

## PURPLE PANSY

Designed by TAPESTRY TENT - SUSAN ROBERTS DESIGNS

Stitch guide by River Silks Ltd. Copyright © 2007 River Silks Ltd.

**Materials needed:** 8 X 8 stretcher bars, #22-24 tapestry needles

**River Silks Ltd. 100% silk, hand dyed ribbon**

Information (877) 944-7444

[www.riversilks.com](http://www.riversilks.com)

4mm	Color	Spools	7mm	Color	Spools
202	WHITE WHITE	3	24	PAISLEY PURPLE	1
250	SPETRA YELLOW	1	25	DEEP LAVENDER	1
255	Overdyed White Jade	1	26	IMPERIAL PURPLE	1
73	FOREST SHADE	1			
74	WATERCRESS	1			

**BACKGROUND:** Color 202

**LEAVES:** Color 73, 74, 255

**PETALS:** Color 24, 25, 26

### GENERAL PLANNING

Attach the canvas to the stretcher bars preferably using tacks. A floor or table stand should be used.

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

**BACKGROUND:** Stitch the BACKGROUND in TENT, CONTINENTAL or BASKETWEAVE. Begin with the background and stitch into the blooms and leaves knowing you will stitch over some background stitches.

**CENTER OF FLOWER:** Stitch DOUBE WRAPPED FRENCH KNOTS or COLONIAL KNOTS in yellow, white and a few green.

**LEAVES:** Stitch with a LEAF STITCH placing straight stitches along the ribs of the leaves in the light color, stitching from bottom to top. Begin stitching at the top of the leaves, varying the colors, stitching from the outside into the rib and overlapping colors and stitches. OR use STRAIGHT STITCHES starting at the tip and overlapping stitches as you come closer to the petals.

**PETALS:** Stitch the petals with STRAIGHT STITCHES going horizontally across the width of the petal starting near the center and working to the outside of each petal. Overlap a bit of the background and leaves for a natural look. Stitch lengths vary, but do what looks best to your eye. Note stitches go into neighboring stitches covering the canvas. Turn the canvas around as you stitch to see the curve and flow of stitches. At the end you can come back and fill in lines of division between petals with the lightest color using STEM STITCH, BACK STITCH, or any combination of straight stitches which look good to you.

**Remember, the painting is a guide and you need not stay between the lines. The stitch guide is a guide and suggestions. The stitcher makes the final choices.**

**HAVE FUN!**