



A Year of Cross Stitch  
"June"



*Fun in the Sun is here... park your camper, sit back with an ice cold lemonade, and don't forget your camera! 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. You may use Aida cloth, but it is unlikely all of 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 fabric.
- Cutaway stabilizer; two pieces per hooping—remember—this is a machine embroidery design and needs to be stabilized accordingly, even on Aida fabric. If you notice the backstitching in the last colors of the design is shifting out of position, improper stabilization is the cause.

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 trimming jumps, keep in mind how long this piece would take to stitch by hand!

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

## **Mug Rug Instructions**

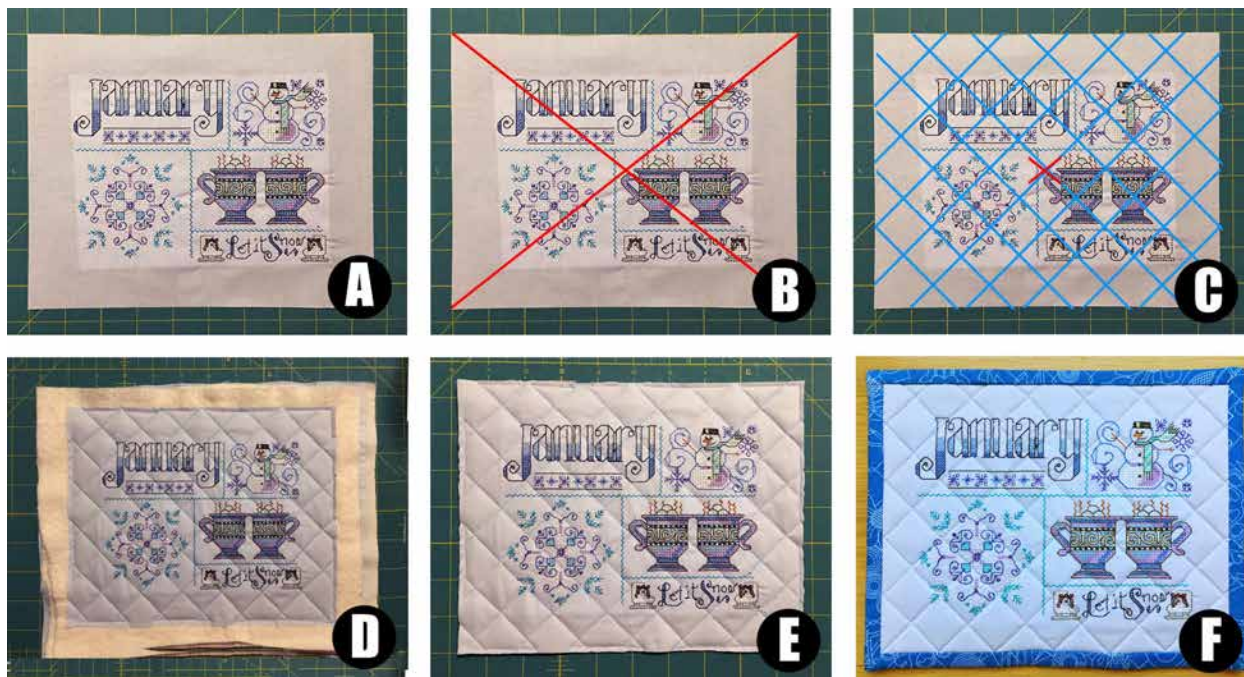
To make a quilted mug rug, trim your beautiful cross stitch 1-1/4" away from the outermost stitching on all sides. (Photo A.) Then trim out excess stabilizer from the back to a neat rectangle, 1/8" away from the outermost stitching. Use a ruler and mat for best results, making sure the corners are all 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 layers 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. 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 summer themed novelty prints.
- Instead of using your mug rug, add a hanging ribbon to the top for a sweet little wall hanging.

<http://www.sanfranciscostitchco.com/JoinUs>

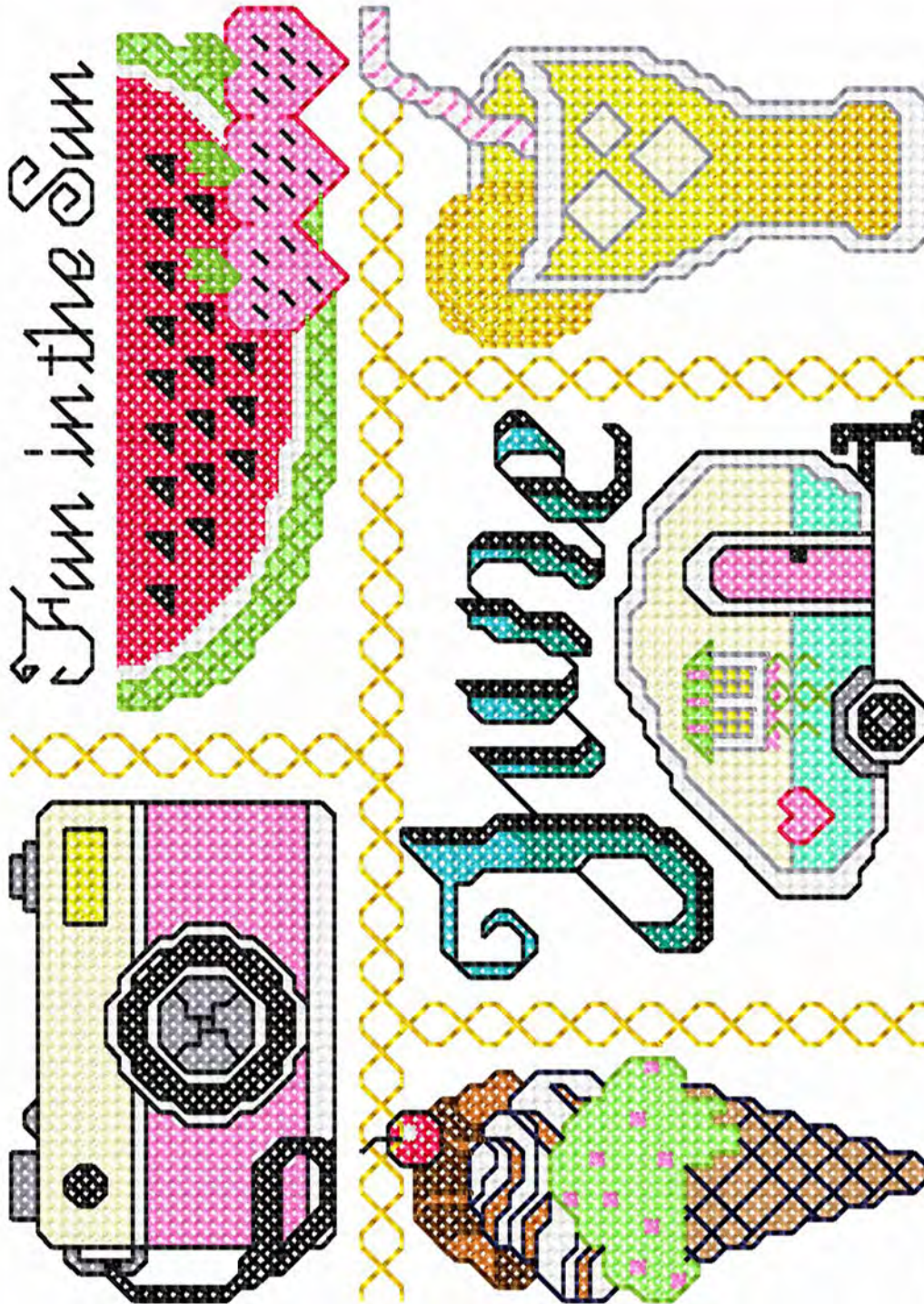
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Color Chart on Following Page



# A Year of Cross Stitch

# June



## Stitch Count:

14 ct. 5" x 7": 27,750  
 12 ct. 6" x 8-1/4": 27,750

1.  2097 Bright Moss
2.  2140 Comanche
3.  2042 Flamenco
4.  2060 Flashlight
5.  2138 Lakota Blue
6.  2052 Cornmeal
7.  2100 Spinach
8.  2054 Yolk
9.  2176 Cinnamon Toast
10.  2050 Beach Party
11.  2001 Ghost White
12.  2002 Blackout
13.  2008 Pink Pink Pink
14.  2141 Sea Breeze
15.  2165 Stainless Steel
16.  2174 Toasted Almonds
17.  2177 Saddle Brown
18.  2049 Flowering Plum
19.  2052 Cornmeal
20.  2100 Spinach
21.  2054 Yolk
22.  2177 Saddle Brown
23.  2001 Ghost White
24.  2002 Blackout
25.  2008 Pink Pink Pink
26.  2165 Stainless Steel

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