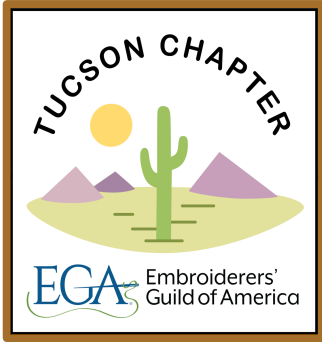




Cactus Needle

Tucson Chapter of The Embroiderers' Guild of America, Inc.

OCTOBER 2026

Vol. 44 No. 08

"The mission of the Embroiderers' Guild of America is to inspire passion for the needle arts through education and celebration of its heritage."

<https://tucsonega.org>

President's Message

Hello Fellow Stitchers and Beaders.

As you read this month's newsletter, Fall has arrived. It might not feel like fall, but it is here. And with Fall comes the holiday season. It's not too late to start those holiday projects that you said you would start in July. 😊

One project that you might want to do is our October meeting program where you will be stitching a cute cross-stitch project that can be used as an ornament. Be sure to contact Gretchen McGill and sign up for the program.

As I mentioned last month, we will be having a stash sale on October 24 at the church. You might want to start cleaning out things that you know you won't do or finish and bring them to the sale. All proceeds will be going to the chapter so that we can continue to have great educational programs and workshops.

On the membership side, we are excited to announce that we have 106 members. Our membership keeps growing because of all the activities and fun we have throughout the year. If you know a fellow beader or stitcher, invite them to a meeting. The more members we have, the more ideas we get for workshops and programs.

In October, several of us will be going to the Wish Upon a Stitch EGA Seminar in Orlando, Florida. Because we are hosting next year's Seminar, we are busy preparing things to take to Orlando with us to advertise the Seminar. Three of us are going to be teaching next year at the Seminar. More information will be available at our General Meetings in the coming months.

Hope to see everyone at the October meeting.

Happy beading and stitching.

Bonnie

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	Sharon Marchant	
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HOSPITALITY

Thank you so much for all the yummy snacks provided at the September meeting! It is always such a pleasure to sample everyone's culinary talents.

The general meeting, October 1st, is being hosted by Phylis Scott, Tammy Krassy, and me.

The beading meeting, October 8th, is being hosted by Deb W. and Elaine P.

Thank you again,

Rachel

MEMBERSHIP

Good News! We now have 106 members in our Tucson Chapter. Please welcome our newest members Jackie Oftedahl, Helen Dearmore, and Elaine Morgan.

If you see a new face in “our crowd” please take time to say hello. And remember to wear your nametag.

Thanks,
Helen

PROGRAMS

October Program: Halloween Counted Cross Stitch



Cindy Miranti has designed this spooky cross stitch pattern for our October program. It is a quick fun project for our experienced cross stitchers and an easy way to learn the technique if you are new to this skill.

The chapter is providing the floss, ribbon, felt, and perforated paper. **See the last 6 pages of this newsletter for the supply list and pattern instructions.** Please print out a copy if you would like paper instructions to follow along, otherwise you can use your phone or tablet. Unless requested, there will be no copies at the meeting.

To sign up, RSVP to Gretchen by Thursday, September 30th. This gives Cindy the time to kit the projects before our meeting.

NOVEMBER PROGRAM: SEMINAR 2027 in TUCSON



Do you have questions about the 2027 National seminar that will be held in Tucson next September, 2027?

In November we will be addressing all the practicalities of attending Seminar 2027. Questions about how/when to sign up, costs (finding roommates to reduce hotel costs, etc.), classes being offered, etc. Plus several members are attending this year's National seminar in Florida in October and will be sharing their experiences and pieces.

No RSVP needed, just bring your questions!

LIBRARY

Please contact me, Suzanne Knepper, to arrange to borrow books from the library. Here is the list of books available in our extensive library:

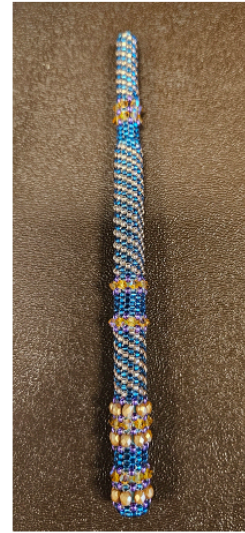
<https://cloud.collectorz.com/egalibrarytucson/books>

In addition, we have several hundred books listed on our website: www.tucsonega.org
[Member Resources Library Books](#)

WORKSHOPS

Terri Bay workshops: Signups have closed for the Terri Bay workshops being held in November. Remember, if you signed up, you should have received a receipt for your payment from Maura Robinson. If you didn't get a receipt by email, give Maura a call. Final payment for those registered is due to Maura by October 15. Happy Stitching!

SOCIAL MEDIA



There is a steady stream of eye candy being posted on the Tucson EGA Facebook page! You do not have to have a Facebook account; simply go to <https://www.facebook.com/EGATucson> and continue as guest. You will see the above stitching and more, with details on the stitcher and the design. And check out <https://www.facebook.com/groups/egastitchalong>, too.

BEADING

Our next EGA beading group meeting is on Thursday, October 8th from 10 am to 1:30 pm in classroom 6 at St Thomas the Apostle Parish, 515 N Valley View Rd, Tucson, AZ, 85718. As usual, all EGA members are invited to join us, not just those that bead. **Please don't forget to bring your food pantry donations.**

NOTE: THERE WILL BE NO BEADING MEETING IN NOVEMBER. TERRY BAY WILL BE HERE – YAY!

At our October meeting, we will be working on making tiny, beaded daffodils to go into the Itsy Bitsy Vessels that we made last spring. If you didn't make River Rose's Itsy Bitsy Vessel, you can still make these tiny daffodils and put them in whatever small vase you might have – just bring your vase to the meeting so you'll know how long to make the stems.



Tiny Daffodils in an Itsy Bitsy Vessel Beaded by Shawn Brown

The pattern for the daffodils will need to be purchased. It is available at the following link on Etsy for \$6.

https://www.etsy.com/listing/1207874929/beaded-daffodil-tutorial?ref=shop_home_active_13&dd=1&logging_key=3c146a860d337129db15a2e5c0c1e2537c1acdf8%3A1207874929

If you are interested in making more tiny flowers, the same designer (Marla Baer-Peckham) sells a combined pattern that includes the daffodils, tulips, allium, crocus, and hyacinth flowers for \$18 in her shop: CatFancyCreations on Etsy. During the beading meeting, we will only be working on the Daffodils.

NOTE: In order to fit into our little vessels, we are using smaller beads than those called out by the pattern. Use this supply list and not the one in the pattern when gathering your supplies.

Supplies needed for Tiny Daffodils

A = Outer Petals – Size 11/0 Seed Beads – 66 beads (less than 1 gram) per flower

B = Inner Petals – Size 11/0 Seed Beads – 48 beads (less than 1 gram) per flower

C = Stamen – Size 15/0 Seed Beads – 24 beads (less than 1 gram) per flower

D = Stem – Size 15/0 Seed Beads – Qty is length dependent (less than 1 gram) per flower
20 Gauge Wire – I will bring my spool, but if you have your own, feel free to bring.

Needle nose pliers and Wire Cutters

Beading needle of choice

Beading thread of choice – a note on thread: I used white/crystal fireline on my flower and on my first stem. The thread REALLY showed on the stem and I ended up re-doing it. I would recommend you use green thread for the stem or that you bring a green sharpie and pre-color your crystal fireline before beading the stem.

A note on colors for the beads. I used 2 colors and finishes of yellow beads for my flowers. You can use any colors you would like for your daffodils (white, yellow, and orange are all good choices). For the stamen color, I used the orange Toho 1827 listed in the pattern because I had it. Any color that works with your petal colors will

PHOTOS FROM OUR SEPTEMBER BEADING MEETING



Finished and In-Progress Shipwreck Shopping Bags from: Michelle Wood, Helen Salkowski, Kathy Paul, Corrine Babcock, Connie Laggergren, and Sharon Marchant

See you in October,

Shawn and Sharon

EDUCATION

Upcoming **ONLINE STUDIO COURSES** – video and PDF instruction

Counted Stitch: Commemorative Needlework Map with Catherine Jordan -

<https://egausa.org/courses/needleworkmap/>



The map depicts the original 13 colonies with lettering and motifs reflective of the locations and time period. It explores details found in vintage hand-drawn pen and ink maps: Roman, script, and block lettering, historical pictures and motifs, and a simple blackwork border. The map is completed with counted techniques (cross and back stitch) and hand painting of the shorelines and motifs, allowing stitchers to embellish their map to suit. The map may be worked on your favorite frame, scroll frame, hoop, or worked in hand. Skill level: Basic intermediate; Registration: **Sept 2-Oct 7, 2026**; Class: **Dec 2 & 16, 2026**. \$50 class + \$75 kit

Hieroglyphic Cartouche Bookmark with Dr. Valentina Grub -

<https://egausa.org/courses/cartouche/>



Bring a lucky ancient Egyptian symbol to your reading with this bookmark. This project will give you all the tools to personalize a cartouche (frame) with your name – or a friend's – in hieroglyphics using counted thread. Skill level: Basic Intermediate; Registration: **Oct 7 – Nov 4, 2026**; Class: **Jan 6, 2027**.

Dorset Button: Shawl Pin, Purse Fob or Pendant with Pat Olski –

<https://egausa.org/courses/shawlpin/>



Dorset buttons are thread-wrapped treasures, which have been around for over 400 years. This flower shawl pin has been reimagined to incorporate unique wrapping techniques and surface embroidery stitching. The central button can be used for many things, including needlework embellishment, a handbag or key fob, hair and tree ornaments, and as home decor accents. Skill level: All; Registration: **Nov 4-Dec 2, 2026**; Class: **Feb 13, 17, 2027**.

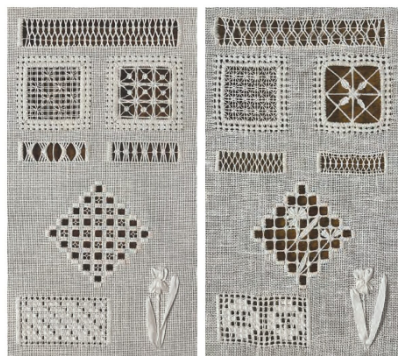
Needlepoint: Nordic Mitten w Wendy Moore - <https://egausa.org/courses/nordic-mitten/>



The kit includes an 8" x 12", 18-count interlocking canvas, all threads, needles, and printed instructions. You will supply 8" x 12" stretcher bars, tacks or staples, and usual stitching supplies. There are four colorways to pick from: Confetti, Holiday, Northern Lights, and Red-Gold. Make sure that you're very clear when you register about which colorway you prefer.

Skill Level: Advanced Beginner; **Registration Dates:** **Aug 3 - Oct. 1, 2026**; **Class:** **Nov. 7, 2026, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. EST.** **Cost:** \$45 + \$45 Kit+ \$10 postage.

Exploring Drawn Thread w Jane Ellen Balzuweit - <https://egausa.org/courses/exploring-drawn-thread/>



Jane Ellen Balzuweit is treating us to something extra special with this course: Instead of a set project, she is giving you the opportunity to stitch it as it is or make it your own by changing stitches and the level of complexity. The sampler includes two drawn-thread bands with twisting threads; four bands of drawn thread that can be manipulated into interesting patterns; two Old Hedebo squares; two Russian ground squares; two Hardanger motifs (one modern and one traditional); and two Myreshka Ukrainian embroidery bands.

Skill level: Intermediate; **Registration:** **Sept 5-Oct 30, 2026**; **Class:** **Mar 3, 10, 17, 24, 2026; 7-10pm EST.** **Cost:** \$70 + \$85 Kit +\$25 postage.

Needlepoint: Moon on the Water w Wendy Moore - <https://egausa.org/courses/moon-on-the-water/>



Doesn't this project just make you want to pack a picnic and sit under the sky, admiring the brilliant moon as it rises high above you? Watch it dance and shimmer like diamonds on the water. If you sign-up for this class, you'll have your very own brilliant moon to admire and picnic or stitch under. Students are to provide two pairs of 12" (30.48cm) stretcher bars; tacks or staples; frame or frame-weight; laying tool (mandatory); and usual stitching supplies. Light and magnification are recommended, as is a light-colored towel or napkin to place under your stitching to help count

the dark canvas. **Skill Level:** Intermediate/Advanced; **Registration:** **Oct 1-Dec 1, 2026**; **Class:** **Feb 21,28,Mar 7, 2027, 3-7pm EST.** **Cost:** \$92.50 + \$155 kit + \$20 postage.

NEW LIGHTNING ROUNDS: (PDF instructions)

Registration: Sept 1 - Nov 30; Cost \$60-\$87

Crewel: Boca Blossoms with Carol Currier - <https://egausa.org/product/boca-blossoms-gcc-lightning-round/>



Boca Blossoms is a crewel embroidery course with a focus on soft shading using one color family but varying the color order. The stitches include Chain Stitch, Fly Stitch, French Knots, Long & Shorting Shading, Outline/Stem Stitch, Split Stitch and Straight Stitch.

Sizes: 6" x 7"

Skill Level: Basic to intermediate

Time: Three lessons to be finished in three to six months

Student supplies: Linen twill or Strathaven, Appleton wool Painters Thread and Kreinik

Estimated supply cost: \$95. **Registration Deadline:** Nov 30, 2026.

Surface Embroidery/Stumpwork: Daisy & Red Clover w Kim Sanders –

<https://egausa.org/product/daisy-red-clover-gcc-lightning-round/>



Project: Daisy & Red Clover gives students a taste of stumpwork (raised and padded embroidery) in an easily completed size. Most embroidery is two-dimensional. Stumpwork moves into the third dimension by raising the embroidery above the surface of the ground fabric. The way the embroidery is raised is by stitch choice, padding, and detached elements.

Size: Fabric size is 10" x 8". Actual embroidery is 3.75 x 2 inches.

Skill Level: Beginner

Time: 3 lessons

Estimated Supply cost: \$25, less if threads are shared

Registration Deadline: Nov 30, 2026.

Cross Stitch & Finishing: Hearts for You w Denise Pratt -

<https://egausa.org/product/hearts-for-you-gcc-lightning-round/>



Hearts for You with Denise Harrington Pratt is an opportunity for the student to learn a variety of finishing techniques for use with counted thread work and to create a lovely four-piece set of needlework accoutrements. The counted thread embroidery in the pieces is basic, using cross stitch, backstitch, and attached beads. This is so students can focus on the finishing techniques once the embroidery is completed.

Type of Project: Set of four needlework accessories in counted thread embroidery

Skill Level: Intermediate

Timeline: 5 or 6 months

Estimated Supply Cost: \$70-\$90

Registration Deadline: Nov 30, 2026.



With Jacobean Fantasy, we will create an exquisite floral design on silk fabric with detached sheer fabric. Techniques include working Battlement couching, Burden stitch, chipping and “S”ing. Soft twist silks in solid and overdyes will be combined with braids, crimped purl, check purl, and pearl purl. For dimensional effects we will work the detached elements separately on sheer fabric in the creation of this exquisite embroidery.

Size: 6" x 7.75" design on 12" x 12" silk foundation

Skill Level: **Advanced**

Technique: Silk and Metal embroidery on fabric with detached elements

Length of Class: Six lessons in 12 months

Estimated Cost of Supplies: \$80.00

Registration Deadline: **Nov 30, 2026**

Counted Work: More than a Rose with Melinda Sherbring -

<https://egausa.org/product/more-than-a-rose/>



A small piece designed to introduce students to stitches and raised work techniques from 1600. Students may follow the choices made on the model or test their wings with alternatives. This project is worked on a linen ground with your choice of cotton or silk floss and with gold and silver passing threads. The techniques are a mixture of Tent stitch, surface embroidery, and needlelace. The text shows how to work Plaited Braid, four varieties of Corded Detached Buttonhole, three varieties of Ceylon, Offset Cross, and other more familiar stitches.

Size: Approximately 5" x 3.5"; **Fabric:** 8" x 10" white or off-white linen, 28- to 36-count

Threads: Gold and silver threads (list of non-tarnish alternatives to precious metals is provided); lizerine; choice of cotton floss, spun silk, or flat silk threads

Proficiency Level: **Intermediate**

Prerequisites: Familiarity with tent stitch and willingness to make decisions based on presented alternatives

Estimated cost of supplies: About \$35 (cotton threads, non-tarnish metal threads, sharing lizerine), or \$70 (Soie Ovale, non-tarnish metal threads, sharing lizerine), or \$140 (Soie d'Alger, genuine metal threads, own lizerine)

Registration Deadline: **Nov 30, 2026**

Group Correspondence Course UPDATE

Registration is closed for **Uncommon Stitches**. Course materials will arrive around December 1st.

Future GCC: Based on the annual survey, **Crewel: Boca Blossoms** won as the top choice. Because of the national seminar in Fall 2027, we will roll out the new GCC for Spring 2028.

OUTREACH

Stitch in Public: A variety of stitch in public gatherings occur throughout the month. Please come out and join with other stitchers to enjoy good company and get some stitching done in a social environment. And spread the word of the joy of stitching! (See the calendar in this newsletter for the specific dates.)

3rd Saturday: This late morning/early afternoon gathering meets from 10:00am to 2:00pm at the Martha Cooper Library.

3rd Tuesday: This evening gathering meets from 5:30pm to 7:30 pm and is held at two Barnes & Noble Cafe locations: NW Tucson at Foothills Mall, SE Tucson at the Broadway and Rosemont location.

Every Friday: This afternoon gathering meets from 1:00pm – 4:00 pm and is held at the Starbucks at 4702 E Grant Road, the southeast corner of Grant and Swan.

4th Monday: This Zoom stitch-in meets from 1-4 pm. If you are interested in participating, email Michelle Wood to receive the link to join the sessions.

Volunteer needed: As part of the mission of EGA National they include the following regarding Outreach:

EGA is dedicated to an organized outreach program to reach out to and share with our communities. All regions and chapters are responsible for establishing and maintaining such a program using embroidery to benefit their own communities. Significant contributions have been made throughout the country to The American Heart Association, Women's Heart Health Research and Habitat for Humanity. In 1995 and 1996 EGA was given the honor of producing needlework ornaments for the White House Christmas tree. EGA members from all 50 states contributed their talents to this project.

We have great visibility in our community with our stitch-ins and many of our members do additional charity work making tote bags or blankets or other items for charity. It would be great if we could find a volunteer to run a project “using embroidery to benefit our community.” I am looking for a volunteer to be in charge of a project that will meet this goal. If you have an idea of an organization we can work with or if you already have a charity project that you do, maybe you could think of a way that our chapter could become involved with your existing organization.

Let me know if you are willing to take this on as a project or if you have any ideas for a project that we could contribute to. Reach out to me, Kathleen G., by email.

WAYS & MEANS

Stash Sale: A heads up on our third annual Stash Sale fundraiser usually scheduled for spring but now scheduled for THIS Oct 24th (10:30 to 1:00 with set up at 10:00 am). Yes, that is a Saturday! (*Location: St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church, 5150 N. Valley View Road in O'Leary Hall*)

Here's all you need to do:

1. Go through your stash (fiber arts related items only) and find those treasures that no longer suit.
2. Separate those treasures you wish to donate into "free," "\$1," "\$3," "\$5" items. (These items do not have to be price marked.) If you have items of higher value, only mark those with a separate price. (I will have painters tape, expo markers, etc for this at the sale if you forget).
3. Bring the items to our usual meeting place on the day of the sale and place them on the appropriate table.
4. Bring small bills and shop the sale and fill your newly created stash space!

NOTE: Proceeds from items are DONATION to the chapter and not consignment. If your donations do not sell, you may either leave them as donations for future opportunity baskets or reclaim them at the end of the sale.

Everyone is encouraged to also bring a snack to share. Feel free to invite friends who have an interest in stitching and also our ANG needlepointer friends. Even if you have a will of iron and do not wish to add to your own stash, bring your stitching and sit and stitch with us.

Opportunity Baskets: Our last meeting (September), welcome back opportunity baskets included a Holiday themed basket won by Shawn Brown and a "Wine about it" basket won by Suzanne Knepper.

Breaking from the tradition of seasonally themed opportunity baskets, our October basket themes include an Ivory (no Ebony) theme with fabrics, threads, and charts in shades of creams and whites - who doesn't need more of that? The second basket is in celebration of a member who has reached quite a milestone birthday and will include 100 skeins of floss, 100 needles, 100 "Floss Away" storage bags, and 100 miscellaneous stitching doodads.

These are two fabulous baskets but I note, for the needlepoint leaning stitchers, they are sparse on canvas. Do not feel unserved by your Ways and Means, though - our October Stash Sale will have painted canvas on offer including a very large (rug sized) canvas WITH the floor frame to help you stitch it! For those who have been looking for an affordable opportunity to try needlepoint, there will be many smaller canvases as well as some donations that were started and not finished. Give this great needle art a try or grab some new projects at a bargain price.

Tammy

TUCSON

Quilt, Craft & Sewing Festival

NOVEMBER 5, 6 & 7

FREE
PARKING!



10am - 5pm Thursday & Friday
10am 4pm Saturday
at the
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3750 E. Irvington Rd. Exit 264
www.tucsonexpocenter.com

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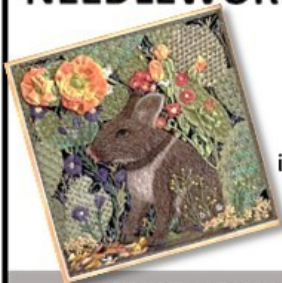
8700 N. Oracle Rd.
(520) **797-7177**

18805 I-19 S. Frontage Rd. B103
(520) **300-5002**

Cathey's **NEW SUMMER** hours: Monday-Friday 9am - 5pm / Saturday 10am - 4pm / Closed Sunday

catheys.com

NEEDLEWORK • CLASSES • GIFTS • CARDS • TOYS



"The Accidental Hat" Workshop

Here's your chance to learn to stitch this wonderfully whimsical javelina –
it's one of our absolute favorites! Join Eileen Aird as she showcases Barbara Elmore's
design and teaches this class three Sundays in November (1, 8 & 15).

Call today for more information and to reserve your spot in class!

STORE HOURS:
Monday through Saturday
10am to 4pm

River Center @ Craycroft
5615 E. River Road, Suite 101
Tucson, Arizona 85750
www.thewestinc.com

the West
INC

Our vision and mission is to improve the quality of life in the Tucson area
and provide grants to qualified Tucson-area non-profit organizations.

520.299.1044



Upcoming Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sept 27	Sept 28 Zoom stitch-in 1:00- 4:00pm	Sept 29	Sept 30	Oct 1 Chapter meeting 10:00	Oct 2 Stitching at Starbucks 1-4 pm	Oct 3
Oct 4	Oct 5	Oct 6	Oct 7	Oct 8 Beading meeting 10:00	Oct 9 Stitching at Starbucks 1-4 pm	Oct 10
Oct 11	Oct 12	Oct 13	Oct 14	Oct 15	Oct 16 Stitching at Starbucks 1-4 pm	Oct 17 Stitching at the Martha Cooper library 10am-2pm
Oct 18	Oct 19	Oct 20 Stitching at Barnes & Noble Cafe(s) 5:30-7:30 pm	Oct 21	Oct 22	Oct 23 Stitching at Starbucks 1-4 pm	Oct 24 Stash Sale! 10:30-1:00
Oct 25	Oct 26 Zoom stitch-in 1:00- 4:00pm	Oct 27	Oct 28	Oct 29	Oct 30 Stitching at Starbucks 1-4 pm	Oct 31
Nov 1	Nov 2	Nov 3	Nov 4	Nov 5 Chapter meeting 10:00	Nov 6 Stitching at Starbucks 1-4 pm	Nov 7

PUMPKIN TREAT BAG Halloween Ornament

8/20/2026

Counted Cross Stitch on Paper

Modified by Cindy Miranti based on Halloween Stockings by Frony Ritter Designs in 2026 issue of Just Cross Stitch Halloween

Designed with Win Word

Supplies

14 ct perforated paper or PVC 3" x 3"

3 x 3 felt

6 inches ¼ inch ribbon

24 tapestry needle

20 tapestry needle for ribbon

Embroidery scissors

Paper scissors

6" Ruler

DMC Floss – less than 1 skein each

310 Black

552 Dk Violet

553 Med Violet

554 Lt Violet

701 Dk Green

702 Med Green

703 Lt Green

740 Orange

741 Dk Yellow

742 Med Yellow

3801 Red

B5200 White

Notes:

14 ct: 33x36 Stitches (6.0 x 6.5 cm) (2.4 x 2.6 in.)

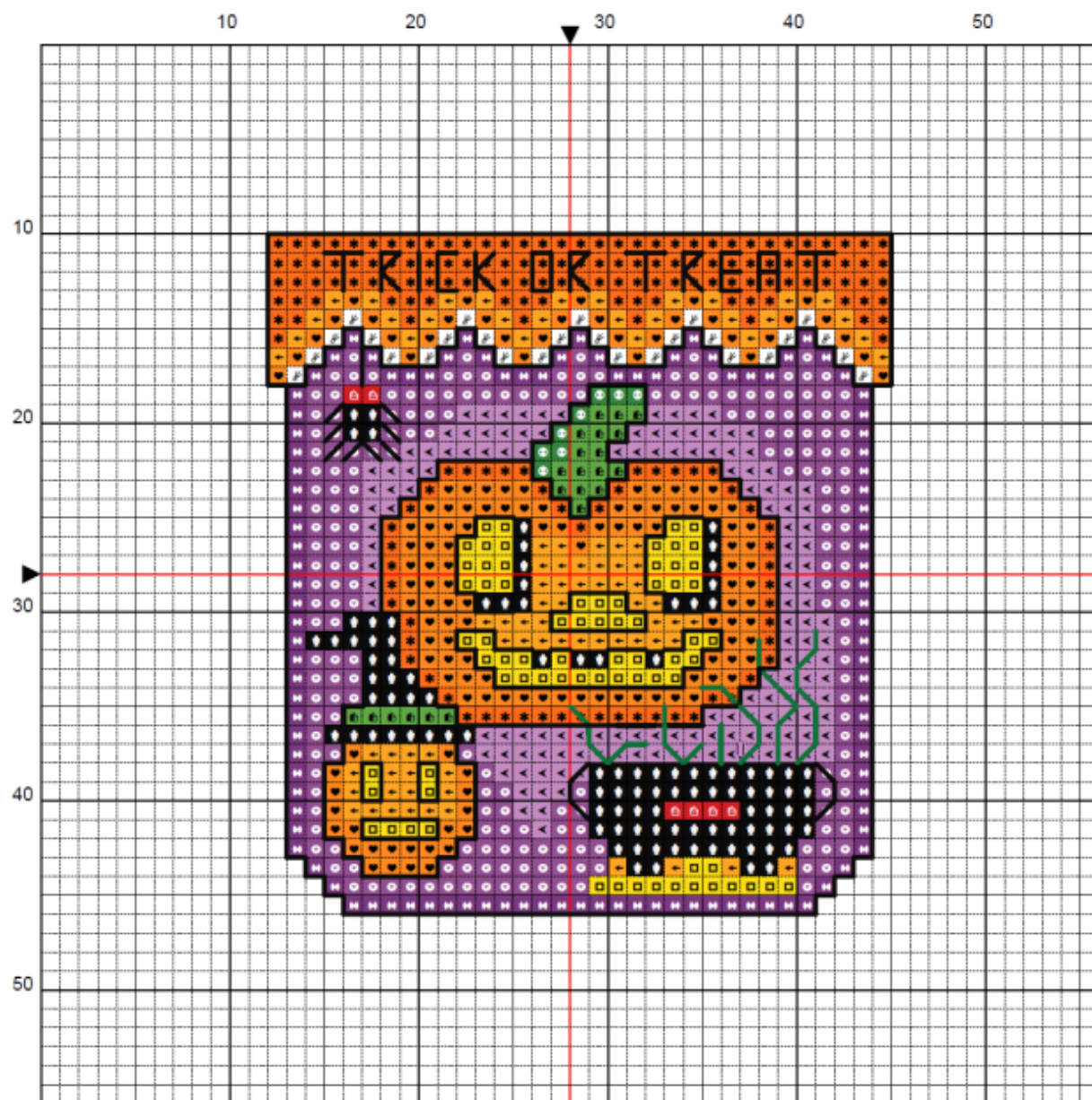
Use 2 strands of floss for cross stitching

Use 1 strand of floss for backstitching

	DMC 307
	DMC 553
	DMC 702
	DMC 741
	DMC 5200

	DMC 310
	DMC 554
	DMC 703
	DMC 742

	DMC 552
	DMC 701
	DMC 740
	DMC 3801



Beginner's Guide

Tips included

Loop method for starting

Danish method for cross stitching

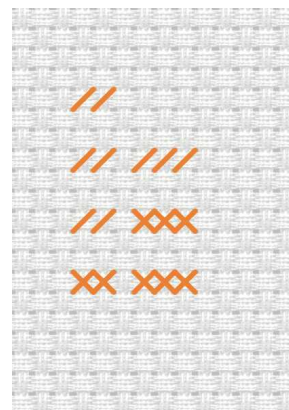
Railroad method for neater thread laying

Starting

1. Identify center of design on pattern: where two black arrows converge 2 red lines
2. Identify first thread color: for this pattern that is light orange DMC 742
3. Pull out a single 36" thread of floss.
4. Fold thread in half and thread both ends through the 24 tapestry needle to generate a loop
5. Identify center of paper/PVC using ruler by measuring from both sides.
6. Using the pattern as a guide, count 2 up and over 2 to the left from the center to find first top stitch of this color area based on the pattern.
7. Pull up threaded needle through lower left corner of the first stitch – do not pull thread all the way through.
8. Plunge needle into diagonal hole – do not pull thread all the way through.
9. Flip paper over and pull needle through the thread loop and secure.
10. Bring needle up in lower left corner of next stitch to the right and plunge at upper right hole of that stitch.
11. Continue the half stitches across that row – skipping one stitch based on the chart.
12. Return by completing the crosses – start by coming up in lower right corner and plunging in upper left corner.
13. Continue similarly across second row by coming up in lower right corner and plunging into upper right corner across and reverse coming back.
14. Continue until that color is complete, skipping other color stitches as necessary.
15. Finish off by pulling thread through 5-7 stitches on back before cutting.



Fig 1: Loop Method to Start*
*Sirious Stickers



Left-Handed Stitchers

1. Left-handed stitchers may find it easier to start on the right instead of the left.
2. Start at the bottom left instead of upper right for the first stitch
3. Run first half stitches from lower right to upper left and return cross stitches lower left to upper right.

Continuing

1. Select the next area to stitch
2. Highly recommended to stitch brighter colors first – so yellow in this area
3. Highly recommend working from center outward – especially when project is completely filled-in like this one – so black after yellow.
4. Do not ‘drag’ colors across back more than 10 stitches – fewer the better.
5. Keep all stitches going in the same direction, i.e., always start the first half stitch in the same direction, and always cross in the same direction.
6. Stitching from upper left downward, or lower left upward, will most often ensure you are coming up in clear hole and going down in dirty hole.
7. May need to ‘step’ down or up from the row to catch a few stitches on neighboring row(s) as you go across.
8. Ideally both threads should lie parallel to each other on the surface of each stitch.
9. However, thread twisting can make this difficult. To untwist, frequently let the needle dangle to untwist.
10. Needle pointers often use a laying tool to achieve parallel threads
11. Cross stitchers use railroading:
 - a. Before plunging your needle, lay the thread across the stitch in the direction you are plunging.
 - b. Place the needle between the two threads before plunging.
 - c. This will nicely place each thread parallel.

Backstitching

1. Once all cross stitches are placed, backstitch using a single thread of black in areas outlined in black
2. Go through every hole
3. Back stitch steam in pot in Dk Green

Straight stitching

1. Straight stitch lettering at top in Black
2. Go across holes

Finishing

1. Cut away excess paper/PVC around design by cutting through closest open row of holes.
2. Glue felt to back of ornament. Trim as desired.
3. Use large eye needle (20 tapestry) to pull each end of ribbon from back to front through a hole on either side near top
 - a. Cut ribbon end on a diagonal to generate pointed end
 - b. Thread only the point through the needle.
 - c. Pull point through hole and rest will follow.
4. Knot each end.

Other Cross Stich Information

“Cloth” Options

Aida - cotton multi-even weave fabric designed specifically for counted cross stitch.

Comes in several classic sizes, 10, 14, 16, 18 ct (squares per inch), and colors. For larger sizes (≤ 10 ct) use 3 strands of floss, for 14-18 ct use 2 strands of floss.

Linen – even weave, although strands can be different sizes. Comes in multiple sizes and colors from 28 to 56 ct. Cross stitch is usually over 2 strands, so 28 ct linen equals 14 ct Aida. For large ct linen, ≥ 40 ct use 1 strand of floss. Can also use 1 strand over 1 thread – often called petit point.

Laguna – even weave with same size strands. Comes in multiple sizes and colors, 25, 28, 32, 36 ct. Usually over two threads like linen.

Perforated paper - paper no longer being made, using PVC instead. Has added advantage of not tearing holes. Comes in 14 and 18 ct.

Plastic canvas – stiffer option. Comes in 5, 7, 10 and 14 ct. Larger sizes often use yarn as the thread.

Waste canvas – Can be attached to regular cloth and then removed once design has been stitched. Comes in 6.5, 8.5, 10, 11/12, 14, 18 ct.

Other – basically anything that has an even grid.

Calculating Cloth Sizes

Most patterns will tell you the number of stitches high and wide are in the design. Some will also give examples of final size of design when stitched on a particular ct.

If unsure, take the number of stitches and divide by the ct of the cloth

For example: 56 stitches x 75 stitches

$$56/14 = 4"; 75/14 = 5.4"$$

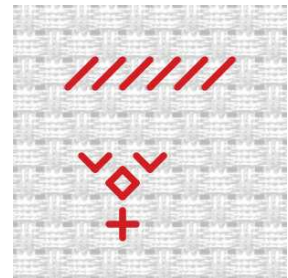
Add 6 inches on each side for the final size of the cloth to be used.

For things like paper, waste canvas, plastic - that don't unravel and are 'self' finished - just an extra inch on each side is needed.

Half and Quarter Stitches

Some patterns have you only use half cross stitches in some areas to generate light shading. Run them in the same direction as the half stitch under each cross stitch.

Quarter stitches might be used to generate subtle details around curves. For Aida it requires punching through center of grid, might best be accomplished with a sharp needle. Easiest on linens and Laguna when stitching over two threads. Can't be used on paper/PVC or plastic.



Gridding

For larger projects, it might be worth gridding the cloth before stitching. Create 10 x10 squares across the cloth (matches the grid on the pattern). Recommend using something that can't be pierced by a needle such as fishing line or Sulky Metallic in a highly shiny or contrasting color for easy removal after stitching.

There is pre-gridded Aida cloth if the coverage of the piece is 100%.