

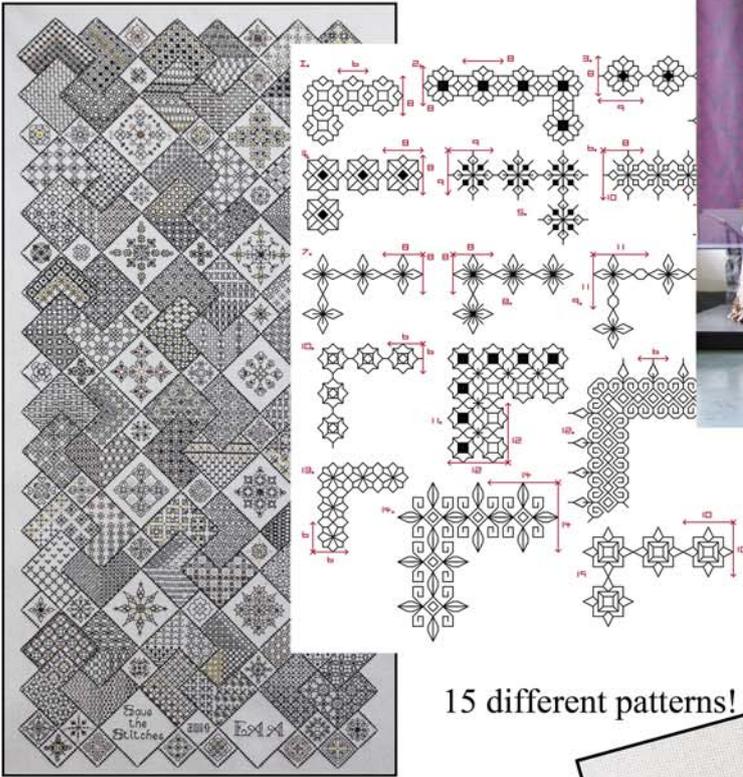


Blackwork Journey Blog

January 2015

SAVE THE STITCHES

Blackwork Journey - Designs by Elizabeth Almond
Optional Borders and Corners for Projects!



15 different patterns!

www.blackworkjourney.co.uk



Paper Costumes

Borders & Corners

New project coming in March!
Blackwork craft holiday in Spain



Lakeshore Lily

Happy New Year to all my Readers wishing you a peaceful and creative 2015!

Thank you for the support you have given me over the last six years. I look forward to developing Blackwork Journey further in 2015 by introducing many new projects and ideas.

Following the success of 'Save the Stitches', there will be a new **free** design starting on March for six months. This project has been designed for readers new to blackwork or embroiderers who would like 'bite size' blackwork patterns. Watch this space for more information!

Craft Holidays in Spain 2015

If you are looking for an interesting holiday in 2015, why not consider a fun-filled week of textiles and sun at fabulous studios based in the Murcia region of Spain.

***'Blackwork embroidery inspired in its birthplace of Spain'
10th to 16th May 2015***



From Catherine of Aragon and Islamic influences through to 21st century design, enjoy the opportunity to explore the beauty of 'Blackwork' and develop new techniques and your skills during a week of exciting stitching with experienced teacher Liz Almond.

E-mail: info@castanearcraftcourses.com

or visit www.castanearcraftcourses.com for further information

Paper Costumes – a travelling exhibition from Montreal, Canada July – December 2014

On my recent visit to Montreal, I visited an exhibition of paper dresses at the Museum of Costume and Textile of Québec which I found fascinating and would like to share with you, if only to show what can be created with brown paper and a lot of imagination!

The exhibition illustrates the evolution of women's fashion in the province of Quebec between 1880 and 1930. It has been created by Bibliothèque et Archives Nationales du Québec and encompasses, among other things, five dress reproductions made of paper, created by the costume maker Michael Slack in 2011.

DE LA BELLE ÉPOQUE AU PRÊT-À-PORTER



Le Musée du costume et du textile du Québec est fier de présenter cette exposition qui illustre l'évolution de la mode féminine au Québec de 1880 à 1930. Cette exposition itinérante a été réalisée par Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec et se compose, entre autres, de cinq reproductions de robes de papier créées en 2011 par le costumier québécois Michael Slack.

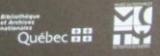
The Museum of Costume and Textile of Québec is proud to present an exhibition which illustrates the evolution of women's fashion in the province of Québec between 1880 and 1930. This travelling exhibition has been created by Bibliothèque et Archives Nationales du Québec and encompasses, among other things, five dress reproductions made of paper, created by the costume maker Michael Slack in 2011.

Iconographies : Niveau 1, en bas de l'escalier central
Vêtements de papier : Niveau 2, dans le hall principal

Iconography: Level 1, down the central staircase
Paper clothing: Level 2, in the main hall

**MERCI DE NE PAS TOUCHER AUX ŒUVRES
PLEASE DO NOT TOUCH THE ARTWORK**

Bibliothèque et Archives
Québec



Costumes and accessories from 1880 – 1930 created in paper!





It was interesting to see how fashion changed within a very short period of time reflecting the changing lives of women.



Attention to detail made these costumes very special. Buttons, beads and brooches were all made from paper!

It would be interesting to create a blackwork embroidery featuring some of the design ideas from this exhibition.

'Save the Stitches' Information

For all the groups or individuals starting the 'Save the Stitches' project in 2015, just a reminder of the material required and the size.

Size Information.

Full design width and height: 14.29 x 29.29 inches

Full pattern width and height: 180 x 380 stitches

Pattern block width 60 stitches. (Multiplied by three = 180 stitches full width of pattern).

Material:

Zweigart 25 count pale blue grey Lugano, 20w x 37h inches to allow a border for mounting and framing

If using Aida fabric, be aware that there are half stitches and the blocks will need to be split. When using evenweave the stitches are worked over TWO threads

If using 28 count evenweave or any other fabric count, please use the Fabric Calculator in Blackwork Journey to find the correct size of the fabric required. Always allow a little extra for mounting and framing, or if you decide to add an embroidered border round the finished work.

Threads:

DMC Cotton P rle No.12, black two balls – **ONE strand for cross stitch**

DMC stranded cotton 310, black, three skeins – **ONE strand for diaper patterns**

DMC Light Effects:

E415 Pewter or E168 Silver

E3821 Light Gold

E301 Copper or,

DMC Diamant Metallic gold, copper and silver, one reel of each

Mill Hill glass beads 557 gold, copper 330 and silver 2022

Tapestry Needles No 24 and 28

Beading Needle

Frame of embroidery ring

Feel free to change the fabrics and threads to suit your colour scheme and if you need any ideas on variations please go to:

Pinterest Elizabeth Almond 'Save the Stitches' where photographs have been posted by readers from around the world.

If you are new to the project in 2015, please e-mail me pictures of work in progress and keep in touch. Remember, I am always here to help if you have any queries!

Adding a border to 'Save the Stitches' and other projects

On my recent visit to Canada and the USA I took 'Save the Stitches' with me to show the various groups with whom I was working. At the time it was rolled up in a tube for ease of transport, but now I am back in England I am faced with a dilemma - do I add a border to the finished embroidery or not?

Having come no nearer to deciding, I put the question to an on-line blackwork group I am involved with and waited for the response thinking that it would help me make my decision. To date, 83 people have replied of which half are in favour of using a border and half are not saying that the piece is sufficient on its own.

On balance, I have decided that I will use a small border to 'frame' the design. You may find 'FR0108 Borders and Corners' in the January section of Freebies useful for this and other projects.

If you do decide to add a border to your design you will need to plan the position very carefully.

SAVE THE STITCHES
Blackwork Journey - Designs by Elizabeth Almond
Optional Borders and Corners for Projects!

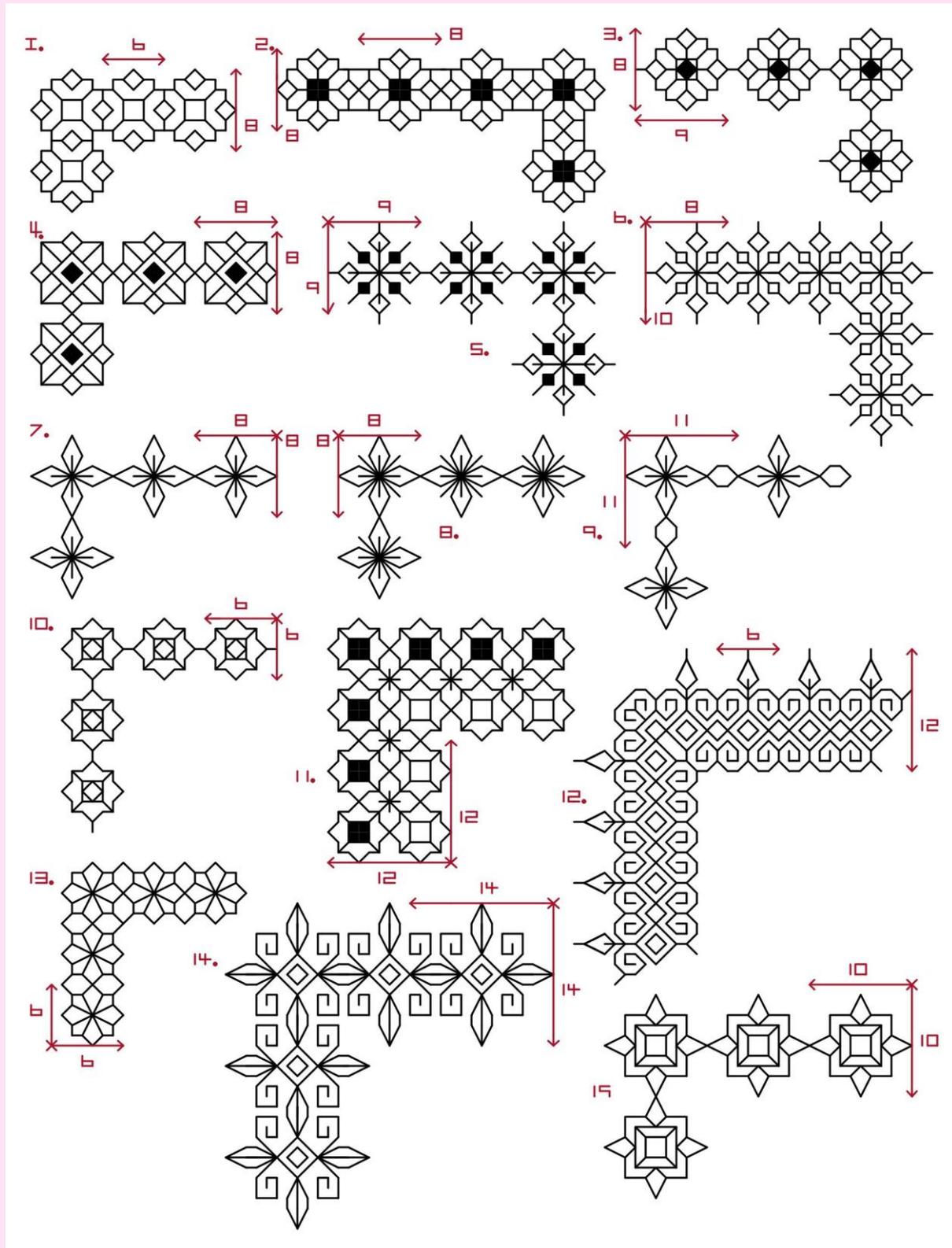
15 different patterns!

www.blackworkjourney.co.uk

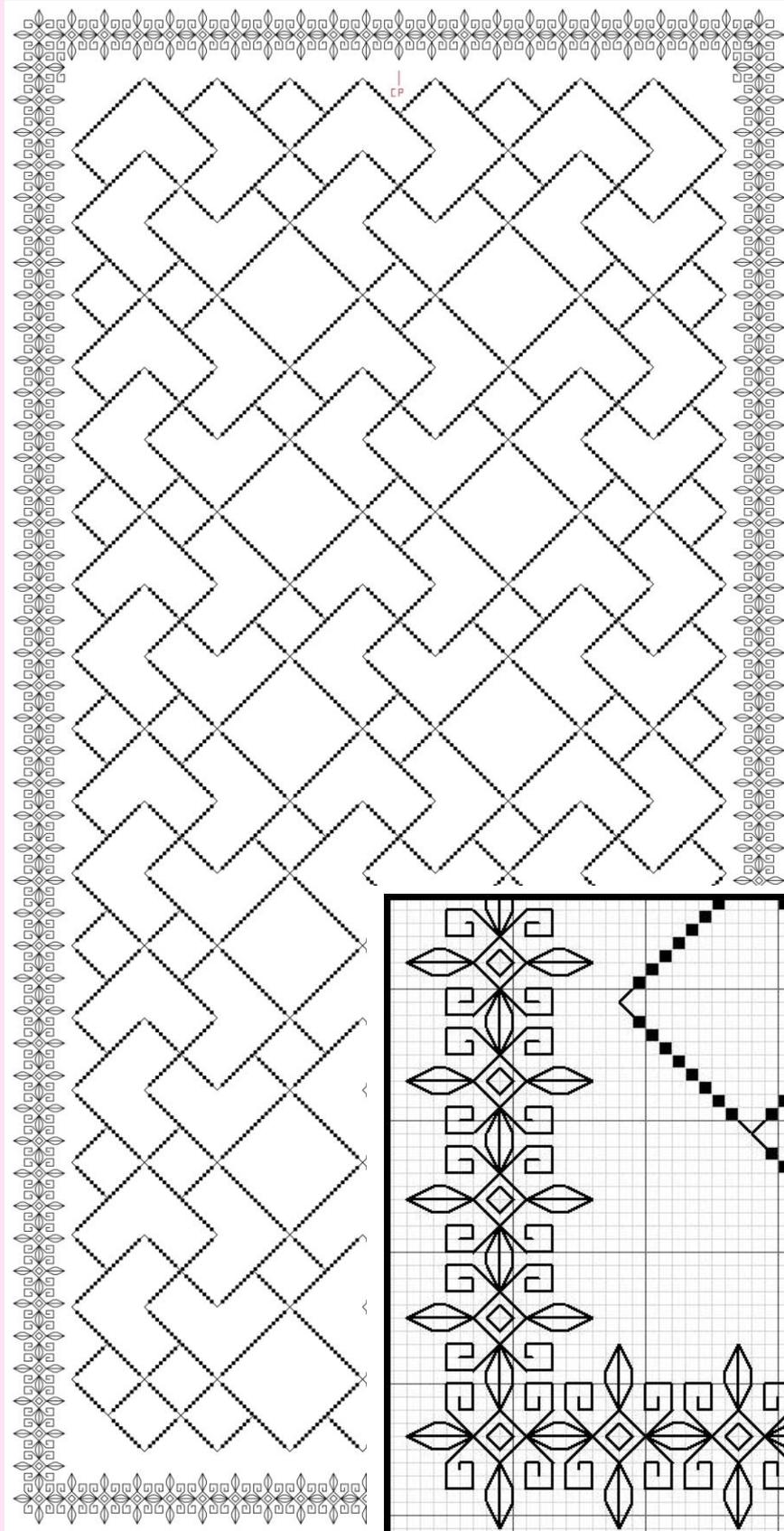
Count carefully from the centre point at the bottom of the design and work outwards in both directions. Add tacking lines if necessary to help in the placing of the border.

The border could be worked round the four corners rather than the whole way around the design.

FR0108 Borders and Corners

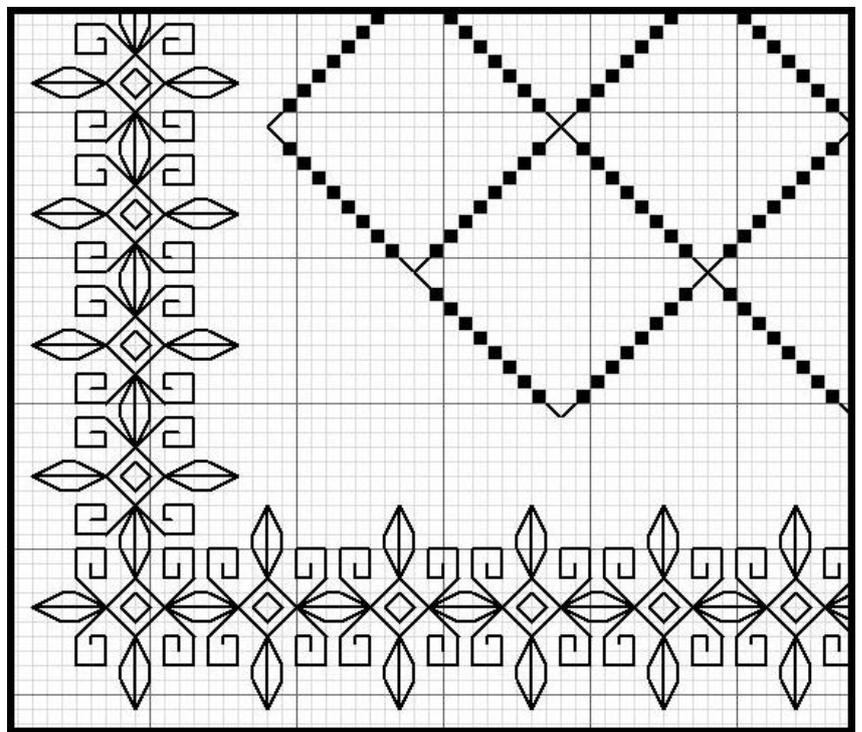


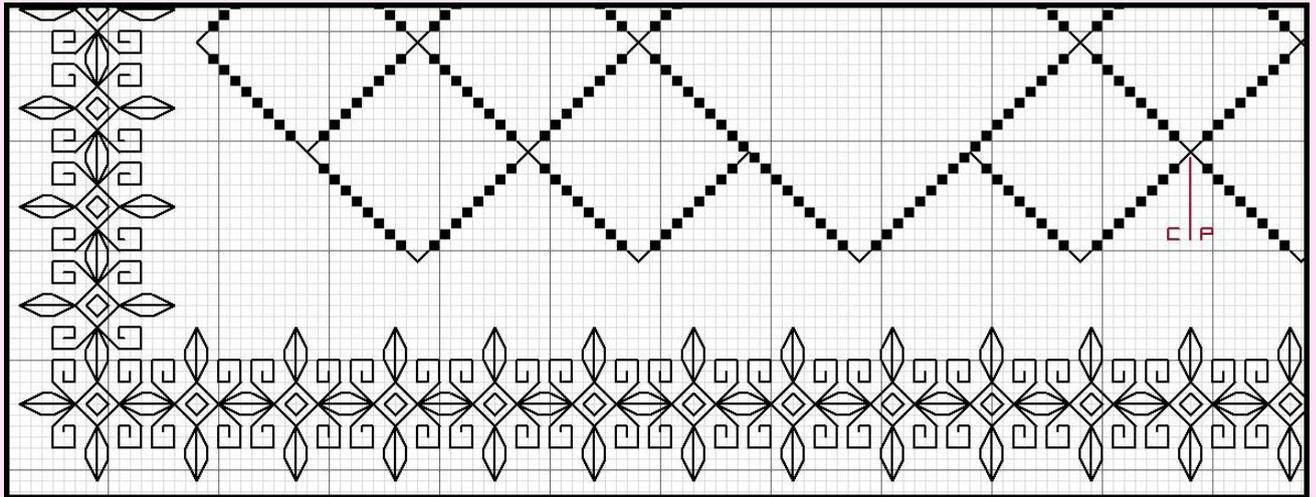
There are fifteen different variations of borders and corners which may be used and adapted for a variety of projects. However, please do not feel pressured into adding a border as it is entirely your choice!



Pattern 14 is the largest of the patterns and gives an indication of how the overall pattern will appear if a 'heavy' border is used.

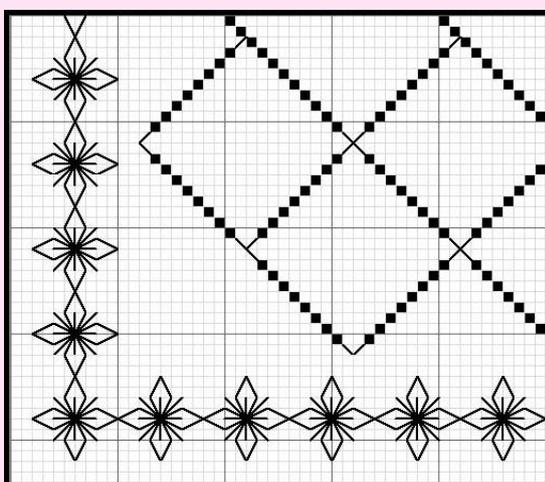
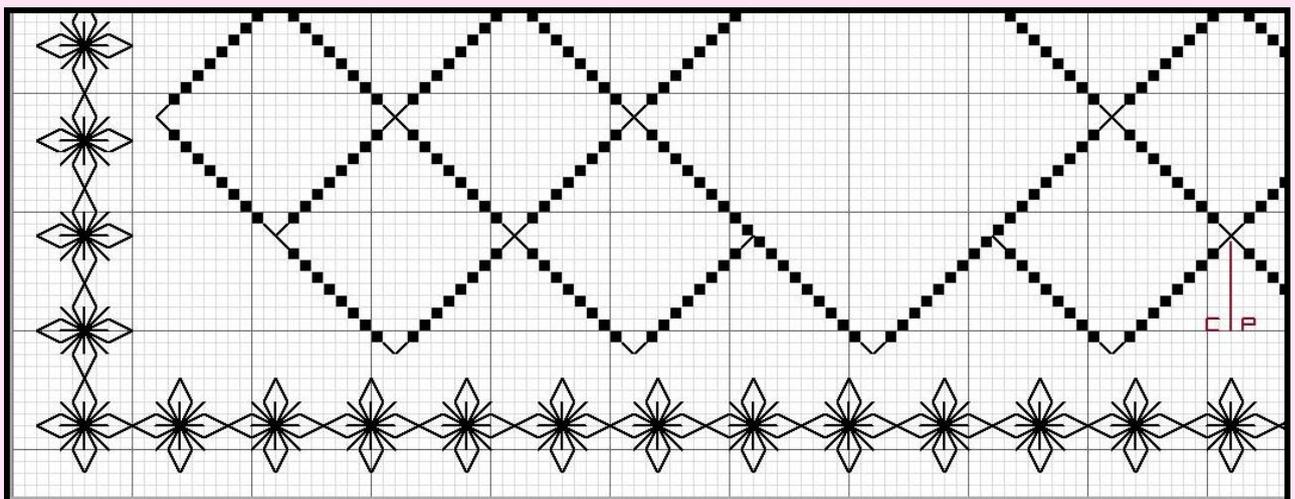
Pattern 14 Corner Positioning the border to achieve the right balance is very important.



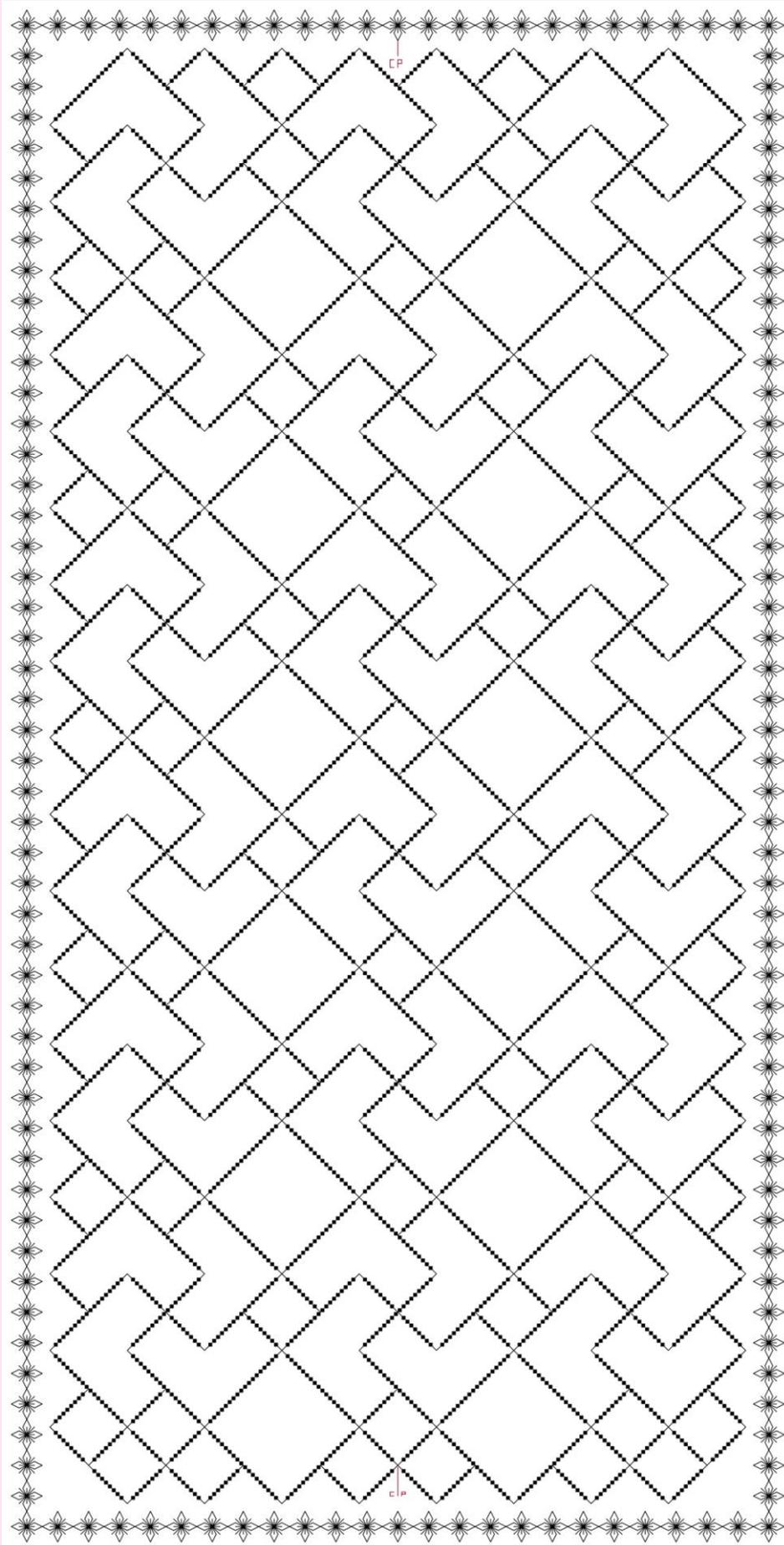


The gap between the bottom of the embroidery and the border is over ten threads, whereas the spacing between the sides and the border is only four threads. This balances the design better than leaving an even gap all the way round.

A narrow border does not dominate the pattern in the same way as a heavy one and may be sufficient to complete the appearance of the embroidery.



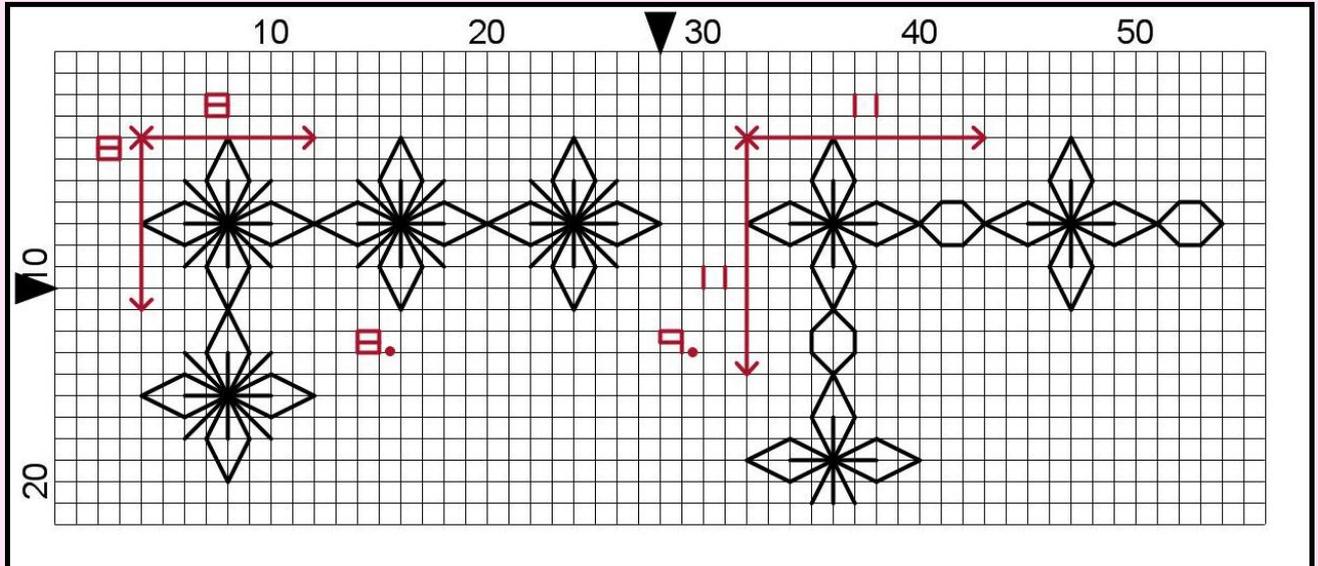
Pattern 8 is a good example of a narrow band, 8w x 8h stitches it just frames the pattern and completes the embroidery.



Compare the appearance of the heavy border versus the lighter one and decide which one is most effective.

Blackwork Journey Blog - January 2015

If you do decide to add a border around your project, count carefully, to determine how evenly the border will fit round the pattern. It may be necessary to make adjustments at the corners, or even add other elements into the pattern.



Extending a pattern by adding motifs

Pattern 9 has been expanded by adding a small motif between the flowers. This may be sufficient to complete the border evenly, but each pattern is different and will require different calculations if it is to fit the shape evenly.



Patterns 14 and 8 fit the 'Save the Stitches' project exactly, but the decision whether to add a border or not depends upon how the embroidery will be mounted or framed and is your personal choice.

Group Membership

If you are interested in joining a group and sharing your ideas and information, the group I belong to is on 'Facebook' (see below) There are many benefits from being able to share ideas, especially if, for whatever reason, you are unable to join a needlework group. Sharing your ideas with other people is very positive and can often move your thinking in a different direction.

www.facebook.com/groups/235322809973322/

Blackwork Needlework

'For creators and enthusiasts of traditional and new variations of Blackwork embroidery.'

This group does not advertise or sell patterns or creations. Instead, it recommends resources such as books and/or websites for use by its members. Invitation is by e-mail.

I hope you have enjoyed the first Blog of 2015. Please keep sending your e-mails and photographs to me at Blackwork Journey, along with your ideas and comments. It is always a pleasure for me to read them.

New Chart to start the New Year!

PR0024 Lakeshore Lily

Design Area: 6 w x 8 h inches

Material: Zweigart 28 Count evenweave, 13 x 13 inches to allow a three inch border.

Lakeshore Lily was designed for The Lakeshore Creative Stitchery Guild, one of the groups I visited recently in Montreal.



Maureen's Lily

A number of the students have worked the lily in a variety of colours and I look forward to posting their designs later in the year.

It is a combination of blackwork and pulled work showing that two different techniques can work very well together. It is a free style design where the outline is drawn onto the fabric first and then the petals and leaves are filled with a variety of patterns.





PR0024 Lakeshore Lily – a blackwork and pulled work design!

Happy stitching!

Liz