



Ann's Orchard Needlework Silvereye Counted Cross Stitch

Design measures 62stitches x 61stitches
Finished size 5" diameter





Ann's Orchard Needlework

Silvereye Instructions

Counted Cross Stitch

This little cross stitch bird started life following a request from New Zealand for a Christmas cross stitch design. The silvereye bird is native to this area and with its dusky pink feathers and shape was reminiscent of a traditional robin. I have taken some artistic licence with the design but I hope it captures the spirit of this little bird.

Materials

5" Embroidery hoop * Aida 14 count (20cm x 20cm) * Cross stitch needle
Jet black seed bead * Embroidery threads listed on chart or your own selection
White sewing thread * Scissors

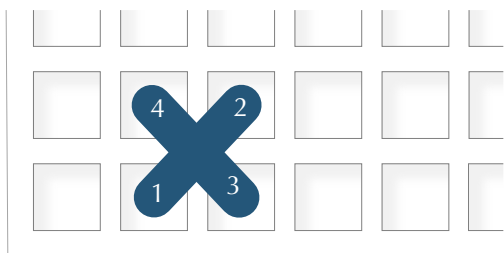
How to Begin

The design is stitched on 14 count Aida which ensures it will fit perfectly in a 5" embroidery hoop. Start by giving the fabric a light iron. Zigzag with a machine or blanket stitch around the edge to stop the fabric fraying as you stitch. Loosen the brass screw at the top of the hoop so the two rings may be separated. Place the fabric over the top of the smaller hoop, so it is centred, then place the larger hoop on top and press the two together before tightening the brass screw so the fabric is held firmly.

Each coloured square of the chart represents a single cross stitch and is printed in a colour similar to the thread used to make the stitch. The thread key printed beneath the chart give the DMC colour codes for each of the coloured symbols. Arrows and two dotted lines show the centre of the design and this is where you should start stitching to be sure the bird fits on the fabric. It is not a problem if you are a few stitches out as the hoop can always be moved.

Stitching the Design

This bird is stitched using two strands of embroidery thread. Select the correct colour, cut a length of about 60cm and, holding it at one end, twist slightly to separate the strands before pulling them apart. Bring two strands back together and thread your needle. Starting at the centre of your fabric bring your needle up, leaving a short tail of about 3cm at the back, which you should aim to cover with the back of your stitches to hold it securely in place. You may choose to make your stitches individually or work back and forth along a row in half cross stitches. There is no rule about which way you should stitch, that will come naturally, but always make sure the top half of your stitches lie in the same direction for the neatest finish.

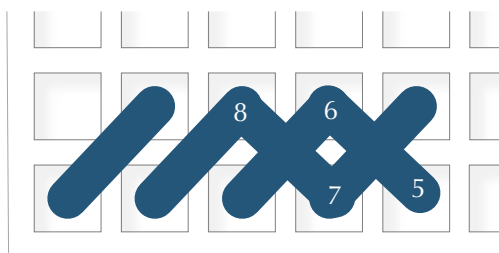
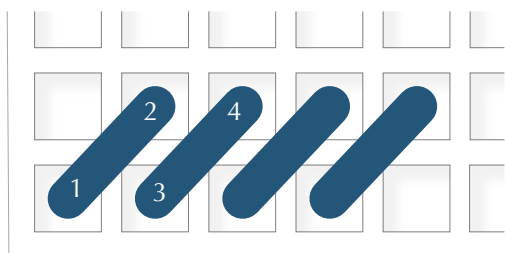


Single Stitches

Bring your needle up through the fabric (1) and pass it back down through hole (2) to make your first half cross stitch. Bring your needle up through (3) and down through (4) to complete the cross stitch.

Stitching in Rows

Bring your needle up through the fabric (1) and pass it back down through hole (2) to make your first half cross stitch. Repeat this bringing your needle up (3) and down (4) for the correct number of stitches. To complete the crosses, work backwards along the row. Bring your needle up at (5) and down through (6) to complete the first stitch and repeat for the remaining stitches.



If there is a colour change just leave a gap and fill it in with the correct colour later. If your stitches need to be offset then you can run your thread behind your work. If the stitches are widely separated, fasten off the thread and start a new length in the correct place.

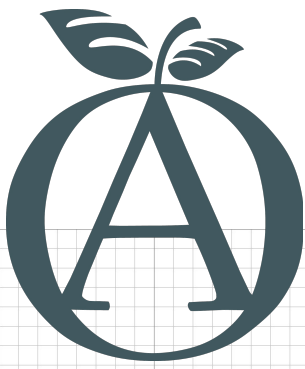
To fasten your thread just weave it through the back of your stitches and snip off the end. Take care to fasten your thread in an area of the same or similar colour to ensure it doesn't show through the front of the needlework. Don't worry too much about the neatness of the back of your work – this is supposed to be fun!

To attach the beady eye simply make a cross stitch in one of the darker colours of thread and pass your needle and thread through the bead when completing the second half cross stitch.

Finishing

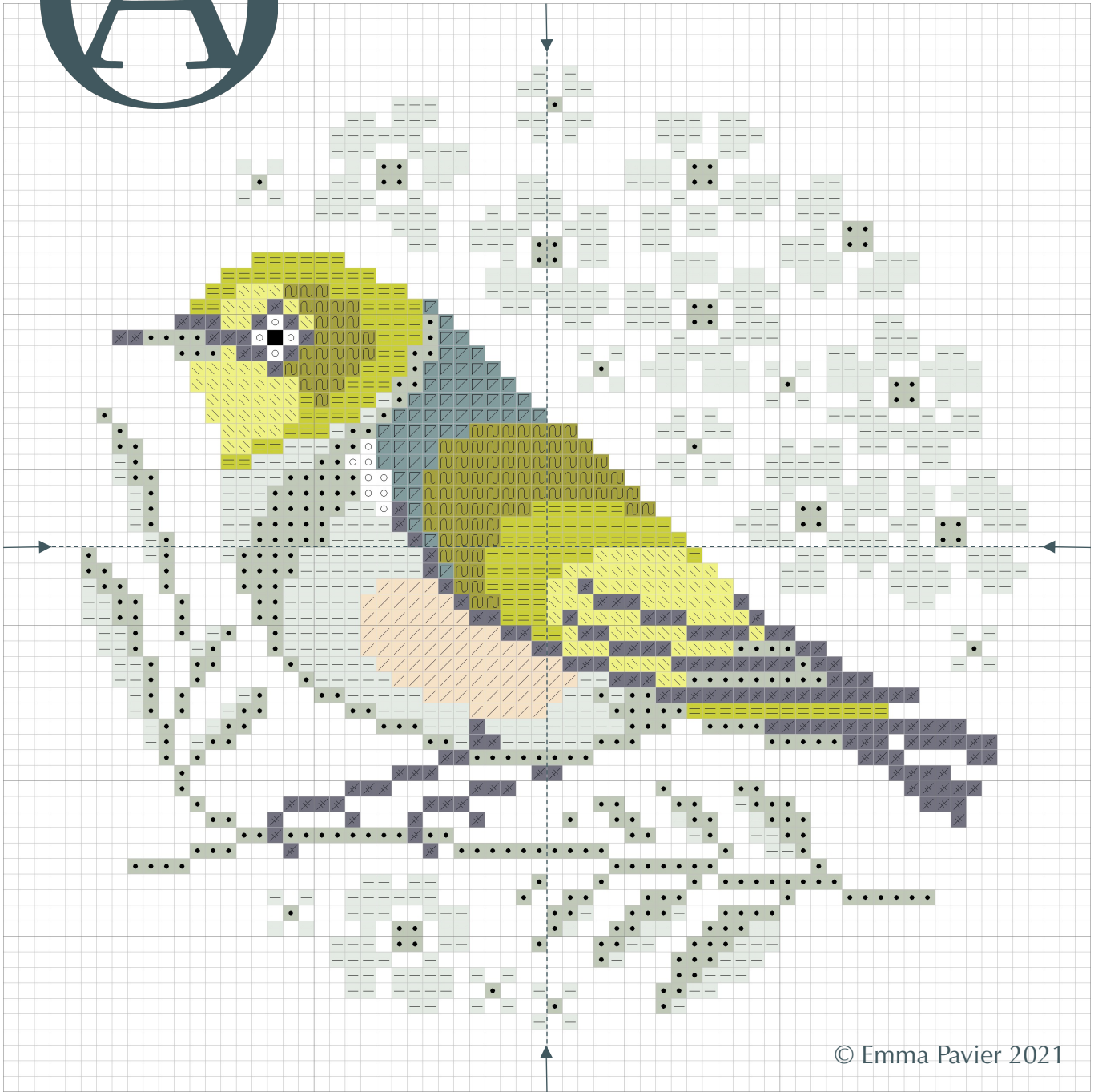
Once the stitching is complete you may need to adjust the embroidery hoop so the bird is sitting in the middle. Carefully trim away the excess fabric away to leave a border of about 2cm around the outside of the hoop. Using the white sewing thread, and leaving a long tail at the start, create a ring of running stitches around the fabric border. Pull the two tails of thread tightly to gather up the border fabric at the back of the hoop and tie tightly to secure.

Share your finished masterpiece on social media using #ansorchard



Ann's Orchard Needlework Silvereye Chart

Worked in 2 strands embroidery thread on 14 count Aida



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| Symbol | DMC Code | Full 6 Strand Thread | Symbol | DMC Code | Full 6 Strand Thread |
|--------|----------|----------------------|--------|----------|----------------------------|
| ○ | Blanc | 1 x 60cm | ▬ | 734 | 2 x 60cm |
| — | 01 | 6 x 60cm | ∞ | 832 | 2 x 60cm |
| ▨ | 3047 | 2 x 60cm | ▧ | 1033 | 1 x 60cm |
| ▩ | 948 | 2 x 60cm | ⊗ | 04 | 2 x 60cm |
| ● | 415 | 4 x 60cm | ■ | | Size 8 Jet Black Seed Bead |