

FUSCHIAS

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canvas 9.5 x 13, painting 7 x 10, 14 mesh

Materials needed: 9 X 13 stretcher bars, #22 tapestry needles

River Silks Ltd. 100% silk, hand dyed ribbon

Information (877) 944-7444

www.riversilks.com

4mm	Color	Spools	7mm	Color	Spools
176	Nougat	10	182	Pine Bark	1
108	Over dyed Orchid Petal/ Boysenberry	1	277	Over dyed Dachshund/ Cappuccino	1
			89	Winter Pear	1
13mm	White White	1	88	Lily Green	1
204	Prism Violet	1	242	Juniper	1
185	Off white Ice	2	235	Over dyed Artichoke Green/ Rosewood	1
2901	Very Berry	1	109	Over dyed Viola/ Imperial Purple	1
			2361	High Risk Red	1
7mm			107	Over dyed Bubblegum/ raspberry sorbet	1
106	Over dyed Orchid pink/ pink carnation	1	105	Over dyed Pearl/Pink Lemonade	1

GENERAL PLANNING

Attach the canvas to the stretcher bars preferably using tacks.

There is no need to ply the silk ribbon. You will want to work with 2 to 3 foot lengths of ribbon. The ribbon won't show wear so don't worry.

THREADING THE NEEDLE: Cut the ribbon on the diagonal. Insert point of the ribbon through the eye of the needle. Then insert the point of the needle through the ribbon cut end about 1/2" from the cut. Pull the long tail to secure the ribbon to the needle.

SECURING THE RIBBON TO THE CANVAS: We have chosen not to use an "away knot" as it is unnecessary with River Silks ribbon. **There is an easier way.** Bring the needle up through an empty hole where you want to begin. Pull the needle and ribbon through the canvas leaving about a one-inch tail of ribbon on the back of the canvas. With a finger press that tail flat against the canvas. Go back down through an adjacent

hole passing through both the canvas and the ribbon tail. Try not to stitch through your finger! With your finger still pressing on the tail pull the needle and ribbon through the canvas and keep pulling until the ribbon is secure on the canvas. Check the back of the canvas to see that there are no loose ends. This is called the “Canvas Lock Stitch”.

HELPFUL HINTS: The ribbon does not need to be pulled tightly. Untwist the ribbon as you stitch and lay the ribbon with a laying tool to show the surface. Stitching style will affect the number of spools required. The “economy stitch” is quite acceptable if you are pleased with the look. With shorter stitches this is not always the best.

I RAN OUT OF RIBBON. NOW WHAT? When you need to add more ribbon to continue stitching or to change color or width of ribbon use this easy technique. Select your new piece of ribbon and secure it to a new needle using the “Needle Lock Stitch” described previously. On the wrong side of the canvas cut the ribbon you had been using (removing the old needle) leaving about a 1 1/2 inch tail. Hold that tail and pierce it with your new needle and ribbon very close to the surface of the canvas, keep pulling the new ribbon leaving another 1 1/2 inch tail. Put that tail over the next hole that you want to stitch and put the needle through that new tail and the canvas. Keep on pulling until secure. Turn the canvas to the right side and continue stitching. You may trim those tails to a half-inch as desired.

CANVAS MANAGEMENT

BACKGROUND: COLOR 176 Stitch in Tent or Continental or Basket weave and sketch a picture of the unfinished canvas so you can tell where petals, leaves, pistils, stems go since many things will overlap each other and the background.

STEMS: Center Stem: Color 7mm 277 Stem

Stitch up 2 over 3 for diagonal stitch covering stem

Left and Right Stem: Color 7mm 182 Light Brown stem using stem stitch

LEAVES: Colors: 7mm 89 medium green, 88 light green, 242 dark green,
235 over dyed leaves

Stitch in Leaf Stitch placing a straight stitch or two down the center rib. Starting at the tip of the leaf begin filling in the leaf with straight stitches coming up on the outside edge and going down through the center rib. Using the rib will omit canvas showing through the stitches. When you finish the leaf you can come back over the rib with the same of different

color if you choose. On the right side of the canvas the top, light green, small leaves are stitched with ribbon stitches to mimic leafing out of new leaves.

BLOSSOMS:

Purple Flowers: Colors: 204, 109, 2361, 108 With the canvas upside down begin stitching the poofy dark purple part of the flower with Knotted Ribbon Stitch. Place a knot on the needle at least 3” from the canvas, stretch the ribbon away from you and fold it back over itself to form a loop, place the needle point through the two layers of ribbon into the canvas, snug the knot down to the canvas, then and only then pull the needle through the ribbon and canvas. Continue overlapping the loops to complete this part of the bloom.

Next stitch the over dyed lighter purple ribbon in Ribbon Stitch with overlapping stitches. Leave very little curled edges at the tip of each stitch. These stitches are fragile, so pull the ribbon through the ribbon and canvas slowly. Top each with a twisted straight stitch part way down the center. Stitch slowly.

Turn the canvas right side up and stitch the red tops of the flowers with Ribbon Stitches leaving small curves at the top of each stitch.

Last put the green calix in place attaching the stem to the flower with straight overlapping stitches.

Pink and White FLOWERS: Colors 202, 106, 107 Following the directions above using a knotted ribbon stitch for the white poofy petals working with the canvas upside down, layering the stitches.

Next stitch the over dyed pink section, overlapping stitches with straight stitches.

Turn the canvas right side up and place the top petals in place with layers of straight stitches, curled ribbon stitches over lapping. Finish with straight stitches in the center where the bloom attaches to the stem.

Pink and Very Berry BLOSSOMS: 2901, 105 Using straight stitches for all parts, turn the canvas upside down, start working on the dark berry poofy part with overlapping stitches possibly using two layers for desired effect. The unopened buds will be stitched the same way with the light over dyed pink ribbon since the buds show the outer petals which when opened become the petals at the top of the flower. The upper petals on the opened flower can be stitched with Ribbon Stitch or Straight Stitch.

PISTILS: The pistil color of fuschias is often same as the top petals or the outer petals before the flower opens. From you tracing of the original picture, place the pistils

hanging our of the bottom of each bloom. Form the pistil by coming up through the canvas and ribbons, twisting the ribbon, putting a knot on the ribbon and placing the point of the needle where you want the pistil to end. Put you needle into ribbons and canvas, snug the knot and pull the needle and ribbon through the canvas.

STITCH NOTES

THE RIBBON STITCH

Virtually every stitch in traditional needlepoint is based on the straight stitch or the knot. They can all be done with a variety of fibers. We now come to the stitch that is unique to ribbon work i.e. the **Ribbon Stitch**. Simply stated this stitch can only be done with ribbon. The **Ribbon Stitch** will expand your capabilities for dimension and texture as never before. Yet it is so easy to do!

Bring your needle and ribbon up through the canvas. Move in any direction about 8-10 holes. Lay the ribbon out flat to that point and put the needle through the ribbon before passing through the canvas. Continue pulling all the way through. That is a classic **Ribbon Stitch**. In this form it looks a lot like a **Straight Stitch** with a slightly more pointed end.

The fun comes in the variations. Do another **Ribbon Stitch** but instead of pulling all the way through leave a small loop at the end. A laying tool is useful for this.

Depending on the size of the loop you can create different effects. Continue doing several of these stitches. You begin to realize that this can be a somewhat fragile stitch. Any pulling or catching of the ribbon will cause the previous loop to disappear. Be particularly aware of any loose fiber or needles on the back of the canvas. When you do pull a loop through just stitch over it.

KNOTTED RIBBON STITCH OR

THE RIBBON STITCH COMBINED WITH A FRENCH KNOT

Place a wrap on the needle as you would when starting a French Knot. Extend the ribbon flat to the desired length. Put the point of the needle just through the ribbon and canvas using a laying tool for the loop. With your free hand gently pull the ribbon until the wrap slides down the needle and meets the canvas. Let the ribbon go. The ribbon should now be lightly snugged against the needle and canvas. Pull the needle through the canvas and carefully keep pulling the ribbon through until you have the desired knot. Remove the laying tool.

You can also do this stitch in another version by extending the ribbon and using a laying tool to create a loop. Leave the laying tool in place. Now put a wrap on the

needle and pierce the ribbon at the loop and continuing down through the extended ribbon and canvas. Snug the wrap against the needle and pull through to complete the **French Knot** on a **Ribbon Stitch**.

This combination gives a very secure stitch that will not pull out. The effect is excellent for flower petals especially when done in an overlapping technique.

CURLED RIBBON STITCH OR SIDE RIBBON STITCH

For this stitch the needle pierces the edge of the ribbon close to the selvage. As you slowly pull through you will see that a curl is created. Piercing the right edge of the ribbon give a curl on the left and piercing the left edge give a curl on the right.

Overlap these **Ribbon Stitches** and **Side Ribbon Stitches** to create wonderful floral effects.

Hints:

The ribbon stitches are easier to learn using the 7mm or 13mm widths.

Use your knot of choice for these combinations.

The side ribbon stitches are generally not combined with knots as this makes it difficult to control the amount of curl.

HERRINGBONE OR HUNGARIAN PATTERN STITCH

The underlying concept is that of a cross-stitch. This is a variation on the typical cross-stitch.

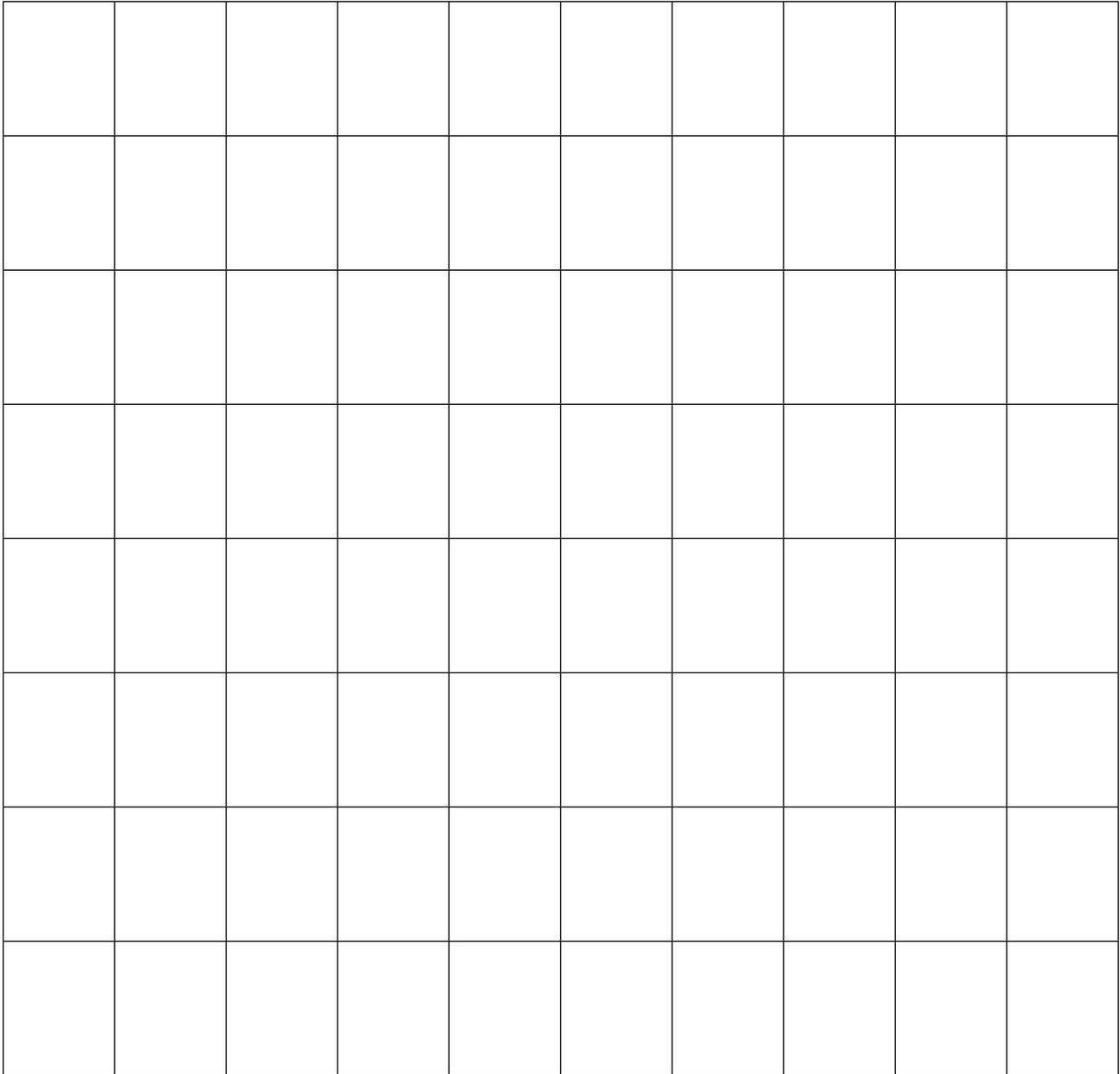
Imagine a 3 x 3 box containing a total of nine holes. The pattern is as follows: Start at the top coming up through the canvas, count down two holes and over two holes, insert the needle and pull through the canvas forming a diagonal line across the imagined box. Come up one hole to the left on the same line, pull the ribbon through. Next count up two holes and right two holes (or right two holes and up two holes) where the needle enters forming another diagonal. Pull the ribbon and needle through the canvas. Come up one hole to the left and begin the pattern again.

This pattern just keeps on repeating itself as a modified cross stitch.

The next row of stitches begins in the third row of boxes of the area previously stitched. Come up in the first hole of the third row and repeat the pattern across the canvas.

In the example below the first row of the pattern is numbered while the second row of the pattern is lettered.

This is an incredibly easy pattern with all sorts of uses – borders, pathways, rooftops, walls and backgrounds. If you do this pattern right to left, do all the rows right to left or vice versa. Compensation is easy.



This Herringbone stitch can be stitched over a 4 x 4 square, beginning row two coming up in the first hole of the first pattern fourth row.

Decide which width pattern looks best to you.

UNSTITCHING and using the same ribbon again.

Remember you can unstash the ribbon and reuse it. Cut the ribbon next to the eye of the needle and begin unstitching. If needed, moisten the ribbon with your fingers, run it under a steam iron, or just continue stitching.

HAVE FUN!

