

Counted Cross Stitch Valentine Card

Supplies Needed

- One sheet red cardstock (8 ½" x 5 ½") with window (2 ⅛" x 2 ⅛") template.
- One sheet white cardstock (8 ¼" x 5 ¼")
- One sheet white paper (8 ½" x 8 ½") – for optional envelope
- Folding bone (optional)
- One piece 11 count Aida cloth (2 ¾" x 2 ¾")
- Red embroidery floss (6 strand – ~30")
- Needle + optional straight pin
- Cross stitch heart pattern
- General Cross Stitch Instructions sheet
- Adhesive – double-sided tape is best for the card- glue stick is best for the envelope
- Scissors
- Pencil + optional marker
- Ruler
- X-acto knife (optional)



Instructions

1. If you are new to counted cross stitch, check the General Cross Stitch Instructions sheet (found in the kit or on the CLPL.org calendar for February 2022). You may also want to take a look at an introductory cross-stitch video: <https://youtu.be/-Kiuy4ZwIDl>
2. Pull one thread from the piece of 6 strand floss (about 30") and fold the thread in half. Thread the two loose threads through the needle and pull them through about a third of the way, leaving the loop at the end. Do not knot the thread.
3. Looking at the pattern, locate the center of the piece and mark it. The arrows on the sides can be helpful to locate it. The center is where you will start your stitching.
4. Find the center of the piece of Aida cloth by folding it in half and then in half again. You can mark it with a pin if that is helpful.
5. Starting from the center, begin your first stitch by coming up from the bottom and pulling the thread partially through, leaving a bit of the loop underneath. Cross over one square. As you place the needle through the hole and get to the underside, put your needle through the loop of thread underneath and pull gently to secure your thread.
6. Continue stitching. When you complete as many stitches as your thread will allow, slide your needle through completed stitches underneath to lock the ends in. Cut the excess

thread after it has been secured. Repeat the process with another single strand of thread.

7. Follow the cross-stitch heart pattern (found in the kit or on the CLPL.org calendar for February 2022) to create the red heart. Once all stitches are completed and loose threads are locked in by stitches underneath, set aside.
8. Carefully fold the 8 ½" x 5 ½" red cardstock as well as the 8 ¼" x 5 ¼" white sheet of paper in half. If not working with a take and make kit, the template (makes 2) for the red cardstock is on the CLPL.org calendar for February 2022. Place the folded white paper inside the folded red cardstock. Be sure that the side of the red cardstock with markings is placed to the inside facing the white paper. Make sure that it looks even all around. The inside of the card should have the red forming a border around it.
9. Set aside the white cardstock. Using an X-acto knife or scissors, cut the window in the red cardstock. Start by cutting the 2 diagonal lines from corner to corner. Fold back the triangles, using the outer line of the frame as a guide. Then trim the excess at the inside horizontal and vertical lines to create a beveled frame.
10. Place the red cardstock framed window over the completed cross stitch heart and position it so it is even on all sides. Use double-sided tape to attach it to the inside of the red framed card.
11. Once set, place the folded white cardstock inside the red card and use double-sided tape to join them. Press them together so they appear as one
12. Write your message inside the card and send it to your Valentine! See below for an optional envelope.

Optional Envelope

1. To create a simple envelope for the card, position an 8 ½ x 8 ½ sheet of paper like a diamond and place a 5 ½ x 4 ¼ piece of cardboard (size of your greeting card) horizontally on the sheet with the two side corners of the cardboard touching the sides around 4" on each side from the top corner, creating a triangle above the cardboard. Fold the bottom of the paper over the card and then fold the sides in over the card. Then fold down the top.
2. Open it back up and now fold in the sides and then fold the bottom of the sheet up and attach it to the side pieces with a glue stick. Let dry, if needed. Trim the top part of the bottom piece. Insert the signed card and glue top piece of envelope down or use a sticker to fasten the top flap.

See the instructional video on the CLPL YouTube Channel: <https://youtu.be/P29dbsrJgJo>