

RAINBOW RAYS

Designed by Danji Designs

Stitch guide by River Silks Ltd.

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Additional materials: 10 x 10 stretcher bars, #22 tapestry needles

River Silks Ltd. 100% silk, hand dyed ribbon

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www.riversilks.com

4mm	Color	Spools	7mm	Color	Spools
166	Viridis	1	46	Mellow Yellow	1
258	Liberty Blue	1			
48	Yolk Yellow	1			
12	Flame	1			
210	Red Plum	1			
157	Flame Scarlet	1			
204	Prism Violet	1			
268	Over-dye Sunshine Gold	1			

GENERAL PLANNING

Attach the canvas to the stretcher bars preferably using tacks.

There is no need to ply the silk ribbon. You will want to work with 2 to 3 foot lengths of ribbon. The ribbon won't show wear so don't worry.

THREADING THE NEEDLE: Cut the ribbon on the diagonal. Insert point of the ribbon through the eye of the needle. Then insert the point of the needle through the ribbon cut end about 1/2" from the cut. Pull the long tail to secure the ribbon to the needle. This is called the "Needle Eye Lock Stitch".

SECURING THE RIBBON TO THE CANVAS: We have chosen not to use an "away knot" as it is unnecessary with River Silks ribbon. **There is an easier way.** Bring the needle up through an empty hole where you want to begin. Pull the needle and ribbon through the canvas leaving about a one-inch tail of ribbon on the back of the canvas. With a finger press that tail flat against the canvas. Go back down through an adjacent hole passing through both the canvas and the ribbon tail. Try not to stitch through your finger! With your finger still pressing on the tail pull the needle and ribbon through the canvas and keep pulling until the ribbon is secure on the canvas. Check the back of the canvas to see that there are no loose ends. This is called the "Canvas Lock Stitch".

HELPFUL HINTS: The ribbon does not need to be pulled tightly. Untwist the ribbon as you stitch and lay the ribbon with a laying tool to show the surface. Stitching style will affect the number of spools required. The "economy stitch" is quite acceptable if you are pleased with the look. With shorter stitches this is not always the best.

I RAN OUT OF RIBBON. NOW WHAT? When you need to add more ribbon to continue stitching or to change color or width of ribbon use this easy technique. Select your new piece of ribbon and secure it to a new needle using the “Needle Lock Stitch” described previously. On the wrong side of the canvas cut the ribbon you had been using (removing the old needle) leaving about a 1 1/2 inch tail. Hold that tail and pierce it with your new needle and ribbon very close to the surface of the canvas, keep pulling the new ribbon leaving another 1 1/2 inch tail. Put that tail over the next hole that you want to stitch and put the needle through that new tail and the canvas. Keep on pulling until secure. Turn the canvas to the right side and continue stitching. You may trim those tails to a half-inch as desired.

CANVAS MANAGEMENT

As with all of our canvases we begin stitching in an area that makes sense artistically rather than from one of the corners. Sometimes it is clear from the proposed stitches that one area should be done before (or after) depending on the chosen stitches.

We rarely map out all the stitches before starting a canvas. As the stitching develops it is much easier to decide on future stitch choices. Some stitches when tried simply don't work. You should be flexible in your choice of stitches despite the written suggestions!

GREEN SECTION; Color 168 - Start stitching at the bottom of the section just at the yellow arc. Use Cashmere Stitch varying the width of the rectangle and changing the direction of the slant as you progress up the wedge.

LIBERTY BLUE SECTION: colors 259 - Start at the bottom of the wedge in the left corner using a Diagonal L stitch.

YOLK YELLOW SECTION: color 48 - Start next to a green rectangle and use its height for the measurement of the Scotch Squares you will stitch. Remember squares have equal length and width. Stitching the diagonal is often the easiest place to start. The direction of the stitches can vary from square to square.

ORANGE SECTION: color 12 - Stitch with a Plait Stitch beginning at the yellow arc and stitching the first stitch next to the yellow Scotch Squares for a height or length gauge. The top edge of the stitches should run in a regular diagonal like the curve of the arc.

RED SECTION: color 158 - Stitch with Half Smyrna Crosses and fill in the spaces with double wrapped French Knots or single Colonial Knots.

BURGUNDY SECTION: color 210 - Stitch with Rhodes Diamonds and compensating with partial triangles or squares. Start the first Rhodes square at the bottom using a mid point of the wedge as the corner of the square/diamond. Follow the horizontal and vertical lines in the canvas for the sides of the square.

PURPLE SECTION: color 204 - Stitch in a Knotted Stitch over seven holes. Come up through the canvas count over one hole and up six holes. Go down through the canvas making a slightly slanted straight stitch. Come up on one side in hole 3 and cross over the long slanted stitch going into the canvas at hole 2 giving an opposite slant to the first stitch. This is a form of a cross stitch.

YELLOW CIRCLE: color 268 - Stitch in a Spider Rose. If you lay the ribbon all the way around the seven spokes it will lie flat. If you prefer an loose petal flower then ignore the twists and do not snug the ribbon too much. Always add an extra two rounds of ribbon when you think you are finished.

YELLOW RAYS OF THE PARTIAL CIRCLE: color 46 - Keep your eye on the center of the small circle so the rays you stitch tend to come from the center or stitch like the shape of an eye. Use a Buttonhole Stitch across the top edge of the space almost overlapping the colored wedges. Start at the left edge. Come up through the canvas next to the red wedge and go down in a hole next to it leaving a loop. Come up under the edge of the small circle, stretch the needle up to the loop and through it. Snug the ribbon by pulling the part by the little circle and then pulling the needle to flatten the ray. As you stitch you will find an easy progression. This method gives a nice ridge along the circumference. It is not the only way to do a buttonhole stitch.

HAVE FUN!