

BOO HALLOWEEN CROSS STITCH

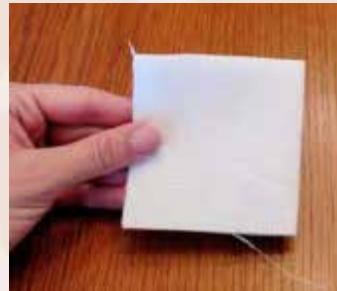
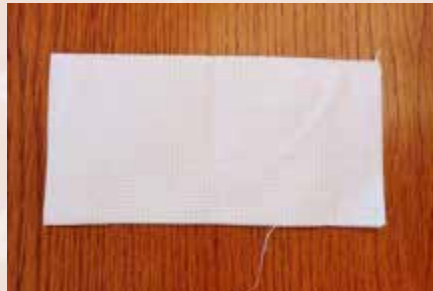
Supplies Needed:

Embroidery hoop	Needle	Cross stitch fabric
Embroidery floss	Pattern	Pencil
Scissors		

Cross-stitching is a beautiful and personal art form! Everyone develops their own techniques and routines that suit their style and process. The steps below are just a guide to help beginners build confidence and make their own creative choices. If something doesn't feel intuitive, trust yourself! You can always undo a few stitches and try again. Have fun, and enjoy the process!



Step One: Fold your cross-stitch fabric in half both horizontally and vertically to find the center, then lightly mark it with a pencil. This will ensure your design is centered and that you have enough space around the edges for framing later on.



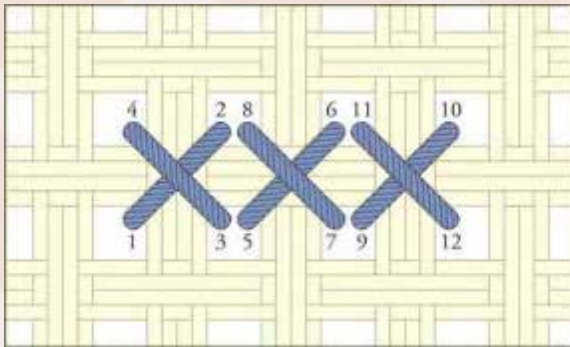
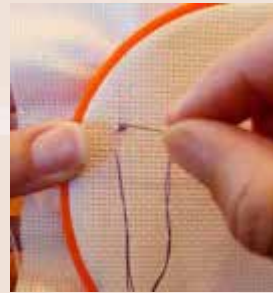
Step Two: Separate the two pieces of the embroidery hoop. Place your fabric over the inner (white) hoop, aligning the center mark with the middle of the circle. Then, secure the fabric by placing the outer (orange) hoop on top. While some prefer to cross-stitch without a hoop, beginners might find it easier to keep stitches straight and see the fabric holes when it's held taut. Now, decide where you'd like to begin your stitching. There's no right or wrong place to start, but for these instructions, we began at the upper left stitch and completed one letter at a time. Count the squares on the pattern from the center to your starting point, and mark it lightly with a pencil. If the design isn't perfectly centered after stitching, you can always adjust the fabric in the hoop when you're finished.



Step Three: We'll be using two strands of embroidery floss per stitch and a method called "2 over 1" which refers to stitching two strands of thread over one fabric thread or grid square. To complete each square, stitch diagonally between opposite corners to form an 'X' with the same color. As you gain confidence, it might be easier to stitch one direction across a row of the same color, then complete the 'X's on the way back. To start, separate a single strand of floss from the six strand bundle, fold in half and pull the two ends through the eye of the needle (there should be a loop at the other end). Be mindful of floss length: longer can easily knot or tangle, while shorter require more frequent starts and stops. For this small pattern with frequent color changes, we recommend starting with approximately 30 inches of floss, folded in half to create a 15 inch double strand. When you need to switch colors or the floss is running low (about 1-2 inches), stop stitching and remove the needle. Floss can be tucked into the next stitch to secure.



Step Four: Insert the needle from the back of the fabric at your starting point, but don't pull it all the way through. To form an 'X', pull the thread to the opposite corner of the square and insert the needle from the front. On the back side, pass your needle through the loop of floss to secure it. This method creates a cleaner back compared to knotting the floss (but if you're more comfortable with knots, feel free to use them!). Then, come up through the back at the remaining bottom corner of the square and connect it to the last open corner at the top. **You've just completed your first stitch!** Note: adjacent stitches will share holes at the corners.



Step Five: From here, it's mostly about counting stitches and changing colors! For the letter 'B', we found it easiest to work horizontally, row by row, switching threads for new colors as needed. For the letter 'O', we worked by color, stitching around the shape. Use whichever method makes it easier for you to follow and count.



Step Six: Once your pattern is complete, secure the thread by stitching under a few strands of floss on the back of the fabric, or by tying a knot, then trim any excess floss. If needed, you can now adjust the fabric to recenter it in the hoop. Enjoy your spooky cross-stitch!



**HAPPY CRAFTING &
HAPPY HALLOWEEN!**

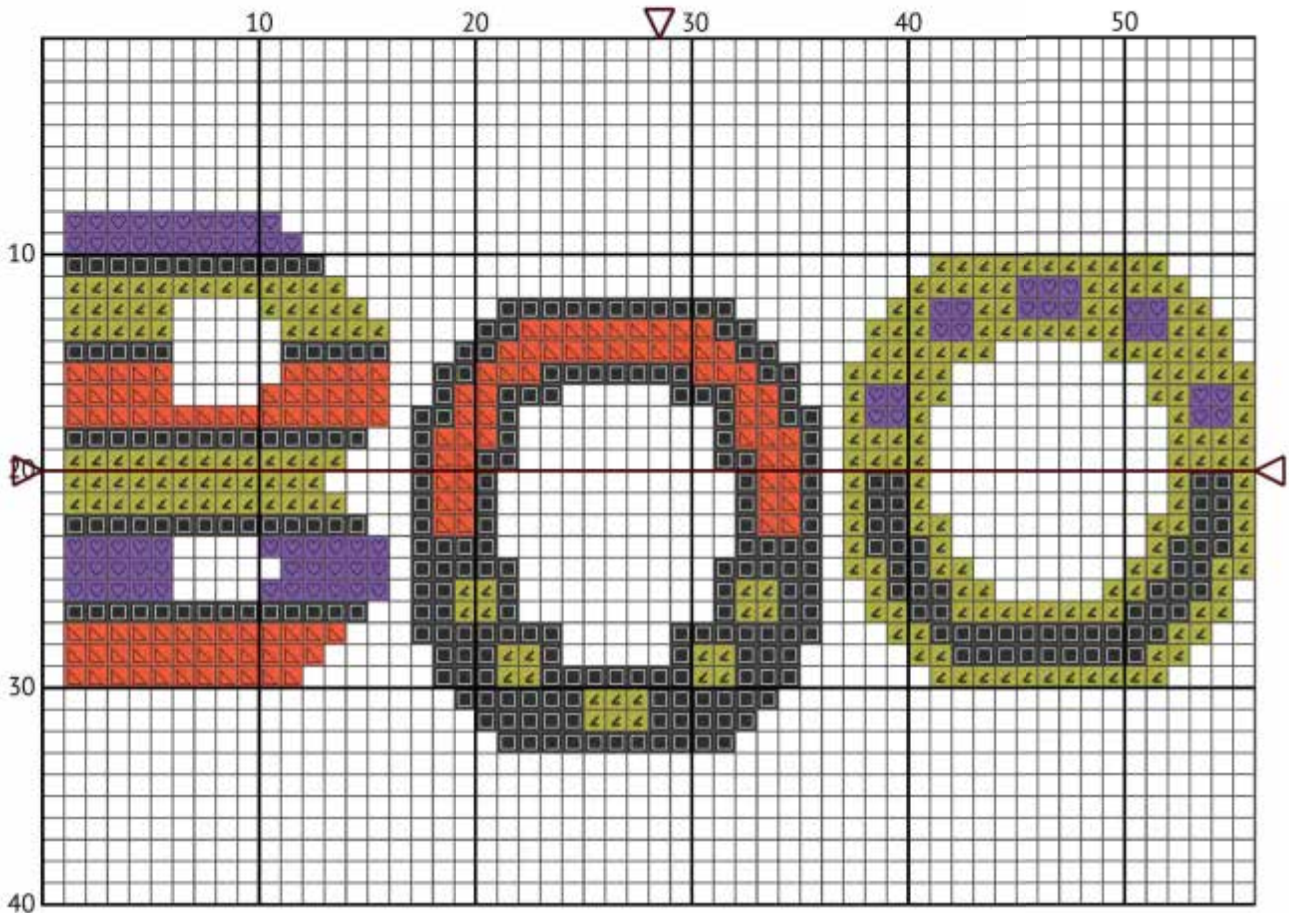
Craft instructions created by
Stephanie Coil & Michelle Keedy
Way Public Library
Perrysburg, Ohio
waylibrary.info

Way Public Library BOO Cross Stitch

Floss list for crosses

Use 2 strands of thread for cross stitch

N	Symbol	Number	Name	Stitches
1		DMC 166	Moss Green - Medium Light	246
2		DMC 208	Lavender - Very Dark	75
3		DMC 310	Black	281
4		DMC 970	Pumpkin - Light	128



Design size: 57 x 40 stitches

Produced using FlossCross
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