Day of the Dead sugar skull with flowers

Sized for a 6 inch hoop (15 cm). The stitched design is about 4.6 × 4.4 in (11.7 × 11.2 cm).



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

Stitch in this order

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

1. **Fishbone stitch**, 2 strands
   Leaves
2. **Long and short stitch**, 1 strand
   Buds, skull, marigolds, bud, dahlia, wings, tail, breast, back, head, throat, wing coverts
3. **Satin stitch**, 2 strands
   Bud cups, teeth, bud cup, icing petals, icing scrolls, icing flower, icing heart, eye
4. **Stem stitch**, 2 strands
   Leaf stems, bud stalks, mouth line, bud cup, beak
5. **Split stitch**, 1 strand
   Skull edges, tooth lines, feather edges
6. **Straight stitch**, 1 strand
   Tooth lines, eye light
7. **French knot**, 2 strands, two wraps
   Marigold hearts, icing dots, dahlia heart

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.

Floss

- **1 DMC 522 Fern Green**
  Leaves, bud cups and bud cup (middle), leaf stems (lighter), bud stalks
- **2 DMC 524 Very Light Fern Green**
  Leaves, bud cups and bud cup (light)
- **3 DMC 3051 Dark Green Gray**
  Leaves, bud cups and bud cup (dark), leaf stems (darker)
- **4 DMC 741 Medium Tangerine**
  Marigolds, buds and bud (light), icing dots (lighter)
- **5 DMC 919 Red Copper**
  Marigolds and buds (darkest), marigold hearts (darker), bud (dark)
- **6 DMC 946 Medium Burnt Orange**
  Marigolds and buds (dark), bud (middle), marigold hearts (lighter)
- **7 DMC 743 Medium Yellow** Marigolds and buds (lightest)
- **8 DMC 543 Ultra Very Light Beige**
  Skull (light), breast and teeth (middle)
- **9 DMC 3041 Medium Antique Violet**
  Skull (darkest), skull edges and tooth lines, wings (dark)
- **10 DMC 3042 Light Antique Violet**
  Skull and breast (dark), wings (middle), beak
- **11 DMC 3743 Very Light Antique Violet**
  Skull (middle), feather edges, wings (light), teeth (dark)
- **12 DMC 3866 Ultra Very Light Mocha**
  Skull (lightest), teeth and breast (light), eye light
- **13 DMC 154 Very Dark Grape**
  Dahlia (darkest), mouth line and eye
- **14 DMC 3845 Medium Bright Turquoise**
  Icing petals and icing flower, icing scrolls (lighter), head (light) and 3 more parts
- **15 DMC 3607 Light Plum**
  Icing scrolls and icing dots (darker), dahlia (lightest), throat (light), icing heart
- **16 DMC 3685 Very Dark Mauve**
  Dahlia and throat (dark), dahlia heart
- **17 DMC 3803 Dark Mauve** Dahlia (light), throat (middle)
- **18 DMC 3818 Ultra Very Dark Emerald Green**
  Back, tail, head and wing coverts (dark)
- **19 DMC 911 Medium Emerald Green**
  Back, wing coverts, tail and head (middle)

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. 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 522 Fern Green	8	DMC 543 Ultra Very Light Beige	15	DMC 3607 Light Plum
2	DMC 524 Very Light Fern Green	9	DMC 3041 Medium Antique Violet	16	DMC 3685 Very Dark Mauve
3	DMC 3051 Dark Green Gray	10	DMC 3042 Light Antique Violet	17	DMC 3803 Dark Mauve
4	DMC 741 Medium Tangerine	11	DMC 3743 Very Light Antique Violet	18	DMC 3818 Ultra Very Dark Emerald G...
5	DMC 919 Red Copper	12	DMC 3866 Ultra Very Light Mocha	19	DMC 911 Medium Emerald Green
6	DMC 946 Medium Burnt Orange	13	DMC 154 Very Dark Grape		
7	DMC 743 Medium Yellow	14	DMC 3845 Medium Bright Turquoise		

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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.
If it measures anything else, print again at 100% with scaling off.

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