

Norwich Stitch

By Lynne Kirton

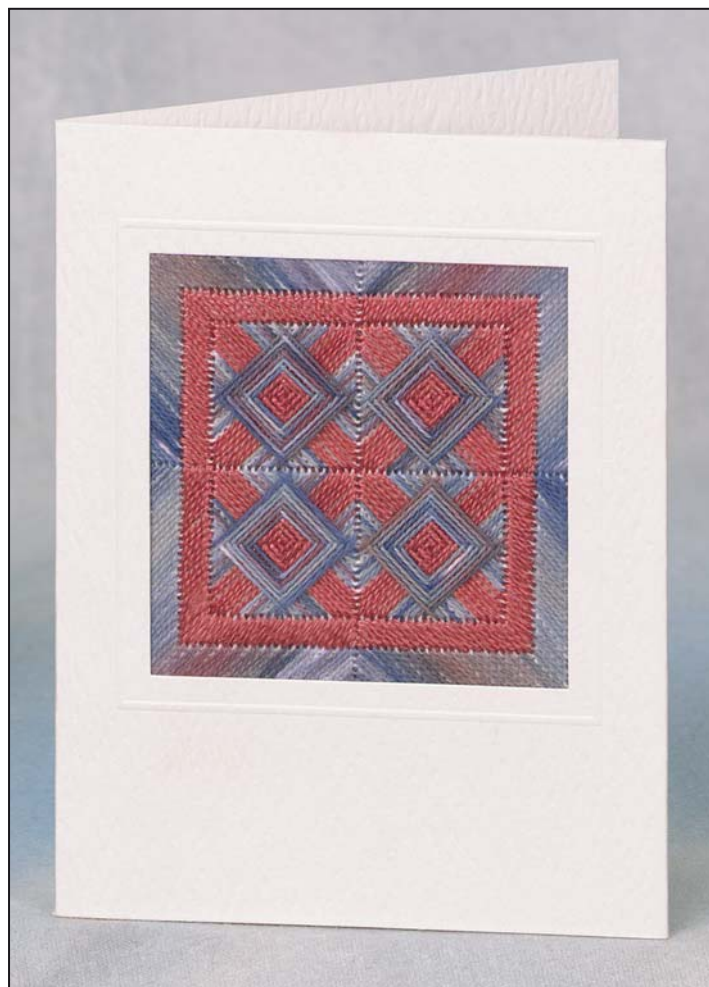
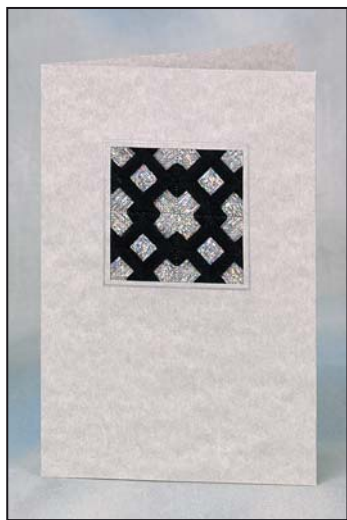
Norwich stitch is a simple stitch which can be adjusted to any size, provided that each square is stitched over an even number of threads. It looks impressive, but is in fact quite easy to work. Strictly speaking, Norwich stitch should be worked over an odd number of threads, but, so that the patterns match up, it is

better to use an even number. The fabric used is so fine that the empty hole in the middle of each side does not show.

My examples here show how this simple stitch can be used with various types and combinations of threads to produce many different effects. They have all been worked on congress cloth (also known

as coin net), a 24 hpi mono canvas. Any even-weave cloth may be used, but congress cloth is preferable because, being fairly stiff, it holds the long stitches without distorting and does not need a frame. This means it is less wasteful when only a small area is worked, as for a card. Congress cloth should be available from good needlecraft shops.

I have used several different types of thread, including No. 8 pearl cotton, stranded cotton, space dyed thread and metallics. Any thread, or combination of threads, approximately equal in thickness to No. 8 pearl cotton would be suitable.



If you've never tried using space dyed threads, it is well worth doing so, and the Caron threads especially are a delight to work with. The interesting thing is that you are never sure what it's going to look like until it's finished, and no two examples will turn out exactly alike! Space dyed threads are widely available from good needlecraft shops and some mail order companies.

Materials Required:

Piece of Congress cloth 83mm square.

Pearl cotton No. 8 in your choice of colour.

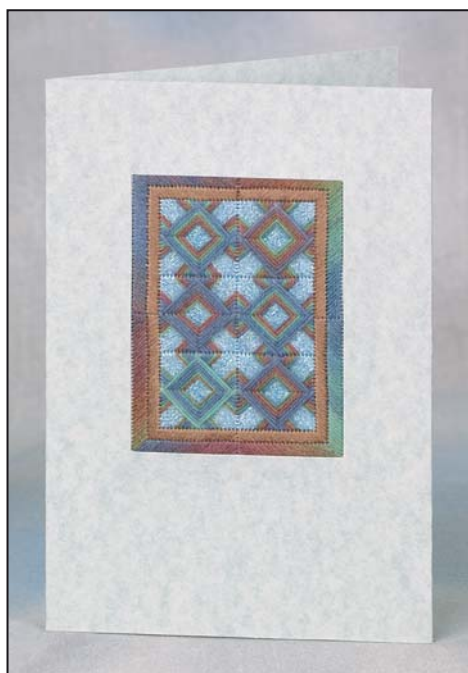
Space dyed thread, e.g. Caron Wildflowers or Stef Francis Fine Perle in your choice of colour.

Size 22 tapestry needle.

Card mount - AP83E.

To Make The Card:

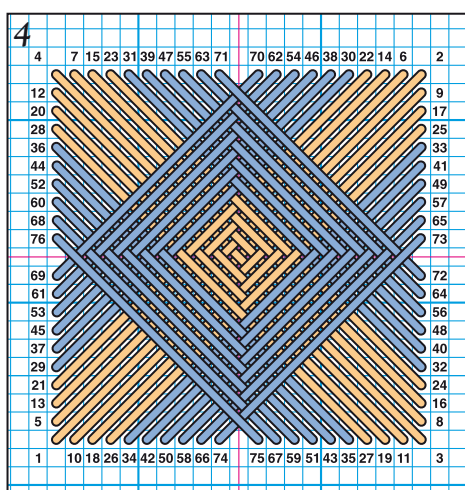
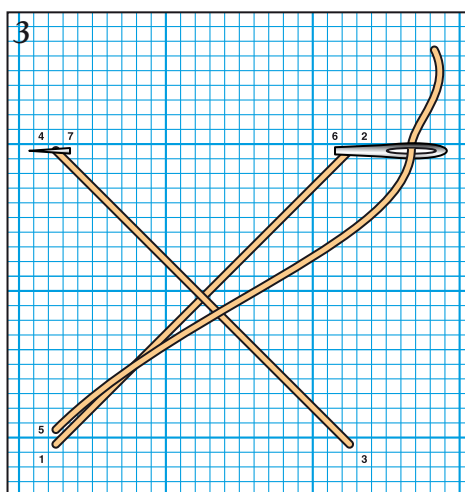
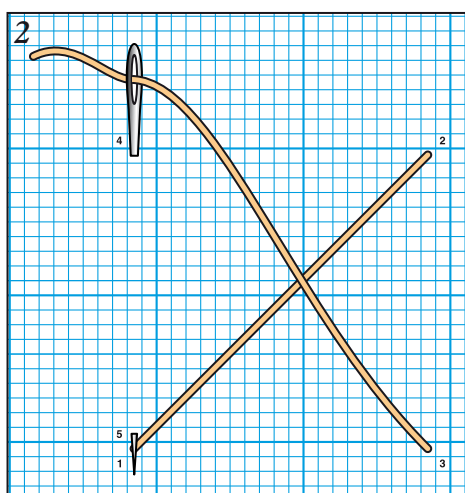
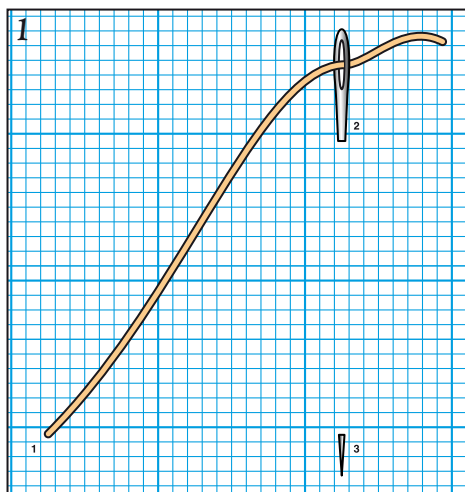
Begin and end each thread with a single knot on the wrong side, cutting the thread 5mm from



the knot. Use approximately 1 metre lengths of thread. Do not be tempted to use longer lengths, as the congress cloth tends to fray the thread. If you find your thread begins to fray, try using a larger size of needle which will enlarge the holes.

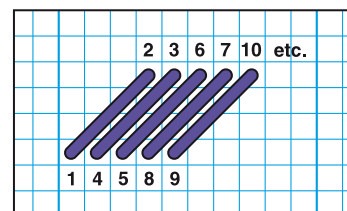
Count diagonally 18 threads from the bottom left hand corner of the fabric and begin the first Norwich stitch here. Work according to diagram 4. Stitch the first 4 rounds (up to 28, see chart) in 1 strand of the pearl cotton, then change to the space dyed thread, using one strand for the remainder. Work the other three Norwich stitches, placing them according to the chart and beginning each at the bottom left hand corner.

Work the inner border in Satin Stitch using the No. 8 pearl cotton (1 strand).



Work the outer border in the space dyed thread (1 strand).

Note:- When using space dyed threads for Satin Stitch, work according to the following diagram:



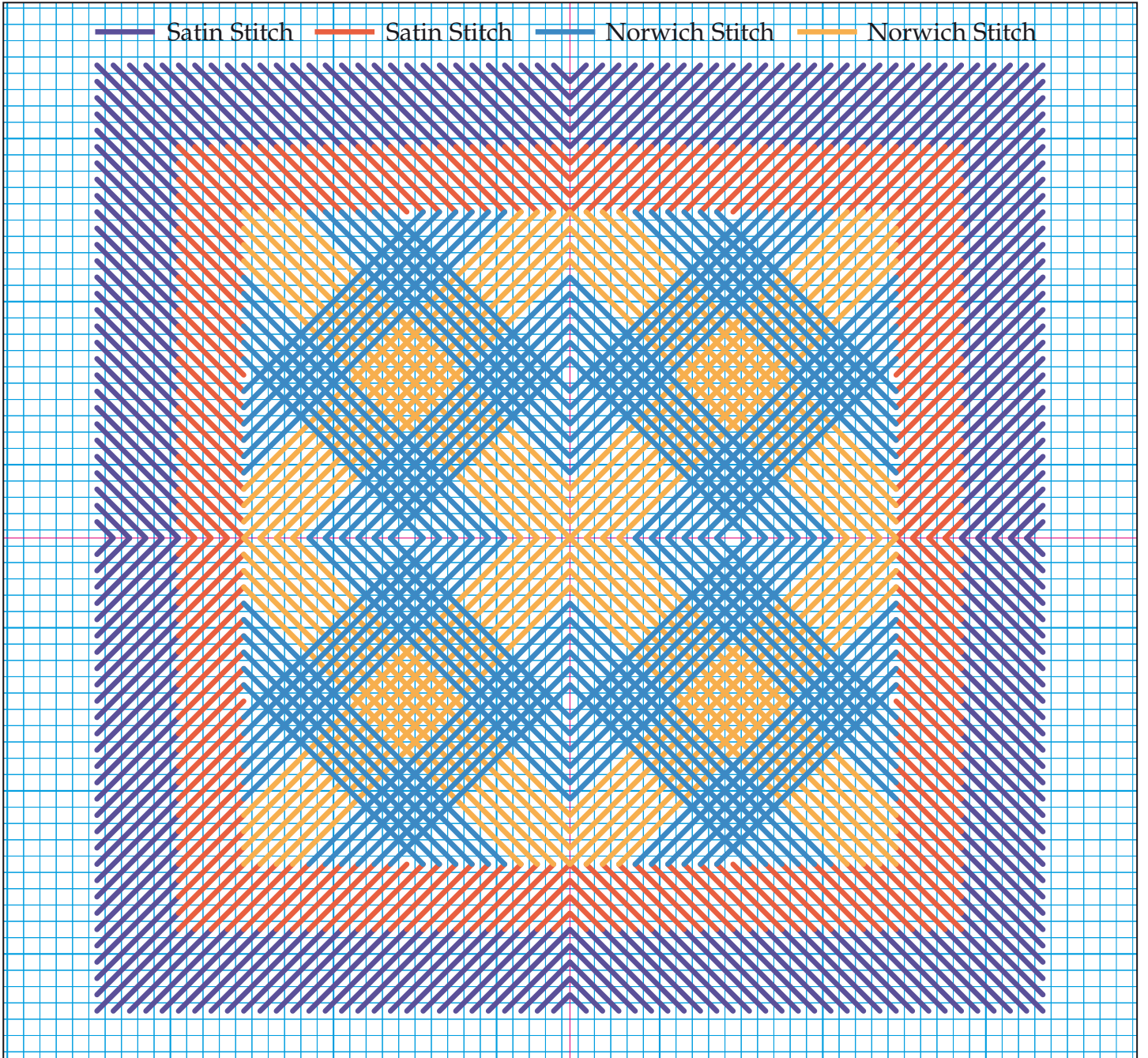
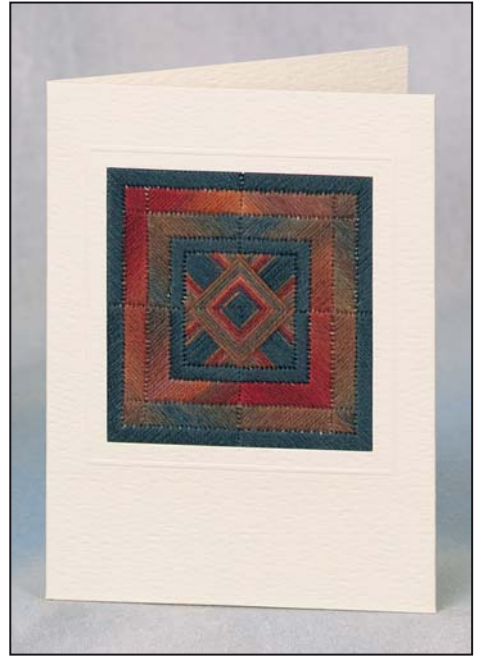
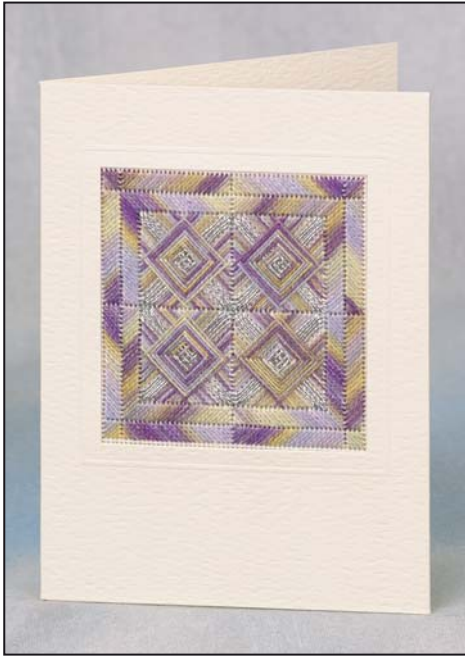
This will preserve the subtlety of the colour changes and use less thread. (Space dyed threads tend to be more expensive than plain ones!)

Trim the surplus fabric to about 6 mm from the edge of the embroidery, and mount into the card using double sided sticky tape or craft glue.

Tip:

To adjust examples to fit different sized apertures, either work Norwich stitch over more/fewer threads, remembering to keep to an even number, or increase/decrease the border design. e.g. Congress cloth has 24 hpi, so to fit a four inch square aperture the design must cover 96 holes on each side, (4 x 24).







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