

Oak Leaves from a 15th C. Cushion: A Project in Canvas Work

Charted and Adapted by Sabrina de la Bere

The original detail is shown in [The Elizabethan Treasures: A Hardwick Hall Textiles](#) by Santina Levey. The piece is from a cushion that is worked with vertical rows of oak leaves. The thread is silk and the fabric linen canvas. The stitches used are long-arm cross stitch, cross stitch, plaited stitch, stem, satin and brick stitch. To give the work more definition, the stitches are worked in a variety of ever changing directions. In charting this pattern, it appears that having the stitches run in different directions caused several problems with executing the pattern and the stitcher resorted to using compensating stitches.

The Project:

Each chart is 40 squares wide and 45 high. The pattern can be altered by adding additional background color if you choose to square the pattern.

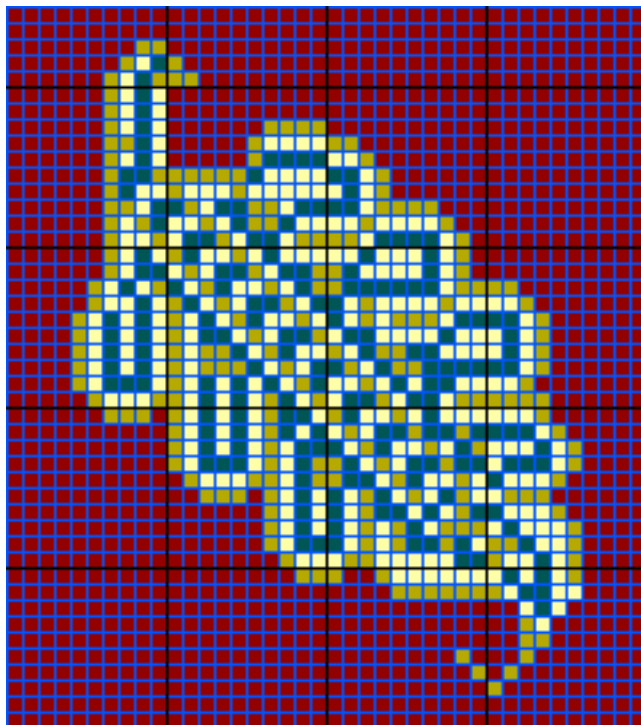
Materials & Order of Working the Project:

22 count Congress Cloth (a stiffened cotton base) & DMC Cotton Floss (silk may be substituted)

Use 2,3 or 4 strands of floss. - if doing tent stitch you may wish to use more strands to cover versus long arm cross where the stitch covers more. Test your stitches in the excess to determine your preference.

Do the design first then the background. It is sometimes easier to do the outline color first. Do all of one color before continuing on to the next color. On square in the pattern equals one intersection of crossed threads on the canvas.

You can choose to do 2 separate pieces or leave the pieces adjoining. Possible items to make are pin cushion, scissor fob or needlecase.. Or other possibilities as your imagination creates.



Stitches:

Choose the stitch you wish for each area of the piece. Tent stitch is very good for areas that are disconnected. Long arm cross stitch is good for filling larger areas and giving some definition to the pattern. Cross Stitch is good for giving some definition while still only covering one "square". The original combined all 3 so do not be afraid to experiment.

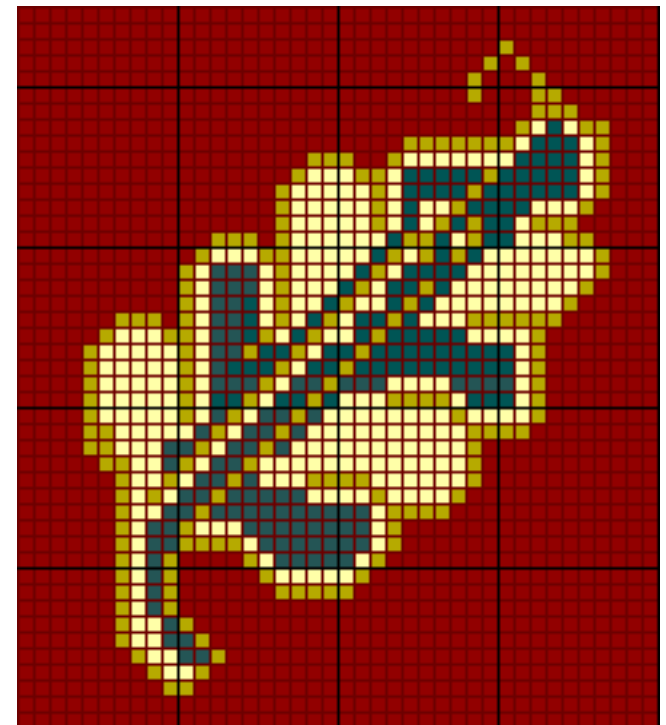
Colors:

Background: wine/rust
Leaf:
Pale Gold
Medium Dark Gold
Teal/Peacock

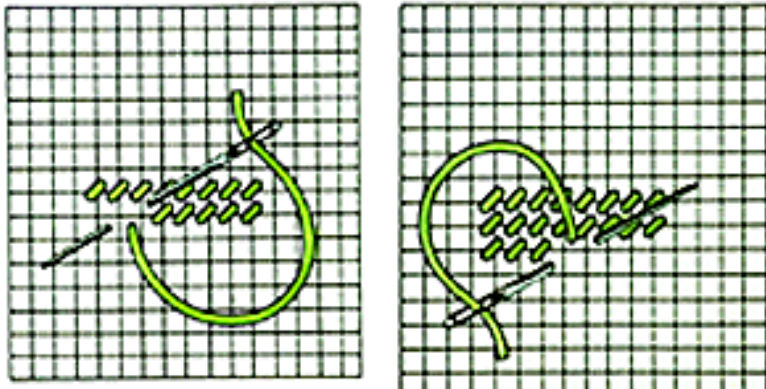
In one uncharted leaf there is another Gold - Medium Gold.

[Note that the color variations in the charts are meaningless. Unfortunately the charting program I used has very inconsistent color controls.]

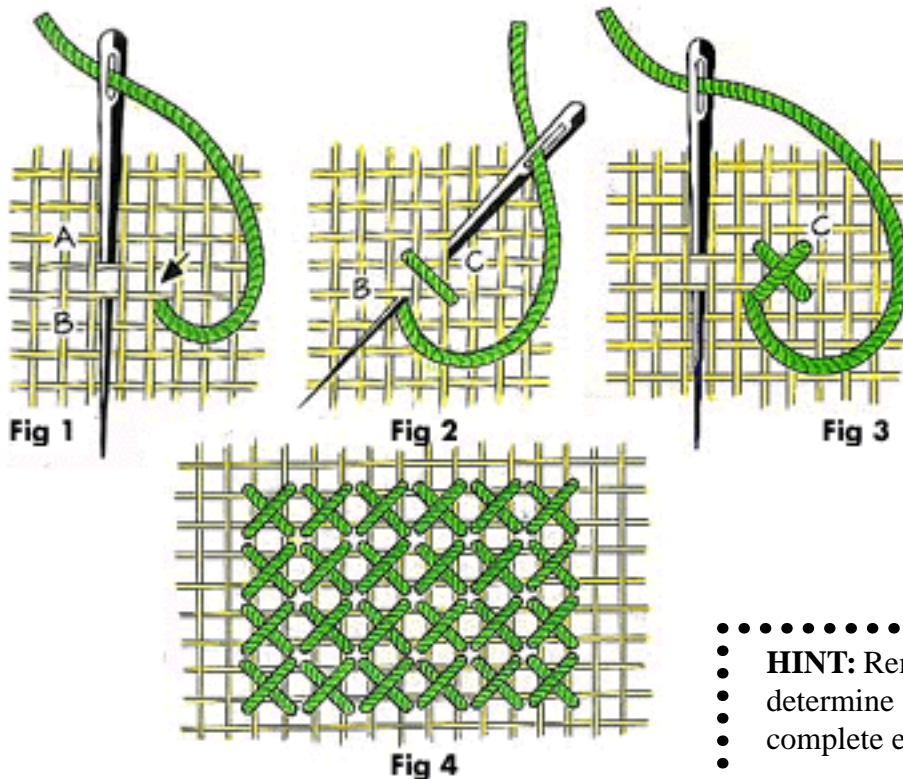
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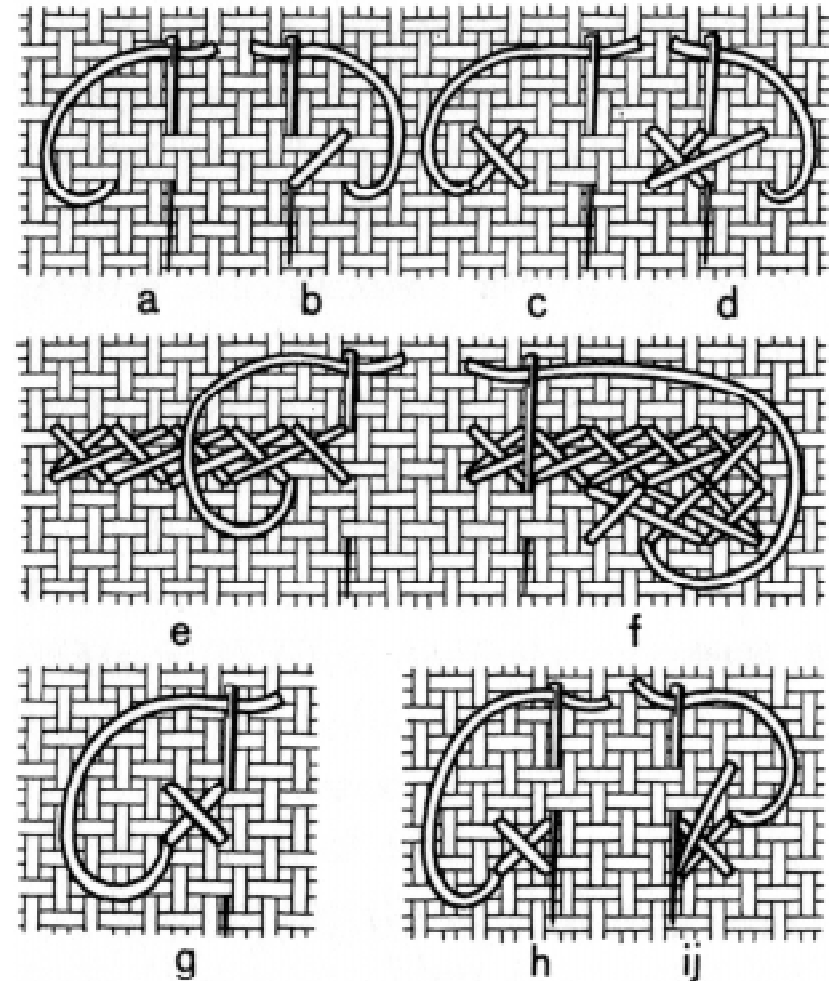
Tent Stitch: can be worked single stitch, right to left and left to right, up or down



Cross Stitch: a single stitch or multiple stitches all crosses as you go. All the crosses should be in the same direction. There are 8 different ways to make a X. Just be consistent in the manner you choose.



Long Arm Cross Stitch: This stitch gives double coverage and creates a woven like texture. In our example the direction was frequently changed to accommodate the flow of the thread color and to add definition to the piece. In the example below g-j show an example of long arm cross stitch where the long arm portion is over 3 versus a-f which shows the long arm over 2. Both are acceptable with the over 3 creating a tighter woven texture.



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 • **HINT:** Remember to test each stitch you wish to use with 2, 3 and 4 strands of floss to
 • determine the best choice for coverage. With canvaswork, the coverage should be
 • complete enough that the underlying canvas does NOT show.
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