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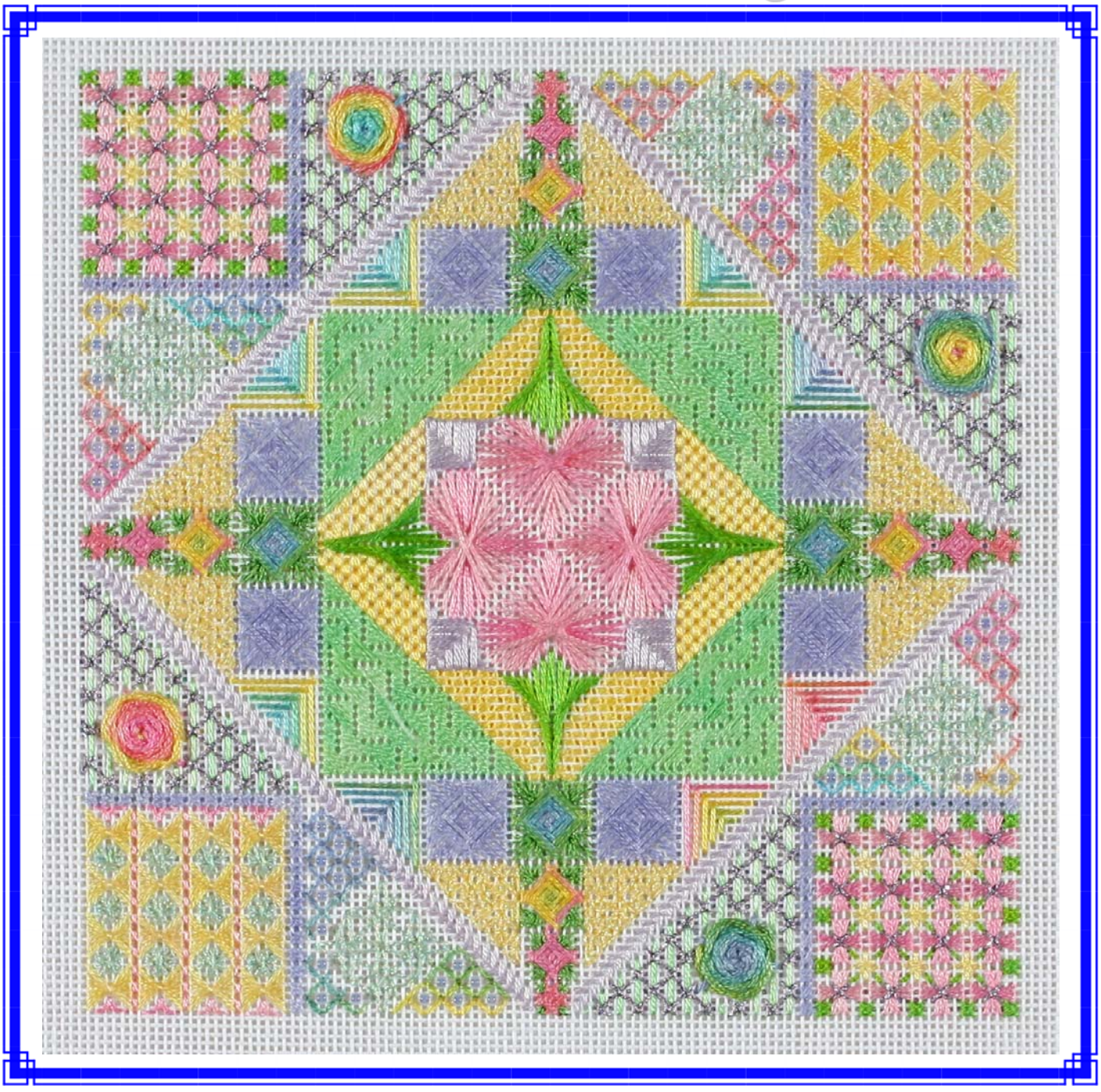

MY PATCHWORK GARDEN

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Design size 110 x 110 stitches, approximately 6" square on 18 ct. canvas

2026 Stitch Along

My Patchwork Garden

By Debbie Rowley

The start of the new year is the perfect time to begin a new project! There's nothing like staring a blank canvas and envisioning the magic about to happen, when colorful threads and interesting stitches are applied!

For this Stitch Along, I decided to choose threads as I go. This is a somewhat scary departure from the way I usually do things, so bear with me! I have designed the first few elements, and picked the first threads, but I haven't gotten beyond that.

If you're like me, you have a LOT of stash threads: threads left over from other project, threads you picked up along the way because you liked the feel or color, or even entire lines of threads (raising my hand here but it's kind of essential that my stash is deep). I challenge you to stitch from stash for this project if you like, but I'm also a master enabler - go shopping if you want!

As we move along, I'll suggest a thread type, but feel to change these, and the specific thread I used for the project. For the first stitches, I selected a Gloriana silk floss, so let's dive in!

I am using white 18 ct. Mono deluxe canvas, 12" x 12", mounted on two pairs of 12" stretcher bars. I don't know what the finished size will be yet, but it will not exceed 6" square.

Length	Thread Type	As Shown	Your Choice
36"-40"	Stranded floss	Gloriana 12 Strand Silk Floss 083 Blossoms (2)	

Braided Heart

A bit of info about the thread first. I had ordered in the entire line of Gloriana Silk Floss, but haven't had much chance to stitch with it. The colors are so yummy! And it feels divine to stitch with. It's a 12 strand floss, and generally you don't stitch with all 12 strands as it comes. For the first stitches, I'm using 2 strands. To separate the strands, tap the cut end until the strands separate, then grasp one strand with one hand and slide the rest of the skein down with the other hand. Do this for the number of strands you want to use, then recombine before threading the needle. With an overdyed thread like this one, keep the color changes going the same way. For solid colors you can flip the ends, which seems to keep the strands separated a bit better.

About the stitch: I have so many volumes of stitch reference books and refer to them frequently. I like apps that I can keep on my phone and look things up quickly. One of my phone apps is Shapes of Stitches by Sandra Arthur. Two of the volumes were released as apps, and I do have all four of the books. They are excellent references. I came across this braided heart diagram, and it's not a heart shape I've used before, so I started with this one.

Anchor your thread with a pin stitch or an away knot. If you choose to use a pin stitch (which I almost always do), find the center of the canvas, then count up about 9 canvas threads, and make the pin stitch there. It should be nicely covered by the stitches when completed. I also end with a pin stitch usually, and in this case it's the best way to end since it's more secure than weaving into the backs of the stitches - these are long stitches on the front and back, and weaving in will not be secure. To end with a pin stitch, from the front gently move the stitches aside, close to the center of the heart. Make the pin stitch from the front, then snip off the thread and move the stitches back over the pin stitch.

The diagram begins on the next page.

From the center of the canvas (this can be approximate) count up 8 canvas threads, and 8 canvas threads to the left; bring the needle up here for the first stitch. The first stitch covers 17 vertical threads and 4 horizontal threads; end the first stitch here.

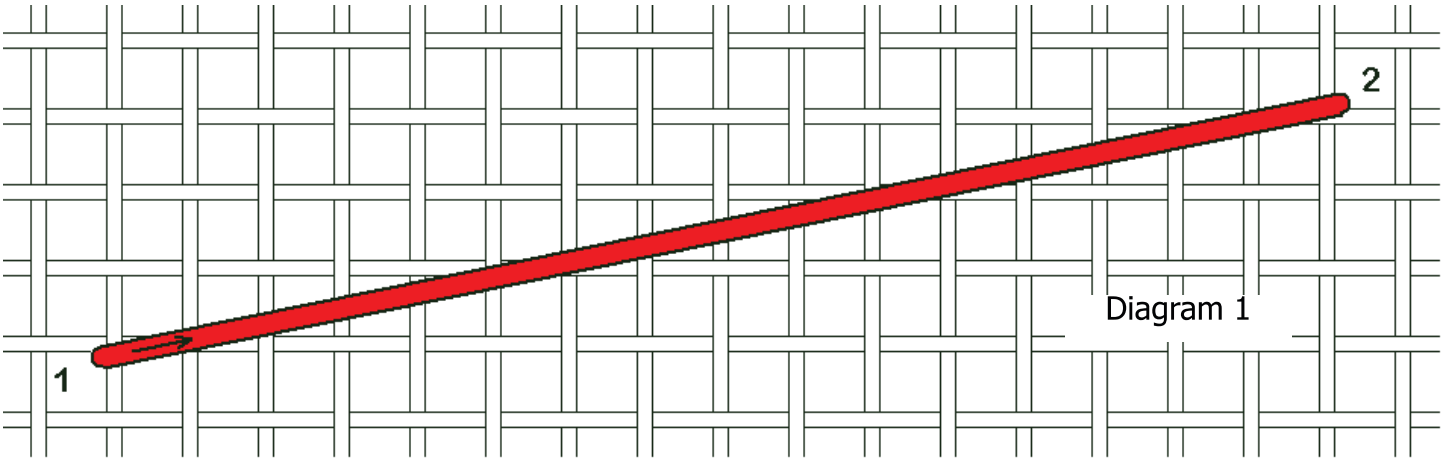


Diagram 1

Continue as shown in Diagram 2, with the long mostly horizontal stitches.

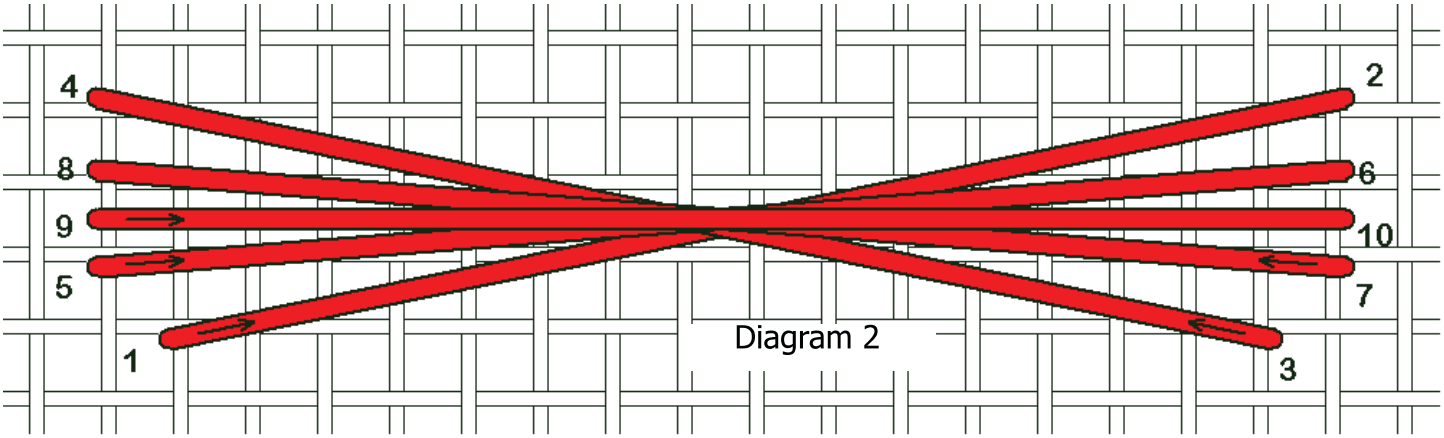


Diagram 2

The diagram continues on the next page.

Now let's make some mostly vertical stitches. The next two stitches will begin in the same shared hole, and end in different holes. Bring the needle up in the center of the canvas (this is 8 canvas threads below position 1 and 8 canvas threads to the right of position 1 in the first diagram. This stitch will end 13 canvas above 11 and 1 to the left, the next stitch will end 13 canvas threads above 13 and 1 to the right, leaving a gap of 2 canvas threads between positions 12 and 14.

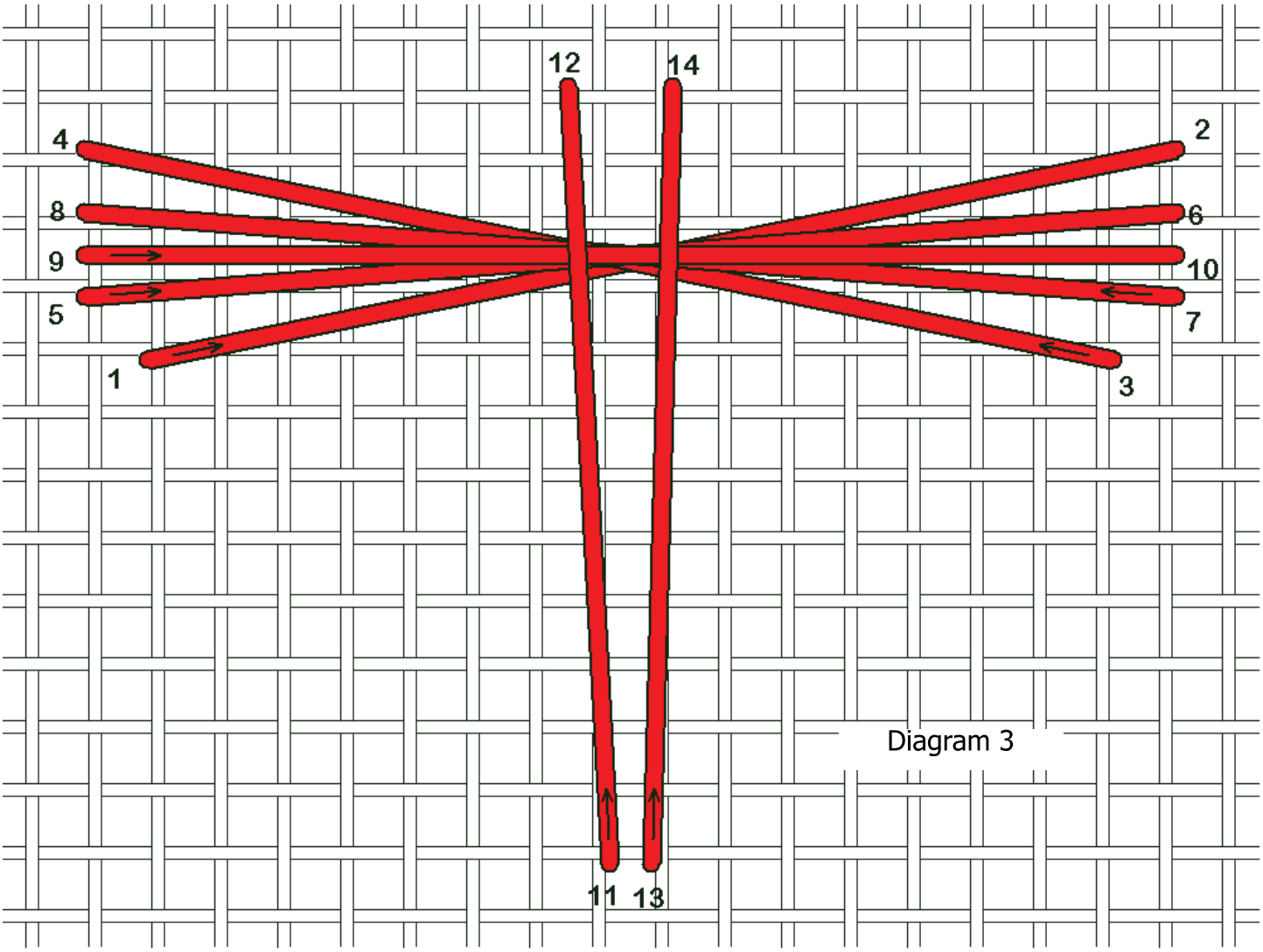


Diagram 3

The diagram continues on the next page.

Now finish the heart shown in Diagram 4. The end points follow along in adjacent diagonal holes for the most part, so no need to do a lot of heavy counting.

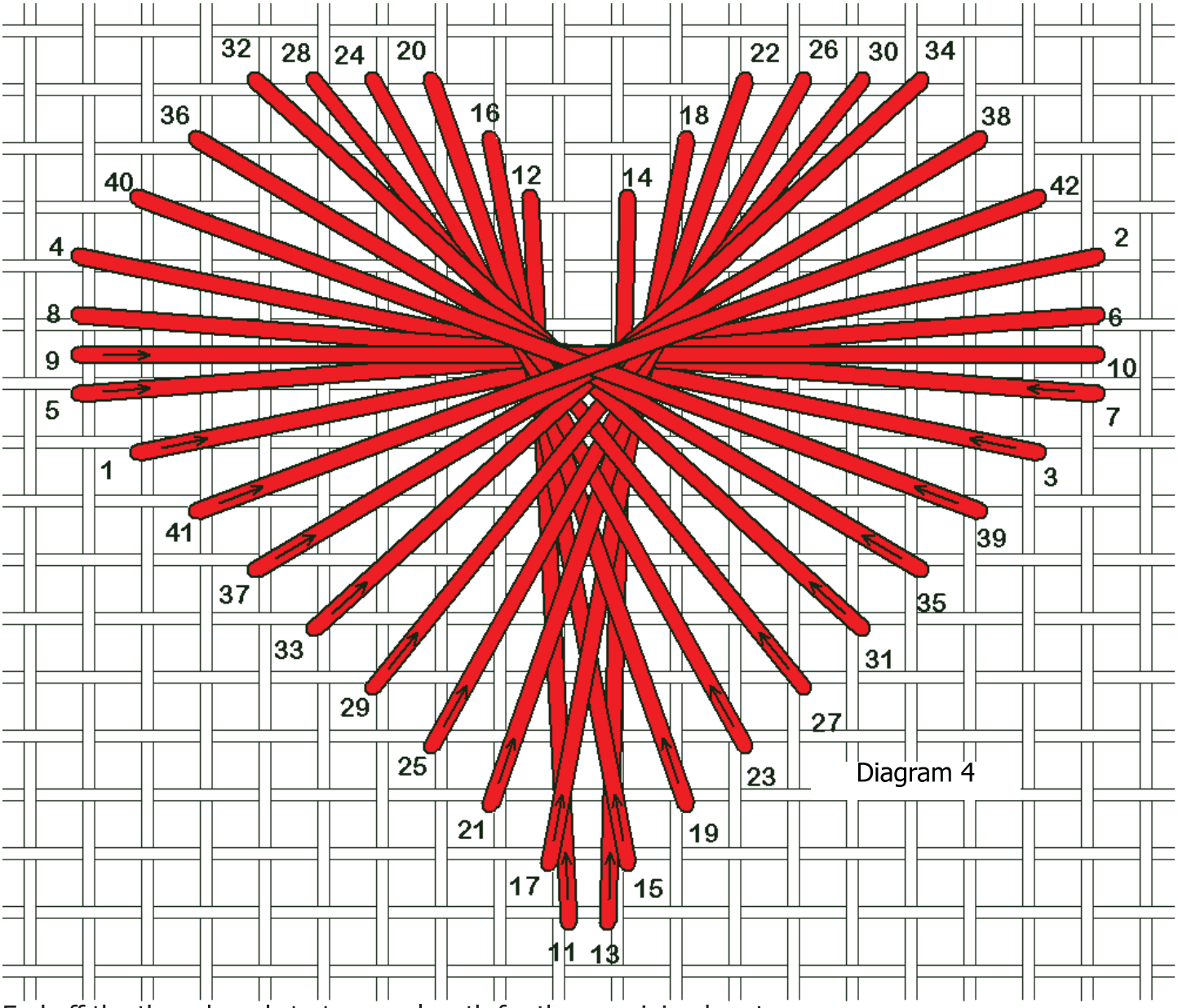


Diagram 4

End off the thread, and start a new length for the remaining hearts.

Stitch three more braided hearts, sharing holes along the diagonal edges as shown in Diagram 5. You may find it helpful to turn the canvas as you stitch, so you are stitching the same orientation as before.

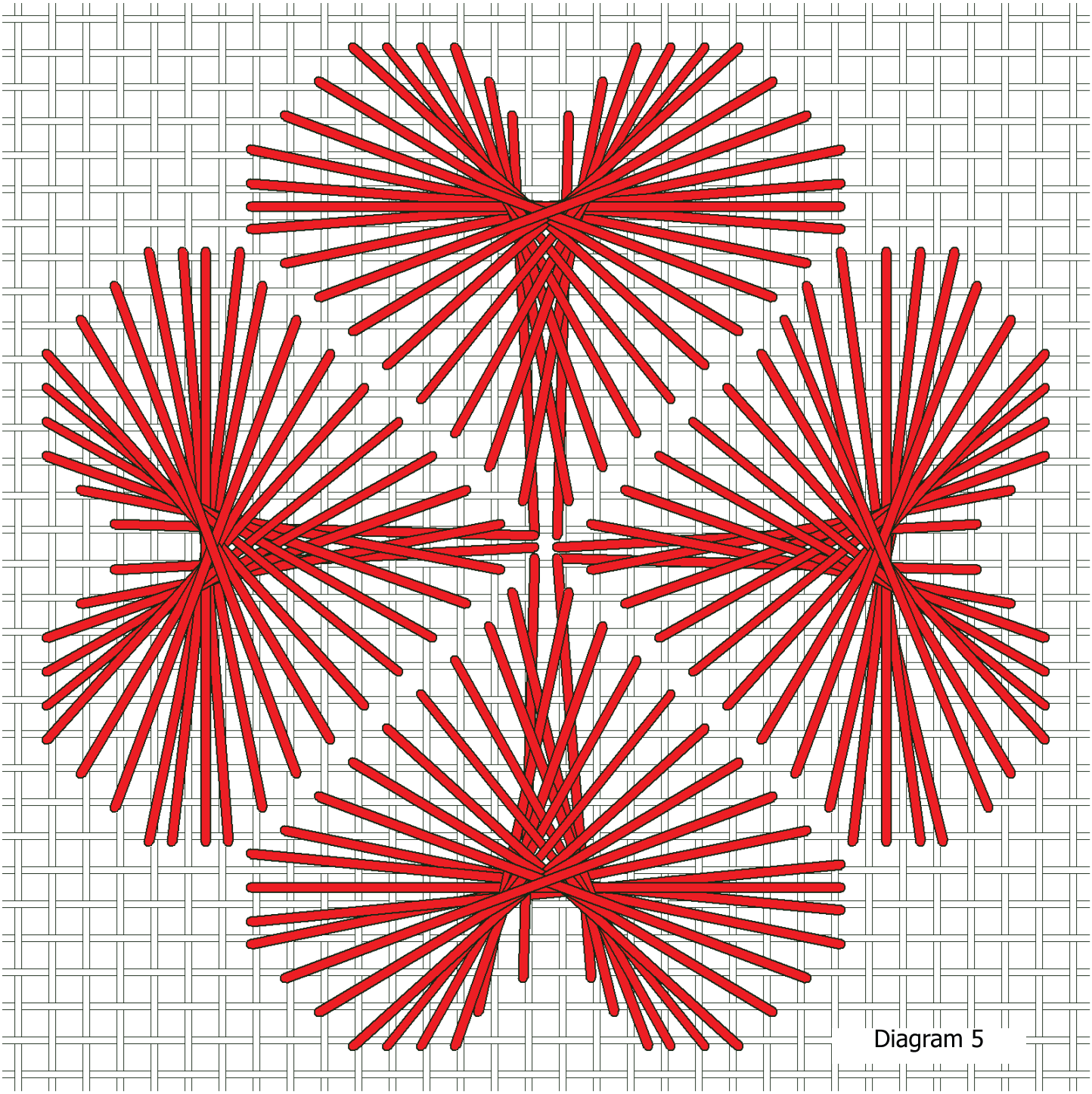


Diagram 5

We're off to a good start!

Amadeus

Length	Thread Type	As Shown	Your Choice
36”-40”	Stranded floss	Gloriana 12 Strand Silk Floss 014 Jewel Green (2)	

With our center firmly established, let’s branch out a bit. In my head I had a kind of abstract flower motif, so with that in mind I decided to a stitch that can mimic the calyx and stem of a flower. An Amadeus stitch is a beautiful stitch principle more than a specific stitch - there are hundreds of variations of Amadeus stitches. This is just one.

Amadeus stitches are characterized by an establishing stitch, then all remaining stitches made over that stitch. It is generally not a woven stitch; all of the stitches lay one after the other. In this example the Amadeus is sharing holes with the braided heart stitches.

Anchor with a pin stitch, placed where it will not be in the stitching channel and will be covered by the stitches. I end off the same way, moving the threads aside until I can see the canvas underneath, then making my pin stitch from the front, and snipping off the excess thread. After snipping I smooth the stitches back in place, making a virtually invisible anchor.

Begin as shown in Diagram 6. The first stitch covers 15 horizontal canvas threads. For the next stitches I won’t show the braided hearts so I can enlarge the Amadeus diagrams.

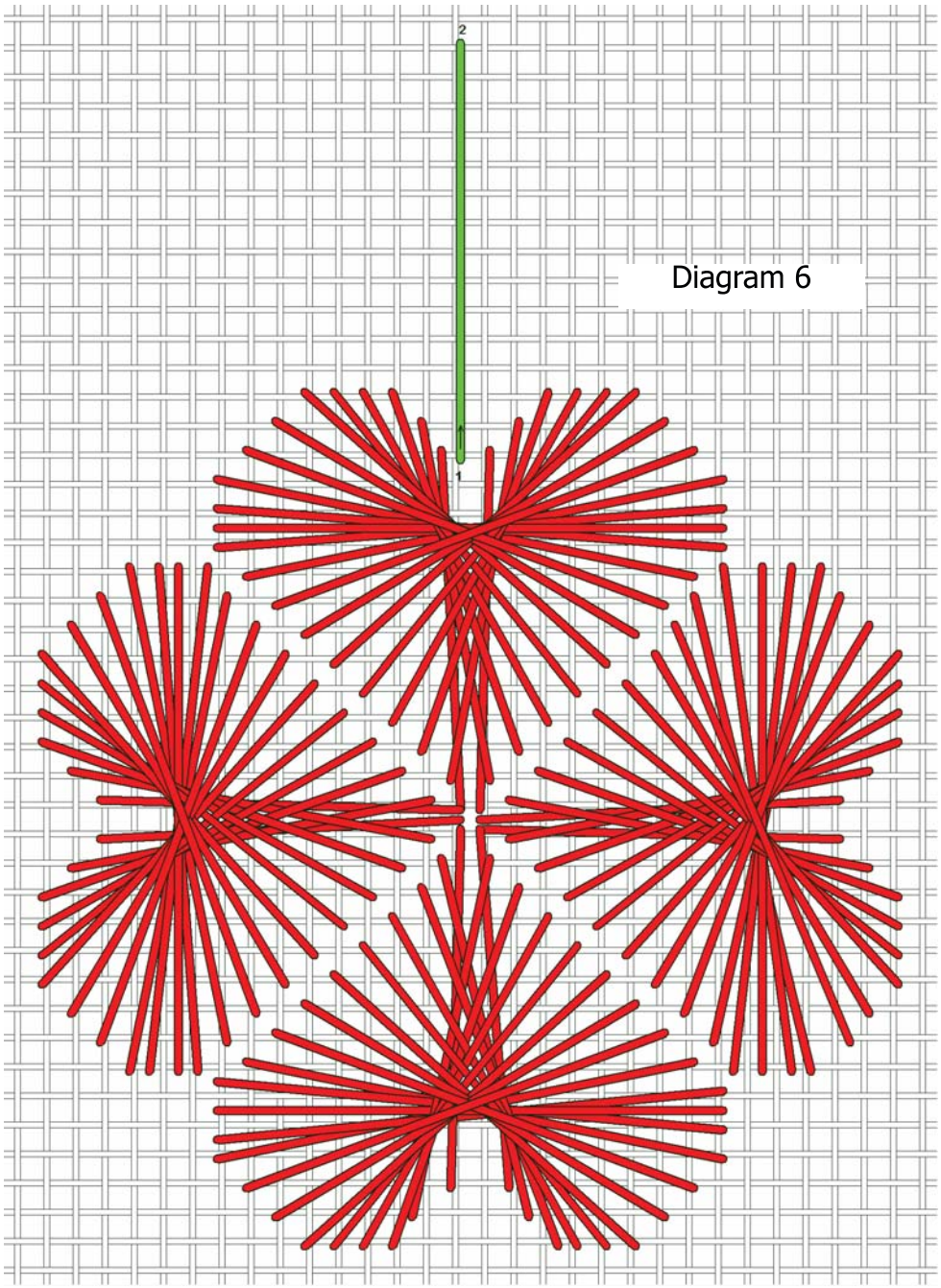


Diagram 6

Continue as shown in Diagram 7, with the stitches ending over the first stitch in adjacent holes.

Don’t end off the thread yet! This is a complete Amadeus, but we’re going to add a second half, a mirror of what we have so far.

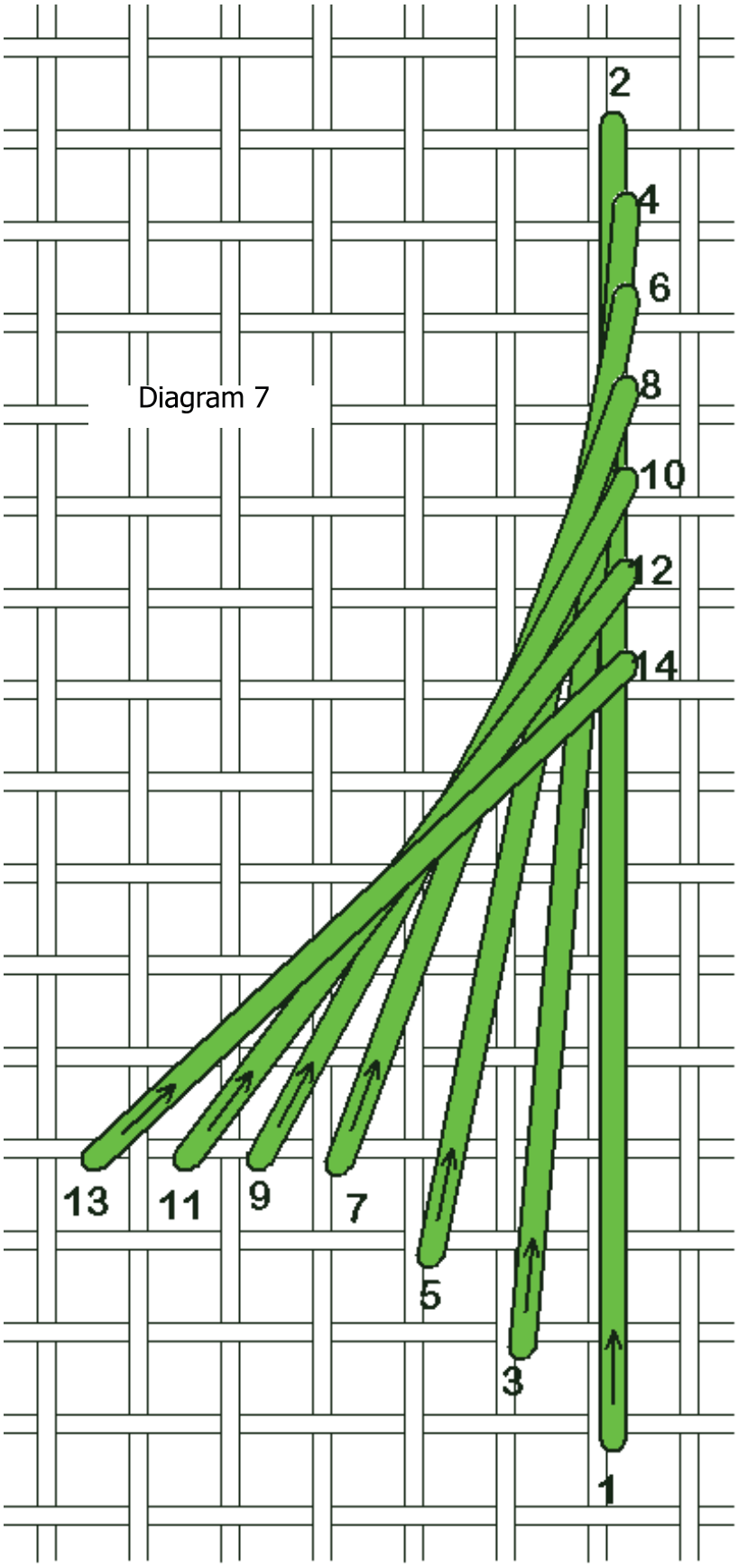


Diagram 7

Stitch the second half as shown. The needle will come up along the top edge, and end in shared holes with the first half.

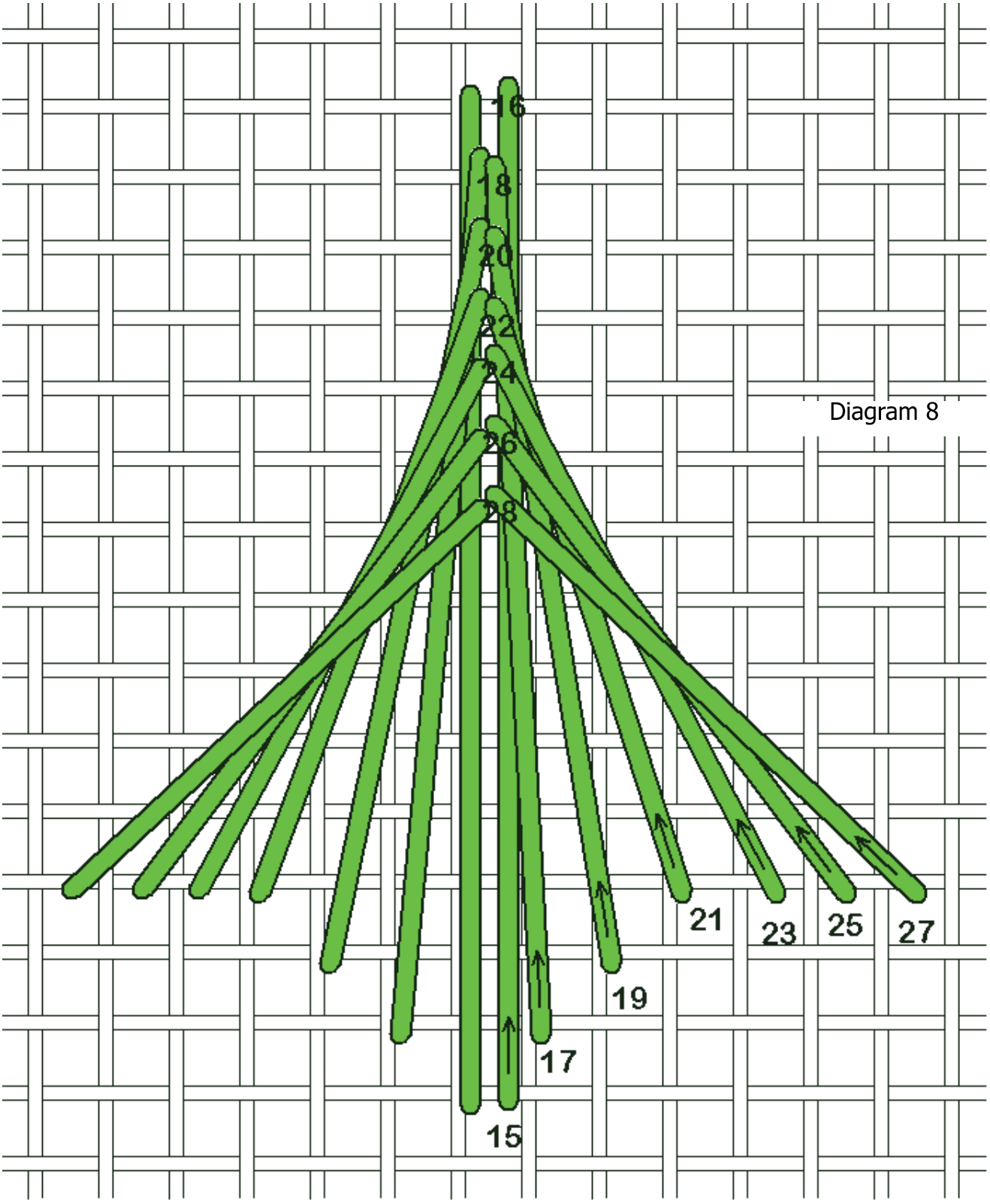


Diagram 8

Stitch Amadeus around the braided hearts, shown in Diagram 9. You may find it easier to stitch, especially if this is a new stitch for you, by turning the canvas so you are always stitching the same orientation.

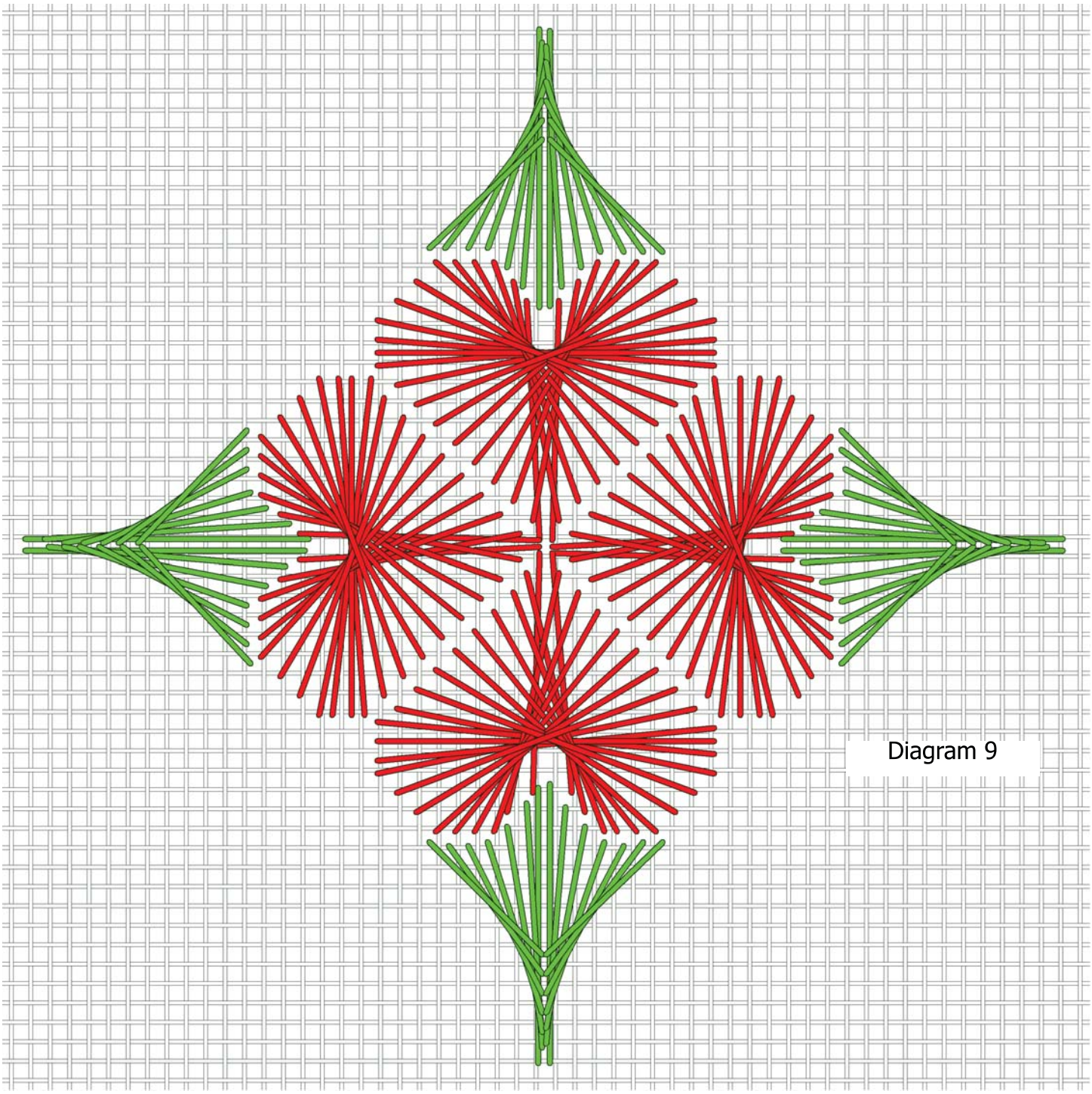


Diagram 9

Right Angle Sprat's

Length	Thread Type	As Shown	Your Choice
18"-22"	Stranded floss	Gloriana 12 Strand Silk Floss 196 Sweet Lavender (2)	

This is one of my workhorse stitches, and I use it in some variation pretty frequently! I thought I'd want to use 3 strands of floss, but 2 looked better so I took out what I had done and used the 2 strands.

Anchor with an away knot, or a pin stitch (T) placed where it will be under the sprat's head. End off the same way. I did not carry the thread from one sprat's to the next although you could do that if you prefer.

Stitch the sprat's head as shown in Diagram 10. The first two stitches share a hole at the ends of the stitches, and the remaining stitches are made over these first two stitches. This is not the usual way to stitch a sprat's head, but I prefer to stitch in this order and direction of the stitches because it makes for a neater back in my opinion. Of course the back doesn't matter so long as it doesn't affect the front! But in this case, the usual stitching order and direction of a sprat's head leaves a buildup of thread along the diagonal edge, and stitching in this order does not. Placement is shown on the next page.

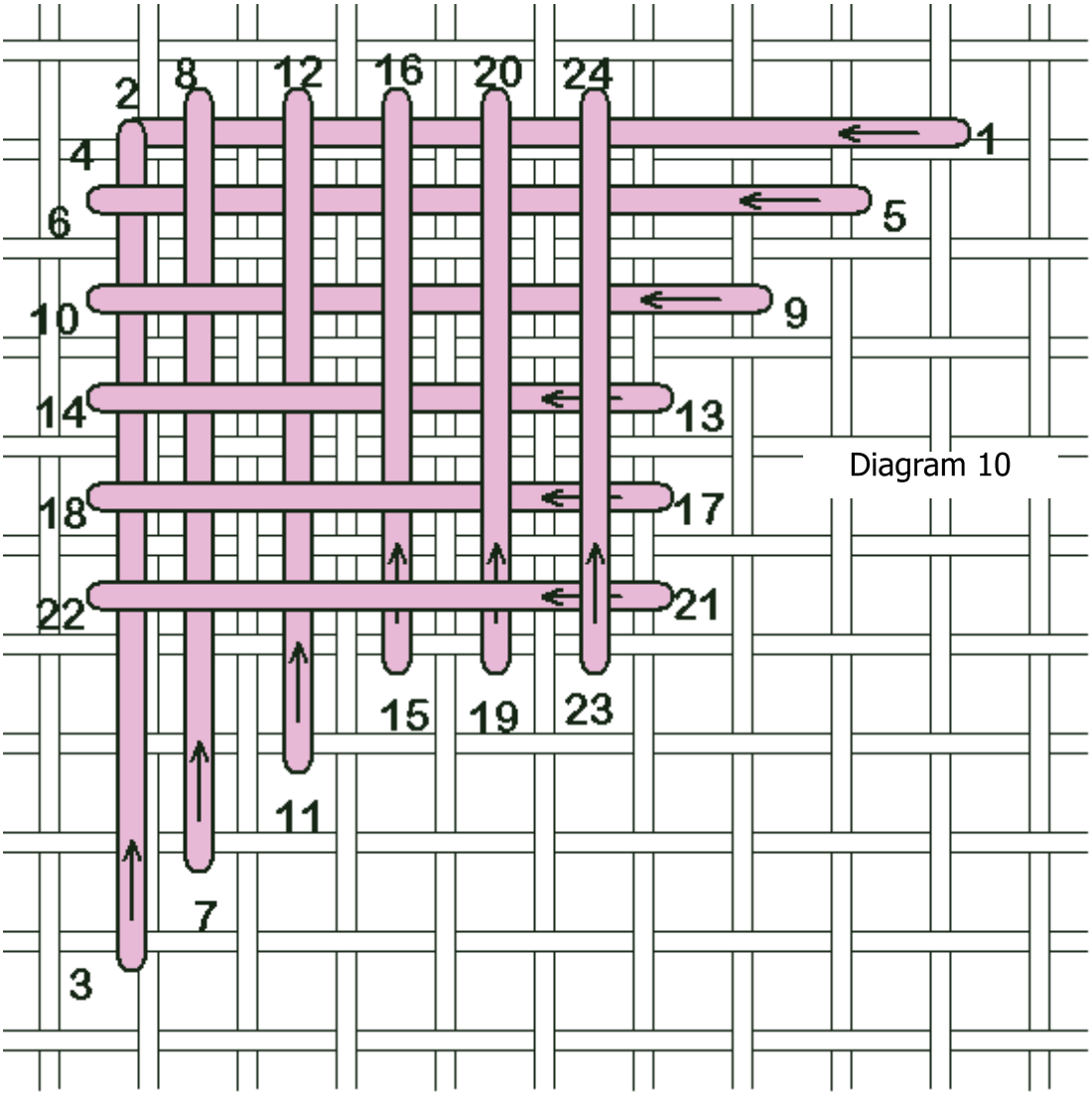


Diagram 10

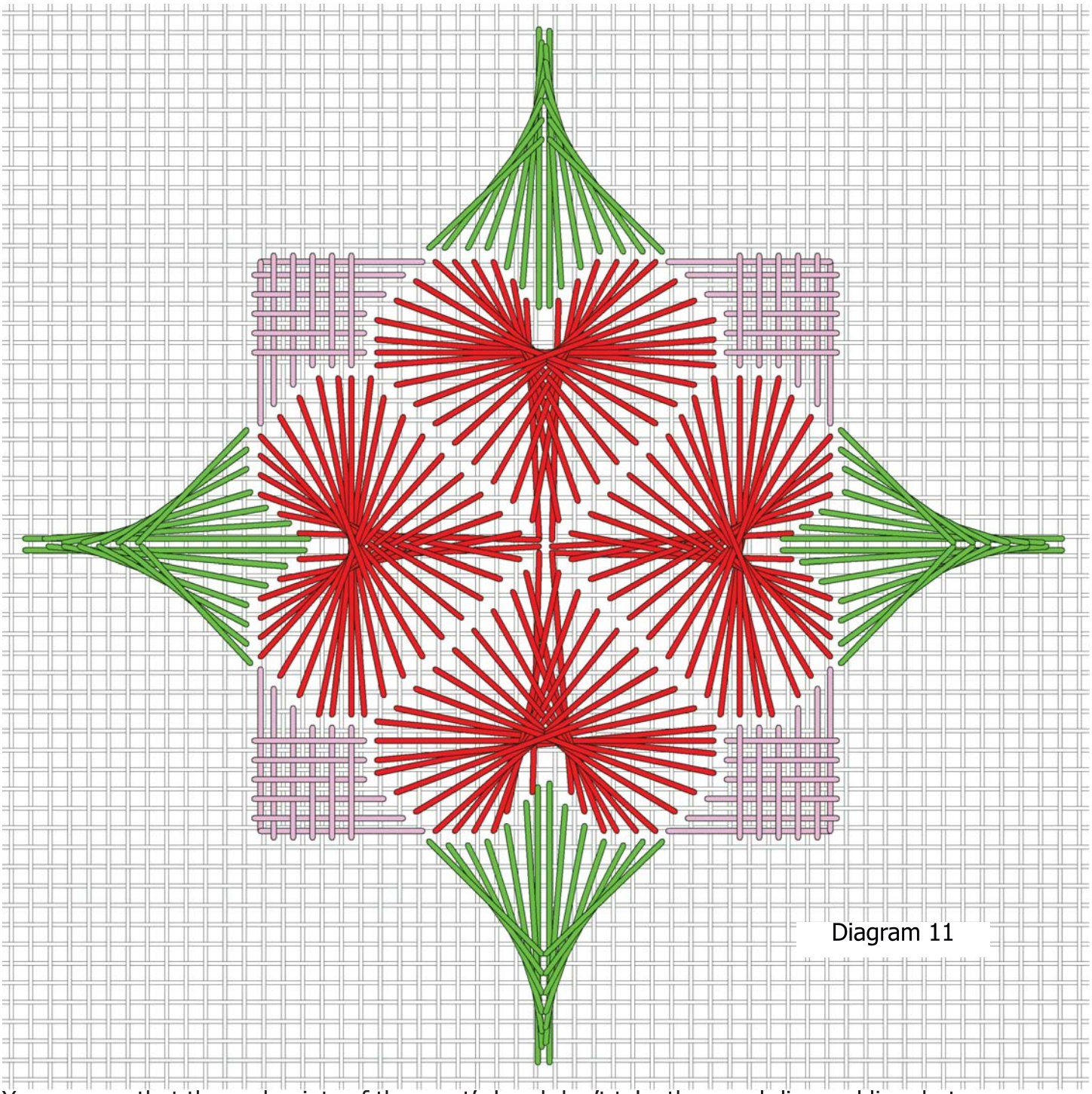


Diagram 11

You can see that the end points of the sprat's head don't take the usual diagonal line, but were designed to fit with the previous stitches.

You will notice that the first two stitches will look curved on the canvas - this is normal so don't be concerned about it. The first two stitches get pulled a bit by the subsequent stitches ending over them.

Brick Stitch

Length	Thread Type	As Shown	Your Choice
24”-36”	Stranded floss	Gloriana 082 Mango Sorbet (4)	

For this next part of the stitch along we’re looking at background stitches. A brick stitch is a vertical or horizontal offset stitch, easy to compensate, and used quite a bit in backgrounds. For this project I’m using the brick stitch to smooth out the diamond shape.

First let’s look at a basic brick stitch. This is over 2 threads, offset by 1. If you look closely at the numbers you’ll see that I stitch it so that the stitches are in rows, with a skipped space between the stitches. The next row will fit in the skipped spaces.

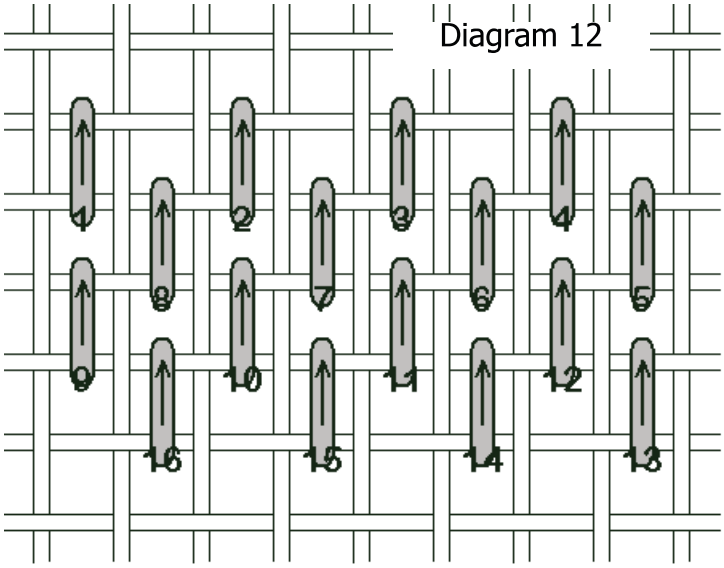


Diagram 12

The reason I do it this way is for the integrity of the stitches. There is equal tension on each end of every stitch, which helps them to lay nicely. I’m bringing the needle up in empty holes and down in shared holes, which has less chance of disturbing the previous stitches. It goes quite fast!

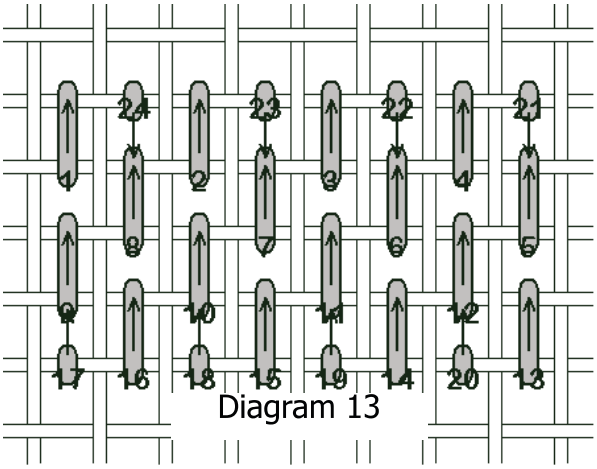


Diagram 13

To compensate, using the same example, make shorter stitches, still skipping spaces to stitch the row across, and changing the direction of the stitch where necessary to bring the needle up in empty holes and down in shared holes.

Now we have a solid space of brick stitches!

Let’s apply that to the project at hand. Since I wanted to make the existing area into a diamond shape, I stitched the brick stitch as shown in the next diagram. It was a little tricky to get the needle under the existing Amadeus stitches, but it still works! I used 4 strands of the silk floss, and a laying tool, for these stitches because I wanted good coverage.

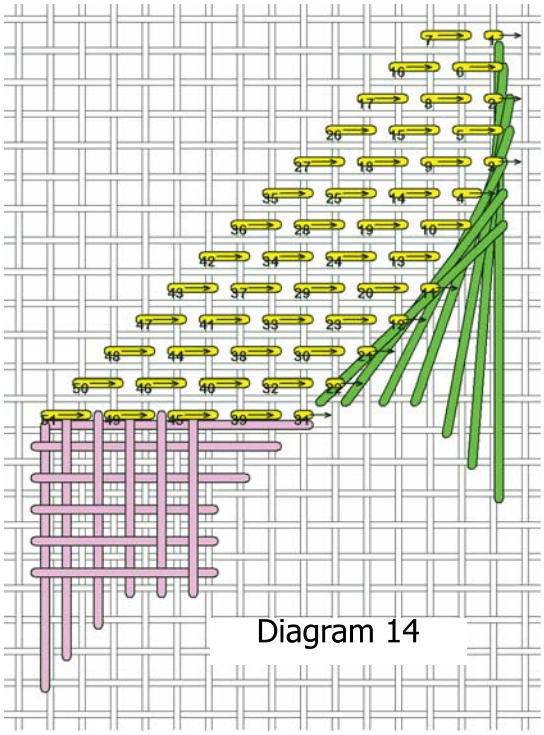


Diagram 14

This is the same diagram, but a little larger to make it easier to see:

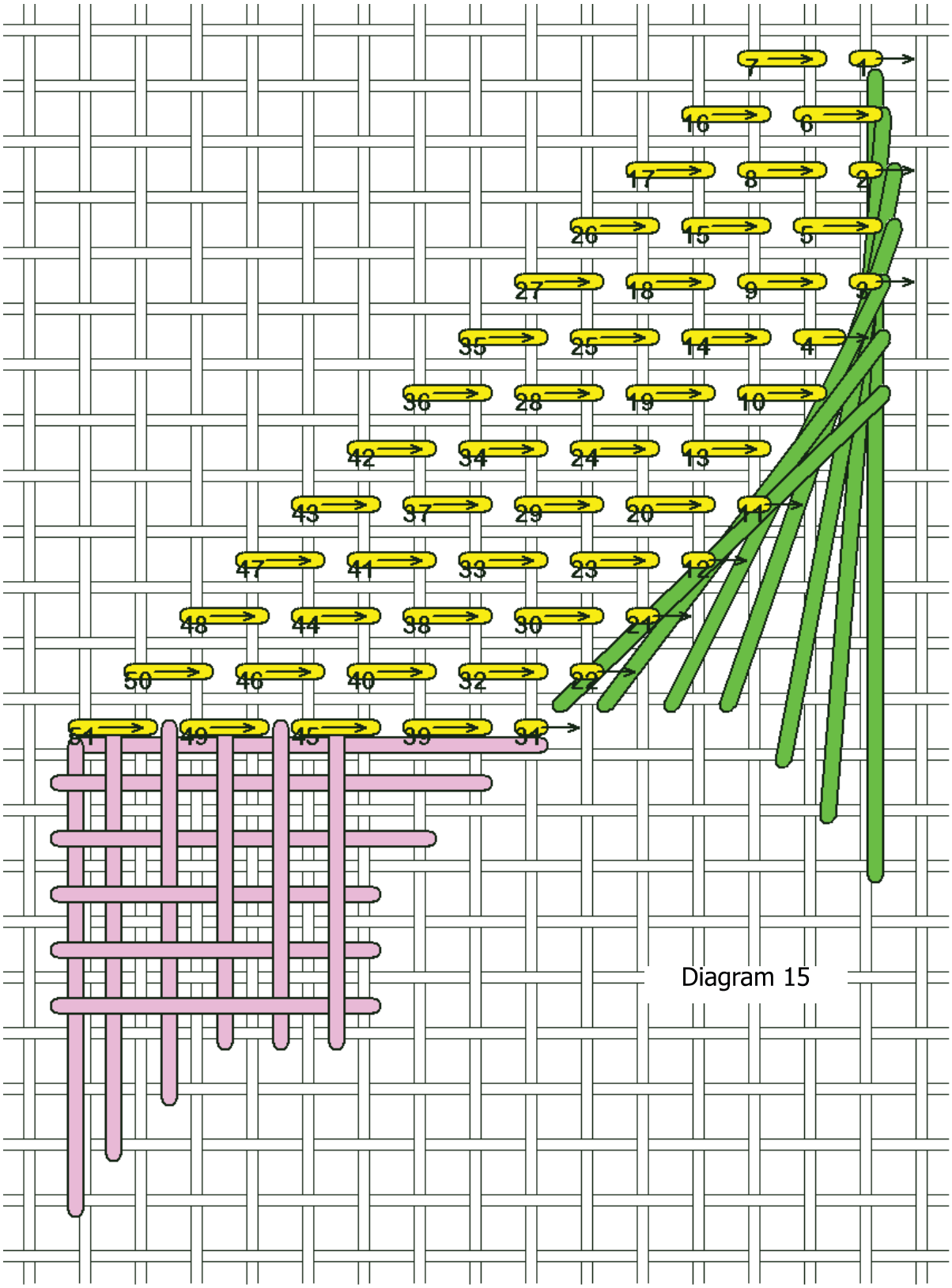


Diagram 15

Now, following the same stitch path of skipping spaces for the rows, stitch the brick stitch around the existing motif. I'm not showing numbers or arrows, because it is essentially the same as the previous diagram. If you find it helpful turn the canvas as you stitch.

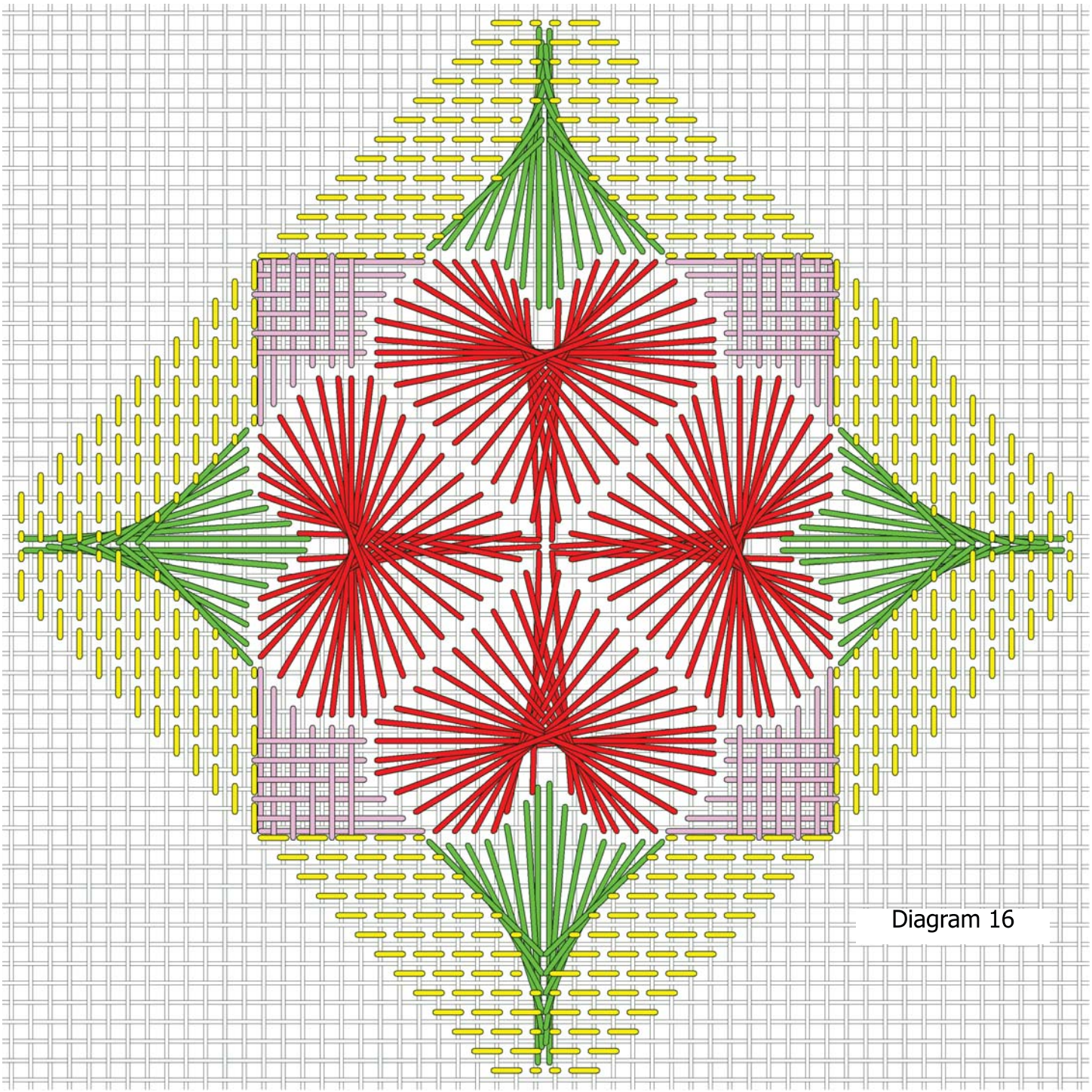


Diagram 16

The small compensating stitches at the edges of the Amadeus stitches tuck under the Amadeus stitches, not over as shown in the diagram. You can eliminate these stitches if you like, or add more if you think there are gaps in the coverage.

Milanese Stitch

Length	Thread Type	As Shown	Your Choice
24”-36”	Stranded floss	Gloriana 015 Mint Green (3)	

This stitch will turn the design into a square. A Milanese stitch is in the satin stitch family - that is, all of the stitches begin from the same direction, and the thread is wrapped around the canvas. I used 3 strands for this part, but if you want a heavier coverage you can use more strands. Also, use a laying tool so the strands lay smoothly next to each other.

A basic Milanese stitch forms a triangle, shown in Diagram 17.

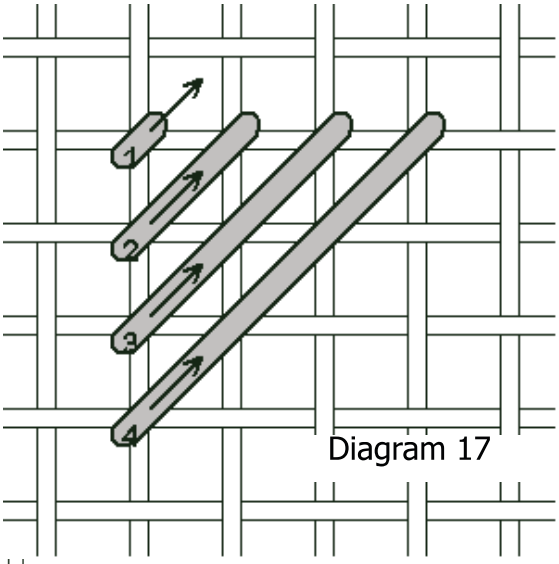


Diagram 17

Stitch in diagonal rows, shown in Diagram 18. The rows are stitched down, then up. The triangles point down for one row, then up for the next row, shown in the diagram. An example of compensation is shown at the edges, and this is another easy to compensate stitch.

I suggest anchoring with an away knot, and begin at the outer corners, working toward the center design. Don’t count all this! It’s much easier to take the tip of your needle and “draw” it to the outer corner, then do the same thing for the next side.

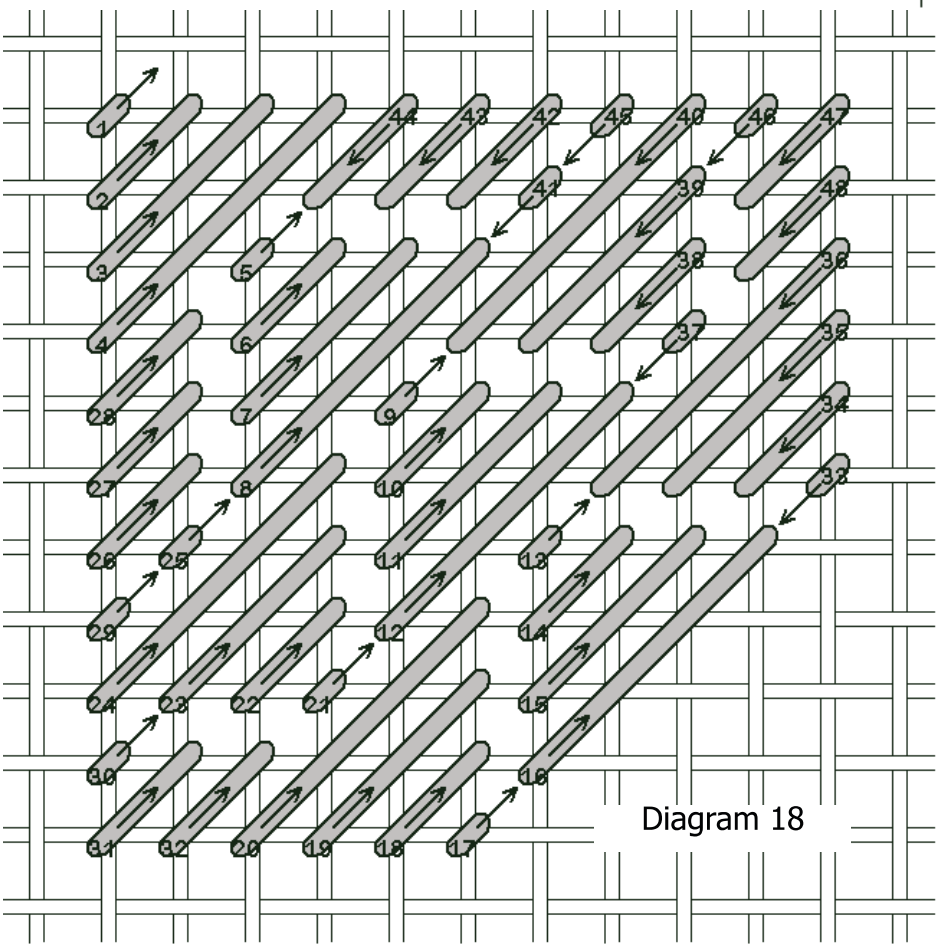


Diagram 18

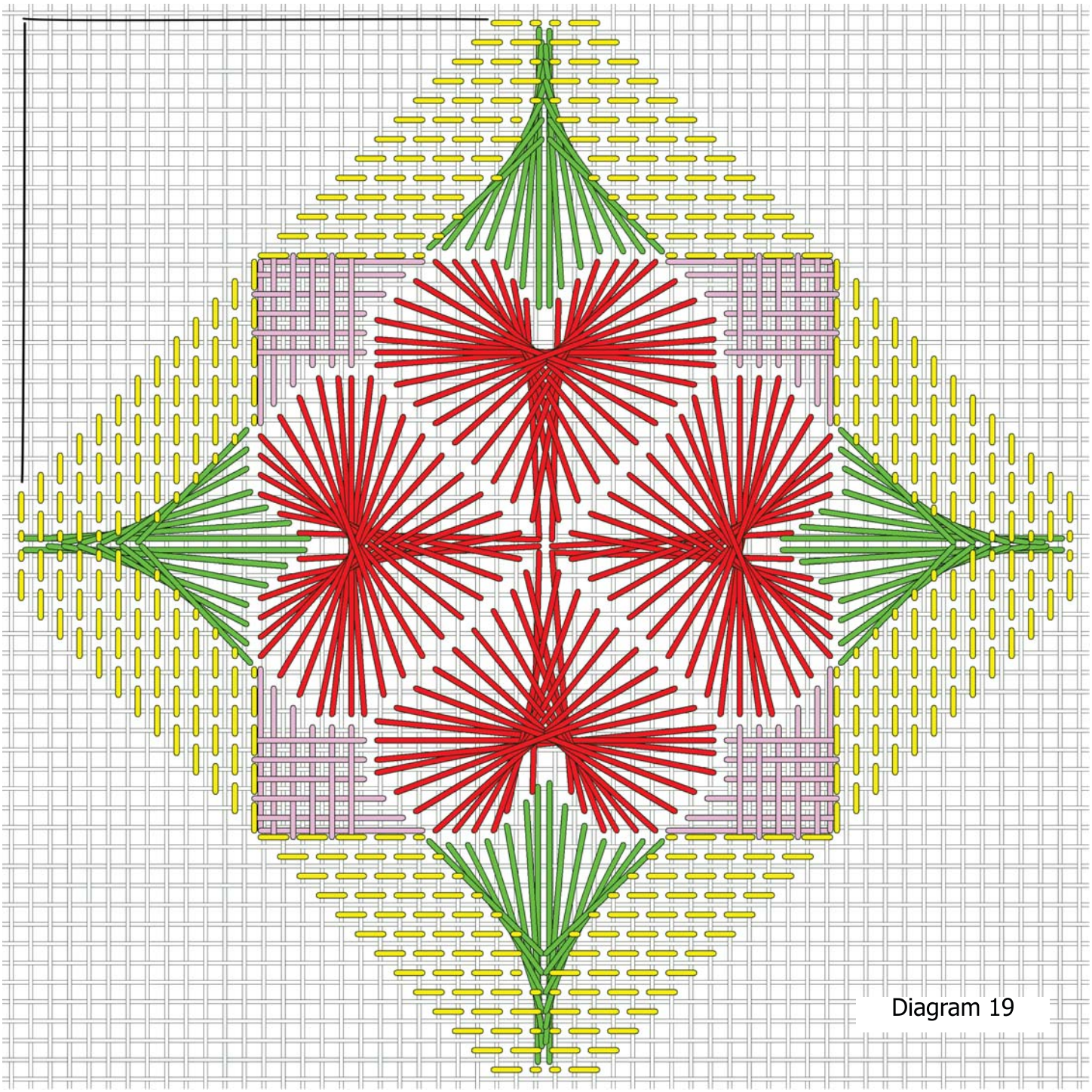


Diagram 19

The black lines show how to find the corner, by drawing the tip of your needle along the stitching channel at the top edge, then along the stitching channel on the left side. Where the lines meet is the corner. The first stitch of the Milanese will begin 1 canvas thread below the corner, and end 1 canvas thread to the right of the corner.

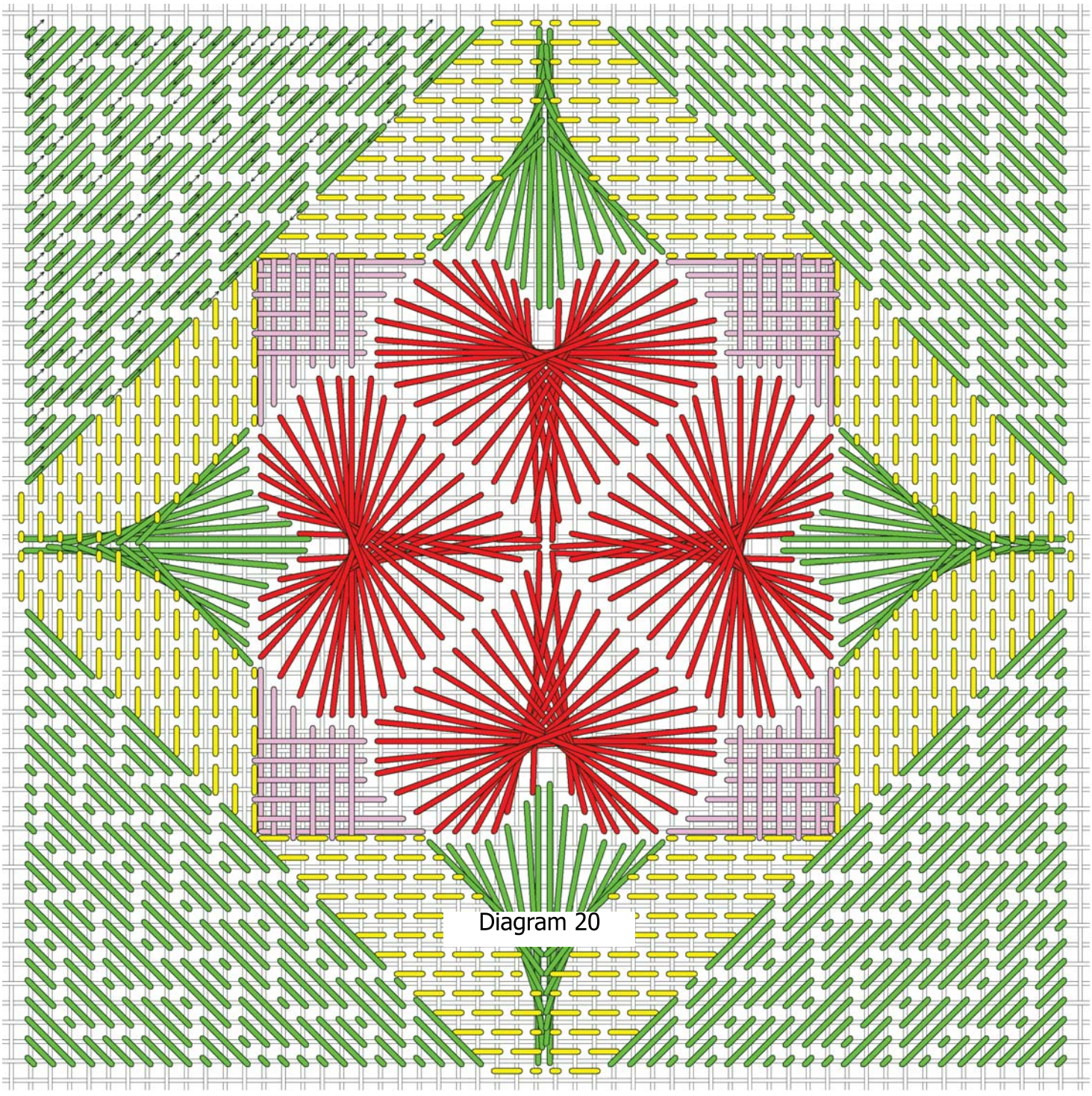


Diagram 20

I started stitching in the upper left corner, but you may begin in a different corner if you like.

At this point you could end the project - I think it makes a very pretty motif! But if you'd like to continue with me, stay tuned!

Herringbone Squares

Length	Thread Type	As Shown	Your Choice
24”-36”	Stranded floss	Gloriana 084 Laura’s Garden (2)	

I’m so excited to get to this part because I finally get to use my inspiration thread! Herringbone squares are a perfect choice for an overdyed or variegated thread, because most of the thread is on top of the canvas with fewer abrupt color changes - the colors seem to flow into one another.

This can be a tricky stitch because it’s worked from the inside out, beginning with a cross stitch. Easy, right? The tricky part is finding where to start, so I’m helping you out!

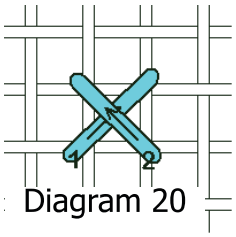


Diagram 20

Begin stitching with the cross stitch 4 canvas threads above the center motif. I anchored with an away knot, placed so I was stitching toward it, then clipped it off when I got to the knot.

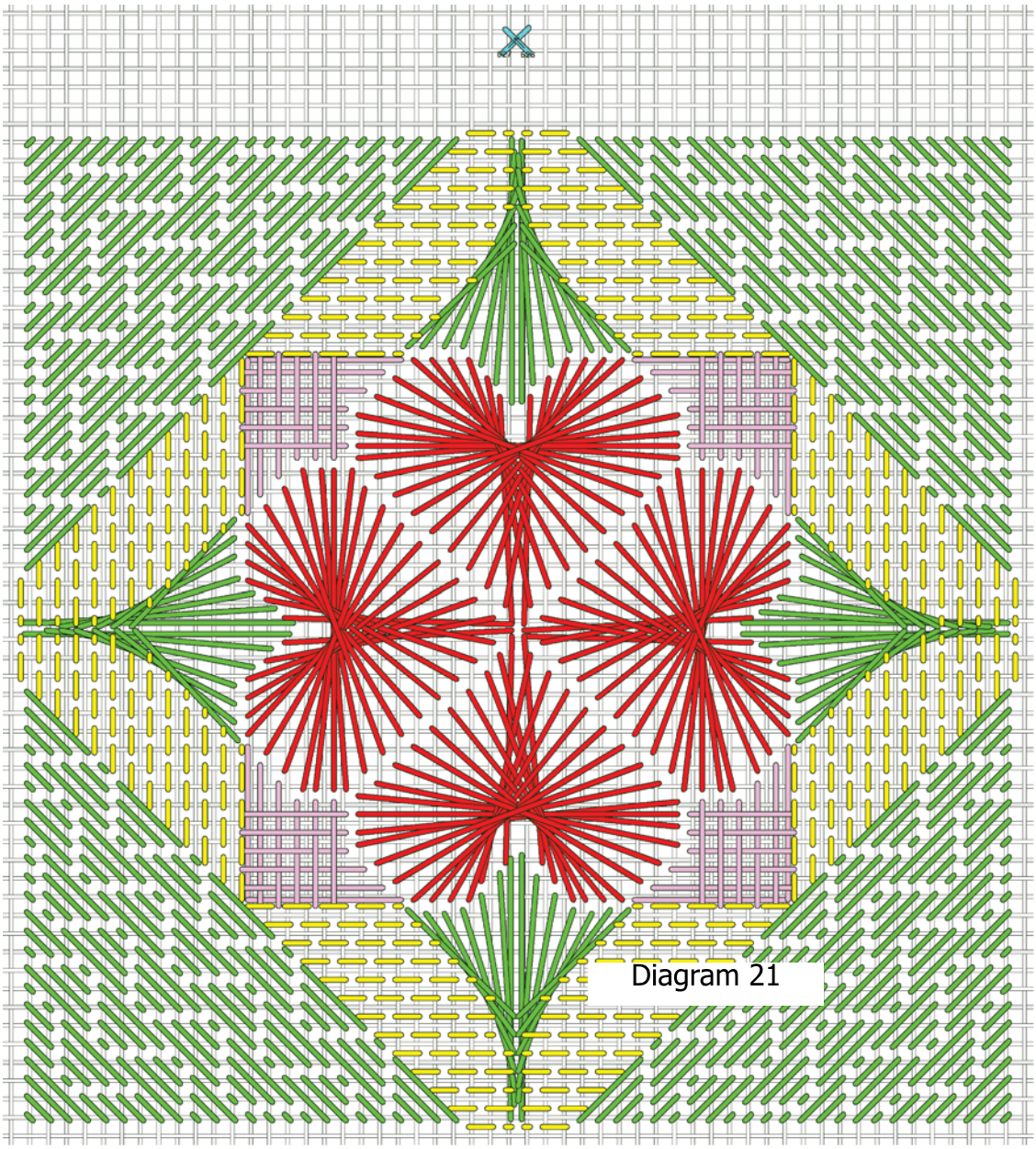


Diagram 21

I won't show the rest of the motif for now, just how to get on with the herringbone square.

A herringbone square is stitched in "rounds", using the beginning cross stitch as the center. All of the end points will be in the same stitching channels as the first cross stitch.

Because this is a symmetrical stitch, to maintain the symmetry the last stitch of each round slides under the first stitch of that round before ending, to place a thread on top of every stitch.

The next round is stitched in the same way (Diagram 23).

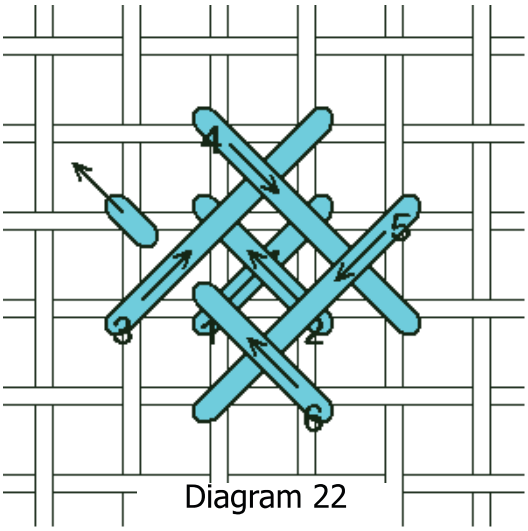


Diagram 22

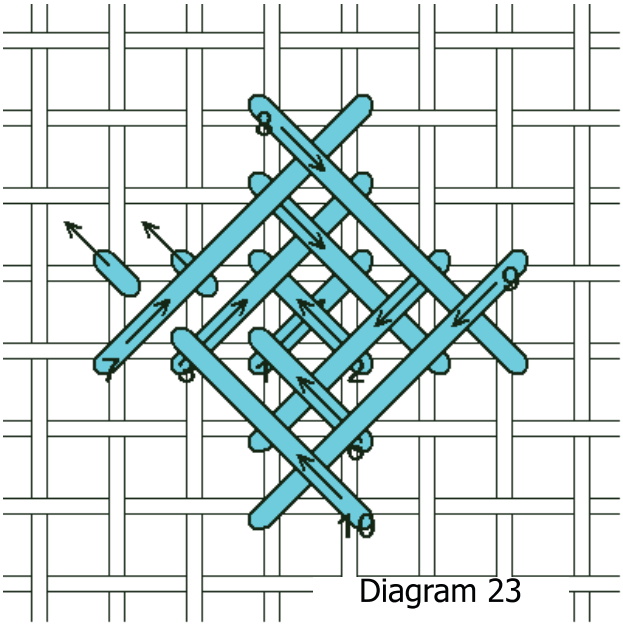


Diagram 23

And the next round (Diagram 24).

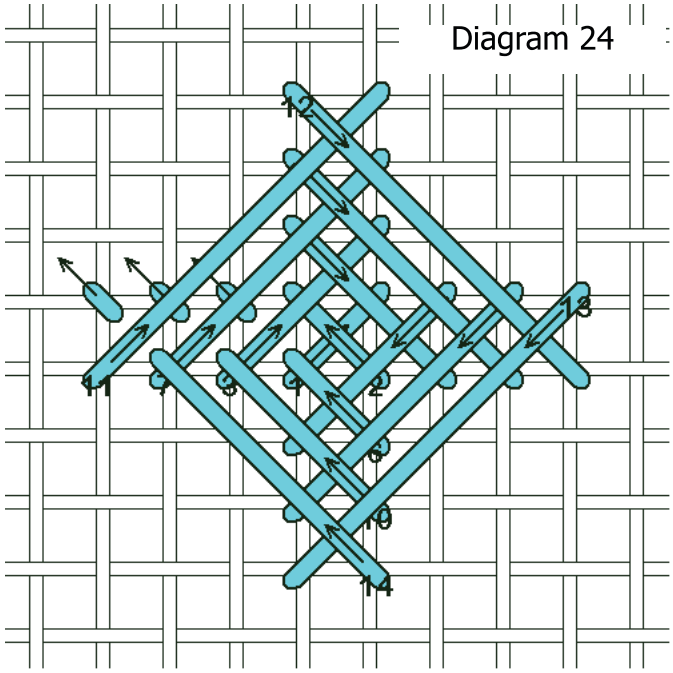


Diagram 24

And the next round (Diagram 25).

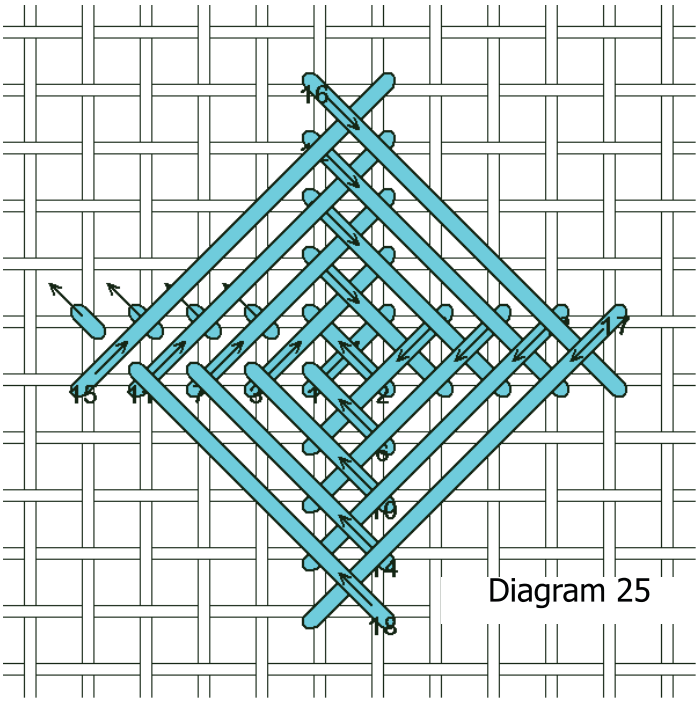
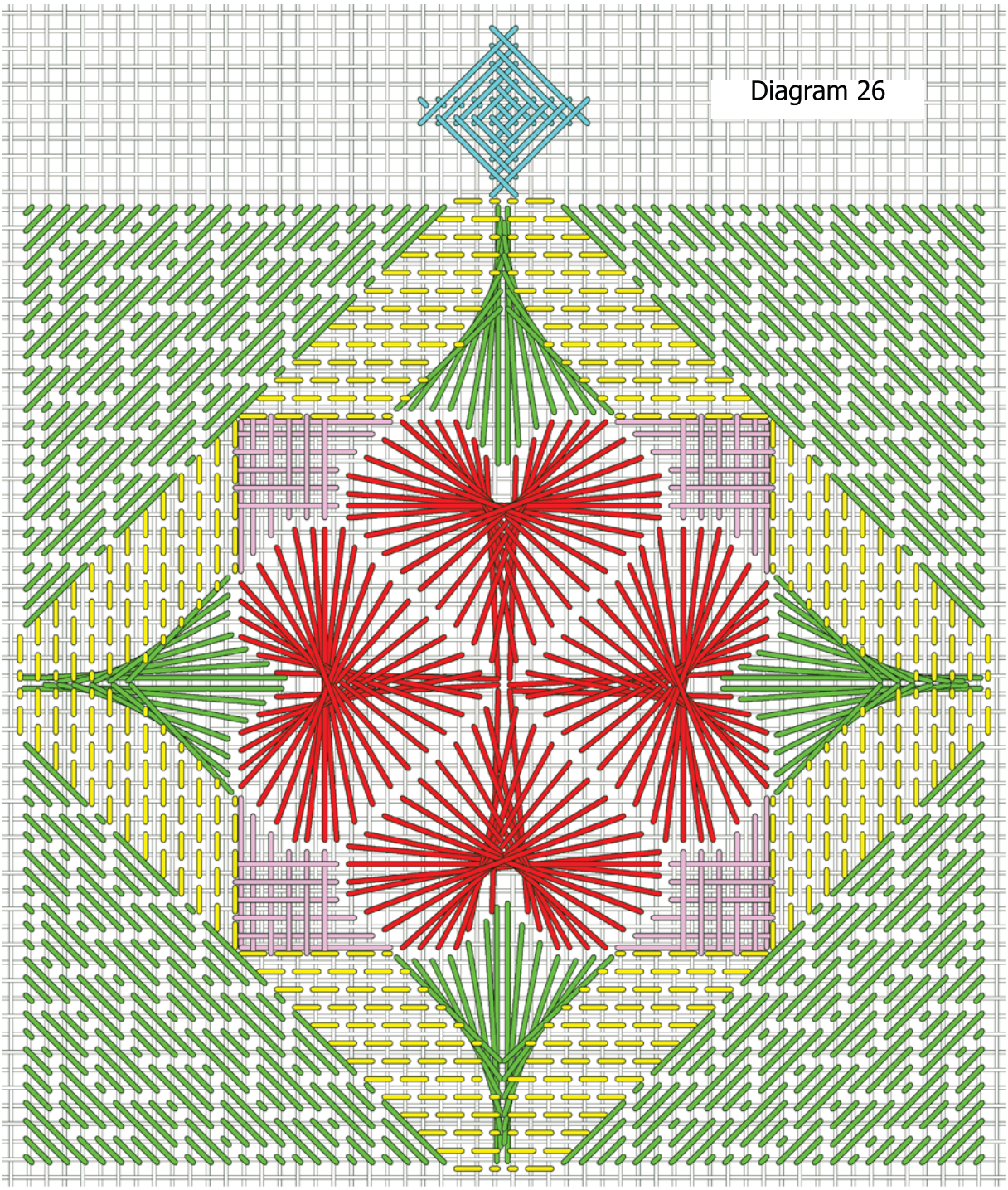


Diagram 25



So this is what the herringbone square looks like in place: the bottom is sharing holes with the brick stitches of the center motif.

A herringbone square can be any size to fill the space allotted, so for this project I just made the herringbone square progressively smaller until I reached the outer edge (for now!). The beginning cross stitch is darker to help you with the counting.

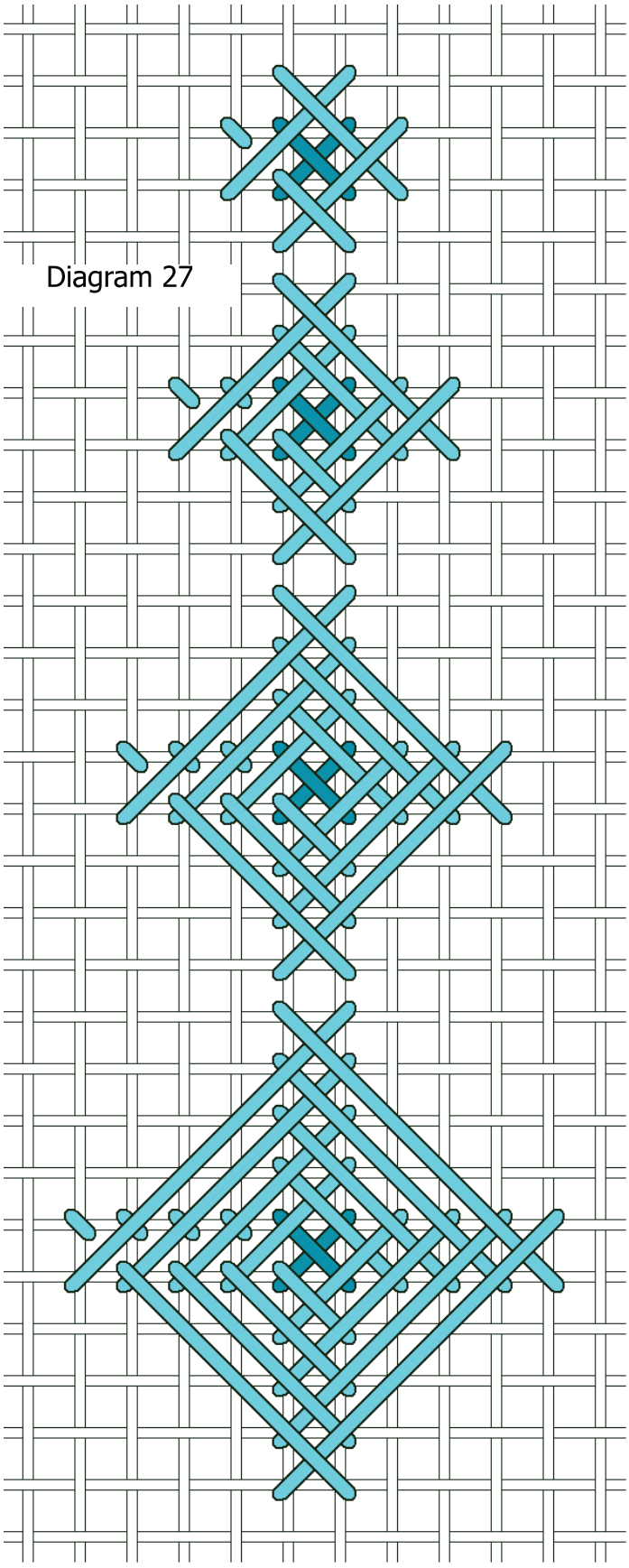
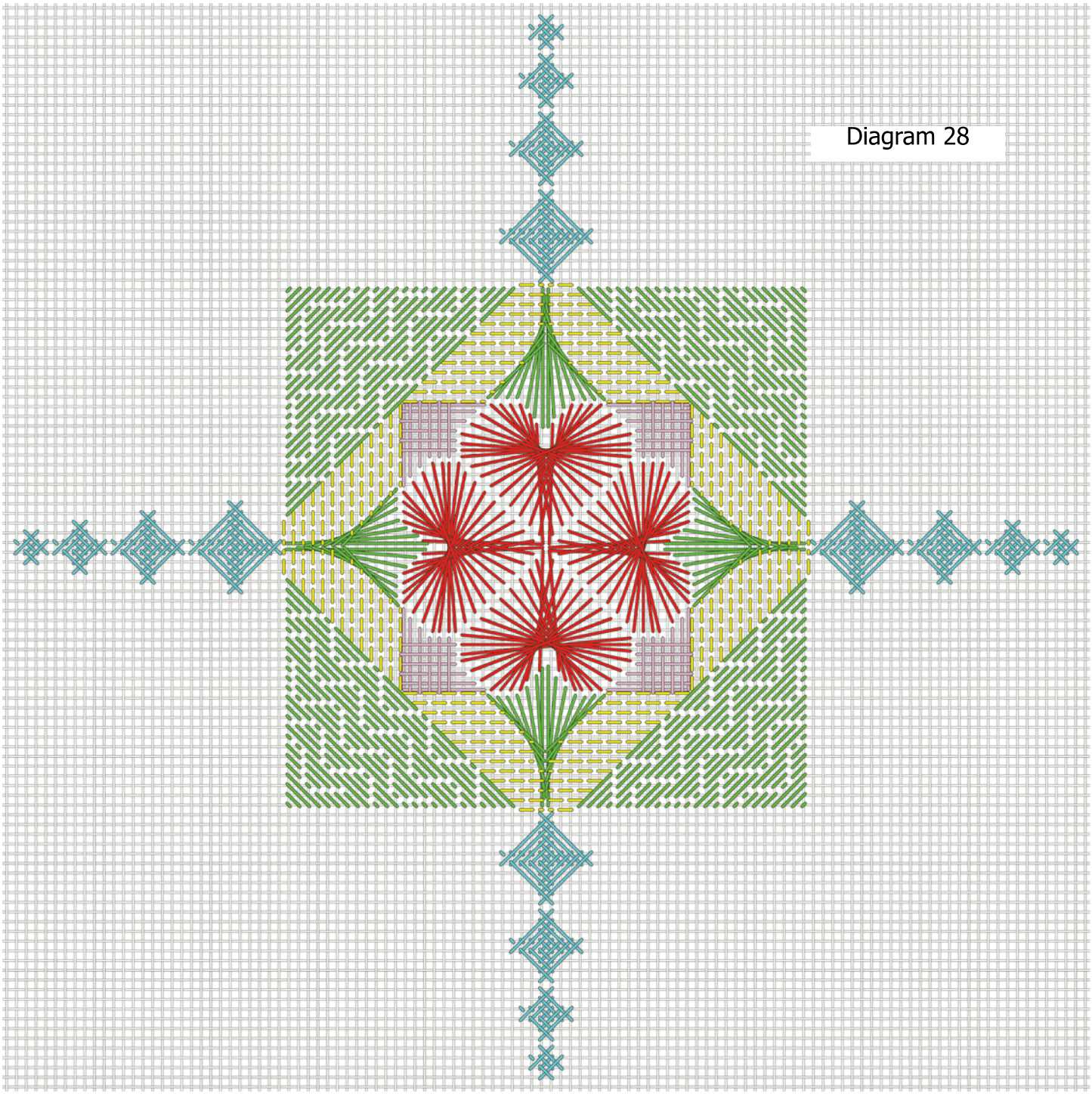
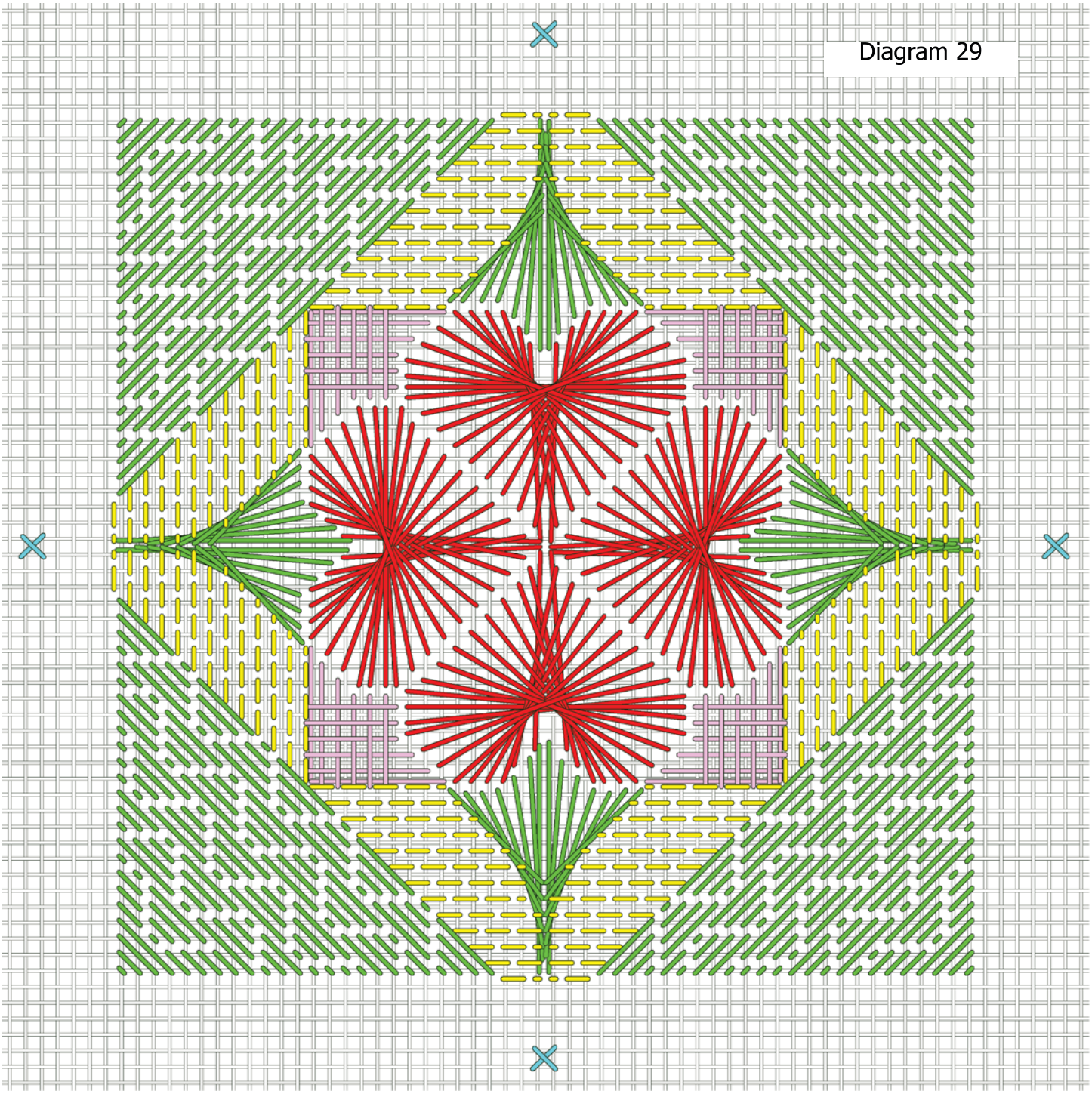


Diagram 27

If you want, you can turn the canvas as you stitch these - a herringbone square is symmetrical so it has no direction to worry about.



To help with the counting to get you started, here's the starting cross stitch for each side.



After stitching, weave the thread into the backs of the stitches. And, it's ok to carry the thread from one square to the next; the next stitches will cover any thread carries.

Ray Stitches

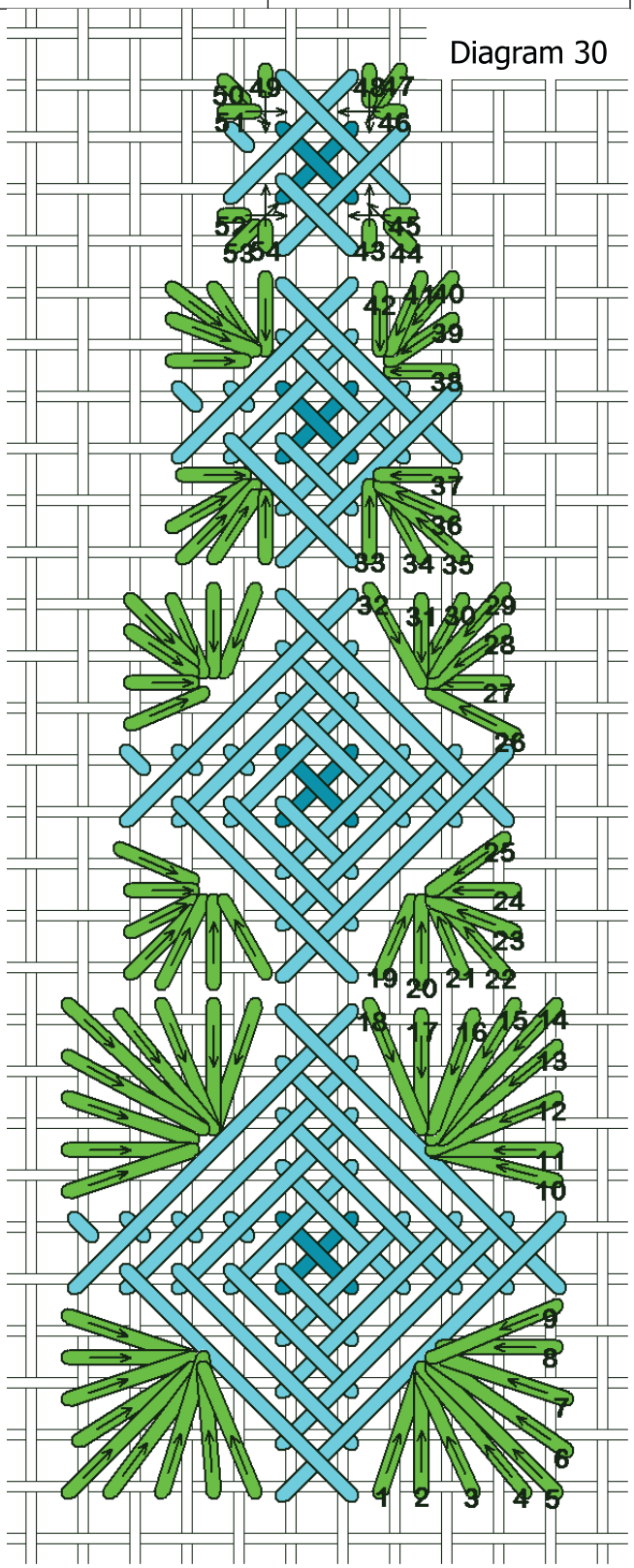
Length	Thread Type	As Shown	Your Choice
24”-36”	Very fine poly metallic braid	ColorSpun Nebula CS-XH-05	

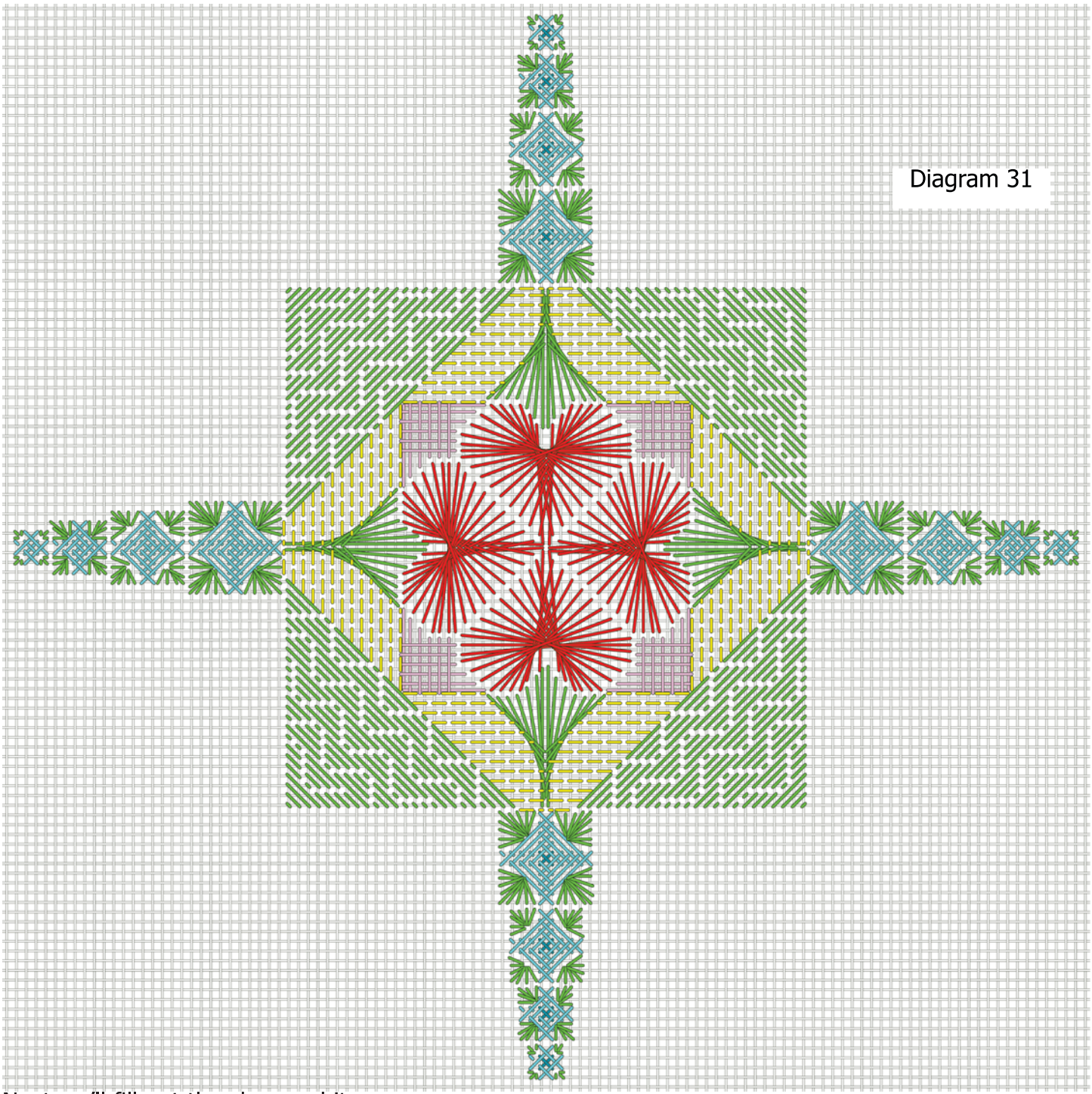
If you’re thinking to yourself “What in the world is ColorSpun?”, you’re not alone! ColorSpun is a range of threads for needlepoint in various weights. This is a very fine metallic braid, similar to Rainbow Gallery’s Petite Silk Lame’ Braid or Petite Treasure Braid. As I find out more about the threads I’ll share. In the meantime I wanted to play with it a bit, so here it is in the Stitch Along!

The next part of our project is ray stitches surround the herringbone squares. A ray stitch is similar to an eyelet, in that all of the stitches end in a single shared hole, but it isn’t an eyelet so don’t pull!

The ray stitches vary in size depending on the herringbone square it surrounds. The best way I could think of to diagram this is with the herringbone squares.

I began at the bottom, anchoring with a pin stitch, then stitched up the right side and down the left side, ending off with either a pin stitch or weaving under the herringbone square threads.





Next we'll fill out the shape a bit more.

Waffle Stitches

Length	Thread Type	As Shown	Your Choice
36”-40”	Stranded silk floss	Gloriana 029 Periwinkle (2)	

This is one of my favorite stitches, and I use it a lot! I tried stitching with 4 strands, then 3, but it was still too heavy so 2 strands it is!

Anchor with a pin stitch shaped like a “T”, placed where it will be under the center of the waffle stitch. I found the length was just enough to stitch 2 waffle stitches, but the last stitch was kind of iffy; you may prefer to use a little shorter length and stitch just one before ending off and beginning a new length. End off by weaving into the backs of the herringbone squares/ray stitches.

A waffle stitch begins with a large cross stitch over 10 canvas threads. I’m only showing numbers at the beginnings of the stitches for this diagram. When stitching a waffle stitch, the stitches lay parallel to each other on top of the canvas, and the stitches don’t cross in the back; the thread carries on the back should make an open square. The side where the needle goes down is the side it comes back up on.

The last stitch of the round (18) slides under the first stitch of the last round (15) before ending. This puts a thread on top of each thread in the waffle stitch.

A waffle stitch is a symmetrical stitch, so if you like to turn your canvas as you stitch go for it!

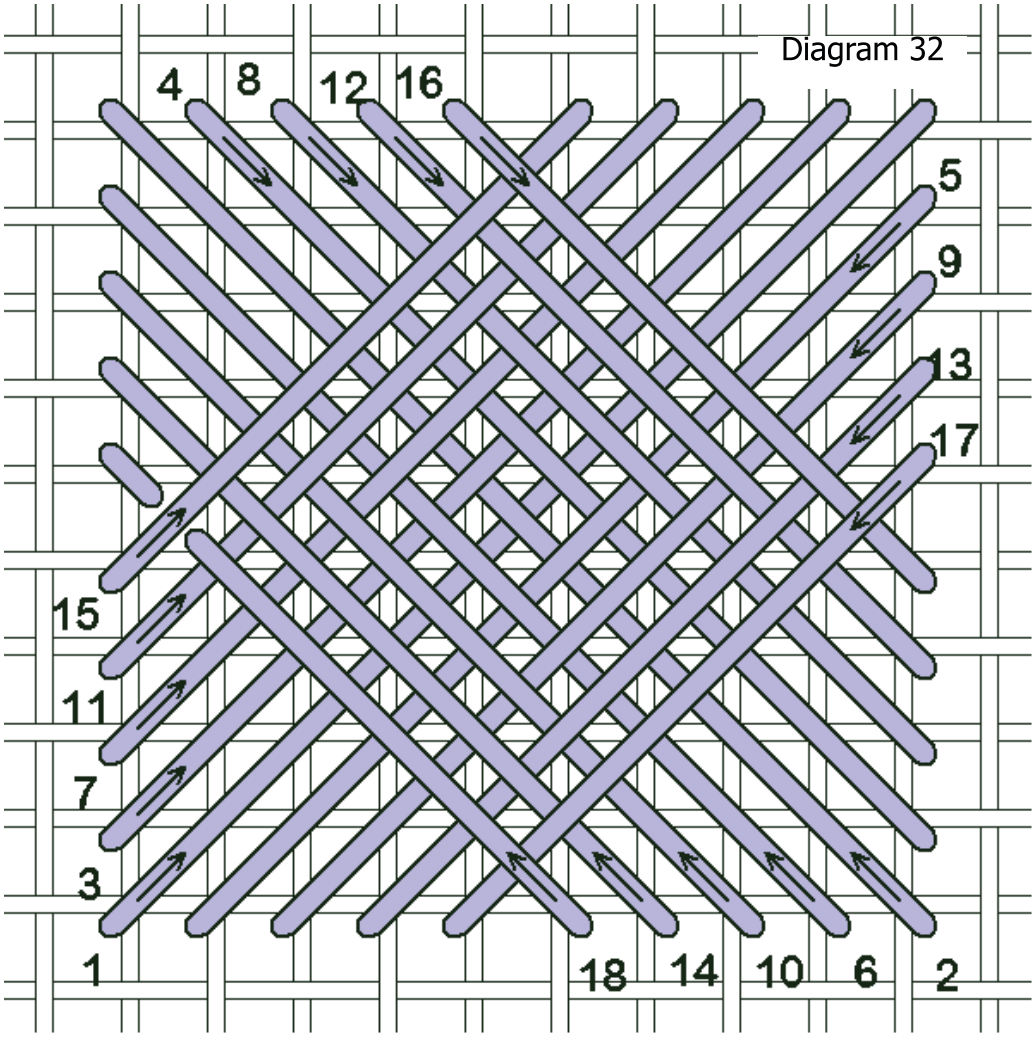


Diagram 32

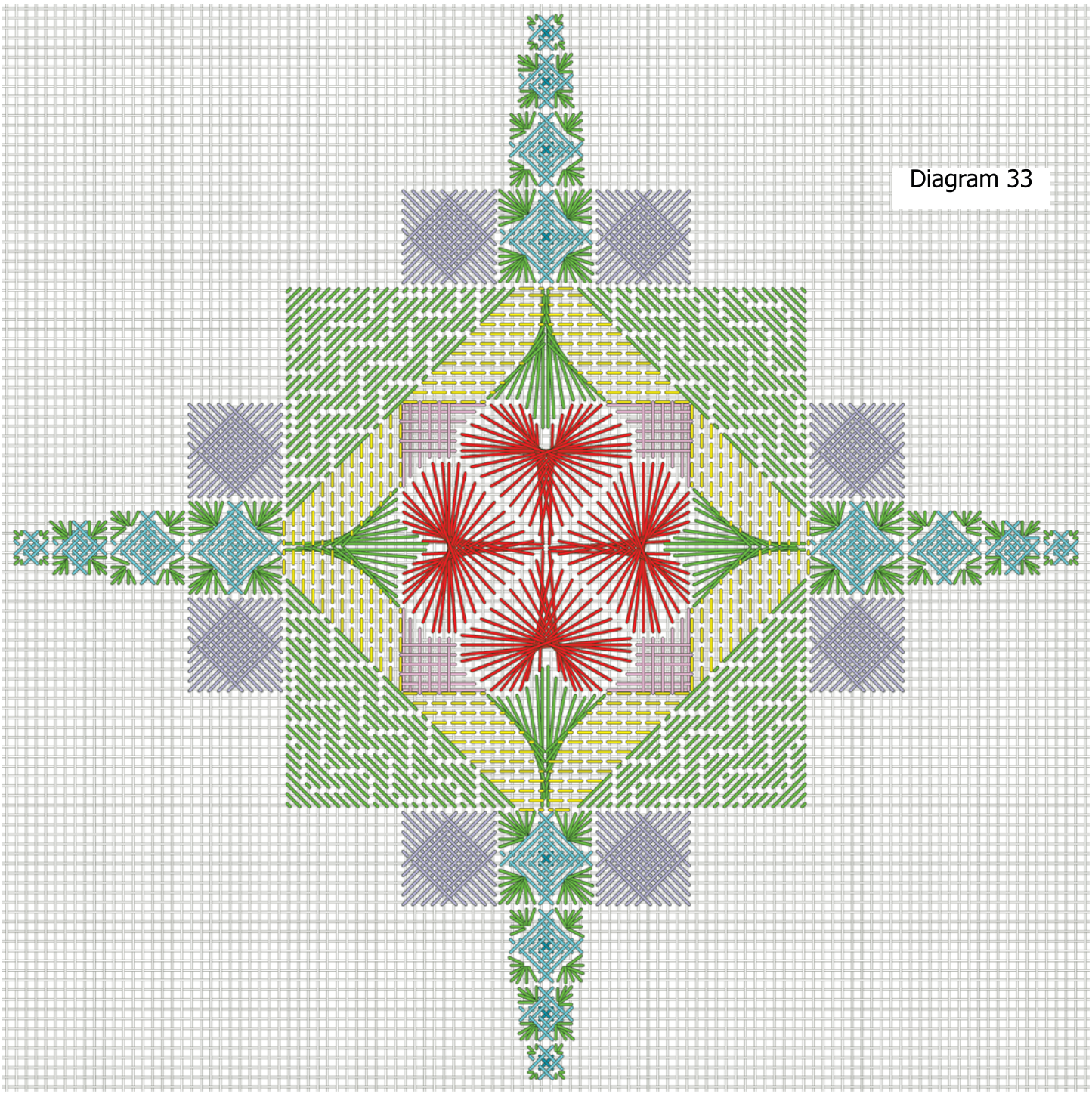


Diagram 33

Unnamed Stitch!

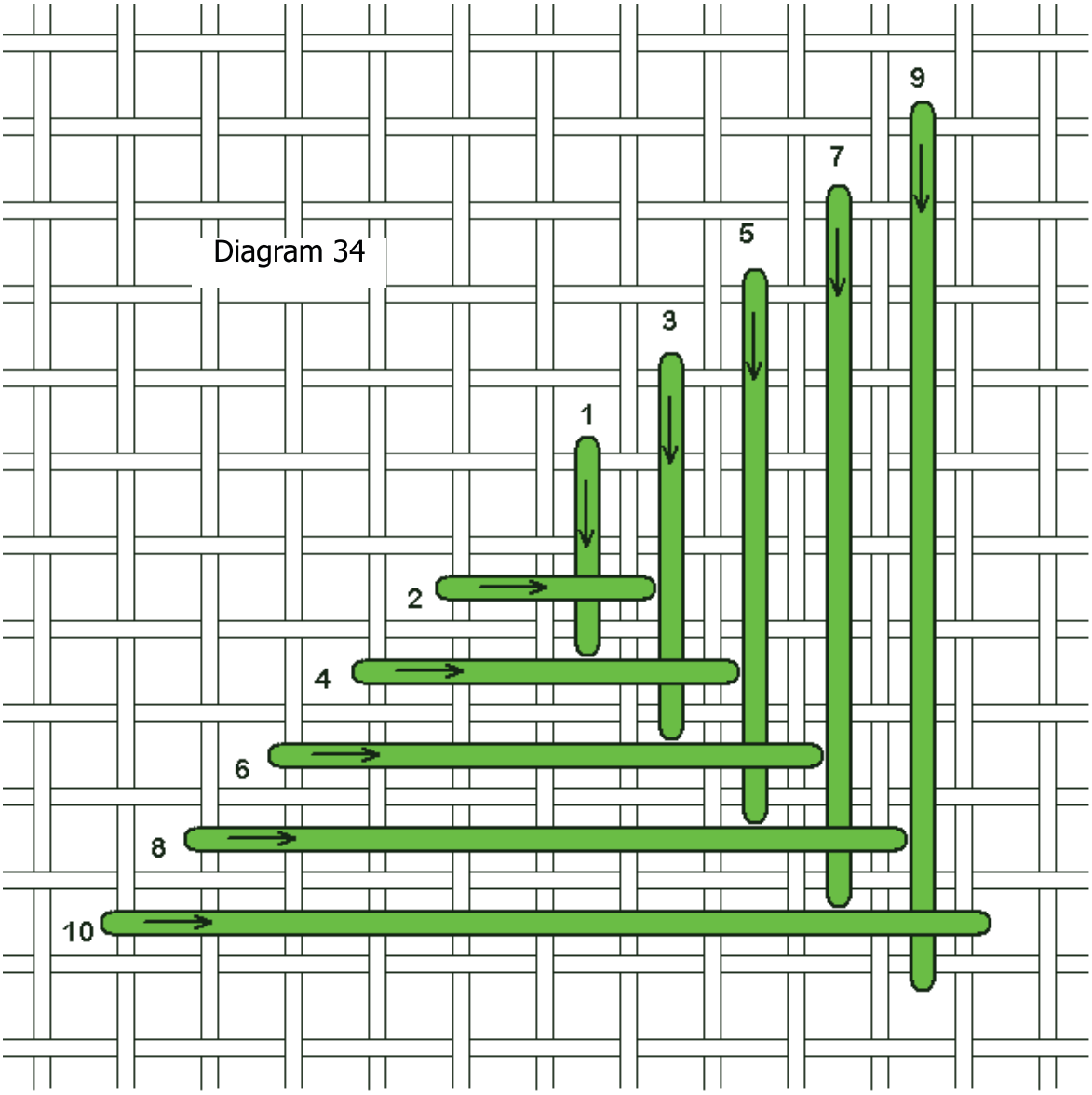
Length	Thread Type	As Shown	Your Choice
36”-40”	Stranded silk floss	Gloriana 084 Laura’s Garden (2)	

So, why is this the”unnamed stitch”? I looked through my reference books and couldn’t find it. I don’t think I’ve invented a stitch, I just couldn’t find a name for it. So if you recognize it and know the name, please let me know!

For this stitch I used 2 strands of my color inspiration thread, Gloriana Laura’s Garden. I started with the leftover pieces from the herringbone stitch, but had to thread up with more lengths, so these stitches are not the same colors throughout. But I generally like it that way so we’re good!

For this stitch, alternate side to side as you stitch. I diagrammed it this way to avoid really long thread carries; you may find a different stitching path that suits you better.

I anchored with a “T” stitch, placed where it would be under the stitches, and ended off by weaving into the backs of the stitches.



Place the stitches beside the waffle stitches on all four sides, as shown in Diagram 35.

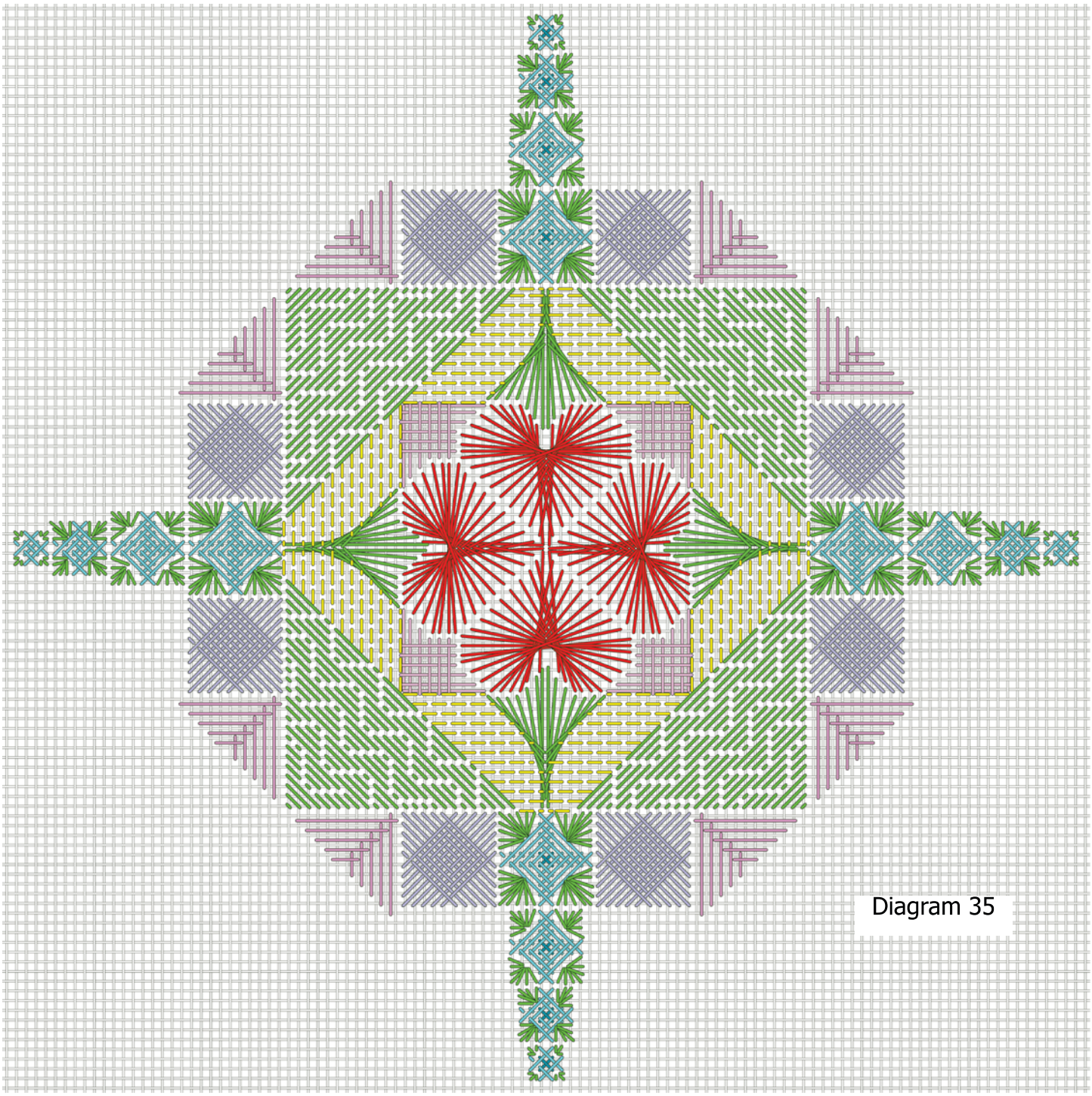


Diagram 35

I don’t know about you, but I’m loving this little project!

Quilted Stitch

Length	Thread Type	As Shown	Your Choice
24”-30”	Fine metallic braid	Kreinik #8 091 Star Yellow	

A quilted stitch can take many forms, but for this project I kept the crossing stitches shorter than the long vertical stitch, so hopefully the effect of quilting doesn’t get lost.

I used a fine metallic braid for this stitch, because I love sparkle and so far there hasn’t been much in this project! Of course, use any thread you like for this.

A basic quilted stitch is shown in Diagram 36. I stitched mine in the order shown in the diagram, but you may find a different path that feels more comfortable for you.

There is some compensation at the edges, shown on the larger graph on the next page.

To compensate at the lower edge, where it shares holes with the waffles stitches, stitch as shown in Diagram 37.

To compensate at the vertical edge, where it shares with the herringbone squares and ray stitches, stitch as shown in Diagram 38.

Because this stitch has a strong vertical orientation, I rotated the stitches on the sides, so the stitches would look the same. You may find it easier to stitch this as well, since you can turn your canvas to stitch.

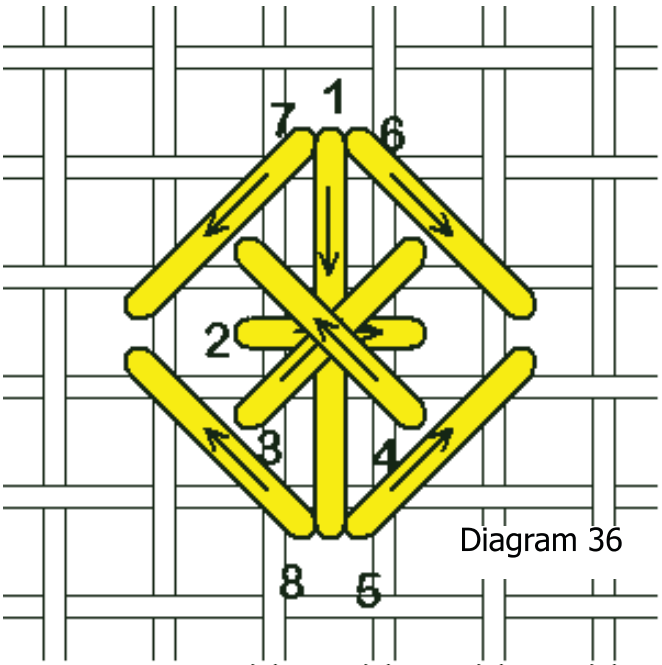


Diagram 36

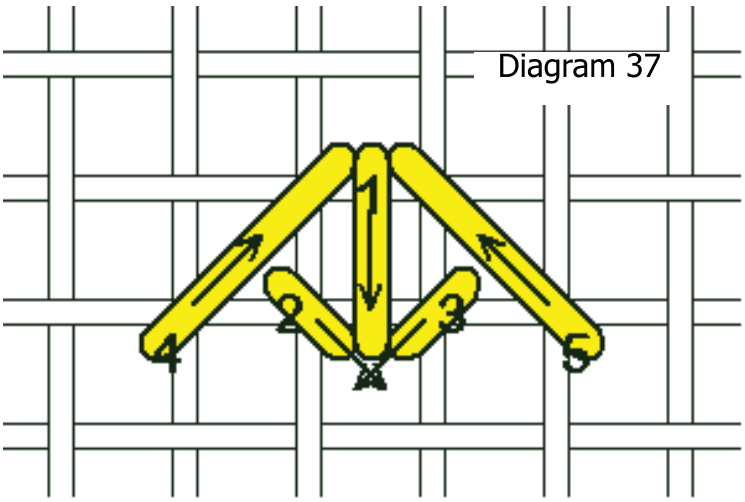
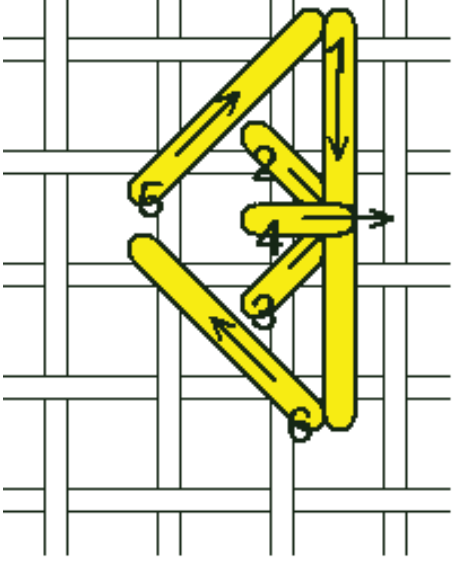


Diagram 37

Diagram 38



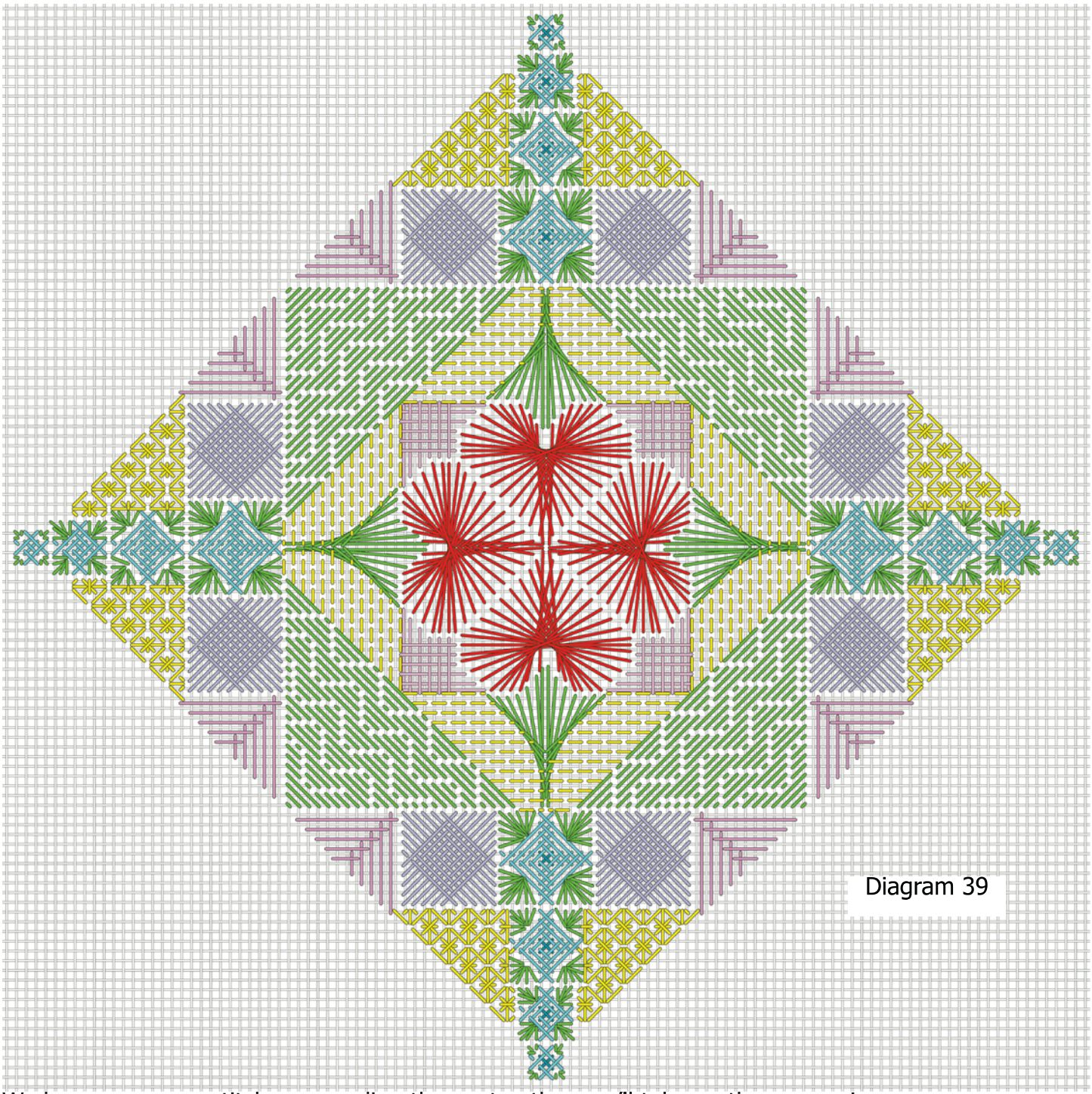


Diagram 39

We have one more stitch surrounding the center, then we'll take on the corners!

Diagonal Fern

Length	Thread Type	As Shown	Your Choice
24”-30”	Silk floss	Gloriana 12 Strand Silk Floss 196 Sweet Lavender (2)	

This stitch will frame the center motif, and we’ll be leaving the center to work on the corners. I used 2 strands of floss for this stitch.

Anchor with either an away knot or by weaving into the backs of the surrounding stitches. End off by weaving into the back of the stitch.

This one will be a little bit tricky at the start and end of the diagonal row, with the compensating stitches. The compensation is not the same at the beginning and ending of the rows! I know I was a little bit confused each time I had to start a new side, so hopefully you can avoid my confusion! You may find it helpful to turn the canvas as you stitch, so you are always stitching the same orientation.

I started at the top and worked down the upper left side first, then the lower left side, then the lower right and finished with the upper right. You may stitch in a different order if you prefer.

Begin as shown in Diagram 40. Stitch 1 is over 3 canvas threads, as are the rest the of the vertical stitches. However, stitch 2 is only over 2 canvas threads, with the rest of the horizontal stitches over 3 canvas threads. Stitch 2 is the compensated stitch for the start of the row.

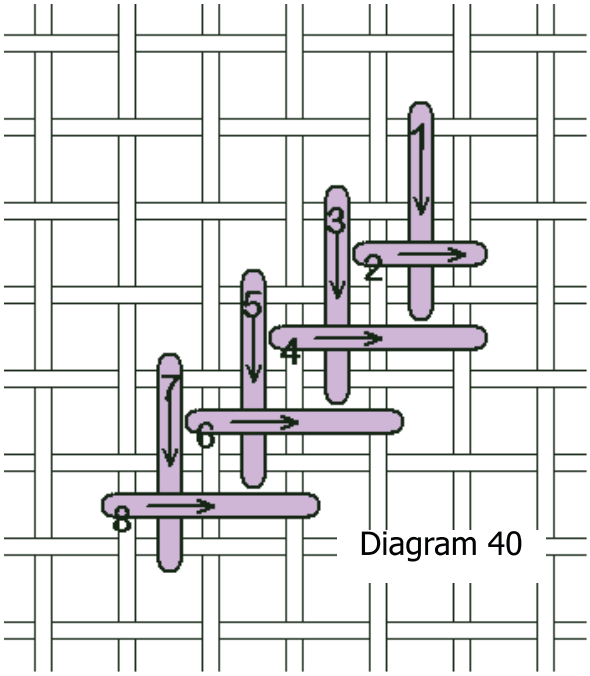


Diagram 40

Stitch down until you are at the left point of the center motif. Compensate the bottom as shown; stitch 11 is only over 2 canvas threads instead of 3.

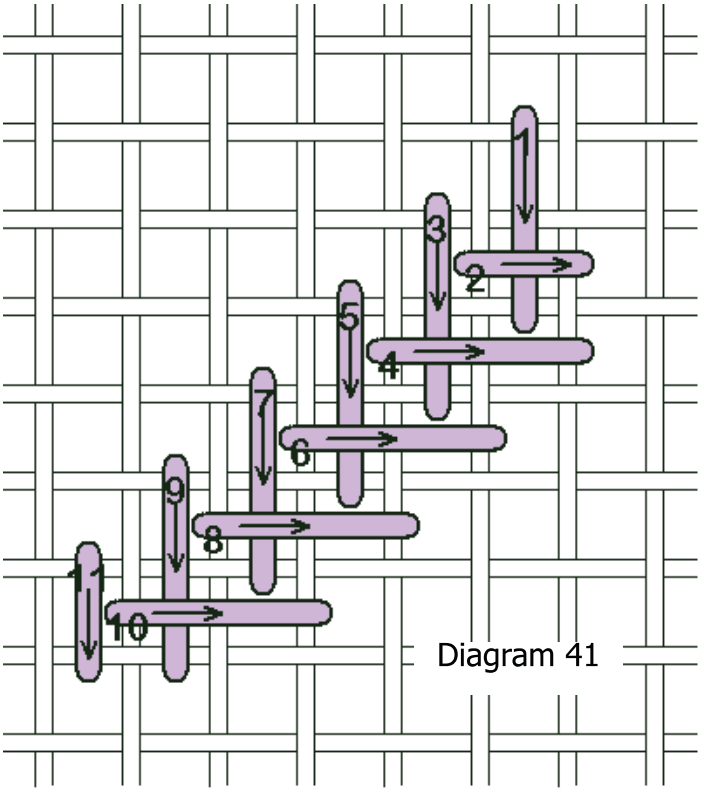


Diagram 41

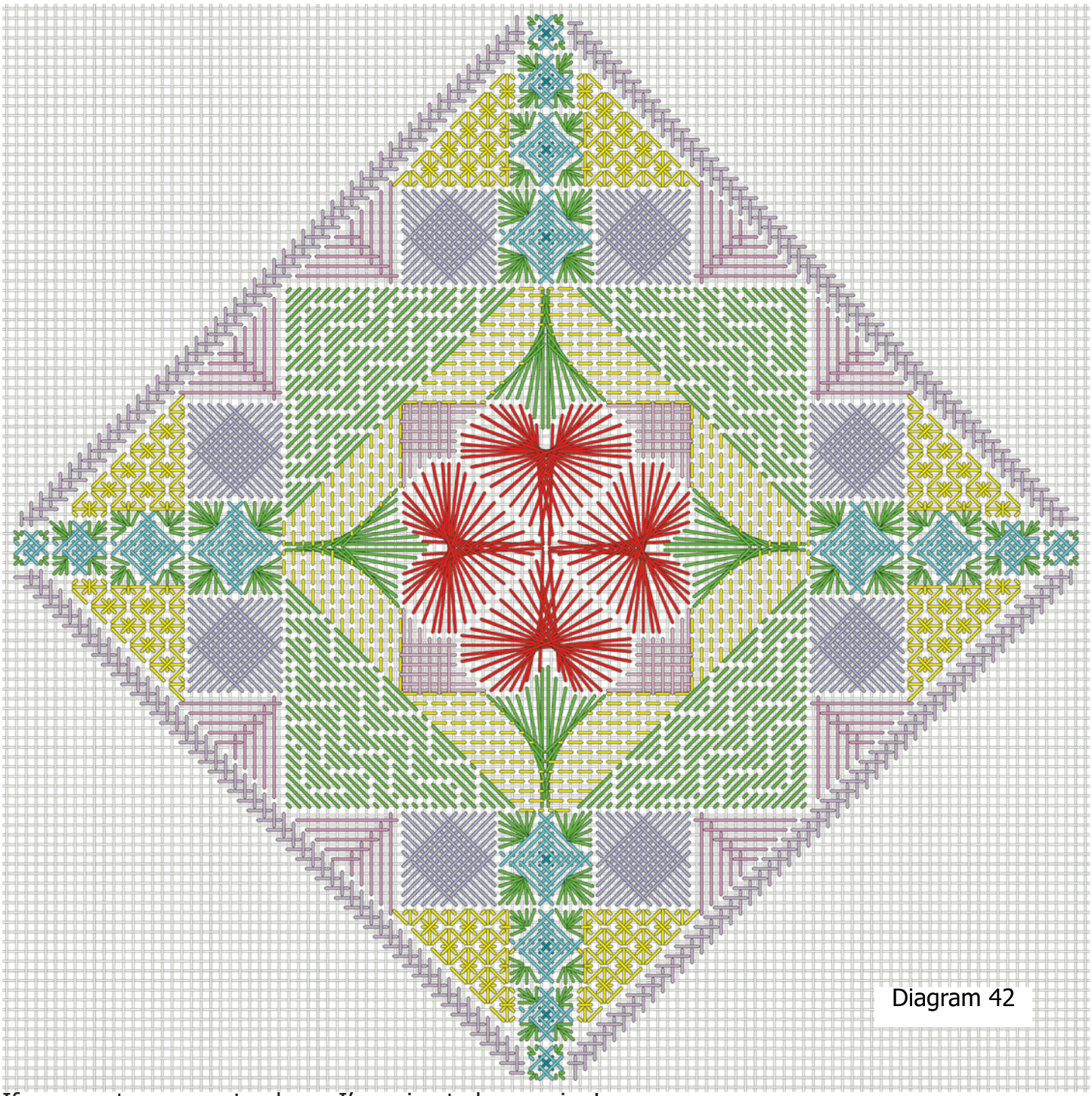


Diagram 42

If you want you can stop here. I'm going to keep going!

Twisting Stars

Length	Thread Type	As Shown	Your Choice
30”-36”	Fine metallic braid	Kreinik #8 9194 Star Green	

Now we’re moving out to the corners, and here’s a lovely stitch, twisting stars. If you’ve not encountered these before I hope you like them!

It will take about 30” to stitch one cluster of twisting stars. Anchor with a pin stitch, stitched like a back stitch, along one of the diagonal lines of the beginning cross stitch, where it will be covered by the cross stitch. End off by weaving into the backs of the stars.

This stitch begins with a cross stitch over 4 canvas threads. Now, you may be wondering where to put this first stitch. I stitched on the top right side of the center motif. Count over 17 canvas threads from the small ray stitch at the top of the herringbone squares, and 7 canvas threads down; bring the needle up here at position 1.

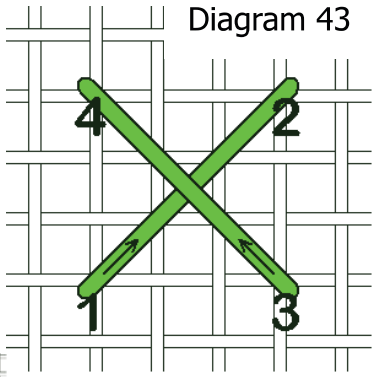


Diagram 43

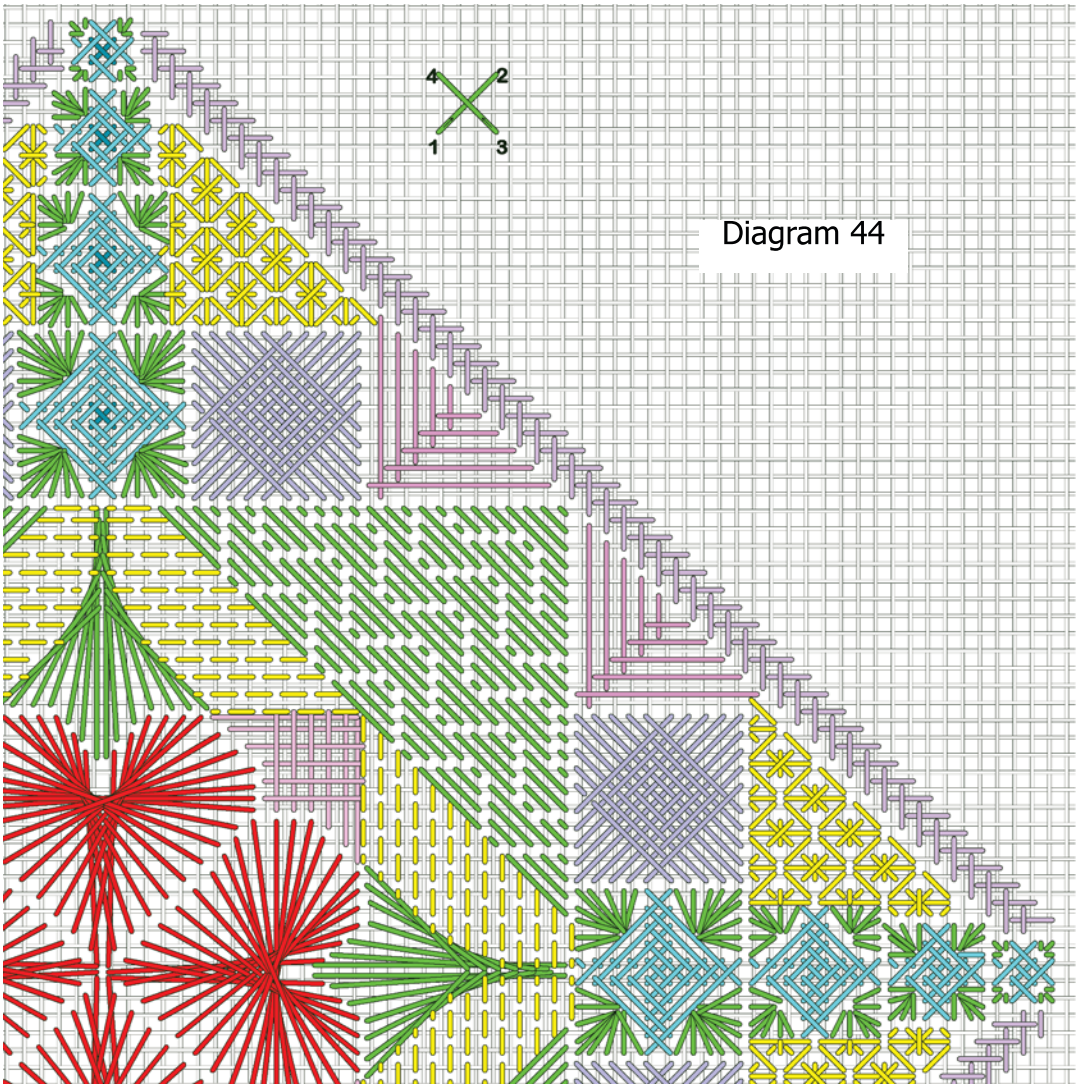


Diagram 44

The twisting star is stitched in three steps. The first step is the cross stitch over 4. The second step is shown in Diagram 45, and the third step in Diagram 46. Even though it is called a "twisting star", there's no twisting or weaving under previous stitches, which makes it simpler but oh so effective!

I've removed the numbers for the second step to show the third step more clearly in Diagram 46. Basically, you're connecting the dots to make points for the star on all four sides. The stitches are coming over previous stitches, but not weaving under anything, just laying on top.

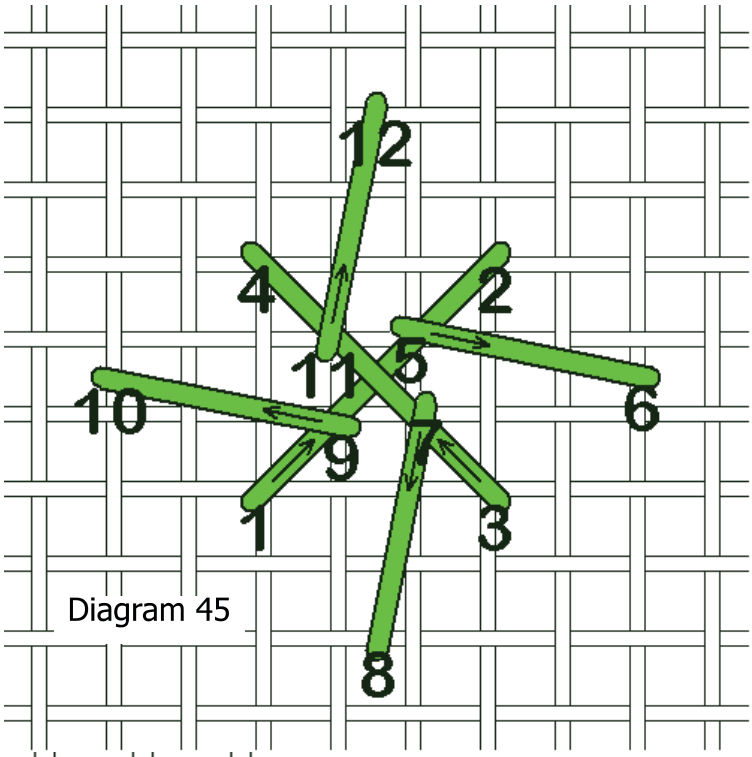


Diagram 45

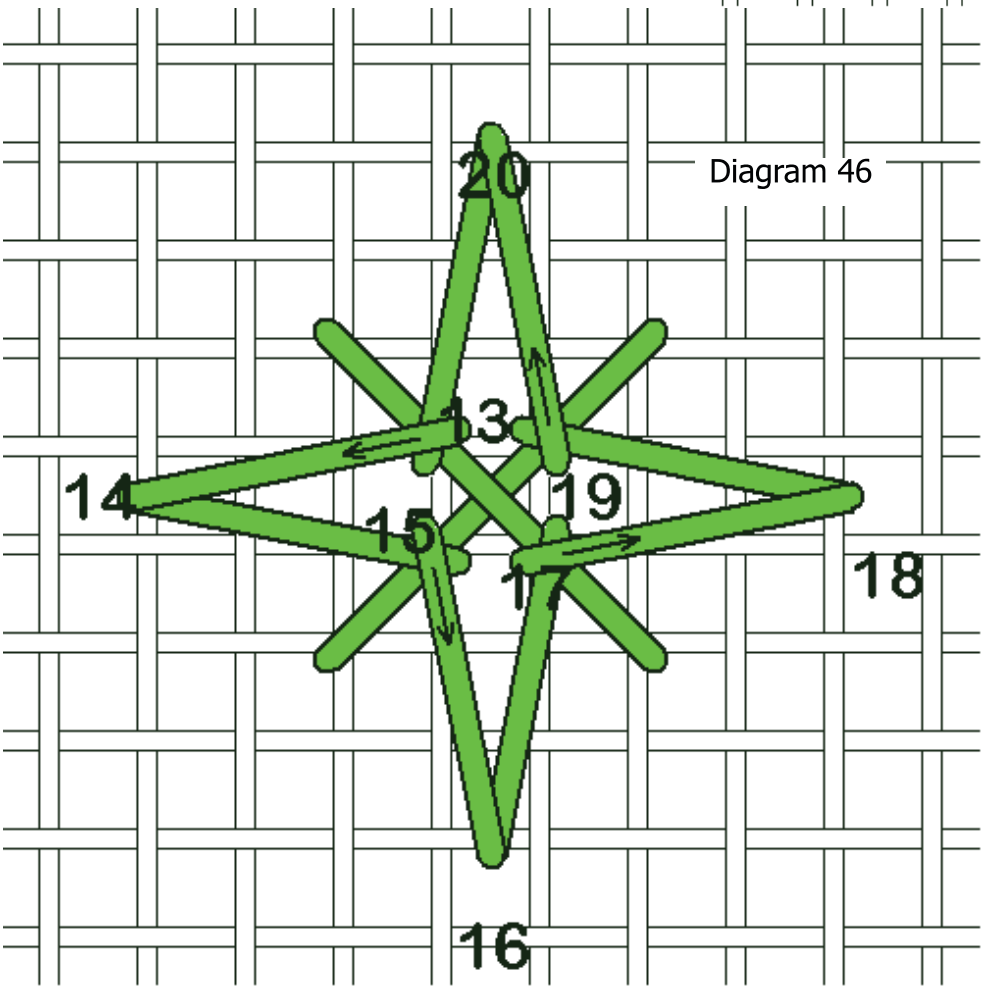


Diagram 46

Isn't this a pretty stitch!

Stitch 3 more twisting stars, sharing holes with the previous stars as shown. I'm only showing numbers at the beginning of the stitches, to cut down on some of the diagram clutter. You don't have to end the thread between each star, but go on to complete the cluster before ending the thread.

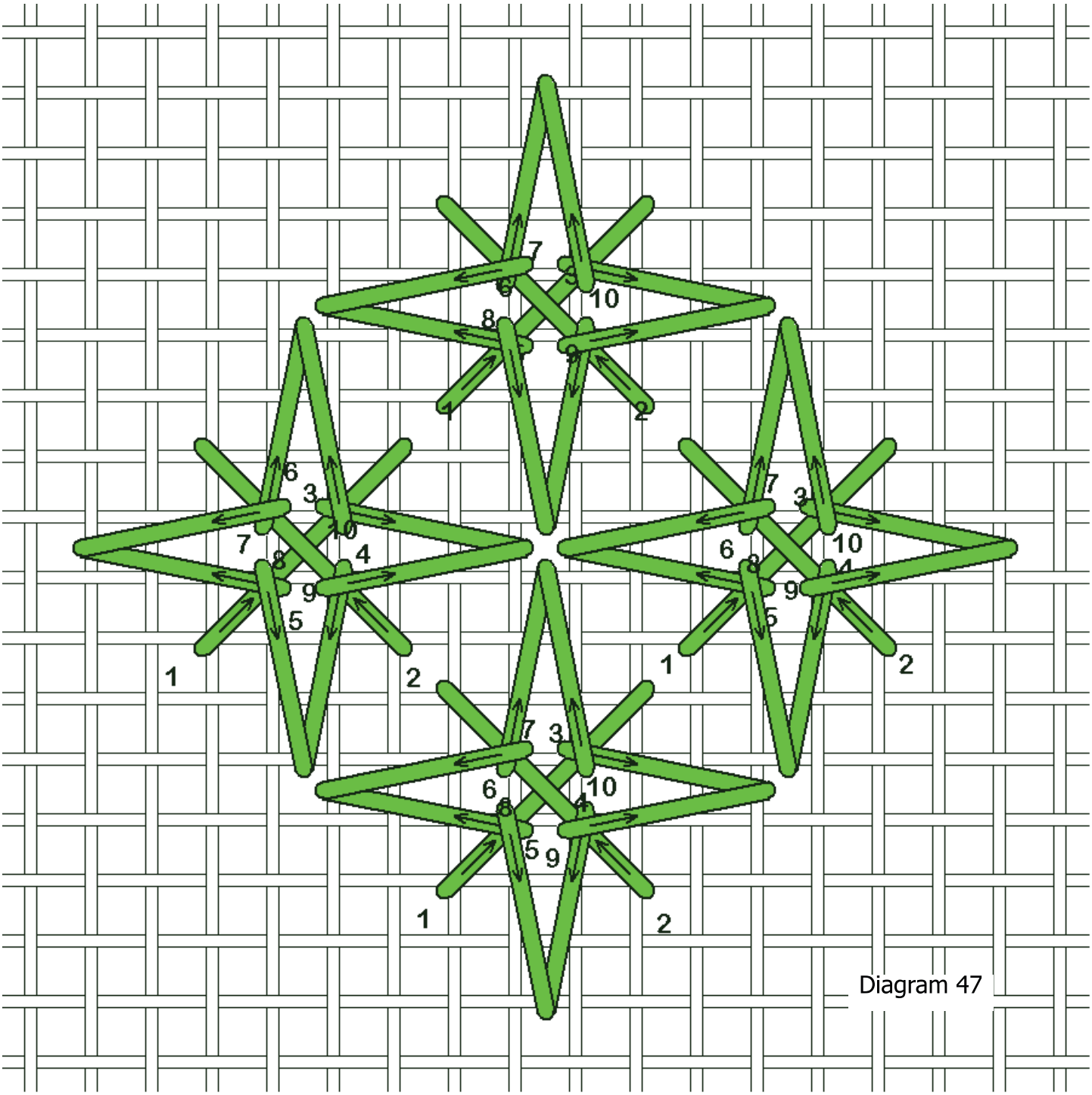
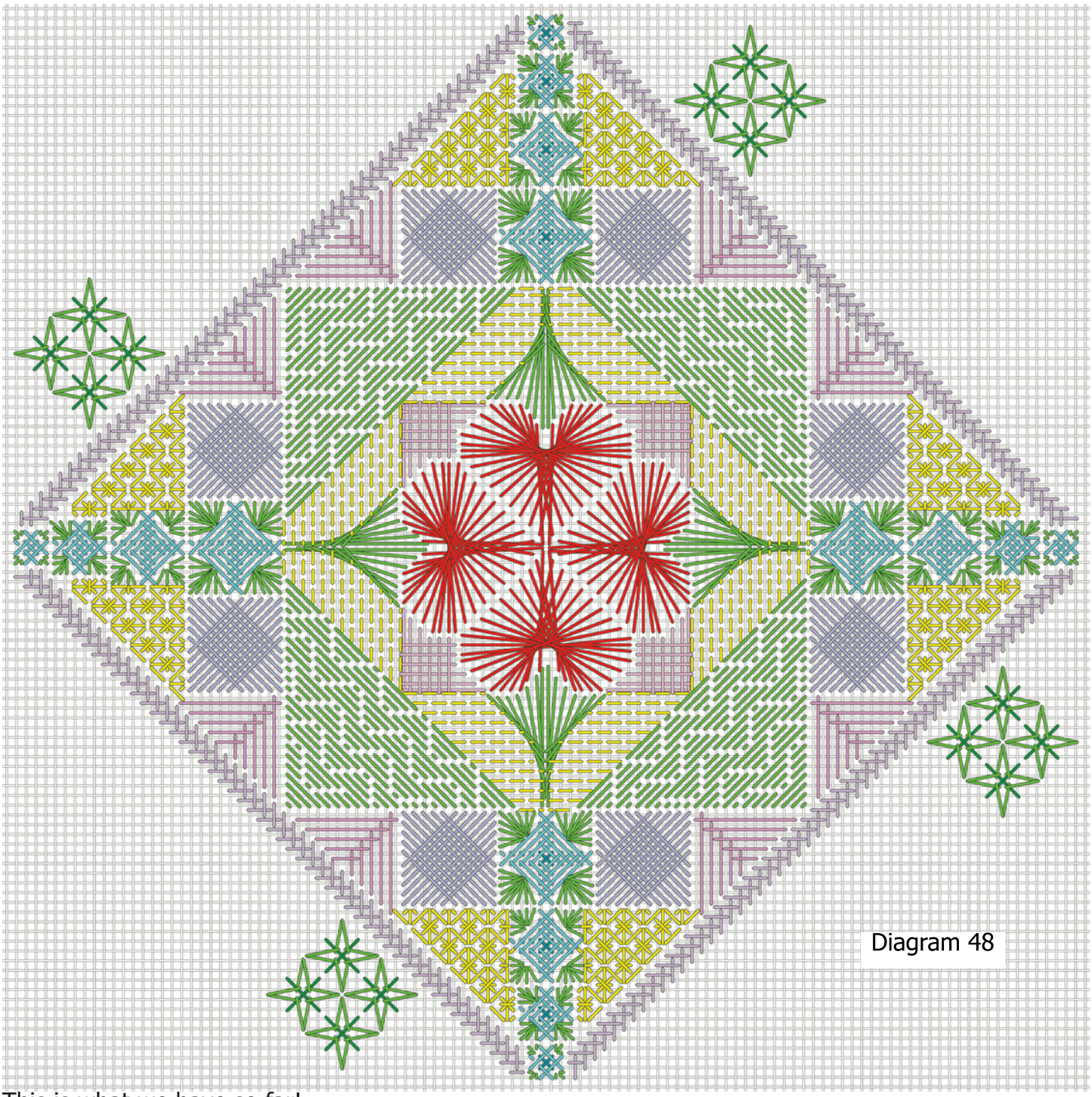


Diagram 47

Turn the canvas to stitch the remaining twisting star clusters. I found this to be easier than trying to count to a different spot.



This is what we have so far!

Mosaic Stitch

Length	Thread Type	As Shown	Your Choice
30”-36”	Silk floss	Gloriana 029 Periwinkle (2)	

The mosaic stitch is a small stitch, covering 2 x 2 canvas threads. This makes it perfect for a smallish inner border. I wanted to separate the corners from the rest of the center motif. I haven’t forgotten about the space around the twisting stars; I’ll get to those later.

For the mosaic stitch, anchor with an away knot, placed on top of the canvas so you are stitching toward it. When you come to the knot, clip it off. To end off, weave the threads through the backs of the stitching.

A basic mosaic stitch is shown in Diagram 49. The challenge is learning the path to take! As shown the final stitch is ending where the next stitch needs to begin. So, we need to stitch in a different order for a row of mosaic stitches, shown in Diagram 50.

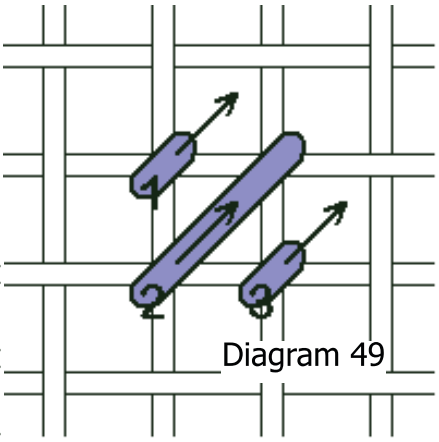


Diagram 49

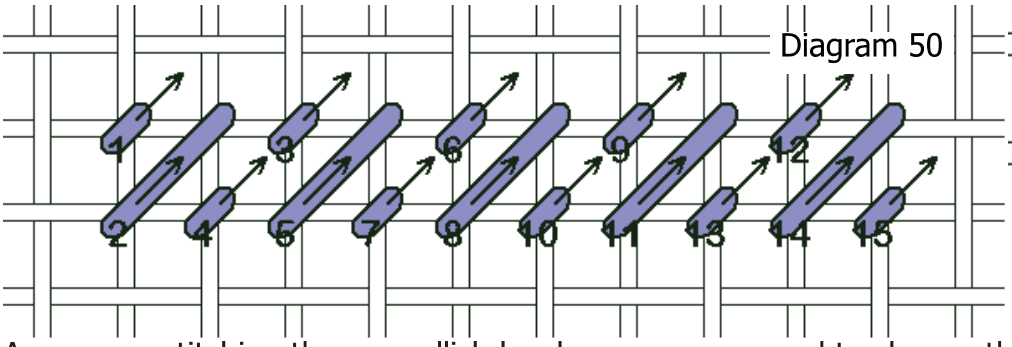


Diagram 50

As you are stitching these smallish borders, you may need to change the direction of the stitch. If it looks the same on the front of the canvas, it doesn’t matter so much which direction the stitch has been made.

A word about the placement, shown on the next page in Diagram 51: I discovered when I put these borders in that I had miscounted the twisting stars placement. I took them out and restitched them; it was just the twisting stars on the left and right edges, not all of them.

If you look closely at the diagram, and decide that your twisting star motifs are off by one or two canvas threads, I think you’ll be able to compensate around them when we come to that part.

I reversed the mosaic stitches - the upper left and lower right are the same orientation, but the upper right and lower left are reversed. I thought it fit better to reverse the mosaic stitches.

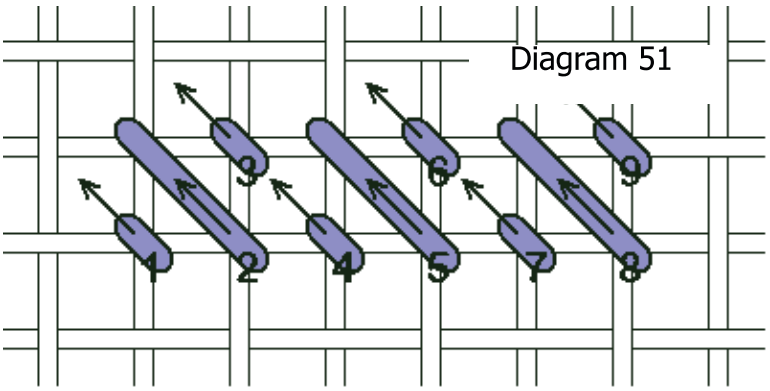


Diagram 51

There should be 13 mosaic stitches vertically and horizontally for these borders.

Can you tell that the end is near? The outer parameters of the project are now set, and the interiors of the corners will be fun to stitch!

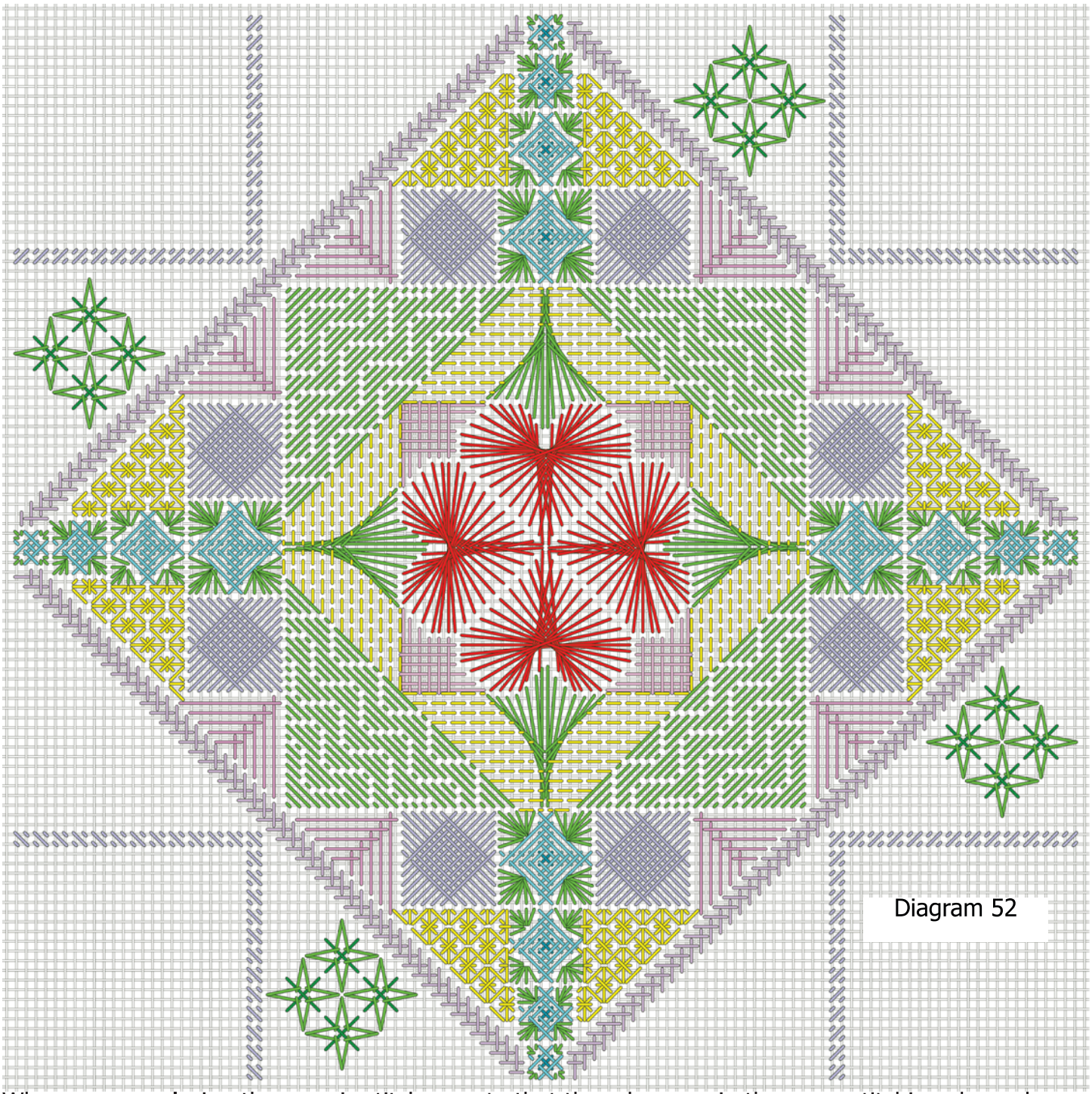


Diagram 52

When you are placing the mosaic stitches, note that the edges are in the same stitching channel as the points of the center motif. Don’t go beyond those points!

Windmill Stitches

Length	Thread Type	As Shown	Your Choice
30”-36”	Silk floss	Gloriana 083 Blossoms (2)	

Now we’re moving to the corners! I put different stitches in the opposing corners, but you may stitch all the corners alike if you prefer.

For the upper left and lower right corners I started with a windmill stitch, in two layers. For the first layer, stitch as shown in Diagram 53.

Normally I would emphasize stitching in the same order, however there will be a tying stitch over the center so you may stitch in any order and direction that makes sense to you. I find it easier to begin with the long vertical stitch, then stitch on either side, and then the long horizontal stitch, and stitch on either side. This helps me with the count and placement of the stitch.

Place the windmills as shown in Diagram 54. You may begin at the bottom of the area or the top, whichever makes the most sense to you.

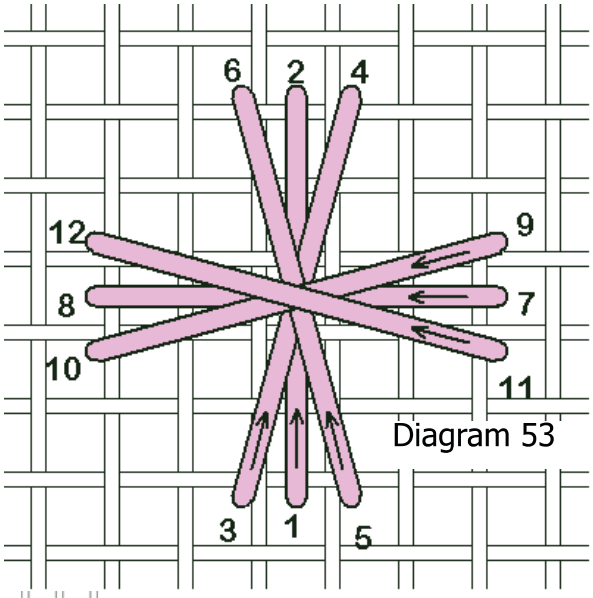


Diagram 53

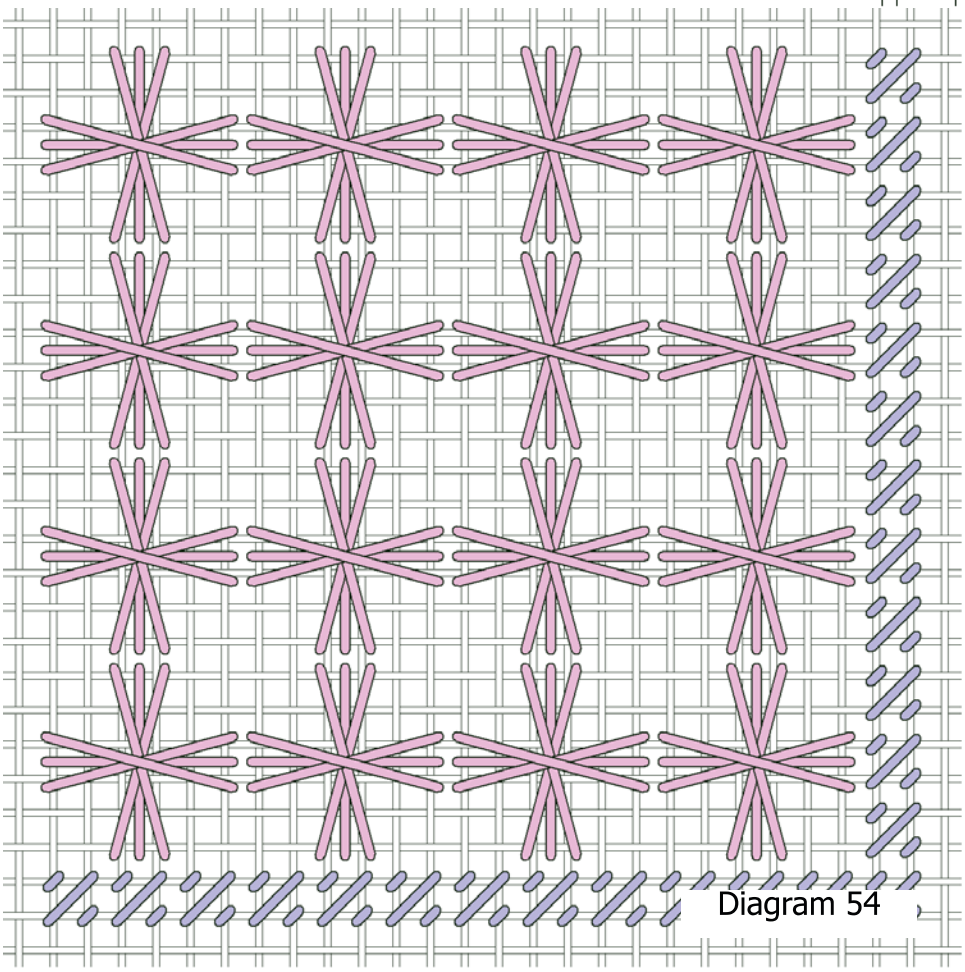


Diagram 54

From this point I will only show the corners because I can show more detail.

Length	Thread Type	As Shown	Your Choice
24”-30”	Fine metallic braid	Kreinik #8 023 Lilac	

To complete the windmills, add a tying stitch with the fine metallic braid over the center, shown in Diagram 55.

For this part of the stitch, I stitched in horizontal rows. This is not the only path you can take through the windmills - you could stitch vertically or diagonally if you like.

It does make a difference for the tying stitches to all have the same final stitch. Make each cross as you go; it will save thread as opposed to stitching just the bottom stitch in a row then coming back to cross the stitches.

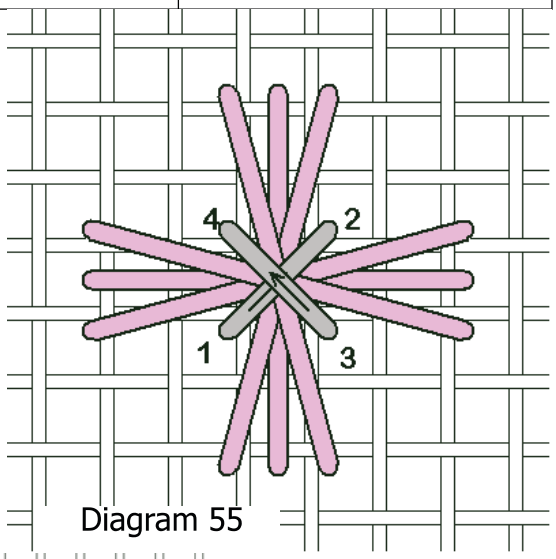


Diagram 55

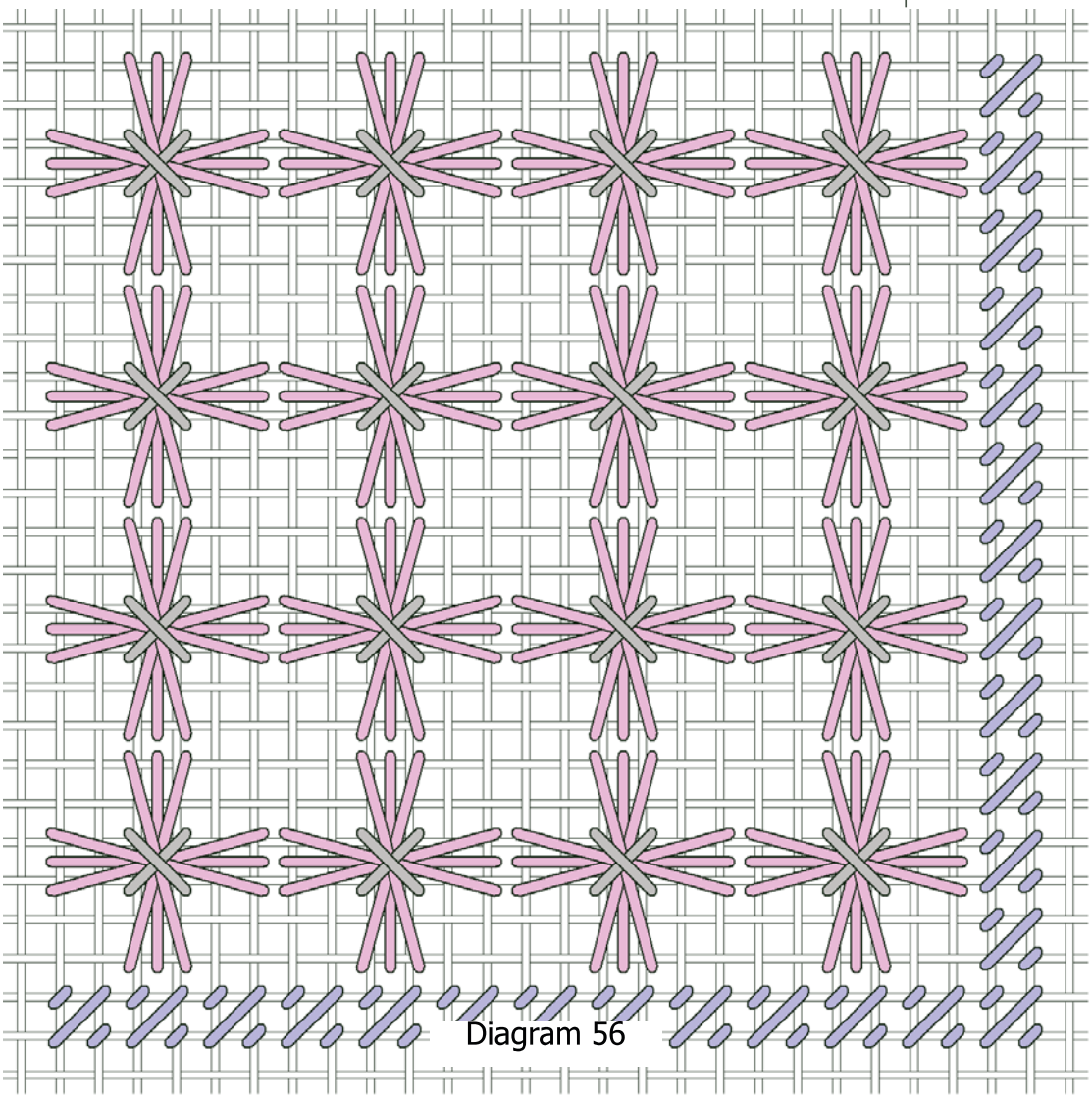


Diagram 56

We aren’t finished with these corners yet if you’re concerned about the empty spaces.

Double Cross

Length	Thread Type	As Shown	Your Choice
24”-30”	Silk floss	Gloriana 082 Mango Sorbet (2)	

We’re staying in the same area as the windmill stitches, filling the spaces between the windmills with double crosses. A double cross is simply an upright cross stitch with a cross stitch on top. It looks similar to a small diamond Rhodes, but it is not as textured and looks different on the back.

Stitch the double cross as shown in Diagram 57, placing it between the windmills as shown in Diagram 58. As with other crossed and tied stitches, make sure the final stitch is the same for all of the double crosses. I prefer the cross stitch on top, but if you’d rather stitch a different order that’s fine.

Don’t worry about compensating at the edges - we’ll fill those next!

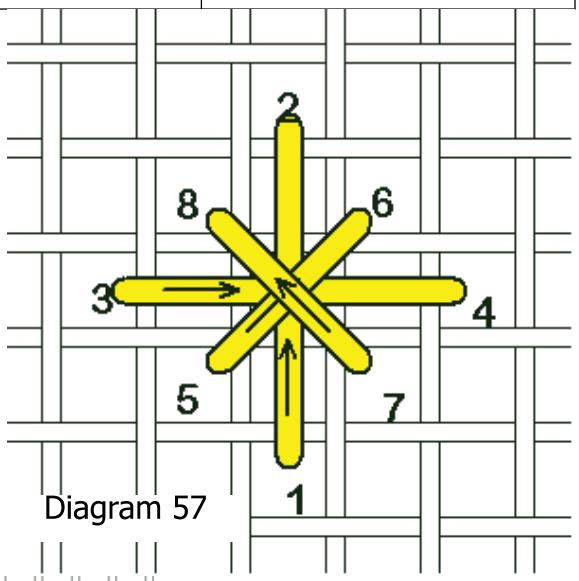


Diagram 57

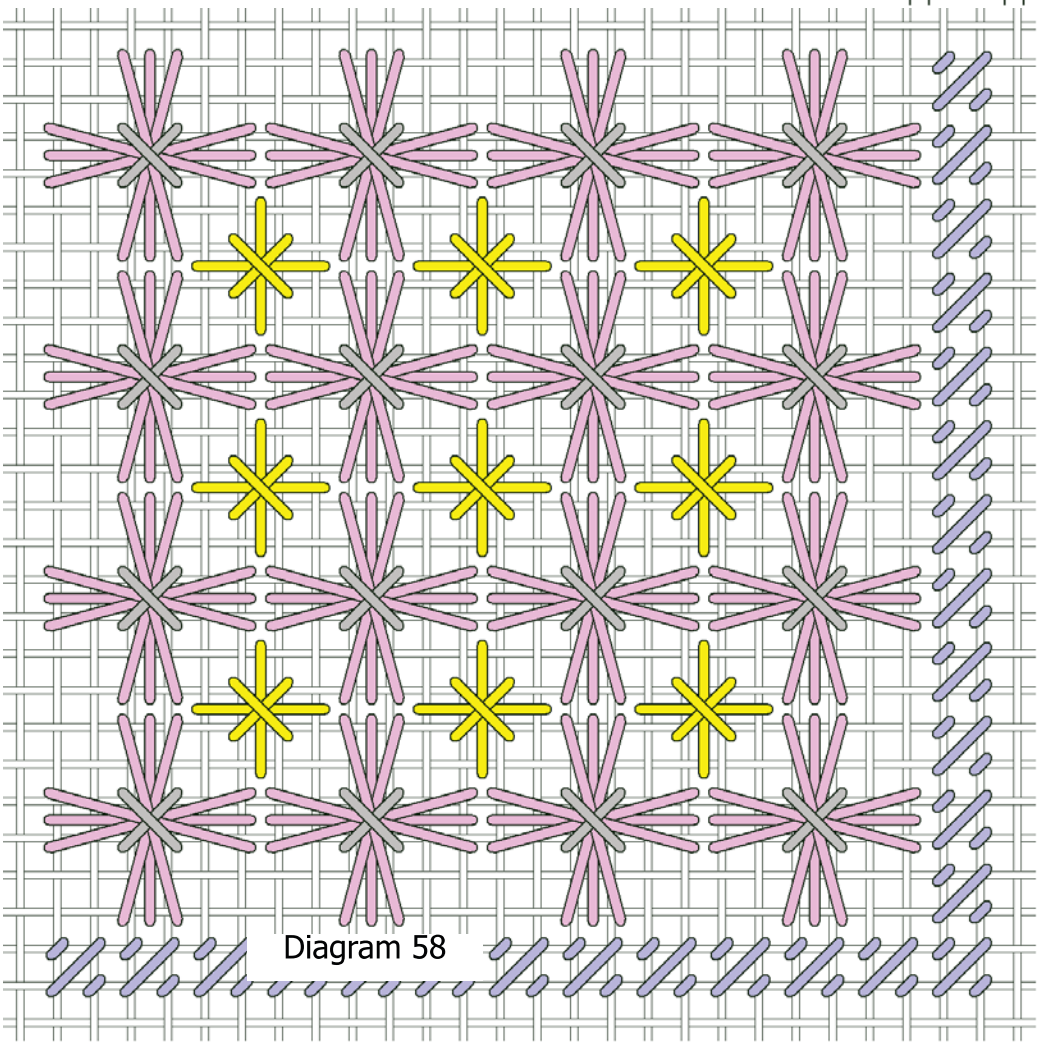


Diagram 58

Smyrna Crosses and Tent Stitches

Length	Thread Type	As Shown	Your Choice
24”-30”	Silk floss	Gloriana 014 Jewel Green (2)	

To finish out these corners, I added Smyrna crosses to the outside edges.

When you are stitching Smyrna crosses, or any stitch that has a final horizontal stitch, make the horizontal stitch in the opposite direction that you are stitching. This will wrap the thread around the canvas and make a nicer finish. For instance, if you are stitching in a left to right row, make the final horizontal stitch from right to left.

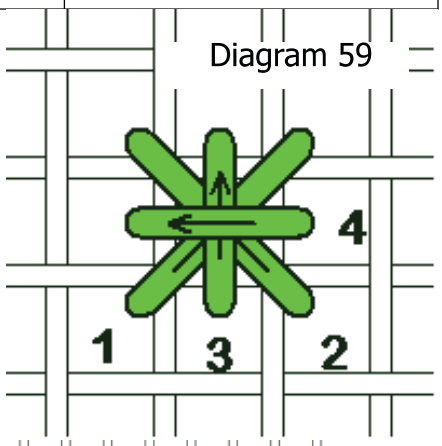


Diagram 59

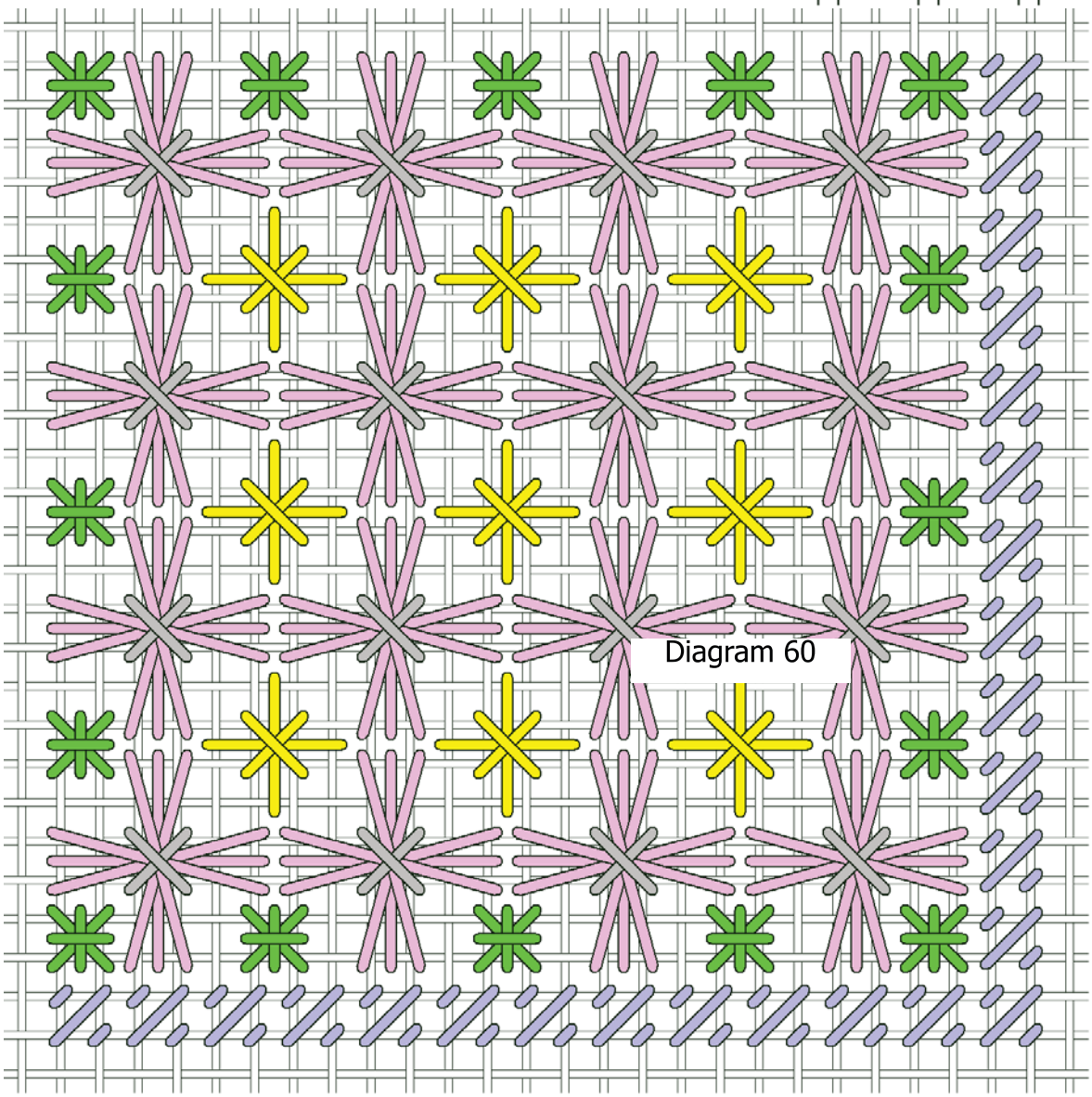


Diagram 60

After I stitched the Smyrna crosses, I decided that I should probably carry the green thread through to the center, so I added tent stitches with the same thread. I stitched these around the double crosses, and I was much happier with the finished result.

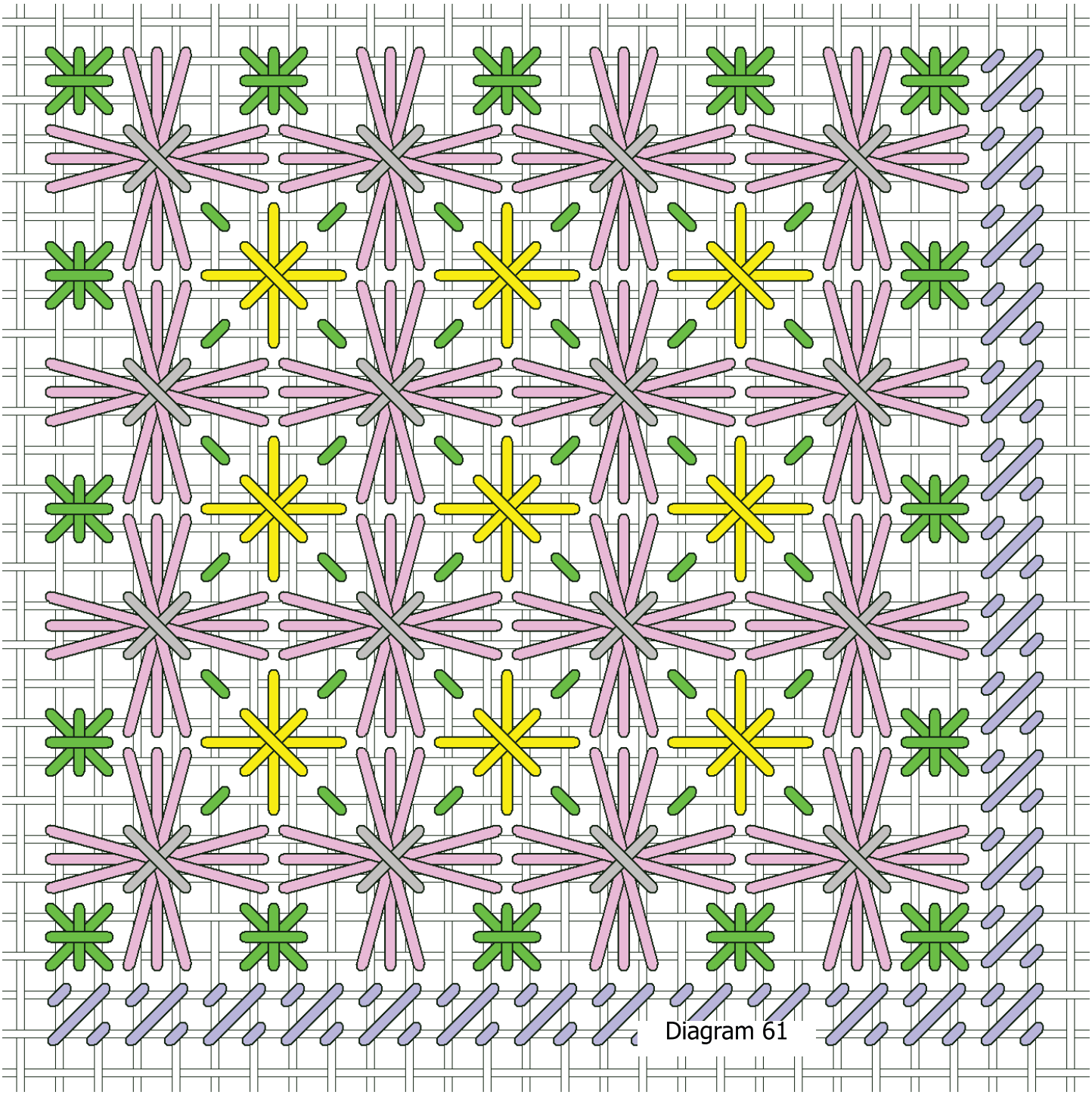


Diagram 61

Round Rhodes

Length	Thread Type	As Shown	Your Choice
24”-30”	Fine metallic braid	Kreinik #8 9194 Star Green	

For the upper right and lower left corners I started with round Rhodes, stitched with the fine metallic braid in pale green. These are relatively small stitches, and although they may not look completely round in the diagrams the overall effect is round stitches.

Stitch the round Rhodes as shown in Diagram 62, and place them as shown in Diagram 63.

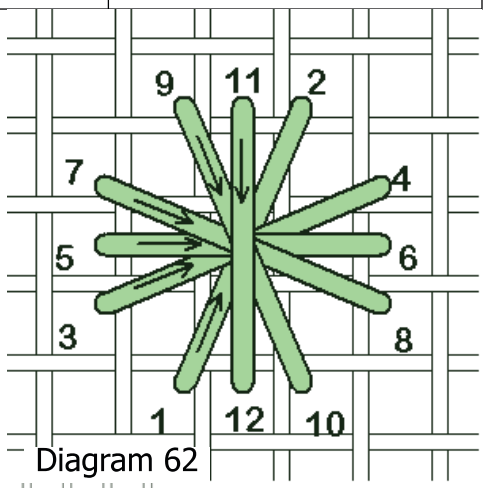
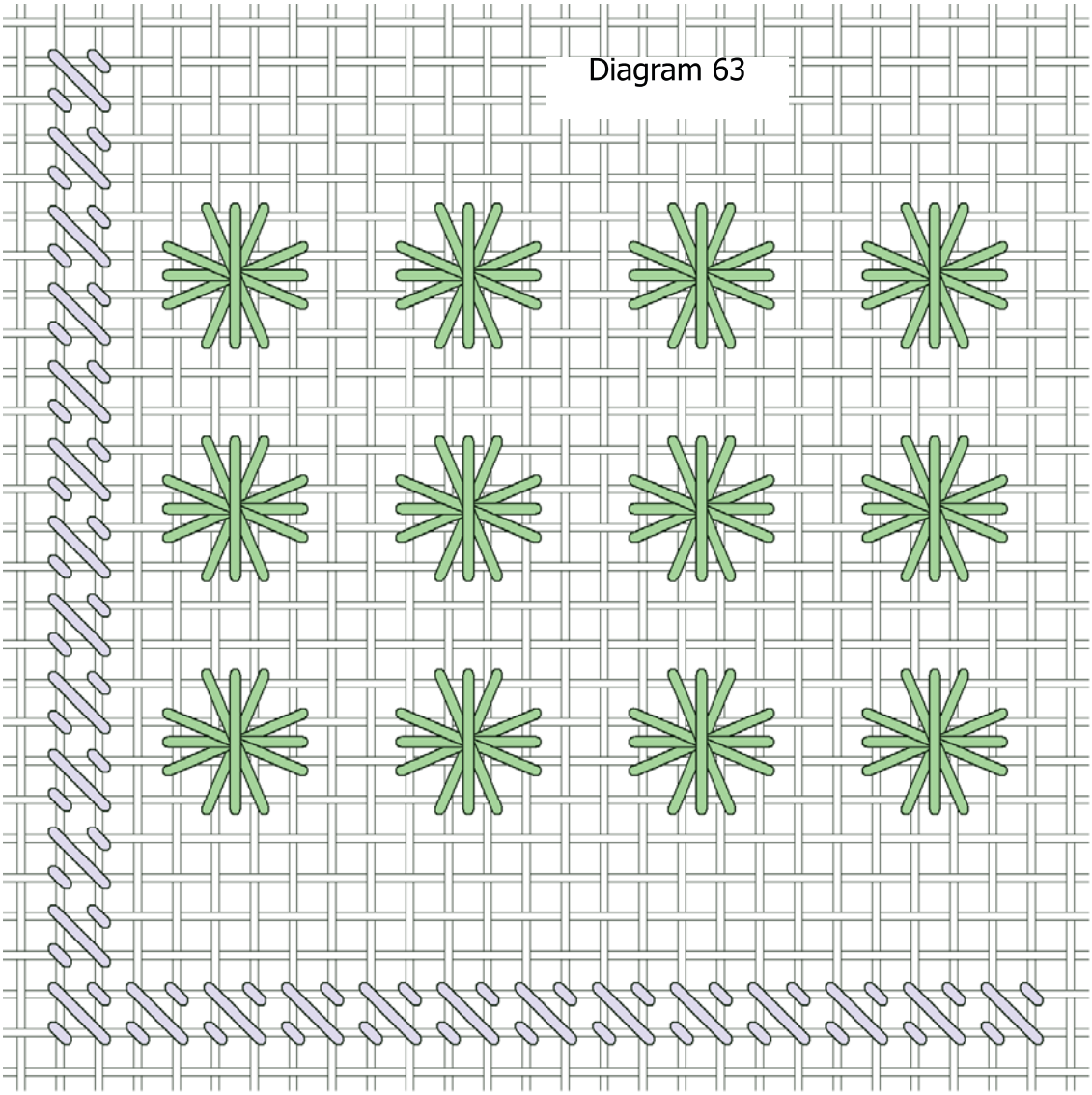


Diagram 62

Diagram 63



Tied Sheaf

Length	Thread Type	As Shown	Your Choice
24”-30”	Silk floss	Gloriana 082 Mango Sorbet (2)	

Stitch tied sheaf stitches around the round Rhodes, using 2 strands of floss. The tied sheaf stitch is shown in Diagram 64, with placement in Diagram 66.

The diagram shows the tying stitch covering 2 canvas threads, but I preferred to bring the needle up and down in the same hole, tying around the stitches as shown in Diagram 65. You may use either method.

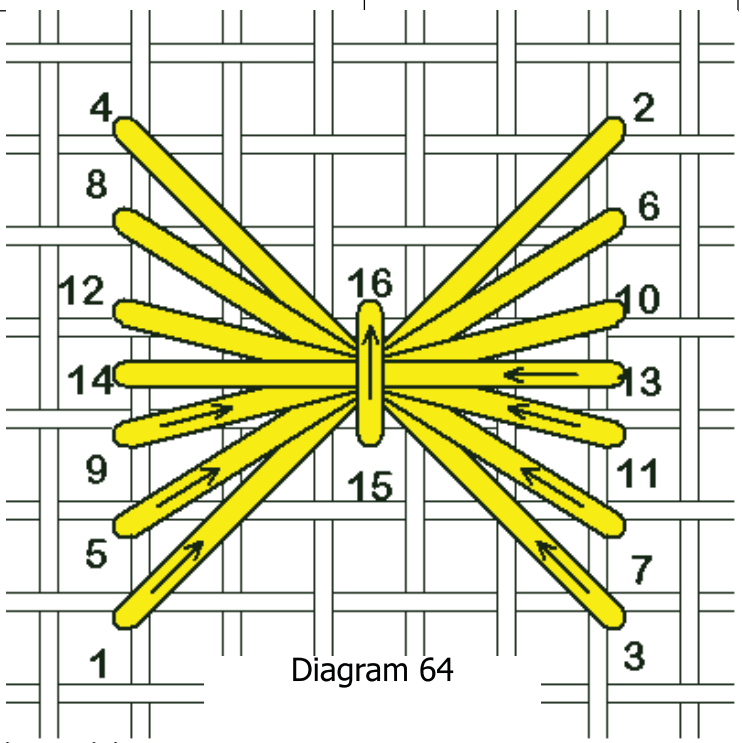
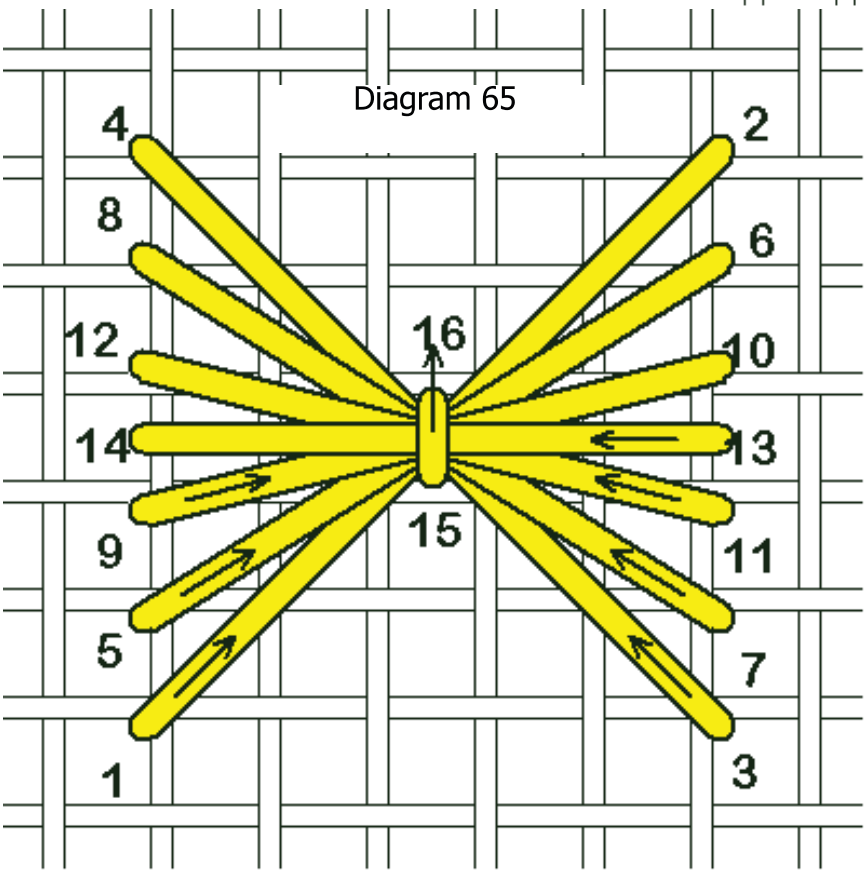


Diagram 64

Diagram 65



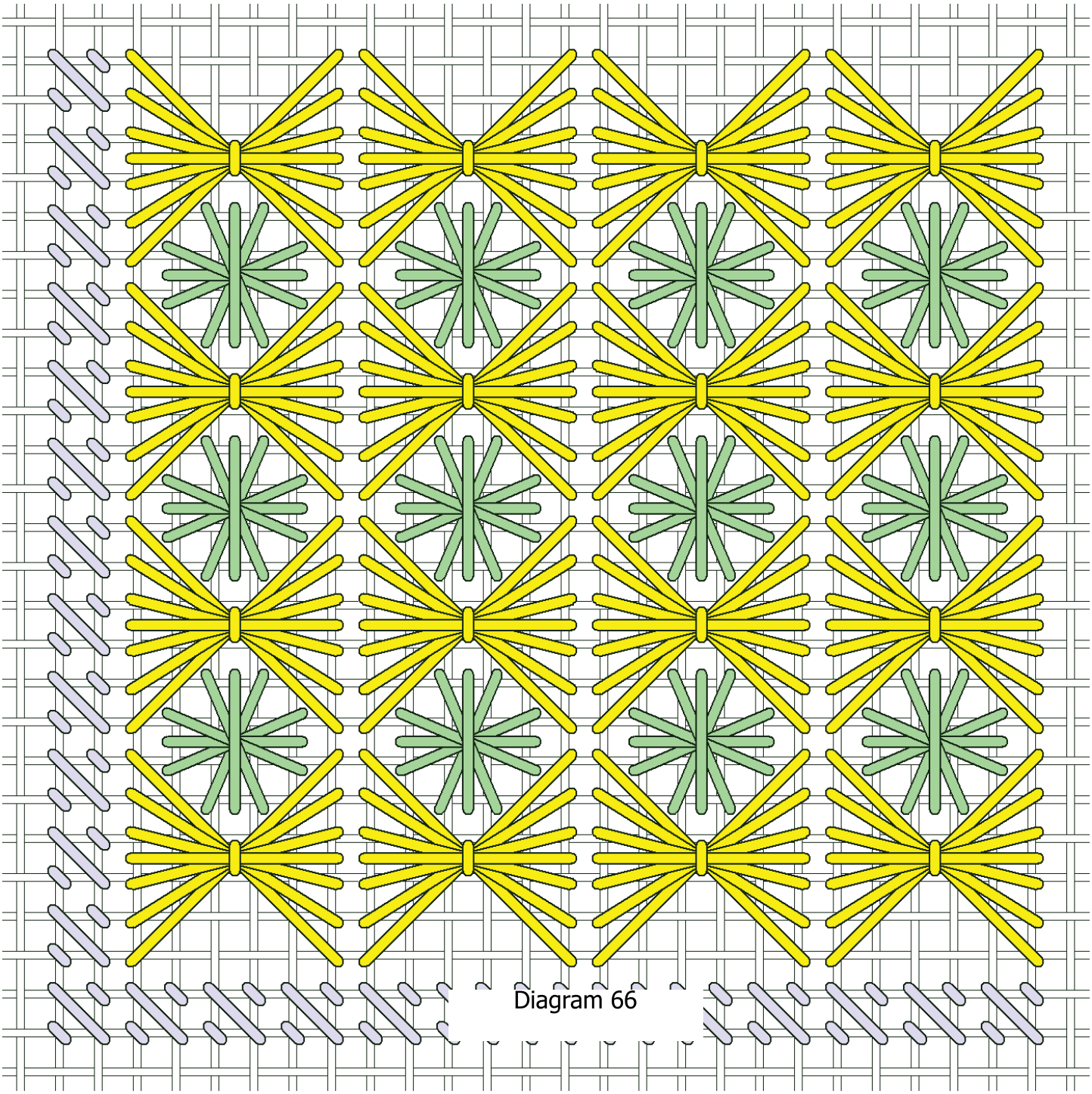


Diagram 66

Triangle Eyelets

Length	Thread Type	As Shown	Your Choice
24”-30”	Silk floss	Gloriana 083 Blossoms (2)	

Finish out the edges of the corners with triangle eyelets. The eyelets are shown in Diagram 67. When stitching an eyelet, the stitches end in the shared hole, and come up on the outside edges. You may slightly enlarge the hole for the eyelets with your needle before stitching, or pull when you bring the needle up for the next stitch. When pulling, don’t pull straight up, but pull across the canvas, holding the needle close to the eye. Try to make all the holes the same size. You may carry the thread across to the next eyelet, since there’s plenty of thread on the canvas to prevent the carry threads showing through.

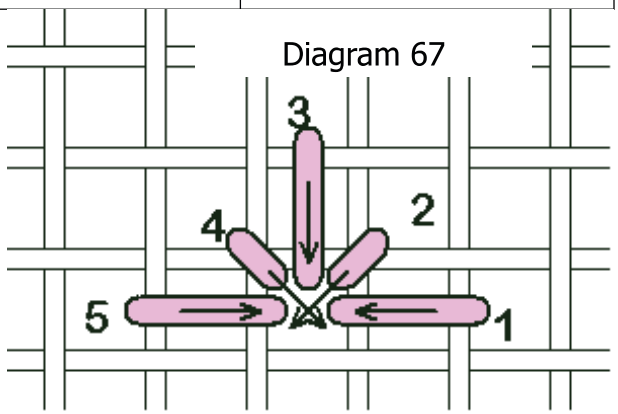


Diagram 67

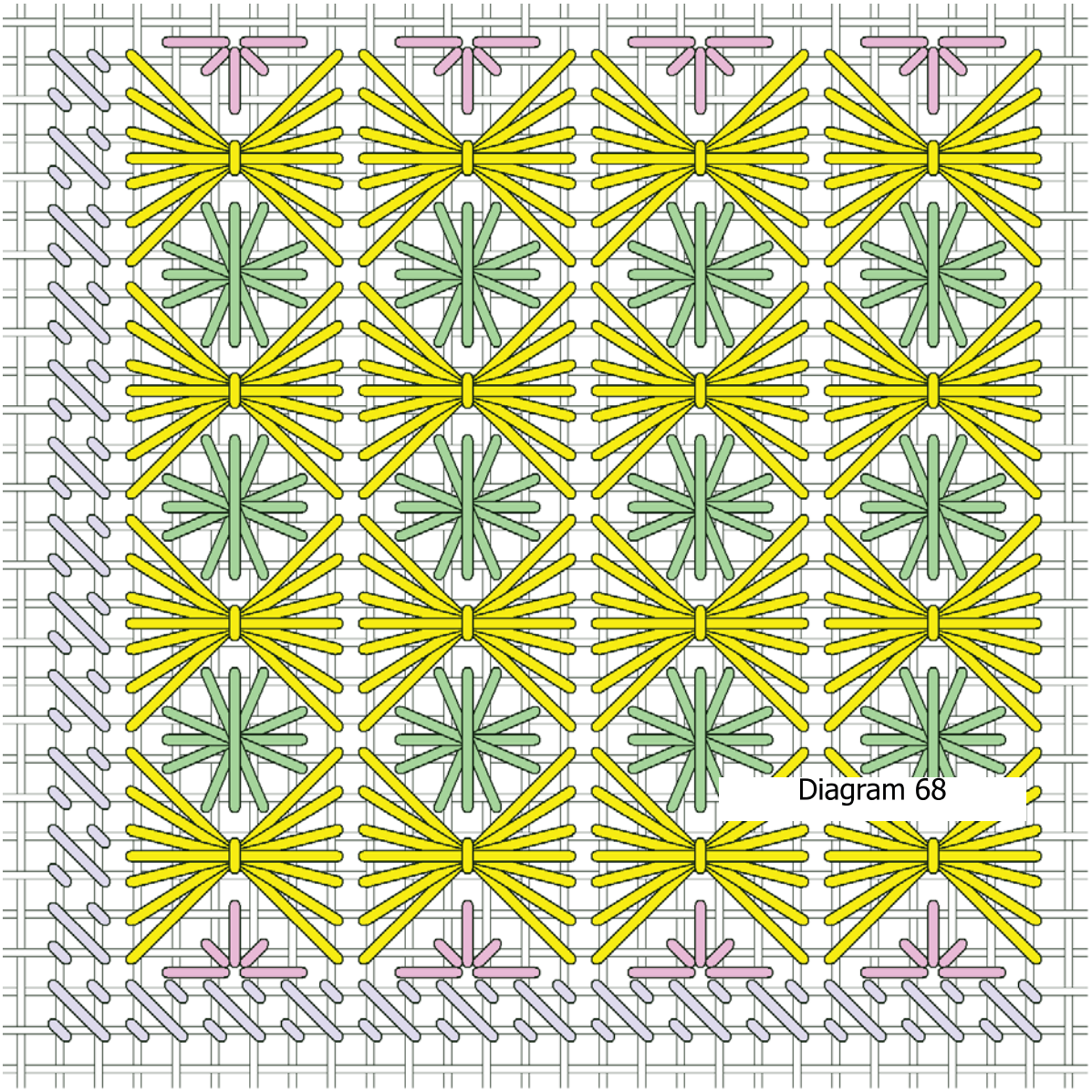


Diagram 68

Trellis Stitch

Length	Thread Type	As Shown	Your Choice
24”-30”	Silk floss	Gloriana 084 Laura’s Garden (2)	

Now let’s return to the area with the twisting stars, and finish out this area with a trellis stitch. I used 2 strands of the overdyed silk floss. You may find a different path than the one I took if it makes more sense to you. I stitched as shown to prevent carry threads showing through to the front.

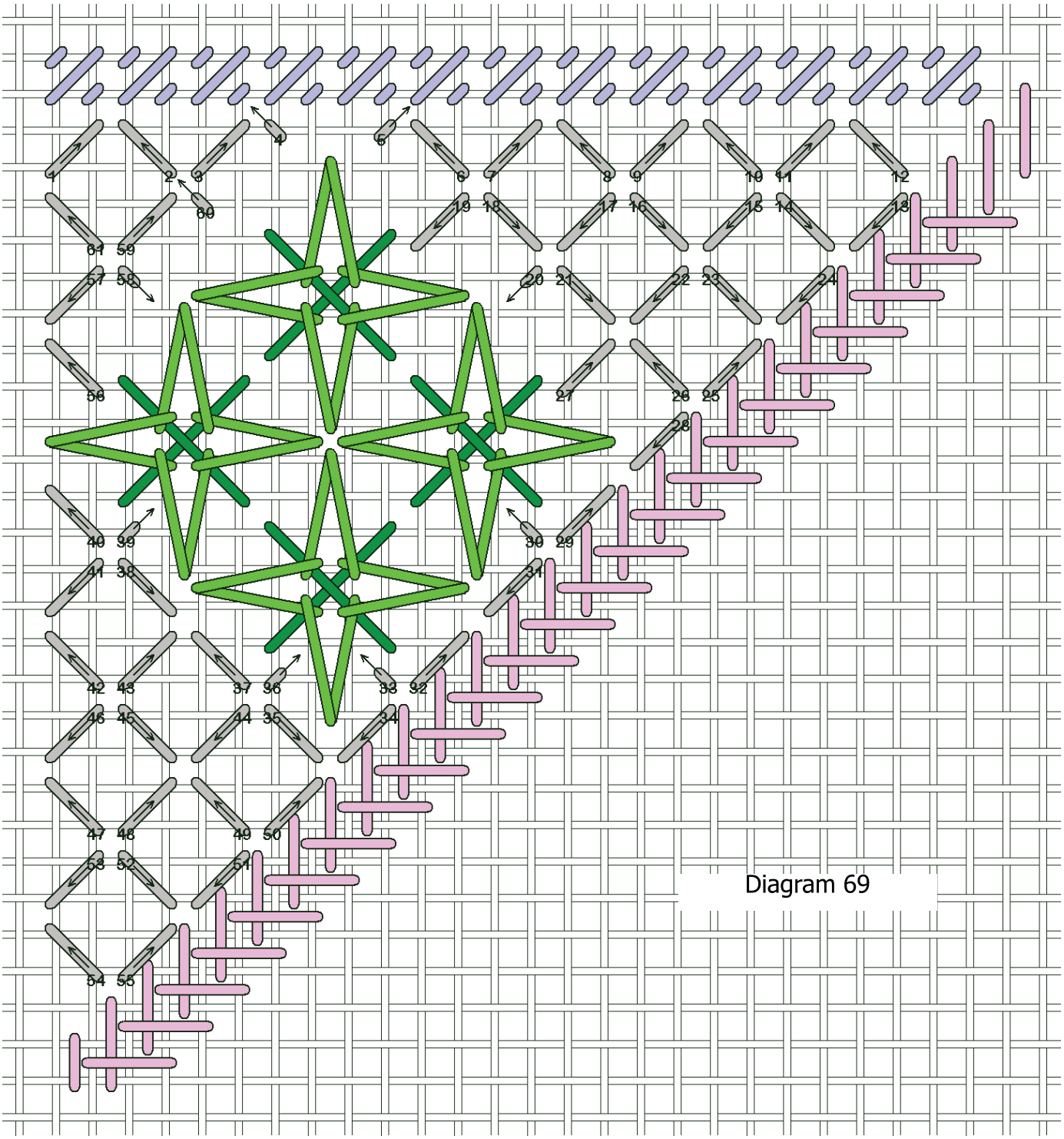


Diagram 69

Spider Web Roses

Length	Thread Type	As Shown	Your Choice
24”-30”	Silk floss	Gloriana 084 Laura's Garden (4)	

Now for the last areas, between the corners and the center motif. What’s a garden without roses? I chose spider web roses for this last area.

For the first part of the spider web rose, establish a base, using 4 strands of the silk floss. I tried to make the base stitches, or spokes if you like, cover about the same amount of canvas. If you get your count a little off, or misplace by one or two canvas threads, don’t fret - this is a very forgiving stitch!

The stitches for the spokes end in the same shared hole. Don’t end off the thread.

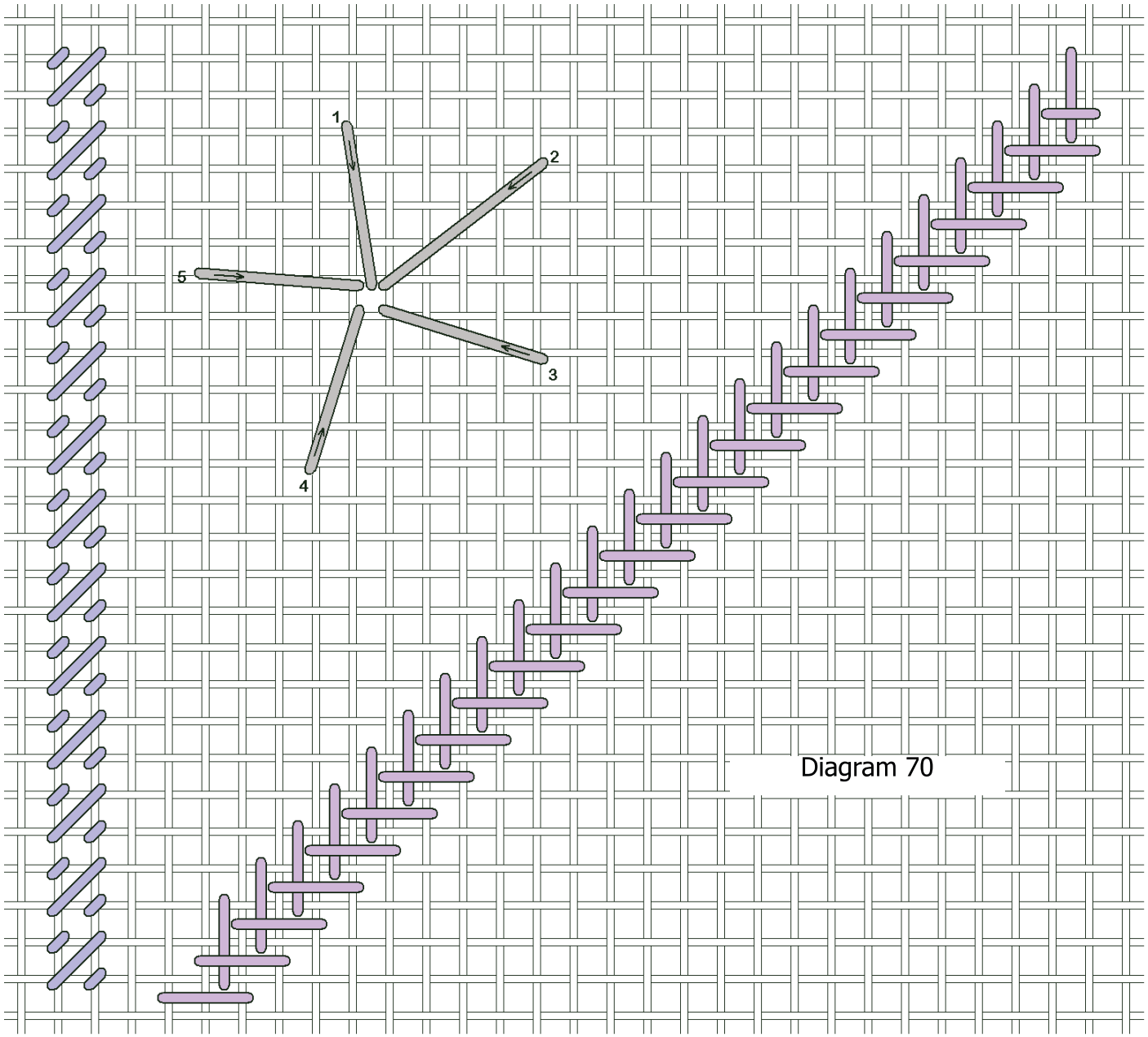


Diagram 70

Continuing with the same thread, bring the needle out close to the shared center hole. Weave over the first spoke, under the next one, over the next one; continue weaving over and under the spokes alternately until you have worked around the base, and just have the tips of the base spokes showing. End off the thread under one of the spokes.

As you weave, don't pull! If you pull the thread will all mound up in the center, and you'll have an ant hill instead of a rose. You can take the tip of your needle and push the wraps toward the center if you think they're too far apart. You will in all likelihood not have the same number of weaving that I show; just continue around until your rose is full. When ending off the thread, don't pull; I usually put my thumb on top of the woven rose to make sure it doesn't shift around.

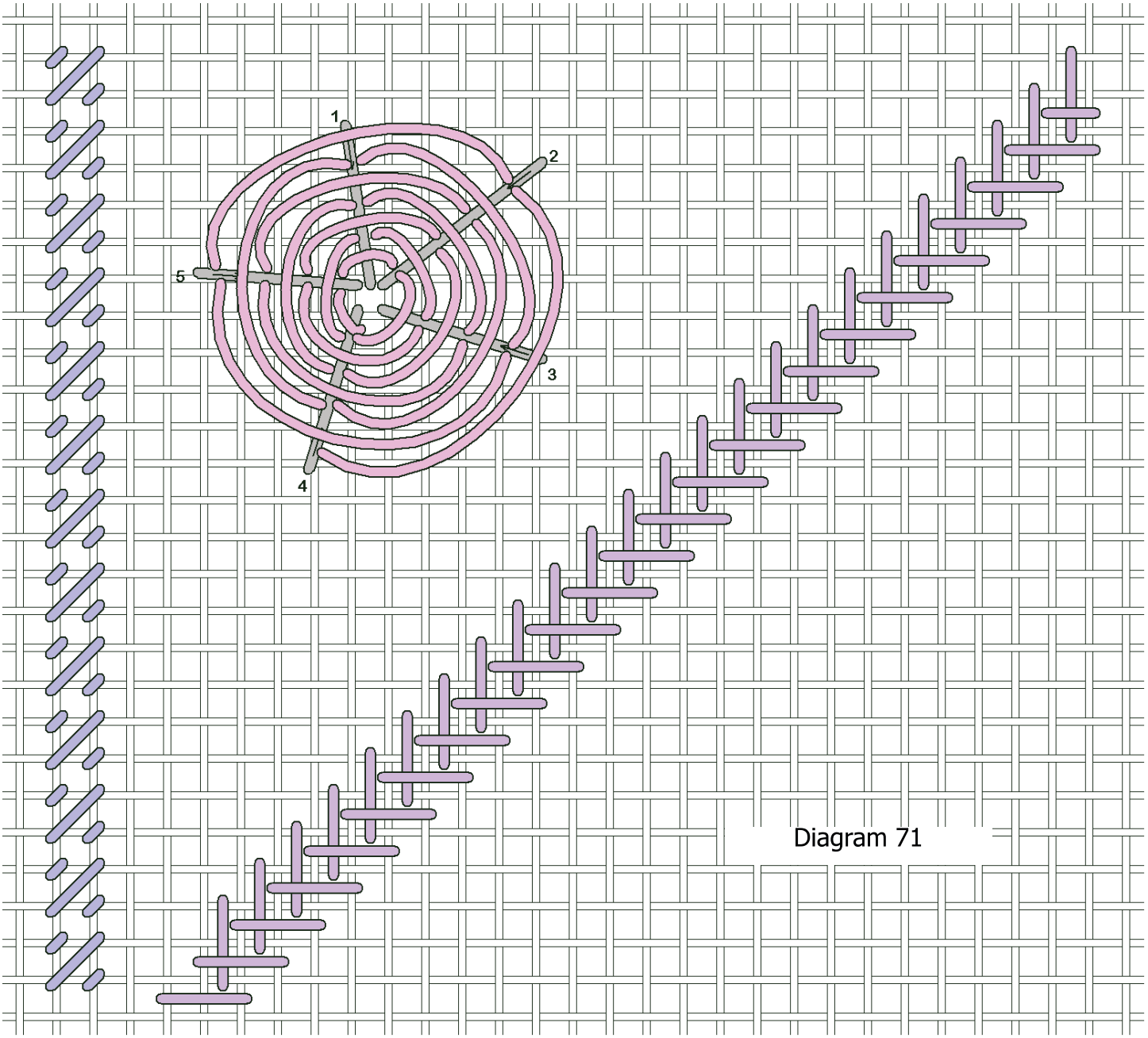


Diagram 71

Laid Filling

Length	Thread Type	As Shown	Your Choice
24”-30”	Silk floss	Gloriana 015 Mint Green (2)	
24”-30”	Fine metallic braid	Kreinik #8 023 Lilac	

The laid filling around the spider web roses is stitched in 2 steps. First, lay vertical lines of the floss, making sure that the floss is laid straight without twisting on itself. Next, stitch cross stitches over the laid floss with the fine metallic braid.

I find it easiest to thread up 2 needles, one with the floss, the other with the fine metallic braid, but you may find a different path for your stitching. The laid lines are stitched satin stitch style. You will need to break the lines around the spider web rose, but keep to the pattern as you lay the lines and stitch the cross stitches over them. Check the spacing for the cross stitches as well.

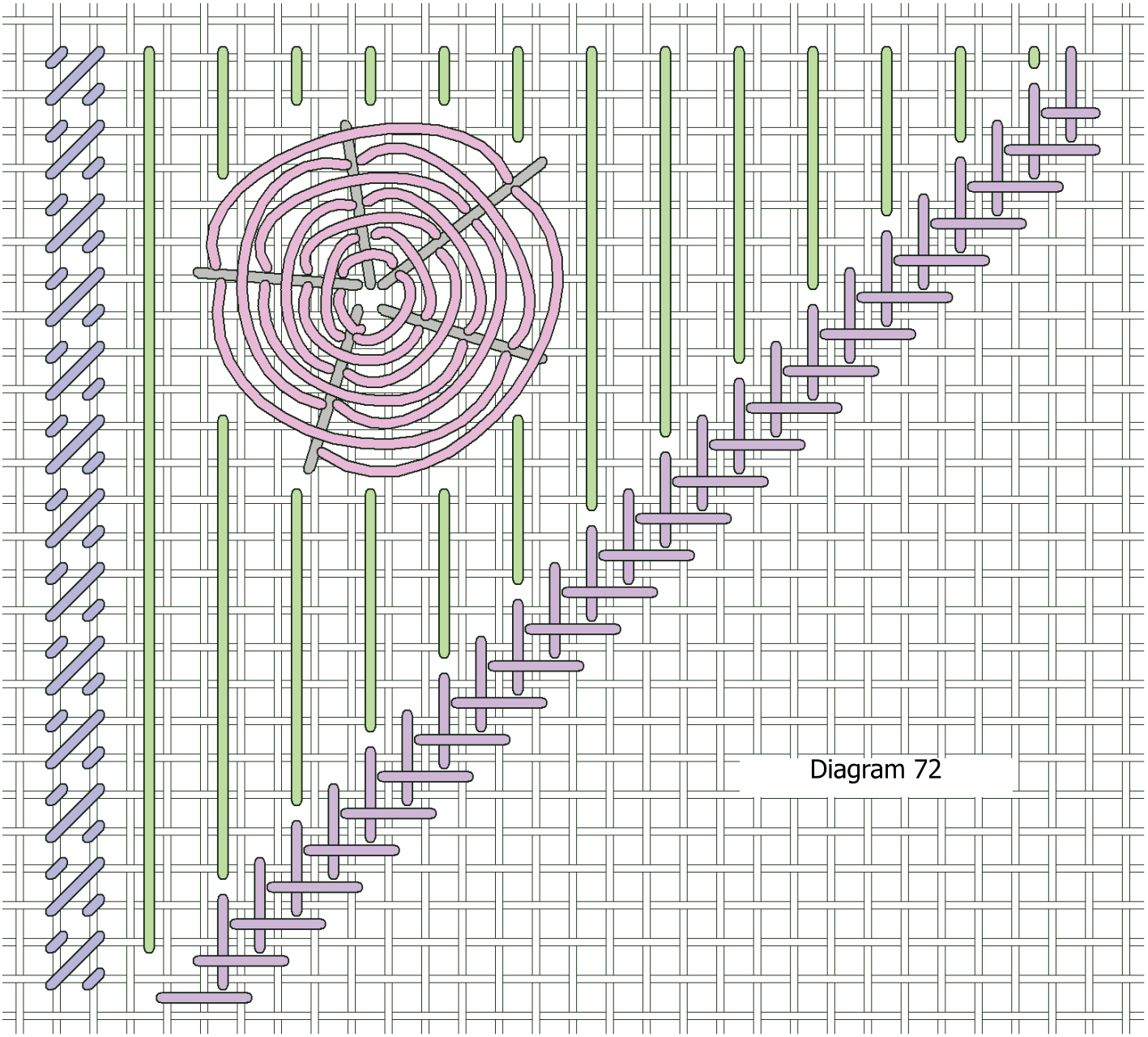
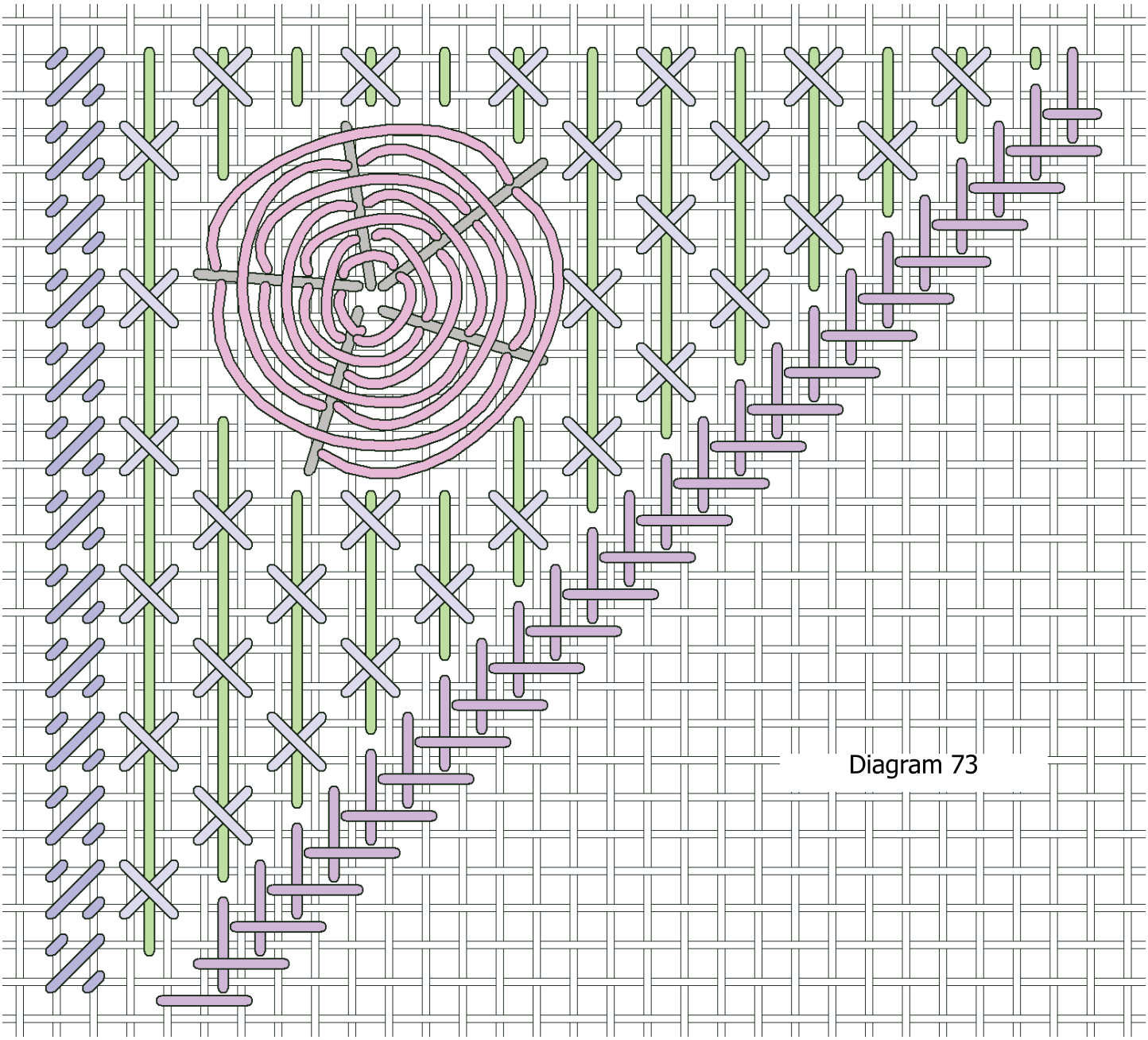


Diagram 72



At this point, all of the spaces are filled, and you could stop here, but I have one more flourish to add.

Length	Thread Type	As Shown	Your Choice
24”-30”	Silk floss	Gloriana 029 Periwinkle (1)	
	Size 11 glass seed beads	Mill Hill 02009 Ice Lilac	

Some of you are saying it’s about time I added beads, others are groaning. I think the trellis stitch area around the twisting stars is just begging for beads, so I added them. Use a single strand of silk floss that matches the color of your bead, or a beading thread like Fireline or Nymo. I just used what I already had at hand.

Attach each bead with a cross stitch. This helps the beads to sit straight and level on the canvas. If you prefer to loop around the bead, that’s fine; I’ve never been able to get that to work.

Anchor your thread well and stitch the beads as shown in Diagram 74. Place them in the trellis stitches as shown in Diagram 75.

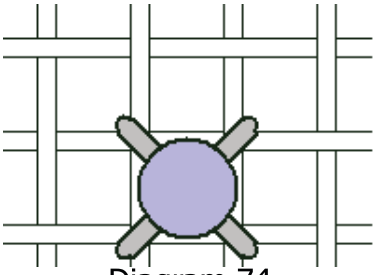


Diagram 74

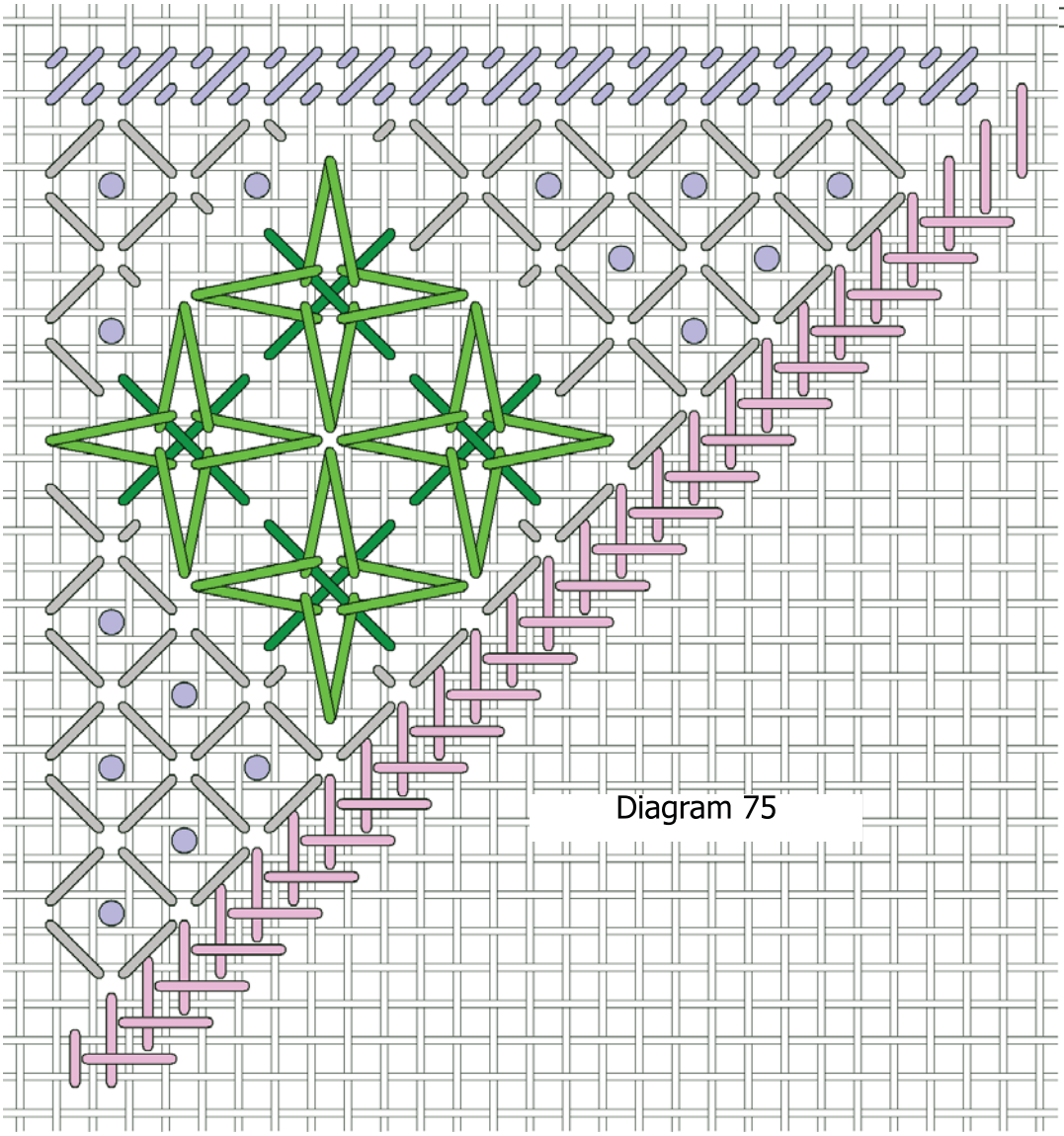


Diagram 75

And now, our 2026 Stitch Along is finished! I hope you’ve enjoyed the process - I know I did!

My Patchwork Garden is my gift to you. Thanks for stitching along!

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 I-V, Ruth Schmuff, www.bedeckedandbeadazzled.com

RESOURCES

THREADS:

ColorSpun Threads, The Needlepointer, 1944 Terracina Dr., Sacramento, CA 95834, theneedlepointer.com/products/colorspun

Gloriana Hand-Dyed Threads, PO Box 83, Woodinville, WA 98072, www.glorianathreads.com

Kreinik Mfg. Co., Inc., Distributed by Rainbow Gallery, 2860 North Ontario St., Burbank, CA 91504
www.rainbowgallery.com

CANVAS:

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

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

Cover Photography by Rod Rowley

My Patchwork Garden

12" x 12" White Mono Deluxe 18 ct. Canvas

ColorSpun Threads
Nebula
CS-XH-05 Green

Kreinik
#8 Fine Metallic Braid
023 Lilac
091 Star Yellow
9194 Star Green

Gloriana
Silk Floss
014 Jewel Green
015 Mint Green
029 Periwinkle
082 Mango Sorbet
083 Blossoms
084 Laura's Garden
196 Sweet Lavender

Other materials needed:
2 pairs 12" stretcher bars
Tacks or staples
22 tapestry needles
Laying tool

About DebBee's Designs

A stitch along is always great fun, and this one is no exception! My Patchwork Garden incorporates several stitches in a bright kaleidoscope of colors and patterns.

My stitch along is intended for readers of my blog and visitors to my website. Please don't copy and distribute, even though it is a free project - instead direct interested stitchers to my website.

Thanks again, and happy stitching!

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