



BUSTLE & SEW A COUNTRY YEAR



Follow me through the seasons as you stitch my English countryside wheel of the year - from mistletoe to pumpkins, spring lambs to sunflowers and time spent at the coast.

A Bustle & Sew Publication

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Before you Begin (please read!)

When you receive your panel it will have been folded for postage so you need to iron it well on the reverse before hooping up.

I recommend using a smaller hoop to work the piece and moving it around to the area you want to work. When doing this be careful not to flatten the raised stitches such as turkey knot and picot stitch and be careful when hooping up not to overstretch your fabric. Also you should remove the smaller hoop when you're not working to avoid it marking or flattening stitches.

On the following pages you will find full stitching instructions and floss requirements for the seasons and months. I do use a wide range of floss shades, but you don't have to stick to these if you already have floss that matches, or nearly matches the DMC colours I have specified. I always specify DMC as it is widely available, but please do stick to a good quality floss.

Please read through the instructions for each part carefully before beginning.

Two strands of floss are used throughout EXCEPT where otherwise stated.





DMC floss colours: 704, 3807, 4160

The text is worked in 3807 back stitch, the petals are 704 feather stitch (see stitch dictionary) and the blossoms are 4160 French knots.



DMC floss colours: 601, 988, 4120

The text is worked in 601 back stitch, the petals are 988 detached chain stitches on back stitch stems of the same colour and the blossoms are 4120 French knots.



DMC floss colours: 502, 732, 779, 975

The text is worked in 975 back stitch, the twigs are 779 back stitch, leaves are 732 detached chain stitch and the berries are 502 French knots.



DMC floss colours: 553, 832, 3750

The text is worked in 3750 back stitch, the foliage is 732 fly stitch and the ends are 553 detached chain stitch with a small straight stitch in the centre to fill in the shape.

Circle Outline

The outline of the circle is all worked in two strands of black floss, DMC shade 310, using back stitch. Be very accurate when working these, ensuring that your needle enters and leaves the fabric through the same hole so there are no breaks or jagged bits in your lines. My top tip is, if you think you can get away with a single stitch, then you probably need to make two!

Months

These are all worked in a SINGLE strand of black floss using back stitch. Again, accuracy is super-important, make small stitches around the curves of the letters and longer ones along the straight parts.

Centre

I have left this blank for you to personalise your finished work.

January

Stitching Notes:

DMC floss colours: 07, 310, 420, 646, 728, 3021, 3865, 4160, E168

Use two strands of floss except where otherwise stated. Where two shades are shown against a colour then work with one strand of each shade in your needle.

Owl

The eyes are vertical satin stitch with tiny horizontal stitches in 3865 worked across them to add sparkle. The spectacles are radiating straight stitch. The head and wings are split stitch. The chest is split stitch with short straight horizontal stitches in 420 worked over the top (see photo for guidance). The direction of stitching is shown by the blue arrows. The beak and tail are also satin stitch.

Branch

The branch is chain stitch. Work this first then add the claws as straight stitches over the top of the chain stitch.

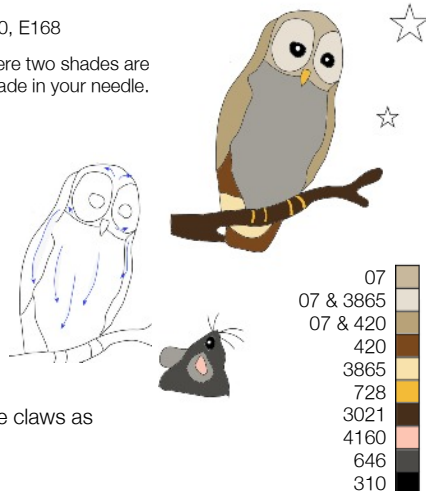
Mouse

The ears (inner and outer) are satin stitch and the body is split stitch. The whiskers are worked in a SINGLE strand of black floss.

Stars

Worked in star stitch (see stitch dictionary)

☆ Stars E168



February

Stitching Notes:

DMC floss colours: 05, 310, 470, 841, 972, 975, 3021, 3782, 3865, 4160, E168

Use two strands of floss throughout.

Lamb

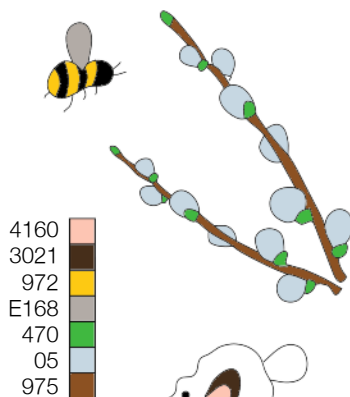
The coat is worked in 841, 3865 and 3782 in a random mixture of French knots and bullion stitch (see stitch dictionary). The pink ear lining is satin stitch and the outer ears are split stitch.

Branch

The branch is chain stitch. The bud cases are satin stitch and the fluffy pussy willow catkins are turkey knot stitch (see stitch dictionary)

Bee

The body is worked in horizontal satin stitch, the wings are vertical satin stitch and the legs and antennae are small straight stitches in 310.



March

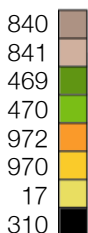
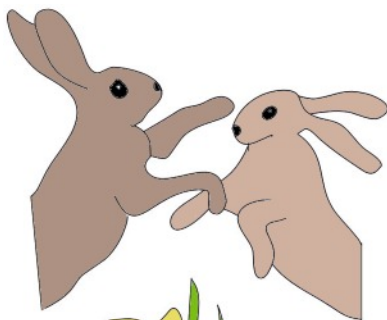
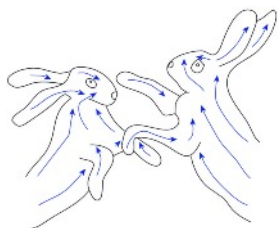
Stitching Notes:

DMC floss colours: 17, 310, 469, 470, 840, 841, 970, 972, 3021

Use two strands of floss except where otherwise stated.

Hares

These are worked in split stitch in the direction shown by the blue arrows. I used a single strand of 3021 to emphasise the crossing and shape of legs and ears. Their eyes are black satin stitch with a tiny white or 3865 stitch to add sparkle.



Daffodils

The petals are satin stitch and the trumpets are split stitch. The leaves are stem stitch.

April

Stitching Notes:

DMC floss colours: 310, 322, 349, 434, 470, 703, 553, 728, 744, 892, 3021, 3364, 3716, 4160

Use two strands of floss throughout. Where two shades are given against a single colour on the diagram use one strand of each shade in your needle.

Hen

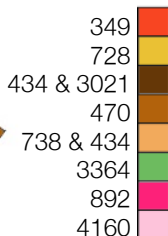
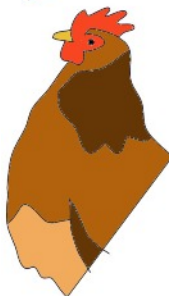
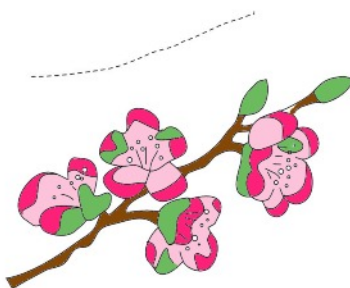
The comb and beak are satin stitch and the rest of the body is split stitch.

Blossom Branch

The branch is chain stitch and the flowers are satin stitch. There are clusters of small French knots in 744 at the centres (not shown on diagram). The buds are also satin stitch.

Bunting

The bunting consists of five flags worked in woven picot stitch (see stitch dictionary) with their bases positioned along the dotted line. They are worked in pink 3716, yellow 744, blue 322 and purple 553. The area above the bunting is filled in seed stitch using a random mix of 3716 and 3364.



Stitching Notes:

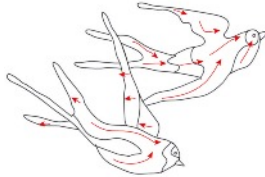
May

DMC floss colours: 319, 322, 553, 666, 819, 970, 972, 3750, 3865, 4180 and a light and dark green for the flower stems.

Use two strands of floss throughout.

Swallows

These are worked in split stitch in the direction shown by the red arrows.



Wild Flowers

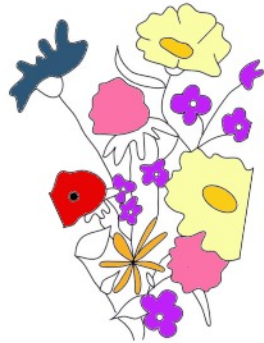
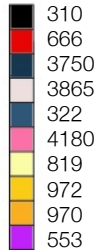
The clovers are worked in fairly densely packed detached chain stitches with the "loop" part of the stitch at the top.

The daisies are worked in radiating straight stitch with clusters of tiny (single twist) French knots at their centres.

The orange flower is long radiating chain stitches.

The purple flowers are radiating chain stitches with a tiny orange French knot at their centres.

The leaves and stems are stem stitch - use a light and dark green of your choice .



Stitching Notes:

June

DMC floss colours: 04, 310, 326, 646, 702, 744, 972, 3021, 3713, 3733, 3752, 3866

Use two strands of floss throughout. Where two shades are shown against a colour then work with one strand of each shade in your needle.

Briar or wild roses

These are worked in radiating straight stitch and the centres are clusters of French knots. Be sure to keep the straight stitches at right angles to the centres of the flowers. The leaves are worked in satin stitch at an angle to the centre vein.

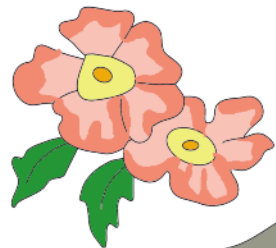
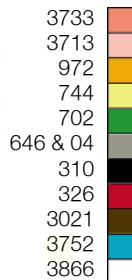
Badger

The badger is worked in split stitch apart from his white ear, eye and nose which are worked in satin stitch. The grey area of his coat is worked in one strand of 04 and one strand of 646 in your needle to give a rough tweedy effect. The direction of stitching is shown by the blue arrows.



Butterfly

The wings are worked in satin stitch, the antennae are long straight stitches and the body is turkey knot stitch (see stitch dictionary)



July

Stitching Notes:

DMC floss colours: 05, 310, 601, 666, 970, 972, 3713, 3750, 3826, 3865

Use two strands of floss throughout.

Ice Lollies

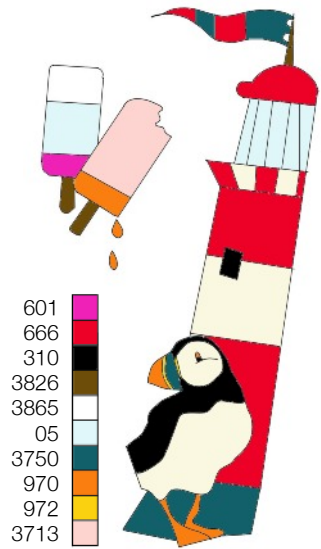
The top of the left hand lolly is worked in tiny French knots in a mixture of candy colours. The main parts of both lollies are vertical split stitch, the bottoms are horizontal satin stitch and the sticks are straight stitch.

Puffin

The puffin is worked in split stitch apart from the beak which is worked in satin stitch. The direction of stitching is shown by the blue arrows.

Lighthouse

The main part is horizontal split stitch. The window is vertical satin stitch. The lantern is rows of horizontal satin stitches divided by long straight stitches in 3865. The flag and roof are also split stitch and the flagpole long straight stitches.



August

Stitching Notes:

DMC floss colours: 581, 732, 741, 972, 975, 3021, 3826

Use two strands of floss throughout.

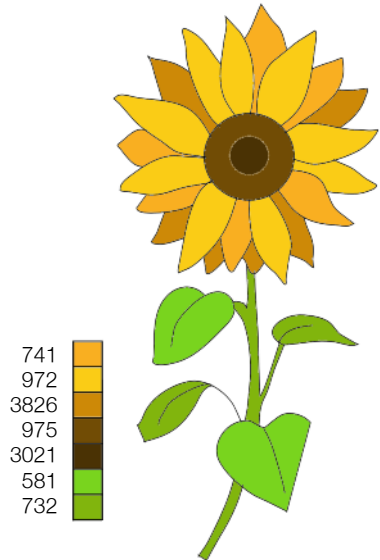
Sunflower

The petals are all worked in split stitch from their tips down towards the centre of the flower.

The centre of the flower is French knots. The middle is worked in the darker brown and the outer circle in the lighter brown with a few darker knots scattered in amongst the lighter ones.

The stem is split stitch

The petals are satin stitch worked at an angle towards the centre vein.



September

Stitching Notes:

DMC floss colours: ecru, 06, 349, 581, 733, 817, 975, 976

Use two strands of floss throughout.

Rosehip Branch

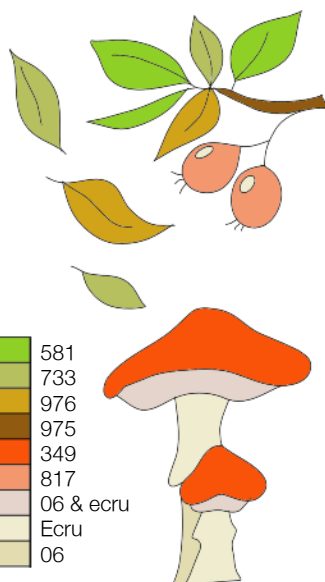
The rosehips are worked in red split stitch and the highlights are ecru satin stitch. The branch is split stitch and the three little stalks on the end of each hip are straight stitches worked in the same colour as the branch. The leaves are satin stitch worked at an angle to the centre vein.

Falling Leaves

Satin stitch worked at an angle to the centre vein.

Toadstools

The caps are split stitch and the spots are clusters of tiny (single twist) French knots worked in ecru. The gills are satin stitch and the stems are split stitch.



October

Stitching Notes:

DMC floss colours: 310, 581, 927, 970, E3821

Use two strands of floss throughout.

Moon

Satin stitch worked in the direction of the blue arrows

Pumpkin

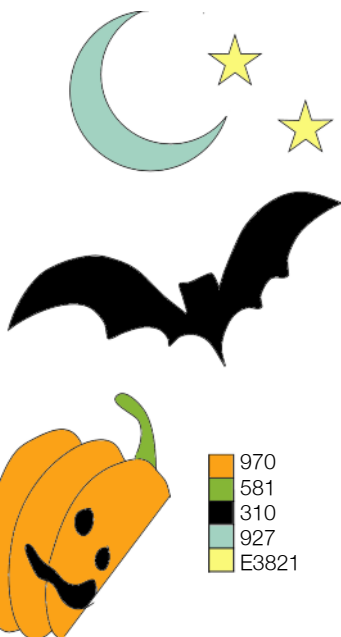
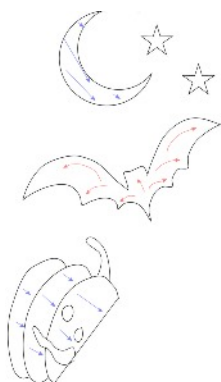
Satin stitch worked in the direction of the blue arrows. The eyes and mouth are split stitch

Bat

The bat is worked in split stitch in the direction of the red arrows.

Stars

The stars are worked in star stitch (see stitch dictionary)



November

Stitching Notes:

DMC floss colours: ecru, 06, 03, 310, 3826, 3865

Use two strands of floss throughout.

Geese

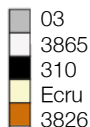
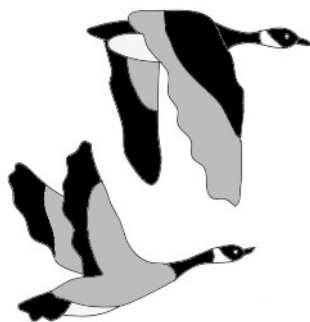
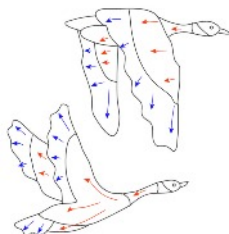
The geese are worked in split stitch. The direction of stitching is shown by the red arrows on the diagram to the left.

Their eyes are tiny French knots.

The black wing and tail feathers are worked in detached chain stitch. The blue lines on the image to the left show the angle at which to work your stitches and NOT the number of stitches to work.

Fox

The fox is worked in split stitch. The direction of stitching is shown by the red arrows.



December

Stitching Notes:

DMC floss colours: 570, 666, 827, 935, 3845, E168, E3821

Use two strands of floss except where otherwise stated.

Spruce

Worked in fly stitch.

Mistletoe

Leaves and berries are all satin stitch.

Baubles

Bauble A is horizontal stripes of 987, 666 and E3821

Bauble B is diagonal stripes of the same

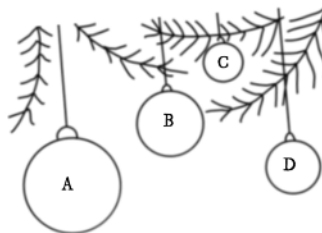
Bauble C is half 666 and half E3821

Bauble D is horizontal stripes of 987, 666 and E3821

The strings are single long stitches of 3845 couched with a single strand of E168.

Snow

Satin stitch 827



Further Information

You will find extra resources and information over on the Bustle & Sew website:

<https://bustleandsew.com/wheel-of-the-year-resources/>

These include:

Stitch Dictionary

Almanac of the Year

Explanation of each design

Lots more detailed close up photos of my wheel of the year, both in progress and completed.

If you have any queries or concerns about working this design, or would like to send me a photo of your finished project, then please do email me:

helen@bustleandsew.com



I do hope you enjoy working your Wheel of the Year project. If you'd like to learn more about Bustle & Sew, then please do visit the Bustle & Sew website.

<https://bustleandsew.com>

You can keep up to date with all the goings-on at Bustle & Sew HQ on my blog, or why not try the Bustle & Sew Magazine? There's no advertising whatsoever, just lots of lovely pages of content celebrating life here in the English countryside - with sewing very much at its heart of course.



I also include lots of other articles and features – seasonal recipes, nature notes, craft ideas, poetry corner and much more besides that combine to make this a totally unique publication!

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Very best wishes

Helen

