

**WATERLILLY**  
**DESIGNED BY LEE'S NEEDLE ARTS**

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ADDITIONAL MATERIALS: #22 TAPESTRY NEEDLES, STRETCHER BARS  
A DARK GREEN SILK FIBER OF YOUR CHOICE

RIVER SILKS LTD 100% SILK, HAND DYED RIBBON

4MM	COLOR	SPOOLS
19	MORNING GLORY	1
107	OVER DYED BUBBLEGUM	1
161	PERSIAN RED	1
202	WHITE/WHITE	1
61	LICHEN	1
62	FELDSPAR	1
130	OVER DYED MACAW GREEN	1

- FLOWER PETALS: Colors 19, 107, 161 and 202
- WHITE BACKGROUND: Color 202
- GREEN LEAVES: Colors 61 and 62
- STEM: COLOR 130
- CENTER: COLORS 130 and 62
- BACKGROUND: use your choice of silk fiber

**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. For the silk fiber you should ply the product and use the eighteen inch usual length.

**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.

**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**

Start with the petals, then the stem, the base leaves, the center and finally the background. You might prefer to do the background first and then do the ribbonwork. It will be easier to get the effect of the flower in front of the background.

**PETALS:** These are all **Straight (Satin) Stitches**. Outline each petal in darker ribbon and work inwards going to the lighter colors. As you work inwards your stitches can pierce the darker stitch or go down in the hole occupied by the darker stitch. Some stitches are squeezed between two existing stitches. See photo.

**STEM:** Run some long, **Straight Stitches** down the stem and the couch over these at right angles. This will give needed bulk to the stem. Don’t pull too tight!

**LEAVES:** Loosely arranged Leaf Stitches or Straight Stitches.

CENTER: **French Knots\*** or **Colonial Knots\*\***.

BACKGROUND: **Continental Stitch**.

**REFERENCE BOOK:** “OOOOOH” THE ESSENTIALS OF NEEDLEPOINT WITH RIVER SILKS 100% SILK RIBBON. Ask your retailer!

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\* **FRENCH KNOTS:** With all knots done with ribbon be sure to snug up the knot a bit just after the needle has gone into the canvas but before pulling it through. This ensures a nice knot. Once the ribbon is snugged (not tightened) the knot will hold in place as you bring the needle through.

\*\* **COLONIAL KNOTS:** Detailed version: 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!

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