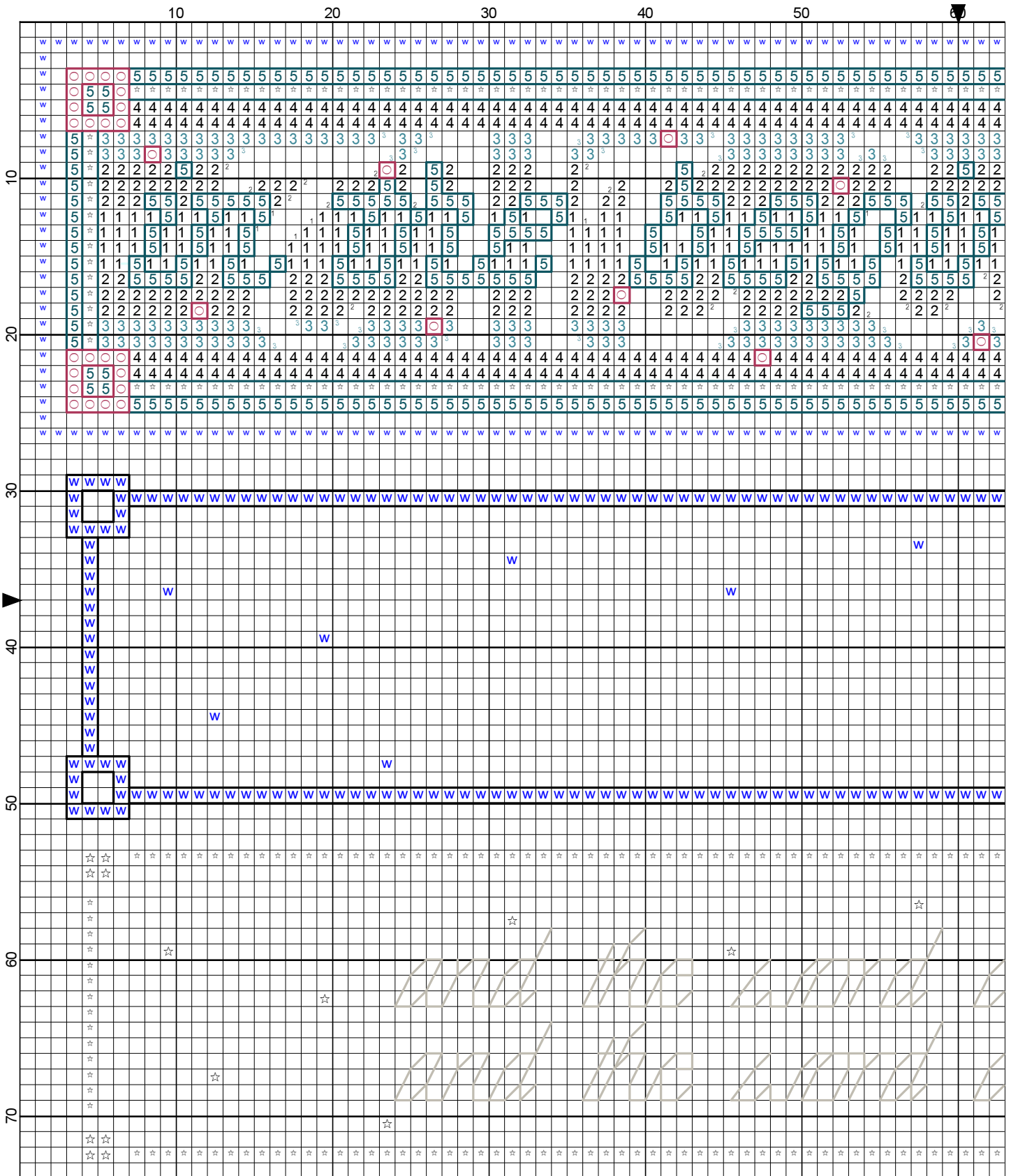


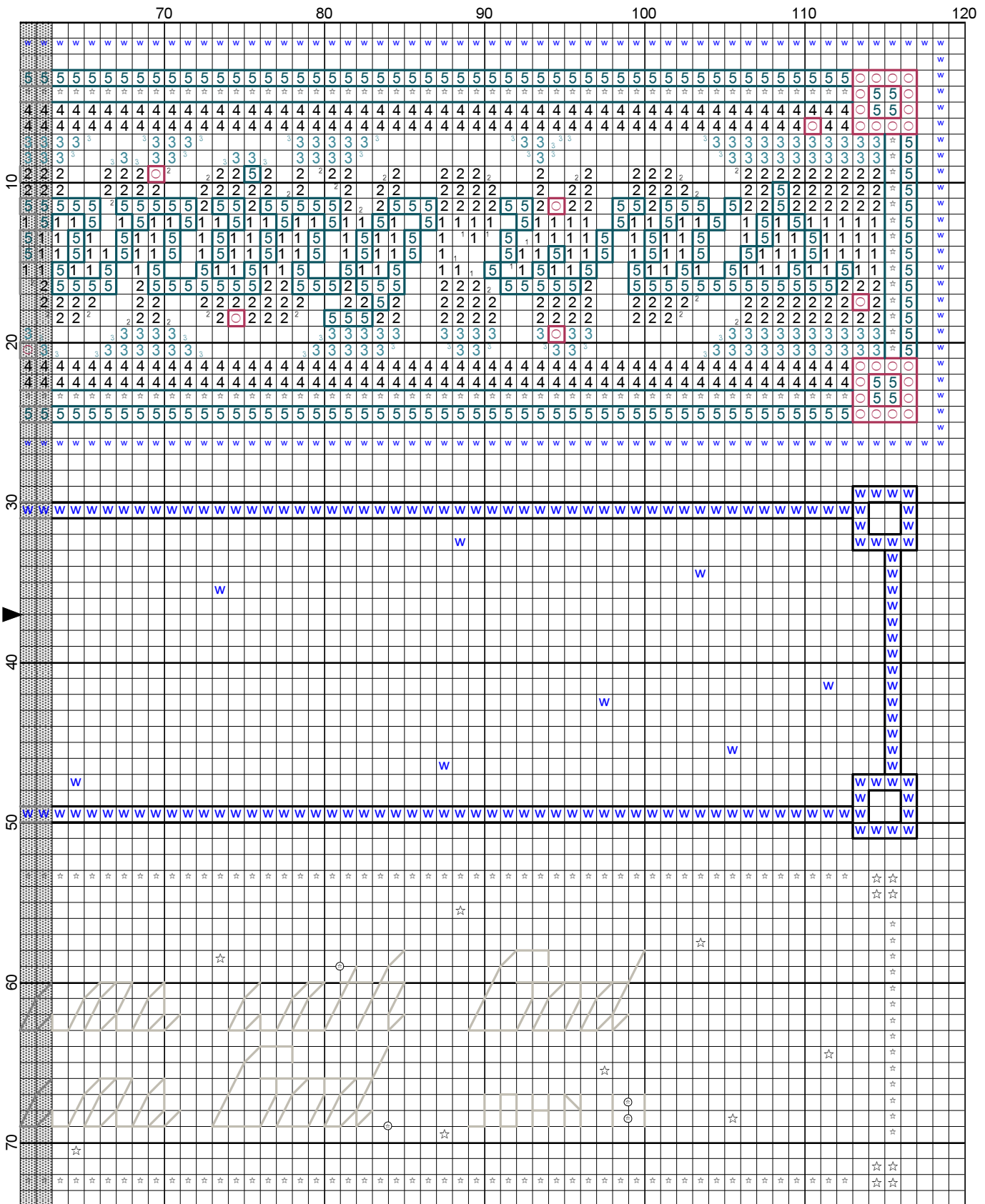
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- Legend:
- ☆ DLE-E168
 - 1 DMC-747
 - 3 DMC-3810
 - 5 DMC-3808
 - ◻ DMC-3803
 - 2 DMC-3766
 - 4 DMC-3809
 - W DMC-White
- Backstitches:

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- DLE-E168 — DMC-3803 — DMC-747 — DMC-3808 — DMC-310
- French Knots:
- DLE-E168

The Word Bookmark



Author: Katherine Martin Tripp
Company: Extra Mile Mercantile
Copyright: Katherine Martin Tripp
Website: www.better-cross-stitch-patterns.com
Fabric: Evenweave
Grid Size: 120W x 74H
Design Area: 8.43" x 5.14" (118 x 72 stitches)

Legend:

	DMC-3803	ANC-69	mauve - md		DMC-3809	ANC-1066	turquoise - vy dk
	DMC-747	ANC-158	sky blue - vy lt		DMC-3808	ANC-1068	turquoise - ul vy dk
	DMC-3766	ANC-161	peacock blue - lt		DMC-White	ANC-1	white
	DMC-3810	ANC-187	turquoise - dk				

Call Outs:

DLE-E168 Silver DMC Light Effects

Backstitch Lines:

DLE-E168 Silver DMC-747 sky blue - vy lt DMC-310 black
 DMC-3803 mauve - md DMC-3808 turquoise - ul vy dk

French Knots:

DLE-E168 Silver

In the Photograph:

I embroidered "Bookmark - The Word" on 14-count Aida with DMC 6-strand cotton floss and DMC Light Effects floss. This bookmark is made by stitching a front and back design on two separate pieces of fabric, then sewing them together. On the front, "The Word" is left white and unstitched on a field of light to dark teal, with "in the beginning" across the top. Burgandy squares accent each corner and randomly dot the background. On the back, the remaining text to the verse is stitched in barely-there, silver opalescent floss. The border is white on white; over stitching with this Light Effects floss adds sparkle and shine. Finally, the two pieces are then half-stitched together, back to back, with fringe on either end.

Stitch Complexity:

Full cross stitches, half stitches, 3/4 cross stitches and backstitches. The French knot dots over the lower case "i", the period and the colon are not true French knots. The stiff, almost wire-like characteristic of the silver "metallic" Light Effects floss makes it difficult to make French knots (the substitute is described below). You will be using this same floss to over stitch areas already embroidered with the standard cotton floss. Half stitches "sew" the two sides together.

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.

You will use two separate pieces of fabric for this bookmark. The top chart shows the stitching for the front piece. The middle and bottom, shown in two stages for clarity, illustrates the stitching for the back piece. Disregard the fabric and design measurements listed under "Grid Size" and "Design Area" at the top of this page. The actual dimensions are described in Step 2 below.

On the front (top) pattern, you will see white half stitches surrounding the perimeter of the design. These demonstrate the stitches you will use to "sew" the front piece of the bookmark to the back piece. They will be the last stitches you will do. These stitches are not meant to be an integral part of the design. So, if you are embroidering this bookmark on a different color of fabric, you may want to change this floss to a color that will blend, or "disappear" into the background.

On the middle chart, backstitches outline and define portions of the back design. For clarity, they are shown as black instead of white. You will not use DMC #310 on any part of the design. Replace these stitches with DMC White.

Step 2 - Select and Prepare Your Fabric

I recommend stitching this pattern on white. The text in the background is an integral part of the design. Because it is left unstitched, it stands out best on a bright-white fabric.

You will need two identical pieces of fabric at least 36 stitches wide and 136 stitches long. This gives you some extra around all the edges. If you really have to cut this down to the bare minimum, you can reduce the width to 32 and the length to 122 (no fringe) or 130 (with fringe). These measurements give you only one cut-away row on all sides. I prefer not to cut it so close (no pun intended.)

Because bookmarks are handled a lot, I prefer using Aida cloth for durability. It also supports the metallic stitches, whereas a lightweight fabric can 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.

Treat the outside edges of your fabric to prevent fraying. You can eliminate this step on the sides that will ultimately become fringe. Find and mark the center. Because this is a smaller piece and color changes are predictable, basting in gridlines is not necessary.

Step 3 - Select and Prepare Your Floss

Use the colors listed above or substitute ones of your own. This design can easily be stitched in another color overall. Just select five shades that fade gradually from dark to light. Then pick a single accent color to replace the burgandy areas. Use the white and silver metallic as shown, or replace the silver with another DMC Light Effects color. Gold might coordinate better with some colors. Use your imagination!. There is no right or wrong.

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.

For the bookmark in the photograph, on 14-count Aida, using:

- DMC standard cotton floss
 - Full cross stitches, half stitches, 3/4 stitches - 2 strands
 - Backstitches - 1 strand
- DMC Light Effects floss
 - All stitches - 1 strand

Again, **do not use black DMC 310** in this design. The stitches simply show up better on the chart than the DMC White that you will actually use.

Cut the DMC Light Effects floss, or any other brand of metallic floss or blending filament, into strands 15" or shorter. These types of specialty floss break, separate and shred more easily with prolonged stitching. I've found that it will do so long before I'm able to use the full 18 inches (testing both the thread and my patience!). I usually stick with 12-inch strands or shorter instead.

Step 4 - Stitch the Design

Each square containing a symbol represents one cross stitch; the legend indicates which color to use. The front design has squares with a smaller symbol tucked into one corner. For the partial stitches that define "the word," use 3/4 stitches.

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.

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 hold for the metallic floss to slip through. Because there is less friction as the floss passes through the hold, it will separate and break less often.

Make a "faux" French knot with the Light Effects floss. Using a single strand (and magnifier!), simply make a tiny straight stitch. On John 1:1, make them vertical. As a period or dot above an "i", you can make them diagonally. On 14-count Aida, the stitch covers less than half of a single square. Make it large enough to see, but small enough to still resemble a dot.

Follow this order when stitching:

Front:

- Cross stitches
- Silver half stitches (1 strand)
- Backstitches

Back:

- Cross stitches
- Silver backstitches that make up the lettering (1 strand)
- Silver cross stitches in corners (1 strand)
- Silver half stitches (over the white DMC cross stitches)

Make sure silver half stitches over the white cross stitches slant in the same direction as the top diagonal of those underlying white cross stitches.

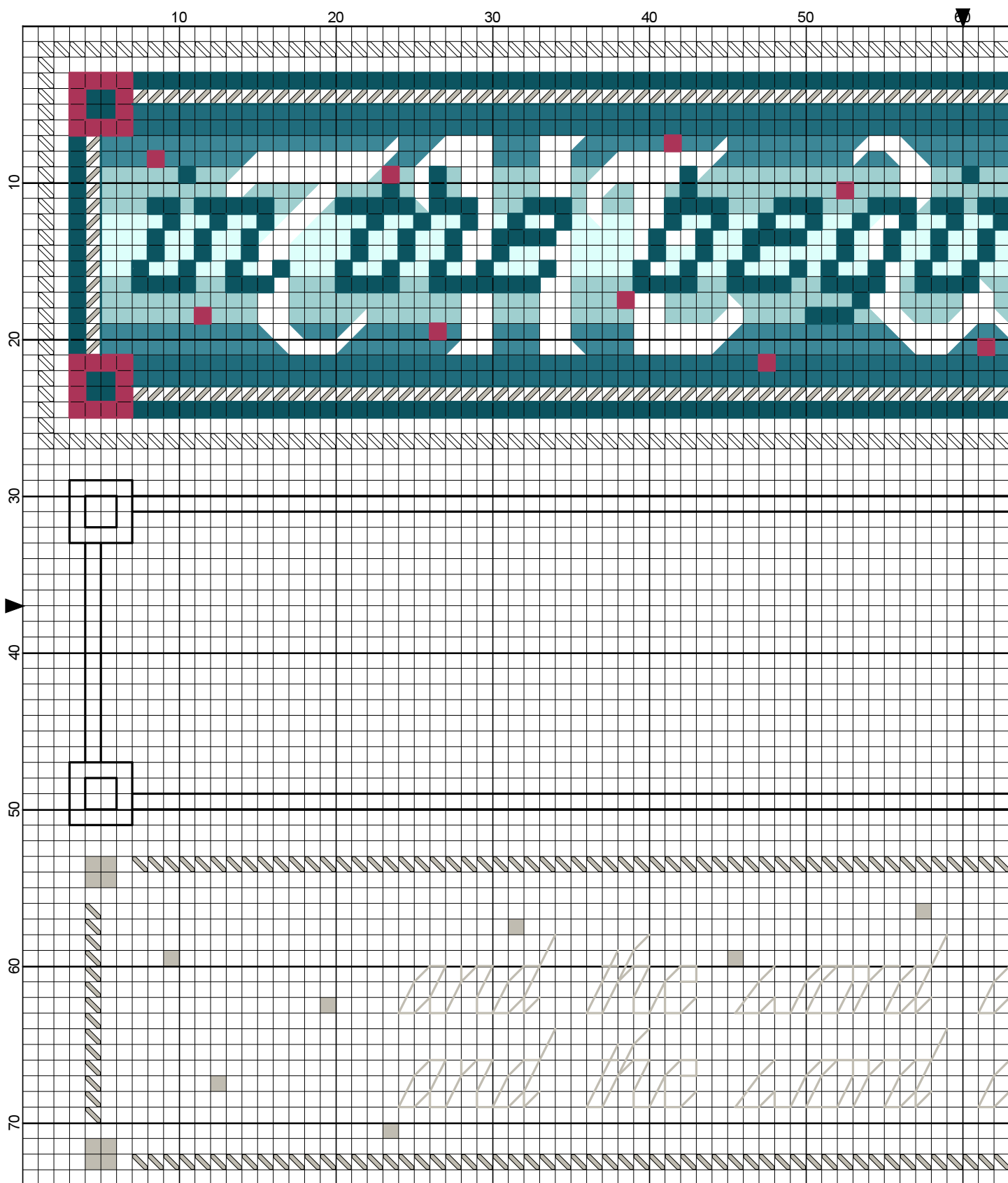
Step 5 - Assemble the Bookmark

This is the final step in finishing your bookmark. Align the corners of the front and back designs, wrong sides together. Start with the front "in the beginning" design facing you. Skip the first row adjacent to the last cross stitched border. In the next row, use half stitches as shown to join the two. These half stitches will completely surround the design on this side, while the stitches on the "John 1:1" side will be a series of parallel straight stitches.

For detailed instructions and diagrams explaining this process, click on the "Join Sides" button on the left.

To make the bookmark as shown, trim the two long sides and reinforce with Fray block. Make fringe on the short ends. For detailed instructions and diagrams, click on the "Make Fringe" button on the left.

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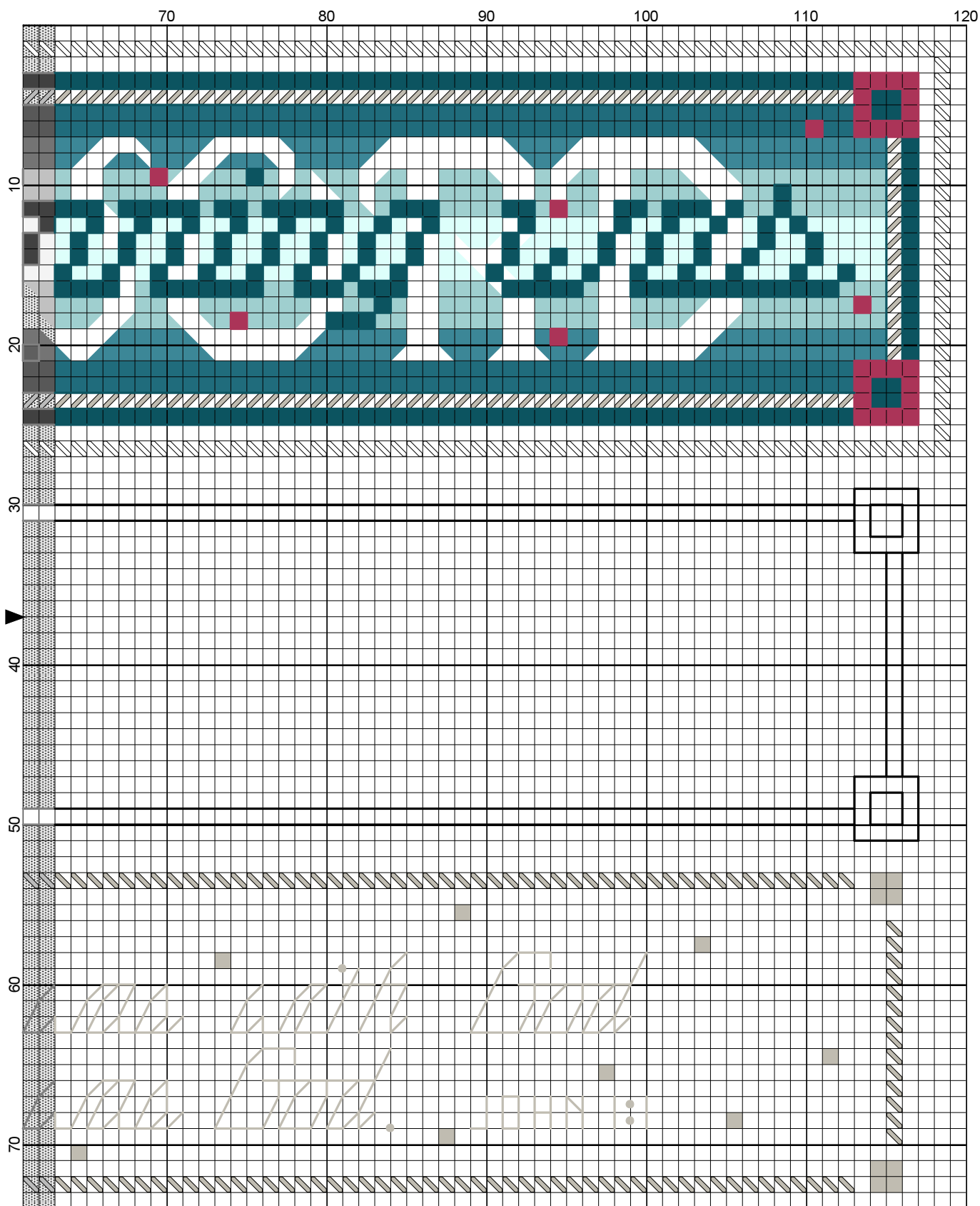
Katherine Martin Tripp

Legend:

- DLE-E168
- DMC-3803
- DMC-747
- DMC-3766
- DMC-3810
- DMC-3809
- DMC-3808
- DMC-White

Backstitches:

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- DLE-E168 ■ DMC-3803 ■ DMC-747 ■ DMC-3808 ■ DMC-310
- French Knots:
- DLE-E168