



Christmas ornament 2023

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This pretty little ornament has at the center a simple Christmas tree, this design comes from an old Alpursa vignette.

Alpursa album:

Blog - <http://roland-designs.blogspot.com/2013/05/more-alpursa.html>

You Tube - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LXaiS0jb4Qc>



The ornament in the photo is stitched on 28 ct linen. The cross stitch is worked with two strands of DMC cotton, I used the color:

Brown DMC 938

Red DMC 321

Green DMC 913

For the hardanger I use DMC Cotton Perle size 8 for the kloster blocks and blanket stitch. The woven bars were done with DMC Cotton Perle size 12.

These are only suggestions based on supplies I already had. Please feel free to use the colors/fabric of your choice, or that you already have in your stash. This small ornament is perfect for using up leftover linen, and embroidery threads.

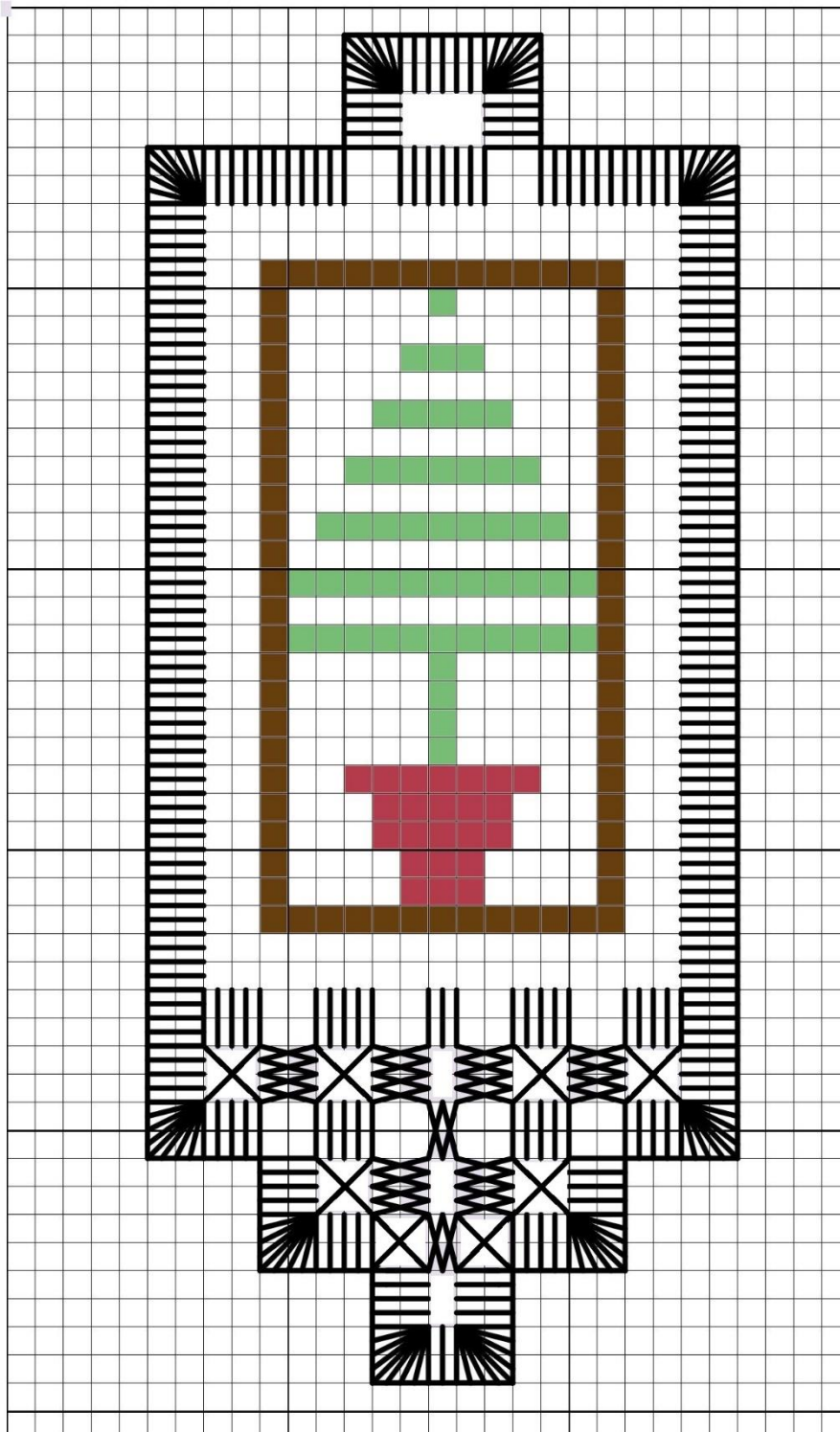
For perfect results, be sure to use a sharp, pointed scissor for the cut-work and for trimming the sides of the ornament.

Instructions:

- Work the cross-stitch design first.
- Next stitch the Kloster blocks, then the blanket stitch.
- Carefully cut the open work, then work the woven bars.
- After the woven bars, you can stitch if you want X in the center of the larger holes. Make sure they all start at the same place.
- Now you can cut around the ornament and finish it off with a decorative ribbon, or threads.

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Historic

Hardanger is a traditional Norwegian whitework embroidery technique that is called after the western region of Norway dominated by the Hardanger fjord.

Hardanger is best described as geometrically patterned embroidery, with cutwork. Originally done all in white linen threads on linen cloth, it is now often stitched on even weave fabric with cotton *perle* threads.

Some Norwegian *bunads* (traditional costumes) feature hardanger embroidery on the aprons and shirts.



Women wearing a bunad with Hardanger embroidery on her apron.

Tip for blanket stitch.

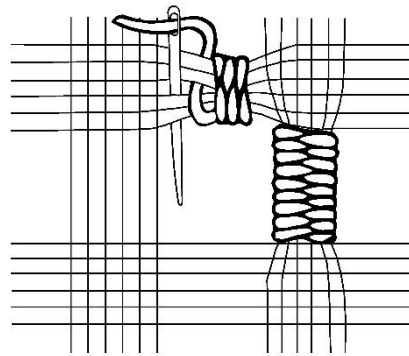
Work left to right.

Start on the top, by passing the needle through 1 fabric thread on the right, then 4 threads down on the other row, (under, and up - see picture) Then catch the loose thread behind the needle, pull gently.

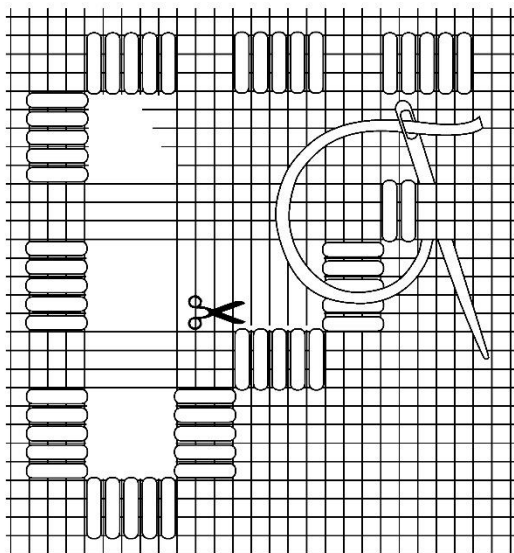
This will create a neat and attractive blanket stitch edge.

Left-handed persons simply work it the other way around, right to left.

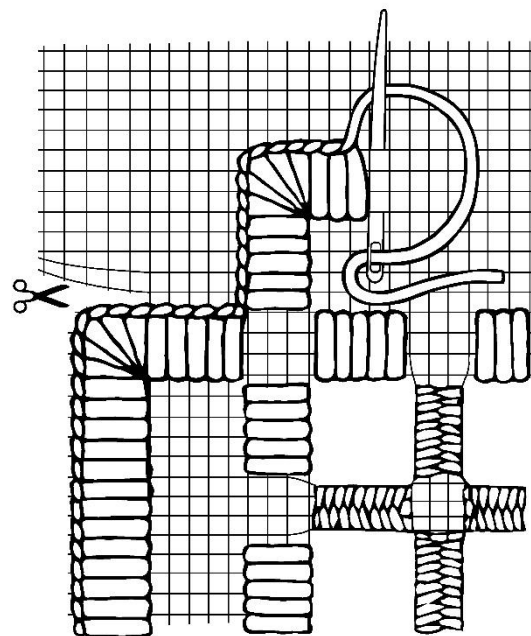
Use a sharp, pointy scissor to trim off the excess fabric.



Woven bars



Kloster blocks



Blanket stitch