

Mystery Sampler

To recap, below is a list of my thread colours and those chosen by the designer, Elizabeth -

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)

Friday, 15 February - I have to confess that I finished Part Four of my sampler over a week ago. I really am so enjoying this project. As soon as each new part is received in the mail, my fingers are "itching".

Before beginning to relate to you how I went about stitching Part Four, here pictured is another sampler being stitched by another local needleworker. Faye was unable to join us the day of our get-together and so when she visited the Gallery a couple of weeks ago, I then took this photo. A unique feature of Faye's sampler is that she has created her berries with beads rather than with Satin Stitch. They look wonderful. They have added dimension and lustre to her sampler. Faye's colour choice of fabric is Ivory/Ecru (#264) and her thread colour choice is *Enzian Flower*. Note too, Faye is the only one in our circle of stitchers that has worked their Pattern Darning band with the variegated thread. Doesn't it look lovely!

Faye Miller ~ Enzian Flower



In my last progress update (#3a) you may recall I made the comment about wondering with which colour Robyn Burn would stitch her Pattern Darning band in her sampler - she chose blue and it looks great!

Also, you may recall that I wrote in my progress update #3 that I was considering placing a partial row of Long Arm Cross Stitch either side of the central diamond of the central flower (i.e. above the boxer motifs). Instead of Long Arm Cross Stitch I have placed partial rows of Four Sided Stitch worked with Contrast A (Heather), and I am very pleased with the results. As I have said so many times previously - adding, changing and choosing stitches colours and the placement of these - this is what has made this sampler project such a fulfilling experience.

And so to Part Four:

Band Seventeen: I chose to work the 'rope coil' in this band with Contrast B (Green : 3012) rather than Contrast A (Heather : 3861) as suggested due to my having used my Contrast A colour for the previous band.

As for the central flower, because Elizabeth left the colour choice for this flower to oneself, I chose the paler of my two pinks (Shell Pink : 152).

And too, chose to work the four cross stitches outside the flower with the same pink shade rather than with the variegated thread.

As for the berries, worked the top of these with Contrast B (Green : 3012) as suggested but instead of the variegated thread for the remainder of the berries, stitched these with a plain colour. I chose Contrast A (Heather : 3861).

Band Eighteen: As suggested, worked this band with Contrast A (Heather : 3861)

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Band Nineteen: I did not place any of the three rows of this band as charted. When a design is of an *uneven* length or number, it is impossible to chart the design on paper 'in the centre'. Consequently I started the letters of each row at the centre and worked towards the edges. The result was that the -

First Row began - **one thread from** the left hand edge

Second Row began - **one thread before** the left hand edge

Third Row began - **forty three threads from** the left hand edge

As for the colour choice, I chose to work my alphabet with my lovely variegated thread.

On reflection, I think this alphabet would look rather nice if I had chosen to stitch with the variegated thread and three plain colours - that is, one letter with the variegated, the next with one of the plains, the next with the variegated, the next with a different plain, the next variegated and the next with a third plain, then repeating the sequence.

As for the Diamond Eyelets either side of the XYZ letters, because I had stitched my alphabet letters with the variegated thread, I chose to stitch these in three plain colours. I chose Contrast A (Heather), Contrast B (Green) and Contrast C (Dark Dusky Pink).

I 'mirror imaged' the right hand trio to those stitched on the left.

BE CAREFUL ~ with the placement of the three Eyelets on the right hand side. There is a wee hiccup with the chart. These three Eyelets are one square (two threads) too high and one square (two threads) too far to the right.



Band Twenty: As previously, worked this band of Long Arm Cross Stitch with Contrast A (Heather : 3861).

Band Twenty One: Worked this row as per Band Four as suggested. However, as before, began this row at the centre with the colour that I liked in my variegated thread and worked all the stitches 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 at the central Rhodes Stitch, I then worked all the stitches to the left edge to mirror image the right.

And so, only two more parts until my sampler is complete. I wonder what the next part will be like

Another get-together is planned for a time of fellowship, friendship, inspiration and encouragement and to see the progress on one another's samplers. Details of this day are below. Looking forward to the day. Shereilyn

MSG - Mystery Sampler Gathering - Stitch Day

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

WHEN: Sunday

DATE: 24 March 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