

BEAUTIFUL STITCHES

Sharing the joy of creating with needle and thread

PINCUSHION/SCISSOR FOB



This project introduces you to the wonderful world of canvaswork embroidery by stitching a small pincushion or scissor fob in your choice of threads. Canvaswork is an easy technique to learn because the stitches are worked on an even canvas grid - you always know where the needle should go next! However, the wide variety of stitches combined with an almost endless variety of threads means that a wonderful array of effects can be achieved.

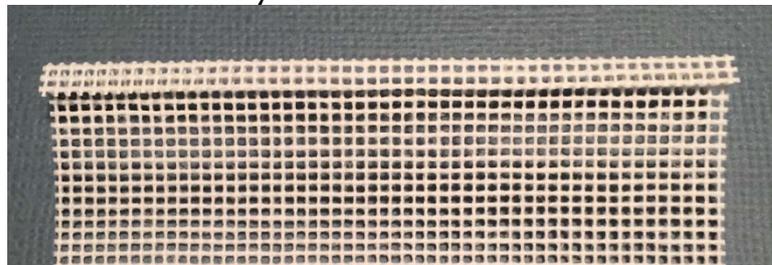
This project will take approximately 4-6 hours to complete (depending on your natural stitching speed) so it is ideal to complete in a weekend. But be warned - this simple project can become addictive and you may soon be sewing a basketful of pincushions in your own designs!

REQUIREMENTS

- One piece of 18pt interlock canvas cut to measure exactly 56 x 56 threads
- Size 22 tapestry needle
- 3 different stranded embroidery cottons. I like to use one variegated with two coordinating solids, but three solids will work just as well.
- Small, sharp embroidery scissors
- Small amount of stuffing of your choice (polyester, wool, etc.)

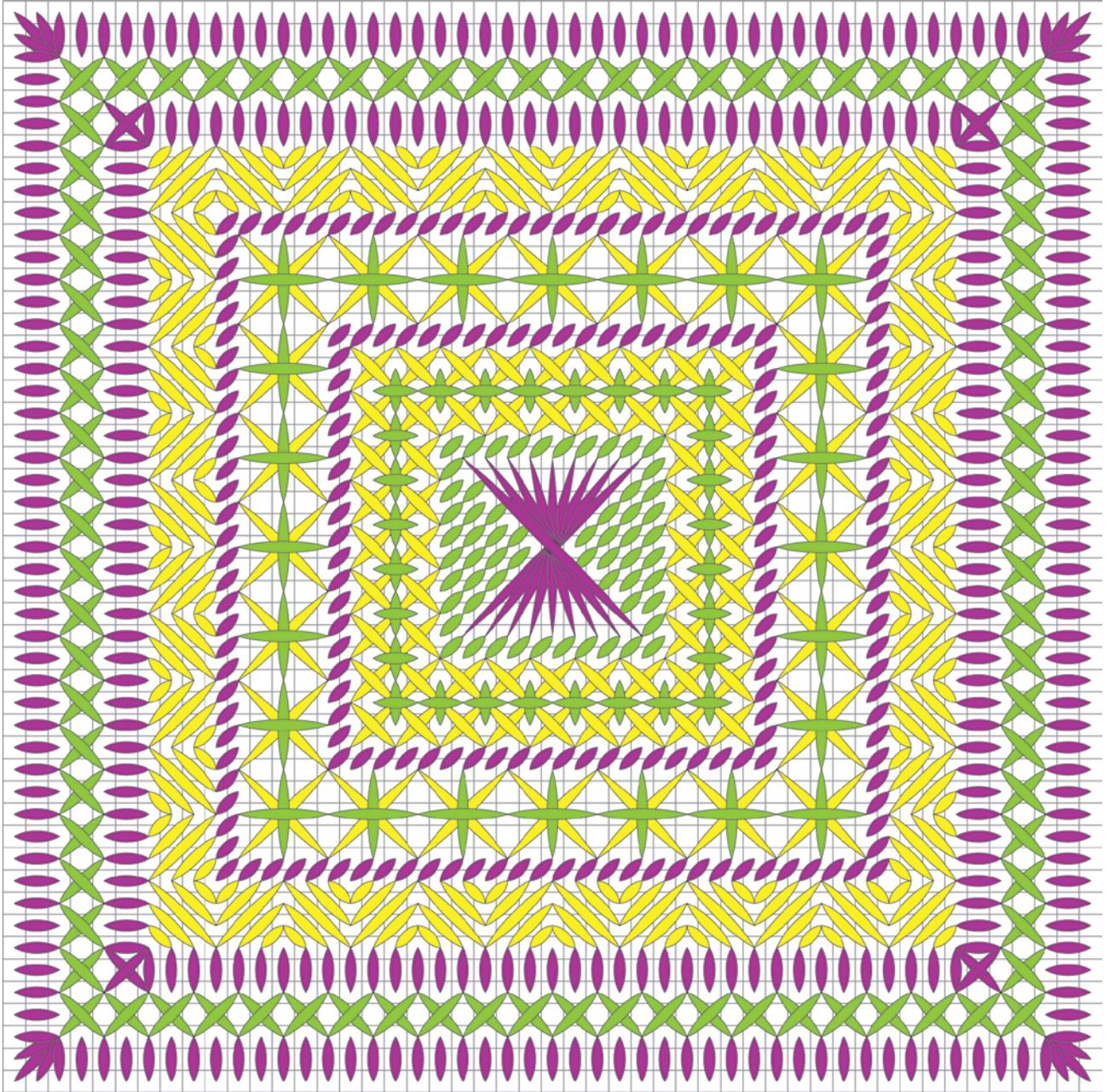
STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS

1. **Canvas preparation.** Your first job is to prepare the canvas for stitching. On each side of the canvas you need to fold down a hem exactly three threads deep. The three threads of your hem need to sit directly behind the next three threads, as shown in the picture below. This means that the working area now facing you will measure exactly 50 x 50 threads.



2. **Thread Preparation.** Cotton embroidery floss needs to be stripped and rejoined before use. This ensures the threads lie flat and gives a lovely sheen. One length of cotton embroidery floss is made up of six strands. You will need to strip and rejoin the full six strands for this project.
3. **Starting and Finishing.** Wherever possible I start stitching with a waste knot. Tie a knot in the end of your thread. Approximately 1 inch away from where you need to start stitching, take your needle through from the front of the work to the back so that the waste knot rests on the front of the canvas (see the picture on Pg. 4). Now start sewing, making sure your stitches cover the tail on the back of the canvas. When you get close to the waste knot, simply snip it off. To finish off your thread, simply weave it into at least 1 inch of stitches on the back of your work.
4. **Colour Choice.** This pattern has been written for three colours, designated Colour 1, Colour 2, and Colour 3 in the following notes and chart. Please do not feel constrained by these colour choices. One of the fun things about this project is that it looks equally good worked in one colour as in three or even five colours! This is your chance to play and let your own personal colour style shine through ☺.

5. **Stitching Pattern.** The chart below shows your stitching plan. On Pg. 7 you will find more detailed instructions for how to work each stitch.

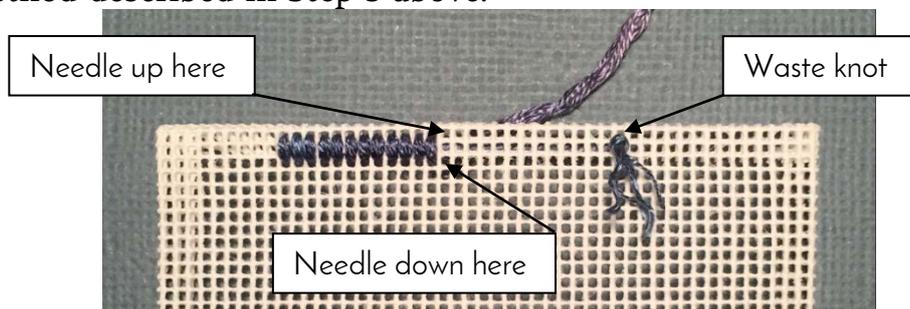


PINCUSHION

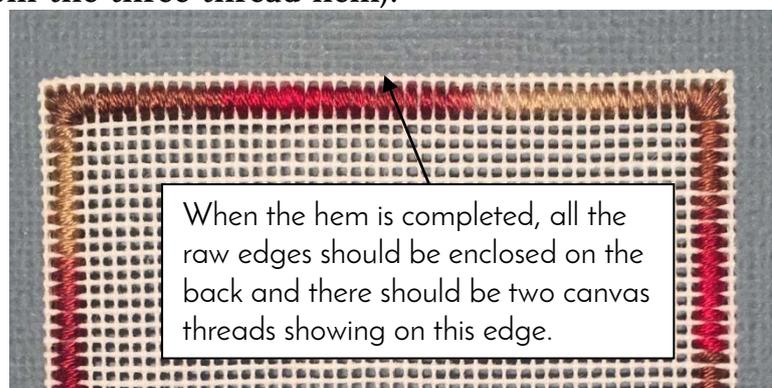
■ Colour 1 ■ Colour 3
■ Colour 2

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6. **Begin Stitching.** To start stitching your pincushion you will first sew the outermost row of **Straight Gobelin** in Colour 1. This will secure the hem folded in Step 1. Commence stitching along the middle of one side using the waste knot method described in Step 3 above.



Following the stitch diagram on Pg. 7, continue sewing so that your stitches completely enclose the raw edge of the hem on the back of the work. Note that the stitched design covers 48 x 48 threads so the outer edge will have two canvas threads uncovered (one thread from the front of the canvas and one thread from the three thread hem).



When you reach the **Quarter Eyelet Corner**, take care to thread the needle correctly through all four layers of canvas. This will ensure a neat corner for finishing the pincushion. The eyelet will create some bulk, making it difficult to pull the thread through the middle hole. Don't worry – just ease the thread through as gently as you can to minimise wear on the thread and distortion to the canvas.

7. **Continue Stitching.** You are now ready to continue stitching. With the outermost row of Straight Gobelin completed, the hem will be completely secure. Generally speaking, it is best from now on to aim to bring your needle up in an empty hole and down in a hole which already contains a thread. This will not always be possible, but as a general rule it helps to make your work as smooth as possible.

Work continues by stitching successive rows from the outside towards the centre, as follows.

- Cross Stitch** worked over 2x2 threads in Colour 2. Make sure that the top threads of your crosses all lie in the same direction.
- Straight Gobelin** worked over two threads in Colour 1. For this row I have suggested 2x2 crosses rather than quarter eyelets in the corners.

- c. **Reversed Scotch** worked over 3x3 threads in Colour 3. Diagonal stitches generally cover the canvas more effectively than straight stitches, so this stitch should give you a nice padded texture.
- d. **Continental Tent Stitch** worked over one thread in Colour 1. Take care as you turn the corner to keep the tent stitch running in the same direction and make sure that the back of the work doesn't turn into a half cross stitch.
- e. **Smyrna Cross** worked over 4x4 threads. The Smyrna Cross is simply a diagonal cross worked in Colour 3 overlaid with an upright cross in Colour 2. Just as for the ordinary cross stitch, make sure that the top stitches of your crosses all lie in the same direction.
- f. **Continental Tent Stitch** worked over one thread in Colour 1 as in (d) above.
- g. **Combination Crosses** worked over 4x4 threads. This is simply two rows of diagonal crosses worked in Colour 3 over 2x2 threads as in (a) above, followed by a row of upright crosses in Colour 2 worked over 2x2 threads between the two diagonal rows.
- h. **Basketweave Tent Stitch** worked over one thread in Colour 2. Use the stitching graph to determine the stitch placement for the basketweave tent stitch. Because basketweave is worked in diagonal rows, it perfectly suits the triangular pattern here.
- i. **Half Rhodes Stitch** worked over eight threads in Colour 1. The Half Rhodes is the focal point of this design, so you want the stitch to stand out. It involves overlaying nine long stitches so the stitch tension is really important. Try to make sure that the stitches are even and smooth so that the final result is raised without being too loose or too tight.

Your completed stitching should look something like this. You are now very close to being finished!



TO MAKE UP

1. Fold your completed square in half and stitch up each side using an overcast stitch.



Overcast each side seam, using a double stitch at the folded end of the seam.

2. If you want to make this into a scissor fob, create a twisted cord from some of your remaining threads or use a matching piece of ribbon. Create a loop using approximately 25cm of cord or ribbon, folded in half and knotted firmly at one end.

3. Refold the stitched “pouch” so the four corners of the original stitched square meet in the middle. If you are adding a cord or ribbon loop for a scissor fob, insert it now at the beginning of this seam with the knot lying on the inside of the square. Begin overcast stitching. When you are about halfway along the seam, pause and stuff to a firm “fullness”, and then finish the overcast stitching.

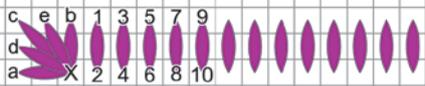


Start overcast seam in this corner, inserting a double stitch at the beginning.

Pause here, stuff, and then continue overcast to the end of the seam, again finishing with a double stitch.

STITCH INSTRUCTIONS

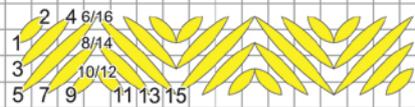
Unless otherwise stated, for the diagrams below the rule is needle up at '1', down at '2', up at '3', down at '4', up at '5', etc. Similarly, if the stitch is worked in two passes, the first pass follows '1', '2', '3', '4', etc. and the second pass follows 'a', 'b', 'c', 'd', etc.



Gobelin Stitch and Quarter Eyelet Corners
NB: Eyelet corners are worked up at 'a', down at 'X', up at 'b', down at 'X', up at 'c', etc.



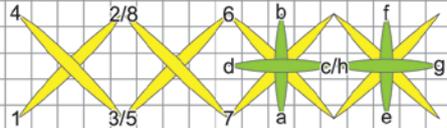
Cross Stitch over 2x2 threads



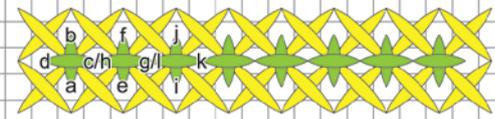
Scotch Stitch over 3x3 threads



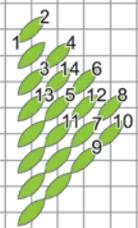
Continental Tent Stitch



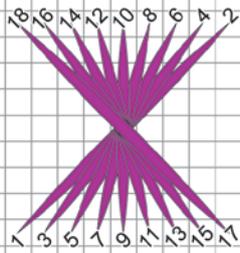
Smyrna Crosses
Worked in two passes - yellow diagonal crosses over 4x4 followed by green upright crosses over 4x4.



Combination Crosses
Worked in two passes - yellow diagonal crosses over 2x2 followed by green upright crosses over 2x2.



Basketweave Tent Stitch



Half Rhodes Stitch over 8x8 threads

If you have any queries about these notes,
please don't hesitate to contact me.

Ann-Marie Anderson-Mayes

Beautiful Stitches, Perth, Western Australia

Ph: +61 (0)8 9203 7231

Mob: +61 (0)427 443 919

Facebook: facebook.com/BeautStitches

Instagram: instagram.com/amamayes

Etsy: etsy.com/shop/MyBeautifulStitches

Email: info@beautifulstitches.com.au

Website: www.beautifulstitches.com.au



THE LAST WORD.....

Dear Beautiful Stitches,

This free pattern is my gift to you. I am very happy for you to copy and share it with all your friends. **But most embroidery patterns are not free.**

Designers expend a lot of time and effort creating beautiful designs for you to enjoy stitching. They put an equal amount of time and effort into preparing the very best patterns they can to help you have a fun and successful stitching experience. Please remember that they have the right to be fairly paid for the work they do.

When you have finished working this design, be sure to email me or post a photo on Facebook or Instagram and tag me in. One of my greatest joys is to see **your beautiful stitches** 😊

Warmest Regards
Ann-Marie