

No.1 for designs

# Cross Stitcher

IDEAS • STYLE • INSPIRATION

62

Festive Designs  
for you to stitch!



KEEP IT  
COSY

Warm up with hot choc treats!

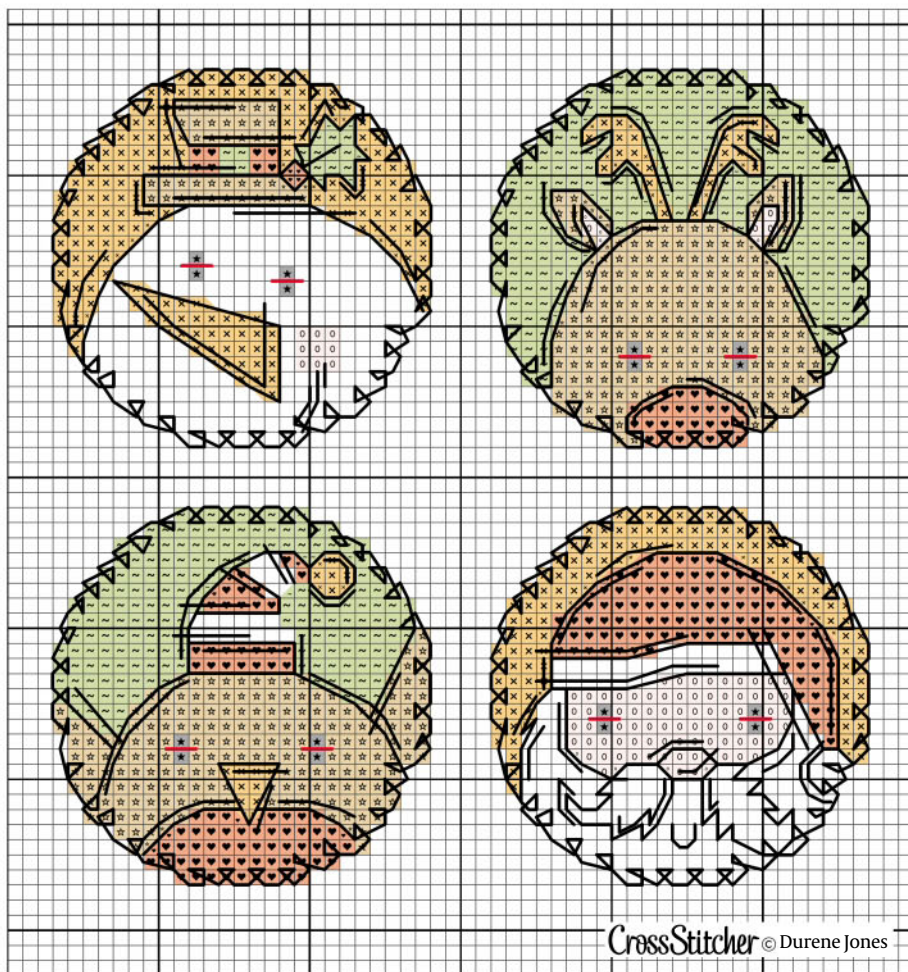
# MAKE of the month

Wear your love of Christmas with pride!  
Stitch your favourite character and  
make up into a cute festive brooch



Designed by: Durene Jones Stitch count: 25 high x 25 wide  
Design size: 4.5x4.5cm (1 7/8x1 3/4in) Stitch time: 2 hours each

These designs were stitched on 14 count aida fabric.



CrossStitcher © Durene Jones

## Make a... brooch

### Step 1

**STITCH** your character in the centre of a 10x10cm (4x4in) piece of 14 count aida, using two strands of stranded cotton for the cross stitch, and one for the backstitch.

### Step 2

**TAKE** a 5.5cm mini wooden embroidery hoop – these can be ordered online from various Etsy suppliers or [www.cloudcraft.co.uk](http://www.cloudcraft.co.uk). Place the backing disc centrally on the back of your stitching and draw round it. Cut along the drawn line, then glue your stitching to the disc.

### Step 3

**UNDO** the hoop's screw a little and push the disc inside so it sits halfway in, then stick in place. Tighten the screw and glue the brooch pin to the back of the disc.

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
<b>Cross stitch in two strands</b>			
★ ★	310	403	black
♥ ♥	349	013	212
☆ ☆	436	1045	2011
~ ~	704	256	1308
× ×	741	304	201
0 0	818	073	502
<b>Backstitch in two strands</b>			
—	818	073	502
	eyes		
<b>Backstitch in one strand</b>			
—	310	403	black
	outlines		

Why not add a thread to the top of your hoop and display your Festive Friend on the Christmas tree?

CrossStitcher  
HOW TO  
MAKE A FESTIVE  
CHARACTER  
HOOP BROOCH



## NEXT MONTH

### MAGICAL MONOGRAM GIFT TAG PROJECT

Make your presents extra-personal by stitching our monogram designs, with a chart for every letter of the alphabet. Mount them on tags and attach with pretty red and white baker's twine to finish.



ISSUE 299  
DECEMBER 2015  
**On sale**  
13 November

# TAKE BETTER PHOTOS

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JUST ONE LESSON AWAY!  
*Are you ready to...*  
**DISCOVER  
NEW SKILLS**  
FROM COASTAL LANDSCAPES TO CREATIVE CLOSE-UPS WE BRING

# Welcome

Festive magic in every project...



## WELCOME TO THE NOVEMBER

issue, and a special welcome to the many new readers who are joining us every issue. Thank you also to the loyal band of regular readers and subscribers who write, email, send us photos and enter our competitions. We've been making changes to the content over the past few issues, and we know that you're liking our new-look pictures and pages from your correspondence.

This issue we've continued with our makeover; giving our charts clearer numbers and keys with larger symbols for easy reading. Our focus is now firmly on quality, for both projects and the technical aspects of cross stitch. We hope you'll like the changes we have planned over the next few months, so keep writing and telling us what you like and want from *your* magazine.

As editors, we love having the chance to get a first look at the projects arriving back from our stitchers. They leave as flat pieces of fabric and skeins of thread and return beautifully stitched, pressed, and lovingly wrapped in tissue paper. Next, the projects are photographed and the team set to work writing, designing and editing the pages for you to enjoy. We like to think that as you open this issue and marvel at the wonderful array of festive projects inside, you'll remember the long journey that each and every piece of stitching has made, and feel the love and dedication that goes into the pages of this magazine.



## Full of heart!

Don't miss our pretty festive heart picture next issue. In shops 13 November!

Susan Martin

SUSAN & MARTIN PENNY  
EDITORS

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



Glam up your gifts with our luxury labels!



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## THE SavvyStitcher

*Try something new every issue*

### **75 Create fancy festive cards**

Tired of stitching the same style of Christmas card every year? We've got the answer with three creative ways to make showstopping cards!

**THE SAVVY  
STITCHER  
FESTIVE CARDS**

**75**

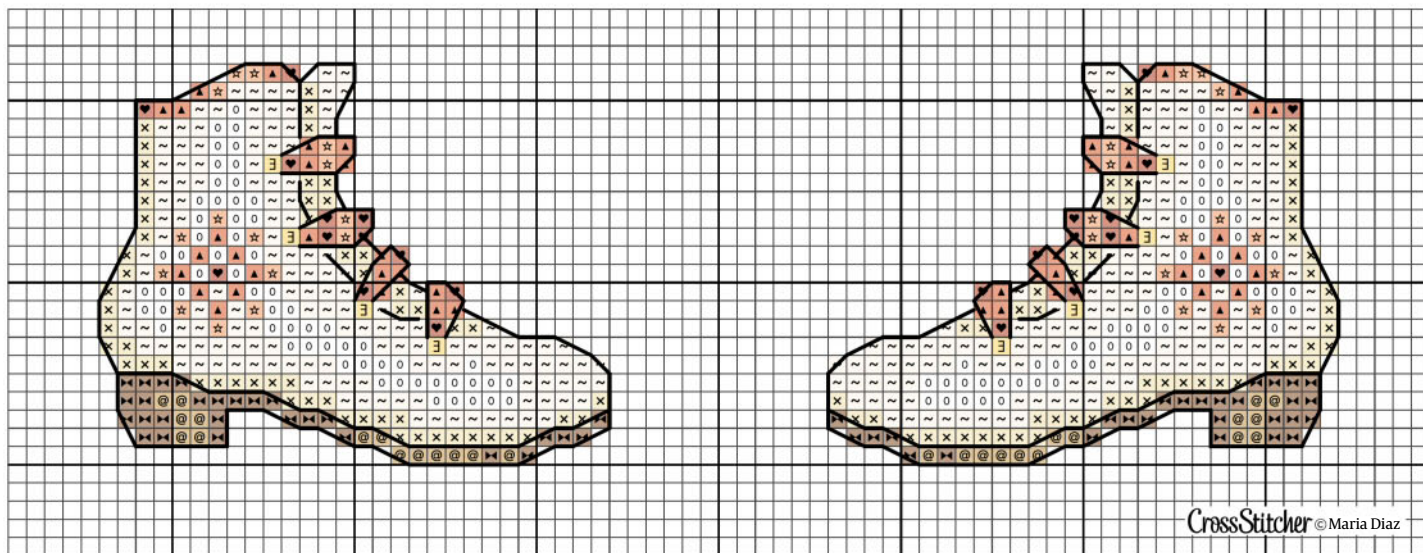






# Get Your Skates On...

Looking for the coolest Christmas decorations to stitch?  
We think our pair of ice skates score the perfect six!



Designed by: Maria Diaz

Stitch count: 22 high x 28 wide

Design size: 4.5x5cm (1½x2in)

Stitch time: 5 hours

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

## Make a... mini ice skate

### Step 1

**STITCH** a front and back for each ice skate in the centre of the evenweave.

### Step 2

**PLACE** the front and back of the skate right sides together. You may need to hold the stitching up to a window to get the lines to match exactly. Pin and then tack together.

### Step 3

**MACHINE** sew, just outside the design area, around three sides of the skate, leaving the bottom open for turning. Trim the seam allowance and clip the corners so that they stay flat when turned to the right side. Turn and then press carefully.

### Step 4

**MAKE** a twisted cord from a few lengths of gold thread. Thread the ends through a large-eyed needle and then push the needle down through the seam at the top of the skate. With the loop on the outside, tie a knot in the thread ends inside the skate.

### Step 5

**FILL** with stuffing, turn in the cut edges at the bottom of the skate, and then sew up the bottom with one side of a large paper clip inside seam.

We've included two different skate charts, so you can stitch a front and back for each skate

## Materials

### For each skate

- Zweigart 28 count Brittny white evenweave, ref: 3270/100; two 10x10cm (4x4in) pieces
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Size 26 tapestry needle
- Toy stuffing
- Large paper clip

For stockist details see page 84

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
<b>Cross stitch in two strands</b>			
♥ ♥	304	1006	509
☆ ☆	351	011	214
◀ ▶	433	371	2008
@ @	435	1046	2010
~ ~	712	926	2101
x x	738	361	2013
▲ ▲	817	13	211
E E	E3821	metallic	
0 0	blanc	001	white
<b>Backstitch in one strand</b>			
—	801	359	2007
	all outlines		

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# Outthere

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

## Sew Sweet

Stitch along with What Delilah Did's Sophie Simpson with this adorable Christmas kit produced with [cloudcraft.co.uk](http://cloudcraft.co.uk). There are three exclusive Christmas kits, including this little lady. The Cinderice stitchalong has already started online, but kits and PDF patterns are available as well as how-to videos. We can't wait to give a home to all three! [www.whatdelilahdid.bigcartel.com](http://www.whatdelilahdid.bigcartel.com) [www.cloudcraft.co.uk](http://www.cloudcraft.co.uk)





## ALL THAT GLITTERS

**POM-POMS, TASSELS** and threads – we love these gorgeous tree ornaments from Oliver Bonas. The combination of wooden creatures, gold and glitter is the ultimate Christmas combo! Want to make your own festive tree decorations? Turn to page 8 to stitch our cool pair of mini ice-skates...  
[www.oliverbonas.com](http://www.oliverbonas.com)



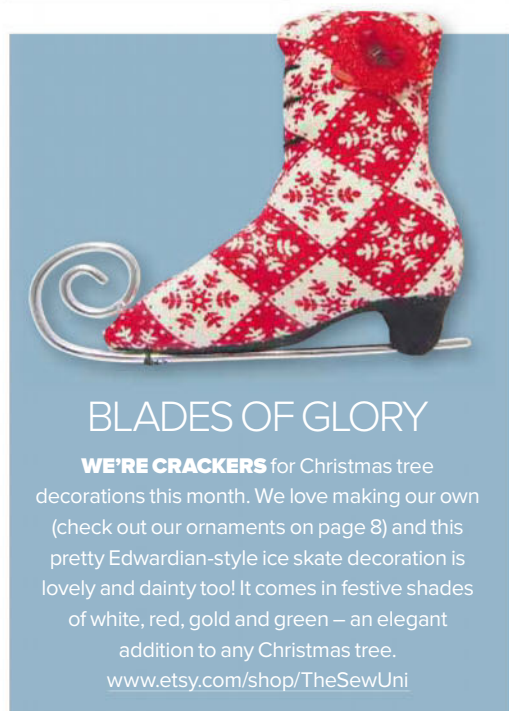
### Cheerful china

*Set the Christmas table with crockery to remind you of your favourite hobby! This snowflake jug, complete with 'cross stitch' border is the perfect choice for keen stitchers. [www.sainsburyshome.co.uk](http://www.sainsburyshome.co.uk)*



## BESPOKE BUTTONS

**ADD A** unique finishing touch to your handmade festive gifts with your own bespoke rubber stamp. Made in the UK by Bloomfield & Rolfe, the stamp has a wooden handle and can fit two lines of text of your choice. We love the button design too! Use it on gift tags or even your own stitched greetings cards.  
[www.bloomfieldandrolfe.com](http://www.bloomfieldandrolfe.com)



## BLADES OF GLORY

**WE'RE CRACKERS** for Christmas tree decorations this month. We love making our own (check out our ornaments on page 8) and this pretty Edwardian-style ice skate decoration is lovely and dainty too! It comes in festive shades of white, red, gold and green – an elegant addition to any Christmas tree.  
[www.etsy.com/shop/TheSewUni](http://www.etsy.com/shop/TheSewUni)

## WRAP IT UP

**WE ADMIT** we're in the middle of a reindeer romance – and this gorgeous tape isn't helping. The 2cm-wide tape is a natural cotton fabric, printed with a red zakka-inspired design. It's available by the metre and is perfect for wrapping presents. Sadly the wooden reel isn't for sale too – but turn to page 21 for our reely (sorry!) good garland project.  
[www.thehomemakery.co.uk](http://www.thehomemakery.co.uk)



## Neat beats

**THIS NIFTY** device is the perfect gift for any stitching music-lover! Shaped like a cotton reel, the tidy stashes the earbuds away while the cords are wrapped around the outside. We've gone crazy for cotton reels this month; turn to page 21 for our fab stitched wreath of reels.  
[oakroomshop.co.uk](http://oakroomshop.co.uk)



## TOP OF THE DOTS

**THIS QUIRKY** sketchbook comes with a front cover punched with a grid of holes so you can stitch your own design (and change it whenever you like!). Perfect for stitching on the go, it's available in tan, white and black. Made by hand, it includes high-quality drawing paper inside; the perfect crafter's stocking filler! [www.kariniti.com](http://www.kariniti.com)



## TREND SPOTTING

with writer and crafter  
**Katie Allen**



## REINDEER GAMES

**HOP ALONG** robins – reindeers are our new favourite Christmas creatures. Stitch our cushion on page 24 or try these finds.



### WHO

Visit Australian Etsystore, [ByCharlie](http://ByCharlie), for fun festive wooden napkin holders like this whimsical laser-cut reindeer design. [www.etsy.com/shop/ByCharlie/](http://www.etsy.com/shop/ByCharlie/)

### WHAT

Check out this sweet gingham reindeer tree decoration from The White Company. His gingham pattern colours means he'll coordinate with most Christmas colour schemes. [www.thewhitecompany.com](http://www.thewhitecompany.com)



### HOW

These felt sweets from Hobbycraft will add some furry fun to cards. Attach to an aida square, add a backstitch greeting underneath and mount on your card! [www.hobbycraft.co.uk](http://www.hobbycraft.co.uk)

## Boxing day

**THIS BEAUTIFULLY** crafted wooden DMC Collector's box is the perfect Christmas present to give yourself this year. The box comes with one skein of each of the 465 DMC stranded cotton colours. Projects and accessories can be stored in a compartment in the top of the box so your stitching can take pride of place in your home. The dimensions for the box are approximately: 46x36x23cm, and the cost, including stranded cotton, is £495. [www.dmccreative.co.uk](http://www.dmccreative.co.uk)



## THREE OF THE BEST

*Wait and see*

We're already counting down the days to Christmas... stitch our Advent calendar on page 70 or try these from Etsy...



### JUB 78

Make like Santa and pop a surprise into each stocking for every day of Advent with this pretty polkadot homemade garland.



### SEW SWEET VIOLET

We love this linen bunting, perfect for a very grown-up Christmas countdown – and it's available as a downloadable pattern too.



### THE SUGAR HOUSE SHOP

How majestic is this reindeer advent calendar? Make your very own, including felt ornaments, with The Sugar House Shop's pattern.

Photograph: Cat Lane



## Inside the mind of

# MR X STITCH

Worried about the reverse of your stitching? Our manbroiderer asks why we always go back to backs

One question I'm often asked is, "Does it matter if the back is tidy?" I get asked that mainly by new starters who are worried that their work won't be up to scratch. It's a funny one, and to me it seems like it's an urban myth that spreads around the edge of the stitching world, perpetuated by, well I don't really know what.

I realised a while ago that the same desire that drives a man to create a nice striped lawn also exhibits itself among manbroiderers, and I know that I take a certain amount of pleasure in keeping my backside neat and tidy. I don't doubt that any stitcher worth their salt pays attention to their

important that the back and front are the same. Shadow Embroidery is another example where the work on the rear of the piece is as important as that on the front. So I can only presume that it's from these types of embroidery that the Myth has arisen, and over time it has also incorporated our beloved cross stitch. It's a bit of a shame and I take great pleasure in allaying people's concerns and telling them that it's okay if the back looks like a car crash.

I've done plenty of pieces in the past where snaggles have developed into chaos on the back, but all I do is hide the back behind some fabric, or in a frame. No biggie. I've also learned that



The beautiful reverse of Ruth Singer's Shadow Embroidery



Do you constantly yearn for tidy stitching on the back?

“ I love allaying people's concerns and telling them it's okay if the back looks like a car crash ”

rear, avoiding unnecessary knots and jumbles, but it seems to be more of an imperative for the male stitcher!

I've taught quite a few men who, within ten minutes of starting, are expressing concern about the back and making sure all is in good order. I try to encourage them to mellow out about it, but it still exists as an issue.

I can see how it must be off-putting to the newcomer. It's like learning to drive and people saying that you must be able to handbrake turn into car parking spaces at all times.

I'm aware that there are types of stitch, like Holbein, where it's

each time you make a stitch you're putting a half twist in the thread, so every now and again you have to drop the needle and let the thread unwind, which stops it from spooling up and forming knots. The mighty Jane Greenoff does a half twist in the opposite direction when she stitches, thereby counteracting the problem, but I can't quite wrap my head around how that works, so I'll still be dropping and unwinding for a while yet.

Do you fear the Myth? How do you cope with a messy backside? Let me know, and we can fight this disturbing phenomenon together!

Find me online:

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# FESTIVE FLURRY

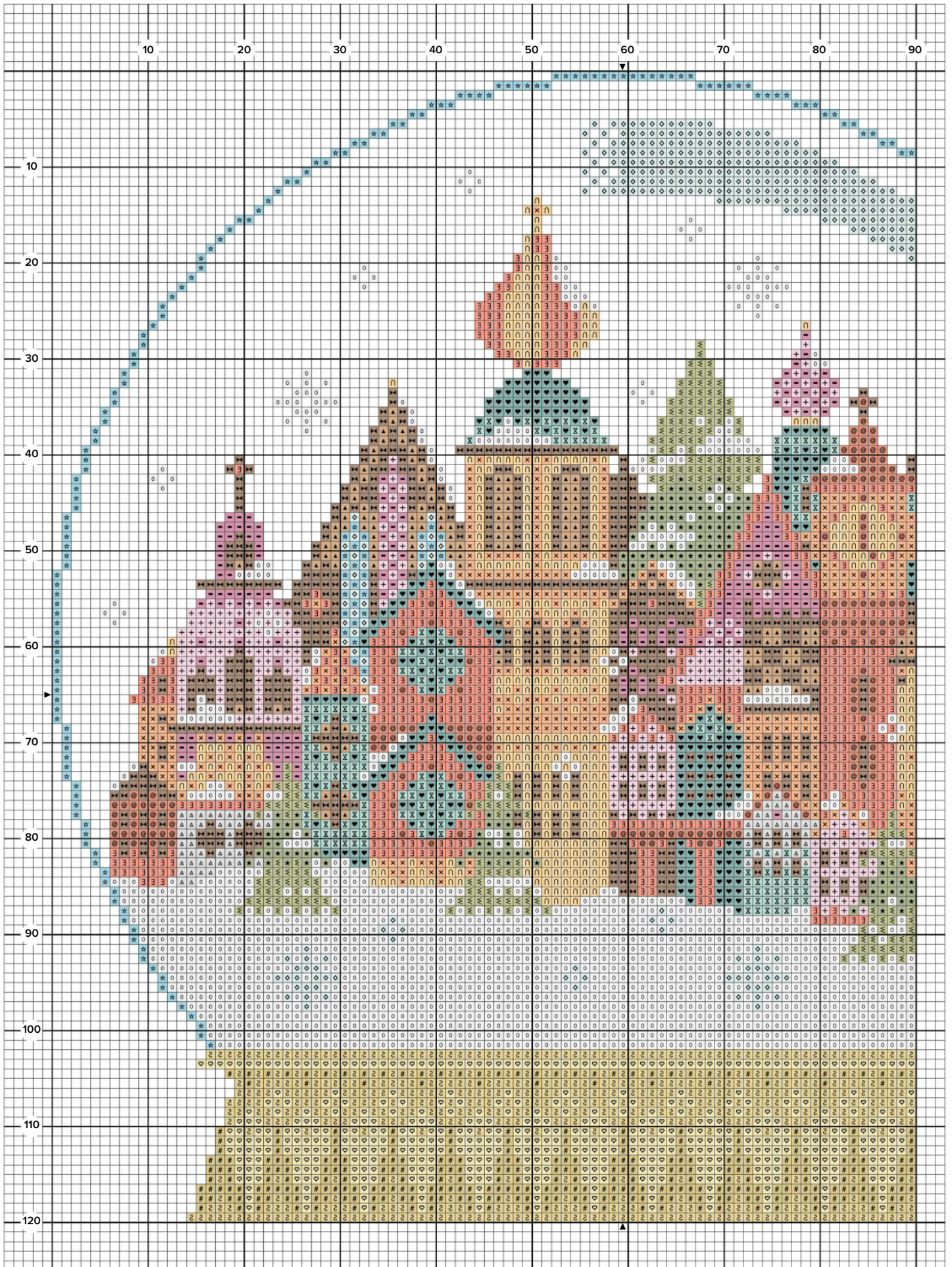
Ready, get set, snow! Use our snow dome scene to fill your home with a festival of Christmas colour...

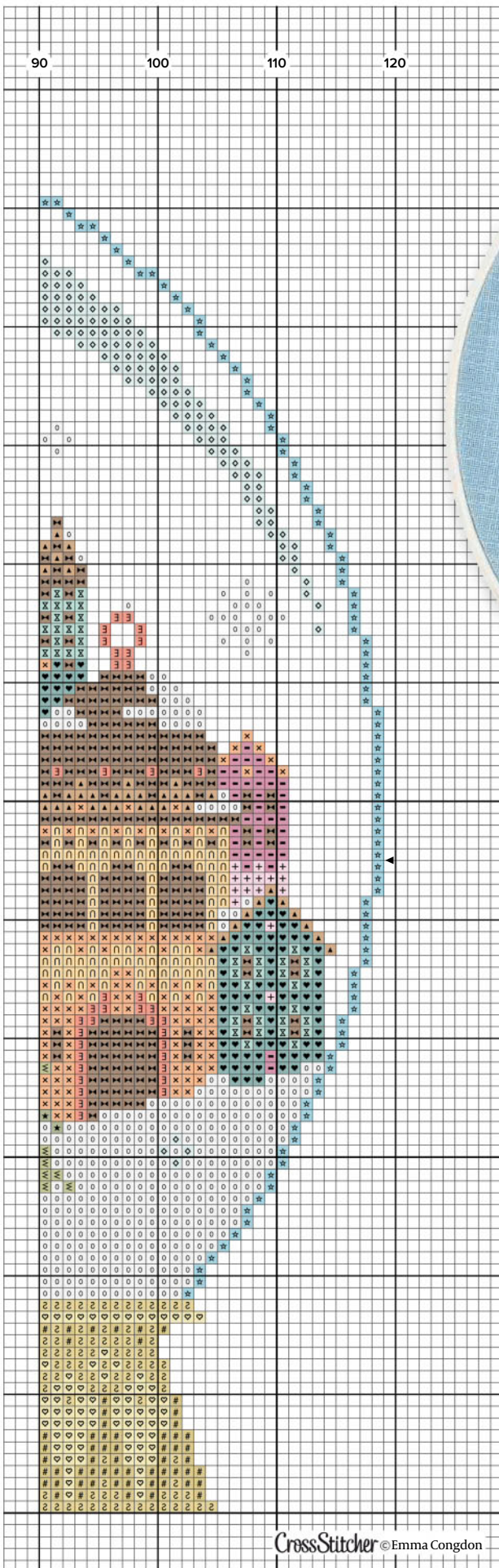






# FESTIVE FLURRY





Designed by: Emma Congdon  
 Stitch count: 120 high x 119 wide  
 Design size: 21x21cm (8¼x8¼in)  
 Stitch time: 43 hours

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

### Materials

- Zweigart 28 count Trento blue evenweave, ref. 3453/5072, 38x38cm (15x15in)
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Size 26 tapestry needle
- White backing fabric, 38x38cm (15x15in)
- 25cm (10in) wooden embroidery hoop

For stockist details see page 84



Paint your hoop using a match pot of emulsion paint. Apply two coats to the outer section of the hoop only, then allow to dry thoroughly

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
<b>Cross stitch in three strands</b>			
@ @	321	019	510
△ △	415	398	1803
▲ ▲	434	310	2009
≲ ≲	470	267	1502
∩ ∩	742	303	114
◇ ◇	747	158	1104
⊠ ⊠	801	359	2007 (2)
# #	832	277	2202
2 2	833	907	2203
♥ ♥	834	945	2204
- -	917	088	706
★ ★	937	268	1504
× ×	970	316	204
♥ ♥	991	1076	1204
⊠ ⊠	992	1072	1202
+ +	3608	060	709
☒ ☒	3801	1098	411
☆ ☆	3845	433	1103
0 0	3865	002	2402 (2)

(2) indicates more than one skein is required

## How to... frame your work in a hoop

### Step 1



**TRIM** your stitching and a fabric piece into a circle slightly larger than your hoop. Place the inside hoop beneath the two pieces and the outer hoop on top. Centre and press over your work. Pull taut and tighten the screw.

### Step 2



**TURN** your stitching to the reverse and cut a piece of felt to fit inside the inner circle. Place the felt inside the hoop. You can use a bit of fabric glue to keep it in place. The felt will pad your stitching, and stop anything showing through.

### Step 3

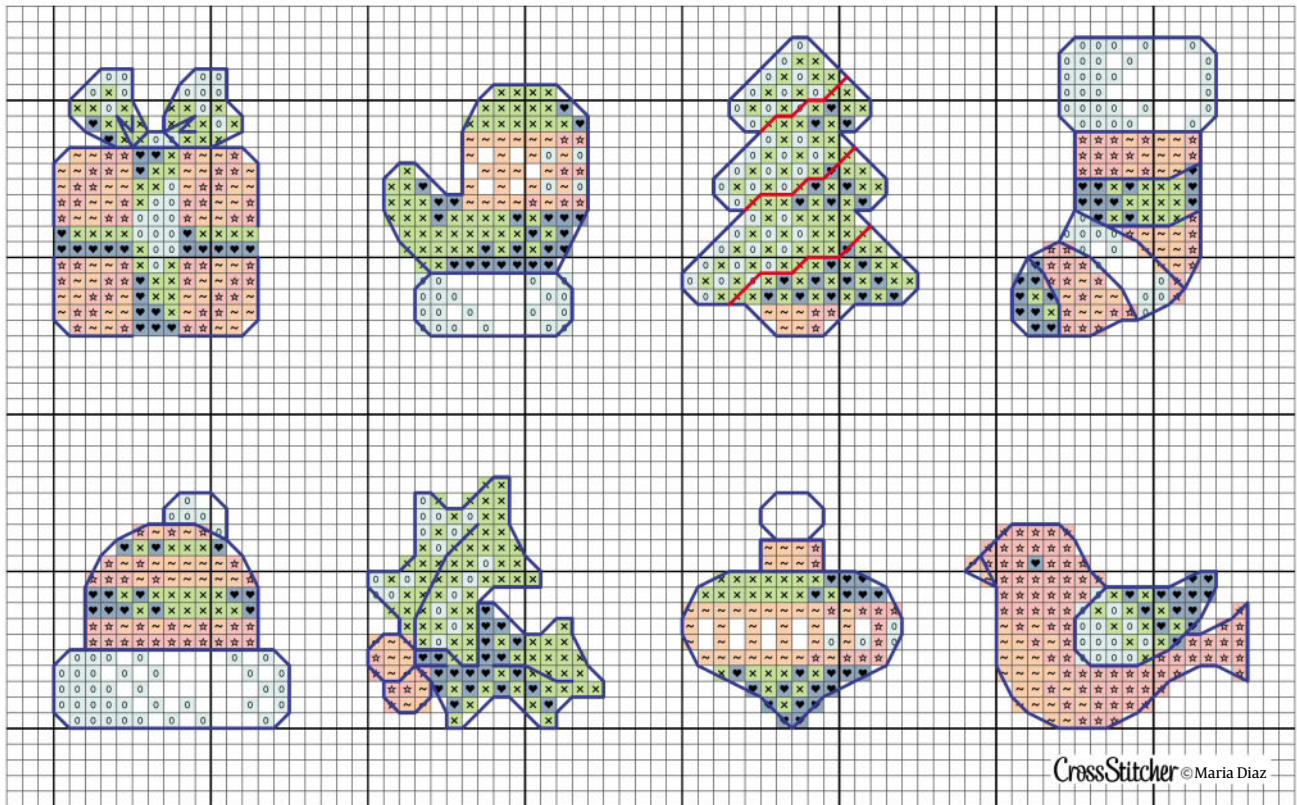


**USE** a glue gun or double-sided tape to begin attaching the first layer of fabric, pulling taut as you go. Repeat for the second layer. Cut a second felt layer to fit over the back of your hoop. Secure with glue or small neat stitches.

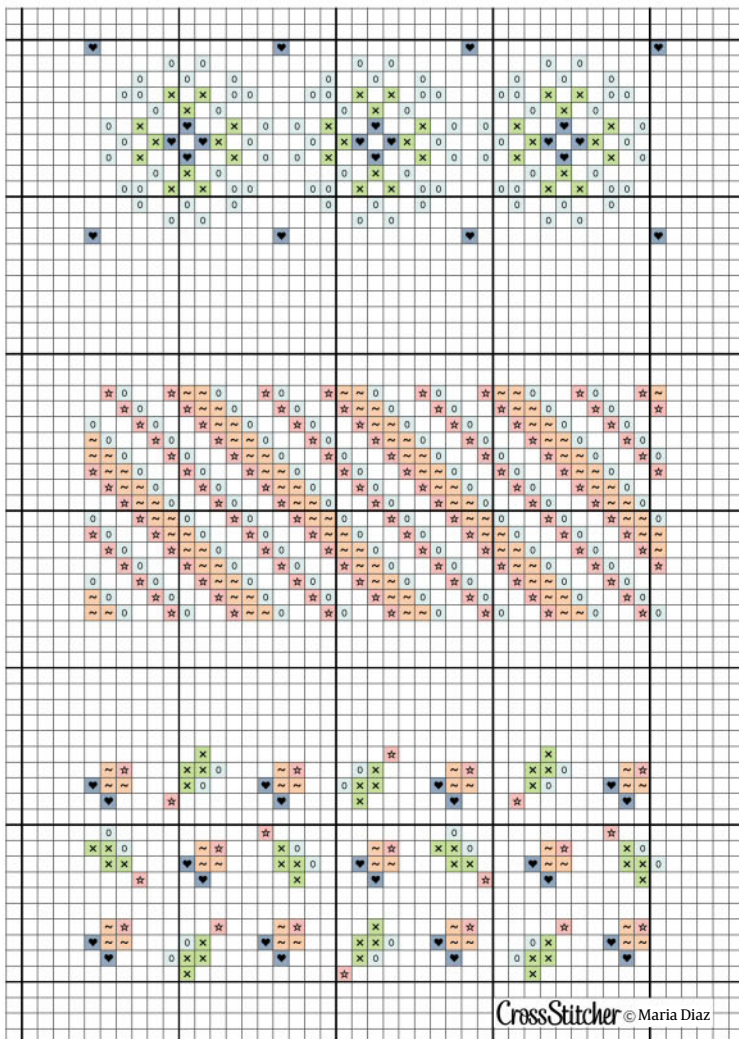


# SEW SEASONAL

Have yourself a very crafty Christmas! Time to deck the halls with our clever cotton reel wreath...



CrossStitcher © Maria Diaz



CrossStitcher © Maria Diaz

Designed by: Maria Diaz  
 Max. stitch count: 19 high x 37 wide  
 Max. design size: 5.5x7.5cm (2x3in)  
 Stitch time: 11 hours in total

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

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
<b>Cross stitch in two strands</b>			
	906	256	1411
	956	041	611
	3340	329	301
	3765	169	2506
	3811	1060	1101
<b>Backstitch in one strand</b>			
	3340	329	301
tree decoration			
	3765	169	2506
outlines			



## Make a... wreath

### Step 1

**STITCH** each design, making sure it is in the centre of the evenweave.

### Step 2

**MEASURE** a cotton reel carefully to get the exact size. Using these measurements as a guide, fold over, and then press the edges of the evenweave, trimming if necessary, until the fabric fits snugly around the reel.

### Step 3

**WRAP** the folded stitching around the cotton reel, overlapping the edges. Turn under the raw edge at the back, and then catch stitch the back seam to hold the stitching in place.

### Step 4

**COMPLETE** all the reels in this way, and then thread on to a length of wire. Twist the wire ends together, before neatening the join at the top with ribbon.

Depending on the shape of your cotton reel, you may find it looks neater to wrap the reel with wadding before adding the stitching



## Materials

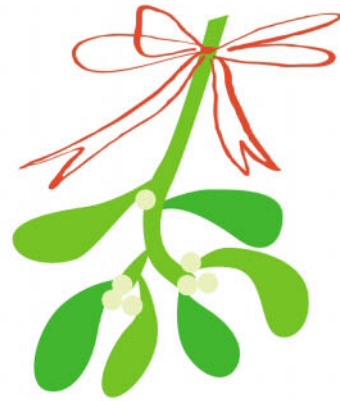
- Zweigart 28 count Britney evenweave, ref: 3270/100, 7.5x10cm (3x4in), for each reel
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Size 26 tapestry needle
- Wooden cotton reels, 3x4.5cm (1¼x¾in)
- Wire to make wreath

For stockist details see page 84

MISTLETOE KISSES



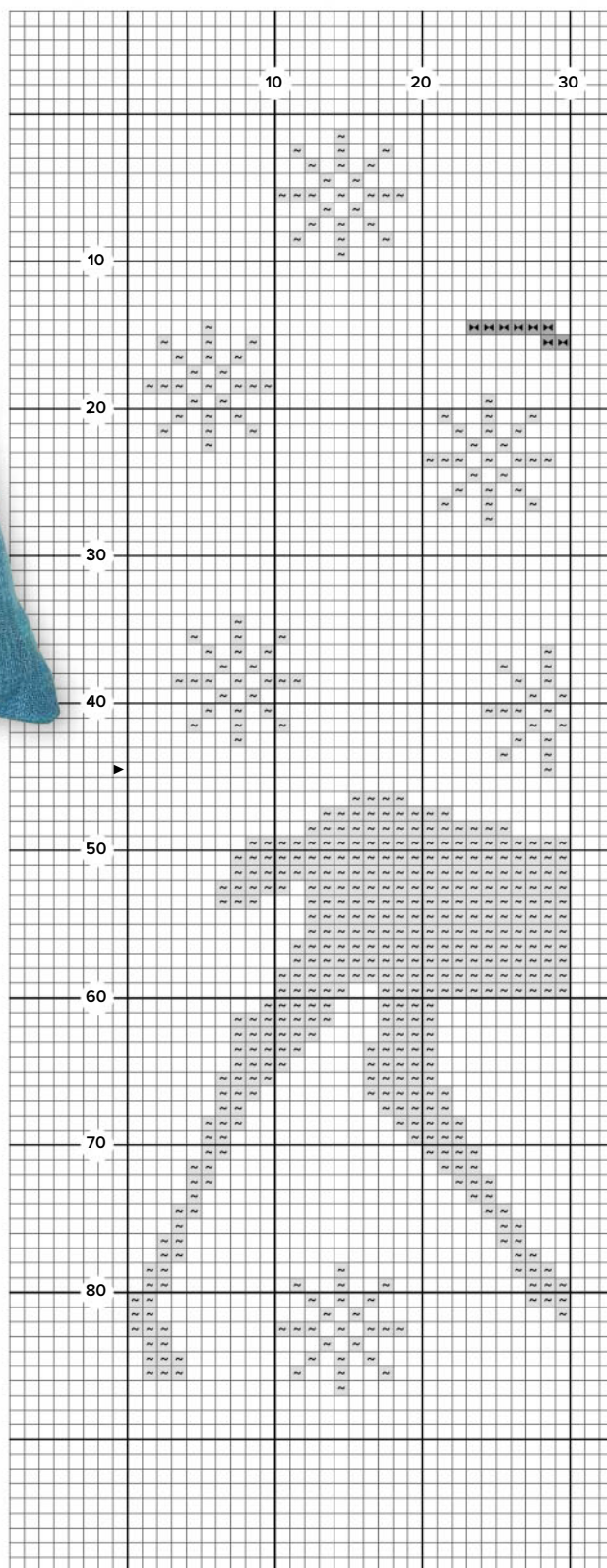




# Mistletoe Kisses

Merry Christmas my deers! Our sweet reindeer cushion is guaranteed to make your guests smile over the festive season

# MISTLETOE KISSES



Designed by: Lucie Heaton

Stitch count: 89 high x 118 wide

Design size: 24x31cm (9½x12¼in)

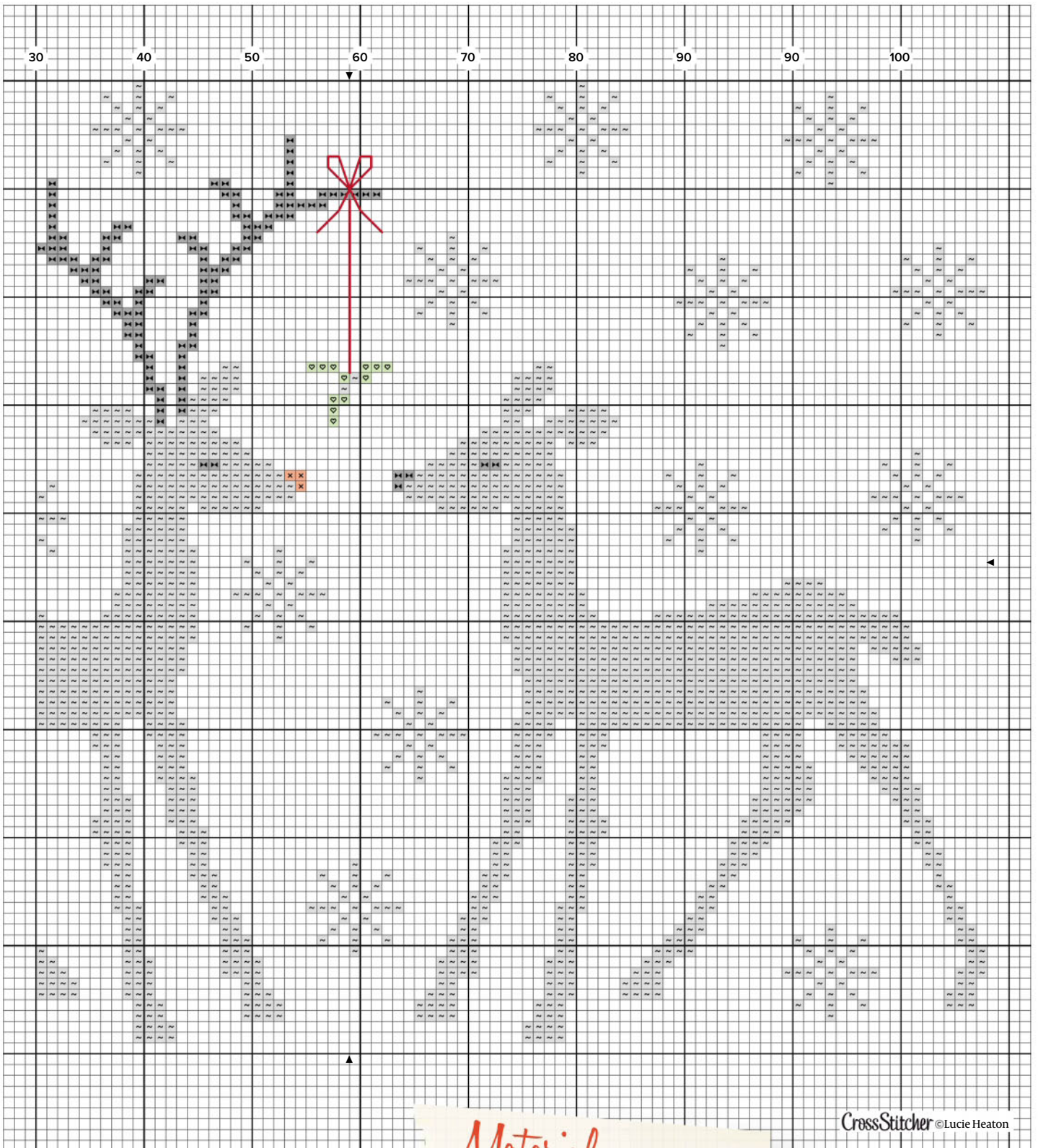
Stitch time: 20 hours

This design was stitched on 19 count evenweave over two threads of the fabric.

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
<b>Cross stitch in four strands</b>			
✕ ✕	349	013	212
♥ ♥	703	238	1307
◀ ▶	3799	236	1713
~ ~	blanc	001	white (5)
<b>Backstitch in two strands</b>			
—	349	013	212
	red ribbon		

(5) indicates more than one skein is required

*We stitched our cushion over two threads of Ariosa 19 count evenweave to make it nice and chunky*



**TURN TO  
PAGE 43  
TO LEARN  
HOW TO MAKE A  
CUSHION**

### Materials

- Zweigart 19 count Ariosa blue evenweave, ref: 3211/5091, 50x50cm (20x20in)
  - Stranded cotton as listed in the key
  - Size 26 tapestry needle
  - Fabric for cushion back, 44.5x44.5cm (17½x17½in)
  - Cushion pad, 40.5x40.5cm (16x16in)
- For stockist details see page 84**

CrossStitcher ©Lucie Heaton



“Our goal is to create the cutest patterns that make you smile while stitching!” say Amanda and Ashleigh.



Above: One of the company's popular Pen Pals designs. Below: The seasons and samplers are big inspirations.



*An interview with...*

# The Frosted Pumpkin Stitchery

Amanda and Ashleigh, founders of The Frosted Pumpkin Stitchery, spoke to us about their career as the queens of cute cross stitch!

Interview by **Katie Allen**

**J**ust love cute cross stitch? Then you'll adore The Frosted Pumpkin Stitchery. Featuring adorable motifs, from ice creams and unicorns to jolly jellyfish, every Frosted Pumpkin creation has a unique 'kawaii' look. We caught up with founders Amanda Jennings and Ashleigh Gilberson to discover their crafting past and how a college romance brought them together...



**Tell us a bit about yourselves...**

Well, Ashleigh (left in the picture) is the computer genius of the two of us. She is always creating the cutest cross stitch patterns and graphics.

Her favourite things are boba tea, the colour pink, speckled yarn, hand-dyed sparkle fabric and Christmas. In her free time she loves spending time with her nieces, playing with her puppies and going camping with her fiancé.

Amanda is the business manager. She's always looking for new ways to grow our business, keeping busy shipping and receiving orders and interacting with our customers on social media.

Her favourite things are iced coffee, the colour grey, sock yarn, hand-dyed embroidery floss and Halloween. In her free time she loves reading, cat blogs, stationery and bird-watching with her husband.

**Have you always been creative types?**

Yes, Amanda loved to paint and draw as a child. Ashleigh loved to sew and crochet. She learned to cross stitch from her grandmother as a kid.

**How did you meet and what made you want to start a business?**

Ashleigh was dating (and is now engaged to!) one of Amanda's friends in college. We hit it off instantly because we both love crafting. We both wanted to cross stitch but had a hard time finding kawaii patterns that we liked. We soon started stitching up designs, our friends wanted to create them as well... and the business was born! We spend our winters taking small business classes and constantly learning new things.

As for the name Frosted Pumpkin, we both love cupcakes and autumn – it's a mash-up of the two!



Kawaii means cute in Japanese. After struggling to find suitably 'kawaii' charts in the USA, the pair designed their own.



The duo are based in the Northern Californian countryside, where they create both patterns and kits for their customers.

“ We love the relaxing feeling of making each individual stitch until it turns into a completed project ”

**Have there been any amazing or tricky moments along the way?**

Copyright has been a tricky thing. So many people don't realise that you can't upload a copyrighted chart to Pinterest or file-sharing sites.

But we also get a lot of amazing feedback from our customers. Many of our customers are first-time cross stitchers who are now addicted or folks who learned to stitch as kids and are now retired and want something unique to work on. It's a great feeling having so many people so passionate about your work.

**How do you come up with your kits?**

Our kits are based on patterns which sell the best; it's all down to what our customers like. If a pattern reaches a certain level, we'll turn it into a kit like the *Sugar is Sweet Sampler* or *12 Days of Christmas*.

**Where did your Pen Pals pattern collection come from?**

Pen Pals came from our love of

stationery. We are both big fans of the company kikki.K which makes Scandinavian-style stationery. Frosted Pumpkin meetings almost always take place using their big paper calendars and paper planners. We also love the online penpal community and the hashtags #plannerlove & #pocketletters on Instagram. We live a few hours away from each other so we are constantly popping little envelopes full of cute stuff in the mail. We decided it would be fun to create a series of patterns each month dedicated to our love of paper and stamps.

**What do you love the most about cross stitch?**

We love everything about it; from picking hand-dyed fabrics from Picture This Plus, to pretty threads, to all the cute notions. We love the relaxing feeling of making each individual stitch until it turns into a completed project. It's a very low-key craft that travels anywhere! It's also a

blast to see all of our customers' projects on Instagram with the #thefrostedpumpkin stitchery hashtag!

**Describe a typical day in the life of Frosted Pumpkin.**

Amanda is an early riser and answers emails for a few hours in the morning. Then she ships all orders that came in during the night. Typically we'll call each other after lunch and brainstorm new projects, arrange supply orders and chat with the folks we work with. Ashleigh is a night owl and will work on the graphics, designing new charts and playing around with new colour palettes into the wee hours. Our business is our full-time job, we are constantly challenging ourselves and designing cuter stuff!

**What are your plans for the business?**

Our plans are to keep growing! We love Halloween and Christmas so this year we have two really special events planned for those. We want to travel more and meet more of our customers face to face too!

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

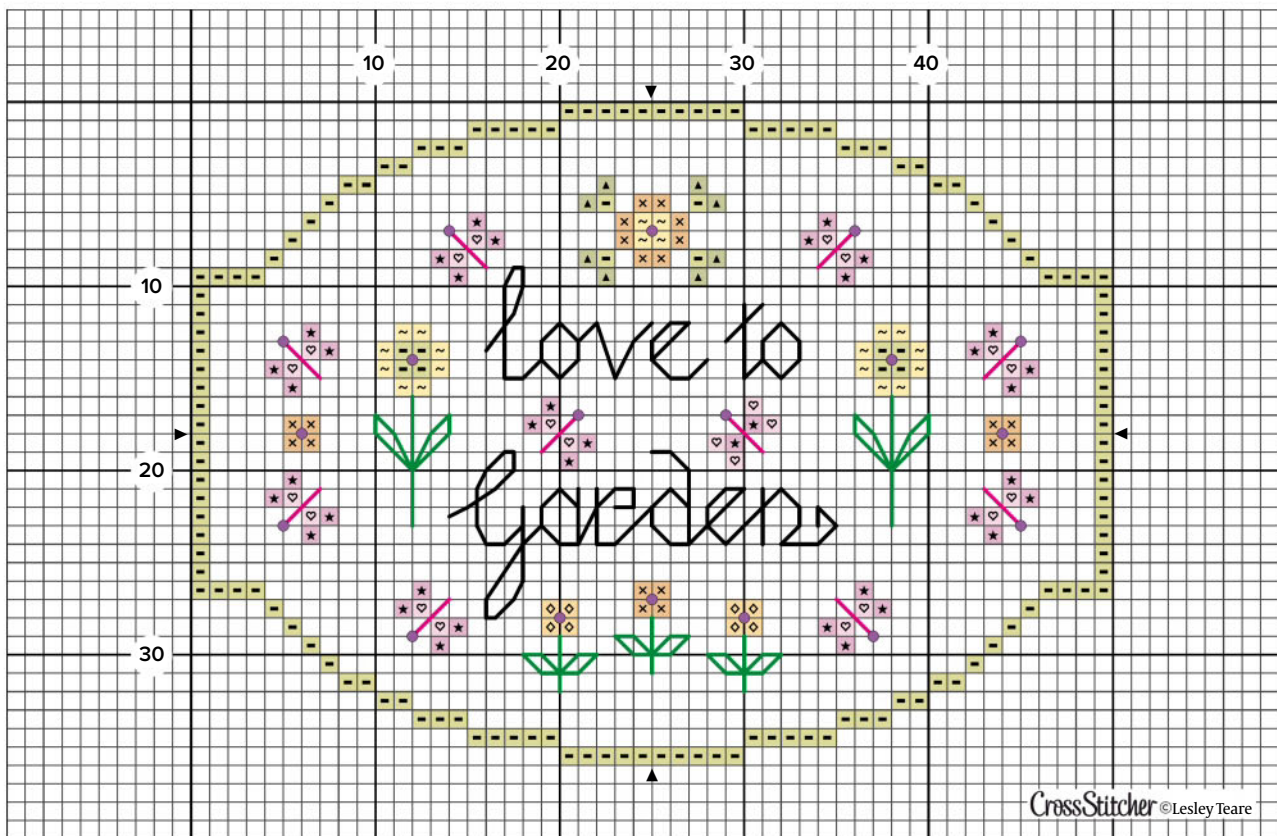
FULL OF FESTIVE CHEER





# FULL OF *Festive* CHEER

We've got Christmas all wrapped up  
– use our labels to transform jars into  
fun ways to present your presents!



Designed by: Lesley Teare Stitch count: 36 high x 50 wide  
 Design size: 6.5x9cm (2½x3½in) Stitch time: 2 hours each

These designs were stitched on 14 count aida.



	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
<b>Cross stitch in two strands</b>			
▲ ▲	165	278	1414
■ ■	166	280	1501
⌘ ⌘	209	109	803
▲ ▲	470	267	1502
~ ~	743	030	2294
0 0	746	275	101
♥ ♥	958	187	1114
★ ★	3607	087	708
♡ ♡	3608	060	709
× ×	3853	1003	311
◇ ◇	3854	313	2301
<b>Backstitch in two strands</b>			
—	310	403	black
			words
—	470	267	1502
			flower stems
—	3608	060	709
			stitches, butterflies
<b>Backstitch in one strand</b>			
—	310	403	black
			patterns, outlines
<b>French knots in two strands</b>			
●	3837	112	713
			butterflies, pins



## Make a... jar wrap

### Step 1

**MEASURE** the diameter of your jar carefully before you start stitching, adding on a small amount for the overlap at the back. Cut your aida fabric to this size.

### Step 2

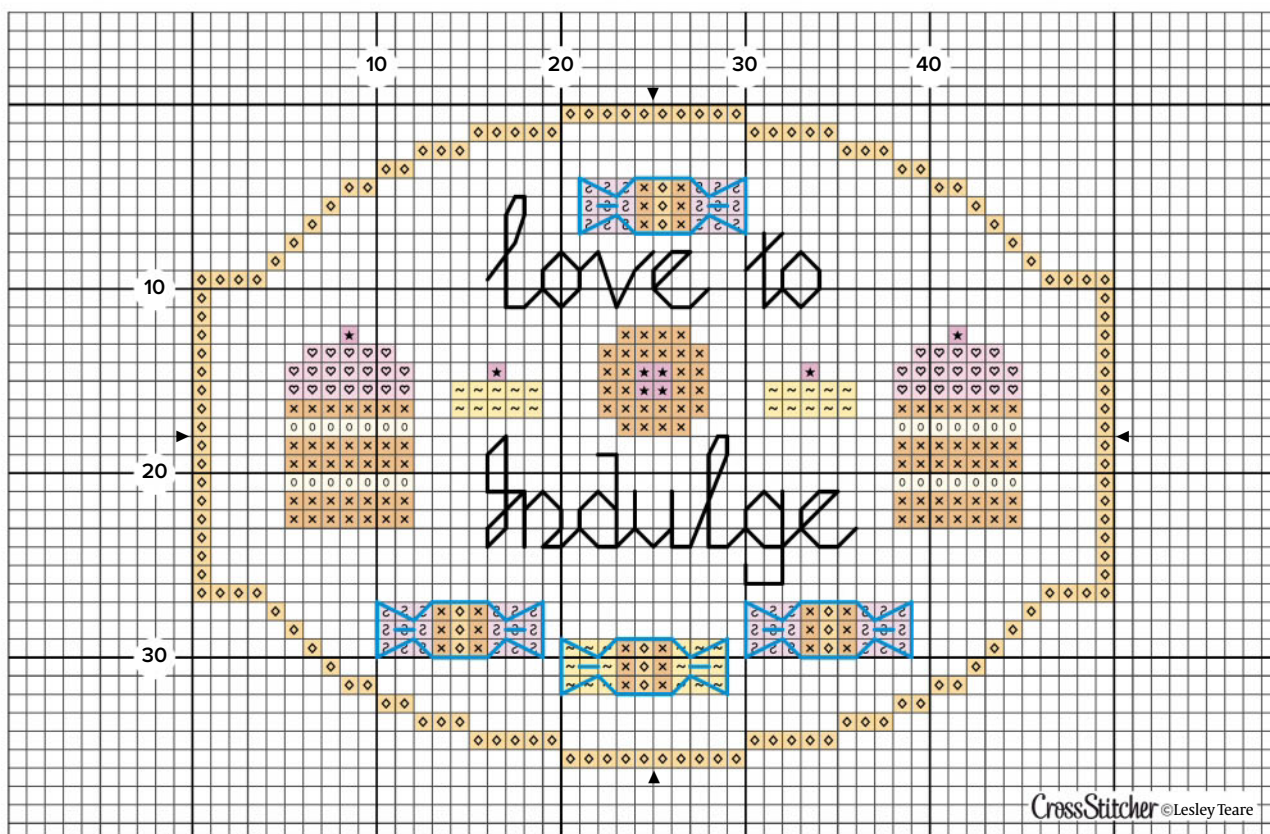
**STITCH** your jar label in the centre of the aida fabric.

### Step 3

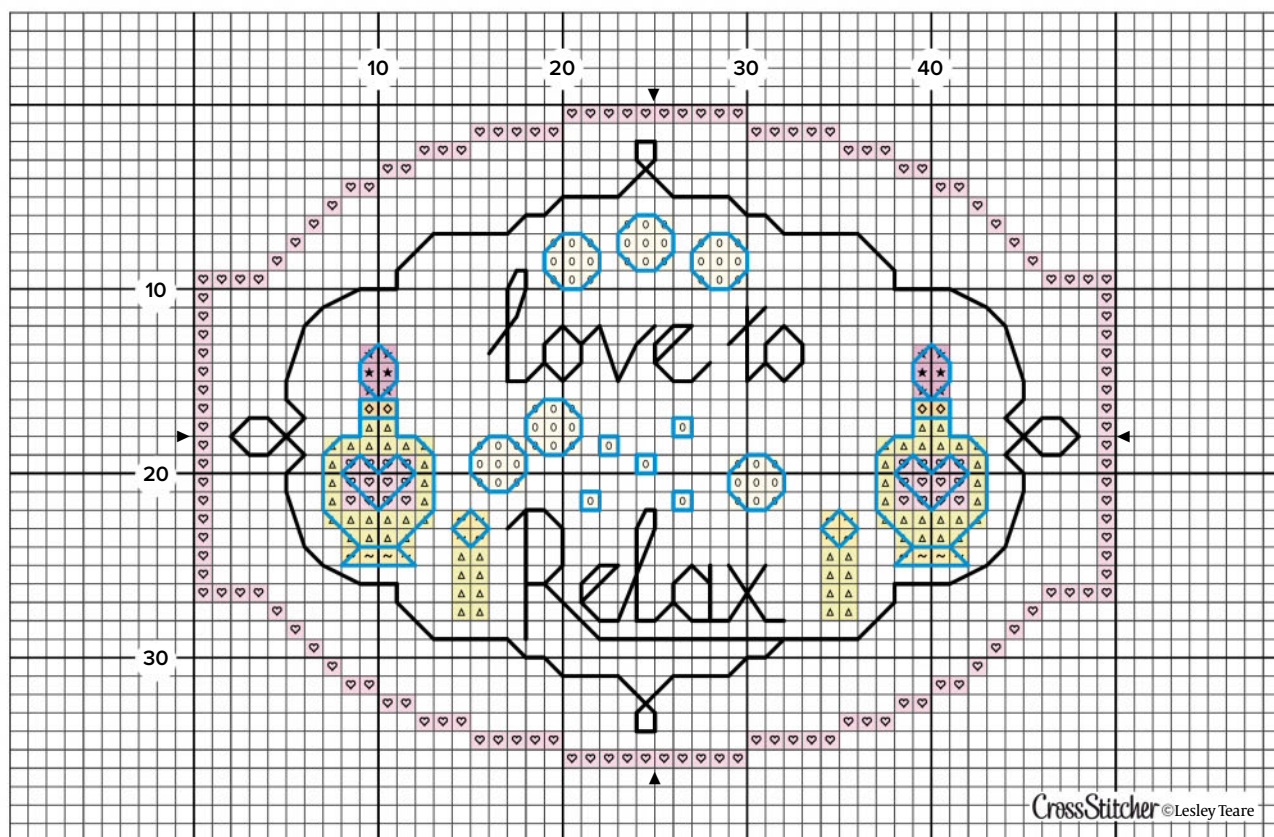
**FOLD** your completed jar label lengthways on the wrong side of the fabric, bringing the long edges together. Machine stitch along this seam, making a tube. Press flat so that the stitched label is at the front of your jar.

### Step 4

**FOLD** in the fabric at either end of the wrap and then press in place. Catch stitch the ends closed, then stitch a length of double-sided tape to both ends of the wrap to hold it around the jar.



CrossStitcher ©Lesley Teare



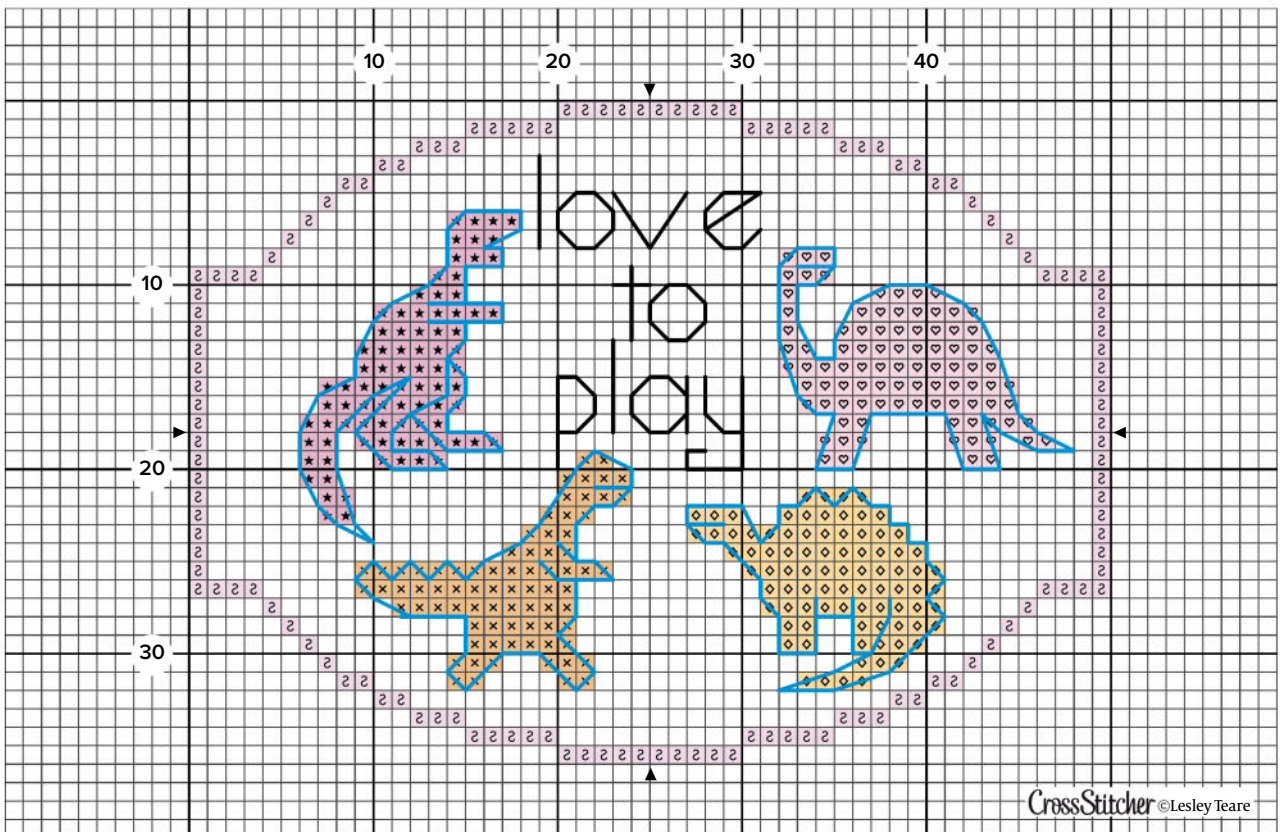
CrossStitcher ©Lesley Teare



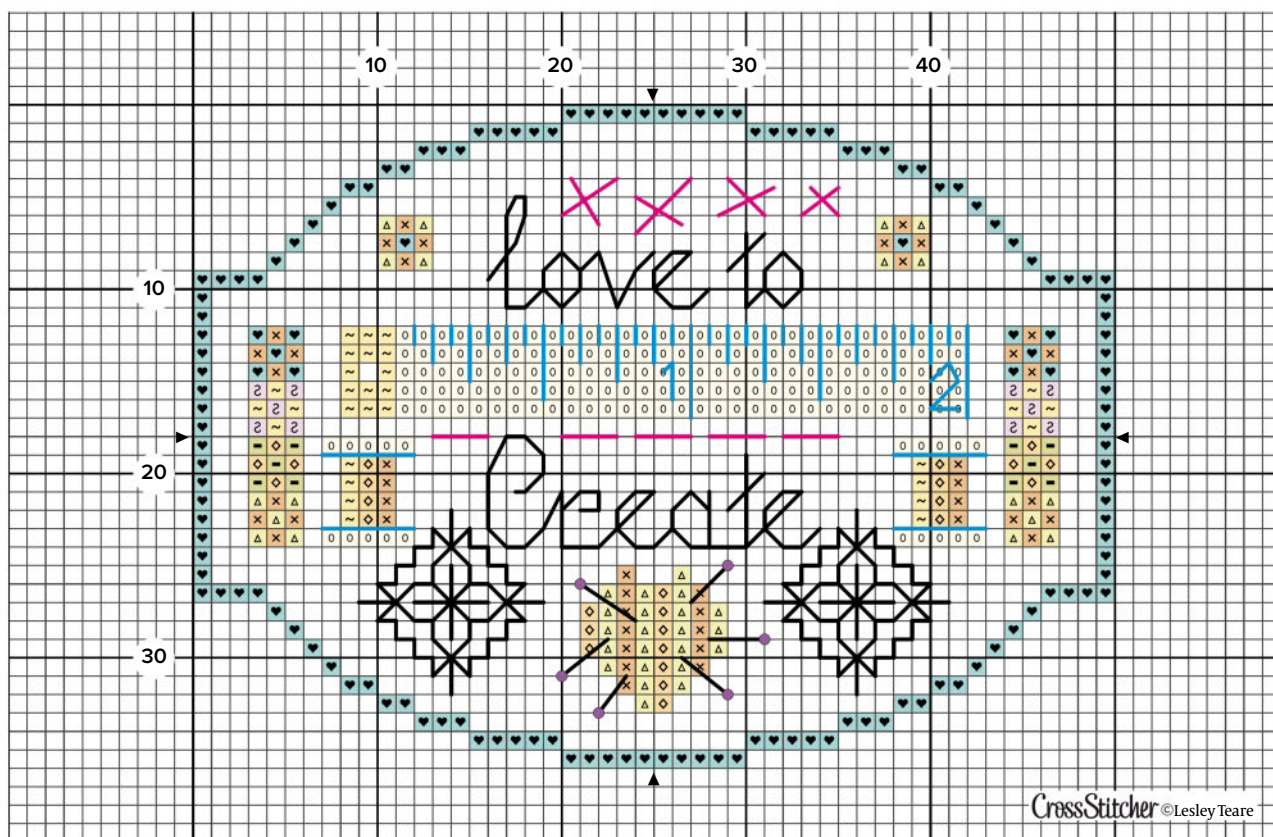
These could also be used around small parcels, or you could iron them onto Vilene and attach them directly to your gifts

### Materials

- Zweigart 14 count white aida, ref. 3706/100, 11.5cm (4½in) x distance around jar plus overlap
  - Stranded cotton as listed in the key
  - Size 26 tapestry needle
- For stockist details see page 84



CrossStitcher ©Lesley Teare



CrossStitcher ©Lesley Teare

Stamp a message to your recipient and add to a tag to tie on your jar with string as an extra personal finishing touch



# Your stitching

Drop us a line to pin your projects into our album!  
 Email your photos to [crossstitcher@dennis.co.uk](mailto:crossstitcher@dennis.co.uk) or write to us at *CrossStitcher*, PO Box 172, Northam, EX39 9DY



I decided to take on the 'Add Texture' challenge, and turned this cute lion from issue 295 into a pin cushion!  
 Maria Keane, Kent



I stitched the folk friend bird from issue 228. I believe that this frame is perfect for it!  
 What do you think?  
 Justyna Flos, Poland



My first project since becoming a mum, from issue 223. A lovely simple stitch, it's going to take pride of place in my kitchen.  
 Lucy Corley, Cardiff



Just finished issue 296's free chic birdcage kit. I made it a hanger in a romantic style. I'm so pleased with it!  
 Malgorzata Zoltek, Ireland



Here's my recently finished project from your magazine. I changed the colours and I'm very pleased with the result!  
 Dagnija Vanaga, Latvia



Just finished this lovely design by Lucie Heaton from issue 288. I substituted blue for pink as it is more my colour scheme.  
 Freya Stewart, by email



Finally finished this cushion from Sept 2011! It looks so good in my living room - love the finish, it's just my style.  
 Laura Mason, Shropshire



Stitched the cheeky monkey from issue 297 on plastic canvas, then framed it for a friend's little boy's 3rd birthday.  
 Nicola Maltby, by Facebook

## Stay in touch...

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Overseas readers see page 87

\*Available on iPad, iPhone and Kindle Fire

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# Merry & Bright

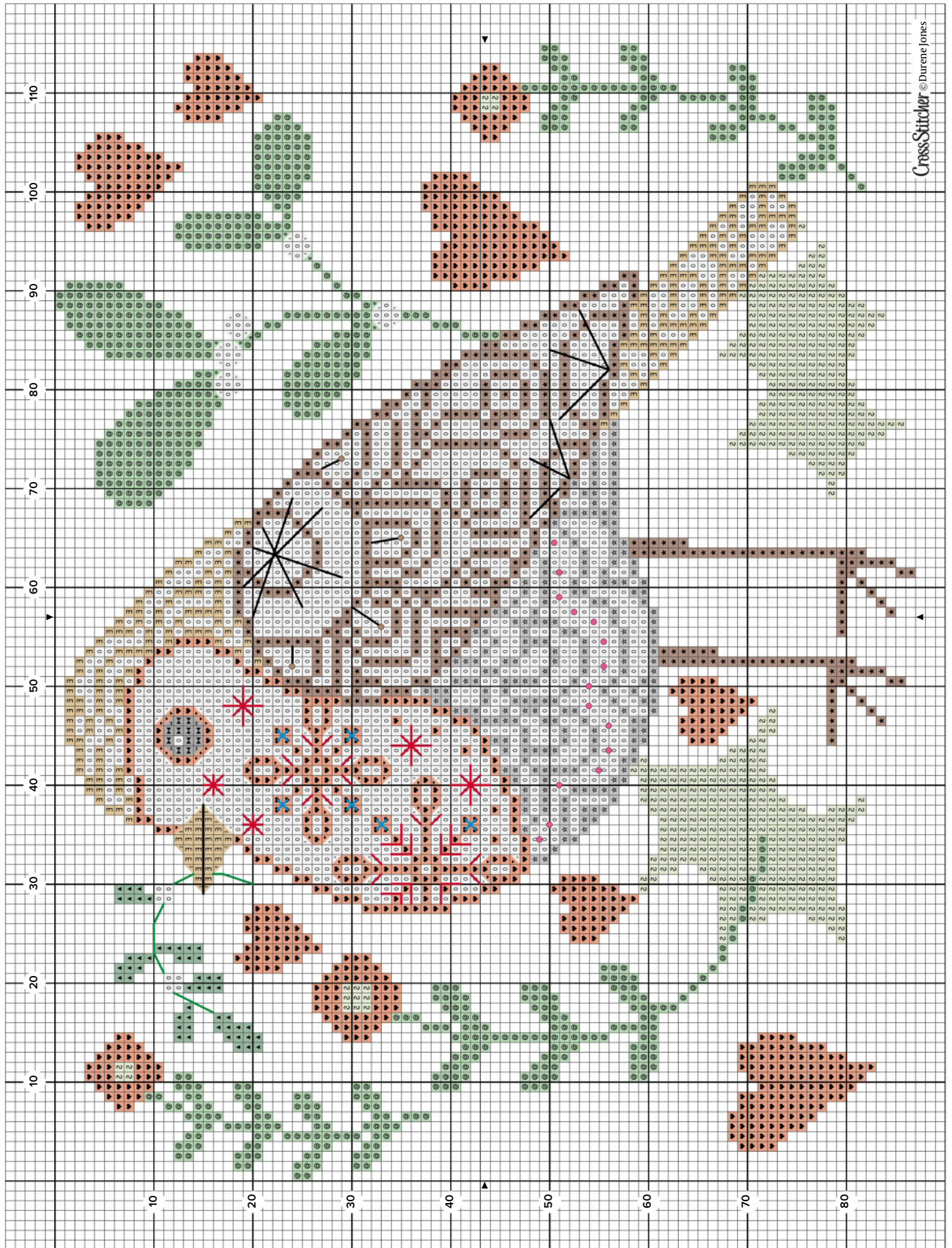
Our rockin' robin's ready to give your home seasonal style. Have fun making his matching mistletoe decoration too!

Designed by: Durene Jones









CrossStitcher © Durene Jones



	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
<b>Cross stitch in two strands</b>			
	164	240	1209
	310	403	black
	414	235	1801
	435	1046	2010
	700	228	1304
	702	239	1306
	817	013	211
	898	360	2006
	B5200	001	white
<b>Backstitch in two strands</b>			
	700	228	1304
	stem		
	817	013	211
	stars		
	898	360	2006
	wing pattern		
	B5200	001	white
	crosses on breast		
<b>French knots in two strands</b>			
	414	235	1801
	above legs		
	898	360	2006
	wing pattern		

Choose a fabric to match your décor - you could stitch this on pale blue evenweave, for example

Stitch count: 87 high x 115 wide

Design size: 15x20cm (6x8in)

Stitch time: 17 hours

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

## Materials

### Cushion

- Zweigart 28 count Brittney cream evenweave, ref: 3270/779, 25.5x30.5cm (10x12in)
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Size 26 tapestry needle
- Fabric for cushion back, 23x28cm (9x11in)
- Toy stuffing

For stockist details see page 84

## Make a... cushion

### Step 1

**CUT** the stitched cushion front the same size as the backing fabric. Place the cushion front on top of the back, with right sides together.

### Step 2

**MACHINE** stitch around the edge of the cushion, with a 2cm (3/4in) seam allowance, leaving a gap for turning.

### Step 3

**TURN** the cushion to the right side, fill with toy stuffing (or a cushion pad) and then sew up the gap with small neat stitches.

**Stitch count: 45 high x 40 wide**

**Design size: 7.5x7cm (3x2¾in)**

**Stitch time: 2 hours**

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

## Make a... hanging decoration

### Step 1

**STITCH** the mistletoe on to one of the smaller pieces of evenweave fabric. Place the stitched mistletoe on top of the backing fabric, with right sides together.

### Step 2

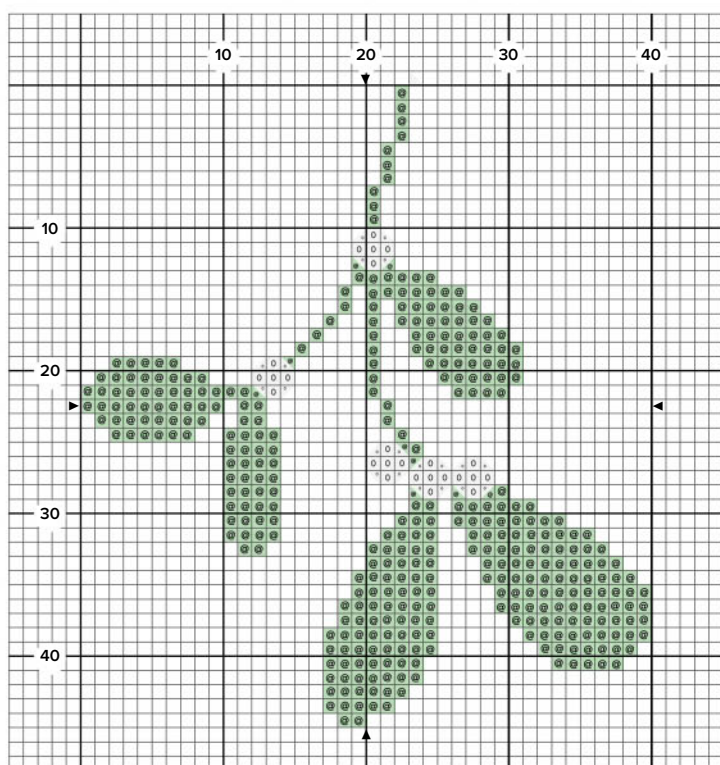
**MACHINE** stitch around the stitched mistletoe, just outside the design area, leaving a gap at the side for turning. Trim some of the seam allowance away, then clip the curves, taking care not to cut the design.

### Step 3

**TURN** to the right side, fill with toy stuffing and then sew up the gap with small neat stitches.

### Step 4

**ATTACH** a length of ribbon to the top of the decoration for hanging, then add a small bow and bells threaded on to string.



Make the mistletoe decoration for your Christmas tree - just add bells and a ribbon bow as pretty finishing touches

## Materials

### Decoration

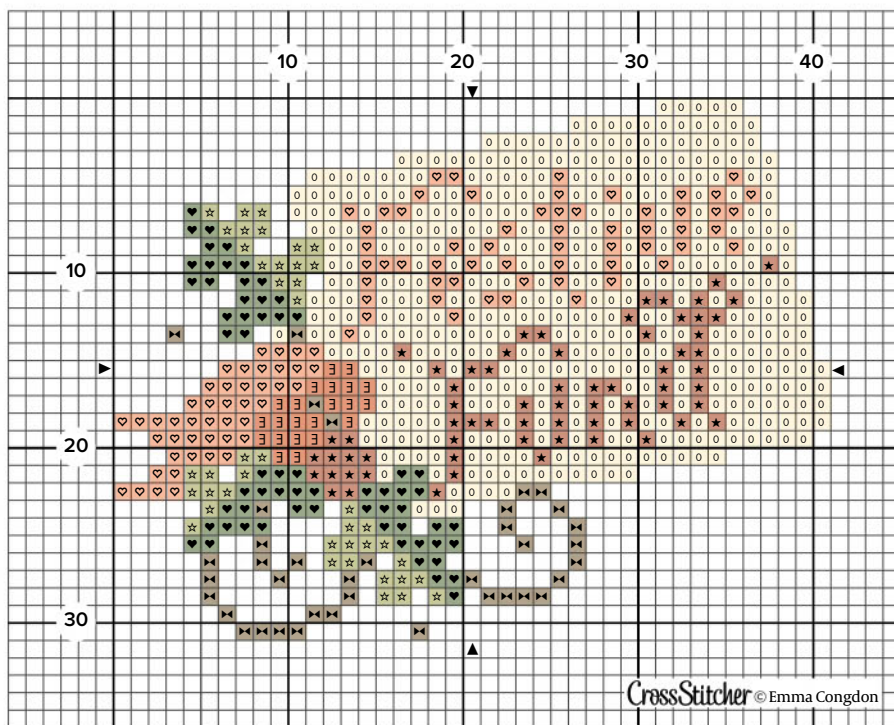
- Zweigart 28 count Brittney cream evenweave, ref: 3270/779, two 16x12cm (6x5in) pieces
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Toy stuffing
- Red checked ribbon for bow
- Cream ribbon for hanger
- Gold bells, threaded on string

For stockist details see page 84



# THIS LITTLE PIGGY...

Saving up for Christmas? Put your pennies in our felt piggy bank and fatten him up for the festive season!



Designed by: Emma Congdon Stitch count: 31 high x 41 wide

Design size: 5.5x7.5cm (2x3in) Stitch time: 4 hours

This design was stitched on felt using 14 count waste canvas.

## How to... use waste canvas

### Step 1

**DRAW** a copy of the pig template on paper. Place this on one piece of green felt, and then tack around the edge, transferring the pig's outline to the felt. Carefully tear away the paper, leaving the tacking lines on the felt.

### Step 2

**PLACE** the waste canvas just right of centre on the pig front. Tack to the felt. Stitch in the normal way, working over the canvas threads, using two strands of stranded cotton for the cross stitch.

### Step 3

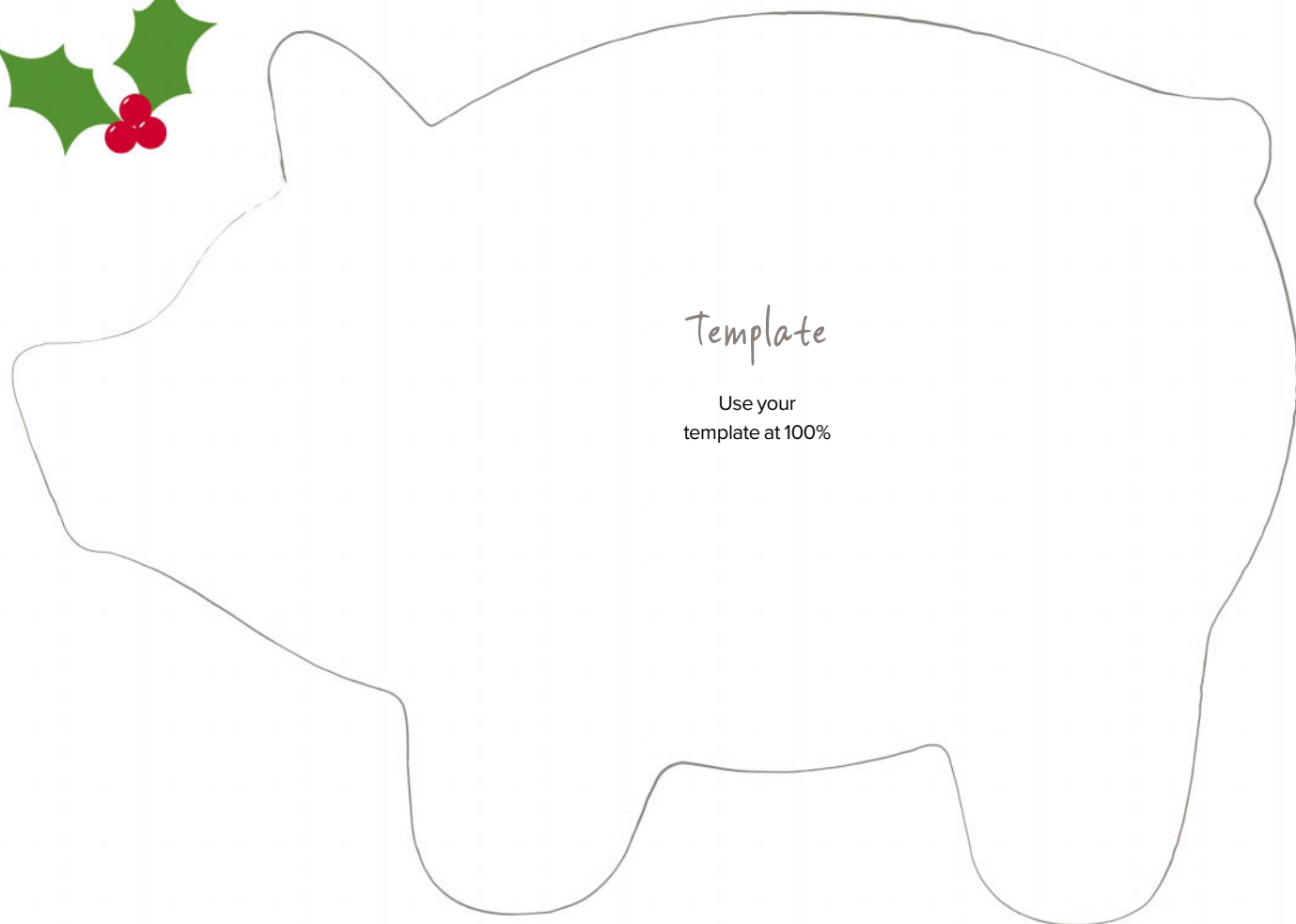
**REMOVE** the tacking stitches, and then using a water spray bottle, wet the canvas before pulling out the threads with tweezers.

For an even bigger festive fund, why not stitch the design on evenweave, then wrap it around a jam jar!

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
<b>Cross stitch in two strands</b>			
☆☆	470	267	1502
★★	498	1005	511
☺☺	666	046	210
○○	677	886	2207
☞☞	829	906	2113
♥♥	904	258	1413
♡♡	3705	035	410

## Materials

- Green felt, two 16x22cm (6x8¾in) pieces
  - 14 count waste canvas, 10x10cm (4x4in)
  - Stranded cotton as listed in the key
  - Size 26 tapestry needle
- For stockist details see page 84



## Template

Use your  
template at 100%



## Make a... piggy bank

### Step 1

**CUT** out the pig shape carefully on the tacking lines. Cut a small slit in the centre of the felt, just above the stitching.

### Step 2

**USE** the template to cut a second pig shape from the other piece of felt. Place the front and back pieces together, pin, then tack around the edge.

### Step 3

**MACHINE** stitch around the pig shape, just in from the cut edge. Press carefully under a damp cloth.





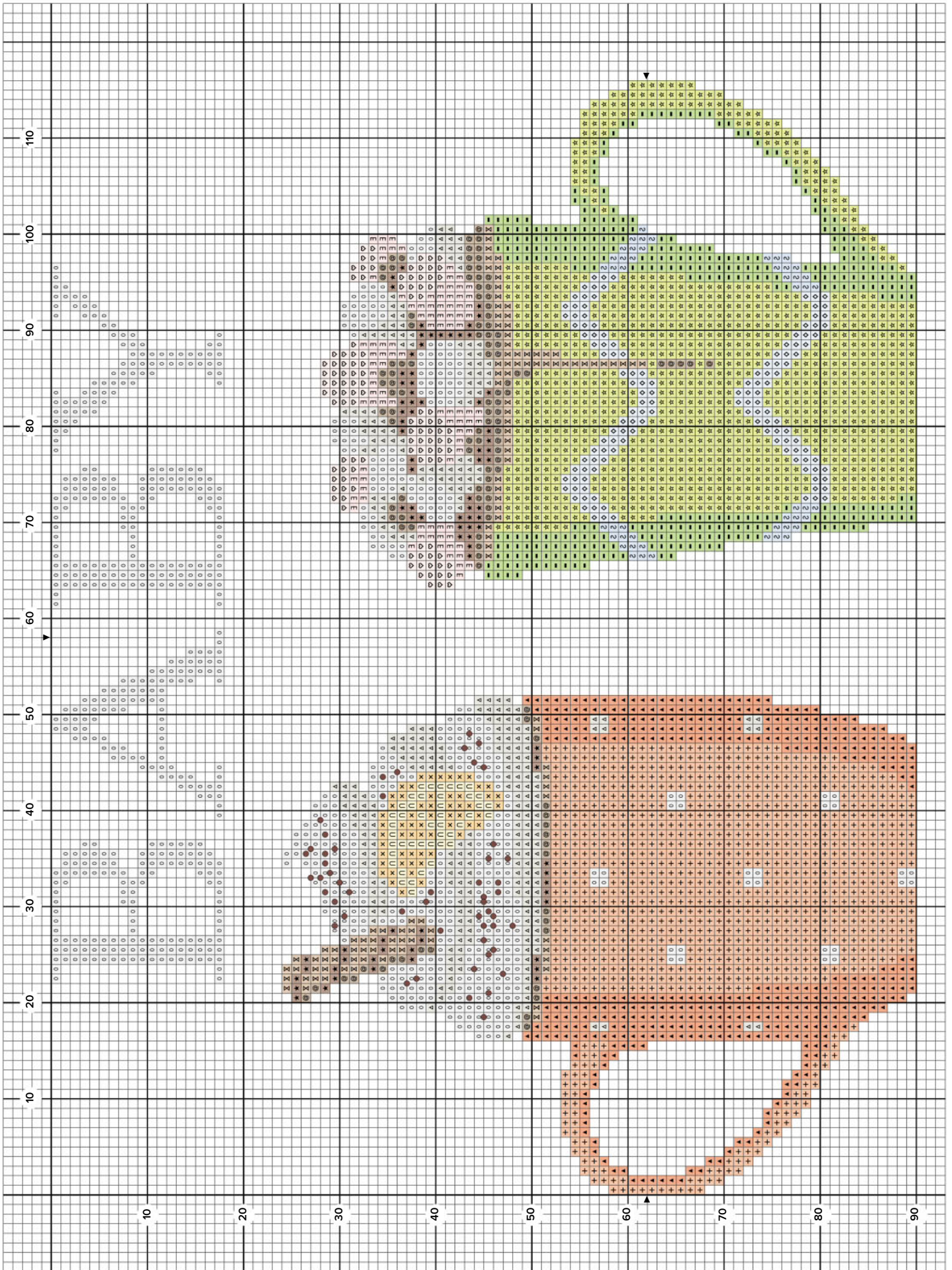
# Winter Warmers

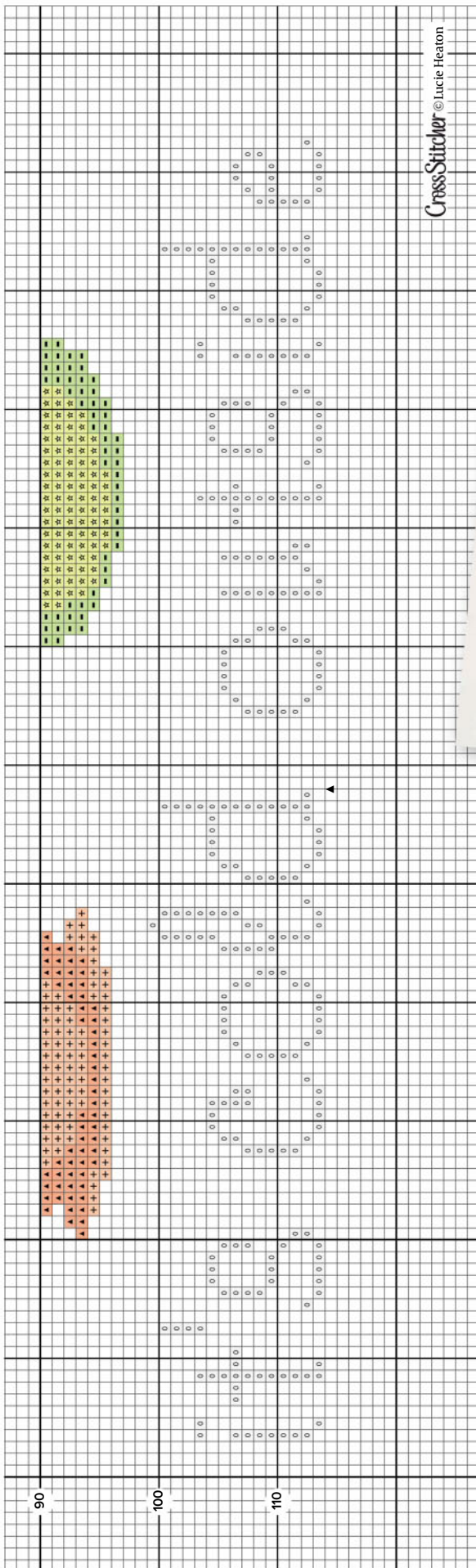
Mmmm... As the weather turns chilly, cosy up with our fun collection of hot choc treats...

Designed by: **Lucie Heaton**



# WINTER WARMERS





Stitch count: 114 high x 116 wide

Design size: 23x23cm (9x9in)

Stitch time: 25 hours

This design was stitched on 25 count evenweave over two threads of the fabric.

## Materials

### Picture

- Zweigart 25 count Lugana chocolate evenweave, ref: 3835/9024, 40x40cm (16x16in)
  - Stranded cotton as listed in the key
  - Size 26 tapestry needle
  - 30.5x32cm (12x12½in) wooden frame
  - Mount board to fit your frame
- For stockist details see page 84



	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
<b>Cross stitch in three strands (picture)</b>			
<b>Cross stitch in two strands (mug/bag)</b>			
△ △	168	274	1803
◀ ▶	310	403	black
▲ ▲	349	013	212 (2)
⊕ ⊕	351	011	214 (2)
~ ~	726	305	109
× ×	742	303	114
∩ ∩	744	301	112
2 2	813	161	1013
♥ ♥	818	073	502
◇ ◇	827	160	1014
★ ★	839	1086	1913
@ @	840	1084	1912
⊗ ⊗	841	1082	1911
■ ■	906	256	1411 (2)
☆ ☆	907	255	1410
E E	3716	025	606
0 0	blanc	001	white (2)
<b>French knots in two strands</b>			
●	839	1086	1913
	sprinkles		

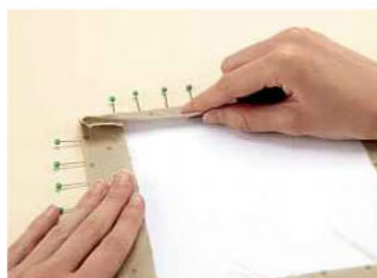
## How to... frame a picture

### Step 1



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

### Step 2

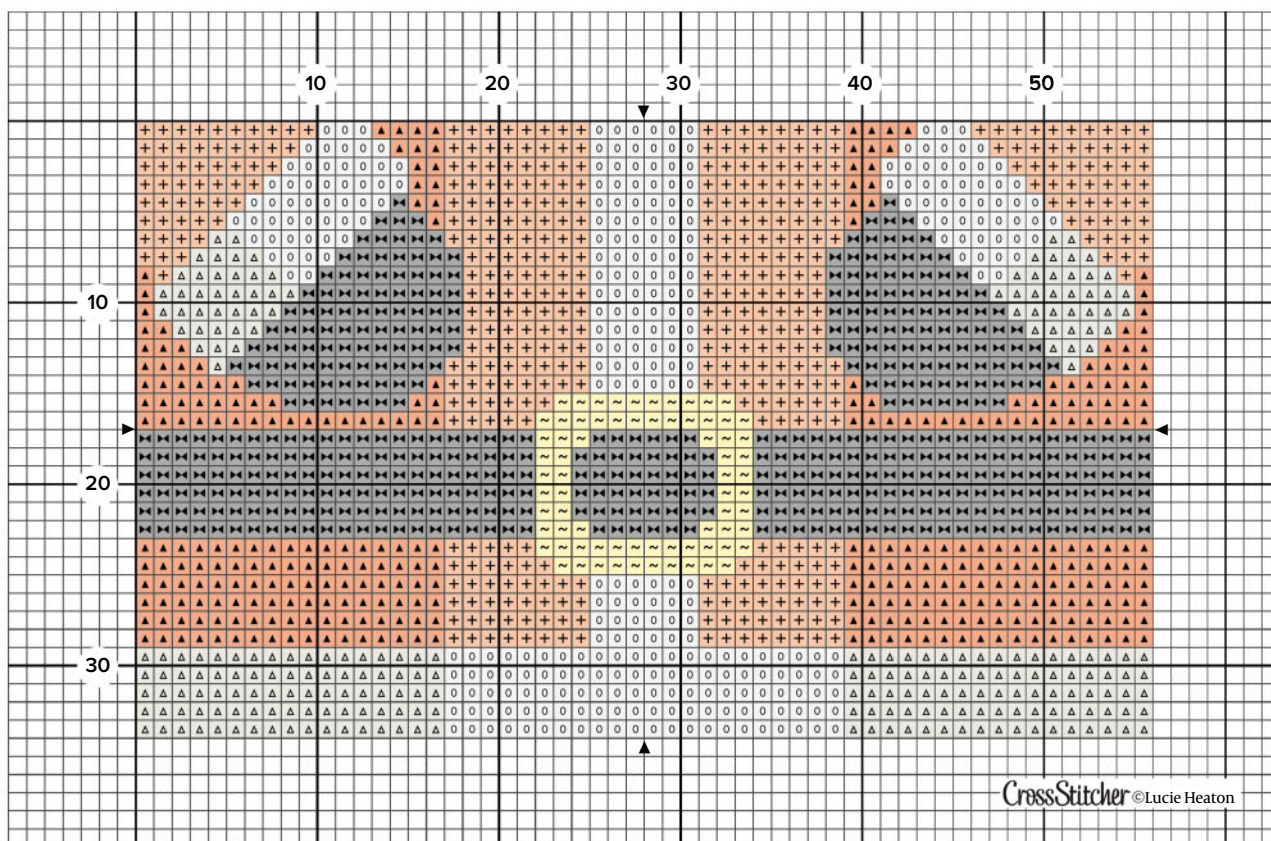


**PIN** around the entire perimeter and check you are happy with the positioning of your design, then turn over to the reverse. Use double-sided tape to secure the fabric excess around all four sides.

### Step 3



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



Find a mug with a nice chunky handle so that the wrap will fit through the gap



## Materials

### Mug wrap

- Zweigart 28 count Brittny white evenweave, ref: 3270/100, 16.5cm (6½in) x mug circumference
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Size 26 tapestry needle

For stockist details see page 84

Stitch count: 34 high x 56 wide

Design size: 7x11cm (2¾x4½in)

Stitch time: 5 hours

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

## Make a... mug wrap

### Step 1

**MEASURE** the diameter of your mug carefully before you start stitching, adding on a small amount for the overlap at the back of the mug. Cut your fabric to this size.

### Step 2

**STITCH** Santa in the centre of your fabric.

### Step 3

**FOLD** your completed Santa lengthways on the wrong side of the fabric, bringing the long edges together. Machine stitch along this seam, making a tube. Press flat so that the stitched Santa is at the front.

### Step 4

**FOLD** in the fabric at either end of the band and then press in place. Catch stitch the band ends closed, then stitch a length of double-sided tape to both ends of the band to hold it around the mug.

Make a...  
**sachet bag**

*Step 1*

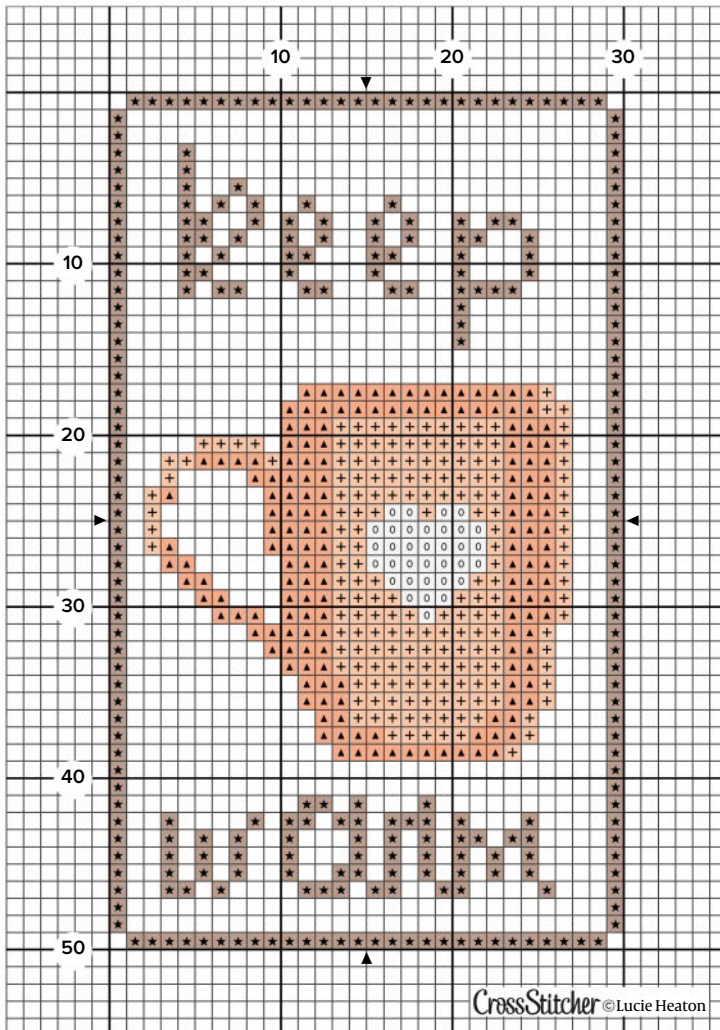
**COMPLETE** your stitched design, which should be stitched centrally and towards the bottom of one piece of fabric.

*Step 2*

**PLACE** the stitched front and back bag pieces right sides together and then machine stitch around three sides of the bag, leaving the top open. Turn the bag through to the right side.

*Step 3*

**REMOVE** a few threads at the top of the bag to create a frayed edge. Your bag is ready for filling.



**Stitch count: 50 high x 30 wide**

**Design size: 10x6cm (4x2½in)**

**Stitch time: 2 hours**

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

*The bag would make a great tree gift filled with hot chocolate sachets!*

*Materials*

**Sachet bag**

- Zweigart 28 count Brittney white evenweave, ref: 3270/100, 20x11.5cm (8x4½in) x 2 (front and back)
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Size 26 tapestry needle

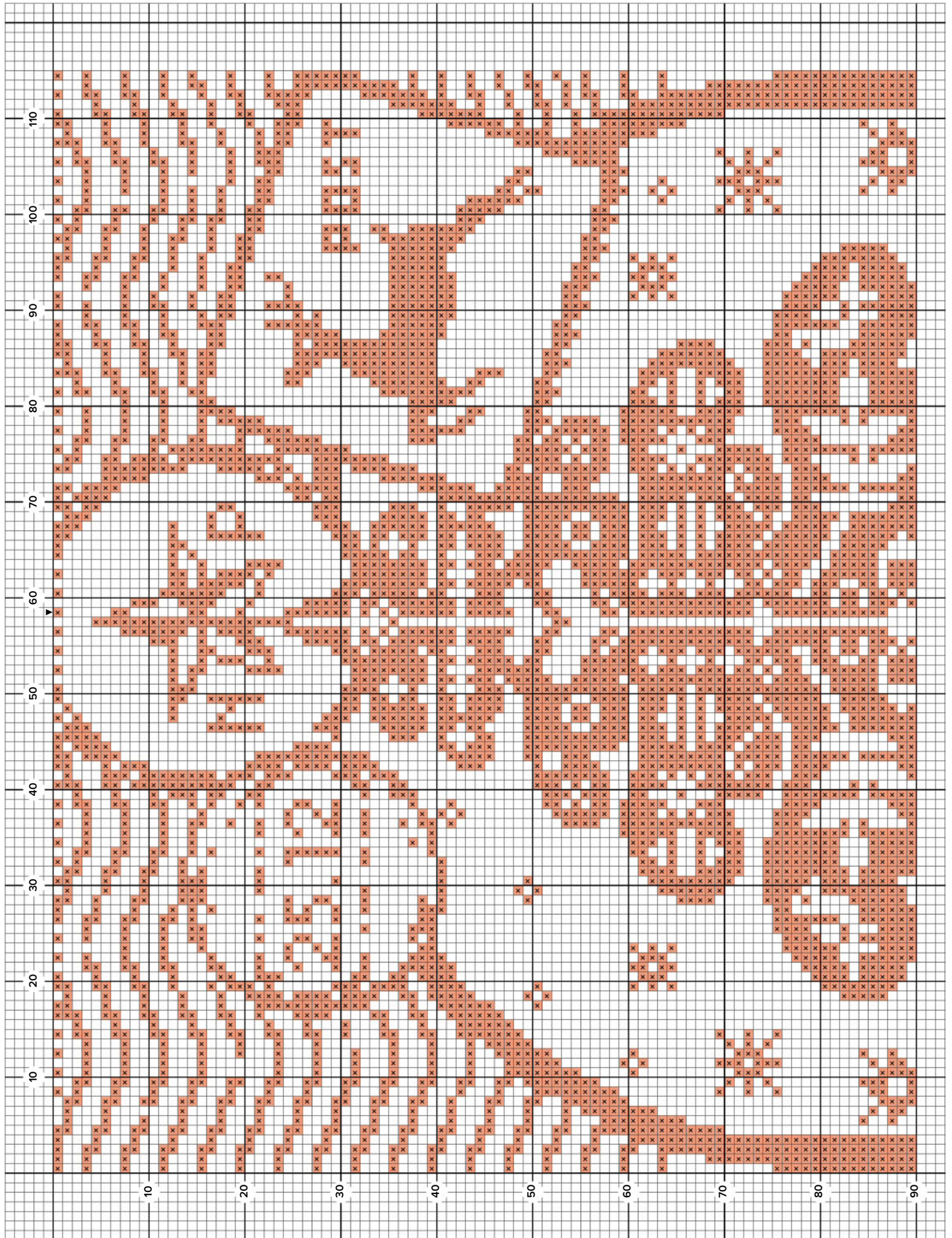
**For stockist details see page 84**

# CHRISTMAS DELIVERY

Santa stop here! Surprise your family with our personalised present sack, straight from the North Pole



# CHRISTMAS DELIVERY







Designed by: Felicity Hall

Stitch count: 173 high x 115 wide

Design size: 30x20cm (12x8in)

Stitch time: 49 hours

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



DMC Anchor Madeira

Cross stitch in four strands

✕ ✕ 666 046 210 (12)

(12) indicates more than one skein is required

## Make a... Santa sack

### Step 1

**COMPLETE** all the cross stitch using four strands of stranded cotton over two threads of fabric, making sure the design is in the centre of the fabric, with the long edges at the top and the bottom.

### Step 2

**FOLD** the fabric to be used for the bag top in half lengthways, then press. Turn under the long edges on both the front and back of the strip.

### Step 3

**PLACE** the raw edge at the top of the stitched bag between the folded bag top. Machine stitch along the edge, making sure the bag is held tightly by the stitching. All the raw edges at the top of the bag will be inside the bag top.

### Step 4

**WITH** right sides facing, sew up the centre back seam, then neaten on the inside. Iron the bag so that the design is at the centre front and the seam centre back.

### Step 5

**STITCH** across the bottom of the bag then neaten the seam. Turn to the right side.

Use the alphabet provided to add a name to the design. You'll find it helpful to plan out the name on graph paper before you begin stitching

## Materials

- Zweigart 28 count Brittney mocha evenweave, ref: 3270/779, 63x86cm (25x34in)
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Size 26 tapestry needle
- Coordinating fabric for the bag top, 20x86cm (8x34in)

For stockist details see page 84



CrossStitcher © Felicity Hall



Stitch some of the motifs, such as the star and reindeer stamp separately, then trim and stick on tags, to go with Santa's gifts!

# Singing in the Snow

Season's tweetings! Our little bird perched on a snow-capped branch makes the sweetest card for Christmas



## Materials

- Zweigart 32 count blue Belfast linen, ref: 3609/778, 12.5x17.5cm (5x7in)
- Stranded cotton as listed on the key
- Pearl white seed beads
- Pale blue card with a 5.5x7cm (2¼x2¾in) oval aperture
- Ribbon bow

For stockist details see page 84

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

	310	403	black
	349	013	212
	350	011	213
	828	975	1101
	932	920	1710
	945	881	2313
	951	1010	2308
	3752	932	1710
	3753	1032	1001
	3756	1037	886
	blanc	001	white

**Backstitch in one strand**

	blanc	001	white	beak
	310	403	black	leg
	433	371	2008	branch
	895	1044	1405	pine needles
	931	921	1711	bird outline
	936	846	1507	pine needles
	3755	939	909	snow

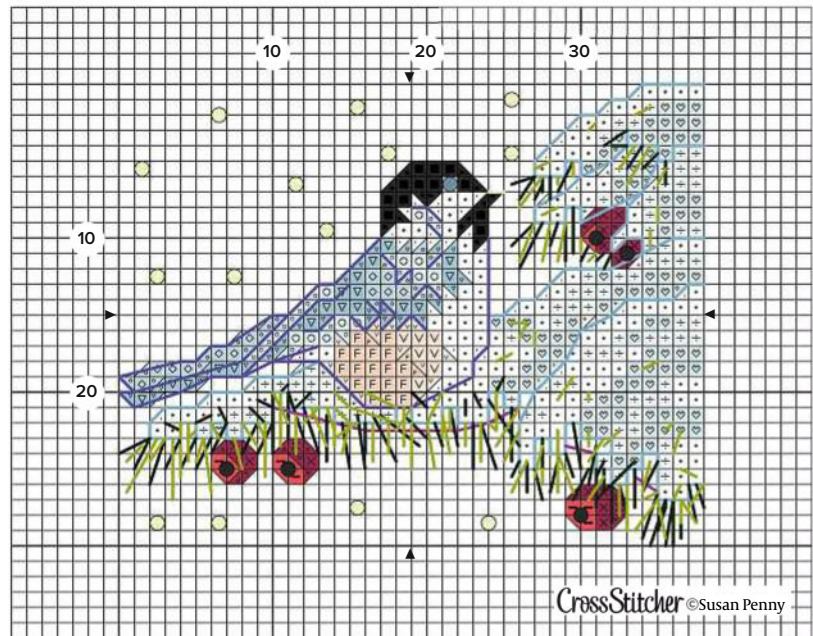
**French knots in one strand**

	310	403	black	berries
	931	921	1711	eye

**Seed beads**

	white	snow
--	-------	------

The ribbon bow makes a lovely addition to the card, attached with a few neat stitches



Designed by: Susan Penny Stitch count: 29 high x 39 wide

Design size: 4.5x6cm (1¾x2½in) Stitch time: 7 hours

This design was stitched on 32 count linen over two threads of the fabric.

*Make an...*  
**aperture card**

*Step 1*

**WORK** all the cross stitch in two strands of stranded cotton over two threads of the linen, and the backstitch and French knots in one strand.

*Step 2*

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

*Step 3*

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

*Step 4*

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

*Step 5*

**CHECK** which flap will fold over on to the back of the stitching, then add strips of double-sided tape and press firmly in place.

**COMING NEXT MONTH...**

We'll feature the final design in Susan's set of three festive cards



December issue 299  
 Christmas wreath

Issue 299 goes on sale 13th November, so don't miss it! And don't worry if you missed Susan's angel card from issue 297; turn to page 80 to order a back issue.



# Secret Santa

It's the night before Christmas and in our cute picture from Permin, Santa's adding a few festive finishing touches



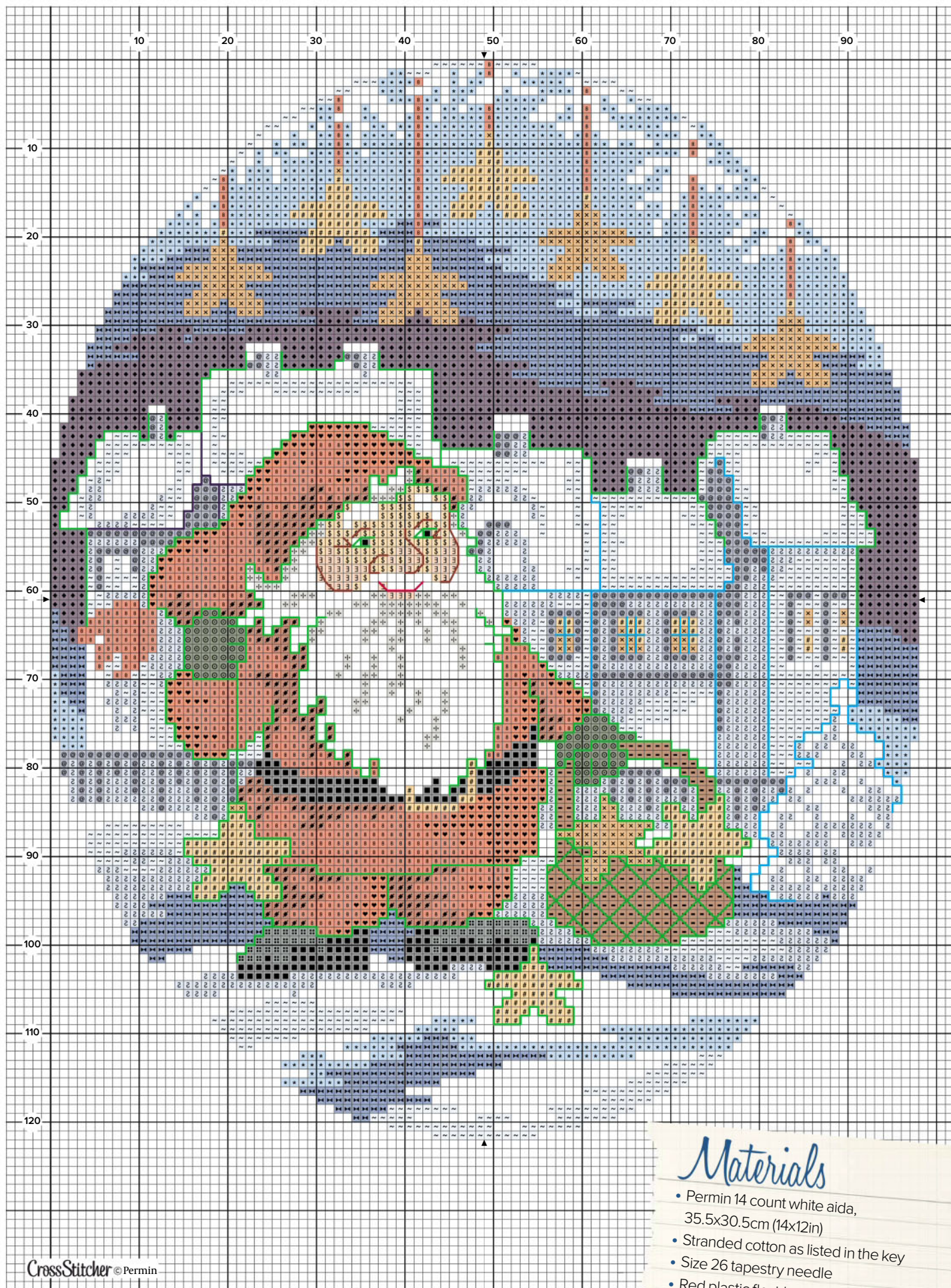
## COMING NEXT MONTH...



*Don't miss the second of our pair of special Santa designs from Permin in our December issue 299, on sale 13th November.*







## Materials

- Permin 14 count white aida, 35.5x30.5cm (14x12in)
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Size 26 tapestry needle
- Red plastic flexi-hoop, 25.5x20cm (10x8in)
- Felt for backing

For stockist details see page 84



Designed by: Permin  
 Stitch count: 122 high x 98 wide  
 Design size: 22.5x18cm (9x7in)  
 Stitch time: 40 hours  
 This design was stitched on  
 14 count aida fabric.

## How to... frame in a flexi-hoop

### Step 1

**TRIM** your stitching into an oval slightly larger than your hoop.

### Step 2

**CENTRE** over the inner hoop and press the outer hoop down over your fabric.

### Step 3

**PULL** your fabric taut, then on the back secure to the inner hoop with glue or double-sided tape.

### Step 4

**CUT** an oval of felt the same size as your hoop. Place over the back of the stitching and secure it to the fabric with small neat stitches.

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
~ ~	162	159	903
■ ■	310	403	black
8 8	321	019	510
◆ ◆	336	150	1007
☺ ☺	352	009	303
♥ ♥	606	335	209
·   ·   ·   ·	648	900	1814
# #	742	303	114
- -	780	309	2214
✂ ✂	815	043	513
⏪ ⏪	824	143	1010
* *	826	161	1012
■ ■ ■ ■	844	1041	1810

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
@ @	931	921	1711
⊙ ⊙	3325	129	1002
2 2	3755	939	909
× ×	3853	1003	311
\$ \$	3856	368	2309
Backstitch in one strand			
—	310	403	black
	figure and roofs		
—	321	019	510
	lips		
—	336	150	1007
	houses, tree		
—	780	309	2214
	face		

Plastic flexi hoops work best with smaller designs like this - choose a bright colour to complement your stitching

## MORE FESTIVE FUN...

Like our little Santa picture? You'll love these cute Christmas kits from Permin

Permin have a whole host of sweet seasonal designs to see you through the holidays. For stockists' details call Michael Whitaker Fabrics Ltd on 07983 020189 (free call-back service).



**ELF, OWL, RULDOLPH**  
 Ref: 01-5242



**HARDANGER CHRISTMAS TREE X3**  
 Ref: 01-5621



**CHRISTMAS TREE WITH HEARTS**  
 Ref: 79-5256

# *Santa's Little Helpers*

Look what Santa Paws left under the tree! Stitch our pup pressies to say Yappy Christmas to family and friends...





Designed by: Durene Jones

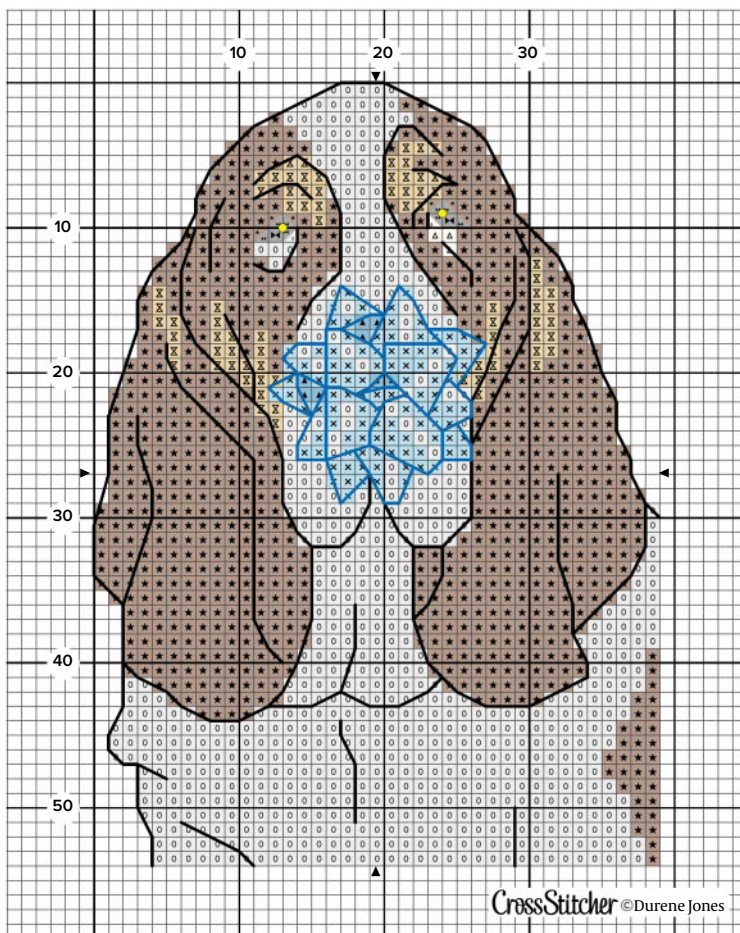
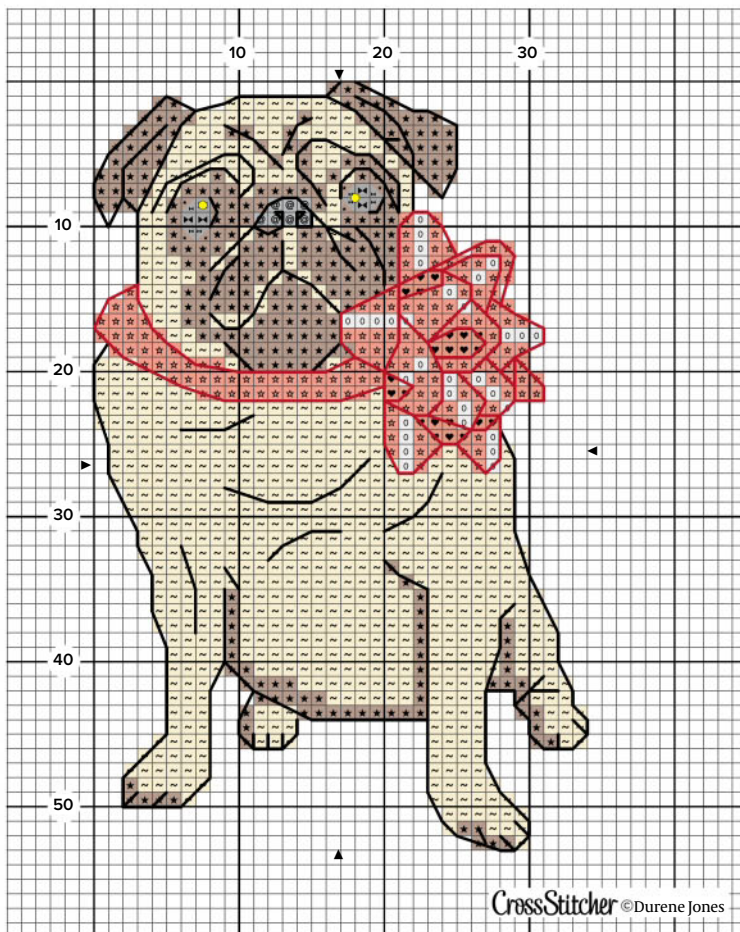
Max. stitch count: 54 high x 39 wide

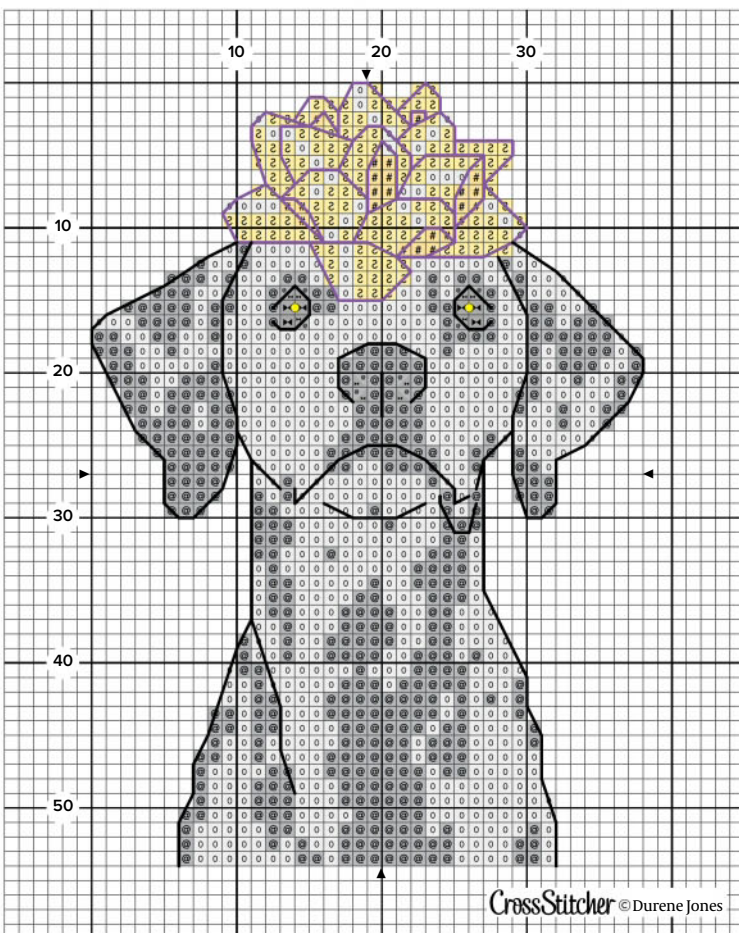
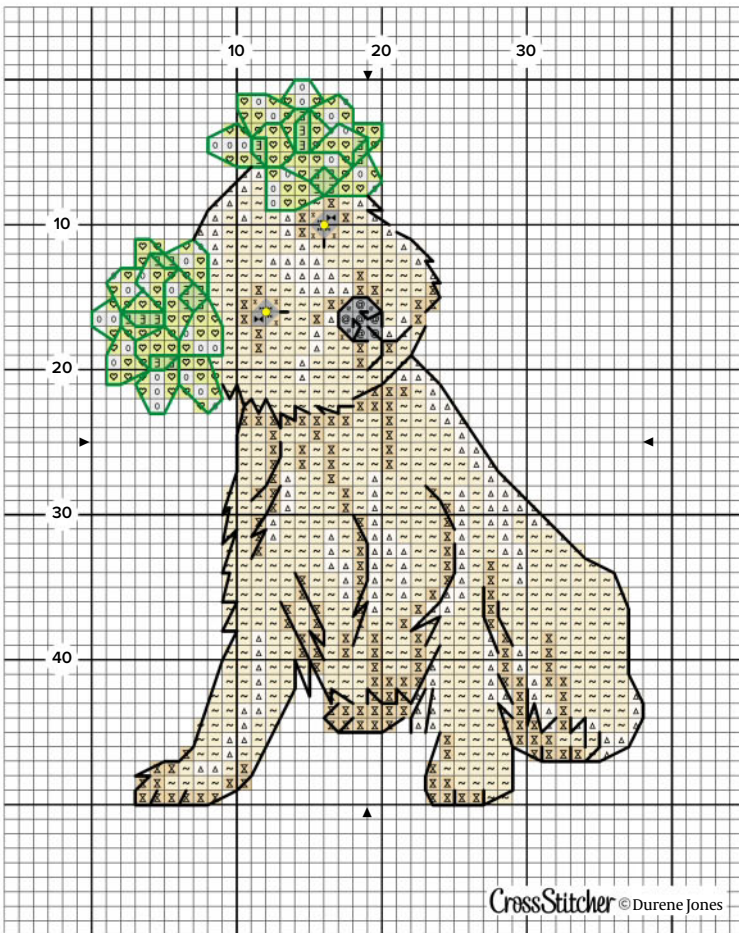
Max. design size: 9.5x6.5cm (3 3/4x2 1/2 in)

Stitch time: 24 hours (all four)

These designs were stitched on 32 count evenweave over two threads of the fabric.

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
<b>Cross stitch in two strands</b>			
	310	403	black
	317	400	1714
	321	019	510
	436	1045	2011
	712	926	2101
	738	361	2013
	906	256	1411
	907	255	1410
	972	298	107
	973	290	105
	3781	1050	2106
	3801	1098	411
	3844	410	1102
	3846	433	1103
	0 0	B5200 001	white
<b>Backstitch in one strand</b>			
	310	403	black
			outlines
	700	228	1304
			green bow
	740	316	202
			gold bow
	814	45	514
			red bow
	995	410	1102
			blue bow
<b>French knots in one strand</b>			
	B5200 001		white
			eyes





## Make an... aperture card

### Step 1

**WORK** the cross stitch in two strands of stranded cotton over two threads of evenweave, and the backstitch and French knots in one strand.

### Step 2

**TRIM** the stitched evenweave to fit your card with the design placed centrally behind the aperture.

### Step 3

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

### Step 4

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

### Step 5

**CHECK** which flap will be folded over onto the back of the stitching, then add strips of double-sided tape and press firmly in place.

*For a friend who's completely mad about dogs, why not mount the designs in frames to make a special Christmas gift?*

## Materials

### For each card

- Zweigart 32 count Murano blue evenweave, ref: 3984/503, 15x11cm (6x4¼in)
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Size 26 tapestry needle
- Beige card with an 11x7cm (4¼x2¾in) aperture

For stockist details see page 84



Let's get  
inspired

# DECEMBER DAYS

Make this year's countdown to Christmas a crafty one with our adorable Advent motif collection

Designed by: Jenny Barton



## Make an... Advent bag

### Step 1

**CUT** a 38x14cm (15x5½in) strip from the tea towel for each bag. Fold the strip in half across the short side – this fold is the bottom of the bag.

### Step 2

**MACHINE** the stitched patch on to the bag, sewing around the four sides close to the stitching.

### Step 3

**TURN** over the two short edges to create channels and machine stitch each in place.

### Step 4

**PLACE** right sides together, then sew up the side seams leaving a small gap on one side at the top for adding the string.

### Step 5

**TURN** out to the right side. Now using a large eyed needle, thread two lengths of string through the channel at the top of the bag, starting and finishing on the side where you left a gap. Pull up the string and tie in a bow.

## MATERIALS

### Advent bag

- Zweigart 25 count Lugana white evenweave, ref: 3835/100, 7.5x7.5cm (3x3in) for each block
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Size 26 tapestry needle
- Tea towel
- String

For stockist details see page 84





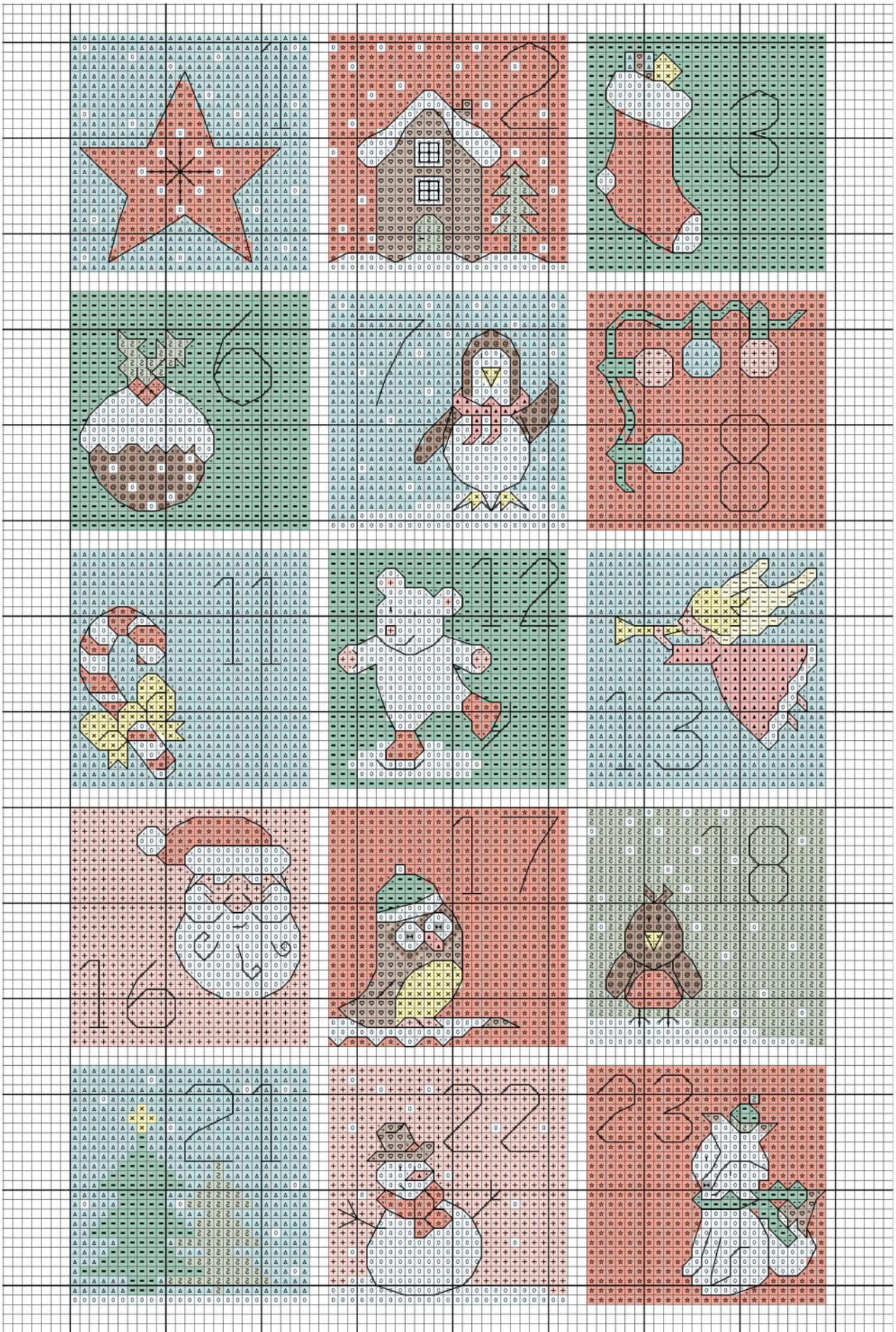
## Make a... **stitched patch**

### Step 1

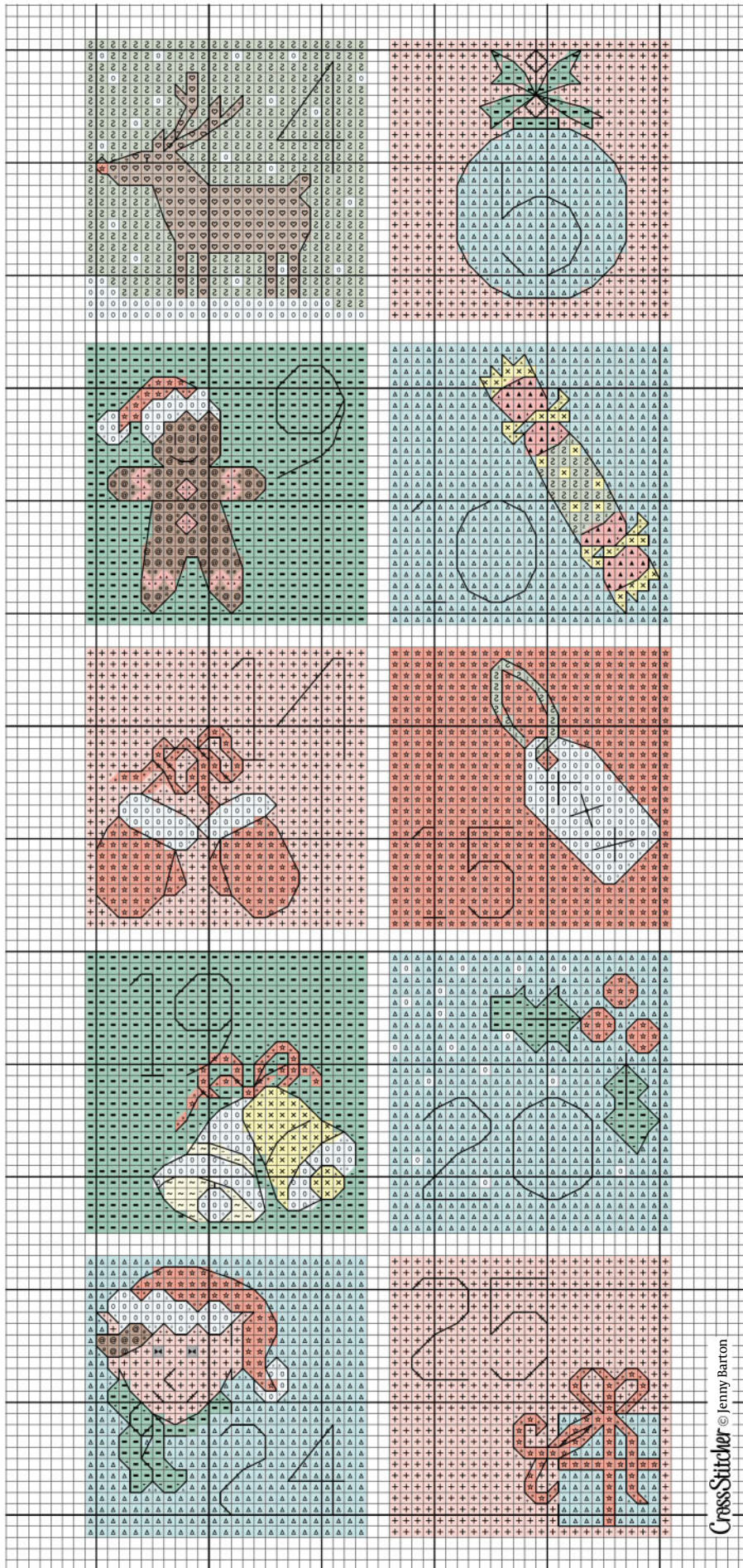
**COMPLETE** all the cross stitch of your chosen block using two strands of stranded cotton over two threads of fabric, and then the backstitch in one and two strands.

### Step 2

**CUT** around each design, leaving several threads outside the last row of stitching. Carefully pull out the threads, creating a frayed edge, leaving one thread outside the stitched area.







Stitch count: 25 high x 25 wide each  
 Design size: 5x5cm (2x2in) each  
 Stitch time: 3 hours each block

These designs were stitched on 25 count evenweave over two threads of the fabric.

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
<b>Cross stitch in two strands</b>			
	413	401	1713
	563	208	1207
	744	301	112
	745	300	111
	963	023	608
	964	1092	1112
	992	1072	1202
	3705	035	410
	3801	1098	411
	3862	358	1913
	3864	376	1910
	blanc	001	white
<b>Backstitch in two strands</b>			
	964 numbers	1092	1112
	3801 numbers	1098	411
	blanc numbers	001	white
<b>Backstitch in one strand</b>			
	413 outlines and details	401	1713
	3801 outlines and details	1098	411

CrossStitcher © Jenny Barton





Use pegs to hang the bags from a tree or tie to thick string and hang from a mantel shelf. Then fill with small gifts, sweets, candy canes or just notes - the choice is yours!

## What to make

Our Advent calendar blocks can be used in heaps of fun ways. Why not try these extra ideas?

**1** Pick out your favourite characters and stitch them on plastic canvas. Trim and attach to a cocktail stick to make cute Christmas cake decorations.

**2** Stitch blocks numbered 1-10 in two rows as one picture and hang in a child's room as a festive number frieze.

**3** Choose a block to stitch onto a child's t-shirt using waste canvas. Instead of the number, stitch on their initial to add a personal touch.



# THE Savvy Stitcher

Always wanted to try out a new  
technique or trend? Every month  
The Savvy Stitcher shows you  
just how it's done!

by Zoë Patching

*Yes you can!*

# Craft fancy festive cards

Nothing beats a handmade card at Christmas and these clever ideas are fun to make and brilliant stash-busters too...

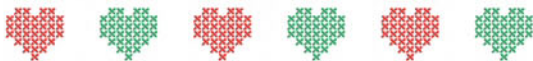


**FOLDED FABRIC TREE**  
Create a cool Christmas tree from fabric, then complete with a cross stitch trunk and star

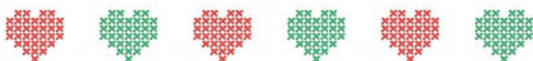


**STITCHED STAG**

By using a contrasting colour of card, you can create this striking effect with just a few stitches



Christmas is such a special time for stitchers as we enjoy creating handmade cards for loved ones. So here's a trio of fancy card ideas for you to try. Quick to make, they'll use up scraps from your stitching stash, so they won't blow the budget either. Try our stag bauble design which is stitched directly on to card so there's no need for fabric! Next is a fabric Christmas tree topped off with a stitched star, and finally a fun shaker card. Now there's no excuse not to get started early on your cards this year – enjoy!



**FESTIVE SHAKER CARD**

Your recipients will love this mini snowy landscape that can be shaken to start the snow falling

## HOW TO... FOLD A FABRIC CHRISTMAS TREE

Use up pretty fabric scraps to make a stylish tree card

### Step 1



**TAKE** two 12x12cm pieces of patterned fabrics and fuse them together with bondaweb to create a piece of pretty double-sided fabric. Next, draw a semi-circle, with a diameter of 9cm, on to one side of the fabric and then carefully cut out.

### Step 2



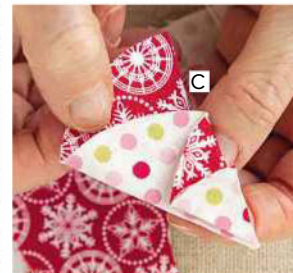
**START** to create the fabric Christmas tree shape by folding the left-hand corner to the centre, 'A', matching up the straight edge. Once you are happy that you've folded accurately and neatly, you can press firmly with an iron to create a permanent fold.

### Step 3



**FOLD** this centre corner point 'A' back on itself to meet the straight fold created in step 2, shown here, 'B'. As you can see this creates the top part of the Christmas tree. Press firmly with an iron to permanently secure this fold in place too.

### Step 4

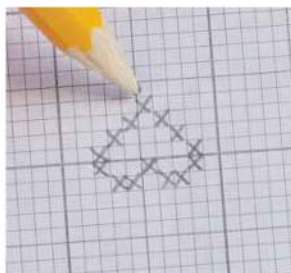


**TURN** over the fabric, so the folded side is face down. Now fold this side back on itself to meet the straight edge of the semi-circle, 'C', to complete the tree. Press firmly and if needed, trim the curved base of the tree to even the edge.

## HOW TO... STITCH DIRECTLY ON TO CARD

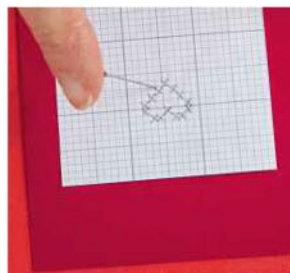
Stitching straight on to card can create a very effective look

### Step 1



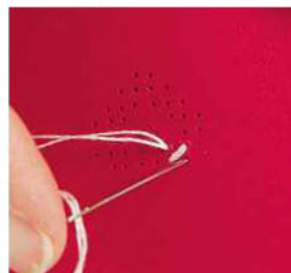
**COPY** the heart design from the chart on to a separate sheet of graph paper. Use simple crosses to indicate where to stitch, as we have here. Choose some coloured card to contrast with your stitching. Decide where you'd like to position your design.

### Step 2



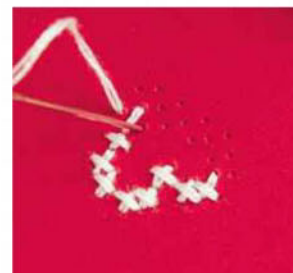
**PLACE** the coloured card on to a piece of craft foam – this will act as a cushion when you are piercing the card – followed by the design, which should sit on top. Start to carefully pierce the design through the card with a sharp pin.

### Step 3



**FINISH** piercing the design, then start to stitch the design with simple cross stitches. A sharp embroidery needle, and two strands of cotton should cover the card well and a loop knot start will help to keep the reverse of the card nice and smooth.

### Step 4



**CONTINUE** working the design until it is complete. When it comes to working the backstitch and running stitch on the bauble design, use graph paper to help pierce the bauble outline – this will help to keep even spacing between the stitches.

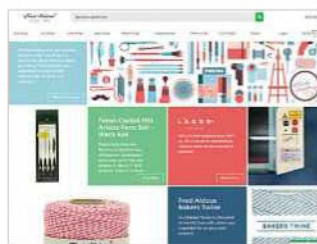
## IF YOU LIKED THESE, YOU'LL LOVE...



### PAPER AND STRING

[www.paper-and-string.co.uk](http://www.paper-and-string.co.uk)

There's a colourful mix of trimmings, buttons, and craft supplies to tempt you here, plus some wonderful Christmas fabrics to inspire you to make the wonderful folded fabric tree!



### FRED ALDOUS

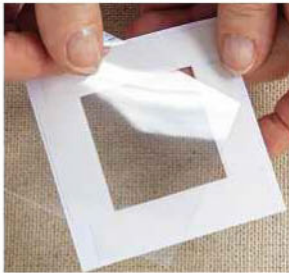
[www.fredaldous.co.uk](http://www.fredaldous.co.uk)

You can find just about anything on this website for all your crafting needs, from cards to adhesives and more, including handy packs of acetate – which you'll need to make your shaker card.

## MAKE... A CHRISTMAS SHAKER CARD

*Shaker cards are lots of fun and this one features cross stitch too!*

### Step 1



**CUT** a 7x7cm piece of card with a 4x4cm aperture – check the dimensions of your stitching for this. Place strips of double-sided tape to the reverse, and stick a piece of acetate measuring 6x6cm on top to create the window of your shaker card.

### Step 2



**CREATE** the 'well' of the card, which will allow the beads to shake and move. To do this, stick foam pads or strips close to the aperture window. You need to make sure there aren't any gaps between the pads, to prevent any beads from escaping!

### Step 3

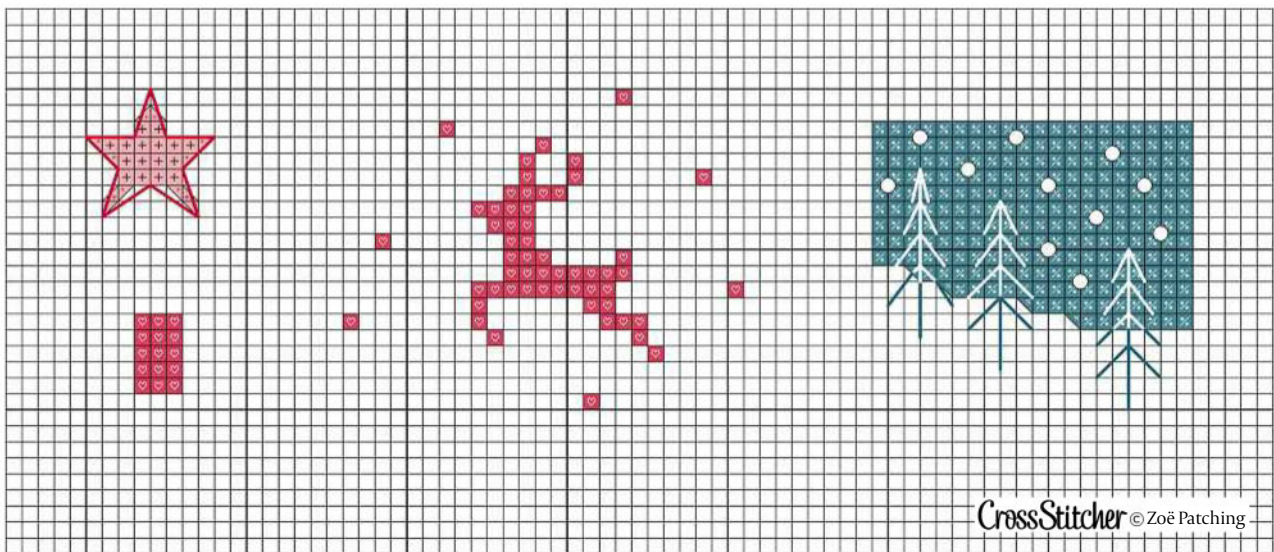


**PREPARE** the stitched design to go in the well. To do this, start by trimming it and sticking it on to a piece of card measuring 7x7cm, using double-sided tape. Check the positioning of the stitched design by placing the aperture on top.

### Step 4



**ADD** a sprinkling of beads – Mill Hill Petite beads are ideal as they're so small – into the well of the window, created in step 2. Remove the paper backing from the foam pads and position and stick the design in place. This will contain the beads too!



#### TRIMCRAFT

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

For a festive selection of paper and cards, plus lots of other crafting goodies and projects too, take a look online at Trimcraft's user-friendly website for lots more Christmassy card making ideas!



#### OUR PINTEREST BOARD

[www.pinterest.com/xstitchmagazine](http://www.pinterest.com/xstitchmagazine)

Visit our Pinterest board to find a special board dedicated to *The Savvy Stitcher*. You can pin all these designs and find inspiration for more!

# CrossStitcher BACK ISSUES

Missed an issue? Order your back issues in print or as digital editions today and keep on cross stitching!



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Issue 293 • Summer 2015



Issue 294 • July 2015



Issue 295 • August 2015



Issue 296 • September 2015



Issue 297 • October 2015

## 2 WAYS TO ORDER

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<http://dennis.subscribeonline.co.uk/back-issues>



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\*Calls will cost 7p per minute plus your telephone company's access charge.

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Search for CrossStitcher in the App Store for iPad and iPhone



Go to Zinio for Android or PC/Mac  
<http://bit.ly/1uiBDQf>







# Stitching basics

## TOOLS OF THE TRADE

### NEEDLES

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

### EMBROIDERY SCISSORS

Embroidery scissors are an absolute must-have for stitchers and can be picked up for just a few pounds. Keep yours sharp by only using them to cut threads – that way a decent pair should last you a lifetime.

### STRANDED COTTON

Embroidery thread is also commonly referred to as stranded cotton. Each thread length is made up of six strands of cotton twisted together. The chart key will indicate how many strands you'll need to stitch your design with.

### HOOPS AND FRAMES

Though not absolutely essential, we do recommend using an embroidery hoop or frame to keep an even stitching tension. Just make sure it's big enough to fit your entire design.

### AIDA

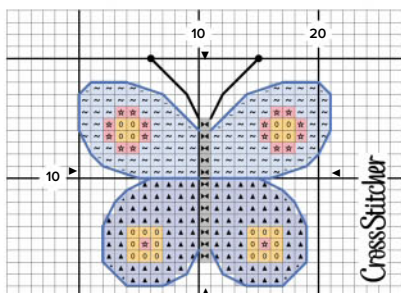
Aida is an ideal choice for cross stitch beginners. 14 count is the most common, although it's available in a huge variety of colours and counts. Each cross stitch is worked over a single aida block, making counting and keeping your place a cinch.

### EVENWEAVE

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

## THE CHART

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

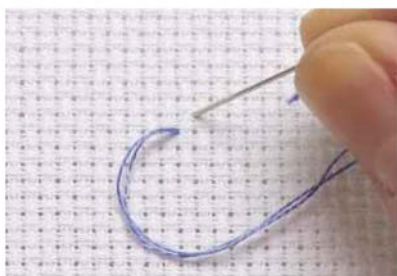


### Reading the chart

**EACH** square on the chart represents a single cross stitch. Fractionals are half filled squares or squares filled with two different colours.

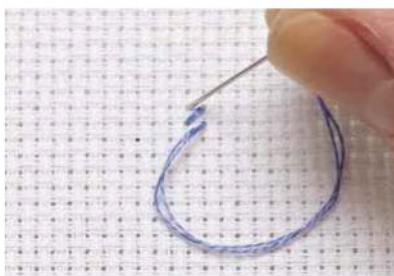
## Start stitching... on aida

### Step 1



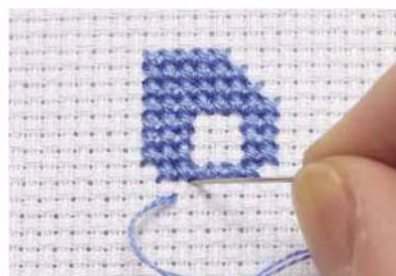
**CUT** a 40cm thread length, and thread your needle with two of the six strands. Knot one end and start with a waste knot (opposite). Make a diagonal half cross stitch across a single aida block.

### Step 2



**MAKE** a second diagonal stitch to complete your first cross. Alternatively, you can work a row of half cross stitches first, then work back on yourself to complete the stitches.

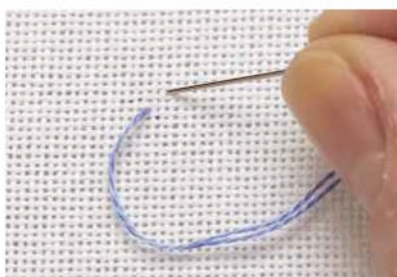
### Step 3



**THE** direction of your diagonals is up to you, just be sure all your stitches cross in the same direction. Otherwise, your design will look uneven. Continue working from the centre outward.

## Start stitching... on evenweave

### Step 1



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

### Step 2



**MAKE** a second diagonal stitch to complete your first cross stitch. Work each stitch individually or work a row of half cross stitches, then work back on yourself to complete the stitches.

### Step 3



**CONTINUE** working from the centre of your design outward. If you find the extra counting a bit daunting at first, don't give up. We promise it'll become second nature in no time.

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
<b>Cross stitch in two strands</b>			
☆☆	602	057	0611
00	741	314	0202
▶▶	3799	236	1713
▲▲	3839	176	0906
~ ~	3840	120	0907
<b>Backstitch in one strand</b>			
—	3799	236	1713
	butterfly antennae		
—	3838	940	0905
	all other details		
<b>French knots in one strand</b>			
●●	3799	236	1713
	butterfly antennae		

## THE KEY

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

### Colour match

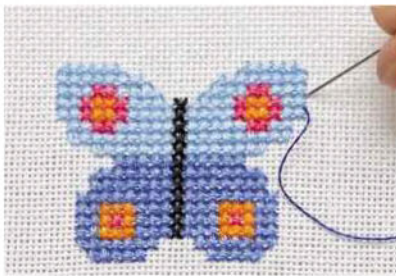
**IN THE** key, the closest column of thread codes listed next to the chart symbols is the thread brand that's used in the design. Similar colour matches are listed alongside it.



## BACKSTITCH

Use this easy stitch to give a neat outline and add details

### Step 1



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

### Step 2



**WORK** your backstitch over about 1-3 chart squares at a time, making sure to closely follow the chart. Any longer and your stitches could end up becoming loose and pulling out.

### Step 3

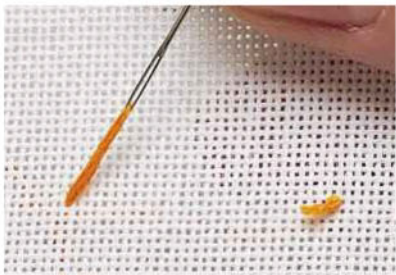


**FOR** each additional stitch, bring your needle up 1-3 chart squares away from your previous stitch. Then pass it back through the fabric at the same point as your previous stitch.

## WASTE KNOT

A simple way to get started stitching

### Step 1



**KNOT** one end of your thread and take it down through the front of your fabric, about 2cm from your starting point. Then bring it back up to the front of your fabric to make your first stitch.

### Step 2



**BEGIN** stitching your design, making sure you're stitching over your starting thread with each stitch. You can work whole stitches or work half stitches then come back on yourself.

### Step 3



**ONCE** you're happy that your starting thread is secure, snip off the knot. To secure your thread when you've finished stitching, weave it through the back of your stitches as shown here.

## FRENCH KNOTS

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

### Step 1



**USE** a sharp embroidery needle to help pierce the fabric. Bring your needle up at your starting point and wrap your thread once or twice around the needle. Use one strand for a small knot and two for a slightly chunkier knot.

### Step 2



**HOLD** your thread end firmly and take your needle down, ever so slightly over from where you came up. Slide the twisted thread down the needle, so it rests on the fabric's surface, and gently feed the needle through the fabric.

### Step 3



**KEEP** your thread as taut as possible to prevent the knot becoming loose. Gently pull your thread through to tighten the knot, so that it sits neatly on the surface. And remember, if you don't get it right away, keep practising!

Your shopping

# Stockists

Seen something that's inspired you? Here's where you can buy it...

## Get started

For stitching fabric, threads and all the basic supplies you need, try one of these top stockists...

### WILLOW FABRICS

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

0800 056 7811

For evenweave, aida and all kinds of stitching fabrics

### BARNYARNS

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

0176 569 0069

For Anchor, DMC and Madeira threads and all kinds of haberdashery supplies

### COTTON PATCH

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

0121 702 2840

For stuffing, wadding, interfacing, Bondaweb, scissors and all kinds of haberdashery supplies

### JOHN JAMES NEEDLES

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

0152 783 0941

For all kinds of needles and needle packs

### SIESTA FRAMES

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

0120 2813363

For stitching frames, hoops and lamps

### CLOUD CRAFT

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

For 100% wool felt in lots of colours

### JOSY ROSE

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

For buttons, beads and all kinds of embellishments

### SEAMSTAR

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

0182 977 0733

For plain and patterned fabrics and all kinds of trims

### EFRAME

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

For picture frames for displaying your stitching

### HOBBYCRAFT

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

0330 0261400

For cardstock, paper, paint, glue and general crafting supplies

## Your projects

You can make our projects using any materials you like, but if you need help tracking down specific items here are a few hints. Contact details for the suppliers are above or on the opposite page.

### GET YOUR SKATES ON

Zweigart 28 count Brittney white evenweave, ref: 3270/100:

Willow Fabrics

Toy stuffing: Hobbycraft

### MISTLETOE KISSES

Zweigart 19 count Ariosa blue

evenweave, ref: 3211/5091: Willow Fabrics

Cotton backing fabric: Cotton Patch

Cushion pad: John Lewis

### WINTER WARMERS

Zweigart 28 count Brittney white

evenweave, ref: 3270/100: Willow Fabrics

Zweigart 25 count Lugana chocolate

evenweave, ref: 3835/9024: Willow Fabrics

Wooden frame: eFrame

Mount board: Fred Aldous

### SANTA'S LITTLE HELPERS

Zweigart 32 count Murano blue

evenweave, ref: 3984/503:

Willow Fabrics

Beige aperture cards: Craft Creations

### FESTIVE FLURRY

Zweigart 28 count Trento

blue evenweave, ref: 3453/5072:

Willow Fabrics

Cotton backing fabric: Cotton Patch

Wooden embroidery hoop: The Makery

### CHRISTMAS DELIVERY

Zweigart 28 count Brittney mocha

evenweave, ref: 3270/779: Willow Fabrics

Cotton patterned fabric: Cotton Patch

### SECRET SANTA

Permin 14 count white aida:

Michael Whitaker Fabrics

Flexi hoop: Sew and Sew

### MERRY & BRIGHT

Zweigart 28 count Brittney cream

evenweave, ref: 3270/779: Willow Fabrics

Cotton backing fabric: Cotton Patch

Toy stuffing: Hobbycraft

Ribbon: Hobbycraft

Gold bells: Hobbycraft

### SEW SEASONAL

Zweigart 28 count

Brittney white evenweave,

ref: 3270/100: Willow Fabrics

Wooden cotton reels: Hobbycraft

Wire: Hobbycraft

### MERRY & BRIGHT

Zweigart 28 count Brittney cream

evenweave, ref: 3270/779: Willow Fabrics

Cotton backing fabric: Cotton Patch

Toy stuffing: Hobbycraft

Ribbons: Hobbycraft

Gold bells: Hobbycraft

### THIS LITTLE PIGGY

14 count waste canvas: Willow Fabrics

Green felt: Hobbycraft

### FULL OF FESTIVE CHEER

Zweigart 14 count white aida,

ref: 3706/100: Willow Fabrics

### SINGING IN THE SNOW

Zweigart 32 count Belfast blue linen,

ref: 3609/778: Willow Fabrics

Seed beads: Similar available from Bijoux Beads

Aperture card: Craft Creations

### DECEMBER DAYS

Zweigart 25 count Lugana

white evenweave,

ref: 3835/100: Willow Fabrics

Tea towel: Similar available

from local market or department store



Give your  
Christmas table  
a little stitcher  
style with this  
sweet jug from  
Sainsbury's



## Shoppingguide

Contact details for all the suppliers quoted in this issue, plus a few of our favourite places for extra inspiration!

**AMAZON**  
[www.amazon.co.uk](http://www.amazon.co.uk)

**BLOOMFIELD AND ROLFE**  
[www.bloomfieldandrolfe.com](http://www.bloomfieldandrolfe.com)

**CHARLIE GUY**  
[www.etsy.com/shop/ByCharlie](http://www.etsy.com/shop/ByCharlie)

**CRAFT CREATIONS**  
[www.craftcreations.com](http://www.craftcreations.com)

**DMC**  
[www.dmccreative.co.uk](http://www.dmccreative.co.uk)

**EFRAME**  
[www.eframe.co.uk](http://www.eframe.co.uk)

**EQS**  
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**FRED ALDOUS**  
[www.fredaldous.co.uk](http://www.fredaldous.co.uk)

**GONE TO EARTH**  
[www.gonetoearth.co.uk](http://www.gonetoearth.co.uk)

**HOBBYCRAFT**  
[www.hobbycraft.co.uk](http://www.hobbycraft.co.uk)

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**THE MAKERY**  
[www.themakery.co.uk](http://www.themakery.co.uk)

**THE SEW UNIQUE**  
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**THE WHITE COMPANY**  
[www.thewhitecompany.com](http://www.thewhitecompany.com)

**WOOL FELT COMPANY**  
[www.woolfeltcompany.co.uk](http://www.woolfeltcompany.co.uk)

# CrossStitcher

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GUIDE

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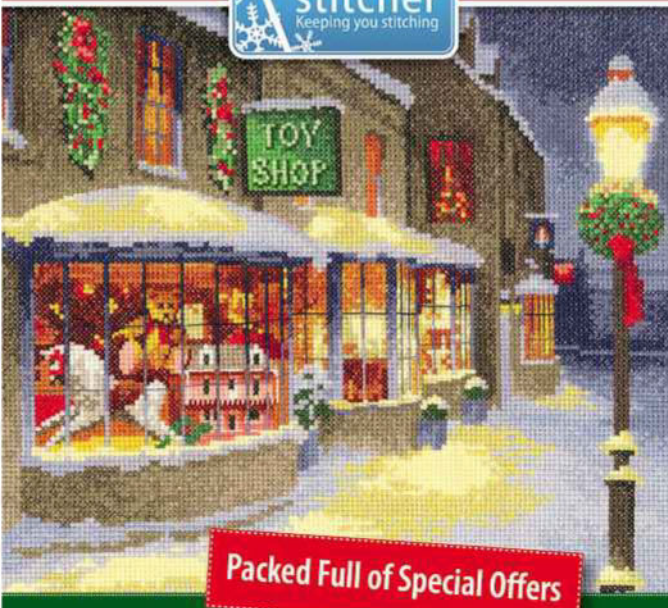
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# CrossStitcher MARKET PLACE

Welcome to the *CrossStitcher* reader ads page. Here you can post pleas for help, find a home for your spare stash, or track down pen pals and clubs in your area – all absolutely free!

## *Desperately seeking*

I'm looking for any unwanted cross stitch items – aida, threads, animal/general charts suitable for cards, card blanks, etc. as I'm stitching cards for different charities such as Hearing Dogs for The Deaf, Cats Protection, Borders Animal Rescue, etc. Thanks in anticipation.

Caroline Walker,  
70 South Park,  
Armadale,  
Bathgate,  
West Lothian, EH48 3LE

Hello, I am looking for a cross stitch chart of Andy Pandy and his pals Teddy and especially Looby Loo. Can anyone help me please. I would be so grateful. I will pay all costs. Thank you.

Maxine McClure,  
61 Tennyson Way,  
Melton Mowbray,  
Leics, LE13 1LS

I am appealing for Disney cross Stitch kits and charts to make and sell for cancer charities, also any white or light blue 12 count aida that can be spared.

Miss T Campbell,  
4 Fairdale Gardens,  
Hayes, Middlesex, UB3 3JA

I'm looking for the chart *Prairie Schooler Santa 1996*. I would appreciate if someone could help me locate this chart. Please email me at the address below. Thank you very much.

Kathy Kerr  
Email: kathleen.kerro8@gmail.com.

## *Up for grabs!*

I have a large number of *CrossStitcher* magazines dating back to 1997 – several have the free kit with them. I would like £1.50 each, plus p&p. Please email me for a full list and pictures.

Bobbie Jones  
Email: bobbiej@hotmail.com

## *Get in touch*

Hi, my name is Sue. I'm a 44-year-old mum of a 10-year-old boy. I love to cross stitch, make cards, knit and I also enjoy gardening. I would like to hear from anybody, from anywhere. I will answer all letters I receive. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sue Morris,  
5 Ely Road,  
Southend,  
Essex,  
SS2 4EZ

I'm looking for cross stitch friends from all over the world, to swap hints, tips and the odd little gifts.

I guess you could call me a craftaholic, as I enjoy several different activities, including card making, jewellery making and mosaics – the list goes on. I'm 51 years old, married with lots of fur babies and would like to write to females or males, around the same age, with similar interests. Please contact me in the first instance by email.

Maria Stewart  
Email: crafts4maria@gmail.com

My name is Nina, I am 37 years old. I just moved with my fiancée and am looking for a pen-friend. I have a dog which is a breeding Irish Collie cross. My hobbies are cross stitch, tapestry, dog breeding, making cards and shopping. I like going to the cinema, animals, listening to music, walking my dog and going to concerts. I also love football and rugby.

Nina Morris,  
18 Heol-Y-Garth,  
Penparcau, Aberystwyth,  
SY23 1TE, Ceredigion,  
West Mid Wales



**EMAIL YOUR ADS** to us at [crosstitcher@dennis.co.uk](mailto:crosstitcher@dennis.co.uk)

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We regret that we're unable to print requests from readers who are under 16 years old



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Overseas readers see page 87

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# CrossStitcher JUST FOR FUN

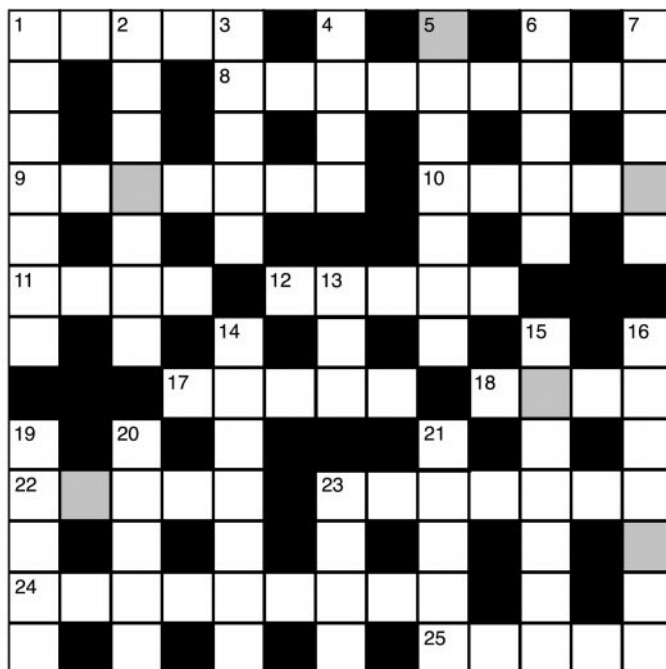
## Prize crossword

### Across

- 1 Civilian called to judge in court (5)
- 8 At first (9)
- 9 Exciting and dangerous sports (7)
- 10 Length of yarn in a long loose coil (5)
- 11 Unit for measuring land area (4)
- 12 Not fresh (5)
- 17 Lacking flavour (5)
- 18 Stare (4)
- 22 Dutch flower (5)
- 23 Fetch (7)
- 24 Outburst of giggles (9)
- 25 Straining utensil (5)

### Down

- 1 Popular evenweave fabric (7)
- 2 Vicar's home (7)
- 3 Tyne or Mersey, e.g. (5)
- 4 Flying toy (4)
- 5 Projectile weapon (7)
- 6 Leaflet (5)
- 7 Laughing mammal (5)
- 13 Metal container with a lid (3)
- 14 Rubber fin worn for diving (7)
- 15 Pungent dried pepper spice (7)
- 16 Eighth planet from the Sun (7)
- 19 --- feet, the urge to move job or place (5)
- 20 Turn red from embarrassment (5)
- 21 US term for stranded cotton (5)
- 23 Stylish (4)



Winning word clue: **Don't fall over this season! (6)**

### HOW TO ENTER

**COMPLETE** the crossword and rearrange the letters in the shaded boxes to make up a winning word. Write your winning word and 'Crossword 298' on the back of a postcard or stuck-down envelope, adding your name and address, and post it to: *CrossStitcher*, PO Box 172, Northam, EX39 9DY  
Competition open:

**16 October – 12 November**

For full terms and conditions, see page 85.

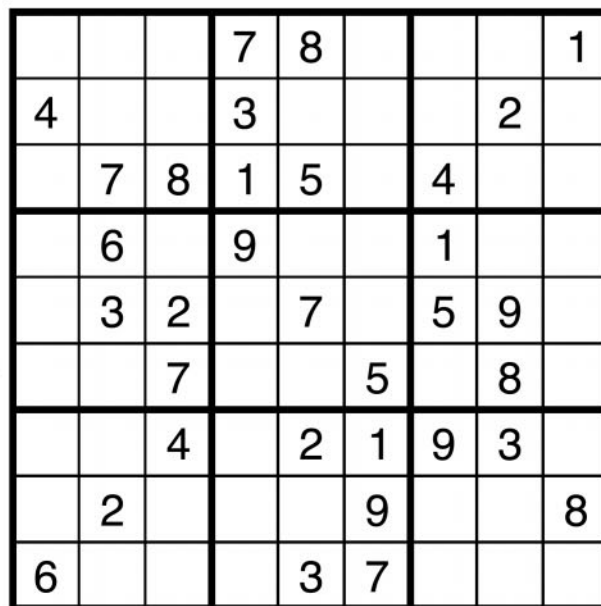


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### SUDOKU

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



Issue 296's winning word **CLASSROOM**

No.1  
FOR DESIGNS

In your December

# CrossStitcher

Have yourself a very crafty Christmas!



## Inside this month

- ♥ Get in the Christmas spirit with our **festive heart** picture
- ♥ **Quick-stitch cards** to make with backstitch and beads
- ♥ Sweet **Christmas tree** apron, for festive fun in the kitchen!
- ♥ Stitch our clever '**Countdown to Christmas**' clock!

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No.1  
FOR DESIGNS



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AND MORE!

62  
FRESH NEW  
PROJECTS



Inside...  
**CrossStitcher**  
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*Just stitch it!*

**PLUS** Our expert stitche's guide to making the fanciest cards this Christmas!

