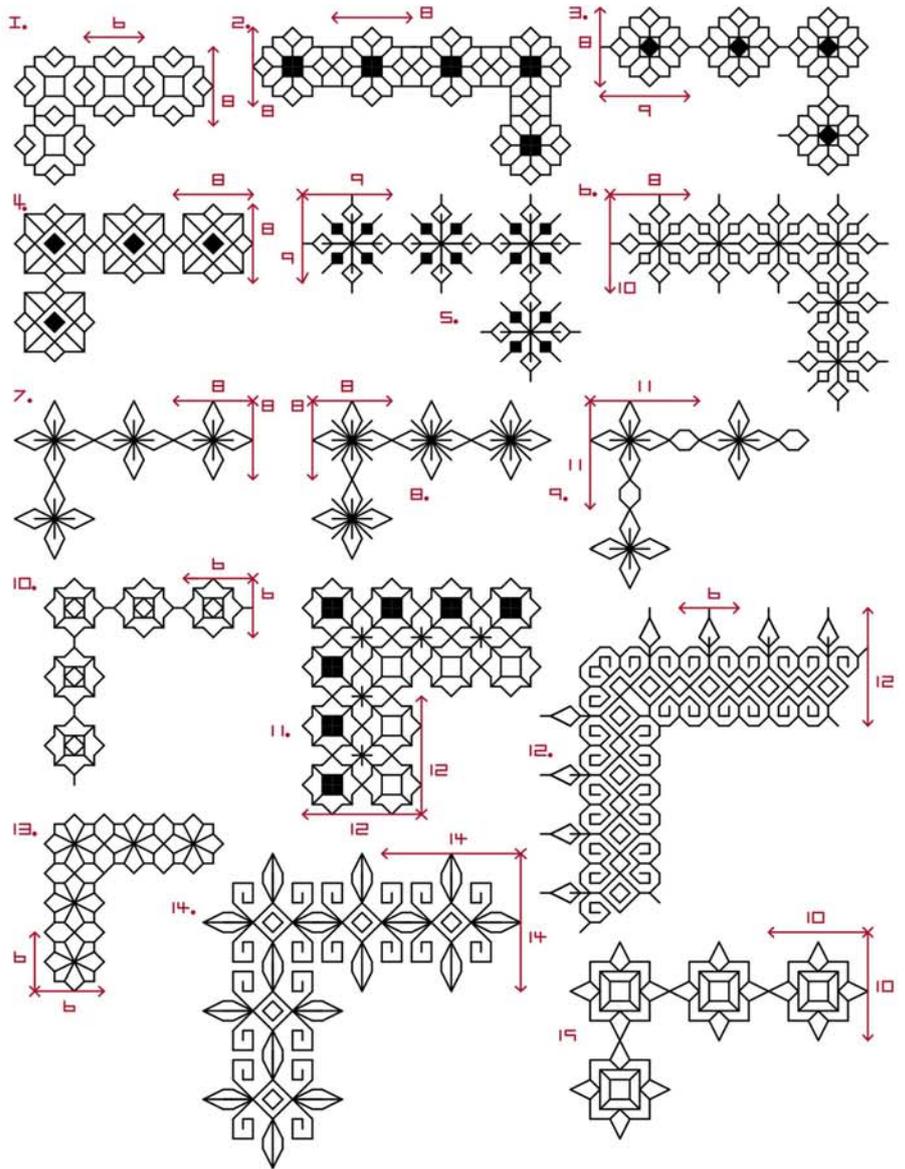
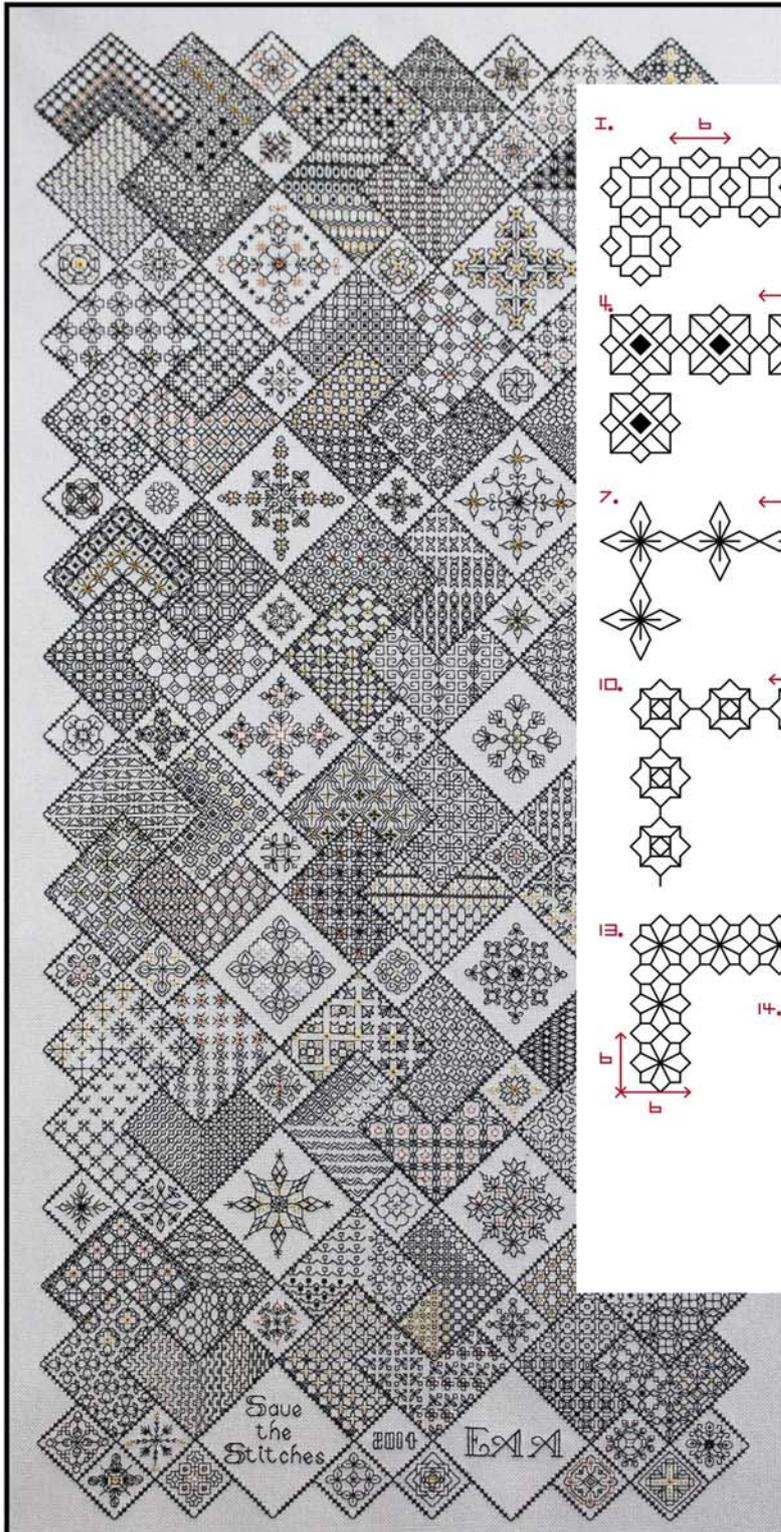


SAVE THE STITCHES

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



15 different patterns!

Borders and Corners for 'Save the Stitches' and Other Projects

'Save the Stitches' Information – just to recap!

For all the groups 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: 60stitches. (Multiplied by three = 180 stitches full width of pattern).

Material:

Zweigart 25 count pale blue grey Lugana, 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 28count 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 extra for mounting and framing or if you decide to add a 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 – use ONE strand for diaper or 'filler' 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. It is your heirloom for the future but if you need any ideas on variations please go to:

Pinterest Elizabeth Almond 'Save the Stitches' to see photographs posted by readers worldwide.

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 Borders and Corners to Projects

Adding borders and corners to any project takes careful consideration before embarking on the stitching. It is not as straightforward as at first might appear. Whether to add a border to 'Save the Stitches' was a good example and highlights the potential problems and careful planning required.

On my recent visit to Canada and the USA I took 'Save the Stitches' with me to show the various groups I was working with. 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?

'Save the Stitches' is a large design:

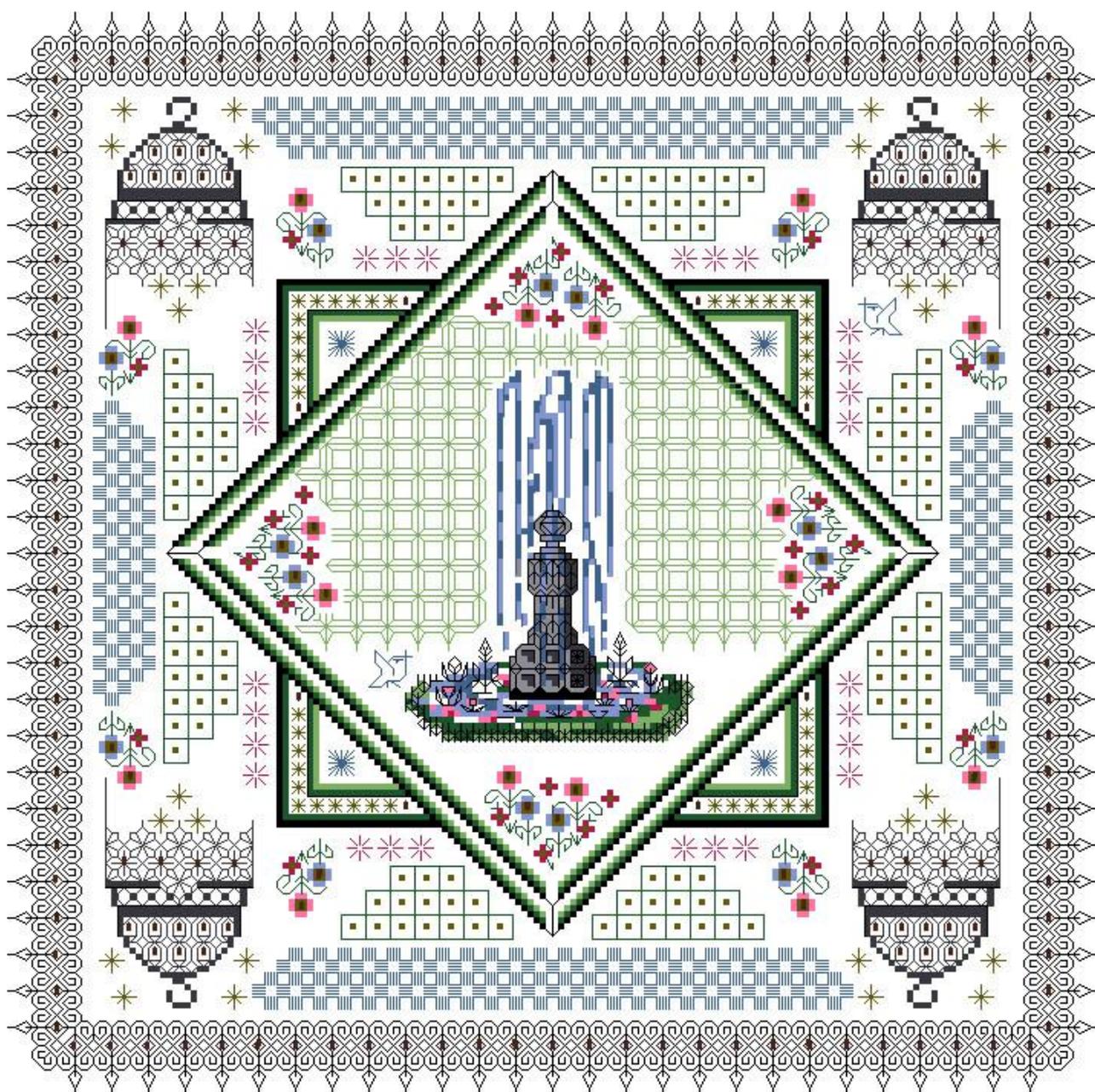
Full design width and height: 14.29 x 29.29 inches

Full pattern width and height: 180 x 380 stitches requiring a piece of fabric 20w x 37h inches to allow a border for mounting and framing.

Tackling the problem:

1. I designed a number of borders and corners in different weights and widths to see what they would look like before I started stitching.
2. The width and height of the pattern is important in deciding how the border will fit round the outside evenly. If there is an even number of stitches, use a border that will divide into the number of stitches.
3. Allow for a gap between the inside of the embroidery and the border. The border should enhance the embroidery not dominate the subject.

(See CH0207 Fountain Mandala, where the border frames the pattern.)

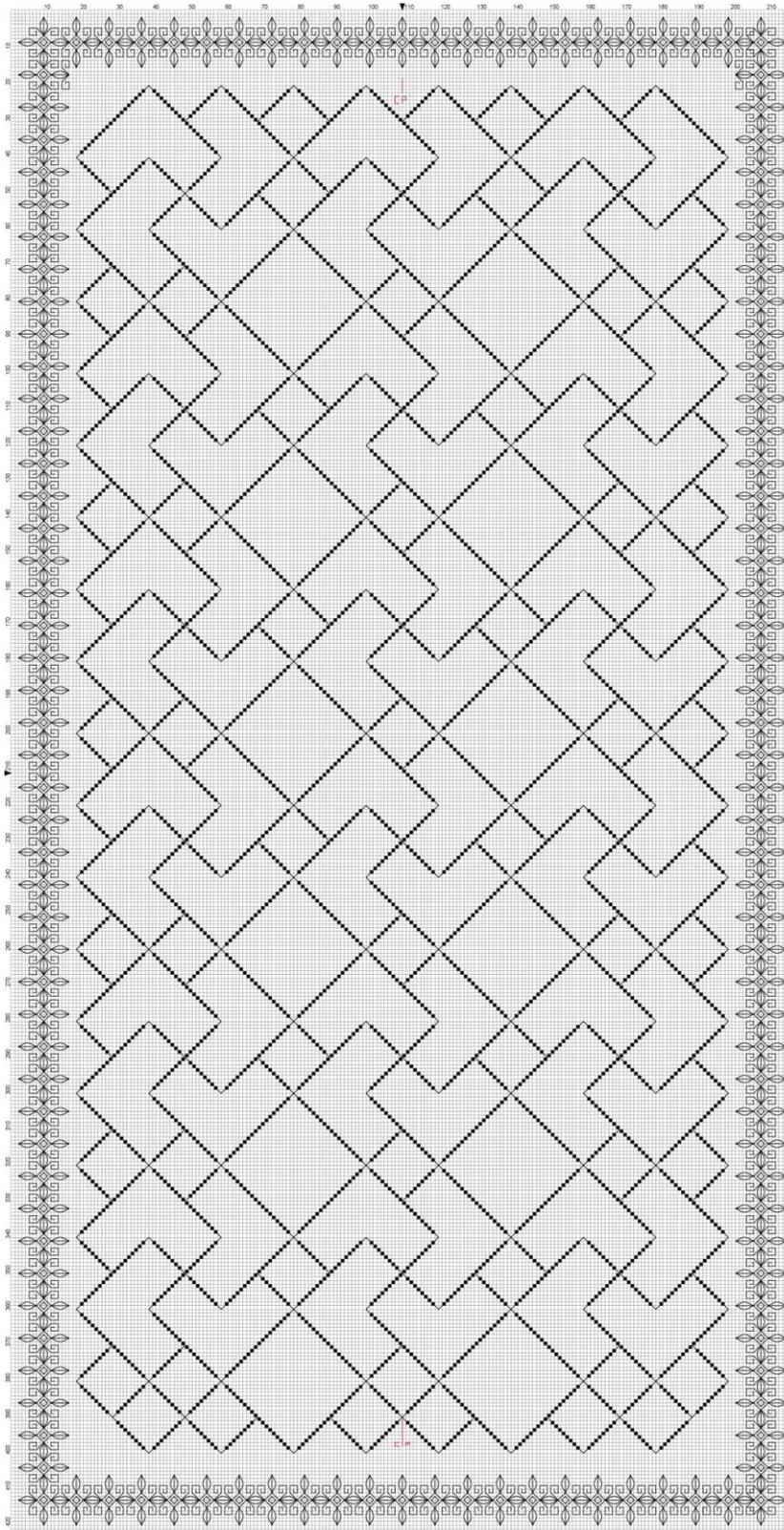


CH0207 Fountain Mandala

4. If the embroidery is rectangular or uneven in size then different solutions have to be found. Extra motifs may be added or adjustments made at the corners. The smaller the pattern the easier it is to create a border and corner.

Two examples of potential borders for 'Save the Stitches'

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.



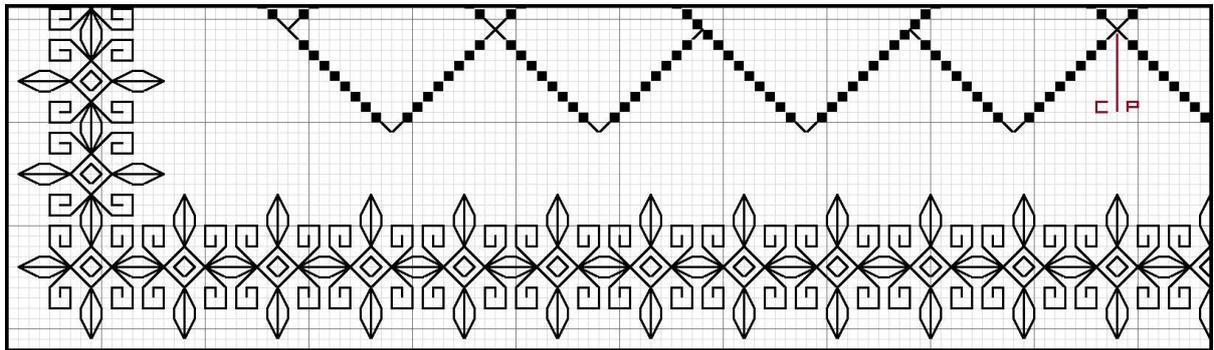
Pattern 14 could be worked round the embroidery to enhance the design but it is a 'heavy' design and involves considerable additional stitching!

'Save the Stitches' with border \pattern 14

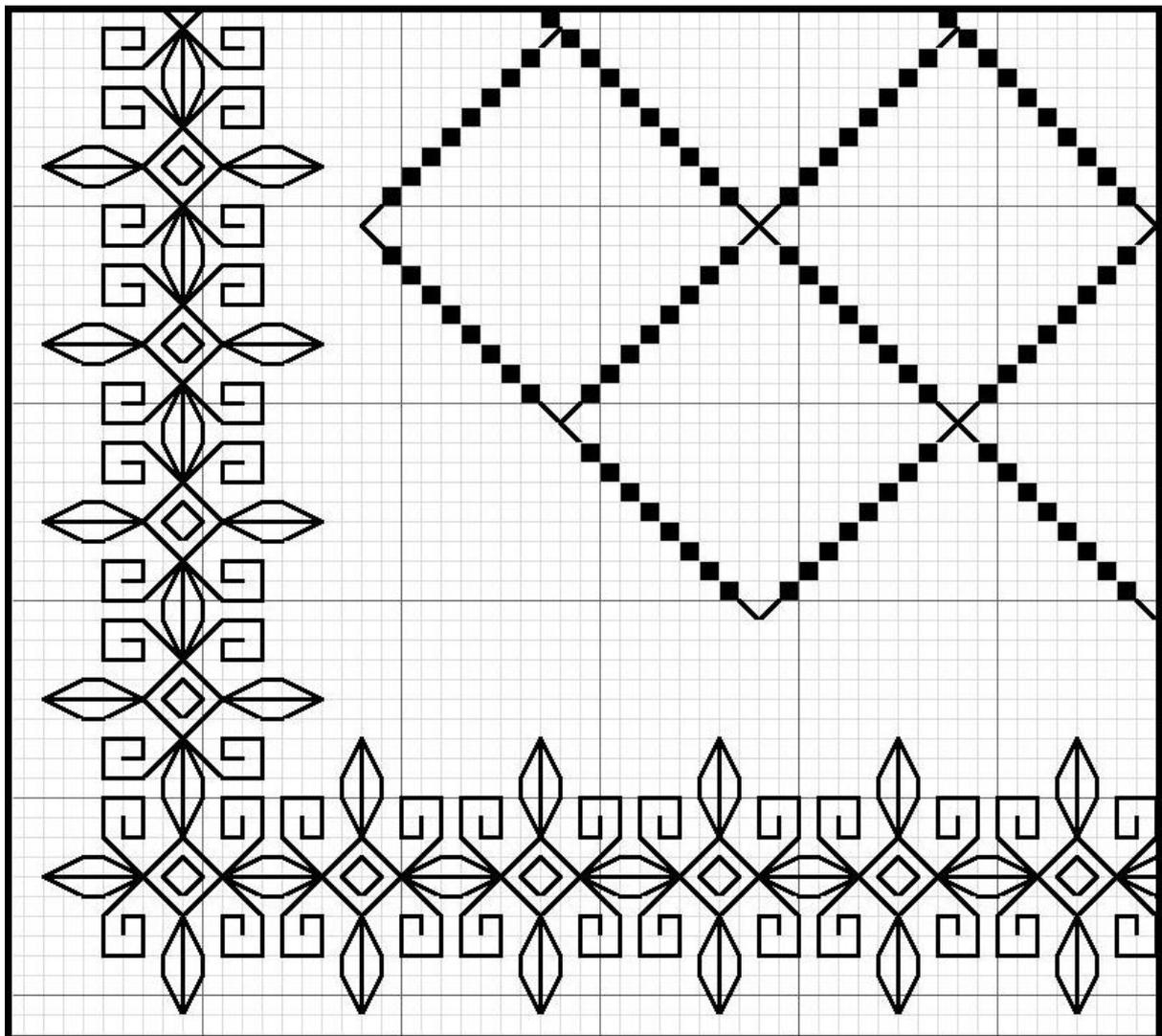
The gap between the bottom of the embroidery and the border is over ten threads whereas the spacing between the sides and the border is only four threads. This balances the design better than leaving an even gap all the way round.

Pattern 14 Corner

Positioning the border to achieve the right balance is very important.



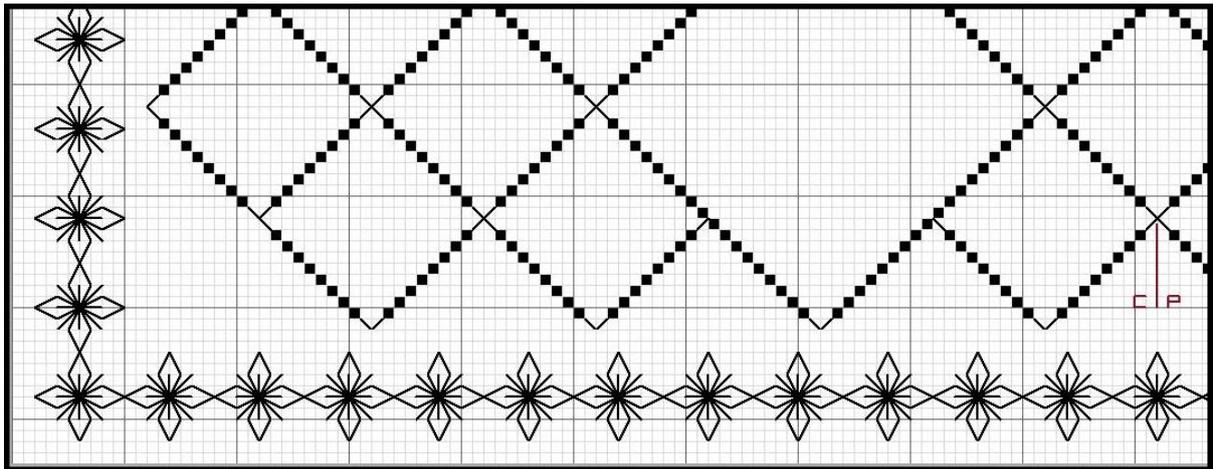
Start from the centre point and work outwards to the left and right. Ten threads are left at the bottom and the top between the embroidery and the border but only four threads are left at the sides.



Compare the differences between using a heavy and a narrow border.

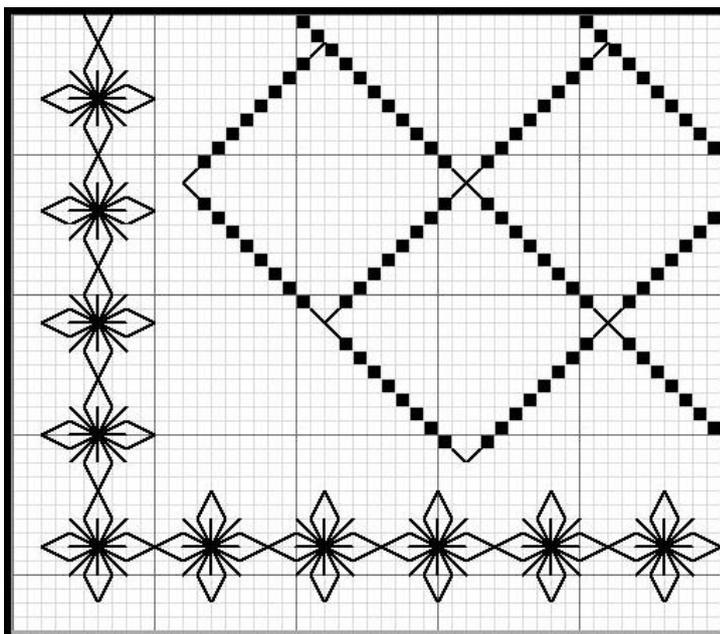
A narrow border does not dominate the pattern in the same way as a heavy one and may be sufficient to complete the appearance of the embroidery.

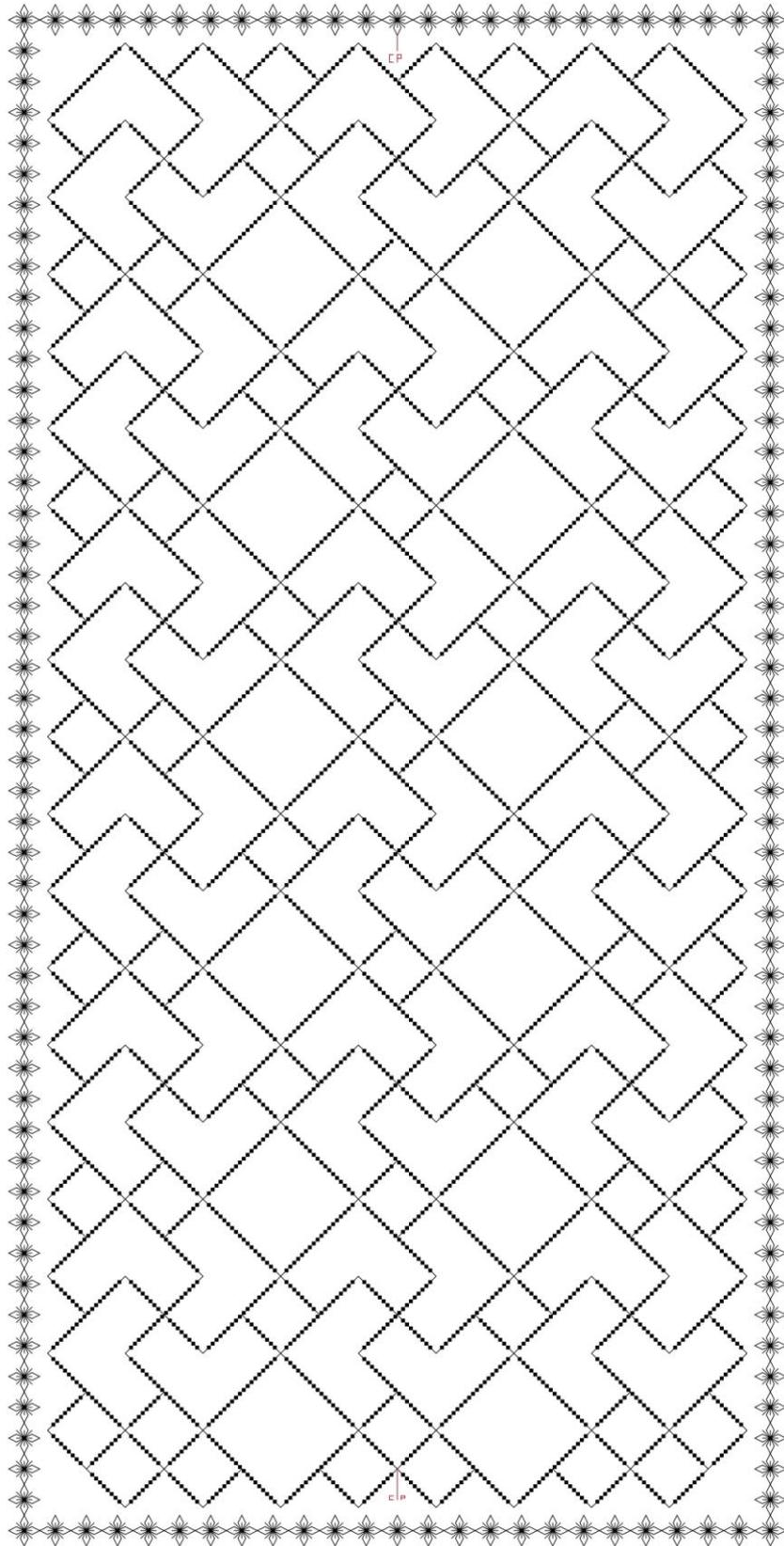
Pattern 8 is an example of a narrow border used to frame 'Save the Stitches' 8w x 8h stitches it just frames the pattern and completes the embroidery.



Pattern 8 is a narrow, simple border used to frame the design. Four threads are left between the top, bottom and sides

If you do decide to add a border around your project, count carefully, to determine the 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.

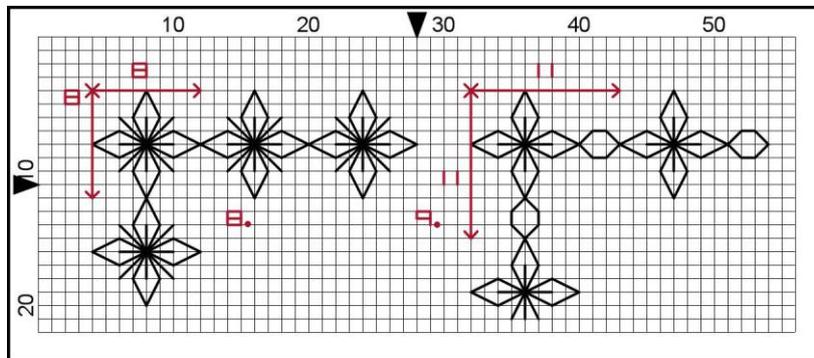




'Pattern 8 worked as a border round 'Save the Stitches'

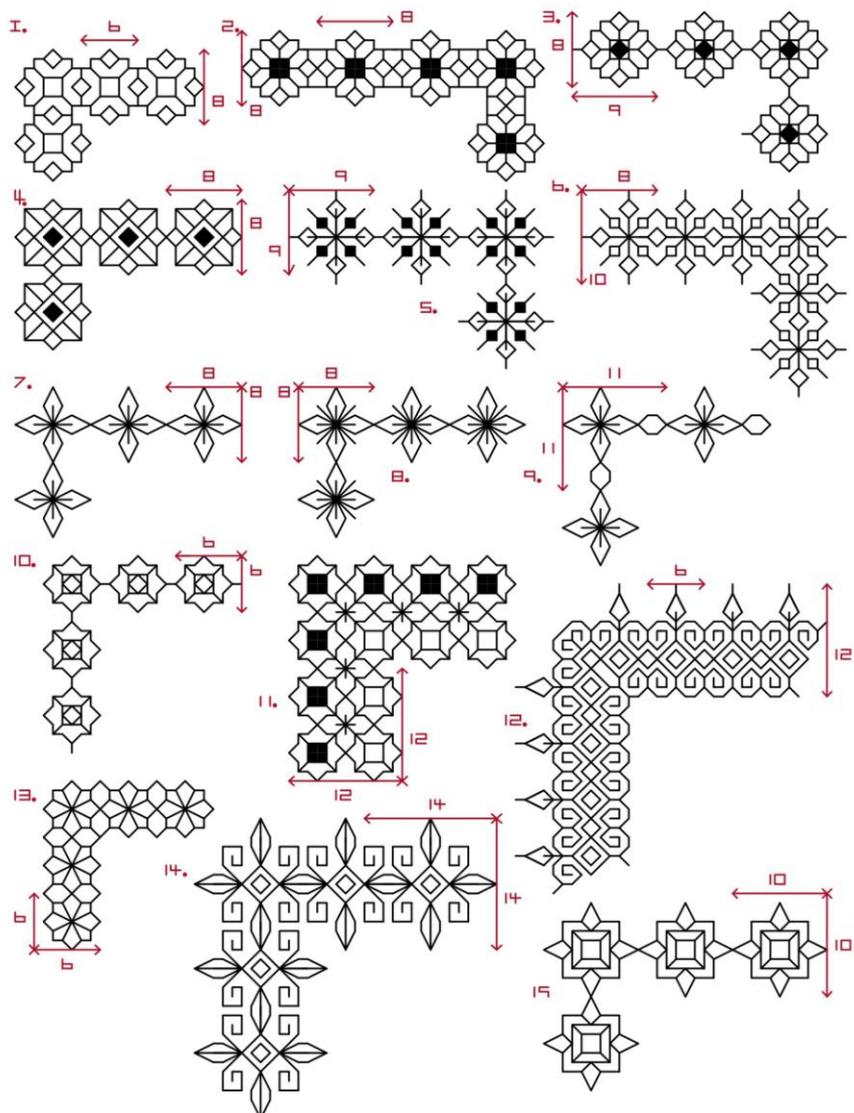
Extending a pattern by adding motifs

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.



A small motif 6w x 4h threads is placed between the flowers to expand the design

If a border is used bear in mind the points made above and count carefully!



Happy stitching,

Liz

Borders and Corners

