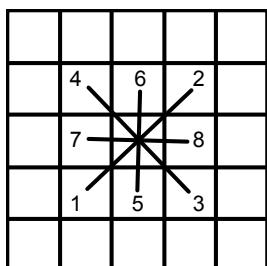


LESSON THREE

» Smyrna Cross Stitch

Design area: Spiral block C, center motif

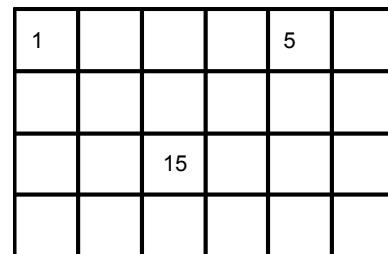
Thread: Pearl Cotton #746 **Strands:** 1



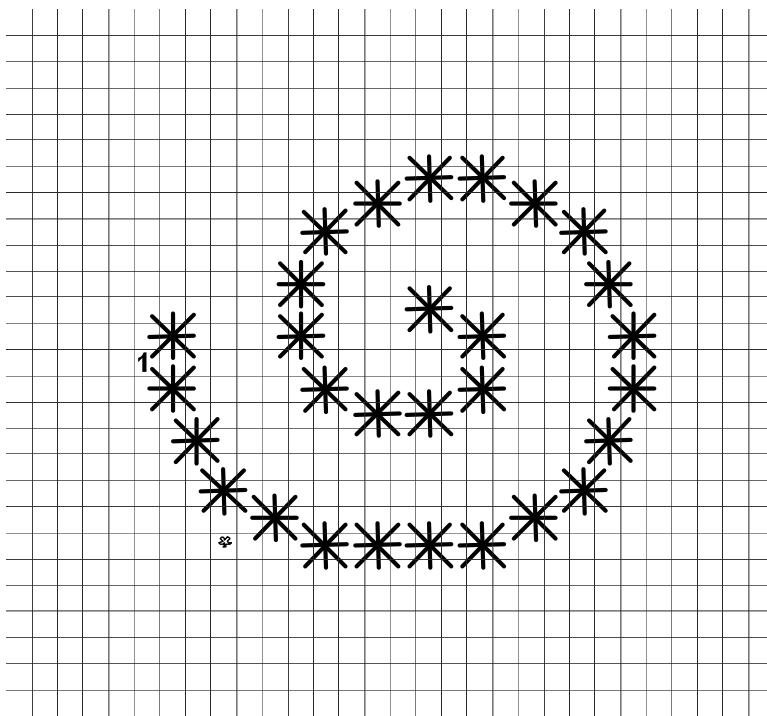
The Smyrna Cross creates a highly textured appearance. It is also a good stitch for making a curved line, which is why it is used to make the spiral design in this project.

As shown at left, this stitch consists of two crosses, one on top of the other. The first one is an "x", and the second is a "+". The Smyrna stitch used in this project is two threads high and two threads wide, although it can be worked over a greater number of canvas threads.

Note that the last step of this stitch (7 & 8) brings the final element across the front from left to right. This is correct if the next Smyrna is to be placed to the left of this stitch. If the next Smyrna stitch is at the right of this stitch, the direction of this last element would be reversed – come up at 8 and go back in at 7. This small detail ensures that the thread travels across the back in such a way that the stitches all look the same as they come out of the canvas.



The Smyrna stitch is used in three blocks: #1, 5, and 15; you'll be starting your work in block 15.



The diagram at left shows the entire spiral block and placement of the spiral. Positions for the waste knot (*) and the first stitch ("1") are marked.

Don't forget - once you've worked the spiral in block 15, you'll need to rotate the canvas by 180 degrees to work the two blocks in the other half of the design.

» Encroaching Gobelin Stitch

Design area: *Spiral block C, background*

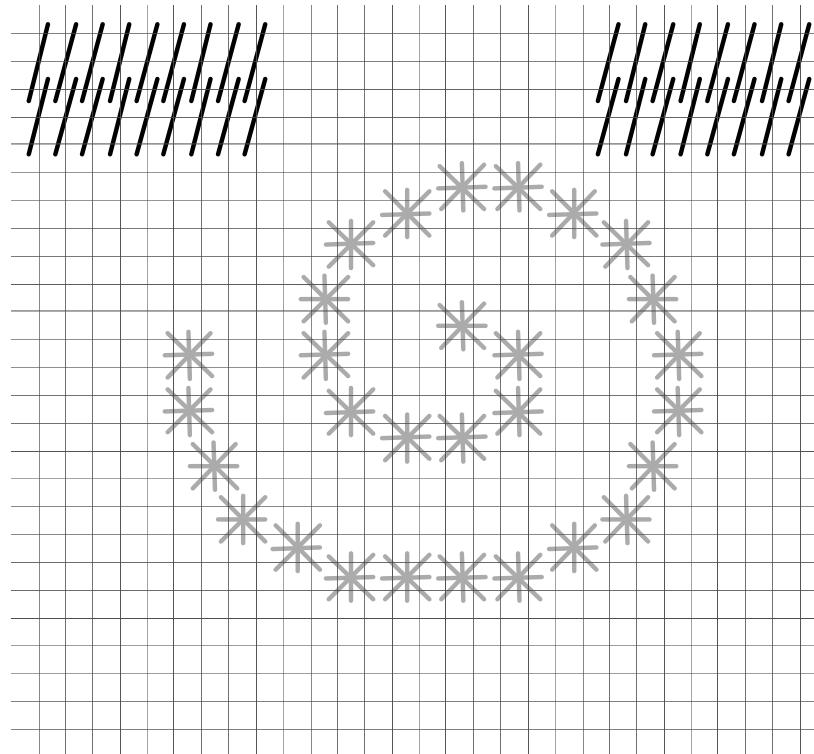
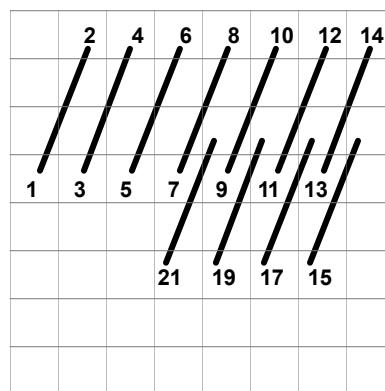
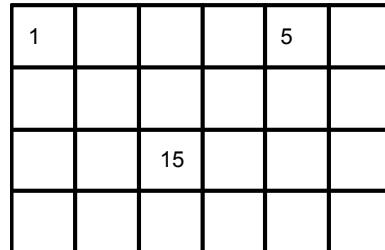
Thread: *Paternayan Light green #613*
Paternayan Medium green #612

Strands: 2

The Encroaching Gobelin Stitch is used to fill the background of the spiral blocks (#1, 5, and 15). It has the least visual texture of any stitch, producing a smooth surface.

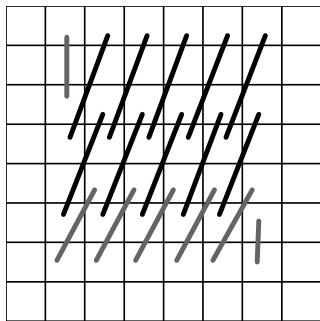
Encroaching Gobelin Stitch is similar to the Straight Gobelin stitch in that both are worked in horizontal rows, with each stitch parallel to the previous one and immediately adjacent to it. However, while the Straight Gobelin does not cross any vertical canvas threads, the encroaching Gobelin moves one thread to the right before reentering the canvas. You can see the difference by comparing the diagram at right with the stitch diagram on pg. 11. This stitch can be worked from either direction.

Like the other non-Geometric blocks, the background of the Spiral block is two-toned: the center strip is worked in two strands of the medium green Paternayan bracketed by a strip on either side worked in a lighter green Paternayan.



The diagram at left shows the smallest of the three Spiral blocks (#15). The Smyrna spiral is shown in gray. The first two rows of the Encroaching Gobelin stitches in the left and right strips are shown as black lines. The strip on the left is 9 threads wide, while that on the right is 8 threads wide.

Start at either side of the block, and work that strip from top to bottom using the light green Paternayan. Don't forget to lay your thread. Once you've finished the strip on one side, work the other strip.

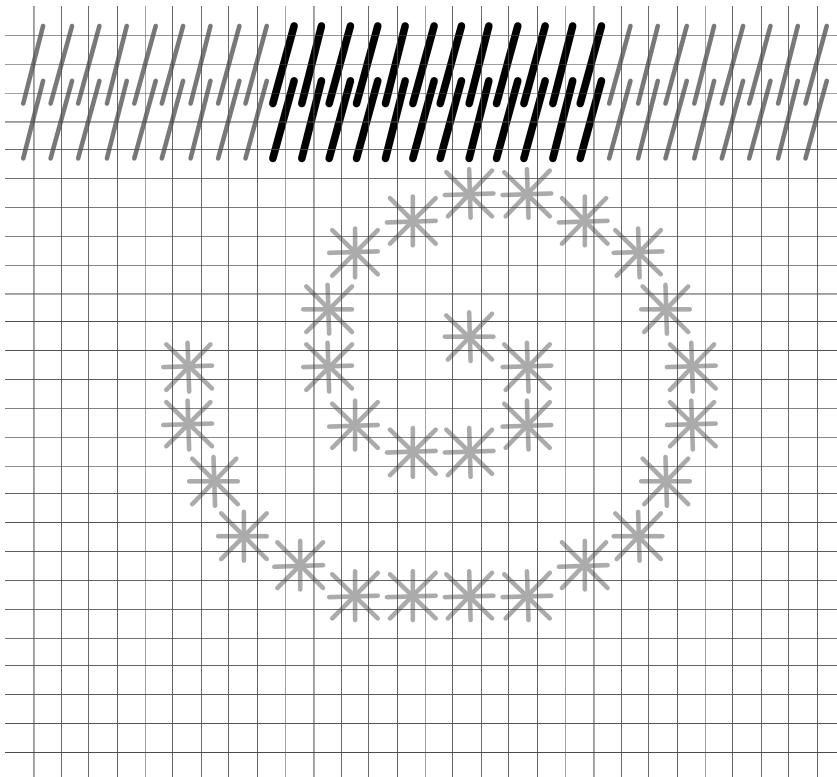


Stitches that are not vertical, horizontal, or on the true diagonal can be compensated, but it generally requires some modification of the stitch elements. This is illustrated in the diagram at left.

The two rows of black stitches shown are normal. The gray stitches represent compensation stitches. Straight stitches are used to fill the empty canvas spaces created by starting and ending the encroaching Gobelin pattern.

The row at the bottom is over two threads, and shows how to compensate this stitch if the design area ends short of a normal height row.

The thick black lines in the diagram below show the placement of the center background strip, which is worked in medium green Paternayan. Work this area from top to bottom, compensating as you work around the spiral.



As before, don't forget to rotate your canvas when you fill in the background of the other two spiral blocks.

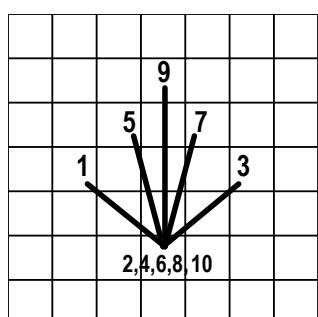
» Diamond Ray Stitch

Design area: Leaves and Stems block B, center motif

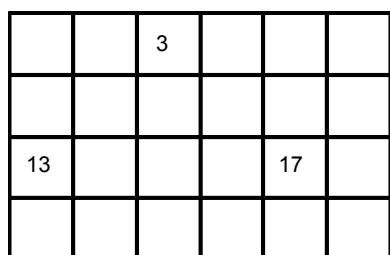
Thread: Pearl Cotton #746

Strands: 1

The Diamond Ray Stitch has a leaf-like appearance and works well to represent foliage and vegetation. When used to fill an area, it is moderately textured. As shown at left, all components of this stitch start at the perimeter and end in the same hole at the base of the stitch. Note that the elements are worked by alternating from side to side, which yields a more even appearance for the stitch.



This stitch is used in blocks #3, 13, and 17. The diagram below shows the placement of the leaves in the block. The stems were worked in Lesson Two using a Continental stitch. The * shows the placement of the waste knot, and the "1" indicates the start of the first Diamond Ray stitch.



Starting in block 13, work the top row of leaves from left to right carrying the thread on the back, and then work from right to left to finish the row of leaves below. Do the same for the second leaf/stem motif.

Don't forget to rotate your canvas when you stitch leaves in block #3.

