

DRAGON

Designed by TAPESTRY TENT Designs

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Additional Materials Needed: stretcher bars, #22 tapestry needles

River Silks Ltd. 100% silk, hand dyed ribbon

Information 877-944-7444

www.riversilks.com

4mm	Color	Spools	7mm	Color	Spools
229	Chinese yellow	8	199	Copper	1
217	Frost gray	10	209	Garnet	2
200	Silver	9	207	Rosewood	5
153	O-dye hint of mint	7	290	Crimson	4
170	Boysenberry	1	104	O-dye persimmon	2
184	Wren	1	99	O-dye cream puff	2
21	Rose red	1	1	Transparent yellow	1
183	Blue night	20	92	Summer shower	1
202	White white	1			
165	True blue	1			
189	Black	1			

You will be using both 4mm and 7mm silk ribbon.

CLOUDS: Colors 229, 217, 200 and 153

DRAGON'S BODY: Colors 290 and 207

DORSAL SPINE ALONG THE TOP EDGE OF THE DRAGON'S BODY: Color 99

FLAMES: Colors 101, 100 and 209

LEGS AND FEET: Colors 207, 209, 184, 189 and 21.

CLAWS: Color 92

FACE: Colors 189 and 21 for nostrils; colors 290 and 207 for the bridge of the nose

EYES: Colors 202, 165, 21, 199 and 99

TEETH: Color 1

TONGUE: Colors 21 and 207

JAW EDGE and GUMS: Color 207 and 99

WHISKERS: Color 199

BACKGROUND: Color 183

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 canvas was done working the clouds first. The outer golden edge was completed before the cloud interior was worked. After that the dragon was done according to the sequence as listed below. The background was the last to be stitched.

You will note significant differences in the painted background and the stitched example in the photo. This is artistic license and is permitted. Remember that there are no needlepoint police! As the dragon and clouds were being completed it became apparent that the canvas had a lot going on. It was felt that the additional detail in the background would detract from the main focus of the canvas and could tend to make the canvas somewhat "busy". So it was eliminated. The colored areas were "painted over" with a black Sharpie pen to reduce the chance that some of the highly colored background would show

through. This is an excellent example of taking a painted canvas and making it your own by your artistic judgment.

Study the dragon before you begin. You will want to identify the body and legs and feet. You will want to refer to the photograph of the completed work as you go over the directions.

CLOUDS: Stitch the golden outer edge with double wrapped Colonial Knots (or French Knots) *. For the interior space of the clouds stitch with Rya Knots or Turkey Knot stitches making the loops a bit higher than the outer edge golden knots.

DRAGON'S BODY: The body is covered with Dragon Scales. Stitch the scales in short Ribbon Stitches secured with a French Knots**. Start at an edge away from the head and overlap the stitches as you move closer to the head. Where the very front leg attaches to the body, stitch around in a circle. Use each color (290 and 207) in large clusters – refer to photo.

DORSAL SPINE ALONG THE TOP EDGE OF THE DRAGON'S BODY: Stitch the entire spine in a Buttonhole Stitch.

FLAMES: These are found all over the body, face, legs and tail. Look for them. Stitch in a classic Ribbon Stitch*** pulling ribbon all the way through. Start at the outer edge of the flame and overlap stitches as you move closer to the body. This produces a pointed stitch that looks like fire. See photo.

LEGS AND FEET: The legs are stitched with short Ribbon Stitches secured with a French Knot **. The feet are done with short Straight Stitches placed diagonally to give a rounded appearance.

CLAWS: Stitch with real short Straight Stitches to give a rounded appearance and add an extra layer for effect.

FACE: The bridge of the nose lies above the jaw and is done with double or triple wrapped Colonial Knots in colors 209 and 207. The interior of the nostril is done with black French knots. The nostrils are done with Rya Stitches in color 290.

EYES: Center of the eye is a French Knot. The blue part is stitched with French Knots. Above the blue is a white arc of French Knots. The rest of the eye is done in short Straight Stitches using color 21. The upper eyelid is done with color 199 in short Straight Stitches. The lower eyelid is done in Straight stitches with color 100.

TEETH: The long row of teeth is done with Buttonhole Stitch. The sharp front teeth layered straight stitches. The layering gives dimension and contour.

TONGUE: Stitch several layers in Straight Stitches across the tongue in color 21 outlined by Backstitching in color 207.

UPPER AND LOWER JAW EDGE: These are seen next to the teeth. Stitch in Buttonhole Stitch. Under the teeth towards the back of the lower jaw the artist has shown some of the gum line. Do this in a Chain Stitch with color 100.

WHISKERS: Use very short Straight Stitches. Backstitch when necessary. Add extra layers for effect.

BACKGROUND: Stitch in Brick Stitch over 7 holes. Border can be extended with an additional row or two of straight stitches over 7-10 holes for framing space.

HAVE FUN!

* The double wrapped **Colonial knot** is really just a double wrapped **French knot** that's started with an added twist. Bring the needle and thread up through the canvas. Position the ribbon towards you at 6 o'clock. Hold it about 4 inches from the canvas, but don't pull it tight. Bring the end of the needle across the ribbon near the canvas. Next hook the needle under the ribbon so the needle is now pointing to 9 o'clock. Make certain that you have enough of the tip of the needle free for the next step. This needle position looks just like it does at the start of a **French knot**. So you'll finish the **French knot**: place a double wrap around the needle and put the tip of the needle just into the canvas. With your free hand gently pull the ribbon until the wrap slides down the needle and meets the canvas. Let the ribbon go. The ribbon should now be lightly snugged against the needle and canvas. Pull the needle through the canvas and carefully keep pulling the ribbon through until you have the desired knot.

** To do a Ribbon Stitch secured with a French Knot place a wrap on the needle. Extend the ribbon flat to the desired length. Put the point of the needle just through the ribbon and canvas using a laying tool to create a loop. BEFORE you pull the needle through the canvas, STOP and tighten the knot - with your free hand gently pull the ribbon until the wrap slides down the needle and meets the canvas. Let the ribbon go. The ribbon should now be lightly snugged against the needle and canvas. Pull the needle through the canvas and carefully keep pulling the ribbon through until you have the desired knot. Remove the laying tool. You now have a French Knot securing the Ribbon Stitch.

You can do this stitch in another version by placing a wrap on the needle. Extend the ribbon to the desired length and curl the ribbon back on itself (always holding onto the wrap). Place the needle tip into the two layers of ribbon and canvas. BEFORE you pull the ribbon through the canvas, STOP and tighten the knot - let go of the wrap and with that hand pull the ribbon until the wrap slides down the needle and meets the canvas/ribbon. Now pull the needle through the canvas and carefully keep pulling until you have the desired knot. It is not necessary to pull real tight. This combination Ribbon Stitch with a French Knot is a very secure stitch that will not pull out.

*** To do a classic Ribbon Stitch bring your needle and ribbon up through the canvas. Move in the desired direction about 4-10 holes. Lay the ribbon out flat to that point and put the needle through the ribbon before passing through the canvas. Continue pulling all the way through. That is a classic **Ribbon Stitch**. In this form it looks a lot like a **Straight Stitch** with a slightly more pointed end.