Greek key frame

6 inch (15 cm) hoop, 3.9 × 4 in (9.9 × 10.2 cm)



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

What you need

A 6 inch (15 cm) hoop.

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

An embroidery needle, size 9.

15 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. **Stem stitch**, 3 strands, colors 2, 9
   Rails, vine

2. **Satin stitch**
   2 strands, colors 1, 2, 3
   Greek key, corner stars



3. **Fishbone stitch**
   2 strands, colors 5, 6, 7, 8
   Leaves



4. **Long and short stitch**
   1 strand, colors 10, 11, 12, 14, 15
   Bracts



5. **Split stitch**
   1 strand, colors 1, 13, 14
   Key edges, bract edges, bract veins

6. **Straight stitch**, 3 strands, color 3
   Flower stars



7. **French knot**
   2 strands, two wraps, color 4
   Knots of the corner stars, star hearts



Take out lines that still show, press face down, finish the hoop or sew a pillow.

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



1	DMC B5200 Snow White	6	DMC 986 Very Dark Forest Green	11	DMC 3607 Light Plum
2	DMC 3820 Dark Straw	7	DMC 895 Very Dark Hunter Green	12	DMC 3609 Ultra Light Plum
3	DMC 746 Off White	8	DMC 3348 Light Yellow Green	13	DMC 915 Dark Plum
4	DMC 3822 Light Straw	9	DMC 841 Light Beige Brown	14	DMC 917 Medium Plum
5	DMC 988 Medium Forest Green	10	DMC 3608 Very Light Plum	15	DMC 718 Plum

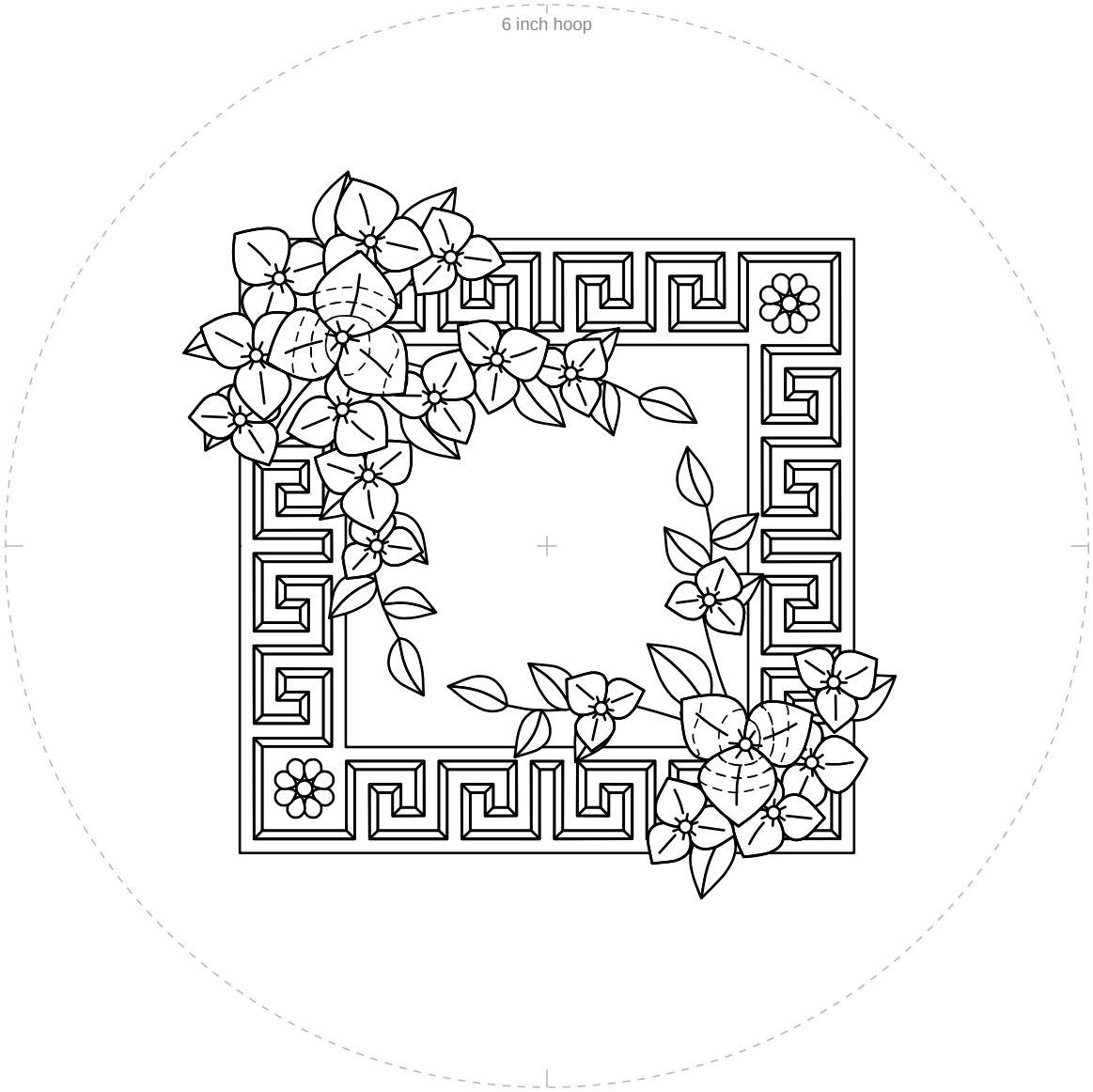
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6 inch hoop

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.

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%.

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