

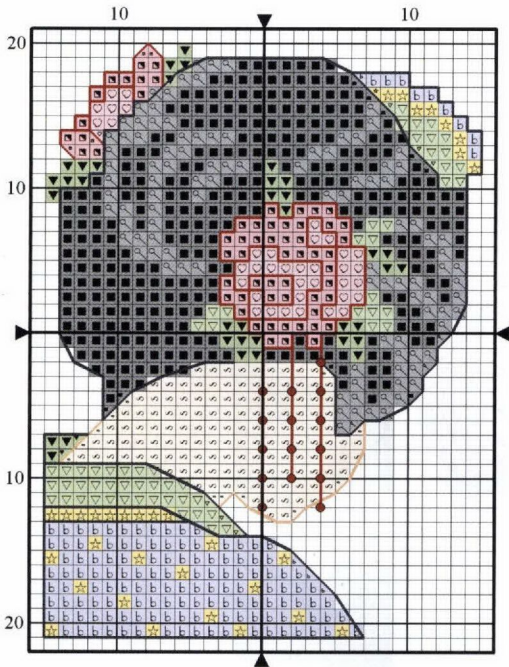
How to work with perforated paper

1 Cut a piece of perforated paper for your design, adding a 5cm (2in) border. Trim any rough edges to prevent your threads snagging, and stitch as you would do if

a faint cutting line in pencil. 3 To mount the design onto your card attach double-sided sticky tape to the reverse of the stitching and press firmly onto your chosen card.

you were using aida, taking care as you pull the thread through the paper to avoid tearing it.

2 When you have finished stitching, carefully cut around the design, leaving at least one paper block between the edge and your stitching. It may help to draw



Bright idea

If you can't bear to part with these beautiful designs, why not mount each in a picture frame with four apertures? This way you can enjoy their magnificence (and your handiwork) every day! Just remember to allow for the fans in each photo aperture, so make sure you pick a frame that's large enough.

Geisha cards key

◆ Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	Colour
155	1030	902	violet	
156	939	2702	light violet	
158	123	905	dark violet	
310	403	2400	black	
676	891	2208	sand	
680	901	2210	dark sand	
746	275	2511	cream	
747	158	1104	light blue	
754	1012	305	peach	
948	892	306	light peach	
961	76	610	pink	
962	75	609	light pink	
987	244	1403	green	
989	241	1401	light green	
3766	168	1109	blue	
3799	236	1713	grey	
3831	1006	507	dark pink	

◆ Cross stitch in two strands Anchor Reflecta

300	gold
-----	------

◆ Backstitch in one strand

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	Colour
754	1012	305	peach	
3799	236	1713	grey	
3831	1006	507	dark pink	

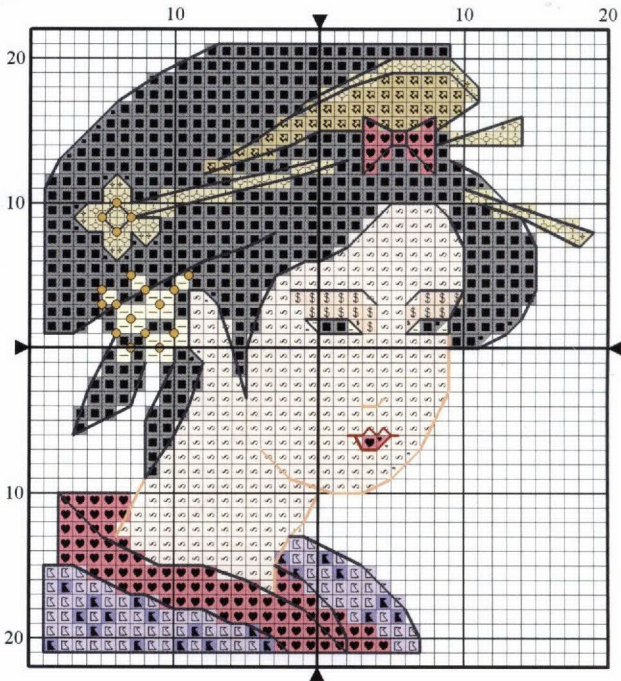
◆ Eyelets in one strand Anchor Reflecta

300	gold
-----	------

◆ Mill Hill seed beads

00557	gold
03048	cinnamon red

Maximum Stitch Count 42 high x 42 wide
Design Area 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) — 7.5 x 7.5cm (3x3in)
These designs were stitched using DMC stranded cotton, Anchor Reflecta and Mill Hill seed beads





Lesley Teare
Designer

Designing these glamorous geisha cards was an enormous joy for me, as it allowed me to work with the most vibrant shades, which I love. What's so striking about geishas is the contrast between the wonderfully elaborate fabrics and headdresses they wear against their paler than pale whitened skin. Visually it's tremendously exciting, and

translates beautifully into cross stitch. To build on that sense of opulence I've added some metallic threads and seed beads to give texture to the ladies' headdresses which I think work especially well on the geisha whose head is turned away from us. You get a real sense of the beads swishing and tinkling in the breeze as she walks. And, of course, no self-respecting geisha would be without her fan, so these paper versions create an extra element of beauty and fun.

How to stitch the geisha cards

- 1 Find the centre of your fabric by folding it in half horizontally and vertically. Follow the arrows on the chart to find its centre and start stitching from here.
- 2 Work the cross stitch across two threads of the fabric using two strands of cotton or metallic thread. For each tiny symbol you see on the chart, you should work a fractional stitch.
- 3 To work the eyelet stitches, use one strand of metallic thread and start at the top of the stitch taking the needle down across two threads of the

fabric into the central hole. Work clockwise alternating between going over two threads of fabric, then one, each time passing the needle through the central hole of the eyelet.

4 Add the backstitch detail to the design using one strand of cotton in a shade that corresponds to the key.

5 Add the seed beads to the design using two strands of thread.

6 Stitch the fans on perforated paper following the instructions on the opposite page.

stitch tip

Put your stamp on these cards by mixing and matching the fans. Or change the colours to match the recipient's favourites



Rachel Nott
Production Editor

I love surprising my friends with handmade cards, and these gorgeous geishas would be just perfect for sending little messages! The golden paper fans add an exciting extra dimension, and combined with the beads, produce a spectacular effect.

