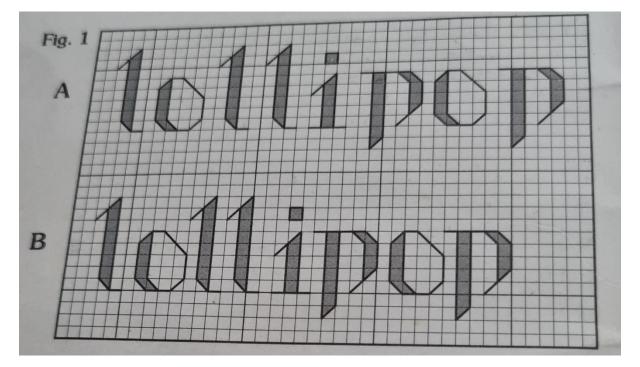
Alphabets

Working with alphabets is very interesting because you can personalize your crossstitches with names, verses or quotation for your home and office. Personally I enjoyed cross stitching with alphabets for bags, albums and wedding albums, key chains and etc.

Charting is the next important step because it will enable you to arrange words and phrases, to adjust spacing between words and letters, and to find the dimensions and center of your design. After you have chosen your alphabets, photocopy one of the reproducible grids. Draw the letters in your project on the copy. Cut letters apart and position on grid page in leaflet.

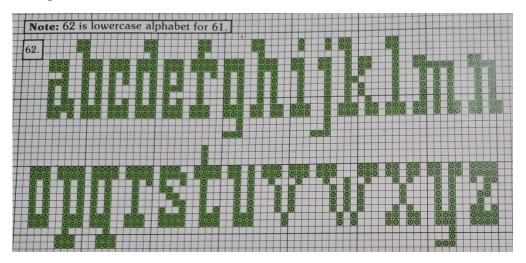
There is no right or wrong spacing between letters, words, and rows; you should arrange the letters in a manner that is pleasing to you. Leaving one space between letters of a word and three to four spaces between words and lines is a good beginning point. When using lowercase letters, allow for extra space between rows for ascending and descending letters (b, d, f,g,h, j, k, l,p, t, and y). In some cases, an equal number of spaces between every letter will not create a balanced look. This usually happens when several "skinny" letters, such as l's and i's to be side by side. In Fig. 1, note that the spacing between letters is equal in example A, but is more appealing in example B. When you find an attractive arrangement, secure letters with removable tape. Now you're ready to figure the stitch count of your design and mark your center point.



How to choose floss colors for my project?

Many of the alphabets don't have a color key. Choosing floss colors is a matter of personal preference. Many of the alphabets in this leaflet do not have color keys so that you can coordinate the colors in your project. It is often helpful to gather all of the floss colors you plan to use and lay them on the fabric or item to be stitched. Consider where you are goint to place the finished project. If the project is going in a particular room, match your

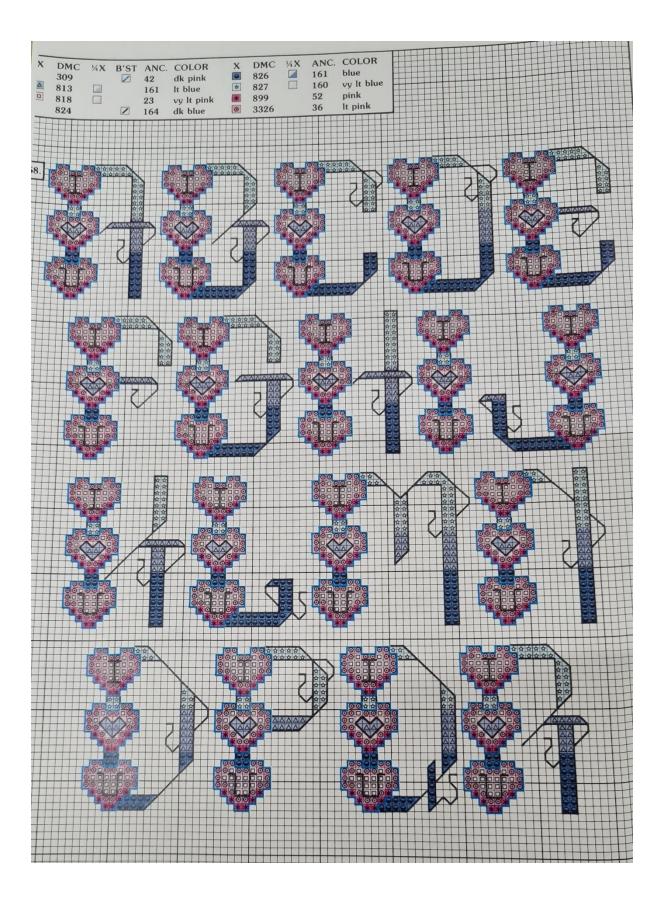
floss to the room's colors, Try not to mix very bright colors with dull colors. For example, if you are stitching a project using bright colors, don't use country blue with bright red, yellow, and green. Some projects require more that one shade of a color. Ensure your shades of floss blend well together.





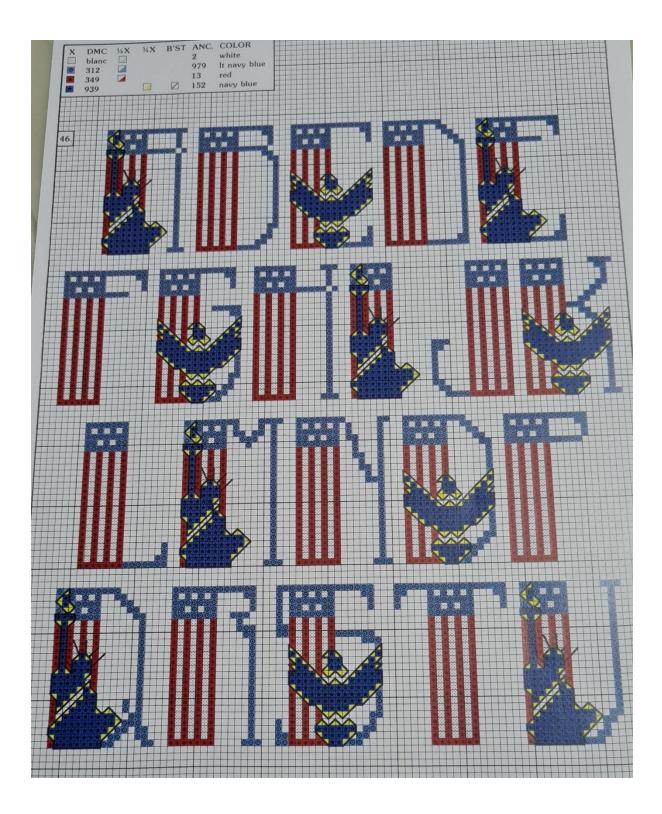














Information taken from Carol E. (1994). 120 Alphabets: Book 2. Leisure Arts, Inc., P.O. Box 55595, Little Rock, AR 72215