

10 Needlepoint Ornaments

Fun designs that are easy-to-stitch come in handy, but especially when Christmas deadlines loom. These five delightful ornaments will go quite a ways towards helping with those deadlines. If by chance you are all caught up with your Christmas stitching, get a head start on next year.

Embellished Package



My idea for this ornament came from those pretty bows that look as if a bunch of twisty ribbons were plopped onto the package. A textured background using three white threads looks like wrapping paper. When I found a seed bead embellishment that looked like those ribbons – it was a perfect focal point.

Materials

- 7 inch square 18 mesh mono canvas
- 1 card Neon Rays N02 (white)
- 1 card Petite Sparkle Rays PS21 (white)
- 1 card Neon Rays Plus NP02 (white)
- 1 pin or beaded embellishment (see page 2 to make your own)
- 1 skein 4mm silk ribbon to match embellishment

Step-by-step Instructions

Draw a 5" circle on your canvas.

The stitch pattern uses a different stitch for each thread. All the stitches make blocks that cover four threads. It will create a pattern where every other block in every row is the same thread/stitch combination.

Stitch the ornament row by row, beginning in the middle of the circle. Stitch the first block with four **Three-stitch Crosses**, below, using Sparkle Rays.

Stitch the next block in **Rice Stitch**, below, using Neon Rays. Continue, alternating the two stitches until the row is complete.

The next row will alternate Tied Scotch and Three-stitch Cross. Begin by making **Tied Scotch**, below, using Neon Rays Plus. Next, stitch a Three-stitch Cross block. Continue, alternating the stitches until the row is complete.

Fill the remainder of the circle, alternating between the two rows.

Once stitched, use the 4mm silk ribbon to make stitches going from edge to edge, crossing in the middle.

Attach the embellishment to the center by pulling the wires through from the embellishment to the back of the canvas. Secure the wire ends.

Making an Embellishment

Although I bought the embellishment, you can make a similar one. You'll need:

- Size 11 seed beads in color of your choice
- Beading thread or cotton floss
- 1" (25cm) perforated disk
- short length of thin wire

Your beading blank should look like the picture below. I found them in packages of 10 at Fire Mountain Gems.



Make the embellishment by bringing thread or beading wire up through a hole. Thread 6-10 seed beads on this. Skipping the top bead, bring the thread back through the beads and back into the hole. Continue this process until you like the look of your embellishment.

Because the beads strings are floppy, it's easiest to work from the center out.

To attach, bring the wire up through the canvas and into one hole at the center, then down through an adjacent hole and back through the canvas. Twist the ends together once to secure.

Six Mimbres Rounds



The Mimbres people were a pre-historic tribe based in New Mexico. Their origins and their disappearance is a mystery. They did leave lovely art. These simple designs of animals continue to influence Southwestern art today.

The four designs are charted and can be stitched to be finished as round or square ornaments. The designs are all about three inches.

Materials

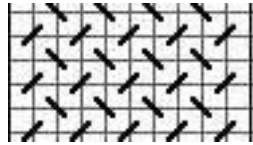
For each ornament:

- 7" square ivory 18-mesh mono canvas
- 1 skein DMC #5 pearl cotton 310 (black)
- 1 spool Kreinik Tapestry (#12) metallic 5555 (cream)

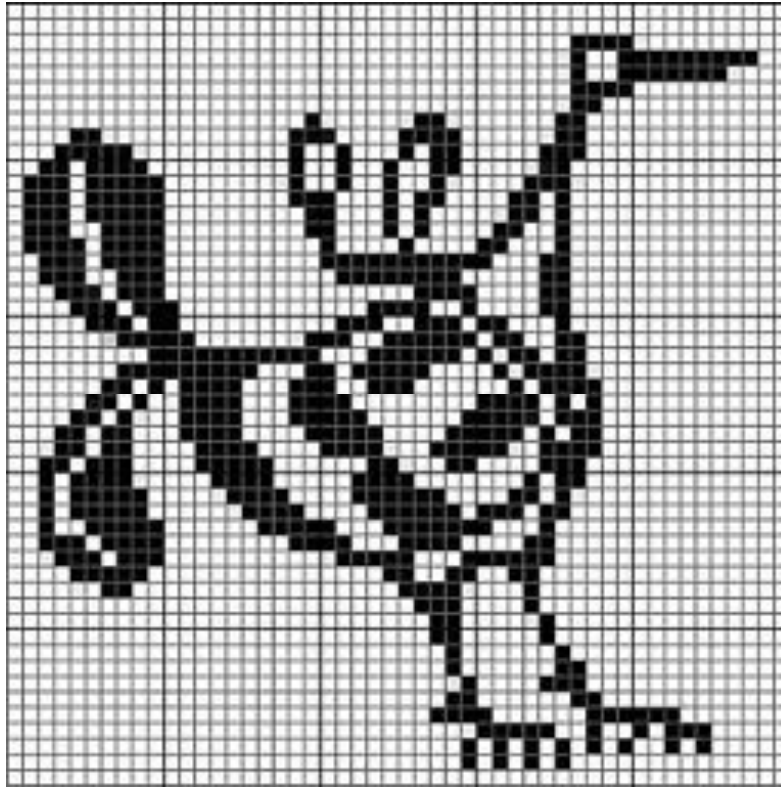
Step-by-step Instructions

Following one of the charts on the next pages, stitch the animal in **Tent** using black (310) pearl cotton.

Stitch the background in **T Stitch**, below, using the metallic thread.



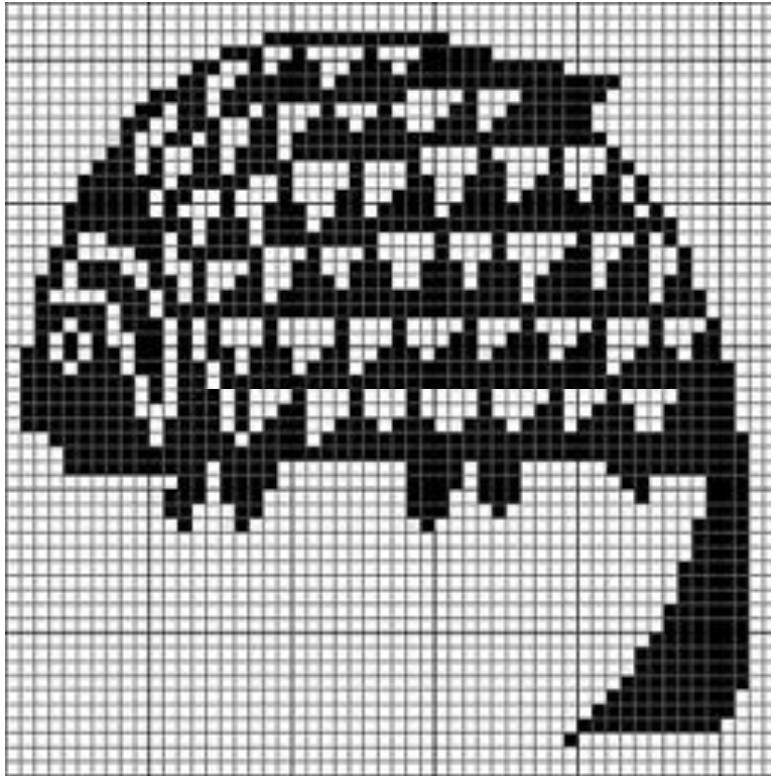
Bird



Deer-bird



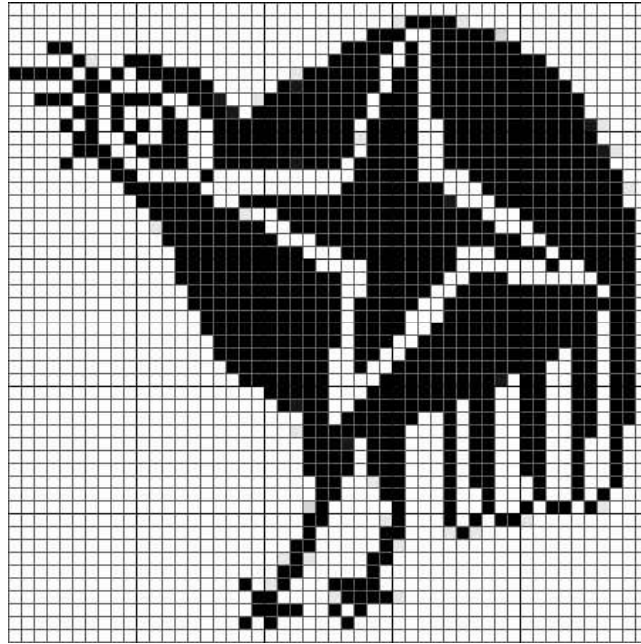
Fish



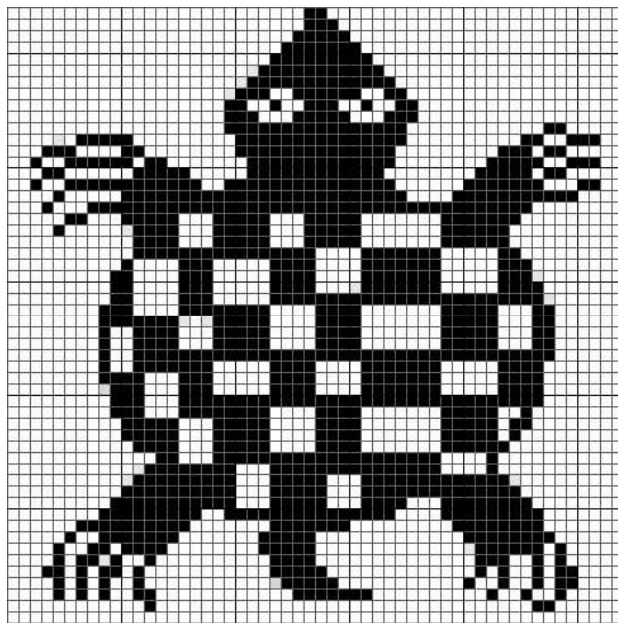
Lizard



Quail



Turtle



Gingham Words



You don't need to buy a painted canvas to make a delightful gingham needlepoint ornament. The ornament fits into this Studio Decor bauble ornament, above. The company makes many different ones, available at Michel's near the holidays and on eBay all year long. I stock up on them during Black Friday sales.

I made three of these last year, one for each of my children. I could stitch them in a day and finish them in these cute frames in minutes. I personalized some of them, but when the name is too long, use Christmas words. Make them even more personal by using the recipient's favorite color for the gingham.

Materials

- 6-inch square 18-mesh mono needlepoint canvas
- 1 skein floss each in:
 - white
 - bright color
 - intermediate color between white and color
- 1 spool silver or gold metallic
- 1 skein DMC Etoile metallic to match bright color
- Studio Décor ornament with 2-inch opening

Step-by-step Instructions

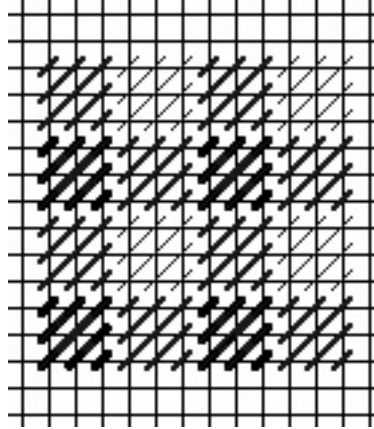
Using a template, trace your shape onto the canvas. For the word, draw two lines across the width of your shape going through the middle of the shape. This will be the ribbon with the word.

The first step is to chart the name. I used this 7-thread alphabet, below.



Fill in the ribbon in **Tent** or a stitch of your choice using the darker of the two colors of thread.

Stitch the remaining parts of the ornament in **Gingham Scotch**, below. Stitch every other block in each row using four strands of the intermediate color, creating a check. Fill in the open squares alternating between the color and white in each row.



Finish in the ornament by trimming the canvas to fit. Thin the cardboard back by removing a few layers from the inside side of the cardboard. Put on the back and refasten.

Diagonal Paths



This ornament uses a block designed by the famous pattern maker Nancy Cabot. It is also a four block design. Square patches can be interpreted as complete Scotch Stitches, while triangular patches are Scotch Stitches that are done in two colors. This ornament is taken from a quilt block of the 1930's.

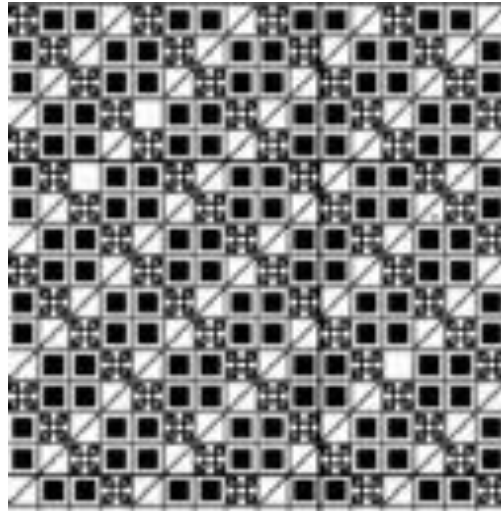
Materials

- 1 sheet 14-count clear plastic canvas
- 1 skein each Watercolours
 - 129 Hint of Mint (white)
 - 140 Black Watch (dark green)
- 1 card Flair F581 (lime)

Step-by-step Instructions

Using the chart below, stitch the ornament, except for the border. Each square in the chart is on Mosaic Stitch. If you like you can replace the quartet of squares with the square symbols with on Scotch Stitch over four threads. Use one strand of Watercolours for the design.

The blocks with one diagonal line are stitched in white. The blocks with the tic-tac-toe design are stitched in lime.



Begin stitching at least five holes from a corner or edge to give room for the border.

Stitch the inner border in **Diagonal Gobelin**, below.



To finish the ornament, begin by cutting out the ornaments in the holes just outside the completed stitching. Be sure to cut in the holes. Now take another piece of plastic canvas cut to exactly the same size. Also cut a piece of thread to hang your ornament. Tie the ends of this piece of thread together.

Make a sandwich of the stitched ornament, the thread (be sure it sticks out some) and the plain piece of plastic. Line up the canvas at the edges. In quilts the binding is the narrow edge of fabric that finishes the edges of the quilt, hiding the raw edges of the canvas. Use one strand of Watercolours to stitch the binding.

Tropical Diamond Mini-sock



I wanted to stitch a design using bright tropical colors, which are out of my comfort zone. In order to dilute their impact, I combined them with bright white. The sock is stitched entirely in Straight Stitches, with the stitch direction alternating between colored and white blocks.

Materials

- 7x9" piece 18-mesh mono canvas
 - 1 skein Silk & Ivory 001 Natural (white)
 - 3-5 scrap threads in white
 - 40 or more scrap threads in tropical colors
- Be sure to edit your election of scrap threads before you start to stitch.

This project uses what I call a scrappy background. Like traditional backgrounds, these are a single color. The difference is that portions of the background use other threads in the same color. You can see one of these blocks near the bottom of the stocking. The scraps should be an accent, taking up no more than 20-25% of the background area.

Begin by picking your main background thread. Here I used Silk & Ivory in natural. Depending on your pattern figure out if there is an easy way to do the

accents. For example, here I made mostly one diamond in each row a scrap.

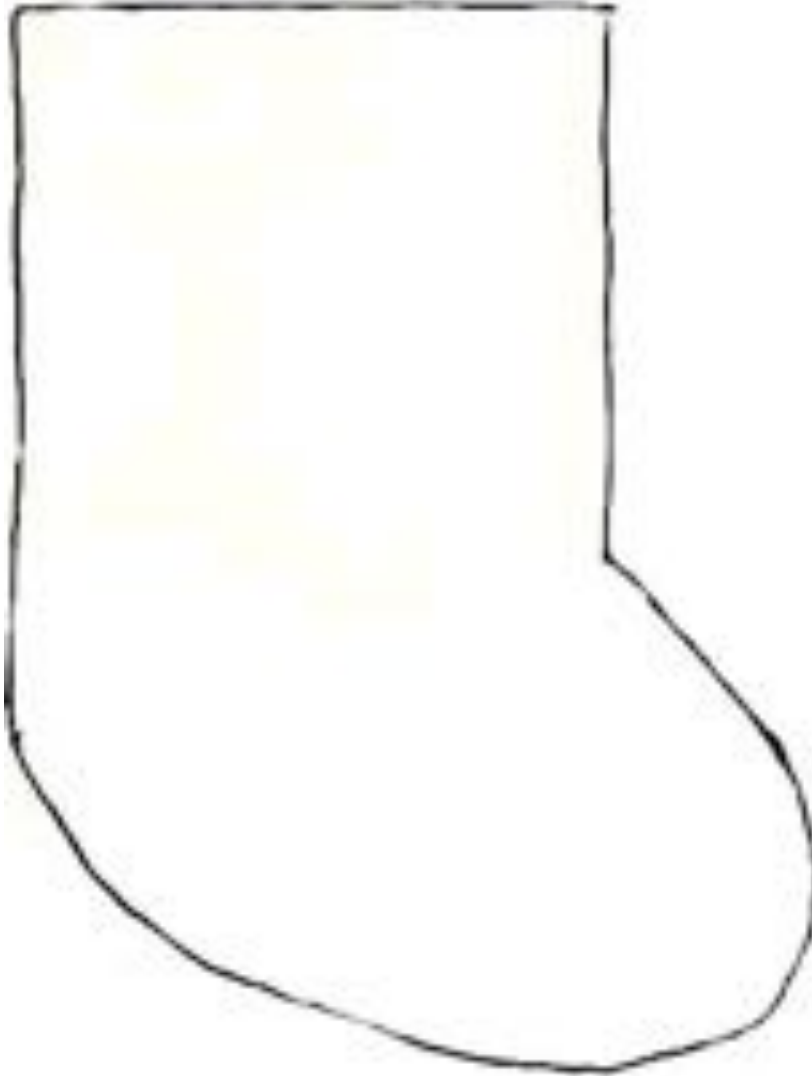
Now go to your scrap bag and pick out some threads in the same color as your main background thread. Don't pick fewer than 3 or more than 5.

As you stitch the background, incorporate the scrap threads into it, following the usual rule of not putting the same thread, except for the main background thread, in adjacent units.

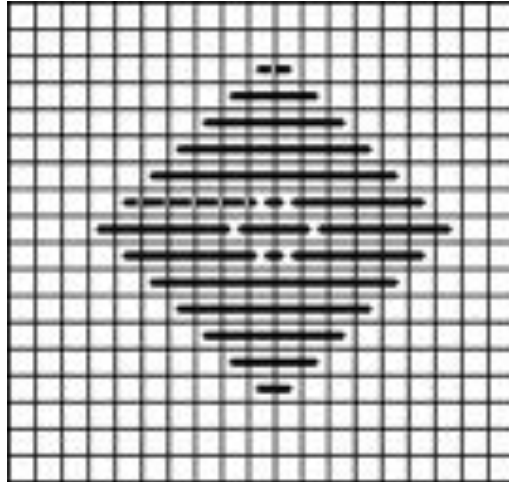
When you do this you add variety to the background, giving it a scrappy look while still keeping it under close control.

Step-by-step Instructions

Using the template below and a permanent marker safe to use on fabric, such as Pigma Micron, trace the template onto your canvas.

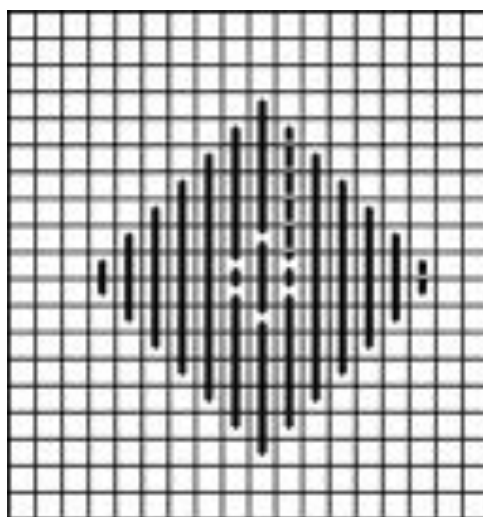


Somewhere in the middle of the outline, stitch a **Horizontal Bermuda** diamond unit, below, in one of your bright scrap bag threads. Once this is done, park your thread if there is enough for an additional diamond. Pick another thread and stitch the diamond next to it. The two diamonds meet at the left and right points.



Continue in this way until all the diamonds in this row are stitched. The scrap diamonds in one row touch at their center stitches. They touch diamonds in the adjoining rows at the shortest stitches.

Stitch the background row of **Bermuda** vertical diamonds, below, using your main background thread. Substitute diamonds in background accent threads according to your plan. The background diamonds touch the other diamonds in the same row at the shortest stitches. They touch background diamonds in adjoining rows at the center stitches.



Continue stitching the stocking, row by row until it is complete.

