

Mystery Sampler

As I write this note on the progress of my sampler - Part Two - it is Tuesday, 18 December
To recap - my choice of fabric and thread colours and Elizabeth's (the designer) are as follows -

Variegated Thread: SNC 129 - Dried Roses

Solid Colour Threads: DMC

Contrast A - 3861 : Heather

Contrast B - 3012 : Green

Contrast C - 223 : Dark Dusky Pink

Contrast D - 152 : Shell Pink

Contrast E - 841 : Taupe

Fabric: Belfast Linen : Summer Khaki (#323)

Variegated Thread: SNC 126 - Monster Mash

Solid Colour Threads: Au Ver A Soie & Maderia

Contrast A - 3326 : Very Deep Purple

Contrast B - 3051 : Green

Contrast C - 3042 : Pale Mauve

Contrast D - 3042 : Deep Mauve

Contrast E - 355 : Terra Cotta

Fabric: Permin Linen : Lambswool (#135)

Amazingly, participants in this project continues to increase. Just last week, three more ladies were here at the Gallery choosing their thread colours and I have received telephone calls from three other ladies requesting that I send them a selection of threads in their preference of colour tonings so that they can choose a colour theme for their sampler. Plus, too, I know of one stitching group that plan to make it their group project for next year. Therefore, if you are still thinking of whether you would like to participate - it is not too late. I am so enjoying this - and I know many of you are too!

Finishing Part One: At the time of writing my last note on the progress of my sampler, I had not completed some of the bands as I was unsure which of my complementary colours that I wanted to use for these particular bands. To finalise Part One I did the following -

Band One: Completed stitching the three lower patterns between the diagonal lines with Contrast B (green) instead of with the variegated thread.

Band Three and Band Five: As you know, I had decided not to stitch these bands with the variegated thread but with a solid colour and began Band Three with a pale green, but was *not* happy with this colour choice - thus, I did some reverse stitching and worked the woven cross stitch with a more subtle/indistinct taupe colour. I then stitched the woven crosses of Band Five in the same colour.

A couple of days after I had received my instructions for Part Two of my sampler, received an Email from Elizabeth to say that there were almost 250 enrolments for the sampler project, that the samplers that she had seen to date were all looking good and that everyone seemed to be enjoying the challenge. With this note she also sent a photo of a sampler that is being stitched by an Auckland Embroidery Guild member who is stitching her sampler with just a variegated thread. I have enclosed this photo for you to see. It really does look quite different - and so very effective.

Elizabeth says that the Northern North Island Guild are in the process of setting up a website. Progress on the samplers by their guild members will be featured. When this is 'up and running' I will let you know the address so that you can view what other sampler enthusiasts are doing.



And so to Part Two:

Band Nine: Instead of Contrast B colour, I worked this band with Contrast A (Heather : 3861). I was quite surprised at how using two strands gave so much more depth of colour than the use of one strand as in Bands Two and Six.

Band Ten: As this band is the same as bands three and five in Part One, worked this band as per my Band Three (Taupe : 841).

Band Eleven: As Elizabeth introduced a new solid colour for this band, I too introduced a different colour, although had used it for the darker berry in Band Seven (Dark Dusky Pink : 223).

Band Twelve: I have made several changes to this band - but this is the wonderful challenge of this sampler - so that one can make it unique and therefore, their "own".

Outline frame: I stitched the two rows of Backstitch with Contrast B (Green : 3012) instead of with Contrast A.

As suggested, I worked the Chain Stitch between the two rows of Backstitch with the variegated thread.

I chose the colour in the thread that I wanted to be at the top of the left hand row and then worked to the middle at the bottom. Threading my needle with another piece of thread, ensuring that I began at the top of the right hand row with the thread in exactly the same position in the needle as when began the left hand row, I worked down this side to the middle at the bottom. By doing this, created a mirror image.

Note: The cross over four threads near the bottom - this must be Cross Stitched over the four threads to look 'right'.

Central Flower: Chose to outline this central flower with two strands of Contrast A (Heather : 3861), rather than with the variegated thread, intending to satin stitch the inner of the petals with the variegated. As per the first image of my sampler on the next page I began doing this - but stopped as was not happy with the result. I thought the change of colour too strong and concentrated and so left continuing with this until I had completed more of this band.

Mystery Sampler continued

Band Twelve continued

- Central Eyelet:** Decided to leave stitching this until all other stitching in this band was completed.
- Leaves & Stems:** Worked as per the instructions. Backstitched all the leaves of the central flower with one strand of Contrast B (Green : 3012)
- Acorn:** Instead of stitching the outline of the acorn and the tendrils with one strand of Contrast A, I stitched mine with one strand of green, but did as suggested and filled in the acorn with two strands of my variegated thread, choosing the colours - that is, the pale yellow/green, rather than the pinks, plum and taupe shades. My intention was to mirror image them, but I messed up! They are not quite exactly the same, however, decided not to unpick one of them as not all things in nature are identical.
- Carnations:** Chose to Cross Stitch these with a solid colour, not the variegated thread. Chose the paler berry colour (Shell Pink : 152).
Outlined with Contrast A (Heather : 3861) as per instructions.

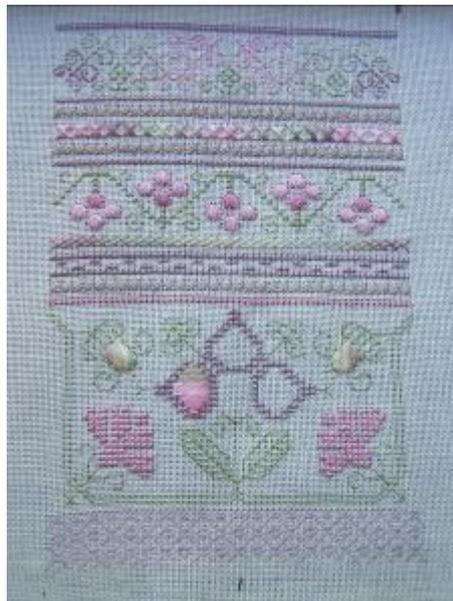
Band Thirteen: I decided not to work this lovely pattern with variegated thread, but with one of my solid colours. I chose Contrast A (Heather : 3861). You will notice in the photos below that I have not completed this band as yet.

At this point I looked at my sampler and felt that due to the depth of colour that had been created with the use of two strands of Contrast A in Band Nine and around the edges of the central flower, that the upper part of my sampler was too pale and therefore unbalanced. Consequently, above the variegated Band One I have worked a row of Satin Stitches over two threads with two strands of Contrast A and then edged the row of satin stitches above and below with Backstitch using one strand of the same colour as the satin stitches. However - as this is a *Mystery Sampler*, I do not know how Elizabeth intends to "finish" this piece. Consequently, this extra row that I have added may have to be removed. We will see

I then returned to Band Twelve -

Central Flower: Once I had removed the variegated colour from inside the petals, worked the satin stitches with just one strand of variegated, working each satin stitch twice hoping that the colour would change more rapidly. This did happen, but I still wasn't too happy with the result and so, once again, removed all my stitches and opted to stitch the inside of the petals with the solid colour.

Eyelet: Because I had opted for a solid colour for the petals, decided to stitch the eyelet with the variegated thread. Began at the centre top and worked my way down to the centre at the bottom. Rethreaded my needle with another strand of the variegated and began working from the centre at the top to the centre of the bottom on the other side, so as to mirror image the eyelet.



Not too sure what happened here to the colour of the fabric on the left-hand photo!

In conclusion, those of us who were able to meet together in November to stitch our samplers together had a lovely day. It was wonderful to see all the different *looks* of the samplers due to the colour choices and colour placements. I intended to take photos of each persons sampler - but forgot! I will do so next time we get together. Another day is planned - see details below.

Wishing you all a happy memorable Christmas with your treasured family and friends, best wishes for the New Year and peace and contentment as you ply your needle and thread to your fabric, creating an heirloom for tomorrow.

MSG - Mystery Sampler Gathering - Stitch Day

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

WHEN: Sunday

DATE: 20 January 2013

TIME: 11am - 4pm *

(* Visit at a time convenient for you ~ come when you can : leave when you must. No reservation required)

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

A cup of tea or coffee will be available