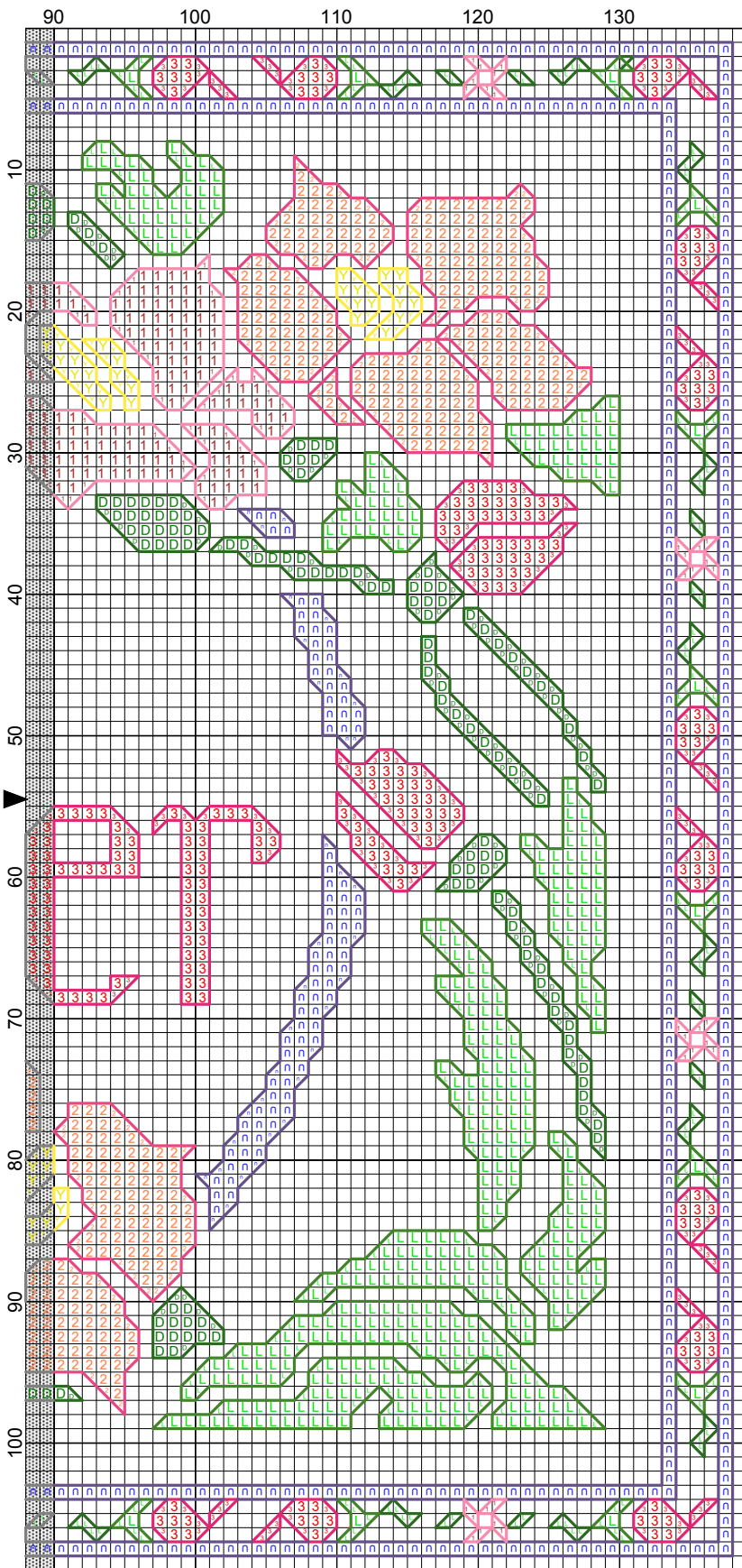


"Mother's Day Floral - For My Mother" by Katherine Martin Tripp



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Legend:








- 1 DMC-604
  - 2 DMC-602
  - 3 DMC-601
  - n DMC-333
  - L DMC-987
  - D DMC-986
  - Y DMC-307
- Backstitches:
- DMC-604
  - DMC-602
  - DMC-601
  - DMC-333
  - DMC-987
  - DMC-986
  - DMC-307

# Mother's Day Floral - For My Mother



**Author:** Katherine Martin Tripp  
**Company:** Extra Mile Mercantile  
**Copyright:** Katherine Martin Tripp  
**Website:** www.better-cross-stitch-patterns.com  
**Fabric:** Aida or Evenweave  
**Grid Size:** 139W x 109H  
**Design Area:** 9.79" x 7.64" (137 x 107 stitches)

## Legend:

 DMC 604 cranberry - lt	 DMC 333 blue violet - vy dk	 DMC 307 lemon
 DMC 602 cranberry - md	 DMC 987 forest green - dk	
 DMC 601 cranberry - dk	 DMC 986 forest green - vy dk	

## Backstitch Lines:

 DMC-604 cranberry - lt	 DMC-333 blue violet - vy dk	 DMC-307 lemon
 DMC-602 cranberry - md	 DMC-987 forest green - dk	
 DMC-601 cranberry - dk	 DMC-986 forest green - vy dk	

## In the Photograph:

I discovered this idea in a cross stitch magazine. It proposed "countless" counted cross stitch, but not by imprinting the design on the fabric. Instead, it meant that entire blocks of contiguous stitches consist of a single color. By backstitching these areas first, you need only to fill them in with cross stitches using the matching colors.

You can also stitch this design in the traditional manner. Either way, this project can be finished quickly, and is a perfect choice for beginning and/or young stitchers. It is also an ideal carry along project--once the outlines are complete, you'll be free from fumbling with pattern pages.

I embroidered "**Mother's Day Floral**" on 14-count Aida. I used DMC floss: 2 strands for cross stitches, 1 strand for backstitches.

## What You'll Need:

- Fabric
- Floss

## Stitch Complexity:

- Full cross stitches
- 1/4 cross stitches
- Backstitches

## 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.

This is a *countLESS* cross stitch design, so be sure to read Step 4 below before starting. The design is not imprinted on the fabric, so there is still *some* counting to do. But since each individual element is stitched with a single color, you only need to determine where the outside edges are.

## 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.

### Step 2 - Select and Prepare Your Fabric

To stitch the design exactly as it is shown in the photograph, simply use the materials as 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. If you need help, click on "Stitch Counts" button on the left menu. 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. For help, click on the "How to..." button on the left, then select the "Floss Coverage and Why it Matters" link at the bottom of the page. Still uncertain? Work a few sample stitches in the corner of your fabric.

If you are stitching this design on something that will be worn or washed, it may be necessary to launder the floss before stitching.

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

#### **Step 4 - Stitch the Design**

Each square containing a symbol represents one cross stitch; the legend indicates which color to use. A single, smaller symbol tucked into one corner represents a 1/4 cross stitch, which is only one half of one diagonal. The backstitch outline completes it.

You can stitch this design in the traditional manner--cross stitches first, backstitches to finish it. However, this pattern was designed to be stitched with less counting. To do this:

- backstitch the flowers, leaves, circle and letters first, using the same floss colors as indicated for the cross stitches
- fill in these backstitches with the applicable cross stitches
- cross stitch the inner violet border
- cross stitch the tiny surrounding flowers and leaves
- cross stitch the outer violet border
- backstitch the tiny flowers and leaves
- backstitch both sides of both violet borders, but do not backstitch over the existing pink and green backstitches used in the floral border. Simply skip those stitches that already have a backstitch between them. The backstitches for the flowers and leaves take precedence over the border backstitches.

If you are working over two threads, on fabric such as linen, the placement of the first stitch is critical. To prevent puckering and provide stability, the first diagonal of the first cross stitch must start and end where a vertical fabric thread crosses over a horizontal thread.