Easy Day of the Dead papel picado

6 inch (15 cm) hoop, 3.8 × 3.3 in (9.7 × 8.4 cm)



Colors by number: page 2.
Fabric: navy cotton or linen.

What you need

A 6 inch (15 cm) hoop.

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

Embroidery needles, size 7, and size 5 for 4 strands.

5 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.

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. **Satin stitch**, 2 strands
   Cut triangles, drops, corner cut-outs, eye scallops, flower centers, buds, leaves, marigold petals, brow flower, nose



2. **Chain stitch**
   3 strands, colors 2, 4
   Paper edge, skull



3. **Stem stitch**, colors 1, 2, 3
   4 strands: string
   3 strands: smile, leaf stems

4. **Straight stitch**, 4 strands, color 4
   Teeth



5. **Lazy daisy stitch**
   3 strands, colors 2, 3
   Eye petals, brow leaves, loops of the leaves, marigold centers



6. **French knot**
   2 strands, two wraps, color 1
   Brow knots



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

In a 6 inch hoop the shortest lazy daisy loops 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.

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

Easy Day of the Dead papel picado

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 726 Light Topaz
2 DMC 3805 Cyclamen Pink
3 DMC 3846 Light Bright Turquoise
4 DMC BLANC White
5 DMC 741 Medium Tangerine

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

Easy Day of the Dead papel picado

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 loop is one lazy daisy, begun at its point.



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.