

ROADSIDE

Designed by ANNE CRAM Designs

Stitch guide by River Silks Ltd.

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Additional materials: stretcher bars, #22 tapestry needles

River Silks Ltd. 100% silk, hand dyed ribbon

Information (877) 944-7444 www.riversilks.com

4mm	Color	Spools	4mm	Color	Spools
32	Dream blue	2	101	Over dye blazing orange	1
33	Silver lake blue	1	189	Black	2
34	Star sapphire	2	200	Silver	3
247	Blue bell	2	216	Over dye silver/black	2
234	Over dye green	1			
252	Over dye jade lime	2			
133	Over dye lime punch	1	7mm	Color	Spools
48	Yolk yellow	1	96	Over dye yellow	3
96	Over dye yellow	1	280	Odye lemon macaroon	2
97	Over dye lemonade	1	279	Odye lemon/apricot	4
134	Over dye empire yellow	1	101	Over dye blazing orange	1
135	Over dye golden rod	1	305	Odye yellow crm/flame	1
136	Over dye yolk yellow	2	306	Odye sepra yellow/flame	1
268	Over dye sunshine/gold	1	136	Over dye yolk yellow	2

You will be using both 4mm and 7mm ribbon. Please follow the instructions for proper usage.

LEAVES: 7 mm colors - 96, 280, 279, 101, 305, 306 and 136

TREE TRUNKS: 4 mm colors - 189, 200 and 216

GROUND COVER: 4 mm colors – 48, 96, 97, 101, 234, 252, 133 and 268

SKY: 4 mm colors - 32, 33 and 247

BORDER: 4 mm color - 34

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. This is called the "Needle Eye Lock Stitch".

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

Please read all of this section before starting to stitch!

This canvas is best approached by stitching the leaves first. The leaves have been painted in an Impressionist technique championed by Serat and Pizzaro. The “leaves” are actually formed by individual points of color – “Pointillism”. This is one of the features that makes this canvas so attractive. For the stitcher these points of color are best achieved with knots.

The color combinations for the knots are chosen very specifically. Couple two cooler over dyes for one area and two warmer over dyes for another area. Stitch the layers of the trees keeping the “couples” together. For example one branch of leaves would be cool, the next higher branch would be warm. Alternate the couples as you stitch upwards on the tree. This approach adds subtle color depth and variety and is important to the overall impact of the piece.

The centermost tree is stitched with the bright yellow over dye as the base color. The cool and warm over dyed orange colors alternate as on the other trees. It is important to use the bright yellow over dye only on the central tree. This makes that tree the focal point and bring it closer to the eye emphasizing the depth that the canvas imparts.

LEAVES: These are all stitched with 7mm silk ribbon done with Colonial Knots*. Do not use 4mm ribbon in these areas! The 7mm ribbon will emphasize the depth of the piece and the difference between the overhanging trees and the ground. The Colonial Knot is essential to achieve the desired effect.

If you are not comfortable with Colonial Knots practice them on a blank piece of canvas and make them your own!

TREE TRUNKS: Stitch these with an Oblique Gobelin going up just one hole across the width to give a slight diagonal effect from purely horizontal. This will create nice rings on the trees. Stitch this first with the silver (200) ribbon. Then stitch over those with a second layer done in the silver/black (216) ribbon. This will create a slightly rounded look that helps to fill out the trunk.

GROUND COVER: This area is all done in French Knots using 4mm ribbon, casually following the painted colors..

SKY: Brick Stitch horizontally over 5 holes starting with darkest color at the horizon near the ground and gradually using lighter colors. Blend as you change colors in an

irregular pattern like wavy horizon lines, or mountains, similar to the change in paint color- not a straight line across the canvas.

BORDER: No need to paint the white canvas to match your ribbon border. Stitch the border with a Diagonal Stitch- up 6 over 6. At the corners lay down a diagonal stitch, as if you were making a vein in a leaf. Then continue the Border stitch- piercing the vein ribbon. This creates a look similar to the corner of a wooden frame. At the center of each side the Diagonal stitches come together to form a triangle. Fill in the triangle with a modified herringbone stitch.

HAVE FUN!

* COLONIAL KNOTS: The **Colonial knot** is larger than the **French knot**. It extends the possibilities for dimension and texture in your needlepoint. You actually already know most of the details of a **Colonial knot**. You need to add one small step and you have the knot mastered. As you read this, have canvas, needle and ribbon right there, ready to go, so you can follow along. Begin by bringing the needle and ribbon up through the canvas. One hand is holding the ribbon; the other hand is holding the needle. Hold the ribbon 5 inches away from the canvas so that the ribbon is pointing right at you (6 o'clock). Now move your hand to the right until the ribbon is pointing to 5 o'clock. Leave everything there for now. Next put your hand holding the needle right in front of you, in fact, touching you. It should also be on top of the hand which is holding the ribbon. Point the needle to 12 o'clock. Next move the needle forward until it slides all the way under the 5 o'clock ribbon. Bring your ribbon hand back to 6 o'clock. Now point the needle to 9 o'clock.

This completes the one small step you needed to master. Everything else is just like a **French knot**! With the needle pointing to 9 o'clock wrap the ribbon once around the needle. Put the point of the needle just barely through the canvas. (For now just go up and down through the same hole.) 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. That's it! You've done a **Colonial knot**! That's exciting!

HINTS: Remember that you don't have to stitch tight knots.

Take a moment to let the ribbon unwind before the next knot. Once again the width of the ribbon used and the number of wraps determines the size and height of **Colonial knots**. This gives you the ability to vary the texture and height of your canvases.

If you are left handed change 5 o'clock to 7 o'clock and 9 o'clock to 3 o'clock respectively.

Another way of learning a Colonial Knot: The **Colonial knot** is really just a **French knot** that's started with an added twist. Bring the needle and thread up through the canvas. Position the ribbon towards you at 6 o'clock. Hold it about 4 inches from the canvas, but don't pull it tight. Bring the end of the needle across the ribbon near the canvas. Next hook the needle under the ribbon so the needle is now pointing to 9 o'clock. Make certain that you have enough of the tip of the needle free for the next step. This needle position looks just like it did at the start of your **French knot**. So you'll finish the **French knot**: place a single wrap around the needle and put the tip of the needle just into the canvas. 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.