



## *Cherry Parker's September Newsletter*

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Perhaps we are not as keen to acknowledge Halloween in New Zealand as those who live in the United States, but it certainly is a good excuse to stitch pumpkins and use the 'otherwise never to be used' spider and frog buttons that we have been holding on to for so long.

The vibrant oranges and deep golds that are incorporated in DMC Variations threads are just crying out to be stitched into pumpkins.

I know it is only September but we need time to sew these things!

In the Southern hemisphere we are beginning to see the first signs of spring and soon the thick vegetable soups and hearty casserole recipes will be shelved for another six months.



Until then stitch up a little pumpkin design and get out the pot for one last excellent bowl of soup and crusty croutons made the easiest way possible.

### **Maybe One Day Patterns**

Over the years I have kept most of my sketches as sometimes I am asked for a design at the last moment and I can rummage through large folders to find one that may suit. The Little Witch in the June newsletter is no exception.

This pattern never went ahead in an American magazine, as the time to stitch the design was very limited. I was working long hours and there was no way I could meet the deadline. So it was added to the folder of 'Maybe Use One Day'.

After several requests for pumpkins I decided to combine three pumpkin options into one pattern. A Biscornu Pumpkin pincushion, the little pumpkin from the discarded sketch and three felt pumpkins that are very quick and easy to make as well as fun to stitch.

Two of these are included in this newsletter for you to try.

So the sketch wasn't a waste. One part became a cross stitch pattern and the witch is turning out to be one made from felt instead of being stitched. The buttons that were to be included in the stitching have been incorporated into the hat and pockets of the new model. Nothing ever turns out quite as you originally expected!

## The Felt Pumpkins

Cut a circle of felt 11cms in diameter.

Using 3 strands of embroidery thread sew a running stitch around the edge and gather up. Stuff fairly firmly. Bring the needle up from the centre of the base, out at the centre of the top. Take the thread over the edge and back up through the same point at the base and out at the same point at the top. See diagrams below.

When you have worked all the way round the pumpkin fasten off the thread.

Cut a rectangle 4cms x 8cms from a stalky coloured piece of felt.

Roll up the stalk of the pumpkin tightly from the short side. Slip stitch to hold in place. Stitch to the centre of the pumpkin taking the needle from the top of the pumpkin and back again several times. Cut a small circle and stitch to the bottom of the pumpkin to neaten.





## The Pumpkin Pillow

Full pillow size – 9cms wide x 8cms high  
 Stitched pumpkin – 6cms wide x 5cms high

**Fabric:** 25 count Cream Lugana by Zweigart®  
 Pumpkin coloured felt

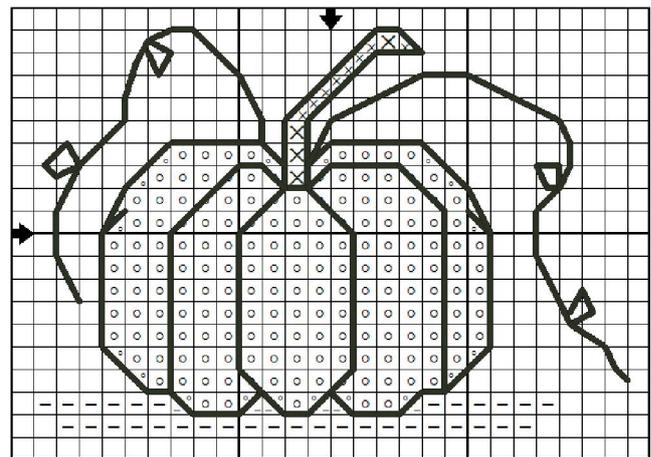
**DMC Threads:**

bs	3051	
x	3052	
.	4124	Bonfire (DMC Variations)

The design is cross stitched with two strands of thread over two strands of fabric.  
 Back stitch with one strand of 3051.

Cut two pieces of pumpkin coloured felt 9cms wide x 8cms high.  
 Iron a piece of lightweight stabilizer or thin batting to the back of the stitched pumpkin.  
 Cut the cross stitch fabric approximately 10 threads away from the design. It will not fray with the backing adhered to it.

Using a running stitch to catch the cross stitch fabric to one of the orange felt rectangles. These stitches are not counted and are stitched just enough to anchor.



Sew the two felt rectangles together in the same way from the right side. Leave one smaller side open. Stuff the pillow lightly and stitch closed. You now have a tiny pillow to decorate anything to do with Halloween or a crafty little pincushion.

The entire **Pumpkins** pattern can be seen by clicking on <https://www.etsy.com/nz/shop/CherryParkerPatterns>

## Pumpkin Soup

2 large onions  
2 large carrots  
1 kumara  
1kg pumpkin  
3 cups chicken stock  
1 tablespoon peanut butter



In a large pot fry chopped onion until slightly brown. Chop all the vegetables and add to the pot. Add the chicken stock and cook until vegetables are just tender. Whiz together with a stick blender and stir in the peanut butter.

## Croutons

Chop 3 cups of stale bread or buns and put in a shallow baking tin. Sprinkle lightly with rice bran oil and season with a pinch or two of mixed herbs and a good grinding of salt. Mix well. Bake until golden brown.



Even men who can't cook can make these!  
See my website –  
[www.formenwhocantcook.com](http://www.formenwhocantcook.com)

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To move away from pumpkins, another new pattern this month features a tiny elephant who is 13cms high. Like the pansies of last month this little fellow is a great pattern for using up scraps of felt. He can be made in any colour or a mixture of colours.

Pattern at <https://www.etsy.com/nz/shop/CherryParkerPatterns>



### Tip of the Month:

We all leave stitching in a hoop for too long. The rule someone once made up was to take the fabric out of the hoop each time you finish a period of stitching. We never do that!

So as time goes by and we keep leaving it in the hoop day after day, month after month, we get a nearly permanent ridge in the fabric when the hoop is removed.

The easiest way to get rid of this is to gently wash the work in lukewarm water. Leave to dry flat on a well-worn towel that won't leech any dye.

If you don't want to dunk the entire piece, dab around the ridge with cold water. Leave until it is nearly dry and steam press, covering with a cloth.



### Cakes and Sweet Things

I am thinking of doing series of cross stitched cakes with recipes included.

The designs will only be small – no more than 40sts across, so will be quick to stitch.

Cakes alone could be a bit limiting so Sweet Treats may be a better idea to encompass other favourite sweet recipes.

Looking through my recipe book that has hand written recipes in it since high school I was intrigued to see how many are named after the people I got the recipe from.

Mrs Kay's shortbread (the very best), Pam's pavlova, Helen's biscuits, Len's short pastry for Christmas mince pies, Auntie Barb's cheese biscuits, Great Granma's fairy cakes and so on.

What is your most favourite cake of all? The first one that comes to mind when you decide you must have cake or a special sweet something?

So some thoughts please would be most appreciated. The first sketch on the drawing board is a carrot cake because at a recent farewell to a neighbour we had the very best carrot cake. I asked for the recipe – thought it would look good stitched and so another design came to be. Ideas are everywhere! Give it some thought and we will see where it goes.

So until next time.....put on the thinking caps and email me at [cherry.parker@xtra.co.nz](mailto:cherry.parker@xtra.co.nz)