Birthday cake with five candles

6 inch (15 cm) hoop, 3 × 3.2 in (7.6 × 8.1 cm)



Colors by number: page 2.

What you need

A 6 inch (15 cm) hoop.

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

An embroidery needle, size 9.

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

A water-soluble pen, and small scissors.

Onto the fabric

Fabric you can see through: page 3 taped to a sunny window, the fabric over it; trace.

Other fabric: dressmaker's carbon paper, colored side down, page 3 on top; trace with a ballpoint.

Iron-on pen: go over page 4, the mirrored page, and press it ink side down as the pen's packet says. The lines stay.

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**, 2 strands
   Doily edge, scallops

2. **Satin stitch**, 2 strands
   Solid checks, flutes, lit half, flutes, shaded half, icing, hole, candles, candle twists, flames



3. **Straight stitch**
   1 strand: open checks
   2 strands: wicks, flame hearts



4. **Stem stitch**, 2 strands
   Icing edge, foot of the cake

5. **Split stitch**
   1 strand: grooves, candle edges, candle feet
   2 strands: smoke

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

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6 inch hoop

A number is a color of the list. Fine lines show which way the stitches lie: do not stitch them.



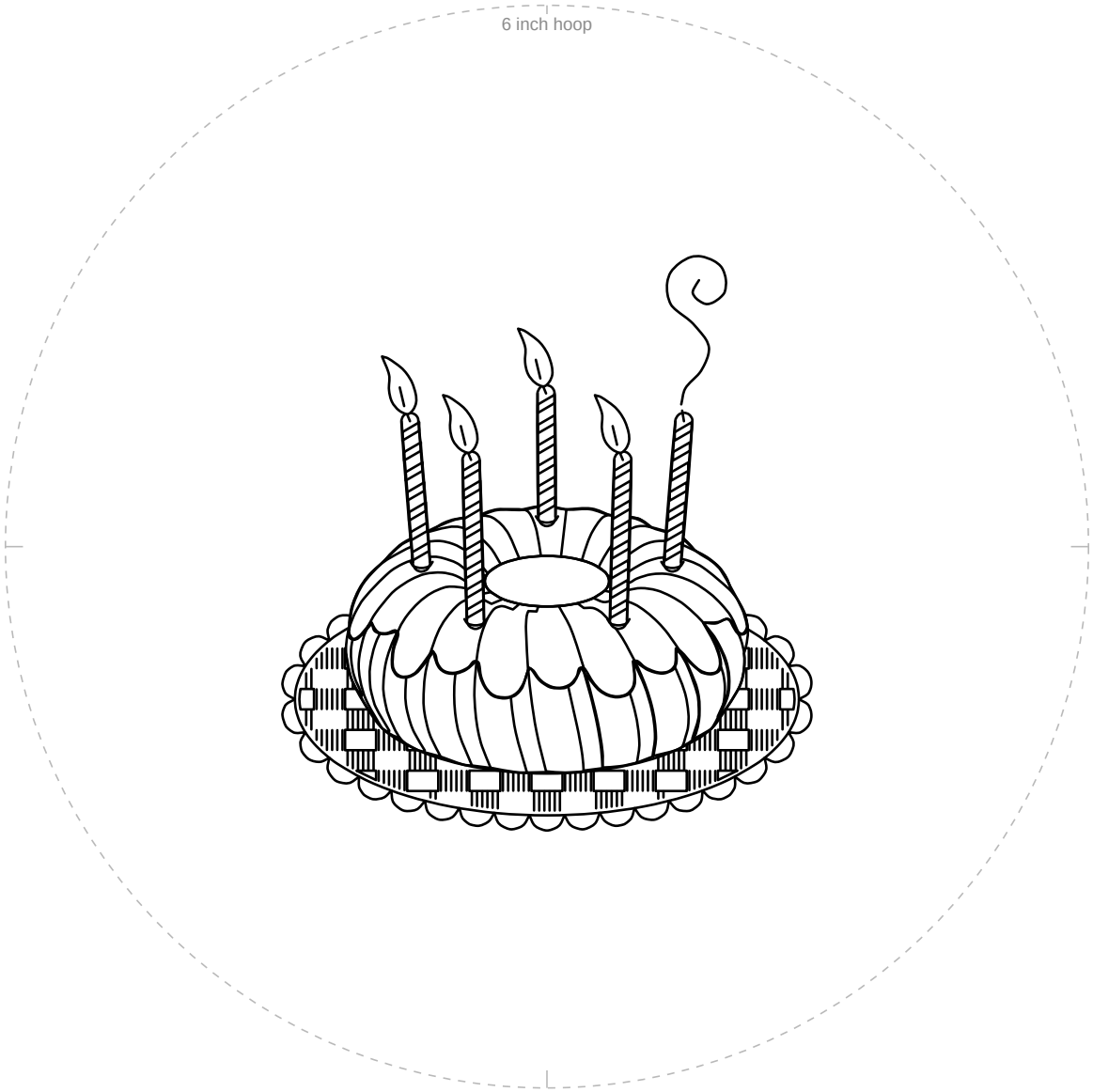
1 DMC 931 Medium Antique Blue
2 DMC 3831 Dark Raspberry
3 DMC 436 Tan
4 DMC 434 Light Brown
5 DMC 938 Ultra Dark Coffee Brown
6 DMC BLANC White
7 DMC 3820 Dark Straw

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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.



1 in
25.4 mm

Not 1 inch (25.4 mm)? Print again at 100%.

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6 inch hoop

For an iron-on pen only. Go over the lines, press ink side down.



1 in
25.4 mm

Not 1 inch (25.4 mm)? Print again at 100%.

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