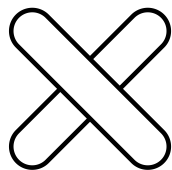


EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT CROSS STITCH



A COMPLETE BEGINNERS GUIDE

WHAT EQUIPMENT DO I NEED TO START CROSS STITCH?

Floss

I would recommend that you buy a good brand of floss. Either DMC or Anchor. The colours are stronger and more vibrant and the floss is higher quality which means you will get less knots in it when sewing. I always sew with DMC and my patterns are made with their colours in mind, but your choice will be down to personal preference and the charts you pick.

Needle

Choose a cross stitch embroidery needle. It should have a blunt end and the needle should be the same dimension as the holes in your fabric. If you are stitching on 14 count you will need a size 24 needle

Fabric

To start cross stitching choose 14 count aida. This fabric has a regular weave and holes which you can clearly see. 14 count means there are 14 holes per inch. Most patterns in magazines use this fabric.

Scissors

Choose a small pair of embroidery scissors. Stork scissors are the most popular choice and my preferred brand.

(optional) Hoop

There are many styles of hoop available. My preferred choice is a wooden hoop with a tightening screw enabling you to get your fabric tight before stitching.

HOW TO READ A CROSS STITCH PATTERN

Grid and Fabric

The first step in reading a cross-stitch pattern is understanding the grid and fabric. The pattern is usually presented on a grid, with each square representing a cross-stitch on your fabric. Matching the grid on the pattern to the fabric helps you maintain accuracy in your stitching.













Symbols and Colours

Cross-stitch patterns employ symbols and colors to represent specific threads or flosses. Each symbol corresponds to a particular color, simplifying the process of selecting the right thread for each stitch.

Key or Legend

A key or legend is typically provided in the pattern, illustrating the symbols used and their corresponding thread colors. Referencing this key ensures you use the correct colors throughout your stitching.

Legend:

| | |
|---|-----------|
|  | DMC-741 |
|  | DMC-902 |
|  | DMC-939 |
|  | DMC-3776 |
|  | DMC-3799 |
|  | DMC-3839 |
|  | DMC-3840 |
|  | DMC-3853 |
|  | DMC-3854 |
|  | DMC-3858 |
|  | DMC-3863 |
|  | DMC-White |

HOW TO READ A CROSS STITCH PATTERN

Instructions

Step 1: Familiarize Yourself with the Pattern

Begin by carefully examining the pattern as a whole. Look at the sizing information and cut your fabric to that size plus a 2" boarder on all edges.

Take note of any borders, outlines, or central motifs.

Understanding the layout will help you navigate the pattern more efficiently.

Step 2: Start from the Center

Locate the center of the pattern, typically indicated by arrows or bold lines. Starting from the center ensures the design is centered on your fabric.

Step 3: Follow the Symbols

Refer to the key or legend to identify the symbols in the pattern. Work section by section, following the symbols to stitch the corresponding colors on your fabric.

Step 4: Pay Attention to Detail

Be mindful of intricate details within the pattern. Subtle color changes and fine details contribute to the overall beauty of the finished piece.

Step 5: Double-Check Your Work

Regularly review your work against the pattern to ensure accuracy and identify any errors early on. Correcting mistakes promptly maintains the integrity of the design.

Enhancing Your Cross-Stitching Skills

As you gain experience in cross-stitching and become more proficient in reading and following patterns, your projects will showcase your evolving skills and creativity. You can then move on to trying stitches such as fractionals, half stitch, French Knots and backstitch.

HOW TO START A CROSS STITCH PROJECT

Materials

14 count white aida
DMC embroidery
threads

Tools

Pattern
Embroidery needle
Embroidery hoop
Embroidery scissors
Optional - a thimble

Instructions

- Start by printing off your pattern and checking it's dimensions
- Cut the fabric to larger than the pattern dimensions and your hoop size
- Fold the fabric into quarter to identify the centre
- fit in your hoop
- Tighten the hoop to secure the fabric
- Find the centre of your pattern and the centre of your fabric design
- Start stitching from the centre
- Cut a length of embroidery floss no longer than the length of your arm
- Separate it into one strand and keep the remaining five for later
- Double the thread and thread your needle
- Start stitching from the front of your fabric, leaving a loop to thread your needle through on the first stitch to secure. Tug so that it moves to the back.
- Work your stitches all the in same direction, the bottom of the cross should always be the same in every stitch.
- Work in either individual crosses or for longer areas of stitch work the bottom arm of the cross stitch in a row and then stitch back over the row to do the top arm of the cross.
- To finish, ensure the needle is on the back of the fabric. Thread it through the underside of a few stitches and then snip off the loose end.