

Mystery Sampler

As I write this note, it is Monday, 19 November

A couple of days ago I received the following Email from Elizabeth - the designer of the *Mystery Sampler*.

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Hi Shereilyn,

Have had a few queries about the mystery sampler.

Have added the following notes to Part 2 of the sampler so they realise it does not need to be stitched exactly as the chart. It is not a competition !

Notes:

Because so many people have enrolled for this sampler (a bit overwhelming to say the least) below are a few ideas while stitching your sampler.

You may know some of the stitches I have used by other names or other methods. Just use your own interpretation of the stitch which will give your sampler an individual look.

Likewise, you may want to change a colour other than the one I have stated. Feel free to swap and change colours, use two strands instead of one, and vice versa.

The purpose of the sampler is to give you a challenge!!!!

Cheers, Elizabeth

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Incidentally - to date, 227 have registered for this project. AWESOME !!

How is your sampler progressing? Before receiving Elizabeth's note, I had almost completed the first part of my sampler and adapted her instructions to please myself. But that's me - I never usually stitch a design in the colours as charted - as many of you will know from seeing all the finished models in the Gallery.

On the next page is a photo of my sampler to date - not complete in places, as not made a final decision regarding my complimentary colour choices.

To follow are the alterations I have made to make my sampler unique and how I went about them -

Firstly, I always allow 4" on all sides of a design, thus, there is always plenty of fabric for adding 'mats', lacing, etc. when it comes to framing.

Therefore, I began my sampler 4" down from the top and 4" in from the left hand edge of the piece of fabric.

If you have purchased fabric from me for this sampler, this too, is where you should have begun.

(I stitched most of Band One and did not like the colour of the fabric with the thread I had chosen - and so chose another colour of fabric and began again! One day, I may stitch this sampler again with a different, more vibrant, coloured thread on my spare piece of fabric!!)

Band One: As per Elizabeth's suggestion, I did mirror the stitching.

I began on the left edge and worked to the middle, missing the upright pattern and the central lower pattern.

Then I worked from the right edge to the middle, beginning with the same / at the same colour point of the thread.

I used *Backstitch* and worked all parts of the design as I went so that there was a progression of the variegated colours.

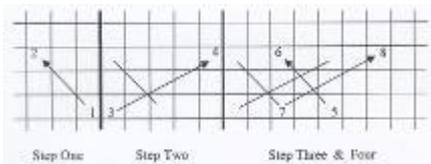
I left working the upright pattern and the lower patterns at this time.

Band Two: Worked a row of *Long-Arm Cross Stitch* over two threads as stated, not as per the stitch diagram which was over four threads.

Also, I decided to flip the long arm of the cross stitch in Band Six. See over for diagrams of these stitches.

(If you stitched your band as per the diagram, this is okay, as your sampler will just be a few rows longer.)

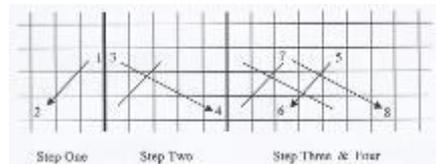
Mystery Sampler continued ...



STITCH DIAGRAMS

Long-Arm Cross Stitch

(over two threads)



Band Three: I decided that I did not want to stitch this band with the variegated thread, but as not sure which of my solid colours to use, I skipped this band.

Band Four: I chose the colour in my variegated thread that I wanted to be in the centre of my sampler and began stitching with this colour. As the *Half Rhodes* stitch is over six threads, and not divisible by four, I began my first *Half Rhodes* stitch exactly in the middle - that is three threads either side of the central tacking line.

I then worked all the stitches all the way to the right edge. Ensuring that the colour of my next piece of thread was in exactly the same position in my needle as when I began my central *Half Rhodes*, I then worked all the stitches to the left edge, to mirror image the right.

Band Five: As this band is the same as Band Three, I skipped this band as still unsure of the colour I wanted to use.

Band Six: Worked the row of *Long-Arm Cross Stitch* over two threads in the same colour as Band Two, but flipped the direction of the long arm of the cross.

Band Seven: I took note that Elizabeth had stated that, as charted, the centre of this band had changed to that of Band One and so I began the central cross stitch of the pattern one thread to the right of my tacking line.

Band Eight: I began working this band at the left edge with the colour in my variegated thread that I liked. Worked all stitches to the centre.

At the centre I placed a new length of thread into my needle, ensuring that the colour when worked would mirror image what I had already stitched.

At this stage I returned to Band One and worked the pattern between the diagonal lines on the left and right sides with a plain pink as in my variegated thread, but still not making a decision on the colour for the three lower motifs.

I then progressed to Band Three, thinking that the woven crosses would look nice in a paler green - but I am **not** happy with this colour. The next time you see a photo of my sampler in progress, I am certain that Band Three and Band Five will not be worked in this particular green colour.



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My choice of fabric and threads to date -

Fabric:

Belfast Linen : 32 count : Summer Khaki (#323)

Variegated Thread:

SNC 129 - Dried Roses (by *The Thread Gatherer*)

Solid Colour Threads:

152 : 223 : 3012 : 3861 (by DMC)

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One of my lovely needlework friends nearby has begun stitching her sampler and asked me if there were any other ladies in the area also stitching this project, and if so, suggested that it would be lovely if we could all get together and stitch for a day.

I am pleased to announce that there is to be a MSG - Mystery Sampler Gathering

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VENUE: Heirlooms • 1821 Pakowhai Road • RD 3 • Napier

WHEN: Sunday

DATE: 25 November 2012

TIME: 11am - 4pm *

(* *Visit at a time convenient for you ~ come when you can : leave when you must*)

WHAT TO BRING: Your Needlework project : Your lunch : Your smile

A cup of tea or coffee will be available

No Reservation Required