



**“Accent” your stitches with enough fabric**



**HOW MUCH FABRIC DO YOU REALLY NEED  
AROUND YOUR STITCHED DESIGN**

***On my soapbox ... more is not only better than not enough—it’s essential!***

My goal is to **IMPLORE** you to be generous with the size of the fabric when you choose a piece for your design. Having what you think is too much is rarely too much when it gets into your framer’s hands. Oftentimes it is really not enough! So here’s the criteria:

1. First you need to determine what size your design will be when stitched. [at Accents we always do that before we cut your fabric].

**TO DETERMINE DESIGN SIZE WHEN STITCHED**

Count the total number of horizontal & vertical stitches in the design

Divide each number by the number of stitches per inch in fabric

*(ex: design is 98w x 133h - worked on 28<sup>h</sup> over 2)*

$$98 \div 14 = 7" \quad \blacklozenge \quad 133 \div 14 = 9.5"$$

the design will be 7" wide x 9.5" high when stitched

2. It is essential to add extra fabric around the stitched size **BEFORE** cutting your fabric. The amount of fabric to leave is determined by how you plan to complete (finish/assemble) your project.

**TO DETERMINE EXTRA FABRIC ALLOWANCE**

**For pillows, stand-ups, standing easels, etc.:** Add 2" to every side\*

**For framing without mats, or with a fabric-covered liner:** Add 3" to every side\*

**For framing projects with matting:** Add a MINIMUM of 4" to every side\*

*\*every side means - to the Top - to the Bottom - to the Left - to the Right*

3. When you are undecided about the finishing technique, use the 4 inch MINIMUM allowance.

Those are the basic criteria. I know what many of you are thinking because I hear it all the time - but the fact is that 4 inches is NOT too much. Sometimes even 4 inches is not enough. At Accents / Galerie Severn your hand stitched needlework is treated like a piece of valuable art. *[I have always described counted cross stitch as “painting” with a needle and thread].* We believe in preservation framing that will last for ages. Katrina certainly taught us that the things we treasure often do not have any monetary value but immense emotional value. You never know when a stitched design that is insignificant to you will turn into an heirloom for kith or kin.

When we mount your needlework into a frame it is laced (sewn) around a mounting board. In order to mount needlework in that manner, enough fabric is required to fold the fabric around the mounting board. That means that your fabric extends under the mat you see on the front of the frame and around to the back.

1. Why do we extend your fabric under the mat and around to the back? When the mounting board fills the entire frame opening, you never have to worry about it “slipping” down and becoming dislodged in the window.
  2. Why do we lace as opposed to pinning? Pins can rust and, as we experienced after Katrina, leave rust stains on your fabric. That won’t happen with lacing. Many frame shops pin and then tape your needlework behind the opening of the mat board. That surely does allow you to use less fabric, but it’s at the expense of sticky tape on your stitching—and then you have the risk of the tape loosening over time and your mounted stitching falling.
  3. Why do we lace as opposed to glueing (sticky board)? Don’t EVEN go there. NEVER! NEVER! NEVER!
  4. What happens if you did not leave enough fabric? We have a method of extending your fabric so all is not lost. However, when we extend fabric we cannot mount the needlework as smoothly as when we work with the actual stitched fabric. Not to mention it’s usually less costly to purchase enough fabric than to pay for the extension technique.
- ... gayle*