



Ann's Orchard Needlework

Beadwork on Linen Instructions

This simple beaded design is stitched using the loveliest materials I have been able to source. If anything is missing or in short supply please let me know and I will be happy to post extra. In addition to the materials in the kit you will also need a pen and scissors

If you need any further help please head this way
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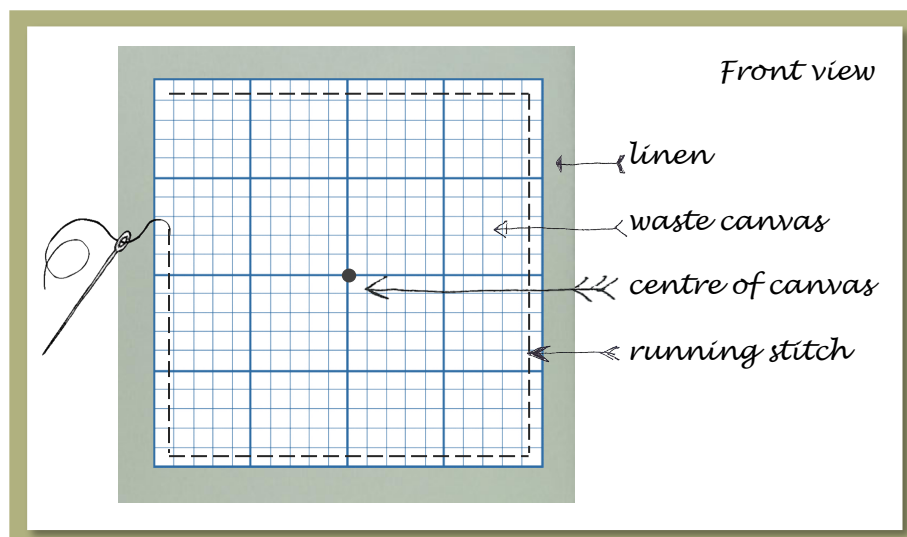
Ann's Orchard bag * duck egg blue linen * 12hpi waste canvas * Japanese seed beads
beading and embroidery needles * white sewing thread * embroidery thread for bird designs * instructions

Before you Begin

The design is stitched on a fine upholstery linen, which may be dampened to remove the waste canvas or to clean but should not be washed. The waste canvas provides a temporary grid when sewing the beads onto the linen. The threads of the canvas are held together with starch so please try not to get these wet until the design is finished or they will start to separate. The Japanese seed beads are of the very highest quality but may vary slightly in size and shape. The kit contains more beads than needed so select only the best when sewing. The beads are packaged individually and labelled with a coloured symbol to match their position on the chart. Arranging the beads on a beading mat or piece of felt makes it easier to find the correct colour as you work and stops them rolling around! The beads should hop on the needle if the point is placed against the hole. Any dressmaking sewing thread is suitable for stitching this kit.

Preparing the Fabric for Sewing

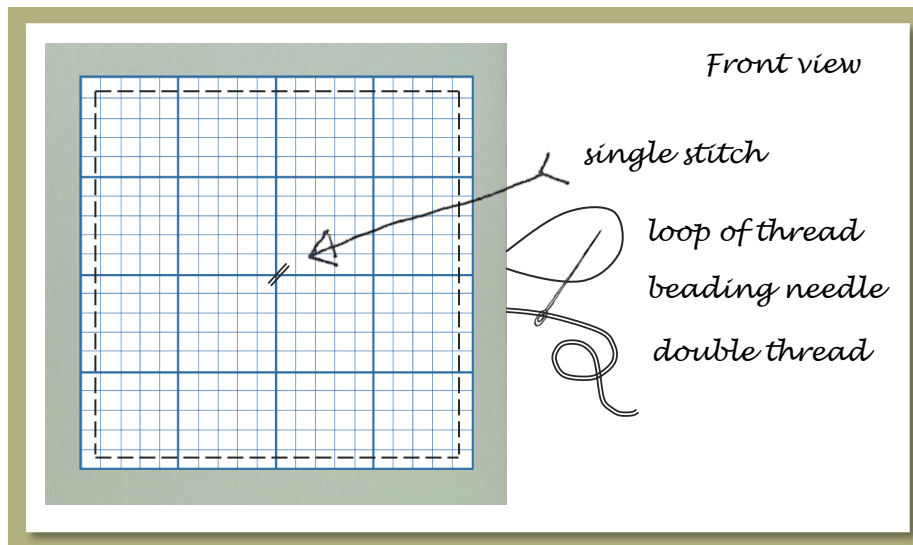
Iron the linen and waste canvas to remove any creases. To prevent the linen fraying as you work, zigzag or blanket stitch around the edge. Place the waste canvas in the centre of the linen and tack in place with a running stitch around the edge and across the middle. Find the centre of the canvas and mark lightly. **WARNING** – Do not mark the linen as it may show through your finished beadwork. The waste canvas is relatively stiff so there is no need to use a frame or hoop.



Stitching the Design

Stitch in a well lit room, the beads are very tiny!

Cut approximately 1m of the white sewing thread and fold in half. Thread the beading needle with both cut ends, you may need to trim them first to ensure they are even as the eye of the beading needle is very fine. Start at the centre of the design and attached the thread to the fabric using a loop knot – Bring the threaded needle up through the back of the linen and a large hole in the waste canvas leaving the loop hanging at the back. Pass the needle back down through a neighbouring large hole in the canvas, through the linen and the loop, pulling tight to secure the thread. Make this first stitch in an area that will be hidden by a bead.

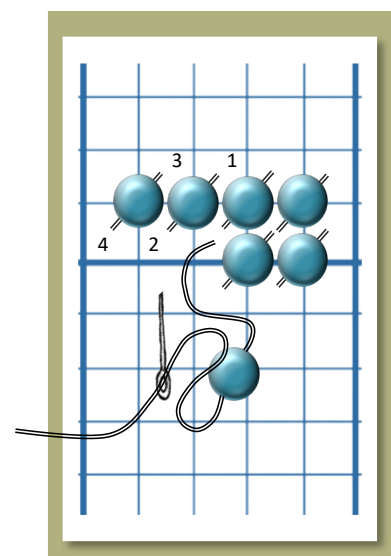


The beads are stitched on the linen using half cross stitch, working through the large holes of the waste canvas.

Starting at the centre of the design, bring the needle and thread up through the back of the fabric (1), refer to the chart and thread on the correctly coloured bead before passing the threaded needle back through the large hole lying diagonally to the one the needle came up through (2). To attach the next bead use holes (3) and (4).

It does not matter which way you make your stitches, from right to left or left to right, just make sure they are all made in the same direction for the entire needlework otherwise the beads will not lie flat.

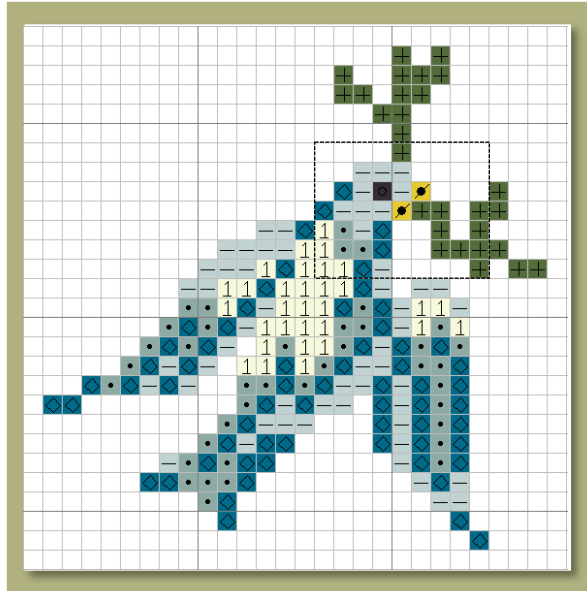
As the work progresses the beads will start to lock themselves together. Sewing tightly and making occasional stitches in the back of the linen will also help to hold the beads firmly in place. Take care not to allow stitches, other than those holding the beads, to show on the front of the linen. When you finish a length of sewing thread weave it through the back of your stitches to secure. Start a new length of thread either with a loop knot or weave it through the back of the existing stitches to begin.



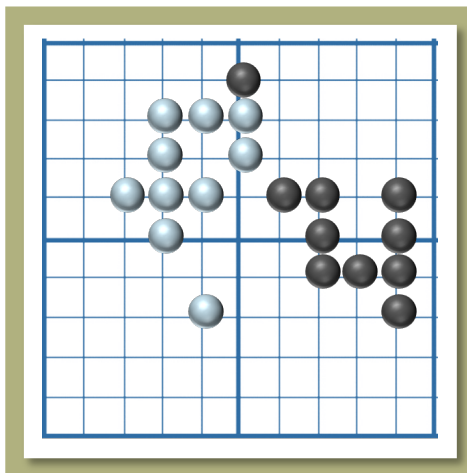
Following the Chart

Each square of the chart represents a single bead. The squares are marked with symbols that match with bags containing the correct bead. The colour of the symbol are similar to the colour of the bead it represents. You may choose to stitch all the beads of one colour before moving to the next colour. However, it is easiest to start in the middle and work across the rows picking the correct bead for each neighbouring stitch, rather like threading a necklace.

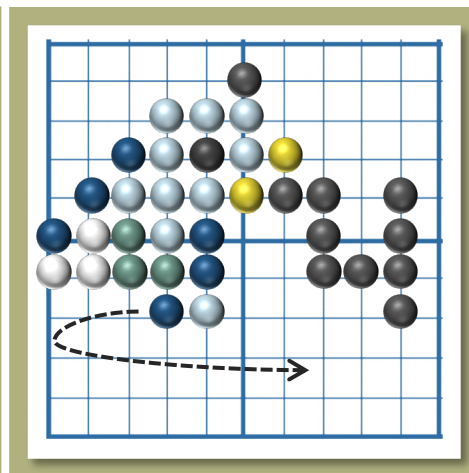
Chart



Single colour

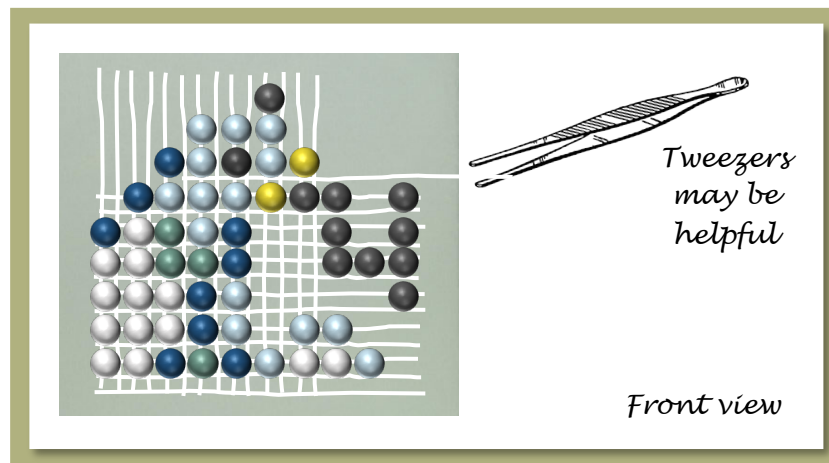


Row by row



Removing the Waste Canvas

Once all the beadwork is complete the waste canvas may be removed from the linen. First unpick the running stitches and carefully cut away some of the excess canvas, leaving a border of at least 2cm around the beadwork. Dampen the remaining waste canvas with a spray bottle or sponge and clean water to dissolve the starch holding the threads together. Pull the loosened, individual threads carefully out from beneath the beads and leave the beadwork to dry naturally on a flat surface. Once dry check your finished work, if any of the beads seem slightly loose then simply pull the threads from behind to tighten and stitch in place to hold.

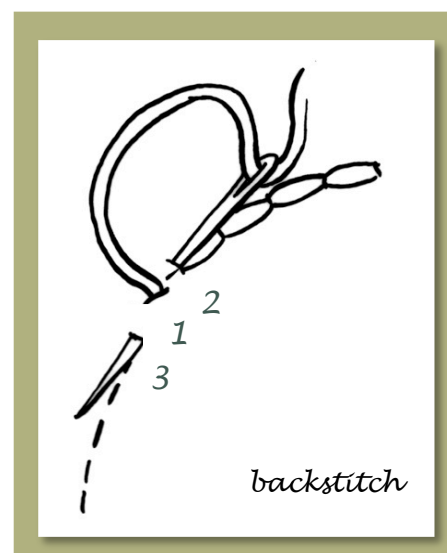


Completing the Embroidery

Some designs are finished with freehand embroidery. The photograph is a useful reference, but this may be an opportunity to be creative. There is no harm in unpicking and reworking stitches to get the effect you desire.

The embroidery thread comprises six strands which should be unwound and two strands used for stitching. Use the embroidery needle, attach the thread to the back of your work by weaving through the existing stitches before working in backstitch

Start with a single stitch, then bring the needle through from the back of the linen slightly in front of this first stitch (1). Make a straight stitch backwards in to the end of the first stitch (2). Bring the needle through the back of the linen again, slightly ahead of the second stitch (3).



Finishing

We recommend the finished beadwork is mounted behind glass. Select a picture frame and cut a piece of acid free mountboard to fit.

Place the beadwork face down on a clean surface and place the mountboard in the centre. Fold the linen over the edges of the board and using strong thread start stitching the opposite edges of the linen together pulling the fabric taut.

Check the front of the work occasionally to make sure it remains centered. Repeat this process on the opposite edges of the linen, carefully folding and stitching the corners. Place the mounted work in the picture frame and attach the backing board.

Enjoy!

