

Angel's Welcome Birth Record



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Company: Extra Mile Mercantile
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Website: www.better-cross-stitch-patterns.com
Fabric: 18-count Aida (main design stitched over two threads; detail stitched over one).
Grid Size: 81W x 50H
Design Area: 8.11" x 4.22" (73 x 38 stitches)

Legend:

	DMC 154 grape - vy lt		DMC 3840 lavender blue - lt		DMC 400 mahogany - dk
	DMC 3834 grape - dk		DMC 799 delft blue - md		DMC 301 mahogany - md
	DMC 3835 grape - md		DMC 3778 terra cotta - lt		DMC 3776 mahogany - lt
	DMC 3836 grape - lt		DMC 3771 terra cotta - ul vy lt		DMC 402 mahogany - vy lt
	DMC 336 navy blue		DMC 754 peach - lt		KRE 002 Gold
	DMC 161 gray blue		DMC 761 salmon - lt		DMC 680 old gold - dk
	DMC 160 md gray blue		DMC 319 pistachio green - vy dk		DMC 3820 straw - dk
	DMC 159 gray blue - lt		DMC 367 pistachio green - dk		DMC 3822 straw - lt
	DMC 307 lemon		DMC 368 pistachio green - lt		
	DMC 445 lemon - lt		DMC 369 pistachio green - vy lt		

Backstitch Lines:

	DMC-154 grape - vy lt		DMC-367 pistachio green - dk		DMC-781 topaz - vy dk
	DMC-336 navy blue		DMC-300 mahogany - vy dk		DMC-304 christmas red - md
	DMC-161 gray blue		DMC-402 mahogany - vy lt		
	DMC-319 pistachio green - vy dk		KRE-002 Gold		

French Knots:

- DMC-799 delft blue - md

In the Photograph:

I embroidered "Angel's Welcome Birth Record" on 18-count Aida with DMC 6-strand cotton floss and DMC variegated floss, and accented it with gold Kreinik Metallic thread. The angel's gown and wings, surrounding clouds and text border were stitched over two threads, while the gold filigree on the bottom was stitched over one. The trumpet was overstitched with gold as well. The fading of the text border, from light to dark to light again, was achieved by using variegated floss and completing each cross stitch singly.

Stitch Complexity:

Full cross stitches, 1/4 cross stitches, half stitches, 3/4 cross stitches, French knots, backstitches. The wing design has a high concentration of partial stitches. Some areas are over stitched with metallic floss. The text border must be stitched in a particular way (described below) with the variegated floss. Because of these challenges, I would not recommend it as a first project for a novice stitcher.

How to Cross Stitch this Design:

If you already know how to cross stitch, the Quick Start checklist below will get you on your way. Just learning? Simply return to "Home" and click on the "Getting Started" button on the left. There, you will find links to detailed instructions and diagrams.

Quick Start

Step 1 - Review this Chart

Eliminate surprises by reading these instructions and reviewing the chart thoroughly before you begin stitching. Identify and learn any unfamiliar stitches listed in "Stitch Complexity" above.

There are two pattern pages. One charts the over-two stitches that make up the main body of the design. Blank areas on this page, outlined in red, are the portions to be stitched over-one thread. Note that *you will not actually stitch with red DMC floss #304* (it is used only to indicate the over-one thread areas). The stitching detail for these areas are on the second page. Pay special attention to the number of strands used, as it changes in each area for each stitch type.

Step 2 - Select and Prepare Your Fabric

This design must be stitched on evenweave, as it combines areas stitched over one thread with areas stitched over two threads. I recommend that you use Aida 18 count or higher (22-count, 28-count). I believe that 18-count fabric results in the ideal stitch size in both the over-one and over-two areas. It is also substantial enough to support the metallic stitches, whereas a lightweight fabric would be too easily distorted.

To stitch the design exactly as it is in the photograph, simply use the materials described. If you have a favorite fabric type and thread count, or if you have a specific size in mind for the finished piece, translate inches to thread count to determine your initial fabric size. Next, decide how you'll display the finished design and add enough inches to the length and width before cutting it. Be generous.

Treat the outside edges of your fabric to prevent fraying. Find and mark the center. Baste in gridlines to match the gridlines on the

pattern.

Step 3 - Select and Prepare Your Floss

Use the colors listed above or substitute ones of your own. If using fabric with a different thread count, you may need to adjust the number of strands of floss you'll use. To help you decide, click the "How To..." button on the left menu. At the bottom of the page, you'll find a Floss Coverage link. This page shows cross stitch examples using from one to six strands on fabric with different thread counts. Still uncertain? Work a few sample stitches, both over-one and over-two, in the corner of your fabric.

Because of the metallic floss, this design is not meant to be stitched on fabric that will be worn, washed or ironed.

DMC Floss: As you use each of the DMC cotton floss colors, cut the floss into strips 15" to 18" long. For fuller and thicker stitches, separate all six strands and then recombine them into the number of strands you will ultimately use.

FLOSS CHANGES:

DMC #304 Red--Remove from your floss list.

Remember that you will not be stitching with DMC floss #304. It only outlines the portions to be stitched over one thread on the pattern.

DMC #92 Variegated Green--Add to your floss list.

This floss is used for the cross stitches in the border surrounding the text. (These squares are blank on the pattern.)

Kreinik Metallic Floss: Cut the Kreinik Metallic floss into strips 12" to 15" long, as metallics tend to separate and break after prolonged stitching. Do not use the sewing method with metallic floss. To stitch over areas already cross-stitched with DMC floss, switch to a slightly larger needle. This makes a bigger hole for the metallic floss to slip through. Because there is less friction on the metallic floss, it will separate and break less often.

Step 4 - Stitch the Design

Each square containing a symbol represents one cross stitch; the legend indicates which color to use. Squares containing more than one symbol are stitched with a combination of a 1/4 cross stitch and a 3/4 cross stitch. Likewise, squares with only a single, smaller symbol tucked into one corner represents either a 1/4 cross stitch or a 3/4 cross stitch alone. If there is a French knot on top of a cross stitch, the symbol representing it may obscure the symbol for the underlying cross stitch. Refer to the photograph for clarification, and trust your common sense.

Although I recommend using Aida cloth, if you decide to work with fabric that has an obvious over-under weave (like linen), the placement of the first over-two stitch is critical. To prevent puckering and to provide stability, the first diagonal of the first stitch must start and end where a vertical fabric thread crosses over a horizontal thread.

Follow this order when stitching:

Angel's Gown (over-two):

- 3 strands for cross stitches
- 1 strand for backstitches

Clouds (over-two)

- 3 strands for cross stitches
- 2 strands for backstitches

Wings (over-two):

- 3 strands for cross stitches
- 2 strands for backstitches

Horn (over-one)

- 2 strands for the DMC cross stitches
- 1 strand for placing half stitches, using the Kreinik metallic #002, over the area already stitched with the DMC floss
- 1 strand for the outline backstitches

Feet, Hand, Face (over-one)

- 2 strands for cross stitches
- 1 strand for backstitches
- 1 strand for French knot (eye)

Hair (over-one)

- 2 strands for cross stitches (stitch these first)
- 2 strands for backstitching with DMC 300 (stitch these second)
- 1 strand for backstitching with DMC 402 (stitch these third)
- 1 strand for backstitching with Kreinik Metallic #002 (stitch these last).

The pattern contains one illustration showing the hair with the face; the second shows the hair detail alone. To more clearly see the specific DMC #402 stitches that will be covered with the Kreinik Metallic Gold #002, I have "lifted" the gold backstitches up and away from the top of the head.

Ribbon (over-one)

- 2 strands for cross stitches
- 2 strands for backstitches

Text Border (over-two)

- 2 strands for cross stitches
- 1 strand for backstitches

NOTE: fill in the text border with cross stitches using DMC Variegated floss #92. The current version of my software does not display variegated flosses, so those squares are blank on this pattern. See the photograph for clarification.

To achieve the gradual fading in the text border, lay out your floss on a table. Find the middle of the lightest area and the middle of the darkest area. Cut your floss strips here. Beginning with the lightest end, start with the cross stitches at the sleeve of the angel. Working left to right, complete each cross stitch individually before moving on to the next (versus stitching a row of the first diagonals, then completing the second diagonals on the way back). When you have stitched the entire length of that strip, rethread your needle with another light-to-dark strip. Start at the bottom of the angel's gown, again completing each cross stitch as you work left to right. If you are using 18-count Aida, there should only be a small portion of the right border left to stitch. On a new section of floss, find the matching shade. Cut a strip and fill in the remaining cross stitches.

If you are using another thread count, cut a strip of floss as described. On a scrap of the same fabric, cross stitch a row, using the entire strip. Count these stitches. On your pattern, starting at the gown sleeve (as described above) mark off the number of stitches you can complete with one strip. Do the same for the bottom border. If there are just a few stitches in between the ends, follow the instructions above. If the two lines overlap, find the middle point of the border on the right (about eight stitches from the bottom). Start here with the dark end of the floss, and stitch toward the gown as the floss lightens.

Welcome Lettering (over-two)

- 2 strands for backstitches

Gold Filigree (over-one)

- 2 strands for backstitches

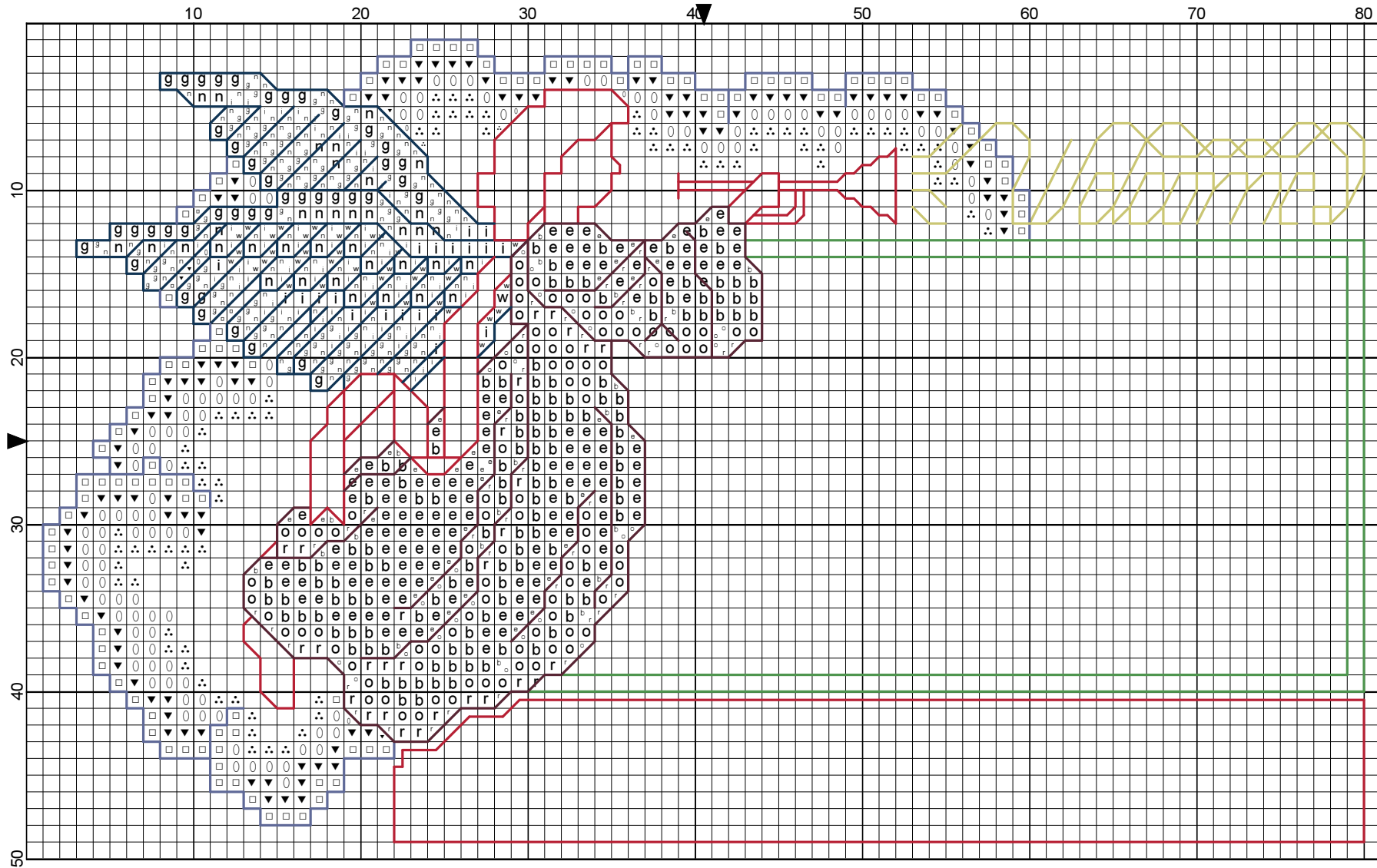
Text with Birth Stats

- I used Alphabets 04 and 05. I recommend stitching over-one, using one strand for the backstitches and French knots. One possible variation is to enlarge the name only, stitching over-two threads for those letters.

Select the "Graph Paper" button on the left menu to print blank graph paper. Next, select the "Free Alphabets" button to print patterns for the lettering.

If your birth statistics are short lines, you could consider stitching them over-two threads. However, be careful about filling up the box. Surrounding the text with white space calls attention to the words. And, from a design perspective, the white space in the text box on the right balances the solid areas of stitching on the left.

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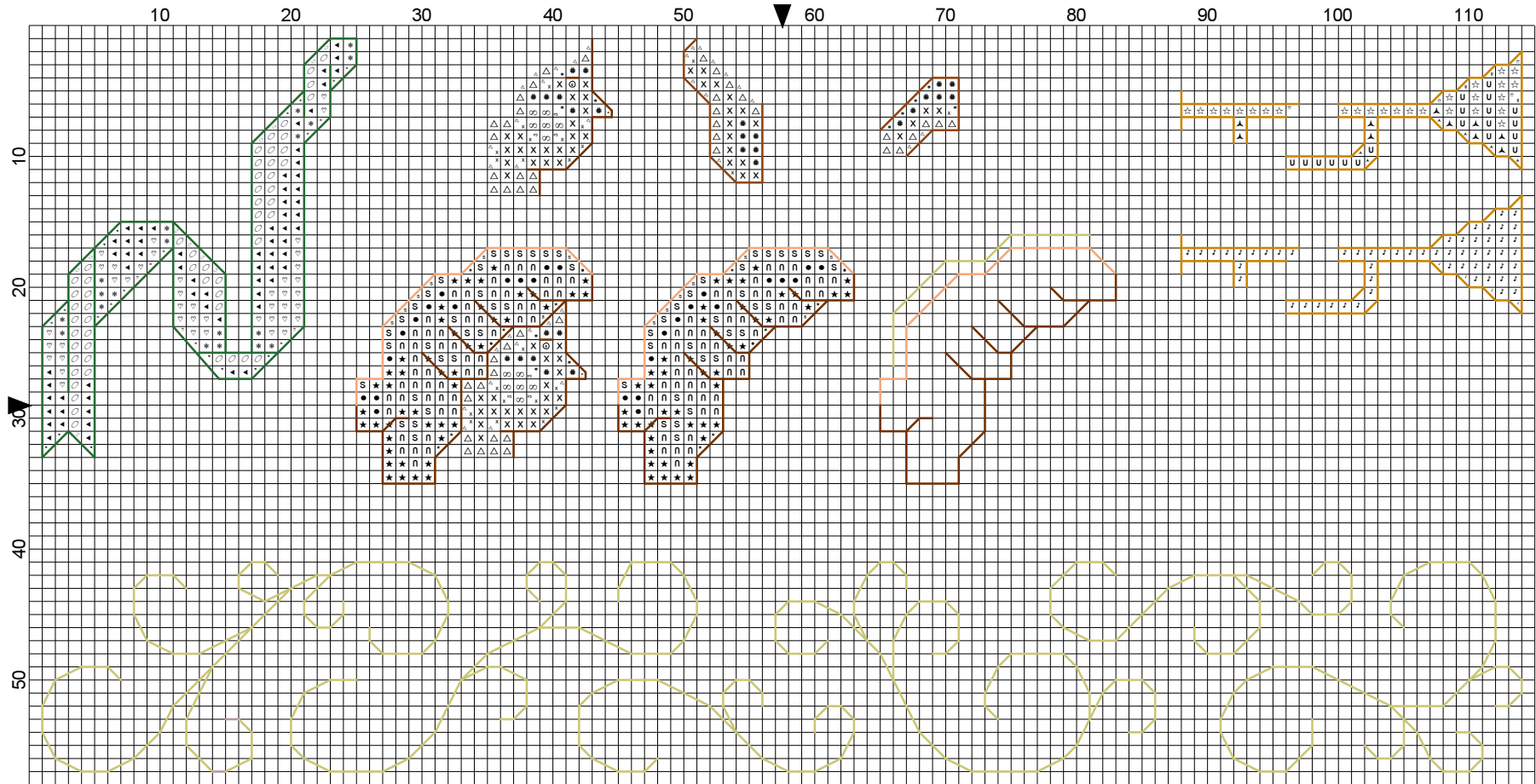
Legend:

- | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|----------|---|----------|---|---------|---|---------|---|---------|---|----------|
| r | DMC-154 | b | DMC-3835 | w | DMC-336 | n | DMC-160 | 0 | DMC-307 | ▼ | DMC-3840 |
| o | DMC-3834 | e | DMC-3836 | i | DMC-161 | g | DMC-159 | ∴ | DMC-445 | □ | DMC-799 |

Backstitches:

- | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---------|--|---------|--|---------|--|---------|--|---------|--|---------|
| | DMC-154 | | DMC-336 | | DMC-161 | | DMC-367 | | KRE-002 | | DMC-304 |
|--|---------|--|---------|--|---------|--|---------|--|---------|--|---------|

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Legend:

DMC-3778	DMC-754	DMC-319	DMC-368	DMC-400	DMC-3776	KRE-002	DMC-3820
DMC-3771	DMC-761	DMC-367	DMC-369	DMC-301	DMC-402	DMC-680	DMC-3822

Backstitches:

DMC-3836	DMC-319	DMC-300	DMC-400	DMC-402	KRE-002	DMC-781
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French Knots:

◎ DMC-799