



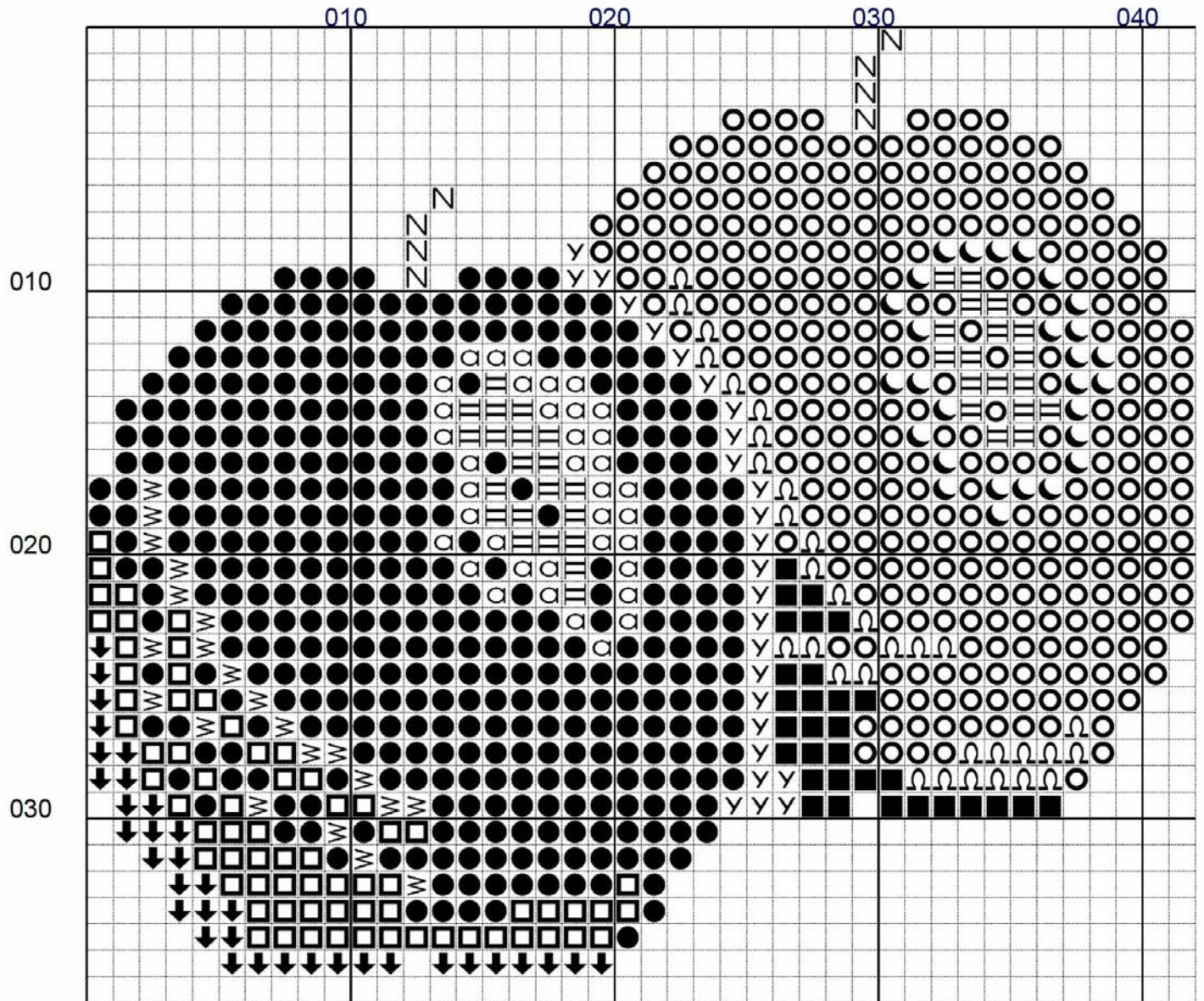
Picture of Finished Project: Blended Thread Apples on the top of a recipe box


Ever been stuck at home and wanting to stitch your project, but are missing a color thread? Short of cash? Really want to use your stash? Can't find just the right color? Have the same color from two dye lots? There are many ways to make your threads stretch or create a new color. Thread blending is one of these. This project can be used as a pin cushion, or, as shown attached to a recipe box to give to a relative or friend or keep yourself for favorite recipes. Enjoy!

This example of thread blending uses 2 strands of DMC cotton floss on 14-count aida or 28-count evenweave. You can have even more variety if you are using 3 strands of floss or using 6 strands of floss on a needlepoint canvas—try it!


Supply List


ITEM	DESCRIPTION
Needles:	Tapestry Size 26 (or size of your choice) for cross stitch
Hoop:	None needed
Ground Fabric:	6" square of 14-count aida or 28-count evenweave Sample was stitched on purchased oval with lace edging (4" H x 5" W)
Thread:	DMC Floss (or your choice) 4 reds. (I used 309, 326, 349, 817) 1 gold or yellow (I used DMC 436) 1 gray (I used DMC 317) 1 brown (I used DMC 300)
Finishing Materials:	Listed under Finishing your stitched piece





 **Blended DMC:**
309 (1 str) + 326 (1 str)
Red + Red


 **DMC** 436
Gold

 **Blended Thread:**
349 (1 str) + 817 (1 str)
Red + Red

 **Blended DMC:**
326 (1 str) + 317 (1 str)
Red + Gray



 **Blended DMC:**
309 (1 str) + 436 (1 str)
Red + Gold

 **Blended Thread:**
817 (1 str) + 317 (1 str)
Red + Gray

 **Blended Thread:**
349 (1 str) + 436 (1 str)
Red + Gold

 **DMC** 326 Red

 **DMC** 309
Red

 **DMC** 300 Brown
 **DMC** 817 Red

 **DMC** 349 Red

INSTRUCTIONS



PICTURE of Finished Embroidery – Blended Thread Apples

1. Select your colors. Your apples can be red, green, or golden. Change your colors and threads as needed. Blending threads does require strandable floss whether silk or cotton or wool. Silk and wool are typically thicker than cotton, so be sure your ground fabric can support your fiber choice.
2. **CAUTION CAUTION CAUTION:** *If you are using a purchased item to stitch on, do as I say and not what I did! I concentrated so hard on making sure I was stitching in the CENTER, that I didn't check that I was stitching on the RIGHT SIDE of the purchased item! So I stitched the whole thing on the wrong side. This project will NOT win a blue ribbon at the State Fair!*
3. Stitch the chart.
 - a. 2 strands for full color
 - b. 1 strand of each color when blended
4. If you stitched this on a finished oval ground fabric, you have finished all stitching necessary.

What you are doing by blending threads

You are altering the way that the color is seen.

- By blending two shades of the same color (reds) you are adding an intermediate shade between the two reds used. Thus adding a skein of floss that you didn't have when you need 3 reds.
- By blending two different colors, you are adding lightness or darkness to the main color.
 - In our case, we are taking a red and lightening it by adding gold or yellow. This helps create a lighter look on the apple where the light hits, or can almost make it look bruised.
 - By taking a red and darkening it by adding a darker gray, you are creating a shadow for the apple away from the light source.

EGA Stitch-a-long 2023 June: Blended Thread Apples by Stephanie K. Murphy

- Experiment with different grays and different yellows/golds. Yellow can add a lot of light very quickly, so if you use a bright yellow, be prepared.
- Have you been in the situation where you bought another skein of floss to finish a project and the dye lot is not quite the same? You can use this same technique for that. Start using one strand of the old dye lot with 1 strand of the new dye lot as soon as you can in your project. This will not work if the dye lots are outrageously different (greens to blues or even dark gray blue to really off dark gray blue). I have been burned by major dye lot changes.
- You can practice shading/tinting by taking a skein of floss in a color and then a skein of floss in black (or gray) if you want shading or white if you want tinting. Now split the 6-strands as follows:
 - 6 Color Strands
 - 5 Color Strands + 1 Tone (gray or white) Strand;
 - 4 Color Strands + 2 Tone Strands
 - 3 Color Strands + 3 Tone Strands
 - 2 Color Strands + 4 Tone Strands
 - 1 Color Strands + 5 Tone Strands
 - 6 Tone Strands

Finishing your stitched piece



PICTURE OF BOX PAINTED without embroidery (inside and out)

I found a wood box at Joanne's Fabrics that can hold index cards/recipe cards. I painted it with acrylic paints in red (cardinal red), white (wicker white), and gold (14K gold). I taped off areas and did a solid two coats for the white and red; had to do 3 for the gold because it is so transparent. Then I painted little flowers (using the backend of the paintbrush) and used a gold pen for adding little lines. For the top finish coat I used a glitter satin. I used an olive green soutache ribbon to weave in and out of the lace holes around the oval cross stitch, tied a bow. Then glued the oval to the top of the box. A cute and fast little present!

Congratulations on another EGA SAL finished project! Hope you enjoyed it and join us again next month on the EGA Stitch-a-Long.