



Ann's Orchard Needlework

Counted Beadwork Instructions

www.ansorchard.co.uk

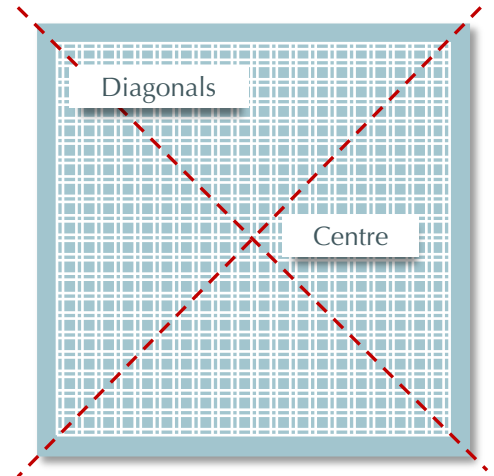
These characterful critters have been designed as a simple introduction to stitching with seed beads. If anything is missing or in short supply please let me know and I will be happy to post extra – epavier@ansorchard.co.uk

Japanese seed beads * Beading canvas * Beading & tapestry needles * White sewing thread
Anchor stranded embroidery cotton * Colour chart and instructions * Aperture card and envelope

How To Begin

Start by placing your seed beads on a flat surface, a beading mat is perfect but a napkin or square of kitchen towel on a dinner plate works equally well. Sort the beads into colour groups. Closely coloured beads will already be in different bags and there is a bead key to help. Each of your bead colours will be represented by a similarly coloured symbol on the chart.

Next, find the centre of the beading canvas. This can be done using a ruler or simply by folding the fabric in half along both diagonals. The centre of the chart is where the two red lines cross.

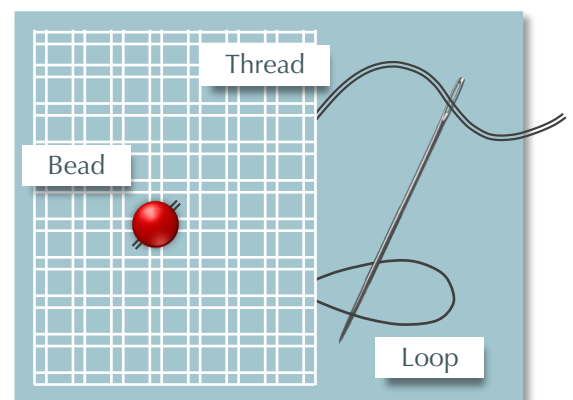


Stitching the Design

All the beads are stitched first and then the background is completed in half cross stitch using stranded embroidery cotton. The kit contains two needles; a beading needle with a very fine eye and a larger tapestry needle. Cut approximately 1.5m of white sewing thread, fold in half, cut the two free ends to the same length and thread through the eye of the beading needle. This can be quite tricky so you can choose to stitch with a single strand of thread instead. Starting at the centre of the canvas use a loop stitch to attach the thread –

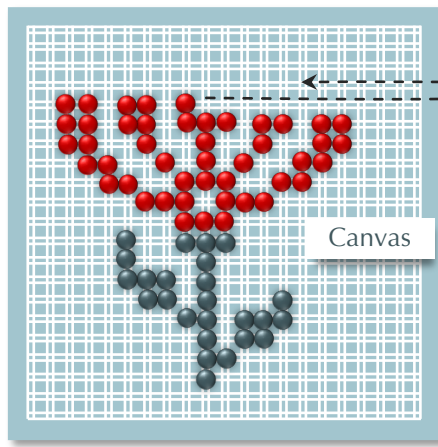
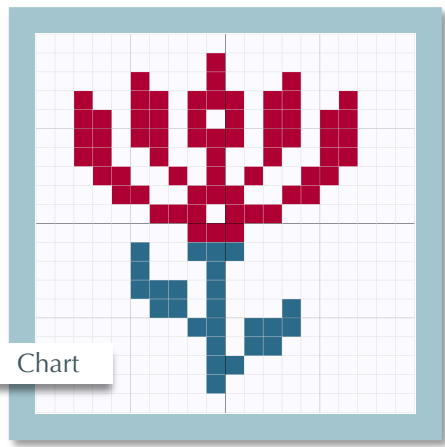
Bring the threaded needle up through a large hole, at the centre of the canvas, leaving a loop hanging at the back. Following the chart, pop the correctly coloured bead on the needle. Pass the needle back down through the neighbouring, diagonal hole and through the loop of thread, pulling tightly to attach both the thread and first bead.

Use only the large holes for stitching. Occasional, extra stitches through the small holes act as anchors, holding everything in place.



Following the Chart

Each square on the chart represents a single bead. The squares are marked with a symbol and are a similar colour to the bead they represent. Working from the first bead, and following the chart, stitch back and forth along the rows picking up the correctly coloured bead as you make each half-cross stitch. Take care to stitch in the same direction to ensure the beads lie flat. As the design progresses the beads will start to lock themselves together. Make small stitches in the back of your work when finishing a length of thread.



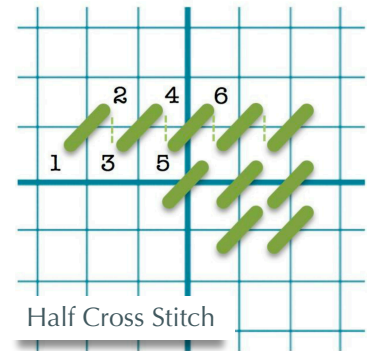
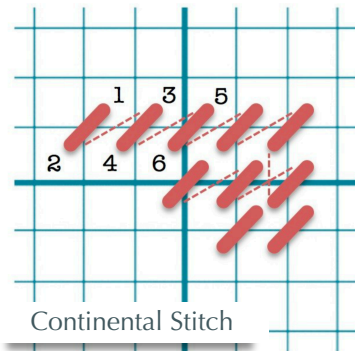
*HANDY HINT –
If you place the tip of the needle
against the hole in the bead it will
literally jump onto the needle.*

Stitching the Background

The background is stitched with all six strands of the embroidery cotton. Thread the tapestry needle with a 60cm length and start stitching near the centre of the design filling in the background using either half-cross stitch or continental stitch. Each coloured square on the chart represents a single stitch. Take care to stitch in the same direction and keep your stitches fairly loose but even to prevent the canvas pulling out of shape. Make a few small stitches into the back of your work to secure a finished thread before starting a new one. Finished minikits should measure 29 stitches wide by 29 stitches high.

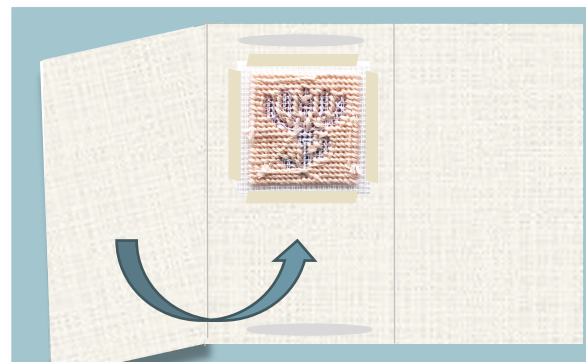
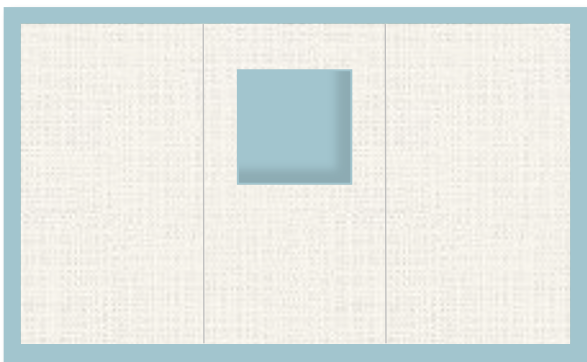
Thick lines show the front of the stitch and dotted lines represent the back of the stitch.

Numbers indicate the order of stitching
Bring the needle up for odd numbers
Take the needle down for even numbers



Finishing Off

A tiny spot of either black or white acrylic paint, applied with a cocktail stick to the eye, adds character to your finished critter. A gift card and envelope are included in the kit and may be used to mount your work. Simply open the card and place the beadwork so it sits neatly in the aperture. If the canvas is a bit squiffy it can be gently pulled into shape before securing it to the card with masking tape. Cover the back of your work by folding over and sticking the left hand flap of the card in place. Alternatively, the finished beadwork designs look lovely in simple picture frames or they may be used as applique patches.



1. Open out the card

2. Tape the finished beadwork in the opening.
Fold over and stick down the flap to cover
the back of your work.

3. Finished

Emma Pavier x