

LESSON #4

# SUMMER SCHOOLHOUSE

*Lessons in Abecedarian*

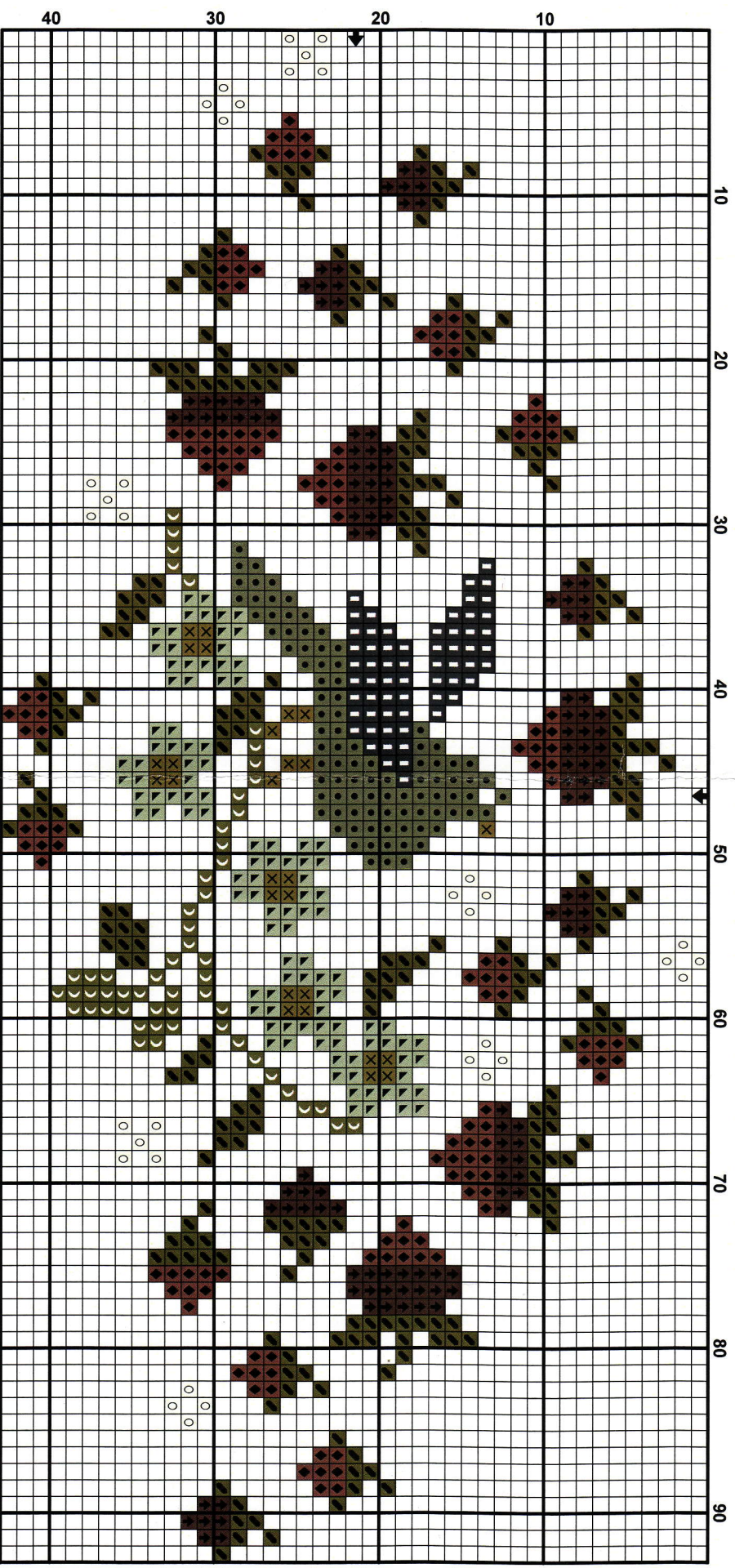
designs by Brenda Gervais

















# Summer Schoolhouse – Lessons in Abecedarian

## Lesson #4 of series

### WXYZ Pinkieep

1. One 6" x 9" piece of 28 count Lugana\*, color – Mushroom fabric (pinkieep front)
2. 1/8 yard coordinating calico (backing of pinkieep)
3. Weeks Dye Works embroidery flosses – 1124 Sandcastle, 1239 Flatfish, 2197 Oscar & 2211 Olive
4. Gentle Arts embroidery flosses – 7018 Woodrose, 7045 Mountain Mist, 7048 Old Hickory & 7055 Uniform Blue
5. Classic Colorworks embroidery flosses – Eggshell, Used Brick, Cayenne & Hazelnut
6. Size 26 or 28 tapestry needle\*, stuffing & matching sewing thread
7. 1/3 yard of 1/4" natural linen ric rac\*, or Bird's Nest by Lady Dot Creates

### Stitched Strawberry Emery

1. One 6" x 9" piece of 28 count Lugana\*, color – Mushroom fabric (strawberry emery)
2. Scrap of matching green wool (strawberry hull)
3. Weeks Dye Works embroidery flosses – 1124 Sandcastle, 1239 Flatfish, 2197 Oscar & 2211 Olive
4. Gentle Arts embroidery flosses – 7040 Lexington Green, 7045 Mountain Mist & 7055 Uniform Blue
5. Classic Colorworks embroidery flosses – Egg Shell, Used Brick, Cayenne & Hazelnut
6. Stuffing, embroidery floss to match green wool, skinny twig (stem) & Tacky Glue

### Miss Polly's Miniature Hornbook

1. 6" x 9" piece of 28 count Lugana\*, color – Mushroom fabric
2. Weeks Dye Works Embroidery flosses – 1239 Flatfish, 2197 Oscar & 2211 Olive
3. Gentle Arts embroidery flosses – 7018 Woodrose, 7045 Mountain Mist & 7055 Uniform Blue
4. Classic Colorworks embroidery flosses – Eggshell, Used Brick, Cayenne, Hazelnut & Pebble Beach
5. Wooden Hornbook Kit\* (includes hornbook and trim) Available for purchase at [www.countrystitchesonline.com](http://www.countrystitchesonline.com)
6. Instant coffee, sandpaper, Khaki Tan Acrylic paint by Americana Deco Art, Minwax Antique Oak gel stain, sandpaper, 10" - size 1/2" x 18 wire nails, wire cutters, hammer, any dark brown or black acrylic paint (for nail heads) & Aleene's Acid-Free Tacky Glue

### School Box Display Finish

1. 8 5/8" X 5" X 2 1/4" Ready to Decorate Cardboard School Box\* (available at [www.countrystitchesonline.com](http://www.countrystitchesonline.com))
2. Khaki Tan acrylic paint by DecoArt, paint brush, fine grit sandpaper, Minwax Aged Oak gel wood stain, instant coffee, old rags
3. 2 yds of 1/4" linen braid or ivory twill tape trim\* & instant coffee
4. Scraps of red calico and green wool, matching green embroidery floss & stuffing
5. 1 1/2" rusty safety pin\*, eight – 1/4" to 3/8" antique mother of pearl buttons
6. Pages from an old book

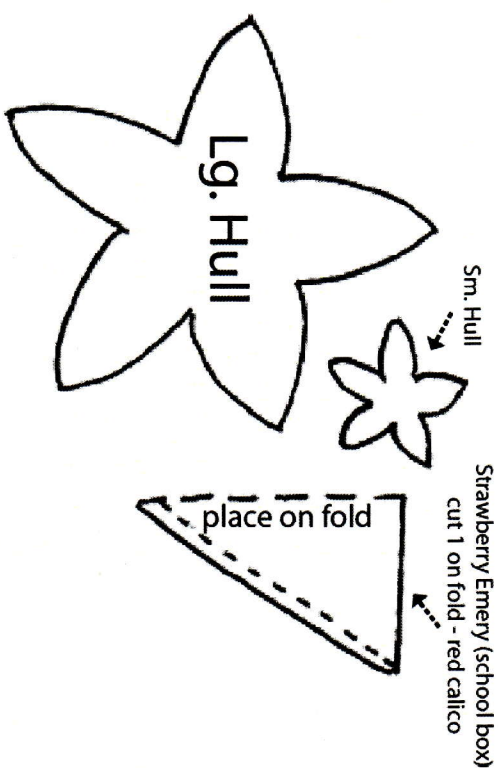
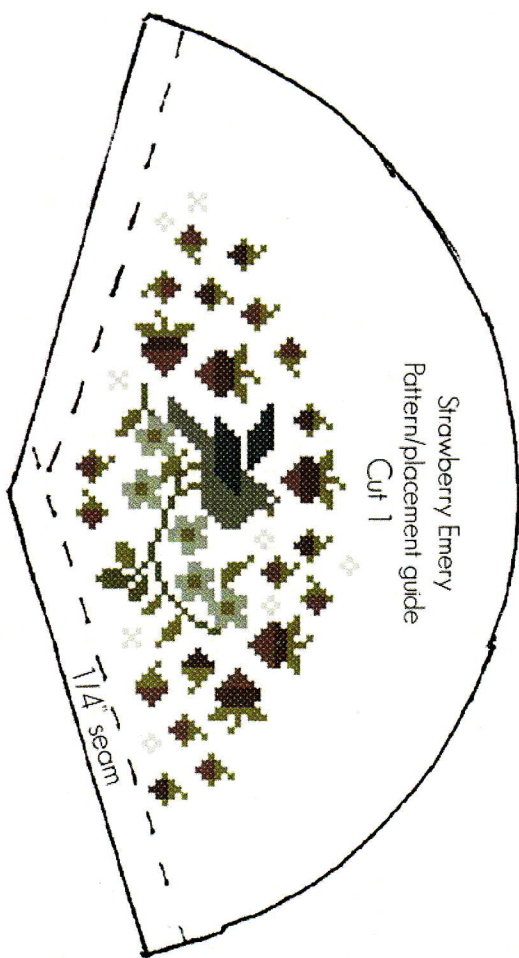
Items marked with an \* are available online at [www.countrystitchesonline.com](http://www.countrystitchesonline.com)

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In need of the schoolbox or wooden hornbook kit? These items are available from select needlework shops and online from [www.countrystitchesonline.com](http://www.countrystitchesonline.com)




## Summer Schoolhouse - Lessons in Abecedarian

### Lesson #4 of 4

#### Floss Used for Full Stitches: (worked over 1 linen thread)

Symbol	Strands	Type	Number	Color
	1	Weeks	1124	Sandcastle
	1	Weeks	1239	Flatfish
	1	Weeks	2197	Oscar
	1	Weeks	2211	Olive
	1	GA Shaker	7018	Woodrose
	1	GA Shaker	7040	Lexington Green
	1	GA Shaker	7045	Mountain Mist
	1	GA Shaker	7048	Old Hickory
	1	GA Shaker	7055	Uniform Blue
	1	Classic Colorworks		Eggshell
	1	Classic Colorworks		Used Brick
	1	Classic Colorworks		Cayenne
	1	Classic Colorworks		Hazelnut
	1	Classic Colorworks		Pebble Beach

#### Floss Used for Straight Stitches: (grass line)

Symbol	Strands	Type	Number	Color
	2	Weeks	2197	Oscar

### PINKEEP - WXYZ

86" wide X 71 high  
28 count, 3" wide X 2 1/2" high

1. Begin with a piece of 28 count Mushroom Lugana fabric that measures 6" x 9". Fold linen in half lengthwise & widthwise, finger-creasing the folds. The center of the linen is marked where the folds intersect. Matching the center of the chart to the center of fabric, begin your cross stitch. You will be using 1 strand of floss, working over 1 linen thread for all areas, except the grass line. The grass is worked in long straight stitches, over three threads, using 2 strands of floss.
2. After cross stitch is complete, lay piece on clean terrycloth towel, wrong side facing up. Gently mist with water and iron.
3. Measure out 1/2" beyond outer most stitch on all four sides of cross stitched design and pull a thread at these locations. Use of chart is helpful in locating outer most stitches. Cut piece down, using the missing thread as your cutting lines. When cut down the piece should measure 3 1/2" X 4".
4. Cut two pieces of coordinating beige calico fabric that measure 3 1/2" X 2 1/4" for backing. (NOTE - Lesson 2 & 4 are backed in calico, Lesson 1 & 3 in the 28 count Lugana to give the grouping a "scrappy & make-do" feel.) Pin two pieces together along one 3 1/2" side. Machine sew a 1/4" seam, leaving a scant 2" opening at the center of the seam. Press seam open.
5. Pin backing to front, wrong sides together.

6. Machine sew around entire piece using a 1/4" seam allowance.
7. Trim seams down to about 1/8" away from stitching. Turn piece right sides out.
8. Stuff piece firmly with polyester fiberfill. Hand stitch the opening on the backside shut.
9. Now we are going to flatten out the piece with our iron and some water in a spray bottle. Spray backside of piece with water and iron, using firm pressure. Keeping your iron moving at all times. Continue spraying and pressing until piece has flattened out and the corner "dips" are less noticeable.
10. Hand stitch narrow ric rac to outside seam line of piece with 1 strand of matching thread.

### STITCHED STRAWBERRY EMERY

93 wide X 43 high  
28 count, 3 1/4" wide X 1 1/2" high

1. Begin with a piece of 28 count Mushroom Lugana fabric that measures 6" x 9". Fold linen in half lengthwise & widthwise, finger-creasing the folds. The center of the linen is marked where the folds intersect. Matching the center of the chart to the center of fabric, begin your cross stitch. You will be using 1 strand of floss.
2. After cross stitch is complete, lay piece on clean terrycloth towel, wrong side facing up. Gently mist with water and iron.
3. Make a photo-copy, working copy of the strawberry emery pattern pieces to preserve the pattern. Cut out the Strawberry Emery pattern piece. Place pattern on top of stitched piece, matching motifs on pattern piece to the fabric. Pin to secure. Cut out fabric.
4. Fold piece in half, with right sides together, and machine sew a 1/4" seam. Trim seam allowance down to 1/8". Turn berry right sides out.
5. Thread a needle with strong thread and hand-sew a running stitch 1/4" away from the top raw edge of the berry.
6. Stuff berry with stuffing and pull up gathering, poking in raw edges of fabric to the inside as you pull the gathering; knot to secure.
7. Cut out LG. HULL pattern piece and pin to a piece of coordinating green wool. Cut out one.
8. Hand stitch HULL to berry using 2 strands of matching embroidery floss (see pattern cover photo for stitching guide).
9. With the point of sharp scissors, poke a hole in the center top of the berry. Apply glue to a skinny stick and poke down into the hole for its stem.
10. I chose to make some red calico berries using the same pattern pieces. I placed them in an old jar for a fun & unique display finish.

### MISS POLLY'S MINIATURE HORNBOOK

Stitch count - 63 x 93  
Finished size - 2 1/4" x 3 1/4"

1. Begin with a piece of 28 count Mushroom Lugana fabric that measures 6" x 9". Fold linen in half lengthwise & widthwise, finger-creasing the folds. The



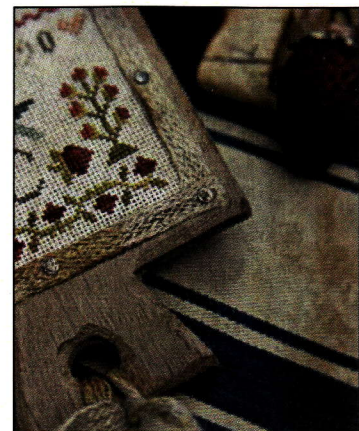
- center of the linen is marked where the folds intersect. Matching the center of the chart to the center of fabric, begin your cross stitch. You will be using 1 strand of floss, working over 1 linen thread for all motifs.
- After cross stitch is complete, lay piece on clean terrycloth towel, wrong side facing up. Gently mist with water and iron.
  - Using the chart as your guide, count out 6 linen threads beyond the outer most stitch on all four sides, and pull a thread at these locations. Using the missing thread as your cutting guide, cut sampler down to size.
  - Mix up a solution of instant coffee in hot water and dip the linen braid or 1/4" cotton twill tape (whichever you are using) trim into mixture. Allow to sit for a couple of minutes. Remove and wring excess coffee out and dry in a 200 degrees oven. Watch closely as it dries quickly!
  - Sand the edges of the wooden hornbook with sandpaper, giving them a rounded appearance.
  - Paint hornbook with Khaki Tan acrylic paint. Allow paint to dry thoroughly. Gently sand edges of hornbook, exposing some of the wood.
  - Apply Minwax Aged Oak gel stain to piece and immediately wipe excess off. Allow piece to dry several hours, or until it is no longer sticky to the touch.
  - Apply a thin coat of Aleene's Acid-Free Tacky Glue to the hornbook, applying glue to cover all but the outer 3/8" of the hornbook on all 4 sides. Allow glue to set for a few minutes.
  - Glue cross stitched sampler onto hornbook, centering the piece to fall evenly within the edges of the piece.
  - Cut a piece of linen braid or cotton twill tape trim the same length as the long side of the sampler, repeat for a second piece. Glue braid trim on top of sampler, covering cut edges. Repeat this step for top and bottom of sampler.
  - We need to shorten the 1/2" wire nails so they don't poke through our 1/4" wooden hornbook. Using a wire cutter, cut down the wire nails so they are about a scant 3/8" long. Take caution when cutting the nail, always cutting away from your face. Use eye protection.
  - You will need 10 nails. While glue is still wet, hammer nails evenly-spaced around the piece; 3 on top and bottom and 2 on each longer side. See photo for placement.
  - Using a very fine paintbrush, carefully apply a bit of dark brown acrylic paint to each nail head. This will give them an old, rusty appearance.
  - Tie a piece of linen braid or cotton twill tape trim thru the hole of the hornbook handle, using the price-tag loop method.

### SCHOOL BOX DISPLAY

- Paint school box with Khaki Tan acrylic paint, inside and out. Allow paint to dry and then apply a 2<sup>nd</sup> coat. After piece has completely dried, gently sand all edges of piece with fine grit sandpaper. This step will give the box a "time-worn" look.
- Apply Minwax Aged Oak gel stain to the school box and then immediately wipe dry with a soft rag. Allow

stain to dry 24 hours.

- Locate an old book that measures approximately the same size as the box top of the school box. Antique stores, Ebay, Etsy and garage sales are all good shopping spots for old books. Look for a book that has pages that have gently yellowed. Cut out a bundle of pages from the book, about a 1/4" in thickness.
- Mix up a solution of instant coffee in hot water and dip linen braid or cotton twill tape into mixture, allow to soak for a few minutes. Take trim out, wring excess coffee out and dry in a 200 degree oven, watching closely as it dries rather quickly!
- Tie trim around book pages, lengthwise and then widthwise, much like you would when tying ribbon around a package. You will want the trim to cross and tie into a bow in the upper right hand corner of the pages. (see pattern cover)
- Pin SM. HULL & STRAWBERRY EMERY pattern pieces onto appropriate fabrics.
- Fold STRAWBERRY piece in half, with right sides together, and machine sew a scant 1/8" seam. Turn berry right side out.
- Thread a needle with strong thread and hand-sew a running stitch 1/8" away from the top raw edge of the berry.
- Stuff berry with stuffing and pull up gathering, poking in raw edges of fabric to the inside as you pull the gathering; knot to secure.
- Hand stitch HULL to berry using 1 strand of matching embroidery floss.
- String 8 old, 1/4" mother of pearl buttons onto a rusty safety pin. Close safety pin. Using 2 strands of green embroidery floss, stitch a hanger through berry top and around the safety pin, placing the strawberry in the middle of the buttons. Attach safety pin within the bow on the book pages.
- Place book page bundle at back of open book box at a slight angle. Tuck the 5 tiny pin keeps within the box. (See pattern cover for placement) I formed two little "steps, or risers" within the bottom of the box with pieces of rolled up antique ticking. This allowed my back pillows to stand higher than the front pin keeps for better viewing.



"Thank You" for joining along for this summer of stitching fun! I hope the Summer Schoolhouse ~ Lessons in Abecedarian have brought you much stitching pleasure & the collection will bring enjoyment to your heart. Kindly ~ Brenda