

ORCHID

Designed by TRUBEY DESIGNS

Stitch guide by River Silks Ltd. Copyright © 2007 River Silks Ltd.

Additional materials: stretcher bars, #22-24 tapestry needles, your choice of silk thread for background.

18 mesh, 6.25 x 6 painted area, 10.25x10.25 canvas

River Silks Ltd. 100% silk, hand dyed ribbon

Information (877) 944-7444

www.riversilks.com

4mm	Color	Spools	4mm	Color	Spools
#157	FLAME SCARLET	1	#47	YELLOW CREAM	1
#158	CHINESE RED	2	#98	O- DYE SUNSHINE	1
#156	PUMPKIN	2	#87	SAGE	1
#8	BUFF ORANGE	1	#76	CELADON GREEN	1

THE LEAVES USE THE TWO GREENS.

THE REST OF THE FLOWER USES THE OTHER COLORS AT WILL.

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.

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

This work is painted on a slightly glitzy canvas. You should plan to stitch the flower first. Then you can evaluate the background to determine whether you want to stitch over the glitz or leave it as is. When I finished stitching the flower, I found that the flower seemed to blend right into the canvas background resulting in a rather bland work. I elected to stitch the background. As the background was being stitched, the flower began to stand out more and almost assert itself. While I was not pleased at covering the glitz, the effort was worth it and resulted in a nice finished piece.

You can really start the flower anywhere you choose. I began with the cup shaped area, using color #157. Use Classic Ribbon Stitches first. Then put a single wrapped French Knot at the tips of the longer stitches. Fan the stitches a bit for dimension. The inside is made up of Straight Stitches in color #98.. These are also slightly fanned. I added more French knots along the base of the inner flower to add depth.

The remaining petals are all stitched using Straight Stitches. According to whim I placed more French Knots both single and double wrapped mostly around the outer edges of the petals.

At the very center of the flower I used an Algerian eye technique attempting to suggest curvature and depth. I added more knots where there seemed to be empty spaces.

For the leaves the same Straight Stitch was used. It is fun to lay down a center rib on a leaf. Then you do your Straight Stitches from the outer edge of the leaf into the rib. This technique gives a more natural look and covers the inevitable holes in the spine of a leaf.

I mixed colors on petals because orchids are often somewhat variegated in coloration.

When the flower is complete look at the canvas and decide whether or not your orchid needs to have the background stitched.

Comment: I am quite spoiled with River Silks ribbon. I usually stitch with lengths of about four feet. When I use silk thread I am not happy at the prospect of stitching with eighteen-inch lengths. However, I have found that the silk thread sold by J. L. Walsh is indeed superior. I can easily stitch with four-foot lengths with no visible fraying!

Have Fun!

