



Keepsake Christmas Ornament

...start your own tradition

The perfect “take-along” project.

Instructions are written for a quick, easy project. For a more detailed ornament use a finer mesh canvas. It all depends on time available and how many you plan to make.

Supplies:

4½” square of 12 squares/inch mono canvas
Tapestry needle
Cotton balls

Scissors

Tapestry or Persian yarns

We recommend:

Elsa Williams Needlepoint Yarn (1 strand)
and/or Paternayan Persian Yarn (2 strands)

Prepare Canvas

Fold 2 rows along each of the 4 cut edges of the 4½” square to the back and finger press.

Stitch a Diagonal Frame

Start your first diagonal stitch at least one inch away from corner to start the “frame.”

See diagram 1.

The second side is done by rotating the canvas 90 degrees. Continue until all four sides are “framed.”

See diagram 2.

DIAGRAM 1

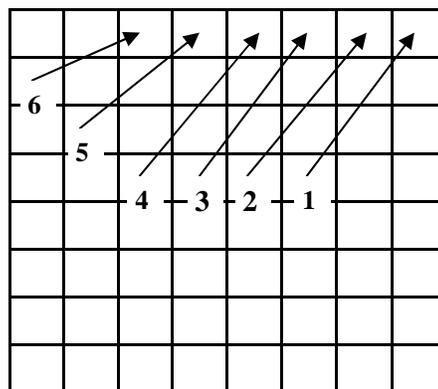
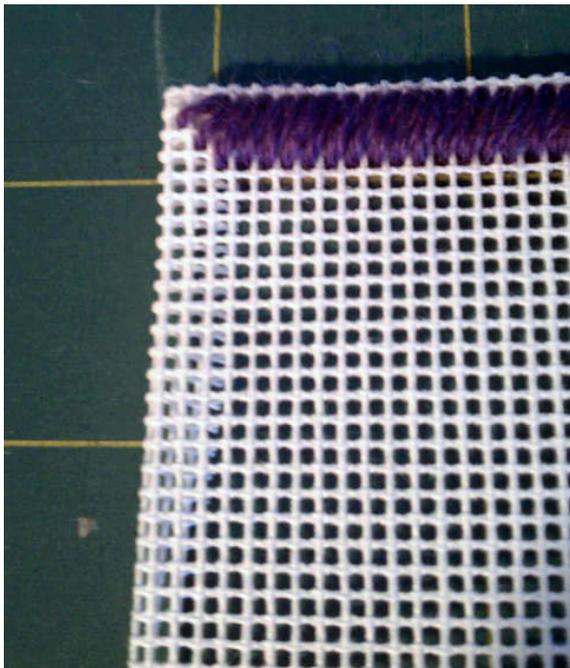
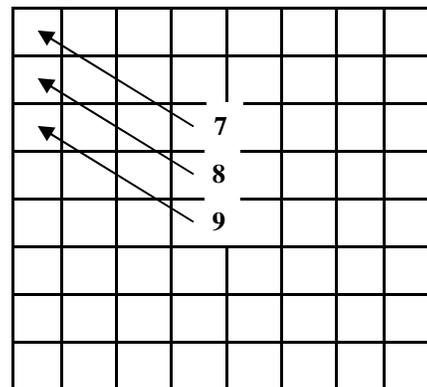


DIAGRAM 2



Add an Inner Border

The inner border is made with contrasting color yarn directly under the diagonal “frame” by using just one diagonal stitch on the canvas. You may also do some fancier stitches if you’d like. Complete one side, then turn canvas 90 degrees until all four sides are done.

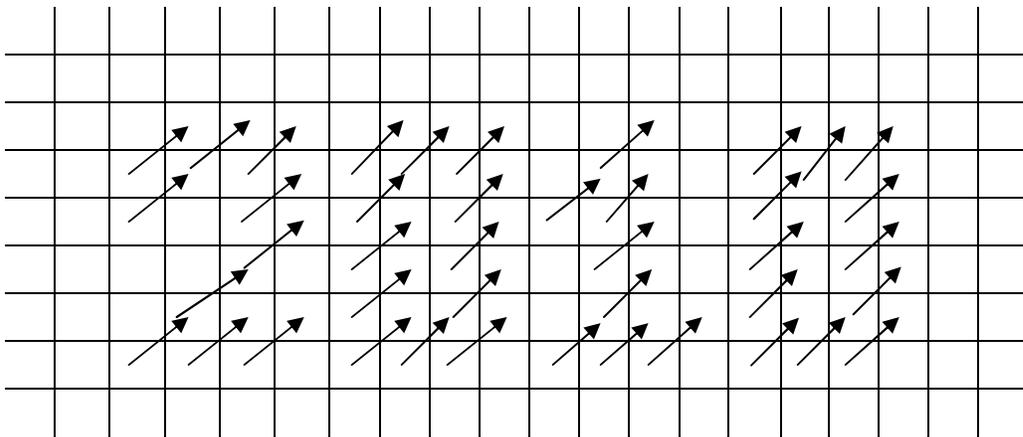


Date the Ornament

The numbers are five stitches in length and three stitches across with one stitch separating them. This must be centered, so fold the canvas in half lengthwise to determine center line.

Work numbers to both right and left of center line. Leave an open row or two between the inner frame and the bottom of the numbers. See *diagram 3* and *photo next page*.

DIAGRAM 3



Plot your Design

There is no design included with this pattern. You will enjoy personalizing the ornament by finding or creating your own.

Cross-stitch books from the 1970’s have lots of designs or look on the Internet or graph yours on graph paper; something that happened in your family over the past year. New puppy, vacation, new baby, etc.

The space between the top of the numbers and the bottom of the inner border is the area you have to work with. About 20stitches x 20 stitches is a reasonable size for the design.

Too large and the edges of the design will disappear when the square is folded in finishing. Too small and your design will look lost.

Fold canvas in half in both directions above the numbers to determine the center of the design area. Place a mark or a stitch to be removed when design is started. Begin adding design stitches, working outward in both directions from center

Background

Basket weave stitch is preferred. This will keep your work as “square” as possible. After background is completed, block the piece.



Embellish

You may wish to add some seed beads, crystals, or little embellishments for interest and texture.



Finishing

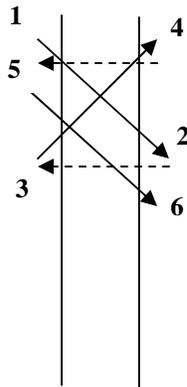
Fold top edge of canvas in half. Finger press.

With a 36 inch length of yarn, come up on one side and make several horizontal stitches to cover the canvas tip. Next, leave enough yarn for a loop at the top. This loop will secure itself as stitches are completed.

The finishing is done is the shape of an "X."

Starting with yard in upper left, follow diagram 4. Dotted lines indicated stitches underneath.

DIAGRAM 4



Finish the first side by weaving yard through stitch on the underside. Remaining yarn can be tucked into the corner and become part of the stuffing. Stuff several cotton balls into the corner. You may carefully poke the cotton ball with the tip of your scissors.

Note: Don't worry if the ends do not match perfectly as they come together in the center of the ornament. This will be covered with some finishing stitches.

With a new length of yarn, start second side omitting the top loop.

If you wish, make a little pom-pom from your matching yarn leaving a tail which can be added to the bottom point as you begin to stitch up the bottom side.

Repeat for third side, then stuff more cotton balls into all corners and areas. *See photo on next page.*

Complete the fourth side, and with the yarn left on your needle making an "X" over all center edges to secure and to cover any remaining canvas which might show. *See photo on next page.*

End by weaving the needle under some of the frame stitches and then cut.





Voila!
You now have your dated
Keepsake Christmas Ornament
which will be kept and cherished.

Nice work!