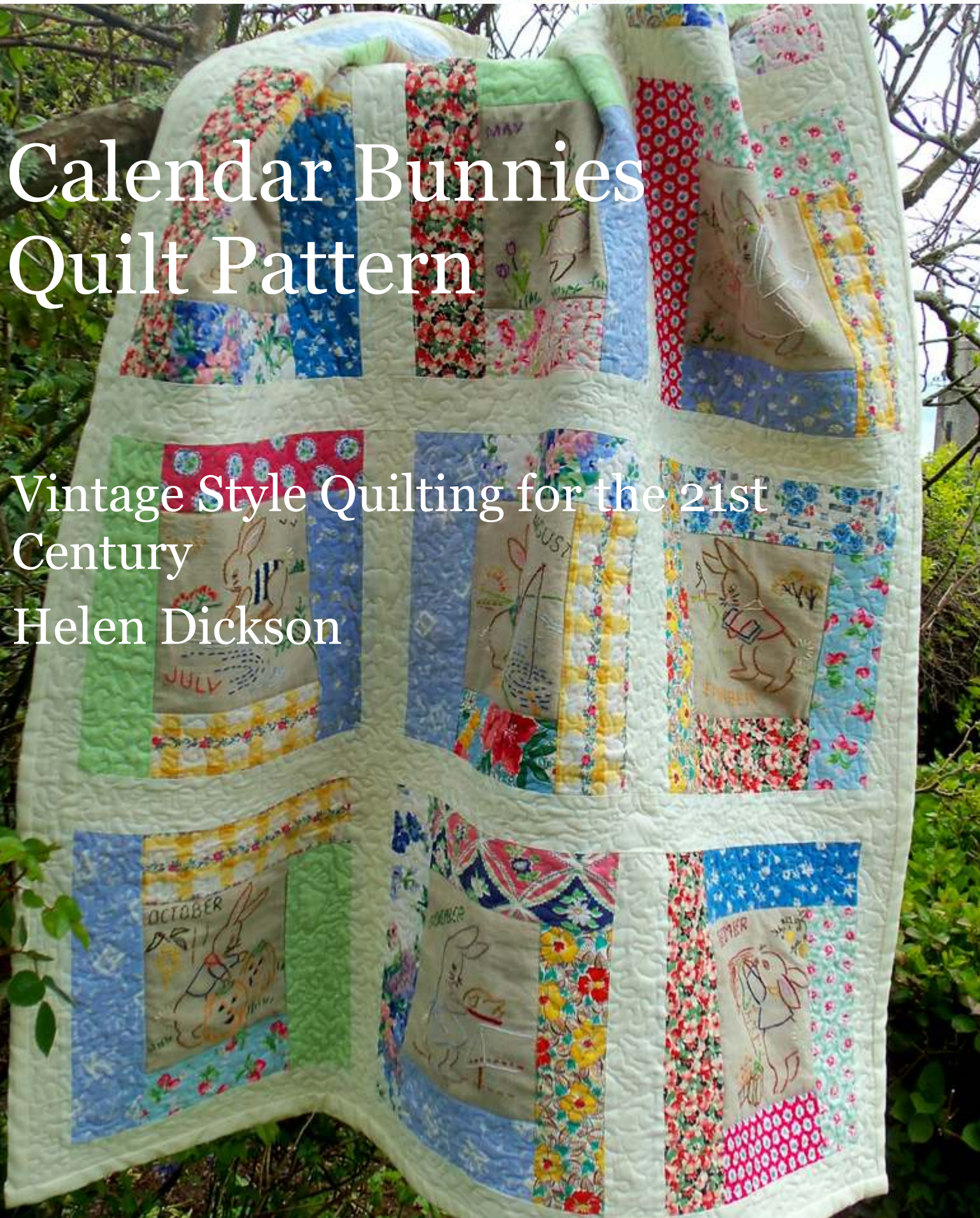


Bustle  & Sew

Love to Sew and Sew with Love .....

# Calendar Bunnies Quilt Pattern

Vintage Style Quilting for the 21st  
Century  
Helen Dickson



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This quilt is my own interpretation of a set of vintage embroidery blocks, each showing a little rabbit engaged in various activities, one for each month of the year. These types of quilt, incorporating hand embroidery with simple piecing, were very popular in the early to mid-20th century, but are perhaps less so today. I personally love to combine these two techniques and feel that a comeback, for these little bunnies at least, is well overdue!

You'll find stitching instructions for each of the 12 bunny panels, together with fabric requirements and instructions for piecing the top and quilting the finished piece if you want to do this yourself. At the end of the project, you'll be the proud possessor of a piece that is sure to be treasured by the lucky recipient and passed down your family for future generations to enjoy.

Happy stitching!

Helen Dickson  
May 2012

# Material Requirements

The finished dimensions of the quilt are 40" x 54". If you wish to resize the quilt, then please adjust the blocks or sashing - I do not recommend changing the size of the embroidered bunnies.

12 x 10" squares linen or other suitable fabric for embroidery

12 x 12 ½" squares cotton or cotton blend fabric for making the log cabin blocks using the stitch and flip technique

Assortment of fabric scraps to make rectangles for log cabin blocks. Each scrap must be 2 ¾" in width and the shortest rectangle measures 7 ½" in length

3 yards cream cotton for sashing, backing and binding

Crib size batting (45" x 60") or other to fit.

DMC Stranded cotton embroidery floss in colours: 168, 350, 435, 436, 552, 727, 741, 742, 801, 803, 809, 816, 825, 827, 905, 907, 936, 961, 973, 991, 992, 3031, 3326, 3713, 3716, 3727, 3818, 3845, 3865

## Working Notes

**Please read before starting your project:**

¼" seam allowance is used throughout.

3 strands of DMC stranded cotton floss are used throughout unless otherwise stated.

Transfers for bunnies are given actual size. Be sure to centre your transfer on your fabric. After you have completed your embroideries, press lightly on the reverse and then cut your block to 7 ½" square. The embroidery is worked on a larger piece of fabric to allow use of a hoop.



# January

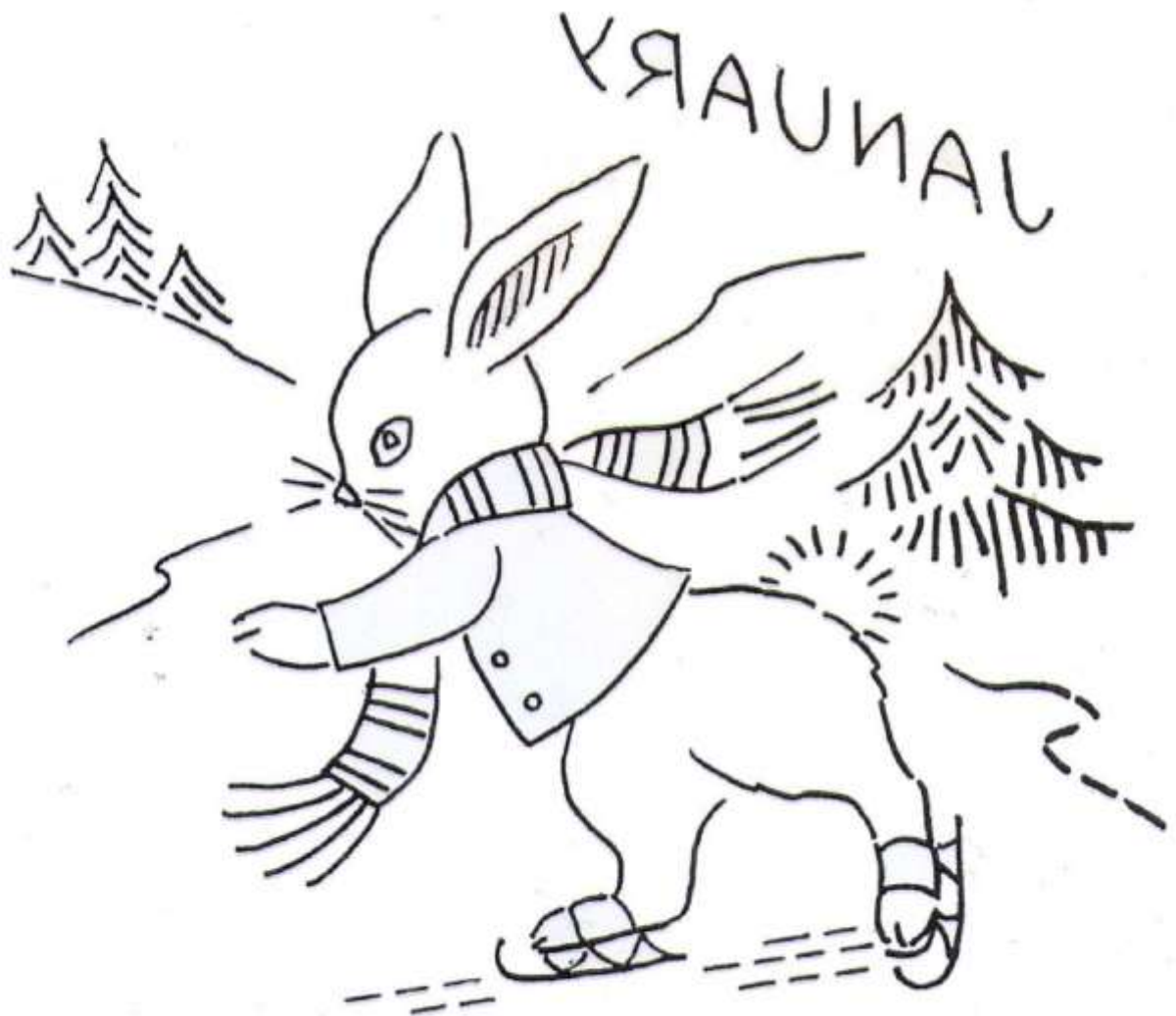


“January brings the snow, makes our feet and fingers glow”

This bunny is having fun out on the ice, I don't know about his feet and fingers, but his little nose is certainly glowing red with cold!

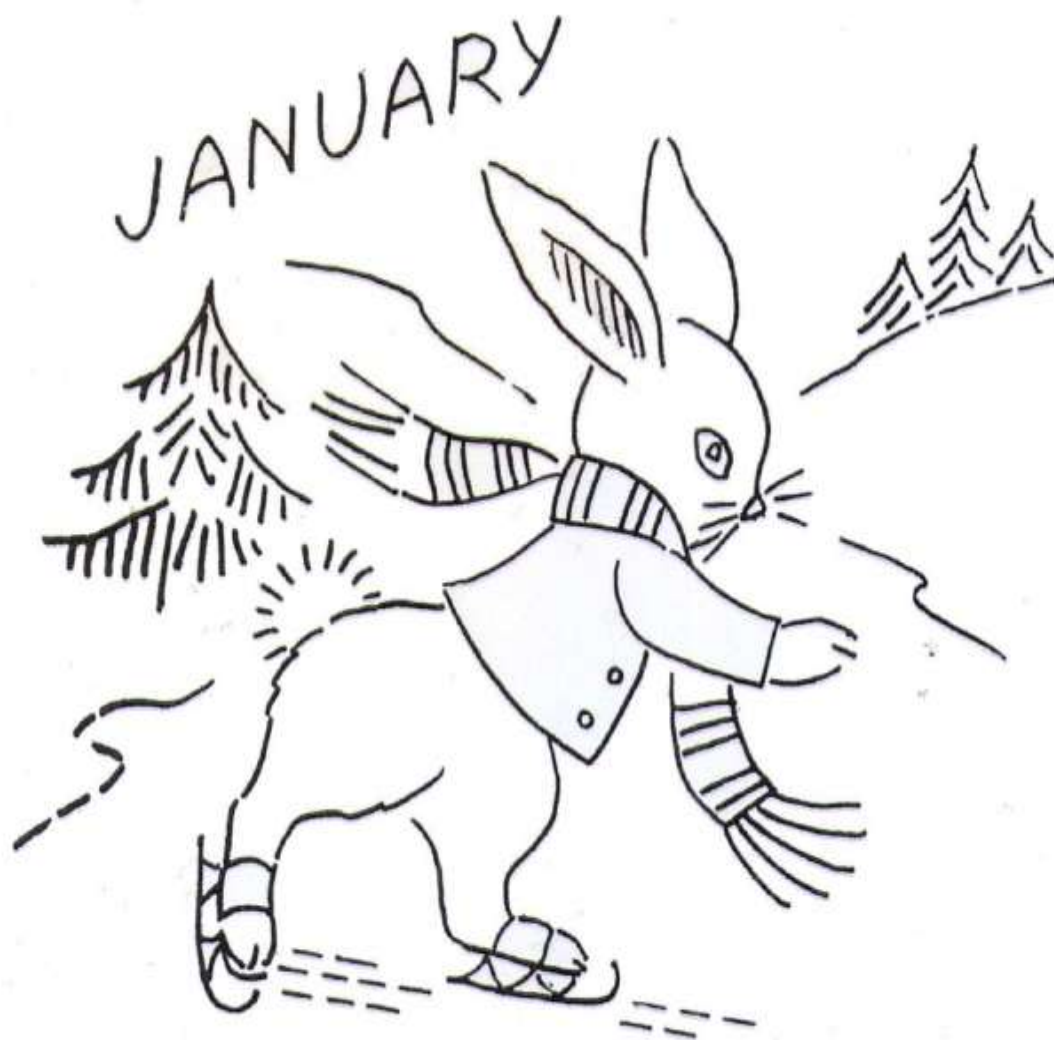
### Tip of the month:

Always have your thread no longer than the length between your elbow and the tip of your little finger. This will help prevent your thread tangling, and will give better results - having your thread too long is tiring and can lead to uneven stitches as you struggle to pull the whole length of thread through your fabric.

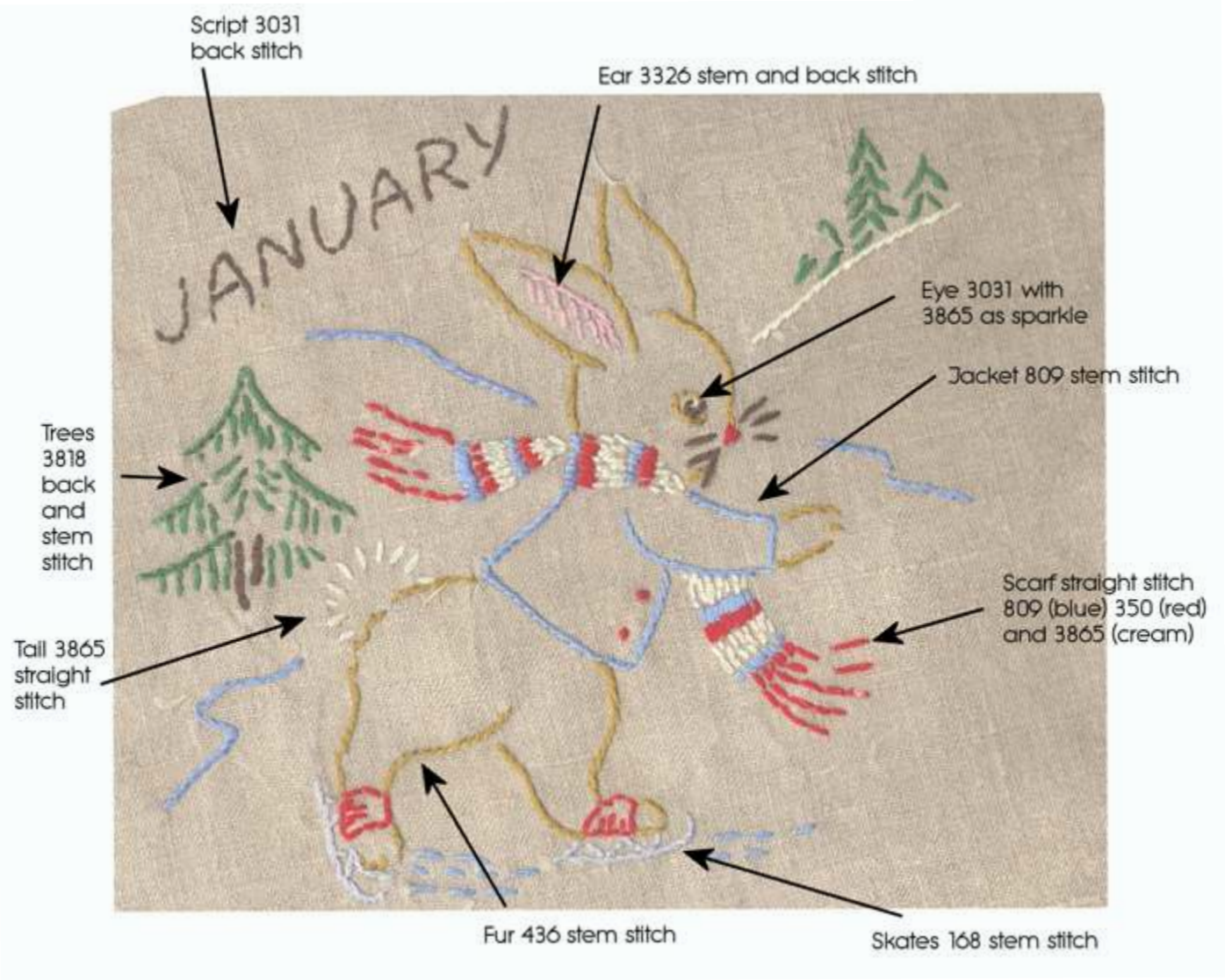


## DMC Floss requirements:

168, 350, 436, 809, 3031, 3326, 3818, 3865



# Stitching Guide for January





# February



“February fill dyke, Be it black or be it white.”

In England February is usually damp and rainy, but in other countries winter persists throughout the month. Our little bunny obviously lives in one of these cooler climates as he's having great fun racing his toboggan down hill.

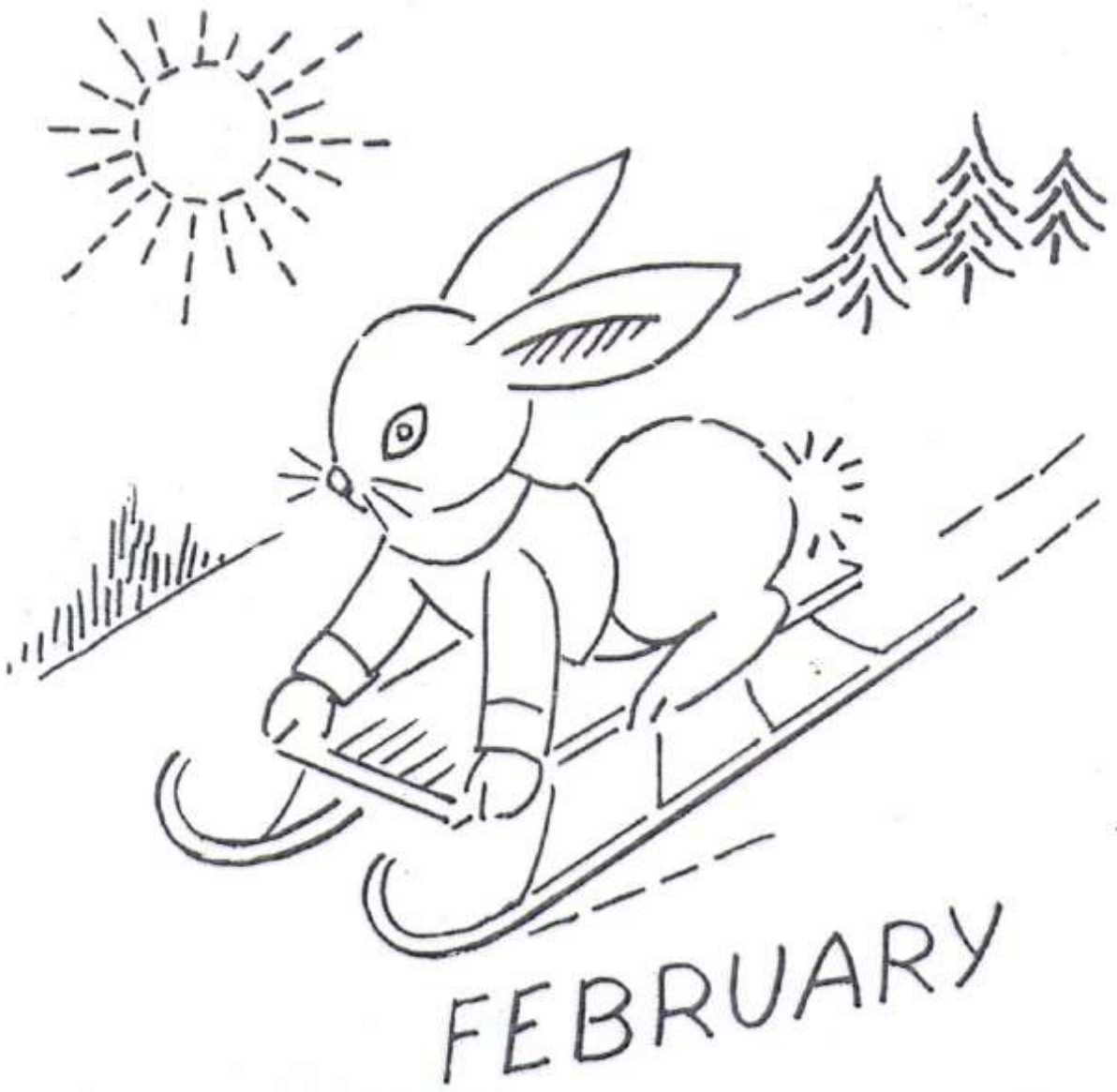
### Tip of the month:

“Using the right size and type of needle is important to get the best results in your work. Also, don’t try to save money by using cheap needles, they won’t stay nice and sharp for smooth, easy stitching.”

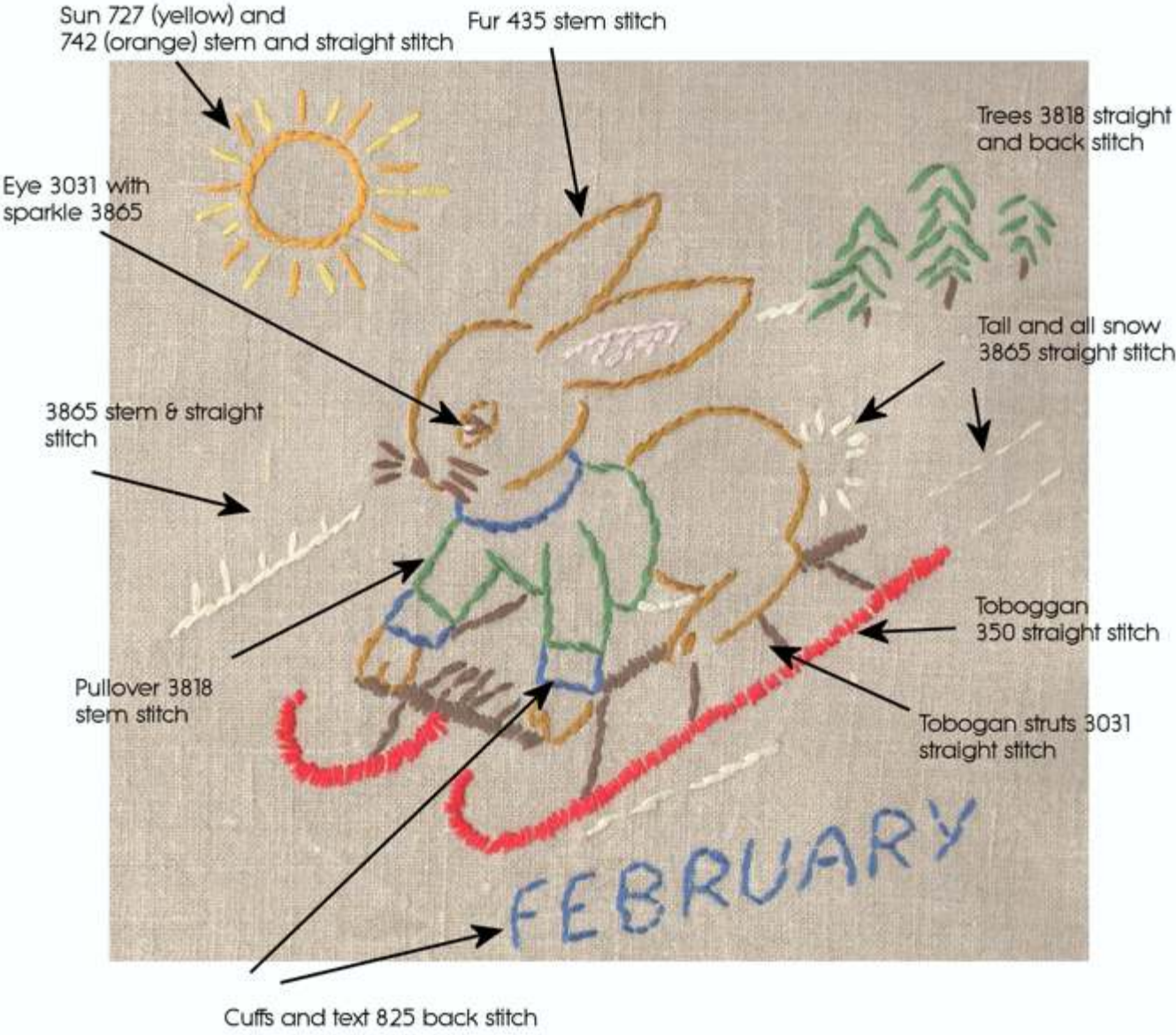


DMC Floss requirements:

350, 435, 727, 742, 825, 3031, 3865, 3818



# Stitching Guide for February



# March



“So many misties in March, so many frosties in May.”

Of course March is well known for being a windy month as the equinox passes and the northern hemisphere moves into spring. I’m not sure it was a good idea for our bunny to try using his umbrella when out and about today!

### Tip of the month:

If you're stitching with a hoop, then to stop your fabric slipping, bind the inner hoop with fabric strips, cotton tape or bias binding and secure the end with a few stitches. If you're working with fabric that is easily marked or damaged then you might choose to bind the outer hoop too.

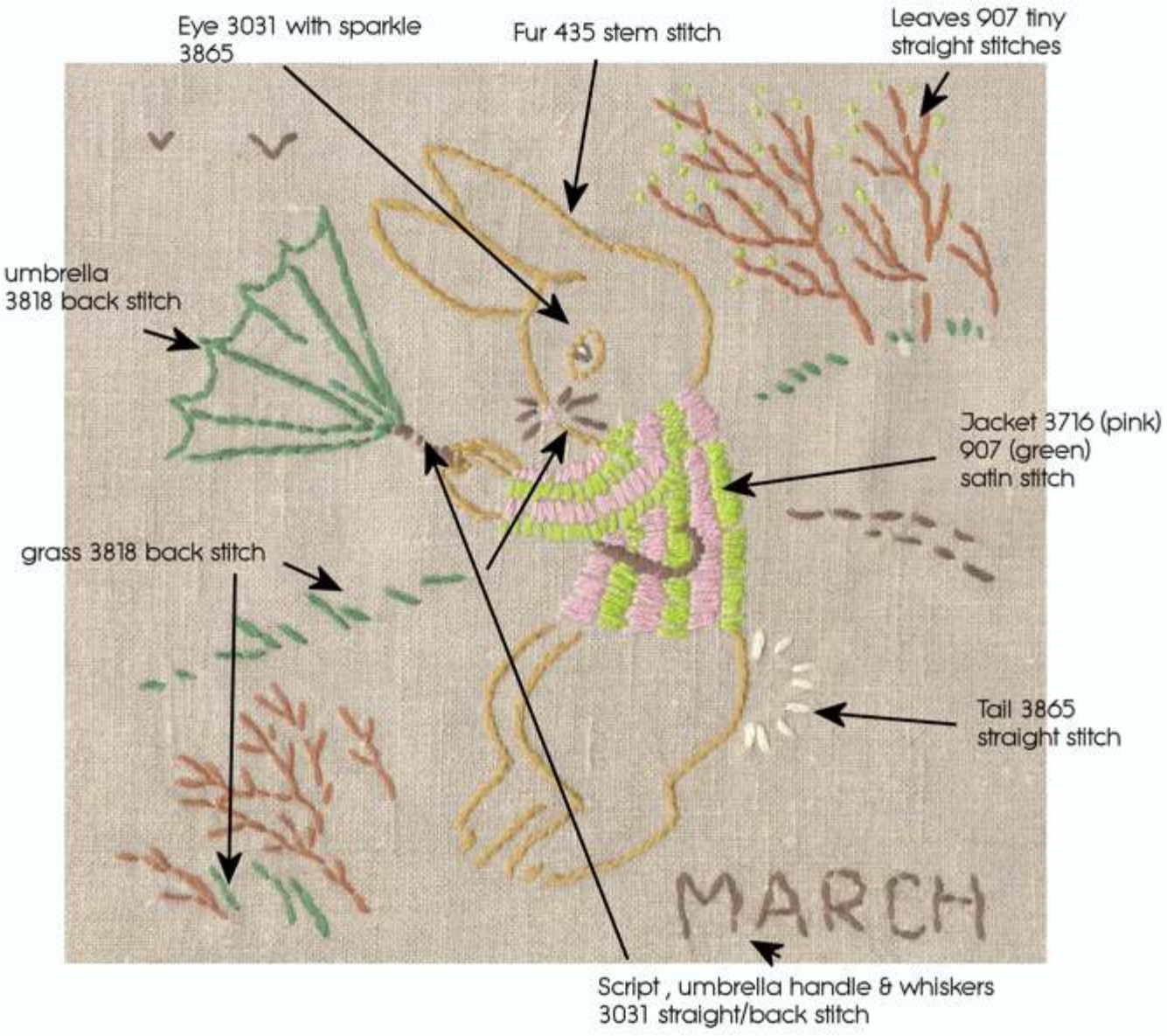


DMC Floss requirements:

435, 907, 3031, 3716, 3818, 3865



# Stitching Guide for March





# April



“April weather, rain and sunshine both together”

And this month’s bunny seems to have been caught in one of those proverbial April showers - even his ears are drooping damply in the rain!

## Tip of the month:

To keep thread, floss & yarn from tangling and knotting when sewing, every so often hold the tail of the thread with your needle dangling and let it unwind.

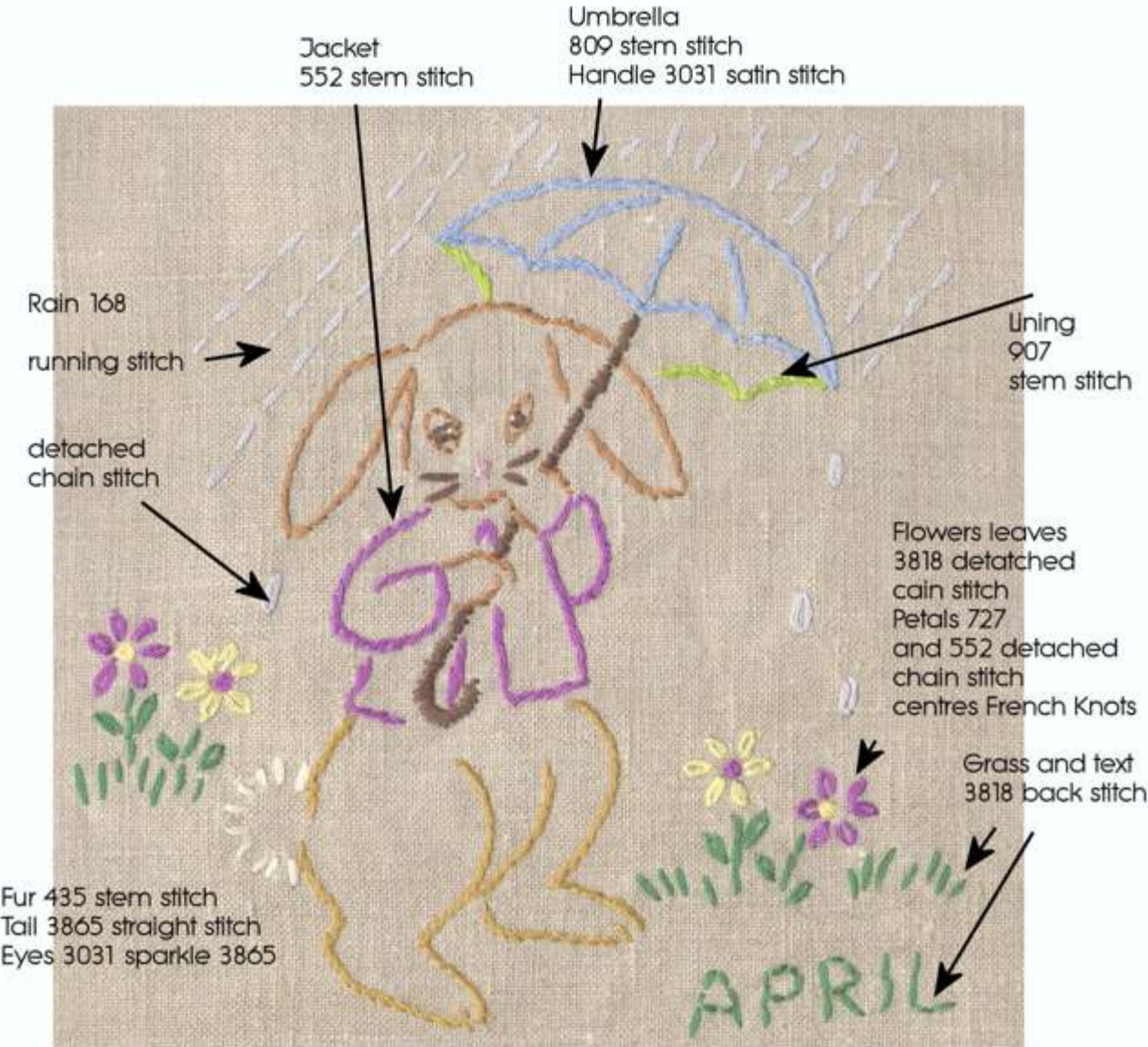


DMC Floss requirements:

168, 435, 552, 727, 809, 907, 3031, 3818, 3865



# Stitching Guide for April



# May



“March winds and April showers bring forth May flowers”

Here in England, May is one of the most beautiful months of the year as the hedgerows and fields are bursting with spring flowers, the birds are singing - and if we're very lucky the sun is shining - just as it is on this little bunny gathering a beautiful bunch of tulips.

### Tip of the month:

When pressing your work, place a folded towel on your ironing board, then lay your work face-downwards upon it. This will stop your stitching being pressed flat. Then press – don't iron your work. If you move the iron backwards and forwards you risk distorting the fabric and also catching any threads at the back, so stretching or distorting your stitches.

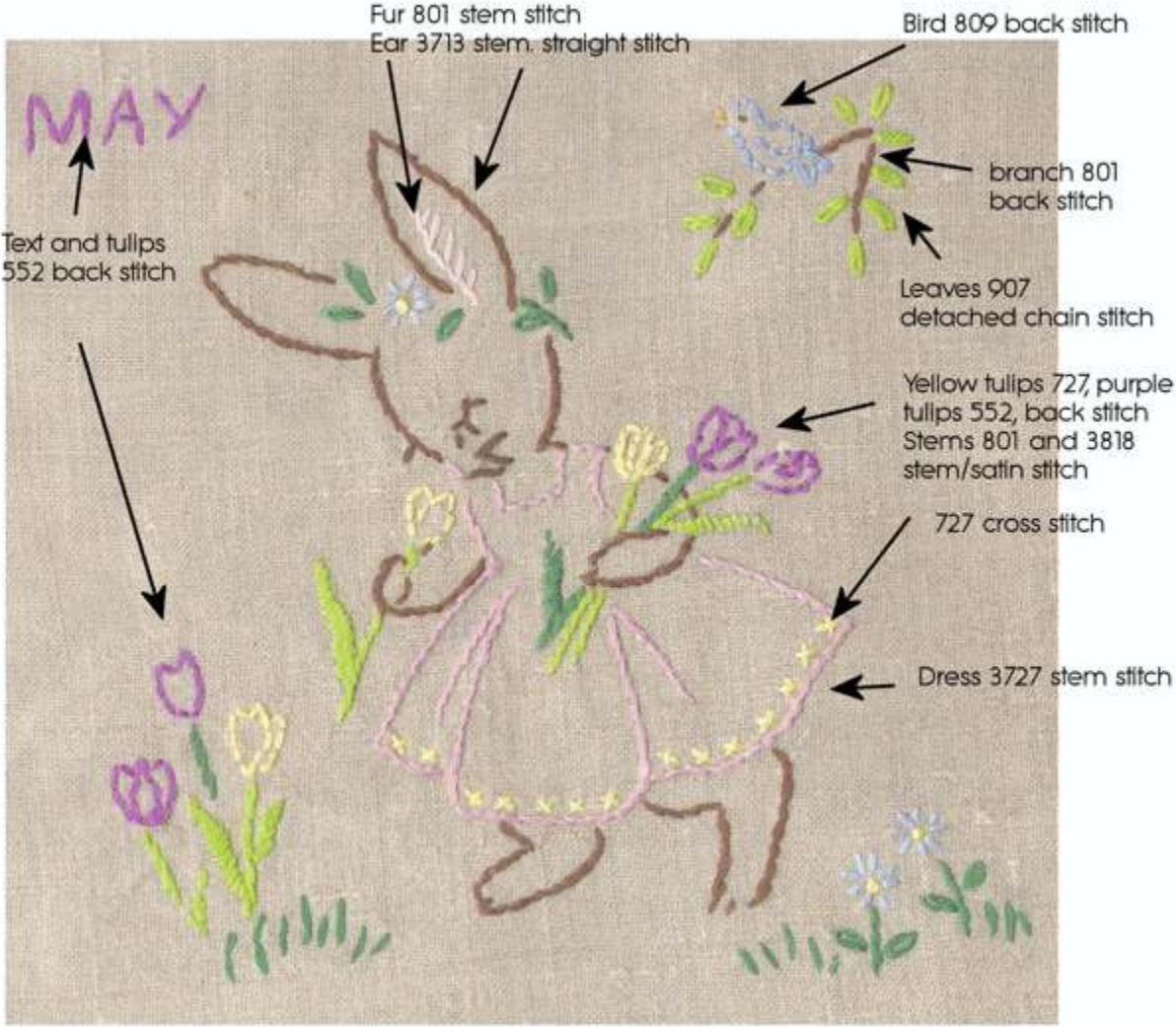


**DMC Floss requirements:**

552, 727, 801, 809, 907, 3727, 3713, 3818



# Stitching Guide for May





# June



“Marry when the roses grow, and over land and sea you’ll go.”

Our June bridal bunny has a beautiful bunch of pink roses, so perhaps she’s hoping to travel afar ...?

Tip of the month:

NEVER EVER use your sewing scissors for cutting paper as if you do, they will quickly become blunt. And blunt is not good. Not good at all.

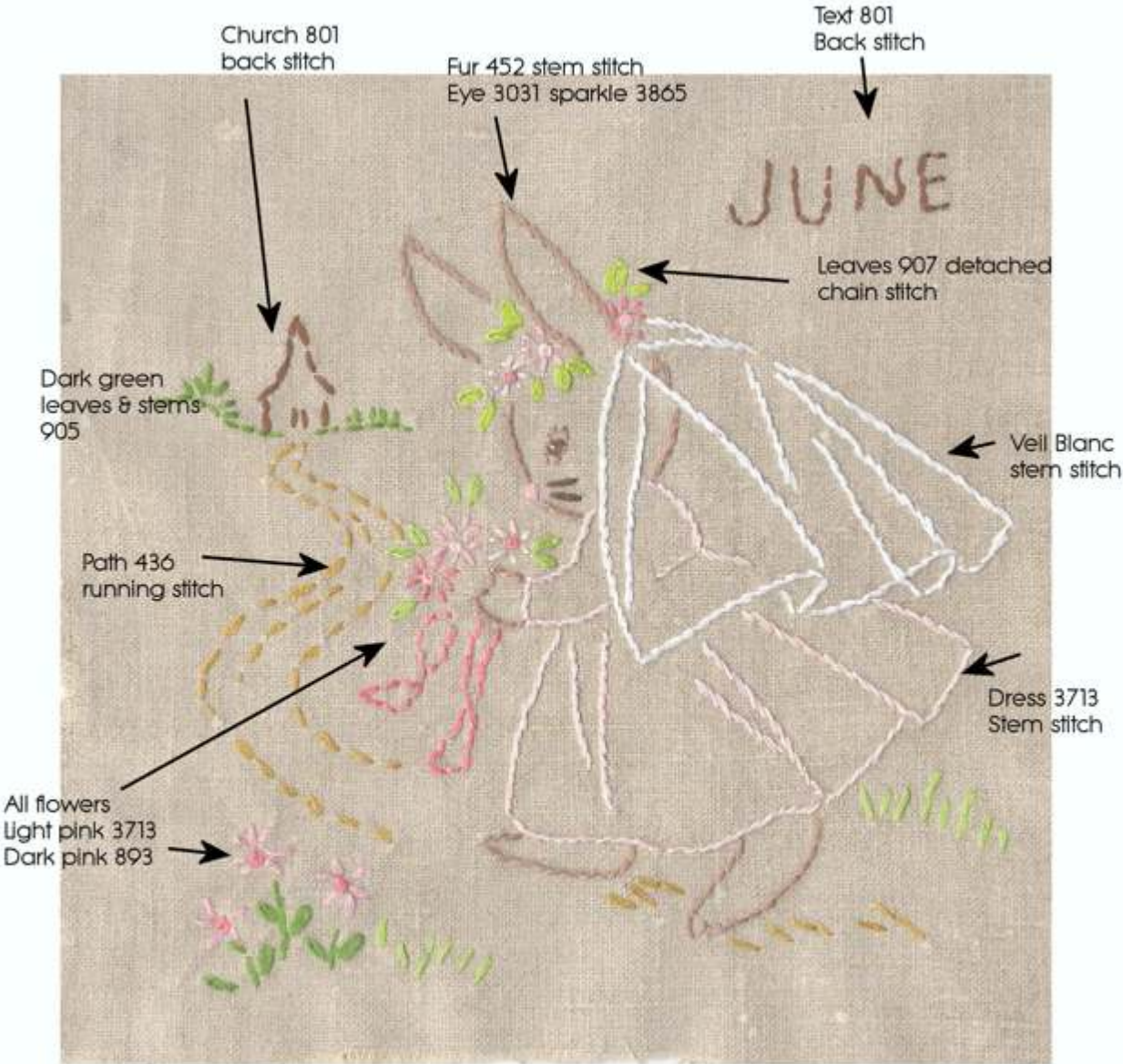


DMC Floss requirements:

Blanc, 436, 452, 801, 893, 905, 907, 3031, 3713, 3865



# Stitching Guide for June



# July



“St Swithin’s Day, if it do rain, For forty days it will remain,

St Swithin’s Day, an it be fair, For forty days t’will rain nae mair.”

St Swithin’s Day falls on the 15th of July and is said to fortell the coming weather. I think that this little bunny must have enjoyed a warm and sunny St Swithin’s Day as he’s enjoying a dip dressed in his lovely stripey costume.

## Tip of the month:

A fat eighth is half of a fat quarter and can be cut as shown or in the other direction, parallel to the fat quarter's longest edge. You may also hear the term "fabric grain" being used. This simply refers to the way the threads are arranged in a piece of fabric.

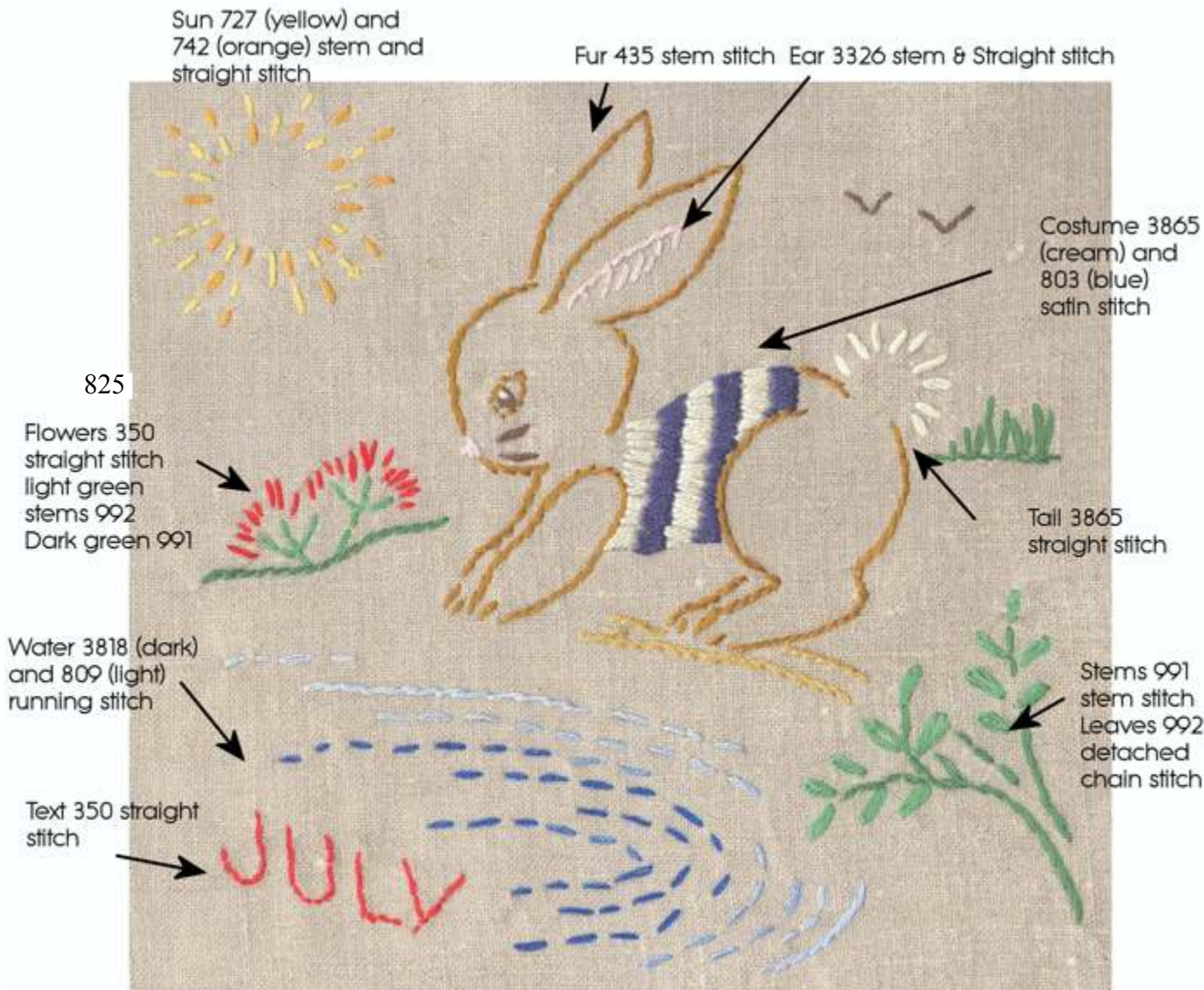


## DMC Floss requirements:

168, 350, 435, 727, 742, 801, 816, 825, 827, 905, 907, 961, 3031, 3818, 3845, 3865



# Stitching Guide for July





# August

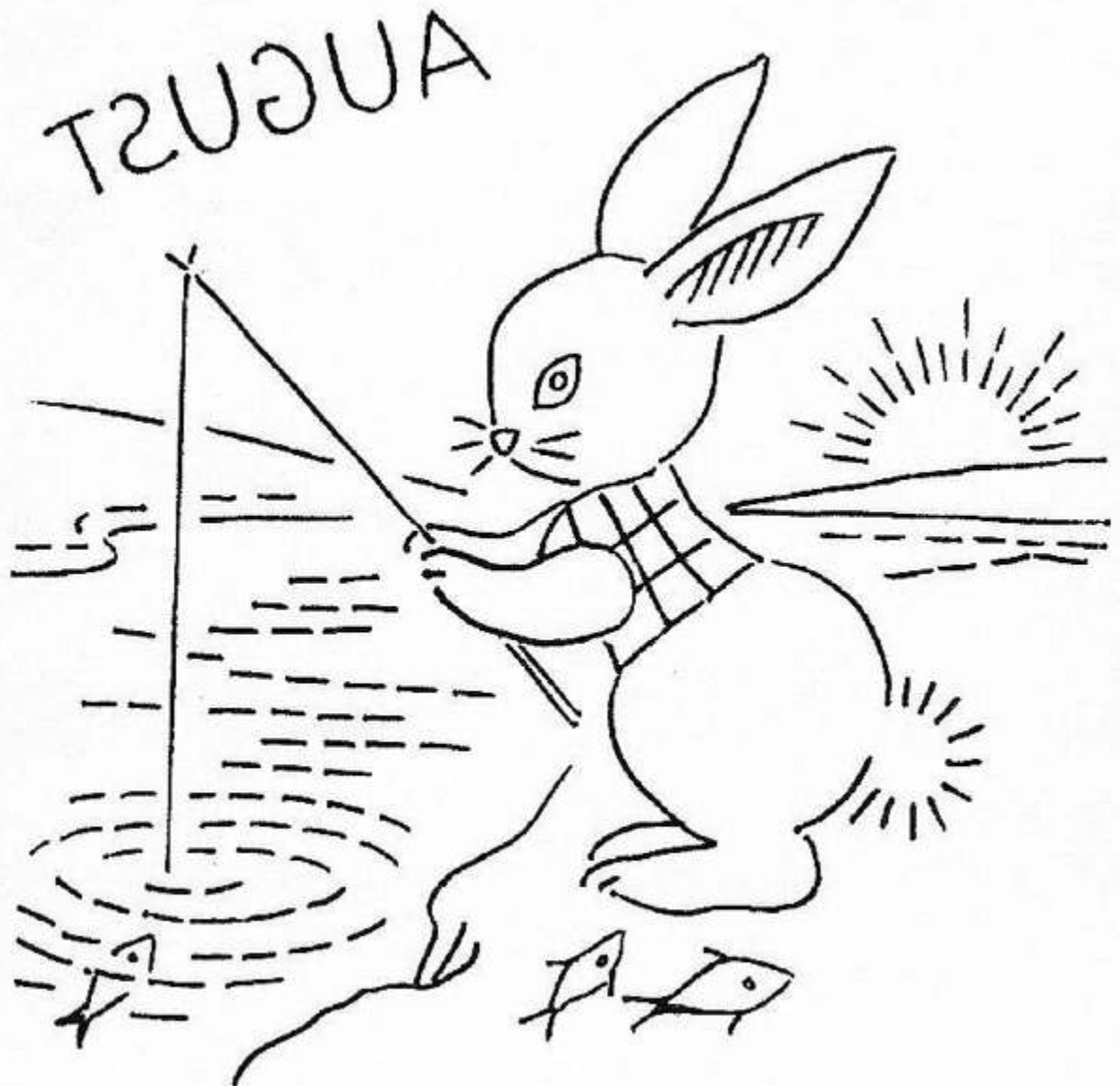


This month was named for the Roman Emperor Augustus and was selected to bear his name because in it he experienced his greatest good fortune.

I wonder if this little bunny will also experience great good fortune, and catch a lovely juicy fish to take home for his tea?

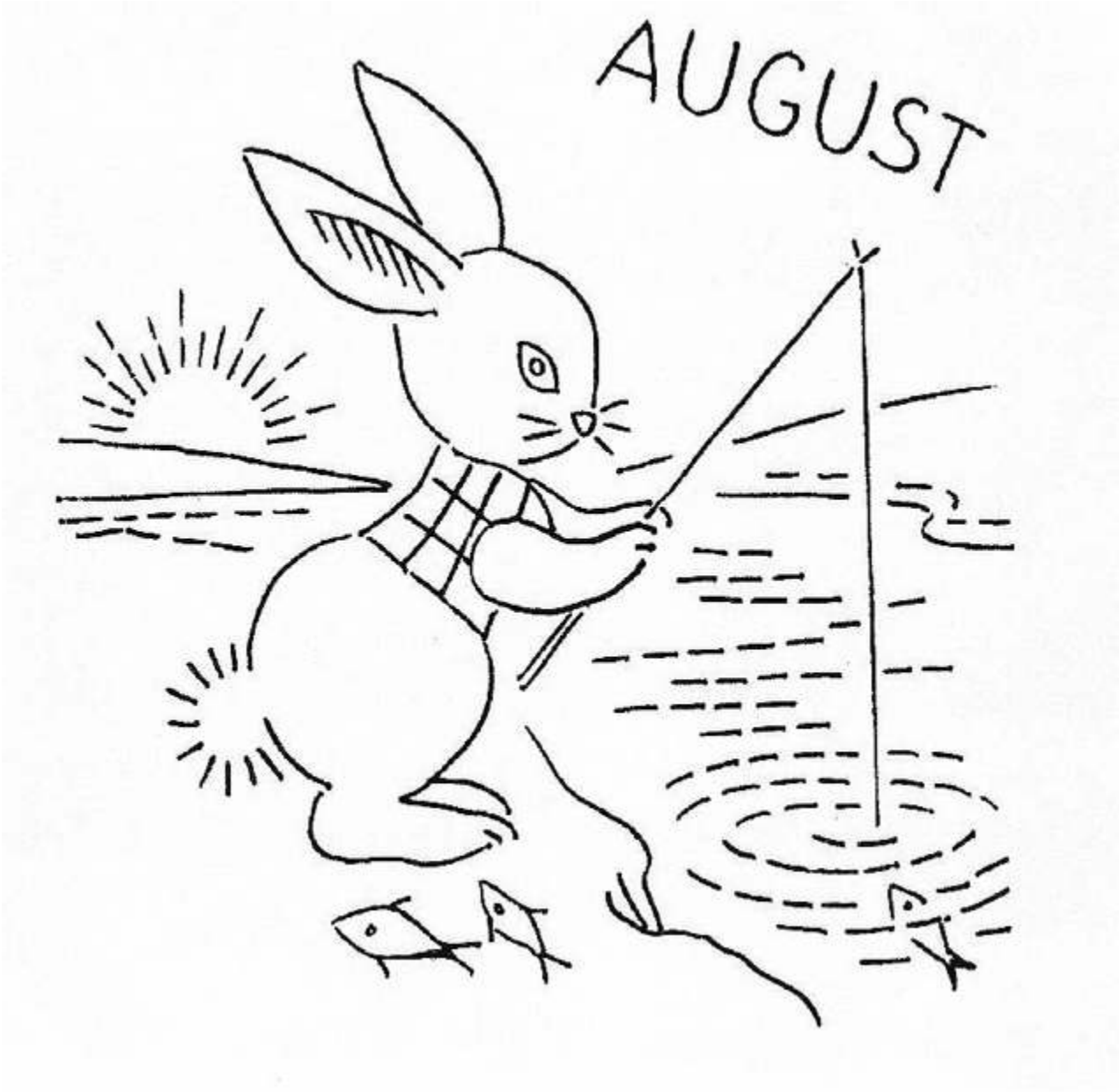
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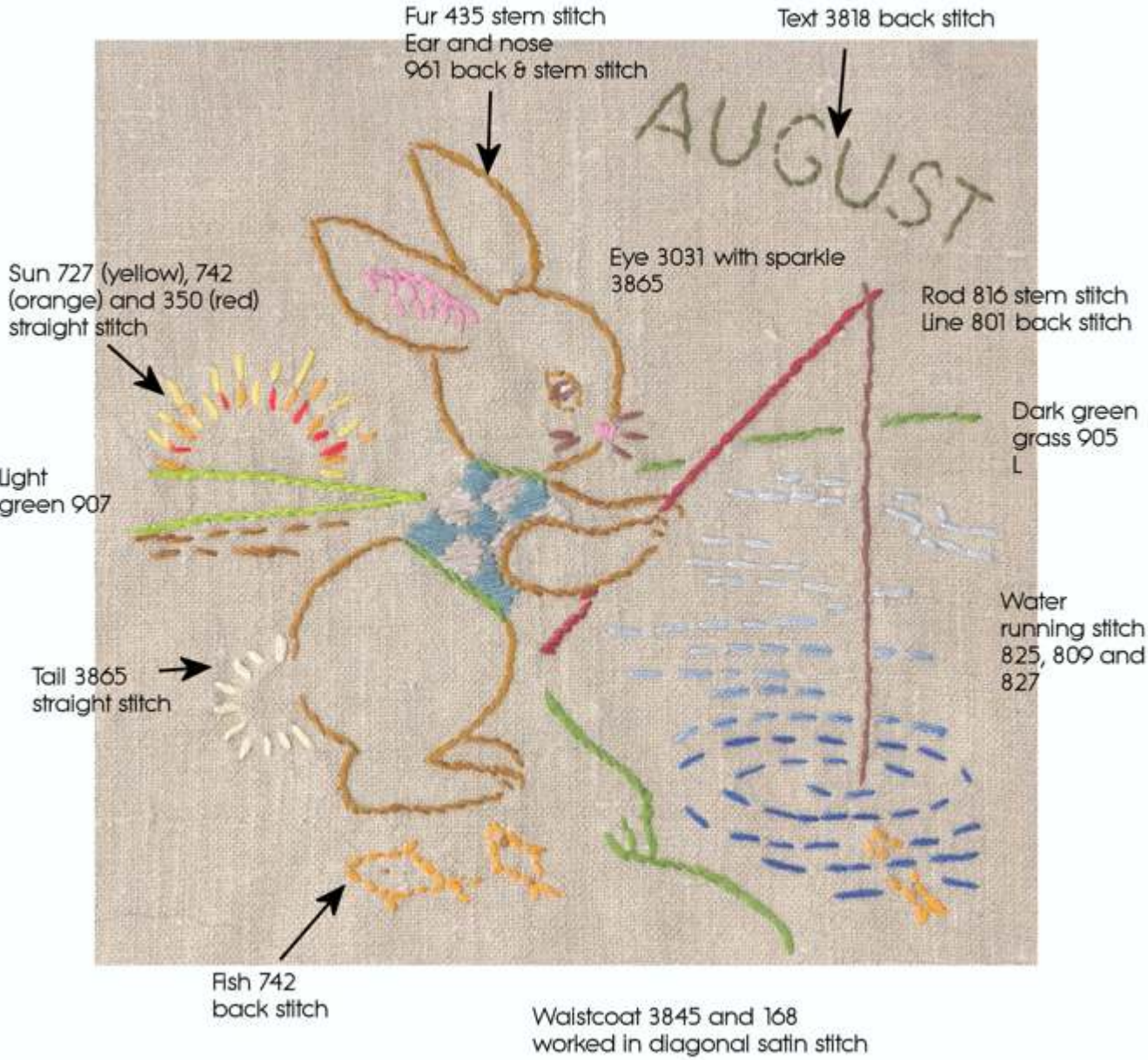


DMC Floss requirements:

350, 435, 727, 742, 803, 809, 991, 992, 3326, 3818, 3865



# Stitching Guide for August



# September



“September blows soft - till the fruit’s in the loft”

And of course September is the month when students everywhere return to their studies, just like this little September bunny with his armful of textbooks. He can hope for kind weather for a little longer though, as the fruit still seems to be upon the trees.

### Tip of the month:

Remember always to use the right needle for your work. – both for floss and fabric. If you choose a needle whose eye is too small it will roughen and fray your floss and be hard to pull through your work. On the other hand, it's nearly as bad to have too large a needle as your stitches will look horrible if the needle makes holes in the fabric larger than your floss can fill.

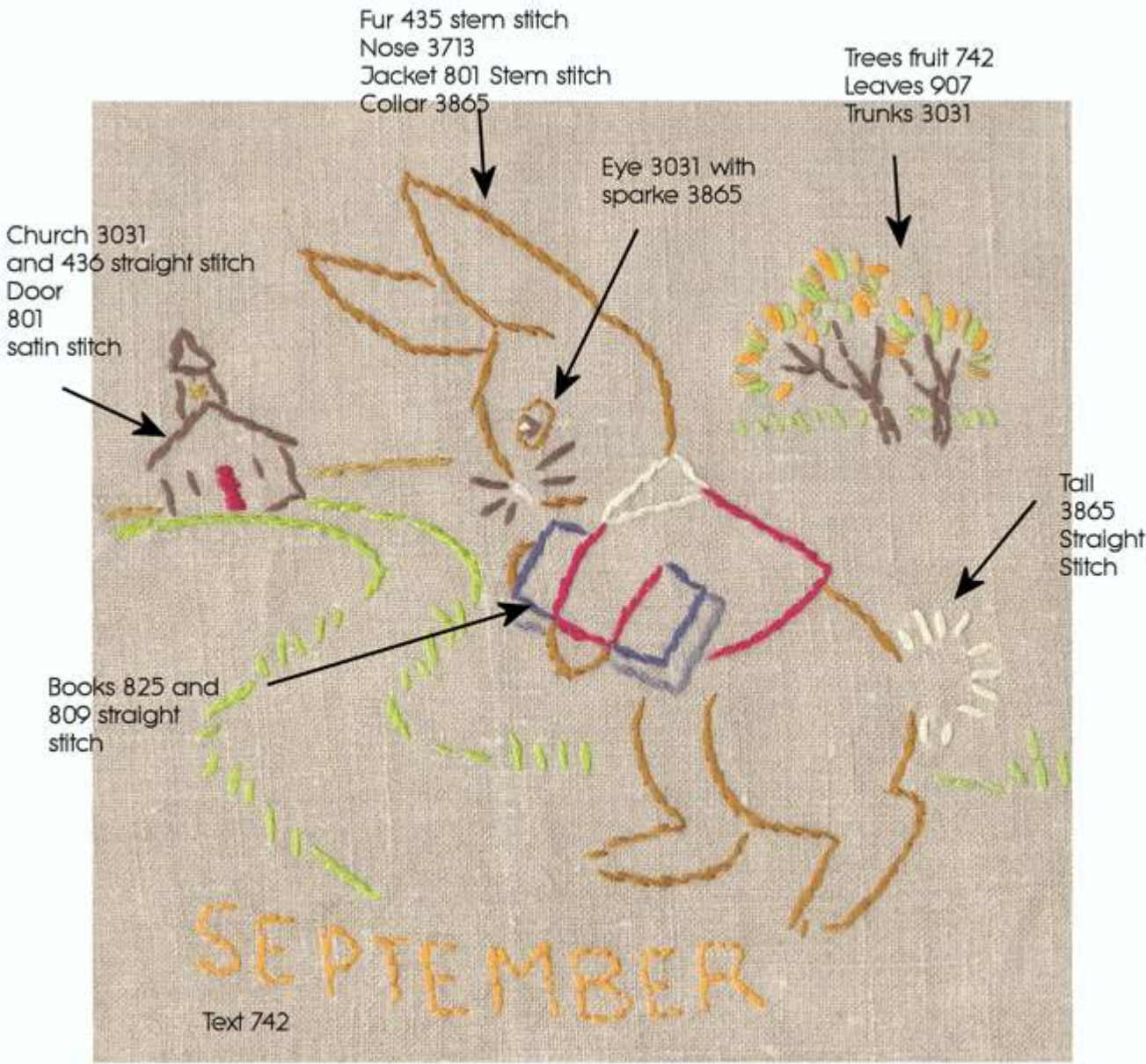


## DMC Floss requirements:

435, 436, 742, 801, 809, 825, 907, 3031, 3713, 3865



# Stitching Guide for September





# October



October is the eighth month of the old Roman year, known to the Anglo-Saxons as Winter Fylleth, because at this moon (fylleth) winter was supposed to begin. And of course there is also Halloween - and our little bunny is getting ready for the fun with his two beautiful carved pumpkin lanterns.

### Tip of the month:

When completing any project keep a note of the name of the fabric and the number and type of thread used in the construction of the piece for future reference. If buttons are used in the design, then a spare button tucked inside is also a nice touch.

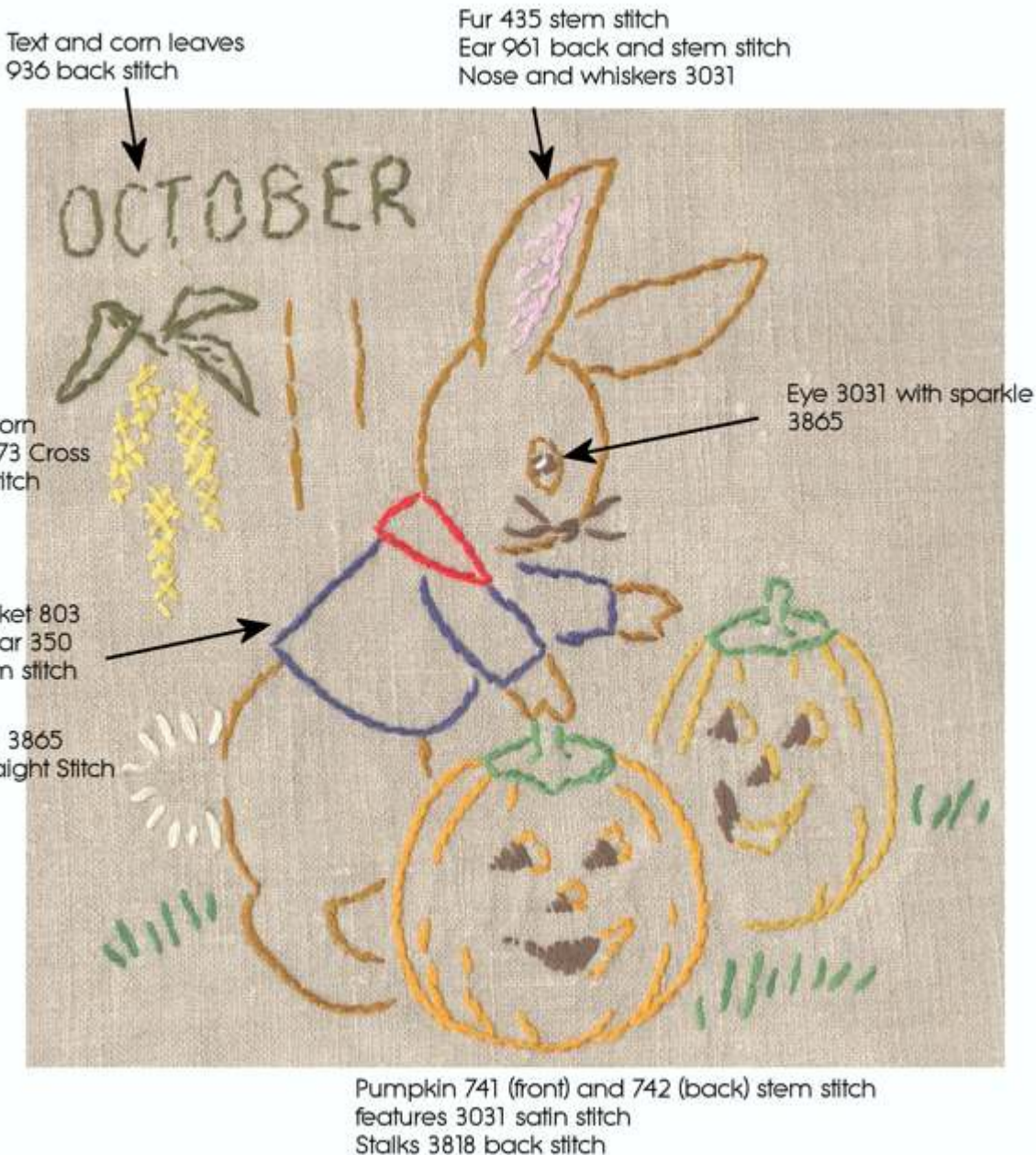


DMC Floss requirements:

350, 435, 741, 742, 803, 936, 961, 973, 3031, 3818, 3865



# Stitching Guide for October



# November



“If there’s ice in November that will bear a duck, there’ll be nothing after but sludge and muck”

Too true here in rainy Devon, England I’m afraid - but at least in the United States there is Thanksgiving to look forward to, and our little November bunny is all ready with her lovely Thanksgiving turkey dinner.

Tip of the month:


Always have really good light so that you can see the lines you are stitching. Good light really does make a difference to the quality and success of your work.



DMC Floss requirements:

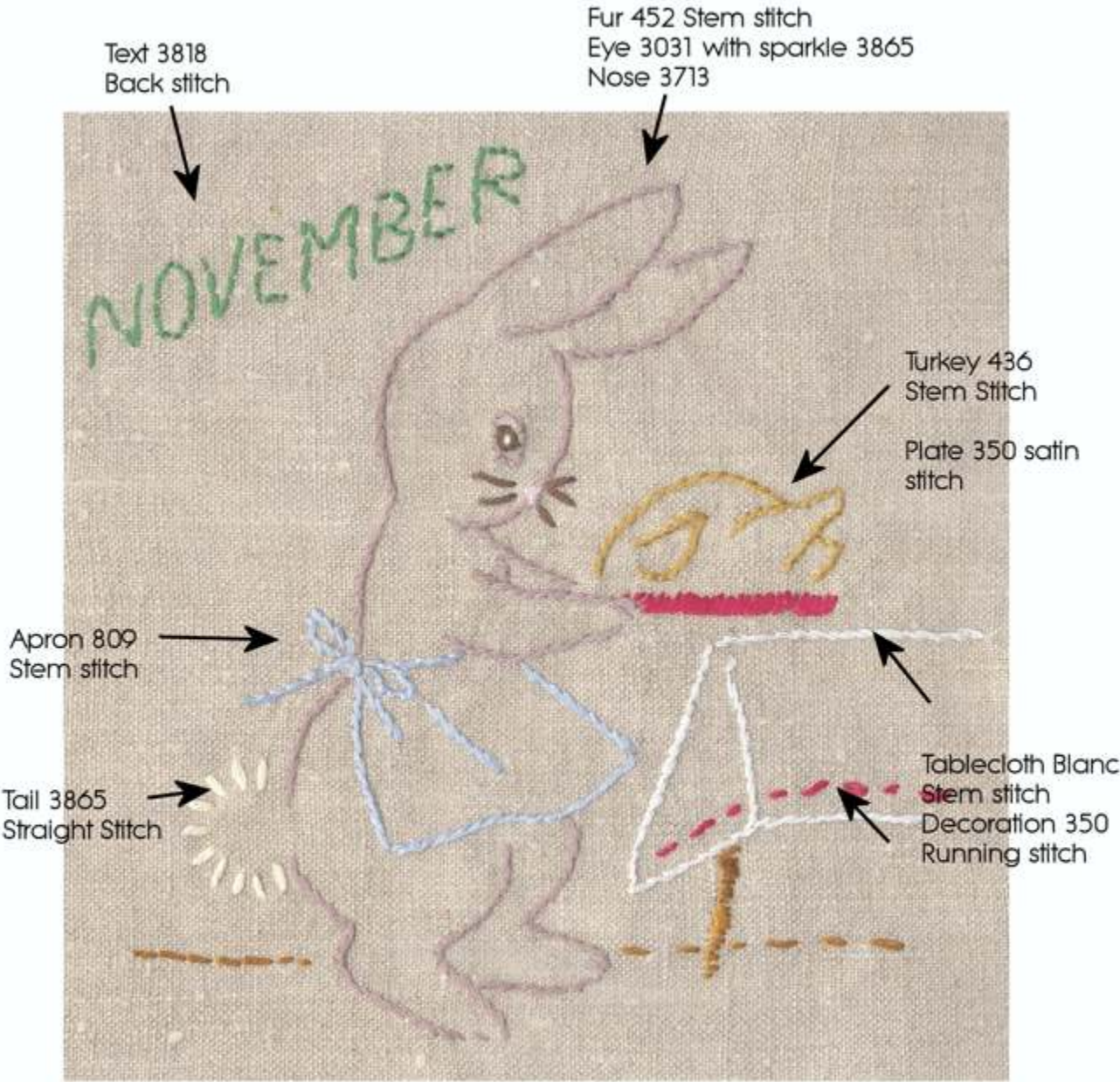
Blanc, 350, 436, 452, 809, 3031, 3713, 3818, 3865

NOVEMBER

TRIAL  




# Stitching Guide for November





# December

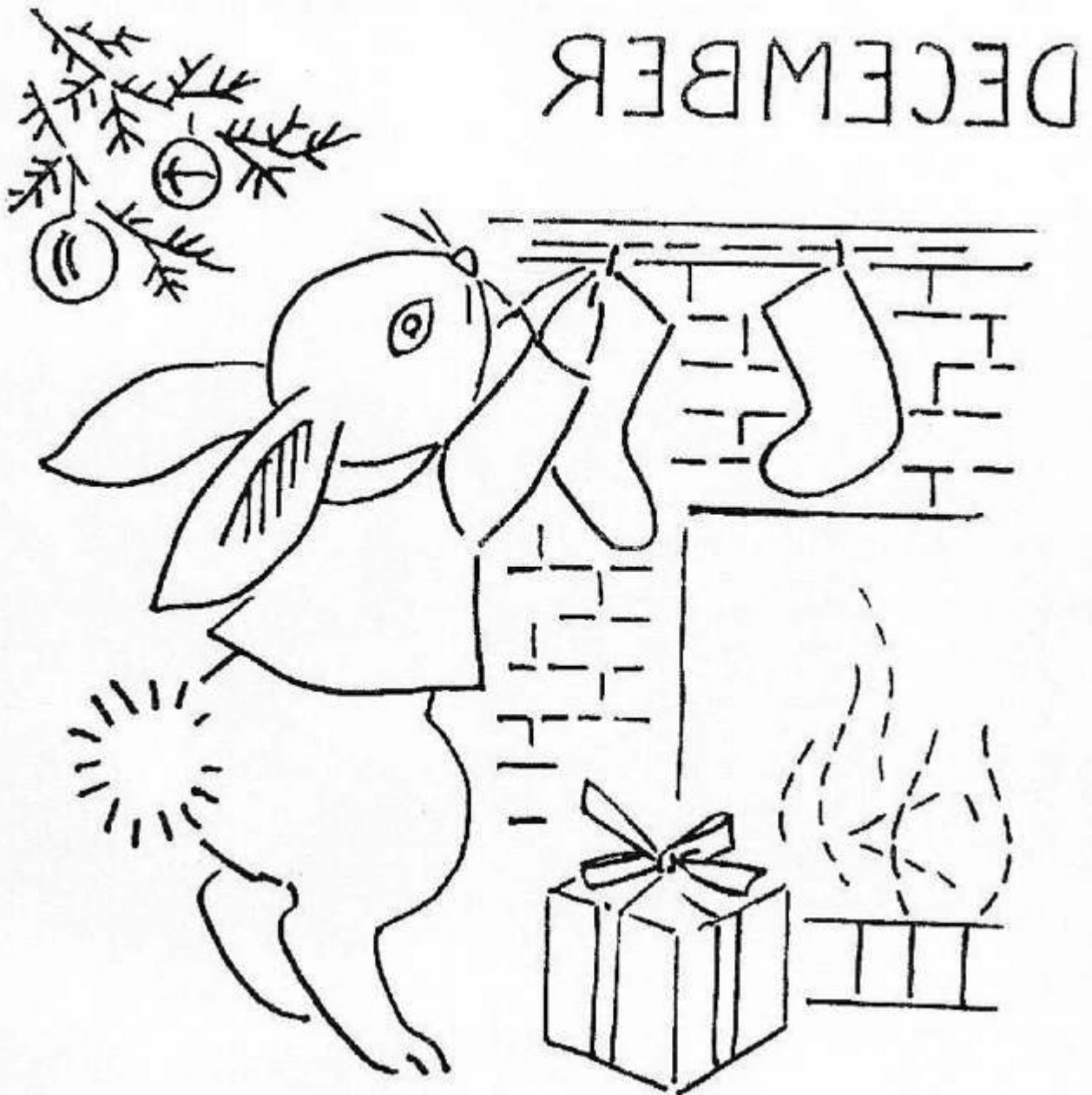


“Christmas comes but once a year, when it comes it brings good cheer.”

December concludes our trip around the year with the Calendar Rabbits as this month’s bunny hangs his stocking over the fireplace, ready for a visit from - could it be - Santa Paws?! (groan)

### Tip of the month:

If somebody tells you that stitching is too complicated, too boring and has no point (when you can buy perfectly good mass-produced articles) then don't try to convince them otherwise. They simply don't have the karma - and probably never will.



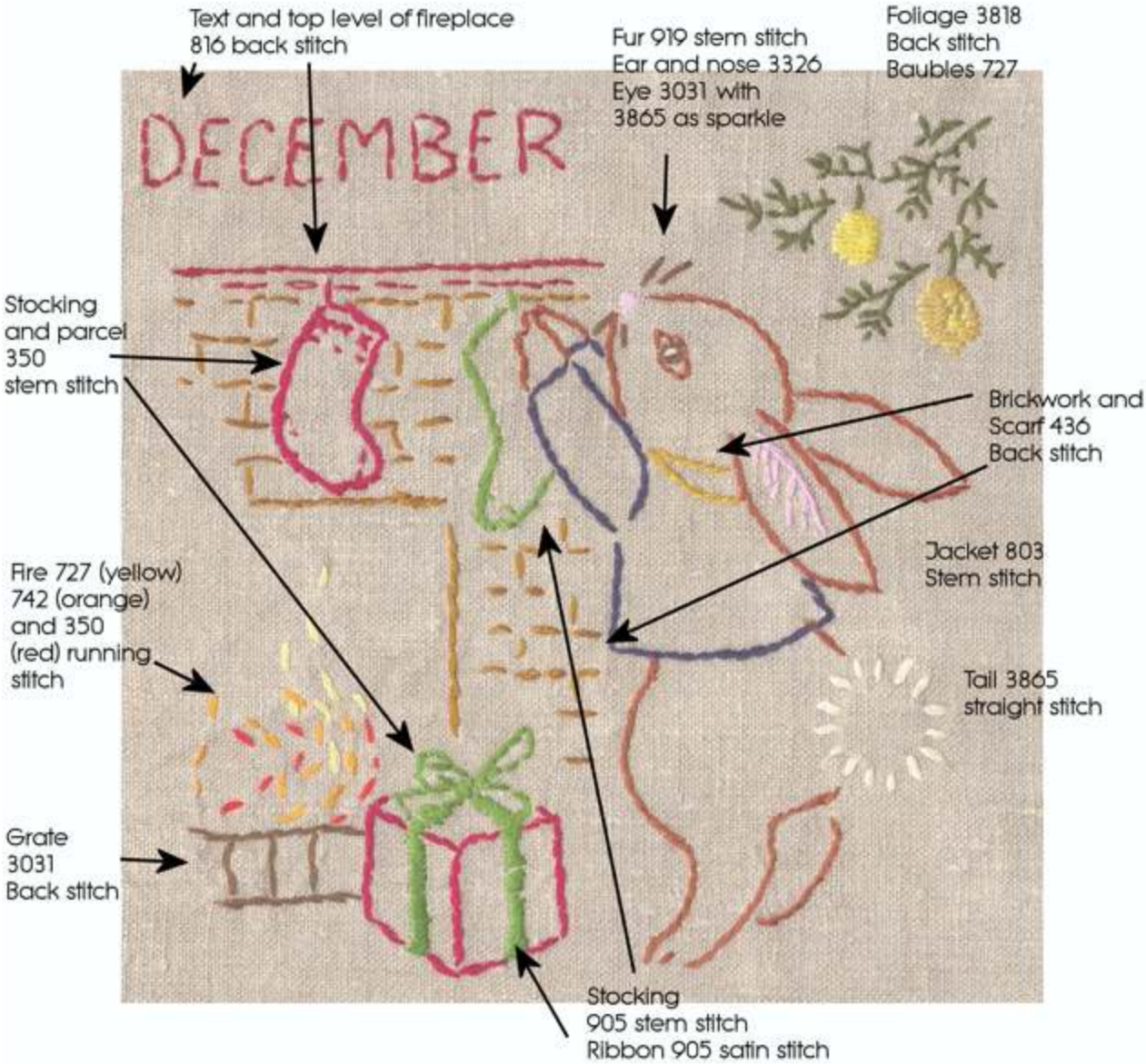
DMC Floss requirements:

350, 436, 727, 742, 803, 816, 905, 919, 3031, 3326, 3818, 3865

DECEMBER



# Stitching Guide for December



## Piecing the Top



You can do this in one of two ways - the traditional method or by using the “stitch and flip” technique. I chose to stitch and flip as my assortment of fabrics included some quite flimsy vintage choices and I was a bit worried about how robust they would be when stitched and quilted.

First cut your “logs” from your assortment of printed fabrics. You will need:

12 rectangles measuring  $7\frac{1}{2}$ ” x  $2\frac{3}{4}$ ”

24 rectangles measuring 10” x  $2\frac{3}{4}$ ”

12 rectangles measuring  $12\frac{1}{2}$ ” x  $2\frac{3}{4}$ ”



The stitch and flip technique is really easy.

- Take your finished, pressed embroidery and, using a quilter's ruler, trim to 7 ½" square.
- Position in the exact centre of your 12 ½" square of backing fabric right side up and secure with temporary adhesive spray, pin or baste.
- Take your shortest log and line up the edge with the bottom edge of your embroidery. Flip over so that the log is on top of the embroidery, edges aligned and right sides facing.
- Stitch along the edges using a ¼ seam allowance.
- Flip log back over and press. Secure log with temporary adhesive, pin or baste
- Turn your work through 90° and repeat.
- Continue until you have completed four sides of log cabin.
- Press square and set to one side. Repeat with remaining 11 squares.

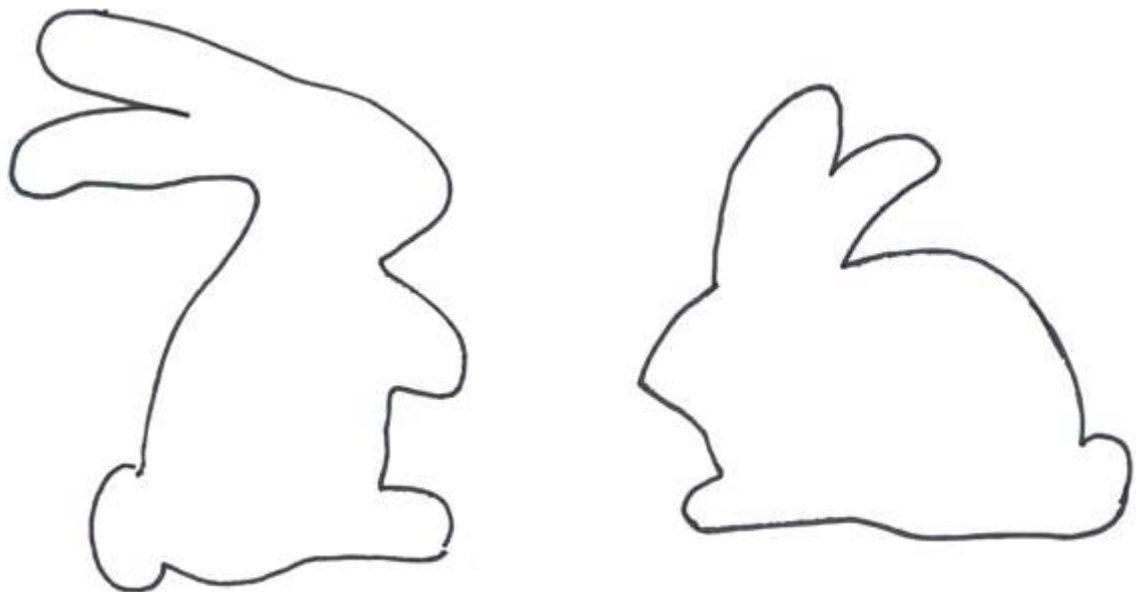
**Finish piecing the top:**

- Cut 8 rectangles of cream fabric measuring 2 ¾" x 12 ½" and 5 rectangles measuring 2 ¾" x 4 1 ¼"
- Lay out your calendar blocks in the correct order and join the four horizontal strips - comprising 3 calendar blocks and 2 short rectangles of cream fabric.
- Repeat with the remaining 3 horizontal strips.
- Sew one long rectangle to the top of the January strip and one to the bottom of the October strip
- Now join the strips vertically, spacing with the three long rectangles.
- Press all seams.
- Cut 2 rectangles of cream fabric, measuring 2 ¾" x 53" and join to the long sides of the quilt. Press
- Your quilt top is now finished.

## Completing your Quilt



Quilt and bind as desired. I stitched in the ditch around the embroidered panels then free-motion quilted the remainder of the quilt, over the logs and sashing, using a simple stippling pattern. I did, however, incorporate quite a few bunny shapes in my stippling, and if you'd like to do this, then you'll find two bunny shapes below:





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- Applique
- Softies
- Bags

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