Cardinals on a snowy mailbox

Sized for a 6 inch hoop (15 cm). The stitched design is about 4.7 × 4.7 in (11.9 × 11.9 cm).



Which color goes where: by number on page 2.
Fabric: pale blue cotton or linen.

Stitch in this order

Filled parts from the back of the picture forward, then lines, loops and knots.

1. **Long and short stitch**, 1 strand
   Sky, fir line, drifts, shadow, post, mailbox, mailbox front, mailbox inside, door edge, door, snow, flag, tail, body, head, mask, and 3 more
2. **Satin stitch**, 2 strands
   Letters, flag, flag bolt, bill, eye, legs, holly leaves, holly berries, winterberries
3. **Split stitch**, strands by part on page 2
   Post grain, door edge, mailbox seam, flag edge, feather edges, eye rim, holly veins
4. **Back stitch**, 1 strand
   Letter fold, bill line
5. **Stem stitch**, strands by part on page 2
   Mailbox rim, feet, holly stem, winterberry stems, dry grass, hoop edge
6. **Straight stitch**, 2 strands
   Eye light
7. **Lazy daisy stitch**, 1 strand
   Dry grass
8. **French knot**, 1 strand, two wraps
   Berry lights

Floss

- **1 DMC 3747 Very Light Blue Violet**
  Sky, drifts, snow and mailbox front (light), mailbox (lightest) and 3 more parts
- **2 DMC 225 Ultra Very Light Shell Pink** Sky (lightest)
- **3 DMC 341 Light Blue Violet**
  Drifts and snow (dark), sky (middle), shadow (lighter)
- **4 DMC 340 Medium Blue Violet**
  Drifts and snow (darkest), sky (dark), fir line (lighter), shadow (darker)
- **5 DMC 3746 Dark Blue Violet** Fir line (darker), sky (darkest), hoop edge
- **6 DMC BLANC White**
  Snow and drifts (lightest), berry lights (lighter), eye light
- **7 DMC 3787 Dark Brown Gray** Post (dark), post grain
- **8 DMC 840 Medium Beige Brown**
  Dry grass, post and feather edges (middle), head (shade 5 of 7) and 7 more parts
- **9 DMC 3864 Light Mocha Beige**
  Wing feathers and tail (lightest), post (light), body (shade 6 of 8) and 4 more parts
- **10 DMC 926 Medium Gray Green** Mailbox, mailbox front and door (dark)
- **11 DMC 924 Very Dark Gray Green**
  Mailbox and door (darkest), door edge (darker), mailbox inside (lighter), mailbox seam
- **12 DMC 927 Light Gray Green**
  Mailbox front (middle), mailbox and door (light), mailbox rim
- **13 DMC 3371 Black Brown**
  Mailbox inside, mask, feet and legs (darker), winterberry stems and eye
- **14 DMC 738 Very Light Tan**
  Body (shade 7 of 8), head (shade 7 of 7), letters (darker) and 4 more parts
- **15 DMC 712 Cream** Letters (lighter), body (shade 8 of 8)
- **16 DMC 498 Dark Red**
  Body (shade 2 of 8), head and wing coverts (shade 2 of 7) and 4 more parts
- **17 DMC 321 Red**
  Head and shoulder (shade 3 of 7), body (shade 3 of 8), winterberries and 4 more parts
- **18 DMC 815 Medium Garnet**
  Wing feathers and tail (darkest), feather edges (dark) and 7 more parts
- **19 DMC 350 Medium Coral**
  Body (shade 4 of 8), head and shoulder (shade 4 of 7), bill (darker) and 2 more parts
- **20 DMC 721 Medium Orange Spice** Bill (lighter)
- **21 DMC 3722 Medium Shell Pink** Tail and wing feathers (light)
- **22 DMC 3363 Medium Pine Green**
  Holly leaves (lighter), holly veins and holly stem
- **23 DMC 500 Very Dark Blue Green** Holly leaves (darker)

Three ways to transfer the pattern

1. **Fabric you can see through**
   Tape page 3 to a sunny window or lay it on a light box, tape the fabric over it and trace the lines with a sharp pencil or a water-soluble pen.
2. **Fabric you cannot see through**
   Lay dressmaker's carbon paper colored side down on the fabric with page 3 on top, tape the layers and trace the lines firmly with a ballpoint pen.
3. **Iron-on: the lines stay**
   Go over the lines of page 4, the mirrored page, with an iron-on transfer pen, lay it ink side down on the fabric and press with a dry iron, as the pen's packet says.

Pages 3 and 4 are the pattern at actual size. Print them at 100% with scaling turned off. Then put the fabric in the hoop: inner ring under, drawing up, tight as a drum.

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6 inch hoop

How to read it

Floss is six strands. Cut 18 inches (45 cm), pull out the number given one at a time, and lay them together.

Inside a filled shape start with two or three tiny stitches, which the filling covers. Start a line with a small knot on the back. End each thread by running the needle under the backs of a few stitches.

Each small ring is one French knot. Each small loop is one lazy daisy: come up at its point. A fine broken line inside a shape is where two shades meet: trace it, do not stitch it.

A number on the picture is a color of the list of floss on page 1. The fine lines on the colors show which way the stitches lie.

Every stitch in pictures: flossfield.com/embroidery/stitches. The first time: flossfield.com/embroidery/guides/how-to-start.



1	DMC 3747 Very Light Blue Violet	9	DMC 3864 Light Mocha Beige	17	DMC 321 Red
2	DMC 225 Ultra Very Light Shell Pink	10	DMC 926 Medium Gray Green	18	DMC 815 Medium Garnet
3	DMC 341 Light Blue Violet	11	DMC 924 Very Dark Gray Green	19	DMC 350 Medium Coral
4	DMC 340 Medium Blue Violet	12	DMC 927 Light Gray Green	20	DMC 721 Medium Orange Spice
5	DMC 3746 Dark Blue Violet	13	DMC 3371 Black Brown	21	DMC 3722 Medium Shell Pink
6	DMC BLANC White	14	DMC 738 Very Light Tan	22	DMC 3363 Medium Pine Green
7	DMC 3787 Dark Brown Gray	15	DMC 712 Cream	23	DMC 500 Very Dark Blue Green
8	DMC 840 Medium Beige Brown	16	DMC 498 Dark Red		

How many strands

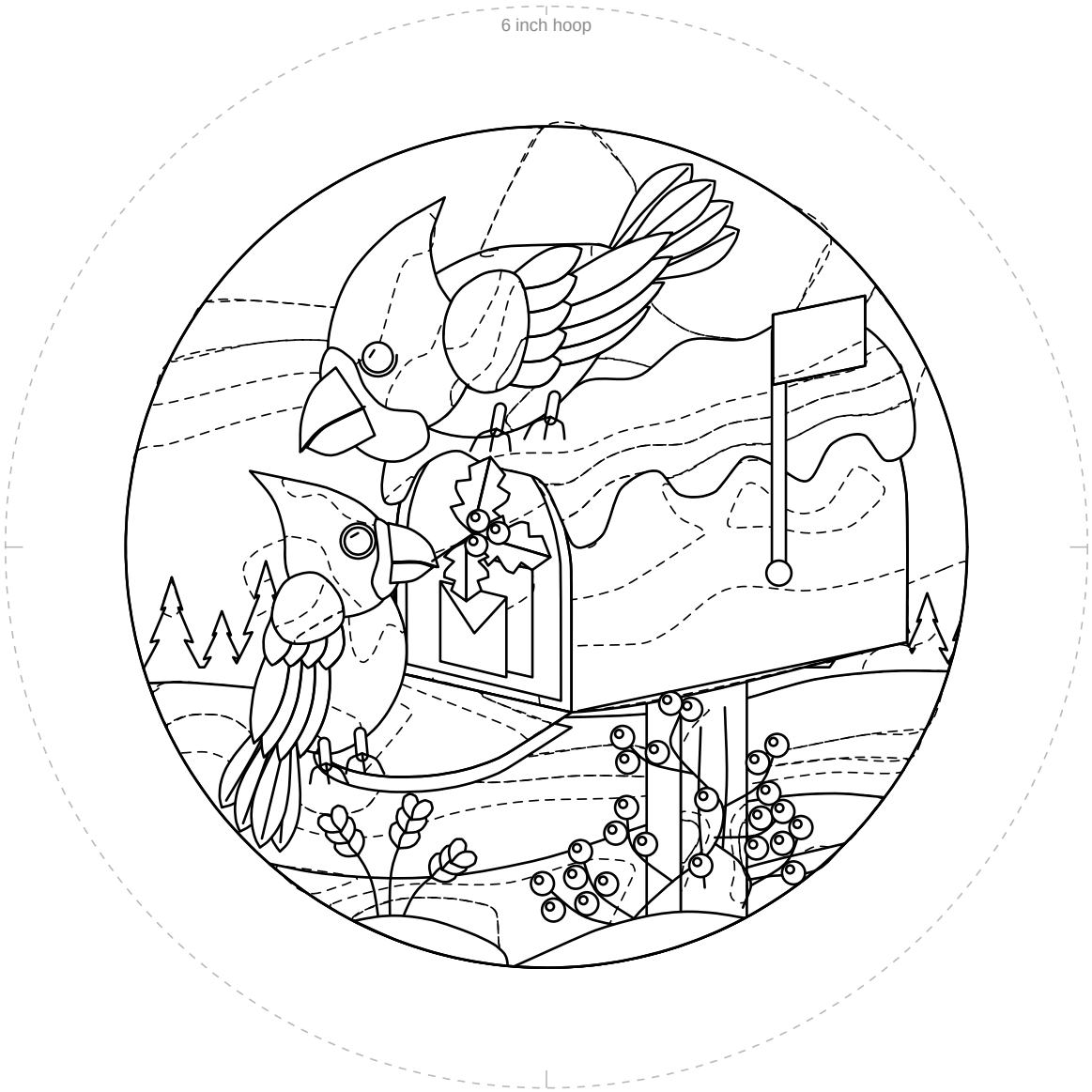
Split stitch. 2 strands: mailbox seam; 1 strand: post grain, door edge, flag edge, feather edges, eye rim, holly veins.
Stem stitch. 3 strands: mailbox rim, hoop edge; 2 or 3 strands: winterberry stems; 2 strands: feet, holly stem, dry grass.

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6 inch hoop

Print at 100% and check the square below with a ruler. Fold the fabric in four: the folds meet the four ticks of the ring.



1 in
25.4 mm

Check square: 1 inch (25.4 mm) on each side.
If it measures anything else, print again at 100% with scaling off.

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Cardinals on a snowy mailbox

6 inch hoop

Mirrored. Trace this page with an iron-on transfer pen or pencil, then press it ink side down on the fabric.



1 in
25.4 mm

Check square: 1 inch (25.4 mm) on each side.
If it measures anything else, print again at 100% with scaling off.

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