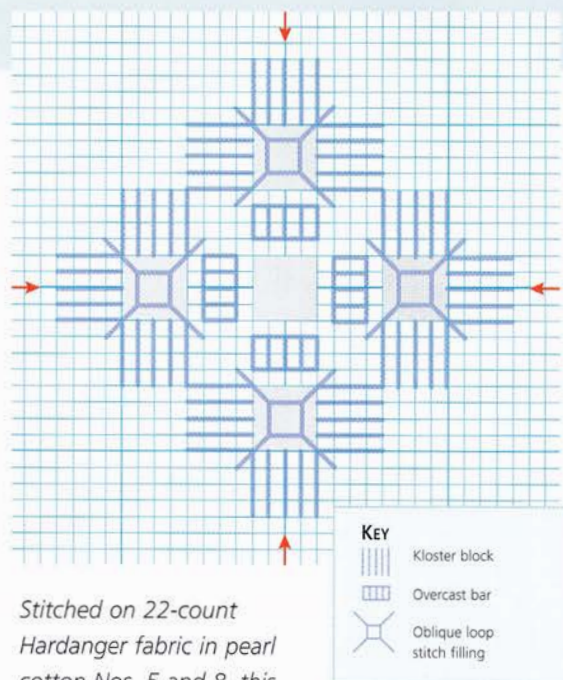


HARDANGER WORK

Hardanger work is named for the district in Norway where it originated. Geometric designs are formed by securing threads with blocks of satin stitch (called Kloster blocks), then cutting and drawing out certain threads to leave a grid, which may be decorated in various ways with 'bars' and 'fillings' to form intricate patterns.



Stitched on 22-count Hardanger fabric in pearl cotton Nos. 5 and 8, this motif measures 3 cm (1¼ in.) square. On 18-count fabric it would measure about 3.7 cm (1½ in.) square and on 25-count evenweave fabric, about 2.5 cm (1 in.) square.

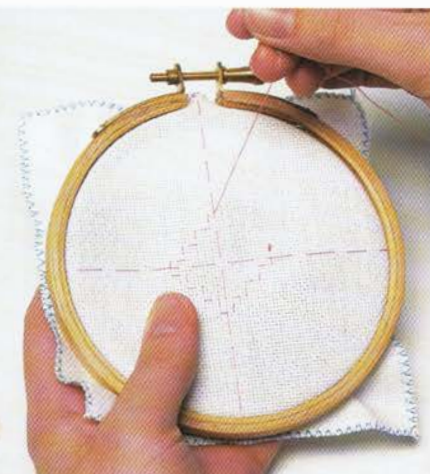
SUITABLE THREADS AND NEEDLES FOR HARDANGER WORK

A firm, rounded thread such as pearl cotton gives the best results with Hardanger work. Threads of two thicknesses are used, the heavier thread for the Kloster blocks and the finer thread for the bars and fillings. You can substitute other threads of equivalent thicknesses.

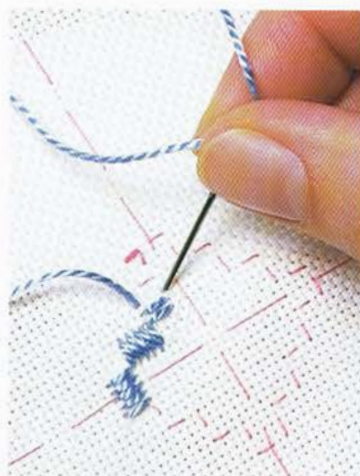
Fabric	Heavier thread: pearl cotton	Lighter thread: pearl cotton	Tapestry needle sizes
18-count Hardanger	No. 3	No. 5	20 and 22
20-count Hardanger	No. 5	No. 8	22 and 24
22-count Hardanger	No. 5	No. 8	22 and 24
25-count evenweave	No. 5	No. 8	24 and 26
27-count evenweave	No. 5	No. 8	24 and 26
32-count evenweave	No. 8	No. 12	24 and 26

NOTES

- Traditionally, Hardanger work is stitched in white thread on white linen. You can choose other colours, but a close match between fabric and threads gives the neatest appearance.
- Fabrics are specially woven for Hardanger work, the threads being smooth and easy to withdraw. Evenweave fabrics are also suitable for finer work.



STEP 1 Prepare the fabric for counted thread work and mount in a hoop or frame. Use coloured sewing thread to tack the outline of the design in small running stitches, indicating accurately the outside edge of the motif.



STEP 2 Use the heavier thread and larger tapestry needle to work the Kloster blocks around the area where threads will be cut and withdrawn. Begin with the waste-knot method at one corner of the shape and work clockwise around it. Make sure you match the direction of the stitches to the chart. Always bring the needle up through the fabric on the outer edge and insert it on the inner edge of each block. Avoid passing the thread across the back of unstitched fabric.



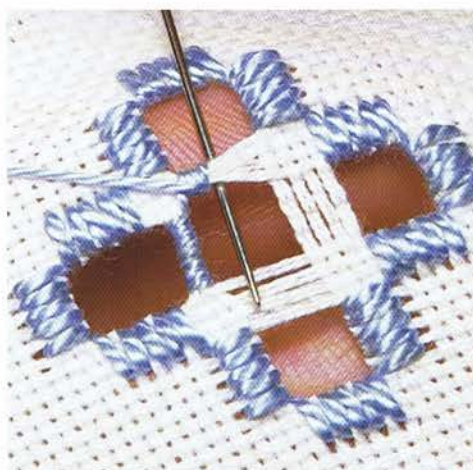
STEP 3 Some designs may include other satin stitch elements outside the main motif. If so, work these next with the same needle and thread. Gently pull out the tacked centre lines and outline. Secure each thread end along the back of four or five blocks.



STEP 5 Use tweezers to gently pull out the cut threads. First pull out all the cut threads in one direction, one by one. Then pull out all the cut threads in the opposite direction, leaving a grid of uncut threads.



STEP 4 Use small, sharp embroidery scissors for cutting threads. At the base of a block, inside the shape, cut through those threads that run in the same direction as the stitches. For each Kloster block of five stitches, there will be four double threads to cut. Cut each thread in turn, very carefully, as close as possible to the stitches: insert the scissor point under a double thread and bring the point out again before closing the scissors. Then cut through the same four threads at the base of the opposite Kloster block. Work around the shape until all the required threads have been cut.



STEP 6 Use the finer thread and smaller needle to work the bars and fillings. It is best to begin in one corner and work diagonally up and down the design. Here, the bars are being overcast before adding the fillings.

SEE ALSO

Preparing fabric for counted thread work page 14
 Running stitch page 84
 Kloster blocks page 96
 Satin stitch page 110
 Overcast bars page 97
 Oblique loop stitch filling page 101



STEP 7 Work the filling stitches last. Press the embroidery when complete.

PROJECT 7 TRINKET BOX

A Hardanger star makes a lovely motif for this ceramic trinket box.

FINISHED SIZE to fit box with 89 mm (3½ in.) diameter lid

MATERIALS

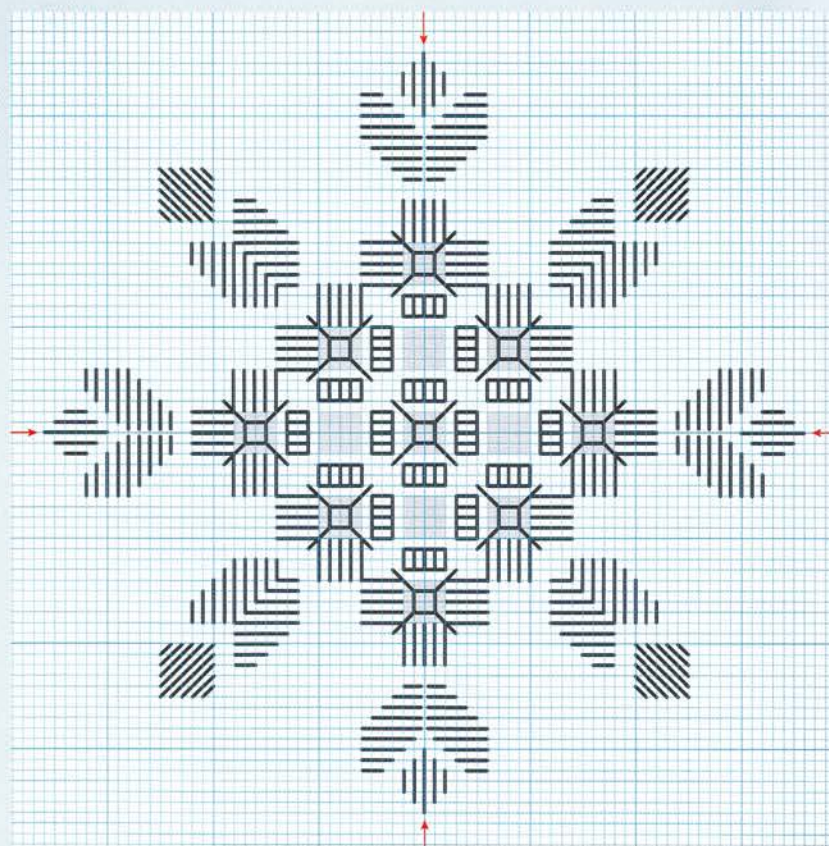
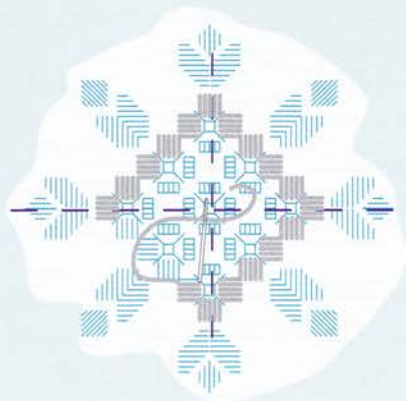
- Ceramic trinket box with 89 mm (3½ in.) lid, designed for mounting embroidery
- 22-count Hardanger fabric in white, 12.5 x 12.5 cm (5 x 5 in.) or larger to fit hoop
- Embroidery hoop
- Pearl cotton thread size 5: approximately 3.5 m (4 yards) white
- Pearl cotton thread size 8: approximately 2.8 m (3 yards) white, or substitute 0.9 m (1 yard) stranded cotton embroidery floss
- Tapestry needles, sizes 22 and 24
- Backing fabric, such as medium-weight silk, 12.5 x 12.5 cm (5 x 5 in.)
- Sewing equipment: water-soluble fabric pen, very small sharp scissors, sharp sewing needle, white sewing thread, contrasting sewing thread
- Iron
- Anti-fray solution

EMBROIDERY NOTES

Hardanger work is traditionally stitched in white (or cream) thread on white (or cream) fabric. Choose any contrasting colour for the backing fabric, to suit the colour of your box. You can also choose a different colour for the thread. This makes the stitches easier to see, but if the thread colour is a strong contrast, the ends of the cut threads will be noticeable. Choose a pastel shade for white or cream fabric. Follow the Hardanger guidelines on page 48.

ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS

STEP 1 Tack the centre lines on the Hardanger fabric using contrasting sewing thread. Mount the fabric in an embroidery hoop. Tack the design outline, then use the size 5 pearl cotton to work all the Kloster blocks clockwise as shown.




KEY

 Kloster blocks

 Overcast bar

 Oblique loop stitch filling

 Satin stitch motif

 Satin stitch motif

STEP 2 Use the same thread to work all the satin stitch motifs around the edge. Between motifs, pass the thread along the wrong side of the Kloster blocks.

