

MACHINE EMBROIDERY

CROSS STITCH DESIGNS BY LICKITY STITCH



First a little background information. Marcia was originally a counted cross stitch designer. For those unfamiliar with counted cross stitch - one would choose not only what size Xs they were going to stitch (count size of the fabric 14, 16, 18, 22), but also how many strands of floss to use. Thus when Marcia began creating her designs for the embroidery machines - she wanted to keep the versatility of hand cross stitch and blend it into the machine designs. The final results will look different depending not only on the count but the density of the stitches.

For most machine cross stitch designs - you might receive 1 or 2 sizes (i.e. 18 , 14) but rarely different sizes and densities. With Marcia's designs - you receive anywhere from 8 to 12 different size/densities files of each design. (i.e. 22, 18, 16, 14, 11, 8) And for an even better value - they are all included in one price, you don't pay more for additional hoop sizes or densities.

Treat our design files just like if you were stitching regular embroidery. Use the same type of thread, stabilizers etc. Personally - I avoid hooping whenever possible. This is whether I am sewing a cross stitch or regular stitch machine embroidery design. Reason is, I find that no matter how hard I try to not "stretch" the fabric - in order to get it straight etc. in the hoop - it's stretched. A stitch out on fabric that is in it's "natural state", helps provide the best results.

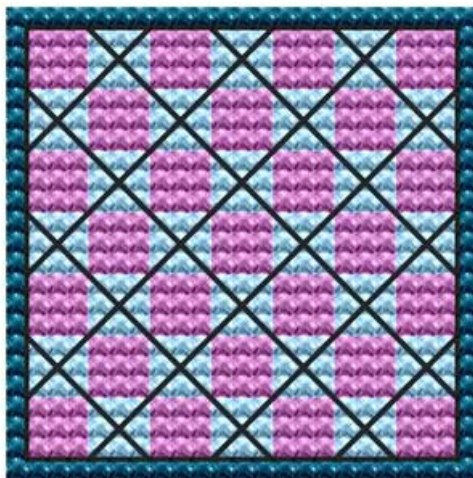
We stitch on Brother embroidery machines mainly with Brother bobbin thread, Sulky stabilizers and Sulky 40ct Rayon. It is everyone's choice to use which supplies they wish to use - my advice, be aware of which types your machine "likes" best! Strange as it may sound - machines do have a preference! :-)

The next print out / page shows an example of the color stop / information file that is included with each of our designs and also how to read it. We've added arrows pointing to the files we refer to in our example/explanation.

Notice the numbers following the name. We'll use the 14 count as an example. You'll see 3 files listed - all starting with 14 and then followed by a - # . The first number - the 14, that is the count of the design, which stands for 14 stitches (Xs) per inch. The number after the dash, that is the density - the number of times the X is made in one spot. Thus the higher the number after the dash, the thicker the design is going to sew out. You don't do anything different on your embroidery machine - it is all in the digitizing that will make it stitch thicker. You will also see in that same description that all of the 14 count designs are the same size in inches. What is different is the total number of stitches - this is because of the density. It simply fills the design in to a greater degree.

Most of the time there won't be any changes required on your embroidery machine - just move the size/density of the file you wish to stitch out to your machine and begin! Really - the only thing to "watch for" - is if you are stitching one of our heaviest density files - be sure the machine's presser foot is high enough - so it won't catch/drag on the stitches as they are being stitched (built). To "fill in" the Xs - it sews over or makes the X multiple times in the same location, thus fills in and builds up the height of the thread/design.

Included in this tutorial are embroidery files in our different sizes/densities. We recommend sewing out each file (it's a small design) and labeling it with the size/density. Creating a nice visual reference of each, so you can see the texture before you start to stitch out our designs. No guess work!

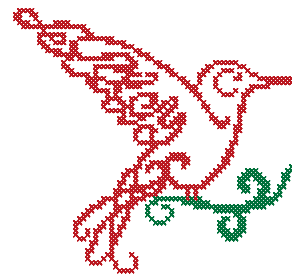


Once you have created your "reference guide" - be sure to look at the back side of your stitch outs. Notice anything interesting? YES!, with the thicker density - you actually create a "reversible" design - even if using white bobbin thread. This is great fun and adds versatility when creating ornaments, coasters etc. - anything that you would like a nice/viewable back side (see hummingbird picture - front and back - on the next page).

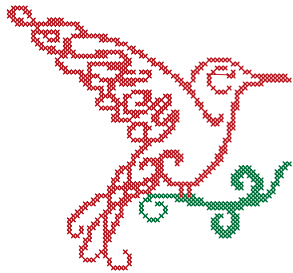


Freehummer 11-10 Count.dst
6.71x6.24 inches; 16,955 stitches
2 thread changes; 2 colors

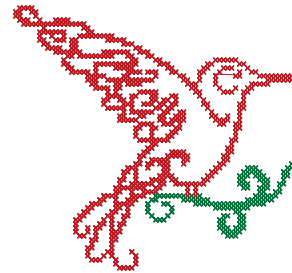
Use any colors you
choose. We used 2
Sulky variegated
threads in our model.



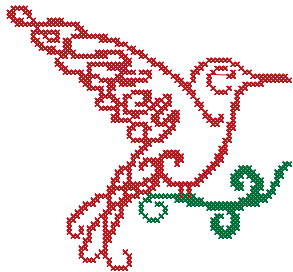
Freehummer 11-6 Count.dst
6.71x6.24 inches; 10,795 stitches
2 thread changes; 2 colors



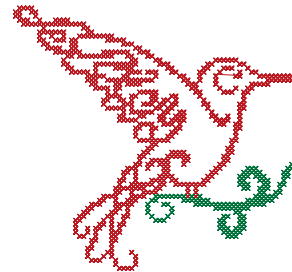
Freehummer 14-2 Count.dst
5.03x4.68 inches; 4,635 stitches
2 thread changes; 2 colors



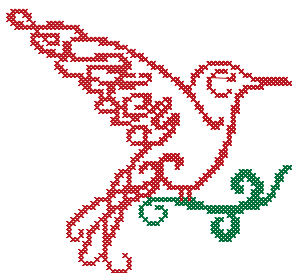
Freehummer 14-4 Count.dst
5.03x4.68 inches; 7,715 stitches
2 thread changes; 2 colors



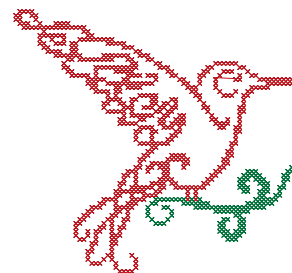
Freehummer 14-6 Count.dst
5.03x4.68 inches; 10,795 stitches
2 thread changes; 2 colors



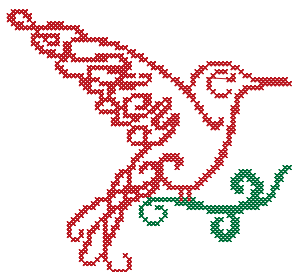
Freehummer 16-4 Count.dst
4.47x4.16 inches; 7,715 stitches
2 thread changes; 2 colors



Freehummer 16-6 Count.dst
4.47x4.16 inches; 10,795 stitches
2 thread changes; 2 colors



Freehummer 18-2 Count.dst
3.91x3.64 inches; 4,635 stitches
2 thread changes; 2 colors

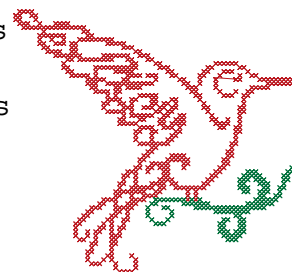


Freehummer 18-4 Count.dst
3.91x3.64 inches; 7,715 stitches
2 thread changes; 2 colors

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Freehummer 22-2 Count.dst
3.35x3.12 inches; 4,635 stitches
2 thread changes; 2 colors



We are including in this tutorial the above hummingbird design. A great little design for you to stitch out in a thicker density to “see” how the reversible works/looks. This works best for designs that don’t have a lot of colors spread apart or outlining / backstitching.

You might wonder why you would want to stitch a design “thick”. Look at our flamingo design shown here. It is sewn on a black fabric and in the 16-6 count size. Which is 16 Xs per inch in a density of 3 times a single density stitched design. If the machine only stitched the Xs with “one pass” - you wouldn’t even see the X against the black fabric. If this were being stitched on a white fabric - you wouldn’t necessarily need to stitch it as thick, but the colors would be diluted. If not, then you would see through the Xs - but it might be a nice airy look. It really is up to you on how you would like your project to look. Airy or filled in. With the filled in - higher density, you’ll notice it also makes the thread color brighter - again because you are not seeing through the Xs as much.



Here is a picture of the same design sewn out with the same thread colors and in the 22, 18, and 14 count sizes and all in the single density (which is referred to as 2 in our color guides). See how much “darker” the colors look in the smallest design? That is because there are more Xs per inch and it “fills in” the Xs - you don’t see through them. Then the middle design appears a little lighter and the largest design almost looks like we’ve used different colors of threads - but again it is because it is a light density so you see through the Xs. Which is fine! Again, you have the choices to stitch the look you like best!!



Also, don't rule out what you can stitch our machine cross stitch design on! We found stitching our medium to heavy density designs on shelf liner is amazingly fun. Perfect for place mats, coasters, pet mats, bibs, highchair trays, ornaments - anything that you want to make and not have to worry about the edges unraveling, want to be able to wipe off/clean etc. The below designs are all sewn out on the shelf liner. The 16-6 count files is the size/density we used and it covers / fills in perfectly. All are "reversible" except the Niche - as words don't work/read backwards! :-)



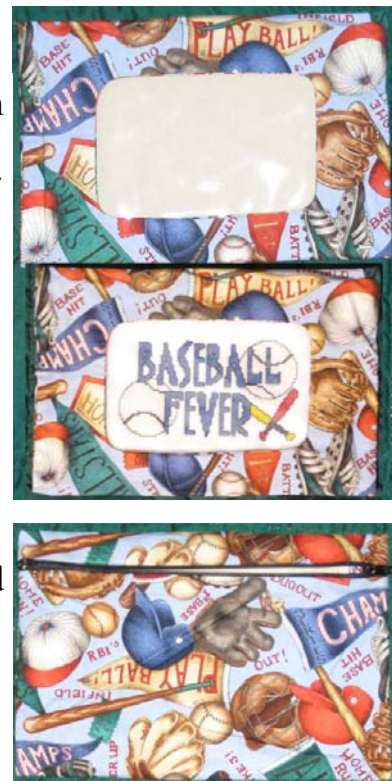
Along the years in our designing - we also created interchangeable wall hangings and a bag. The one with 9 pockets we call the 9'r, then there are the 3'r and 1'r, and the bag. Below are sample pictures of our interchangeable creations. They feature a window(s) to tuck in your designs. The shelf liner works great for these too! The shelf liner we used is found at Wal-Mart and Menards.



One last little tip for our designs is about stitching them on actual “counted cross stitch” fabrics - Aida or even-weave etc. Match the count of the fabric to the count of our design. IE: 14 count aida - use our 14 count files. Position your fabric as straight as possible in the hoop. We recommend not “hooping” the fabric - use a sticky stabilizer or a temporary adhesive spray. This is so the fabric will be in it’s “natural state” - not stretched. Position the needle to start in a hole. This will provide you the best/closest to a counted cross stitch result.

We hope with our designs, hints and ideas you will find a “new love” or re-ignite your love for cross stitch on your embroidery machine!

Happy stitching!



Marcia & Rick

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