













































## *The Cracked Pot*

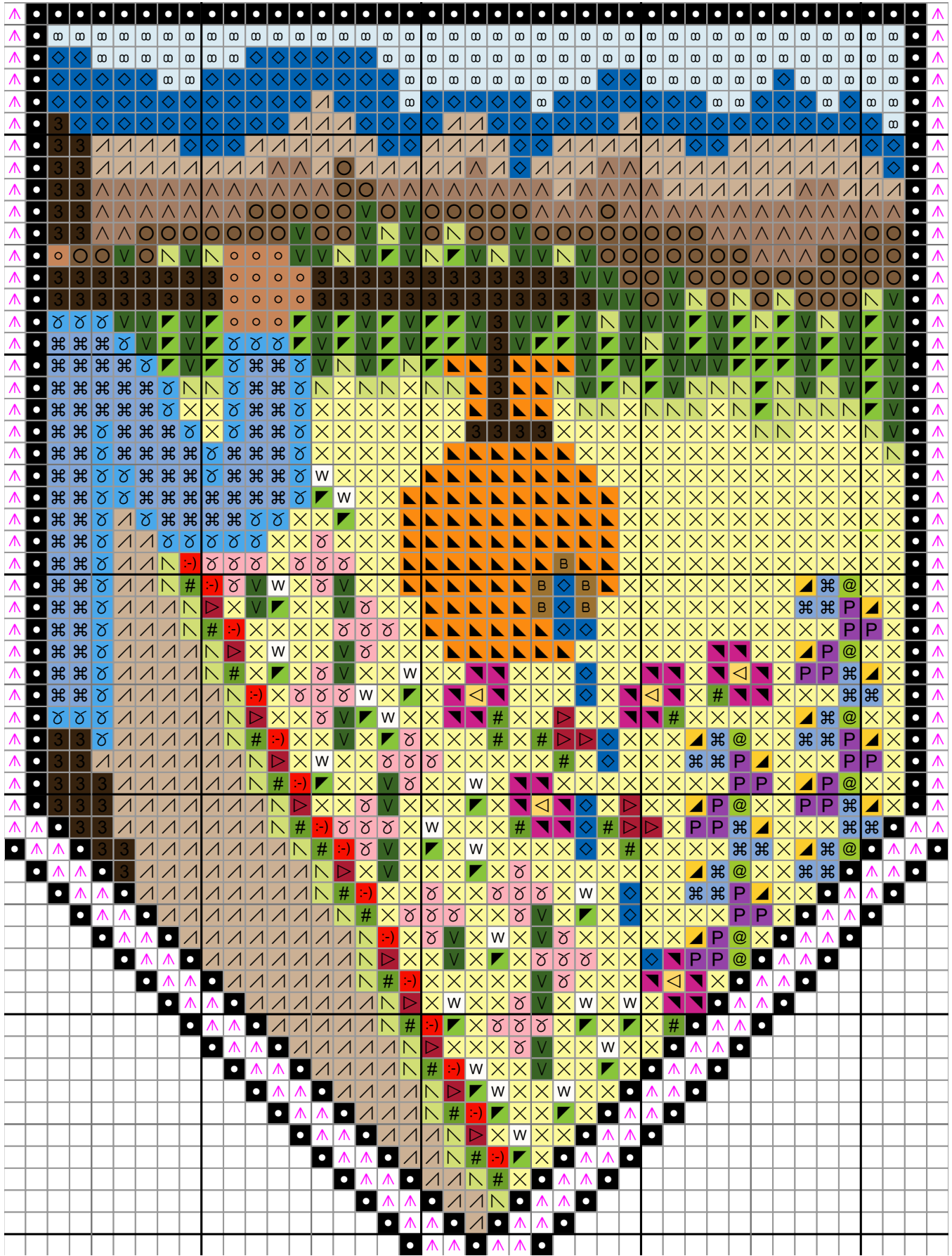


*The Cracked Pot* is likely the least familiar of the eight stories we chose to include in the stitch-along, but it is perhaps our favorite. This folk tale comes to us from India, though it is unclear during which era it originated. In the story, a water bearer is tasked with bringing water from the stream uphill to his master's house many times a day. He balanced a long pole across his shoulders and from each end hung a large pot. One pot was perfect, but the other had a crack and would lose a little water with every trip up the hill. In some versions, a younger man stops the water bearer to ask why he does not replace or repair the pot; in others, the pot itself speaks and apologizes to the water bearer for being flawed. To each, the man points to the path he walks to the stream and on one side of the road grow beautiful wildflowers, while the other has none. The perfect pot may never spill a drop, but the cracked pot has watered the seeds the man planted and has helped them to grow. While others focused on the flaw of the pot, the water bearer saw only the beauty that came with it, reminding us to love ourselves and others exactly as we are, for our differences are what make us beautiful.

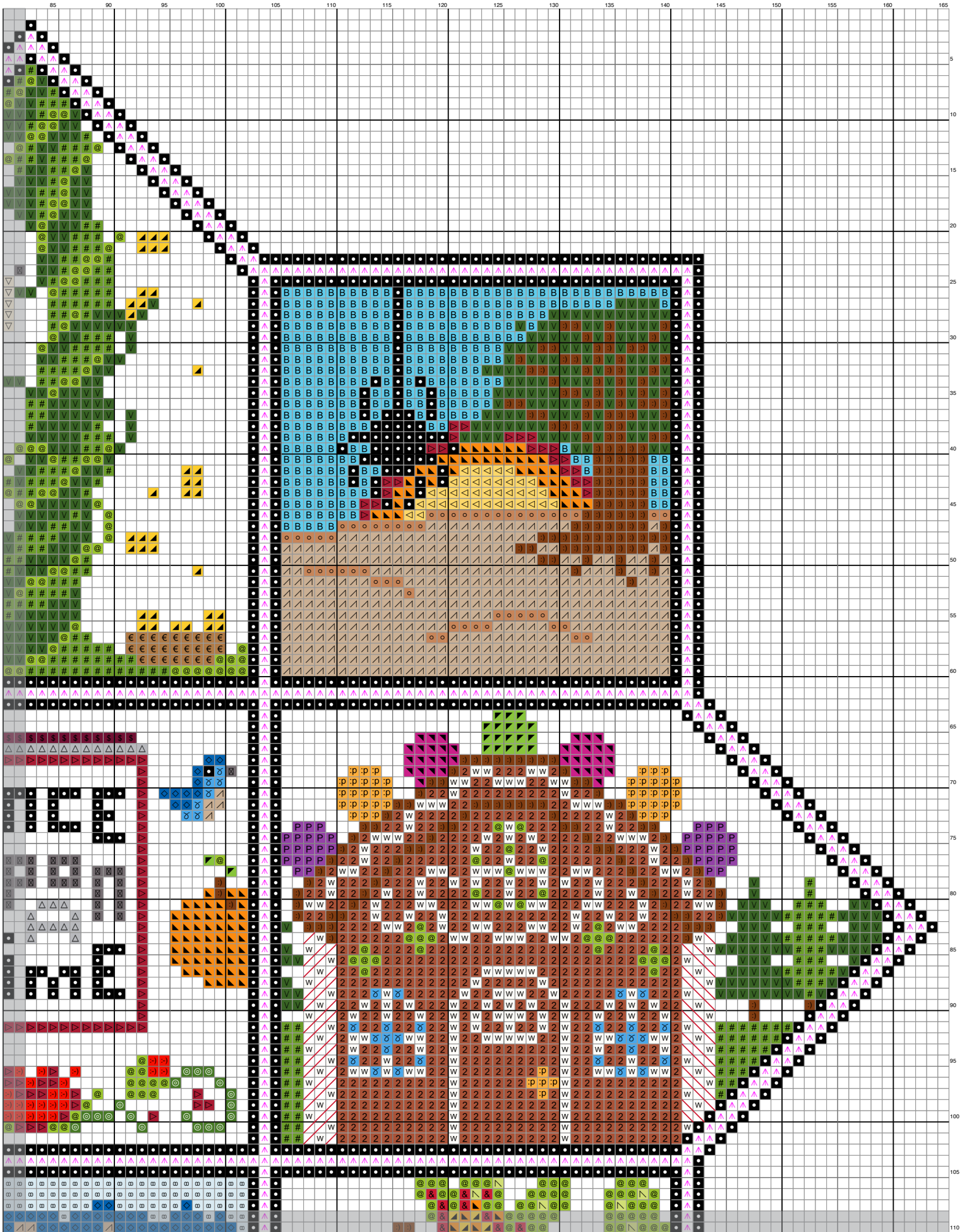
*The Cracked Pot*



 208	 415	 666	 742	 832	 842	 973	 996	 3841
 301	 436	 680	 743	 833	 904	 975	 3371	 3846
 310	 445	 704	 783	 834	 905	 992	 3716	 3865
 347	 472	 718	 814	 840	 906	 993	 3755	 Variegated
 414	 606	 741	 828	 841	 907	 995	 3770	Multicolor Floss







10 - upper right







# 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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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 *
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\*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

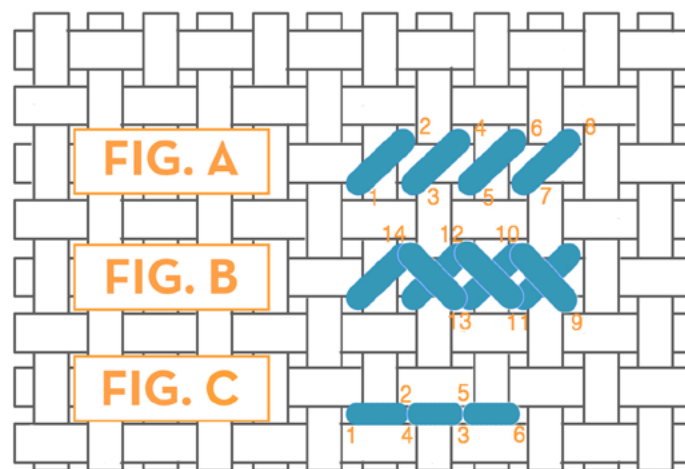
Start by finding the center of your fabric. Because of the small size of our projects, you can simply eyeball the center and mark the reverse with a pencil. Cross-stitch patterns should always have the center lines marked on the pattern, often with two small arrows on the edges of the grid. Start your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