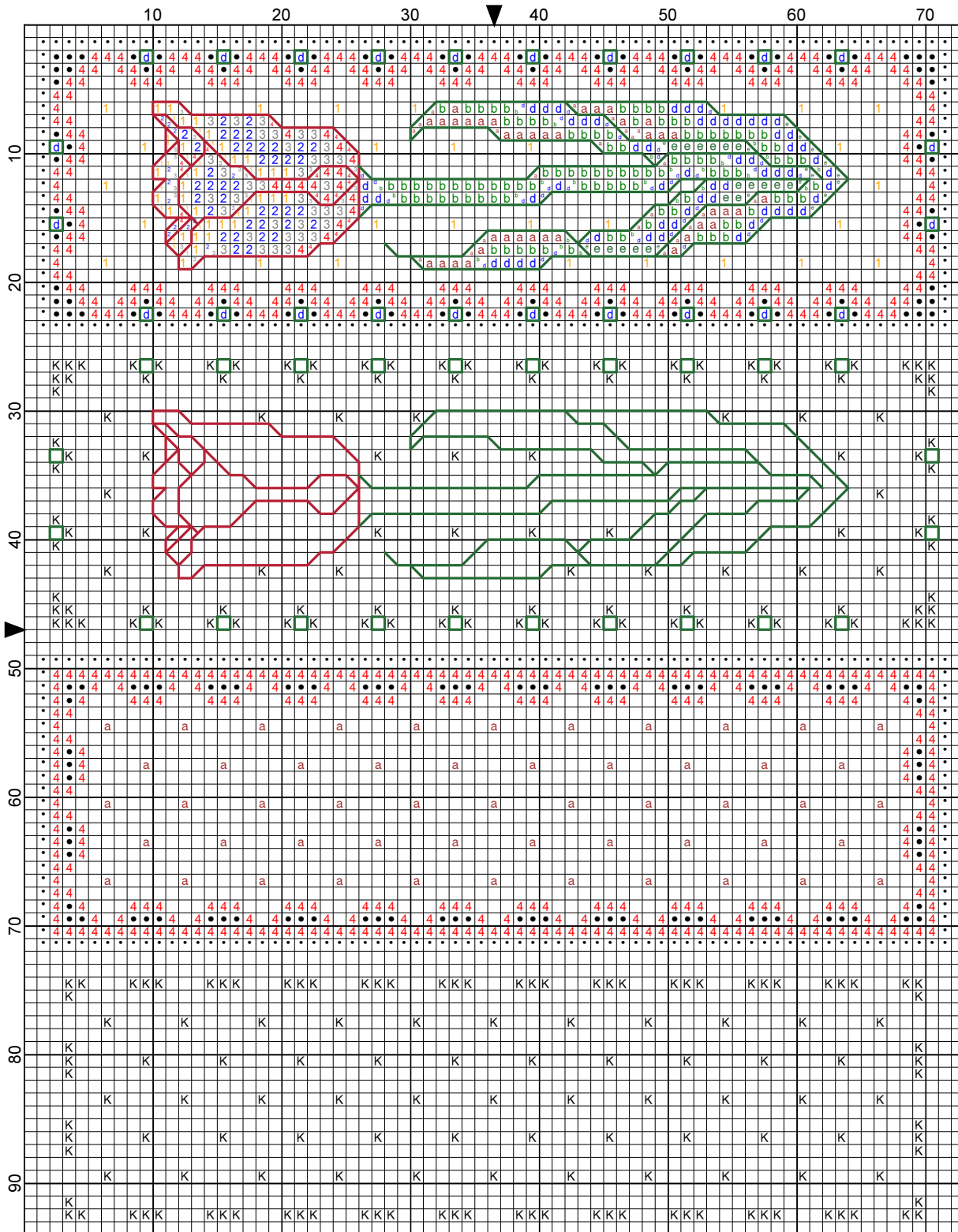


"Garden Treasures Bookmark - Tulip" by Katherine Martin Tripp



Legend:

- | | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|---|
| a DMC-369 | d DMC-367 | 1 DMC-3341 | 3 DMC-608 | • DMC-White |
| b DMC-368 | e DMC-319 | 2 DMC-3340 | 4 DMC-606 | K KRE-032 |

Backstitches:

- DMC-304
 — DMC-319

Garden Treasures Bookmark - Tulip



Author: Katherine Martin Tripp
Company: Extra Mile Mercantile
Copyright: Katherine Martin Tripp
Website: www.better-cross-stitch-patterns.com
Fabric: Evenweave
Grid Size: 73W x 94H
Design Area: 5.07" x 6.57" (71 x 92 stitches)

Legend:

	DMC 369 pistachio green - vy lt		DMC 3341 apricot		DMC White white
	DMC 368 pistachio green - lt		DMC 3340 apricot - md		KRE 032 Pearl
	DMC 367 pistachio green - dk		DMC 608 burnt orange		
	DMC 319 pistachio green - vy dk		DMC 606 burnt orange-red		

Backstitch Lines:

DMC-304 christmas red - md DMC-319 pistachio green - vy dk

In the Photograph:

I embroidered "**Garden Treasures Bookmark - Tulip**" on 14-count Aida using DMC 6-strand cotton floss. Selected stitches are then highlighted with Kreinik Metallics Blending Filament.

This bookmark is made by stitching a front and back design on two separate pieces of fabric, then sewing them together.

The front features a tulip in full bloom. The back uses our Floral Alphabet pattern to stitch our Aunt Elizabeth's nickname, "Bitsy." Pale colors dot the background, and the edges are stitched in a mock lace pattern. Opalescent metallic floss stitches add a subtle shimmer to the background and edges.

The inch-long white fringe on both ends is accented with dark green strands.

This design can also be adapted to stitch on precut bookmarks.

What You'll Need:

- Fabric
- DMC (or other 6-strand cotton) Floss
- Kreinik Metallics Blending Filament #032

Stitch Complexity:

- Full cross stitches
- 1/4 and 3/4 cross stitches
- Backstitches
- Daisy stitches (for the leaves in the Floral Alphabet)
- Half stitches (to sew the front and back together)

If you are unfamiliar with any of these stitches, click "How to..." on the left menu on our website, better-cross-stitch-patterns.com. At the bottom of the page are links to detailed diagrams for each of these stitches.

How to Cross Stitch this Design:

If you already know how to cross stitch, the Quick Start checklist below will get you on your way. Just learning? Simply click on the "Getting Started" button on the left menu. There, you will find links to detailed instructions and diagrams.

Quick Start

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.

You will use two separate pieces of fabric for this bookmark.

- The top chart (tulip): shows the stitching with DMC floss for the front of the bookmark. The half stitches surrounding the perimeter are the stitches you will use to "sew" the front piece to the back piece.
- The second chart: shows where to overstitch using Kreinik filament (symbol "K"). Some of the existing outline stitches are left in to help you keep your place.
- The third chart: shows the DMC stitching for the background of the bookmark. You will customize this side with a name or a verse, and stitch that first. Then dot only the empty space around it. If you need printable graph paper, select the "Graph Paper" button at the menu on the left. Again, the white half stitches surrounding the edge are the stitches that "sew" the sides together.
- The fourth chart: shows where to overstitch with Kreinik.

Disregard the fabric and design measurements listed under "Grid Size" and "Design Area" at the top of this page. The actual

dimensions are described in Step 2 below.

The white half stitches surrounding the first and third charts 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 2 - Select and Prepare Your Fabric

The exact dimension of the bookmark (including a single, unstitched row around the joined edges) is 25 stitches wide and 71 stitches long. The bookmark in our photograph has 1-inch fringe on both ends, adding another 28 stitches (for 14-count fabric), totaling 99 stitches long. Add an extra 1/2 inch fudge-factor on all four sides, and you will need 2 identical pieces of fabric 39 stitches wide and 113 stitches long. For 14 count Aida, this measures approximately 2 3/4" x 8 1/4".

Because bookmarks are handled a lot, I prefer using Aida cloth for durability. It also supports the metallic stitches, whereas a lightweight fabric can be too easily distorted.

To stitch the design exactly as it is in the photograph, simply use the materials described. 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. If you'd like help converting, click on the "Stitch Counts" button on the left menu for an easy formula and a handy table.

Treat the outside edges of your fabric to prevent fraying. You can eliminate this step on the sides that will ultimately become fringe. Find and mark the center. Because this is a smaller piece, basting in gridlines is not necessary.

For more details, click on the "How To..." button on the left menu, and select the "Preparing Fabric for Stitching" link at the bottom of the page.

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 you'll use. To help you decide, click the "How To..." button on the left menu. At the bottom of the page, you'll find a "Floss Coverage and Why it Matters" link. This page shows cross stitch examples using from one to six strands on fabric with different thread counts. Still uncertain? Work a few sample stitches in the corner of your fabric.

The label on Kreinik Metallic floss states that it can be washed. When stitching, however, I find it to be somewhat fragile. While the effect of this opalescent floss is well worth the end result, I choose not to use it on fabric that will be worn, washed or ironed often.

DMC Floss: As you use each of the DMC cotton floss colors, cut the floss into strips 15" to 18" long. For fuller and thicker stitches, separate all six strands and then recombine them into the number of strands you will ultimately use. Click the "How To..." button on the left, and find "A Tip for Separating Floss" at the bottom of the page. To see this in motion, click the play button on our video on that page.

To duplicate the bookmark in the photograph on 14-count Aida, use DMC standard cotton floss:

- Full cross stitches - 2 strands
- 1/4 and 3/4 partial stitches - 2 strands
- 1/2 stitches joining the front to the back - 2 strands
- Backstitches - 1 strand
- Daisy stitches - 1 strand

Kreinik Metallic Blending Filament

- Full cross stitches (stitched over DMC standard floss) - 1 strand

Cut the Kreinik Metallic Blending Filament, or any other brand of metallic floss or blending filament, into strands 15" or shorter. These types of specialty floss break, separate and shred more easily with prolonged stitching. I've found that it will do so long before I'm able to use the full 18 inches (testing both the thread and my patience!). I usually stick with 12-inch strands or shorter instead.

Step 4 - Stitch the Design

Each square containing a symbol represents one stitch; the legend indicates which color to use. Squares with a smaller symbol tucked into one corner represent partial stitches. If you need guidance on 1/4 and 3/4 stitches, select the "How To..." button on the left menu and review "How to Make a Three Quarter Stitch"

Although I recommend using Aida cloth, if you decide to work with fabric that has an obvious over-under weave (like linen), the placement of the first over-two stitch is critical. To prevent puckering and to provide stability, the first diagonal of the first stitch must start and end where a vertical fabric thread crosses over a horizontal thread. To review, click the "How to..." button and go to the bottom of the page to find "Working over two threads."

Do not use the sewing method with metallic floss. Stitch over areas already cross-stitched with DMC floss by switching to a slightly larger needle. This makes a bigger hole for the metallic floss to slip through. Because there is less friction as the floss passes through the hole, it will separate and break less often.

Follow this order when stitching:

- Cross stitches in DMC floss
- Backstitches

- Cross stitches with Kreinik Metallic (1 strand) over existing stitches

Optional - Add Accent Colors to Fringe

At this point, you will have completed stitching the front and back pieces. If you do not want the colored floss strips in the fringe, go directing to Step 5 below.

If you do, click on the "Make Fringe" button on the left menu. There, you will see a link "Adding Floss Accents to Fringe." This will give you step-by-step instructions and detailed diagrams. The bookmark in the photograph has four accents on each end. Counting from the corner, place the first at stitch 2, then 8, 14 and 20.

Remember, you must secure these floss accents *before* stitching the sides of the bookmark together.

Step 5 - Assemble the Bookmark

This is the final step in finishing your bookmark. Align the corners of the front and back designs, wrong sides together. Start with the back "name" design facing you. In the first blank row adjacent to the cross stitched edge, use half stitches, as shown, to join the two. These half stitches will completely surround the design on this side, while the stitches on the "tulip" side will be a series of parallel straight stitches.

For detailed instructions and diagrams explaining this process, click on the "Join Sides" button on the left.

To duplicate the bookmark in the photograph, trim the two long sides and reinforce with Fray block. Make fringe on the short ends. For detailed instructions and diagrams, click on the "Make Fringe" button on the left.