



NeedlePoints...

by Deb Sieber

Recently I have been reminded that I work in a really great store! We have had a number of customers that are brand new visitors, and what fun it is to see their delighted, sometimes over-whelmed faces! And then, after they get their bearings, the questions begin...

Q: What do all those numbers on the framed pieces mean?

A: We have a book that lists all of the models that we've stitched over the years. It tells us what and where the chart or design is located, what it was stitched on, any unusual stitching information, and how it was framed or finished. Our books are organized by category or designer — books that are models have a "Stitched Model"

sticker - if there's not a sticker, it's not on the wall!

Q: Where do I find the fabric for this design?

A: After you have been to the store one time, you know where the fabric is. The major surprises are for the new needlepointers, who actually may not know that we have a whole room for them. And when they find out that we carry all kinds of canvas, they are often even more pleased. (P.S.: As a sales person, I really enjoy the look of delight that occurs when a new shopper makes these discoveries!)

Q: How do I figure out how much fabric I need?

A: There is no magic to figuring this out, only math! Find the number of stitches



to complete your design both horizontally and vertically. Choose your fabric. Divide the number of stitches in your design by the count of the fabric. This will give you the size in inches.

Always add at least 6

inches for cross-stitch and 4 inches for canvas to these numbers. This allows for proper framing and/or finishing.

Example:

240 stitches wide x 90 stitches high (a long and narrow piece), stitched on 32 ct. linen over 2 stitches or 16 ct Aida cloth ($32/2 = 16$): $240/16 = 15$ inches; $90/16 = 5.63$ inches high—rounded to 5-3/4 inches. Smallest fabric size: 21 x 11-3/4 inches.

Q: How do I use this thread?

A: Most often, this question refers to over-dyed (Gloriana, Thread Gatherer, Weeks Dye Works, Crescent Colours, Gentle Art Sampler Threads, Threadworx), hand-painted (Caron Watercolours and Wildflowers) and variegated threads. These threads come in cotton, wool, silk, and combinations of various fibers. A few

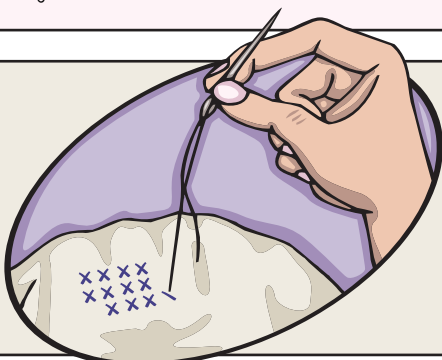
reminders: don't wash these threads, always complete the full stitch before moving to the next,

be careful what stitch you use for needlepoint as you may not want a diagonal stripe running through your canvas, and buy ENOUGH thread from the dye lot you are using.

Washing is supposed to be safe for most of the cotton threads, but I still recommend that you work with clean hands and keep your work clean as your first course of action. Wash only if you have no other choice. I know that others disagree, but that is what I practice and I've never been disappointed. Completing the stitch gives the variegation a chance to show. If you stitch a whole row one way and come back with the crossed stitch, you will create more of a "muddied" look—not what the thread is meant to do. Basketweave stitches done with variegated threads create the diagonal stripe I mentioned. Choose another horizontal, not diagonal stitch to avoid this. And I cannot stress enough how important it is to buy enough of your variegated threads. We will happily order them for you to ensure dye lot continuity—better to wait at the front end than run out at the back!

Q: How long have you been here?

A: A really long time! We enjoy working with all of you, whether teaching a new stitcher or exploring a dilemma with an experienced stitcher. I especially love teaching customers about threads and color. Each of you brings something new for all of us in the store and I really appreciate that. The friendships that I've made over the last many years really mean a lot to me and I hope that we have many more years of stitching and learning together!



Friday Night STITCH-IN

JAN 27 • MAR 2 • MAR 30 • APR 27

6:00 to Midnight

\$10 per Friday evening

Bring your project(s) for an evening of stitching and gabbing! Light snacks and beverages will be provided. Sign up is required - only ten people may register, so hurry! A great stress reliever after a busy week. Laughter is guaranteed.