

Christmas tree mat kits



Poinsettia Garland 5¼ ins (13.3cm) diam.
Kit £21.95



Snowy Village 4¾ ins (12cm) diam.
Kit £21.95



Christmas Cameos 5¼ ins (13.3cm) diam.
Kit £21.95



These Christmas tree mats will make your festive dollhouse scene just perfect!

The kits come with a piece of 32 count silk gauze, colour block chart, plenty of Anchor stranded cotton (use one strand), detailed instructions and a suitable needle.

The mat is glued and the gauze cut right up to the stitching, instead of being hemmed, so a fabric glue such as Fray Check is recommended to complete this kit. A bottle of Fray Check is £5.25 (see page 31 for details).

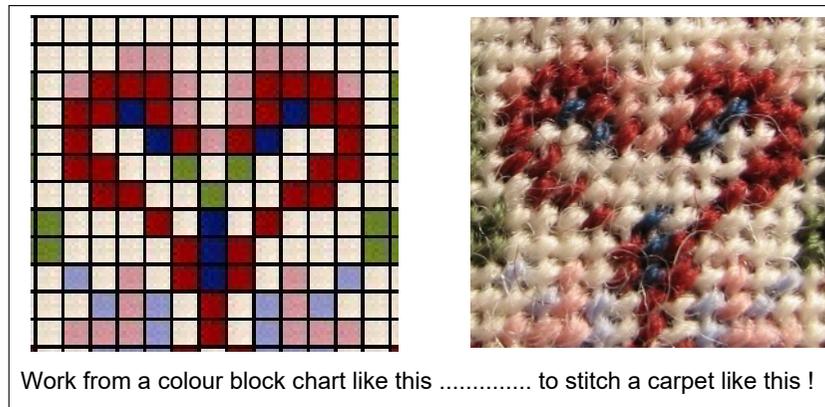
What is needlepoint?

'Needlepoint' is a simple embroidery technique which is sometimes called 'tapestry' or 'petit point' – the stitches used are the same, even if the names vary! When you do needlepoint, you use tent stitch and basketweave stitch – both of these, when your work is finished, look very similar to a half cross stitch; that is, the stitch is a slanting one that goes diagonally across an intersection of the base fabric or canvas. The difference between the needlepoint stitches of tent and basketweave, and that of half cross stitch, lies in the way the stitch is made, and the resulting way that the thread is taken across the back of your work.

FABRICS: The kits I produce use fabrics from 18 count canvas, through to 40 count silk gauze. The 'count' means the number of threads in each direction in a linear inch. For instance, 10 count fabric has 10 threads vertically and 10 threads horizontally to the square inch, and therefore 100 holes per square inch. By contrast, 18 count canvas has 18 threads vertically and 18 threads horizontally, and so has 324 holes per square inch. The finer the count, the smaller the holes, naturally, but that doesn't necessarily mean that a finer fabric will be more difficult to stitch on than a coarser one with a lower thread count. The technique for 'full size' and 'miniature' needlepoint is exactly the same – it's just that the thread count varies. For a list of which type of kit contains which count of fabric, see the table at the bottom of page 35.

FRAMES: You may find that, unless your tension is very light and even, a frame of some kind is helpful to prevent your work from stretching out of shape. A rectangular rotating frame is useful for working the carpet and wallhanging kits (for the smaller kits, you can hold the canvas without distorting it in the process of stitching it). A frame cut from thick mount board with an aperture large enough to take the fabric piece will be quite strong enough to work as a supporting structure for the evenweave or silk gauze.

COUNTING FROM THE CHARTS: All the kits come with a colour block chart to work from. The fabric itself is not printed. Using colour charts, rather than black and white symbol charts, makes it really easy to see which colour of thread to stitch where – three red squares in a row on the chart means stitch three red stitches in a row on the fabric – it's that easy!



Work from a colour block chart like this to stitch a carpet like this !

For more information on working needlepoint, hints and tips on using fine count fabrics, etc., see the 'Online Tutorials' page on our website at : www.janetgranger.co.uk/tutorials/