Day of the Dead altar by candlelight

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: indigo 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**
   strands by part on page 2
   Candle glow, floor, upper cloth, lower cloth, candles, flames, bread, clay cup, oranges, candy skulls, chair
2. **Satin stitch**, 2 strands
   Arch leaves, paper banner, step tops, lace hems, candle dishes, bread strips, clay cup, skull eyes, chair
3. **Fishbone stitch**, 2 strands
   Arch leaves, orange leaf
4. **Woven filling stitch**, 3 strands
   Chair seat
5. **Stem stitch**, strands by part on page 2
   Banner string, cup rim, skull icing, rim
6. **Split stitch**, 2 strands
   Lace hems
7. **Chain stitch**, 2 strands
   Lace hems
8. **Straight stitch**, 1 strand
   Wicks, skull teeth
9. **Running stitch**, 2 strands
   Cup band
10. **Back stitch**, 1 strand
    Skull teeth
11. **Lazy daisy stitch**, 2 strands
    Skull icing
12. **French knot**, 2 strands, two wraps
    Marigold arch, lace picots, orange stems

Floss

- **1 DMC 823 Dark Navy Blue**
  Candle glow (darkest), floor (darker), skull eyes and skull teeth
- **2 DMC 3837 Ultra Dark Lavender** Candle glow (dark), floor (lighter), rim
- **3 DMC 3802 Very Dark Antique Mauve**
  Candle glow (middle dark), clay cup (darkest)
- **4 DMC 919 Red Copper**
  Candle glow (middle light), marigold arch (darkest), clay cup (dark) and 2 more parts
- **5 DMC 922 Light Copper**
  Candle glow and clay cup (light), marigold arch and oranges (dark) and 3 more parts
- **6 DMC 3853 Dark Autumn Gold**
  Marigold arch and oranges (light), candle glow and clay cup (lightest)
- **7 DMC 936 Very Dark Avocado Green**
  Arch leaves and orange leaf (darker), orange stems
- **8 DMC 470 Light Avocado Green** Arch leaves and orange leaf (lighter)
- **9 DMC 741 Medium Tangerine**
  Marigold arch, oranges and paper banner (lightest), flames (dark)
- **10 DMC 739 Ultra Very Light Tan**
  Candy skulls (middle), lace hems (darker), banner string and cup band
- **11 DMC 3810 Dark Turquoise**
  Step tops and paper banner (light), skull icing (lighter)
- **12 DMC 3607 Light Plum**
  Upper cloth (light), paper banner (dark), skull icing (darker), step tops (middle)
- **13 DMC 917 Medium Plum**
  Upper cloth (middle), step tops (dark), paper banner (darkest)
- **14 DMC 915 Dark Plum** Upper cloth (dark)
- **15 DMC 3865 Winter White**
  Lace hems (lighter), candy skulls and candles (light), flames (lightest), lace picots
- **16 DMC 3808 Ultra Very Dark Turquoise** Lower cloth (darker)
- **17 DMC 3809 Very Dark Turquoise** Lower cloth (lighter)
- **18 DMC 3855 Light Autumn Gold** Candles (middle), flames (light), bread strips
- **19 DMC 977 Light Golden Brown**
  Chair seat, candles (dark), chair and bread (light)
- **20 DMC 801 Dark Coffee Brown** Chair and bread (dark), wicks
- **21 DMC 434 Light Brown** Chair and bread (middle)
- **22 DMC 3743 Very Light Antique Violet** Candy skulls (dark)

Three ways onto dark fabric

1. **Light shines through it**
   Lay page 3 on a bright light box, tape the fabric over it and trace the lines with a white marking pencil or pen.
2. **No light shines through**
   Print page 3 on a sticky wash-away sheet, smooth it onto fabric that can be washed, stitch through both and rinse it away.
3. **White or yellow carbon paper**
   Lay it colored side down on the fabric with page 3 on top, tape the layers and trace firmly with a ballpoint pen. Go over a faint line with a white pencil.

Page 3 is the pattern at actual size (page 4 is its mirror, for an iron-on pen on a light fabric). Print it 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

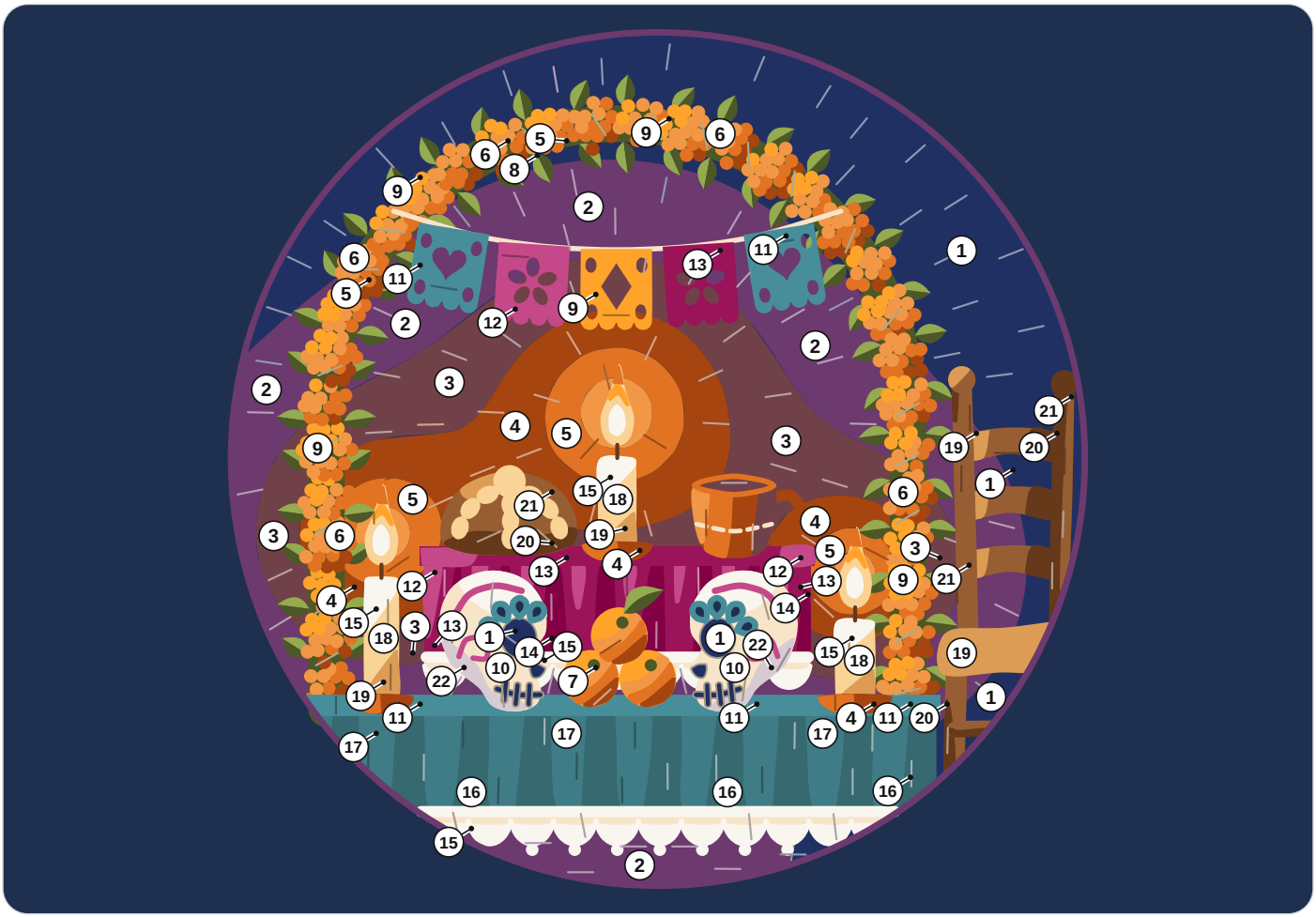
Floss is six strands. Cut 18 inches (45 cm), pull out the number given one at a time, and lay them together.

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 dashed line is running stitch. 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 823 Dark Navy Blue	**9**	DMC 741 Medium Tangerine	**17**	DMC 3809 Very Dark Turquoise
2	DMC 3837 Ultra Dark Lavender	**10**	DMC 739 Ultra Very Light Tan	**18**	DMC 3855 Light Autumn Gold
3	DMC 3802 Very Dark Antique Mauve	**11**	DMC 3810 Dark Turquoise	**19**	DMC 977 Light Golden Brown
4	DMC 919 Red Copper	**12**	DMC 3607 Light Plum	**20**	DMC 801 Dark Coffee Brown
5	DMC 922 Light Copper	**13**	DMC 917 Medium Plum	**21**	DMC 434 Light Brown
6	DMC 3853 Dark Autumn Gold	**14**	DMC 915 Dark Plum	**22**	DMC 3743 Very Light Antique Violet
7	DMC 936 Very Dark Avocado Green	**15**	DMC 3865 Winter White		
8	DMC 470 Light Avocado Green	**16**	DMC 3808 Ultra Very Dark Turquoise		

How many strands

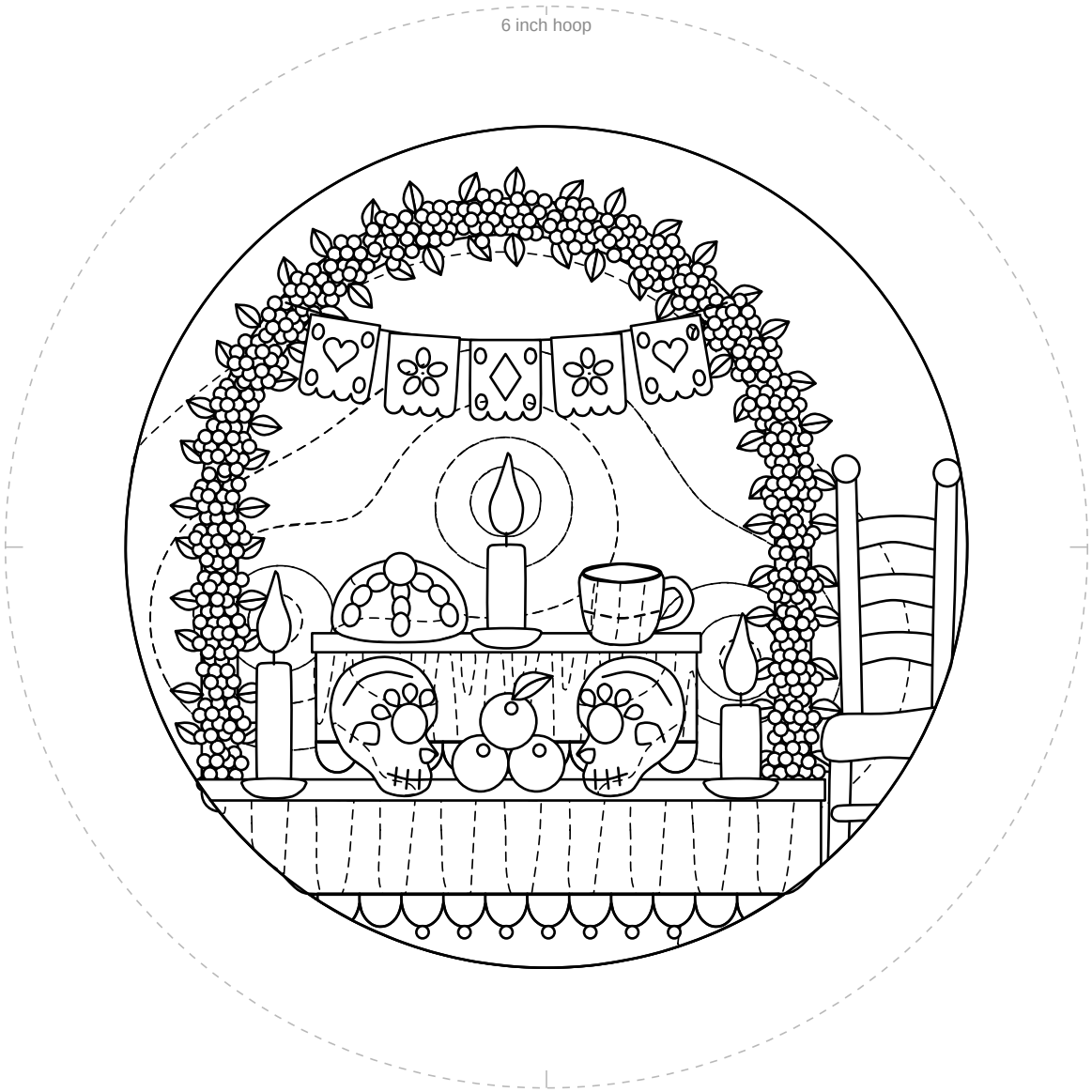
Long and short stitch. 2 strands: candle glow, floor, upper cloth, lower cloth; 1 strand: candles, flames, bread, clay cup, oranges, candy skulls, chair.
Stem stitch. 3 strands: rim; 2 or 3 strands: skull icing; 2 strands: cup rim; 1 strand: banner string.

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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

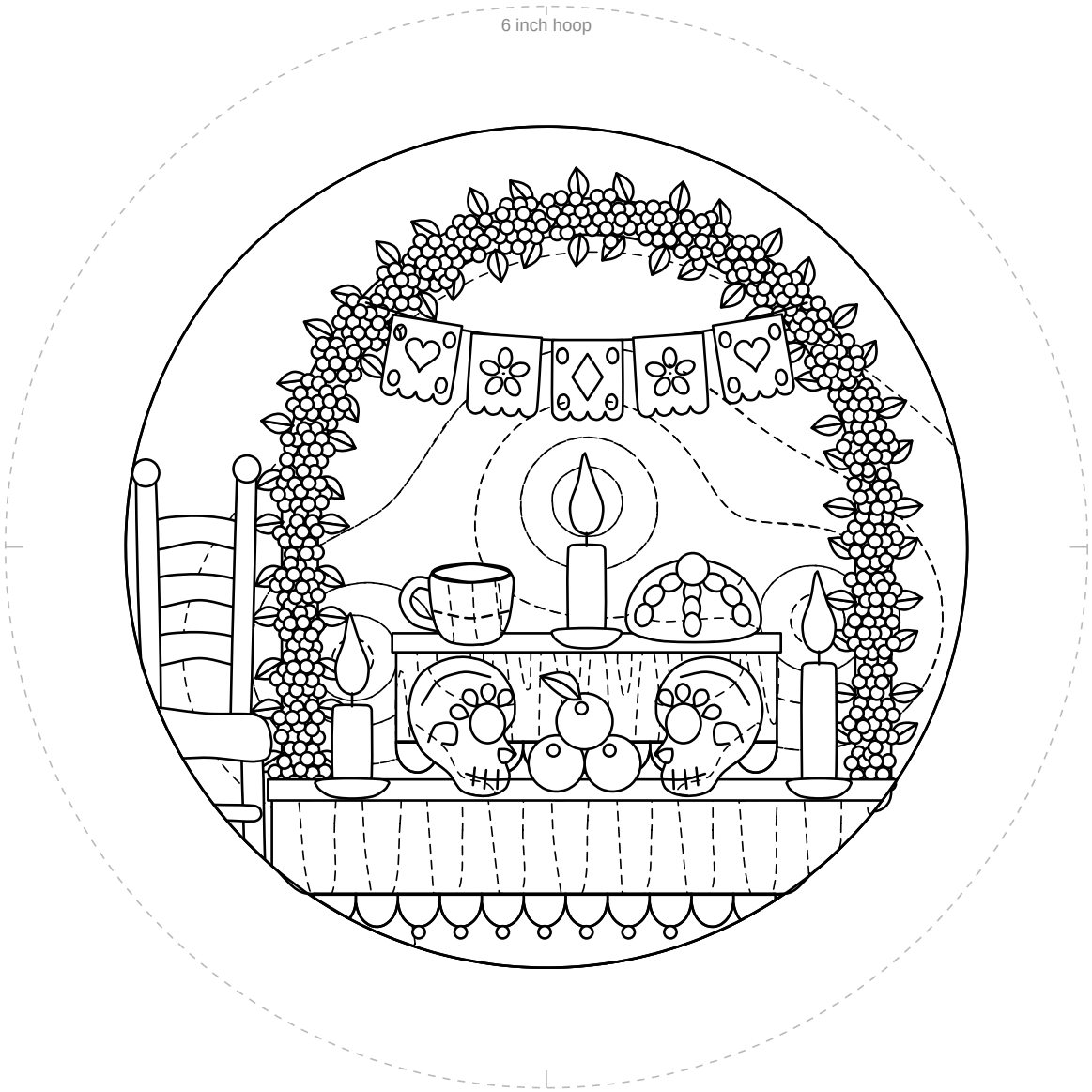
Check square: 1 inch (25.4 mm) on each side.
If it measures anything else, print again at 100% with scaling off.

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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.
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