



Blackwork Journey Blog

October 2011

Fabric sizing

Materials

Craft books on CD

EVENWEAVE



October 2011

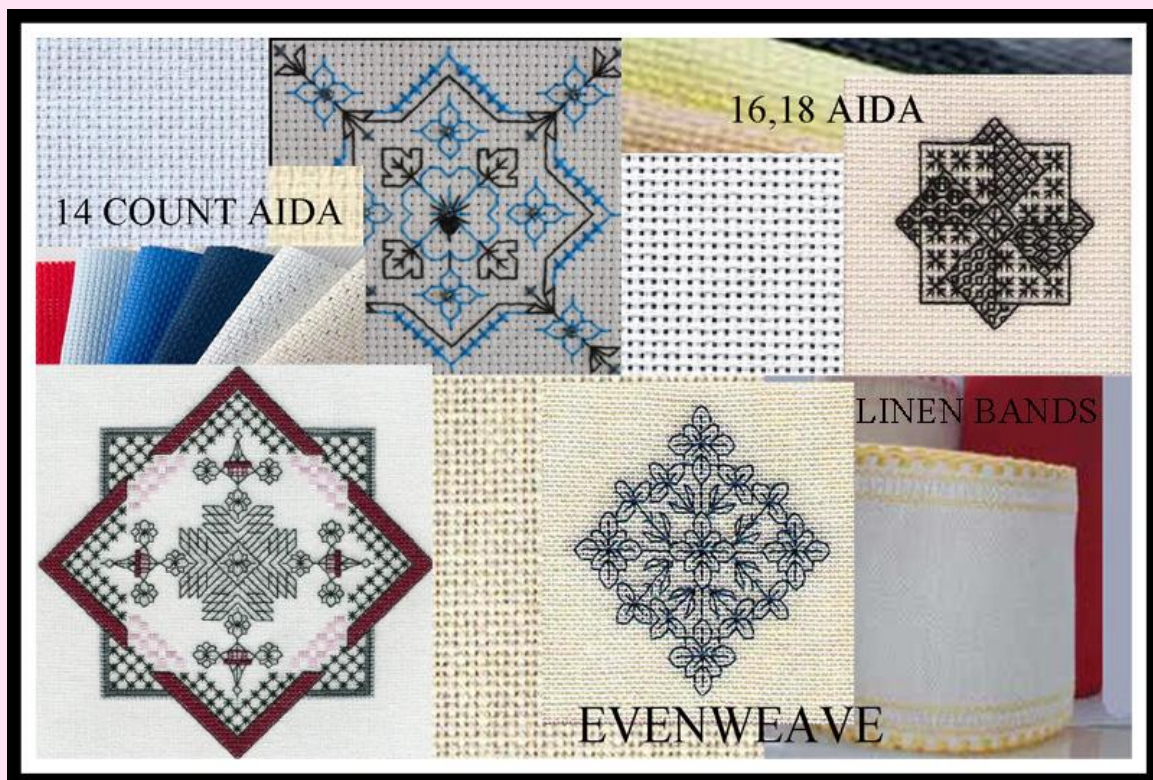
Working out the correct size and type of fabric to use for a new design can cause problems for the inexperienced needlewoman.

Which fabric should I use?

Whether to use an evenweave fabric or Aida blockweave for counted threadwork techniques will be largely determined by your eyesight, ease of working and confidence. Working on evenweave can be more stressful, but practice and experience helps determine which fabrics are the most suitable for you. Working out the correct size of fabric required, especially if you use a different count of fabric other than the one recommended, cannot be left to guesswork, so before you make any decisions regarding size, start by learning the basic facts about the different embroidery fabrics you will encounter.

Aida or blockweave is woven in blocks and stitches are worked in every hole. It is available in a variety of counts i.e. holes to the inch. The most common are 11, 14, 16 and 18. The higher the thread count, the smaller the design. It is available in a wide range of widths and colours and can be made of a mixture of cotton, synthetic or linen. 22 count hardanger can also be classed as a blockweave.

Beginners may find it easier to stitch on 14 count Aida blockweave.



Examples of blockweave and evenweave fabrics

Evenweave and Linen

This fabric has the same number of threads, across and down and is available in a range of widths, stitch counts and colours. The most popular is 28 holes per inch. Stitches are usually worked into every other hole (two threads over two) producing the same finished design size as 14 count Aida.

It may be made of pure linen, linen and cotton mixes or pure cotton. Working half or part stitches is much easier on evenweave, but it is more difficult to count. Familiar names are 18 count Davosa, 20 count Lugana, 25 and 27 count Linda, although finer fabrics are available.

22 count hardanger can be used very successfully for blackwork.

Using the Fabric Calculator

The Fabric Calculator on this website will allow you to key in any combination of material, stitches border etc. and determine the correct size of fabric required for the project.

Design in 14 count Aida or 28 count evenweave, which one should I choose? Both fabrics produce the SAME size results so relax and let me explain...



"How Much Fabric" Calculators

Home > About This Site

Aida Calculator

How big is the design? 60 stitches wide by 70 stitches high
How much extra fabric on each side? 2 inches
What count is the Aida? 14 squares per inch

Calculate Size Clear Form

The fabric should be 9 inches wide by 9 inches high
(Rounded up to the nearest inch)

Linen/Evenweave Calculator

How big is the design? 60 stitches wide by 70 stitches high
How much extra fabric on each side? 2 inches
What count is the linen? 28 threads per inch
How many threads will each X cover? 2 threads

Calculate Size Clear Form

The fabric should be 9 inches wide by 9 inches high
(Rounded up to the nearest inch)

*Using the calculator to find fabric size for "CA" design to celebrate a Diamond Wedding
Design area: 60 x 70 stitches*

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If you use 14 count Aida and leave 2" extra fabric on each side, you would need a piece of material 9 x 9 inches. If you want to use a smaller frame you would leave less fabric as a margin. In the same way if you wanted a larger border you would leave more material.

For example, with a design area of 60 x 70 stitches worked on 28 Count evenweave leaving 2" extra fabric on each side as a border, would require a piece of material 9 x 9 inches.

If you want to use a smaller frame you would leave less fabric as a margin. In the same way if you wanted a larger border you would leave more material.

Whether it is Aida or evenweave, you would still need a piece of material the same size.

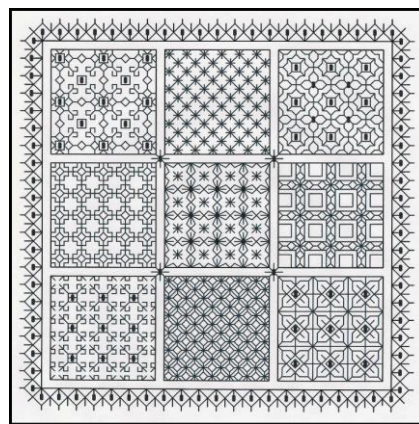
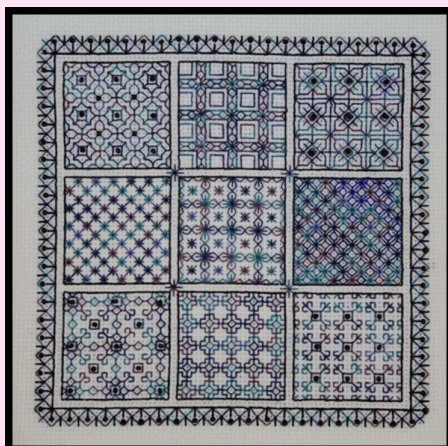
16 count Aida, 32 count evenweave, design area 60 stitches wide by 70 stitches high, the fabric required would be 8" wide by 8" high.

18 count Aida, 36 count evenweave, design area 60 stitches wide by 70 stitches high, the fabric required would be... etc.

I hope this helps. However, if you ever have any queries about how much material to use, try the Calculator on this website first, or run it past me if you are still concerned.



From chart to embroidery!



CH0057 Black and
Blue Sampler

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There is a large variety of materials and threads available in a wide range of colours and thread counts so explore and find materials which suit your needs. Use the fabric calculator.

Consult a good website to look at what is available!

Be aware of your own abilities and limitations when choosing equipment. There is no reason why you cannot stitch into your 90's if you have the right tools and materials to help you!

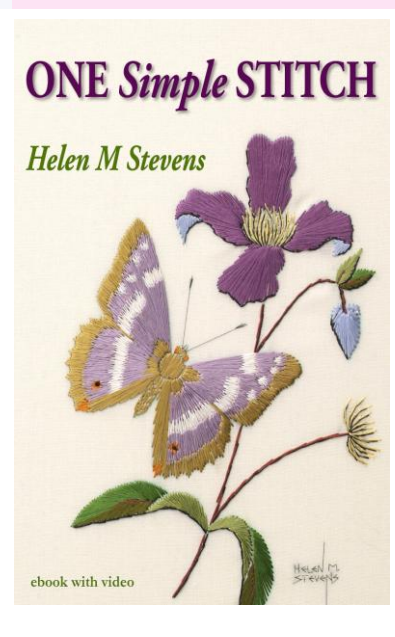
For a new way of looking at crafts have a look at 'Rainbow Disks' run by Vivienne Wells. (See below)

She produces e-books on disc and I think this an excellent way of presenting crafts in a modern medium and to a wider audience.



Rainbow Disks ebooks are:

- Original ebooks with quality content from top authors.
- Ebooks can be produced in small quantities, enabling us to publish innovative, specialist book which find it hard to get published in print today.
- Did you know that top craft authors often earn just a few pence on every copy of their book so High discounts mean very low earnings for authors.
- Our mission is to produce great books that earn a fair return for their authors.
- Our ebooks contain very high resolution images so you can zoom in and see great detail - invaluable for craft books.



<http://www.rainbowdisks.com>

Happy stitching!

Liz