



Kawaii Shark

A kawaii shark may look extra cute with rosy cheeks and a tiny smile, but real sharks are amazing ocean animals! Sharks have been swimming in Earth's oceans for more than 400 million years, making them older than dinosaurs. Many sharks have special senses that help them detect movement and even tiny electrical signals from other animals. So the next time you see a kawaii shark, remember—it's inspired by one of the ocean's oldest and most fascinating creatures!

			DMC 712	Cream	376 st	2 m
			DMC 827	Blue Very Light	1721 st	8 m
			DMC 796	Royal Blue Dark	900 st	4 m
			DMC 809	Delft Blue	224 st	1 m
			DMC 3326	Rose Light	29 st	1 m



the stitch mail

Your Floss

Embroidery floss has 6 strands. Most cross stitch patterns look cleaner when stitched with just 2 strands. Fewer strands create neater X's and make details stand out. Instead of pulling multiple strands at once, separate each strand one by one, then recombine them. This helps prevent tangles and gives smoother stitches. Work with about 18–20 inches (45–50 cm) of floss. Longer lengths are more likely to tangle, fray, and wear out.

Your Stitches

Always make the top leg of every stitch slant the same way (/ or \). Consistent stitch direction gives your finished piece a smooth, polished appearance.

If you're aiming for an especially crisp finish, use the railroading technique by placing your needle between the two strands before completing each stitch. This keeps the strands lying parallel, resulting in fuller, more even-looking X's.

You Knots

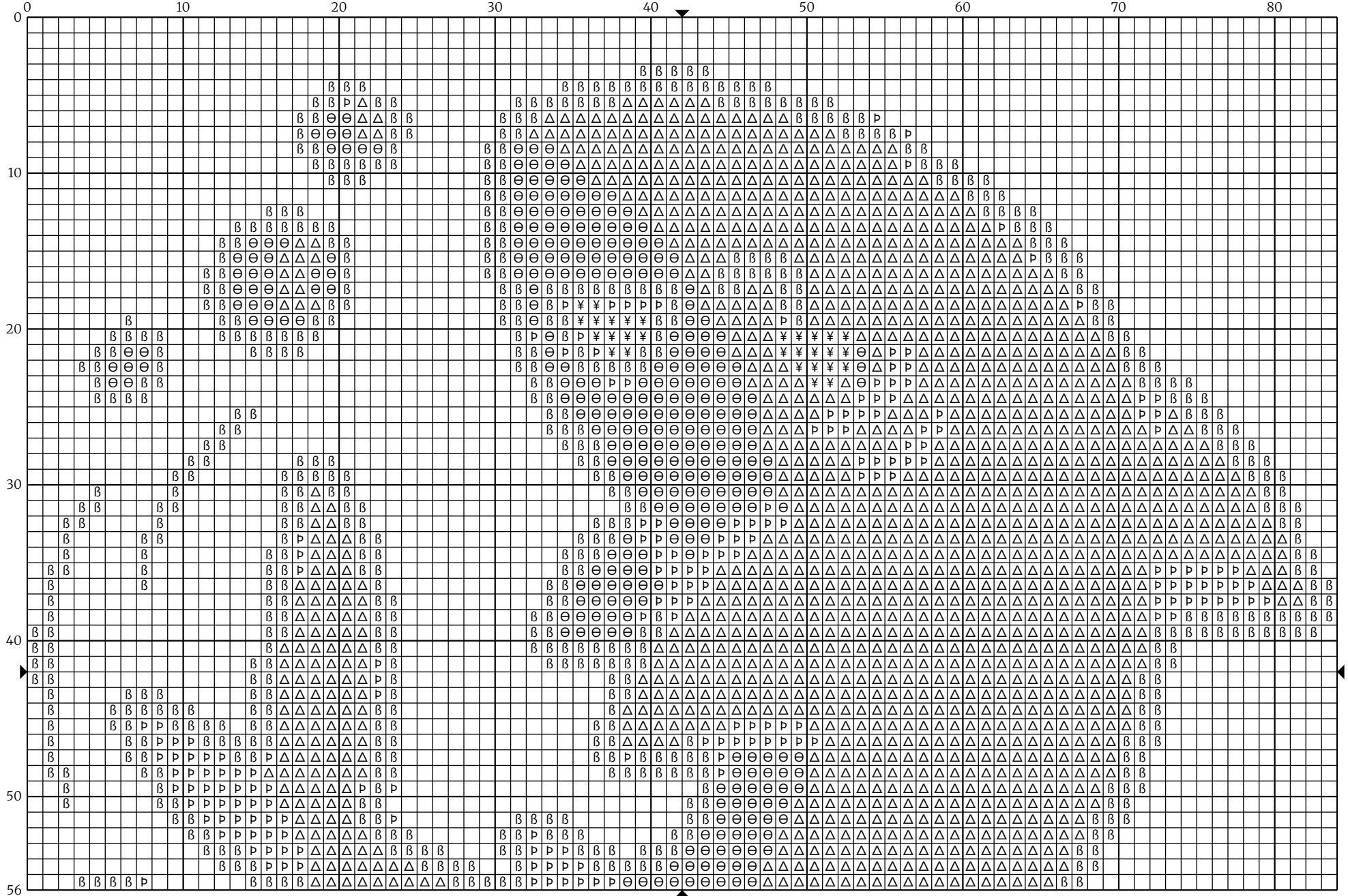
When using an even number of strands, try the loop start method. It secures your thread without a knot, making the back of your project much tidier. Instead of tying knots, secure your thread under existing stitches. This creates a flatter back and makes framing easier. Every so often, let your needle hang freely to untwist the thread. This reduces knots and helps your stitches lie flatter.

A reasonably tidy back helps with finishing and reduces bulk. However, don't stress over making it perfect—the front is what everyone sees!

Yourself

Bright, natural-colored lighting reduces eye strain and makes it easier to distinguish similar floss colors. Cross stitching involves repetitive hand movements. Stretch your fingers, wrists, neck, and shoulders every 30–60 minutes.

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