



*Creatively Belle*  
*Cross Stitch*  
*Useful Information Guide*



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#MakeEveryDayCreative



# Creatively Belle Cross Stitch Useful Information Guide

## Tools and Notions

- Tapestry Needle
  - Thread/Floss (as listed in the pattern)
  - Fabric of your choice, eg. Adia 14 Count
  - Embroidery Scissors
  - Embroidery Hoop
- Nice to have:**
    - Thread/Floss Organiser
    - Cross Stitch Gauge and Rule
    - Needle Threader
    - Project bag to keep things all together

## Number of Skeins Required for This Project

The *Skeins Used* lets you check what is already in your stash so you can figure out if you need more and the *Purchase* is the rounded up number to buy if you don't have the colour.

NB: This table provides an estimate only and doesn't take into account your own stitching style.

Fabric Count	Stitch Count	1 Strand		2 Strands		3 Strands	
		<i>Skeins Used (approx)</i>	<i>Purchase</i>	<i>Skeins Used (approx)</i>	<i>Purchase</i>	<i>Skeins Used (approx)</i>	<i>Purchase</i>
<b>11 to 16 Count Aida</b>	5 - 350	0.25	1 Skein	0.25	1 Skein	0.25	1 Skein
	350 - 550	0.25	1 Skein	0.5	1 Skein	0.75	1 Skein
	550-1,000	0.5	1 Skein	0.75	1 Skein	0.75-1.25	1-2 Skeins
	1,000-2,500	0.75-1	1 Skein	1.25-2	2 Skeins	2-2.75	2-3 Skeins
<b>18 to 32 Count Fabric</b>	5 - 350	0.25	1 Skein	0.25	1 Skein	0.25	1 Skein
	350 - 550	0.25	1 Skein	0.25	1 Skein	0.5	1 Skein
	550-1,000	0.25	1 Skein	0.5	1 Skein	0.5-0.75	1 Skein
	1,000-2,500	0.5	1 Skein	0.75-1.25	1-2 Skeins	1-1.75	1-2 Skeins

These details are based on information gathered from the Thread Bare Cross Stitch Skein Estimator online calculator found at: [www.thread-bare.com/tools/cross-stitch-skein-estimator](http://www.thread-bare.com/tools/cross-stitch-skein-estimator)

## Needle Size Chart

Every stitcher will end up with their favourite needle size and fabric count combination. The needle should go through the hole of the fabric without enlarging it but also, not fall through without pressure.

Suggested Needle Size	Linen	Aida
Size 18		6 Count
Size 20		8 Count
Size 22		11 Count
Size 24	28 Count	14 Count
Size 26	32 Count	16 Count
Size 28	36 Count	18 Count

## 7 Ways to Enjoy Your Cross Stitch Work

If you're anything like me you love making and then using your treasures. Here are 7 ideas to play with:

1. Frame and hang on the wall - yep, starting with the obvious option first
2. Appliqué onto a laptop soft bag
3. Turn it into a purse or pencil case
4. Decorate your favourite market bag with it
5. Craft it into a journal cover for your making projects
6. Make a needle book
7. Create your own lavender sachet



## Join Creatively Belle Online and the Email Newsletter

Do join Tilly the Studio Supervisor Cat and me online at [www.CreativelyBelle.com/Patterns](http://www.CreativelyBelle.com/Patterns) for a wonderful collection of designs - all diligently inspected throughout the creating process by a very curious feline.

**Our newsletter** has design news, quarterly bonus patterns, Supervisor Tilly Tips and special coupons.

While our main focus is on creating new paintings, designs and patterns, Creatively Belle is also on the socials: Facebook [www.facebook.com/CreativelyBelleDesigns](http://www.facebook.com/CreativelyBelleDesigns), Instagram [www.instagram.com/CreativelyBelle](http://www.instagram.com/CreativelyBelle)

and Twitter [www.Twitter.com/CreativelyBelle](http://www.Twitter.com/CreativelyBelle).

**Email is the best** way to make contact, go to [www.CreativelyBelle.com/Contact](http://www.CreativelyBelle.com/Contact)

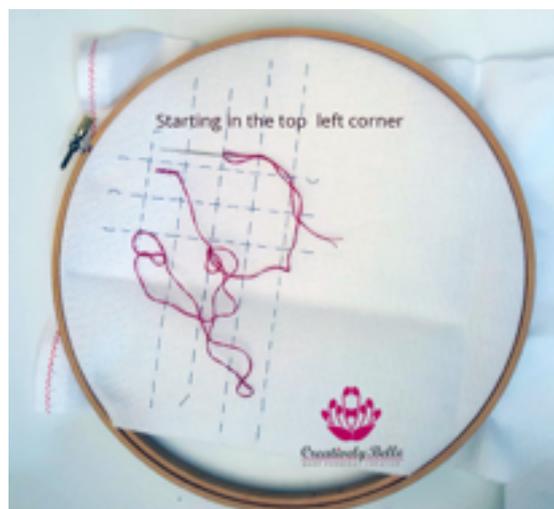
Want some **free resources**? Go to [www.CreativelyBelle.com/free-resources](http://www.CreativelyBelle.com/free-resources)

And of course there is always **the Blog** at [www.CreativelyBelle.com/Blog](http://www.CreativelyBelle.com/Blog) which has all the creative news about designs, patterns, inspirations and behind the scenes glimpses.

# Basic Cross Stitch Instructions

Here are some general techniques and methods. Starting with key points to remember:

- Stitches can be done in rows or individually, I prefer working same colour sections in rows.
- Keep the top thread of the crosses going in the same direction as this works helps with a smooth sheen.
- No knots are used in cross stitch as they make the fabric lumpy.
- Instead, leave about 2.5 cm (or an 1") of thread as a tail at the back of the fabric so it can be secured behind the first few stitches (this becomes easier with practice).
- Do not carry your thread from one area to another as the colour will show through and it will make the fabric lumpy. If moving only a few stitches over you can weave your thread through another colour on the back of the fabric. Do note that some people do not agree with doing this but I think a little is alright.
- When you're finishing off your work trim the thread tails to make framing and working into pieces easier.
- If your thread becomes twisted while you're stitching then let it fall so it can untwist itself.
- The choice in fabric will determine the size of your project, so 14 Count Aida will create a larger piece than 18 Count Aida. Most of my patterns recommend 14 Count as I find this easier but it's your choice.
- Cross stitch fabrics are even-weave fabrics which allows the crosses to be even. It means that they have the same number of blocks or threads per inch (2.5 cm) in both directions.
- Therefore the higher the thread count, the more threads or stitches per inch. So a 14 Count fabric will basically have bigger holes to make your stitch through than a 18 or 28 Count fabric. One of my very first designs was done on 11 Count and this made my learning curve much easier and also made the over finished pattern bigger.
- Where to start? There's two schools of thought on this, one lot say start in the middle and work outwards, another says start in the top left hand corner (or left handers may prefer the top right hand corner). Personally, I start in the top left hand corner. To help my thread counting with this I bast/ tack stitch vertical and horizontal lines every 10 stitches apart in the top left hand quadrant.
- Your own style of stitching will evolve with experience so trust yourself to give different methods a go.

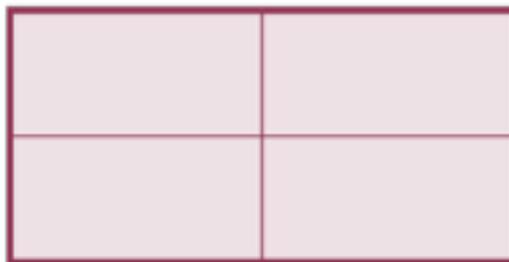


## Setting Up Your Project

Getting organised for your project is half the fun, but this might be because I always enjoy playing with my art and craft supplies!

I like to give myself plenty of fabric to work with, a lesson learnt from an early design! So cut your fabric at least 8-15 cm (3-5") larger than the completed dimensions. This gives you a LOT more choices for framing or working into a project. Trust me on this! And left over cutoffs can be used for smaller designs like bookmarks.

Find the middle of the fabric by folding it in four. Press lightly, open out and and bast (or tack) stitch along the folds. This will easily show your centre and the basting is removed when you're finished. For those who like ironing, iron it flat.



It is always good to hem the edges of your fabric as this prevents fraying. Either fold over the edges by 5 mm (1/4") and hem stitch or do a zig-zag stitch on the sewing machine (my mum's favourite method).

### Hoops?

To hoop or not to hoop? I prefer hoops (generally 8" or 9") but many others don't. If you're using a hoop make sure the design is within the stitching area of the hoop so you don't need to move it.

### Thread Lengths and Sorters

Thread sorters are great for keeping your threads (floss) in order. I also like to have my needles pre-threaded, so can have 5-6 needles all set to go! My mum thinks this is nuts, I find it effective.

Cut your threads into manageable lengths. I find about 50 cm (20") good, mum, unsurprisingly, thinks this is too long and you should base it on the length between your hand and elbow.



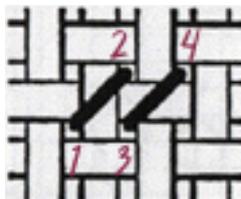
# Making Cross Stitches and Back Stitches

Here are some general techniques and methods. Starting with key points to remember:

To Make a Cross Stitch (usually over 2 or 3 strands)

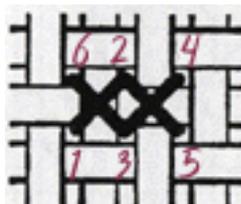
To start:

- Come up through hole 1
- Go down through hole 2
- Come up through hole 3
- Go down through hole 4



To return and complete the stitches you'll pass through:

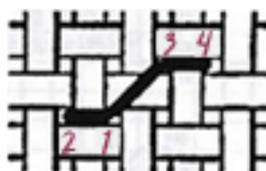
- Come up through hole 5
- Go down through hole 2
- Come up through hole 3
- Go down through hole 6



To Make a Back Stitch (usually 1 strand)

To start:

- Come up through hole 1
- Go down through hole 2
- Come up through hole 3
- Go down through hole 1
- Come up through hole 4
- Go down through hole 3



## Thread Conversion Sheets

I use a range of threads (floss), from Anchor to DMC to Semco to Cosmo and more (I have a thing for colour!) and keep my stash listed in a tracking sheeted based on DMC colours. All are 6 strands and about 8 metres (about 8.7 yards) long in a skein.

So I find the thread conversion charts really useful and have linked them for you on [www.CreativelyBelle.com/Stitching](http://www.CreativelyBelle.com/Stitching) as part of the free resources collection.



# Creatively Belle Thread Sorter

You can find the full length Creatively Belle Thread Sorter PDF online at [www.CreativelyBelle.com/Stitching](http://www.CreativelyBelle.com/Stitching), below is one to get you started.

To use the thread sorter:

1. Print out the page of the thread sorter you'd like to use.
2. Attach it to some cardboard (try gluing and leaving it to dry properly)
3. Carefully pierce a hole through the circle so you can pass the thread through
4. Write in the colour code and number next to the thread
5. Sit back and be impressed with what you've achieved for your new project!

**Project name:**

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# My Own Notes