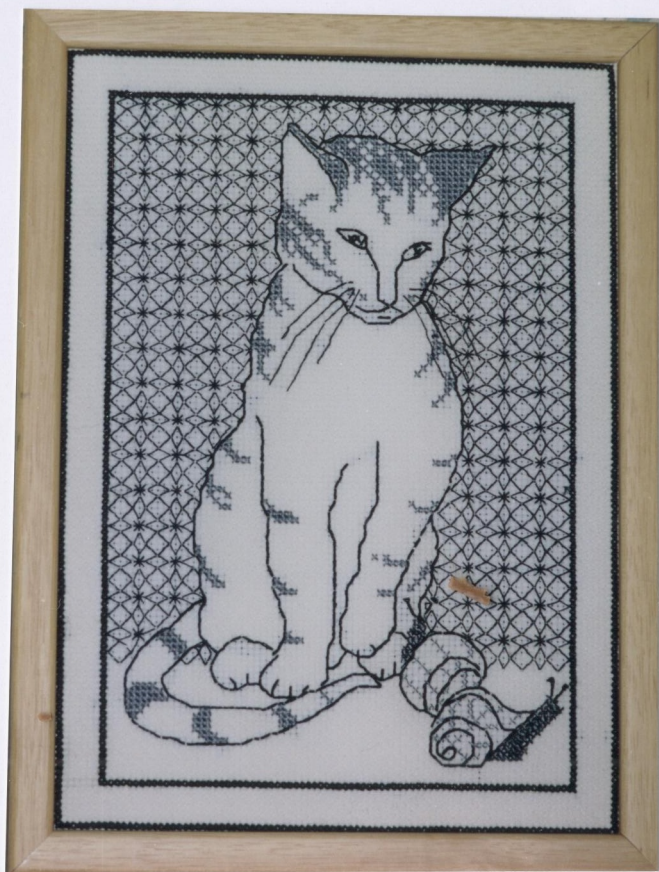


# Kitten and Snails



**Approximate Framed Area 9.3ins x 6.8ins (23.5cm x 17cm)**

**This Blackwork design pack contains chart and instructions  
This design can be stitched on 14 count Aida or 28 count Evenweave**



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## DMC Key

		DMC
Cross Stitch in:		
■	Black	310
▼	Steel Grey dk	414
◆	Steel Grey dk + Black	414 + 310
○	Steel Grey dk	414 (S)
Back Stitch in:		
—————	Black	310
French Knots in:		
●	Black	310



## Stitching Notes

Approximate design area 9.3 ins x 6.8 ins (23.5cms x 17cms)

This design was originally stitched on 14 count Aida but can also be stitched on 27/28 count Evenweave over 2 x 2 threads  
The 4 small **arrows** appearing at the edge of the chart are to enable you to centre the design on your fabric

**Cross-stitch**, stitched in 2 strands of thread is used for the detail on the cat, the snails and the border. There are some **half cross-stitches** used in the cats' ears. Here a diagonal line appears across the square with the appropriate symbol behind it.

In the **Blackwork** part of the design the thicker dark lines, usually outlines should be stitched in 2 strands of DMC 310, while the thinner lines showing the infill design in the background should be stitched in 1 strand of DMC 310

There is a **French knot** in DMC 310 at the end of each of the snails' horns

When finished please weave in all loose threads carefully into the back of the work, as otherwise they will show through the fabric when framed.

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## Catkin Embroidery Designs Blackwork Instructions

### General

In order to maintain an even tension it is advisable to use an embroidery frame or hoop. If you are leaving your work for some time, remember to release the fabric from the frame to prevent it being marked. In Blackwork it is essential to avoid carrying threads a long distance across the back of the fabric as it shows through the completed work.

### Getting Started

**Bind, tape or zig-zag** raw edges of material to prevent fraying. Fold the material into four, horizontally and vertically and pinch centre to mark design-starting point. Sort and identify threads; daylight is best for this. The six stranded thread can be separated into 1 or 2 strands as required. It is inadvisable to use lengths of more than 20 inches.

**Start working your design from the middle** so that it is centred on your material. Do not start with a knot. Blackwork consists of an outline usually in 2 strands, with an infill pattern that is usually in 1 strand. This is only a general rule and specific instructions for this design can be found in the design notes. It is a matter of personal preference whether the outline or the infill pattern is stitched first. For those who prefer to stitch the outline first it will be necessary to find the centre of the fabric and count squares (Aida) or threads (Evenweave) outwards to reach a starting point.

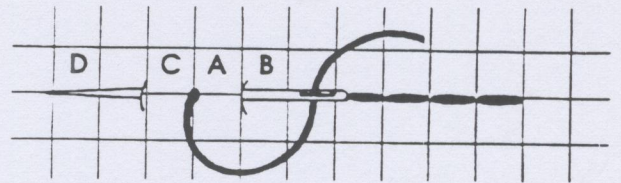
Please remember to weave loose threads into the back of the finished work to prevent them showing through the design when framed. Since Blackwork has so many areas of blank fabric incorporated into the design there is more danger of this happening than in any other embroidery techniques.

### Stitches

Note that the stitches below are illustrated on 14 count Aida, where the squares can be easily seen on the fabric. In the case of 28 count Evenweave or Jobelan remember to stitch over 2 x 2 threads.

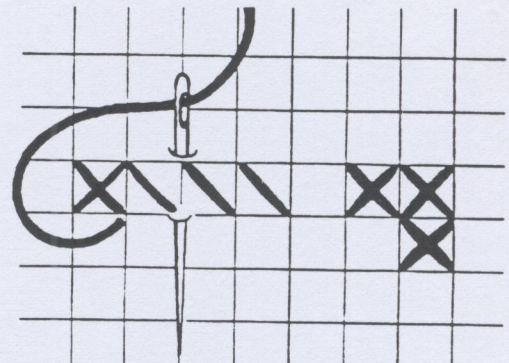
#### Back stitch

Represented by lines on the chart and can be stitched horizontally, vertically or diagonally. Bring needle up at **A**, down at **B**, up at **C**, down at **A** and up at **D**. Continue until outline is completed.



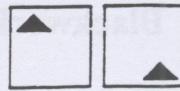
#### Cross stitch

The colour used is indicated by the symbol in the square which can be identified from the Chart Key. The direction these are worked in is not important PROVIDED all the top stitches are worked in the same direction i.e. left to right or right to left.

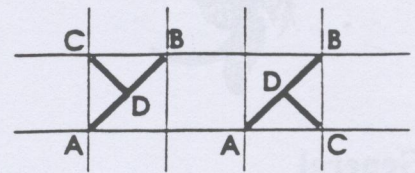


## 1/2 Cross-stitches

If the symbol is in the corner of the square with a diagonal line across the square, it indicates a half stitch. Bring the needle up at corner **A** and then diagonally down at the opposite corner **B**. Next bring the needle up at **C** and down at **D** in the centre of the square.



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## Beads

Where a design uses beads, these are attached by a diagonal stitch through the bead in a single strand of toning cotton, using a beading needle or crewel No. 8.

## Special Aftercare Instructions

Natural oils from the skin may discolour the fabric after a time under glass. It is recommended that the work be gently hand washed in luke-warm water, using a mild detergent (non-biological and bleach free) rinsed well before excess water is squeezed out onto a towel.

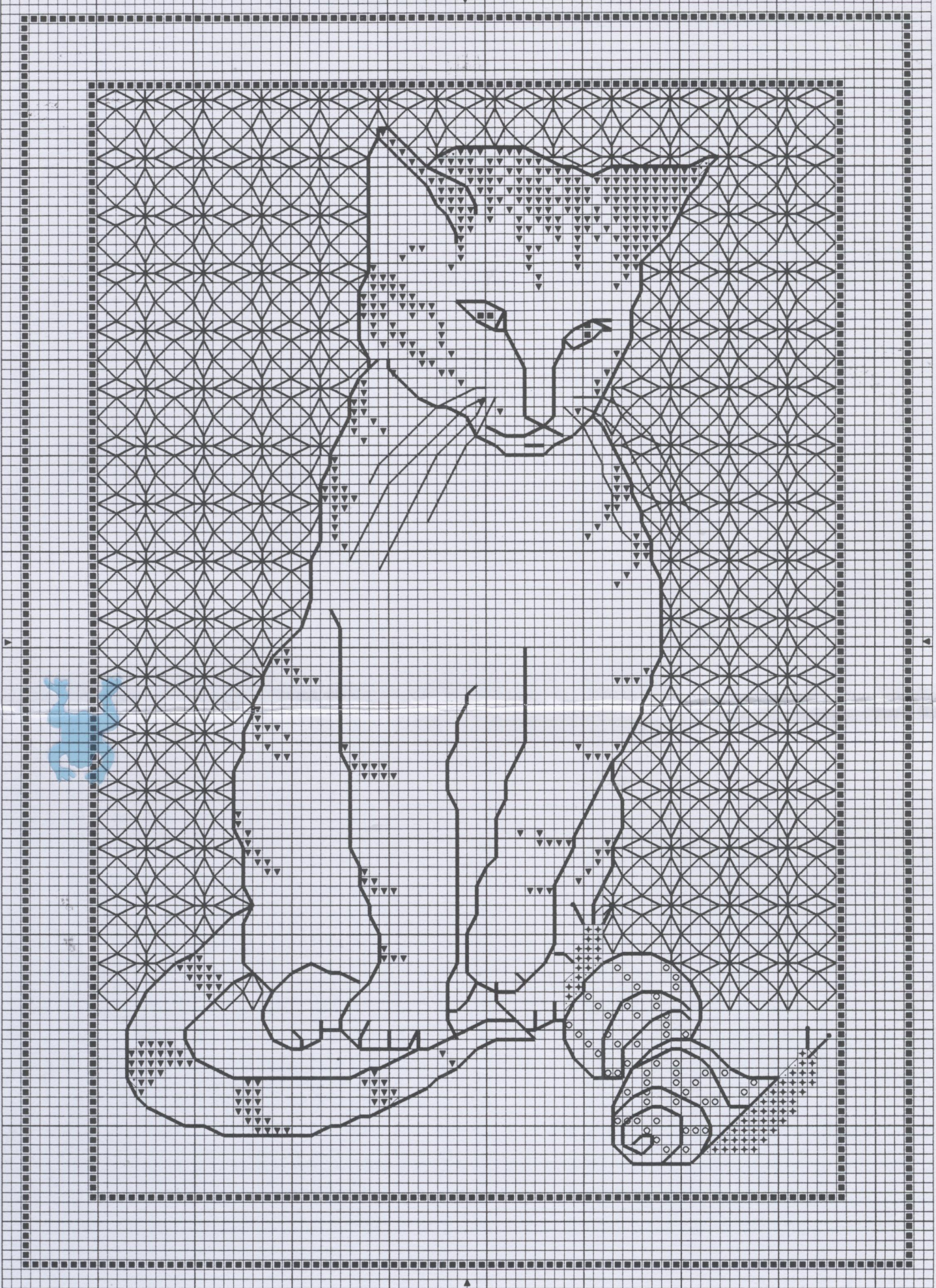
Whilst damp, iron face down on a thick towel. This prevents the stitching being flattened. Metallic threads and beads should have work covered with a cloth before being ironed face down.

We hope you enjoy working this design. A catalogue of other designs is available from the address below.



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