



# Newsletter of the Blue Ribbon Chapter

American Needlepoint Guild, Inc.

Volume 8, Issue 10

October 1, 2024

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## Calendar

Saturday, October 5  
1:00 - 3:00 pm

**Stitch-In-Public – Cedar Rapids Public Library, 450 Fifth Avenue SE, Cedar Rapids**

Saturday, October 12  
1:00 - 1:30 pm  
1:30 - 2:00 pm  
2:00 - 4:00 pm

**Monthly meeting – North Liberty Library and Skype**  
Social/stitching time; log in to Skype  
Chapter business meeting  
Study topic – Chicken Scratch

Tuesday, October 22  
12:00 – 1:30 pm

**Lunch at Granite City, 4755 1st Ave SE, Cedar Rapids**

Saturday, November 2  
1:00 - 3:00 pm

**Stitch-In-Public – Cedar Rapids Public Library, 450 Fifth Avenue SE, Cedar Rapids**

Tuesday, November 12  
5:30 - 7:00 pm  
7:00 - 7:30 pm  
7:30 - 8:30 pm

**Monthly meeting – Knights of Columbus and Skype**  
Log in to Skype (6:00 pm); social/stitching time  
Chapter business meeting  
Study topic – Hardanger Star

Tuesday, November 26  
12:00 – 1:30 pm

**Lunch at Granite City, 4755 1st Ave SE, Cedar Rapids**

Saturday, December 7  
1:00 - 3:00 pm

**Stitch-In-Public – Cedar Rapids Public Library, 450 Fifth Avenue SE, Cedar Rapids**

Tuesday, December 10  
6:00 - 6:45 pm  
6:45 - 7:15 pm  
7:15 - 8:15 pm

**Monthly meeting – Skype**  
Log in to Skype (6:00 pm); social/stitching time  
Board and business meetings  
Study topic – Tips and Techniques – online lecture by Sue Reed

Saturday, January 4  
1:00 - 3:00 pm

**Stitch-In-Public – Cedar Rapids Public Library, 450 Fifth Avenue SE, Cedar Rapids**

Tuesday, January 14  
6:00 - 7:00 pm  
7:00 - 7:15 pm  
7:15 - 8:15 pm

**Monthly meeting – Skype**  
Log in to Skype (6:00 pm); social/stitching time  
Business meeting  
Study topic – Hapsburg Lace Needle Book

Visit the Blue Ribbon Chapter website at <https://www.blueribbonang.com>

Facebook page – <https://www.facebook.com/Blue-Ribbon-ANG-102362961642607>



## Blue Ribbon ANG Chapter Meeting Minutes, September 17, 2024

- President Heidi Parker called the board meeting to order on Skype and in person at 6:45pm
  - Board Members Present:
    - Robin Rossignol, Jamee Klein, Cindy Baldwin, Heidi Parker, Shanel Slater, Connie Rosene
  - Board reports
    - Cindy will review options for virtual meeting other than Skype.
    - Heidi sought volunteers for audit for the next meeting—Cindy and Robin will assist.
  - Board meeting adjourned at 6:58
  
- President Heidi Parker called the business meeting to order at 6:59pm:
  - Members present:
    - Cindy Baldwin, Robin Rossignol, Jamee Klein, Heidi Parker, Shanel Slater, Connie Rosene, Jamie Randall, Joyce Pencook, Ruth Topp, Kareen Strumpel
  - Reports
    - Secretary: Minutes from August archived as published
    - Membership: Elizabeth (Beth) joined after half year mark, paid pro-rated dues.
    - Treasurer's Report: Balance at the end of August was \$1,405.51. Knights of Columbus meeting hall fees paid in August and membership fee from Beth paid.
  - Announcements
    - Stitch in Publics
      - CRPL: Next stitch in public October 5th
        - Shanel will investigate alternate locations in Cedar Rapids—will reach out to membership to seek input on options for after October.
  
- Old Business
  - Sue Reed needlepoint program: Contracts are being signed and moving forward.
    - Program will be virtual in December.
    - Tips and Tricks pdf will be available for members after the class.
    - Chapter is considering a doing a lecture each year during our winter online meetings.
    - Ideas included: Toni Gerdes embellishment, Debbie Rowley colorways.
    - A reminder that the Sue Reed handouts and the class will be for members only.

The Blue Ribbon Chapter of American Needlepoint Guild, Inc. (ANG), invites interested individuals, regardless of expertise, into membership. Dues are \$20 per year payable to the Chapter. You must be a current ANG member to belong to the Chapter. ANG membership information can be found at <http://www.needlepoint.org/membership.php>.

Guests and visitors are welcomed.

Meetings are held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every month (except May, July, and October) starting with a social time at 5:30 pm, with the formal meeting starting at 7:00 pm. These meetings are held at the Knights of Columbus, 1620 E Avenue NE, Cedar Rapids, IA and on Skype. Meetings in December, January, and February will be held on Skype only, starting with Skype login/social time at 6:30 pm, with the formal meeting starting at 7:00 pm.

Meetings in May, July, and October are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month starting with social time at 1:00 pm and the formal meeting beginning at 1:30 pm. The Saturday meetings are held at the North Liberty Public Library, 520 W. Cherry St, North Liberty, IA and on Skype.

Board meetings will be held in September, December, March, and June.

The Blue Ribbon ANG Newsletter is published monthly. Deadline for submission of items is the 20<sup>th</sup> day of each month.

Newsletter Editor: Cindy Baldwin [cbaldwin1828@gmail.com](mailto:cbaldwin1828@gmail.com)

### 2024-2025 Officers

Past President Robin Rossignol ([robin-ann-rossignol@uiowa.edu](mailto:robin-ann-rossignol@uiowa.edu))

President Heidi Parker ([handparker@gmail.com](mailto:handparker@gmail.com))

President Elect Cindy Baldwin ([cbaldwin1828@gmail.com](mailto:cbaldwin1828@gmail.com))

VP-Membership Connie Rosene ([connie.rosen89@gmail.com](mailto:connie.rosen89@gmail.com))

Secretary Shanel Slater ([shanel.slater@gmail.com](mailto:shanel.slater@gmail.com))

Treasurer Jamee Klein ([jameek34@gmail.com](mailto:jameek34@gmail.com))

Chapter website: <https://www.blueribbonang.com/>

**Blue Ribbon ANG Chapter Meeting Minutes, September 17, 2024 (continued)**

- New Business
  - Keeping in mind anniversary of signing of Declaration of Independence will be in two years, our Chapter can consider joining community events.
  - October 12th meeting at North Liberty Community Library will have a chicken scratch program—\$5 for materials. Bring a 6” or 8” hoop, 24 or 26 needle, normal stitching.
  - February is National Embroidery Month
    - CRPL interested in class—Shanel will get more info by October.
    - Coralville exhibit, classes, demonstrating on Saturdays in February an option.

Since there was no other chapter business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:28pm.

Program: There was a program for Hardanger Stars and the State Fair.

The next meeting will be held on Saturday, October 12th at the North Liberty Community Library and on Skype.

Respectfully submitted,  
Shanel Wermerskirchen Slater

**Announcements**

- Future Study Topics
  - September – Hardanger Star and State Fair recap
  - October and November – Chicken Scratch.
  - December - Sue Reed Program

**Show & Tell**

- Becky is working on a cross-stitch piece designed by Fiberworks' Karol's daughter.

Meeting Adjourned.

**Nametag**

Please remember to wear your nametags at meetings and when we are stitching in public.

**Blue Ribbon ANG Website**

Our website (<https://www.blueribbonang.com/>) has a Members Only page. When you go to the website, you'll see a Log In button to the right of ANG. Click on that and follow the instructions. Cindy Baldwin must approve access. Once you are approved, the last page on the website is Members. Click on that to add information about yourself.

Hover over Members and you'll see Files. You'll see several folders, including Study Topics. Patterns and information for past study topics are saved here. Anyone can create folders and add files. If you have questions, ask Cindy.

**October Study Topic – Chicken Scratch**

Bring a 6-8” hoop; 26 needle is recommended. All fabric and thread will be provided. \$5 per kit. Kit will include gingham, pearl cotton, and overdyed floss. If you want a kit, please contact Robin ASAP to choose your colors.

Chicken scratch is having a moment –

- Chicken scratch - <https://mailchi.mp/suespargo/creative-classroom-chicken-scratch-embroidery>
- Chicken Scratch Embroidery 101: My Preferred Gingham Fabric <https://wisecraftshandmade.com/chicken-scratch-embroidery-101-my-preferred-gingham-fabric/>
- Chicken Scratch Embroidery 101: My Favorite Thread <https://wisecraftshandmade.com/chicken-scratch-101-favorite-thread/>
- How To Embroider on Gingham – Chicken Scratch Tutorial <https://www.needlenthread.com/2014/04/how-to-embroider-on-gingham-chicken-scratch-tutorial.html>
- Revisiting Gingham Embroidery or Chicken Scratch <https://www.needlenthread.com/2022/06/revisiting-gingham-embroidery-or-chicken-scratch.html>



- Chicken Scratch / Gingham Embroidery Index – & some history <https://www.needlenthread.com/2014/04/chicken-scratch-ingham-embroidery-index.html>

## Future Study Topics

- November – Hardanger Star
- December – Tips and Tricks. Virtual lecture by Sue Reed. A potpourri of various things Sue has learned and picked up over the years from basic information along with tips. A visual pdf will be shared on screen during the lecture. The visual pdf covers stretcher bars, ways to end short threads, laying plies of thread, starting and stopping threads, correct angle of needle for basketweave, stitching directions for best pull of threads, etc. This pdf and another will be provided to members after the meeting. The other pdf is text only and covers everything from needles, canvas warp vs weft, useful gadgets, beading, and random thoughts.
- January, February, April – Hapsburg Lace Needle Case by Tanja Berlin. Purchase the **Instructions** at Berlin Embroidery Designs (<https://berlinembroidery.com/product/hapsburg-lace-needle-case-kit/>). The pdf pattern is \$20.04 USD. A second pdf is included that explains how to assemble the needle case. Materials needed for the project include 18-count canvas, perle cotton, felt, and ribbon. Beads are optional.

This is beginner needlepoint design, but a fair amount of stitching is required. We will put the needle books together at the April meeting, so please plan your stitching accordingly.



## Blogs

- Needlepoint Gift Ideas You Can Finish Yourself! <https://needlepoint.com/blogs/needlepoint-know-how/needlepoint-gift-ideas-you-can-finish-yourself>

## Podcasts and Videos

- Thread Talks - Single Strand vs. Pliable Thread <https://needlepoint.com/blogs/needlepoint-know-how/thread-talks-single-strand-vs-pliable-thread> Also see How Many Strands Should I Use? <https://needlepoint.com/pages/tips-tricks> This page is worth bookmarking. It tells you how many strands or plies to use of specific brands of threads on 18- and 13-count canvas. From the page: "Strand: The whole piece of thread as cut from the skein. Ply: A separate unit of a strand. Some strands are meant to be plied, others are not."
- How Needlepoint Designs are Painted. Megan chats with Heidi Henrichs of NDLPT Paints from the Philippines. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PHSUyDk0tyc>
- Fiber Talk live showcasing Blue Ribbon chapter's state fair entries:
  - o Fiber Talk Stitch Hour, 8-21-24, Robin Rossignol and Cindy Baldwin <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VNHGdwHu5mQ&t=1s>
  - o Fiber Talk Stitch Hour, 9-18-24, Jamie Randall <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xhgg4laGI68>
  - o Fiber Talk Stitch Hour, 10-2-24 will be Ruth Topp

## Interesting Needlework and Related Info on the Internet

- Capturing the Elusive White-bearded Antshrike—in Thread <https://www.audubon.org/magazine/capturing-elusive-white-bearded-antshrike-thread>
- Hiné Mizushima Felts Whimsical Sea Creatures Adorned with Beads and Crocheted Detail <https://www.thiscolossal.com/2024/09/hine-mizushima-marine-sculptures/>
- The Truth About Copying <https://www.abigailcecile.com/blogs/how-to-guides/my-personal-views-on-copying-and-imitation>

## Upcoming Retreats/Seminars

This is not a comprehensive list, just the ones I've run across or are on mailing lists for. If you run across something else, send me the info and I'll put it in the newsletter.

- **New** KC Needlepoint Artist Weekend - April 25-27, 2025 <https://www.kcneedlepoint.com/products/kc-needlepoint-artist-weekend-april-25-27-2025>
- National Academy of Needlearts 2025 Exemplary <https://needleart.org/assembly/>

- Stitching Fox Needlepoint <https://www.stitchingfox.com/collections/events>
- Needlepoint is Cool, weekend retreats in Chicago <https://www.needlepointiscool.com/>
- New Jersey Needlefest 2024 <https://www.needleworkwithjim.com/NJNEEDLEFEST.html>
- Christmas in Williamsburg 2024 <https://www.needleworkwithjim.com/ChristmasinWilliamsburg.html>
- 2025 Needlefest PA Summer Getaway <https://www.needleworkwithjim.com/NeedleFestPASummerGetaway.html>
- Stitching and Needlework Events <https://www.facebook.com/groups/748907069549635/>
- Needlework Faire 2025 <https://egausa.org/event/ega-national-seminar-2025/> EGA's National Seminar

## Needlework Holidays

- September is National Needlepoint Month.
- July 25<sup>th</sup> is National Thread the Needle Day.
- July 30<sup>th</sup> is World Embroidery Day.
- August 8<sup>th</sup> is World Cross Stitch Day.
- Stitch in Public day (Feb 1<sup>st</sup>) and the entire month of February is National Embroidery Month.

## Editor's Note

Items included in the newsletter are ones that catch my attention in which I think the membership might be interested. I'm also happy to include news items or suggestions you send me, so please feel free to send things to me for inclusion in the next newsletter.

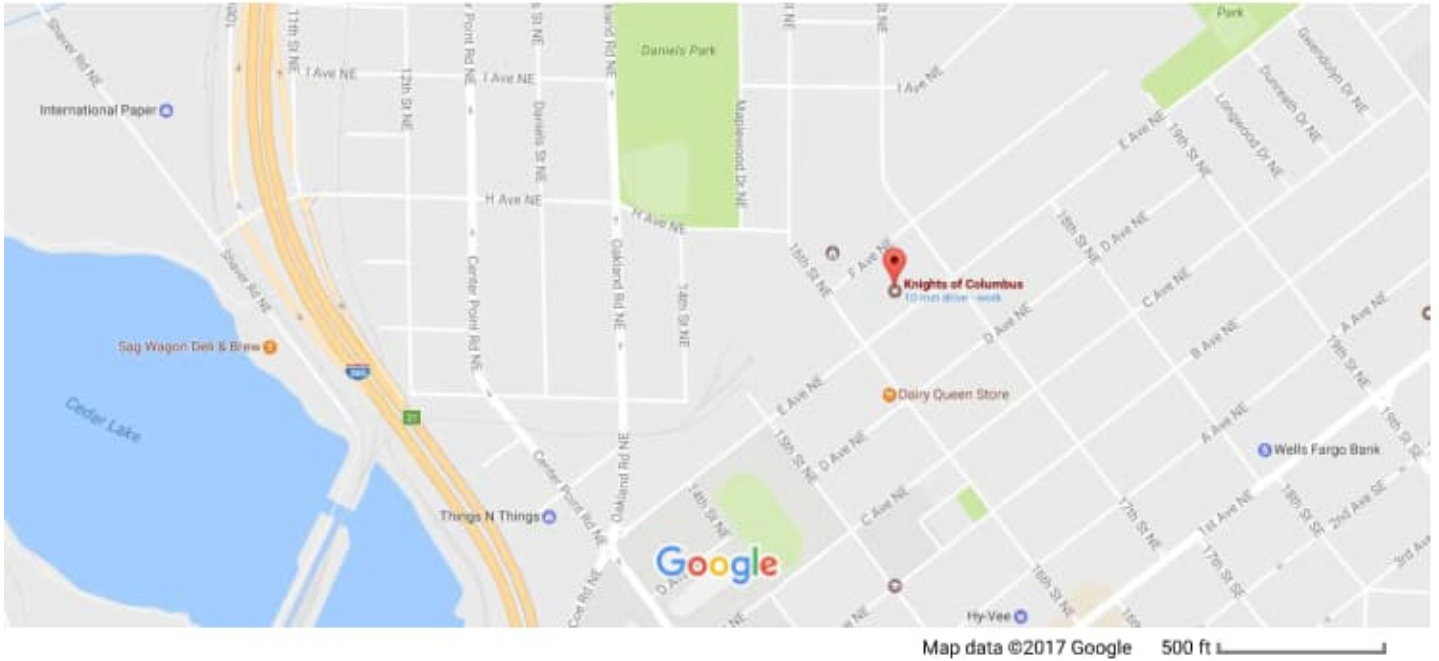
Cindy



### Directions to Knights of Columbus Hall

1620 E Avenue NE, Cedar Rapids, IA

From I380, take the H Avenue exit. Turn onto H Ave NE. Turn right onto 16<sup>th</sup> St NE. Turn left onto E Ave NE. The Knights of Columbus Hall is on the left.



### Directions to North Liberty Public Library

520 W. Cherry St, North Liberty, IA

From I380, take the Penn St exit. Go east on Penn St. Turn right on Highway 965 NE. Turn left on Cherry St. The library entrance is on the west side of the building.



BOO 2 HOPE! ©



2 spook-tacular counted needlepoint ornaments  
stitched entirely with glass beads

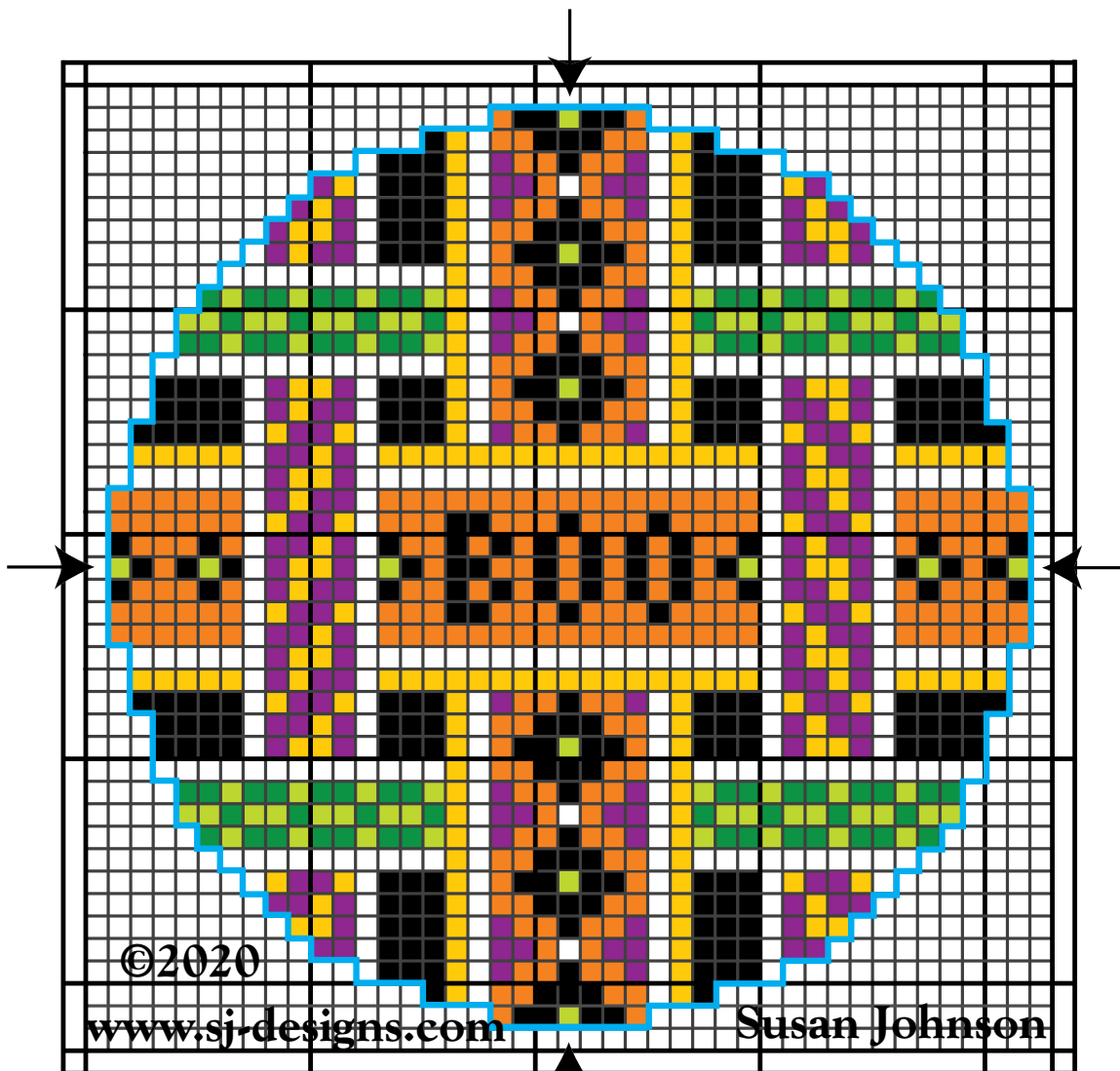
designed by Susan Johnson

BOO 2 HOPE!

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page 1

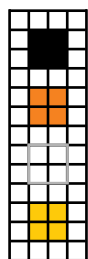
# BOO 2 HOU! ©



♥ stitch count 41 x 41 ♥

♥ finished size 3-3/8" ♥

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#02M BLACK

#19 ORANGE

#53 WHITE OPAL

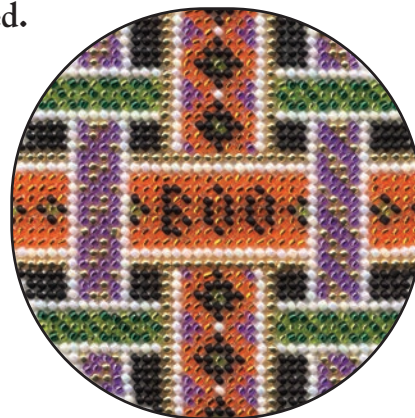
#58 GOLD PLATED



#60 EMERALD

#80 PURPLE

#112 LIME

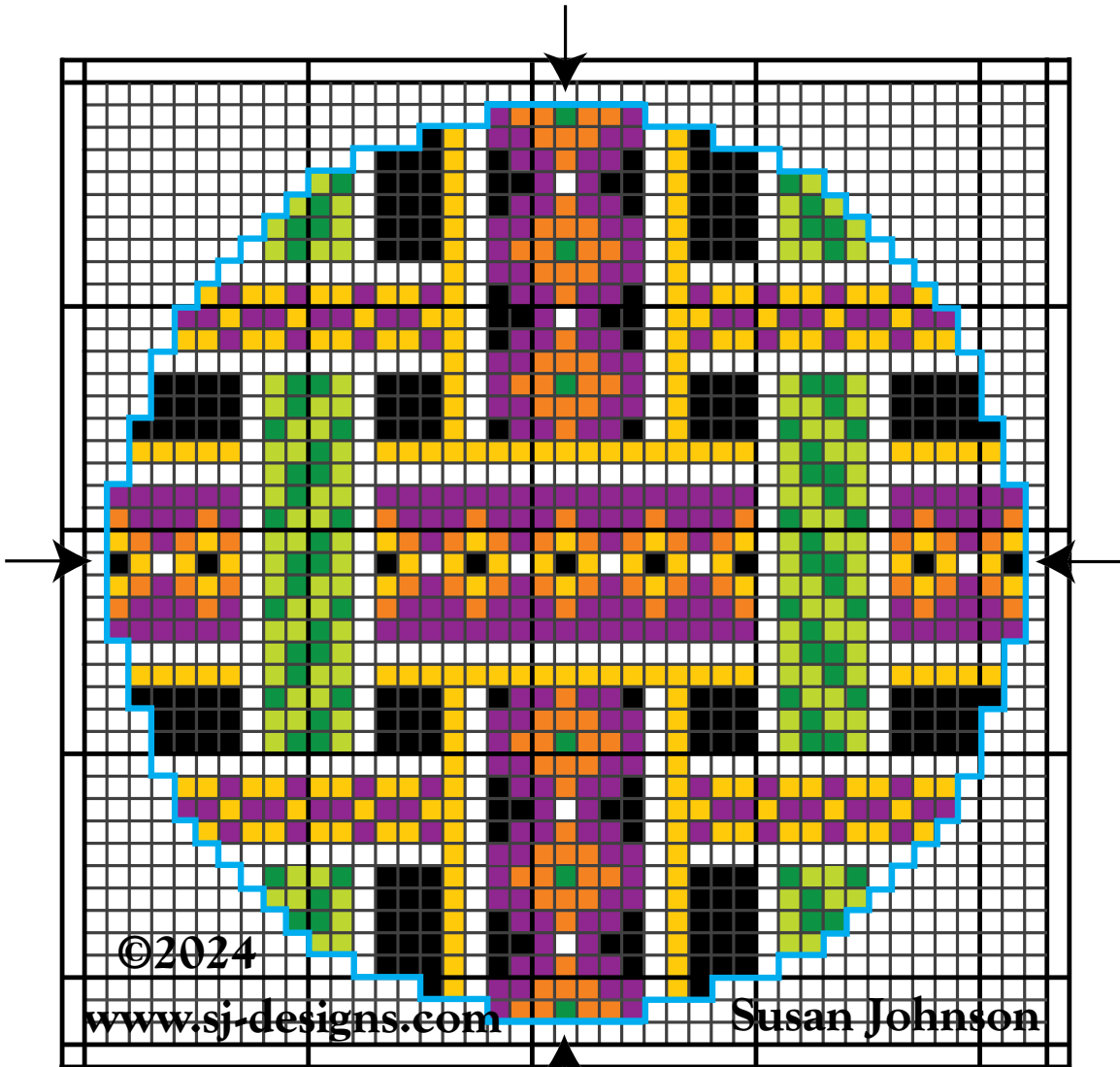


The blue outline is NOT stitched, it simply indicates where the white background stitches end.

BOO 2 HOU!



# BOO 2 HOPE 2! ©



♥ stitch count 41 x 41 ♥

♥ finished size 3-3/8" ♥

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	#02M BLACK
	#19 ORANGE
	#53 WHITE OPAL
	#58 GOLD PLATED

	#60 EMERALD
	#80 PURPLE
	#112 LIME

*The blue outline is NOT stitched, it simply indicates where the white background stitches end.*

# Working with Beads

You've very likely used beads as glittering accents on your needlework, but may never have worked solidly stitched designs like this ornament. The techniques I'll describe apply to converting most charts to beaded needlepoint.

To use a bead in place of yarn or thread for individual stitches, you'll need to match the bead size to the count of your canvas. For these ornaments, you'll use a special #12/24 double mesh or penelope canvas with size 11/0 glass and gold-plated glass seed beads. Use 2-ply (2 individual strands) of embroidery floss or a doubled strand of beading thread for *Holiday Hearts*. 18" to 24" is a good working length of thread.

One delightful aspect of solidly beaded needlepoint is how quickly it works up— you don't need to change thread colors or do that time-consuming double-lock stitch over each bead (*see page 5 for more bead techniques*). Working on double mesh canvas produces a very stable yet flexible beaded fabric.

This ornament has a **stitch count of 41 x 41** for a finished size of about 3-3/8" across on #12/24 canvas. The pattern could be "squared off" for a larger, square shaped ornament, although you'll need additional beads.

## Materials List

\*SJ Designs 11/0 glass seed beads in the following colors:

*One package of 500 beads of each color is more than enough for one ornament. "S/L" beads are transparent with a silver lining that creates a glittery effect; White Opal has an iridescent finish over a solid white bead.*

#02M Black Matte (approximately 175 beads)

#19 Orange S/L (approximately 325 beads)

#53 White Opal (approximately 275 beads)

#58 Gold Plated (approximately 180 beads)

#60 Emerald S/L (approximately 100 beads)

#80 Purple S/L (approximately 175 beads)

#112 Lime S/L (approximately 100 beads)

\*Zweigart #12/24 White Double Mesh needlepoint canvas, cut 6" x 6" for a single ornament, or 12" x 12" for 4 ornaments (*divide canvas by basting the canvas into 6" x 6" squares and center one ornament in each square*).

#12 mono or interlock can be used instead of double mesh, see page 5 for instructions on working with beads on this type of canvas.

\*#26 or #28 Tapestry needles (*have a few on hand, I find that beaded needlepoint is hard on needles!*)

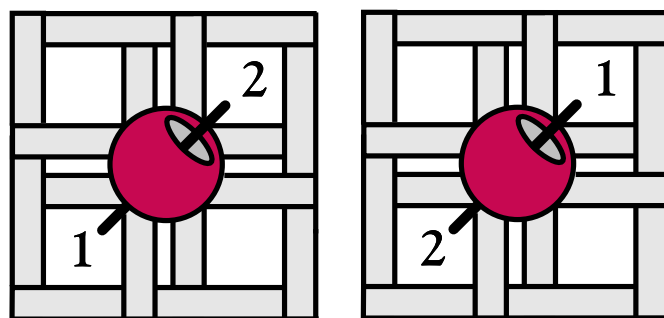
\* White DMC 6-ply Embroidery Floss (1 skein is enough for 2 ornaments) or clear beading thread (about 20-25 yards per ornament). *If you decide to add 2 rows of plain Cross or Tent stitch around the beaded pattern for finishing, you'll need about 1/2 skein floss per ornament (check with your finisher). If using floss, it's best to match it to the color of your canvas.*

\* Stretcher bars, 6" x 6" for a single ornament, or 12" x 12" for 4 ornaments (*divide the canvas into four squares and center one ornament in each*).



A Tent stitch (Continental or Half-Cross) attaches each bead. can be used for large areas but is not really applicable to these patterns. Seed beads are not perfectly round and appear slanted when stitched in place; it doesn't matter which way your stitch slants (the bead will appear to slant the opposite direction) but it's crucial to be consistent. Keep that in mind if you turn the canvas.

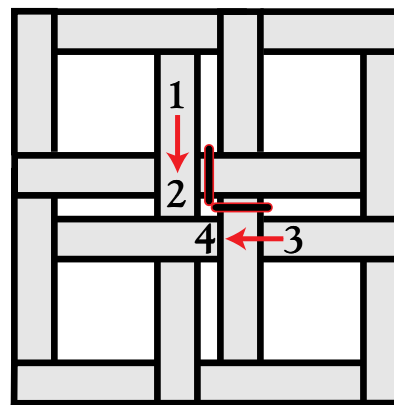
Each stitch uses a single bead, so you'll pick up a bead in the color to be used for that stitch (you don't thread all the beads onto the thread at once as in bead crochet). Each colored square on the chart represents a single bead stitch– don't let the graph lines confuse you, they don't represent canvas threads.



Use “waste” or “away” knots; it's difficult to attach the first few beads securely while trying to hold the thread in place to stitch over it! Once you reach the knot, cut it off if the thread is securely anchored, or rethread the floss and end off as usual. You can also begin your thread by weaving it through the back of a solidly worked section.

Here's a thread anchoring trick I use for additional security, illustrated at right:

Begin a new length of thread with an away or waste knot. At the canvas intersection where the bead will go, take 2 tiny stitches splitting the canvas thread cluster. Pick up a bead, then stitch over the intersection– the little stitches will be completely hidden and your thread will not come loose.



To end off a working thread, run it through the back of a stitched area, then take a backstitch and run through several more stitches. This creates a securely anchored thread that's unlikely to come loose.

You can begin stitching at any point on the chart that makes it easy for you to count the pattern. You can work horizontal rows across, changing bead colors as required. I tend to follow the shape of each “ribbon” working motifs and then filling in the background.

There's no “one correct way” to work, and you may find yourself using different methods for different patterns (or even within the same pattern). Begin at the center of the pattern, or count out to a different spot. It is easiest to work with the thread coming up in an empty canvas hole whenever possible. I prefer to work the ornaments from the bottom up since I work my tent stitches as shown in the second diagram.

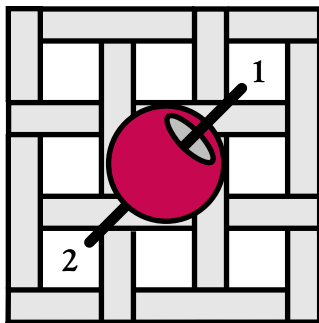
# Beyond the Basics *beading tips for future projects*

Size 11/0 seed beads fit perfectly on #12 mesh (12 stitches to the inch) canvas over a single intersection and on #24 mesh canvas or 25-count linen worked over 2 intersections (often referred to as “2 x 2”, or 2 threads high by 2 threads wide. 2-ply floss or specialty beading thread is used to stitch the beads in place. Size 14/0 or 15/0 seed beads fit on #18 mesh (18 stitches to the inch) canvas over a single intersection and on 36-40 count linen worked over 4 intersections. 1- or 2-ply floss or specialty beading thread can be used.

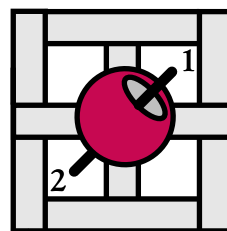
Clear beading thread is an excellent choice and necessary with transparent beads (“smoke” beading thread is best on dark colors of canvas). Opaque colors and beads with a silver-lined hole are solid enough that the thread color won’t show through. When using floss, match the working thread to the color of your canvas or fabric; it’s much less obvious (and much less work) than matching thread to each bead color.

Working over 4 intersections generally produces a very stable bead. Beads worked over a single intersection may be loose, so taking a second stitch that splits the working thread around the bead will lock it into place. Attach the bead with a Tent or Half-Cross stitch, then bring the needle back up in the same hole as the first stitch, then separate the doubled working thread so that one thread lies on either side of the bead.

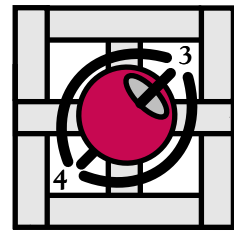
And a final tip– if you discover that you’ve used the wrong color bead and it’s too late to rip out, a small needle nose pliers is your new best friend. Insert a needle into the bead (so you don’t cut the thread) and break the bead with the pliers. Be sure to wear eye protection! Then, stitch over the thread with the correct color bead. It’s not something to use for a large area, but can be the perfect solution for a single wayward bead or two.



over 4 intersections  
(2 threads high by 2 wide)



over 1 intersection  
Step 1



over 1 intersection  
Step 2

Example below shows beading over 4 intersections on #24 Congress Cloth using 11/0 beads; background is left unworked.

