



A Year of Cross Stitch
“March”



Our cross stitch series continues! This month the lion, the lamb, and a nesting robin greet the early spring flowers. Make an heirloom in an hour—frame it as a cheery monthly picture, make a mug rug that you won't worry about spilling on, or save it to combine all twelve months into a cross stitch masterpiece that looks like it took a lifetime to make!

Set includes designs in 5" x 7" (14ct.) or 6" x 8" sizes. (12ct.)

Supplies:

- Background fabric big enough to be hooped. Use any type of fabric in any color as you would for machine embroidery. Solids are recommended to best show detail. If you are considering joining all 12 months at the end of the year, using the same background for each is recommended. Aida cloth does not make a good choice, as it is unlikely the holes will match up with the stitching—you might try a very high count linen for a handmade, traditional look. We used 100% cotton. (*Tip: Why not try Aida cloth? We had a customer share their results for January, and while all of the holes didn't line up, enough of them did to make it look amazing!*)
- Cutaway stabilizer; two pieces per hooping—remember—this is a machine embroidery design and needs to be stabilized accordingly, even on Aida fabric

For the mug rug shown:

- Batting and backing fabric 7" x 9" or 8" x 10" for the larger size
- 2-1/4" wide binding strips to wrap the perimeter of your piece

Embroidery

Hoop two pieces of cut away stabilizer along with your background fabric and load the design in the size of your choice to the embroidery machine. Print out the color chart located on the last pages of these instructions for reference; it is the same for both sizes.

Run the color changes—it's sew easy. Trim up jump stitches as you go—by its nature, cross stitch has more jumps than normal machine embroidery. If your machine doesn't auto trim, just trim out the larger jumps; most of the smaller ones will be covered over later anyway.

When the design is complete, remove it from the hoop.

Mug Rug Instructions

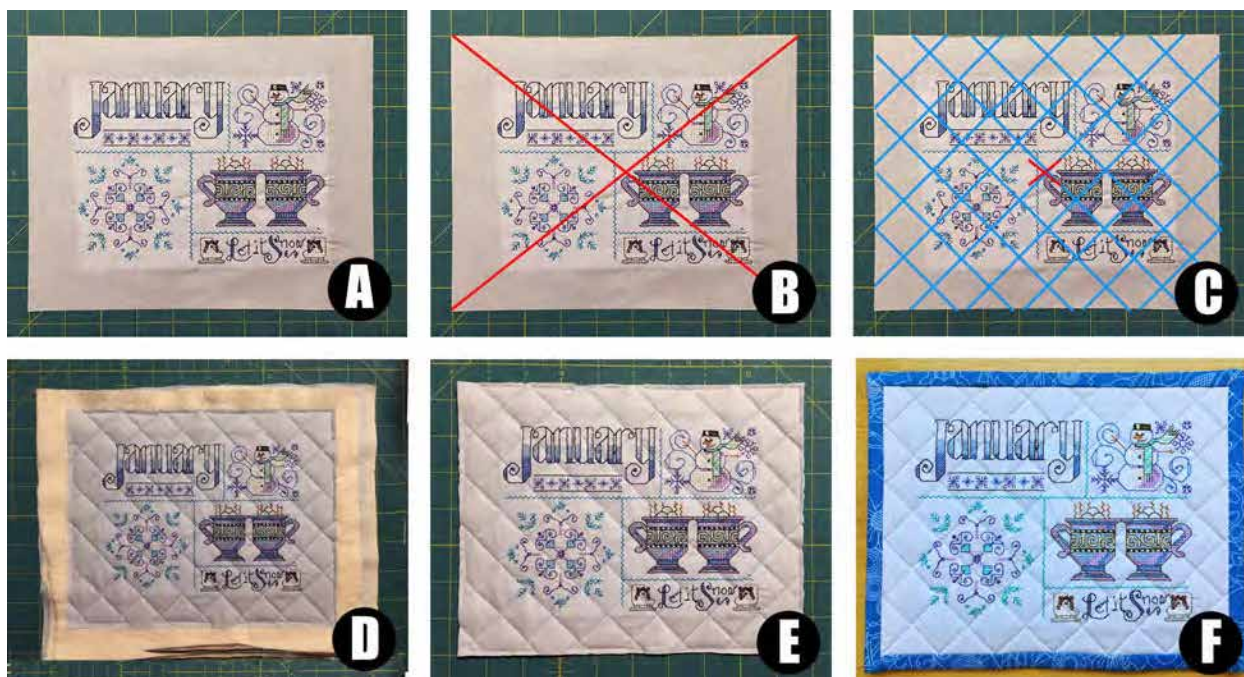
For the mug rug shown, trim your beautiful cross stitch 1-1/4" away from the outermost stitching on all sides. (Photo A.) Then trim out excess stabilizer from the back to a neat rectangle, 1/8" away from the outermost stitching. Use a ruler and mat for best results, making sure the corners are all 90-degree angles.

Now find the center of your piece and mark a dot in a wash away fabric marker. You can easily find the center by holding a ruler across the corners, shown by red lines in Photo B. Don't draw the lines in—just mark the center, or the lines may be confusing later.

With the washable fabric marker, now draw lines in 1" away from each other. These are at a 45 degree angle. Start in the middle, with lines going through the middle dot. A clear plastic gridded ruler is helpful. If you are a confident quilter used to quilting grids, you may not have to draw every single line—we did. (Photo C.)

Add your batting and backing to make a quilt sandwich. We used two layers of cotton batting for more loft. Insul-bright would be great for a hot pad. Pin around the edges, or spray baste to hold the layer together. Then quilt the lines with your machine, removing pins as you go. (Photo D.)

Trim all layers even, making sure the corners are still square. (Photo E.)



For binding, use the quilters method—these instructions are not meant to be a binding tutorial and there are many resources online to help. We picked a civil war gold print. Measure the perimeter of your piece and add 6.” Cut the strips 2-1/4” by that measurement. Attach binding by machine, then hand stitch the back—finished!

More ideas

These blocks can be so much more than a mug rug! They are sew easy to make, we are going to make the mug rug plus a set for a larger, end of the year piece. Read through our suggestions below, or think of your own—be sure to post on social media to share what you come up with!

- Instead of making a mug rug, just trim your piece to fit a frame. You can change the piece out each month and save them to sew together for a large sampler at the end of the year.
- Use the piece as the center of a table runner or wall hanging. Add quilt blocks with novelty spring or daffodil prints.
- Instead of using your mug rug, add a hanging ribbon to the top for a sweet little wall hanging.

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Color Chart on Following Page

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March

Stitch Count:

14 ct. 5" x 7": 24,000
12 ct. 6" x 8-1/4": 24,000



1.  2097 Bright Moss
2.  2089 Grassroots
3.  2042 Flamenco
4.  2054 Yolk
5.  2084 Dew Drops
6.  2174 Toasted Almonds
7.  2100 Spinach
8.  2039 Little Cuties
9.  2176 Cinnamon Toast
10.  2051 Buzzing Around
11.  2001 Ghost White
12.  2002 Blackout
13.  2182 Fossil Stone
14.  2122 Sheer Lilac
15.  2034 Orange Spice
16.  2173 Sandy Brown
17.  2041 Flamenco
18.  2091 Hillside
19.  2039 Little Cuties
20.  2129 Persian Violet
21.  2189 Chocolate Rain
22.  2002 Blackout
23.  2167 Cloud Cove

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