

## Cross Stitch

The basic of cross-stitch has many variations.

Cross-stitch is easy to learn and it consists of a diagonal cross on the front of the fabric; each cross is composed of two diagonal stitches, worked one on top of the other. However it is quickest to work in rows, making sure that the top diagonal of each cross-stitch slants the same way.

Fractional stitches include the half cross-stitch-a single, diagonal stitch-and the three-quarter cross-stitch, made up of a full diagonal and a half diagonal. Such stitches can be used to add details to a design, but their main purpose is to give a motif a smooth outline. Weave the loose ends of the thread into the back of the work for all cross-stitches.

### Starting and ending a line of stitches

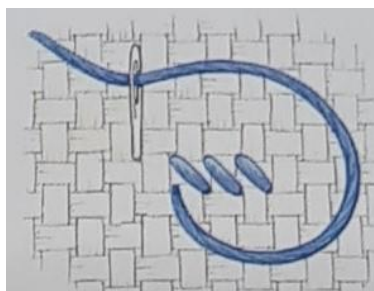


1. Bring the needle up to the front of the fabric from the back to begin cross-stitching. Draw the thread through, leaving a 2 in. (5 cm) tail on the wrong side. This will be secured by the working thread as you stitch.

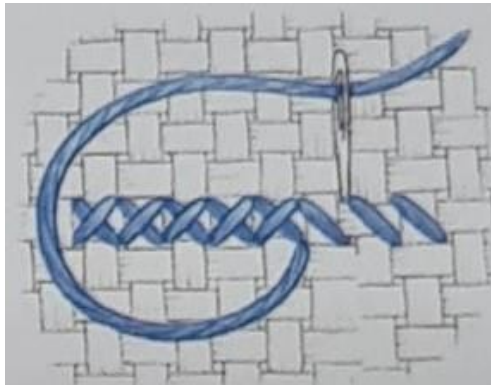


2. If you have 2 inc. (5 cm) of thread left, or you have finished a colour block, take the needle through to the wrong side and run the thread under several stitches. Trim the excess.

### Working a row

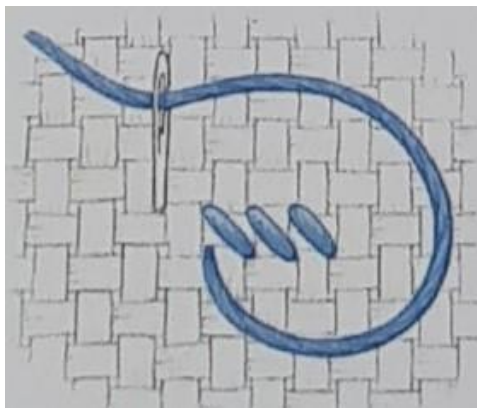


1. Start working from the right to left, bring the needle out to the front of the fabric. Insert it one hole up and one to the left, and bring it out to the front again once hole down. Continue like this to form a row.



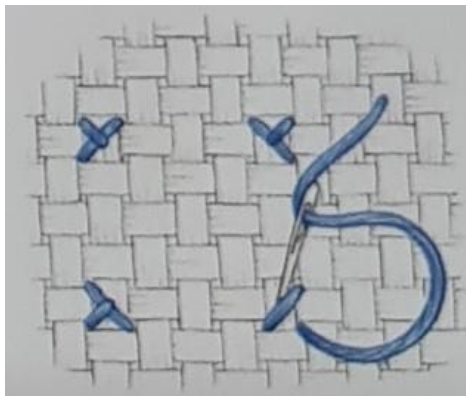
2. Work from the left to right to complete the crosses. Bring the needle out one hole below the top of the last stitch. Insert it one hole up and one to the right. Bring it out one hole down. Continue to form a row.

### Half cross-stitch



1. A half cross-stitch is one diagonal stitch. Bring the needle to the front of the fabric and insert it either one hole up and one hole to the left, or one hole up and one hole to the right – depending on the direction shown in the chart.

### Three-quarter cross-stitch



Single three-quarter cross-stitch fills half the space of a whole cross-stitch. First work, a full-sized diagonal. Bring the needle out at the corner of the block, then work a half diagonal. Push the needle down in the middle, over the diagonal.

Information taken from Reader's Digest: The Big Book of Cross-Stitch Designs  
The Reader's Digest Association, Inc. Pleasantville, New York/Montreal/London/Sydney/  
Singapore