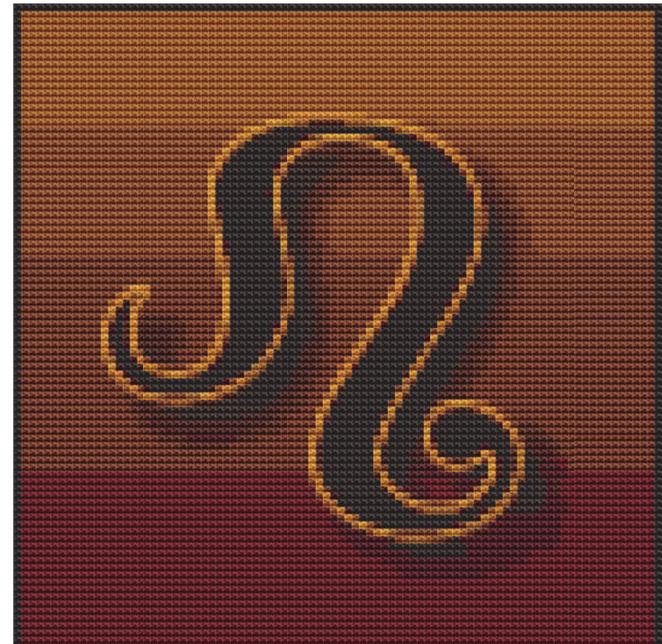


## Leo

July 22nd to August 22nd

Leos are sunny, extroverted and creative. They are born to lead and take great pride in their achievements and successes. They often appear larger than life and are usually extravagant with money, love, energy and time. They are great romantics and fall in love easily. The fiery nature of Leo is reflected in the warm reds and oranges of this design.



### Leo Key

DMC	Anchor	Madeira	
Cross Stitch in two strands			
310	403	1810	■ Black
3371	382	1810	● Black-brown
814	45	2606	▼ Garnet - dark
938	1088	1904	◇ Coffee Brown – ult dk
3857	897	2007	◆ Shell Pink – v dk
898	360	1904	▲ Coffee Brown – v dark
300	352	1914	■ Mahogany - v dark
815	43	2501	■ Garnet - med
400	351	2008	■ Mahogany - dark
975	351	2008	□ Golden brown – v dk
830	277	2008	○ Golden olive - dark
434	310	2009	△ Brown - light
780	310	2009	+ Topaz – ultra v dk
781	309	2104	▽ Topaz – v dark
782	308	2104	◀ Topaz - dark
3829	901	2104	✗ Old gold – v dark
680	901	2104	◎ Old gold - dark
3852	907	2210	▣
783	307	2203	♥ Topaz - med
3820	307	2203	# Straw - dark

### Shopping list

- Aida/evenweave to fit design area
- Stranded Cotton as listed in key
- Size 24 tapestry needle
- Frame, min aperture of 12.25 x 12.25 cm (5 x 5 in)

### Stitches

- Whole cross stitches only
- 90 x 90

### Design Area

14HPI – 16.25 x 16.25cm (6.5 x 6.5in)

16HPI – 14 x 14cm (5.5 x 5.5in)

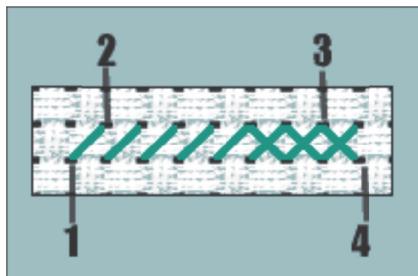
18HPI – 12.25 x 12.25cm (5 x 5in)

### Before you start...

Find the centre of your fabric by folding it in half horizontally and then vertically. Using the arrows on the chart locate the centre. Start from this point. Work the cross stitch in two strands of cotton, following the key. Check your work for mistakes and missed stitches before preparing it for framing.

**Note:** The pictured design was stitched using DMC stranded cotton; alternative cottons may not achieve the same end result

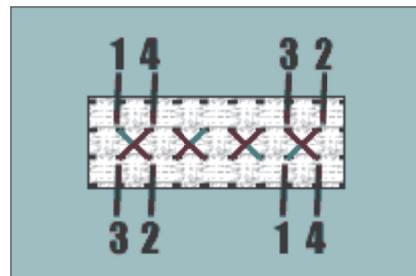
## Whole and Half Stitches



1. Bring your needle up from the back of the fabric at point 1
2. Take your needle back down through the fabric at point 2. *These two steps form a half cross stitch.*
3. Bring your needle back up through the fabric at point 3
4. Take your needle back down through the fabric at point 4. *These four steps form a whole cross stitch*

You can complete your stitches individually or stitch a group of half stitches then return across the group to complete the stitches.

## Quarter and Three-quarter Stitches



1. Bring your needle up from the back of the fabric at point one and take it back down through the fabric at the centre of the cross stitch (between points 1 and 2). If you are working on Aida, you will need to pierce the block. Add the 3/4 stitch when you come to that shade.
2. Bring your needle up from the back of the fabric at point 2 and take it back down through the centre so that it forms a half stitch together with the 1/4 stitch.
3. Bring your needle back up at point 3 and take it down again at point 4, making a normal half stitch.

## Handy Hints

- To keep each arm of your stitch flat and smooth, use a technique called railroading - when you pass your needle down through the fabric, lay your thread against the fabric and push the needle through between the two strands of cotton - no more twisted arms!
- To keep your work clean, remember to wash your hands before picking it up. If you're working from a packaged kit, put the fabric and cottons back in the pack when you're not stitching. If you're working from a chart, keep your fabric and cottons covered when you're not stitching - a pillowcase makes an excellent lint and static free coverall.
- When working large designs with lots of colours in a small area, thread several needles of the same size with a length of each colour. It saves having to constantly re-thread your needle to change colour.
- When working designs that are too small for your hoop or frame, tack strips of waste canvas to the edges to extend it and unpick them later.

## Tips

Consider investing in:

- a daylight simulating bulb
  - hoops/frames in several sizes
  - a good floss organiser
  - several needles of each size
  - a roll of double sided sticky tape
  - a good pair of embroidery scissors
  - a pair of dressmaking scissors
  - thread snips
  - a stock of strong cardboard
  - a roll of masking tape
  - several shades of coloured card
  - a craft knife
  - a steel ruler
- If you're tired of getting a new chart and finding that you have none of the required cottons, think about buying a few shades every month and building up the full range of your favourite brand.
- If you see a fabric shade you like in your local craft shop, buy it - it might not be there when you go back as stocks often change.
- Don't be afraid to shop online for different fabrics and accessories - you have a whole world of craft supplies at your fingertips!

