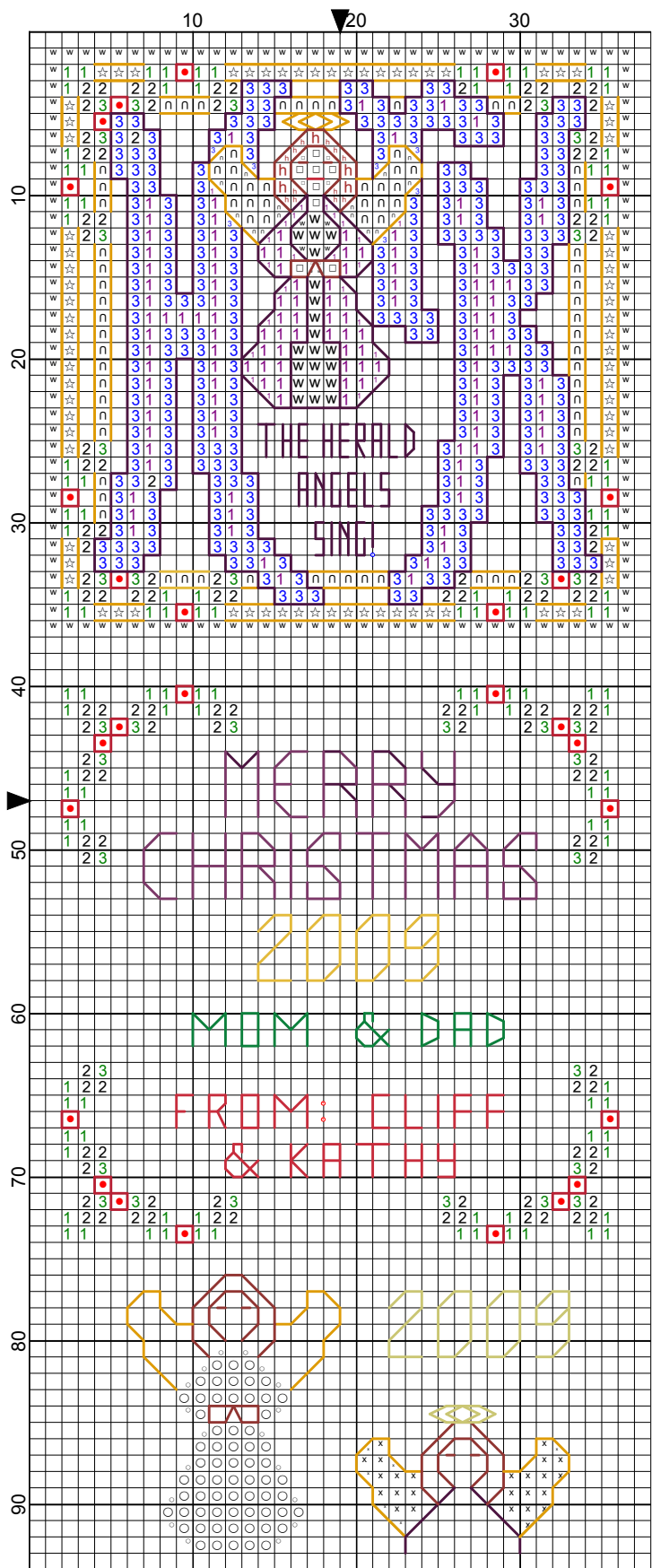


"Christmas Ornament - Hark" by Katherine Martin Tripp



- Legend:
- 3 DMC-701
 - DMC-321
 - 2 DMC-909
 - 1 DMC-890
 - ☆ DMC-3820
 - n DMC-3822
 - h DMC-3777
 - 1 DMC-553
 - 2 DMC-552
 - 3 DMC-550
 - w DMC-White
 - DMC-3046
 - x KRE-002
 - KRE-023
- Backstitches:
- DMC-321
 - DMC-304
 - DMC-909
 - DMC-3820
 - DMC-3777
 - DMC-783
 - DMC-552
 - DMC-550
 - KRE-002
- French Knots:
- DMC-321
 - DMC-550

Christmas Ornament - Hark



Author: Katherine Martin Tripp
Company: Extra Mile Mercantile
Copyright: Katherine Martin Tripp
Website: www.better-cross-stitch-patterns.com
Fabric: Aida or Evenweave
Grid Size: 38W x 94H
Design Area: 2.57" x 6.57" (36 x 92 stitches)

Legend:

| | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| DMC 701 christmas green - lt | DMC 3822 straw - lt | DMC White white |
| DMC 321 christmas red | DMC 3777 terra cotta - vy dk | DMC 3046 yellow beige - md |
| DMC 909 emerald green - vy dk | DMC 553 violet | KRE 002 Gold |
| DMC 890 pistachio green - ul dk | DMC 552 violet - md | KRE 023 Lilac |
| DMC 3820 straw - dk | DMC 550 violet - vy dk | |

Backstitch Lines:

| | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| DMC-321 christmas red | DMC-3820 straw - dk | DMC-552 violet - md |
| DMC-304 christmas red - md | DMC-3777 terra cotta - vy dk | DMC-550 violet - vy dk |
| DMC-909 emerald green - vy dk | DMC-783 topaz - md | KRE-002 Gold |

French Knots:

- DMC-321 christmas red
- DMC-550 violet - vy dk

In the Photograph:

I embroidered "**Christmas Ornament - Hark**" on 14-count Aida with DMC 6-strand cotton floss, accented it with Kreinik Metallic floss. The front and back are stitched on two separate squares, then connected with half stitches. The ornament is padded, then finished off with a gold ribbon hanger and surrounding fringe.

What You'll Need:

- Fabric
- DMC (or other 6-strand cotton)
- Kreinik (or other metallic) Floss
- Ribbon for hanging loop

Stitch Complexity:

- Full cross stitches
- 1/4 and 3/4 cross stitches (Angel only)
- Backstitches
- Half stitches (for sewing sides together)
- French knots (for colon after "From")

If you are unfamiliar with any of these stitches, click on the buttons under the "Tutorials" section of the left menu of our website. There, you will find detailed diagrams and instructions for each stitch.

How to Cross Stitch this Design:

If you already know how to cross stitch, the instructions below will get you on your way. Just learning? Simply click on the "Getting Started" button on the left menu.

Step 1 - Review this Chart

Eliminate surprises by reading these instructions and reviewing the chart thoroughly before you begin stitching. Identify and learn any unfamiliar stitches listed in "Stitch Complexity" above.

- The first chart: shows the front design to be stitched with cotton floss. Note that the white half stitches surrounding the perimeter are the stitches you will use to "sew" the front piece to the back piece.
- The second chart: shows the back design. The sentiment, year and personalized "to" and "from" are shown here for placement. You can use Alphabets 2 and 6 to customize these elements for yourself.
- The angel charts: show where to overstuff the angel using the Kreinik metallic floss. Use half stitches for the wings, full cross stitches for the gown and backstitches for the halo. Some of the existing back stitches are shown here to help you keep your place.

Disregard the fabric and design measurements listed under "Grid Size" and "Design Area" at the top of this page. The ornament is 36 stitches square, including the single row of half stitches used to "sew" the front to the back. For fringe, add an extra half inch of fabric on all four sides (increase this if you'd like longer fringe; reduce it for shorter fringe).

Step 2 - Select and Prepare Your Fabric

For an ornament exactly like the photograph, you will need two identical pieces of 14-count Aida. Each should be 36 stitches wide for the stitching area, plus 1/2 inch on all four sides for fringe. Add another 1/2 half inch fudge factor on all sides, and each piece of fabric should be 64 stitches square.

If you have a favorite fabric type and thread count, or if you have a specific size in mind for the finished piece, translate inches to thread count to determine your initial fabric size (be sure to include fringe in these measurements). If you are using the design on a greeting card or in a frame, you can eliminate the fringe and simply add enough around the edges for mounting. Need help converting? Click on the "Stitch Counts" button on the left menu for an easy formula and a handy table.

Bright white Aida really stands out on a green tree. But if you like your decorations to have an "antique" feel, try using off-white or cream fabric.

If you are indeed making this design into an ornament, there is no need to treat the edges. You will *want* the edges to "fray" easily when making them into fringe.

If this is not your first cross stitch project, this design is still small enough to eliminate the gridlines. Review our page on "Preparing Fabric" for other tips and techniques.

Step 3 - Select and Prepare Your Floss

Use the colors listed above or substitute ones of your own. If using fabric with a different thread count, you may need to adjust the number of strands of floss. Use "Floss Coverage" on the left menu to help you decide. Still uncertain? Work a few sample stitches in the corner of your fabric.

- Cotton Floss: Prepare your floss as described in Step 3 from the "Getting Started" button on the left menu. "Separating Floss" will show you a quick and easy method for separating your floss strands.
- Kreinik Metallic Floss: Specialty flosses often require a little extra care when handling. Select the "How To" button on the left menu and go to the bottom of the page. The "Metallic Floss" link will help. Because of this specialty floss, this design is not meant to be stitched on fabric that will be worn, washed or ironed frequently. However, if you do want to use it in this manner (napkins, bread cloths, clothing, etc.), consider eliminating the metallic floss over stitching.

Step 4 - Stitch the Design

Each square containing a symbol represents one stitch; the legend indicates which color to use.

If you are using a fabric with an obvious over-under weave (like linen), the placement of the first stitch is critical. The first diagonal of the first stitch must start and end where a vertical fabric thread crosses over a horizontal thread, as illustrated in our "Over Two Threads" page.

Use the following number of strands for the front:

- Cross stitches with DMC - 2 strands
- Cross stitches with Kreinik (over existing gown cross stitches) - 1 strand
- Backstitches with DMC - 1 strand
- Backstitches with Kreinik (halo) - 1 strand
- Half stitches (join sides) - 2 strands
- Half stitches with Kreinik (over existing wing cross stitches) - 1 strand

Use the following number of strands for the back:

- Cross stitches with DMC - 2 strands
- Backstitch holly with DMC - 1 strand
- Backstitch Merry Christmas (using Alphabet 06) - 2 strands
- Backstitch year with DMC - 2 strands
- Backstitch year with Kreinik (over existing stitches) - 1 strand
- Backstitch names with DMC - 1 strand
- French knot (colon after "from") - 2 strands

Follow this order when stitching:

- Front: Cross stitch and backstitch the entire front design with DMC.
- Angel: With Kreinik, stitch over the existing cross stitches as shown. On the wings, be sure that your half stitches are slanted in the same direction as the top diagonal of the underlying cross stitch. Use backstitches for the halo.
- Back: Cross stitch the corners and backstitch the lettering with DMC. Using Kreinik, backstitch over the year. To chart your text, select the "Graph Paper" button on the left menu to print blank graph paper. Use Alphabets 2 and 6 for your letter. Click on "Alphabet 123's for help.

Note: Since the white half stitches surrounding the perimeter are used to sew the sides together, they will be the last stitches you will do. *These stitches are not meant to be an integral part of the design.* So, if you are embroidering this bookmark on a different color of fabric, you may want to change this floss to a color that will blend, or "disappear" into the background. On the left menu, click on "Join Sides" and "Make Fringe" to see how this process works.

Step 5 - Assemble the Ornament

Assembly is the final step in finishing your ornament.

- *Sew across the top* by aligning the corners of the front and back designs, wrong sides together. Using half stitches in the fabric row immediately surrounding the design, stitch across the top of the ornament. See detailed diagrams and instructions by clicking "Join Sides" from the buttons on the left.
- *Add a ribbon hanger* by threading a narrow ribbon through a larger needle in the same way you thread floss. Bring your needle up through the top center hole of the ornament front. Then go down through the top center hole of the ornament back. Adjust the length of the loop, then tie the raw ends together (these knotted ends will ultimately be inside the ornament).
- *Stitch the remaining sides* together. Stop when you have only one half of one side left open.
- *Lightly stuff the inside* with batting or other filler to about 1/2 inch thick.
- *Stitch the ornament closed*. Bury the end of the floss by running your needle into the center of the stuffed ornament, then out again. Pull the floss taut, and cut. Flatten the ornament, and the ends should disappear back into the center of the ornament padding.
- *Fringe the edges*. Either leave the fabric edges the length they are, or trim them to your preference. Pull away the horizontal rows of cloth on each side to make the fringe. See detailed diagrams and instructions by clicking "Make Fringe" from the buttons on the left.