

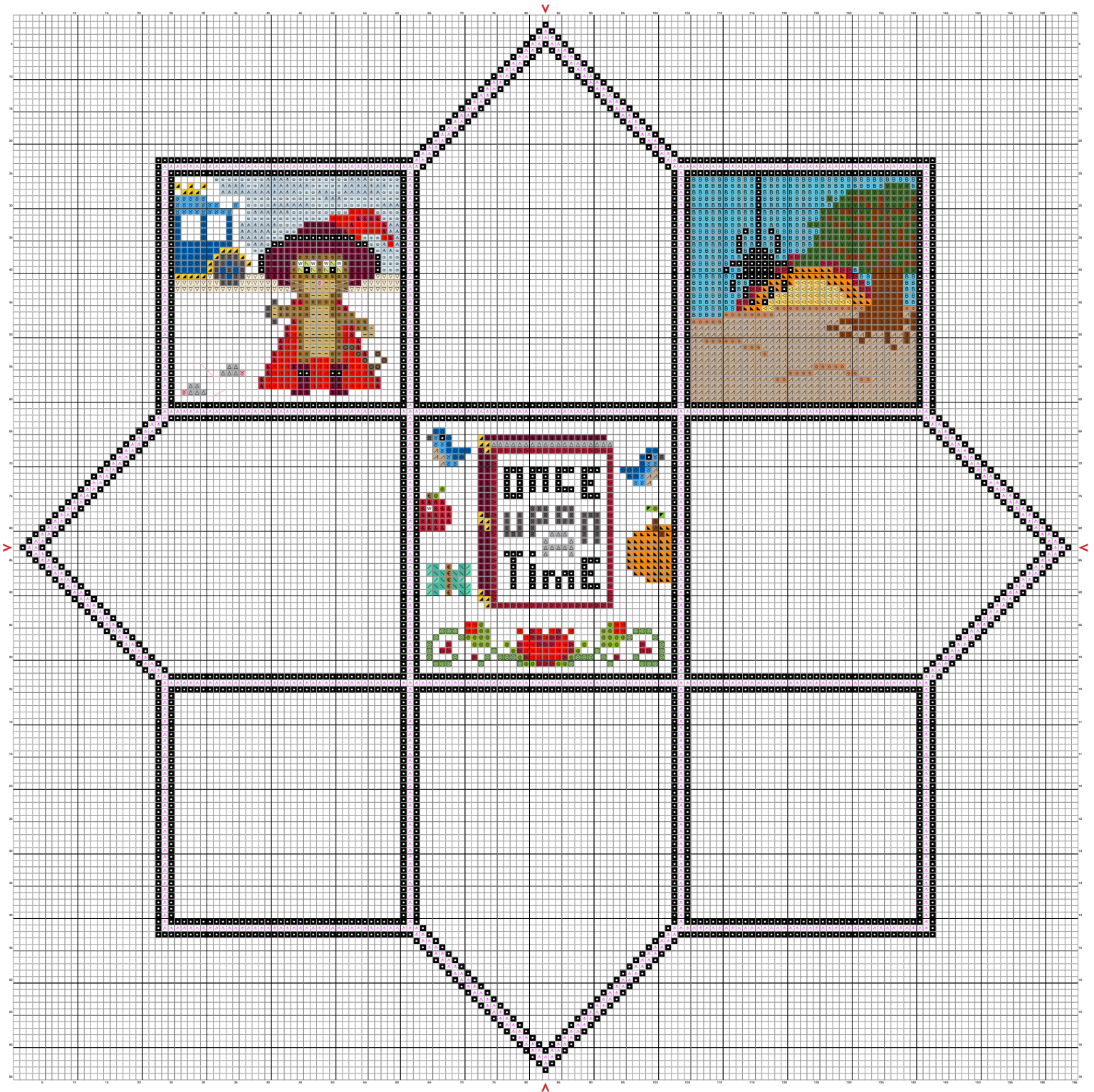
## *Puss in Boots*



The tale of Puss in Boots has existed for hundreds of years, passed down in the oral tradition, before it was written down by Italian author Giovanni Francesco Straparola around 1550. Another famous version comes from the French writer Charles Perrault in 1697 in a collection of 8 fairy tales titled *Histoires ou contes du temps passé*, or, *Stories or Fairy Tales from Past Times with Morals*. The subtitle of this collection was “Mother Goose’s Tales.”

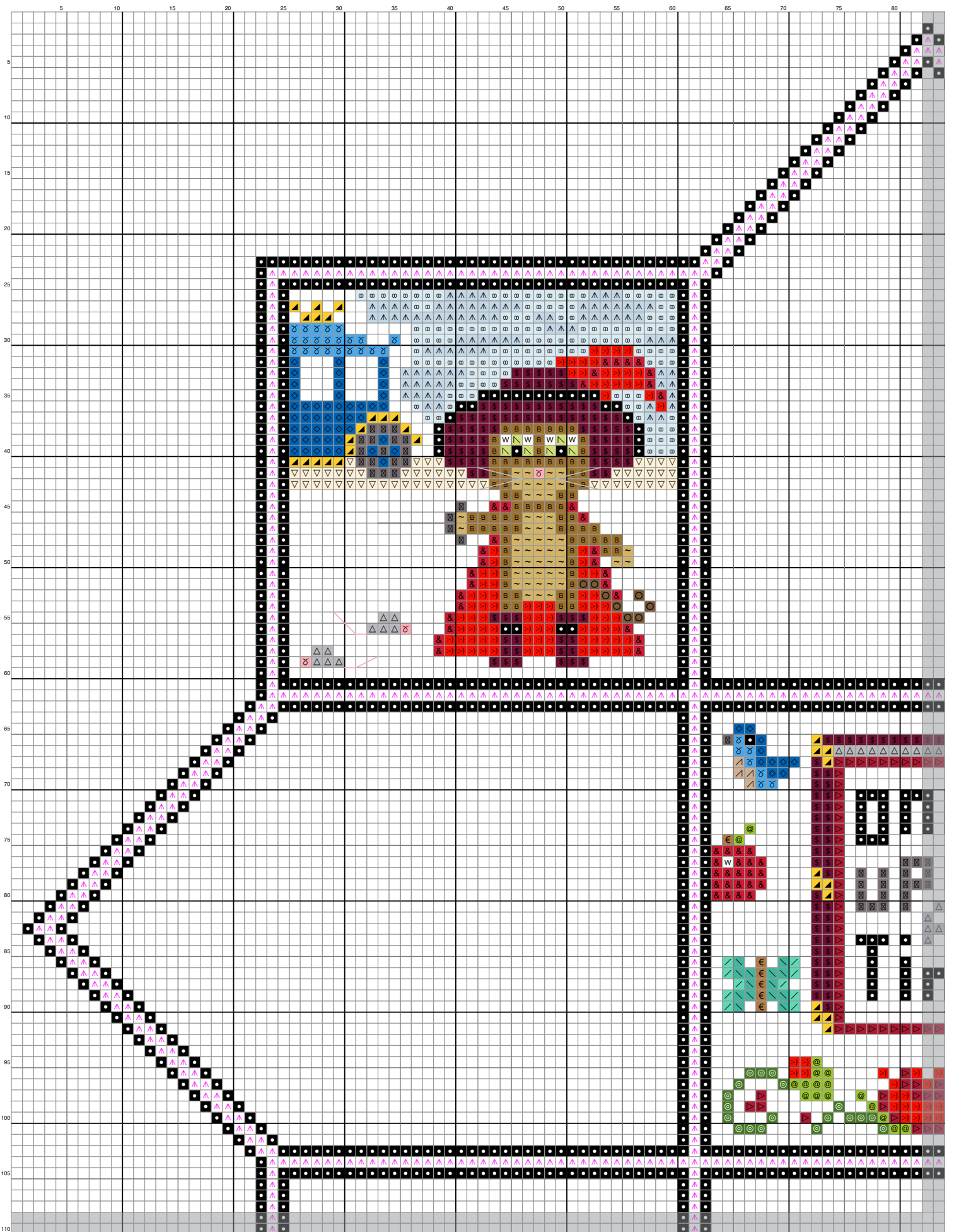
The story of Puss in Boots—sometimes called *The Master Cat*—begins with a miller and his three sons. When the miller dies, he leaves the mill to his first son, a donkey to his second, and to the third, who had always been his favorite, he left a cat. The cat was not useful to the other brothers, so they did not allow the youngest to live with them, which made the young man worry how he would be able to feed himself. The cat jumped on the table and told the son not to worry, she would take care of everything, in exchange for a bag and a pair of boots. The son does as the cat asks and Puss begins a series of tricks to gain power, wealth, and marriage to a princess for her master.

*Puss in Boots*

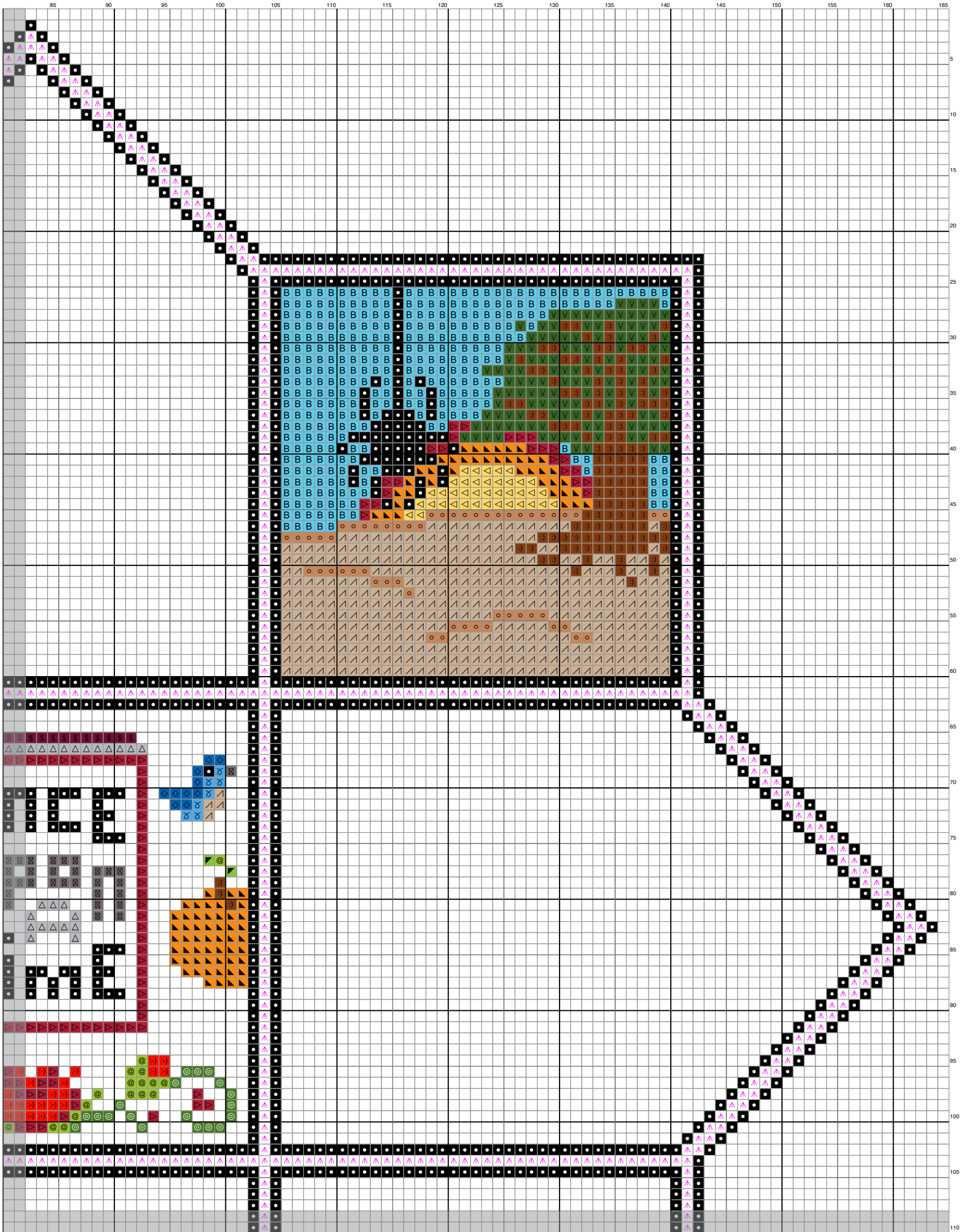


P 208	415	& 666	:P 742	B 832	842	973	996	3841
2 301	436	€ 680	<P 743	1 833	V 904	P 975	3371	B 3846
310	X 445	704	:-P 783	~ 834	905	992	P 3716	W 3865
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414	:-P 606	P^ 741	P^ 828	P^ 841	P@ 907	P◇ 995	P^ 3770	P^ Variegated Multicolor Floss

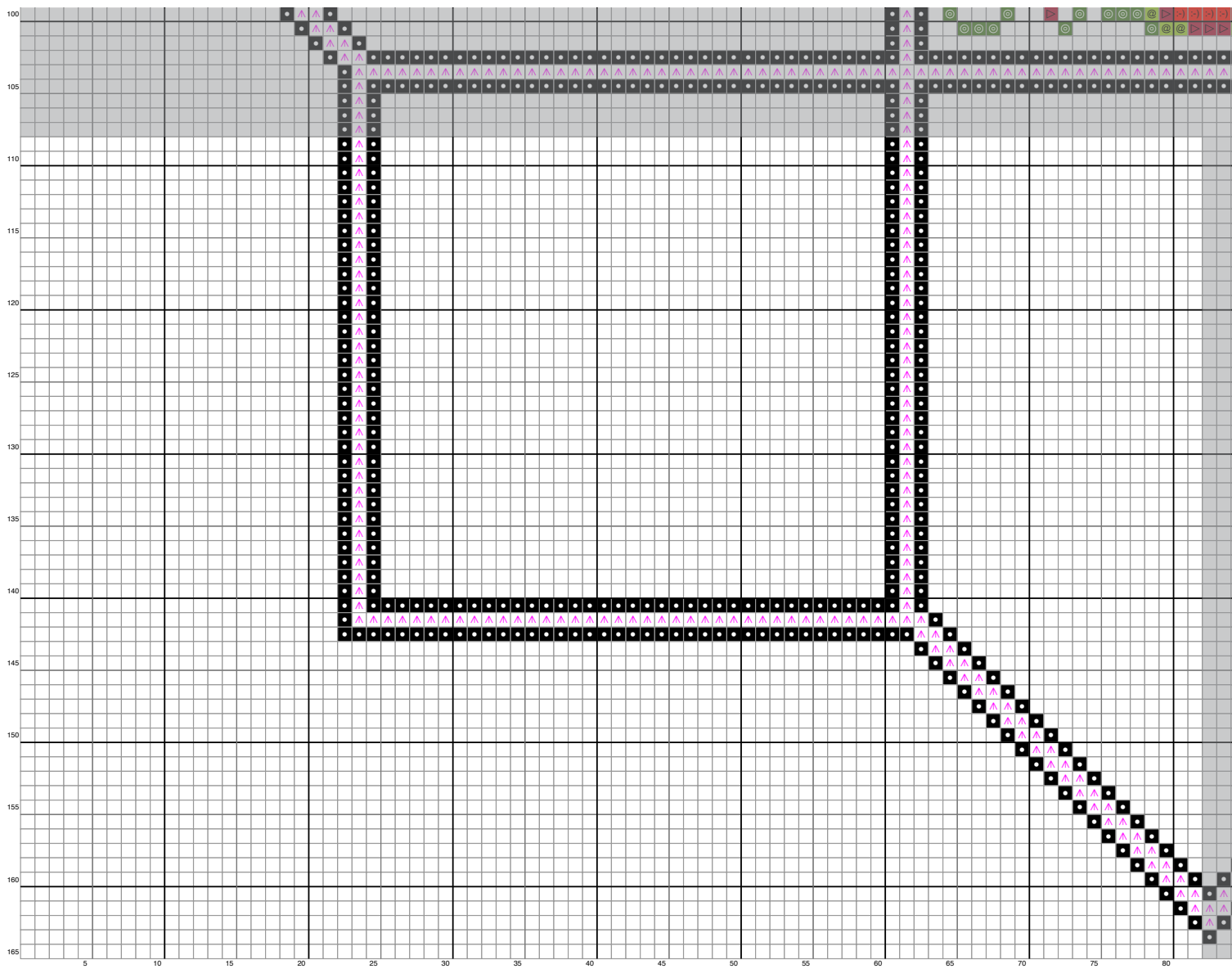




4 - upper left



4 - upper right



4 - lower left



# 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 \*

\*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

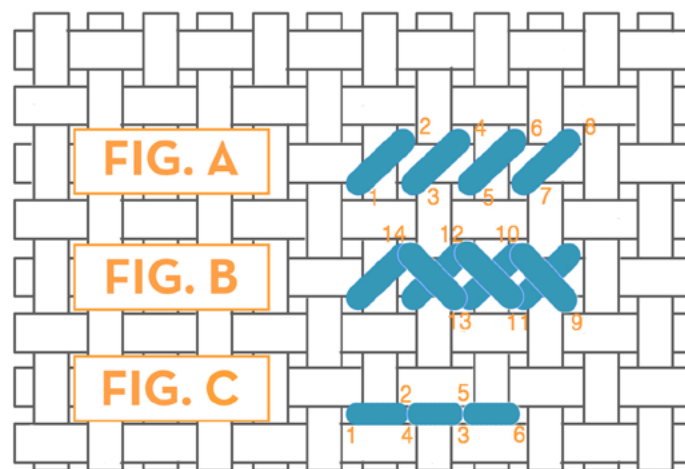
Start by finding the center of your fabric. Because of the small size of our projects, you can simply eyeball the center and mark the reverse with a pencil. Cross-stitch patterns should always have the center lines marked on the pattern, often with two small arrows on the edges of the grid. Start your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