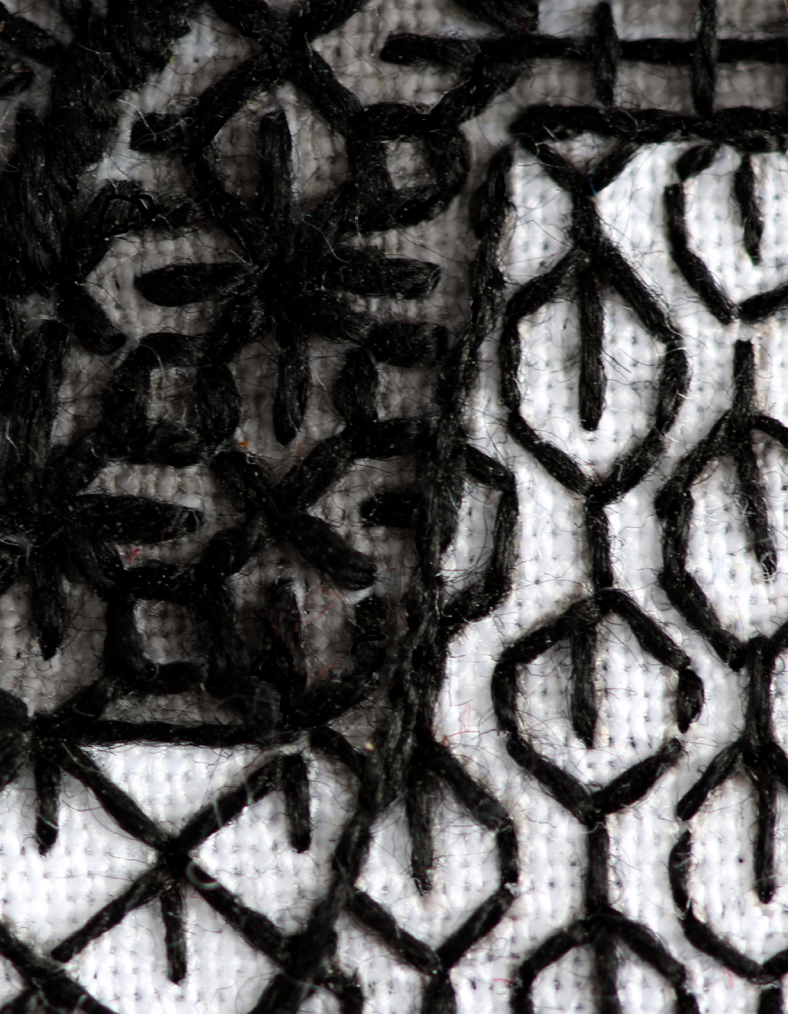


Victorian House Stitch Sampler





TIPS & TRICKS

EMBROIDERY HOOP

One side of the inner hoop reads **THIS SIDE UP**. Keep this hoop face up and place the fabric over top. Press outer hoop down over fabric and under the lip of inner hoop. Carefully pull the fabric taut without distorting the pattern. Tighten the nut.

CUTTING FLOSS

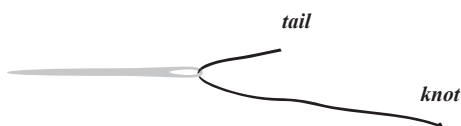
You don't want to use too much or too little thread. Use floss at about 14"-18" in length. The longer your floss is, the more easily it will tangle. At the same time, you don't want your floss to be too short or else you will constantly have to re-thread your needle. A quick and easy way to measure an ideal length of thread is to pinch the end of the thread between your thumb and index finger, extend your arm and measure to the crease of your elbow.

SEPARATING FLOSS

Most embroidery flosses, DMC included, are comprised of 6 easily separable strands that allow for various thicknesses of stitches by using a different number of strands. To separate the floss into individual strands, pull the number of strands you need until they are separate from the rest and smooth them out with your thumb and forefinger before threading them onto your needle.

THREADING THE NEEDLE

Before threading your needle make a knot on one end of your thread. Leave a 3" to 4" tail hanging as you work on the embroidery.



STARTING A STITCH

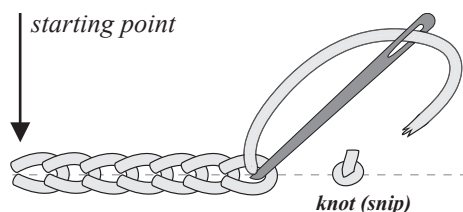
The back of an embroidery is just as important as the front! A back side filled with knots and tangled threads makes it very difficult to produce neat and

beautiful stitches. For this reason, I recommend starting and stopping stitches without leaving knots. There are several ways to achieve this:

Waste Knot

The Waste Knot works best when you are stitching a line and there are no previous stitches on which to anchor your thread.

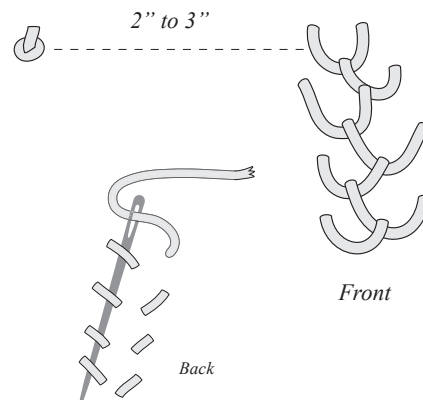
To begin, take the needle from the front to the back about 1" from your starting point, leaving a knot on the front side of your fabric. Take the needle through the start-



ing point and stitch towards the knot, ensuring that each stitch helps to secure the thread on the back. Snip the knot with scissors just before reaching it.

Away Knot

The Away Knot is a good choice when you are stitching detached stitches and there are no previous stitches on which to anchor your thread. To begin, take the needle a few inches from the starting point, leaving a knot on the front side of your fabric. When you finish stitching with your thread snip the knot. Turn over your hoop and re-thread the needle with the loose piece of thread, weaving it through stitches until it is securely in place.

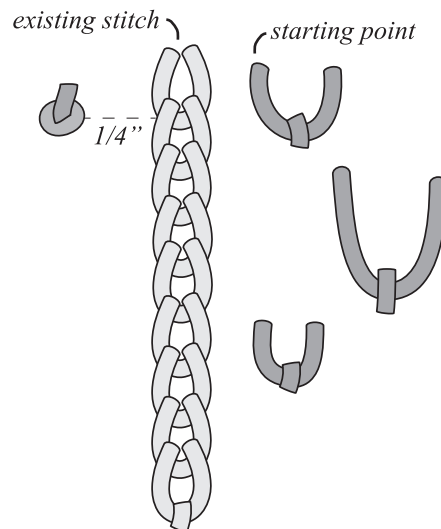


Anchor Stitch

If you are stitching over an area that will be filled (i.e. with Satin Stitch) you can make a Straight Stitch, then a perpendicular stitch into it, securing it in place (in the shape of a 'T').

Knot & Weave

Once there are stitches to which you can secure a new thread, you can commence a new stitch with a far shorter version of the Away Knot, placed 1/4" inch away from the anchoring stitches and close to your starting point. Weave into the back of these stitches and snip the knot away once the thread is secure. Begin your new stitch.



ENDING A THREAD

When you are getting close to the end of your thread leave enough so that it is easy to secure by weaving through several stitches on the back side of the embroidery. If you are halfway through a stitch do not attempt to tie on a new thread and continue stitching. Treat it as a finished stitch and commence anew with a new thread using one of the methods described in the previous section.

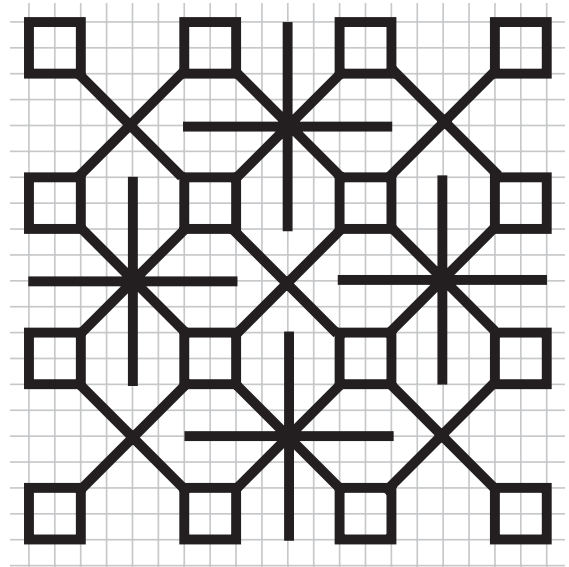
PRACTICE STITCHES: USE 2 STRANDS OF FLOSS

Blackwork is a form of counted-thread embroidery normally stitched on an even-weave fabric, like aida cloth. The diagrams below show how to execute the stitches on even-weave (without a pattern underneath), by using the thread count as your guide. On the Victorian House sampler you simply cover up the print (n.b. screen printing is magic)!

DIAPER PATTERNS

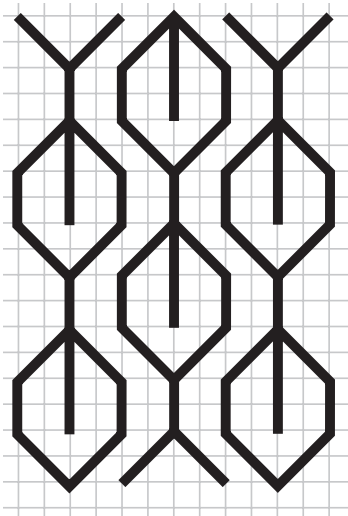
The word diaper originally meant a small pattern of repeating geometric shapes. Traditionally, baby nappies were made from fabric with these types of designs, hence the way we use the word in modern day.

Diaper patterns are the staple of Blackwork. They are created using a series of backstitches to fill out a shape.

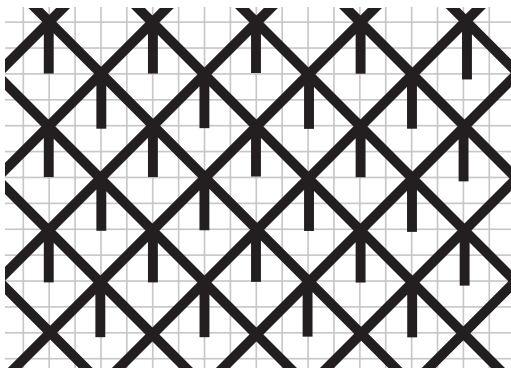


Floral Lace

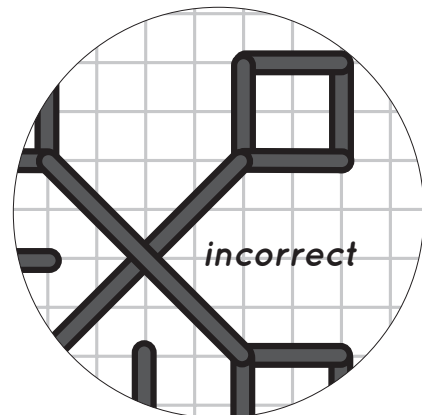
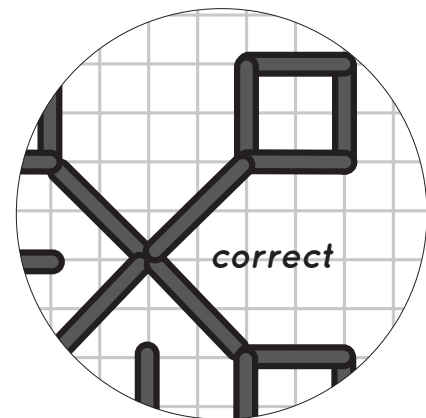
You are not crossing over any stitches, each part of the design is a backstitch.



Tulip

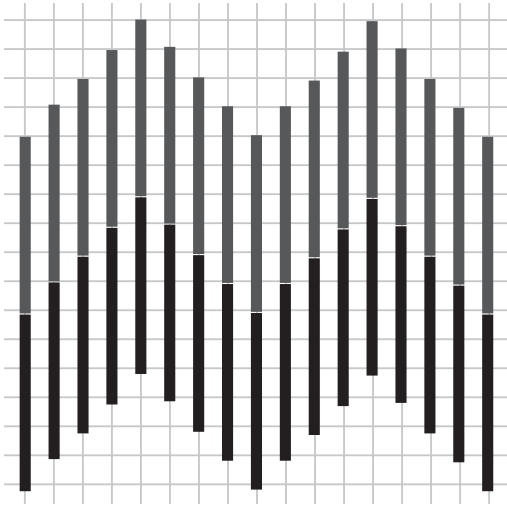


Small Diamond



DARNING PATTERNS

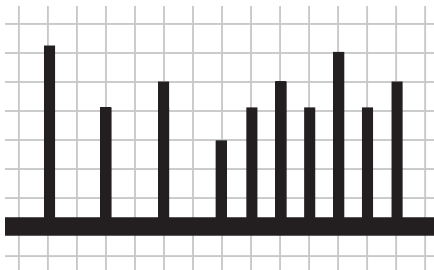
Darning Patterns are made up of parallel stitches and create a dense fill.



Closed Herringbone Darning

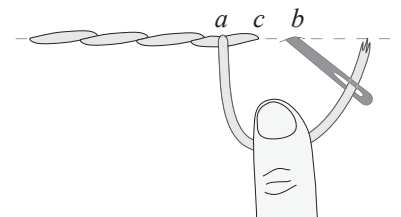
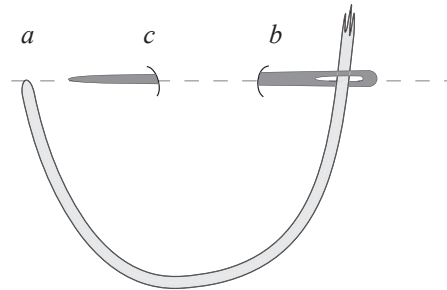
Sketched Satin

Use this stitch to create delicate shading perpendicular to a design border. The parallel stitches can be laid right beside one another at varying heights, or with some space in between

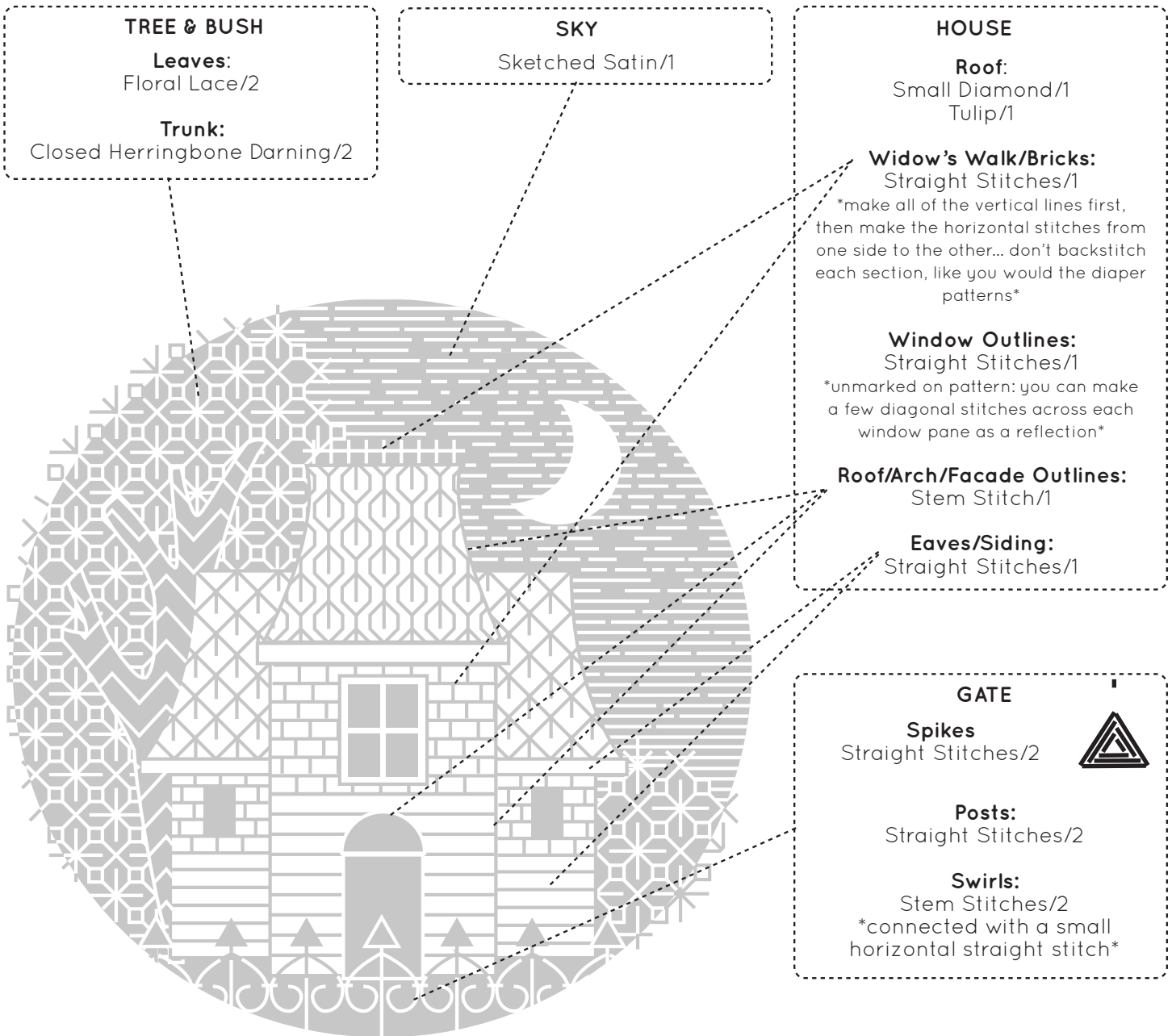


Stem Stitch

The Stem Stitch creates a twisted rope effect, perfect for filling in straight or curved lines. It can be used to fill an area by stitching parallel lines very close to one another. To begin the Stem Stitch, come out at your starting point(a). Bring the needle out a stitch length's away (b), keeping the working thread below the needle (you can use your thumb to hold the thread down). Come out halfway between (a) and (b) at (c). Repeat these steps along the path you are stitching.



NOW PUT IT ALL TOGETHER!



EMBROIDER THE ELEMENTS IN THE FOLLOWING ORDER:

- 1) SKY
- 2) BUSH
- 3) TREE (TRUNK, LEAVES)
- 4) ROOF PATTERNS/FACADE/WINDOWS
- 5) HOUSE OUTLINES
- 6) GATE (POST, SPIKES, SWIRLS)

Key for Stitch Diagram:

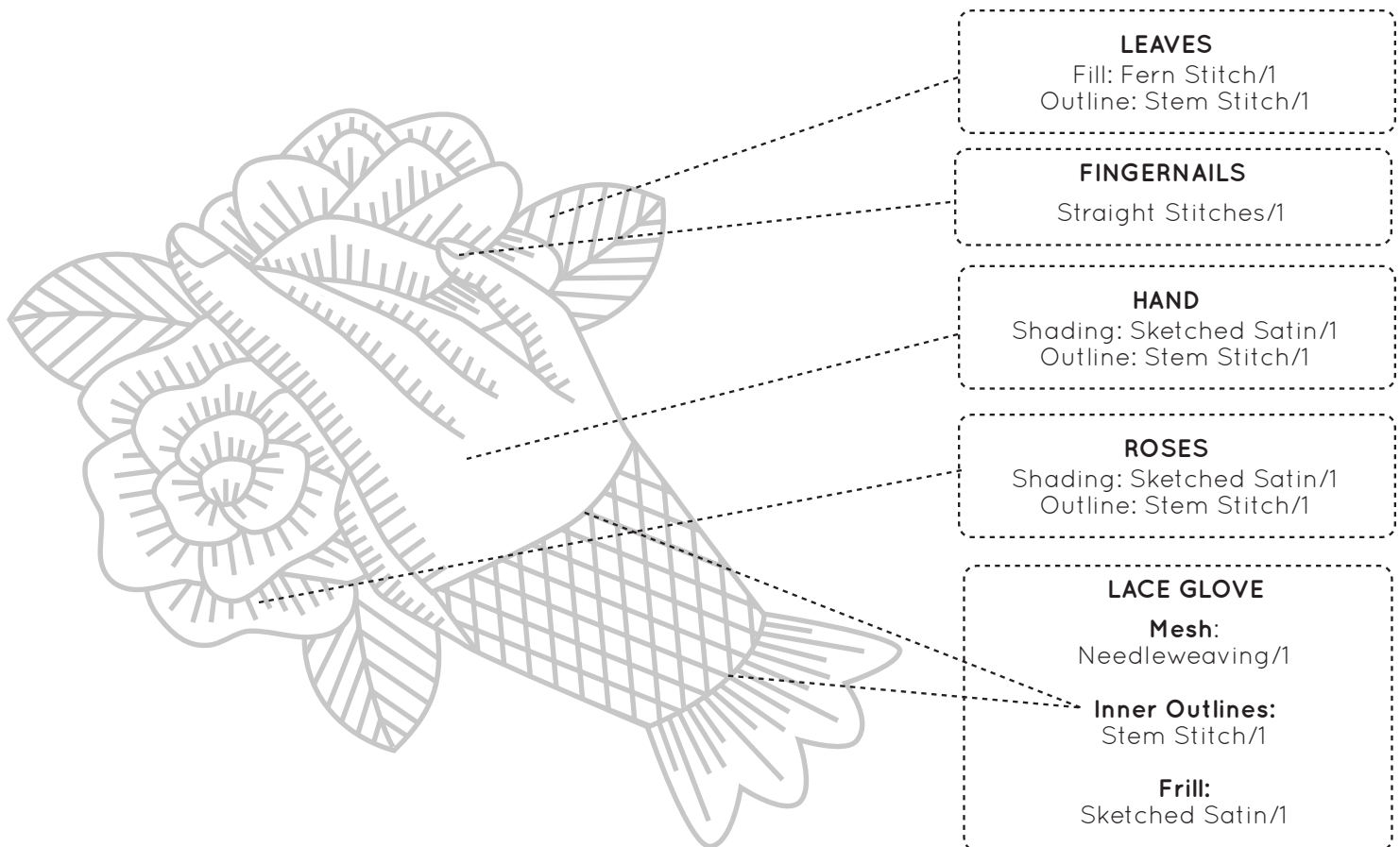


COLOURS:
Black: DMC 310

Sampler Club Bonus Print!

If you are part of the [Sampler Club](#) you will have received this screen printed pattern along with the Victorian House sampler.

Any stitches not found on this instruction guide can be found in the [Stitch Library](#)



EMBROIDER THE ELEMENTS IN THE FOLLOWING ORDER:

- 1) LEAVES (FILL)
- 2) ROSES (SHADING)
- 3) HAND (SHADING, FINGERNAILS)
- 4) GLOVE (MESH, FRILLS, INNER OUTLINES)
- 5) OUTLINES (LEAVES, ROSES, HAND/GLOVE)

COLOURS:
Black: DMC 310

