

READ ME

Everything you need to know about your custom cross-stitch pattern

What's Included

- [Pecking_Hen_1782795105288_Color_Preview.png](#)
Color preview image showing the finished design
- [Pecking_Hen_1782795105288_Color_Chart.svg](#)
Full-color chart — open in browser, zoom to any size
- [Pecking_Hen_1782795105288_Symbol_Chart.svg](#)
Black & white symbol chart for stitching
- [Pecking_Hen_1782795105288_Color_Symbol_Chart.svg](#)
Color cells with symbols overlaid — best of both
- [Pecking_Hen_1782795105288_Color_Chart_Backstitch.svg](#)
Color chart with back stitch outlines in red
- [Pecking_Hen_1782795105288_Symbol_Chart_Backstitch.svg](#)
Symbol chart with back stitch outlines in red
- [Pecking_Hen_1782795105288_Color_Symbol_Chart_Backstitch.svg](#)
Combined chart with back stitch outlines
- [Pecking_Hen_1782795105288_Color_Pattern.pdf](#)
Printable color PDF — works with Pattern Keeper app
- [Pecking_Hen_1782795105288_Symbol_Pattern.pdf](#)
Printable black & white PDF — works with Pattern Keeper app
- [Pecking_Hen_1782795105288_DMC_Thread_List.pdf](#)
Complete DMC color list, thread lengths, and stitch count
- [Beginner_Stitching_Guide.pdf](#)
Step-by-step guide for beginners
- [License.txt](#)
Usage terms — personal use only

How to Open the Files

- PNG files — open with any image viewer or web browser
- SVG files — open on a COMPUTER: drag and drop into Chrome, Firefox, or Edge (or use Inkscape)
- PDF files — open with Adobe Reader, Preview, or any PDF viewer (works on phones too)
- TXT files — open with any text editor or Notepad

Tip: SVG files will NOT preview in a phone's photo/gallery app — it shows a broken-image icon, but the file is fine. Open SVGs in a web browser on a computer. If you just want to start stitching, use the printable PDF charts — they open on any device.

Materials You'll Need

- 1 Aida Fabric (14 count)**
The most common fabric for cross-stitch. Size info is in the DMC Thread List.
- 2 DMC Embroidery Floss**
Colors and quantities are listed in the DMC Thread List. Buy at any craft store.
- 3 Tapestry Needle (Size 24 or 26)**
Blunt tip needle designed for cross-stitch. Won't split the fabric threads.
- 4 Embroidery Hoop or Frame**
Keeps your fabric taut while stitching. Any size that fits your work area.
- 5 Small Scissors**
For cutting thread. Embroidery scissors work best.

How to Start Stitching

1 Open the DMC Thread List

Check which DMC colors you need and how many skeins of each.

2 Buy your supplies

Get the Aida fabric, DMC floss, needle, and hoop from a craft store.

3 Cut your fabric

Leave 3-4 inches of extra fabric on each side of the pattern area.

4 Find the center

Fold the fabric in half both ways to find the center. Mark it lightly.

5 Match the center of your chart

Start stitching from the center of the pattern outward.

6 Read the chart

Each square = one cross-stitch. Match the symbol to the DMC color in the legend.

7 Stitch one color at a time

This keeps the back neat and makes it easier to count.

8 Use 2 strands of floss

Separate 2 strands from the 6-strand DMC floss for cross-stitches.

How to Use the Backstitch Version

Backstitch adds outlines that make the design look sharper and more defined.

- Open the backstitch version of the chart (files ending with '_Backstitch')
- The red lines on the chart show where to add back stitches
- Use 1 strand of DMC 310 (Black) for all back stitches
- Stitch the back stitches LAST, after all cross-stitches are done
- If you prefer a softer look, you can skip the backstitch entirely

Two versions are included so you can choose what you like best!

Helpful Video Tutorials

New to cross-stitch? These free YouTube tutorials will get you started:

- How to Cross Stitch for Beginners
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZjhS_innKyw
- How to Read a Cross Stitch Pattern
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IF1MDsXUMJo>
- Back Stitch Tutorial for Beginners
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rZ_wVC84UmM
- How to Start & End a Thread Neatly
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=reeea0_jWAg

Using Pattern Keeper App

Pattern Keeper is a popular app (Android) that makes stitching easier:

- Download Pattern Keeper from Google Play Store (\$9 one-time)
- Load the Symbol_Pattern.pdf into the app
- The app lets you zoom, mark completed stitches, and track your progress
- Our PDF uses vector text so Pattern Keeper can read the symbols correctly

Need Help?

If you have any questions about the pattern or need assistance:

- Send a message through Etsy — we typically respond within 24 hours
- We're happy to help with color questions, sizing, or any other concerns

Thank you for your purchase! We hope you enjoy creating this beautiful piece.