

No.1 for designs

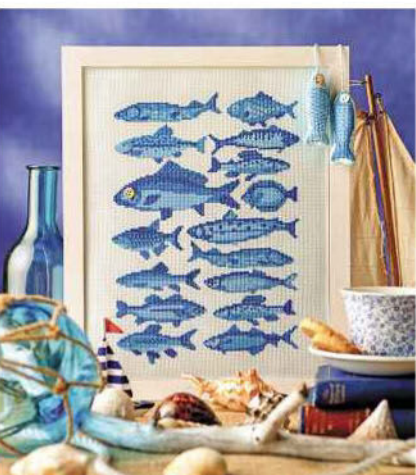
Cross Stitcher

IDEAS • STYLE • INSPIRATION

69

FRESH NEW
PROJECTS

Spring Stitching



MAKE MUM'S DAY!

Floral cards to send with love

MAKE of the month

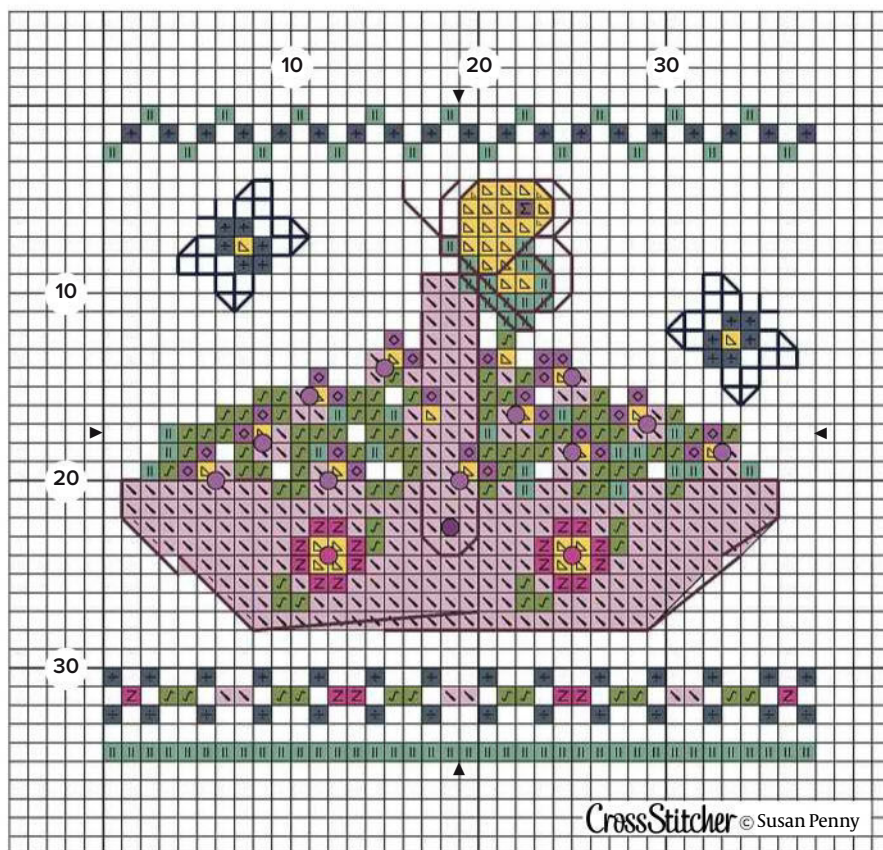
Make a gorgeous floral card
for Mum or stitch her our sweet
sampler as a special gift



Designed by: Susan Penny Stitch count: 35 high x 38 wide
Design size: 6.5x7cm (2½x2¾in) Stitch time: 4 hours

This design was stitched on 14 count aida fabric.

See page 4 for our bonus chart
- a sampler that celebrates
mothers and daughters



Make a... Mother's Day card

Step 1

STITCH your basket and flowers using two strands of stranded cotton for the cross stitch, one strand for the backstitch and one for the French knots.

Step 2

THREAD your needle with pink ribbon. Starting in the bottom left-hand corner of the design, two squares outside the stitching, work running stitch around the design, going over and under two squares of the aida fabric until you get back to the starting point. Tie a small bow in the ribbon ends and secure it to the aida with small stitches.

Step 3

SEW a butterfly charm to the front of the basket. Cut around the design following the aida blocks, three squares outside the ribbon. Pull away the last aida block on all sides of the design, leaving two between the frayed edge and the ribbon. Use double-sided tape to stick the aida to the front of a polka dot card.

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
	153	095	710
	470	267	1502
	552	100	713
	718	089	707
	725	306	808
	3740	873	2614
	3750	1036	1712
	3816	876	1702
Backstitch in one strand			
	3740	873	2614
	basket, butterfly		
	3750	1036	1712
	bees		
French knots in one strand			
	552	100	713
	flowers		
	718	089	707
	basket decoration		
	3750	1036	1712
	basket handle		



NEXT MONTH

BUNNY BROOCH

Our print edition comes with an adorable bunny brooch, complete with ribbon embellishment and button tail, so you can add a sweet touch to your spring outfits!





	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
	153	095	710
	310	403	black
	433	371	2008
	470	267	1502
	471	265	1501
	552	100	713
	718	089	707

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
	725	306	808
	3687	076	604
	3727	1017	2610
	3740	873	2614
	3750	1036	1712
	3815	877	1205
	blanc	001	white

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Backstitch in one strand			
	3740	873	2614
			butterfly
	3750	1036	1712
			bees
French knots in one strand			
	718	089	707
			flowers



CrossStitcher ©Susan Penny

Designed by: Susan Penny Stitch count: 103 high x 85 wide
 Design size: 19x16cm (7½x6¾in) Stitch time: 17 hours

This design was stitched on 14 count aida fabric.

Materials

- Zweigart 14 count white aida, ref. 3706/100, 33x25.5cm (13x10in)
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Size 24 tapestry needle
- Butterfly charm

For stockist details see page 84

CROSS STITCH *Collection*

The most beautiful cross stitch designs



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Welcome

Say it with flowers... and stitches



SPRING IS A WONDERFUL TIME of year – the days are longer, the weather is warmer and there is a promise of good things to come all around us.

A lot of us are gardeners as well as stitchers, and it can be a difficult time of year to get the balance between tackling the weeds in your borders and the cross stitch indoors that's crying out to be finished!

As flowers feature largely in this issue, you might just be tempted to abandon your gardening altogether and stitch your way right through spring instead. Well, we've a whole 'garden' of designs to choose from, including our wonderful cuckoo clock, spring flower garland, terrarium and fun bunch of 3D flowers. Plus, with Mothers's day on 6 March, our free gift with its pretty butterfly charm is just the project to send to your mum or grandmother – we know they'll love receiving a handmade card just as much as you enjoyed making it!

With so many gorgeous projects to stitch in this issue, don't forget to enter our giveaways and crossword for a chance of winning some great stitching prizes – and remember, no matter how long the winter, spring is sure to follow!

Happy stitching!

Susan & Martin

SUSAN & MARTIN PENNY
EDITORS

P.S. We love to hear about your current stitching projects! Send your letters and photos to crossstitcher@dennis.co.uk

Paris in the springtime...

You'll love our chic cushion design! In shops 4 March.



Follow us online!
facebook.com/CrossStitcherMag
twitter.com/XStitchmagazine



www.crossstitchermag.com

Write to the editorial department at: *CrossStitcher Magazine*, PO Box 172, Northam, EX39 9DY



Our cute doll's house makes the perfect gift for little kids!

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EXTRAS

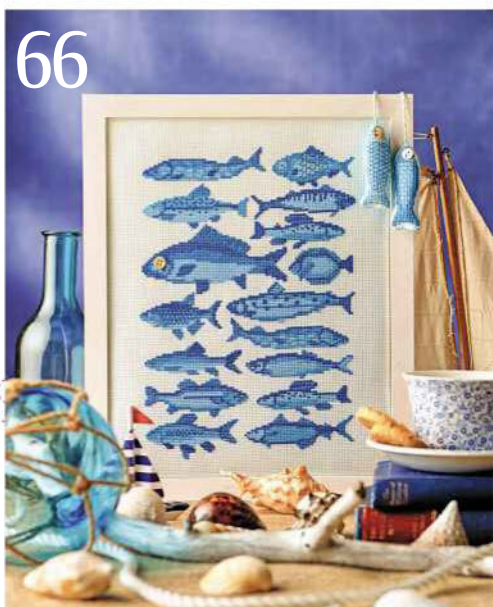
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THE SavvyStitcher

Try something new every issue

23 Add flair with fastenings
Buttons don't need to be boring – we've three fab ideas for you that use fastenings in a fun way!



THE SAVVY STITCHER FASTENINGS

23





The Nimble Thimble Cross Stitch and Framing Centre

Llangedwyn Mill, Llangedwyn, Nr Oswestry, Shropshire, SY10 9LD

Tel 01691780088

Email: chris@thenimblethimble.co.uk



FOUR SEASONS GARDENS - £36 EACH



SPRING



SUMMER



AUTUMN



WINTER

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The possibilities are endless.

Outthere

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



Photographs © Anne Deppe

What a star

Step into spring with a sturdy felt tote shopper bag. We love this versatile bag project from the new book from kit makers Supercraft, which is just asking for some creative cross stitch. *Supercraft* is packed with easy projects for every weekend of the year, including not just sewing ideas, but also printing, origami and even poured concrete!

Supercraft by Sophie Pester and Catharina Bruns, DK, £14.99.
www.dk.com

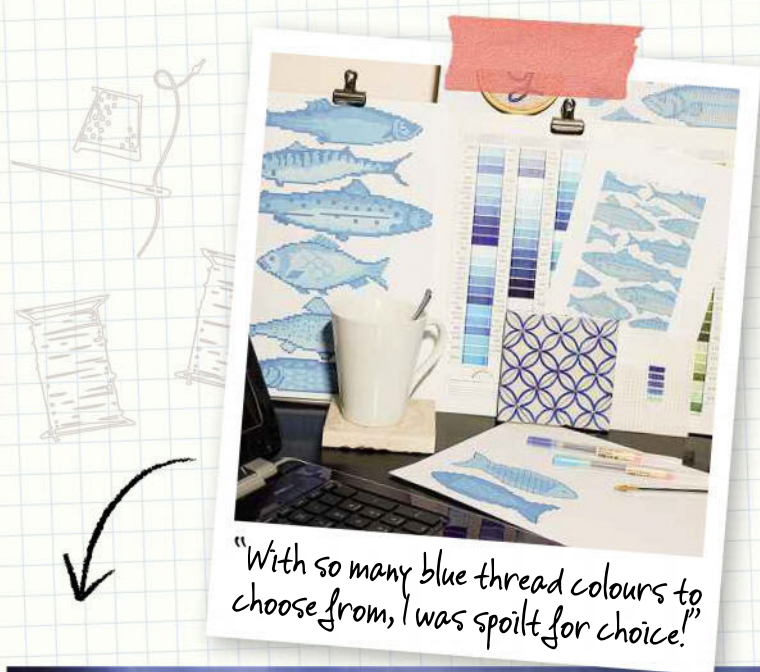


SKETCHBOOK SECRETS: Floss & Mischief

We take a peek at a designer's early ideas for one of their projects



Genevieve Brading of Floss & Mischief designed our beautiful fish picture on page 66 and she gave us a peek at the work in progress... "The hardest part of this design was pinning down its layout. It went through several compositions, before we agreed on a vintage species poster feel," she says. "I love the Delftware blue and white colour palette – it's so timeless. My other half is an angler, so he was thrilled that I was persuaded to design some fish!" www.flossandmischief.com



"With so many blue thread colours to choose from, I was spoilt for choice!"

"Picking a colour combo that works is one of my favourite parts of designing."



JUST MY TYPE

WE'RE HUGE fans of stitch ambassador Mr X Stitch, so we were excited to see his new collection of cross stitch designs. Inspired by classic computer fonts, from Helvetica to Frutiger, there are nine different ampersands in the collection – or you can purchase the full set. Mr X Stitch also informs us that he's working on full alphabets!

www.etsy.com/uk/shop/MrXStitch
www.mrxstitch.com



SPRING FLING

WE LOVE Margaret Dier's designs. When she's not working at the Royal School of Needlework she turns silks, metal threads and vintage glass beads into stitched artworks. These brooches and necklaces add sweet country charm to any outfit. www.etsy.com/shop/MargDierEmbroidery

BEAUTIFUL BLOOMS

WE'LL BE carrying all our shopping in this gorgeous canvas tote from now on. Each vintage bicycle illustration is coloured by hand so you can choose a bike to match your outfit! Find more flower baskets in our project on page 2. www.etsy.com/uk/shop/Whimsybags



Into the woods

TAKE A woodland wander with Bobo Stitch's new range of counted cross stitch kits. The Woodland Collection includes mouse, squirrel, pheasant, stag and duck designs, which are available as downloads or full kits. Bobo Stitch's Hannah Sturrock says, "These simple designs are quick and easy to stitch with a hint of metallic gold thread to add a fine shine." www.bobostitch.co.uk

THREE OF THE BEST *Little birds*

With the arrival of spring, we're feathering our nests. These Etsy finds are a tweet crafty treat!



BLUETOPAZSTITCHERY
Sing your heart out with this cute bluebird and musical note cross stitch pattern. Perfect to make and send to a music loving friend.



FIDDLESTICKSAU
Fall in love with this retro tattoo-style cross stitch design from Oz's Fiddlesticks. It uses whole stitches only for a super-quick finish.



CLEVER FIG STUDIOS
Create a cosy corner for you to stitch in with this gorgeous cushion featuring a hand-painted watercolour bluebird print.

TREND SPOTTING

with writer and crafter
Katie Allen



TIME TO STITCH

WE'VE GONE cuckoo this month! Stitch our clock project on page 16 or try these...



WHO

Always be on time with this exclusive Bethan Janine fabric for Dashwood Studio. www.dashwoodstudio.com



WHAT

Spring into action with this adorable embroidered cushion from Brit designer Kate Garey. www.kategarey.com

HOW

Go folksy with this cute cuckoo clock cross stitch design, complete with tiny deer! www.etsy.com/uk/shop/BisforBumblebee



FLORAL FANCIES

THERE'S SOMETHING of a Twenties feel about these beautiful clutch bag kits from Ann's Orchard. The fabric comes ready-printed, so stitchers can choose to embroider and bead as much or as little as they like. The bags come in three designs inspired by roses, daises and pea pods. We think they're perfect for spring soirées!
www.anssorcharard.co.uk



CRAFTY BOOKSHELF

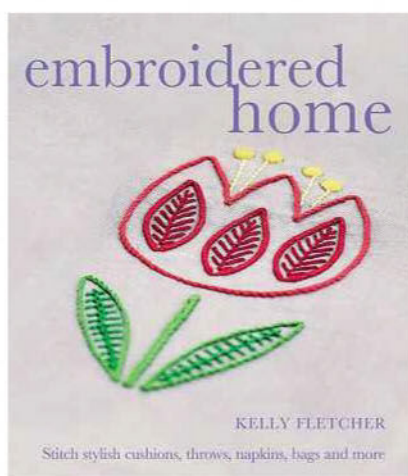
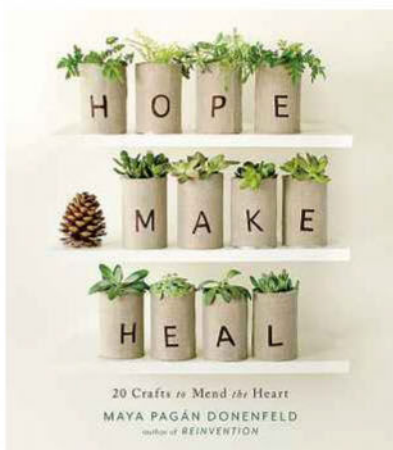
Read on to find out our favourite new books for stitchers this month...

▼ HOPE, MAKE, HEAL

MAYA PAGÁN DONENFELD

[Roost Books]

Find renewal and restoration in this thoughtful craft book, which uses stitching in a meaningful way. There are a variety of projects to make as well as inspiring ideas to muse over.



▲ EMBROIDERED HOME

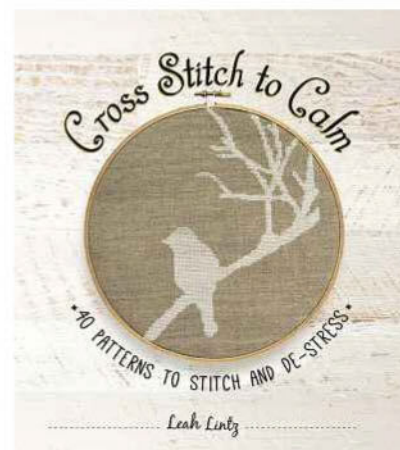
KELLY FLETCHER [Kyle Books]

Give your home a new look with this modern collection of stitching projects. With themes as diverse as Coastal, Contemporary, Country, Floral, Vintage and Festive, there's a project to suit every style.

▼ CROSS STITCH TO CALM

LEAH LINTZ [Interweave]

This pretty book draws on cross stitch's calming properties with 40 simple projects to help you de-stress. Motifs range from on-trend stag heads to birds and trees.





I enjoyed making little throwaway things, just seeing where the ideas took me...



Visit www.mrxstitch.com/category/cross-stitch/52-challenge to find these designs!

Find me online:

www.mrxstitch.com
www.facebook.com/MrXStitch
www.twitter.com/MrXStitch

Inside the mind of

MR X STITCH

Our manbroiderer looks back over the results of his personal cross stitch challenge of 2015

Hello again dear readers, How's 2016 shaping up for you so far? I'm writing this on Christmas Eve, so I can only guess what's gone on between now and the future where you live. Hopefully they'll have cracked flying cars, and if anyone has any useful lottery numbers, drop me an email!

I thought I'd share a story about a thing I did last year. I turned 40 and in a mad panic to stay fit I decided to set a challenge to give away a free cross stitch design project every week for a year. 52 patterns, mostly new designs, and given away for free as downloads. It seemed like a healthy challenge to undertake.

within a week. Instead I went for 52 and started off with gusto in January. On the whole I think it went okay for the first half of the year, as I made new things, recycled old designs that had never seen light of day, and once I hit on the idea of trying to do flash cards - 'A is for apple', that sort of thing, I muddled my way through.

One of my shortcomings from a design standpoint is that I can't draw. So I'm kinda limited in what I can do with a free hand, so my designs tend to favour typography, and things I can process using cross stitch software. So I felt a bit limited in how far I could push things, and just stuck to what I could do in reasonable time.

“ I decided to set a challenge to give away a free cross stitch design every week for a year ”

I was going to do a 365 challenge, and that would have killed me, so I have to salute Miranda van Rossum, 'tutor at the University of Hull, Dutch Hullensian, lifelong learner, gardener, and for the duration of 2015, mostly stitchee', who achieved the epic task of cross stitching something every day for a whole year to raise funds for five charities across Hull. I would encourage you to visit her website; 365littlestitches.wordpress.com to find out more, see all her pieces, and support her fundraising efforts.

I'm so glad I chose not to do a 365 challenge; I would have passed out

Towards the end of the year things got a little loose, and I didn't quite manage one a week, but I caught up by the year's end and hit the target. 52 free cross stitch designs out on the internet for all to enjoy! You can find yours by choosing '52 Challenge' from the Hand Embroidery menu on my site.

So what did I learn? Don't sweat the small stuff when making designs and sometimes you just have to go with an idea and trust you'll turn it into something that's not rubbish. I think I enjoyed the experience, and it felt like a good thing to have done in my 40th year on the planet!

Time Flies

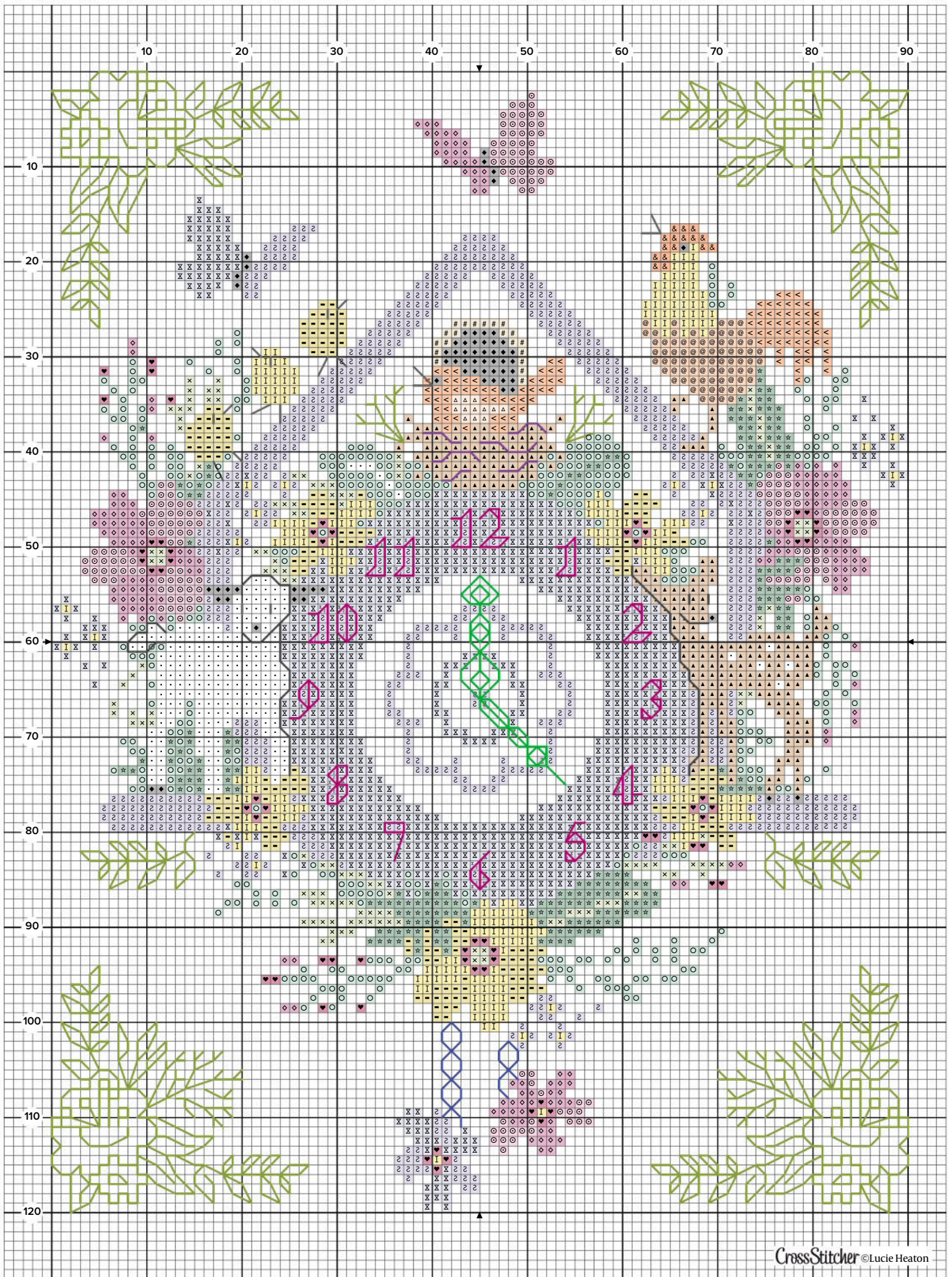


We know you'll go cuckoo for our colourful clock. Stitch in bright shades to herald in the start of spring...





TIME FLIES



CrossStitcher ©Lucie Heaton



TURN TO
PAGE 69
TO LEARN
HOW TO FRAME
YOUR PICTURE



	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
	156	118	902
	164	240	1209
	341	117	901
	350	011	213
< symbol"/>	351	010	214
	352	009	303
	353	006	303
	413	401	1713
	562	210	1206
	563	208	1207
	718	089	707
	841	1082	1911
	842	1080	1910
	3607	087	708
	3608	060	709
	3821	305	2510
	3822	295	2511
	blanc	001	white
Backstitch in two strands			
	718	089	707
	numbers		
	3799	236	1713
	clock hands		
Backstitch in one strand			
	470	267	1502
	leaves		
	3750	1036	1712
	pendulum		
	3799	236	1713
	outlines, beaks, legs		
	blanc	001	white
	nest		

Designed by: Lucie Heaton Stitch count: 120 high x 90 wide
Design size: 21x16.5cm (8¼x6½in) Stitch time: 35 hours

This design was stitched on 14 count aida fabric.

Materials

- Zweigart 14 count white aida, ref: 3706/100, 33x30cm (13x12in)
 - Stranded cotton as listed in the key
 - Size 24 tapestry needle
 - Frame with a 25x21cm (9¾x8¼in) aperture
 - Mount board
- For stockist details see page 84

Instead of stitching the clock hands, replace them with a clock movement to transform your picture into a working clock



New Dimensions

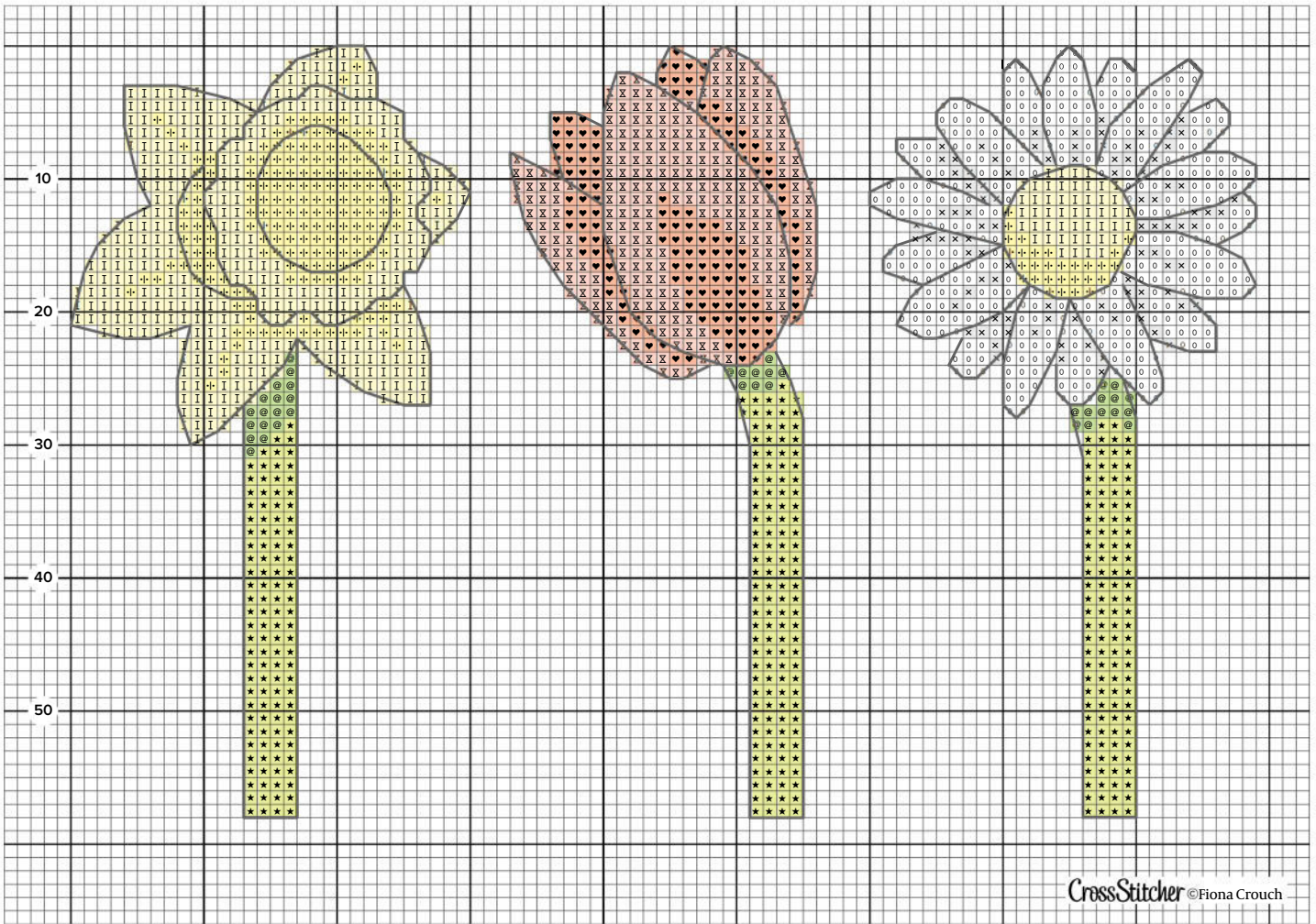
For a blooming lovely bouquet that will last all year, our 3D flowers are the pick of the bunch!



Materials

- Zweigart 28 count white Brittny evenweave, ref: 3270/100: 17.5x12.5cm (7x5in) x 2 pieces
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Size 26 tapestry needle
- Toy stuffing

For stockist details see page 84



CrossStitcher ©Fiona Crouch

Designed by: Fiona Crouch Max. stitch count: 58 high x 30 wide

Max. design size: 10x5cm (4x2in) Stitch time: 2 hours each

These designs were stitched on 28 count evenweave over two threads of the fabric.

Make a... flower

Step 1

PLACE your Brittney backing fabric face down on the table. On top of this place your stitched flower, face up. Machine stitch roughly around the flower, following the edge of the stitching, starting at the bottom and leaving one side of the stem open for stuffing.

Step 2

STUFF the flower using the blunt end of a pencil to push the stuffing into the flower head and down the stem. Put the flower back under the sewing machine foot, and then finish stitching around the edge, enclosing the stuffing.

Step 3

CUT around the flower shape using a sharp pair of scissors, 1cm (3/8in) outside the machine stitching. Repeat for each flower.

Create a 'bunch' of flowers by using string or ribbon to tie them together

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
•••••	307	289	104
I I	445	288	103
x x	762	234	1804
@ @	906	256	1411
★ ★	907	255	1410
♥ ♥	3705	035	410
⊗ ⊗	3706	033	309
0 0	blanc	001	white
Backstitch in one strand			
—	413	401	1713
outlines			

STITCHING
PRIZES
FOR YOU!

CrossStitcher PRIZE TIME!

We've got some great cross stitch giveaways up for grabs – make sure you enter today for your chance to win!
Giveaways open 5 February – 3 March

£14
prize



Dimensions Golden Puppy kit

"Would you like to take a nap with me?" this puppy seems to ask. Stitched on 18 count ivory aida, this adorable design is a combination of cross stitch and half cross stitch. The kit comes with aida, stranded cotton, needle, chart and full instructions. The finished size is 18x13cm, ref: 55497, RRP £14.50. You can visit www.sewandso.co.uk for more details. We have one kit to give away.

Enter by post to the address below, labelling your entry 'GOLDEN PUPPY KIT GIVEAWAY 302'.

Bothy Threads Love Spring kit

This pretty seasonal tree with lots of embellishments is alive with colourful butterflies! The kit, ref: XKA10, from Bothy Threads, contains 14 count aida, pre-sorted stranded cotton, metallic thread, Organdy ribbon, sequins, satin flowers, needle, chart and full instructions, and is available from www.bothythreads.com, RRP £28.49. We have one kit to give away.

Enter by post to the address below, labelling your entry 'LOVE SPRING KIT GIVEAWAY 302'.

£28
prize



Mini Cross Stitch Book

Join Michael Powell in his quirky world of cross stitch. This lovely little book contains twenty gorgeous designs in Michael's distinctive and popular style, ranging from colourful daisies to mini landscapes. The book is published by Search Press, RRP £4.99. Go to www.searchpress.com for more details. We have three books to give away.

Enter by post to the address below, labelling your entry 'MINI CROSS STITCH BOOK GIVEAWAY 302'.



£15 of
prizes

Merchant and Mills Needles & Notions

Drapers's Daughter have selected the five 'must-have' sewing accessories from Merchant & Mills and brought them together in this fabulous boxed set. Inside you'll find glass-headed pins, 25 household needles, sewing gauge, seam ripper and a tape measure, all in a lovely box, making the perfect gift for the true 'sewist'! We have one box, RRP £22.50, to give away. Available from www.drapersdaughter.com. Enter by post to the address below, labelling your entry 'MERCHANT & MILLS NOTIONS GIVEAWAY 302'.



£22
prize

HOW TO ENTER

Write your name and address on the back of a postcard or stuck-down envelope together with the name of the giveaway(s) you are entering and send to:
CrossStitcher, PO Box 172, Northam, EX39 9DY.

Competitions open 5 February – 3 March 2016. For competition terms and conditions go to page 85. You may enter multiple prize draws on one postcard.

THE Savvy Stitcher

ZIPPING ALONG

Here's an unusual idea that's very effective! Strip down zippers to make an edging for your design.



Add flair with fastenings

Bored of plain buttons? Making your own fastenings will finish off your projects with style – Zoë Patching's here to show you how!



DECORATIVE TOUCH
Use the Dorset button technique to make a fastening that can be used just for decoration.



SEW SIMPLE!
A classic technique for stitchers – work your favourite motif and use it to cover a plain button.



We thought we'd try something a little bit different this month and include three types of fastenings featuring mini cross stitch designs – to see just how versatile they can be. Our sweet hanging heart features a cross stitched bird taking centre stage and our feathered friend is edged with a hot pink zip. Next, try our pretty covered button, used here to fasten a notebook with a wrapped silk ribbon. Our final design includes a trio of stylised flowers with bold Dorset button flower heads.



MAKE... DORSET BUTTON FLOWERS

Use this traditional technique to make bright, bespoke buttons



Step 1



BEGIN by cutting a 2m length of stranded cotton and then knot the thread to one end of the brass ring. Now work a blanket stitch around the ring, catching the tail end of the starting thread as you go. Continue around the ring until it is fully covered in blanket stitches.

Step 2



PUSH the knotted edge of the blanket stitch inwards towards the ring centre. Pass the rest of the cotton length through the ring centre, back to the outer edge. Wind the thread over and around the ring four times to create eight evenly spaced spokes that cross in the centre of the ring.

Step 3



KEEP the spokes taut and secure the spokes in the centre by making a cross stitch. This should regroup the spokes together into clear sections, making them ready for you to start weaving the thread around them. Thread on a tapestry needle to start weaving.

Step 4



MAKE your first stitch by taking the needle forward over a single spoke. Working anticlockwise, take the needle under two spokes, and up, then take the needle forward over a single spoke, and under two spokes. Repeat to cover the spokes completely.

Template

Enlarge your template by 200%

DMC Anchor Madeira

Cross stitch in two strands

+ **+** 472 253 1414

↑ **↑** 728 305 108

S **S** 956 041 611

% **%** 3708 031 408

Backstitch in two strands

— 816 1005 512

flower outlines

— 956 000 000

bird's legs

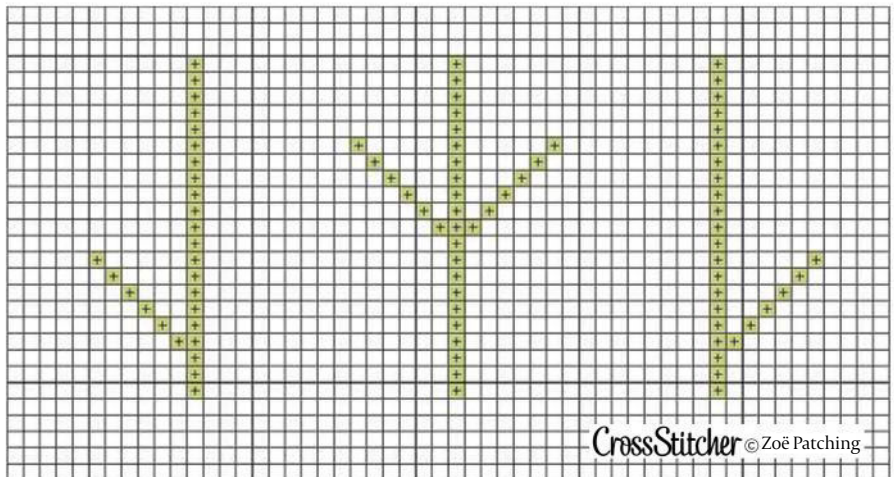
French knots in two strands

● 310 403 black
eye

● 816 1005 512

flower centre

● position of buttons



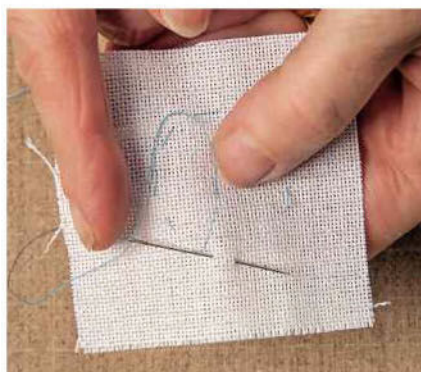
CrossStitcher © Zoë Patching

MAKE A... COVERED BUTTON

Stitch a small motif then use your design to create a pretty covered button.



Step 1



TACK a circular running stitch around the motif. This should have a diameter of 3cm to allow for gathering. Leave the running stitch thread ends untied. With stitching face down, place the button in the centre of the running stitch circle.

Step 2



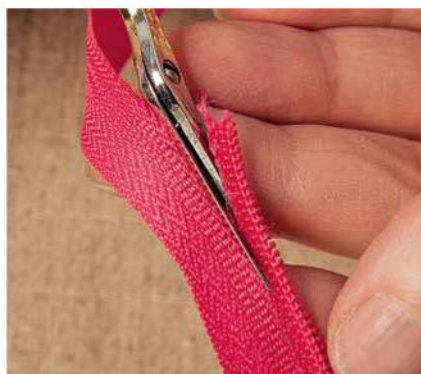
GATHER the fabric around the button by gently pulling your running stitch threads. This will bring the fabric around the button towards the centre shank. Check the design is central on the front of the button.

MAKE A... ZIP EDGED BIRD

Upcycle colourful old zips to create a stylish edging for your stitching.



Step 1



TAKE your zip and remove any staples or zip stoppers, and then unzip it. Now cut through the zip webbing, as shown, close to the zip teeth to create a length for your edging. Remove any fraying threads.

Step 2



SECURE the zip to the design edge (these images don't have the design in them) by bringing an embroidery needle up along the stitched edge then down through the zip edge, catching a little of the zip webbing as you do so.

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



BEAKER BUTTON

www.beakerbutton.co.uk

This is the go-to site for all your Dorset button know-how and accessories, including brass rings in various sizes to create your own Dorset buttons! We used 2.6cm diameter brass rings here.



PAPER AND STRING

www.paper-and-string.co.uk

You'll find a wonderful selection of zips, ribbons, buttons and all kinds of stitching goodies to tempt you here – so put the kettle on and have a browse... and don't forget to bookmark for future visits!

Step 3

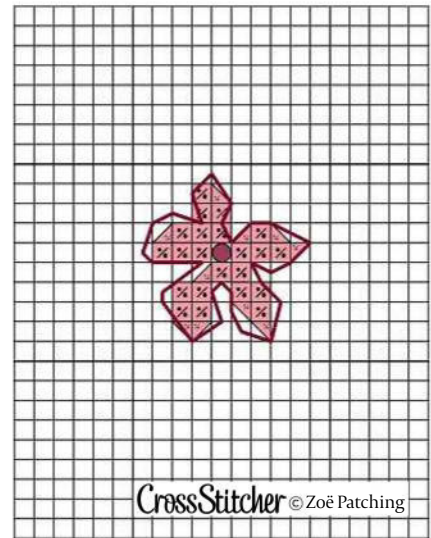


SECURE the gathering threads by knotting and securing within the fabric gathers. Next, tease out any fabric puckers that you may find along the button edge by gently smoothing them with the side of a needle.

Step 4



PLACE the washer over the button shank – teeth side down – and press firmly to hold the fabric taut. Finally stitch the button to your notebook cover and use a pretty ribbon tied to the button to wrap around the book to finish.



Step 3

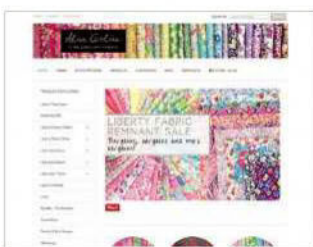
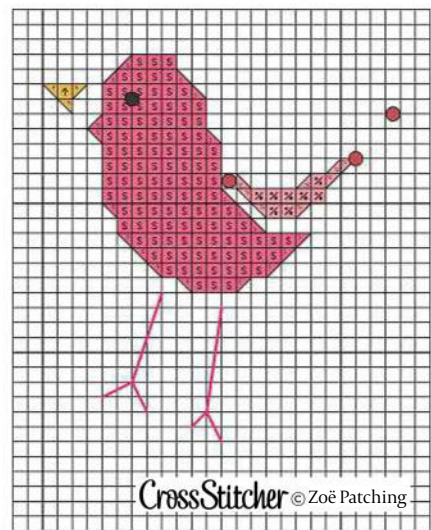


CONTINUE to follow around the edge of your stitched motif, making regular securing stitches to hold its shape. Trim the zip to finish the shape outline and secure the cut end with a few stitches to fix in place.

Step 4



DISGUISE the zip ends which can be a bit fluffy – simply secure a small button over the ends with a matching coloured thread. Once complete you can make your design into a pretty hanging heart using our template on page 25.



ALICE CAROLINE

www.alicecaroline.co.uk

Our notebook is covered in Liberty's Thorpe Pink fabric. This fabric, along with a tantalising array of the Liberty range can be found on the Alice Caroline website – there's just so many to choose from!



OUR PINTEREST BOARD

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!



Eleonor designs her dogs to be used as miniature 'haberdashery assistants'!

An interview with...

Eleonor Boström

Eleonor Boström is a Swedish ceramicist based in San Francisco. She tells us how her love of sewing – and dogs! – inspires her work

Interview by **Katie Allen**

Readers of *CrossStitcher* may already be fans of ceramicist and illustrator Eleonor Boström, whose quirky dog pin cushions were featured in our news pages in issue 296. Handmade from porcelain, each cheeky canine chap is created by Eleonor in her studio in sunny San Francisco and they are sure to inspire creative stitchers. Eleonor tells us about her life in making so far...

Tell us about yourself – have you always been creative?

I'm a 30-year-old Swede living in San Francisco, working as a ceramicist. I have liked drawing since I was young and as a child I wanted to be an illustrator. I think that's why I like to draw so much on my ceramics – combining the two art forms feels just right to me. I studied Ceramics and Glass at Konstfack University



College of Arts, Crafts and Design in Stockholm and then later worked as an assistant for two different ceramicists in Berlin. I started my business straight after art school, while working as an assistant.

What made you want to focus on ceramics as an art form?

My mother's friend is a ceramist and as a kid I got a glimpse of what it

could be like to work with clay by visiting her workshop. After school I started working for her a bit and I learned that working with clay was something I really liked. Clay as a material attracted me because it's so versatile and accessible.

Your pin cushions and thread holders are unique! Where and when did you first get the idea for them?

My grandmother was a seamstress and when she passed away I got all of her old spools and haberdashery. That was why I started making the pincushion dogs – I wanted to do something with her collection, not just let it all be hidden away in boxes.

Recently I made a dog sculpture that holds your keys – the idea came out of me having to look for my lost keys around the apartment. Usually my ideas come from something that I want for myself, and hopefully



Each porcelain pup is a real labour of love as an individual piece can take around 10 days to be created, fired and glazed.



“ Dogs have such different happy characters and I want to portray that in my ceramics ”

someone else out there has the same need as me.

Can you tell us more about how you make the pin cushion dogs?

Gosh it takes a bit too long! Making the initial dog out of porcelain takes just 10 minutes. Then it has to dry for two days. After that I sandpaper and water sponge it to get a nice surface. After that it's time for bisque firing, which also takes two days. Then I glaze the dog, and the day after that I decorate it and then I fire it again for two days. Then I sew the pin cushion and glue it on. So all in all, it takes 8-10 days, but then I also have to fill the kiln with dogs and we have a big kiln in the studio. Usually I'm in production mode for two weeks.

Do you like to sew too?

It's my hobby. I love to sew in my free time, mending old clothes, sewing old 1970s patterns and remaking clothes I find at flea markets.

What do you like so much about dogs that you base a lot of your work on them? Do you own one?

I get happy every time I see a dog! They have such different happy characters and I want to portray that in my ceramics. Growing up we had two dogs, Buster and Tess, but unfortunately I have no pets at the moment. Looking at all the dogs out walking in San Francisco inspires me – there are plenty here! I really miss having my own dog though, so instead I make dogs out of porcelain!

What are your plans for your work in 2016 and beyond?

I'm not much for planning ahead too far. But I'm always on the lookout for more interesting shops to carry my stuff. In 2016 I just want to keep on working with clay, draw more and travel in the US.

eleonorbostrom.se
www.etsy.com/shop/EleonorBostrom

The pin cushions are complete when Eleonor attaches a velvet cushion 'turban' to the head...



Your stitching

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



I made Durene Jones' design (issue 288) for my granddaughter, who wanted the exact same picture on her birthday cake!
Yula Oluel, Israel



I've finished the beautiful owls from issue 300 and have had them both framed. Thank you for these patterns, I've really enjoyed them!
Leanne O'Neill, by Facebook



Issue 299 of my new subscription arrived before Christmas. I whipped up one of the festive jumpers as a card for my cousin!
Ingrid Morgan, Australia



Here's the card I made using the kit from issue 300. I will be sending it to my mum as a thank-you card for my Christmas presents.
Christine Bilyard, by email



I made these from issue 294 for my in-laws in July. I took the red initial on the back from *CrossStitcher* April 2009!
Pam Forsyth, by email



I stitched this Scottie dog keyring from issue 284 for a dog-mad friend - I love the blue and yellow colour combo and the blanket stitch sets it off nicely.
Emma Harrison, Hertfordshire




Taken from issue 286, these were originally egg cosies, but I changed them into ornaments for my tree for Christmas 2016.
Richard Huang, Philippines



Here's my 'Hippy Holidays' cushion, designed by Angela Poole (from issue 238). I stitched it on 11 count aida. It was my first cushion and I am very pleased with it.
Sonja Balks, Nottinghamshire

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1 DESIGN
2 LOOKS!

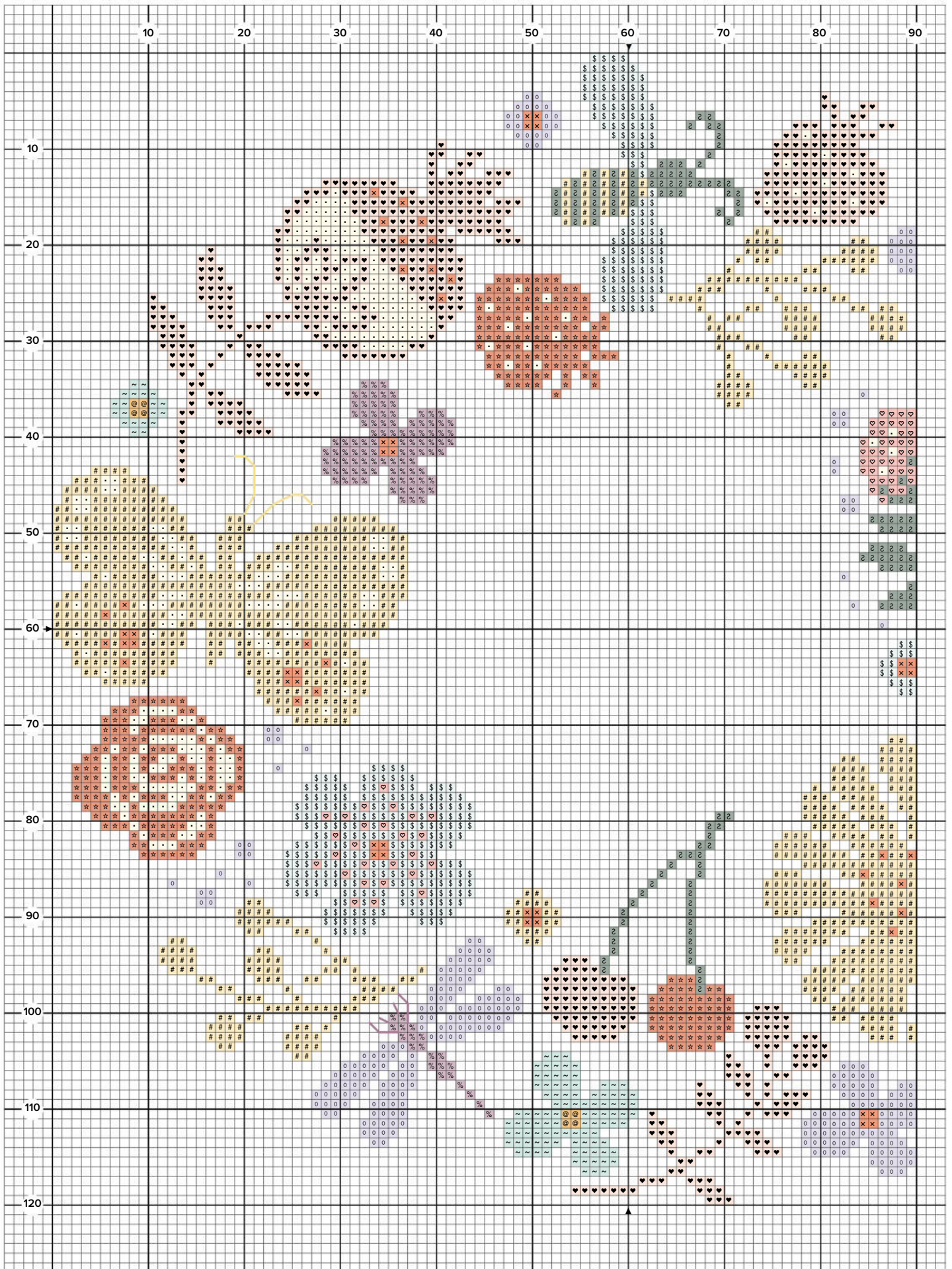


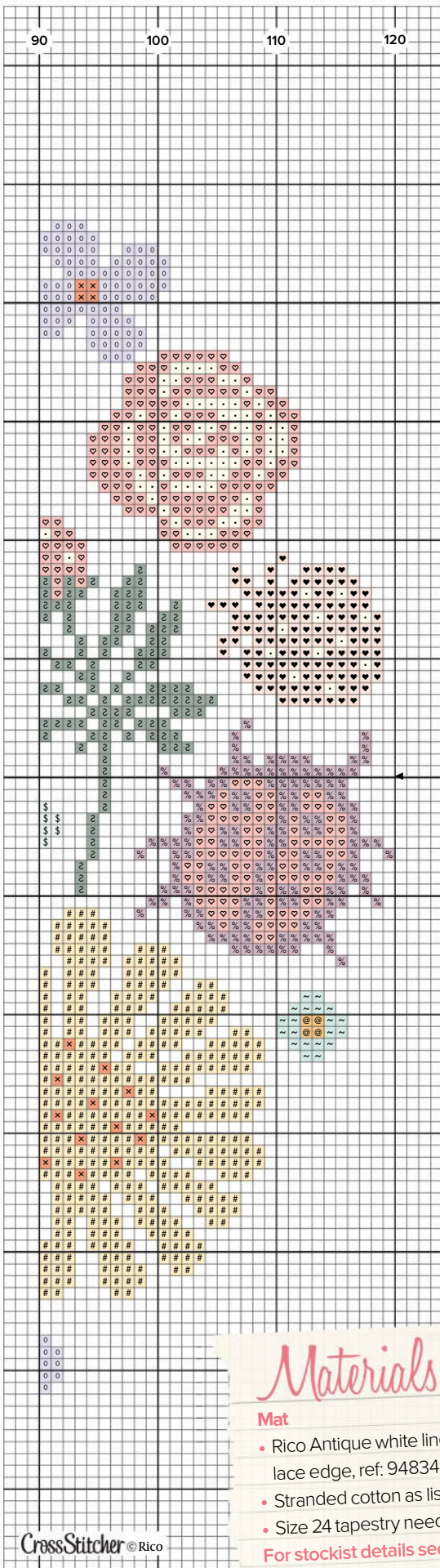
GARDEN GARLAND

Spring has sprung! Our gorgeous garland of flora and fauna will freshen up your home in next to no time

Designed by: Rico

GARDEN GARLAND





Stitch count: 120 high x 120 wide

Design size: 25x25cm (10x10in) Stitch time: 25 hours

This design was stitched on a 25 count, pre-made linen mat.

DMC			Anchor			Madeira					
Cross stitch in two strands						Cross stitch in two strands					
0	0	156	118	902	760	♥	♥	1022	405	761	404
★	★	347	1025	407	761	♥	♥	024	404	993	1201
2	2	561	212	1205	993	~	~	1070	1201	%	3041
x	x	606	335	209	3041	%	%	871	806	Backstitch in one strand	
#	#	676	891	2208	— 676 891 2208						
@	@	740	316	202	butterfly antennae						
▪	▪	746	275	101	— 3041 871 806						
\$	\$	747	158	1104	dragonfly antennae						

Materials

Mat

- Rico Antique white linen circular mat with lace edge, ref: 94834, 30x30cm (12x12in)
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Size 24 tapestry needle

For stockist details see page 84

When you're stitching the mat, take care not to trail the threads across the back of your work, or it will show on the front

Stitch count: 120 high x 120 wide

Design size: 25x25cm (10x10in)

Stitch time: 25 hours

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

Make a... **cushion**

Step 1

CUT the stitched cushion front, so that the design is central and the fabric measures 33x33cm (13x13in).

Step 2

PLACE the stitched cushion front face down on the backing fabric, pin together with a 12mm (½in) seam allowance, then machine stitch around the edge, leaving a gap on one side for inserting the cushion pad.

Step 3

TRIM away some of the seam allowance and clip the corners before turning to the right side. Insert the cushion pad and sew up the gap with small, neat stitches.



Personalise your cushion by using a cross stitch alphabet to add your initial in the centre of the design

Materials

Cushion

- Zweigart 25 count white Dublin linen, ref: 3604/100, 36x36cm (14x14in)
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Size 24 tapestry needle
- Cotton fabric for the cushion back, 33x33cm (13x13in)
- Cushion pad, 30.5x30.5cm (12x12in)

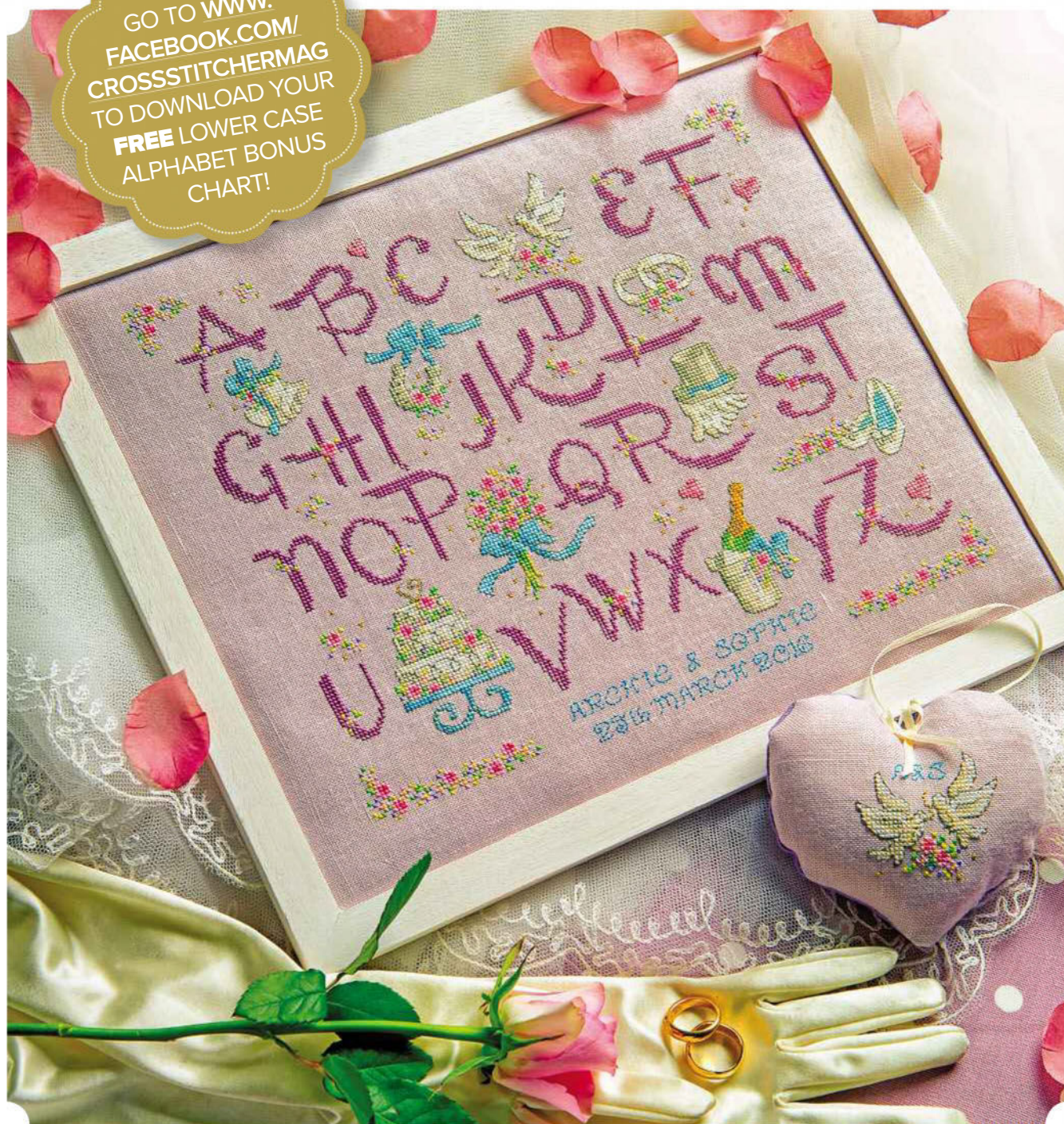
For stockist details see page 84



FLORAL FANCIES

Our gorgeous garland design was taken from Rico Design's *Pretty Pastel* chart book (No. 143). You can buy this booklet and many more fabulous charts in Rico's collection from www.sewandso.co.uk

GO TO WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/CROSSSTITCHERMAG TO DOWNLOAD YOUR **FREE** LOWER CASE ALPHABET BONUS CHART!

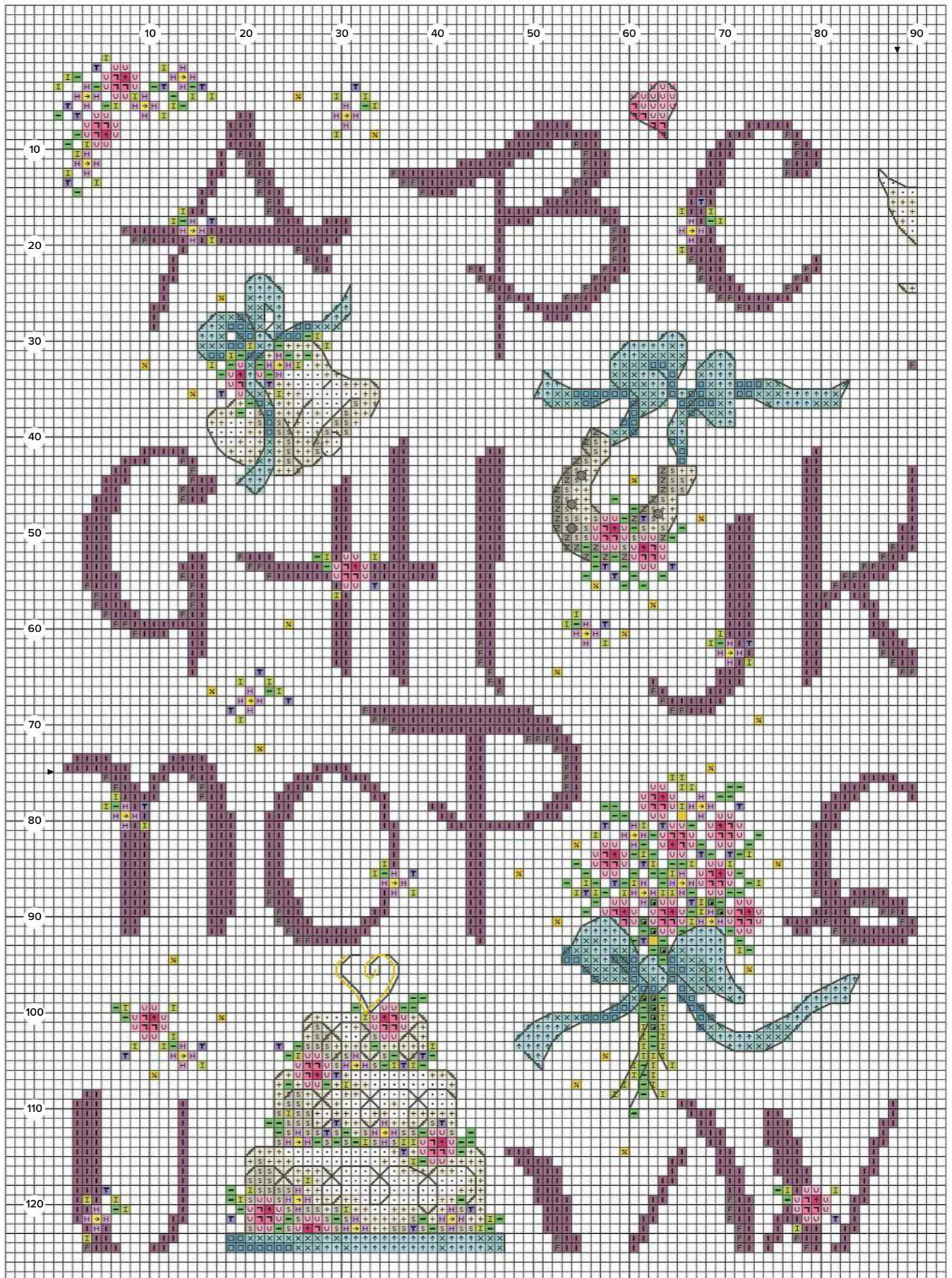


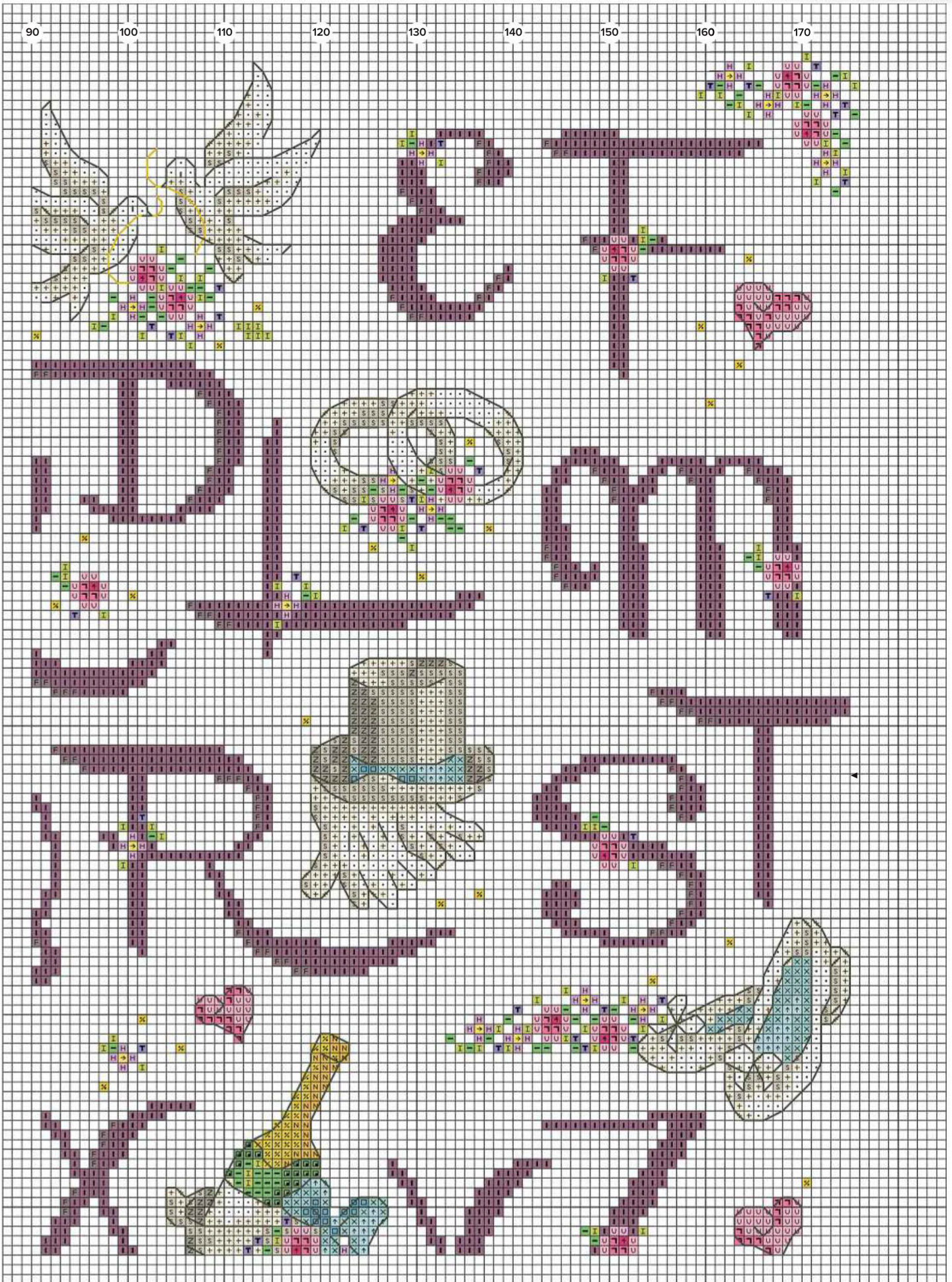
Love Letters

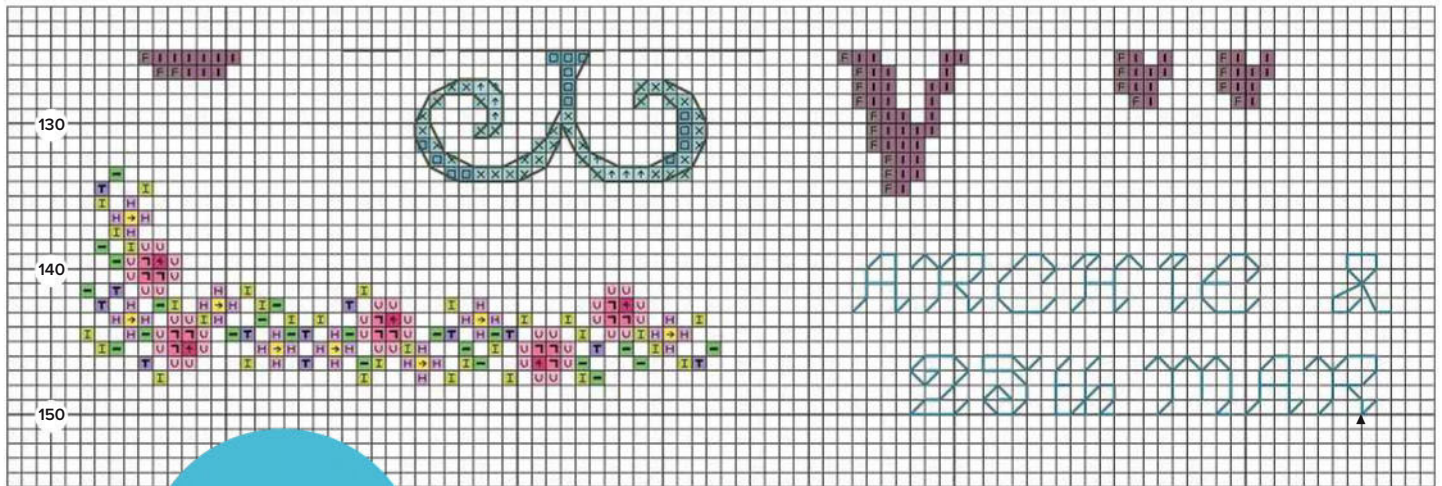
Stitching for a spring wedding? Our sampler makes a great gift, or stitch individual letters and motifs for table settings and favours

Designed by: Maria Diaz

LOVE LETTERS







**TURN TO
PAGE 69
TO LEARN
HOW TO FRAME
YOUR PICTURE**

Stitch count: 176 high x 148 wide

Design size: 24x28cm (9½x11in)

Stitch time: 53 hours

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

Materials

Sampler

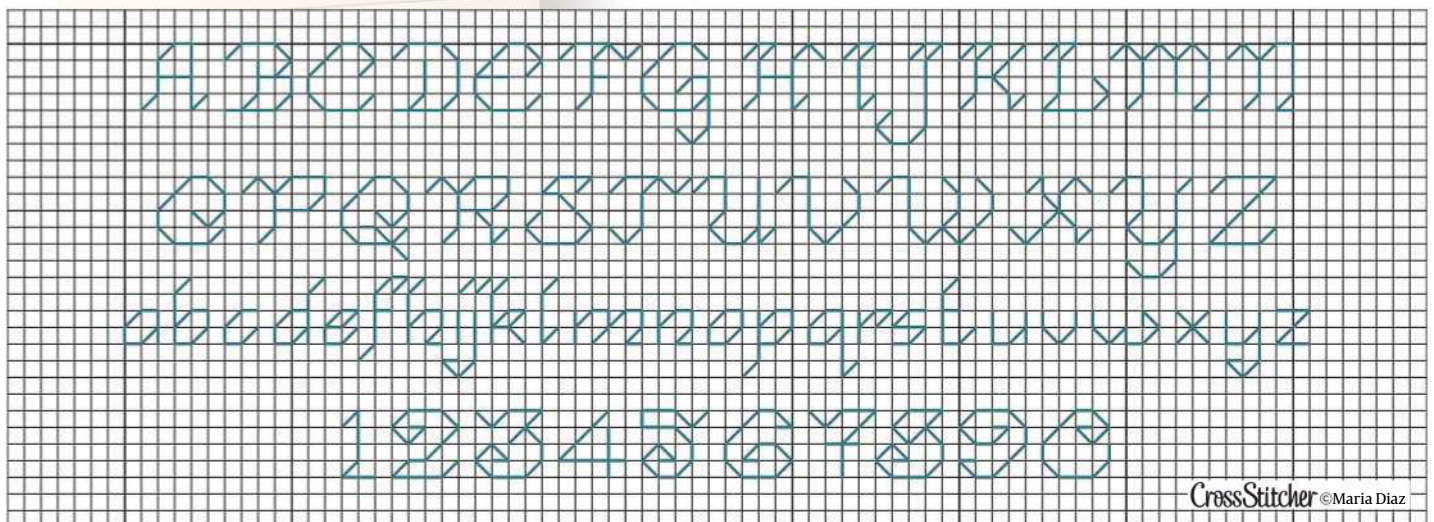
- Zweigart 32 count lavender Belfast linen, ref: 3609/558, 38x46cm (15x18in)
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Size 26 tapestry needle
- Frame with a 28x33cm (11x13in) aperture
- Mount board to fit frame

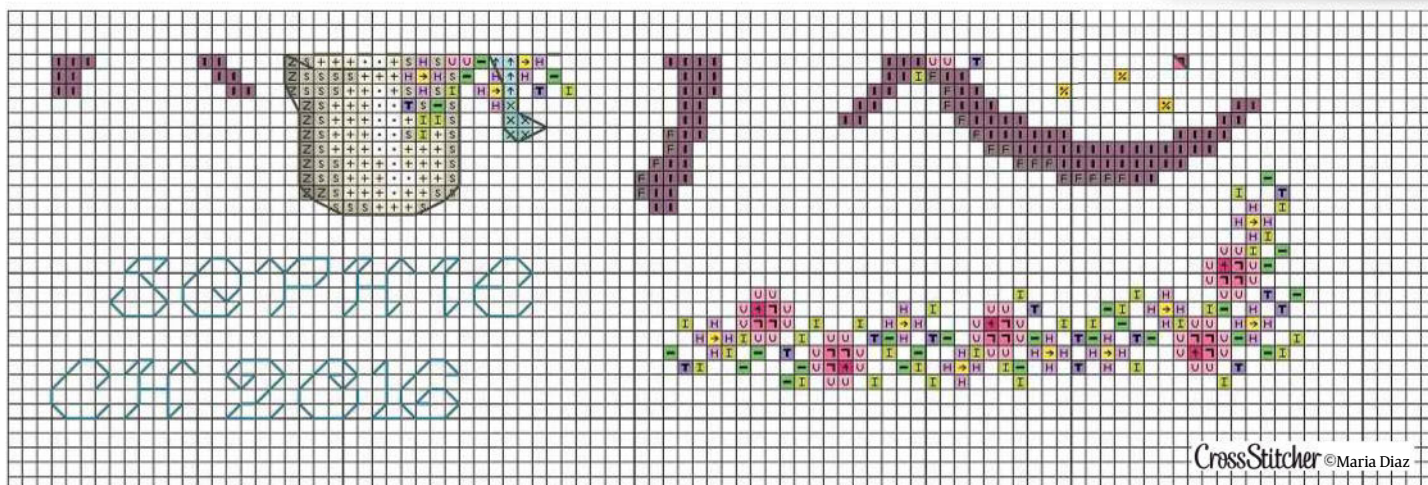
For stockist details see page 84

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
	155	1030	902
	210	108	802
	598	1062	1111
	601	063	703
	603	052	701
	605	074	613
	647	1040	1813
	703	238	1307
	712	926	2101
	726	305	109
	807	1039	1109
	988	243	1402
	3024	397	1901
	3041	871	806
	3761	928	1014

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
	3819	278	2703
	3820	306	2509
	3835	098	712 (2)
	blanc	001	white
	E3852		metallic
Backstitch in one strand			
	645	273	1811
	outlines		
	3810	168	1108
	words		
	E3852		metallic
	ribbons		
French knots in one strand			
	645	273	1811
	horseshoe		

(2) indicates more than one skein is required





CrossStitcher ©Maria Diaz

Stitch count: 30 high x 34 wide

Design size: 7x4.5cm (2¾x1¾in)

Stitch time: 4 hours

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

Make a... hanging heart

Step 1

MAKE a copy of the heart template below and enlarge it by 200%. Place it on the reverse side of your stitching. Transfer the outline of the heart onto the fabric and backing, adding on a seam allowance.

Step 2

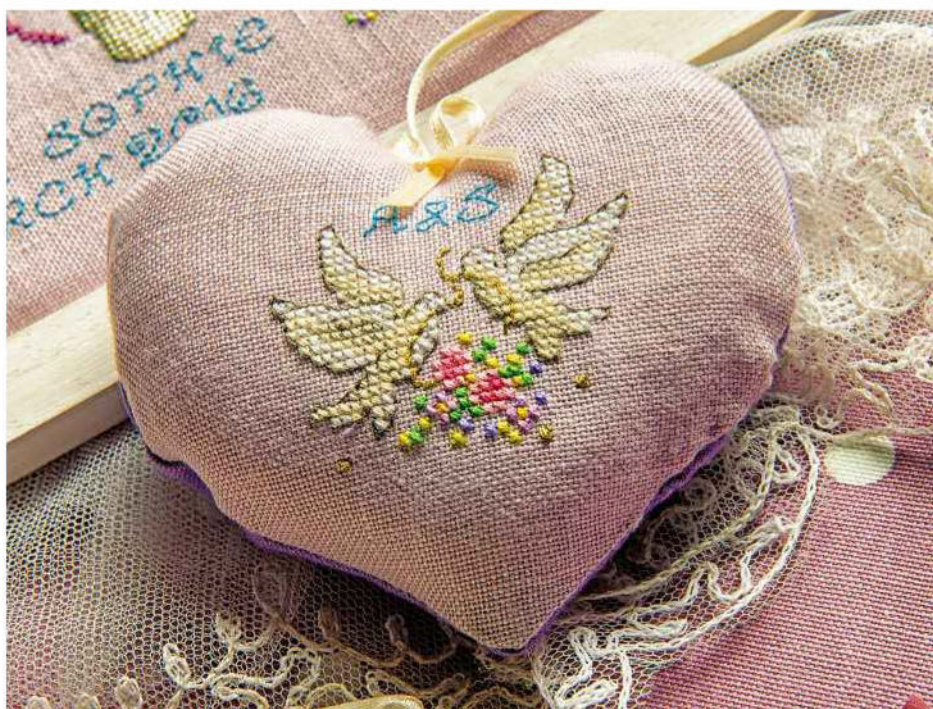
PLACE the stitched heart and the backing fabric right sides together. If you are adding a hanger to the heart, cut a length of ribbon, fold in half, then bring the cut ends together. Place the ribbon between the fabric and the backing, with the cut ends against the edge of the fabric, and the folded end between the layers.

Step 3

USE a sewing machine to stitch around the heart inside the seam allowance, leaving a small gap on one side for turning. Trim the seam allowance and turn the heart through to the right side.

Step 4

FILL the heart with toy stuffing through the gap left at the side, and then fold in the fabric and close the gap with small, neat stitches. Add a ribbon bow to the top of the heart to complete.



You'll find it helps to use graph paper to plan the position of the name and date on the sampler and the initials on the heart



Materials

Heart

- Zweigart 32 count lavender Belfast linen, ref: 3609/558, 15x18cm (6x7in)
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Size 26 tapestry needle
- Cotton fabric for back, 15x18cm (6x7in)
- Cream ribbon for hanger and bow, 5mmx30cm (¼x12in)
- Toy stuffing

For stockist details see page 84

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Overseas readers see page 87

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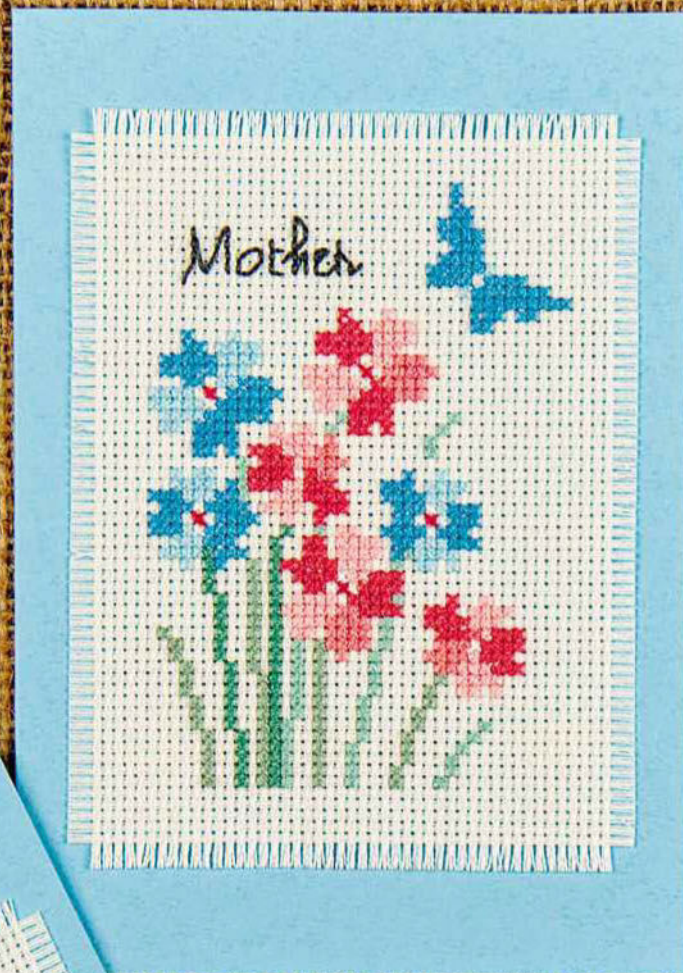


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Mum's the Word...

For a blooming lovely card to stitch for Mother's Day, look no further than our dainty floral designs...

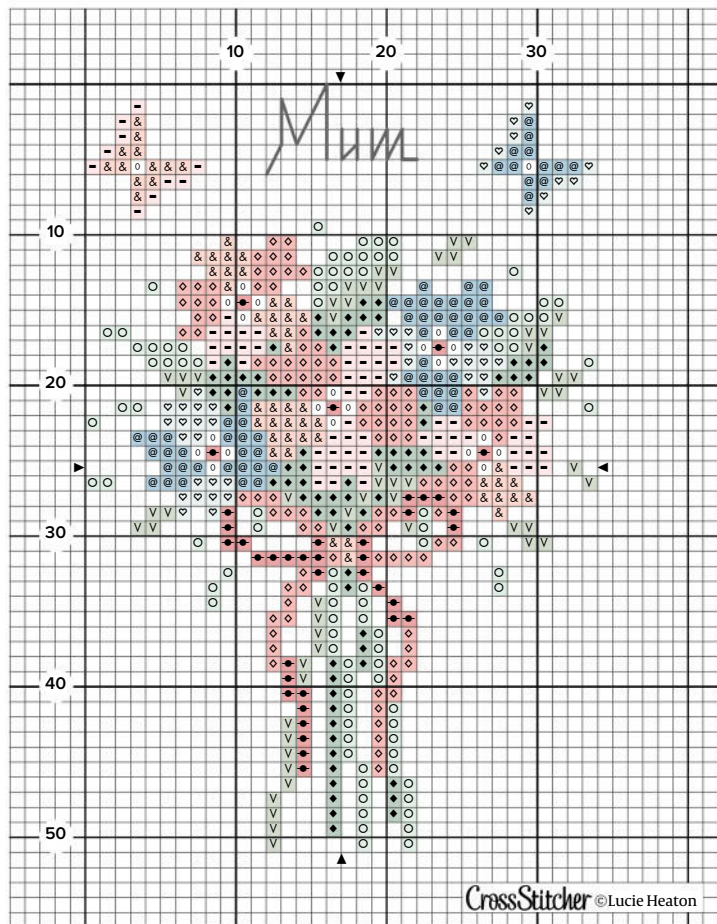
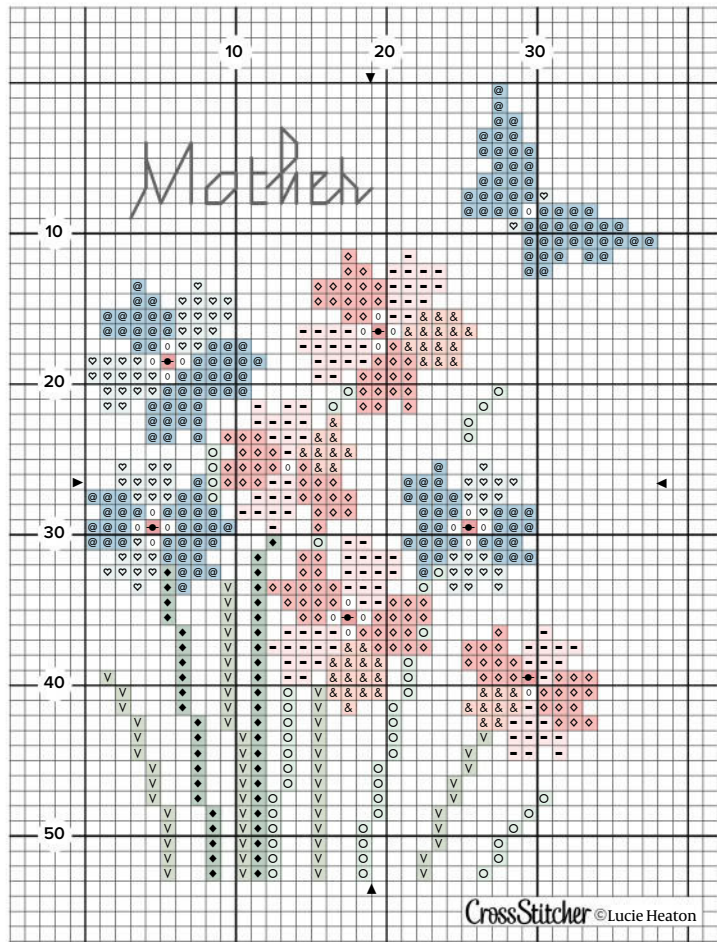


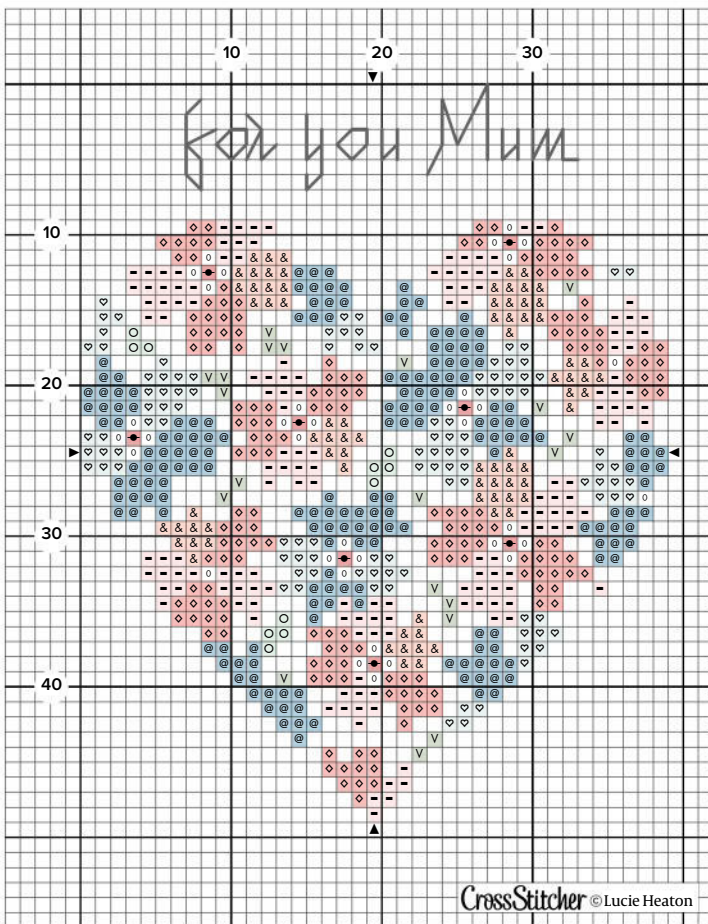
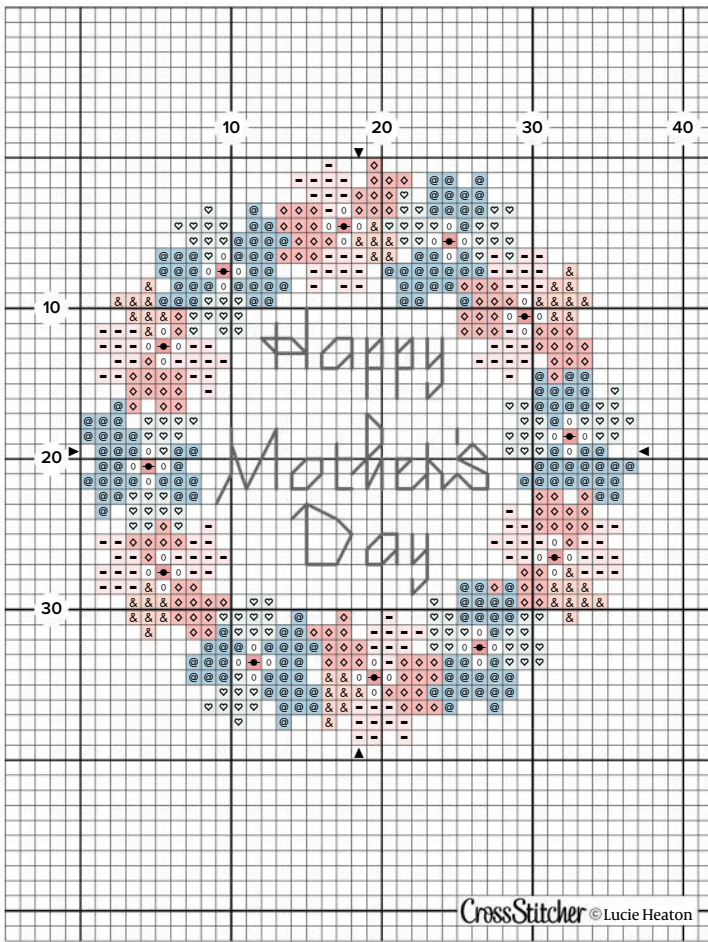


Designed by: Lucie Heaton
 Max. stitch count: 53 high x 39 wide
 Max. design size: 10x7cm (4x2¾in)
 Stitch time: 12 hours (all four)

These designs were stitched on 14 count aida fabric.

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
■ ■	151	023	607
◆ ◆	502	876	1703
V V	503	875	1702
@ @	518	1039	1106
● ●	3350	059	603
◇ ◇	3731	076	506
& &	3733	075	813
♡ ♡	3761	928	1014
○ ○	3813	875	111
○ ○	blanc	001	white
Backstitch in two strands			
—	3799	236	1713
outlines			





Make a... patch card

Step 1

WORK all the cross stitch and backstitch in two strands of stranded cotton.

Step 2

CUT around the stitching, leaving eight blank aida squares outside the design on all sides. Fray three of these squares – remove one at a time, carefully peeling the threads away.

Step 3

MACHINE stitch the aida centrally onto the front of a blank card, stitching one square inside the frayed edge. Or, if you prefer, use double-sided tape to stick the stitching to the front of the card.



Give your card extra texture and detail by adding a bead to the centre of each flower

Materials

For each card

- Zweigart 14 count cream aida, ref: 3706/264, 12.5x10cm (5x4in)
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Size 24 tapestry needle
- Card to fit the design

For stockist details see page 84

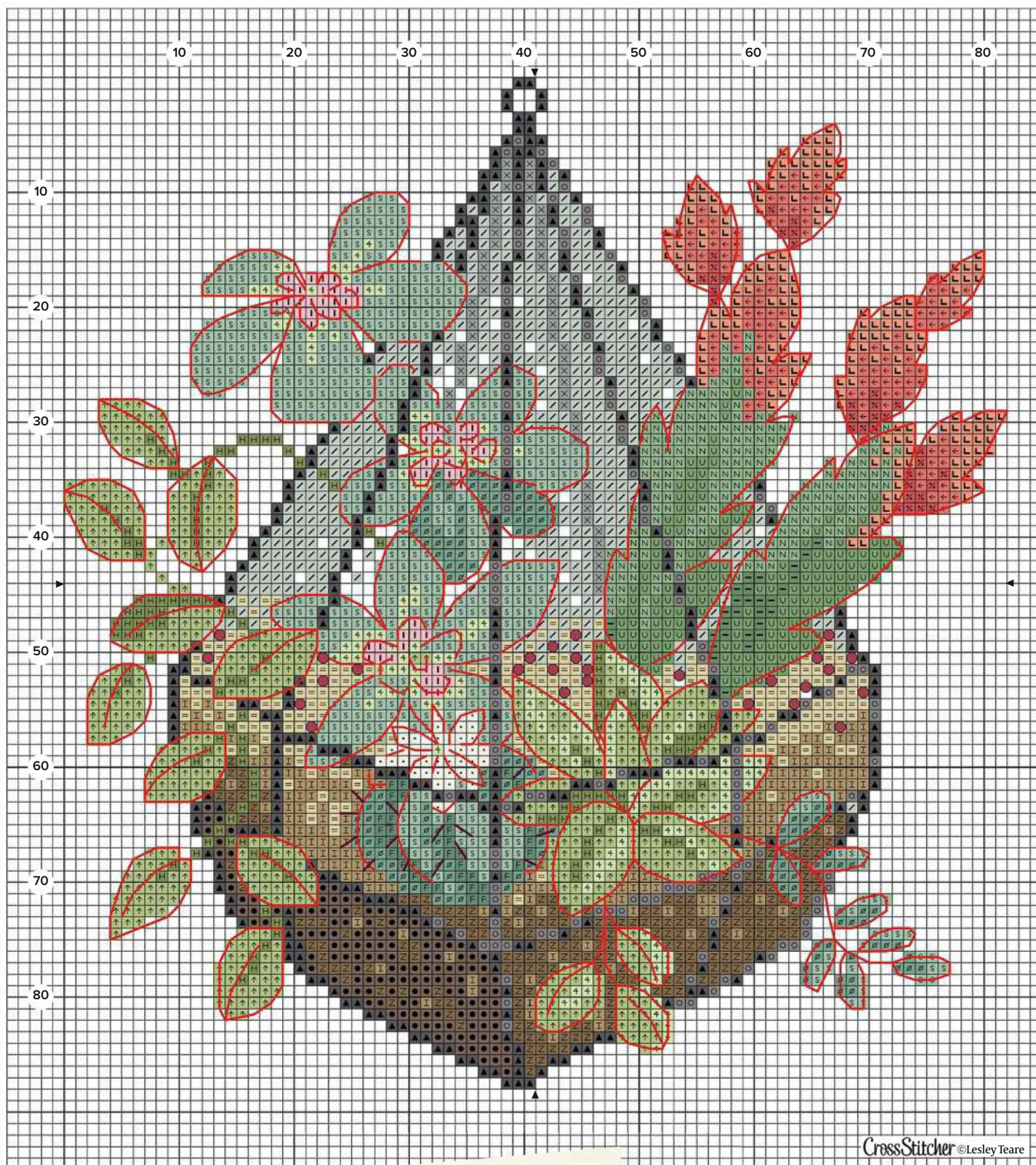


Hanging **GARDEN**

Love plants but don't have green fingers? Our terrarium can be grown with just stranded cottons and a needle!







CrossStitcher ©Lesley Teare

Materials

- Zweigart 14 count white aida, ref: 3706/100, 34x28cm (13½x11in)
 - Stranded cotton as listed in the key
 - Size 24 tapestry needle
 - Frame with a 23x19cm (9x7½in) aperture
 - Mount board to fit frame
- For stockist details see page 84



Designed by: Lesley Teare

Stitch count: 88 high x 82 wide

Design size: 16x15cm (6¼x6in)

Stitch time: 23 hours

This design was stitched on 14 count aida fabric.

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
✕ ✕	169	849	1802
○ ○	317	400	1714
⊗ ⊗	350	011	213
← ←	351	010	214
N N	368	214	1310
H H	470	267	1502
4 4	772	259	1604
● ●	839	1086	1913
Z Z	869	944	2105
— —	987	244	1403
U U	988	243	1402
I I	3045	888	2103
= =	3047	853	2205
L L	3341	328	302
↑ ↑	3348	264	1409
I I	3689	049	607
▲ ▲	3799	236	1713
F F	3815	877	1205
∅ ∅	3816	876	1702
S S	3817	875	1111
• •	3865	002	2402

Cross stitch in one strand

/ /	928	274	1709
-----	-----	-----	------

Backstitch in one strand

—	blanc cactus	001	white
—	986 outlines	246	1404

French knots in one strand

●	3045 stones	888	2103
---	----------------	-----	------



TURN TO
PAGE 69
TO LEARN
HOW TO FRAME
YOUR PICTURE

The glass effect is created by working the cross stitch in just one strand of stranded cotton, with the rest of the cross stitch in two strands



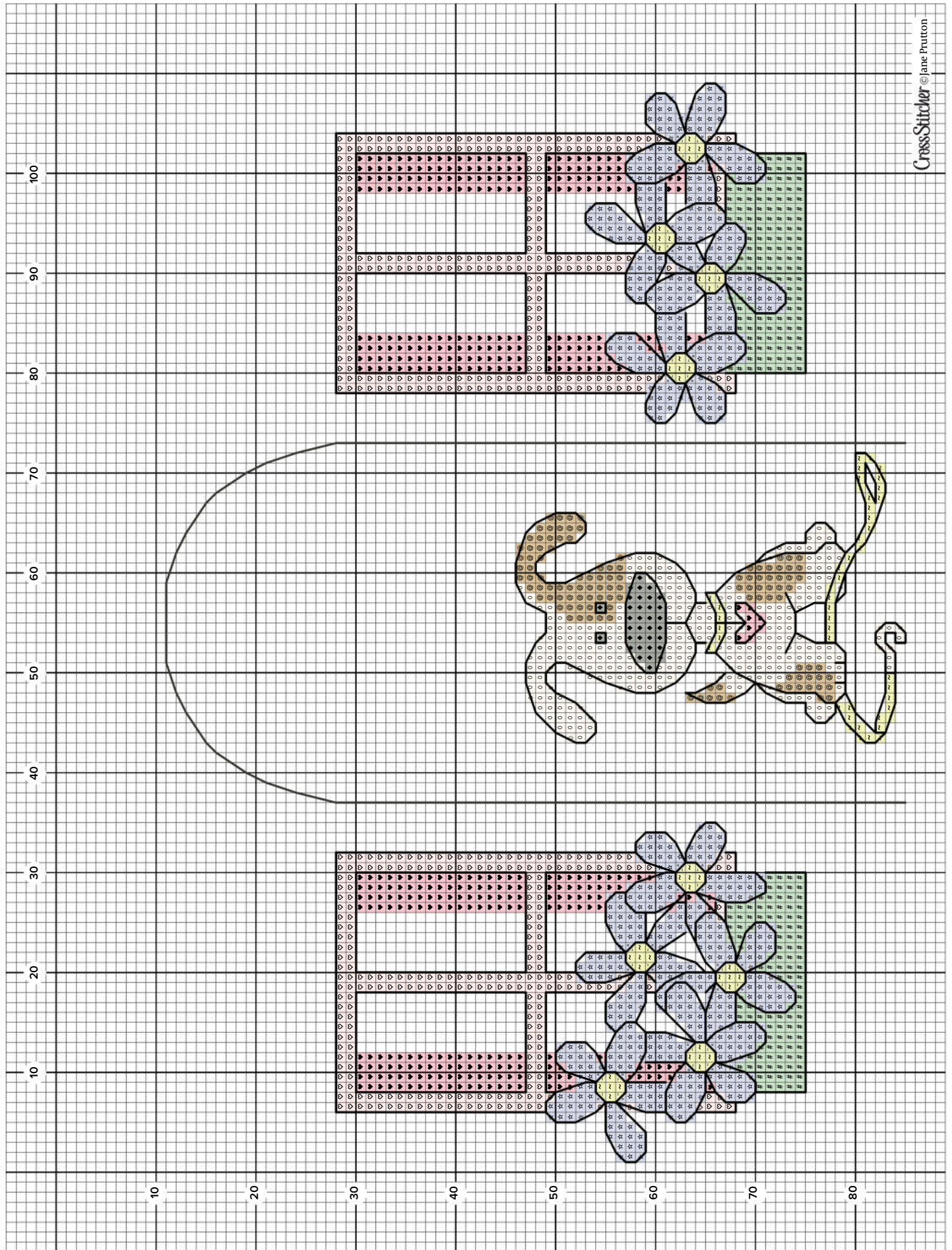


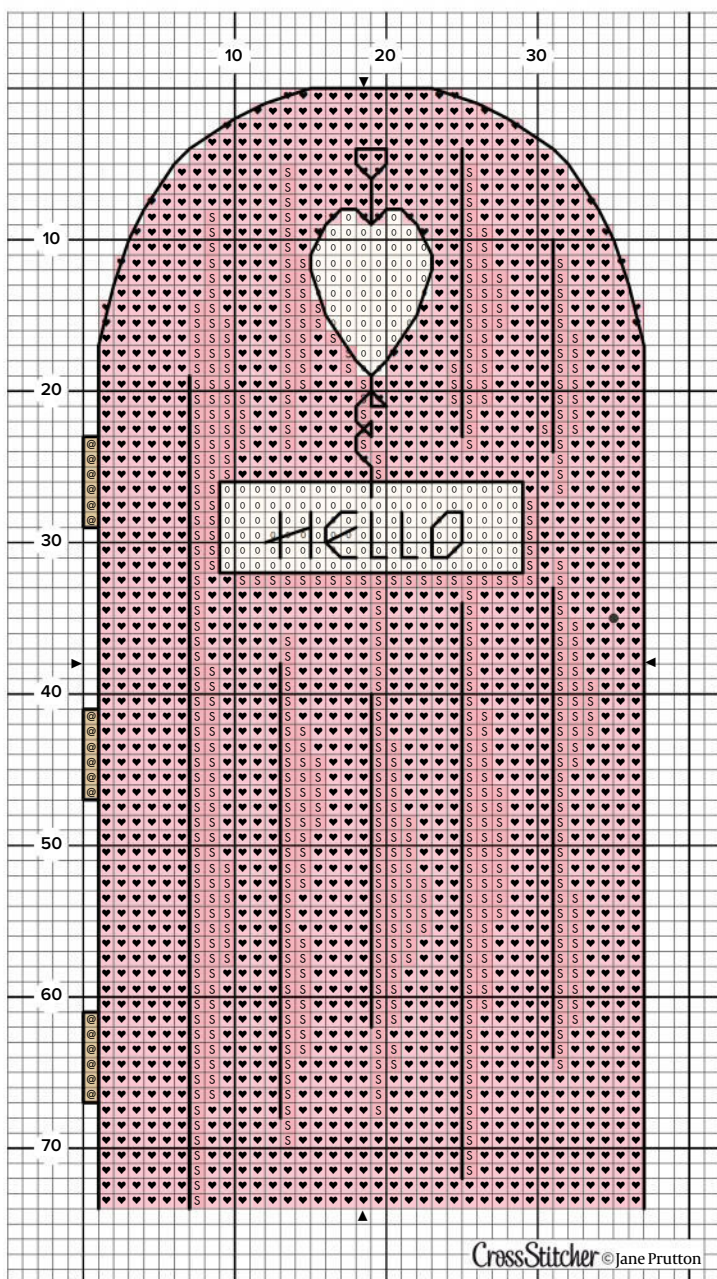


home from home

Perfect for taking playtime on the move, kids will go crazy for our clever foldaway doll's house, complete with movable pieces

HOME FROM HOME





Designed by: Jane Prutton

Stitch time: 100 hours

These designs were stitched on 28 count evenweave over two threads of the fabric.

Materials

- Zweigart 28 count white Brittney evenweave, ref: 3270/100, 35.5x44cm (14x17½in) x 2 for the inside and outside of the doll's house; 63x20cm (25x8in) for the doll, cupcake, cooker, bath, bedspread & door
- Cotton fabric for the roof, 43x15in (17x6in) x 2 pieces
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Size 26 tapestry needle
- Cotton tape for bag handles, 2.5x30.5cm (1x12in) x 2 strips
- Felt backing for the doll and cupcake
- Velcro dots

For stockist details see page 84

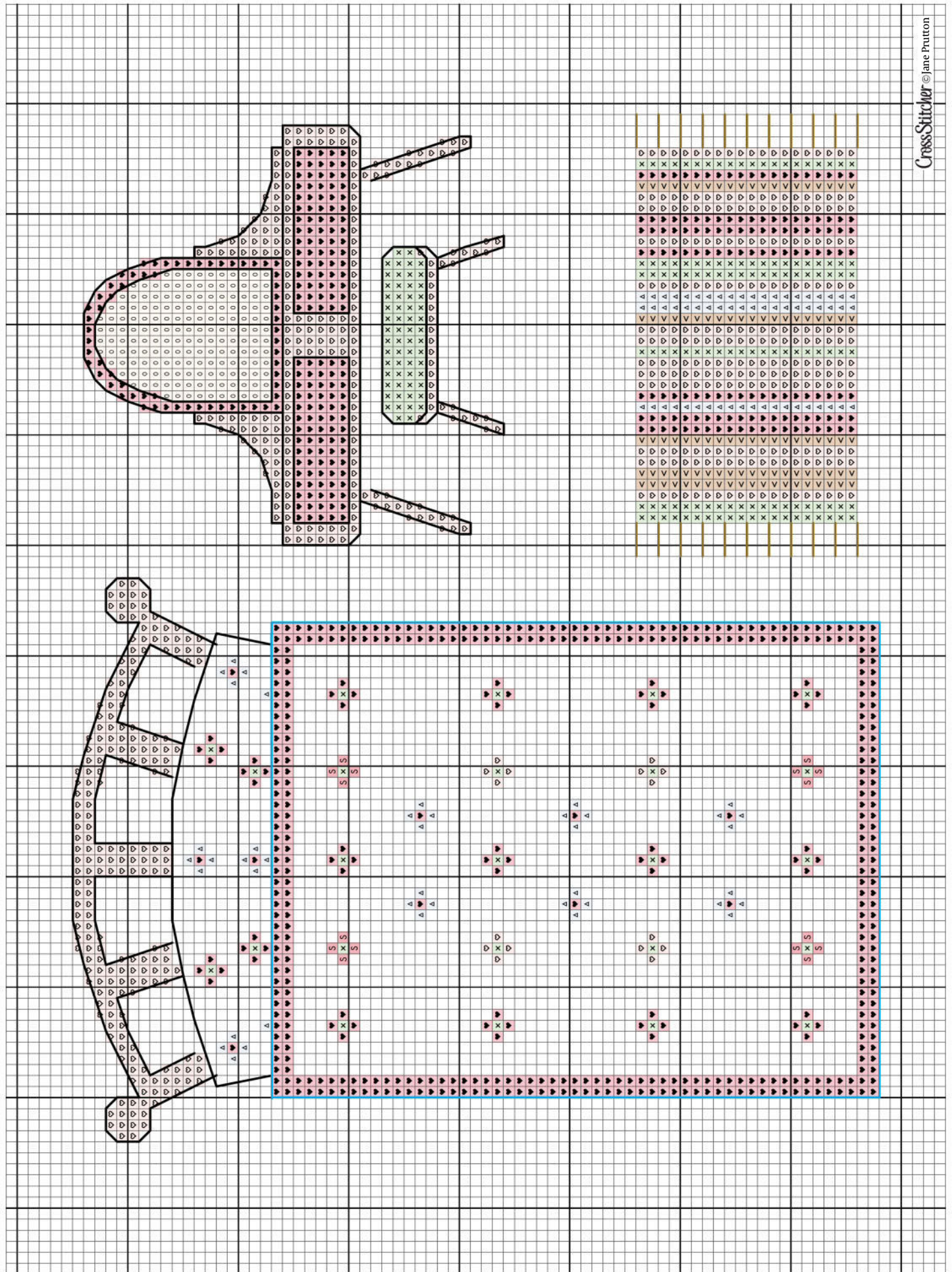
DMC Anchor Madeira Cross stitch in two strands

▲ ▲	159	120	901
8 8	415	398	1803
@ @	435	1046	2010
V V	436	1045	2011
~ ~	472	253	1414
◆ ◆	535	1041	1809
S S	602	063	702
♥ ♥	603	052	701
♡ ♡	605	074	613
0 0	712	926	2101
△ △	800	159	908
☆ ☆	809	130	909
% %	819	271	501
★ ★	840	1084	1912
< <	841	1082	1911
# #	954	202	1211
× ×	955	206	1210
E E	3822	295	2511
• •	blanc	001	white

Backstitch in two strands

—	535	1041	1809
---	-----	------	------

outlines



How to... stitch your doll's house design

Step 1

TAKE one of your 35.5x44cm (14x17½in) pieces of Brittny evenweave fabric and fold it both ways to find the centre. Next, stitch a row of running stitches in one strand, horizontally and vertically, crossing at the centre. You are now ready to start stitching the interior rooms of the doll's house.

Step 2

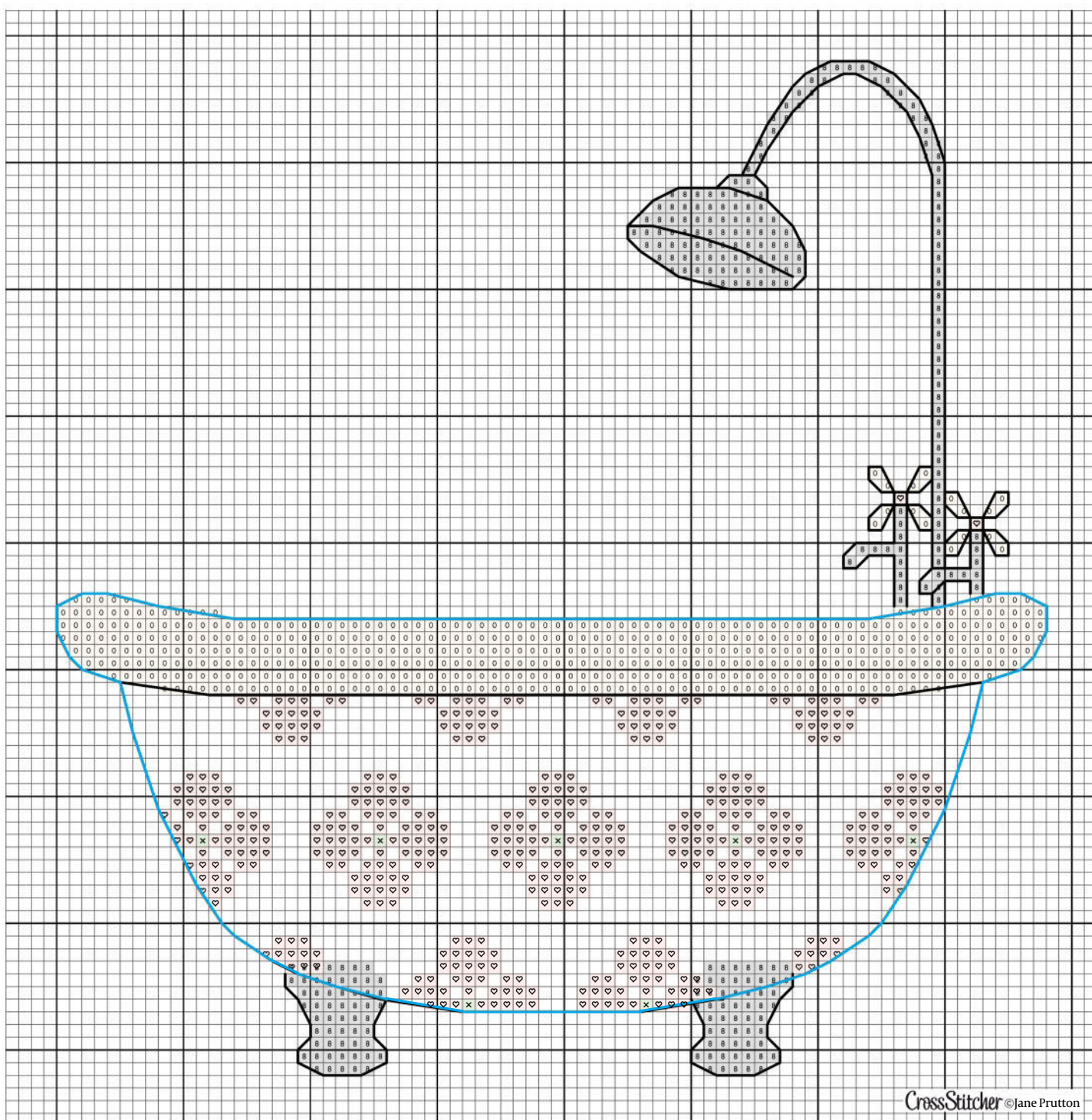
LEAVE the 1.25cm (½in) seam allowance on all sides of the fabric blank and stitch the furniture where you would like it to go in each room, using two strands for the cross stitch and one for the backstitch over two threads of fabric. There is no right and wrong position, and you may wish to swap things between rooms.

Step 3

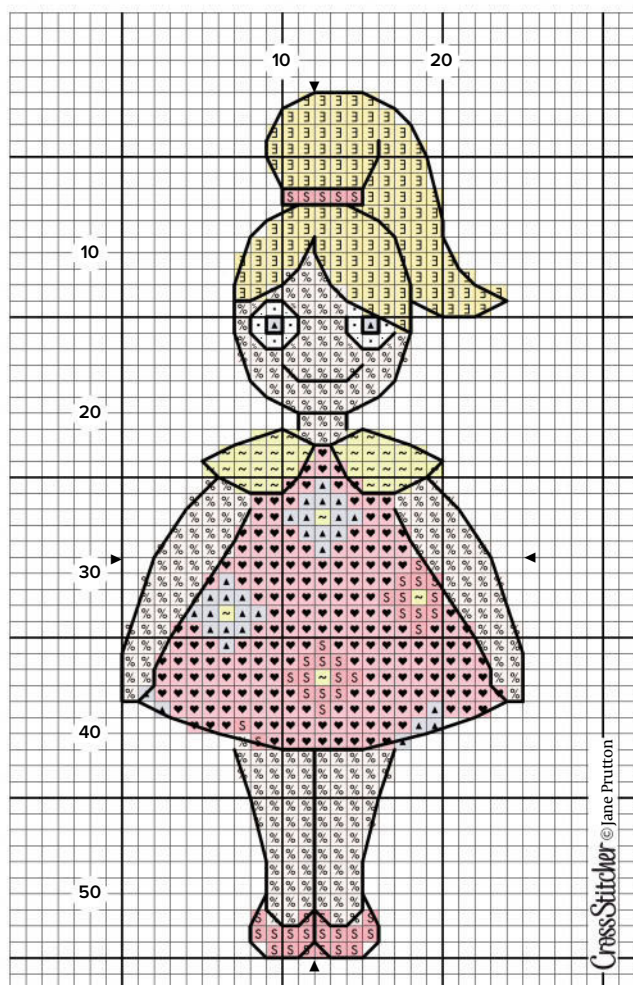
OMIT the parts of the chart that are outlined in blue; ie. the bath, bedspread, door, doll, cake and cooker. These will all need to be stitched separately on the 63x20cm (25x8in) piece of evenweave fabric. You should allow at least 3.5cm (1½in) between each of these small parts when you are stitching them, to allowing for trimming.

Step 4

FINISH stitching the rooms. Use the other 35.5x44cm (14x17½in) piece of Brittny to stitch the house front, without the door. Ensure that window boxes and dog are positioned in the top right segment of the fabric, with the bottom of the window boxes towards the horizontal centre line, so they are placed correctly when the house is folded up.



CrossStitcher ©Jane Prutton



How to... make up the smaller pieces

Step 1

CUT out the stitched bedspread, leaving about 1.25cm (½in) on all sides. Turn over the unstitched fabric onto the wrong side, and then catch stitch it in place. Turn over the remaining three edges, iron, then place the bedspread in position on the bed. Catch stitch the edges of the bedspread to the background fabric, leaving the top open.

Step 2

REPEAT for the bath and the cooker, leaving the top edge open. Place the stitched door face down on a piece of Brittony fabric. Machine stitch around the edge of the door, following the stitching and leaving the bottom open. Cut away some of the seam allowance, clip the curves and then turn to the right side. Fold in the seam allowance at the bottom, and then sew up using small, neat stitches. Attach to the front of the house between the windows, down the left-hand side of the door on the hinges.

Step 3

CUT out the doll and cupcake, leaving a small seam allowance on all sides. Turn the seam allowance over onto the back of the shape. Cut felt backs, then place on the back of the stitching. Using small, neat stitches, sew the felt in place. The cupcake can be placed in the oven, and the doll will fit in the bath or bed.

How to... assemble the house

Step 1

PLACE the right side of the front and back house fabric facing, then stitch down the left and right-hand edges with a 1.25cm (½in) seam allowance. Take care that the house front is behind the bedroom when assembled.

Step 2

FOLD both pieces of roof fabric in half lengthways. Turn under the 1.25cm (½in) seam allowance on the long edges to the wrong side of the fabric and press in place. Place the roofs onto the top and bottom of the house. To make the roof slope at the corners, put a row of pins at an angle, from the point where the roof touches the house, to the fold at the top. Make sure all the angles are the same and then machine stitch in place on the wrong side of the fabric. Place the two roofs in position and then catch stitch on both sides to the house.

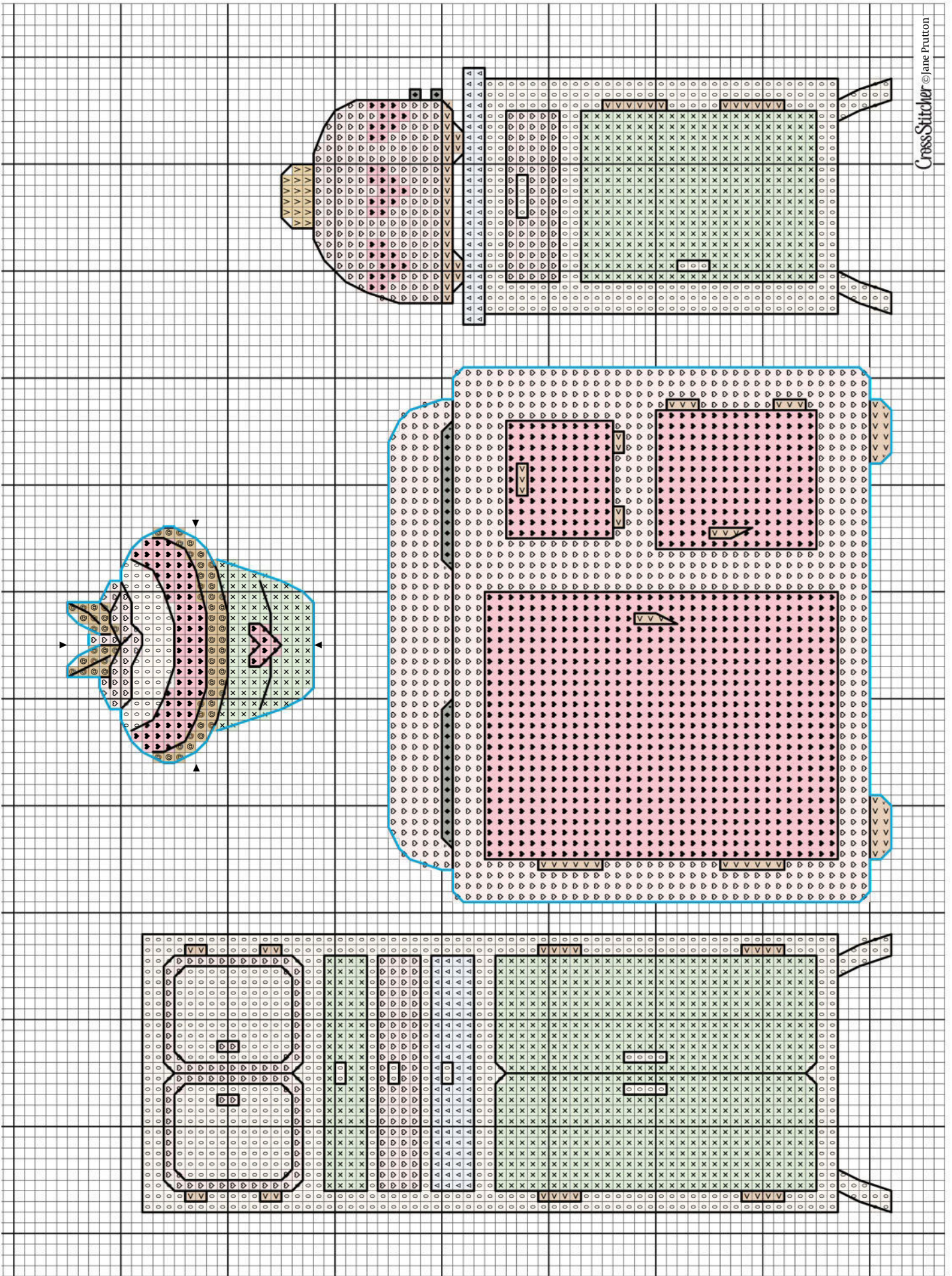
Step 3

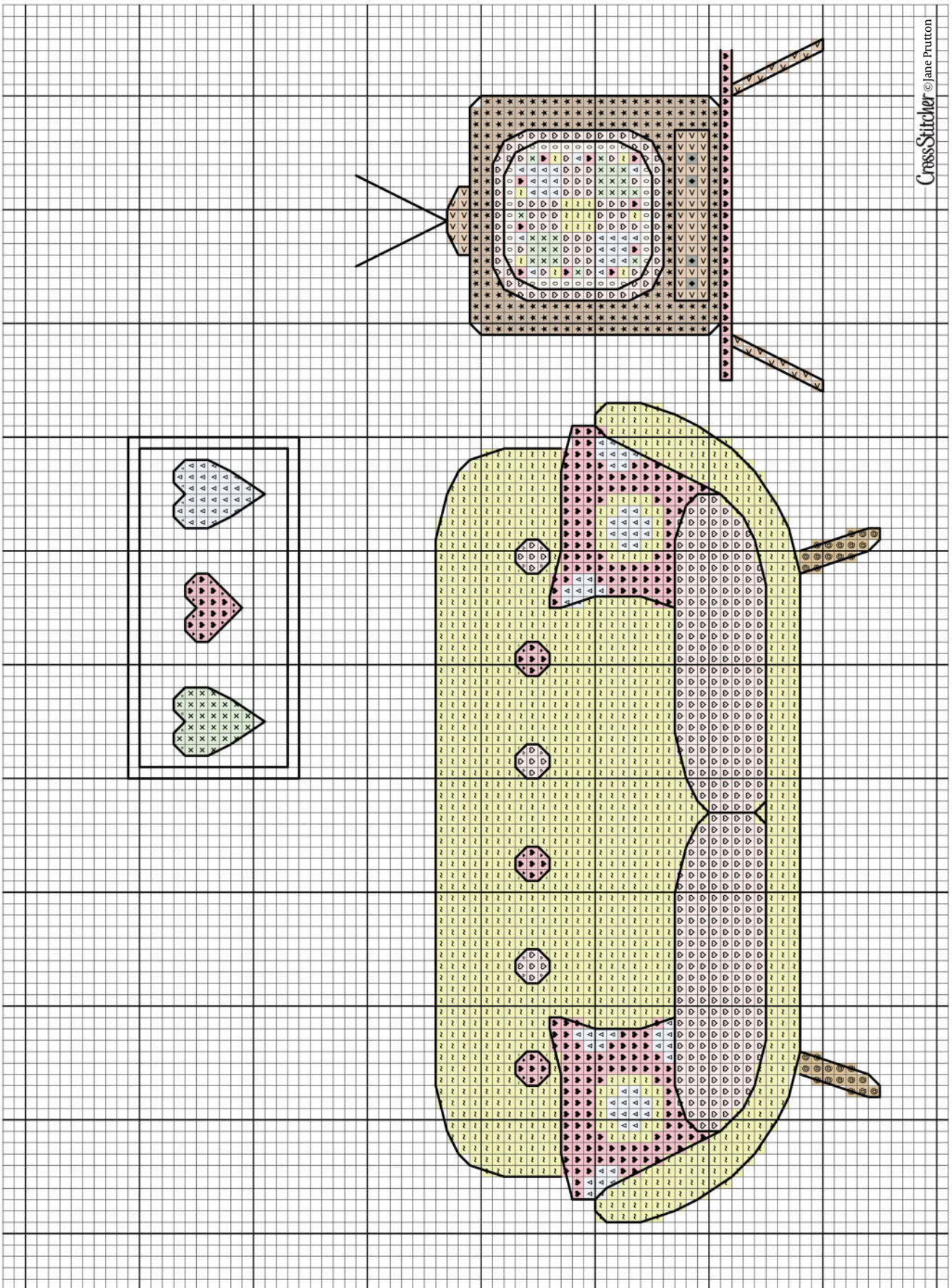
ATTACH the two handles to the roof on the front of the house by folding under both cut ends on each handle. Place in position on the roof, one centrally above the door, and one centrally above the blank section to its left. Machine stitch the ends of each handle in place.

Step 4

FOLD up the house; the door should be on the front, and the handles should come together like a bag. Push in the left-hand edge of the roof to make it slope. Add Velcro dots to the layers to keep the house securely closed when carried.







Don't stop there! Why not add your own furniture, windows and curtains or stitch a complete family of dolls to live in your house?



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Easter



- Easter Chart Book No. 280
- Family Celebrations Chart Book No. 281
- Kids XXL Chart Book No. 283

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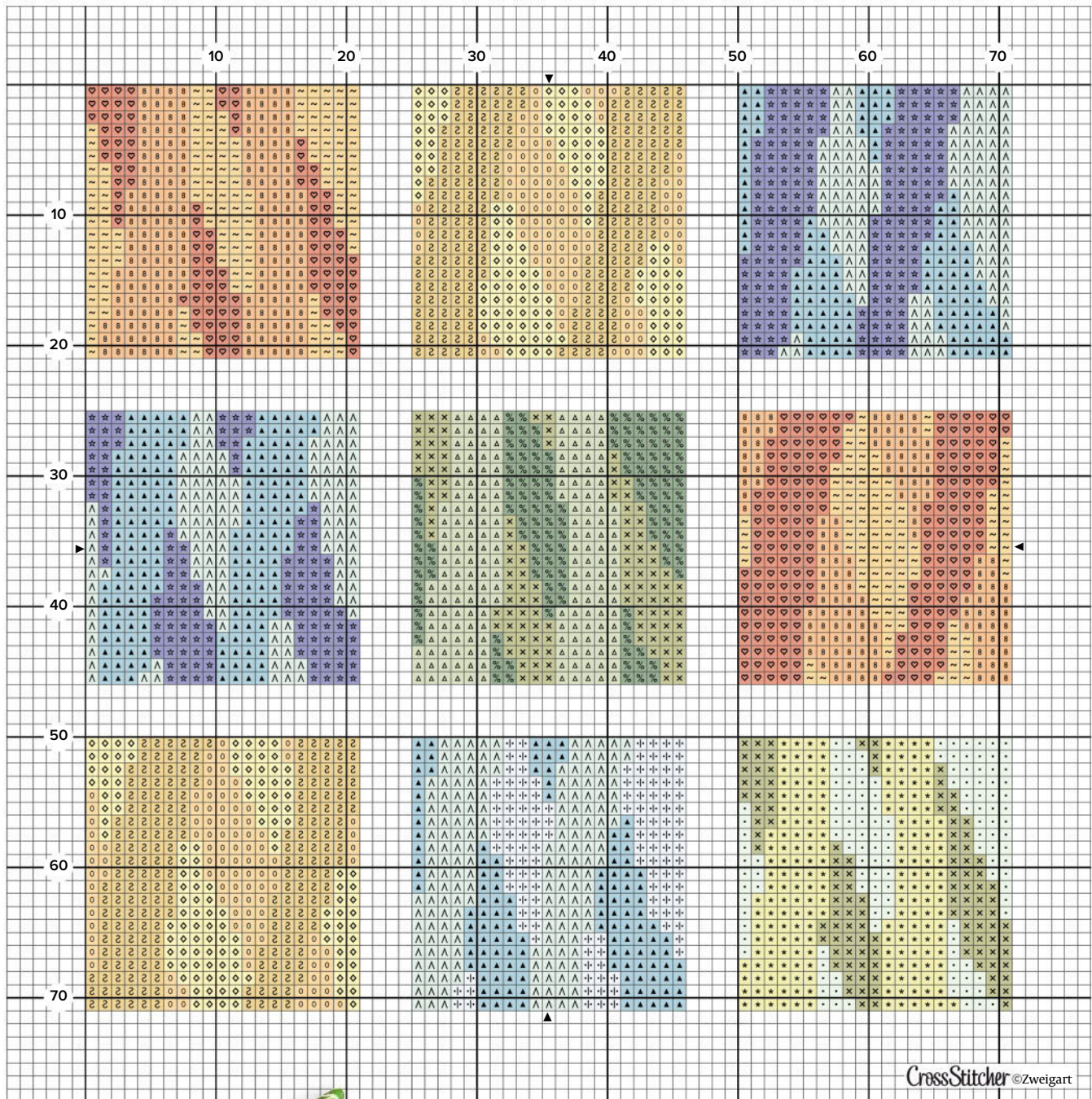
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**IN
GREAT
SHAPE**

Don't be square! Shape up
your home décor for spring with
Zweigart's fab geometric patterns

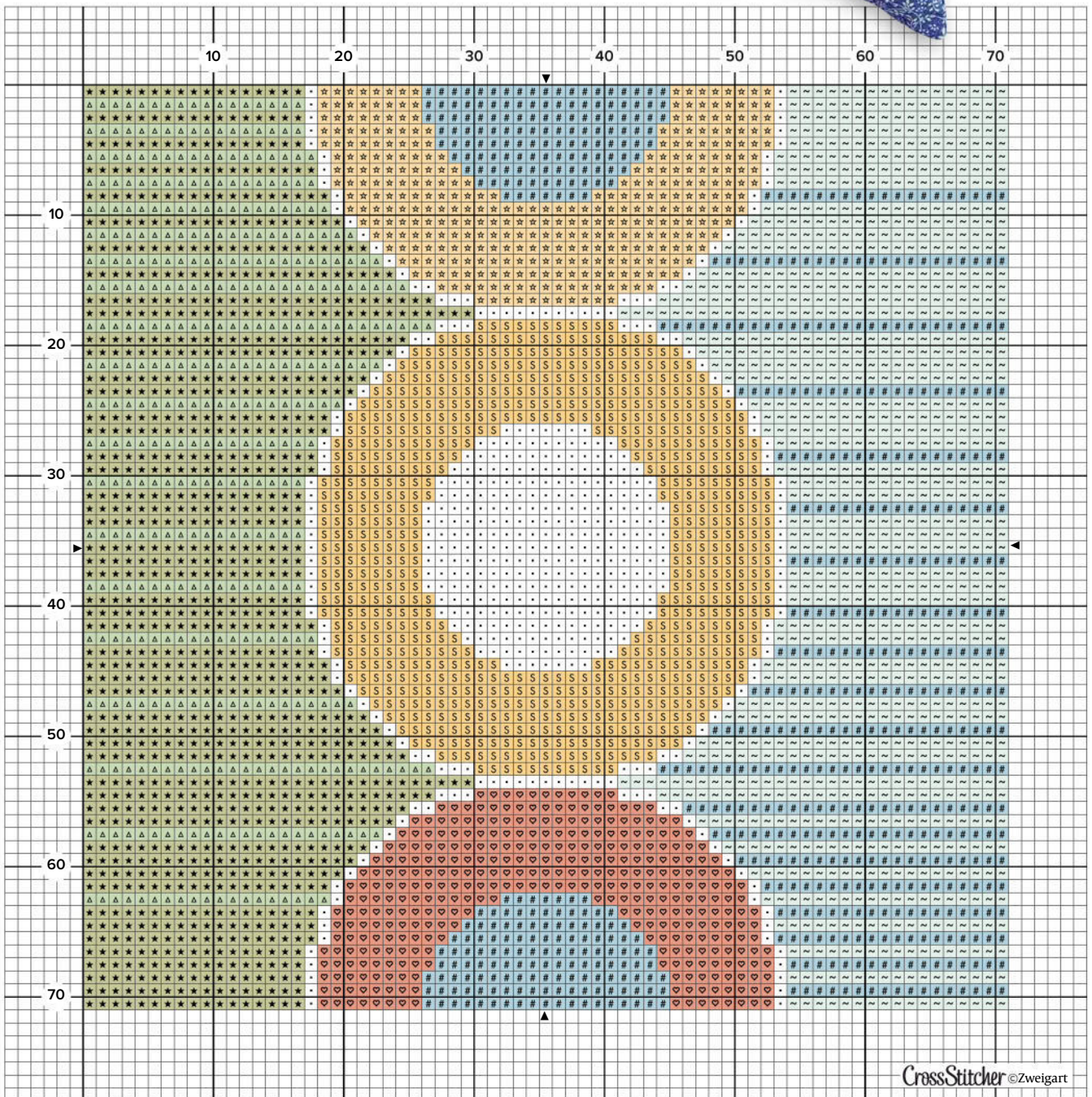


	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
* *	165	278	1414
♥ ♥	321	019	510
× ×	470	267	1502
8 8	721	324	308
◇ ◇	726	305	109
0 0	742	303	114
2 2	783	306	2211
☆ ☆	797	931	912

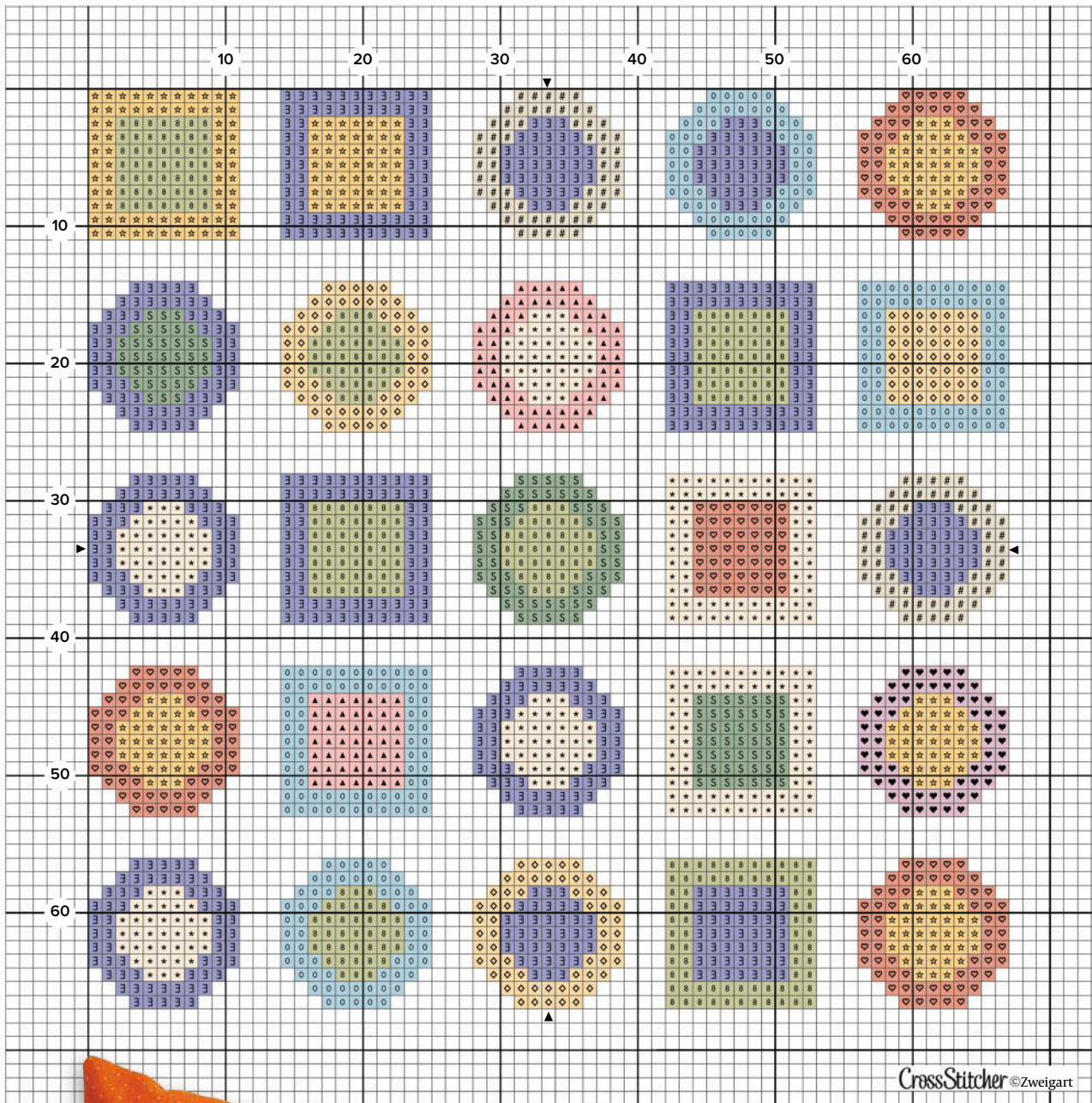
	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
▲ ▲	807	1039	1109
· ·	828	975	1101
∧ ∧	964	1092	1112
▪ ▪	966	206	1209
% %	986	246	1404
△ △	989	241	1401
~ ~	3854	313	2301



	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
♥ ♥	321	019	510
★ ★	470	267	1502
S S	741	304	201
☆ ☆	742	303	114
# #	807	1039	1109
~ ~	964	1092	1112
△ △	988	243	1402
▪ ▪	B5200	001	white



CrossStitcher ©Zweigart



CrossStitcher ©Zweigart



DMC Anchor Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands

♥ ♥	321	019	510
8 8	470	267	1502
♥ ♥	553	098	712
# #	642	392	1906
☆ ☆	741	304	201
◇ ◇	742	303	114
∩ ∩	797	931	912
0 0	807	1039	1109
* *	950	4146	2309
▲ ▲	956	041	611
S S	986	246	1404



Designed by: Zweigart

Max. stitch count: 71 high x 71 wide

Design size: 13x13cm (5¼x5¼in)

Stitch time: 18 hours each

These designs were stitched on 14 count aida fabric.

Make a... cushion

Step 1

TURN under the edges of your stitched aida, leaving three blank aida squares outside the stitching. Press, and then pin, the aida in the centre of one piece of cotton fabric. Machine stitch around the edge of the design, following one of the blank aida squares.

Step 2

PLACE the assembled cushion front face up on the table, on top of this place the cushion back, face down. Pin together and then machine stitch around the edge, leaving a gap on one side for turning.

Step 3

TURN to the right side through the gap, and then insert a cushion pad or fill with toy stuffing. Sew up the gap with small, neat stitches.

These are perfect projects for using up any left-over thread ends in your stash!

Materials

For each cushion

- Zweigart 14 count white aida, ref: 3706/100, 18x18cm (7x7in)
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Size 24 tapestry needle
- Cotton fabric for the cushion front & back, 30.5x30.5cm (12x12in) x 2 pieces
- Toy stuffing or 25.5x25.5cm (10x10in) cushion pad

For stockist details see page 84

MORE TO ENJOY...



Like these designs? Then you'll love Zweigart's *Modern Art* chart book (No. 250), which they were taken from. The book also contains a set of abstract-style landscapes and more cool geometric patterns – which are all perfect to stitch as pictures or to make as bright home décor projects. RRP £6.50, to order visit www.sewandso.co.uk.





River Ripples

We've gone fishing and found this 'fintastic' sampler for you to stitch – worked all in blue for a cool finish

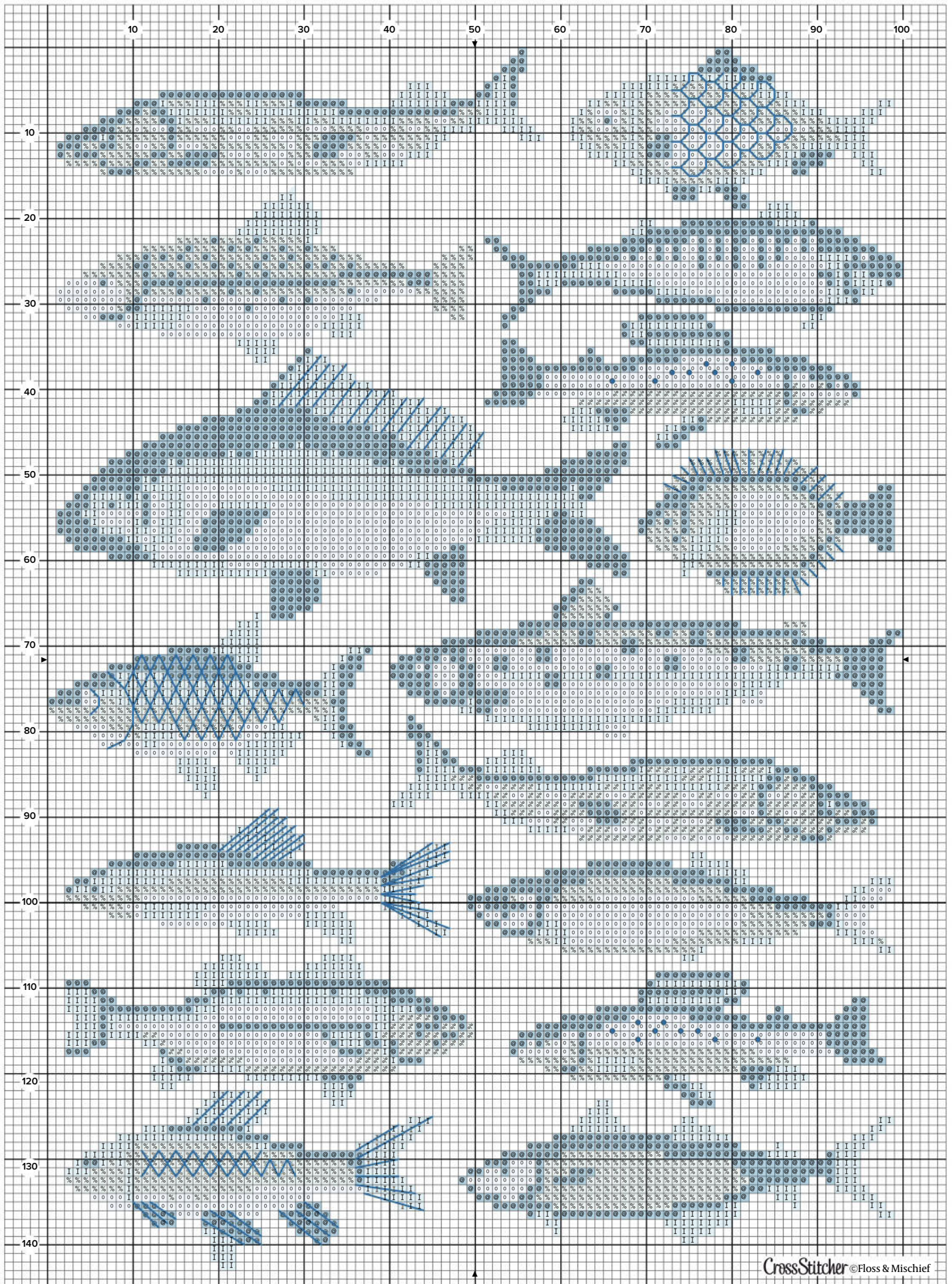


Designed by:
Genevieve Brading, Floss & Mischief





RIVER RIPPLES



CrossStitcher © Floss & Mischief

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
◆ ◆	311	148	1006
I I	517	162	1107 (2)
% %	518	1039	1106 (2)
0 0	519	1038	1105 (2)
@ @	3842	162	1011 (2)
Backstitch in one strand			
—	311	148	1006
	outlines		
French knots in one strand			
●	311	148	1006
	markings		

(2) indicates more than one skein is required



Stitch count: 143 high x 100 wide

Design size: 26.5x18cm (10½x7¼in) Stitch time: 37 hours

This design was stitched on 14 count aida fabric.

Materials

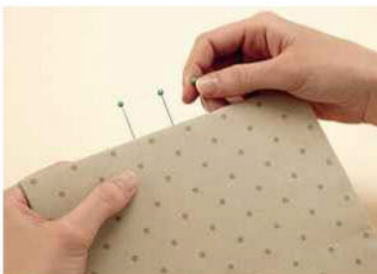
Picture

- Zweigart 14 count ice blue aida, ref. 3706/550, 38x30cm (15x12in)
 - Stranded cotton as listed in the key
 - Size 24 tapestry needle
 - Small button for eye
 - Frame with a 30x25cm (12x9¾in) aperture
 - Mount board
- For stockist details see page 84

It's easy to make a smaller picture by selecting just some of the fish to stitch, such as those in the centre of the design

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.



Stitch count: 13 high x 38 wide each
Design size: 7x2.5cm (2¾x1in) each
Stitch time: 4 hours each

This design was stitched on 14 count aida fabric.

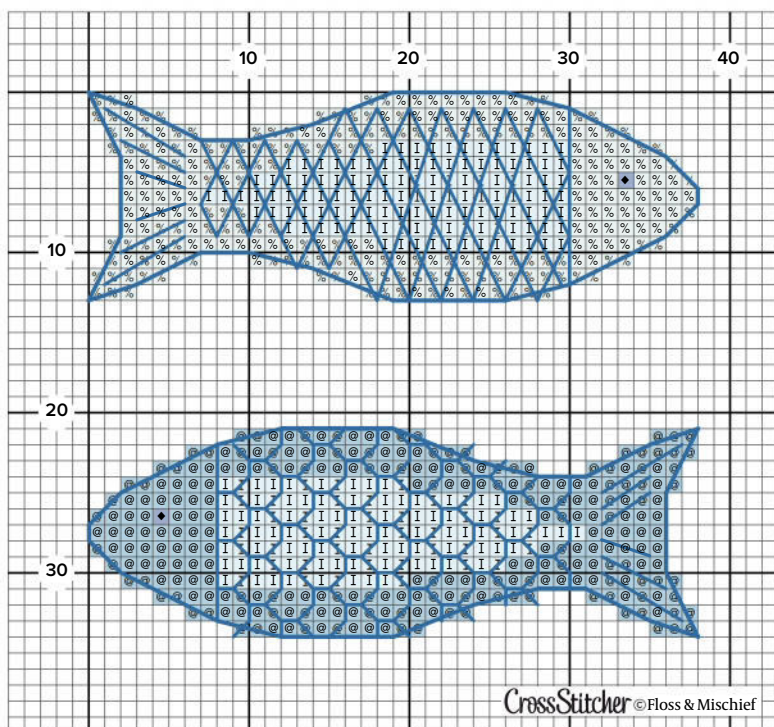
Make a... hanging fish

Step 1

STITCH your fish onto aida fabric. Place the stitching and the felt right sides together, and then stitch around the shape of the fish, just outside the outer row of cross stitch, leaving the bottom edge (tail end) open.

Step 2

TRIM off the excess seam allowance, and then turn your fish to the right side. Thread a large-eyed needle with baker's twine, then tie a knot in the end of the twine. Push the needle up through the fish, bringing it out through his nose. Stuff with toy stuffing, then turn in the seam allowance at the tail before catch stitching in place. Sew a button on the fish for an eye to finish.



Turn your stuffed fish into a key fob by creating a baker's twine loop at the top, threading it through a keyring first

Materials

Hanging fish

- Zweigart 14 count ice blue aida, ref: 3706/550, 10x5cm (4x2in) for each fish
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Size 24 tapestry needle
- Felt for backing
- Small buttons for eyes
- Baker's twine
- Toy stuffing

For stockist details see page 84



Little Misses

We've three pretty maids all in a row! Complete our fun picture by dressing each little lady with a sweet fabric skirt

LITTLE MISSES

Designed by: Maria Diaz

Max. stitch count: 44 high x 93 wide

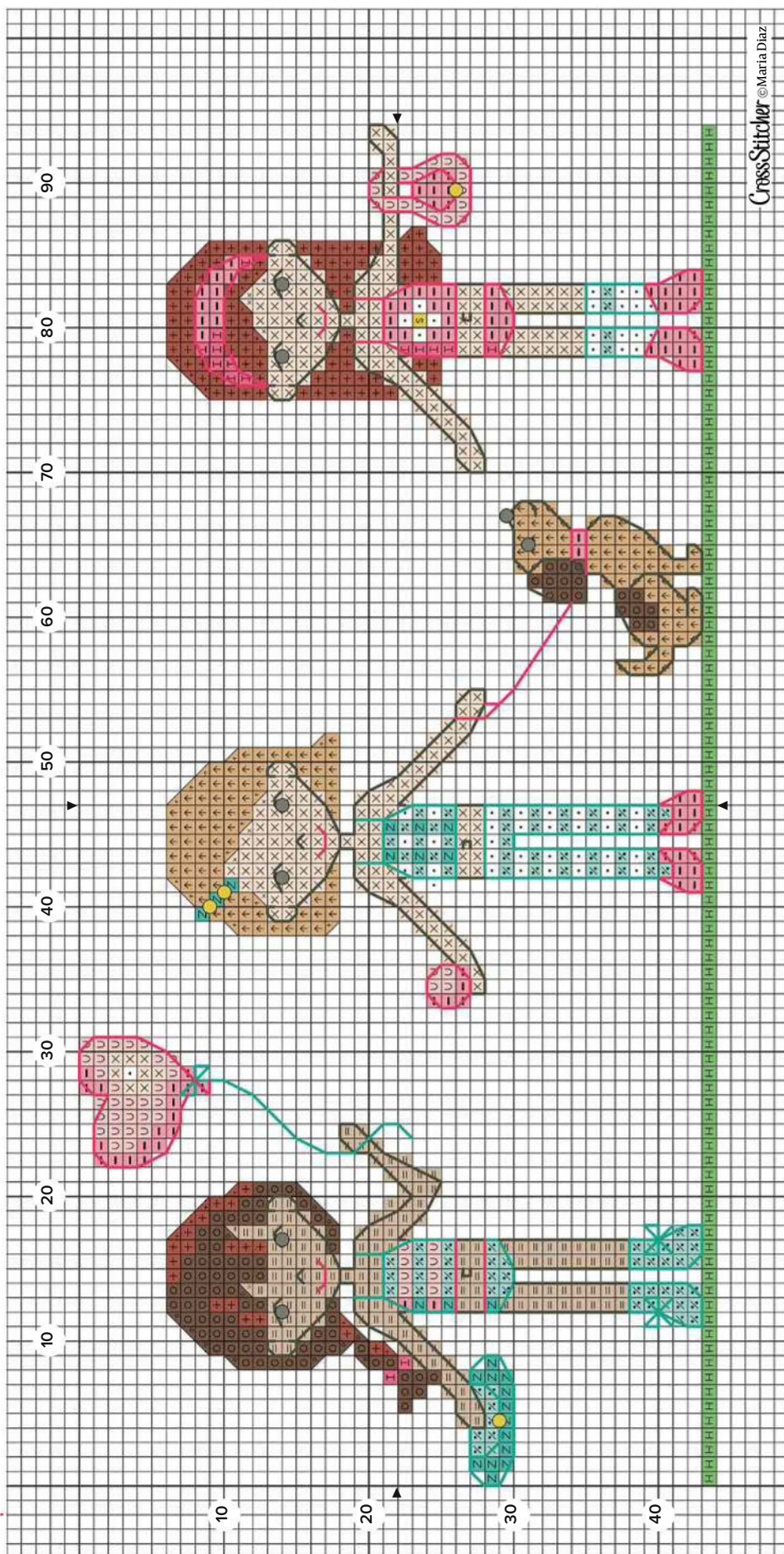
Design size: 8x17cm (3¼x6¾in)

Stitch time: 8 hours

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

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
↑ ↑	437	362	2012
H H	703	238	1307
○ ○	801	359	2007
= =	842	1080	1910
+ +	920	1004	312
X X	948	1011	306
I I	956	041	611
- -	957	031	612
Z Z	958	187	1114
U U	963	023	608
% %	964	1092	1112
• •	B5200	001	white
S S	E3852	metallic	
Backstitch in one strand			
—	645	273	1811
			outlines, eyebrows, noses
—	956	041	611
			outlines, lips
—	958	187	1114
			outlines, string
French knots in one strand			
●	645	273	1811
			eyes, dog's nose
●	E3852	metallic	
			bags, hairband

Not keen on French knots?
Stitch a gold bead
on the bag and
hair slide instead



CrossStitcher © Maria Diaz



For a quicker stitch, Clouds Spring Sky is also available as 14 count aida



How to... make the skirts

Step 1

CUT a 1.5x5cm (½x2in) rectangle of cotton fabric for each skirt.

Step 2

MAKE a row of gathering stitches along one long edge on each piece of fabric. Pull up the thread, forming a skirt shape, and then check it fits the girl before securing the thread. Repeat for the other pieces of fabric.

Step 3

SEW each skirt in place with small, neat stitches.

TURN TO
PAGE 69
TO LEARN
HOW TO FRAME
YOUR PICTURE

Materials

- Fabric Flair 28 count Cloud Spring Sky evenweave, ref: E 28/11, 28x33cm (11x13in)
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Size 26 tapestry needle
- Scraps of cotton fabric for the skirts
- Frame with a 19x24cm (7½x9½in) aperture
- Mount board to fit frame

For stockist details see page 84

Let's get
inspired

MOTHER NATURE

These little babies are really wild about their mums – and together they make the cutest cross stitch gifts!

Designed by: Diane Machin



MATERIALS

Padded animals

- Zweigart 14 count white aida, ref: 3706/100, 12.5x10cm (5x4in)
- Felt for backing
- Toy stuffing

Basket wrap

- Zweigart 14 count white aida, ref: 3706/100, 9x17.5cm (3½x7in)
- Cotton fabric

For both

- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Size 24 tapestry needle

For stockist details see page 84

Make a... padded animal

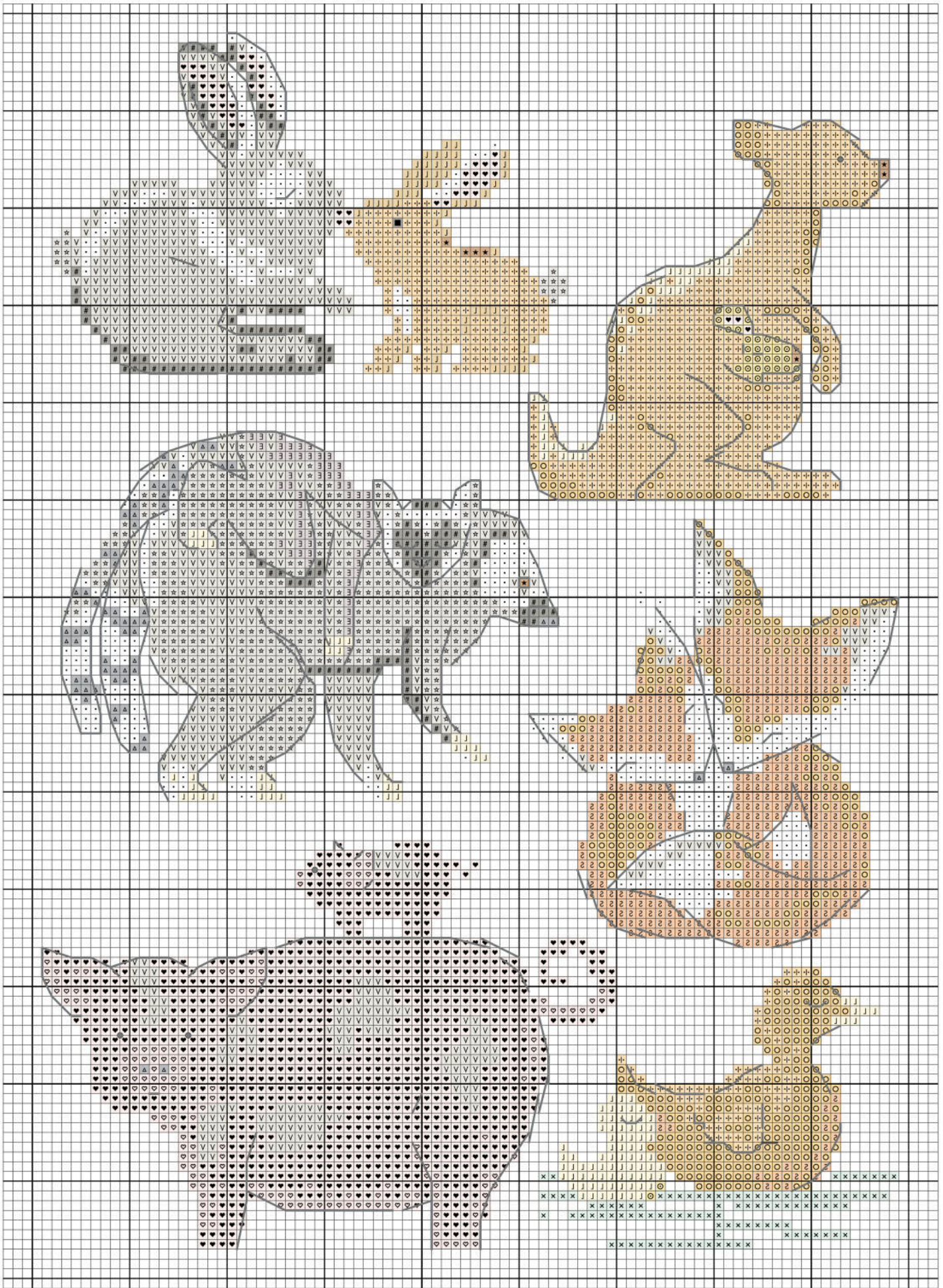
Step 1

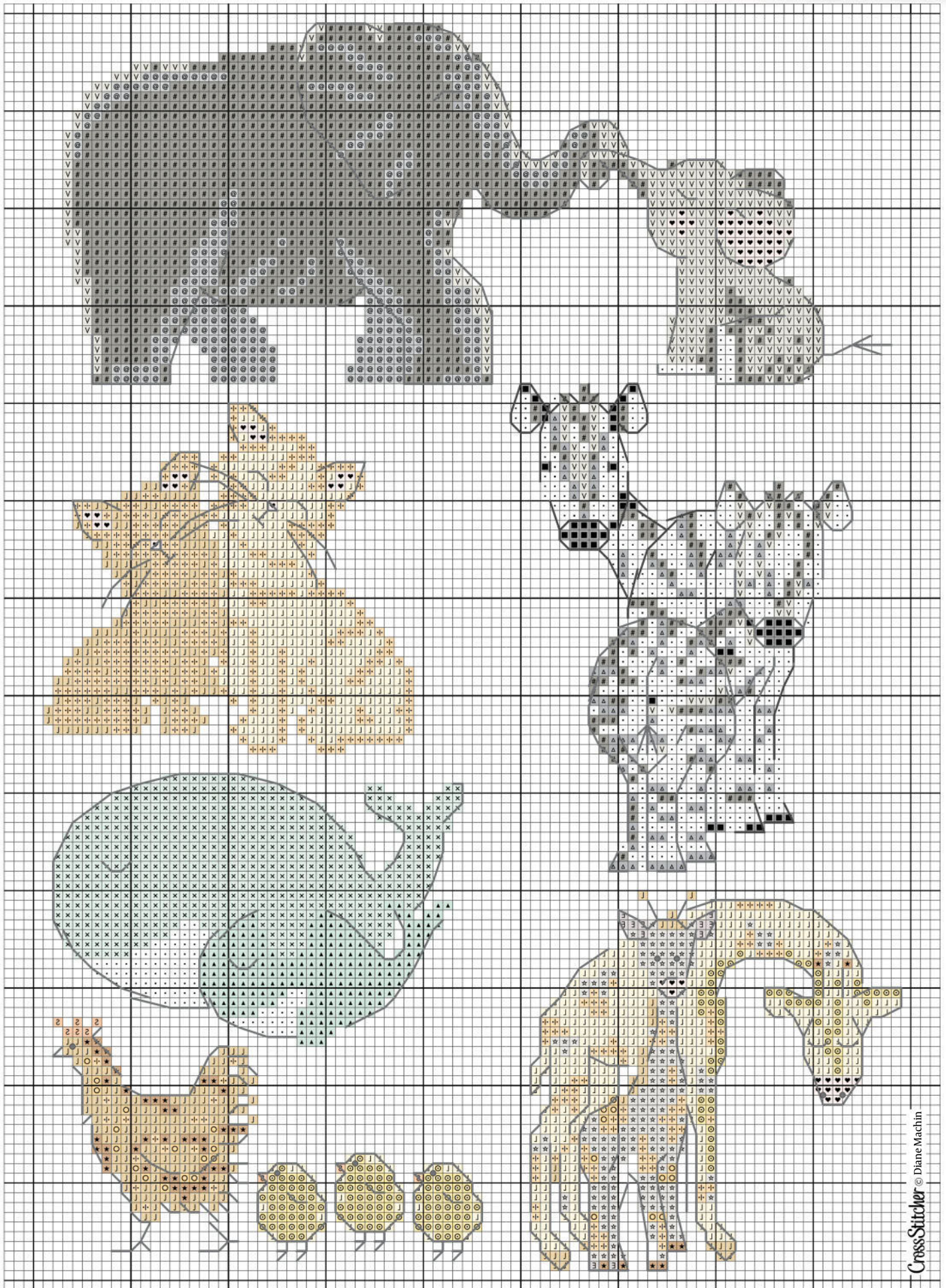
PLACE your stitched aida fabric and felt right sides together. Using a sewing machine, stitch around the rough animal shape, leaving the bottom open for stuffing.

Step 2

TRIM away some of the seam allowance and clip the curved edges before turning to the right side. Fill your animal with toy stuffing, then fold in the bottom edge and close the gap using small, neat stitches.







CrossStitcher © Diane Machin





Max. stitch count: 50 high x 85 wide

Max. design size: 7x15cm (2¾x6in)

Stitch time: various

These designs were stitched on 14 count aida fabric.

To make a basket wrap, cut a length of cotton fabric long enough to tie around your basket. Fray the edge of your stitched aida and then sew it onto the centre front of the fabric wrap

More to make...

Our mothers and babies make the sweetest pairs for more cute projects. Here's a few ideas to try...

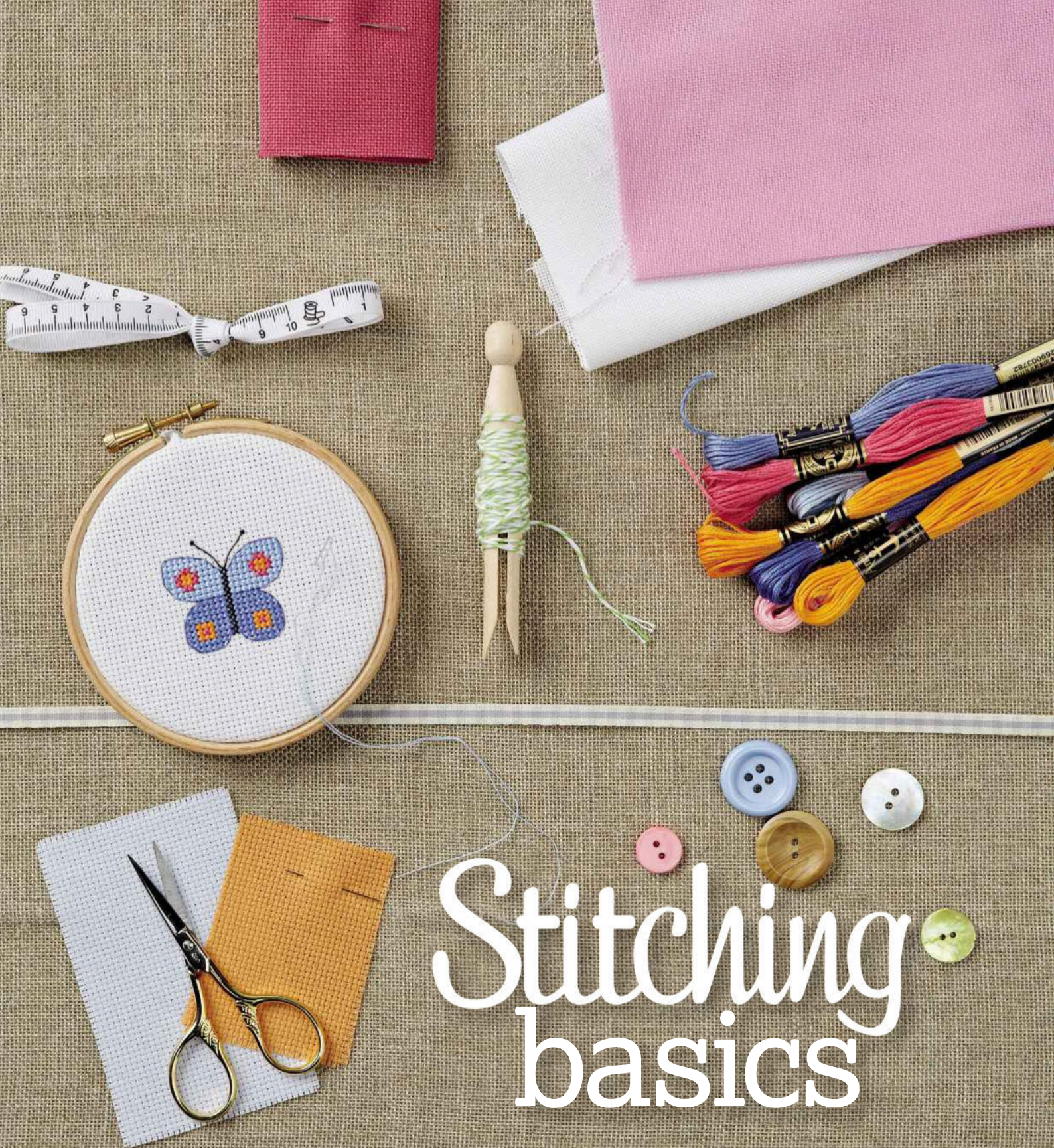
1 Arrange several designs around a stitched alphabet to make a fun nursery sampler.

2 Create a bedroom door plate by stitching one pair of animals next to a little one's name.

3 Use waste canvas to stitch a favourite animal pair onto a child's plain rucksack – so cute!

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira		DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands				Cross stitch in two strands			
	168	274	1803		743	030	2294
	310	403	black		745	300	111
	317	400	1714		818	073	502
	318	399	1802		3340	329	301
	402	347	2307		3854	313	2301
	415	398	1803		blanc	001	white
	434	310	2009	Backstitch in one strand			
	436	1045	2011		317	400	1714
	452	232	1807	outlines			
	453	231	1806	French knots in one strand			
	563	208	1207		317	400	1714
	605	074	613	eyes			





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

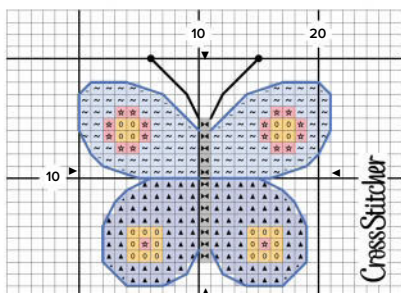
Aida is an ideal choice for cross stitch beginners. 14 count is the most common, although it's available in a huge variety of colours and counts. Each cross stitch is worked over a single aida block, making counting and keeping your place a cinch.

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.

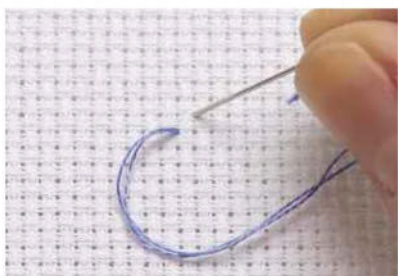


Reading the chart

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

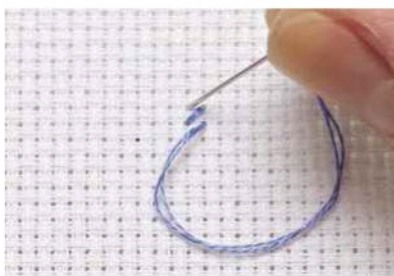
Start stitching... on aida

Step 1



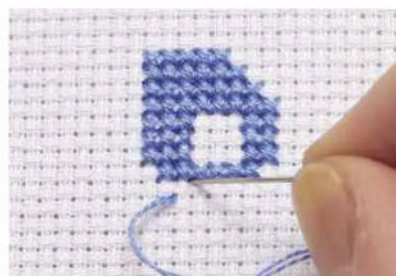
CUT a 40cm thread length, and thread your needle with two of the six strands. Knot one end and start with a waste knot (opposite). Make a diagonal half cross stitch across a single aida block.

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.

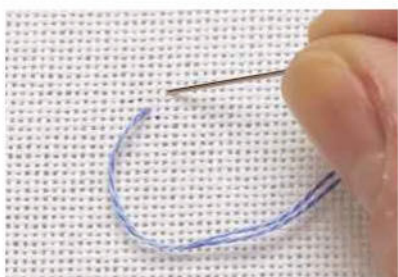
Step 3



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.

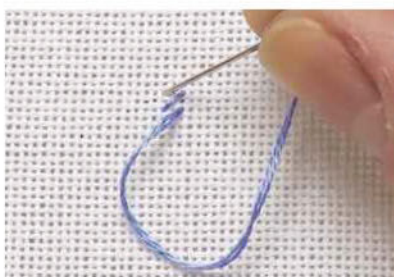
Start stitching... on evenweave

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

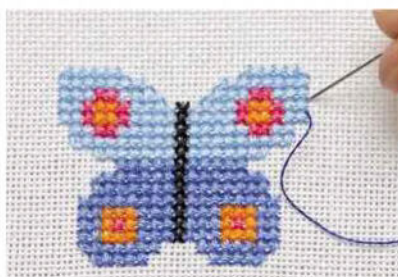
IN THE key, the closest column of thread codes listed next to the chart symbols is the thread brand that's used in the design. Similar colour matches are listed alongside it. Where no close colour match can be found, you may have to use a different brand of thread for that shade.



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

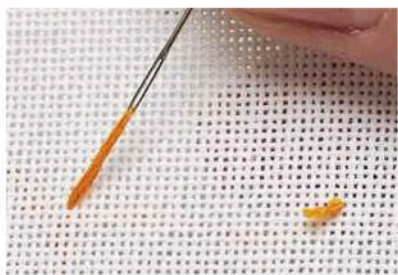


FOR each additional stitch, bring your needle up 1-3 chart squares away from your previous stitch. Then pass it back through the fabric at the same point as your previous stitch.

WASTE KNOT

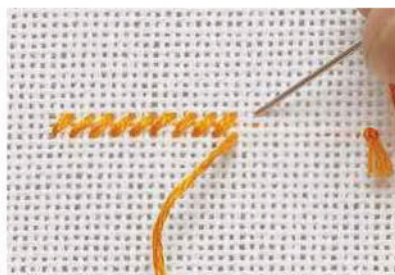
A simple way to get started stitching

Step 1



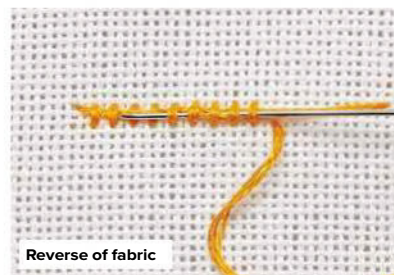
KNOT one end of your thread and take it down through the front of your fabric, about 2cm from your starting point. Then bring it back up to the front of your fabric to make your first stitch.

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.

LOOP KNOT

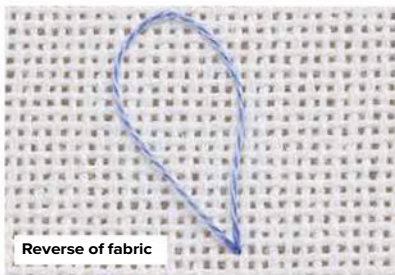
This easy start to your cross stitch is brilliantly neat

Step 1



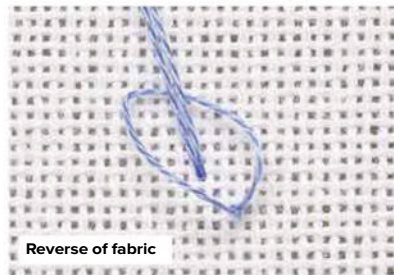
IF YOU'RE working in two strands, a loop knot is the easiest and neatest method. Cut a single length of thread, twice as long as normal. Fold it in half to create a loop at one end.

Step 2



THREAD your needle with the two tail ends, just as you normally would. Bring your needle up to the front of your fabric, leaving a small loop of thread on the reverse.

Step 3

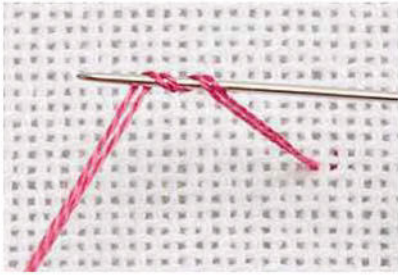


MAKE a half cross stitch, passing your needle through the loop on the reverse as shown here. Pull all the way to secure the thread. Now continue with your stitching as normal.

FRENCH KNOTS

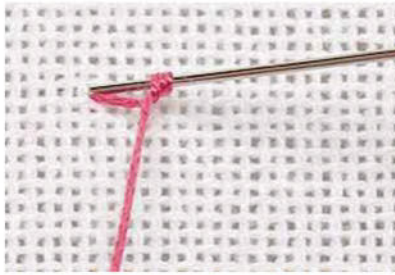
Go dotty with this simple way to add neat knots to your designs

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

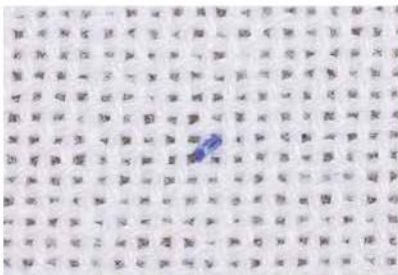


KEEP your thread as taut as possible to prevent the knot becoming loose. Gently pull your thread through to tighten the knot, so that it sits neatly on the surface. And remember, if you don't get it right away, keep practising!

FRACTIONALS

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

Step 1



START with a quarter stitch, working from one corner into the centre. For evenweave, there is already a hole in the centre to stitch into. With aida, you'll need to pierce the centre of the block.

Step 2



MAKE your next quarter stitch in your second colour, coming up from the opposite corner and back down through the centre. You've now created a half cross stitch.

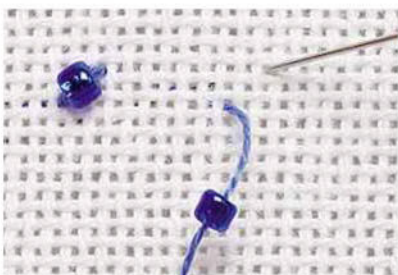
Step 3



FINISH your stitch by making a half cross stitch. Fractionals are shown in the chart either as two symbols opposite one another in a chart square, or by a symbol opposite an empty space.

BEADING

TO ATTACH beads, you'll need a thin, flexible beading needle. Thread with one strand of cotton. Bring your needle to the front of your design, thread on a bead and make a diagonal stitch to secure the bead. If you like, stitch through again for added security.



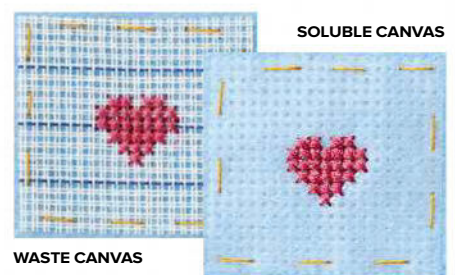
HALF CROSS STITCH

HALF cross stitches are exactly what they sound like – half of a cross stitch. Each diagonal stitch is worked across two evenweave threads or one aida block. They're most often used to create a subtle background in a design.



WASTE AND SOLUBLE CANVAS

WASTE and soluble canvases are used when stitching on plain fabrics and felts. Tack onto your fabric and stitch as normal. Soluble canvas dissolves in water. For waste canvas, soak in water then remove each thread individually.



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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.

LITTLE MISSES

Fabric Flair 28 count Cloud Spring Sky, ref: E 28/11: Sew It All
Wooden frame: eFrame
Mount board: Fred Aldous

MUM'S THE WORD

Zweigart 14 count cream aida, ref: 3706/264: Willow Fabrics
Cards: Craft Creations

TIME FLIES

Zweigart 14 count white aida, ref: 3706/100: Willow Fabrics
Wooden frame: eFrame
Mount board: Fred Aldous

HANGING GARDEN

Zweigart 28 count natural Cashel linen, ref: 3281/052: Willow Fabrics
Wooden frame: eFrame
Mount board: Fred Aldous

RIVER RIPPLES

Zweigart 14 count ice blue aida, ref: 3706/550: Willow Fabrics
Felt: Hobbycraft
Small buttons: Fred Aldous
Baker's twine: Fred Aldous
Toy stuffing: John Lewis
Wooden frame: eFrame
Mount board: Fred Aldous

GARDEN GARLAND

Zweigart 25 count white Dublin linen, ref: 3604/100: Willow Fabrics
Rico antique white linen circular mat with lace edge, ref: 94834: Sew and So
Cotton backing fabric: John Lewis
Cushion pad: John Lewis

MOTHER NATURE

Zweigart 14 count white aida, ref: 3706/100: Willow Fabrics
Felt: Hobbycraft
Cotton fabric: John Lewis
Toy stuffing: Hobbycraft

NEW DIMENSIONS

Zweigart 28 count white Brittney evenweave, ref: 3270/100: Willow Fabrics
Toy stuffing: Hobbycraft

IN GREAT SHAPE

Zweigart 14 count white aida, ref: 3706/100: Willow Fabrics
Cotton fabric: John Lewis
Toy stuffing: Hobbycraft
Cushion pad: John Lewis

MOTHER'S DAY SAMPLER

Zweigart 14 count white aida, ref: 3706/100: Willow Fabrics
Butterfly charm: Similar from Bijoux Beads

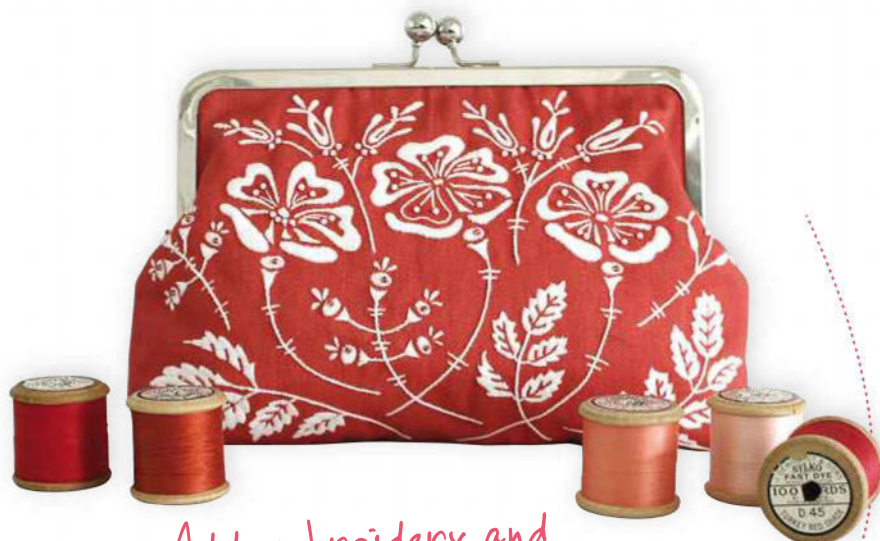
HOME FROM HOME

Zweigart 28 count white Brittney evenweave, ref: 3270/100:
Cotton fabric: John Lewis
Cotton tape: John Lewis
Felt: Hobbycraft
Velcro dots: John Lewis

LOVE LETTERS

Zweigart 32 count lavender Belfast linen, ref: 3609/558: Willow Fabrics
Wooden frame: eFrame
Mount board: Fred Aldous
Cotton fabric: John Lewis





Add embroidery and beads to this pretty purse from Ann's Orchard

Shoppingguide

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

ANN'S ORCHARD
www.annsorcharard.co.uk

B IS FOR BUMBLEBEE
www.etsy.com/uk/shop/BisforBumblebee

BIJOUX BEADS
www.bijouxbeads.co.uk

BOBO STITCH
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BLUE TOPAZ STITCHERY
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EFRAME
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WHIMSY BAGS
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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

A couple of years ago I made up a soft counting book for an infant from a cross stitch magazine. My best friend's first grandchild (and his parents) who live in Germany were delighted with it.

I am about to become a great aunt at the end of March and thought I would make up this book pattern again. I always keep my patterns, however we had a water leak at home last year and some were damaged, including this one. I was wondering if anyone may remember this pattern and have this issue and would be willing to send it to me, or just the pages containing the chart. I would be happy to pay any postage costs. Thank you in advance for your help.

Denise Atherton
Email: Denise.Atherton@tiscali.co.uk

I'm searching for a beautiful design that had featured in an old issue of *CrossStitcher*. Trouble is, it was from way back in March 2007! The chart was just called 'Renaissance Lady'. I was wondering if anyone may have this issue and would be willing to send it to me, or just the pages featuring

the chart? I would be happy to pay any postage costs. Please contact me at the email address below.

Jana Ponikvar
Email: miss.jana@live.com.au



I recently got given a pile of cross stitch stuff after a family friend passing away. It included *CrossStitcher* kits, however no magazine means no chart. I have no idea which magazine issues they are even from! I have a 'Relax with Archie' kit and a 'Tigger with beads' kit. I was wondering if anyone may have these issues and would be willing to send them to me, or just the actual charts. I can pay any postage costs. I have attached photos of the kits to help identify them.

Liane Scott,
22 West End, Dalry,
Ayrshire, KA24 5DU
Email: tazdevil982@aol.com

Get in touch

Hi! My name is Claire and I'm looking for penpals of any age. I'm 29 and live in Greater London. I love stitching, sewing, quilting, stamping, knitting, scrapbooking – pretty much any kind of craft, as well as reading and yoga. I have M.E. and agoraphobia, so getting out is difficult for me at the moment. I hope to hear from you soon.

Claire Manning,
5 Artillery Place,
Harrow,
Middlesex,
HA3 6QJ

My name's Miguel, I'm 29 and I come from Mexico. I started cross stitching when I moved to Belgium in 2009, it's my favourite hobby! I also like eating out with my husband, travelling and baking. I look forward to hearing from you, I'll reply to all mail.

Miguel Ayon,
Biskajersplein 3,
8000 Bruges,
Belgium



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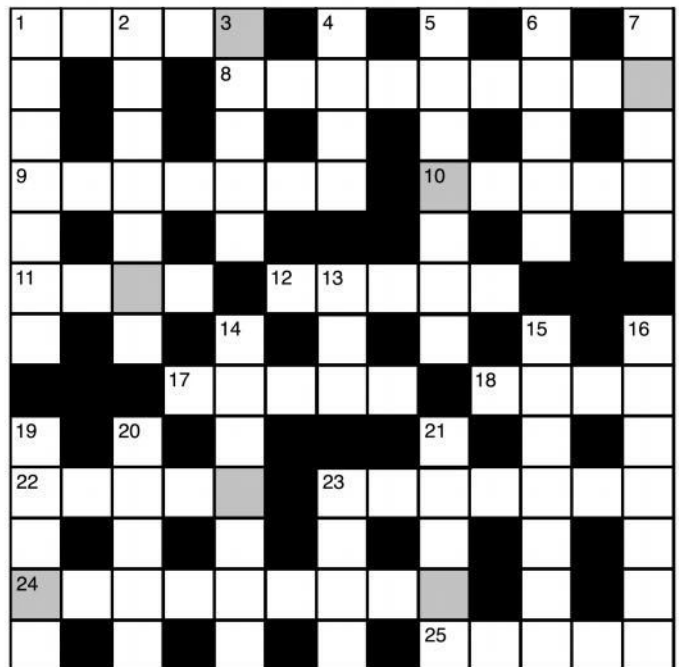
Prize crossword

Across

- 1 Bedtime beverage (5)
 8 Counted-thread embroidery (9)
 9 Knives and forks, eg. (7)
 10 Arctic bear (5)
 11 --- Grey, tea variety (4)
 12 --- of Fortune, classic TV game show (5)
 17 Device to hold a cross stitch project in place (5)
 18 System of exercises for mental and physical health (4)
 22 Historical artefact (5)
 23 The ---, home of the Russian government (7)
 24 Wrong (9)
 25 Prince William's brother (5)

Down

- 1 Summer sport (7)
 2 One hundred years (7)
 3 *Downton ---*, TV drama (5)
 4 Infant (4)
 5 Captain of a boat (7)
 6 Very cheerful (5)
 7 Article of clothing (5)
 13 Pork product (3)
 14 Shop selling food and household goods (7)
 15 Large rock (7)
 16 Dirty washing (7)
 19 Woven decorative edge (5)
 20 Group of seagulls (5)
 21 Sleeping area on a ship (5)
 23 Retain (4)



Winning word clue: **A saintly Irishman who wasn't keen on snakes? (7)**



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 302' on the back of a postcard or stuck-down envelope, adding your name and address, and post it to:
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Competition open:

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 3 March 2016**

For full terms and conditions, see page 85.



YOUR PRIZE One lucky winner will receive a Vintage Crafts Jar Sewing Kit from The Contemporary Home. This handy jar is filled with thread, a thimble, safety pins, folding scissors, tape measure, pins, buttons, snap fasteners and a needle threader. The jar also features a handy gingham pin cushion lid for storing pins, RRP £9 from www.tch.net.

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.

5					4		6	
		6	9	1	8	3		
7						2		1
	9			4	6		7	
		4		9		5		
	7		8	2			9	
4		1						5
		7	4	6	2	9		
	2		1					4

Issue 300's winning word **RESOLUTION**

No.1
FOR DESIGNS

In your April

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The brightest stitching ideas!



Inside this month

- ♥ Bring **Parisian style** to your sofa with our pretty cushion
- ♥ Love baking? Our **alphabet** has all the right ingredients!
- ♥ The cutest **Easter egg hunt** kit to make for little ones
- ♥ Say 'happy birthday' with our **vintage flower cards**

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No.1
FOR DESIGNS



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69
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