Four seasons birds in a ring

Sized for a 6 inch hoop (15 cm). The stitched design is about 4.2 × 4.7 in (10.7 × 11.9 cm).



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

Stitch in this order

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

1. **Long and short stitch**, 1 strand
   Branches, bodies, breasts, shoulders, caps, bellies
2. **Satin stitch**, 2 strands
   Blossom petals, buds, bud cups, cherries, berries, and 9 more
3. **Fishbone stitch**, 2 strands
   Leaves, autumn leaves
4. **Stem stitch**, strands by part on page 2
   Twigs, cherry stalks, fir sprigs
5. **Straight stitch**, strands by part on page 2
   Blossom hearts, cherry lights, leaf veins, and 4 more
6. **Back stitch**, 1 strand
   Snow shadows
7. **Split stitch**, 1 strand
   Feather lines, outlines
8. **French knot**, 1 strand, two wraps
   Blossom hearts

Floss

- **1 DMC 433 Medium Brown** Branches (middle) and 3 more parts
- **2 DMC 801 Dark Coffee Brown**
  Wing coverts (light) and 9 more parts
- **3 DMC 435 Very Light Brown**
  Bodies (shade 7 of 11) and 5 more parts
- **4 DMC 3326 Light Rose** Blossom petals (middle) and 2 more parts
- **5 DMC 3722 Medium Shell Pink**
  Blossom hearts (darker) and 3 more parts
- **6 DMC 819 Light Baby Pink** Wing bars (middle) and 2 more parts
- **7 DMC 783 Medium Topaz**
  Bodies (shade 10 of 11) and 5 more parts
- **8 DMC 3346 Hunter Green**
  Bodies (shade 5 of 11) and 6 more parts
- **9 DMC 3347 Medium Yellow Green**
  Bodies (shade 8 of 11) and 3 more parts
- **10 DMC 890 Ultra Dark Pistachio Green**
  Tails (middle) and 7 more parts
- **11 DMC 350 Medium Coral** Breasts (shade 5 of 9), cherries (light)
- **12 DMC 815 Medium Garnet** Cherries (dark) and 2 more parts
- **13 DMC 347 Very Dark Salmon** Berries and 3 more parts
- **14 DMC 3865 Winter White** Wing bars (light) and 5 more parts
- **15 DMC 919 Red Copper**
  Autumn leaves (darkest) and 3 more parts
- **16 DMC 921 Copper** Autumn leaves (dark), breasts (shade 4 of 9)
- **17 DMC 3822 Light Straw**
  Bodies (shade 11 of 11) and 2 more parts
- **18 DMC 932 Light Antique Blue**
  Snow shadows, bellies (darker) and 1 more part
- **19 DMC 336 Navy Blue**
  Tails and wing coverts (dark) and 5 more parts
- **20 DMC 334 Medium Baby Blue**
  Bodies (shade 9 of 11) and 2 more parts
- **21 DMC 312 Very Dark Baby Blue**
  Bodies (shade 6 of 11) and 3 more parts
- **22 DMC 939 Very Dark Navy Blue** Eyes
- **23 DMC 922 Light Copper** Breasts (shade 7 of 9)

Three ways to transfer the pattern

1. **Fabric you can see through**
   Tape page 3 to a sunny window or lay it on a light box, tape the fabric over it and trace the lines with a sharp pencil or a water-soluble pen.
2. **Fabric you cannot see through**
   Lay dressmaker's carbon paper colored side down on the fabric with page 3 on top, tape the layers and trace the lines firmly with a ballpoint pen.
3. **Iron-on: the lines stay**
   Go over the lines of page 4, the mirrored page, with an iron-on transfer pen, lay it ink side down on the fabric and press with a dry iron, as the pen's packet says.

Pages 3 and 4 are the pattern at actual size. Print them 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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Four seasons birds in a ring

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 433 Medium Brown	9	DMC 3347 Medium Yellow Green	17	DMC 3822 Light Straw
2	DMC 801 Dark Coffee Brown	10	DMC 890 Ultra Dark Pistachio Green	18	DMC 932 Light Antique Blue
3	DMC 435 Very Light Brown	11	DMC 350 Medium Coral	19	DMC 336 Navy Blue
4	DMC 3326 Light Rose	12	DMC 815 Medium Garnet	20	DMC 334 Medium Baby Blue
5	DMC 3722 Medium Shell Pink	13	DMC 347 Very Dark Salmon	21	DMC 312 Very Dark Baby Blue
6	DMC 819 Light Baby Pink	14	DMC 3865 Winter White	22	DMC 939 Very Dark Navy Blue
7	DMC 783 Medium Topaz	15	DMC 919 Red Copper	23	DMC 922 Light Copper
8	DMC 3346 Hunter Green	16	DMC 921 Copper		

How many strands

Stem stitch. 2 or 3 strands: twigs; 2 strands: cherry stalks, fir sprigs.
Straight stitch. 2 strands: fir sprigs, legs, eye lights, feet; 1 or 2 strands: cherry lights; 1 strand: blossom hearts, leaf veins.

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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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Four seasons birds in a ring

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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