



The seventh block in the Stitch-A-Long project is the *Poire Pochée* design.

THE FRENCH KITCHEN STITCH-A-LONG

— Part 7 *Poire Pochée*

Robyn Allen-Waters' seventh and final block depicts juicy pears ready for poaching with some walnuts for a contrast in texture.

In *Homespun* Vol 14 No 6, we presented the first block, *Tarte Tatin*, and the materials list to complete the whole quilt. Order a back copy on 1300 303 414 or see www.homespun.net.au for where to source digital copies.





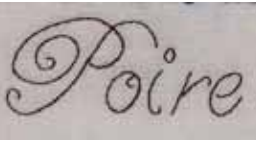
In addition to the stitchery guide, we're providing the instructions for completing the quilt in this instalment.

Don't forget to send us some photos of your completed project using Robyn's glorious design, whether it's an entire quilt or a smaller project featuring one or two of the stitcheries. We'd love to share them with our readers.

ROBYN'S TIP Don't

ever be afraid to make a piece of work your own — to make a few alterations that fire your imagination. If you feel like changing a colour or fabric or design, just do it! There are never any rules in craft that shouldn't be tested and can't be broken. Trust your own taste and be brave with creativity and originality. It is so much more rewarding to produce something that is truly yours.

Stitchery Guide

	Design area	Cosmo Stranded Embroidery Cotton	Stitch
Pears			
	Outline of all pears	672	Backstitch
	All stalks	386 – one strand	Backstitch
	Outline of dark tops and bases	674	Backstitch
	Crosshatch shading on tops and bases	674 – one strand	Straight stitch
	Spots on skin of left- and right-hand pears	143 – one strand	Backstitch & satin stitch
	Spots on skin of middle pear	672 – one strand	Backstitch & satin stitch
	Crosshatch shading on left- & right-hand pears	672 – one strand	Straight stitch
	Crosshatch shading on rest of middle pear	672/702 – one strand	Straight stitch
Walnuts			
	Walnut outlines	386	Backstitch
	Walnut details	386/2186 – one strand	Backstitch
Spoon			
	Spoon outline	773	Backstitch
	Spoon handle detail	773 – one strand	Backstitch
	Top edges of sideboard	166	Backstitch
Wall and sideboard			
	Outline of sideboard back	309	Backstitch
	Carved detail on sideboard back	309 – one strand	Backstitch
	Wall behind sideboard	732	Backstitch
Lettering			
	Lettering	312 – one strand	Backstitch

Embroidery

The *Poire Pochée* design uses Cosmo Stranded Embroidery Cotton in 143, 166, 309, 312, 386, 672, 674, 702, 732, 773, 2186 and the stitches used are backstitch, satin stitch and straight stitch. Two strands of thread are used throughout unless otherwise stated.

1 Download the *Poire Pochée* (poached pears) stitchery design and print it out at 100% - no page scaling. Measure to check it has printed at the correct size – it should be 7 x 10in.

2 From the quilter's muslin or plain cotton fabric, cut:

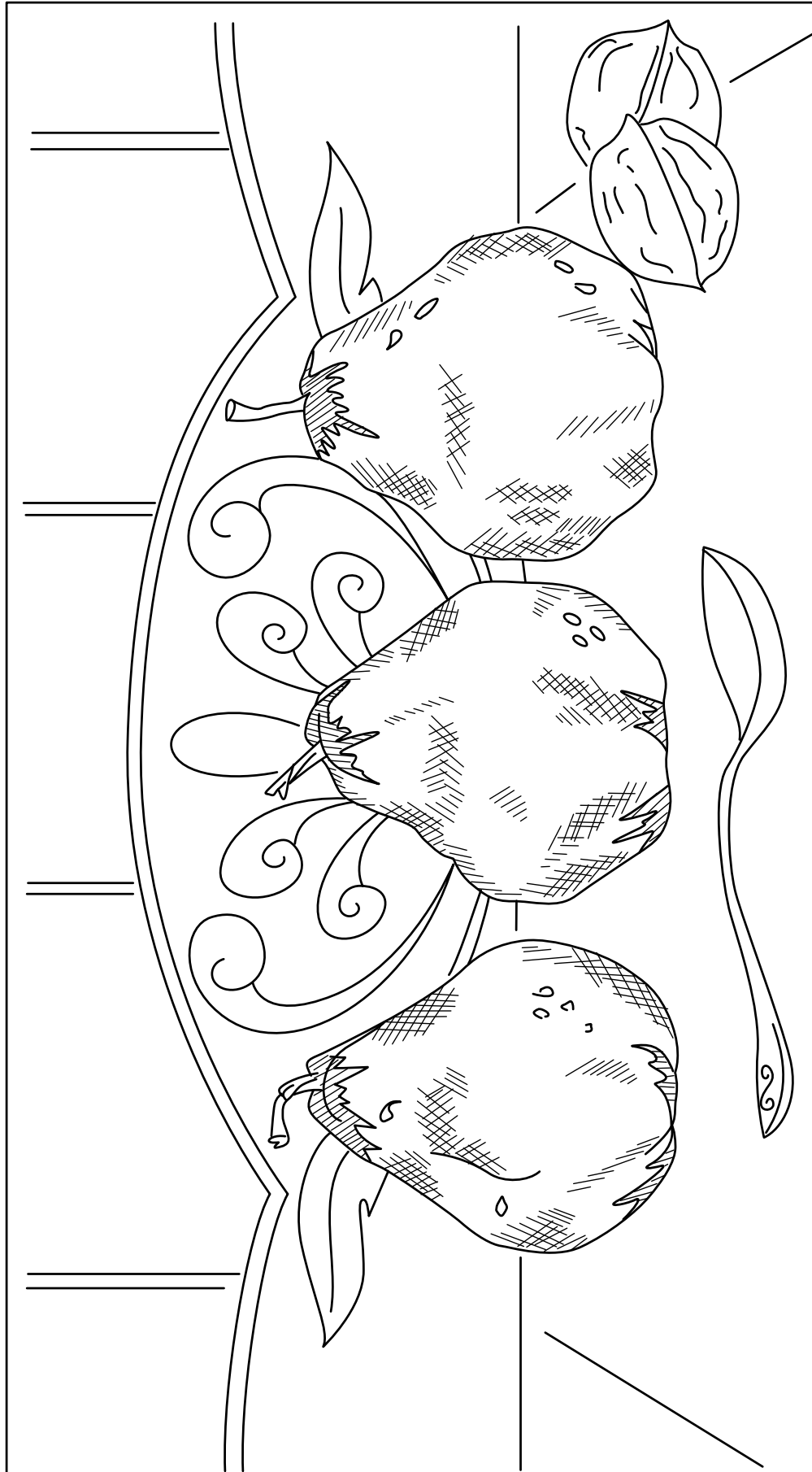
- One rectangle, 13 x 16in. Blocks are cut oversize and trimmed before the quilt is assembled.

3 From the lightweight fusible batting or interfacing, cut:

- One rectangle, 13 x 16in.

4 Centre the design under the 10 x 13in rectangle of quilter's muslin or plain cotton fabric and trace it with a sharp pencil or water-erasable fabric-marking pen.

5 Fuse the rectangle of lightweight fusible batting or interfacing to the wrong side and put it in an embroidery hoop if desired. Embroider the design, referring to the stitchery guide above.



Poire Pochée

"THE FRENCH KITCHEN"

Block 7

'Poire pochée' (Poached pear)



Assembly instructions

Preparation

6 It is a good idea to wash the stitcheries to remove any dirty marks and skin oils. Swish them through lukewarm, soapy water, rinse them thoroughly in cold water and roll them in a clean towel. When they are almost dry, place them right side up with a clean cloth over the top and press them lightly with a warm iron to avoid flattening the stitches.

Cutting

7 Trim all the stitcheries to $7\frac{1}{2}$ x $10\frac{1}{2}$ in. Before you do this, align the three centre stitcheries so that the horizontal lines of the French provincial kitchen table are continuous. When the quilt is assembled, you should see a complete room setting across the middle with vignettes above and below it.

8 From the turquoise print fabric, cut:

- Eight strips, 1in across the fabric width and crosscut eight strips, 1 x $7\frac{1}{2}$ in; eight strips, 1 x $11\frac{1}{2}$ in; six strips, 1 x $10\frac{1}{2}$ in; and six strips, 1 x $8\frac{1}{2}$ in (block frames)
- One strip, $2\frac{1}{2}$ in and crosscut 14 squares, $2\frac{1}{2}$ in (squares).

9 From the small floral print fabric, cut:

- Five strips, $1\frac{1}{2}$ in across the fabric width and crosscut four strips, $1\frac{1}{2}$ x $8\frac{1}{2}$ in; four strips, $1\frac{1}{2}$ x $26\frac{1}{2}$ in; and two strips, $1\frac{1}{2}$ x $11\frac{1}{2}$ in (sashing)
- Five strips, $2\frac{1}{2}$ in across the fabric width and crosscut two strips, $2\frac{1}{2}$ x $35\frac{1}{2}$ in; two strips, $2\frac{1}{2}$ x $30\frac{1}{2}$ in (Border 1); 10 squares, $2\frac{1}{2}$ in (squares).

10 From the large floral print fabric, cut:

- Two strips, 4 x $39\frac{1}{2}$ in
- Two strips, $4\frac{1}{2}$ x $37\frac{1}{2}$ in (Border 2)
- One strip, $2\frac{1}{2}$ in across the fabric width and crosscut 10 squares, $2\frac{1}{2}$ in (squares).

11 From the cream fabric, cut:

- Five strips, 2in across the width of the fabric (binding).

Framing the blocks

12 For the four horizontal stitcheries, sew $1\frac{1}{2}$ x $7\frac{1}{2}$ in turquoise strips to

each side and press the seams outwards. Then sew $1\frac{1}{2}$ x $11\frac{1}{2}$ in strips to the top and bottom and press the seams outwards.

13 For the three vertical stitcheries, sew 1 x $10\frac{1}{2}$ in turquoise strips to each side and 1 x $8\frac{1}{2}$ in strips to the top and bottom edges, pressing as before.

Squares

14 Referring to the quilt photograph, arrange two sets of four squares in rows, starting and ending with a turquoise fabric square. Sew them together and press the seams. They should measure $2\frac{1}{2}$ x $8\frac{1}{2}$ in.

15 Lay out two rows of 13 squares each, beginning and ending with a turquoise square and following the same colour sequence right across. They should measure $2\frac{1}{2}$ x $26\frac{1}{2}$ in when joined.

Assembling the quilt centre

16 Referring to the quilt photograph, arrange the framed stitcheries, rows of squares and sashing strips in horizontal rows. Sew $1\frac{1}{2}$ x $8\frac{1}{2}$ in small floral strips either side of a four-square row, then join Blocks 1 and 2 to either side of this unit.

17 Sew $1\frac{1}{2}$ x $11\frac{1}{2}$ in small floral strips between Blocks 3, 4 and 5 to make the complete kitchen scene, pressing the seams towards the sashing. Then sew $1\frac{1}{2}$ x $26\frac{1}{2}$ in small floral strips either side of the 13-square rows and press the seams towards the small floral strips.

18 Join the five rows in the correct order to make the centre panel. Then sew $2\frac{1}{2}$ x $35\frac{1}{2}$ in small floral strips to either side and sew $2\frac{1}{2}$ x $30\frac{1}{2}$ in small floral strips to the top and bottom to complete Border 1.

19 Sew the 4 x $39\frac{1}{2}$ in large floral strips to either side of the quilt and press the seams outwards. Sew the $4\frac{1}{2}$ x $37\frac{1}{2}$ in strips to the top and bottom to complete the quilt top.

Finishing

20 Smooth the backing fabric on the floor, right side down, and secure it with masking tape. Lay the batting on

top, ensuring it is smooth. After pressing the quilt top, lay it on top of the batting, right side up, and baste the three layers together with thread or safety pins.

21 Quilt as desired. Robyn machine quilted in the ditch between Borders 1 and 2. She sewed ceramic buttons to the turquoise print squares and tied bows in the corners of all the stitchery panels through all layers. She used Cosmo 837 for blocks 1, 2 6 and 7 and 143 for blocks 3, 4 and 5.

22 Trim the excess batting and backing fabric level with the raw edge of the second border.

23 Cut the ends of the 2in binding strips at a 45-degree angle. Join the strips end to end to make one length and press the seams open. Fold the strip in half, wrong sides together and long edges matching, and press. With raw edges together, stitch the binding strip to the edge of the quilt with a $\frac{1}{4}$ in seam, mitring the corners as you go. Join the ends neatly, referring to the binding diagrams in a copy of *Homespun* for details if necessary.

24 Turn the binding over and stitch it by hand to the back of the quilt. Label and date your quilt.



Step 21

Many thanks to Robyn Allen- Waters, of Orange Daisy, for her whimsical still-life stitcheries that celebrate the true heart of the home – the kitchen. The Cosmo threads were supplied by Charles Parsons.