



Blackwork Journey Blog

July 2011

Designing charts

Making Biscornu



What's new?



July 2011

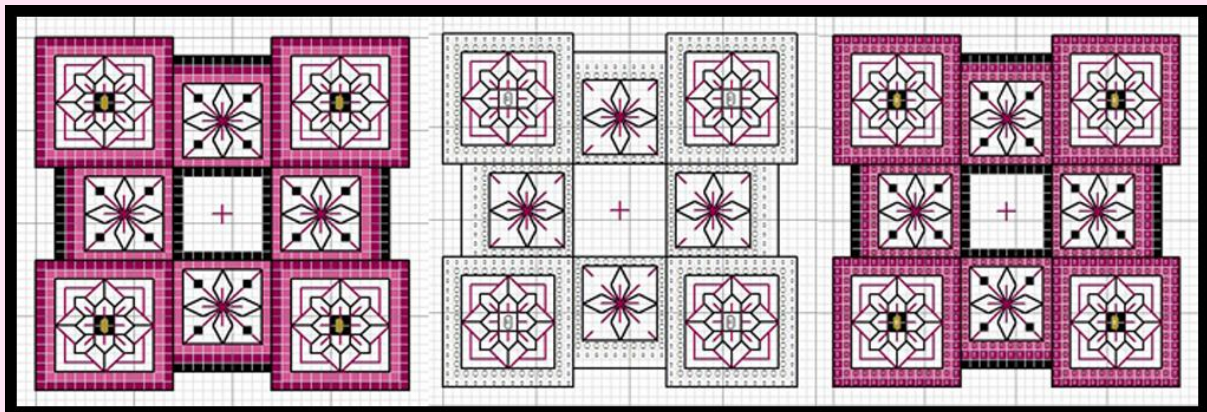
A reader asked me recently how I created my designs and how long they took. The answer is simple, but the process is long!

First, I have to have an idea or some thoughts about what I want to create. The trigger can come from anywhere, a picture, a line of poetry, architecture or a magazine, to name but a few. Once I have the germ of an idea, I think about it for a while, then write a few notes as a reminder and then leave it for a few days. If I come back to the original idea, I either draw it on paper or more usually, turn to the computer. The "Inspirations" section of my site shows where I find some of my ideas.

I use a number of different software design programmes. Each one has its advantages and disadvantages and depending what I am designing or where the design will be going, depends on the programme I use. Some publishers specify exactly which format they require. Others offer a choice!

How to design and work a biscornu

After developing the initial idea, I choose the material and the colours using actual threads to get the colours exactly right. I then chart my idea on the computer using a combination of colour blocks and symbols. The chart could be displayed as colour blocks, symbols or symbols over colour blocks, depending on the type of design. For the biscornu I used symbols over colour blocks.



Different ways of charting a design - colour blocks, symbols, colour blocks and symbols.

The design may contain hundreds, or even thousands of stitches and each stitch is one click on the computer! After the design is completed it is checked carefully, photographed and printed as a hard copy or turned into a PDF.

Working the biscornu from my chart.

I cut the fabric to the size indicated in the chart and bind or machine the edges to stop the fabric fraying. I usually use 28 count evenweave or, 14 count Aida depending on the design. Two pieces 7 x 7 inches

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DMC threads in three colours

Tapestry needle No.24

Beading needle

Terylene wadding or stuffing and two buttons

'x' marks the centre point of each square. This is where the buttons will be placed on either side and stitched through.

Method:

I start from the central cross stitch square and work outwards using TWO strands of cotton for the cross stitch and ONE strand for the back stitch, eyelets and diamonds except for the outlining square when using TWO strands (310 black). The black outline squares are then used to join the biscornu sides together so they must be accurate. Each side must have the same number of back stitches.



Making up:

- a. I cut out the two pieces leaving 5 squares of aida or half an inch from the black outline all the way round. I then press them face down on a towel and starch them lightly (optional).
- b. Taking the corner of the back, I carefully attach with slip stitch (two strands 310) to the centre stitch on the front side. (See photograph). Slip stitch, matching each stitch carefully to the corner. Turn and continue, counting carefully, until the final section is reached. I leave two inches open.

- c. I then stuff firmly, pushing the stuffing into the corners and close using further slip stitches.
- d. Finally, I attach the buttons by stitching through the centre and pulling them together to make a depression in the centre.

If you try this, enjoy your handiwork!

What's New Pattern CH0250 Rose and Violet Biscornu

At the moment I am writing a series of articles for "The Gift of Stitching" entitled "Stitching with Ease". The twelve articles examine different tools and show how they can be used to make stitching more comfortable.

Making the right choice of equipment can save time, money and frustration!



Happy stitching,

Liz