

Basic Jessica

The *JESSICA* wasn't invented by Jean Hilton, but she named it and popularized it among geometric counted canvas stitchers. If you ever played with a Spirograph, you know where the shape of the *JESSICA* comes from.

The *JESSICA* is created with a series of straight stitches. It has a rounded center and can be any shape on the outside edge — round, oval, square, diamond, even irregular. The trick with a *JESSICA* is to stitch it so you can't tell where you started or stopped.

The photo at right shows a "round" *JESSICA* (technically it is an octagon) covering 6 x 6 threads.



JESSICA can be bands in a sampler or create a border. They can be used to indicate bushes, flowers or trees.

STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE 6X6 ROUND JESSICA

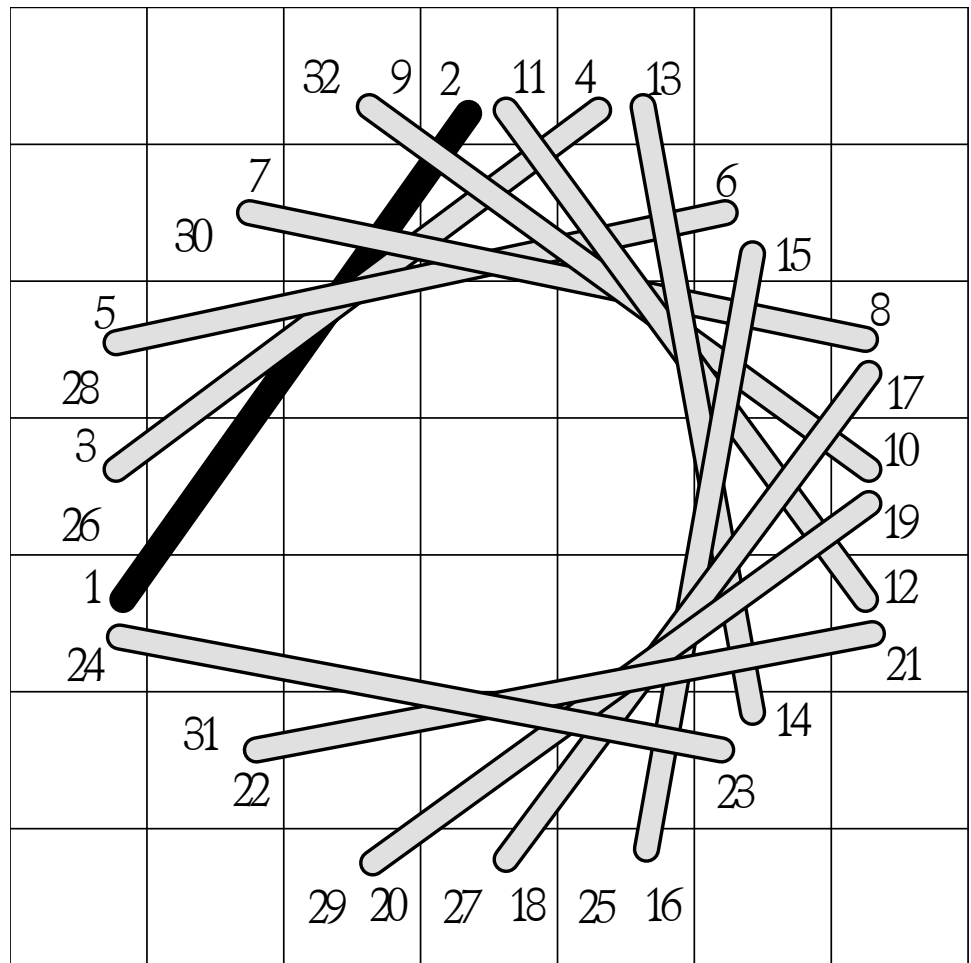
STEP 1

Come up at position **1**.
Count 4 threads up and 3 right and go down at position **2**. The **1-2** stitch is shown in black.

Follow the numbered sequence around coming up at the odd numbers and going down at the even until you go down at position **24**. This encloses the space.

Do not end the strand.

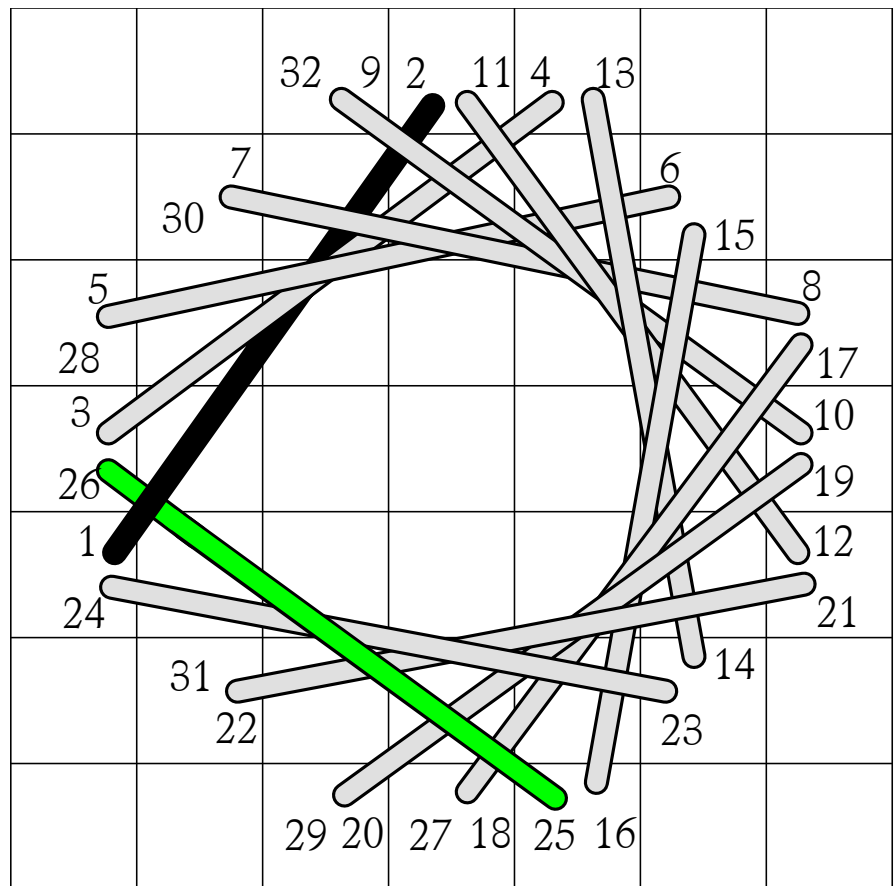
Continue with the diagrams on the following pages.



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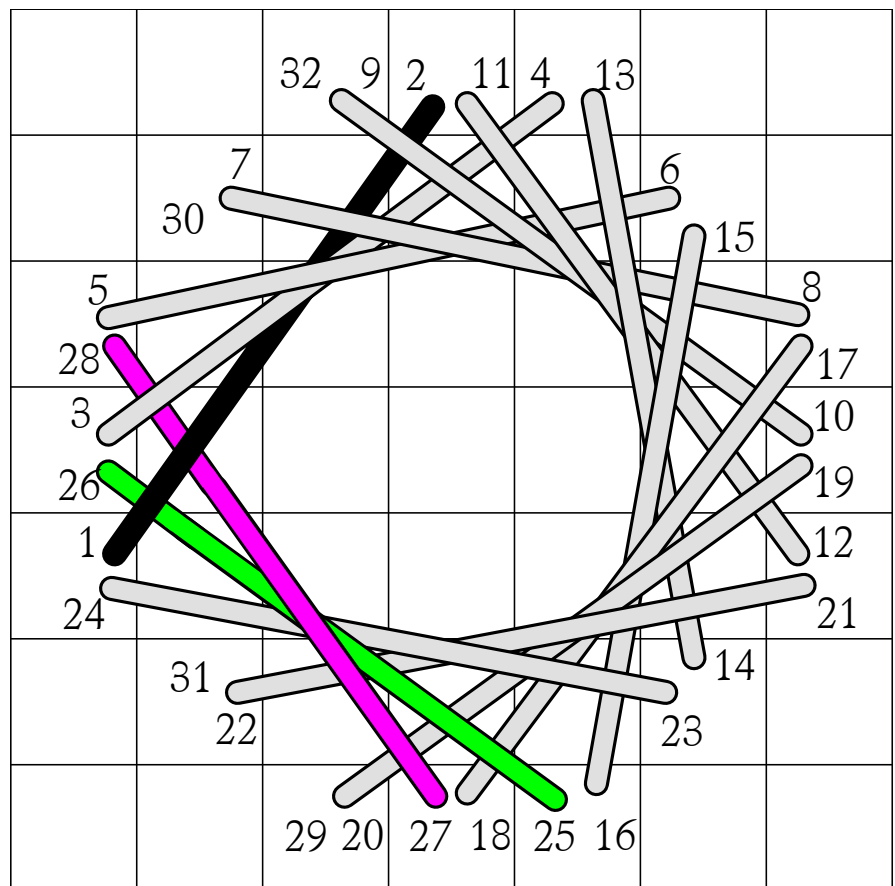
STEP 2

The **25-26** stitch (green) goes **over** the **17-18, 19-20, 21-22,** and **23-24** stitches (grey) and **under** the **1-2** stitch (black).



STEP 3

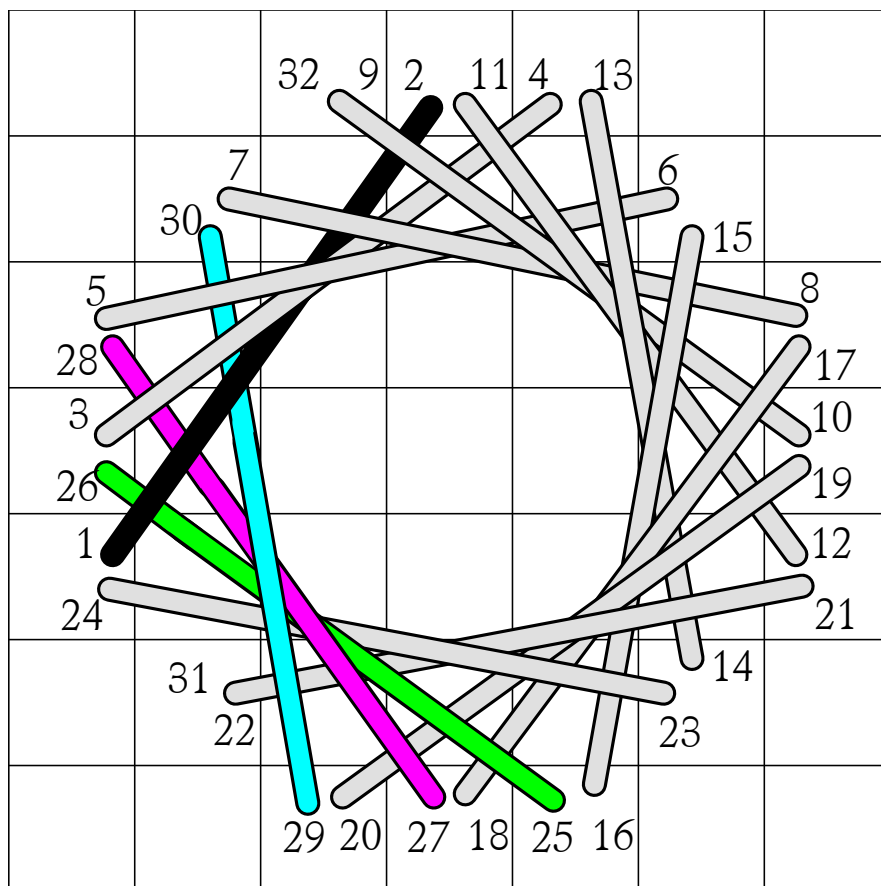
The **27-28** stitch (pink) goes **over** the **19-20, 21-22, 23-24** (grey), and **25-26** (green) stitches and **under** the **1-2** (black) and **3-4** (grey) stitches.



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STEP 4

The **29-30** stitch (aqua) goes **over** the **21-22**, **23-24** (grey), **25-26** (green), and **27-28** pink) stitches and **under** the **1-2** (black), **3-4**, and **5-6** (grey) stitches.



STEP 5

The **31-32** stitch (yellow) goes **over** the **23-24** (grey), **25-26** (green), **27-28** (pink), and **29-30** (aqua) stitches and **under** the **1-2** (black), **3-4**, **5-6**, and **7-8** (grey) stitches.

This finishes the *JESSICA* and, as you can see from the photo, makes it impossible to see where you started and stopped.

