BLOCK EIGHT

# Keep It Down!

## Embroidery

**Finished size:** 13 x 7¼in

1. Print these instructions and the pattern for the Keep It Down! block. Please check your printer page-scaling settings, and print the pattern at 100% size. The page scaling should be set to 'None'. The pattern is available in colour and black *and* white. Print the pages relevant to your printer.
2. Check that the solid black outline on the design measures 13 x 7¼in before tracing.
3. From the plain cream fabric, cut:
- One rectangle, 16 x 10in. This rectangle has been cut oversize and will be trimmed back later.
4. From the lightweight fusible batting, cut:
- One rectangle, 16 x 10in.
5. Centre the fabric over the design and trace it using a water-erasable fabric-marking pen or lead pencil. Trace neatly and use fine lines so your stitches will cover the markings. A light source such as a window or light box will help to make the design more visible through the fabric.
6. Fuse the batting to the wrong side of your fabric, using a spare piece of homespun between the iron and batting. (Do not iron from the front, as this will heat set the pen markings.)
7. Place your work in the embroidery hoop, if desired, to keep it flat and prevent it puckering. Use two strands of thread for all stitching unless otherwise stated. Stitch the embroidery design through the fabric and batting, referring to the stitchery guide on the following pages. The batting hides knots and small jumps between stitches. Working with an embroidery hoop or frame will help you keep the tension even, but keep in mind that leaving your project in the hoop when you're not working on it can leave crease marks that are difficult to remove.
8. Silver (E168), White Gold (E677) and Dark Gold (E3852) are DMC Jewel Effects threads. Use a needle with a larger sized eye (Natashia uses size 6 sharps) when working with these metallic threads.
9. Once you have finished stitching, remove the fabric from the hoop and press.

## Stitching hint

Start the stitching for this block with the timber for the stable; then work the wise men and shepherds, followed by the camel and sheep, finishing with the innkeeper and the building.

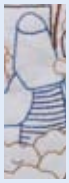
*For more information on this project or to view more appliqué and stitchery designs by Natashia Curtin of Smee Designs, visit her website at www.smeedesigns.com*

For wholesale enquiries or your nearest stockist of
DMC Stranded Embroidery Cotton, contact Leutenegger.
Phone **(02) 9526 9200**
Email **needlecraft@leutenegger.com.au**
Website **www.leutenegger.com.au**

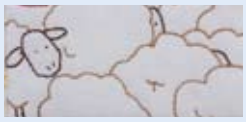
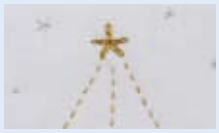
*Log on to www.completecraft.com.au on Wednesday, October 24, 2012 to download the Spotlight Angel block.*
*Block One was published in* Homespun *Vol 13 No 7. If you missed out on a copy of this issue,*
*contact our subscriptions department on* **1300 303 414** *to order a back copy or find it online at www.zinio.com*

# Stitchery guide

**Stitches used:** Back stitch, chain stitch, French knot, running stitch, satin stitch

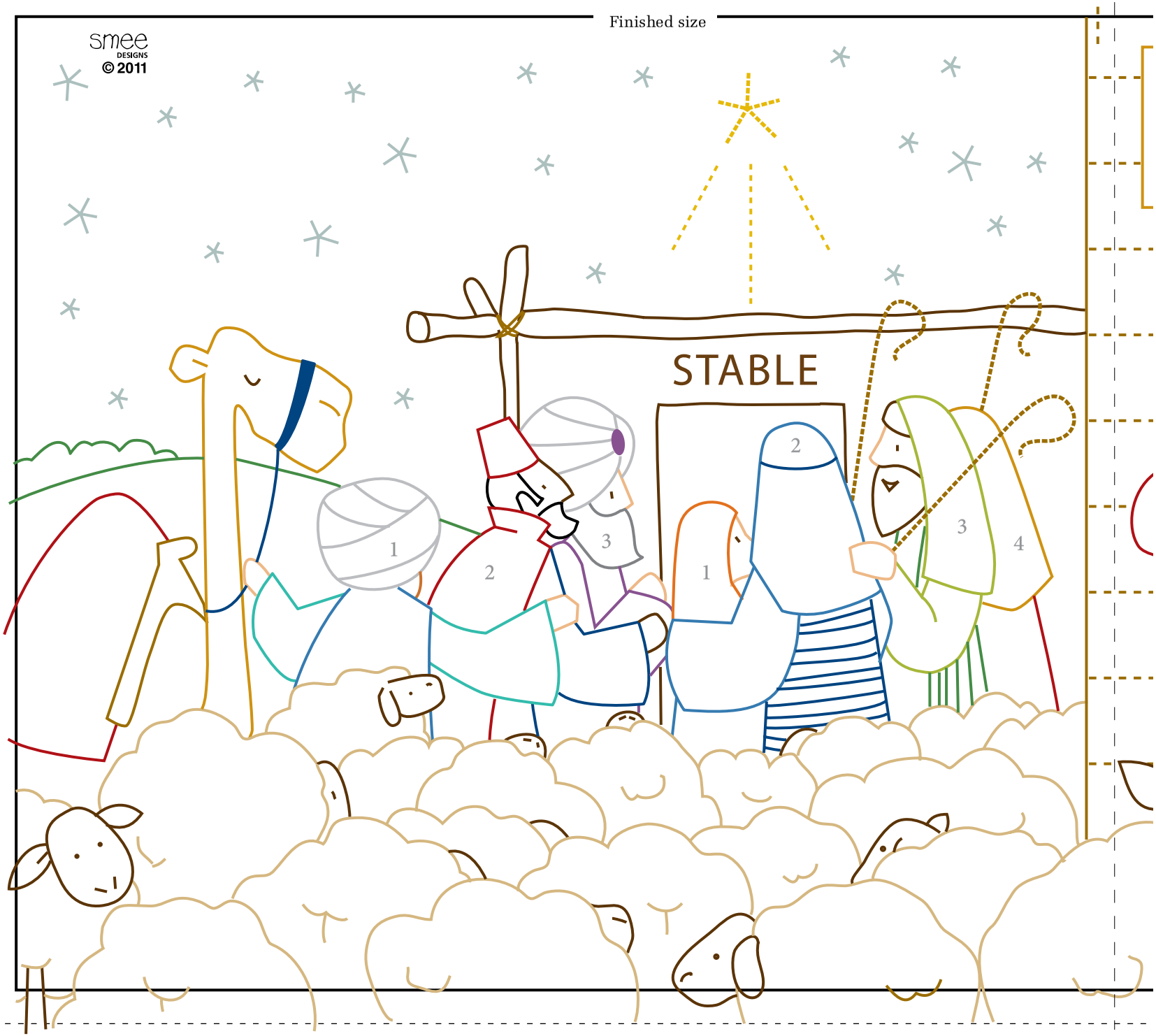
| Design area | | DMC Stranded Embroidery Cotton | Stitch |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Stable** | | | |
| Walls and doorway | | Ultra Dark Coffee Brown (938) | Back stitch |
| Wood lashings | | Medium Brown (433) | Back stitch |
| **Wise man #1** | | | |
| Turban | | Dark Beaver Grey (646) | Back stitch |
| Skin | | Tan (436) | Back stitch |
| Beard | | Medium Mahogany (301) | Back stitch |
| Robe sleeves | | Very Dark Turquoise (3809) | Back stitch |
| Coat | | Dark Blue (825) | Back stitch |
| **Wise man #2** | | | |
| Fez | | Garnet (816) | Back stitch |
| Hair and beard | | Black (310) | Back stitch |
| Skin and eye | | Ultra Dark Coffee Brown (938) | Back stitch |
| Robe sleeves | | Ultra Very Dark Baby Blue (803) | Back stitch |
| Coat | | Garnet (816) | Back stitch |
| **Wise man #3** | | | |
| Turban | | Dark Beaver Grey (646) | Back stitch |
| Turban jewel | | Dark Grape (3834) | Back stitch outline, then fill with satin stitch |
| Skin | | Tan (436) | Back stitch |
| Beard | | Very Dark Beaver Grey (645) | Back stitch |
| Eye | | Ultra Dark Coffee Brown (938) | Back stitch |
| Robe | | Dark Grape (3834) | Back stitch |
| **Shepherd #1** | | | |
| Hair | | Dark Autumn Gold (3853) | Back stitch |
| Skin | | Tan (436) | Back stitch |
| Eye | | Ultra Dark Coffee Brown (938) | Back stitch |
| Coat | | Dark Blue (825) | Back stitch |
| **Shepherd #2** |  | | |
| Headpiece and robe | | Dark Blue (825) | Back stitch |
| Headpiece cord, coat and coat details | | Ultra Very Dark Baby Blue (803) | Back stitch |
| Staff | | Medium Brown (433) | Chain stitch |
| **Shepherd #3** | | | |
| Hair, beard and eye | | Ultra Dark Coffee Brown (938) | Back stitch |
| Skin | | Tan (436) | Back stitch |
| Headpiece and robe | | Light Avocado Green (470) | Back stitch |
| Coat and coat details | | Medium Avocado Green (937) | Back stitch |
| Staff | | Medium Brown (433) | Chain stitch |
| **Shepherd #4** | | | |
| Headpiece | | Dark Topaz (782) | Back stitch |
| Coat | | Garnet (816) | Back stitch |
| Staff | | Medium Brown (433) | Chain stitch |

# Stitchery guide cont'd

| Design area | | DMC Stranded Embroidery Cotton | Stitch |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Camel** | | | |
| Eye | | Ultra Dark Coffee Brown (938) | Back stitch |
| Hide and nostril | | Dark Topaz (782) | Back stitch |
| Saddle horn | | Medium Brown (433) | Back stitch |
| Saddle blanket | | Garnet (816) | Back stitch |
| Lead and halter | | Ultra Very Dark Baby Blue (803) | Back stitch outline, then fill with satin stitch |
| **Sheep** |  | | |
| Heads, ears and nostrils | | Ultra Dark Coffee Brown (938) | Back stitch |
| Eye | | Ultra Dark Coffee Brown (938) | French knot |
| Wool | | Very Dark Yellow Beige (167) | Back stitch |
| **Innkeeper** | | | |
| Skin and nose | | Tan (436) | Back stitch |
| Eyes and mouth | | Ultra Dark Coffee Brown (938) | Back stitch |
| Skullcap | | Garnet (816) | Back stitch outline, then fill with satin stitch |
| Pyjamas outline | | Garnet (816) | Back stitch |
| Pyjamas decorative detail | | Topaz (728) | Running stitch |
| Hair, eyebrows and moustache | | Very Dark Beaver Grey (645) | Back stitch |
| Chest hair | | Very Dark Beaver Grey (645) | Seed stitch |
| **Inn** | | | |
| Wall outline and window frame | | Medium Brown (433) | Back stitch |
| Bricks | | Medium Brown (433) | Running stitch |
| Outline of large sign | | Dark Topaz (782) | Back stitch |
| Lettering on large sign | | Ultra Dark Coffee Brown (938) | Back stitch |
| Outline of 'No' sign | | Medium Brown (433) | Back stitch |
| Lettering of 'No'' sign | | Garnet (816) | Back stitch |
| Nails in signs | | Medium Brown (433) | French knots |
| **Landscape** |  | | |
| Star of Bethlehem | | Dark Gold (E3852) | Chain stitch |
| Rays from Star of Bethlehem | | Dark Gold (E3852) | Running stitch) |
| Other stars | | Silver (E168) | Back stitch |
| Hills and trees | | Medium Avocado Green (937) | Back stitch |

13½ x 7¾in with ¼in seam allowance. Cut to this size.

Finished size



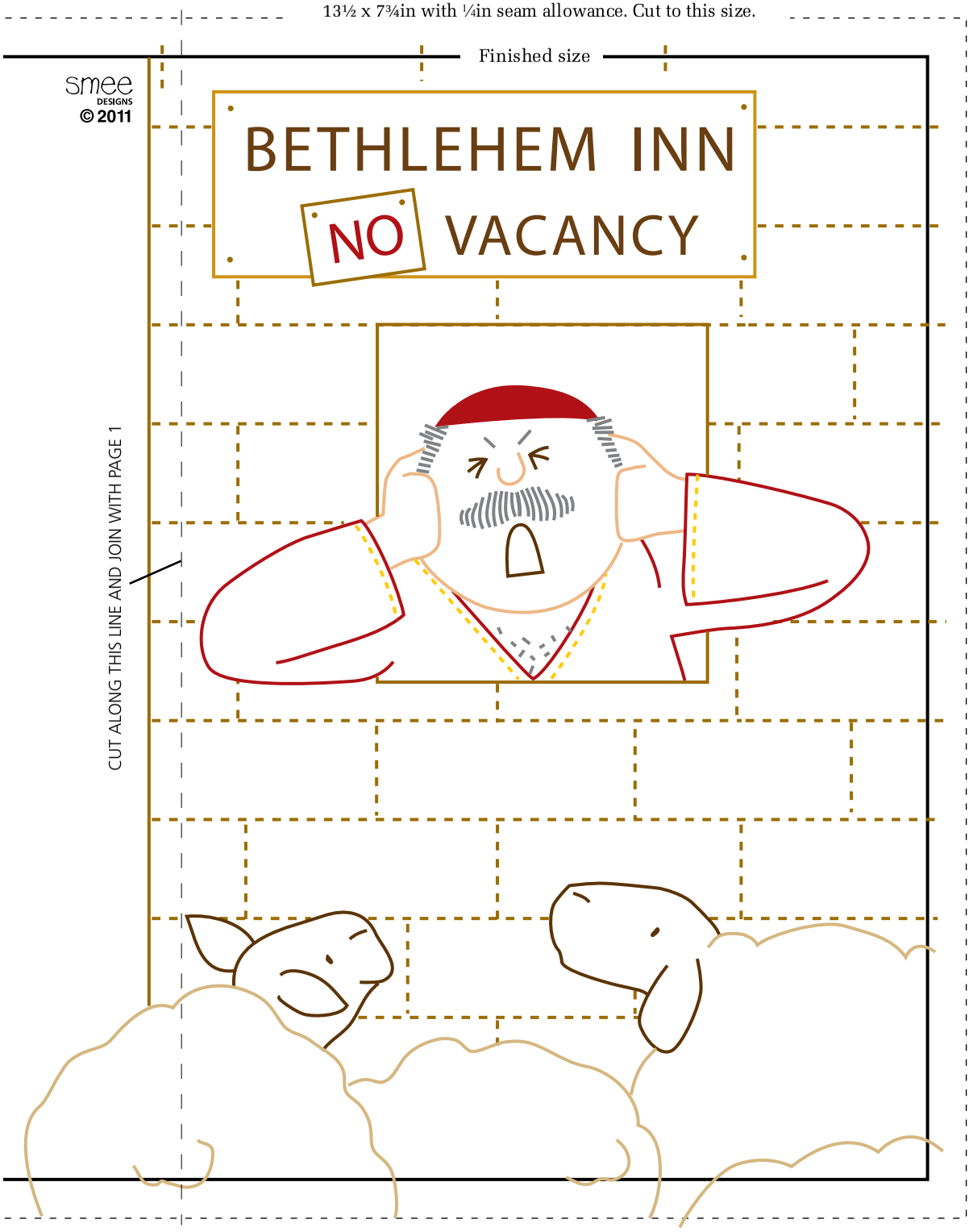

AUSTRALIAN HOMESPUN

DMC

13½ x 7¾in with ¼in seam allowance. Cut to this size.

Finished size

smee DESIGNS © 2011



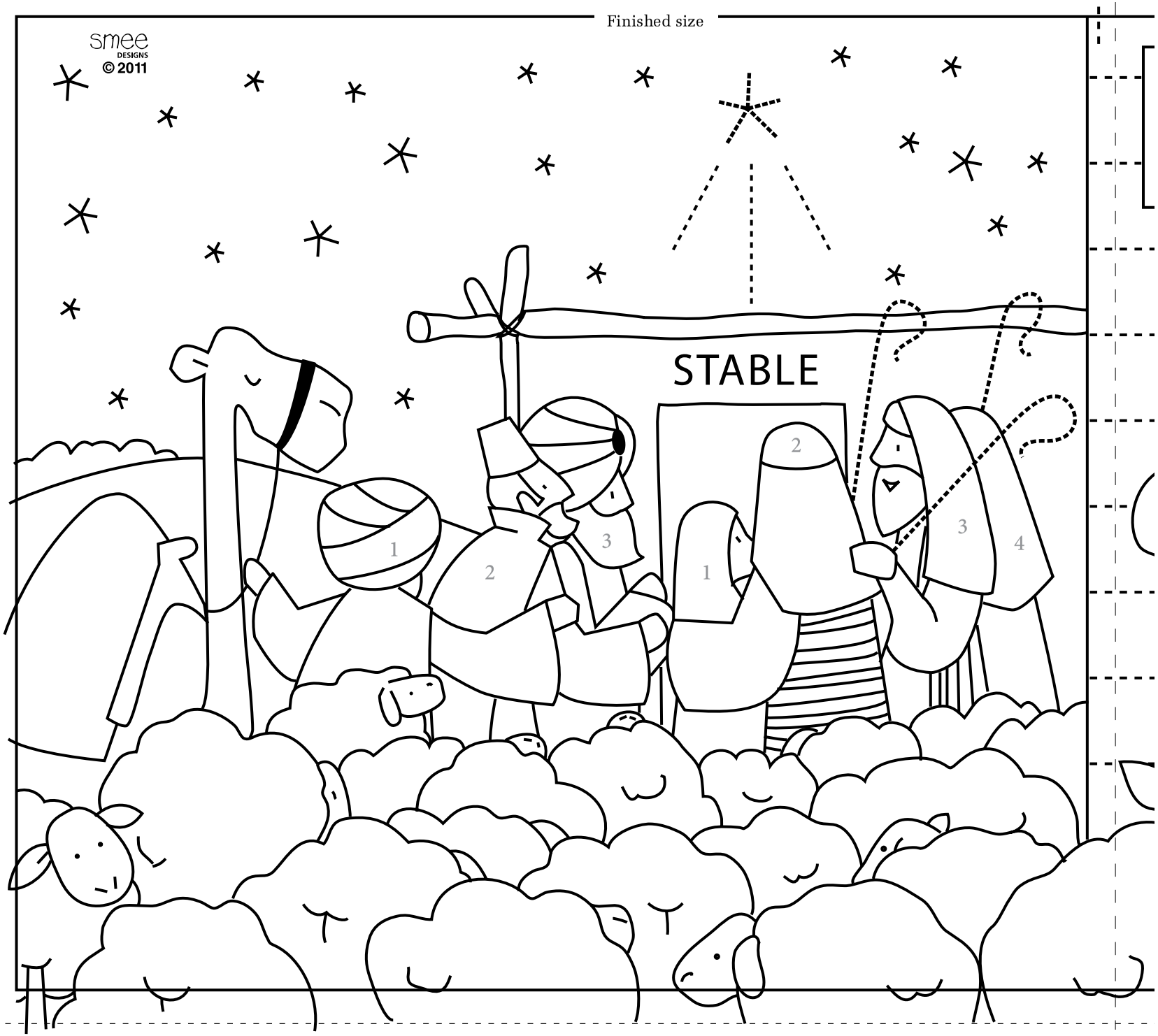

CUT ALONG THIS LINE AND JOIN WITH PAGE 1

AUSTRALIAN HOMESPUN

DMC

13½ x 7¾in with ¼in seam allowance. Cut to this size.

Finished size




AUSTRALIAN HOMESPUN

DMC

13½ x 7¾in with ¼in seam allowance. Cut to this size.

Finished size

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CUT ALONG THIS LINE AND JOIN WITH PAGE 1

AUSTRALIAN HOMESPUN

DMC