

Bristol Ornaments 2020

stitched on perforated paper



The motifs used here were adapted from
Bristol orphan samplers.

Dutch Treat Designs

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Bristol Ornaments 2020 - Materials list

The finished size of each ornament is 3.5" wide x 3.5" tall.

Material

Perforated paper white 14 count - size 9" x 12" One sheet will make all 6 sides.


Threads

Red is the traditional color for stitching anything Bristol. You can use a solid or variegated red for every motif on any side. Any color similar to DMC 498 or 815 works well as a solid Bristol red. DMC 115 works well for a variegated red. The models shown in this PDF were stitched in red, green, and gold to make them look a little more like Christmas. Any solid or variegated red, Christmas green, or bright gold thread will work for stitching this set.

For Cross stitch - use 2-3 plies of embroidery floss or one strand of size 8 Pearl Cotton. Size 8 Pearl Cotton was used for the Cross stitch in the models.

Symbol	Color		Symbol	Color	
✕	red	DMC 498	✚	gold	DMC 783
●	green	DMC 3345			

For the Running Stitch Border

 Shown as a red line on the charts

Thread - use DMC embroidery floss 498

Use 1 ply of floss for the Marking Pass (the first pass)

Use 1 ply of floss for the Binding Pass (the second pass to assemble the ornament)

Additional Materials Needed

Needles: size 24 or 26 tapestry needle

Ribbon to hang the ornament - you will need an 8" - 10" length per ornament

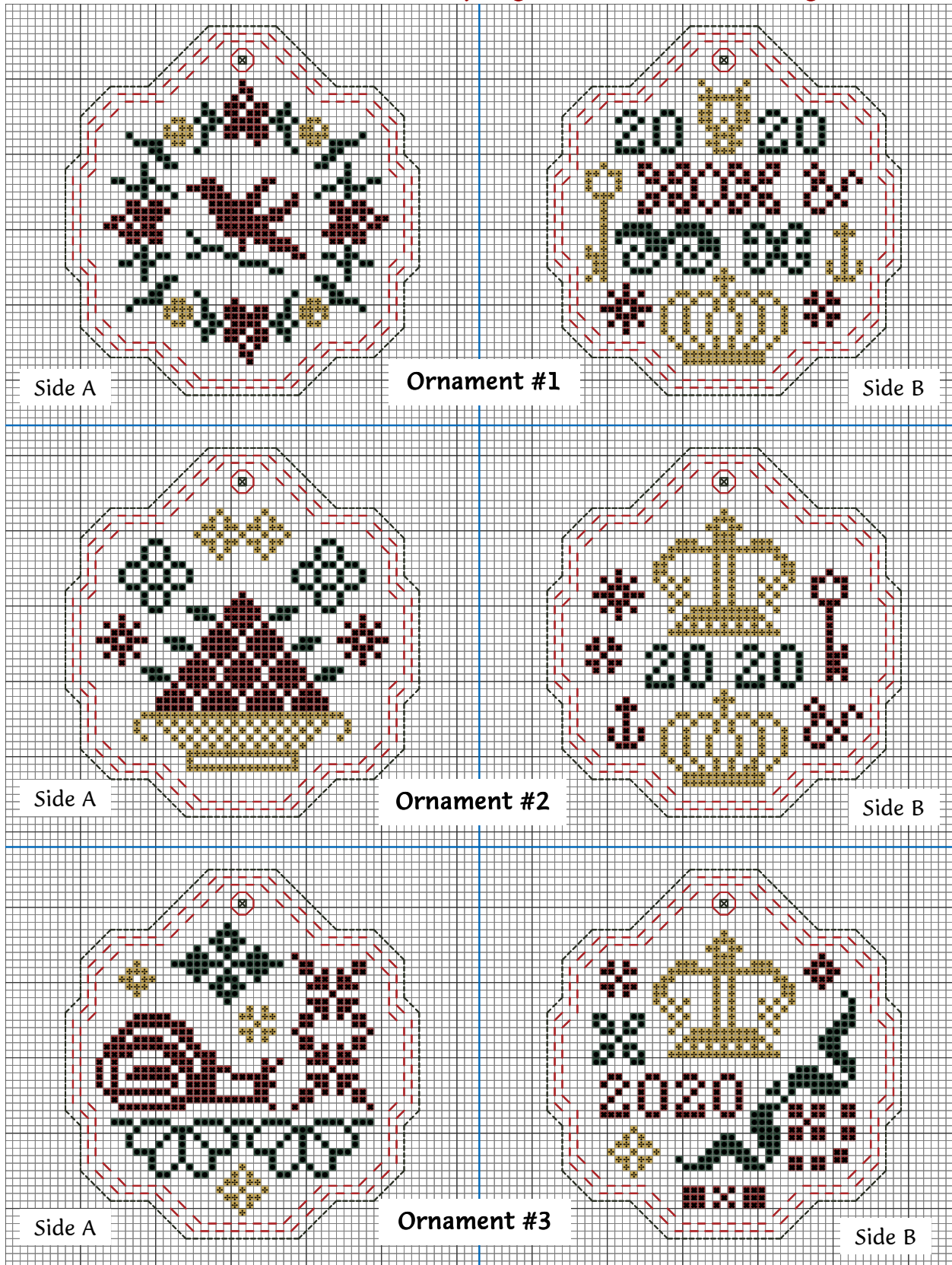
Optional - light weight cardboard to put between the pieces

Basic Stitching Instructions

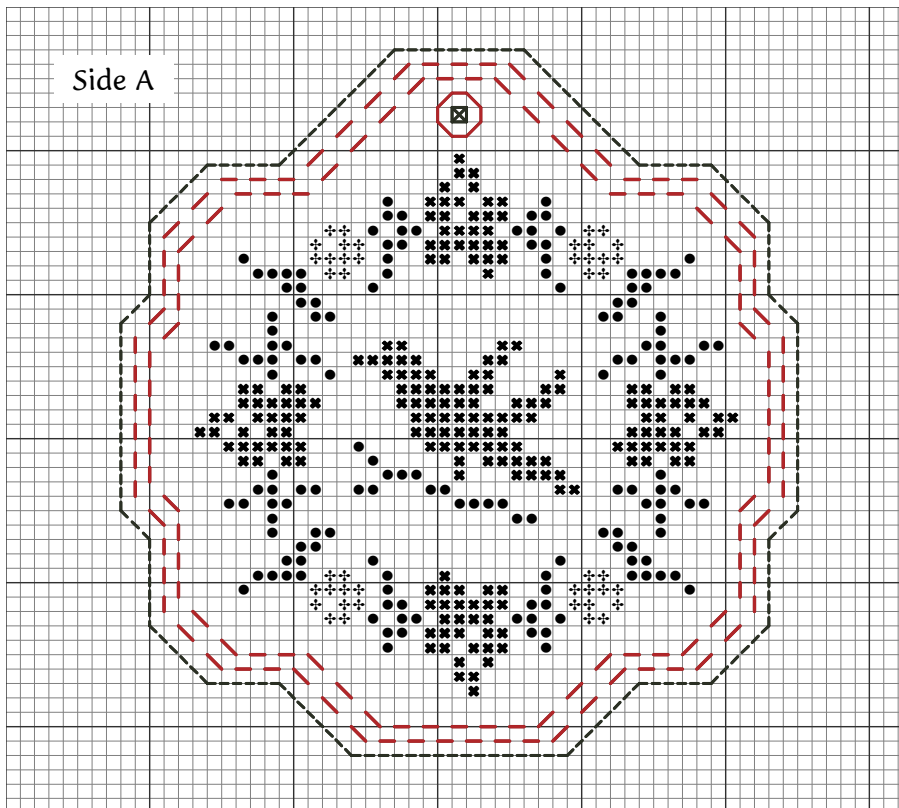
These designs are worked with Cross stitch, Back stitch, and Running stitch. A Running stitch is used to define the shape of the ornament and to assemble the pieces.

- Work the Marking Pass of the Running Stitch Border first using 1 ply of floss.
- Work the design in Cross stitch using 2-3 plies of floss or one strand of size 8 PC.
- Back stitch around the area at the top of each piece which will be the hanging hole for the ribbon using 2 plies of floss. Use the loop method for working with your two strands of floss. When you have circled the entire opening, secure the loose end on the back side of each piece and cut away the excess thread. To make the hole you will cut away the paper where the black ✕ symbol is shown inside the hole on the charts.
- The **broken black lines** on the chart show where to cut away the excess paper after the design and the first pass of the Running Stitch Border (RSB) are both completed.

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The location of all 6 pieces on a 9" x 12" piece of perforated paper. The [blue lines](#) show where to cut the paper into 6 pieces - 4.5" wide by 4" tall.



Ornament 1

The symbolism behind why these motifs were chosen for this set of ornaments:

Bristol Bird - a common motif in multicolored Bristol samplers. It has only been seen in orphan samplers.

Key - may you have wisdom in this unsettled time.

Lyre - may the music of Christmas refresh your soul.

Anchor - may you have hope during this holiday season.

Small crown - you have the power to make the decisions that can change your life.

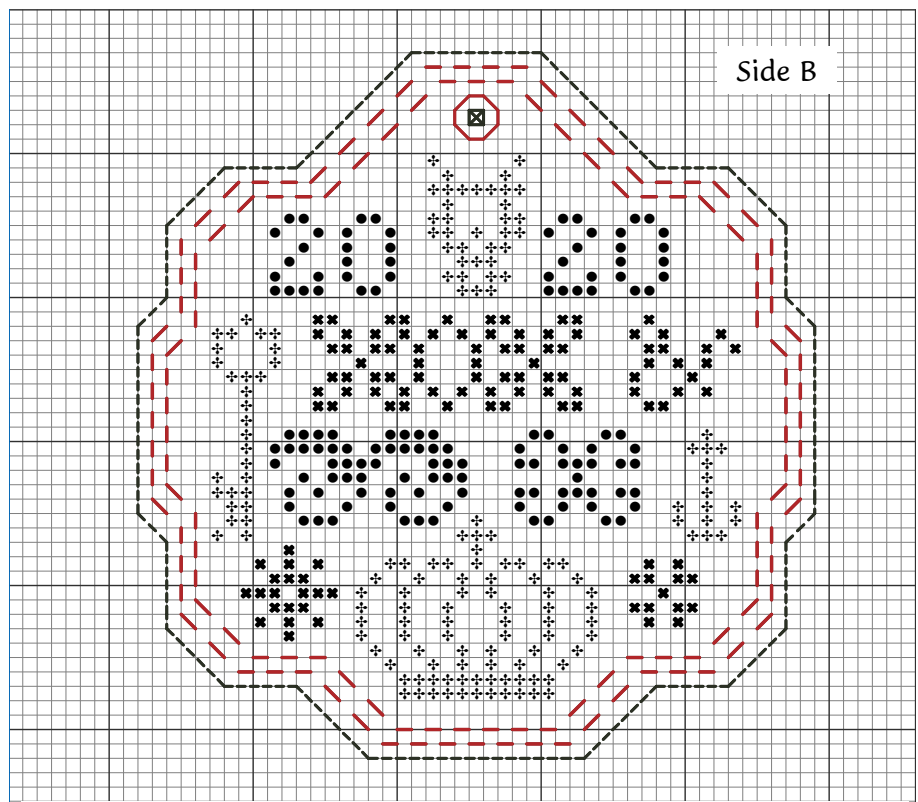
Running Stitch Border

The location of the Running Stitch Border (RSB) is shown in **red** on the chart.

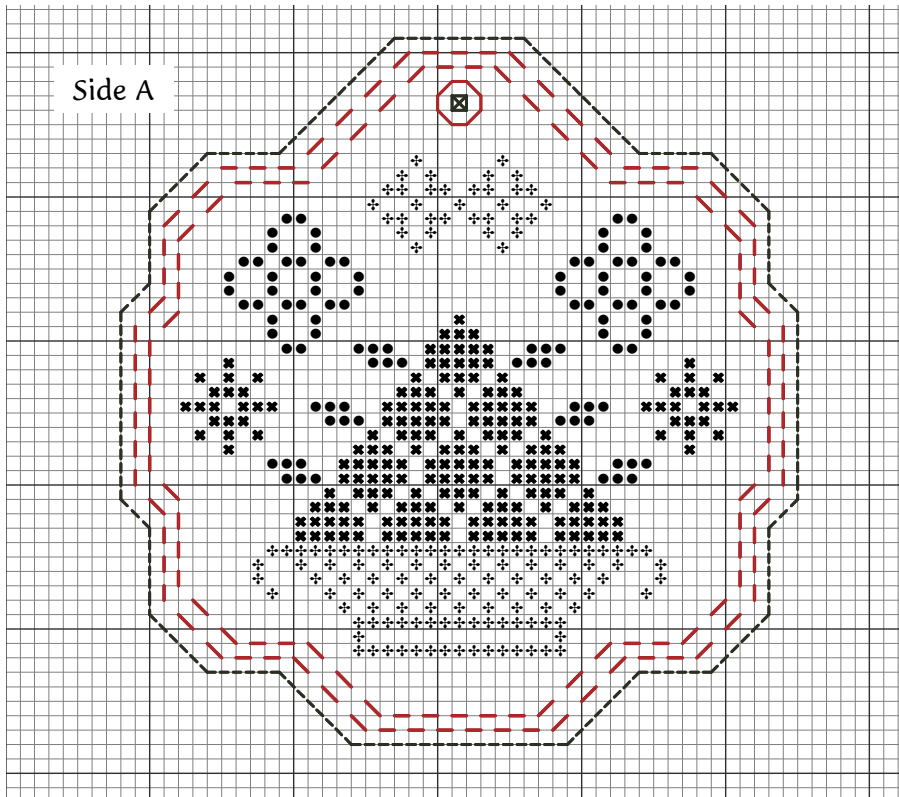
Please note that the location of the RSB is not the same for each side.

The border is used to define the edge of each piece and to bind the pieces together, so be sure to follow the chart. You will need to stitch a side A and a side B Running Stitch Border pattern for each ornament.

The RSB is actually stitched twice. Why twice? It is easier to match up the pieces when you are stitching them together if you have something in place to stitch over.



Design and Instructions
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Ornament 2

The symbolism behind why these motifs were chosen for this set of ornaments:

Fruit basket - may you have food for your family.

Key - may you have wisdom in this unsettled time.

Anchor - may you have hope during this holiday season.

Bird - may your animal companions give you comfort.

Large crown - just know that God has a plan and is near.

Small crown - you have the power to make the decisions that can change your life.

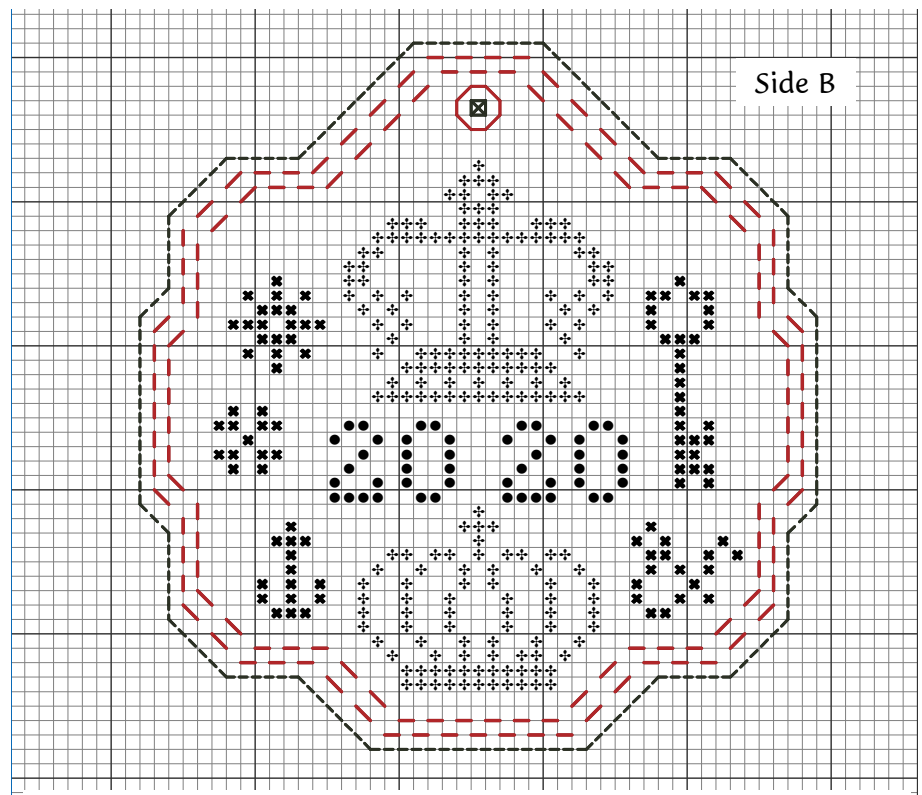
Running Stitch Border

The location of the Running Stitch Border (RSB) is shown in **red** on the chart.

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The border is used to define the edge of each piece and to bind the pieces together, so be sure to follow the chart. You will need to stitch a side A and a side B Running Stitch Border pattern for each ornament.

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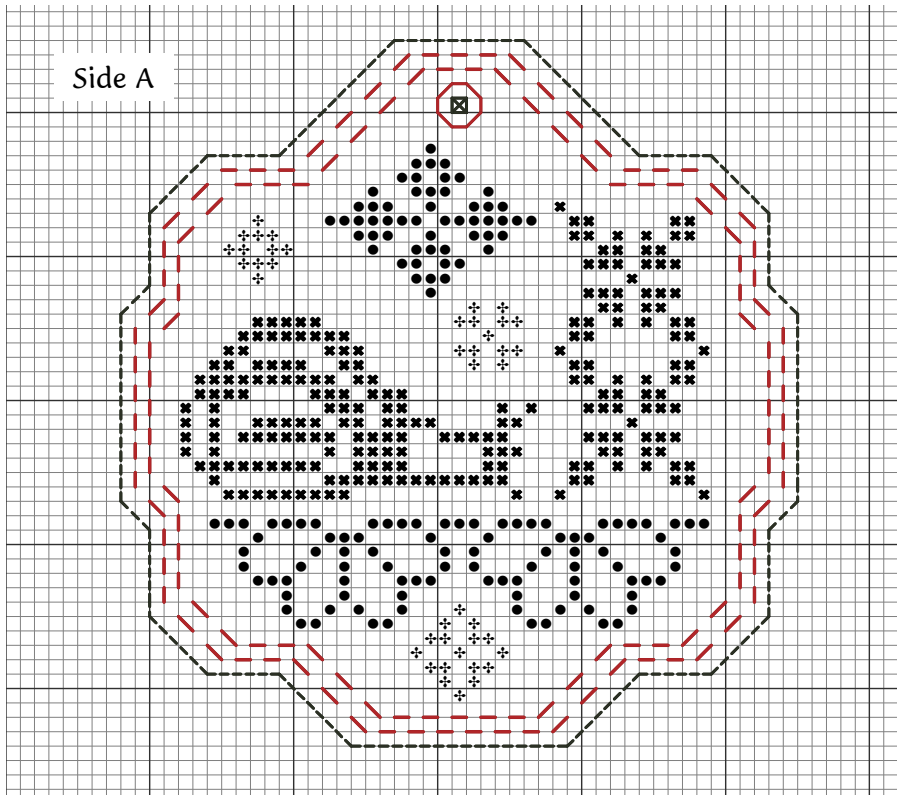
Ornament 3

The symbolism behind why these motifs were chosen for this set of ornaments:

Snail - this year 2020 has been unusual, to say the least. It has gone by way too slow for many people. The snail is also a symbol of perseverance.

Large crown - just know that God has a plan and is near.

All of the other small motifs used in all these ornament designs were taken from designs stitched in original antique Bristol orphan samplers.



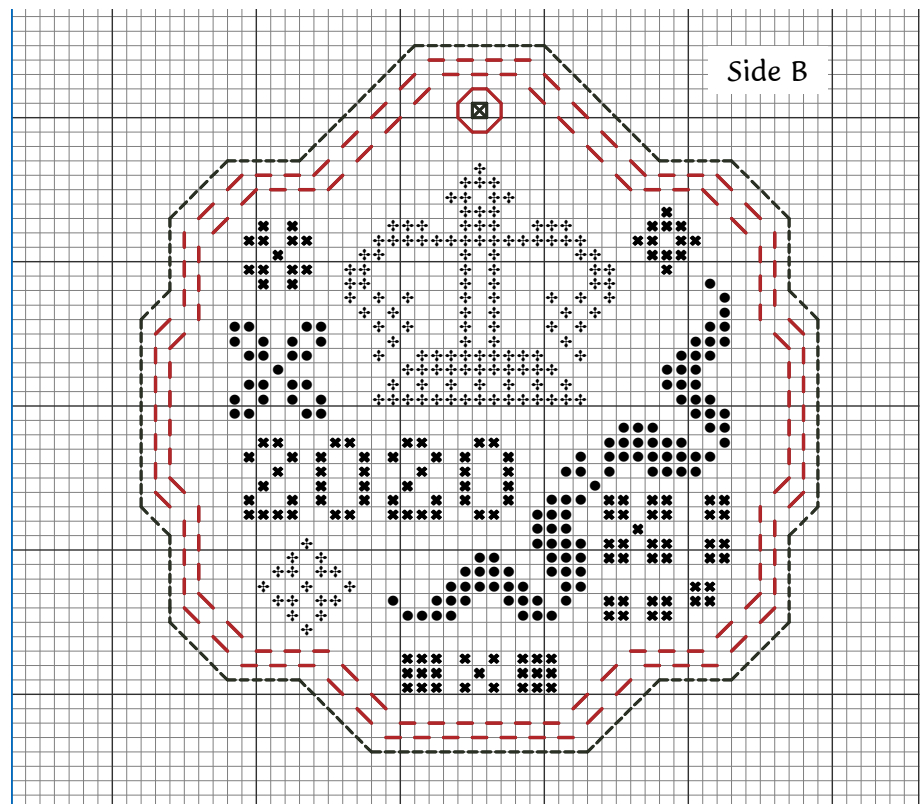
Running Stitch Border

The location of the Running Stitch Border (RSB) is shown in **red** on the chart.

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The border is used to define the edge of each piece and to bind the pieces together, so be sure to follow the chart. You will need to stitch a side A and a side B Running Stitch Border pattern for each ornament.

The RSB is actually stitched twice. Why twice? It is easier to match up the pieces when you are stitching them together if you have something in place to stitch over.



Finishing the Ornaments

After both sides are completely stitched, cut away any excess perforated paper where the broken black lines are shown on the chart. Cut out the hanging hole on the top of each side before putting the pieces together.

Optional - If you would like the ornaments to be more sturdy, cut a piece of lightweight cardboard so that it fits between the two sides. The shape shown here is what was used between the two sides for the models. Shown is the suggested placement of the cardboard against the back of one stitched side.

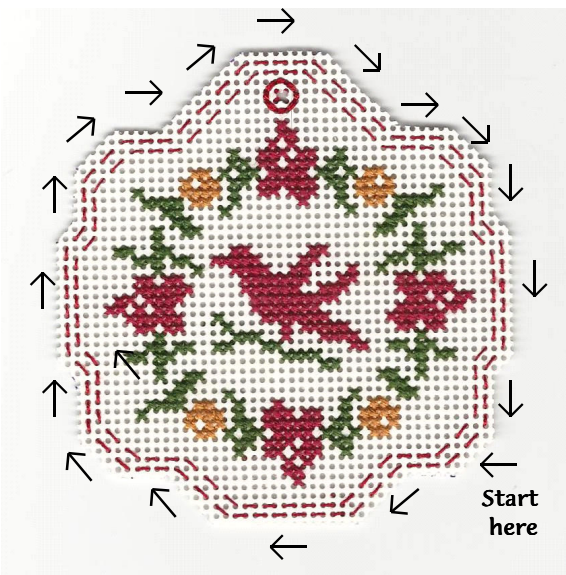


Enjoy stitching your Bristol ornaments on Bristol card!

Assembling the Ornaments

Stitch the pieces together by repeating the Running Stitch Border. Having the border already stitched shows you where your repeat stitches will go and hides your assembly stitching. You are going to use 1 strand of floss and repeat the same stitches you did before, going over the top of the already stitched border. Make sure that the holes on both of the paper pieces are matched up before you stitch the two sides together.

Start at the bottom on one side. Leave a 4" tail when you start. Work up from the bottom, repeating your Running Stitch Border, covering the same stitches that are already in place. Begin by duplicating the outside row of the Running Stitch Border. Work all the way around until you reach the place where you started. Use a new length of embroidery floss for the inside Running stitch row. Finish stitching the complete circle and bury the 1 ply of floss by continuing the RSB beyond where you started. The picture below suggests where to start the Binding pass of the Running Stitch Border.



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Acknowledgments

Embroidery floss from The DMC Corporation
Perforated paper from Wichelt Imports

If you have any questions about the instructions or the materials used for this set, please contact Claudia@dutchtreat.com.

Stitching on Perforated Paper

Historically, perforated paper has often been called **Bristol card**. Stitching on paper is different than stitching on fabric. Paper cannot be bent and must be stitched flat. For this project the piece of paper that you will stitch on is small enough to hold in your hand. There is a right and a wrong side to paper. Stitch on the side of the paper that is smooth.

Stitching ornaments on paper allows the stitcher to finish an ornament with different shapes and techniques that could not be used for fabric ornaments. The shape of these ornaments was chosen on purpose to show you a different option for finishing this set that is unique to working on perforated paper.

Why stitch Bristol sampler designs on perforated paper?

When you hear the term Bristol Sampler, I hope most of you will think of the intricate fabric samplers that were stitched by orphan girls during the mid to late 1800's when they were living in George Müller's orphanage in Bristol, England. Most often these samplers were stitched using one color of red thread. Red is the perfect color for Christmas stitching. You might be asking - "Why are we doing ornaments on perforated paper using Bristol sampler motifs? Did the girls in the orphanage ever stitch on paper?"

The answer is YES, they did stitch on paper. They worked on perforated paper to learn how to do basic needlework skills. They made needlebooks, bookmarks, stamp holders, and other things on paper that were sold to raise money for the orphanage. The perforated paper, AKA punched paper, that was made in the mid 1800's had many more holes per inch punched in it than the paper we have available today. The paper the orphan girls stitched on had about 22 - 24 holes per inch. The popularity and availability of perforated paper as an affordable material for needlework lasted from 1850 - 1900.

Sadly, no Victorian ornaments stitched on paper, or antique patterns for paper Christmas ornaments, have yet been found. Perforated paper has been used by stitchers for making Christmas ornaments since it became available again starting in the 1980's.

I hope you enjoy this Bristol ornament set stitched on **Bristol card** AKA perforated paper.

Claudia Dutcher Kistler is a needlework designer, and a historian and collector of perforated paper needlework and Bristol orphan samplers. Her love of both of these types of needlework inspired this set of ornaments.

To see the variety of the many types of antique Bristol orphan samplers, from which the designs used in this set were adapted, please visit Bristolsamplers.com

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