

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.

Step 3: Select & Prepare Your Embroidery Floss

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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.**

BASIC CROSS STITCHING TECHNIQUES

and their symbols

Standard Cross Stitch



For multiple stitches in a row, complete steps 1 to 2 for each stitch in a series before returning with steps 3 to 4. For multiple stitches in a column, do steps 1 to 2 in reverse direction (starting top right and descending bottom left) for each stitch, before returning with steps 3 and 4 in normal fashion.



Single



Horizontal Row



Vertical Column



Stitched over 2 threads
(evenweave fabric)

Half Stitch



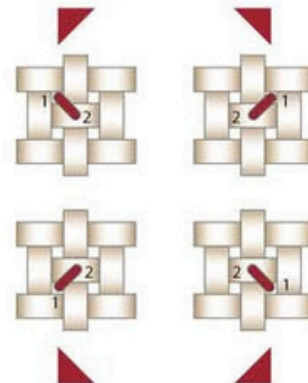
Resembles full cross; usually indicated in colour key as to whether they're half or full stitch.



1/4 Stitch



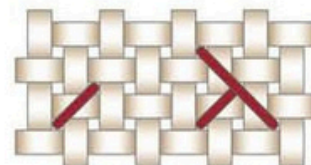
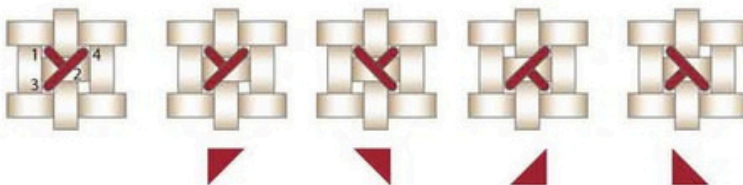
Used when stitching against another colour or against diagonal backstitching—note symbol orientation as indicated. Sometimes used as texture or details.



3/4 Stitches – 1 colour



Additional step to 1/4 stitch when stitched against no other threads (e.g. outer contours of an object).



Fractional stitches done over 2 threads (evenweave)

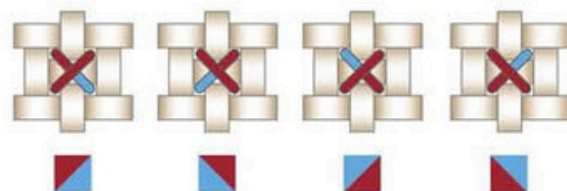
3/4 Stitches – 2 colours



(without diagonal backstitch between)



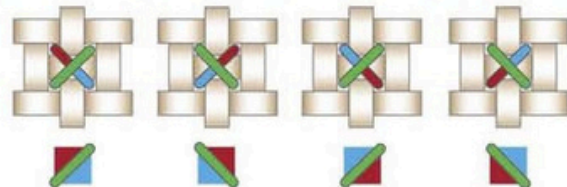
Complete 1/4 stitch in lighter of the two colours (step 1 to 2). Stitch 1/4 stitch of darker colour (step 3 to 4). Stitch long diagonal (step 5 to 6), usually in the darker of the two colours.



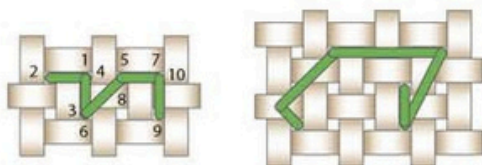
(with diagonal backstitch between)



Complete steps 1–4 as per non-backstitched 3/4 stitch variant above. Do not perform steps 5 to 6 with either colour. You will stitch the diagonal later with your backstitch colour.



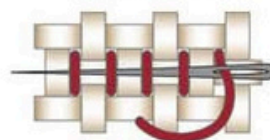
Backstitching



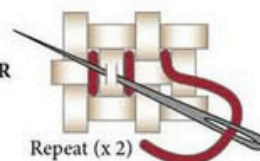
Can be completed on a square-by-square basis (above left) or across multiple squares and between holes (above right), however indicated in chart. Keep segments of longer backstitching no more than 4 squares in length for best results.

Finishing Your Stitches

(Back of fabric)



(Back of fabric)



Repeat (x 2)

Slip threaded needle under completed stitches. Or pass needle through the back of a fabric thread, behind a stitch, TWICE.