

'The Cross in my Pocket'

This design is for a special cross, kept in it's own little holder with a poem hidden in the back. There are two sizes suggested here, both small enough to carry in one's pocket or purse.

Larger - Size A - is made in 7-count canvas throughout.

Smaller - Size B - has the *Cross* made from 10-count canvas but the *Pocket* still in 7-count with each *Pocket* piece, A, B and C, cut with less holes than for the larger Cross.

There are *four* pattern pieces - one for the *Cross*, and three to make the *Pocket*.

Yarn in one or two colours as you wish

Size A All 7-count canvas. Make a Cross as for *Small Brooch* BUT do not add the safety-pin.

Pocket

Cut three rectangular pieces - A (12 holes by 17 holes), B (12 holes by 8 holes), C (12 holes by 5 holes) Fig. 12.

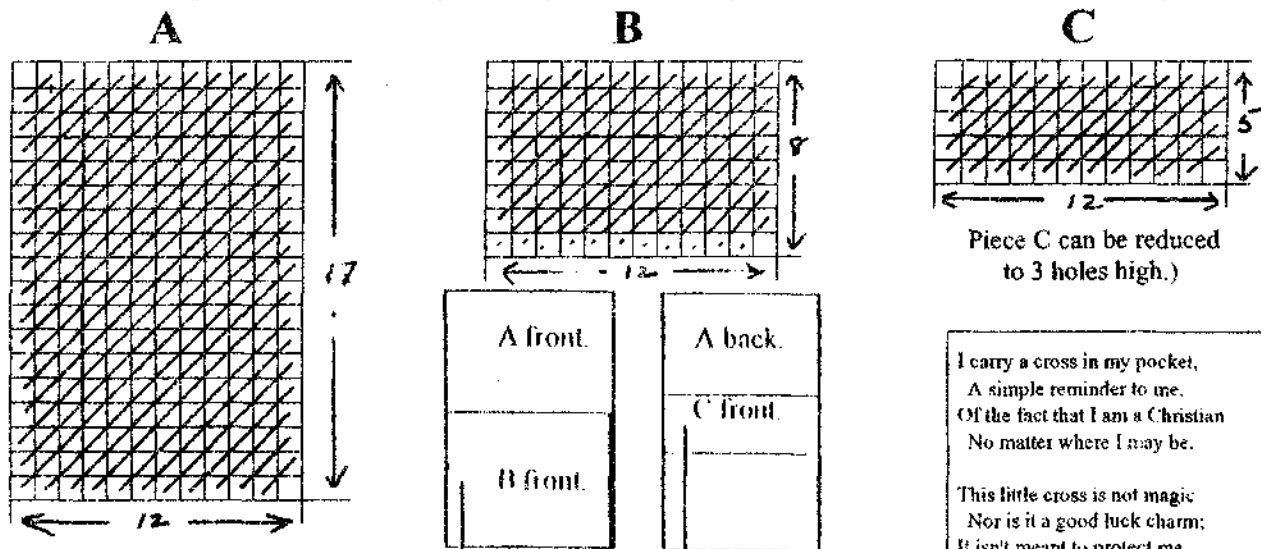


Fig. 12

Cross fits into this Pocket fits behind
pocket Fig.13 this strip.

If the Cross is in two colours, use one for *Long Stitches* and second for *Overstitching*.
STITCH A, B and C using diagonal *Long Stitch* as shown.

Use yarn single or double to get the effect that you like. The work will look similar on back and front.

Overstitch *top edge* of B and *top and bottom edges* of C.

Using *overstitch*, join B to A matching bottom edge and lower sides.

Overstitch rest of edges of A.

Using *overstitch*, join C to middle of *back* of A, matching edges thus forming a Bar under which to fold the poem.

Fold the Poem and place under Bar C. For neatness - fold the poem in a Zig-Zag with one fold line between each verse.

Size B Make Cross to same dimensions as for *Small Brooch* but use 10-count canvas and single yarn..

In 7-count canvas, cut pieces A, B and C **BUT**

Reduce pattern piece A to 8 holes by 12 holes,
pattern piece B to 8 holes by 6 holes,
pattern piece C to 8 holes by 2 holes.

Work in *same stitches* as for *Size A*.

This size is very neat and the pocket quicker to make, but the 10-count Cross may be too small for some people to work.

I carry a cross in my pocket,
A simple reminder to me.
Of the fact that I am a Christian
No matter where I may be.

This little cross is not magic
Nor is it a good luck charm;
It isn't meant to protect me
From every physical harm.

It is not for identification
For all the world to see.
It's simply an understanding
Between my Saviour and me.

When I put my hand in my pocket
To bring out a coin or a key,
The cross is there to remind me
Of the price He paid for me.

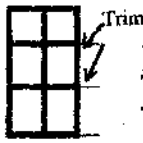
It reminds me too, to be thankful
For my blessings day by day,
And to strive to serve Him better
In all that I do or say.

It's also a daily reminder
Of the peace and comfort I share
With all who know my Master
And give themselves to His care.

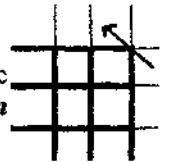
So, I carry a cross in my pocket
Reminding no one but me
That Jesus Christ is the Lord
of my life

If only I'll let Him be.

When cutting a pattern, I find it easier to count the **HOLE**s in the canvas rather than the 'threads' (Bars). Authors of Pattern Books use either convention, so check if you use a Pattern. I can vouch that it is very frustrating to cut a complicated pattern piece to wrong convention.



Having cut the piece of canvas, it makes life easier to *trim* the little plastic stubs before you start to stitch. If you are brave enough, cut the *corners at a slant*. It will be easier to cover the corner and give a better finish.

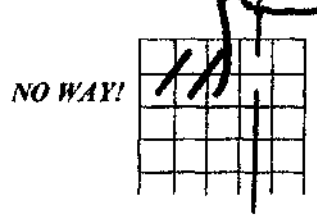
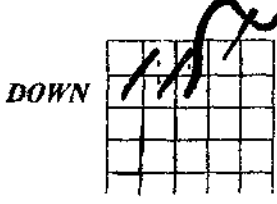
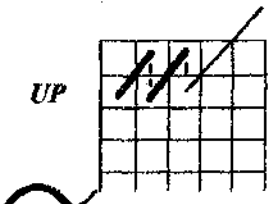


Trim across corner

To start a piece of yarn, bring needle from the back of the work leaving about 3/4 inch (2cms) on the wrong side. Lay this along the line of work and stitch over it each time you pass the needle at the back of the work.

To finish a piece of yarn, EITHER - on the WRONG side, pass the needle under the last five or six stitches worked OR lay the end alongside the new piece of yarn as you start the next length.

When working a stitch, pass the needle from the *Back of the work to the Front*, and then from the *Front to the Back*. I think of it as *UP* from the Back, and *DOWN* from the Front. Do not try to put the needle through and back in one stitch. The canvas will become mis-shapen, may break and you may also break the needle.



STITCHES most used are **TENT STITCH**, **HALF-CROSS**, and **LONG STITCH** for the main work. **BACK STITCH** is used to give an outline. All *edges* are covered with **OVER-STITCH** (OVERCAST).

The books on Plastic Canvas will give two ways of working **TENT STITCH**. The easier method is probably technically *Half-cross Stitch*. This method is adequate for most work - much easier to teach young children - and uses a great deal less yarn. If the back of the work is to be on show as much as the front, then proper Tent Stitch is better. The normal concerns about the work 'pulling' do not apply.

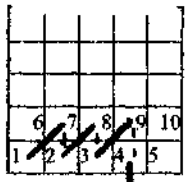


Fig. 1

EASY TENT STITCH

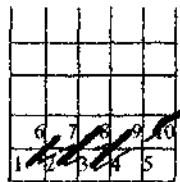


Fig. 2

PROPER (!) TENT STITCH

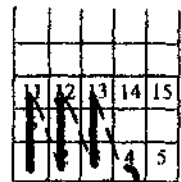


Fig. 3

LONG STITCH

Bring yarn
UP at No 1, DOWN at No 7
UP at No 2, DOWN at No 8
UP at No 3, DOWN at No 9
etc

Bring yarn
UP at No 7, DOWN at No 1
UP at No 8, DOWN at No 2
UP at No 9, DOWN at No 3
etc

This stitch may be worked over one, two, three, four or many more threads (Bars).
Bring yarn
UP at No 1, DOWN at No 11
UP at No 2, DOWN at No 12
UP at No 3, DOWN at No 13 etc

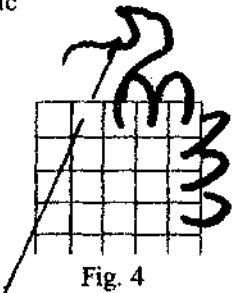


Fig. 4

OVERSTITCH (Overcast) Fig.4
The yarn is brought from the *Back to the Front* and then *over the edge* of the Canvas from the back to the front again working once into each hole. You will find that the *corners* will need two or three stitches in each hole.

I hope you enjoy your stitching -

Jean Riggs.