

Practice Piece for the Topiaries Project by Kay Ackerman

If you are thinking about signing up for my “Topiaries” online class but are unfamiliar with this type of “spirograph” stitching, here’s a little sample for you to try before you buy.



Miniature Fir Tree - Design measures 1½ x 1 inch

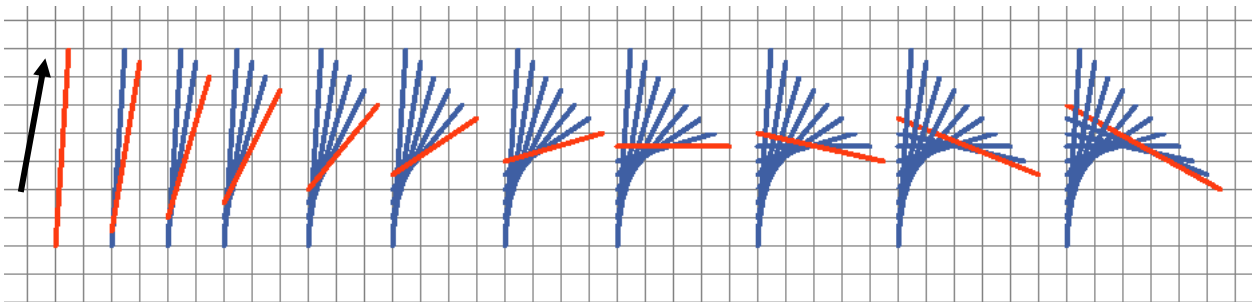
Materials:

6x6 inch piece of 28-count evenweave - you can also use linen or 25-count fabric

Green floss or silk thread - you can also use variegated floss or silk

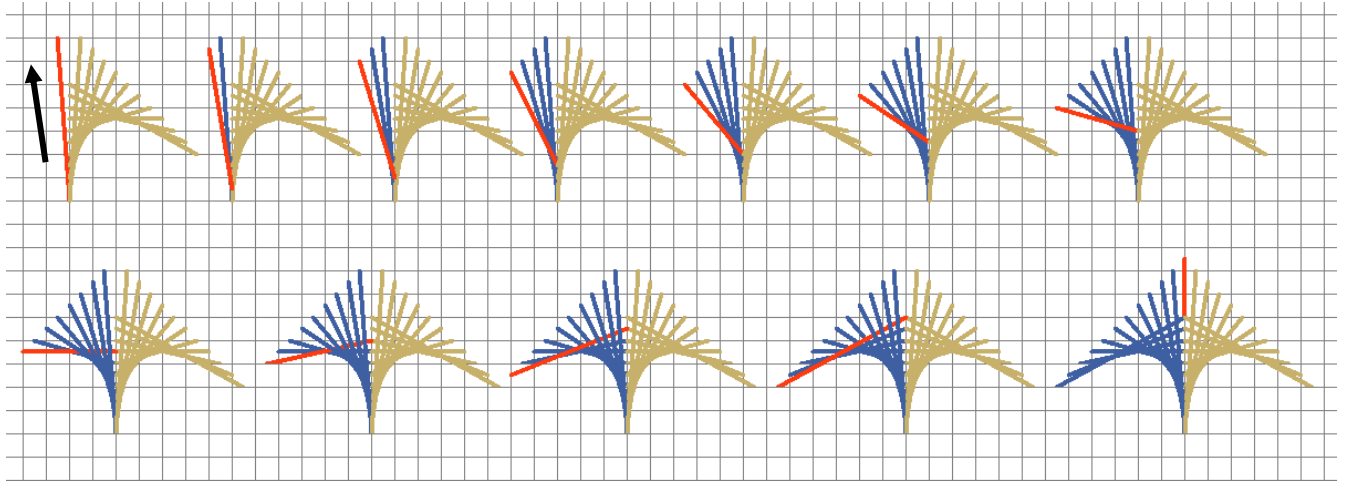
When designing evenweave patterns, each square in the grid counts as two threads. The black arrow indicates stitching direction. So the first stitch in the diagram below shows the needle coming up at the bottom left. To figure out where the needle goes down, count seven squares up and one-half square right, or 14 threads up and one thread over.

First half of the motif:

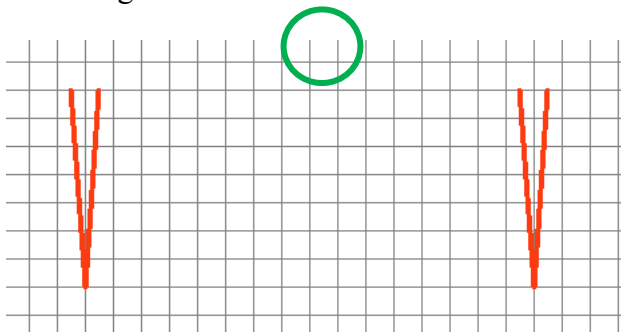


NOTE: For the first several stitches, in which your needle is coming up under an already stitched thread, don’t pull the previous stitch taut until you have brought your needle up to begin the next stitch. In the above diagram you should bring your new stitch up to the left of the previous stitch.

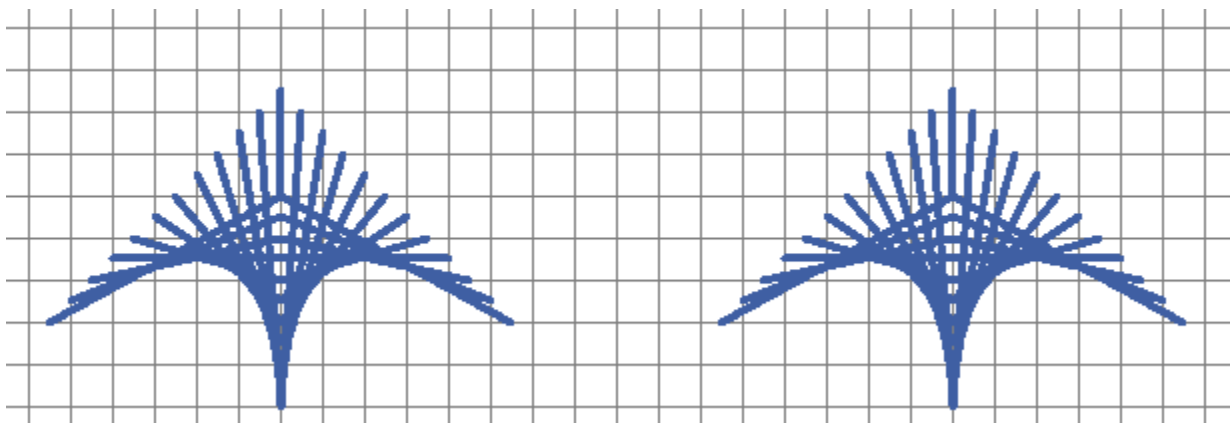
Second half of the motif:



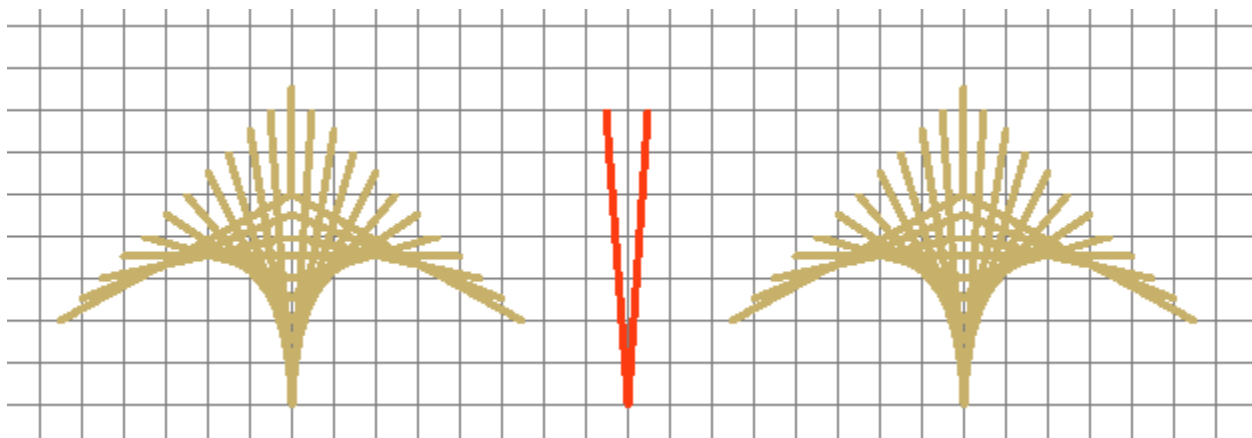
Find the center of your fabric (circled in green, below). The red lines are the beginning stitches for the right and left halves of two motifs. Use the steps above to stitch them.



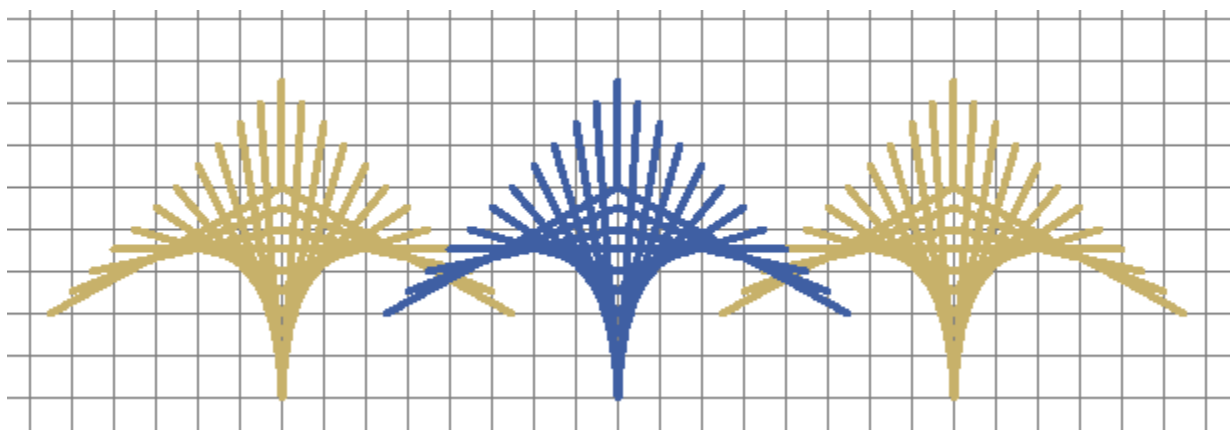
The finished motifs:



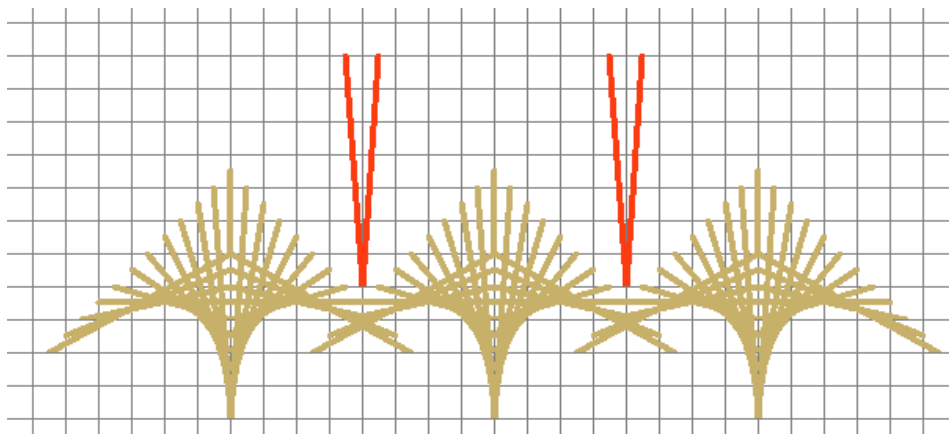
Add a center motif between these two side ones. The starting stitches for the right and left halves of the center motif are shown below. NOTE: finished motifs are “muted” in color so you can see how they relate to new motifs being stitched.



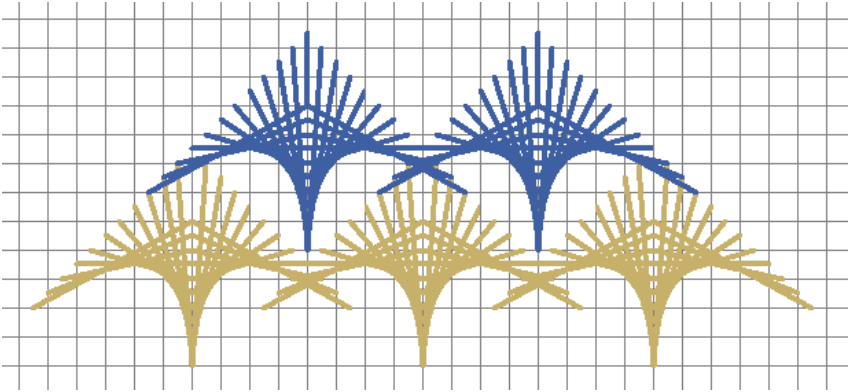
The three finished motifs, which form the base of the tree.



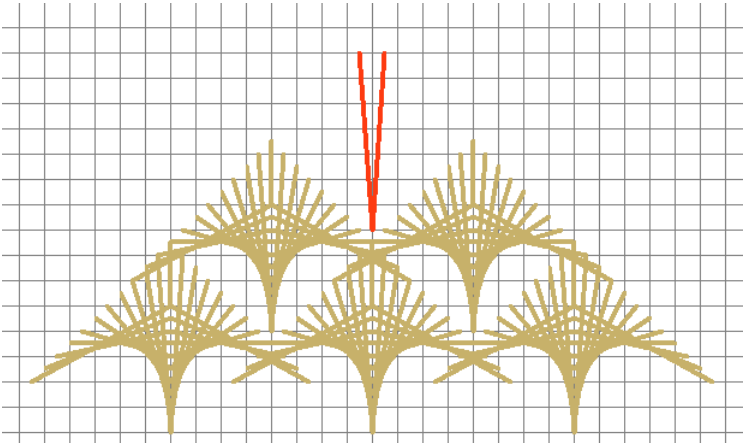
Add two motifs between those of the first row. Red lines indicate the starting stitches for the right and left halves of these second-row motifs.



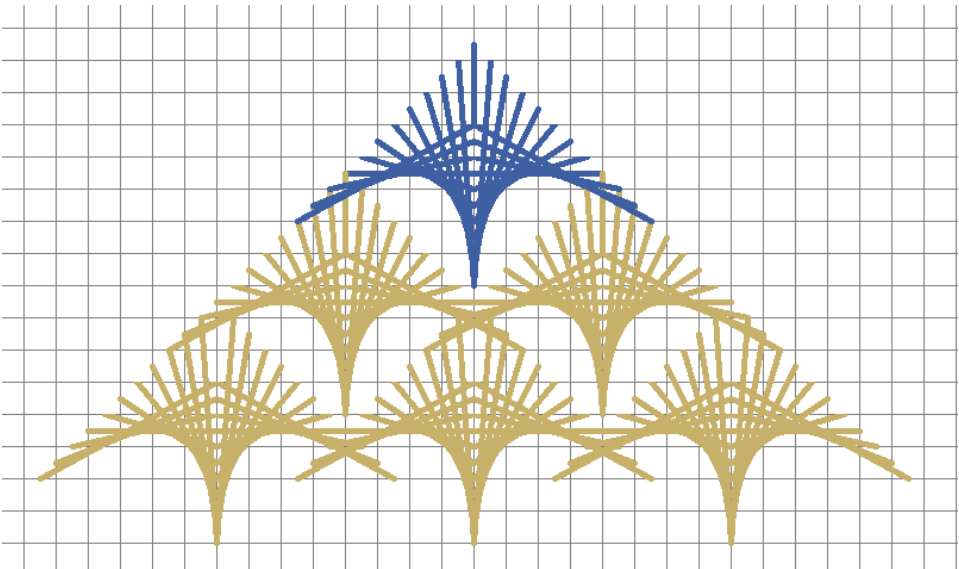
The finished second-row motifs.



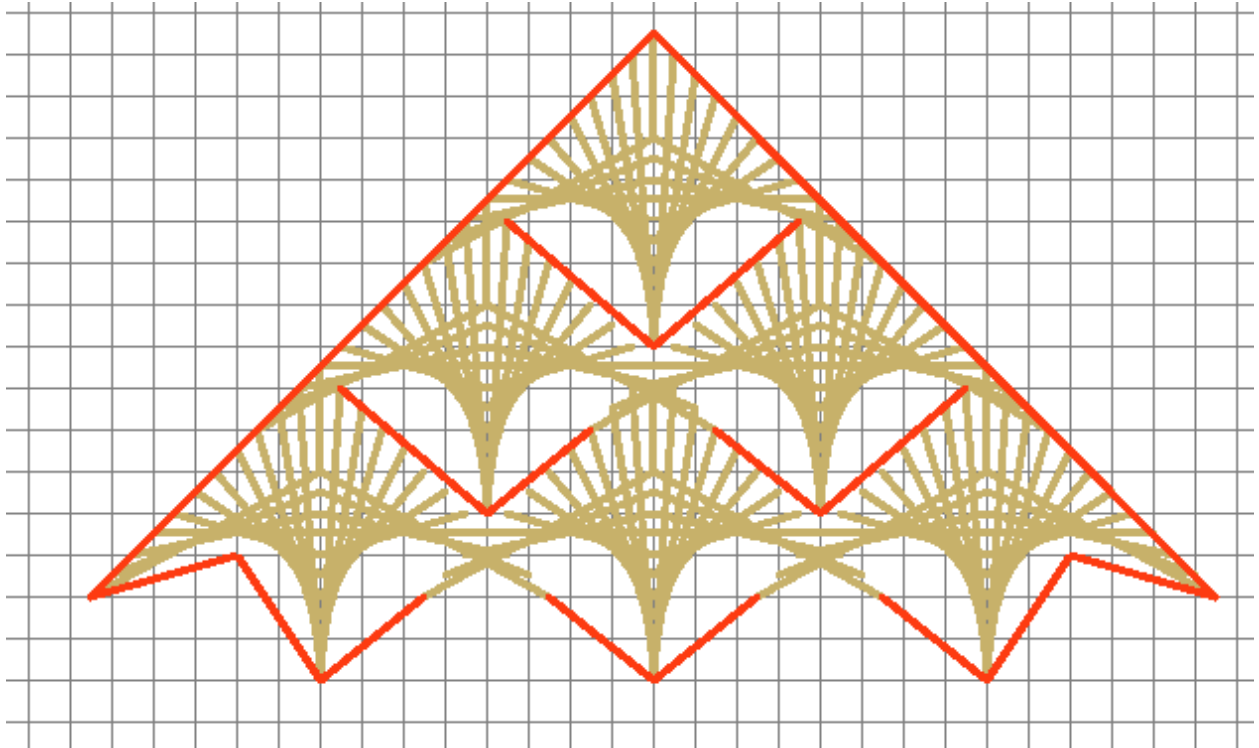
Add a motif between the two second-row ones. Starting stitches shown in red for right and left halves of this third-row motif.



The finished third-row motif.

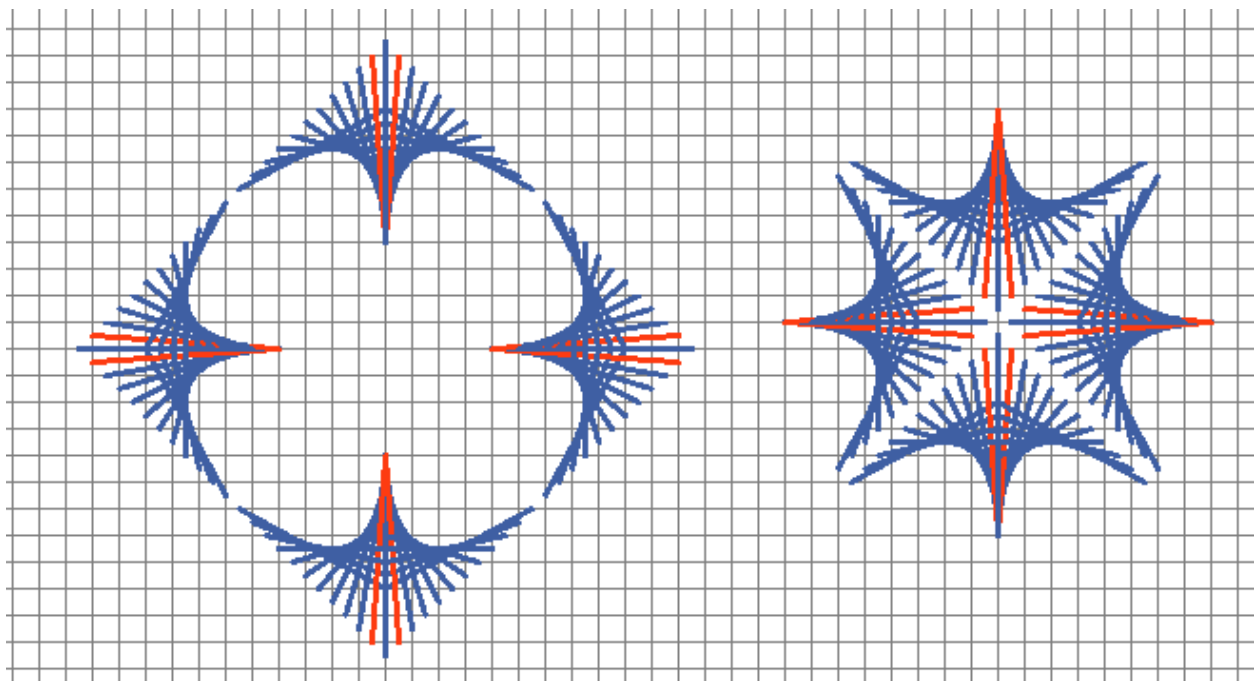


Add some straight stitches to outline the tree.



And you are done! That wasn't so hard, was it?

If you want to have more fun, you can stitch the motif in various combinations, like so:



Or stitch the tree design in different arrangements, and maybe add some other stitches for embellishment.

