

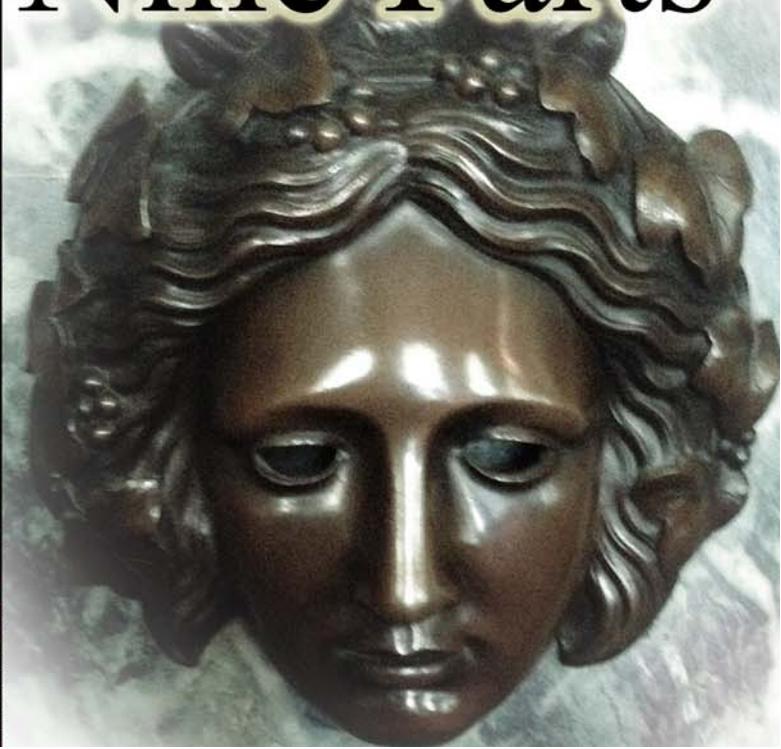
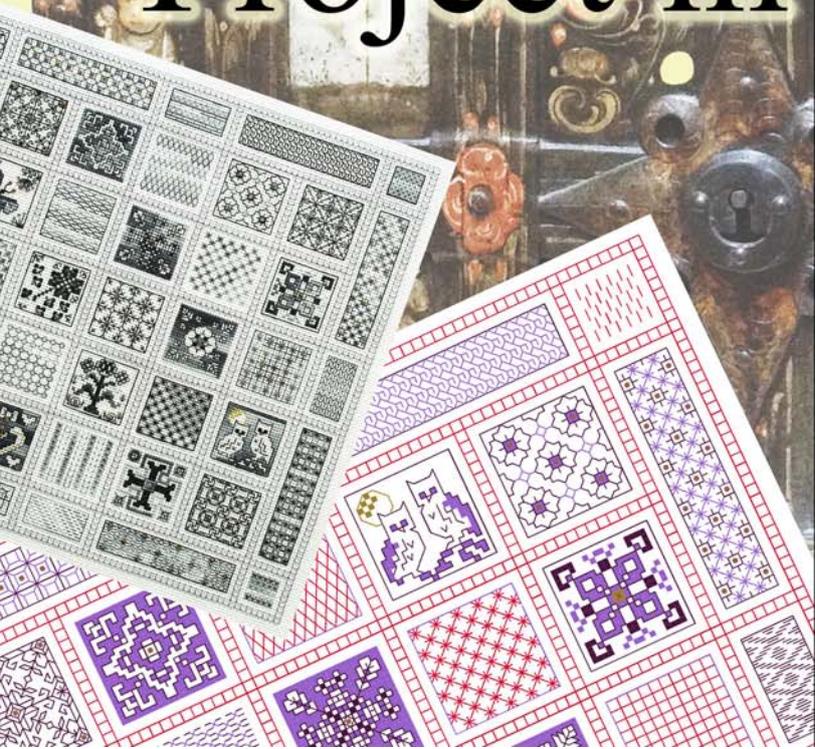


Blackwork Journey Blog

October 2015

Pandora's Box

Project in Nine Parts



Blackwork Journey Blog – October 2015

October is finally here and the start of a new project called ‘Pandora’s Box’ and this month I have posted the Introduction and Framework in Freebies for you to download, collect the fabric and threads together and start working the framework.

While I was planning the project I could visualise how I wanted Pandora to look, but had never found anything that resembled what I had imagined. The box and the key came from the Victoria and Albert Museum in London UK, but where was Pandora?

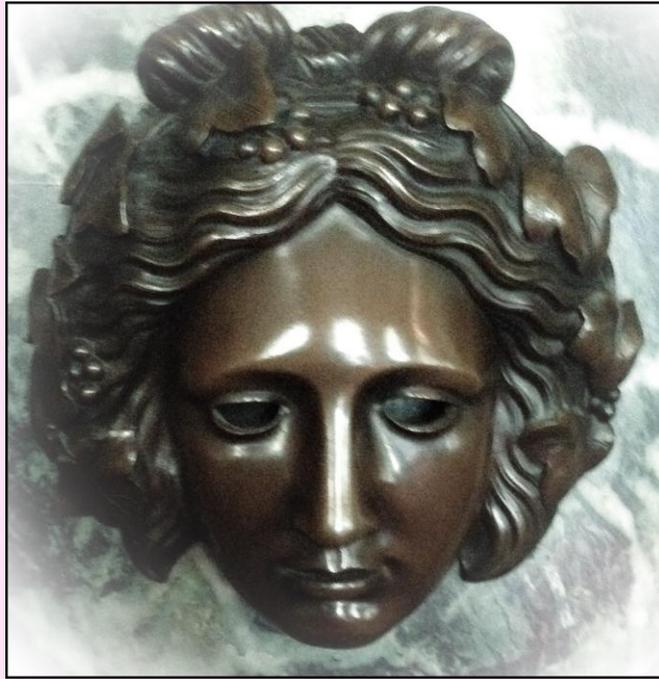


Tatton Park, Cheshire, England



But whilst wandering through Tatton Park, a neo-classical mansion with 50 acres of landscaped gardens, 1000 acres of deer park and a medieval Old Hall in the County of Cheshire in England, I found what I was searching for.

In the book lined walls of the library, surrounded by ornate furniture was a fireplace and set into the marble fireplace was a bronze head of a girl - my ‘Pandora’



Pandora

Frozen in time, she will now be united with her box from which she released all the troubles of the world and one special gift of Hope.



Pandora, her key, box and story.

The story behind ‘Pandora’s Box’

Throughout history, there have been stories where curiosity has got people into trouble and Pandora was such a person.

In classical Greek mythology, Pandora was the first woman on Earth. Zeus, the most powerful of the gods ordered Hephaestus to create her using water and earth. The goddess Athena then breathed life into the clay and clothed her, Aphrodite made her beautiful, Apollo gave her musical ability and Hermes gave her speech and taught her how to be both charming and deceitful.

Zeus called her Pandora and sent her as a gift to Epimetheus. who with his brother Prometheus had annoyed Zeus by stealing fire from heaven. Despite the warnings from Prometheus, Epimetheus fell in love with Pandora and married her.

As a wedding gift Zeus, gave Pandora a wedding gift of a beautiful box (possibly a jar) with the condition that she never opened the box. Finally, Pandora could stand it no longer. She crept up to the box, took the huge key fitted it carefully into the lock and turned it. She lifted the lid to find not treasure but disappointment! Out of the box poured disease and poverty. Out came misery, out came death, out came sadness, all shaped like tiny buzzing moths. The moths stung Pandora over and over and she slammed the lid shut but one voice still called from the box pleading to be released so she opened the box again.

All that remained in the box was Hope. It fluttered from the box like a beautiful dragonfly, touching the wounds created by the evil moths and healing them. So even though Pandora had released pain and suffering upon the world, she had also allowed Hope to follow them! What will you find in your Pandora’s Box?

From the idea behind the story two embroideries were worked. Not everyone is comfortable working on evenweave fabric so an alternative fabric design has been provided for Aida blockweave. This free project will be presented over nine months in separate blocks. The first part, the framework is attached to the Introduction in Freebies

Please read all the Instructions carefully before starting Pandora’s Box.

Suitable fabric and threads have been listed but alternative colour schemes and fabrics can be used to suit the needlewoman’s requirements. Stitch Diagrams will be included with each block as appropriate.

Some of the stitches worked on evenweave fabric cannot be stitched on Aida so alternative patterns have been substituted when this occurs. The two patterns are NOT identical.

Blackwork Journey Blog – October 2015

This free project will be presented over nine months in separate blocks. The first part, the framework is attached to the Introduction in Freebies. The filler patterns will be added over the next eight months.

Pinterest 'Elizabeth Almond Pandora's Box' is where the pictures of reader's embroidery will be posted <https://www.pinterest.com/Ashbourne1/pandoras-box/> and there is a dedicated Facebook group for the project.

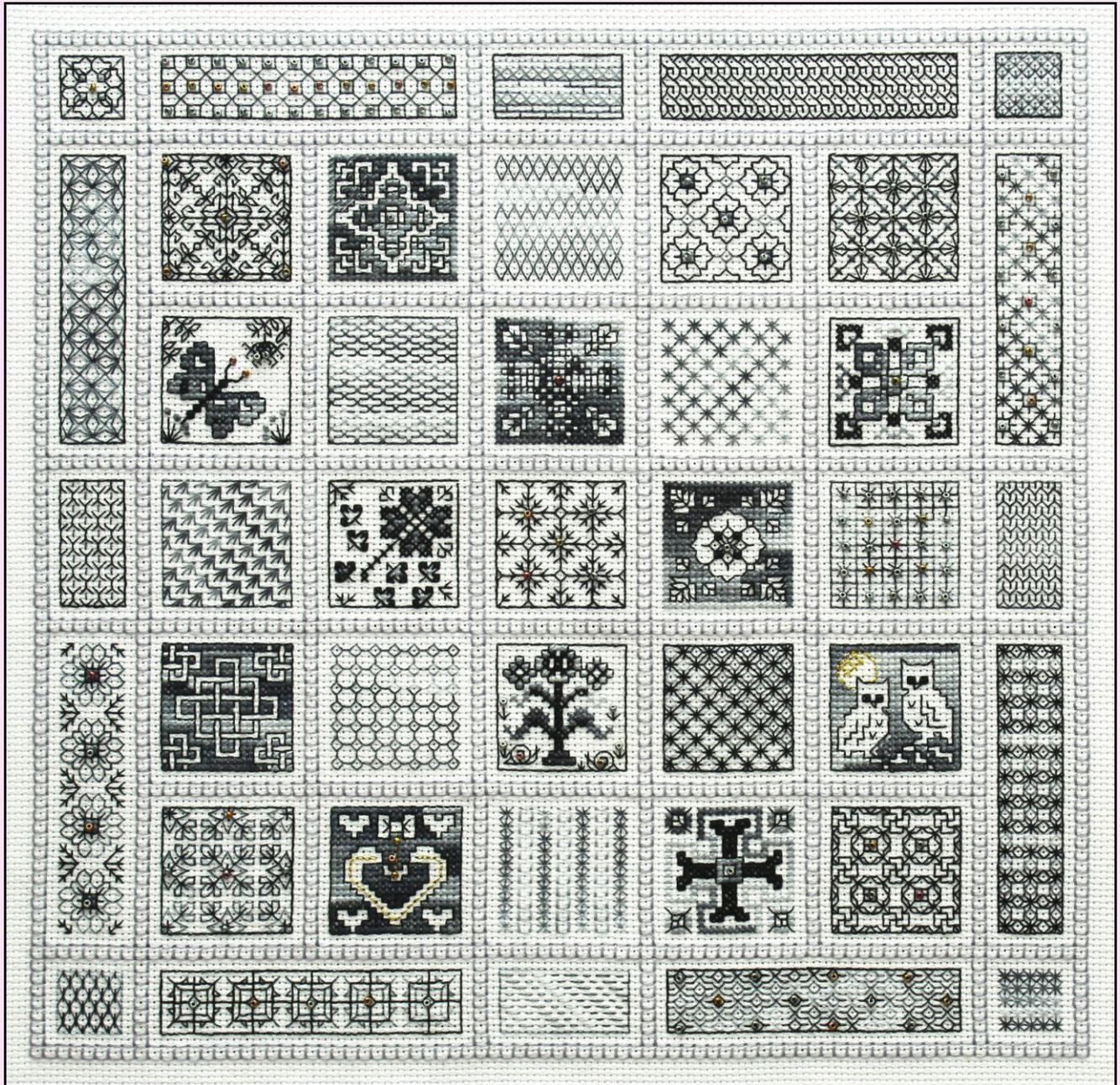


Pandora's Box worked on Zweigart 25 count Lugana. The evenweave model was worked in two colours with gold metallic thread and gold beads.



Anchor1325





The Aida blockweave model was worked in three shades of DMC and white Cotton P rle No.12 and Mill Hill glass beads 03037 Abalone.



DMC 53

Alternative colour schemes can be used to suit the needlewoman's requirement, but it is helpful if one dark colour is included.

Pulled Thread Work Stitches.

The framework for Pandora's Box is worked in four-sided stitch and for those of you who have never attempted pulled thread work stitches it is well worth exploring.

Pulled thread work is worked on evenweave fabric. No threads are removed, but the threads are pulled together to create the stitches. The threads need to be strong enough to withstand the 'pull'.

Traditionally pulled thread work was stitched in white or neutral colours, but there is no reason why other colours should not be used although a pale colour palette works more effectively than a strong colour scheme.

Grid Size: 34W x 34H

Design Area: 2.14" x 2.14" (30 x 30 stitches)

Threads:

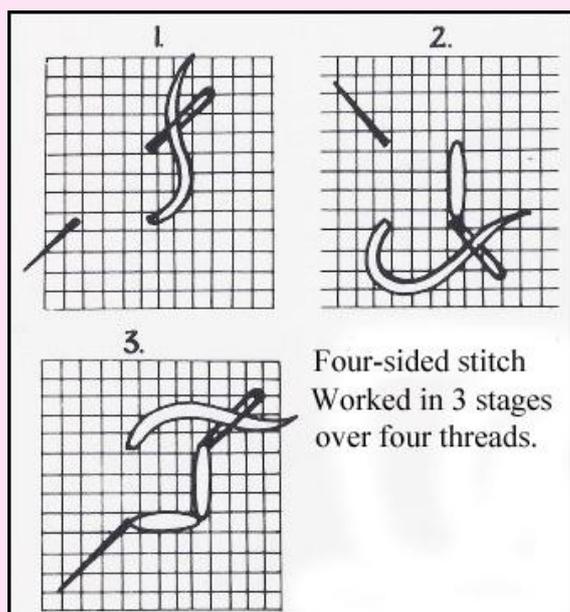
DMC Cotton P rle No 12, one ball or DMC stranded cotton, one skein

Tapestry needle No.24

Small ring or frame

Framework:

One strand of Cotton P rle or two strands of DMC stranded floss



Method:

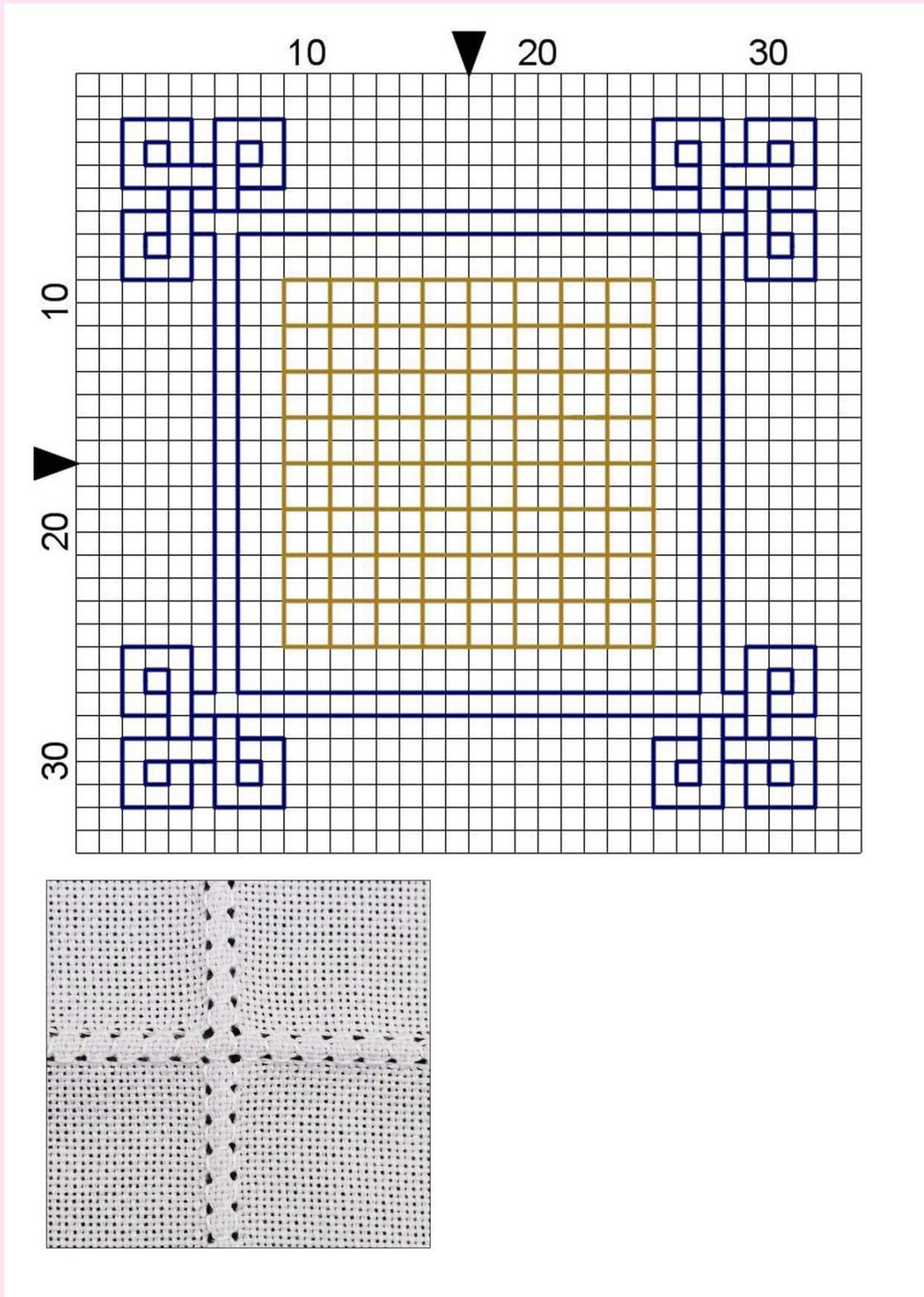
Four-sided stitch may be used in a line or repeated as a filling.

1. Work the Celtic framework first in back stitch using the correct number of threads.
2. This consists of 3 straight stitches to form the end, the middle and the top of the 'square'. Work from right to left over 4 threads. Always put the needle in at one corner and come out at the opposite one. Follow diagrams 1-3
3. Pull tight to create the holes. The rows of four-sided stitch are worked backwards and forwards until

the space is filled.

4. Work all ends into the back of the work carefully.

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



Four – sided stitch diagram and example worked on evenweave as a single row

PDF's of pulled thread work stitches can be found in Files on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/blackworkjourneydesigns/>



New designs are always being added to Blackwork Journey and when two techniques can be combined, the results can be very satisfying.

PR0031 Petal Power consists of eleven different blackwork and pulled thread work stitches and provides the embroiderer with the opportunity to explore this beautiful technique. All the stitches are explained in detail.

Two sizes are included
Large Petal Power
Design Area: 5.50W x 9H inches
Small Petal Power
Design Area: 3.50W x 6H inches

Material:
Zweigart 28 count
evenweave or 25 count
Lugana

Large Petal Power: 10 x 13 inches

Small Petal Power: 8 x 10 inches

PR0031 Petal Power can be found in 'Projects'

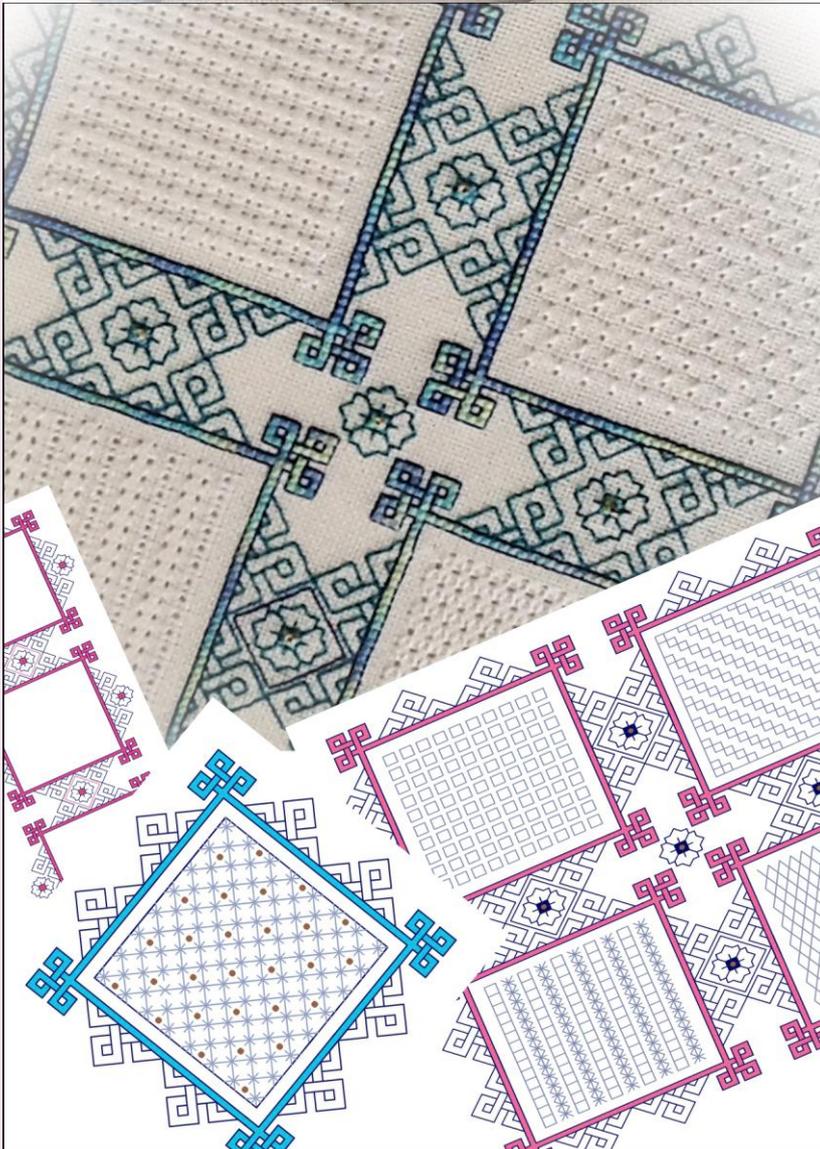
The design can also be worked as a traditional whitework design using DMC Cotton P rle No 12 and traditional stranded embroidery floss.

Note: These designs are not suitable for Aida blockweave because of the pulled thread work stitches.



PR0032 Celtic Journey – another new addition!

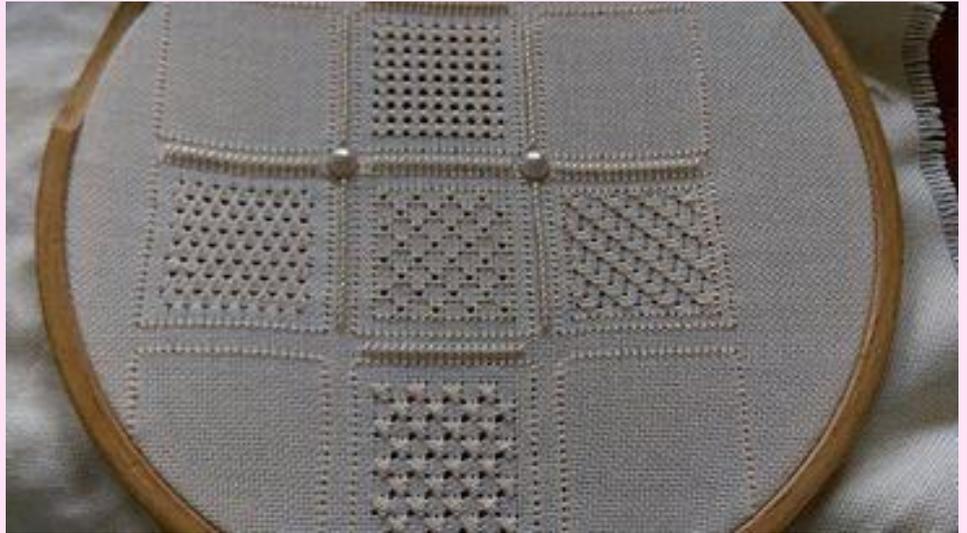
It is essential to use a frame or ring when working pulled thread work. The material must be kept ‘drum tight’.



These techniques can also be used to create unusual patterns such as the Celtic embroidery which is being worked on evenweave using DMC Cotton Pèrle No 12 and traditional stranded embroidery floss.

Nicky is taking her stitch samples further by working her pulled thread work stitches and adding pearls!

The variations are endless and the results are very satisfying!



It gives me great pleasure when I find a portrait displaying blackwork embroidery that I haven't seen before and this one of Elizabeth I by the painter Nicholas Hilliard (1547 - 1619) is a fascinating study of opulence

*Elizabeth 1st of England
1572*

Elizabeth I wears padded shoulder rolls and an embroidered partlet and sleeves. Her low-necked chemise is just visible above the arched bodice, 1572



The sleeves and shoulders are worked in traditional blackwork floral patterns with the Tudor Rose, a symbol of her status as monarch.

I love looking at old portraits and finding examples of embroidery as it helps me relate to the needlewomen of the past. We may not use pearls and jewels in our work nowadays, but it is just as relevant in our lives today as it was then.



*Making a difference- Diane experimented with colours before deciding on the threads!
Extract from 'Save the Stitches'*

Embroidery has shaped my life for the past forty years and I know it plays an important role in the lives of many of my readers. It has supported me when life has been difficult and allowed me to share my passion with students in college and the community and now to a worldwide audience via the internet

It has given me great pleasure to watch people grow in confidence and go on to tackle large or complicated projects that they never thought they would achieve.

I hope you will take part in 'Pandora's Box.'

Enjoy the challenge and go on to create another special piece of embroidery.

Happy stitching!

Liz