

United States Flags

by Deborah V. Gardner

Materials:

1 skein each Cascade 220 Sport, 100% Peruvian wool, #9568 Twilight Blue, #8895 Christmas Red, #8505 White (8 flags can be knitted with 1skein of each color.)
US 2 (3.00 mm) straight knitting needles
yarn needle
small piece of felt or interfacing (for backing). Pellon 70 Peltex Ultra Firm works well and the flag will not droop.
white thread
sewing needle
3.5mm (1/8") dowel

Gauge:

28 sts = 4", though gauge is not critical. Use any yarn and a needle size that gives you a fabric you like.

Size: Approximately 6" x 4" depending on the flag.

Notes:

- The 5-stitch border on the left will be wrapped around the dowel.
- Work in stockinette stitch beginning with a purl row.
- Each flag is slightly different. Be sure to follow the stitch counts.
- Bind off in color pattern. (Directions are on last page.)
- Weave in all ends. (Hint: Weave in ends as you knit. Instructions given on the last page.)
- Block.

Finishing the Flag:

Block.

Cut backing to size of flag; do not include the 5-stitch border. Sew to back of flag.

Wrap border around dowel; sew border to backing.

References

50States.com State Nicknames List, <https://www.50states.com/nickname.htm>, downloaded 13 May 2018
Wikipedia, Flag of the United States, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flag_of_the_United_States,
downloaded 10 April 2018.

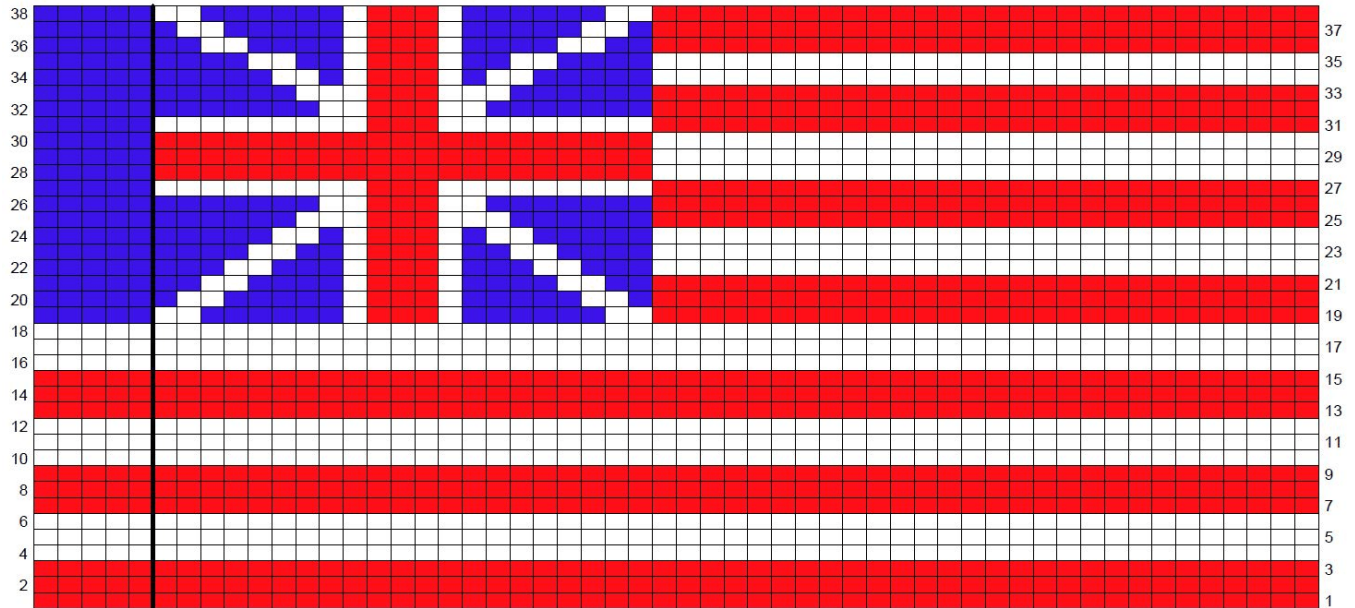
Grand Union Flag

The Grand Union Flag is considered to be the first national flag of the United States of America. Used from December 3, 1775 to June 14, 1777, it consisted of 13 alternating red and white stripes (like all but one subsequent American flags) and the British Union Flag in the upper left corner.

Cast on 54 sts.

Complete chart.

The canton is 21 sts followed by 28 sts for stripes.



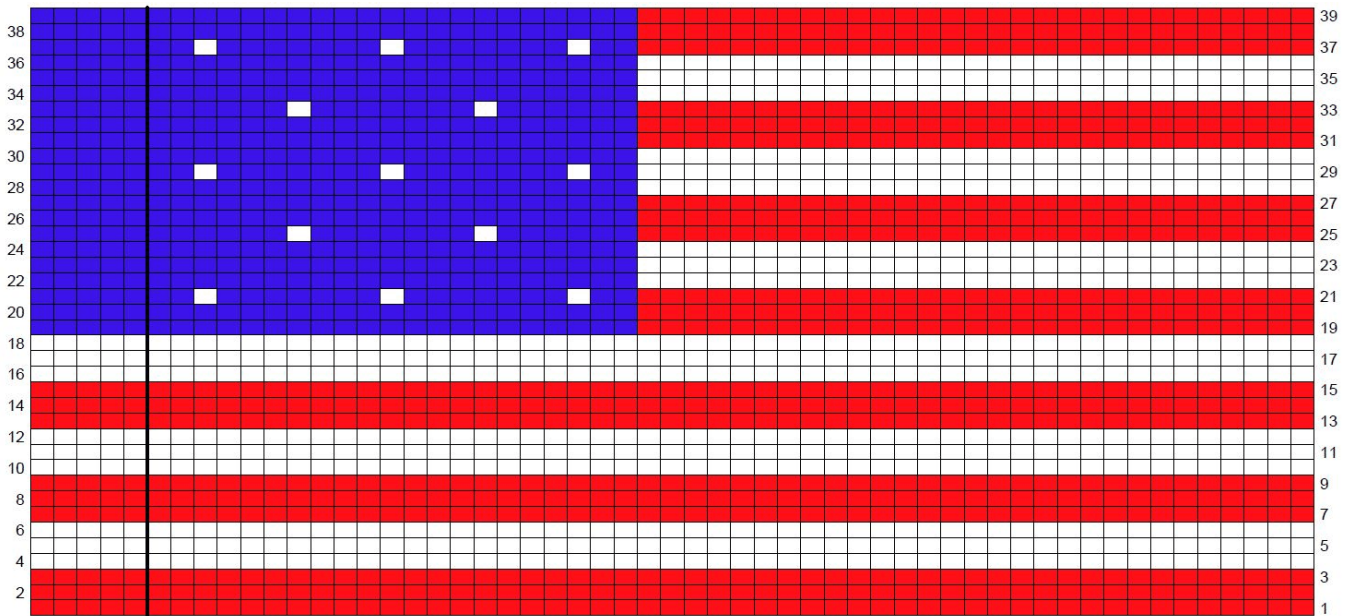
Hopkinson Flag

This flag was designed by Francis Hopkinson, who is commemorated as the “Father of the Stars and Stripes” by the United States Postal Service in 1992. It was used from June 14, 1777 until April 30, 1795. (The 14th state’s, Vermont, star was not included until 1795, though it was admitted to the Union on March 4, 1791.)

Cast on 55 sts.

Complete chart.

The canton is 21 sts followed by 29 sts for stripes.



Stars represent, in order of admittance to the union:

- Delaware, “The First State”
- Pennsylvania, “The Keystone State”
- New Jersey, “The Garden State”
- Georgia, “The Peach State”
- Connecticut, “The Constitution State”
- Massachusetts, “The Bay State”
- Maryland, “The Old Line State”
- South Carolina, “The Palmetto State”
- New Hampshire, “The Granite State”
- Virginia, “The Old Dominion State”
- New York, “The Empire State”
- North Carolina, “The Tar Heel State”
- Rhode Island, “The Ocean State”

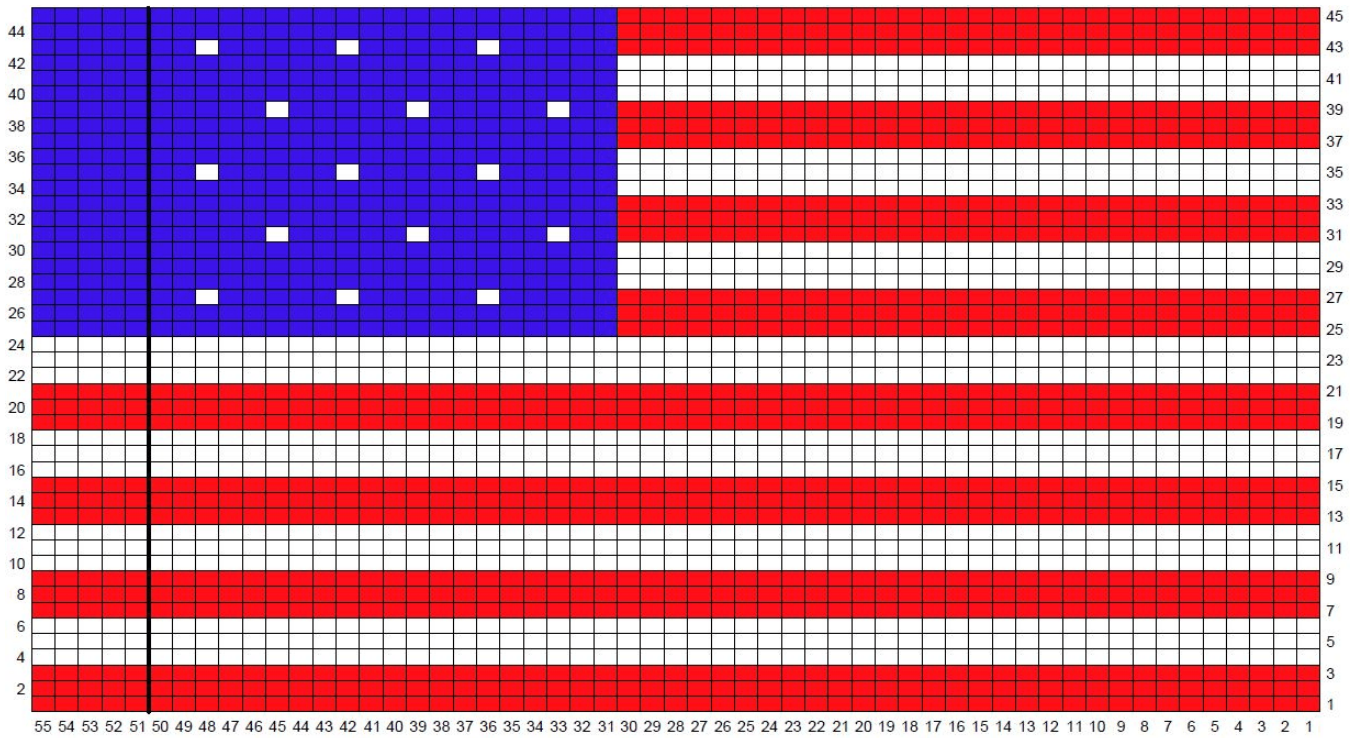
15-Stripes Flag

After the admittance of Kentucky, the Bluegrass State, this flag was designed with 15 stripes. It was used from May 1, 1795 to July 3, 1818. Vermont, the Green Mountain State, was included in this flag.

Cast on 55 sts.

Complete chart.

The canton is 20 sts followed by 30 sts for stripes.



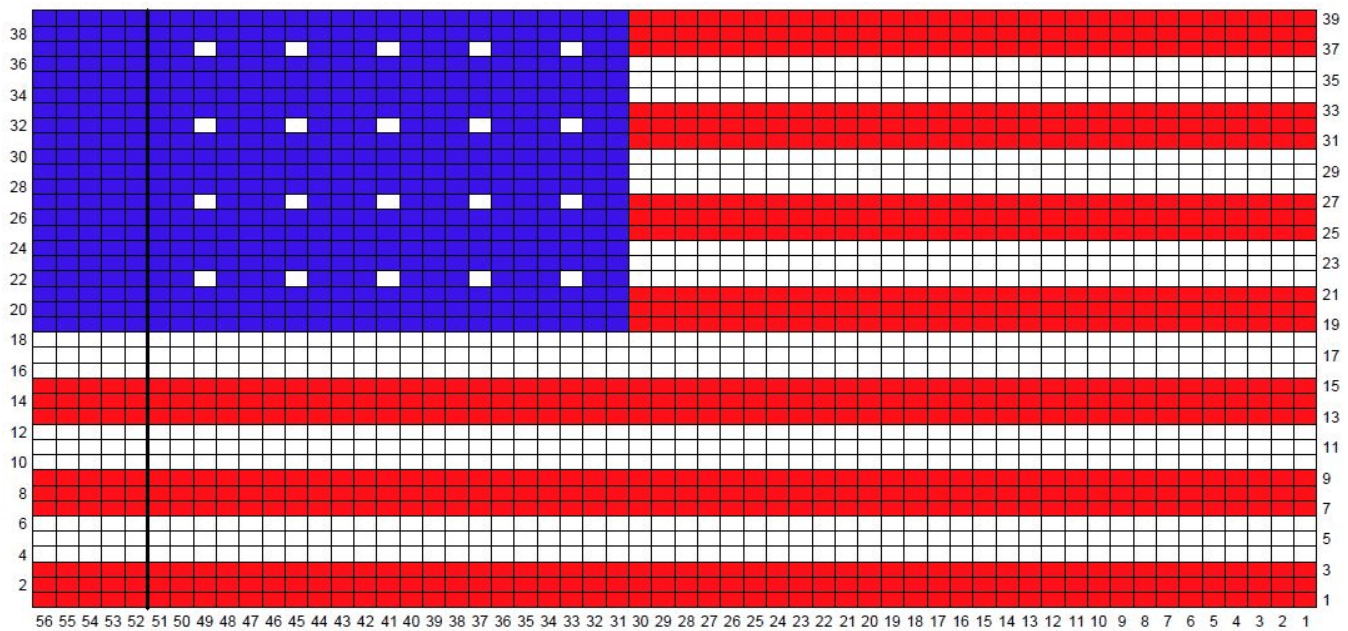
20-Star Flag

This flag was flown for only one year, from July 4, 1818 to July 3, 1819. The five additional stars represent, in order of admittance to the union, Tennessee, Ohio, Louisiana, Indiana, and Mississippi. There was a lag between the time Tennessee was admitted to the issuance of a new flag. “The federal government could not decide what to do with the flag each time a new state was added, as it seemed impractical to add stars and stripes to the flag every time a new state was admitted to the Union. So, between 1796 when Tennessee was admitted, and 1817 when Mississippi joined, nothing was done. Finally in 1818, it was decided to go back to the original 13 stripe pattern and simply add stars to the canton each time a new state joined the Union.”¹

Cast on 56 sts.

Complete chart.

The canton is 21 sts followed by 30 sts for stripes.



¹Wyatt, Rick. “20-Star Flag,” <https://www.crwflags.com/fotw/flags/us-1818.html>, downloaded 2 April 2018.

21-Star Flag

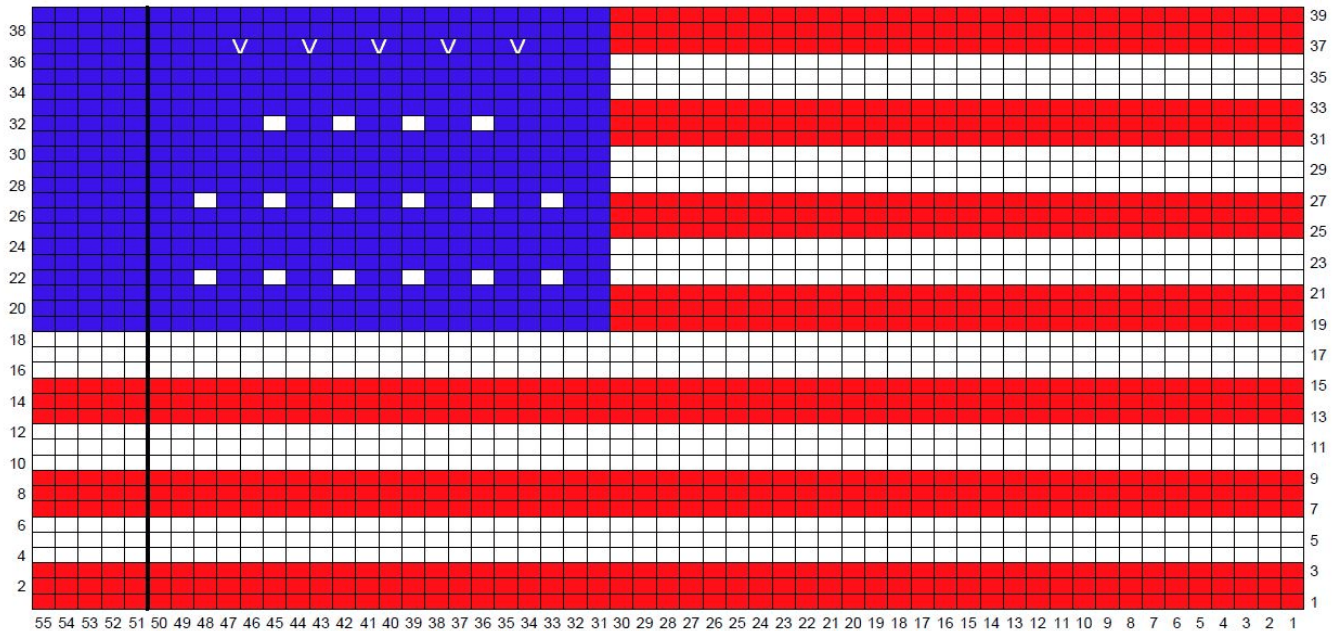
This flag was flown for only one year, from July 4, 1819 to July 3, 1820. The additional star represents Illinois

Cast on 55 sts.

Complete chart.

The canton is 20 sts followed by 30 sts for stripes.

Duplicate stitch the top row of stars



Top row of duplicate stitch stars

23-Star Flag

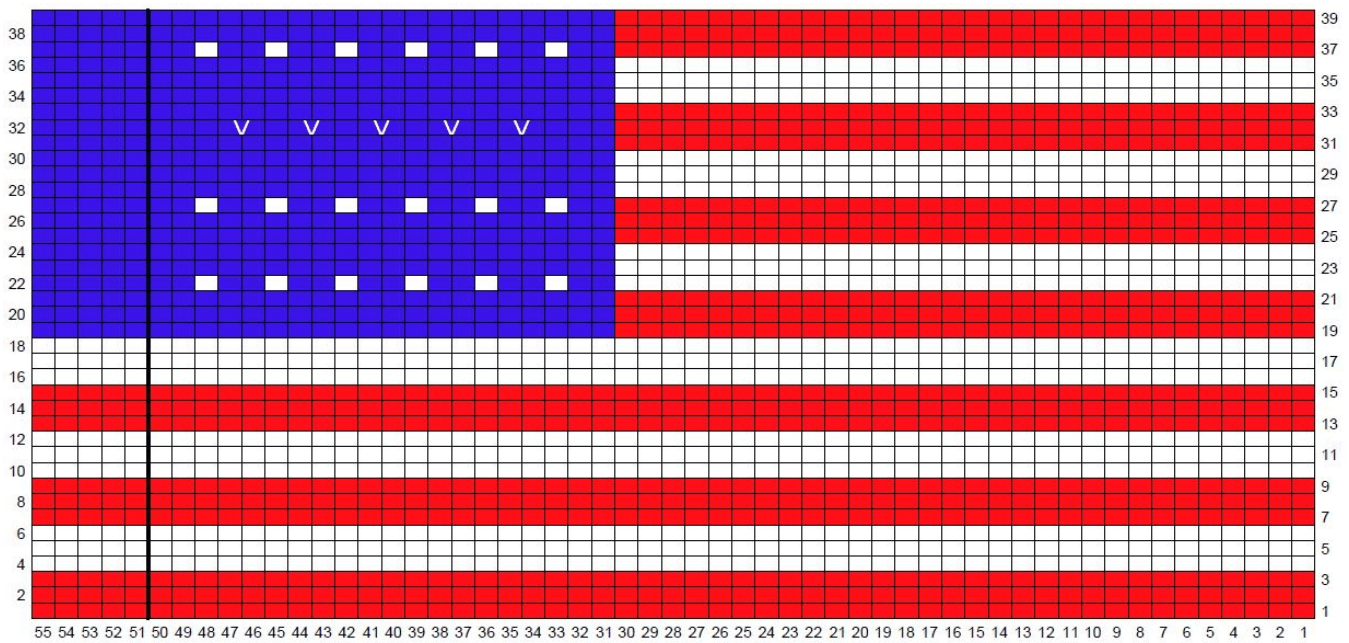
This flag was in use for two years, from July 4, 1820 to July 3, 1822. The additional stars represent Alabama (December 14, 1819) and Maine (March 15, 1820).

Cast on 55 sts.

Complete chart.

The canton is 20 sts followed by 30 sts for stripes.

Duplicate stitch the top row of stars



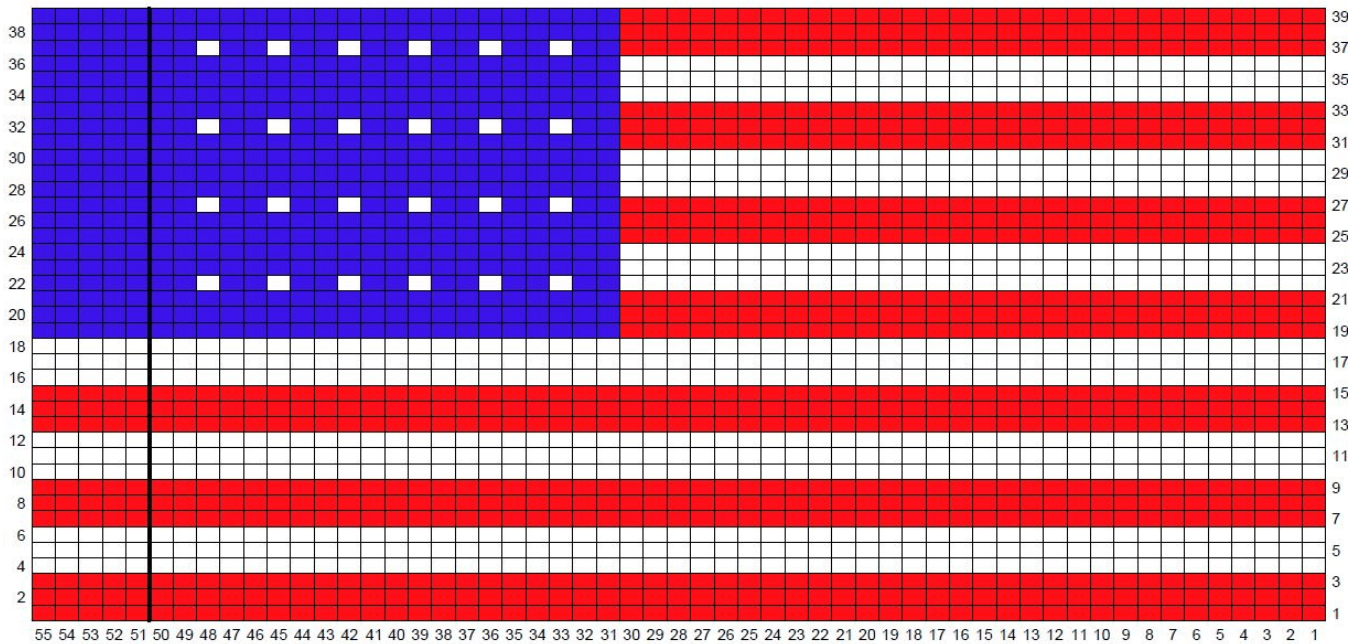
24-Star Flag

This flag was in use from July 4, 1822 to July 3, 1836 (14 years). The additional star represented Missouri which was admitted on August 10, 1821. It was during this period (1831) that the term “Old Glory” was coined.

Cast on 55 sts.

Complete chart.

The canton is 20 sts followed by 30 sts for stripes.



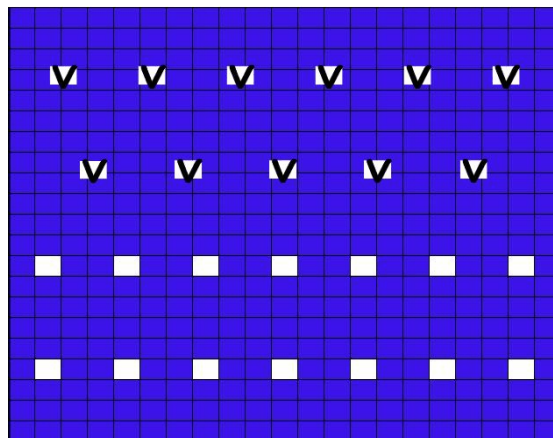
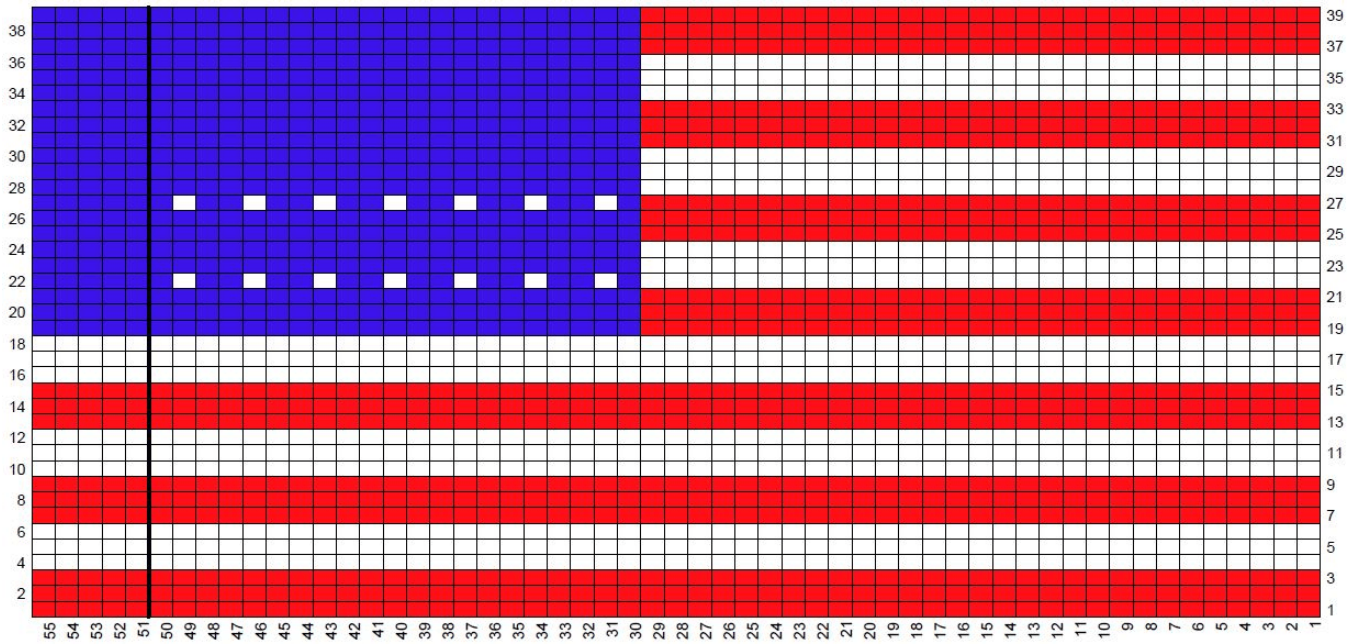
25-Star Flag

This flag was in use from July 4, 1836 to July 3, 1837 (just one year). The additional star represented Arkansas, which was admitted on June 15, 1836.

Cast on 55 sts.

The canton is 21 sts followed by 29 sts for stripes.

Embroider the two top rows of stars following the image of the canton below the flag.



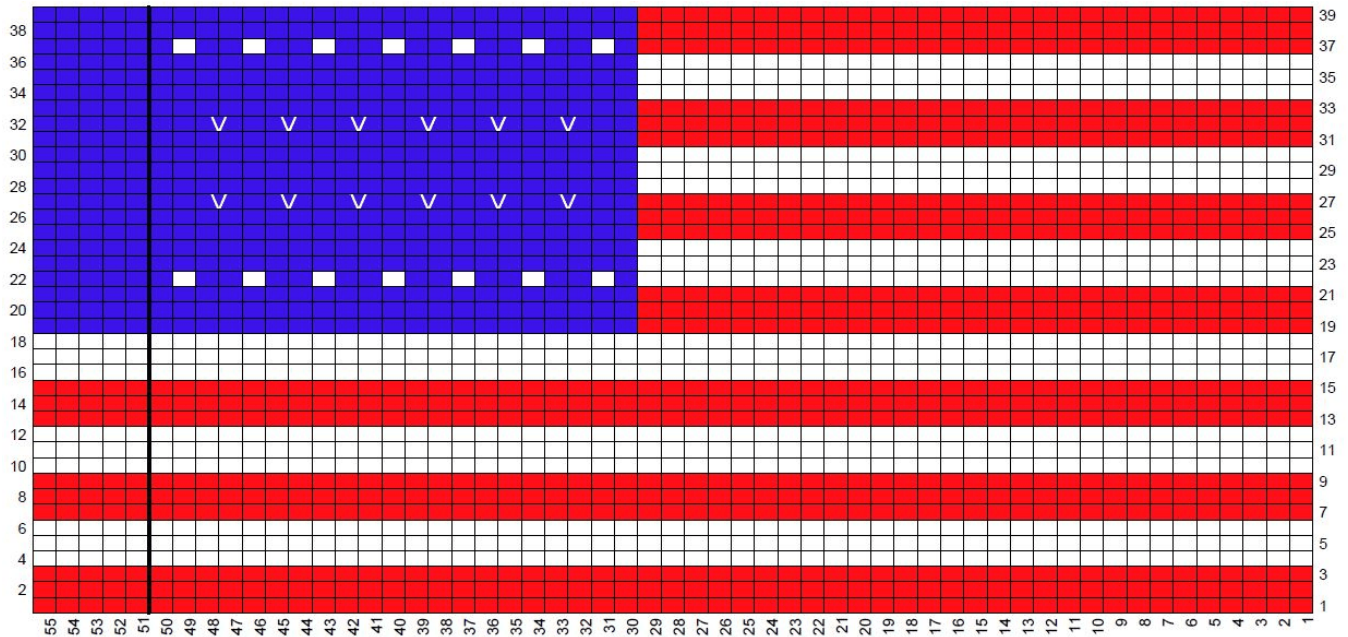
26-Star Flag

This flag was in use from July 4, 1837 to July 3, 1845 (eight years). The additional star represents Michigan which was admitted on January 26, 1837.

Cast on 55 sts.

The canton is 21 sts followed by 29 sts for stripes.

Duplicate stitch the two middle rows of stars.



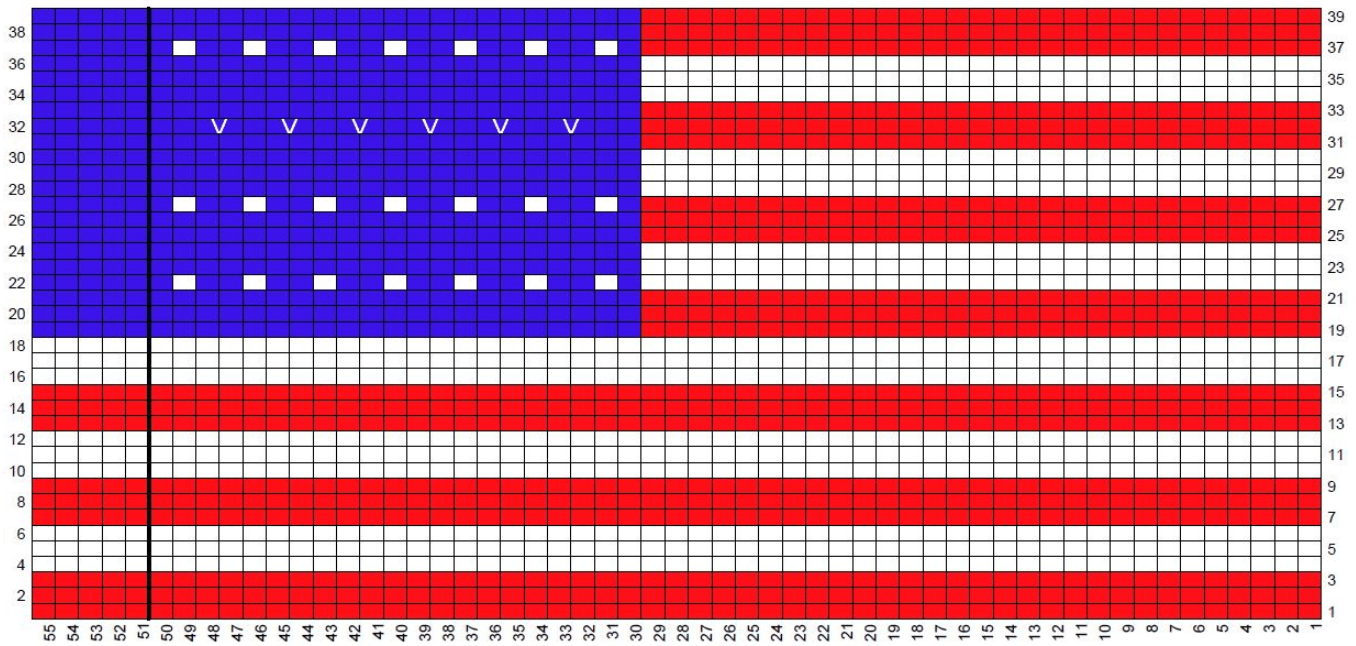
27-Star Flag

This flag was in use from July 4, 1845 to July 3, 1846. The additional star represents Florida, which was admitted on March 3, 1845.

Cast on 55 sts.

The canton is 21 sts followed by 29 sts for stripes.

Duplicate stitch the stars in the second row from the top.



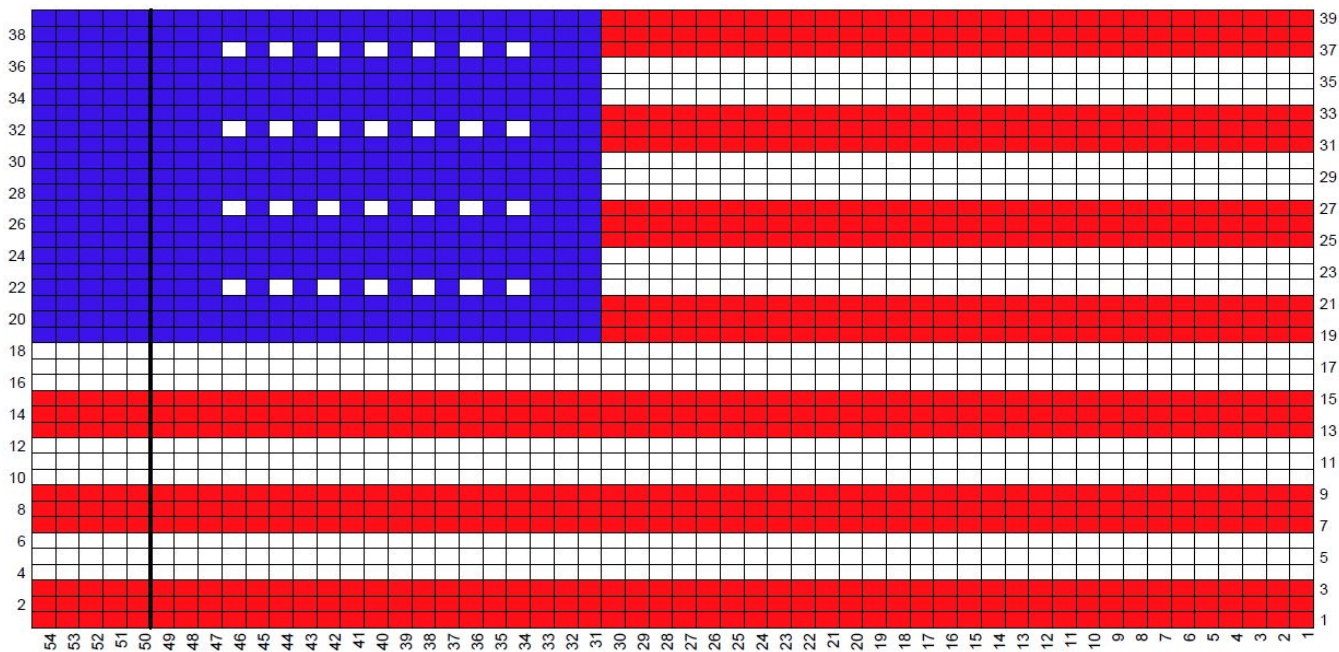
28-Star Flag

This flag was in use from July 4, 1846 to July 3, 1847. The additional star represents The Lone Star State, Texas, which was admitted on December 29, 1845.

Cast on 54 sts.

Complete chart.

The canton is 19 sts followed by 30 sts for stripes.



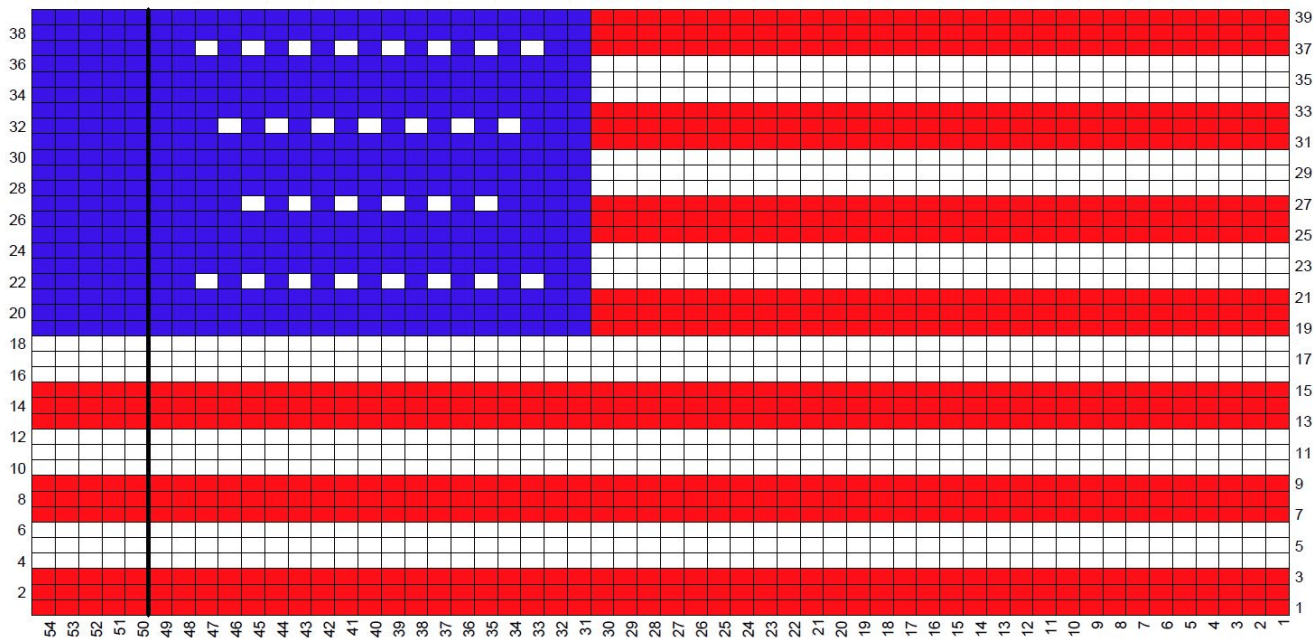
29-Star Flag

This flag was in use from July 4, 1847 to July 3, 1848. The additional star represents Iowa, which was admitted on December 28, 1846.

Cast on 54 sts.

Complete chart.

The canton is 19 sts followed by 30 sts for stripes.



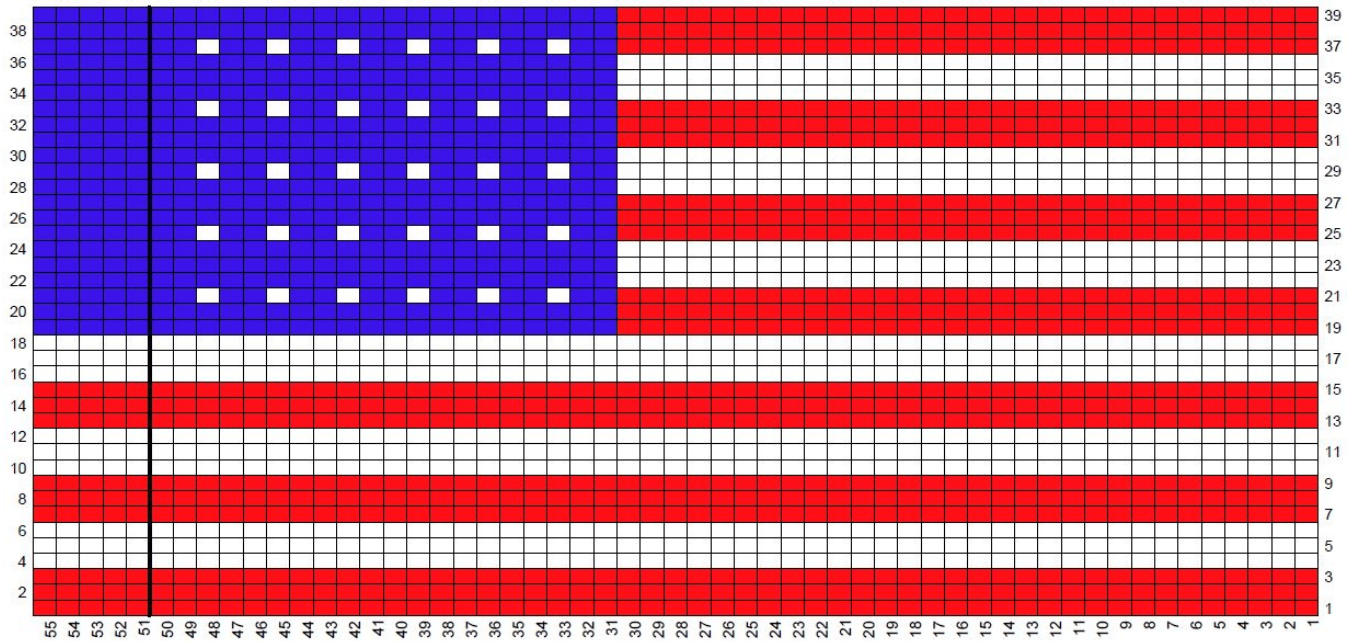
30-Star Flag

This flag was in use from July 4, 1848 to July 3, 1851. The additional star represents Wisconsin, “America’s Dairyland,” which was admitted on May 29, 1848.

Cast on 55 sts.

Complete chart.

The canton is 20 sts followed by 30 sts for stripes.



31-Star Flag

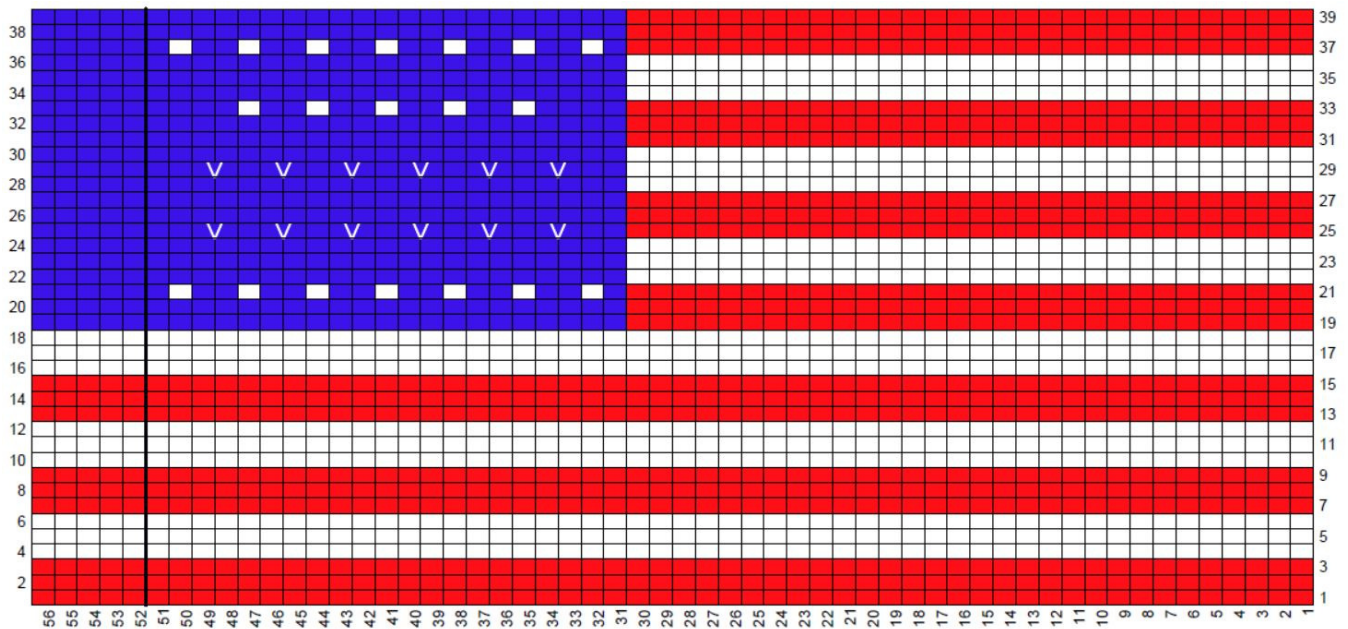
This flag was in use from July 4, 1851 to July 3, 1858. The additional star represents California, which was admitted on September 9, 1850.

Cast on 56 sts.

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The canton is 21 sts followed by 30 sts for stripes.

Duplicate stitch the stars in the second and third rows from the bottom.



32-Star Flag

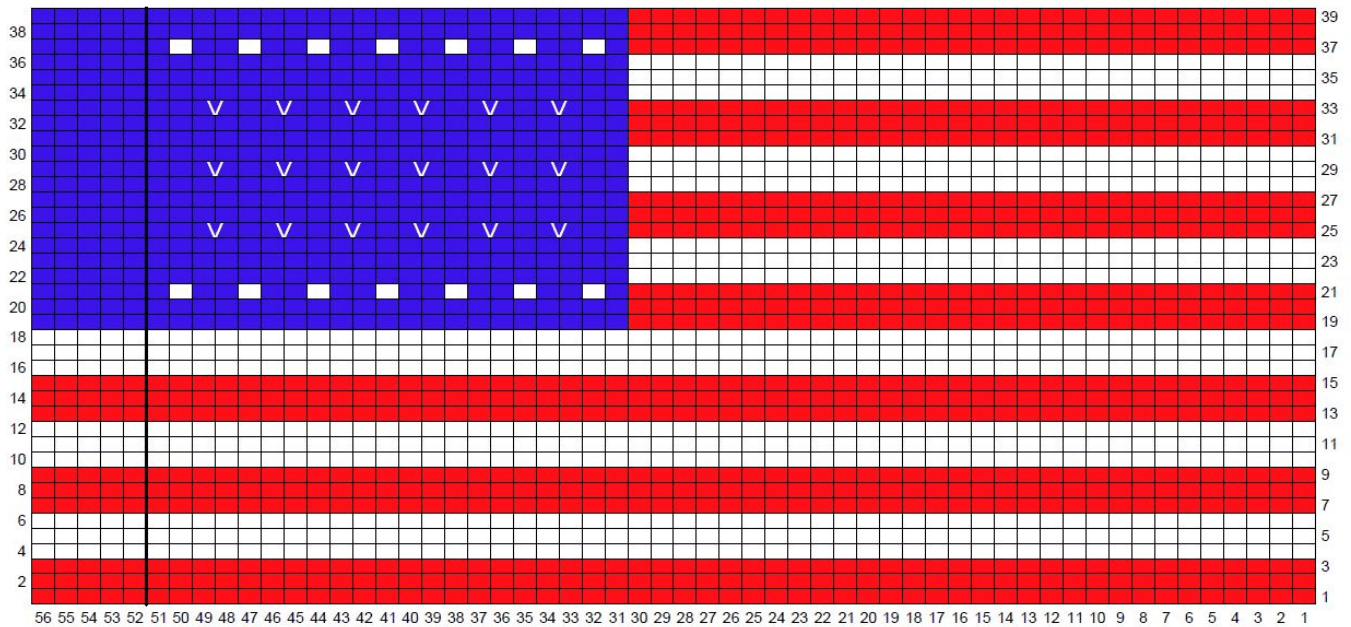
This flag was in use for one year, from July 4, 1858 to July 3, 1859. The additional stars represents Minnesota, the North Star State, which was admitted to the Union on May 11, 1858.

Cast on 56 sts.

Complete chart.

The canton is 21 sts followed by 30 sts for stripes.

Duplicate stitch the three middle rows of stars.



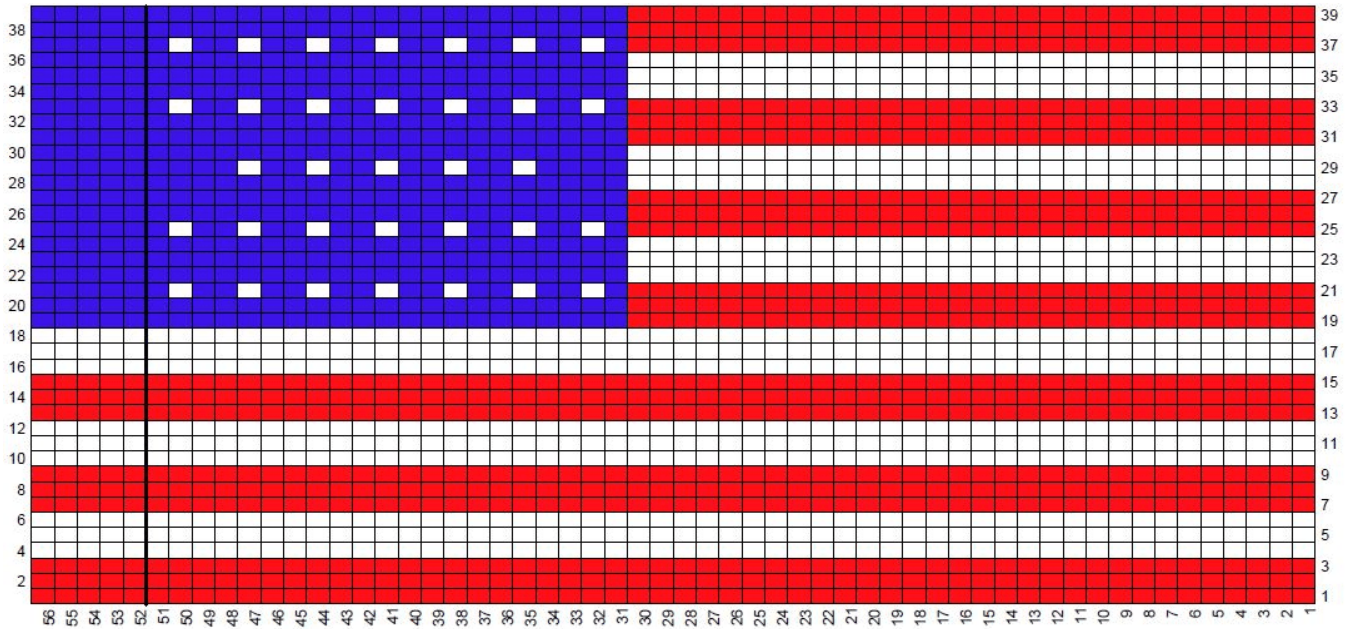
33-Star Flag

This flag was in use for two years, from July 4, 1859 to July 3, 1861. The additional stars represents Oregon, the Beaver State, which was admitted to the Union on February 14, 1859.

Cast on 56 sts.

Complete chart.

The canton is 21 sts followed by 30 sts for stripes.



34-Star Flag

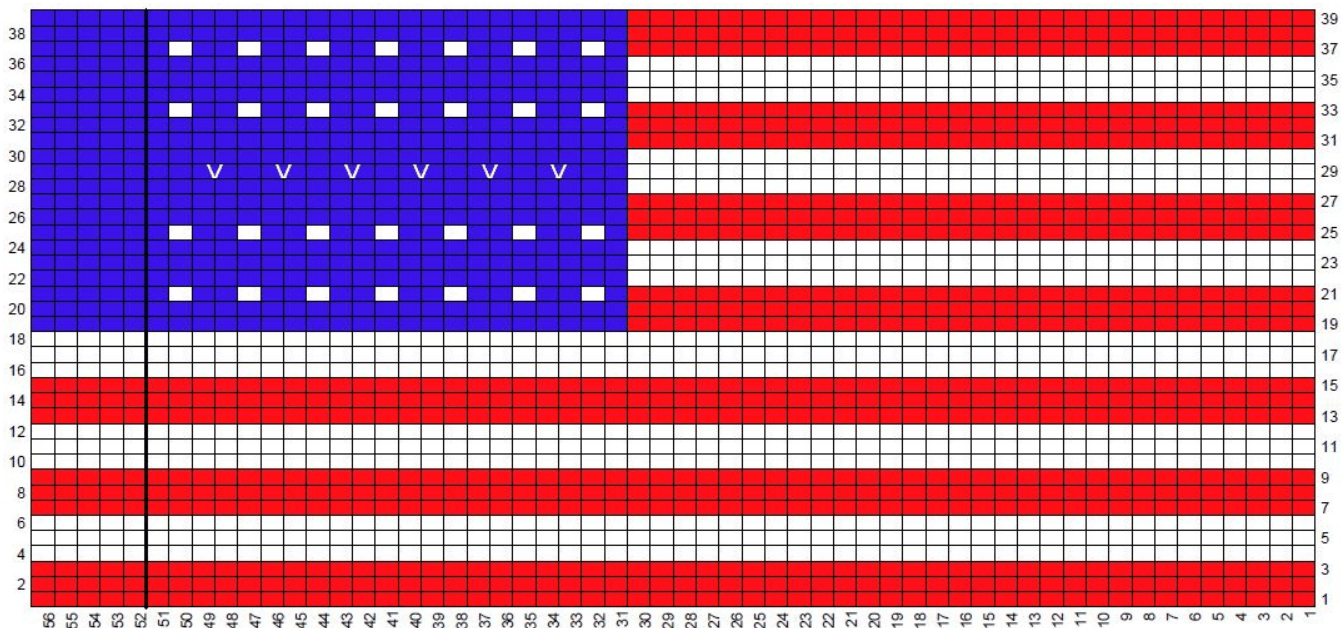
This flag was in use for two years, from July 4, 1861 to July 3, 1863. This star represents Kansas, which was admitted to the Union on January 29, 1861. Its admittance was just two months before the beginning of the American Civil War.

Cast on 56 sts.

Complete chart.

The canton is 21 sts followed by 30 sts for stripes.

Duplicate stitch the middle row of stars.



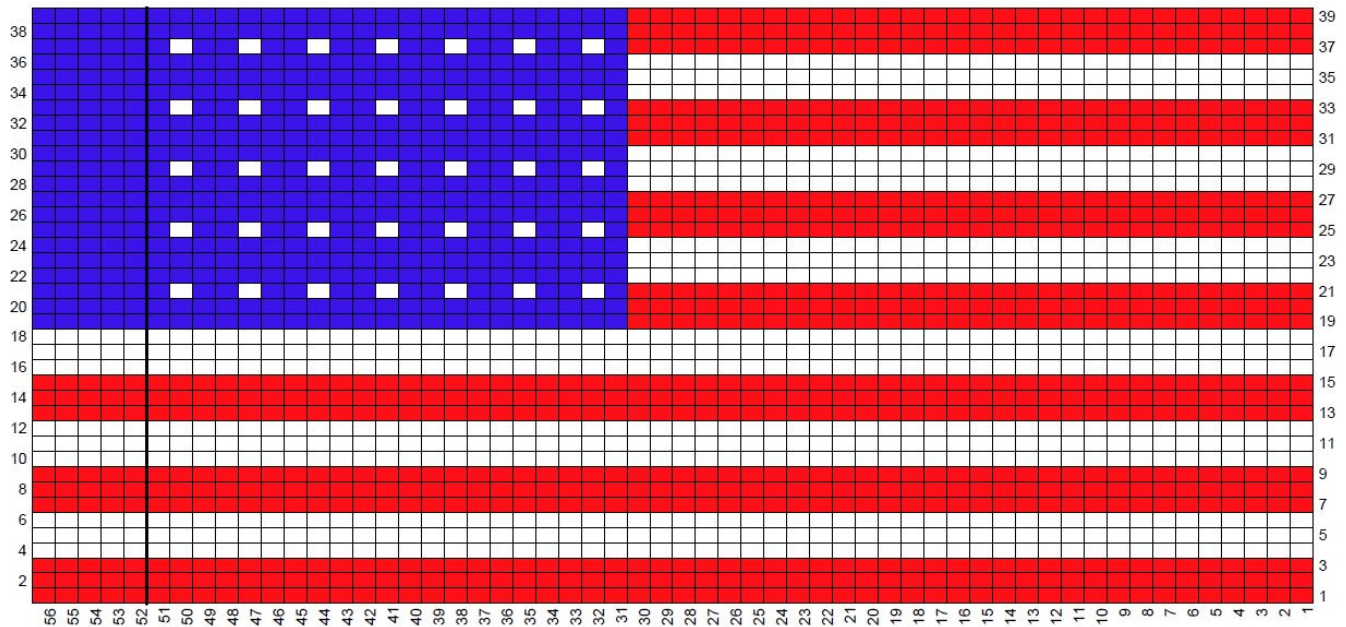
35-Star Flag

This flag was in use for two years, from July 4, 1863 to July 3, 1865. The additional star represents West Virginia, which was admitted to the Union on June 20, 1863, after breaking away from Virginia. West Virginia was the first state to join the Union after the commencement of the American Civil War.

Cast on 56 sts.

Complete chart.

The canton is 21 sts followed by 30 sts for stripes.

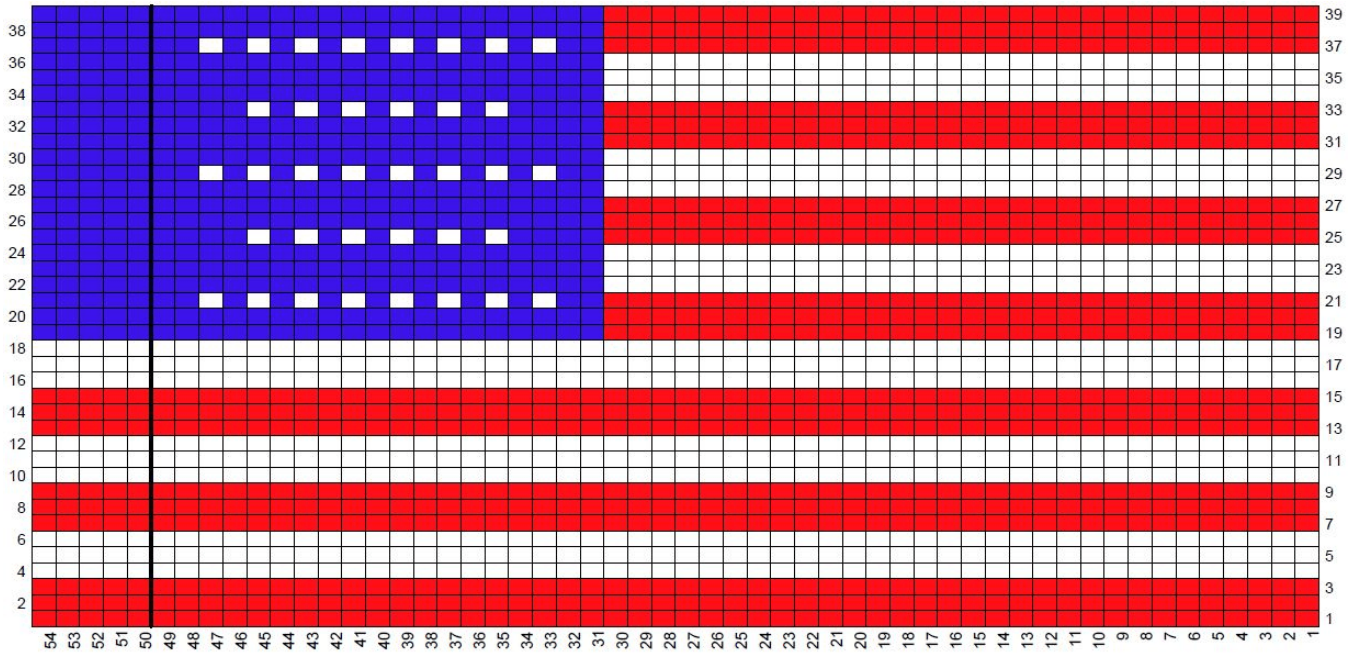


36-Star Flag

This flag was in use from July 4, 1865 to July 3, 1867. The additional star represents Nevada, the Silver State, which was admitted on October 31, 1864.

Cast on 54 sts.

The canton is 19 sts followed by 30 sts for stripes.

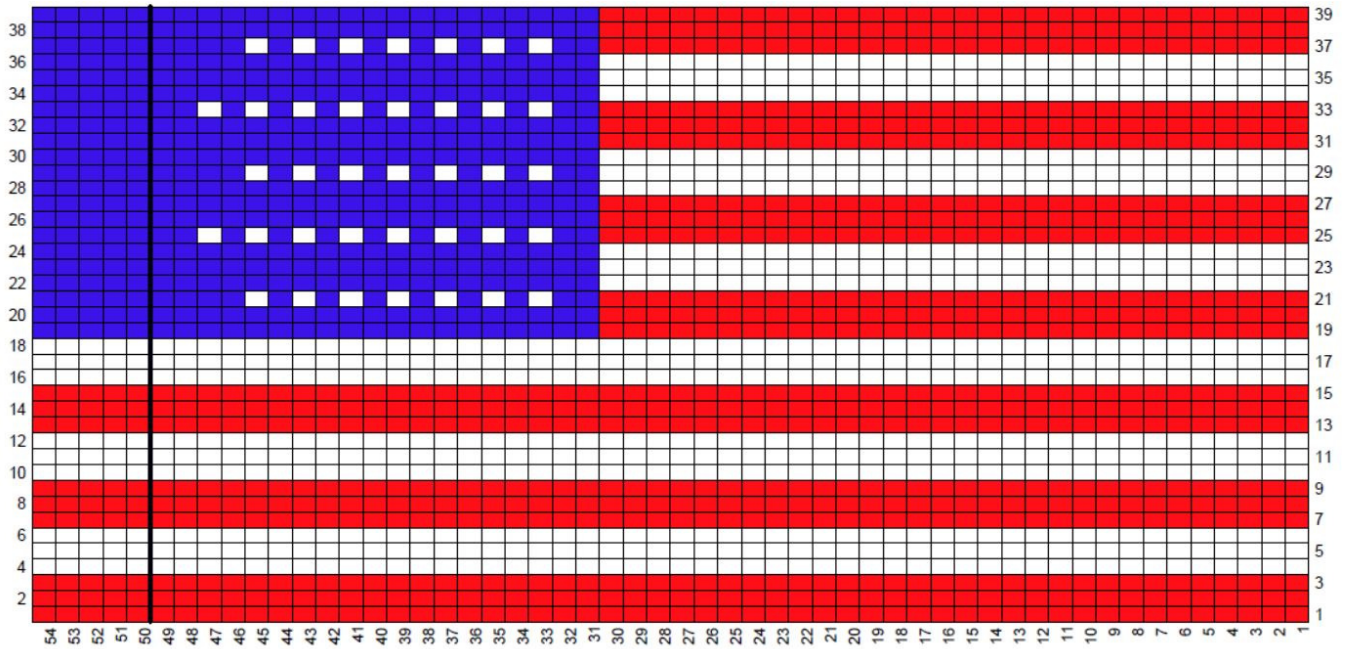


37-Star Flag

This flag was in use from July 4, 1867 to July 3, 1877. The additional star represents Nebraska, the Cornhusker State, which was admitted on March 1, 1867.

Cast on 54 sts.

The canton is 19 sts followed by 30 sts for stripes.

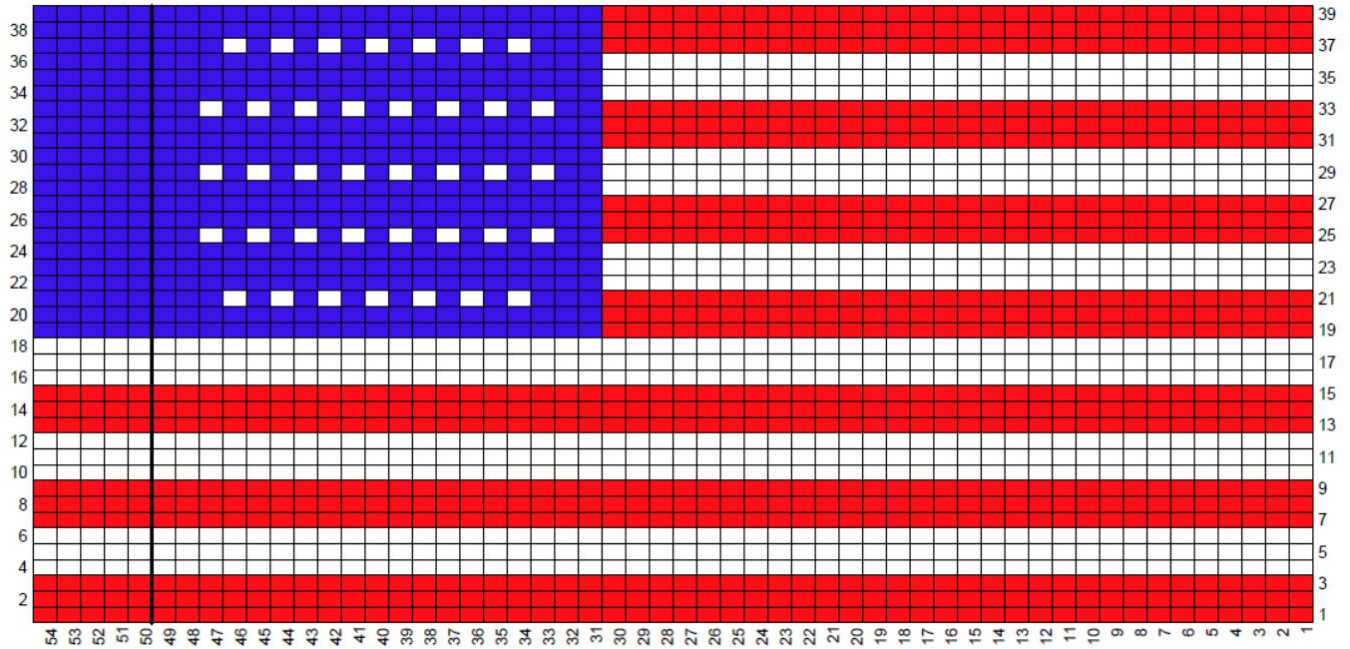


38-Star Flag

This flag was in use from July 4, 1877 to July 3, 1890 (13 years). The additional star represents Colorado, which was admitted on August 1, 1876.

Cast on 54 sts.

The canton is 19 sts followed by 30 sts for stripes.

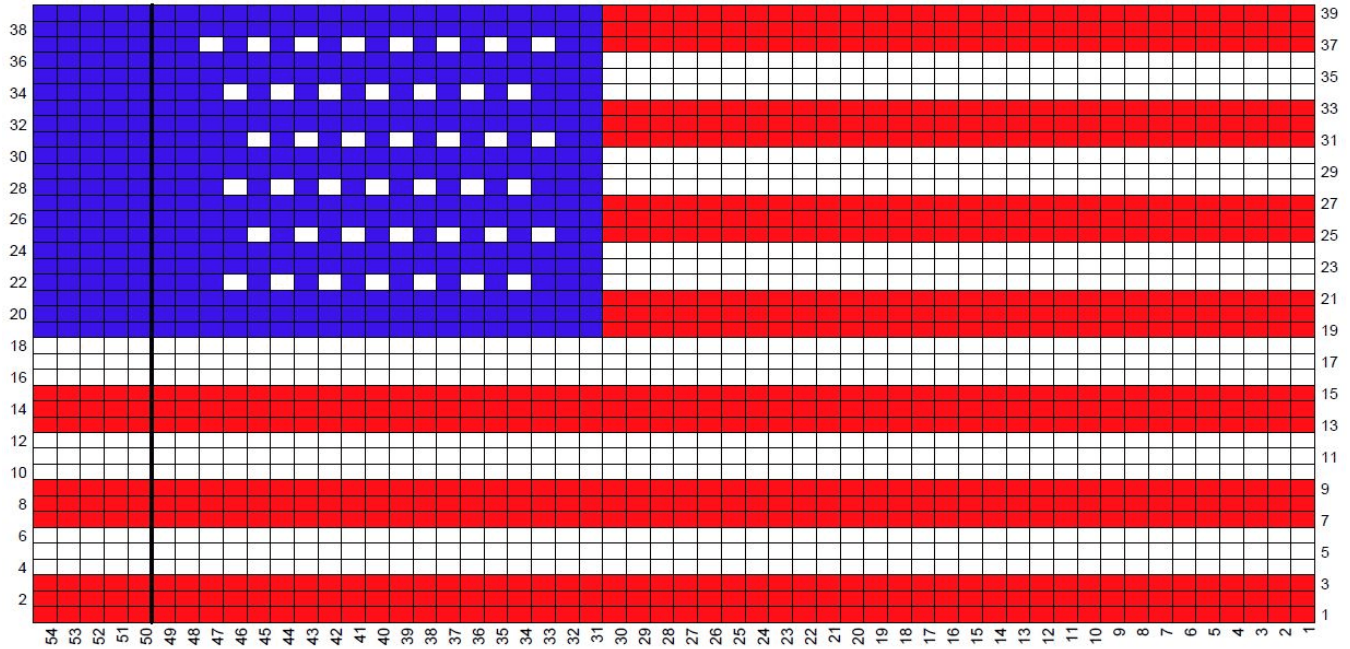


43-Star Flag

This flag was in use from July 4, 1890 to July 3, 1891. The additional five stars represent Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota and Washington.

Cast on 54 sts.

The canton is 19 sts followed by 30 sts for stripes.

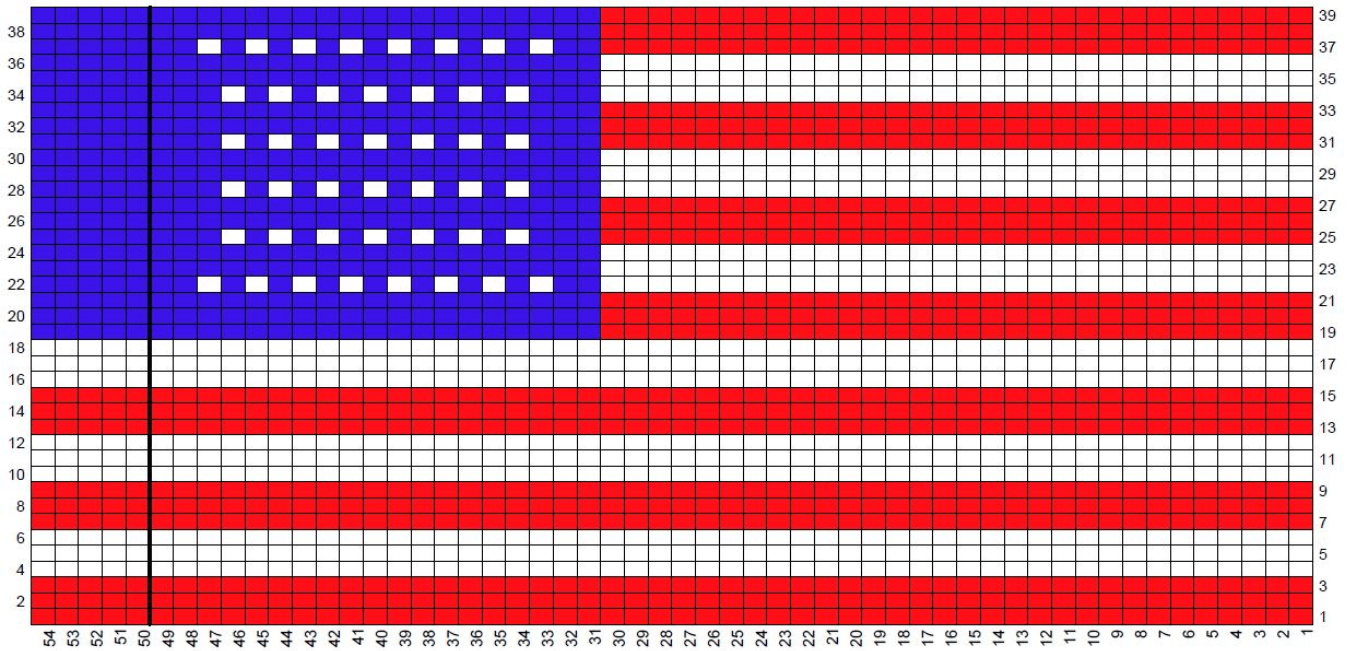


44-Star Flag

This flag was in use for five years, from July 4, 1891 to July 3, 1896. The additional star represents Wyoming, which joined the Union July 10, 1890.

Cast on 54 sts.

The canton is 19 sts followed by 30 sts for stripes.

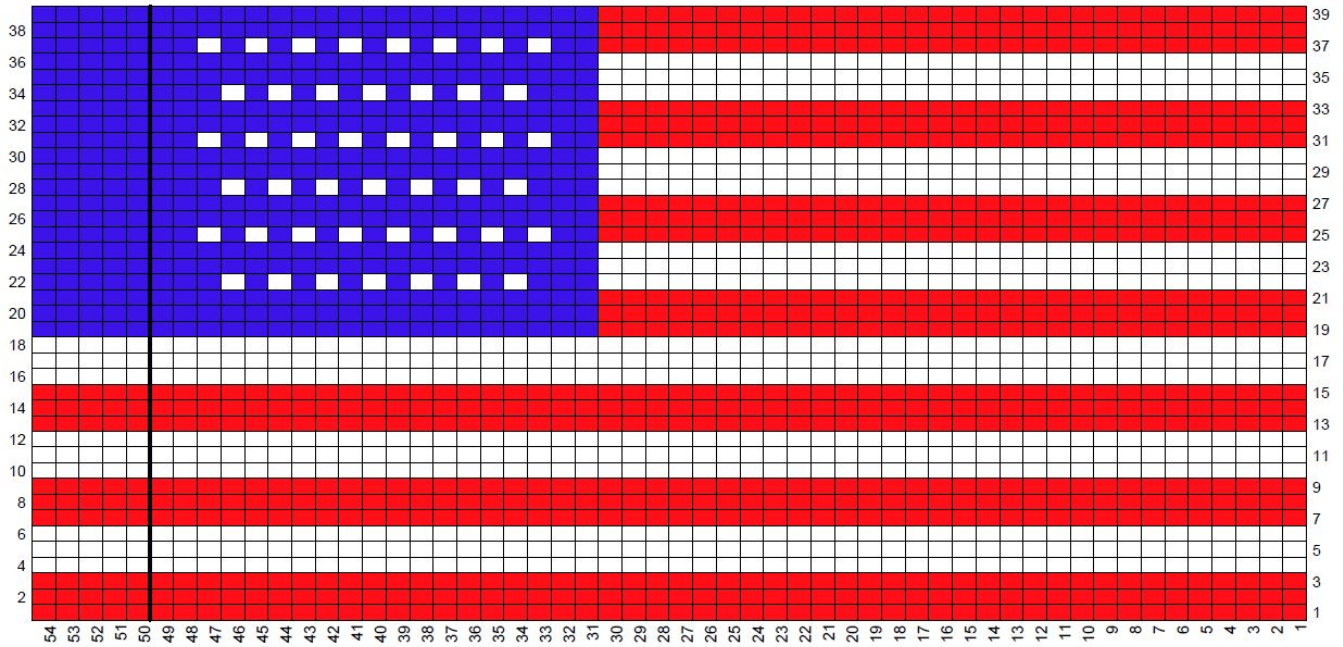


45-Star Flag

This flag was in use for 12 years, from July 4, 1896 to July 3, 1908. The additional star represents Utah, the Beehive State. This state was admitted to the Union on January 24, 1896.

Cast on 54 sts.

The canton is 19 sts followed by 30 sts for stripes.



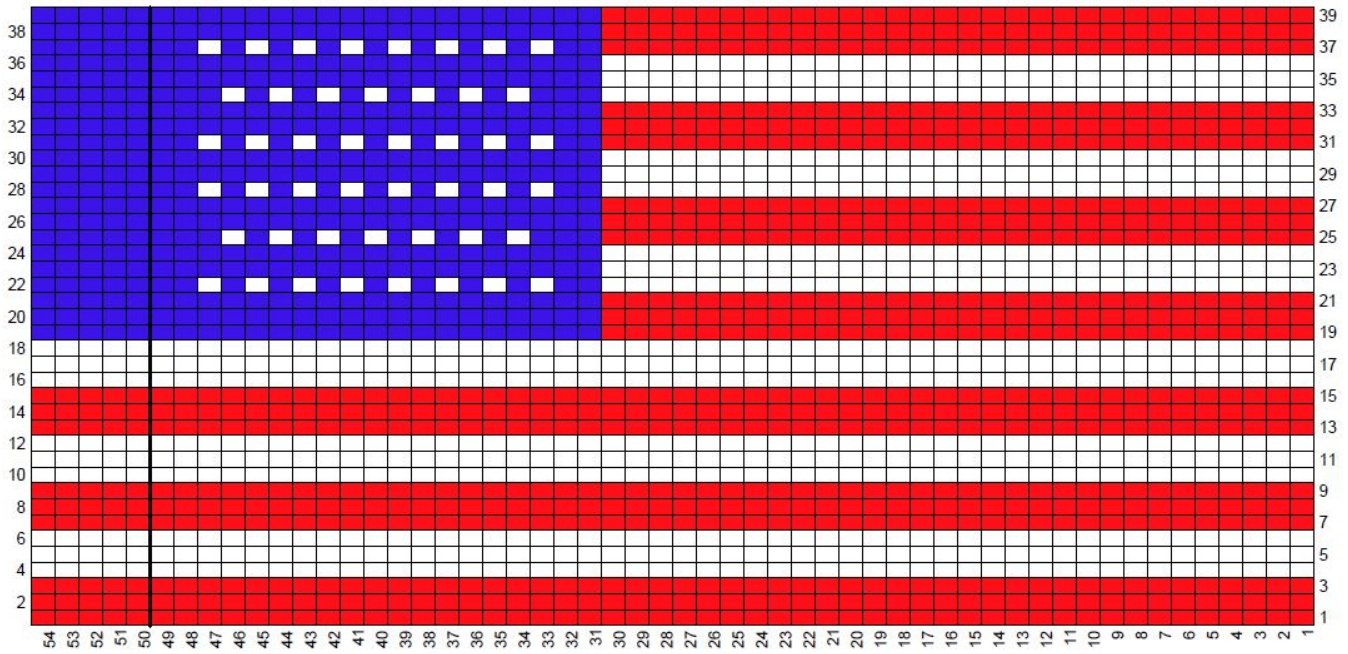
46-Star Flag

This flag was in use for four years, from July 4, 1908 to July 3, 1912. This star represents Oklahoma, which was admitted to the Union on November 6, 1907.

Cast on 54 sts.

Complete chart.

The canton is 19 sts followed by 30 sts for stripes.



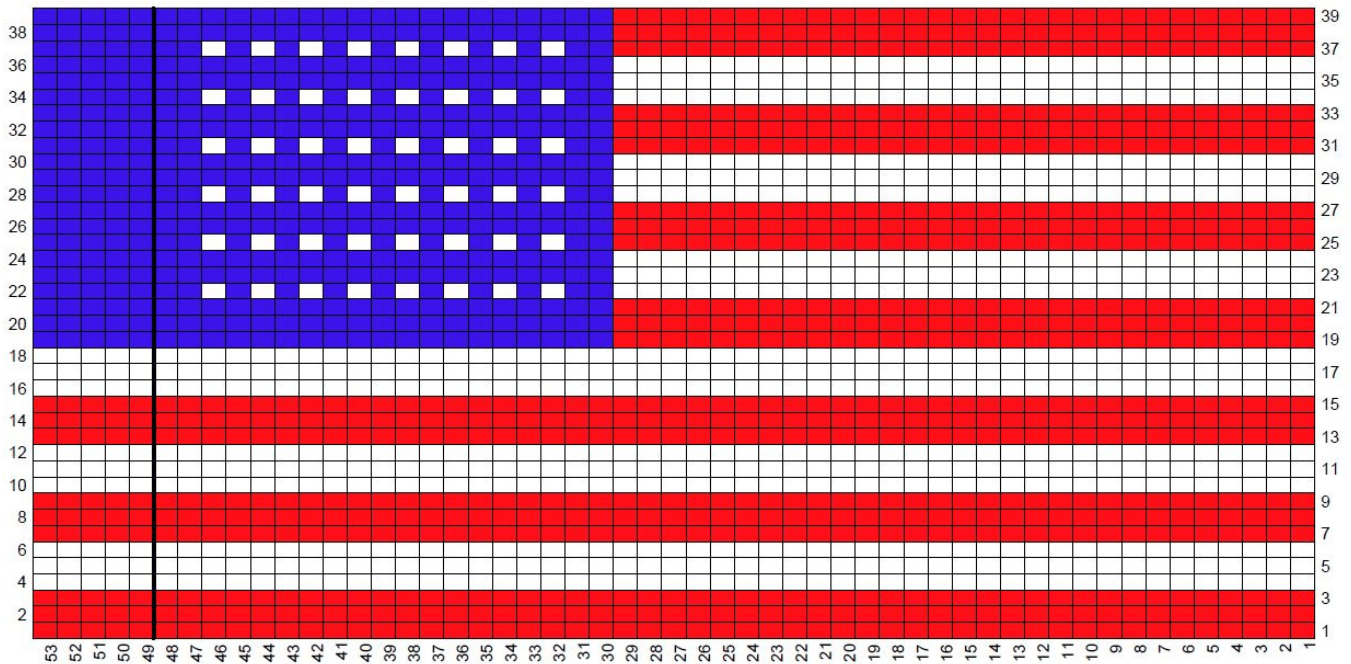
48-Stars Flag

After the admittance to the Union of New Mexico and Arizona, this flag flew from 1912 to 1959. On June 24, 1912, President Taft signed an Executive Order which established the proportions of the flag and the arrangement and orientation of the stars.

Cast on 53 sts.

Complete chart.

The canton is 19 sts followed by 29 sts for stripes.



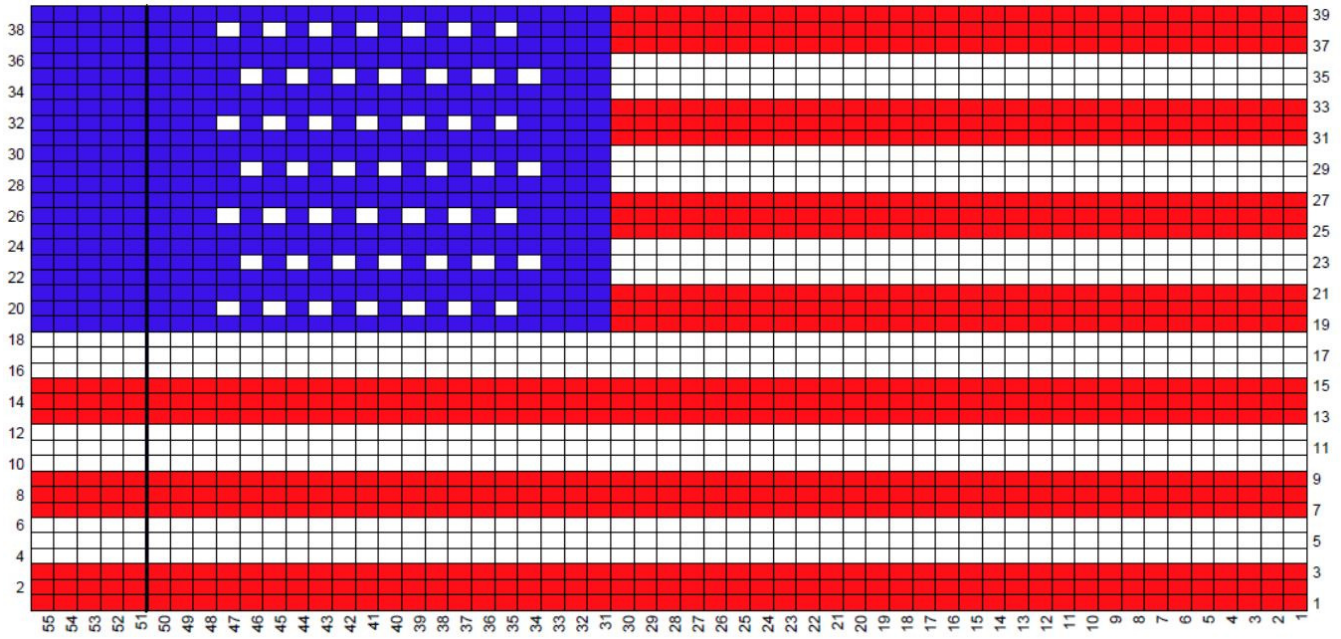
49-Star Flag

After the admittance to the Union of Alaska on January 3, 1959, this flag flew from July 4, 1959 to July 3, 1960.

Cast on 55 sts.

Complete chart.

The canton is 20 sts followed by 30 sts for stripes.



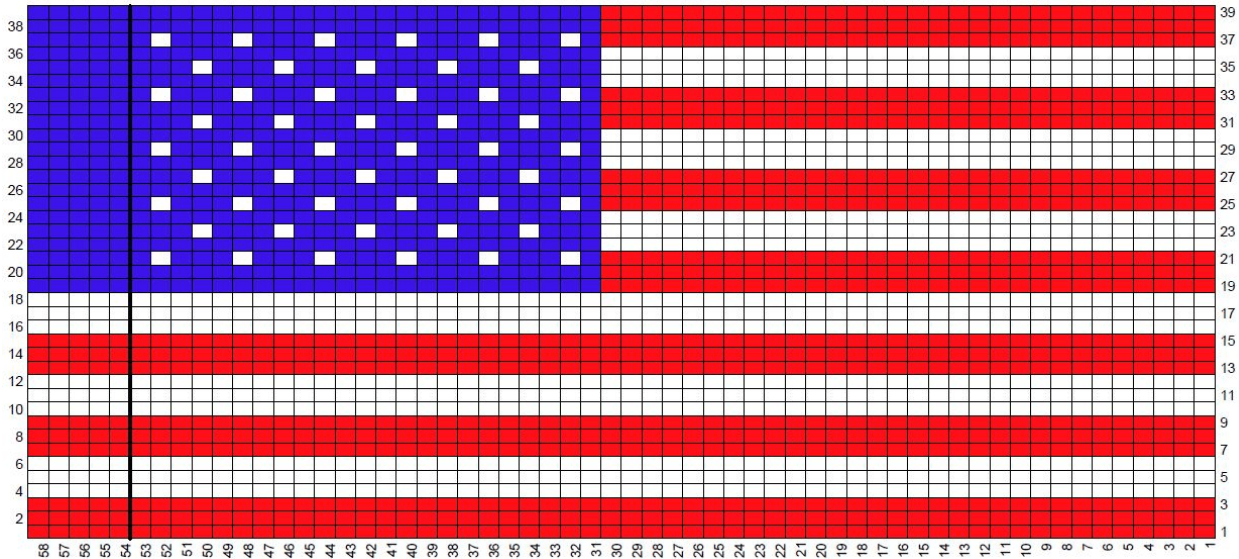
50-Star Flag

This flag has been in use since July 4, 1960, after Hawaii was admitted to the Union on August 21, 1959.

Alternative 1

Cast on 58 sts.

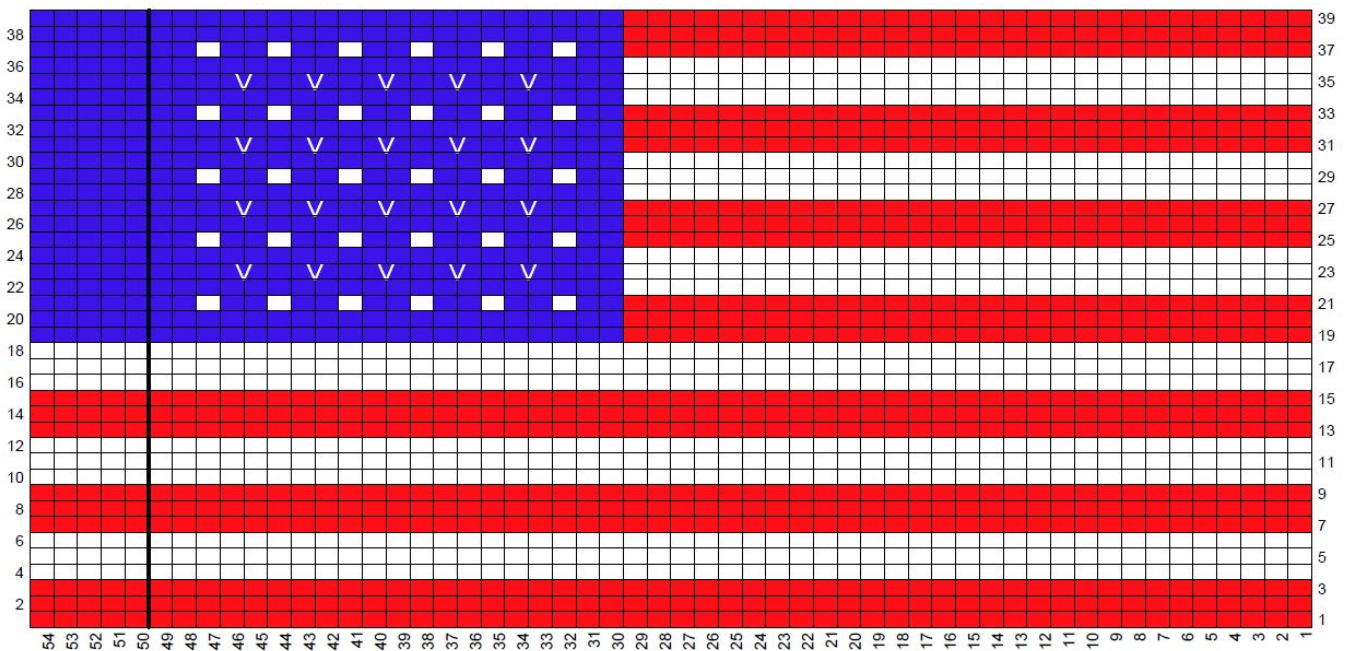
The canton is 23 sts followed by 30 sts for stripes.



Alternative 2

Cast on 54 sts.

The canton is 20 sts followed by 29 sts for stripes.

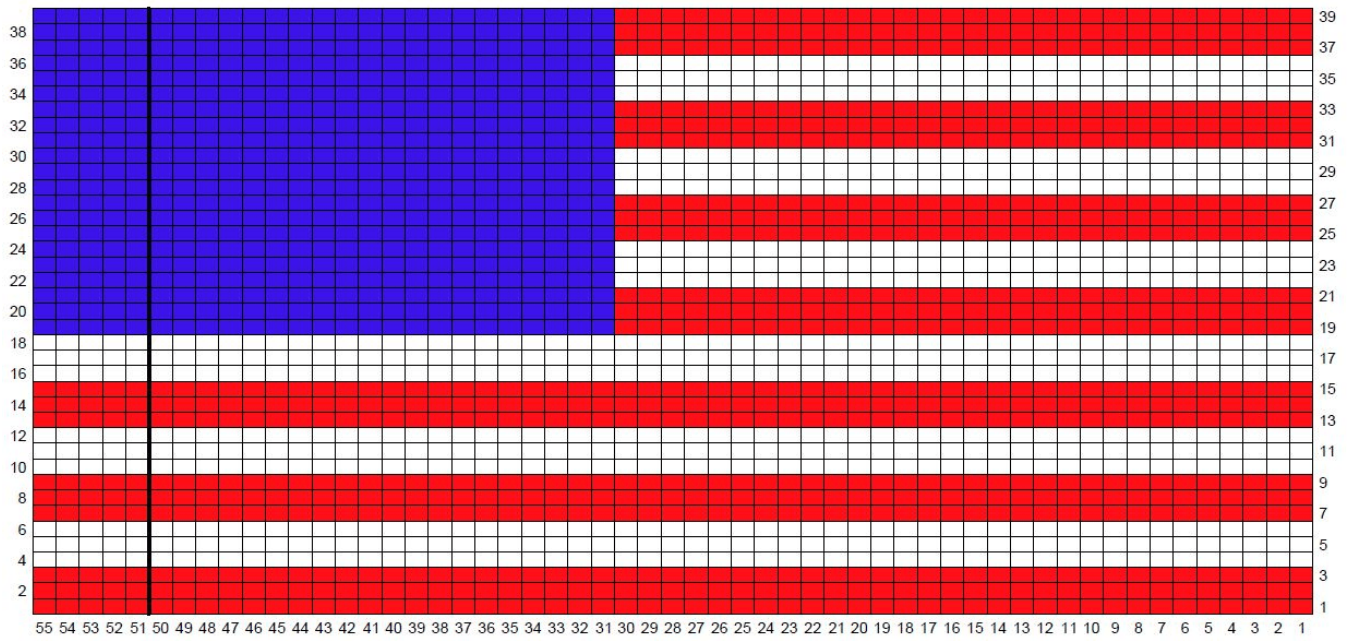


Flag with no Stars

Cast on 55 sts.

Complete chart.

The canton is 20 sts followed by 30 sts for stripes.



How to bind off in color

Bind off in the same color yarn until 1 st before the color change. Knit that st with the new color. Continue binding off until 1 st before the color change. Knit that st with the new color. Continue in this manner until all stitches are bound off.

Weaving in ends as you knit

Knit one stitch with the new yarn.

Step 1: Insert right-hand needle into the next stitch to knit. Lay the tail end of the yarn over the needle. (See Figure 1.) Knit the stitch as usual (bringing the needle under the tail). Be sure not to knit the tail with the working yarn.



Figure 1

Step 2: Note that the tail is held in place by the index in middle figures. (See Figure 2.) Knit the next stitch as usual. The tail is now locked into place.



Figure 2

Repeat Steps 1 and 2 three or four times to securely lock the tail.



Tail securely woven in