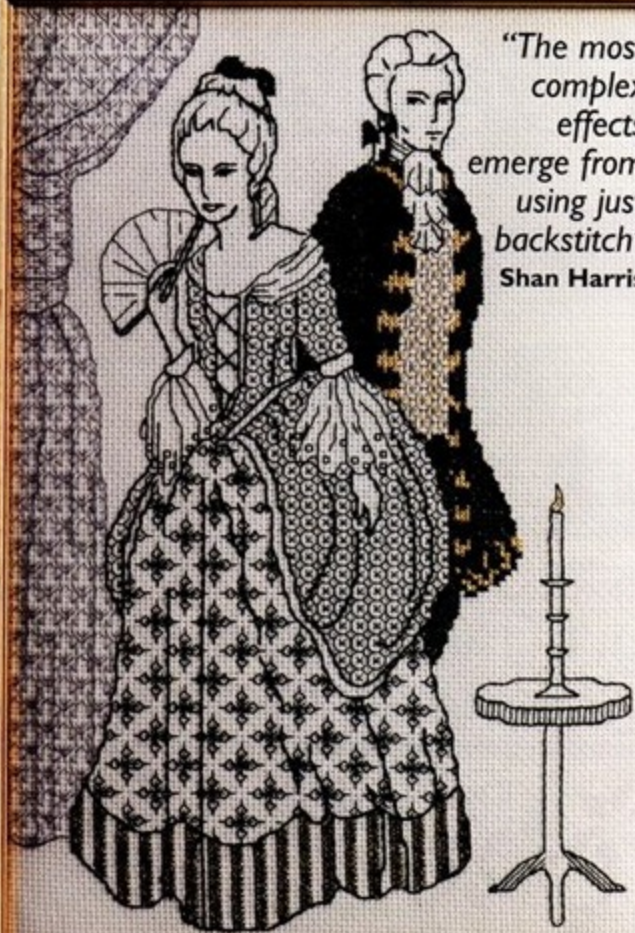


*"The most
complex
effects
emerge from
using just
backstitch"*
Shan Harris



► together to create a design that looks intricate, but is actually simple to stitch. Cross stitch and backstitch are used to create shading, by varying the colour, thickness of thread, and density of pattern.

Working the design

When stitching blackwork, it is best to start stitching an area where a pattern is broadly repeated. Work the pattern first and then the outline details can be added. Try to work the repeating stitches in the same sequence. You will find that as you begin to stitch each pattern, you will develop a preferred sequence. Once an area has been filled with the repeating pattern the outline can be worked. To contrast with the patterned ball gown, the man's jacket is worked in black and dark grey cross stitch. The colours are even blended to give a very subtle change of shading. If you make a mistake and have to unpick stitches, try using a piece of adhesive tape to lift away any dark fibres.

Backstitch details are worked in one and two strands of cotton for

Shopping list...

Materials

- ◆ 14HPI aida
18x15in
(46x38cm), white
(or 28HPI
evenweave)
- ◆ Stranded cotton as
listed in the key
- ◆ Frame with a
12x8 1/4in
(31x21cm)
aperture, gold
- ◆ Turn to page 68
for hints and help!

Design details

- ◆ Stitched using
DMC threads on
14HPI aida
- ◆ Stitch count
162x111
- ◆ Design area
11 1/2x8in
(29x20cm)
- ◆ Extras this design
features blended
colours, fractional
and metallic
threads



different effects. The backstitch in two strands gives a bolder outline than with one strand. Take care working the table and candle, as the backstitch is the only element to draw in these details and threads carried across the back will be visible. Finish by holding your work at a distance to check for missed stitches. The black stitches will look most striking worked on a bright white fabric. You may wish to gently hand wash your work using a mild detergent if it has become a little dull after stitching. Remember to use a low heat setting on your iron if you press your work, as metallic threads melt at high temperatures.

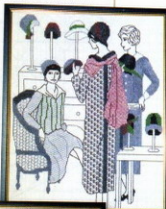
More designs for you...



Shan has created many exquisite blackwork pieces including these three. 'Feathered Friends' (left) is inspired by

Japanese prints and measures 16x10 1/2in (40x26cm). 'The Milliners' (below) is a 1920s inspired piece capturing the fun of shopping and measures 14x11in (35.5x28cm). 'The Bridal Fitting' (bottom) is a large and complex design complete with gossiping relatives, measuring 16x17 1/2in (41x44cm). All three designs are available as charts costing £7.50 or kits costing £19.50 ('The Bridal Fitting' kit is £22.99) and are available on 14HPI

aida or 28HPI evenweave. To order, or for your local Catkin Embroidery Designs stockists, call ☎ 0117 971 5802 or visit www.catkinembroidery.com.



Dance the night away

DMC Anchor Madeira Colour

Cross stitch in two strands

■ 310	403	2400	Black
■ 3799	236	1713	Dark grey
■ Madeira GlissenGloss Sterling 7			

Cross stitch using one strand of each colour

■ 310	403	2400	Black
■ 3799	236	1713	Dark grey
■ 310	403	2400	Black
■ Madeira GlissenGloss Sterling 7			

Backstitch in two strands

— 310	403	2400	Black	all other outlines and details
— 414	235	1714	Light grey	curtain outline
— 3799	236	1713	Dark grey	table, candlestick, fan

DMC Anchor Madeira Colour

Backstitch in one strand

— 310	403	2400	Black	hair detail, collars, cuffs, skirt pattern
— 414	235	1714	Light grey	curtain pattern
— 3799	236	1713	Dark grey	table pattern, candle flame, fan, bodice and pannier patterns

Backstitch using one strand of each colour

— 414	235	1714	Light grey	shirt pattern
■ Madeira GlissenGloss Sterling 7				

Stitched using DMC threads on 14HPI aida
Stitch count 162x111
Design area 11 1/2x8in (29x20cm)

*indicates colour is listed earlier in the key



