Counted Cross Stitch:
Mounting and Framing

Counted cross stitch can be a very fun and rewardable pastime.
It's one of the few crafts I enjoy and that I feel confident about the
finished results.

There are a number of ways you can mount and frame your
finished cross stitch projects. Cost is always an issue. Frames and
mounting accessories can be very expensive. I've found a couple
of ways to cut corners that still produce pleasing results.

Frames are easy to find. I like frames of all shapes and sizes–-they
give your finished projects more character. I often bring them home
with no particular project in mind. You can always save them until
you need them, especially if they were cheap! One of the best
places to find frames is yard sales. You can often pick them up for
.35 or .50 each (compared to $5 to $50 at the store). Thrift stores
are also a good place to look. When I'm pressed for time I pick up
a $2 frame at Walmart.

It's not necessary for your frames to have glass. Sometimes I
frame my projects with glass in front of them and sometimes I
don't. When I'm not going to use glass I make sure to spray the
surface of the fabric with Scotchguard to help prevent future stains.

I mount my projects in two different ways. You can buy mounting
boards in any craft store. There are two kinds–-padded and not
padded. I've found that the padded ones work great when you
have a frame that doesn't have glass. The padding makes the
fabric stand out from the frame a little and looks very nice. It's also
easier to smooth out any wrinkles in the fabric.

I use the non-padded mounting boards when I use frames with
glass. The nice thing about the mounting boards is that your fabric
sticks to them so it won't move around after your project is mounted
and framed.

I've found a quick trick that saves you from having to buy the
mounting board (if you're using the non-padded kind). The back of
your frame is usually a piece of cardboard much like the cardboard
the mounting board is made of. I've found you can use spray-
adhesive to mount your fabric directly on the cardboard back of the
frame. It works great. You can buy two different types of spray
adhesive: repositionable and permanent (it's never coming off!).   I
like the repositionable because you can still move the fabric around
until you get it just right.

When I've got the fabric where I want it (after measuring to make
sure it's centered and also cutting off the excess fabric), I use
masking tape to fold over the edges of the mounting board. I get it

as close to the edge of the board as possible on the front of the fabric, and fold the remainder to the back. This keeps the edges of the fabric from fraying.

Additional Tips:

If you get a little stain on your fabric you can often get it off by dampening the fabric and rubbing a bar of soap or dishwashing liquid into the stain and rinsing.

Before you place the fabric on the mounting board, iron gently to get out any wrinkles in the fabric. If you mist the fabric with water, even the toughest wrinkles will come out.

Using Scotchguard (stain guard that comes in a can) on your fabric is optional, but may help prevent future stains from ruining your artwork.