

NEW! CHRISTMAS IDEAS FOR ALL LEVELS

POLAR POP

Stitch a stunning arctic view



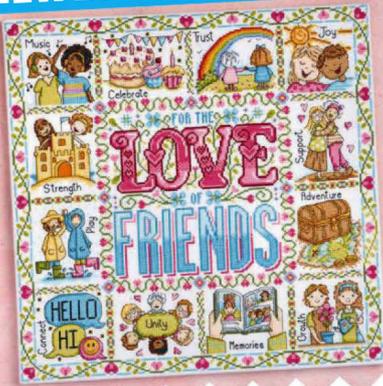
The UK's No.1

THE WORLD OF Cross Stitching

85

EASY-TO-USE
CHARTS
TO START
TODAY

NEW 2026 STITCH-A-LONG!



PLUS
SNOWY
COTTAGES



TATTY TEDDY!

Little pudding



ME to YOU

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* Cosy cards * Margaret Sherry cat * Nativity ABC * Festive map *



Tree toppers
Cat & dog decorations!



GRAB A CUPPA WITH GAIL BUSSI P.31



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Welcome

Hopefully we've piled you up high with gorgeously festive patterns this season! Which ones have you started already and which will you file away for next year? **Stitchers are always well ahead** with ideas and planning, so they're never caught out for any occasion. In this special issue, we're super happy to be welcoming back **Tatty Teddy** as our cover star, all dressed up for a party! For more festive joy, take your pick of Tiny Modernist's **cat and dog tree toppers** stitched onto perforated paper – which will you choose? And it's the last in our series of **Margaret Sherry seasonal designs** where this fluffy kitty is all wrapped up for winter!

For designs on the quick-to-stitch side, take your pick from **Gail Bussi's wintry village**, with over 30 snowy cottage scenes, or Heather Nugent's 3D cosy cards.

And if you're all done with your Christmas stitching, why not take on a **new Greek goddess**? We welcome the legendary Athena, strong and brave in gold and bronze shades. Keep flicking through or turn the page for our

full contents to see all the fab charts we've lovingly prepared for you this season. Wishing you all the best for a happy Christmas!



Vicki

The World of CrossStitching



Meet some of our designers...



CHERYL MCKINNON

Cheryl of Tiny Modernist knows how to make **WOXS** readers happy, especially with cute pets that are dressed up ready for a dazzling tree-top appearance!



PERRY ABDEL-HADI

We love Perry's artistic silhouette designs and this issue we're going frosty, with a vista of an arctic tundra complete with aurora borealis and stunning wildlife.



HEATHER NUGENT

Heather is Technical Editor of our sister magazine, *Love Embroidery*, but loves to design in cross stitch. You'll love her quick-to-stitch 3D cosy cards!



STITCHING HELP!

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www.instagram.com/worldofcrossstitching

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

Email us at:
theworldofxstitching@ourmedia.co.uk

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

Send in queries via social media:

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



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ISSUE 366

SPECIAL 2025

YOUR FAB GIFTS!

Turn to page 8

A gift-giving Mrs Claus to add a sweet surprise to your tree and a bonus chart sheet of decorated doors to turn into cards.



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



COVER STAR!

10 EXCLUSIVE TATTY TEDDY DESIGN!

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WORTH £35!



Turn to page 32

Subscribe today and receive a PURElite magnifying craft lamp worth £35! Pay only £29.49 for every six issues, saving 25% on the shop price.

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NEW
DESIGNS

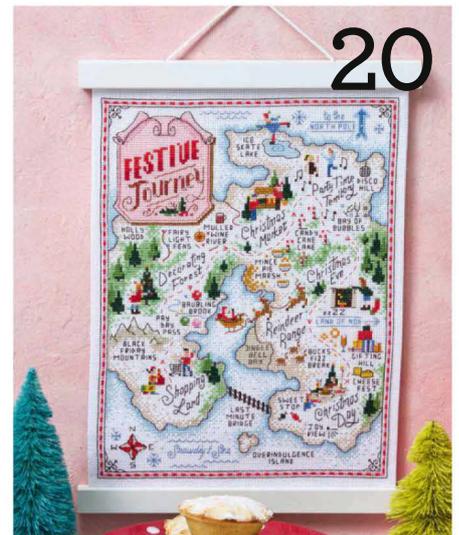
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CROSS STITCHING IS FOR EVERYONE!

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

- ✦ Get a sneak preview
- ✦ Appear in the magazine
- ✦ Receive a stichy gift

Meet our guests

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



Barbara Brown

Barbara is retired and lives in Swindon

Most recent fave WOXS design?

The 'Classic Shop Cards' from issue 364 (Nov 2025). I stitch my Christmas cards from one designer each year. This year it's Jenny Barton. I'll really enjoy stitching the cards, which are



so colourful, and I may use some DMC Étoile threads as they will shine.

Do you stitch with your family?

My daughter and I tried to stitch together a few times when she visits, but my output was poor. I lost concentration because I kept talking!

Any stitching tips?

I read about magic aida a few years ago and decided to try it. I now use it every time. It saves repeatedly counting and instead of starting in the centre, I start at the top corner from centre to right, then centre to left and downwards. Saves time and the lines disappear when washed.



Lisa Williams

Lisa is retired and a full-time student from Ohio, USA

How did you start stitching?

I wanted to make my grandma something she would cherish. She had everything she ever wanted, but the joy on her face when she realised I spent hours over a table runner told me I had done the right thing.

Proudest stitching moment?

I surprised my grandfather with some steam train landscapes. He had a room with a model train village. He never expected me to make him anything. I now have them, along with the ones I made for my grandma, as they have both passed. They bring back fond memories.

A WOXS design you love?

I really liked 'Jigsaw Heart' from issue 359 (June 2025). I love puzzles and I'm autistic, so the design is a symbol for me. Puzzles are helpful in focusing my brain, but cross stitch is my mental health go-to, so this combines them both!



Clare Johns

Clare is an occupational therapist from West Cornwall

Your fave project style? Why?

I really like quick cards as I enjoy making them for family birthdays, occasions and Christmas. Anything *Winnie the Pooh* and scenes that evoke memories like *All Our Yesterdays* by Faye Whittaker.

Next WOXS design you'll stitch?

I loved the Furry Tales Christmas kit with issue 364 (Nov 2025) and have already started stitching the Lizzie wreath. I plan to mount it on the front of a card to give to a family member. They can then remove the decoration and hang it on their tree.



What do your loved ones think of your hobby?

My family enjoy receiving handmade cross stitch cards and gifts. They are also very understanding when I have my very bright sewing light on and they are watching TV!

We need you!

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



**Gift worth
£29.99!**

THANKS! This month's panel members will receive 'Mushroom At The Inn' from Bothy Threads*, one of their newest designs from their iconic Christmas collection. Each kit comes with threads, fabric, chart and instructions for an easy make!

*For stockists see page 82



Furry Tales

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

Angel Mouse key

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	blanc	2	2402	white
♥	349	1098	212	red
✶	351	10	214	coral
♫	436	1045	2011	tan
○	437	362	2012	light tan
—	712	926	2101	light cream
⊂	739	366	2014	cream
∩	754	1012	305	peach
♣	817	13	210	dark red
⊂	948	892	306	light peach
■	3799	236	1713	grey

✕ Backstitch in one strand

—	3799	236	1713	grey
—	3820	306	2509	gold

STITCH COUNT 40 high x 39 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) –
7.5x7cm (2¾x2¾in)



Lizzie is an angel this festive season, wearing a pretty red frock with fluffy white trim that complements her angel wings. Why not have some fun with metallics and stitch her halo and the surrounding stars in a gold thread for added dazzle and shine this Christmas?

Missed a chart?



ISSUE 365

Lizzie is sporting her Christmas colours as she's dressed as Santa's helper.



ISSUE 364

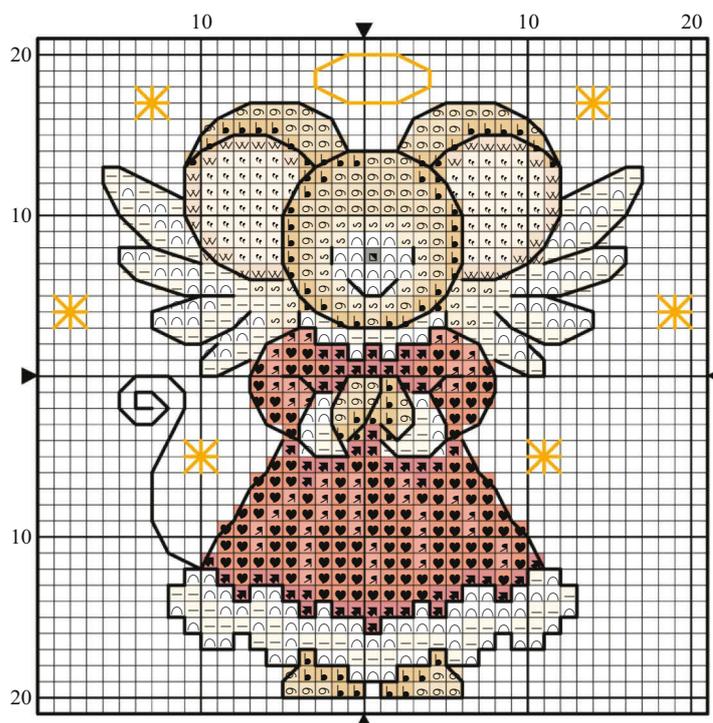
Monty is playing a melodic tune on his trumpet, an ideal stitch for a musician.



ISSUE 363

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

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



Your **EXCLUSIVE** gift!

Stitch **Heather Nugent's** gift-giving Mrs Claus to add a sweet surprise to your tree!



Gift available with print edition only. Overseas gift may vary.

Mrs Claus key

✦ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	blanc	2	2402	white
∩	151	73	404	light pink
∩	349	1098	212	red
∩	498	1006	513	dark red
∩	746	275	2511	cream
∩	910	228	1302	green
∩	3326	36	606	pink
∩	3774	778	306	peach
∩	3818	923	2704	dark green

✦ Half cross stitch in two strands

∩	blanc	2	2402	white
∩	415	398	1802	grey

✦ Backstitch in one strand

—	310	403	2400	black
---	-----	-----	------	-------

✦ Cutting line - not stitched

—				
---	--	--	--	--

STITCH COUNT 56 high x 56 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 10x10cm (4x4in)

DESIGNED BY Heather Nugent

STITCHED BY Fiona Baker

This design was stitched using stranded cotton from your coverkit. If you don't have the kit, use items from your stash. Perforated paper can be used instead of plastic aida.

STITCH THE SET!



Did you know that Mrs Claus is seventh in a series of fun decoration kits that we create for our readers every year? From Santa and his reindeer to a snowman or angel! See the full collection of 3D cone characters and buy all the previous pattern PDFs so you can make the full set at www.gatheredshop.com

SCAN ME



How to... make your decoration

A NEW
3D CONE
FOR YOUR
COLLECTION

1 Use a ruler to find the centre of the plastic aida and start stitching the centre of the design from there.

2 Once you've finished stitching, use sharp scissors to cut a border around the edge of the stitched design, following the cutting line on the chart as a guide. Be careful not to snip into any holes containing stitches.

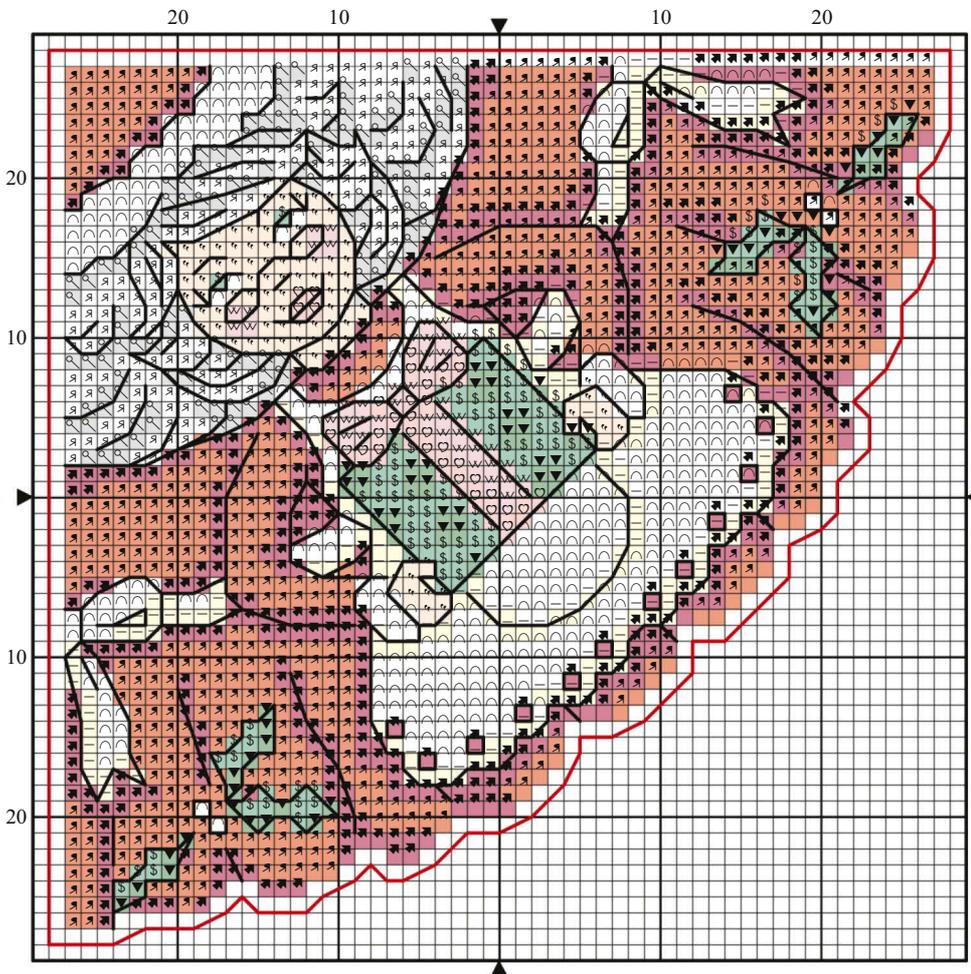
3 Create a loop with the baker's twine and tie the ends together in a knot.

4 Bend the plastic aida to line up the straight edges. Starting at the bottom of the skirt, use whipstitch in two strands to join the edges together. You could change the thread colour as you go to match adjacent stitches. As you get nearer to the top, insert the baker's twine with the knot inside the cone, then continue whipstitching to the top and secure the ends.

5 Now hang on your Christmas tree!



TOP TIP
Half cross stitch is used to add texture in Mrs Claus' curly hair. Ensure all your stitches face the same direction for a neat finish



Factbox

- ✦ **Stitching Time**
Approx. 11 hours
- ✦ **Type of Stitches**
Cross stitch, half cross stitch, backstitch
- ✦ **Ease of Stitching**
Beginner

Inside your kit...

To help you sort your threads, here's a list of the colours and number of lengths of thread inside your coverkit:

- White x6
- Light pink x1
- Red x9
- Dark red x6
- Cream x3
- Green x2
- Pink x1
- Peach x2
- Dark green x2
- Grey x1
- Black x3

Total: 36 lengths

DESIGNED BY **ME TO YOU**

Little pudding

Tatty Teddy is back and ready for some fabulously festive fun in this exclusive stitch pattern

Get ready to add a sprinkle of festive cheer to your stitching stash with our adorable new Tatty Teddy cross stitch design! This time, the ever-popular grey bear is dressed as a charming Christmas pudding, complete with holly leaves and a sweet gaze that's sure to melt hearts. Whether you're stitching for yourself or creating a handmade gift, this design is perfect for bringing a touch of cosy whimsy to your Christmas crafting.

We've stitched this design onto ice blue aida for a frosty feel and to help the snowflakes stand out. There is a lot of snow to add, so try to avoid trailing threads across the back of the design. It's a great project

Factbox

- ✘ **Stitching Time**
Approx. 45 hours
- ✘ **Type of Stitches**
Cross stitch, fractionals, backstitch
- ✘ **Ease of Stitching**
Advanced beginner

Falling
snow
detail

for beginners who are looking to try something a little more challenging as it's mostly whole stitches and backstitch, with just a few fractionals for added detail.

We chose to mount Tatty Teddy onto canvas, but you might prefer a frame or magnetic hangers. ➤



Meet Tatty Teddy

Say a big hello to Tatty Teddy, the signature character of *Me to You*. Well loved all over the world, this fun teddy is ready for Christmas with his cute pudding costume. Visit www.metoyou.com to find out more about this darling blue-nosed bear.

www.metoyou.com

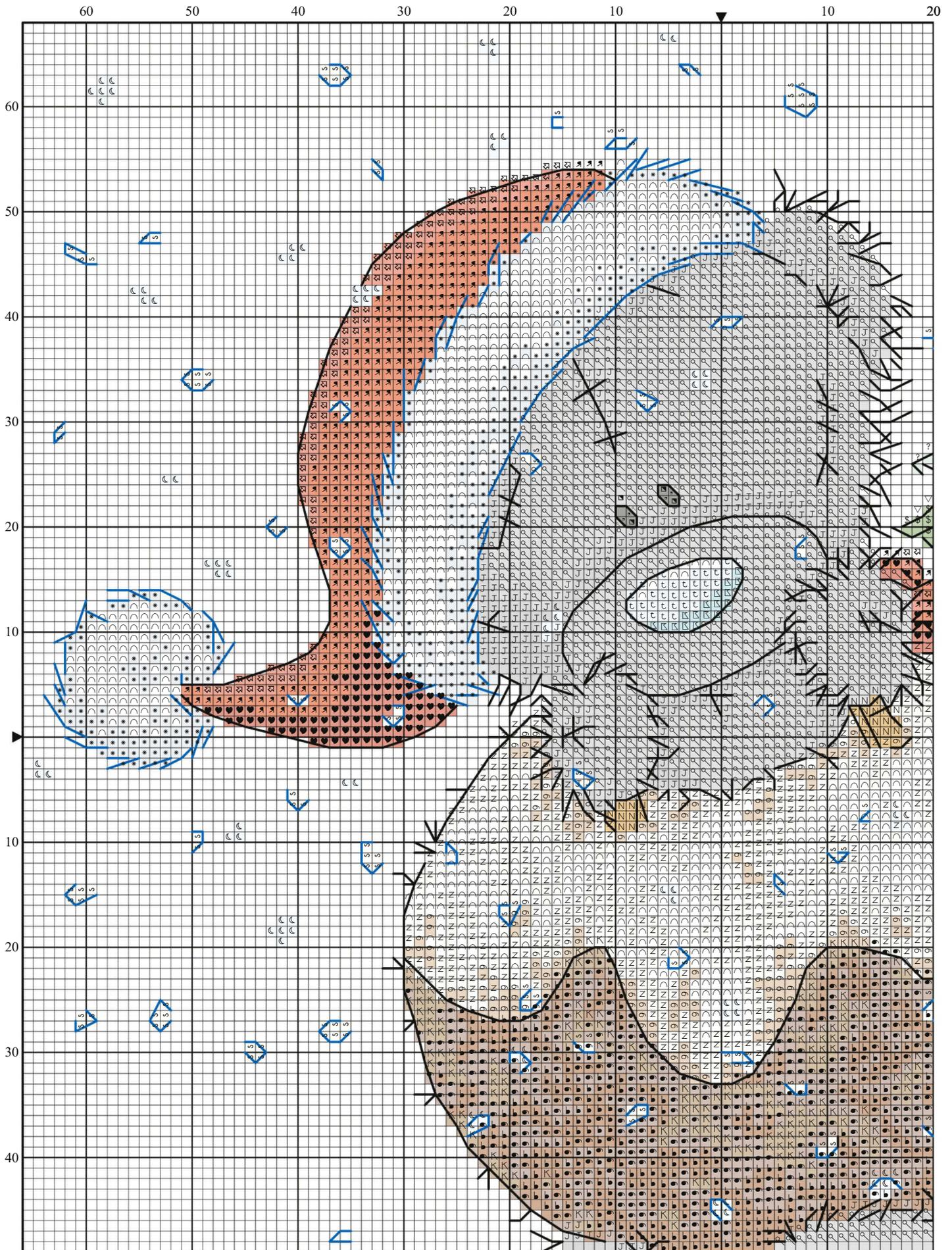


ME to YOU®

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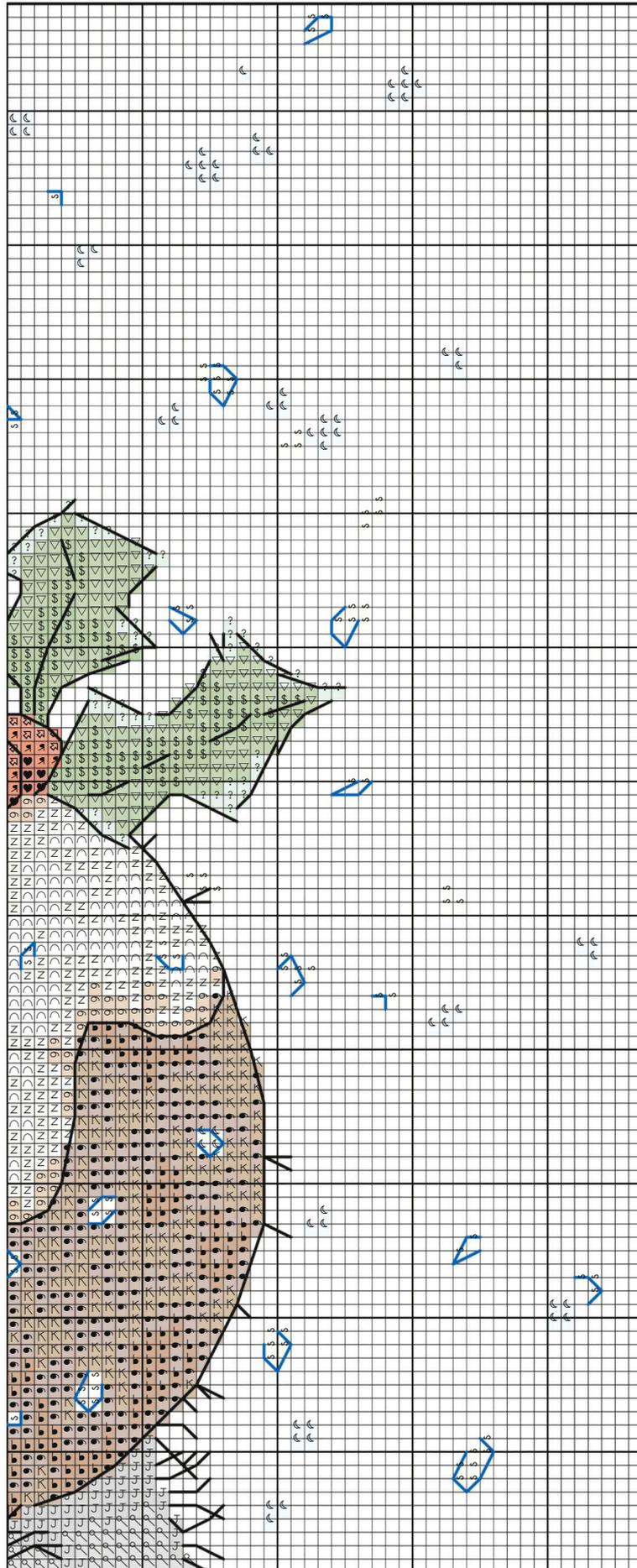
EXCLUSIVE TO
THE WORLD OF
**Cross
Stitching**





Tatty Teddy chart (top left)

20 30 40 50 60



Tatty Teddy chart (top right)

Tatty Teddy key

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	blanc	1	2402	white
t	162	9159	1101	delft blue
J	318	399	1801	grey
♥	321	9046	510	dark red
↗	349	1098	212	red
⊠	351	10	214	coral
⦿	415	398	1802	light grey
N	436	1045	2011	tan
⦶	519	1038	1105	sea blue
§	562	210	1205	dark green
▽	563	208	1207	green
?	564	206	1208	light green
*	762	234	1804	very light grey
K	840	1084	1912	dark beige
o	842	1080	1910	beige
P	3752	1032	1708	blue
∩	3753	128	909	light blue
b	3781	1088	2003	brown
o	3790	393	1905	light brown
n	3799	236	1713	dark grey
s	3865	2	2403	natural white
z	3866	926	2101	pearl

✕ Backstitch in one strand

—	318	399	1801	grey
—	3799	236	1713	dark grey

STITCH COUNT 135 high x 131 wide

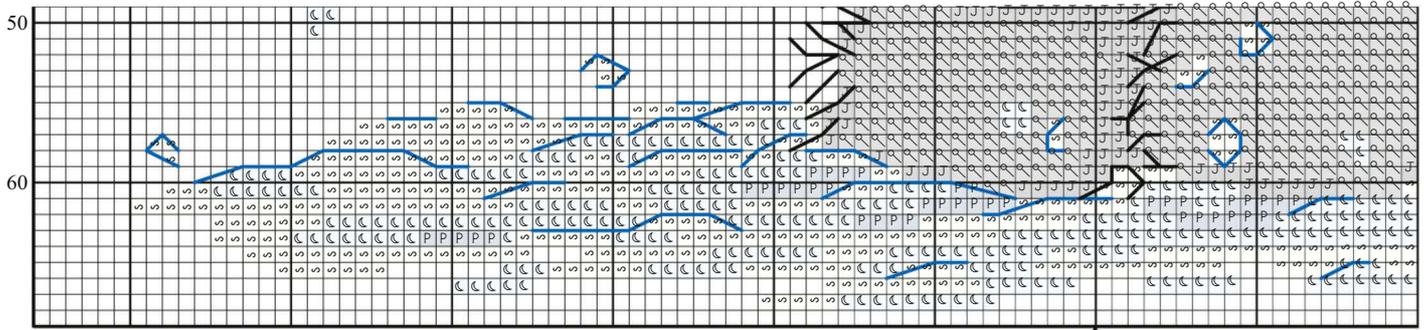
DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 24.5x24cm (9¾x9½in)

ILLUSTRATION CONVERTED BY Fiona Baker

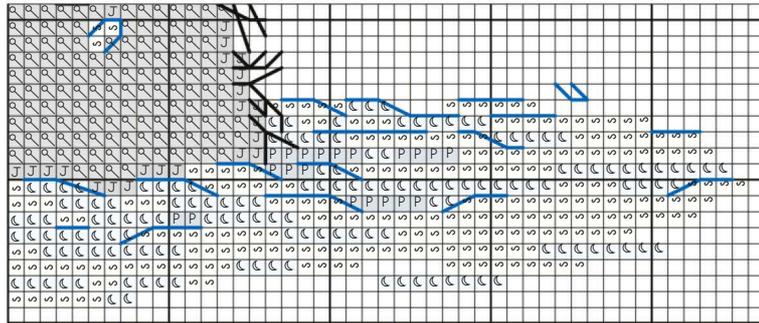
STITCHED BY Lisa Draycott

This design was stitched using DMC stranded cotton





Tatty Teddy chart (bottom left)



Tatty Teddy chart (bottom right)

Project pack

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



Barbara READER PANEL

“Tatty Teddy is a family favourite! He looks so cute in his pudding costume. The snowflakes bring the whole project alive. This would make a cosy cushion to add to my festive collection.”



Shopping list

- ✘ Zweigart* 14-count ice blue (550) aida measuring 50x50cm (20x20in)
- ✘ Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- ✘ Size 24 tapestry needle
- ✘ Stretched canvas of your choice measuring 30x30cm (12x12in)

*For stockists see page 82

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× Project Packs ×

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

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

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

*Magazine charts are not included



Every letter writer gets a prize!

Your letters

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



Star Letter

O CHRISTMAS CONE

I just finished adding the previous cone from issue 353 (Special 2024) to my set. I don't hang mine, I add a supporting wire to the base and display them standing. Sometimes I add my own little twist to the original pattern. As my best friend and I are both currently subscribing, I can see this becoming one of the patterns we work on together as a 'best friend stitch-a-long'.

I've stitched them in the order that they appeared. I find stitching them a bit harder on the hands than normal aida, but the result is worth it, even if the cone shape can be a challenge. The broader cones I stitched and turned out. The thin ones don't work quite so well, but I still managed. The open figures like Rudolph and the snowman were much easier to get the back neat. I have embellished all of them with sequins at the base, tassels, or bows at the top (I don't hang them, they stand). It is fun! I keep the finished ones in a sweet tub that I associate with Christmas from my childhood.

Deborah Richardson, via email



✉ Christmas Deborah's cone collection!

Vicki: Next to add to your collection is Mrs Claus, we can't wait to see how you and your best friend make that, Deborah!

Wildlife wonder

Years ago I was looking for a project to do for Christmas. I decided to attempt it in the summer after finishing a tricky Jane Austen sampler. I thought if I've managed to complete that I'm sure I can have a go at this, which uses beads and metallic thread, things I've not done before. I had a bit of a nightmare when I ran out of gold thread – trying to find it was difficult. I stitched the star in a different gold, which isn't quite as sparkly, but 'it is what it is' as everybody says these days! I looked up the techniques for attaching beads on YouTube. It is hanging on the wall and the Christmas cards are going to be displayed on either side of it on ribbon. I've already had lots of comments about how nice it is.



✉ Wildlife wonder Alison worked hard stitching this piece for Christmas

Alison Balch, via email

Sienna: This is such a beautiful piece, Alison, thank you so much for sharing. You're well deserving of the stellar compliments, a lot of time and dedication went into this piece. The chosen gold frame complements the design's colours nicely, too.



✉ Christmas ready Pat stitched the whole Christmas booklet!

CHRISTMAS READY

When I saw in issue 350 (October 2024), the booklet with the Christmas card ideas, I immediately loved the charts and decided to make them after I had finished stitching my other Christmas gifts. I started them in the middle of December and finished in January. I couldn't decide which one to do so did the whole lot and enjoyed doing them all. Doing cross stitch is my release valve as my husband has dementia as well as other health problems, so I can do them in between looking after him. The photos don't do them justice as you can't really see the sparkly aida that I did them on. Hope you like them.

Pat Bayliss-Marten, Waterlooville

Fiona: Getting ahead on the Christmas stitching is what we love to see, you're all sorted now Pat! They're going to shine.

Win!

Worth £49

This issue's star letter winner will receive three wintry designs from Goldleaf Needlework* – 'Transporting the Tree' (RRP £22), 'Fishing' (RRP £19) and 'Starstruck' (RRP £10).

MORE: For more details visit www.goldleafneedlework.co.uk



*For stockists see page 82

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

Udder-ly adorable

Thought you might like to see this picture I have just finished for my daughter-in-law. It was quite a challenge, as it used 40 different shades of thread, and took around nine months to complete. We are very pleased with it – it looks beautiful. Here I am holding it. Hope you like it too, keep up the good work.

Jean Brailey, Hampshire

Claire: Aw, look at this beautiful highland cow wrapped up in a gorgeous tartan scarf! You did a phenomenal job, Jean, and your daughter-in-law is going to be smitten by this cutie. Amazing effort!



✉ **Udder-ly adorable**
Jean finished this highland cow for her daughter-in-law

Festive flair



✉ **Festive flair**
Helen's crafted napkin box

I thought you'd might like to see what I had done with the cover kit from issue 352 (December 2024). I love Margaret Sherry designs and didn't want to give them away so have used them to decorate a tissue cover for Christmas. It means I can have the joy of seeing the designs every year. Hope you like what I have done with the kit – I'll stitch the bookmark at a later stage!

Helen Knight, Grimsby

Parvin: Can't wait to see the bookmark, Helen. Decorating a blank tissue box is a creative way of elevating such a simple household item, and to make you feel somewhat festive in the run-up to the big day.

A STITCHER'S WELCOME



✉ **Stitcher's welcome**
This was Carri's first SAL from the magazine

When I saw the Durene Jones 2024 'Stitcher's Paradise' stitch-a-long I was so excited. I love everything to do with cross stitching and I had never done a stitch-a-long before. That was my challenge. It is now hanging in the hallway. I work from home, so it is in the entrance to my hair salon. Thank you for a wonderful magazine.

Carri Erickson, via email

Hannah: I love how it compliments the rest of your stitched projects, Carri. Thank you for joining us on our SAL! If anyone else wants to stitch this to compliment their sewing room, we have the pattern available for purchase as a PDF download on our Etsy*.

Little celebrations

My older daughter, Gemma, recently turned five and I finally got around to making my first cross stitch for her. This was my first attempt on something other than aida fabric, and I thought it went pretty well. When I was looking at my magazine today she saw some other cards printed on your Letters page and got quite excited when I asked if I should send a picture of her with her card. Thanks for the amazing magazine.

Emily Clarkson, via email

Vicki: Of course we have to feature this adorable little one in our magazine, thank you so much for sharing Emily! We hope she's well chuffed on her spotlight moment. The card looks great, too!

✉ **Little celebrations**
Emily made a card for her eldest daughter, Gemma



EMAIL US AT: theworldofxstitching@ourmedia.co.uk or like our Facebook page: **The World of Cross Stitching**



This photo of me was taken on 21 March 2025 on the footpath next to one of its many famous canals in this beautiful, well-known tourist attraction a mere stone's throw from the UK. This place is also popular for its windmills, and a certain type of flower!

Angela Beattie, Cleveland



Time to decorate

I've been a subscriber for many years and wanted you to see my first go at stitching on plastic canvas. I made these bird houses from issue 352 (Dec 2024). I'm really happy with the way they turned out and am also stitching the alphabet from the same issue on plastic canvas to turn into ornaments for Christmas gifts. Also did the gift that came with issue 351 (November 2024). Look forward to every issue, keep up the great work!

Vicky, via email

Fiona: Thank you for sharing your seasonal makes, Vicky. The bird houses look great!

Send in your travel snaps!

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



FLIPPER FRIENDS

Hil I'm just about to turn 40 and wanted a new challenge. I'm a knitter and have always wanted to start to cross stitch but after many failed attempts in the past, I was anxious! But I pushed on with support from my wonderful husband and I finally got it! Now I'm hooked. It's a wonderful hobby and it's so relaxing, I've just finished my first project a fabulous penguin by Meloca Designs from issue 327 (Special 2022). So, if anyone is nervous or anxious about trying a new hobby don't be just relax and give it a try!

Rea Bell, via email

Sienna: As a knitter who's picked up stitching I love hearing stories of how people kept at it. Keep us informed of your stitching journey, Rea and well done on this finish!

✉ **Flipper friends**
Rea's tried a new hobby and made this adorable and colourful penguin



✉ **Time to decorate**
Sienna stitched the 3D bird houses to turn into wonderful festive gifts

A GROWING CARD COLLECTION

Although I was a little disappointed that some WOXS gifts were delayed last year, I was delighted to receive the alternative gift that was the Christmas chartbook with issue 350 (October 2024). It inspired me to make a start on my Christmas cards. I've selected the smaller designs to begin with and thought you may like to see some of the cards I've made with your lovely charts. Can't wait for more new seasonal designs!

Gill Snow, Cornwall

Hannah: Your nearest and dearest are going to love these cards, Gill.



✉ **Card collection**
Gill used the festive chartbook for her cards

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

Answer: Amsterdam, The Netherlands

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

Finishing touches

When it's time to display your stitching projects, head to **Lakeside Needlecraft** for a wide range of accessories

How you finish your stitching is what really makes it! Whether it's cards or jewellery, hangings or soft furnishings, you'll find the making-up accessories and materials you need at Lakeside. There are so many affordable options, from wooden or flexible hoops, or magnetic hangers, in a range of sizes.

And if you just want to chat about the best way to your stitching, have a browse of their website or give the team a call!

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DESIGNED BY **EMMA CONGDON**

Tinsel trails

Follow the path to the big day with festive stops along the way in this entertaining hanging

We write a list, we check it twice, and there is somehow always something we'd forget in the run-up to the biggest day of the year. Emma Congdon's festive map takes us on a journey through all the moments that make the holiday special with funny puns, mini illustrations and a variety of memorable events.

Appearing tricky with the complex details, experienced beginners looking to improve their current skillset will feel comfortable working on this as the design uses simple stitch types. However, remember to count the stitches carefully to avoid making mistakes! Four different colours of backstitch were used, so refer to the

Factbox

- ✗ **Stitching Time**
Approx. 70 hours
- ✗ **Type of Stitches**
Cross stitch, backstitch
- ✗ **Ease of Stitching**
Beginner

Make a seasonal hanger

chart frequently to ensure you're stitching the design correctly.

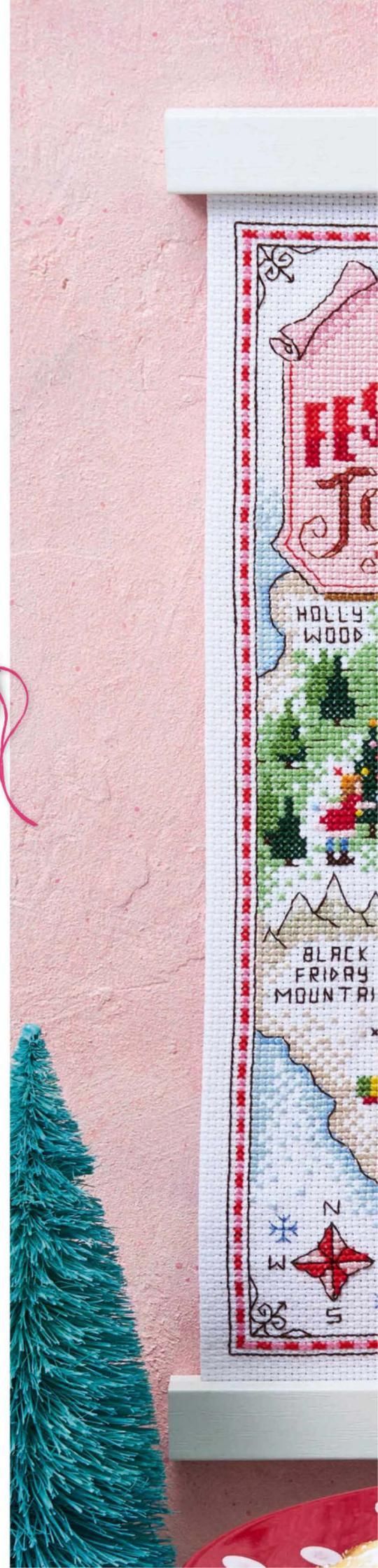
We mounted our finished piece using plastic magnetic hangers in a snowy white colour, but any complementing colour, such as red or forest green, will also work. Hang the piece in your communal living space for the family to see what's next on the Christmas roadmap. ➤



Meet Emma Congdon Stitchrovia

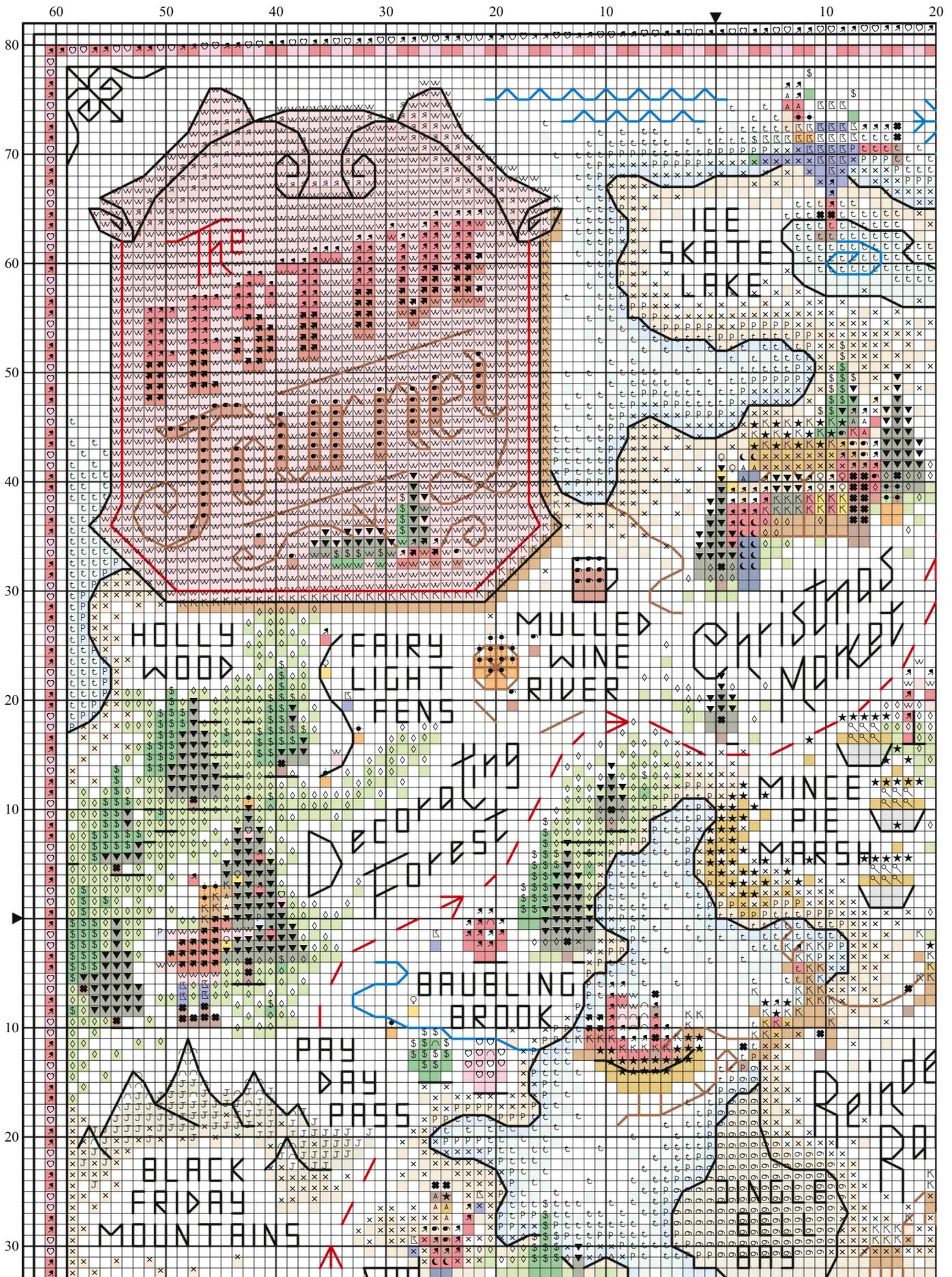
“This map is a celebration of the magical mayhem associated with the holidays. I wanted to lead you on a playful journey paved with all the fun things (and occasional chaos) that the festive season brings.”

www.stitchrovia.etsy.com



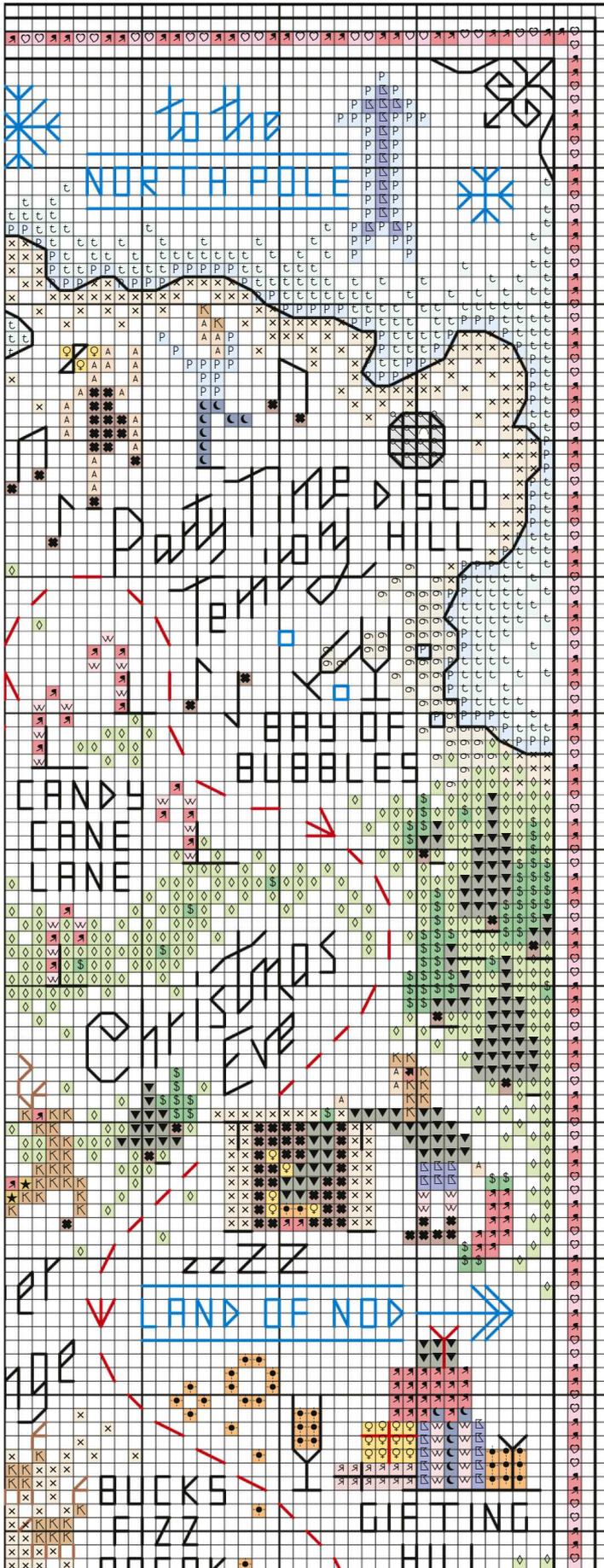
FUN FOR THE FAMILY





Christmas Map chart (top left)

20 30 40 50 60



Christmas Map chart (top right)

Christmas Map key

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
☐	02	398	1709	grey
◇	164	240	1209	light green
☾	312	979	1005	dark blue
▼	319	212	1313	almond green
↗	321	9046	510	red
⊞	322	131	1004	blue
⊞	435	1046	2010	tan
♀	444	291	106	yellow
×	543	933	1909	beige
♡	604	55	614	pink
J	644	830	1814	stone grey
●	741	304	202	tangerine
A	754	1012	305	peach
t	775	1031	1001	baby blue
○	822	390	1908	cream
⊞	938	380	2005	brown
w	963	73	502	rose pink
§	988	243	1402	green
P	3325	129	907	light blue
я	3354	36	2610	blossom pink
↖	3801	1098	411	light red
●	3830	5975	401	terracotta
★	3852	306	2514	gold
∩	3865	2	2403	natural white

✕ Backstitch in one strand

—	322	131	1004	blue
—	400	351	2305	ginger
—	938	380	2005	brown
—	3801	1098	411	light red

STITCH COUNT 163 high x 125 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 29.5x22.5cm (11¾x9in)

EXTRA SKEINS NEEDED 2x938 (brown)

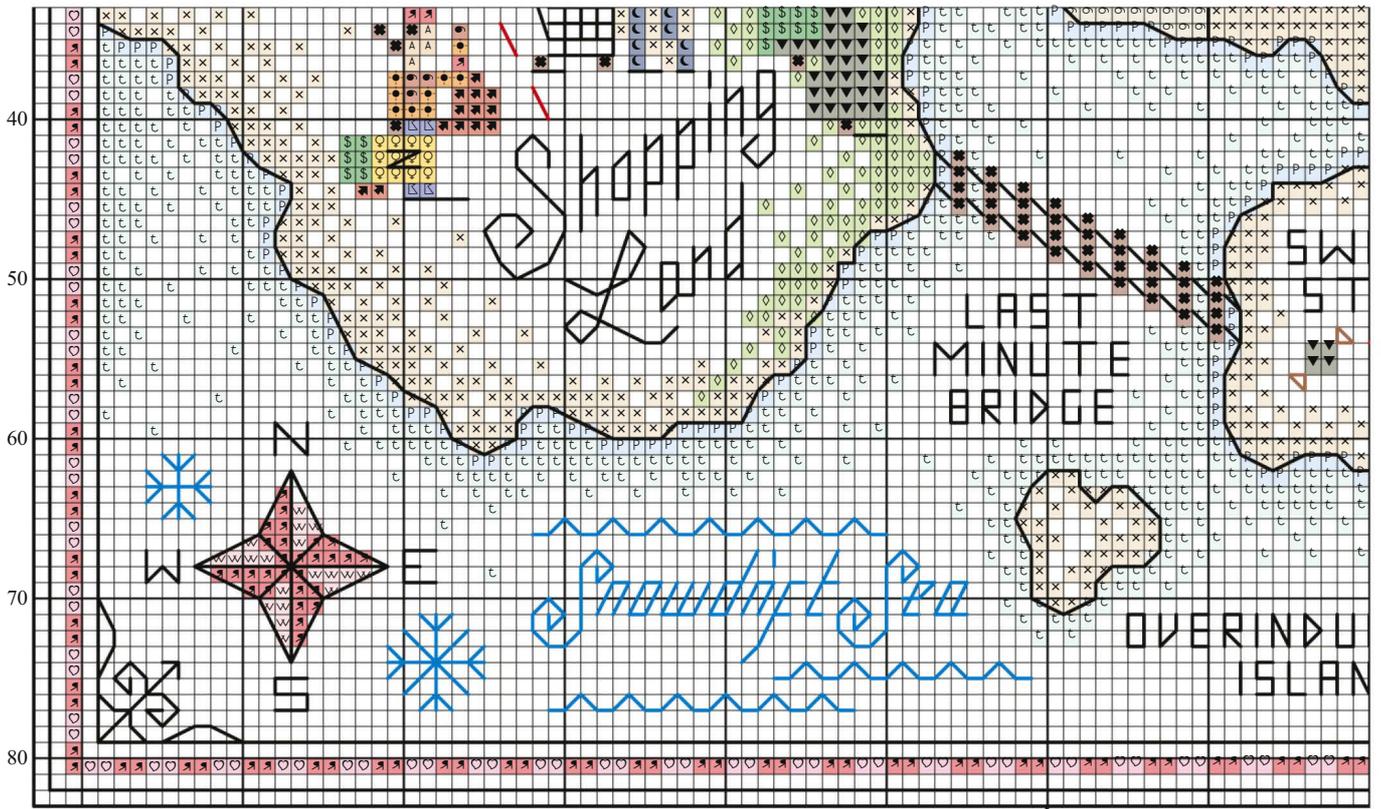
STITCHED BY Jessica Zwerdling-Wilkins

This design was stitched using DMC stranded cotton

Shopping list

- ✕ Zweigart* 14-count white aida measuring 40x35cm (16x14in)
- ✕ Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- ✕ Size 24 tapestry needle
- ✕ 25cm wide poster hangers and medium-weight iron-on interfacing of your choice from local stores

*For stockists see page 82



Christmas Map chart (bottom left)

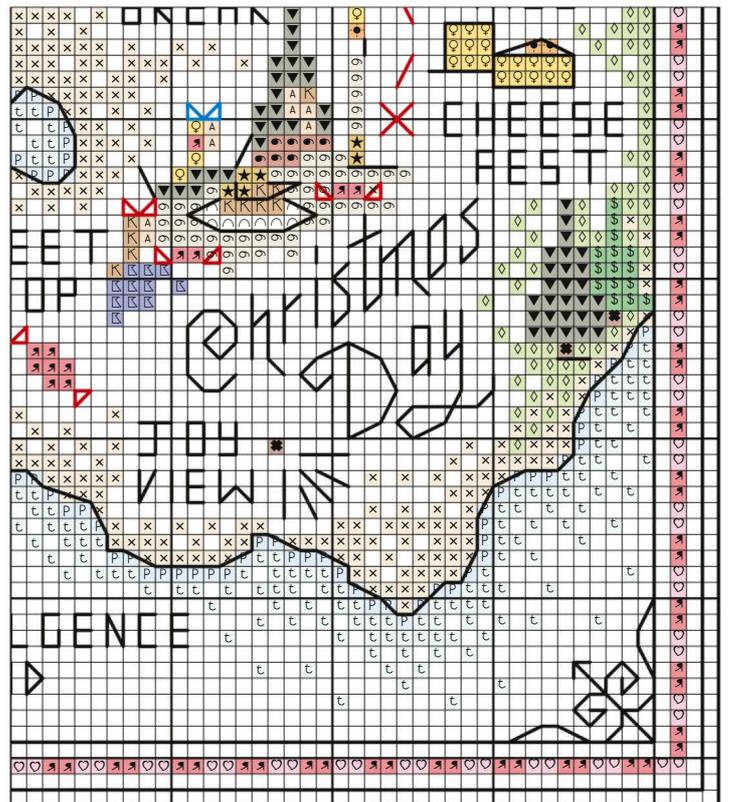
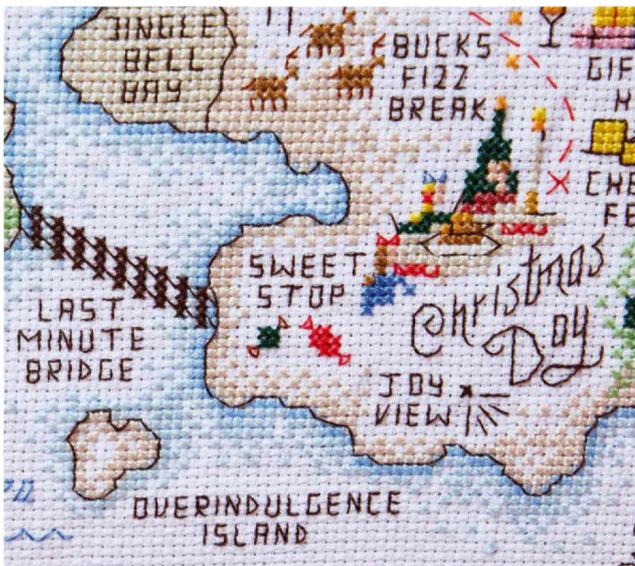


SCAN ME

Scan the QR code for a tutorial on how to finish projects with magnetic hangers at www.gathered.how

TOP TIP

If you usually work on 14-count aida and want to make the design bigger, stitch on 11-count fabric. To make it smaller, stitch on 16-count



Christmas Map chart (bottom right)

There doesn't seem to be
Mushroom At The Inn...

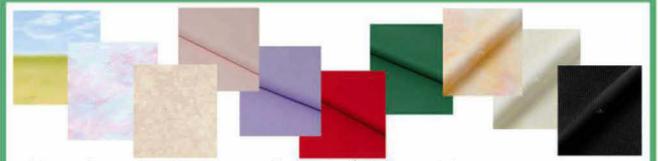


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DESIGNED BY **PERRY ABDEL-HADI**

Magic of the lights

Bring to life the illuminating landscape of the arctic captured inside the silhouette of a polar bear



Hidden inside this polar bear's figure is a breathtaking arctic landscape with a stag prancing across the ice of a snowy tundra, alongside a swooping owl for dynamic movement. The backdrop of the illuminating aurora borealis scatters across the ice in vivid hues of green, yellow and purple, enhancing the frosty colour palette.

Perry's latest design in her silhouette series is stitched on dark navy evenweave for a fine finish as the white stitches contrast the dark background. As this project uses a variety of stitch types, it is best suited for intermediate to advanced stitchers, especially as dark fabric is trickier to work on. However, if you're

Factbox

- ✦ **Stitching Time**
Approx. 50 hours
- ✦ **Type of Stitches**
Cross stitch, fractionals, backstitch, French knots
- ✦ **Ease of Stitching**
Intermediate

Stitch on dark fabric

less confident, then why not stitch on white or pale blue fabric for a unique and dimensional finish?

Framed in a coordinating shade of blue, this medium-sized project is sure to be your new winter stitching obsession. See more of Perry's fab silhouette designs on page 30. ➤



Meet Perry Abdel-Hadi

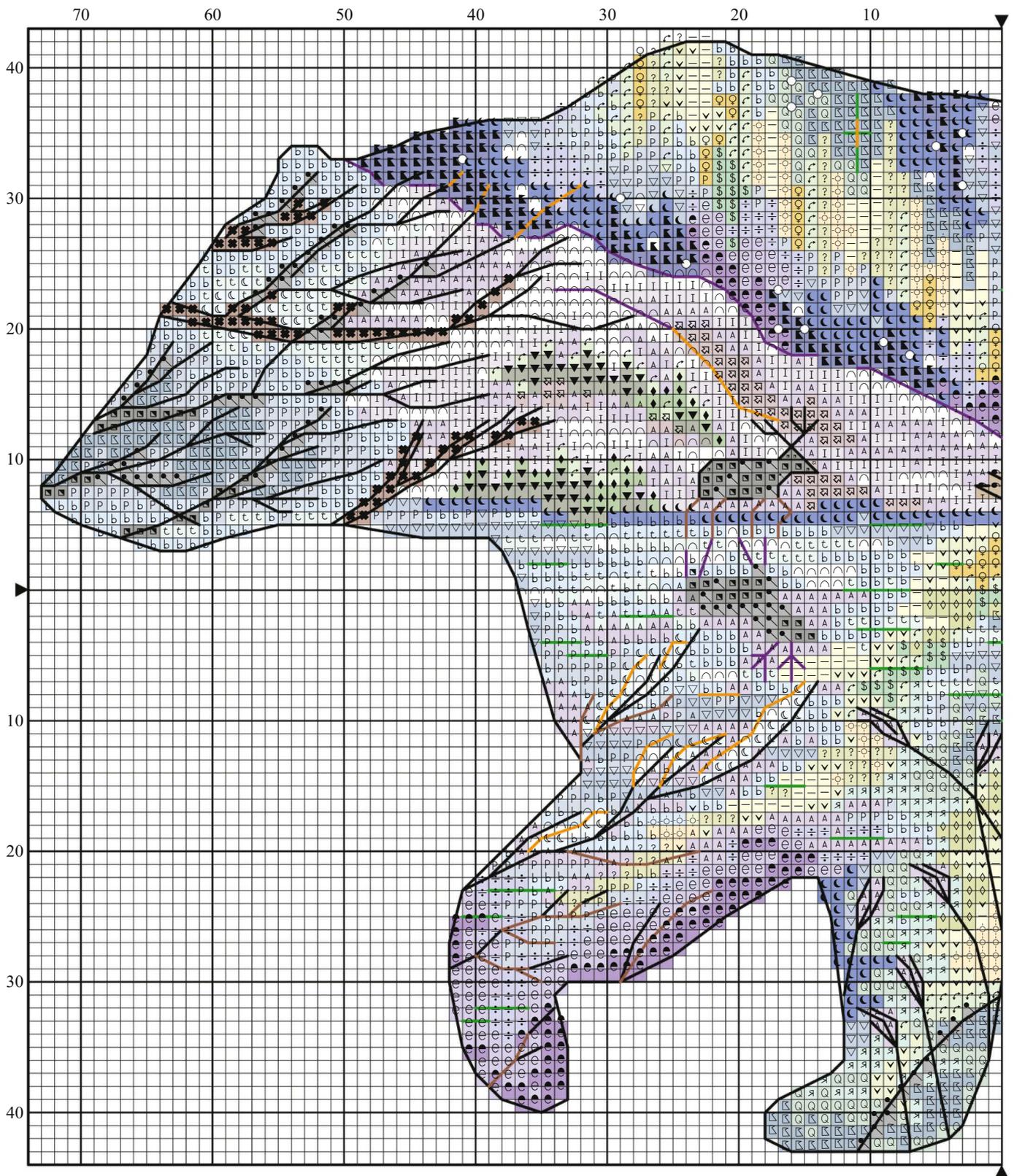
“The thing I love about my silhouette portraits is how they carry me to a blissful place. I can't wait to witness the brilliant wildlife and expansive landscape of each location. By stitching this piece, I hope you too are transported into the stillness.”

Instagram: @stitchora_crossstitch



COOL
WINTER
DESIGN



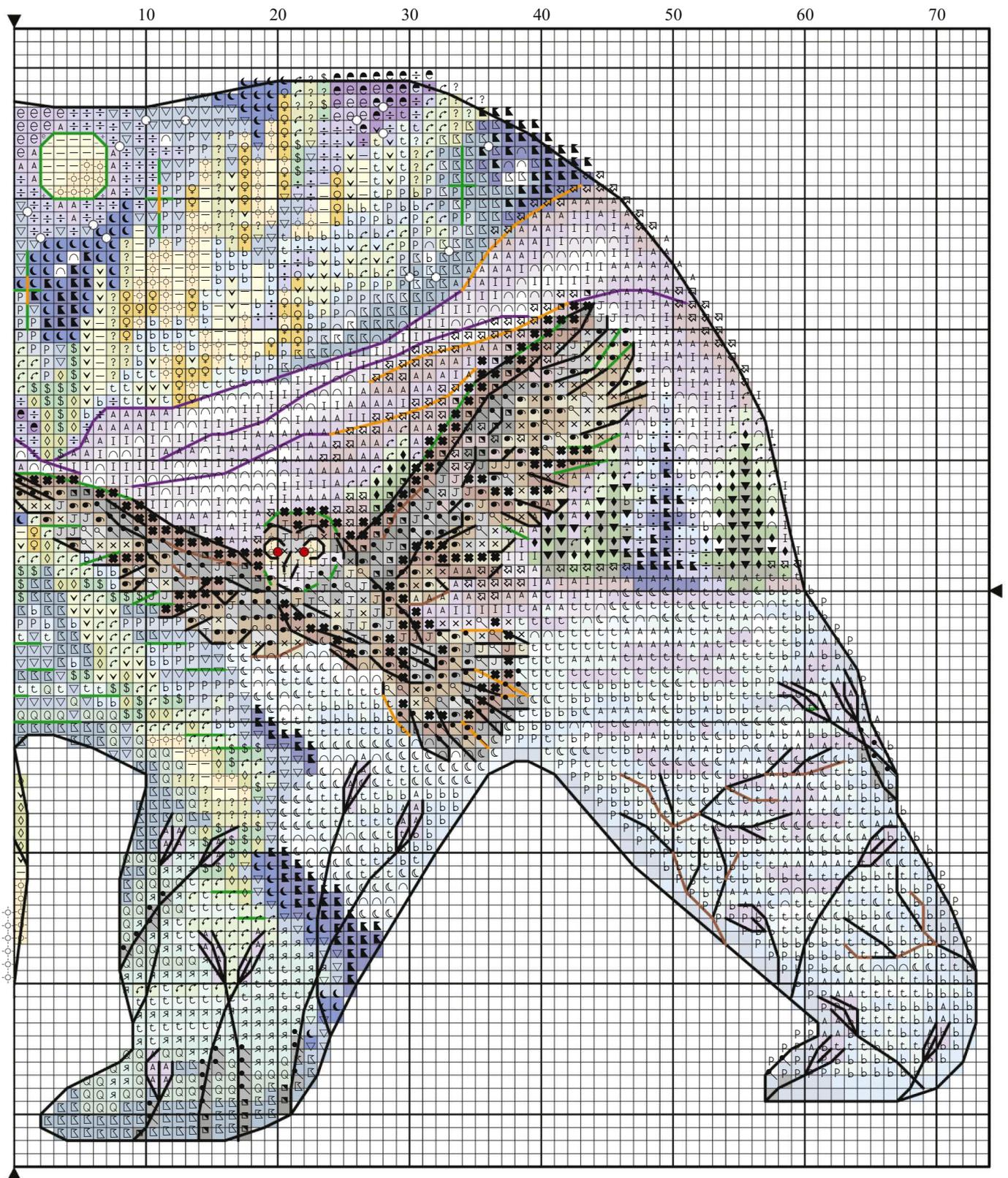


Polar Bear Silhouette chart (left)



Lisa READER PANEL

“ I would not be able to make it for anyone else, I'd have to keep it. The beautiful colours reflected on the ice are what really make the design for me. I would display next to the wolf in front of the aurora that I stitched years ago. ”



Polar Bear Silhouette chart (right)

Project pack

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

Polar Bear Silhouette key

✦ Cross stitch in three strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	blanc	2	2402	white
J	03	399	1901	tin grey
?	15	253	1414	pistachio
Q	18	297	113	mustard yellow
A	26	108	2711	lilac
I	27	869	1804	light mauve
☼	28	871	2613	mauve
e	155	1030	902	purple
÷	156	939	2702	light purple
e	333	119	903	dark purple
■	413	236	1713	dark grey
■	414	235	1714	grey
■	415	398	1802	light grey
▼	501	878	1704	sage green
◆	562	210	1205	pine green
Q	597	1064	1110	turquoise
я	598	1062	1111	light turquoise
○	745	300	111	yellow
—	746	275	2511	light yellow
▼	772	259	1604	light green
t	775	1031	1001	sky blue
■	779	360	1914	chestnut brown
■	797	139	913	dark blue
☾	798	131	912	blue
▽	799	145	910	light blue
●	840	1084	1912	brown
\$	913	204	1212	mint green
↻	966	206	1209	sea green
b	3325	129	907	lt powder blue
◇	3348	264	1409	green
P	3755	140	1013	powder blue
☾	3756	1037	2504	baby blue
■	3760	161	1107	sea blue
x	3782	899	1911	beige

✦ Backstitch in one strand

—	blanc	2	2402	white
—	28	871	2613	mauve
—	310	403	2400	black

✦ Backstitch in two strands

—	blanc	2	2402	white
—	310	403	2400	black

✦ French knots in one strand

○	blanc	2	2402	white
●	310	403	2400	black

STITCH COUNT 85 high x 146 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 15.5x26.5cm (6x10½in)

STITCHED BY Niki Byrne

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

How to...

stitch on dark fabrics

- **Use three strands** of thread to make the stitches fuller with less show-through from the fabric behind.
- **Place a white** sheet on your lap whilst stitching to help the holes show up as you look through the fabric.
- **Use a magnifier** lamp to help you see the holes in the weave more clearly.
- **It's much easier** to work with dark fabrics in a hoop or frame, as this will stretch out the weave a little when taut, helping you to see the holes to stitch through.
- **Use your needle** to feel the fabric as you trace it over it – you'll soon get used to the rise and fall of the needle picking out the dips of the holes.
- **Take extra breaks** to rest your eyes and prevent tiring. You might like to have another project on white fabric to switch back and forth and break it up with too.

There's more

To stitch more stunning silhouette designs by Perry, get these PDF patterns from www.gatheredshop.com.



◀ 'Butterfly Silhouette' (issue 333, June 2023), £5 for the PDF chart



'Winter Cat Silhouette', (issue 329, Feb 2023) £5 for the PDF chart ▶

Shopping list

- ✦ Zweigart* 28-count navy (589) evenweave measuring 38x48cm (15x19in)
- ✦ Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- ✦ Size 24 tapestry needle
- ✦ Frame of your choice with a minimum aperture of 23x33cm (9x13in)

*For stockists see page 82

TOP TIP

Ball-tipped needles are especially useful for using with dark fabrics – the rounded tip helps you feel for the holes in the weave more easily

In the spotlight

Gail Bussi

We chat with the South Africa-based designer about her childhood memories, alongside her love of Christmas and all things festive



Dear Santa:
From *Gold*
issue 133



Butterfly: Sampler
from *WOXS* issue 319



Mini makes: Gail
loves to make little
mouse models too

Who inspired you to craft when you were younger?

I have to give my late mum full credit for encouraging my creativity from when I was very young. She did not cross stitch herself, but she sewed clothes, was a wonderful knitter and crocheter. She made paper models too, for which she became quite well known in South Africa, where I grew up. As well as stitching, I love to create little mice models too and have had a book published in France.

Do you have any childhood memories of Christmas?

In South Africa, Christmas falls in the middle of summer, and school

holidays, so it's a busy time and often very hot – but the traditions are still largely upheld, even if Christmas lunch is a barbecue on the beach! We always had a big traditional dinner on Christmas Eve and my dad used to light the candles on the tree and open a bottle of champagne. I miss that family warmth, because almost all the people there then are gone now, but I remember them in spirit.

What do you love about designing for Christmas?

It allows one to indulge in nostalgia, but also in my case gives me an opportunity to use brighter colours and metallics, as I usually work in

softer, subtle shades of thread. In general, I like all seasonal designs, as this is something particularly relevant to my style of whimsical folk art I do these days – I love autumn, in particular, and Halloween, although it must be fun, and not too scary!

What's happening for 2026?

In 2026 I am hoping to get more of my artwork out there, in particular my series *Whispers and Wings* featuring little angels and messages, which I am hoping to develop into a range of cross stitch designs. And, because I am also a pastry chef who adores cooking in general, I have been working on a new book called 'Delicious Stitches'. It includes kitchen-themed cross stitch and lots of recipes, because so many needle workers are also keen cooks, too! I really hope to find a publisher for this in 2026, as well as an agent for my first novel, which is still something of a work in progress. ✕

Turn to page 39 to see Gail's sweetly festive *Winter Village Design Library!*

MORE: You'll find Gail on Instagram at [@myenchantedcottage](https://www.instagram.com/myenchantedcottage)



Seasonal:
Cottage hoop
from *WOXS*
issue 332

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DESIGNED BY **CHERYL MCKINNON**

Deck the paws

Decorate the top of the Christmas tree with either of these adorable pets in a seasonal colour palette

One way to celebrate your pets this Christmas is by putting them at the top of your tree! Any furry friend lover will adore these tree toppers. Choose between a cat and a string of twinkly lights, or a dog and festive coloured baubles, both finished with a golden star above them. Cheryl has designed these toppers to be festively fun and easy to make up with household items!

You'll be working on perforated paper, so remember to stitch with clean hands to keep the paper pristine as this won't be washable! For the holder, we used a toilet roll tube affixed to the back of the design with hot glue so it can sit on top of the tree and shine brightly.

Factbox

- ✘ **Stitching Time**
Approx. 20 hours per chart
- ✘ **Type of Stitches**
Cross stitch, backstitch
- ✘ **Ease of Stitching**
Beginner

Use perforated paper

It's always fun to get the little ones into stitching, so why not give them this project and you can help in the finishing? Any of your loved ones who have a feline friend or canine companion will also appreciate these gilded goodies. We're sure this duo will get anyone in the festive spirit to have a paw-some holiday. ▶



Meet Cheryl McKinnon

Tiny Modernist

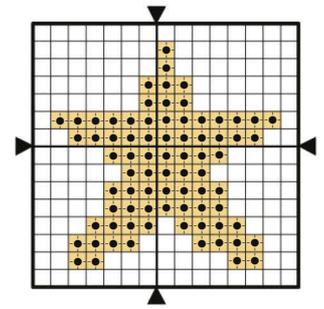
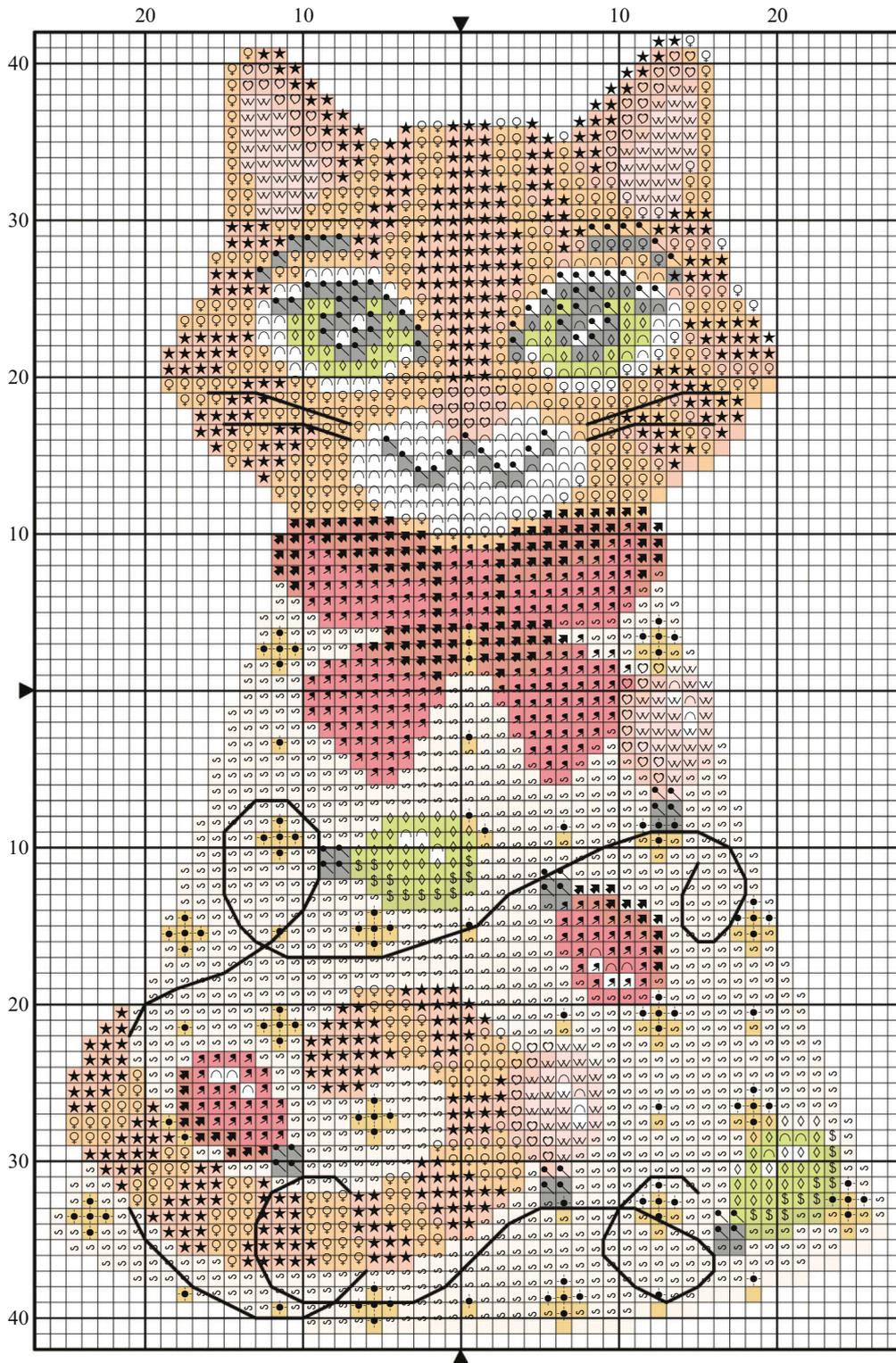
“This was a fun, unique project to work on. I tried to make the cat and dog very cute and festive, but also easy to stitch – so there are small details like stars on their gowns, and slight bits of shading here and there.”

www.tinymodernist.com



FUN AND
FESTIVE
MAKE

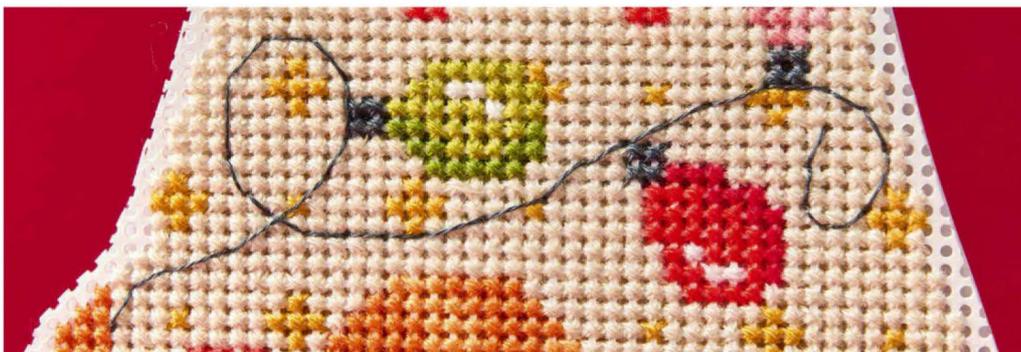




TOP TIP
 When working with perforated paper, don't pull your stitches too tightly otherwise you risk tearing it



HANNAH, CHARTING ASSISTANT



“The dog will definitely go to my parents, which I'll customise to look like a dalmatian for their adorable dog, Dexter. The cat will go to my brother as he has the most darling pair. That's the presents sorted!”

Pet Tree Toppers key

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	blanc	2	2402	white
∞	ecru	926	2404	cream
◇	166	279	1611	light green
■	321	9046	510	dark red
■	413	236	1713	grey
K	434	310	2009	tan
Q	436	1045	2011	light tan
\$	581	280	1609	green
♡	760	1022	405	pink
w	761	1021	404	light pink
■	3801	1098	411	red
●	3820	306	2509	gold
★	3853	1003	311	dark apricot
○	3854	313	114	apricot

✕ Backstitch in one strand

—	413	236	1713	grey
---	-----	-----	------	------

MAXIMUM STITCH COUNT 82 high x 53 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 15x9.5cm (5¾x3¾in)

STITCHED BY Sam Lowe

These designs were stitched using DMC stranded cotton

Shopping list

- ✕ 14-count white perforated paper measuring 19x14cm (8x6in) for each animal and 6x6cm (2x2in) for each star
- ✕ Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- ✕ Size 24 tapestry needle
- ✕ White card, acid-free double-sided tape, stiff wire, hot glue gun and cardboard tube of your choice from local stores



How to...

make the tree toppers

1 Stick the completed

pet and star stitching onto white card using acid-free double-sided tape. Remember to make sure that this tape overlaps the outside edge of the stitching and press down firmly, so it'll be stuck securely all around when you cut out the shapes.



2 Cut out the stitched designs, leaving a minimum one square border all around, being careful not to snip into any holes containing stitches. Carefully round off the corners and edges of the design for a smoother, neater finish.

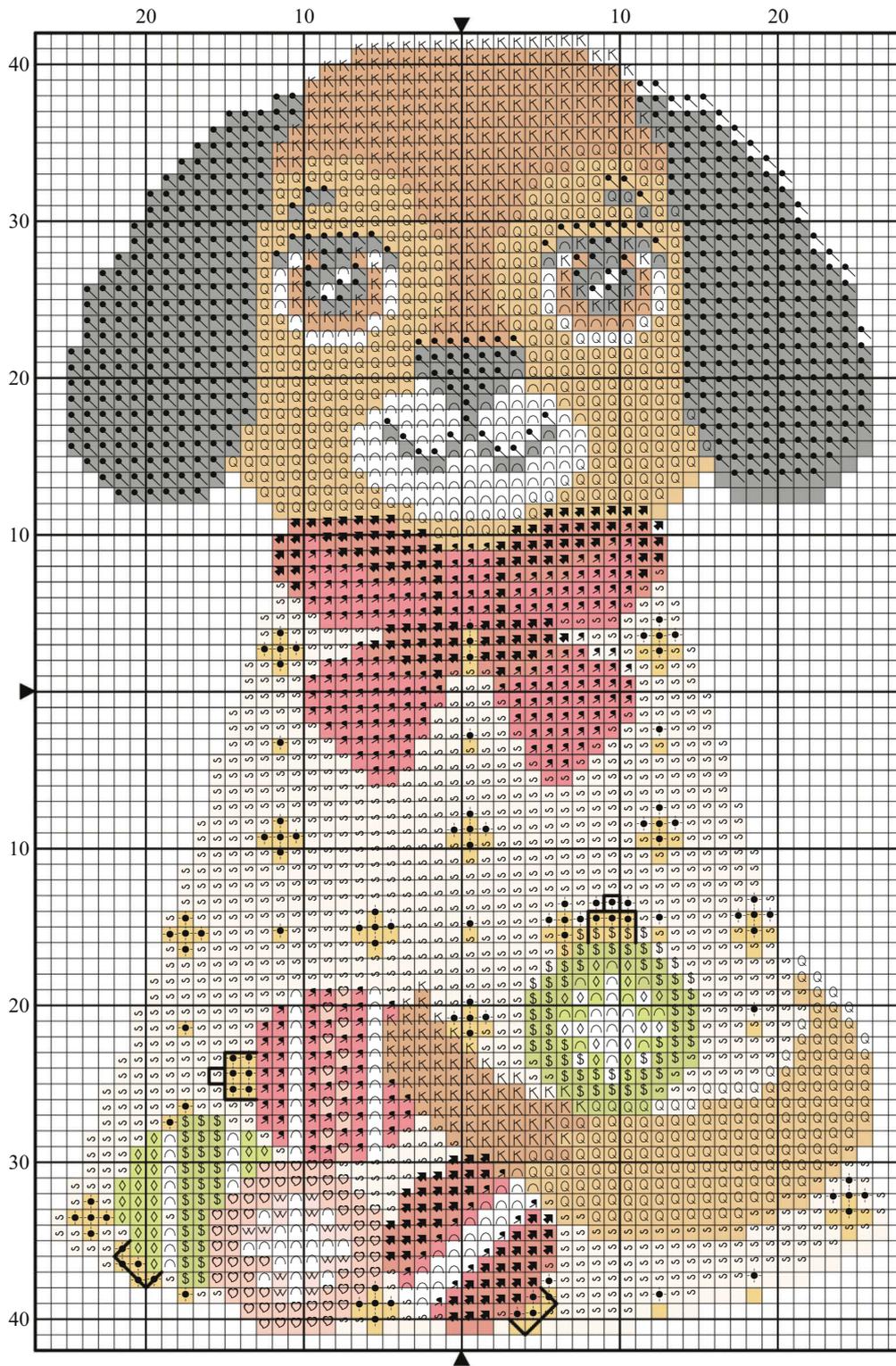


3 Cut a short length of wire and use a hot glue gun to fix one end to the centre of the star and the other to the top of the pet's head on the reverse side. Leave to cool down fully before proceeding with the construction of the topper.



4 Stick the cardboard tube to the reverse of the pet using hot glue to bond securely. Make sure the tube is completely hidden from the front by positioning it centrally and just slightly up from the bottom edge. Adjust the wire into position for the star to sit over the top of the pet's head to finish.





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

Cosy comforts

TURN YOUR HOUSE INTO A HOME
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34
HOMELY
IDEAS



Cosy cottages and wintry scenes designed by
Gail Bussi, perfect to curl up on the sofa with

- ✕ 34 quick-and-easy motifs ✕ Gail Bussi's design inspiration ✕ Stitches for every skill level
- ✕ Helpful tips and advice ✕ Unique present ideas to give your nearest and dearest



WHERE THE HEART IS

A tiny easel perched on your desk, or on the kitchen counter, will make you feel more at home (25). Why not swap the thread shades to personalise it to your taste?



ALL WRAPPED UP

Personalise the Christmas gifts this year with a repeating motif of a snowy street (31) wrapped around a gift box, finished off with complementing ribbon in a tidy bow.



HAPPY OCCASION

A way of using up your scraps is by making fun tags for your presents. Repurpose leftover card and attach your motif (21) in the centre, then add a ribbon length to tie on a gift.



TO THE NEWLYWEDS

Wish the happy couple well for their winter wedding with an aperture card (12). Add a backstitched message with the alphabet (26) for a thoughtful touch.



UP THE ROAD

Slip a loving card through your neighbour's letterbox to send warm winter wishes. We patched the design (7) onto wine-coloured card, fraying one block of aida all around.



SEASON'S TWEETINGS

Make a stuffed hanging for the wall (8), finished off with pretty gingham ribbon. Instead of buying stuffing, use leftover thread scraps to fill the heart cushion.



COCOA COSY

Decorate your hot chocolate jar with a patch (18) using double-sided acid-free tape so you can make a tasty cup in style. Don't forget the marshmallows and cream!



WINTER WONDERLAND

You can never have enough stitched decorations for the tree, and this wintry scene (11) would bring a cosy vibe to your evergreen. Encase in a clear bauble hanging.

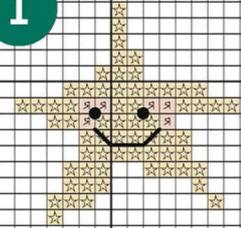


Meet Gail Bussi

“It was really lovely to place myself in a traditional British village during the wintertime. With snowy scenes and cosy candles glowing in the windows, it makes you feel quite relaxed. I hope you enjoy stitching this set for your home.”

Instagram: @myenchantedcottage

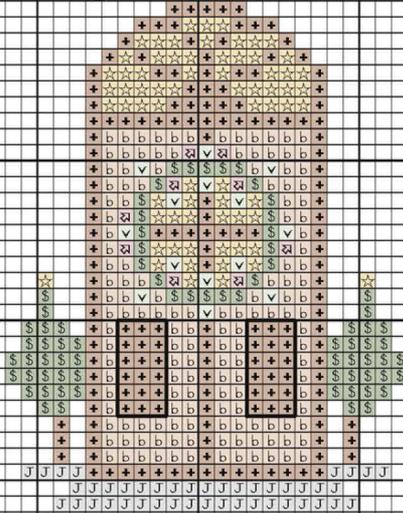
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2

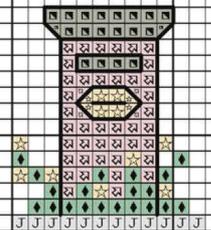


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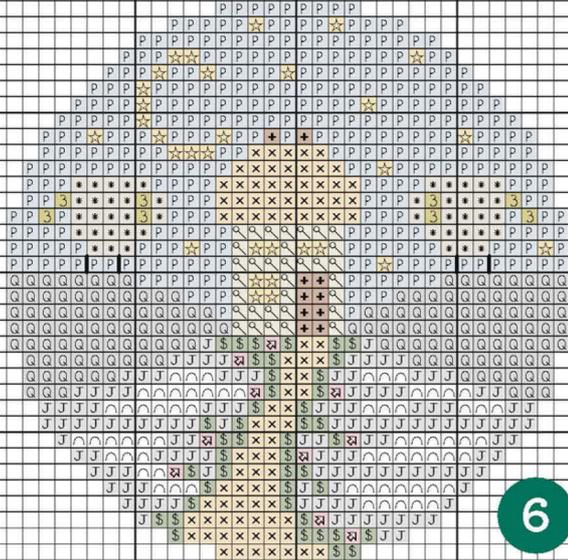
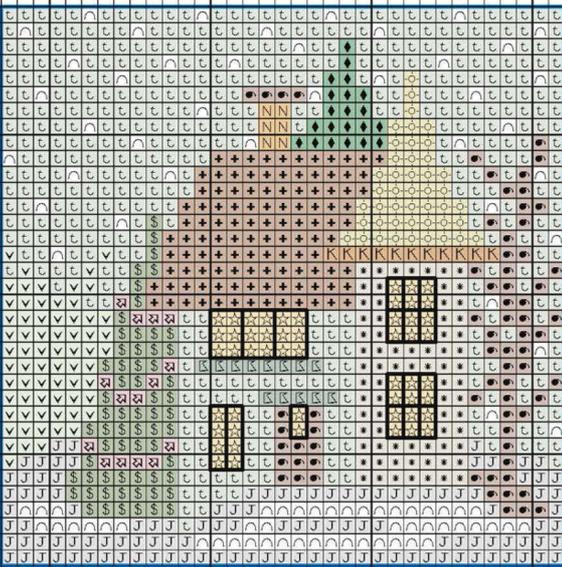


TOP TIP
Keep your fabric scissors sharp by always using a different pair of scissors to cut paper and card

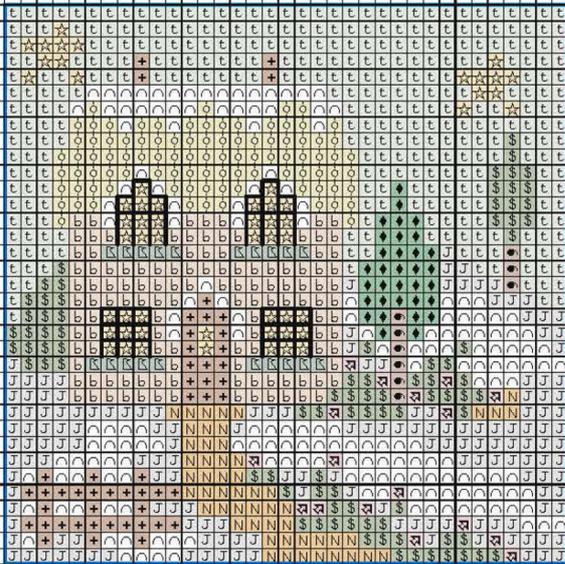
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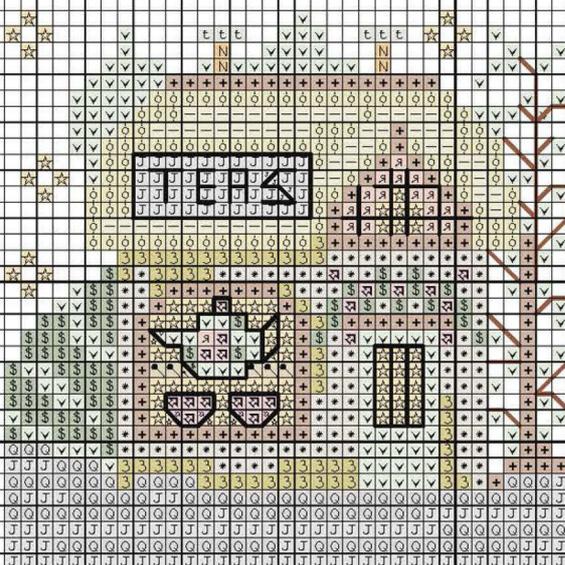
6



7



8



9

Winter Village key

✂ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	blanc	2	2402	white
я	152	894	2310	light pink
§	163	876	1703	green
я	223	895	812	pink
Q	318	399	1801	grey
J	415	398	1802	light grey
K	435	1046	2010	dark tan
N	436	1045	2011	tan
x	437	362	2012	light tan
☛	642	903	1905	dark stone grey
☛	644	830	1908	beige
☆	676	891	2208	sand
⊞	926	850	1707	blue
t	927	848	1708	light blue
3	3023	899	1813	stone grey
*	3024	900	1814	light stone grey
☉	3046	887	2206	straw
—	3047	852	2205	light straw
P	3752	1032	1001	delft blue
☛	3787	273	1811	smoke grey
☛	3790	393	1904	mocha brown
∨	3813	1042	1701	mint green
◆	3815	877	1205	dark green
+	3863	379	1912	brown
b	3864	376	1910	light brown

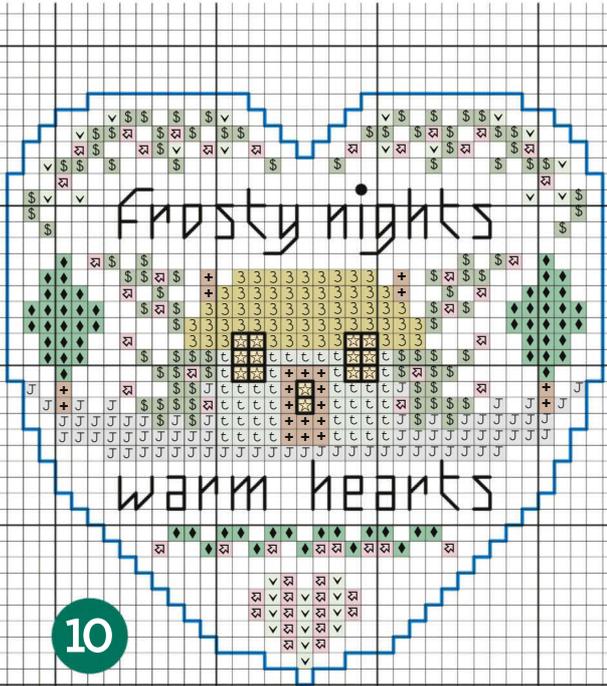
✂ Backstitch in one strand

—	223	895	812	pink
—	676	891	2208	sand
—	926	850	1707	blue
—	3787	273	1811	smoke grey
—	3813	1042	1701	mint green
—	3815	877	1205	dark green
—	3863	379	1912	brown

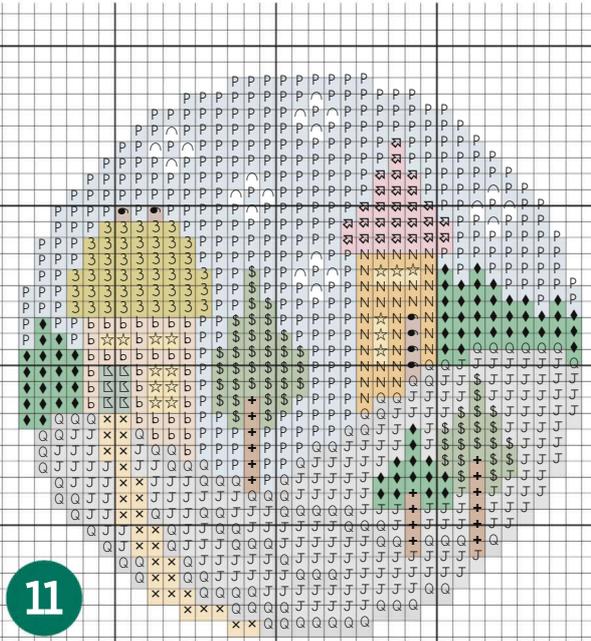
✂ French knots in one strand

○	blanc	2	2402	white
●	223	895	812	pink
●	676	891	2208	sand
●	926	850	1707	blue
●	3787	273	1811	smoke grey
●	3815	877	1205	dark green

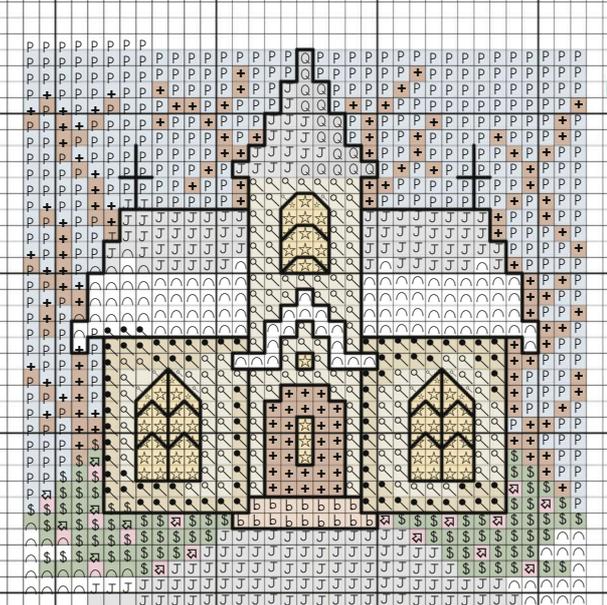
STITCHED BY Niki Byrne
 These designs were stitched using DMC stranded cotton



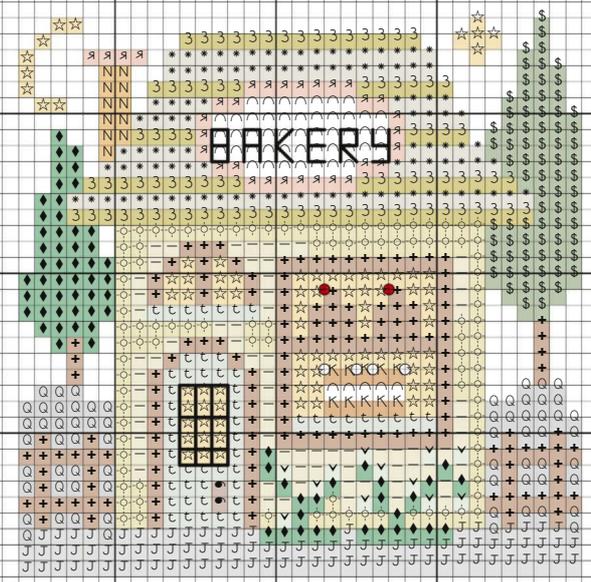
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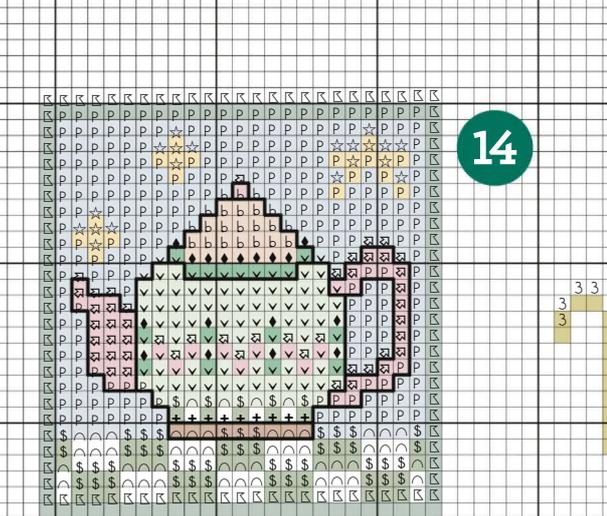
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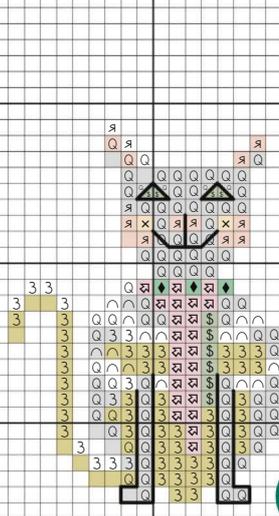
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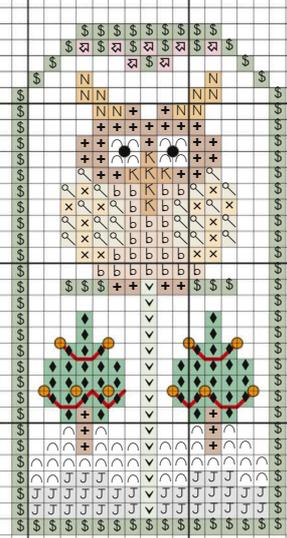
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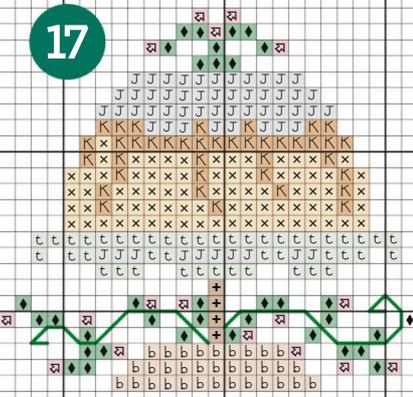


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16

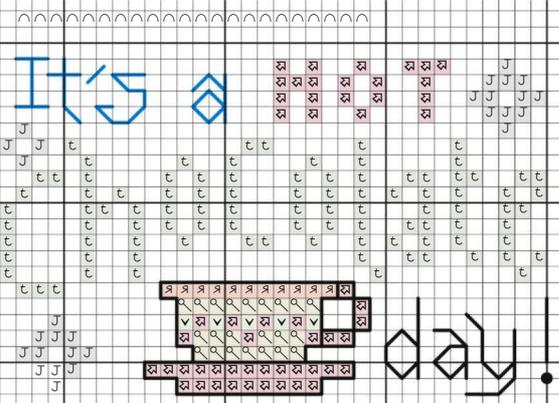
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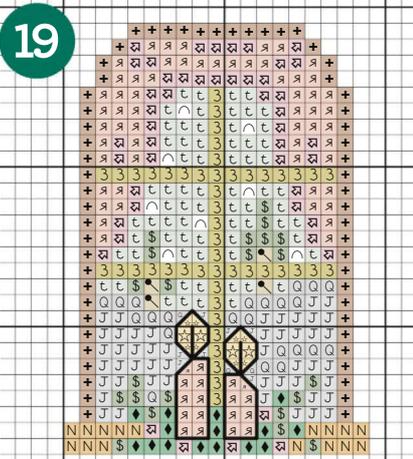
YOUR
CUT OUT
AND KEEP
SECTION

It's

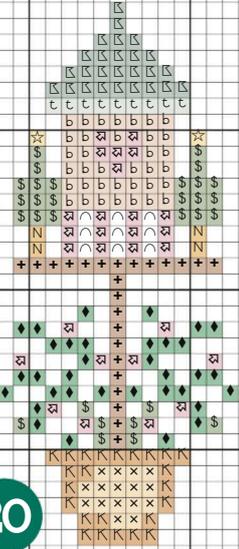
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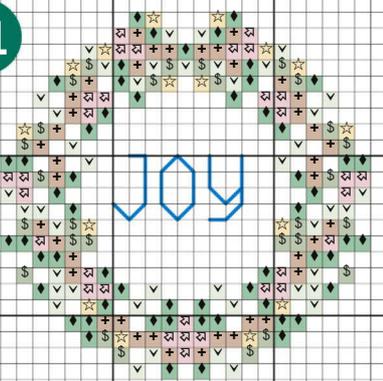
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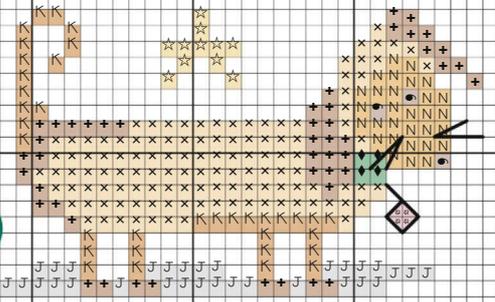


21



Be Warm
Inside
E OUT!

23

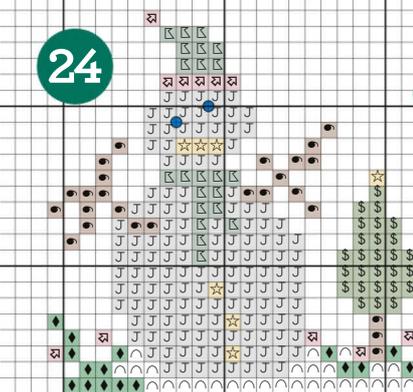


22

TOP TIP
Practise your French knots
on a scrap piece of fabric
first – they're easier than
you think

warm hearts

24



25



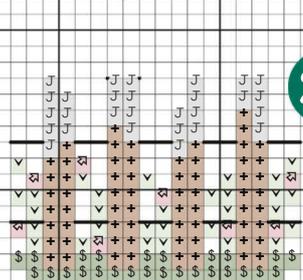
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 TUVWXYZ 1234567890

26

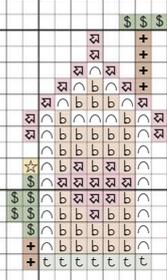
WINTRY
 IDEAS FOR
 YOUR HOME
 THIS YEAR

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz
 ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRS
 TUVWXYZ 1234567890

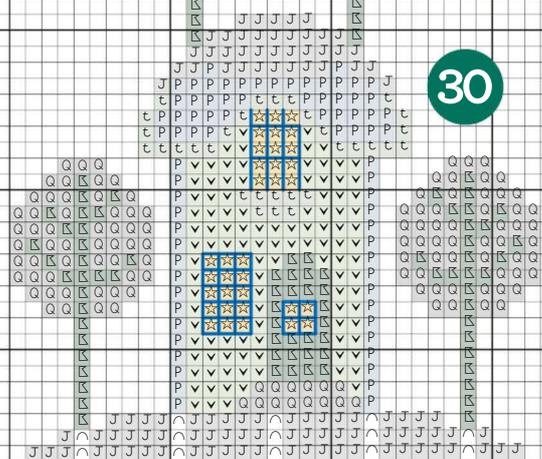
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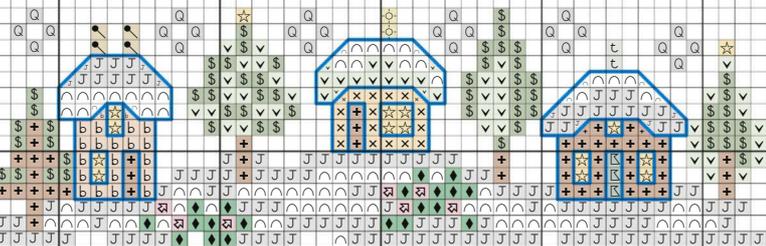
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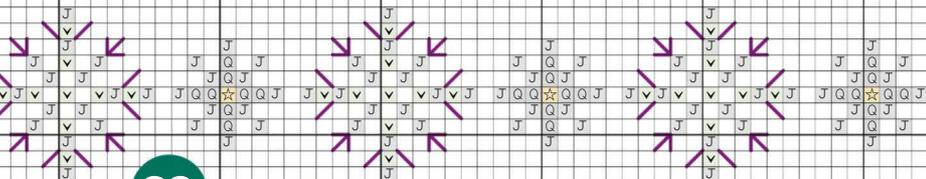
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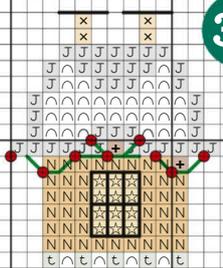
31



33



32



34

NEXT MONTH: BAKERY!

For those who love to bake, or just have a sweet tooth, next issue's Design Library will satisfy your taste buds, full of all sorts of delicious designs and sugary surprises! Get to the shops on 26 November to pick up your copy of issue 367, or subscribe and the issue will be delivered to your door. Find this month's money-saving subscription offer on page 32.



Turn to
 page 32
 to subscribe

This was Sylvia's promise to you...

A generation ago, a woman named Sylvia made a promise. As a doctor's secretary, she'd watched stroke destroy the lives of so many people. She was determined to make sure we could all live in a world where we're far less likely to lose our lives to stroke.

She kept her promise, and a gift to the Stroke Association was included in her Will. Sylvia's gift helped fund the work that made sure many more of us survive stroke now than did in her lifetime.

Sylvia changed the story for us all. Now it's our turn to change the story for those who'll come after us.

Stroke still shatters lives and tears families apart. And surviving a stroke is just the start of a long and gruelling recovery journey. If you or someone you love has been affected by stroke – you'll know just what that means.

You can change the story, just like Sylvia did, with a gift in your Will. All it takes is a promise.

You can promise future generations a world where researchers discover new treatments and surgeries, and stroke survivors and their families have the support to find the strength and determination they need to find their way back to life.

Your promise today gives strength for tomorrow. Please, leave a gift in your Will to the Stroke Association.

Find out how by calling **020 7566 1505**
or email legacy@stroke.org.uk
or visit stroke.org.uk/legacy

Finding strength through support

The Stroke Association is registered as a charity in England and Wales (No 211015) and in Scotland (SC037789). Also registered in the Isle of Man (No. 945) and Jersey (NPO 369), and operating as a charity in Northern Ireland.

Stroke
Association

DESIGNED BY **MARIA DIAZ**

Sword and shield

Stitch Athena, the next in our Greek goddess series, who is Olympus' goddess of war and wisdom



Perfectly poised with her hair billowing in the wind, this mesmerising goddess is prepared for battle. The Greek goddess Athena is associated with wisdom, warfare and handicrafts, alongside the protector of the city of Athens. With her trusted companion, an owl, perched on a towering column nearby, you can now revel in our latest Greek goddess portrait.

This design has been worked on beautiful sunset fabric for not only a striking effect but to complement Athena's bronzed armour. There are a lot of metallics and beading detail within this design, so while best suited for intermediate stitchers, beginners are more than welcome to

Factbox

Fun with beads

- ✦ **Stitching Time**
Approx. 50 hours
- ✦ **Type of Stitches**
Cross stitch, fractionals, backstitch, beads
- ✦ **Ease of Stitching**
Intermediate

practise on a scrap piece of fabric to perfect how to affix beads to a piece.

Finished in an ornate gold frame for elegance, this powerful woman will amplify any space. There is also a 'Hera Portrait' in issue 362 (Sept 2025), which you can purchase as a digital back issue on our app. ➤



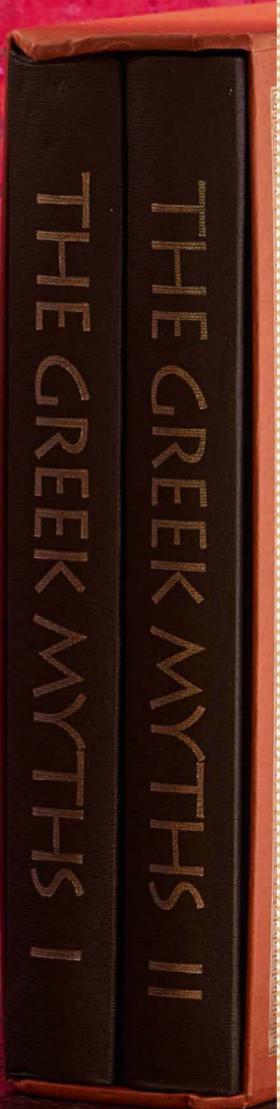
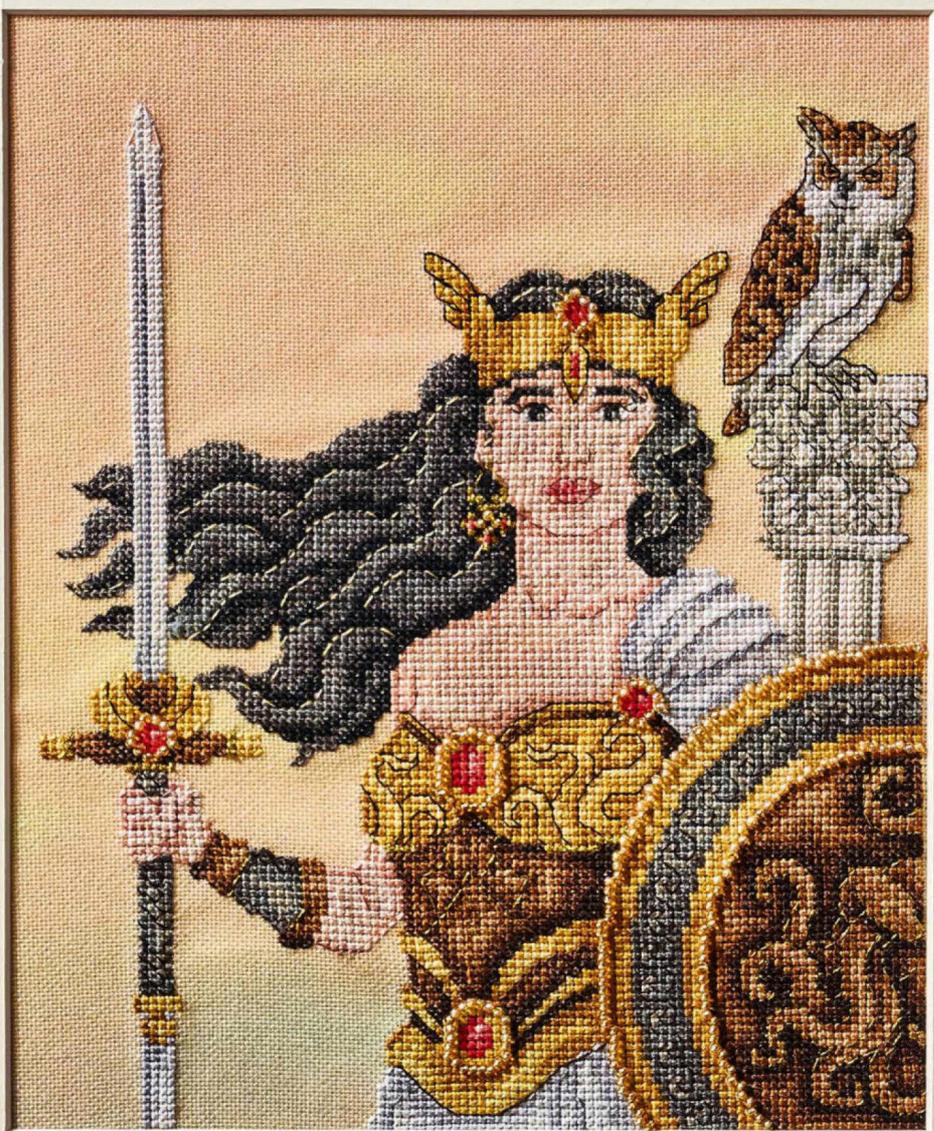
Meet Maria Diaz

“I tried to exhibit female strength in, not just physical but mental confidence, reflected in her uncompromising glare. There is a fair bit of backstitch and the gold thread is always tricky, but I think it adds depth and shape to the shield and bodice.”

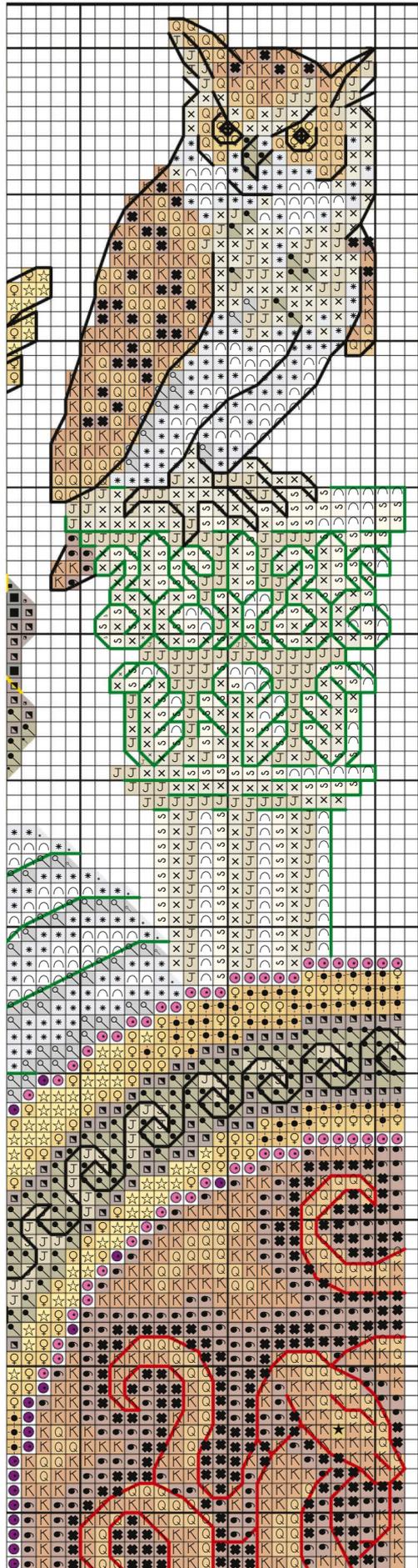
www.mariadiazdesigns.com



THE WORLD OF
**Cross
Stitching**
STITCHER'S
CHALLENGE



30 40 50



Athena Portrait chart (top right)



Clare
READER PANEL

“ This portrait makes a real impact with the colours. This would be a challenge to stitch, but anyone who enjoys Greek mythology would love to receive this in a beautiful frame that match Athena’s detailed bodice. ”



SCAN ME

Scan the QR code to find out more how to stitch with metallic threads at www.gathered.how



SIENNA,
PRODUCTION
EDITOR

“ I’d put this piece next to my copy of *The Iliad*, as the cover will complement the sunset fabric. The portrait is so regal, yet powerful! ”

Athena Portrait key

✦ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	blanc	2	2402	white
*	01	397	1805	light grey
⦿	03	399	1802	grey
■	310	403	2400	black
↗	350	11	213	dark coral
+	351	10	214	coral
↖	352	9	303	light coral
K	434	310	2009	tan
Q	436	1045	2011	light tan
J	642	903	1905	stone grey
x	644	830	1814	light stone grey
⦿	645	273	1811	dark stone grey
∩	712	926	2101	cream
⦿	782	308	2212	gold
♥	817	13	210	red
■	844	1041	1809	smoke grey
⦿	898	360	2006	chestnut brown
A	948	892	306	light peach
w	950	4146	2309	peach
⦿	3371	382	2004	brown
3	3771	868	2605	dark peach
♀	3820	306	2509	yellow
☆	3822	295	2511	light yellow

✦ Cross stitch in two strands DMC Light Effects

★	E3852			dark gold
---	-------	--	--	-----------

✦ Backstitch in one strand

—	01	397	1805	light grey
—	645	273	1811	dark stone grey
—	676	891	2208	sand
—	3371	382	2004	brown
—	3772	1007	2311	brick red

✦ Backstitch in one strand DMC Light Effects

—	E3852			dark gold
---	-------	--	--	-----------

✦ Mill Hill seed beads

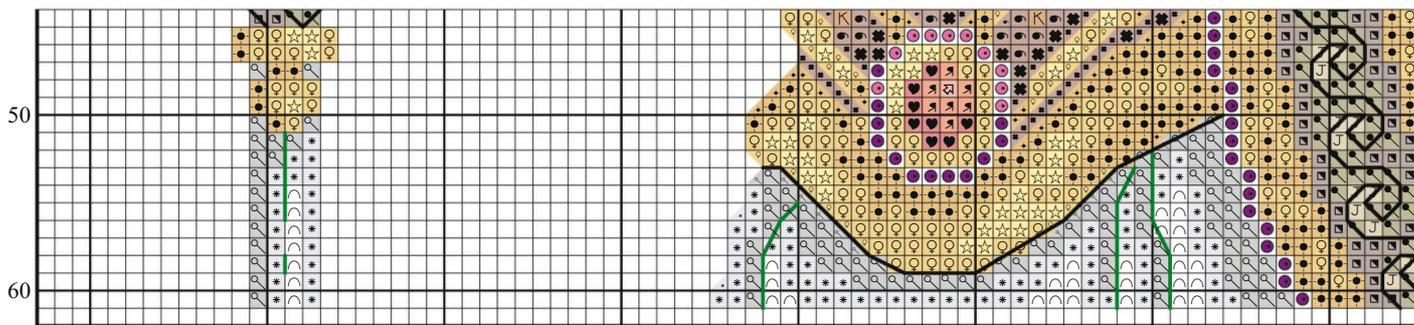
●	02011			Victorian gold
●	02019			crystal honey

STITCH COUNT 123 high x 104 wide

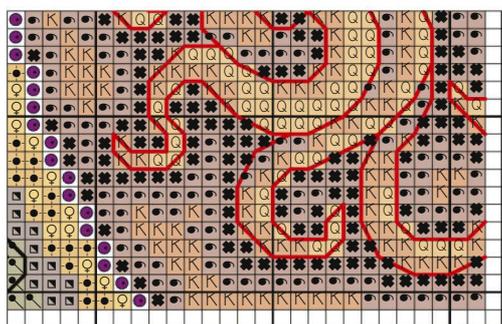
DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 22.5x19cm (8¾x7½in)

STITCHED BY Angela Griffin

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



Athena Portrait chart (bottom left)



Athena Portrait chart (bottom right)

Shopping list

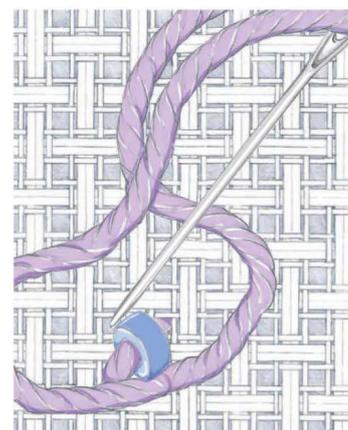
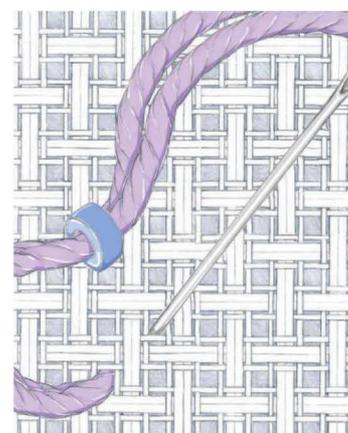
- ✦ Fabric Flair 28-count African Sunset evenweave measuring 39x35cm (15x14in) from Sew-it-All*
- ✦ Stranded cotton and metallic thread as listed in the key
- ✦ Mill Hill* seed beads as listed in the key
- ✦ Size 24 tapestry needle; beading needle
- ✦ Frame and mount of your choice with a minimum aperture of 24x19.5cm (9½x7½in)

*For stockists see page 82

How to...

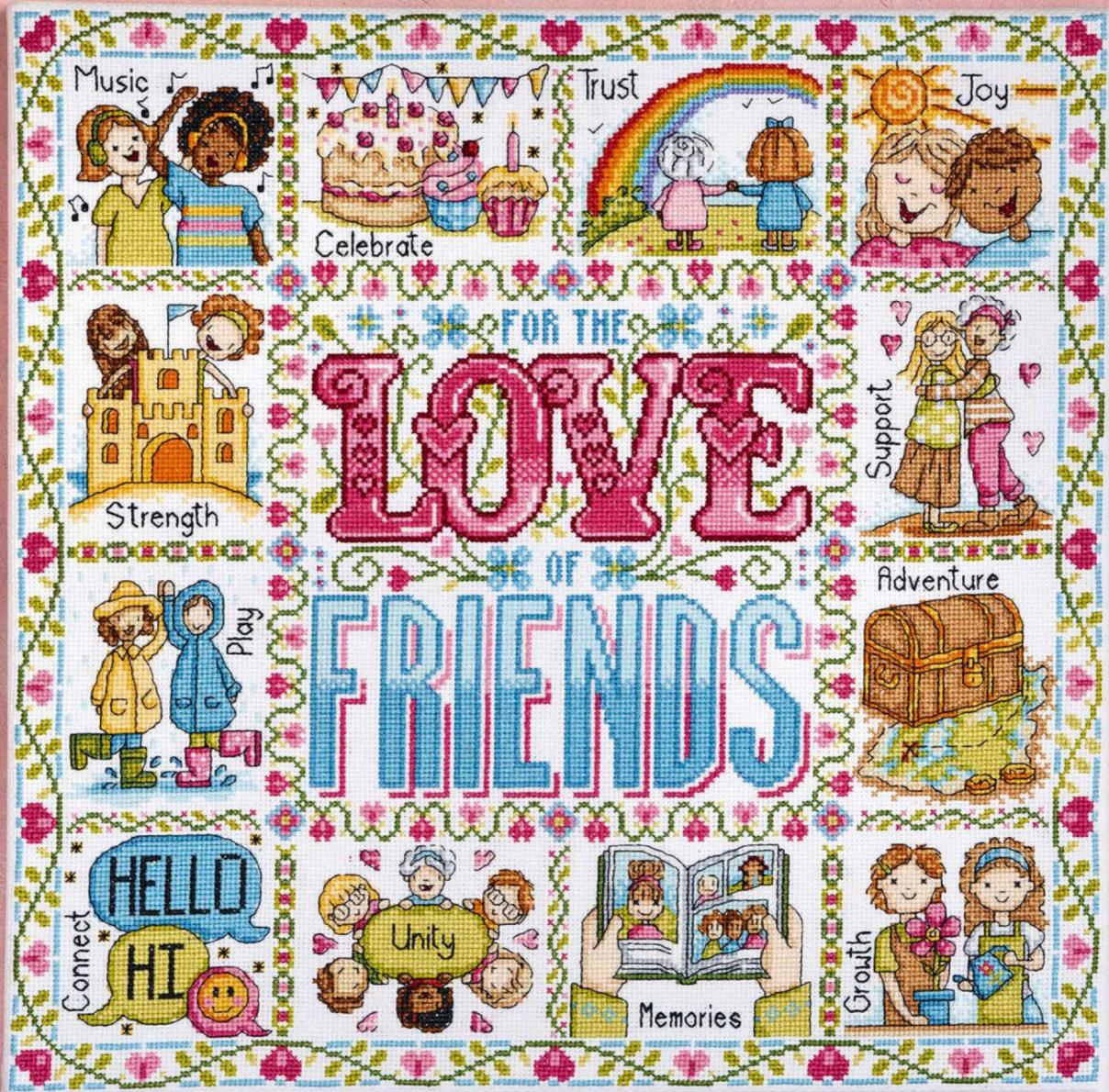
add beads

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



TOP TIP
 Pick your starting position on the patterned fabric carefully to capture the colour changing effect – just ensure you still have enough border for framing





NEW FOR 2026!

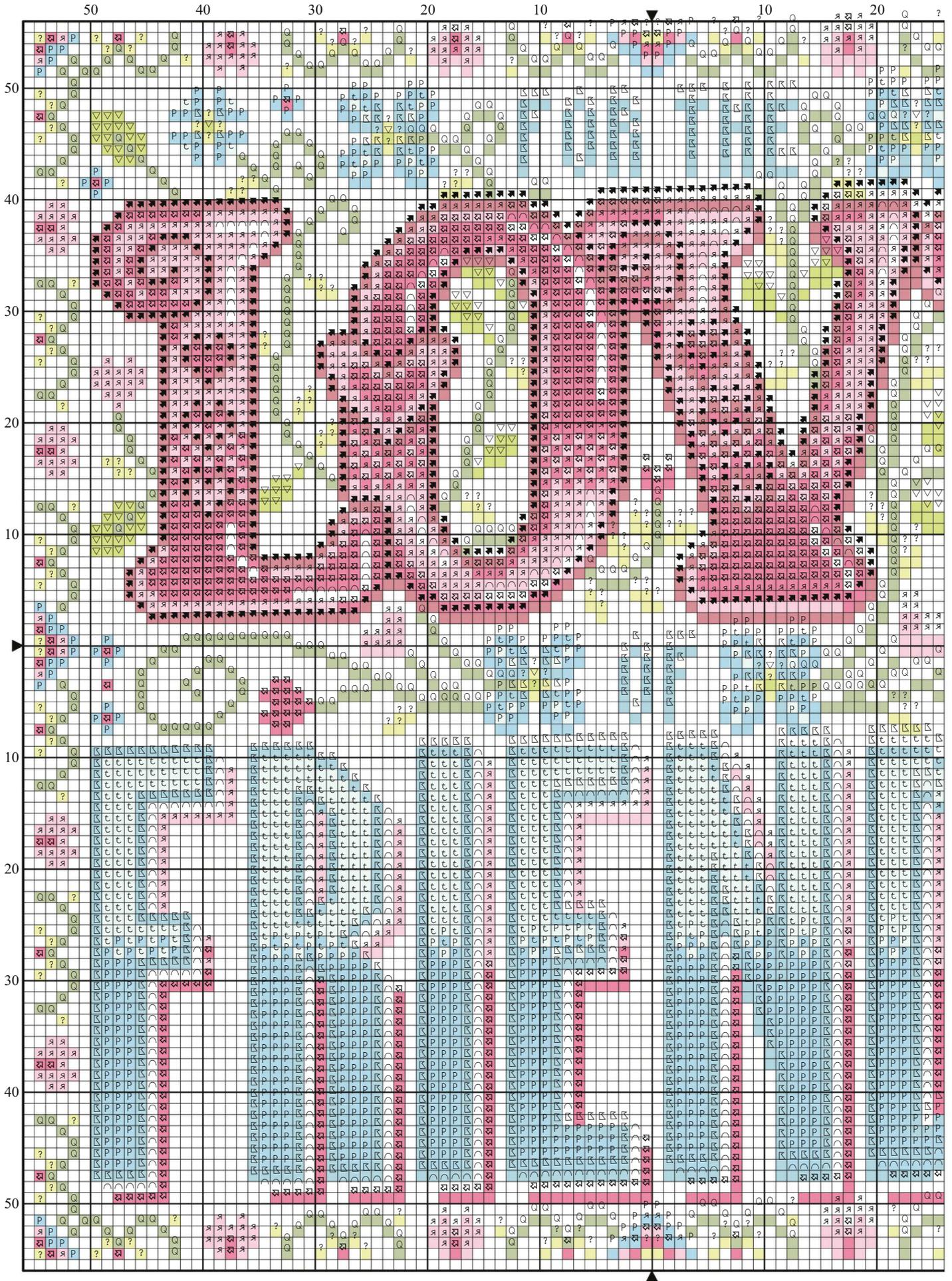
Stitch-A-Long

Celebrate friendship with our 2026 SAL, 'For the Love of Friends', by **Durene Jones**

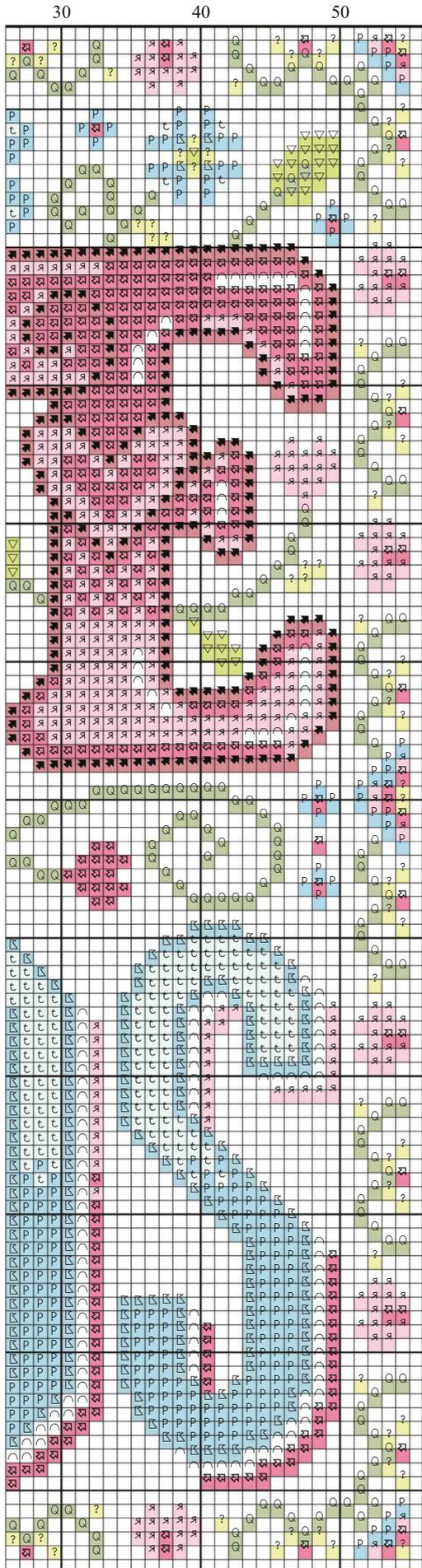
Over the last couple of years, we've stitched sweet treats, sewing trinkets and the joy of the seasons. For 2026, we're celebrating friendship and all the wonderful things it brings us. Starting off this issue with our big statement central panel, the 13-part

pattern continues clockwise each month with a new theme, including trust, adventure and connection. Each scene can be adapted for a greetings card too, to suit many occasions. I hope you enjoy stitching this as much as I did designing it. Good luck and Happy New Year!





SAL - part 1 (left)



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

- **The key and Shopping List** includes the thread colours, extra skeins and materials you'll need to stitch the whole design. It also lists the final design area for all 13 parts.
- **To start stitching**, first find the centre of your fabric by folding it in half and half again. The point where the folds cross is where the central stitch on part 1's chart should go.
- **To join up** the parts of your Stitch-A-Long, ignore the one-square border around the charts, and don't leave a gap when joining the next part to the one you stitched previously. The border design should join up seamlessly, helping you work out positioning, too.
- **Refer to the** photo of the completed design and next issue you'll find a full plan for positioning the parts of your SAL together.

NEXT ISSUE: January – Trust

Starting at the one o'clock position, stitch the beginnings of the pretty floral border and our first theme! One of the most important themes of friendship, this rainbow scene reminds us of promises made and kept.



“There's so much to celebrate about friendship and each month you'll be stitching a new theme. From support and strength to music and memories, each month is a chance to think about those we love and appreciate in life.”

VICKI, EDITOR



Shopping list

- ✘ Zweigart* 14-count white aida measuring 60x60cm (24x24in)
- ✘ Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- ✘ Size 24 tapestry needle
- ✘ Stretched canvas of your choice measuring 40x40cm (15¾x15¾in)

*For stockists see page 82

TOP TIP

Ensure your material is big enough to stitch the complete design & don't forget to add on enough fabric for making it up for display too

Friendship SAL key (all parts)

✦ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	blanc	2	2402	white
?	165	278	1414	lime green
∇	166	280	1611	dark lime green
⊖	340	118	902	purple
↗	350	11	213	red
⊞	415	398	1802	grey
⦿	434	310	2009	dark tan
N	436	1045	2011	tan
x	437	362	2301	light tan
⊞	602	57	702	pink
⦿	604	55	614	light pink
b	739	366	2014	cream
⦿	741	304	202	tangerine
♀	743	302	113	yellow
☆	745	300	111	light yellow
t	747	158	1104	light blue
⊞	807	168	1108	dark blue
⦿	816	1006	513	ruby
A	945	881	2309	peach
w	963	73	502	rose pink
K	976	1001	2010	ginger
Q	3347	265	1408	green
P	3766	167	1109	blue
⦿	3770	1009	2314	light peach
⦿	3799	236	1713	dark grey
⦿	3827	311	2012	light ginger

✦ Backstitch in one strand

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

✦ Backstitch in two strands

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

STITCH COUNT (FULL) 218 high x 218 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 39.5x39.5cm (15½x15½in)

EXTRA SKEINS NEEDED 2x165 (lime green), 2x166 (dark lime green), 2x602 (pink), 2x604 (light pink), 2x747 (light blue), 2x3347 (green), 3x3766 (blue), 2x3799 (dark grey)

STITCHED BY Alison Love

This design was stitched using DMC stranded cotton

Factbox

Join the fun each issue

- ✦ **Stitching Time**
Approx. 30 hours
- ✦ **Type of Stitches**
Cross stitch, backstitch
- ✦ **Ease of Stitching**
Beginner



ZWEIGART
since 1877



Merry Christmas

If you're looking forward to Christmas, you can while away the waiting time by embroidering this beautiful Christmas design. The motif looks especially splendid on our linen fabric Belfast (32 ct.) with woven golden glitter threads. Explore this lovely christmas theme at www.zweigart.de/embroidery and follow us on Instagram for more inspiration!



PREMIUM NEEDLEWORK FABRICS
100 % MADE IN GERMANY

www.zweigart.de

For stockists contact:

- Lakeside Needlecraft | lakesideneedlecraft.co.uk
- Willow Fabrics | www.willowfabrics.com
- Heritage Crafts | Tel: 01889 575 256
- Woolwarehouse | woolwarehouse.co.uk
- Stitchtastic | www.stichtastic.com

www.gathered.how/woxs

Ask the experts

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



Fiona Baker
Senior Technical Editor



Hannah Erskine
Charting Assistant



Vicki Atkinson
Editor

GET IN TOUCH FOR STITCHING HELP

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

Email us at:
theworldofxstitching@ourmedia.co.uk

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

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



Being creative!
Add variety and sparkles to your festive card makes

Christmas is for being creative!

Q Any tips for nice ways to decorate stitched Christmas cards? I want mine to look special but I'm scared I'll ruin my stitching if it goes wrong.

Kate Lowden, via Facebook

A Hannah: Fear not – there are lots of ways you can jazz up your Christmas cards without actually changing or adding anything to the stitched design itself. You could try something as simple as wrapping some decorative ribbon around the card front for a striking finish, or layering with patterned papers. Add stick-on embellishments, such as tiny gems, buttons, sequins or card toppers, to the corners using glue dots. If you're feeling creative, add a dash of sparkle with glitter glue around card apertures. Remember, you can always decorate your cards before adding the stitching if you're worried.

*For stockists see page 82

www.gathered.how/wox



Pendibule patterns
Sprinkle some festive cheer in your home with this set

Pendibule patterns

Q I enjoyed making Durene Jones' 'Halloween Ornaments' in issue 337 (Oct 2023) and thought you might have other holiday themes with them too. Have you done Christmas versions yet?

Joanne Hilsop, via Facebook

A Vicki: That's great to hear you enjoyed these mini makes! While we didn't feature Christmas versions in, you'll find more pendibule ornaments from Durene's Etsy*. There's a selection of six festive designs with Santa and snowmen to pick from, costing £4.00 each. When you purchase the PDF pattern, there are instructions on making your finished ornament. There's also a key for DMC stranded cotton and enlarged colour charts with symbols, with and without backstitch for ease of stitching. You could pick your favourites or get the full selection of six different designs to decorate your home.

Threads of fun

Q I was so intrigued by your DMC* Eco Vita feature in issue 364 (Nov 2025) I had to buy the whole set straight away. Are there more charts where they're used yet? I'm eager to have a play!

Lesley Hatten, via email

A Fiona: While the 'Santa Sack' design in issue 364 was the first time we've featured them, check out our full Eco Vita review article at www.gathered.how, where we've included links to some external patterns and designs you might like to have a go at.

TECHNIQUE FOCUS

Beautiful bunting

Q Have you ever done a project for Christmas bunting?

Susan Bixter, via email

A Fiona: Check out issue 287 (Dec 2019), available as a digital back issue on our app, for this beautiful winter bunting set. Designed by Faby Reilly, the wintry florals are perfect to display during the holiday season and beyond. Remember you can also turn almost any small design into bespoke bunting flags to display! Try it out with any of our Design Libraries, ABC sets or small card patterns. Here is a basic

tutorial you can follow, which you can easily adapt to suit:

1 Trim your stitched piece to a triangular shape, leaving a minimum 2cm (¾in) border around your stitching. Cut a piece of backing fabric to match.

2 Pin the right sides of your stitching and backing fabric together. Sew the sides with a 1cm (½in) seam, leaving the top edge open. Trim away any excess fabric from the corners, then turn through and press.

3 Fold a length of bias binding in half and sandwich the unstitched, top edges of your flags inside, then pin and sew through all the layers ready to hang.



Beautiful bunting
Learn how to construct your very own seasonal bunting



Street full of sweetness
Make a 3D gingerbread home to elevate your décor

Street full of sweetness

Q Could I make a cross stitch gingerbread house, or does such a pattern exist? I thought it would be a fun idea to try this season.

Adam P. Jones, via Facebook

A Vicki: Absolutely, Adam – this pair of delectable 3D makes look almost good enough to eat! Designed by Fiona Baker, these patterns, along with a full making up tutorial, are now available on our brand-new online store Gathered Shop*. Costing just £6.20, download the PDF project and get started straight away with stitching and constructing your mini models. There's even a couple of gingerbread people and candy canes to dot around the scene. We hope this fits the bill with what you're looking for.

Green fingered friend

Q I want to make your armchair organiser in issue 362 (Sep 2025) but stitch it all in green to match my lounge décor. What advice can you share to do this?

Alexandra Thornhill, from Hull

A Hannah: To alter the thread shades in this (or any) design, you simply need to

change them like-for-like to ones of your choice, matching families of colours with light, medium and dark shades (a shade card helps with this to see all options at a glance). This design is even easier to change the colours with too – there are multiple colourways included with the project along with a black and white chart, making it simple to personalise to your preference. To stitch this entire design using various shades of green, we'd suggest picking out multiple shade families, i.e. brights, pastels, lime greens, emeralds, jades etc., like the simulation below, to avoid the design looking too flat and monotone. Or you could even try a green variegated thread for a fun and twist on the design instead!



Green fingered friend
Convert any design with a bespoke colour palette



Wishes granted



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

Feathered friend
Chiara is going to turn this pheasant design into delightful cards and patches



Pheasant key

✦ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	blanc	2	2402	white
■	350	11	213	red
*	762	234	1804	light grey
■	975	355	2303	dark ginger
Q	976	1001	2010	light ginger
▽	993	1070	1111	ocean green
□	996	433	1103	blue
?	3348	264	1409	green
K	3826	1048	2306	ginger

✦ Backstitch in one strand

—	3799	236	1713	grey
—	3826	1048	2306	ginger

✦ French knots in one strand

●	3799	236	1713	grey
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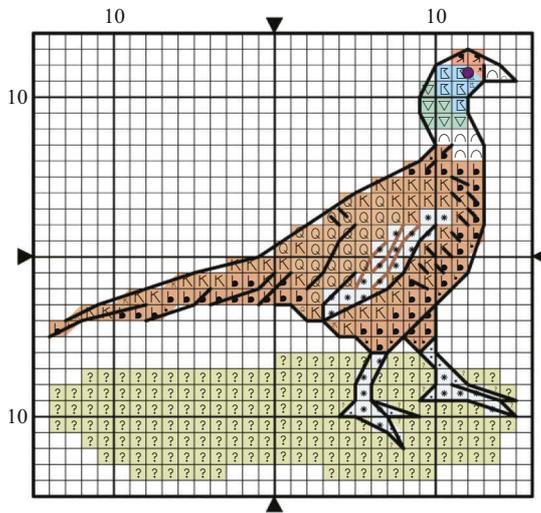
STITCH COUNT 27 high x 29 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 5x5.5cm (2x2in)

Q Hi Jenny! One of my favourite birds is the pheasant. I love the autumnal colours of the male bird, especially the copper and green shades. I would love you to make a little pheasant chart for me to stitch and make cards and bag patches.

Chiara Miller, via email

A Jenny: I hope you have a 'pheasant' day stitching this beauty, Chiara! Making it into bag patches would be quite sweet, or into a novelty keyring for someone special using plastic canvas.



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

QUICK Q&A

Can you tell me what is an ort jar?

Hena, via Instagram

Hannah: An ort, or scraps, of thread, are the tiny bits of leftovers from the length you're stitching with. They're usually too small to be kept for future use, but some stitchers like to save them up in a jar to use for other crafts. Typical uses include for stuffing a small make, such as a pincushion, decorative ways to finish cards, making tassels or even filling up clear plastic baubles for colourful decorations. It's a great way to recycle thread scraps with relatively zero waste!

Sparkly snowdrops

Q I'm looking for a kit that features snowdrops but can't find one I like. I enjoy beading so something I could add embellishments to would be nice.

Mrs J. Swinton, Cardiff

A Vicki: If you like beading, hopefully you won't find this fully beaded VDV 'Snowdrops Embroidery Kit' (47598) a challenge too far! This pretty design features a bloom of white snowdrops worked on a printed patterned fabric, creating a beautiful, dappled woodland glow for the background scene. The pattern is printed on the fabric too, so you can simply select the beads and away you go! The kit includes satin fabric, 71g of seed beads, beading thread, beading needle and easy instructions, all for £24.99 from Stitcher*. It could be fun to try something new and really hone your beading skills. If you have a go, email us the finished result as we'd love to see!



Sparkly snowdrops
Discover this beautiful beaded piece from Stitcher

DESIGNED BY **HEATHER NUGENT**

Fair Isle fancies

Get ready for the chilly season with this assorted card set of cosy accessories, perfect to send winter wishes

We are big fans of stocking up for seasonal occasions and these 3D winter woollies cards by Heather are just the thing! Stitch the full set and make into cards so you have them to hand to send greetings for Christmas, winter birthdays or just well wishes!

These wintry cards are designed in a Fair Isle style and stitched on perforated paper – this makes the cutting out much easier. We gave them a 3D effect using sticky foam pads (turn to page 64 for the how-to). However, if you don't have perforated paper to hand, then use aida to patch the motifs flat or fix inside complementing aperture cards. Choose from any of your favourite

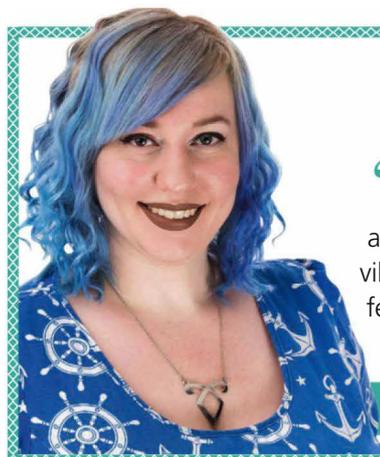
Factbox

Make for loved ones

- ✦ **Stitching Time**
Approx. 5-7 hours each
- ✦ **Type of Stitches**
Cross stitch, backstitch
- ✦ **Ease of Stitching**
Beginner

winter woollies! We left off the green backstitch 'cord' connecting the mittens, and instead used a coordinating piece of baker's twine to add to the 3D effect.

These will work well as gift tags for Christmass presents, too! This colourful set will make you feel as snug as a bug in your cosiest attire. ➤



Meet Heather Nugent

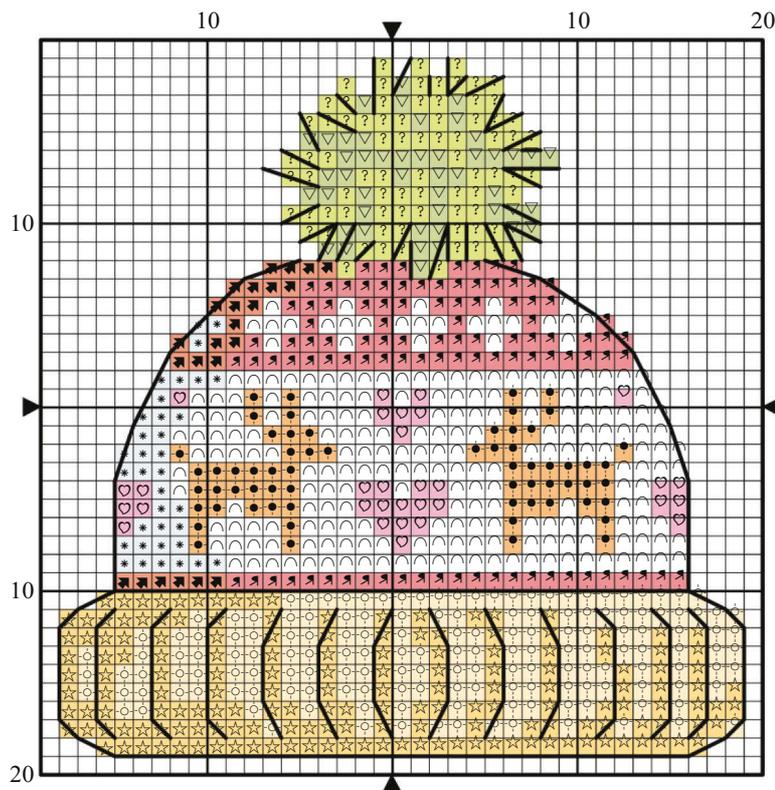
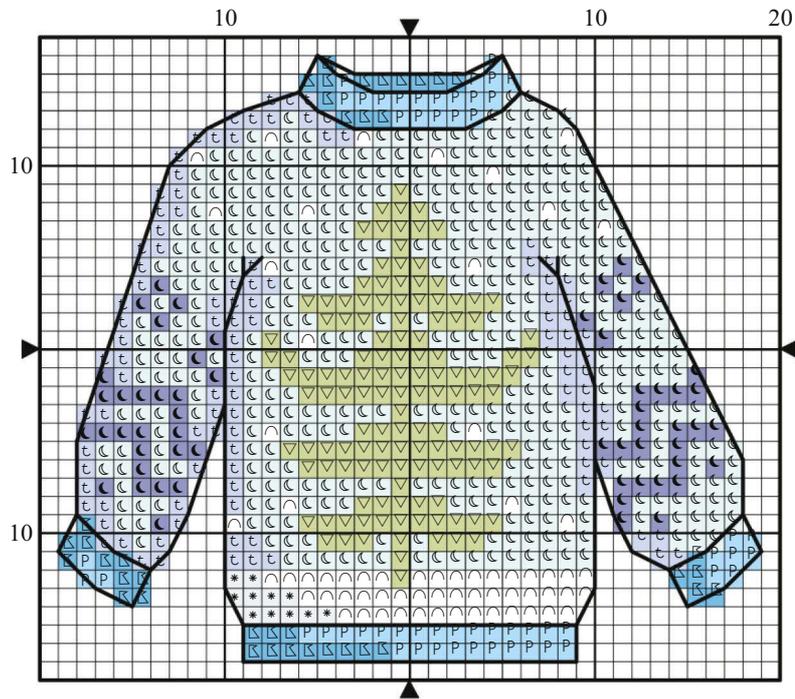
“ I love the cold weather because it gives me the opportunity to dig out my winter accessories. I really wanted to channel cosy vibes with this Fair Isle set, designed in a fun festive colour palette. I hope you enjoy and remember to wrap up warm! ”

Instagram @heathers.crossstitch.hub



STITCH
THE FULL
SET





Winter Woollies key

✦ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	B5200	1	2401	white
■	666	46	210	red
●	741	304	202	tangerine
☆	743	302	113	yellow
○	745	300	111	light yellow
*	762	234	1804	grey
☾	797	139	913	dark blue
☾	800	144	908	light blue
t	809	130	909	blue
▽	906	256	1410	green
?	907	255	1308	light green
⊠	995	410	1102	electric blue
P	996	433	1103	light electric blue
■	3801	1098	411	light red
♡	3833	1023	609	pink

✦ Backstitch in one strand

—	700	229	1302	leaf green
—	3371	382	2004	brown

MAXIMUM STITCH COUNT 39 high x 38 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 7x7cm (2¾x2¾in)

STITCHED BY Lisa Horwood

These designs were stitched using DMC stranded cotton



TOP TIP

Be careful not to trail threads across the back of unstitched areas on these designs – you may snip through it when cutting them out

“ This set would keep anyone warm. I’m sure it’ll also bring a smile to a loved one’s face if they were to receive a card like this. If you know their favourite colours, swap out the shades for a personalised finish. ”

CLAIRE, DESIGN LEAD



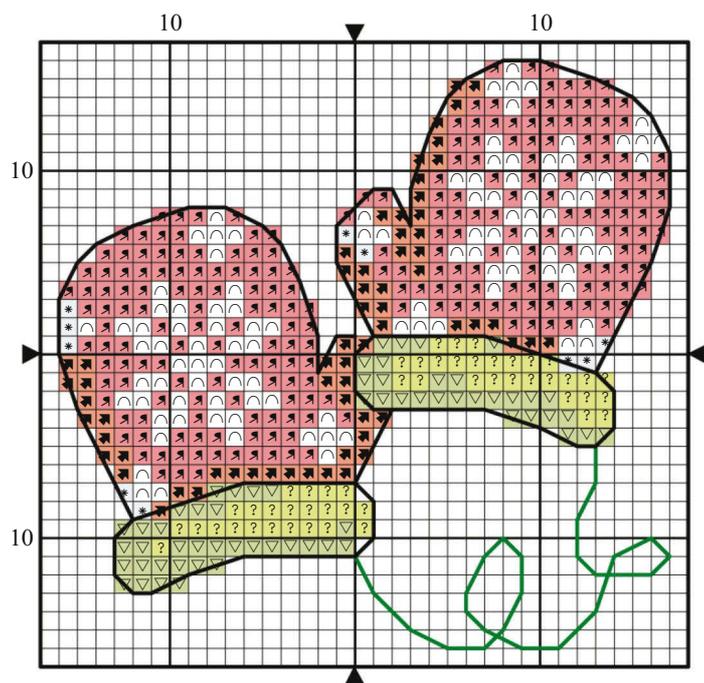
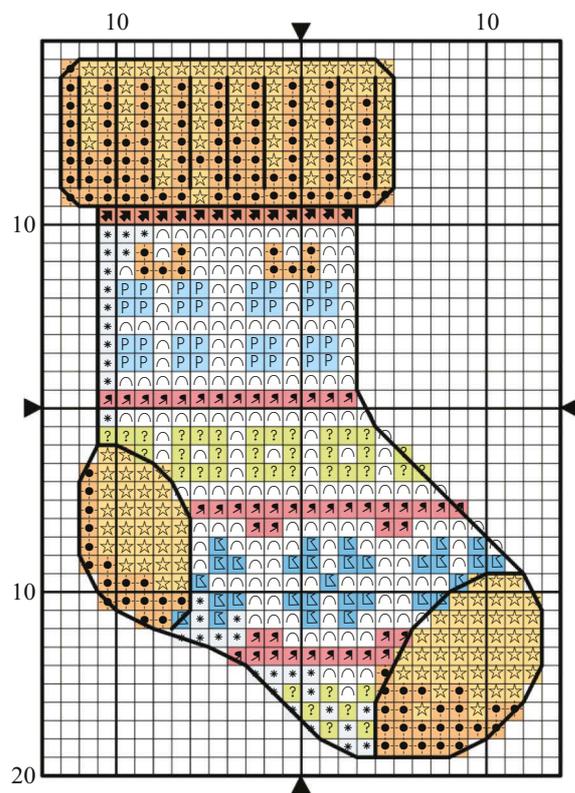
How to... make your 3D cosy cards

1 Back your completed stitching with white card using acid-free double-sided tape, then cut out around the design leaving a minimum one stitch border all the way around. Be careful not to snip into any holes containing stitches.

2 Affix 3D foam sticky pads to the reverse of the card backed stitching – position them to support at each area, but avoid placing them too close to the edges so they remain hidden.

3 Peel off the sticky backing on the foam pads and position it onto the card front. Press down firmly to ensure secure and strong adhesion.

4 If using the baker's twine to join the mittens, cut a small length and stick the ends to the underside of the design so it hangs down below, using our photos as a guide.



Barbara READER PANEL



“ Nice and bright colours. My friend in Canada sends me knitted tree decorations of mittens, hats and socks. I will stitch these collectively to make a hanging but they will also make nice cards for family and friends. ”

MAKE
BESPOKE
GIFT TAGS
THIS YEAR



Meet Durene Jones



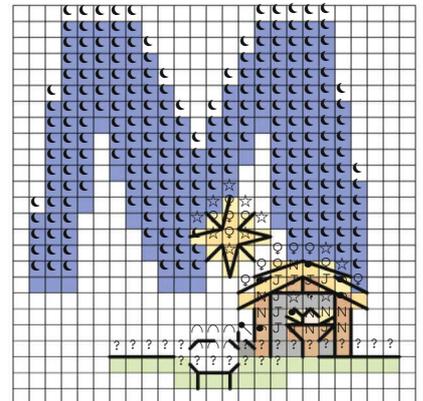
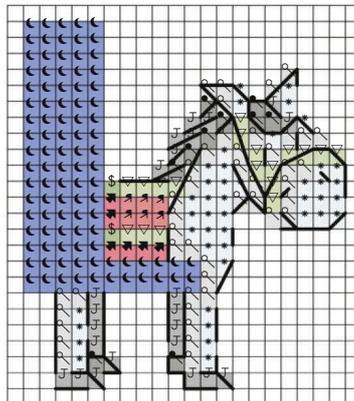
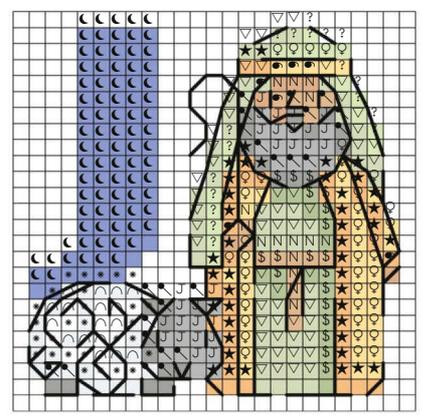
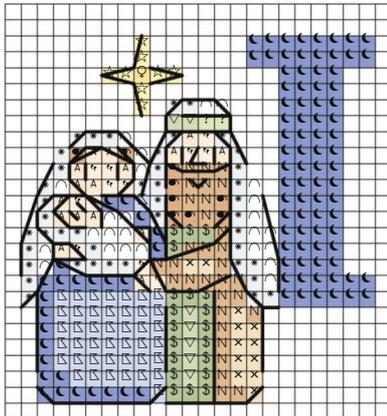
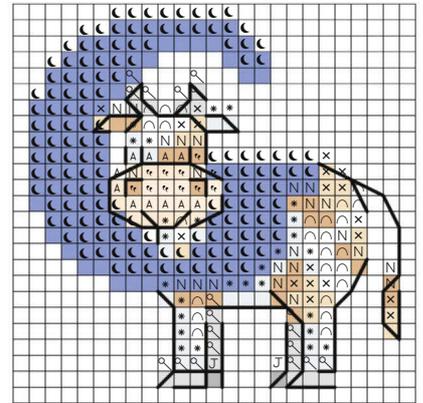
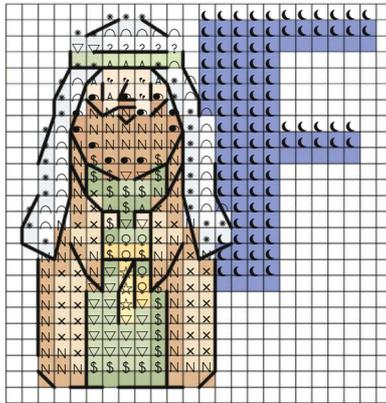
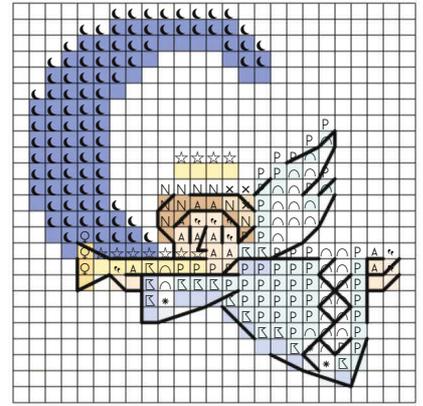
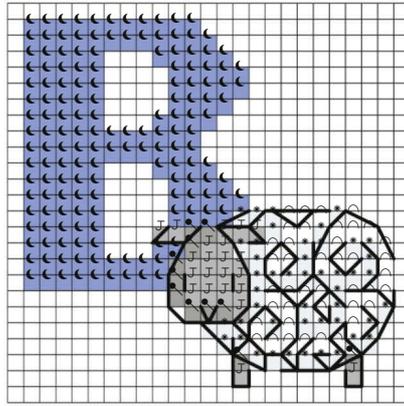
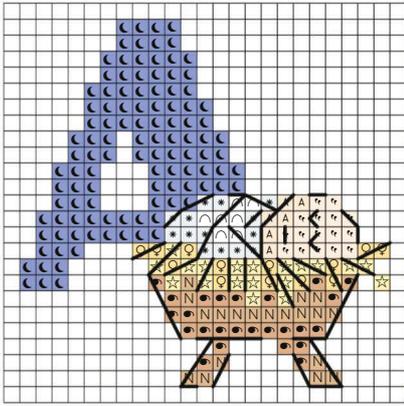
“ I loved the Nativity at school, although I never had a starring role! But I enjoyed putting this Nativity ABC together just as much, it was lovely remembering all the characters from the traditional story. ”

www.DureneJCrossStitch.etsy.com

DESIGNED BY **DURENE JONES**

Joy to the world

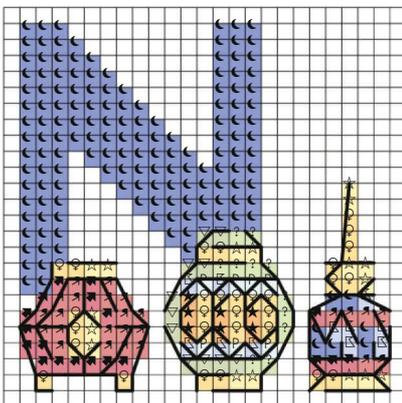
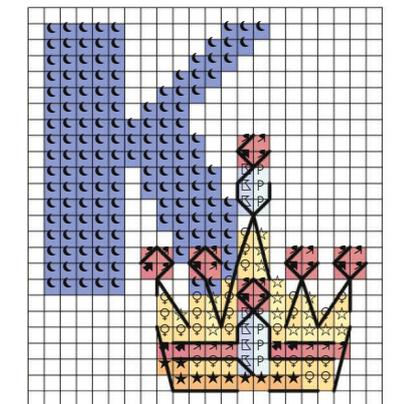
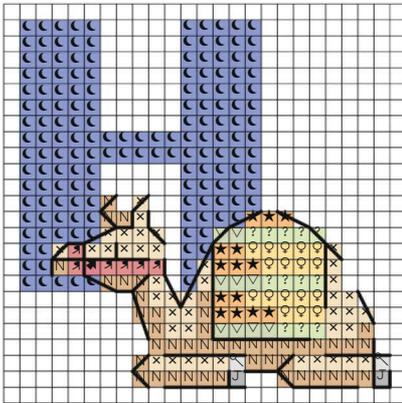
Make charming Nativity gift tags to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas with a stylised twist





FIONA, SENIOR TECHNICAL EDITOR

“Some of the motifs positioned in front of the letters could also be stitched as standalone designs – just back your chosen motifs with card, then cut out and attach to lollypop sticks. It’s a fun way to get the kids involved in the Christmas crafting.”



Project pack

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

Nativity ABC key

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	B5200	1	2401	white
?	164	240	1209	light green
■	413	236	1713	dark grey
J	414	235	1714	grey
□	415	398	1802	light grey
●	434	310	2009	dark tan
N	435	1046	2010	tan
×	437	362	2012	light tan
♀	725	305	113	yellow
☆	727	293	112	light yellow
○	739	366	2014	cream
★	741	304	202	orange
*	762	234	1804	very light grey
☾	798	131	912	dark blue
P	800	144	908	light blue
□	809	190	909	blue
■	815	44	513	ruby
■	817	13	210	red
A	945	881	2309	peach
§	987	244	1403	dark green
▽	989	241	1401	green
•	3774	778	306	light peach

✕ Backstitch in one strand

—	310	403	2400	black
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MAXIMUM STITCH COUNT 23 high x 23 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 4x4cm (1½x1½in)

STITCHED BY Clare Prowse

These designs were stitched using DMC stranded cotton

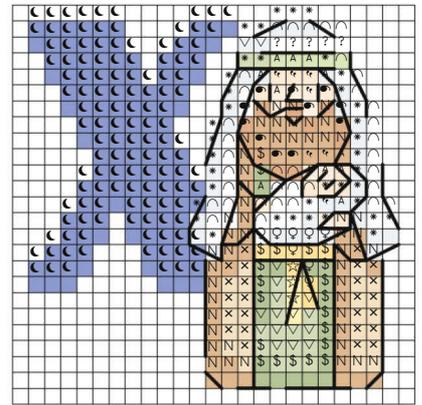
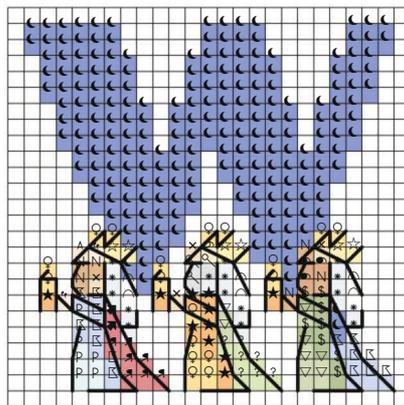
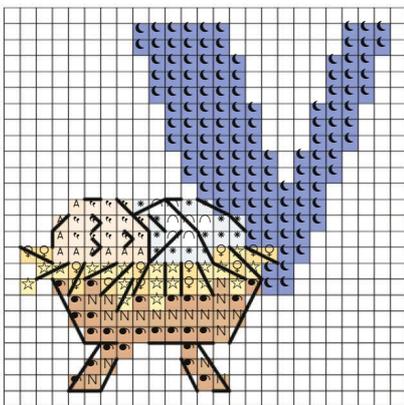
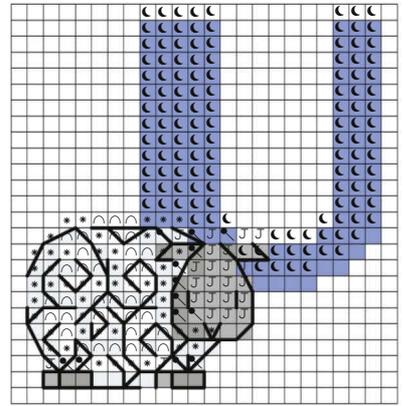
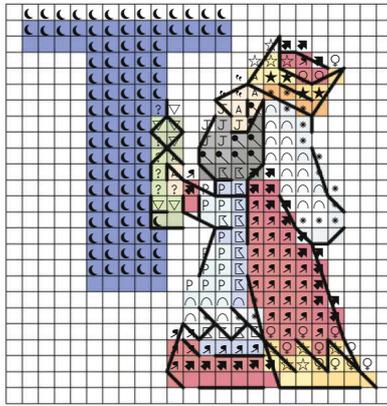
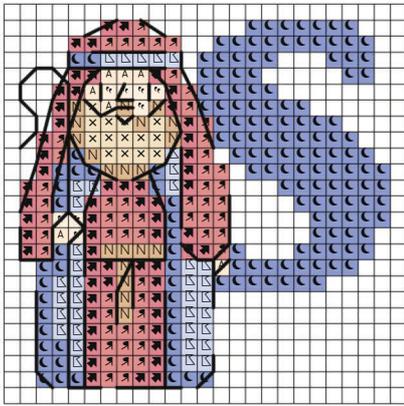
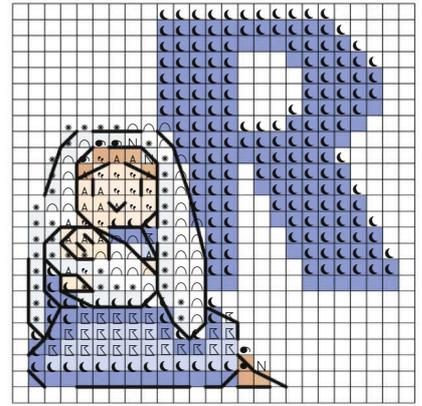
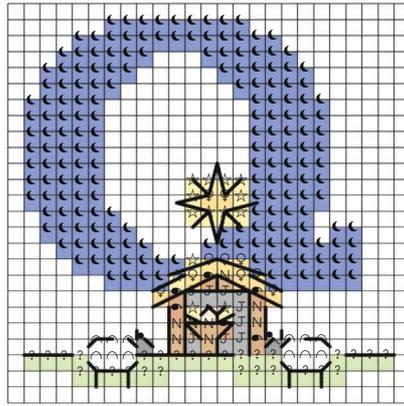
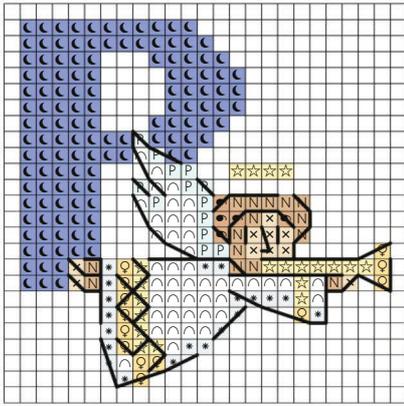
Ideal for beginners

Factbox

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

TOP TIP

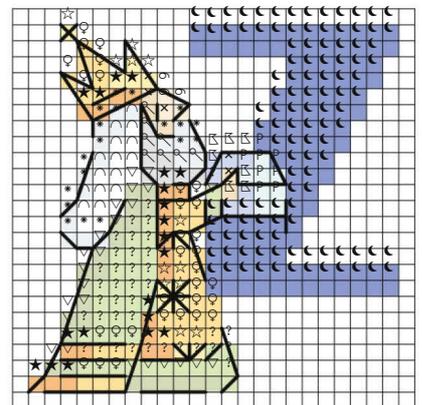
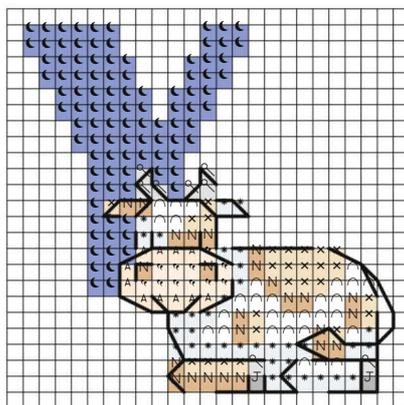
Don't forget to back your aida with white paper before patching onto coloured card – this prevents the background showing through the weave



Shopping list

- ✂ Zweigart* 14-count white aida measuring 10x10cm (4x4in) for each design
- ✂ Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- ✂ Size 24 tapestry needle
- ✂ Kraft card and ribbon (or ready-made tags), acid-free double-sided tape and white paper for backing of your choice from local stores

*For stockists see page 82



Enter to win!

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

PRIZES WORTH £275

Seasonal mini makes

Add a homespun touch to your tree with Stitchfinity's* 'Nordic Bauble Set', alongside sending handmade cards to your friends and family with the 'Christmas Card Pack'. Each kit comes with the required materials to make your ornaments and cards, and we're excited to announce that there are five bundles (£55 each) available as a prize to win.

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



PRIZES WORTH £50

Christmas delights

Full with over 200 beautiful festive charts, you will be spoilt rotten with a sumptuous selection of Christmas goodies. Inside *Ultimate Cross Stitch Christmas*, discover delightful cards, inspiring designs to stitch as gifts for loved ones, and pieces to decorate your home with. We have five copies up for grabs for lucky winners, but you can purchase a copy from Our Media Shop*.

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



PRIZES WORTH £260

AU NATURAL ADD TO YOUR STASH



The latest range from well-known thread specialists DMC*, Eco Vita is a love letter to nature. This 100% organic crewel wool embroidery thread gets its rich colour palette entirely from natural dyes, using infusions of completely natural ingredients such as walnut, rhubarb, indigo and juniper.

With over 60 shades to choose from, the natural dyes provide a gentle mottled appearance, which adds a touch of organic beauty to pieces. Perfect for mending, hand embroidery, cross stitch, punch needle and weaving, the durable thread is soft to the touch and gives stitches a raised 3D quality. Unlike Mouliné Spécial, this thread is used whole as a single strand, rather than being divided.

We have partnered with DMC to offer five people the chance of winning a random assortment of 30 thread shades, valued at £52. The ideal opportunity to try something new, experiment and incorporate these threads for depth and dimension to your designs. You can also purchase individual skeins from the DMC website to add to your growing collection.

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

TO ENTER:

Visit our website, www.gathered.how/woxs and select the Competitions tab to enter and for full terms and conditions. Closing date for all entries: 25 November 2025. No entries by post or text message.

TERMS & CONDITIONS:

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

their direct family members. The closing date for all entries is 25 November 2025. Open to UK mainland residents aged 18+ only. By entering, you agree to be bound by the rules of the promotion. Only one entry per person, per competition allowed. No responsibility accepted for lost, delayed, ineligible or fraudulent entries. Winning entries chosen at random from all eligible entries. Winners will be notified within 28 days of closing date. The draw is final, no correspondence will be entered into. For details of winners, send an SAE within two months of the

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

Our Best Buys

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



£22.99

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

Festive fancies

SANTA'S LITTLE HELPERS!

This band of cats is getting up to some mischief, ready to wish everyone a meow-y Christmas. Satsuma Street's 'Purrfect Presents' stocking is packed with festive cheer, vibrant colours and the ideal dose of kitten chaos. The PDF pattern includes alphabet charts to add a name and step-by-step directions to make the stocking.

Accompany the stocking with fun and merry ornaments, with designs 'Winter Break', 'Little Drummer Girl', 'Sweater Weather', and 'Gold Rings'. As these projects are digital downloads, you can access them instantly after purchase so you can make headway on your stitchy Christmas.

GREATEST GIFT

If you know someone who loves to stay on trend with their home décor, or another who looks for gardening tips and tricks, then why not gift them a subscription to a special interest magazine from Our Media's portfolio? With a vast range of magazines, from *Countryfile* to *Science Focus* and any of our crafty sister magazines like *Love Embroidery* or *Simply Crochet*, the gift of a subscription is simple yet thoughtful. You can purchase a subscription from the Our Media Shop* website and even browse for back issues of your favourite magazines, too. They'll be looking forward to their present every month! Prices from £22.99 for a year.



\$12

\$16

Santa's little helpers
Make the day vividly jolly with these novelty designs by Satsuma Street*

4 fab finds... fun bauble projects to spruce up the Christmas tree



FREE

Simple and sweet
Stitch this minimalist bauble using leftover perforated paper from Ann's Orchard Needlework*.



£74.99

Bauble bundle
Emma Louise Art Stitch* has a set of six baubles in a festive colour palette ready to be stitched.



£24.95

Mandala makes
Meloca Designs** iconic pattern style is taking shape in a prettified bauble. Get the kit to stitch it.



£56.30

Wooden wonders
This kit from SweetAnnet* on Etsy comes with wooden blanks and all the essential materials to make.

A PRESENT A DAY

BOXES FULL OF JOY

Every day be greeted with a delightful surprise of a fun cross stitch kit ready to be made in the run-up to the 25 December. From Make Box & Co.* the '12 Door Advent Calendar' countdown box contains 12 individually boxed mini counted kits, each one containing everything you need to complete the design. Be surprised each day with a delicious Christmas pudding, charming penguin, frosty snowman, a wrapped-up dachshund and more as you work through each kit during the season.



MAGICAL MOON

During winter, there comes a time where we begin to enjoy the chillier evenings, the darker nights, watching the moon hanging high in the sky with the

glimmering stars. 'Winter Moon' by Love Poppet* is a stunning minimalistic piece of a snowflake moon circling a tiny cottage with a puff of smoke emitting from the chimney. Displayed in a hoop, the kit comes with colour and black and white chart, accompanied with navy blue 14-count fabric, DMC threads in seven shades, needle and a handy tips and tricks leaflet, ideal for beginners.

BY THE FIREPLACE

The latest addition to John Clayton's Elegance collection, 'Catherine' is perched in a ruby red dress beside a roaring fire, the Christmas lights twinkling behind her as she stitches. For those looking for a pleasant and relaxing piece, we're sure you can immerse yourself in this design as you too curl up on your sofa surrounded by the festive décor.

The kit is available from Heritage Crafts* and measures 26.5x26.5cm (10½x10½in). It comes with your chosen fabric, pre-sorted DMC stranded cottons a needle, clear charts and helpful instructions.



£54.95



SWEET SURPRISES

This collection of 12 mini cross stitch designs makes for a great gift under the tree for an enthusiastic crafter. The Sew & Sew On '12 Mini Cross Stitch Kits' from Everything Arts and Craft* includes festive designs such as a Christmas tree, holly, gingerbread man and more. Each kit contains aida fabric, sorted embroidery threads, needles and threader, alongside full instructions. They will enjoy hours of artistic enjoyment and feel ever-sew jolly.

READER OFFER

Fabric Flair is now at Stitchtastic* and they are offering a great value discount across their fabric, including DMC and Zweigart! Use code **WOXS366** at checkout, offer ends 10 Dec 2025.



SAVE
20%!

Fun with fabric
Discover the immense fabric range on Stitchtastic's* website

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

DESIGNED BY **MARGARET SHERRY**

Fluffy as snow

The last in our seasonal kitty series, this soft cat is bundled up warm, well equipped for the chilly weather

One of the best bits about the colder weather, with its frosty wind and fluttering snowflakes, is wrapping up in our favourite scarves, hats and gloves. Margaret Sherry's iconic fluffy cat is ready for a day out in the snow, sporting crimson gloves and a stripy scarf in seasonal colours.

The fourth and final part of our seasonal cat series is here and we're sure you're excited to complete the set. Just like the others, this design is stitched on ice blue aida and we painted the hoop in blue to pay homage to winter. You might want to substitute the colours to match the seasons – pink for spring, yellow for summer, beige for autumn – for

Factbox

- ✗ **Stitching Time**
Approx. 30 hours
- ✗ **Type of Stitches**
Cross stitch, backstitch
- ✗ **Ease of Stitching**
Beginner

Painted
hoop
display

variety and to highlight each season's colour palette.

Another way of finishing this series is by stitching each cat on one large piece of aida for a single picture, ready to adorn your walls. We hope you enjoyed this series and if you missed out on a design, turn to p75 on how to buy a digital back issue. ▶



Meet Margaret Sherry

Margaret Sherry's artwork continues to be translated into cross stitch for us all to enjoy.

With their cheery, smiley faces and warm personalities her much-loved characters make delightful pictures to stitch and gift.

[www.facebook.com/
margaretserrycollection](https://www.facebook.com/margaretserrycollection)



FINAL
PART OF
SERIES



Winter Cat Hoop key

✕ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	blanc	2	2402	white
?	164	240	1209	soft green
Q	317	400	1714	dark grey
J	318	399	1801	light grey
↗	349	1098	212	red
↘	351	10	214	coral
■	413	236	1713	very dark grey
●	414	235	1813	grey
○	415	398	1802	very light grey
*	762	234	1804	pearl grey
♥	817	13	210	dark red
◆	910	228	1302	dark green
§	912	209	1213	green
⋄	948	892	306	light peach
A	967	6	304	peach

✕ Backstitch in one strand

—	3799	401	1809	charcoal grey
---	------	-----	------	---------------

✕ Backstitch in two strands

—	3799	401	1809	charcoal grey
---	------	-----	------	---------------

STITCH COUNT 114 high x 92 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 20.5x16.5cm (8¼x6½in)

EXTRA SKEINS NEEDED 2xblanc (white), 2x762 (pearl grey)

ILLUSTRATION CONVERTED BY Fiona Baker

STITCHED BY Debbie Hart

This design was stitched using DMC stranded cotton

There's more

Download the *WOXS* app, available on both Apple and Android devices, to purchase the digital back issues that include these Margaret Sherry seasonal cat hoops!

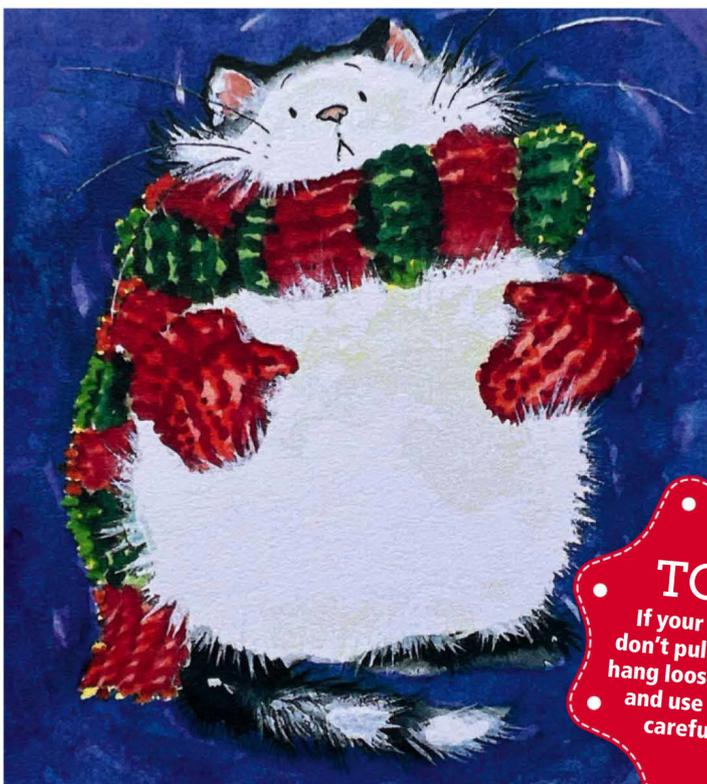


◀ Spring Cat Hoop can be found in issue 355 (February 2025)

Summer Cat Hoop can be found in issue 359 (June 2025) ▶



◀ Autumn Cat Hoop can be found in issue 363 (October 2025)



TOP TIP
If your thread tangles don't pull it – simply let it hang loose from the fabric and use your needle to carefully unknot it

Lisa READER PANEL



“ Margaret Sherry's designs are certainly unmistakable. I have several friends and family members who have cats, so this would be a good Christmas gift for them, displayed in a complementing hoop that matches the cat. ”

Shopping list

- ✕ Zweigart* 14-count ice blue (550) aida measuring 33x33cm (13x13in)
- ✕ Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- ✕ Size 24 tapestry needle
- ✕ 10in beech wood hanging display frame (NURGE10TOP) from Lakeside Needlecraft*
- ✕ Paint and light blue felt for backing of your choice from local stores

*For stockists see page 82

Coming Soon

Next month in

ISSUE 367
ON SALE
26 NOV

The UK's No.1

THE WORLD OF Cross Stitching



ICY WONDER

Stitch Amanda Butler's magnificent ice phoenix in a frosty blue colour palette



NO PLACE LIKE HOME

This floral hanging trio by Durene Jones will elevate your home



BUDDING BEAUTIES

Amanda Gregory's spring florals make for sweet all-occasion cards



CAPPY DAYS!

Meloca Designs' patterned capybara will be fun to stitch!

Contents subject to change. Gift(s) only with print edition, and overseas gift(s) may vary.

Coming Soon

Wrendale winter delights

THE WORLD OF
Cross
Stitching
EXCLUSIVE

Revel in these barn owl beauties, an exclusive project by Wrendale Designs



WRENDALE ♥ DESIGNS
BY HANNAH DALE



FOLK ART FLAIR

Perry Abdel-Hadi's folk art hare hoop is a stunning piece in pastel hues



GOLDEN DAYS

Be inspired for a 20s dress-up party with Emma Congdon's art deco ABC

PLUS MUCH MORE

- ✦ Exclusive book extract from *Countryside Cross Stitch*
- ✦ Home baking Design Library by Becky Spencer
- ✦ The first part to our 2026 'For the Love of Friends' SAL
- ✦ Your cross stitching queries answered by our experts
- ✦ Your stories, inspiration & letters... plus much more

HELLO FROM THE HIGHLANDS!

SWEET
CARD
GIFT

Designed by Rhona Norrie, stitch this adorable Highland cow and patch onto a printed piece of complementing card to send to your loved ones. They will be a-moo-sed and delighted!

Your card gift includes:

- Printed card and plain envelope
- 24 lengths of stranded cottons
- Printed chart and instructions



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



How to...

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



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

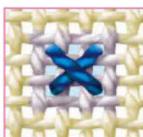
CHOOSE YOUR ESSENTIALS...

Start with these must-have items

FABRICS

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

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



THREADS

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



NEEDLES

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

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

*Also includes 22-count hardanger

How to read our charts & keys

Clear symbols, colours & all the info you need!

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

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

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

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

Thread brands

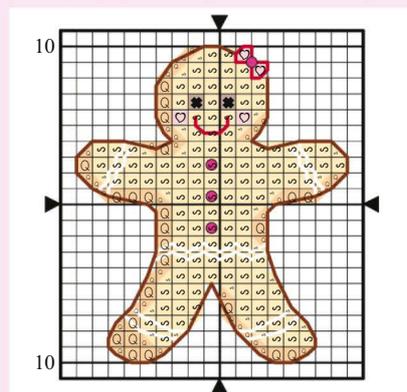
Different manufacturer thread shades are listed in separate columns. For best results, stick to one manufacturer for the whole of a design. The first column is the brand we used to stitch the design.

Backstitch & French knot shades

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

Stitch count & design area

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



Gingerbread Girl key

✳ Cross stitch in two strands

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

✳ Backstitch in one strand

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
	B5200	1	2401	white
	301	1049	2306	ginger
	3831	1006	507	dark pink

✳ French knots in one strand

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

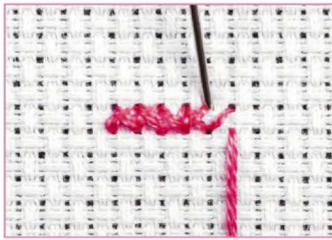
STITCH COUNT 20 high x 17 wide

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

This design was stitched using DMC stranded cotton

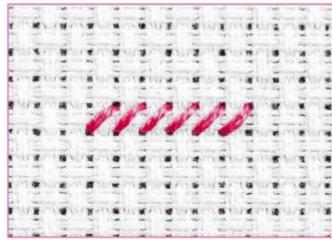
How to stitch

Tackle the basic stitches in our charts...



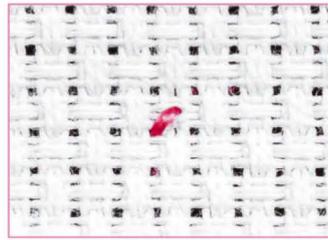
Cross stitch

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



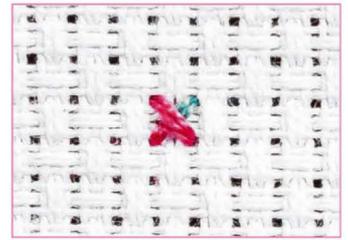
Half cross stitch

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

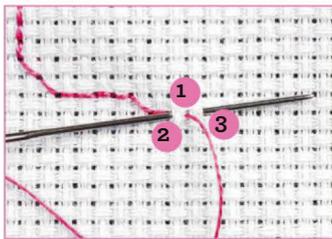


Fractional stitches

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

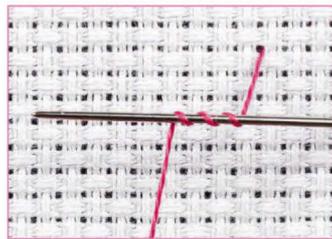


diagonal of the square. To make two fractional stitches in the same square, you'll need to decide which is a quarter stitch (shown above, in blue) and which is a three-quarter stitch. Usually, the three-quarter stitch (shown above, in pink) is made in the foreground colour of the design – look at the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



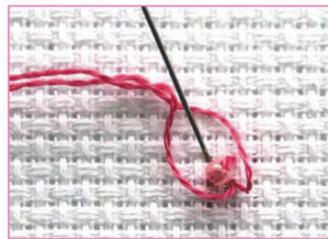
Backstitch

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



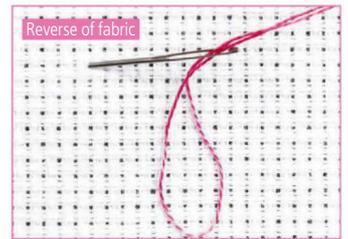
French knots

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



Beads

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



Starting your thread

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

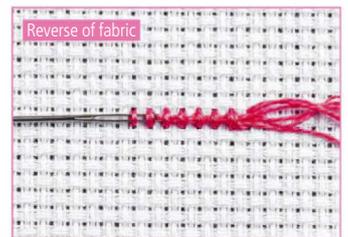
HOW TO ALTER THREAD SHADES IN A DESIGN

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

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

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

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



Finishing your thread

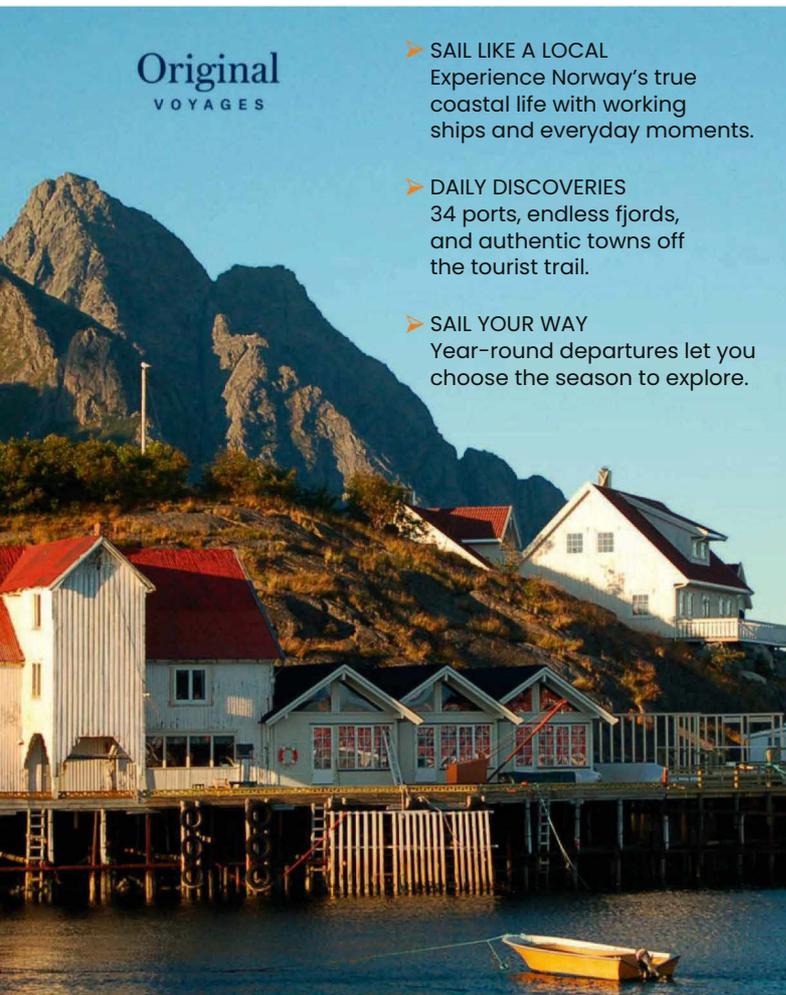
Once you've finished stitching, finish off your threads to keep them secure by running the needle through the back of several stitches that you've already completed. Snip off the ends neatly with a sharp pair of embroidery scissors, as close to your fabric as possible.

Highlight	3770	948	754	Highlight	712	437	407	Highlight	842	3864	840
Mid-tone	3774	754	3771	Mid-tone	739	436	3772	Mid-tone	841	3863	839
Shadow	950	3771	758	Shadow	738	435	632	Shadow	840	3862	838

WHICH VOYAGE IS RIGHT FOR YOU?

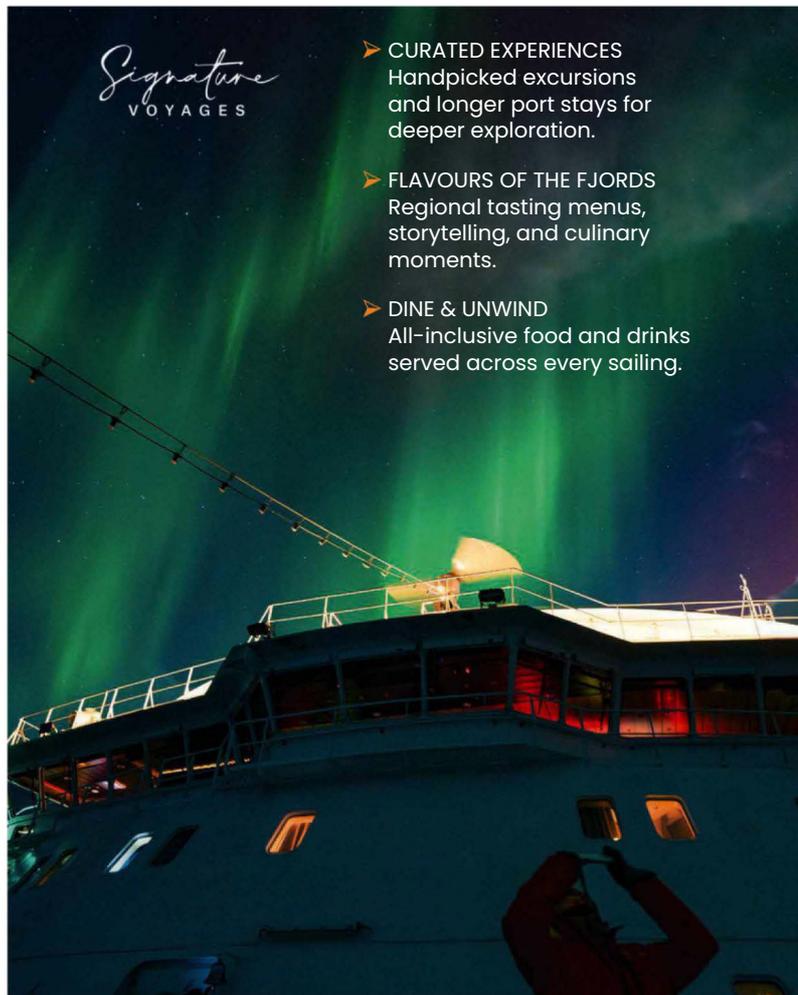
Original vs. Signature

Finding the perfect voyage for you isn't always easy, but it is important. Whether you want an adventure steeped in history or seek moments of deeper exploration with fewer ports and longer stops, choose the voyage that *feels* right.



Original
VOYAGES

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Experience Norway's true coastal life with working ships and everyday moments.
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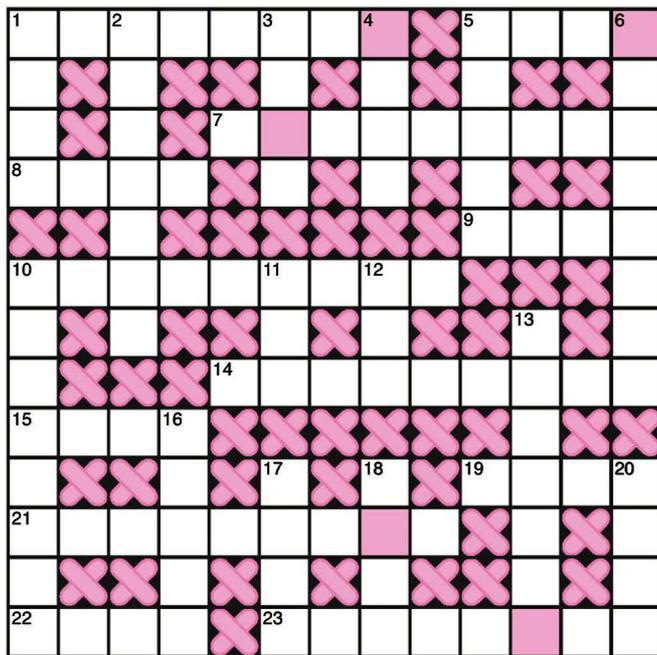
SCAN TO
LEARN MORE



*Terms and conditions apply. See website for further details.

Take a break!

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



Solve the clues then rearrange the letters in the shaded squares to spell a Christmas decoration (5)

ACROSS

- 1 Celebratory event (8)
- 5 Short cloak (4)
- 7 Seasonal stage show such as Jack and the Beanstalk or Aladdin (9)
- 8 Story (4)
- 9 Gape with tiredness (4)
- 10 Tiny (9)
- 14 Without delay (9)
- 15 Nil (4)
- 19 Pleased (4)
- 21 Christmas carol bird found in a pear tree (9)
- 22 Midday (4)
- 23 Individual pieces of an orange (8)

DOWN

- 1 Crafting fabric (4)
- 2 Brother or sister (7)
- 3 Glass bottle used to hold perfume (4)
- 4 Overdue (4)
- 5 Upholstered chair that is relaxing to sit in (5)
- 6 Endless period of time (8)
- 10 Almond paste used to top a cake (8)
- 11 Metal container (3)
- 12 Deep groove in a road (3)
- 13 Rich sweet fruited bread (7)
- 16 Frequently (5)
- 17 Fail to hit (4)
- 18 Eagerly excited to know more (4)
- 20 Raised platform in a hall (4)

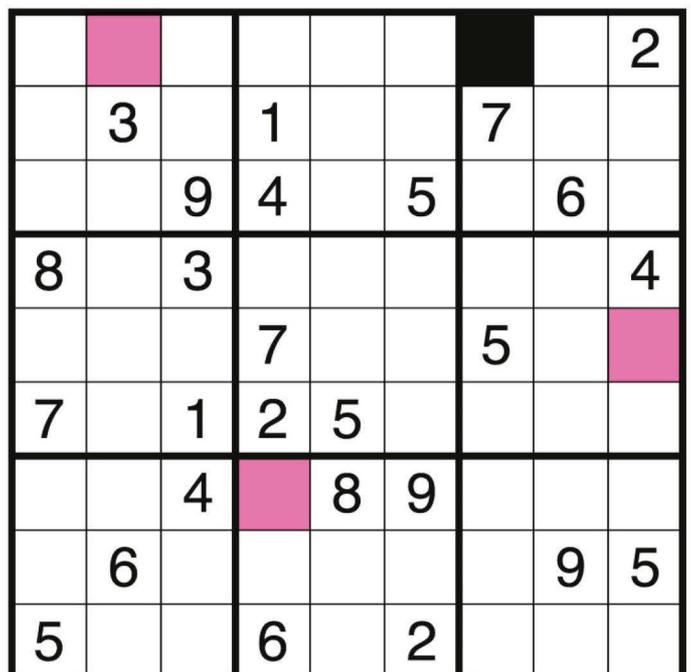
Enter to win!



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

To enter by post: Write your name, address and your crossword or sudoku answer on the back of a postcard or stuck-down envelope and send it to: Crossword/Sudoku WOX366, *The World of Cross Stitching*, Our Media Ltd, Eagle House, Bristol BS1 4ST. For full terms and conditions, turn to page 69. Please note that you can no longer enter by text message. **Closing date:** 25 November 2025.

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



ISSUE 365 SOLUTION: ACROSS: 1 Relish, 4 Opaque, 7 New, 8 Coppice, 9 Mug, 12 Stag, 13 Spherical, 16 Talkative, 17 Earn, 20 Ink, 22 Truffle, 23 Dim, 24 Prefer, 25 Common. **DOWN:** 1 Roam, 2 Lengthy, 3 Sew, 4 Oboe, 5 Quilt, 6 Energise, 10 Fret, 11 Scold, 13 Sidestep, 14 Leap, 15 Minimum, 18 Route, 19 Blur, 21 Keen, 23 Duo. **SOLUTION: CRIMSON**

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Ready,
set,
shop!

Getting started

Where to buy your start-up kit – turn to page 78 to see exactly what you'll need

✂ **ANCHOR**
www.lovecrafts.com
For Anchor threads
www.blacksheepwools.com
☎ 01925 764231
For Anchor cross stitch kits

✂ **DMC**
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☎ 01924 371501
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www.jjneedles.com
☎ 01527 830941
For needles & sewing essentials

✂ **LAKESIDE NEEDLECRAFT**
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For kits, accessories, cards & more

✂ **MADEIRA**
www.barnyarns.co.uk
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For fabrics, threads & accessories

✂ **MARIES CROSS STITCH**
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☎ 01376 777017
For kits, fabrics, threads & accessories

✂ **SEW-IT-ALL**
www.sewitall.com
☎ 01280 821777
For a range of unique fabrics & accessories – home of Fabric Flair

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✂ **ZWEIGART**
www.zweigart.de
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