

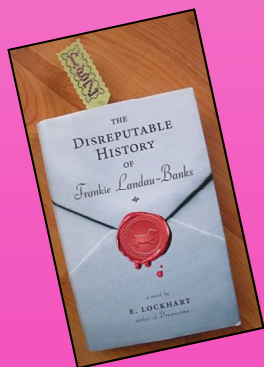


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readergirlz

rgz Bookmark

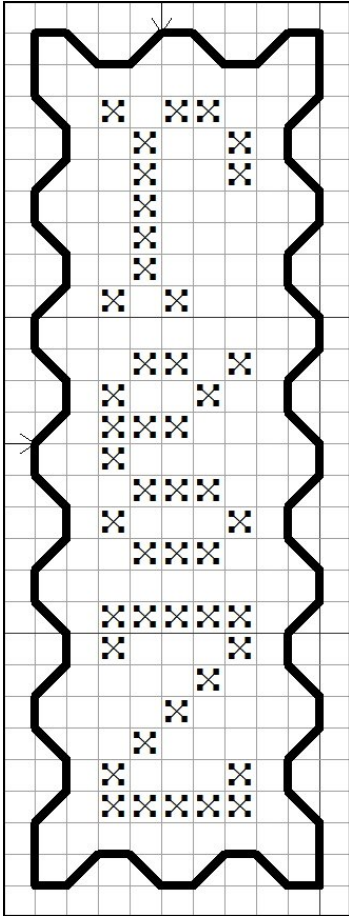
See the readergirlz blog
for a video tutorial



Make one to include in a book you
drop for Operation T B D



readergirlz rgz Bookmark



Stitch count: 9W x 28H

Materials

- ◆ 3 x 6 inch piece of Wichelt's Tropical Green 14-count aida cloth
- ◆ The Gentle Art Sampler Threads 6-strand floss, Red Plum
- ◆ Kreinik #4 Very Fine Braid, 019 Pewter
- ◆ Size 22 tapestry needle
- ◆ Large paperclip
- ◆ White glue (I use Gem-Tac from Beacon Adhesives.)

These are the materials used for the models. Feel free to choose different colors, fabric, and fiber.

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Please visit our Web sites to learn about the Needle and Thread: Stitching for Literacy program.

How To

You've probably heard of "paint by numbers." In counted cross stitch we "stitch by symbols." Every symbol on a pattern represents a stitch on the fabric. We transfer the symbols on a chart to stitches on fabric. Different symbols represent different colors, but we don't have to worry about that because we're using just one color.

The r, g, and z letters are stitched in cross stitches using 2 or 3 strands of the Red Plum floss. Begin stitching the r in the center of the fabric 8 - 10 squares from the top. We'll fold the bottom portion of fabric to the back to complete the bookmark.

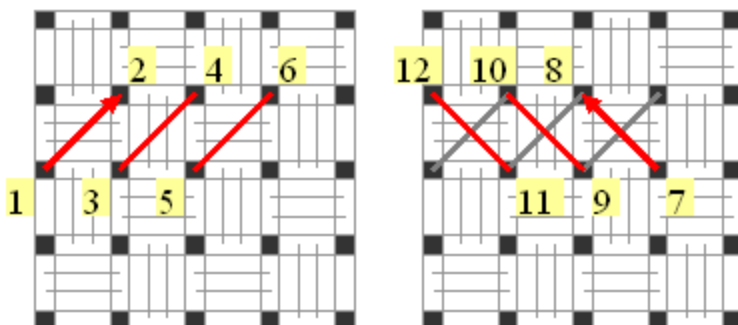
Starting and Ending Threads

We try to avoid knots on the back of needlework because they'll show through on the front when the work is finished.

The video shows how to use an away waste knot. An alternative is to bring your needle up through the fabric for the first stitch, leaving a one-inch tail on the back side. Make the next 3 - 5 stitches go over the tail on the back to secure it. When you're ready to end a thread, slide it under the last 3 - 5 stitches on the back. Clip thread tails close to the stitching so there are no bits to get caught and pulled through to the front on subsequent stitches.

Here are two ways to make a cross stitch. If you're using variegated thread, I recommend the Individual Stitch method. If you're using a solid-color floss, take your pick, or combine the two methods as needed.

The Row Method



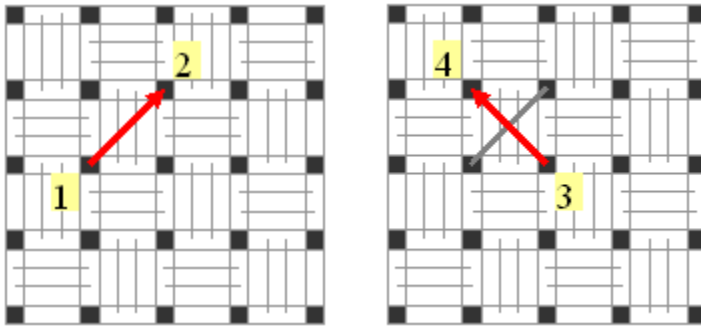
Stitch the first leg of each cross in a row. The needle comes to the surface at 1 and goes down at 2. It comes up on all subsequent odd numbers and goes down on evens. When you get to the end of your row, return to the beginning, completing each stitch. Move to the next row.

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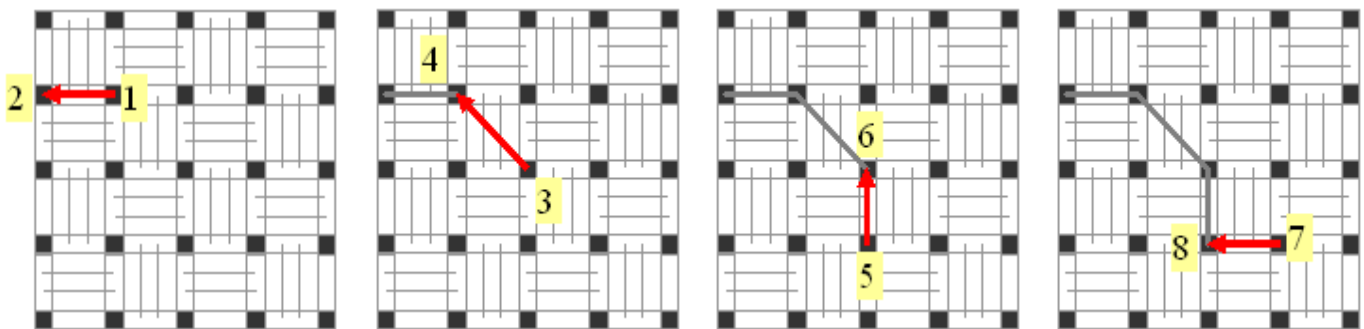
The Individual Stitch Method



Complete each stitch before moving to the next. The needle comes to the surface at 1 and goes down at 2. It comes up at 3 and goes down at 4. Move to the next stitch.

When the cross stitches are complete, stitch the border using 1 strand of the Kreinik braid.

Backstitching



Backstitching follows the solid line on the pattern. The needle comes up at one and goes down at 2. It comes up on all subsequent odd numbers and goes down on evens. Note that the forward movement of the line is to the right and down, but the movement of each stitch is to the left or up. Hence the name BACKstitch.

When the stitching is complete, finish the bookmark.

Finishing

1. Trim the long sides (and only the long sides) of the fabric 4 squares beyond the stitching.
2. Count six squares below the bottom edge of stitching and fold the fabric below that line to the back.

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3. Trim the folded edge diagonally so there are just 5 squares in the center. (Diagram 1.)

4. Slide the paperclip onto the fabric, and let it rest in the narrow middle section.

5. Spread a thin layer of white glue on the inside of the back half of the bookmark fabric.

6. Fold the wrong side of the needlework onto the glued back side. Turn the paperclip upright, match the fabric edges, and gently press the two sides together.

7. Allow to dry flat, and then trim side and top edges 2 squares beyond the stitching with sharp scissors.

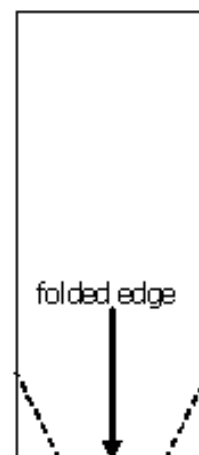


Diagram 1.

Hey, readergirlz! For more detailed stitching and finishing instructions, check out the video tutorial on the readergirlz blog. If you have any questions, post them on the blog, and I'll do my best to answer them.

Why not make an extra one or two to include in the books you drop for Operation TBD?

Needle and Thread: Stitching for Literacy

2010 Bookmark Challenge

March 18 - May 6

Celebrate reading and stitching! Join independent needlework shops, guilds, Web communities, and stitchers across the country in stitching bookmarks to donate to libraries and schools where they are used as rewards for reading accomplishments.

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