Barrel cactus in bloom

6 inch (15 cm) hoop, 4.4 × 4 in (11.2 × 10.2 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.

An embroidery needle, size 9.

24 colors of floss (page 2): 2 skeins of DMC 3855, 2 of DMC 745 and 2 of DMC 500; one of each other 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.

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. **Long and short stitch**
   1 strand, colors 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21
   Sun, sand, ribs, petals, pup ribs



2. **Satin stitch**
   2 strands, colors 3, 4, 5, 7, 23, 24
   Flower centers, pebbles



3. **Straight stitch**
   1 strand, colors 3, 12
   Spines, long spines



4. **Split stitch**
   1 strand, colors 10, 16, 18, 21, 24
   Grooves, petal edges, pebble edges

5. **Stem stitch**, 2 strands, colors 5, 6
   Grass, sand edge

6. **French knot**
   two wraps, colors 3, 7, 13, 22
   2 strands: grass seeds, woolly crown
   1 strand: spine knots, stamens, stigmas



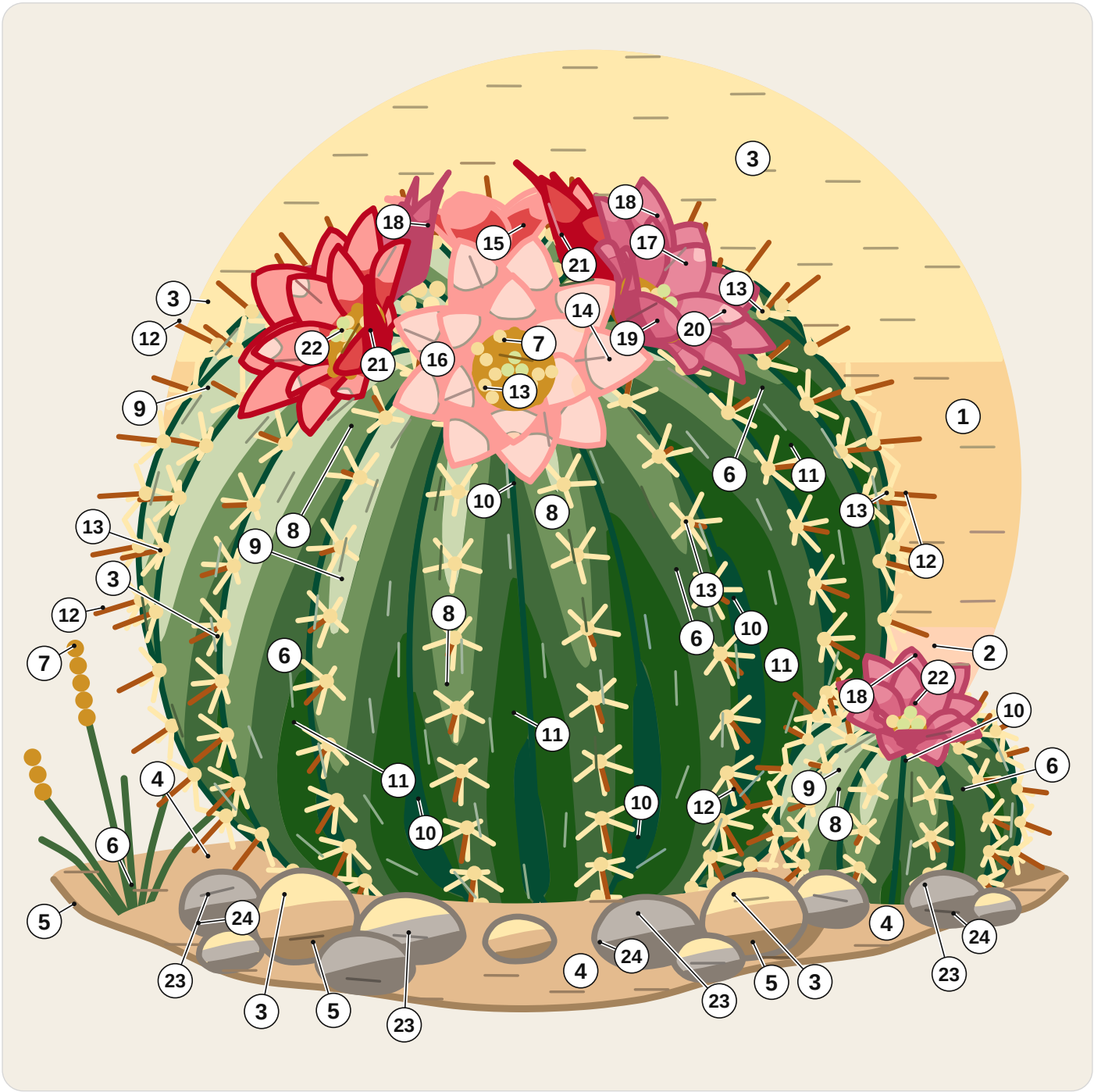
Take out lines that still show, press face down, finish the hoop or sew a pillow.

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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 3855 Light Autumn Gold	9	DMC 3348 Light Yellow Green	17	DMC 3733 Dusty Rose
2	DMC 3856 Ultra Very Light Mahogany	10	DMC 500 Very Dark Blue Green	18	DMC 3350 Ultra Dark Dusty Rose
3	DMC 745 Light Pale Yellow	11	DMC 3345 Dark Hunter Green	19	DMC 3731 Very Dark Dusty Rose
4	DMC 437 Light Tan	12	DMC 920 Medium Copper	20	DMC 3689 Light Mauve
5	DMC 3863 Medium Mocha Beige	13	DMC 3822 Light Straw	21	DMC 817 Very Dark Coral Red
6	DMC 3346 Hunter Green	14	DMC 353 Peach	22	DMC 472 Ultra Light Avocado Green
7	DMC 783 Medium Topaz	15	DMC 350 Medium Coral	23	DMC 648 Light Beaver Gray
8	DMC 3347 Medium Yellow Green	16	DMC 352 Light Coral	24	DMC 646 Dark Beaver Gray

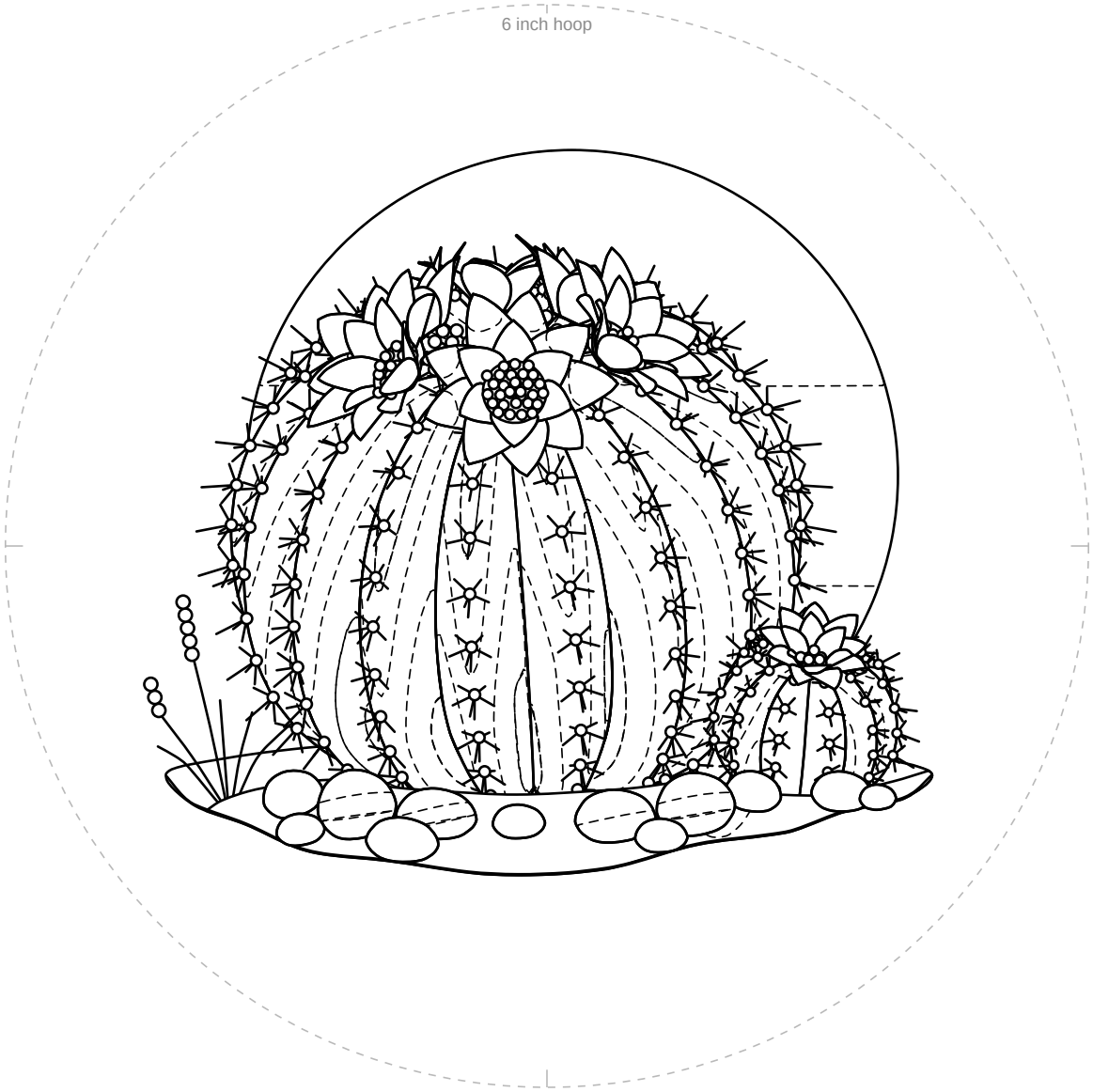
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6 inch hoop

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 broken line inside a shape is where two shades meet: trace it, do not stitch it.



1 in
25.4 mm

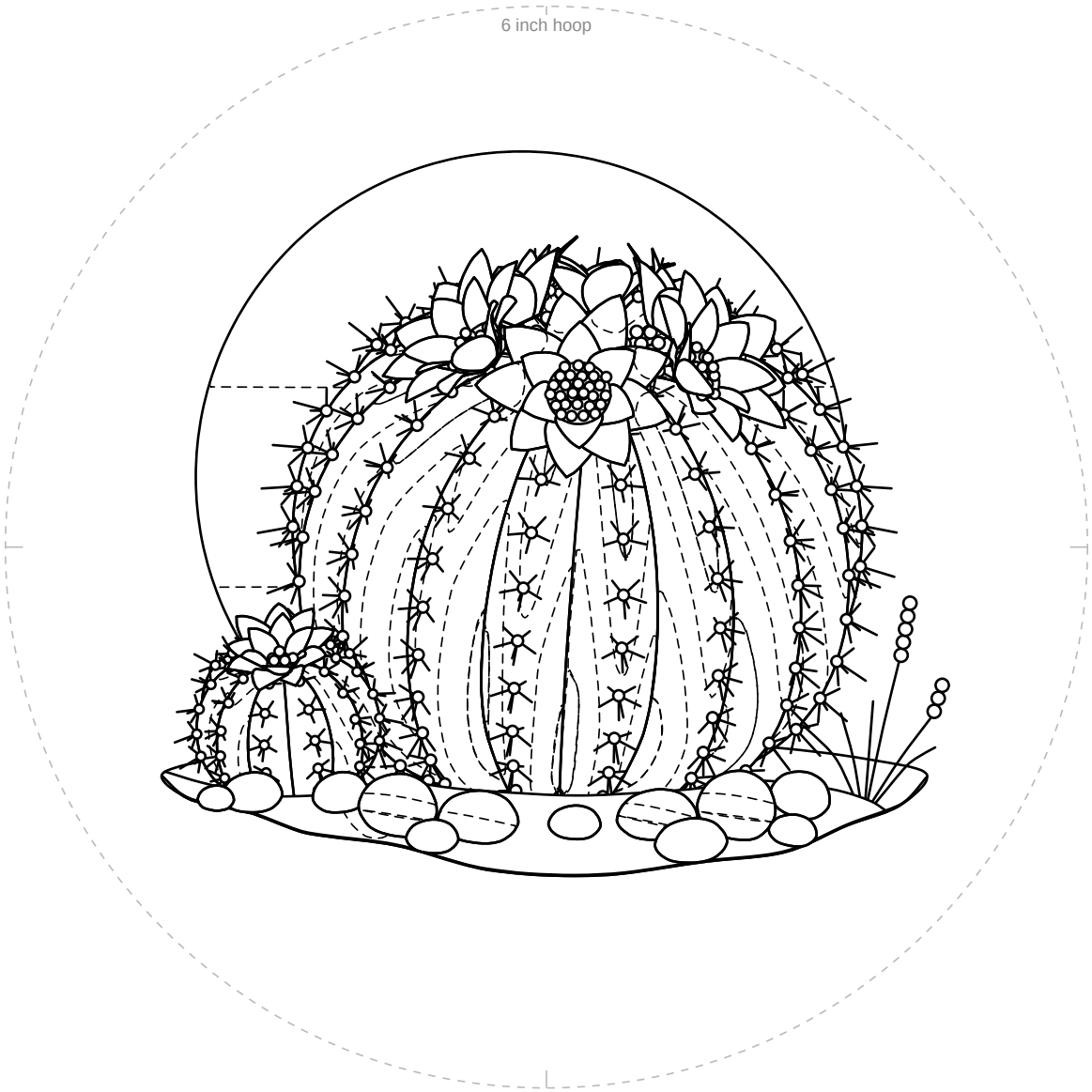
Not 1 inch (25.4 mm)? Print again at 100%.

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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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