Coricamo

Cross-stitch embroidery
easier than you think

Cross stitching is like over-the-counter medicine - it improves manual skills and concentration, relaxes and gives a sense of detachment from problems.
Pure pleasure is derived from creating something that we proudly boast of others.
For all beginners and those who have not tried yet - we recommend this amazing remedy!

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detailed
Cross-stitch embroidery course

www.coricamo.com

Difficult or easy?

Browsing websites or buying colourful magazines, you can see portals and newspapers dedicated to cross-stitch embroidery. Your friends have on the walls beautifully embroidered mountain landscapes reflecting in a lazily flowing river, a creeping tiger or flowers captivating by the beauty and intensity of colours? You get an idea is to embroider by yourself and decorate your home with a favourite landscape. Unfortunately, at the same time you have a thought that making such a pattern is too difficult. We want to convince such people that cross-stitch embroidery is simple and the effects of your work will surely delight your family and friends. In addition, embroidering itself gives you great pleasure and makes you proud of your own work.

We hope that our course will help you to make a decision to start your adventure with embroidery and will answer most of the questions and doubts concerning this beautiful passion.

Coricamo

Printed canvas or counted embroidery?

People who like to embroider on printed canvas and lovers of counted cross-stitch embroidery have arguments that their way of creating embroidery is the best. Printed canvas makes it easy for beginners, while counted cross-stitch embroidery gives us creative freedom, so everyone will find something for themselves.

Counted cross-stitch embroidery

Unlike embroidery on printed canvas, it is made on clean canvas (not printed) and is created on the basis of a graphic pattern printed on paper. Thanks to that, there is no problem with proper pattern reproduction or with cross shifts. In addition, the pattern is created step by step and you can see how your work is filling with mouline. This gives us incredible pleasure because the pattern is created right before our eyes. We can also see how much work remains to the end, which motivates you to continue working.

What accessories to buy?

You can also use embroidery accessories to help you work and keep order during and after work. (The products are given codes eg. (*968-01*), under which you can find the item in the online shop www.coricamo.com)

marking pen (*925-01*)

Magic pen (*924*)

needle threader (*D6112*)

needle case (*D6122*)

needle organizer (*AC 6113*)

spatulas for cotton threads (*AC GC001*)

cardboard mouline bobbins (*AC 8895*)

embroidery wheel (*AC 8803*)

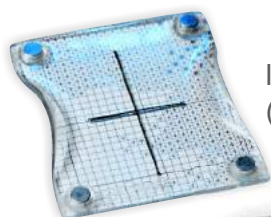magnifying glass
with LED lamp (*AC 8820*)

embroidery scissors
(*PRYM 611 516*)

thread cutter
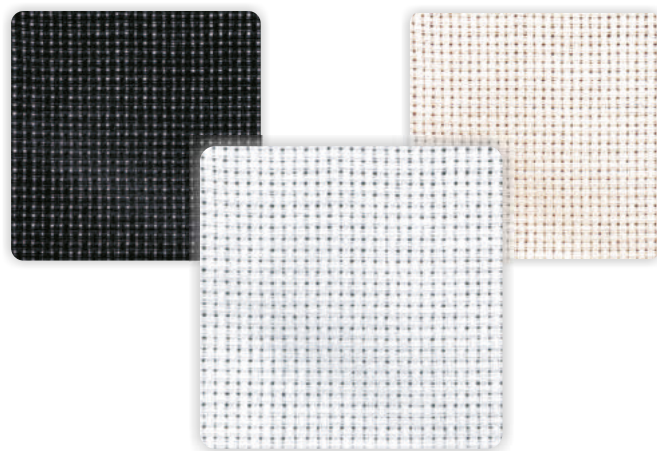(*AC 8930*)

stitch ripper (*AC 611-203*)

line counter
(*912 ZM*)

click box Jumbo organizer (*AC 612-420*)

What kind of canvas to choose?

You can embroider on canvas, Aida or fabric with a simple countable weave.

Canvas
Woven mesh fabric with regular weave, which is used for embroidery with cotton (mouline), wool or linen. It is basic fabric used for cross-stitching. Canvas are usually stiffer and have a density of 44 crosses per 10 cm.

Aida (without overprint)
It is used for counted embroidery. Aida in the form of fabric is found in almost all colours - from pure white to black, but usually found in white, creamy or ivory. Aidas can be bought in metres or in sheets of various sizes and densities (*904-01*, *960-01*, *968-01*, *967-01*).

Canvas or Aida with overprint
The printed pattern can either be embroidered as a whole or can only be the background for counted cross-stitch.

Plastic canvas
Used to form geometric shapes. Once you have embroidered the motif simply cut it out (*966*).

Waste canvas (removable canvas)
If we want to embroider an application, for example on a blouse, we will need canvas that you apply to the place of the final embroidery. Then you fasten it with pins and embroider the pattern. At the end of you remove the canvas (*938*).
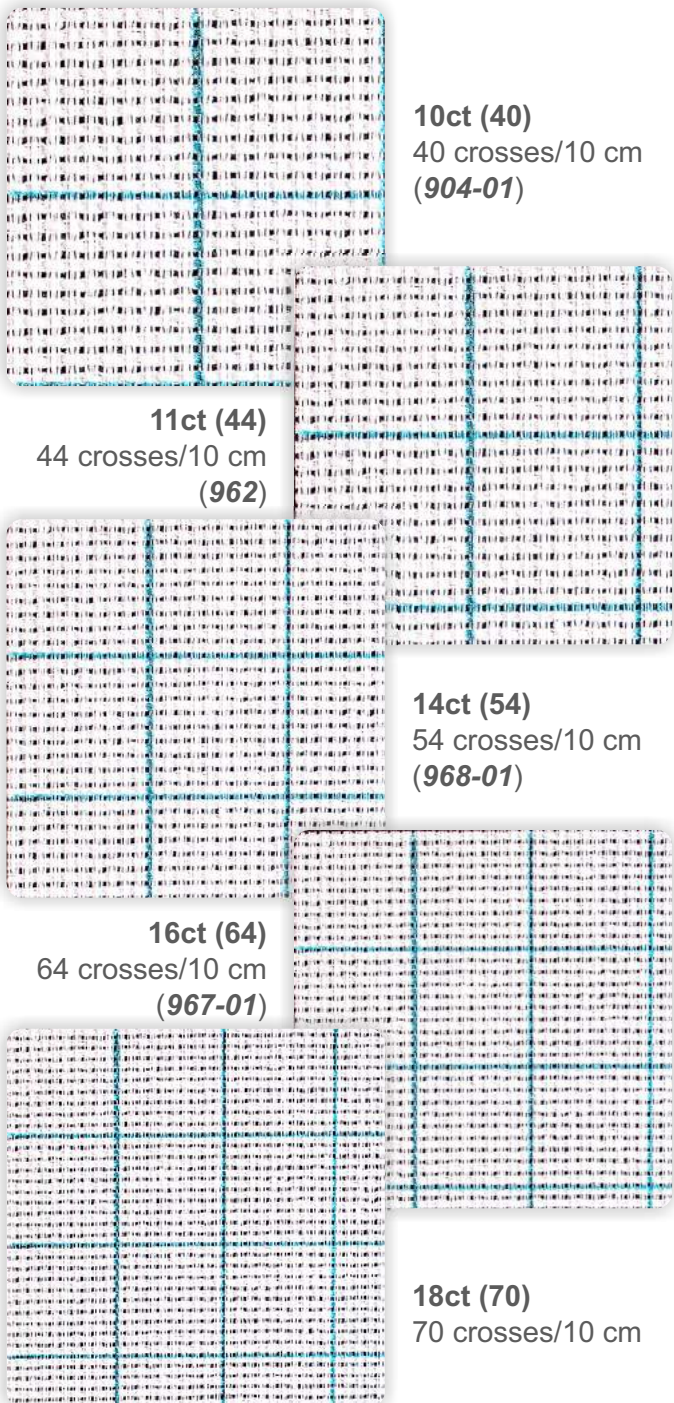
Density of weave

Canvas also vary in size (density of weave) - the most popular of them are 10ct, 11ct, 14ct, 16ct and 18ct. These numbers indicate the number of canvas mesh (crosses) in one inch. Often in the descriptions appear their counterparts eg. 40, 44, 54, 64, 70.

eg. if the canvas is 14 ct, then:

1 inch (2.54 cm) = **14 (canvas mesh) crosses**
that is 5.4 canvas mesh (cross) per 1 cm
and in the description may be 54

Density of the canvas	Number of crosses at 10 cm
10 ct	about 40
11 ct	about 44
14 ct	about 54
16 ct	about 64
18 ct	about 70

Square 5 x 5 cm in 1:1 scale

10ct (40)
40 crosses/10 cm
(*904-01*)

11ct (44)
44 crosses/10 cm
(*962*)

14ct (54)
54 crosses/10 cm
(*968-01*)

16ct (64)
64 crosses/10 cm
(*967-01*)

18ct (70)
70 crosses/10 cm

How to prepare canvas?

For easy embroidering and to avoid nasty surprises at the end of the work, we should prepare the material on which we will embroider to make the work easier. If we are going to wash the pattern after finishing it (eg. it got dirty during embroidering) but we fear that it may shrink (and therefore its size may change), the material can be washed in warm water before you start embroidering, then dried and ironed. Remember to follow manufacturer's recommendations for washing and ironing.
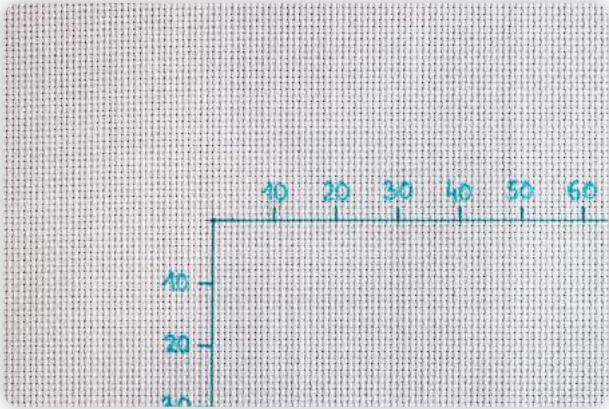
Drawing the borders of the pattern

At a distance of about 10 cm from the edge of the canvas we draw embroidery borders according to the graphic pattern. The excess of the canvas will then be needed for framing.
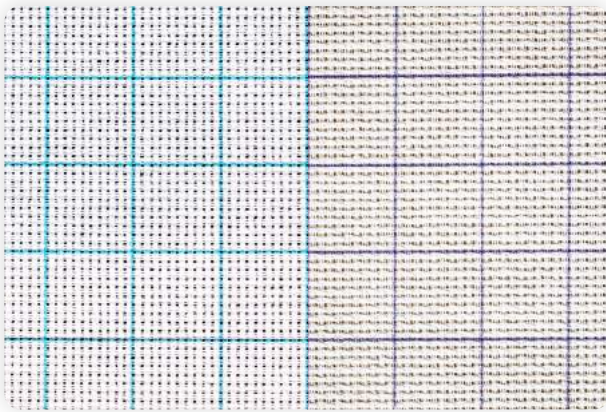
Numbering

It is a good idea to write numbers on the edges - such as on the pattern, so that it is easier to find the right part of the pattern.
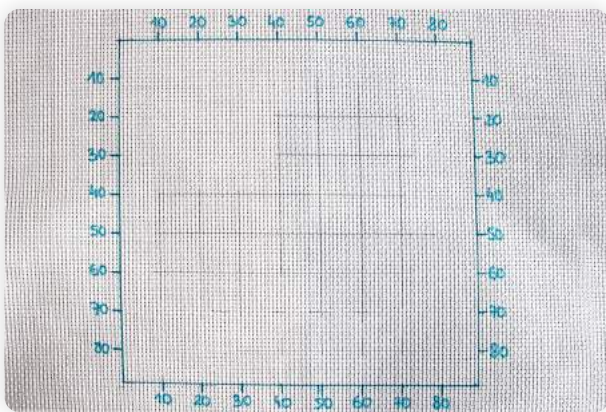
Drawing the grid

The grid can be drawn with a special marker or magic pen (disappears after about 20 days). If the embroidery will cover the entire canvas, then draw full grid lines every 10 canvas mesh according to the graphic pattern.

Gently draw it with an automatic pencil, which is quite difficult to remove. Fresh traces wash out in cold water with 3 tablespoons of vinegar.
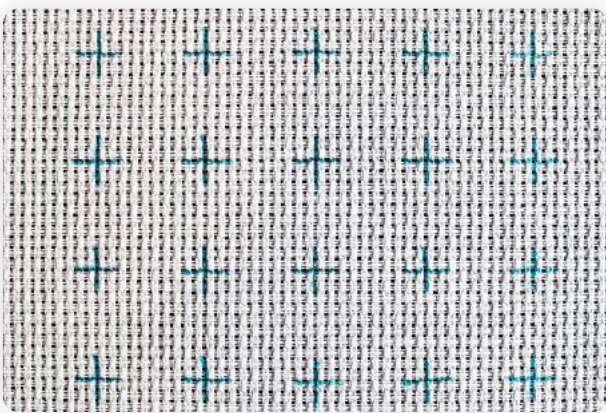
If the embroidery does not cover the entire canvas, it is worth to mark thin lines or crosses within the borders of the pattern.

Some people mark the grid with a baste, which needs to be removed afterwards.

If your have a little pattern there is no need to draw a grid - just tick the pattern with colours or start embroidering right at the starting point which is at the intersection of the lines that define the edges of the image.

Only after the edges and the borders of the pattern have been drawn can the canvas be cut. It makes us sure that we will not cut the canvas too small.

Canvas protection

Canvas is quite rigid material and can catch the mouline. It is good to protect the edges. Canvas can be protected against shredding in several different ways:
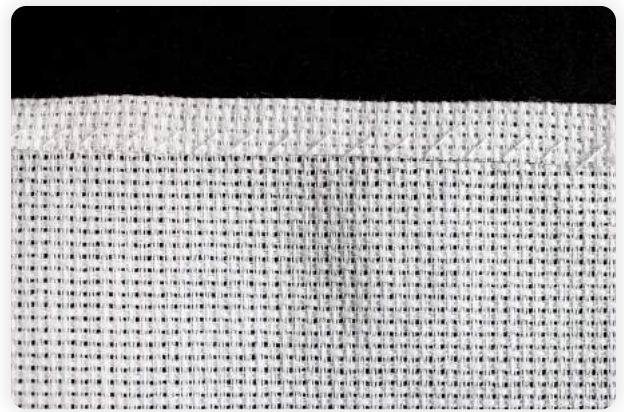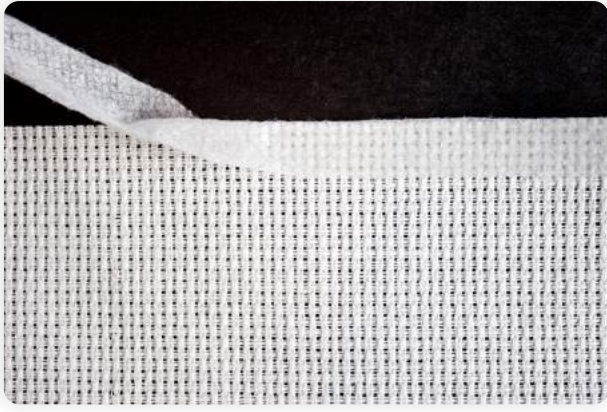

By hand - fold the edges at about 1 cm and oversew it. However, this method is quite laborious.
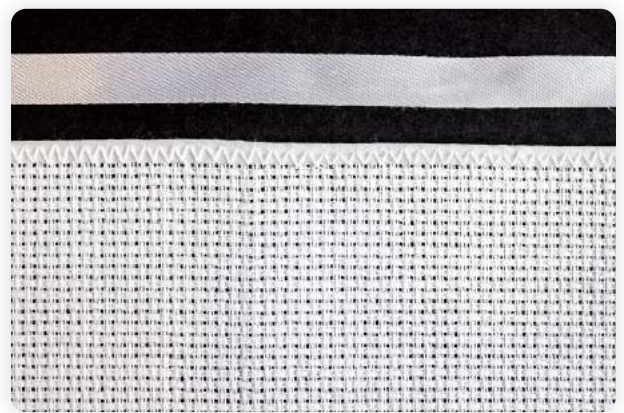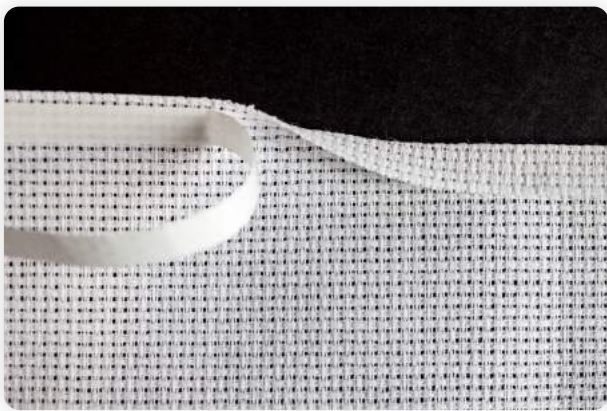

On the sewing machine - fold the edges and sew with zig-zag stitch or trim with a ribbon. It is a fast way for those who have sewing machine.

Iron the edges of canvas with stripes of vlieseline interlining.

Line the edges with fabric glue or edge lining ribbon.

Back the edges with paint tape, which can be removed easily afterwards.

Density of the canvas	Recommended number of threads
10 ct (40) and 11 ct (44)	6
14 ct (54)	3
16 ct (64)	2

What kind of mouline to choose?

Any thread can be used for embroidery. It is important that they are of adequate thickness depending on the density of the canvas and that their colours correspond to the colours of the pattern.

The most appropriate thread for embroidery is mouline, because it is easy to choose its thickness to the thickness of the fabric (depending on the density of the canvas we embroider with whole or split thread of mouline).

There are different companies manufacturing mouline on the market, and each manufacturer uses its own colour numbering. **Ariadna** (*956*) and **DMC** (*952*) are the most popular. These companies also offer shaded, neon, pearl, linen and metallic mouline.
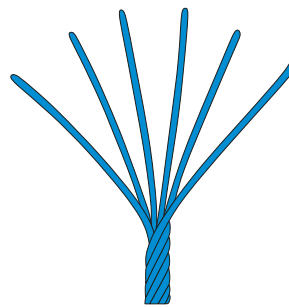
Thread thickness

Mouline is the best for embroidery, because each of its strands consists of 6 thinner threads, so it is easy to choose the thickness of the thread to the density of the canvas weave.

It is assumed that the thickness of the thread we are sewing with should not be smaller than the thickness of the canvas thread. Mouline should cover the canvas so that the canvas does not overflow between the threads and so that the pattern does not look fuzzy. On the other hand, when the thread is too thick, the pattern will look very compressed and the material may wrinkle. It is best to know for yourself what thickness we prefer and do a test: if the crosses are too tight - one or two threads must be taken out, if there are holes left between the crosses- you should add some threads. Most of the time we embroider: on Aida 44 - 6 threads, on Aida 54 - 3 threads, on Aida 64 - 2 threads.

What kind of needle to choose?

Various types of embroidery needles are available for sale (varying in thickness, length and ending: sharp (used to embroider on materials such as high density canvas) and blunt (most commonly used in cross-stitch).

Needle for embroidery

For cross-stich embroidery it is best to use a special needle for this purpose. It has a specific shape - the entire length has the same thickness, its eyelet is wider than the eye of a regular needle, and the tip is not sharp but blunt. This ending allows you to place it exactly between the canvas threads and prevents the needle from entering the filament of the thread we are just sewing. The blunt tip also protects the fingers from pricking. The best needle is the one which slightly enters the holes in the canvas and, inserted underneath the canvas (under the thread load), does not fall out from it.

Needle sizes

Various sizes of needles are available on the market, such as 13, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28. The larger the number, the thinner the needle.

Most commonly used needles for cross-stitch are: 24, 26 and 28 (*942* or *CHI 942*).

Density of the canvas	Recommended needle size
11 ct	22 - 24
14 ct	24
16 ct	26
above 18 ct	28

How to learn embroidering?

Compliance with the rules

When learning cross-stitch embroidery, you may want to learn single stitches on a piece of canvas to get the right habits. From the very beginning it is important to ensure that all the crosses are pointing one way - the basic rule is to embroider from the right top to the left bottom (the final result is better). If this rule is not followed, a very visible shading will appear on the right side of the embroidery, which destroys the final effect.
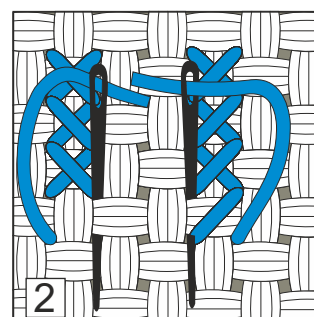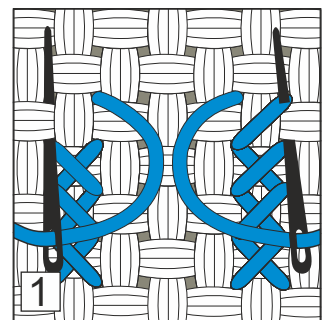
SINGLE CROSS
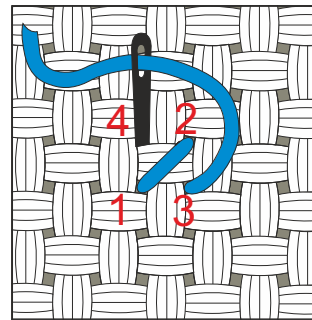
We start work by piercing the canvas from the bottom, holding the end of the thread with your finger - we do not make a knot (the end of this thread will be caught on the left side of the canvas). We make the cross according to the numbers shown in the diagram.

VERTICAL STITCH

In the stitch, each cross is embroidered separately. Starting from the top right and going to the bottom left, then we cover the cross from the top left to the bottom right.
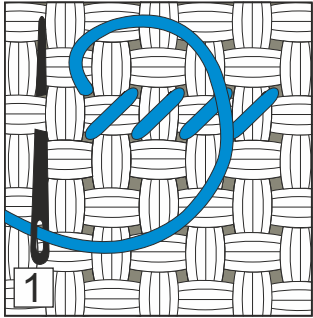
The single stitch can also be started from the bottom left to the top right and then cover the cross from the bottom right to the top left. You can immediately drag the needle and pierce it into the next mesh.
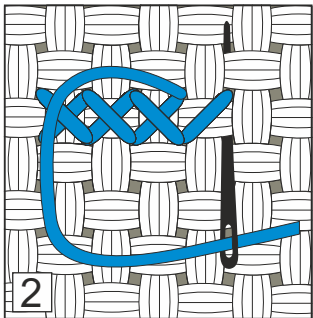
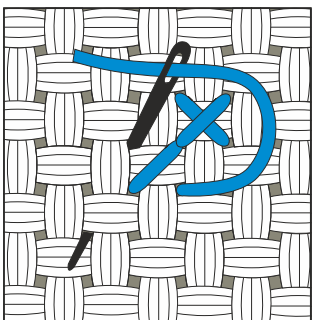## BASIC STITCH - COVERING
(from right to left)

We start the stitch from the right, embroidering to the left bottom, then we pierce the needle up vertically. This way a row of semicrosses is formed.

Then we go back doing so called covering stitch. We start from the left top to the right bottom. This way a row of crosses is formed.
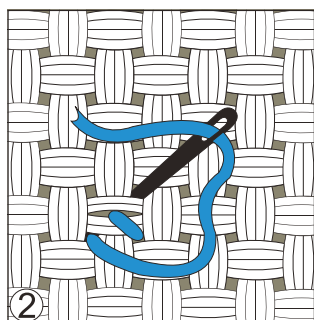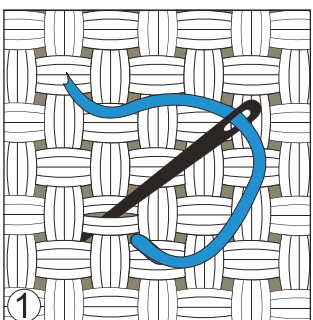
It is worth learning how to embroider the covering stitch, because it allows to get beautiful, equal crosses.
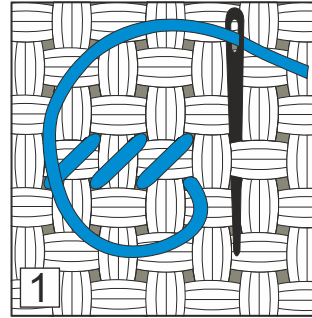
DIAGONAL STITCH

We make half cross. Finishing the covering cross-stitch we pierce the needle to the upper left corner and then guide the needle down diagonally to the next row, to be able to make another cross.
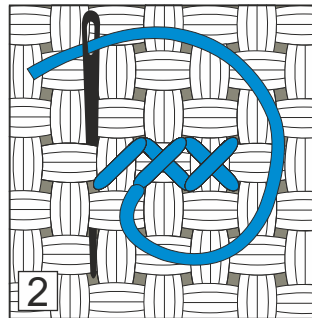
HALF-CROSS

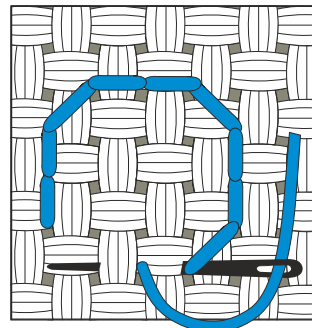## BASIC STITCH - COVERING
(from left to right)

You can also embroider the basic stitch from top to bottom. We start by piercing the needle from the bottom left to the top right.

The covering stitch is made from the bottom to the top. By piercing the needle one mesh lower, we can start a new row of basic stitches.

LINE STITCH - BACKSTITCH

This stitch is used to make contours. To do this, we start with piercing the needle in a certain place to the right side of the canvas, then push it to the next mesh of the contour, drag the needle to the left side and again pierce the needle in the next mesh to the right side of the canvas. Then we punch the needle into the previous mesh (go back) to continue the contour and drag the needle to the left side of the canvas in the next free mesh. Repeat the operation to fill the contour.
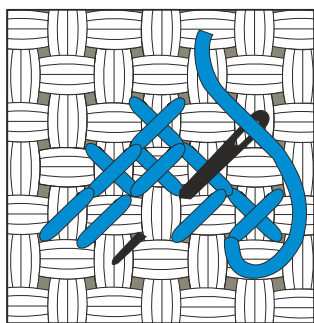
The use of this type of stitch, especially on small patterns, makes it more expressive, emphasizes colours and makes the image look more elaborate and detailed.

For line stitch (backstitch) embroidery on canvas 11ct (44) we use 3-4 threads, 14ct (54) - 2 threads, 16ct (64) and 18ct (70) - 1 thread.
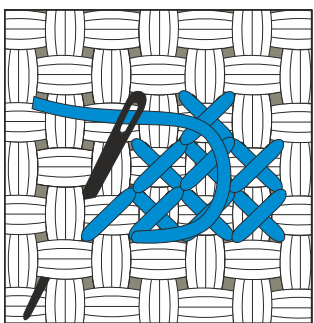
COMBINING COLOURS

If you want to leave space between the crosses for another mouline colour, the thread should be lead on the left side of our embroidery, leaving free meshes for another colour, and then drag the needle in the place where we will continue embroidering.

MOVING THE BEGINNING OF THE ROW

To move the beginning of the row, pierce the needle diagonally to the left (or right) and start the base stitch of the next cross.

Do not leave strands of thread on the left side of the pattern. It is better to finish it and get started in the right place.

ENDING THE THREAD

The threads should not begin or end with a knot, because after framing it may be visible in the form of bulging. It is enough to hide the end of the thread under the first 3-4 crosses so that the left side of the embroidery remains aesthetic. On the left side of the canvas we pull the thread underneath the threads of mouline and cut.

How to start embroidering?

Embroidery hoop or embroidery hoop-frame

Before embroidering, it is worth stretching the embroidered place on the hoop or embroidery hoop-frame, which then serves as a frame. Thanks to it the canvas does not pull up and does not wrinkle. Some people do not use the embroidery hoop at all, but it requires skill and necessity to avoid tightening the thread too much.

Embroidery can be started:

- from the darkest colours to the brightest colorus, so the bright mouline does not get so dirty

- from the most often used colour in the pattern, which allows us to perform the most tedious work in the beginning when we have the greatest enthusiasm for work

- from the bottom, starting from the right and moving to the left, making it easy to transfer the pattern

- from the top, starting from the left and moving to the right so that the embroidered surface does not get dirty

- from successively embroidering all colours in successive rows e.g. in the borders of 10 x 10 cm square (this does not require moving the embroidery hoop too frequently). This way, you need to protect the threads against tangling. In addition, you need to change the thread sometimes to a few crosses, which lengthens the working time. Some cope with it by sewing with as many needles as the colours they are using.

Tangling of threads

While embroidering try not to drag the threads from the left to the right side of the canvas. To avoid tangling and twisting of the thread, you should embroider with short strands of thread. If the thread twists, just drop the needle freely and allow the thread to spin.

Unstitching and minor mistakes

If there is a large error in the pattern, it is best to unstitch the thread with a stitch ripper. However, do not worry about minor mistakes if they do not affect the final result drastically. This makes embroidery unique and original.
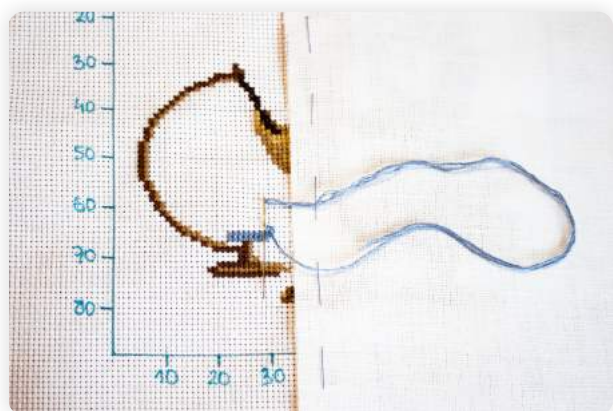
Protecting from dirt

If the embroidery is large, you should wear a cotton glove on your left hand so that the hand does not dirty the canvas. With very large patterns, it is good to cover the embroidered areas with a piece of cloth and fasten it with pins or tack so that the embroidery does not fade or dust.

How to take care of ready-made embroidery?

Ironing the embroidery

If the finished embroidery is not dirty, it is enough to iron it on the left side, on a soft, light colour terry towel, so that the embroidery does not flatten. The iron can not be too hot and you should not use steam from the iron – it is better to spray water from the sprayer. If metallic mouline is used in the embroidery, it is best to iron it with a cotton cloth on. Plastic canvas should not be ironed.

Laundring the embroidery

Reputed producers such as Ariadna and DMC guarantee that their mouline threads do not dye. If you have mouline from uncertain source, you must first check whether it does not dye - cut off a piece from each mouline, sew to a piece of canvas and wash. If the mouline does not dye and the embroidery is dirty, it can be soaked in cold water. Then wash it with hands in warm water with mild detergent or natural soap. Rinse it well, squeeze in a rolled towel and stretch. Let it dry in the unfolded state. Iron it when it is still slightly damp. Some stick to embroidery vlieseline interlining to prevent it from stretching. Canvas with prints, stiffened canvas and tapestries should not be washed. They should be cleaned dry.

Framing the embroidery

After finishing work, it is recommended to frame the pattern - this provides aesthetic appearance. We do not recommend installing glass. This causes flattening of the embroidery and the loss of the three-dimensional effect. However, if embroidery should necesserily be under glass, it is best to choose anti-reflective glass, so you can avoid reflections and admire the work from each point of view.

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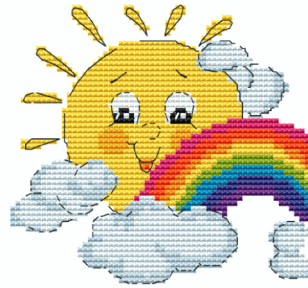
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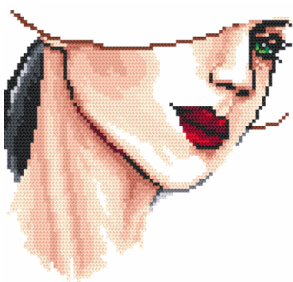Z 8708

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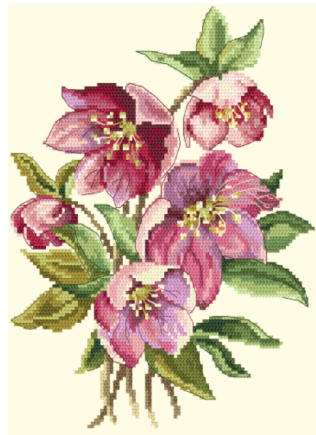
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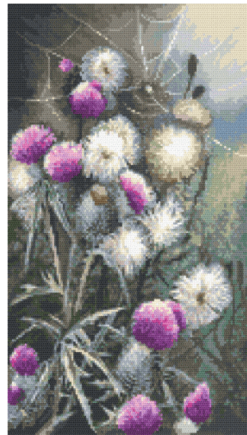Z 10041

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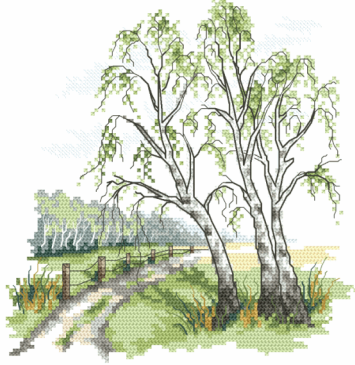Z 8859

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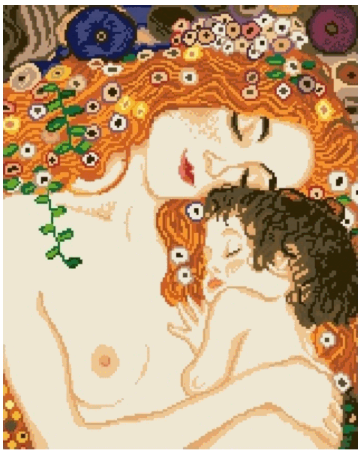Z 10005

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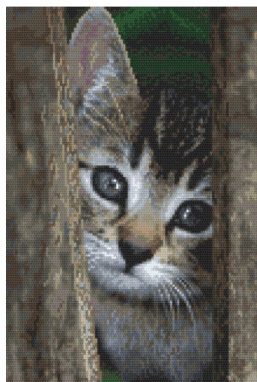Z 6092

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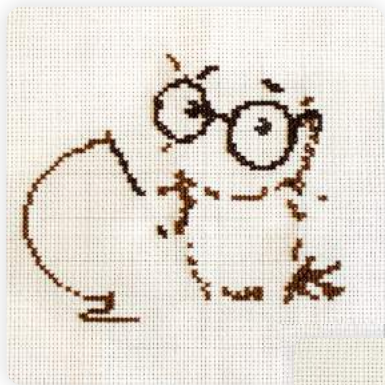Z 8804

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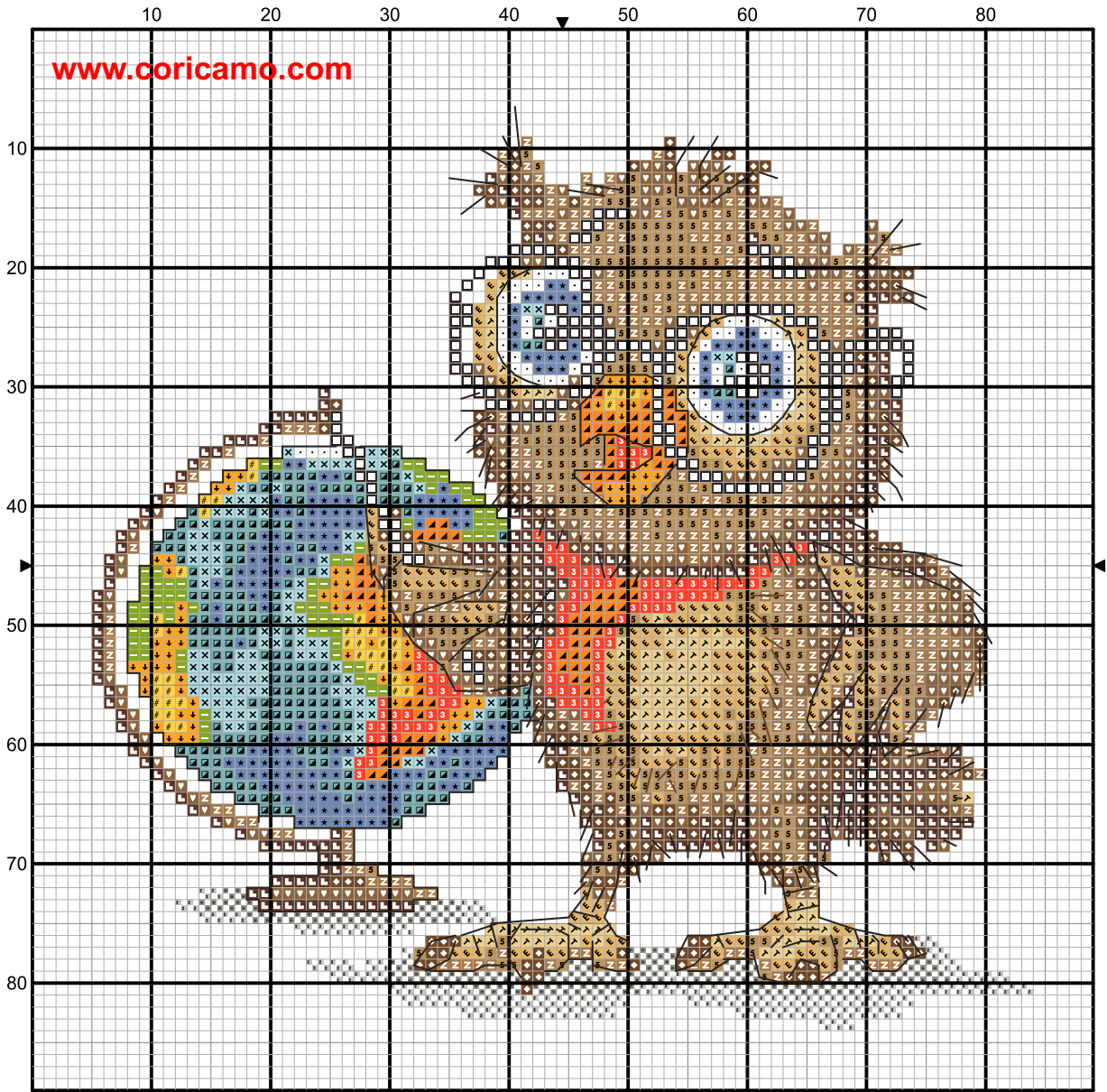10

11

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DMC

☐ 3371 Ebony	☒ 747 Sea mist blue	↓ 742 Light tangerine
◆ 869 Coffee brown	2 3072 Pale pearl grey	3 608 Pansy orange
Z 3828 Oaktree brown	— 907 Granny Smith green	◩ 598 Lagoon turquoise
↜ 676 Savannah gold	L 801 Mink brown	ⓦ 648 Pepper grey
# 726 Mimosa yellow	♥ 167 Dark mustard brown	· BLANC
◤ 741 Tangerine orange	5 422 Light oak	**Backstitch**
★ 794 Baby blue	↗ 677 Sand gold	■ 3371 Ebony
		■ 869 Coffee brown

That might be the final result! It is worth a try!

Z 8372

Z 8373   Z 10004   Z 10022   Z 10091

You are welcome to visit our website **www.coricamo.com**