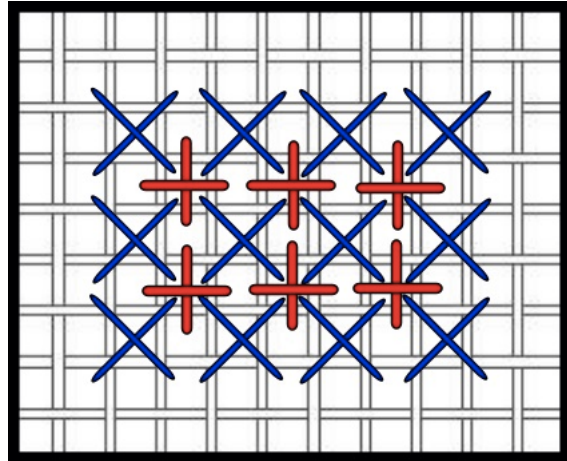


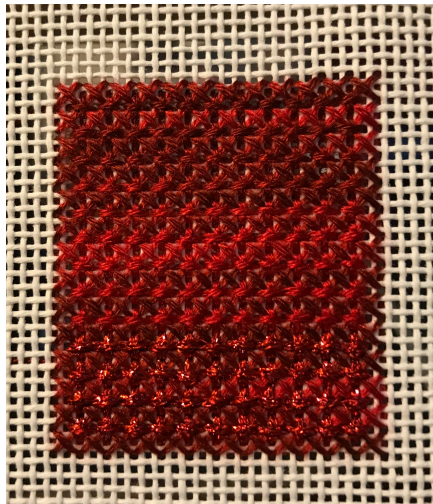
Stitch Spotlight: Interlocking Cross
by Diane Snyder

Small space stitch? Check!
Overall texture? Check!
Easy to compensate? Check!
What's not to like about this useful and versatile stitch?

You might see this stitch called various names, such as Interlocking Cross, Combination Cross, and Upright & Diagonal Cross. It is a very versatile stitch that works well when you want an overall textural pattern that doesn't have an obvious vertical, horizontal or diagonal movement. Use this stitch to define texture in clothing and fabrics, but it also works to define a distinct shape such as a pottery vase or the walls of a shed. It works well in small spaces and is easy to compensate.



As always, your thread choices and colors will affect the finished appearance. This is a great stitch to use with overdyed threads; for example, shades of terra-cotta for the pottery vase or brown tones for the shed. Using a twisted silk thread or perle cotton will have a shiny appearance. Stranded threads will produce a flatter look, while wool threads will have a more matte appearance.



In the stitched sample, I worked all the Diagonal Cross Stitches using 2 strands of Classic Colorworks Tulip. Since this is an overdyed thread, I completed each cross stitch individually instead of working back and forth across the row. I used the same thread to work the Upright Crosses in the first 5 rows, again completing each cross individually. I used 2 strands of Splendor Silk S820 for the Upright Crosses in the next 4 rows. Finally, the last 4 rows of Upright Crosses are worked with 1 strands of #8 Kreinik Braid 003.