STARTING AT A CORNER

For many stitchers, the thought of starting at the corner of a pattern rather than the center can be the cause of a lot of anxiety. What if you get halfway through stitching and realize that you didn't give yourself enough room and the design isn't going to fit on the fabric? That, of course, would be awful. But starting at a corner is actually quite easy once you understand how to use the right formulas. So, let's take a look at how to start at the corner of a design.

In order to figure out the placement of a design on a piece of fabric, you will need three things: stitch count of the design, the count of your fabric, and fabric measurements. Also, please note, **this must be done using inch measurements.**

We all know what a fabric count is, right? Every piece of fabric should be labelled with its count. For example, Aidas are typically 14 count, 16 count, or 18 count; evenweaves are most commonly 28 count or 32 count. This number refers to the size of the weave. But more specifically, it refers to the number of stitches in an inch of fabric. If you are working on 14 count Aida, you will get 14 stitches in an inch. If you are working on a 28 count evenweave you can get 28 stitches in an inch if stitched over one, however, if you are stitching over two you must divide 28 by 2 and you will have 14 stitches in an inch. Hence why 2 over 2 stitching on 28 count is the equivalent of a 14 count fabric.

In order to find a starting corner, the first thing we need to do is figure out how large a design will be on a certain piece of fabric. To do this, simply take your **stitch count** and divide it by your **fabric count**. For example, if you have a design that is 100 X 100 stitches and you are working on a 14 count fabric, you would take 100 and divide by 14. This gives you 7.14. So, your design will be 7.14 inches square (because it is a square design). If you have a design that isn't square, you would do this for both height and width. For example, a design that is 100 stitches wide by 150 stitches tall would be calculated as $100 \div 14 = 7.14$ *inches* for the width and $150 \div 14 = 10.71$ *inches* for the height.

> ### *stitch count ÷ fabric count = size of design in inches*
> **width and height need to be calculated separately in non-square designs**

Now that we know the size of our design, we can use that to figure out its placement on our fabric. It is important to remember that you will use the width of your fabric and the width of your design to calculate the margins on the left and right of your fabric. And you will use the height of your fabric and height of your design to measure the margins on the top and bottom of your fabric.

Let's say that we have a piece of fabric that is 11 inches by 15 inches. If we know that our design (calculated above) will be 7.14 inches wide by 10.71 inches high, we can take the width of our fabric and subtract the width size of the design. This gives us how much excess fabric there is for margins on the left and right combined. This would look like $11 - 7.14 = 3.86$. This means we have an excess of 3.86 inches on the width of our fabric. We want our design to be centered, however. So, to determine how big of a margin we have
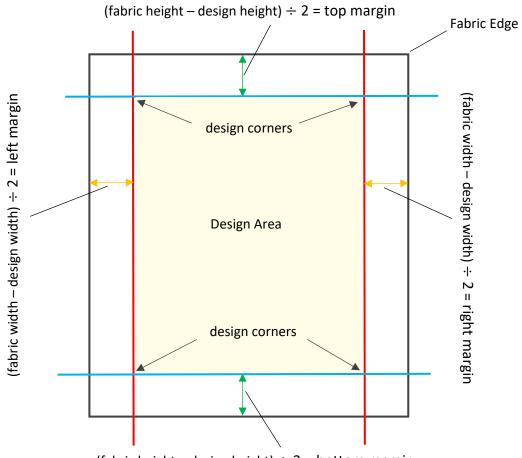
on the left and right side of the design, we must take our excess fabric amount (3.86) and divide it by 2, so that the excess is split evenly on both sides of the design. In our example, it would be $3.86 \div 2 = 1.93$. This means you would have a 1.93 inch margin on both left and right sides of the design (you can safely round this up to 2 inches).

We will then do the same for the height. The height would be calculated as $15 - 10.71 = 4.29 \div 2 = 2.12$. Therefore, we would have margins of 2.12 inches on the top and bottom (again, this can easily be rounded to 2 inches).

> *Fabric width – design width = excess fabric width ÷ 2 = final margin on left and right sides*
>
> *Fabric height – design height = excess fabric height ÷ 2 = final margin on top and bottom*

Once we know what our margins are, simply measure them out on your fabric and the corners can be found where the margins meet.

(fabric height – design height) ÷ 2 = top margin

Fabric Edge

(fabric width – design width) ÷ 2 = left margin

(fabric width – design width) ÷ 2 = right margin

design corners

Design Area

design corners

(fabric height – design height) ÷ 2 = bottom margin