

STITCHING BOOK CLUB



May 2024

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What's In the Hoop?

Are you ready for a new mystery stitch-a-long?

We will be venturing back into the world of Jane Austen as we take on *Emma*!

Make sure to read the special SAL Announcement at the end of this newsletter to get all the details on the newest Stitching Book Club project!

Contents

- Color of the Month
- Making a Two-Sided Pin Cushion
- “Pins and Petals” Freebie
- “Little Moments” Monthly SAL

StitchingBookClub.com

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A MESSAGE FROM YOUR HOST

Happy one year anniversary! It was one year ago that I started this newsletter and I am thrilled with how many readers/stitchers have joined me!

I've been a busy little bee as of late trying to get everything prepared for our next SAL and making my return to Flosstube! So far, I've only made two videos, a parade of all our newsletter freebies and a reintroduction video where I shared a bit of my story and how Stitching Book Club came to be. But I have many more videos in mind for the future! You can find links to the videos mentioned above on the website under the Periodicals tab.

Spring has arrived here at the Grand Canyon, and I have already enjoyed spending more time in the great outdoors. In fact, I created a special cross stitch design just for myself that I have been taking on my morning walks. I have found the most peaceful spot to sit and stitch where the only sounds are the birds chirping and the wind gently rolling through. I've taken to going to this spot nearly every day to sit, relax, unwind my chronically tensed body, and put a few stitches in before really getting started on my day.



Moving forward, I'm so happy to announce that our next mystery SAL is ready to go! We will be reading and stitching Jane Austen's *Emma*. For this design I wanted to do something a little simpler than our last few SALs. As I've progressed as a designer, my designs have gotten more and more complex, and I thought that it would be a nice change of pace for us to do a simple little piece with minimal colors that is easy and relaxing. This is a great piece for those of you who are beginners or have never participated in a SAL before. You can read more about it in the special Summer SAL edition of the newsletter or on StitchingBookClub.com under the Events tab.



As for the newsletter this month, I thought that I would change up the freebie a bit and did a basic two-sided pin cushion which I am desperately in need of. I have been in the worst habit lately of sticking my needle in odd places including blankets and then forgetting that I put it there and finding them in the most unfortunate ways. So, a pin cushion it is! I hope you all will find it useful as well!

Happy stitching! Love, Kristin Ashley

I'm not always one for bold, bright colors, but "Very Light Plum" fills me with happiness. It's vibrant and fun without being obnoxious. Dare I say, with the right pairing of supporting colors, it can even be elegant?

The entire Plum family of colors is just lovely, in my opinion. They blend perfectly together to create a beautiful gradient with a lot of depth. While my first instinct is to put this color in a tropical setting, I think that it has great potential to be used in some surprising and unexpected ways.

Color of the Month

"Very Light Plum"

DMC 3608

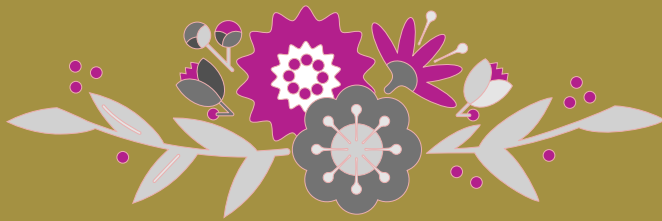


NEW FLOSSTUBE!

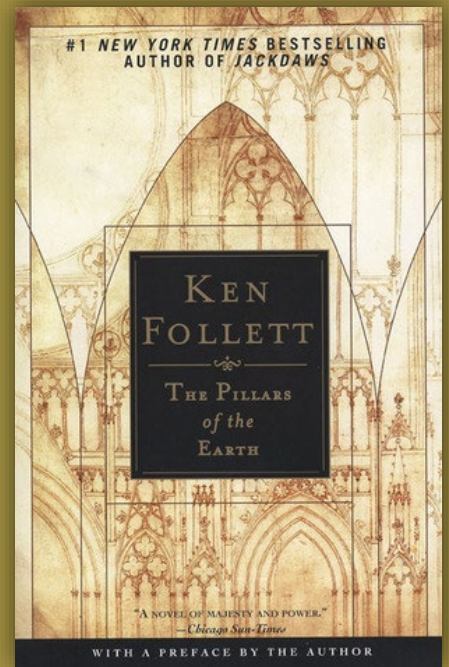
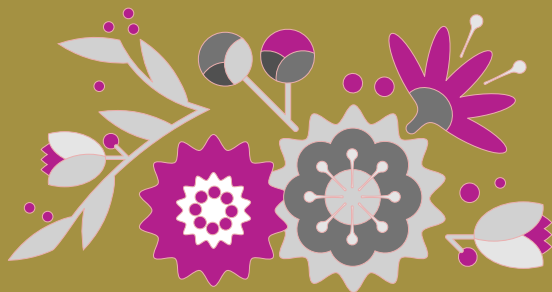
I have made my official return to Flosstube with a (Re)introduction video! For those of you who are new to Stitching Book Club, you can learn a little bit more about me and how this all came to be!

STITCHINGBOOKCLUB.COM

WHAT I'M READING IN MAY



As I predicted, I did not even come close to finishing *The Pillars of the Earth* in April. So, I am still working on making my way through this novel and I will be waiting until I have finished before providing a book review.

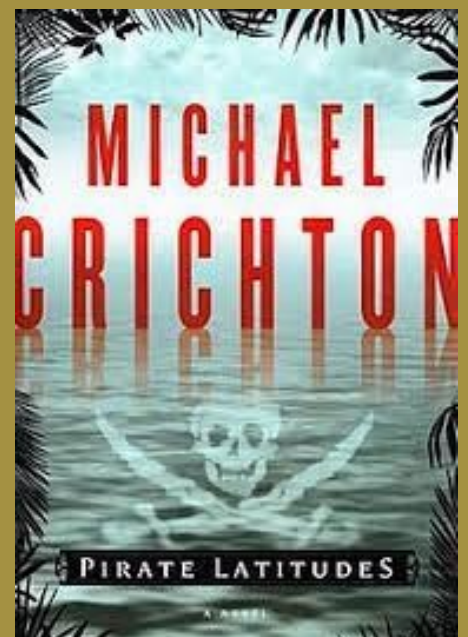


As for my actual May book selection, I have chosen *Pirate Latitudes* by Michael Crichton.

If you aren't familiar with his name, you are certainly familiar with Crichton's work. He was the author of the *Jurassic Park* novels that Steven Spielberg so famously brought to film. He also wrote one of my favorite novels, *Timeline*, which was also made into a film starring Paul Walker and Gerard Butler. It's the story of archeologist that go back in time to the medieval period.

Pirate Latitudes is the first novel of Crichton's published after his death in 2008, after an assistant discovered the manuscript. It follows the adventures of Captain Charles Hunter, a privateer that has been hired by the governor of Jamaica to raid a Spanish galleon ship.

I love a good adventure story and pirates have always piqued my interest. So, if *Pirate Latitudes* is anything like Crichton's other work which is face-paced and easy to read, I'm going to enjoy it very much!



MAKING A TWO-SIDED PIN CUSHION

Due to the number of times that I have stuck a needle somewhere only to forget about it and then realized much later that I have no idea where it is, I decided it was time to make myself a new pin cushion and I thought you might like to join me!

You can find this tutorial in video format on the [Stitching Book Club Flosstube channel](#). (Will be uploaded a day or two after this newsletter is released.)

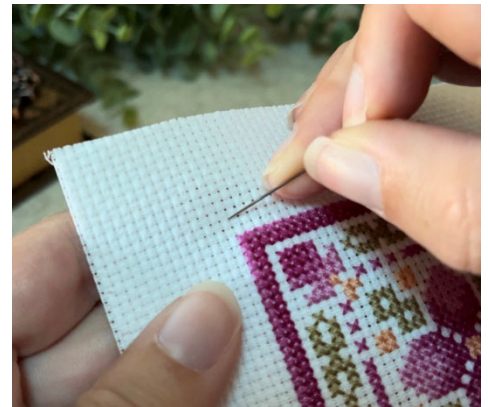
To make a two-sided pin cushion, begin by completing your two pieces of cross stitch. While I opted to place my initials and the year on the back piece, you could also stitch a duplicate of the front design for the back.



Next, make sure that your pieces are trimmed to the same size and place your pieces together with their front sides out. We will be sewing these pieces together by hand using a running stitch. To do this, pick a place to start—I chose the top left corner of the front side. Using an extra-long piece of floss in the color of your choice, thread both ends of the floss through your needle.

Starting on the backside, put your needle up through both pieces of fabric 2 spaces above the top left corner of the front of your work. Make sure that your needle has been put through the matching holes on both the front and back pieces of fabric—that is 2 holes above the corner cross stitch.

Move one fabric hole to the right and put your needle down through both pieces of fabric. On the back side, place the floss loop over your needle and pull the needle and floss through to secure both pieces of fabric with loop start.



Once again, move one hole over—as you are currently on the backside of the cushion, you will move one spot to the left, so that when you put the needle through to the front, you have moved

one place to the right of the last stitch on the front. Once on the front, move one hole to the right and pull through to the back.

Continue moving one stitch over as you work all the way around the cushion, stopping as you start the final side.

Before stitching up the final side of the cushion, we must first stuff it. You may use whatever stuffing you prefer—I like to use my ORT floss. Make sure to stuff it so that it is quite firm so as to make sticking pins in it easier.

Once the cushion has been stuffed, continue with your running stitch until you reach your starting point.



Put your needle through one piece of fabric so that you are between the front and back pieces and tie your floss off with a knot. To hide your tail end of floss, run your needle and thread into the pin cushion as far as you are able before having the needle exit the fabric. Then, trim your floss as close to the cushion as possible and maneuver the fabric until the tail has slipped back inside your cushion.

To finish our cushion, fray the edges by removing strands of fabric. Make sure to leave a small section of fabric intact along the edge of your running stitch so that the cushion does not come undone.



Pins and Petals

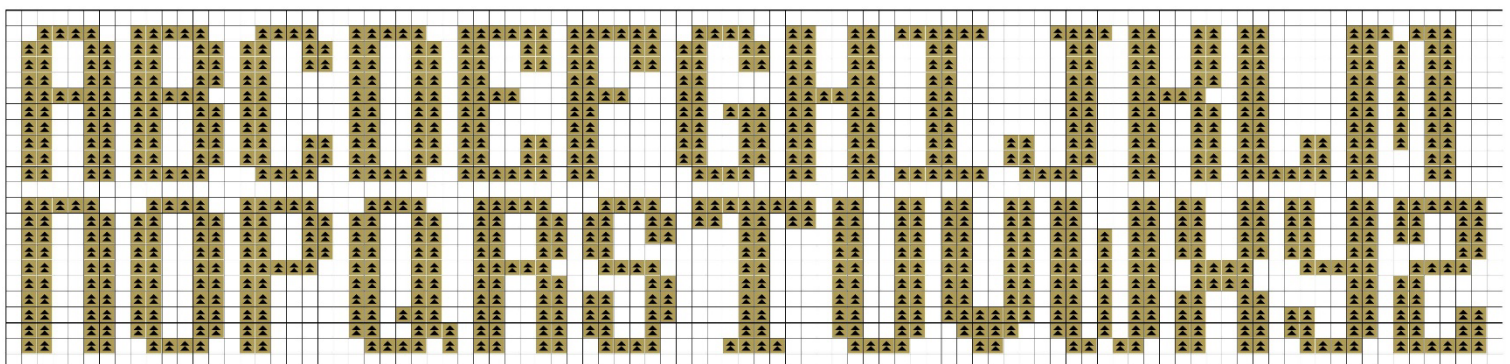


Materials:

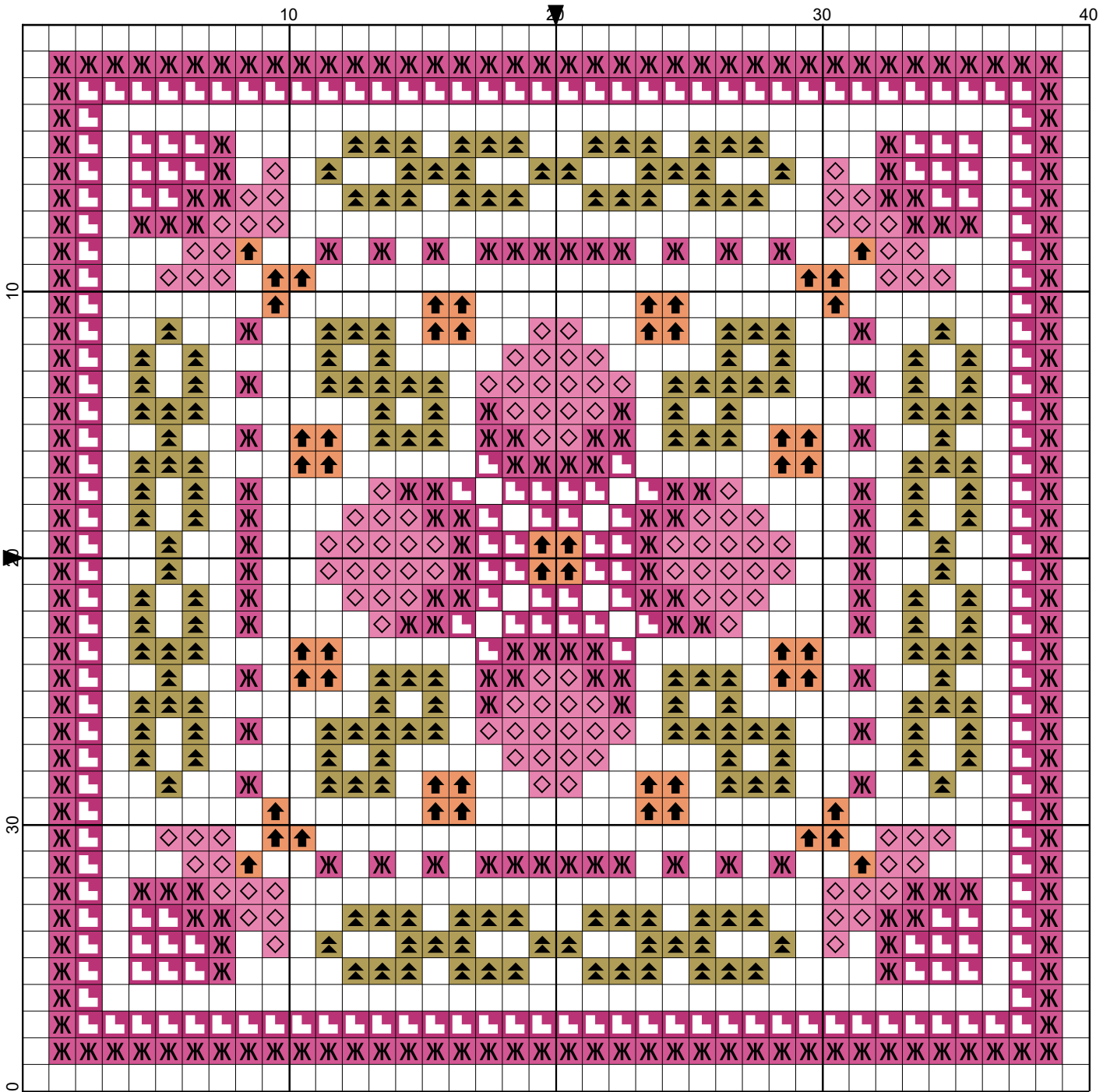
Fabric: 2 pieces measuring 5 inch X 5 inch for 14 count or 28 count 2 over 2. Model is stitched on 14 count white Aida. The design area for this design is 40 X 40 stitches.

Legend (2 strands of floss):

◇	◇	DMC Cotton 3608	plum - vy lt
Ж	Ж	DMC Cotton 3607	plum - lt
⌒	⌒	DMC Cotton 718	plum
↑	↑	DMC Cotton 922	copper -lt
▲	▲	DMC Cotton 370	mustard - md



Pins and Petals by Sapphire Mountain Handcrafts



Legend:

- DMC-3608
- DMC-3607
- DMC-718
- DMC-922
- DMC-370

Pins and Petals (Back) by Sapphire Mountain Handcrafts



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Legend:

-  DMC-370
-  DMC-3607
-  DMC-718

Monthly Stitch-A-Long

Join me for a year-long freebie stitch-a-long!

Want to participate in a year-long stitch-a-long but worried about committing to such a large project? I have the perfect SAL for you! While this SAL will extend for the entire length of the year, the monthly stitching requirement is minimal. This means that you will be able to fit it into your stitching schedule with ease. What's even better is that it is a **stitch-from-stash** SAL. While I will be providing the floss colors that I am using each month, I encourage you to use what you have on hand to make this piece entirely your own!

The design features a small motif that represents each month. For example, January is a snowflake. February is geared towards Valentine's Day. I think you get the idea...

What you will need:

Fabric:

One piece of fabric measuring 11 X 13 inches for 14 or 28 count (2 over 2). It will be stitched in portrait orientation (taller than it is wider) and allows for a 2 inch margin on all sides.

I chose to work with my hand-dyed fabric Garden Gate. I think this design will look particularly fabulous on dark fabrics, especially when paired with bright flosses. However, I also love the appearance of white fabric with more muted colors. But the choice is entirely up to you!

Floss:

The only color of floss that requires a significant amount will be the border color. You will need 2 skeins of whatever color you choose.

The rest of the floss colors are minimal and change each month but will feature a full rainbow of colors including blues, pinks, greens, purples, and oranges.

While I have provided the entire border, do not feel required to stitch the entire border as we begin. I will be stitching the border as I go along each month. If you would like to stitch the entire border as we get started, please make sure to triple count all those stitches so that the boxes are the proper size. I don't want the frog visiting you all later in the year!

Little Moments

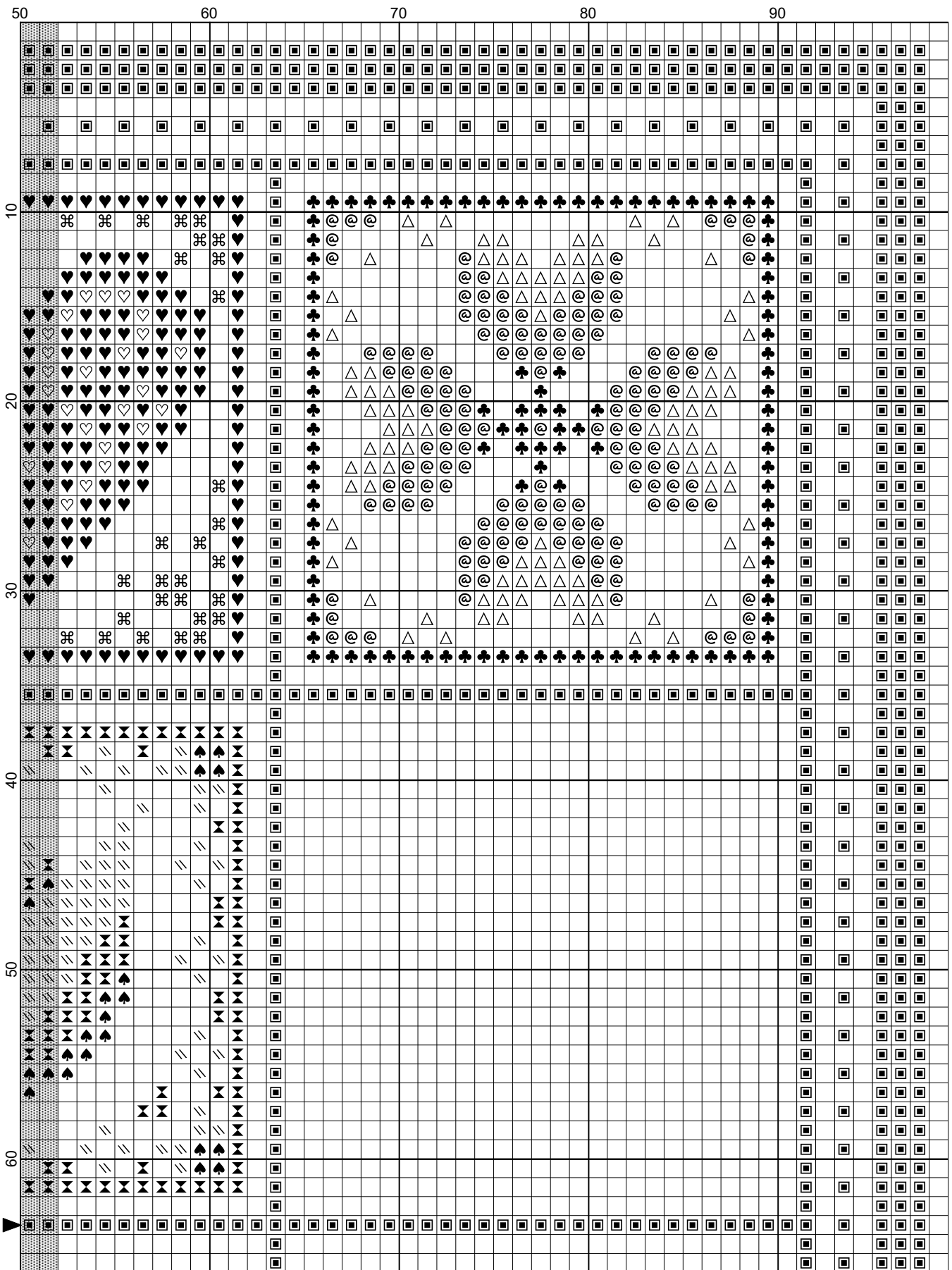
This is a stitch-from-stash SAL, please feel free to choose your own materials for this design. Listed below are the colors I am using.



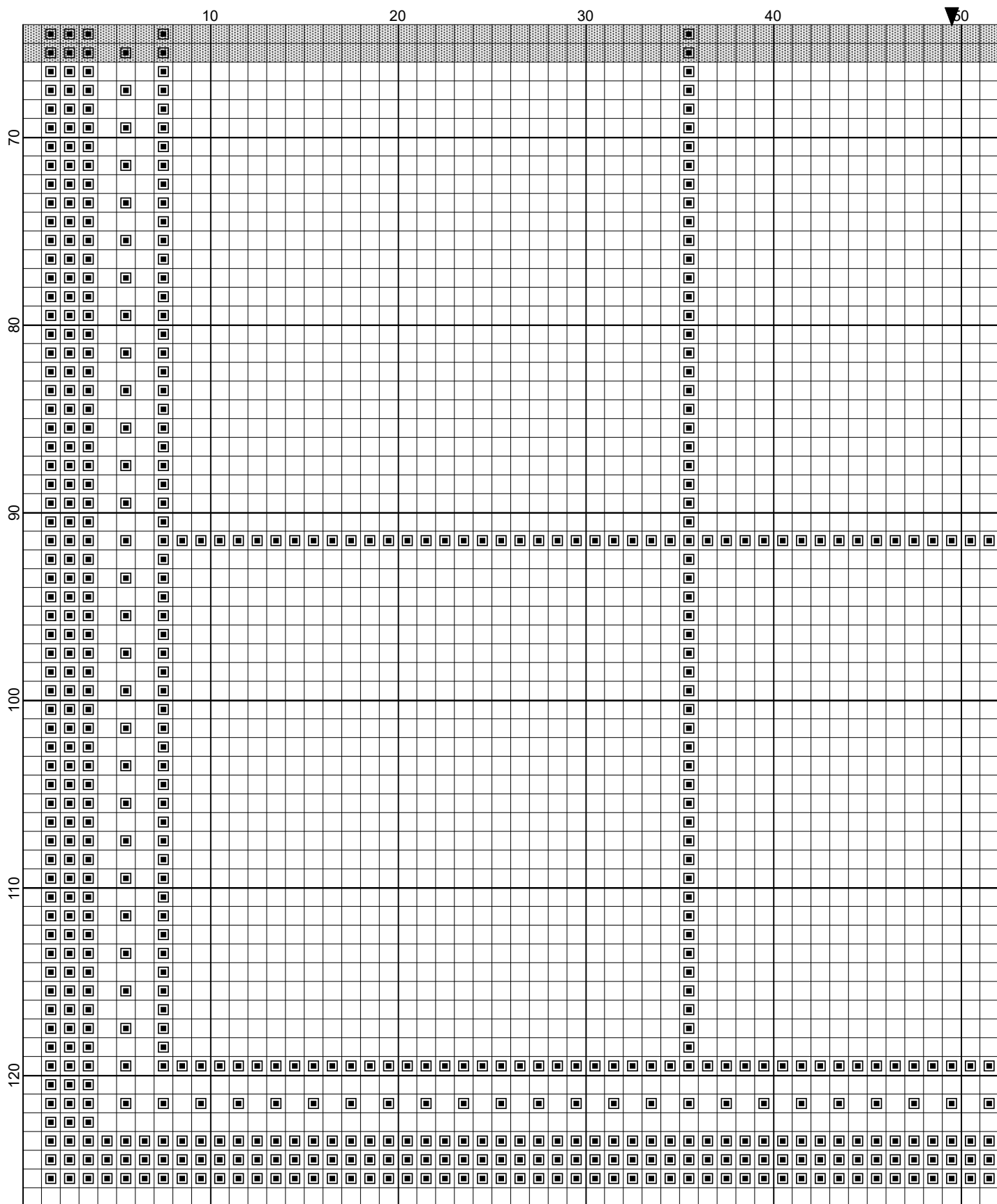
Legend (2 strands of floss):

▣	DMC Cotton 3722	shell pink - md
★	DMC Cotton 793	cornflower blue - md
≡	DMC Cotton 794	cornflower blue - lt
✓	DMC Cotton 157	cornflower blue - vy lt
♥	DMC Cotton 335	rose
⌘	DMC Cotton 3706	melon - md
♡	DMC Cotton 3708	melon - lt
♣	DMC Cotton 580	moss green - dk
⊙	DMC Cotton 581	moss green
△	DMC Cotton 166	moss green - md lt
↑	DMC Cotton 562	jade - md
⤴	DMC Cotton 563	jade - lt
&	DMC Cotton 369	pistachio green - vy lt
♠	DMC Cotton 718	plum
⌘	DMC Cotton 3607	plum - lt
∞	DMC Cotton 3608	plum - vy lt

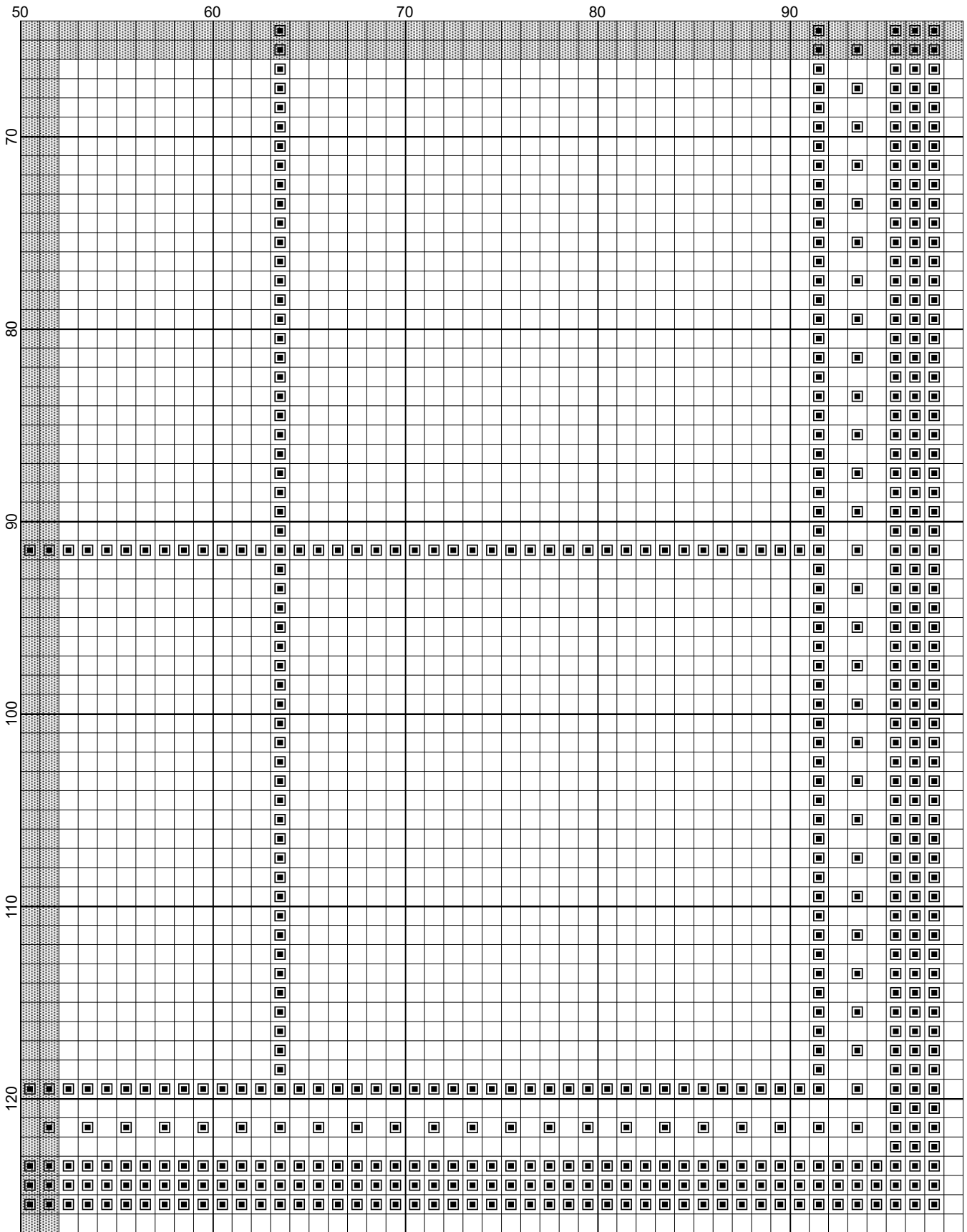
Little Moments by Sapphire Mountain Handcrafts



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STITCHING BOOK CLUB



Summer SAL 2024



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Coming Soon!

This group started with my love for Jane Austen, so I thought it was time to return to our beloved author with our next mystery SAL.

Thus far we have completed two Austen works, *Pride and Prejudice* and *Sense and Sensibility*, and I am thrilled to be adding another design to the collection.

Keep reading to learn more!

Contents:

- Summer SAL Announcement
- Palette Preview
- Kit Info
- What is a Mystery SAL?
- FAQs

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EMMA

JANE AUSTEN

Full pattern: 7 X 9 inches finishing size

This pattern includes full stitches and minimal backstitching.

Sign up for the SAL will begin May 18.

Make sure to leave your email address in the “Personalization” box when purchasing so that the pattern pieces can be delivered to you upon release.

KITS

There will be 2 kit options:

Full Pattern 14 count Aida

\$32.50 + tax and shipping

Full Pattern 28 count Evenweave

\$32.50 + tax and shipping

Fabric is NOT hand-dyed

There will be a single listing in my Etsy shop for the kits with a drop-down box for selecting which one you would like to purchase. You do NOT need to purchase the pattern separately.

Pattern Included!

The pattern is included in your kit purchase, so there is no need to make a separate purchase of the pattern. The pieces will be delivered to your email inbox as they are released. No physical copy of the chart will be provided.

Kits will be sold as a presale. Shipping and delivery will happen several weeks after purchase.

The kit presale will be available in my Etsy shop on Saturday, May 18, at 10:00am Pacific Standard Time. Kits must be ordered by Friday, May 24, for delivery before the beginning of the SAL.

[StitchingBookClub.etsy.com](https://www.stitchingbookclub.com)

Stitched on a basic Ivory fabric this pattern features a palette of dusty purples, pinks, and green.

This design can easily be stitched on white fabric or a plethora of other colors. It's also a great opportunity to try your hand at color selection if you would like to choose your own palette!

The Palette

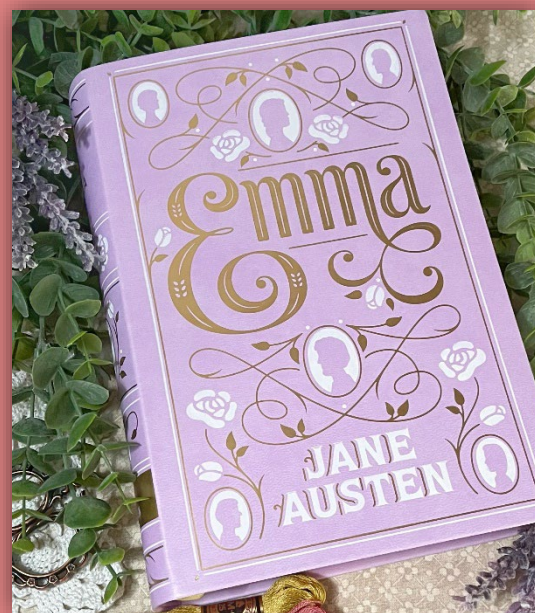


EMMA

Jane Austen

Jane Austen's, *Emma*, was the last of her novels to be published during her lifetime. Set in a fictional country village, the novel follows Emma Woodhouse, a well-to-do young woman who is intelligent and headstrong, with a passion for matchmaking. Unfortunately, Emma's endeavors do not always lead to the best results.

This novel is full of all the wit and humorous commentary on social behaviors that was a hallmark of Austen's works. It takes many of the same themes as *Pride and Prejudice* but turns them on their heads in regard to gender roles. While Emma may not always be the most likeable heroine, she finds her way in the end leaving the reader quite content.



WHAT IS A MYSTERY SAL?

If you are new to Stitching Book Club, you may be wondering how this all works. So, let's take a minute to go over all the details.

Each edition of Stitching Book Club is assigned a book for reading with an accompanying mystery Stitch-A-Long (you won't know what it looks like till it's done!) that is themed to the book. The reading and stitching will be split into multiple sections over a period of several months.

As for the pattern, it will be delivered to you in pieces via email throughout the course of the program—one piece for each month of reading. By the end you will have a completed cross stitch! Don't worry! You'll receive all the details you need about how to do this as we go. **An email must be provided to me to receive your pdf pattern each month.** Please provide this with your SAL purchase on Etsy. No further payment is required after the initial purchase. *Future editions of Stitching Book Club are separate and will require their own purchase.*

Discussion Days will happen at the end of each reading/stitching period. On these days I will be providing questions for discussion on the Stitching Book Club pages on **Instagram** and **Facebook**. You can join the discussion by commenting on my posts, or by creating your own post with your thoughts on any or all of the discussion questions, and a picture of your stitching so far. Feel free to pose your own questions, too!

Please use #stitchingbookclub on all posts for this project so that other members can find your work. Feel welcome to participate in Discussion Day as much or as little as you'd like.

To sign up for the *Emma* SAL:

Signing up for a SAL is easy! Simply purchase either the kit or pattern in my Etsy shop. Make sure to leave your email address in the personalization line so that the pattern pieces can be sent to you as they are released. Just another reminder, the pattern is included in the kit for this SAL, so there is no need for a separate purchase of the pattern if you order a kit.

StitchingBookClub.com

OR

StitchingBookClub.etsy.com

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: Do I have to buy a kit to participate?

A: No! I will also have just the pattern available for purchase on May 18. You are welcome to source your materials however you would like.

Q: Do I have to buy each piece of the pattern separately?

A: No, the SAL is a one-time purchase that includes all pieces of the pattern. I will email the PDF pattern pieces to you as they are released, so be sure to include your email address when purchasing.

Q: Is there a certain edition of the book required for this SAL?

A: I do not assign book editions to my SALs because we have participants from all over the world. You may read whichever edition of the novel you would like. However, the book discussions will be based on the original text and not alternative versions of the story or fanfics.

Q: Do I have to read the book, or can I just do the stitching?

A: You do you! You are under no obligation to read the book. You will receive the full pattern regardless of participation. Some members find it enjoyable to listen to the audio book while stitching, while others prefer to watch movie versions instead. But you are welcome to bypass the book portion of this SAL entirely if you choose and only do the stitching.

Q: What happens if I can't keep up with the stitching or the reading?

A: Stitching Book Club is all about your enjoyment. This means, you should never feel pressured to stitch or read based on the schedule that I present during the SAL. Please read and stitch at your own pace and know that you are certainly not the only one that may be behind during the SAL.

Q: Can I change floss or fabric colors, or make alterations to the pattern?

A: Yes! I love seeing participants make my patterns their own. Please keep in mind, however, that I take a lot of care in selecting floss and fabric colors. If you change the colors, certain parts of the pattern may appear differently than intended. Also, the pattern is my intellectual property. Making changes to the pattern does not give you permission to distribute the pattern or the alterations you made, even on a free basis.

Q: Will the pattern be available in the future if I don't want to purchase it now?

A: Yes, all my SAL patterns remain available after the SAL is complete. The exception to this is *The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe*, which was a limited-edition pattern that had a restricted participant number based on my agreement with the C.S. Lewis Foundation.