

PANSIES

Designed by JULIA'S NEEDLEWORKS

Stitch guide by River Silks Ltd. Copyright © 2005 River Silks Ltd.

7 x 4 painted area, 11 x 7 canvas, 18 mesh

Additional materials not included in this kit: 11 x 7 stretcher bars, #22 tapestry needle, dark purple velour or velvet fiber, background fiber 30M (YD) dark green silk thread

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

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

4mm	Color	Spools	7mm	Color	Spools
#11	Living coral	1	#12	Flame	1
#239	Apricot	1	#232	Vibrant yellow	1
#268	Over dye sunshine	1	#22	Orchid petal	1
#135	Over dye goldenrod	1	#57	Twilight purple	1
#133	Over dye lime punch	1	#110	Over dye paisley purple	1
#168	Pine green	1	#195	Amethyst sheen	1
7mm			#210	Red plum	1
#298	Over dye white/blue	1	#164	Super pink	1
#46	Mellow yellow	1			

Purple petals: Colors 22, 57, 110, 298, and 195

Pink petals: Colors 164

Burgundy petals: Color 210

Orange petals: Colors 12, 11, 135 and 239

Yellow petals: Colors 46, 135, 232, 239 and 268

Center knots: Colors 46, 12, 298, 133, 168 and 268

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

The flowers are the focal point of this canvas and should be done first. Pansies are found in a myriad of colors so that a single pansy may have petals of two or three different colors. The photo will give you an idea about this. Think about the mix that you want to do for a flower before starting to work on it. The velour is used to intensify depth. Ribbon stitches will cause silk ribbon to reflect light. The velour absorbs light and the contrast is very effective.

The background in this instance is a dark green (not included). Many other color choices would be suitable according to your tastes. The pansies are fairly “busy” so the background should be a simple Tent Stitch. The outside border is a Tent over three squares although continuing with simple Tent would be fine.

PANSY PETALS - Begin working from the outside or top edge of the canvas toward the center using Ribbon Stitches*. When you pull the needle through the ribbon and canvas, do so slowly to control the size loop desired. Ribbon Stitches can be overlapped easily with lovely effects. If a stitch is not pleasing you can simply pull it through and stitch over it.

There will likely be little gaps left over when doing the petals. You can either place another Ribbon Stitch to cover the gap or put in a French Knot instead. Your choice!

CENTER KNOTS - Use single or double wrapped French Knots or Colonial Knots and use additional knots on the flowers to secure or fill spots. Mix and match the center knot colors for a pleasing effect. You could even use 5 different colors for the center knots on a single flower. Your Pansy. Your choice
Surrounding the center knots are dark areas. Use a deep purple velour or velvet (not included) for these areas. French Knots work well here.

* 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.

