

Just What Is a Stitch Guide?

The term "Stitch Guide" can be confusing to many people. In short, it is a guide to placement of threads and stitches for a particular painted canvas or a counted canvas design. However, there are different types of Stitch Guides, and knowing which to expect will help determine which type you need. Here at Louise's we offer the following types of Stitch Guides.

A basic Stitch Guide comes in the form of a spreadsheet with columns showing the area and placement; the thread type, color and number; the number of strands used; a suggested stitch or stitch pattern; and a special note if needed. There is no cost to you for this type of Stitch Guide when you purchase the canvas and/or threads from us. However, there are no stitch diagrams included; rather, we reference one of the many stitch books that are available. Since we are not stitching the canvas for you, there are also no photographs of stitched areas to view.

Our Club Stitch Guides are different. In this case, we have stitched the club canvases and have written the Stitch Guide from that experience. You receive cut lengths of thread in your thread pack; however, we are very generous with the length of threads you receive. These guides include close-up photos of the stitched areas, and diagrams for all stitches used in the piece. These guides are included at no additional cost when you subscribe to the club package.

Another type of Stitch Guide is one that has been written for a particular painted canvas that has been stitched. These are the type of guides written by many different writers and are available through the shop. The costs for these type of guides varies according to the pricing decided by the writer. Costs can range from \$30 and up, depending on the design. Each guide writer has his or her own particular format; there may be photos, diagrams, notes or other elements. Here at Louise's, the guides we write for a stitched piece will have thread lists, close-up photos of the stitched areas, diagrams for all the stitches used in the piece, notes and step-by-step photos as needed. Costs vary depending on the intricacy of the design.

Louise's Needlework Exclusive

State of Ohio Teeny Square
The Meredith Collection



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Finally, we will create a Custom Stitch Guide for your canvas. These take into effect the thread choices and stitches you prefer; whether or not you are using beads, silk ribbons or other embellishments; and the intricacy of the design. Obviously, we are not stitching the canvas for you, but there may also be close-up photos of the areas with stitch placements indicated and step-by-step photos as needed. All stitches we suggest will have diagrams as well. Pricing for these guides will vary based on the intricacy of the design and the variety of threads and embellishments used. If you are interested in a Custom Stitch Guide, give us a call at the shop and we can discuss your preferences before giving you a quote on the guide.

Finally, here at Louise's, we consider a Stitch Guide to be just that: a guide to suggested threads and stitches. You may decide to substitute different threads or stitches, or work the entire piece is classic basketweave; the choice is yours. Our shared goal is to have a completed piece of needlepoint that you will treasure.