

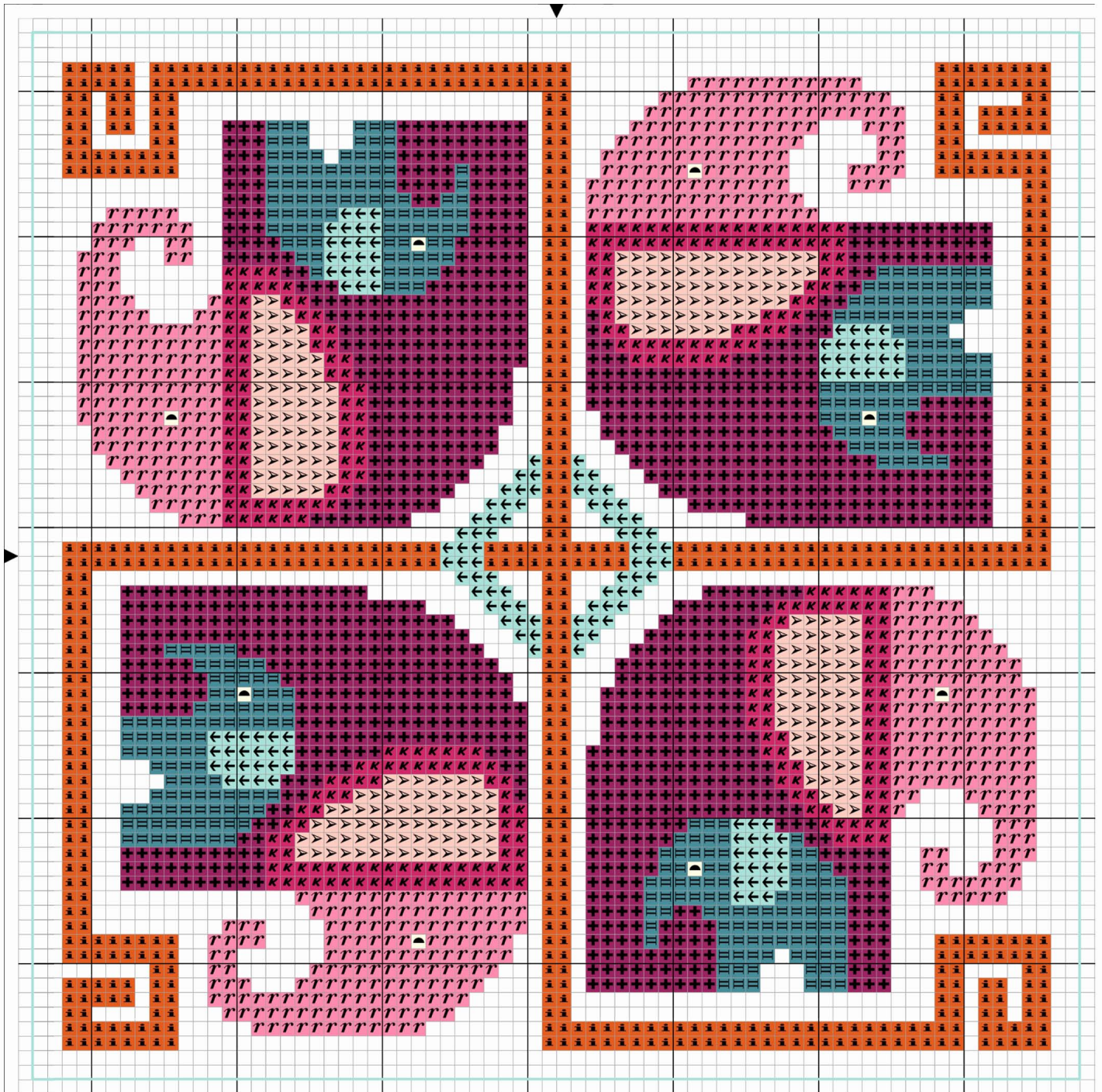


elephant biscornu

a counted cross-stitch pattern by Jody Rice



elephant biscornu by satsuma street designs



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The center of the chart is indicated above by two black arrows. Mark your fabric by running basting stitches down the center lines and work from the center of your fabric out to the edges. Always work all top stitches in the same direction, and work the design vertically. Do not turn the fabric sideways and work the design horizontally.

Divide your 6 strand cotton floss and work with 2 strands at a time. Use a blunt tipped tapestry needle, I recommend size 24-26.

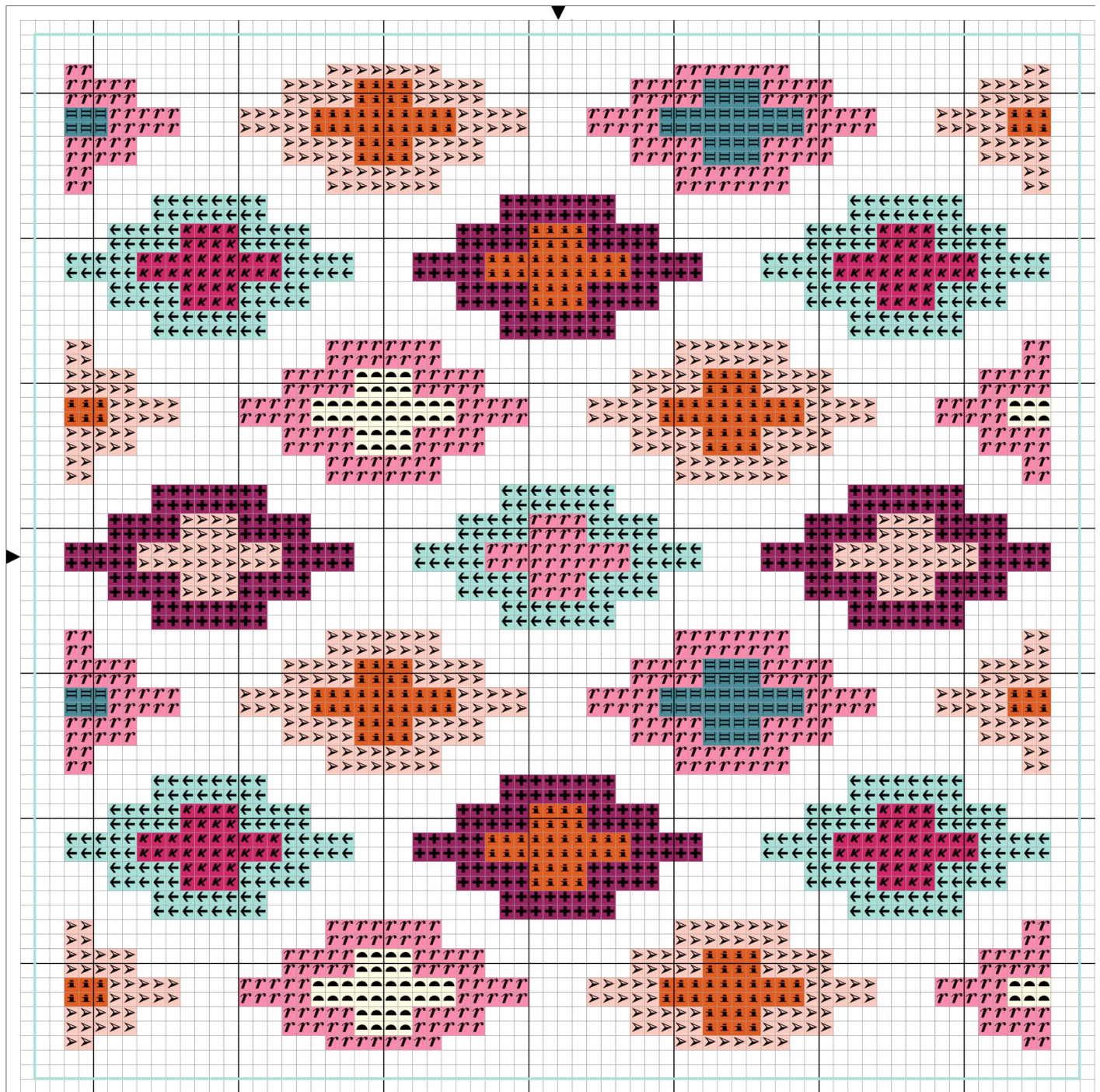
This design is 72 stitches wide x 72 stitches tall.

PLEASE NOTE:

There is a border of back stitching around the entire design. The back stitch border is vital to constructing the biscornu, and must be exactly the same number of stitches on each side.

The same border must be stitched on both pieces of the pattern.

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	Number	Description	Estimated Length
■	DMC 720	Orange Spice dark	77.5 in.
■	DMC 3810	Turquoise dark	39.8 in.
←	DMC 964	Sea Green light	103.0 in.
+	DMC 718	Plum	127.5 in.
⌢	DMC 3806	Cyclamen Pink light	100.0 in.
➤	DMC 3824	Apricot light	73.0 in.
⌢	DMC 601	Cranberry dark	39.4 in.
●	DMC 3823	Yellow ultra pale	7.9 in.

PLEASE NOTE:

There is a border of back stitching around the entire design. The back stitch border is vital to constructing the biscornu, and must be exactly the same number of stitches on each side.

The same border must be stitched on both pieces of the pattern.

Thread estimates are for both charts combined.

This design is 72 stitches wide x 72 stitches tall.

let's make a biscornu!

A biscornu is an 8-sided, stuffed pincushion made out of two squares of fabric. Most biscornu are made out of Aida cloth or evenweave linen, and the top or both sides are decorated with cross stitch or blackwork embroidery. The pincushion is finished with two buttons in the center on either side, pinching the pillow together.

The most important thing to keep in mind when making a biscornu is that each piece must be exactly square, and have the same number of back stitches around the edge on all sides. Your pattern can have even or odd number of stitches, this pattern is 72 stitches square.

In addition to your cross stitch fabric and floss, you will need some type of stuffing, heavy sewing thread, and two buttons with a shank.

The first step is to stitch your cross stitch charts onto two squares of fabric. Make sure to also work the row of back stitches all the way around the chart as shown.

A close-up photograph of a square piece of light-colored fabric, likely Aida cloth, featuring a colorful cross-stitch pattern. The pattern consists of various geometric shapes in shades of red, orange, yellow, and green. A black backstitch border is visible around the perimeter of the design.

Press both pieces well, and finish the edges either with a zig zag stitch by machine, or whip stitch by hand.

Two square pieces of cross-stitched fabric are shown, one slightly offset from the other. Both pieces feature the same colorful geometric pattern and a black backstitch border. The edges of the fabric appear to be finished with a zigzag or whipstitch.

Knot a piece of floss that matches your back stitched border and bring your needle up through the fabric at a center point on the border of your top fabric. Line up that point with a corner point on your bottom fabric.

A close-up photograph showing two hands stitching the two fabric pieces together. The needle is passing through the black backstitch border of the top fabric, and the thread is being caught by the bottom fabric at a corner point.

Sliding your needle under the back stitches but not catching the fabric, begin to whip stitch the two pieces together, making sure to catch one stitch from each border every time. You can flip the pieces so the bottom fabric is on top if that is more comfortable, but keep the direction of the stitches the same.

A close-up photograph showing the hands continuing to whipstitch the two fabric pieces together. The needle is sliding under the black backstitch border of the top fabric, and the thread is being caught by the bottom fabric.

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Keep the tension of your whip stitch consistent but not too tight. Keep checking as you go to make sure you are matching up your borders correctly and haven't skipped any stitches.



When you reach the corner points, you should now have lined up the corner of one piece to the center point of the other. Don't pull corner stitches tight thinking it will make sharper corners, just keep a normal tension.



Stop whip stitching when you are about 4 inches from finishing to leave a space for stuffing. I use a combination of fiberfill and pellets, but any stuffing of your choice will work.



The stuffing should be quite full, remember you will be squishing the centers down with a button. When the cushion is fully stuffed, fold your edges inside and finish whip stitching them together.



Finish your last corner stitch...



Before pulling the last stitch all the way through, pass your needle back through the loop in the floss. Then pull the stitch tight, making a knot.



After knotting your floss, slip your needle into the fabric and bring it out again about a half of an inch away.



Cut your floss close to the fabric, thus hiding the tail of your knot.



The stuffed biscornu, prior to sewing on the buttons.



Using heavy sewing thread, sew your buttons on by bringing the needle and thread all the way through the cushion from top to bottom, and going through the button shank several times. These are 1/2" buttons.



Congratulations! You've made a biscornu! If you need further guidance, there are many excellent tutorials available online. You can also see higher resolution versions of these photos and more detailed advice on my blog at:

<http://satumastreet.blogspot.com/2014/03/biscornu-basics.html>