

Star of Wonder

Dragon Lady Designs



A glorious golden star against a midnight sky.

Finished size: 3 ¼ inches by 3 ¼ inches

Supplies needed:

- Canvas – 18 count – navy, blue or white – 6 inches by 6 inches

The canvas threads will not show through in the finished ornament unless your tension is very tight, so the colour is not crucial. You can also choose to paint / dye a piece of white or ecru canvas if you cannot find blue canvas and would prefer to stitch on blue.

- Stretcher bars – 6 inches by 6 inches
 - tacks or staples
- Threads:
 - Gold metallic: about 20 yards of Goldfingering, Gold Rush #14, Cresta d'Oro, or Kreinik braid #8
 - Dark blue perle cotton or ThreadworX perle cotton
 - #5 – one skein
 - #8 – about 10 yards
 - Floss – one skein – choose from DMC blues: #300 (lightest), #311, #823, #939 (darkest) or ThreadworX – range: 5102, 8102, 1102 or range: 510241, 810241, 10241
- Awl (optional)
- Jump rings – 2 small rings (1/4 inch) for attaching tassel and loop hanger if desired (optional)
- Tapestry needles: #22, #24
- Fiberfill stuffing

Instructions:

1. Mark one side of the canvas as the top.
2. Find the center of the canvas square. With an awl or large needle, enlarge this hole. There will eventually be 16 threads fitting through this hole, so bigger is better!
3. All stitch diagrams are part of the master chart
4. **Cross Stitch outline:**

Use the #5 perle cotton to stitch the cross stitch outline. There are 30 cross stitches on each side. Count from the center hole 29 threads towards the top and over 30 threads to the left – this is your starting position.

5. Jessica Stitches:

Use 1 metre of gold metallic thread for each of the eight Jessicas; start with one of the large Jessicas and work clockwise around the center.

The large Jessicas alternate with the smaller Jessicas. To make the placement of the subsequent Jessica stitches easier to follow, slightly enlarge the holes on your canvas for the outline of the first large Jessica.

Using an away waste knot, follow the numbering sequence given on the stitch diagrams.

Note that beginning with stitch 41-42 of the large Jessicas, you will slide your needle and thread under the first set of stitches, i.e., 41-42 slides under 1-2, 42-43 slides under 3-4, 43-44 slides under 5-6 etc. (and on the smaller Jessica, that would be stitch 29-30 under 1-2, 31-32 under 3-4 etc.).

The smaller Jessicas share some holes with the larger Jessicas. On the master chart, the holes that are just for the smaller Jessicas are marked with a diamond shape.



Shows cross stitch outline, upright cross diamond border, Jessicas and the corner stitches

6. **Upright Cross Stitch Diamond border:**

Use a single strand of #8 peal cotton to stitch the Upright Cross stitch border around the Jessica stitches. This border does share holes with both the outer Cross stitch border and the tips of the large Jessicas.

7. **Tent Stitch filling:**

Use four strands of floss – or perle cotton #8 - fill in the ovals within the Jessicas and the corner areas around the star. Use basketweave tent or continental stitch. Keep your tension for the tent stitches light. You may need to pull back some of the overlapping stitches of the Jessica stitches to be sure no canvas is left visible. See master chart for placement of stitches.



Tent filling

8. **Nobuko Stitch Corners:**

Use #5 perle cotton for the long diagonal stitches and the metallic gold for the short tent stitches in this filling stitch pattern. The diagonal stitches in each of the corner quadrants point towards the center of the star, so it may be easiest to turn the chart as you progress around the square. This stitch can be stitched horizontally – starting at the center point of the upright cross border or vertically – starting in the corner of the outer square border. There will be compensating stitches along the diagonal of the inner upright cross diamond border and along the straight edges.

It may be easier to work vertically - one row up with the pearl cotton diagonal stitches, followed by one row up with the gold metallic tent stitches and then work down the next row with the pearl cotton diagonal stitches, followed by one row down with the gold metallic tent stitches. This would require keeping two needles threaded and parking the unused one off to the side so that it does not interfere with the row you are stitching.



Working vertically - alternating one row of metallic with one row of perle cotton.



Finishing Instructions:

1. Use or make a cord and tassel to complement the ornament. You can make a twisted cord, or a machine wrapped cord. Set aside for either step 4 or step 7.
2. Leaving 10 threads around the ornament, cut off the remaining canvas edges.
3. Fold the empty threads towards the back of the ornament. First, fold in the corners of the canvas at a right angle to the canvas structure and press. Some of the excess can be trimmed. Now, fold in the long edges of the empty canvas to form a miter in each corner. Press. Hand stitch the miter folds using a single strand of floss to butt the two folds together.
 - It is also possible to place a small piece of a 1/8" wide fusible strip right against the fold - between the empty threads and the wrong side of the stitching - and fuse the fold down. You might trim off two or three empty threads if it is too bulky.



4. Fold back each of the corners towards the center of the ornament. Use #8 pearl cotton to lace the butted corner sides together. Begin from one of the folded "points" and stitch towards the center, stopping at the center with an extra stitch at center.
- ➔ If you are going to *stitch your tassel cord and hanging cord into the ornament* you will need to do so as you work step 4. Position the hanging cord in the folded corner point before you start this row and anchor it firmly in position. As you near the other side of

this row, insert the tassel cord and anchor it in position as you complete this row. Now, reverse and lace back across the whole seam. Anchor your thread and cut it off.



Finished ornament – back and front – with added crystal bead in center.

5. With a second piece of #8 perle cotton, and starting from an adjacent folded corner point, begin lacing the second side and continue all the way across – adding an extra stitch at the center point as you pass through. When you complete the lacing across the row, reverse and lace back to the beginning of the seam. Anchor your thread and cut it off.
6. Stuff the ornament with the fibrefill to hold its shape. Close the last quadrant and pick up the thread waiting at the center to complete your lacing across this seam. When you reach the end of the seam, reverse and lace back to the beginning point. Anchor your thread and cut it off.
7. The tassel and cord can be attached to the ornament using jump rings. Hand sew the jump rings to the two corners using 2 strands of floss. Hand sew the tassel and cord to the jump rings.