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Cross Stitch GOLD

Love is in the air this month, and I'm not just talking about Valentine's Day... I'm in love with the beautiful projects in this issue, starting with our adorable duckling family on page 4. How cute are they?! Our sewing lady (p28) is full of gorgeous floral detail, and I am loving the sampler on page 44, too. It's a perfect way to mark Chinese New Year, and can also be used to make individual cards for birthdays – I've got a few in mind already.

Let out your romantic side with our floral cupid silhouette on page 20, and stitch a courting couple as they secretly meet under the boughs of an old oak tree (p12). Or, if understated blooms are more your style, then I think you'll love our bouquet on page 50, celebrating the flowers of Scotland.

Spring is such a special time of year, when I always feel inspired and full of hope. I can't wait to see which of our seasonal projects inspire you!

Zeena

Zeena Moolla, Editor

We award this medal to designs and products as a mark of our seal of excellence

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A charming folk-style project for the new season, bursting with bright colours

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Follow the leader

Enjoy the sweet sight of spring ducklings as you stitch this cosy creation for your home

Meet the designer
Carol Thornton

Watercolour artist Carol sketches and paints her gorgeous works of art before turning them into cross stitch designs. She creates charts for various magazines and has attracted legions of fans who love her distinctive style of artwork, which translates beautifully into cross stitch.

"This mother duck and her brood invoke feelings of love, spring, and new beginnings. I hope you enjoy the uplifting colours, too."

Stitcher's guide

This design is worked on 28-count white evenweave over two threads of the fabric in 25 shades of cotton. Cross stitch is in two strands of cotton, with lots of fractional stitches throughout. The backstitch is worked in one strand, and French knots also add extra detail in one strand. This project is recommended for experienced stitchers.

How to stitch the design

1 Find the centre of your fabric by folding it in half horizontally and vertically. Follow the arrows to find the centre of the chart and start stitching here, working your way outwards.

2 Work the cross stitch over two threads of the fabric using two strands of cotton. For every tiny symbol you see on the chart, work a fractional stitch.

3 Work the backstitch using one strand of black cotton.

4 Work the French knots in one strand of cotton.

5 Check over your stitching and prepare for making up.

You will need

Fabric Zweigart 28-count white evenweave measuring 22x60cm (8½x23½in)

Threads Stranded cotton as listed in the key

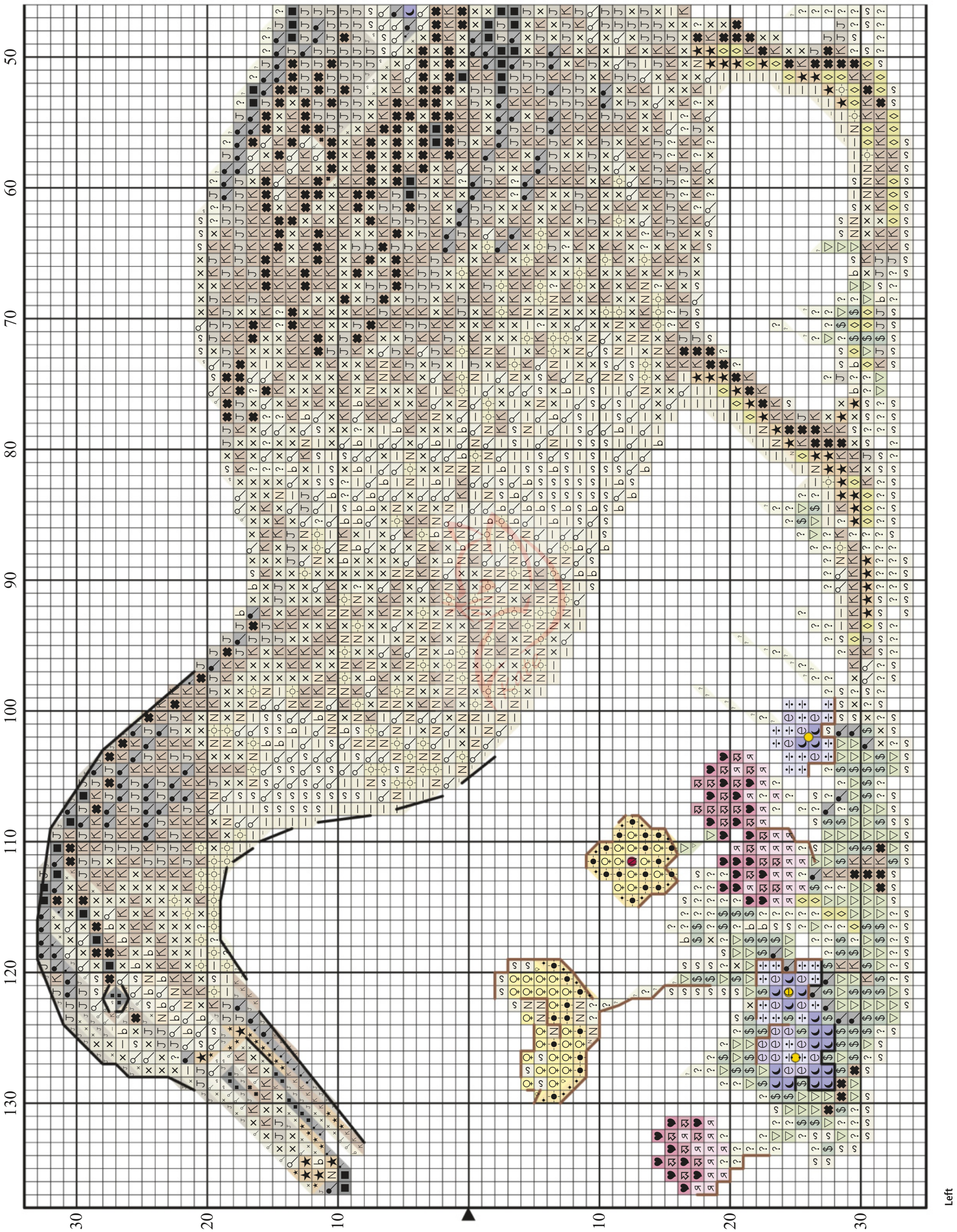
Needle Size 24 tapestry needle

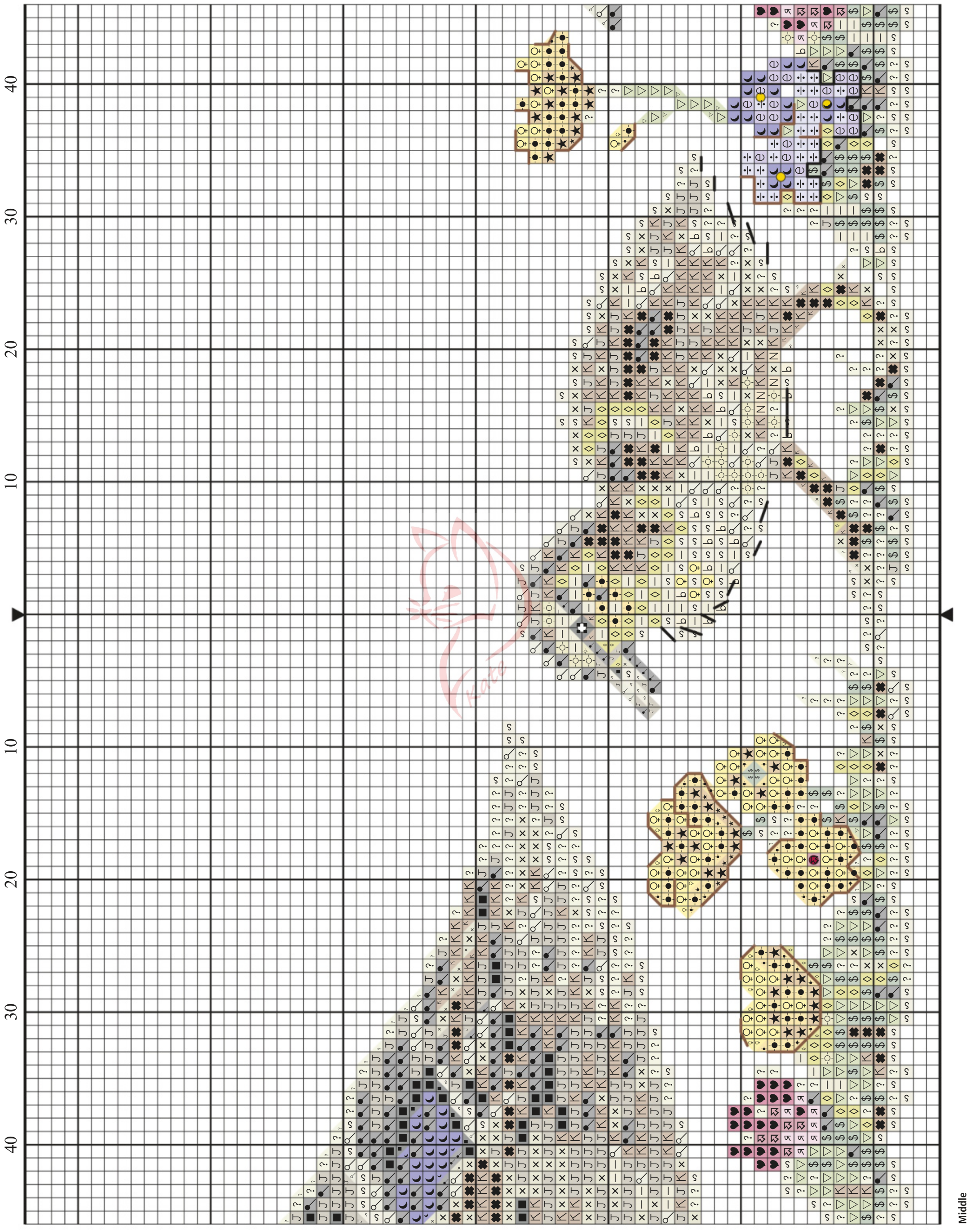
Extras Backing fabric and stuffing of your choice from local craft stores

FOR STOCKISTS' DETAILS turn to page 59

"This design would make a lovely gift for a new mum or a family with three little ones. For a quicker project, try working one of the ducklings on its own, with a few flowers, to make a beautiful card."
Hannah Erskine, Charting Assistant

Draught excluder

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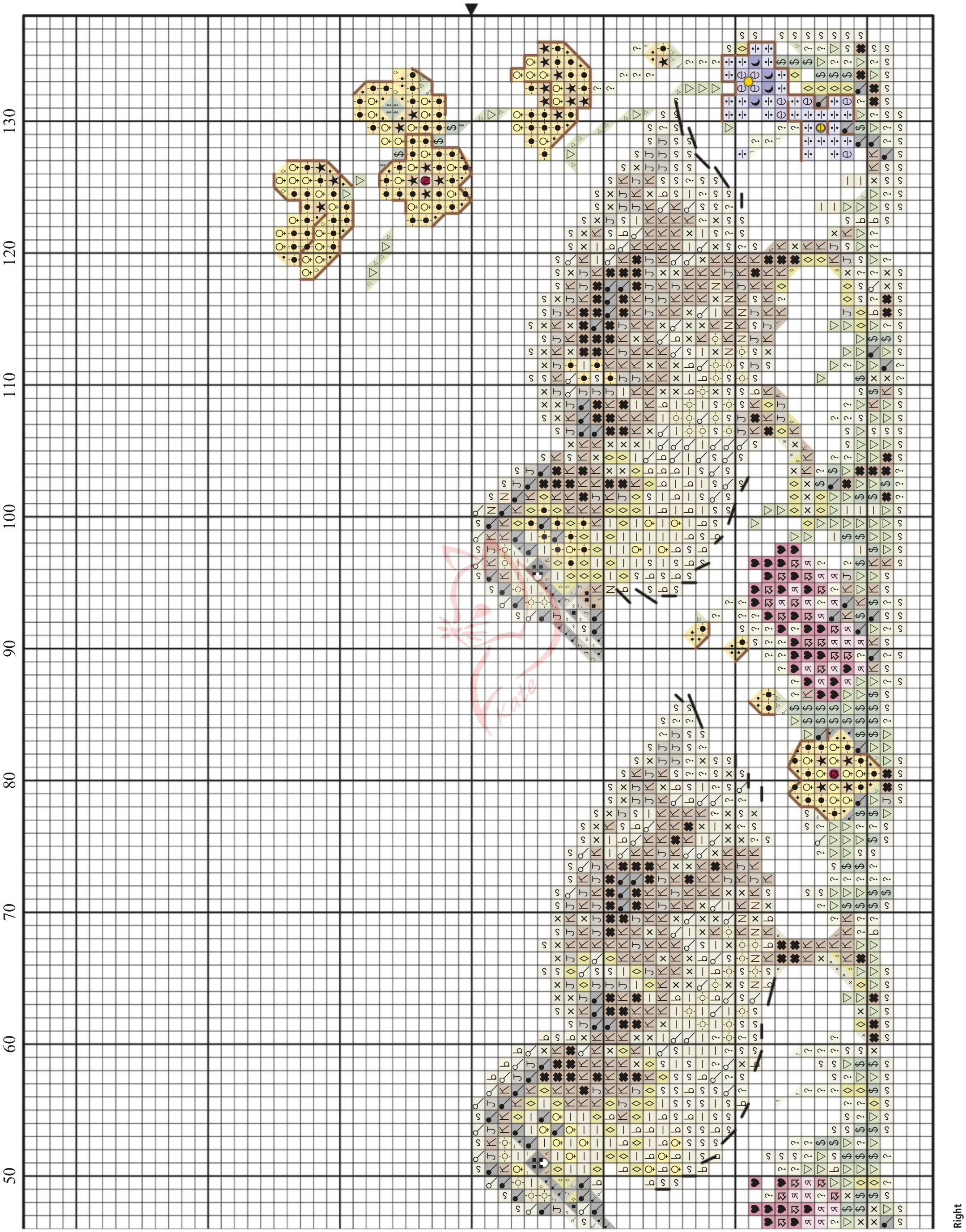
Draught excluder



Stitch tip

Always cut the thread ends close to the fabric on the back of the work. This will stop them tangling or carrying through to the front

How make up the draught excluder

1 Trim your finished stitching, leaving a 3cm (1¼in) border around the sides. Cut a panel of backing fabric to the same size.

2 Pin the stitching to your backing fabric, with right sides facing. Sew a 1cm (½in) seam around all four edges, leaving a 10cm (4in) gap for turning through and stuffing.

3 Trim the corners, turn through to the right side and press. Insert your stuffing and then neatly slip-stitch the gap closed.

Ducks key

Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
♀	307	289	104	lemon yellow
■	310	403	2400	black
⊖	340	118	902	purple
÷	341	117	901	light purple
▽	368	214	1310	green
↖	413	236	1713	grey
N	437	362	2012	tan
$	502	877	1703	sage green
?	524	858	1511	fern green
Я	605	1094	613	pink
↖	644	830	1814	light ash grey
J	646	8581	1812	ash grey
●	725	305	113	yellow
◊	734	279	1610	olive green
b	739	366	2014	cream
★	783	306	2509	gold
☾	792	177	905	blue
S	822	390	1908	pearl
☼	3046	887	2206	straw
–	3047	852	2205	light straw
☒	3733	75	605	rose pink
✖	3781	1088	2003	dark brown
×	3782	899	1911	brown
♥	3831	1006	507	raspberry pink
K	3863	379	1913	beige

Backstitch in one strand

—	310	403	2400	black
—	413	236	1713	grey

French knots in one strand

●	307	289	104	lemon yellow
○	3047	852	2205	light straw
●	3831	1006	507	raspberry pink

STITCH COUNT 67 high x 274 wide
DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 12x50cm (4¾x19½in)
STITCHED BY Sheila Webb

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

CAROL THORNTON'S
Designer Secrets

Fluffy chicks

To get a fluffy effect, I've kept the top edges of the ducklings backstitch free, so that the stitches appear downy and soft. At the bottom there are a few little backstitches for extra definition around their bellies.

"Waddling along through the grasses, these spring ducklings are taking their first tentative steps into the world. Nothing says spring quite like a wildlife scene – sweet, simple and sure to delight anybody."
Fiona Baker, Technical Editor

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The star letter writer in this issue will receive this Wrendale Designs kit, Crackers about Cheese, courtesy of Bothy Threads. You can buy this kit for £29.49 from www.bothythreads.com or call 01900 828844. All other letter writers will receive a mystery prize.

Simply stunning

I am particularly proud of this picture. My mum is a very talented dressmaker who not only used to make bridalwear, but made all of my clothes, and my siblings', when we were children. In fact, she didn't stop making the odd garment until I left home at the age of 20! Growing up, we were surrounded by a plethora of dressmaking patterns, and most were by Simplicity. When I saw this kit, I knew I had to stitch it for my mum. It will be her Christmas present this year and is so appropriate for her, particularly as she was the one who taught me how to sew and cross stitch at a very young age. The design is called Simplicity Vintage and is made by Dimensions.

Yaina Davies, by email

Zeena: This is such an elegant piece for any seamstress, and I'm sure your mum will really appreciate the sentiment behind it. She sounds like a talented lady.

Trainspotting

My godfather loves trains, so I just had to find a train cross stitch for him. I started it in May, but having my little boy in August caused severe disruption, so I only finally finished the piece last week.

Lindsey Roberts, Coalville

Zeena: What a thoughtful gift, Lindsey. I love the striking colours. You did so well to complete it with a new baby to look after, too!

Bunny love

I made this Guess How Much I Love You project and got it framed a couple of months ago. It's the biggest thing I've ever made at A3 size on 18-count aida, and I was so proud to see it finished!

Isabella Bason, Chepstow

Zeena: You should feel proud, Isabella – it's a beautiful design and a lovely finish. Those hours of work have really paid off. Well done!

Magical nursery

GOLD STAR LETTER

I recently finished this fantasy unicorn from issue 119 (July 2015) of *Gold*. I was so excited to put it in my daughter's nursery! It took me a while to complete with all the tiny details and many beautiful colours, but in the end it's truly a masterpiece that completes the room. Now, on to the next project!

Christine McGee, New York

Zeena: You've put such care into your daughter's nursery decor, Christine. This is a design that she will love as she grows older, too.

A secret romance

Capture a moment of sweetness between a young couple in love, with Lesley's romantic, period piece

Meet the designer
Lesley Teare

Lesley is an experienced cross stitch designer with a degree in Printed and Woven Textiles, and many years of design experience. She creates designs for a wide range of stitching magazines, and has a range of cross stitch books to her name, too. Lesley lives and works in rural Suffolk, where she enjoys gardening and country walks with her labrador.

"This secret meeting place, down by the river, makes a stunning backdrop for my courting couple. I've added billowing clouds for a sense of drama."

Stitch tip

Grid your fabric into 10x10 squares to help keep your place and avoid mistakes on this large, densely stitched design

Stitcher's guide

This design is worked on 14-count white aida in 32 shades of stranded cotton. Cross stitch is worked in two strands of cotton, with fractionals throughout for detail. Backstitch adds definition in one strand of thread, and French knots are also worked in one strand. This design is recommended for experienced stitchers.

How to stitch the design

1 Find the centre of your fabric by folding it in half both ways. Find the centre of the chart and start here, working outwards.

2 Work the cross stitch using two strands of cotton. For every tiny symbol you see on the chart, work a fractional stitch.

3 Add the backstitch detail using one strand of cotton.

4 Work the French knots using one strand of cotton.

5 Check over your stitching and prepare for framing.

You will need

Fabric Zweigart 14-count white aida measuring 51x44cm (20x17¼in)

Threads Stranded cotton as listed in the key

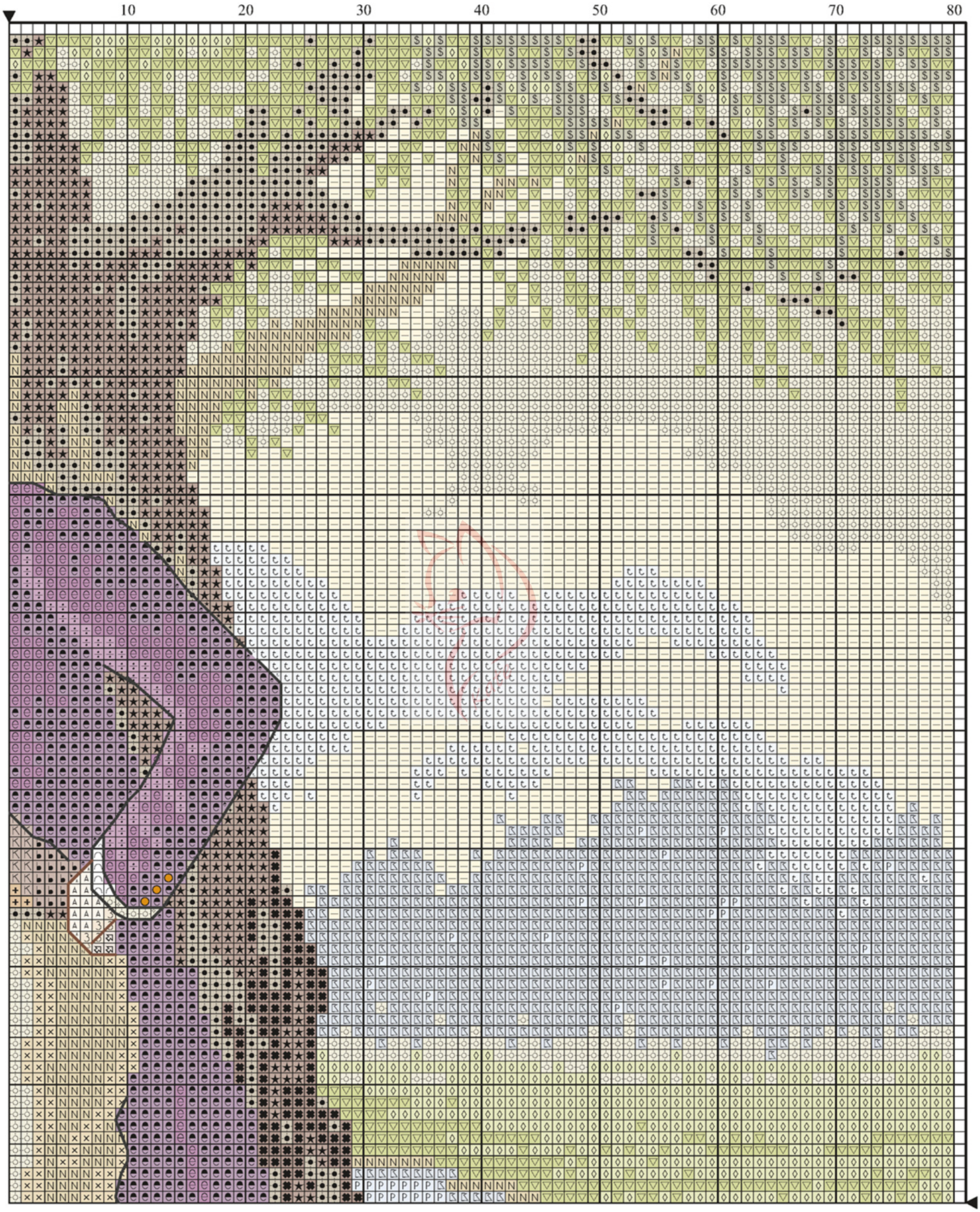
Needle Size 24 tapestry needle

Extras Frame and mount of your choice with a minimum aperture of 36x29cm (14¼x11¼in)

FOR STOCKISTS' DETAILS turn to page 59

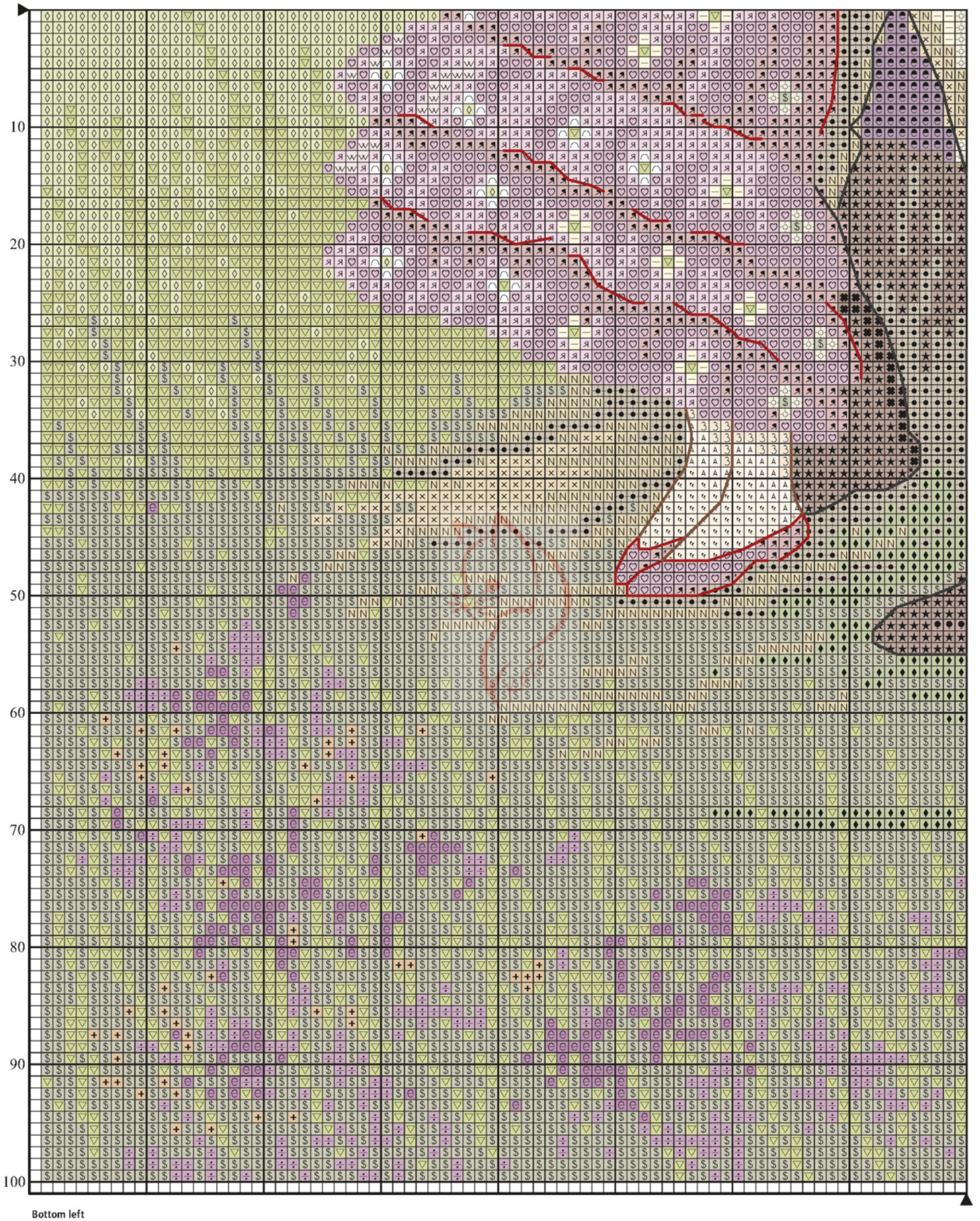
Courting couple

Top left

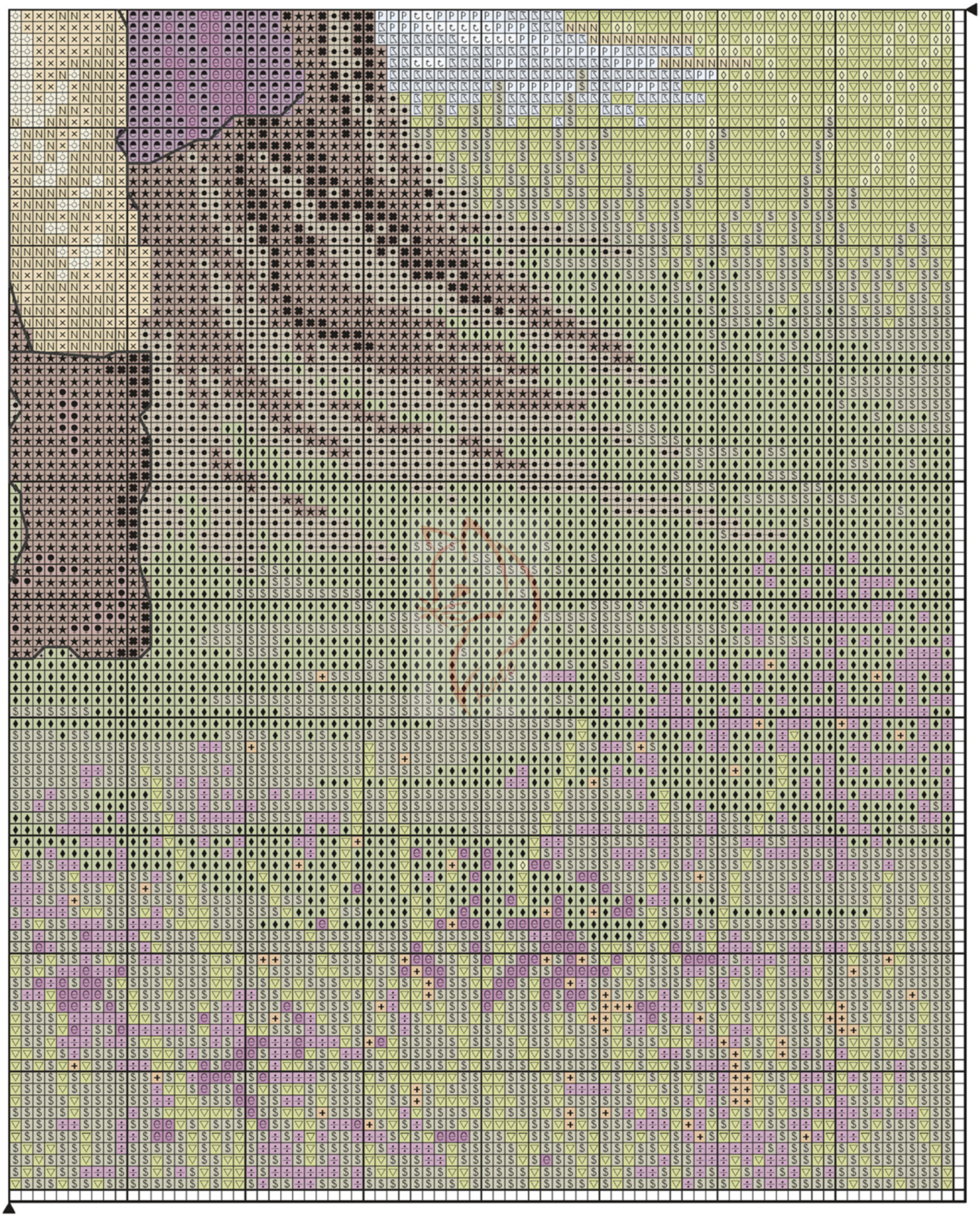


Top right

Courting couple



Bottom left



Bottom right

Courting couple key

Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	blanc	2	2402	white
e	154	873	2607	dark violet
t	162	9159	1001	delft blue
K	301	1049	2306	ginger
■	310	403	2400	black
b	400	351	2305	dark ginger
×	422	943	2102	light tan
▽	581	280	1609	lime green
-●-	869	375	2105	dark tan
$	937	262	1504	avocado green
★	938	380	2005	brown
A	950	4146	2309	peach
W	963	73	502	rose pink
+	976	1001	2010	copper
-○-	3047	852	2205	straw
P	3325	129	907	light blue
♦	3345	268	1406	dark green
◊	3348	264	1409	green
✖	3371	382	2004	dark brown
ꓤ	3687	68	604	dark pink
♡	3688	66	605	pink
Я	3689	49	607	light pink
K	3755	140	1013	blue
З	3771	868	2605	apricot
☙	3774	778	306	light peach
—	3823	386	2512	yellow
N	3828	373	2103	tan
e	3834	101	2609	violet
÷	3835	98	712	light violet
♀	3858	1007	811	rosewood
ঘ	3859	1013	2310	light rosewood

Backstitch in one strand

—	938	380	2005	brown
—	3803	69	603	very dark pink
—	3858	1007	811	rosewood

French knots in one strand

●	976	1001	2010	copper

STITCH COUNT 199 high x 159 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 36x29cm (14¼x11¼in)

SKEINS NEEDED **3x581** (lime green), **2x869** (dark tan), **4x937** (avocado green), **2x938** (brown), **2x3047** (straw), **2x3345** (dark green), **2x3823** (yellow)

STITCHED BY Debbie Hart

This design was stitched using DMC stranded cotton

"This design is powerfully romantic, even down to the colours. It's a perfect stitch for your Valentine."

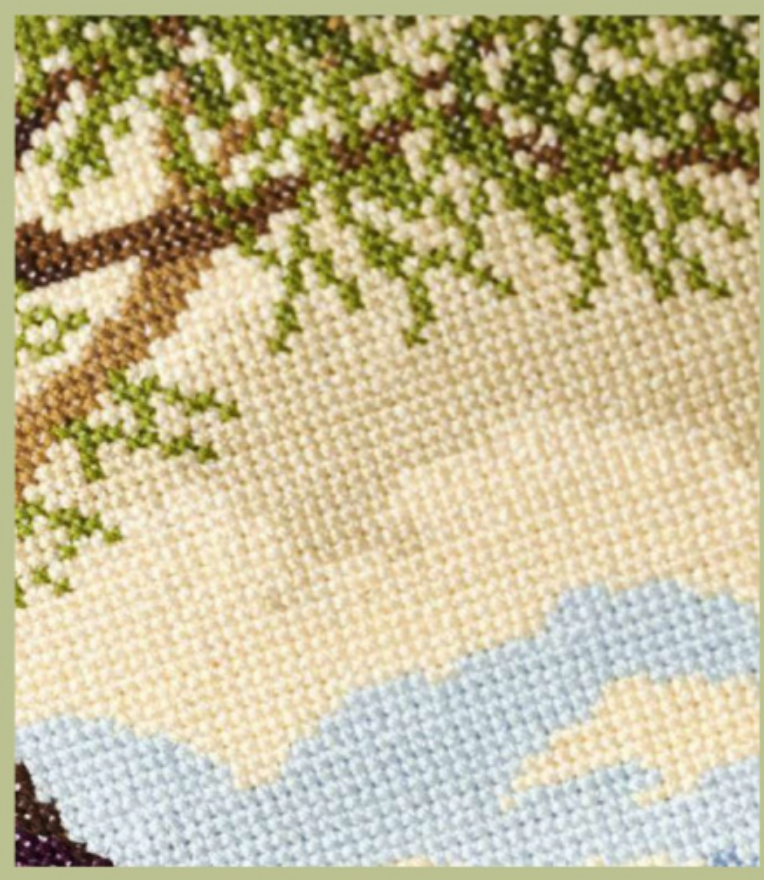
Zeena Moolla, Editor

LESLEY TEARE'S

Designer Secrets

Colour blocks

Although this design is densely stitched, I've tried to introduce some lighter areas that will be more relaxing to work on. So, when you (and your eyes) need a break from fractionals, French knots and the similar green shades in the grassy foreground, move to the upper portion of the design. Here you'll find a few larger blocks of colour for the clouds and sky.



Aida or evenweave?

We've chosen aida for this densely stitched design, as it's a much stiffer fabric than evenweave and is therefore less likely to become distorted as you stitch. Although it's not as attractive as evenweave, in this case you won't actually see the fabric as the design areas is completely covered with stitches. Just remember that on aida, you will need to use a sharp crewel needle to split the fabic when working any fractional stitches or areas of intricate backstitch.

Stitch tip

When working on detailed pieces with lots of similar colours, always ensure you have a good light and a magnifier to hand

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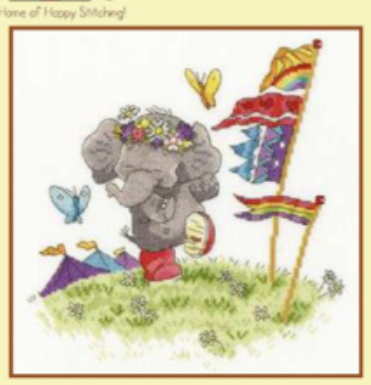

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Be my Valentine...

Forget wine and chocolates – go straight to their heart with a floral silhouette of Cupid, the god of love

Meet the designer
Fiona Baker

Fiona has always had a passion for art and design from an early age, and loves the creativity in her role as Technical Editor for *Cross Stitch Gold*, as well as our sister magazines, *Cross Stitch Crazy* and *The World of Cross Stitching*.

"I've created animal silhouettes with tartan and Scandi patterns in the past – this is the same idea, but with a more feminine and romantic feel for Valentine's Day."

Stitcher's guide

This design is worked on 28-count blue linen over two threads of the fabric in nine shades of stranded cotton. Cross stitch is in three strands of cotton, with fractionals for extra detail. Backstitch is worked in one, two and three strands of black cotton. This project is recommended for experienced stitchers.

How to stitch the design

1 Find the centre of your fabric by folding it in half both ways. Find the centre of the chart and start stitching here, working your way outwards.

2 Work the cross stitch over two threads of the fabric using three strands of cotton. For every tiny symbol you see on the chart, work a fractional stitch.

3 Add the backstitch detail using one, two or three strands of black cotton.

4 Check over your stitching and prepare for making up.

You will need

Fabric Zweigart 28-count blue linen (3281/562) measuring 43x43cm (17x17in)

Threads Stranded cotton as listed in the key

Needle Size 24 tapestry needle

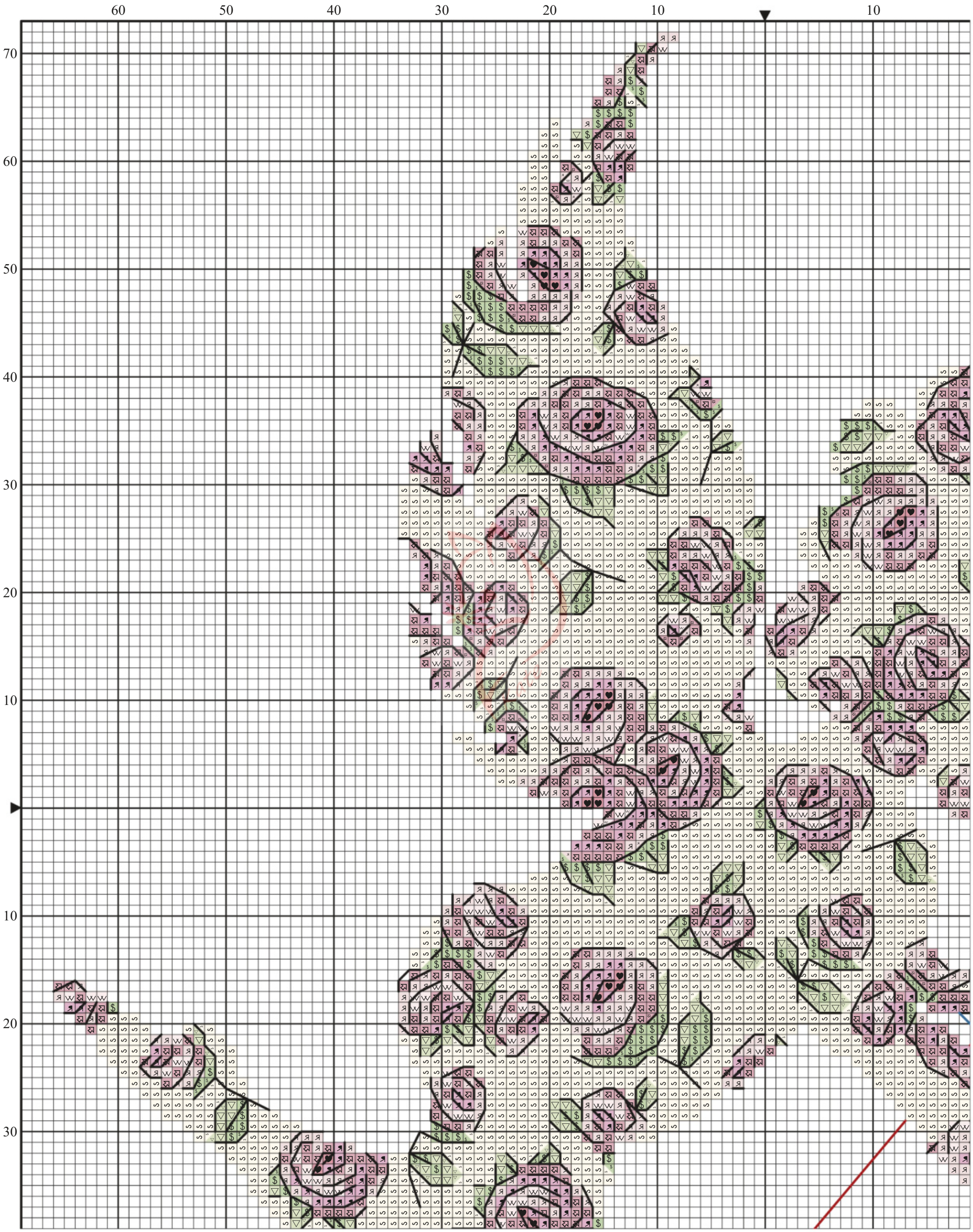
Extras 12in wooden quilting hoop (QH12) from www.siestaframes.com; white paint, white felt for backing and ribbon of your choice from local craft stores

FOR STOCKISTS' DETAILS turn to page 59

Stitch tip

Stitching Cupid for a wedding or anniversary? Add names and dates to make your design more personal

Cupid hoop



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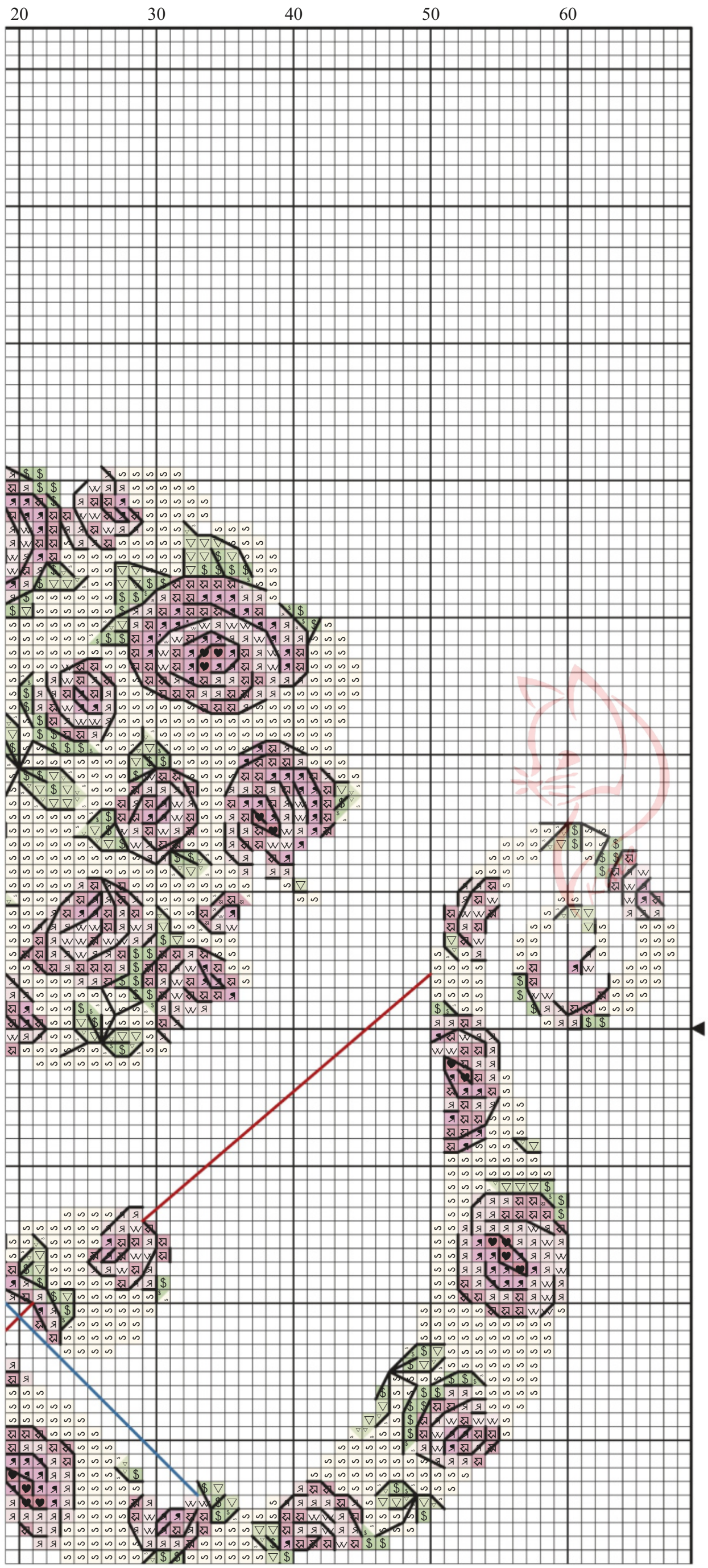


Top right

Floral cupid key

Cross stitch in three strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
$	367	217	1312	dark green
▽	368	214	1310	green
s	712	926	2101	cream
♥	3350	42	603	very dark pink
я	3354	36	2610	light pink
w	3713	1020	502	salmon pink
ꝟ	3731	76	506	dark pink
ꝟ	3733	75	605	pink

Backstitch in one strand

—	310	403	2400	black

Backstitch in two strands

—	310	403	2400	black

Backstitch in three strands

—	310	403	2400	black

STITCH COUNT 144 high x 136 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 26x24.5cm (10¼x9¾in)

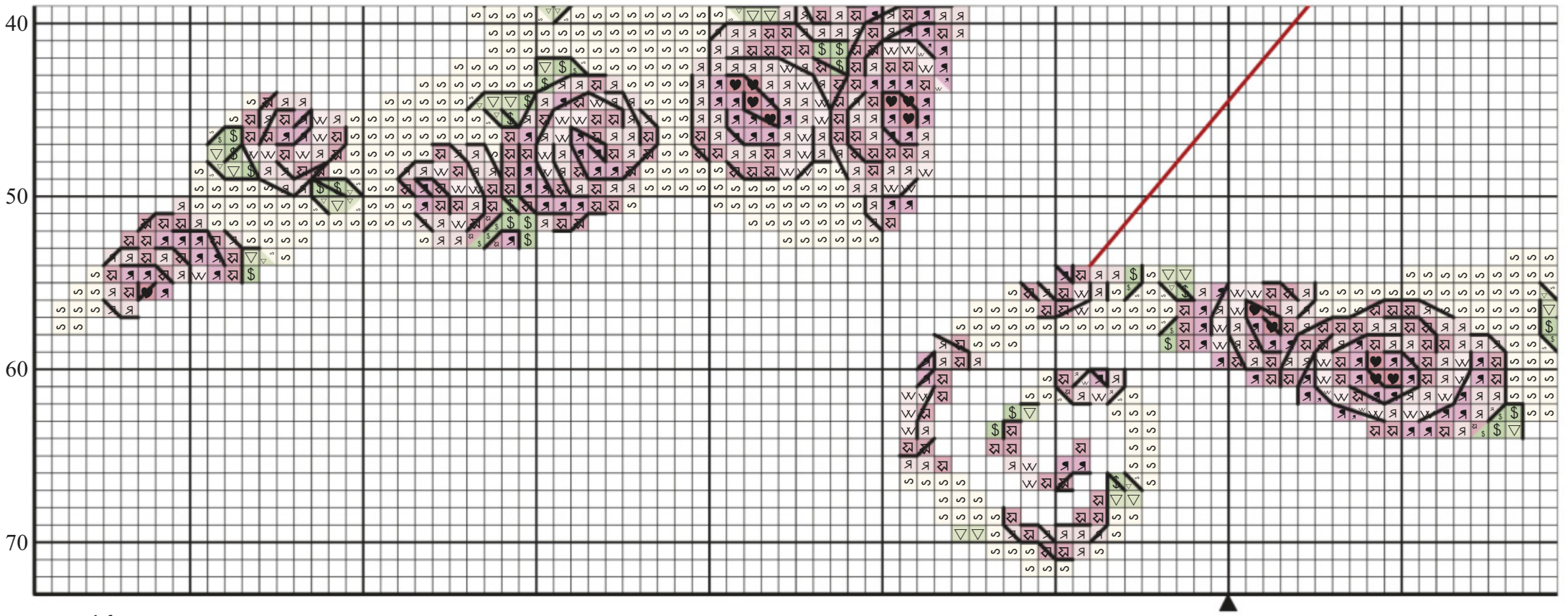
SKEINS NEEDED **2x712** (cream)

STITCHED BY Sandra Doolan

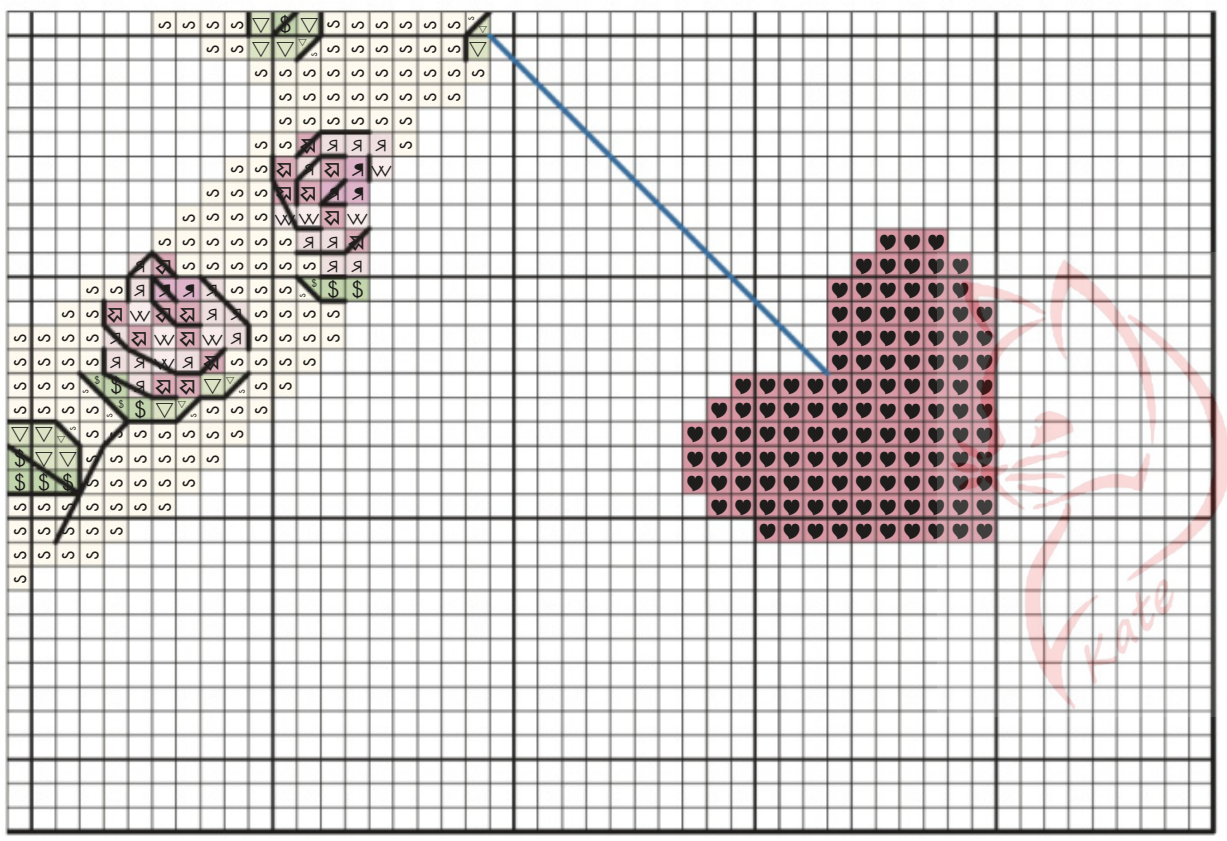
This design was stitched using DMC stranded cotton on 28-count evenweave over two threads of the fabric

"Try switching up your colours for a different effect – cream linen would look lovely, but remember to change the background colour of cupid to a light blue shade for contrast."

Zeena Moolla, Editor



Bottom left



Bottom right

How to frame in a hoop

1 Trim your stitching to approx. 5cm (2in) larger than your inner hoop, then cut a piece of felt slightly smaller than the inner hoop.

2 Insert your fabric into the hoop, making sure the design is straight and central, with the screw at the top. Tighten the screw, keeping the stitching taut like a drum.

3 Gather the edge of the fabric at the back using running stitch, then tack the felt to the back of the stitching. Hang with ribbon to finish.

Stitch tip

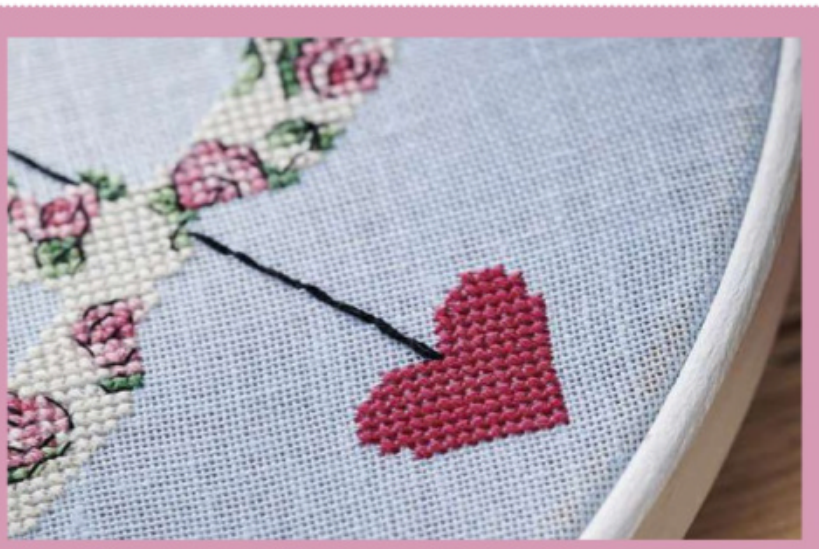
Keep the fabric clean in between stitching sessions by rolling it up inside a cardboard tube

FIONA BAKER'S

Designer Secrets

Pretty petals

To get more definition on the rose petals and leaves, which are quite small, I have used a few fractional stitches. These should be easy to work on the linen, as you won't need to split the fabric like on aida – just work into the central hole of the square for the quarter stitch.



Strands matter

The delicate rose pattern is outlined in one strand of black cotton, while the bow and arrow use two and three strands to emphasise the lines more clearly. Try to keep these strands of thread lying neatly side by side, as it will look messy if they are twisted.

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A tranquil moment

Stitch this Victorian lady as she delights in the peace and quiet of her garden, and the patient art of sewing

Meet the designer
Amanda Gregory

Based in the West Country, Amanda is a talented watercolour artist, cross stitch designer and dressmaker. Her work is suffused with gorgeous colour combinations and a great sense of detail, and her beautiful designs regularly appear in a range of popular cross stitching magazines.

"This printed fabric sets the design off a treat, creating a soft, subtle background for my vibrant hollyhocks and hydrangeas. What a lovely spot for some summer stitching."

Stitcher's guide

This design is worked on Fabric Flair 28-count printed evenweave over two threads of the fabric, in 33 shades of stranded cotton. Cross stitch is in two strands of cotton, with a few fractionals for extra detail. Backstitch is worked in one strand, while French knots in one strand add the finishing touch. This project is recommended for experienced stitchers.

How to stitch the design

1 Find the centre of your fabric by folding it in half both ways. Find the centre of the chart and start stitching here, working your way outwards.

2 Work the cross stitch over two threads of the fabric using two strands of cotton. For every tiny symbol you see on the chart, work a fractional stitch.

3 Add the backstitch detail using one strand of cotton.

4 Work the French knots using one strand of cotton.

5 Check over your stitching and prepare for framing.

Stitch tip

Let your needle hang to untwist the threads every so often, for the best coverage of the fabric

You will need

Fabric Fabric Flair 28-count Meadow View evenweave measuring 50x45cm (20x18in) from www.sewitall.com

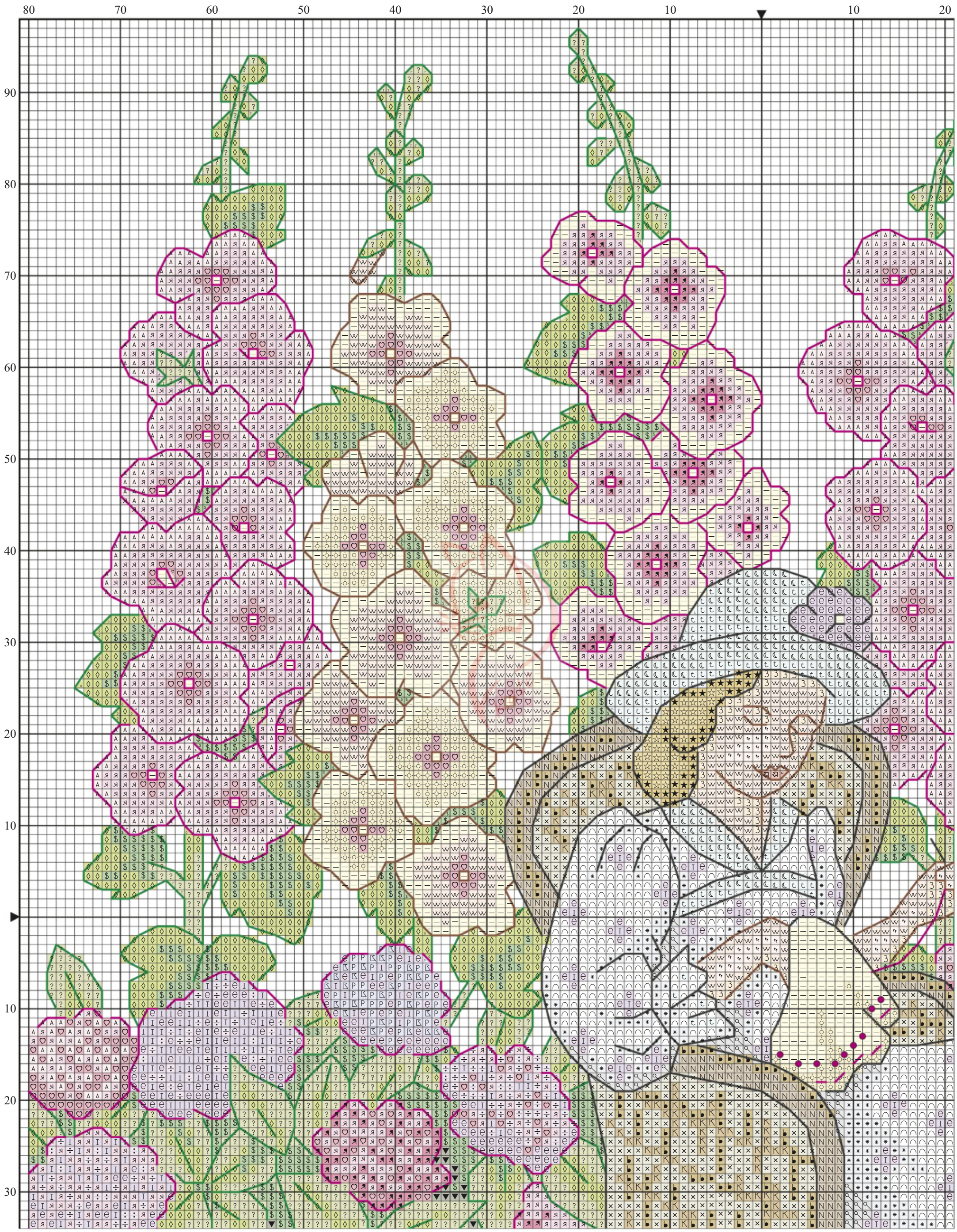
Threads Stranded cotton as listed in the key

Needle Size 24 tapestry needle

Extras Frame and mount of your choice with a minimum aperture of 36x29cm (14¼x11½in)

FOR STOCKISTS' DETAILS turn to page 59

Sewing lady



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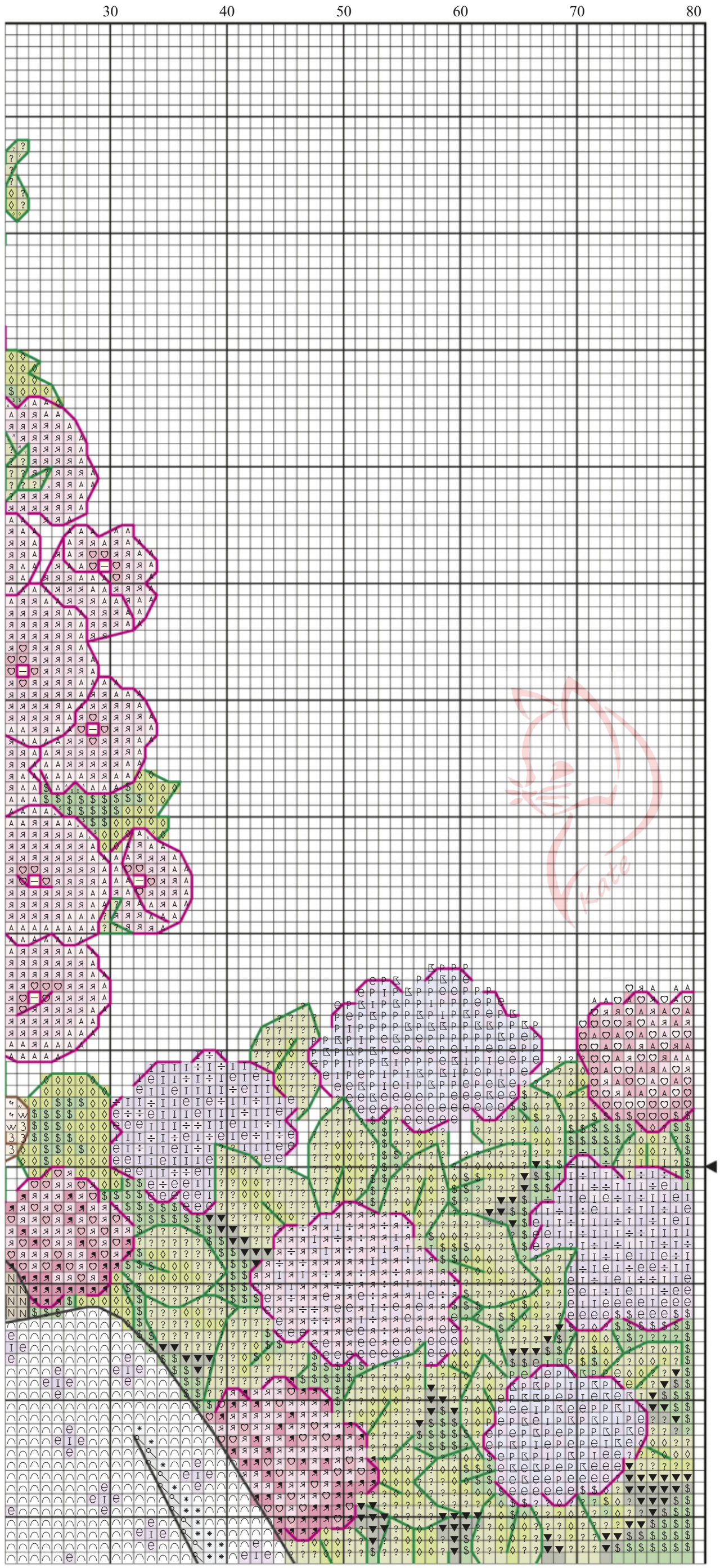


Top right

Sewing lady key

Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	blanc	2	2402	white
?	16	254	1308	light green
I	26	108	2711	light lilac
b	167	373	1607	tan
e	209	98	803	dark lilac
÷	211	342	801	lilac
▼	319	212	1313	almond green
K	341	117	902	purple
⚘	352	9	303	coral
⚲	415	398	1802	grey
⚑	602	57	702	dark pink
♡	603	55	505	pink
я	605	1094	613	light pink
☼	677	886	2207	sand
$	701	227	1305	dark green
◊	704	255	1307	green
—	746	275	2511	cream
☾	747	158	1104	sky blue
*	762	234	1804	light grey
A	818	23	502	baby pink
N	841	1082	1911	brown
З	945	881	2309	peach
w	951	1010	2308	apricot
K	3045	888	2103	straw
×	3046	887	2206	light straw
P	3747	120	901	light purple
❦	3770	1009	2314	light peach
t	3811	1060	1101	blue
☆	3821	305	2510	gold
★	3852	306	2514	dark gold

Backstitch in one strand

—	319	212	1313	almond green
—	632	936	2311	terracotta
—	718	88	707	magenta
—	3799	236	1713	dark grey

French knots in one strand

●	718	88	707	magenta

STITCH COUNT 194 high x 160 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 35x29cm (13¾x11½in)

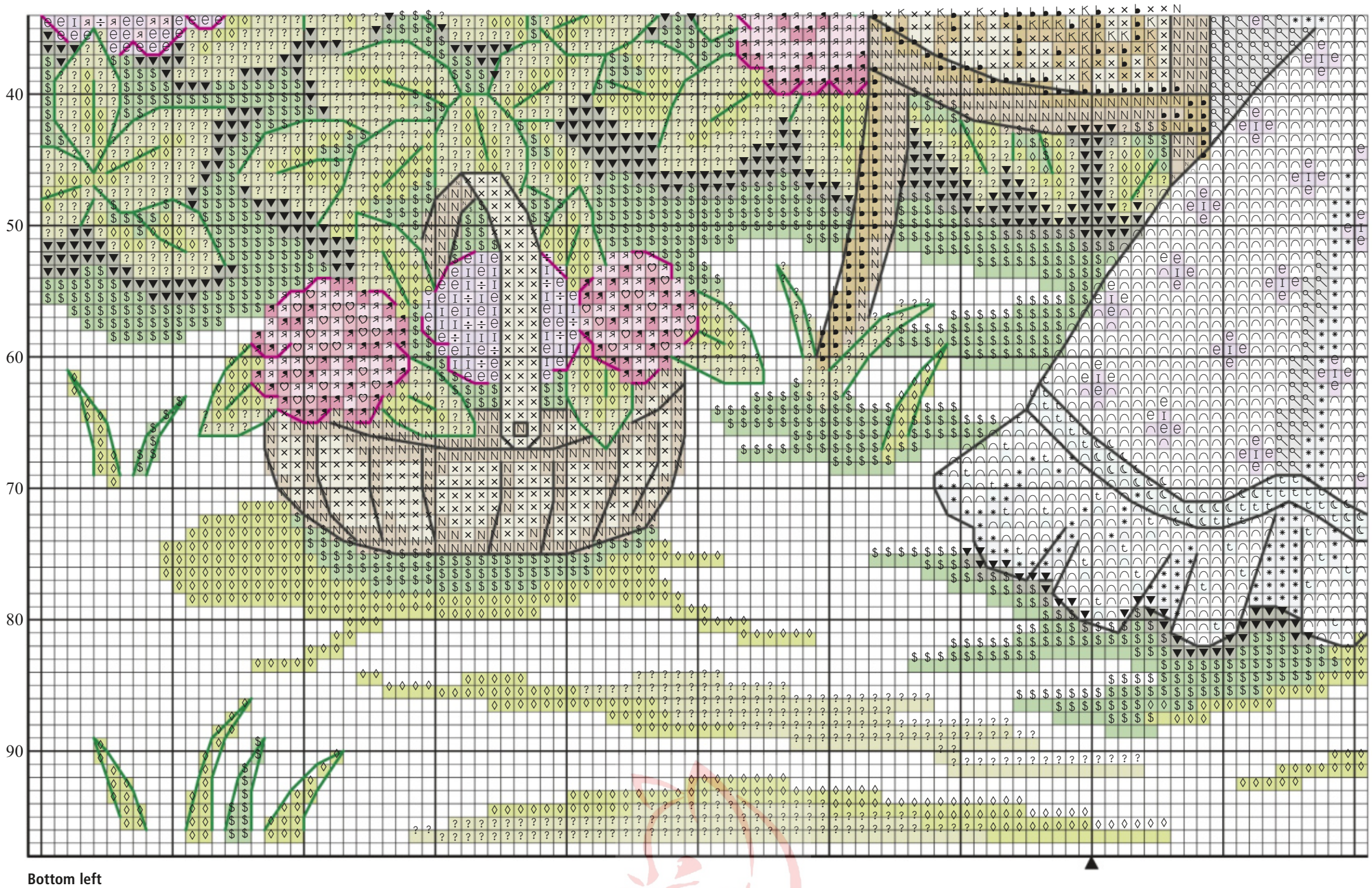
SKEINS NEEDED **2xblanc** (white), **2x16** (light green), **2x605** (light pink), **2x701** (dark green), **2x704** (green)

STITCHED BY Niki Byrne

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

Working on printed fabric

This design was created specially with Fabric Flair's Meadow View fabric in mind, to add an extra dimension to the garden scene. The fabric comes as a pre-cut piece measuring 45x50cm, so simply fold the fabric in half and half again, then start stitching from the centre as normal.



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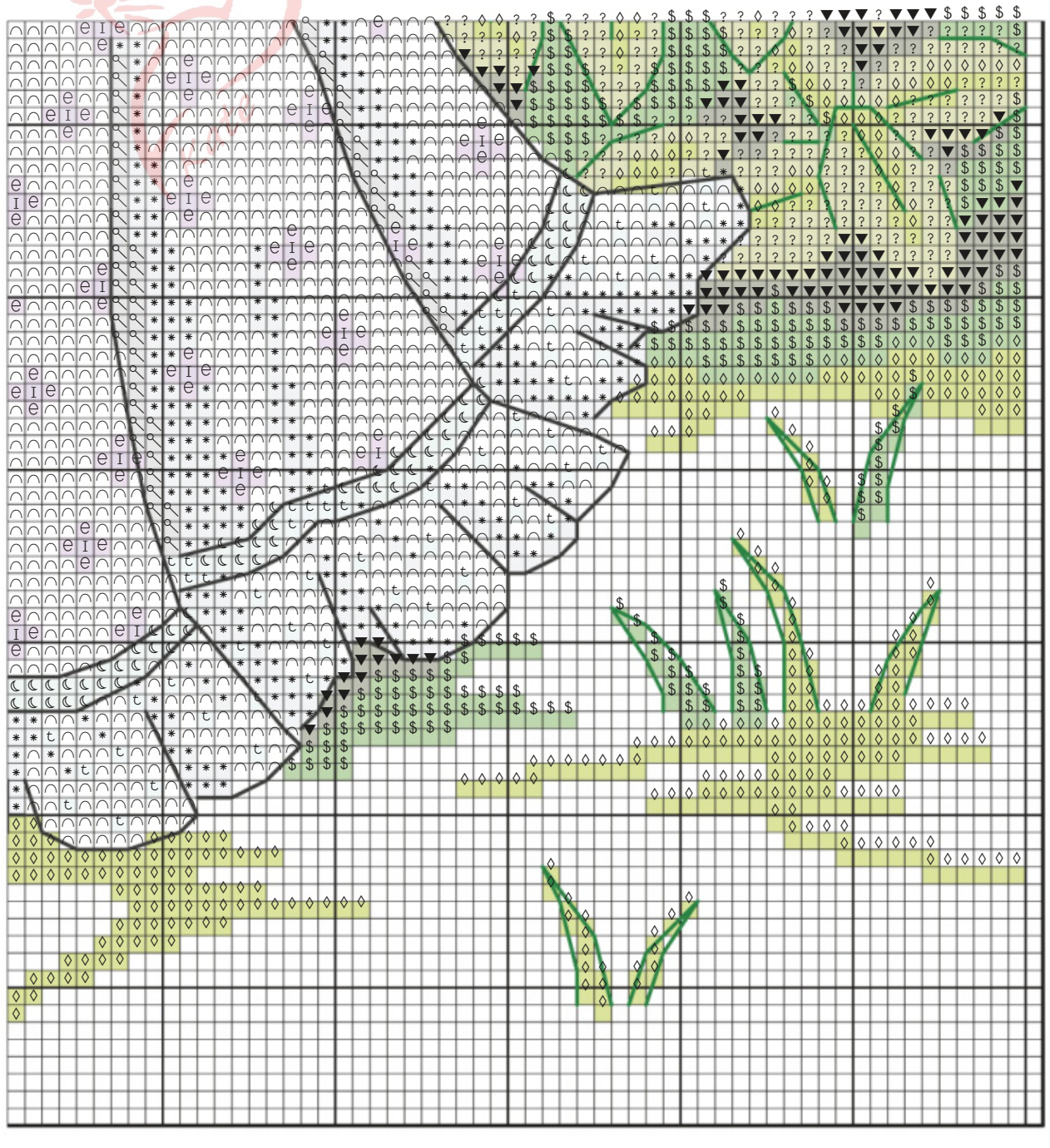
"I love an English country garden scene, and the addition of this Victorian lady, peacefully stitching away, adds extra charm. It would look gorgeous on the wall of a sewing room."

Fiona Baker, Technical Editor



Bottom right

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Enter today for the chance to win vouchers to spend at Wool Warehouse and Creative Poppy, a winter robin kit, plus Birmingham show tickets!

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Stash boost

£200 in prizes to win!

From cross stitch kits to stranded cottons and scissors, Wool Warehouse offers everything you need for your next stitching project. If you're looking for a new design to get started on, you're sure to find one you like amongst the selection of kits by Mouseloft, Luca-S, DMC and more, plus don't forget to check out their range of stitching accessories and haberdashery items, too. Visit www.woolwarehouse.co.uk to start browsing and shopping today.

➜ We've got a £25 gift voucher to give away to eight winners. See below for entry details

Winter wonder

£260 in prizes to win!

Capture the beauty of nature in winter with this charming design by Nigel Artingstall Wildlife. Featuring a robin perched on a snowy branch, it's a scene we'd love to stumble across on a crisp country walk. Robin in Winter (£28.90) comes as a kit with all you need to bring this feathered friend to life, including Zweigart fabric, DMC stranded cottons, a needle, and clear charts and instructions. See more designs at www.hcrafts.com.

➜ We've got nine Robin in Winter kits from Heritage Crafts to give away. See below for entry details

Creative crafting

£252 in prizes to win!

We've teamed up with The Creative Craft Show Birmingham to offer you the chance to win a pair of tickets to this fantastic crafting extravaganza, incorporating three creative shows. Taking place at the NEC from 19th-22nd March 2020, visitors will be treated to over 200 stands selling the latest supplies, inspirational features and a host of experts on hand to give advice and share top tips. Find out more at www.stitchandhobby.co.uk.

➜ We've got nine pairs of one-day passes to The Creative Craft Show to give away. See below for entry details

Happy shopping

£250 in prizes to win!

Offering designs from all over the world, including patterns by popular designers like Shannon Christine, Barbara Ana, Lesley Teare, Faby Reilly and so many more, Creative Poppy is a great resource for any stitcher. With downloadable PDF charts and a wide range of themes and styles available, you'll be sure to find plenty of seasonal stitching projects to get your needle twitching. Browse the amazing selection at www.creativepoppypatterns.com.

➜ We have a £10 voucher for 25 lucky readers to spend on anything from Creative Poppy. See below for entry details

The closing date for entries is 25th February 2020.
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Spring is in the air

Stitch birds, bees, blooms and bunnies in this delightful spring sampler, bursting with colour!

Meet the designer
Durene Jones

Prolific designer Durene Jones creates cross stitch charts for a range of stitching magazines. Her work is well loved for its modern and colourful tone, but she is a versatile designer and can turn her hand to any theme or style. Before starting on her creative cross stitch career, Durene worked as a graphic designer.

"This spring hanging will make a fun way to welcome visitors, letting them know that your home is a bright, happy place to be."

Stitcher's guide

This design is worked on 28-count evenweave over two threads of the fabric in 14 shades of stranded cotton. Cross stitch is worked in two strands of thread, while backstitch is in one strand. French knots in one strand add detail to this project, which could be tackled by intermediate stitchers.

How to stitch the design

1 Find the centre of your fabric by folding it in half both ways. Find the centre of the chart and start stitching here, working your way outwards.

2 Work the cross stitch over two threads of the fabric using two strands of cotton.

3 Add the backstitch detail using one strand of cotton.

4 Work the French knots in one strand of cotton.

5 Check over your stitching and prepare for making up.

You will need

Fabric Zweigart 28-count cream evenweave (3270/264) measuring 35x35cm (13¾x13¾in)

Threads Stranded cotton as listed in the key

Needle Size 24 tapestry needle

Extras Backing fabrics, buttons, wooden dowel rod and ribbon of your choice from local craft stores

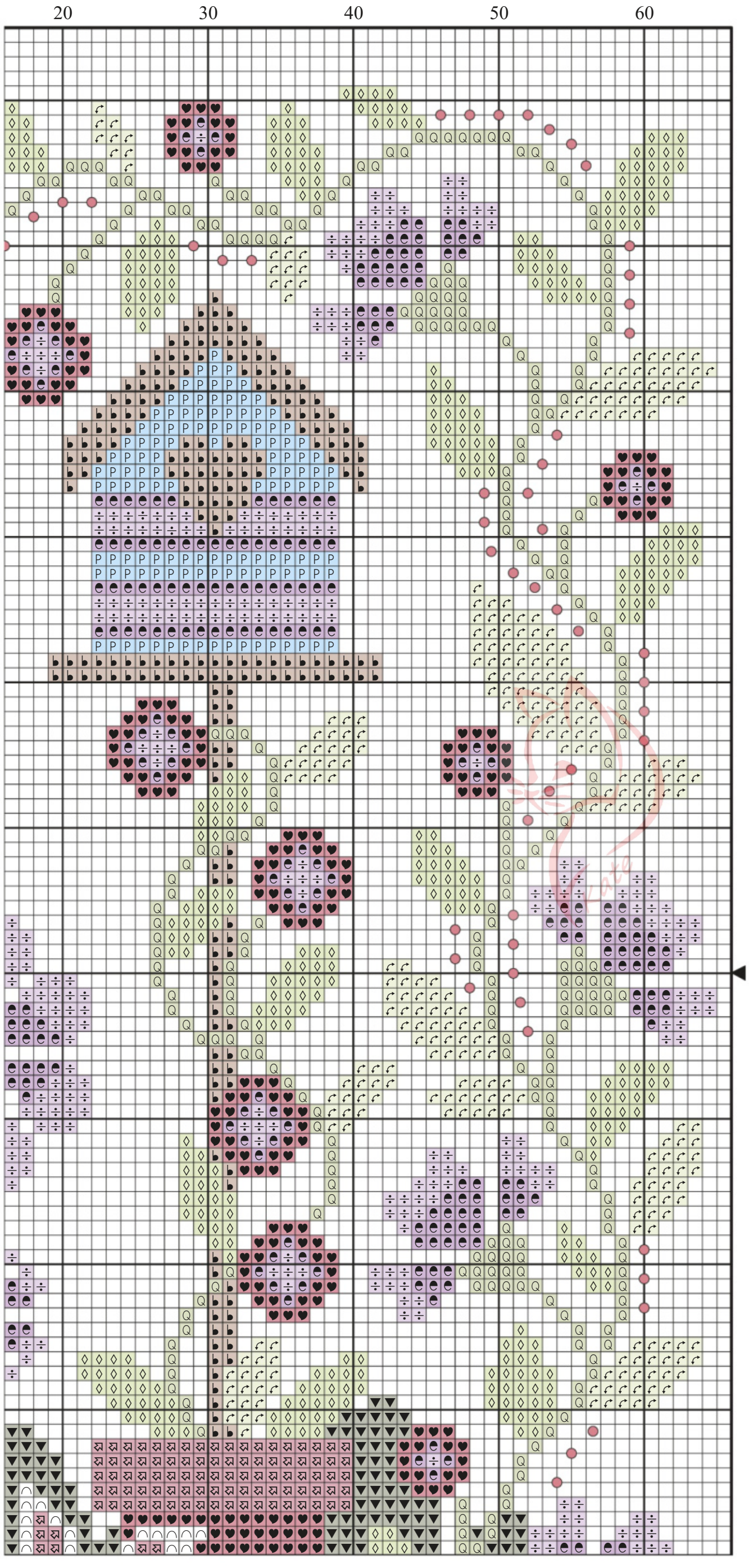
FOR STOCKISTS' DETAILS turn to page 59

Stitch tip

For a slightly padded finish, add a thin layer of wadding behind your stitching before you make the hanging

Spring hanging

Top left



Top right

Spring key

Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
◠	B5200	1	2401	white
◊	164	240	1209	soft green
◓	208	99	804	dark lilac
÷	209	98	803	lilac
■	310	403	2400	black
↶	369	1043	1309	green
♭	839	1050	1913	brown
▼	895	1044	1405	dark forest green
Q	989	241	1401	forest green
P	996	433	1103	electric blue
♥	3350	42	603	dark pink
ञ	3733	75	605	pink
◺	3760	161	1107	blue
+	3853	1003	311	copper

Backstitch in one strand

—	310	403	2400	black
—	839	1050	1913	brown

French knots in one strand

●	839	1050	1913	brown
●	3733	75	605	pink

STITCH COUNT 129 high x 129 wide

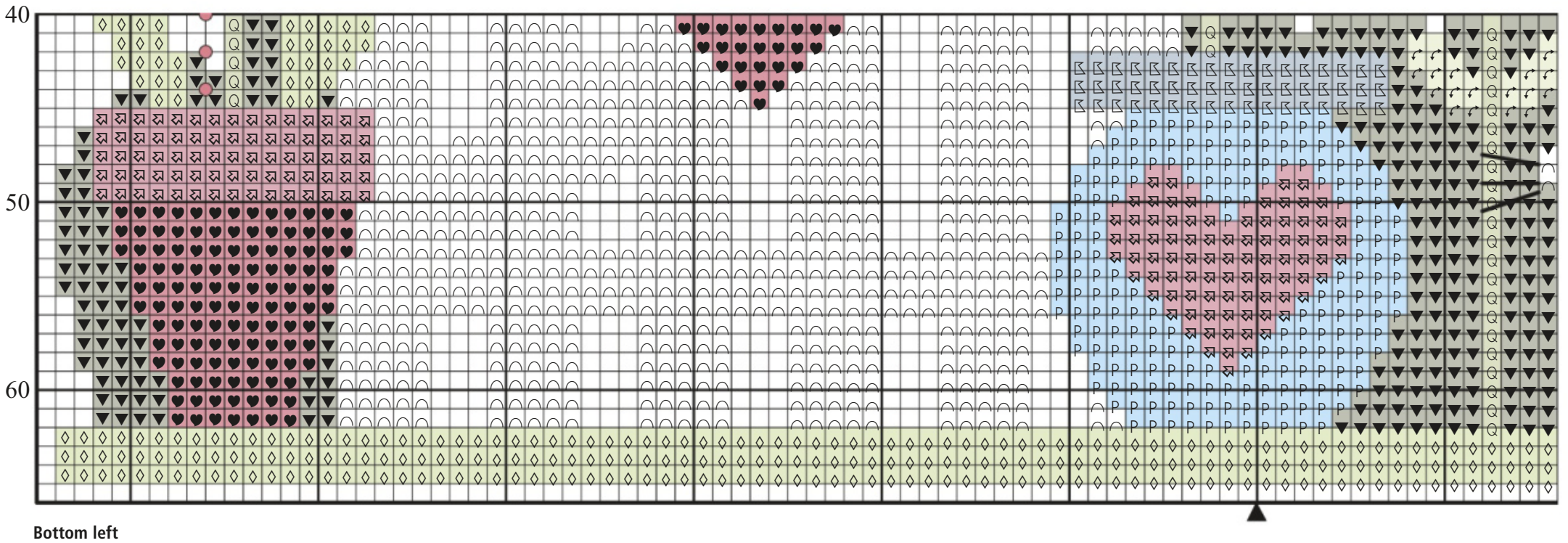
DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 23.5x23.5cm (9¼x9¼in)

STITCHED BY Glenda Dickson

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

"Durene's bold colour choices work brilliantly on the creamy background. Bright shades and whole stitches make this a must-stitch project for me."

Hannah Erskine, Charting Assistant



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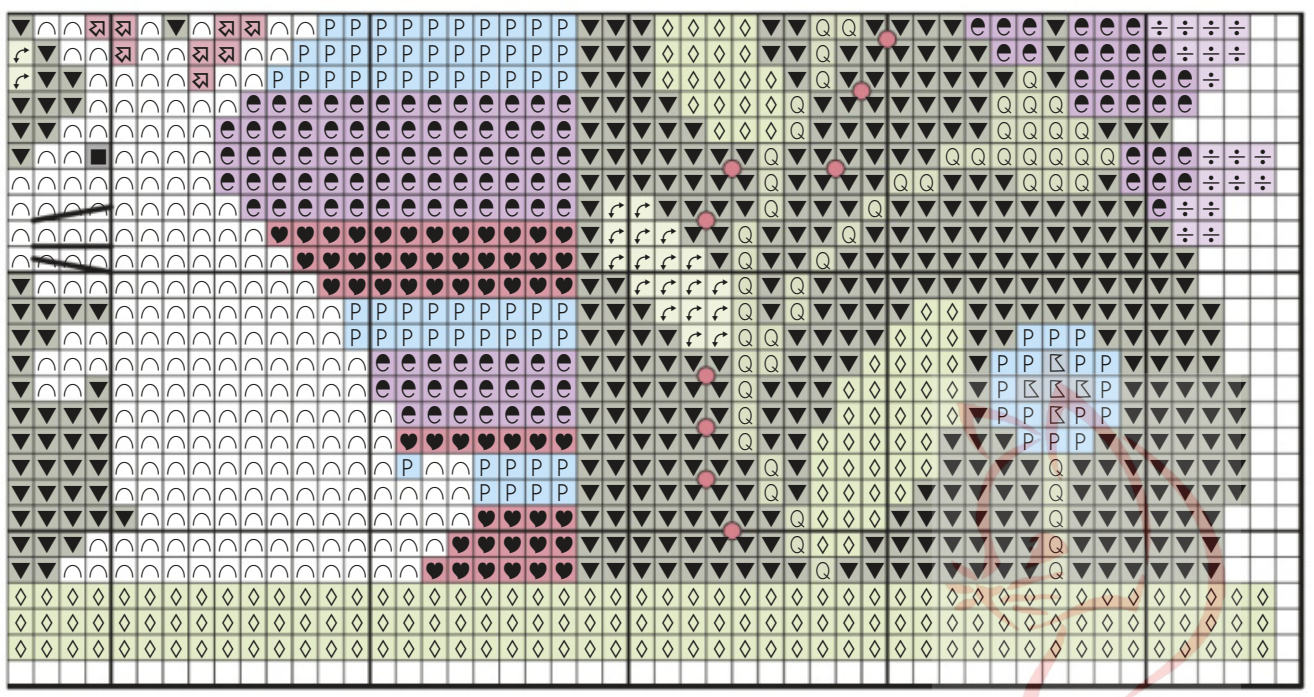

Bottom right

DURENE JONES'S

Designer Secrets

Bunny friend

I couldn't resist adding the little bunny rabbit to this spring scene. Together with the bird and the bees, he adds a bit of life to the garden, and also makes this a fun choice for Easter stitching. Don't forget his whiskers for the finishing touch! He would make a cute gift tag all on his own, as would some of the flower or heart motifs.

Stitch tip

This design is also ideal as a cushion cover. Follow step 1 to make the front panel, then add an envelope-opening back

How to make a hanging

1 Cut out your stitched piece leaving a 1.5cm (½in) border. Cut out two panels of backing fabric to 5.5x25cm (2¼x10in). Sew these to the top and bottom of your stitching with a 1cm (¼in) seam allowance (use throughout). Then cut out two panels measuring 5.5x32cm (2¼x12½in). Sew these either side of your stitching.

2 Cut out a panel of backing fabric to match the front piece. Place the back and the front piece of your hanging together with right sides facing. Stitch around the edges using a 1cm (½in) seam, leaving a 5cm (2in) gap at the top edge. Turn through to the right side, sew up the gap and press.

3 To make a tab, cut a strip of fabric measuring 16x8cm (6¼x3¼in). Fold in half lengthways and sew in place with a 1cm (½in) seam, leaving a 2cm (¾in) gap for turning. Turn through, close gap and press. Repeat for second tab.

4 Fold tab in half over the top edge of the hanging. Stitch a button to the centre of tab, ensuring you sew through all the layers. Repeat for the second tab. Insert dowel rod and hang with ribbon, to finish.

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Ask the experts

Send your questions to **zeena@cross-stitching.com** or Ask the experts, *Cross Stitch Gold*, Eagle House, Colston Avenue, Bristol BS1 4ST

THE EXPERTS

JO BENNER
Jo is an experienced stitcher and knitter, who writes for several craft magazines. She's on hand to help with chart queries and stitching know-how, as well as product questions.

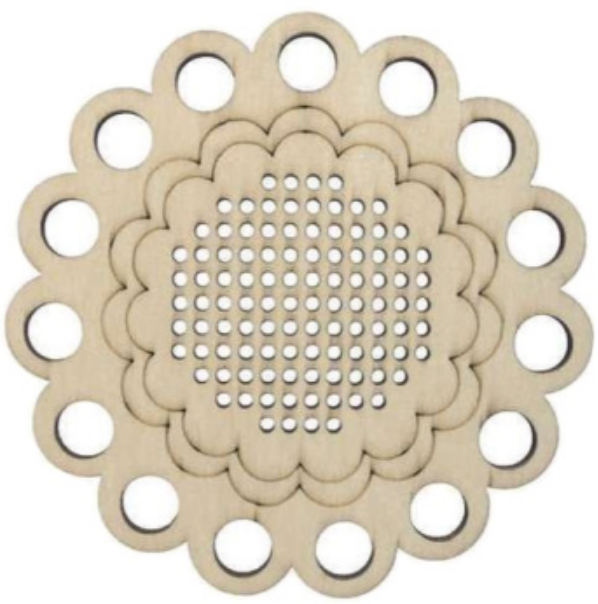
FIONA BAKER
Fiona is the Technical Editor for *Cross Stitch Gold* and our sister magazines. She is a talented cross stitch designer too, and can answer any of your stitching queries.

HEATHER NUGENT
Heather is the Charting Editor for *Cross Stitch Gold* and our sister magazines. With a passion for stitching and sewing, she is here to help with charting and making-up questions.

Tangled threads

Q I like to make time for cross stitch when I'm sitting in the car waiting for the kids to come out of school. I have made up a small travel kit but still find that my threads get in a tangle. What's the best way of stopping this?
Polly Giles, Newbury

A Fiona: Trimits Embroidery Thread Holders are small enough to pop into a little bag. They help to stop tangles and enable you to have quick access to the threads that you need. There are four different designs to choose from – flower, owl, spool or unicorn – and each centre has a little area where you can personalise it. Add an initial, a contemporary pattern or keep it plain. It's handy to have a couple, depending on your project, and at only £2.50 each from www.outbackyarns.co.uk they won't break the bank! They measure 8.5x9cm but some have more holes for your thread than others, so if you're working with lots of colours the flower thread holder is the one to choose.



Make a personalised thread sorter to keep your cottons tangle free

Sequin sparkle

Q I would like to stitch some sequins onto a cross stitch picture that I've finished, to add a bit of sparkle. Would the sequins cut into the fabric or threads, and is there a special technique to sew them on?
Joanne Mason, Lambeth

A Jo: There's no need to worry about them damaging the fabric, as they will lie flat on the top. There are two ways to sew on sequins – overlapping or singly. If you sew them in an overlapping line, then the stitch that holds them will barely show. You just bring the needle up through the fabric and the centre of the sequin, take the thread to the edge of the sequin, make the tiniest stitch and bring it up through the centre of the next sequin, and so on. To sew them singly, you need to anchor them a bit more securely, so you will need three stitches spread equally around the sequin in a 'Y' shape. And, as these stitches will show, it's best to use invisible or matching thread. To buy a jar of Nuvo sequins for £3.62 go to www.stuff4crafts.com.

Use sequins to add a bit of bling to your cross stitch

FAIRY SAMPLER

Q I need a name sampler kit for a little girl. Her bedroom is fairy themed so if you could find me a design that would go with the room, I would be so grateful.
Margie Avery, Nuneaton

Magical fairies to delight a little one

A Heather: This lovely fairy sampler is available from www.cottageneedlecrafts.co.uk. Visit the website and you will find all sorts of fashionable samplers to suit both boys and girls. The shorter the name, the cheaper the sampler will be as you pay £25 for the first capital and only £3 each for subsequent capital letters or £1.50 for each subsequent lower case letter. You will need to ask for a quote for the full kit – fabric, threads etc – or if you have a lot of threads just buy the key and the chart for 75% of the full kit price. The fairies are a delight and any little girl would be thrilled to have this on her bedroom wall.

Pearly shine

Q I've been knitting with a mercerised cotton and it's so lovely that I thought I would love to stitch with it, too, but it's much too thick! Are there any finer threads that have the same properties that I could stitch with?
Kelly Dunscombe, Stirling

DMC's Perle Cotton thread has a wonderful luminous sheen

A Fiona: Perle Cotton 8 from DMC is the thread you need, Kelly. It comes in 10g/80m balls and is highly mercerised for an intense sheen, as well as being soft and beautifully silky. Unlike stranded cotton, this is a non-divisible thread, but it's colourfast and can be used in all cross stitch and embroidery projects. With 18 variegated shades and over 100 solid shades in the range, you'll be spoilt for choice. To buy a ball for £2.29 go to www.dmc.com.

Butterfly bookmarks

Q Our sewing group is making bookmarks to sell at the local library for charity. We have made some simple ones already, but would like to make a few special ones that people may buy for gifts. Could you find us a chart (we have plenty of threads), please?
Jeanne Clayton, by email

A Heather: For only £4.80 you can download this chart from the DureneJCrossStitch shop at www.etsy.com, featuring a set of six colourful butterfly bookmarks. The finished size of each one is 5x17.8cm (2x7in) when stitched on 14-count aida or 28-count evenweave. Using whole and half cross stitches, backstitch and French knots, the designs should be easy to stitch for *Gold* readers. The key is for DMC thread – if you have other threads, such as Anchor or Madeira, you can find a conversion chart at www.cyberstitchers.com under 'stitching tools'.

Durene's butterfly bookmarks are a great stashbuster!

Crafty carryall

Q As I'm a multi-crafter who enjoys cross stitch as well as crochet, quilting and stumpwork, I could do with a small bag that would carry materials for a couple of these crafts. I like switching from one to the other, as it keeps me from being bored and prevents RSI.
Carolyn Augarde, Leicester

A Jo: Log onto www.hobbycraft.co.uk and there you will find the Denim Spot Craft Bag, which costs £21 and measures 39x35x12.5cm (15½x13¾x5in). Made from durable oilcloth, it's nice and roomy inside with the added advantage of the six large pockets all the way around. Kit up each project and pop it into a fabric shoe bag to put in the main section of the bag, which has a handy zip. Then store all your notions and across-the-board materials in the pockets – this way you will be able to access everything quickly.

Hobbycraft has a wide range of oilcloth bags to choose from

HOOP ART

Q I've stitched quite a few designs that could be framed in hoops. It gave me the idea of a having a collection on one wall, so I would love some tips on how to finish them to make them look neat and tidy?
Charlotte Frampton, Powys

A Fiona: There are quite a few charts designed for hoops. It's a modern, economical way to frame, and of course, the hoop keeps the fabric nice and taut. Don't be tempted to just leave your stitching in the hoop when you've finished, though – it's a good idea to wash, dry and iron it to remove creases and grubby marks, but do make sure it's really dry before you place it back in the hoop. For a neat finish, follow the step-by-step instructions for framing our Cupid design on page 20. Once this is done, you can sew a curtain ring or a loop of ribbon to the back so that you can hang it up. Painting the hoop or wrapping some narrow ribbon around it is also a nice way to make your hoop frames look different, helping to create an interesting display for the wall.

This design from www.tinymodernist.com (£5.50) fits a 20cm (8in) hoop

Modern touch

Q I mentioned to my husband that I would love a stand for my cross stitch. The reaction was not favourable! He said they looked old-fashioned and wouldn't suit our house, but I really need one! Can you find me a stand that is functional yet contemporary?
Maisie Villiers, London

A Heather: This Lowery stand (£99.86 with free postage) from www.lovecrafts.co.uk would be a great choice. A no-fuss, practical aluminium stand with a base that will rest under your bed, sofa or chair, it would suit most decors and is certainly not old-fashioned! You simply turn the lever screw a half turn and the workstand will swing away from you when you want to stand up. There are accessories such as a light bracket, magnetic board holder, side adjusting frame clip and daisy dish. And importantly, the clamphead can turn 360°, which means you can turn your work over quickly, and back again.

The Lowery stand comes in Red, Yellow and Blue as well as Silver Grey

Shopper's *guide*

Try a new technique or stitching style this season, and pick up some sweet gifts for your loved ones, too, with our spring roundup

GOLD STAR BUY

Promise of spring

Step into the new season with these stunning designs from Bothy Threads. Inspired by Japanese woodblock prints, Tulip Blooms and Daffodil Blooms are both worked on 14-count cream Zweigart aida using whole stitches and backstitch, so would make a challenging project for intermediate stitchers. The bright colours are a delight to behold, firstly on the pre-sorted thread cards, and then in the finished stitching where they bring two of our best-loved flowers to life. You can buy each kit for £32.99, and look out for the two other designs in this series – Water Lily Blooms and Dahlia Blooms.

Visit www.bothythreads.com or call 01900 828844

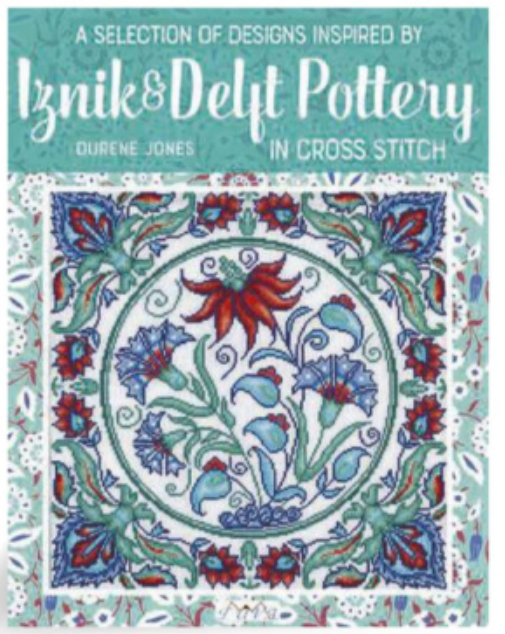
Perfect gift for a fellow stitcher!

BIRDS & BLOOMS

Keep your needles right where you need them with this pretty pair of resin magnets. Unlike most needle minders, where the magnet on the back of the fabric is a rather plain affair, this one is a sweet and smiling flower to complement the spring bird on the front. There are various colours to choose from – all bright and beautiful, and guaranteed to bring a smile to your day. Each needle minder pair costs £5.09.

Visit www.etsy.com/uk/shop/MindMyNeedleBoutique

Ceramic style



Collectors or admirers of pottery will be inspired by the lovely designs in this new book by Durene Jones. *Iznik & Delft Pottery in Cross Stitch* is a celebration of these two different styles, which are both colourful and decorative in their own unique way. From small designs including pincushions, tags and cards to larger and more intricate pictures, Durene makes sure there is something for everyone. Try using the smaller motifs repeated, to create edgings for towels and tablecloths, or combine them in a tile formation to make cushions and samplers. This brilliant book costs £10.49.

Visit www.amazon.uk to buy

Springtime stroll

Step back in time with a Victorian scene

Based on original artwork by H. Thomson, these elegant Walking Ladies have been carefully brought to life on 18-count beige aida using 25 soft, subtle colours, most notably pale greens and pinks. It's a beautiful effect, and something a little different from your usual ornately decorated, richly coloured Victorian scene. You'll use lots of half cross stitch and backstitch for the delicate background details, which form a large part of the overall design and create a perfect backdrop for the figures in the foreground as they step out for the day in all their finery. This impressive kit measures 24x32cm (9½x12½in) when finished and costs £27.27.

Visit www.panna-stitch.com for stockists

EASTERN BEAUTY

Bring a touch of oriental majesty into your home with the Eastern Beauty kit (R1834, £56.99) from Riolis. Worked on 14-count beige aida using Riolis's own woollen/acrylic threads and stranded cotton in 22 sumptuous shades, the detail in the jewel-coloured feathers is simply exquisite. Measuring 19x90cm (7½x35½in), this piece will add drama to any corner of your home, and comes with a pair of wooden hangers to finish it off beautifully.

Visit www.stitcher.co.uk or call 0161 464 7310

MODERN BLACKWORK

Bringing contemporary style to a traditional technique, this book by Bernadette Baldelli is a must for any blackwork enthusiast. *Blackwork Embroidery – Stitches, Techniques and 13 Modern Projects* (£9.99) is packed with 64 pages of charming ideas – stitch a basket, pouch, wall hanging, place mats, embroidered shirt, throw blankets and more, all with delightful finishing touches. Bernadette graduated from Paris's prestigious Duperré School of Applied Arts, and her artistic talent is a joy to behold.

Visit www.searchpress.com to buy

All my love

If you're running out of time to stitch a gift for your Valentine, we've got a quick-stitch fix. These wooden heart decorations come with pre-drilled holes for you to stitch into – just like the holes in aida – as well as pretty floral designs to follow. Create a mini heart, perfect for attaching to a keyring or necklace chain, or opt for the larger design, which would look beautiful hung on the wall from a loop of ribbon. A pack of four small hearts is £4.20, while the larger heart is £6.20 and also contains threads.

Visit www.hobbycraft.co.uk to buy

Festival of spring

Celebrate Chinese New Year – and the year of the rat – with our opulent sampler in red and gold

Meet the designer

Durene Jones

Prolific designer Durene Jones creates cross stitch charts for a range of stitching magazines. Her work is well loved for its modern and colourful tone, but she is a versatile designer and can turn her hand to any theme or style. Before starting on her creative cross stitch career, Durene worked as a graphic designer.

"In this sampler I've combined stylised zodiac animal motifs, Chinese characters and a decorative border in traditional bold colours. I hope you like it!"

Stitcher's guide

This design is worked on 28-count white evenweave over two threads of the fabric in six shades of cotton and one shade of metallic thread. Cross stitch is in two strands of cotton or metallic, with fractionals for extra detail. Half cross stitch is worked in two strands of cotton, and backstitch is in both one and two strands. French knots in one strand finish this piece, which is suitable for experienced stitchers.

How to stitch the design

1 Find the centre of your fabric by folding it in half both ways. Find the centre of the chart and start stitching here.

2 Work the cross stitch over two threads of the fabric using two strands of cotton or metallic thread. For every tiny symbol you see on the chart, work a fractional stitch.

3 Work the half cross stitch in two strands of cotton.

4 Add the backstitch detail using one or two strands of cotton.

5 Work the French knots using one strand of cotton.

6 Check over your stitching and prepare for framing.

You will need

Fabric Zweigart 28-count white evenweave measuring 44x40cm (17¼x15¾in)

Threads Stranded cotton and metallic threads as listed in the key

Needle Size 24 tapestry needle

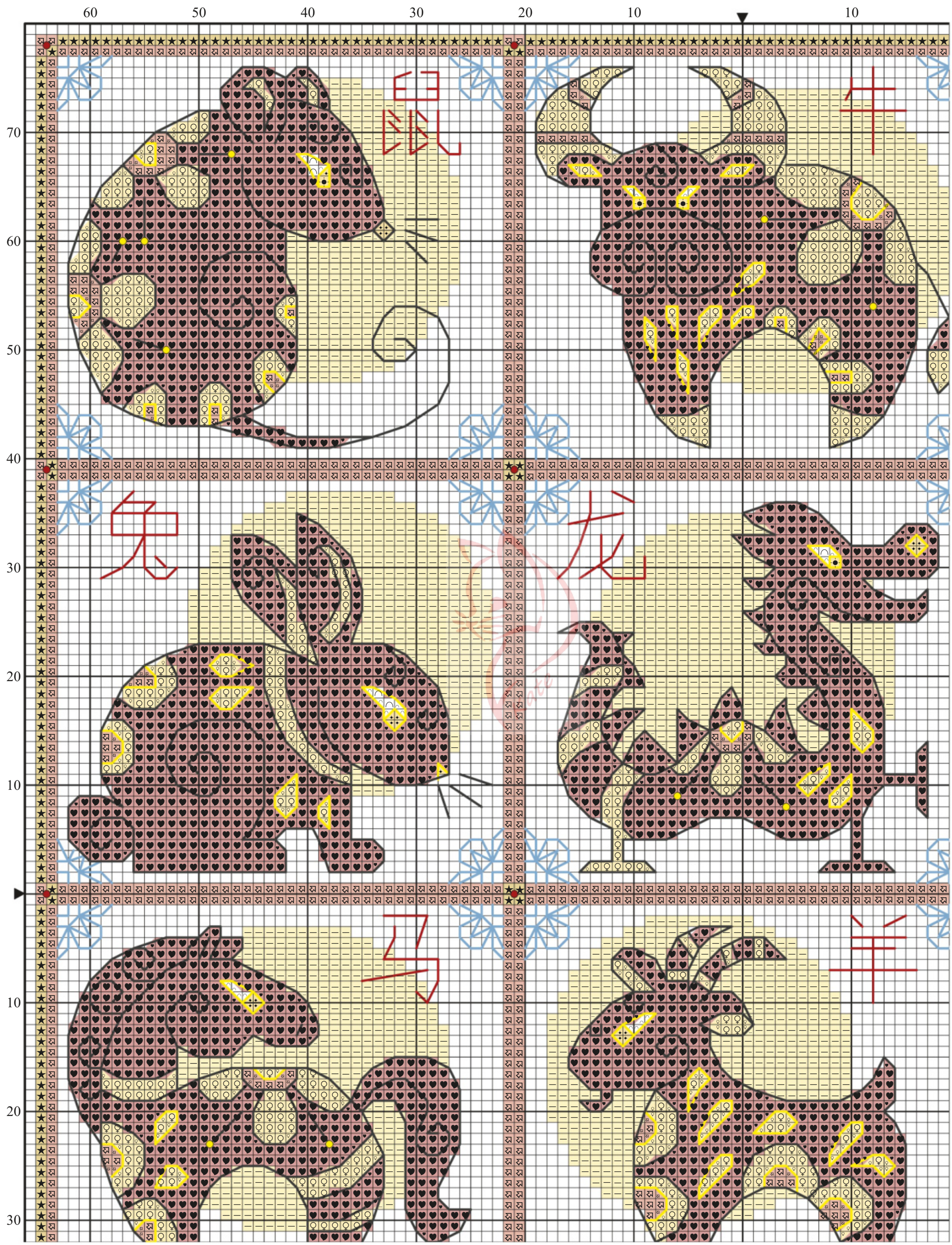
Extras Frame of your choice with a minimum aperture of 29x25cm (11½x9¾in)

FOR STOCKISTS' DETAILS turn to page 59

Stitch tip

Treat each square as a mini project, and try to complete each one in a few evenings to make good progress

鼠
牛
虎
兔
龙
蛇
马
羊
猴
鸡
狗
猪
福



Top left

Top right

Chinese New Year sampler key

Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
◠	B5200	1	2401	white
✖	351	10	214	coral
✦	728	305	107	gold
♥	817	13	210	red
♀	3822	295	2511	straw

Cross stitch in two strands DMC Light Effects

★	E3852			dark gold

Half cross stitch in two strands

—	727	293	112	yellow

Backstitch in one strand

—	351	10	214	coral
—	728	305	107	gold

Backstitch in two strands

—	728	305	107	gold
—	817	13	210	red

French knots in one strand

●	728	305	107	gold
●	817	13	210	red

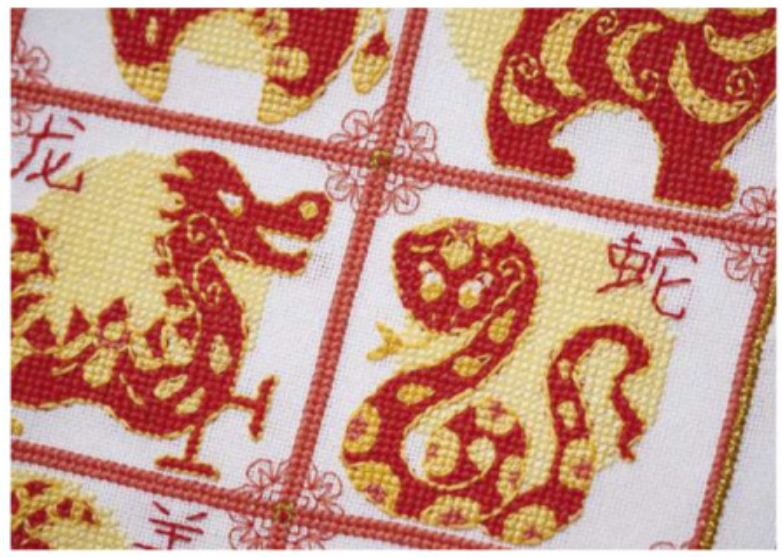
STITCH COUNT 158 high x 131 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 28.5x24cm (11¼x9¼in)

SKEINS NEEDED **2x351** (coral), **2x727** (yellow), **2x728** (gold), **4x817** (red)

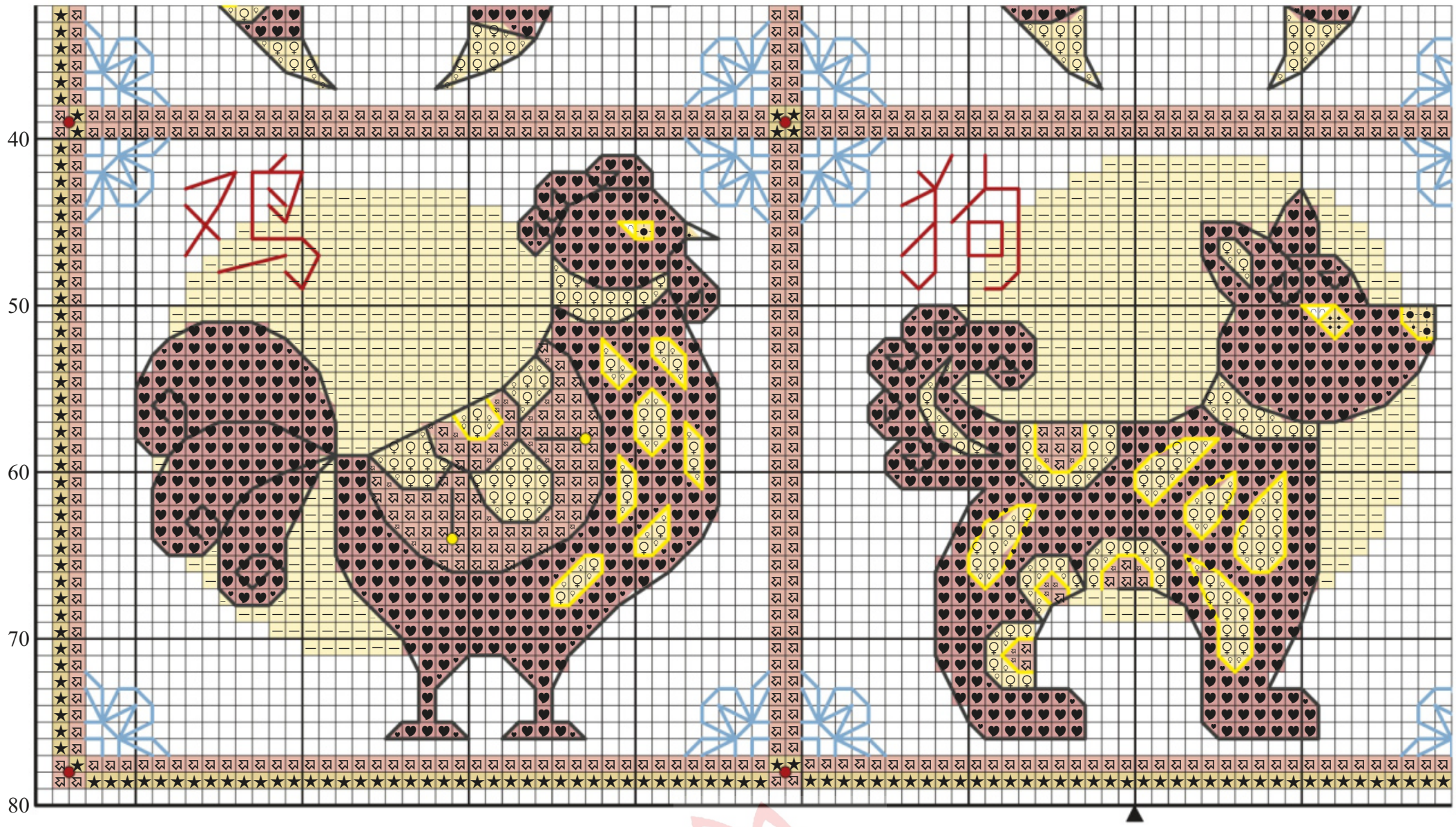
STITCHED BY Donna Simmerson

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



"This Chinese sampler will be a joy to work on throughout January and beyond. Finished with a dark wooden frame, the overall effect is so bold and striking."

Zeena Moolla, Editor



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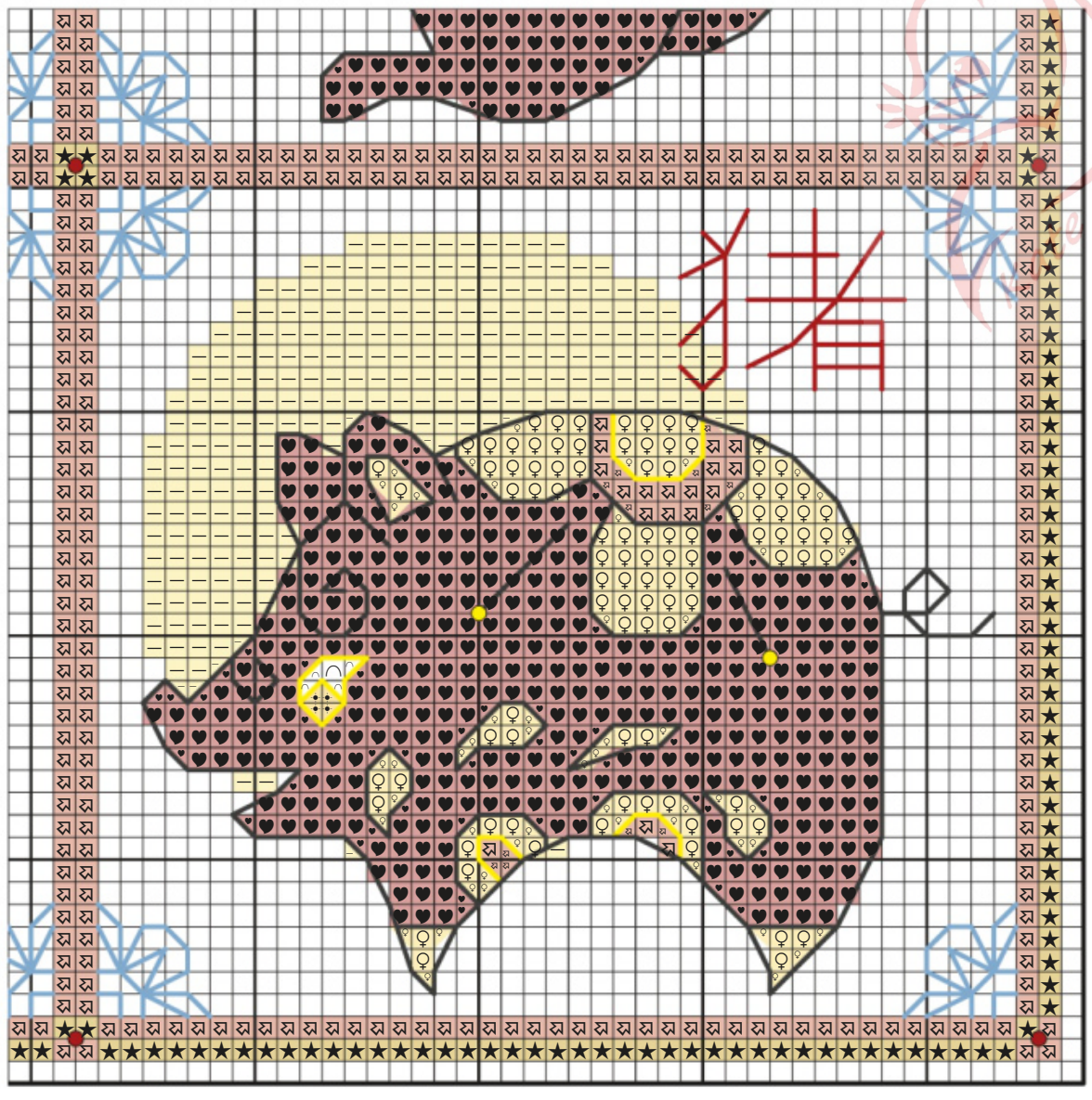

Bottom right

DURENE JONES'S

Designer Secrets

Meaningful colours

In Chinese culture, red symbolises happiness and good fortune, while yellow is considered to be a beautiful and prestigious colour. The palette of this sampler is quite small, but don't be fooled by the difficulty level, as there is plenty going on with different stitches to add depth and detail.

"Try stitching the motifs individually, then hang them from some red ribbon to make bunting." *Fiona Baker, Technical Editor*

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Highland **bouquet**

Stitch a floral tribute to Scotland with Angela's cushion, bursting with delicate details and natural beauty

Meet the designer
Angela Poole

Angela, who has a degree in Textiles and Surface Pattern, was previously the Commissioning Editor of *Papercraft Inspirations* magazine. She's also a talented cross stitch designer and sells her patterns through her Etsy shop, Angela Poole Design.

"Despite its rather prickly nature, the thistle is a fabulous looking flower, and it makes a gorgeous focal point for this cushion – my little nod to the beauty of Scotland."

Stitcher's guide

This design is worked on 28-count cream linen over two threads of the fabric in 21 shades of stranded cotton. Cross stitch is in two strands of cotton, while backstitch is worked in both one and two strands. French knots in one strand of thread add extra detail to this design, which is recommended for experienced stitchers.

How to stitch the design

1 Find the centre of your fabric by folding it in half both ways. Find the centre of the chart and start stitching here, working your way outwards.

2 Work the cross stitch over two threads of the fabric using two strands of cotton.

3 Add the backstitch detail using one or two strands of cotton.

4 Work the French knots using one strand of cotton.

5 Check over your stitching and prepare for making up.

You will need

Fabric Zweigart 28-count cream linen (3281/770) measuring 48x48cm (18¾x18¾in)

Threads Stranded cotton as listed in the key

Needle Size 24 tapestry needle

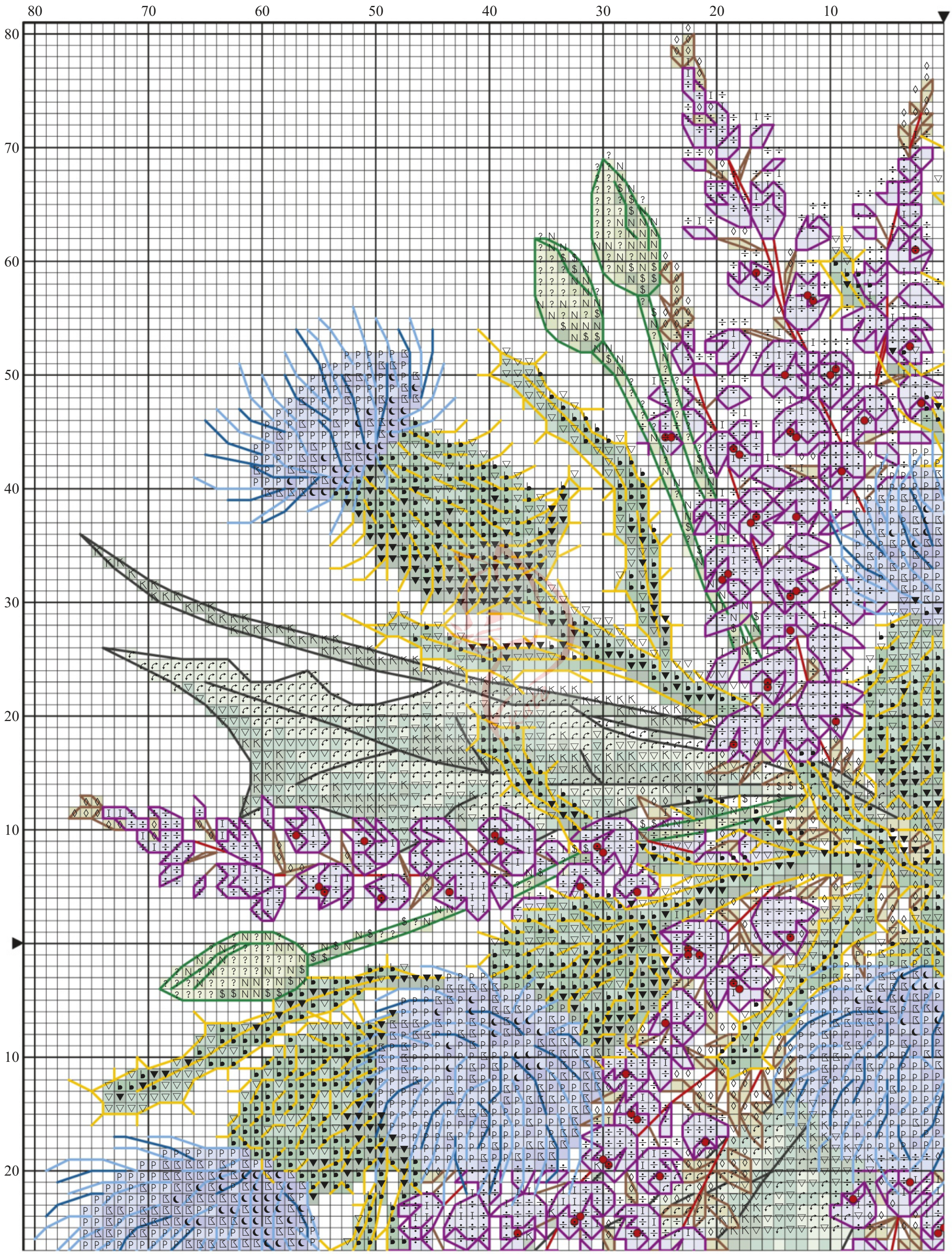
Extras Backing fabric of your choice and cushion pad to fit from local craft stores

FOR STOCKISTS' DETAILS turn to page 59

Stitch tip

This design has no fractional stitches so could easily be stitched on aida if you prefer

Thistle cushion



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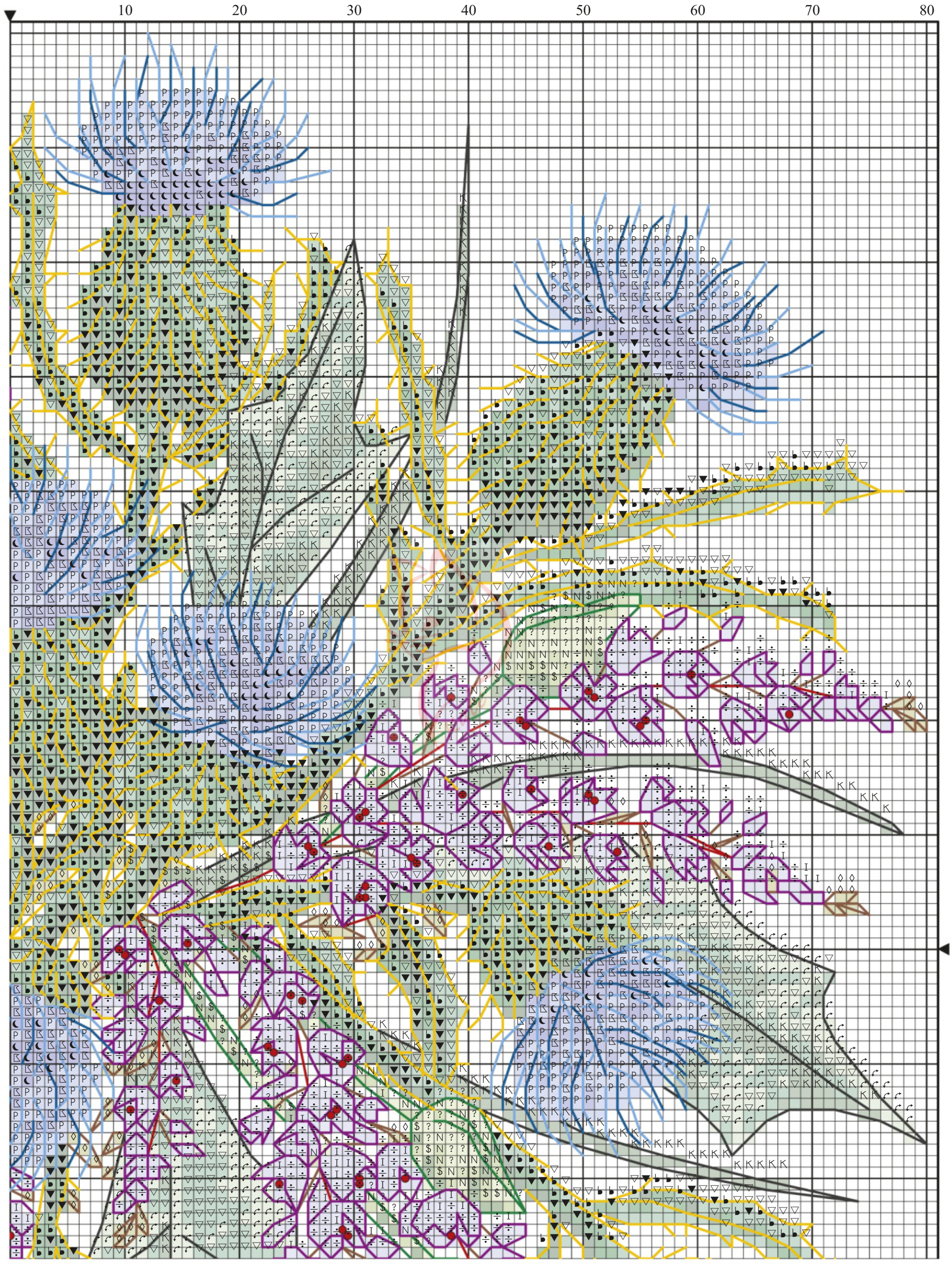

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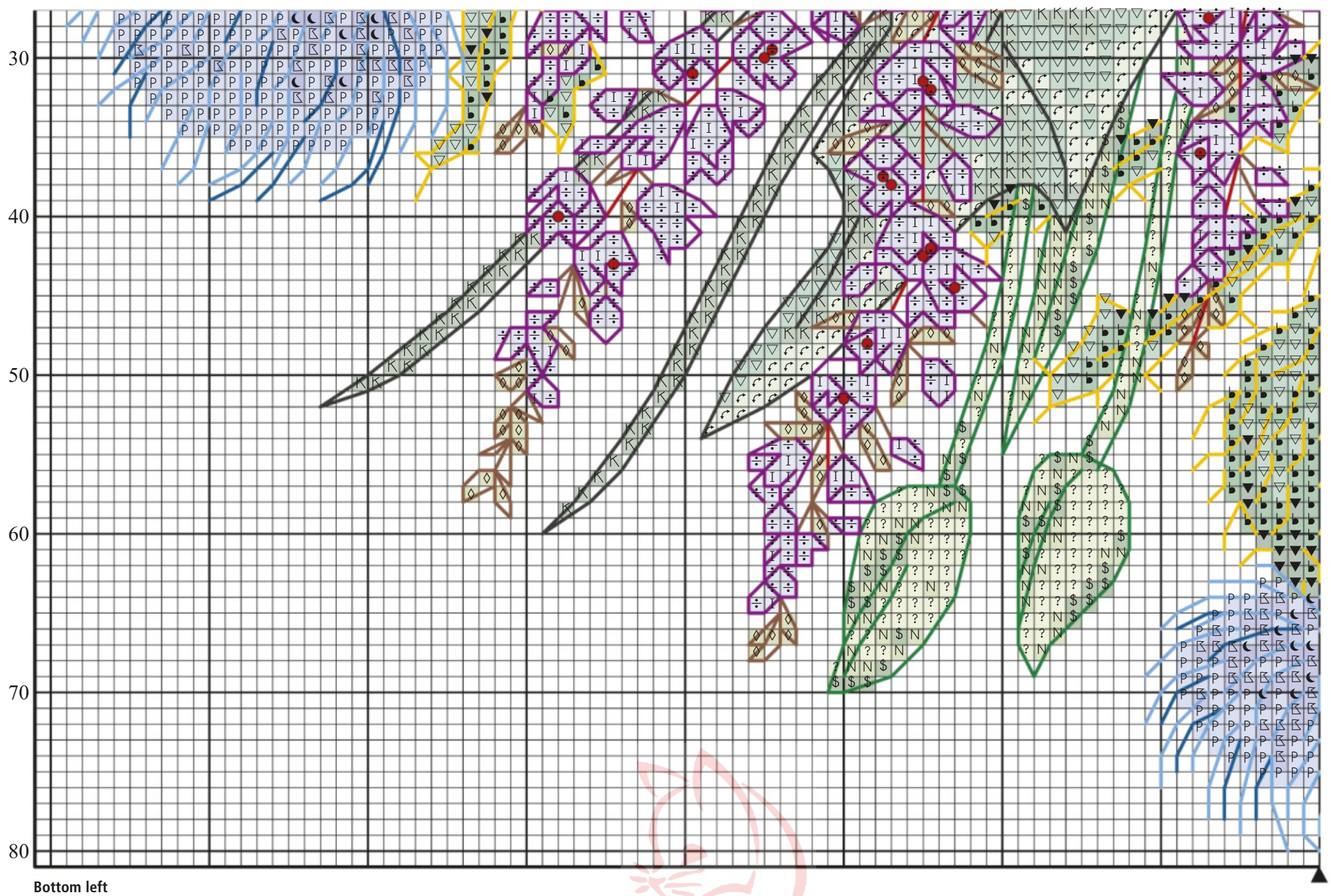

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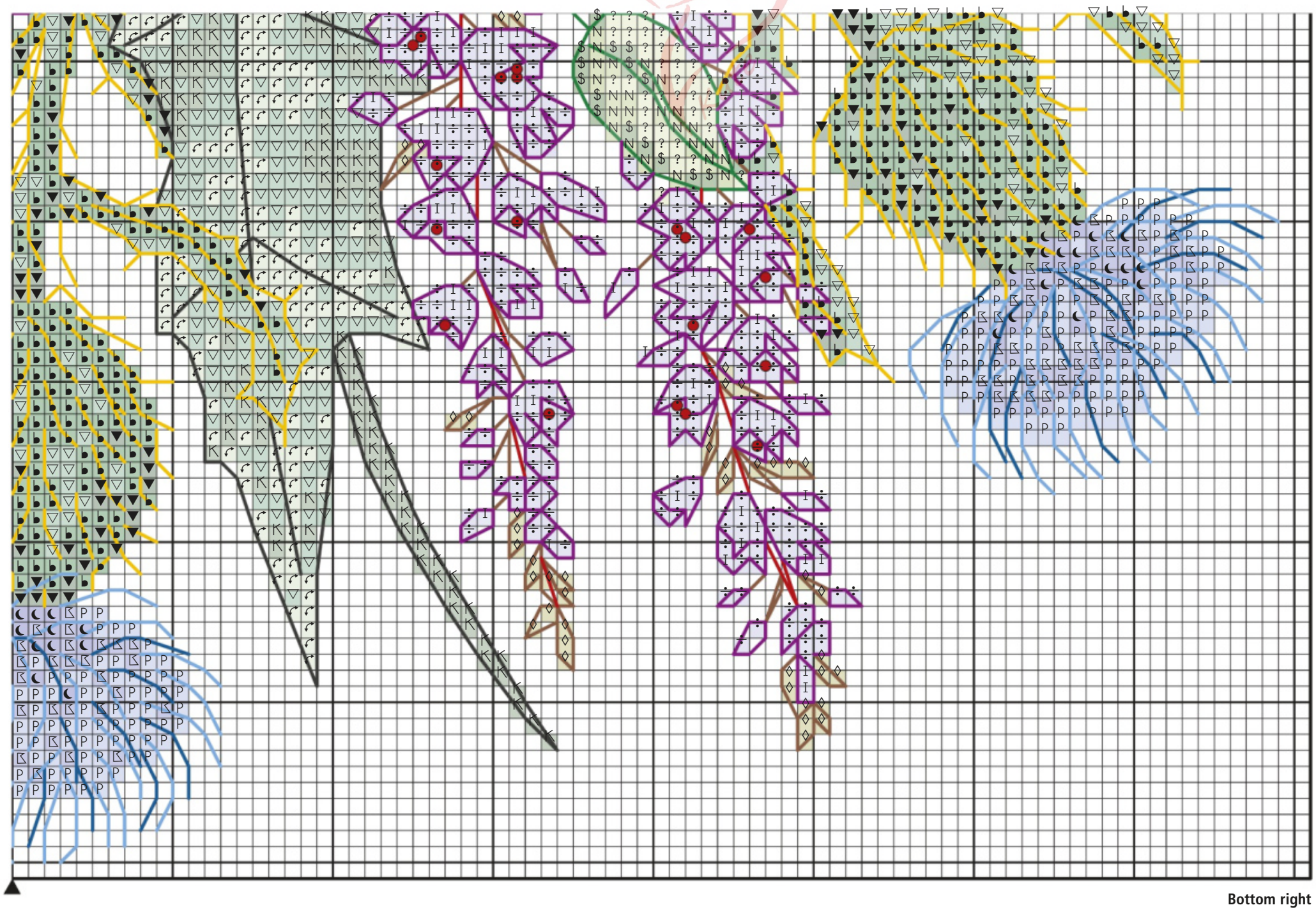


Bottom right

ANGELA POOLE'S

Designer Secrets

The rest is history

According to legend, the thistle became Scotland's national flower after an invasion by a Norse army. One of the enemies trod on the spiky plant and cried out in pain, alerting the Scottish soldiers to danger.

Rugged beauty

I love the way this design has a rugged look to it, while at the same time being quite delicate. The addition of soft heather certainly helps to balance the spiky thistles! I've also chosen a pretty palette that includes antique mauve, light sage green and cornflower blue, which conjure the feel of Scotland's lochs and glens.

Thistle cushion key

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
Cross stitch in two strands				
$	320	215	1311	green
÷	341	117	902	purple
N	368	214	1310	light green
?	369	1043	1309	very light green
◊	471	266	1501	moss green
K	502	875	1513	sage green
▼	561	212	1205	dark pine green
P	809	130	909	blue
I	3747	120	901	light purple
↱	3813	1042	1512	light sage green
♭	3815	877	1704	pine green
▽	3816	876	1703	light pine green
☾	3838	176	905	lavender blue
◺	3839	175	906	lt lavender blue
Backstitch in one strand				
—	367	217	1312	dark green
—	501	878	2603	dark sage green
—	987	244	1403	forest green
—	3740	873	2614	antique mauve
—	3746	1030	903	dark purple
Backstitch in two strands				
—	369	1043	1309	very light green
—	3807	122	2702	cornflower blue
—	3841	9159	1001	baby blue
French knots in one strand				
●	3740	873	2614	antique mauve

STITCH COUNT 160 high x 160 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 29x29cm (11½x11½in)

STITCHED BY Gillian Muggeridge

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

How to make the cushion cover

1 Trim your stitched piece so that it measures 40cm (15¾in) square, with your design positioned in the centre of the fabric.

2 Cut two pieces of matching backing fabric measuring 40x30cm (15¾x11¾in) for the envelope-opening back panel. Sew a 2cm (¾in) double hem along one long edge of each piece.

3 With right-sides facing, place these panels over the front of your cushion cover. The raw edges should match and the hemmed edges of the panels should overlap in the middle to create an envelope opening.

4 Pin and sew all the way around the edge of the cushion, using a 1cm (½in) seam allowance. Trim the corners, turn the cushion cover through to the right side and press.

5 Sew a straight line of stitching all the way around the cushion cover, 2.5cm (1in) in from the outside edge, to create the Oxford border. Insert your cushion pad to finish.

"The irregular weave of the cream linen adds a hint of texture to the background. We originally thought about edging the cushion with tartan ribbon, but decided that a simple finish was more effective."

Fiona Baker, Technical Editor

Home is where the heart is

'Tis the season to celebrate your home, with a touch of spring cleaning and a spot of stitching! These kits are the perfect way to give your house a little TLC…

Cuddle cats

HOME IS WHERE THE CAT IS (CRHC954), Heritage Crafts, £30.35

What's in the kit

- Black and white chart
- 27-count ivory evenweave
- DMC stranded cotton
- Tapestry needle

Size of finished design

27x16.5cm (10½x6½in)

Stitching this kit

Our feline friends bring much happiness into our homes, it's true. Anyone who has a cat will fully appreciate this comical Cats Rule design from Peter Underhill. Three cats doing what cats do best – napping! Some of the cross stitches are worked in two strands, others in one, and there are a lot of fractionals here. The backstitch is on a separate chart, and is worked in both one and two strands. You can choose 14-count aida for the kit if you prefer.

Where to buy

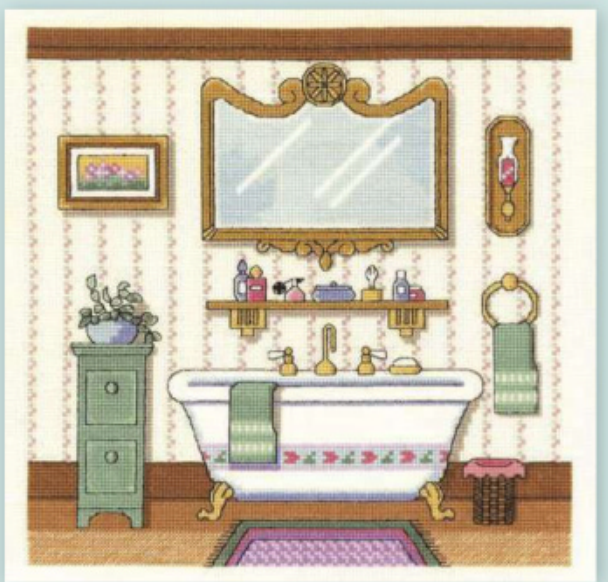
Visit www.hcrafts.com or call 01889 575256

Iconic style

VICTORIAN BATH (006-0100), Janlynn, £20.23

What's in the kit

- Black and white chart
- 14-count white aida
- Stranded cotton
- Tapestry needle



Size of finished design

25x25cm (10x10in)

Stitching this kit

When we think of making our homes all homely, the bathroom is often the room that is left out! Put a stop to that now, with this charming kit from Janlynn. Taking inspiration from the Victorian period, it's packed with vintage features such as the coveted roll-top bath and ornate mirror, rendered in whole stitches, half stitches and backstitch. For a stylish companion piece, check out Janlynn's Victorian Sink (006-0101), too.

Where to buy

Visit www.stitcher.co.uk or call 0161 4647310

Place I love

HOME IS WHERE THE HEART IS SAMPLER (MPCS05), My Cross Stitch, £17.99

What's in the kit

- Colour chart
- 14-count white aida
- DMC stranded cotton
- Tapestry needle

Size of finished design

17.5x23.5cm (6¾x9¼in)

Stitching this kit

This fun design really reinforces the meaning behind the well-known sentiment, with flowers in the window, and hearts coming out of the chimneys. The scene has been cleverly designed with a sense of perspective. Half cross stitch in one strand of thread helps the blue sky fade into the background, while the backstitched areas are brought to the fore. There are lots of fractionals dotted about, too, for all-important extra detail.

Where to buy

Visit www.woolwarehouse.co.uk or call 0800 505 3300 to buy

Sunshine and rainbows

HOME SWEET HOME,
Wool and the Gang, £20

What's in the kit
- Black and white chart
- 18-count white aida
- DMC stranded cotton
- Two tapestry needles

Size of finished design
19.5x26.5cm (7½x10½in)

Stitching this kit
Worked in cross stitch with a touch of backstitch, this is a fairly quick project – Wool and the Gang suggest it'll take around five hours. It's a great in-between project, for when you need a bit of a break after a large piece, before starting on yet another mammoth one! The beautiful, bright colours will give you great cheer as you stitch, and you'll be energised for your next project. You'll need an 18cm or 28cm (7in or 11in) hoop to hold your fabric while stitching. When complete, your picture would look perfect in a simple red or blue frame.

Where to buy
Visit www.woolandthegang.com to buy

In full bloom

HOME SWEET HOME (XSS5),
Bothy Threads, £29.49

What's in the kit
- Black and white chart
- 14-count white aida
- Stranded cotton
- Tapestry needle

Size of finished design
26x25cm (10¼x9¾in)

Stitching this kit
This stunning kit is alive with colour. It's designed by Sarah Summers – a rather apt name for the creator of such a sunny scene! Worked in a combination of cross stitch and backstitch, with some French knots used for detail on the flowers, it's a great kit for experienced stitchers. You could place your work inside a frame when it's finished – a natural wooden frame would be ideal – or present it on a cushion to brighten up a weary old armchair. Stitch it for your own home, or as a new-home gift for a friend who's just moved house. Or both!

Where to buy
Visit www.bothythreads.com or call 01900 828844 to buy

My castle

WHITE HOME SWEET HOME SAMPLER, Historical Sampler Company, £29.50

What's in the kit
- Black and white chart
- 16-count ecru aida
- DMC stranded cotton
- Tapestry needle

Size of finished design
30x30cm (12x12in)

Stitching this kit
This intricate project from The Historical Sampler Company uses just three shades on a darker fabric, creating a beautifully delicate look. The chart is printed across two A3 sheets and there are no fractionals or backstitch. The whole cross stitches are relatively spread out on the fabric, so you should take care not to trail threads across the back of your work, as these may show through to the front. The design is also available as a chart only for £9.

Where to buy
Call 01268 711918 or visit www.historicalsamplercompany.co.uk

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Coming soon in Cross Stitch Gold...

Issue 163
On sale
25th February 2020 (UK)*

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Get in a fiery frame of mind and stitch our flamenco beauty

Cottage escape

Afternoon tea

Nursery décor

...and more

*Contents are subject to change

Stockist details

Here's your handy directory of the best stitching retailers

UK STOCKISTS

COATS CRAFTS UK
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CRAFT CREATIONS
Visit www.craftcreations.com
Call 01992 781900

DMC CREATIVE WORLD
For stockists, visit www.dmc.com
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It's party **time!**

Send birthday wishes with our cute elephant cards, sure to brighten someone's special day!

Meet the designer
Lucie Heaton

Lucie has always been a keen crafter with a particular passion for needlecraft. She contributes to a wide variety of stitching magazines and her work has appeared in various books, too. When she's not busy designing, Lucie enjoys walking and exploring new places.

"From cake and candles to presents and balloons, these elephants know how to party! My cards are super-fun to stitch and perfect for little ones."

Stitcher's guide

These designs are worked on 28-count white evenweave over two threads of the fabric in 26 shades of stranded cotton. Cross stitch is in two strands of thread, while backstitch is in one strand. These cards use whole stitches and backstitch only, so could be tackled by intermediate stitchers who are confident working on evenweave.

How to stitch the designs

1 Find the centre of your fabric by folding it in half both ways. Find the centre of the chart and start stitching here.

2 Work the cross stitch over two threads of the fabric using two strands of cotton.

3 Work the backstitch detail using one strand of cotton.

4 Check over your stitching and prepare for making up.

You will need

Fabric Zweigart 28-count white evenweave measuring 18x18cm (7x7in) for each design

Threads Stranded cotton as listed in the key

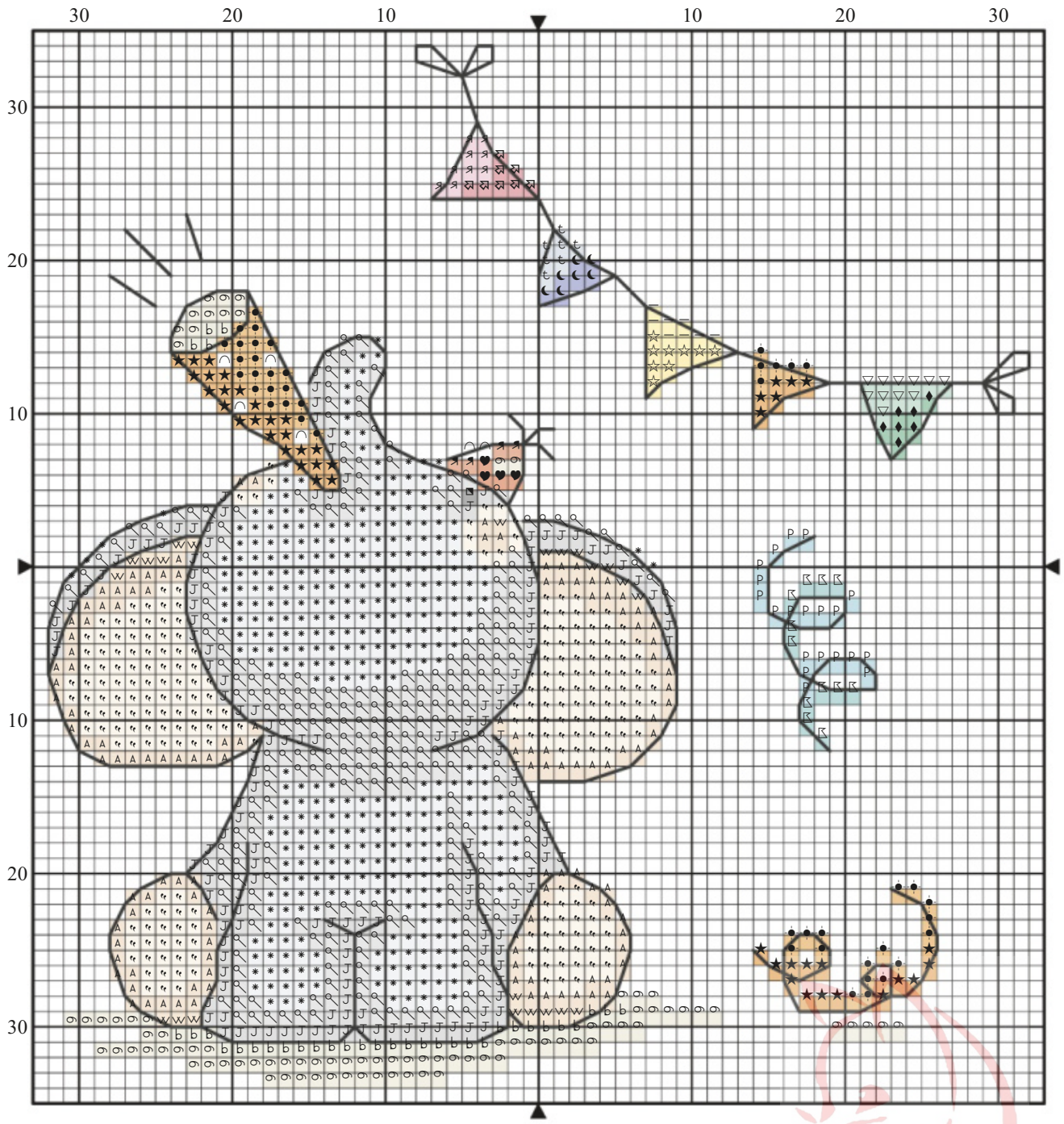
Needle Size 24 tapestry needle

Extras White single-fold cards of your choice from local craft stores

FOR STOCKISTS' DETAILS turn to page 59

Stitch tip

Choose brightly coloured cards for a finish that's extra fun – green, red, pink, blue or yellow would work well



How to mount the cards

1 Trim your stitching to size, leaving six strands of evenweave around all four edges, then fray four strands of evenweave all the way around. You can either pull the threads out by hand or use a pair of tweezers.

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

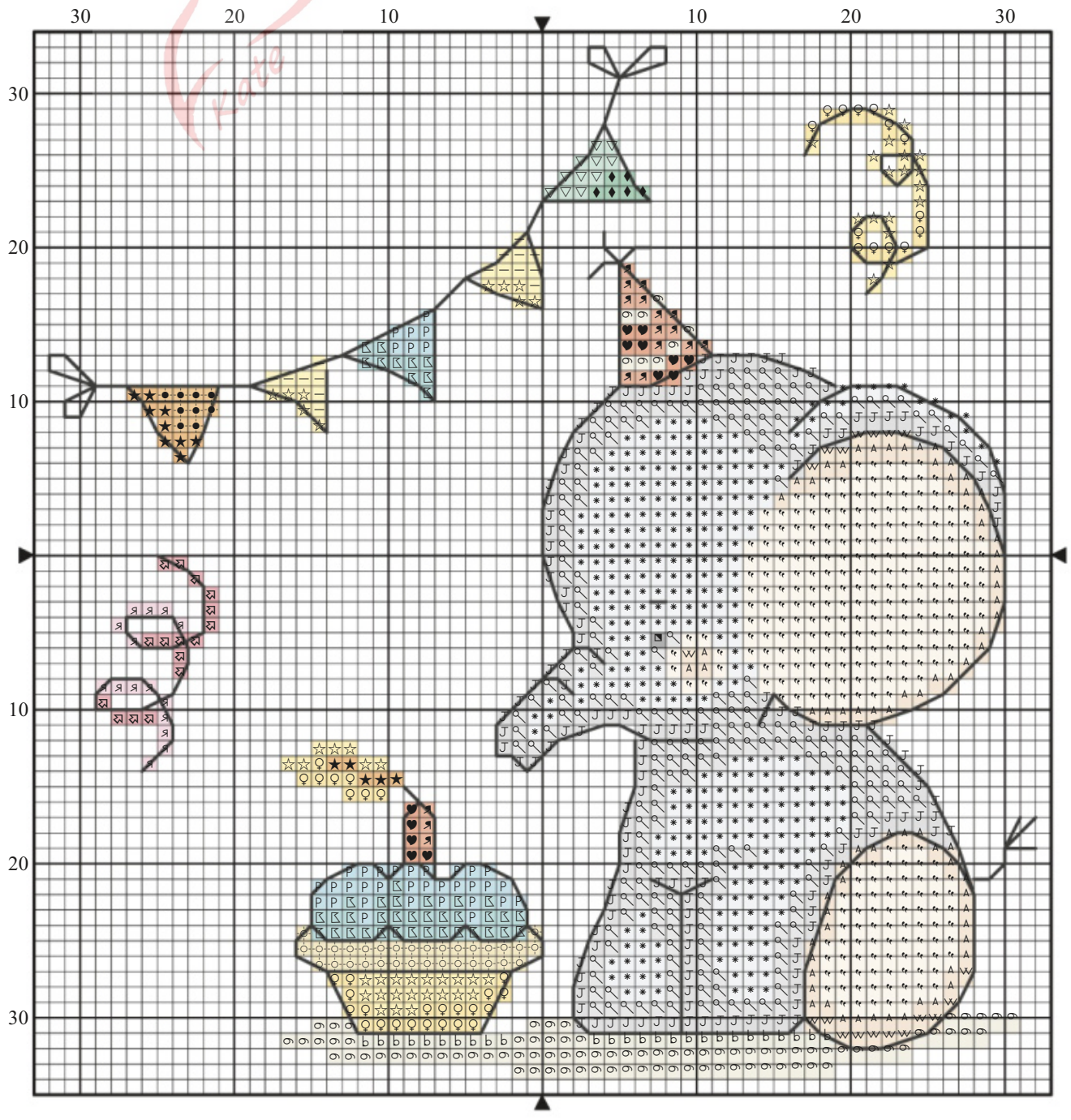
3 Stick more double-sided tape to the back of the white paper and position the stitching over the centre of the card blank. When you are happy with the positioning, stick it carefully into place.

Stitch tip

Try not to run threads across the back of your stitching – finish each length before moving to a new area

Adapting these designs

These sweet elephant greetings are perfect for birthdays, but would also work really well as new-baby cards or Christening cards. You can easily adapt the colours if you want to go for traditional pink or blue shades, or stitch them in keeping with a nursery scheme. There is also enough space above the bunting to work some backstitch details such as a name and date if you wish to give your card a personal touch.



Birthday cards key

Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
∩	blanc	2	2402	white
J	318	399	1801	grey
☾	322	131	1004	dark blue
♥	349	1098	212	dark red
↗	350	11	213	red
⚲	415	398	1802	light grey
b	644	830	1814	beige
☼	676	891	2208	sand
♀	725	305	113	dark yellow
☆	726	295	109	yellow
–	727	293	112	light yellow
★	740	316	204	orange
●	741	304	202	tangerine
A	754	1012	305	peach
*	762	234	1804	very light grey
9	822	390	1908	light beige
ʻ	948	892	306	light peach
ম	956	40	506	dark pink
я	957	50	504	pink
▽	959	186	1114	green
t	3755	140	1013	blue
w	3771	868	2605	dark peach
◪	3799	236	1713	dark grey
♦	3812	188	2706	dark green
K	3845	1089	1102	turquoise
P	3846	1090	1103	light turquoise

Backstitch in one strand

—	3799	236	1713	dark grey

MAXIMUM STITCH COUNT 68 high x 65 wide

DESIGN AREA 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 12.5x12cm (4¾x4½in)

STITCHED BY Debbie Harding

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

"You can keep these cards a secret from the birthday boy or girl by stitching on the move. Pop the threads, needle and fabric you'll need in a small zippy bag, and it'll fit right into your handbag for trips on the bus or in the car."

Fiona Baker, Technical Editor

FIONA BAKER
TECHNICAL EDITOR

Stitching guide

Use the handy diagrams and basic cross stitch advice on these pages to help you get the most out of the designs in *Cross Stitch Gold*

How to read our charts

All our charts are printed in both colour and symbols. Each square on a cross stitch chart contains a symbol, and each symbol corresponds with one stitch.

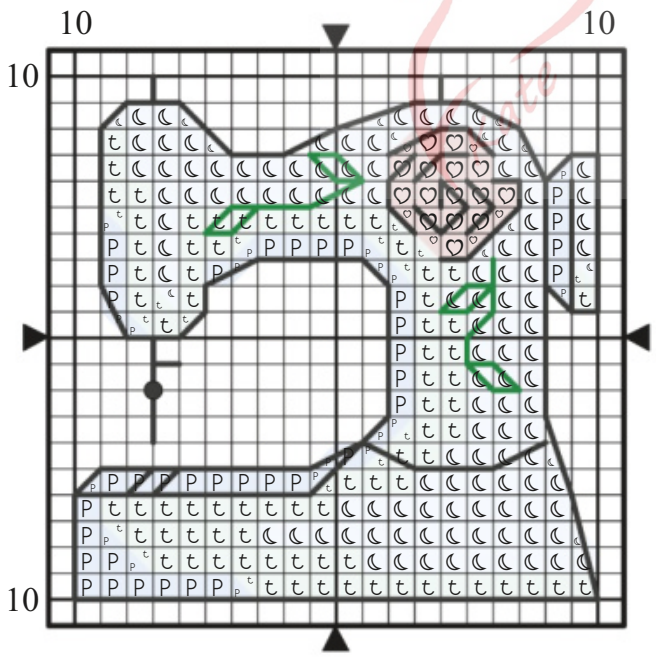
The key tells you what thread colour each symbol corresponds to, and how many strands to use for each cross stitch, backstitch or French knot. It also gives you the design's dimensions, to help you cut your fabric to size.

The thread numbers listed in the first column of the key refer to the brand that we've used to stitch the design. Conversions for two other brands are given, but they're not always exact equivalents. Avoid mixing more than one brand in the same design. Sometimes you'll need more than one skein of a certain colour, but there shouldn't be a problem with dye lots if you use the brands quoted in the key.

Each project also includes a shopping list telling you what type and size of fabric to use, what size frame you'll need, and if extra materials are required.

Where to start stitching

Start stitching from your chart in the centre of the design – this is the point on the chart where the two black centre lines marked with arrows cross – and work outwards. Refer to the key for the colours and number of strands to use. To find the centre of your fabric, fold it in half both horizontally and vertically. The centre point will be where these folds intersect. Mark this point with a pin, or run a line of tacking thread along each fold using one strand of a pale colour thread. Bind the raw edges of your fabric to prevent them from fraying while you're stitching by hemming them using a zigzag stitch on your sewing machine, or by folding masking tape over the edges.



Sewing machine key

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
Cross stitch in two strands				
t	775	1031	1001	light blue
P	3325	129	907	blue
♡	3354	36	2610	pink
☾	3756	1037	2504	baby blue
Backstitch in one strand				
—	562	210	1205	green
—	3799	236	1713	grey
French knots in one strand				
●	3799	236	1713	grey

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

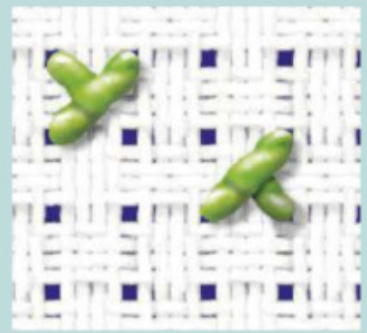
This design was stitched using DMC stranded cotton

How to cross stitch

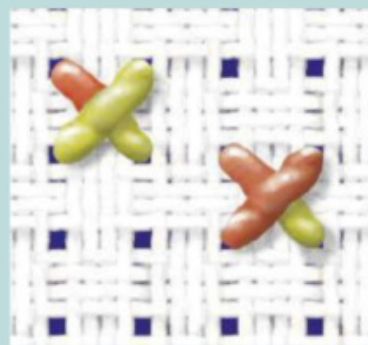
Thread your needle with the correct number of strands. Find the centre points on the chart and your fabric to work out where to start. Bring the needle up through the fabric at the bottom-left corner of the square, leaving the end of the thread on the back. Take it down at the top-right to make a half cross; bring it up again at the bottom-right corner, securing the end of thread on the back; take it down at the top-left corner to form a cross. Work each cross stitch so

that the top halves lie in the same direction. This will make your finished stitching look neat and tidy. If you're working a block of stitches in the same colour, stitch a row of half crosses first, before completing each cross on the return journey.

Fractional stitches



A tiny symbol in the corner of a square on a chart is a fractional stitch; it's worked in the same colour as the large version of the symbol. If there's only one tiny symbol, work a three-quarter stitch (a half cross stitch and a quarter stitch). Bring your needle up at the corner of the square, then take it down at the centre of the square. You'll have to pierce aida fabric (but not if you're stitching over two threads on evenweave). Add a half cross stitch (see top diagram). When two different symbols share a square, make a quarter stitch in one colour and a three-quarter stitch in the other. Use the three-quarter stitch for the object that's meant to be in front in the picture, and the quarter stitch for the background colour.



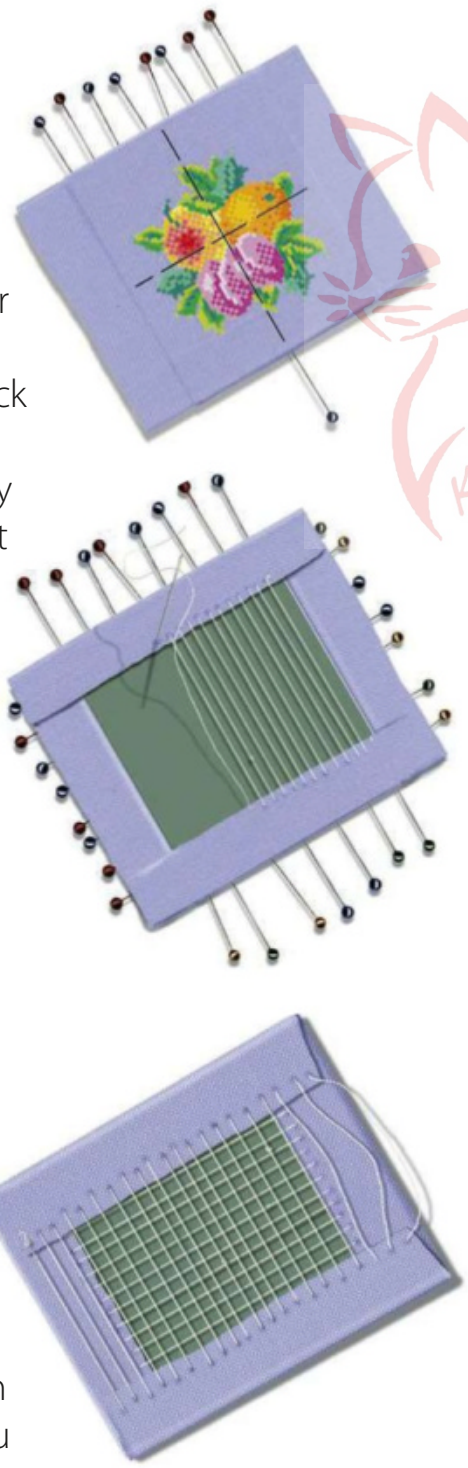
Backstitch

Backstitch outlines are worked on top of the cross stitches to add detail. They can run in any direction. Bring the needle up, then take it down one square behind. Bring it up again two squares in front and take it down one square behind. Continue in this way, following the chart.

French knots

French knots are shown as dots on the chart. Bring your needle up through the fabric, hold the thread taut in your left hand and wrap the needle around it twice. Push the needle back into the fabric, close to where it came up, keeping the thread taut. Pull the thread through until a neat knot is formed on the front.

Washing and lacing



To wash your stitching, immerse it in warm water with a little detergent, and rinse it well in cold water. Press it on the back while still damp using an iron on a medium setting. Pad your ironing board with a fluffy towel and push the point of the iron into the back of your stitches, to give them a raised appearance on the front. The best way to stretch your work out over a mount board before framing is to lace it with crochet cotton:

1 Cut your mount board to the size of the frame aperture. Lay the stitching right side up on the white side of the board. Once you are happy with the positioning of the fabric, push a line of pins down each side into the board, as shown (above right).

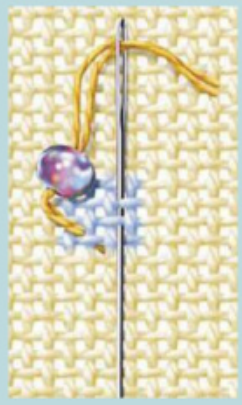
2 Check your stitching is lined up, then trim the fabric, leaving a 5cm (2in) border. Fold the excess over the back of the board. Thread your needle with a long length of crochet cotton, knot the end and lace two opposite sides together on the back. Start at one end and work in an 'under-and-over' motion. When you reach the other end, adjust the laced threads one by one, before finishing off.

3 Repeat this process on the two remaining edges. Fold down the corners and stitch in place, then remove the pins and put your work in its frame.

Changing thread colour

Finish off the colour you're working with by weaving your needle through a line of four or five stitches on the back of the fabric and pulling the thread through. Cut the thread close to where it emerges. Rethread with the new colour. When restarting, leave a short tail of thread at the back of the fabric and cover this with your first few stitches to secure it.

Adding beads



Some designs use seed beads to add detail. These appear as filled dots on the chart and are listed in the key. Add each bead with a half cross stitch. Bring your needle up at the bottom-left corner, thread a bead on your needle and take it down at the top-right. For extra security, work the top half of the cross as well, with one strand of thread either side of the bead. You'll need a beading needle or size 28 tapestry needle for this.

Aida or evenweave?

Most stitchers start off using aida – a block-weave fabric divided into squares by a grid of holes. Each cross stitch is worked over one square. Some experienced stitchers prefer evenweaves such as jobelan or linen. They're also woven in a grid but come in a finer count, eg 28- or 32-count. Each cross stitch is worked over two threads of the fabric. Bring the needle up at the bottom-left corner of the square and take it down two holes across and two holes up.

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

Difficult

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

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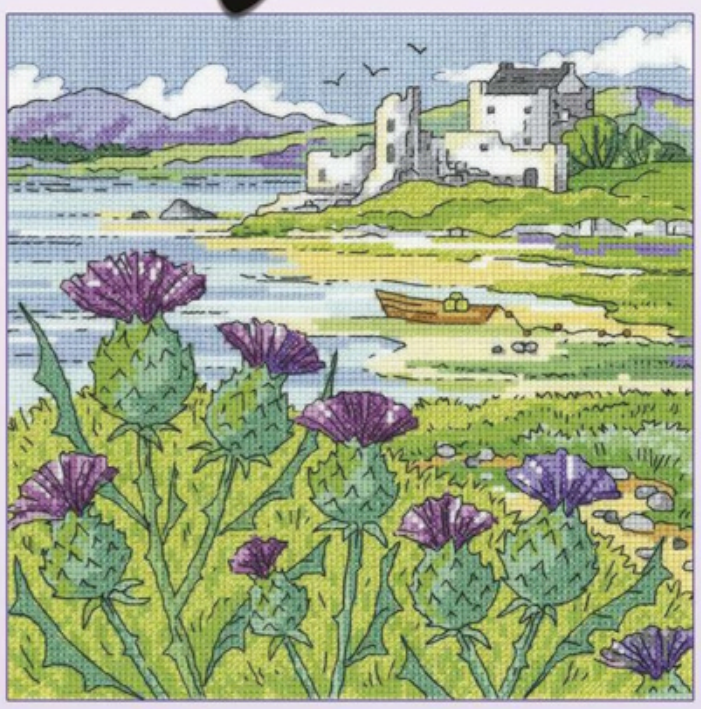
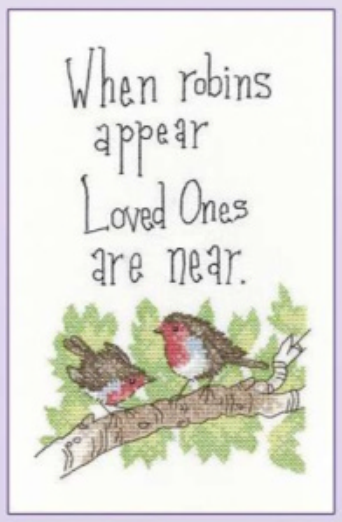


Thistle Shore - 20.5 x 20.5cm - *by Karen Carter*

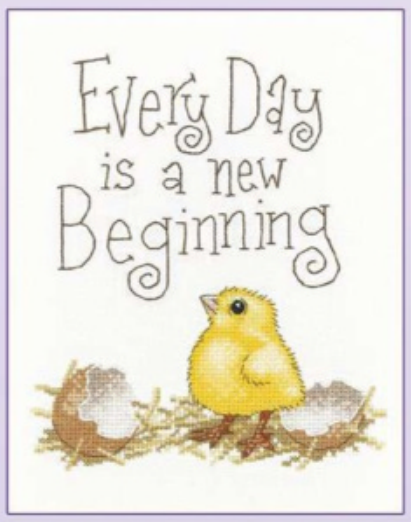
Robin in Winter - 15 x 21cm - *by Nigel Artingstall*

Blue Tit - 15 x 21cm - *by Nigel Artingstall*

Deer Park - 32 x 22cm - *by John Clayton*



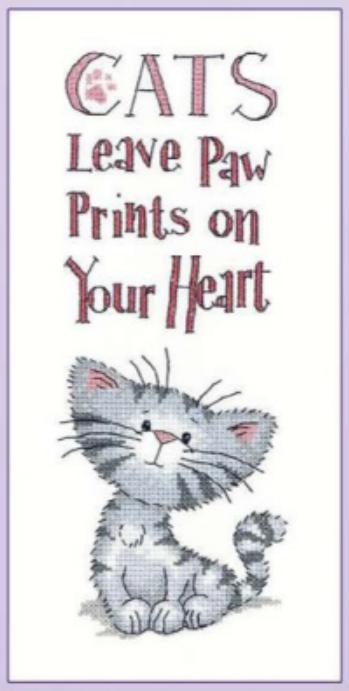
When Robins Appear - 10.5 x 17cm
by Peter Underhill



A New Beginning - 14.5 x 17cm
by Peter Underhill

Home Sweet Home - 12.5 x 17cm
by Peter Underhill

The Junction - 30 x 21cm - *by John Clayton*



Cats' Paw Prints - 8.5 x 22cm
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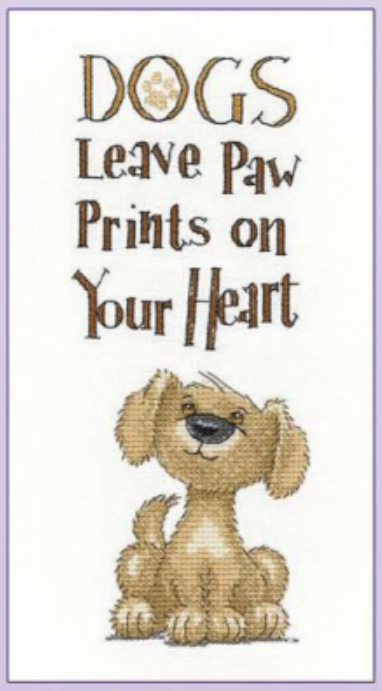

Paw Prints - 8 x 20.5cm
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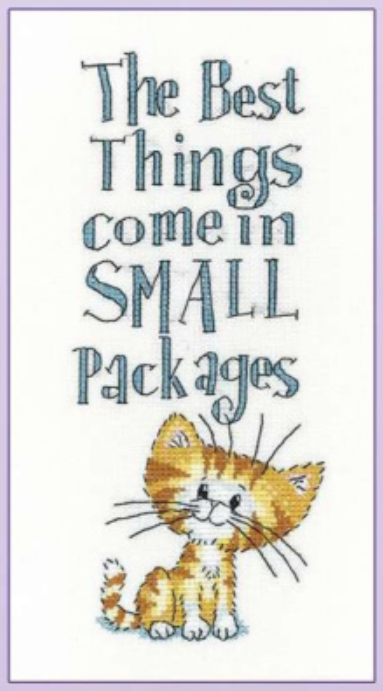

Small Packages - 8.5 x 20cm
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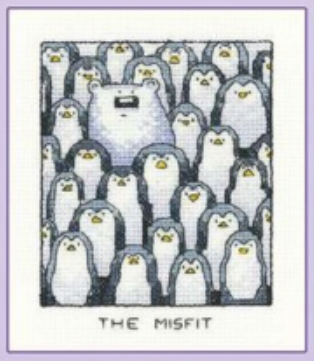
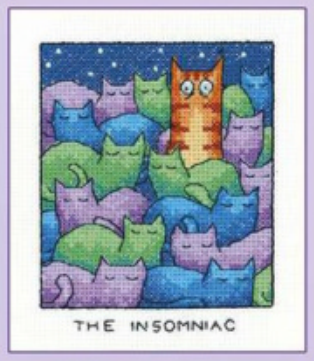


The Misfit
9 x 11.5cm - *by Peter Underhill*



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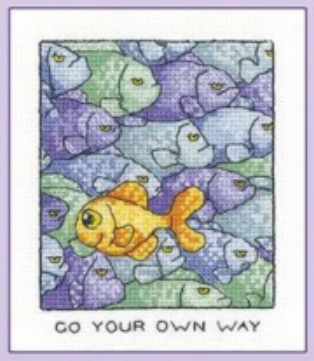

Your Own Way
9 x 11.5cm - *by Peter Underhill*

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