Little Stars Frame

Designed by Catherine Reurs • Design size: 69w x 84h

Materials:
Kreinik Medium (#16) Braid™ in these colors:
      027, 051HL, 9100, 051F, 052F
Anchor Cotton Embroidery Floss color 127 (several skeins)
#22 Tapestry Needle
White 14-ct Zweigart Interlock Canvas, approx 11" x 11"
Stretcher bars with tacks

Color Key:
- ●   Medium (#16) Braid 052F Grapefruit
- ▲   Medium (#16) Braid 9100 Sunlight
- ▮   Medium (#16) Braid 051F Tangerine
- ╱   Medium (#16) Braid 051HL Sapphire Hi Lustre
- ■   Medium (#16) Braid 027 Orange
- ▪   Anchor 127 Indigo

Instructions:
Cover the raw edges of your canvas with tape to
protect the thread from catching on the rough edges, then mount the canvas on stretcher
bars. Use tent stitch throughout this design. Use 6 strands of cotton floss to fill the
background (use 7 strands for fuller coverage). Then stitch the remaining areas using 1
stand of Medium (#16) Braid according to the color key.

Finishing:
This project should be mounted and finished as a picture frame.   You may wish to have
this project professionally finished; check your local needlecraft shop for a resource.

Stitching Tips
1. Use short lengths of thread—about 18 inches—to avoid excessive abrasion on the
thread from repeated passes through the fabric. Shorter lengths will also give you more
control over the thread, which reduces tangling.

2. Try 'stroking' the thread before threading the needle—using heat and moisture from
your own hand after rubbing your hands together, or using a slightly damp sponge—to
relax the thread and thus reduce twisting and knotting.

3. Use an even amount of tension as you stitch to avoid distorting the canvas. Lay the
strands of cotton floss neatly for ideal coverage.

4. Let the needle hang frequently as you stitch so the thread can untwist. The way we
twist the needle as we stitch, combined with the twist of the thread—or threads—often
leads to frustrating knots. It is good to get into the habit of letting your needle dangle
after every one or two stitches to return the thread to its natural twist.

5. For a quick-and-easy, take-anywhere threading technique, cut a small strip of paper
and fold in half. Place the fold through the eye of the needle and open the two ends to

insert the thread in between. Gently pull the paper through so the thread is brought with it.

   6. Kreinik's Medium (#16) Braid uses a lock-flange mechanism. The thread "locks' in the groove around the top of the spool. Pull the thread to release and cut the required length. Wrap the thread around the top to secure the unused portion.

The Magic of Metallic Threads

  Do you ever think of your stitchery has having an interplay of light and texture? That's exactly what you are creating when you use metallic threads next to cotton floss, silk, or wool yarn. Each thread type has a different look and feel. When used next to matte cotton floss in a stitched project, for example, metallic threads create elements of sparkling light, life-like realism and contrasting texture. In other words, they turn a flat, two-dimensional piece into a three-dimensional picture. In this project, the Kreinik metallic threads and glow-in-the-dark threads recreate the magic sparkle of a night sky. Experiment with metallic threads, incorporating them into your designs, and see how much fun and visually effective THREADS can be!

If you have problems downloading this chart, you can obtain a copy by sending a #10 self-addressed, stamped envelope to: "Web/Little Stars Frame," 3106 Timanus Lane, Suite 101, Baltimore, MD 21244 USA. Overseas inquiries: please provide adequate postage.