

STITCHING BOOK CLUB



December 2023

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What's In the Hoop?

'Tis the season for some festive stitching!

I've made it no secret that I love holiday stitching and Christmas is no exception! Holiday berries are some of my favorite motifs to stitch, so of course I had to add them to my design from last year, *Happy Holidays*.

This is a fast easy stitch that has the added delight of stitching on yummy tea/coffee dyed fabric—dyeing instructions included!

Contents

- Color of the Month
- Holiday Sale!
- “Peace and Comfort” Freebee

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A MESSAGE FROM YOUR HOST

Peace on earth and good will toward men...

I usually try to keep these newsletters very upbeat, but the unavoidable truth of it is that this past month has been a difficult one for me. If you follow me on social media, you know that I unfortunately had a run-in with covid which had me completely out for well over a week. Physically that took a heavy toll on me and, as is common, triggered yet another painful flare of my chronic health issues. Currently I am in a pretty bad way. It's always difficult to tell how long these flares will last, but I think this one is going to be here for awhile.

On top of my physical struggles, I also had to experience the difficult process of saying goodbye to one of my beloved kitties. It's never easy to see one of your pets cross the rainbow bridge, but it's even harder when it is an unexpected loss.

In all, I would be lying if I said I haven't found it hard to stay focused and motivated over the past few weeks. I had plans to reveal the big project that I have been working on during Thanksgiving, but I was nowhere close to having it ready. I thought I would shift the timeline and try to make it for Christmas, but I think it's a more achievable goal if I push it back to the New Year.

With all that said, you will find that this month's newsletter has been stripped down to the bare bones. I hate to have done it, but I learned a long time ago that pushing yourself past your limits when you are struggling either physically or mentally, is never going to get you anywhere. The members of this group have always been so encouraging for me to put my health first, and I will continue to do so.

This is not the joyous holiday message that I was hoping to share this year, but the truth is, many people struggle during this month in particular. And with the world in its current state of deep unrest, it's understandable if this year is particularly hard for you. I would like to extend a deep and warm hug of understanding and comradery to those of you who are finding it hard to keep a smile.

The freebee this month is an easy and relaxing stitch that will hopefully bring some of you peace and comfort. Please remember to take some time for yourself during the holiday chaos and go easy on yourself if you need to take a step back and let some things slide. Happy holidays, whatever that may mean to you, and I will see you in the New Year.



A Christmas Carol bonus patterns.

Happy stitching! Love, Kristin Ashley

While there may be a DMC floss called “Christmas Green”, there are so many shades of green that work well for the festive season.

I chose DMC 937, Avocado Green - medium, for this month’s freebee because I wanted something very classic but somewhat toned down. DMC 937 is the perfect play on traditional Christmas Green but with a more aged, muted impact.

Color of the Month

“Avocado Green - med”

DMC 937



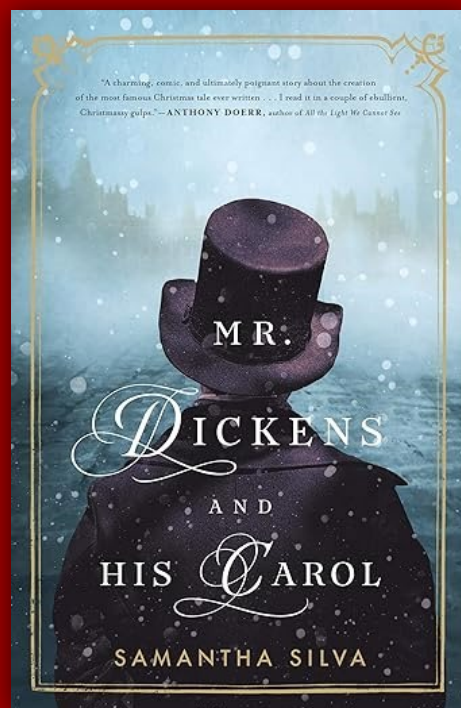
DECEMBER BOOK RECOMMENDATION

We all know the story of *A Christmas Carol*. But what about the story of the story?

Samantha Silva’s novel *Mr. Dickens and His Carol*, gives us a fictionalized look into Charles Dickens’s life during the days that would inspire him to write his classic novel.

Beautifully written and invoking all the charm of the classics themselves, this novel is a stunning read that is sure to put you in the holiday spirit. It’s also a pretty quick read, so it’s easy to make your way through it despite all our busy schedules and holiday festivities.

As much as we all love the classics themselves, I am always intrigued by the idea of the authors’ lives becoming the story. Their lives were often as interesting as their works. And while novels like this one are fictional, I think so long as they are based in fact, they help to give greater depth to our understand of the author’s written words and works.



HOLIDAY SALE

Available at sappirehandcrafts.etsy.com



DECEMBER

8 - 31

30% OFF ALL
DIGITAL
PATTERNS
EXCLUDES ANNE OF GREEN
GABLES



Peace and Comfort



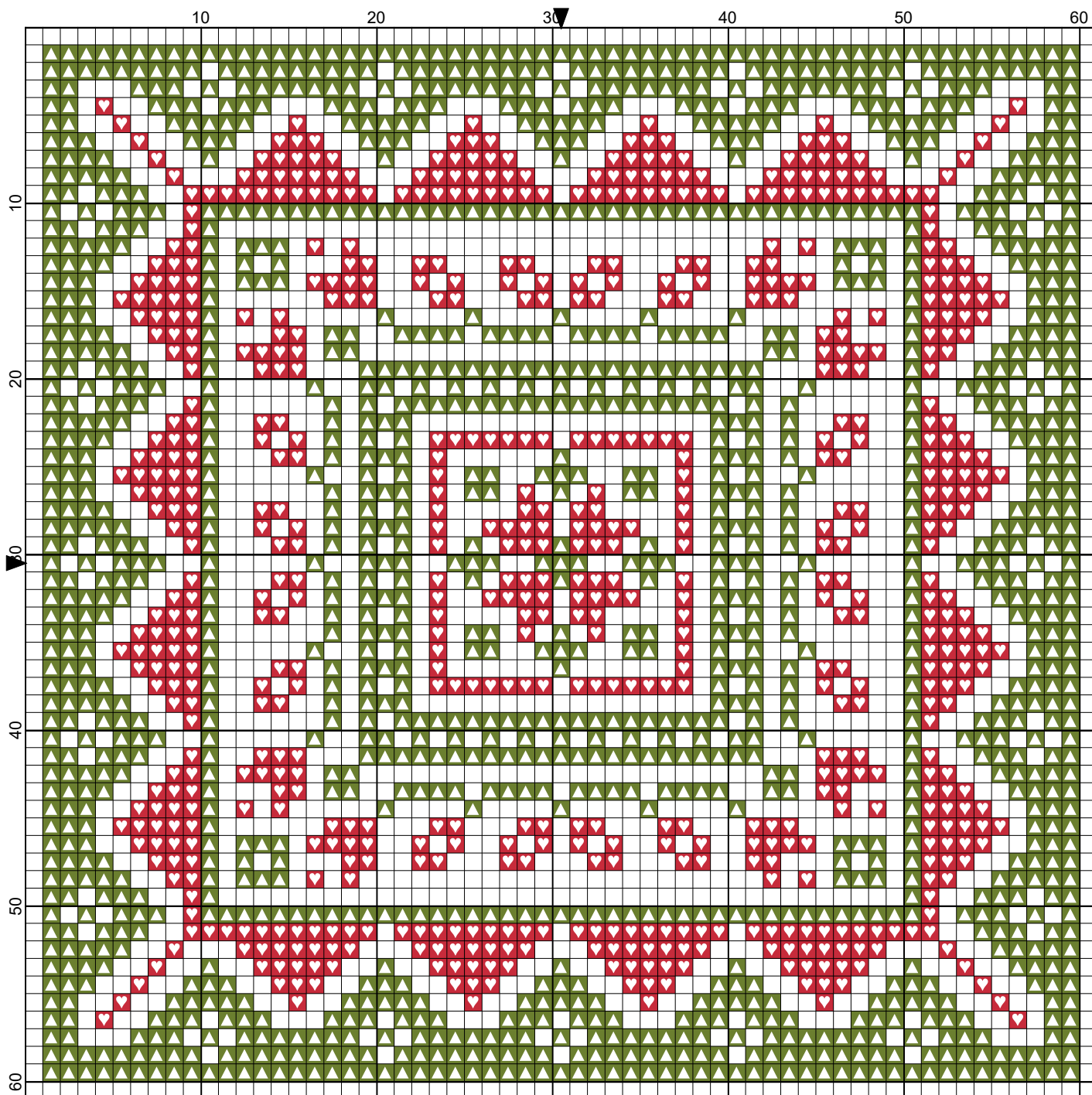
Materials:

Fabric: 8 inch X 8 inch for 14 count or 28 count 2 over 2. Model is stitched on 28 count Ivory evenweave by Zweigart. The design area for this pattern is 59 X 59 stitches.

Legend (2 strands of floss):

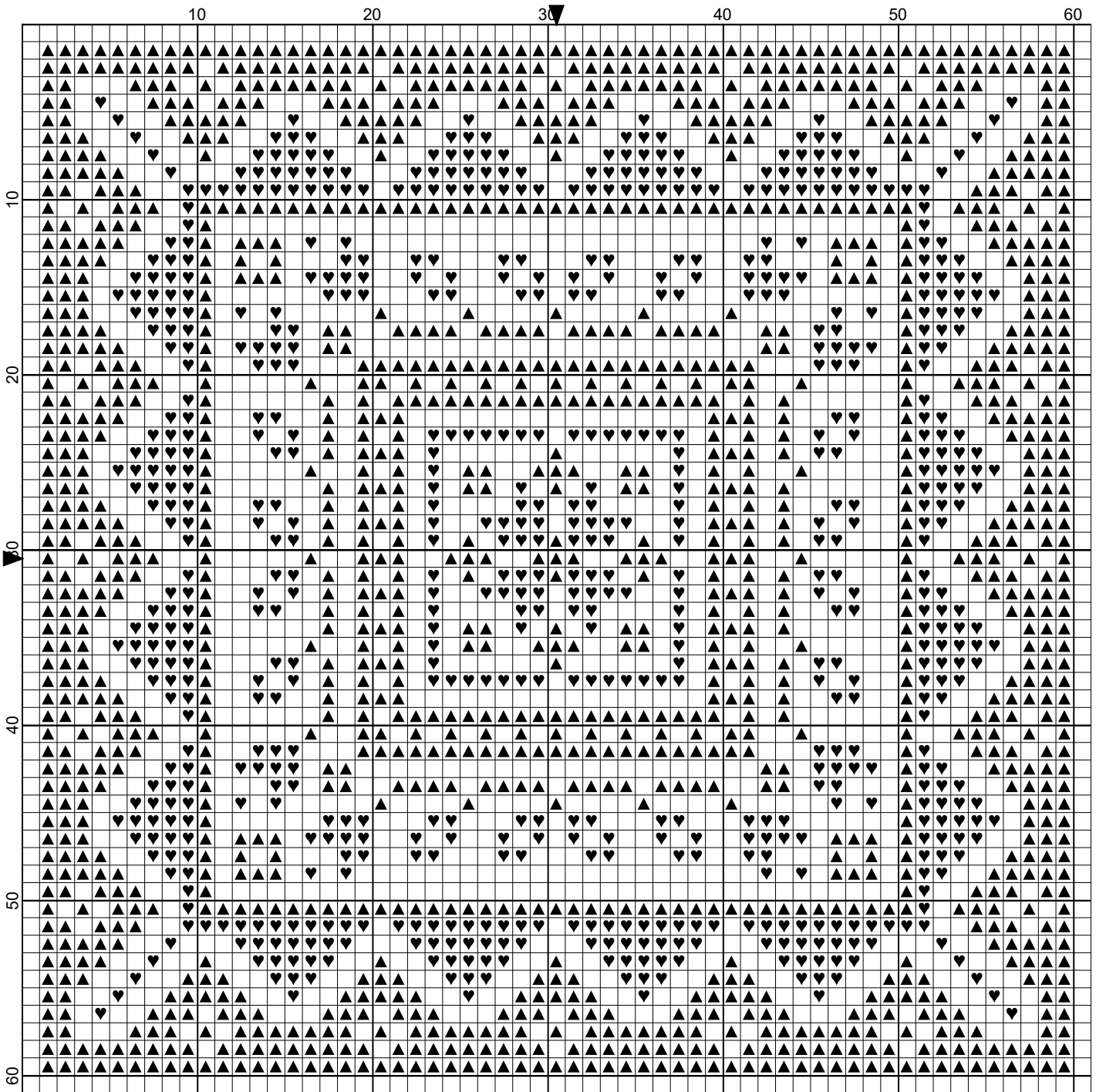
- | | | | |
|---|---|----------------|--------------------|
| ♥ | ♥ | DMC Cotton 321 | Christmas red |
| ▲ | ▲ | DMC Cotton 937 | avocado green - md |

Peace and Comfort by Sapphire Mountain Handcrafts



Legend:
♥ DMC-321 ▲ DMC-937

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Legend:
♥ DMC-321 ▲ DMC-937