Axolotl with flower gills

6 inch (15 cm) hoop, 4.5 × 3.9 in (11.4 × 9.9 cm)



Colors by number: page 2.
Fabric: black cotton or linen.

What you need

A 6 inch (15 cm) hoop.

A 9 inch (23 cm) square of black cotton or linen.

Embroidery needles, size 9, and size 5 for 4 strands.

10 colors of floss (page 2): one skein of each color (an estimate from the drawing's lines and shapes).

A white pencil, and small scissors.

Onto the fabric

Fabric that lets light through: page 3 on a bright light, the fabric over it; trace with a white pencil.

Other fabric: print page 3 on a sticky wash-away sheet, stick it on, stitch through it and rinse it away.

Or white or yellow carbon paper, colored side down, page 3 on top; trace with a ballpoint and go over a faint line with a white pencil.

Then hoop it, inner ring under, tight as a drum.

How to read it

Floss has six strands: cut 18 inches (45 cm), pull out the number named one at a time, and lay them together.

Start a filling with tiny stitches, a line with a small knot; end under stitches on the back.

Every stitch in pictures: flossfield.com/embroidery/stitches.

New to this: flossfield.com/embroidery/guides/how-to-start.

Stitch in this order

Where a stitch page says otherwise, follow this list.

1. **Chain stitch**, 3 strands
   Slope (color 1), fin edge, chain hoops
2. **Stem stitch**, 4 strands
   Body outline
3. **Straight stitch**, 2 strands
   Lines of the gill leaves
4. **Satin stitch**, 2 strands
   Far legs (color 3), satin hoops, tail tip, ferns, gill stalks, buds, sepals, marigold, dahlia, near legs (color 10), anklets, eye
5. **Long and short stitch**, 1 strand
   Far legs (color 4), near legs (color 10), head
6. **Herringbone stitch**, 2 strands
   Slope (color 2), herringbone hoops
7. **Straight stitch**, 2 strands
   Fin rays, lines of the lazy daisies, sprouts (color 2)
8. **Feather stitch**, 2 strands
   Feather hoops
9. **Chain stitch**, 2 strands
   Spirals
10. **Stem stitch**
    2 strands: sprouts (color 2)
    3 strands: smile
11. **Lazy daisy stitch**, 3 strands
    Loops of the lazy daisies, loops of the gill leaves, loops of the sprouts, sprout flowers
12. **French knot**, 2 strands, two wraps
    Knots, flower centers, knots of the eye

Take out lines that still show, press face down, finish the hoop or sew a pillow.

In a 6 inch hoop the French knots are drawn smaller than about 2 mm (a little over 1/16 in). Use one strand of floss for them there, or choose a larger hoop.

For your own stitching, gifts and handmade pieces you sell. Do not resell or share this PDF or copies of it.

Axolotl with flower gills

6 inch hoop

A number is a color of the list. Fine lines show which way the stitches lie: do not stitch them.



1	DMC 740 Tangerine	**5**	DMC 3608 Very Light Plum	**9**	DMC 704 Bright Chartreuse
2	DMC 702 Kelly Green	**6**	DMC 718 Plum	**10**	DMC 3846 Light Bright Turquoise
3	DMC 3844 Dark Bright Turquoise	**7**	DMC 742 Light Tangerine		
4	DMC 3845 Medium Bright Turquoise	**8**	DMC BLANC White		

For your own stitching, gifts and handmade pieces you sell. Do not resell or share this PDF or copies of it.

Axolotl with flower gills

6 inch hoop

Print at 100% and measure the square. Trace the black lines only. The gray ring is the hoop: fold the fabric in four and lay the folds on its ticks.

On the drawing a ring is one French knot: mark a dot; a loop is one lazy daisy, begun at its point; a broken line inside a shape is where two shades meet: trace it, do not stitch it.



1 in
25.4 mm

Not 1 inch (25.4 mm)? Print again at 100%.

For your own stitching, gifts and handmade pieces you sell. Do not resell or share this PDF or copies of it.