

IS THIS PATTERN ILLEGAL?

A QUICK CHECKLIST

WHY SHOULD YOU CARE?

- Illegal copies destroy designers livelihoods and the needlework industry
- Illegal patterns often stitch up really badly
- Illegal patterns often are hosts for computer viruses or malware

RECOGNIZABLE CHARACTERS

If the site you're purchasing or downloading a free pattern from has characters like Disney, Pokemon, Winnie the Pooh, etc, it may be an illegal site. Those characters are very expensive to license legally. Seeing exact replicas of those characters are a red flag the site might be using the images illegally (especially if they are free patterns).

HUGE VARIETY OF STYLES



Designers have a unique aesthetic, so a site that has a huge variety of styles of patterns may not have gone through the process to legally license the patterns. Legitimate sites will have licensing info in the listings for each pattern.

TOO CHEAP

Most professional cross stitch patterns range from \$5-15 or more depending on the size or complexity. If a pattern is really cheap it might not be an original design.

MODERN ARTWORK



If the art is recognizable and modern (created after 1923, such as Georgia O'Keeffe paintings) but there is no licensing information, then it's possible the art was illegally used without proper permission.

SCANS OR PHOTOCOPIES

If a pattern is a scan from a magazine page or looks like a photocopy, it's an illegal upload. Also if it's missing important information like a colour key, that's an indicator it's a scanned pattern.

ONLINE MARKETPLACES



Some patterns available from Amazon, eBay, or AliExpress are illegal copies. If the pattern or kit is new and is much cheaper than buying direct from the designer or original company, it's a red flag it's an illegal copy.