

INCLUDING

17

BRAND-NEW  
SUBVERSIVE  
PATTERNS

subversive  
cross stitch

50 F\*CKING  
C\*CKLEVER

DESIGNS FOR YOUR

SASSY SIDE

BY JULIE JACKSON

# Subversive Cross Stitch

By Julie Jackson

Published by



To be released: **February 2014**

This PDF of ***Subversive Cross Stitch***  
is only a **partial** preview of the book.

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To see the complete version, please contact Declan Taintor,  
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## meet subversive cross stitch

Welcome to my second book of cross stitch!

Like many creative endeavors, Subversive Cross Stitch® was launched in the face of staggering mediocrity. I was working in a conservative office for an idiot boss, and it was getting increasingly difficult to disguise my contempt. In a desperate search for art therapy, I found myself wandering through a local craft store.

Once I hit the cross stitch aisle, I knew what I had to do. There they were, all those cheerful little bears and happy smiling babies. Precious frilly bookmarks and Lucite coasters and angels...it was just too much sweetness in one place. It needed to be messed with. At first I altered store-bought patterns to make them look like the cute little bears were humping each other or like the angels were actually Siamese twins. Then I found one of those really ornate kits that come with an alphabet so you can stitch in your name and wedding date. (I don't know about you, but I'd rather have my dental X-rays hanging on my wall.) I actually completed this complicated masterpiece of lilies and vines and latticework; then, right in the center, I embroidered one simple word: "Fuck." I had finally found my calling.

Since then, the world of DIY craft and especially cross stitch has expanded like mad. Now anyone can start an Etsy shop and put their ideas out there in an instant. People are cross stitching in public, in kayaks, on trains and even stitching directly on benches, fences, or anything grid-like that yearns for embellishment. I always encourage self-expression in cross stitch because no two people will ever do the exact same thing and the possibilities are truly endless. Over the past 10-plus years, it's been fantastic to witness how this craft continues to

evolve and grow in popularity. I can't help but think of those before us, in corsets and bustles, quietly stitching away on samplers while keeping their mouths shut and their skills sharp.

In this book, I've kept all the patterns from my first book and added 17 more—10 completely new, 7 you may have seen before—plus 4 alphabet charts instead of one. I hope you enjoy these patterns and, after you get the technique down, express your own pet phrases in cross stitch. You can find dozens more patterns on my site as well as supplies, instructions, and tips.

Remember: cross stitch—or any other craft for that matter—is not about following a pattern to perfection. If you're working that hard, you're missing the point. Have fun with it! Liberate those sad, fussy, teddy bear and bunny patterns from the craft stores—buy them, take them home, and give them a more interesting life. They're just begging for it; look at them! Their little mouths want so badly to mutter something nasty. Only you can free them!

**julie jackson**

[www.subversivecrossstitch.com](http://www.subversivecrossstitch.com)  
(mind your fingers!)



p.s. Just to let you know what else I've been working on this past decade—when I'm not stitching, I'm putting wigs on cats. If you don't know about Kitty Wigs yet, I invite you to check out [kittywigs.com](http://kittywigs.com) and my book *Glamourpuss: The Enchanting World of Kitty Wigs*.

## tools and techniques

### YOUR BAG OF TRICKS

As with any hobby worth pursuing, there's a world of gadgets to explore. For our purposes, we're going to keep it really simple and address only what you'll need to complete the patterns in this book. For animated instructions and tips, please visit the How-To section of our website, [subversivecrossstitch.com](http://subversivecrossstitch.com)

### Here's What You'll Need:

- ✕ Cross stitch fabric (Aida white or off-white, 14-count)
- ✕ A small pack of tapestry needles (size 24)
- ✕ DMC cotton six-strand embroidery floss (each pattern lists the colors you'll need)
- ✕ A wooden or plastic embroidery hoop (5 or 6 inches [15.4 cm] in circumference)
- ✕ Scissors (small, sharp embroidery scissors are ideal)
- ✕ Pinking shears (if you've got them)

### Cross Stitch Fabric

My patterns usually start with Aida cross stitch fabric in white, which is ideal for beginners. Cross stitch fabric has squares woven into it so that it's obvious where each stitch should go. Aida is the most common cross stitch fabric, so it's easy to find.

The level of difficulty and the size of the final piece depend on the count size used. The count of the fabric refers to the number of squares per inch. For example, 14-count fabric has 14 squares per inch.

**NOTE:** All Subversive Cross Stitch kits use 14-count material, so the measurements provided for the finished pieces in this book assume that you're using 14-count. Using material in a different count will mean the final product will be either smaller (if a higher count is used) or larger (if a smaller count is used).

Here's a handy diagram:



11-count fabric



14-count fabric



18-count fabric

If you have bad lighting and need to start with larger squares, try 11-count fabric. Or if you want the final design to have smaller stitches and be smaller in overall size, use 18-count fabric. Just keep in mind that the smaller the squares, the more challenging it will be. (This is where your OCD will come in handy.)

### Tapestry Needles

Tapestry needles are used in cross stitch because they have blunt ends that glide through the fabric without piercing or splitting it. They also have a large eye for easy threading. It's always a good idea to have more than one needle handy, in case you lose one.

### DMC Cotton Six-Strand Embroidery Floss

For some reason, embroidery thread is called "floss." It is made up of six easily separated strands. For all Subversive Cross Stitch designs, you'll stitch with just two strands at a time.

My patterns all reference DMC thread color numbers, the most universal and easy-to-find brand. The color key next to each pattern tells you which colors of floss to buy. One skein of any color is enough per pattern, unless otherwise noted.

### Embroidery Hoop

In my experience it's a good idea to use an embroidery hoop to hold the fabric taut while

## Basic Cross Stitch

There are two methods. The first method is to complete each X as you go. Once you get comfortable, you should be able to employ the second method, which is a timesaver: work a row of half stitches (////), then work back (\\\\) to complete the Xs. This way, you're just working from the front side of the material, like sewing. This method is useful for blocks of solid color.



The important thing is to make sure that each X crosses in the same direction. That is, the top stitches should run from the upper-left corner to the bottom-right corner of each square. Stitching this way will give your finished piece the uniform look prized by cross stitch connoisseurs worldwide.

Your stitches should lie flat on the fabric and not distort it, so try to keep the tension even. If the thread becomes twisted now and then, just let the threaded needle dangle from the material and it will untwist on its own.

There are animated instructions, tips, and tricks on our site under the How-To section.

Remember, if you make an error while stitching, it's easy to correct it by pulling out the stitches with a needle, or snipping them out with your fancy embroidery scissors. Have a drink and try again.

## Changing Colors

Sometimes you will use one color for only a few stitches, then "jump" to another area. Generally, you should secure and trim your thread, then start again with a new piece of thread, but sometimes you can carry the thread along the back. It depends on how dark

the thread is. Just make sure it doesn't show from the front when you place the entire piece on a white background.

## Finishing Your Work

Though not absolutely necessary, it's a good idea to wash the finished piece. Just hand wash it in some cold water with Woolite or very diluted laundry detergent. Rinse well and roll it in a clean towel to get most of the water out (never wring it). Let it dry fully, and then press with an iron using lots of steam. Be careful not to burn the final product. But if it scorches, it will wash out. A scorch looks like a light burn. Like toast. (Mmmm, toast. Not good in this instance, though.) Try to wash it out; I think you'll be pleasantly surprised.

To finish your work, go to a professional framer if you want top-notch results. Typically, they will mount the final piece on acid-free foam board and frame it, leaving out the glass so the details of your handiwork can be admired up close.

If you're more of a do-it-yourself type, there are several finishing methods you can choose from, depending on how long you want your masterpiece to last. I highly recommend Stitchery Tape, an archival double-sided tape made just for this purpose (available on our site). Or, if you're chronically low-tech and plan on hanging the finished piece for months or years rather than decades, you can always use masking tape and just tape the edges to the back of the board. I won't tell anyone.

The main thing is to enjoy the delicious thrill of embroidering saucy messages in the last place people expect to see them. Don't worry about perfection; enjoy the ride!

**A NOTE ABOUT PATTERN SPECS:** I like to leave some space on my pattern grids, so the overall size (represented under each chart in inches and centimeters) reflects the total size of the pattern as shown.

Please be aware that the overall size measurements are based on standard 14-count material. If you're using another size count, the final size will vary.

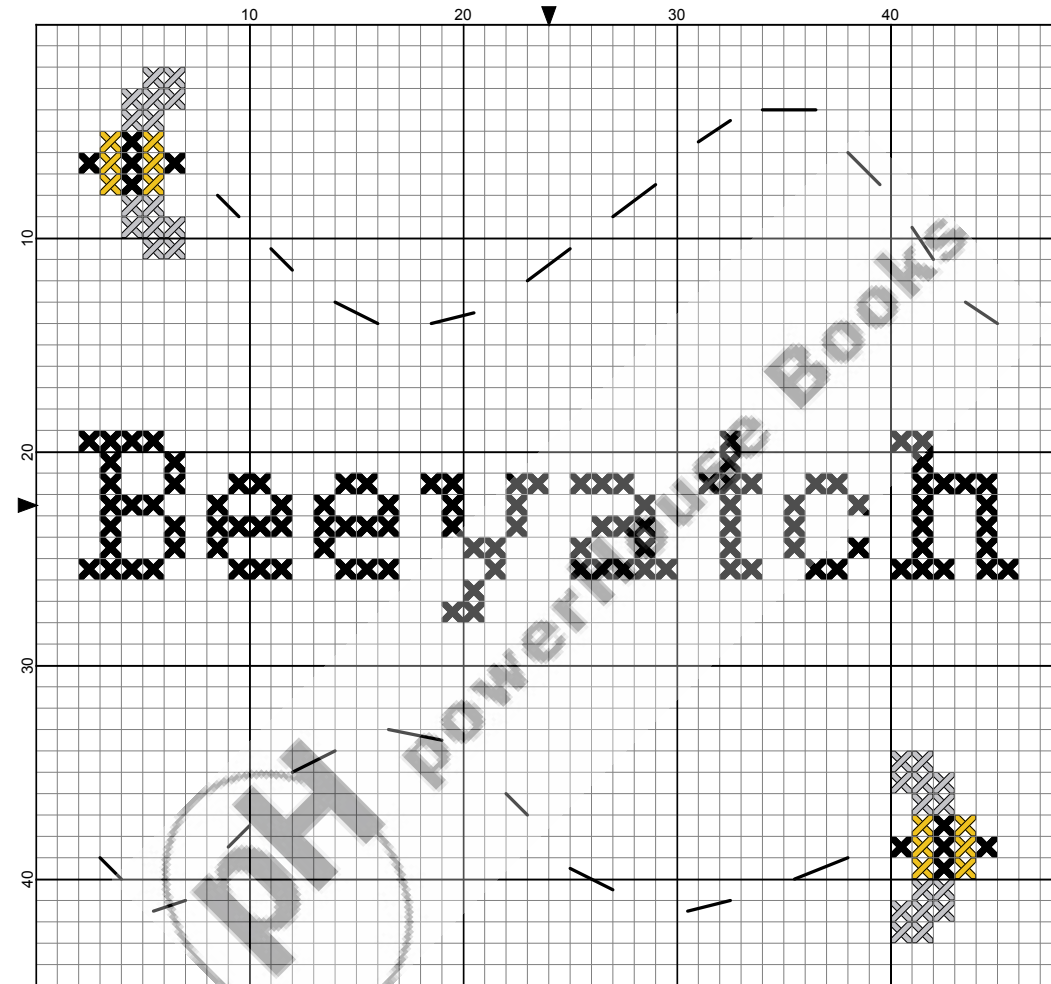
I've also added **Stitch Counts** for the actual stitched part of the pattern.

If all of this means nothing to you, just skip it and continue on your merry way.

It's not important to everyone, but I wanted to include it for the seasoned pros.



Oh look, cute little buzzing bees! But what's a bee yatch?



**LEGEND**

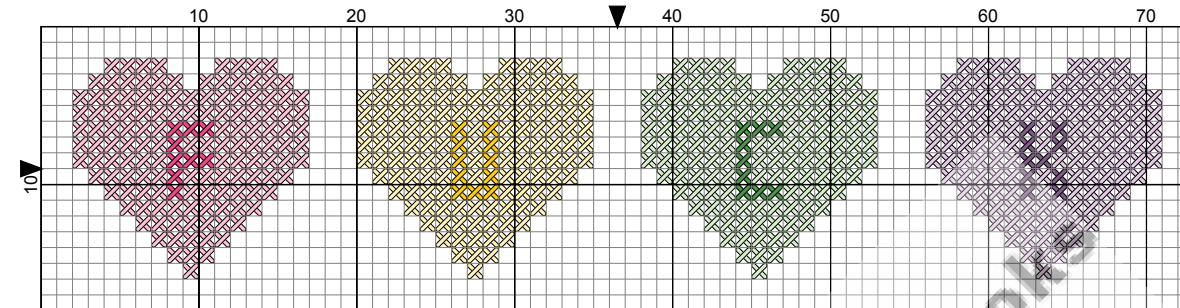
■ DMC-310 ■ DMC-728 ■ DMC-415

**BACKSTITCH** **SIZE**









— DMC-310 3.43 x 3.21 (in) / 8.71 x 8.15 (cm) / 44 x 41 (stitch count)



Ooh, candy hearts! Yummy!  
Tell us how you really feel!



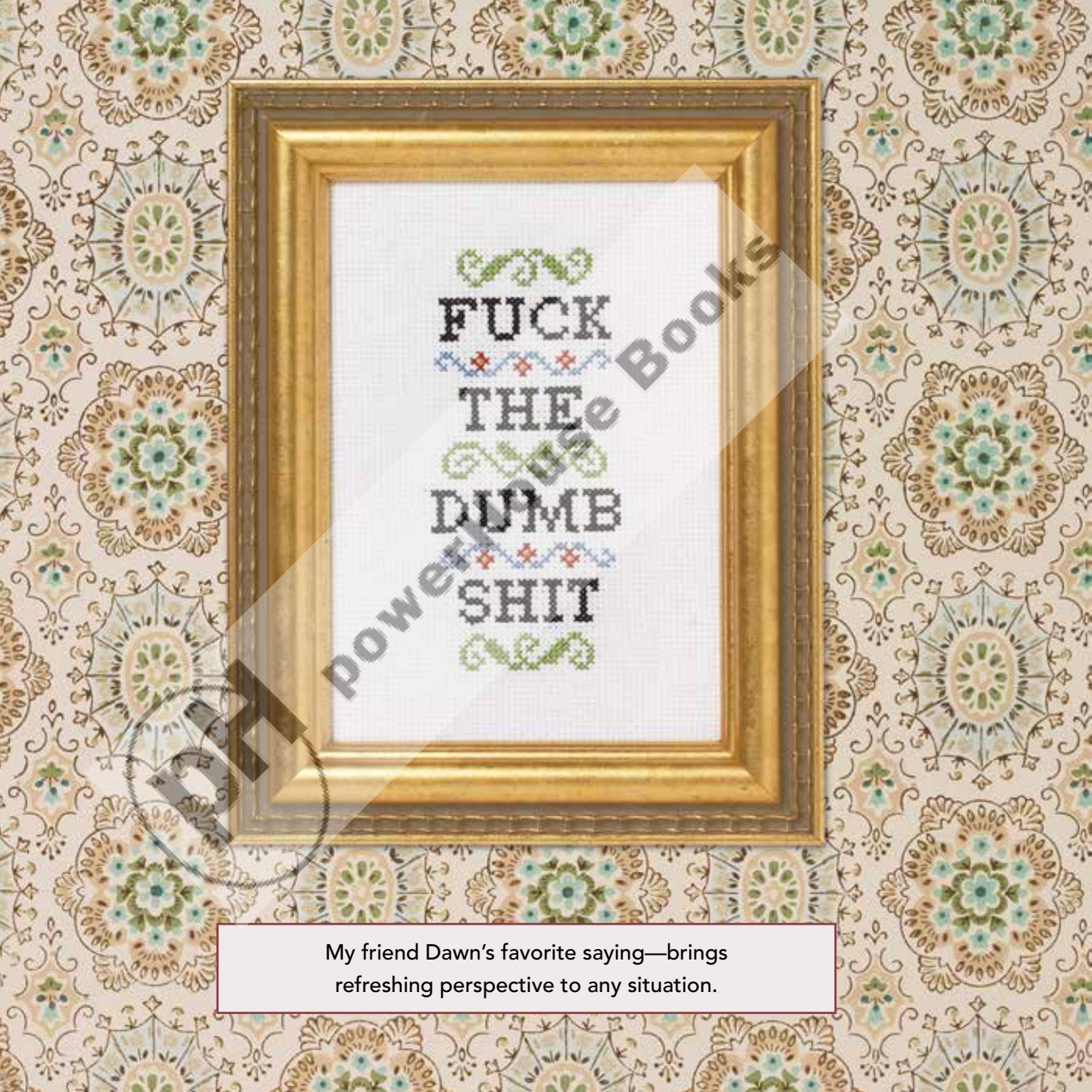
**LEGEND**

 DMC-367	 DMC-3689	 DMC-3805	 DMC-745
 DMC-444	 DMC-369	 DMC-211	 DMC-208

**SIZE**

5.21 x 1.29 (in) / 13.2 x 3.28 (cm) / 69 x 14 (stitch count)





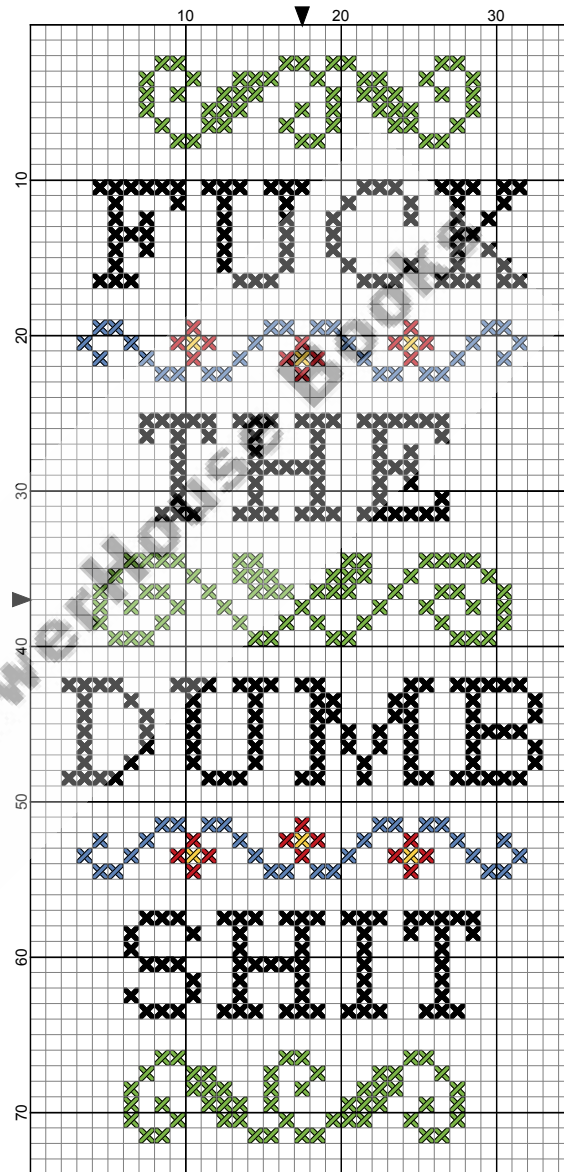
My friend Dawn's favorite saying—brings refreshing perspective to any situation.

**LEGEND**

- DMC-817
- DMC-799
- DMC-703
- DMC-725
- DMC-310

**SIZE**

2.86 x 5.71 (in)  
7.2 x 14.5 (cm)  
31 x 70 (stitch count)





Peggy Lee sang it best:  
 "If that's all there is, my friends, then let's keep dancing..."





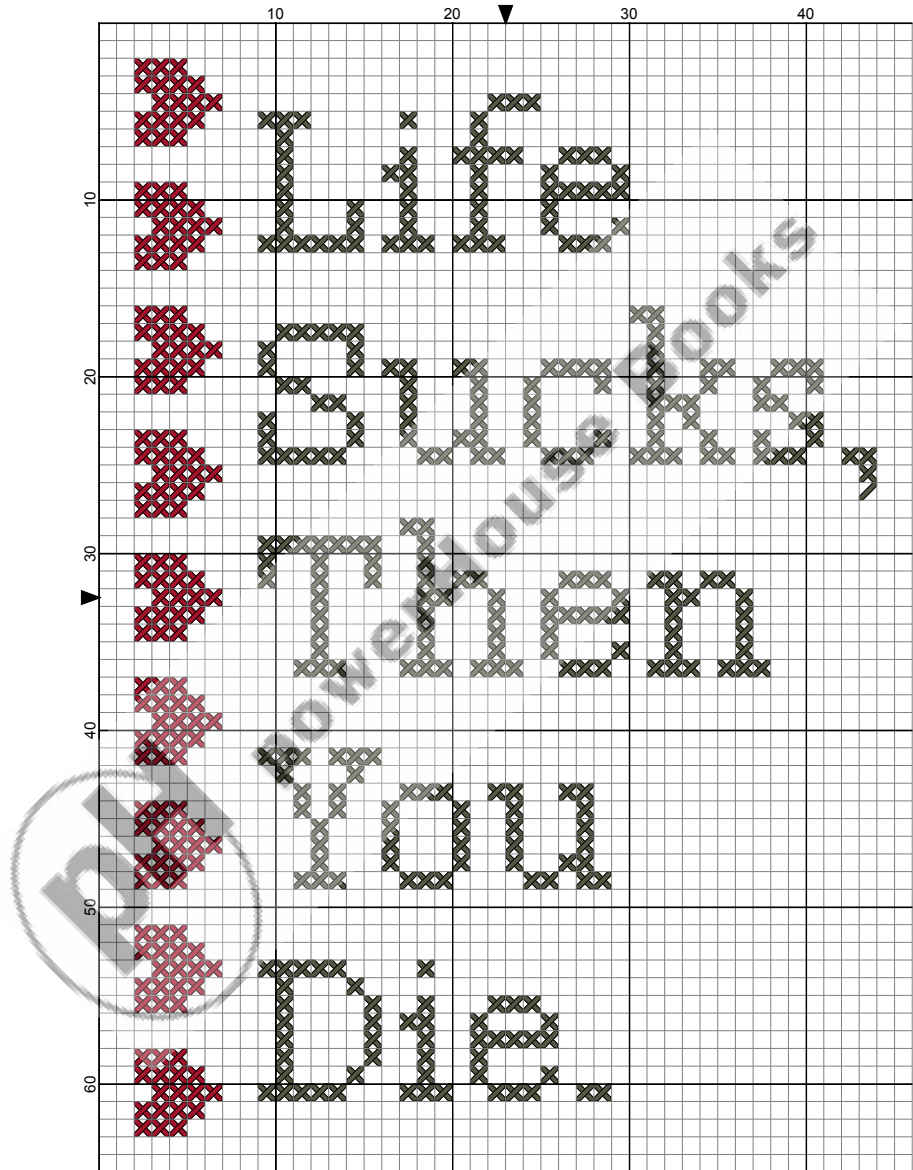
An excellent sentiment guaranteed to brighten anyone's day.  
Be sure to wrap it with a pretty bow!

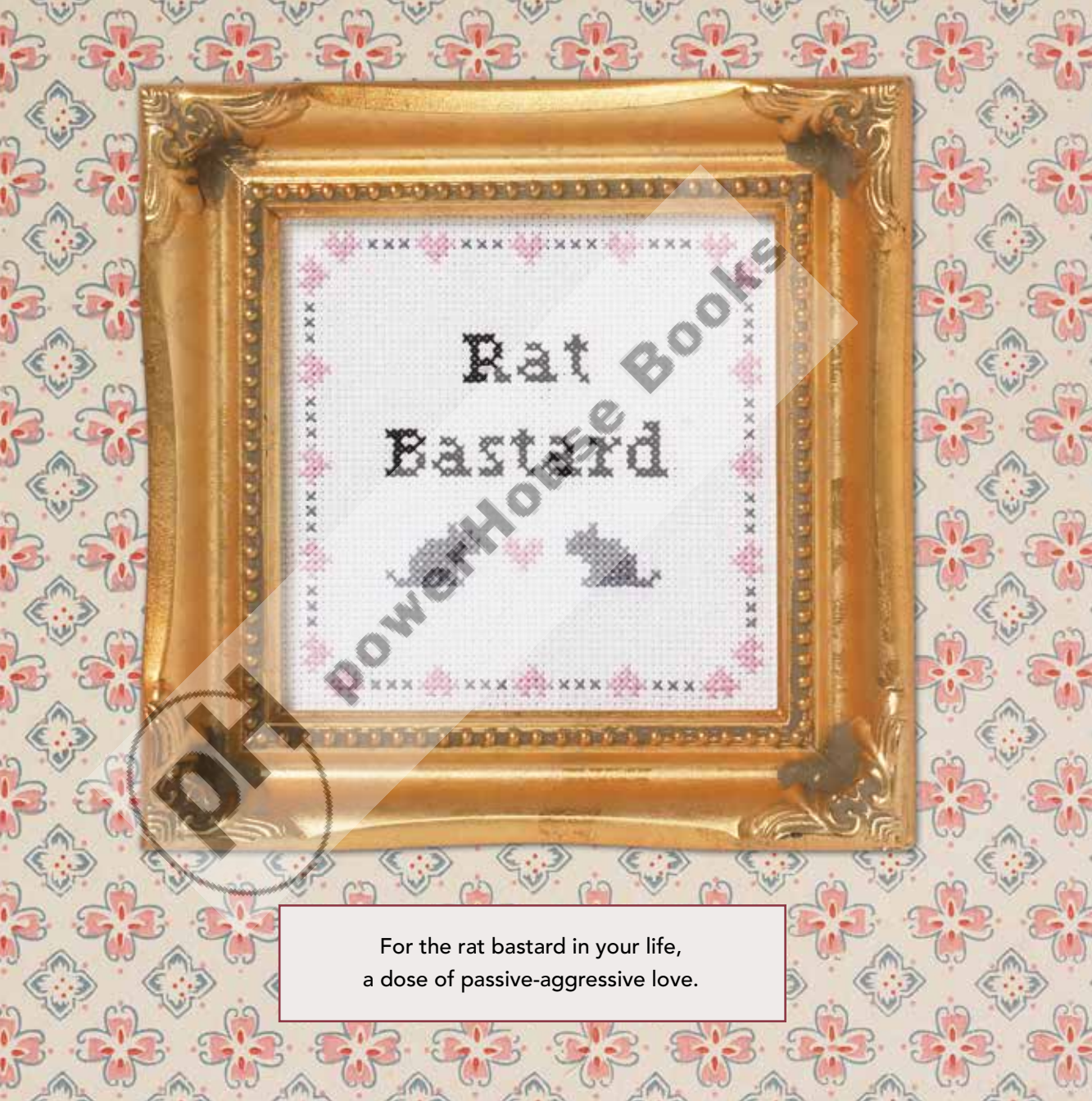
**LEGEND**

- DMC-498
- DMC-535

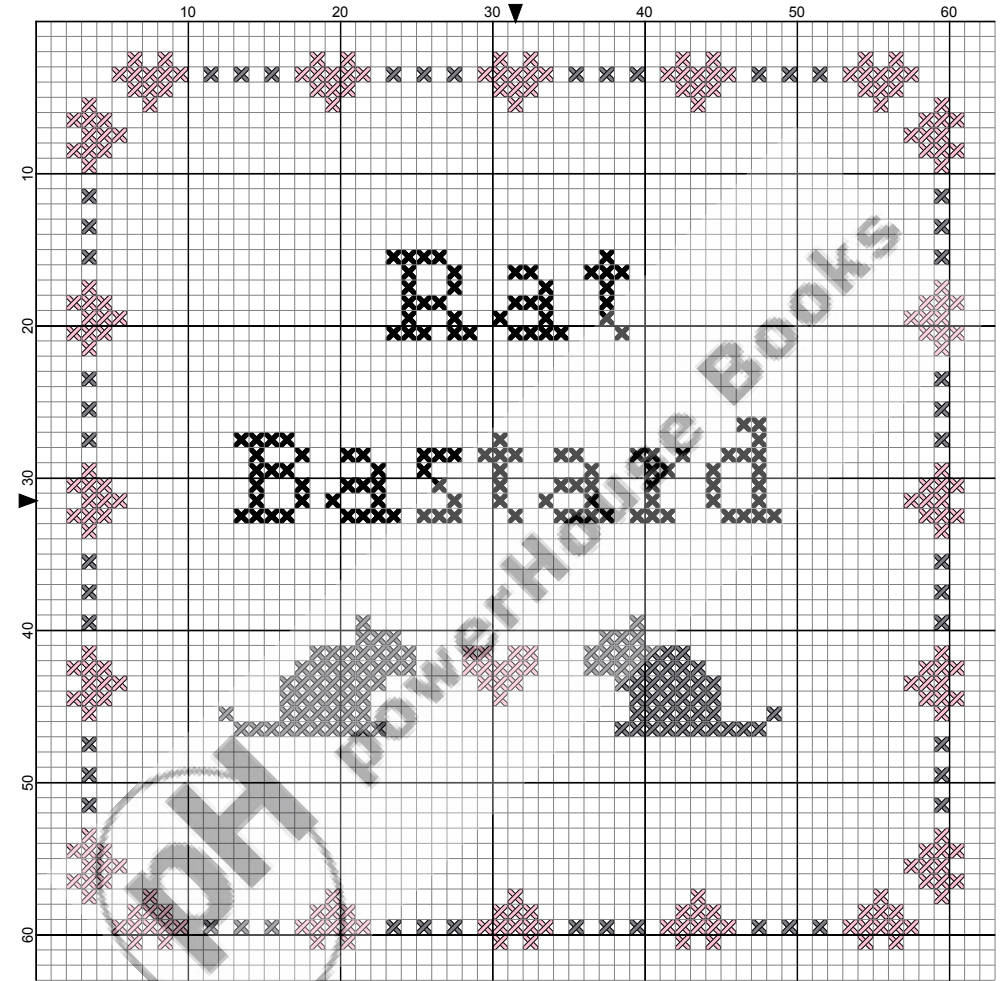
**SIZE**

3.29 x 4.64 (in)  
8.36 x 11.79 (cm)  
42 x 61 (stitch count)





For the rat bastard in your life,  
a dose of passive-aggressive love.

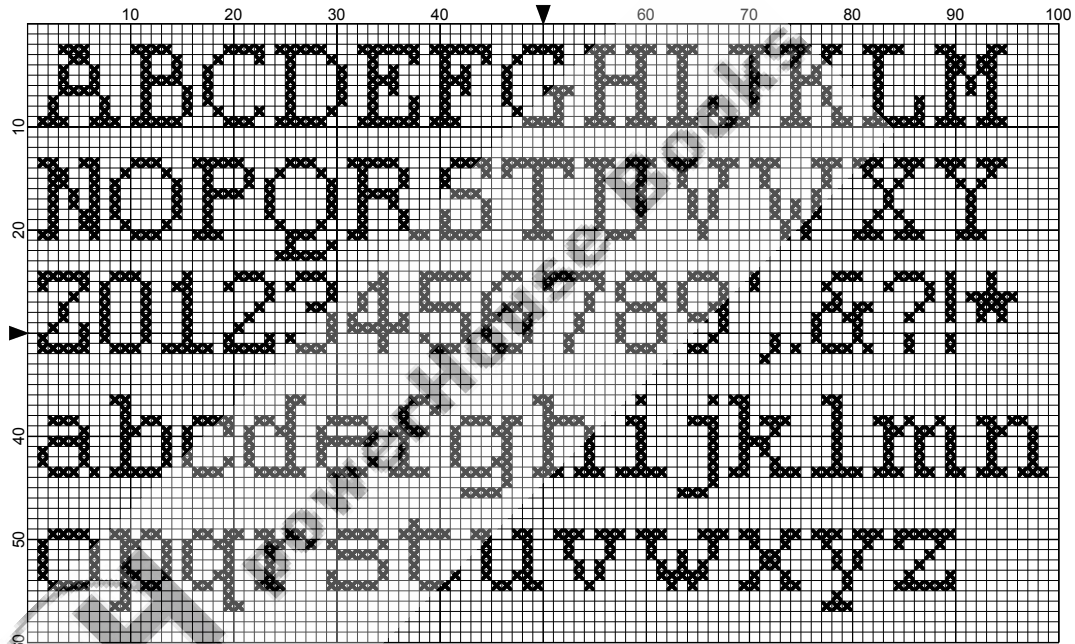


**LEGEND**  
■ DMC-310   ■ DMC-414   ■ DMC-3689

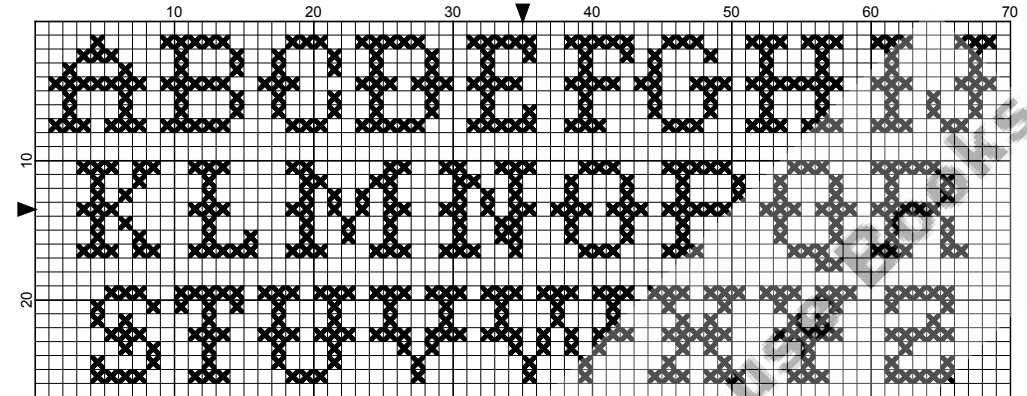
**SIZE**  
4.5 x 4.5 (in) / 11.43 x 11.43 (cm) / 59 x 59 (stitch count)

## CREATE YOUR OWN DESIGNS

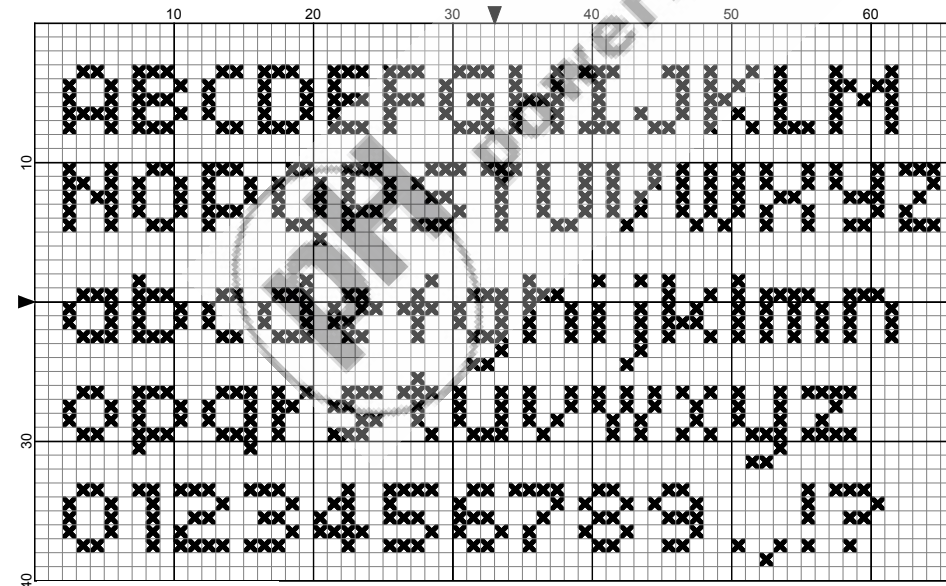
Here are a few font charts and a blank grid to get you started. These are also available as printable PDFs at [subversivecrossstitch.com](http://subversivecrossstitch.com)



## FUN FONT



## TINY FONT



## acknowledgments

I'd like to thank everyone who has ever done a subversive stitch or sent me an email sharing their work or their story. Your input is the fuel that keeps me going.

Huge thanks to Sharyn Rosart, packager of my first book who believed in this project for four years and helped me bring it to fruition with an amazing new publisher.

Big thanks to...

...the incredible people at powerHouse Books: Craig Cohen, Krzysztof Poluchowicz, Will Luckman, Wes Del Val, and Allyssa Kasoff.

...my agent, Monika Verma at Levine Greenberg Rostan. So glad I found you.

...my team of stitchers: Steve Sizer, Calee Spinney, Erin Stanley, Marshall Thompson and vendor22.com. I couldn't have done it without you.

...BEN BRITT. For the photography and so many years of inspiration and friendship.

...Laurie Cinotto for generously offering her photographic talents in our last-minute crunch. See more of Laurie's work at [theittybittykittycommittee.com](http://theittybittykittycommittee.com)

...StitchPoint.com for granting us permission to use her excellent Madrid font in select patterns.

...Matt Hinrichs for always delivering fun illustrations.

...Hannah's Treasures for the wonderful vintage wallpapers.

...Sarah Sockit, for believing in me for so long and teaching me so much.

...everyone who made the first book happen: Jodi Davis, Brooke Johnson, Christina Loff, Sarah Scheffel, Lynne Yeamans, Stephanie Sislow, John Fox, and Kate Kudirka.

...my wonderfully silly father, Jack. I miss you.

...my adorable mother, Joan, for always making life brighter.

...my darling sweetheart, Chris, my *raison d'être*.



Photo of my mom in space by Ben Britt. ©2013



## about the author

In 2003, Julie Jackson created Subversive Cross Stitch, a bedrock of the modern craft movement that pairs old-fashioned samplers with snarky sentiments. Along with this, her second book, kits, cards, and other gift items bearing Subversive designs can be found online and in retail stores around the world. Kits, supplies, advice, and hundreds of PDF patterns can be found on her site, [subversivecrossstitch.com](http://subversivecrossstitch.com).

In 2007, Julie created Kitty Wigs and its companion web site ([kittywigs.com](http://kittywigs.com)), where she sells upscale hairpieces for special felines. Her book *Glamourpuss: The Enchanting World of Kitty Wigs* took the internet and media by storm thanks to the brilliant photography of Jill Johnson.

Julie currently lives in Dallas with her husband and a menagerie of outstanding honor roll pets.

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