

#6910 CARNATION
Designed by Leigh Designs
Stitch guide by River Silks Ltd.
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Additional materials needed: 9 X 9 STRETCHER BARS, #22 TAPESTRY NEEDLE
5.5 X 5.5 Painted Area, 10 X 10 canvas, 18 mesh

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4mm	COLOR	Spools	7mm	COLOR	Spools
#105	Over dyed Pearl	1	#21	Rose Red	2
#161	Persian Red	2	#107	Over dyed Bubblegum	2
#202	White White	1	#187	Bright Rose	2

YOU SHOULD MIX THE 4MM AND 7MM SILK RIBBONS THROUGHOUT THE CANVAS.

ENTIRE CANVAS: Colors 105, 161, 202, 21, 107 and 187

GENERAL PLANNING

Attach the canvas to the stretcher bars preferably using tacks.

There is no need to ply the silk ribbon. You will want to work with 2 to 3 foot lengths of ribbon. The ribbon won't show wear so don't worry.

THREADING THE NEEDLE: Cut the ribbon on the diagonal. Insert point of the ribbon through the eye of the needle. Then insert the point of the needle through the ribbon cut end about 1/2" from the cut. Pull the long tail to secure the ribbon to the needle.

SECURING THE RIBBON TO THE CANVAS: We have chosen not to use an "away knot" as it is unnecessary with River Silks ribbon. **There is an easier way.** Bring the needle up through an empty hole where you want to begin. Pull the needle and ribbon through the canvas leaving about a one-inch tail of ribbon on the back of the canvas. With a finger press that tail flat against the canvas. Go back down through an adjacent hole passing through both the canvas and the ribbon tail. Try not to stitch through your finger! With your finger still pressing on the tail pull the needle and ribbon through the canvas and keep pulling until the ribbon is secure on the canvas. Check the back of the canvas to see that there are no loose ends. This is called the "Canvas Lock Stitch".

HELPFUL HINTS: The ribbon does not need to be pulled tightly. Untwist the ribbon as you stitch and lay the ribbon with a laying tool to show the surface. Stitching style will affect the number of spools required. The “economy stitch” is quite acceptable if you are pleased with the look. With shorter stitches this is not always the best.

I RAN OUT OF RIBBON. NOW WHAT? When you need to add more ribbon to continue stitching or to change color or width of ribbon use this easy technique. Select your new piece of ribbon and secure it to a new needle using the “Needle Lock Stitch” described previously. On the wrong side of the canvas cut the ribbon you had been using (removing the old needle) leaving about a 1 1/2 inch tail. Hold that tail and pierce it with your new needle and ribbon very close to the surface of the canvas, keep pulling the new ribbon leaving another 1 1/2 inch tail. Put that tail over the next hole that you want to stitch and put the needle through that new tail and the canvas. Keep on pulling until secure. Turn the canvas to the right side and continue stitching. You may trim those tails to a half-inch as desired.

CANVAS MANAGEMENT

This is a very straightforward canvas especially if you ignore the needlepoint police! In traditional needlepoint you would start at a corner of the canvas. With ribbon needlepoint we begin stitching wherever the design dictates. This entire canvas is composed of carnation flower petals. The petals are done using Satin Stitches or Straight Stitches mixing the colors to your liking. The idea is to build up the petals from the outside to the inside so that the innermost petals are just a bit higher than the outside petals. That’s the rationale for beginning the stitching on the outside edge. By piercing the ribbon with each subsequent row you avoid showing any canvas and tend to get a sense of dimension to the work. Again don’t worry about piercing the ribbon. It will not run!

Begin stitching at the outside edges, stitching all the way around the canvas.

The second circle of stitches should pierce the ribbon of the previous row like overlapping petals.

Each layer of petals will move closer to the center of the flower and each should pierce the previous row. Consider shortening the stitch length as you move inward.

The very center should be stitched in shorter stitches.

HAVE FUN!