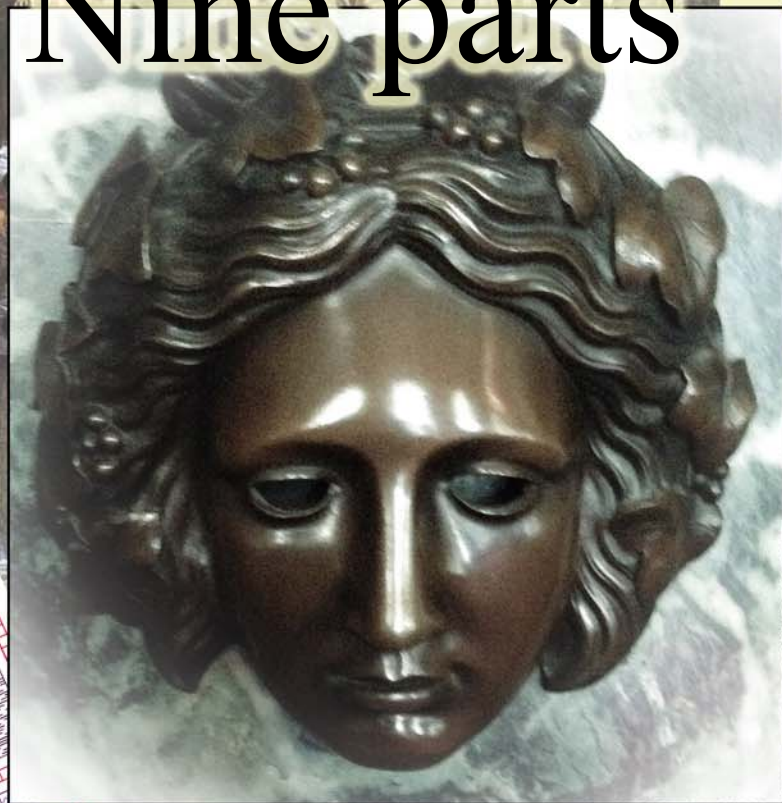


Pandora's Box

Project in Nine parts



Aida & Evenweave
Five Techniques





PANDORA'S BOX

Pandora's Box is an embroidery project designed to combine different embroidery techniques within one project thus encouraging the embroiderer to stretch her boundaries and explore new ideas.

The project has been presented in two different versions:

Pandora's Box worked on evenweave fabric

and

Pandora's Box worked on 14 count Aida blockweave



The story behind 'Pandora's Box'

Throughout history there have been stories where curiosity has got people into trouble and taken no notice of a warning. Pandora was such a person.

In classical Greek mythology, Pandora was the first woman on Earth. Zeus, the most powerful of the gods ordered Hephaestus to create her using water and earth. The goddess Athene then breathed life into the clay

and clothed her, Aphrodite made her beautiful, Apollo gave her musical ability and Hermes gave her speech and taught her how to be both charming and deceitful.

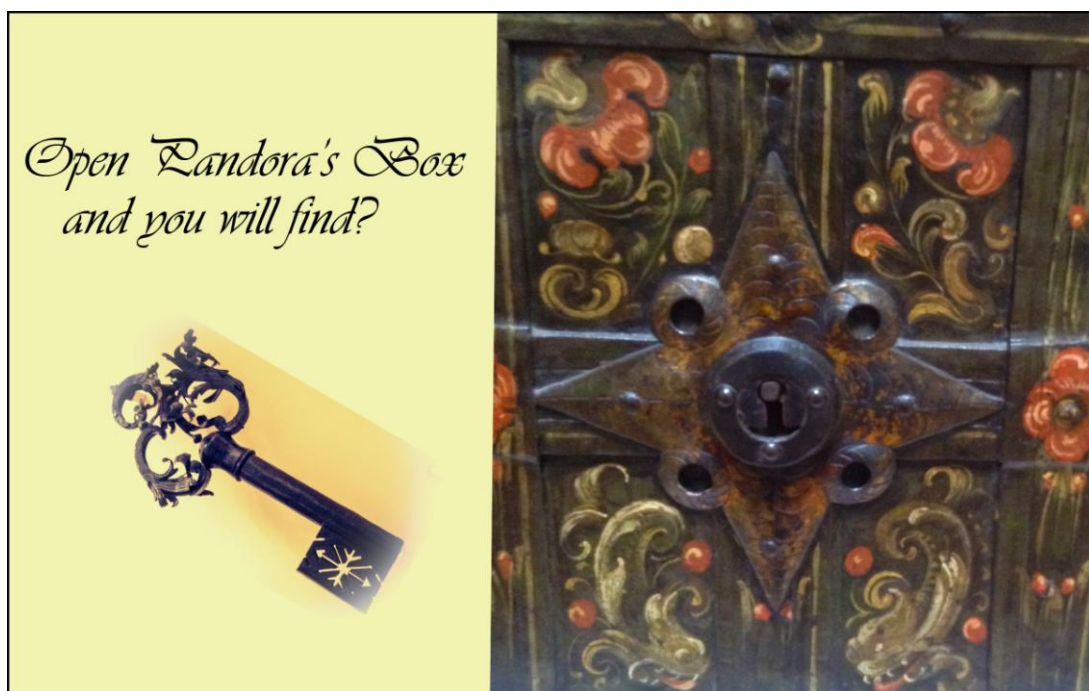
Zeus called her Pandora and sent her as a gift to Epimetheus. who with his brother Prometheus had annoyed Zeus by stealing fire from heaven. Despite the warnings from Prometheus, Epimetheus fell in love with Pandora and married her.

As a wedding gift Zeus, gave Pandora a wedding gift of a beautiful box (possibly a jar) with the condition that she never opened the box. Finally, Pandora could stand it no longer. She crept up to the box, took the huge key fitted it carefully into the lock and turned it.

She lifted the lid to find not treasure but disappointment! Out of the box poured disease and poverty. Out came misery, out came death, out came sadness, all shaped like tiny buzzing moths. The moths stung Pandora over and over and she slammed the lid shut but one voice still called from the box pleading to be released so she opened the box again.

All that remained in the box was Hope. It fluttered from the box like a beautiful dragonfly, touching the wounds created by the evil moths and healing them. So even though Pandora had released pain and suffering upon the world, she had also allowed Hope to follow them!

What will you find in your Pandora's Box?



The key and the lock to Pandora's Box

Threads, fabric and equipment

Not everyone is comfortable working on evenweave fabric so an alternative fabric design has been provided. Please read all the Instructions carefully before starting Pandora's Box. Suitable fabric and threads have been listed but alternative colour schemes and fabrics can be used to suit the needlewoman's requirements. Stitch Diagrams will be included with each block as appropriate.

Some of the stitches worked on evenweave fabric cannot be stitched on Aida so alternative patterns have been substituted when this occurs.

Pandora's Box Pattern Size for Evenweave and Aida:

Grid Size: 168W x 168H

Design Area: 11.71" x 11.71" (164 x 164 stitches)

Evenweave fabric:

Zweigart 28 count evenweave or Zweigart 25 count Lugana, minimum size 16 x 16 inches, recommended size 18 x 18 inches

Threads: 3 colours

DMC 550 violet - vy dk, two skeins

Anchor 1325 Iris - variegated, three skeins

Anchor 1325 – is represented by DMC-333 Lavender on the chart.

DMC Cotton P rle No.12, white, one ball

DMC Cotton P rle No.12 – is represented by DMC-666 Christmas red on the chart.

DMC Light Effects DLE-E3852 Dark Gold, one skein

Aida Blockweave fabric:

Zweigart 14 count Aida Blockweave, minimum size 16 x 16 inches, recommended size 18 x 18 inches

Threads: 3 colours

DMC-310 Black, one skein

DMC 318 Pale grey, one skein The pale grey 318 is used for the pulled thread framework work only.

DMC 318 Pale Grey –is represented by DMC 414 steel grey on the chart

DMC 53 grey/black variegated, three skeins - represented on the chart by DMC-3843 electric blue

DMC Light Effects DLE-E3852 Dark Gold, one skein or DMC Diamant, one reel

Mill Hill Glass Beads 557 -Gold

Note: On the chart for clarity DMC 414 Steel Grey represents DMC 318 pale grey and DMC 3843 electric blue represents DMC variegated 53

Tapestry needle No.24

Beading needle

Small embroidery ring, frame or Q-snaps are which are suitable for working on Aida.

Note: Pulled thread work stitches must be worked in a frame to maintain the correct fabric tension.

On the chart for clarity, some colours are shown by darker threads in both charts please look carefully at the thread numbers. Other colour schemes may be used. If using floss in place of DMC Cotton P rle No.12, use TWO strands of floss.



Anchor 1325



DMC 53 Variegated threads

Pandora's Box – Named and numbered chart and technique groups

There are 41 design blocks divided in 5 techniques.

The techniques are as follows:

Blackwork – BW

Pattern blocks: 1, 5, 7, 13, 19, 21, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35, 39, 41

Fifteen blackwork pattern blocks in total.

Assisi –A

Pattern blocks:

2, 8, 14, 16, 20, 22

Six Assisi pattern blocks in total.

Pull thread work – PW

Framework – Four-sided stitch pulled thread work

Represented by the colour red on the evenweave chart and grey on the Aida chart.

Pattern blocks:

3, 9, 11, 15, 17, 23, 26, 30, 34, 38

Ten pulled thread work pattern blocks in total.

Cross Stitch – CS

Pattern blocks:

4, 6, 10, 12, 18, 24

Six cross stitch pattern blocks in total.

Pattern Darning - PD

Pattern blocks:

28, 32, 36, 40

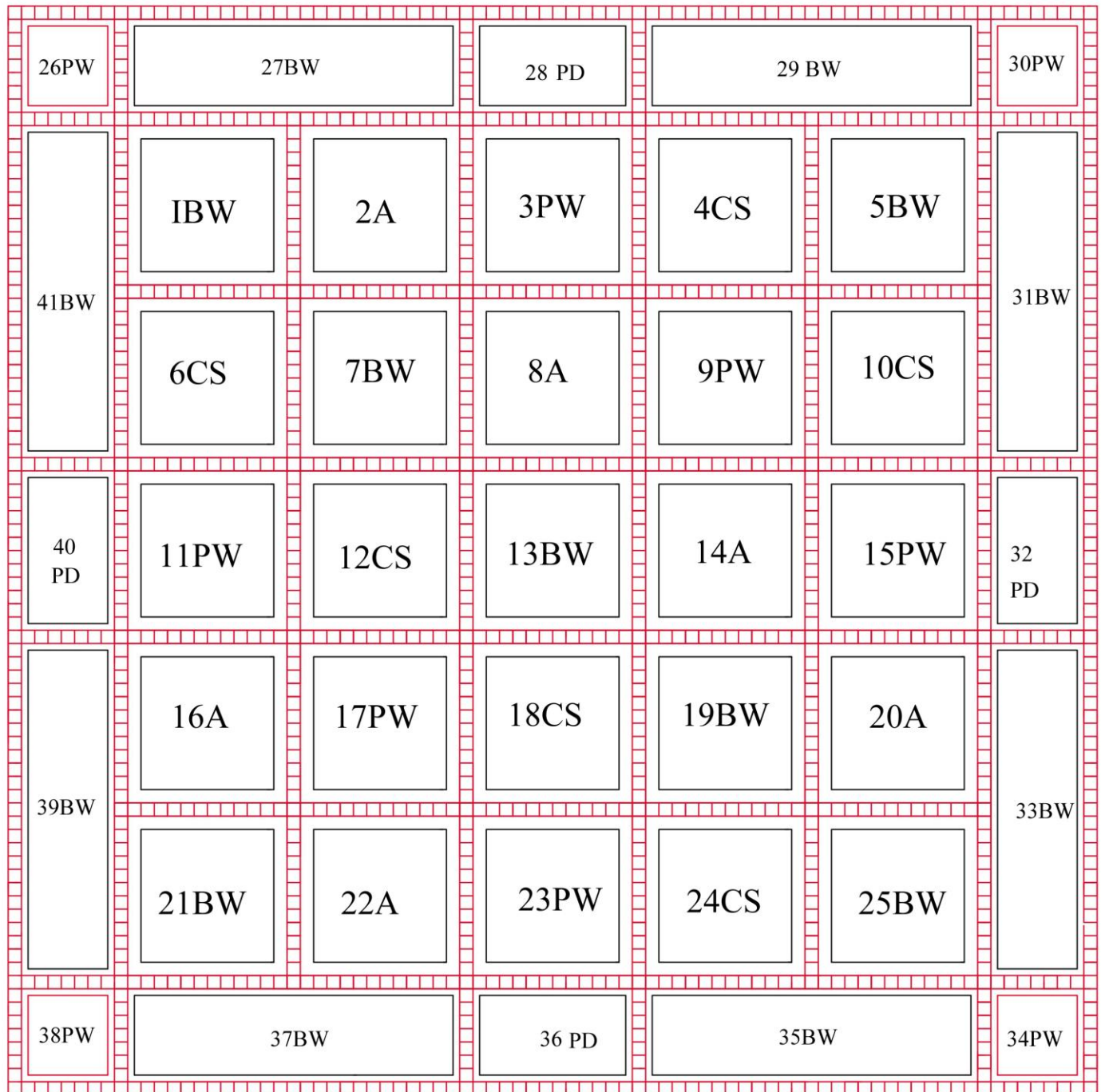
Four pattern darning pattern blocks in total

Note: The individual pattern blocks are surrounded by a border of four-sided stitch which is a pulled thread work technique.



Pandora's Box was worked on two different fabrics:

Aida blockweave 14 count and Lugana 25 count evenweave



Pattern blocks named and numbered for evenweave/Aida

Techniques:

BW – Blackwork

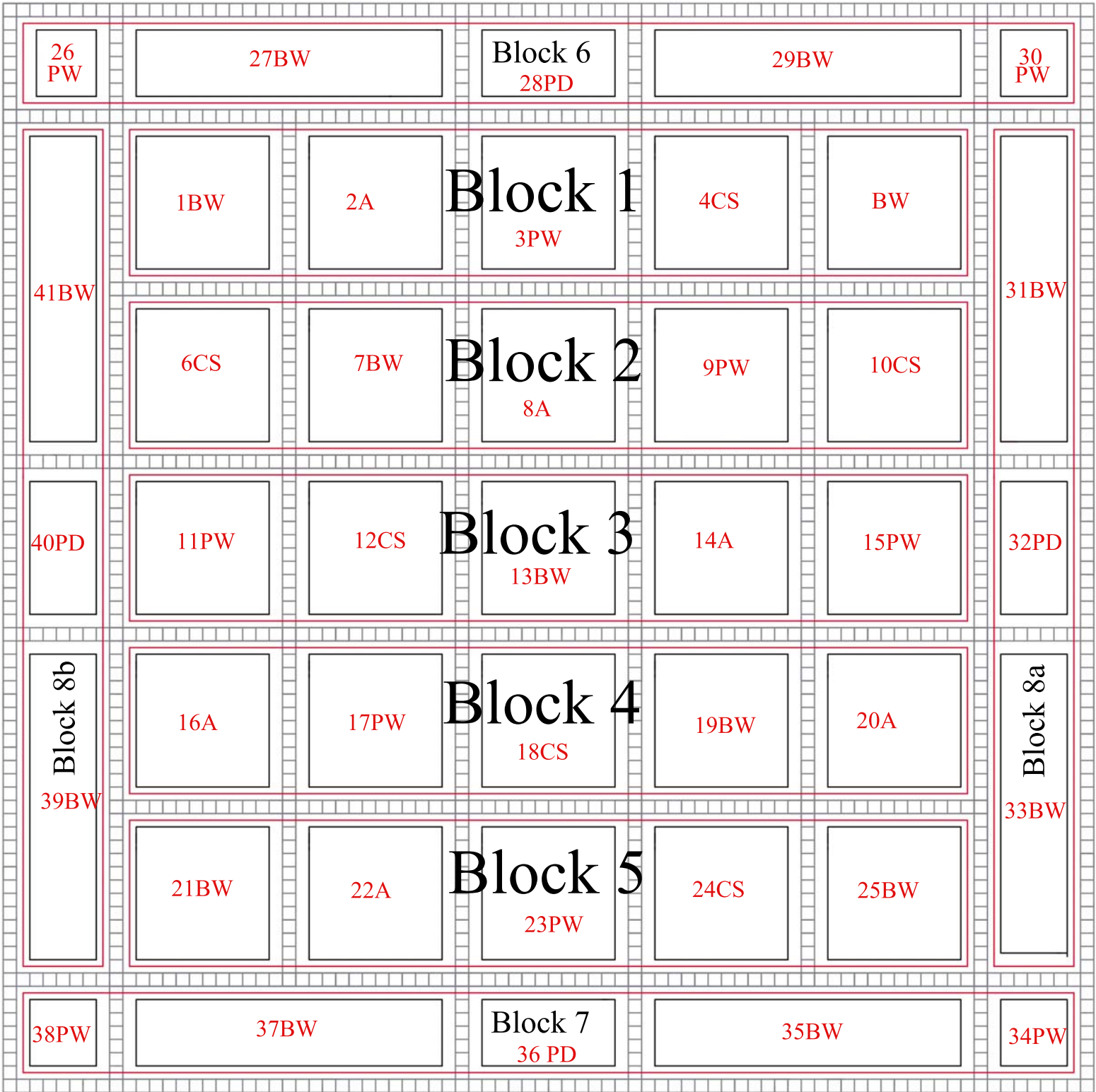
A – Assisi

PW – Pulled thread work

CS – Cross stitch

PD – Pattern darning

Framework (red) Four-sided stitch



Part 1 Framework Pandora's Box

Pulled thread work is worked on evenweave fabric. No thread are removed but the threads are pulled together to create the stitches. The threads need to be strong enough to withstand the 'pull'.

Traditionally pulled thread work was stitched in white or neutral colours but there is no reason why other colours should not be used but a pale colour palette works more effectively than a strong colour scheme.

Evenweave:

Using **DMC Cotton P rle No.12** -white, work the framework in four-sided stitch over **four** threads following the instructions. Work from right to left in rows, turning the work where necessary. Pull each stitch tight to create the holes

Aida:

Using **DMC 318 Pale grey**, two strands work the framework in four-sided stitch over **TWO** blocks. Do not pull the blocks; allow the stitch to remain flat on the surface of the fabric.

Four-sided stitch (See diagram)

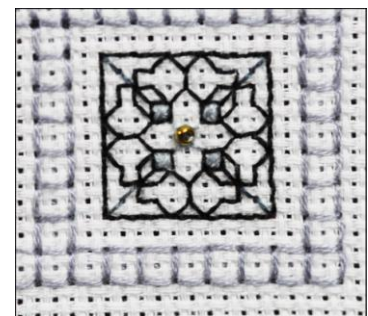
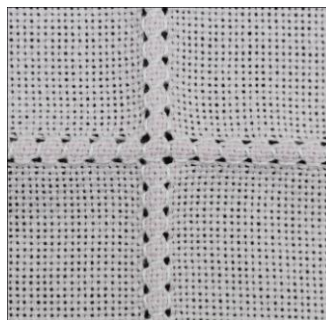
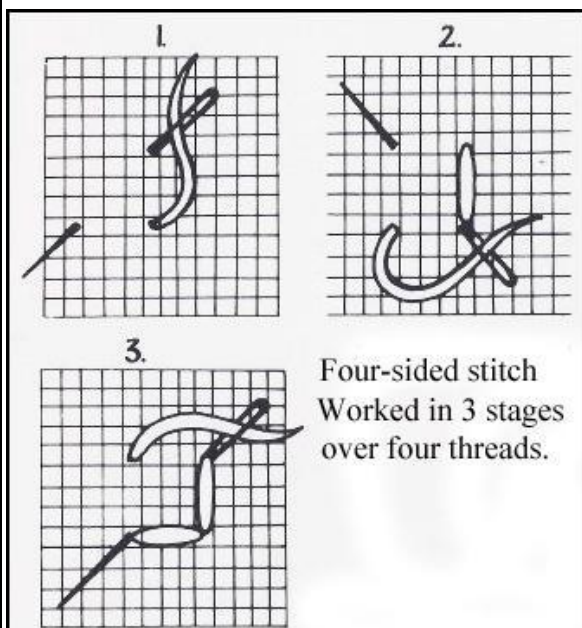
Tapestry needle No.24

Small ring or frame

Method:

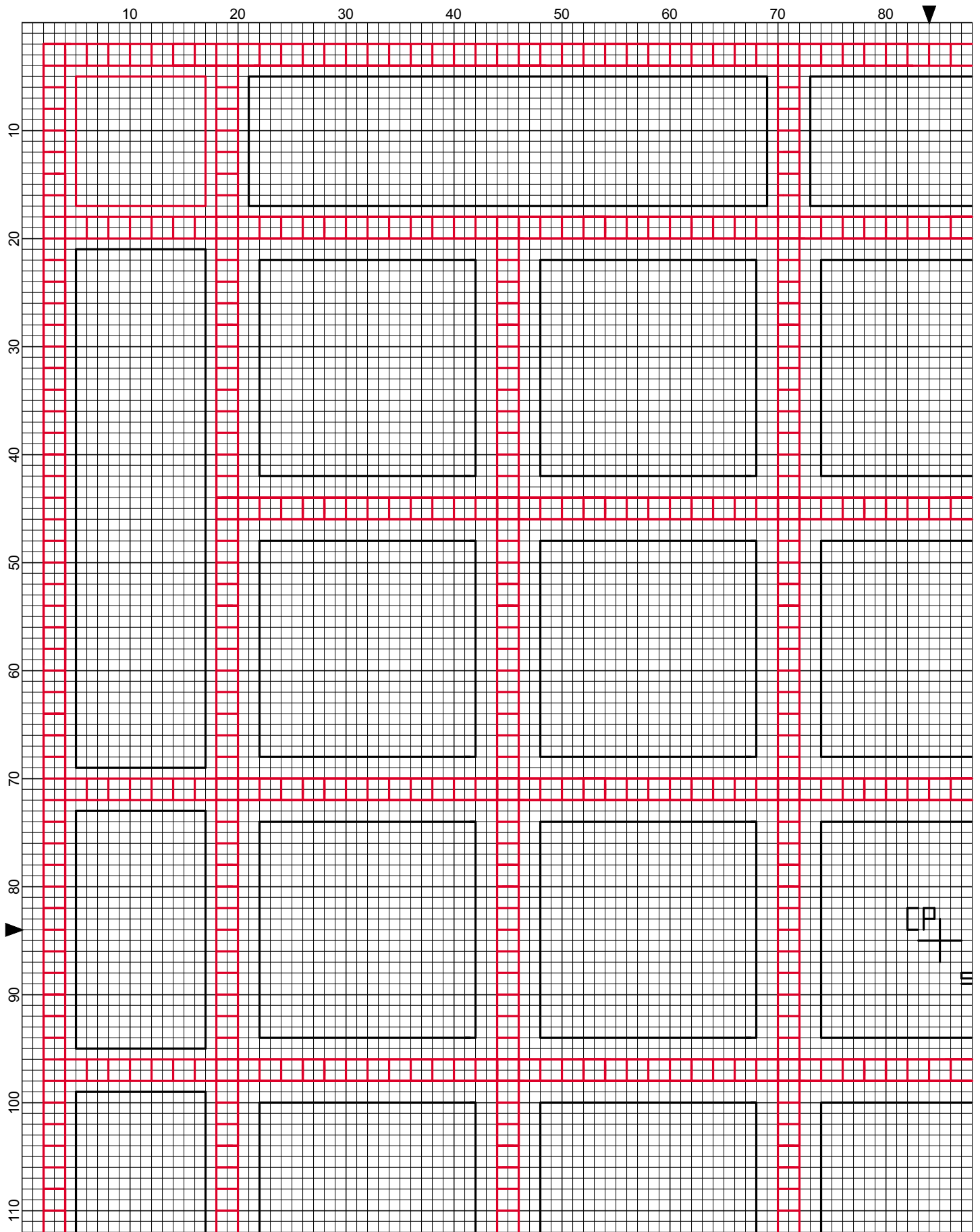
Four-sided stitch may be used in a line or repeated as a filling.

1. Work the framework first in four-sided stitch using the correct number of threads. **START** at the arrow near the centre point marked on the chart.
 2. Four-sided stitch consists of 3 straight stitches to form the end, the middle and the top of the 'square'. Work from right to left over 4 threads (evenweave) or 2 blocks (Aida). Always put the needle in at one corner and come out at the opposite one. Follow diagrams 1-3
 3. Pull tight to create the holes (evenweave). Do not pull! (Aida) The rows of four-sided stitch are worked backwards and forwards until the space is filled.
 4. Weave all ends into the back of the work carefully.
- Do not add the internal blocks at this stage, only the framework.
Place the embroidery face down on a soft towel and press lightly.
Block 1, Patterns 1-5 will be added next month.

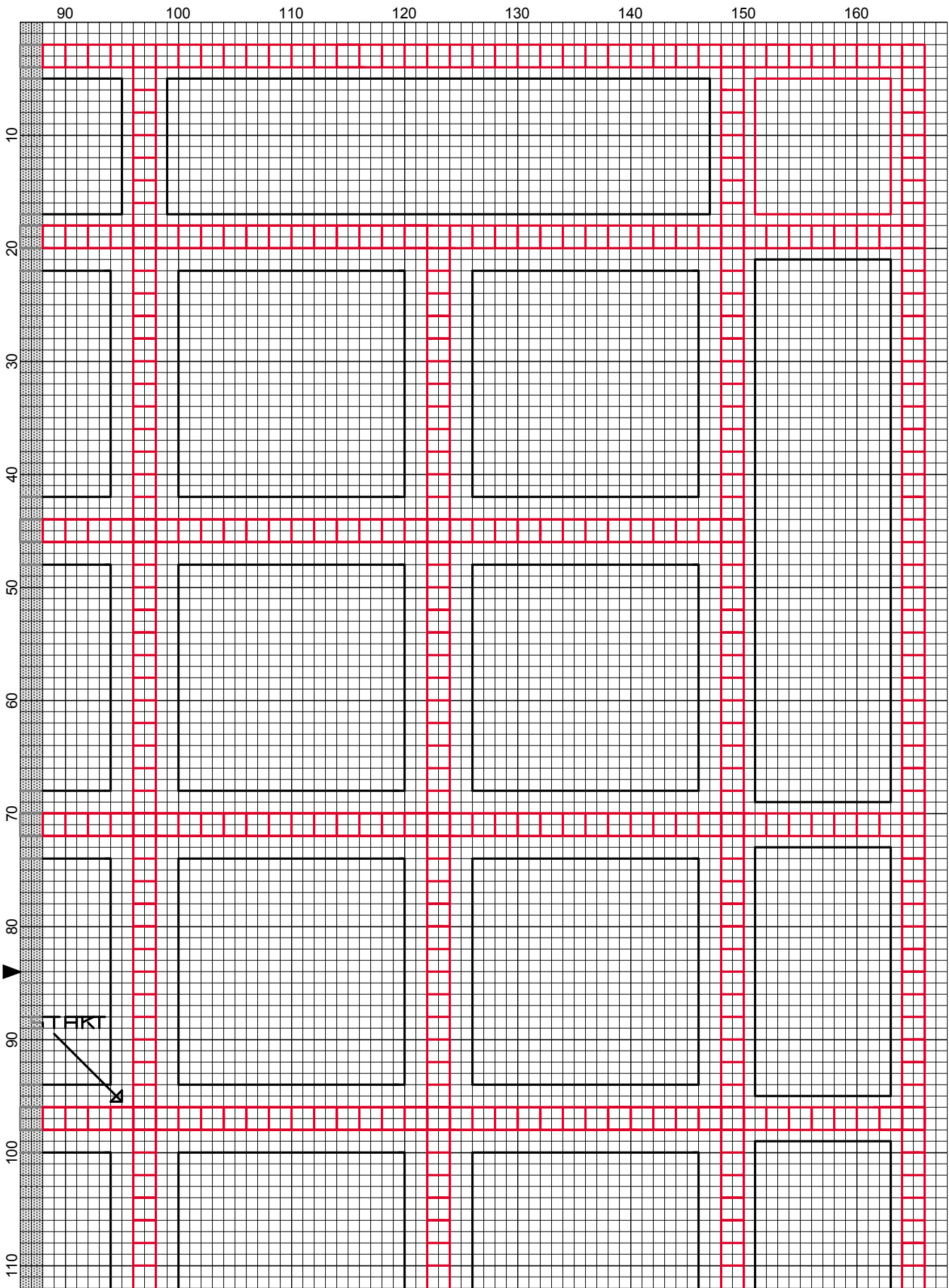


Four-sided stitch worked in rows on evenweave and Aida

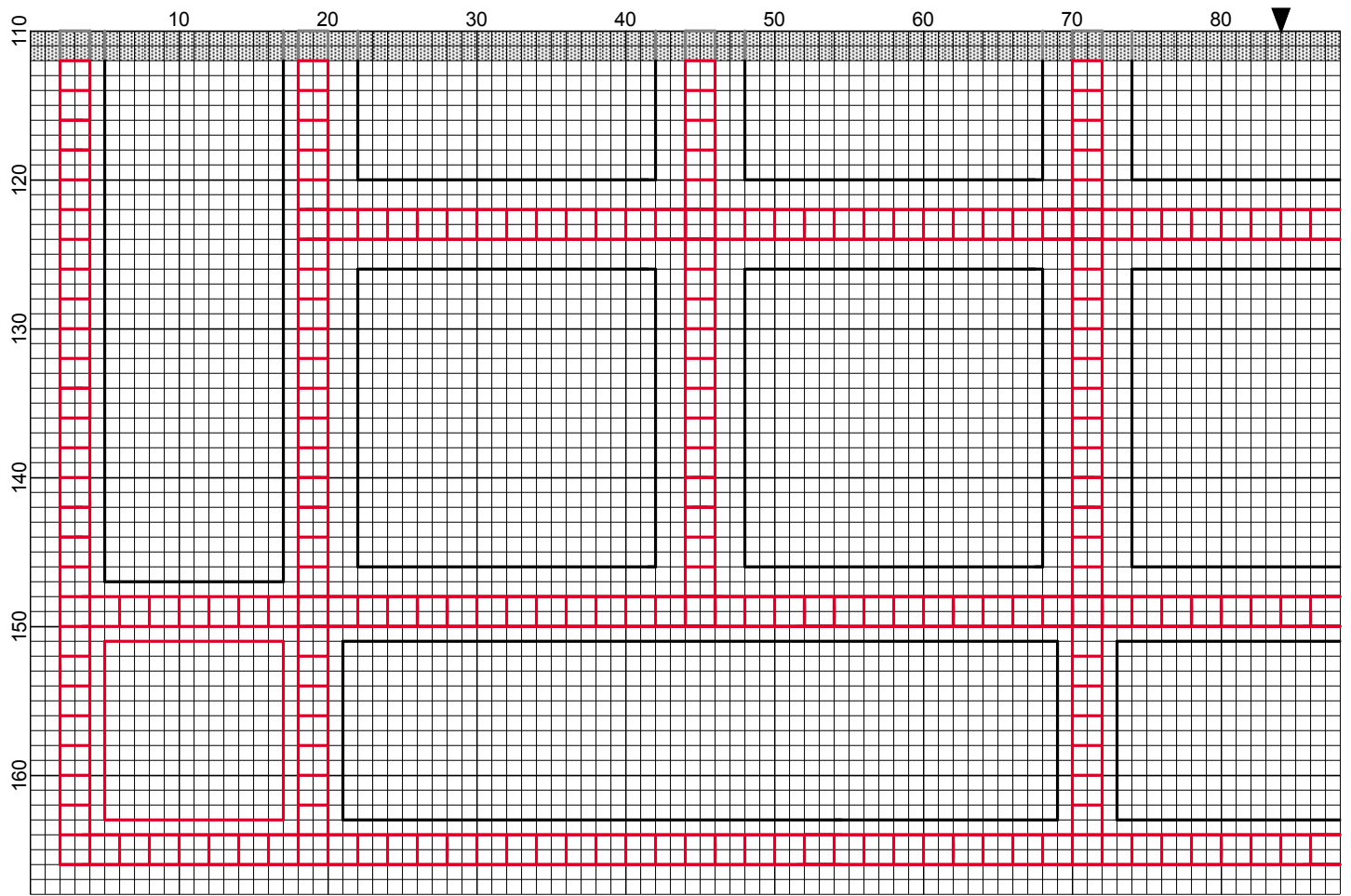
Pandora's Box - Framework



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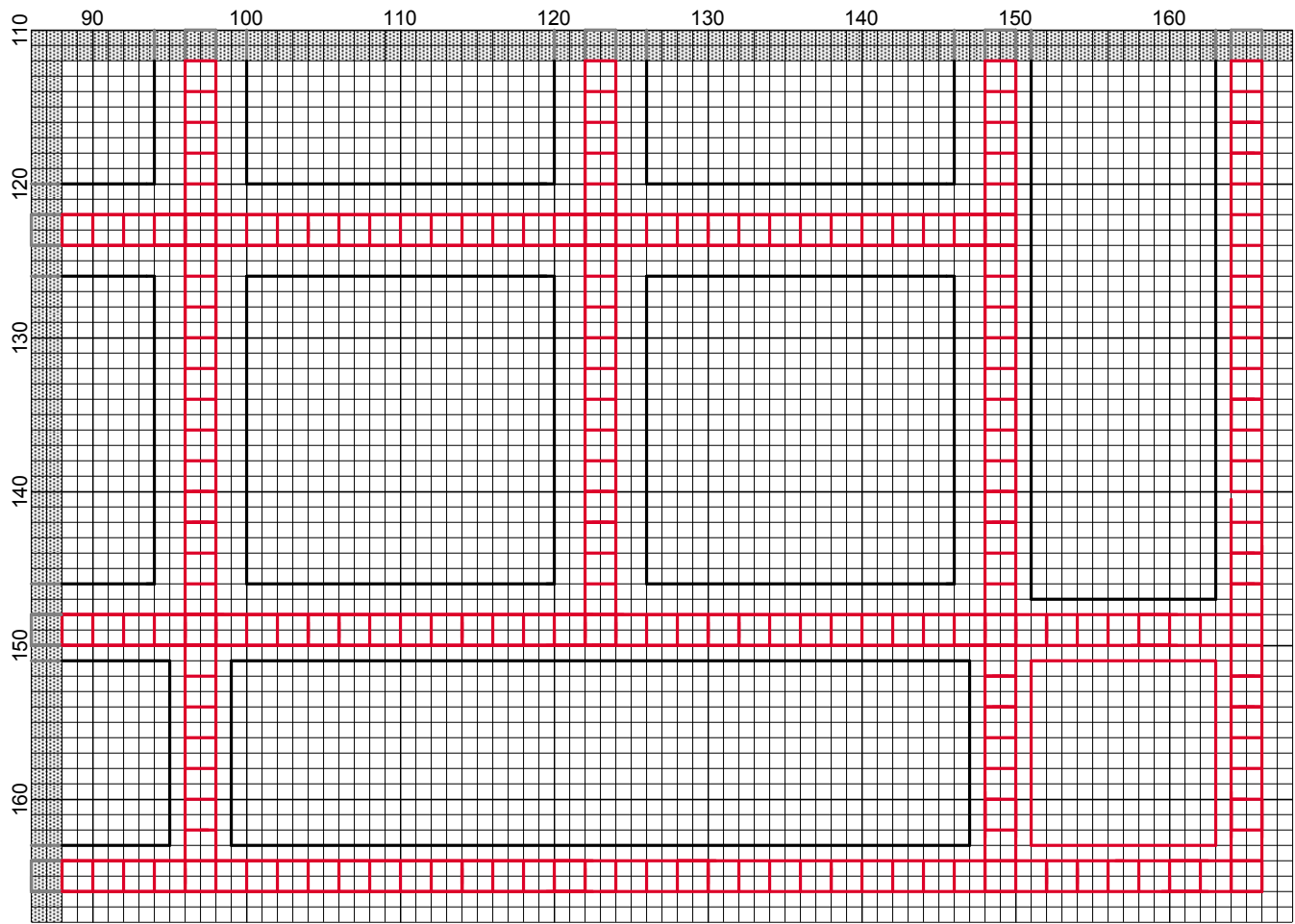


Pandora's Box - Framework



Elizabeth Almond

Pandora's Box - Framework



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