Fun & Funky Cross Stitch: 160+ Designs, 5 Alphabets, 30 Bonus Gift Ideas

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With a mix of retro style and modern sensibilities, *Fun & Funky Cross Stitch* includes more than 160 colorful, creative cross stitch designs and project ideas that tap into pop culture. The work of eight different artists, these designs include dense and colorful city scenes and minimalist zodiac signs, too.

In addition to larger projects like celestial scenes and plaid animal silhouettes, there are sections with tiny projects inspired by 1980s style, pop art, and modern Space Age design. These sections include gift ideas for the projects—stitching them on plastic canvas, for example, to make a pendant. And the instructions at the back of the book guide new stitchers in the basics.

Each project includes a fact box that details its approximate stitching time, the types of stitches used, and the skill level that's necessary to complete it, alongside a comprehensive key that shows the symbols and coordinating floss colors used in it; shopping lists cover the fabric and other notions required. Still, some of the smaller charts come without numbers to aid in counting rows and stitches, though stitchers can print out the charts and add them by hand as needed.

With so many small and quick-to-stitch projects, crafters are sure to be inspired to come up with lots of ways to use them, from gift tags and cards to key chains or magnets stitched on plastic canvas. The designs are colorful and fun to stitch, and sure to dispel the dusty notion of cross stitch as a stodgy, boring craft.

Fun & Funky Cross Stitch includes a variety of cross stitch designs. It will appeal to children of the 1980s, as well as those who appreciate pop culture kitsch and midcentury designs.

SARAH WHITE (January / February 2022)

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