

Learn To Cross Stitch



FREE

Cross Stitch Is Fun and Easy

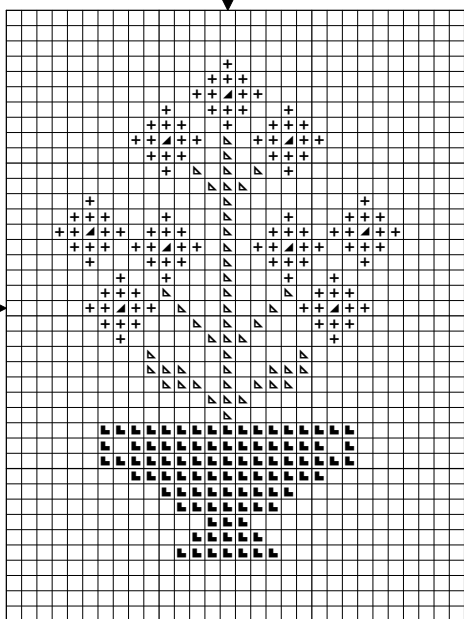
Counted cross stitch transfers a design from a printed chart onto evenweave fabric. Each symbol on the chart represents one stitched X on the fabric. The different symbols represent the different colors of floss.

Here Is All You Need

A Chart. There are thousands of designs to choose from.

Evenweave fabric. There are dozens of fabrics to choose from. They will all work. Choose one you like. Aida 14 is

an easy fabric to start on. The 'count' of the fabric is the number of threads per inch. This determines the finished size. Be sure to allow extra fabric for finishing. Depending on the fabric, you may wish to either sew the edges on a sewing machine or use a product like Fray-Stop to prevent fraying.



DMC Colors	Design size is 1 1/4" x 2 1/2" tall when stitched on Aida 14.
■ 898 Brown	Stitch with 2 strands of floss.
+ 815 Red	Backstitch (optional) around brown pot in 1 strand of brown.
▾ 319 Green	
▲ 307 Yellow	

Needle. Usually a size 24 or 26 tapestry needle is used (size 26 is smaller than size 24). A tapestry needle has a blunt point and a large eye.

Embroidery floss. The cotton thread used for stitching. Floss has 6 strands, but usually you will use only 2 or 3 strands at a time.

Embroidery Hoop or Frame. A Q-Snap frame, plastic embroidery hoop, or other frame is helpful to hold the fabric while you stitch, especially for larger designs. Remove the fabric when you are not stitching to keep from getting 'hoop marks.'

Scissors. Any pair of scissors will work, but a good pair of embroidery scissors makes stitching a lot more enjoyable.

To Begin

You can start anywhere in the design, but most stitchers like to start stitching close to the center of the design.

Thread your needle with 2 strands of floss about 18" long.

Knots on the back will show through, so do not use knots to start or end. To begin stitching, bring the threaded needle up from the back of the fabric leaving about a 1" tail on the back side of the fabric. Stitch the next 4 or 5 stitches over the tail. (The other way to start is to turn your work over and weave your needle through previous stitches.) Clip off extra thread. To end off, turn your work over and weave your needle back through the last 4 or 5 stitches and clip off extra thread.

Stitching

There are two methods. The first method is to work a row of half stitches (////), then work back (\\\\) to complete the X's. Use this method for most stitching. The second method is to complete each X as you go. Use this method for vertical rows of stitches.

The top thread of the X should always slant in the same direction (either \ or /). It does not matter which way they slant, but if they are mixed the finished piece will look uneven.

Relax as you stitch. Your stitches should lay flat on your fabric without distorting the fabric.

Back Stitching

Back stitching is a running stitch (not an X) used to outline an area or to form lettering. It is usually optional. In this design you may wish to outline the brown pot. Normally you use one less strand of floss for back stitching than for cross stitching.

Carrying Your Thread

Many times a color will have only a few stitches and then 'jump' to another area. Most of the time you should end off and start again. Jumping from area to area is easier than starting and stopping, but the thread may show through. You can usually carry the thread to another area if the jump is short, the floss color is light, and you are jumping over a previously stitched area.

Finishing

When your stitching is complete, rinse in cool water using a mild liquid detergent. While still damp, place face down on a terry towel. Place another cloth on top of the needlework and press lightly with a warm iron. Let dry. Then frame or finish as desired.



Cross Stitch Calculator App

The Yarn Tree Cross Stitch Calculator app (for Android) makes it easy to see how large your stitched design will be on different counts of fabric. It even recommends needle size and the number of strands of floss to use. It is free on the Google Play store.

Yarn Tree

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