

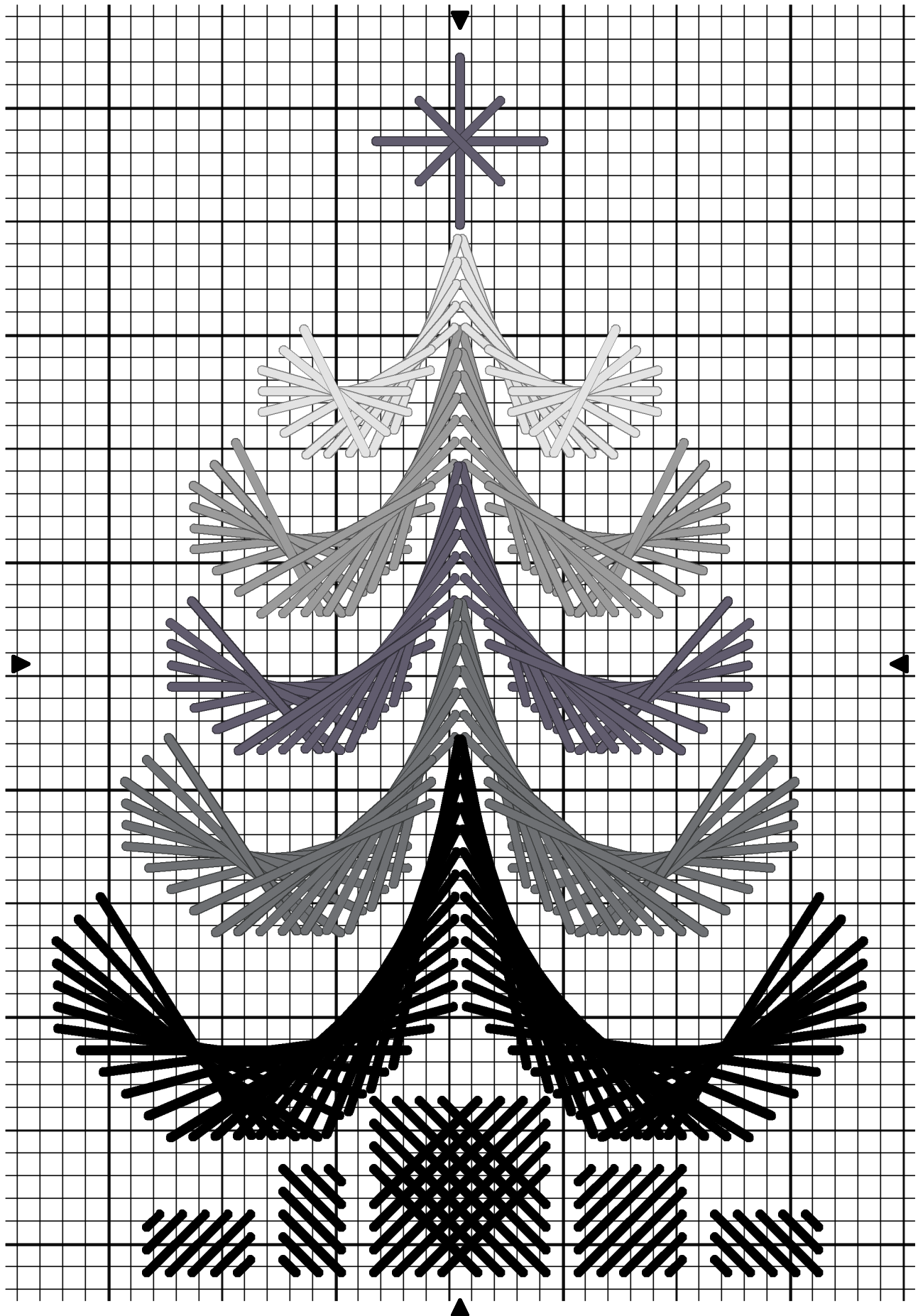
DebBee's Designs



SWIRLY TREE ORNAMENT 2022

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Design size 36 x 50 stitches, approximately 2" x 3" on 18 ct. canvas

Ornament 2022 Swirly Tree



Design By: Debbie Rowley

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SWIRLY TREES ORNAMENT 2022

By Debbie Rowley

This is a free ornament chart for my customers. Please do not copy or share, but refer to my website, www.DebBeesDesigns.com, and your stitching friends can download their own chart.

Introduction

I love creating ornaments—small, quick to stitch, perfect for ornament exchanges or gifts, or to decorate your holiday décor. I try to do one every year as a special thank you for my customers. This is my gift to you.

I had the idea of using crescents to create a Christmas tree. I had to redesign a couple of times to make sure the design would work the way I wanted it to, but I'm pleased with the result and hope you like it too!

After designing the tree, I decided it needed some packages underneath, a star on top and some ornaments! Due to the nature of the crescents, stitching beads or sequins wouldn't allow for easy placement, so I used hot fix crystals. Hot fix crystals come in a variety of sizes and shapes, and if you don't have the hot fix tool they are easily glued in place, or touched with a regular iron to activate the glue on back of the sequins.

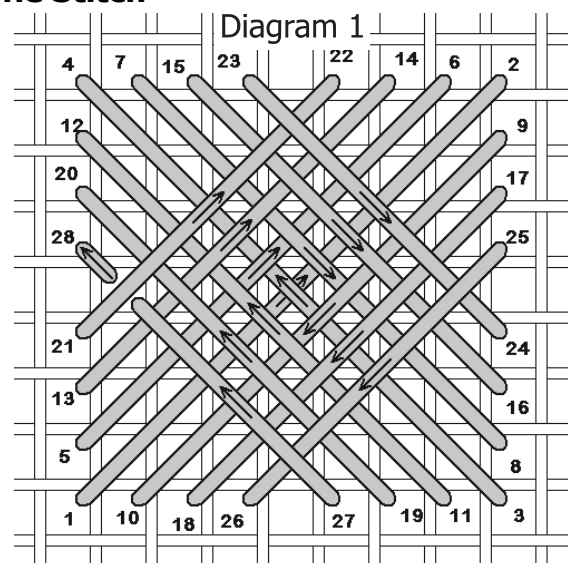
As designed, the ornament is about 2" x 3", relatively small but that makes it quicker to stitch.

I used Victorian red canvas, but other colors (except white) would work as well.

There are only two threads used in the project: Rainbow Gallery Silk Lame' Braid SL02 White and FyreWerks FT14 Vatican Gold. Feel free to change the colors or use more colors if you like. I was trying to keep things simple!

Tree Base - Waffle Stitch

Use the FyreWerks FT14 Vatican Gold for the tree base. The base of the tree should be about 1 ½" from the bottom edge of the canvas, centered. Anchor with a T stitch, placed where it will be under the center of the waffle stitch. Stitch as shown in Diagram 1.



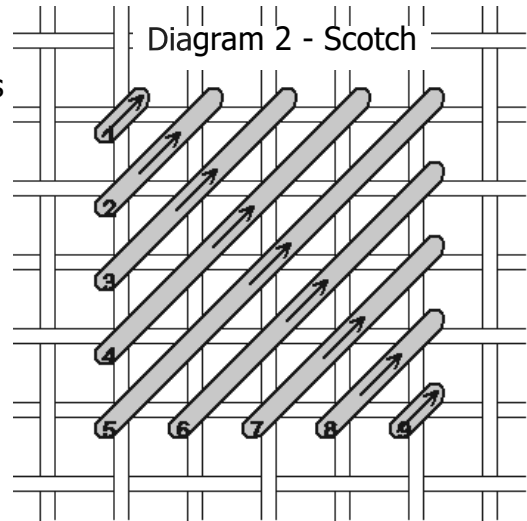
Packages - Cashmere and Scotch

Continue with the same Rainbow Gallery FyreWerks FT14 Vatican Gold for the packages under the tree. If you like, you can carry the thread from the waffle stitch to the packages.

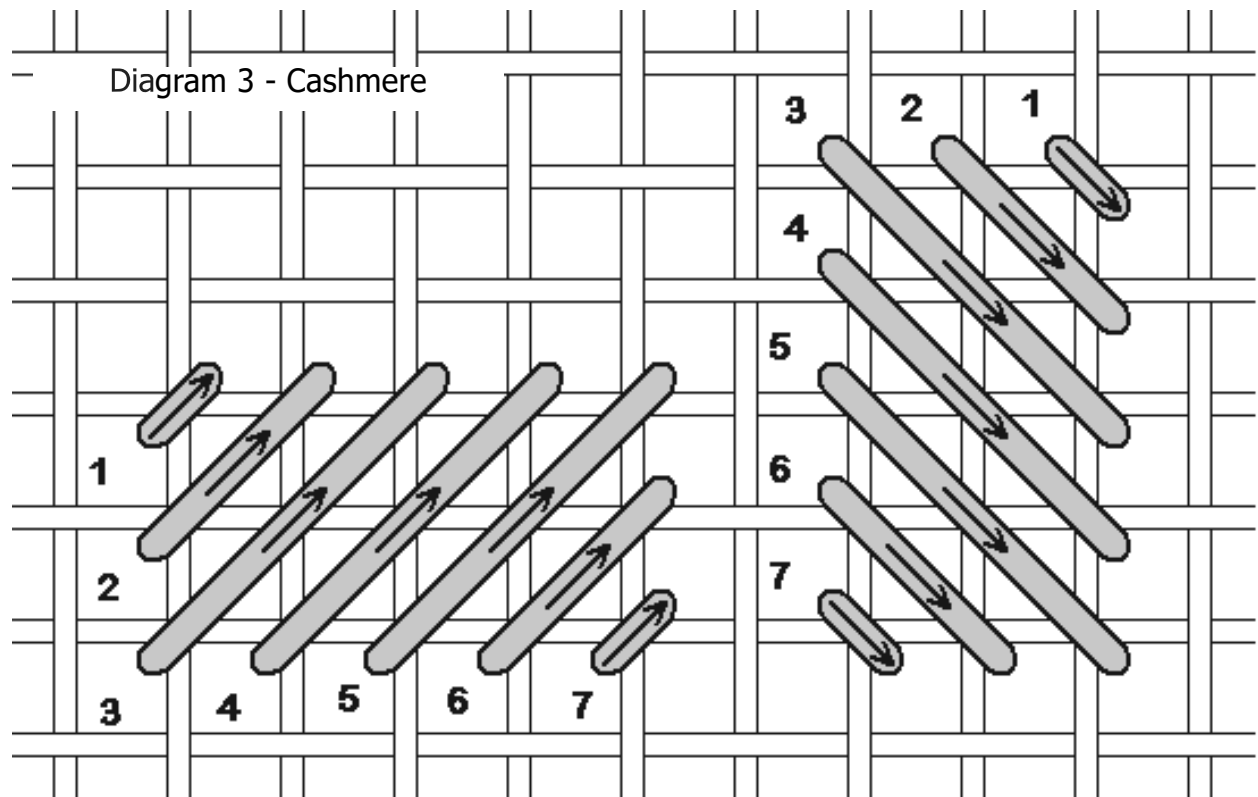
The packages can all be the same size and stitch, or you can change it up, or add your own stitches. I kept it simple, using 1 scotch stitch over 5 canvas threads, and a cashmere stitch, same size but horizontal and vertical.

You can carry the thread from one stitch to the next. There's only 1 canvas thread between the stitches, so any carry thread shouldn't show through.

Stitch the scotch stitch as shown in Diagram 2.



Stitch the cashmere stitch as shown in Diagrams 3 and 4.



Refer to the main graph to see where I placed the cashmere stitches.

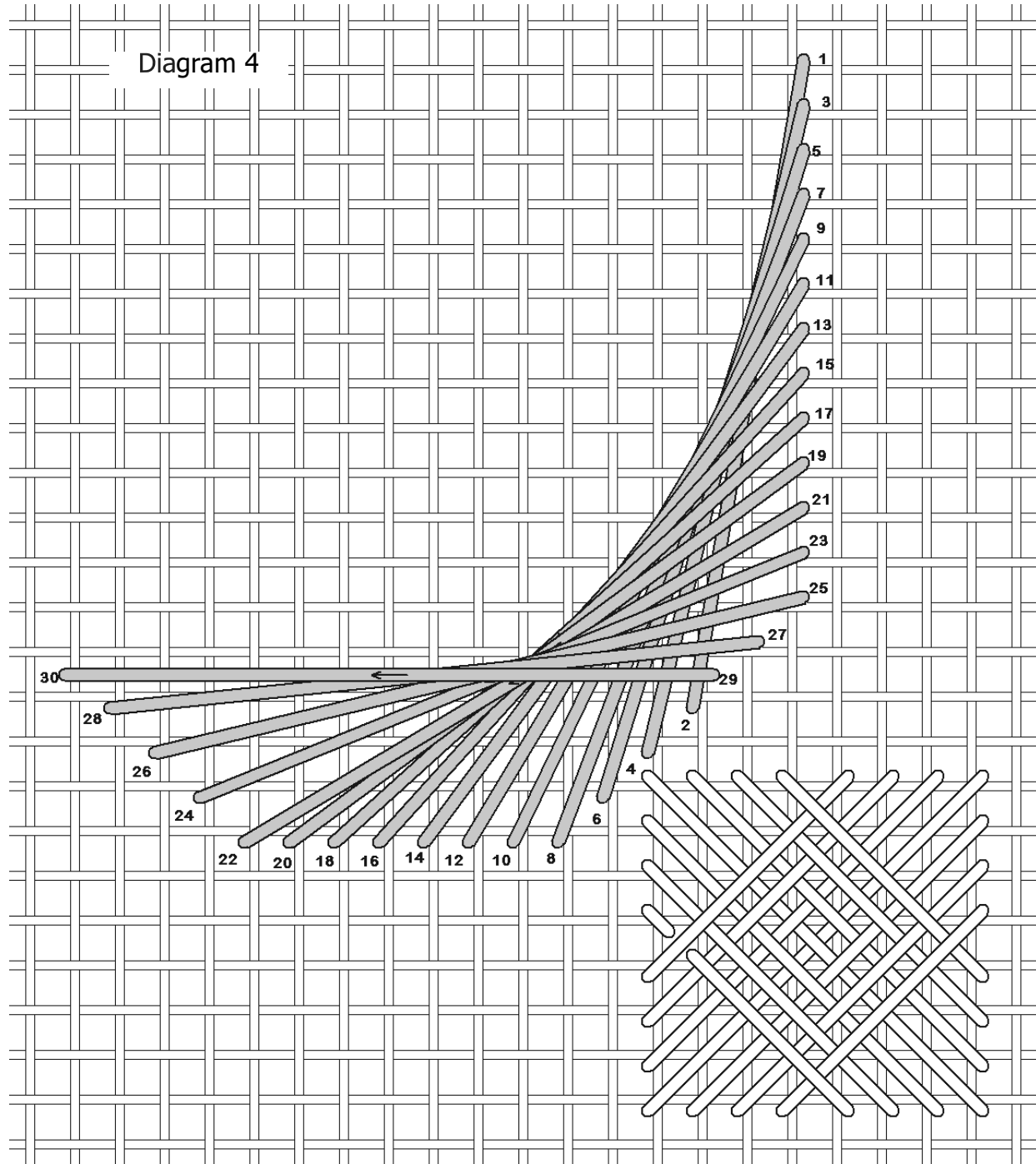
End off by weaving into the backs of the stitches.

Christmas Tree - Layer 1 Crescents

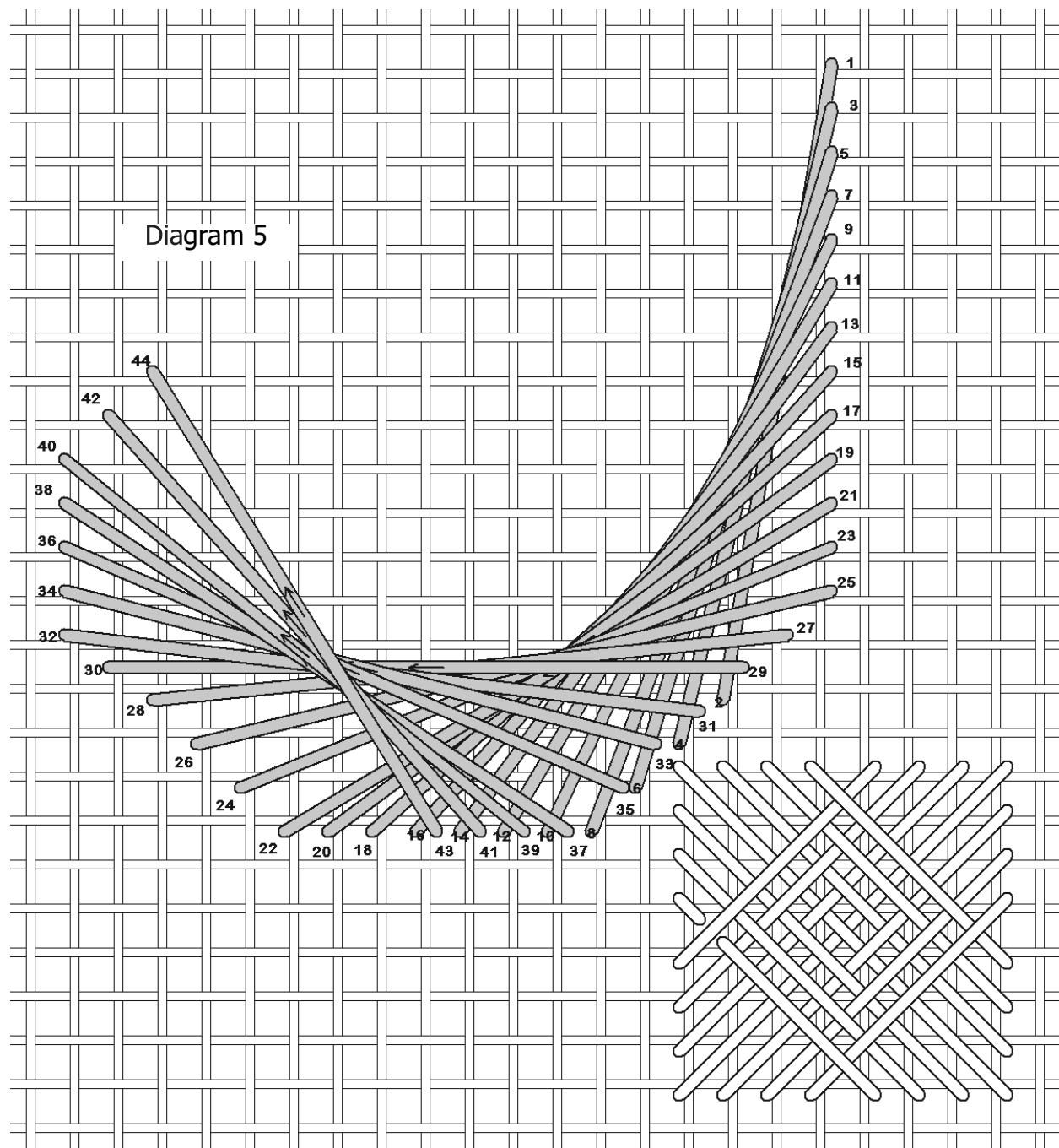
Begin with the largest crescents, using Rainbow Gallery Silk Lane' Braid SL02.

Anchor with a pin stitch, about 7 canvas threads above and 3 canvas threads to the left of the center of the waffle stitch.

Begin as shown in Diagram 4. The waffle stitch is shown for reference for placement.

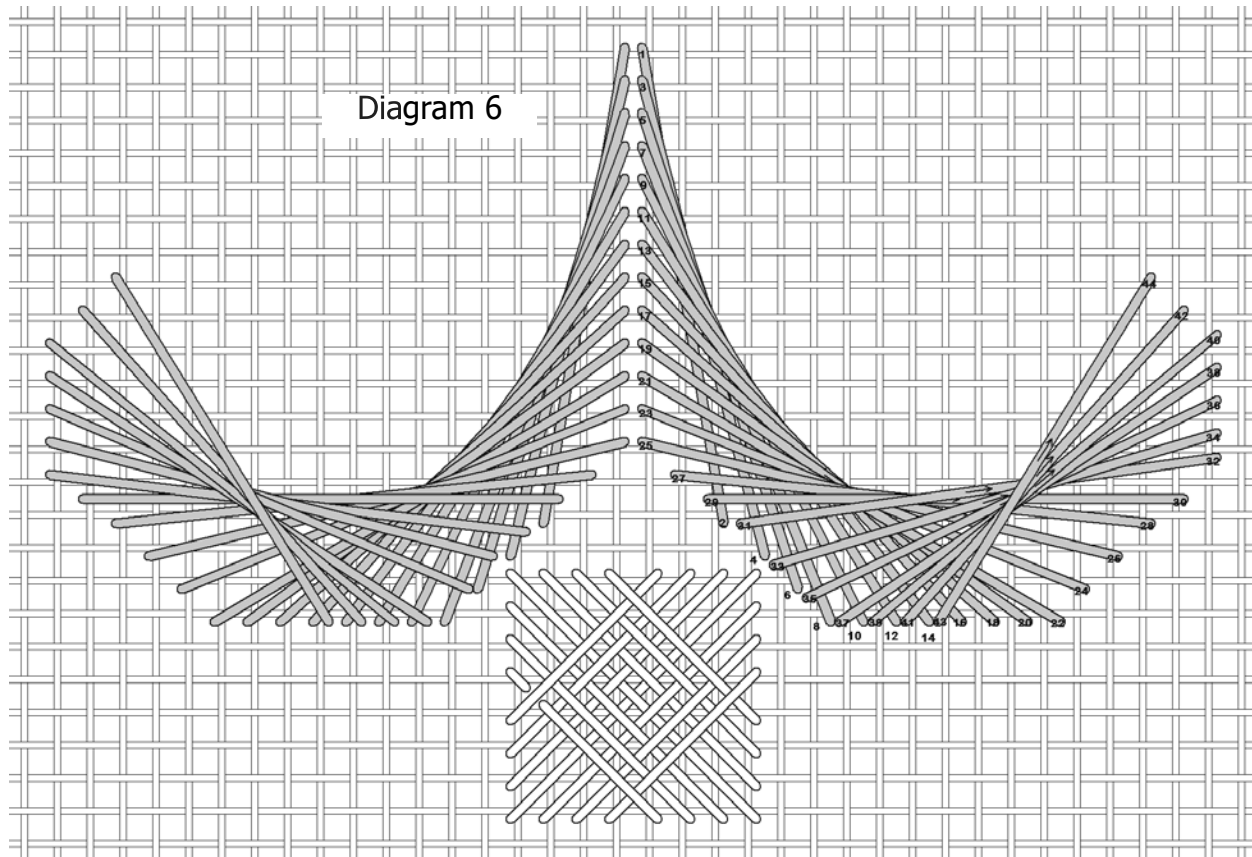


Continue stitching the crescent as shown in Diagram 5. The stitches begin where previous stitches ended.



End off the thread; if you carry it over to begin the mirrored crescent the carry thread will show through. It will take almost the entire card of Silk Lame' Braid to stitch the whole tree, so be frugal with the thread! I had about 1 ½ to 2 yards left after stitching.

Stitch the mirrored crescent as shown in Diagram 6. The needle comes up in shared holes along the center line.



I checked to make sure my end points matched, but if they don't quite it will be ok! Trees are not usually perfectly symmetrical. The point is to have fun with this stitch!

End off the thread. I used pin stitches under the crescent.

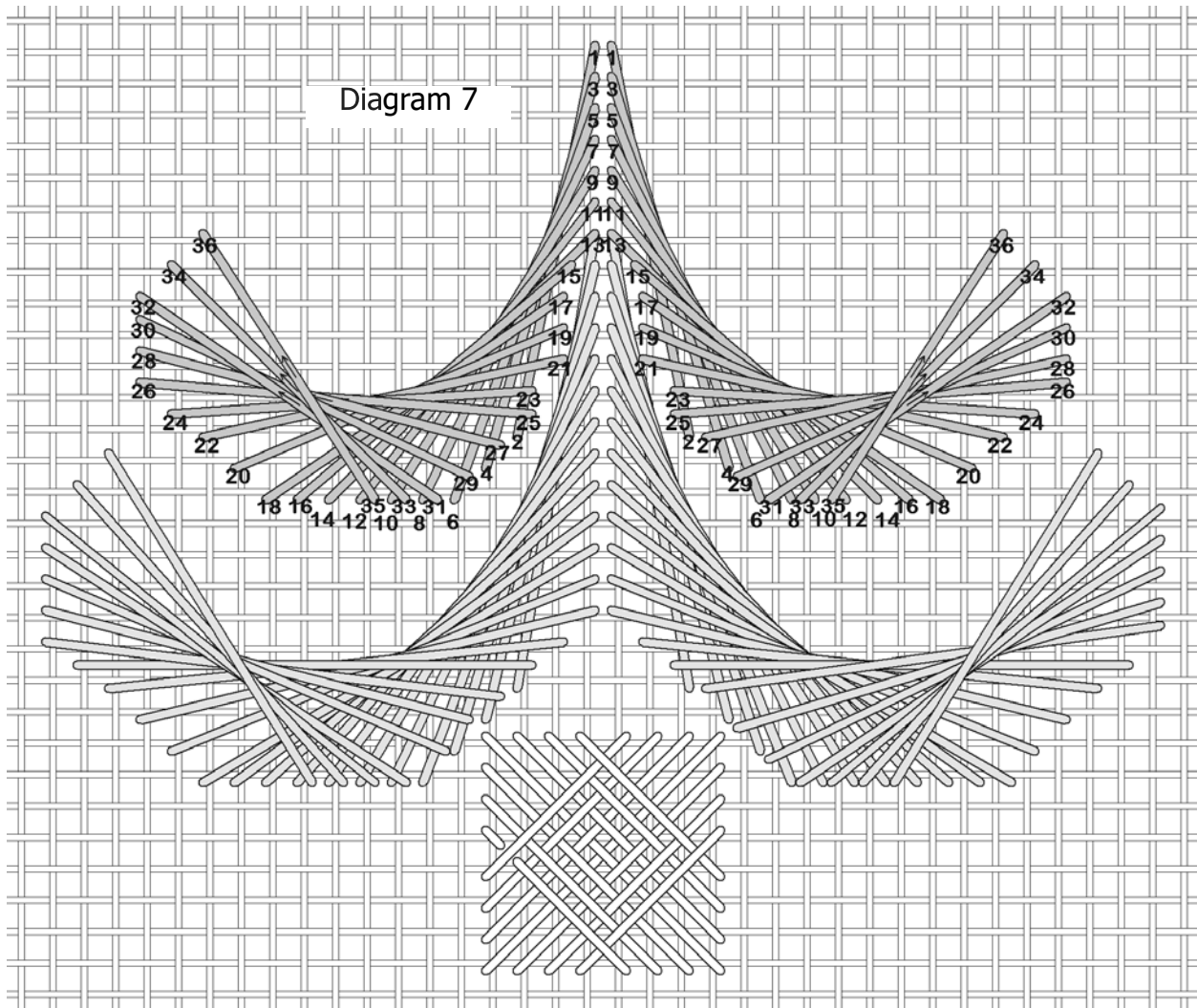
Layer 2 Crescents

Continue with the second layer. These crescents are a little smaller than the previous ones.

If you have thread left in your needle after stitching the bottom layer, don't carry the thread up to begin the second set of crescents because it will show through.

The diagram for the second layer is on the next page.

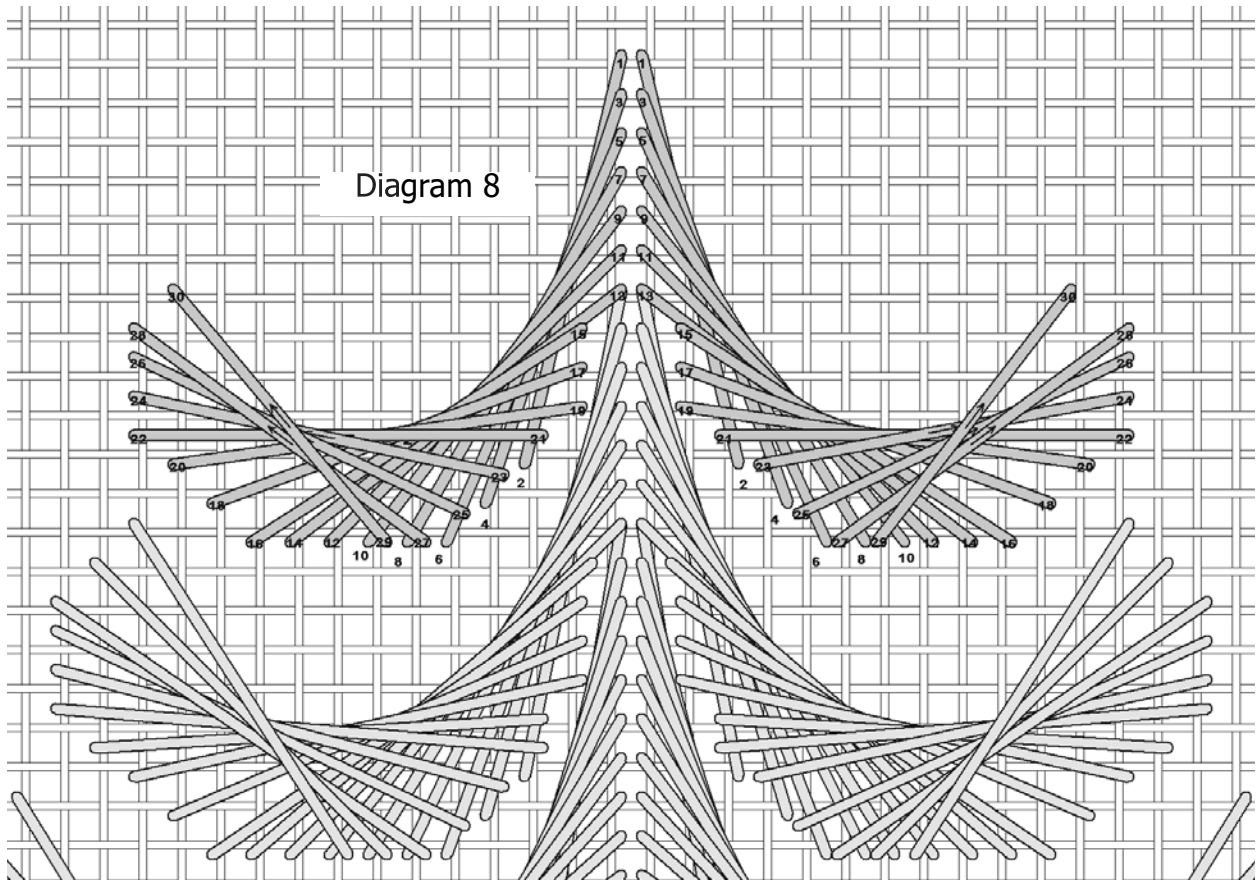
All of the crescents are stitched in a similar fashion. The end points change to provide the smaller layers as you get to the top.



The end points along the center that are close to the previous layer may be a little tricky to see. When I stitched it, I moved the previous layer stitches aside with my fingernail or the tip of a needle, to see the canvas more clearly.

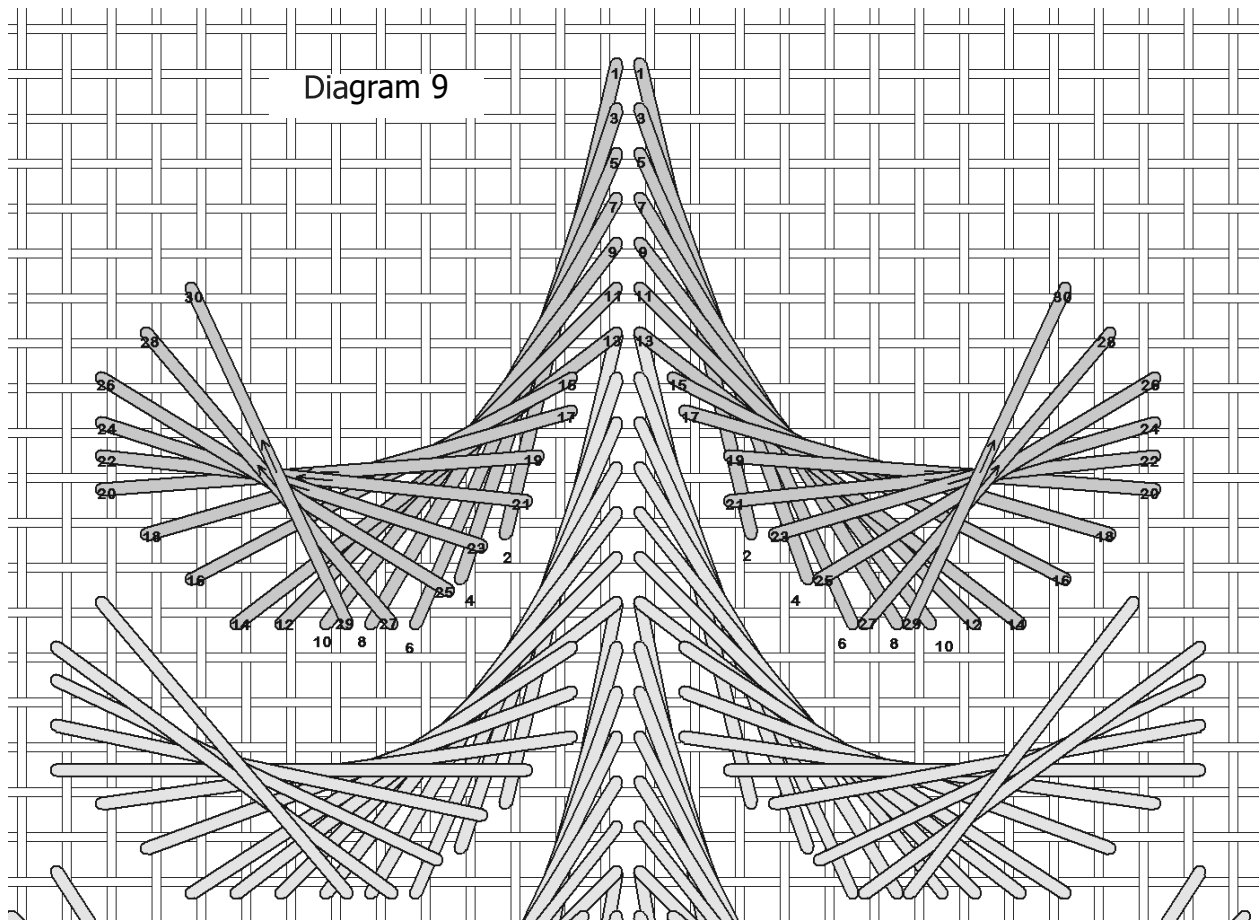
Layer 3 Crescents

The third layer crescents are shown on the following page. I've removed the first layer and the waffle stitch to make the third layer stitches larger. If needed, refer to the main graph for the relationship of the third layer with the bottom layer.



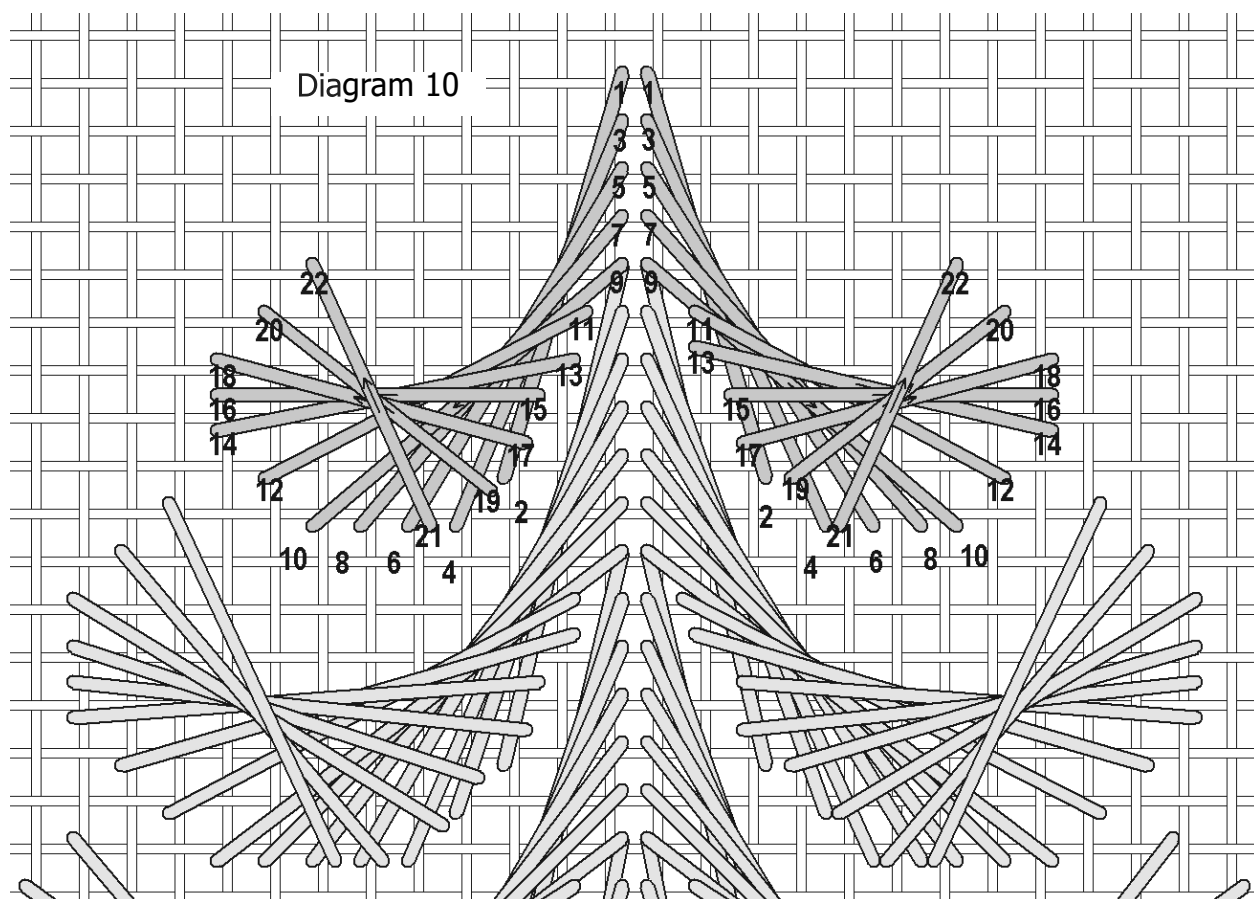
Fourth Layer Crescents

The fourth layer is smaller than the previous layers, and is stitched in the same way.



Fifth Layer Crescents

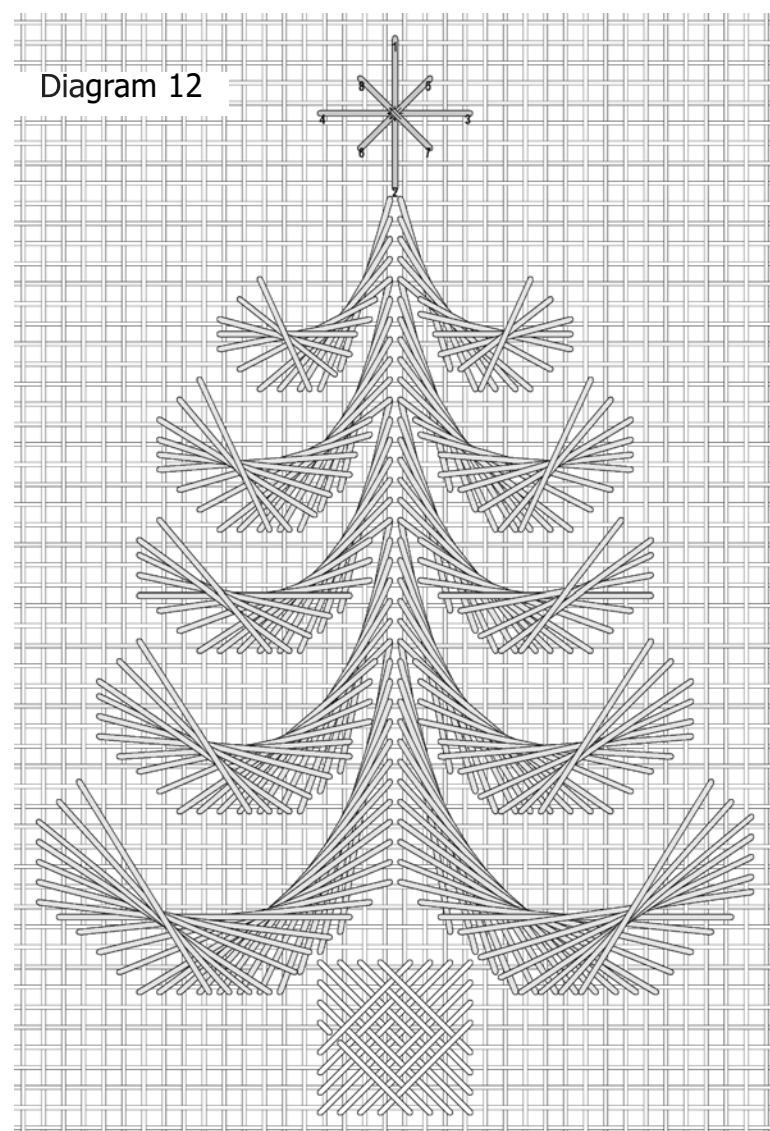
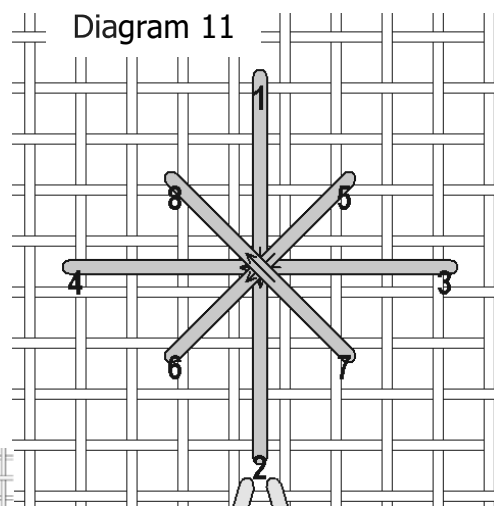
The final layer! This layer is even smaller than the previous layers.



Star

Finish the stitching for the tree with a sparkly star, using the Rainbow Gallery Fyre Werks FT14 Vatican Gold.

Stitch as shown in Diagram 11.



Finishing Touches

If you like, decorate the finished tree with hot fix crystals, beads, French knots, sequins - whatever you like!

I used the hot fix crystals. First I did a trial placement of the crystals, to see where I wanted them. After I was happy with the placement, I used the hot fix tool to activate the glue. If you don't have a hot fix tool, you can use the tip of an iron to activate the glue, or use a glue that dries clear like Alene's Tacky Glue or Elmer's.

I used a mix of red and green, but I think it would also be lovely with all red or all green.

It's your tree - decorate it however you like!

I didn't do this, but you can also add "ribbons" or "bows" to the packages under the tree. You can use what's left of the Silk Lane' Braid for this, or do a little stash diving to find something you like.

Ornament Flat Finish

You will need 2 pieces of mat board, about 3" x 4"; cording (I used a purchased gold cording but you can make cording if you like); fabric to cover the back of the ornament; glue (I used Alene's Tacky Glue and Spray Glue); straight pins, and clothes pins.

First prepare the backing:

Lay the fabric for the back wrong side up. Lightly spray with spray glue, or use the other glue if you don't have spray glue. Center one piece of mat board on the wrong side of the fabric. Miter in the corners, and fold the fabric edges over, enclosing the edges of the mat board. Set aside to dry.

Now prepare the ornament front:

Trim the edges of the ornament to about 5" x 6" square; if you stitched on an 6" piece of canvas this will be about an inch off of the left and right sides. I use a rotary cutter for this, but you can use scissors as well. You need enough margin on each side of the design to fold over.

Fold the corners in to miter. You can reduce the bulk of the canvas at the points by carefully trimming away, but don't trim too much to accidentally cut into the design.

Leave enough at the points to fold canvas over the mat board.

Glue the sides to the back of the mat board. Let the glue set before moving to the next step. I use clothes pins to act as clamps while the glue is drying.

Put the back and front together:

Put the wrong sides of the front and back together. At this point I use clothespins to hold the ornament pieces together. Carefully glue the front to the back, inserting the tip of the glue bottle between the two pieces to get the glue down between the pieces.

Use clothespins to clamp the pieces together while the glue sets. If you want you can place the ornament face down on a towel under something heavy while the glue sets.

Apply the cording:

Use purchased cording or make your own.

After the cording is made, insert the ends of the cording at the bottom center, using a chopstick or something like that to poke the ends between the two pieces. Run a line of glue along the outside edges of the two pieces, pressing the cording into the glue. I use straight pins to make sure the cording is where I want it, especially at the corners. Glue around the edges until you get to the top center. Overlap the edges and leave a hanging loop at the top. This is another good place to insert pins to make sure the cording stays in place while setting, and so it doesn't pull away when hung for display.

I've been finishing ornaments using this method for several years, and my ornaments still look good. If you prefer to stitch them together you certainly may do so, and stitch the cording to the pieces.

Please let me know if you have any questions about the instructions or finishing, and I'll help any way I can. I appreciate my customers and fans so much, and this is one small way I show my thanks for your continued support!

Debbie@DebBeesDesigns.com

References

I recommend the following books for additional information on needlework:

The Needlepoint Book, by Jo Ippolito Christensen, a Fireside Book by Simon & Schuster, Inc., 1976 and 1999, 1230 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10020

Needlepoint Stitches (1988) and Stimulating Stitches (1992) by Jean Hilton, 43479 Alto Dr., Hemet, CA 92344

iStitches Vol. 1-V, Ruth Schmuff, available as app for electronic devices, (2010)

RESOURCES**THREADS:**

Rainbow Gallery, 7412 Fulton Ave. #5, North Hollywood, CA 91605-4126
www.rainbowgallery.com

CANVAS:

Zweigart, 232 Old New Brunswick Rd., Ste E, Piscataway, NJ 08854,
www.zweigart.com

CRYSTALS:

Wholesale Rhinestones, www.wholesalerhinestone.shop

SOFTWARE:

EasyGrapher Stitch Wiz, Davis Computer Services, Inc., PO Box 750141, New Orleans, LA 70175 www.easygrapher.com

Easy Cross DeLuxe, Fulford Software Solutions, 92 Penrhyn Crescent, Chilwell, Nottingham, NG9 5PA www.easycross.co.uk

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Rainbow Gallery

Silk Lame' Braid SL02 White
FyreWerks FT14 Vatican Gold

Glass Hot Fix Crystals SS30 Dark Green
Glass Hot Fix Crystals SS30 Dark Green

Other materials needed:

Zweigart 18 ct. Victorian Red mono deluxe canvas, 6" x 6"
2 pairs of 6" stretcher bars
22 tapestry needle
Laying tool

About DebBee's Designs

An elegant white Christmas tree, decorated with shiny sequins in red and green!

I've always liked the look of a white Christmas tree, so this year I've created one. My tree is on a red background, but just about any color would work. I decorated my tree with big baubles of red and green, and put some presents in gold under the tree. A shiny gold star tops everything off!

In my view, the perfect ornament to stitch for an exchange or gift is one that doesn't take a long time, and this one fits the bill. Start to finish, it took probably 4-6 hours. If you're like me, and sometimes forget you're supposed to take an ornament to the group's exchange until 2 days before, you really need something quick to stitch and finish! Or if you need to stitch several ornaments for family or friends, this ornament is so quick start to finish that you can stitch it several times!

I hope you enjoy this gift to you, to thank you for being supportive of DebBee's Designs. I appreciate you more than you know! Best wishes for the happiest of holidays!

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