



Design size 53h x 41w

Spring Silk Sampler

BY JUDY LALANNE

Materials & Instructions:

- Kreinik Silk Mori®, one 1/2 Skein™ of each color: 5097, 1054, 2024, 4033, 1032, 8053, 6106, 8075
- 35-ct. White Northern Cross Linen at least 7" x 8" (If you decide to stitch on 28-ct linen, use 2 strands of Mori)

Stitch **over two** threads centered on the 35-ct linen, using one strand of Silk Mori for all cross stitches following the color key below. Use one strand of Silk Mori 8075 to backstitch the word "Spring," and one strand of Silk Mori 4033 to backstitch the flower stems.

- ✓ Silk Mori 5097 Dark Royal Blue
- ∖ Silk Mori 1054 Medium Fuchsia
- Silk Mori 2024 Medium Buttercup
- 4 Silk Mori 4033 Light Kelly Green
- ◆ Silk Mori 1032 Lightest Pink
- + Silk Mori 8053 Light Ash Grey
- └ Silk Mori 6106 Dark Lavender
- × Silk Mori 8075 Medium Dark Charcoal

THE HISTORICAL VIEW

Silk threads allow us to sample history

As needleworkers, most of us sense that we are carrying on a craft that started centuries before our mothers or grandmothers or friends taught us. We are aware that the art of the needle has been practiced from ancient cultures through the Middle Ages, the early American society, and now.

Do we take note, however, of particular *threads* and their role in the tradition of needlework? What we do with the needle may carry on the tradition, but what we put in the needle brings the tradition to life.

Silk threads have been used in needlework for centuries, from **Oriental embroideries** to the **ecclesiastical garments** and **blackwork blouses** of Europe's past.

Silk threads were also one of the main thread types to be used in **sampler work**, including the historical samplers of Europe and the traditional samplers of America. Most of the samplers in museums today were stitched in pure silk, and they are a testament to

silk's longevity and popularity.

Today, there are many reasons to use silk threads in all needlework techniques: the **texture**, **sheen** and **softness**, to name a few. Technically, the cellular structure of silk enables it to absorb dyes from deep within—not on the surface like cotton—which creates **deep, rich colors** unrivaled by cotton or rayon threads.

Natural, pure silk flosses like Kreinik's **Silk Mori®** are more than just a pretty color. When used in samplers, for example, they are also an immediate tie to the past. Silk threads *are* our needlework heritage.

When designing or stitching samplers, choose the spun Silk Mori for stable dye lots and superior quality, and combine it with its filament counterpart, Silk Serica®, to revel in textural effects. Now available in Mini Skeins (5m) or 1/2 Skeins™ (2.5m), Silk Mori is economical and easy to work with.

Tip! To open a skein of Silk Mori, remove the paper wrapping and untie the slip knot holding the ends together. Cut a 15- to 18-inch length of silk. Separate the strands by pulling out one strand at a time, straightening the thread after each strand has been pulled out.

Historically, silk was the main thread type used in samplers.