December birth flower, holly

6 inch (15 cm) hoop, 4.3 × 3.8 in (10.9 × 9.7 cm)



Colors by number: page 2.
Fabric: dark green cotton or linen.

What you need

A 6 inch (15 cm) hoop.

A 9 inch (23 cm) square of dark green cotton or linen.

An embroidery needle, size 9.

17 colors of floss (page 2): one skein of each color (an estimate from the drawing's lines and shapes).

A white pencil, and small scissors.

Onto the fabric

Fabric that lets light through: page 3 on a bright light, the fabric over it; trace with a white pencil.

Other fabric: print page 3 on a sticky wash-away sheet, stick it on, stitch through it and rinse it away.

Or white or yellow carbon paper, colored side down, page 3 on top; trace with a ballpoint and go over a faint line with a white pencil.

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.

The back is seen: no knots. Start with tiny stitches; end around the backs of four or five stitches.

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: leaf stalks
   2 strands: berry stalks

2. **Long and short stitch**, 1 strand
   Holly leaves, twigs, snow, berries



3. **Satin stitch**, 2 strands
   Month



4. **Buttonhole stitch**, 2 strands
   Scalloped edge



5. **Stem stitch**, 2 strands
   Edge cord, leaf veins

6. **Split stitch**, 1 strand
   Leaf rims, snow edges, berry edges

7. **French knot**, 1 strand, two wraps
   Berry eyes



Take out lines that still show, press face down, finish the hoop.

For your own stitching, gifts and handmade pieces you sell. Do not resell or share this PDF or copies of it.

December birth flower, holly

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 BLANC White	7	DMC 3348 Light Yellow Green	13	DMC 3753 Ultra Very Light Antique Bl...
2	DMC ECRU Ecru	8	DMC 840 Medium Beige Brown	14	DMC 304 Medium Red
3	DMC 988 Medium Forest Green	9	DMC 842 Very Light Beige Brown	15	DMC 815 Medium Garnet
4	DMC 989 Forest Green	10	DMC 839 Dark Beige Brown	16	DMC 666 Bright Red
5	DMC 3347 Medium Yellow Green	11	DMC 3346 Hunter Green	17	DMC 3705 Dark Melon
6	DMC 987 Dark Forest Green	12	DMC 3345 Dark Hunter Green		

For your own stitching, gifts and handmade pieces you sell. Do not resell or share this PDF or copies of it.

December birth flower, holly

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%.

For your own stitching, gifts and handmade pieces you sell. Do not resell or share this PDF or copies of it.