

# Inspired Needle News

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## News of Note:

- Shop Hours:  
Wed, Thur, Fri, Sat 10-4  
Tuesday 10-8p
- Save the date! Count Me Inspired Needlework Retreat will be October 26-28, 2012

## Inside this issue:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| Blackbird Designs New Releases            | 2 |
| Palettes, Palettes And More Palettes      | 2 |
| Coming Soon From ThreadworX               | 2 |
| You May Have Missed These Recent Releases | 3 |
| On Their Way To The Shop                  | 3 |
| What's New At The Shop                    | 4 |

## It's The Most Wonderful Time of The Year

Christmastime. The lights, the smells, the excitement, the shopping, the wrapping...that's what the season brings. There are parties and food and gift giving and family and friends. This is a special time of the year, albeit a hectic one. I have many warm memories from my childhood that

I try to recapture each year through the hanging of a treasured ornament or baking of a favorite recipe. Of course, I will get out my stitched, Christmas items. I have a Winter

scene that I finished and framed in my early 20's. It was one of those Dimension kits and it brought me hours of happiness as the thread unveiled the village scene before my eyes. I love to pull it out every year and hang it

where I can see it every day. I also like to drag out my collection of stitched ornaments. These were handmade by me or were obtained

through an ornament exchange or gift. I have a small, tabletop tree from my Great Aunt

where I like to hang all the handmade beauties. I can remember how I acquired each one and think fondly of the person that created it. Yes, it's the most wonderful time of the year. I think I will set to gathering fabric and threads and stitch up a new creation that can be added to the tree. I wish you many happy moments this season with needle in hand.



## Lizzie\*Kate

Later this month, Lizzie\*Kate will be sending us an auto with a few new releases. Pictured at the right is "A Good Marriage", filled with wisdom for a happy marriage. Included in the kit is a L\*K charm, 7 skeins of over-dyed threads and some DMC floss. Personalize it for the happy couple and this would make a treas-



ured wedding or anniversary gift.

Also included on the auto is "Faith", the next Inspiration Boxer in the series. It includes linen, buttons and a bonus pattern with a charm and beads.

Flora McSample's 2011 Orna-

ments are shown stitched on a milk-chocolate linen with a wool finish.

Lastly, "Oh, Baby" with sampler-type block motifs and an alphabet. Arrange how you wish, personalize and choose colors to match the baby's room. Quick & easy!

# Blackbird Designs “Weekend”, “Christmas Garden” & “Crowning the Tree”

The talented duo of Barb Adams and Alma Allen have just released their latest quilting book, “Weekend Quilts and Projects.” All projects in the book use their latest Blueberry Crumb Cake prints from Moda fabrics. I am by no means a quilter, but I can spend hours pouring over the beautiful quilts, runners, pillows, etc. in this book. There are several pieces I’d like to try my hand at to get more familiar with piecing. I love the homey feeling of seeing something handmade draped across a bed or table-top. Even if you do not quilt and



Weekend Quilts and Projects

never have any intention of doing so, you will enjoy the colors and layout of the pages. It is pure eye candy! Stitchers take note: there is even a cross-stitched sampler tucked inside near the back of the book.

You can see a snippet of the design in the upper left hand corner of the photo.

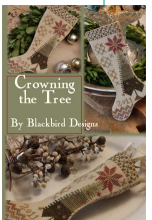
Just announced yesterday is “Christmas Garden”, a wonderful, large sampler that will be the focal point of any room. I was fortunate enough to see this sampler on display in Blackbird’s room last year



Christmas Garden

at Market and I have to tell you, my eyes almost popped out! “Dramatic” is an understatement!! Personalize this sampler for a genealogical record as

Barb did and you will have a fabulous family heirloom. Two other projects, a small travel bag and gift box are included in the 12-page booklet. Also new is “Crowning the Tree”, a slightly larger version of the stocking series from two years ago. “Weekend” is available now. Look for the other two just before mid-December.



Crowning the Tree

## Palettes, Palettes and More Palettes!

Did you know there was a palette craze? It all started with a simple hornbook type palette. Stitchers love to loop their threads through the holes of the palette to organize a current project. Keep a palette with every WIP (Work In Progress) and you’ll never lose track of your threads again! After the intro-



duction of the hornbook palette, they came out with heart shapes, squares, rectangle and ruler-shaped. Next came the seasonal ones like witch hats and ghost hornbooks for Halloween. Some are mini-sized, which look like a regular palette but are simply decorative (the holes are too



small to be functional) and come with a key ring. Now for the Winter season, we have candy canes, Christmas trees and stockings and Snowman palettes! Add some fun to your project bag or surprise a stitching buddy with a thread palette this Christmas.



## Coming Soon From ThreadworX



Stitch Book cover

Here are a couple new products that will be perfect for gift-giving or toss in your own stitching bag! Simple Stitches is a purse-sized stitch book filled with large, easy-to-read, black and white diagrams, needle guide and thread guide. It includes left-handed tips and stitches. Get this book to learn new, simple stitches to

advance your needlework knowledge as a stepping stone from regular cross-stitch.



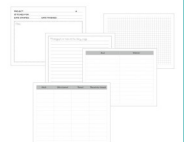
Sample stitch diagram page

The Stitch Journal is a purse-sized, spiral-bound journal/diary. It is perfect for noting stitches, threads, or recording details about your projects; you can even add a



Stitch Journal cover

picture of your finished project. Keep lists of threads, colors and designers in one place (what you need or what you have). Included are blank grid and chart pages with no headings so you can create your own.



Stitch Journals

Stitch Journal sample pages

# You May Have Missed These Recent Releases

**Heartstring Samplery A** lovely sampler surrounded by a vine-y border with the saying, "Whilst I am young Oh may I be clothed in meek humility."



**Homespun Elegance** Lots of new designs from H.E.! Sampler Snowman is a cutie you will want to have hanging around your home!

Christmas Hospitality Ornament will be a favorite with sampler lovers.



**Crescent Colours Chenille Trim!** Dyed to match their floss line, these trims will surely be a complement to all your ornaments and smalls.



**Cross-Eyed Cricket** Christmas and Sugar Cookies are the latest releases. Great for decorating and leaving up year-round—perfect for the person with Christmas in their heart!



**Sampler Woolly** is an adorable sheep carrying his own basket of wool. "Basket" is included with pattern.

**Country Stitches~With Thy Needle** Word Play December. Designer



Brenda Gervais has come up with a monthly series that takes a bunch of words all pertaining to each month and places them on a stuffed pillow. Add a few images and you will have a fun-to-stitch design every month!

**Jane Greenoff (The Cross Stitch**



**Guild)** Jane has a collection of new designs: Dragonfly Garden Hussif. This is a companion piece to the Butterfly Garden



Hussif from last year. Flowery Mead Band Sampler is another advanced project filled with a variety of specialty stitches and Hardanger motifs.

## On Their Way to the Shop

Shepherd's Bush has several new items just in time for the holiday season. First up is "Behold Sheep." The little sheep awaits the birth of the Christ Child. The kit contains 32 count linen, silk threads and a hand-crafted halo button.



Pincushion collectors will want to add "Good Cheer Pin Cushion" to their collections. This is a vintage looking cushion and contains 32 count linen, overdyed threads, ribbon, beads and a button for finishing.



Next is "Hear Bells", another project that fits inside the round ivory trinket box. This kit includes 32 count linen plus threads.



"Christmas Joys" is a Christmas leaflet which uses the window-pane fabric and also a small piece of R&R Kelp chenille trim. Purchased separately is an



adorable JabCo stocking button to sew on the design.



"Christmas Wishes (Fa La La)" will come packed in a stocking for a limited time. The kit includes 28 count Desert Sand linen, some vintage threads and 3 hollyberry buttons.



Lastly, "Merry Wishes" is a fun-to-stitch kit with 10 count Tula fabric. Also included are two fun buttons and the threads needed to complete the design.





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## What's New At the Shop

**Plum Street Samplers** Sergei, A Colonial Garden



**Kelmscott Designs** Heart in Hand Needle Minder, Mon Petite Eiffel Scissors (Silver & Primitive), School of Fish MOP Buttons



**Carolina House Designs** Feathers in the Wind



**Island Cottage NeedleArts** Noel Deere 1683 (#8 in the Woolie Series)



**Nikycreations** Christmas Bells, Sampler Symbols



**Glendon Place** The Spirit of Christmas, Flakes, Ornaments Ala Round, Royal Poinsettias



**Victoria Sampler** Beautiful Finishing 8 (Christmas Crackers)



**Cathy Jean** Woodland Babies

