

Winter 2020-2021 Stitch-Along Materials List

Every Saturday, you'll get the next piece of the puzzle in your inbox! Everyone stitches at their own pace, but we also have a monthly check-in on Zoom to Socialize, ask questions, and share your progress with others. Below is a list of items you'll need to complete this project. Tips on purchasing cross stitch supplies are available at elmlib.org/crossstitch.

MONTHLY STITCH-ALONG CHECK-IN

Thursday, Dec. 10 • 7 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 14 • 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 23 • 7 p.m.

Live on Zoom: Register at elmlib.org/athome.

FABRIC

Begin your project by purchasing cloth. **14 count White 15x18 Aida cloth** is recommended. You need (at minimum) 12x12 inches for this pattern.

THREAD

The pattern uses DMC cotton embroidery floss. You can find these at a store like Michaels or Joann. Each floss color has a corresponding number. FYI: Purchasing floss online can be confusing and expensive, however if you must purchase online, we recommend 123Stitch.com.

Floss storage is important to keep your floss from tangling in knots. You need some kind of bobbin or storage to organize. Two videos on how to wind are available at elmlib.org/crossstitch.

Purchase one skein of each of these colors:

208	436	680	743	833	904	975	3371	3841
301	445	704	783	834	905	992	3716	3846
347	472	718	814	840	906	993	3755	3865
414	606	741	828	841	907	995	3770	
415	666	742	832	842	973	996		

Purchase two skeins of each of these colors:

310 Variegated Multicolor Floss *

*Variegated Multicolor Floss is multicolored embroidery thread. Every few stitches, the color changes to another hue. Get any color you want!

NEEDLE

You need a blunt tipped tapestry needle, size 24-26. Usually available in packs of 4-6. Needles break, the pack is worth it!

HOOP

A hoop is not necessary, but is usually helpful for beginners. You don't need a large one for working. A five or six inch wood or plastic hoop is ideal.

SCISSORS

Nothing special here- just make sure you have a pair of scissors.

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

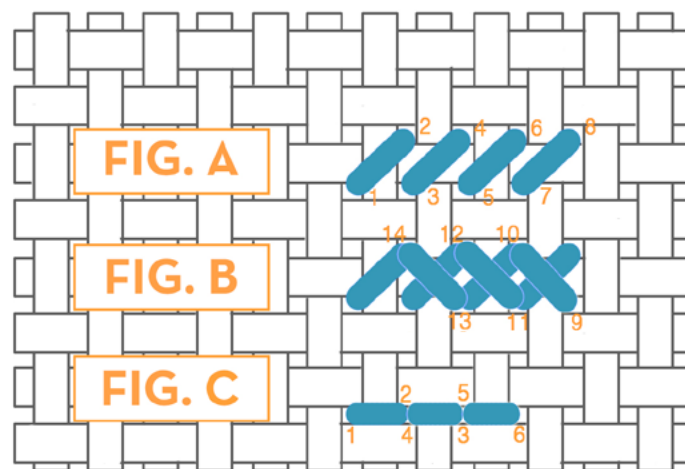
Start by finding the center of your fabric. Because of the small size of our projects, you can simply eyeball the center and mark the reverse with a pencil. Cross-stitch patterns should always have the center lines marked on the pattern, often with two small arrows on the edges of the grid. Start your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

A Note About Variegated Multicolor Floss

In this week's chart, you may notice a type of floss you've never used before:

 Variegated Multicolor Floss

Variegated floss (also referred to as fancy floss or hand over-dyed) is the same fiber you're used to working with, however it's been dyed in a way that gives the floss an uneven color throughout the floss. The color changes throughout the floss can be subtle (changing between shades of one color) or dramatic (changing between completely different colors).

Wherever you see the  symbol in the chart, you will use variegated floss. Here's the fun part: you can pick any color variegated floss you want! You can chose:

a subtle color shift...



...or a more dramatic one



How to Stitch with Variegated Floss

The main difference between variegated and non-variegated floss is that with variegated floss, the stitcher needs to be aware of what method of stitching they are using to get the desired color effect from the color changes within the floss. You can use one of two methods: the English method or the Danish method.

- The **English stitching method** is when both legs of an X are stitched before moving onto the next X. This method gives a cleaner look because the top and bottom legs of the stitches are always close to the same color
- The **Danish stitching method** is when a stitcher completes the first leg of multiple X's in a row or column before adding the second leg to complete the X's. This method is quicker to stitch and generally uses less floss.

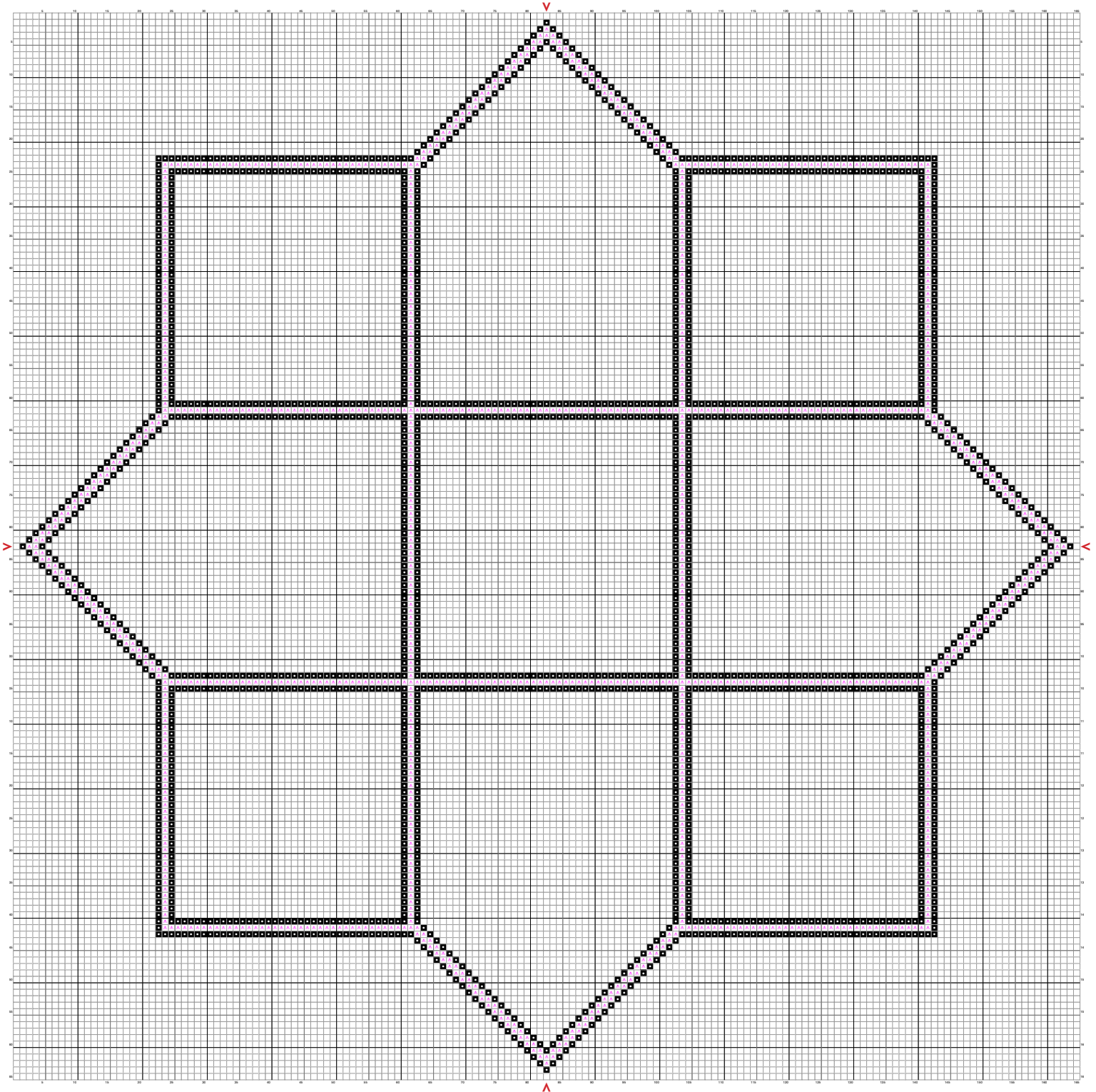
English method



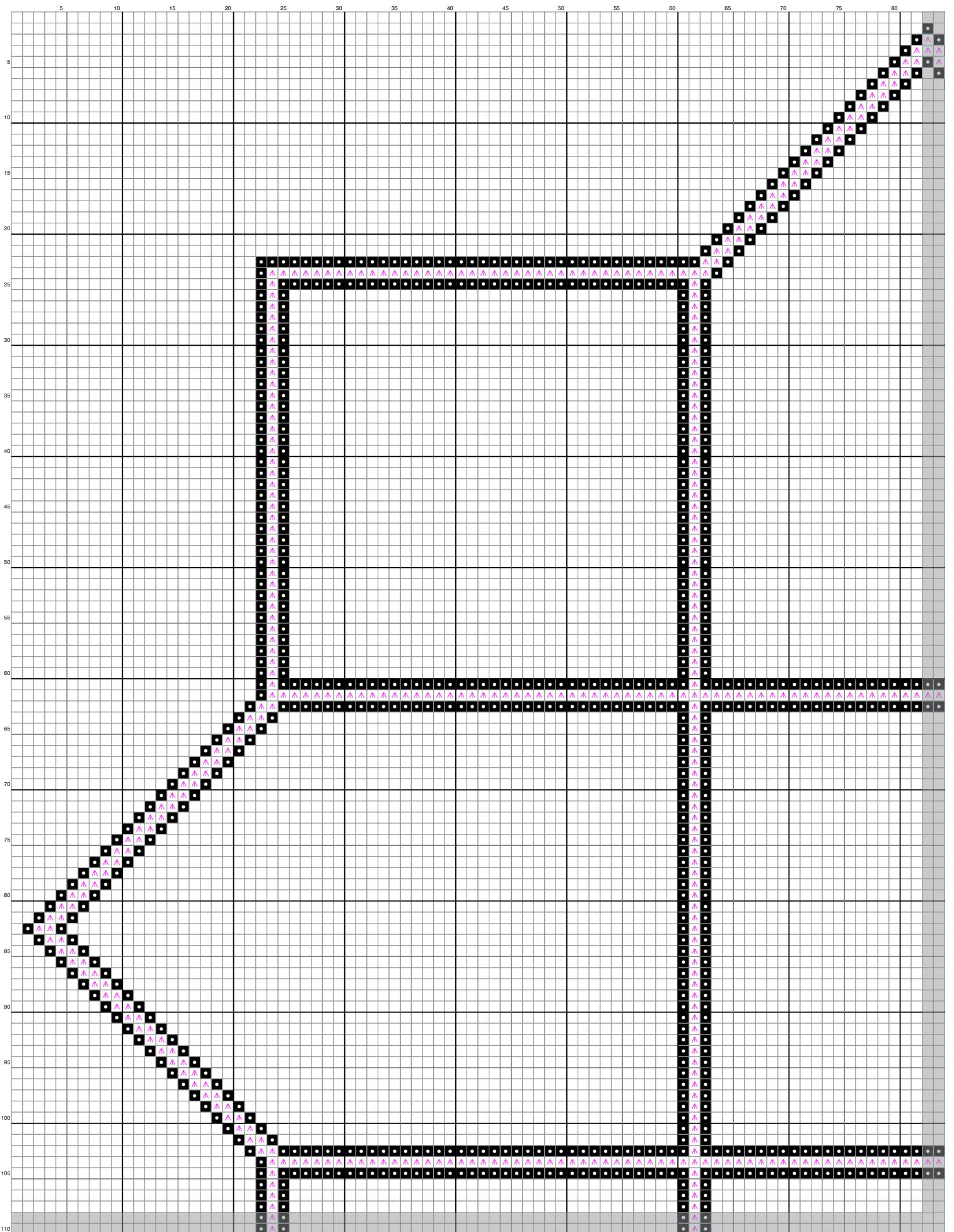
Danish method



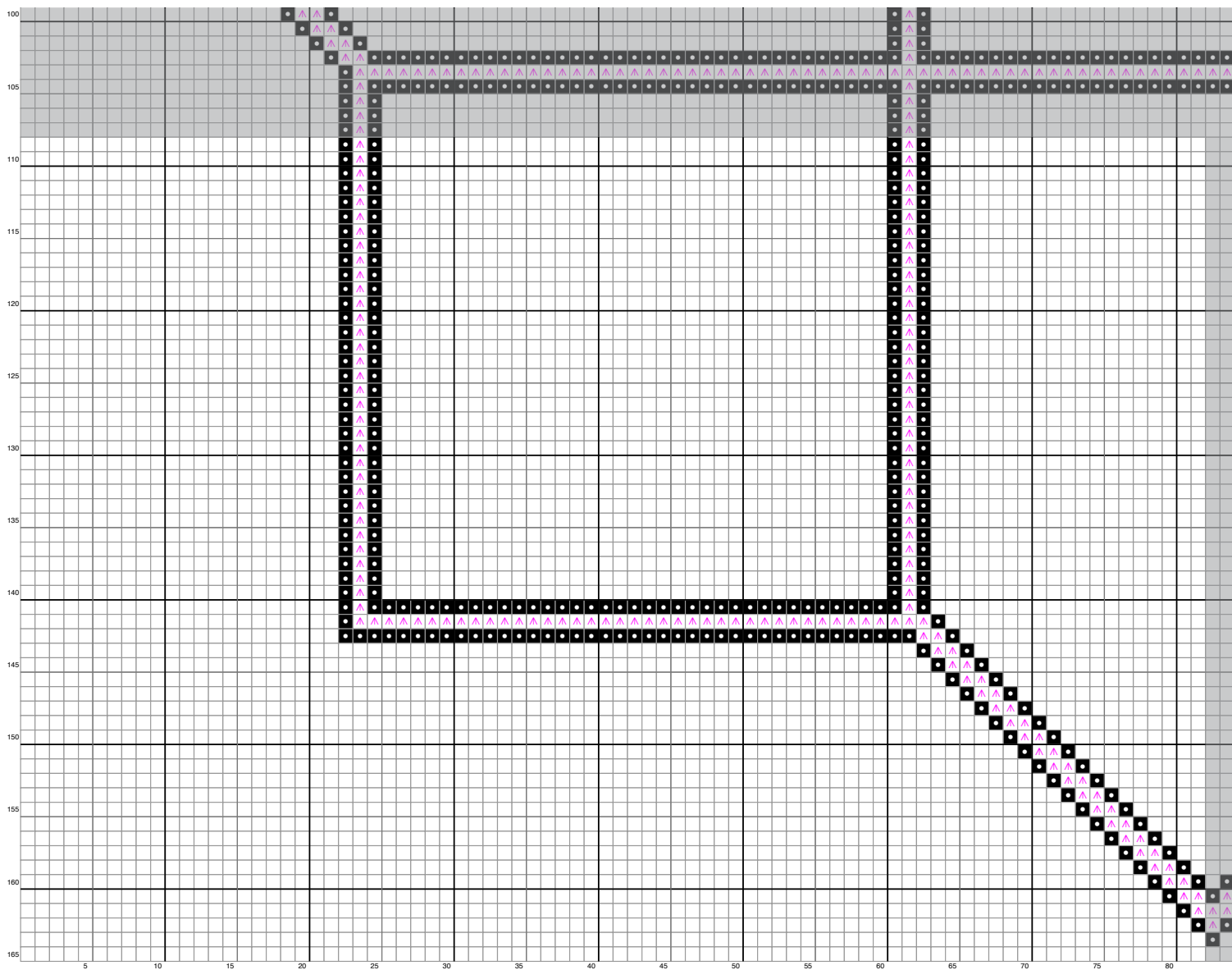
Let's Get Down to Business



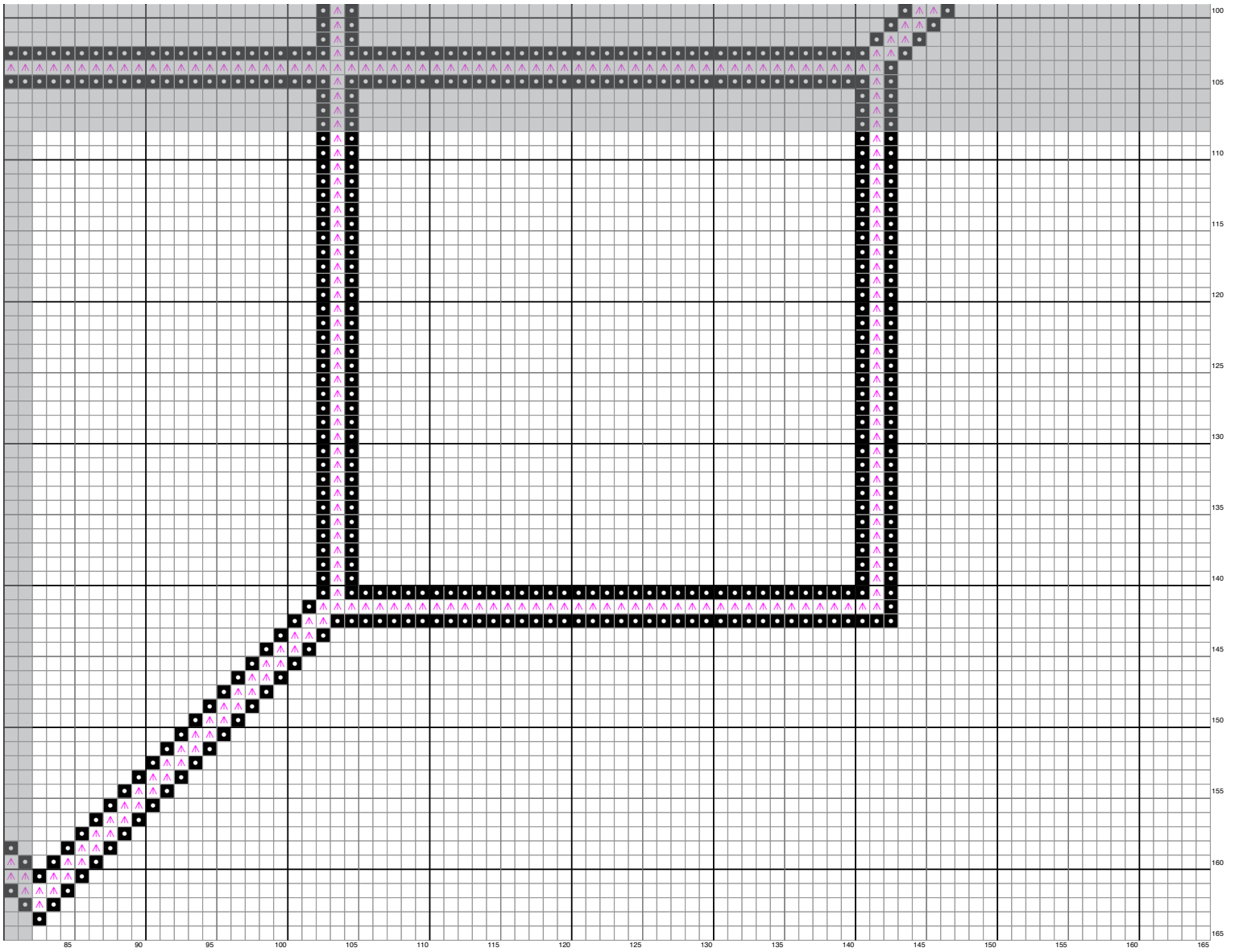
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2 301	○ 436	€ 680	◁ 743	1 833	▽ 904	⚡ 975	3371	B 3846
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× 414	:-D 606	▲ 741	▲ 828	▲ 841	@ 907	◆ 995	▽ 3770	Multicolor Floss



1 - upper left



1 - lower left



1 - lower right