

Christmas Ornament – Counted Canvaswork

By Jean Hughes

Materials:

18 count Interlock canvas approx 5” X 5”

White Appleton’s Crewel wool or thread of choice(#5 perle cotton, DMC floss, 1strand of Watercolours by Caron)

Gold Metallic braid or Kreinik #8 or #4 braid

This project starts with a Rhodes Stitch in the center forming a square. Each subsequent row is worked around the entire previous square.



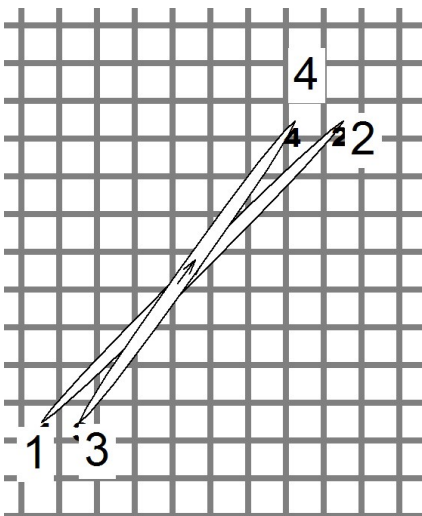
Refer to the Master chart and the following order carefully. The **Rhodes Stitch** is critical to the project and if there is an error in this stitch the remaining rows will not line up properly.

1. Mark the “top” of your canvas. Stitch with the “top” at the top through the entire project. (The canvas may be turned for the **Satin Stitch** in steps 4 and 8, but be sure to keep the “top” at the top for all other stitches.) It is important to have all of the **Tent Stitch** slanted in the same direction and the **Rice Stitch** and **Smyrna Crosses** crossed in the same direction. Rotating the canvas will change the look of the stitches.
2. Find the center of the canvas. Using **2 strands of Appleton’s wool**, stitch a **Rhodes Stitch** over 8 threads.
3. Using 1 strand of **Gold braid**, stitch one row of **Tent Stitch** around the entire Rhodes Stitch.
4. Using **2 strands of Appleton’s wool**, stitch one row of **Satin Stitch** over 4 threads. Miter the corners as shown on master chart.
5. Using 1 strand of **Gold braid**, stitch one row of **Tent Stitch** around the entire satin stitch.
6. Using **2 strands of Appleton’s wool** for the base and **Gold Braid** for the small diagonal stitches crossing each leg, stitch a row of **Rice Stitch** around the last row of tent stitches.
7. Using 1 strand of **Gold braid**, stitch one row of **Tent Stitch** around the entire Rice stitch.

8. Using **2 strands of Appleton's wool**, stitch one row of **Satin Stitch** over 4 threads. Miter the corners as shown on master chart.
9. Using 1 strand of fine **Gold braid**, stitch one row of **Smyrna Crosses** around the satin stitches to complete the stitching. Stitch without turning the canvas and note the instructions for the Smyrna Cross and be sure that they are all "crossed" in the same direction.
10. Optional – stitch one row of tent stitch around the Smyrna Crosses using the same thread as the Smyrna crosses. This will help cover the canvas threads when the canvas is folded back for finishing.
11. Complete the ornament by adding beaded hangar, tassel and backing(page 5).

Stitch Diagrams

Rhodes Stitch Over 8 Threads



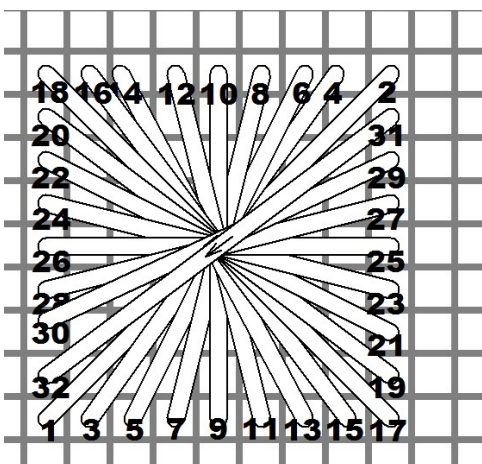
Bring needle up from the back at #1, count 8 threads over to the right and 8 threads up.
Insert needle down at #2.

Bring needle up at #3, which is one thread to the right of #1.
Insert needle down at #4 which is one thread to the left of #2.

Bring needle up at #5, which is one thread to the right of #3.
Insert needle down at #6 which is one thread to the left of #4.

Continue stitching around the square following the diagram at

the right.

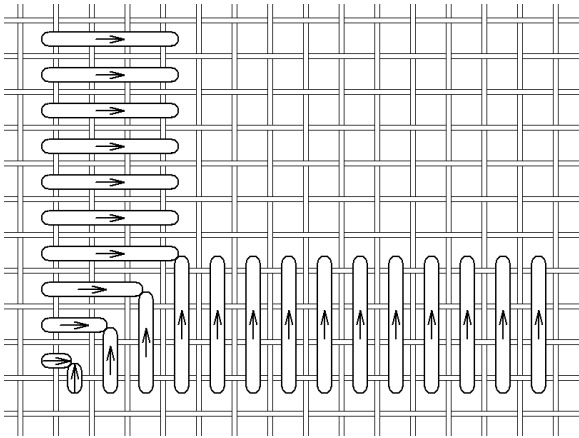


The completed stitch should be thick in the center, where the threads cross each other.

Be careful when turning the corner at stitch numbers 17 and 19. Stitch #17 should be directly below # 2 – in the same vertical row. There should be 8 threads between #1 and #17 or another way to check is that #17 is in the 9th hole.

There are variations of this stitch. You may see it over 4 threads or in the shape of a heart.

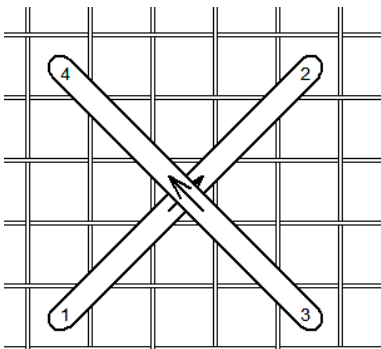
Satin Stitch with Mitered Corners



This is a straight stitch over 4 threads. Bring the needle up on the outside edge. Count 4 threads and insert at the center edge.

The mitered corner is completed by decreasing the stitch from over 4 threads to over 3 threads to over 2 threads, then over 1 thread.

Rice Stitch over 4 threads

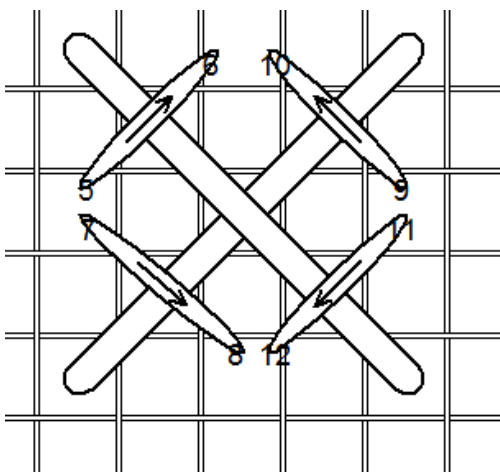


The rice stitch is a lovely composite stitch that can look very different with simple changes in threads and colors.

Step 1:

In this project the base is a simple cross stitch over 4 threads using 2 strands of wool.

Complete the cross stitches first – around all 4 sides. – **without turning the canvas.**

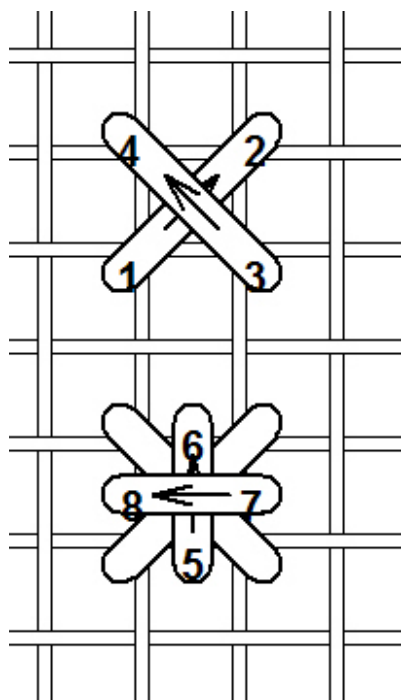


Step 2:

Using the gold braid, complete the stitch by crossing the legs of the wool cross stitch.

The order of stitches is not critical, but if you follow the suggested sequence, as you complete each stitch you will be in the correct position for starting the next one.

Smyrna Cross



A Smyrna cross starts with a simple cross stitch followed by a vertical and horizontal stitch forming a cross.

The order suggested can be changed, but **it is very important to keep the same order throughout the entire project.** The last stitch completing each Smyrna must lie in the same direction.

In this project, the Smyrna Crosses complete the ornament and surround the previous stitches. **The easiest way to ensure consistency is to mark the top of the canvas and stitch the Smyrna Crosses without turning the canvas.**

Finishing the Ornament

1. Folding canvas:

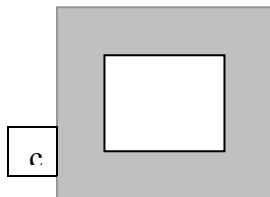
- a. Trim the canvas, leaving about ½ inch around the stitched ornament.
- b. Fold the canvas back on the diagonal at each corner.
- c. Fold the sides back, creating mitered corners. Finger press.

2. Beading:

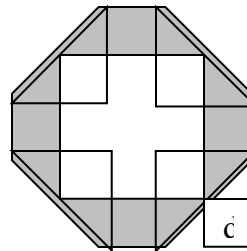
- a. Beaded Hangar – seed beads:
 - i. Attach the beading thread securely to one corner of the ornament.
 - ii. String seed beads to the desired length.
 - iii. Anchor the thread securely to the corner and cut.
- b. Beaded tail – seed and bugle beads:
 - i. Attach the beading thread securely to the opposite corner of the ornament.
 - ii. String seed and bugle beads to the desired length of the first string, ending with a seed bead.
 - iii. Take the needle around this last seed bead and pass the needle back through the string to the corner of the ornament.
 - iv. Take a little tuck in the canvas to secure the thread and string seed and bugle beads to make a second string ending with a seed bead.
 - v. Take the needle back up through the string as before and continue until you reach the desired number of strings.
 - vi. After the final string is completed, anchor the thread securely in the corner of the ornament.

3. Backing:

- a. Cut a piece of mat board (or extra heavy cardboard) to the exact size of the finished ornament.
- b. Cut a piece of fabric 1 ½ inches larger than the mat board.
- c. Lay the mat board in the center of the fabric on the wrong side of the fabric.

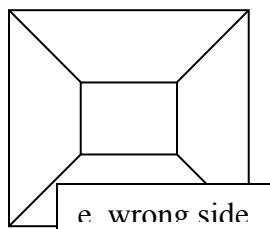


- d. Fold the corners in diagonal and secure fabric with tape.



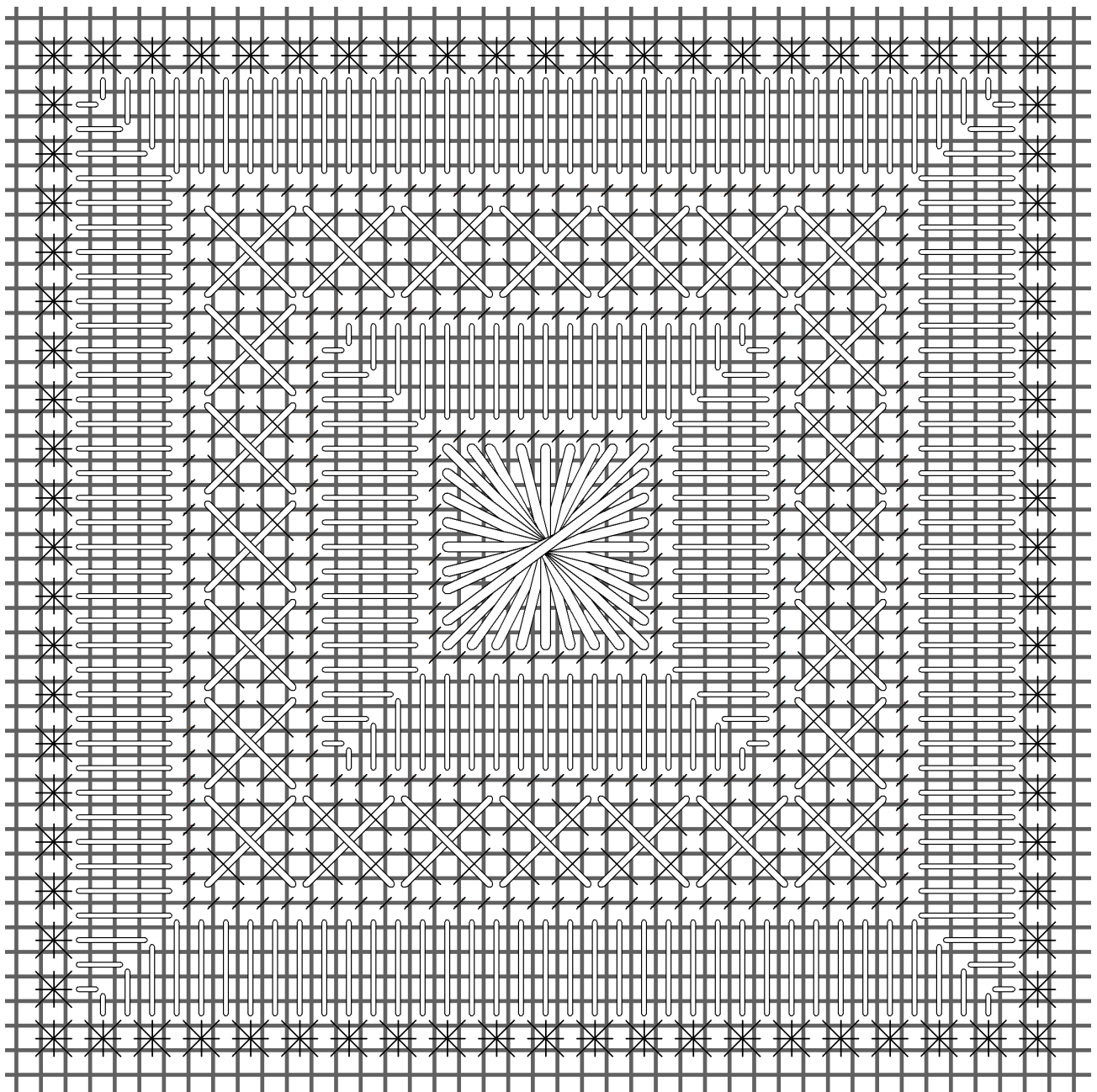
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- e. Fold the sides in, creating mitered corners and with tape. Pull the fabric securely around the board so that there are no folds or wrinkles.



4. Assembling:

- a. Cut a piece of felt slightly smaller than the stitched ornament. Unfold the canvas and insert the felt against the back of the stitching. Re-fold the canvas.
- b. Place the ornament and backing, wrong sides together, and slip stitch around the entire ornament.
- c. If desired, place a twisted cord or metallic thread over this joint. The cord can be glued or stitched in place.



Master Grid

42 stitches by 42 stitches
2.5 inches square on 18 count canvas