

# Bustle & Sew Magazine



Love to Sew and Sew with Love...



Made for  
Each Other



Three Patchwork Eco-Totes



Owls in Love



Birds on a Wire



Daisy Knot Bag



Mice are Nice

How do you transfer  
your designs Mum?



Notes from a Devon Village  
Crazy Patchwork: A very Victorian trend?  
Easy Fabric-Covered Lampshades  
How to Transfer your Design  
An Alphabet of Stitches

Issue 25  
February 2013

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Hello, and a very big welcome to Issue 25 of the Bustle & Sew Magazine. This month, in honour of its second birthday, the magazine has had a bit of a make-over, with a new cover style and lots of lovely colour all the way through - I do hope you like it!

And there's a new photograph of me too - with the youngest member of the Bustle & Sew team - little Daisy who, at the time of writing, is just 12 weeks old. She's a proper little madam who is into everything and poor harassed Ben is trying very hard to remember exactly why he wanted a baby sister!

He's very kind and patient with her though, even though she's bounced on him so much and ruffled his tummy fur into such tangles he's had to have a very short trim - a little chilly in February!

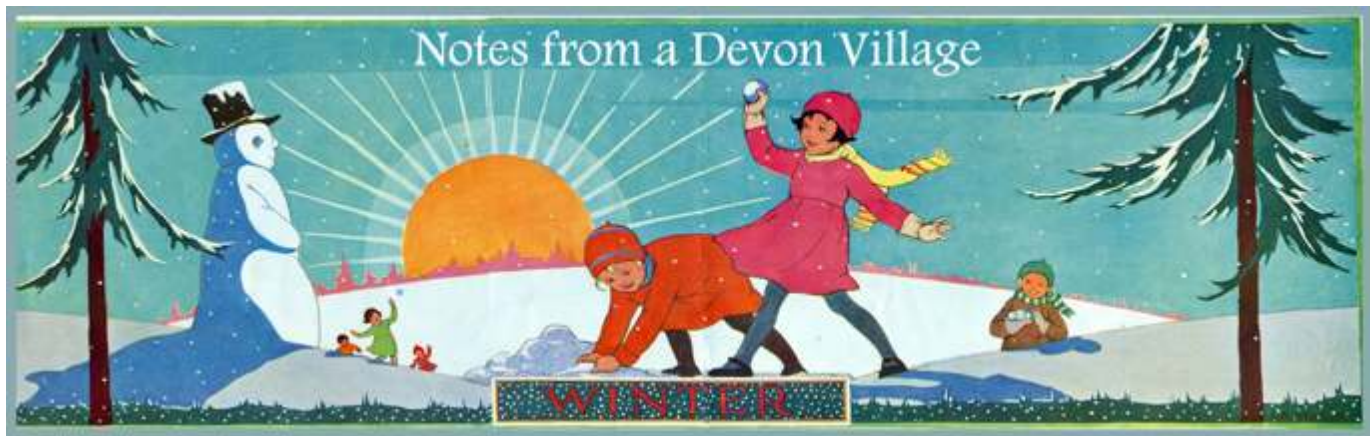
But even though the weather's still a bit chilly, here in the magazine we're looking ahead to spring, with the Daisy Knot Bag - ideal for that transition between the winter and summer seasons. You'll also find Birds on a Wire - a great way to display anything that can be pegged to a line - as well as three pretty eco-totes to keep in your handbag for those impromptu shopping expeditions!

Have a wonderful February - and I'll be back in March with some Easter ideas for you.

Helen xx

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February, although the coldest month of the year here in England, is also the last month of winter and there is a sense of life beginning to stir beneath the frozen land.

If you look very closely there are tiny buds on the hawthorne hedges where, before too much longer, there will be fresh green leaves, the snowdrops are already in bloom and the hardy green spikes of daffodils and narcissi stand strong and proud above the bare earth.

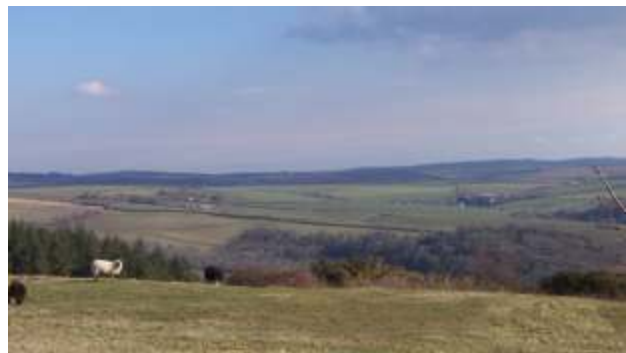


*Signs of spring indoors on my mantlepiece*

I will hang my special "dog-fur station" in the garden quite soon. It's simply a wire coil stuffed with the fluff I groom out of my two furry friends. The birds will take it for their nests where it will make a lovely soft bed for their newly hatched youngsters when spring finally arrives.

Up at Blackdown Rings, an old hill fort not too far from here, at this time of year you may often spot hares in the pasture beneath the fort. I was lucky to see one last week, but although I remained still for a long time, I didn't see its mate, and eventually it lolloped away.

I first saw a hare on a smokey autumn day in Warwickshire when I was just a teenager. The cornfields had been cut and the hare rose up from the stubble only a few yards in front of me. Until then I had believed that hares were simply rabbits with longer ears, but was instantly struck by how powerful and angular these creatures are - not cuddly in the slightest, but all muscle and poised for action. No wonder that in the past they were believed to possess magical properties.



*On clear days you can see for miles ...*

Walking around the Iron Age ditches I noticed the gorse was coming into blossom (so kissing must be back in fashion again!) and the resident robin seemed almost to be bursting with song, even though the wind was chilly and there was a frosting of ice along the edges of the ditches

Blackdown Rings is a wonderful walk at any time of year, and on clear days you can see for miles and miles, with the countryside spread out beneath, bringing to mind that lovely poem, "The Land of Counterpane" by RL Stevenson:





## Birds on a Wire

Charming and unusual way to display all manner of cherished items whether these are childrens' drawings, greetings cards, remnants of favourite fabrics - or anything you choose that can be pegged to a line.

Finished birds measure about 5 ½" from head to tail.



# Patchwork

*A very Victorian trend?*

*In the eco-tote project on the next pages I used crazy patchwork to create the heart patch on the brown dotted eco-tote. I had a lot of fun selecting and combining some very oddly shaped scraps, and I thought it would be interesting to take a short look at the history of this thrifty technique ...*



*Detail from Victorian crazy patchwork tea cosy*

Before the trend for crazy patchwork really took off in the mid 19th century, this technique was the preserve of the less-well off and thrifty housewife. Many different kinds of fabric - cotton, wool and linen for example, would be included in a single finished item, regardless of their shape, texture or colour. Nothing would be wasted and even the smallest scraps would find themselves being recycled to provide warm garments and bed linen. The patches were cut out, seemingly at random, but probably to avoid worn parts of the items being recycled. Sadly, but unsurprisingly, very few examples of this early form of crazy patchwork have survived.

It seems likely that better off Victorian ladies would have seen this type of work and spotted its potential for incorporating scraps of brocades, silks, satins and velvets, together





## Three Patchwork Eco-totes

Doing your bit for the environment is fun with these three cute tote bags. Simple to make, but definitely not ordinary with the addition of your choice of three patchwork designs to applique to the front of your bag.

Choose from Stitch and Flip bird, Crazy Patchwork heart or Hexie Bunny.

# Really Easy Fabric-covered Lampshades

After we installed our new wood-burning stove at Coombe Leigh before Christmas (very toasty toes) we needed to decorate the room as the alterations needed had left it looking definitely the worse for wear!

Our existing table lamp was fine, but the shade was looking a bit tired, suffering from years of service and enhanced by a nice mud splatter from the time Ben dashed in from his walk and shook himself vigorously before I had time to catch him! Rather than go to the expense of purchasing a brand-new shade I decided to use this easy technique to give the old shade a whole new look - and was so pleased with the results I thought I'd share how I did it.



This is a really easy and quick technique - a great way to use a special piece of fabric - and you don't need to sew a single stitch!





Nobody needs reminding that February 14th is St Valentine's day ....

*Yes, February 14th is a special day for lovers, when romance is most definitely in the air - and hopefully in the post(!)... but who was St Valentine and how did it all begin?*

Nearly 2,000 years ago in ancient Rome, February 14th was the day dedicated to the goddess Juno, the deity of women and marriage. Valentine was an early Christian bishop who would marry young couples in secret, defying the Emperor Claudius who had forbidden such ceremonies. Eventually Valentine was caught conducting a secret marriage ceremony and condemned to be put to death.

Whilst he was in ..





## Owls in Love Cushion Cover

Nine cute little owls - and two who simply can't take their eyes off each other!

Sized to fit 16" square cushion pad

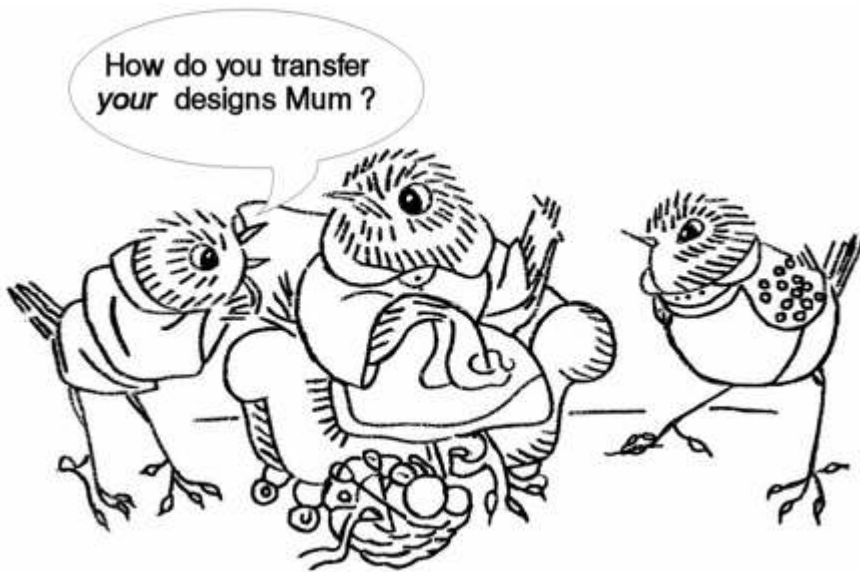




## Made for Each Other

When I was a child I had a book about a little hedgehog who was lonely and unloved because her prickles hurt anyone who came too close. In the end she did find love ... with a turtle who didn't mind her spikey body. Memories of that book have inspired the embroidery on this heart, showing the little hedgehog snuggled up against her true love.

# Transferring Your Pattern



*Possibly the most frequent query I receive is “How do I transfer my embroidery design from the printed page to my fabric?”*

*This is one of those questions where there isn't a single right or wrong answer – it's all about choosing the method that works best for you.*

The easiest method to transfer a design is of course an iron-on transfer, many of which used to be given away free with needlework magazines in the mid-20th century, printed in either blue or silver.

My grandmother had a huge collection of these transfers, all carefully stored in a biscuit box with a cute puppy and kitten picture on the lid. There were sunbonnet and crinoline ladies - too many to count - birds, bears and an infinite variety of flower patterns. If you enjoy stitching vintage, it's still easy to find these old designs in thrift shops, at jumble sales and of course on auction sites such as eBay.

But if you don't have a transfer and want to transfer a downloaded pattern (like those in this magazine) there are several different methods available to you, some of which are easier, and so perhaps more popular, than others.

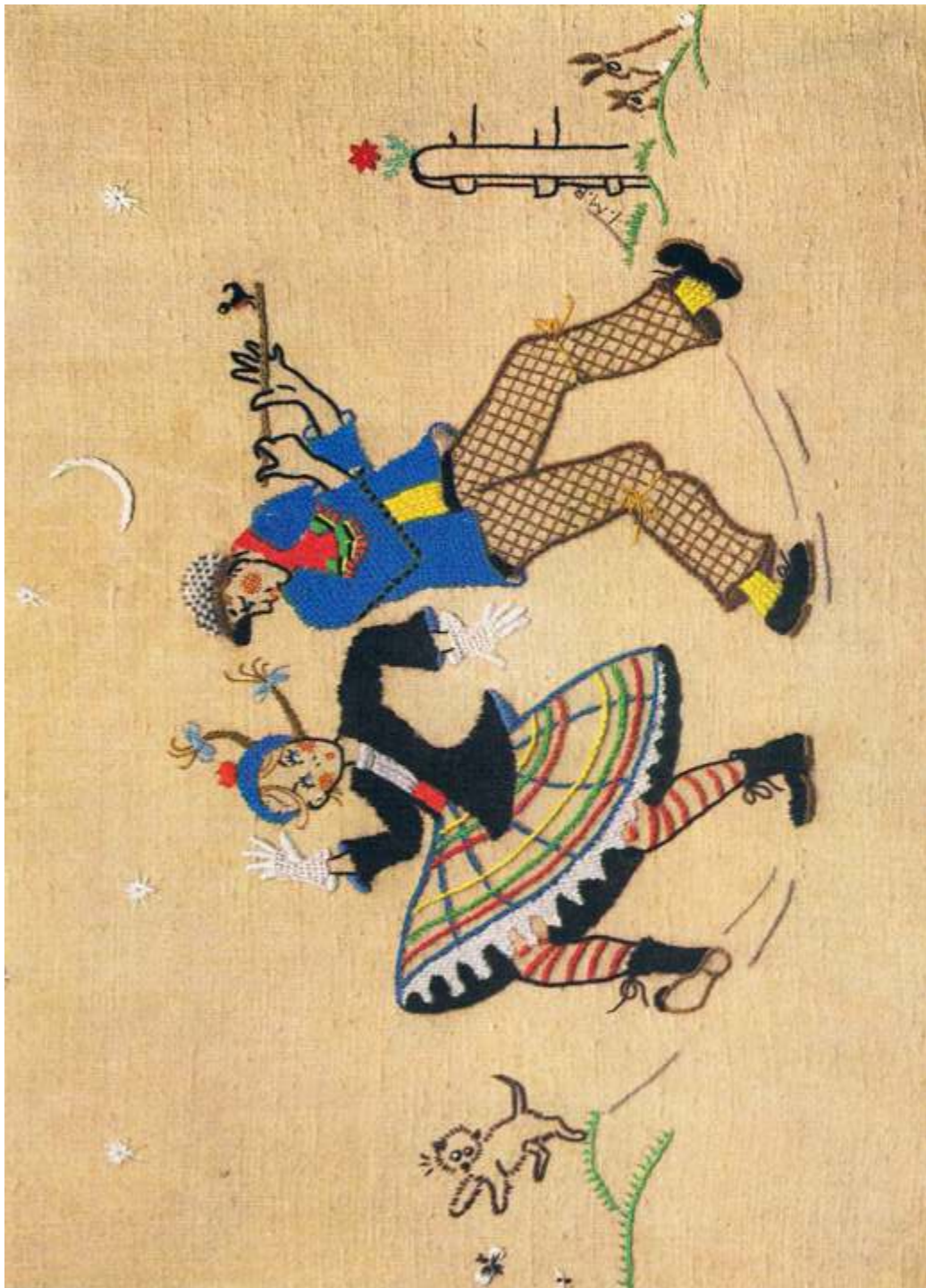
If you're embroidering onto a pale coloured, light-weight fabric, then it's easy to trace your design onto it as though it was tracing paper. To

do this, print your design in the usual way, then tape your printed sheet to a light source - most usually a light box or window pane. Position your fabric over it, right side up, making sure that the design is beneath the position you have chosen for your finished embroidery.



# Vintage Pattern: Moonlight Capers

*This pattern was published in the May 1952 issue of "Stitchcraft." The instructions are quite detailed, with little diagrams for the needlelace details. I think the design would also lend itself well to applique. It's the little details that I like best, such as the two inquisitive bunnies wondering what is happening on this starlight night!*





## Daisy Knot Bag

Cheerful little bag that's so easy to make with no complicated zips or poppers to insert. The simple daisy applique design makes this easy pattern into something just a little bit special - and perfect for those warmer days of spring and summer.

Finished bag measures 9 ½ " high x 7" diameter base (approx)



## Hints and Tips from Stitchers

*Some time ago I asked blog readers about their favourite stitching tips. They responded very generously - and I received an enormous number of tips ranging from the seemingly sensible to the weird and wacky! On trying them out, every single one worked, so I thought it would be fun to share a few here too.*

If you have any tips you'd like to share with other readers then please do email me [helen@bustleandsew.com](mailto:helen@bustleandsew.com) so I can include them in future issues:

"I keep several needles going at the same time and it's a trial trying to remember which colour is which. So I fold a piece of felt, 9" x 12" into quarters and tack it together. Then I put a piece of clear packing tape down the centre. Now I write the colour number and symbol if need be on small labels and stick them to the tape in two rows. I have been able to put up to 22 colours on my needle keeper at a time. I keep several of these around so when I want to start a new project I already have a needle keeper ready"

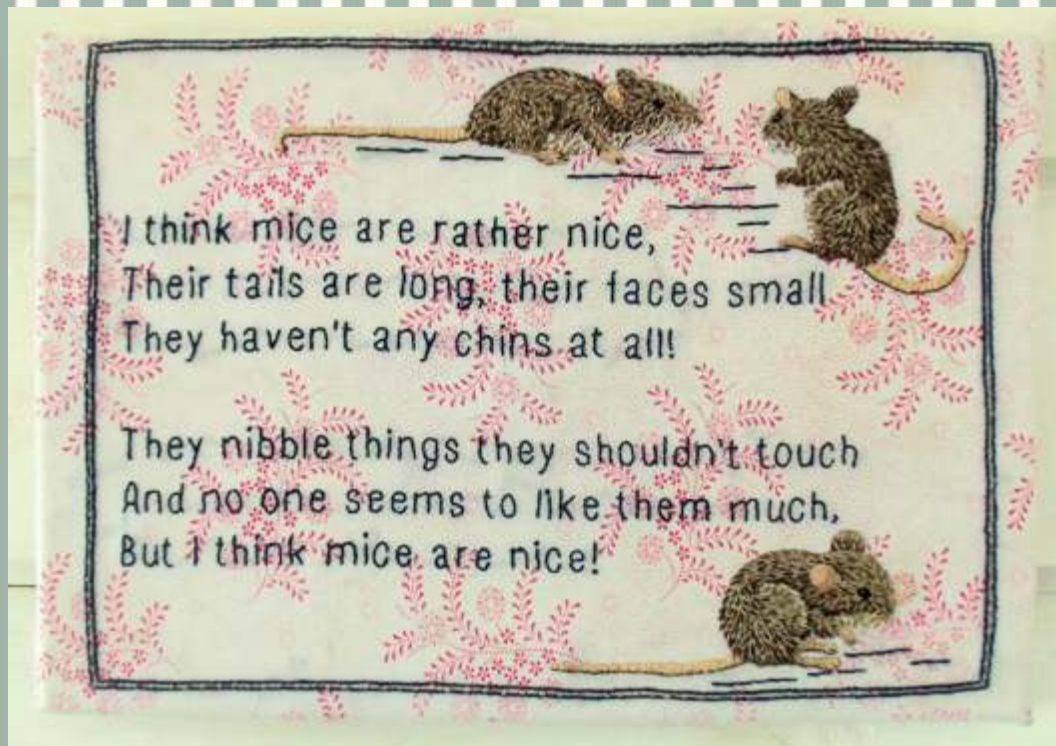
Kate Roland

<http://crazypurplemom.blogspot.com>

*"Just a little thing really, when threading your needle, hold the thread between your thumb and forefinger, have just a little p*



Linda



## *Mice are Nice Embroidery*

Three endearing little mice decorate two verses of Rose Fylman's delightful poem "I think mice are rather nice." Certainly these little embroidered mice are rather nice - and won't be nibbling things they shouldn't touch anytime soon.

Finished design measures 7 ¾" x 10 ½"



# An Alphabet of Stitches (4)

## LAZY DAISY STITCH

(Diagram 39)

Also named Daisy Stitch, Detached Chain Stitch, Link Stitch. For flower petals and leaves bring up the needle at the base of the traced shape, hold the thread down with the thumb of the left hand, take the needle through at the base, bring it out at the other end of the petal and pull it through over the held thread as shown in the diagram. Now take the needle through again making a tiny tying stitch over the end of the loop so that a stitch is formed as shown in the diagram. Bring the needle out at the base of the right hand petal



Diagram 39



Diagram 40

ready for the next stitch. Work anti-clockwise round the flower head until it is complete. If the traced petal to be covered is a broad one work the lazy daisy stitch slightly open, that is, leave a slight space between the ends of the loop at the base. If necessary fill the centre of the loop with a small straight stitch, or if a more rounded shape is required fill with a french knot. Another variation is to work a small straight stitch of a second colour over the tying stitch.

## LAZY DAISY STITCH—DOUBLE. (Diagram 40)

For large petals, etc., work two lazy daisies one enclosing the other as shown in diagram.

## LEAF STITCH. (Diagram 41)

At the base of the shape to be worked bring the needle through at the left of the centre line. Insert the needle on the opposite margin a little higher than where it emerged and bring it through to the right of the centre and below the thread. Next insert the needle on the left margin and bring it through on the left side of the centre. Repeat these two movements, that is alternately right and left until the shape is covered with spaced stitches as shown. Leaves and borders are effectively embroidered in this stitch. Cover any traced outlines to the shapes which still show



Diagram 41

with Stem or Back Stitch, etc.

## LONG AND SHORT STITCH (Diagrams 42 and 43)

Also named Shading Stitch, Long and Short Stitch is mostly used for shaded effects but it can also be employed when large areas of one colour are required to be filled in and satin stitch is found to be impractical. An embroidery frame is necessary with this stitch to obtain satisfactory results. If worked in the hand puckering nearly always occurs. The first row of stitches should be alternately



Example of Long and Short Stitch.

long and short, making a marked difference in length. Do not make any of the stitches too small. The direction of the stitches should follow the principles of natural growth, and can be indicated on the material with a pencil before work is begun. Stitches may be required to radiate or to lie quite evenly and parallel as shown in diagram 43. Diagram 42 shows the method of working. Begin at the

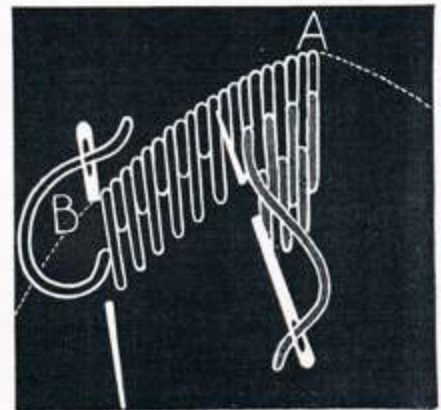


Diagram 42

tip of the object, i.e., at A in diagram, and work down to B; then complete the row by beginning again at A and working down the other side. Take the first row of stitches **down** on the outline. Now work the second row commencing at A as before, but this time the stitches are of **equal length, and set up and down** alternately to fit into the first row of stitches. On this row bring the needle up through the ends of the stitches of the first row so that they overlap. Many workers find it easier to again work down into the ends of the



Diagram 43



## BUSTLE & SEW

The “Bustle & Sew Magazine” is a Bustle & Sew publication. To see my full range of Rosie & Bear publications, together with many more stitching, applique, softie and quilting projects please visit my website:

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