

GETTING STARTED WITH CROSS STITCHING

A NOTE ABOUT THREAD

Your “thread” is actually Embroidery Floss, made up of 6 strands, which can be separated into individual strands by pulling them apart gently. Most designs use two strands of floss at a time: the patterns you’re using today use two strands. You want to work with pieces of floss that are no more than 12-18” long, as floss tangles and weakens the longer you work with it.

STARTING A PROJECT

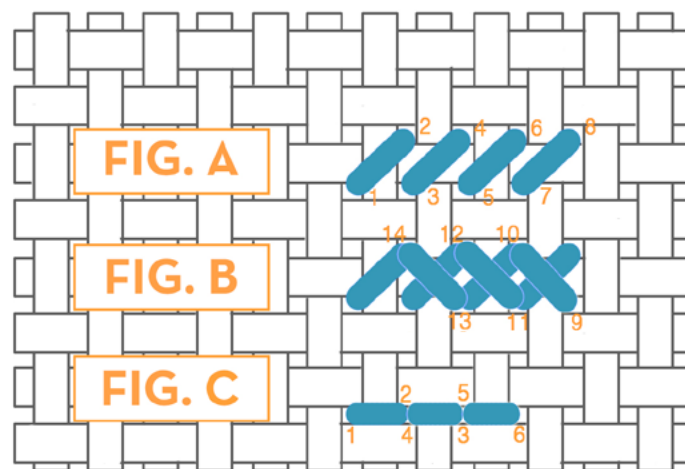
Start by finding the center of your fabric. Because of the small size of our projects, you can simply eyeball the center and mark the reverse with a pencil. Cross-stitch patterns should always have the center lines marked on the pattern, often with two small arrows on the edges of the grid. Start your stitching at the center of the design and work your way out to the edges.

When starting to stitch, there is no need to knot the end of your thread. Simply leave a tail of an inch or so at the back of your work, and then catch this tail under the stitches as you work the first row. A few stitches will be enough to secure it. When you are ready to cut your thread, first slip your needle under a few stitches on the back side, pull your thread through them, and cut the thread close to the fabric.

THE STITCHES

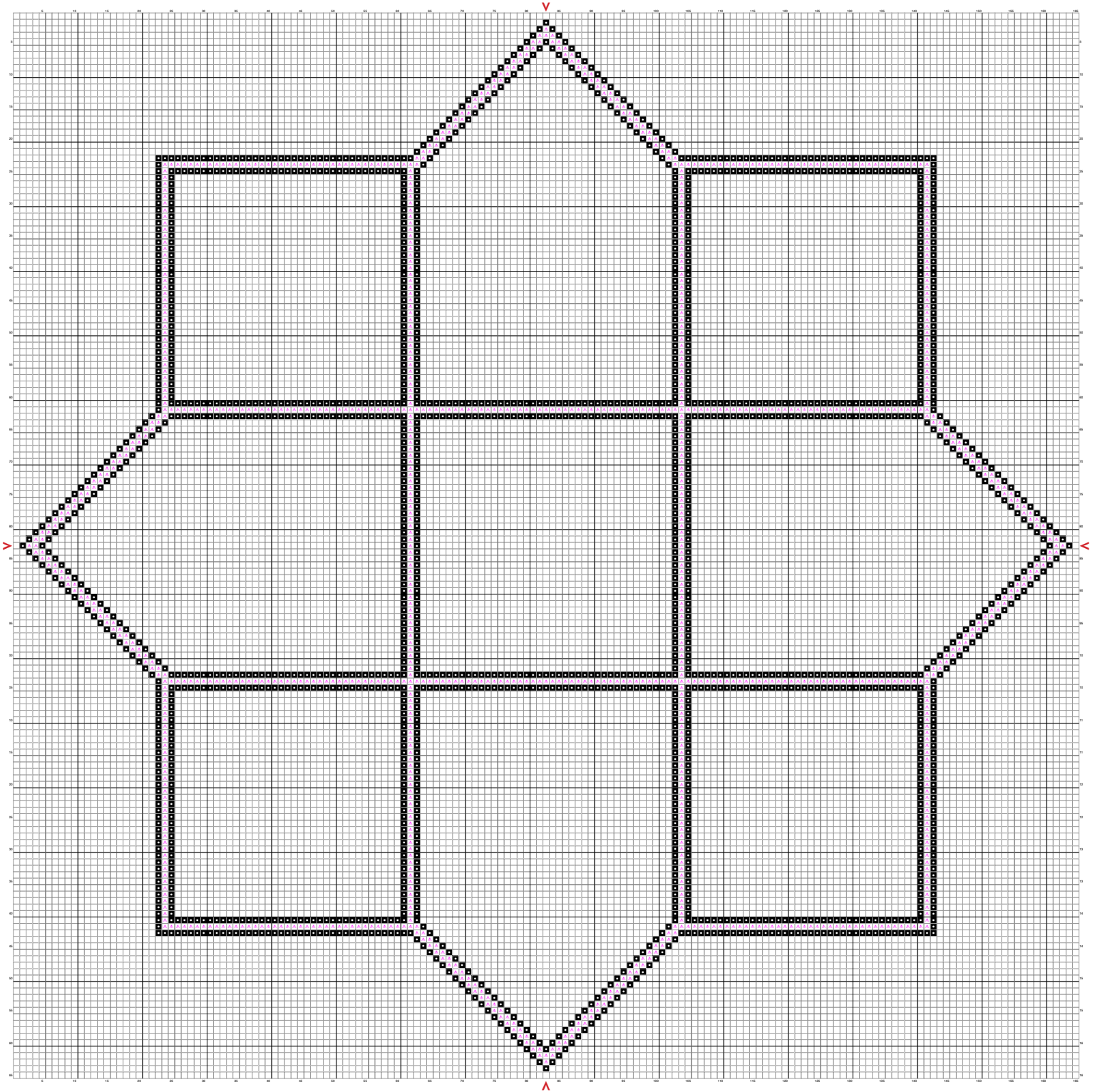
The **basic cross stitch** is simple. The most important thing to remember is to keep all your stitches going in the same direction across the whole project, which will give it a nice, even appearance. In Fig. A below, you can see that you will do all your bottom stitches for one row, then go back the other direction for your top stitches (Fig. B). When you look at the back of your work, the stitches shouldn’t look like crosses, just rows of short, straight stitches.

Back stitches (Fig. C) are often used for outlining parts of the design. They are indicated on the pattern with a solid line in the color of the floss to be used. Each back stitch will be the length of one square on your Aida cloth. Back stitches can also be done diagonally across a square, as you would do one half of a cross stitch.

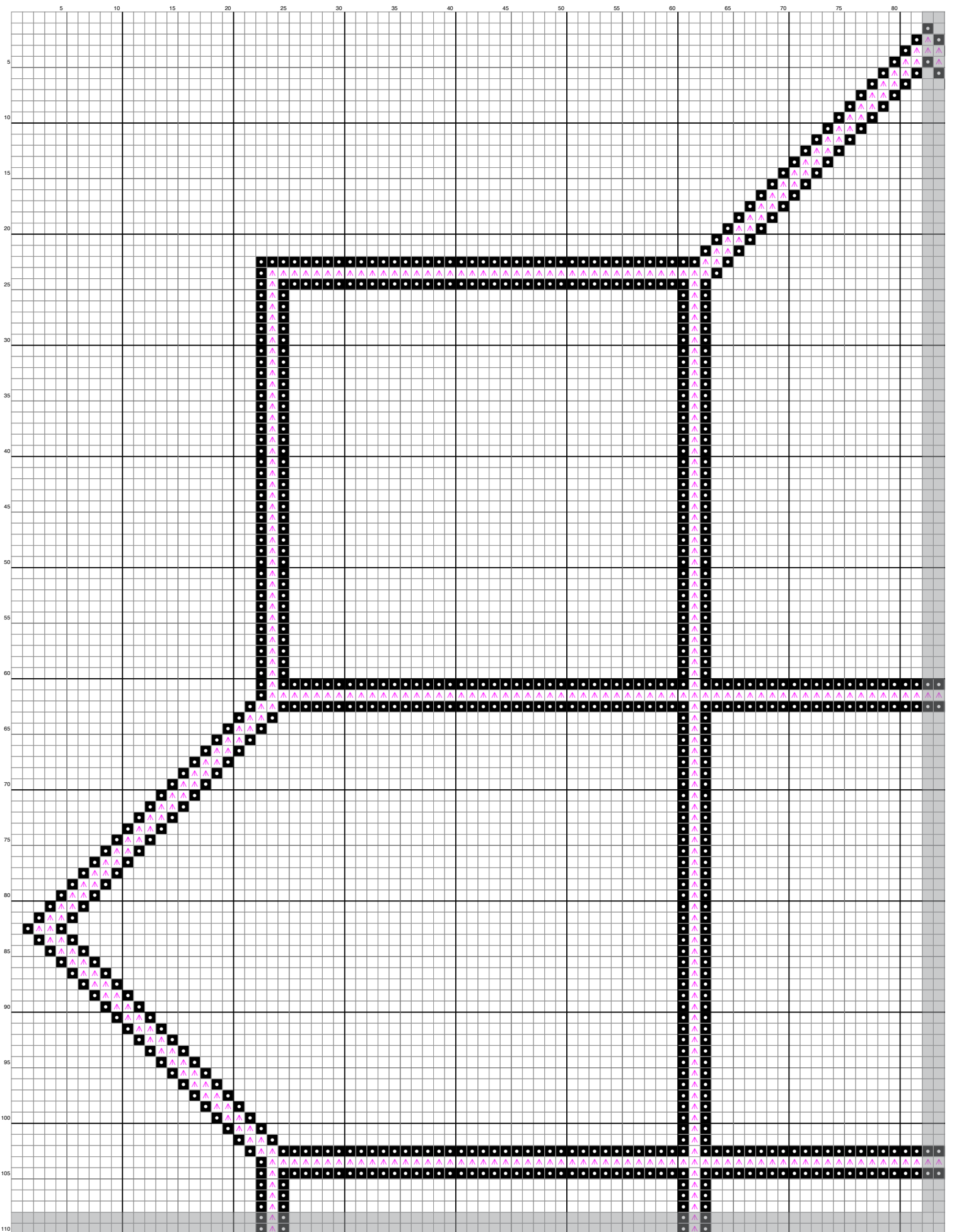


If you need more help, check out Youtube.com, where you can find lots of tutorial videos that will guide you step by step. Find a method that works for you and enjoy your new hobby!

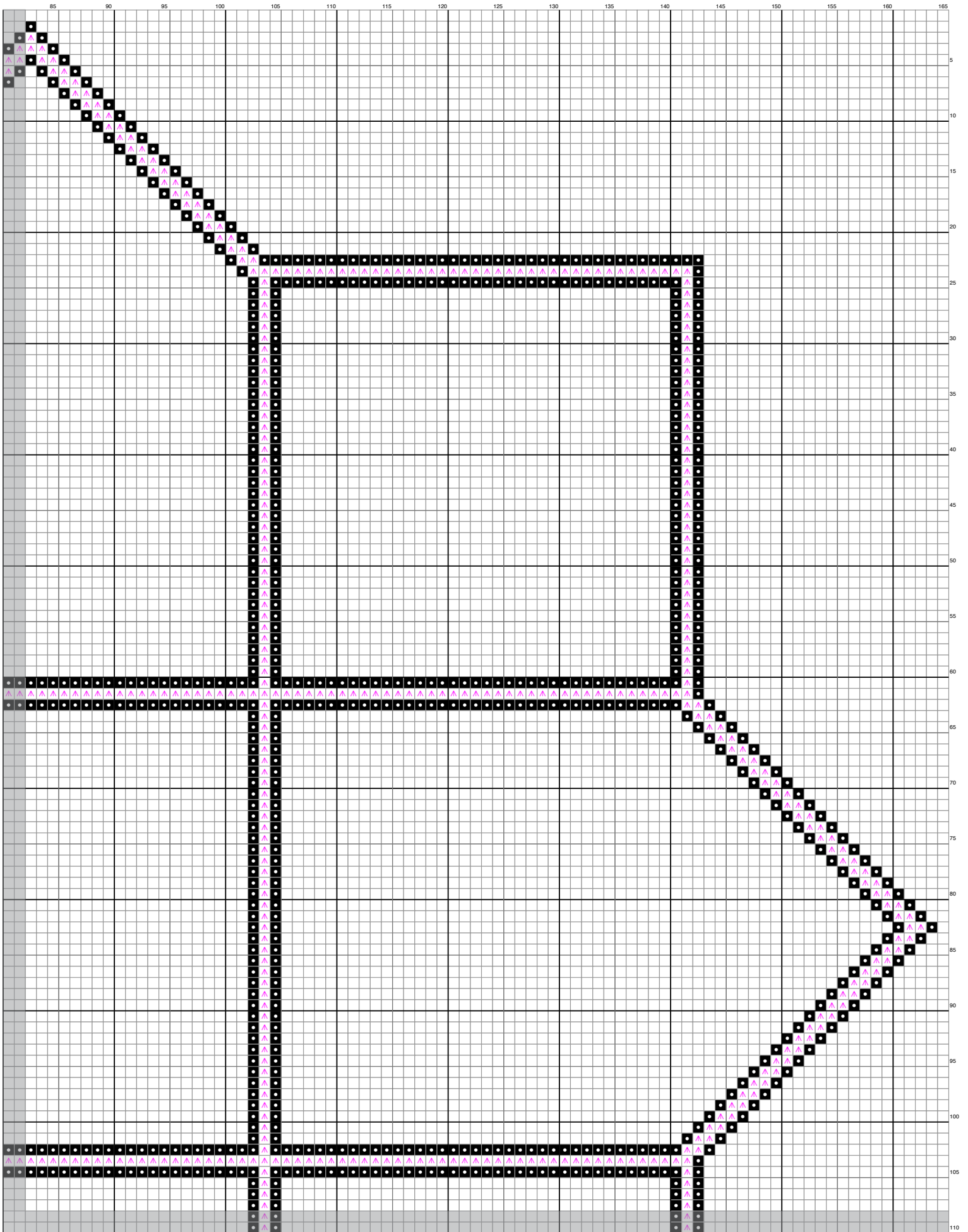
Let's Get Down to Business



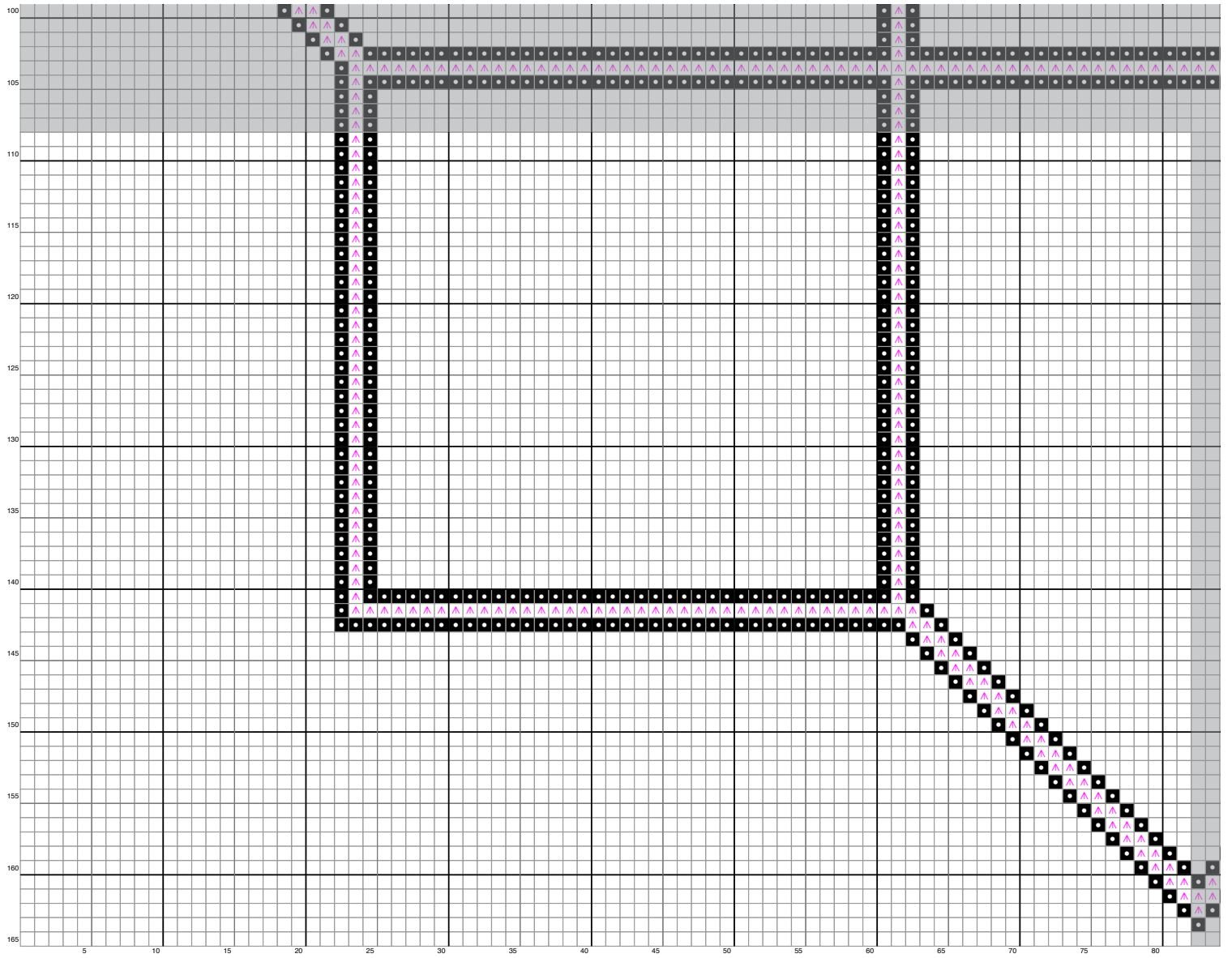
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⊠ 414	:-) 606	▲ 741	▲ 828	▲ 841	@ 907	◆ 995	▽ 3770	Multicolor Floss



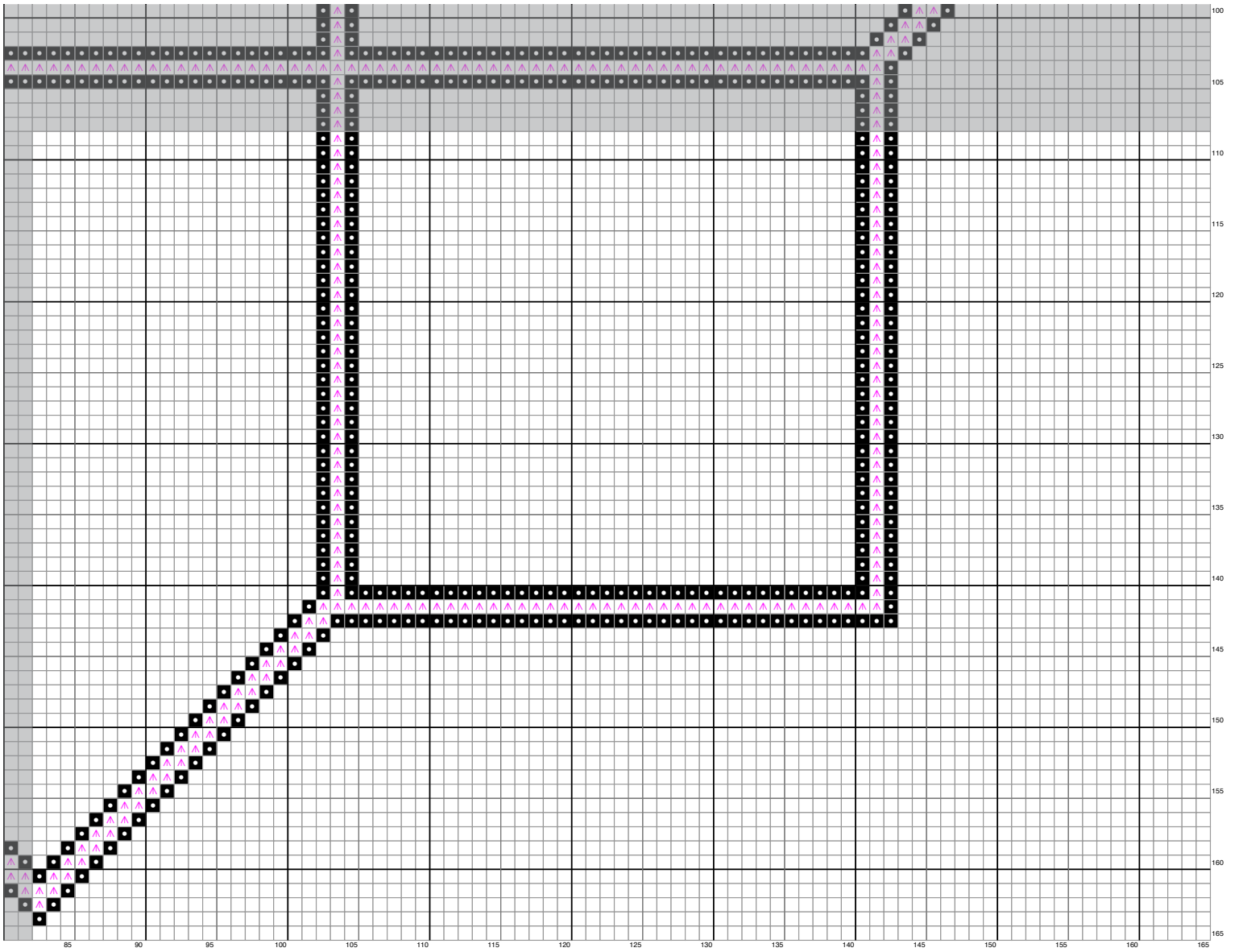
1 - upper left



1 - upper right



1 - lower left



1 - lower right