

The inspiration for my "Blossoming" design began ten years, because that's when I first picked up a needle. We'd just moved to the highest altitude town in Australia and it was the middle of winter - freezing cold to the point of needing to chip ice off the windows and wait till 10am each morning for the water to thaw in the taps. You see, our home was a one room cabin in the local caravan park with a tiny fan heater. Whilst I home-schooled our two youngest children in the cabin, hubby was employed to temporarily teach at the local high school. It was a 6 month posting for him so we had left all behind in Wagga Wagga, filled our car with what would fit, and headed off to a new life with excitement and enthusiasm. We are born adventurers with itchy feet! After our lessons had finished each day our 12 yo son would play with Lego or rug up and go exploring the local nature paths, whilst 11 yo daughter and I looked for something small, fun and creative to occupy our hands until the season changed and the weather warmed. A local home-school mum I'd met had given us a few quilting and stitchery magazines to browse through and as we turned the pages which held so many handmade projects I turned to her and said, "We can do this!" And we did. We taught ourselves to sew and quilt from craft books, and discovered the JOY of homemade. Those first months learning with my girl are filled with memories I treasure. Craft books watered the seeds of creativity already in our hearts and from there we quite simply 'blossomed' into lifelong stitchers and quilters.



Blossoming

for the Splendid Sampler™

Jennifer Reynolds

Finished Block Size 6" x 6"

Requirements

- ✦ 1 square - 7" x 7" of light background fabric
- ✦ Aurifil cotton 12 wt - Green (1231), Turquoise (2810), Red (2270), Blue (2775)
- ✦ Aurifil 6-strand Floss - Medium Gold (6010), Brown (2372), Green (1231)
- ✦ Embroidery hoop, stabiliser (optional)

Abbreviations

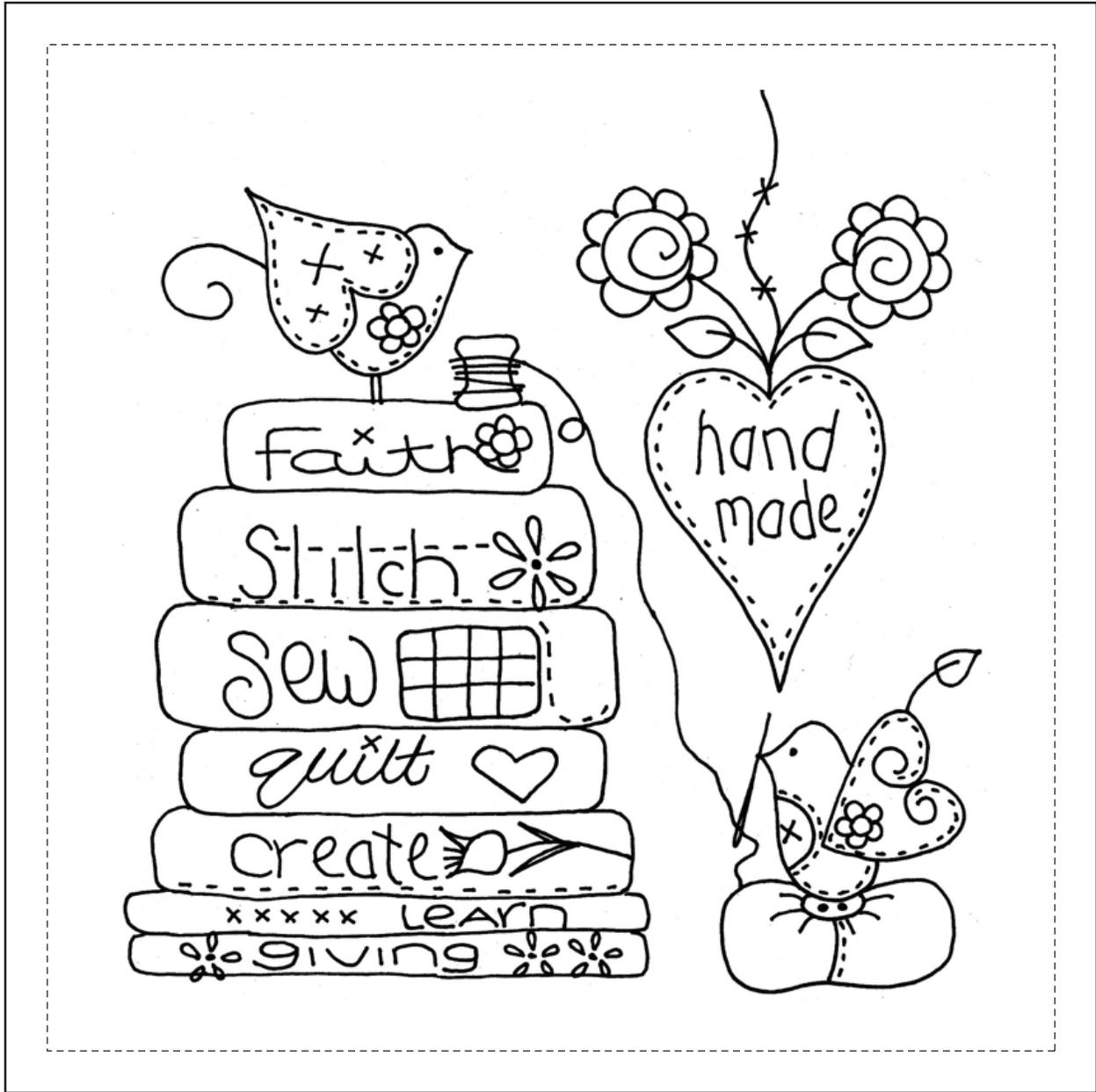
Backstitch (BS)
 Running Stitch (RS)
 Satin Stitch (SS)
 Stem Stitch (ST)
 Lazy Daisy (LD)
 French Knot (FK)
 Cross Stitch (CS)
 Chain Stitch (CH)

Embroidery

1. BS the large heart in Turquoise and sew a line of running stitch around the inside edge.
2. BS 'hand made' in Brown.
3. BS the stems and leaves above the heart in Green.
4. Sew three CS onto the hanging stem in Medium Gold.
5. BS the rose centres of the large daisies in Medium Gold.
6. BS the daisy petals in Red.
7. BS the pincushion bird's wing and chest in Turquoise, and sew a line of RS stitch inside the wing.
8. BS the book bird's wing in Blue and sew CS inside the wing using Turquoise.
9. Sew a line of RS inside the blue wing in Turquoise.
10. BS the body of BOTH birds in Brown and sew a line of RS around the base of each body as shown on your pattern sheet.
11. Sew a Red CS inside the pincushion bird's chest.
12. BS the Green 'stem and leaf' tail feather.
13. SS the centre of the daisy on the wing in Medium Gold, and BS the petals in Red.
14. CH the button beneath the bird in Medium Gold and sew two straight lines for the button holes.

15. BS the pincushion in Blue and sew a line of RS down the centre line.
16. BS the Green swirl tail feather of the book bird.
17. SS the centre of the daisy on the chest in Medium Gold, and BS the petals in Red.
18. Sew FK eyes on both birds in Brown.
19. BS the cotton spool in Medium Gold.
20. BS the needle in the bird's mouth with ONE strand of the Brown from your 6-strand floss.
21. BS the thread on the cotton reel with ONE strand of the Green from your 6-strand floss.
22. BS 'faith' in Brown, 'stitch' in Green, 'sew' in Red, 'quilt' in Blue, 'create' in Turquoise, 'learn' in Brown, and 'giving' in Turquoise.
23. Sew RS in Green through the 'stitch' word and book cover.
24. Sew a CS in Brown above 'faith'.
25. Sew the small daisy on the 'faith' book cover the same as you did on the birds.
26. Sew FK centres for the flowers on the 'stitch' and 'giving' book covers in Green.
27. Sew LD petals in Turquoise on the 'stitch' book cover.
28. BS the quilt block on the 'sew' book cover with a half-half pattern in Red and Turquoise, and sew a line of Green RS down the right side of the quilt block.
29. BS the little heart on 'quilt' in Brown and sew a line of running stitch around the inside edge.
30. BS the 'create' tulip in Red.
31. BS the tulip leaves in Green and ST the stem.
32. Sew 3 Brown straight stitches coming out from the tulip.
33. Sew 5 CS on the 'learn' book cover in Green.
34. Sew Red LD petals on the flowers in the 'giving' book cover.
35. BS all the book cover outlines in Brown and sew lines of RS along the bottom edge of the 'stitch' and 'create' covers.
36. Centre design and trim block to 6 ½" x 6 ½" square.

1 inch



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#TheSplendidSampler

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