Busy doing nothing

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.

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

18 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. **Stem stitch**, 3 strands
   Pink thread

2. **Long and short stitch**, 1 strand
   Stool legs, footstool, tail, tail stripes, tail tip, legs, leg stripes, body, cream belly, body stripes, thigh, paws, ears, ear insides, head, muzzle, eye patches, face stripes



3. **Satin stitch**, 2 strands
   Buttons, paw pads, butterfly, butterfly body, nose, saying



4. **Stem stitch**
   3 strands: piping
   1 strand: edges of the butterfly body
   4 strands: closed eyes
   2 strands: mouth

5. **Split stitch**, 1 strand
   Paw edges, toes

6. **Straight stitch**, 1 strand
   Whiskers



7. **French knot**, two wraps
   2 strands: wing spots
   1 strand: knots of the saying



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.

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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 434 Light Brown	7	DMC 3687 Mauve	13	DMC 3865 Winter White
2	DMC 801 Dark Coffee Brown	8	DMC 402 Very Light Mahogany	14	DMC 437 Light Tan
3	DMC 3809 Very Dark Turquoise	9	DMC 301 Medium Mahogany	15	DMC 738 Very Light Tan
4	DMC 3847 Dark Teal Green	10	DMC 3776 Light Mahogany	16	DMC 739 Ultra Very Light Tan
5	DMC 3810 Dark Turquoise	11	DMC 3856 Ultra Very Light Mahogany	17	DMC 3689 Light Mauve
6	DMC 3766 Light Peacock Blue	12	DMC 300 Very Dark Mahogany	18	DMC 3371 Black Brown

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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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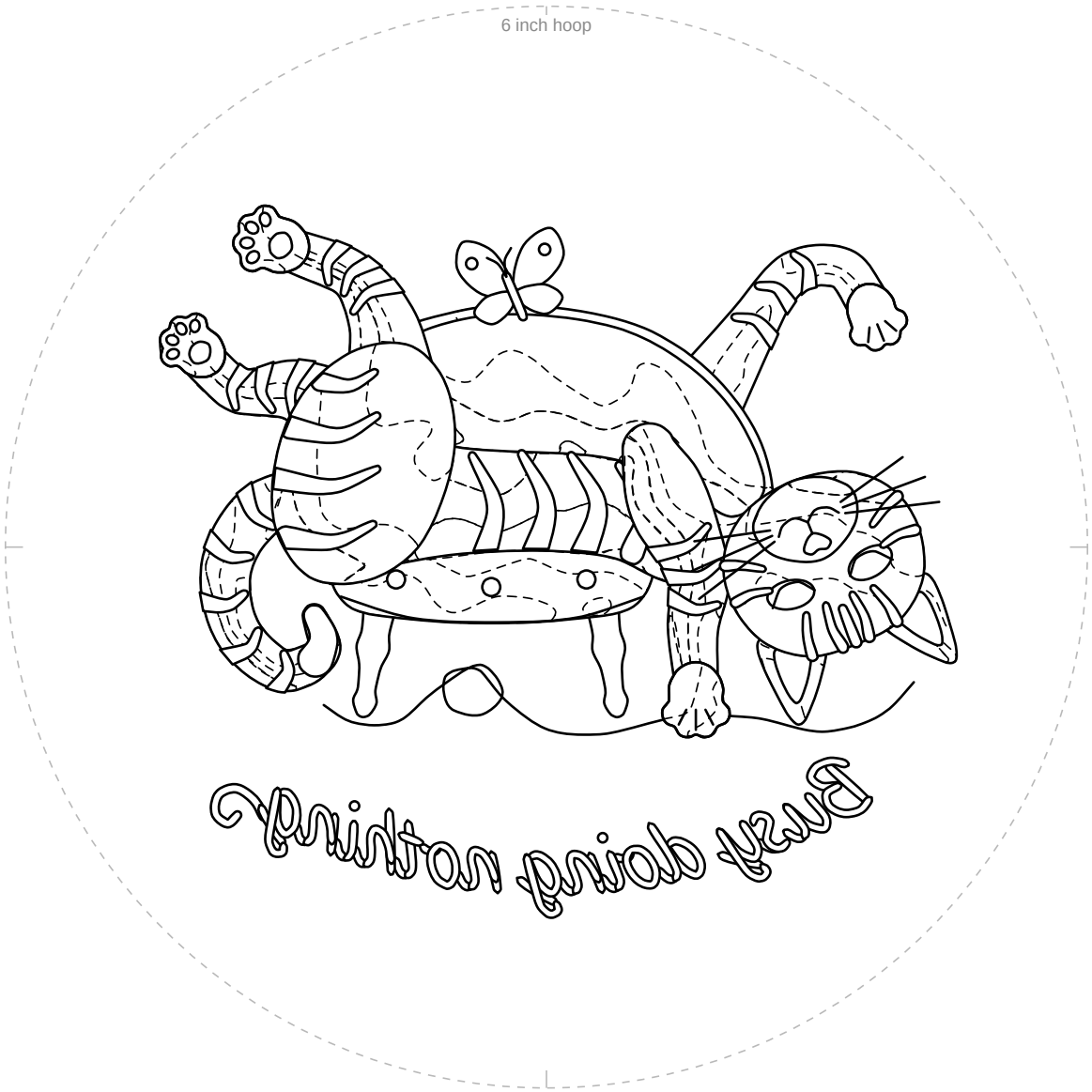
6 inch hoop

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



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