

HOMESPUN'S STITCH-A-LONG

Give Thanks



Welcome to *Homespun*'s first ever Stitch-A-Long. We're delighted to be presenting a series of 23 free stitcheries designed by Sam Mackenzie of Missy Mack especially for *Homespun*. The stitcheries range in size and shape, but are linked by the theme "give thanks".

Each Wednesday, starting on March 10 and continuing until August 11, a new, free stitchery in the *Give Thanks* series will be published on the *Homespun* website. Each stitchery will remain available indefinitely, so you don't have to worry about missing one.

The stitcheries could be used in a variety of ways: in mini wallhangings, table mats, cards, embellishments on bags – whatever you like. However, as a special bonus, on August 18, we will also be providing the complete instructions to combine them all in a quilt, as Sam herself has done.

How to print the stitcheries and stitchery guides

1. In order to print each stitchery and stitchery guide, you will need to have Adobe Acrobat software on your computer. A free copy of this software is available from Adobe at <http://get.adobe.com/reader/>
2. Open the file by clicking on the link on the *Homespun* website.
3. Click on "File" in the toolbar at the top of the screen. Then click "Print". A dialog box will open on your screen.
4. About half way down the dialog box, you will see the "Page Handling" heading and underneath it, the "Page Scaling" sub-heading. There are a number of options for Page Scaling – you can see them all by clicking on the small blue down arrow to the right of the white textbox. If you wish to print the stitchery at exactly the same size that Sam designed it, click the "None" option from this list.
5. Click the "Okay" button in the bottom right corner of the Print dialog box. Your printer will produce your free stitchery design and instructions.

General instructions for the stitcheries

1. Cut your fabric and fusible interfacing the size indicated in the instructions for each individual stitchery. The sizes will be very generous, in some cases up to 2in larger on each edge than the stitchery design itself. This has been done deliberately to allow for fraying and to make it easier to use an embroidery hoop. If you intend to make the *Give Thanks* quilt with all 23 stitcheries, follow the cutting instructions below to use your fabric most efficiently.
2. Centre the fabric over the design that you have printed from the *Homespun* website and trace it neatly. You could use a fine Pigma pen or a fine pencil. A light source such as a sunny window, light box or glass-topped table with a desk lamp placed underneath will help to make the design more visible through the fabric.
3. Fuse a piece of interfacing to the wrong side of your fabric. Place your fabric in an embroidery hoop if you wish. Stitch the design following the instructions provided with each individual stitchery.
4. All embroidery is worked with two strands of thread unless otherwise noted.
5. Stitches used will vary from week to week but will include back stitch, detached chain (lazy daisy) stitch, French knot, running stitch, satin stitch and straight stitch.



Making the *Give Thanks* quilt

Sam combined all 23 stitcheries in a delightful lap quilt. Instructions for making the quilt will be available on the *Homespun* website on Wednesday, August 18, 2010.

To help you plan your quilt, and to ensure that you have everything you need available, we have included the complete Materials list and preliminary cutting instructions below.

Materials

- 1.8m (2yd) cream quilter's muslin (stitchery backgrounds and inner border)
- 50cm (5/8yd) each of soft peach, soft pink, pale blue and light sage green print fabrics
- DMC Stranded Embroidery Cottons in Ecu, Medium Light Shell Pink (152), Very Dark Yellow Beige (167), Medium Lavender (210), Very Light Shell Pink (224), Light Tan (437), Dark Fern Green (520), Light Cornflower Blue (794), Ultra Dark Coffee Brown (938), Dark Green Grey (3051), Green Grey (3053), Desert Sand (3064), Medium Yellow Green (3347), Pine Green (3364), Medium Shell Pink (3722), Light Autumn Gold (3855) and Ultra Very Light Mahogany (3856)
- 1.2m (1 3/8yd) backing fabric
- Batting at least 1.2m (46in) square
- Embroidery needle
- 15cm (6in) embroidery hoop (optional)
- 115cm (1 1/4yd) square (or equivalent) of fusible lightweight interfacing
- Fine-point Pigma pen in brown or a pencil
- Rotary cutter, ruler and mat
- Sewing machine with 1/4in foot
- General sewing supplies

Finished size: 107cm (42in) square

Cutting

1. From the cream quilter's muslin or another background fabric of your choice, cut:
 - One strip, 20in across the width of the fabric (borders and binding)
 - One strip, 6in across the width of the fabric. Crosscut it to yield two squares, 6in (Stitcheries 2 and 17) and four rectangles, 6 x 7 1/2in (Stitcheries 3, 7, 15 and 16).
 - Two strips, 6 1/2in across the width of the fabric. Crosscut them to yield two rectangles, 6 1/2 x 7 1/2in (Stitcheries 6 and 13) and three rectangles, 6 1/2 x 10 1/2in (Stitcheries 4, 19 and 23). Trim the remainder of one strip to 6in, and from it cut two rectangles, 6 x 7 1/2in (Stitcheries 20 and 22).
 - Two strips, 7 1/2in across the width of the fabric. Crosscut them to yield six squares, 7 1/2in (Stitcheries 1, 5, 9, 10, 11 and 14); two rectangles, 7 1/2 x 8 1/2in (Stitcheries 8 and 21); and one rectangle, 7 1/2 x 10 1/2in (Stitchery 18).
 - One square, 12 1/2in (Stitchery 12).
2. From the fusible interfacing, cut:
 - A square or rectangle to match each of those cut from the cream quilter's muslin in step 1 (except for the 20in strip, which does not require an equivalent cut from interfacing).
3. Now that you have cut your background fabric for all of the stitcheries, ignore the cutting step in the step-by-step instructions provided each week: just use the appropriate pre-cut fabric.

Schedule

Date	Stitchery	Finished block size
Wednesday, March 10	1 – Butterfly	3in square
Wednesday, March 17	2 – Love Heart	1½in square
Wednesday, March 24	3 – Five Hearts	1½ x 3in
Wednesday, March 31	4 – Family	2 x 6in
Wednesday, April 7	5 – Angel	3 x 4in
Wednesday, April 14	6 – Threads Of Friendship	2 x 3in
Wednesday, April 21	7 – Tulip	1½ x 3in
Wednesday, April 28	8 – Home	2 x 6in
Wednesday, May 5	9 – Love Birds	3in square
Wednesday, May 12	10 – Bird Houses	3in square
Wednesday, May 19	11 – Hope	3in square
Wednesday, May 26	12 – Give Thanks	8in square
Wednesday, June 2	13 – Love	2 x 3in
Wednesday, June 9	14 – Smell The Flowers	3in square
Wednesday, June 16	15 – Topiary	1½ x 3in
Wednesday, June 23	16 – Bird On Branch	1½ x 3in
Wednesday, June 30	17 – Pretty Blooms	1½in square
Wednesday, July 7	18 – Blessings	3 x 6in
Wednesday, July 14	19 – Friendship	2 x 6in
Wednesday, July 21	20 – Toadstool	1½ x 3in
Wednesday, July 28	21 – Together	3 x 4in
Wednesday, August 4	22 – Three Daisies	1½ x 3in
Wednesday, August 11	23 – Happiness	2 x 6in
Wednesday, August 18	Instructions to make the quilt	

For more details on other gorgeous designs created by Sam Mackenzie of Missy Mack, email smackenzie85@gmail.com or log on to her blog at <http://missymack.blogspot.com>



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