



The kitchen garden

Stitch this elegant sampler for anyone who is most at home pottering around the garden, or to add a taste of the good life to your own home

About the design

From beehives to bird feathers and packets of peas, you'll find this beautiful sampler has all of the best things in life included in its motifs – if you think the best thing in life is living the good life, that is! More and more of us are starting to grow our own fruits and vegetables, or keep bees or hens in the garden to ensure a constant supply of fresh eggs and honey, direct to the kitchen table. In these frugal times when we're all trying to tighten our belts a little, it's even more rewarding to stroll through the garden, picking peas straight from the pod or plucking fresh herbs from their beds. You can't put a price on these simple pleasures; bright greens and zingy oranges give this detailed sampler a fresh, uplifting feel. Stitch the design to celebrate the bounty of nature's larder, or work the individual motifs as small pictures and cards to send to garden-loving friends.

You will need

FABRIC Anchor 16-count white aida measuring 56 x 43cm (22 x 17in)

THREADS Stranded cotton as listed in the key

NEEDLE Size 26 tapestry needle

FRAME Frame of choice with a minimum aperture of 46 x 34cm (18 x 13½in)

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Stitcher's guide

This exclusive design is worked on Anchor 16-count white aida, using 27 different shades of Anchor stranded cotton. The sampler uses cross stitch in two strands and half cross stitch in both one and two strands of thread. Detail is added using backstitch in one strand of thread in six different shades, plus French knots in two strands of thread. This design is recommended for intermediate stitchers.

How to stitch the kitchen garden sampler

- Find the centre of your fabric by folding it in half both horizontally and vertically. Follow the arrows on the chart to find its centre and start stitching from here, working your way outwards.
- Work the cross stitch using two strands of cotton.
- Work the half cross stitch using one or two strands of cotton.
- Work the backstitch using one strand of cotton. Six different shades are used, so check the key carefully to see which you need.
- Add the French knots using two strands of cotton.
- Check over your stitching and prepare for making up.

Working the backstitch

You won't find any fractional stitches in this project. Instead, the detail is created using backstitch, some of which does pierce the aida blocks, such as in the movement lines around the bees. Make sure you use a sharp needle, such as a crewel embroidery needle, for this detail, and place the stitches as accurately as you can.

stitch tip

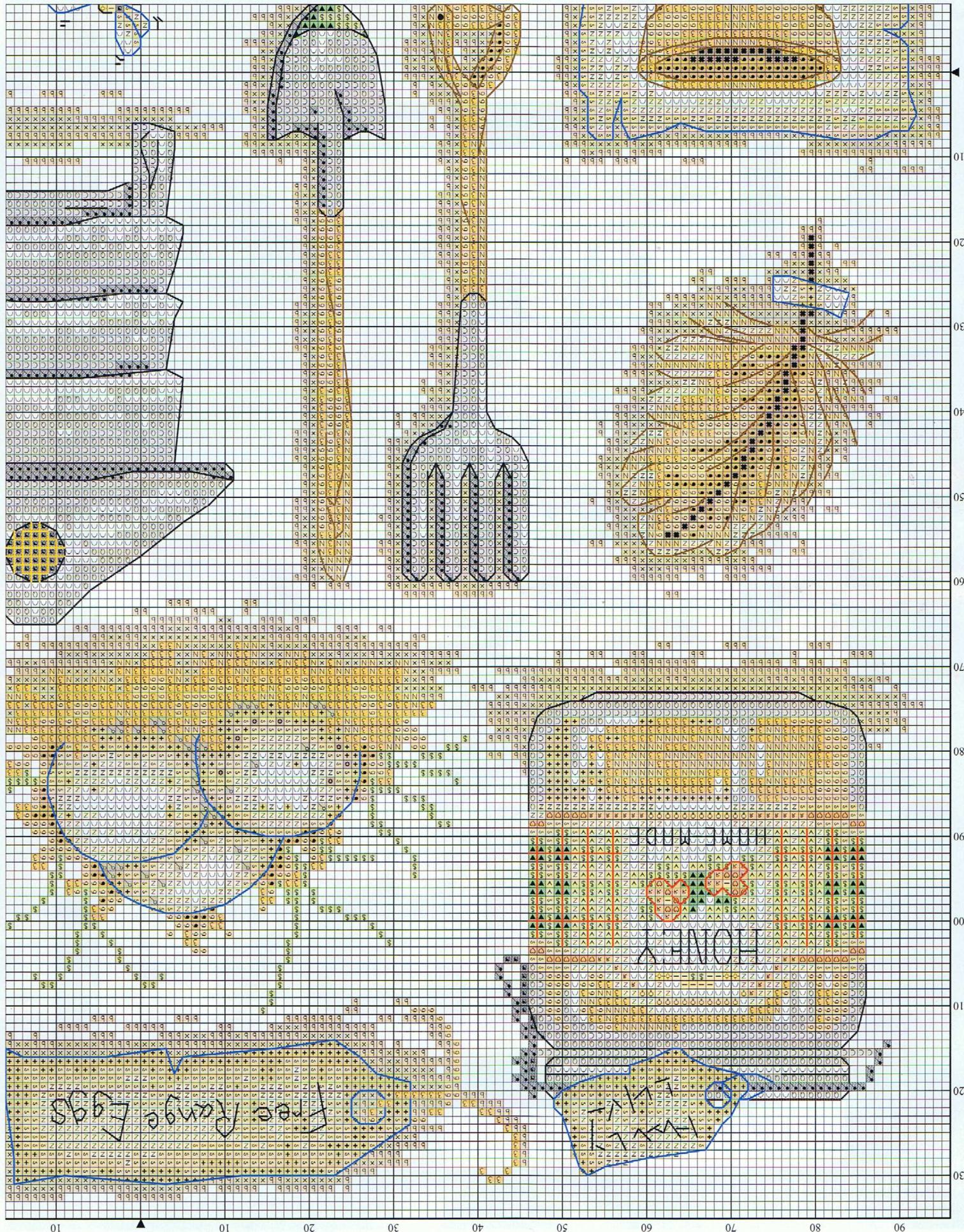
Decorate a gift of eggs or honey with an appropriate motif from this kitchen garden sampler

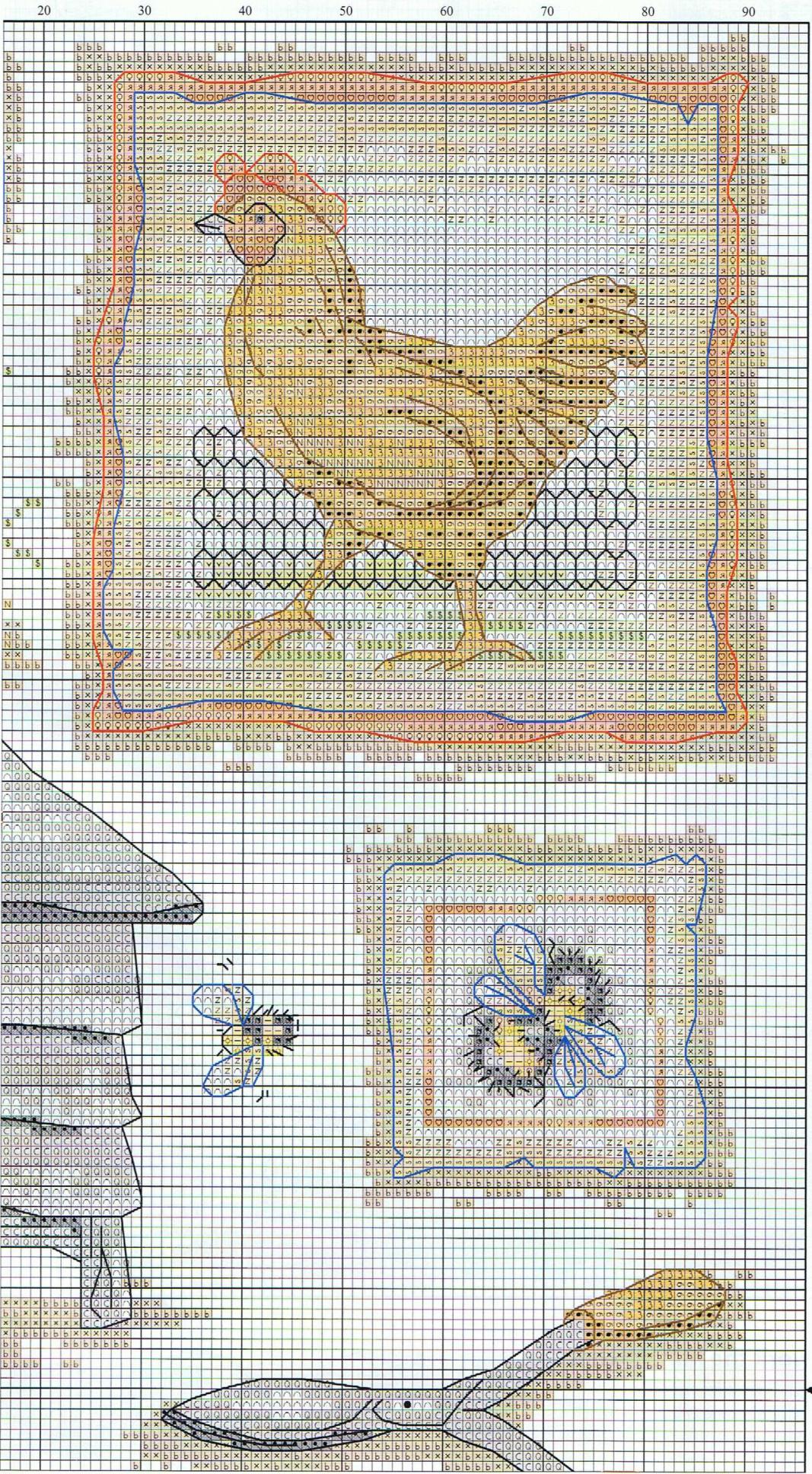


You reap what you sow, and
this stunning sampler is worth
every single stitch



Top left



**Garden sampler key****Anchor****Cross stitch in two strands**

○	2	white (x3 skeins)
♡	11	coral
▼	215	green (x2 skeins)
●	235	dark grey
■	236	very dark grey
▼	253	light green
\$	265	moss green (x2 skeins)
—	301	light yellow
-○-	302	yellow
N	311	copper
♀	323	peach
Я	329	red orange
✿	360	dark brown
3	363	tan (x2 skeins)
9	369	light brown (x2 skeins)
●	370	brown
+	373	dark beige
Z	386	cream (x2 skeins)
Q	397	light grey
C	398	grey
◆	877	pine green
ꝝ	898	oak brown
S	942	light tan (x2 skeins)
⊕	1086	mink brown

Half cross stitch in one strand

b	388	beige
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Half cross stitch in two strands

x	392	stone grey
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Backstitch in one strand

—	13	red hen border, tomatoes, seed packet, honey pot label
—	236	very dark grey all other backstitch
—	360	dark brown hen, spades, pots, carrots, shears
—	386	cream beehive
—	877	pine green vegetable leaves
—	1086	mink brown labels, bees' wings, eggs

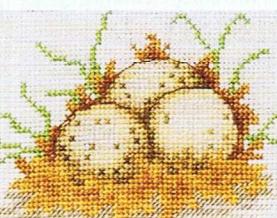
French knots in two strands

●	236	very dark grey all other French knots
●	386	cream watering can

Stitch count 269 high x 190 wide**Design area** 16 HPI (32-count evenweave
– 43 x 30.5cm (16½ x 12¾in))This design was stitched using
Anchor stranded cotton

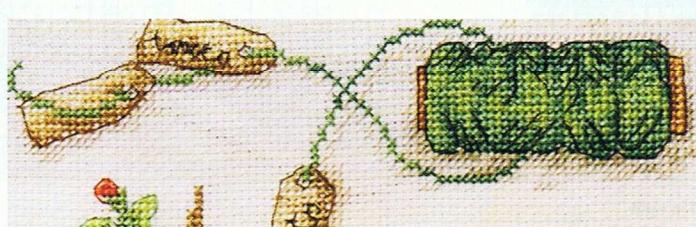


Bottom left



How to work the half stitches

Half cross stitch is used for the shading around each object. It doesn't matter which direction your half stitches point in, as long as they are consistent. Many people like to work the half stitches in the same direction as the top arms of their whole cross stitches.





Bottom right

"I love having an allotment – it gives me so much satisfaction. This design will look great in my kitchen, where I eat the fruits of my labour!" Hannah Bellis, Editor

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▲ All Things Bright and Beautiful (ACS09), £42



▲ Birds on Wire (PCE603), £32.60



◀ Floral Alphabet (ACS20), £26

How to tackle your first large design

Projects like this one, which can be split into separate sections, are great to choose if you are looking to stitch a large design for the first time. You can break the piece down into the different sections and set yourself targets to complete along the way, to help keep you motivated. We suggest that you break the usual rule of finishing all the cross stitch in the design before you start the backstitch, and work the backstitch on each motif as you go along. Finishing each one and seeing the detail come to life will help give you the resolve to carry on and complete the entire design.