



Blackwork Journey Blog

October 2014

New Charts

Techniques -

Useful Knotted Stitches

Blocks 18 & 19

Readers Gallery



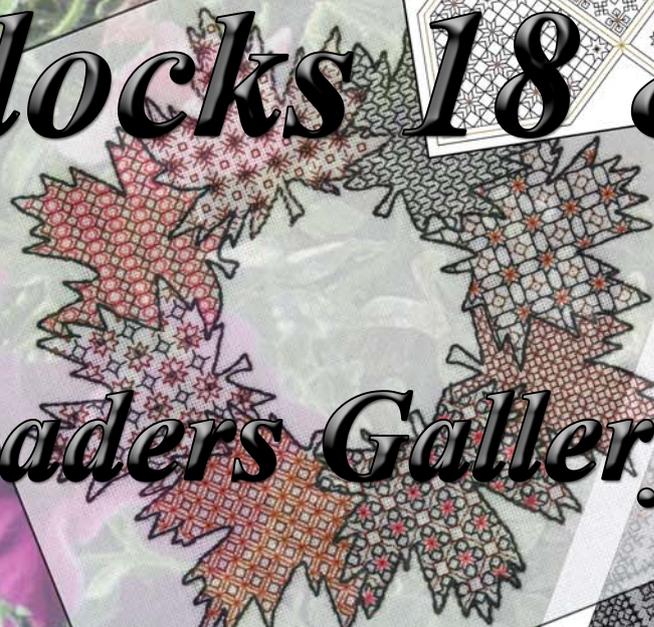
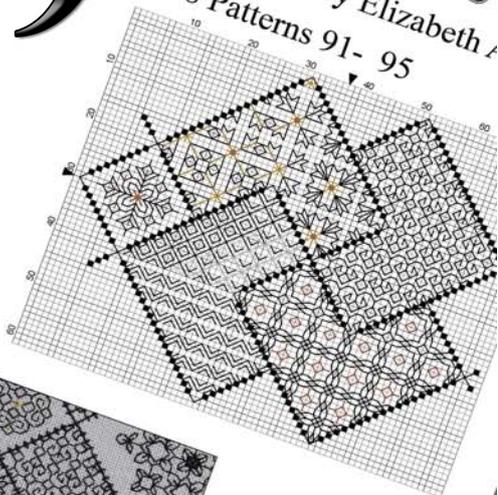
*Blackwork Journey
Techniques*

TQ0018

*Useful Knotted Stitches
Colonial Knots
French Knots
Double Knot Stitch
Coral Stitch*

The Working Embroiderment by Liz Almond

SAVE THE STITCHES
Blackwork Journey - Designs by Elizabeth
Block 18 Patterns 91- 95

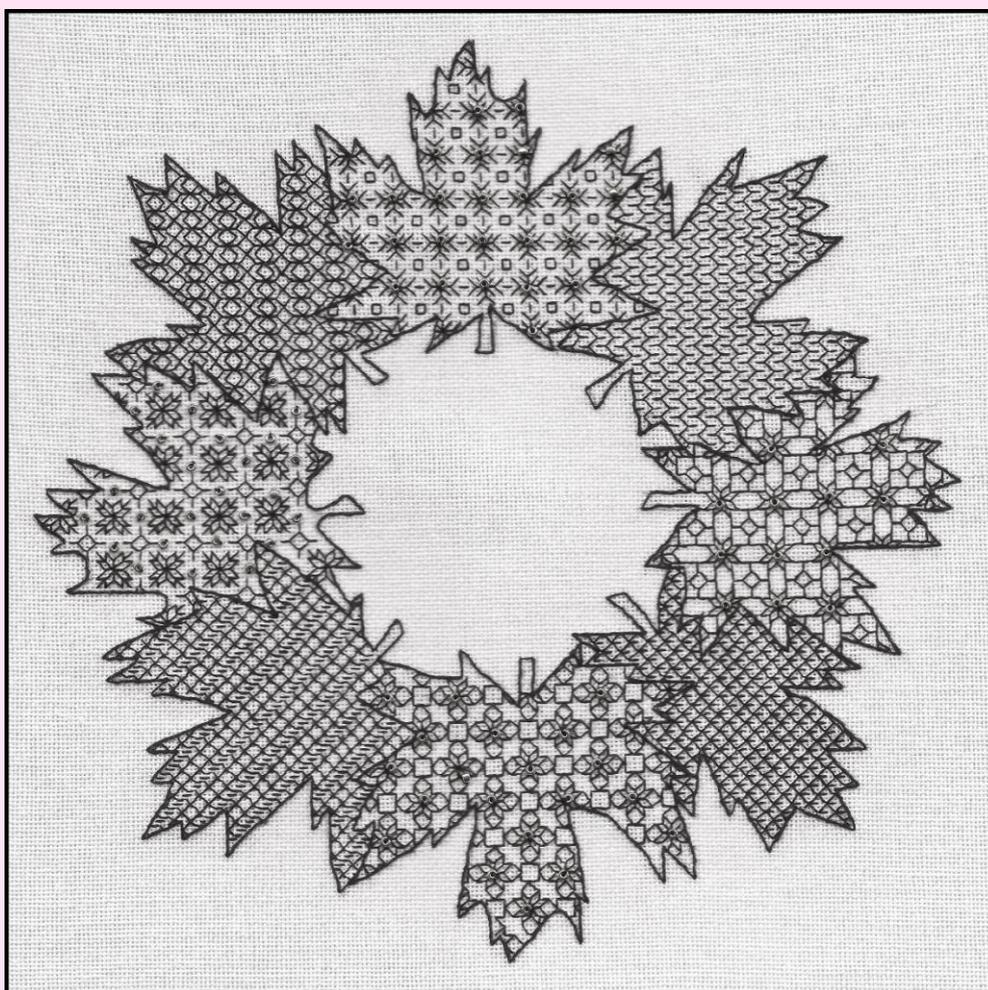


Making decisions!

Embroidery is a fascinating subject to study, but the more you do, the more complicated it can become and decisions have to be made on every project unless working with a kit where all the thinking is done for you!

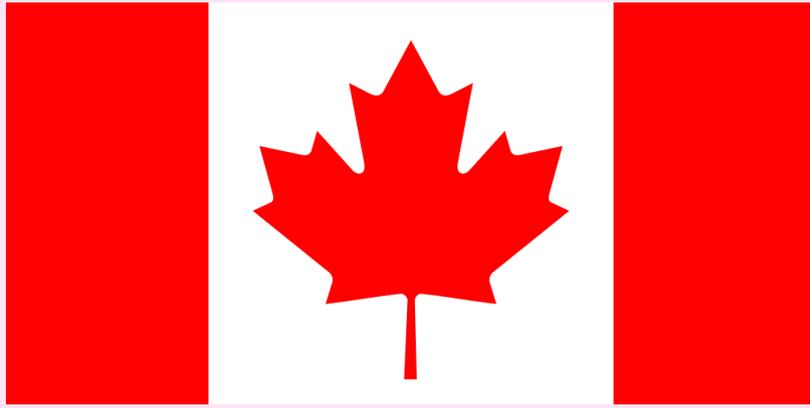
Since I don't especially like working with purchased kits and design my own, I am constantly faced with problems, so I thought I would talk you through my thinking and how I go about an actual project.

I am teaching in Canada this month and one of the groups I will be working with in Toronto asked me to redesign a blackwork pattern as a colour design, which is not quite as straightforward as it may appear.



CH0308 Maple Leaf Wreath

Since the National Flag of Canada is also known as the Maple Leaf and l'Unifolié (French for "the one-leafed") and consists of a red field with a white square at its centre, in the middle of which is featured a stylized, 11-pointed, red maple leaf, I thought my design ought to reflect the shape of the maple leaf on the flag.



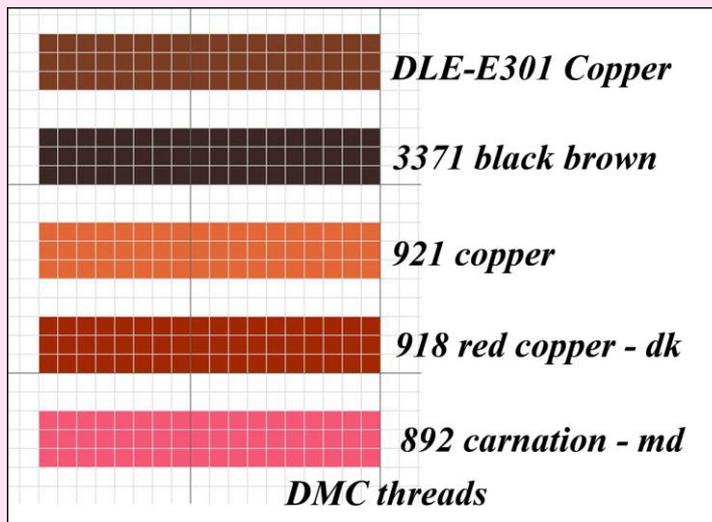
National Flag of Canada

So, taking into consideration the wide range of colours within the leaves themselves some serious thinking had to be done.



By looking at the leaves, a colour palette began to emerge based round the copper tones including a pink, which was rather unexpected.

Of necessity, the number of threads had to be limited, but I wanted to include the pink. To add lustre, I included DMC Light Effects E301 Copper. This is a metallic thread which is not easy to use, but can be very effective!



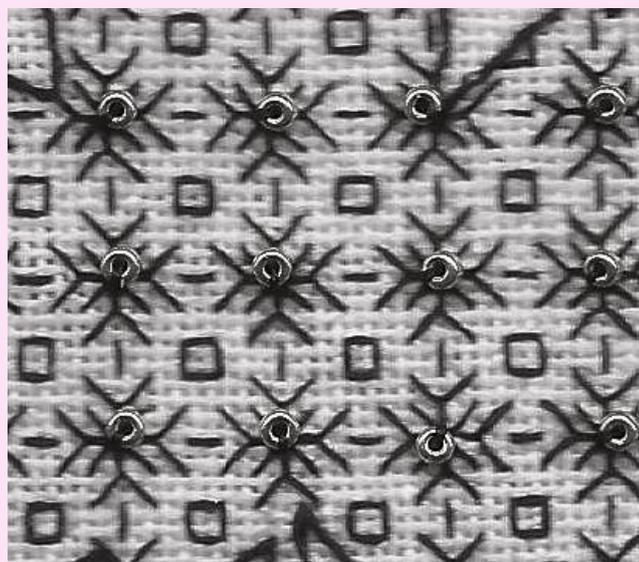
Colour Maple is a counted thread sampler worked on evenweave fabric with a free style outline. Because it has a detailed outline the choice of fabric needed to be considered.

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Aida blockweave is unsuitable because the blocks would need to be split to follow the outline accurately, I therefore decided to use Zweigart 28 Count evenweave white 12 x 12 inches.

The design was transferred onto the fabric using a water-soluble pen. Since I tend to stitch in the evening when the light is not so good, the blue outline can be easily seen, although an HB pencil is also suitable.

Having decided on fabric and threads, I looked at the patterns carefully to determine which colours I would use for each leaf. The blackwork pattern was very easy to stitch as there were no colour choices to be made but using colour was more difficult. Starting with a simple pattern first gave an anchor point on the fabric to build the design around. Part of the outline was backstitched in two strands of 3371 and then the first leaf was embroidered. Consideration was then given to the colours either side.

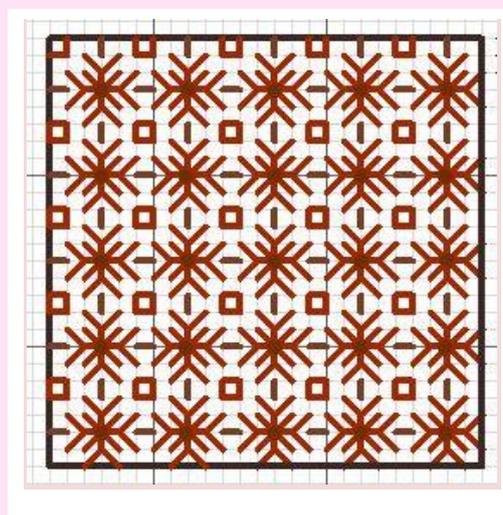


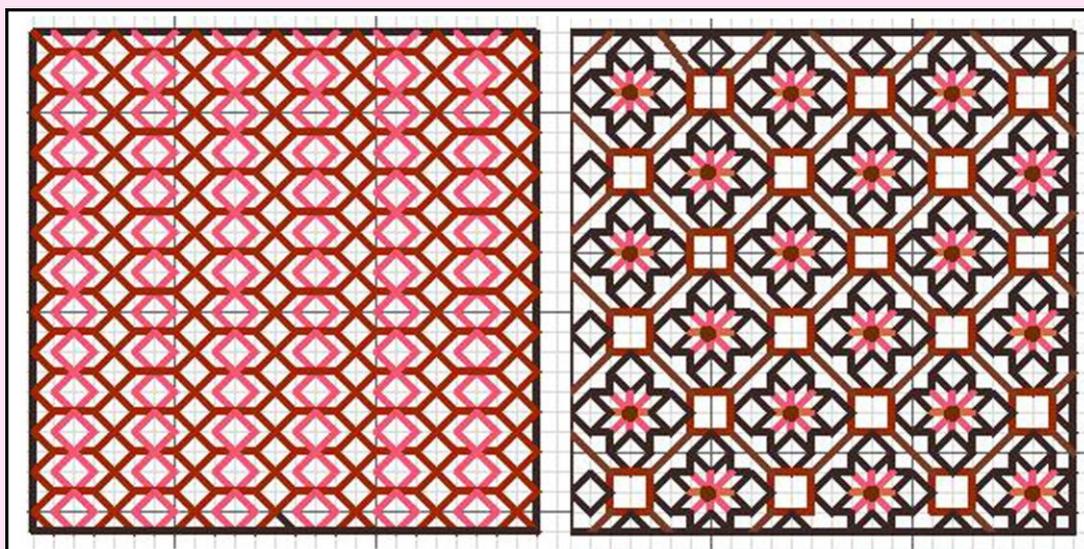
Pattern detail from Leaf 1



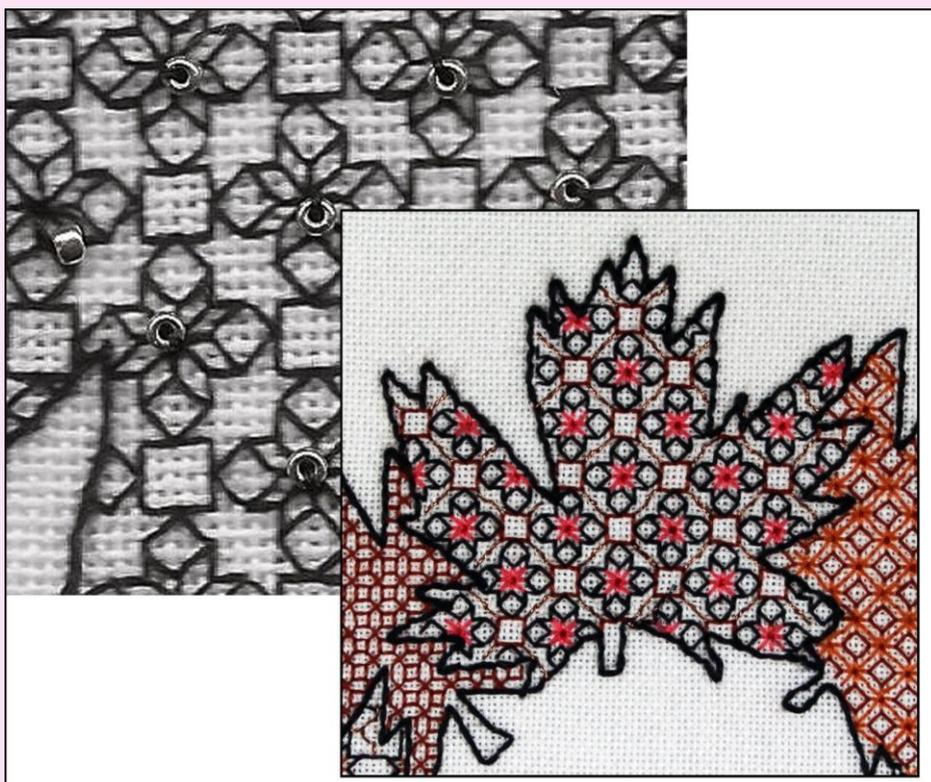
Since the two filler patterns were solid, they enhanced the more delicate nature of the first leaf, but allowed me to introduce the pink. At this stage the pink dominated, but as it was only a small part of the finished design and looked out of place initially, having the confidence to see the design as a whole meant that it blended in. The colour was picked up again in another leaf, but in less detail.

Pattern 1 worked in 918 red copper





Carnation pink was used in two places in the design but with different effects!

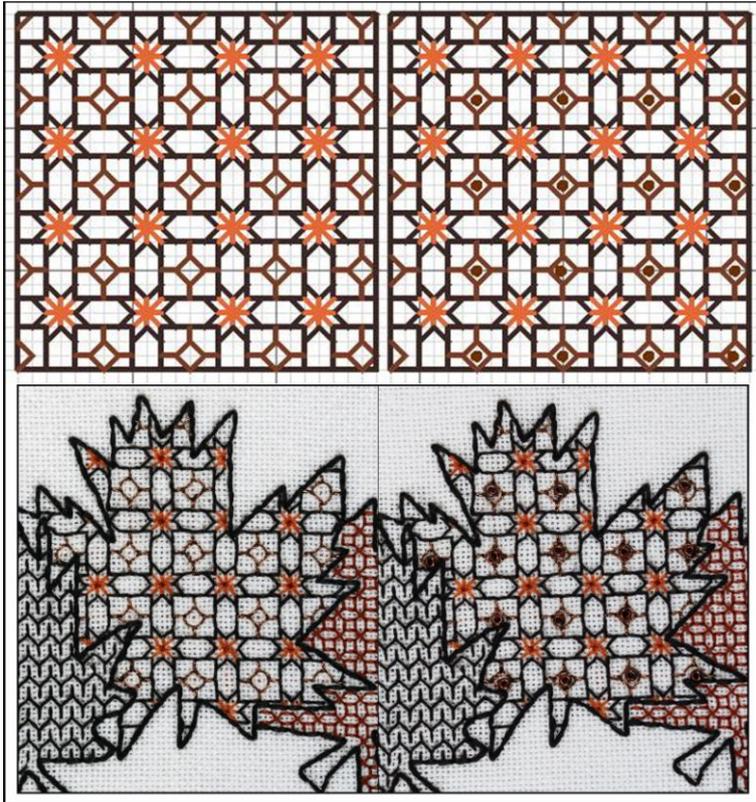


So Colour Maple developed step by step with the metallic thread being used carefully to avoid dominating the design.

Some of the original blackwork patterns were altered to suit the colour theme but comparing the black versus colour was an interesting exercise.

Same pattern, different colour scheme!

Whether to add beads to a design also had to be considered very carefully. Adding too many can obscure the design and detract rather than enhance the pattern. It is not until the beads are added that the impact can be assessed. This is the reason I do not add beads until I have finished the embroidery.

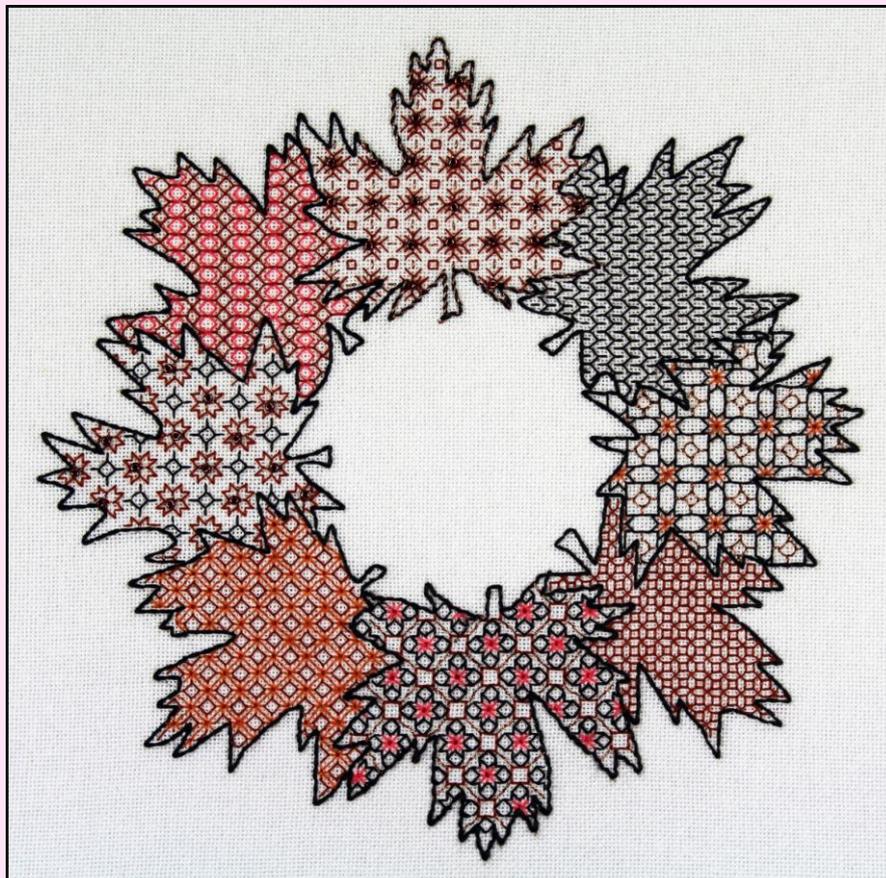


To bead or not to bead?

Adding embellishments is down to personal choice, but very often 'less is more'

Follow your instincts when using beads and metallic threads. It is your design!

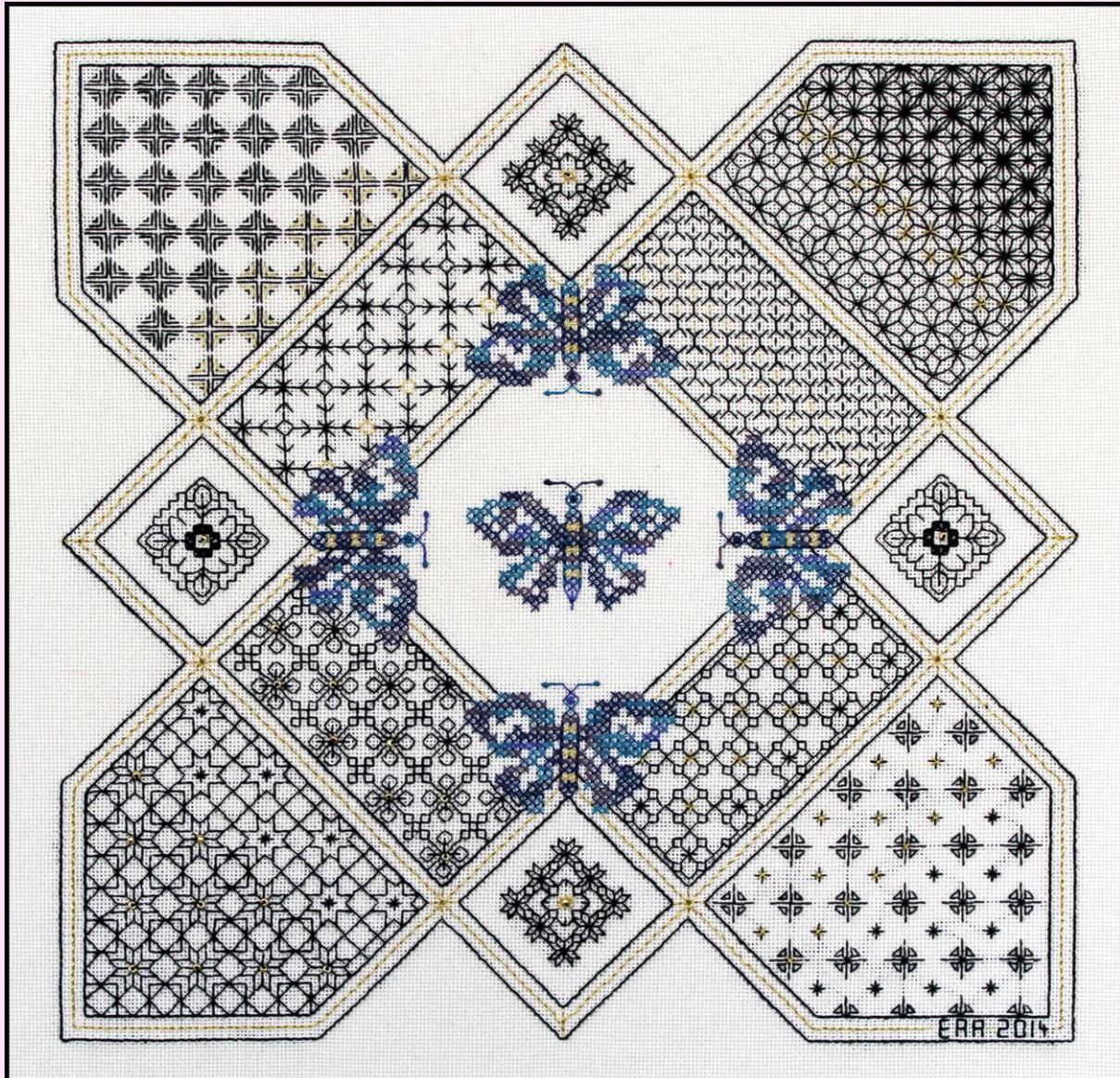
CH0328 Colour Maple complete



Apply these considerations whenever you alter or design an embroidery!

‘Flutterbye’ – a new counted thread design!

Butterflies are always popular and lend themselves to interpretation in blackwork. This design can be worked in different combinations if required.



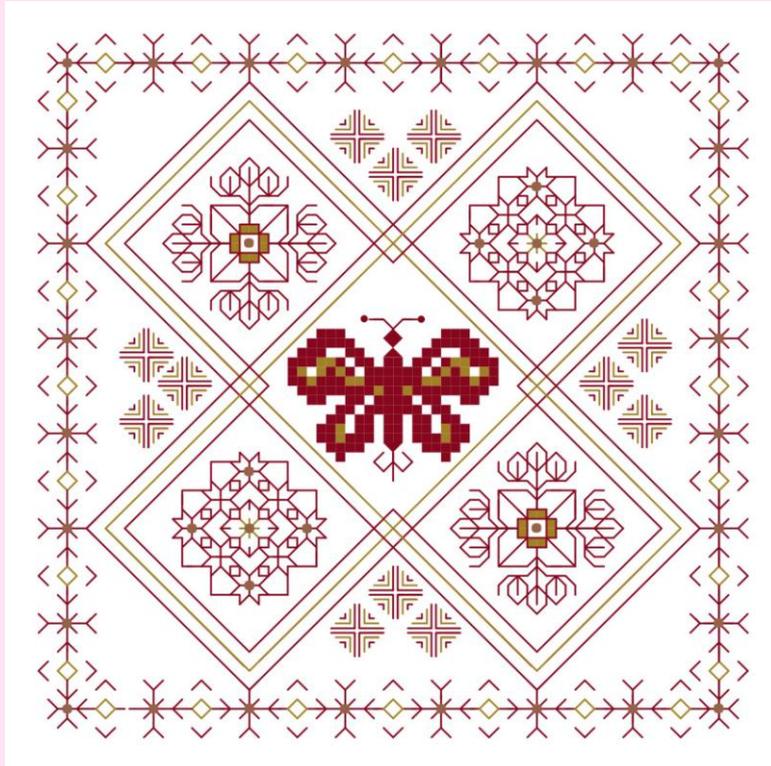
CH0329 ‘Flutterbye’ embroidery worked in black, gold and blue variegated threads.

It is possible to work the butterflies in a ring on their own or, to work the diamond without the four corner pieces.

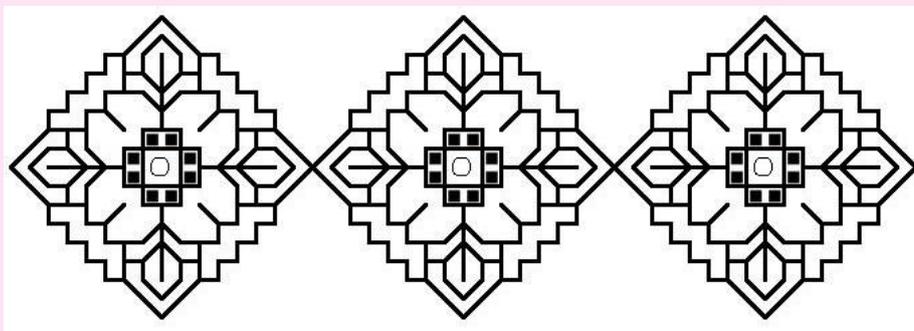
A single butterfly could be worked on the corner of a napkin or used as a motif for a card.

The flower motifs could also be used to create a border which could be used for a place mat or a border on an embroidered bag.

It takes time to look beyond the pattern and explore the possibilities, but it can produce some interesting results.



‘Minibye’ – a miniature design using elements from ‘Flutterbye’



Border design created from ‘Flutterbye’

‘Save the Stitches’ Latest Update

‘Save the Stitches’ has made it onto ‘YouTube’. I received an e-mail from a reader saying that there are at least two sites in ‘YouTube’ with videos of work in progress on the ‘Save the Stitches’ project.

The most detailed videos are by Izzy Memsaab on onemore x stitch

<http://youtu.be/ZvglFon8vFg>

The owner of this site has posted two videos of work in progress and a number of her readers have added their comments.

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Many other readers who have their own Blogs are also following the project:

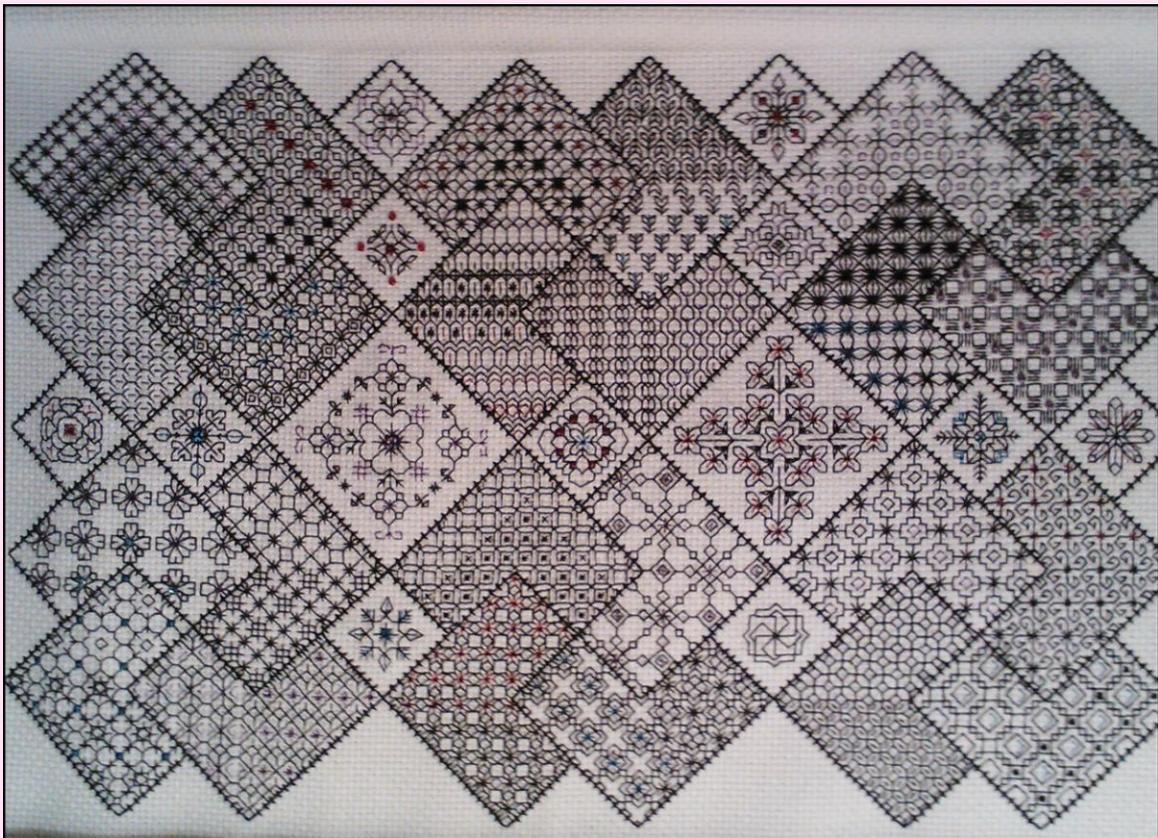
Debbie Rose from <http://sewrosey.wordpress.com/>

Wendy from The Crafter's Apprentice
<https://www.blogger.com/profile/05167739272302561918>

Jenilee Just For Fun Jen

<http://justforfunjen.blogspot.co.uk/2014/06/save-stitches-update.html>

Zabiz from A Bird is Singing to Blue Sky has shown pictures of the project from the start of the project <https://zabneedlework.wordpress.com/category/blackwork/>



Zabiz – work in progress!

Esther lives in France and her website: <http://brodeuse-bressane.blogspot.co.uk/2014/02/save-stitches-blackwork-sampler-1.html> is really worth visiting!

I have just received a really lovely e-mail from Natacha in France. She is Jacqueline's daughter and they are both working the project together, but in very different ways. They talk through their ideas and spend time working together which is very special for both of them.

If you have looked at Pinterest you will have seen Jacqueline's work which is white threads on red fabric. Natacha has chosen to work on a deep yellow brown fabric with cream threads, which makes a very different impact!



Natacha and Jacqueline are both working the project in their own way but sharing their love of embroidery.

As a teacher I can encourage and advise, but at the end of the day it is your project and your embroidery for you to develop in your own style.

As you grow in confidence you may want to move away from following a chart into developing your own ideas and following them through. Embroidery is always changing and developing with new fabrics and threads to explore, but by taking tiny steps one day eventually you will be able to take giant strides!

Block 19

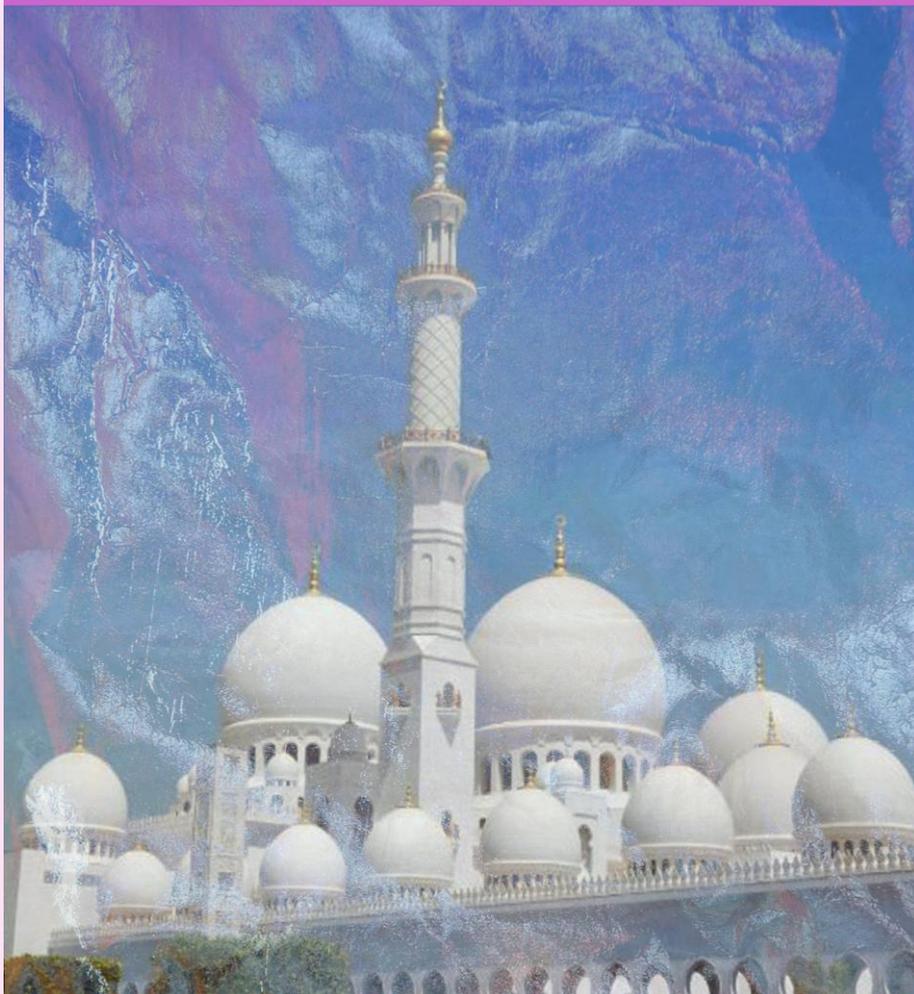


New Inspirations PDF SP0006 Domes

Domes are an important part of architectural design. Explore the new PDF in ‘Inspirations’ to discover how they can be a source of inspiration for the embroiderer!



***Blackwork Journey
Inspirations***
Domes



Happy stitching!

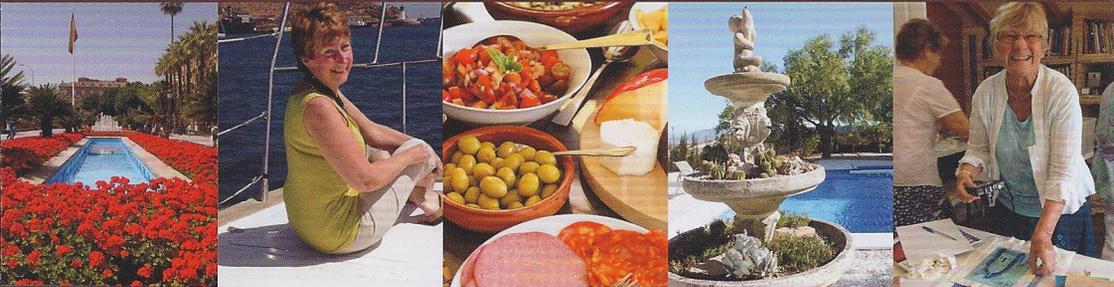
Liz



craft holidays in spain 2015



Treat yourself in fun-filled week of textiles and sun, at our fabulous studios based in the Murcia region of Spain.



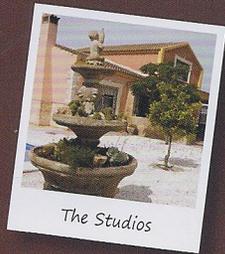
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We have two studios located in the village of Canadas de San Pedro, situated only 18 kilometres from the ancient city of Murcia, and close to the beautiful Mar Menor coast; all within easy reach of Alicante airport.

Textile Holidays 2015

Sue Rangeley Fabulous Flora

19th – 25th April 2015

Embroidery inspired by the botanical beauties of the Mediterranean. Create vibrant patterns in machine-embroidered lace, enhanced with stitched sparkle, appliqué, and beads. *A basic knowledge of machine embroidery required.*



Wendy Dolan Memorable Places and Journeys

10th – 16th May 2015

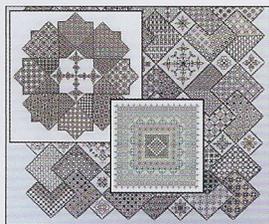
Join Wendy for an exciting week of creativity, using maps and transfer printing techniques, combined with free machine embroidery, layering and three-dimensional textural effects to create unique designs. *Suitable for all abilities.*



Liz Almond Blackwork Embroidery inspired by its birthplace of Spain

10th – 16th May 2015

From Catherine of Aragon and Islamic influences through to 21st century design, enjoy the opportunity to explore the beauty of 'Blackwork'. Develop new techniques and enhance your existing skills. *Suitable for beginners to experienced embroiderers.*



Lindy Zubairy A Taste of Tunisian

17th – 23rd May 2015

This hybrid craft, between knitting and crochet, is full of creative potential. A rewarding knitwear technique, that is amazingly simple to learn and great fun to do. *Suitable for beginners to experienced stitches.*



Sue Rangley



Wendy Dolan



Liz Almond

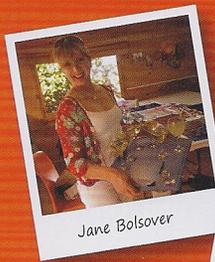


Lindy Zubairy

What our guests say about us...

- Week went by too fast, wanted to prolong the stitching practice, food and company... have not laughed so much in years!
So much fun!
– Clare, Devon
- This holiday has surpassed my expectations, everything has been absolutely perfect: organisation, food, trips, teaching – superb.
Am coming back next year
– Corinne, Scotland

Our exclusive on-site Operations Manager, Jane Bolsover, ensures you have a comfortable and enjoyable time, with round-the-clock support. She will smooth your passage and ensure that your holiday runs to plan, servicing your individual requirements wherever possible.



Jane Bolsover



Brenda Killigrew

ABOUT US

Brenda Killigrew owns **CASTANEA Craft Holidays** in Spain. Being independently owned means we can't always compete on price with the big tour operators, but we try to tailor our holidays to offer you a truly unique experience that you can't buy anywhere else!

At **CASTANEA** the atmosphere is relaxed, so you are free to enjoy the holiday at your own pace. Take a break, to sit in the garden or a dip in the pool, between sessions – the choice is all yours.

The studios are fully equipped with all the crafting facilities required for your course, so you can travel light in the knowledge that we will have everything you need.

CASTANEA welcomes single travellers, non-crafting partners and friends.

We go to every effort to ensure they are well looked after and feel part of the group.

HOW TO BOOK

A £100.00 deposit is required per person at time of booking.

For more information call **01527 69100** or e-mail info@castaneacraftcourses.com

For full booking details and to download a Castanea booking form visit:
<http://www.castanea-craft-courses.com/booking-craft-courses>

PRICES (subject to availability). All prices are per person. Published July 2014.

Craft Holiday: £875.00 (Twin share)
£60.00 single supplement

Price includes:

- ✓ Four days of tuition
- ✓ Most materials and equipment (unless specified)
- ✓ Airport transfers
- ✓ Six nights accommodation
- ✓ Breakfast, lunch and daytime refreshments
- ✓ Transport to and from studio
- ✓ Trip to local market
- ✓ Sightseeing trip to local attractions

Non-crafting Partners and Friends: £425.00

Price includes:

- ✓ Airport transfers
- ✓ Six nights accommodation
- ✓ Breakfast
- ✓ Trip to local market
- ✓ Sightseeing trip to local attractions with lunch

Workshop Only: £450.00 (no accommodation)

Price includes:

- ✓ Four days of tuition
- ✓ Most materials and equipment (unless specified)
- ✓ Lunch and daytime refreshments

For an additional £55.00 you can enjoy the sightseeing trip to local attractions with lunch (must be pre-booked)

Not included any of the above prices:

- ✗ Flights
- ✗ Holiday insurance
- ✗ Evening meals
- ✗ Drinks whilst out of the studio (except sightseeing lunch)
- ✗ Extra activities, such as spa treatments
- ✗ Anything else not stated above; if you are unsure please ask



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