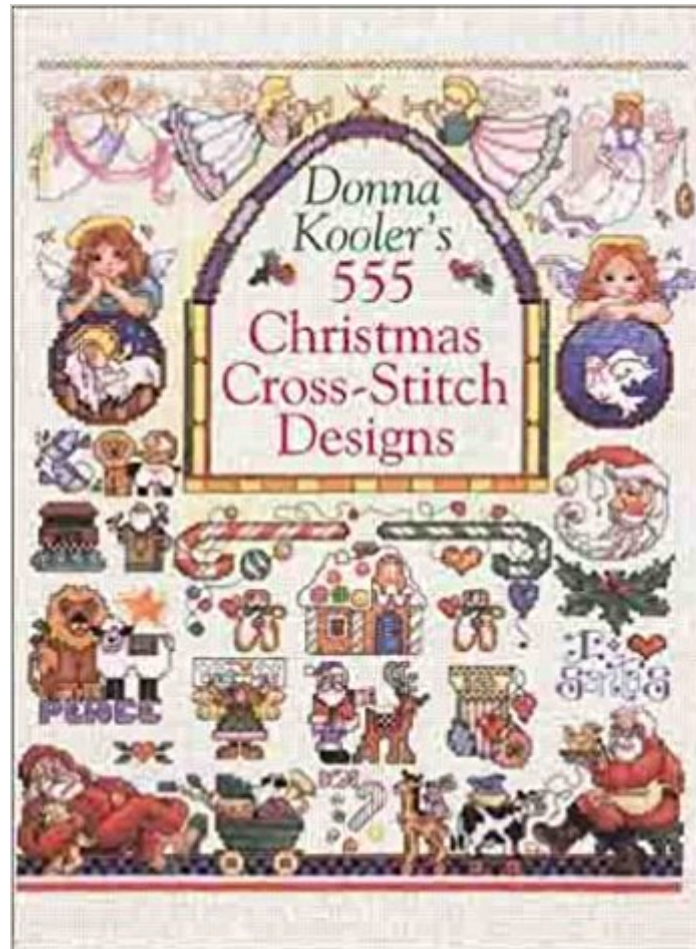




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Donna Kooler's 555 Christmas Cross-Stitch Designs



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Synopsis

“More than 500 crisp and colorful cross-stitch designs [are] grouped around five major themes. Each design includes a full-color chart with stitch count and DMC floss code chart....Will be a welcome addition to Christmas crafts collections.”
•Library Journal.
“Delectable cross stitch motifs.”
•The NeedleWorker.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Donna Kooler enthusiasts have more reason to rejoice at Christmas with this extensive selection of holiday cross-stitch designs. Her Santas are especially charming; she manages to cram into a miniscule amount of space a sprightly collection of varied St. Nicks. The "Nature Christmas" chapter is also quite agreeable, with well-rendered animals and even some touches of humor (a turtle with a Christmas tree atop its shell; a tiny ant struggling to carry a mighty candy cane). It's too bad so few of these many designs are photographed in finished form; the only completed stitchery shown are the samplers at the beginning of each of the five chapters. Though all the motifs are carefully charted in color, busy holiday crafters generally appreciate being able to see at a glance exactly how they stitch up before making a choice about what to spend time on. But any cross-stitcher who enjoys Donna's work probably can't go too far wrong with any of them. --Amy Handy

This collection of more than 500 crisp and colorful cross-stitch designs is grouped around five major themes: "Folk Art," "Santa Claus," "Inspirational Christmas" (angels, manger, wise men, etc.),

"General Christmas" (stockings, elves, snowmen, etc.), and "Nature Christmas" (animals, flowers, trees). Each design includes a full-color chart with stitch count and DMC floss code chart. DMC embroidery floss is specified in the charts, but an Anchor conversion table is provided for stitchers who prefer Anchor threads. Readers can choose to incorporate the motifs into their own projects or to stitch one or more of the full-size sampler designs included. Although designed for cross-stitch, the charts could also be adapted to intarsia knitting, crochet, or other forms of embroidery. This title will be a welcome addition to all but the smallest public library Christmas crafts collections.

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This is the first Donna Kooker book that I have ever purchased, even though I am an avid cross stitcher. I am giving the book only 3 stars mainly because I do not like several things about the way the book is layed out or photographed, especially as compared to the Leisure Arts or Better Homes and Gardens books. In terms of the book layout, there are 5 sections with only one photograph for each in a sampler format. I find it incredible that even though they have 2 pages for the photograph of the sampler, only one is used for the actual stitched piece! The other is just set decoration, this to me is unforgivable given that there are many designs included in the book which are not in the sampler. In addition, I also do not like that the sampler is split amongst several pages and the color key is at the end of all the pages. Plus the color key is part only color and part color and symbols, and it is sometimes hard to guess the color especially if it is on another page. All in all, the designs are nice but difficult to be appreciated both because they are not all photographed and because the stitcher may be disinclined to stitch the piece if it is difficult to "read". In terms of the 5 sections of the book:

1. "Folk Art Christmas": In spite of its name, I think the sampler of this section has many more Christmas related designs than the "Merry Christmas" section. The main folk influence can be seen in the colors which are still very nice and vibrant even though there is maybe a bit more brown/yellow. The sampler has an alphabet, several small (less than 30x30 stich count) items like angels, animals, socks, snowmen, reindeer, and trees; with a bigger santa in the middle. The additional items include more of the same, but they are not as pretty to me as those in the sampler.
2. "Santa Christmas" is the longest and probably the best designed section of the book. The designs are very versatile; for example the sampler has 4 international Santa renditions, 2 postcard-type Santas, and several stylized Santas i.e. star/heart shaped, long, short, round. The rest of the designs are not only other Santas (many "close ups," Santa at work or at play) but they also have "Santa moments" like the loading dock at his workshop, the elves at work, Santa reading

children's letters, and a few toys.³ "Inspirational Christmas" is the reason why I bought the book, after all Christmas is about Christ, but I was disappointed. The sampler has a Nativity and an alphabet in the middle; the rest is take up by some of the angels depicted on the front cover, 8 round "captions" of small scenes with angels, Mary with baby and such; and the town of Bethelhem at the bottom. The additional designs are not as religious, they are things like candles, bells, another alphabet (black with holly, very nice), several instruments, angels, and sayings like Peace on Earth. To my personal taste the designs are lackluster, I don't think I will make any from this section.⁴ "Merry Christmas" the sampler is done around an alphabet that lists Christmas things, like a gingerbread house, socks, toys, carolers, and a holly vine. Additional designs include more toys, a small nutcracker, several teddy bears and snowmen, and a Christmas tree. Overall the section is fine, but for me the colors are way too muted.⁵ "Nature Christmas" the sampler contains mostly with some foliage and a couple of Christmas trees with reindeer in front and a big clock. I think this was a decoration style that is very particular, sort of Aspen-type with wood tones. The additional designs are to me the best part about this section. There are pointsettias, cardinals/birds, fruits, and sayings that are nice enough to be used in many projects and gifts. All in all, I am happy that I have the book for my collection, but I don't think I will buy any more of her books because of the book layout.

This book is full of beautiful projects, both easy and more complicated ones. Huge selection from small, individual images to rich, large samplers. Clear, easy to follow diagrams including floss number for each project. Very worth buying book!

My sister loves cross-stitch. She will get this for Christmas. This is a lovely book and hardbound too!

easy to follow , several good ideas to do , several kinds of sizes small mid to big to do

With all the great designs in this book, any self respecting cross stitcher can go nuts contemplating the possibilities. There are cute new ideas and timeless old favorites--something for everyone.

Not that I'm in dire need of more but love buying them. This book has a lot of small patterns, which was what I was looking for so very, very happy with it. Also love that they are easy to see.

This is a beautiful book with some fantastic Christmas designs. My one criticism is that there are no

black and white patterns, and the colour ones are very difficult to follow, particularly at night. I solved this problem for myself by recreating the pattern using my computer cross stitch software. Very time consuming, but a black and white print was much easier to read. I was also able to tape the pages together for continuity.

Missing 12 pages and had pages cut into strips in the back of the book

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