

Happy Birthday Jesus! Tabletopper



If you have any questions about this design, please contact:

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Thank you and happy stitching!

Materials Needed

Fabric: Anne Cloth 18 ct. antique white 9 square tabletopper
 Size: Stitch count 179 x 179, approximately 22 x 22 inches
 Needles: #22 tapestry needle, #24 tapestry needle

Thread needed to complete this project:

DMC size 5 pearl cotton

Symbol	Color	Where used	Symbol	Color	Where used
■	319	trees, bows, cake plate, candles	▣	543	cake
✕	320	packages, cake plate	✕	783	corner stars
×	321	bows, cake plate	●	815	cake, packages
○	327	words, candles			

Caron Watercolours

✦ 032 Passion Herringbone stitch border & Cross stitch packages

DMC Size 12 pearl cotton

TTT 699 green for the Nun stitched edge

▨ denotes the woven border of the Anne Cloth

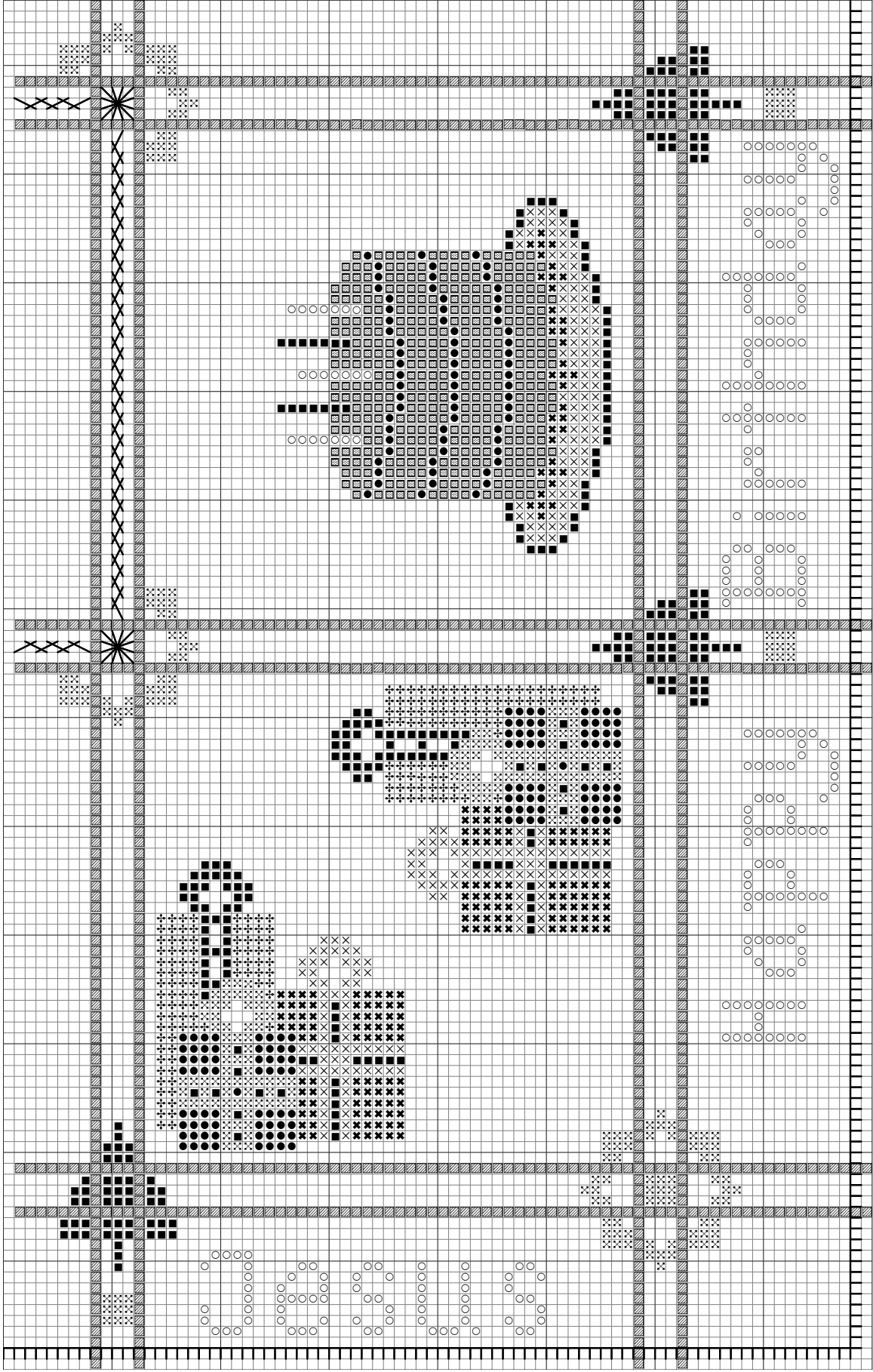
This project is stitched over two threads using one strand of size 5 pearl cotton or one ply of the three ply Caron Watercolours thread with a #22 tapestry needle. The fabric is a 9 square cut of 18 count Anne Cloth by Zweigart. The main pattern chart is graphed so that each box represents two threads. The stitch diagrams are graphed over one thread. This design uses Cross stitch as well as Herringbone, Pulled Eyelet, and Nun stitch. The Pulled Eyelet and Herringbone stitches in the top border are done with one ply of Caron Watercolours 032 Passion. Complete the Pulled Eyelet stitches as you work the Herringbone border. When working with the Caron Watercolours thread, complete each Cross stitch as you go for best color flow. Start the design placement for each square and border by counting from between the woven border edge and the first thread. Each square in the Anne Cloth will allow 45 x 45 "over two" stitches from the woven edge. Stitch on the side of the Anne Cloth where the woven borders are solid.

The easy way to stitch this tabletopper

Stitch the tabletopper by sides, just as you see it on the graph. Begin stitching with the two packages to the left of the cake in the left corner square. Next stitch the middle square with the cake. Then stitch the two packages to the right of the cake. Complete the bottom left star before stitching the words *Happy Birthday Jesus!* across the bottom of the three squares on the side. Complete the trees at the bottom of the middle square. At the top of the middle square, work the partial left star and then the Herringbone border and Pulled Eyelet stitches. Turn the piece 1/4 turn and repeat. You will see your stitches crossed in the same direction as you complete each side, but your stitches will not technically cross all in the same direction when looking at the entire finished piece. I believe that a tabletopper stitched by sides does not take away from the quality of the needlework. If you stitch your tabletopper this way you will have fun and enjoy the piece.

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Left Corner Square

Middle Square

Right Corner Square

It is my belief that - if Jesus wasn't born then Santa wouldn't have a job. The gifts we give are birthday gifts. Christmas is the celebration of the birth of Jesus. So, lets stitch a tabletopper design to wish the "reason for the season" all the best on His special day.

Happy Birthday Jesus!

Claudia

Nun Stitched Edge

The Nun stitch is a finishing stitch that, when completed, will keep your piece from unraveling. It is a pulled stitch done using one strand of size 12 pearl cotton with a #24 tapestry needle. The Nun stitch looks like a backward "C". It is an "over two" stitch. See the stitch diagram for instruction and the pattern chart for placement.

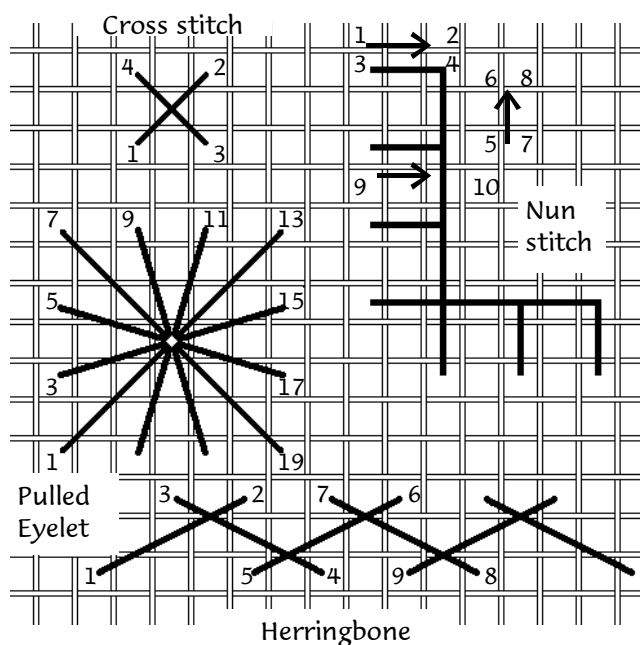
The arrows on the stitch diagram are for stitch direction only.

Begin by pulling out the fifth thread beyond the bottom of the Y in *Happy and Birthday*. This will leave two threads between the border edge and the inside edge of your Nun stitch. The "ditch", the vacant thread track, will mark the outer boundary for your Nun stitch. Begin stitching on the upper left side with the front of the tabletopper facing you. Bring your thread up in the "ditch" to start. When you reach the woven borders of the Anne Cloth, treat them as if they are two threads. When you arrive at the corner, turn the fabric one quarter turn clockwise. The back of the "C" now becomes the top of the "C" on the new side.

Fringing the tabletopper

Pull out the 10th thread on the outside of the finished Nun stitched edge. Use this as a cutting guide to even up the fabric so that all four edges will be the same width. Fringe by pulling out the long threads parallel to the Nun stitched edge.

Stitch Diagrams



Acknowledgments

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 Watercolours thread from
 The Caron Collection LTD
 Anne Cloth from Zweigart

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