

Floral splendour

Decorate more than just a cushion with our extra designs. We've used them to make a card and notebook cover, but there are many more ways to use these designs



Purple patch

Stitch the rich and vibrant mauves and purples of these irises designed by Joan Elliott and you'll be welcoming in the warmth of the spring sun

As Joan tells us opposite, irises are a favourite flower in her Vermont garden and this gorgeous cushion, designed to match the magnolia one in issue 180, is sure to be a favourite of yours too. The flowers are complemented by the choice of fabric, as Joan explains, "We've chosen a pretty, soft lavender 25HPI Lugana evenweave from Zweigart (ref 3835/505) for the cushion top. The easy to make notebook cover and card are lovely extras that might make a sweet gift for a special friend." ➤



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Evenweave and threads materials pack delivered to your door. Save time and money!
£32.75
turn to page 67



Meet the designer...
Joan Elliott

"The stunning Iris flower is a lovely harbinger of warmer days to come. The spiky blue green leaves set off the stately stems beautifully. The irises in this design are ones I grow along the edge of my small rose garden in Vermont. In the morning I can go outside and see these incredible blue-violet blooms, their velvety petals touched with dew. This colour is a favourite of mine for its beautiful inner glow. It's interesting to note the symbolism of the iris in Asian culture. The sturdy leaves represent strength and endurance and the delicately folding petals are a spiritual sign of hope."

Shopping list...

- ✓ 25HPI evenweave, lavender Zweigart Lugana ref 3835/505. Cushion 20x20in (51x51cm), book cover 10x16in (25x41cm), card 8x8in (20x20cm)
- ✓ Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- ✓ DMC Color variations as listed in the key
- ✓ Kreinik Very Fine Braid as listed in the key
- Cushion**
- + Cotton fabric for backing 20x20in (51x51cm), mauve
- + Zip 14in (36cm) to match backing fabric
- + Cushion pad 14x14in (36x36cm)
- Book cover**
- + Cotton fabric for backing 9½x15½in (24x39cm), mauve
- + A5 notebook
- Card**
- + Card 96mm circular aperture ref AP52U-74, violet from Craft Creations call ☎ 01992 781900
- + Sewing kit usual essentials including matching thread
- ♦ Items marked ✓ are included in materials pack, items marked + are not included.
- ♦ Turn to page 68 for hints and help!

✓ DON'T MISS OUT!
Evenweave and threads materials pack for just **£32.75**
turn to page 67

Fabric tip

This is quite an intensely stitched design with a lot of the fabric covered in stitching. Sometimes this can make the stitching more difficult as the stitches are all fairly packed together. However, as we have used a 25HPI fabric rather than the usual 28HPI, with two strands for the cross stitch, then you will find that the stitches fit easily beside each other.

► Positioning your stitching

If you are stitching the cushion cover or card then you just need to fold the fabric in half both ways to find the centre. Start stitching at this point. If you are stitching the book cover then you need to work out where to place the design. It is worked on the right-hand side of the evenweave, so that it runs down the right edge of the front of your book. The design is placed centrally down the width of the fabric, so fold the fabric in half lengthways and mark with a pin. The right-hand long edge of the design starts 2in (5cm) from the right-hand side of the evenweave. If you measure this position and line that up with the central line you marked with a pin, then you will have the centre of the right side of the design. Mark this place on your chart then you can begin stitching.

Stitching the design

All the cross stitch is worked in two strands of stranded cotton over two threads of the evenweave. These are quite easy designs to ►

Purple patch

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	Colour
Cross stitch in two strands				
⊗	320	215	1311	Medium green
⊗	340	118	2702	Light purple
⊗	341	117	0902	Dark bluebell
⊗	368	214	1310	Light green
⊗	505	211	1206	Dark green
⊗	553	098	0712	Violet (2)
⊗	554	095	0711	Lilac (2)
⊗	676	891	2208	Light sand
⊗	677	300	2207	Straw
⊗	729	890	2209	Dark sand
⊗	746	275	0101	Magnolia
⊗	3746	1030	0903	Dark purple
⊗	3747	120	0901	Light bluebell

Cross stitch in one strand

⊗ Kreinik Very Fine (#4) Braid 028 Citron

Backstitch in one strand

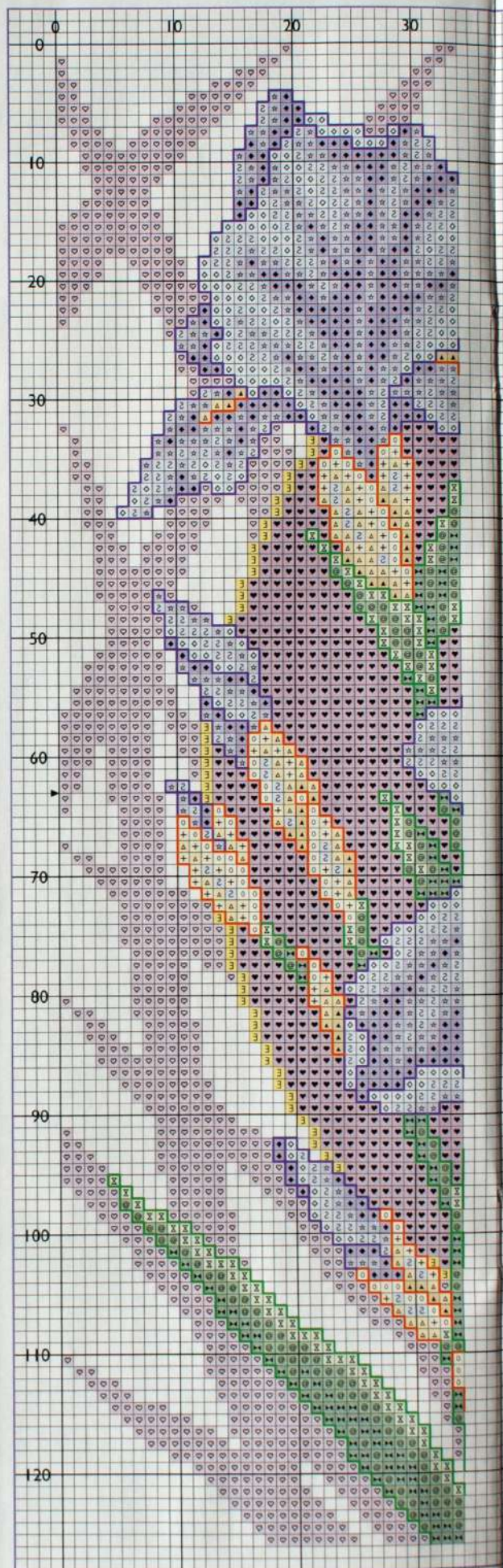
- DMC Color Variations 4045
leaves and stem outlines
- DMC Color Variations 4126
all other outlines and details
- DMC Color Variations 4240
iris outlines and details

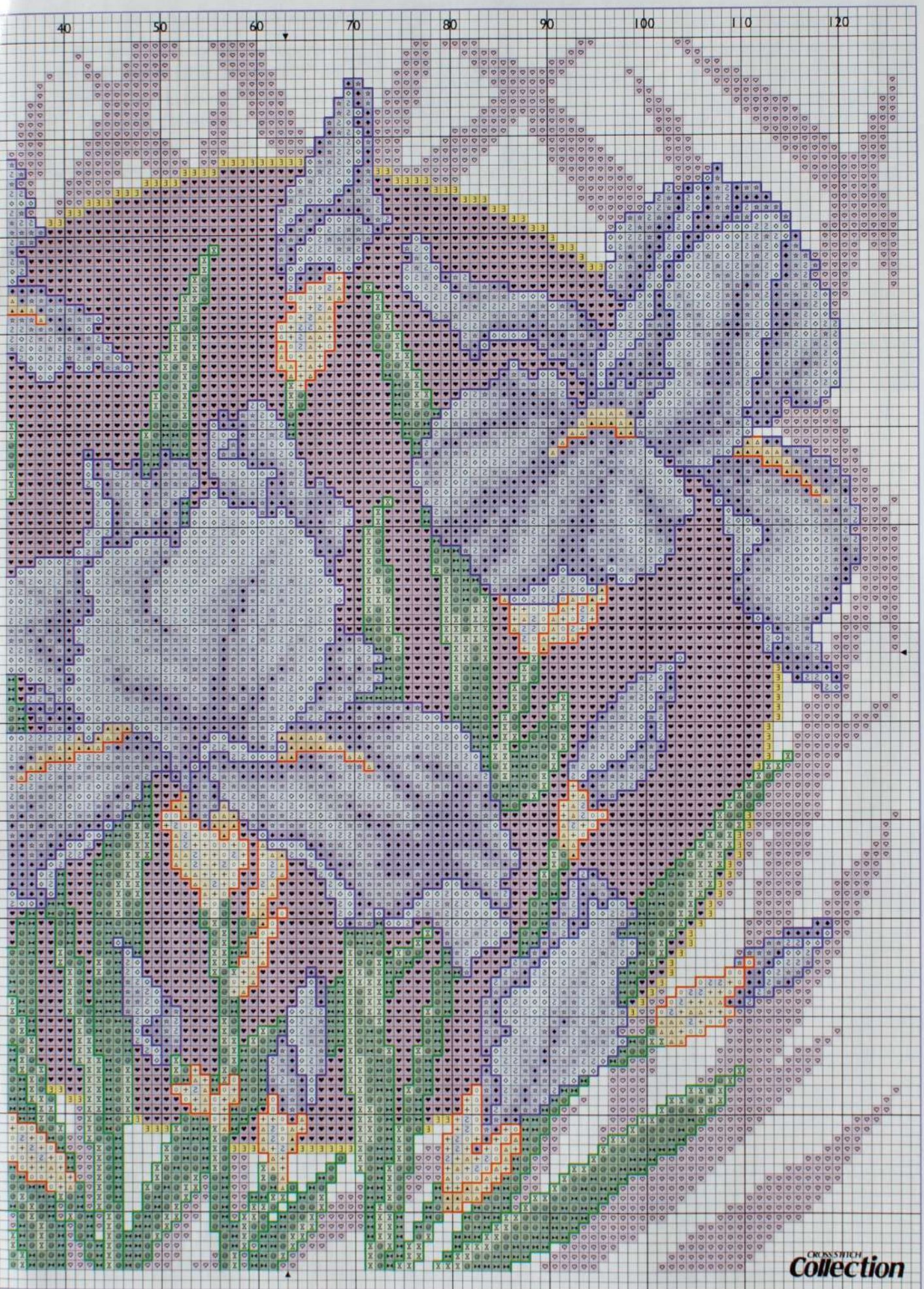
Stitched using DMC threads on 25HPI evenweave over two threads

Cushion stitch count 126x126

Design area 10x10in (25.5x25.5cm)

(2) indicates more than one skein required





CROSSSTITCH
Collection

► stitch as there are several large chunks of the same colour, which makes counting simpler. You will find that the leaves work down in strips without too much change of colour so the design will grow fairly quickly.

The border line round the edge of the circle behind the irises on all three charts is worked in one strand of Kreinik Very Fine Braid. When you are working with this thread, as with using all types of metallics, try to use lengths no longer than 12in (30cm), as it can fray and tangle far more easily than ordinary cottons.



The irises make a lovely cushion – just follow our instructions

Adding the details

When you have finished all the cross stitch you can add the backstitch details. These are all worked in one strand of DMC Color Variations thread, which is a variegated thread and gives a nice subtle colour change. Refer to the chart and key for the exact placement of the backstitch.

Making up the cushion

The cushion has just the stitched evenweave design at the front with a matching mauve cotton fabric used on the back. The cover is then stitched together through both evenweave on the front

Extras for you...

Get more from your stitching with our extra notebook cover project to make up...

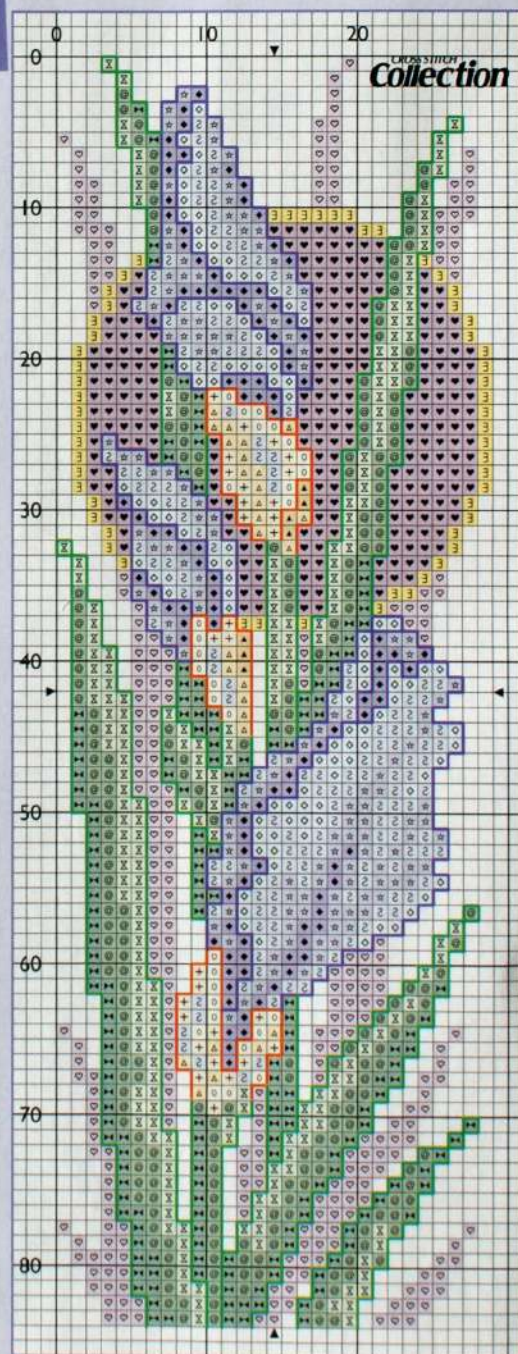
Whether it's a journal, recipe book or list of things to do, it will look fabulous in this iris cover design

Make a book cover

1. When you have finished all the iris stitching, trim the evenweave fabric so that it measures 9½x15½in (24x39cm).
2. Place the stitched evenweave and the cotton backing fabric right sides together. Sew together all the way round the edge using a ½in (1.5cm)

seam allowance leaving a 3in (8cm) gap along one of the short edges for turning.

3. Turn the two pieces right sides out and press. Turn the edge of the opening under and slip stitch to close.
4. Now turn the short edges over 1in (2.5cm) to the backing fabric side to form pockets for the cover.
5. Oversew these down each side.
6. Slip the edges of the front and back covers of the book into these pockets to finish.



and the cotton fabric back to create an Oxford pillowcase effect.

1. Cut your backing fabric into two pieces each measuring 19x10in (48x25cm).
2. Cut your linen into a 19x19in (48x48cm) square with the stitched design placed centrally.
3. Place the two back pieces of fabric right sides together and stitch, using a ½in (1.5cm) seam allowance, a 3in (8cm) seam from either end of the longer edge.
4. Insert the zip in the gap between the two seams.
5. Now place the cushion front and back right sides together and sew all the way round the edge using a ½in (1.5cm) seam allowance.
6. Turn the cushion cover right sides out and press.
7. Stitch through both back and front 2in (5cm) in from the outer seam all the way round.
8. Put your cushion pad inside to finish and you will see that the stitched inner line gives your cover an attractive floppy edge.



The magnolia companion

design to this piece (above) was featured in issue 180 of *Collection*, which is still available through our back issues department. Turn to page 71 to get hold of your copy.



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Cross stitch in one strand

Kreinik very fine (#4) braid 028 Citron

Backstitch in one strand

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leaves and stem outlines
- DMC Color Variations 4126
all other outlines and details
- DMC Color Variations 4240
iris outlines and details

Stitched using DMC threads on 25HPI evenweave over two threads

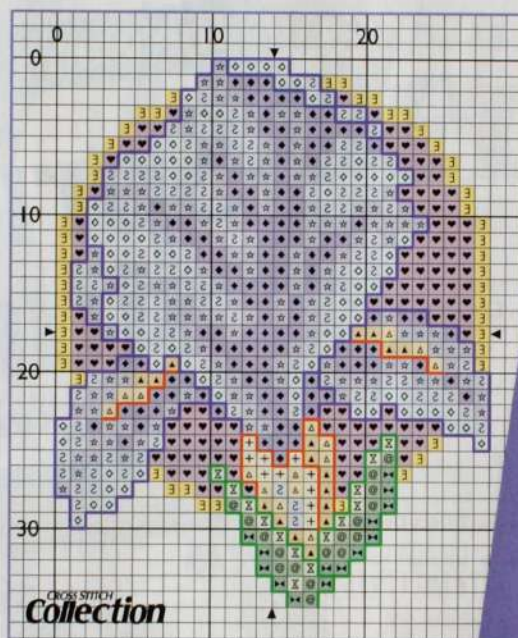
Book cover stitch count 84x29

Design area 6¼x2¼in (17x6cm)

Card stitch count 35x28

Design area 2¼x2¼in (7x6cm)

(2) indicates more than one skein required



Next issue...

Stitch favourite garden flowers, exclusive from Anchor. May issue (183), on sale from Friday 9 April 2010.



A quick stitch card that's suitable to send for any occasion