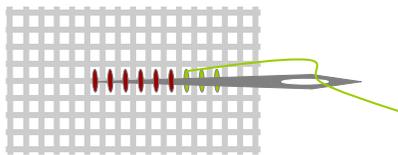
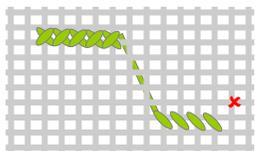

HOW TO GET BETTER

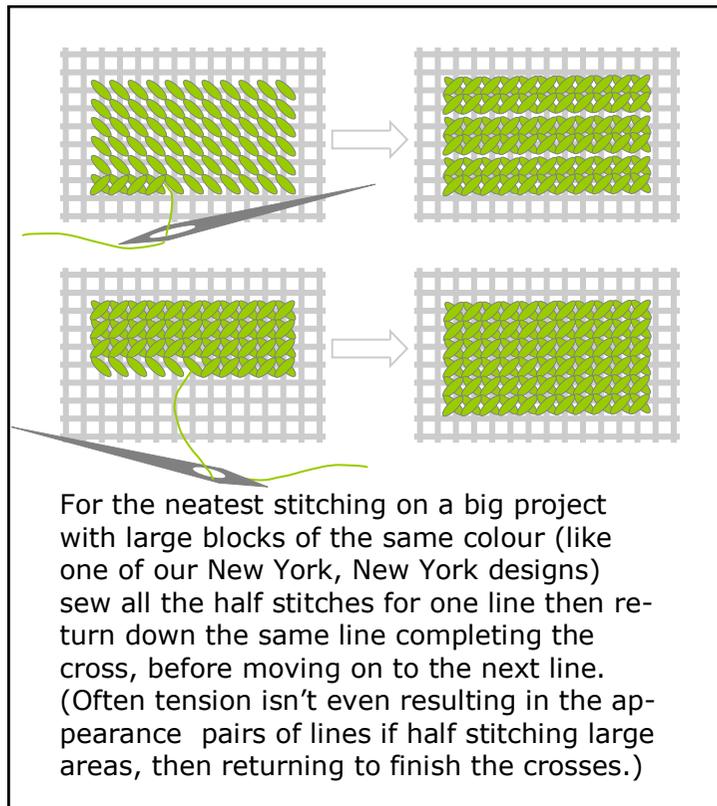
Got the hang of it? These tips will help to improve your results and make life easier.



When using one colour floss where there are stitches in another colour between the finished area and the next area, thread the needle through the back of the stitches (like step 8 of the instructions but without cutting it). Then there won't be loopy bits on the back of your stitching.



When working on a design where there will be empty fabric between stitches, don't be tempted to take the floss a long way across the back of the fabric. It will show. Instead, finish the thread and start again as in steps 5 and 6 of the instructions.



For the neatest stitching on a big project with large blocks of the same colour (like one of our New York, New York designs) sew all the half stitches for one line then return down the same line completing the cross, before moving on to the next line. (Often tension isn't even resulting in the appearance pairs of lines if half stitching large areas, then returning to finish the crosses.)

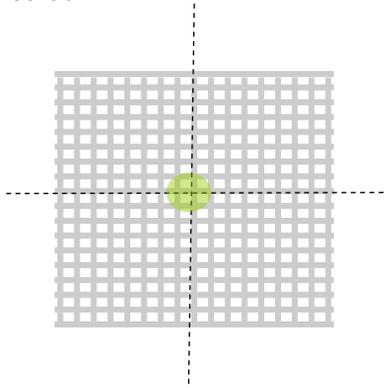
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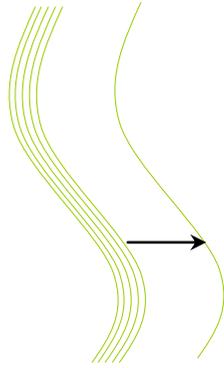
HOW TO GET STARTED

New to cross stitch?
Here are 8 simple
steps to get you up
and running...

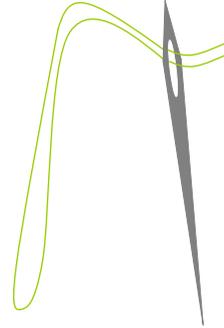
1. Find the centre of the aida by folding it in half and in half again. All of our patterns have the centre lines marked on them with small arrows. Locate a symbol near the centre point and select the corresponding floss colour.



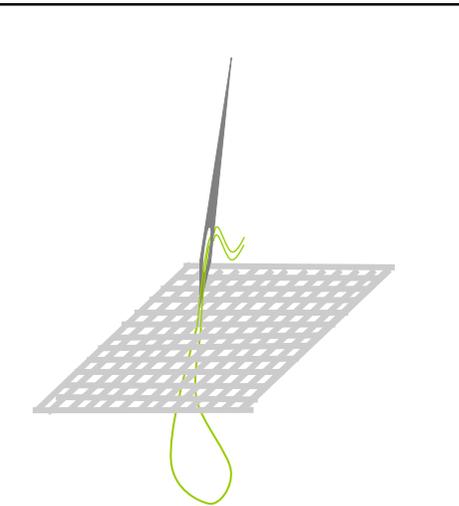
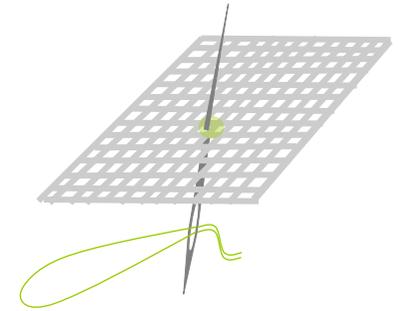
2. Separate one strand of the floss (there are 6 strands in each length).



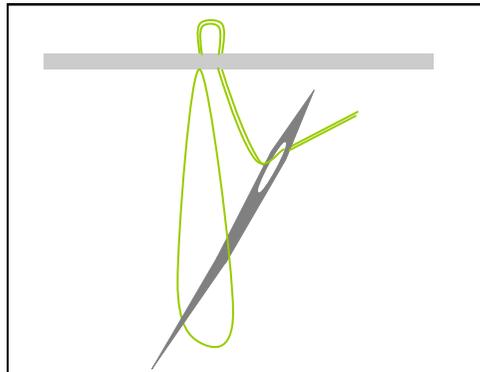
3. Thread the needle by folding the strand of floss in half, leaving a loop at one end.



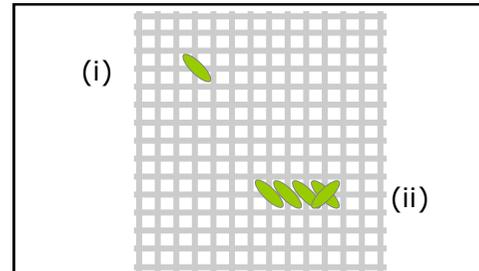
4. Starting at the back of the aida, in the centre, push the needle through to the front of the aida.



5. Pull the floss through the aida, leaving a loop at the back - you are going to use this loop in step 6.

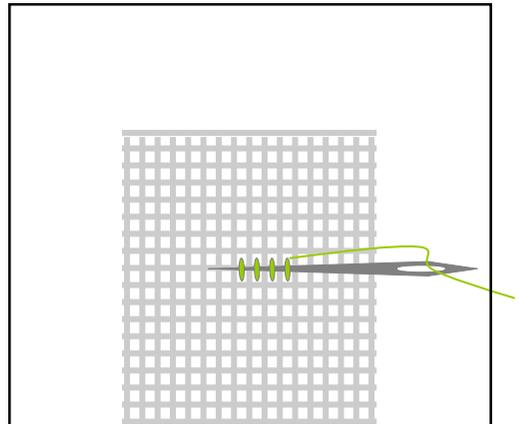


6. On the front of the aida, push the needle through a hole diagonal to the one you started with. It doesn't matter if you go left to right or right to left. Then, thread the needle through the loop of floss.



7. (i) Pull until the stitch sits neatly on the aida. You have now secured your first stitch!

(ii) To form an 'x' bring the needle through the back of the aida in the diagonal hole. You can do one stitch at a time or a row of half stitches, turn round and come back.



8. To finish your floss neatly, thread your needle through several stitches on the back of the aida and trim the end of the floss.