

# The Ultimate Guide to Counted Cross Stitch: Everything You Need to Know



## Counted Cross Stitch Pattern: Watercolor Dog #42 - German Shepherd: 183 Watercolor Dog Cross Stitch

**Series** by Shannon Mullett-Bowlsby

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5

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Counted cross stitch is a beautiful and versatile form of embroidery that can be used to create stunning pieces of art. It is a relatively easy craft to learn, making it a great choice for beginners. This article will provide you with everything you need to know to get started, including information on materials, stitches, and patterns.

## Materials

- **Fabric:** Aida cloth is the most popular fabric for counted cross stitch. It is a evenly woven fabric with evenly spaced holes that make it easy to count the stitches. Other fabrics that can be used include linen, cotton, and evenweave.

- **Thread:** DMC cotton floss is the most popular thread for counted cross stitch. It is a six-strand thread that can be easily separated into individual strands. Other threads that can be used include silk, rayon, and metallic.
- **Needle:** A cross stitch needle is a sharp needle with a blunt tip. It is important to use a needle that is the right size for the fabric and thread you are using.
- **Scissors:** Scissors are used to cut the thread and fabric.
- **Pattern:** A pattern is a guide that shows you where to stitch each cross stitch. Patterns can be found in books, magazines, and online.

## Stitches

The basic stitch in counted cross stitch is the cross stitch. A cross stitch is made by stitching two diagonal stitches in the same square of the fabric. The first stitch is made from the bottom left corner to the top right corner. The second stitch is made from the top left corner to the bottom right corner.

There are several other stitches that can be used in counted cross stitch, including the half stitch, the backstitch, and the satin stitch. These stitches can be used to add detail and dimension to your work.

## Patterns

Patterns are essential for counted cross stitch. A pattern will show you where to stitch each cross stitch. Patterns can be found in books, magazines, and online.

When choosing a pattern, it is important to consider your skill level and the amount of time you want to spend on the project. If you are a beginner, you may want to choose a small, simple pattern. As you gain experience, you can move on to more complex patterns.

## **Getting Started**

To get started with counted cross stitch, you will need to gather your materials and choose a pattern. Once you have your materials, you can follow these steps to begin stitching:

1. Thread your needle with the desired number of strands of thread.
2. Start stitching in the center of the fabric. This will help you to keep your stitches even.
3. Follow the pattern to stitch each cross stitch.
4. When you reach the end of a row, turn the fabric around and stitch back in the opposite direction.
5. Continue stitching until you have completed the pattern.

## **Tips**

- Use a hoop or frame to keep the fabric taut while you are stitching.
- Take your time and stitch carefully. It is important to make sure that each stitch is even and secure.
- If you make a mistake, don't panic. You can simply unpick the stitches and start over.
- Have fun! Counted cross stitch is a relaxing and enjoyable craft.

Counted cross stitch is a beautiful and versatile form of embroidery that can be used to create stunning pieces of art. It is a relatively easy craft to learn, making it a great choice for beginners. With a little practice, you can create beautiful works of art that you can cherish for years to come.

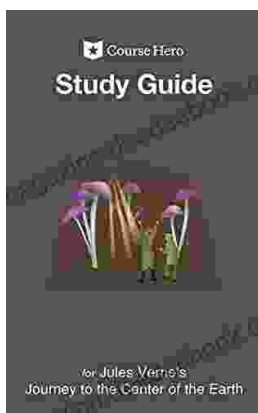


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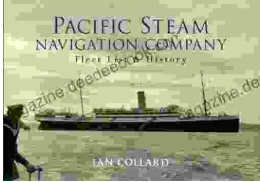
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