

BOO 2 HOOR! ©



2 spook-tacular counted needlepoint ornaments
stitched entirely with glass beads

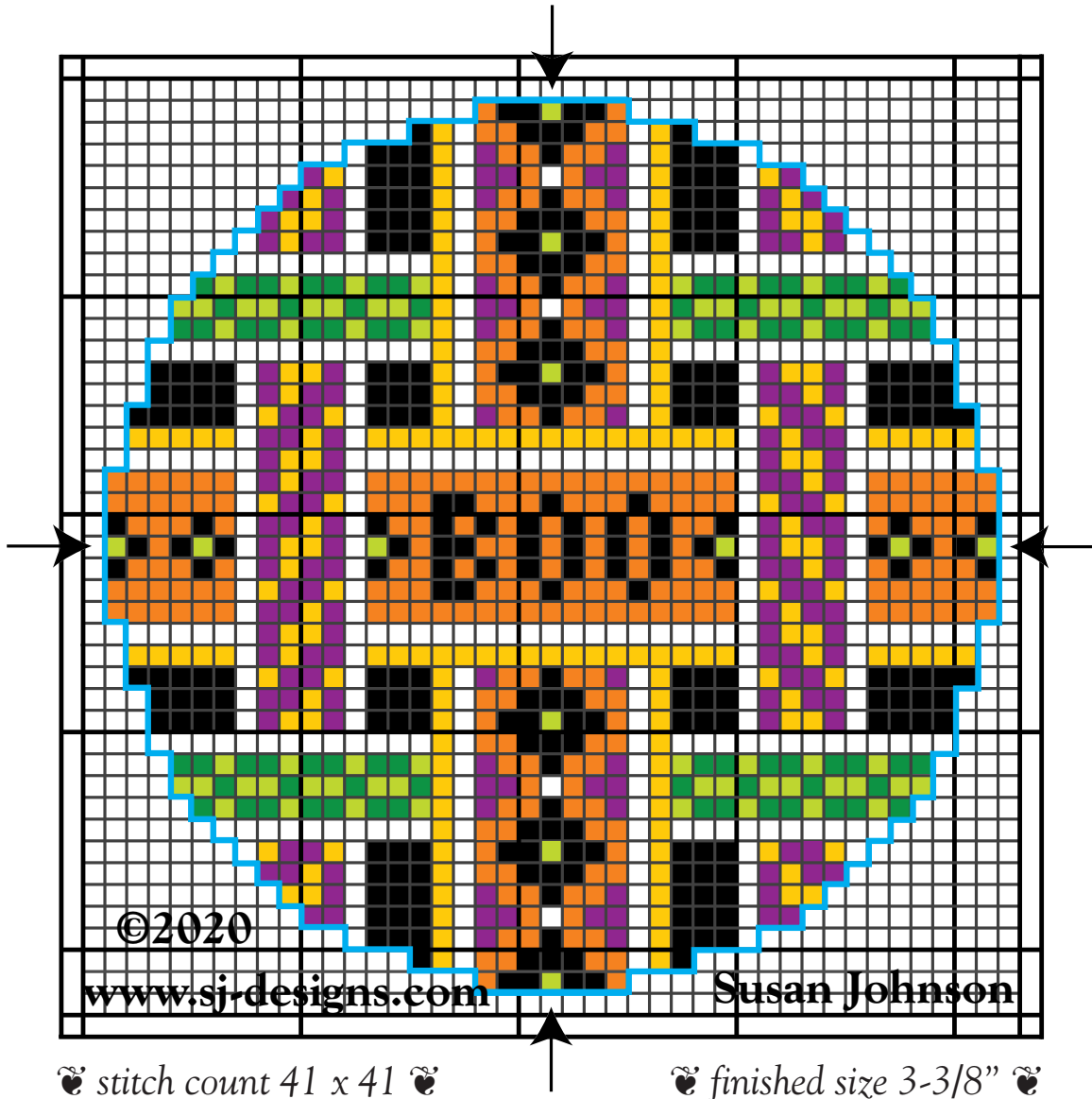
designed by Susan Johnson

BOO 2 HOOR!

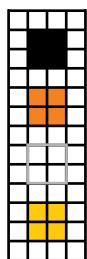
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BOO 2 HOU! ©



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#02M BLACK

#19 ORANGE

#53 WHITE OPAL

#58 GOLD PLATED



#60 EMERALD

#80 PURPLE

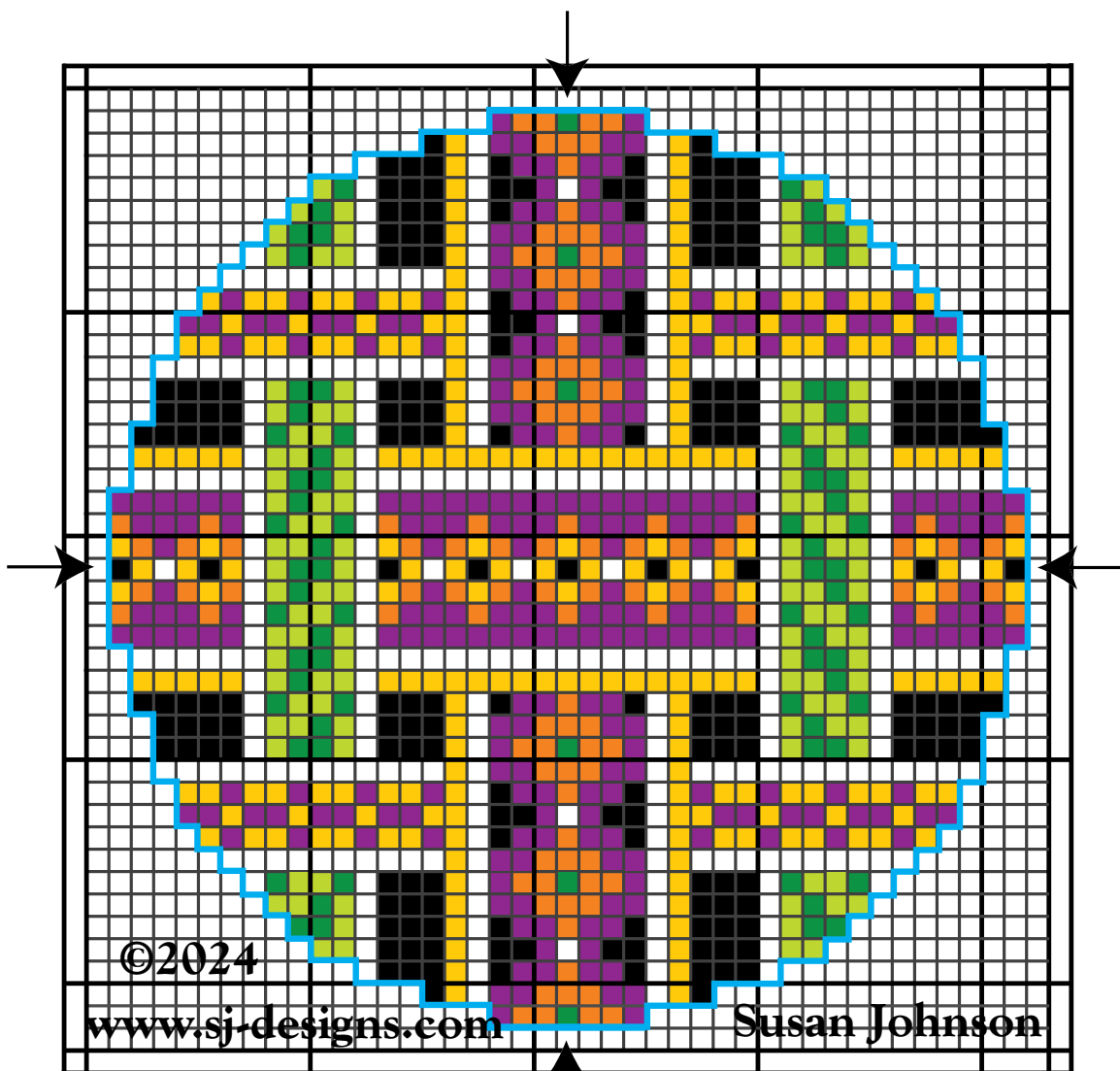
#112 LIME



The blue outline is NOT stitched, it simply indicates where the white background stitches end.

BOO 2 HOU!

BOO 2 HOPE 2! ©



♥ stitch count 41 x 41 ♥

♥ finished size 3-3/8" ♥

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#02M BLACK
#19 ORANGE
#53 WHITE OPAL
#58 GOLD PLATED



#60 EMERALD
#80 PURPLE
#112 LIME

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Working with Beads

You've very likely used beads as glittering accents on your needlework, but may never have worked solidly stitched designs like this ornament. The techniques I'll describe apply to converting most charts to beaded needlepoint.

To use a bead in place of yarn or thread for individual stitches, you'll need to match the bead size to the count of your canvas. For these ornaments, you'll use a special #12/24 double mesh or penelope canvas with size 11/0 glass and gold-plated glass seed beads. Use 2-ply (2 individual strands) of embroidery floss or a doubled strand of beading thread for *Holiday Hearts*. 18" to 24" is a good working length of thread.

One delightful aspect of solidly beaded needlepoint is how quickly it works up— you don't need to change thread colors or do that time-consuming double-lock stitch over each bead (*see page 5 for more bead techniques*). Working on double mesh canvas produces a very stable yet flexible beaded fabric.

This ornament has a **stitch count of 41 x 41** for a finished size of about 3-3/8" across on #12/24 canvas. The pattern could be "squared off" for a larger, square shaped ornament, although you'll need additional beads.

Materials List

***SJ Designs 11/0 glass seed beads** in the following colors:

One package of 500 beads of each color is more than enough for one ornament. "S/L" beads are transparent with a silver lining that creates a glittery effect; White Opal has an iridescent finish over a solid white bead.

#02M Black Matte (approximately 175 beads)

#19 Orange S/L (approximately 325 beads)

#53 White Opal (approximately 275 beads)

#58 Gold Plated (approximately 180 beads)

#60 Emerald S/L (approximately 100 beads)

#80 Purple S/L (approximately 175 beads)

#112 Lime S/L (approximately 100 beads)

***Zweigart #12/24 White Double Mesh needlepoint canvas**, cut 6" x 6" for a single ornament, or 12" x 12" for 4 ornaments (*divide canvas by basting the canvas into 6" x 6" squares and center one ornament in each square*).

#12 mono or interlock can be used instead of double mesh, see page 5 for instructions on working with beads on this type of canvas.

***#26 or #28 Tapestry needles** (*have a few on hand, I find that beaded needlepoint is hard on needles!*)

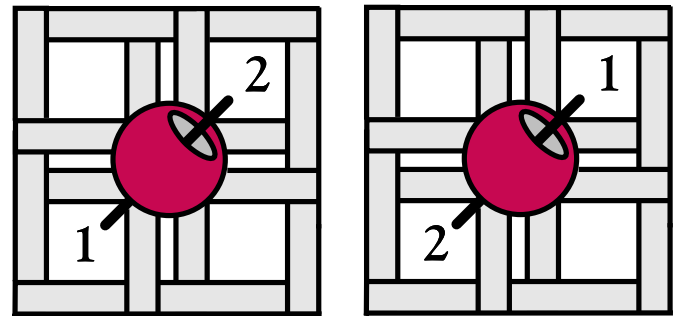
*** White DMC 6-ply Embroidery Floss** (1 skein is enough for 2 ornaments) or clear beading thread (about 20-25 yards per ornament). *If you decide to add 2 rows of plain Cross or Tent stitch around the beaded pattern for finishing, you'll need about 1/2 skein floss per ornament (check with your finisher). If using floss, it's best to match it to the color of your canvas.*

*** Stretcher bars**, 6" x 6" for a single ornament, or 12" x 12" for 4 ornaments (*divide the canvas into four squares and center one ornament in each*).



A Tent stitch (Continental or Half-Cross) attaches each bead. can be used for large areas but is not really applicable to these patterns. Seed beads are not perfectly round and appear slanted when stitched in place; it doesn't matter which way your stitch slants (the bead will appear to slant the opposite direction) but it's crucial to be consistent. Keep that in mind if you turn the canvas.

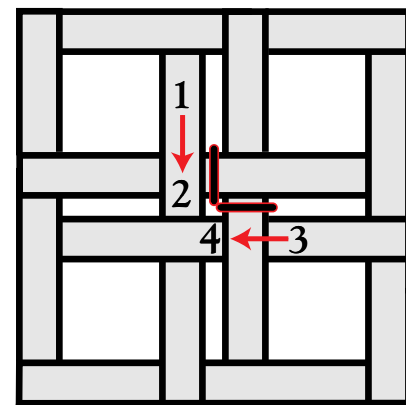
Each stitch uses a single bead, so you'll pick up a bead in the color to be used for that stitch (you don't thread all the beads onto the thread at once as in bead crochet). Each colored square on the chart represents a single bead stitch– don't let the graph lines confuse you, they don't represent canvas threads.



Use “waste” or “away” knots; it's difficult to attach the first few beads securely while trying to hold the thread in place to stitch over it! Once you reach the knot, cut it off if the thread is securely anchored, or rethread the floss and end off as usual. You can also begin your thread by weaving it through the back of a solidly worked section.

Here's a thread anchoring trick I use for additional security, illustrated at right:

Begin a new length of thread with an away or waste knot. At the canvas intersection where the bead will go, take 2 tiny stitches splitting the canvas thread cluster. Pick up a bead, then stitch over the intersection– the little stitches will be completely hidden and your thread will not come loose.



To end off a working thread, run it through the back of a stitched area, then take a backstitch and run through several more stitches. This creates a securely anchored thread that's unlikely to come loose.

You can begin stitching at any point on the chart that makes it easy for you to count the pattern. You can work horizontal rows across, changing bead colors as required. I tend to follow the shape of each “ribbon” working motifs and then filling in the background.

There's no “one correct way” to work, and you may find yourself using different methods for different patterns (or even within the same pattern). Begin at the center of the pattern, or count out to a different spot. It is easiest to work with the thread coming up in an empty canvas hole whenever possible. I prefer to work the ornaments from the bottom up since I work my tent stitches as shown in the second diagram.

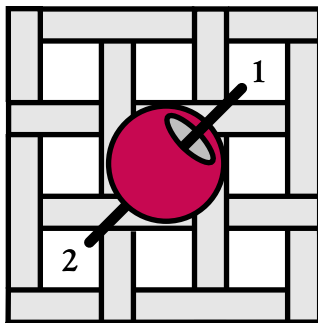
Beyond the Basics *beading tips for future projects*

Size 11/0 seed beads fit perfectly on #12 mesh (12 stitches to the inch) canvas over a single intersection and on #24 mesh canvas or 25-count linen worked over 2 intersections (often referred to as “2 x 2”, or 2 threads high by 2 threads wide. 2-ply floss or specialty beading thread is used to stitch the beads in place. **Size 14/0 or 15/0 seed beads** fit on #18 mesh (18 stitches to the inch) canvas over a single intersection and on 36-40 count linen worked over 4 intersections. 1- or 2-ply floss or specialty beading thread can be used.

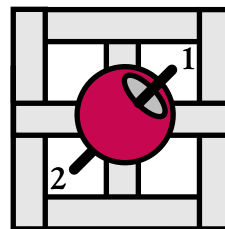
Clear beading thread is an excellent choice and necessary with transparent beads (“smoke” beading thread is best on dark colors of canvas). Opaque colors and beads with a silver-lined hole are solid enough that the thread color won’t show through. When using floss, match the working thread to the color of your canvas or fabric; it’s much less obvious (and much less work) than matching thread to each bead color.

Working over 4 intersections generally produces a very stable bead. Beads worked over a single intersection may be loose, so taking a second stitch that splits the working thread around the bead will lock it into place. Attach the bead with a Tent or Half-Cross stitch, then bring the needle back up in the same hole as the first stitch, then separate the doubled working thread so that one thread lies on either side of the bead.

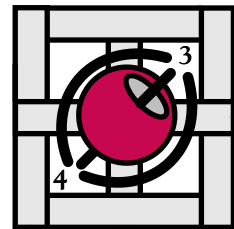
And a final tip– if you discover that you’ve used the wrong color bead and it’s too late to rip out, a small needle nose pliers is your new best friend. Insert a needle into the bead (so you don’t cut the thread) and break the bead with the pliers. Be sure to wear eye protection! Then, stitch over the thread with the correct color bead. It’s not something to use for a large area, but can be the perfect solution for a single wayward bead or two.



over 4 intersections
(2 threads high by 2 wide)



over 1 intersection
Step 1



over 1 intersection
Step 2

Example below shows beading over 4 intersections on #24 Congress Cloth using 11/0 beads; background is left unworked.

