

# BLACK EYED SUSAN MEDALLION

Designed by LEIGH DESIGNS

Stitch guide by River Silks Ltd. Copyright © 2008 River Silks Ltd.

9x9 canvas area, 5" circle, 18 mesh

**Materials needed:** 9 X 9 stretcher bars, #22 tapestry needles

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**River Silks Ltd. 100% silk, hand dyed ribbon**

Information (877) 944-7444

[www.riversilks.com](http://www.riversilks.com)

4mm	Color	Spools	4mm	Color	Spools
#232	VIVID YELLOW	1	#184	WREN	1
#6	ASPEN GOLD	1	#251	CARMEL	1
#174	MACAROON	1	#179	GINGER SNAP	1
#233	CHOCOLATE	1			

**CENTER:** Colors – 233, 179, 184, 251 Stitch with French Knots or Colonial Knots, knots of choice.

**PETALS:** Colors 232, 6, 174 – Blend these colors to form the outer portion around the outer edge of the flower stitching with straight stitches of varying lengths. Each row closer to the center overlaps the previous row, stitching into the ribbon of the previous petals just as natural petals overlap. Aim the line of the petal stitch towards the center of the flower.

## 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.

**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**

**PETALS** – Starting at the outside edge of the medallion do Straight Stitches (Satin) blending colors using longer stitches on the outside and shorter stitches as you near center.

The second circle of stitches should pierce the ribbon of the previous row like overlapping petals. Stitch around the canvas before moving closer to the center. Continue mixing colors to your liking.

**CENTER** – complete the center with French or Colonial knots.

The canvas is ready for finishing as you desire.  
**HAVE FUN!**

