

# Firecracker & Freedom

How could you not love cats whose tails curl up to form a heart shape? Whether you want to show your love of country or love of cats, these smiling felines make a cute pillow to celebrate the Fourth of July.



Design by Carolyn Manning of Carolyn Manning Designs

**Skill Level:** Beginner

## Materials

- 12" x 13" piece 14-count Christmas red Aida from Wichelt Imports Inc.\*
- One skein each DMC® or Sullivans® USA six-strand embroidery floss
- Size 24 tapestry needle

\*See Where to Find It on page 62.

	DMC®	Sullivans®	
●	310	45053	black
4	498	45108	red, dk.
♥	666	45155	red, bt.
β	820	45222	royal blue, vy. dk.
○	white	45001	white

## Backstitches

—	498	45108	bottom heart
—	820	45222	center heart
—	blanc	45001	ears and top heart
—	310	45053	cats' faces

**Stitch Count:** 78H x 97W

**Design Size:** 5 $\frac{5}{8}$ " x 6 $\frac{7}{8}$ "

**Instructions:** Cross stitch over one square using two strands of floss.

Backstitch over one square using one strand of floss.

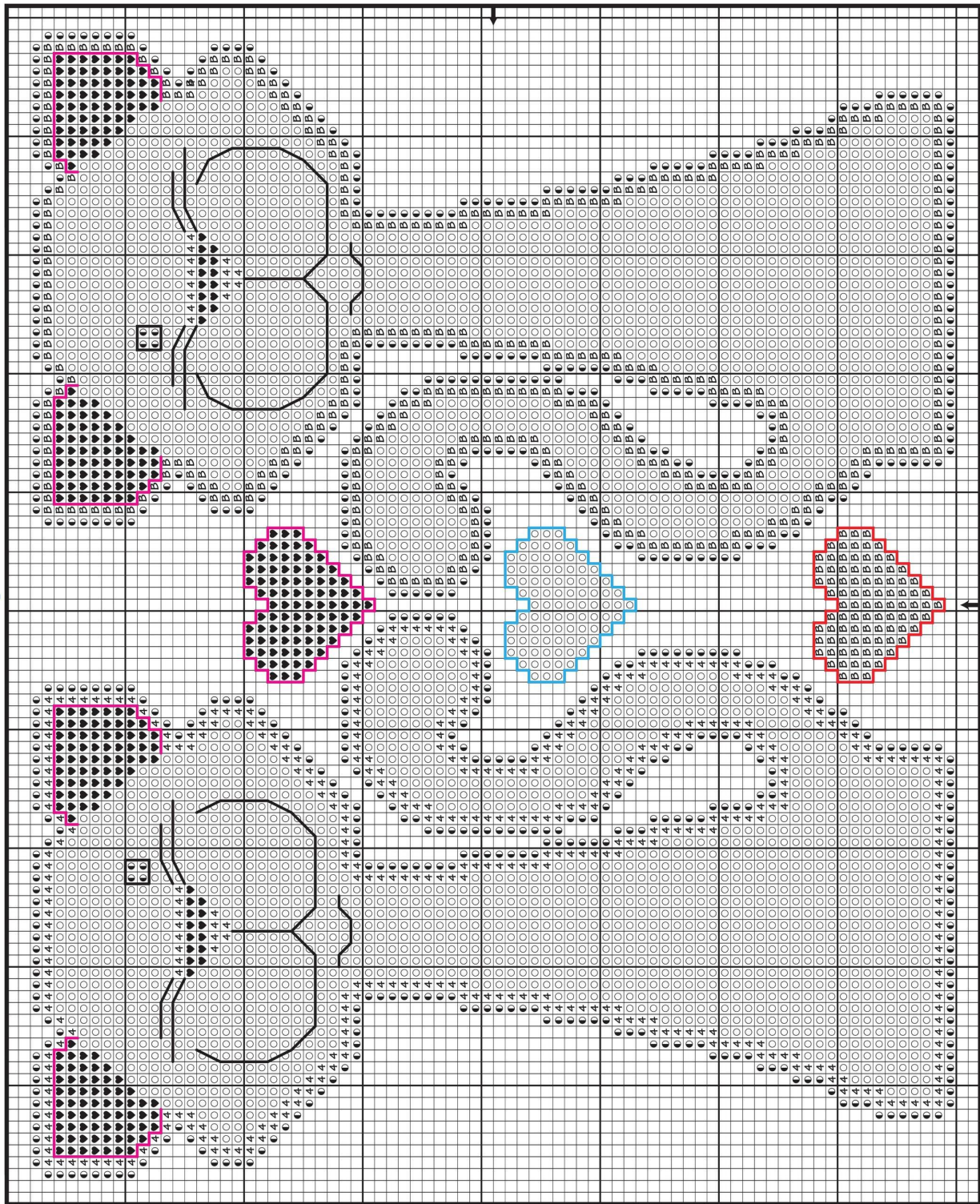
## Finishing Materials & Instructions

- 14" x 17" piece coordinating cotton fabric
- 14" x 17" piece lightweight fusible interfacing
- Polyester fiberfill
- 30" coordinating red piping
- Dress It Up star-shaped buttons #TP-634 from Jesse James



## Firecracker & Freedom

Top



- Six-strand embroidery floss: 498/45108, 820/45222, white/45001
- Coordinating sewing thread
- Sewing machine (optional)

\*See Where to Find It on page 62.

Press stitched piece from reverse side, straightening as much as possible. Trim stitched piece to 2" from stitching on all sides.

Attach buttons using two strands of coordinating floss and referring to photo for placement

Trim interfacing to same size as stitched piece. Following manufacturer's instructions, fuse interfacing to reverse side of stitched piece.

Pin piping to front of stitched piece so that the stitching on the piping is in line with the seam allowance; baste in place.

Pin stitched piece to coordinating fabric right sides together.

Sew pieces together, stitching close to piping and leaving a 5" opening for turning. Clip corners to reduce bulk.

Turn pillow right side out; press seams. Stuff pillow with fiberfill. Using a hand-sewing needle and coordinating thread, blind-stitch opening closed. 