

## BLUE BELLS

Designed by **BARBARA RUSSELL – BARABARA RUSSELLDESIGNS**

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

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

Information (877) 944-7444

4mm	Color	Spools	4mm	Color	Spools
#284	FIR GREEN	1	#250	SEPTRA YELLOW	1
#1301	Overdye McCaw/Olive	1	#17	PEARL	4
#79	MEADOW MIST	1	205	ONION BLUE	1
#66	BASIL				
#67	COMFREY	1	7mm		
#28	EASTER EGG	1	#32	DREAM BLUE	1

**BACKGROUND:** Color 17

**STEMS:** Colors 284 , 1301

**LEAVES:** Color 79, 67, 66

**BLOOMS:** Color 32, 28, 205, 250

### GENERAL PLANNING

Attach the canvas to the stretcher bars preferably using tacks. A floor or table stand should be used.

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

**BACKGROUND:** Stitch the BACKGROUND in TENT, CONTINENTAL or BASKETWEAVE. Begin with the background and stitch into the blooms, stems and leaves knowing you will stitch over some background stitches.

**STEMS:** Stitch the outside stems with two rows of CHAIN STITCH, starting at the bottom and stitching towards the blossoms. Keep the loops small. After coming up through the loop snug the loop and go down through a different hole than you came up. This will cause the stitch to fold over onto itself and lay flatter. It will not look like a loop but it will have a 3D effect. If you begin going from left to right (or right to left) through the loops, be consistent.

**LEAVES:** Stitch with a LEAF STITCH placing straight stitches along the ribs of the leaves in the light color, stitching from bottom to top. Begin stitching at the top of the leaves, varying the colors, stitching from the outside into the rib and overlapping colors and stitches.

**BLOOMS: OPEN THROATED BLOSSOMS:** Stitch the petals with LOOP STITCHES going up and down the same hole or holes in front or back of each other leaving a loop which when overstitched with the purple color will cover the canvas area and still have a loopy look. These stitches are fragile and easily pulled out. Have the purple ribbon threaded in a needle or you can secure the petals with a CLASSIC RIBBON STITCH. When you have two needles threaded, keep one needle out of the way by coming up through an empty hole at a distance and pulling the ribbon through to the top of the canvas. A CLASSIS RIBBON STITCH is made by pulling the ribbon straight in front of you, holding it in place, folding the ribbon onto itself as if to make a loop, then pulling the needle through the ribbon and canvas until the loop disappears. The resulting stitch is like a daisy petal. Continue turning your canvas and stitching away from you. Using a stand with your stretcher bars is very helpful.

**CENTER OF FLOWER:** Stitch SINGLE WRAPPED FRENCH KNOTS IN DARK BLUE and DOUBLE WRAPPED FRENCH KNOTS in yellow.

**BLOSSOMS SEEN FROM THE BACK SIDE:** First stitch RIBBON STITCHES WITH LOOPS SHOWING at the outside edge. Next place LOOP STITCHES overlapping those purple petal parts. Secure the loops with purple ribbon stitches leaving very little loops or none at all, classis ribbon stitch.

**THROATS OF BLOOMS:** Stitch the purple edges with ELONGATED TENT over 2-3 holes to give shadow effect. The using long STRAIGHT STITCHES stitch over the throat and part of the purple.

**HAVE FUN!**

