

GREEN HAWAIIAN SHIRT

Designed by KERI 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
166	Viridis	4	133	Over dye Lime Punch	1
97	Over dyed Lemonade	1	179	Ginger Snap	1
49	Soft Pink	3			
			7mm		
			1	Transparent Yellow	1

GREEN SHIRT: Color – 166

LEI FLOWERS: Color – 49

LEAVES: Color - 133

PLUMERIA: Color – 1

PISTILS: Color – 97

TAN BUTTONS: Color – 179

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! All stitches are discussed and explained in the RIVER SILKS LTD book, “OOOOOOH!”The Essentials of Needlepoint with River Silks.

Note than on your canvas the painted flowers are stylized and do not obviously represent specific flowers. In the finished piece (see photo) the flowers are further deconstructed to give a sense of overall color with minimal structure. Using this approach and the given stitches a three-dimensional effect of flowers raised off the surface of the porcelain was achieved. Recall that raised flowers are a common feature of decorative English Bone China. The Ribbon Stitch is unique in its ability to recreate such a distinctly raised appearance.

The stitcher obviously took much latitude in interpreting this canvas. We feel that this is necessary and beneficial. Adequate ribbon has been provided to let you add your own refinements to this wonderful piece.

This canvas is best approached by stitching the **GREEN PART OF THE SHIRT** first. Start at the bottom along one edge to keep the pattern uniform. Use a vertical Brick Stitch over 5 holes compensating near the flowers and leaves with appropriate lengths.

Some flower petals and leaves will overlap the brick stitch. The body of the shirt can have raglan sleeves with brick stitch slanting up the sleeves and forming a raglan line from the armpit to shoulder near the collar. The body can also be stitched as a rectangular shape with sleeve seams vertical. When stitching at an angle up the sleeve use a stitch over 3 holes in brick pattern starting at the bottom of the sleeve.

] When this body of the shirt is set, the flowers and leaves can be stitched overlapping the green to give the appearance of flower leis.

The **GREEN LEAVES** are stitched with Ribbon Stitch placing a long stitch along the rib and stitching into as the leaves are filled. Additional stem stitching can cover the rib as a finish.

The **PINK LEI FLOWERS** are stitched with a Folded Knot Stitch giving a small petal flower with center knot. First put a knot on your needle about three inches from the canvas and then pass the needle through the ribbon folding it like an accordion. Place the needle into the canvas, tighten the knot and pull the needle through the canvas. Continue these flowers along the line of the lei.

The **LARGE PLUMARIA FLOWERS** are stitched in Ribbon Stitch with a curl at the top edge around the petals. Do these slowly to avoid pulling the ribbon completely through the canvas leaving no loop. If this happens you can stitch over it or cut the ribbon at the needle eye and pull out the stitch, rethread and begin again.

The **TAN BUTTONS** are quadruple wrapped colonial knots, but any knot will work. You might even find some tiny doll buttons to sew onto the canvas.

ALOHA!

HAVE FUN!