

ChâtelaineDesign

Alpine Garden Seasons

CHAT 045

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General instructions and tips & hints

1 square in the main chart = two threads of the fabric – but one square in the <i>diagrams</i> usually depicts one thread !
First secure the edges of your fabric pieces by zigzagging by machine or overcasting by hand.
You should consider <u>marking</u> 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 full cross stitches, normally using <u>two strands over two threads</u> of the fabric. Remember please that metallics are worked with the one ply they usually are. If other ways of stitching are necessary, it will be noted in this instruction or in the diagrams.
Cross stitches "over one" are worked with one ply of the recommended thread only and finished as you go to prevent the threads slipping over or under weft and warp!
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. You will not find these threads mentioned in the key – only in the materials list. So please do not panic if you can not find a particular color in the key- this may be because it is not used in cross stitches....
Metallic threads are worked as they come from the cardboard – one ply.
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 <u>always</u> 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!
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.
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 tight vertically or horizontally. Crystals are best sewn on with a double thread or at least going through their hole twice. Make the stitch a tiny bit longer than the height of the crystal would require –by this they do sit much tighter towards the fabric ! The letters which are symbols for the color of crystals are to be found on the Materials List – not on the embroidery and bead symbols key !!

Orange flowers are **detached Lazy Daisies** (03). Work the LD's that they come out on the base where indicated, but do not fuss to much about where *exactly* they end. These are not counted thread stitches ☺ so you are somewhat free in your interpretation. You stitch "nature" – and nature is not counted anyway..... Make this loop approximately as long and then tack it with the tiny tacking stitch. Do not pull the loop part too taut, as then it will change into a mere line and not have the nice rounded loop-y shape of a petal. The other stitches in this thread color are backstitch and longstitches combined to shape the smaller buds.

Now proceeding clockwise over 1 and 2 : The green grasses which repeat 4 times around are worked as **Diamond Eyelets** (04) which are pulled taut to open the shared hole.

The leafs in the grasses which look like a "diamond" shape are worked as follows : Stitch the inner part like an elongated star: overlapping long stitches. Then add the backstitching around this to give it a shape.

3 o' clock: Backstitch the stems again, and work the flowers like kind of a **Rhodes Stitch** (05), which later is back- and longstitched around.

For the greenery in this area : same as before.

6 o' clock : All those mushrooms are worked in backstitching.

Now proceeding towards **9 o'clock** : The tiny white star flowers are worked as **Eyelets**. Pull taut so the center hole opens up ! You see more Lazy Daisy flowers here again.
The center snowflake flowers are entirely worked in Backstitching.

When you stitched the slanted parts of the inner octagonal circle, add the Special Stitches there:
Algerian Eyelets (06) – with two plies of SNC 171-- pull each "leg" of this stitch to open well up the center hole for a lacy effect !! Use the same thread and ply for the modified **Diamond Eyelets** (07).

In the horizontal and vertical parts of that octagon work larger **Rhodes Stitches (08)** with two plies of GLO 049, the smaller ones with two plies of WL 031.
You can switch to three plies if you like the fatter, more 3-dimensional look....

Now we go on to the next part outwards : The mountain areas in the four seasons.
Stitch the **"rounded" Rhodes Stitches** (10) in the horizontal and vertical parts of the border with two plies (or three) of SNC 187. Backstitch around each of these Rhodes with two plies of the same color.

Work the square **Rhodes (11)** in the diagonal parts over 6 threads of fabric with two or three plies of GLO 072 and backstitch around each stitch with two plies.

Stitch **Algerian Eyelets (12)** in the outer parts with GLO 049, using one ply and stitching into each intersection. Again pull taut for the lacy hole !

Now proceed to the four corners with the backstitched ornaments - use one ply of the recommended thread only.

Square :
green lines (foliage) WL 085
pink lines (flowers) SNC 186

Butterflies : SNC 187

Left flower (referring to the left corner here, repeat and change for the other three corners as necessary) : green lines (stems etc.) GLO PPP 073 flower : SNC 183

Center flower: green lines SNC 110 flower : SNC 187

Right flower: green lines GLO PPP 073 flower:SNC 186

Once you finished all the cross stitching and backstitching as well as the Special Stitches you can sew on the beads and crystals. The key for the crystals is found on the materials list, for the beads in the "key".

I hope you liked stitching my design as much as I loved inventing it for you!

I strive to publish my designs free of errors, but humans and machines are fallible... Please let me know if you do find any mistakes in the chart and instructions!

Your *Châtelaine* - Martina Weber

If you enjoyed this Mandala Garden – there are many more already published, quite some will be published soon, and some are "in the making" for online classes and/or Mysteries....

Please visit my homepage at www.chatelaine.net for an overview – there you will find links to the Support Group and the Yuku Board <http://chatelainedesigns.yuku.com> as well, where you can find help and chat with other stitchers !