

Gradient Hearts

Cross-stitch charts by LooseThreadStitchery

2024



A pair of small and relatively simple projects to practice stitching colour gradients in blackwork. Both hearts use the same fill motif. Heart 1 has a horizontal gradient; Heart 2 has a diagonal gradient. Each chart measures 70 stitches wide by 60 stitches high; stitched area is 60 x 50 stitches. Shown here on 14-count Aida and in 5" hoops.

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Notes

The blackwork fill is back-stitched using a single strand of embroidery floss. The hearts are outlined in stem-stitch using a double strand of embroidery floss. The models are shown on 14-count Aida and use the following colours of DMC thread:

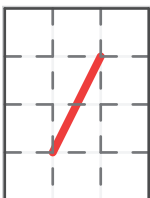
Heart 1:

Back-stitch (single strand)	Stem-stitch (double strand)
 DMC 915  DMC 825	 DMC 915

Heart 2:

Back-stitch (single strand)	Stem-stitch (double strand)
 DMC 3837  DMC 3805	 DMC 3837

The following is worked as a single long stitch:



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The gradients are created by repeating a fill motif and gradually replacing stitches of one colour with stitches of a second colour. I find it easiest to work all back-stitches of the starting colour first (for Heart 1, this is DMC 915; for Heart 2, it is DMC 3837). I've included charts showing only these stitches so that you can see how the motif fades out in the starting colour. This is the most difficult part when it comes to keeping track of where you are in the chart; once the first colour is complete, you use the second colour to fill in the gaps in each motif.

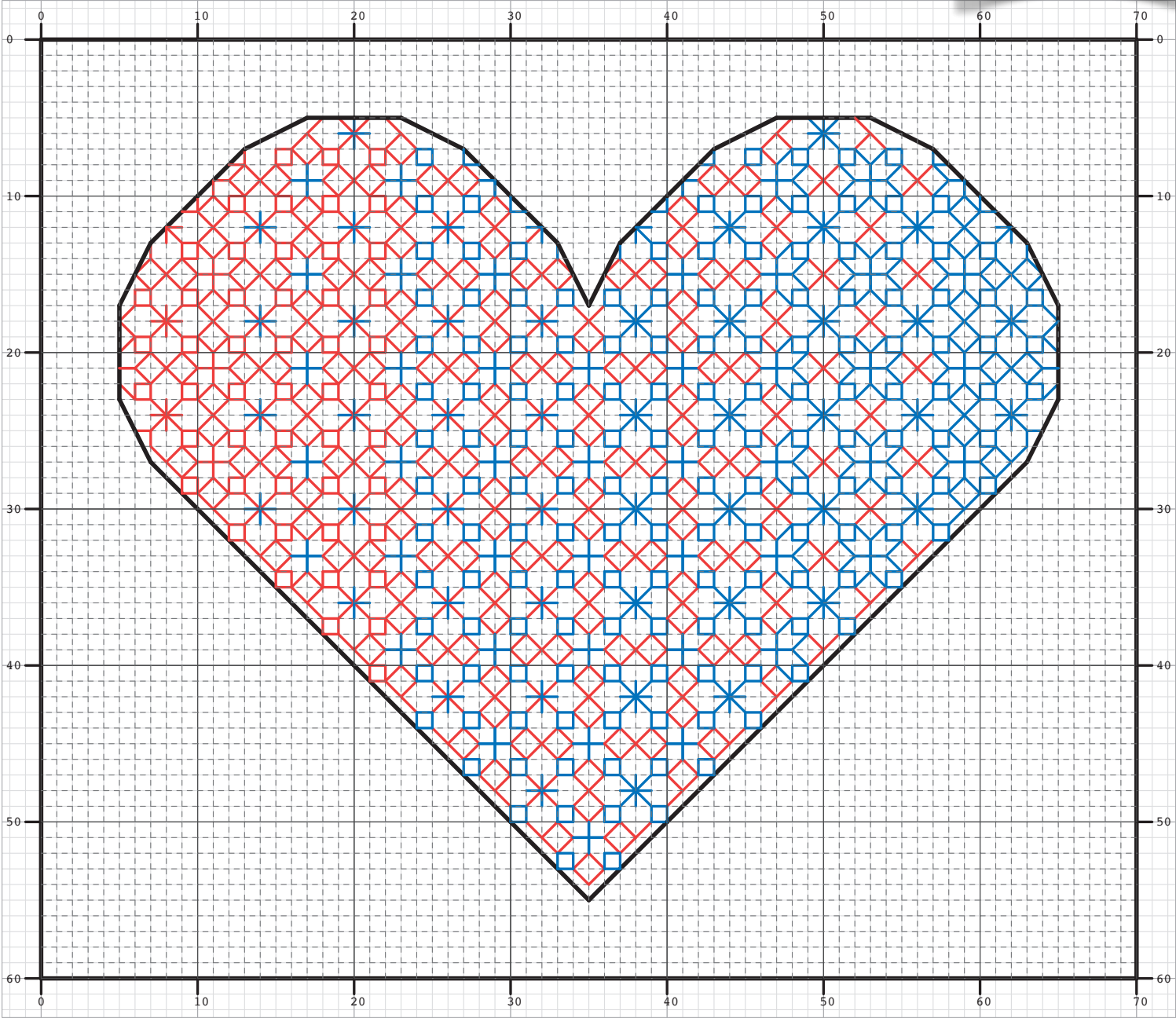
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Heart 1, Full Chart



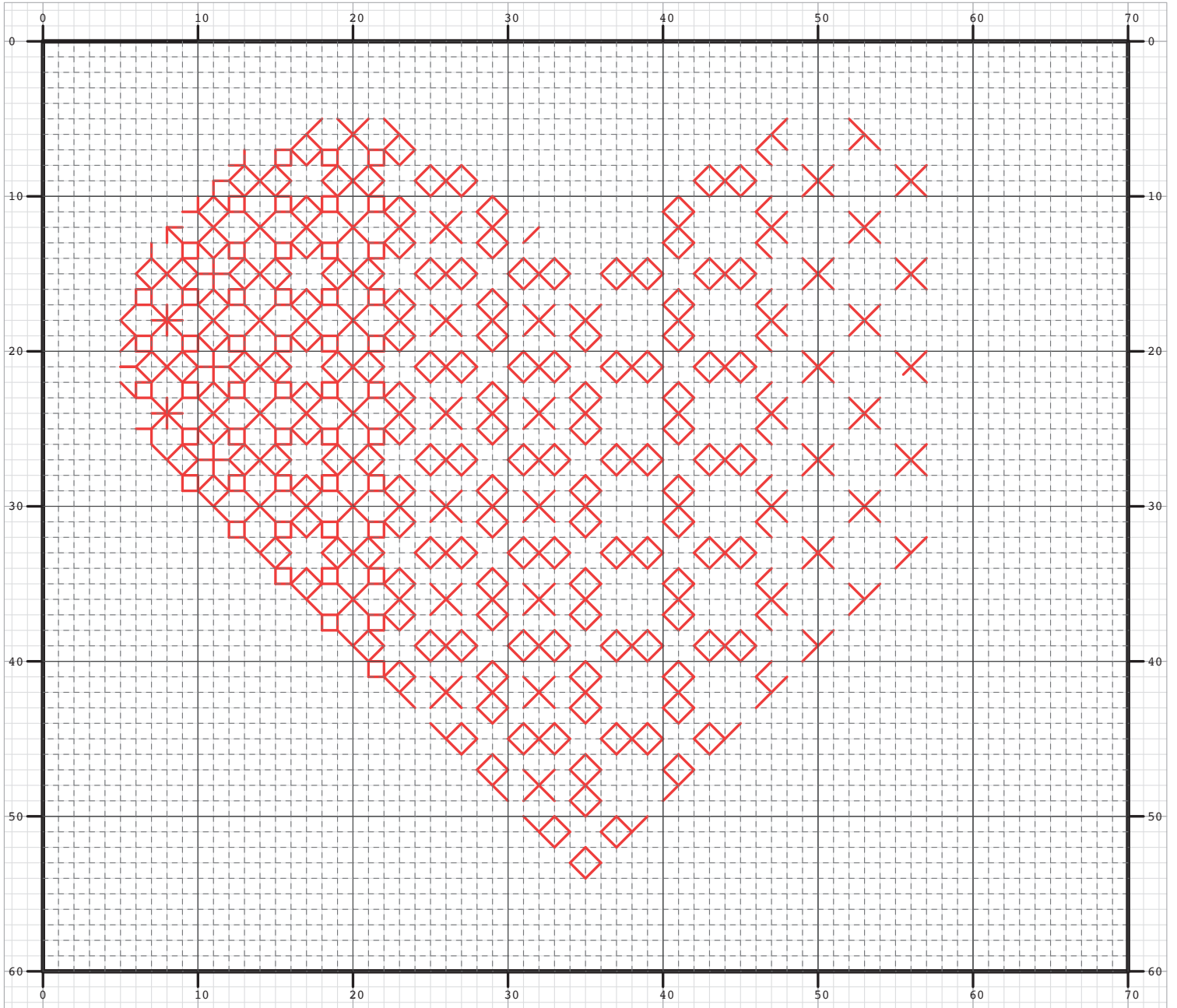
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Heart 1, Colour 1 Only



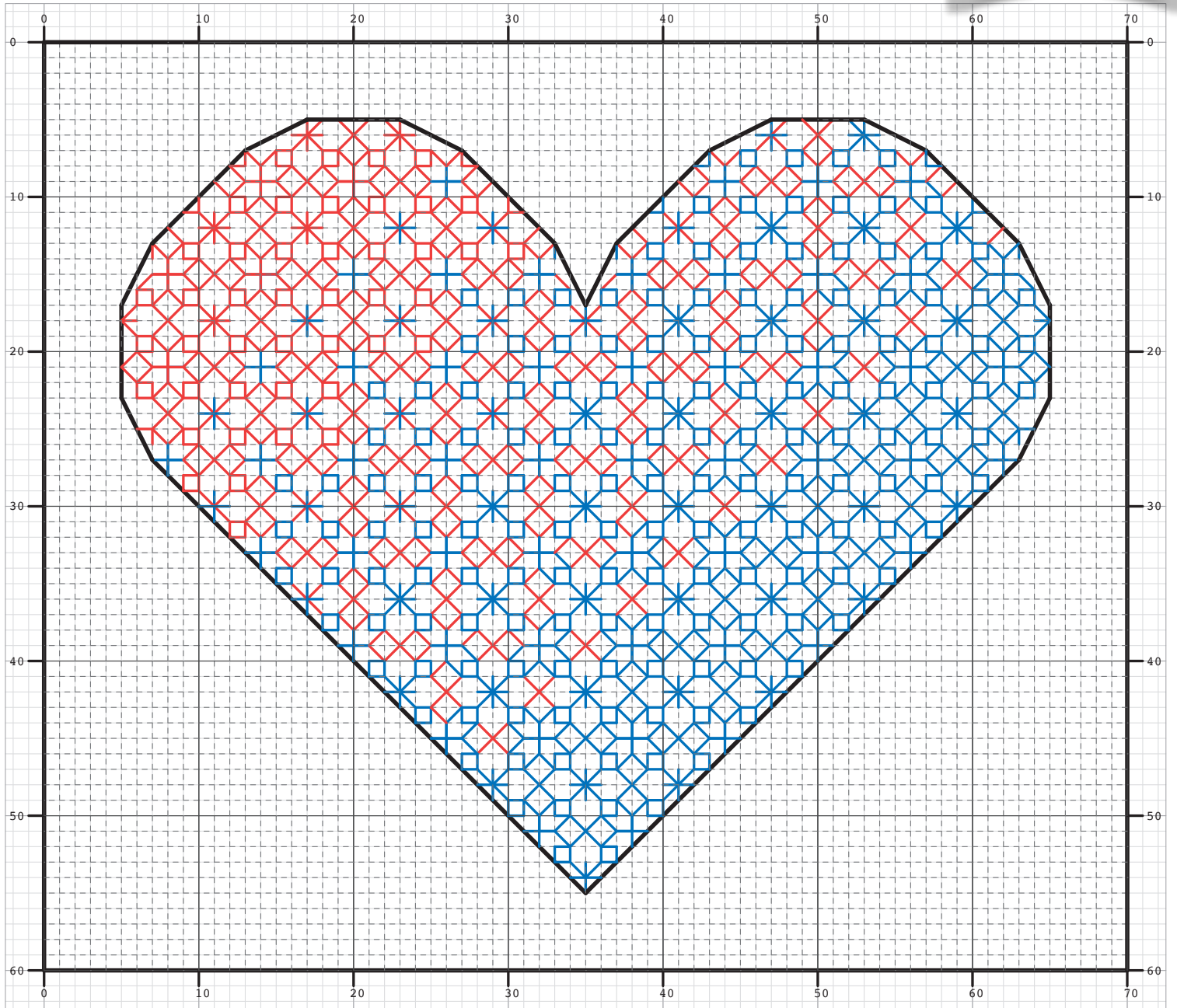
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Heart 2, Full Chart



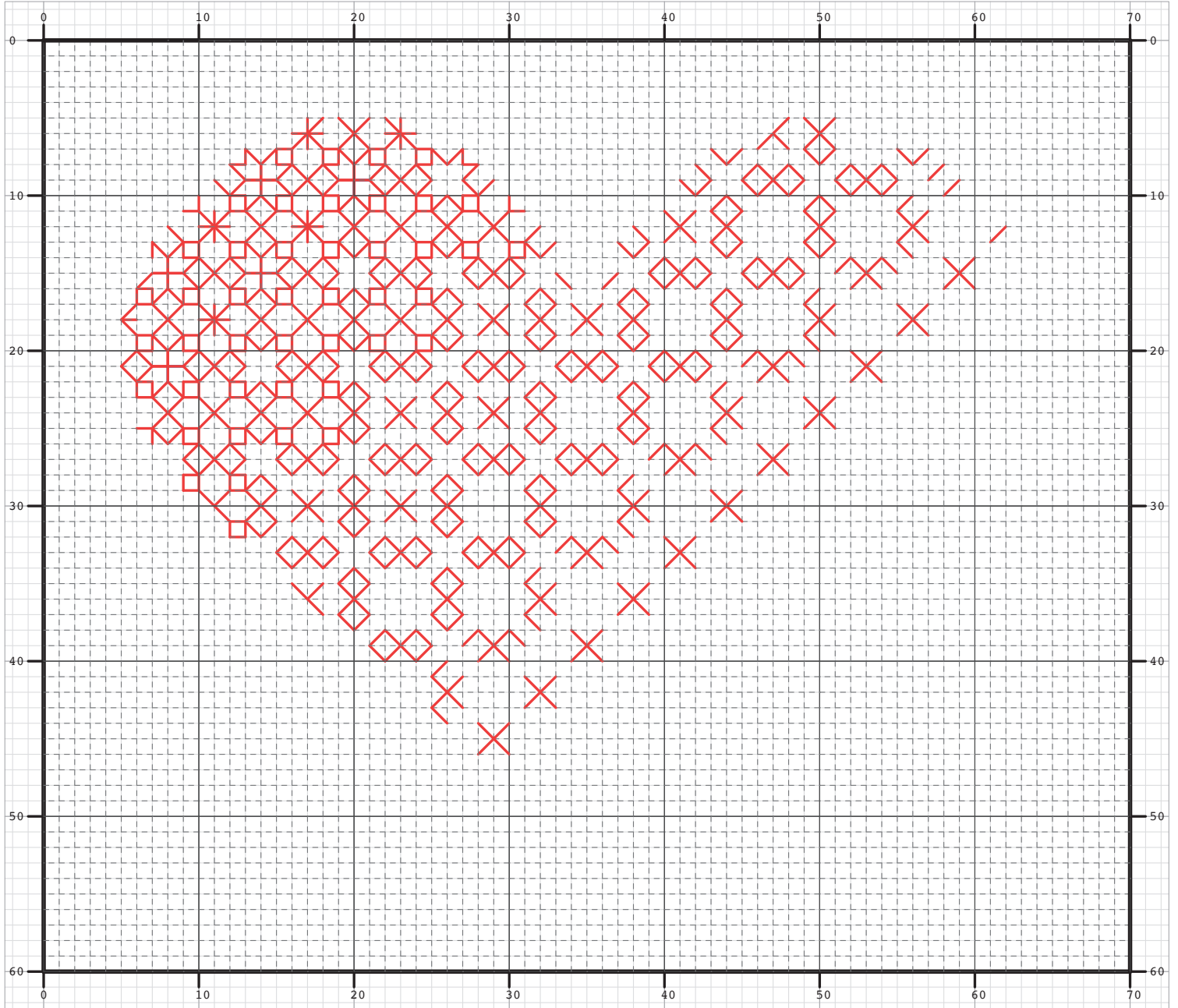
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Heart 2, Colour 1 Only



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