

"Alphabet 08 Canes" by Katherine MartinTripp



Legend:

DMC-304
 DMC-699

Backstitches:

DMC-304
 DMC-699

French Knots:

DMC-304

Alphabet 08 Canes



Author: Katherine Martin Tripp
Company: Extra Mile Mercantile
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Website: better-cross-stitch-patterns.com
Fabric: Evenweave
Grid Size: 66W x 87H
Design Area: 7.11" x 9.44" (64 x 85 stitches)

Legend:

 [2] DMC 304 christmas red - md  [2] DMC 699 christmas green

Backstitch Lines:

 DMC-304 christmas red - md  DMC-699 christmas green

French Knots:

⊙ DMC-304 christmas red - md

In the Photograph:

The "Alphabet 08" is stitched on 18-count Aida over two threads. I used DMC floss.

For the upper case letters, numbers (those with candy canes) and punctuation (those stitched in red):

- 2 strands for cross stitches and partial stitches
- 2 strands for backstitches

For the lower case letters, numbers and punctuation (those in green without candy canes):

- 2 strands for cross stitches and partial stitches
- 1 strand for backstitches
- 1 strand, wrapped once, for the French Knot detail on or around the lower case letters (optional)

The letters backstitched with 2 strands have a fuller, more rounded shape. If you prefer the appearance of the lower case letters backstitched with a single thread, do the same for the upper case letters. The reverse is true for the lower case letters; backstitching with 2 strands fills in the letters more.

You can also eliminate the backstitches on the green altogether, leaving them to look like the needles on a Christmas tree.

Description: Block letters, standard/straight

Characters Included:

- Upper Case Letters
- Lower Case Letters
- Numbers
- Punctuation

Height:

- The upper case letters are 7 stitches high.
- The lower case letters without ascenders or descenders (ex: a, c, o) are 4 stitches high.
- The lower case letters with only ascenders (ex: b, d, h) or only descenders (ex: g, p, y) are 6 stitches high.

Width:

These letters have varying widths. The upper case letters range from 3 to 6 stitches wide. Most lower case letters are 3 stitches wide, but they range from 1 (i, l) to 5 (w).

Stitch Complexity:

- Full cross stitches
- 1/4 and 3/4 cross stitches
- 1/2 cross stitches
- Backstitches
- French Knots are optional. They can be sprinkled around the lower case letters, or randomly stitched directly on the lower case letter cross stitches.

Learn any unfamiliar stitches by clicking on the "How To..." button on the left menu of the Better Cross Stitch Patterns Home page. Check out my French Knot video for an easy way to make this sometimes difficult knot.

How to Fit Text into a Design:

This is one of those alphabet designs that can stand alone. It would make a great holiday greeting card, tree ornament, bookmark, etc. Consider surrounding the text with a candy cane border. To resemble Christmas tree bulbs, use a variety of brightly colored floss for the French knots; increase the number of strands and the number of times you wrap the floss to make these "bulbs" larger. Candy canes come in all colors now. Consider using only the upper case letters for your text, but change the candy cane floss for each letter. Or stitch the same card for everyone on your list (this will go quickly), but vary the candy cane and border colors.

For more help on selecting and adapting cross stitch alphabets, click on the "Alphabet 123s" button on the left menu of the Home page. Thoroughly read "The 123's of the Counted Cross Stitch Alphabet" to learn how to select and adapt cross stitch alphabets.

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