

Emily Garces Needlepoint

If you've ever stitched one of Emily Garces' designs, you know how magical they are. Her needlepoint designs are very painterly. When stitched, they become wonderful little jewel boxes showcasing beautiful threads and beads combined with a few simple stitches.

This is not a stitch guide. This is simply a starting point for your creative journey. This is how I would approach the canvas.

Don't overthink it—let the painted design guide your stitches

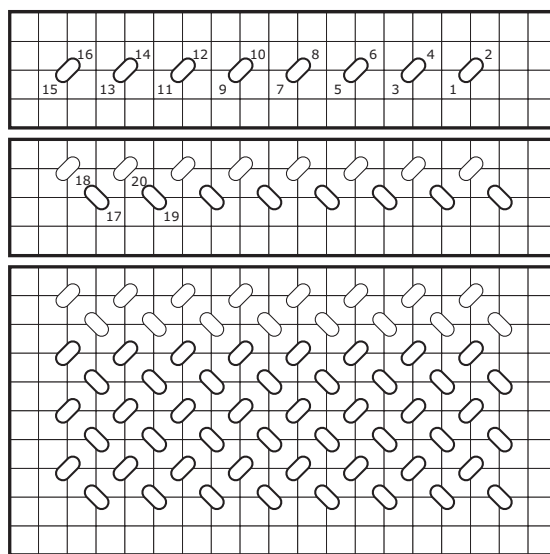


Make the Background Sparkle:

Think sparkles! Sparkle Braid and Radiance Mini are both good choices here. They are small size metallics that catch the light! Use one color over everything or change colors as the colors in the background change.

Think T Stitch or any other open background stitch that is on the smaller side.

If your background has a medallion, you can enhance it by laying long stitches over the painted lines, adding subtle depth and shimmer.



T Stitch

When stitching T Stitch, pay attention to whether your first stitch covers a horizontal or a vertical canvas thread.

From that point on, all subsequent T Stitches will always cover the same "type" of canvas thread, horizontal or vertical. Once you understand this concept you only have to look at the row you are stitching and the row you are going to stitch to determine the direction of your stitches.

This makes it easier to jump around on the canvas and still have your stitch pattern connect.

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Bring the Character to Life:

Whether your canvas features a bunny, a bird or a badger think about stitching it in a combination of Tent and Long Stitches.

Look for the area you want to come forward, noses, beaks and muzzles are typically the most forward aspect of the design. Stitch these in Long Stitch following the direction the fur or beak would follow.

Move on to other areas of animal working solid areas of Tent Stitch in full coverage.

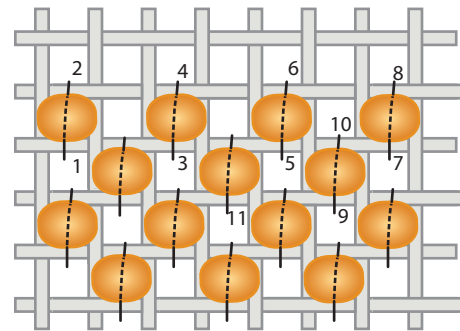
Finish the area with Tent Stitch and maybe a little T Stitch in a lighter coverage. If you are working with a pliable silk even changing a single ply will allow stitches to come forward or recede.

Finally accent the animal with Long Stitches. A little will go a long way adding movement to the fur or feathers. These can go on top of the Tent Stitches.

Add the Finishing Touches:

You are almost there but you want to make a bigger statement. Even a few beads can make the whole canvas sing! Maybe a Lazy Daisy Stitch or two.

I like to take a light touch to this part also. Brick Beading is a great solution. I typically use size 14/15 seed beads but if you want a little more solid coverage scale up to size 11. You can also attach more beads on top of the Brick Beading for a little additional height.



Beaded Brick

Bunny canvas stitched by Dawna Freeland.