

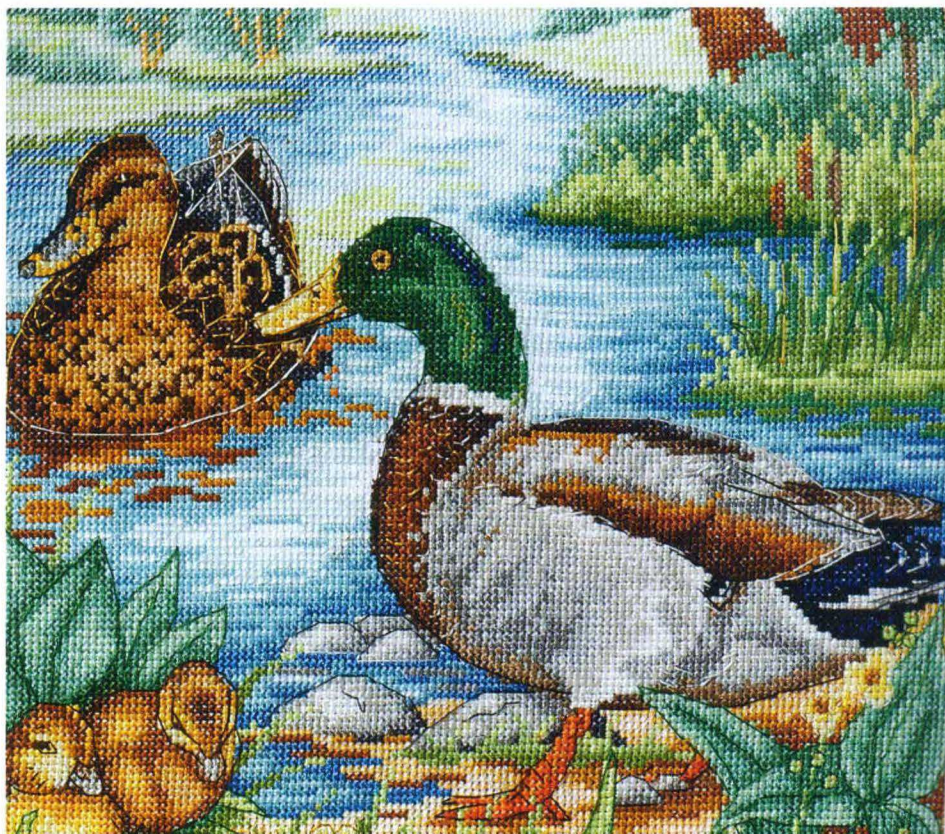
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## Which direction should I work my half stitches in?

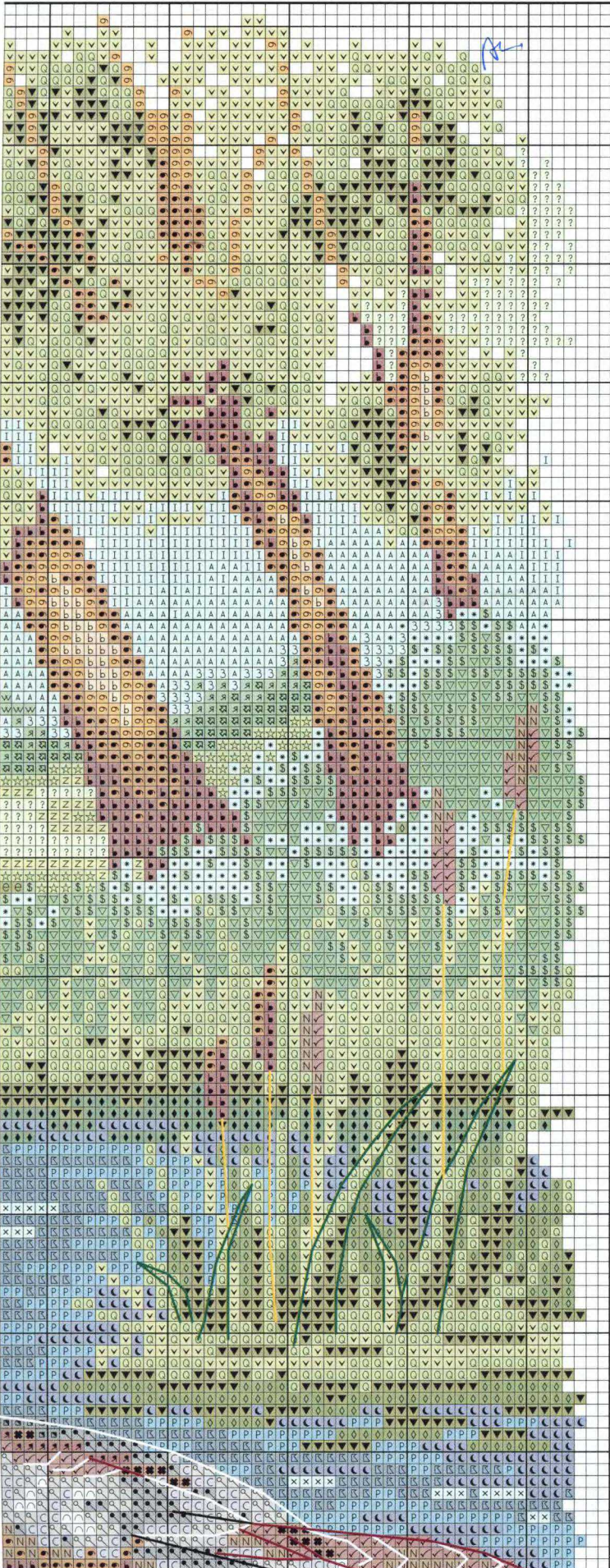
There are different ideas on the correct way to work your half cross stitches. Some stitchers feel that they should lie in the same direction as the bottom arm of a cross stitch, as this is the first bit you would work of any stitch, so it feels natural to complete them in this way. Other stitchers prefer to make them face in the same direction as the top arms of their cross stitches, as this means the light will fall across the piece in a consistent way. There is no real right or wrong answer here. The most important thing is to work them in the way that feels right for you, and to ensure that they face in the same direction throughout the entire design.

### stitch tip

Make an organiser with every symbol on the chart on, so you have the right colours and number of strands ready to use





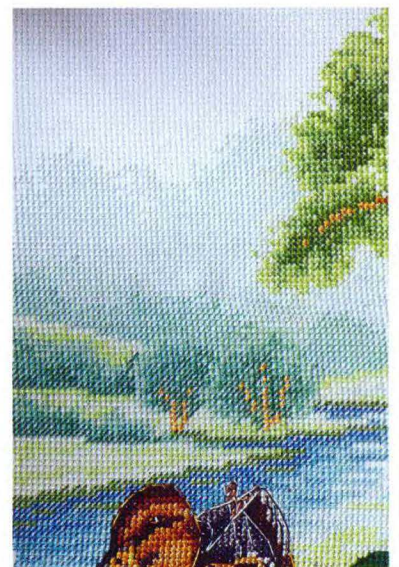


### Ducks key

Anchor		Anchor	
<b>✳ Cross stitch in two strands</b>			
∩	2	white	
◀	149	blue	
◻	167	light turquoise	
P	168	turquoise	
☾	169	dark turquoise	
*	206	light mint green	
\$	208	mint green	
▽	210	dark mint green	
🔍	235	dark grey	
◇	244	green	
◆	246	dark green	
∨	253	lettuce green	
Q	265	light moss green	
▼	267	moss green	
—	292	light yellow	
⊖	305	yellow	
♀	306	gold	
♀	324	peach	
♂	326	burnt orange	
♂	359	dark brown	
b	362	light sand	
o	363	sand	
☉	365	tan	
♂	371	brown	
♂	381	chocolate brown	
🔍	397	light grey	
C	398	grey	
◻	401	very dark grey	
■	403	black	
⊕	1044	very dark green	
N	1084	mink	
✓	1086	dark mink	
<b>✳ Half cross stitch in two strands</b>			
x	158	very light turquoise	
J	167	light turquoise	
t	168	turquoise	
<b>✳ Half cross stitch in two strands</b>			
★	169	dark turquoise	
3	206	light mint green	
Я	208	mint green	
⊖	210	dark mint green	
Z	253	lettuce green	
☆	265	light moss green	
e	267	moss green	
K	363	sand	
<b>✳ Half cross stitch in one strand</b>			
I	158	very light turquoise	
A	206	light mint green	
w	208	mint green	
?	259	very light green	
s	362	light sand	
<b>✳ Backstitch in one strand</b>			
—	2	white	<i>ducks, stones, yellow flowers</i>
—	246	dark green	<i>leaves, head of male duck</i>
—	253	lettuce green	<i>large yellow flower leaf veins</i>
—	363	sand	<i>duck feathers, reeds</i>
—	365	tan	<i>large yellow flowers, male duck's bill, female duck's eye</i>
—	381	chocolate brown	<i>all other backstitch</i>
—	401	very dark grey	<i>male duck, female duck's tail, stones</i>
—	403	black	<i>duck feathers, feet, eye and bills</i>
<b>Stitch count 202 high x 151 wide</b>			
<b>Design area 16 HPI (32-count evenweave</b>			
<b>– 32 x 24cm (12½ x 9½in)</b>			
<b>This design was stitched using Anchor stranded cotton</b>			

### Let the light shine

The beauty of half cross stitch in one strand is that you get glimpses of the background fabric through the stitches, as the fabric is far more visible than it would be if you used whole cross stitch in two strands. You could add an even more sunny feeling to the project and an even greater feeling of depth, by working the ducks on a pale blue aida or evenweave fabric instead of white. This background colour will add a richness behind the stitches in the distance, as well as looking lovely in the unstitched areas of the project.

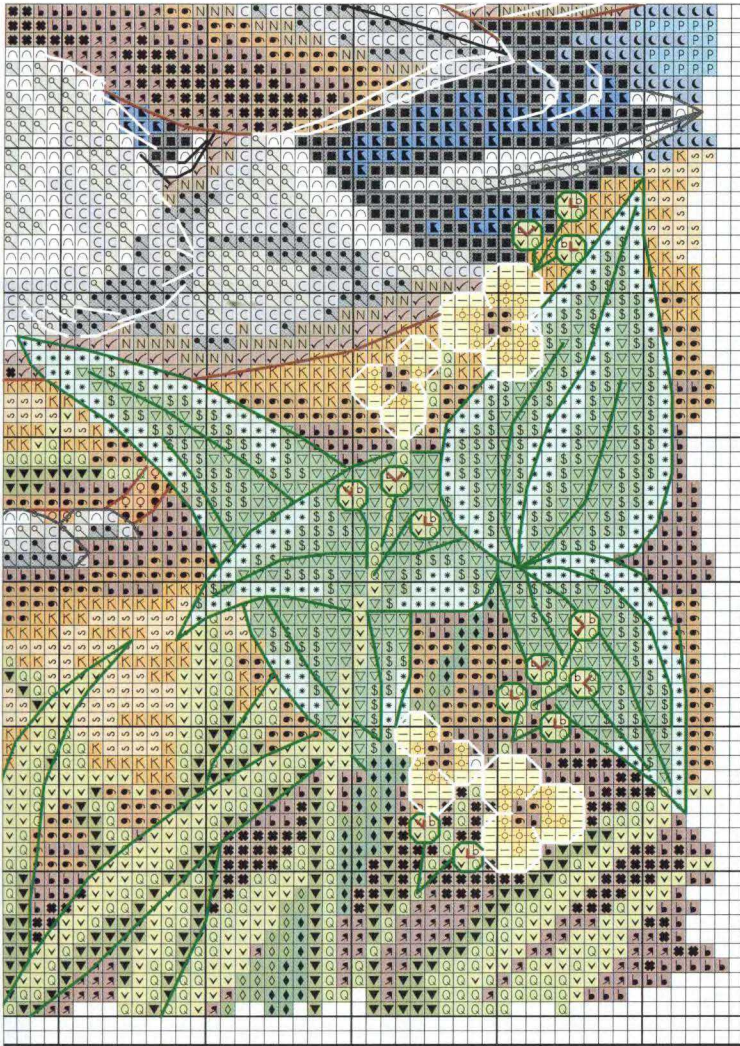






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## How to work the reeds

The long, straw-like nature of the riverbank reeds in this design is created using longstitch over the cross stitch. Longstitch is very similar to backstitch, but each stitch covers a much larger area, passing over many holes of the fabric. This makes it very simple to work, and quick, too. The only thing to consider is your tension – too loose and your thread may catch and snag, and the line won't be straight; but pull it too tight and it could distort the stitching and the fabric. You want the longstitch to sit neatly across the underlying cross stitch, to create a nice, taut line.

