



Newsletter of the Blue Ribbon Chapter

American Needlepoint Guild, Inc.

Volume 7, Issue 1

January 1, 2023

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Calendar

Saturday, January 7
10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Saturday, January 7
1:00 - 2:00 pm

Tuesday, January 10
6:30 - 7:00 pm
7:00 - 7:30 pm
7:30 - 8:30 pm

Thursday, January 12
6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Sunday, January 15
1:00 - 3:00 pm

Wednesday, January 18
1:00 - 4:00 pm

Tuesday, January 24
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Saturday, February 4
1:00 - 2:00 pm

Saturday, February 4
1:00 – 3:00 pm

Tuesday, February 14
6:30 - 7:00 pm
7:00 - 7:30 pm
7:30 - 8:30 pm

Wednesday, February 15
1:00 – 3:00 pm

Wednesday, February 15
1:00 - 4:00 pm

Saturday, February 18
10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Sunday, February 19
1:00 - 3:00 pm

Saturday, March 4
1:00 - 2:00 pm

Tuesday, March 7
1:00 – 3:00 pm

Tuesday, March 7
5:30 - 7:00 pm
7:00 - 7:30 pm
7:30 - 8:30 pm

Wednesday, March 15
1:00 - 4:00 pm

Sunday, March 19
1:00 - 3:00 pm

Pattern Darning Class

Coralville Recreation Center, 1506 8th St, Coralville

Stitch-In-Public – Cedar Rapids Public Library, 450 Fifth Avenue SE, Cedar Rapids

Monthly meeting – Skype

Social/stitching time; log in to Skype (6:30 pm)
Chapter business meeting
Study topic – Summer Fireworks

Beginning Cross Stitch Class

Coralville Recreation Center, 1506 8th St, Coralville

Stitch-In-Public – Create Exchange, 615 Center Point Rd NE, Cedar Rapids.

Stitch-In-Public – National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library Please let Joyce Pencook know by **Monday, December 19** if you plan to stitch at the Museum. Joyce's number is 319-491-6227.

Swedish (Huck) Weaving Class

Coralville Recreation Center, 1506 8th St, Coralville

Stitch-In-Public – Cedar Rapids Public Library, 450 Fifth Avenue SE, Cedar Rapids

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Needlepoint Ornament Class

Coralville Recreation Center, 1506 8th St, Coralville

Monthly meeting – Knights of Columbus and Skype

Log in to Skype (6:00 pm); social/stitching time
Business meeting
Study topic – Fantastique

Stitch-In-Public – National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library

Stitch-In-Public – Create Exchange, 615 Center Point Rd NE, Cedar Rapids

Visit the Blue Ribbon Chapter website at <https://www.blueribbonang.com>

Facebook page – <https://www.facebook.com/Blue-Ribbon-ANG-102362961642607>

Blue Ribbon ANG Board Meeting Minutes, December 22, 2022

Members Present: Robin Rossignol, Kareen Strumpel, Cindy Baldwin, Joyce Pencook, Jamie Randall, Lori Barton, Jamee Klein, Heidi Parker, Shanel Slater, Heather Boustead, Ruth Topp, Karen Rajtora, Dee Hill, and Connie Rosene.

President Robin Rossignol called the quarterly board meeting to order at 6:48 PM via Skype.

Old Business: None at this time

New Business: None at this time.

Meeting adjourned at 6:50 PM.

Blue Ribbon ANG Chapter Meeting Minutes, December 22, 2022

Members Present: Robin Rossignol, Kareen Strumpel, Cindy Baldwin, Joyce Pencook, Jamie Randall, Lori Barton, Debbie Slater, Jamee Klein, Heidi Parker, Shanel Slater, Heather Boustead, Ruth Topp, Karen Rajtora, and Connie Rosene.

President Robin Rossignol called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM via Skype.

Minutes from the November 2022 meeting were approved as published and archived.

Treasurer Lori Barton reported that there was no activity in October. November activity included \$120 in membership renewals. Current balance = \$1,427.96. She reminded everyone that our chapter dues of \$20 should be received by December 31.

[Note: National ANG dues of \$60 are also requested by January 1.]

Updates on Chapter events:

Classes: Robin Rossignol has her first class, the ornament, at the Coralville Rec Center on Saturday. She doesn't know if anyone has registered.

Czech Museum: Joyce Pencook reported the next Stitch-in-Public event at the Czech Museum will be Wednesday, Dec. 21, 1-4 PM. Kareen will stitch with her. All members are welcome.

Committee Reports:

Membership: Kareen Strumpel reported no new members to date. At the Czech Museum Old World Christmas demonstration 19 people signed up to receive our newsletter.

Create Exchange: Kareen plans to attend on Sunday, Dec. 18 at 1 PM. She encourages others to join her.

Stitch-in-Public Events: Shanel Slater has arranged for the next stitch-in-public event at the Cedar Rapids Public Library on January 7, 2023, at 1:00 PM.

Robin Rossignol, Cindy Baldwin, and Jamee Klein will be at the North Liberty Library from 6 to 8 PM on Thursday, Dec 21st.

The Blue Ribbon Chapter of American Needlepoint Guild, Inc. (ANG), invites interested individuals, regardless of expertise, into membership. Dues are \$20 per year payable to the Chapter. You must be a current ANG member to belong to the Chapter. ANG membership information can be found at <http://www.needlepoint.org/membership.php>.

Guests and visitors are welcomed.

Meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday of every month (except May, July, and October) starting with a social time at 5:30 pm, with the formal meeting starting at 7:00 pm. These meetings are held at the Knights of Columbus, 1620 E Avenue NE, Cedar Rapids, IA and on Skype. Meetings in December, January, and February will be held on Zoom only, starting with Zoom login/social time at 6:30 pm, with the formal meeting starting at 7:00 pm.

Meetings in May, July, and October will be held on the 2nd Saturday of the month starting with social time at 1:00 pm and the formal meeting beginning at 1:30 pm. The Saturday meetings are held at the North Liberty Public Library, 520 W. Cherry St, North Liberty, IA and on Skype.

Board meetings will be held in September, December, March, and June.

The Blue Ribbon ANG Newsletter is published monthly. Deadline for submission of items is the 20th day of each month.

Newsletter Editor: Cindy Baldwin cbaldwin1828@gmail.com

2022-2023 Officers

Past President Kareen Strumpel (kareen@imonmail.com)

President Robin Rossignol (robin-ann-rossignol@uiowa.edu)

President Elect Jamee Klein (jameek34@gmail.com)

VP-Membership Kareen Strumpel (kareen@imonmail.com)

Secretary Connie Rosene (crosene@kirkwood.edu)

Treasurer Lori Barton (lmbtb13@gmail.com)

Chapter website: <https://www.blueribbonang.com/>

December 22, 2022, Minutes (continued)**Old Business:**

None at this time

New Business:

Robin offered assistance and ideas for name tags. Members are asked to wear name tags to meetings.

Robin noted that the ANG website is a source for free ornament patterns for anyone wanting to make Christmas gifts or tree decorations. She also offered advice on stitch diagrams which are often not numbered. YouTube demonstrations and books we have in our library are excellent resources when you find yourself confused or stumped.

Cindy opened a discussion of possibly sponsoring a tree or wreath at next year's Festival of Trees November 2023. Heidi will investigate the criteria, protocol, and important dates for registration/participation. Proceeds from the sale of trees and wreaths go to local charities.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:39 PM.

Next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 10 at 7:00 PM via Skype.

Respectfully submitted,
Connie Rosene, Secretary

Program:

Robin asked if members are having any difficulty with beginning our project Summer Fireworks. She offered ideas for threads, canvas, and stitch diagrams.

Dues

It is time to renew your Blue Ribbon membership. If you have not already done so, please complete the membership form and send it and your dues to Lori Barton.

Nametag

Since we have new members, it is time to start wearing our nametags at meetings and when we are stitching in public.

January, February Study Topic – Summer Fireworks

Summer Fireworks is by the same designer as Autumn Fireworks [Beautiful Stitches in Australia (<http://beautifulstitches.com.au/>)] and uses similar materials. We will not be teaching the project, per se, but Robin and Cindy will talk about the project and help with the stitches as needed. The instructions are attached.

The stitched area is about 2.5" x 8.5". The designer suggests adding about an inch to each side, but you may want to add more depending on how you want to finish it. (Minimum size would be about 4.5 x 10.5", 1" added to each side; for framing, add 2-3" to each side.) You will need to mount the Congress cloth on stretcher bars so you'll want to round up.

It is stitched on Congress cloth using stranded silk and cotton threads. You will need an overdyed thread with at least 3 colors in it, plus 4 solid-colored threads that coordinate with the colors in the overdyed thread. You can use any colors you like. You can use all cotton, all silk, or a combination. **Note that you will need an additional color if you want to use the same threads as for Autumn Fireworks** (this is a good time to practice what you learned about color in October).

Michael's carries a good selection of DMC's Color Variations and Coloris threads. Congress cloth, thread, and stretcher bars can be ordered from Fiberworks in Waverly - <https://www.myfiberworks.com/>.

You should have your Congress cloth mounted on stretcher bars before the meeting so you are ready to stitch. Please read through the instructions before the meeting.

You could also choose to stitch the project on a different ground cloth, e.g., 18-count canvas or linen. Watercolors and pearl cottons would work well on 18-count canvas.

Blue Ribbon ANG Website

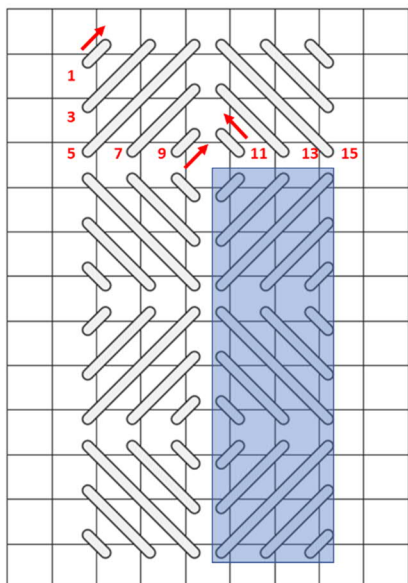
Our website (<https://www.blueribbonang.com/>) has a Members only page. When you go to the website, you'll see a Log In button to the right of ANG. Click on that and follow the instructions. Cindy Baldwin must approve access. Once you are approved, the last page on the website is Members. Click on that to add information about yourself.

Hover over Members and you'll see Files. You'll see several folders, including Study Topics. Patterns and information for past study topics are saved here. Anyone can create folders and add files. If you have questions, ask Cindy.

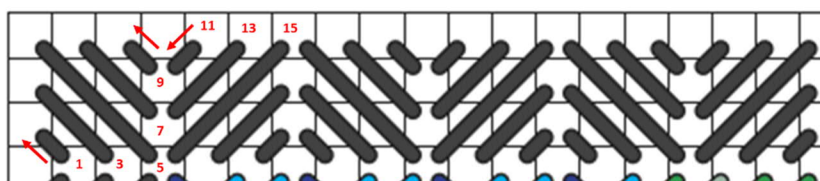
Stitch Diagrams

Numbered stitch diagrams make it easy to execute a stitch, but what if the diagram isn't numbered? For example, Marilyn Owen's stitch samplers that we have been using to practice what we've learned this year about threads and colors. Marilyn provided a master chart for each sampler plus diagrams for each stitch, but she didn't tell the stitcher where to start or provide numbered stitch diagrams.

Let's look at the Diagonal Stitch Sampler. I stitched the border first, starting in the top left corner. This was easy to count and established the size of the square. Marilyn used alternating scotch for the border, but her diagram shows 2 columns instead of a single row and it starts differently from the master chart. (I will admit that I just noticed this because I didn't look at the stitch diagrams, I just used the master chart.) It doesn't matter which one you use because this stitch is not compensated and will work whichever way it is stitched. If you follow the stitch diagram, just ignore the shaded stitches. I've provided a couple of numbering options; the first uses the diagram, the second uses the master chart. Note that in both cases, the second scotch stitch unit starts in an open hole and goes down in a filled hole.



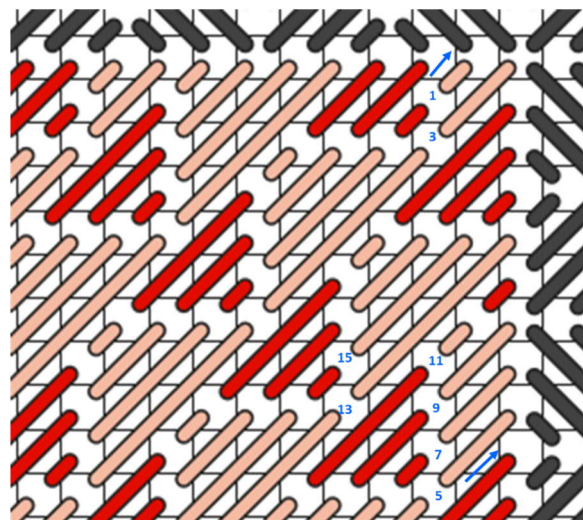
Alternating Scotch Stitch



Also note that the direction of the stitches on the back is opposite to the front; this helps keep tension consistent and will leave the holes open enough for interior stitches to share the holes. It is always better to come up in an empty hole and go down in a filled hole, but at some point, in this and many other projects, it will be necessary to come up in a filled hole.

Where to next? Look at the master chart to see what makes sense to you. I did the Milanese stitch in the upper right corner. You can follow the master diagram because it shows all the stitches, including compensation. If you do this in 2 colors, you will definitely be coming up in shared holes when you do the 2nd color (or you could use 2 needles and switch between the colors). The stitch path shown here will make sure that you will be able to come up in a shared hole without disturbing the previous stitch. It is ok to drag your thread down to stitch #5. The second color is stitched in the same fashion.

For the remaining sections, look at each carefully to work out a stitch path that works for you. If it helps, write numbers on the master chart or stitch diagram. For the Broken Byzantine in the bottom left corner, I would suggest starting in the corner rather than trying to start with the compensated edge. You could use 2 needles again and switch between the colors or stitch all the squares (or Byzantine sections). Either way, keep your stitch direction in mind for proper tension and sharing holes.



The bottom line is that you can stitch this type of project any way that works for you; take as much time as you need to work out a stitch path that works for you and if it doesn't work, don't hesitate to cut it out and try again.

Future Study Topic

March, April – Fantastique, a pulled thread and blackwork design by Elizabeth Almond. We will spend 2-3 meetings on this. You will need to purchase the pattern, but the cost is only about \$5 (+/- a bit depending on the exchange rate). You can purchase the pdf pattern at <https://www.blackworkjourney.co.uk/projects2.html> (scroll down to Fantastique [yes, it is misspelled on the website] and click on Add to Cart). She will send you the pdf chart via email.

The project is stitched on linen and is a combination of blackwork and pulled thread with a few surface stitches. The instructions call for 28-count linen, but you could use any count linen or evenweave, Congress Cloth, or even 18-count canvas. You will need an overdyed strandable thread and a coordinating solid color and some beads. The outline is traced onto the fabric before stitching.



Blogs

- Straightening Neon Rays http://needlepointstudyhall.blogspot.com/2011/03/straightening-neon-rays_27.html

Videos/Podcasts

- Beading Tips for Needlepoint <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BT7zXTXkZOY> and Brick Beading for Needlepoint https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HkTILNEUh_Y from Ruth Schmuff at Bedecked and Bedazzled

Interesting Needlework and Related Info on the Internet

- Artist Adorns Dried Leaves with Intricate Crochet Doily Designs <https://mymodernmet.com/susanna-bauer-crochet-leaves>
- Virtual Exhibition: 150 Years of the Royal School of Needlework: 'Crown to Catwalk' <https://royal-needlework.org.uk/new-virtual-exhibition/>
- Needlework by Kevin Lustik (an exhibit of Kevin Lusk's needlepoint at the Hudson Park Branch of the NY Public Library); see slideshow at <https://www.nypl.org/events/exhibitions/community-showcases/needlework-kevin-lustik>
- Embroiderer Uses Thread and Beads to Capture the Magical Vibrance of Nature <https://mymodernmet.com/sew-beautiful-x-landscape-embroidery-art/>

Editor's Note

Items included in the newsletter are ones that catch my attention in which I think the membership might be interested. I'm also happy to include news items or suggestions you send me, so please feel free to send things to me for inclusion in the next newsletter.

Cindy

Library

The updated library list is below. Robin has the books and will bring them to meetings. The list is also saved to the Blue Ribbon Website.

Title	Author Name	Description
Anchor Book of Canvaswork Embroidery Stitches	Anchor	Canvaswork
Anchor Book of Counted Thread Embroidery Stitches	Anchor	Counted thread
Anchor Book of Crewelwork Embroidery Stitches	Anchor	Crewelwork
Anchor Book of Free-Style Embroidery Stitches	Anchor	Free style
Anchor Book of Hardanger Embroidery Stitches	Anchor	Hardanger
Anchor Book of Ribbon Embroidery Stitches	Anchor	Ribbon
Anchor Color Card	Anchor	Design
Anchor Manual of Needlework	Anchor	General needlework
A-Z of Embroidery Stitches	Country Bumpkin Publications	Stitches
Beautiful Bargello	Petschek, Joyce	Bargello
Elegant Stitches	Montano, Judith Baker	Crazy quilting
Father B's 21 st Century Book of Stitches	Blackburn, Jr., The Rev. Robert E.	Stitches
Finishing and Mounting Your Needlepoint Piece	Ireys, Katharine	Finishing
Floral Stitches	Montano, Judith Baker	Crazy quilting
Learn How Book: Knitting, Crochet, Tatting, Embroidery	Coats & Clark	General needlework
Needlepoint Bargello	Kaestner, Dorothy	Bargello
Ribbon Basics	Hiney, Mary Jo; Anckner, Joy	Ribbon
Stitch Sampler	Ganderton, Lucinda	Stitches
The Complete Encyclopedia of Stitchery	Ryan, Mildred Graves	General needlework
The Complete International Book of Embroidery	Gostelow, Mary	General needlework
The Dictionary of Needlework	Caulfield, Sophia Frances Anne; Saward, Blanche	General needlework
The Needlepoint Book	Ipplito Christensen, Jo	Needlepoint
The Open Canvas	Ambuter, Carolyn	General needlework
The Thread Thesaurus	Caswell, Ann; Howren, Suzanne; Robertson, Beth	General needlework
Woman's Day Book of American Needlework	Lane, Rose Wilder	General needlework



Ice Crystal

Ornament[®]

www.sj-designs.com



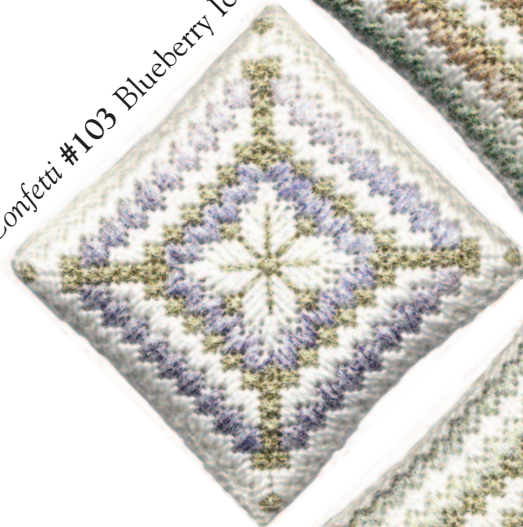
Confetti #107 Bittersweet Ice



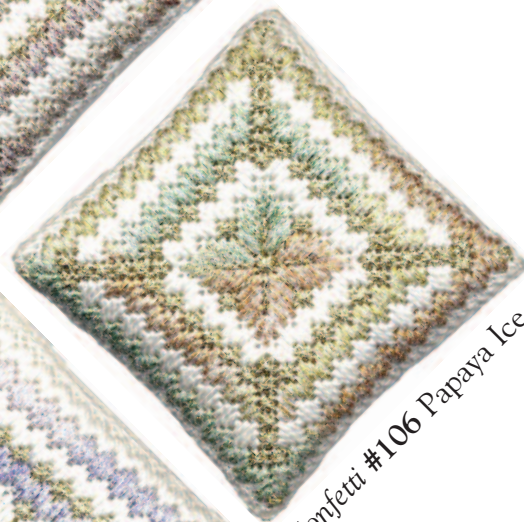
Confetti #104 Apricot Ice



Confetti #103 Blueberry Ice



Confetti #106 Papaya Ice



Confetti #102 Strawberry Ice



Confetti #105 Mango Ice





Ice Crystal

Ornament[©]

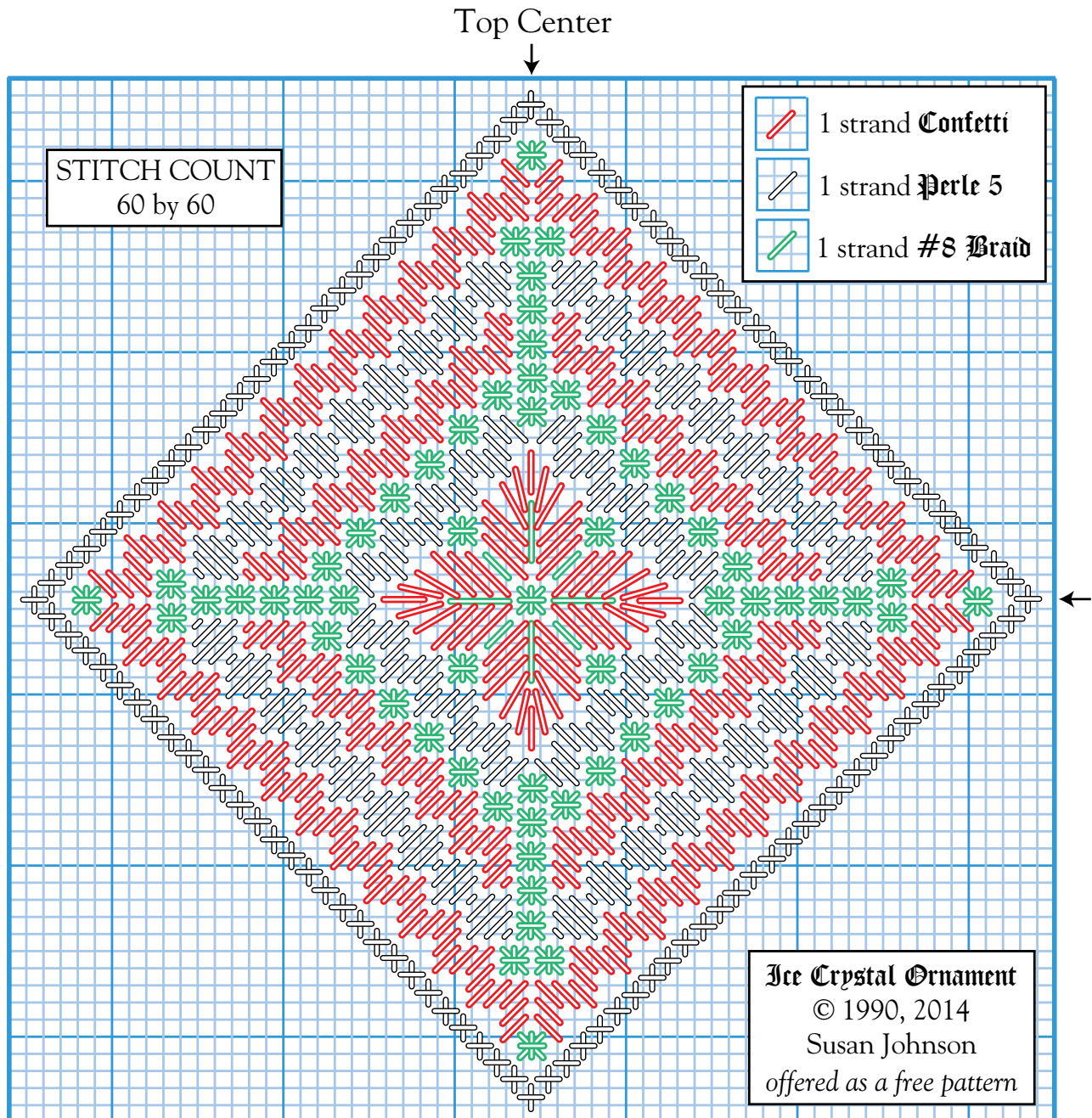
www.sj-designs.com

Materials for one 3-1/2" diamond-shaped ornament:

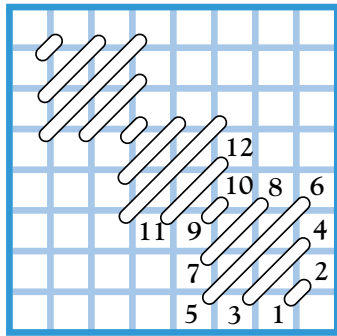
- 1 skein Confetti in your favorite "Ice" color
- 6 yards White* DMC or Anchor Perle 5
(*or choose a light color to blend with the Confetti)
- 1/2 reel 002 Gold Kreinik Fine (#8) Braid
- Zweigart #18 White* mono canvas, cut 6" x 6"
(*colored canvas can be used if you prefer, some will show through the stitching)

Tapestry needles #20 and #22

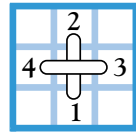
Instructions, stitch diagrams, color suggestions and finishing tips are on the next page!



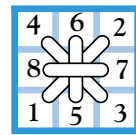
Offered for free distribution. Use of this pattern in kits offered for sale is prohibited.



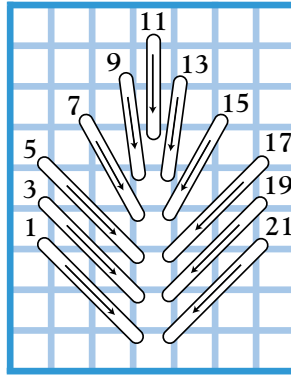
Mosaic stitch



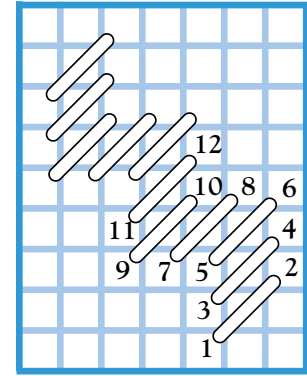
Upright Cross



Smyrna Cross



Leaf stitch



Byzantine stitch

Begin with the **Leaf** stitches at the center of the design, working from the outer edge of the **Leaf** inward. The center “vein” in each **Leaf** stitch is worked last, as a **Straight** stitch. Use a short (12”-15”) length of *Confetti* to avoid stretching and raveling. Work each successive row completely around the diamond shape (instead of working each quarter) to take advantage of the subtle shading created by *Confetti*. If you change the placement of the threads (see the suggestion, below), be sure to still work the outer row of **Upright Crosses** in Perle as they will provide an edging that the backing can be attached to.

Be creative and have fun with this design—try a color instead of white Perle, or a deep toned metallic Braid to complement or contrast with the *Confetti*. For a companion ornament with a different look, reverse the placement of the *Confetti* and the Perle.

Some color suggestions to get you started:

- #103 **Blueberry Ice Confetti** with #819 Pale Pink Perle 5 and 018 Navy or 033 Royal Braid
- #102 **Strawberry Ice Confetti** with #902 Burgundy Perle 5 and 002 Gold Braid, or with White Perle 5 and 080HL Garnet or 024HL Fuchsia Braid
- #105 **Mango Ice Confetti** with #504 Mint Green Perle 5 and 015HL Chartreuse or 008 Green Braid
- #106 **Papaya Ice Confetti** with White or #504 Mint Green Perle 5 and 009HL Emerald Braid
- #110 **Crystal Ice Confetti** with your favorite shade of Watercolours used 1-ply (instead of Perle 5) and 002 Gold Braid
- #112 **Lilac Ice Confetti** with White Perle 5 and 080HL Garnet Braid
- #101 **Rainbow Ice Confetti** with White Perle 5 and 018 Navy Braid
- #107 **Bittersweet Ice Confetti** with Ecru Perle 5 and 052HL Bronze or 2122 Curry Braid

Taping the edges of the canvas will help prevent snags in the *Confetti*. Stretcher bars or a roller frame are recommended to prevent distortion; otherwise, blocking will be required. *Confetti* is colorfast and hand-washable.

To finish as an ornament: Block as needed. Trim the canvas about 1” away from the stitching. Turn back the cut canvas edges, folding on the outer row of **Upright Cross** stitches. Finger press in place or use a steam iron with a press cloth. Attach a hanging loop and tassel, if desired, sewing in place or using fabric glue. Overcast an Ultrasuede square onto the ornament back, sewing through both the fabric and the **Upright Crosses** along three sides. Stuff with quilt batting and finish overcasting the fourth side. A twisted cord edging can be added if you like. Hang up your ornament and enjoy the compliments!