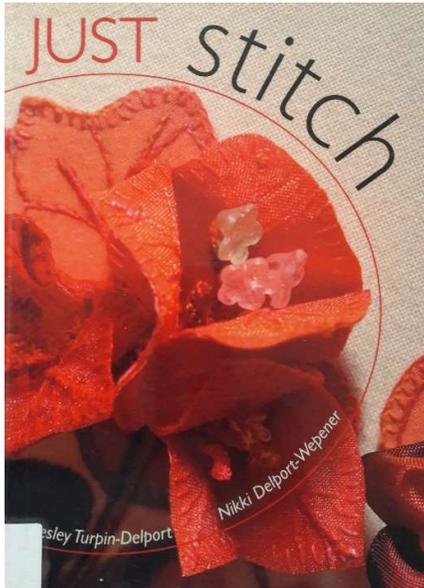


# Cherry Parker's November 2019 Newsletter

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I have been looking at this book from the library. As you can see from the few pictures it is very detailed embroidery that is too much for me. Not sure if I want to embroider a preying mantis!

However, it has beautiful photography throughout, detailing the patterns and showing how colour works. It is described in the introduction –



‘ The beginning of **Just Stitch** deals with the basic necessities, followed by a useful chapter on techniques with new dimensions and ideas. These include working with textured threads, ribbon work focussing on organza and taffeta, the manipulation of wool and felt, applique techniques, beading, doing photo transfers and elevated shapes including stumpwork. We have given in depth description for certain projects and techniques while other images are there for you to interpret and use your imagination.

A great book to delve into from the mother and daughter team of Lesley Turpin-Delport and Nikki Delport- Wepener.

**Assisi Embroidery** is a great way to use hand dyed or variegated threads. The Assisi style began in the 13<sup>th</sup> century in Italy and was created in the monasteries. The completed works were used as altar cloths and chasubles. The motifs are not stitched only the background which is the complete opposite to the cross stitch we know today.



A Convent started a school in 1902 to teach the technique to the local women using a simplified technique. This enabled them to supplement the family income. Silk was substituted for cotton and were stitched on evenweave fabric, so lines could be counted, instead of being worked as freestyle embroidery. The backgrounds could then be completed in cross stitch.

Usually the motifs depicted mystical beasts, mermaids, roses, floral motifs and scenes depicting people. Red, black and green were the traditional colours.

This traditional style of embroidery is still worked by the local women of Assisi sitting in front of their houses or working from a co-operative embroidery shop.

As an aside Assisi is also known as the birthplace of Saint Francis of Assisi. He founded the Franciscan religious order in 1208.

Outside the Basilica of San Francesco in Assisi stands a bronze statue of St Francis before he became a monk.



I have added three free Assisi-like designs here for you to try. Not traditional but quick and easy designs to play with.

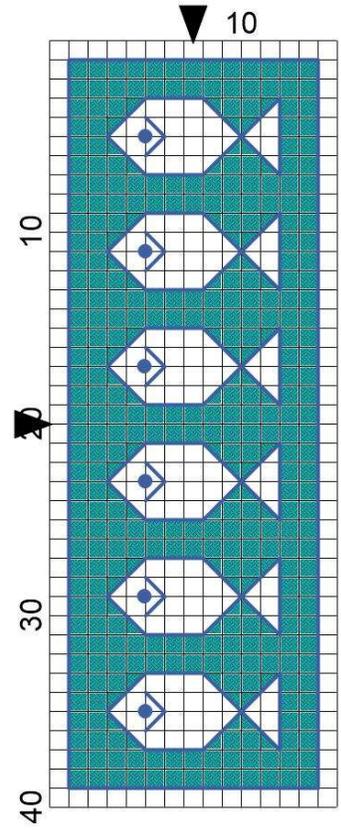
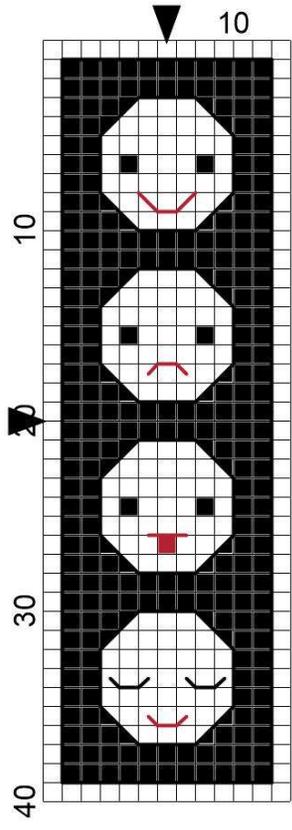
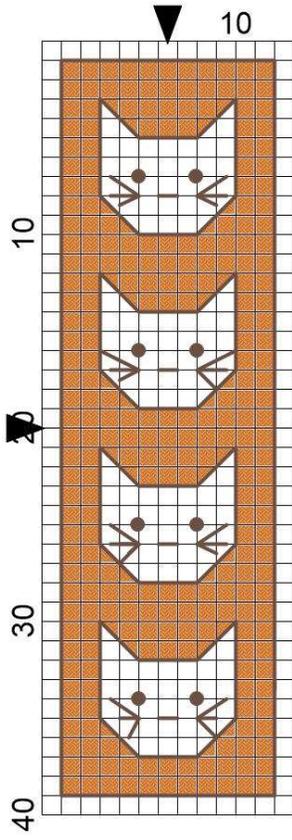
Each design is stitched on 25 count Lugana, one on Maize, one on Light Blue and the other on Vintage Grey. Work each design in a 4" hoop and complete each stitch as you go.

The cats are 11 sts wide x 38st high, stitched with two strands of DMC Variations 4128 and back stitched with a dark brown of your choice.

The fish are 13sts wide x 38sts high, stitched with two strands of DMC Variations 4030 and back stitched with a dark blue of your choice.

The faces are stitched with two strands of Black and red and back stitched with one strand.

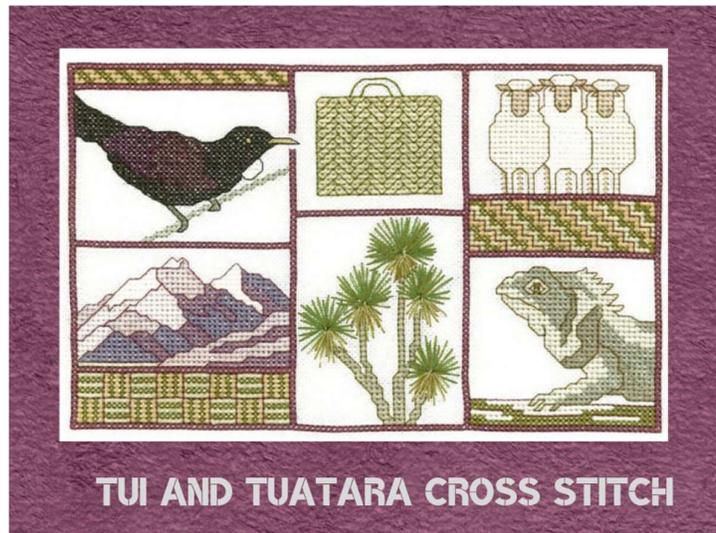
Each little strip is cut about 10 threads away from the stitched design and frayed for a few strands.



As discussed last month I am slowly but surely converting my older graphs to digital patterns.

The Tui and Tuatara pattern is the next one to be completed.

I am often asked for a pattern for a cabbage tree, but I like the tuatara the best. He is such an ancient looking little creature who is quite unique.

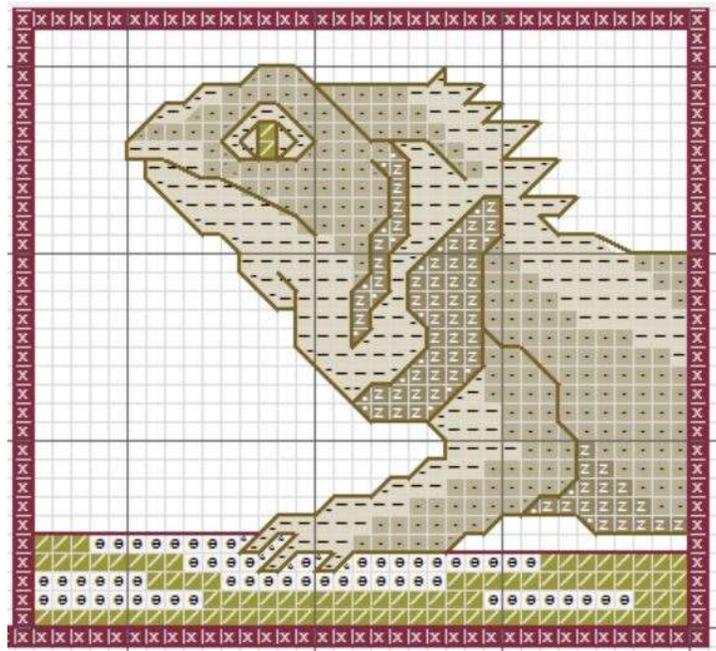


The tuatara is native to New Zealand and has been around for almost 200 million years. They can live up to 100 years.

Although they resemble lizards they are in fact the sole survivor of the beak heads which is a group of ancient reptiles.

Their name comes from the Maori language, meaning 'peaks on the back'.

It is thought they have been around so long because they can tolerate much lower temperatures than most reptiles and they hibernate through the winter.



-	644	Beige Grey
.	642	Beige Grey – dk
z	640	Beige Grey – vy dk
e		Ecru
bs	869	Hazelnut Brown
/	731	Olive Green
x	3802	Antique Mauve

Use two strands of thread over two strands of evenweave fabric. Backstitch using one strand of 869.

The full pattern is available at my ETSY shop <https://www.etsy.com/nz/shop/CherryParkerDesigns>

Lots of patterns for you this month.

Just in case you have a few hours to spare the **Cross Stitch Doodling** design for this month gives plenty of variety in the stitches. The **DOODLING for DECEMBER** must be included in this newsletter so you have time to get it stitched.

It might be a theme I continue into the New Year as there is the option to use lots of lovely hand dyed threads. The small rows of stitching give you many different options to try your hand at designing, as well as providing text.

In this particular design I have used an aptly named thread for this time of the year, called 'Cranberry' from Cottage Garden. This is a mother/daughter duo who dye their cottons in the countryside of Victoria, Australia. They have 222 variegated colours in 6-stranded cotton, perle 8 and perle 12.

It is very difficult to decide what colour to buy. Take a look and read about the journey that brought them to where they are today at <http://www.cottagegardenthreads.com.au>

#### How to decide what other colours to use when stitching with a multi coloured thread.

Begin by looking at the colours that make up your chosen cotton. We would all choose a different skein if we were confronted with several hundred to pick from.

The skein on the right is made up of a deep Christmas Red, a Burgundy Cranberry, a deep Grey/ Blue and a paler Grey/ Blue.

Pick four colours from your stash that make up as near as possible, the colours in the multi coloured one.

Have a look at my doodling pattern and work your colours around where I have stitched the darker colours, the lighter one etc.

It is a Doodling area so do just that until you get the combination that you like the most.

This is a great way to use up the stash. We all have cottons from different manufacturers, a half skein of this, a few metres of that and most have no label or number.

Now is the time to get these out and use them.

I will tell you what threads I have used, but as it could be difficult for many of you to get the exact match – the whole idea is to use what you've already got. Play with the colours and have fun doing it!

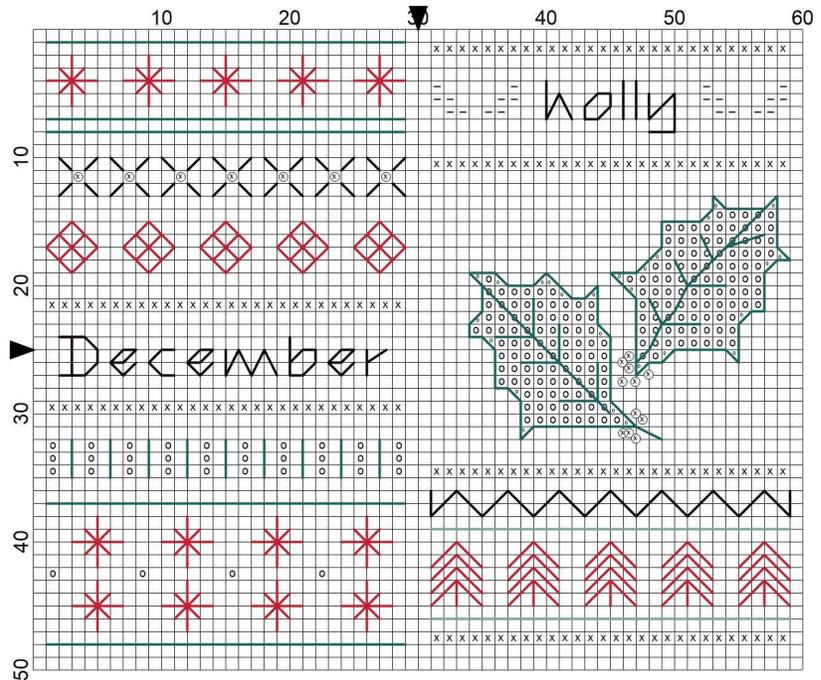


## December Doodle Instructions

Use two strands of thread throughout over two strands of fabric, except back stitching the holly leaves. Use one strand only of 924.

Add beads for holly berries and in the centres of the crosses.

Use the hand dyed thread for all **red** lines. Use 321 for all **black** lines.



bs	321	Christmas Red
bs	924	Grey Green – vy dk
o	926	Grey Green - med
-	3740	Antique Violet
x	Cranberry 1009	Cottage Garden hand dyed threads



Well that's all for this month – lots for you to stitch. As always make sure you have fun with your stitching.

Cherry

[www.cherryparker.co.nz](http://www.cherryparker.co.nz)

Request a pattern, ask a question or unsubscribe at [cherry.parker@xtra.co.nz](mailto:cherry.parker@xtra.co.nz)