

## SMALL BOUQUET 7 RED

Designed by JEAN SMITH DESIGNS

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13 mesh, 12X12 canvas, 8X8 painted area

**Materials needed:** 12 x 12 stretcher bars, #22-24 tapestry needles

**River Silks Ltd. 100% silk, hand dyed ribbon**

Information (877) 944-7444

[www.riversilks.com](http://www.riversilks.com)

4mm	Color	Spools	7mm	Color	Spools
#5	POPCORN	4	#236	TRUE RED	4
#32	DREAM BLUE	4	#270	WILD ROSE	5
			#185	ICE	2
			#254	Odye Classic Green	3
			#34	STAR SAPPHIRE	2
			#3	VIVID YELLOW	1

**LEAVES:** Color 254

**PETALS:** Colors 236, 270 and 185

**VASE:** Color 34

**YELLOW SUN LINES ON THE CLOTH:** Color 3

**YELLOW CLOTH:** Color 5

**SKY:** Color 32

### 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**

**LEAVES: STITCH LEAVES FIRST USING A LAZY DAISY STITCH BUT GO DOWN ONE HOLE OVER AS YOU SECURE THE LOOP. THIS CAUSES THE LOOP TO FOLD OVER CLOSING THE LOOP AND GIVING DIMENSION TO THE STITCH.**

**PETALS:** Begin working from the outside or top edge toward the center using a Ribbon Stitch<sup>1</sup> secured with a knot. First form a French knot on the needle, then set the ribbon stitch, put the needle into the ribbon and canvas, tighten the knot and pull the needle through the canvas. Overlap the loops of the Ribbon Stitch for a 3D effect.

**VASE: STITCH BLUE AREA FIRST WITH STRAIGHT STITCHES. COME BACK AND FILL THE WHITE SPACE WITH BLUE STITCHES GIVING TEXTURE BUT A SOLID COLOR TO THE VASE. LONG STITCHES GIVE GOOD LIGHT REFLECTION AND COLOR.**

**YELLOW SUN LINES ON THE CLOTH: LAY A LINE OF RIBBON AND STITCH OVER IT WITH SHORT BACK STITCHES.**

**YELLOW CLOTH: STITCH IN HORIZONTAL BRICK STITCH OVER FIVE HOLES OR FOUR THREADS (UP HOLE 1, DOWN HOLE 5. NEXT LINE SYMMETRICALLY OFFSET BUT SAME LENGTH).**

**SKY: VERTICAL BRICK STITCH OVER FIVE HOLES.**

**HAVE FUN!**



i\* To do a Ribbon Stitch bring your needle and ribbon up through the canvas. Move in the desired direction about 4-10 holes. Lay the ribbon out flat to that point and put the needle through the ribbon before passing through the canvas. Instead of pulling the ribbon 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 ribbon, fiber or needles on the back of the canvas. When you do pull a loop through just stitch over it with another Ribbon Stitch.

To do a Ribbon Stitch secured with a French Knot place a wrap on the needle. Extend the ribbon flat to the desired length. Put the point of the needle just through the ribbon and canvas using a laying tool to create a loop. BEFORE you pull the needle through the canvas, STOP and tighten the knot - 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 now have a French Knot securing the Ribbon Stitch.

You can do this stitch in another version by placing a wrap on the needle. Extend the ribbon to the desired length and curl the ribbon back on itself (always holding onto the wrap). Place the needle tip into the two layers of ribbon and canvas. BEFORE you pull the ribbon through the canvas, STOP and tighten the knot - let go of the wrap and with that hand pull the ribbon until the wrap slides down the needle and meets the canvas/ribbon. Now pull the needle through the canvas and carefully keep pulling until you have the desired knot. It is not necessary too pull real tight. This combination Ribbon Stitch with a French Knot is a very secure stitch that will not pull out. The effect is excellent for flower petals especially when done in an overlapping technique.