

How To Stitch a Half Stitch

By Connie G. Barwick
Cross-Stitch Expert

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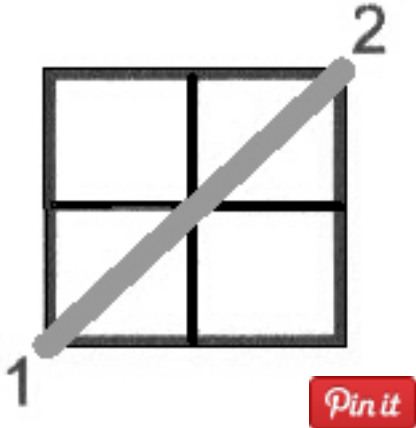
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This diagram represents a square of Aida fabric. Graphic © Connie G. Barwick, licensed to About.com, Inc.

Half stitches are the basis for the [cross stitch](#). Some designers use half stitches in patterns to soften the look of a background or as shading.

Difficulty: Easy

Time Required: indefinite

Here's How:

1. To stitch a half stitch, bring the needle and floss up from the back of the fabric at 1.

2. Carry the floss diagonally over the square.

3. Insert the needle in the upper right hand corner at 2.

4. Variation: Half stitches may also be stitched in the opposite direction.

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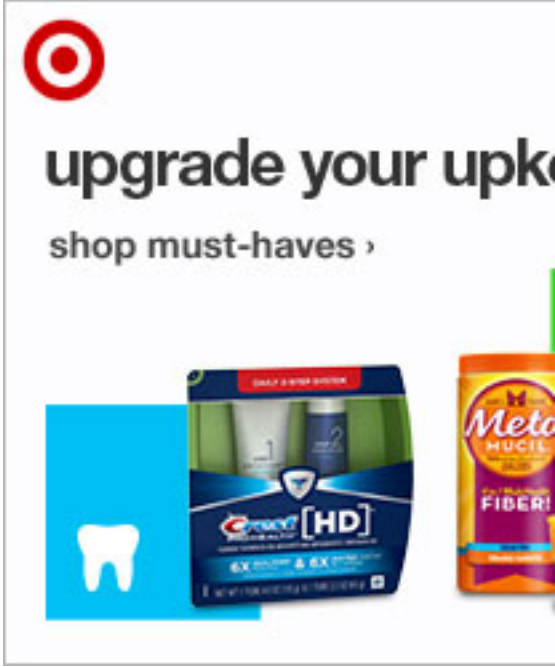
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What You Need:

- short length of [floss](#)
- [tapestry needle](#)

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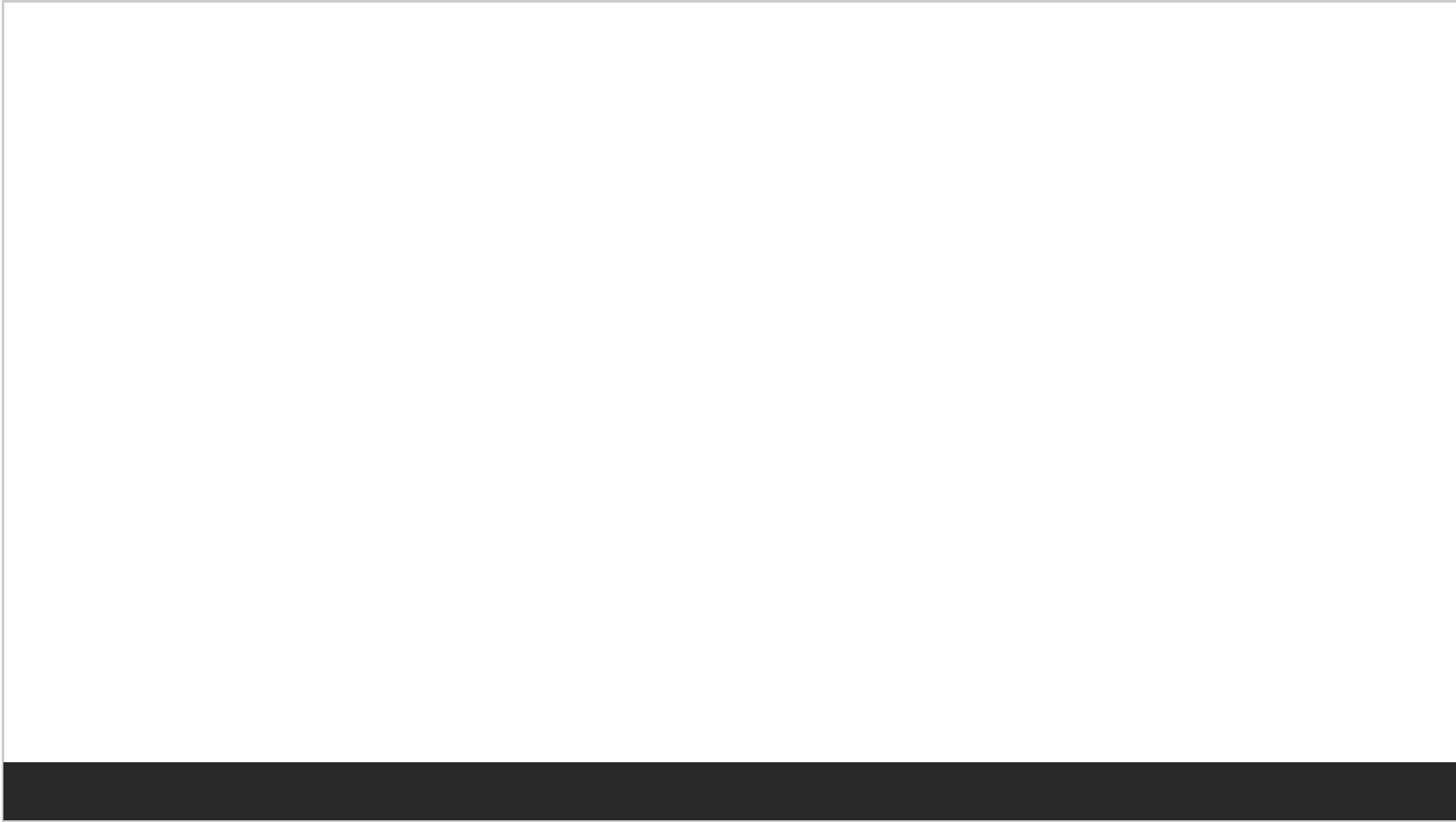
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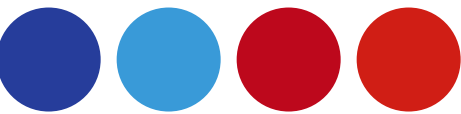
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