

Mystery Sampler

Monday, 7 January - Christmas and New Year have come and gone as I write these few lines to you.

I sincerely hope you have had a lovely, memorable time. Besides the lovely time that we had with our family, I especially love this time of year as one does not have to "live by the clock" and the business telephone seldom rings, consequently, I have had a wonderful restful week in which to stitch Part Three of my sampler. How is yours progressing? I am so enjoying stitching my sampler and included a photo of my progress on it in this note.

For those of you with sharp eyes for detail, you will immediately see that I have reworked the central eyelet of the large flower in Band Twelve. I wasn't happy with the change of colour in the variegated thread. I felt it was too strong for being in the flower centre and so removed the part of the colour that I wasn't happy with and replaced it so the centre was more uniform in colour. This is one project that I have not been upset with when having to do some *reverse stitching*.

The fact that I have not seen the sampler stitched is what I am so enjoying about this project. On receipt of each charted section, having the freedom to imagine/visualise in one's mind what the finished section will look like is exciting. It reminds me of my childhood love of colouring in my colouring-in book, which was a constant pastime for me. As per usual, I have made my sampler unique in that I have made changes to Elizabeth's (the designer) suggestions. Here again is the list of her and my thread colours -

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)

And so to Part Three:

Band Fourteen: For this band I chose Contrast C (Dark Dusky Pink : 223) as unable to use Contrast A as suggested due to my having opted to stitch Band Thirteen in Contrast A.

Band Fifteen: Now, this band is **definitely** like colouring in a picture! And just as one colours in a picture, I "coloured-in" my needlework picture. Therefore, I did not work in the sequence as per Elizabeth's notes, but worked as I would have, had I been using coloured pencils on a picture. This is how I went about mine -

- b. Using the colours and quantity of thread strands as suggested, stitched the leaves in Contrast B (Green : 3012) and then worked the base with the variegated thread, choosing the strongest colour in it to stitch the bottom row, thus, the base became lighter as I worked towards the top of it.
- d. As I did not want these two figures to be very prominent, worked them with my nondescript colour of Contrast E (Taupe : 841). This is the colour that Elizabeth chose for her sampler too.
- e. Worked the tall outer flowers and stems as suggested, but only used one strand of variegated - and once again, began with the strongest shade of colour at the bottom. I mirror imaged these two flower stems.
- c. As suggested, backstitched the leaf tendrils and the stems in the boxers hands with one strand of Contrast B (Green : 3012).
- a. As the leaves were quite strong in their depth of colour due to using two strands, I decided the flower also needed to be worked with two strands, but chose my variegated thread rather than a contrast colour. Once again, chose the strongest colour for the outline of the petals (mirror imaged both sides - that is, started at the bottom and worked up to the middle at the top of the flower, rethreaded my needle with another two strands and worked the opposite side from the bottom to the top. I did this with every part of the flower). I then worked the outline around the flower centre with two strands of the next strongest colour, then the detail with one strand on each of the petals with almost the palest variegation of colour. Finally I stitched the central Smyrna Cross with two strands of the palest shade of my variegated thread.

Mystery Sampler continued

Band Fifteen - Central Flower continued:

As for the diamond above the central flower, I filled this in with two strands of the palest shade in my variegated thread and then Backstitched the outline of the diamond with one strand of Contrast B (Green : 3012).

- e. The flowers and stems between the boxers and the central flower I worked with one strand of Contrast A (Heather : 3861) and filled in the flower squares with Satin Stitch as suggested with two strands of the same colour.

Band Sixteen: As per instruction, worked this band with one strand of Contrast A (Heather : 3861).

I haven't made a final decision as yet, but I may add a partial row of Long Arm Cross Stitch either side of the central diamond above the central flower. If so, will probably stitch it with Contrast A (Heather : 3861) as used this for Band Sixteen. However, will wait until received Part Four to see how that begins.

A reminder - another get-together for a time of fellowship, inspiration and encouragement and to see the progress of one another's samplers. Details below. Also, I plan to take a photograph of every sampler so that those of you who are unable to be with us can also be encouraged and inspired.



Note: For those of you coming for the day - please remind me to do this if I forget!

In closing, I wish you all every good wish and every blessing from above for this new year of 2013.

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