

How to cross stitch

Skill Level: Beginner to Intermediate

Estimated Time: 2-5 hours per hoop

Supplies Needed:

- ✓ **Embroidery hoop (6" or 8")**
- ✓ **Aida cloth or evenweave fabric (14-count is ideal for cross-stitch)**
- ✓ **Embroidery floss (black for text, optional colors for design elements)**
- ✓ **Embroidery needle (size 24 or 26)**
- ✓ **Water-soluble fabric marker or printable cross-stitch pattern**
- ✓ **Scissors**
- ✓ **Backing fabric (optional for a clean finish)**

Step 1: Prepare Your Embroidery Hoop & Fabric

- 1. Choose Your Hoop Size: A 6” hoop is perfect for a minimalist quote, while an 8” hoop allows more decorative elements.**
- 2. Cut Your Fabric: Leave at least 2 inches of extra fabric around the hoop to ensure easy stitching and framing.**
- 3. Tighten the Fabric: Place the fabric inside the hoop and tighten the screw until it's taut.**

Step 2: Select & Prepare Your Embroidery Floss

- **Classic Black:** A single-color black floss gives a sleek, modern look.
- **Accent Colors:** Use red, gold, or blue to symbolize themes in Kendrick Lamar's work (patriotism, revolution, and struggle).
- **Floss Strands:** Use 2-3 strands for text clarity, but increase to 4 strands for bolder, more prominent words.

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Step 4: Start Stitching the Quotes

Basic Cross-Stitch Technique (For Pixelated Look)

- 1. Bring your needle up from the back of the fabric to the front.**
- 2. Create a diagonal stitch from bottom left to top right (/).**
- 3. Complete the cross by stitching from bottom right to top left (\).**
- 4. Repeat for each letter, following your pattern.**

Backstitch Technique (For Cursive or Modern Lettering)

- 1. Start at the beginning of a letter and make a small stitch.**
- 2. Bring the needle up ahead of the stitch and go back to meet the previous stitch.**
- 3. Continue following the curve or line of each letter.**

👉 Pro Tip: Use a split stitch for thicker lettering and added emphasis on key words like Revolution or Reckless.

Step 5: Add Decorative Elements

To enhance the aesthetic, consider these elements:

 **Microphone Silhouette: Embroider a simple black mic below the quote using satin stitch.**

 **Street Art Theme: Use a backstitch to outline a brick wall background in a light gray color.**

 **Political Poster Style: Add a star or flag motif to match the message of revolution.**

Step 6: Finishing & Framing

 **Secure Loose Threads: Tie off all embroidery floss at the back to prevent unraveling.**

 **Trim the Fabric: Leave about 1 inch of fabric around the hoop and fold it inward.**

 **Backing Options:**

- **Use felt to cover the back for a neat look.**
- **Hot glue the excess fabric inside the hoop for a permanent finish.**
- **Leave it open for a raw, street-art feel.**

Step 7: Display Your Hoop Art

 **Hang it up: On a gallery wall with other memorabilia.**

 **Gift it: To a fellow fan or activist.**

 **Place it: On a bookshelf next to music history books.**