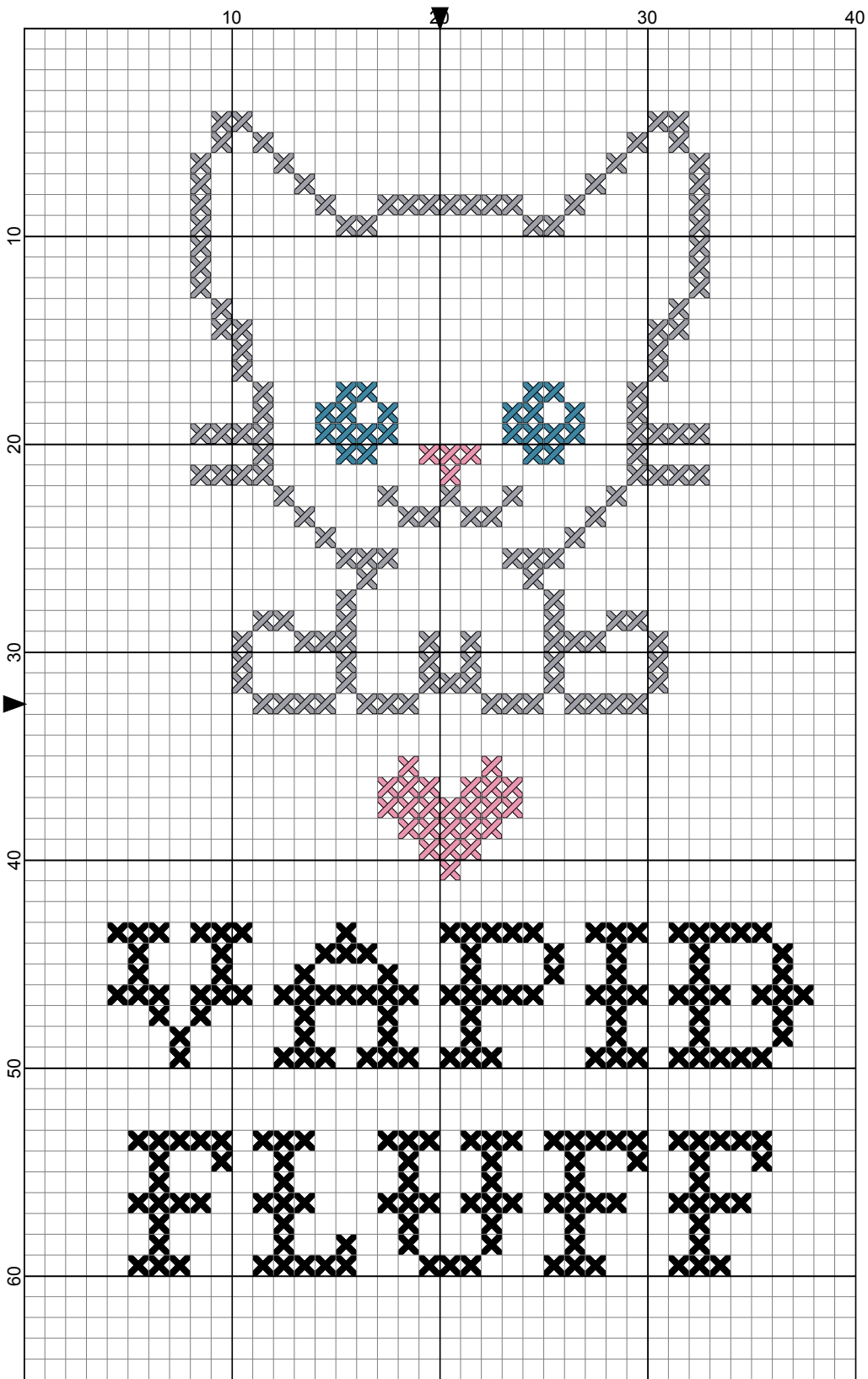


"Vapid Fluff (for Autostraddle)" by Subversive Cross Stitch



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Legend:

■ DMC-310 ■ DMC-806 ■ DMC-3688 ■ DMC-318

Need help? Check out the HOW TO page at subversivecrossstitch.com

Vapid Fluff (for Autostraddle)



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Website: subversivecrossstitch.com
Grid Size: 40W x 65H
Design Area: 2.43" x 4.00" (34 x 56 stitches)

Here's a PDF pattern created especially for Autostraddle readers from Subversive Cross Stitch! Ain't technology grand?

You will need 14-count cross stitch material, embroidery floss (see chart for color legend), a size 24 tapestry needle, possibly a hoop (see below), scissors, good lighting and patience! (you can use any size material, the dimensions will be slightly different than noted; 14 is just our standard). If you don't feel like a trip to the craft store, we sell materials and kits at our website - both are listed below.

Thread: Separate the embroidery strands - you'll see that what looks like one string is actually 6 smaller strands. You will use **only 2 strands** at a time. This is **SUPER IMPORTANT!** For the face details, you should probably just use **ONE** thread.

Embroidery hoop: You may or may not need an embroidery hoop to hold the fabric taut while you stitch. It will help if you're a beginner and have a hard time keeping the thread from pulling too tight and bunching the fabric. It doesn't matter what material it's made of - plastic, wood, whatever. Just make sure the hoop clamps the material all the way around - a 5" or 6" hoop is a good size.

To Begin: Find the approximate center of the pattern. Then, find the approximate center of the fabric. Begin stitching something that's near the center of the pattern. Working this way (from the center out) will ensure that you don't stitch right off the material. That would just be silly and also super maddening.

The stitch: Our patterns are very simple and almost always require only the basic "X" stitch. In some patterns you may see some straight lines in the design - stitch those exactly as they are on the chart.

To begin stitching: choose or cut (if needed) a length of thread (15-18"). You can either tie a small knot in one end or leave a short tail and make the first stitches over it to hold it flat. Bring the threaded needle up from the back of the fabric (*for animated instructions, see the HOW TO page on subversivecrossstitch.com!*) Relax as you stitch; stitches should lie flat and not distort the fabric.

The main thing is that each "X" crosses in the same direction. That is, the top thread of the "X" should always slant in the same direction (either \ or /). It doesn't matter which way they slant, but if they're mixed the finished piece will look uneven.

Finishing: It's a good idea to wash the finished piece. Just hand wash it in some cold water with Woolite or very diluted detergent. Let it dry fully, and press with an iron with lots of steam. I'm kind of informal about these things, just be careful not to scorch the final product! If it does scorch, don't despair--it will usually disappear when washed again if it's the color of toast (mmm, toast) and the fabric isn't damaged.

To finish, I use Stitchery Tape, it's the best. You can find this in the Supplies section of our site; it's made specifically for this purpose and is acid-free, archival quality adhesive--in case you create an heirloom.

The main thing is to enjoy the delicious thrill of embroidering snarky messages in the last place people expect to see them. Don't worry about perfection, enjoy the ride!

p.s. There is a LOT of information and resources on our site: subversivecrossstitch.com including over 175 PDF patterns instantly delivered.

We're also on Facebook, Instagram, Pinterest, Twitter, etc. Sign up for enews to be alerted to sales!

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