

GINGHAM CROSS-STITCH

Pioneers made do with whatever they had around the house and, fine fabric was often hard to come by. Maybe girls even used gingham to practice their stitchery. Here's something to do with friends like children from times past may have spent their free time. Maybe even Aunt Wealthy would have received a gift such as this.

What You Will Need:

- Graph paper (or lined paper to draw lines on to resemble graph paper)
- Enough gingham fabric to fit a small-medium sized embroidery hoop
- Embroidery hoop
- Embroidery needle
- Embroidery thread
- Scissors

How To Cross-Stitch: Draw a design on the graph paper. You could do a simple flower pattern, your name, or a simple shape. Open larger piece of hoop and lay fabric over it. Place smaller part of hoop over fabric and press into center of hoop, making sure fabric extends beyond edges of hoop. Thread needle with approx. 12" of thread, tying a knot with both ends together. Bring the needle through the underside of the fabric through the corner of a square and push back through the opposite corner of the same square. This will make a half of an "X". Make another stitch completing the "X", moving on to the next square of your pattern. Once you have only approx. 1" of thread left on your needle, cut thread leaving the "tail" to dangle on the back side of piece. Continue with above steps until complete. You may then have it framed, make a pillow of it, or just leave in hoop (attaching loose ends of fabric to back side of hoop with school glue. What a simple and inexpensive way to decorate your room or bless someone with a handmade gift. Handmade gifts are gifts from the heart!