't wait to get started on these sophisticated cards, and my aim was for them to look unique and ornate. I love the effect of the modern colours, highlighted with a touch of gold sparkle, I'm a big fan of seed beads."

Faby Reilly, designer



Bauble cards key

Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
	718	88	707	dark pink
	906	256	1410	dark green
	907	255	1308	green
	3607	87	708	pink
	3820	306	2509	dark straw
	3822	295	2511	straw

Backstitch in one strand

	310	403	2400	black
	718	88	707	dark pink
	906	256	1410	dark green
	3820	306	2509	dark straw

Mill Hill seed beads

	00557			gold

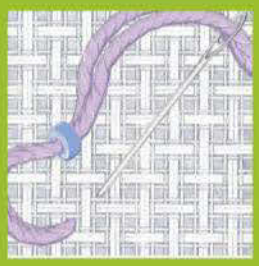
MAXIMUM STITCH COUNT 44 high x 45 wide
DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 8x8cm (3¼x3¼in)

These designs were stitched using DMC stranded cotton and Mill Hill seed beads

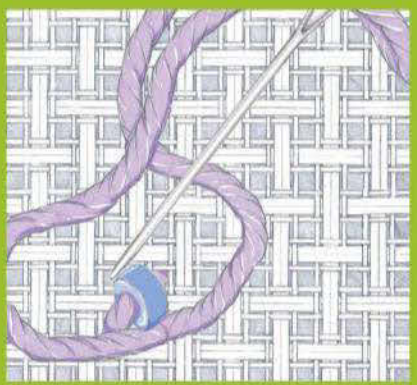
Stitching ideas

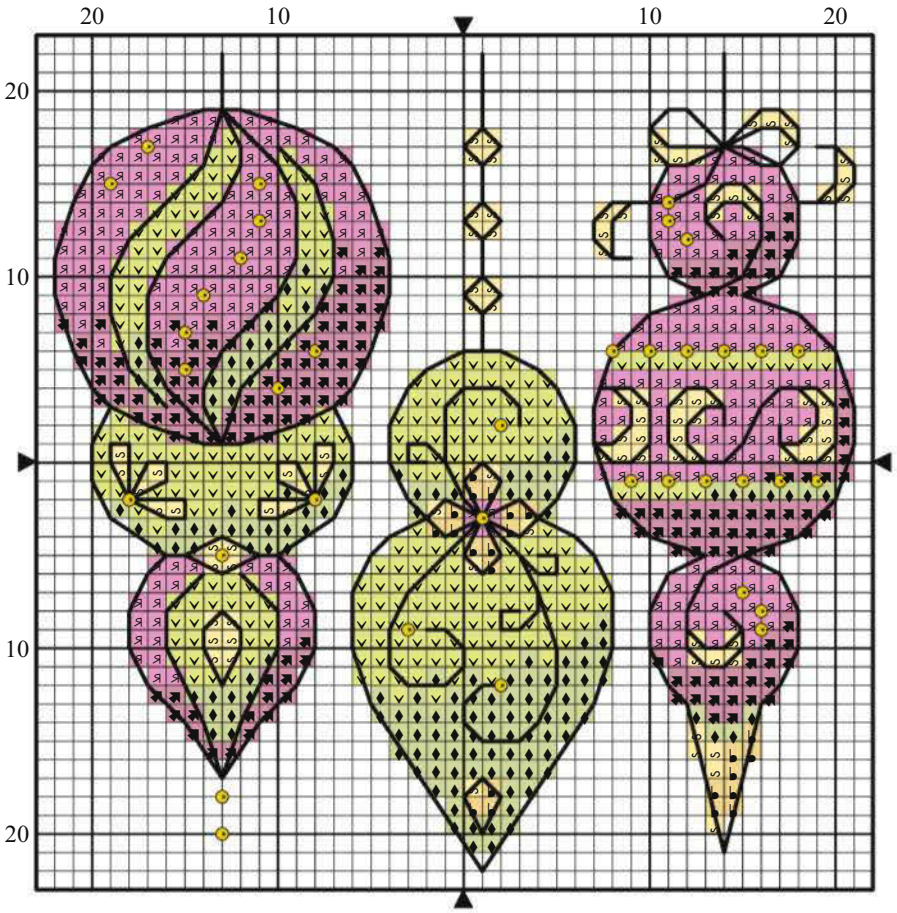
To make these into real bauble hangings for your Christmas tree, stitch your chosen bauble design onto two pieces of aida, back with iron-on vilene, fussy cut the completed stitching then sew together and stuff with wadding.

How to add seed beads



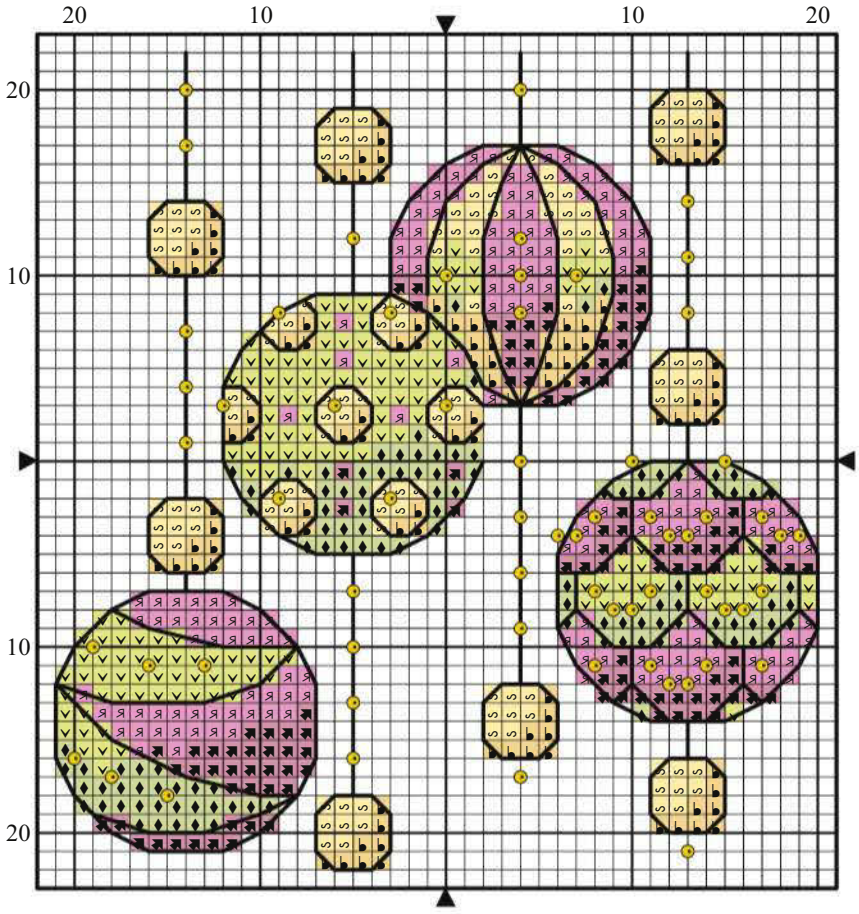
To attach your beads, use a whole cross stitch to help keep the beads upright and create a consistent finish. Attach the bead to the design with the bottom arm of a cross stitch and then add the top arm of the stitch, making sure that one strand of thread falls on either side of the bead to help hold it upright.





Stitching close-up

Faby has added sweet details to the baubles to give them an interesting look. Two tiny reindeer stand either side of a Christmas tree, the antlers and tree baubles created in tiny detail. The reindeer antlers are stitched using a few backstitches and the baubles with seed beads, which are also used to embellish the sentiment around the bauble.



"These baubles with seed beads are so pretty and will make stunning Christmas cards. I know my family will love these luxury designs so I am going to treat them to a bauble card this year."

Hannah Erskine, charting assistant

Let it snow

Break out the bugle beads and stitch these stunning sparkling snowflakes for all your holiday cards

Designed by Fiona Baker

"Add a few beads to your stitching to give your makes a new dimension – bugle beads work especially well with these lovely snowflake designs."

Katriel Costello, editor

You will need

Threads: Stranded cotton as listed in the key

Needle: Size 24 tapestry needle, beading needle

Fabric: Zweigart 14-count pearl flecked white aida measuring 15x15cm (6x6in) for each design

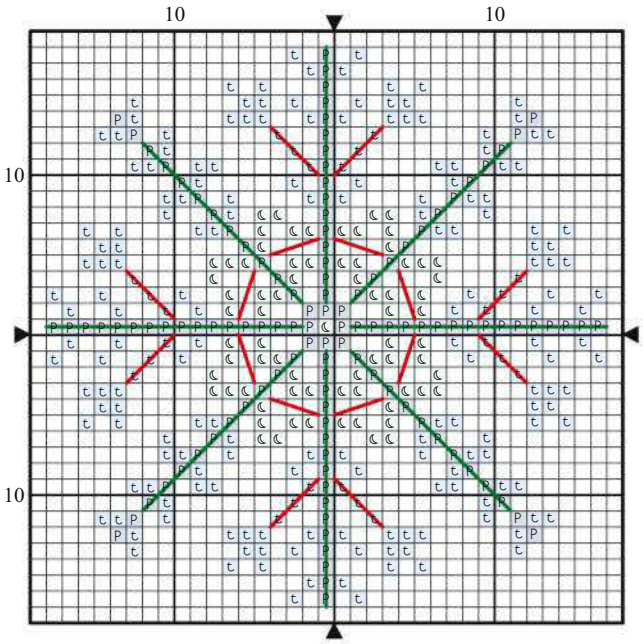
Extras: Mill Hill bugle beads as listed in the key. Triple aperture cards measuring 120x120mm with 76mm square apertures, in violet and light blue from local craft shops

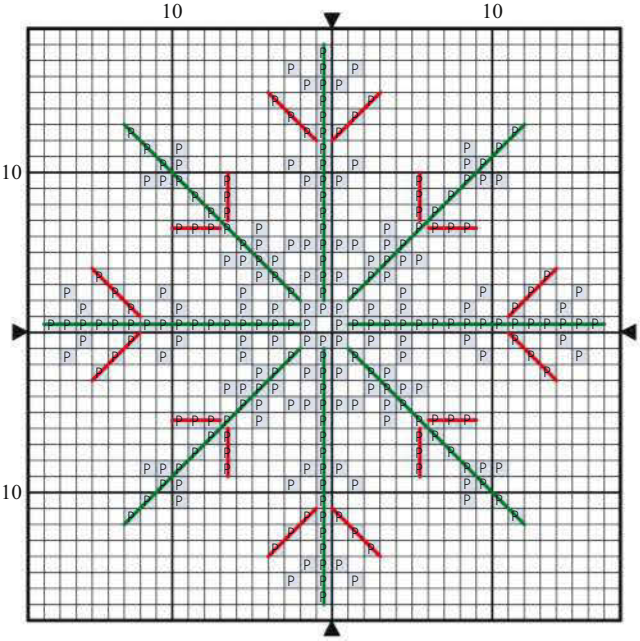
Stitching Factbox

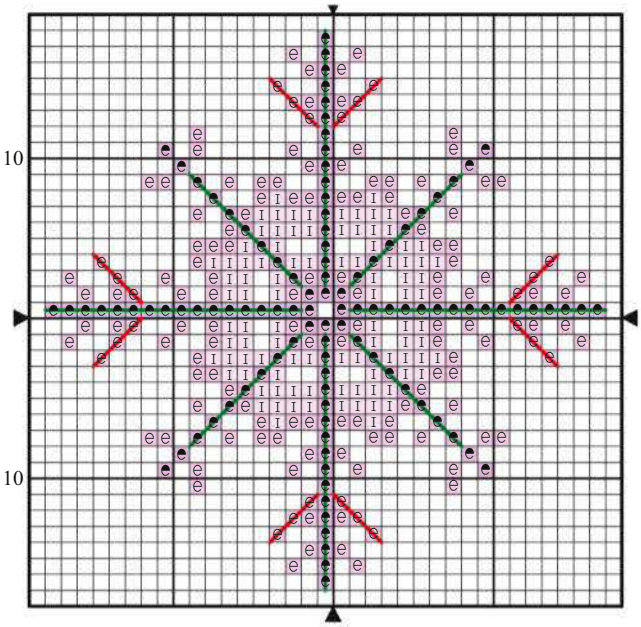
Stitching time: Approx 4-6 hours each

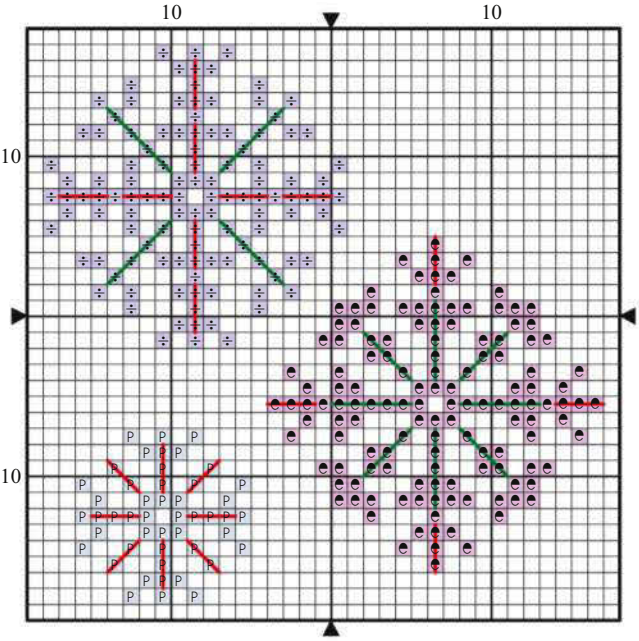
Type of stitches: Cross stitch, beads

Level: Intermediate



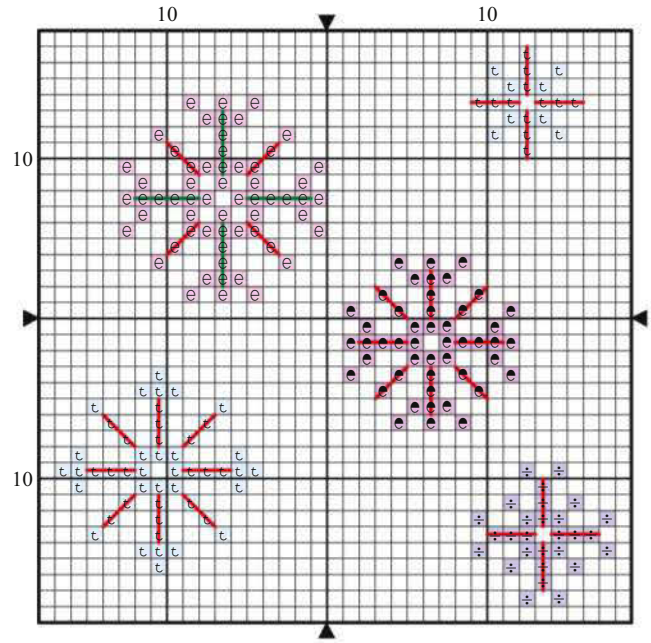






Stitching close-up

If you are feeling adventurous then there is a lot of scope with these snowflake designs. Why not use a metallic thread to make the designs sparkle? Metallics come in lots of colours, are simple to work with and will catch the light and make the snowflakes twinkle.



Snowflakes key

Cross stitch in two strands

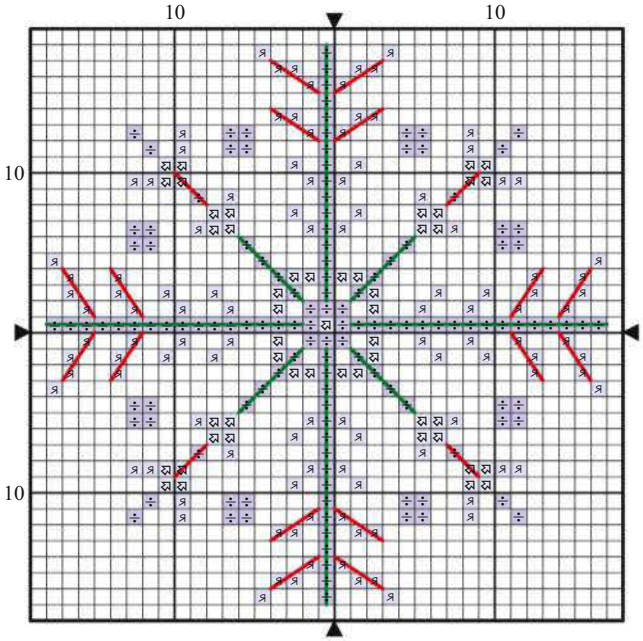
	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
I	153	95	710	light mauve
÷	340	118	902	purple
ส	341	117	901	light purple
◓	553	98	712	dark mauve
◔	554	90	711	mauve
☾	775	1031	1001	light blue
t	3325	129	907	blue
ล	3747	120	906	violet blue
P	3755	140	1013	dark blue

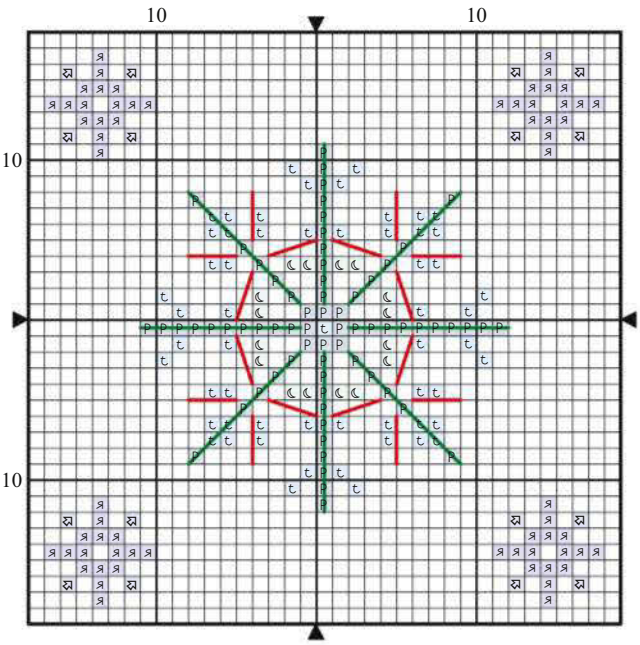
Mill Hill bugle beads

—	70161			small crystal
—	80161			medium crystal

STITCH COUNT 35 high x 35 wide
DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 6.5x6.5cm (2½x2½in)

These designs were stitched using DMC stranded cotton





"These snowflake designs are simple to work, with symmetrical snowflake shapes depicted in whole cross stitch and overlaid with pretty bugle beads."
Katriel Costello, editor

5 beading tips

1 Use a separate beading needle for adding beads.

2 Attach clear beads with the same colour floss you used in the design.

3 Use a long stitch to add beads to your snowflake.

4 Only add the bugle beads after the rest of the stitching is completed.

5 Buy bugle beads from your local craft shop, or try an online store such as Minerva Crafts.

Make these cold weather cuties up into tags

Stitch a penguin tag today!

Cosy penguins

This winter, snuggle up and keep warm with these adorable penguin gift tags

Designed by Cheryl McKinnon

You will need

Threads: Stranded cotton as listed in the key

Needle: Size 24 tapestry needle

Fabric: 14-count white aida measuring 10x10cm (4x4in) for each design

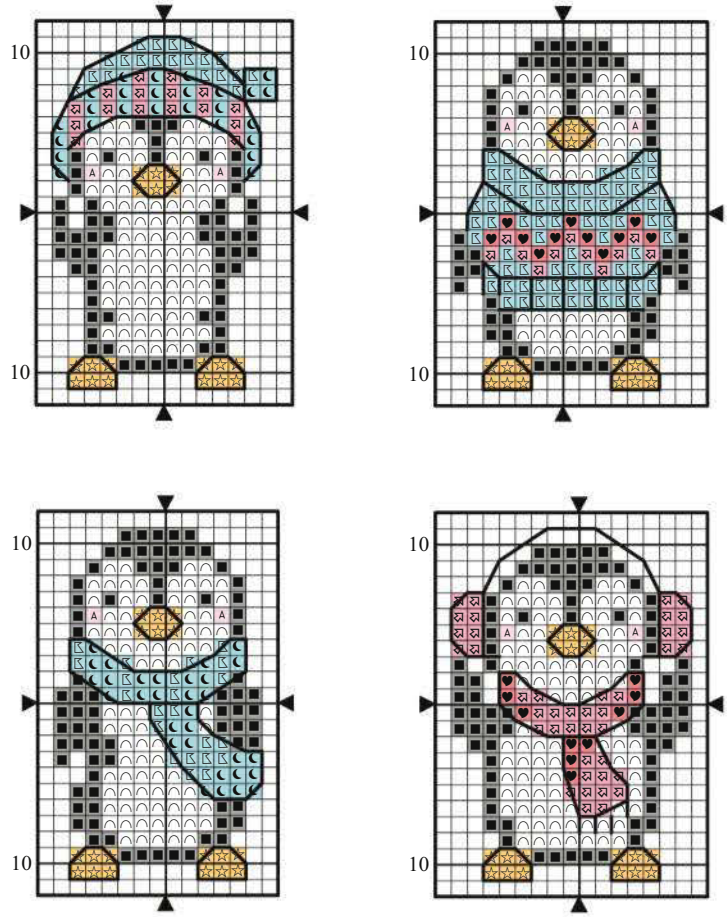
Extras: Tags and twine of choice

Stitching Factbox

Stitching time: Approx 2-3 hours each

Type of stitches: Cross stitch, backstitch

Level: Beginner



Penguin tags key

Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	B5200	1	2401	white
■	310	403	2400	black
♥	601	63	703	dark pink
✕	603	55	505	pink
A	605	1094	613	light pink
☆	742	303	114	tangerine
☾	3844	1089	1102	turquoise
K	3846	1090	1103	light turquoise

Backstitch in one strand

——	310	403	2400	black

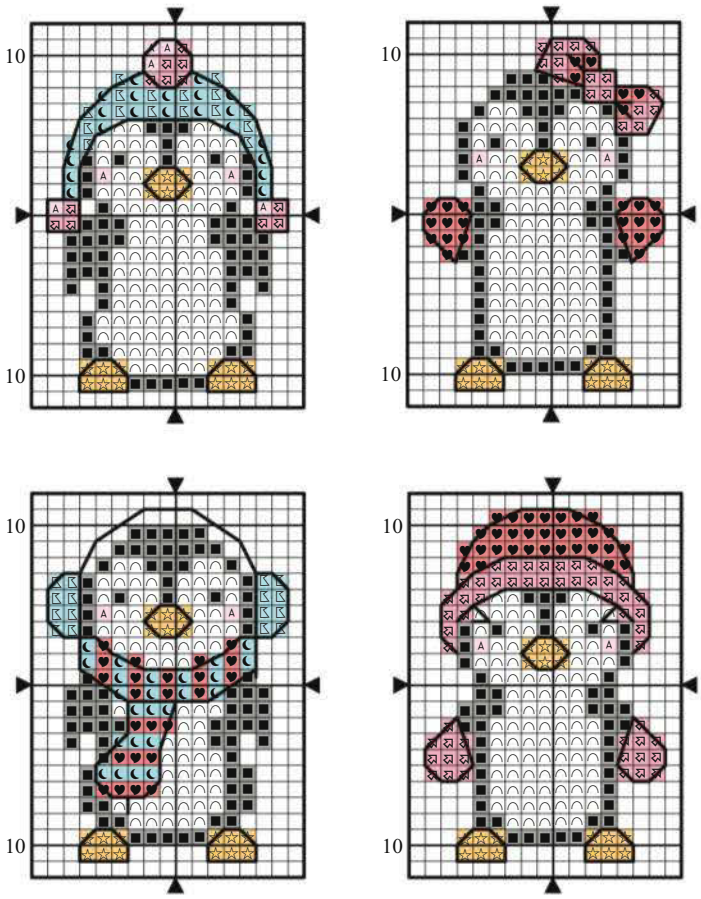
MAXIMUM STITCH COUNT 22 high x 15 wide
DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 4x2.5cm (1½x1in)

These designs were stitched using DMC stranded cotton

Tip

With its stripes that remind us of candy cane, baker's twine is perfect for these Christmas tags

The winters are chilly down in the South Pole, so these little penguins need to put on their best knitwear to stay nice and warm in the snow. Dress these cuties up in adorable pink and blue winter outfits when you stitch them then attach them to your presents, or hang them on your tree for an extra dose of Christmas cuteness. And the fun doesn't need to stop there – use your penguin tags for winter birthdays and New Year gifts too. No matter what the occasion, these adorable penguins are sure to cause a stir.



Stitch on evenweave

Candy is dandy

Lead the way to sugary goodness with this lavish gingerbread mansion that looks good enough to eat – and stitch!

Designed by Shannon Wasilieff

What could be better than a gingerbread house at Christmas? This mouthwatering dream home draws in everyone who sees it, beckoning them towards its bonbon and fondant covered walls. This design is stitched on shimmering gold 28-count evenweave for a lovely festive finish. You'll find plenty of opportunity to practise your beading skills too as this design is packed with sweetie-style seed beads – even the tiny bushes look temptingly edible. Using a variety of techniques, and a pick 'n' mix selection of prettily hued threads, this piece is one you'll enjoy taking your sweet time over – and with a simply spectacular end result.

You will need

Threads: Stranded cotton as listed in the key

Needle: Size 24 tapestry needle, beading needle

Fabric: 28-count gold flecked white (118) evenweave measuring 45x45cm (17¾x17¾in)

Extras: Mill Hill seed beads as listed in the key. Frame of your choice with a minimum aperture of 29.5x29.5cm (11½x11½in)

Stitching Factbox

Stitching time: Approx 60 hours

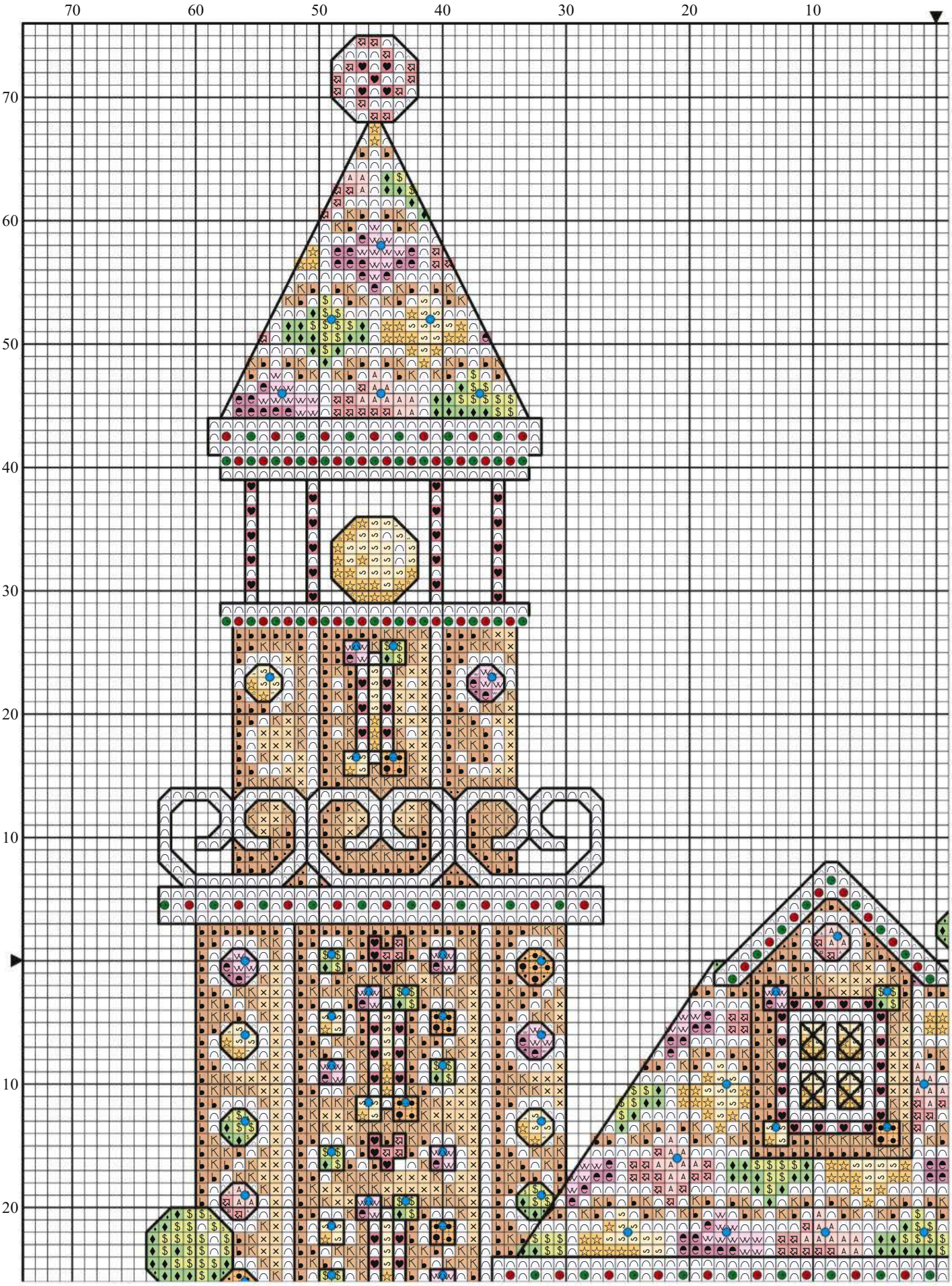
Type of stitches: Cross stitch, fractionals, backstitch, French knots, beads

Level: Intermediate

Tip

Try not to run threads across the back of your stitching. Instead, finish each length off before moving to another point in the design

Make this stunning gingerbread mansion the centrepiece of your home



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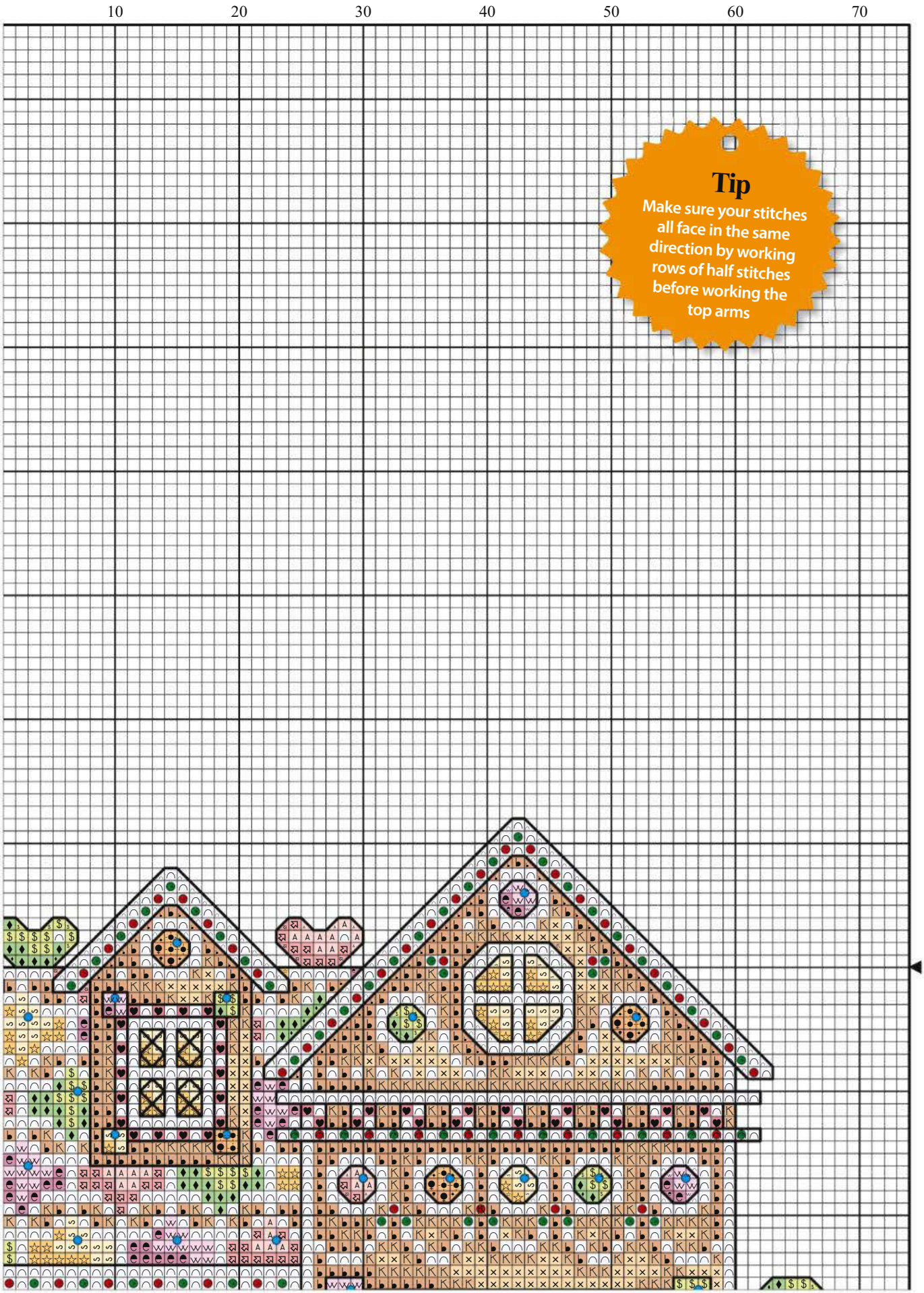
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20
30
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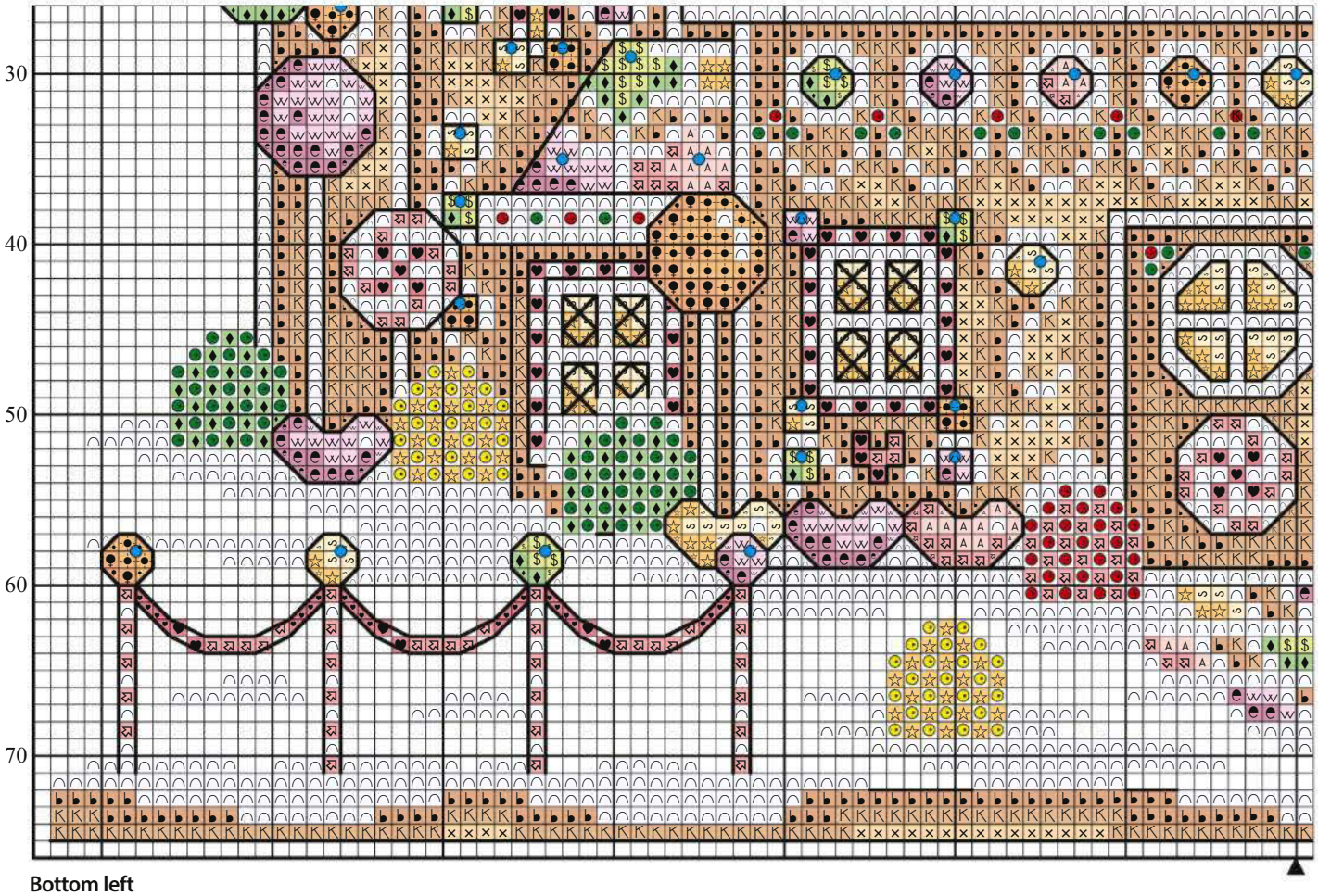
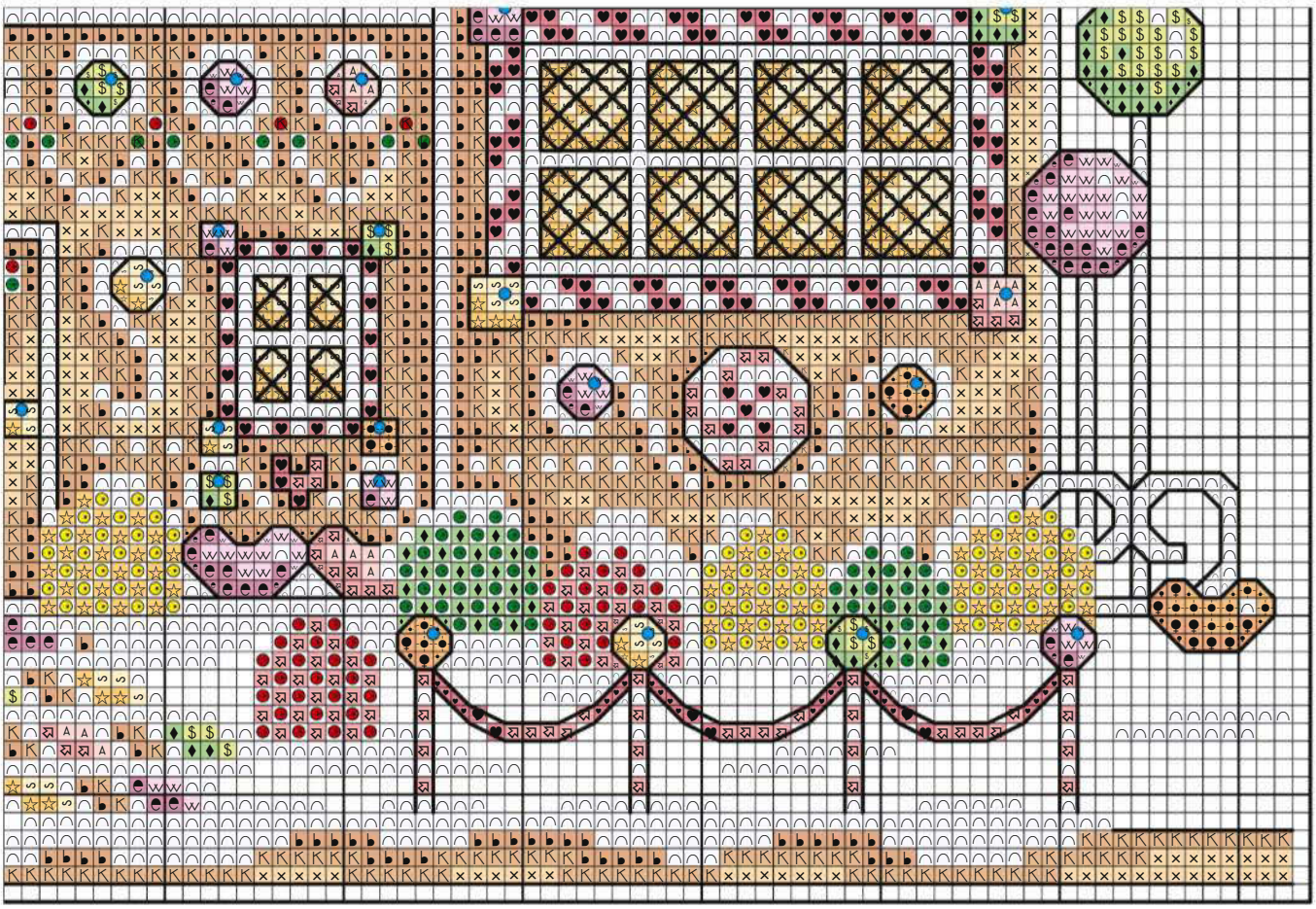
Tip
Make sure your stitches all face in the same direction by working rows of half stitches before working the top arms

Top right



Bottom left



Bottom right

How to stitch the design on aida

This design is worked on evenweave fabric, but if you are not experienced at using evenweave, you might prefer to use aida instead. The design is worked mainly in whole cross stitch, which work just as well on aida as evenweave. The only areas of the design that might be tricky are the fractional stitches. You will need to pierce the centre of the aida block to make the fractional stitches so, for this project, it is best to use a crewel needle, which is sharper than the tapestry needles that are usually used for cross stitch.

"Anyone who knows me knows I'm like a magpie when it comes to all things sparkly and seed bead related. I just can't resist adding them to my designs – whoever said less is more is wrong when it comes to embellishments." ***Shannon Wasilieff, designer***

Gingerbread mansion key

Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	B5200	1	2401	white
♥	326	59	508	dark pink
⊿	335	38	506	pink
◒	718	88	707	magenta
●	741	304	202	dark tangerine
☆	742	303	114	tangerine
∽	745	300	111	yellow
♦	905	257	1412	green
●	947	330	205	orange
♭	975	355	2303	dark ginger
K	976	1001	2010	ginger
A	3326	36	606	light pink
W	3609	85	710	plum
$	3819	279	1610	lime green
×	3827	311	2012	light ginger

Backstitch in one strand

——	3371	382	2004	brown

French knots in one strand

●	B5200	1	2401	white

Mill Hill seed beads

●	00128			yellow
●	00165			Christmas red
●	02066			yellow green

STITCH COUNT 150 high x 146 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 27x26.5cm (10¾x10½in)

SKEINS NEEDED **3xB5200** (white), **2x975** (dark ginger)

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

How to manage the similar colour threads

To keep track of different shades of the same colour, it's worth taking the time to pre-cut your lengths of thread and arrange them on a labelled thread sorter, before you begin stitching. You can make your own by cutting a length of card, punching holes down one side and writing the colour codes next to each hole. To make sure you can distinguish between them as you're stitching, it's also a good idea to stitch in natural light whenever you can.

Make snowglobe cards

Winter wonderland

Use whole cross stitches only to create these stunning snow scenes in a palette of bright and beautiful shades. These snowglobe cards are sure to impress

Designed by Emma Congdon

We love the snow and we love snowglobes so what could be better than these snowglobe-shaped cards with tiny snowy scenes inside them? These winter wonderland scenes will really get you in the holiday spirit and they make the perfect project to curl up with on the sofa while it's cold outside.

Stitching these tiny villagers playing in the snow while you are cosy and warm will be a joy. It's amazing how you can create a scarf, glove or bobble hat using just a few stitches. These designs will make a lovely project for a confident beginner who wants to try stitching on evenweave for the first time.

Stitching Factbox

Stitching time: Approx 9-12 hours each

Type of stitches: Cross stitch

Level: Intermediate

You will need

Threads: Stranded cotton as listed in the key

Needle: Size 24 tapestry needle

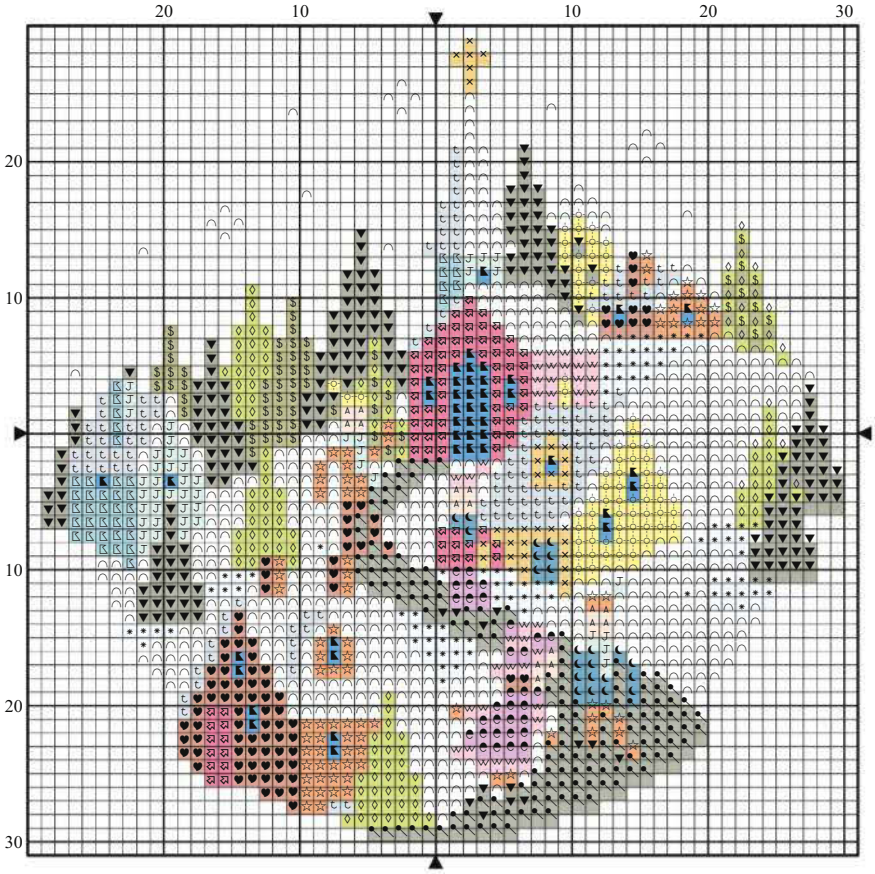
Fabric: 28-count ice blue evenweave measuring 20x20cm (7¾x7¾in) for each design

Extras: Cardstock with hand cut apertures and twine of choice from local craft stores

Tip

For extra sparkle, add some white or silver seed beads to the stars in each design

Choose white card apertures and ice blue evenweave as the base for these wintery scenes



Framing your designs

These circular scenes could be mounted and framed in a number of ways. Why not use a wooden hoop to add some rustic charm, and hang your sweet scenes on a child's bedroom wall using brightly coloured ribbon? A square frame could be used with a circular mount – ask a framer to cut one to the right size for you. Or perhaps you might like to frame the scenes together in one frame, using a mount with four apertures.

How to make up the cards

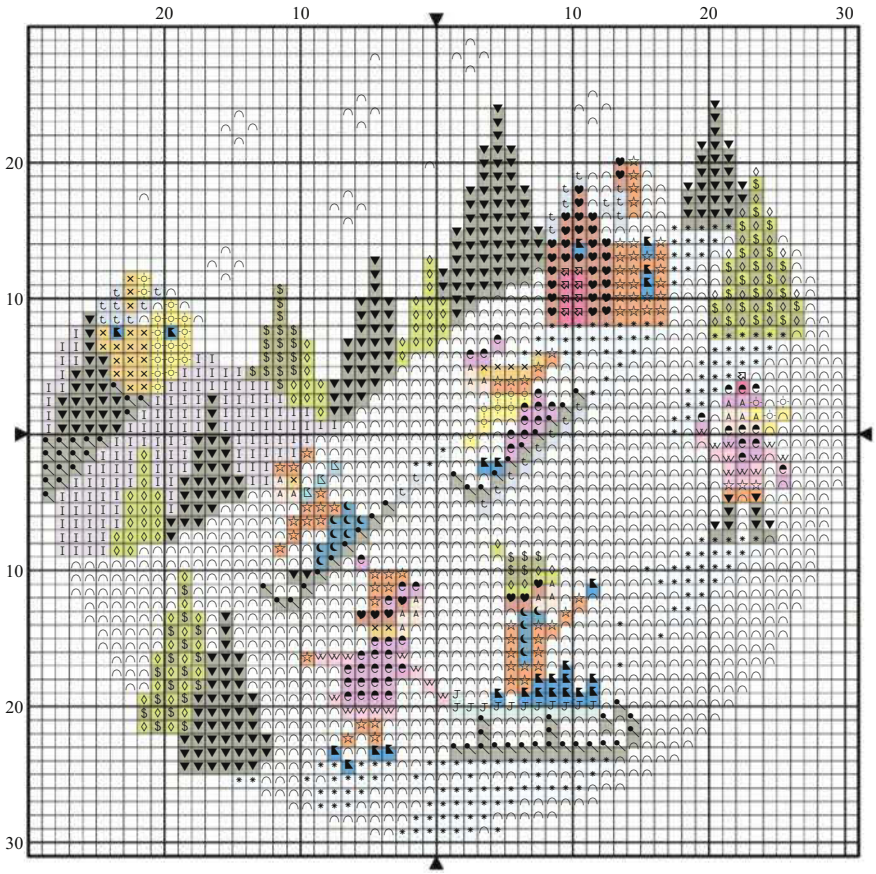
1 To create the aperture for each card, take a craft knife and carefully cut out an 11cm (4¼in) diameter circle. Alternatively, you could use a die-cutter with a circular die if you have one.

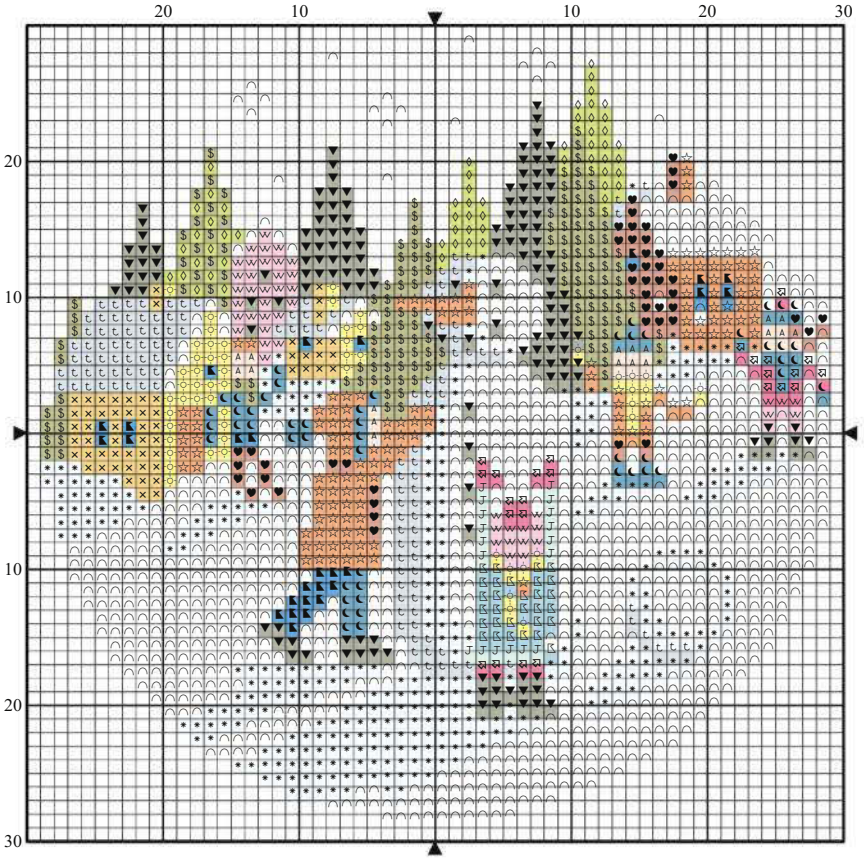
2 Place the card aperture over the area of finished stitching. When you are happy with the positioning, place several pins carefully around the stitching, lining them up with the aperture to mark your place. Trim your stitching to a slightly larger size than that of your pin indicators.

3 On the inside of the card, stick double-sided tape around the aperture. Using the pins as a guide, place the card over your stitching and stick the fabric in place, then carefully remove the pins.

4 Cut a circular piece of white card measuring 12.5cm (5in) in diameter. Stick a piece of double-sided tape around the edge and attach to the inside of the card to conceal the stitching.

5 To finish, wrap twine around the bottom and tie a bow in the centre.





Snowglobe cards key

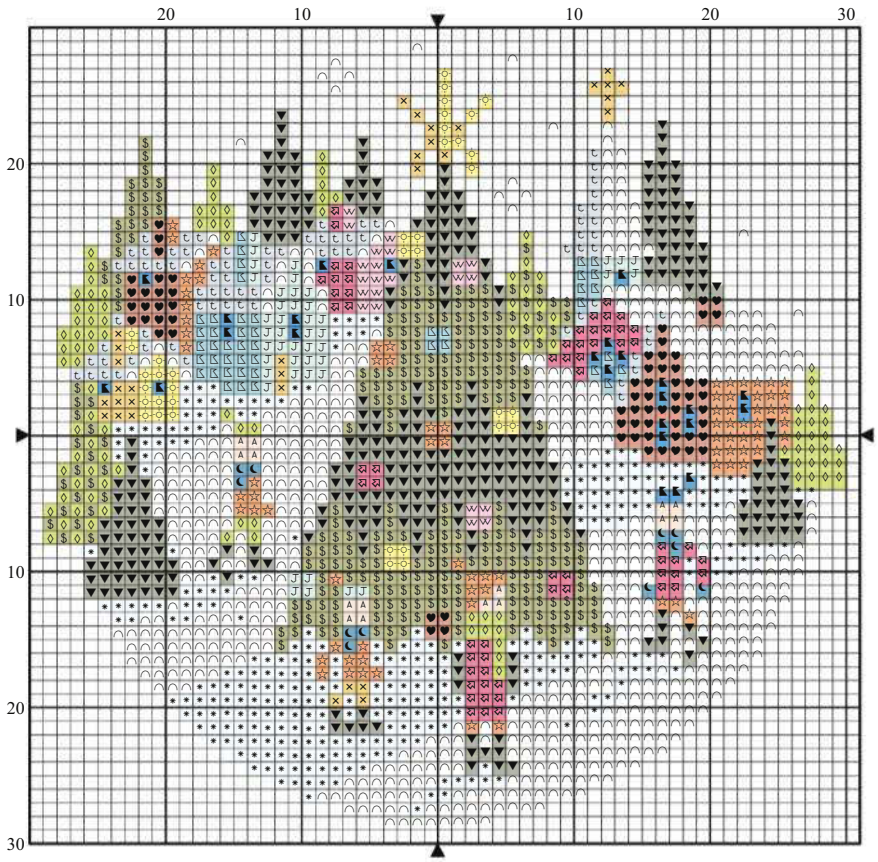
Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	blanc	2	2402	white
◊	166	280	1611	lime green
↖	169	1040	1707	grey
☼	307	289	104	yellow
◣	311	164	1006	navy blue
◓	553	98	712	mauve
J	598	1062	1111	light turquoise
⊠	602	57	702	pink
w	604	55	614	light pink
◱	807	168	1108	turquoise
☾	825	162	1011	blue
▼	895	1044	1405	forest green
☆	947	330	205	burnt orange
$	3346	267	1407	grass green
I	3743	869	2611	antique mauve
t	3752	1032	1708	delft blue
*	3753	128	909	light delft blue
×	3820	306	2509	straw
A	3824	9	2605	peach
♥	3830	5975	401	terracotta

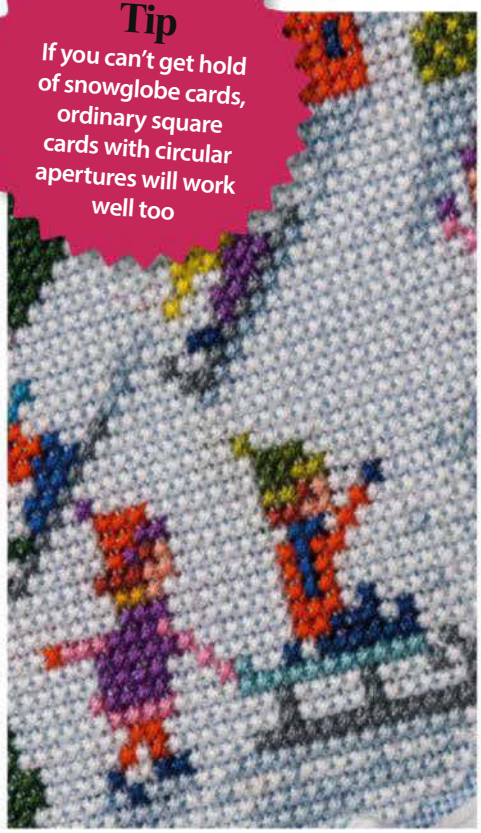
MAXIMUM STITCH COUNT 59 high x 59 wide
DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 10.5x10.5cm (4¼x4¼in)

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

"Emma's designs are perfect for using up leftover threads as you can easily swap colours."
Fiona Baker, technical editor



Tip
If you can't get hold of snowglobe cards, ordinary square cards with circular apertures will work well too



Back with fabric and fill with wadding to make these cool hangings

Stitch a festive hanging

Say it in stitches

Designed by Emma Congdon

No matter how you describe your Christmas adventures, you'll find the perfect phrase in these stylish word clouds – so simple to stitch!

You will need

Threads: Stranded cotton as listed in the key

Needle: Size 24 tapestry needle

Fabric: 14-count white aida measuring 20x20cm (7¾x7¾in) for each design

Extras: Backing fabric, stuffing and cord of choice from local stores

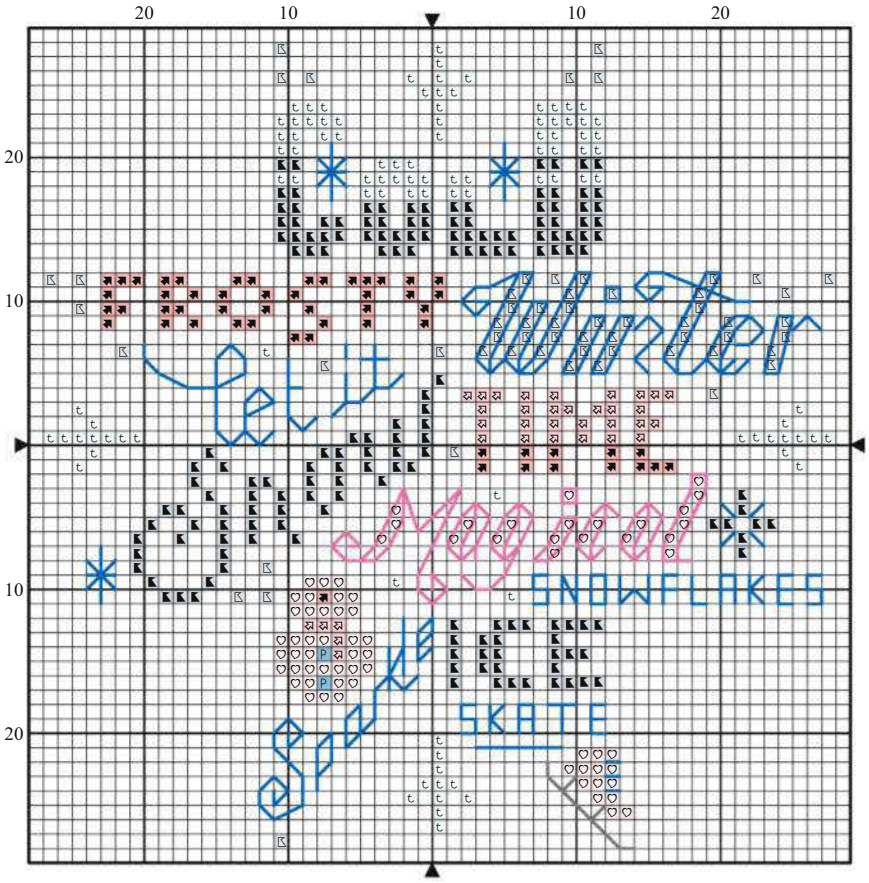
Stitching Factbox

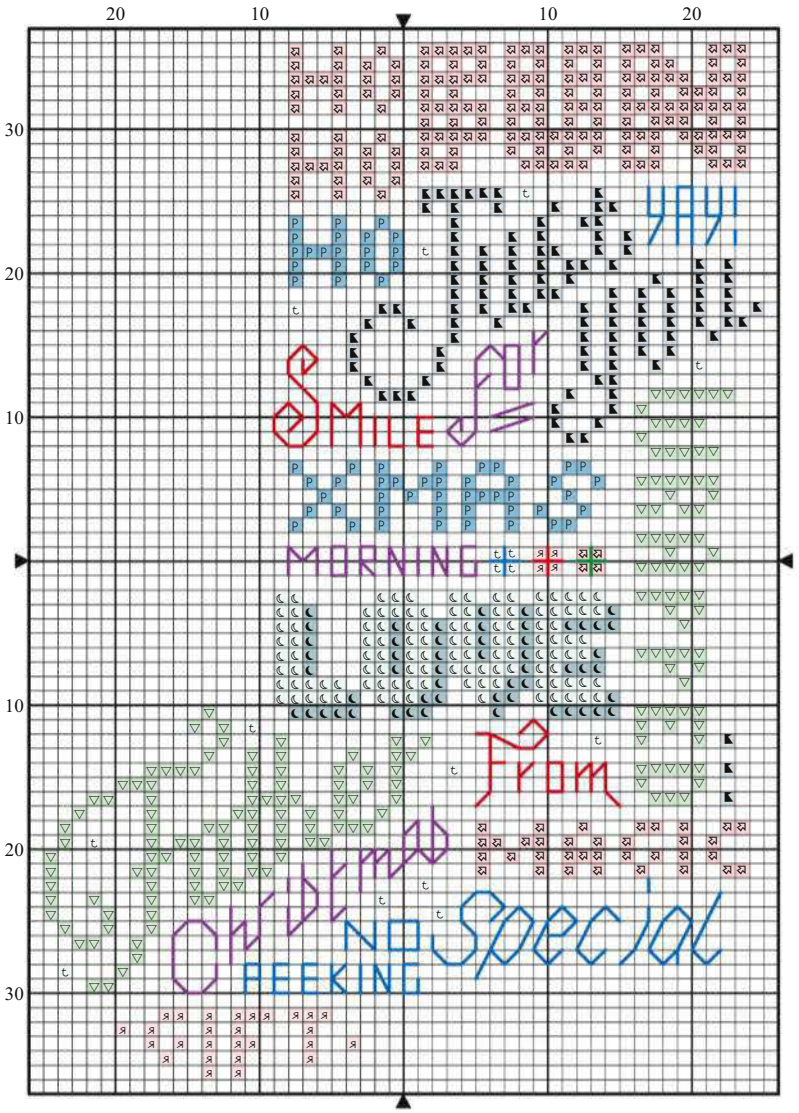
Stitching time: Approx 5-7 hours each

Type of stitches: Cross stitch, backstitch

Level: Beginner

Capture your fondest festive memories in stitches with these beautiful pastel shapes. This snowflake, Christmas tree, bauble and stocking are made up of all the most evocative words and phrases of the season. Turn your favourite designs into a squishy hanging when you back it with fabric and a bit of wadding, as we did here, or turn them all into large modern Christmas cards. They're a great way to say something special to loved ones on Christmas morning – try tucking a few into your family's stocking or hanging them proudly on your tree this year.





Word clouds key

Cross stitch in two strands

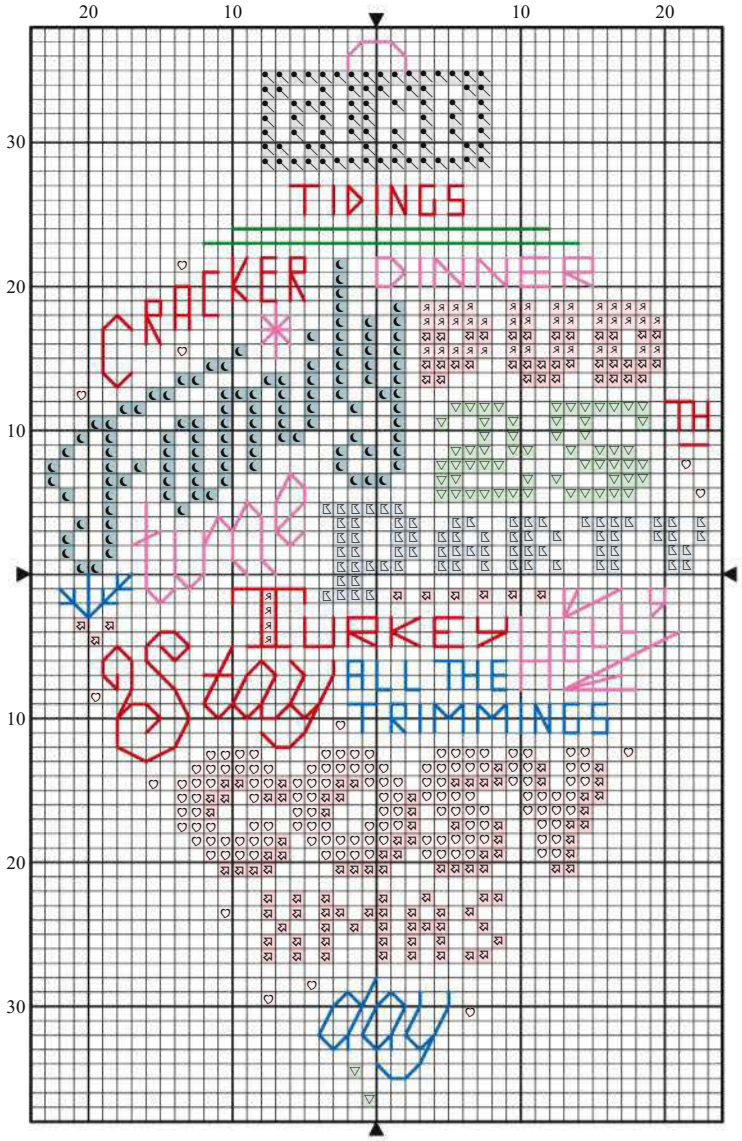
	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
↖	168	1096	1709	pewter grey
↖	415	398	1802	grey
P	518	1039	1106	sea blue
☾	747	158	1104	sky blue
♡	818	23	501	baby pink
◣	932	1033	1710	blue
▼	959	186	1114	green
◥	961	76	610	dark pink
⅄	963	73	502	light pink
▽	964	185	1112	light green
⅄	3716	25	503	pink
◺	3752	1032	1708	light blue
☾	3766	167	1109	peacock blue
t	3811	1060	1101	turquoise

Backstitch in one strand

	168	1096	1709	pewter grey
	518	1039	1106	sea blue
	959	186	1114	green
	961	76	610	dark pink
	3716	25	503	pink
	3812	188	2706	dark green
	3841	9159	1001	baby blue

MAXIMUM STITCH COUNT 74 high x 55 wide
DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 13.5x10cm (5¼x4in)

These designs were stitched using DMC stranded cotton



Finishing touches

These shaped designs don't need a border or a frame, they are decorative enough in themselves. Simply leave a white border of fabric, following the line of the shape formed by the words, then add your stitching to a piece of fabric cut to the same shape, or a piece of card similarly trimmed.

"These hangings are so fun and contemporary. I especially like the variety of shapes and the colours used. If you want a small project that won't take much time, these are perfect."

Heather Nugent, charting editor

Tip

Prevent threads from showing through by individually working each letter

"This typography style of cross stitch is just fabulous, and its subtle colourway has a really contemporary feel to it – they'll be loads of fun to stitch."

Fiona Baker, technical editor

Stitching close-up

Sometimes, words are all you need, as proved with these wonderfully wordy designs by Emma. Snowy scenes, the robin redbreast and Santa designs all say Christmas but these decorative words alone convey all the excitement of a heart-warming family Christmas and make a refreshing, festive change.

Stitch a design for children

Toy shopping

Revisit the timeless glee of your childhood Christmases with this charming store front full of toys for good children!

Designed by Shannon Wasilieff

The Christmas rush has yet to appear in this tiny traditional toy shop, but the anticipation of the holiday hustle and bustle hangs in the air. Toys wait on their shelves and cheerful decorations are in place, ready for high-spirited shoppers to cheerfully stumble inside from the cold. Both serene and exciting at the same time, this design captures the bright essence of the breathless days leading up to 25th December. You can challenge yourself with the French knots and beads, and create a wonderful piece for a loved one to remind them of joyful festive times both past and present.

Stitching Factbox

Stitching time: Approx 35 hours

Type of stitches: Cross stitch, fractionals, backstitch, French knots, beads

Level: Intermediate

You will need

Threads: Stranded cotton and metallic thread as listed in the key

Needle: Size 24 tapestry needle, beading needle

Fabric: 14-count rustic aida measuring 33x40cm (13x15¾in)

Extras: Mill Hill seed beads as listed in the key. Frame and mount of your choice with a minimum aperture of 19x25cm (7½x9¾in)

A gold-coloured frame adds to the traditional feel of this delightful scene

Left

"Why not restitch your favourite toy as a gift tag to accompany this stitched gift? The doll, truck, jack-in-the-box and space rocket will all work well stitched separately."

Fiona Baker, technical editor

Right

Toy shop key

Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	B5200	1	2401	white
♥	304	19	511	red
ม	350	11	213	dark coral
+	352	9	303	coral
A	353	6	2313	light coral
◊	369	1043	1309	almond green
'	543	933	1909	beige
▼	699	923	1303	dark green
$	702	226	1306	green
'	704	255	1308	light green
×	841	1082	1911	brown
ร	842	1080	1910	light brown
ร	893	33	413	dark pink
w	894	31	414	pink
✖	938	380	2005	chocolate brown
P	959	186	1114	emerald
♡	963	73	502	rose pink
☾	964	185	1112	light emerald
●	970	925	205	orange
☆	973	290	105	yellow
▙	975	355	2303	dark ginger
Q	976	1001	2010	ginger
☼	3078	292	102	light yellow
◣	3812	188	2706	dark emerald
?	3827	311	2012	light ginger

Cross stitch in two strands Kreinik #4 braid

ร	028			citron

Backstitch in one strand

—	938	380	2005	chocolate brown

Backstitch in one strand Kreinik #4 braid

—	028			citron

French knots in two strands

●	938	380	2005	chocolate brown

Mill Hill seed beads

●	02063			crayon crimson

STITCH COUNT 99 high x 136 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 18x24.5cm (7x9¾in)

This design was stitched using DMC stranded cotton

Stitching close-up

There is a pleasing timeless quality in Shannon's design, which makes this picture wonderfully nostalgic. She conveys this with the toys she has chosen, which are all traditional playthings that have stood the test of time. From a drum, space rocket, bunny and dolls, each will be a treat to stitch!

Tip

If you stitch in a frame, put a clean towel over the top in between sessions for protection

Tranquil country scene

Picture perfect

Create your very own winter wonderland with this charming country cottage, all from the cosiness of your sofa

Designed by Susan Bates

What could be more welcoming than a jolly snowman standing at the gate, greeting visitors with that friendly smile? If you've a bit of cross stitching experience, then this densely worked design will be one to relish. Using techniques such as thread blending, and with a colour palette of over 30 shades, you'll create a sense of depth that makes it feel as if you really are peeking down a garden path. All without even having to step out into the snow, it'll definitely be a joy to recreate this scene. Set off with a neutral frame and mount to let the seasonal colours shine, this project will be gorgeous to display in any home this winter.

Stitching Factbox

Stitching time: Approx 65 hours

Type of stitches: Cross stitch, fractionals, blending, backstitch, French knots

Level: Intermediate

You will need

Threads: Stranded cotton as listed in the key

Needle: Size 24 tapestry needle

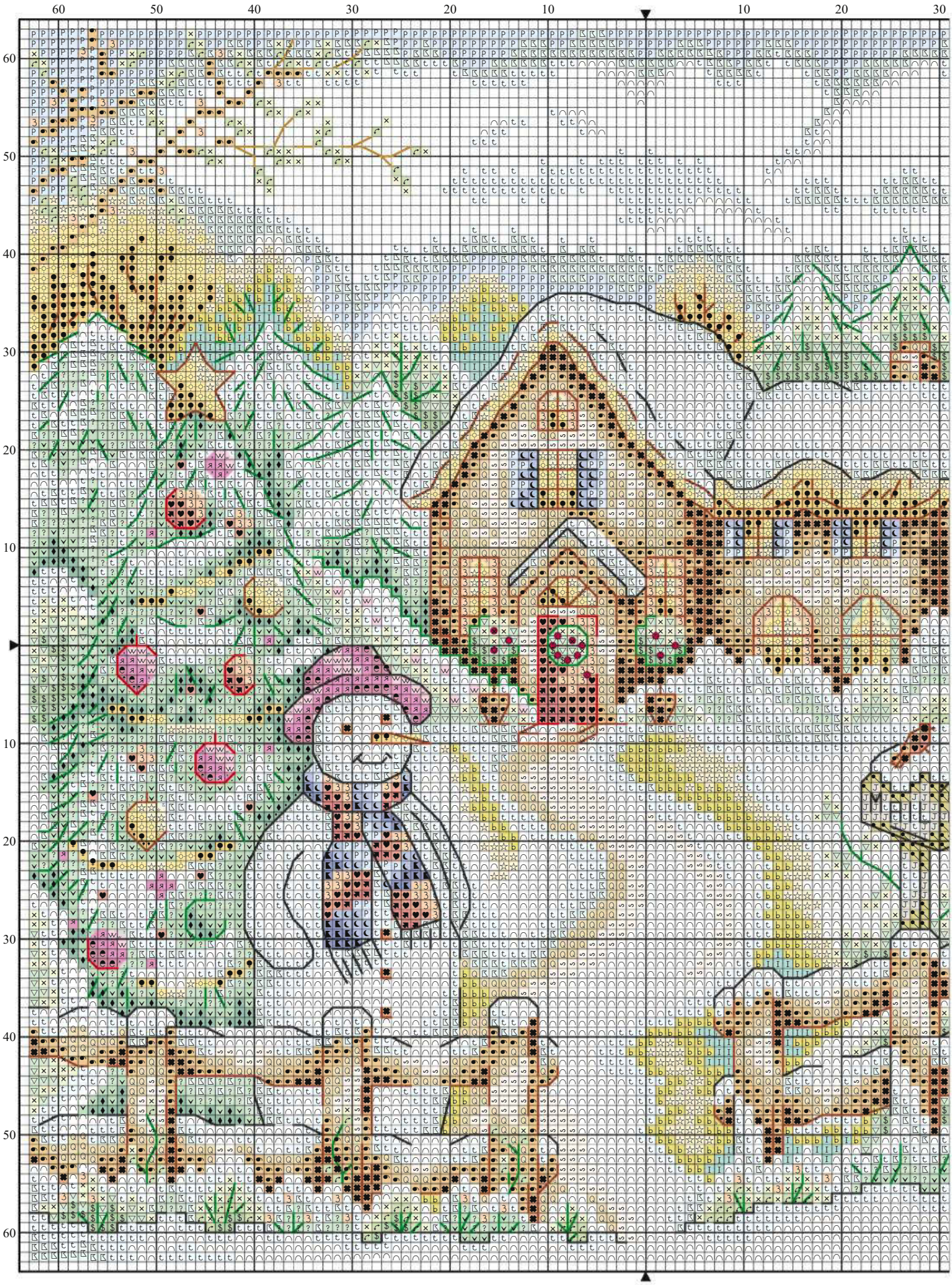
Fabric: 14-count antique white aida measuring 38x38cm (15x15in)

Extras: Frame and mount of your choice with a minimum aperture of 23x23cm (9x9in)

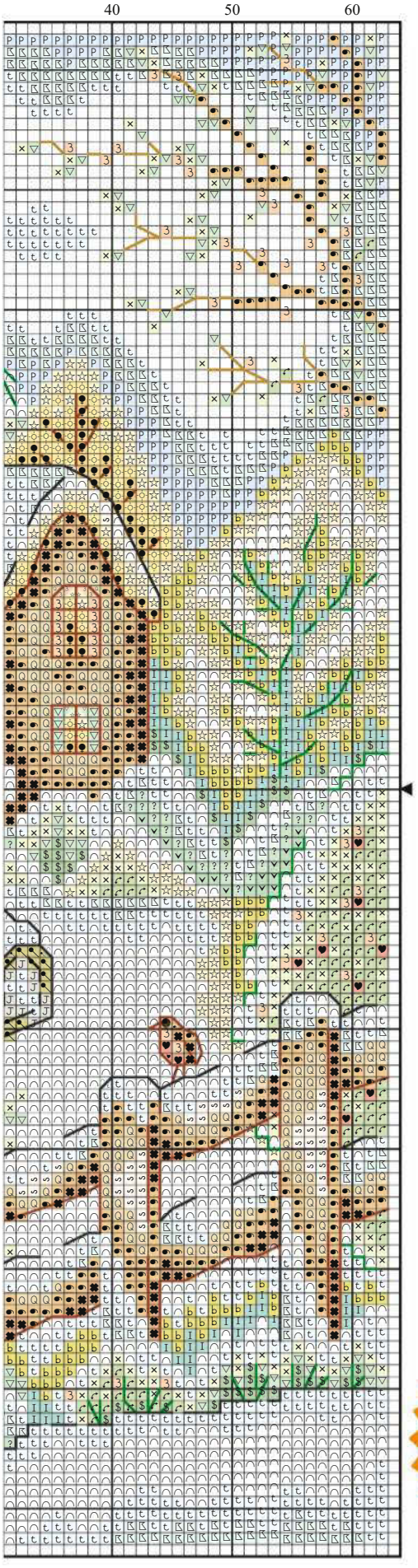
Cross stitch this stunning snowy scenic view for your home, whatever the weather outside

Tip

Before you begin stitching, cut the thread colours you require and sort them onto a thread organiser – make one from cardboard and label it with thread numbers



Left



Right

"It's such a joy designing classic chocolate box cottages but you don't often see wintery versions. This scene replaces summer roses with evergreens and sunny skies with snow, and to me looks just as beautiful."

Susan Bates, designer

Tip

Check your thread stash before you begin stitching to make sure you have enough of each shade

Winter cottage key

Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	B5200	1	2401	white
∽	ecru	926	2404	cream
◖	334	977	1004	blue
♥	351	10	214	coral
◜	368	214	1310	almond green
✖	434	310	2009	dark tan
◕	436	1045	2011	tan
◓	718	88	707	dark pink
Q	738	367	2013	light tan
⊏	747	158	1104	sky blue
×	772	259	1604	grass green
◥	817	13	210	red
◤	824	143	1010	marine blue
$	912	209	1213	mint green
▽	954	203	1207	light mint green
?	964	185	1112	sea green
♦	991	1076	1204	dark ocean green
v	992	1072	1202	ocean green
◣	3023	899	1813	stone grey
J	3024	900	1814	light stone grey
P	3325	129	907	light blue
3	3341	328	403	peach
Я	3607	87	708	pink
w	3689	49	607	raspberry pink
t	3756	1037	2504	baby blue
●	3820	306	2509	dark straw
☼	3822	295	2511	straw
☆	3823	386	2512	yellow

Cross stitch in one strand of each

b	368	214	1310	almond green
	772	259	1604	grass green
I	912	209	1213	mint green
	954	203	1207	light mint green

Backstitch in one strand

—	436	1045	2011	tan
—	500	683	1705	bottle green
—	814	22	601	ruby
—	838	380	2005	brown
—	3799	236	1713	grey

French knots in one strand

●	814	22	601	ruby
●	838	380	2005	brown

STITCH COUNT 126 high x 126 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 23x23cm (9x9in)

SKEINS NEEDED **2xB5200** (white), **2x747** (sky blue), **2x3756** (baby blue)

This design was stitched using DMC stranded cotton

Stitch Santa and his sleigh

Here comes Santa!

Hop aboard Santa's sleigh and get set for a thoroughly satisfying seasonal project that is sure to take pride of place among your Christmas décor this year

Designed by Maria Diaz

Against a swirling snowy sky and the gleam of the moon, Santa waves cheerily from his sleigh which is being pulled by two reindeer. A tiny house and fir trees can be seen in the distance as the sleigh flies ahead. There is precious cargo on board, an array of brightly wrapped presents can be seen at the back of the sleigh. And Santa has a special patchwork blanket to keep his legs warm, as made for him by Mrs Claus. Stitched on a piece of evenweave fabric using a palette of 32 shades in stranded cotton and metallic thread, this thrilling design can easily be tackled by experienced stitchers.

Stitching Factbox

Stitching time: Approx 45 hours

Type of stitches: Cross stitch, fractionals, half cross stitch, blending, backstitch, French knots

Level: Advanced

You will need

Threads: Stranded cotton and metallic threads as listed in the key

Needle: Size 24 tapestry needle

Fabric: 28-count white evenweave measuring 40x45cm (15¾x17¾in)

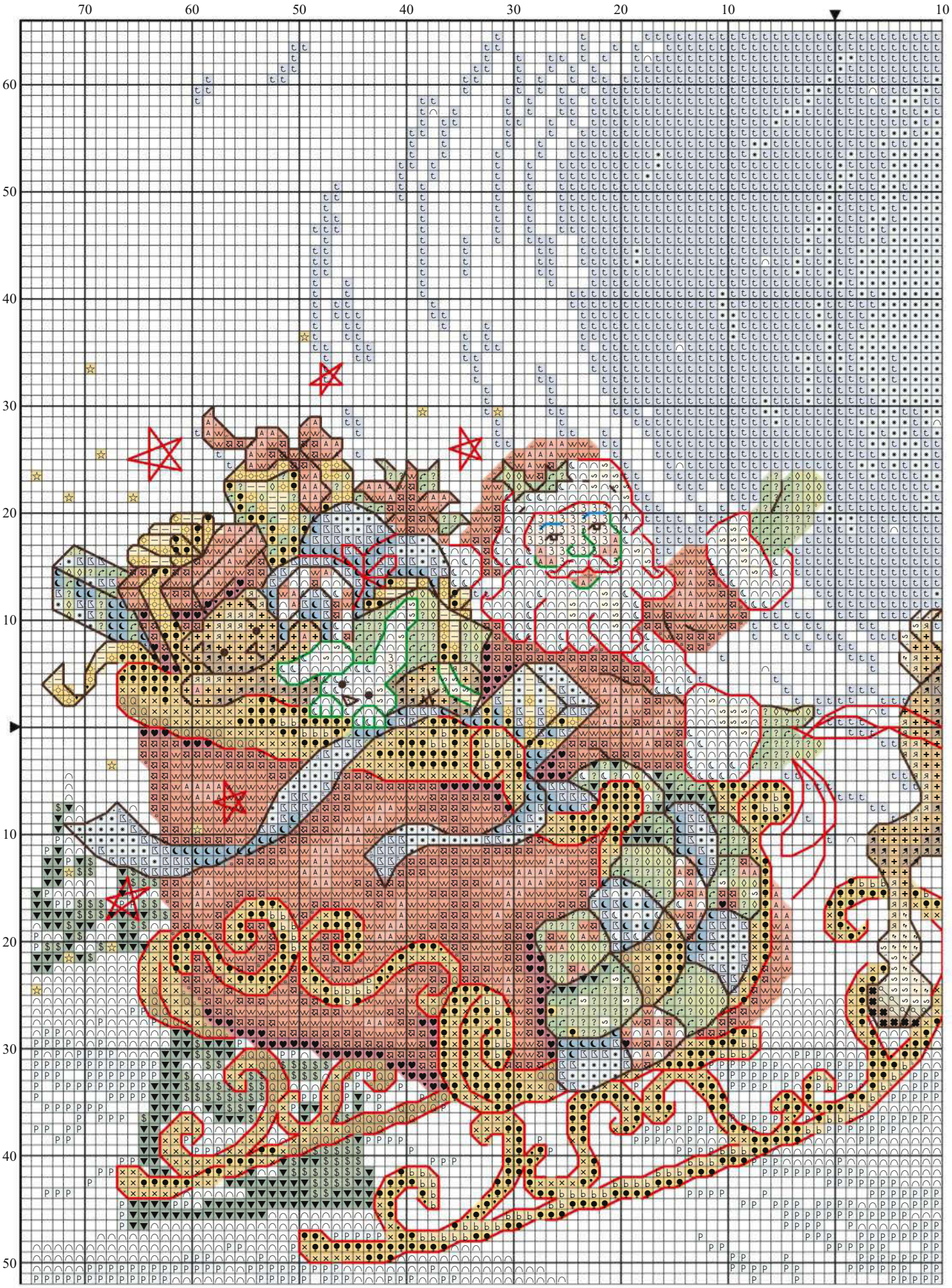
Extras: Frame and mount of your choice with a minimum aperture of 23.5x27.5cm (9¼x10¾in)

Santa's reindeer are dashing through the snow to bring you a stitching treat

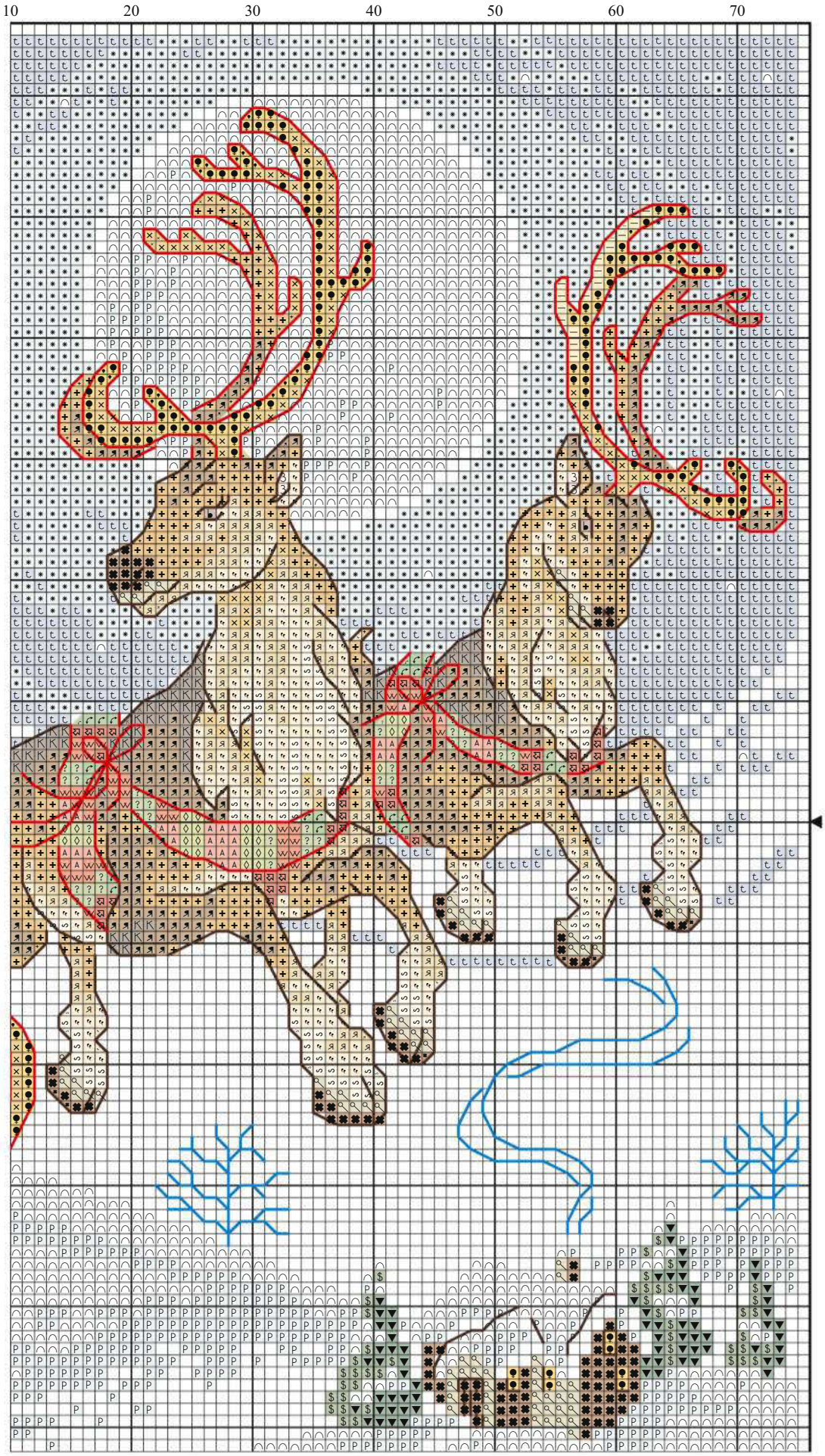
Tip

It's a good idea to iron any creases out of your fabric before you start stitching on it

Winter wonderland



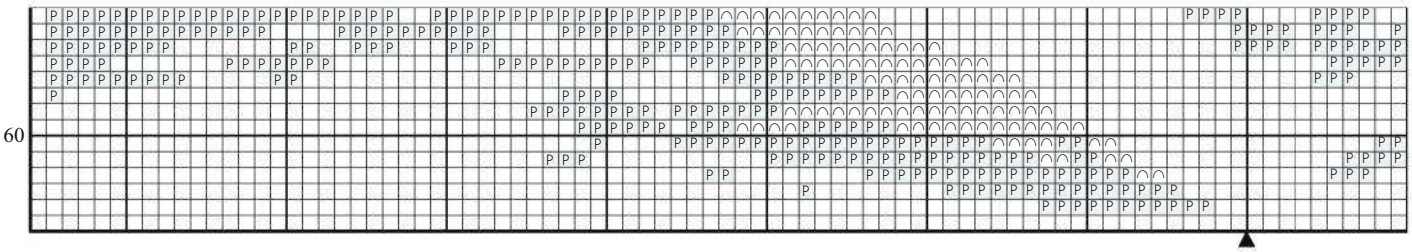
Top left



Stitching close-up

The enormous full moon is one of our favourite aspects of this design – it really feels as though it has a lunar glow about it. Maria set about achieving this effect by adding blue and light blue half stitches, radiating around the moon's shape. The stitches that circle the planet don't just make the moon stand out, they also help to add essential depth and definition to the overall project. Half stitches are easy to work and it's so satisfying to see the design come to life so quickly.

Top right



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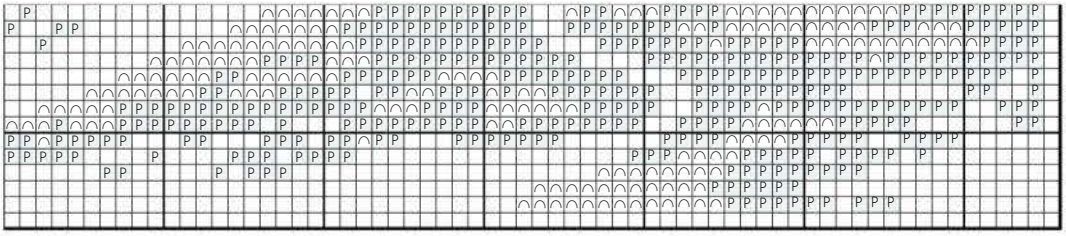


Bottom right

Tip

For best results, use a hoop or frame with your fabric, this will keep it taut and your stitches neat

"If you want to do something a bit different, this gorgeous design would also look fantastic stitched onto black or dark blue fabric to create the look of a night sky in the background." ***Fiona Baker, technical editor***

Stitching know-how

It's important to keep those white stitches looking pristine. For this reason, it's a good idea to work the white stitches such as the bright moon and the crisp, snowy ground, after you've worked all the other cross stitch as this will help to reduce any dirt or grease transferring from your hands as you stitch the design.

Santa key

Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
◠	B5200	1	2401	white
$	163	876	1703	pine green
2	321	9046	510	red
W	350	11	213	coral
A	352	9	303	light coral
K	433	357	2602	tan
▼	561	212	1205	green
◜	562	210	1206	light green
b	676	891	2208	sand
∽	712	926	2101	light cream
●	728	305	107	dark yellow
×	729	890	2209	dark sand
Я	738	367	2013	dark cream
'	739	366	2014	cream
☼	743	302	113	yellow
–	745	300	111	light yellow
♥	816	1006	513	dark red
☾	826	146	906	dark blue
3	950	4146	2309	peach
?	989	241	1401	forest green
↖	3032	903	2002	mocha brown
◊	3348	264	1409	grass green
⟦	3755	140	1013	blue
☾	3756	1037	2504	very light blue
✖	3781	1088	2003	dk mocha brown
b	3790	393	1905	stone grey

Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
Q	3829	901	2210	old gold
P	3841	9159	1001	light blue
◥	3862	374	1913	brown

Cross stitch in two strands DMC Light Effects

☆	E3821			light gold

Cross stitch in one strand of each

+	436	1045	2011	light tan
	3862	374	1913	brown

Half cross stitch in two strands

t	3755	140	1013	blue
*	3841	9159	1001	light blue

Backstitch in one strand

—	B5200	1	2401	white
—	407	914	2312	beige
—	3790	393	1905	stone grey

Backstitch in one strand DMC Light Effects

—	E3821			light gold

French knots in one strand

●	3790	393	1905	stone grey

STITCH COUNT 130 high x 150 wide
DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 23.5x27cm (9¼x10¾in)
SKEINS NEEDED **2xB5200** (white)

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

Stitch a fun gift

The countdown to Christmas just got even more fun!

Tip

The snowman's carrot and hat are stitched on plastic canvas. After cutting this fabric to size before stitching, cover the edges with masking tape to prevent your thread from snagging while you stitch

Christmas is coming

Young and old will love this smiling advent calendar snowman with a clever carrot nose as a pointer

Designed by Rhona Norrie

You will need

Threads: Stranded cotton as listed in the key

Needle: Size 24 tapestry needle

Fabric: 14-count white aida measuring 30x30cm (12x12in) for the face. 14-count clear plastic canvas measuring 12x18cm (4¾x7in) for the hat and 12x5cm (4¾x2in) for the nose

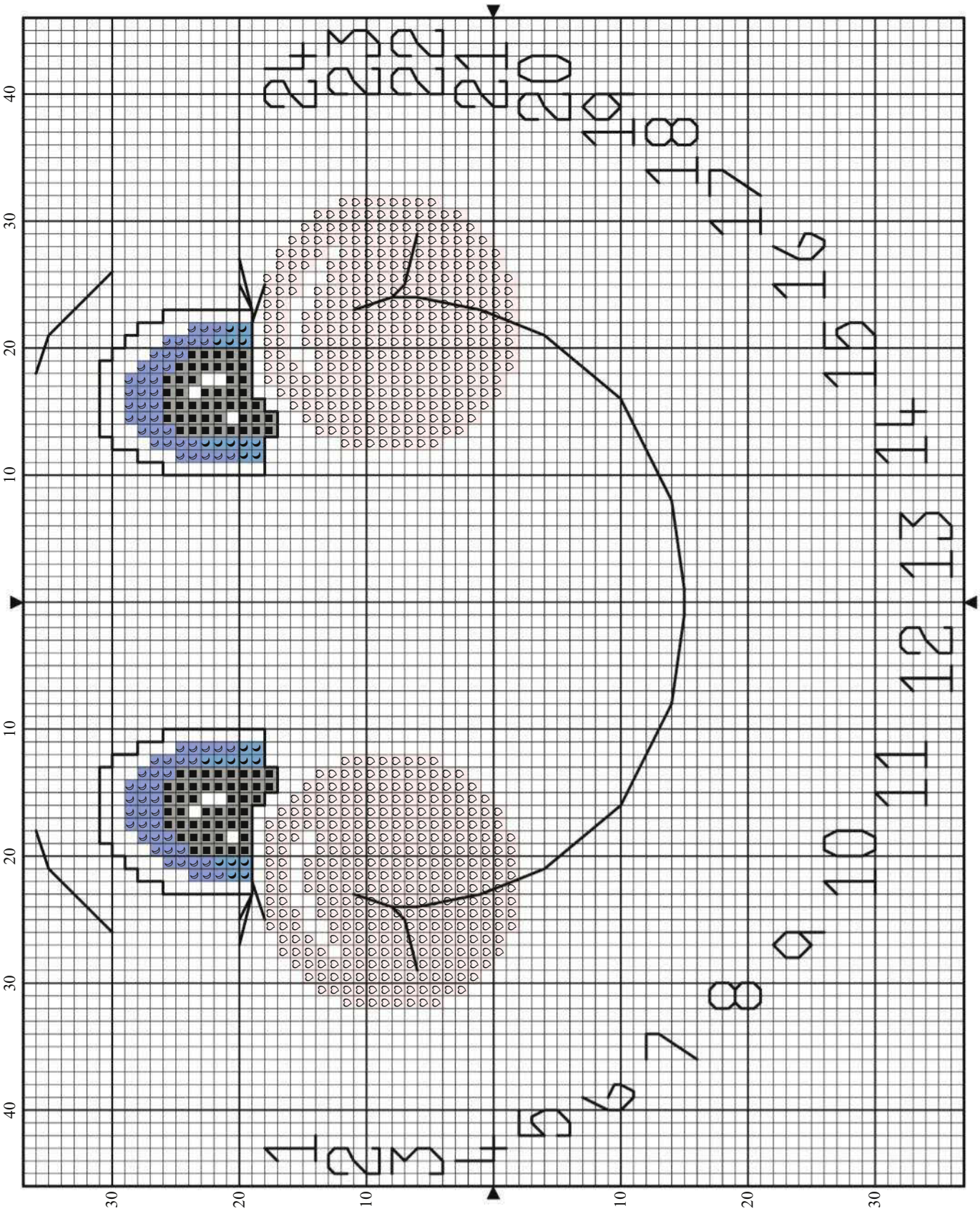
Extras: 7in wooden embroidery hoop, white felt for backing and an orange brad of choice from local craft stores

Stitching Factbox

Stitching time: Approx 22 hours

Type of stitches: Cross stitch, backstitch

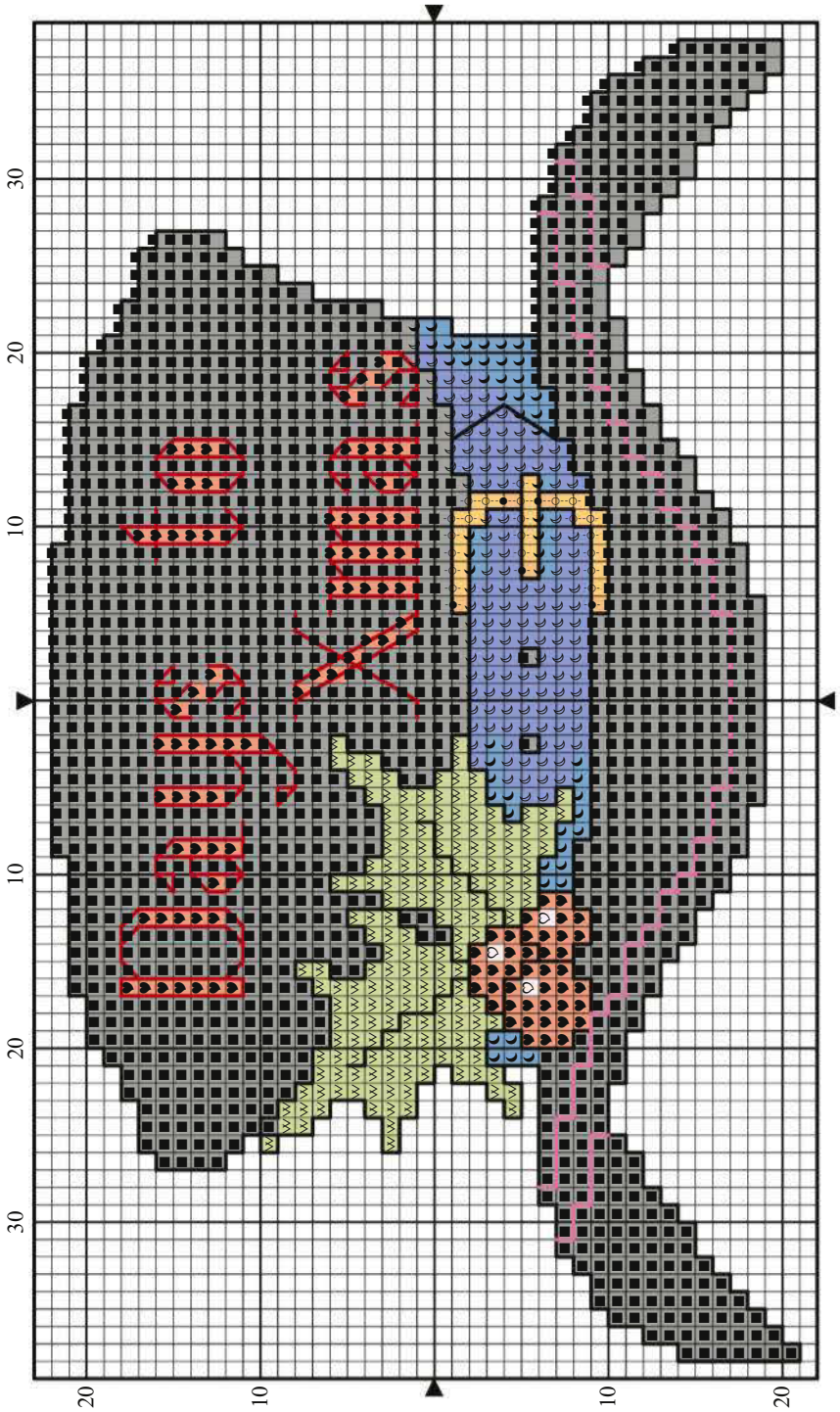
Level: Beginner



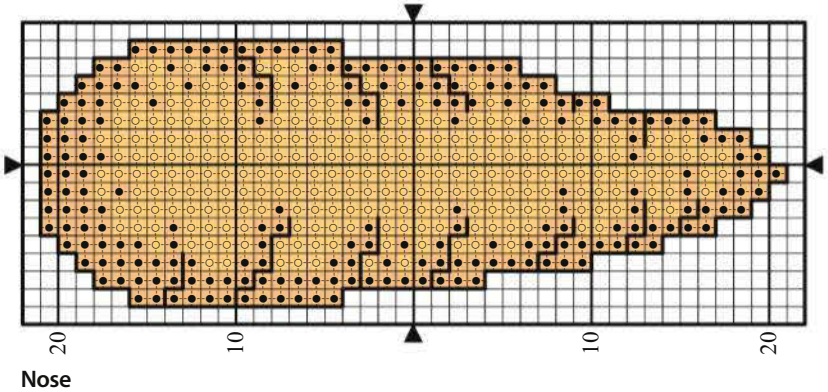
Face

"Kids especially will love this jolly snowman, with his friendly face, big smile and dapper hat. Hang this fun calendar in the kitchen or the living room and let the countdown to Christmas begin!"

Katriel Costello, editor



Hat



Nose

Advent snowman key

Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
■	310	403	2400	black
♥	666	46	210	red
●	741	304	202	tangerine
☼	742	303	114	light tangerine
☾	796	134	914	dark blue
☾	798	131	912	blue
♡	818	23	502	pink
W	906	256	1410	green

Backstitch in one strand

—	310	403	2400	black
—	666	46	210	red
—	818	23	502	pink

MAXIMUM STITCH COUNT 72 high x 90 wide
DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 13x16.5cm (5¼x6½in)

These designs were stitched using DMC stranded cotton

How to make the advent calendar

1 When you've finished stitching the carrot nose and hat, cut around them. Remember to leave one whole square of the plastic canvas all around the edges, being careful not to snip into the holes containing stitches.

2 Gently wash and press the stitching of the snowman face and mount it into an 18cm (7in) embroidery hoop, as follows. Trim your fabric to at least 5cm (2in) larger than the size of the hoop. Undo the screw to take off the outer ring. Lay your fabric over the inner ring, with the design central, then push the outer ring down with the screw at the top. Pull the sandwiched fabric taut and re-tighten the screw. Using white sewing thread, sew running stitches around the fabric edges and pull tight so it gathers at the back, then secure.

3 Sew the hat piece to the top of the mounted face, in black thread so you can't see the stitches. Attach the nose using an orange brad, carefully pushing it through the plastic canvas of the carrot, then the centre of the fabric in the hoop. Push the legs of the brad backwards to fix, while still allowing the nose to move. Sew a white felt circle at the back to finish off neatly.

Great gift ideas

Stitched with love

Stitch the perfect gift for that special someone with a bright collection of gift ideas

Designed by Emma Congdon

Have a delightfully kitsch Christmas when you stitch these playful retro designs. Celebrate the season with a vintage inspired colour palette of lime green, punch pink and fresh turquoise – it's sure to bring a healthy dose of festive cheer into your home this winter. Filled with cute characters and fun fonts, these quick stitches are the perfect size for making cards, tags and stocking fillers – or turn them into baubles for your tree. Get stitching today and enjoy a Christmas that's merry and bright.

Stitching Factbox

Stitching time: Approx 3-6 hours each

Type of stitches: Cross stitch, fractionals, backstitch, French knots

Level: Advanced beginner

You will need

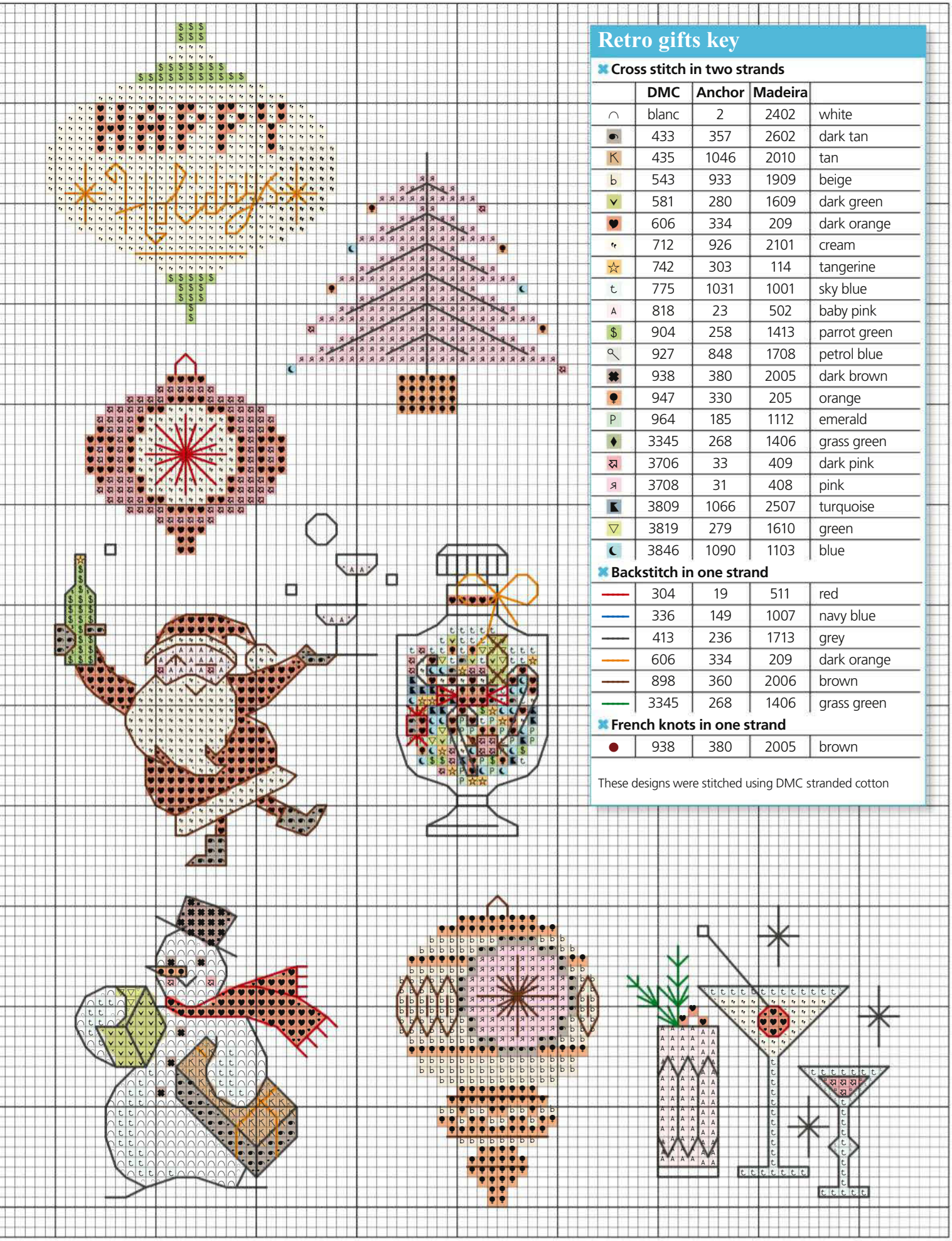
Threads: Stranded cotton as listed in the key

Needle: Size 24 tapestry needle

Fabric: Zweigart 14-count white, black (3706/720), and pearl flecked white (3706/11) aida measuring a maximum of 15x15cm (6x6in) for most designs, and 1in wide white aida band cut to desired length

Extras: 3in wooden embroidery hoop, all other items of choice from local stores or handmade

Tip
These projects are small enough to be portable and kept in your bag if you like stitching on the move



Retro gifts key

Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
◠	blanc	2	2402	white
◓	433	357	2602	dark tan
K	435	1046	2010	tan
b	543	933	1909	beige
v	581	280	1609	dark green
♥	606	334	209	dark orange
'	712	926	2101	cream
☆	742	303	114	tangerine
t	775	1031	1001	sky blue
A	818	23	502	baby pink
$	904	258	1413	parrot green
↖	927	848	1708	petrol blue
✖	938	380	2005	dark brown
●	947	330	205	orange
P	964	185	1112	emerald
♦	3345	268	1406	grass green
⊠	3706	33	409	dark pink
⊿	3708	31	408	pink
◣	3809	1066	2507	turquoise
▽	3819	279	1610	green
◖	3846	1090	1103	blue

Backstitch in one strand

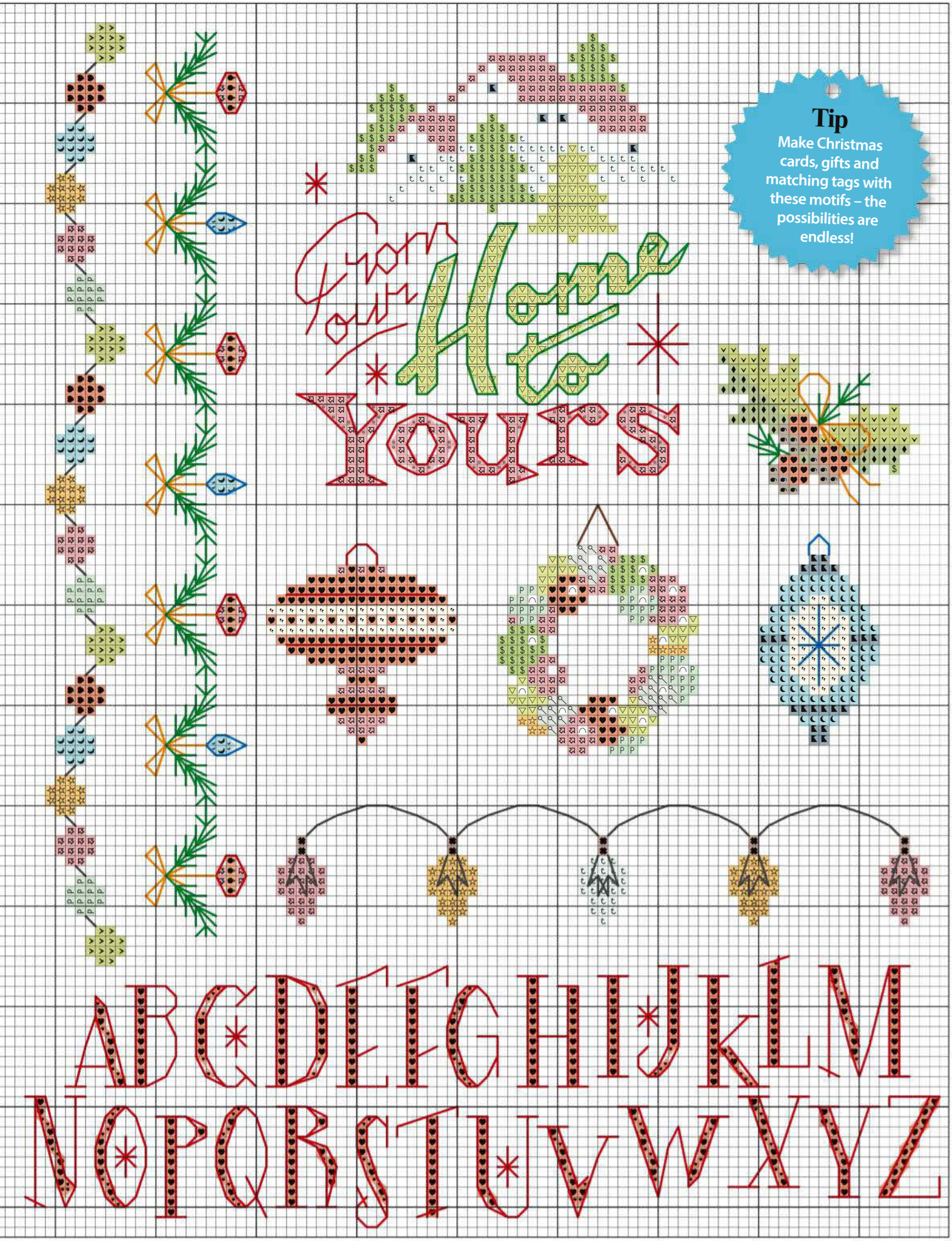
304	19	511	red
336	149	1007	navy blue
413	236	1713	grey
606	334	209	dark orange
898	360	2006	brown
3345	268	1406	grass green

French knots in one strand

● 938	380	2005	brown

These designs were stitched using DMC stranded cotton

3 gift ideas
1 A snowman carrying parcels will go well on a box containing lots of exciting presents.
2 Stitch a different motif for each Christmas card you make this year.
3 Hang the jolly Santa in your kitchen to remind the kids that he's always watching.
Have a Cool Christmas
Jingle HOME for Christmas


Tip
Make Christmas cards, gifts and matching tags with these motifs – the possibilities are endless!
Yours
Yours
ABCDEFGHIJKLM
NOPQRSTUVWXYZ

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Stitch a banquet with our collection of Christmas fayre

Festive treats

Whip up a feast with a selection of delicious designs – there's an abundance of seasonal goodies

Designed by Lucie Heaton

You will need

Threads: Stranded cotton as listed in the key

Needle: Size 24 tapestry needle

Fabric: 14-count white and pearl flecked white (3706/11) aida measuring a maximum of 15x15cm (6x6in) for most designs.

Extras: All other items of choice from local stores or handmade

Stitching Factbox

Stitching time: Approx 3-6 hours each

Type of stitches: Cross stitch, backstitch, French knots

Level: Advanced beginner

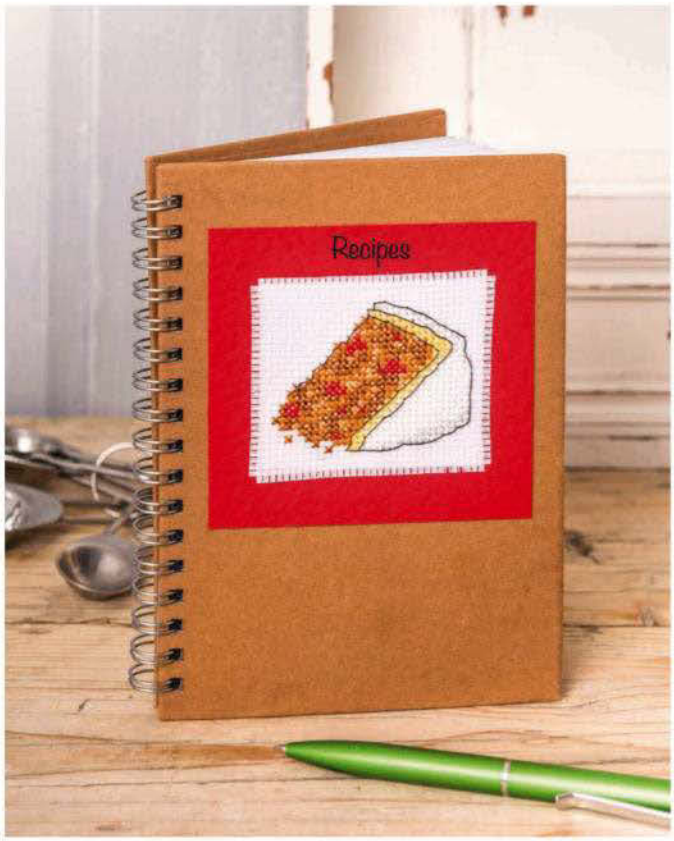
Cinnamon, star anise, oranges and cloves make a yummy cake band. Repeat-stitch the motifs on 14-count aida, fringe at the top and the bottom, then wrap around a cake.

Cross stitch a dear little tree cookie to make a mouthwatering card idea they'll love. Turn the page to see our step-by-step tutorial on how to make a 3D shaped motif for a card.

Love them or hate them, Brussels sprouts certainly make a talking point gift tag. Fray the edges of your stitching and patch it onto a red gift tag, tied with brown twine.

What could be more cosy? Stitch a hot chocolate design with a hint of Scandi chic to make a gift tag. Patch it onto a layer of patterned paper and card cut to size.

Revel in cross stitching each deliciously sweet layer of everyone's favourite dessert. Mount in a square aperture card in bright red like the one shown in the photograph above.



Decorate your book of seasonal recipes with a slice of Christmas cake. Simply patch your motif onto a piece of red card and stick to a notebook, purchased from local stores.

Stitch an oh-so-tasty card with a Yule log motif and personalise it in style. Patch it onto a kraft card from local stores, cut to size, then add a red and white gingham bow.

Candy cane napkin rings are so cute! Stitch on a piece of white aida, 10x20cm (4x8in), hem at the top and bottom, then sew up the back. Turn the right way out.

Seasons greetings
Tip
Try combining a length of metallic thread with stranded cotton to give these designs an extra special festive shimmer

How to add a 3D shaped motif to a card

1 Gently press your finished stitching for a crease-free look. Back with either medium-weight iron-on interfacing, or white paper firmly stuck down with double-sided tape, to prevent the aida fraying when cut. Trim a border of around two aida blocks all around to create the desired shape.

2 Apply double-sided foam pads to the back of your shaped motif. Remove the backing and carefully position on your card, taking care to fix it centrally for a raised effect.

3 Finally, stick a snowflake embellishment onto each corner of the card, like ours, using a glue dot or double-sided tape. Buttons, sequins or other festive shapes work just as well, so get creative for a personal touch.

Festive food key

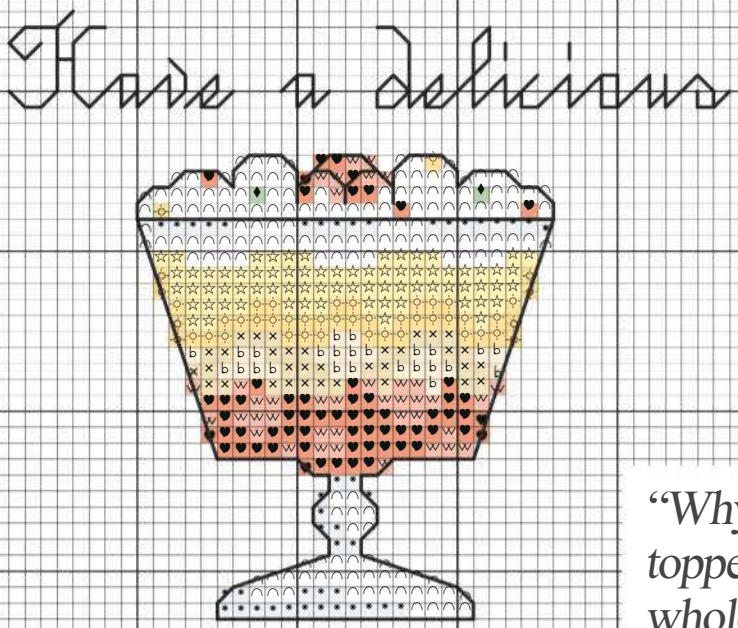
Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	blanc	2	2402	white
↖	318	399	1801	grey
♥	349	1098	212	red
w	352	9	303	coral
✖	434	310	2009	brown
s	712	926	2101	cream
☼	725	305	113	yellow
☆	727	293	112	light yellow
×	738	367	2013	tan
b	739	366	2014	light tan
●	741	304	202	dark orange
●	742	303	114	orange
*	762	234	1804	light grey
♦	912	209	1213	green
$	954	203	1207	light green
◗	976	1001	2010	dark ginger
K	977	1002	2302	ginger
◪	3799	236	1713	dark grey
Q	3827	311	2012	light ginger

Backstitch in one strand

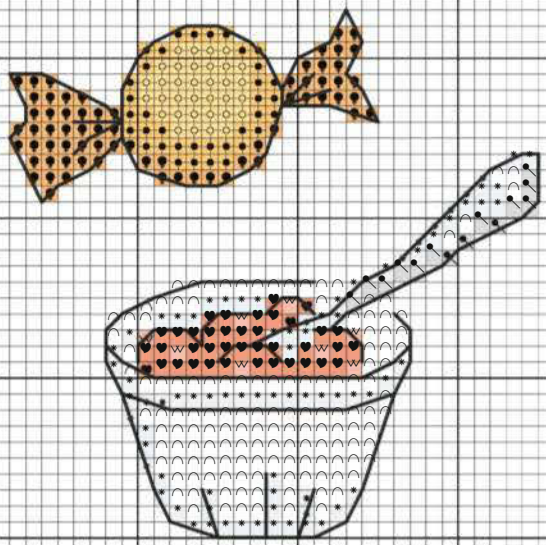
——	3799	236	1713	dark grey

These designs were stitched using DMC stranded cotton

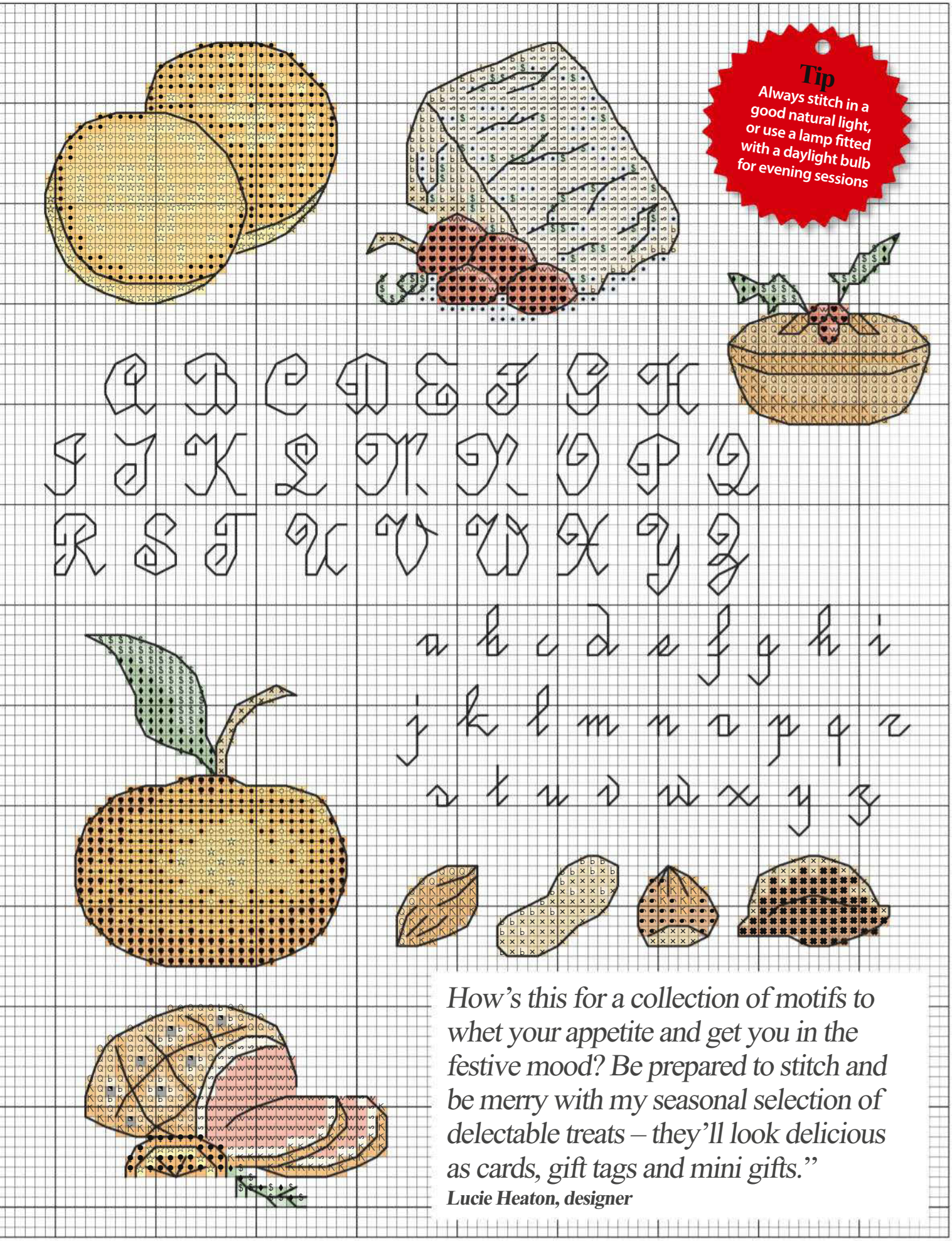


"Why not make a Christmas pudding topper out of this little pud? It's in whole stitches only and can be stitched on plastic canvas and taped to a BBQ skewer to decorate the real-life pud."

Fiona Baker, Technical Editor



Tip
These delicious designs are great for using up odds and ends of threads you have left over in your stash bag



How's this for a collection of motifs to whet your appetite and get you in the festive mood? Be prepared to stitch and be merry with my seasonal selection of delectable treats – they'll look delicious as cards, gift tags and mini gifts."

Lucie Heaton, designer

How to...

With technical editor, Fiona Baker

All the guidance you need for cross stitch success!

Quick-start cross stitch

Choose your project…

Make sure you choose the right level for you – you'll find this information in the Factbox on each of our projects. Absolute beginners should choose a design without fractional stitches.

Buy your materials…

The You Will Need list on each project will tell you what size and type of fabric you need, and also which needle to use (see the table below for more information on needle sizes). You'll find details of the threads you need in the key.

Get ready…

We recommend always starting from the middle of the design. Follow the two heavy '▼' gridlines on the chart and find a symbol near the centre. Look for this symbol on the key for the colour of thread you need, plus the number of strands. Thread your needle with this colour.

Get set…

Fold your fabric in half horizontally and vertically to find the centre of that as well. The folds will make a cross, which corresponds to the cross at the centre of your chart.

Get stitching!

Make your first stitch. Leave a thread tail of 4cm (2in) on the back of the fabric, and catch it under your stitches to secure it. We recommend finishing all the cross stitch in your design before you work the backstitch or add any French knots. Have a look at the diagrams opposite to see how to tackle all of these stitches.

Your materials

With just a few essentials, you'll be all set to stitch straightaway…

Fabrics

You'll need either aida or evenweave for your design:

Aida

Great for: Beginners, as it has regular woven blocks and obvious holes. Aida is stiffer than evenweave so keeps its shape better. 14-count is the most common.
Bad for: Fractional stitches. If you stitch a design with fractional stitches on aida, you'll have to make an extra hole in the fabric, using a sharp needle.

Evenweave

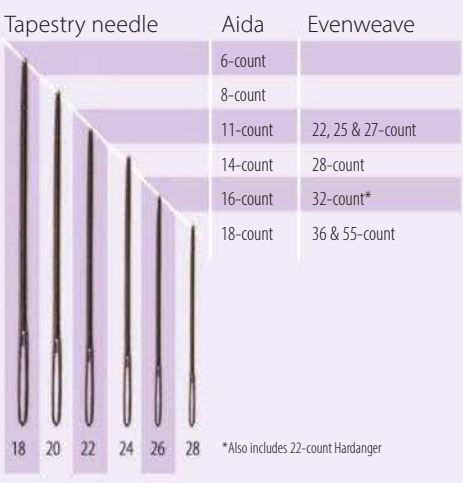
Great for: Fractional stitches and a neat finish. This fabric is softer than aida, with a finer weave and more threads per inch – 28-count is the most common. On evenweave, you work a cross stitch over two threads of the fabric, so you have a central hole spare for your fractional stitches.
Bad for: Beginners. It's best to start on aida and work up to evenweave when you're confident.

Aida (left) is stiffer than evenweave (below), and has more obvious holes

Threads

Stranded cotton

This coloured thread comes in 8m skeins and can be divided into six strands. Usually, you use two strands together for cross stitch, and one strand on its own for backstitch. There are three main brands of stranded cotton – DMC, Anchor and Madeira – all of which are smooth and easy to stitch with, and also colourfast to 95°C. Cheaper brands are available, but these will be less durable and may not be colourfast.

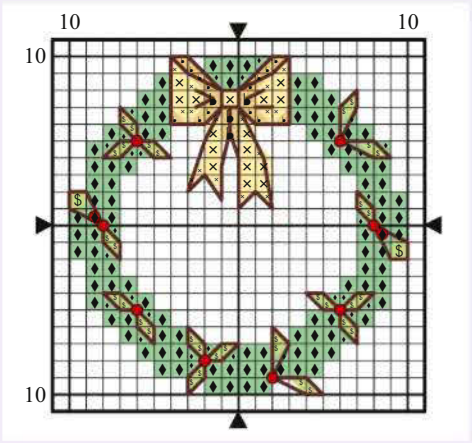


Needles

Tapestry needles are blunt-ended so that they can pass easily between the threads of the aida and evenweave. They come in various thicknesses, which are suitable for certain fabrics. Refer to the chart on the right to work out which needle to choose. When stitching fractionals on aida (see far right), a sharp-ended embroidery needle can be used to split the fabric blocks.

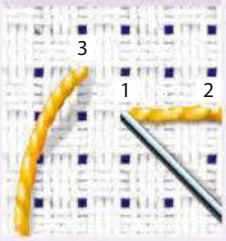
How to stitch with our charts

Our charts make it easy to see the different stitches in our designs…

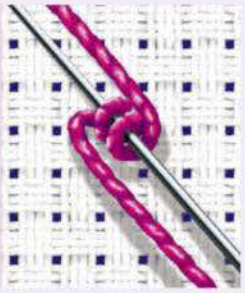


Cross stitch
Bring your needle up at the bottom left corner and down in the top right. Then bring it up in the bottom right corner and down in the top left.

Backstitch
Use to add detail to a design. Bring your needle up at (1), down at (2), up at (3), back down at (1) and so on, following the line of backstitch on the chart.



French knots
Bring the needle up through the fabric. Holding the thread taut in one hand, wrap the needle around the thread twice. Still keeping the thread taut, push the needle back down into the fabric, close to where it came out. Pull gently until a knot forms.



How to read our keys

Large symbols and clear information make our keys easy to use…

The symbols
Starting at the centre of your chart, find an area marked with a particular symbol. Next, find the corresponding symbol on the key. Move across the columns to the right of the symbol, to find out which thread you need to stitch this area.

Backstitch and French knots
Backstitch and French knots are listed under the cross stitch. The amount of thread you need to work these often varies, so make sure you check how many strands of thread are specified in the key.

Number of strands
These rows tell you what stitch you need to work and in how many strands.

Thread brands
These are the three main thread manufacturers. The columns below the headings list the thread codes you'll need to stitch your design. For best results, stick to one manufacturer for the whole of a design.

Stitch count
The stitch count tells you how big your finished design will be in stitches.

Design area
This tells you what size your design will be on a particular fabric. HPI stands for 'holes per inch'.

Wreath key

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
Cross stitch in two strands				
♦	700	229	1302	dark green
$	703	238	1307	green
×	3822	295	2511	light gold
♭	3852	306	2514	gold
Backstitch in one strand				
—	938	380	2005	brown
French knots in one strand				
●	666	46	210	red

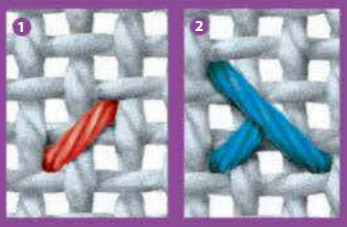
STITCH COUNT 20 high x 20 wide
DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 3.5x3.5cm (1½x1½in)

This design was stitched using DMC stranded cotton

Fractional stitches

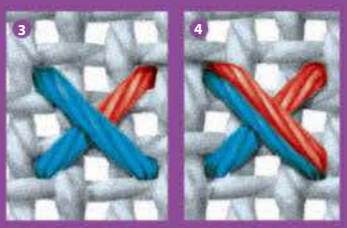
Fractionals allow you to create round edges

Quarter
The chart shows which corner the fractional stitch occupies. Bring the needle up in that corner and take it down in the centre of the square, halfway across the diagonal (diagram 1).



Three-quarters
Following on from the quarter stitch, make a half stitch across the other diagonal of the square, from corner to corner (diagram 2). Take care because three-quarter stitches can face in any direction.

Two symbols
When two symbols share a square, work a fractional in each colour – a three-quarter stitch in the main colour and a quarter stitch in the background colour (diagram 3).



Back-to-back
If you want to draw a strong outline, work a three-quarter stitch in each colour and stitch them back-to-back. Make sure that the two half stitches lie neatly parallel to each other.

Aida Tip
You'll need a sharp needle to pierce the fabric block when stitching fractionals on aida

Stitch yourself a very happy Christmas!

Ultimate Cross Stitch Christmas is your luxury collection of 210 sumptuous designs to make this the best Christmas ever. Stitch sweet cards for your friends, make great gifts for your family and decorate your home with seasonal treats.

With 210 designs inside to choose from, you'll find a selection of must-stitch Christmas cards, ideas for tree decorations, seasonal scenes to stitch and frame and a selection of gorgeous charts you'll love to gift to loved ones. Plus, follow our clear charts as you stitch and feel motivated by our inspiring photography.

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✱ Lucie Heaton ✱ Shannon Wasilieff ✱ Emma Congdon