

ZIPPED POUCH

This little pouch or purse – perfect for make-up or just your keys and coins – is embellished with a simple wave design, worked in bargello embroidery using horizontal bands of bright, bold colour. Once you’ve mastered the basic technique, you can experiment with different colour palettes, and customize the finished object!

You will need

White or tan single-thread (mono) canvas, 18 tpi, 50 x 30 cm (20 x 12 in.)
Lining fabric in a complementary colour, 28 x 18 cm (11 x 7 in.)
15 cm (6 in.) zip, in a complementary colour
Short length of ribbon or leather, for zip pull
DMC Soft Cotton thread: one skein 2907 (light green), one skein 2905 (mid green), one skein 2890 (dark green), one skein 2172 (dark grey), one skein 2820 (dark blue), one skein 2797 (mid blue), one skein 2826 (light blue), one skein 2233 (light grey), one skein 2726 (yellow), one skein 2741 (orange), one skein 2349 (bright red)
General sewing thread, to match zip
Hand-sewing needle
Tapestry needle, size 22
Sewing machine, with zipper foot
Pins



How to make



Start with light green, and follow the chart for subsequent colours.

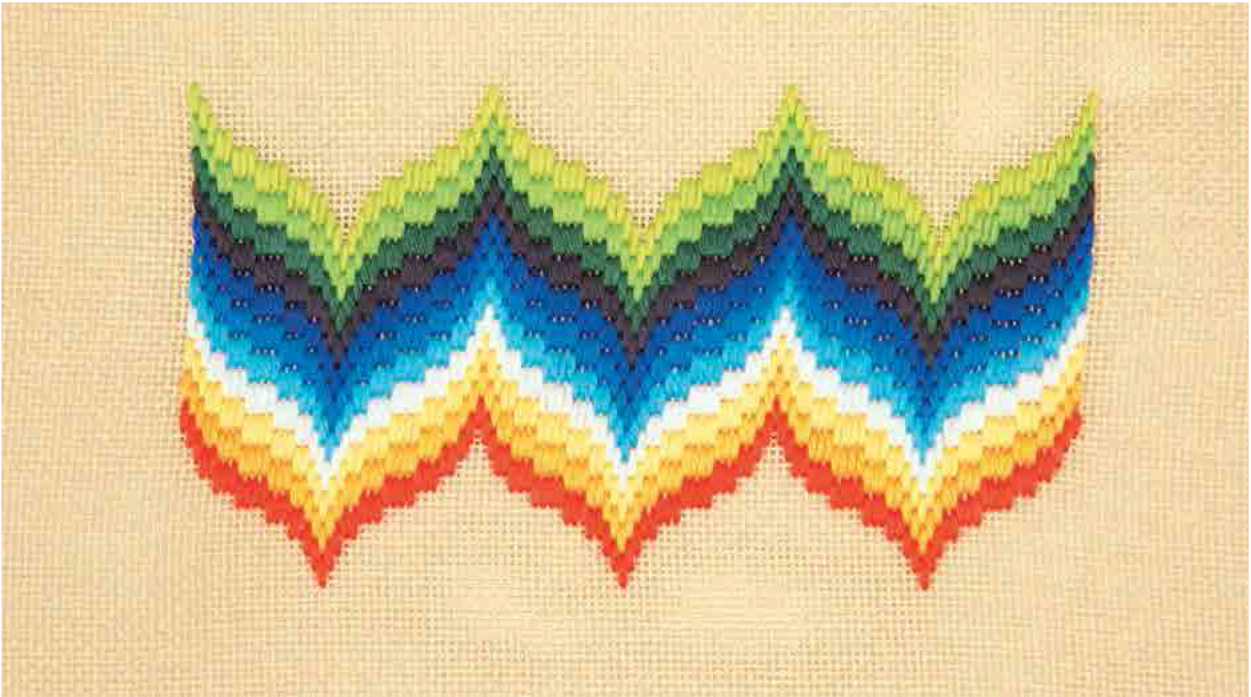
1 The completed embroidery will measure approx. 35.5 by 16 cm (14 x 6¼ in.). Centre your design on the canvas.

2 The first row of the bargello pattern is worked in light green and starts in the top-left corner of the design. Thread a single strand of the cotton in your tapestry needle and knot the end. Take your needle down through the top of the work, approx. 3 cm (1 in.) ahead of your starting point, within the body of the design, so as to enclose the end in the stitches.

3 Following the chart, work the top row of the wave design in the first colour, as shown above. Each stitch is always across four threads of the canvas (or five holes). Stitch each row from left to right. To end the thread, weave the needle through the stitches on the reverse and trim the excess.

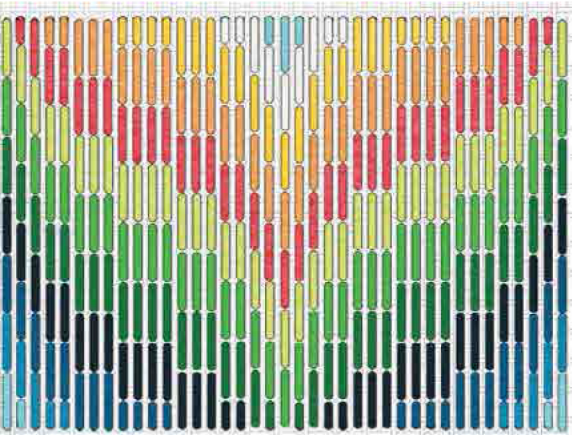
4 Work the next row in mid green, ending each stitch in the same hole that the first light-green stitch ends in. Stitch the next nine rows, changing colour as directed.

5 After the final row, start again with the light green and work through all the colours again. Stitch a further two repeats, so that the entire pattern is sewn four times.



Work through all eleven colours in the sequence shown, before filling in the top and bottom edges.

6 At the beginning and end of the design, you will have ‘v’-shaped gaps. Fill these in, continuing the colour sequence. Shorten the stitches at the beginning and end of each colour so that they finish on a straight line (see finishing chart below).



7 Once the embroidery is complete, trim the canvas, leaving approx. 1 cm (¾ in.) around the design.

8 Pin one half of the zip to the top edge of the right side of the canvas, with the zipper facing down. Using a zipper foot, stitch the zip to the canvas, along the top edge only, sewing as close to the bargello stitching as possible.



9 Pin the second, unsewn side of the zip to the other end of the canvas, making sure the two sides of the embroidery line up. Stitch together in the same way.



10 Pin the sides of the purse together, wrong sides facing. Make sure the edges of the bargello line up exactly. Open the zip. Again using a zipper foot, machine-stitch the two side edges. Turn the whole right side out to check your stitching; if there is any canvas still showing at the edges, stitch again a little closer in.

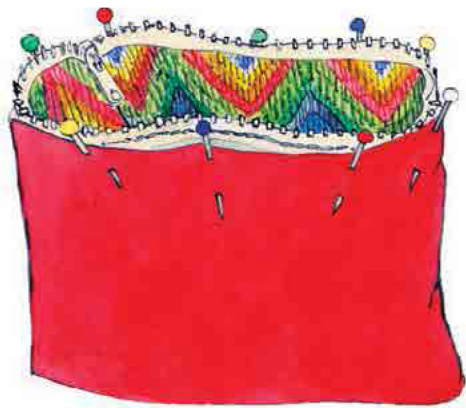


11 Fold your lining fabric in half, right sides together, and stitch a 1 cm (3/8 in.) seam down both short sides. You may want to turn your bargello pouch right side out at this point, slip the lining into it and check the fit. If the lining is too small, you will need to unpick one or both seams, and re-stitch.

12 Fold back 1 cm (3/8 in.) around the open edge, press and then turn the lining through.



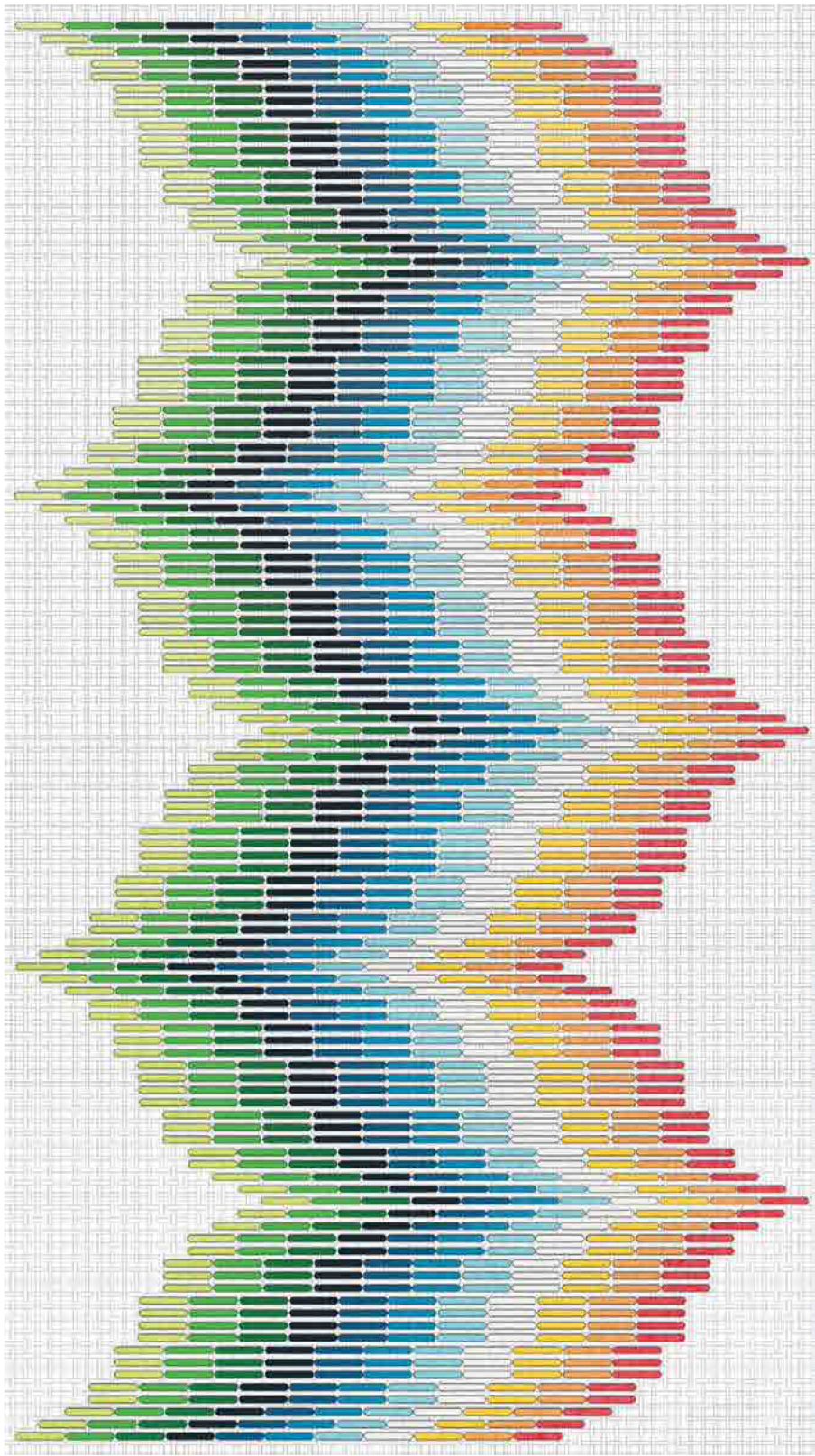
13 With the bargello pouch inside out, slip the lining over it and align the edge with the seam joining zip and canvas. Pin the two together. Slip stitch the lining to the zip.



14 Turn the whole pouch right side out and attach a leather or ribbon pull to the zip by tying it firmly in place.

Making the final bargello piece to a larger size, simply by increasing the number of design repeats. It could become a cushion or an applied pocket on a canvas bag. You can also design your own stitch patterns, using graph paper.

Chart



Thread key	
■	Light green (2907)
■	Mid green (2905)
■	Dark green (2890)
■	Dark grey (2172)
■	Dark blue (2820)
■	Mid blue (2797)
■	Light blue (2826)
■	Light grey (2233)
■	Yellow (2726)
■	Orange (2741)
■	Bright red (2349)