



**Make it easy!**  
Fabric and threads pack direct to you for just £34.00  
TURN TO PAGE 52 TO ORDER

## Stylish stitching

### What a hoot!

Anchor	DMC	Madeira	Colour
Cross stitch in six strands			
009	352	0303	Coral (2)
048	838	0608	Very light pink (2)
049	3689	0607	Light pink (2)
060	3609	0605	Medium pink (2)
076	3731	0606	Dark pink (3)
090	3836	0710	Violet
109	209	2711	Purple (6)
158	747	1101	Light turquoise (3)
168	807	1108	Dark turquoise (2)
386	3823	2512	Pale yellow (5)
387	Ecru	2404	Ecru (5)
391	3033	1907	Stone (5)
393	840	1905	Light brown
928	3761	1111	Med turquoise (4)
1088	838	1904	Dark brown

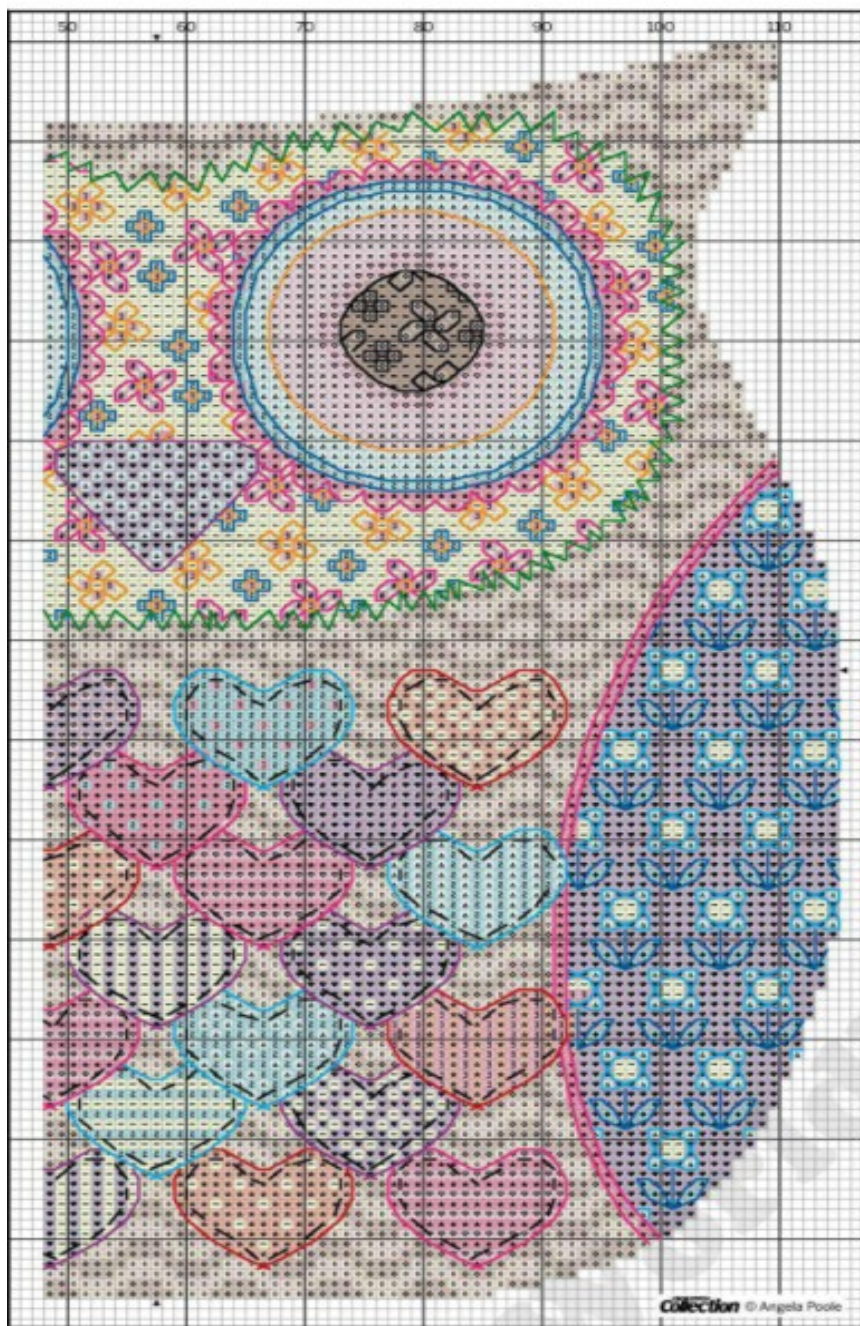
Backstitch in four strands  
 — \*060 3609 0605 Medium pink  
 zig zag stitch

Backstitch in two strands			
— *009 352 0303	Coral	hearts	
— *060 3609 0605	Medium pink	flowers	
— *076 3731 0606	Dark pink	all other outlines and details	
— *109 209 2711	Purple	nose, hearts	
— *168 807 1108	Dark turquoise	flowers	
— *928 3761 1111	Medium turquoise	heart, flowers	
— *1088 838 1904	Dark brown	hearts	

Stitched using Anchor threads on 18HPI evenweave over two threads  
 Stitch count 126x115  
 Design area 14x12 1/4 in (36x32cm)  
 \* indicates colour is listed earlier in the key  
 (2) indicates more than one skein required

Are you stitching this?  
 Share your photos here!  
[www.themakingspot.com/CSC-220](http://www.themakingspot.com/CSC-220)





Mags

Be sure to work this owl design in a hoop or a frame. Unless you keep the fabric under tension, you may find that using six strands of thread to make large cross stitches could distort the evenweave

**Shopping list...**

- ☑ 18HPI evenweave, Cream, Zweigart Davosa Ref: 3770/99, 22x21in (56x53cm)
- ☑ Stranded cotton as listed in the key
- ✦ Cotton fabric 16x15in (41x38cm), purple/grey spot
- ✦ Soft toy stuffing
- ✦ Sewing kit – usual essentials including matching thread
- ✦ Items marked ☑ are included in materials pack, items marked ✦ are not included.
- ✦ Fabric for the stitched piece supplied by Willow Fabrics – visit [www.willowfabrics.com](http://www.willowfabrics.com) or call ☎ 0800 0567811
- ✦ Turn to page 69 for hints and help!

**Fabric tip**  
Choose a backing fabric which co-ordinates with your finished stitching. We used a fabric from the Kaffe Fassett collection: GP70 Spots – grape.

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**▶ Stitching the design**

Fold your evenweave in half both ways to find the centre and start stitching at this point. Work each cross stitch over two threads of the evenweave fabric using six strands of stranded cotton. It's important to work with your fabric mounted in a hoop or frame. As the cross stitches are large and you are using six strands it will be easy to distort the fabric if you don't keep the fabric under tension. Also, you may find the strands separate as you are stitching so wet them lightly by running them through your wet fingers to keep them together. Work each stitch slowly and carefully to make sure all six strands lie together and flat on the fabric.

**Adding the details**

When you have finished working all the cross stitch you can add the backstitch details. Again, work each backstitch over two threads of the evenweave fabric. The zig zag pattern which borders the cream floral pattern around the eyes and beak is worked using four strands of medium pink. The remainder of the backstitch is worked using two strands. Refer to the key and chart to see exactly which colour to place where.

**Making a cushion cover**

1. When you have finished all the stitching, wash and press your fabric.
2. Place it right side down on top of the right side of the backing fabric and pin into place.
3. Start stitching at the lower straight edge and work all the way round until you reach the other side of the lower edge, leaving a 4in (10cm) gap for turning.
4. You should stitch the two layers together right up to the edge of the stitching, in order to

**Alternative materials pack**

In case you would prefer to stitch this design on aida, we have made a materials pack containing stranded cotton and enough cream aida to work the cushion front. Remember though, to work all the cross stitches over one thread of the aida using two strands of stranded cotton. The backstitch is worked using two strands (instead of four) or one strand (instead of two). As this aida is a different count than the evenweave, the finished design will be smaller at 17x25½in (43x40cm). Turn to page 52 to order either the evenweave or aida packs.



**The colours** work so well but don't be afraid to experiment with your own thread stash!

achieve the curves around the edge of the owl you will need to stitch through some of the cross stitches as you shouldn't be able to see any unstitched fabric when you turn it right sides out.

5. Trim the fabric and backing to ½in (1.5cm) outside of the edge of the stitching, clipping the tighter curves. Press the seams open and turn the owl right sides out.
6. Stuff the cushion firmly through the gap at the bottom making sure you stuff the ears well to make them stand up.
7. Slip stitch the bottom closed to complete.



*Next month...*  
Angela Poole's beautiful tulips cushion features in our April issue (221). Find out more on page 72-73!