Seminole-Style Patchwork Cross Stitch



Picture of Finished Project (Front, Back, and Edge)

Colors and DMC #'s that I used **. Change the colors or DMC #'s to what you want to use (or have on hand)!

Red: DMC 347 Light to Medium Teal Blue: DMC 807
Golden Tan: DMC 436 Blue: DMC 3765
Really Dark Green: DMC 500 Aqua: DMC 3817
Beads, Assorted Size 8 Almost White: * DMC 3866 *

*I used a non-white ground 14-count Aida. I did NOT fill in all the empty blocks. If you feel like doing so, or need to do so, use the DMC 3866 or whatever substitute you are using for the "Almost White".

**Palette:

I was looking for something that was not an "in your face" color scheme. I know that many fibers are dyed using natural materials, such as indigo plants for blue, some beetles for red. I went thru some palette books and the palette I decided on is Titanic from Trish Burr's "Colour Confidence in embroidery". I made a few changes, but I thought it worked well for this project. MAKE SURE YOU FIND THE CENTERS AFTER STITCHING THE DESIGN ON BOTH SIDES! YOU WILL NEED THIS FOR FINISHING!

Fabric: 14-count Aida. I used a 60x60 design for the front, so I used a 60x60 square on the back. I just cross stitched a perimeter of a 60x60 square in the Golden Tan. I added a block of 10 around each corner just because. I'll show a picture of the back, just in case you are interested. The actual fabric I used is a DMC Aida 14 that I bought at Michael's. It's screen printed with a mottled apricotty kind of color which made me think of Native American woven blankets, sometimes stained by tanning leathers. If using Linen, you want to have 60 cross stitches x 60 cross stitches on both front and back, so your linen count-per-inch will not matter.

Finishing: FIND THE CENTER OF FRONT AND BACK AND MARK IT. I used the Golden Tan to sew the back to front together and added size 8 beads in a solid color, sort of matte finish. The beads do not match the DMC colors exactly. I had them on hand and they were pretty close. Using 6 plies of DMC floss, sew buttons or beads on both sides at center of each side to create the biscornu. I was going to do some long cross stiches between the beads with the Golden Tan to imitate leather binding after sewing the back to front, but decided not to. I couldn't quite visualize how to get rid of all the end threads. As I was sewing the front to the back, I added a bead about every 5 stitches or so. I did NOT sew beads on any pointy corner. I took 3 strands of the Golden Tan, folded them in half, did a simple braid, then knotted both ends. I carefully threaded size 8 turquoise beads on one end (with knots) and added a matching smaller button on the other end using a knot. Voila!



