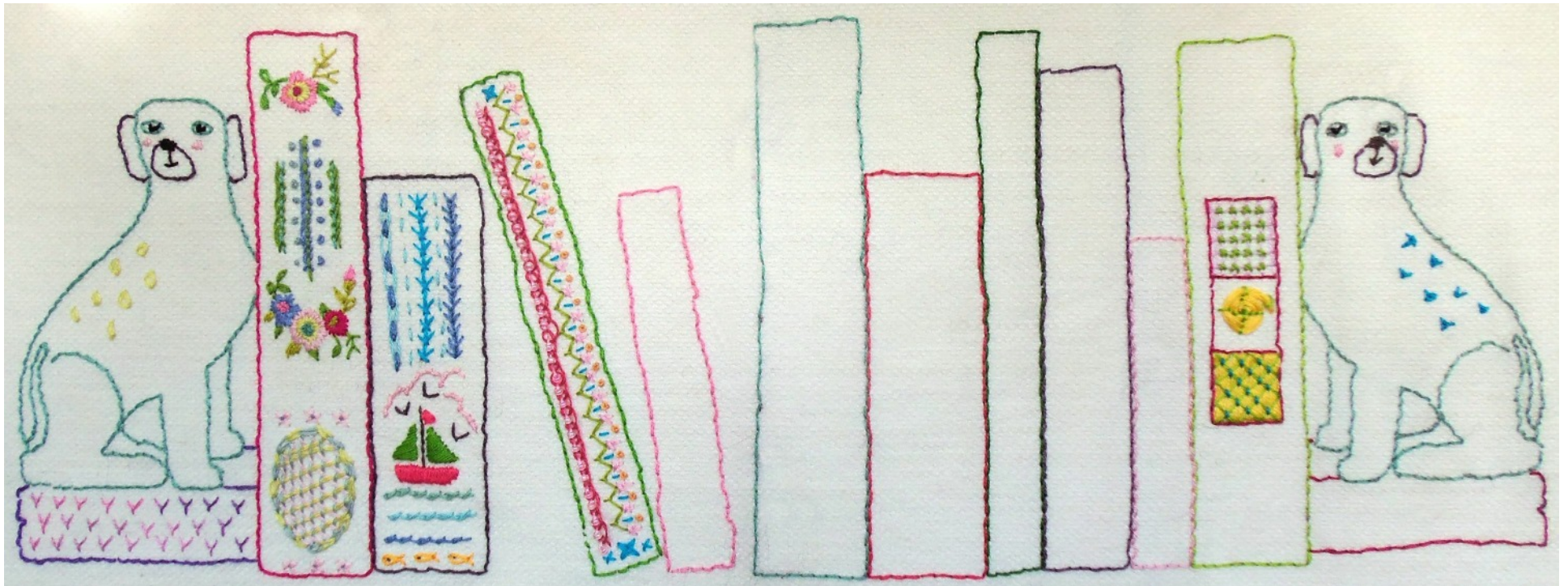




# Bustle & Sew Spring Stitchalong 2015

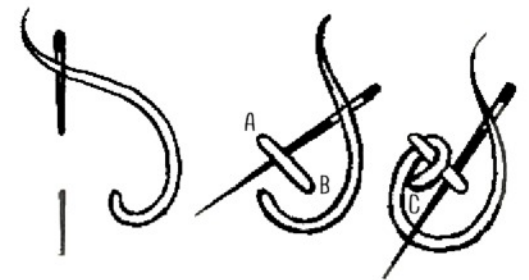
## A Library of Stitches



This week brought a slight change of plan. Rather than continuing to work along my row of books from left to right, I backstitched around all the books and also completed the second dog - although not the cushion/stand it's sitting on. This was because my Sulky Sticky Fabri Solvy was beginning to curl up at the edges and becoming a magnet for dog hair - of the blackest and fluffiest kind - and it was DRIVING ME MAD!! (Sorry).

The second dog is not exactly the same as the first, but is similar enough to show that they are indeed a pair. I worked the outline of the body, muzzle, ears and nose in the same colours as the first dog. Then, keeping the spots in the same positions as before I worked them in a bright blue using Danish knots.

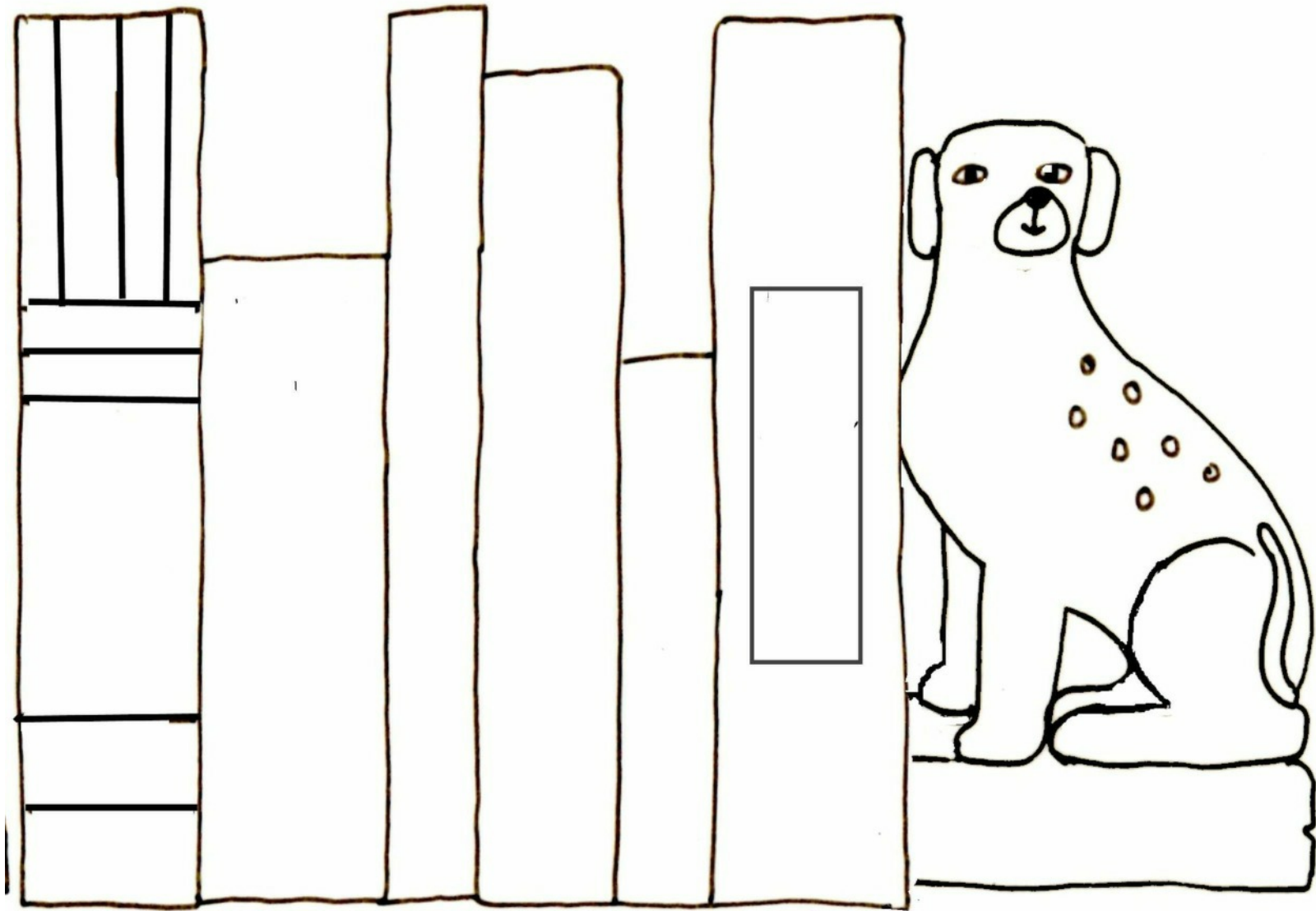
I backstitched the cushion/stand in a different colour to the first - but still a warm colour to contrast with the cool sea green of the dog. I haven't decided on a filling stitch yet, so have left it empty for now.



To work a Danish knot come out at A and make a short diagonal stitch down to B. Bring your needle out again at C and slide it under the diagonal stitch (without re-entering the fabric) from right to left.

Now take your needle across to the right of the knot and pass it under the diagonal stitch in the same way for a second time.

Re-insert into the fabric at C to complete the knot.







Once I'd done all the back stitching and the Danish knots I didn't have time to complete another book this week. So I decided instead to complete the rectangle shape on the last book (see previous page for template). I divided it into three roughly equal parts and worked three different laid and couched stitches.

The top section is a simple couched filling stitch. I made a foundation grid of long, evenly spaced, horizontal straight stitches and then overlaid them with long vertical stitches. Then I worked a simple cross stitch over each intersection of the straight stitches.

The middle section contains an example of spiral couching.

To do this you mark a circle on your fabric (I used a temporary marker pen) and bring your couching thread (the green) up just above the centre. Fold the laid (yellow) thread in half - I used all six strands, pass your needle through the loop and insert again to make a tiny couching stitch. Curve the laid thread to the right and make another couching stitch at 95 degrees. This is the trickiest stitch - or at least I found it so - to get my circle started. Then you just continue going around making a couching stitch at every quarter circle. Once you get to the top again, simply keep going in a spiral, spacing your stitches further apart as your circle increases in diameter. Take the ends of both threads through to the back to finish.

The final section was my absolute favourite - I loved the luxurious look and feel - and after all it should be luxurious as it uses quite a lot of thread! It is simply satin stitch overlaid with a trellis of couched straight stitches.

Work your satin stitch first, being careful to cover the whole surface of the fabric. Then with a second colour - I used green, work a lattice of evenly spaced long straight stitches across your satin stitch. Finally work short stitches over the intersection of the lattice stitches in a third colour - I used blue.

