CROSS STITCH PATTERN BOOK

Large Print Cross Stitch Alphabets

8 Alphabets and 8 Samplers with Big Easy-to-Read Color Charts, Monograms, Quotes and Borders



Harper Lane

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All 22 designs in this book are original. Every chart was checked by computer: each square's symbol and color match the design, and the stitch counts in the keys are exact.

Floss numbers are the six-strand cotton color numbers used by most patterns (DMC-compatible). DMC is a registered trademark of DMC; this book is not affiliated with or endorsed by DMC. Colors in print and on screen are close but never exact: buy thread by its number.

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Before You Start

Every pattern in this book is a chart: each square is one cross stitch, and its color and symbol tell you which floss to use. Here is everything you need to begin.

- **Fabric:** Aida cloth, a fabric woven in little squares with a hole at each corner. 14 count (14 squares per inch) is the easiest to start with; white or ivory shows the colors best.
- **Floss:** six-strand cotton embroidery floss in the colors from the key. Buy by the floss number; one skein is 8 m (8.7 yd).
- **Needle:** a blunt tapestry needle, size 24 for 11 to 14 count, size 26 for 16 and 18 count.
- **Hoop:** a 5 to 8 in embroidery hoop keeps the fabric tight, plus small sharp scissors.

How big will it be?

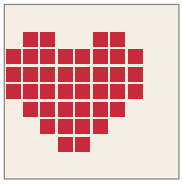
Divide the number of stitches by the fabric count. A design 70 stitches wide on 14 count Aida is 70 ÷ 14 = 5 in wide. Every pattern lists its finished size on 11, 14, 16 and 18 count. For the piece of fabric, add 3 in on every side for the hoop and for framing.

Fabric	Stitches per inch	Strands of floss	Needle	70 stitches =
11 count Aida	11	3	22 or 24	6.4 in
14 count Aida	14	2	24	5.0 in
16 count Aida	16	2	24 or 26	4.4 in
18 count Aida	18	1 or 2	26	3.9 in
28 count linen (over 2)	14	2	26	5.0 in

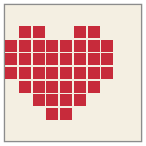
How much floss?

The key under each pattern gives the number of stitches in every color and how many skeins to buy for 14 count with 2 strands, with spare thread for starting and finishing. One skein covers about 1,400 stitches that way. On 11 count buy a little more, on 16 and 18 count a little less.

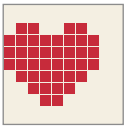
One design, four fabrics (actual size)



11 count
0.91 in



14 count
0.71 in



16 count
0.63 in

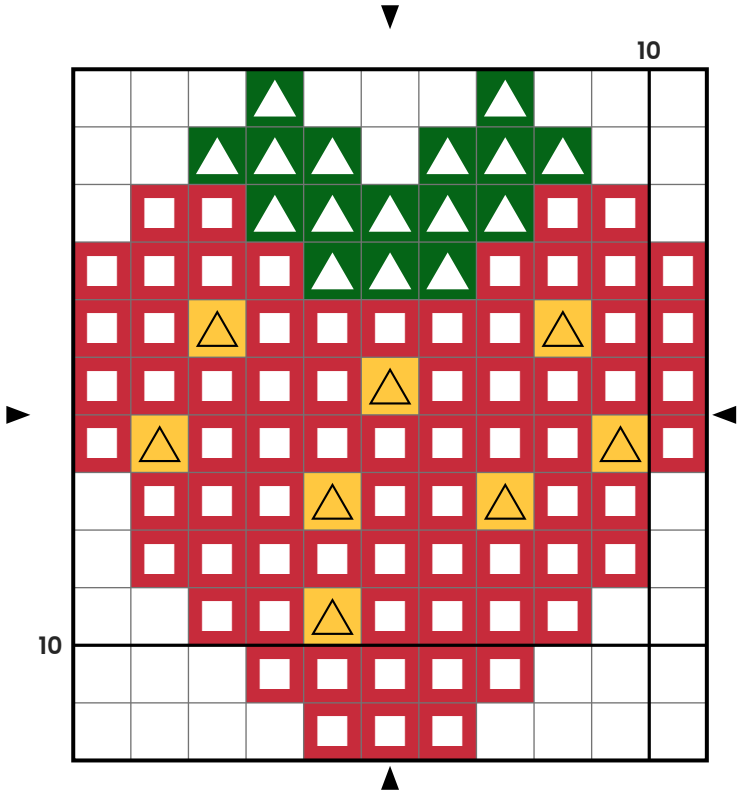


18 count
0.56 in

Sample pages

Reading the Charts

Each square on a chart is one cross stitch. The square is printed in the color of the floss, and the symbol inside it tells you exactly which floss to use, so two shades that look alike never get mixed up. Empty squares are left unstitched.



Symbol and color
one symbol per floss, listed in the key

Bold lines
every 10 squares, to help you count

Numbers
count the stitches across and down, in tens

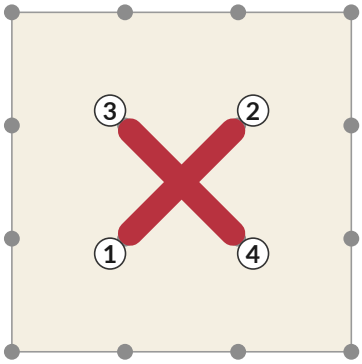
Arrows
point to the center of the design

NO.	COLOR	STITCHES	SKEINS
321	Cardinal Red	70	**1**
699	Holly Green	16	**1**
725	Topaz	8	**1**

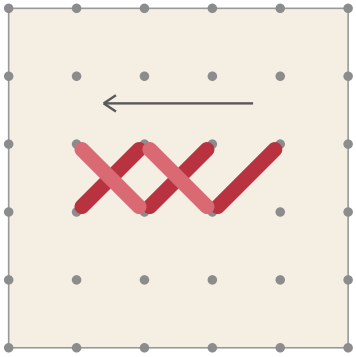
- **Start in the center.** Fold the fabric in half twice and press lightly with your finger: the folds cross at the center. Find the center of the chart where the arrows meet and start there, so the design always sits in the middle of the fabric.
- **Big charts are split over pages.** A small map in the corner shows which part of the design a page holds. The first 3 rows or columns of a part (shaded gray, with a heavy line) repeat the edge of the part before it, so you can line the parts up.
- **Backstitch** is shown as a colored line along the edges of the squares, and listed in the key with its length.

Sample pages

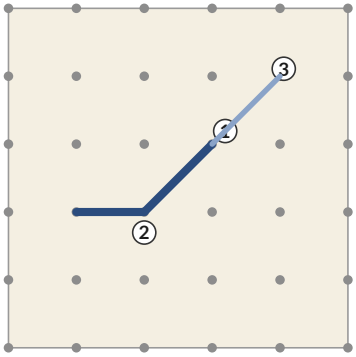
How to Stitch



A full cross stitch
Up at 1, down at 2, up at 3, down at 4.



A row of stitches
Work a row of half stitches, then come back to cross them.



Backstitch
One strand. Up at 1, down at 2, up at 3, back down at 1.

Tips for neat stitching

- **No knots.** Leave a 1 in tail on the back and hold it so your first stitches cover it. With an even number of strands, use the loop start: fold one long strand in half, come up, go down, and pass the needle through the loop on the back.
- **Cross the same way.** Make every top leg slant the same way; it is what makes the finished piece look smooth.
- **Short threads.** Work with about 18 in (45 cm) of floss so it does not tangle or wear thin.
- **Finish on the back.** Run the needle under 4 or 5 stitches on the back and trim. Do not carry a color more than 3 squares across the back: it may show through.
- **Wash and press.** Rinse the finished piece in cool water, roll it in a towel, and press it face down on a soft towel so the stitches stay plump.

Finishing ideas

- **In the hoop:** trim the fabric to 1 in beyond a small wooden hoop, gather it at the back with a running stitch and glue on a felt circle.
- **In a frame:** lace the fabric over acid-free card with strong thread, or ask a framer for "needlework mounting". Use spacers so the glass does not flatten the stitches.
- **Cards, ornaments and patches:** small motifs fit 3 to 4 in card windows; back them with felt and blanket stitch the edges for an ornament.

Sample pages

Floss Shopping List

Every color used in this book, 42 in all. "Patterns" says how many designs use it; "Skeins" is enough to stitch every design that uses it once, on 14 count. Start with the colors of the design you want to make first.

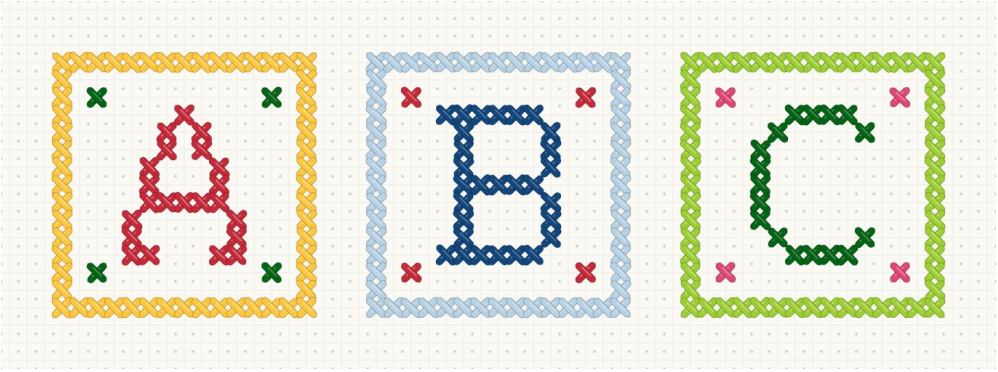
NO.	COLOR	PATTERNS	SKEINS
3371	Black Brown	1	**1**
321	Cardinal Red	5	**5**
815	Garnet	1	**1**
347	Brick Red	1	**1**
350	Coral	1	**1**
352	Light Coral	2	**2**
3706	Light Melon	2	**2**
602	Raspberry	2	**2**
604	Pale Raspberry	1	**1**
899	Rose	2	**2**
3350	Dusty Rose Deep	3	**3**
3354	Dusty Rose	1	**1**
3721	Shell Pink Dark	1	**1**
224	Shell Pink Light	1	**1**
209	Lavender	1	**1**
3746	Blue Violet	1	**1**
336	Navy	1	**1**
797	Royal Blue	3	**3**
312	Baby Blue Deep	1	**1**
334	Baby Blue	2	**2**
3325	Baby Blue Light	2	**2**
3753	Ice Blue	1	**1**
930	Antique Blue Dark	2	**2**
3812	Sea Green Deep	3	**3**
964	Sea Green Light	1	**1**

NO.	COLOR	PATTERNS	SKEINS
699	Holly Green	3	**3**
913	Nile Green	1	**1**
3346	Hunter Green	3	**3**
3347	Yellow Green	1	**1**
3363	Pine Green	1	**1**
3011	Khaki Green	2	**2**
725	Topaz	2	**2**
744	Pale Yellow	1	**1**
3820	Straw Dark	1	**1**
729	Old Gold	1	**1**
946	Burnt Orange	1	**1**
3341	Apricot Light	1	**1**
400	Mahogany	2	**2**
433	Brown	2	**2**
435	Toffee	1	**1**
437	Light Tan	1	**1**
801	Coffee	1	**1**

Sample pages

Alphabets

8 alphabets designed stitch by stitch, from tiny 5-stitch capitals to grand monogram letters. Mix them to stitch names, dates, words and initials.

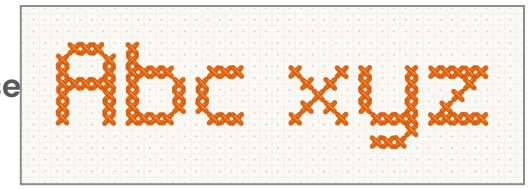


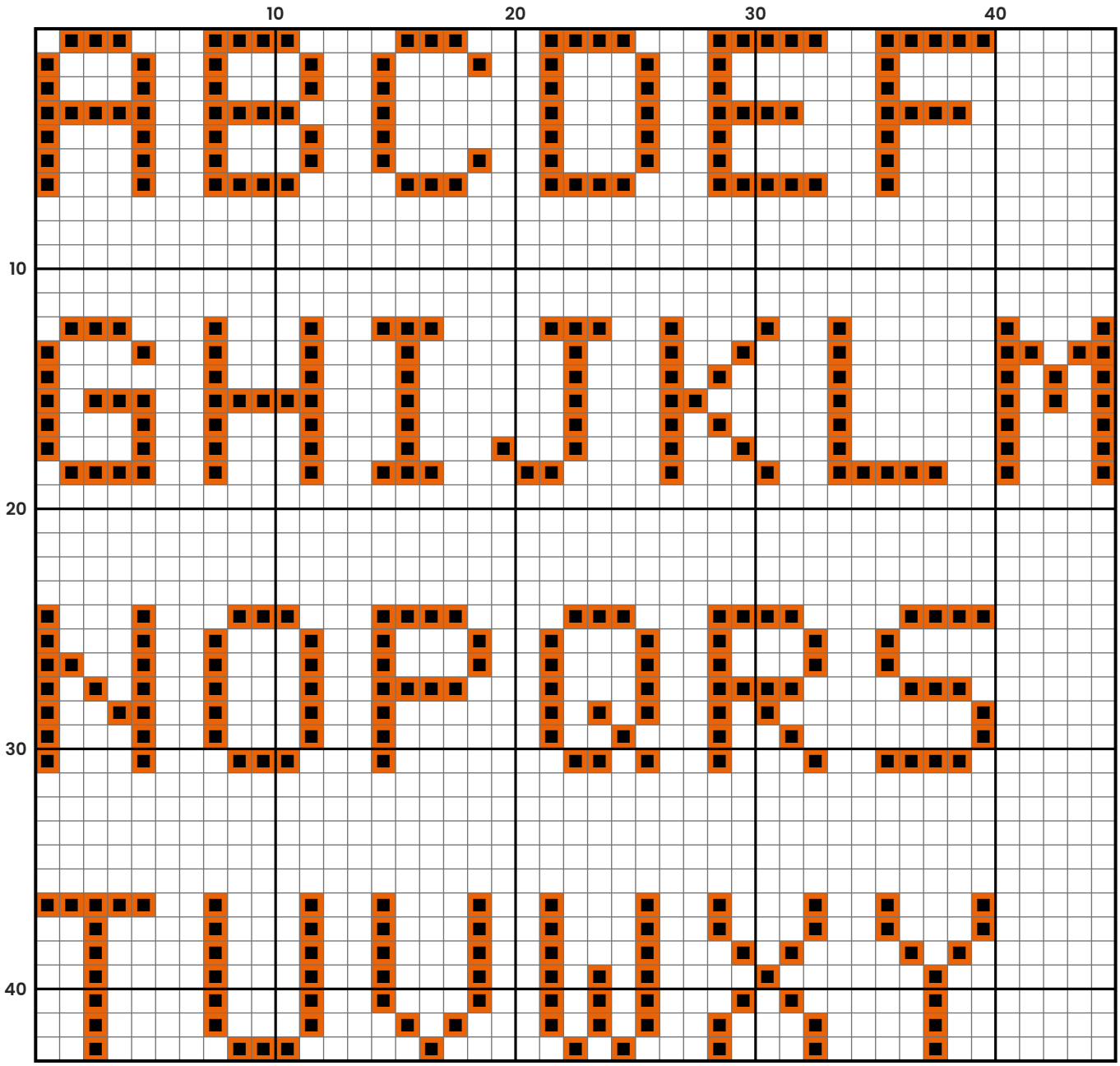
Sample pages

Classic

Capitals 7 stitches tall (0.5 in on 14 count) · with lowercase

A clean 7-stitch alphabet with lowercase letters, the workhorse of samplers. Leave one empty square between letters and three between words.

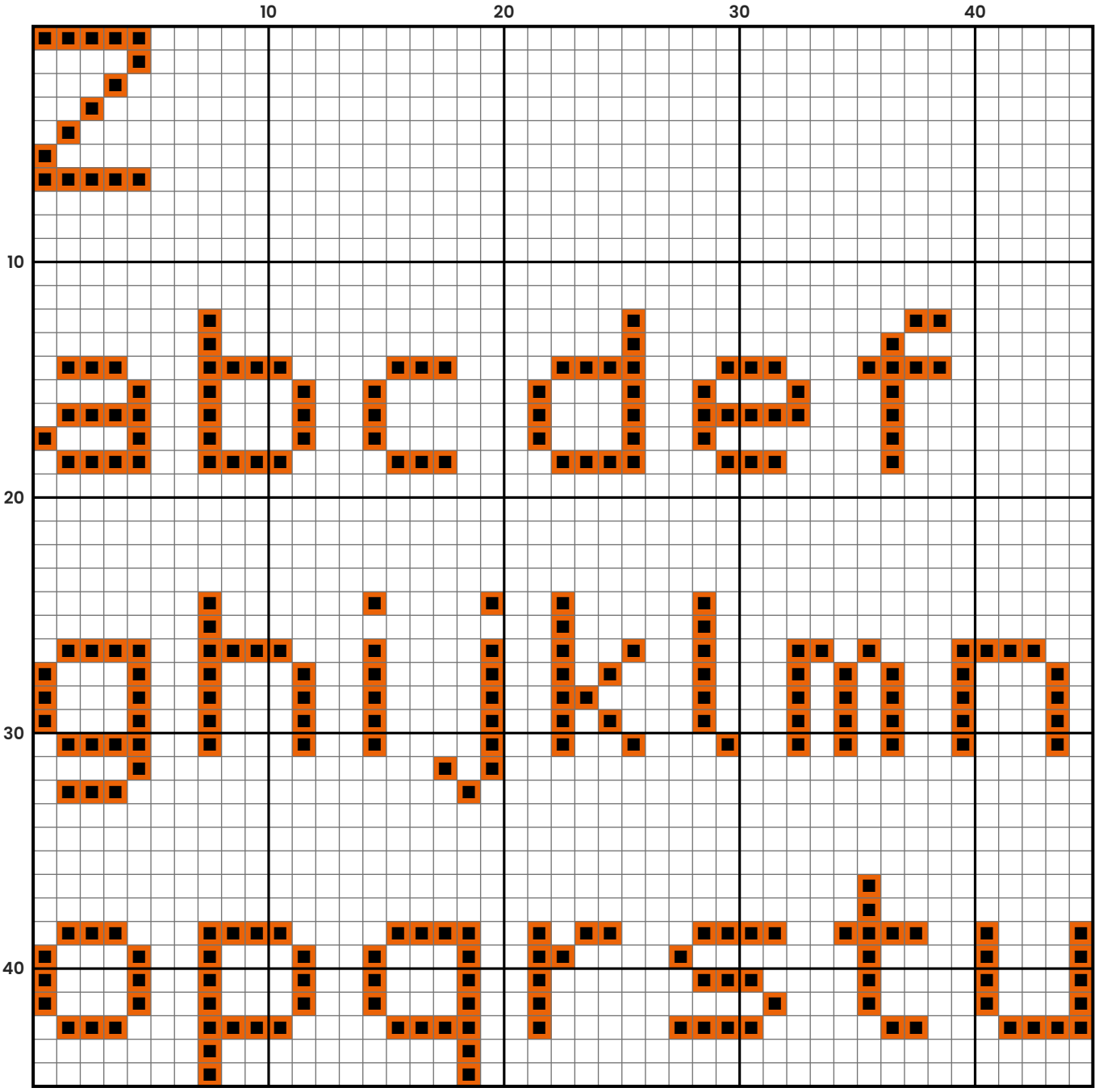




FLOSS ■ **946** Burnt Orange

Sample pages

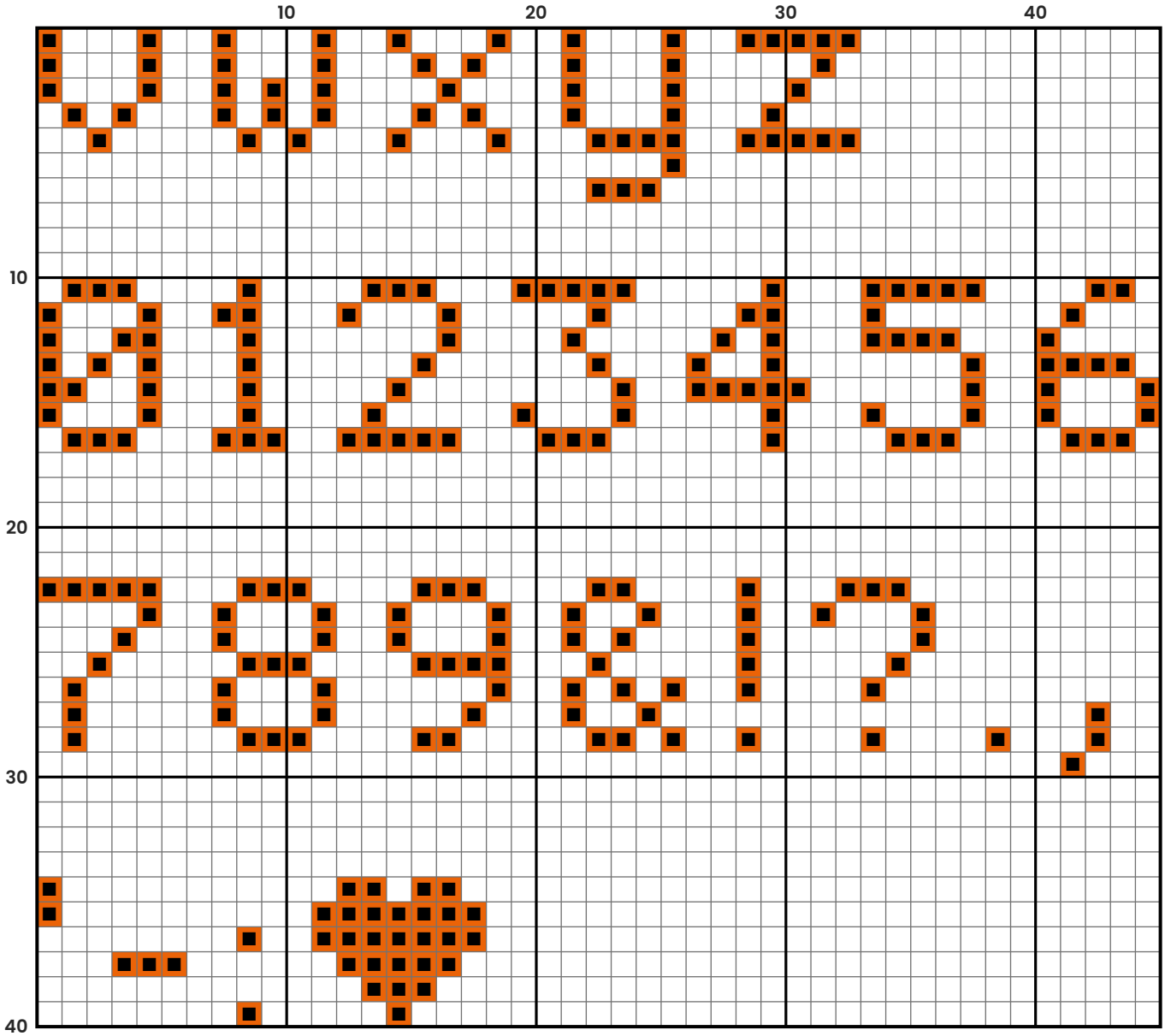
Classic (continued)



FLOSS **946** Burnt Orange

Sample pages

Classic (continued)



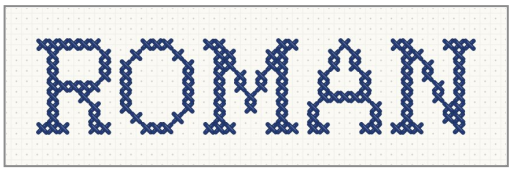
FLOSS **946** Burnt Orange

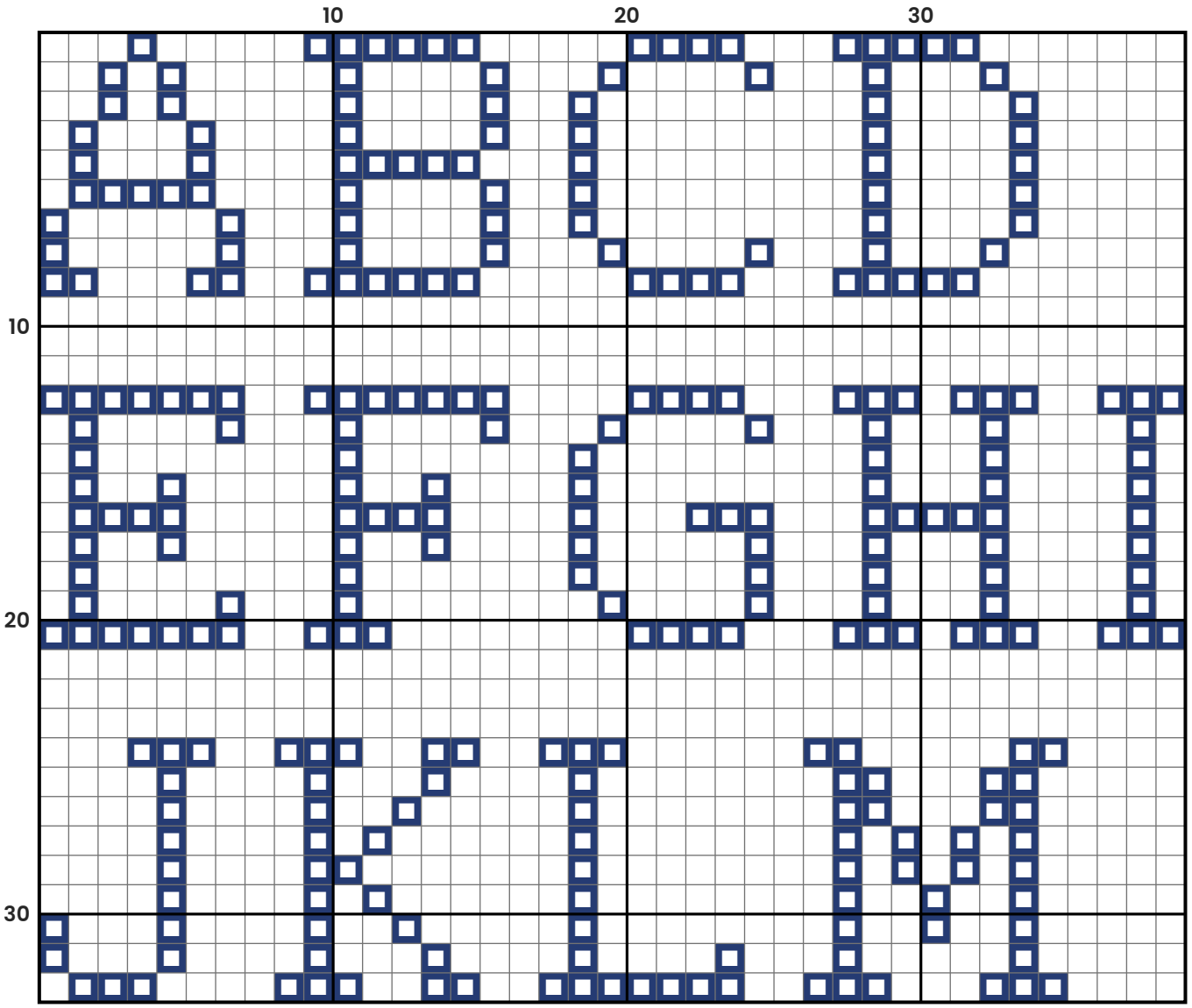
Sample pages

Roman

Capitals 9 stitches tall (0.64 in on 14 count) · 1 color

Traditional 9-stitch serif capitals, the classic sampler alphabet. Leave one empty square between letters and three between words.





FLOSS ■ 336 Navy

Sample pages