

#6914 POTENTILLA
Designed by Leigh Designs
Stitch guide by River Silks Ltd.
Copyright © 2004 River Silks Ltd.

Materials needed: 9 x 9 stretcher bars, #22-24 tapestry needles

River silks ltd. 100% silk, hand dyed ribbon
(info 877-944-7444) www.riversilks.com

4mm	color	spool	7mm	Color	spools
#5	popcorn	1	#157	Flame scarlet	3
#127H	Over dye fern	1	#207	rosewood	1
#156	Pumpkin	1	#209	garnet	2
#199	Copper	1			
#184	Wren	1			
#201	Buff yellow	1			

You will be using both 4mm and 7mm Silk Ribbon

PETALS: Colors 167, 20 and 209.

GREEN TRIANGLES: Color 127H.

COPPER/OCHRE RING: Color 199.

ORANGE DOTS: Color 156.

PISTILS: Colors 5, 201 and 156.

CENTER: Colors 184, 156 and 201.

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

PETALS: Begin working from the outside edge toward the center using long Satin Stitches.

GREEN TRIANGLES: Use half Scotch Stitch.

COPPER/OCHRE RING: Use ray pattern around the ring.

ORANGE DOTS: Use Colonial Knots* with 2 wraps.

PISTILS: Use Pistil Stem Stitch, twisted Satin Stitch or Stem Stitch. For pistil tips use Colonial Knots (option: Lazy Daisy with two colors threaded in needle).

CENTER: Brown: Use French knots, Beijing Knots or Continental..

Orange: Use Colonial Knots with 1-4 wraps.

Yellow: Use Colonial Knots with two wraps.

* 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.