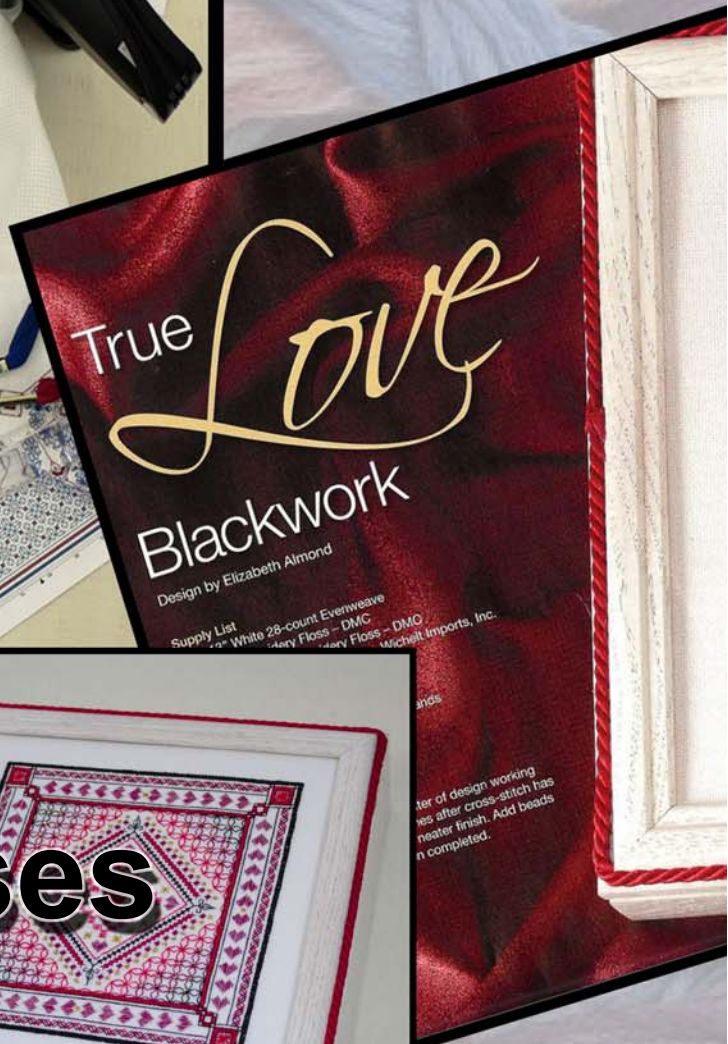




# *Blackwork Journey Blog*

March 2011



## **Lights & lenses**



## Blackwork Journey Blog - March 2011

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Spring is just round the corner and so is the Internet Needlework show, so I am working hard to create new designs to unveil at the show.



This is the only wholesale needlework show in the virtual world, but unlike other tradeshows there are General Viewing pages! This means that you have a chance to look at the 20+ new patterns available from Blackwork Journey and to contact me by e-mail through my site if you see something that you would really like. The patterns will be available as PDF downloads from the 20th April, but as with all my charts, they can also be purchased as hard copies and posted internationally.

When you purchase a chart from Blackwork Journey and you feel you need some advice or more information about the chart you are working on, I can be contacted through the site at any time and I will do my best to help. Blackwork is a wonderful technique, but sometimes you just don't quite know where to start or whether colours could be changed etc.

I would also be delighted to receive photographs of your finished work to add to 'Gallery' so that other readers can also enjoy them.

Food for thought - Lighting and lenses

This month I have been looking at some of the magnifying lamps designed to make needlework less stressful.

If it is necessary to use an artificial light, it is worth investing in a good quality one. There are many types around, but I have found the ones with a daylight simulation bulb particularly helpful as they are not only suitable for organising thread colours, but also reducing eyestrain and glare. These bulbs can be obtained from most good craft stores or via the internet.

(See [thedaylightcompany.com](http://thedaylightcompany.com))

If you want more information on this subject there is a PDF in 'Techniques' called TQ0001 Lights and Lenses



Different small lights and lenses:

- A. clip on lens/light
- B. clip on and base mounted lens
- C. halogen lens/ light and daylight bulb
- D. magnifying bar



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Clip frames, magnifying lamps, lenses and bars are all readily available. There are different levels of magnification and some of the lenses also incorporate a small area of much higher magnification, which is useful for threading needles or examining stitches in detail.

Consider a number of different options before making your choice, to determine what strength of lens is needed and in what combination. If the natural light where you usually work is particularly good, simple lenses without lights are available which can be clipped to a table or an embroidery frame. These can be very useful and often more flexible than a light which has to be connected to an electricity supply.

These are some of the lights and lenses I use as part of my normal stitching and they make my life much less stressful and I consider them a worthwhile investment. If you are not finding it quite as easy to sew then it may be time for you to examine the alternatives!

Just a word of caution, remember to cover your magnifying lens when you have finished working, especially if it is near a window as I know of a case where an uncovered lens with the sun reflecting through actually started a fire!

My thanks go to 'The Cross Stitcher' magazine for publishing one of my designs in their February issue. As a designer it is a great boost to see a chart in print and without the support of editors and their magazines my designs would not reach such a wide audience.



*True Love CH0274*



*Embroidery can be presented in many different ways. The magazine mounted the embroidery in a white wooden box!*

Happy stitching,

*Liz*