

Châtelaine's Online Class 7

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The Medieval Town Mandala October 2005

Welcome to this new Châtelaine Online Class! I hope that you will enjoy the embroidery as well as the group ☺!

Instructions for working: (1 square in the main chart = two threads of the fabric)

Preparations and general hints :

-- First secure the edges of your fabric pieces by zigzagging by machine or overcasting by hand. You should consider marking the top and bottom edges of your fabric to prevent turning it through only 90° whilst stitching – this would make your stitches look mixed up in direction. You can mark it by sewing on a button or by stitching a minute star on each of the two edges or you could use one of those permanent markers on the very edges... These kaleidoscopic designs lends themselves to losing control of the direction of the stitches....and there is nothing worse than the upper "legs" of cross stitches going in various directions when eventually looking at your finished cross stitched design!

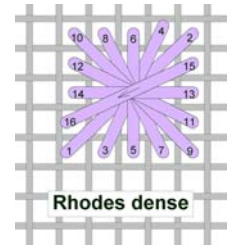
Look for the very center of the fabric by folding it cross-wise and start embroidering from there with the center stitches of the pattern. Then you can decide how to go on, whether to proceed to one of the borders or to stitch from the inner pattern to the outer – following your personal stitching preference.
Start stitching the cross stitches normally using <u>two strands over two threads</u> of the fabric- if other ways of stitching are necessary, it will be noted in this instruction or in the diagrams. Metallics and perles are used as they are – one ply !
Fractals of cross stitches ($\frac{3}{4}$ and $\frac{1}{4}$ stitches) are used to smoothe lines or emphasize shapes. Decide yourself which color is the "more important" one – and <i>this</i> color is worked with the $\frac{3}{4}$ stitch then.
Half cross stitches are indicated by two tiny symbols of their color in two corners of the grid square. When you connect the two symbols, you see the direction in which the half X shall go... stitch these with one ply of the thread only. You <i>can</i> pull these half crosses to achieve a pulled-thread look, which can be very pretty as a background....
Cross Stitches "over one" are worked with one ply of the indicated thread over one thread only. You must stitch these as full crosses immediately as otherwise the stitch can slip under weft or warp and disappear... With the metallic thread in this chart you can decide yourself if you will stitch a full cross or only use a tiny half cross stitch on the places it is used "over one" – depending on your fabric and thread count a half cross may be fully sufficient !
Backstitching is done with one ply of the recommended thread over two threads, if not noted otherwise.
The threads for <u>Special Stitches</u> are noted in the parts of this instruction later individually.
When using the stranded silks it is useful to separate the single strands first and to re-unite the appropriate number of plies for the respective stitch – by this you eliminate a tendency of knotting and twisting and you have the single threads parallel in your needle. Cross stitches with variegated threads are always stitched individually: XXX and not /// first and \\ on the travel back. Only when finishing each cross as you go you will achieve the best effect from the variegation!
Leave all beading till the end ! As a last step attach the beads on the indicated places, sewing them on with a thread matching the fabric color or an invisible quilting thread. Best is to sew them on with a full cross stitch, so they sit vertically or horizontally.

Part 1 :

After stitching the cross stitches add the backstitching for the gate with black silk as well as the base of the fountain.

The "water" on the fountain is worked with WL 127. Try if you get a nice effect with one ply – if not use two and do not pull too taut so the backstitches do not disappear into the previously worked x-stitches !

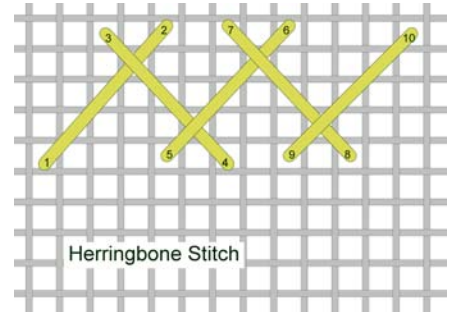
Inside the yellow roses work tiny **Rhodes Stitches**, using one ply of WL 094 .



Stitch the "fence" using SP 10 012 in **Herringbone Stitch**.

The Flower Beds :

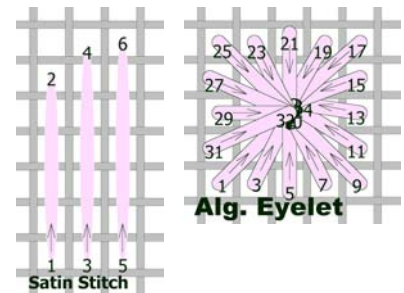
All individual "beds" are backstitched on the outside with PB 01, over 4 threads to have a longer piece of the shimmering gold show. Adjust towards the corners with smaller stitches, if necessary.



Flower Bed in corners :

Algerian Eyelet with 1 ply SNC 106 into every intersection – pull taut each single leg to open up a center hole. Backstitch around the Eyelet with same color and ply.

Satin Stitches with three plies same color following diagram, center vein as the last step there.



Next Square to left and right of corner square:

Rice Stitch in center, two plies of SNC 106.

This stitch shall come out very "thick" and dimensional !

Green lines with two plies of SNC 055 –

Diamond Eyelets well pulled in the 4 corners Use two plies of SNC 055.

