Bearded skull with copper braids

6 inch (15 cm) hoop, 3 × 4.9 in (7.6 × 12.4 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 3 for 4 to 6 strands.

21 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. **Long and short stitch**
   colors 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17
   1 strand: skull, eye sockets, nose hollow
   2 strands: beard, silver streak, long braid (colors 11, 12 and 15), short braid (colors 11 and 12), mustache



2. **Satin stitch**
   2 strands, colors 1, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18
   Mouth shadow, teeth, long braid, short braid (colors 13 and 14), gold rings



3. **Stem stitch**, 1 strand, color 13
   Strands of light

4. **Split stitch**, 1 strand, colors 9, 17
   Lock edges

5. **Couching**
   6 strands, colors 19, 20, 21
   Edges of the gold rings



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

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



1	DMC 154 Very Dark Grape	8	DMC 3834 Dark Grape	15	DMC 318 Light Steel Gray
2	DMC 779 Dark Cocoa	9	DMC 938 Ultra Dark Coffee Brown	16	DMC 762 Very Light Pearl Gray
3	DMC 3860 Cocoa	10	DMC 300 Very Dark Mahogany	17	DMC 414 Dark Steel Gray
4	DMC 3861 Light Cocoa	11	DMC 918 Dark Red Copper	18	DMC 780 Ultra Very Dark Topaz
5	DMC 842 Very Light Beige Brown	12	DMC 920 Medium Copper	19	DMC 3820 Dark Straw
6	DMC 822 Light Beige Gray	13	DMC 402 Very Light Mahogany	20	DMC 783 Medium Topaz
7	DMC 712 Cream	14	DMC 921 Copper	21	DMC 3822 Light Straw

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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 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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