



# Blackwork Journey Blog

September 2020

The North Yorkshire Moors  
Stitching heaven!



DMC 3875  
ULTRA VERY LIGHT  
MAHOGANY

DMC 977  
LIGHT  
GOLDEN BROWN

DMC 976  
MEDIUM GOLD  
BROWN

DMC  
D  
GOLD

DMC 310  
BLACK

Stitch Palettes

Autumn is coming!



*Limestone walls, mountain streams and the wide open moors of North Yorkshire inspire and calm the mind*

So far, this year has been rather a disaster from the point of view of normal life and travel as everything has had to be put on hold. However, when the chance came to have a few days away at a cottage in the glorious North Yorkshire Dales, we seized the opportunity. Whilst I took my stitching, we did a number of walks and drives around the delightful countryside with its rolling hills, limestone walls, waterfalls and fields full of hardy black faced Swaledale sheep with their curly horns and thick fleeces.



I found this area both restful and inspirational and used some of my time away to reflect on the work I had done since the Covid-19 lockdown and take a fresh look at Blackwork Journey and the direction in which my website and Facebook groups were going, as well as finishing outstanding pieces of work, complete a number of book and magazine designs and plan for 2021.

I did not expect to become involved in Zoom and Facebook conferencing for classes, but now have a number of meetings set up for the future both at home and abroad. This will give me a new opportunity to work with different groups worldwide and to explore new technology. It has been a steep learning curve, but very rewarding and for many groups I suspect this may be the way forward in the future!

For members of my generation who did not grow up with computers it has been more of a challenge and I have watched with interest the number of husbands who logged their wives into the meetings and then waiting to see that everything is working well before they disappear. I have even seen cups of coffee appear as if by magic!

### Kamon and more

It is a stressful time for everyone and my way of coping has been to have at least one piece of embroidery that can be worked without having to concentrate too much on the stitching. I have been working on a Kamon Crest and Sashiko hanging and have aimed to design, stitch and complete one hexagon a day. Once the design has been drawn onto the fabric sitting for an hour working on one small piece is restful with my mind free to wander, to listen to music or an audio book. Taking time to enjoy the things that bring pleasure and to savour the moment won't make the problems go away, but it can bring comfort and satisfaction.

### What is a Kamon Crest?

The term 'Kamon' refers to a crest used in Japan to indicate family lineage, blood line, ancestry and status from ancient times. It is also referred to as mon (紋), monshō (紋章), mondokoro (紋所) and kamon (家紋) depending on where they are displayed. I first came across them in a cemetery in Tokyo and once I knew what I was looking for I found many examples throughout Japan.

Kamon, often referred to as Family Crests and are similar to the heraldic devices and coats of arms found various countries including the United Kingdom. I have undertaken a lot of research into this aspect of Japanese life and found it a very interesting subject and a good source of embroidery designs. It is said that there are more than 20,000 distinct Kamon in Japan, each with a name and in many examples a documented history.



*Some examples of Kamon crests*

The origin of Kamon goes back to the Heian period (794 to 1185), but in the period (late 1400s to 1590) they became more common. There were many conflicts during this period and the number of Kamon rose considerably as they allowed combatants to differentiate friend from foe. With the increasing peace of the Edo and Meiji eras, kamon held on as representations of lineage and became an important part of Japanese culture.

## Blackwork Journey Blog, September 2020

There are of different categories depending on its subject. These categories include Kamon based on plants (shokubutsu-mon), on flowers (ka-mon), on animals (dōbutsu-mon) and on natural phenomenon (tennen-mon), as well as kamon constructed from traditional patterns (monyō-mon) and military influences (shōbu-mon). Kamon, can also be found on mon-tsuki hakama (traditional black menswear with kimono and loose trousers) or printed on a paper hand lantern on noren (cloth door curtains on shops) or today, even on wedding and funeral clothing.



The Mitsubishi company logo is a Kamon crest and is often called “Three diamonds.” The word “Mitsubishi” is a combination of two Japanese words: “mitsu” and “hishi”: “mitsu” is a numeral meaning “three.” And the common meaning of “hishi” is “water chestnut.”

Looking at Kamon crests in the shrines and towns in Japan prompted the idea of preserving the designs in a modern wall hanging

There are many Kamon crests at the Meiji Shrine, located in Shibuya, Tokyo. This Shinto shrine is dedicated to the deified spirits of Emperor Meiji and his wife, Empress Shōken. The Torii Gate, the walls of the shrine and the bridegroom’s garments all display Kamon crests.

The yellow Kamon crest is the Imperial Seal of Japan, also called the Chrysanthemum Seal. It is a crest used by the Emperor of Japan and members of the Imperial Family and is found on the Torii gate at the entrance to the shrine.

*The Meiji Shrine, Tokyo  
We watched a wedding at the Meiji Shrine where the groom was wearing Kamon crests on his jacket.*



Meiji Shrine, Tokyo - Kamon crests on the bridegroom, Torii Gate, doors and hanging.



*The initial design drawn to scale*

After some research into the different crests, I planned a basic layout alternating sashiko patterns and Kamon crests. All the designs were worked in sashiko stitch on black and blue cotton using matt cotton sashiko thread. The template chosen was a hexagon. After trying different methods of transferring the design onto the dark fabric, Sarel transfer paper was used to draw the designs onto the blue and black fabric.



*Kamon crest and sashiko hanging – work in progress.*

52 hexagons have been worked so far with 30 hexagons yet to design and stitch. Part hexagons will be included to give a straight edge to the hanging. The fabric is 100% cotton in black and blue.

Pattern layout - Possible K -Kamon S - Sashiko

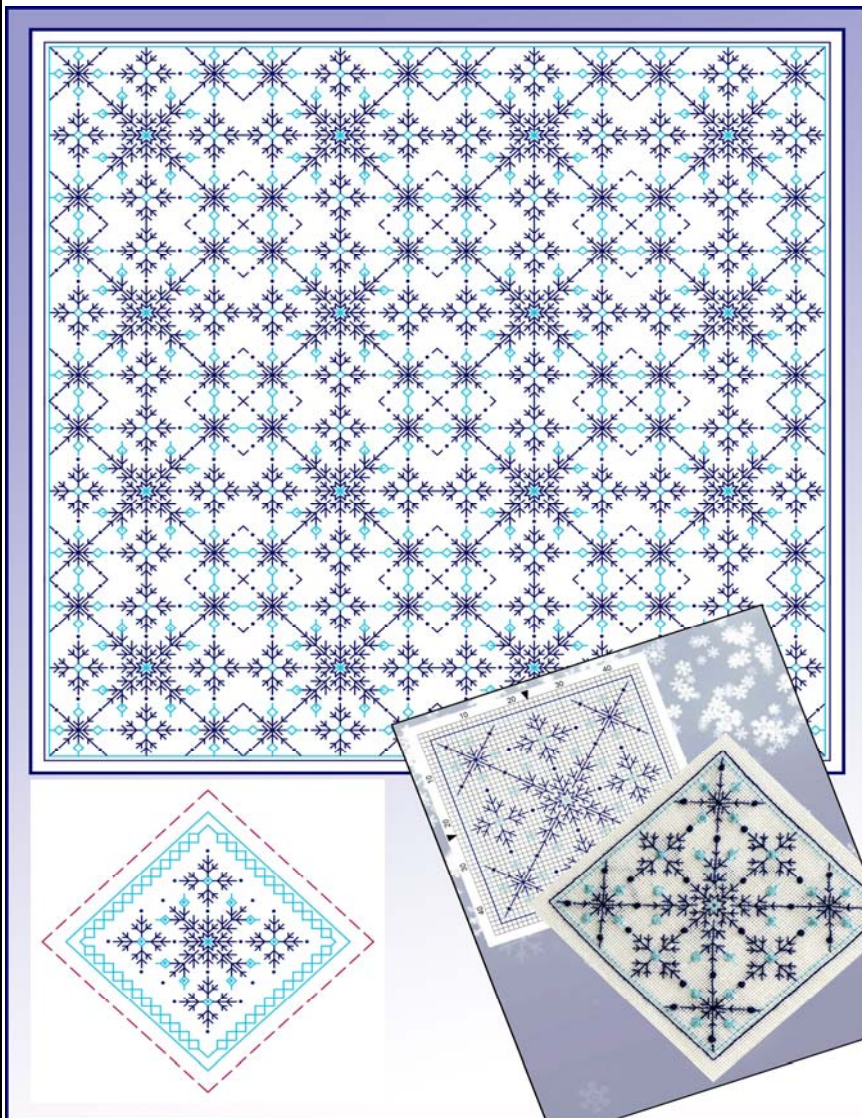
Black corner 67 B 63 S 62 B 68 B 73 B 72 B  
 66 B 64 S 61 K 38 B 69 S 70 B 71 S  
 65 S 59 B 60 B 36 K 20 K 40 B 41 B 71 S  
 K B 35 S 37 S Black 21 Blue 22 K 42 B  
 58 K Blue 19 K Blue 8 S Black 9 S Blue 23 43  
 57 B K Black 18 K Blue 2 K Blue 10 K Blue 24 44  
 K B 34 S Black 7 S Black 3 S Black 11 K Blue 25 45  
 56 K Blue 17 K Blue 6 K Blue 4 S Black 12 K Blue 26 46  
 S B K Blue 16 S Black 13 K Blue 27 S B 74  
 55 K B 32 K Blue 15 Black 14 K Blue 28 K B 47 75  
 54 S B 53 K Blue 30 K Blue 29 S 48 B 76  
 80 S B 52 S S 51 K B 49 S B 75 S  
 81 B 79 S 51 K B 49 S B 75 S  
 B 78 B 50 B 76 B 77

Patterns 1 - 81 Full Hexagons - Colour: 24 Blue, 57 black full hexagons = 81  
 7 half hexagons - black  
 2 corners quarter hexagons - black

When planning a complicated project always draw a full layout pattern first. The amount of fabric required, the number of shapes and part shapes can be calculated from this along with the finished size of the hanging.

Ideas and patterns will change as the project progresses, but this is a normal part of the design process. It would be unusual for the first idea to be the final piece. However, how the piece is to be used determines the fabrics chosen. If it is to be a wall hanging the approach would be different from having it mounted in a frame.

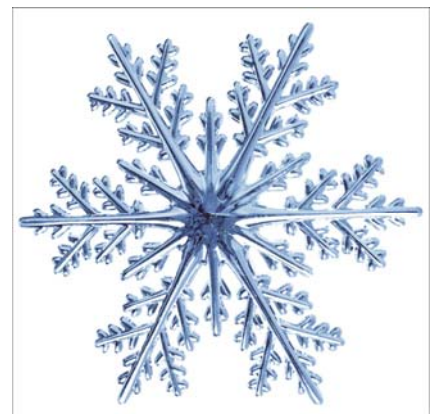
## Three new designs for September –



### CH0401 Snowflake Winter and CH0402 Copper Canvas

Two of the new blackwork charts added this month contain motifs and borders, but they are very different although the same design principles apply.

**CH0401 Snowflake Winter** is built round a single square which was initially used for a card.



The design was then enlarged with heavier beaded and stitched borders leading into a delicate blackwork centre. The embroidery recreates the delicate structure of a snowflake.

## Blackwork Journey Blog, September 2020

The full design can be used for a picture or soft furnishing. A Christmas ornament and card design has also included.

Zweigart 28 count evenweave or, 14 count Aida

Design Area 11.57 x 11.57 inches, 162 x 162 stitches.

### CH0402 Copper Canvas



Copper has a warmth and presence that is underestimated in embroidery. Its place in history is well documented. Take a blank piece of fabric, two different threads and build up an intricate design of 25 interlocking motifs and 24 different blackwork blocks. Use elements from the motifs to build up a border to enclose this special design. The sample was worked in DMC stranded floss - black and copper.

Rainbow Gallery PB21 Copper Petite Treasure Braid could be used in place of the DMC floss.

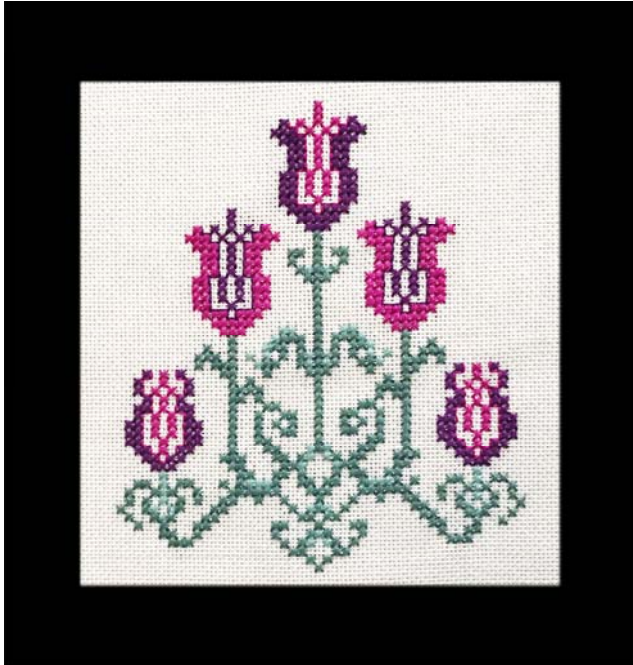
Zweigart 28 count evenweave, or 14 count Aida

Design Area: 9.86 x 9.86 inches, 138 x 138 stitches



### FR0184 Nouveaux

The third design added this month is a free design to encourage and support readers who are still in lockdown from Covid-19 and who are looking for small projects to do. I added the design to the Facebook groups earlier in the year and a number of readers have already worked it.



*This is Elizabeth Strangways interpretation of the design*

Design area:  
3.36 x 3.93 inches  
47 x 55 stitches



### What was Art Nouveau?

Art Nouveau was an ornamental style of art that flourished between about 1890 and 1910 throughout Europe and the United States. Art Nouveau is characterised by its use of fluid designs and was used in architecture, interior design, textiles, jewellery and glass design, posters, and illustration.

Many of the names are familiar. Charles Rennie Mackintosh, who specialised in a geometric style, the glassmaker Louis Comfort Tiffany; the French furniture and ironwork designer Louis Majorelle; the graphic designer-artist Alphonse Mucha; the French glass and jewellery designer René Lalique; the American architect Louis Henry Sullivan, who used plant like Art Nouveau ironwork to decorate his buildings and the Spanish architect and sculptor Antonio Gaudí. William Morris (1834 - 1896) was a British textile designer, poet, novelist, translator and activist associated with the British Arts.

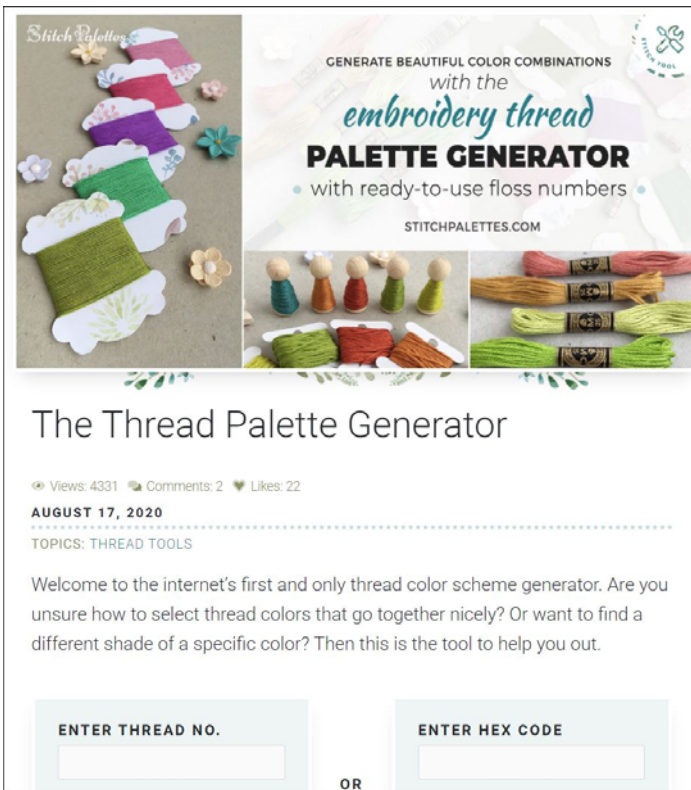
### Choosing Colour, a problem solved!

Stitch Palettes <https://stitchpalettes.com/>

One of the biggest problems I have when working on a new piece of embroidery is deciding which colours to use and which shades will work together, especially if I have been asked to design a piece that is outside my colour comfort zone. I enjoy working with turquoise blues, emerald greens and fuchsia pinks, but working with autumn colours or yellows is not easy for me. I was therefore delighted when I came across a website dedicated to just this problem and for all of you who face the same challenges can I suggest you take a close look at what Kristina from Stitch Palettes has compiled.

# Blackwork Journey Blog, September 2020

Krisztina is a web designer and embroidery enthusiast who has built the website as a tool to create practical colour palettes combining floss, embroidery and photographs. It is a joy to explore and to work with and her latest addition of a Palette Generator.



Stitch Palettes

GENERATE BEAUTIFUL COLOR COMBINATIONS  
with the  
**embroidery thread**  
**PALETTE GENERATOR**  
with ready-to-use floss numbers

STITCHPALETTES.COM

## The Thread Palette Generator

Views: 4331 Comments: 2 Likes: 22

**AUGUST 17, 2020**

TOPICS: THREAD TOOLS

Welcome to the internet's first and only thread color scheme generator. Are you unsure how to select thread colors that go together nicely? Or want to find a different shade of a specific color? Then this is the tool to help you out.

ENTER THREAD NO. OR ENTER HEX CODE



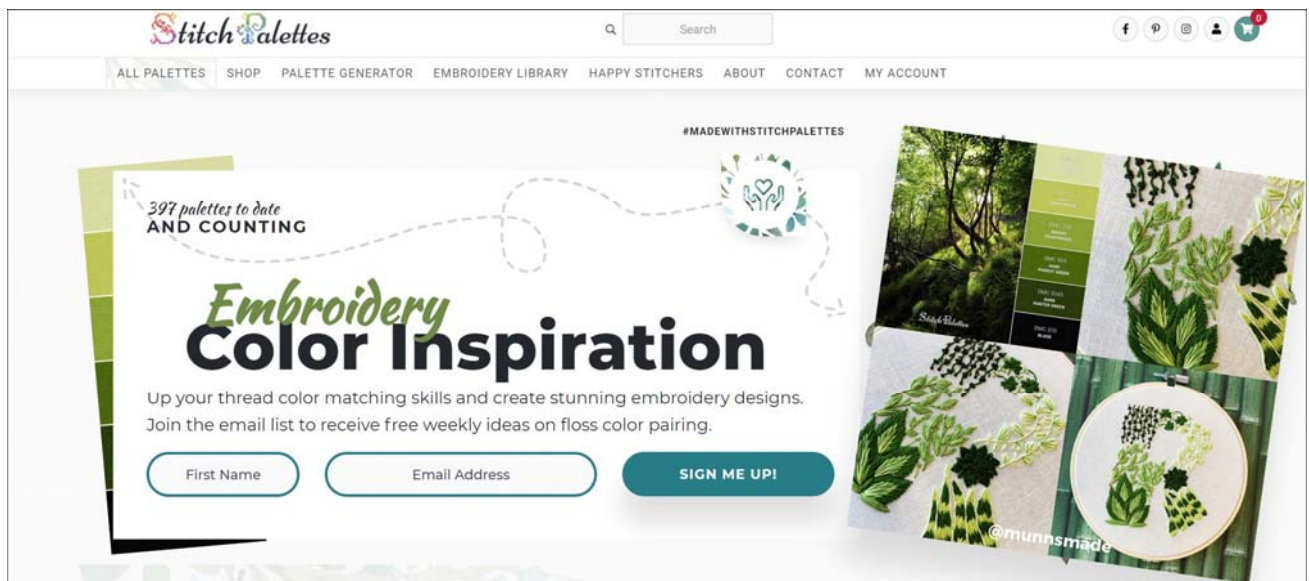
ENTER THREAD NO. OR ENTER HEX CODE

GENERATE OR GENERATE

OR CLICK ON A SHADE BELOW

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
3713	894	33	778	3743	3840	159	828	964	955
761	893	3689	3727	3042	3839	160	3761	959	13
760	892	3688	316	3041	3838	161	519	958	954
3712	891	3687	3726	3740	800	3756	518	3812	913
3328	818	3803	315	77	809	775	3760	3851	912
347	957	3685	3802	28	799	3841	517	943	911
953	956	889	902	29	798	3325	3842	3850	910
352	3708	604	3836	3747	797	3755	311	993	909
351	3706	603	3835	341	796	334	747	992	3818
350	3705	602	3834	156	820	322	3766	3814	369
349	963	601	154	340	162	312	876	991	368
817	3716	600	74	155	827	803	3765	966	320
304	962	3806	25	3746	813	336	3811	564	367
3833	961	3805	26	333	826	823	598	563	319
3832	309	3804	211	30	825	939	597	562	890
3831	816	3809	210	31	824	3753	3810	505	164
777	3326	3608	209	32	996	3752	3809	3817	989
3801	899	3607	208	157	3843	932	3808	3816	988
666	335	718	3837	794	995	931	928	163	987
321	326	917	327	793	3846	930	927	3815	986
498	181	915	153	3807	3845	3750	926	561	772
816	3354	33	554	792	3844		3768	3813	3348
815	3733	34	553	158			924	503	3347
814	3731	35	552	791			3849	502	3346
	3350		550				3848	501	3345

[https://stitchpalettes.com/the-embroidery-thread-palette-generator/?fbclid=IwAR1517Ughcuew4N80\\_Nt-YpHAe10DRaQfvdKuOO8wATtpPJP6Id7Y2BBXs](https://stitchpalettes.com/the-embroidery-thread-palette-generator/?fbclid=IwAR1517Ughcuew4N80_Nt-YpHAe10DRaQfvdKuOO8wATtpPJP6Id7Y2BBXs)



Stitch Palettes

ALL PALETTES SHOP PALETTE GENERATOR EMBROIDERY LIBRARY HAPPY STITCHERS ABOUT CONTACT MY ACCOUNT

#MADEWITHSTITCHPALETTES

397 palettes to date AND COUNTING

## Embroidery Color Inspiration

Up your thread color matching skills and create stunning embroidery designs. Join the email list to receive free weekly ideas on floss color pairing.

First Name Email Address SIGN ME UP!

@munnsmade

Go online, fill in the form and receive a weekly e-mail.

## Blackwork Journey Blog, September 2020

Every week I receive an e-mail with a number of photographs linked to different colour combinations. Colours have been taken from the photograph and related to DMC and Anchor stranded embroidery floss and Anchor tapestry wool. Collect the photographs together to build up a folder of colour combinations which will inspire you and take the pain out of colour selection.



### Embroidery Thread & Conversion Chart

Use the embroidery color chart below to convert this palette between three types of embroidery thread. The thread images used on this page are sourced from the official websites of the floss manufacturer to give you the most accurate representation of the thread color. For more information about their threads and colors available, please visit their website at [DMC](#) or [Anchor Crafts](#)

Please note, that a perfect conversion is not always possible due to the limited colors provided by manufacturers. The thread conversion chart below is the closest representation of the palette across different brands.

Ultra Very Light Mahogany	Light Golden Brown	Medium Golden Brown	Dark Golden Brown	Very Dark Mocha Brown	Black
DMC 6 Strand Floss (art. 117)	DMC 6 Strand Floss (art. 117)	DMC 6 Strand Floss (art. 117)	DMC 6 Strand Floss (art. 117)	DMC 6 Strand Floss (art. 117)	DMC 6 Strand Floss (art. 117)
3856	977	976	975	3031	310
DMC Tapestry Wool (art. 485)	DMC Tapestry Wool (art. 485)	DMC Tapestry Wool (art. 485)	DMC Tapestry Wool (art. 485)	DMC Tapestry Wool (art. 485)	DMC Tapestry Wool (art. 485)
7143	7455	7767	7479	7515	noir
Anchor Stranded Cotton (art. 4635000)	Anchor Stranded Cotton (art. 4635000)	Anchor Stranded Cotton (art. 4635000)	Anchor Stranded Cotton (art. 4635000)	Anchor Stranded Cotton (art. 4635000)	Anchor Stranded Cotton (art. 4635000)
00361	00363	01001	00355	00381	00403



Krisztina has also compiled a number of colour booklets for different subjects and seasons which you may also find useful. I have spent many hours looking through her work and I hope you find it as satisfying as I have done.

I hope you have enjoyed looking through the Blog this month.

Stay safe and happy stitching!

*Liz*