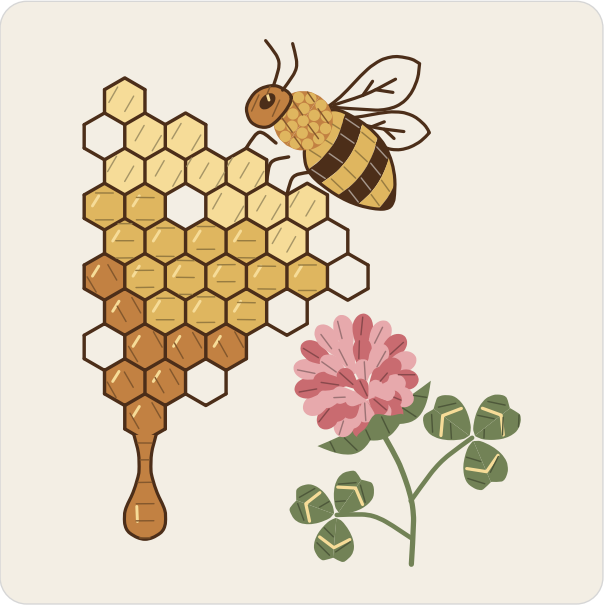
Back stitch honeycomb

6 inch (15 cm) hoop, 3.4 × 4.1 in (8.6 × 10.4 cm)



Colors by number: page 2.

What you need

A 6 inch (15 cm) hoop.

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

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

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

A water-soluble pen, and small scissors.

Onto the fabric

Fabric you can see through: page 3 taped to a sunny window, the fabric over it; trace.

Other fabric: dressmaker's carbon paper, colored side down, page 3 on top; trace with a ballpoint.

Iron-on pen: go over page 4, the mirrored page, and press it ink side down as the pen's packet says. The lines stay.

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.

The back is seen: no knots. Start with tiny stitches; end around the backs of four or five stitches.

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. **Stem stitch**, 3 strands
   Stems

2. **Back stitch**
   2 strands: wings
   1 strand: wing veins

3. **Satin stitch**, 2 strands
   Honey, honey drop, clover cups, clover florets, clover leaves, bee stripes, bee fur, bee head, bee eye



4. **Back stitch**
   4 strands: cell walls, legs
   3 strands: drop edge, antennae
   2 strands: leaf marks, bee outline

5. **Straight stitch**, 3 strands
   Honey highlights



6. **French knot**
   2 strands, two wraps
   Knots of the bee fur



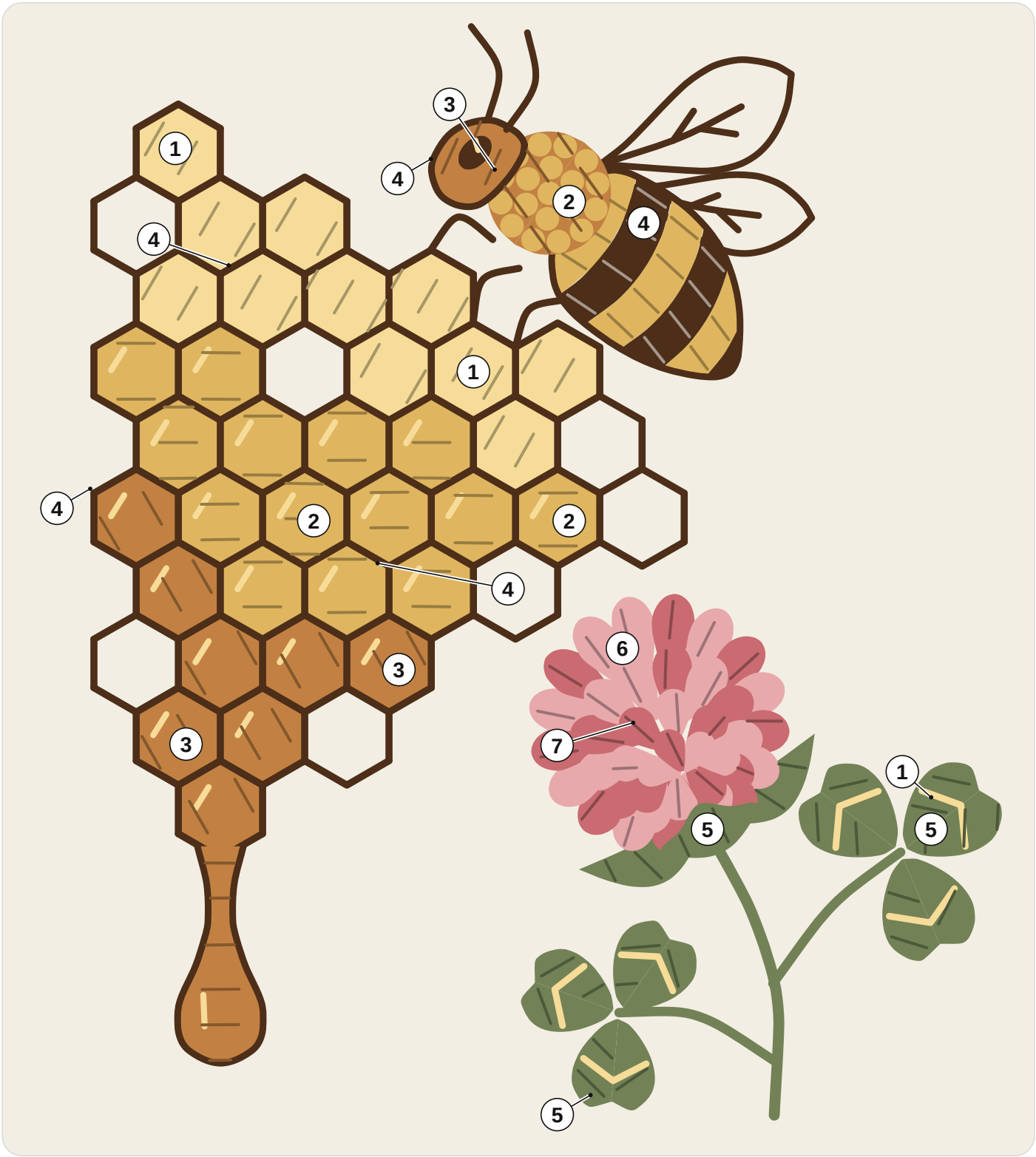
Take out lines that still show, press face down, finish the hoop.

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Back stitch honeycomb

6 inch hoop

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



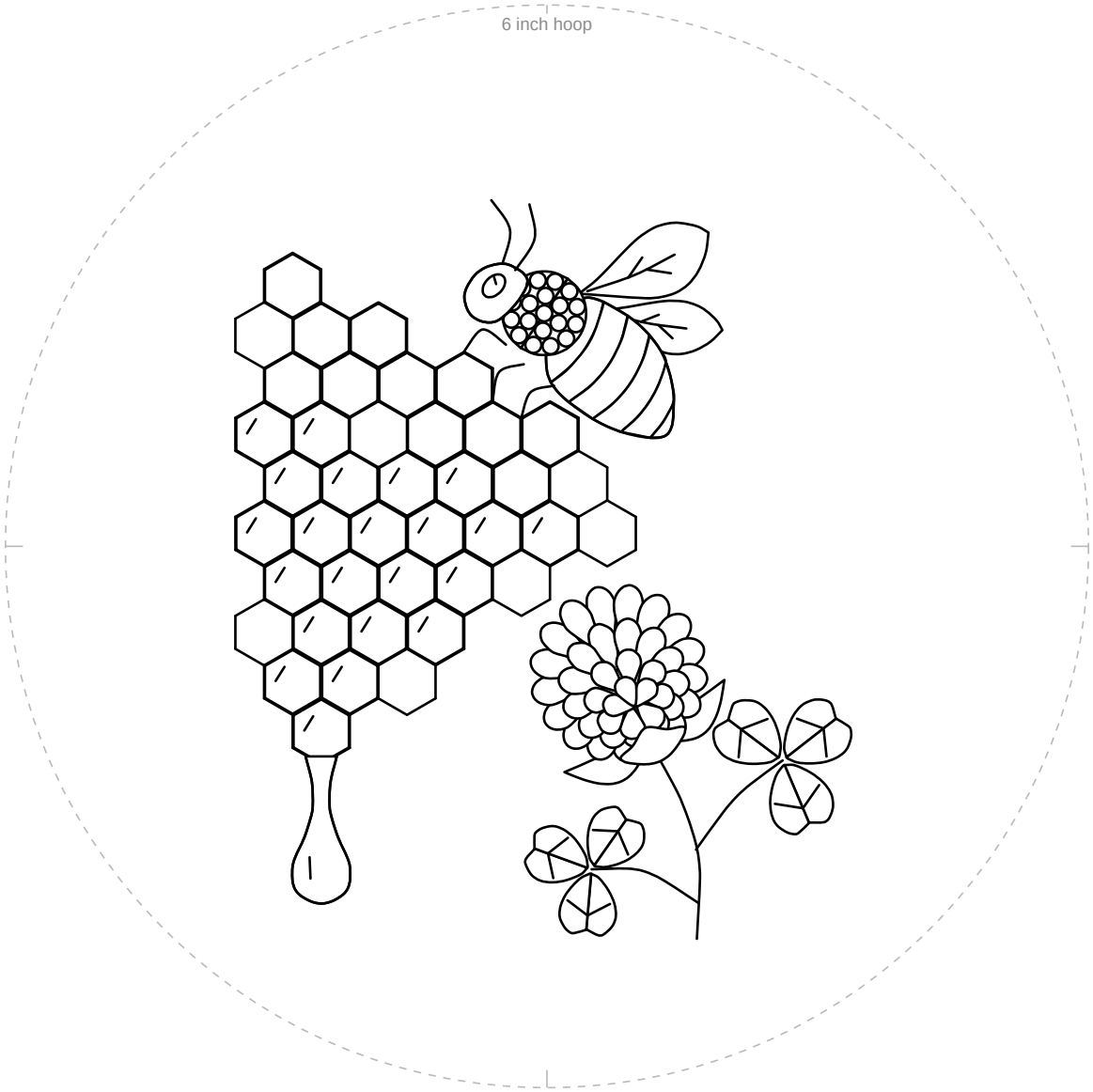
1 DMC 3822 Light Straw
2 DMC 3820 Dark Straw
3 DMC 976 Medium Golden Brown
4 DMC 898 Very Dark Coffee Brown
5 DMC 3363 Medium Pine Green
6 DMC 3688 Medium Mauve
7 DMC 3687 Mauve

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Back stitch honeycomb

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.



1 in
25.4 mm

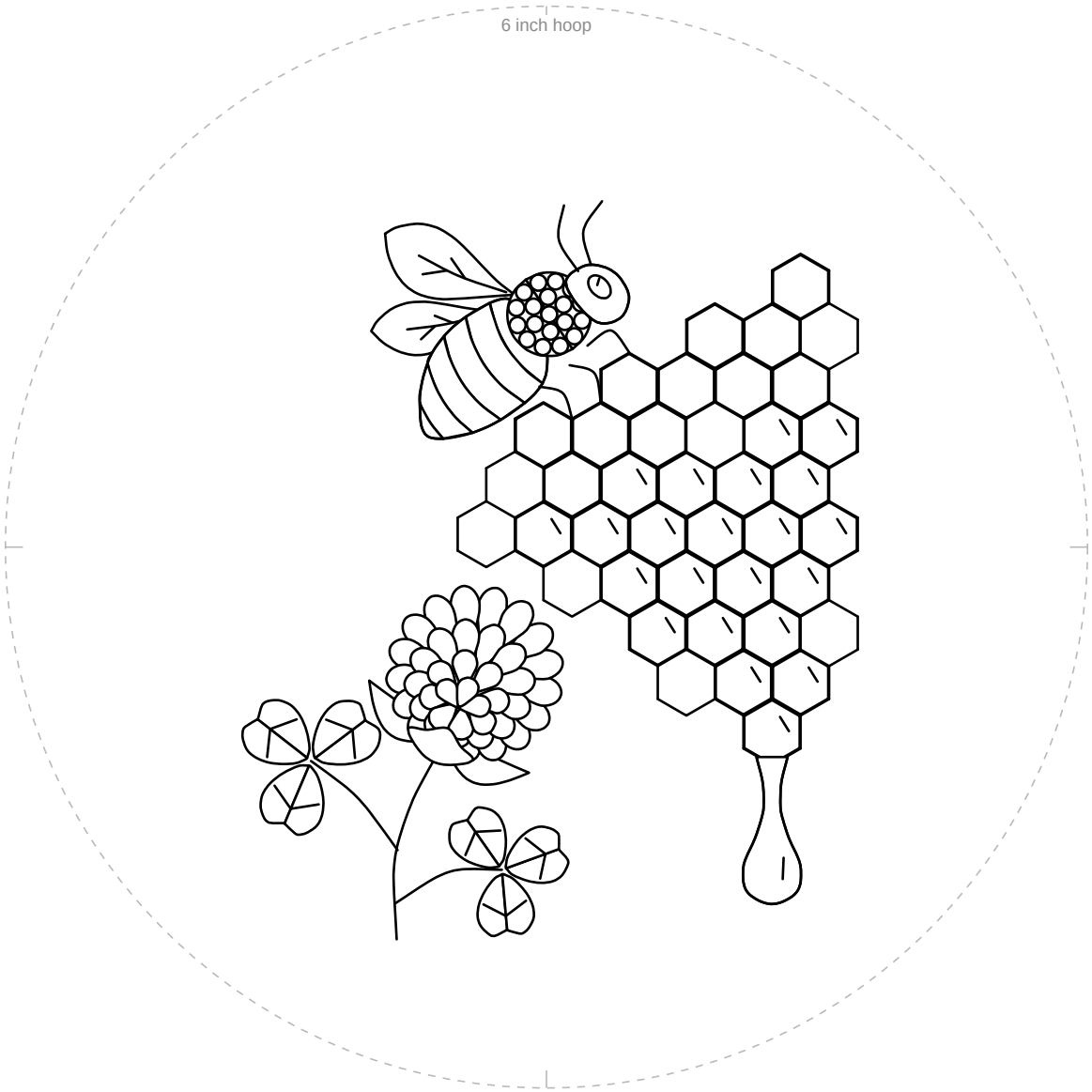
Not 1 inch (25.4 mm)? Print again at 100%.

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Back stitch honeycomb

6 inch hoop

For an iron-on pen only. Go over the lines, press ink side down.



1 in
25.4 mm

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

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