

LABYRINTH

By Debbie Rowley

This design is based on a quilt block pattern called Labyrinth. This is a free design for visitors to my website. Please don't copy and share this design, but direct anyone interested to my website, www.DebBeesDesigns.com. They will be able to see everything there.

Materials needed:

12" x 12" 18 ct. mono deluxe canvas—I'm stitching with eggshell canvas

2 pairs of 12" stretcher bars

Tacks or staples for attaching the canvas to the bars

Stranded floss in light, medium, dark and neutral colors—I'm using Rainbow Gallery Splendor S905 Lite Pistachio Green, S906 Medium Pistachio Green, S907 Dark Pistachio Green and S900 Beige

Fine metallic braid to match stranded floss—I'm using Kreinik #8 5555 Oyster and #8 9194 Star Green

Feel free to change the colors, use more threads, fewer threads, cottons, silks, overdyed—whatever you have handy in your stash and you find appealing.

Satin Lozenge Stitch

The first stitch is a satin stitch, which makes an interesting pattern on the diagonal although the stitches are straight stitches.

Find the approximate center of the canvas.

4 strands medium shade—I'm using Splendor S906 Medium Pistachio Green

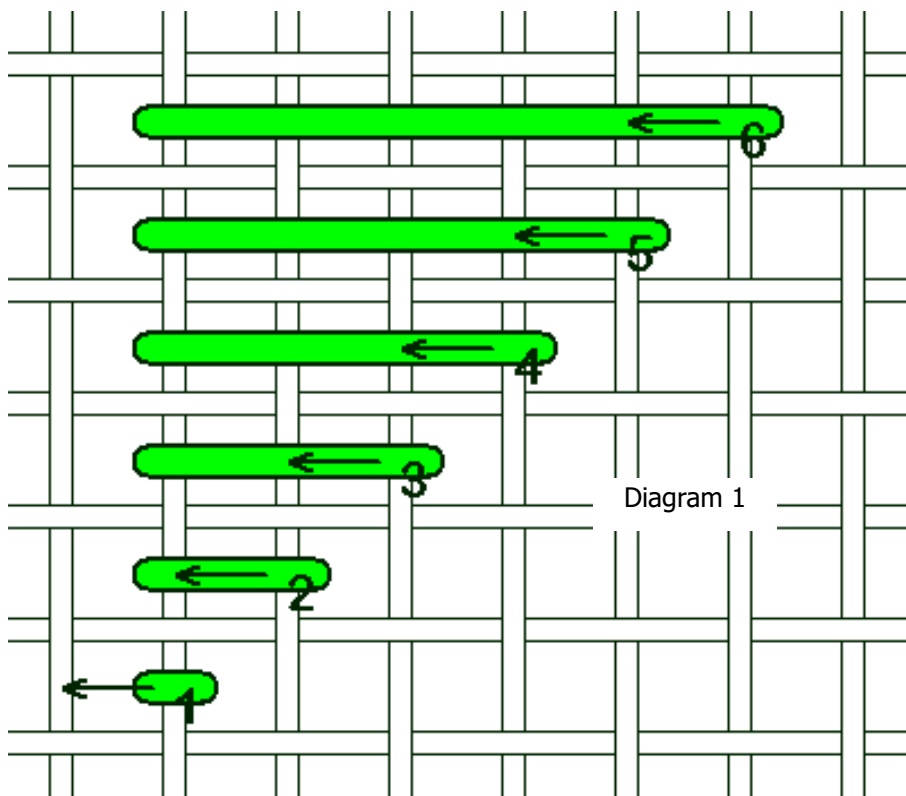
You may use more or fewer strands to get the coverage desired.

Anchor with a loop start (if you are using an even number of strands). For a loop start:

Cut a length of thread twice as long as your desired stitching length. Separate out 2 strands, one at a time, then put them together and fold in half. Thread the needle. From the front of the canvas, enter at position 1 in the diagram, leaving the loop on top of the canvas. Bring the needle up for the end of the stitch, pass the needle through the loop, then enter the canvas again at either end of the stitch. Tug the loop to the back of the canvas. The thread is anchored and ready for stitching.

The first stitch is over a single canvas thread, so it's ok for the first stitch to be the loop start. If the first stitch is longer than a single canvas thread (either vertically or horizontally) or over more than a single diagonal intersection, place the loop where it will be covered by a longer stitch.

Stitch the first section as shown starting in Diagram 1.



Continue on, but leave a space as shown for the filling stitches.

Diagrams 1 and 2 show the basics of the satin lozenge stitch, at least for now. Stitch the rest of the first band as shown in Diagram 3.

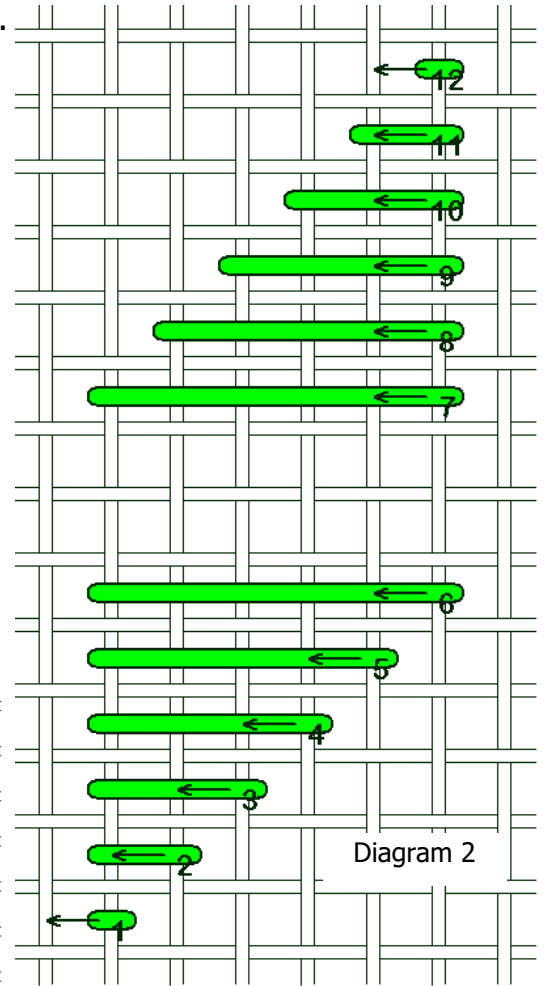


Diagram 2

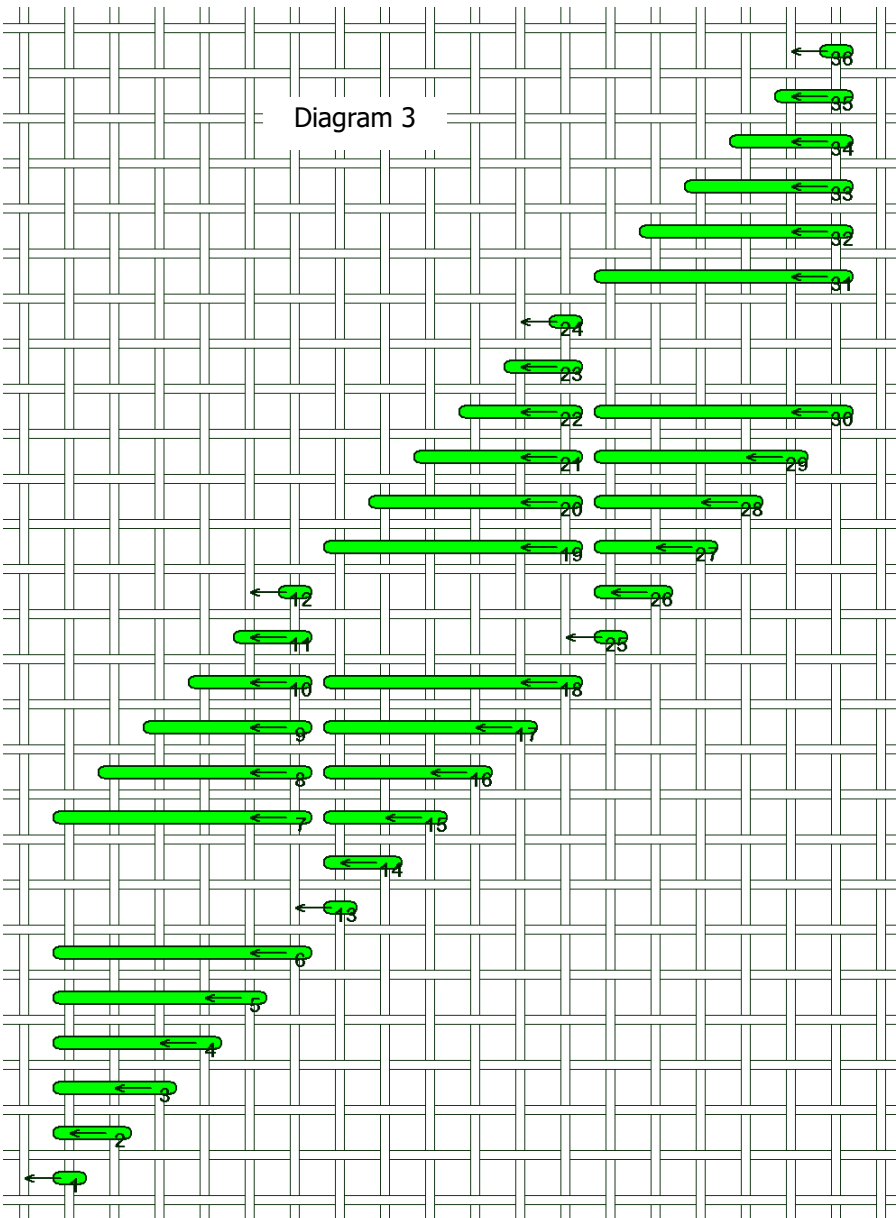
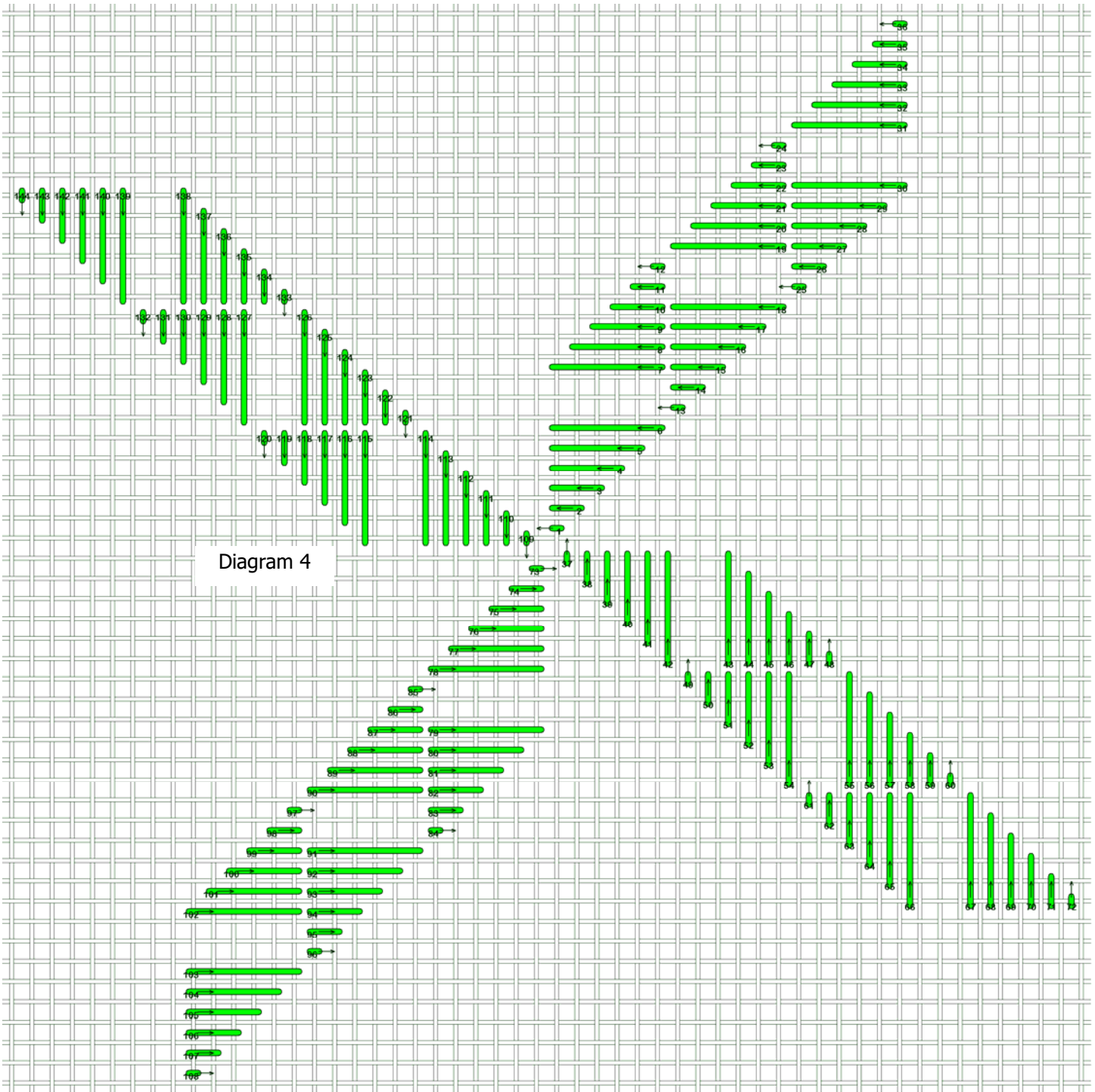


Diagram 3

Stitch three more rows or bands of satin lozenge stitch with the same thread.



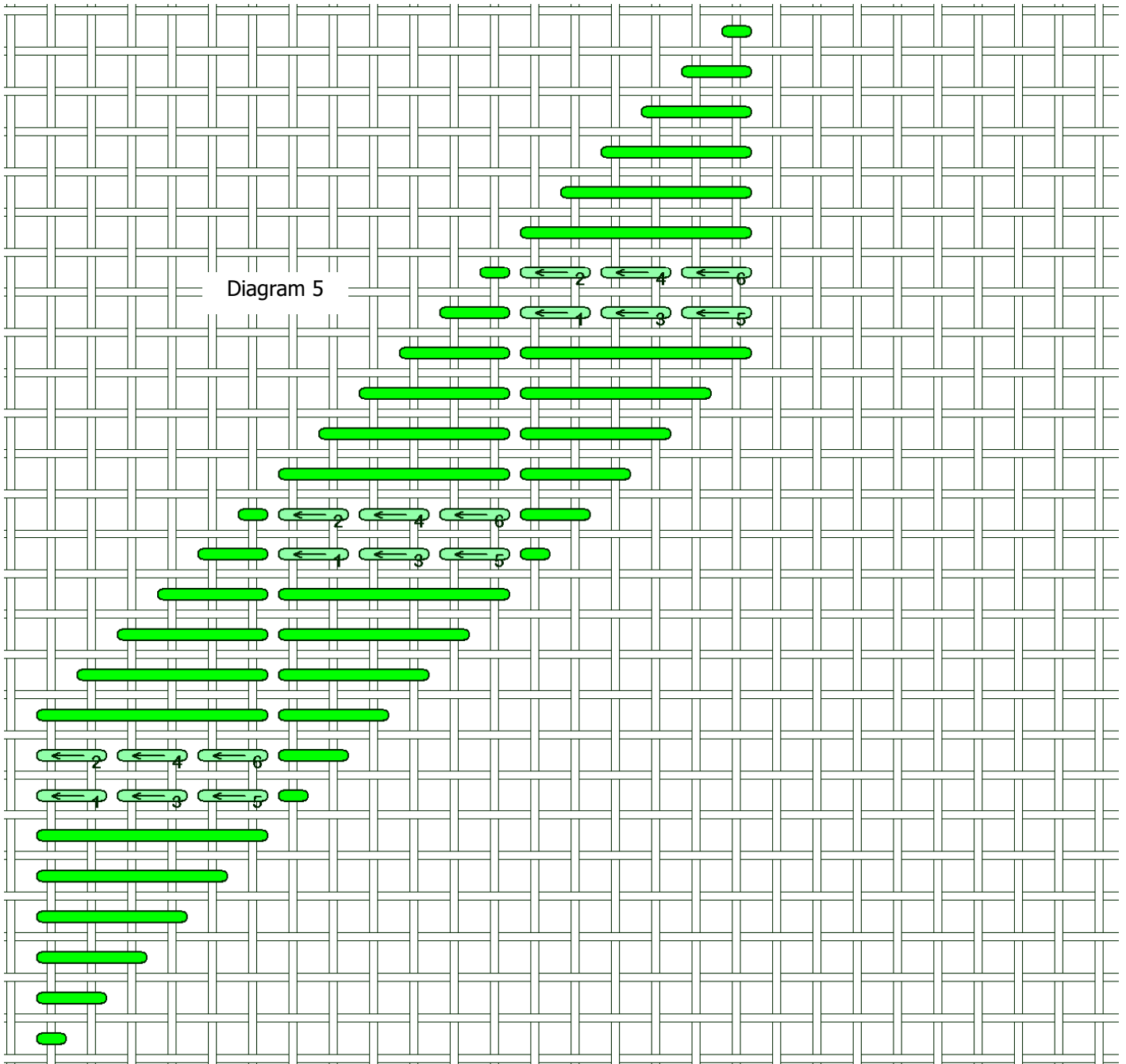
I ended the thread and started a new length for each orientation of the satin lozenge stitch. I think any thread carries will be covered, but that's a very long distance to carry thread across the back of the canvas, from the end of one row to the start of the next row.

2 strands of fine metallic braid—I used Kreinik #8 9194 Star Green

For the spaces in the satin lozenges, I tried a couple of different things. First I tried a single strand of the fine metallic braid. My color closely matches the stranded floss shade. I liked it but decided to try 4 strands of the lightest stranded floss shade to see if I liked it better. I didn't, so I pulled it out. Then I went over the stitches with a single strand of the fine metallic braid, adding a strand to it. I liked that best of all.

You can stitch with 2 strands in the needle at once, or do like I did and go over each stitch. Either is fine. If you think you'll be happy with a single strand, start off with that; you can always add to it later without having to rip anything out. You can also try the stranded floss, either in the lightest shade of your main color or the neutral, or the same color as the previous stitches. It's really up to you.

Stitch the remaining stitches as shown in the diagrams.



This is a close up view. You may change the order of the stitches if you want, if something different makes more sense to you.

And here's the completed satin lozenge area:

