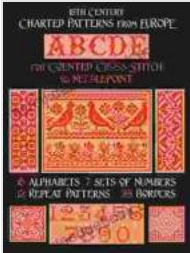


Counted Cross Stitch Needlepoint: A Comprehensive Guide to the Art of Cross Stitch Embroidery



19th Century Charted Patterns from Europe: for Counted Cross Stitch & Needlepoint by Dave Horner

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

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to Counted Cross Stitch

Counted cross stitch, also known as needlepoint, is a form of embroidery where X-shaped stitches are stitched onto fabric to create an image or design. It is a versatile craft that can be used to create a wide variety of projects, from wall hangings to samplers to pillows. Counted cross stitch is a popular choice for beginners because it is relatively easy to learn and can be customized to any skill level.

Materials for Counted Cross Stitch

To get started with counted cross stitch, you will need a few basic materials:

- **Fabric:** Aida cloth is a popular choice for counted cross stitch because it has evenly spaced holes that make it easy to count the stitches.

Other fabrics that can be used include linen, cotton, and evenweave.

- **Thread:** Embroidery floss is the most common type of thread used for counted cross stitch. It comes in a variety of colors and weights, so you can choose the right thread for your project.
- **Needle:** A tapestry needle is the best type of needle to use for counted cross stitch. It has a blunt tip that will not damage the fabric.
- **Pattern:** A counted cross stitch pattern is a chart that shows you where to place each stitch. You can find free patterns online or in books, or you can purchase kits that include the pattern and materials.

Getting Started with Counted Cross Stitch

Once you have gathered your materials, you can start stitching your counted cross stitch project. Here are the steps:

1. **Find the center of the fabric.** Fold the fabric in half both ways to find the center. This will be the starting point for your stitching.
2. **Thread the needle.** Cut a length of thread about 18 inches long and thread it through the needle.
3. **Start stitching.** Bring the needle up through the hole in the fabric at the center point. Then, insert the needle back down through the hole two holes to the right. Bring the needle back up through the hole two holes below the first stitch. This will create an X-shaped stitch.
4. **Continue stitching.** Repeat step 3 until you have completed the first row of stitches. Then, turn the fabric and stitch the next row in the opposite direction.
5. **Finish the project.** Continue stitching until you have completed the entire design. Once you have finished stitching, trim any excess thread

and knot the ends together.

Advanced Counted Cross Stitch Techniques

Once you have mastered the basics of counted cross stitch, you can start to explore more advanced techniques. These techniques can add depth and dimension to your projects:

- **Partial stitches.** Partial stitches are used to create shading and highlights. They are created by stitching only part of an X-shaped stitch.
- **Blending.** Blending is a technique used to create smooth transitions between colors. It is done by stitching two or more colors together in small blocks.
- **Backstitching.** Backstitching is a type of stitch that is used to outline shapes and add detail. It is done by stitching a line of stitches around the edge of a shape.
- **French knots.** French knots are a type of decorative stitch that can be used to add texture and interest to your projects. They are created by wrapping the thread around the needle twice and then pulling it through the fabric.

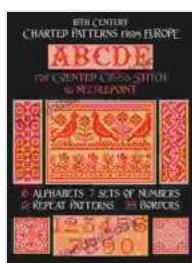
Counted Cross Stitch Projects

Counted cross stitch can be used to create a wide variety of projects, from simple samplers to elaborate wall hangings. Here are a few ideas to get you started:

- **Wall hangings.** Counted cross stitch wall hangings are a beautiful way to add personality to your home. They can be made in any size or

style, and can be customized to match your décor.

- **Samplers.** Samplers are a great way to practice your counted cross stitch skills. They are typically small and simple, and can be used to experiment with different stitches and colors.
- **Pillows.** Counted cross stitch pillows are a cozy and decorative way to add a personal touch to your home. They can be made in any size or shape, and can be customized to match your bedding.
- **Christmas ornaments.** Counted cross stitch Christmas ornaments are a festive way to decorate your home for the holidays. They can be made in any shape or size, and can be customized to match your tree décor.
- **Jewelry.** Counted cross stitch jewelry is a unique and stylish way to express your creativity. It can be made in any design, and can be customized to match your personal style.



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