

STITCHING BOOK CLUB



August 2023

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The Anne of Green Gables SAL has officially begun. Part One was released to participants on August 12. We are beginning at the top of our design and working on some lovely bands.

I absolutely adore the floral band with all of its vines and delicate features. This band was the first part of this design that I worked on! The rest was built out from there.

It's not too late to join in the fun! You can still sign up for the Anne of Green Gables SAL by visiting my Etsy shop.

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A MESSAGE FROM YOUR HOST

Can it really be nearing the end of summer already? During all of my preparation for the Anne SAL, August crept up on me before I was ready for it. And now it's halfway over!

August always holds a special place in my heart because it's my birthday month! I am now 35...wow, how did that happen? It was always tradition for my family to go to the county fair on my birthday because the dates always lined up perfectly. One of our favorite things to do was to walk through the exhibit buildings. Missoula, Montana always had a very good showing for entries. My father frequented the photo contests and gained an impressive collection of blue ribbons from his efforts. And when my sister got older, she began entering the agriculture categories with produce she had grown in her little garden. She also collected many ribbons and prizes. I never competed when I was younger, but as an adult I have begun submitting entries and this year I was honored to receive the Best of Show ribbon for my category at the Big Sky Country State Fair.

Bead weaving is another form of needlework that is a passion of mine and floral necklaces are sort of my specialty. I have actually been practicing this craft longer than cross stitch and I love that I can make something that I can wear and put on display wherever I go. Bead weaving is an easy craft to jump to from cross stitch if anyone is interested, and there are so many great tutorials and books out there for beginners.

But let's get back to cross stitch!

For this month's stichy discussion, we will be looking at how to start stitching a design at a corner, rather than the center. This is a valuable skill to acquire especially for Book Club because many of my SALs are top starts. Figuring out corner starts can be a bit intimidating at first, and I will admit, I still get nervous sometimes that I calculated it wrong, but as long as you follow the formulas carefully, you should never have to worry about starting in the wrong place.

There's no Community Showcase this month because I simply fell too far behind to get everything together and still get this newsletter released before the end of the month. But it will be back next month, and I am excited about who is participating. As for this month's freebee, it is a simple little design that I thought would bring some cheerful color into the collection. I hope you enjoy stitching it on these last summer days. Don't forget to check out the August Stitches page to see what is on sale for the remainder of the month!



My Best of Show entry and ribbon from the Big Sky Country State Fair.

Happy stitching! Love, Kristin Ashley

Doesn't yellow just make you happy? It's one of those colors that brings warmth and peacefulness to any image.

I'm particularly fond of Golden Yellow. It's like getting a soft hug from Winnie the Pooh.

It's a great color to use not only for flowers, but also for designs that have golden features like crowns or rings. And it works well for almost any season, be it sunflowers or autumn leaves!

Color of the Month

“Golden Yellow”

DMC 728



AUGUST BOOK RECOMMENDATION

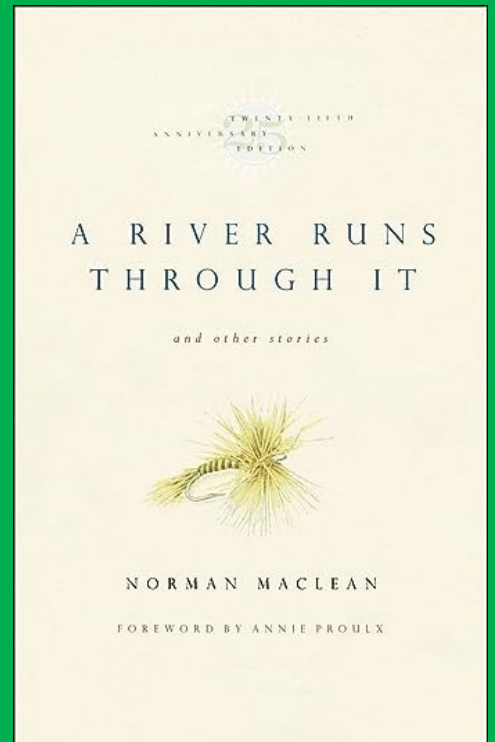
This month, I have selected *A River Runs Through It* by Norman Maclean as my book recommendation.

“Eventually, all things merge into one, and a river runs through it.”

I've selected this novel for August because not only is it a great read for these summer months when we are all, hopefully, getting out and enjoying some time in nature. But it is also set in my home state of Montana and many of the places are ones that I am familiar with and used to frequent. But perhaps most importantly is the fact that I grew up in a house where fly fishing was a way of life. While I do not fish myself, my father has always been an avid fisherman and I have spent many a summer day at the river playing with the dogs while my father cast his line upstream.

Set in the 1920s, it is the story of two brothers who connect with each other through their love of fly fishing. This novel sees them encounter many humorous situations and many hardships. Overall, it will take you on a philosophical journey that ends with a message of love.

A River Runs Through It was also made into a 1992 film starring Brad Pitt and Craig Sheffer and was directed by Robert Redford.



STARTING AT A CORNER

For many stitchers, the thought of starting at the corner of a pattern rather than the center can be the cause of a lot of anxiety. What if you get halfway through stitching and realize that you didn't give yourself enough room and the design isn't going to fit on the fabric? That, of course, would be awful. But starting at a corner is actually quite easy once you understand how to use the right formulas. So, let's take a look at how to start at the corner of a design.

In order to figure out the placement of a design on a piece of fabric, you will need three things: stitch count of the design, the count of your fabric, and fabric measurements. Also, please note, **this must be done using inch measurements.**

We all know what a fabric count is, right? Every piece of fabric should be labelled with its count. For example, Aidas are typically 14 count, 16 count, or 18 count; evenweaves are most commonly 28 count or 32 count. This number refers to the size of the weave. But more specifically, it refers to the number of stitches in an inch of fabric. If you are working on 14 count Aida, you will get 14 stitches in an inch. If you are working on a 28 count evenweave you can get 28 stitches in an inch if stitched over one, however, if you are stitching over two you must divide 28 by 2 and you will have 14 stitches in an inch. Hence why 2 over 2 stitching on 28 count is the equivalent of a 14 count fabric.

In order to find a starting corner, the first thing we need to do is figure out how large a design will be on a certain piece of fabric. To do this, simply take your **stitch count** and divide it by your **fabric count**. For example, if you have a design that is 100 X 100 stitches and you are working on a 14 count fabric, you would take 100 and divide by 14. This gives you 7.14. So, your design will be 7.14 inches square (because it is a square design). If you have a design that isn't square, you would do this for both height and width. For example, a design that is 100 stitches wide by 150 stitches tall would be calculated as $100 \div 14 = 7.14$ inches for the width and $150 \div 14 = 10.71$ inches for the height.

stitch count \div fabric count = size of design in inches

width and height need to be calculated separately in non-square designs

Now that we know the size of our design, we can use that to figure out its placement on our fabric. It is important to remember that you will use the width of your fabric and the width of your design to calculate the margins on the left and right of your fabric. And you will use the height of your fabric and height of your design to measure the margins on the top and bottom of your fabric.

Let's say that we have a piece of fabric that is 11 inches by 15 inches. If we know that our design (calculated above) will be 7.14 inches wide by 10.71 inches high, we can take the width of our fabric and subtract the width size of the design. This gives us how much excess fabric there is for margins on the left and right combined. This would look like $11 - 7.14 = 3.86$. This means we have an excess of 3.86 inches on the width of our fabric. We want our design to be centered, however. So, to determine how big of a margin we have

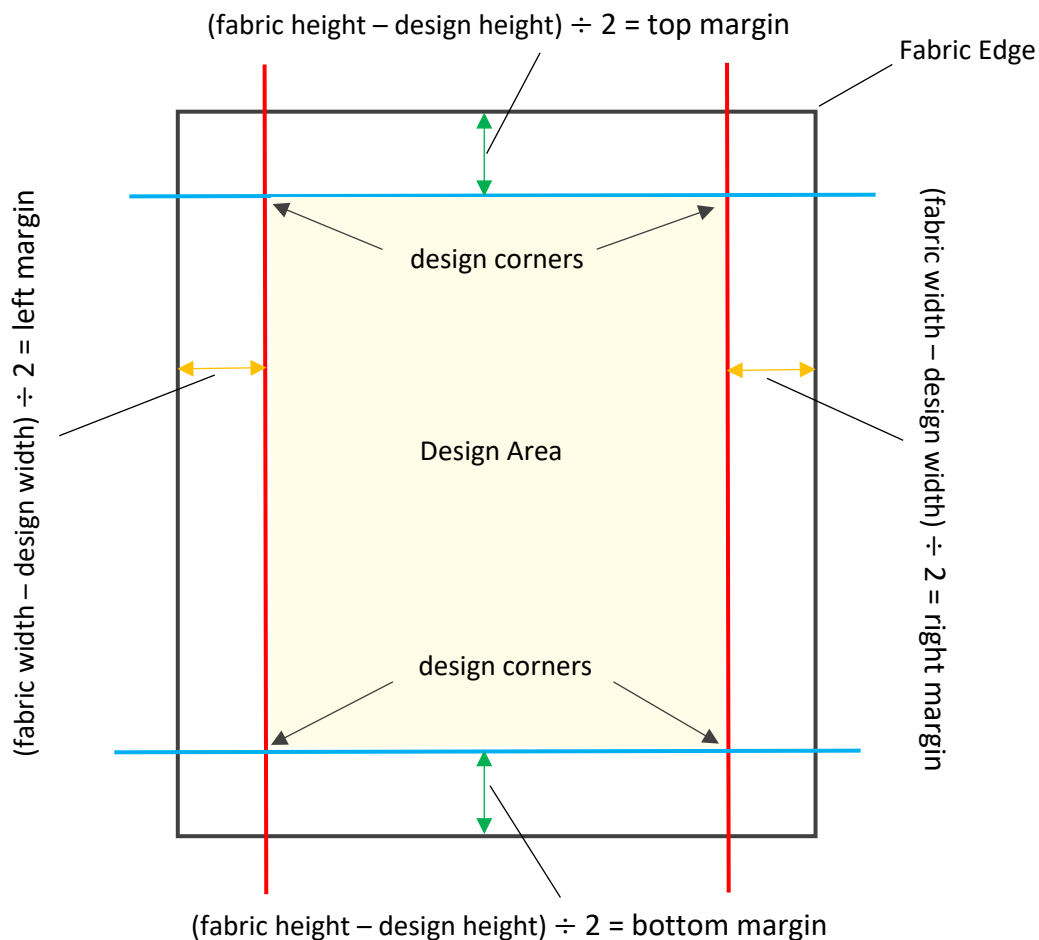
on the left and right side of the design, we must take our excess fabric amount (3.86) and divide it by 2, so that the excess is split evenly on both sides of the design. In our example, it would be $3.86 \div 2 = 1.93$. This means you would have a 1.93 inch margin on both left and right sides of the design (you can safely round this up to 2 inches).

We will then do the same for the height. The height would be calculated as $15 - 10.71 = 4.29 \div 2 = 2.12$. Therefore, we would have margins of 2.12 inches on the top and bottom (again, this can easily be rounded to 2 inches).

Fabric width – design width = excess fabric width \div 2 = final margin on left and right sides

Fabric height – design height = excess fabric height \div 2 = final margin on top and bottom

Once we know what our margins are, simply measure them out on your fabric and the corners can be found where the margins meet.



AUGUST STITCHES

Available at sappiremthandcrafts.etsy.com



Frog Prince
Storybook

35% OFF
THROUGH
THE END OF
AUGUST



Huckleberry

Stitching Book
Club Logo



Hello Sunshine



Materials:

Fabric: 8 inch X 8 inch for 14 count or 28 count 2 over 2. Suggested color is white. Model is stitched on 14 count white Aida. The design area for this design is 59 X 59 stitches.

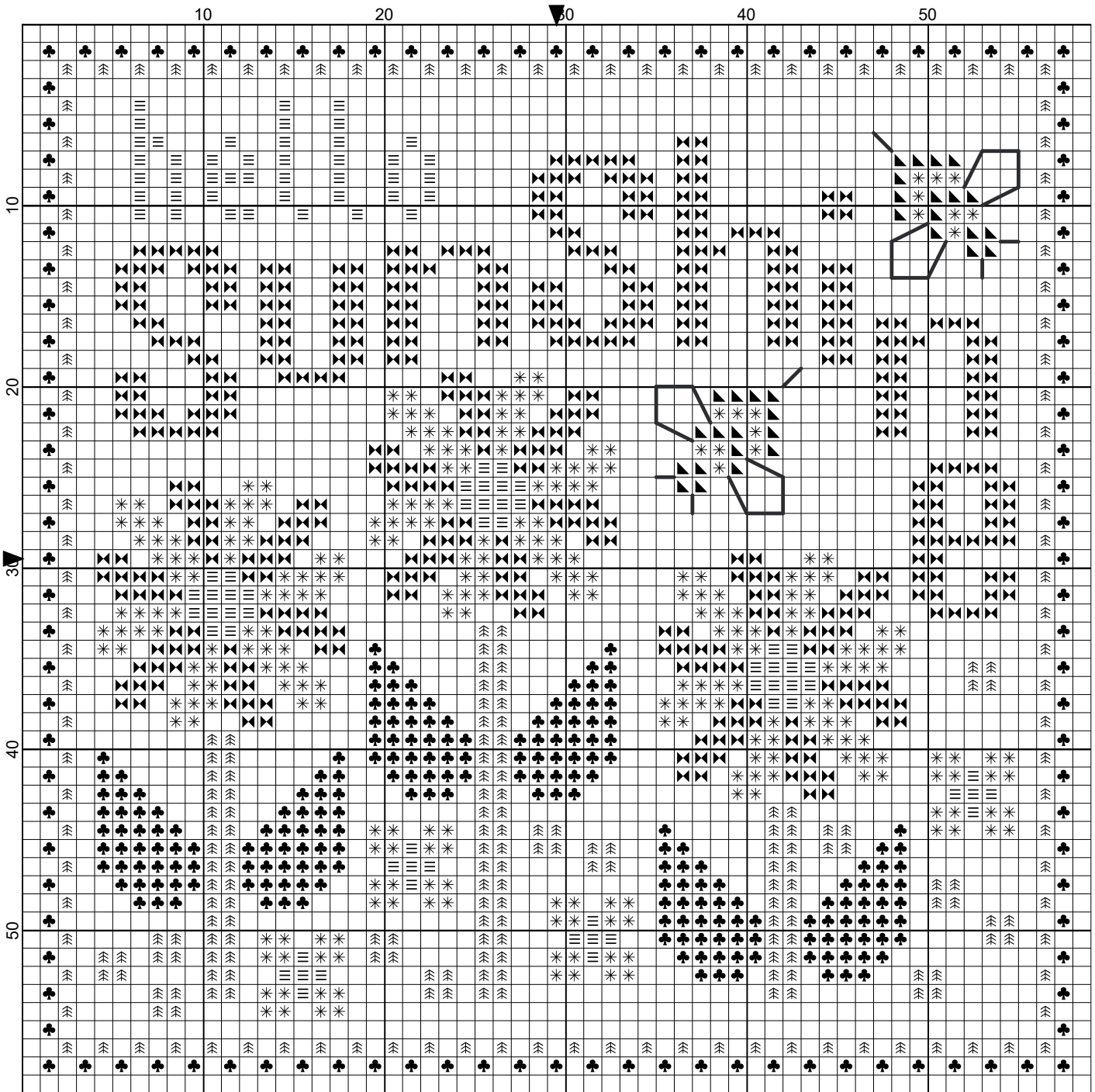
Legend (2 strands of floss):

☰	☰	DMC Cotton 400	mahogany - dk
✱	✱	DMC Cotton 726	topaz -lt
✦	✦	DMC Cotton 728	golden yellow
⌘	⌘	DMC Cotton 906	parrot green - md
♣	♣	DMC Cotton 904	parrot green - vy dk
▲	▲	DMC Cotton 3799	pewter gray - vy dk

Backstitching (2 strands of floss):

—— DMC 3799

Hello Sunshine



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Legend:

- DMC-400
- DMC-726
- DMC-728
- DMC-906
- DMC-904
- DMC-3799

Backstitches:

- DMC-3799

Hello Sunshine



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