

# Stitching the Night Away



**\*\*Notice:** This is a free report from [Stitching the Night Away](#). If you find that this report helps you in any way feel free to pass it on to a friend or share it on your website. This is a free report designed to help stitchers further enjoy their hobby.

- This report was updated February 2011 to include more detailed graphics for stitch placement.

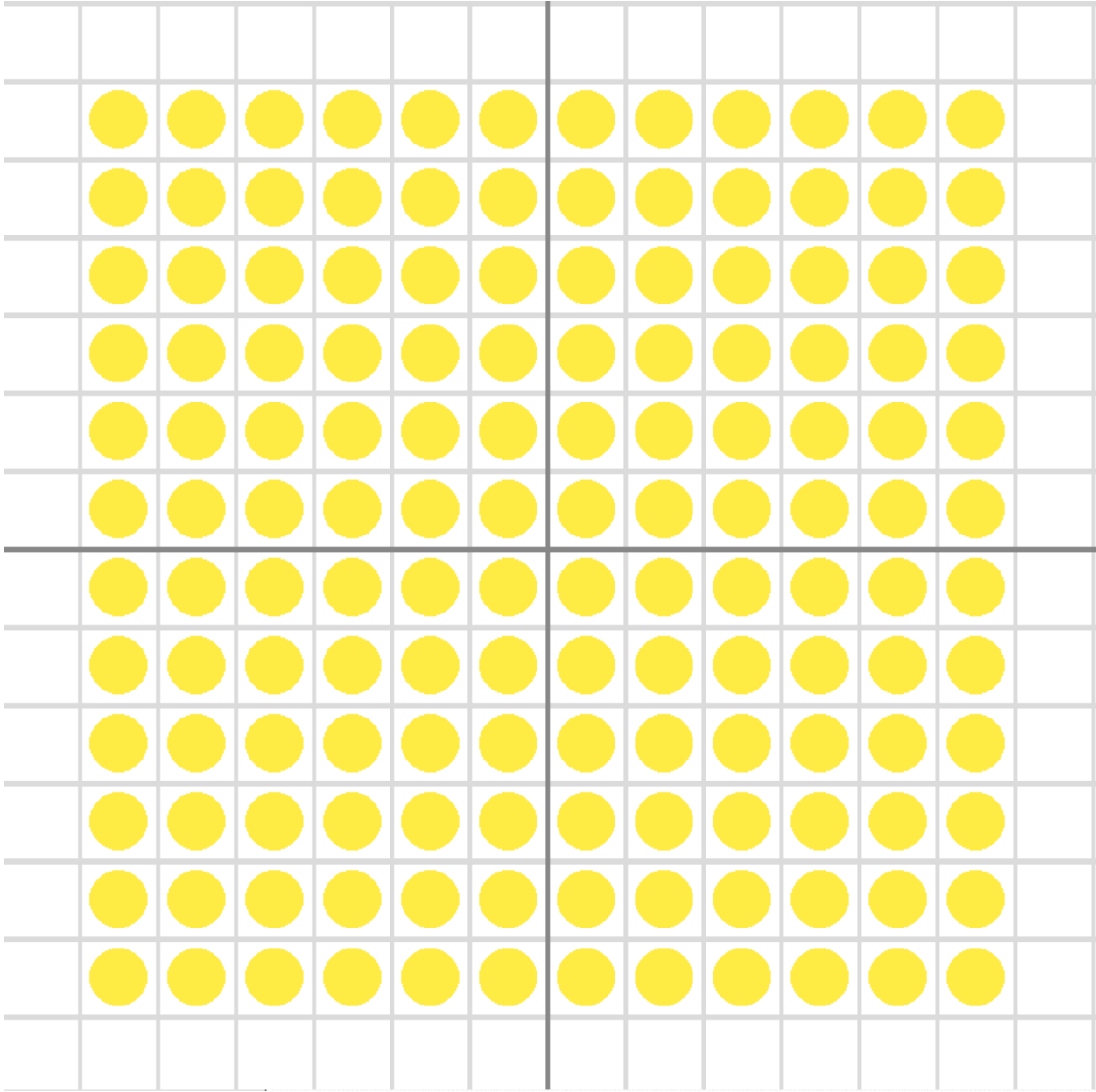
## How To Cross Stitch on Linen or Evenweave

Cross stitching on linen or evenweave fabrics might be intimidating to someone who has only stitched on aida cloth before. But, I assure you that it's not as hard as one might think.

In fact, in most cases it's easier, especially when it comes to quarter and three-quarter stitches that give a piece detail and finished edges to a design, or to add turns inside borders.

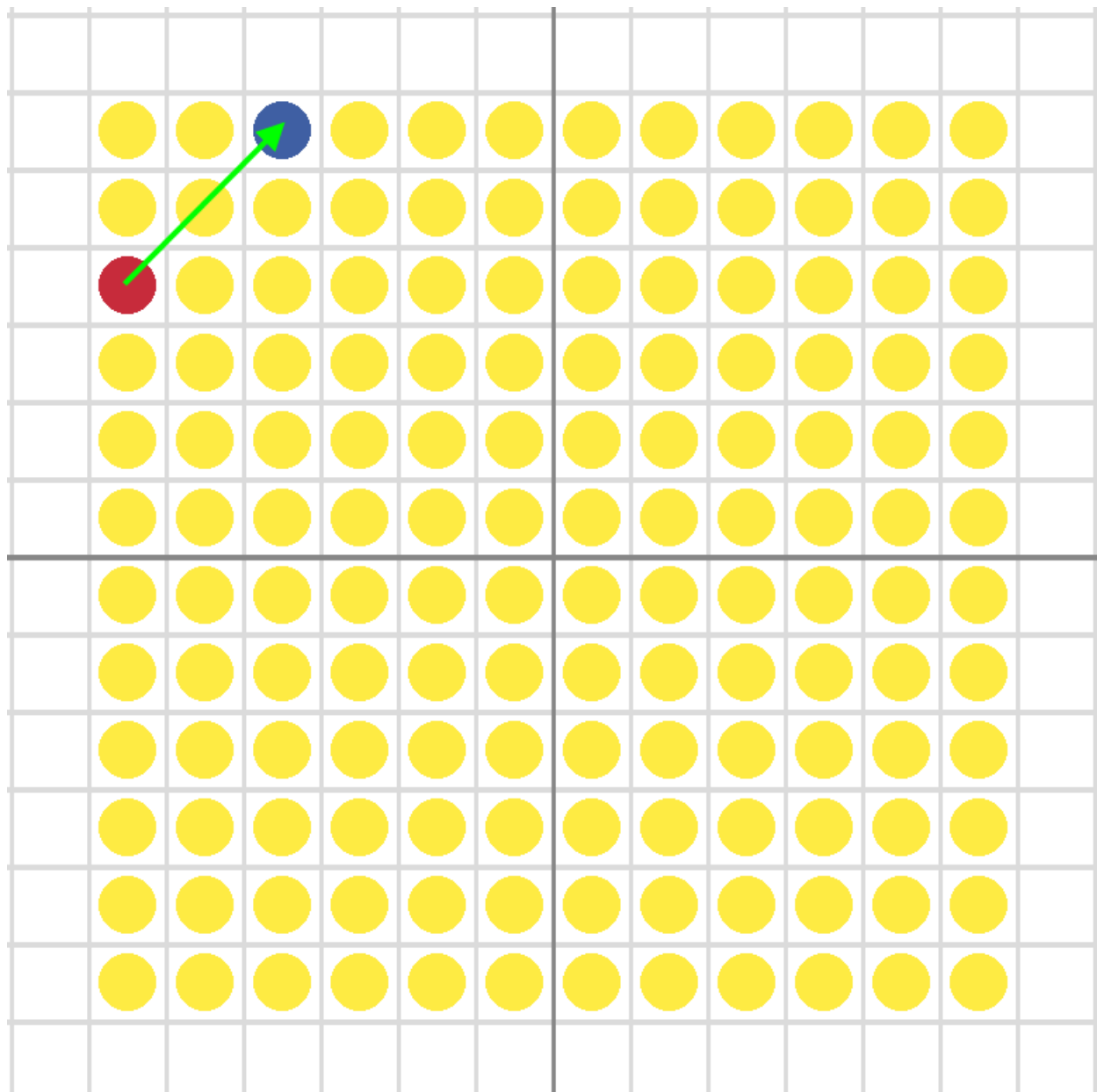
Here are few illustrations to help you out with your first "over two" project. Over two basically means over two threads of the fabric. If you were stitching on aida cloth, you would be stitching "over one".

This first diagram is your unstitched fabric. The yellow dots represent the unused holes and the grey lines the fabric threads.



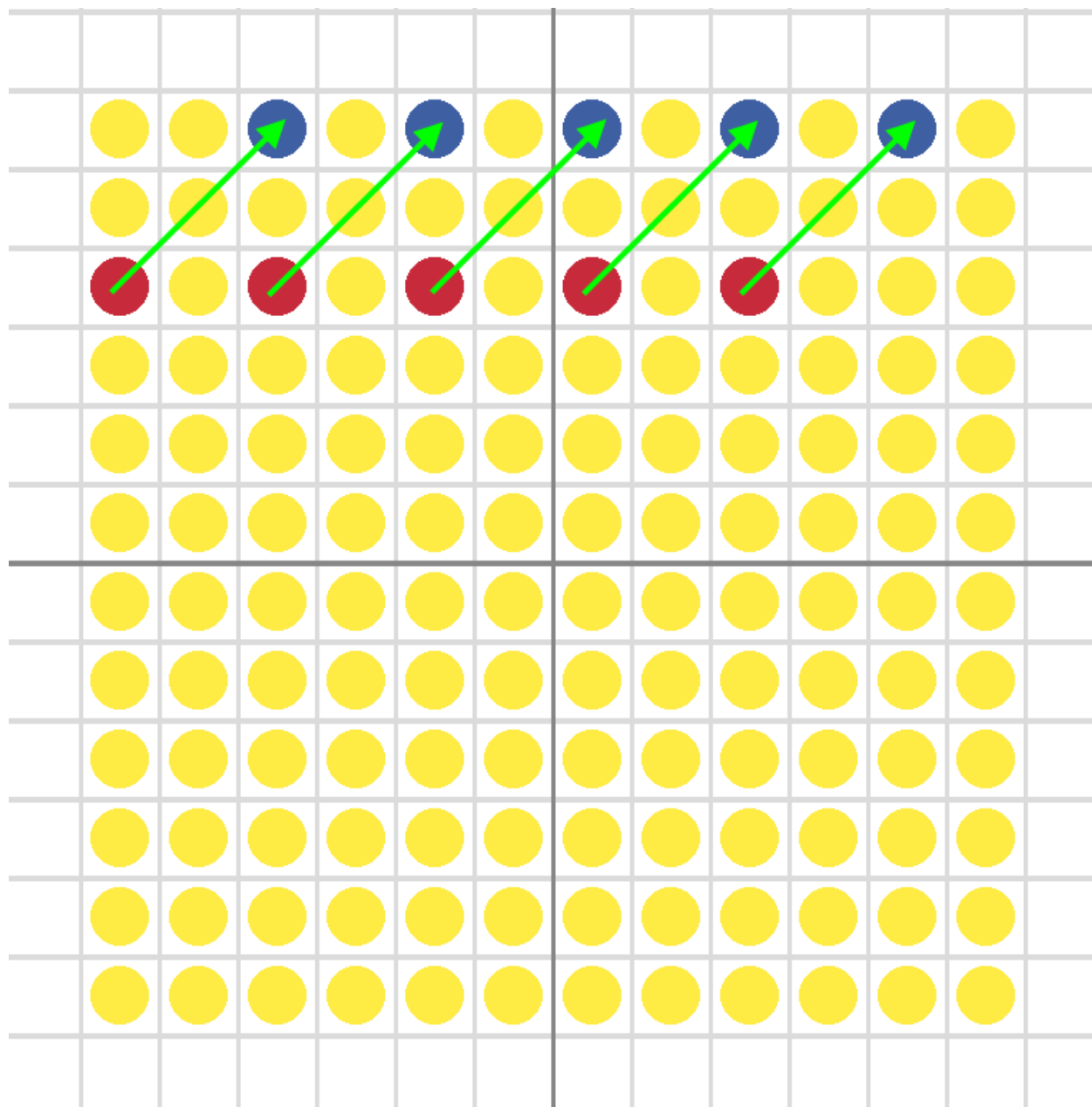
Ready to make a stitch? Let's go....

For left to right stitchers ... Bring your needle up at the red dot and go back down at the blue dot to make the first leg of your (X) cross stitch...



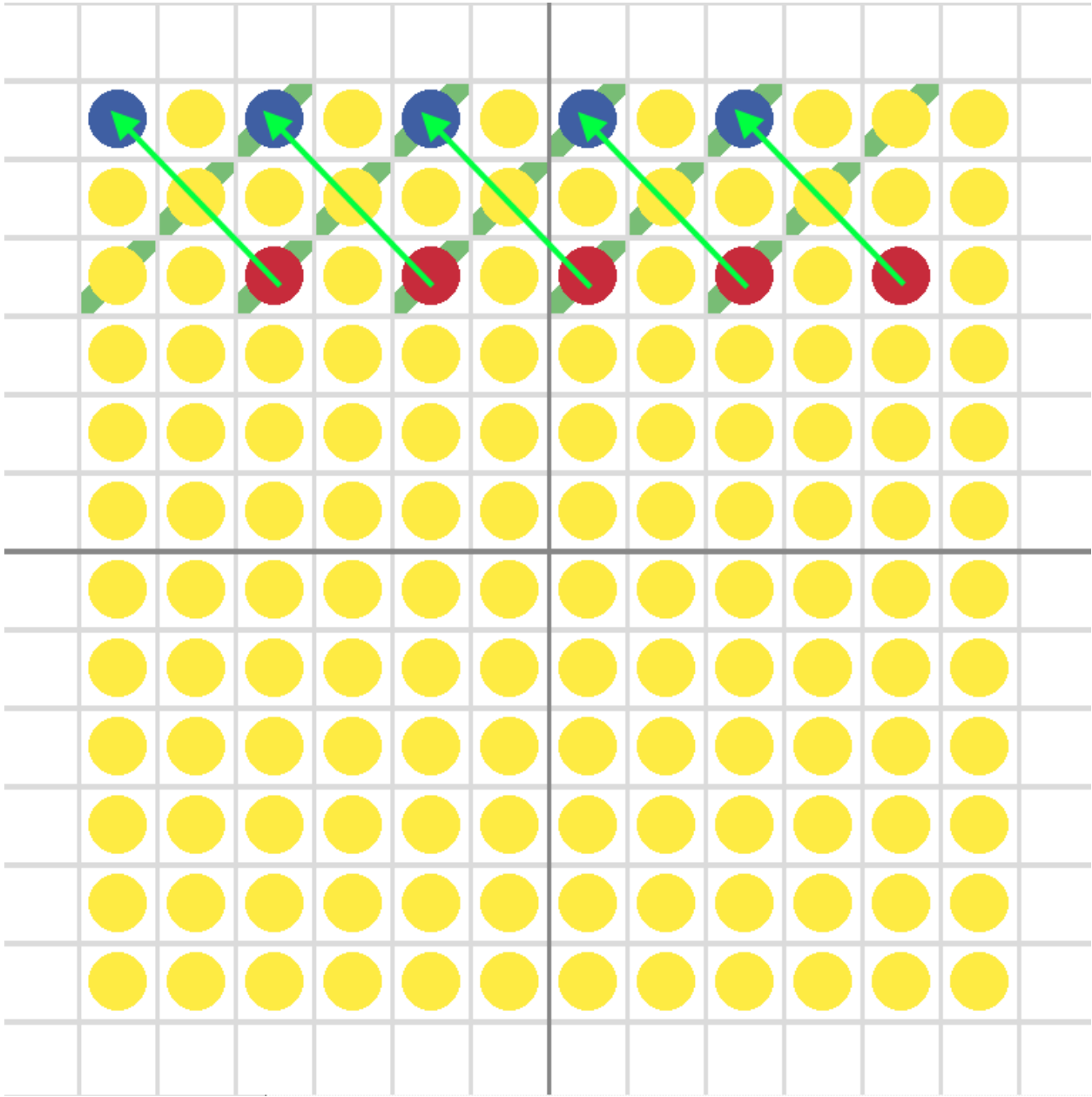
Don't worry, you will not be able to see the center hole after your stitch is completely crossed. Linens actually have a smoother overall appearance than aida fabric, which adds to your final presentation.

Let's make the bottom leg (/) of 5 stitches in this row....



And now those stitches need crossed....

Let's make the top leg (\) of our row of cross stitches....



At this point you won't see the hole in the center of the stitch, it will be covered by your threads.

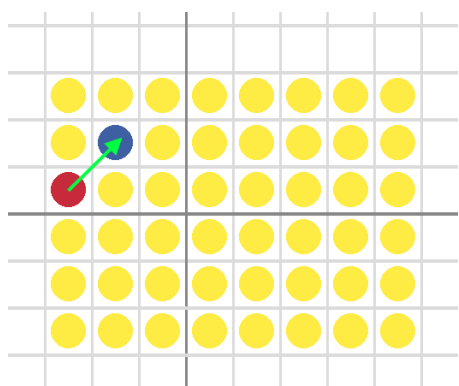
**Now that you've created a whole stitch “over two” let's look at the  $\frac{1}{4}$  stitch and the  $\frac{3}{4}$  stitch. This is one of the best perks of working with linens and evenweave fabrics instead of aida.**

If you've ever had a project with a lot of fractional stitches for shaping and you were stitching that project on aida, you know how difficult it is to properly place that stitch.

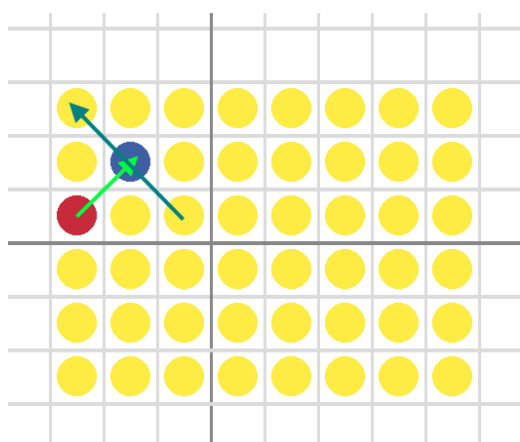
On evenweave style fabrics that quarter stitch is always going to be perfectly placed, because of the thread counts and how you are stitching.

**Let me show you exactly what I mean.**

Here is leg one of our  $\frac{3}{4}$  stitch, showing the "quarter" at the lower left position. Of course it won't always be in this position, so you would stitch it in whichever corner of the X it belongs in for the pattern you're following.



And then the top leg of that stitch would be....

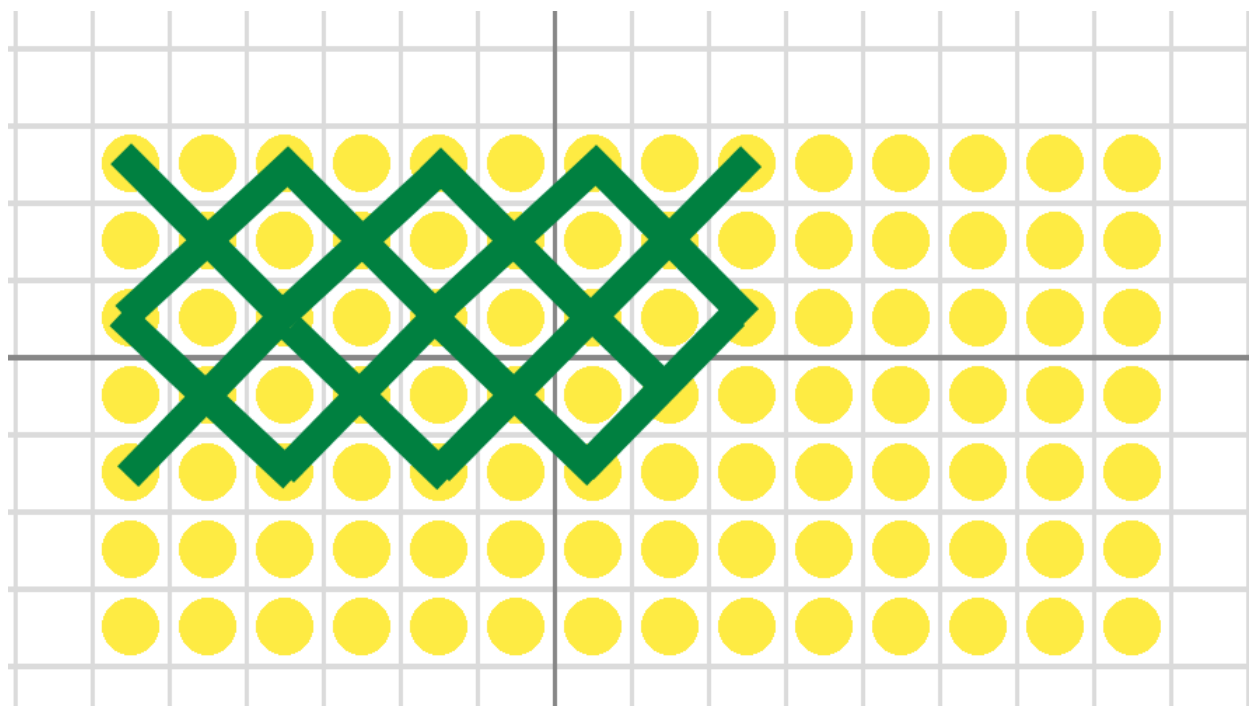


I know from experience that you'll find placement of a quarter stitch on evenweave much easier than on aida cloth, because there's a hole exactly where you need to go through the fabric with your evenweave.

If you were stitching on aida you could possibly pierce the threads be off center.

**Quarter stitches also tend to lay more smoothly on evenweaves and linens.**

So, some stitching might look like this....



Four full cross stitches of green in the first row...

Three full cross stitches and one  $\frac{3}{4}$  stitch in the second row....

I hope things are starting to look a little easier now 😊

That wasn't so bad was it? Nah, I didn't think it would be.

## ***Open Up a New World of Cross Stitching Possibilities***

I hope you enjoy using these types of fabrics for your stitching. Of course there is no right or wrong fabric, use whatever you are most comfortable stitching with.

Remember, if you do need help or want to share a project visit our [Facebook Page and Discussion Forum](#). We have a variety of stitchers of different levels.

The best news is that now you have opened a world of new stitching possibilities. If you've ever looked at a new cross stitch patterns and thought to yourself, *"That's too complicated for me. I could never stitch all those fractional stitches,"* Now you can stitch that project without doubt!

This also allows you to improve the appearance of your final finished product. Because aida fabric tends to be a little more stiff and less flowing, a project that has a lot of fractional stitches will look smoother and more together stitched on this type of fabric.

In addition to having more flexibility with fractional stitches, you can also begin using some new specialty stitches that simply just don't work on aida fabric. We'll save those lessons for another stitching day!

**The best way to master stitching over two on evenweave and linen fabrics is to just do it. You don't need to be afraid of the fabric anymore.**

**Quick tip** ~ you will find 28 count evenweave type fabrics to be the same sizes at 14 count aida. So, if that's what you're used to stitching on it helps makes the transition a little easier, because the visual aspect is very similar.

Just like any other aspect of a hobby, learning a new technique, something new that you're not used to doing, is going to take a little practice.

- Pick up a few pieces of [evenweave needlework fabric](#) to get started
- Print out a few [free cross stitch patterns](#) to practice your new skill
- Be proud of your new work and enjoy the new flexibility in your hobby!!



**Happy Stitching!**

Kind Regards,

*Loretta*

**Stitching the Night Away**

<http://www.stitchingthenightaway.com>



**P.S.** If you're looking for a kit that includes evenweave or linen fabrics included there are plenty of those available.

My very first project on evenweave fabric was actually a [Lanarte cross stitch kit](#) (*Spring Ride*, pictured here) that I didn't even realize was evenweave fabric instead of aida!

Once I figured it out I was so happy that I stopped buying aida fabric all together.



## A few things you might need....



**My favorite needles for stitching!**

← [John James Petites](#)

I used to break needles left and right until I started using John James.

I find the petites are perfect for cross stitching and very sturdy despite the petite name.