

HINTS ON DESIGN AND COLOR

- * Stitches take up more space than a pencil line
- * Some stitches are natural centers of interest by themselves. Others are good backgrounds
A stitch good for a large unimportant area needs to be consistent in tension and texture, and to fit well into that shape.
Stitches for small areas should be appropriate for that size, without a lot of compensation.
- * Consistency is important everywhere in value, color, and texture.
- * Don't trust your color sense at night. Tan, lavender, and grey yarn can look alike.

Consider the ultimate use of the piece. Will it be utilitarian, such as a bench or footstool, or will it be decorative, such as a picture or tray insert ?

*Step back occasionally and look at the piece in progress, as it is being worked. Squint at it, which reduces some of the detail and values to show only the main shapes.

*Follow the natural line of the object or shape when possible when stitching, but don't be reluctant to add variety to the design by using a decorative filling occasionally, especially in a large area difficult to fill otherwise. It will draw attention to an area, but it can add imagination and innovation to an otherwise conventional subject.

* Decide on whether you are doing a vignette or a bleed. If a bleed, make sure that you stitch beyond the border that you plan, to be sure of good coverage at the edges.

* If you break the rules, in design or color, have a good reason for doing so.