

Redwork involves making a red outline pattern using simple stitches on white fabric. Redwork came to the United States from Europe in the 1800s. It became particularly popular among immigrants and the middle class because it was an inexpensive and easy-to-master art: one only needed some muslin fabric and red cotton thread. Today's quilters have contributed to a renaissance in redwork, as old redwork quilts have surfaced with their beauty intact.

This *Love Thy Neighbor* redwork panel is designed for use on a pillow sham. Use your own sham pattern to make the sham in the size of your choice, as long as there is room for the 6- by 18-inch pattern to be stitched on it. This redwork panel can also be used for making other projects such as an embroidered tea towel, a wall hanging, or an apron.

Materials:

- White or off-white solid fabric (minimum size: 8 x 20"; use a larger piece of fabric, sized to accommodate the project of your choice)
- DMC 6-ply embroidery floss (red #817 and ecru)
- Removable fine-point marker or pencil

Making the Panel:

Before you start:

- Align the "registration marks" (the "plus" signs) on the two pages of the pattern. Tape the two pages together, making sure that the registration marks stay aligned.
- Press the white fabric flat. Place your pattern beneath the fabric and lightly trace the pattern lines onto the fabric, marking the design with a removable fine-point marker or a pencil. If you use a pencil, use a mechanical pencil with a fine point.

Tips:

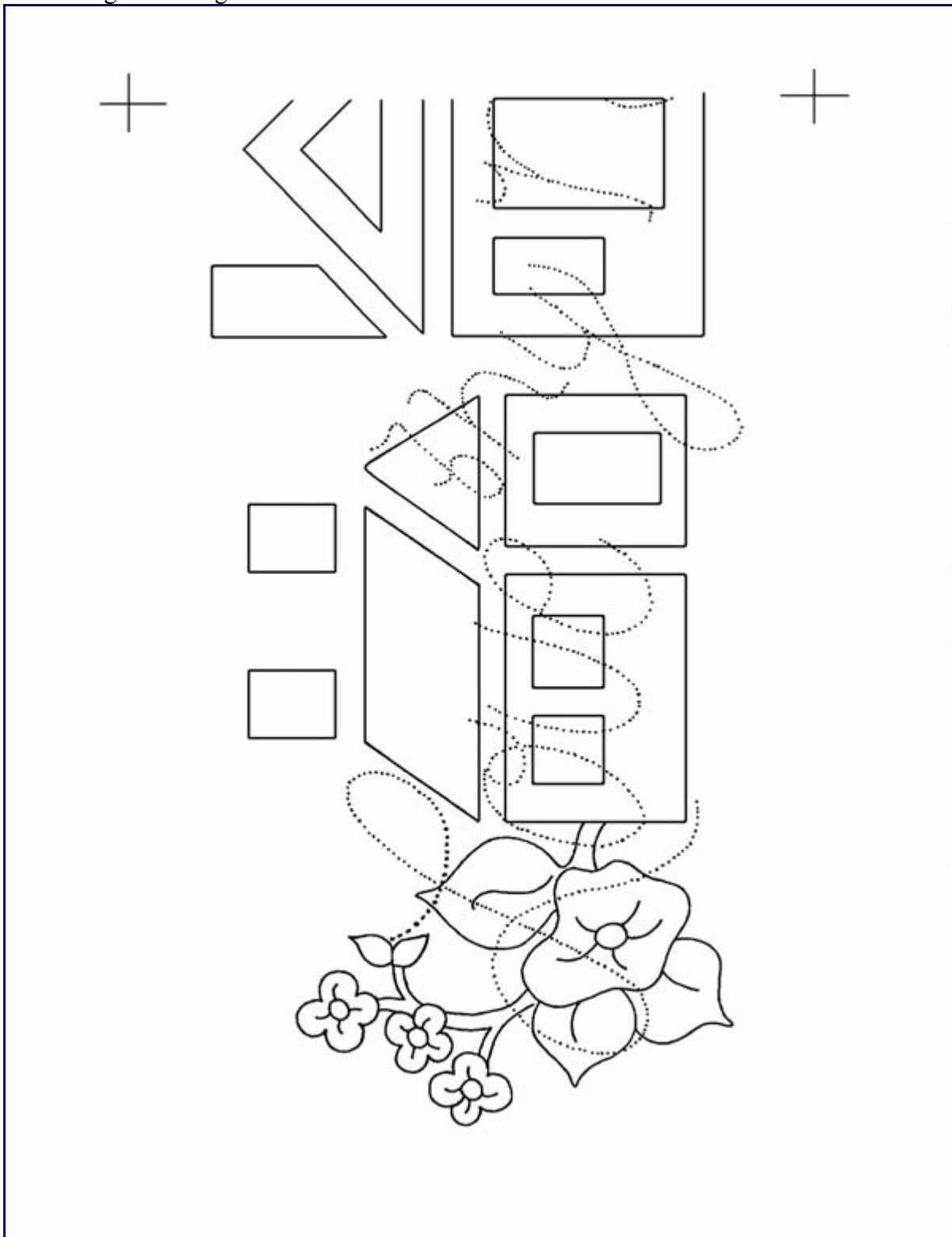
- Pre-wash your fabric.
- Test the colorfastness of your thread before stitching with it: soak a short length of it in hot water and place it between two scraps of light-colored fabric. Press these layers between two flat objects (e.g., your table top and a pan with a heavy can on it). When the fabric is dry, check to see if any color has migrated from thread to fabric; if it has, soak the floss until all color migration is gone or try a different skein of floss).
- Use a needle-threader – if you moisten your red thread and immediately stitch on white fabric, color migration might occur.
- After you finish stitching, if you want to wash the finished panel, soak it in water or a vinegar bath first, to prevent color migration.



Stitch along the outline of the design using two strands of embroidery floss. Try to keep your stitches even and small. The solid lines should be done in red floss, while the dotted lines should be done using ecru floss. Remember to never "travel" from one area to another on the underside of the fabric, and trim any excess threads from the back of the panel; this prevents the thread from showing through on the front as a dark "shadow."

When you are finished, place your fabric panel face down on a soft towel. Press it carefully, from the wrong side. Trim the panel to the appropriate size for your project.

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