

THE INTELLECTUAL

Outlining working in backstitch, and long stitches.

Centre of beaks

— 728 (light gold) - using 2 strands

Main outlining

— 310 (black) - using 1 strand

Border

— 310 (black) - using 2 strands

HERITAGE
Crafts

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Aida General Instructions

Fabric

The material in your kit is 14 count aida. The count refers to the number of fabric blocks per inch.

You can work this kit in a frame or hoop if you wish. If using a wooden hoop remember to bind it first to prevent the oils in the wood from staining your fabric.

Getting Started

The centre of the chart is marked by two arrows - one at the side and one at the bottom of the chart. Where these two meet is the centre point.

You can begin to stitch at the centre of the design or you can count out from the centre should you wish to start stitching in another area. Do not use a knot to fasten on.

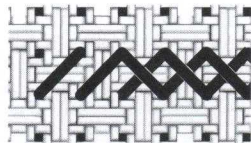
Work all of the cross stitches first, then add any outlining (detailing) in back stitch or long stitch, following instructions given on the chart.

The Stitches

Each length of DMC thread is made up of 6 strands. Cross stitches are usually worked using 2 strands, but sometimes using 1 strand. This will be explained in the key of the kit you are stitching.

On evenweave fabric cross stitch is usually worked over two threads of material, with each full cross covering a nine hole square. On blockweave fabric crosses are worked over one block of threads, with each full cross covering a four hole square.

Where possible work crosses in a line, working all the diagonal stitches in one direction and then coming back along the line adding the top stitches.



Aida

NB. The top diagonal stitches should all lie the same way.

Straddled Stitches

Sometimes a symbol will appear on a line on the chart, not in a square. This is a straddled cross stitch. It is still a whole cross stitch but it is out of alignment with those full stitches surrounding it by half a stitch, or one thread of the fabric.

Fractional Stitches

These are used where more detail is required. The fractional stitches used in our kits can be vertical, horizontal and diagonal, all of which are illustrated below.

Remember - each square on the chart represents the space required for one full cross stitch on the fabric. If a symbol takes up only half the square then the stitch it represents will take up half the area of the full cross stitch.

The diagonal half stitches which might be used in this kit are the same as the three-quarter stitches used by other designers. However, when the chart shows that two diagonal half stitches of different colours are required in the space normally taken by a full stitch, two complete diagonal stitches should be worked. This will give equal prominence to each of the colours. Ensure that the long diagonal parts of each stitch lie side by side.

The other two types of fractional stitches which could be used in this kit are horizontal and vertical half stitches. We call them fractional or half stitches but they are, in fact, 'squashed' cross stitches.

Vertical and horizontal half stitches are worked in the same way as full stitches, but use half the space. If two symbols are shown side by side in one square, your work will show two 'squashed' stitches sitting side by side in an area equal to one full cross stitch.

Outlining

Back stitch is shown on the chart by straight lines and is worked as shown below.

Long stitches are used when a long unbroken line is required (e.g. for a ship's rigging). They are also used to clearly define window frames, etc. where a strong line is needed to stand out from the background. Where necessary a break in the line, or a circle drawn over the line, will indicate the end of one stitch and the beginning of the next.

Finishing Your Picture

Check the back of your work for loose ends of thread. Darn in any which are not securely fastened off and trim off any others.

You can wash your work if you wish. Use hand hot water and a mild powder or liquid (not a detergent). Rinse well in cold water and leave to drip dry or roll in a towel. While still damp iron under a clean tea towel. Finish by ironing the back. Your work is now ready to be mounted in it's card or mounted and framed.

Helpline

If you have any problems or queries or if you run short of thread then please ring **01889 575256** or email us; enquiries@hcrafts.com

Stitch Reference Diagrams

