

Butterfly Lace Hints

Courtesy of Jeanette and the collective Chatelaine Stitchers:

- For 'clean, crisp' stitches, do the *dark* silks first. Mine were a bit fuzzy and when I placed the lighter colours down, it 'cleaned' the design.
- For those that have not used Glorianas or Dinkey Dyes before, when you cut threads to stitch, tie the remaining skein to the card. This will let you know 'where' the variegated colour was left. Helpful when you wish to 'continue' with the same progressive intensity.
- For the first four Rhodes encountered from the centre (in each corner), the colour is not mentioned ... *"They are meant to be in DD 68 - but it is no harm done ;-)* if you use the GLO 017." - Martina
- EdMar 100% Rayon - On the 'inside' border for the outside flower, the beautiful (dark) green is required. With experimentation, I have discovered that this thread can be divided into FOUR threads. (Thank you to Amanda, Rachele and Joyce!!!) TWO threads will give the consistency of the 'inside' green' and still look lovely AND shiny. It will try and split again on you, but 'guide' the thread into behaving by using your figures underneath .. works like a charm!
- Small Jessicas (Purple Flowers) - Guide the threads from behind ensuring they do not slide back on themselves while you're busy pulling the silk through for another stitch. This will help the 'little hole' appear nicely in the middle. Especially ensure that the 'last' crossover of thread stays in place. They are sweet little flowers!
- Corner Stitches - I found, after splitting the EdMar threads, that THREE strands were just right to fit with the other cross stitches. Four was too much.

- There are TWO BLOCKS of backstitched 'leaves'.. the best way to get through the maze, with the variegated thread flowing nicely through the 'block' .. focus on EACH leaf, then move on to the next one.
- Change to the b/w chart for bs on 'arrow' leaves. I used the coloured chart and it is not that clear. I also found the b/w chart was easier to locate the placement of beads.
- Butterflies:
 - I found it so much easier to use #28 needle.
 - Examine each BF .. you'll see stitching that doesn't fit on the design .. I have left those out. Also, before doing bs-ing, check the other side to see if the same lines exist. In some cases one side has been 'cleaned' up and the other not.
 - I found that two 'Counting Pins' helped alot when bs-ing, especially with the 'Yellow/Brown' BF located on the right-hand side of the pattern. And, that doing the second side went faster with the location of the threads already painstakingly counted out on the first .. so please (!) be patient with the first side 'cause that Baby is nailed correctly then! 😊
 - Three long stitches for the end of the antenna .. all Flutterbies have them and it makes them look very 'real'.
 - Further to Gail's "*Stitchers beware ...*" (Thank you for the addition Gail! 😊) **WATCH** the Key! Very, very small difference between "Green-DMC 988" and "Chartreuse-DMC 703"! You will notice this on the 9:00 o'clock position of the 'Radiant Swallowtail' butterfly.
- Here is Martina's answer about the outer most blackwork butterflies: '- All lines of the small "Blackwork" Butterflies on the outer border should be worked with one ply of GLO 017.' Happy stitching!