

Stabilization of Cross Stitch Designs

Do Not Re-Size Design as this may distort it.
(Usually your final outline stitch is off.)

Below is a breakdown of what single – double – triple means after the design.

Single - represents the single size design and the stitches consist of 2 threads to a cross. This creates a light density. The single design can also be used to stitch onto cardstock to make cards or tags.

Double - represents the medium size design and the stitches consist of 4 threads to a cross. This creates a medium density.

Triple - represents triple thread stitching consisting of 6 threads to a cross. This is normally a larger design and may need to be stitched on Medium to Heavy weight fabric only.

Please be aware that changing the size of the design in any way may distort the design. This is why you receive the different sizes with the density changes already.

The chart below will help you with the conversion of Machine Cross Size to Aida Count

Aida Count	Cross Size
11	22
12	20
14	18
16 (also 32 on linen)	16
18	14
22	12

For embroidery: as the number gets larger the cross is larger.
For Aida cloth it's opposite: the larger the number the smaller the stitch.

STABILIZATION and STITCHING of CROSS STITCH DESIGNS

Cross Stitch designs usually require careful stabilization, which may vary for different kinds of fabrics. Most fabrics require sticky stabilizers of a medium cut-away weight or that you spray with KK2000 or another type of temporary spray. I do not recommend tear-away stabilizers, as once you remove the stabilizer there is nothing to support the stitching. In case you face some problem stitching the design, please check the following:

- 1).Machine tension settings.
- 2).Thread, fabric, backing, stabilizer & needles.

Before stitching any designs on final projects, please always test stitch them with the intended fabric, stabilizer and threads to ensure the wanted results.

FABRICS & THREADS:

Large cross-stitch designs are best stitched out on plain weave fabrics: :
Dense linen cloth, medium weight woolen or woolen/acrylic fabric without nap, flannel or canvas

Fine cotton and cotton/polyester fabrics are easily tightened or stretched out of shape from stitching on the machine, These fabrics can be used but please make sure they are stabilized properly using a sticky backed stabilizer or you may use light weight cut-away as long as you spray the stabilizer and press fabric in place so as not to stretch it.

When stitching on T-shirt and Sweatshirt fabrics, always use cut-away stabilizer with a temporary spray like KK2000. I prefer to use the spray on this fabric instead of the sticky-back as the sticky-back is harder to remove from the pile of the sweatshirt and will sometimes stretch the T-shirt when pulling it away.

If you want to use your embroidered work to decorate cushions or something that is not going to be washed, use cut-away stabilizer with a temporary spray like KK2000 or, if it is a light weight fabric I have used no-show mesh. I used this on a set of curtains I made for a friend using the gingham check fabric for her little girl's room.

If you use embroidery on infant clothing it's always good to cover the back side of stitching when finished with a very light soft iron-on stabilizer (Designs By SiCK carries Cloud Cover, you can read about it here: <http://www.designsbysick.com/backingpdfs/cloud-cover-stitch-designsbysick.pdf> and purchase it here: <http://www.designsbysick.com/backings.php>). I usually press it on before I cut the extra stabilizer away from design.

If you're unsure of the fabric, it is just best to spray the stabilizer and stick it to the fabric before hooping. This is what I usually do with any fabric I use.

You can use any embroidery thread in your machine for the designs but make sure if using a specialty thread such as metallic you adjust the tension and speed of your machine accordingly.

Always lay fabric on stabilizer and press in place so that you do not shift or stretch the fabric in any way.

I hope these simple tips will be of help when stitching Cross Stitch!

Happy Stitching!!!!

Bonnie