

## ALEF BET SAMPLER

1. Ten inch canvas, approximately 22 x 30½ inches. Persian yarn preferred; 3 ply. Each square has 40 lines, both vertical and horizontal, 3 lines in between each square for Gobelin stitch. 3 lines all around perimeter of canvas for Gobelin stitch. Basket weave stitch is done outside of Gobelin all around over 7 lines or more, depending on how wide one would prefer the border. In between squares, Gobelin stitch is done to separate letters.
2. Canvas can be laid out vertically or horizontally. There are 22 letters and 24 squares. The extra squares can be left together at the bottom center, the bottom two corners, two diagonals in the center of the canvas, or to suit the preference of the doer. Letters should be placed on the canvas with a black permanent laundry-marking pen. All other colors must be tested first for permanence. (Most “permanent” colors run.)
3. Coloring – Letters may be done in 1 color or in a variety of colors. The Gobelin stitch may be done in the same color as the letters or in a contrasting color. Each square should be treated separately, using at least 2 colors in the background, in addition to the color used for the letter. Tweeds are beautiful and can be used in dividing the Persian yarn, using 2 or 3 colors together as one; each tweed strand should be made using 3 ply yarn.
4. Stitches – Should be varied. The beauty of this canvas is the variety of texture created by the many available stitches. Use any needlepoint book, experiment and enjoy! The same stitches may be used a second time obtaining a different effect by changing colors, turning the canvas ¼ to the right, doing a pattern horizontally as well as vertically, making stripes, doing patterns on the diagonal. There are endless ways to make a variety of the 24 squares. Use your imagination; then you will be creative.

Ruth Ades  
New England Branch

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