



Shopping list...

- ◆ 14HPI aida, 19x15in (48x38cm), beige (or 28HPI evenweave)
- ◆ Stranded Anchor cotton as listed in the key
- ◆ Frame with a 11¼x8in (30x20cm) aperture, pine
- ◆ Turn to page 68 for hints and help!

Tension tip

Take care with your tension when working the long stitch. There are some areas, such as the drake's breast where the stitches are quite long. If you don't pull the thread tightly enough it will sag across the fabric. Using a frame or hoop will solve this and make your tension correct.

► Stitching the design

Fold your fabric in half both ways to find the centre and start stitching from this point. You can stitch in whichever order you prefer, but you will find it much easier when counting if you stitch one element of the design at a time.

All the cross stitch is worked in two strands of stranded cotton over one thread of the aida fabric. Refer to the chart and key carefully as there are several similar shades used in this design.

The areas used to create shading, or those which need a more subdued effect, are worked in two strands of half cross stitch. These are clearly indicated on the key and you should make sure that you work them all in the same direction for an even appearance.

Work the backstitch details

When you have finished all the cross stitch you can add the backstitch and long stitch details. You will see that on the key these are listed together. This is

because the outlining is worked with a mixture of the two stitches, depending on what shape they are being worked around. They are both stitched in the same way, the only difference being that the long stitch is worked over more than one fabric thread. It's important to count carefully working each of the long stitches as you must cover several fabric squares. All the outlining is worked in one strand of thread, just refer to the key to see which colours to place where. Please note that a little of the backstitch on our stitched piece differs to the chart, but you should follow the chart to obtain best results.

Adding the French knots

The French knots are worked using two strands in the positions shown on the chart. When you are working the French knots for the reeds, use three or four twists to make them really chunky and stand out. Just use two twists for all the other French knots.

A day by the pond

Anchor	Colour
Cross stitch in two strands	
	001 Bright white
	168 Medium blue
	235 Medium grey
	259 Very light green
	264 Light green
	265 Medium green
	267 Dark green
	269 Very dark green
	305 Yellow
	313 Light orange
	336 Light rose
	338 Dark rose
	360 Dark brown (2)
	363 Dull orange
	370 Medium brown
	386 Pale yellow
	397 Very light grey
	399 Light grey
	400 Dark grey
	401 Very dark grey
	851 Very dark blue
	942 Cream (2)
	1003 Dark orange
	1046 Light brown
	1066 Dark blue
	5975 Rust

Half cross stitch in two strands

	002 White (2)
	167 Light blue
	373 Tan (2)

Anchor	Colour
Half cross stitch in two strands	
	903 Stone
	*942 Cream

Backstitch and long stitch in one strand

	*259 Very light green	duckling leaves, book, hat, duck and bait details
	*269 Very dark green	rod handle and pond reed outlines and details
	*360 Dark brown	all other outlines and details
	*386 Pale yellow	ducks, duckling and net details
	*401 Very dark grey	fishing rod and line, book and duck details
	*851 Very dark blue	dragonfly details and border
	*1046 Light brown	net and borders, book, dragonfly, reeds and hat details

French knots in two strands

	*401 Very dark grey	fishing rod reel
	*851 Very dark blue	dragonfly antennae
	*1046 Light brown	hat and reed details

Stitched using Anchor threads on 14HPI aida
Stitch count 143x97 Design area 10½x7in (27x18cm)

*indicates colour is listed earlier in the key
(2) indicates more than one skein required