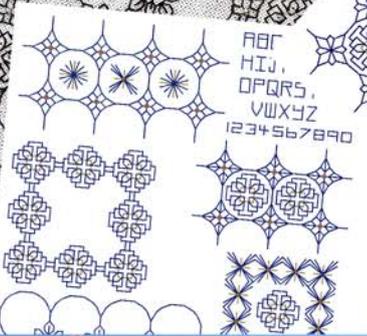




Blackwork Journey Blog

May 2019



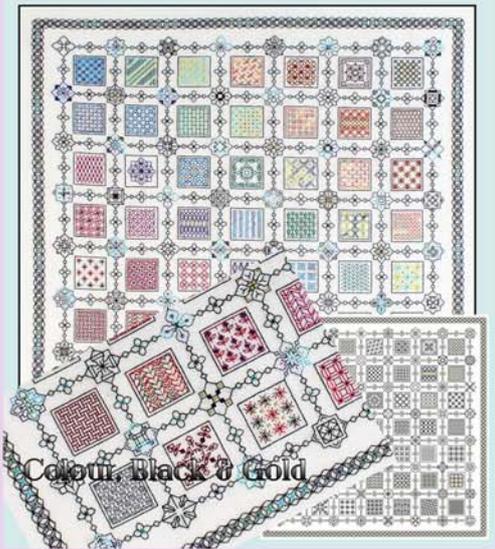
'TINY TREASURES' Rectangle - Part 8



The final part!



'TINY TREASURES' Square - Parts 9 - 10



Blackwork Journey Blog, May 2019

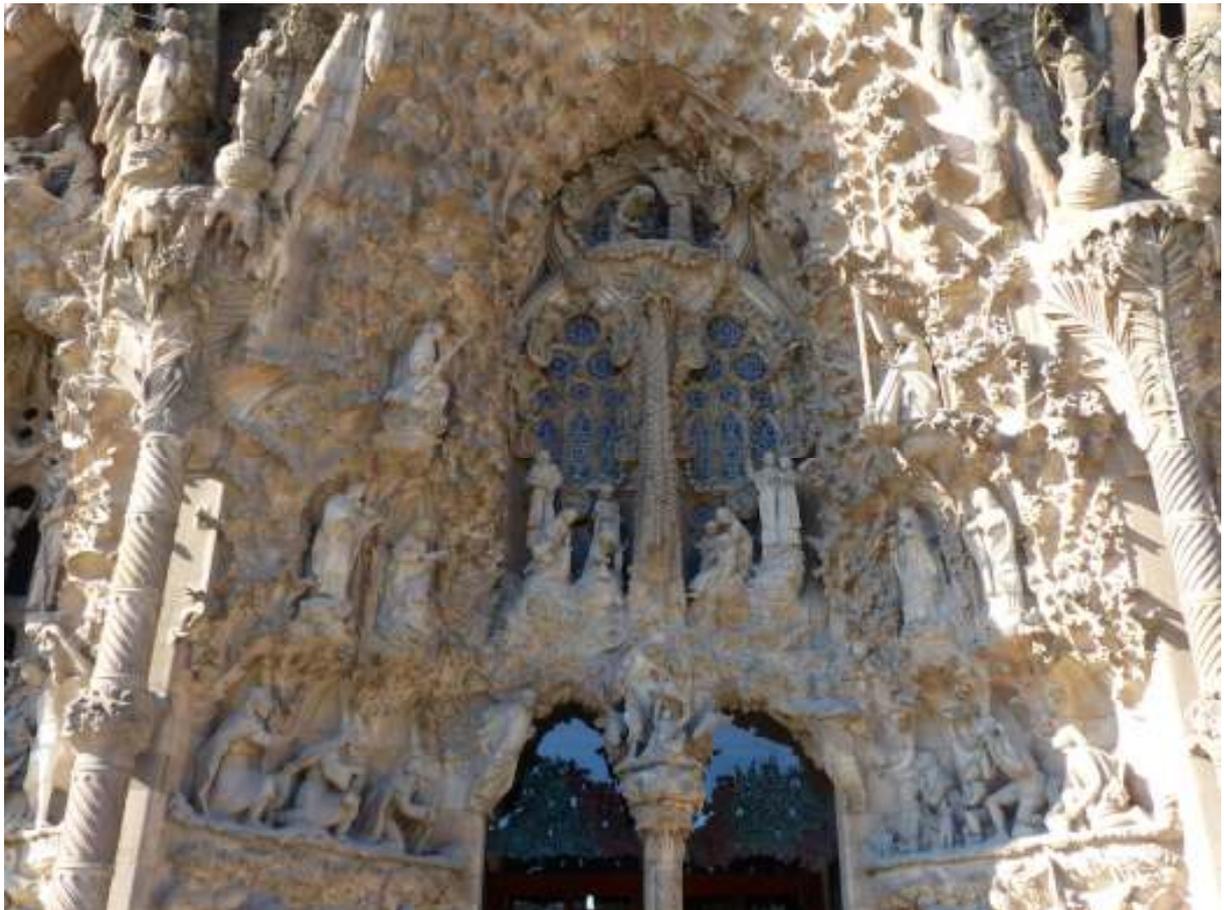


Last month I mentioned that I had visited Barcelona in Spain for a short break and to do some research.

One of the main sites I wanted to visit was La Sagrada Família which was built by the architect Antoni Gaudi. This a work in progress and Gaudi did not live to see the completion of his work which began in 1883 and won't be completed until 2026.

The outside of La Sagrada Família is dramatic and stimulating and when completed, will have 18 spires 172.5 metres high representing the Twelve Apostles, the Virgin Mary, the four Evangelists and Jesus Christ.

The Church has three grand façades: the Nativity façade to the East, the Passion façade to the West and the Glory façade to the South (yet to be completed). They are very different in style and the impact is dramatic.



Nativity Façade

Blackwork Journey Blog, May 2019

The Nativity Façade is a riot of nature, animals and figures covering every aspect of the exterior. It is the oldest and the one that Gaudi himself saw before his death. The Nativity Façade is the current main entrance into the building and the walls tell the story of the birth of Christ.

Contrast this with the Passion Façade where simple angular sculptures dominate and focus on the last days of Christ's life. Whilst they reflect pain and torment, I found the cubist rather stark style and angularity very appealing and could see the figures being worked as tapestries or embroideries.



The Passion Façade still under construction will be the main entrance to the building.



However, it was the inside of the building with its wonderful stained glass windows that really interested me and did not disappoint!

It is like stepping into the heart of a rainbow, with the colours beaming in through the stained glass.

The light coming in from the Nativity façade sparkles with ocean blues and forest greens, while the Passion façade glows red and yellow. You can tell the time of the day by which colours dominate - blue/green in morning and red/yellow in afternoon.



Just looking at the colours and the way they blend is inspirational! The small round and rose windows could all be replicated in embroidery designs.



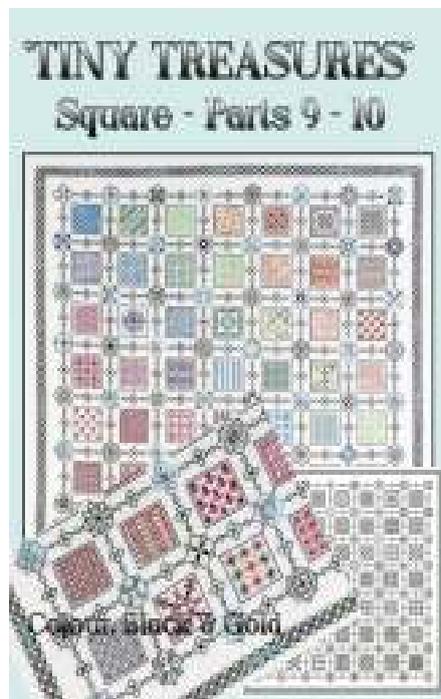
The columns supporting the building were built to mirror trees and branches, each spanning various geometric forms. A simple example is a square base progressing to an octagon, passing to a sixteen-sided form and ending up in a circle. None of the interior surfaces are flat and the level of detail contrasts with the ornate exterior. Every aspect of the building is etched in my memory as a source of inspiration!



The significance of iconic buildings to our values and history was highlighted in April by the fire at Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris and the reactions of people worldwide to the catastrophe.

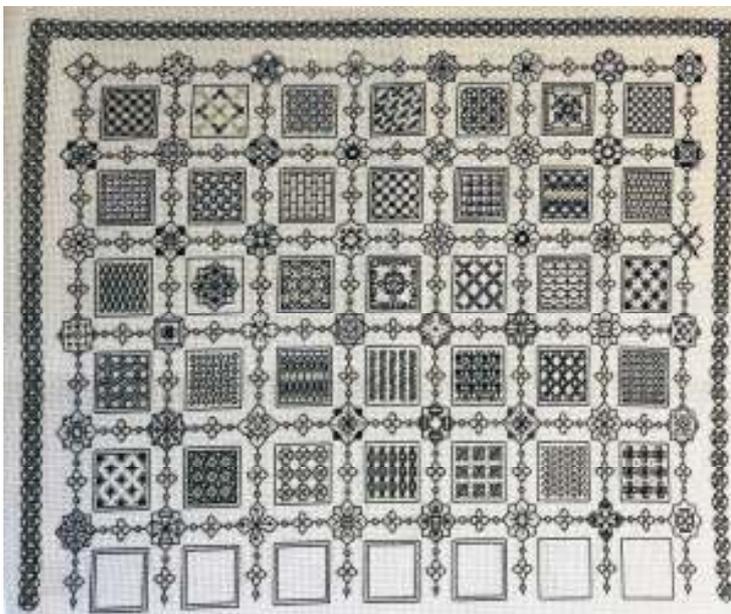
Perhaps we only understand the value of what we have when we are threatened with its loss?

The final part of 'Tiny Treasures' Rectangle is included this month. It has been a joy to see all the photographs of work in progress and the different ways people have interpreted the colours.



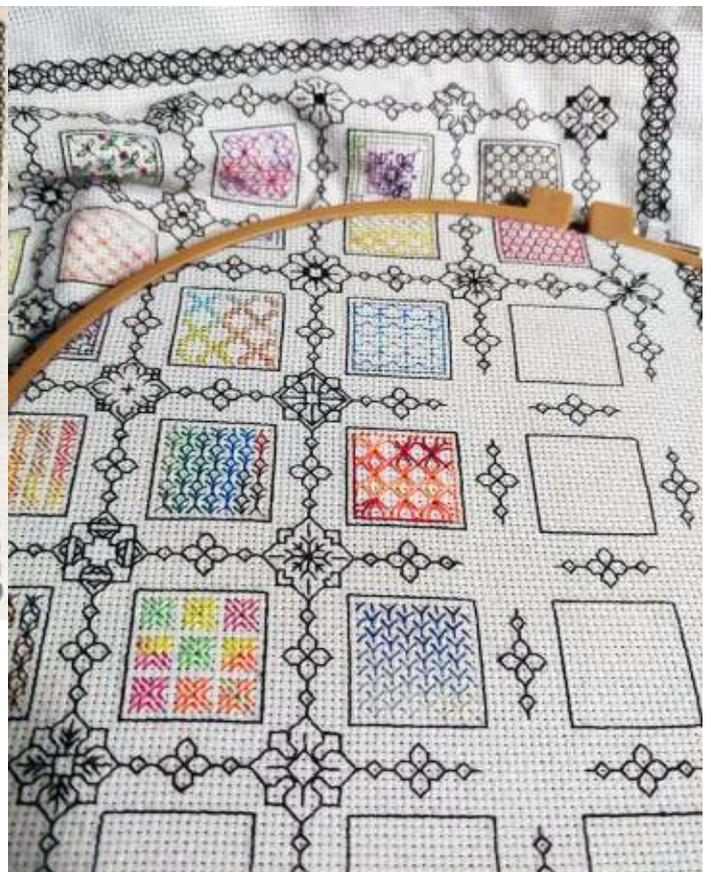
There is one more part of 'Tiny Treasures' Square still to come in June.

The next instalments of 'Tiny Treasures'



Nancy Meffe work in progress

One design, two different interpretations.



Nancy Hall work in progress

I enjoy working on large projects and am delighted that so many people have chosen to stitch along with me. It is a challenge coming up with different ideas and I am already thinking about the next one for later in the year. It will be very different from anything that has gone before and will involve embroidery skills and techniques that may be new to you.

New charts for May



There are two new charts this month:

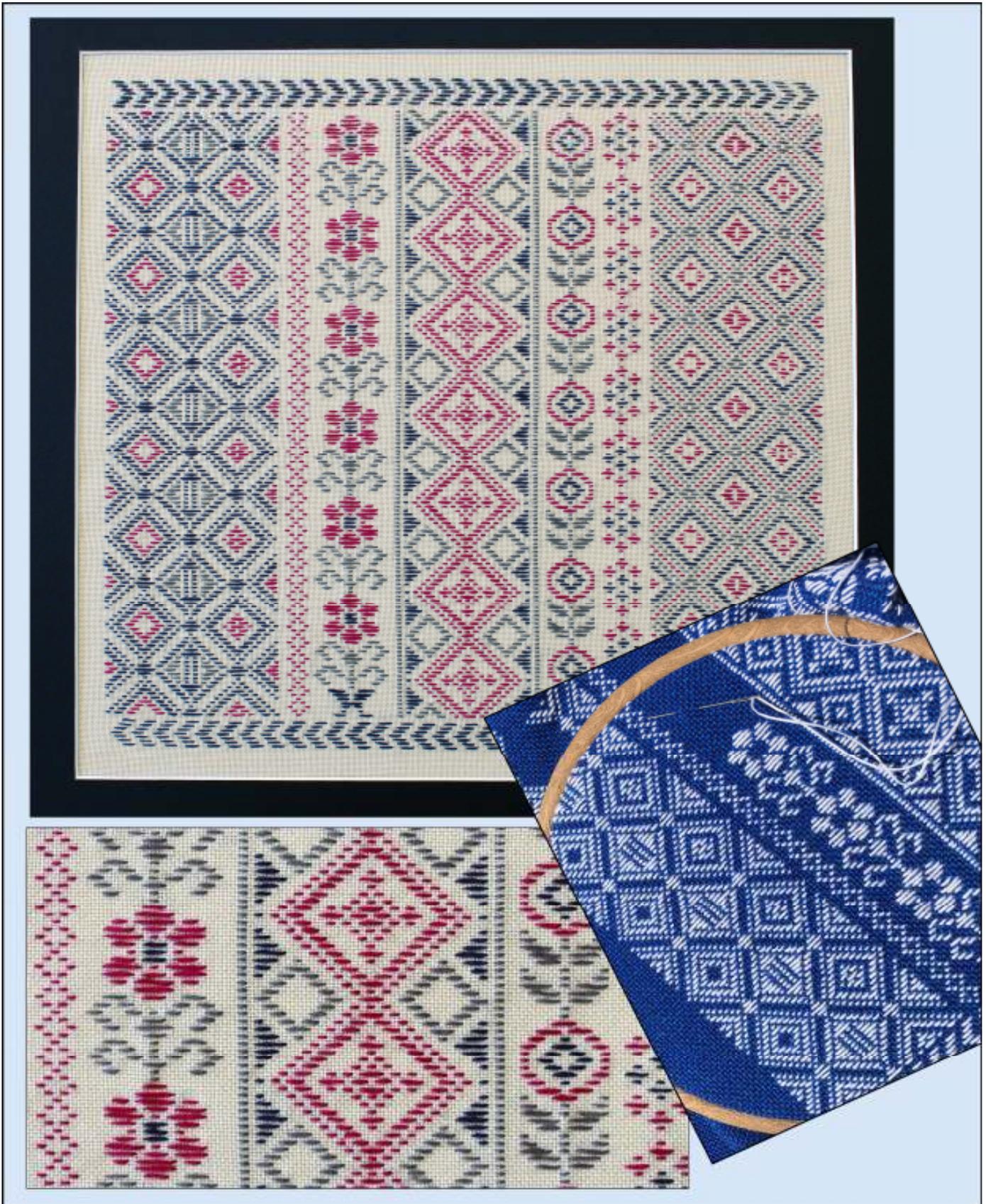
CH0387 Black Beauty is a traditional blackwork design with a number of different variations in various sizes suitable for many different projects.

Whilst I have worked the design in traditional black and gold, it also lends itself to a wide range of colours and the smaller design is suitable for a special birthday or anniversary.

An alphabet has been included so the design can be personalised.

CH0388 Kazumi

This is a Kogin style design which is suitable for a picture or cushion. The design is worked in bands rather than across the full width of the design which is the traditional way of working Kogin embroidery. Different colours have been added, but the design can also be worked in a single colour. For example, white on blue or blue on white. Whilst Kogin embroidery requires careful counting, the design grows quickly and is interesting to stitch!

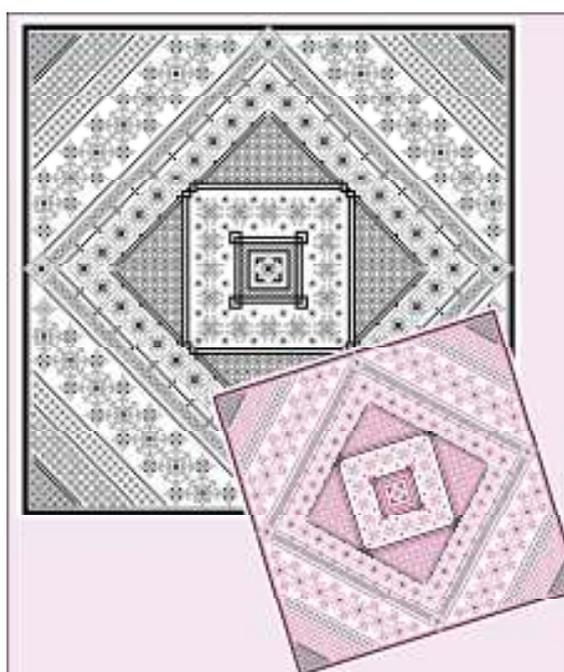


CH0388 Kazumi

‘Just Cross’ Stitch Magazine - June 2019



A new chart from Blackwork Journey has been published in the June edition of ‘Just Cross Stitch’ magazine.



Take a fresh look!

I often look back at the charts in Blackwork Journey to see how my own style has changed over time. Embroidery should change and develop over the years as the embroiderer becomes more experienced and confident with designing and stitching.

I enjoyed working **CH0236 Renaissance** because it is worked on the diagonal and I have been creating another design using the same idea.

The different facets on precious stones with their changing patterns and light effects can be reflected in embroidery by adding iridescent metallic threads and specialist stitches. (See below)



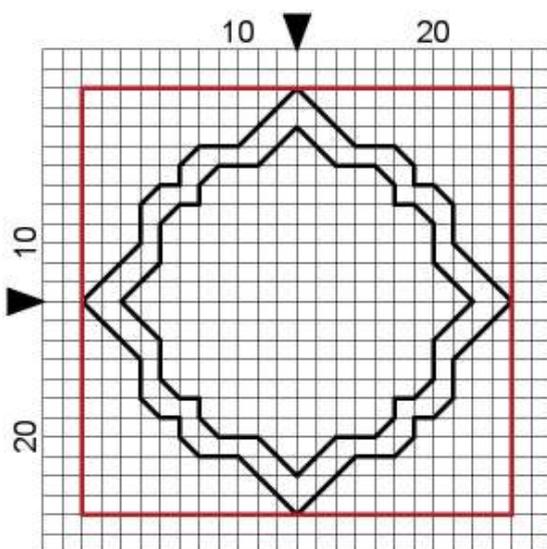


Rainbow Gallery Petite Treasure Braids have a wide range of colours and are a delight to use.

Combined with specialist stitches and metallic threads and beads these designs can be a challenge for the embroiderer.

This design will be called 'Facets' because like jewels, they have many faces. The design will be added to Blackwork Journey later in the year.

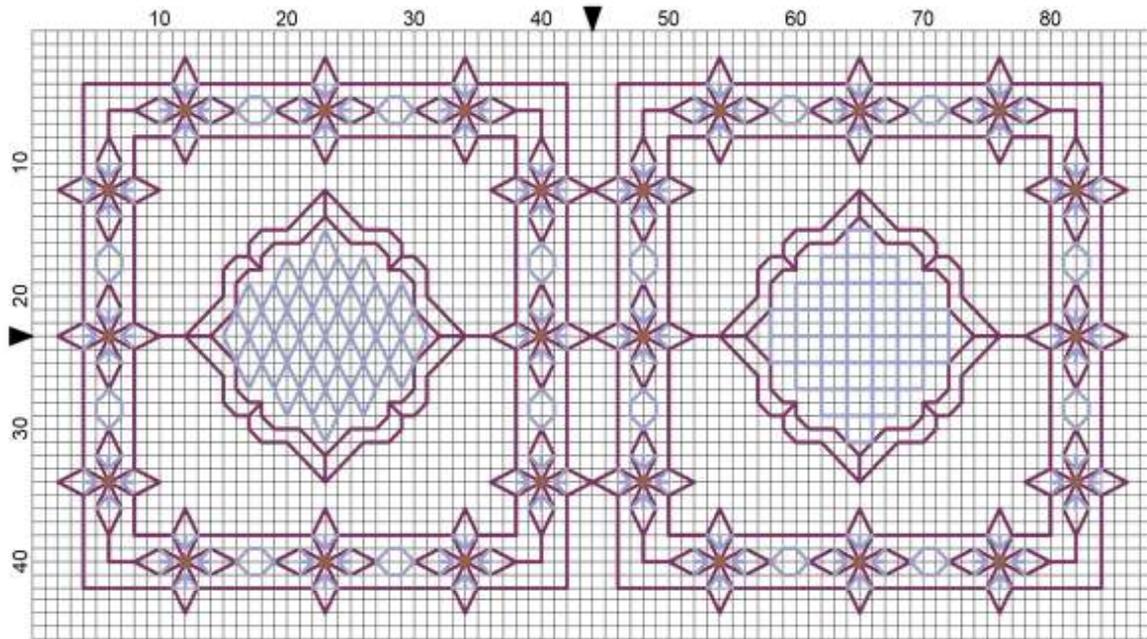
Can pulled thread work be included in designs such as 'Box of Delights'?



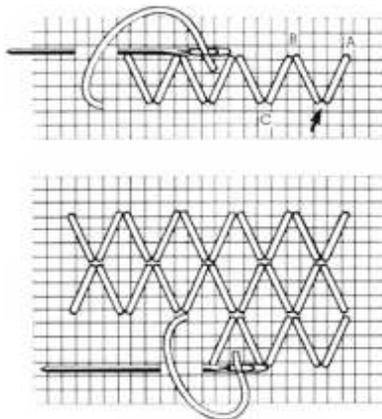
I was asked this question by a member of the Facebook group and after spending some time playing with different stitches, I came up with some designs to answer the question and provide some possible Christmas ornaments.

'Box of Delights' was a box of 36 chocolates all with different filler patterns linked together by small motifs. The internal area was small, so the pulled thread work patterns had to fit into the space comfortably.

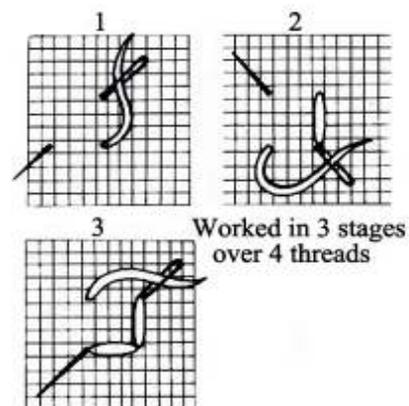
I experimented with four patterns:
Wave stitch
Four-sided stitch
Detached eyelets
Four-sided stitch and eyelet bands



Wave stitch



Four-sided stitch



Materials:

Small pieces of Zweigart 28 count evenweave

Note: 14 count Aida can be used but do not 'pull' the filler stitches to tight

DMC stranded cotton

DMC Cotton P rle No 12 Two strands of floss can be used for the pulled thread work in place of the P rle.

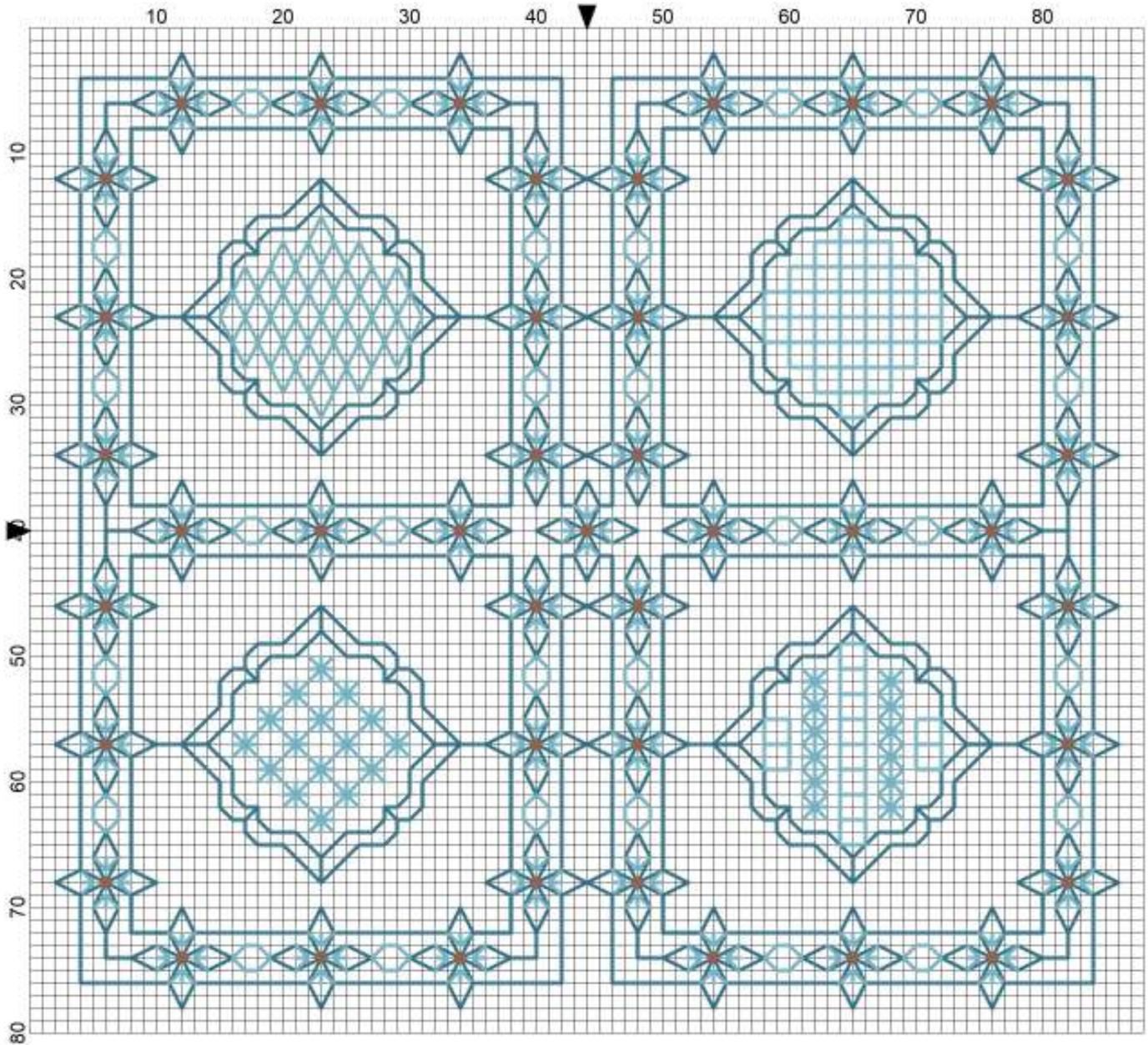
Tapestry needle No.24

Method:

Work the outline first in one strand of floss. One stitch on evenweave is worked over two threads or one block on Aida fabric.

Add the filler patterns using two strands of floss or Cotton P rle No 12. Follow the diagrams to place the stitches inside the 'chocolates'.

Place the finished embroidery face down on a soft towel and press lightly.



Mini Sampler

Four squares are joined together to create a mini-sampler.

Design Area: 6.29 x 5.71 inches

Stitches 88 x 80

Material: Zweigart 28 count evenweave, 9 x 9 inches

Stitches used:

Wave stitch

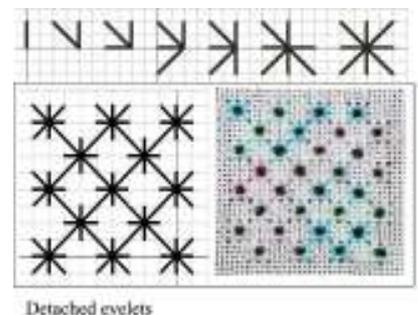
Four-sided stitch

Detached eyelets

Four-sided stitch and eyelet bands – work alternate bands.

Leave two threads or one block between each column.

A motif in a square would make an attractive card and is a good way of using up the scraps of fabric that we all accumulate.



Detached eyelets over 4 threads

Techniques TQ0009 ‘Transferring a Design Part 2’

Following on from last month, the final part of ‘Transferring a Design’ can be found in ‘Techniques’ on the Blackwork Journey website. (www.blackworkjourney.co.uk)

These Pdf’s are designed to help any reader new to embroidery and they cover a wide range of subjects.



I hope you find them helpful and whilst new equipment and fabrics can always be found, the basic information remains the same!

‘Techniques’ List of Pdfs:

- TQ0001 Lights and Lenses
- TQ0002 Frames
- TQ0003 Needles
- TQ0004 Gadgets and Gismos
- TQ0005 Notebook to Project
- TQ0006 Scissors and cutting tools
- TQ0007 How to Cross Stitch
- TQ0008 Transferring a Design Part 1
- TQ0009 Transferring a Design Part 2
- TQ0010 Couching
- TQ0011 Fabrics for Embroidery
- TQ0012 Organisation
- TQ0013 Mountmellick
- TQ0014 Introduction to Blackwork
- TQ0015 Embroidery and Quilting
- TQ0016 Creating a line drawing out of a photograph.

I hope you have enjoyed reading the Blog this month.

If you have any queries please contact me at lizalmond@blackworkjourney.co.uk

Happy stitching!

Liz