



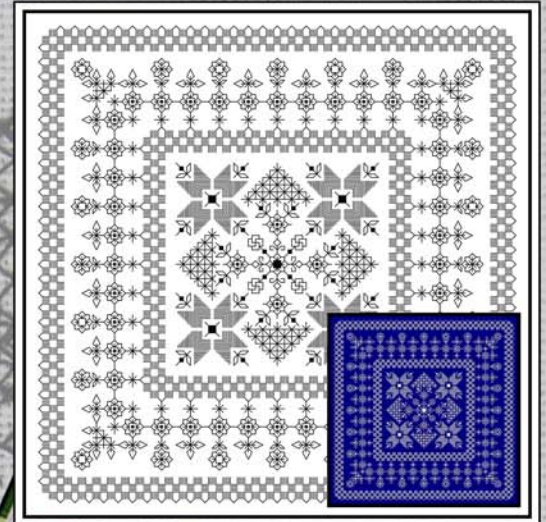
Blackwork Journey Blog

February 2014

What is Pinterest?

'Save the Stitches'
Readers questions

Blocks 2 & 3



Just **20** BEAUTIFUL PROJECTS TO STITCH!

CrossStitch

America's Premier Cross-Stitch Magazine FEBRUARY 2014

Winter Fear is not for the Faint!

- A New Year, A New Look!**
- Stunning Redwork
 - Owl Tote & Bookmark
 - Snowmen Towel Duo

Design inspiration

February 2014
Miscellany by Liz Almond
Blackwork Journey



Blackwork Journey Blog - February 2014

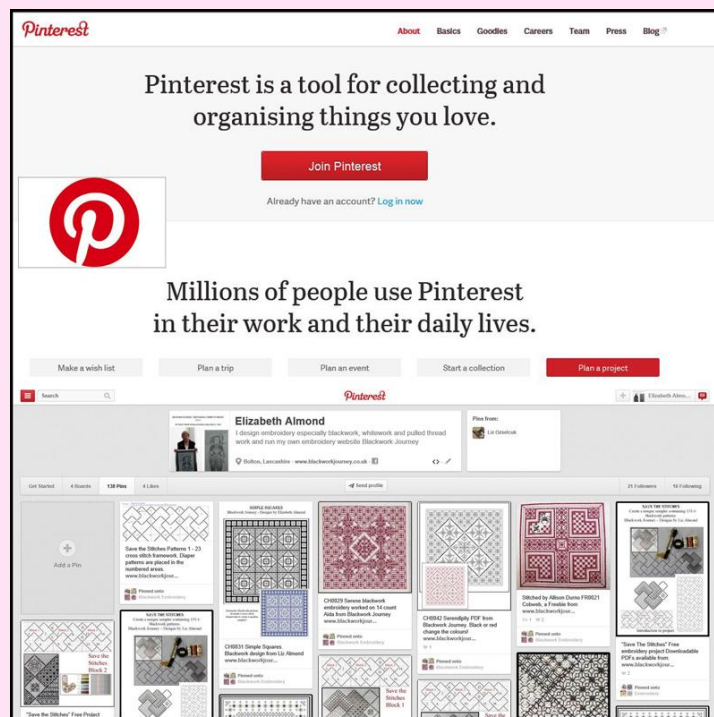
February 2014

This is proving to be a very hectic month! The diary is filling up with talks and day schools and in October, I am looking forward to going to Canada to meet some needlework groups and share some ideas with them!

I love meeting people who are interested in producing needlework, not just reading about it. There are so many exciting projects to enjoy and so many wonderful threads and fabrics to choose from and thanks to the internet, they are available to nearly everyone wherever their location! Whenever I feel a little 'down' I root in my stash of materials, find some colourful threads and stitch! I have never known it fail to lift my spirits and speaking to many other people over the years, they have expressed the same feelings.

The rise in knitting and crochet groups has shown just how interested people are becoming in developing craft skills, especially younger people who may have never tried handicrafts before. There are many more craft magazines on the market now covering a much wider range of subjects and the development of 'Pinterest' has made it simple for everyone to follow their own passions.

I have had a number of students ask "What is 'Pinterest' and is it any use to them?"



What is 'Pinterest'?

Blackwork Journey Blog - February 2014

'Pinterest' is a pinboard - style photo-sharing website that allows users to create and manage theme-based image collections such as events, interests and hobbies.

It consists mainly of images. In fact, you can't share something on the site unless an image is involved and like every other social media site, it has its own language.

You can share images you find online, or you can directly upload images onto it. When you share something on 'Pinterest' each bookmark is called a pin.

Using the 'Pin It' button, you can share directly in your browser from any web page. When you share someone else's pin on the site, it's called a repin.

You group pins together by topic onto various boards or pinboards in your profile. Each board mimics a real-life pinboard.

Users can browse other pinboards for images, 're-pin' images to their own pinboards, or 'like' photos. You can also share your pins on Twitter and Facebook.

So, 'Pinterest' is a tool for collecting and organising things you love and is very easy to access!

How do you find it?

Just type 'Pinterest' into a search engine such as Google, followed by whatever you are interested in, for example, Whitework embroidery and the boards will appear. No matter what you're interested in, someone will have uploaded images and information.

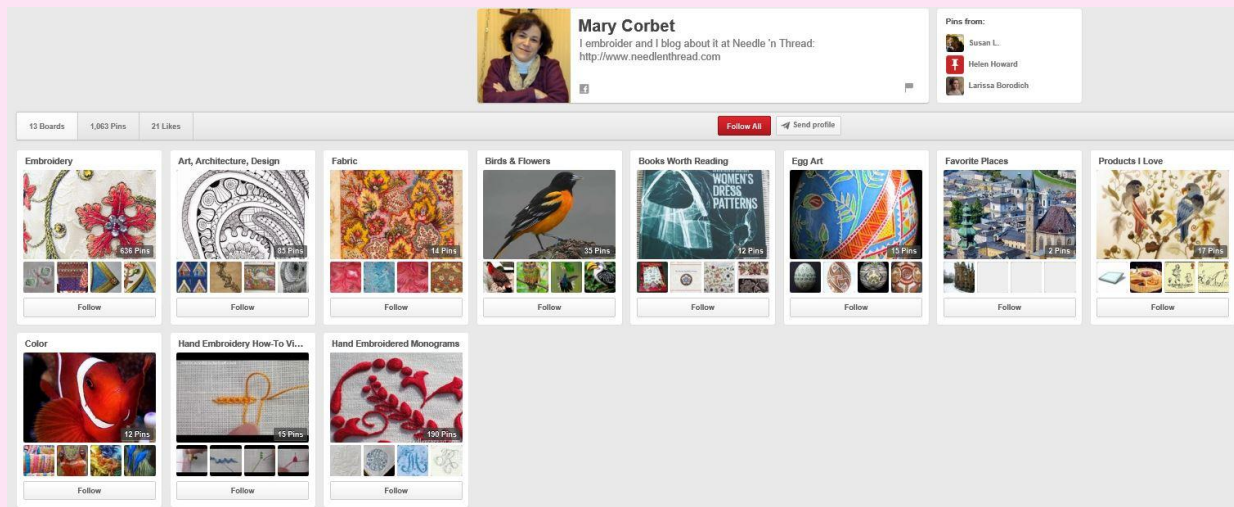
Is it safe and should I use it? I have a number of boards on 'Pinterest' and I have found them very simple to use. Each image relates to my website

www.blackworkjourney or to other related sites that I have found interesting.

To access 'Pinterest' from Blackwork Journey, just click on the 'Pinterest' button in the sidebar.

For further information follow the 'Pinterest' link:

<https://www.pinterest.com>



Example of Pinterest Boards which you can follow, share images or 'collect' on your own board!

"Save the Stitches"

General questions asked by readers

How do I access the Blog and Freebies to get the PDF's?

1. I have tried to make this as simple as possible. I don't use a Blog Feeder. All the charts for this project can be found in the Freebies section.

Blocks will be added every month and the first two PDF's are already in Freebies. You don't need to subscribe to the Blog, just go to the site: www.blackworkjourney.co.uk or Google in "Blackwork Journey" and it will take you to the site. From there, go to the Blog and Freebies.

2. How do I follow the Blog?

The Blog is updated every month, so all you need to do is go to the site every month.

"Save the Stitches" is on 'Pinterest Elizabeth Almond Blackwork Embroidery' as well as on the site if you want to work along with me.

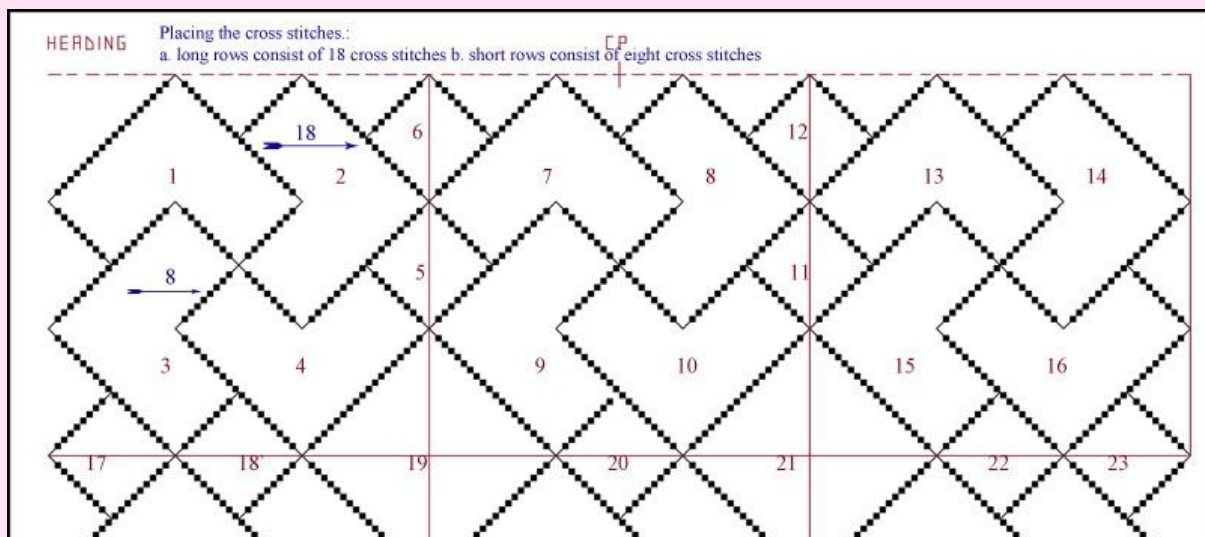
You will not be able to download the PDF's from Pinterest, only from the Blackwork Journey web site.

3. New sections will be added every month. Blocks 2 and 3 will be on the site from 1st February.

All the PDF's will be in the Freebies section for free download. They will remain on the site permanently, so you will not miss any blocks. If you do have problems downloading, feel free to contact to me at any time.

"Save the Stitches" Blocks 2 and 3

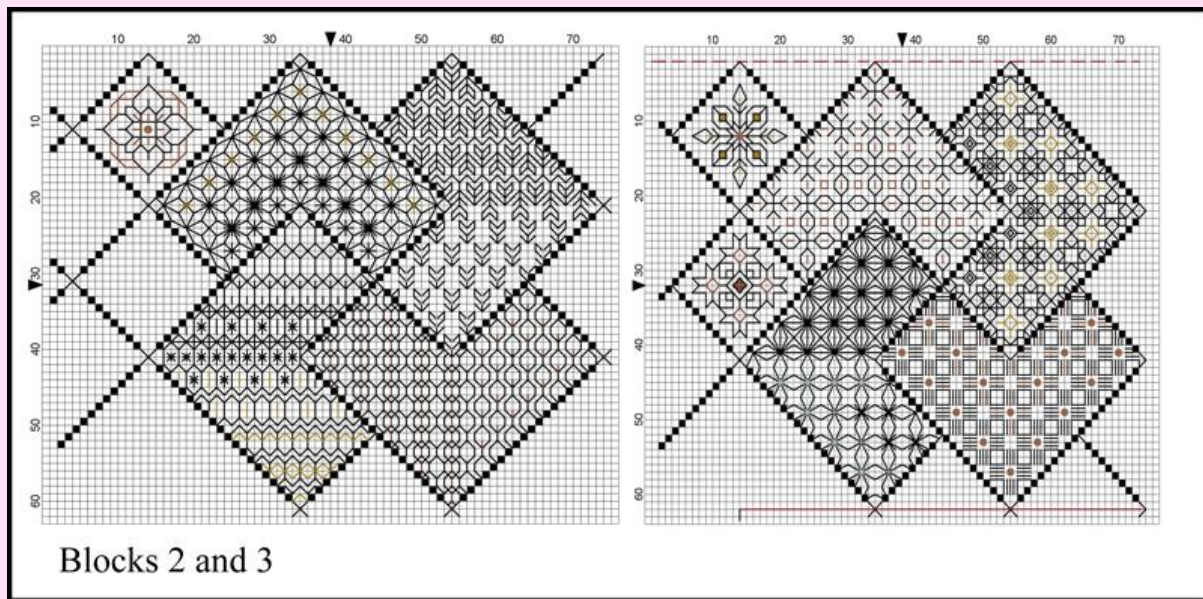
This month, the next two blocks of the project are added to my Freebies section for you to continue working the next stages. Blocks 1 - 3 complete the full width of the embroidery which is 180 stitches wide. If you missed the Introduction and Block 1, you will find all the information in Freebies, FR0083 and FR0084.



Framework for Patterns 1 - 23

Working the framework for the project is simple. The long rows consist of 18 cross stitches, the short rows consist of 8 cross stitches. Where the short row butts up to a long row, there is a single back stitch line where the rows join.

Where the main junctions meet there are four diagonal back stitches. Refer to the chart numbers when placing your diaper patterns. Once the first three blocks are worked, the full width of the project can be seen.



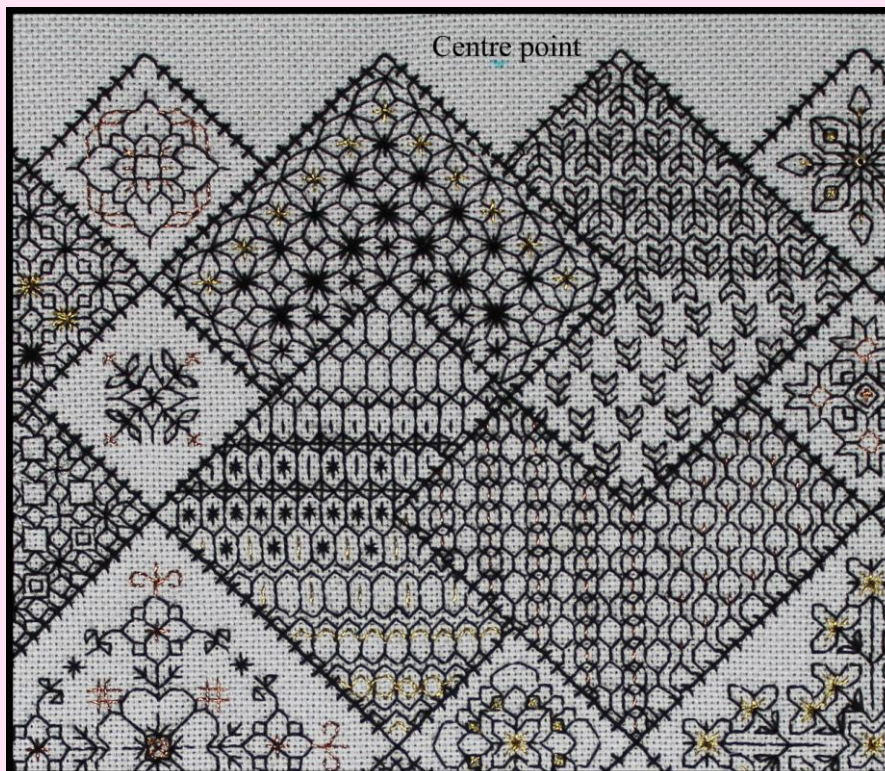
Blocks 2 and 3 complete the full width of the pattern.

Two blocks will be added every month in Freebies until the project is completed and each pattern within the blocks contains two or more variations showing how diaper patterns can be developed and altered.

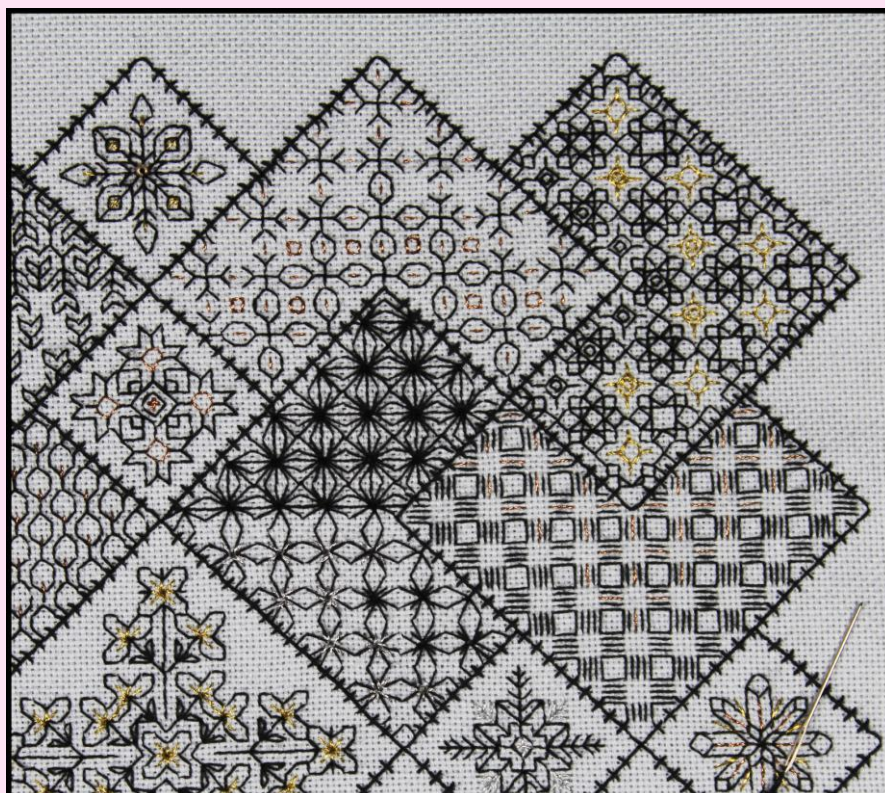
I have just finished stitching Pattern 58 and have more than a hundred variations so far!

The response has been very interesting. A number of people have set up little groups to work along with me in both Canada and America and quite a few individuals are working the project on their own. I look forward to featuring their work as they progress. Whilst I have chosen to work with black and metallic threads on pale grey Lugano, other readers are working on linen using coloured threads.

Mary Corbet's "Needle'nThread" kindly featured the project in her newsletter 23/01/2014. This is a very informative website with a daily newsletter e-mail which you can subscribe to.



Block 2 Embroidered



Block 3 Embroidered

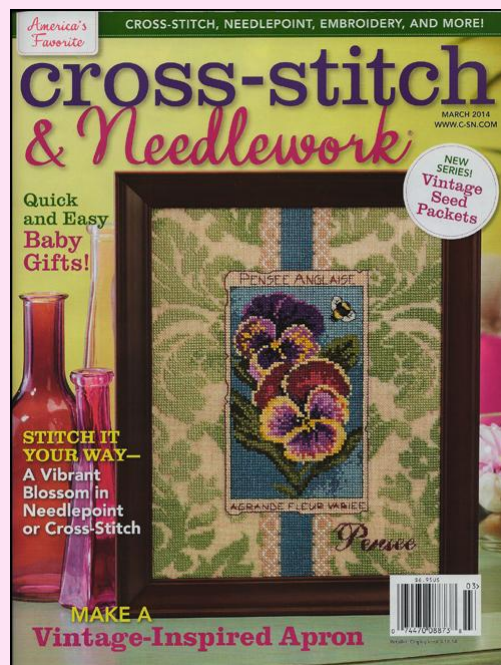
FR0085 and FR0086 Work in progress!

Hot Off the Press!

"Cross-stitch and Needlework" magazine have featured one of my articles and designs this month as part of their series "In the Classroom" March 2014.

It is always exciting for the designer when an embroidery chart is published, but magazines which develop different aspects of embroidery can be very helpful to beginners new to the craft. Simple explanations and clear diagrams and charts are essential in any publication. If new stitches are included in a design, it is very helpful to have a clear diagram of how they are constructed.

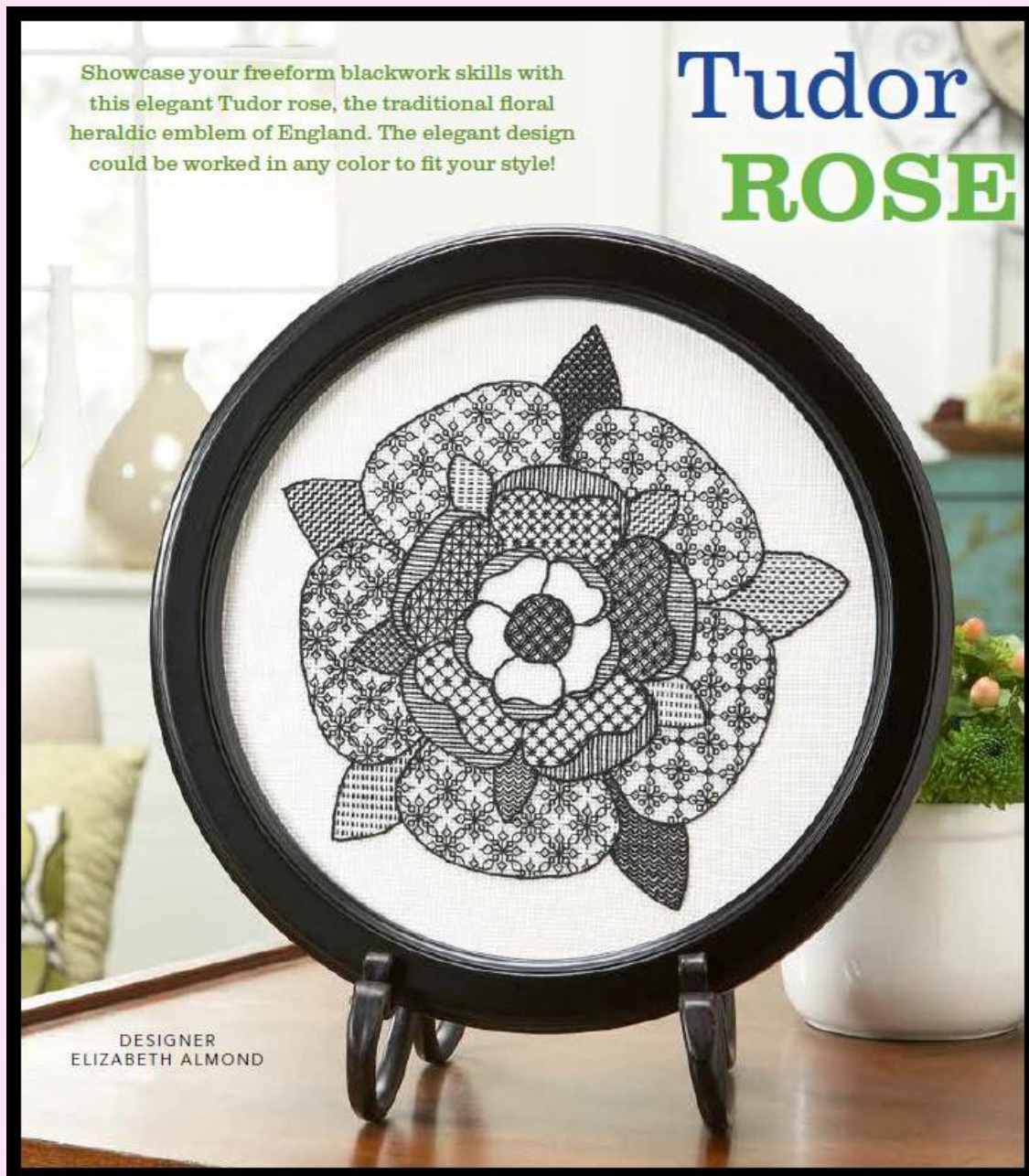
Where pictures of the actual embroidery are displayed, it should be possible to zoom in on the computer and have a closer look at the actual stitches.



'Cross-stitch and Needlework' March 2014

"Cross-stitch and Needlework" magazine has also included a bonus chart of my "Tudor Rose" design, so you can stitch it exactly as it is shown in the illustration below.

Go to: c_sn.com and click on "Free Downloads" to download a PDF that includes the chart and the complete stitching instructions.



Tudor Rose - freestyle blackwork

If you decide to embroider the design, you could use different diaper patterns taken from "Save the Stitches" Blocks 1-3 and put your own interpretation on the pattern. Always remember that the beauty of blackwork lies in the light and dark areas within the pattern so plan your diaper patterns carefully before putting them into the chart.

The February 2014 edition of "Just Cross Stitch" magazine has also featured one of my blackwork designs. (See below)

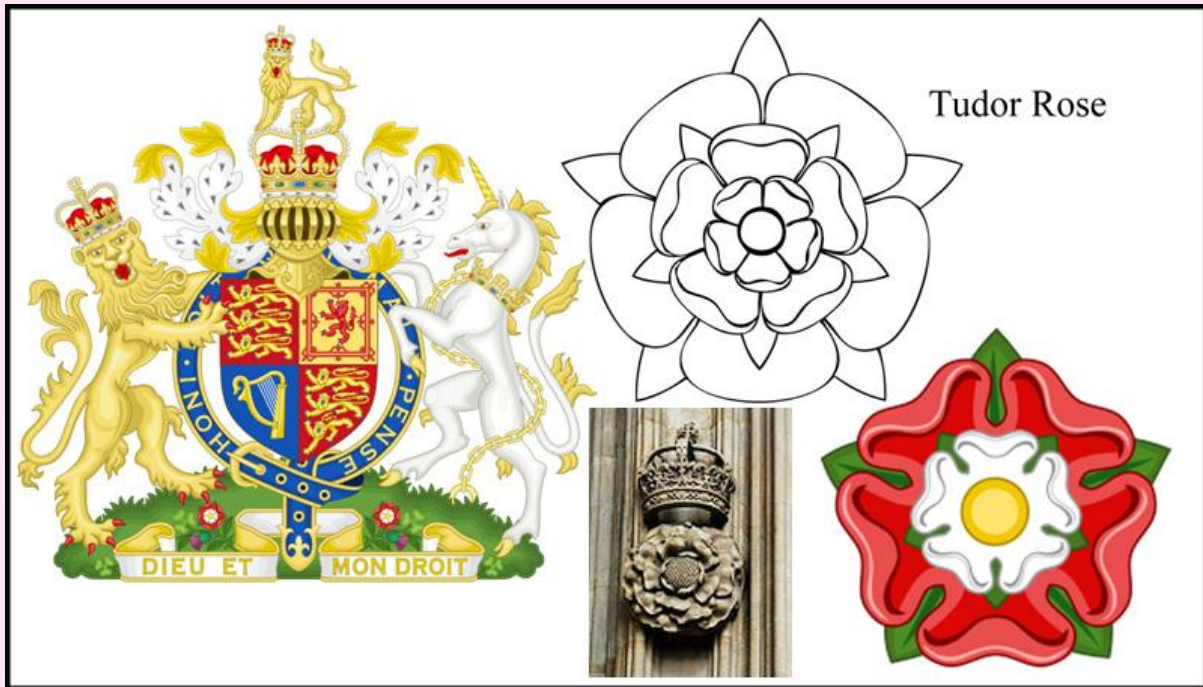


'Miscellany' Just Cross Stitch February 2014 Edition

Blackwork patterns can be worked very successfully in other colours, especially red. This style of working is very popular at the moment and goes under the title of 'redwork' although that is not strictly correct!

Design Inspiration!

The original inspiration for this design came from my love of historical buildings and all things Tudor....

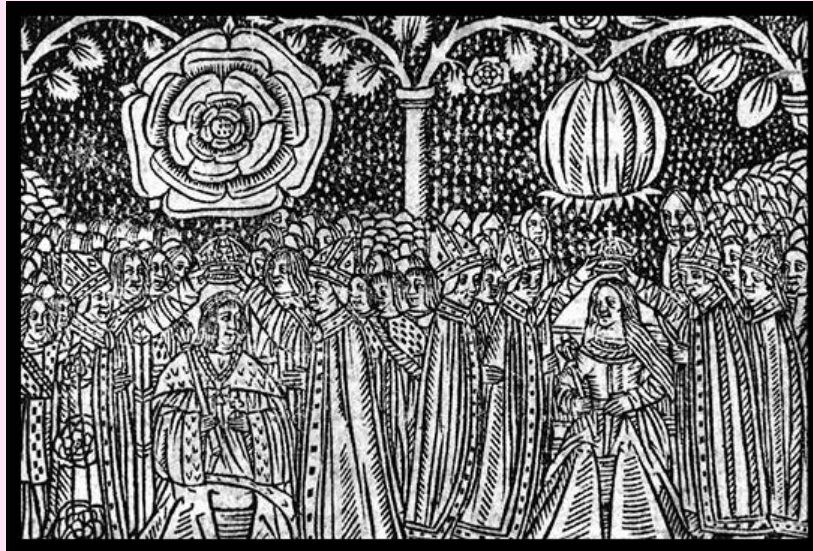


The Royal Coat of Arms of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and a stone carving from King's College Chapel, Cambridge both show the Tudor Rose design and led to the development of the "Tudor Rose" embroidery

These are files from Wikimedia Commons.

The Tudor rose (sometimes called the Union rose) is the traditional floral heraldic emblem of England and takes its name and origins from the Tudor dynasty. When Henry VII took the crown of England from Richard III in battle (1485). He brought about the end of the Wars of the Roses between the House of Lancaster (which used the badge of a red rose) and the House of York (which used a white-rose badge). Henry's father was Edmund Tudor from the House of Richmond, and his mother was Margaret Beaufort from the House of Lancaster. In January 1486 he married Elizabeth of York to bring all factions together. The white rose/red rose idea was a Tudor invention. On his marriage, Henry VII adopted the Tudor rose badge conjoining the white rose of York and the red

rose of Lancaster hence the rose we are familiar with today and see on many British buildings associated with the Tudor monarchs.



This is a 16th century woodcut of the coronation of Henry VIII of England and Catherine of Aragon showing their heraldic badges, the Tudor rose and the pomegranate. The Tudor Rose was Henry VIII's heraldic symbol.

A Joyfull Medytacvov to All Englande(1509), printed Wynkyn de Worde

I hope you have enjoyed the second Blog of 2014 and the new style of downloadable PDF.

If you have any queries about the Blog or any questions about embroidery I would be delighted to answer them.

Contact:

lizalmond@blackworkjourney.co.uk

Happy stitching!

Liz