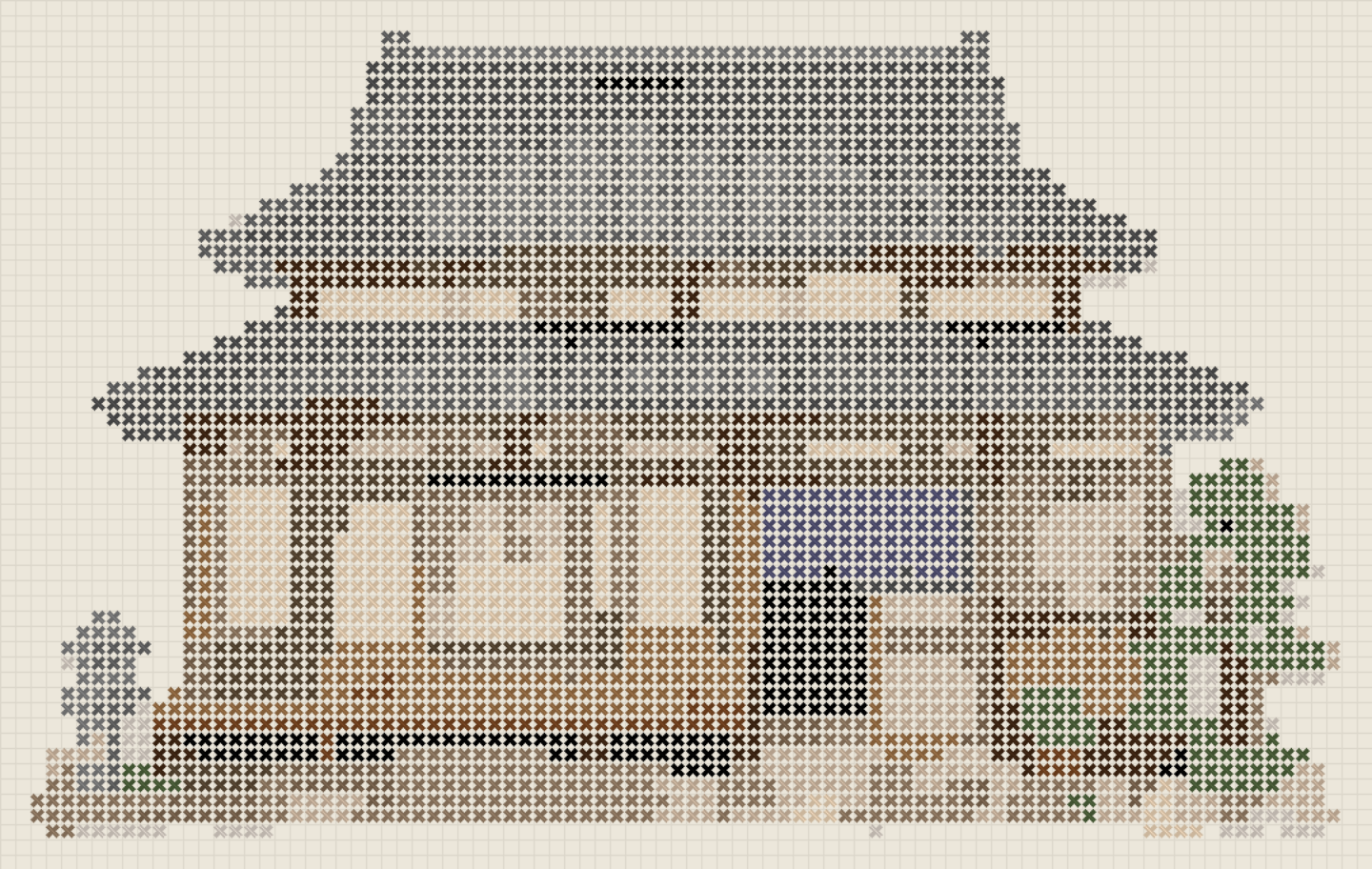
STITCH COTTAGE

Japanese Minka House Cross Stitch Pattern

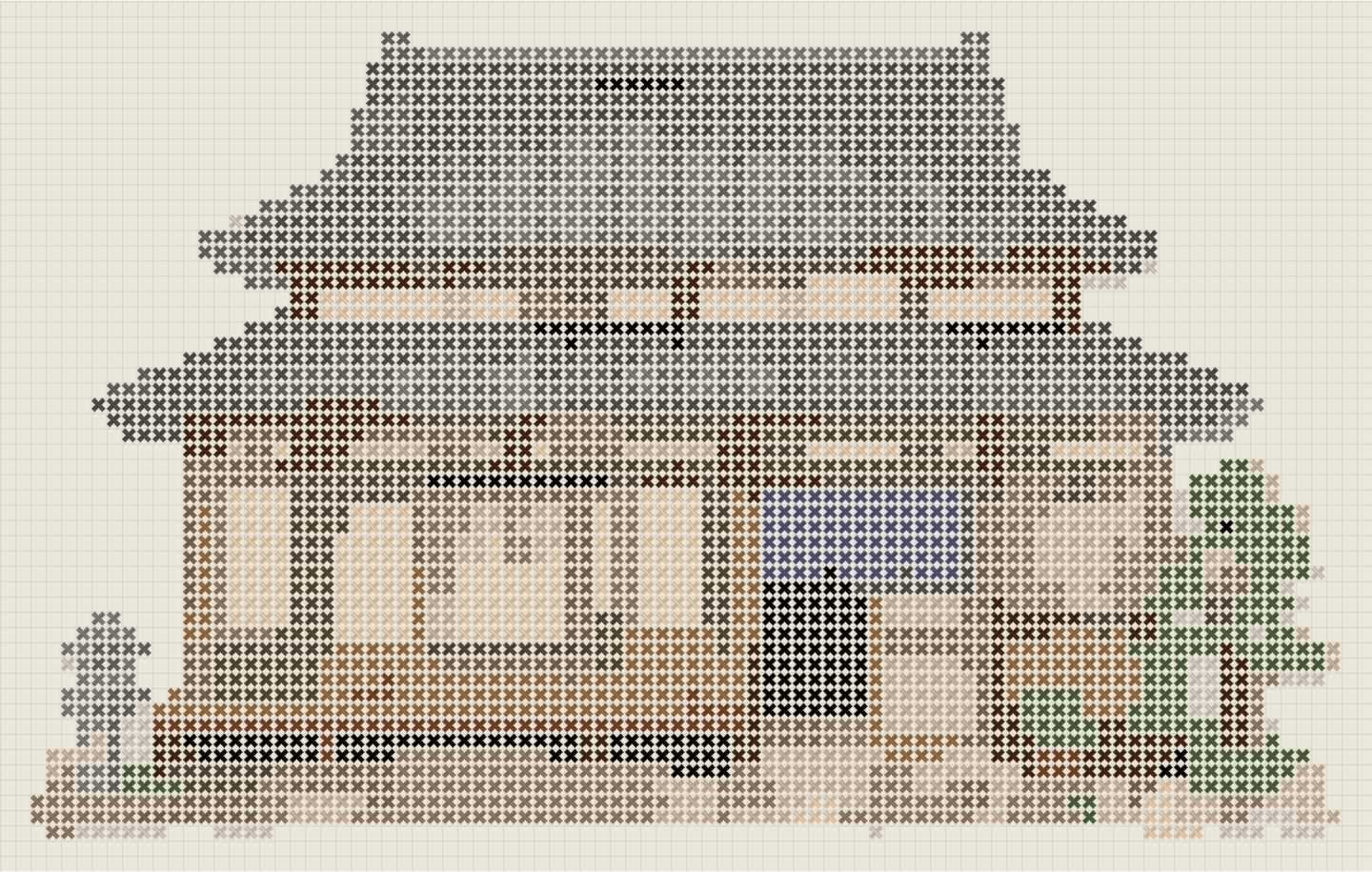
Cross stitch pattern · counted chart · 15 colours



Stitches	90 wide x 57 high
Total stitches	3,413
Finished size	6.43 x 4.07 inches · 16.3 x 10.3 cm (on 14-count)
DMC colours	15
Difficulty	Easy
Full crosses only	no backstitch, no fractional stitches

The finished design

Stitch towards this. Colours are a screen approximation of the threads; the chart and the legend are what you follow.



90 x 57 cells · 15 colours

Overview

Worth knowing before you buy the thread

Smooth areas of this image band into flat stripes at 15 colours (average error 7.22 where the original fades evenly). It did not use all 16 colours it was allowed, so more colours will not help — a smaller grid or a simpler image will.

This pattern

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Finished size on 14-count

Inches	6.43 x 4.07
Centimetres	16.3 x 10.3

What to buy

Fabric	14-count Aida or evenweave
Cut the fabric	12.43 x 10.07 inches (31.6 x 25.6 cm), 3 inches spare on every side
Threads	15 DMC colours, 15 skeins in total
Needle	Size 24 tapestry needle (size 26 for 18-count)
Also	small sharp scissors, a hoop or frame

Time

Stitching time	about 7 hours at 500 stitches an hour

The same pattern on other fabric counts

11-count	8.18 x 5.18 in · 20.8 x 13.2 cm · cut 14.18 x 11.18 in
14-count	6.43 x 4.07 in · 16.3 x 10.3 cm · cut 12.43 x 10.07 in
16-count	5.62 x 3.56 in · 14.3 x 9 cm · cut 11.62 x 9.56 in
18-count	5 x 3.17 in · 12.7 x 8 cm · cut 11 x 9.17 in

How the thread amounts were worked out

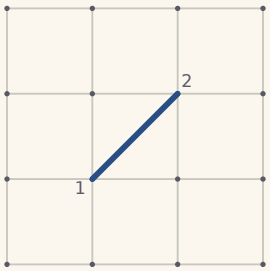
fabric margin inches	3.0
strands in needle	2
stitch type	full cross
skein length m	8.0
strands per skein length	6
waste factor	2.75
stitches per hour	500.0
dithering	none
note	Thread per stitch = two diagonals of one cell x waste factor. Skein usage assumes a full 8 m skein split into 2-strand lengths. Round up when buying: these are estimates, not a guarantee.

Thread legend

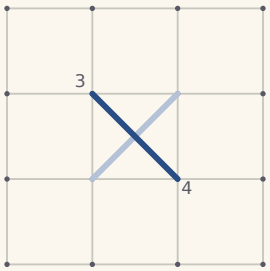
	Code	Name	Stitches	Thread, m	Skeins
M	3799	Pewter Gray Vy Dk	593	8.37	1
⌘	413	Pewter Gray Dark	332	4.69	1
●	3031	Mocha Brown Vy Dk	324	4.57	1
♠	3790	Beige Gray Ult Dk	263	3.71	1
U	3864	Mocha Beige Light	262	3.7	1
Q	3781	Mocha Brown Dk	248	3.5	1
♥	938	Coffee Brown Ult Dk	242	3.42	1
N	3032	Mocha Brown Med	229	3.23	1
♣	869	Hazelnut Brown V Dk	213	3.01	1
Ω	317	Pewter Gray	198	2.79	1
■	310	Black	165	2.33	1
▲	986	Forest Green Vy Dk	156	2.2	1
Φ	791	Cornflower Blue V D	76	1.07	1
&	648	Beaver Gray Lt	56	0.79	1
@	801	Coffee Brown Dk	56	0.79	1

Stitch counts are exact. Thread amounts include waste and are rounded up to whole skeins — the overview page states the assumptions behind them.

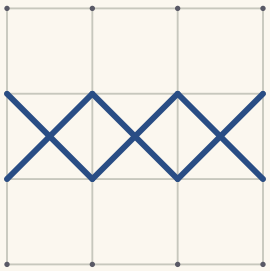
How to stitch this pattern



1. Up at 1, down at 2 — one slanted leg.



2. Up at 3, down at 4 — the cross is finished.



3. Keep the top leg slanting the same way all over.

Before the first stitch

Press the fabric. Creases fixed in by the hoop are hard to get out later.

Overcast or tape the raw edges so the weave does not fray while you work.

Cut the fabric to the size on the overview page. The extra three inches on every side are what a hoop and framing need — they are not spare.

Finding the centre

Fold the fabric in half, then in half again. The crossing of the two folds is the centre of your work.

Mark it with a loose tacking stitch in sewing thread, or with two lines of water-soluble pen.

The chart's centre is marked with arrows on the outside edges. Start there, not in a corner: errors stay small when you work outward from the middle.

Reading the chart

One square on the chart = one cross stitch over one block of fabric.

Every square carries a symbol. The thread legend says which DMC colour that symbol means; the colour chart pages show the same squares in colour.

A blank square means no stitch — the fabric is meant to show through.

Heavy lines fall every ten squares, so you can count in tens rather than one square at a time.

Large charts are split across pages. The section map shows how the pages fit together, and the three overlapping rows on each edge are printed on both pages so nothing falls into a gap.

Hoop and tension

Keep the fabric taut as a drum but not stretched out of square.

Take the work out of the hoop when you stop for the day; a hoop left on overnight leaves a ring that can be permanent.

Making a full cross

Use two strands of floss in the needle. Separate the strands one at a time from a cut length and put them back together — they lie flatter that way.

Bring the needle up at the bottom left of the square, down at the top right. That is the first leg.

Come up at the bottom right, down at the top left. That completes the cross.

Cross every stitch in the same direction across the whole piece. Mixed directions catch the light differently and show as patchiness.

Work a row of first legs, then come back along it with the second legs, when a run of one colour lets you.

Starting and ending a thread

Cut lengths of about 18 inches (45 cm). Longer thread wears thin as it passes through the fabric.

Loop start: fold one strand in half, thread the two cut ends, and come up through the fabric leaving the loop at the back. Catch the loop with the first leg and pull snug.

Or hold an inch of tail at the back and trap it under your first few stitches.

Never use a knot. It makes a bump that shows from the front once framed.

To finish, run the needle under three or four stitches on the back and snip close. Dark tails behind pale fabric show through — bury them under stitches of their own colour.

Parking, for pieces with many colours

When a colour's run ends but you will need it again a few rows on, bring the needle up where it is next wanted and leave it hanging. That is parking.

Work one block of ten by ten squares at a time, finish every colour in it, then move to the next block.

Parking keeps the back tidy and means you change thread far less often than chasing one colour across the whole piece.

Keeping a large chart straight

Tack a grid of ten by ten squares onto the fabric in sewing thread before you start, matching the heavy lines on the chart. Pull it out as you go.

Mark off finished rows on the chart with a highlighter or a magnetic board.

Count twice before stitching a long run. One square out at the start of a row is one square out all the way along it.

Washing and finishing

Hand wash in cool water with a little mild soap. Do not rub, and do not wring.

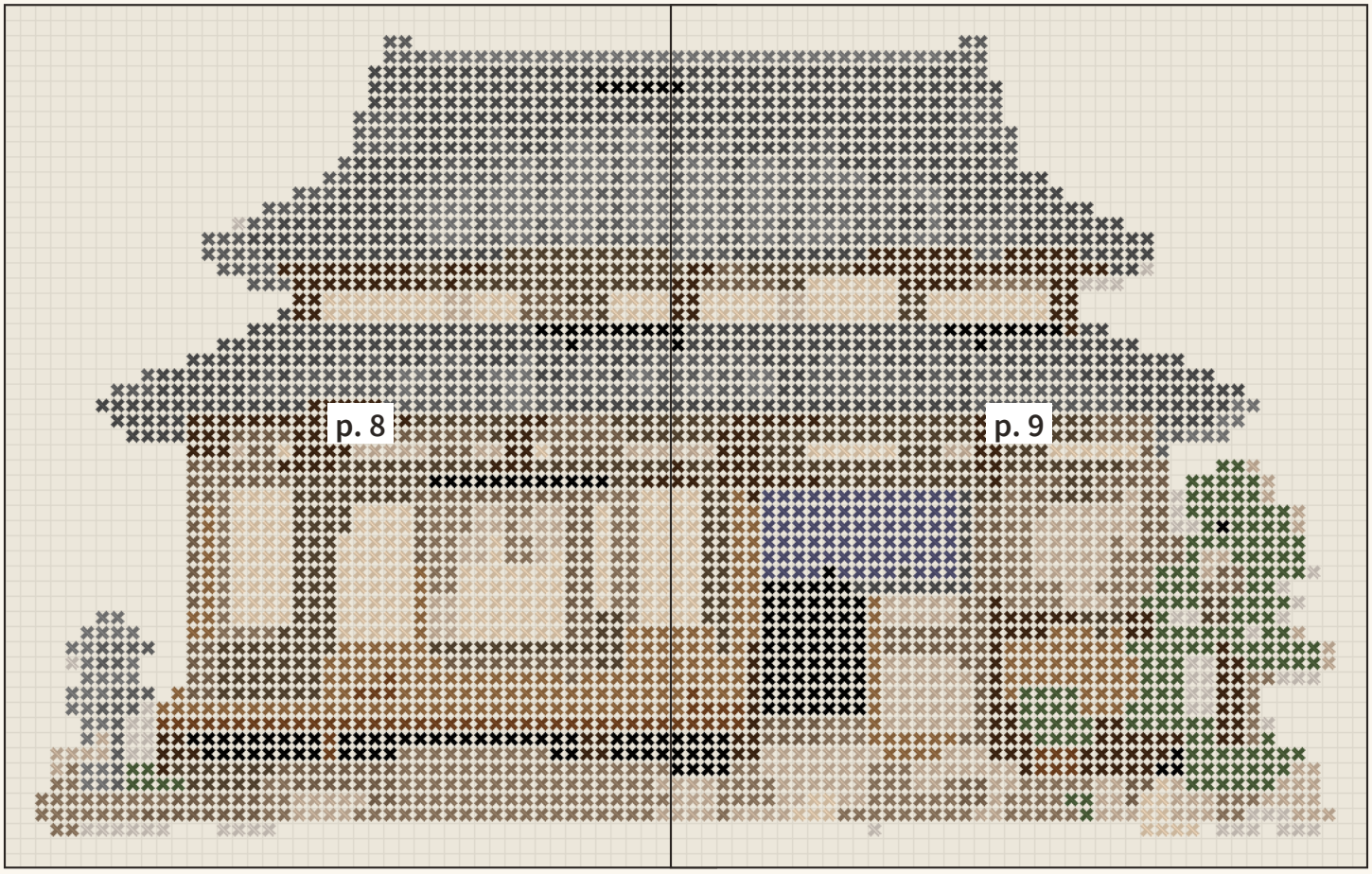
Rinse until the water runs clear. Reds and dark blues can bleed; rinse those longest.

Roll in a towel to take out the water, then press face down on a soft towel with a warm iron so the stitches keep their relief.

Lace or mount over acid-free board before framing. Glass should not touch the stitches — ask for a spacer or a mount.

How the chart pages fit together

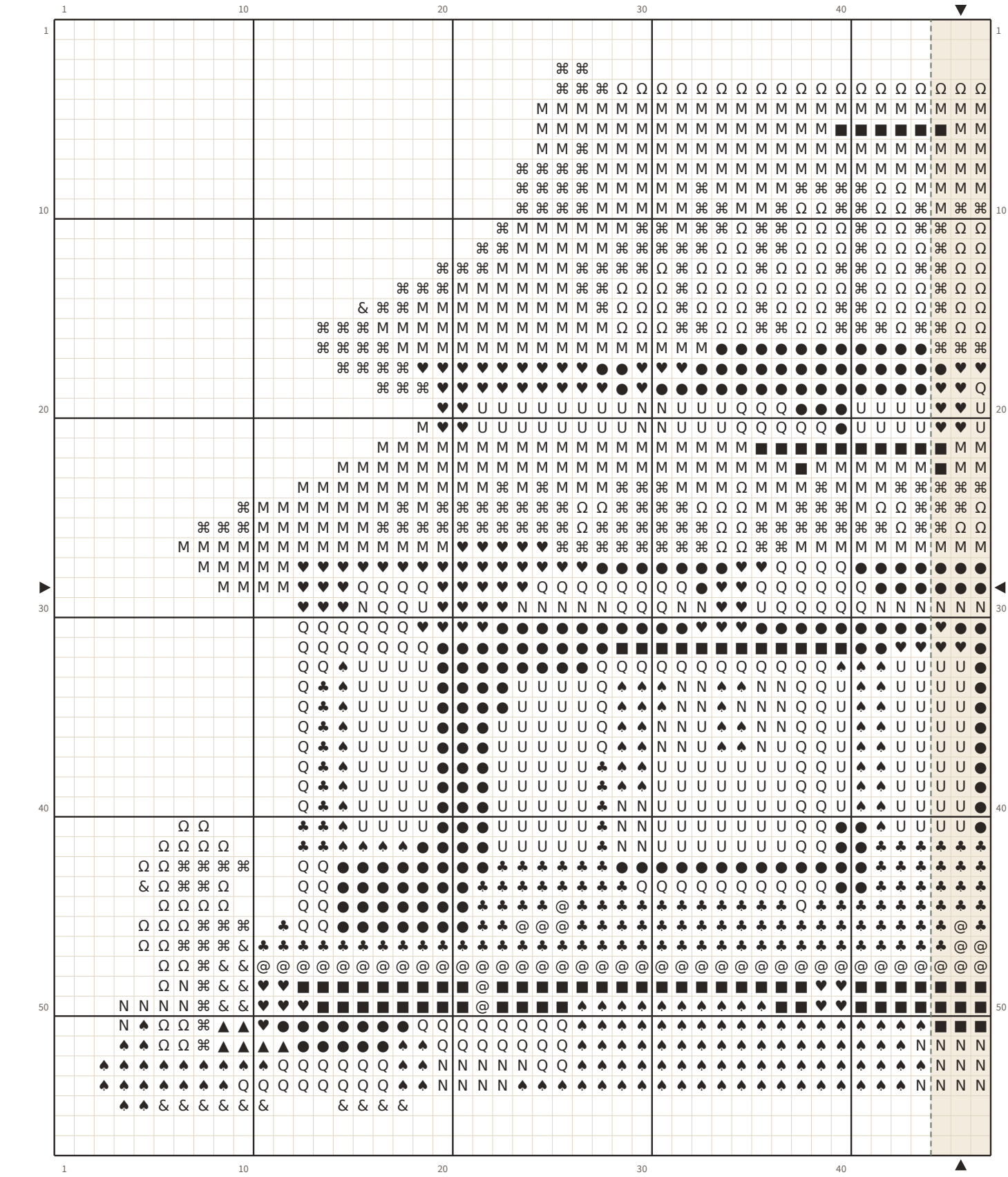
The chart is 90 x 57 cells, printed over 2 pages in 1 row and 2 columns. The 3 cells along each inner edge are repeated on both pages and tinted, so no cell falls into a gap.



Page numbers are the symbol chart; the colour charts follow in the same order.

Symbol chart — page 1 of 2

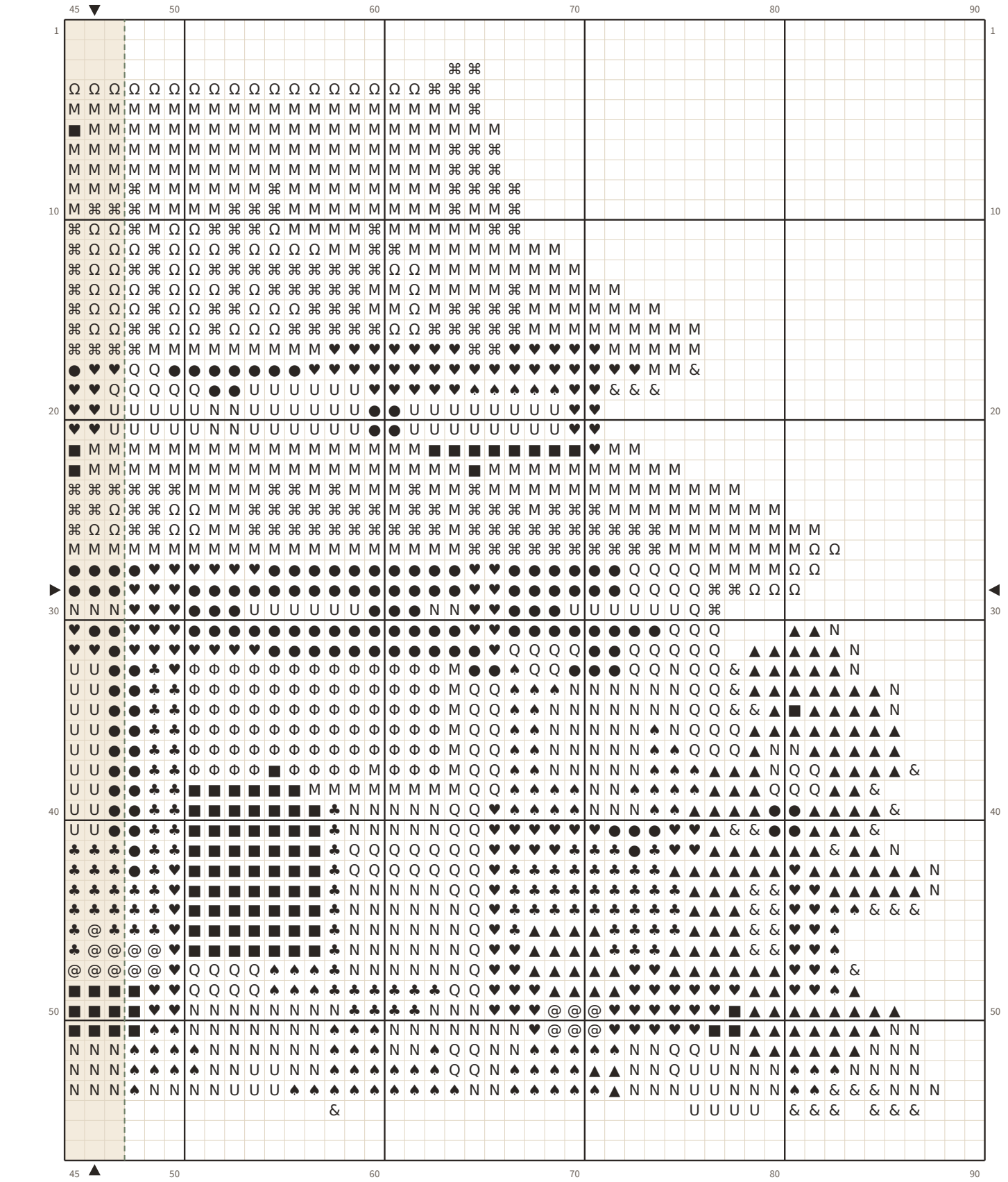
columns 1-47, rows 1-57



M 3799 · ⌘ 413 · ● 3031 · ♠ 3790 · U 3864 · Q 3781
♥ 938 · N 3032 · ♣ 869 · Ω 317 · ■ 310 · ▲ 986
& 648 · @ 801

Symbol chart — page 2 of 2

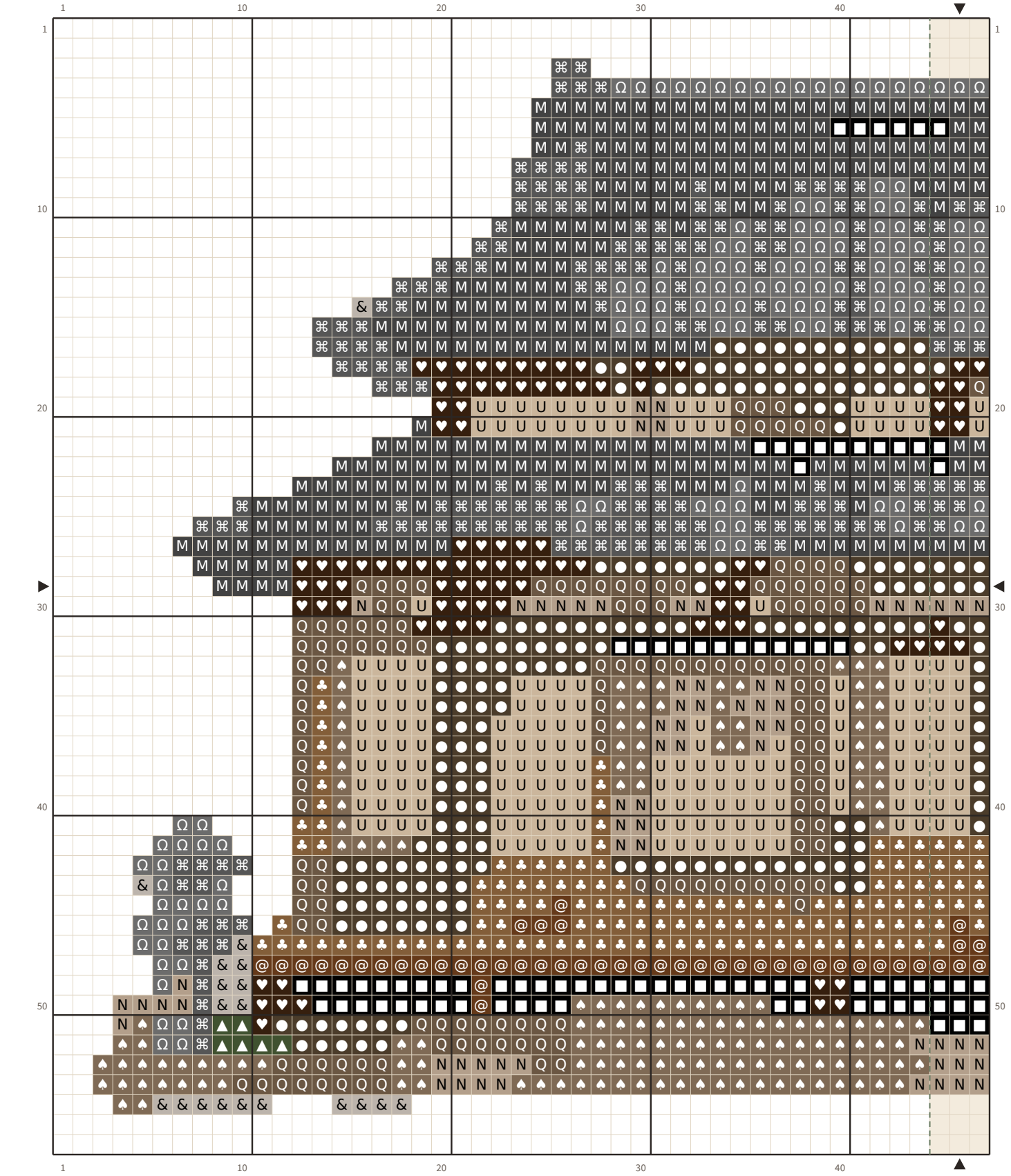
columns 45-90, rows 1-57



M 3799	⌘ 413	● 3031	♠ 3790	U 3864	Q 3781
♥ 938	N 3032	♣ 869	Ω 317	■ 310	▲ 986
Φ 791	& 648	@ 801			

Colour chart — page 1 of 2

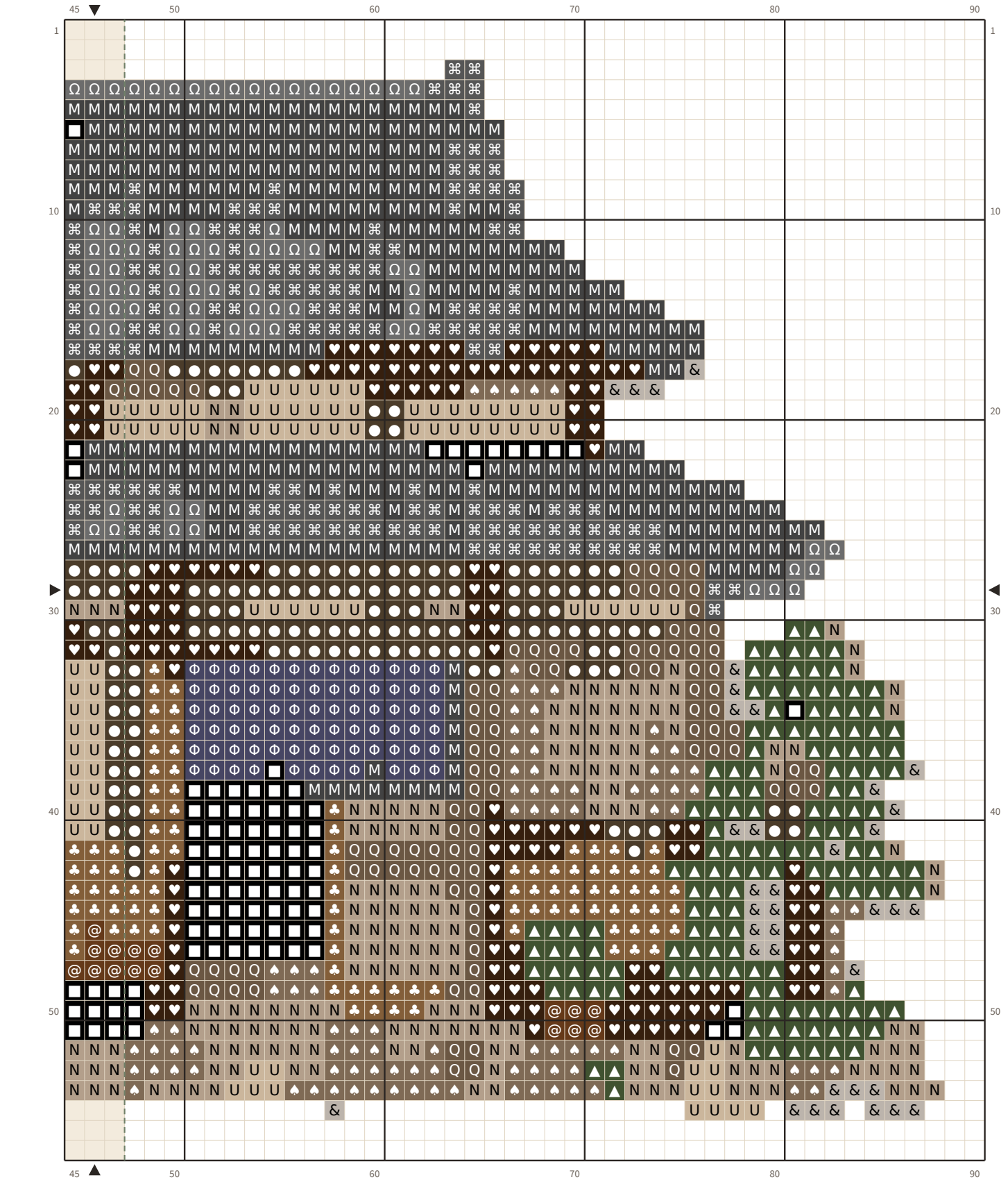
columns 1-47, rows 1-57



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Colour chart — page 2 of 2

columns 45-90, rows 1-57



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Credits

DMC colour values from the MIT-licensed table at github.com/XCoret/DMC-Palette-Generator (454 colours). DMC does not publish RGB values; screen colours are an approximation — check against a real shade card before buying.

Pattern generated for Stitch Cottage. stitchcottage.com