

The Reversible Cross

- Dashed lines indicate thread that is underneath the linen.
- Black numbers are stitches made down from the surface. Brown numbers are stitches made up from underneath.
- You do not need to knot your thread. Leave a small tail when you start at stitch #1. When you stitch segments 1-17 make sure you cleanly go over the tail of your thread. Carefully snip off any excess after it is secured under these two initial x's.



- We usually use a magnifier and count threads to get a really straight and even result. If you wear glasses there is a terrific clip-on "Jeweler's Eye Loupe" for around \$10. You have to hold the linen really

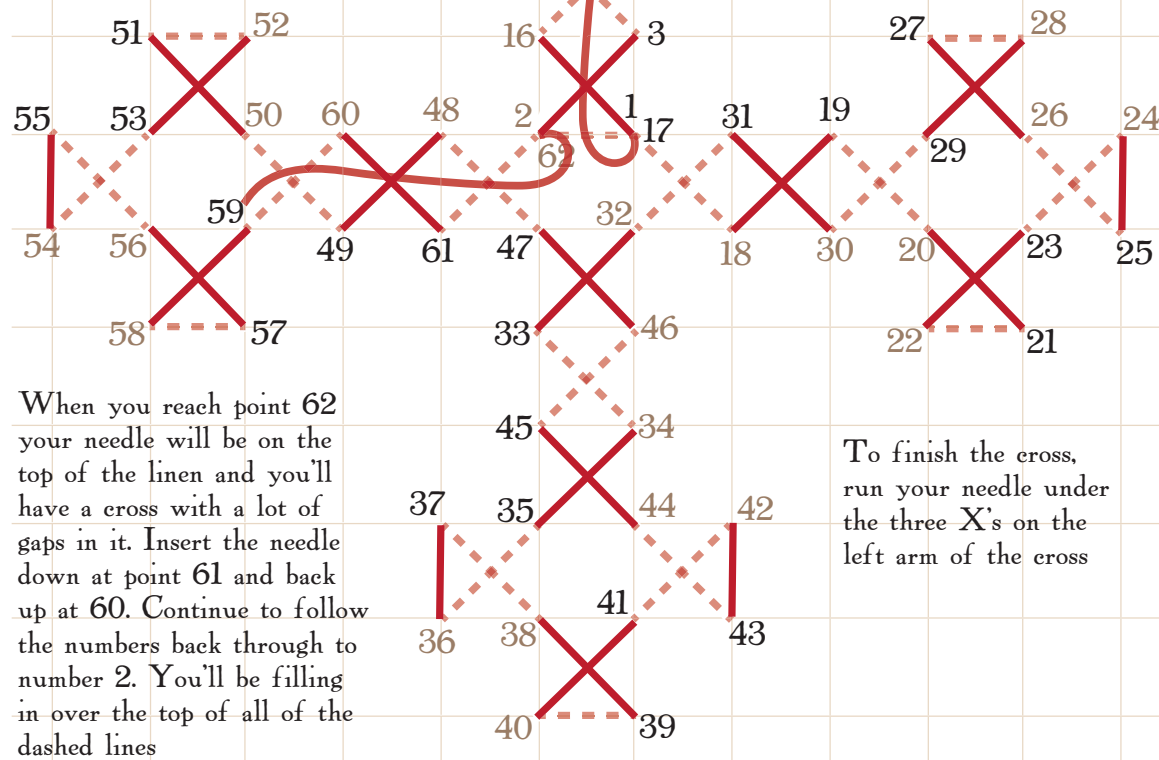
close to your eye to bring it into focus, but you can really see the threads. This little gizmo is also really helpful for picking out knots in your thread. Take a piece of linen to the store to test out the other magnifiers, or try a pair of cheaters.

In some linen the warp and weft threads can be slightly different sizes which will make your cross look uneven if you are counting threads. We always start by counting out a 6 x 6 thread square, and poking the needle in at the corners so you can visually see if it looks square. Make adjustments by going over an additional thread on one of the x's to lengthen any short cross arms.

It is helpful to practice on Aida cloth, or with thicker thread on plastic embroidery canvas to get familiar with the pattern before you stitch with a magnifier on linen.

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Insert needle at point 1 leaving a short tail of thread. Come up at 2, go down at 3 being careful to stitch over the tail of your thread. Come up at 4 and stitch down at 5, again going over the tail of your thread. At this point, carefully snip any excess tail thread that extends beyond your last stitch.



When you reach point 62 your needle will be on the top of the linen and you'll have a cross with a lot of gaps in it. Insert the needle down at point 61 and back up at 60. Continue to follow the numbers back through to number 2. You'll be filling in over the top of all of the dashed lines

To finish the cross, run your needle under the three X's on the left arm of the cross

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Here is what the finished cross looks like on both sides.

