

STITCHING BOOK CLUB



September 2023

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What's In the Hoop?

Part Two of the Anne of Green Gables SAL has been released and I'm so pleased with how much you all are enjoying it. This was such a challenge to design, but I couldn't be happier with the result. It's not an easy area to stitch either, but I think slowing down and putting the effort in is worth it in the end.

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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Etsy:

[SapphireMtHandcrafts](#)

Instagram:

[@stitchingbookclub](#)

Facebook Page:

[Stitching Book Club](#)

Email:

sapphiremthandcrafts@gmail.com



A MESSAGE FROM YOUR HOST

I can almost smell apple cider and cinnamon in the air! While most of you are dealing with the lingering heat of Summer, we have very comfortably slipped into an early Fall here in West Yellowstone and it has brought with it cool breezes and changing leaves.

While I do appreciate the freedom that summer gives you in outdoor activities, nothing beats the cozy comfort of early Autumn. I'm not one to go crazy for pumpkin spice, but I can certainly appreciate the sentiment. The atmosphere during this season is practically inviting you to grab your favorite warm beverage, wrap a shawl around your shoulders, and sit on a porch swing knitting, crocheting, or stitching to your heart's content. And the colors! There's something about Autumn colors that are just so fun to stitch.

We are currently still working our way through the Anne of Green Gables SAL. I received so many lovely messages about the Part Two portion—with the motif of Anne—that it was truly heartwarming. No matter how many times I do this or how pleased I am with a design, I always worry that others will not take to it or be disappointed somehow. So, it's always such a relief to hear that it is well-received and that everyone is having an enjoyable time working through the SAL. I did worry that this section may have been too complicated with all the fractional stitches and backstitching, but I've had several people reach out to thank me for making a more complicated piece which, again, was a relief to hear. I usually try to keep my designs relatively simple so that all level of stitchers might participate, but I think a more challenging piece every now and again is nice. It's a good opportunity to pick up new skills, too! And know that if you are ever in need of help, I am always here, as is the entire Stitching Book Club community.



Details of the Autumn Band Sampler.

As for other news, make sure to check out this month's Community Showcase to learn all about a new LNS opening next week! The McPherson area of Kansas is about to get a whole lot cooler with the opening of a brand new needlework shop and I wish that I could be there to help them celebrate what I'm sure will be a joyous grand opening. When we set up this feature, they were still getting everything in order, so the photos provided show their lovely space with racks waiting to be filled. I can just imagine all of the beautiful stichy goodies that are going to be hanging from them soon! I wish Amberle and Jenni and the entire team there the best of wishes. Those of you who are local make sure to stop by in their first week of operation to be entered in a giveaway!

Also, I am genuinely excited to introduce you to our Member of the Month, Ruthann. She is self-described as my biggest fan, and I think that is probably accurate. She is one of my most cherished connections that I have acquired through this whole process, and I am so lucky to call her my friend. So, to my darling Ruthann, thank you for being your kind self and a constant pillar of support for me and my crafty dreams.

Happy stitching! Love, Kristin Ashley

Is it really Autumn if you don't stitch some pumpkins?

DMC 971 is a brighter shade of orange. That is something I usually try to avoid unless I am working on a Halloween design, but I just loved how it popped in this month's freebee. Paired with some duller tones, it gives a bit of a shine to the piece without feeling too bold.

Color of the Month

“Pumpkin”
DMC 971



AUGUST BOOK RECOMMENDATION

This month, I have selected *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance* by Robert M. Pirsig as my book recommendation.

First thing is first...no, this is not a manual on how to do maintenance on a motorcycle. I've gotten that reaction a lot when recommending this book. It is actually a philosophy-based novel that uses a man's hobby of working on his motorcycle and a subsequent cross-country trip on said motorcycle to look at some of life's bigger questions.

It is a dense read, but I really enjoyed it, and there was one bit that I will never forget and that has surprisingly helped me in my crafting journey. This was the lesson about trying to accomplish things while frustrated. Never continue working on anything once frustration sets in, he instructs. No quality work can be done in such a state, and, in fact, your frustration may be blinding you to easy solutions to your problems. I've worked hard to implement that even when working on a deadline, and I can vouch for the truth of it.

This probably isn't something that you want to pick up in the few minutes before bed, but if you find yourself with some spare time and a clear, open mind, I truly do recommend giving it a read.

THE PROVOCATIVE, PROFOUND, AND DEEPLY AFFECTING
MODERN CLASSIC THAT HAS INSPIRED MILLIONS

ZEN



AND

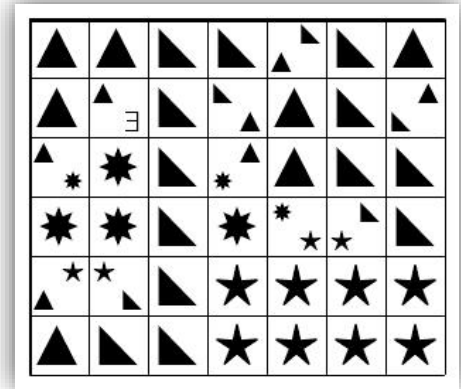
THE ART OF MOTORCYCLE MAINTENANCE

AN INQUIRY INTO VALUES

ROBERT M. PIRSIG

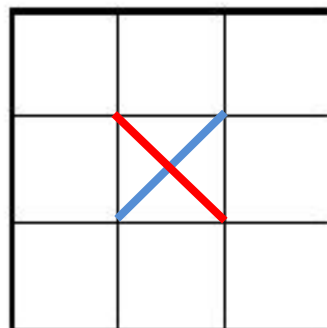
THREE-QUARTER STITCHES

Fractional stitches can be a bit intimidating the first time you see them on a chart. And I will admit that sometimes they still trip me up if I'm not paying close attention while stitching. The Anne of Green Gables SAL features a lot of these bad boys during Part Two of the stitching, so I thought it would be a good time to look at three-quarter stitches. This tutorial was also provided with the Anne of Green Gables SAL.



Fractional stitches are used to create finer details within designs. The majority of patterns use what are known as three-quarter stitches. This means that we will be cutting either our top or bottom stitch in half so that in all, our stitching only covers three-quarters of the stitching space.

To break it down farther, a full cross stitch is created with a bottom stitch and a top stitch. Both of these will cover the full expanse of our stitching space diagonally. I always stitch with my bottom stitch going from bottom-left to top-right, and my top stitch going from top-left to bottom-right (see diagram).

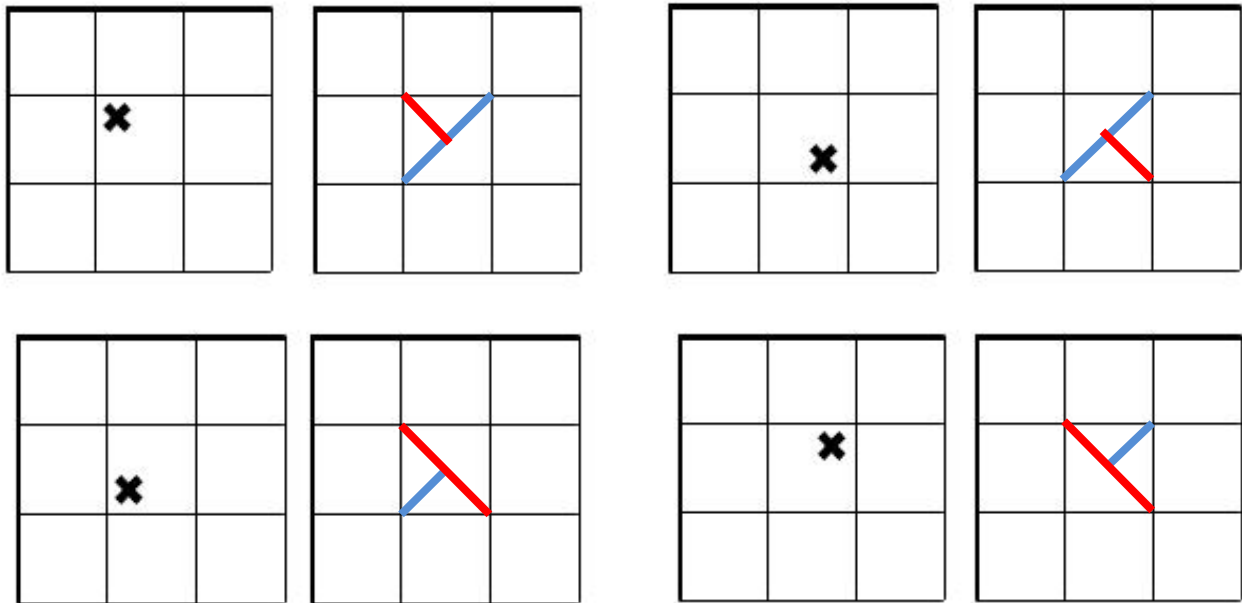


Blue represents a bottom stitch and red represents a top stitch.

If you typically stitch with the opposite order of stitches, you will need to adjust this tutorial by having blue represent your top stitch and red represent your bottom stitch. Remember, even with fractional stitches, all of your bottom stitches and top stitches should be in the same direction unless otherwise directed by the designer.

Now, depending on the orientation of a three-quarter stitch in a design, either your top or bottom stitch will be cut in half. If you are working on Aida fabric, this means puncturing the center area of your stitching space. If you are working 2 over 2 on an evenweave fabric, this means simply going over one thread instead of two for the halved stitch.

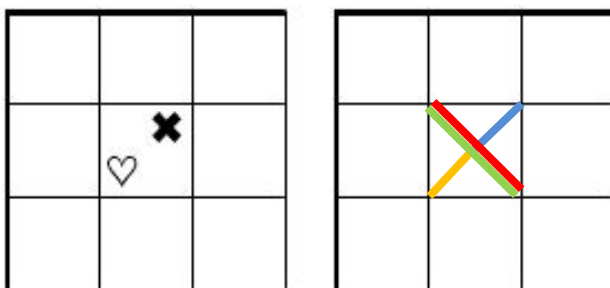
The diagram on the next page shows all four orientations of this type of fractional stitch.



Blue represents a bottom stitch and red represents a top stitch.

As for reading fractional stitches on a chart, they do not have special characters to represent them within the floss legend. They will use the same symbols as full stitches, but will be placed in miniature form in the corners of a grid box.

There may be instances where two different colors have fractional stitches in the same stitching space. In this case, complete both colors like they are individual stitches as described above. Depending on the orientation of the stitches, this may mean that you have two full top stitches in the same place, as shown below. The same can occur where there are two full bottom stitches.



Blue represents a bottom stitch for color X;

red represents a top stitch for color X

Yellow represents a bottom stitch for color Y;

green represents a top stitch for color Y

As mentioned before, *Anne of Green Gables* makes use of a lot of fractional stitches. And the design instructed stitchers to complete them as described in this tutorial. The *Great Gatsby* is the other Book Club design that features a significant number of fractional stitches. That design, however, came with special instructions to always have the top stitch be the half stitch regardless of its orientation. This was done to help create the sleek, crisp lines of the art deco style. That's why it's important to always read the designer's instructions before starting a piece because you never know what might be required to get a particular effect in a design.

SEPTEMBER STITCHES

Available at sapphremthandcrafts.etsy.com



The Great Gatsby
pattern and kits

25% OFF
DURING
SEPTEMBER



Autumn
Sampler

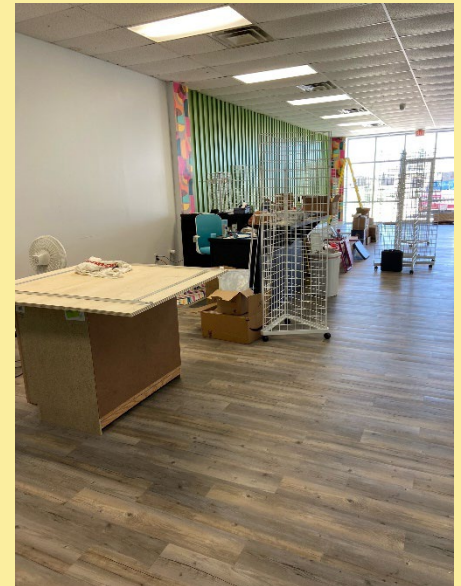


COMMUNITY SHOWCASE

Floss and Needle

McPherson, Kansas, USA

New Store
Opening!



We are Floss & Needle, the newest cross stitch shop opening in McPherson, Kansas! After years of dreaming, Amberle Fowler decided to make it a reality. Floss & Needle is planning on hosting seasonal events welcoming all crafters and stitchers alike! We will be carrying a variety of designers, fabrics, floss, and tons of cute accessories.

Floss & Needle is opening September 12. Our ribbon cutting ceremony is on September 15 at 10am. We also will be having a grand opening party on September 16! Anyone shopping during our first week of business will be entered to win 1 of 3 prizes, and do not need to be present to win.

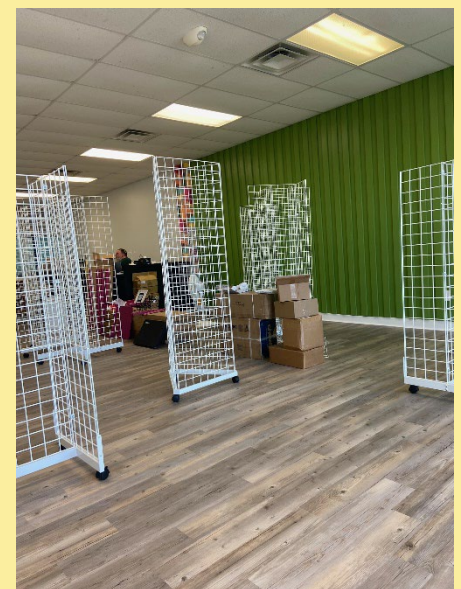
Hours are:

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 10-5:30

Thursday 10-7

Saturday 9-4

Sunday, Monday closed



Local Needlework Shop

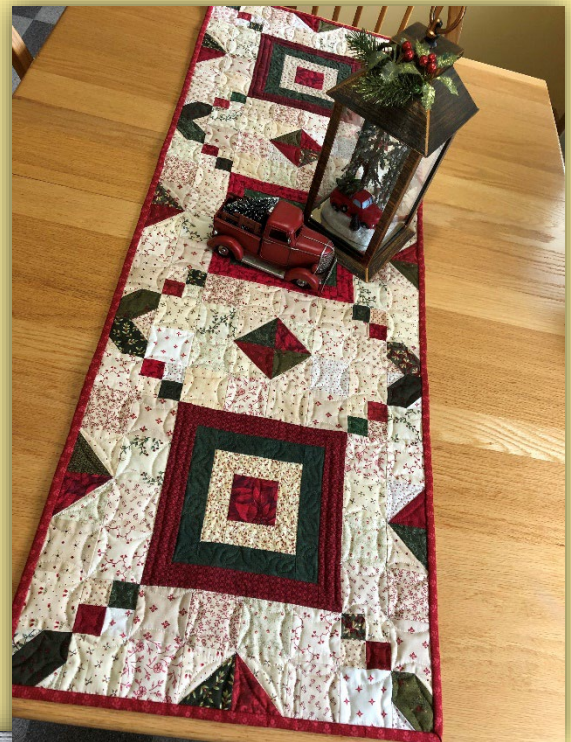
Floss & Needle is active on Facebook and Instagram, @flossandneedleshop but if you prefer to shop in your pajamas, check us out at www.flossandneedle.com.

Darlene Deon Designs

Hi, I'm Darlene from Darlene Deon Designs. I love fabric and sewing and quilting and stitching! I grew up in a family of quilters. One of my earliest memories is playing under the quilting frames set up in the living room. I've been quilting/stitching for around 50 years. 5 of those years I owned a quilt shop in Digby Nova Scotia. I've been designing my own quilt patterns for years and in 2017 I decided to try publishing a few. Being at home during the pandemic lead to a renewed love of cross stitch and publishing those patterns too. And if you're a quilter and cross stitcher, it's natural progression to end up making project bags! Bags are keeping me hopping these days! I wouldn't want it any other way!

You can find my patterns and bags in my Etsy shop at [DarleneDeonDesigns.Etsy.com](https://www.etsy.com/shop/DarleneDeonDesigns) and look for me on Facebook, Instagram and YouTube as well.

Maker of the Month



~RUTHANN~

How long have you been stitching?

First of all, I'm truly honored to be your Member of the Month! I've been stitching since I was 10 years old. My mom showed me how to embroider stamped designs on pillowcases and tea towels. I still have a horse and calf from my first projects. After doing embroidery and crewel embroidery, I discovered stamped cross stitch and then counted cross stitch in the 1980's. My love for cross stitch blossomed with each little 'X'.

What is your most prized FFO?

My most prized FFO was a wedding sampler I made for my brother in 1984. Unfortunately, I don't have a photo of it but I vividly remember the gorgeous doves and hearts.

Favorite floss color?

I'm addicted to floss colors in any shade of blue!

Favorite fabric for cross stitch?

Aida 14 is my fabric of choice (it's easier for these senior eyes to see!). However, I am now venturing into 28 ct. evenweave. I'm doing the small version of Anne of Green Gables on evenweave and loving it!

What's your favorite novel (classic or current)?

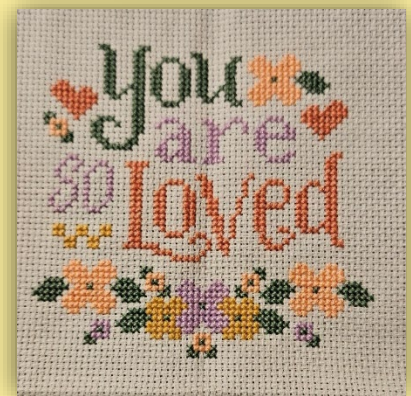
*Gosh, that's a hard question to answer! As an employee of LA County Library for over 20 years, I love, love, LOVE reading! So many books, so little time! A few of my favorites are *The Secret Garden*, *Little Women*, *Heidi...*the list is endless! And, I own the complete set of *Anne of Green Gables* 😊*

What other crafts do you enjoy?

Besides cross stitch, I enjoy crewel embroidery, crocheting, knitting, needlepoint, latch hood and sewing.

Shoutout to your favorite designer or fabric/floss dyer!

*Kristin, you ARE my favorite designer and I believe I own every one of your patterns. Other designers I like are *Stitchin Mommy* (Sarah) and *Cricklewood Crossing* (Jenny). My favorite fabric and floss dyer is *Live and Dye LA*. Val does an amazing job creating gorgeous fabrics and flosses!*



Pumpkin Delight



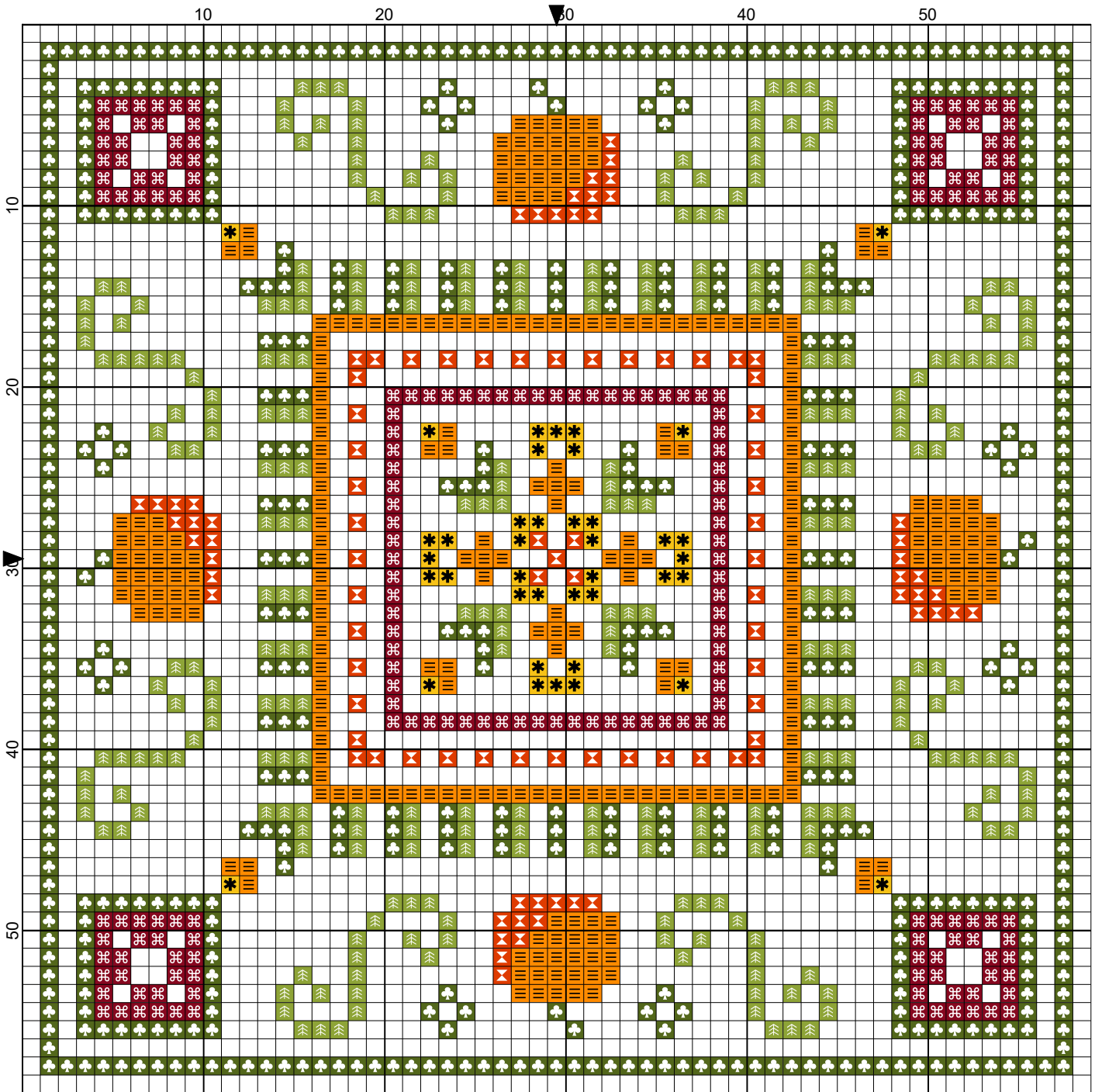
Materials:

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 oatmeal Aida. The design area for this design is 59 X 59 stitches.

Legend (2 strands of floss):



♣	✚	DMC Cotton 936	avocado green - vy dk
⌘	⌘	DMC Cotton 581	moss green
✱	✱	DMC Cotton 972	canary - dp
≡	≡	DMC Cotton 971	pumpkin
⌘	⌘	DMC Cotton 900	burnt orange - dk
⌘	⌘	DMC Cotton 815	garnet - md



Pumpkin Delight





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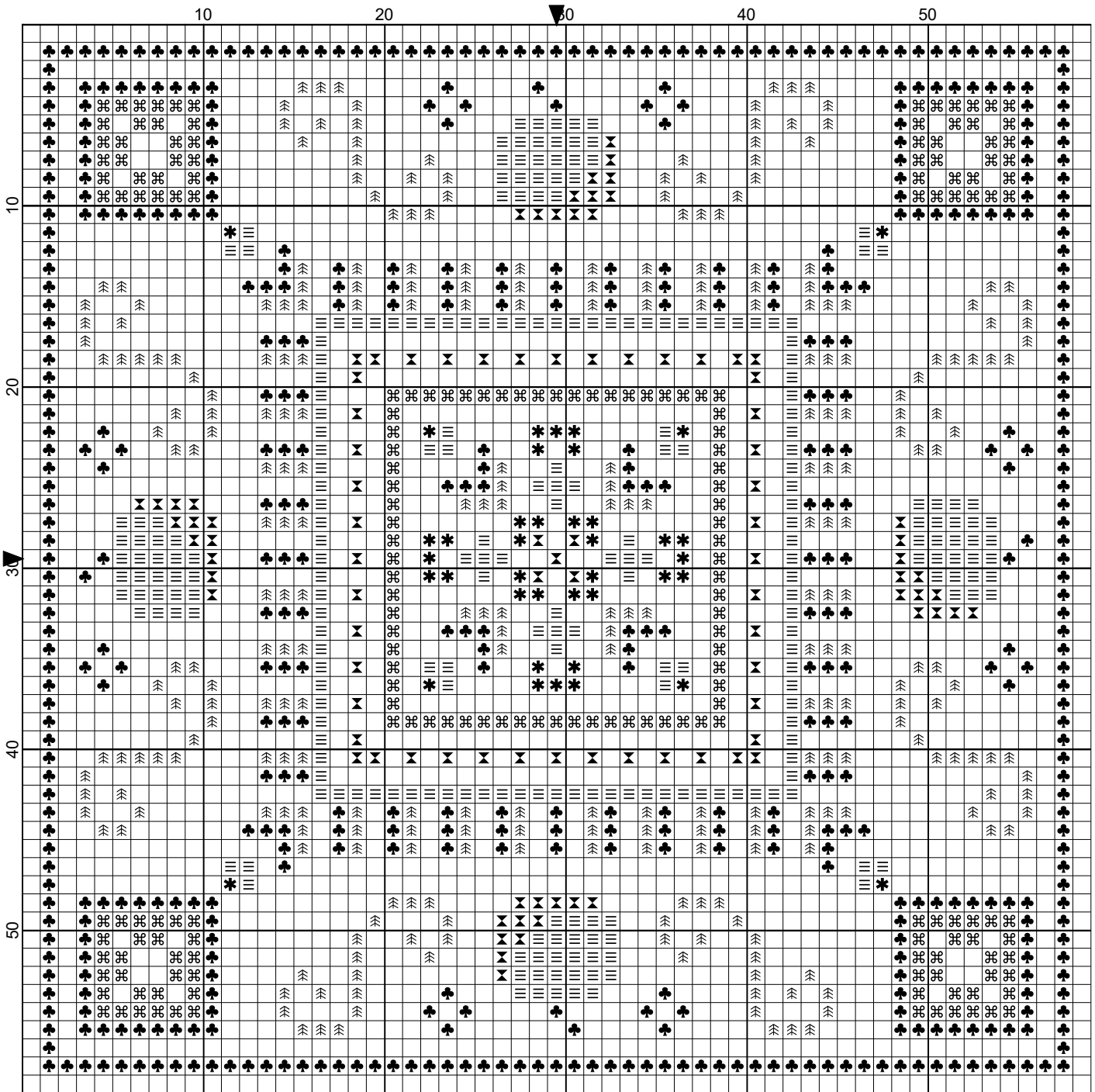
Legend:

-  DMC-936 avocado green - vy dk
-  DMC-581 moss green

-  DMC-972 canary - dp
-  DMC-971 pumpkin



-  DMC-900 burnt orange - dk
-  DMC-815 garnet - md



Pumpkin Delight





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Legend:

 DMC-936 avocado green - vy dk
 DMC-581 moss green

 DMC-972 canary - dp
 DMC-971 pumpkin

 DMC-900 burnt orange - dk
 DMC-815 garnet - md