Blue jays in a crewel oak tree

6 inch (15 cm) hoop, 4.5 × 4.7 in (11.4 × 11.9 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.

16 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.

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, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16
   Trunk and boughs, half shaded oak leaves, tails (colors 9, 10 and 11), breasts, backs, wing feathers, shoulders, faces, crests



2. **Satin stitch**
   2 strands, colors 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 12, 13
   Hill, tails (color 12), white wing patches, black necklaces, eyes, bills



3. **Trellis stitch**
   2 strands, colors 1, 2, 4
   Trellis oak leaves



4. **Fishbone stitch**
   2 strands, colors 2, 3, 4, 5
   Fishbone oak leaves



5. **Stem stitch**, colors 1, 3, 7, 8, 13
   3 strands: hill edge, leaf veins, acorn stalks
   2 strands: bark edges, leaf edges, bill lines, feet (color 13)
   4 strands: leaf stalks

6. **Chain stitch**
   2 strands, colors 1, 2, 4, 8
   Hill rows, chain row oak leaf



7. **Split stitch**, 1 strand, colors 7, 10
   Bark grain, feather edges

8. **Straight stitch**, colors 12, 13
   2 strands: wing and tail bars, eye highlights
   3 strands: feet (color 13)



9. **Padded satin stitch**
   2 strands, colors 2, 4, 8
   Acorn nuts



10. **French knot**
    1 strand, two wraps, colors 6, 7
    Acorn caps



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 3362 Dark Pine Green	7	DMC 3781 Dark Mocha Brown	13	DMC 310 Black
2	DMC 729 Medium Old Gold	8	DMC 918 Dark Red Copper	14	DMC 3325 Light Baby Blue
3	DMC 3364 Pine Green	9	DMC 312 Very Dark Baby Blue	15	DMC 415 Pearl Gray
4	DMC 921 Copper	10	DMC 336 Navy Blue	16	DMC 318 Light Steel Gray
5	DMC 3012 Medium Khaki Green	11	DMC 334 Medium Baby Blue		
6	DMC 840 Medium Beige Brown	12	DMC 3865 Winter White		

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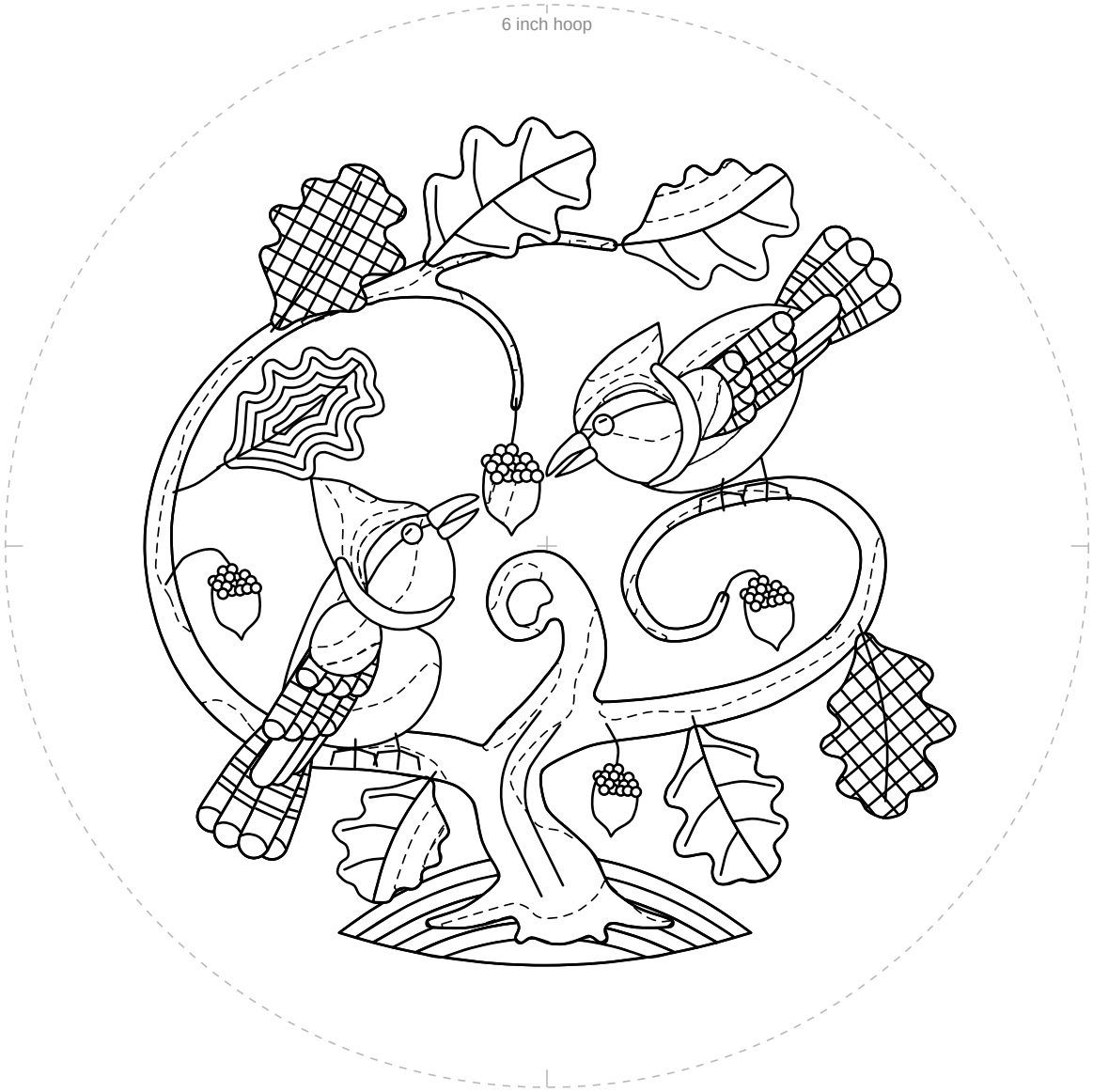
6 inch hoop

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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