

Cross Stitch Guide For Beginners

Thank you for purchasing a **Gaza Is Kind** cross-stitch design! Whether you're just starting out or are an experienced stitcher, cross-stitching is a fun, addictive, and rewarding craft. Here are some helpful tips to help you create a beautiful project:

i Please note that if you purchased a pattern from our Etsy Store [GazaIsKind](#), patterns must be downloaded from a desktop using the link sent to your email. Downloads are not available on mobile. An Etsy account is also required.

Fabric



Cross-stitching can be done on almost any fabric, but for beginners, the easiest options are **Aida** cloth and Evenweave cotton or linen. When selecting fabric, consider the thread count or 'holes per inch,' as it determines the final size of your project. Most of our designs are stitched on **14-count** or **11-count** Aida cloth, with traditional Tatreez embroidery typically done on **11-count** fabric.

Thread



We use DMC **six-strand** cotton embroidery floss, but any brand of your choice will work¹.

Traditional **Tatreez** is typically stitched with DMC **No. 5 Perle cotton**.

For **six-strand floss**, separate and use **two strands at a time**. For **No. 5 Perle cotton**, use **one strand**².

To prevent tangling, keep floss lengths under **12 inches**. Use a **blunt-tipped tapestry needle**—we recommend **size 24–26**

Stitches

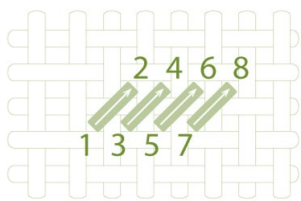


Figure A

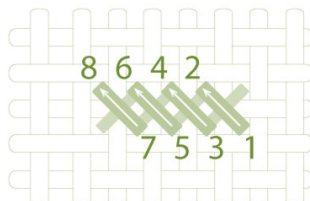


Figure B

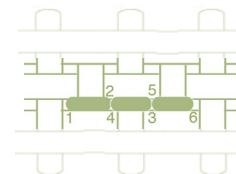
Complete all the bottom stitches in one row (Figure A), then return to do the top stitches (Figure B)

The back should show short, straight rows, not crosses

Back Stitches



We don't often use backstitches in our designs, but when included, they appear as solid lines in the floss color on the pattern.



Each backstitch spans one Aida cloth square but can also be stitched diagonally, like half a cross-stitch

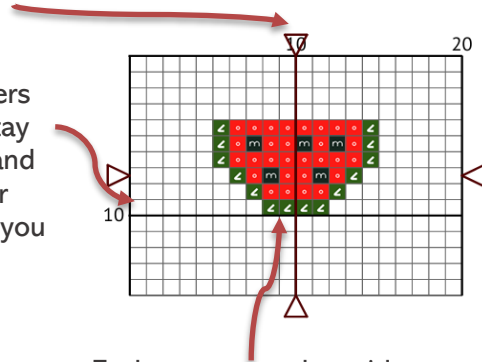
¹ If you'd like to match DMC colors to another brand, you can find floss color conversion charts online

² The higher the thread number, the finer and thinner the thread. For example, **Perle cotton size 5** is about as thick as three strands of standard embroidery floss.

How to read a Pattern/chart

Arrows on the top and side indicate the center of the design

Line numbers help you stay organized and track your progress as you count



Each square on the grid represents a single cross stitch

Legend:

N	Symbol	Number
1	m	DMC 500
2	o	DMC 606
3	z	DMC 905

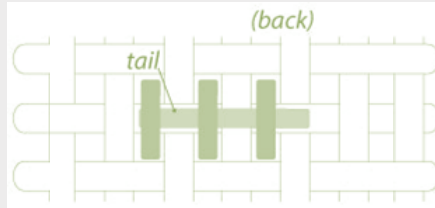
The symbols in the legend indicate which color to use and where to place it

Begin by finding the center of your fabric. Cross-stitch patterns will usually have the center lines marked on the design, often with two small arrows on the edges of the grid. Start stitching at the center of the design and work your way out to the edges. When the piece is finished, you can pull out your basting stitches.

Cross stitch Tips

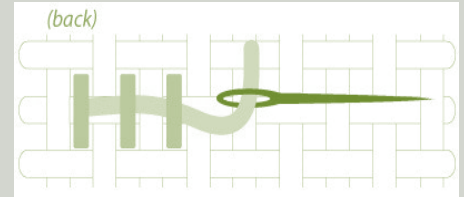
1

There's no need to knot your thread when starting. Leave a short tail at the back and secure it under the first few stitches



2

When you're ready to cut your thread, slip the needle under a few back stitches, pull through, and trim close to the fabric



3

The key to a polished finish is making sure all your stitches go in the same direction throughout the entire project. This will create a smooth, uniform look

4

Maintain a comfortable tension on your stitches. Avoid pulling them too tight, as it can distort the fabric, or leaving them too loose, causing gaps. The stitches should sit flat against the fabric without causing any strain.

5

Avoid long thread jumps on the back that span more than a few stitches, as they may show through. For distant areas, end and restart your thread or bury the needle under nearby stitches.

6

As you stitch, your thread may naturally twist. To prevent tangling, pause occasionally and let the needle and thread hang freely, allowing the thread to unwind

7

Purchase all your threads at the start of a project to ensure consistency. Thread comes in dye lots, and slight variations between batches can affect your final result.

8

Enjoy the process! Cross-stitch is a relaxing and rewarding craft. Don't stress about the small details—just have fun and let your creativity flow