"Cross Stitching Symbols Offer an Opportunity to Customize and Adapt Any Color or Group of Colors"

Skin Tones

STITCHING BEAUTY

You have doubtless heard or asked the question when rendering flesh tones, "What color do I use for skin?" Especially when the intended image impacts one's sense of self. Skin, like clay, comes in exquisite variety, and all reflect light. No matter what the skin color, a yellow daisy under the chin on a bright sunny day will still reflect the daisy.

One of the greatest tragedies in the history of the world is the repeated assumption that one or another skin color is –the– best. Somehow, centuries of mankind have missed the point about variety, value and an expanded appreciation of multiple options for beauty.

Just as a garden with only one hue of flower rarely gets the same rave reviews as a garden resplendent with color, we can learn to recognize beauty in all its forms and appreciate variety. But that is my humble opinion.

The good news is that cross stitching offers an opportunity to customize and adapt any color or group of colors in the pallette due to it's inherent symbol system. With attention on relative warm and cool, light and dark, and of course hue, one can usually change the skin tones easily to numerous alternative options simply by replacing one floss color for a symbol with another floss color.

Neighboring color fields or fabrics need not change, but should be double checked for compatibility to insure against flesh that appears "muddy." This happens when neighboring colors clash in their relative warm/cool or light/dark in a fight for dominance in the eye, instead of complementing each other.

Finally, there may be assignments within an illustration for skin that are not considered "typical" colors for any flesh, because they are reflected light effects (daisy example). The reflected hue family may not need to change, but the value might need shifting to slightly darker or lighter floss option.

POSSIBLE options for DMC skin color alternates (primary color, highlight-halftone-shadow, blending)

	FAIR / IVORY (YELLOW)	FAIR / PINK (RED)	FAIR / COOL (BLUE)
Highlight	ecru | 543 | 3770 |	818 | 225 | 948 |	3033 | 778 | 3774 |
Halftone	739 | 3864 | 951 |	963 | 224 | 754 |	842 | 3727 | 950 |
Shadow	738 | 3863 | 3856 |	3716 | 152 | 3771 |	841 | 316 | 3773 |
Blend Options*	HL 3770, ½T 3856, S 3824	HL 3779, ½T 3859, S 3858	HL 3743, 1/2T 3042, S 3836

	MID / IVORY (YELLOW)	MID / PINK (RED)	MID / COOL (BLUE)
Highlight	739 | 3864 | 951 |	963 | 224 | 754 |	842 | 3727 | 950 |
Halftone	738 | 3863 | 3856 |	3716 | 152 | 3771 |	841 | 316 | 3773 |
Shadow	437 | 3862 | 3776 |	3806 | 223 | 758 |	840 | 3726 | 3772 |
Blend Options*	HL 3856, ½T 3824, S 3341	HL 3859, ½T 3858, S 221	HL 3042, 1/2T 3836, S 3041

	DEEP / IVORY (YELLOW)	DEEP / PINK (RED)	DEEP / COOL (BLUE)
Highlight	738 | 3863 | 402 |	3716 | 152 | 3771 |	841 | 316 | 3773 |
Halftone	437 | 3862 | 3776 |	3806 | 223 | 758 |	840 | 3726 | 3772 |
Shadow	434 | 839 | 301 |	3833 | 3721 | 3778 |	839 | 315 | 632 |
Blend Options*	HL 3824, ½T 3341, S 3340	HL 3858, ½T 221, S 3857	HL 3836, 1/2T 3041, S 3740

* Can blend horizontally from this chart or blend options. Block test on fabric scrap first, check with neighboring color fields.

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CHARTS