

Terms Used in the Cross Stitch Community

I have compiled a list of terms used in the cross stitching community to help you understand what the heck people are talking about! Note: Cross Stitch = XS

1. 1 over 1 - one floss thread stitched over one linen thread - this is typically done for areas that need more definition or verses on samplers.
2. 1 over 2 - one floss thread stitched over 2 linen threads - this is typically done on 36 count linen or higher.
3. 2 over 2 - two floss threads stitched over two linen threads.
4. 24HOCS - 24 hours of cross stitch - Jen Lee of Quirks and Stitches started this phenomenon where you continually stitch for 24 hours. It has evolved a bit and some people put in the 24 hours over a weekend.
5. Aida - is an evenweave which means the fabric has an even number of weft and warp threads per inch. Warp threads run the length of the fabric, while the weft threads run side-to-side (selvage to selvage). This determines the thread count. For example, 22-count linen has 22 vertical warp threads and 22 horizontal weft threads per inch of fabric. The higher the count, the finer and tighter the weave will be. Aida is 100% cotton fabric and is worked with one X over one square while linen and other evenweave fabrics are generally worked over two threads. The common instruction is simply "over two threads." Stitching over two threads on 28 count linen produces the same size design as one stitched on 14-count Aida. Evenweave fabrics for embroidery can be made of linen, cotton or blends. Linen & evenweave fabrics are available in a wide range of thread counts. *reference - DMC website
6. Accoutrement - all the things that are used or collected in the cross stitching community, such as, needle minders, scissors, needle keeps, sewing tomatoes, etc.
7. BAP - Big Ass Project

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8. Backstitching - outlining something in the chart using straight stitches to help define the motif or object.
9. Band Sampler - Band samplers are composed of horizontal rows ("bands") of embroidered patterns stitched along the woven linen foundation fabric.
10. Base Fabric - The "uncolored" fabric a dyer uses to dye their fabric.
11. Bequeathment Labels - A label to stick to the back of your framed stitched piece stating the name of the chart, name of the designer, name of the stitcher (owner of the piece), date finished and who the stitcher gifts the piece to when they pass.
12. Biscornu - a small pillow, made from 2 squares by offsetting the corners of the squares, whip-stitching them together, and stuffing them, so that they form a kind of puffy, eight-pointed pillow. In the middle of the resulting pillow, a button or trinket is usually sewn, pulling the two sides of the pillow together.
13. Blending or Blended Threads - When stitching 2 over 2, you use two different colors, for instance, use 1 strand of black floss with 1 strand of dark gray. This is used for shading.
14. Bobbinate - taking a DMC skein and wrapping it around a plastic "bobbin". You can then organize in a case. You can also use a floss ring to put your bobbinated threads on for a particular project.
15. CCW - Classic Colorworks makes over-dyed floss.
16. Carrying Threads - You can carry thread over on the back if there is no stitching between two areas of the design instead of stopping and starting in the next spot.
17. Coffee/tea dyed - Soak your fabric in a pot of coffee. The "color" will vary depending on how strong the coffee is and how long you leave it in. Again, to set in the permanent color, iron your fabric on a hot setting. There are Flosstube videos where you can watch this process.



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18. Color Conversions - When one buys a chart but changes the floss colors to suit their taste or decor. Many designers will have a color conversion from fancy floss or silks to DMC listed on their charts.
19. Confetti Stitching - When there's a bunch of different floss colors in one area. The stitching resembles small bits of colored paper once you've finished the area.
20. Copyrights - As a designer/artist, I could write an entire paper on this topic.
 - A. All charts are copyright protected by the designer, therefore, the consumer cannot make copies of the chart to give to family/friends.
 - B. Chart sharing (where you finish stitching a chart and then give to a family member or friend to stitch) is also wrong. To support the designers, consumers should buy the charts they want to stitch from either the designer or a legit needlework shop.
 - C. Unfortunately, there are people who post copyright-protected charts to Pinterest...so please never download these. It really is against the law.
 - D. Also, beware of websites and Ebay sellers who sell illegally copied charts. Usually you can tell because the price is lower than a normal chart which is \$10-\$12 each. If you see a chart for \$6 or less - buyer beware!!
 - E. A designer has a certain style so if you come across a website with loads of different styles with no credit to the designer then these are probably stolen.
 - F. There are massive online stores that look to be from China or Russia selling super cheap cross stitch charts. More than likely these are illegal sites **and** if they're selling PDF downloads, they're created to spread malware and viruses to your computer.
 - G. Stick to websites that are clearly Needlework Shops where they sell not only charts by different designers (and have the designer's name clearly stated) but also sell linen, floss, needles and all the

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accoutrement that goes with stitching or buy directly from the designer.

- H. The only place you can buy my charts as PDFs is through my Etsy shop so if you ever see my charts available as PDFs anywhere else, please contact me.
 - I. Lastly, there are “destash” or “stash unload” Facebook groups and the like online. These are places where people buy a chart, stitch it (or not), then re-sell it to someone else. This clearly wrong if the chart is still in print and the designer is still offering it to shops and consumers.
 - J. Why is all of this important? Because if consumers download from Pinterest, buy from illegal sites and/or resell charts to others it will put designers out of business and they will quit creating.
21. Chart vs Pattern - When talking about cross stitch, chart is appropriate but pattern works too. By definition a chart is a sheet of information in the form of a table, graph or diagram. Pattern by definition is a model or design used as a guide in needlework and other crafts.
22. Counted Cross Stitch - the fabric is blank and you follow a paper (or digital) chart. Counting stitches helps you sew the correct number of stitches for each color.
23. Cross Stitch Calculator - plug in the stitch count, fabric count, # of thread you're stitching over (1 for Aida, 2 for linen), and how much border you want to leave for framing/finishing and the calculator will tell you how large your fabric needs to be for the project. I always use Yarn Tree's available here yarntree.com/java/xstitchcal.htm
24. DMC - Established in 1746, The Dollfus Mieg Company has been providing the most widely used embroidery floss in the marketplace.
25. DMC Conversion - When a designer uses over-dyed or fancy floss in a chart, they usually put a DMC conversion so the consumer can go with the less expensive DMC threads.
26. Dough Bowl - An antique (or reproduction) wooden bowl that was used “back in the day”



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for needing dough. Cross stitchers like to fill them with cross stitched “smalls” and other items for decoration.

27. Drum - or pin drum or pinkeep drum - a XS piece finished into a cylinder-shaped pinkeep.



28. Dye lot - A record taken during the dyeing process to ensure the next time they dye, the color will be the same.

Over-dyed or Hand-dyed floss & linen can vary from one dye lot to another. Sometimes even morph over the years & when comparing a recent floss color to one created several years ago, they can look very different. Keep this in mind when buying floss for a project.

29. Evenweave - the fabric has an even number of weft and warp threads per inch making perfect squares for stitching.

30. FO - Finished Object.

31. FFO - Fully finished object meaning the piece is framed or finished in a way that's ready to display in your home.

32. Fancy Floss - over-dyed / hand-dyed floss. Many are variegated which makes a unique look to the cross stitch pieces. They're more expensive than DMC. (The image to the right shows stitching using an over-dyed/fancy floss. The variegation makes stripes)



33. Floss-a-way bags - small ziploc-style bags to store floss for a project. There's a hole in them for a ring.

34. Finishing Tutorials - There are many ways to finish your cross stitch piece once you're done stitching it. Vonna Pfeifer, The Twisted Stitcher, has a YouTube channel showing very detailed finishing videos. I, too, have finishing videos on my channel.

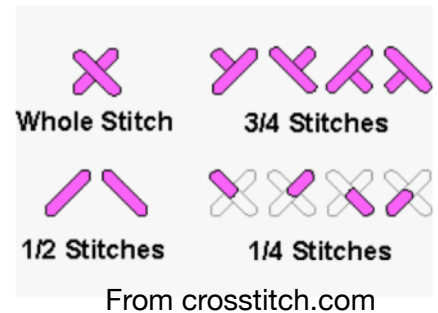
35. Floss Card - A thick card stock or laminated decorative “card” with holes punched for storing the floss for a specific project. They vary in shape and size.

36. Floss Drop or Thread Drop - A way of organizing floss/thread. They can be plain or decorative.



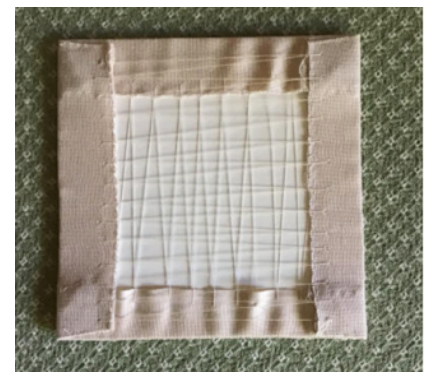
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37. Floss Ring - A metal ring which can open & close in order to put your floss drops on to store them for a specific project.
38. Floss Toss - When you pull the floss needed for a specific chart and you “toss” or lay them on different fabrics to see which fabric will work best with the floss colors.
39. Flosstube - A cross stitch community within YouTube where people (Flosstubers) share their mutual love of cross stitch and show their WIPS, Finishes, FFOs, etc. It’s the best way to get to know other stitchers and to learn about cross stitch.
40. FOMO - Fear of missing out
41. Fractional Stitches - (quarter, half, and three-quarter stitches) are used to create more detail in a specific area of a pattern. YouTube has videos showing how to do these stitches.
42. Frogging - If you make a mistake when stitching a chart and you have to take out the stitches, you “rip-it, rip-it” which sounds like a frog.
43. Fudging - When you make a mistake but instead of frogging, you adjust the chart or “fudge” it so that it works.
44. Full Coverage - This is a cross stitch chart where the entire piece is covered in stitches and no fabric is showing in the background.
45. GAST - Gentle Arts Sampler Threads - over-dyed threads
46. Gridding - a way to make your fabric look more like your chart by dividing the fabric into 10×10 sections – just like in your chart. With a grid on your fabric, it is much easier to do counted cross stitch without miscounting. Go to YouTube to learn how to grid your fabric.
47. HAED - Heaven and Earth Designs -
48. Half Stitch - see fractional stitches
49. Haul - Flosstubers refer to the stuff they purchase as their haul.
50. HTF - hard to find - a chart that is rare but with time and effort can still be found

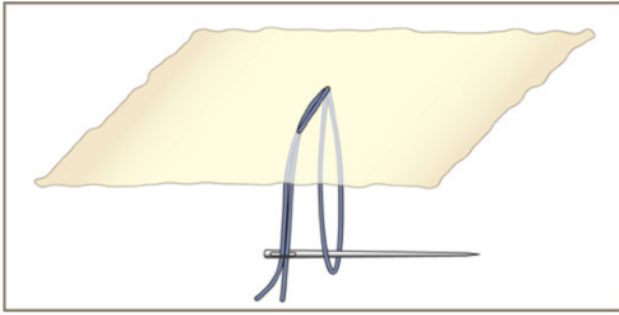


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51. Hoop - A circular-shaped device that holds your fabric taut for stitching. They can be used in stands so that both hands can be free, which can be more comfortable for the stitcher. There are different types of hoops available, wooden, spring tension, and flexi hoops, they are called embroidery hoops.
52. Jobelan - is popular because of it's elegant, soft, smooth sheen and large variety of colors, including hand dyed fabrics. Jobelan is an even weave fabric which is available in 20, 25, 28 and 32 count and is made of 51% Cotton, 49% Rayon/Modal. Jobelan drapes nicely and is a pleasure to work with. It is resistant to wrinkles.
53. Jolly July - Stitch Christmas charts during the month of July.
54. Kitted - When you have the chart, the fabric and the floss pulled so you're ready to start.
55. LNS - local needlework shop
56. Lakeside Linen - a brand name company who sells hand-dyed linen
57. Library Cards - A way to document your stitching. One way is by using Lori Holt's cards & envelopes. You fill out the card with title of design, designer name, date, stitch count etc. then slip it in the envelope and attach it to the back of your framed piece. Another way is to fill out index cards for each piece you stitch and store them in a box in numerical or alphabetical order (however you choose to store them - having a master list is helpful)
58. Linen Terms - Cashel is 28 count, Belfast is 32 count, Edinburgh is 36 count, Newcastle is 40 count, Bergen/Bristol is 46 count, Kingston is 56 count
59. Lizard Litter - aka Walnut Shells - used to stuff cross stitching made into pillows.
60. Lacing - a technique for stretching and holding your finished piece in place around foam core using needle and thread in order to frame your



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Loop Method or Loop Start

Photo from thecrossstitchguild.com

piece. Go to YouTube to watch videos on this process. This photo show the back of the finished cross stitch all laced and ready to frame.

61. Loop Method or Loop Start - a way to secure your thread when starting to stitch.
62. Lugana - similar to a Jobelan, Lugana comes in many colors and it is a blend of 52% cotton and 48% Viscose. Lugana is a soft, heavy, evenweave fabric that is easy to count and great for cross stitch. It comes in many colors and a few different counts like 25, 28 and 32 counts.
63. Magnifying Lights - If you're like me, this tool is invaluable. There are



many options so shop around. I can tell you what I use which is the

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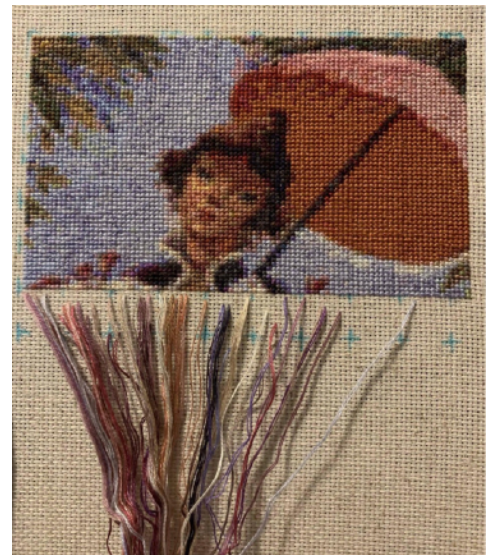
Brightech LightView Pro 6 Wheel Rolling Base Magnifying Floor Lamp - Magnifier with Bright LED. Standing Mag Lamp for Sewing, Cross Stitch, Crafts. For retreats I purchased a table mag lamp: Halo Go rechargeable lamp by The Daylight Company.

64. Marking Sampler - a small piece of cloth with the alphabet, numbers (up to ten) and possibly the name of the girl who made the sampler. The alphabet and ciphers were regarded as enough for a person to show that she would be able to mark an object (such as a garment) with a name and number, even if she was semi-literate. Items to be marked with the symbols included clothing, furnishings such as bed sheets, cushions, pillow cases, tablecloths, serviettes etc. In Northwestern Europe, in the mid- to late nineteenth century, marking samplers were usually worked in **cross stitch** in a red **silk**, and later in a **cotton** thread. Reference from trc-leiden.nl
65. Monogamous Stitcher - You work on one project at a time until it's finished, then start a new one.
66. Monaco - Charles Craft® Monaco Fabric is an easy to use 100% cotton Evenweave fabric. Perfect for cross stitch, machine embroidery, punch needle, ribbon embroidery, crewel and stamped designs.
67. NPI - Needlepoint Inc - an 8-strand Chinese silk for needlepoint, embroidery and cross stitch. It is sold in 5-meter skeins and is available in 475 colors.
68. Nashville Market - A wholesale or trade-only needlework show hosted by Needlework Retailer and Yarn Tree held near Nashville TN in early March every year. A place where needlework stores can shop or place orders with designers, distributors, floss suppliers, linen suppliers and all things cross stitch. New products are released at this market.
69. Needlework Expo - A virtual (online-only) wholesale or trade-only needlework show hosted by Janis Note of Noteworthy Needle. This show was created out of necessity due to the cancellation of in-person shows due to the pandemic. Needlework stores can visit online "booths" to see

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new products and live chat to place orders for new charts, finishing supplies, floss, linen etc.

70. Needlework Galleria - An event hosted by Cathy Roginela and her sister, Nancy, of Inspired Needle where needlework designers and retail shop owners “set up shop” in their rooms at the Embassy Suites in St Charles MO every year late September. This event is open to the public. Go to needleworkgalleria.com to learn more.
71. Needle Minder or Needle Keeper - A needle minder has two pieces. One decorative piece that sits on the top side of your fabric. This piece is also magnetized to hold onto your needle and to attach to a second magnet that sits on the underside of your fabric holding the needle minder in place.
72. Needle Book - something used for keeping stitching/sewing needles in. It is made of fabric and looks like a book.
73. ONS - online needlework shop
74. OOP - out of print. The designer has passed or has retired the design.
75. Orts - the leftover snips of thread that remain when you are done stitching. They may be tiny bits clipped when you run out of thread, or longer lengths you no longer need.
76. PHD - Projects Half Done
77. PTP - Picture This Plus sells hand-dyed linen
78. Pattern Keeper - a PDF reader app for your tablet. It helps to keep your place and mark your stitches. You can also zoom in to see the symbols better.
79. Parking - Parking is working an entire row of stitches all the way across the horizontal line of a project. As you finish using each color for the expected number of stitches in that color in one area of the line of stitch, you retract the needle from the floss and leave the remaining floss hanging. This method is mostly used for more complicated



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designs heavy with confetti stitching or full coverage.

80. Pin Keep - Just like the name implies, it keeps pins. You insert pins into the felt center, with just the heads sticking out around the edge of the keep. It's a somewhat unnecessary if you already have a pin cushion but can be useful when traveling.



81. Pin stitch - The pin stitch is a very ^{Pin Keep} useful way of anchoring your thread. Its advantages are that it can be worked from the front of the fabric and uses very little thread. It's secure yet causes no thickening to the front or back - it's invisible. Go to YouTube and watch Nicola Parkman's 2 min video showing how to do the pin stitch.

82. Pinning - a method of mounting needlework onto foam core board, using stainless steel pins and pinning the fabric to the edge of the foam core. This is a very precise way to make sure your piece is square.



83. Pre-orders - You'll hear Flosstubers use this term just before Nashville Market or Needlework Expo. Most designers will show their new releases via social media a week or two before a show. It's a way for people to see what's new and then contact their favorite shop to place a

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pre-order for a chart they want to ensure they will get one. This in turn helps the shops to know how much to order.

84. Project Bag - A bag to store a WIP which contains a chart, fabric, floss, etc. A project bag can be simple or works of art themselves. Go to Etsy and search “cross stitch project bags”.

85. Q-snap - frames to hold your cross stitch fabric taut made out of round plastic tubes, over which fit half-circular “snaps” of PVC-like plastic. The inside of the snaps have ridges that are supposed to grip the fabric. Q-Snaps are square.

86. Quarter Stitch - see fractional stitches

87. Railroading - is a term used to describe a specific stitching technique. It smooths the floss of your stitches so that the strands lie side-by-side, making it look like the rails of a railroad track. Railroad stitching ensures the strands are flat against the fabric.



From SpruceCrafts.com

88. Retreats - A gathering of stitchers at a specific location - usually 2-3 days long. They're held all across the states. Some retreats have one or more featured designer who designs an exclusive kitted chart only available to the retreat attendees and usually released to the public a year later. Some have smalls exchanges, brag table (people bring their finished stitched piece so others can see), fundraisers, and give aways. Meals may or may not be included. Tables are set up and people stitch all day (or visit all day and stitch only a little, 😊) Each retreat is different in what they do or offer. How to find retreats: Watch Flosstube as people talk about them all the time. Join Facebook groups about cross stitch. Many retreats are hosted by Needlework Shops so be sure to follow their Facebook pages and join their groups. A few popular ones that come to mind are: Stitch Con (by far the largest retreat) hosted by Keepsakes in Ohio, Midwest Cross Stitchers Retreat in Iowa hosted by Michelle Ruedy, The Silver Needle Retreat hosted by the Silver Needle in Tulsa

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OK, Quilters Station Retreat hosted by the Quilters Station in Kansas City MO, Summer School hosted by The Attic Needlework in Mesa AZ, Stitch West hosted by Deb and Keph of Snug Harbor Crafts in Salt Lake City UT.....there's more but I can't think of any more right now.

89. Round Robin - RR - a system where one project is passed from one stitcher to another and so on until completed.
90. SABLE - Stash acquired beyond life expectancy meaning you have so many charts you won't live long enough to stitch them all.
91. SAL - Stitch-A-Long. When stitchers work on the same chart and a hashtag is created so you can see everyone's progress on social media.
92. Sampler September - Stitching on samplers during the month of Sept. Sampler Soiree - Same concept but working on reproduction samplers.
93. Save the Stitches - When you see a finished cross stitch at a garage sale, estate sale or thrift store, you buy it.
94. Sawdust - used to stuff decorative cross stitch pillows
95. Scissor Fob - A beaded fob decorates your scissors and makes them easy to find. It also helps you to locate your scissors at a retreat.
96. Scroll Frame - A scroll frame or embroidery frame keeps the entire piece of fabric taut, rather than just the piece being worked. It is made of four pieces of wood: two rollers for the top and base, and two side pieces. ... Frames are used in needlepoint and other forms of canvas work as well as embroidery.
97. Seasonal Stitcher - A stitcher who stitches designs that coordinate with what season it is. For instance, in the spring they stitch spring designs, in July they stitch patriotic designs, in Sept/Oct they stitch Halloween and so on.
98. Serial Starter - A stitcher who continually starts projects. Starts more projects than finishes.
99. Sewing Method vs The Poke or Stab Method -
 1. Sewing method - You work with the needle in your dominant hand while the other is holding the canvas. This method is like sewing on a button or stitching a hem. The needle is poked on the underside of

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the canvas and catches the canvas thread and then back on the top of the canvas again. This method is quicker.

2. Stab or Poke method - You place your dominant hand on the underside of the canvas and your non-dominant hand on the top. As you are stitching, you'll pass the needle from one hand to the other. This method you're making one full cross stitch at a time.



Sewing method

100.SINS - Stuff I'll Never Stitch

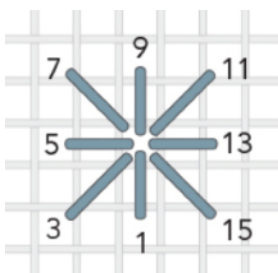
101.Skein - how your floss comes wound around into loops with a small label attached stating the brand and color coding.

102.Slubs - a little lump in linen that develops during the spinning process, when loose fibers get caught up in the thread being spun.

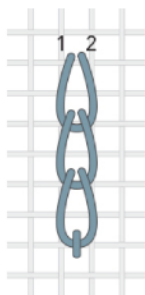
103.Smalls - referring to a small cross stitch chart. Often used for retreat exchanges or gifts.

104.Specialty Stitches - Some charts use specialty stitches. Photos from herrschners.com

Algerian Eyelet

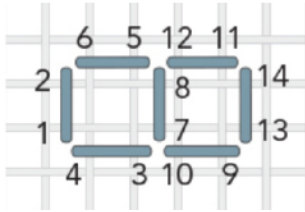


Chain Stitch

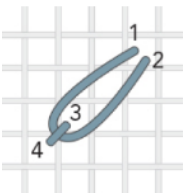


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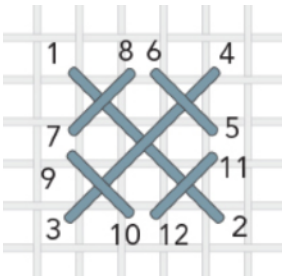
Four-sided stitch



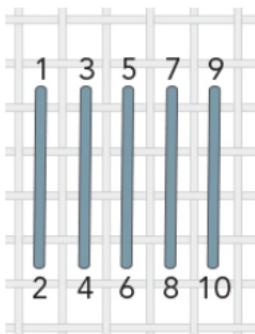
Lazy Daisy



Rice Stitch

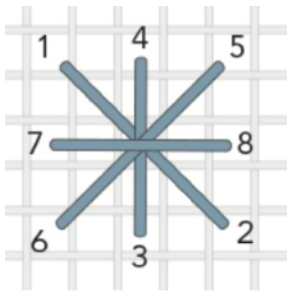


Satin Stitch



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Smyrna Cross



105. Stamped Cross Stitch - It's like paint by numbers. The image to be stitched is printed on the fabric. It's impossible to get lost making it easy for beginners and children. They mostly come in kits
106. Stash - (or collection) - A person's supply of cross stitch charts.
107. Stash Unload or De-Stash - see copyrights
108. Stitch Count - the number of stitches from left to right and from top to bottom. For instance, on a chart you'll see something like this: "stitch count 100 x 100" which means it's 100 stitches high by 100 stitches wide.
109. Stitch in Hand - When a person stitches holding the fabric in hand instead of using a hoop, frame or Qsnap.
110. Stitch Maynia - Started in 2015, in the month of May, stitchers start many new projects. There's a couple ways to do it: a new start every day of the month or 21 new starts (for 2021).
111. Stitching Journal or Book of Days - Many stitchers use a journal or book of days (calendar) to track what they are working on. They may write each day's chart name and how many hours they worked on it. Decorating journals or book of days with stickers has recently become very popular.
112. Stitching Rotation - a way to keep on track when stitching more than one project. It tells you what to stitch in any given stitching session, or helps you decide what to stitch. There are a variety of methods you can use....here's one I just made up *Witchy Wednesday- stitch Halloween

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*Fireworks Friday- stitch something Patriotic *Sampler Saturday- stitch on a sampler, and so on.

113. Stitchy Spot - A comfy place one likes to stitch. It's well lit and has all of their projects and tools within reach.

114. Stitchy Buddy - A pet who sits with you as you stitch.

115. Strawberry - a cross stitch finished into a strawberry shape. Sometimes called a strawberry pinkeep. They vary in size.

116. Stash Unload - Facebook groups and other sites where people sell a chart they don't want anymore. They may have stitched it (or not), then re-sell it to someone else. In my opinion, this is wrong if the chart is still in print and the designer is still offering it to shops and consumers.



Strawberry design by Erica Micheals

117. Sulky - A company who offers high-quality decorative threads, stabilizers, storage boxes, tools and education.

118. Tent Stitch - where you make only one half of the cross stitch leaving a row of parallel diagonal lines.

119. Thread Drops - see floss drops

120. Trunk Show - When a designer sends or delivers models (their finished and framed cross stitch pieces in which they've designed) along with the charts for those models to a needlework shop to have on display for a certain period of time. It's always a treat to see a finished piece of something you're interested in stitching.

121. UBB - Under the Bed Box. A box of finished cross stitch needing to be framed or fully finished. I believe Pam & Steph of Just Keep Stitchin coined this phrase.

122. UFO - Unfinished Object

123. Unicorn Chart - A chart that is out-of-print and seems to not exist. They can sometimes be found on Ebay but for a ridiculous price. A good way to find an OOP chart is to post what you're looking for on social media. Someone may have it and be willing to give it or sell it to you.

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124. Walnut Shells - aka Lizard Litter - used to stuff cross stitching made into pillows.
125. WIPS - Works in Progress
126. WDW - Weeks Dye Works. A company who makes over-dyed floss. They also sell wool, linen and weavers cloth.
127. WTF - Waiting to Finish
128. Waste Canvas - is used to stitch your design on fabrics that are not cross stitch friendly, like denim or T-shirt cotton fabric, table cloths and napkins. Waste canvas comes in several different counts from 6.5 to 20 count. Waste canvas is usually marked with a grid in blue that breaks the canvas down into 10 count squares (just like a pattern) that makes it easy to count and to position your design in the center. Some people choose to use some fabric on the inside of the material they are stitching on to give added support to their stitches. This is called interfacing. Using a 6 stranded floss, you will generally stitch with two strands of floss. However, this is something that is left up to you to decide. If you are concerned that the floss colors will run, than you can soak each color of floss in water to remove any excess dye before stitching. To begin your design, be sure to center the waste canvas on your shirt, blue jeans, etc. You can baste or pin your waste canvas and interfacing to your project. Be sure to secure your floss firmly so it doesn't come undone when you wash your garment. Once you have stitched your design to your garment and you are finished, wet your waste canvas and gently pull it out from under your design so that all that is left is the design you have stitched on the garment. It is best to wash your garment turned inside out. Make sure the edges of your interfacing are trimmed close to the design so as not to be caught during the washing process and pulled off. (Reference from cloudsfactory.net)
129. Wichlet - Wichelt Imports is a leading distributor of fine needle art fabric and supplies.
130. Wipgo - It's like Bingo for your WIPs. The idea is to make a board with 25 squares, add a goal to each square, each month the Admin call 2

Terms Used in the Cross Stitch Community

numbers and you try reach those two goals. When you complete a row or column, you can reward yourself with something nice. Flosstube explanation video is available at [Jessie Marie Does Stuff](#).

131.Zweigart - A German company who has been manufacturing high-quality fabrics for over 115 years. Many smaller companies use Zweigart fabrics for dyeing. Every roll and piece of Zweigart's fabric has a kind of signature – **an orange line along selvedge** to help you distinguish deluxe quality of original Zweigart.

What about Needles?

A tapestry needle is a hand sewing needle with a blunt end and a large eye. That blunt end part is important. Since cross stitch is traditionally done on fabric with an open weave like Aida, you don't need a sharp needle. The rounded tip of a tapestry needle helps ensure you don't accidentally pierce the threads of the fabric or split the fiber you're stitching with.

The large eye of a tapestry needle accommodates cotton embroidery floss, pearl cotton, and other specialty fibers you might want to stitch with. The large eye also helps keep the thread from rubbing against the fabric as you stitch, which reduces wear.

Most needles are nickel-plated, but if you are allergic to nickel, you can also find gold-plated ones.

Tapestry needles come in different sizes which are denoted by a number just like knitting needles. But different from knitting needles, with tapestry needles the larger the number, the smaller the needle.

The size of the needle you use depends on the fabric you are stitching on. In general, the larger the holes in the fabric (that is, the lower the fabric count), the larger the needle.

The purpose of the needle is to guide the thread through the fabric. If the needle is too big, it will push apart the threads of the fabric and make a bigger hole that your stitching thread may not fill. If the needle is too small, it causes unnecessary wear and tear on your stitching threads.

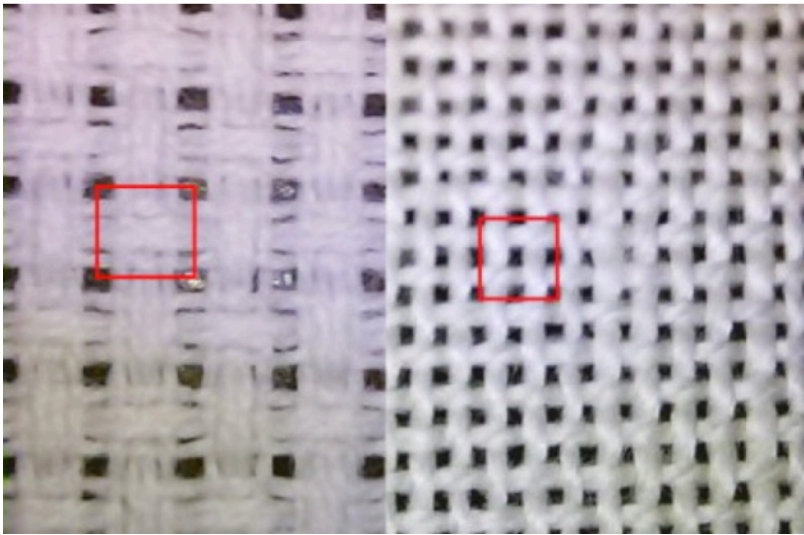
Whether you are stitching on Aida or linen, use this guide to help you choose the right needle size. - from [stitchedmodern.com](#)

Terms Used in the Cross Stitch Community

Aida	Linen	Needle size
6-count		Size 18
8-count		Size 20
11-count		Size 22
14-count	28-count	Size 24
16-count	32-count	Size 26
18-count	36-count	Size 28

Stitching on Aida vs Evenweave or Linen

(See Aida for more info)



Left is Aida. Right is evenweave

14 count Aida = 28 count linen or evenweave

16 count Aida = 32 count linen or evenweave

18 count Aida = 36 count line or evenweave

The higher the number the smaller the finished piece will be.

Terms Used in the Cross Stitch Community

Stitches on Aida
Cross over one thread/square



Stitches on Evenweave or Linen
Cross over two threads



The main difference between linen and evenweave is that linen threads aren't all the same thickness, so basically the stitches per inch may not be equal vertically and horizontally which can elongate a design slightly.



Terms Used in the Cross Stitch Community

YouTube has an abundance of instructional videos for beginner cross stitchers. For example, go to YouTube and search “fractional stitches” or “fancy floss” and you’ll surely find a video showing and explaining what you need to know.

List of YouTubers who have good instructional videos for cross stitching. Go to www.youtube.com and search these names. TIP: When you get to their YouTube channel, click on “playlists”. Then you can watch just the tutorials.

1. Jean Farish Needleworks
2. Peacock and Fig
3. Fat Quarter Shop Flosstube
4. Caterpillar Cross Stitch
5. Vonna Pfeiffer - for finishing videos

Below is a list of my favorite Flosstubers (and I probably missed a few). It’s a long list. I love to have it playing while I’m stitching, stuffing patterns, designing, sketching, etc. They’re in alphabetical order. The channel name is first.

1. Attic Needlework Shop - Jean & Caroline
2. Autumn Lane Stitchery - Cassandra & Aaron
3. Brenda and the Serial Starter - Brenda & Laura
4. Cornhusker State Stitchers - Terri and Jamie
5. Fat Quarter Shop Flosstube - Kimberly
6. Finally a Farmgirl - Chrissy
7. Floss Toss - Rachel and Sue
8. Fox and Rabbit - Brendon and Karen
9. Hello from Liz Mathews
10. Just Keep Stitchin - Pam and Steph
11. Kea Bee - Kea and Nathan
12. Kindred Stitcher - Lisa
13. Kitten Stitcher - Theresa
14. Lindy Stitches - Stephanie
15. Log Cabin Stitcher - Bonnie
16. Lori Holt
17. Modern Folk Embroidery - Jacob
18. Momma Love You GB - Michelle

Terms Used in the Cross Stitch Community

19. Priscilla & Chelsea (The Real Housewives of Cross Stitch)
20. Pumpkin Hollow Quilts - Olivia
21. Saltbox Stitcher - Carol
22. Snug Harbor Crafts - Deb and Keph
23. Stitch in Time - Susan Standley
24. Stitching in the Barn - Valerie
25. Stitching with the Sisterlies - Colleen and Cheryl
26. Vonna Pfeiffer

If you have an LNS, please shop with them. However, I know not everyone is lucky enough to have an LNS near them so here is a list of shops that are legit and safe for purchasing your charts and other needlework supplies. This is a short list....there are many more out there. Many people “share the love” and order from different places in order to support more than one shop.

1. inspiredneedle.com - Brick & Mortar shop in Lemont IL
2. kittenstitcher.com
3. fatquartersshop.com
4. [etsy.com/shop/NeedleCaseGoodies](https://www.etsy.com/shop/NeedleCaseGoodies)
5. <https://www.reflections-framing.com> - Brick & Mortar in LaVista NE
6. thesilverneedle.com - Brick & Mortar in Tulsa OK
7. acornsandthreads.com - Brick & Mortar in Portland OR
8. shopcountrysampler.com - Brick & Mortar shop in Spring Green WI
9. stitchesnthings.com - Brick & Mortar shop in Fenton MI

There's a lot of Etsy shops who sell cross stitch charts featuring many different designers. These shops are a legit and safe way to purchase charts.

Many designers have their own websites or Etsy shops where they sell their designs. You can search your favorite designer's name to find their

Happy Stitching!

