

No.1 for designs

CrossStitcher

IDEAS • STYLE • INSPIRATION

*69 Beautiful projects
for the new year!*



The cutest **thank you**
cards to stitch & send!

Your CrossStitcher FREE GIFT

You're going to love this month's amazing free gift – our desk calendar comes with a whole year's worth of folk-art style charts!

Designed by: Cheryl McKinnon
Stitch count: 38 high x 28 wide
Design size: 7x5cm (2¾x2in)
Stitch time: 6 hours (each)

Turn to
page 85 to
find your
free 2021
calendar!



EXCLUSIVE CALENDARS!
You can send off for a ready to use calendar, complete with a card stand to display it on your desk. Simply visit craftmag.co/crossstitcherkits to order your calendar today!

Using... your calendar

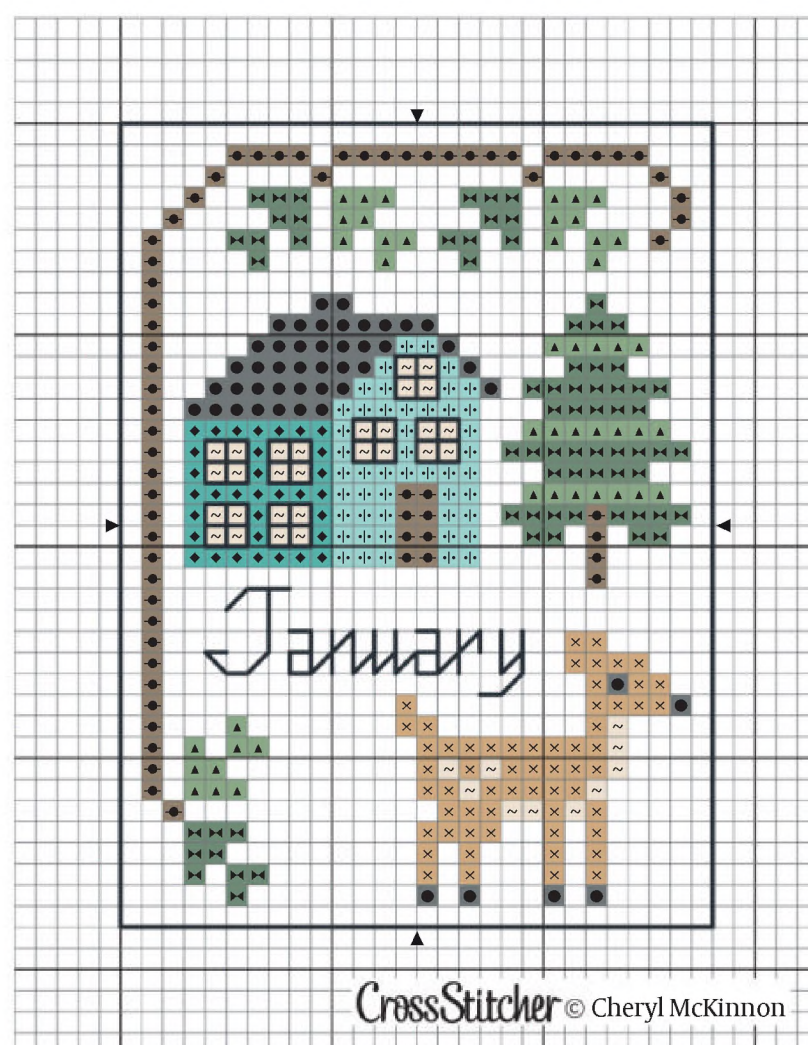
WELCOME TO A NEW YEAR OF STITCHING!

For 2021 our free gift features twelve different folk-art designs, one for each month of the year. Here we are giving you the stitch details for the designs, worked on 14 count aida, and a copy of the January chart and key. If you would like to stitch the designs as a sampler, you can send for our project pack which includes a layout guide and a chart for the lettering only – turn to page 15 to order.

All the designs in our 2021 calendar use two strands of stranded cotton for the cross stitch and one strand for the backstitch.

The designs were stitched on 14 count aida fabric.

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
	729	890	2209
	830	277	2114
	964	1092	1112
	986	246	1404
	988	243	1402
	3799	236	1713
	3812	188	2706
	ecru	387	ecru
Backstitch in one strand			
	3799	236	1713
outlines			



CrossStitcher © Cheryl McKinnon

CrossStitcher
A 2021 CALENDAR
WITH A NEW CHART
FOR EVERY MONTH



NEXT MONTH

SIGNS OF SPRING CARD PROJECT

Stitch the first hints that spring is on its way with our pretty vase of snowdrops, and then pick a greeting from our four tags that are free to download!



COLOR WORLD

Snowflakes



ZWEIGART®

MADE IN GERMANY



Small snowflakes fall from the sky and create beautiful patterns with their crystals. Experience the world of ZWEIGART® premium needlework fabrics with a unique selection of AIDA, evenweave, canvas and linen weaves. All fabrics are fully "Made in Germany" and guarantee best results for all kinds of embroidery techniques. Choose your favorite fabrics of this lovely color world at www.zweigart.de/downloads.

For stockists contact:

Lakeside Needlecraft | lakesideneedlecraft.co.uk
Willow Fabrics | www.willowfabrics.com

Heritage Crafts | Tel: 01889 575 256
Woolwarehouse | woolwarehouse.co.uk
Stichtastic | www.stichtastic.com

www.zweigart.com

Welcome

Give your home a little stitching magic...



AT THE TIME OF writing, we are not permitted to invite others into our houses in England, and this has made us reflect on how important our home surroundings are. The winter months often feel like we are nesting with lots of cosy cushions and throws on the sofa, and this year will make us even more aware of the need to make our homes feel special.

We also need Christmas and New Year to be that extra bit more sparkly and magical (I hate to think how many decorations we own to cover our three trees!) and once the festive decorations are away, it would be lovely to fill those gaps with hand-stitched treats.

It may not snow where you are but the appeal of a winter walk is pretty universal. Lucie Heaton has captured this beautifully for our cover (page 22) and we can just imagine coming home to that little house, faces tingly with the cold, to enjoy a mug of hot chocolate.

Don't forget that your stitching can brighten other's homes too, even if you can't be there. Thank you so much to the amazing postal service. Happy stitching!

Susan & Martin Penny

SUSAN & MARTIN PENNY
EDITORS

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

Shades of winter

Stitch our latest swatch sampler in our February issue, on sale 29 December.

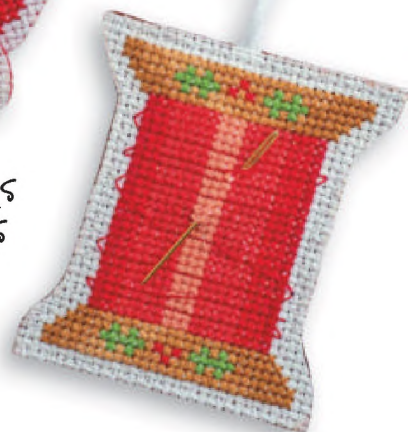


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www.crosstitchermag.com

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



All the trimmings
- sew easy decs
to stitch!

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www.craftmag.co/signup

Outthere

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



Star attraction

Stitch your star sign on this starry coin purse (bottom right), or choose from an envelope pouch, clutch bag and notebook. Whether you're stitching for yourself or stitching and then giving as a personal present, each item is covered in a network of holes to stitch through with the chosen sign. They come with a rocket shaped spool containing the gold thread to stitch with, needle and full instructions. Many of the items lie flat for stitching to keep it easy for you to complete before assembling them together. These super-easy makes are great for even beginner stitchers! www.notonthehighstreet.com/chasingthreads

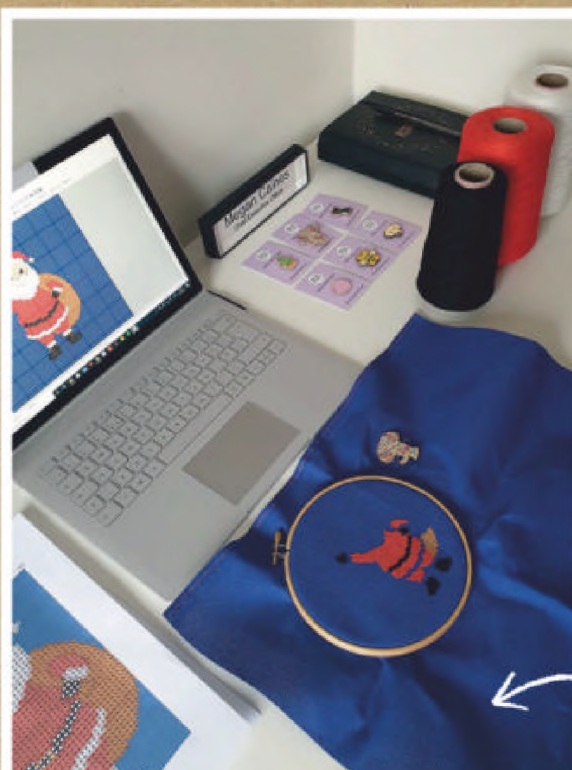


MY CRAFT ROOM: MEGAN CAINES

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



"On my desk, I have my Surface Pro laptop, which I absolutely could not live without when it comes to creating new designs as I can draw straight onto my screen. My office functions as my packing station for cross stitch kits, stitching area for testing colours on new designs and storage space for all stock, such as thread, embroidery hoops and needle minders. As Meloca Designs has grown, I have had to expand the team, which also seems to include my Birman kitten, Layla!"
www.melocadesigns.com



All items of packing up kits are stored here, including all the embroidery hoops.

After quickly outgrowing the kitchen table, Megan had to claim the spare bedroom as Meloca Designs' headquarters!



Drop us a line to crosssstitcher@warnersgroup.co.uk with images of your craft space and a few words about it and our favourites could be featured in a future issue!



FLYING HIGH

IF YOU get your skates on you might just about have enough time to stitch up Jody Rice's brand-new stocking design before Christmas Eve! To get you started straight away the pattern is available as an instant PDF download. It features Santa on his delivery route, but this year he's decided to travel by balloon! The finished design measures roughly 10x16in on 14 count aida or on 28 count linen stitched over two threads. The PDF download is available at satsumastreet.etsy.com.



INITIAL IDEA

THIS PRETTY Cross Stitch Monogram Wooden Trinket Box is now available from The British Heart Foundation. Use it to create your very own personalised box for your dresser or craft desk – the perfect project if your New Year resolutions included tidying up your craft space! It would of course make a gorgeous birthday gift for a friend and you can enjoy stitching it up before presenting it to them – win, win! Buy online or for your nearest shop visit www.bhf.org.uk/shop

RED, RED ROBIN

AS THE WINTER MONTHS continue, there's one bird in particular that represents the season in the UK – the robin. Stitch yourself a red-breasted feathered friend with Ruth Caig's latest design, available as a hoop kit. Portraying the robin in a pretty watercolour style, once finished on 14 count aida the design fits the 6in hoop with wooden back that comes with the kit for finishing.

www.stitchkitslondon.co.uk



Final flourish

STILL THINK you Christmas tree could do with a little extra decoration? We think you'll find it hard to resist these cute kits from Bobo Stitch in three styles – Christmas sprout, Christmas jumper and Christmas tree. Each kit comes with everything you need to complete one 'bauble' including 14 count aida, threads, needle, full colour pattern and instructions, felt backing, stuffing and hanging ribbon. Choose one or stitch all three!

www.bobostitch.co.uk



THREE OF THE BEST

Cosy cottages

Shelter from the cold outside with our winter cottage on page 22 and these cute and cosy homes on Etsy...



PIGEONCOOPDESIGNS

This chart features a winter Canadian country cabin set in front of snow covered mountains, and is available as a PDF pattern.



MAGPIESMINDERS

Keeping needles to hand has never looked so cute with this wooden Christmas House Needle Minder that comes in five fab colours.



FUZZYFOXDESIGNS

Another PDF pattern of a cottage in the mountains, but this time it has a warm colour scheme to brighten the winter months.

TREND SPOTTING

PENGUINS

INSPIRED BY our alphabet on page 43, we've searched from pole to pole to find the cutest penguin companions...



WHO

Penelope is the name of this oh-so-sweet penguin who stars as one of the Cross Stitch Bauble Kits that fit a 3in wooden hoop.

www.themakearcade.co.uk



WHAT

Spoonflower have whole flocks of penguin fabrics in stock, including this Penguins With Sweater Geometric And Triangles Grey cotton fabric by Caja Design.

www.etsy.com/uk/shop/SpoonflowerEurope

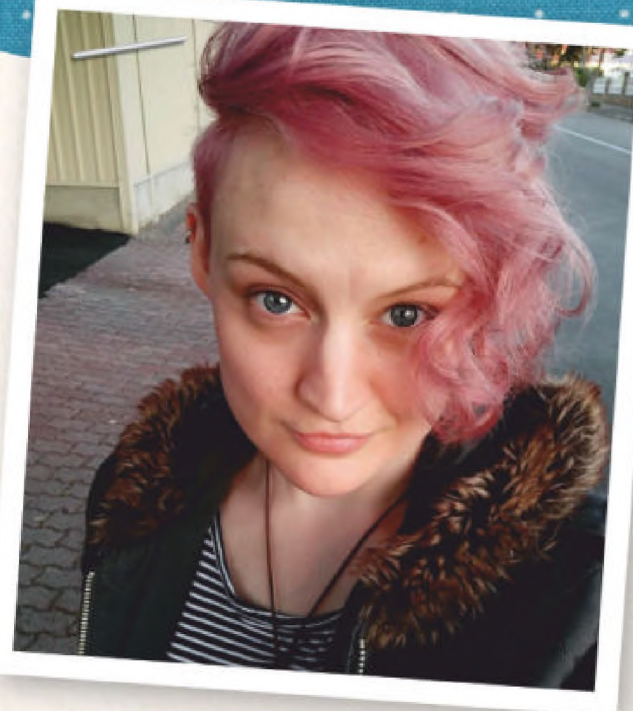


HOW

Present hand-stitched Christmas and New Year gifts in style with this pretty Penguin Pals ribbon that comes in a pack of three, together with two co-ordinating designs.

www.paperchase.com

STITCHING WITH JESS



Jessica Savage urges you to turn the page and start to celebrate a whole new year of possibilities ahead...

Hullo! Welcome to a brand spanking new year! With all that happened last year, it feels nice to have a shiny new start ahead of us. Now, I don't know about you, but I feel like this year should be a year of adventure!

When I say adventure, I don't mean you have to strap on your boots and literally take to the oceans in search for unknown lands and buried treasure (although, I am absolutely all for you doing that!). We can be adventurous just by getting out of our comfort zones in little ways – taking a new and challenging hiking trail, trying a new style of cuisine, stitching on different count aida – just looking for the thrill of the unfamiliar!

A lot of things had to change last year and much of it was out of our control. While things may never go back to our

previous 'normal', humans are fantastic at adapting to change so why not embrace our in-built strength? My first change is going to be organising all my cross-stitch paraphernalia! I am not the world's tidiest person – my mother doesn't call me Jess the Mess for no reason! I've collected so much stuff, I don't seem to know what I have or where things are. The upside to this, is I'm constantly finding cool 'new' things I didn't know I had – it's like I get a present every time I dive into my cross-stitch tub of mystery. It's not a huge adventure, but it'll be a good change to have everything organised for once! However, I make no promises on how long the state of tidy will last.

Also, as lockdown requirements (hopefully!) loosen up and stay loose, I'm going to try and see my own backyard more, visiting local places I've

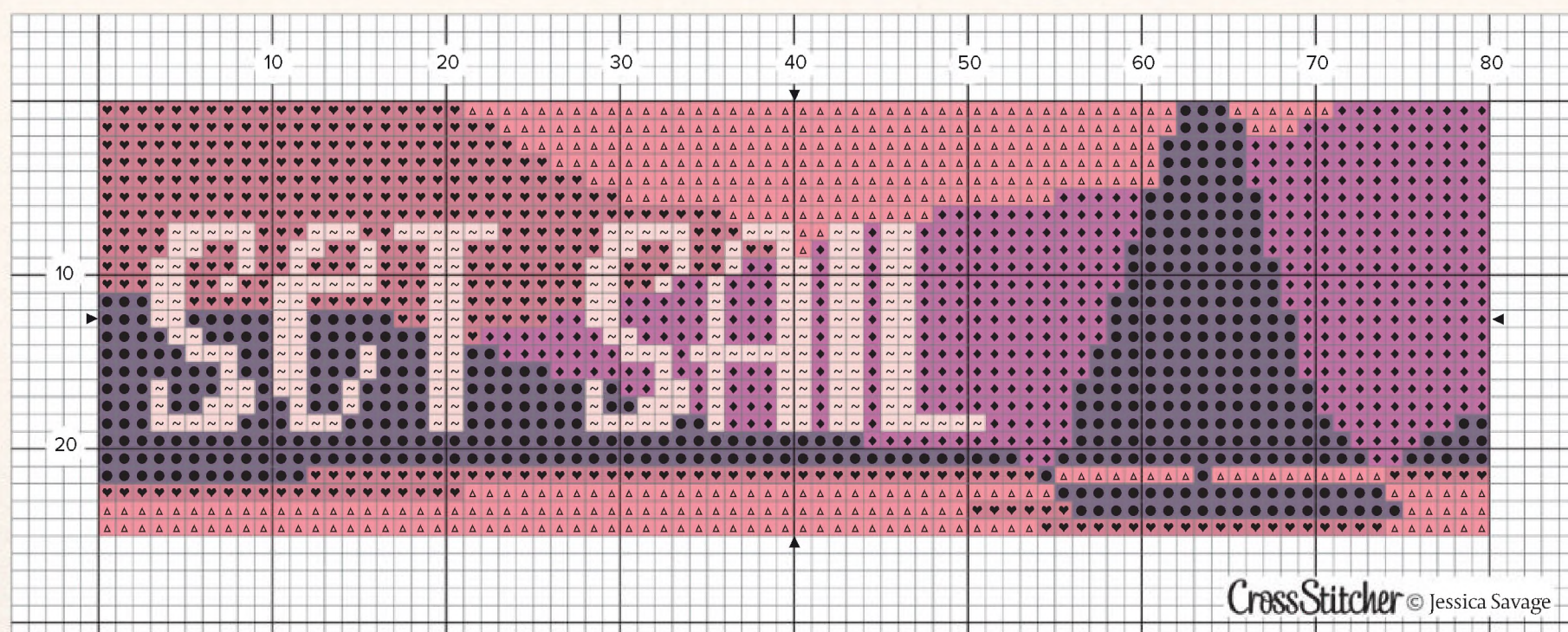
never been to and buying products from local businesses. I may even take picnics with me and stitch in the sun. Now *that* is my kind of adventure! Perhaps we can all find treasure hidden down that lane or around that bend.

What kind of adventures would you like this year? Something new and slightly daunting? Perhaps pursuing a dream job or taking up a new sport? Or maybe it's something whimsical and familiar, adventures from a book lived while sitting in your favourite chair? Whatever they may be, I wish you a happy, healthy, and exciting 2021!

Stitch boldly!

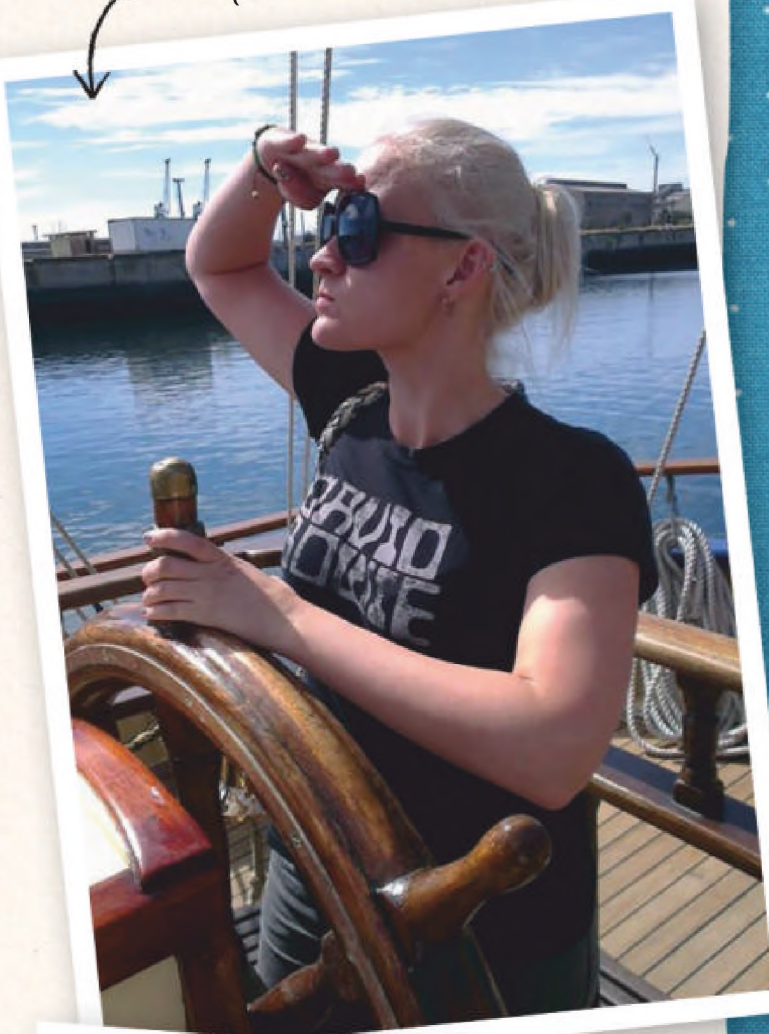
Jess

Don't miss our February issue when Jess reveals her next bookmark. Never miss an issue – turn to page 28 to subscribe to *CrossStitcher*!



CrossStitcher © Jessica Savage

Ahoy from Port Adelaide!



Seems this is a dangerous adventure after all

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
● ●	550	101	714
◆ ◆	718	089	707
~ ~	818	073	502
△ △	3706	033	309
♥ ♥	3731	076	506

CRAFTY BOOKSHELF

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

RSN ESSENTIAL STITCH GUIDES: WHITEWORK



LIZZY LANSBERRY [Search Press]

This is a new, larger format edition of the Royal School of Needlework's essential guide to whitework. You have all you need here to get to grips with whitework – from the materials and equipment, to how to design your own whitework embroidery, plus framing, positioning and transferring your design. Each stitch is demonstrated using step-by-step photography and instructions. You get an intro to the RSN and a brief history of whitework, too!

WEEKEND MAKES: PUNCH NEEDLE

SARA MOORE [GMC Publications]

Punch needle is still a new trend in the needlecraft world, and this book allows you to create modern abstract design projects in just a weekend! There are no less than 25 super-easy and quick designs for you to try your hand at, including home makes and great gifts for friends. Very much aimed at beginners, there are instructions on the basics of the craft, including the materials you need, how to mark your fabric, and the main stitches and techniques.



THE LITTLE BOOK OF COTTAGECORE



EMILY KENT [Simon and Schuster]

If your New Year's resolutions include a vow to be even more crafty this year, this is the book for you! Allow yourself a slower pace of life and enjoy the simple things with plenty of projects to have a go at. Whether you want to bake pies from scratch, practise basic sewing and cross stitch, or even experiment with gardening, beekeeping, or making candles and soaps, this book is packed full of projects to try or simply to inspire you. Time to get your needles out!

FREE CHRISTMAS GIFT TAG*

Take advantage of our exclusive offer to UK readers* and receive a Kraft stitchable tag, a skein of Anchor stranded cotton, a star sequin and a size 24 tapestry needle...

...JUST PAY £1.90 POSTAGE

Make your gifts look amazing this Christmas with a lovely handmade tag. These pre-punched stitchable tags are quick to stitch, and will give even the simplest wrapping that hand-finished look. You will receive a Kraft tag, a skein of stranded cotton in a colour chosen at random, a gold sequin, a size 24 tapestry needle and a chart to complete the tree. This offer closes 29 December 2020.

**OFFER
EXTENDED
DUE TO
POPULAR
DEMAND!**



If you would like to buy more Kraft tags then our handy 10 pack plus baker's twine (twine colours may vary) is just £3.60.

Kraft Tags & Twine for £3.60,
ref: KRAFT1



- ★ Tags are perfect for giving presents that hand-finished look
- ★ Quick to stitch for last-minute gifts
- ★ Made of quality Kraft card
- ★ A small 15x20 design area for easy finishing

MORE OFFERS FOR YOU!

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



ROSE GOLD SCISSORS

These rose-gold scissors by Milward are 11.5cm (4½in) from top to tip and have stainless steel points with that distinctive stork shape. Beautifully finished and super-sharp! Special price while stocks last!

Rose Gold Scissors for £7.50,
ref: RGSCISS



FESTIVE STITCHLETS BUNDLE

Christmas Stitchlets bundles at a discount! Each kit contains ★ Zweigart 14 count aida ★ DMC stranded cotton ★ chart ★ instructions ★ needle ★ card & envelope. You'll get three kits chosen at random. If you order multiple packs we will try to send different cards in each. Mouseloft Christmas 3 Kit Bundle for £9.45, ref: MOUSEXBD



PASTEL CARD PACK

These quality C6 152x104mm cards are made from pastel 300gsm card with a white envelope. This 16 card pack contains four shapes in four colours, making a very handy mix of 16 cards. Other pack combinations are available online at www.willowfabrics.com. Pastel 16 Card Pack for £8.65, ref: PAM16



CHRISTMAS CHARMS

Once again we are able to offer you these silver-effect charms which are ideal for adding to your Christmas cards, samplers and makes. You will get four mixed charms, selected at random, from the many different snowflakes, trees, stockings and bows... Christmas Charms for £1.20, ref: CHCHRPK



FESTIVE THREAD & FINISHING BUNDLE

Add some sparkle to your cards and projects with this gorgeous festive finishing box. The colours and contents on this bundle could vary depending on stock.

Your box contains ★ 6 skeins of Light Effects
★ 2 twinkling satins ★ 1 Christmas Coloris
★ 1 Sparkly Étoile ★ 1 packet of shiny gold beads
★ 1 packet of bright red beads ★ packet of shiny gold star sequins ★ 3 Kraft tags ★ 4 jingly bells
★ 2 Christmas charms ★ 2 gold needles

Festive Thread & Finishing Bundle
for **£24.50**, ref: **FTFBUN**



CHRISTMAS FINISHING BUNDLE

This bundle will give you enough ribbon and baker's twine to see you through the Christmas season!

Your bundle contains ★ 50 metres (25 x 2 metre lengths) of Christmas ribbon in satin, grosgrain and sheer in plain Christmas colours and also printed snowflakes, trees, polka dots, gingham ★ a selection of baker's twine ★ a useful felt bundle containing six 23x30cm pieces in glittery Christmas colours
★ two reels of double-sided tape in 6 and 12cm
★ a pot of hi-tack sparkly opalescent glitter glue

Christmas Finishing Bundle for **£15**,
ref: **CHFIBN**



CHRISTMAS CARD PACK

If you are looking for quality window cards to finish your Christmas list, then this mixed pack of cards with fun printed envelopes is just the thing. 16 quality C6 152x104mm cards in four Christmas colours – Red, Green, Blue, Cream and in four aperture shapes – Oval, Round, Rectangular and Square. Each pack comes with 16 printed envelopes to give each a really festive finish.

Christmas 16 Card Pack for **£10.40**, ref: **CCP16**



DMC SCISSOR PACK – BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

These fab scissors are gift boxed and just right for a friend or a present for yourself. The pack contains five pairs of scissors – four soft handled steel-bladed scissors for easy grip, plus a pair of gold stork scissors. This attractive set comes in Royal Blue and White with the distinctive DMC logo. Useful for cutting aida, patchwork material or dressmaking fabric, these fantastic scissors are built to last.

Your set includes: stork scissors, thread snips, embroidery scissors, sewing scissors & dressmaking shears.

DMC Scissor Pack for **£16.50**,
ref: **DMCSCPACK**
(discounted price held from last year!)



For all your cross stitch goodies!
Any questions?

enquiries@willowfabrics.com
Place your order online using the discount code **CHRISTMAS20** to get the lower postage cost that comes with this offer.

Offers available to UK readers only.

CrossStitch READER OFFER

Post your orders to **CrossStitcher/Willow Fabrics Offers**,
PO Box 172, Northam, EX39 9DY

Title _____ Initials _____ Surname _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Tel _____ Email _____

I enclose a cheque for £ _____ made payable to
Penny Creative Media Ltd with my name and
address on the back

Or charge my Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ Maestro ☐

Card No

Expiry date / Card security code
(last 3 digits on signature strip)

Signature _____ Date _____

Terms and conditions: If ordering online, use CHRISTMAS20 at checkout to get the lower postage cost. Please note the contract for supply of goods is with Willow Fabrics, tel: 01237 237171. These offers close on 29 December 2020, or before if stocks run out. All goods dispatched by second class post, please allow up to 28 days to arrive. Please supply an email address or telephone number in case we need to contact you about your order. For full terms and conditions see page 82.

DESCRIPTION	PRICE	QTY	TOTAL
FREE CHRISTMAS GIFT TAG	FREE	1	
KRAFT TAGS & TWINE (KRAFT1)	£3.60		
ROSE-GOLD STORK SCISSORS (RGSCISS)	£7.50		
STITCHLETS BUNDLE (MOUSEXBD)	£9.45		
PASTEL CARDS 16 PACK PASTEL (PAM16)	£8.65		
CHRISTMAS CHARMS (CHCHRPK)	£1.20		
THREAD & FINISH BUNDLE (FTFBUN)	£24.50		
CHRISTMAS FINISHING BUNDLE (CHFIBN)	£15.00		
CHRISTMAS 16 CARD PACK (FCCP16)	£10.40		
DMC SCISSOR PACK (DMCSCPACK)	£16.50		
SNOW CUSHION MATERIALS PK (PPSNOW)	£29.50		
WINTER SAMPLER MATERIALS PK (PPWINSP)	£27.30		
WINTER COTTAGE PACK (PPWINCOTT)	£30.00		
CALENDAR FULL KIT (PPCAL20)	£26.00		
CINDERELLA FULL KIT (PPCINDER)	£69.00		
UK ONLY POSTAGE	£1.90	1	£1.90
GRAND TOTAL			£

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

NEW SERIES!

LIVING WITH CROSS STITCH:

ROOM TO RELAX

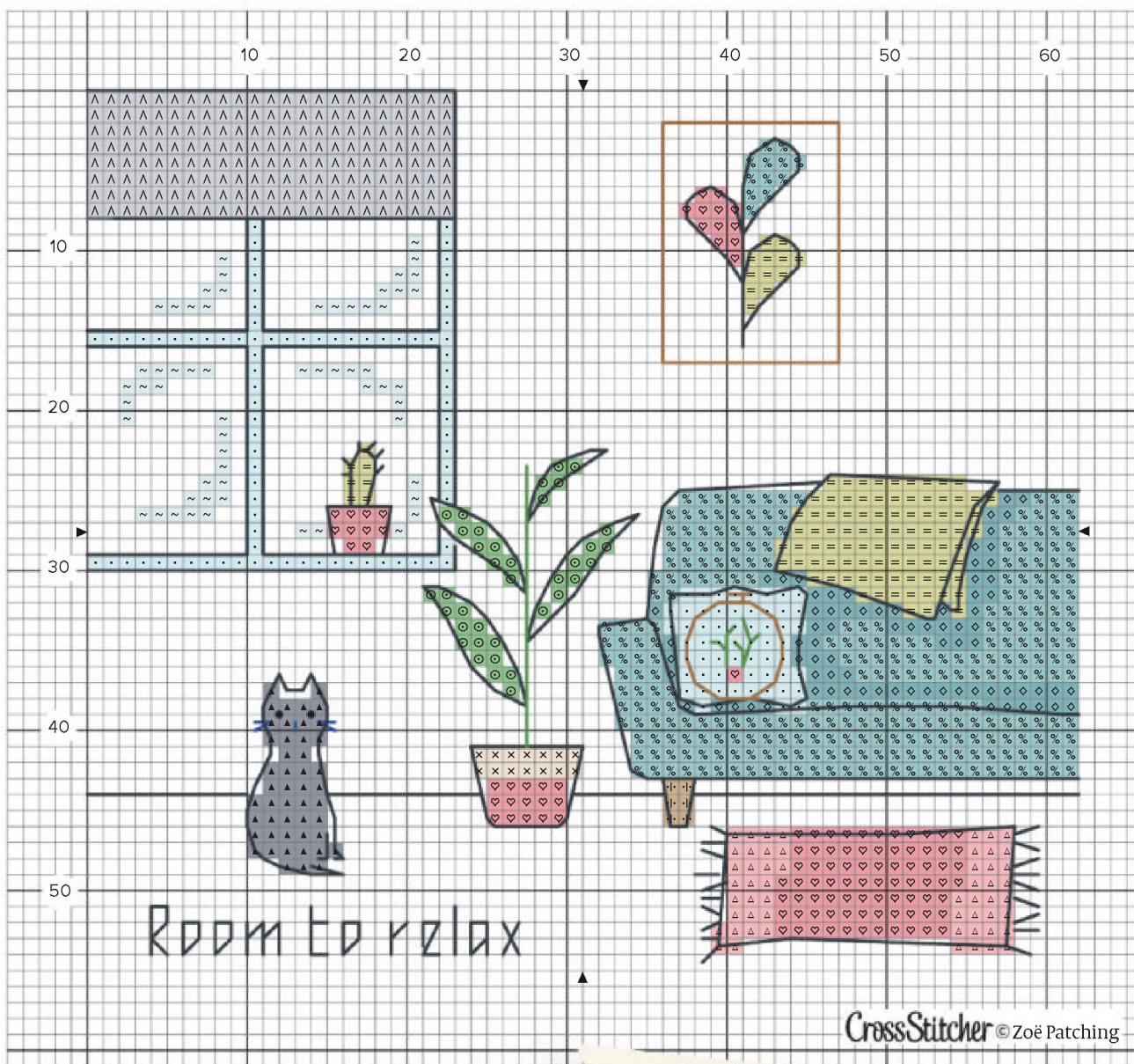
A
DIFFERENT
ROOM FOR
EVERY MONTH
OF THE
YEAR!

This year Zoë Patching will be recreating our living spaces in stitches, kicking off with a room for relaxing in...

How to... display your stitching

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





	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
= =	165	278	1414
▲ ▲	414	235	1801
• •	422	943	2102
◇ ◇	597	1064	1110
% %	598	1062	1111
◎ ◎	703	238	1307
♥ ♥	760	1022	405
△ △	761	024	404
^ ^	762	234	1804
~ ~	3756	1037	886
• •	blanc	001	white
× ×	ecru	387	ecru

Backstitch in one strand

—	310	403	black
cat details			
—	413	401	1713
outlines			
—	422	943	2102
hoop, frame			
—	703	238	1307
plant			

French knots in one strand

●	310	403	black
eyes			

Designed by: Zoë Patching

Stitch count: 55 high x 63 wide

Design size: 10x11cm (4x4¼in)

Stitch time: 5 hours

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

Materials

- Zweigart Antique White 28 count
Cashel, ref: 3281/0101; 20x20cm (8x8in)
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Size 26 tapestry needle
- Frame with a 11.5x11.5cm
(4½x4½in) aperture

Materials available from www.willowfabrics.com

ZOË
SAYS...



"As we keep cosy in our
homes over winter, our living
spaces become a real haven."

Once the Christmas decs
are put away, the house
always feels empty and
plain, making January
the perfect time to
brighten up an empty wall
or corner by stitching
something new. I love all
the botanical designs
which are around, and I
will be making that my
next project – perfect for
adding a splash of colour!"

NEXT MONTH...

LIVING WITH CROSS STITCH



Don't miss issue 366 February,
on sale 29 December, for
Zoë's Room to Make...

BRIGHT SPARKS



Bright Sparks

Happy New Year! Light up the London skyline with our clever candle band, designed to be given a glowing background from the light within

Designed by: Faye Walsh

Stitch count: 49 high x 100 wide

Design size: 8x16.5cm (3¼x6½in)

Stitch time: 11 hours

This design was stitched on a 14 count aida band.

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
● ●	310	403	black (2)
◆ ◆	414	235	1801
Backstitch in one strand			
—	310	403	black
outlines			
—	321	019	510
fireworks			
—	703	238	1307
fireworks			
—	996	433	1103
fireworks			
—	3852	307	2509
fireworks			

(2) indicates more than one skein is required

Make a... jar wrap

Step 1

MEASURE the distance around your jar adding on an overlap and enough aida band to create a neatened edge. Cut your aida band to this length.

Step 2

USE two strands for the cross stitch and one for the backstitch to stitch the design in the middle of the aida band. As you want the light to shine through the stitching, make sure you do not trail the thread ends across the back of your work.

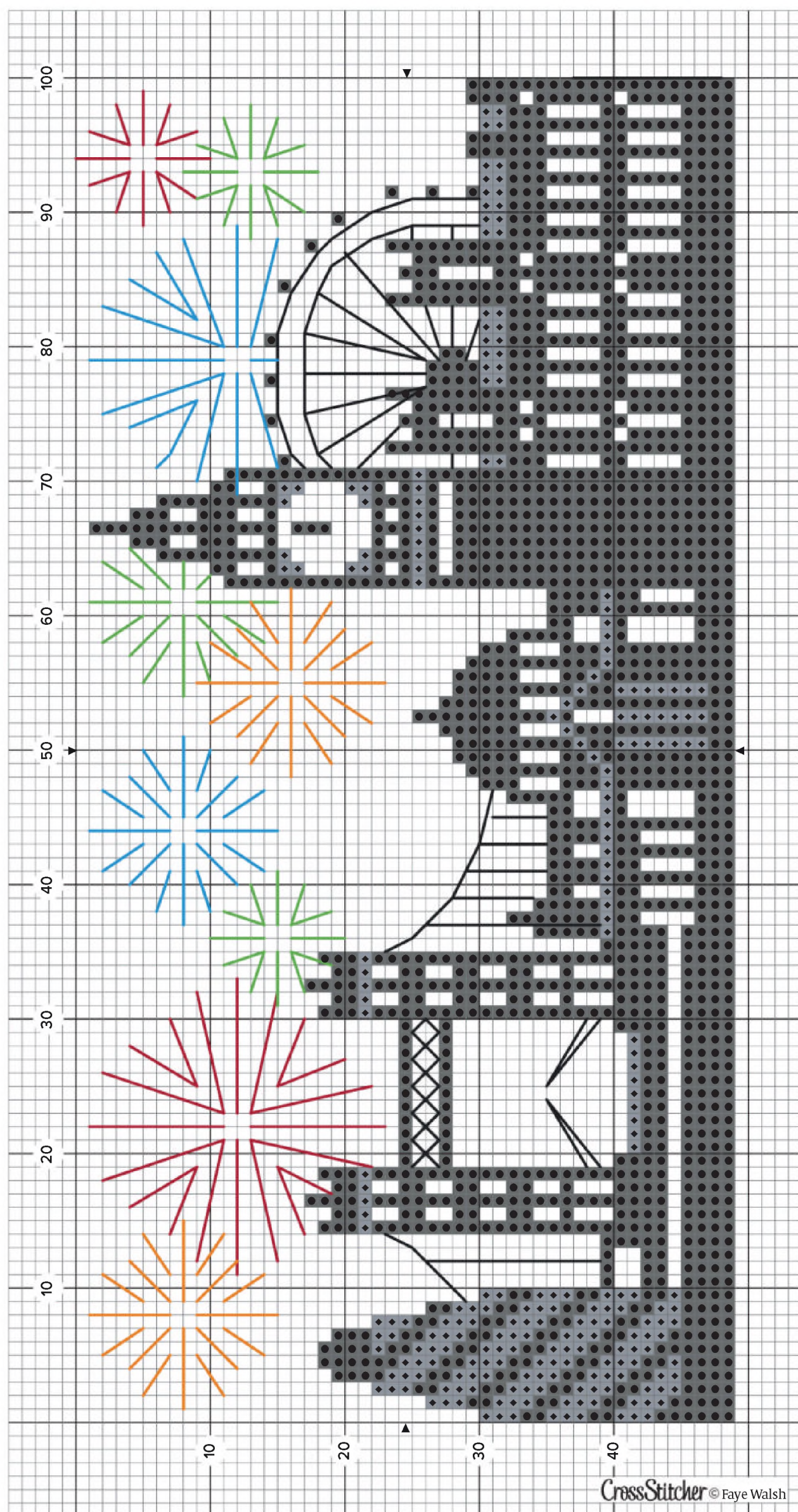
Step 3

NEATEN the two raw edges of the aida band by turning them over twice and then catch-stitching in place. Add a small amount of narrow double-sided tape to the back of the stitching, to stop it slipping down the jar – position it behind the darker areas of stitching to stop it showing through. Place the stitching around the jar, overlapping the edges at the back. Use double-sided tape or a few stitches to secure it in place.

Materials

- Zweigart White 14 count aida band with red edge; 10cm (4in) wide x width around the jar
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Size 24 tapestry needle

Materials available from www.willowfabrics.com



Never leave a lit candle unattended – alternatively use LED lights in your jar

CrossStitcher

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

CALENDAR 2021



January 2021, issue 365

CHRISTMAS GIFT BOX



December 2020, issue 364

CHRISTMAS CARD KIT



November 2020, issue 363

TREE DECORATION



October 2020, issue 362

PINCUSHION KIT



September 2020, issue 361

PHONE CASE



August 2020, issue 360

SUMMER PURSE



July 2020, issue 359

BYGONE BOUQUET



Summer 2020, issue 358

BLOOMS IN BLUE



June 2020, issue 357

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In My Hoop...

Karen Nelson used her stitching skills to come up with a unique way to commemorate the way life was turned upside down due to the coronavirus...

Samplers are such an important part of our stitching heritage. When the global pandemic hit the UK last March, *CrossStitcher* reader Karen Nelson just knew a sampler would make the perfect project to focus on while stuck at home during lockdown...

Karen Nelson, who lives in Chipping Norton with her partner Ian, has been cross stitching for over 50 years, "I have been stitching since age 8," she says.

"I learned at primary school. My mum still has the cross stitch coaster that I made all that time ago. I have enjoyed reading and using *CrossStitcher* since issue 1."

When the country entered lockdown last March, Karen felt it was time to get her needle out and start a 'corona sampler'. "It is all my own design, using mottos and symbols that featured so large in our lives during these extraordinary times," she explains. "The house and front garden are a good representation of our home, where we stayed safe during lockdown. The header and footer include the coronavirus, which although deadly, looked beautiful to me. I saw how I could use beads and French knots on a base of felt to create my interpretation of the covid graphics I saw so often. Of course, I had to include multiple rainbows and mention our NHS!"

A TIME TO RELAX

As so many of us turned to our hoops in such stressful times, so too did the sampler provide some comfort for Karen, "I enjoyed every stitch and found it helped me to deal with the anxiety and uncertainty." Luckily Karen has been designing her own samplers for significant birthdays and wedding anniversaries for friends and family since 2012, so she was already

experienced in getting the graph paper out to devise her own creations, "I drew the mottos and the widest one 'Protect the NHS' became the width of the sampler. I fitted everything else around this."

Karen stitched the top half first, then when the various changes were made to lockdown rules she had to add new mottos and symbols, such as 'Stay Alert'. "I had to keep stitching!" she says, "I compiled the words in the border from listening to the daily corona briefings and reading the newspaper. Stitching the words helped me to feel less anxious about the situation and to deal with the information overload."

"The trickiest parts were the freeform items," recalls Karen. "The front garden flowers and the coronavirus shapes (all those French knots!). The birds are stitched one over one, so are very fine sewing. The easiest parts were the rainbows and the mottos because they were so simple. The mottos use an alphabet I have used many times before. The rainbows were the most fun to stitch. I raided my thread stash and picked out the lovely bright colours which cheered me up as I stitched."

CARRY ON STITCHING

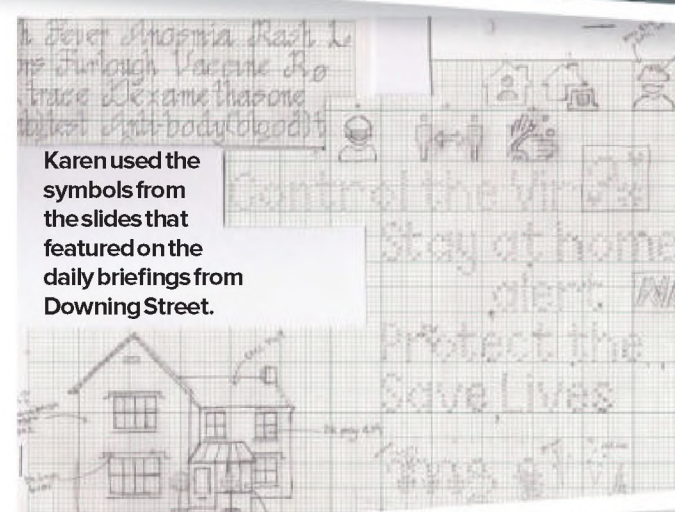
Despite the huge achievement of completing her sampler as a wall hanging, Karen's kept her needles busy ever since, first stitching a wedding sampler for a colleague whose wedding was postponed until September due to the restrictions. "I am now working on a large birthday sampler for my partner Ian and I am stitching the Alice in Wonderland SAL. I have just finished Tweedle Dum and Tweedle Dee. I am also trying to finish the Halloween sampler from *CrossStitcher* issue 349 by Maria Diaz and I'm trying to finish Cathedral Woods Goddess by Mirabilia. And of course I have been making face masks!"



Karen and Ian outside their house, which takes a starring role in her sampler.



The finished sampler measures 20x54cm (8x21 1/4in).



Karen used the symbols from the slides that featured on the daily briefings from Downing Street.



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

Snow Place Like Home

Fall in love with our cosy cottage!
Nestled in a winter landscape it uses
soft thread shades for a modern twist

CrossStitcher PROJECT PACK

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



Your materials pack contains:

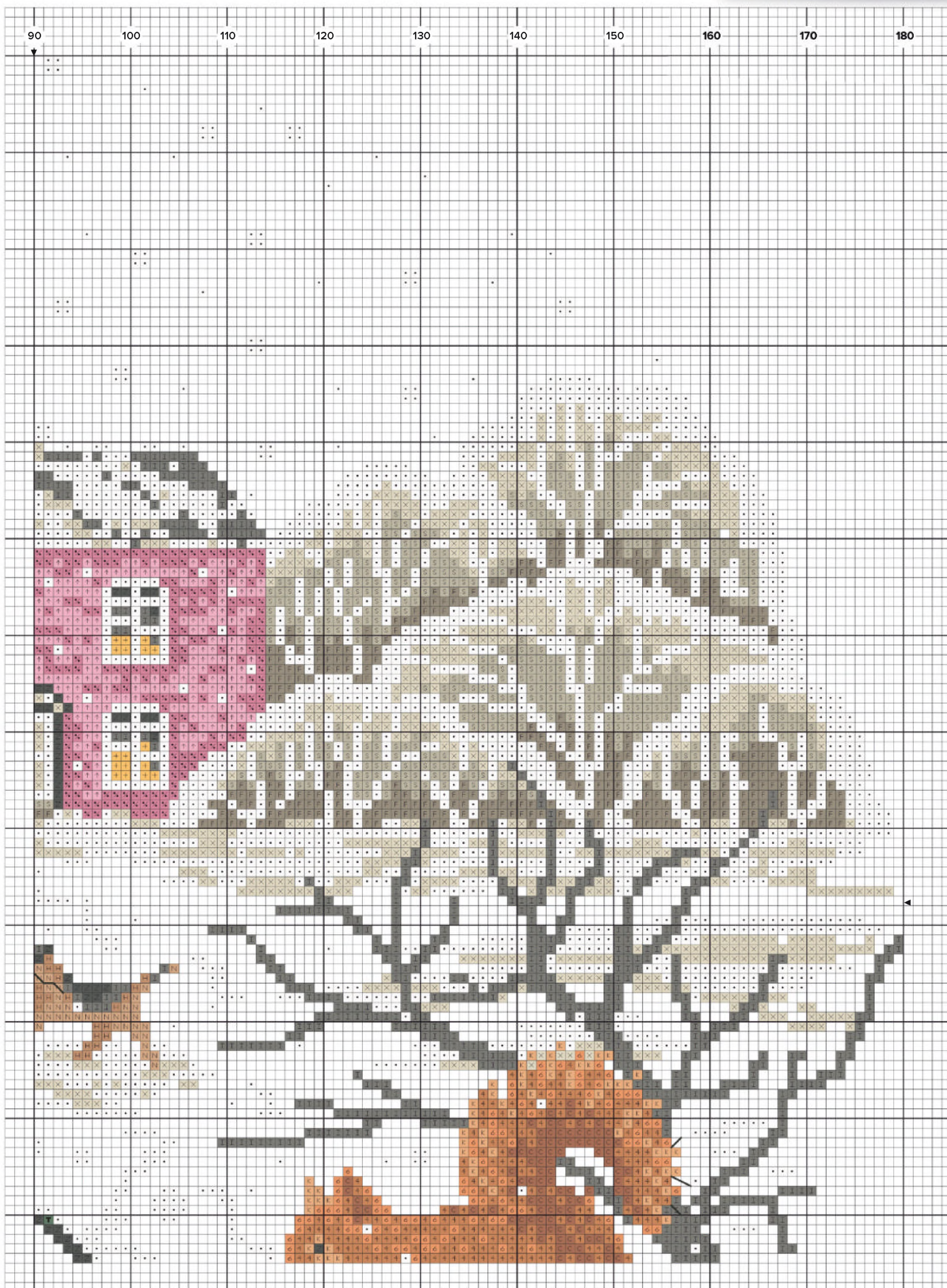
- Zweigart 14 count aida in Nougat
- Skeins of DMC stranded cotton
- Two gold-plated tapestry needles; size 24 and size 26

NOTE: Embroidery hoop not included

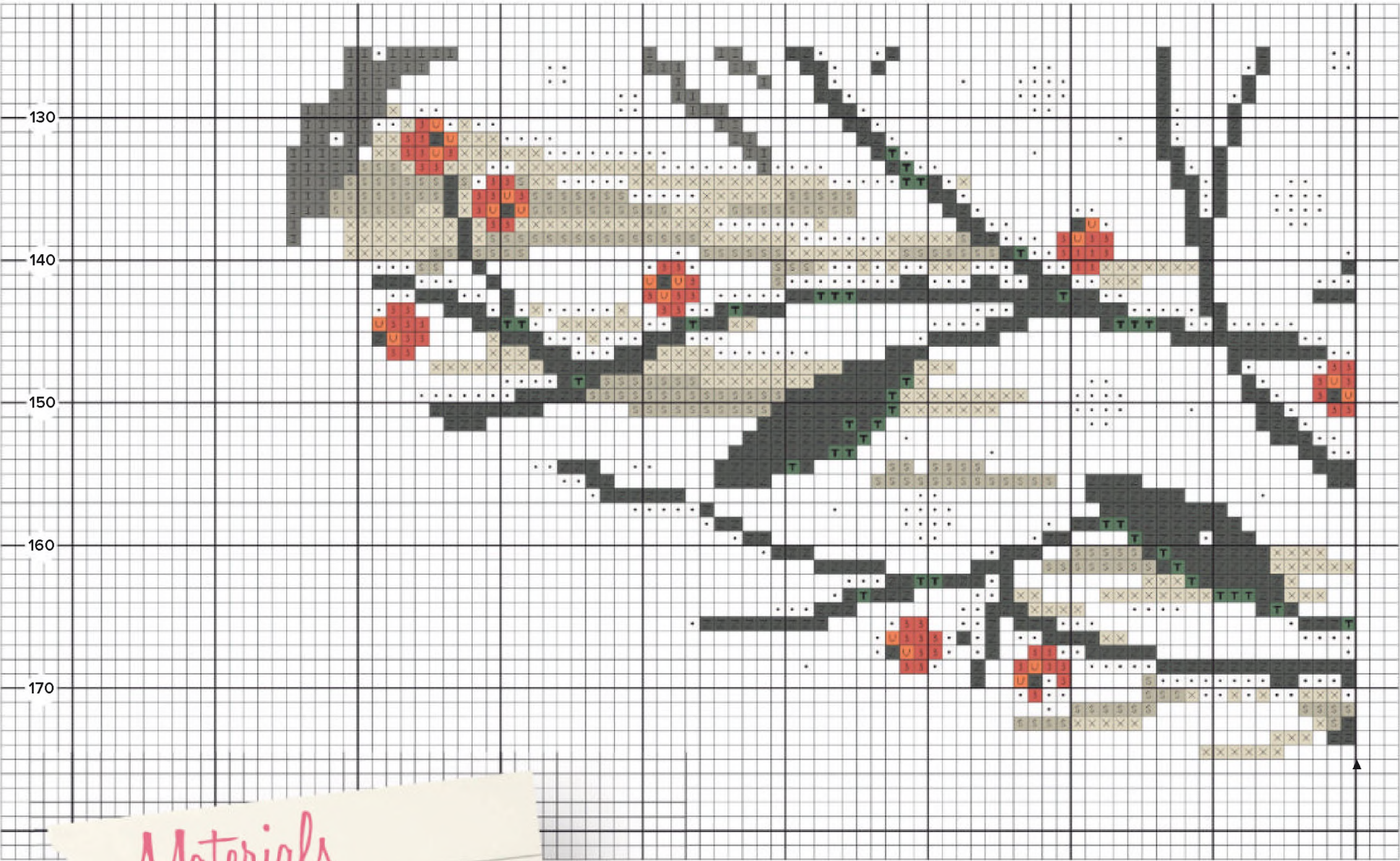
How to order: Fill in the form on page 15 or go to www.willowfabrics.com to order your project pack at the CrossStitcher reader price of £30, plus P&P.



A large grid-based drawing of a penguin on a coordinate plane. The grid has x and y axes ranging from 0 to 90. The penguin is drawn using black, white, and gray pixels. It has a small orange beak and feet. The drawing is centered around the coordinates (50, 50).



SNOW PLACE LIKE HOME



Materials

- Zweigart Nougat 14 count aida, ref: 3706/300; 50x50cm (19½x19½in)
 - Stranded cotton as listed in the key
 - Size 24 tapestry needle
 - Wooden embroidery hoop; 35.5cm (14in) diameter
- Materials available from www.willowfabrics.com

Designed by: Lucie Heaton Stitch count: 175 high x 180 wide
Design size: 33x33cm (13x13in) Stitch time: 50 hours

This design was stitched on 14 count aida fabric.

The soft shades of this design complement a natural wooden hoop perfectly, we got ours from www.willowfabrics.com

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
 	367	217	1312
 	436	1045	2011
 	437	362	2012
 	642	392	1906
 	644	830	1907
 	646	858	1181 (2)
 	725	306	808
 	822	390	2001 (2)
 	844	1041	1810
 	900	333	208
 	970	316	204
 	976	1001	2302

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
 	977	1002	2012
 	3688	066	605
 	3689	049	607
 	3826	365	2306
 	3827	363	2012
 	blanc	001	white (3)
Backstitch in one strand			
	725	306	808
bird details			
	844	1041	1810
dog			

(2) indicates more than one skein is required



CrossStitcher © Lucie Heaton

We added a co-ordinating bow to cover the hoop's screw – creating the perfect finishing touch before hanging

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.

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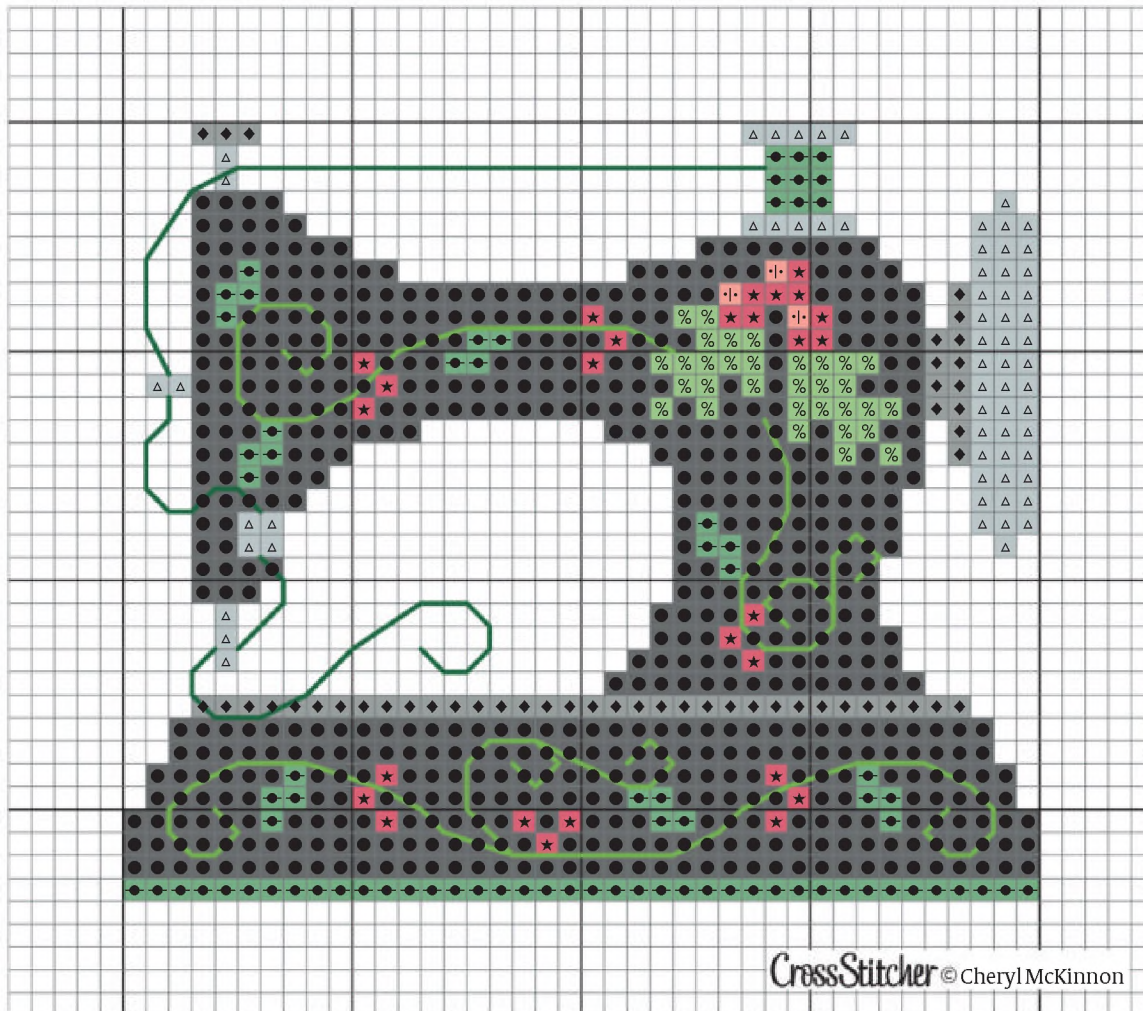
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SEW FESTIVE

Share your love of stitching this Christmas! Create our trio of sewing-themed decorations to give your home a festive finishing touch!



Designed by: Cheryl McKinnon Stitch count: 34 high x 40 wide

Design size: 6.5x7.5cm (2½x3in) Stitch time: 5 hours

These designs were stitched on 14 count aida fabric.

Make an... ornament

Step 1

STITCH your ornament onto aida, using two strands for the cross stitch and one for the backstitch. Cut around the design following the shape of the stitching, but leaving two or three blank aida squares around the edge. Paint the edge with Fray Check or fabric glue to prevent fraying. Leave to dry.

Step 2

LEAVE the glue to dry, then place the stitching on the felt and cut the felt into the same shape as your decoration. Cut a length of ribbon, which you fold in half and then place the ends at the top of the ornament, between the stitching and the felt. Using a sewing machine or small, neat

running stitches, sew the two layers together, around the edge of the design stitching on the blank aida.

Step 3

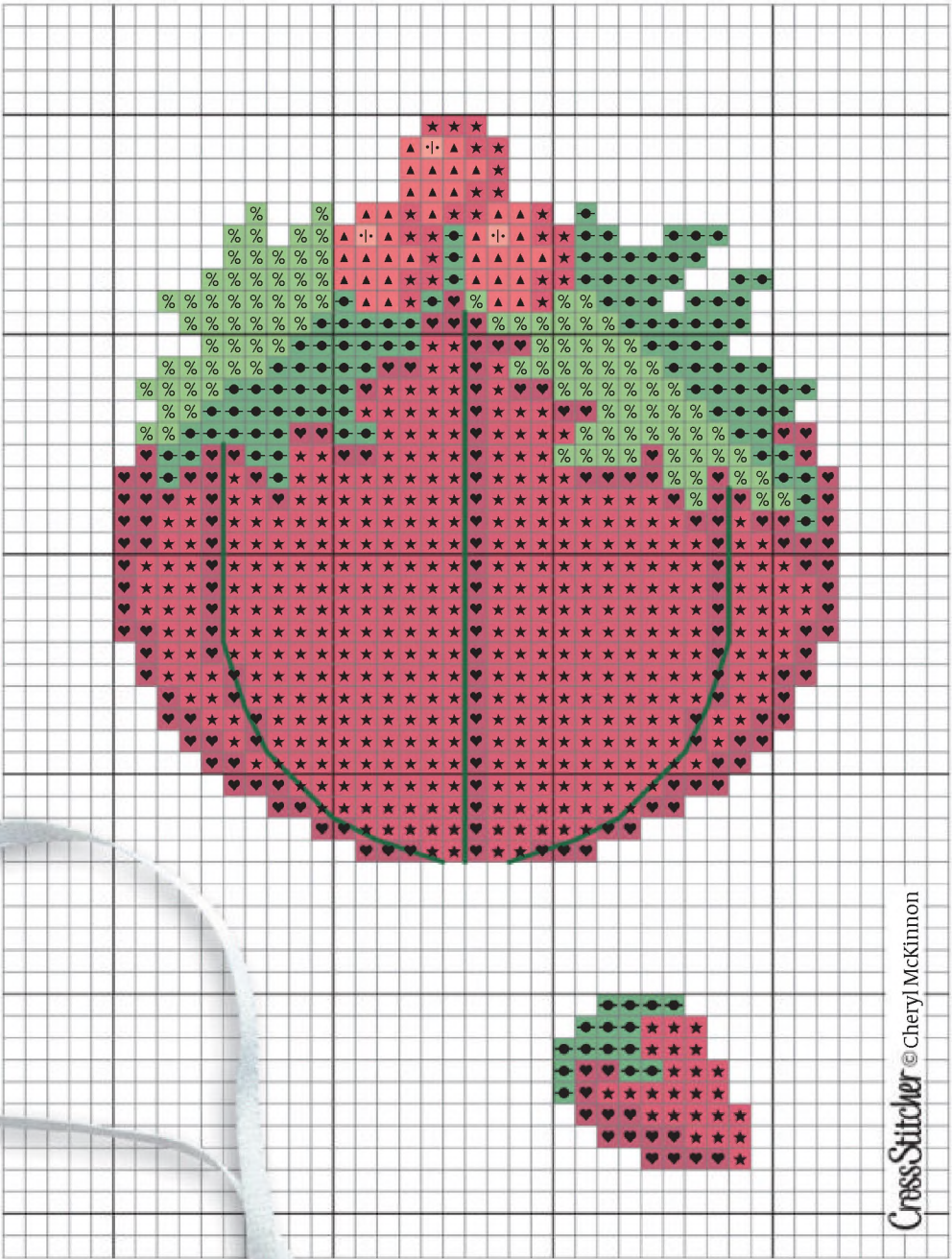
MAKE up the little strawberry before assembling the tomato. Add a single length of ribbon, which is then threaded through the tomato and secured at the back with a knot. The tomato is then made up in the same way as the other ornaments.

Step 4

USE pins and needles to decorate the ornaments, and on the sewing machine, thread a needle through the aida to look like it has a needle.

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
	168	274	1803
	169	849	1802
	310	403	black
	321	019	510
	352	009	303
	435	1046	2010
	436	1045	2011
	437	362	2012
	666	046	210
	702	239	1306
	704	256	1308
	3801	1098	411
Backstitch in one strand			
	321	019	510
thread			
	702	239	1306
detail			
	704	256	1308
decoration			

Stitch any of these decorations onto plastic canvas, trim and back with felt and add a brooch pin to create a pretty addition to a festive outfit



Designed by: Cheryl McKinnon

Stitch count: 34 high x 28 wide

Design size: 6.5x5cm (2½x2in) Stitch time: 5 hours

These designs were stitched on 14 count aida fabric.



Designed by: Cheryl McKinnon

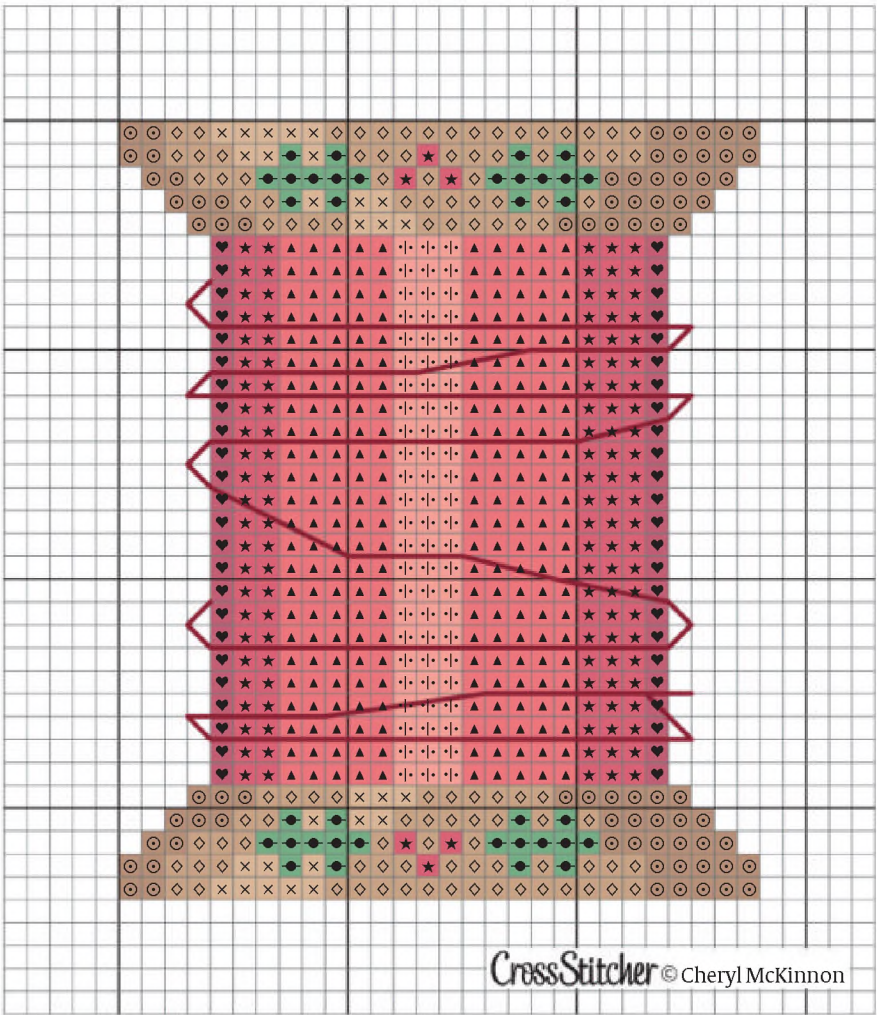
Stitch count: 34 high x 34 wide tomato;

8 high x 9 wide strawberry

Design size: 6.5x6cm (2½x2½in); 1.5x1.5cm (¾x¾in)

Stitch time: 5 hours

These designs were stitched on 14 count aida fabric.





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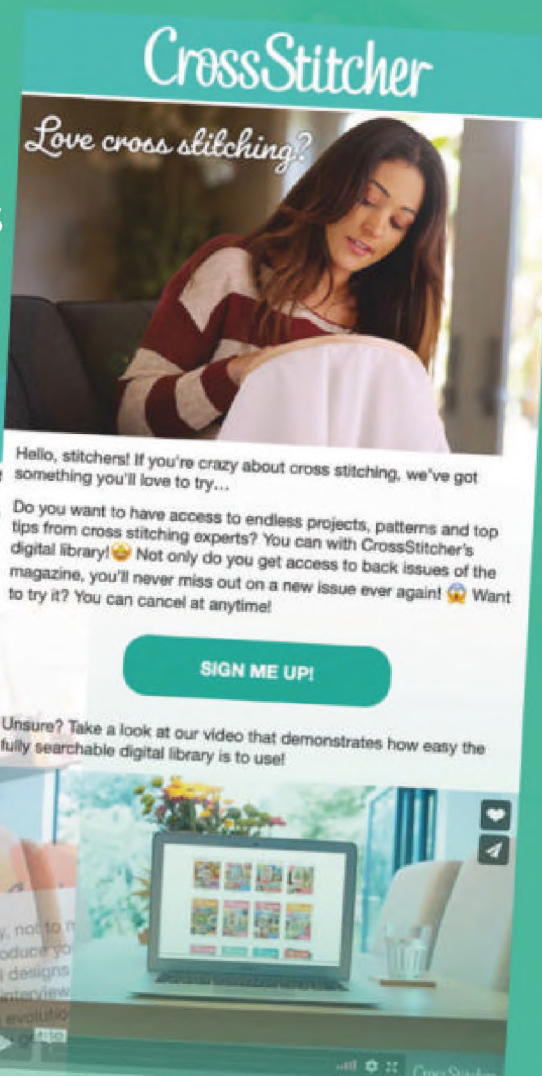
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SNOW WAY!

Every day is a snow day with our cushion! It's a fab first homestyle make for beginners

CrossStitcher PROJECT PACK

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



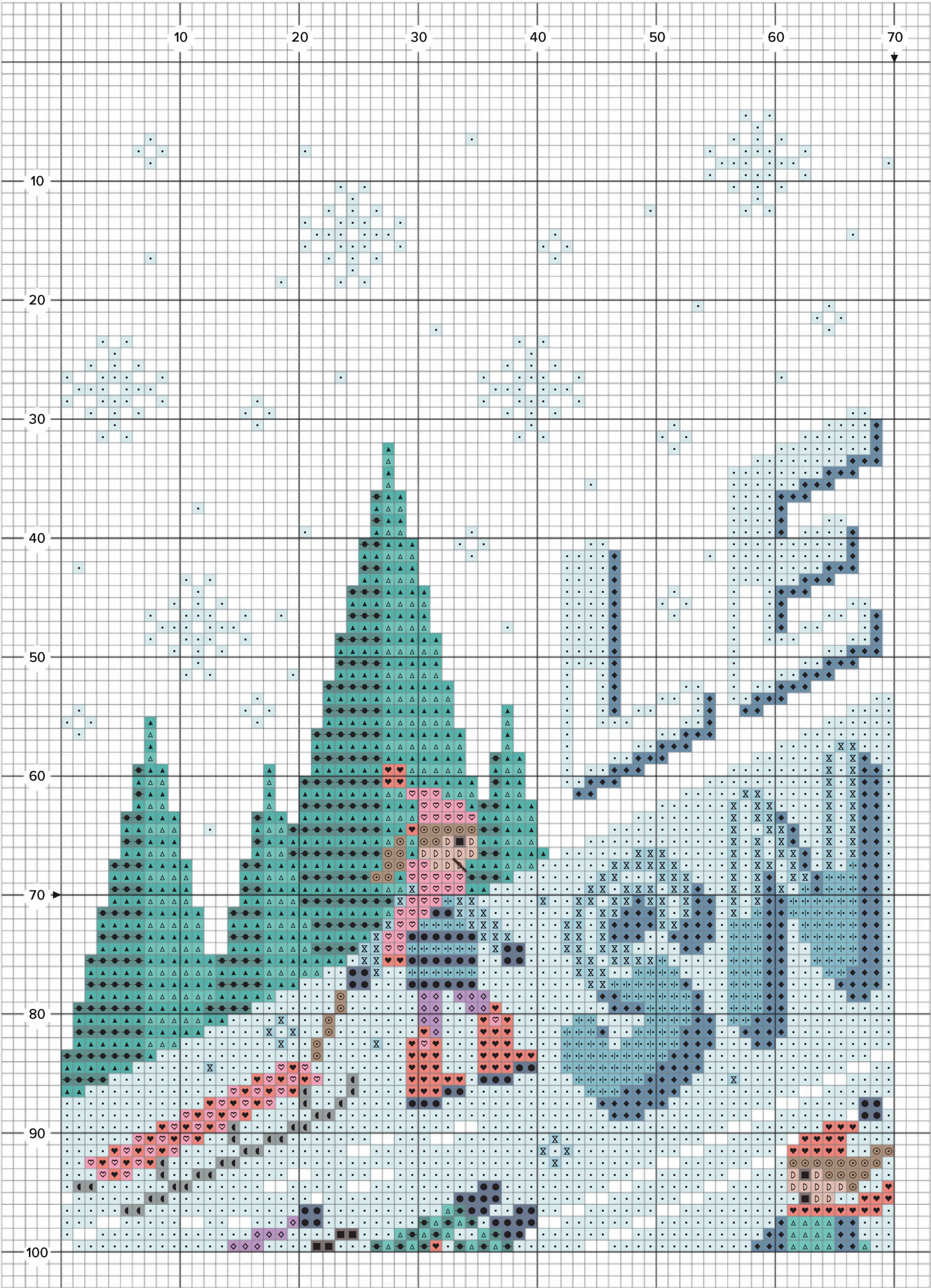
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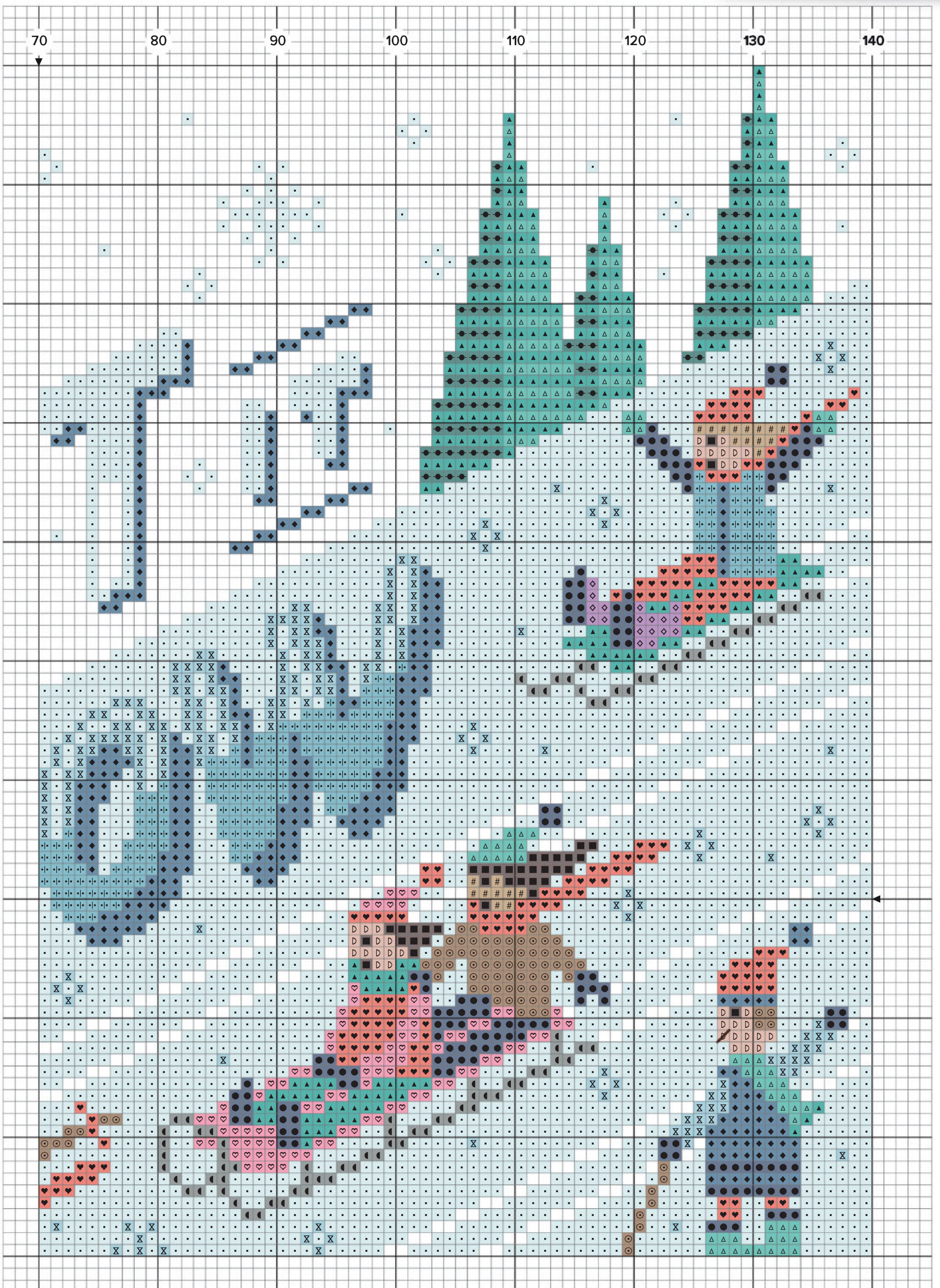
- Zweigart 14 count aida in Light Blue
- Skeins of DMC stranded cotton
- Two gold-plated tapestry needles; size 24 and size 26
- Snowflake charm

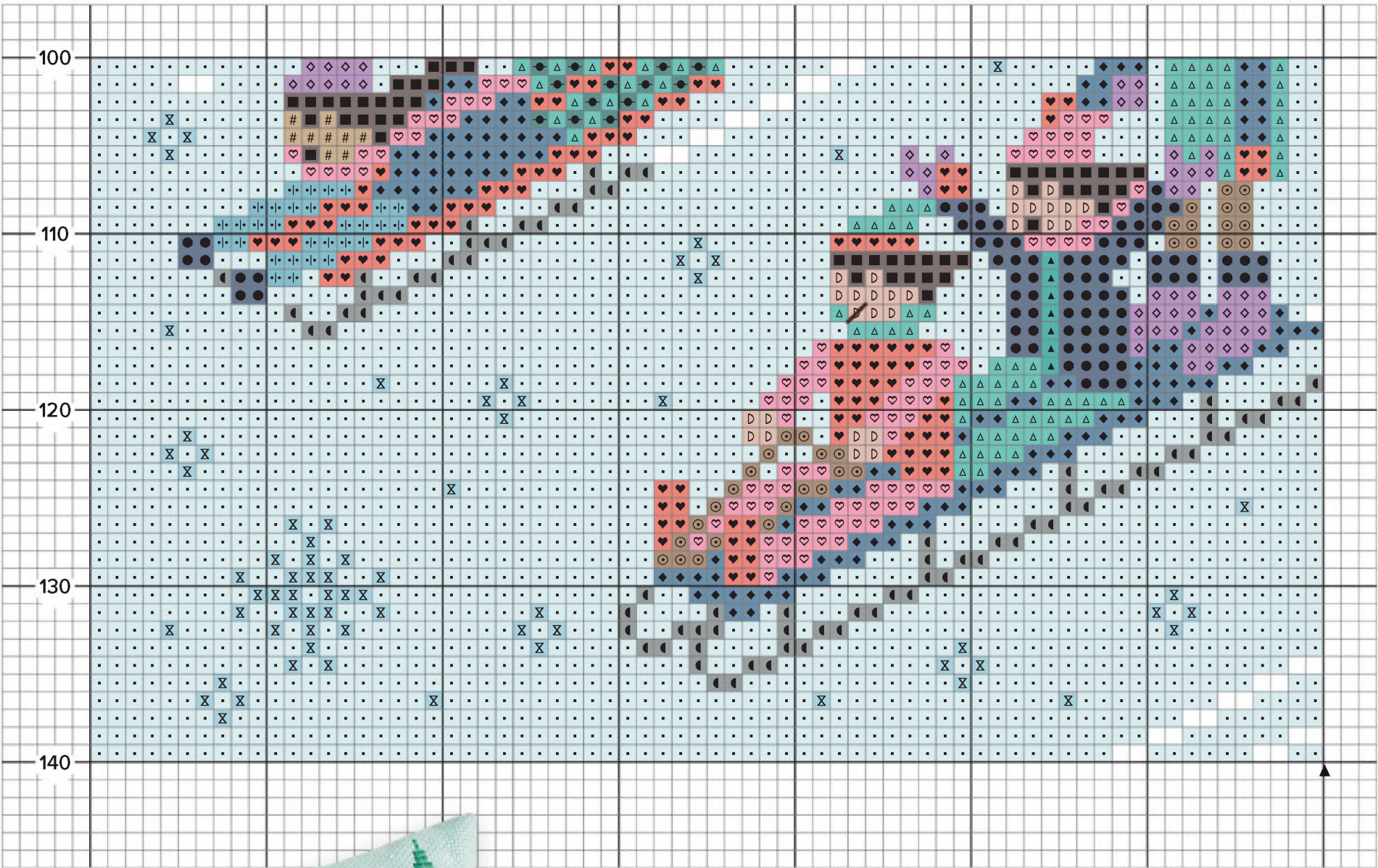
NOTE: Backing fabric and cushion pad not included

How to order: Fill in the form on page 15 or go to www.willowfabrics.com to order your project pack at the CrossStitcher reader price of £29.50, plus P&P.

SNOW WAY







We added a snowflake charm to our cushion as a finishing touch, available to order from www.willowfabrics.com

Designed by: Emma Congdon Stitch count: 140 high x 140 wide
Design size: 25.5x25.5cm (10x10in) Stitch time: 69 hours

This design was stitched on 14 count aida fabric.

Materials

- Zweigart Light Blue 14 count aida, ref: 3706/503; 41x41cm (16x16in)
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Size 24 tapestry needle
- Backing fabric; 30.5x30.5cm (12x12in)
- Cushion pad; 28x28cm (11x11in)
- Snowflake charm

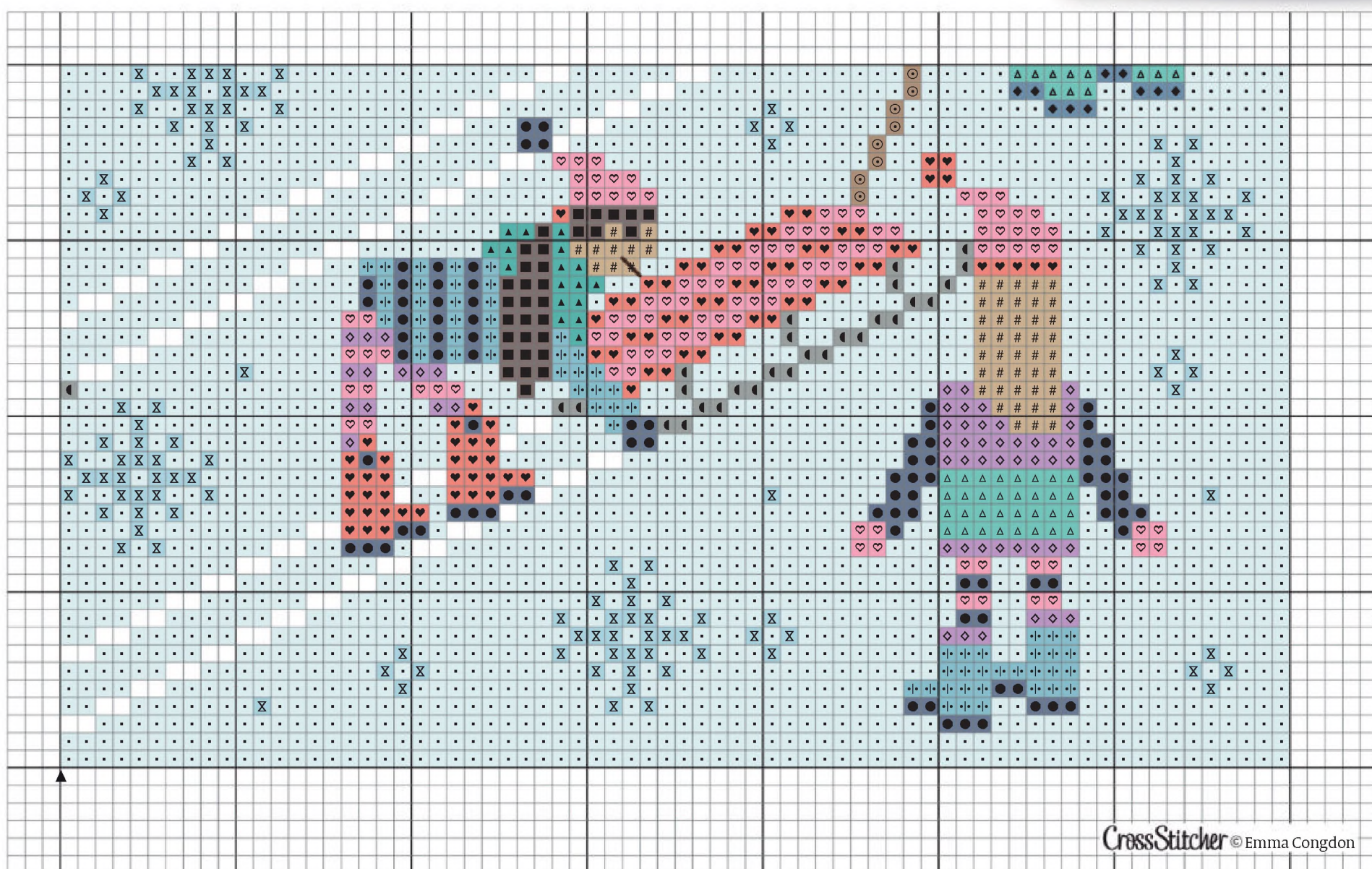
Materials available from www.willowfabrics.com

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
	169	849	1802
	209	109	803
	420	375	2104
	422	943	2102
	517	162	1107
	803	149	1006
	898	360	2006
	950	4146	2309
	957	031	612
	959	186	1113

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
	991	1076	1204
	3761	928	1014
	3766	167	1111
	3801	1098	411
	3812	188	2706
	blanc	001	white (6)

Backstitch in one strand			
	898	360	2006
faces			

(6) indicates more than one skein is required



CrossStitcher © Emma Congdon



Make a... cushion

Step 1

COMPLETE the stitching then cut the fabric to 30.5x30.5cm (12x12in), the same size as your backing fabric, with the design in the centre.

Step 2

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

Step 3

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

SANTA PAWS STOP HERE



SANTA PAWS STOP HERE!

Happy howlidays! Fill up our paw-feet stockings with presents for your dog or cat – we've included an alphabet to add their name!



CrossStitcher © Emma Congdon

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
	310	403	black
	435	1046	2010
	535	1041	1809
	646	858	1181
	647	1040	1813
	648	900	1814
	780	309	2214
	801	359	2007
	919	340	313
	975	371	2303

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
	3024	397	1901
	3033	391	2001
	3799	236	1713
	3852	307	2509
	B5200	001	white
	ecru	387	ecru
	C321	Étoile	
Backstitch in one strand			
	310	403	black
outlines			

Designed by: Emma Congdon
 Max. stitch count: 42 high x 41 wide
 Max. design size: 8x7.5cm (3¼x3in)
 plus name
 Stitch time: 7 hours (each)

These designs were stitched on 14 count aida fabric.



Using the alphabet provided, add your dog's or cat's name under the design. The letters should butt together, and you will need to leave five blank spaces between the design and the top of the lettering

Make a... pet stocking

Step 1

COMPLETE the stitching then use the template of either the bone or the fish to make a paper pattern of the complete shape and one of the smaller shape below the line.

Step 2

PIN the smaller paper pattern to your stitched aida, making sure the design is in the centre of the shape. Hold your stitching with the paper pattern attached up to a window to check the position, and then move it until correctly placed. Cut out the shape. Use the same paper pattern to cut a pocket backing.

Step 3

USE the full sized bone or fish pattern to cut two backs for each stocking from Christmas fabric.

Step 4

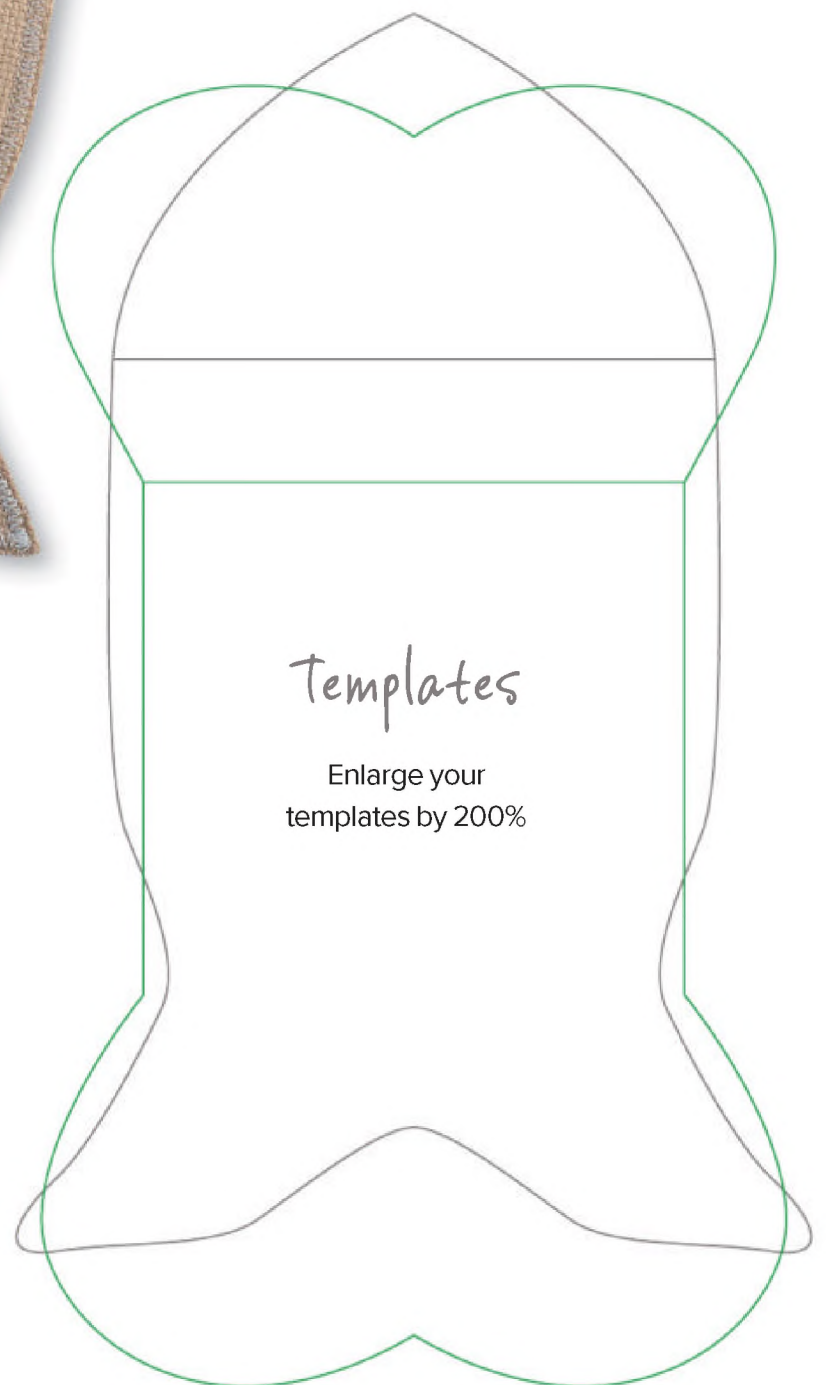
PIN the pocket front and lining together, and zig-zag stitch across the top edge to neaten and hold the layers together. Place the two stocking backs together, right-sides facing out, and on top of this the assembled stocking pocket. Pin in place.

Step 5

USE a straight stitch on your sewing machine to sew around the outer edge of the stocking pocket to hold it firmly to the back. Change to a zig-zag stitch and sew around the outer edge of the stocking to sew the layers together.

Step 6

SEW a loop of ribbon to the top of the stocking, adding a button over the stitches to neaten.



Materials

For each stocking

- Zweigart Nougat 14 count aida, ref: 3706/3021; 50x46cm (9x8in)
- Lining fabric; 23x20cm (9x8in)
- Christmas fabric; 30.3x20cm (12x8in) x 2 pieces
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Size 24 tapestry needle
- Red button
- Red ribbon

Materials available from www.willowfabrics.com

Letter

LIBRARY

PENGUINS

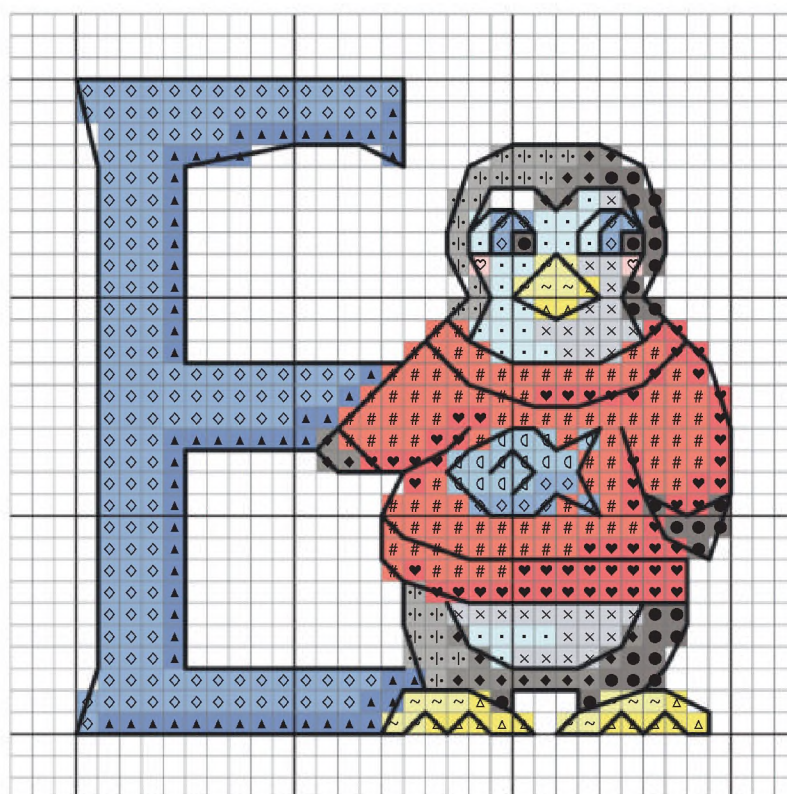
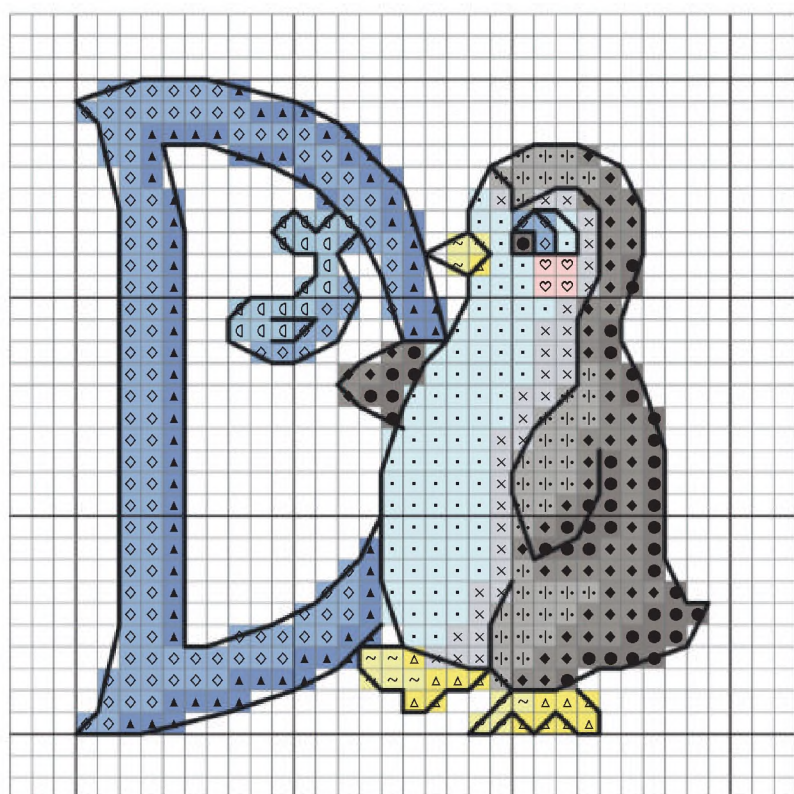
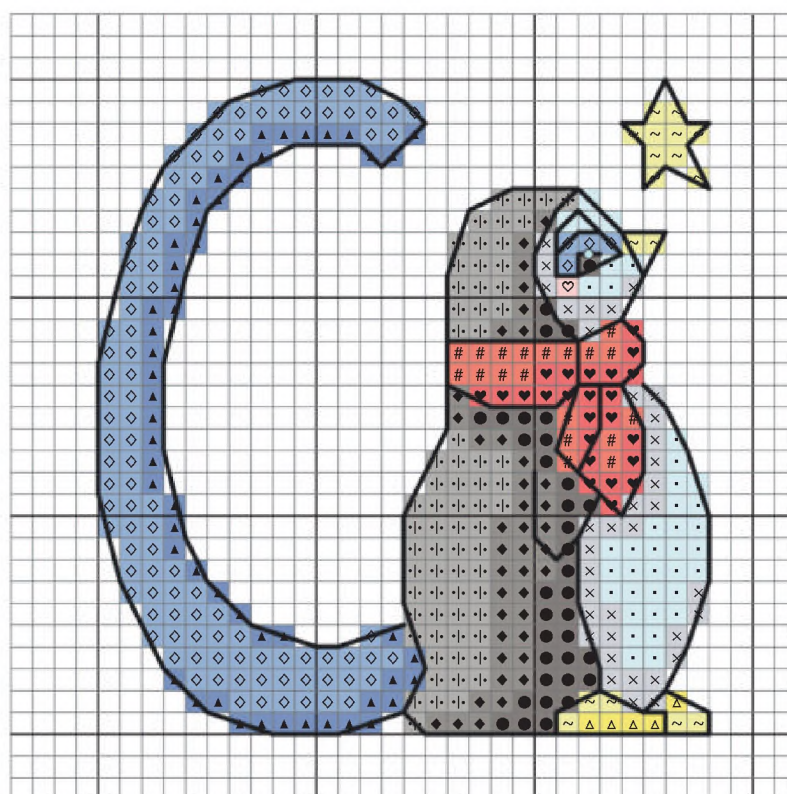
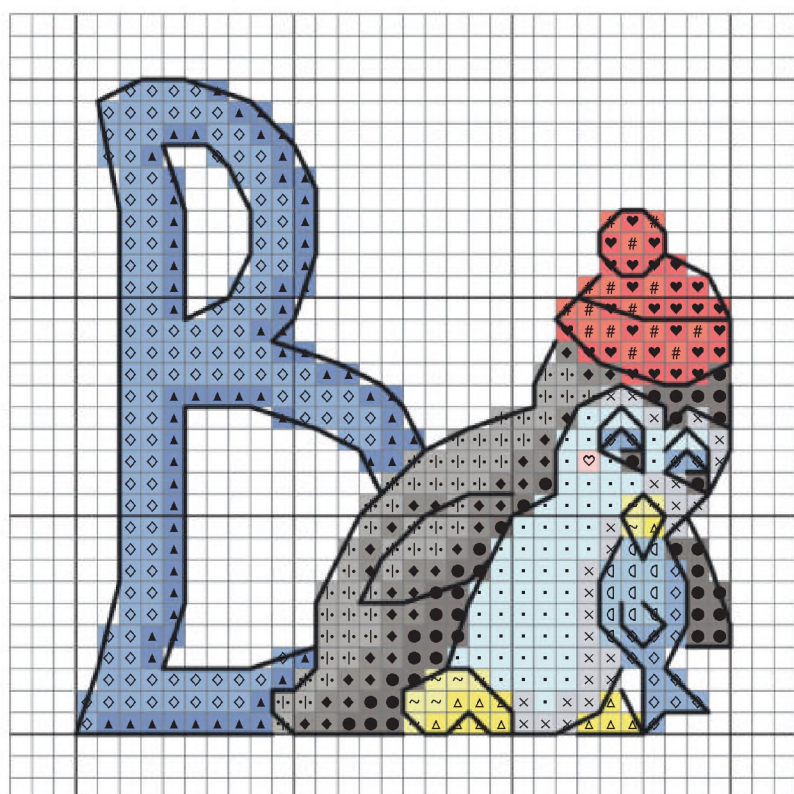
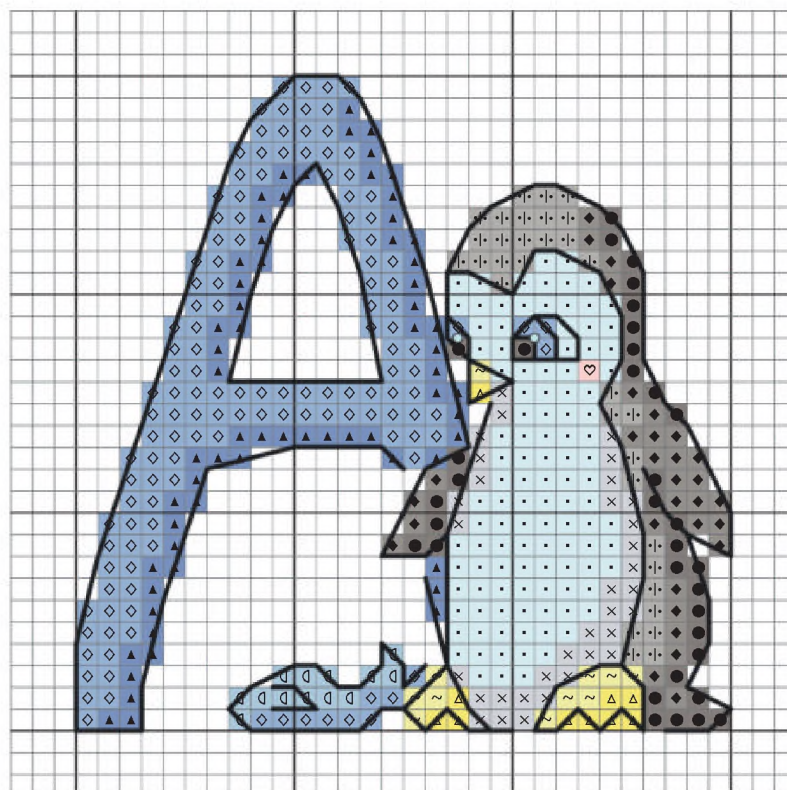
Pick up a penguin motif or two to personalise your winter projects with our super-cute alphabet and numbers set!

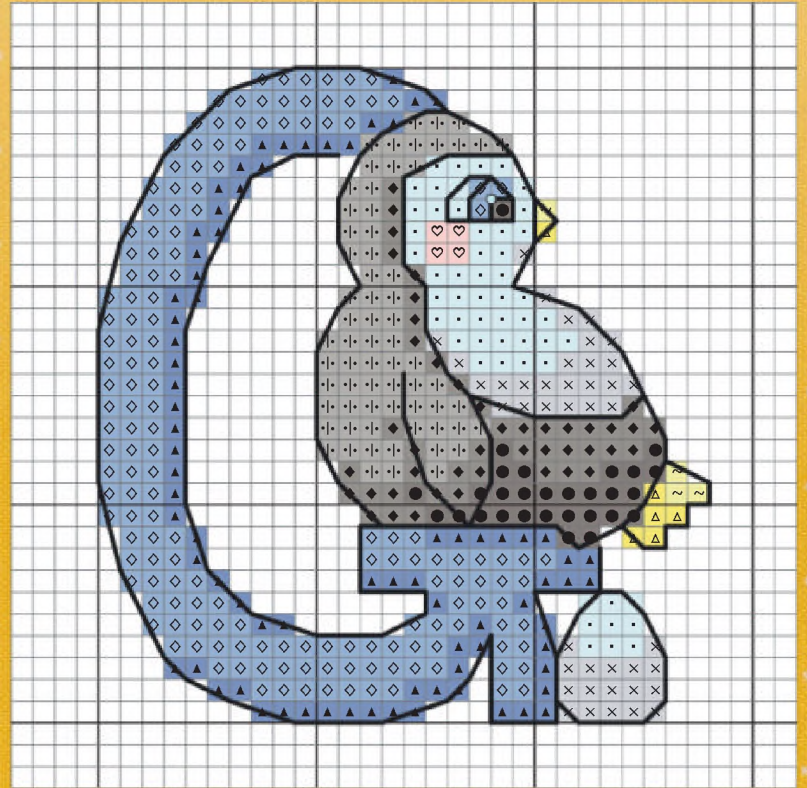
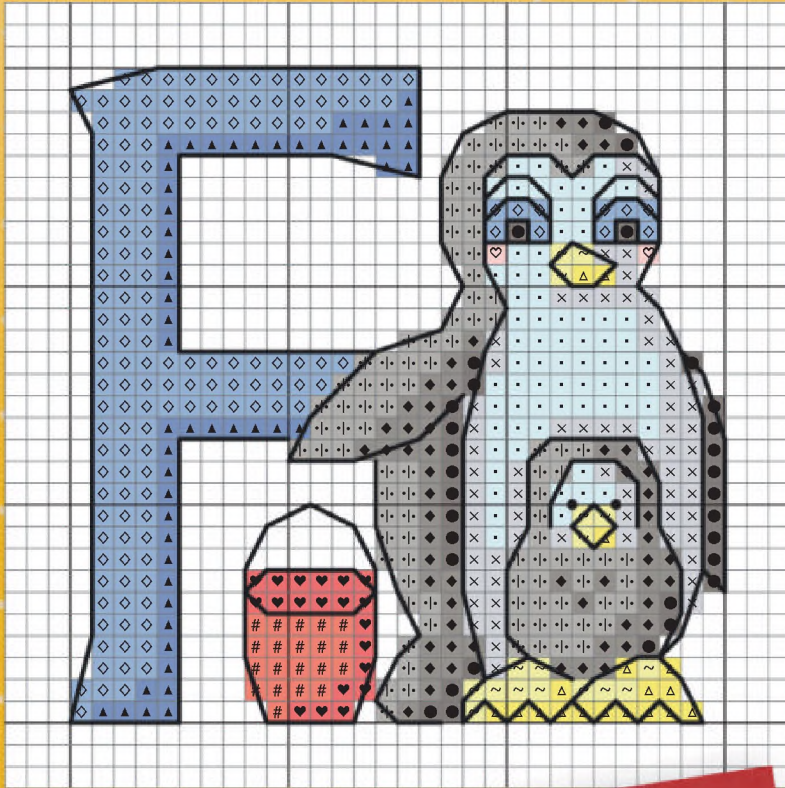


Each month we publish a new letter and number set based on a theme, designed for you to cut out and keep for when you need it

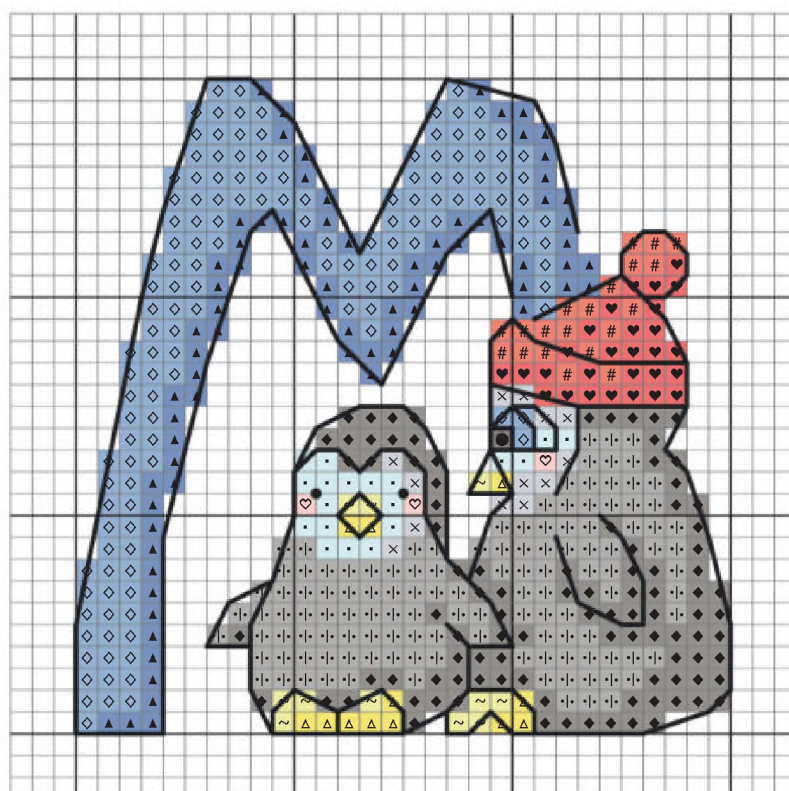
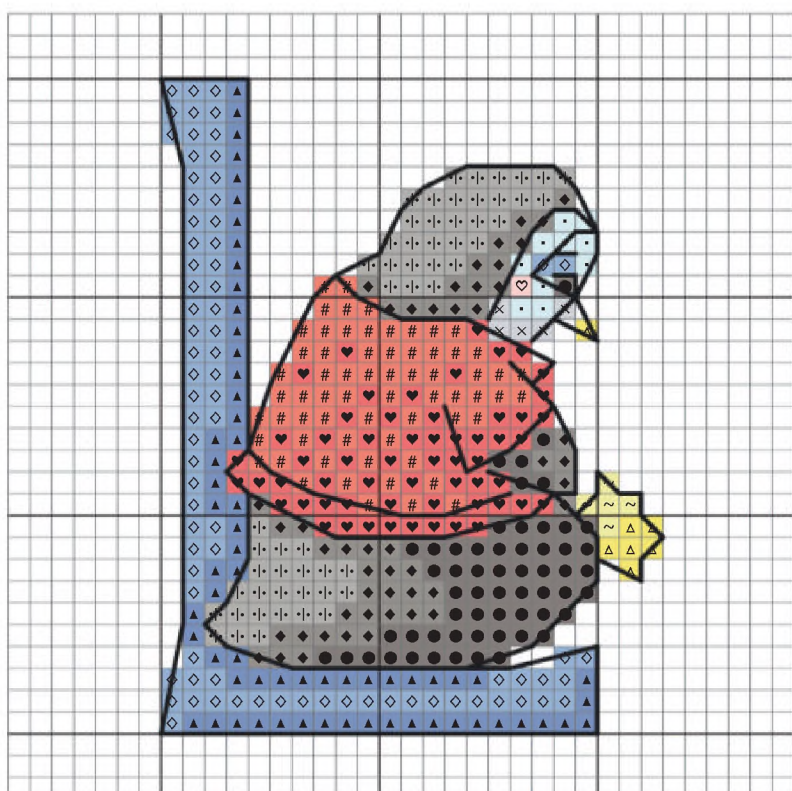
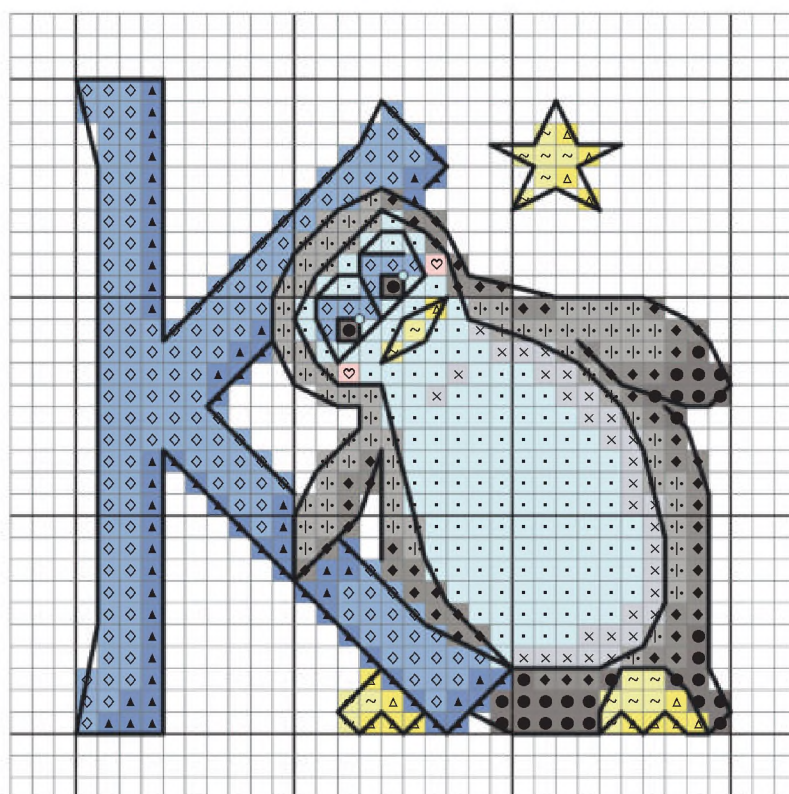
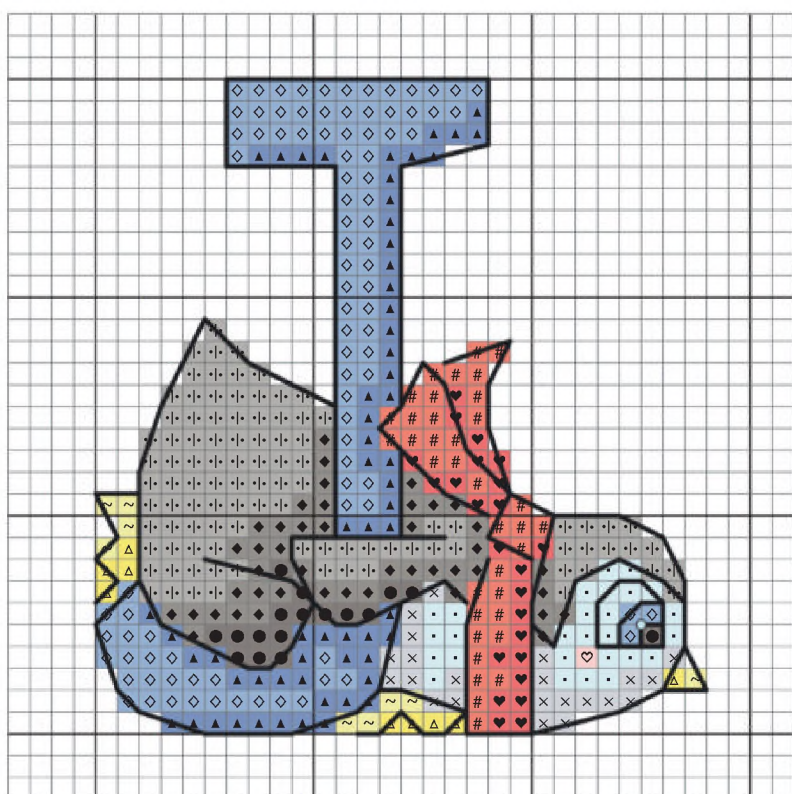
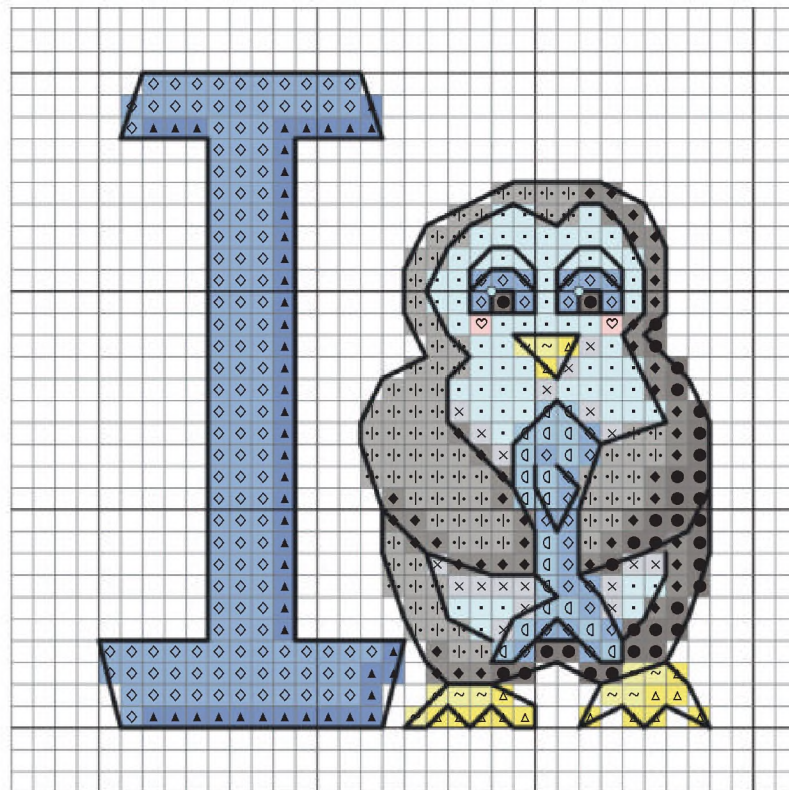
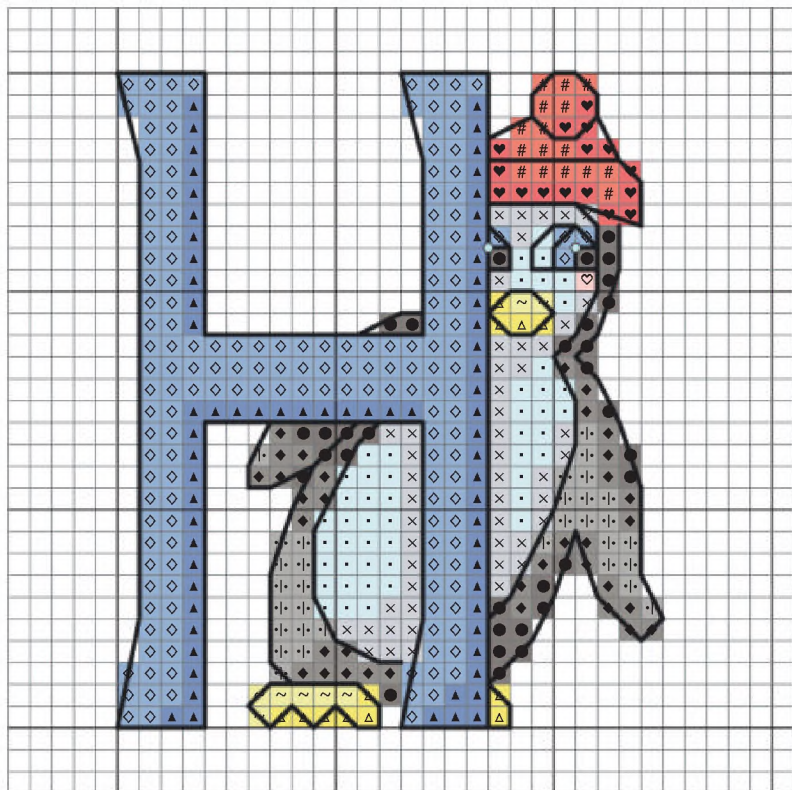
Welcome to our first alphabet for 2021. We've kept with a wintry theme and headed to the South Pole for those perennial favourites – penguins! Did you know a group of penguins on land is called a waddle? We've a 36-strong waddle for you to choose from here. Each feathered friend only takes a few hours to complete. Happy stitching!

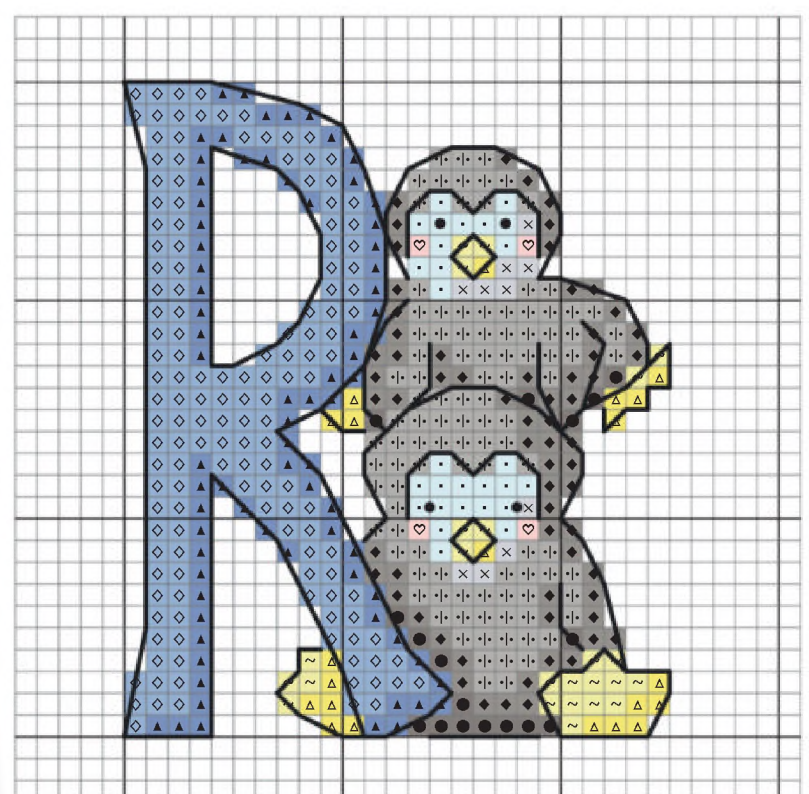
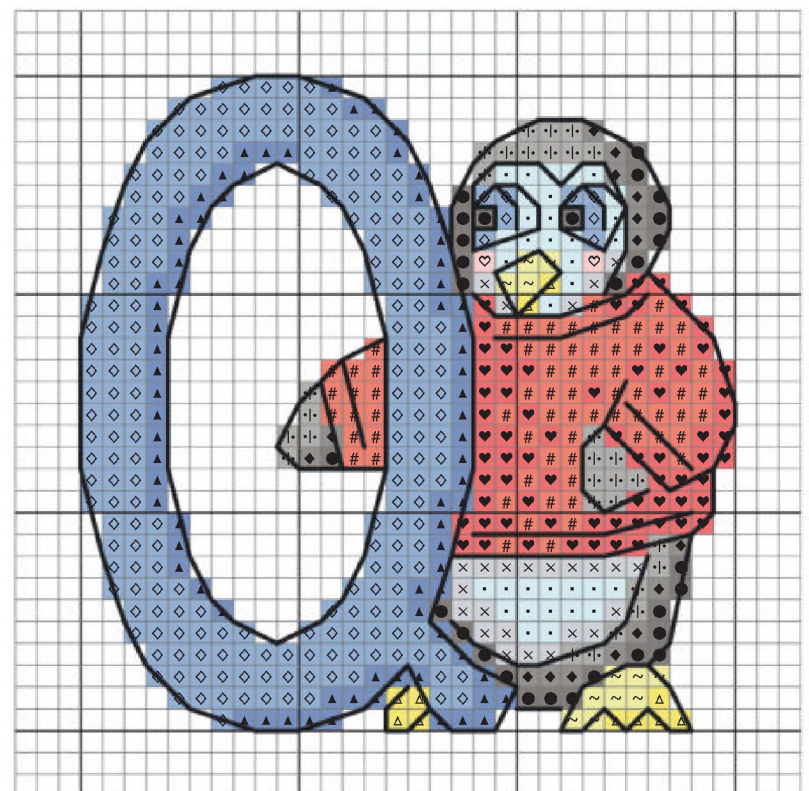
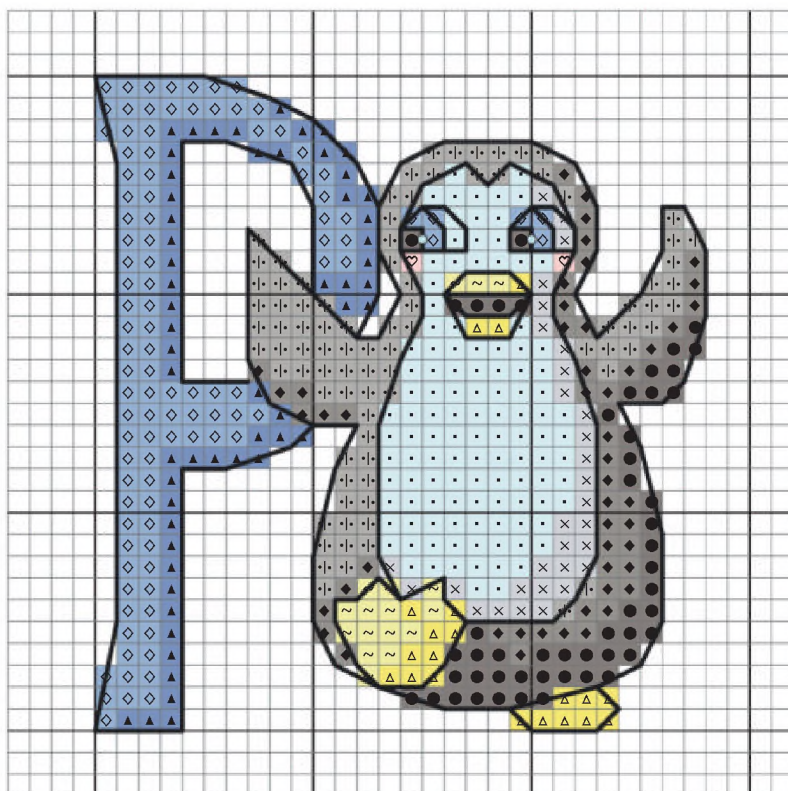
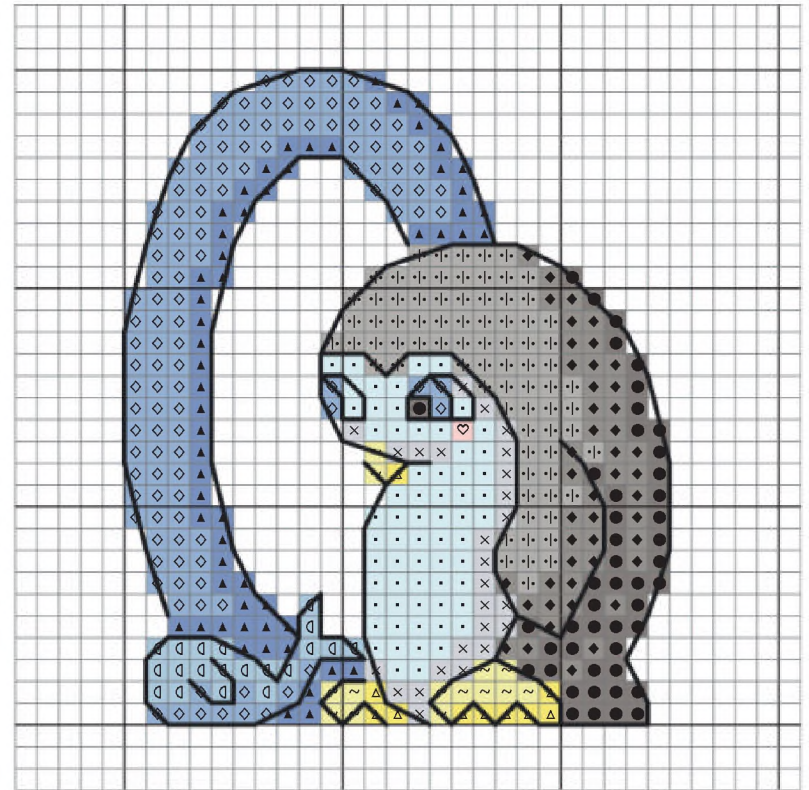
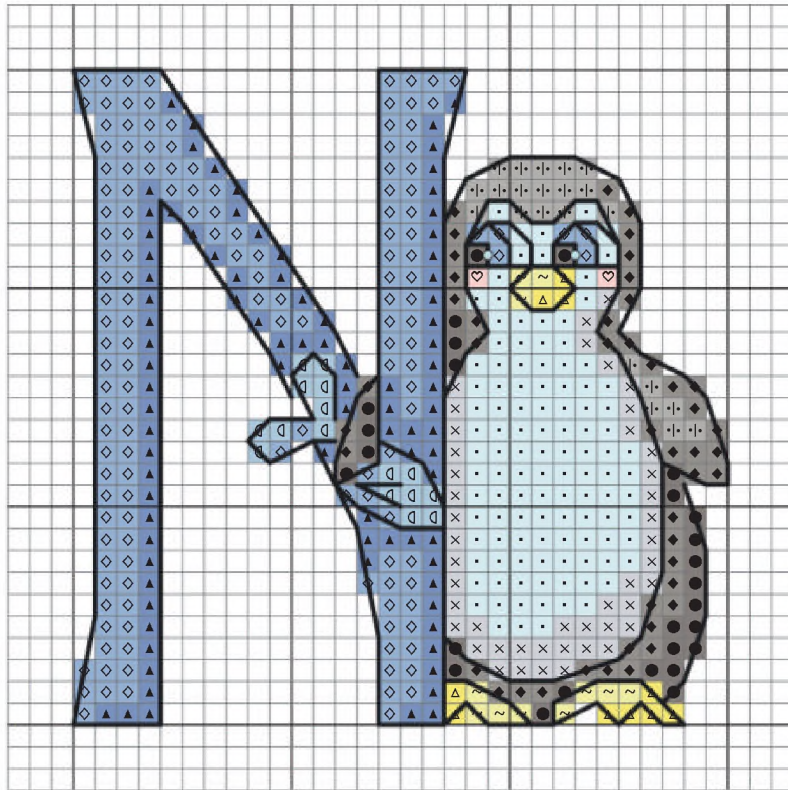
Designed by: Fiona Crouch

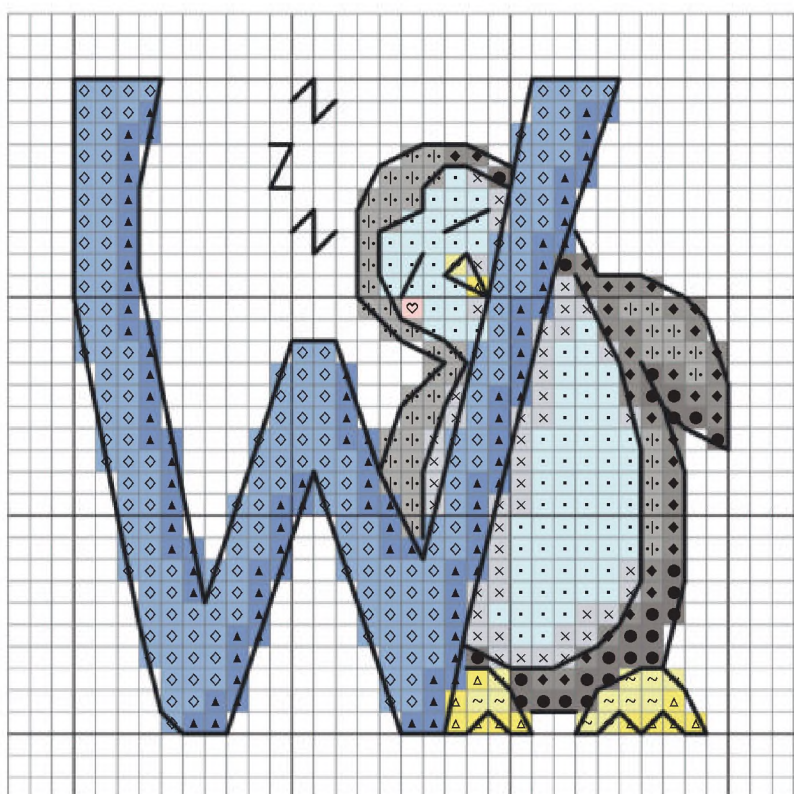
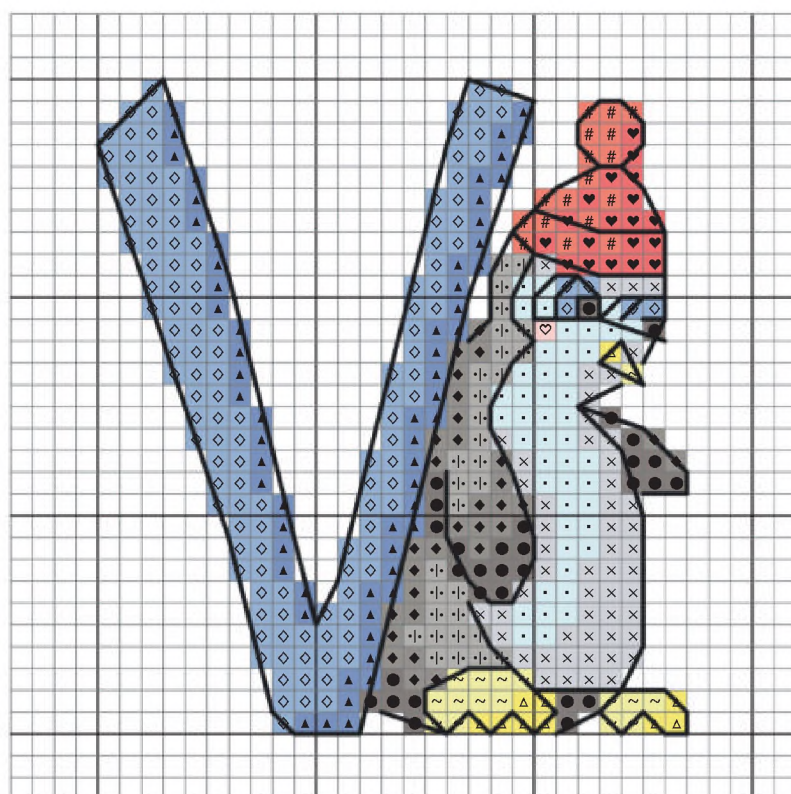
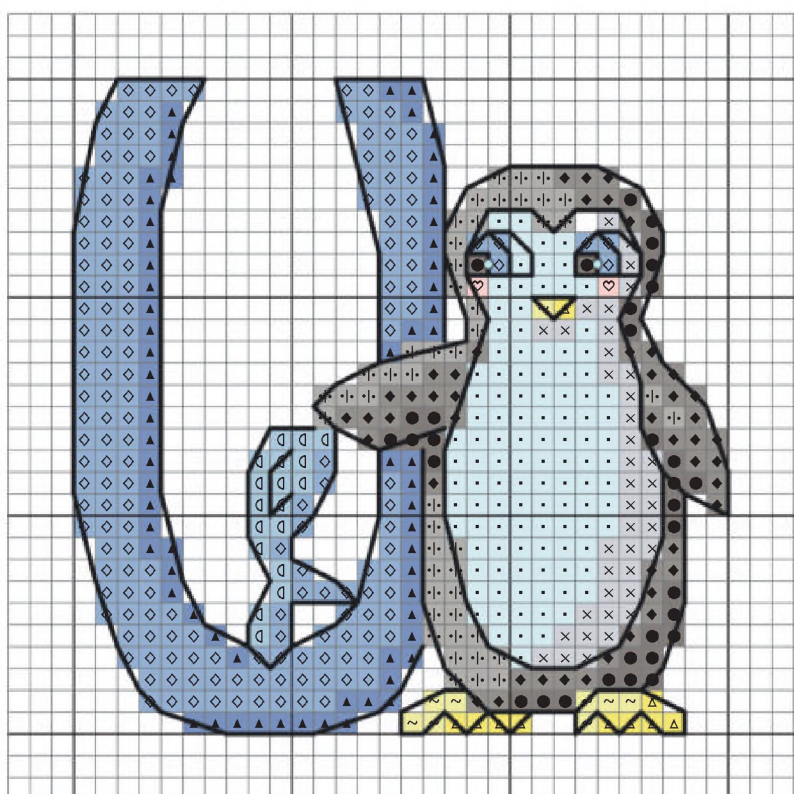
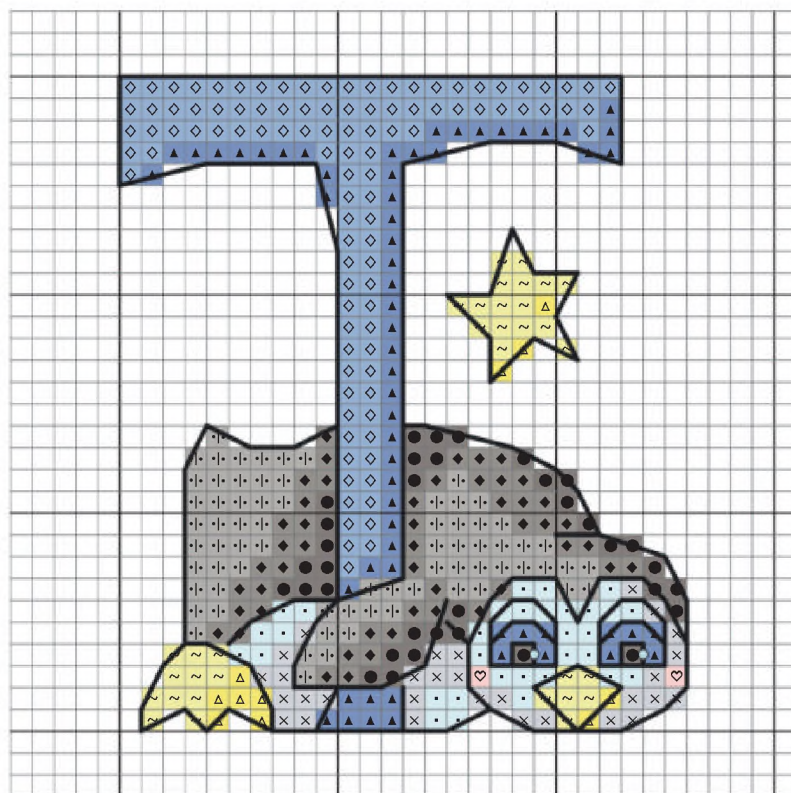
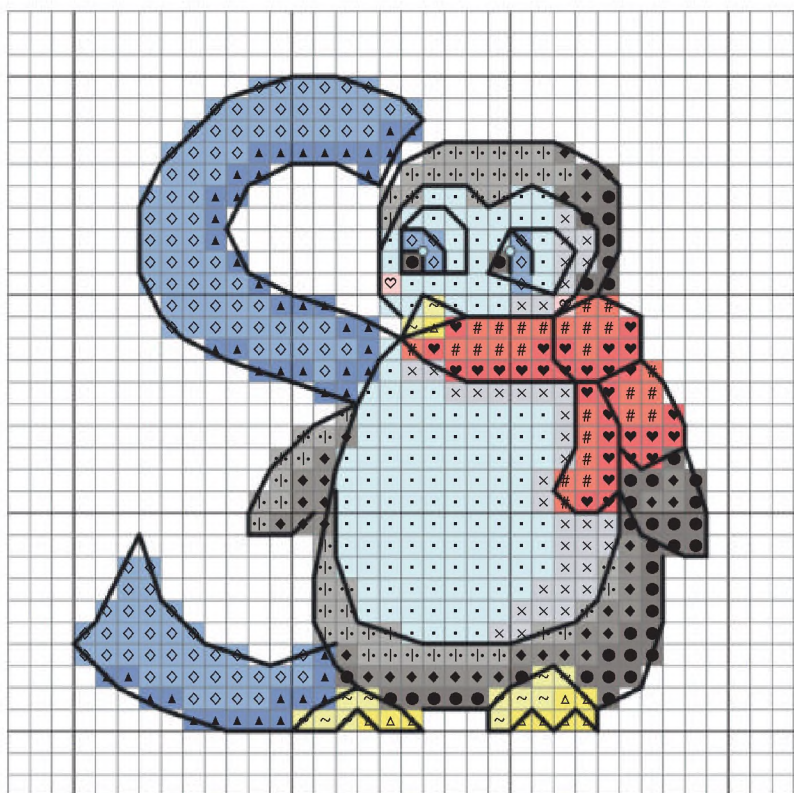




Our Penguin alphabet letters were mounted in a card, flexi-hoop and embroidery hoop. Each was stitched on 14 count white aida, and each letter is approximately 30 high x 30 wide. The design size for each letter is approximately 5.5x5.5cm (2¼x2¼in), and it took our stitcher four hours to stitch each one.







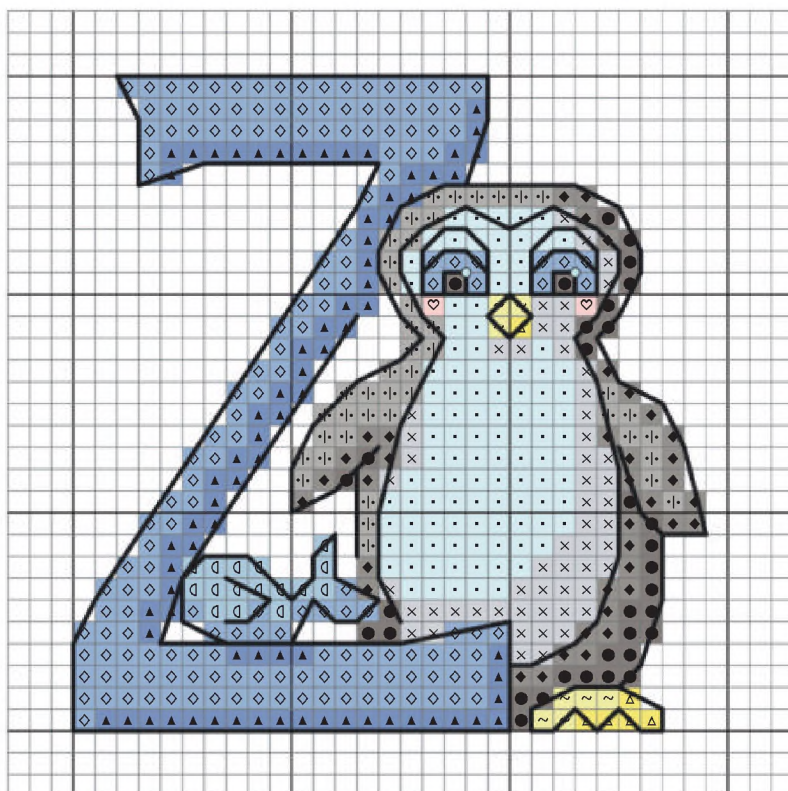
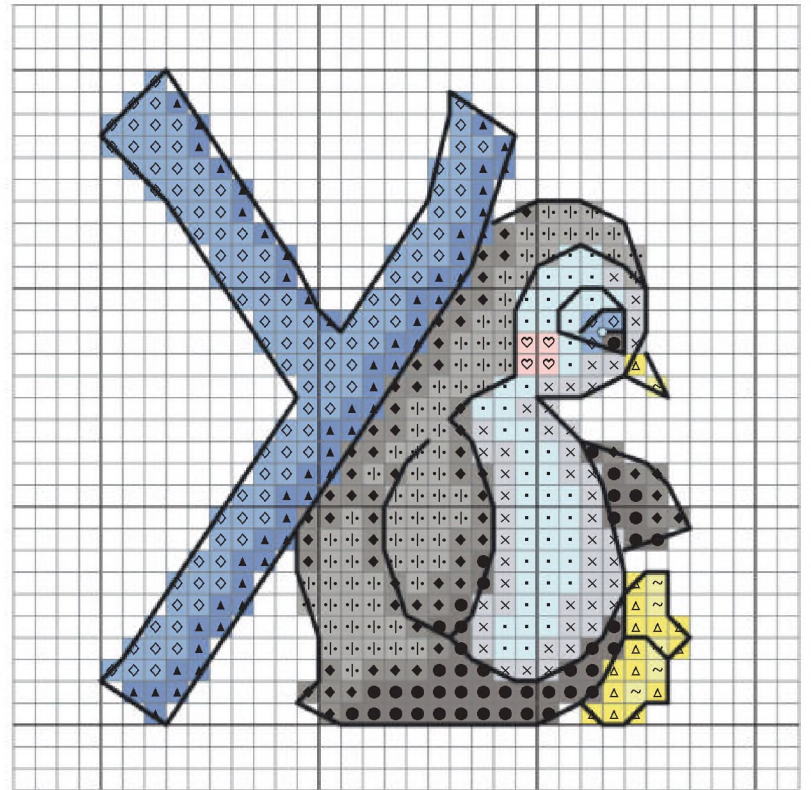
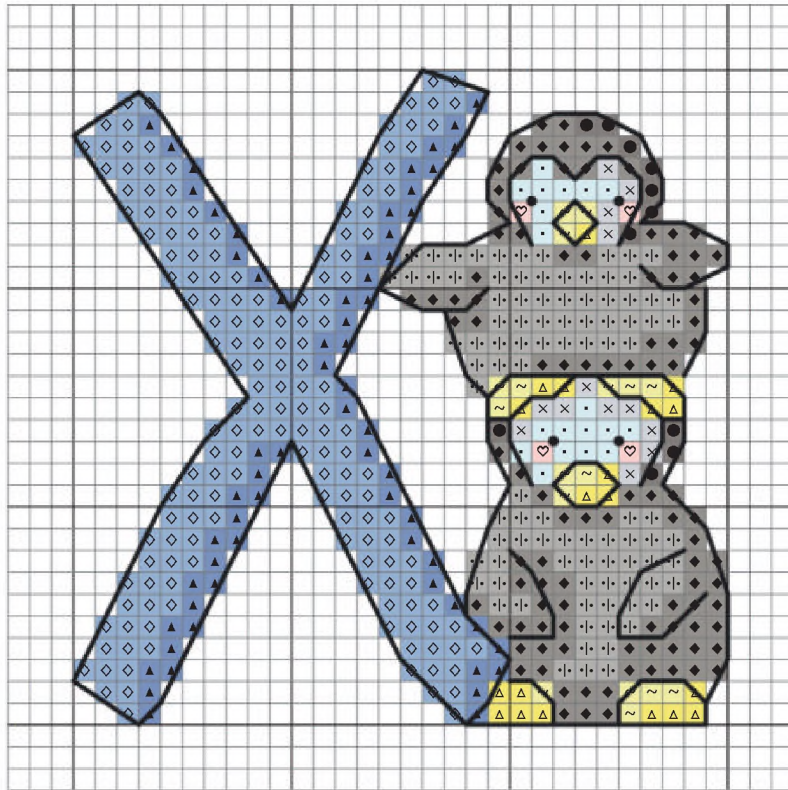
More to make...

Mix and match your letters to create a cute collection of penguin projects. Here are some ideas to get you started...

1 Stitch an initial onto a drawstring bag to hang in the hallway and fill with your child's hats, gloves and scarves to keep them all together.

2 Make Happy Birthday bunting for a child with a winter birthday – or spell out their name.

3 Use waste canvas to add a baby or child's initial onto the pocket of their winter coat.



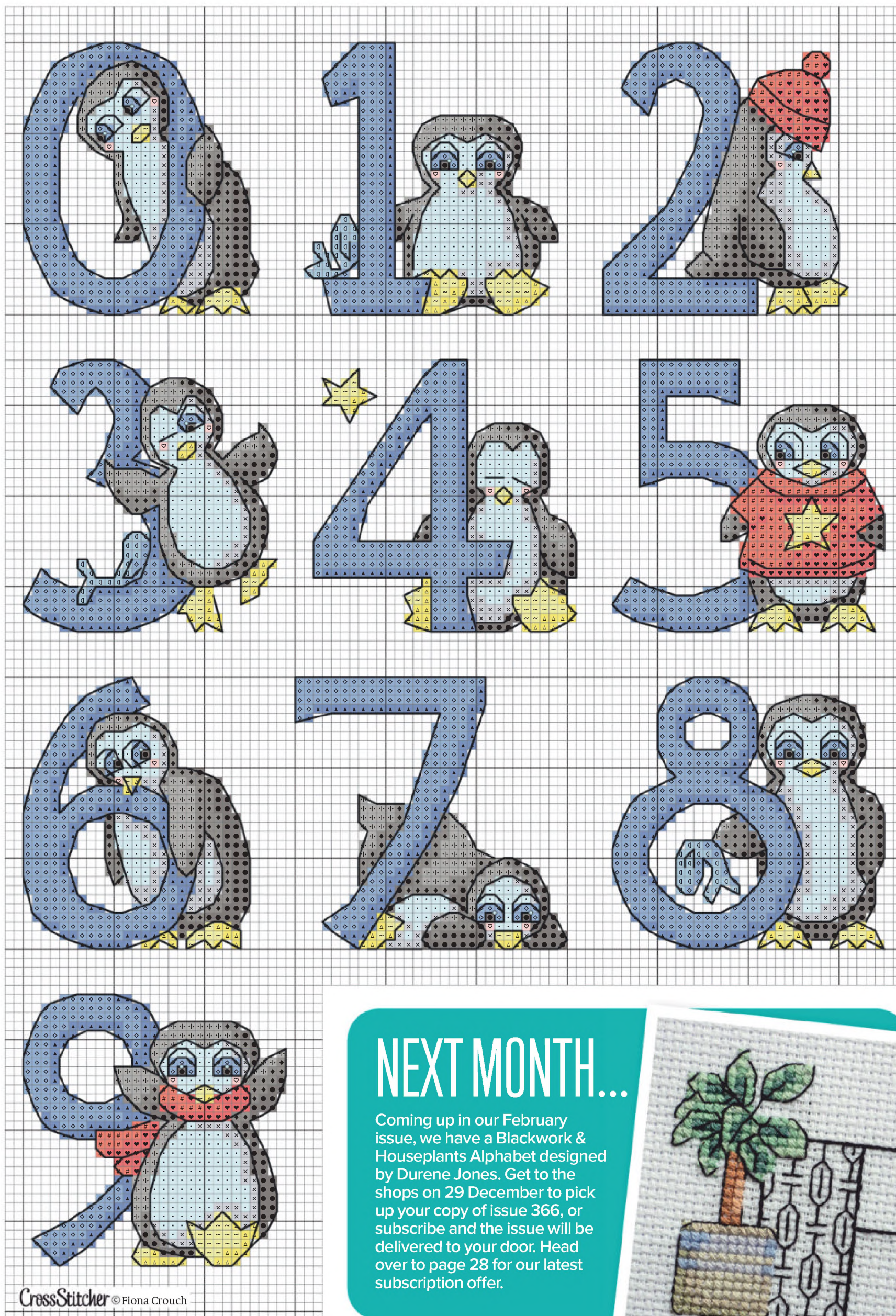
These quick motifs are a great way to practise your French knots!

We've stitched on pale blue aida for an 'icy' background - other blues or greys would work well too

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
	307	289	104
	445	288	103
	606	335	209
	608	332	206
	646	858	1181
	648	900	1814
	762	234	1804
	798	131	911
	800	159	908
	809	130	909
	3713	1021	501
	3787	273	1810
	B5200	001	white

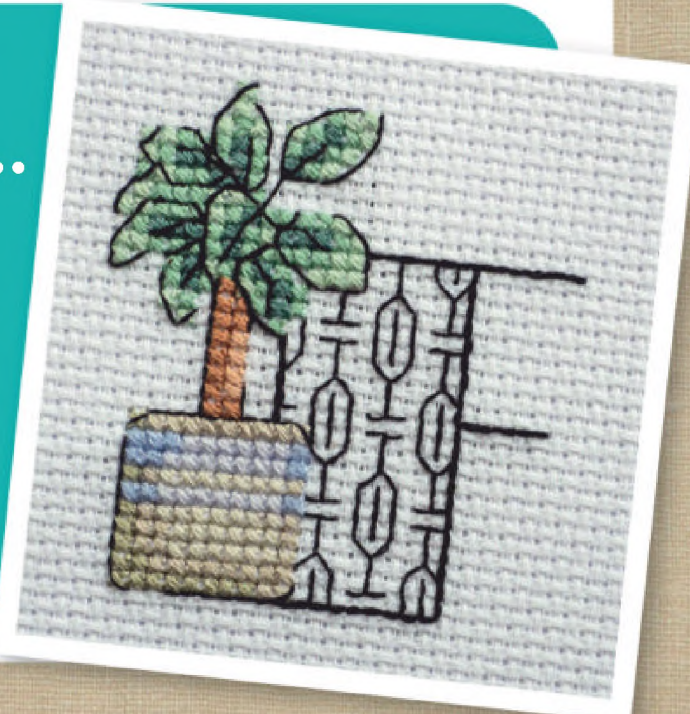
Backstitch in one strand			
	310	403	black
outlines			

French knots in one strand			
	310	403	black
eyes			
	B5200	001	white
eyes			



NEXT MONTH...

Coming up in our February issue, we have a Blackwork & Houseplants Alphabet designed by Durene Jones. Get to the shops on 29 December to pick up your copy of issue 366, or subscribe and the issue will be delivered to your door. Head over to page 28 for our latest subscription offer.





Paws for Applause

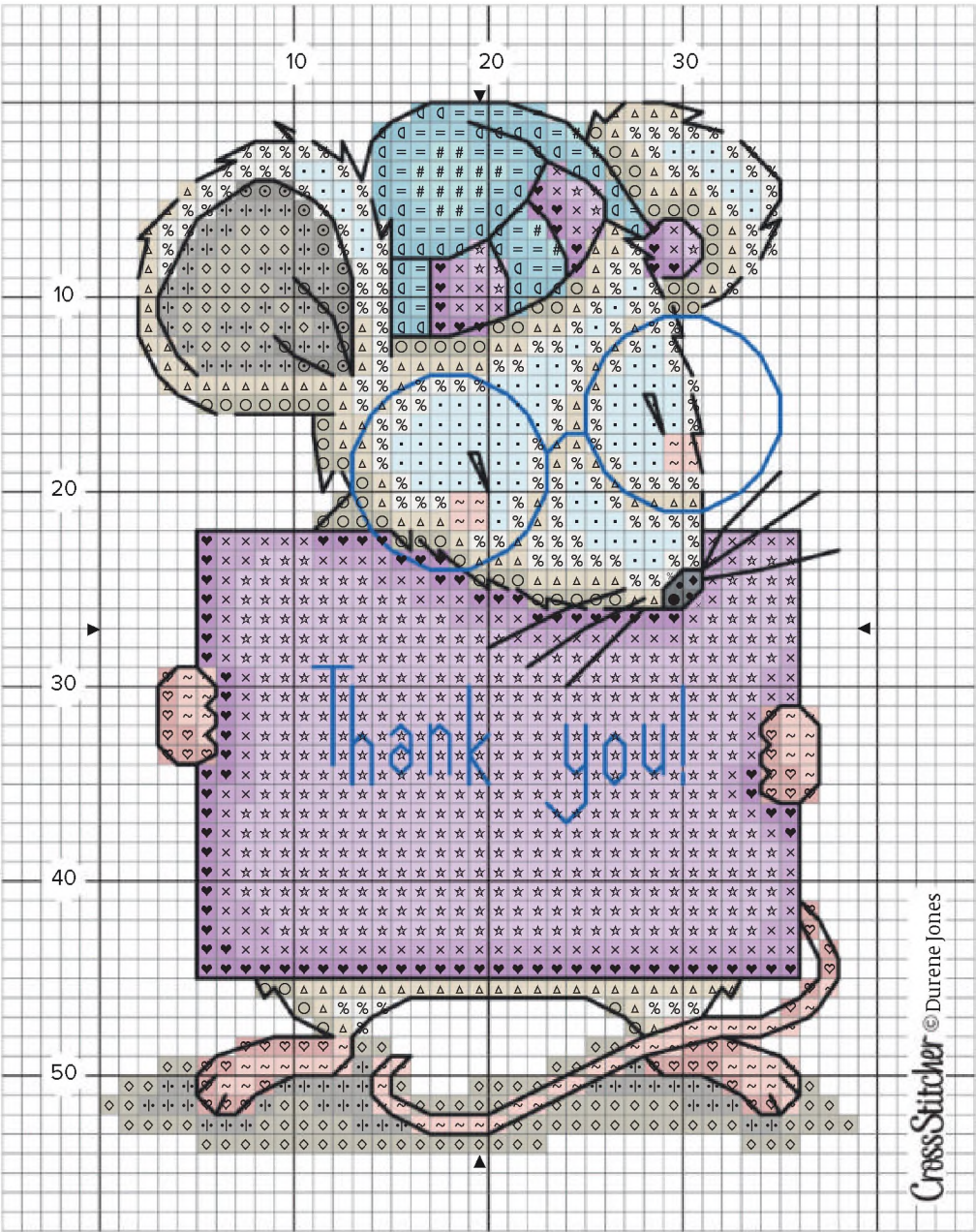
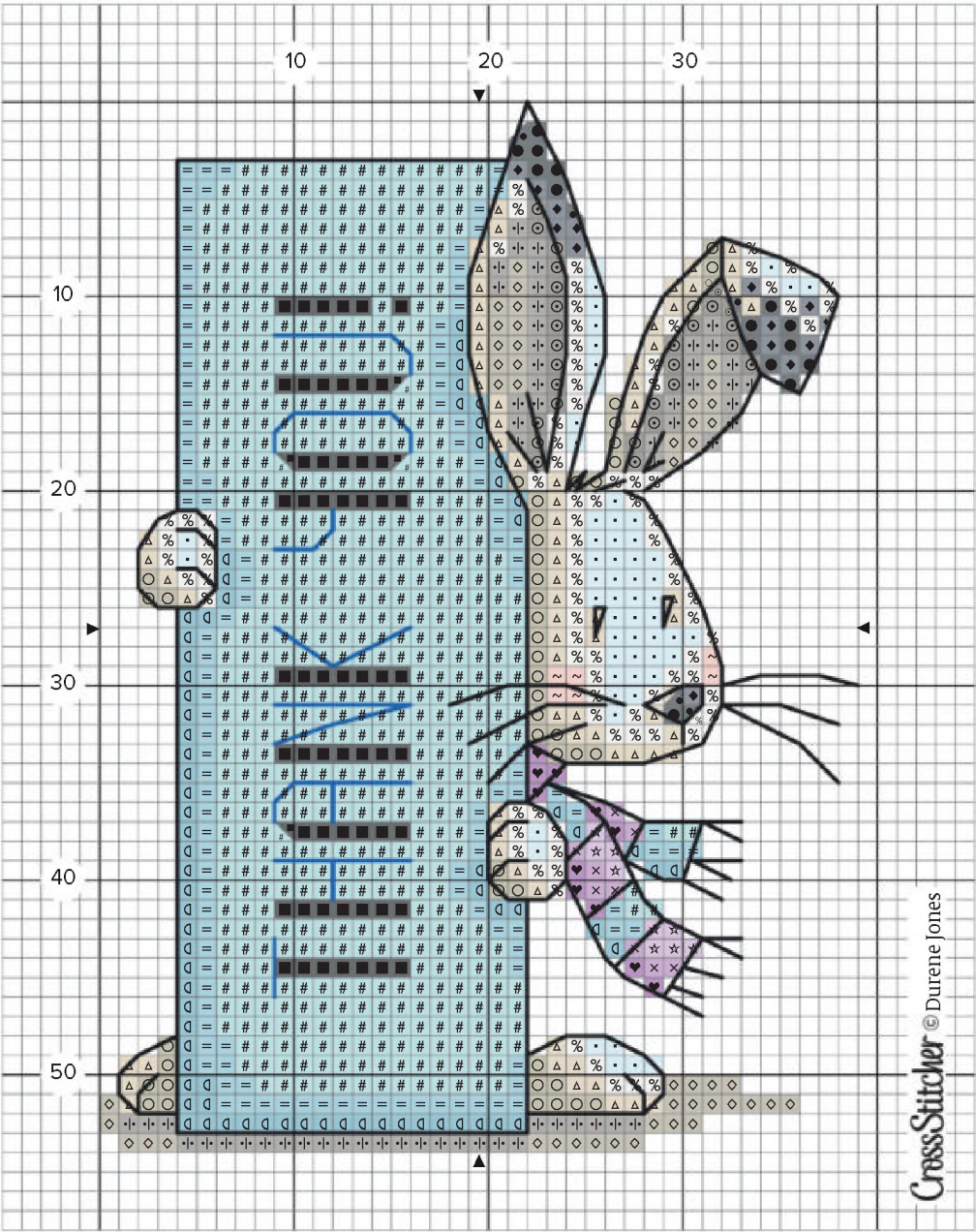
Put your paws together and say thanks – our cute card stars make the most adorable way to show your gratitude for gifts and more...



Designed by: Durene Jones
Max. stitch count: 54 high x 39 wide
Max. design size: 10x7cm (4x2¾in)
Stitch time: 7 hours each

These designs were stitched on 14 count aida fabric.

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
♥ ♥	209	109	803
✕ ✕	210	108	802
☆ ☆	211	342	801
♡ ♡	224	893	813
~ ~	225	1020	814
■ ■	310	403	black
● ●	413	401	1713
◆ ◆	414	235	1801
◻ ◻	519	1038	1105
○ ○	644	830	1907
◎ ◎	647	1040	1813
⋈ ⋈	648	900	1814
# #	747	158	1104
△ △	822	390	2001
◇ ◇	3024	397	1901
= =	3761	928	1014
% %	3865	002	2402
▪ ▪	B5200	001	white
Backstitch in two strands			
	310	403	black
words, glasses			
Backstitch in one strand			
	310	403	black
outlines			





Make an... aperture card

Step 1

WORK using two strands of stranded cotton for the cross stitch, one for the backstitch and two for the lettering and glasses on the mouse.

Step 2

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

Step 3

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

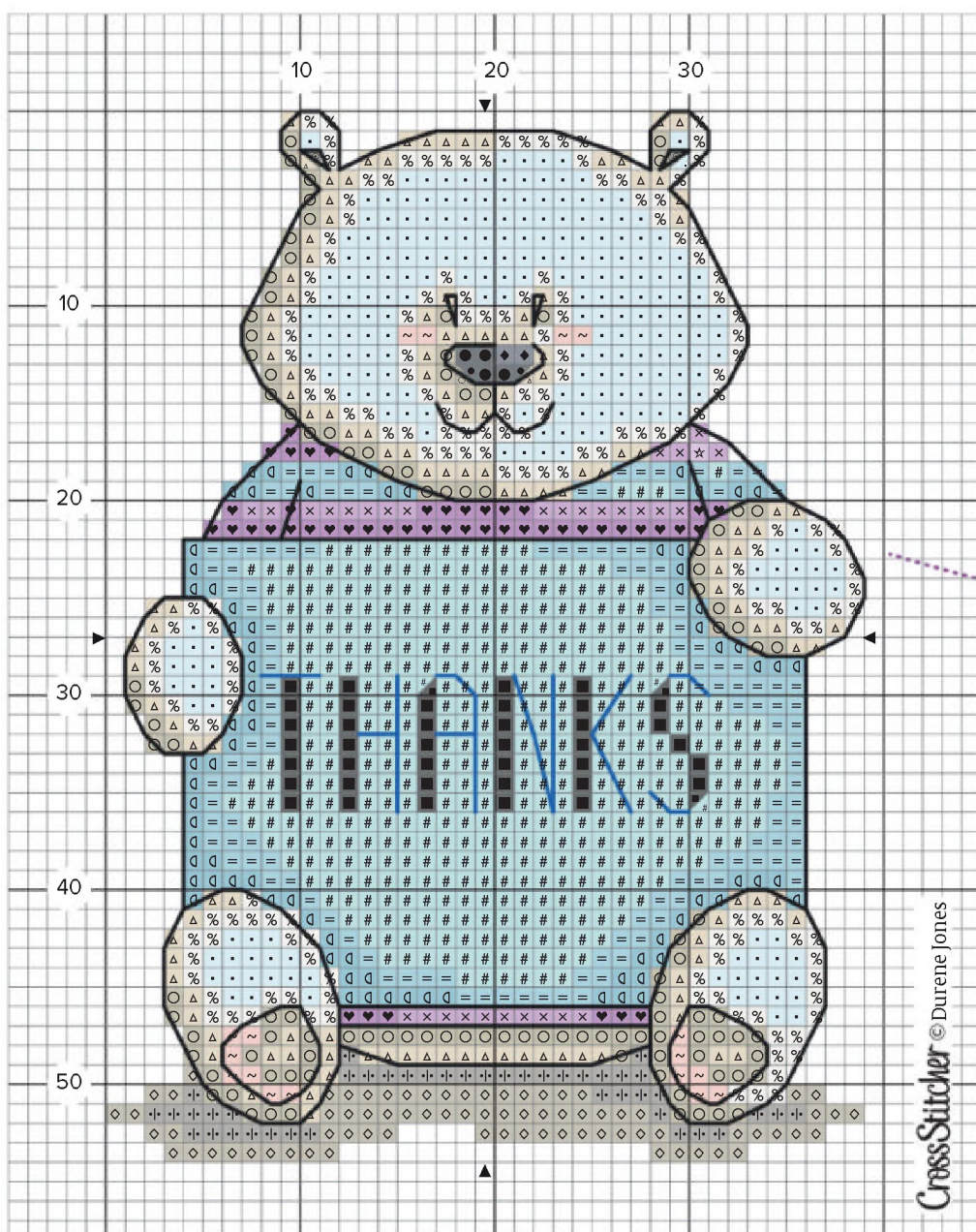
Step 4

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

Step 5

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

Take extra
care with your
backstitching as
it's a really
important part of
these designs



Materials

For each card

- Sampedro White 14 count aida, 15x11.5cm (6x4½in)
- Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- Size 24 tapestry needle
- Card blank with an 11x9cm (4¼x3½in) rectangular aperture

Materials available from www.willowfabrics.com

Needles & Motions

Your stitching,
top tips, online
chat and more!



Nuala made her festive display really pop by stitching on bright red aida!

FIRST PAST THE POST!



Emily Sims was the first to send us a pic of her angel decoration from issue 364 – she wins a selection of DMC stranded cotton skeins in 20 colours of her choice from Willow Fabrics. The first person to stitch and send us a pic of their finished January design from the 2021 calendar in this issue to crossstitcher@warnersgroup.co.uk will also win this great prize!



Festive twist

I loved Emma Congdon's Christmas hoop designs (featured in issue 363) and decided to put a festive twist on it by stitching the

designs on red aida – I'm looking forward to stitching the rest of the set!

Nuala Wilkes, Stafford



Just wanted to show this (issue 362). It's the first cross stitch I've done. Did change a few colours too but was great to do.
Catherine Burrows, Norfolk



Here is my summer Stitch-A-Long sampler. I love it because with all the bad things this year this made it feel like a happy summer.
Flora Chubb, Bristol



Finally finished in time for this Christmas sampler from issue 339. We all need something to brighten up this year.
Barbara McLachlan, Australia

Perfect palette

Hello, thank you for one of the recent designs in the magazine 'Perfect Palette'. I received my pack and it's such a beautiful design. Please ask Emma Congdon to design the other seasons' palettes! I'd love to have a collection of all four seasons.

Thank you for continuing to produce such an amazing magazine during these uncertain times.

I've cross stitched since I was 12 - I turned 30 during lockdown in June. I became a mum for the first time in November and cross stitching has become even more important to me over the past few months. It gives

Our summer sampler was a real hit with Gemma...

me a little bit of 'me time' now and again!

Thank you again for a lovely magazine, I always look forward to receiving my copy every month.

Best wishes

Gemma Slater, Surrey

Pro Tip

Top designers share their favourite stitching tips

"Use a hoop to frame your work"

"Framing your work in an embroidery hoop is a real easy and cost effective way to finish your projects. To really make your needlework pop, pick out a coloured or pattern hoop in a complementary colour. It will really make your work come alive."



Ruth Caig

StitchkitsCrafts.com

OVER TO YOU...

We asked our fans on Facebook, "Do you prefer to stitch homestyle makes or pictures and samplers?"

SASHA AMBROZ I only do pillows because my home style is not suited for embroidery on the walls. Nothing wrong with framed embroidery, of course, it just doesn't match my other textile and colour of the walls. So pillows it is, lots and lots of pillows.

LIZ DRAPER I am terrible at finishing large pieces (27 years and counting for one... I hate backstitching), so I try to limit myself to one large project on the go, with lots of little ones I can take around with me.

JENN MILLER Mostly I stitch things to hang on the wall, but pretty soon I'm going to be out of room. Then, I'll need to come up with a different plan.

JADE LAWLEY I prefer to stitch pictures and same with samplers - frame them and hang them on the wall or on the side in a room of my house.

MARCIE FORD I've run out of wall space so I just stitched my first panel for a Halloween cushion and I love it!

HEIDI HANNA While I love pictures or samplers framed and hung on the wall, I tend to make smaller things, bookmarks and towels are a couple of my favourites.

XANTHE MEADOWS Yes, I've moved house recently and have an ambition to put up some stitching in every room!

MELANIE ALIA I love making anything but definitely samplers to hang up. This year is the first time I have ever attempted to make something and so far I have made six Christmas cards. I'm really proud of them and can't wait to send them out to family.



'Like' our page on Facebook;
facebook.com/CrossStitcherMag
and join the conversation!



I made the brooch free with issue 358. I liked making something wearable and thought it would make a great gift for someone.
Caroline Cullingford, South Yorkshire



I finished my card from issue 363. I made it for my mum who loves robins and has been shielding so it brightened up her day!
Michelle Jones, Sefton

Stay in touch...

 crossstitcher@warnersgroup.co.uk



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Northam, EX39 9DY



@XStitchmagazine



pinterest.com/xstitchmagazine

WINTER WONDERLAND

Capture the magic of snowy days, ice skating, hot chocs and more in our final seasonal sampler...

CrossStitcher PROJECT PACK

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



Your materials pack contains:

- Zweigart 14 count 100% linen aida in Natural
- Skeins of DMC stranded cotton
- Snowflake charm
- Two gold-plated tapestry needles; size 24 and size 26

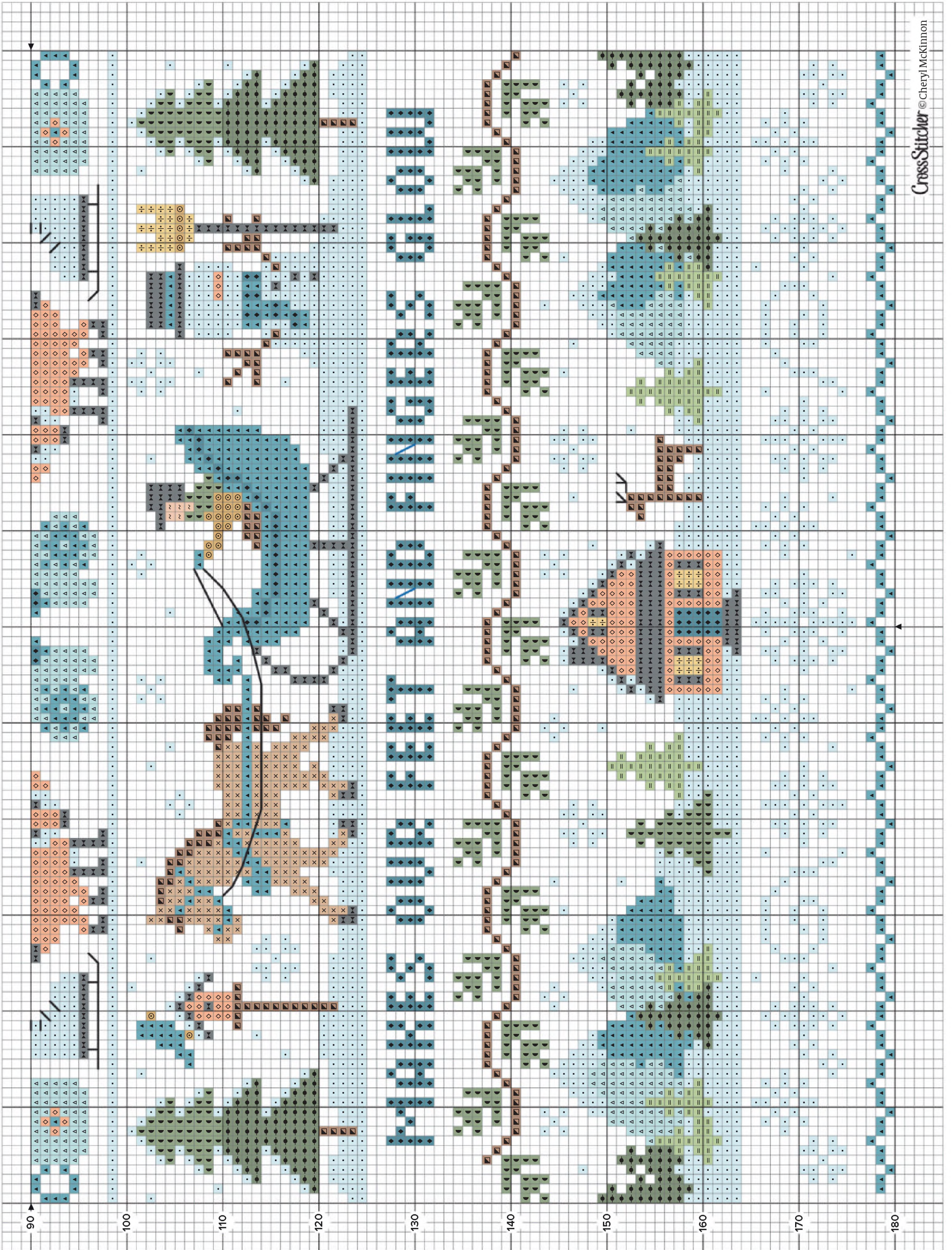
How to order: Fill in the form on page 15 or go to www.willowfabrics.com to order your project pack at the CrossStitcher reader price of £27.30, plus P&P.



PART 4







CrossStitcher © Cheryl McKinnon

WINTER WONDERLAND

Designed by: Cheryl McKinnon
Stitch count: 180 high x 120 wide
Design size: 33x22cm (13x8¾in)
Stitch time: 48 hours

This design was stitched on 14 count aida fabric.

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
	413	401	1713
	435	1046	2010
	437	362	2012
	747	158	1104
	807	1039	1109
	945	881	2313
	3346	267	1407
	3347	266	1408
	3348	264	1409
	3765	169	2506
	3820	306	2509
	3822	295	2511
	3825	323	2307
	B5200	001	white (3)
Backstitch in one strand			
	413	401	1713
reins, details			
	3765	169	2506
mittens, letters			

(3) indicates more than one skein is required



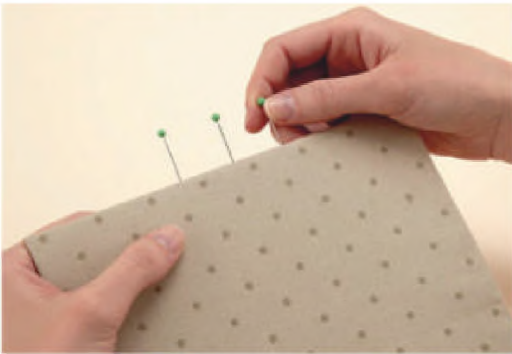
Stitch on your snowflake charm through its top loop using two strands of thread in a colour that matches the aida

Materials

- Zweigart Natural 14 count 100% linen aida, ref: 3390/05; 50x46cm (19½x18in)
 - Stranded cotton as listed in the key
 - Size 24 tapestry needle
 - Snowflake charm
 - Frame with a 34x24cm (13½x9½in) aperture
 - Mount board to fit frame
- Materials available from www.willowfabrics.com

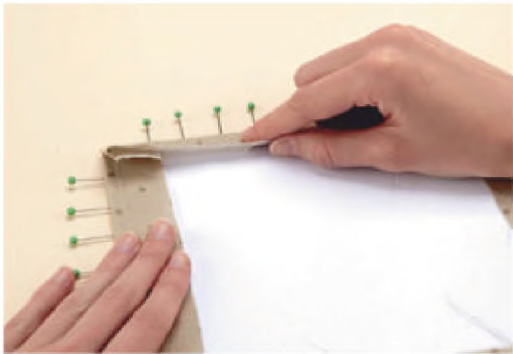
How to... frame a picture

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.



CREATE A CLASSIC:

Cinderella

We've the third part of our fairytale scene for you... with the option to display your finished stitching as a beautiful bolster cushion



*C*inderella, you shall go to the ball! Welcome to the final part of our Cinderella scene, which has been designed as a bit of a challenge for more experienced stitchers or for those looking to stretch their skills. With metallics, beads and, in this section, sequins to add, this design is filled with texture for a luxury finish. Read on for details on how to display your finished piece as a beautiful cushion.





PART 3

Stitching your... Cinderella scene

Step 1

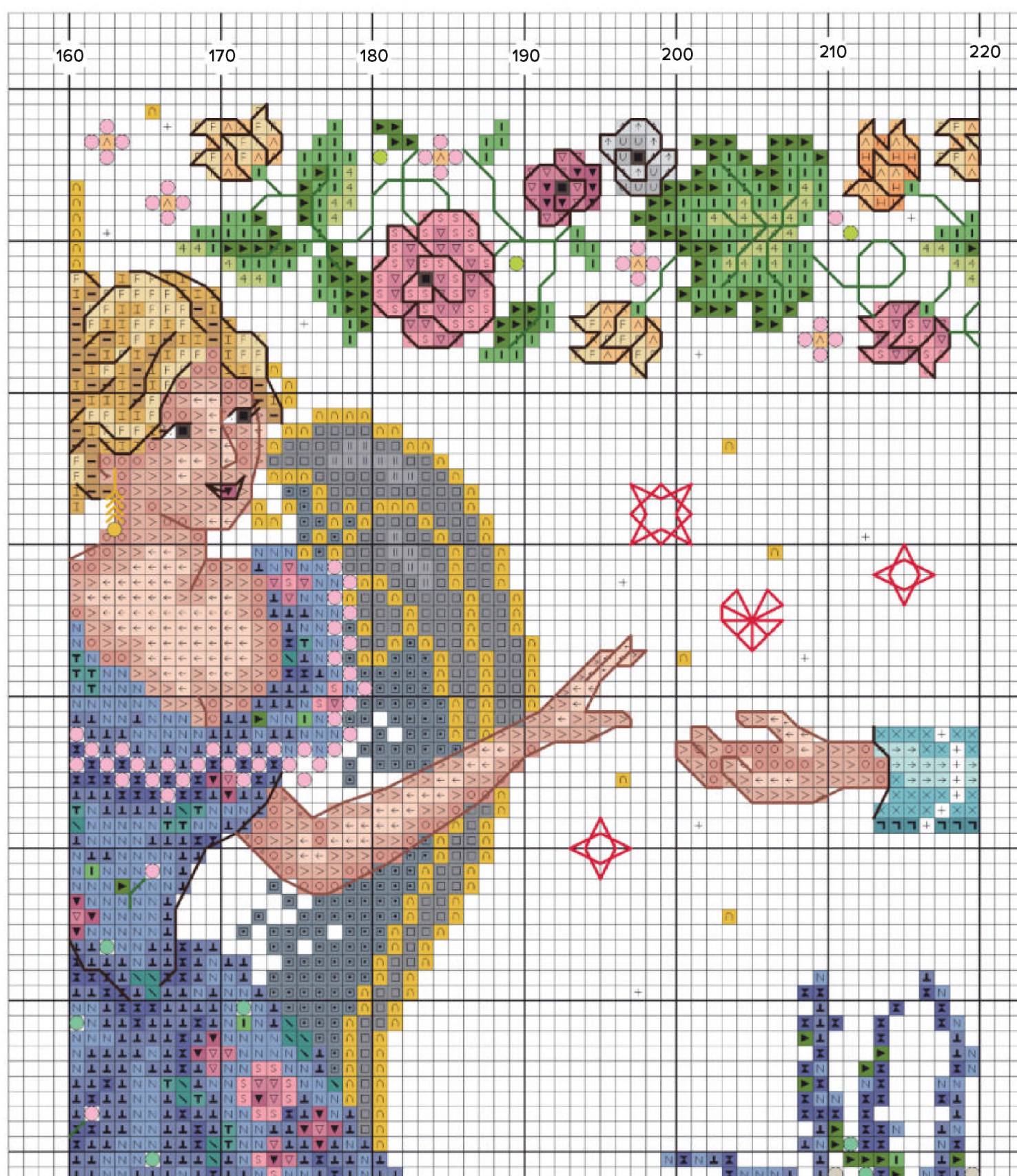
NOTE that part 3 of the design, which is in this issue, is the right-hand section, and should be stitched using the small areas of chart from part 2 that we have printed again here.

Step 2

USE two strands for the cross stitch and half cross stitch, one for the backstitch, and one for the French knots. Add the beads and the leaf sequins.

Step 3

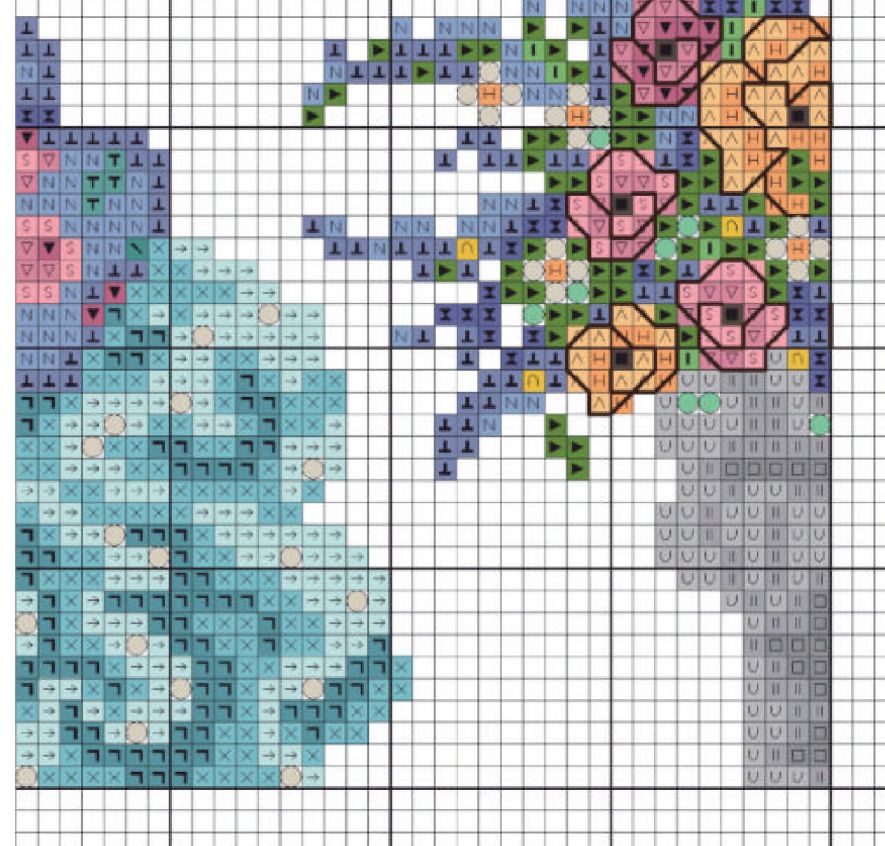
FRAME your stitching, or make a cushion using a cotton backing fabric – we used a 30x56cm (12x22in) bolster cushion pad. Cut your aida fabric larger than your cushion pad, adding on a border and seam allowance around the edge of the design. Cut your backing fabric to the same size. Place your stitched aida and backing fabric right-sides together, and then stitch around the edge, leaving one end of the cushion open. Turn to the right side, and insert the pad. Fold in the raw edges and sew up the cushion end with small, neat stitches.

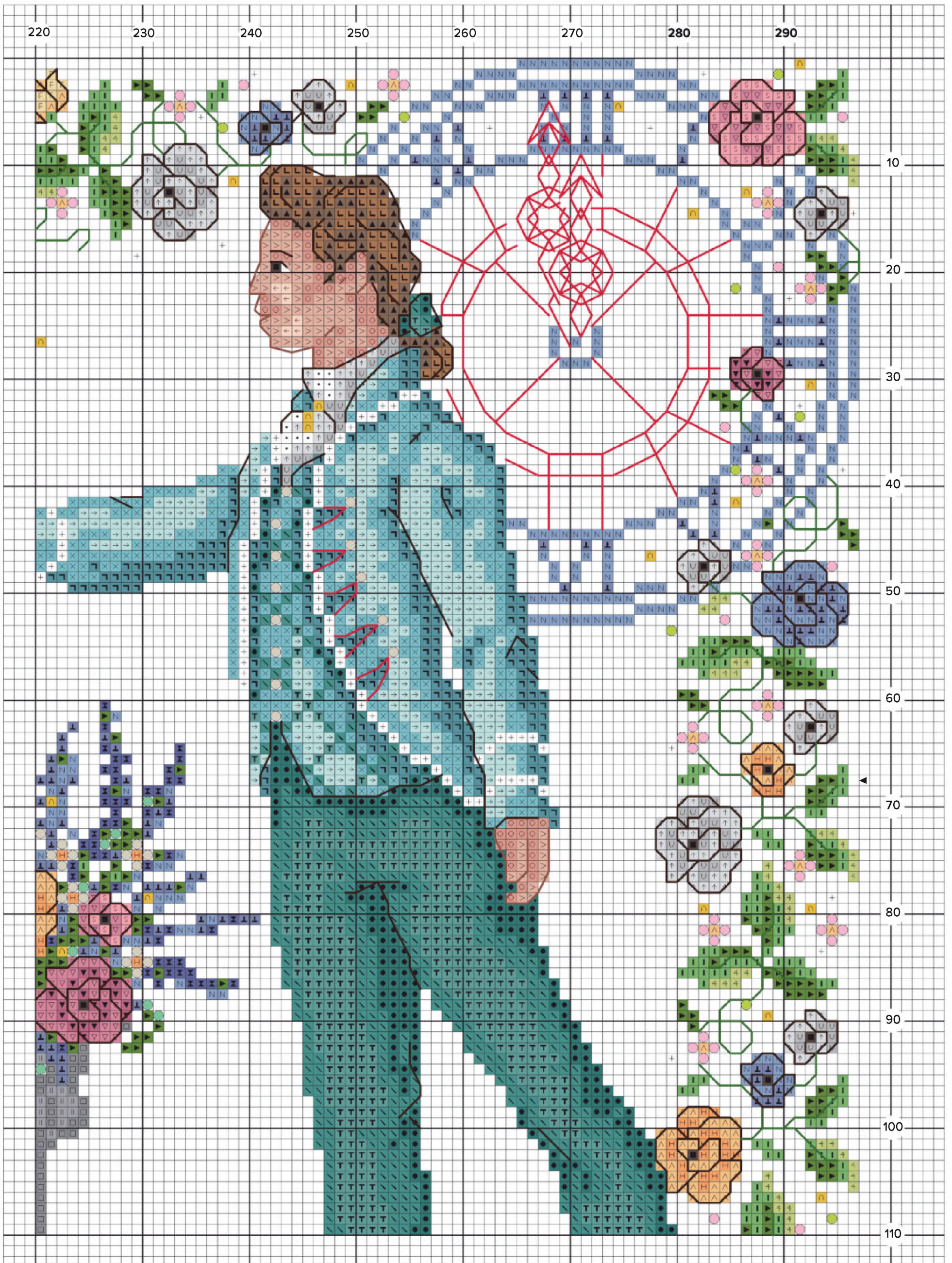


YOUR FINISHED CINDERELLA SCENE



This issue we've given you the right-hand section of the chart. If you missed the first part in our November issue (363) or the central section in our December issue (364) you can visit www.hobbies-and-crafts.co.uk to order a back issue or pocketmags.com for a digital issue.





CrossStitcher PROJECT PACK

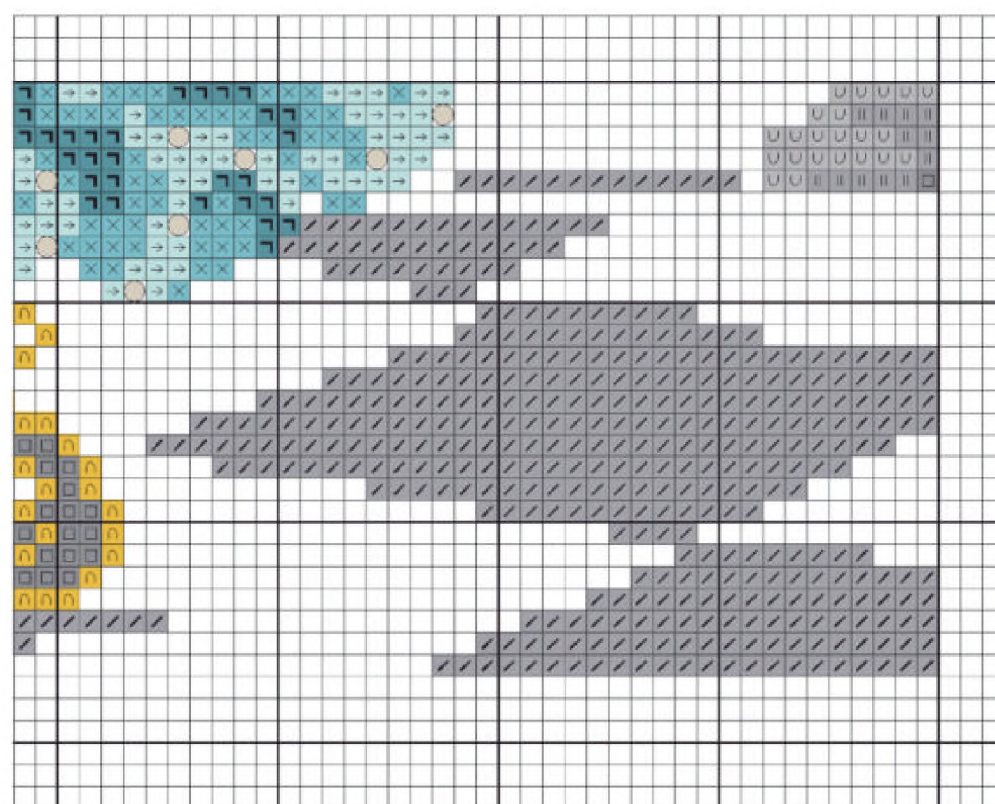
If you would like to stitch the complete Cinderella, we have a materials pack with everything you need to get you stitching right away, and have it delivered straight to your door!



Your materials pack contains:

- Zweigart 14 count aida in Navy
- Skeins of DMC stranded cotton
- Skeins of DMC Light Effects
- Mill Hill beads • Green leaf sequins
- Two gold-plated tapestry needles; size 24 and size 26

How to order: Fill in the form on page 15 or go to www.willowfabrics.com to order your project pack at the CrossStitcher reader price of £69, plus P&P.



Designed by: Maria Diaz

Stitch count: 138 high x 298 wide (complete design – 3 parts)

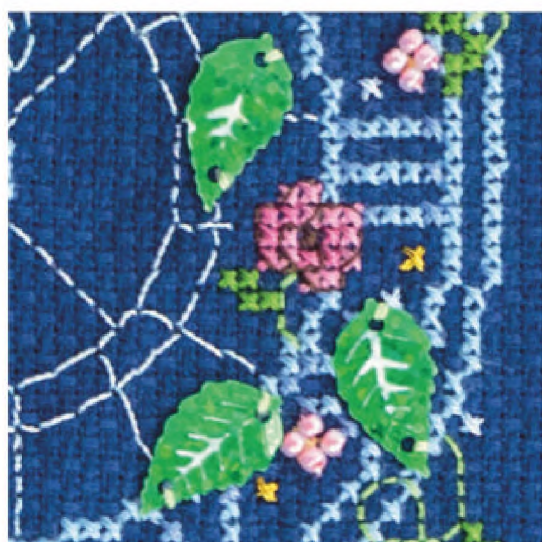
Design size: 25.5x55cm (10x21½in) Stitch time: 133 hours

This design was stitched on 14 count aida fabric.

We have given you the complete key and thread count for working the whole Cinderella project – this will allow you to buy your threads together

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

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



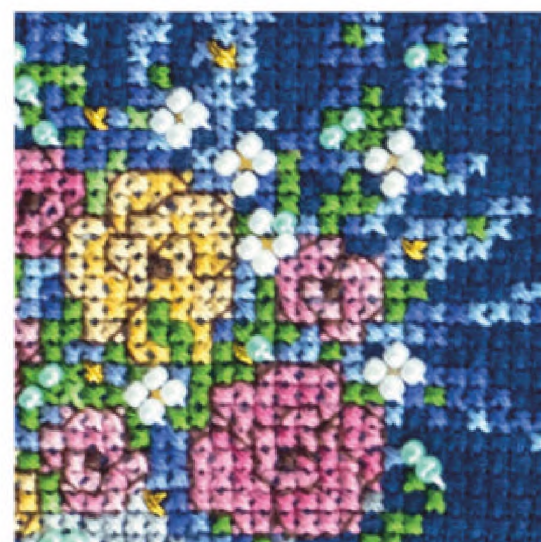
SEQUINS FOR A 3D EFFECT:

To represent Cinderella's transformation, the leaves surrounding the prince include the addition of green leaf sequins to show the foliage now in 'full bloom'.



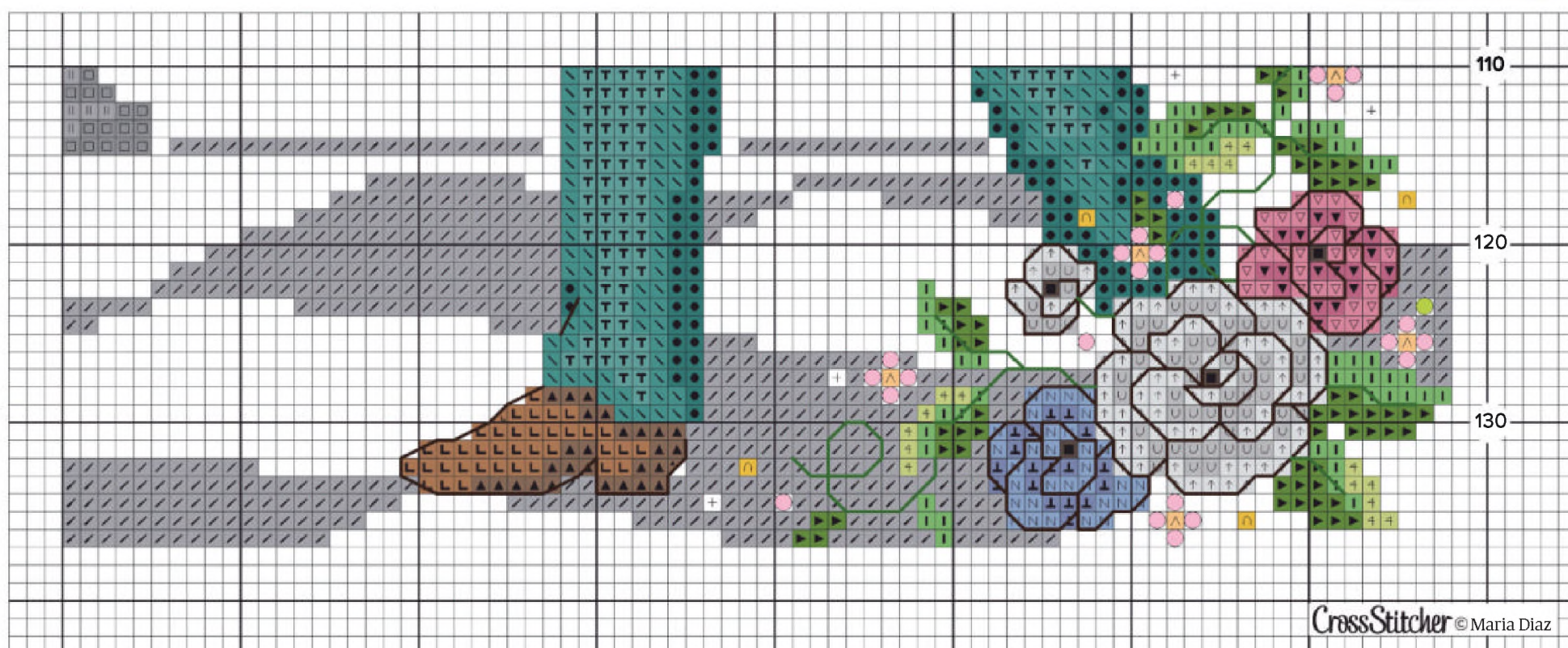
METALLICS FOR SHIMMER:

For a fully sparkling, magical effect, metallic threads have been used throughout this design with various shades of DMC Light Effects used for highlights and outlines.



BEADS FOR TEXTURE:

Throughout the complete design beads have been used to add tiny details – here you can see them used in the flower display to add areas of smaller blooms and buds.



	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
	002	398	1803 (2)
	003	399	1802 (2)
	004	235	1801
	016	254	1308
	317	400	1714
	435	1046	2010
	677	886	2207
	703	238	1307
	729	890	2209
	747	158	1104
	758	868	403
	762	234	1804 (2)
	792	177	905
	793	939	906
	794	117	907 (2)
	838	1088	1914 (2)
	905	257	1412
	948	1011	306
	950	4146	2309
	3052	262	1509
	3053	858	1510
	3687	076	604
	3688	066	605
	3716	025	606
	3766	167	1111

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
	3810	168	1108*
	3821	305	2510
	3847	1076	2057
	3848	1074	1108*
	3849	1070	1202
	3854	313	2301
	3855	311	2013
	3862	358	1913
	B5200	001	white
	E3852	Light Effects (2)	
	E5200	Light Effects	
Half cross stitch in two strands			
	003	399	1802
	E317	Light Effects	
Backstitch in one strand			
	703	238	1307
	foliage, dress detail		
	838	1088	1914
	hair		
	3688	066	605
	mouse tail		
	3772	1007	2311
	flesh		
	E3852	Light Effects	
	earrings		
	E5200	Light Effects	
	fairy dust		

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
French knots in one strand			
	838	1088	1914
	mouse eyes		
	3804	068	703
	mouse noses		
	E3832 Light Effects		
	earrings		
Attach beads and sequins with cotton			
	Mill Hill 479		
	sleeves		
	Mill Hill 525		
	flowers, ball gown		
	Mill Hill 2005		
	flowers, ball gown		
	green leaf sequins		
	leaves		
(2) indicates more than one skein is required			

(2) indicates more than one skein is required

*See 'The Key' on page 78.

Materials

- Zweigart Navy 14 count aida, ref: 3706/589; 55x85cm (21½x33½in)
 - Stranded cotton as listed in the key
 - DMC Light Effects as listed in the key
 - Mill Hill beads as listed in the key
 - Green leaf sequins
 - Size 24 tapestry needle
- Materials available from www.willowfabrics.com

Ready, steady, stitch!

We've challenged three designers to come up with a Christmas gift wrap design for a perforated box and matching tag. Read on to see how they got on...

Welcome to this month's designer challenge! We're making some last-minute preparations for Christmas, so have asked our designers this time to come up with some original gift wrap ideas. We gave them a perforated box and tag to design for and they were given just seven thread shades to get creating with. If you'd like to stitch their festive makes we have the charts over the page. We hope their results will inspire you to join the fun – turn the page to see what our challenge will be for March – we've listed everything you need to take part.

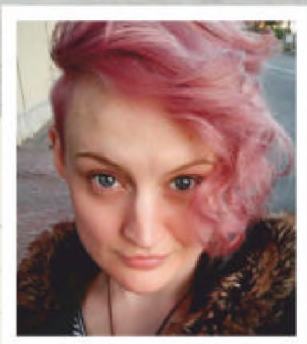
THE CHALLENGE

- Perforated paper gift box
- Perforated paper tag
- Seven shades of stranded cotton (shown above)

THE RULES

- Create a design for a gift box and tag
- The design area for the box is 23 x 17 stitches
- The design area for the tag is 15 x 20 stitches
- Only the materials above can be used
- Be creative as possible!

JESSICA SAVAGE... NAUGHTY & NICE



"No matter who you are, we all feature on the nice list and the naughty list! So, let's celebrate with some naughty and nice gifts to match these stitches. Let's face it, it's no fun being good all the time!"



JENNY BARTON... NOEL & JOY



"I decided I wanted to use traditional festive greetings for my design, as they fit so well onto the cute little box and tag. I have gone for a mixture of traditional and modern style, and I love the bright colour palette for this challenge!"

MARIA DIAZ... CHRISTMAS ELF



"I love the idea of these boxes - the challenge here is making a small motif with a touch of humour so a cheeky little elf came to mind."



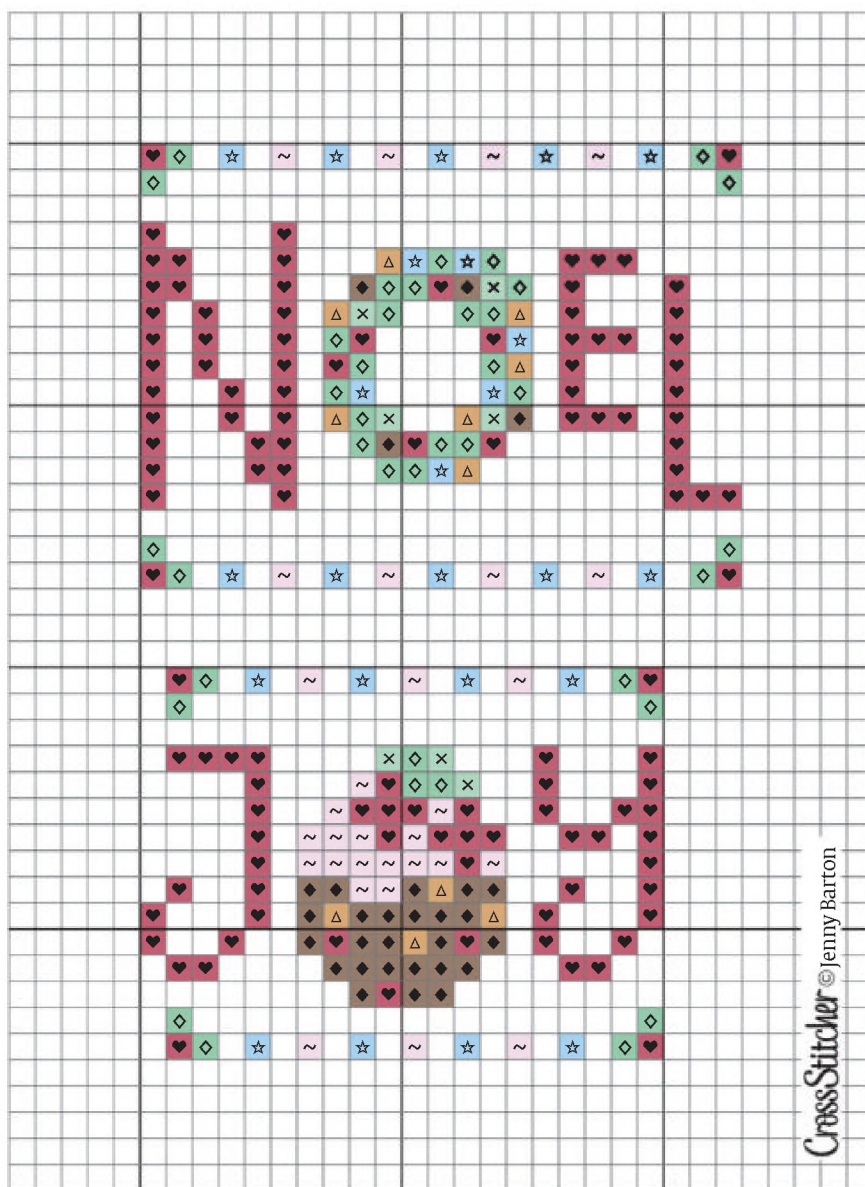
Make a... **box & tag**

Step 1

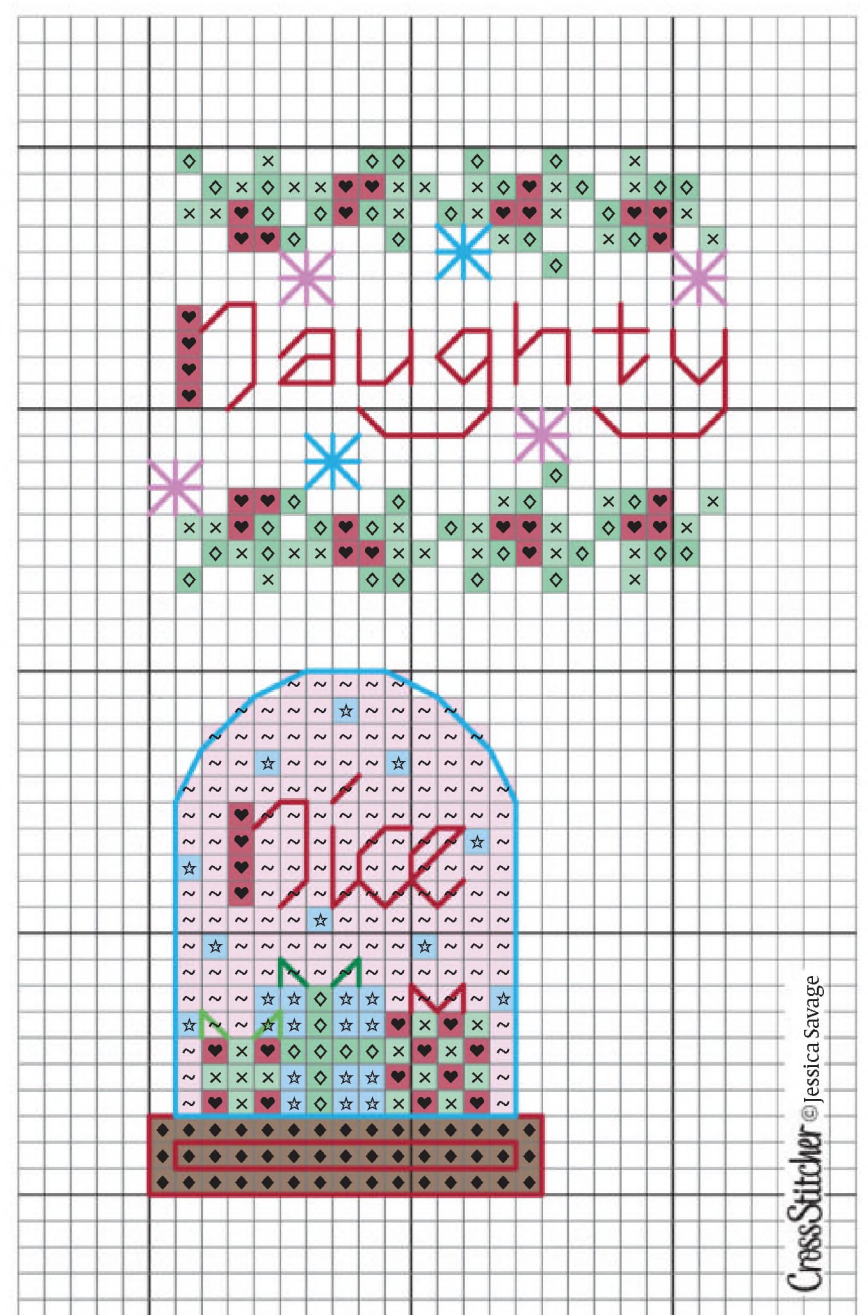
STITCH your design using three strands for the cross stitch and two for the backstitch. Take care when finishing your thread ends, making sure you take them neatly through the back of your stitching. When stitching, try not to move from one area to another across the back of the perforated paper, or the thread will show through the holes.

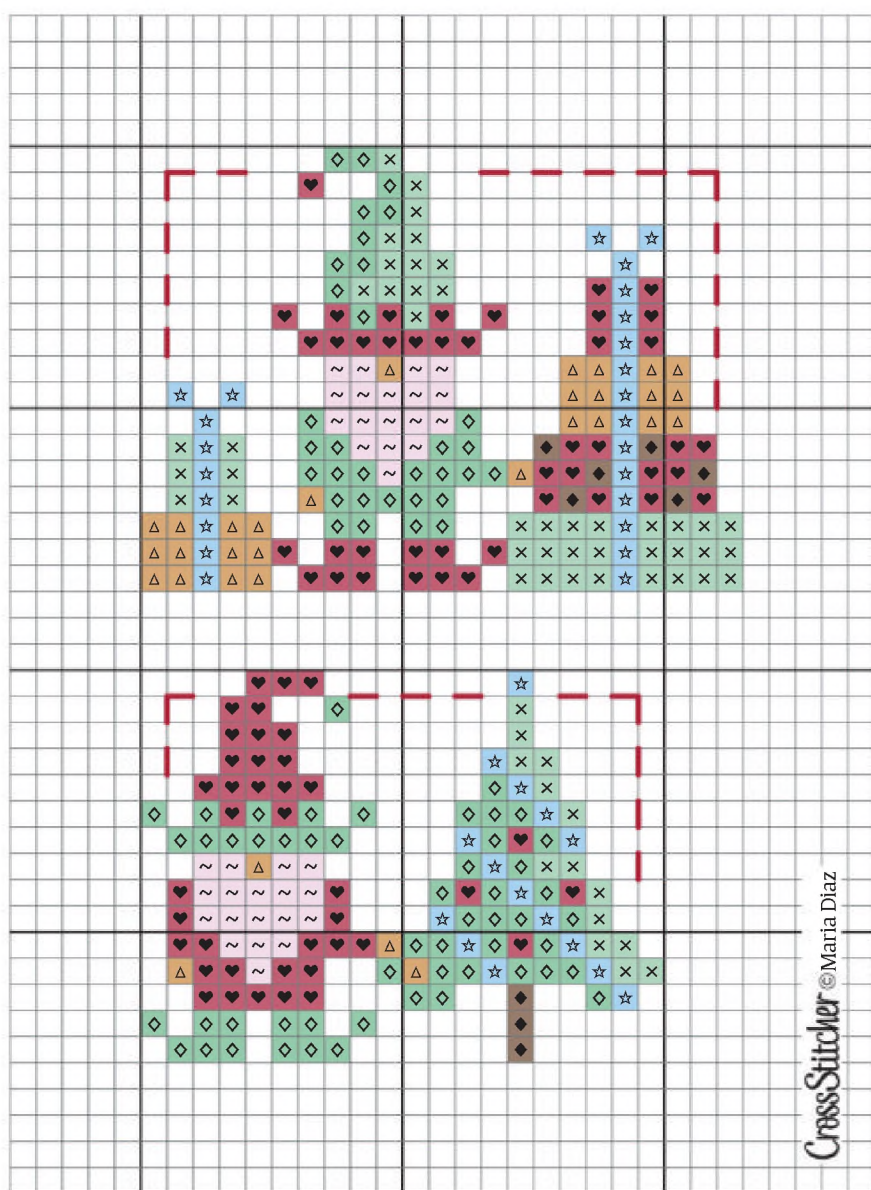
Step 2

BEGIN to assemble your box, first make the folds where the box is creased. To do this, place your box on the table and then running your thumb firmly along each crease. Fold up the box, securing it at the back with the double-sided tape strip.



The perforated paper boxes and gift tags our designers used are available from www.willowfabrics.com





DMC Anchor Madeira
Cross stitch in three (tag) or six strands

♥ ♥	321	019	510
△ △	783	306	2211
◆ ◆	869	944	2105
◇ ◇	954	202	1211
× ×	955	206	1210
~ ~	3865	002	2402
☆ ☆	5283 Metallic Pearl		

Backstitch in two (tag) or three strands

—	321	019	510
	words, borders		
—	954	202	1211
	parcel		
—	955	206	1210
	parcel		
—	3865	002	2402
	stars		
—	5283 Metallic Pearl		
	stars, border		

SEE YOUR WORK HERE!

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

March issue 367 challenge:

Please create two small designs to be turned into earrings. They can be any theme but each one should be different but connected in some way to the other. They will be stitched on plastic canvas and added to gold long ball earring hooks as available from www.willowfabrics.com.

Materials and rules:

- 14 count white plastic canvas
- Max. stitch count: 20 x 15 stitches per earring
- Seven shades of DMC stranded cotton; Lemon (307), Marshmallow Rose (151), Medium Cranberry (602), Light Seagreen (964), Light Aquamarine (992), Dark Forest Green (987) & Very Dark Hazelnut Brown (869)

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



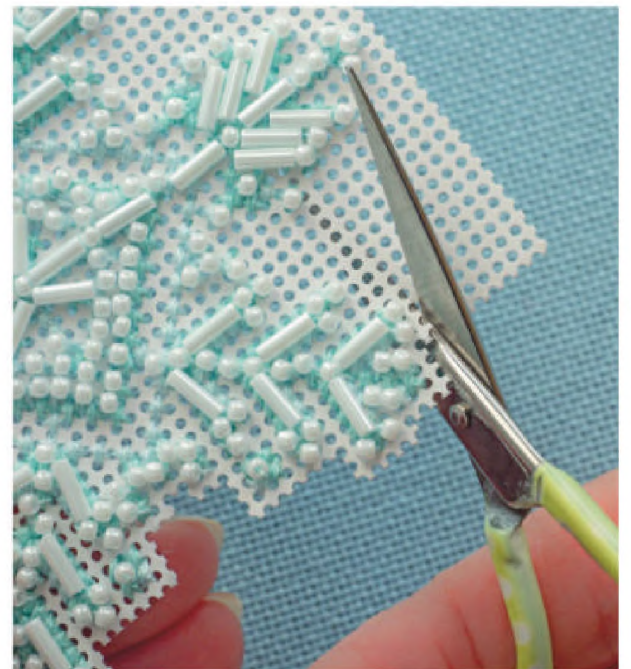
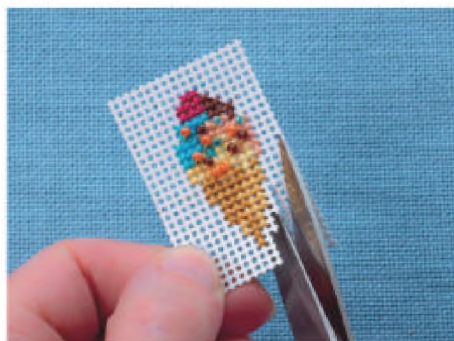
SPOTLIGHT ON... BEADS

Stitcher's SPOTLIGHT

Susan Penny shows you how to create a crystal snowflake decoration using beads and perforated paper

This wasn't my first version of a snowflake. I have to tell you that my first snowflake design just didn't look right! I don't think I had ever really studied a snowflake shape, and so had wrongly assumed it had eight sides – I really should have concentrated harder in Science at school! After some research, and a few mock-ups, my star became a crystal snowflake...

◀ In *CrossStitcher* we often use beading to add detail to our projects. In issue 333 (July 2018), I designed a Happy Birthday card with a summery feel. I used perforated paper to make an ice cream, which I beaded and then added to the card to give it a lovely 3D effect! If you missed it, visit www.hobbies-and-crafts.co.uk to order a back issue or pocketmags.com for a digital issue.



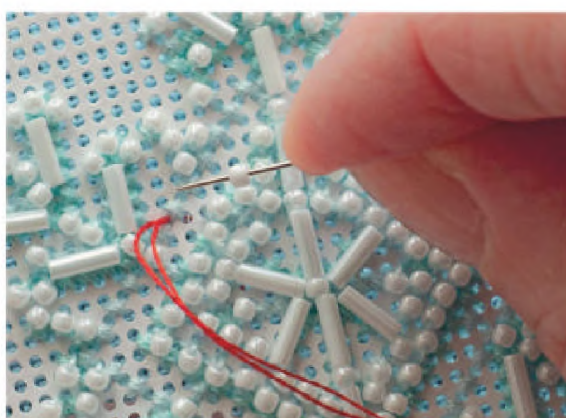
How to... add seed beads

Step 1



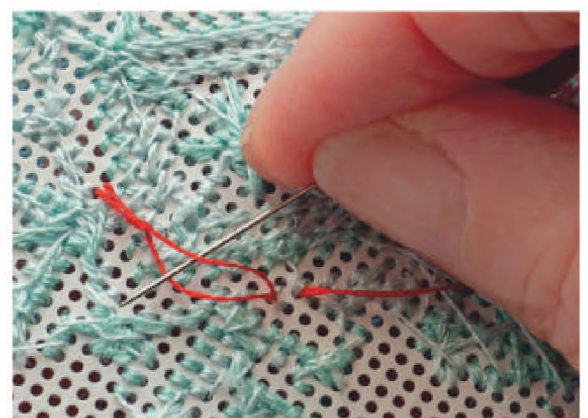
THREAD your needle with one strand of stranded cotton. Bring the thread ends together and tie in a knot. Hold the knot on the back. Take the needle up through the paper in the bottom left-hand corner of a square. In this design all the beads are worked on top of cross stitches.

Step 2

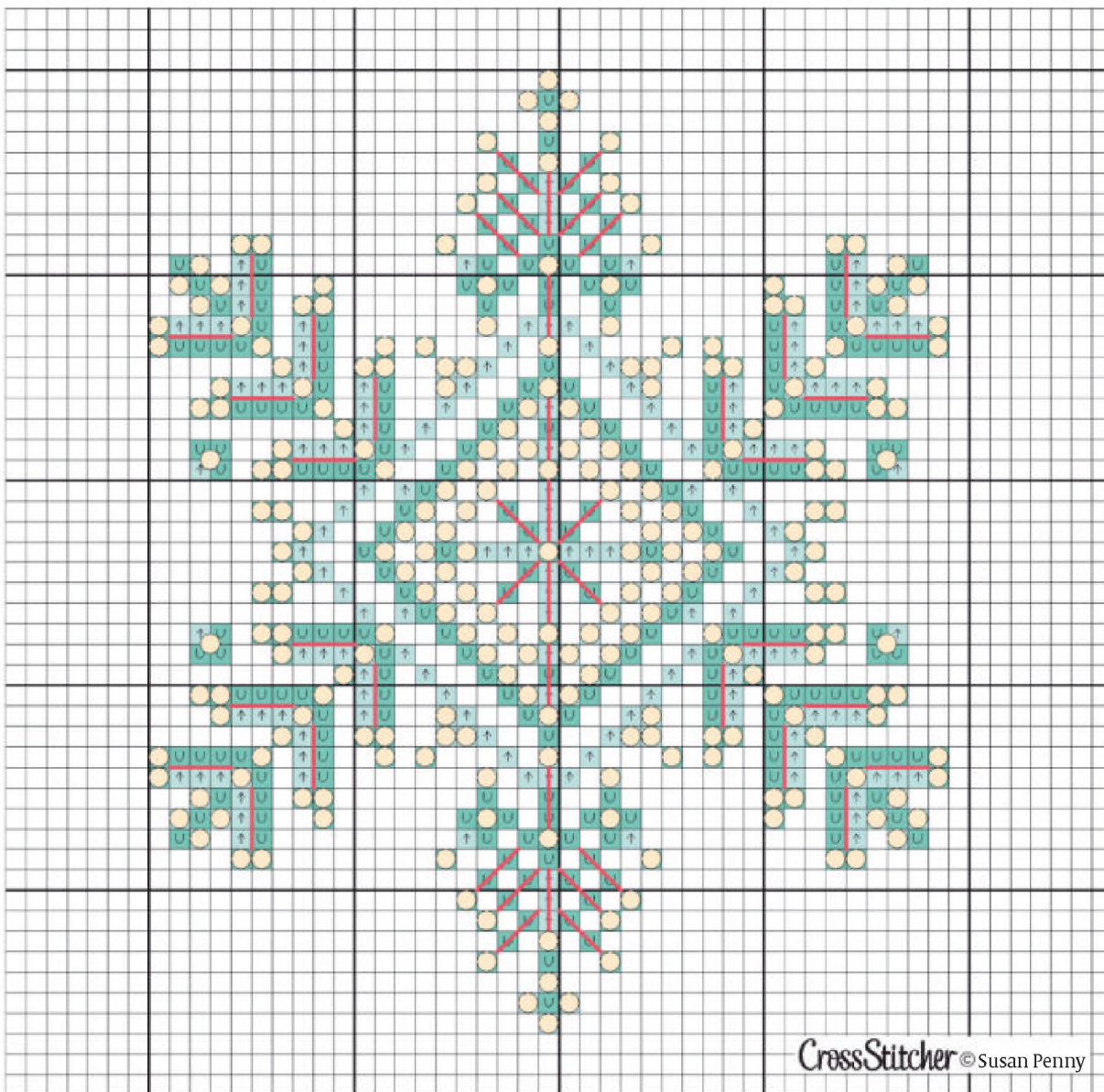


ADD a bead to the needle and take down through the paper in the top right-hand hole. Here we're using a half cross stitch, so the beads slant across each stitch. For upright beads, work from the bottom left to the top left then the bottom right to the top right, going through the bead twice.

Step 3



TURN the paper over to the wrong side, then take the needle through the loop close to the knot. Pull up the thread, tightening the knot against the paper. Make a small stitch through the stitches on the back to secure. Take the needle through to the front to add the next bead.



Make a... crystal snowflake

CUT out your snowflake crystal, leaving one blank square outside your stitching. Take care not to cut any thread ends, and use small scissors, working slowly around the design one square at a time.

The perforated paper, seed and bugle beads used in this project are both available from www.willowfabrics.com

Adding a... charm

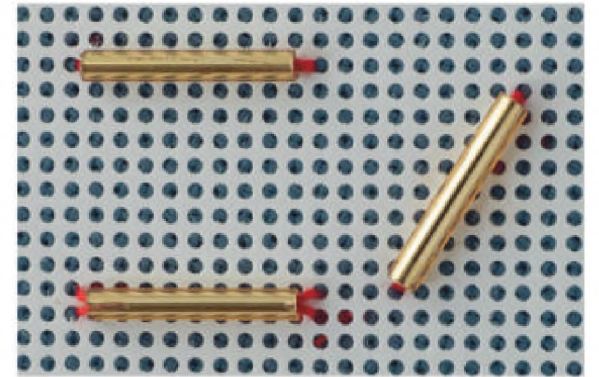


EMBELLISH your snowflake crystal with a charm and some thread for hanging. You can either add a white paper back, or make a second snowflake and use double-sided tape to attach it to the back of the first. Hang up and watch the beads catch the light and sparkle as it turns.

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands			
U U	959	186	1113
↑ ↑	964	1092	1112
Attach beads with cotton			
● ●	Mill Hill 00479		
	seed beads		
—	Mill Hill 70479		
	small bugle beads		

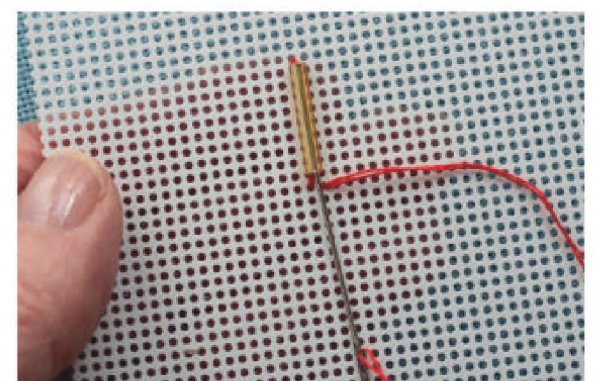
How to... add bugle beads

Step 1



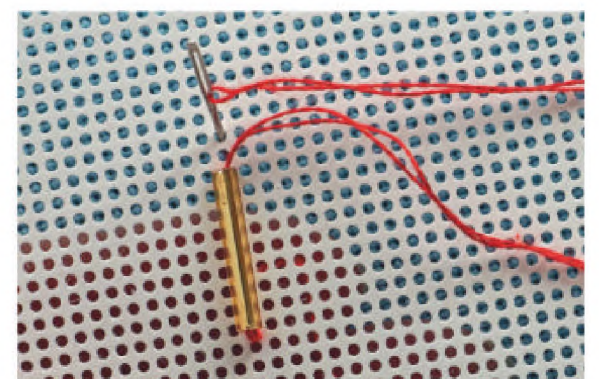
THREAD the needle in the same way as for the seed beads. There are two ways of adding bugle beads, depending on where they are sitting on the perforated paper. In this design some bugle beads sit on the middle of a line of stitches, and others lay at an angle between stitches with a single hole at the top and bottom.

Step 2



FOLLOW this step to add bugle beads where the bead is on the stitches – you'll have a hole bottom left and right of the bead at the top and bottom. Bring your needle through the hole at bottom left, take it through the bead and back down through the hole at top left, repeat from the bottom right to the top right.

Step 3



NOTE that if the bead is sitting on the design with single hole top and bottom, just take the needle through the bead, securing the thread at the back before repeating the process so that you go through the bead and holes twice. You may have to tease the beads carefully into position as you add them.

A NEW YEAR OF STITCHING...

As we transition from one year to the next, a few of our stitching friends tell us about their winter crafting habits and what's in store for them in 2021...

Written by Lucy Evans

Christmas and New Year are such special times for stitchers – there's a flurry of last-minute makes before 25 December and then time to reflect on what will inspire new creations in 2021. From New Year's resolutions to their favourite winter projects – we chatted to four of our friends from the world of stitching about what they're making, giving and celebrating throughout December and January...



CHERYL MCKINNON
Cross stitch designer
Tiny Modernist Cross Stitch
tinymodernist.com

In December are you usually finishing off last-minute festive makes or starting on new year projects?

I work several months ahead of each season, so I've been stitching models for next year for a while already. My Christmas stitching began in July! I've got some finishing to do this week – two December designs that came back from the model stitchers a while ago, and need to be finished off. One is a cute set of three mini stockings, and the other is my

'Tree-Cornu' (Christmas Tree Biscornu). Both should be releasing as PDFs on my website on 1 December.

What stitching gifts are you hoping to receive this year for Christmas?

I just treated myself to a whole selection of linens and Lugana fabrics, for some 2021 designs. They should be arriving in time for stitching around the holidays. We tend towards a modest Christmas, and for the last few years the adults in my immediate family have given donations to charity in lieu of large gift exchanges.

What are your New Year's stitching resolutions?

Despite having to meet deadlines with my stitching, I use it as a meditative practice. I like the mindfulness and calming effect it has on my state of mind. My favourite time to stitch is first thing in the morning, when the house is quiet and I have a hot cup of tea by my side. I hope to continue to make time for this in the new year, and appreciate how lucky I am to be able to stitch, design, and do what I love on a daily basis.



What are your plans for 2021?

There are several designs pencilled in for 2021 already – a year-long Zodiac Sampler, an Easter Stitch-A-Long, and several other fun designs on the way. This past year was an emotional roller-coaster ride, and involved a lot of introspection for me. I've been exploring themes and ideas around finding peace, mindfulness, and looking for beauty in the natural world. I think my designs for 2021 will reflect this perspective.

What's your favourite thing about winter stitching?

I love cosy fires, warm tea and soft blankets while I stitch, so winter stitching has all the best things to offer! There's nothing like stitching on a cold winter evening, in the warm glow of the Christmas tree lights and candles on the mantel.



Cheryl is busy putting finishing touches to her festive designs.





GRACE WHOWELL

Haberdashery owner
Beyond Measure

www.shopbeyondmeasure.co.uk

What stitching trends do you see coming up next year?

I am seeing a continued and deeper interest in mending skills – both visible and invisible. I think that people are seeing this from an economic and environmental perspective – treasuring what we have and making things last longer!

Any New Year's resolutions?

To finish what I have started! I often have lots of samples on the go – they are things I sell online. So I must sit down and just get some of them done!

I'm hoping to create a dedicated hand stitching space at home next year too.

What's a great last-minute festive gift for a stitching friend?

Our new stock by Daruma, Japan, is really beautiful. You could make a little pack of threads and needles for a stocking filler, put together a kit for Sashiko or splash out on the metal boxes and pincushions.



Stocking filler ideas...



Grace has lots of new plans for her shop Beyond Measure in 2021 but still finds time for her own stitching.

What are you stitching right now?

I've been desperate to have a go with some of our new natural dyed threads from Maito Design Works, so I've made a linen dress to try them out! I'm going to hand stitch around the neckline with some basic running stitch or cross stitch – I find that simple things repeated many times often have a more dramatic effect and are easy on the brain.

I'm also near to finishing one of our kits by Miesje Chafer (top image) these are really lovely projects that you can make as simple or as complex as you like.

What are your plans for Beyond Measure for 2021?

I recently moved into a new building, which has a lot of outside space. It's so nice to be self-contained and have lots of natural light! We are planning a retail area for our products and a group/workshop room, plus a natural dye and aromatic garden. It is very difficult to plan things at the moment but we are putting things in place for next year and I'm looking forward to seeing how they develop.



Suzana had her first cross stitch book published in the UK last year, and now she's working on the next for 2021.



SUZANA LIMA

Author of *Romantic Flowers in Cross Stitch*

www.suzanacrossstitch.com

What was your stitching highlight in 2020?

It was when Kader, chief editor of Tuva, invited me to make a book exclusively with floral motifs. She said to me, "I want to completely leave you alone to bring your own style to the book". I couldn't believe it, because it was everything that I wanted! Total freedom to indulge in my own designs of roses and dreams! So I say without a doubt that my biggest highlight of 2020, was not a single design that I have stitched, but to see my designs printed in my book, *Romantic Flowers in Cross Stitch* which is the book most full of love and romanticism I've ever created.

What are your stitching plans for 2021?

The next great challenge for me in 2021 is to launch a book with a theme which is totally unprecedented in »

INSPIRING PEOPLE

the European and United States market, which was a roaring success in Brazil, and which was a milestone in the beginning of my career in cross stitch. A book which teaches people how to cross stitch with a perfectly neat, tidy back.

What's your New Year's resolution?

My New Year's resolution is to publish my cross stitch technique book in English, and to launch my YouTube channel teaching DIY projects involving cross stitch. I'm really excited about this.

What are your favourite designs to stitch over winter?

I love to stitch and design patterns that have plaid grids, accompanied by greyish green gradient foliage and seasonal flowers. Winter, by the way, is my favourite season.



Designs from
*Romantic
Flowers in
Cross Stitch.*



The kits 'Plant Lady' and 'Botanical' contain everything you need – fabric, stranded cotton, embroidery hoop and embroidery needle and easy to understand instructions. They are quick to complete and unique in style. Or they make a lovely present for a keen stitcher in their specially created plastic-free packaging.

Which stitching trends do you see coming up next year?

At Rico Design we are seeing strong evidence that the trend in personalised embroidery projects will become more prominent as well as Hoop Art, both of which we love!

What are your plans for Rico's cross stitch ranges for 2021?

It's getting more and more important to personalise embroidery projects. We are very excited to work on gorgeous embroidery collections that allow stitching fans to embroider personal designs that strike a very personal chord for their family and friends.

MICHAEL ARMSTRONG
Rico Design UK expert
www.rico-design.com

Did you have a favourite Rico product that you brought out in 2020?

It was probably the new Rico Design punch needle book *LOCO LOCO*. It is so much fun. The different colours and textures are amazing. The book offers 17 cool design options in modern animal prints, colourful letters and pastel emojis. The book also shows how to pimp a sweatshirt with needle punching, a craft we first presented two years ago.

If you had to pick a last-minute Christmas gift for a stitching friend what would it be?

A favourite of mine from our range is the two lovely embroidery kits developed with DIY blogger Miriam Polak from @slow_evenings_embroidery.



Rico saw new designs from Miriam Polak and punch needle projects in 2020, and next year is focusing on more ways to personalise your projects.

CrossStitcher JUST FOR FUN

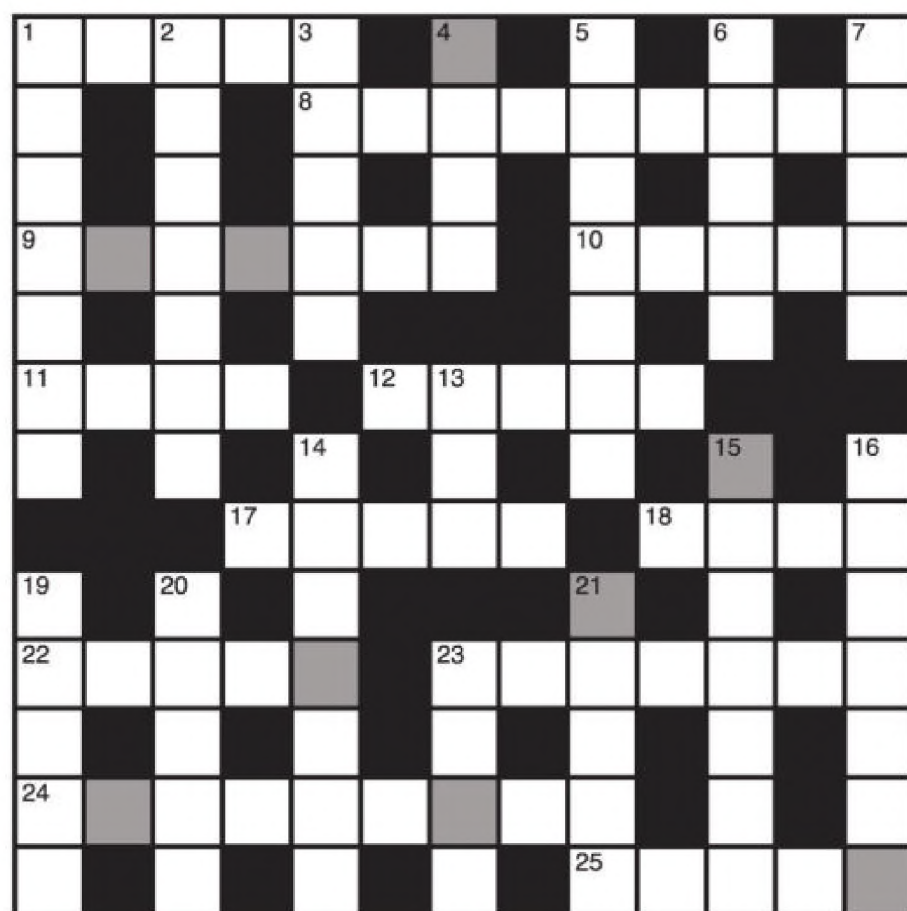
Prize crossword

Across

- 1 *We Three ---*, Christmas carol (5)
- 8 Technique where stitching is the same colour as the fabric (9)
- 9 Popular spot for hanging stockings? (7)
- 10 Light netted cloth used for veils and hats (5)
- 11 Small country road (4)
- 12 Baked product, eaten with cream and jam (5)
- 17 --- *Christmas*, classic seasonal film (5)
- 18 Biting insect (4)
- 22 Long-legged wading bird (5)
- 23 After the event (7)
- 24 Fight back (9)
- 25 Kirsty ---, Scottish TV and radio presenter (5)

Down

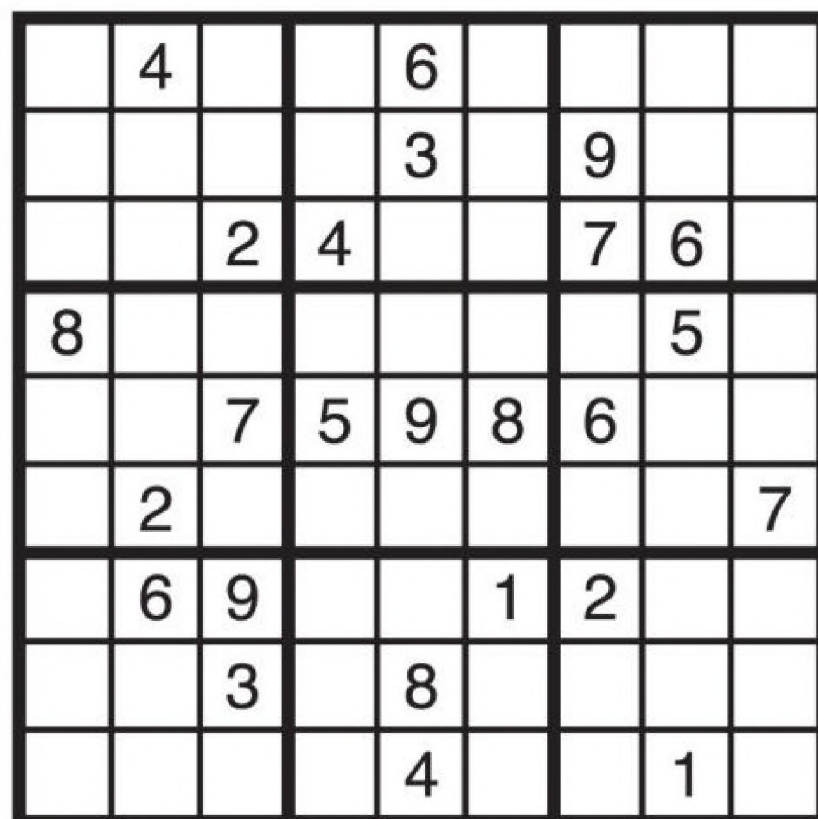
- 1 Finger joint (7)
- 2 Six ---, rugby tournament (7)
- 3 Playground apparatus (5)
- 4 Large town (4)
- 5 London's theatre district (4,3)
- 6 Festive green shrub (5)
- 7 Winter sportsman (5)
- 13 Baby's bed (3)
- 14 Small stones on a beach (7)
- 15 Large flat high area of land (7)
- 16 Material used for stuffing toys (7)
- 19 Cross stitch pattern (5)
- 20 Foam on a coffee (5)
- 21 Narrow passageway (5)
- 23 Small piece of glass, wood or plastic for embellishing fabric (4)



Winning word clue: **Celebrate the season with a glass of this fizz? (9)**

SUDOKU

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



HOW TO ENTER

COMPLETE the crossword and rearrange the letters in the shaded boxes to make up a winning word. Write your winning word and 'Crossword 365' on the back of a postcard or stuck-down envelope, adding your name, address and email address and post it to: *CrossStitcher*, PO Box 172, Northam, EX39 9DY

Competition open:

1 – 28 December 2020

For full terms and conditions, see page 82.



YOUR PRIZE This charming design 'Christmas Post' is new to the John Clayton Collection at Heritage Crafts. With a design size of 19.5x25cm the kit contains Zweigart fabric, DMC stranded cottons sorted onto numbered cards, a needle, clear charts and instructions. It's available for RRP: £35 from hcrafts.com.

Issue 363's winning word: **SPARKLER**



CrossStitcher



STITCH-A-LONG

THE ADVENTURES OF ALICE: THE KING & QUEEN OF HEARTS IN COURT

*"Off with her head!"
the Queen shouted at
the top of her voice.
Nobody moved*

*Alice's Adventures
in Wonderland*



Welcome to our stitch-a-long for 2020. Designer Amanda Butler has created an amazing 'Alice In Wonderland' SAL – and will be unveiling a new character from this much-loved book and *Through The Looking Glass* each month. In this issue we give you *The King and Queen of Hearts...*



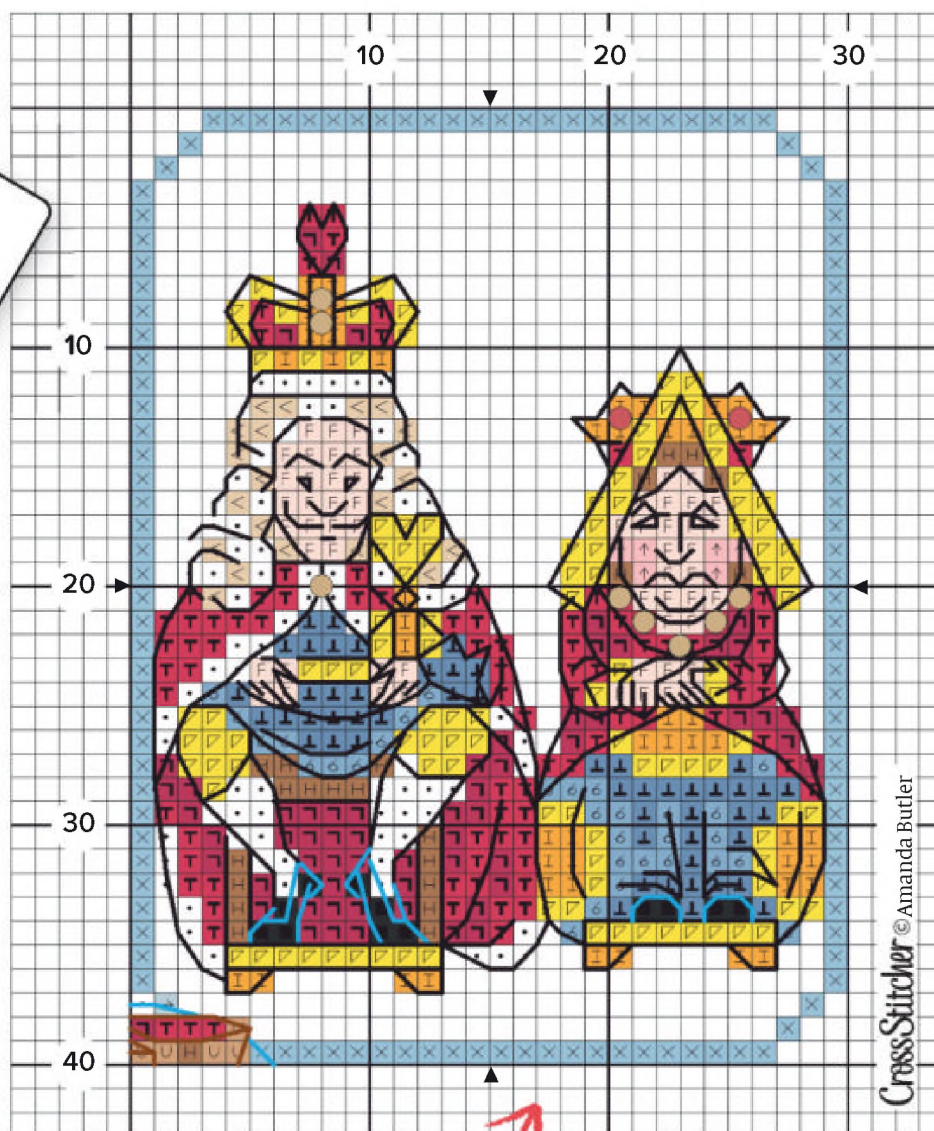
THE ADVENTURES OF ALICE SAL

This is the final part of this year's stitch-along design. Over the year we have given you 12 Alice in Wonderland character designs. This issue we give you the The King and Queen of Hearts who fit into the last space on the bottom row.



Designed by: Amanda Butler
Stitch count: 33 high x 28 wide
Design size: 6x5 cm (2¼x2in)
Stitch time: 4 hours

This design was stitched on 14 count aida fabric.



CrossStitcher © Amanda Butler

THE KEY

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

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

THE CHART

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

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

DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands		
	307	289 104
	310	403 black
	321	019 510
	334	977 1003
	435	1046 2010
	666	046 210
	739	366 2014

DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Cross stitch in two strands		
	775	1031 1001
	819	271 501
	963	023 608
	972	298 107
	3325	129 1002
	3755	939 909
	B5200	001 white

DMC	Anchor	Madeira
Backstitch in one strand		
	310	403 black
outlines & details		
	413	401 1713
shoe details		
Attach beads with cotton		
	Mill Hill 2013	
crown detail		
	Mill Hill 00557	
crown, jewellery & clothing details		

TIP: If you're stitching this design separately, just complete the blue border all around.

HOW TO JOIN OUR STITCH-A-LONG

WE'VE UNVEILED a chart from February to January, with the border in February, then 12 Alice characters over the last year.

To join our mystery stitch you will need to buy a fat quarter 50x55cm (19½x21½in) of Zweigart Parchment 14 count aida, ref: 3706/3740, to complete the design, plus DMC Light Effects Gold E3852, and one pack each of Mill Hill red seed beads colour 2013 and gold 557. The design size will be 210 stitches high x 130 stitches wide, which gives you a finished size of 38x24cm (15x9¼in). To stitch the SAL you will need to buy the February issue of *CrossStitcher* 353, for the border chart (back

issues available from www.willowfabrics.com). The complete key showing all the threads you need to buy appears in this issue.

You can order a materials pack with everything you need for this SAL which contains: • Zweigart 14 count aida in Parchment • Skeins of DMC stranded cotton • Skein of DMC Light Effects • Mill Hill Red and Gold seed beads • Two gold-plated tapestry needles; size 24 and size 26. Go to www.willowfabrics.com to order your pack at the *CrossStitcher* reader price of £51, plus P&P.

JOIN OUR Facebook group at www.facebook.com/groups/CrossStitcherSAL

BEGINNERS START HERE...

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

THE ESSENTIAL KIT YOU'LL NEED TO START STITCHING

NEEDLES

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

EMBROIDERY SCISSORS

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

STRANDED COTTON

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

HOOPS AND FRAMES

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

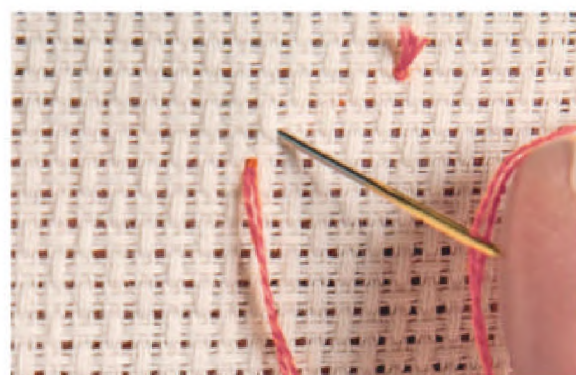
FABRICS

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

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

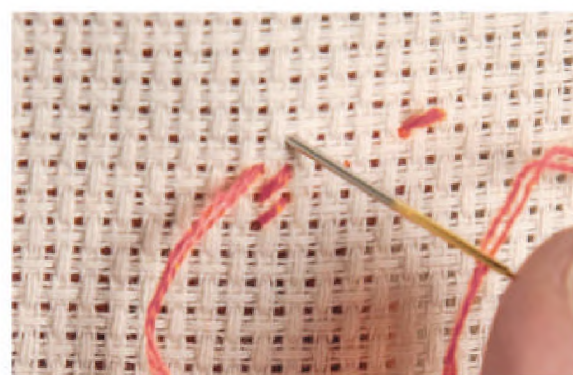
Start stitching... on aida

Step 1



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

Step 2



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

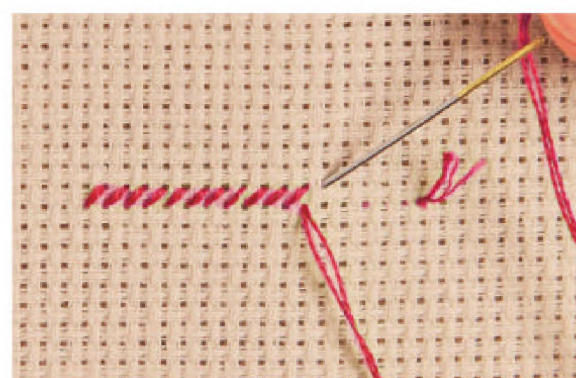
and... on evenweave



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

STARTING A THREAD

1. Away waste knot



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

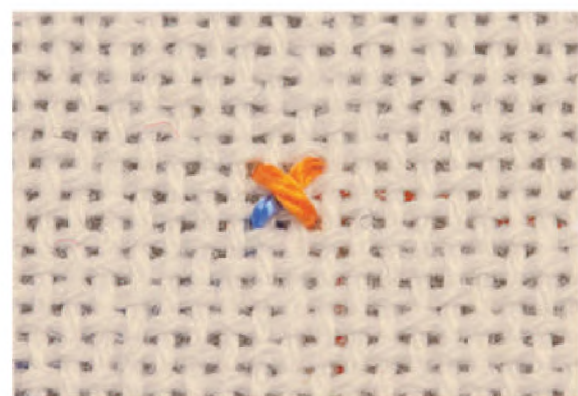
2. Loop knot



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

FRACTIONALS

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



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

ADDING BACKSTITCH OUTLINES & DETAILS

Step 1



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

Step 2



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

FRENCH KNOTS

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

Step 1



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

Step 2



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

CrossStitcher

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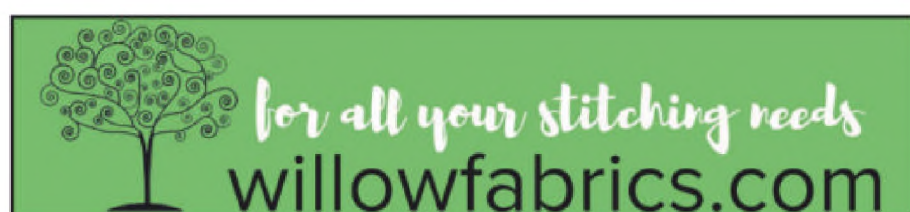
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CrossStitcher market place



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In your February CrossStitcher

The shades of winter in stitches...

No.1
FOR DESIGNS



YOUR FREE GIFT!

Celebrate early spring with our snowdrop card, complete with printed greetings tags...



Contents subject to change. Overseas gifts may vary.

Inside this month

♥ **Paint yourself the colours of winter:** swatches sampler

♥ **Valentine's cards** to melt your heart and theirs

♥ **Toy story:** the sweetest birth sampler to stitch

♥ **Fancy floral set of sewing accessories**

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FOR DESIGNS



69
BEAUTIFUL
DESIGNS



A NEW YEAR
OF STITCHING
STARTS HERE!

CARDS, GIFTS
& IDEAS FOR
YOUR HOME



Inside...
CrossStitcher
Packed with new ideas and **designs for you**
Just stitch it!

PLUS We show how to stitch with beads, including working on perforated paper



CrossStitcher CALENDAR 2021

12
SEASONAL
DESIGNS



WELCOME

WE'RE DELIGHTED to present our brand-new calendar for 2021! Created in a sweet folk-art style, it features a different seasonal scene for each month of the year. Exclusively designed for us by Cheryl McKinnon, the scenes are just 38 stitches high x 28 wide and measure 7x5cm (2¾x2in) when worked on 14 count aida. Get started on January's design right away! With a full colour photo of each scene, plus each month's dates, you can also use all the designs as an instant mini calendar for your craft desk. The calendar comes with a cardboard stand – simply slot the different parts together and then pop your calendar on, ready to display. Happy 2021, enjoy your new year of stitching!

All the designs in our folk art calendar use two strands of stranded cotton for the cross stitch and one strand for the backstitch.



JANUARY



F 1
S 2 16
S 3 17
M 4 18
T 5 19
W 6 20
T 7 21
F 8 22
S 9 23
S 10 24
M 11 25
T 12 26
W 13 27
T 14 28
F 15 29
S 30
S 31

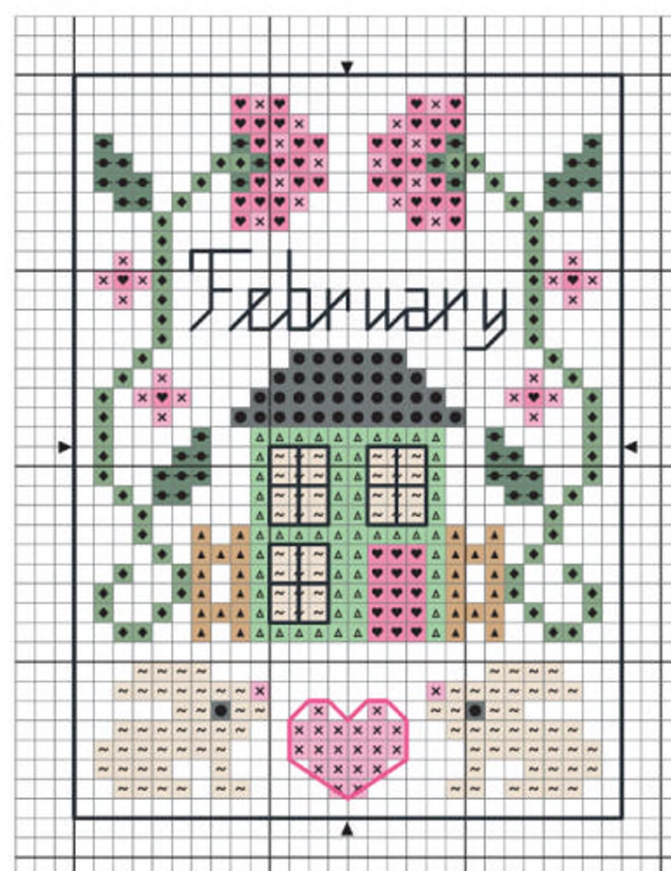


DMC
Cross stitch (2)
x x 729
• • 830
• • 964
• • 986
• • 988
• • 3799
• • 3812
~ ~ Ecru
Backstitch (1)
— 3799

FEBRUARY



M 1
T 2 16
W 3 17
T 4 18
F 5 19
S 6 20
S 7 21
M 8 22
T 9 23
W 10 24
T 11 25
F 12 26
S 13 27
S 14 28
M 15

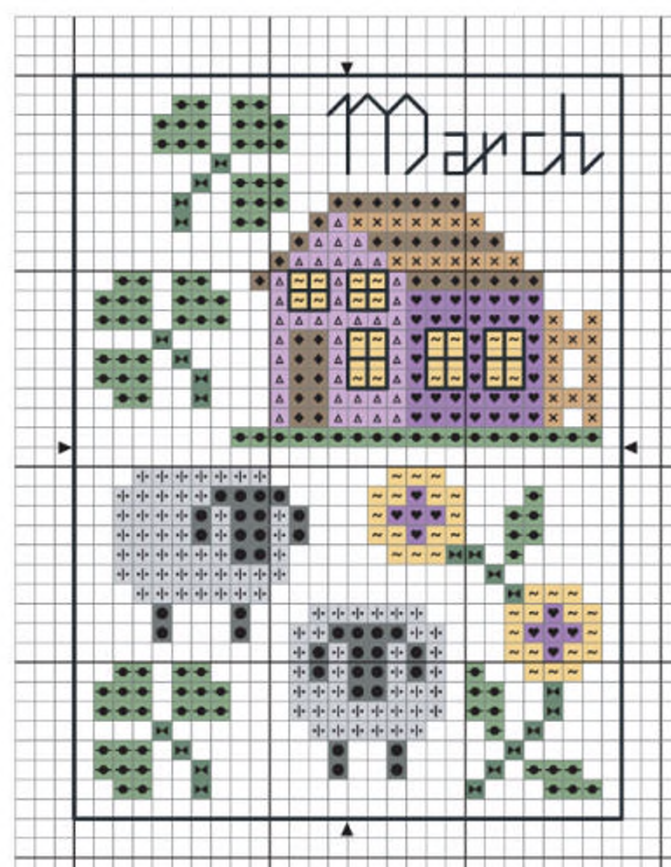


DMC
Cross stitch (2)
Δ Δ 164
♥ ♥ 603
x x 605
Δ Δ 729
• • 986
• • 988
• • 3799
~ ~ Ecru
Backstitch (1)
— 603
— 3799

MARCH



M 1
T 2 16
W 3 17
T 4 18
F 5 19
S 6 20
S 7 21
M 8 22
T 9 23
W 10 24
T 11 25
F 12 26
S 13 27
S 14 28
M 15 29
T 30
W 31



DMC
Cross stitch (2)
♥ ♥ 208
△ △ 210
× × 729
· · 762
◆ ◆ 830
◀ ▶ 986
◀ ▶ 988
● ● 3799
~ ~ 3822
Backstitch (1)
— 3799

APRIL



T 1
F 2 16
S 3 17
S 4 18
M 5 19
T 6 20
W 7 21
T 8 22
F 9 23
S 10 24
S 11 25
M 12 26
T 13 27
W 14 28
T 15 29
F 30

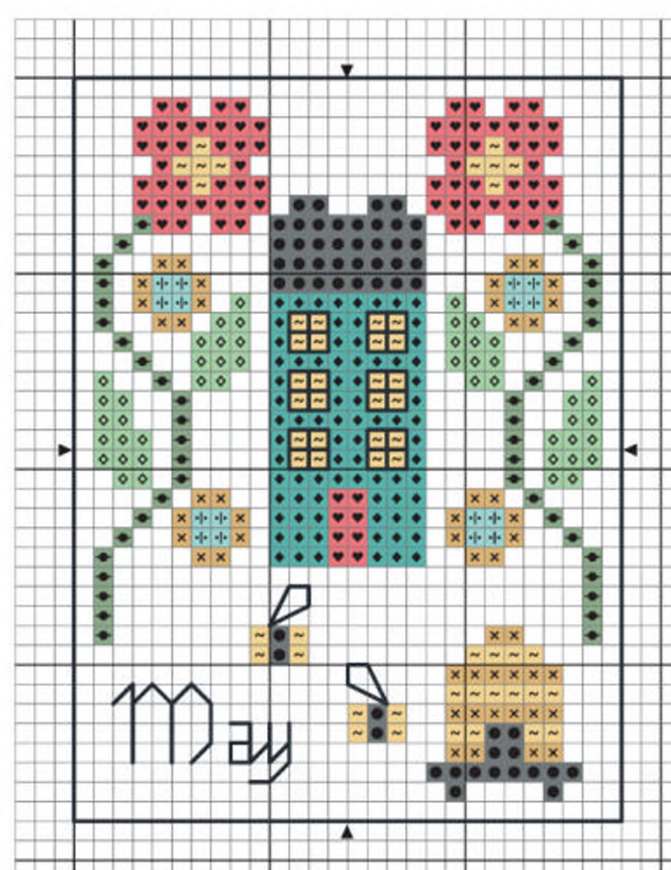


DMC
Cross stitch (2)
× × 729
△ △ 964
◀ ▶ 986
▲ ▲ 988
♥ ♥ 3607
3609
● ● 3799
· · 3822
~ ~ Ecu
Backstitch (1)
— 3799

MAY



S 1
S 2 16
M 3 17
T 4 18
W 5 19
T 6 20
F 7 21
S 8 22
S 9 23
M 10 24
T 11 25
W 12 26
T 13 27
F 14 28
S 15 29
S 30
M 31

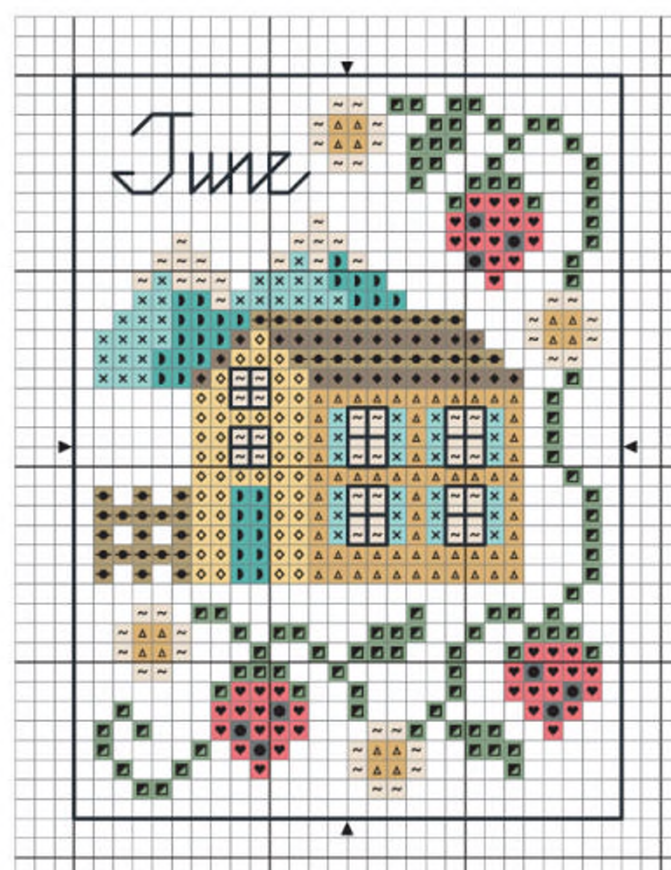


DMC
Cross stitch (2)
◇ ◇ 164
· · 964
◀ ▶ 988
● ● 3799
♥ ♥ 3801
◆ ◆ 3812
× × 3820
~ ~ 3822
Backstitch (1)
— 3799

JUNE



T 1
W 2 16
T 3 17
F 4 18
S 5 19
S 6 20
M 7 21
T 8 22
W 9 23
T 10 24
F 11 25
S 12 26
S 13 27
M 14 28
T 15 29
W 30

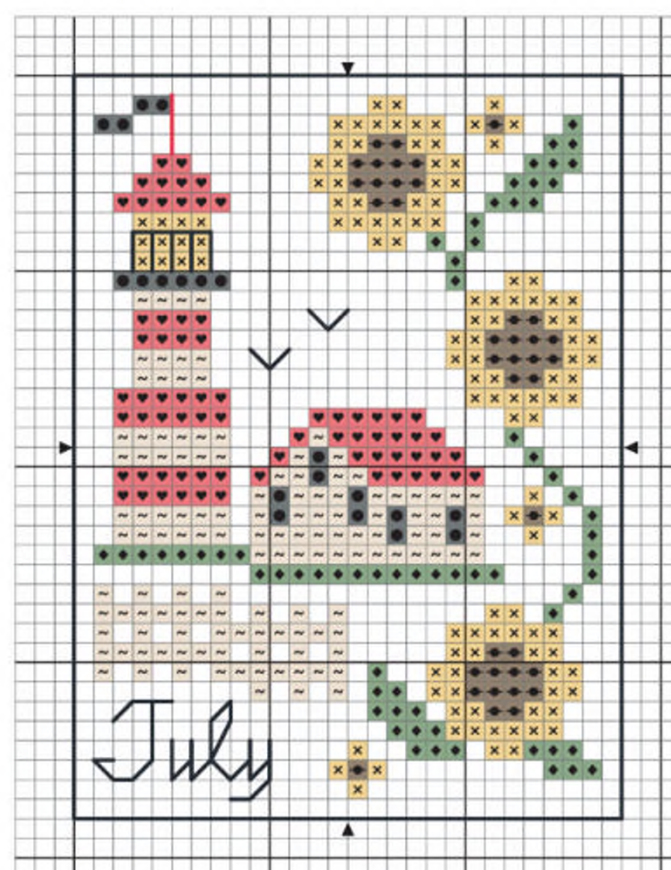


DMC
Cross stitch (2)
830
832
964
988
3799
3801
3812
3820
3822
Ecrú
Backstitch (1)
3799

JULY



T 1
F 2 16
S 3 17
S 4 18
M 5 19
T 6 20
W 7 21
T 8 22
F 9 23
S 10 24
S 11 25
M 12 26
T 13 27
W 14 28
T 15 29
F 30
S 31



DMC
Cross stitch (2)
830
988
3799
3801
3822
Ecrú
Backstitch (1)
3799
3801

AUGUST



S 1
M 2 16
T 3 17
W 4 18
T 5 19
F 6 20
S 7 21
S 8 22
M 9 23
T 10 24
W 11 25
T 12 26
F 13 27
S 14 28
S 15 29
M 30
T 31

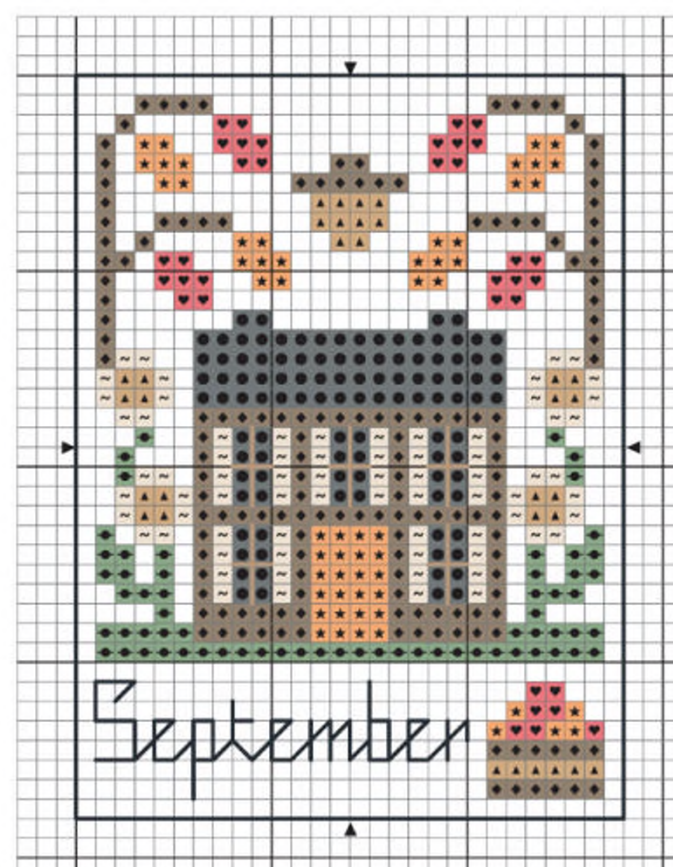


DMC
Cross stitch (2)
747
830
964
988
3799
3812
3820
Ecrú
Backstitch (1)
3799

SEPTEMBER



W 1
T 2 16
F 3 17
S 4 18
S 5 19
M 6 20
T 7 21
W 8 22
T 9 23
F 10 24
S 11 25
S 12 26
M 13 27
T 14 28
W 15 29
T 30



DMC
Cross stitch (2)
▲▲ 729
★★ 741
◆◆ 830
◆◆ 988
●● 3799
♥♥ 3801
~ ~ Ecru
Backstitch (1)
— 3799
— Ecru

OCTOBER



F 1
S 2 16
S 3 17
M 4 18
T 5 19
W 6 20
T 7 21
F 8 22
S 9 23
S 10 24
M 11 25
T 12 26
W 13 27
T 14 28
F 15 29
S 30
S 31

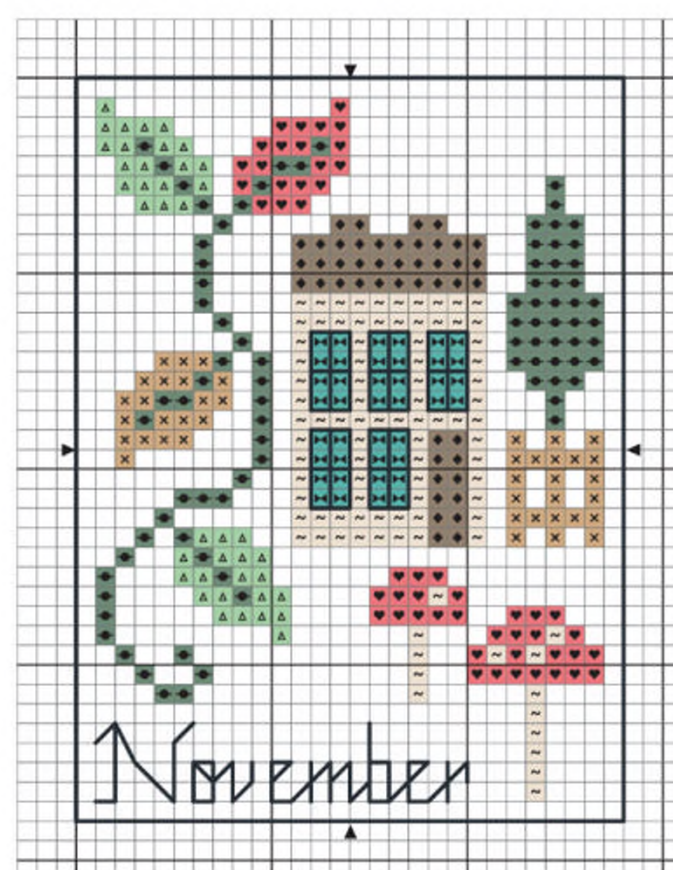


DMC
Cross stitch (2)
△△ 164
★★ 740
◆◆ 830
◆◆ 988
●● 3799
×× 3820
·· 3822
Backstitch (1)
— 3799
— Ecru

NOVEMBER



M 1
T 2 16
W 3 17
T 4 18
F 5 19
S 6 20
S 7 21
M 8 22
T 9 23
W 10 24
T 11 25
F 12 26
S 13 27
S 14 28
M 15 29
T 30



DMC
Cross stitch (2)
△△ 164
×× 729
◆◆ 830
◆◆ 986
♥♥ 3801
◆◆ 3812
~ ~ Ecru
Backstitch (1)
— 3799

DECEMBER



W	1
T	2 16
F	3 17
S	4 18
S	5 19
M	6 20
T	7 21
W	8 22
T	9 23
F	10 24
S	11 25
S	12 26
M	13 27
T	14 28
W	15 29
T	30
F	31



DMC	
Cross stitch (2)	
△ △	747
◆ ◆	830
× ×	832
◀ ▶	986
▲ ▲	988
● ●	3799
♥ ♥	3801
☆ ☆	3822
~ ~	Ecran
Backstitch (1)	
—	3799

CrossStitcher PROJECT PACK

If you would like to stitch the complete calendar as a sampler, you can send for a layout guide and the materials needed to complete the project.



Your materials pack contains:

- 14 count Antique White aida
- Skeins of DMC stranded cotton
- Two gold-plated tapestry needles; size 24 and size 26
- Layout guide for completing the sampler

How to order: Go to www.willowfabrics.com to place your order, or complete the coupon on the offers page inside CrossStitcher issue 365. CrossStitcher reader price: £26, plus P&P.

CrossStitcher

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