Quick & Fun
PROJECT

Blackwork
Oak Leaves
& Acorns

by Janice Routley
Skill Level: All

This design can be used in many ways. As a single unit, it can be the front of a needlecase, a scissor case, or a pincushion. If used as a row or border, centre the design (46 stitches x 46 stitches) and leave as many threads between the border repeat as needed to line up the design at the edge.
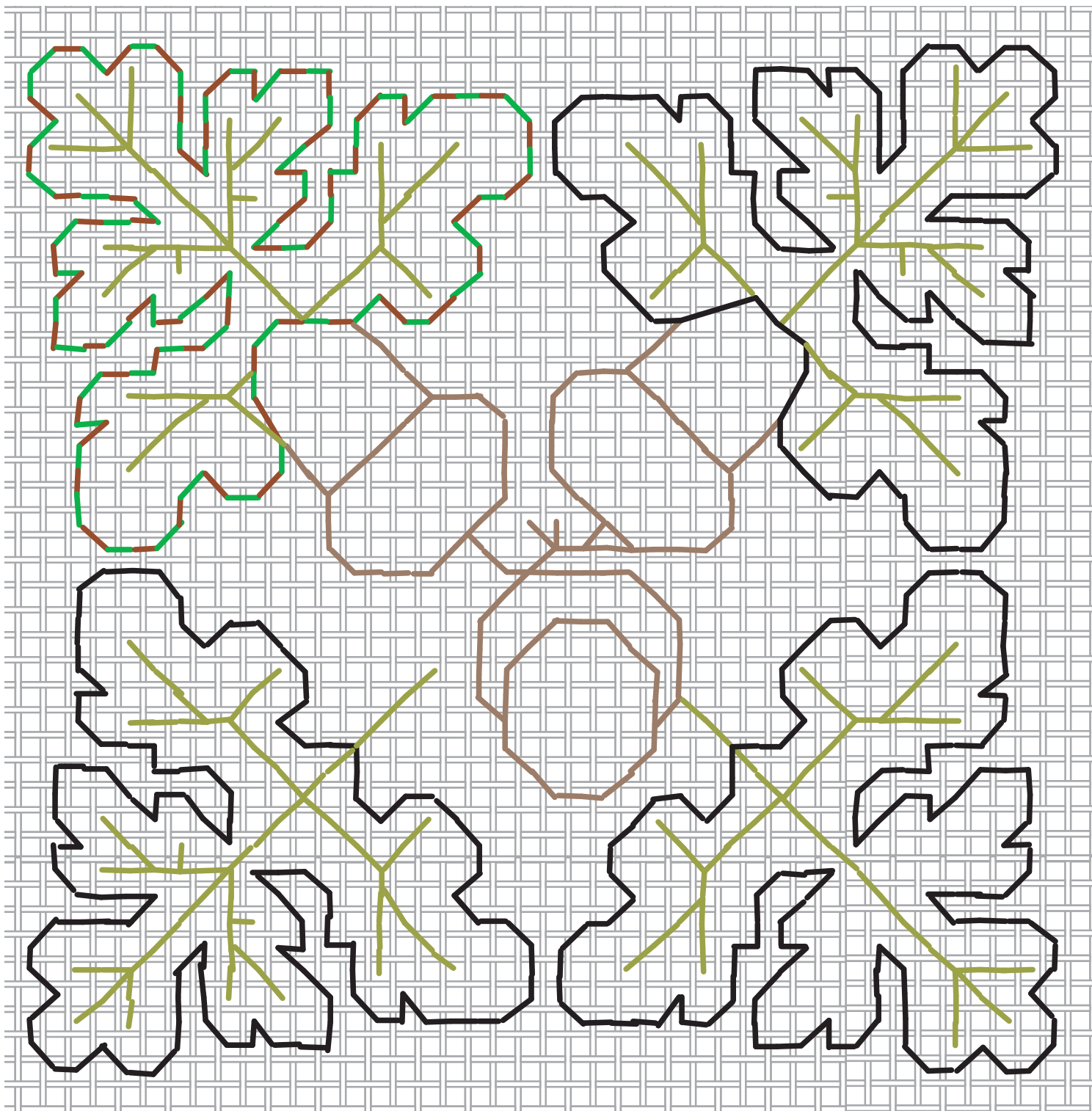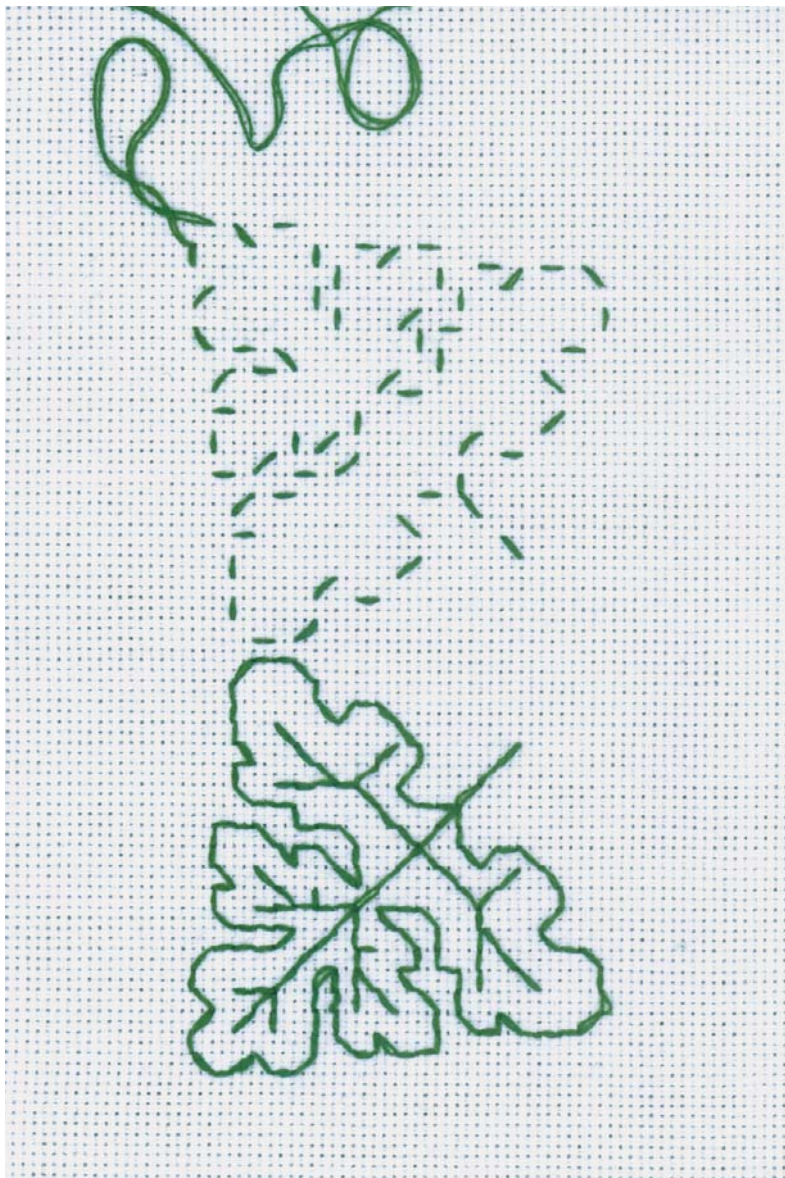
It can be worked on any even weave material or with waste canvas on a non-counted fabric, but if stitched on linen, work over two threads. If the finished piece is to be lined, it is a good piece to practise Holbien stitch or double-sided running stitch.

After working the blackwork, the acorns can be worked in a dense blackwork pattern or in satin stitch, stitching on the diagonal over the running stitch.

Using cotton floss in colour(s) of your choice, stitch every second stitch around the leaf (see the diagram on the top left in red and green) on the first pass and the blank area on the second pass.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

The above samples were stitched on 22 count evenweave using two strands of DMC floss over two threads.

The top leaf illustrates the first pass of the double running stitch, beginning where the thread is loose at the top.

The second leaf, shows the completed leaf including the stem and the veins. The entire stem was done along with the leaf. When you reach the stem, stitch the part of the stem going away from the leaf and then into the leaf (your second pass on the outer portion of the stem). I did the veins coming off of the main vein as I returned down the vein towards the stem. For me, it was easier to see where the stitches belonged at this point.

This is a terrific little carry-along project but the chart does require some thought on the first pass. I did need to be very careful with my counting and found myself "froggin" in a couple of spots in the first pass when I missed a curve in the leaf or mis-judged where the next stitch would go.