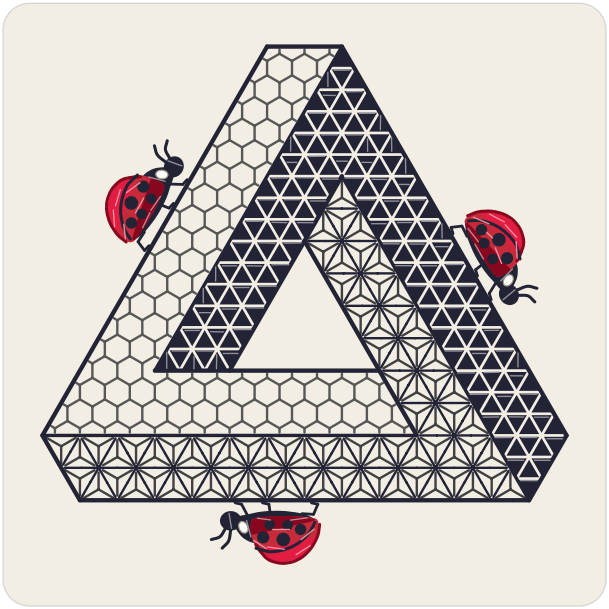
Impossible triangle

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

Embroidery needles, size 9, and size 5 for 4 strands.

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.

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. **Straight stitch**, 3 strands, color 2
   Ladybug legs



2. **Satin stitch**, 2 strands, colors 2, 7
   Satin triangles, ladybug head, ladybug shield, ladybug belly, ladybug spots, ladybug cheek



3. **Long and short stitch**
   1 strand, colors 4, 5, 6
   Ladybug shell



4. **Back stitch**, colors 1, 2, 3
   2 strands: hemp leaf spokes, hemp leaf grid
   1 strand: honeycomb

5. **Whipped back stitch**, color 2
   2 strands: inner edges
   4 strands: outline

6. **Split stitch**, 1 strand, colors 2, 5
   Ladybug shell edge, ladybug wing line, ladybug feelers

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

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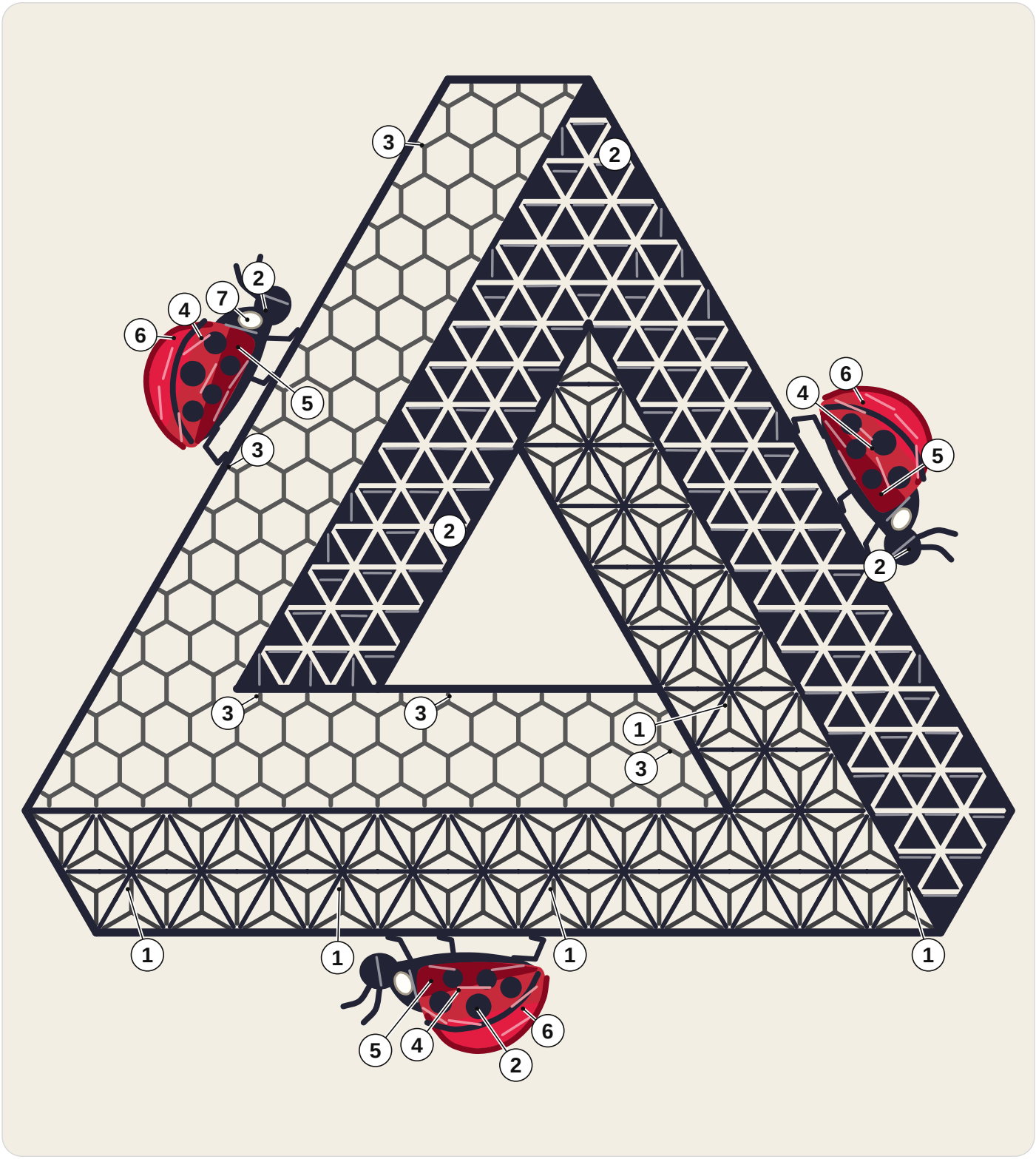
Impossible triangle

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 3799 Very Dark Pewter Gray
2 DMC 310 Black
3 DMC 413 Dark Pewter Gray
4 DMC 321 Red
5 DMC 815 Medium Garnet
6 DMC 666 Bright Red
7 DMC BLANC White

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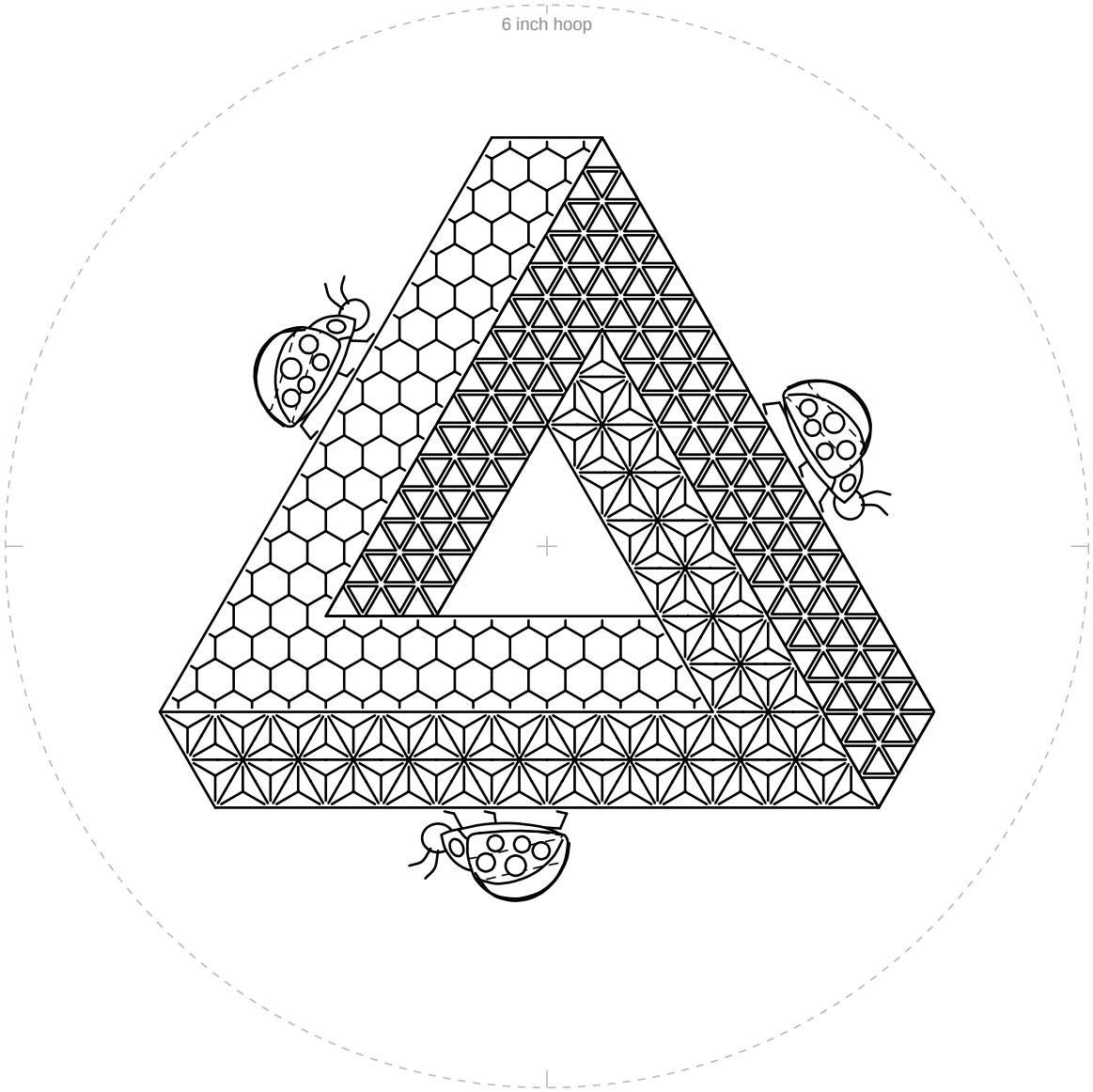
Impossible triangle

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 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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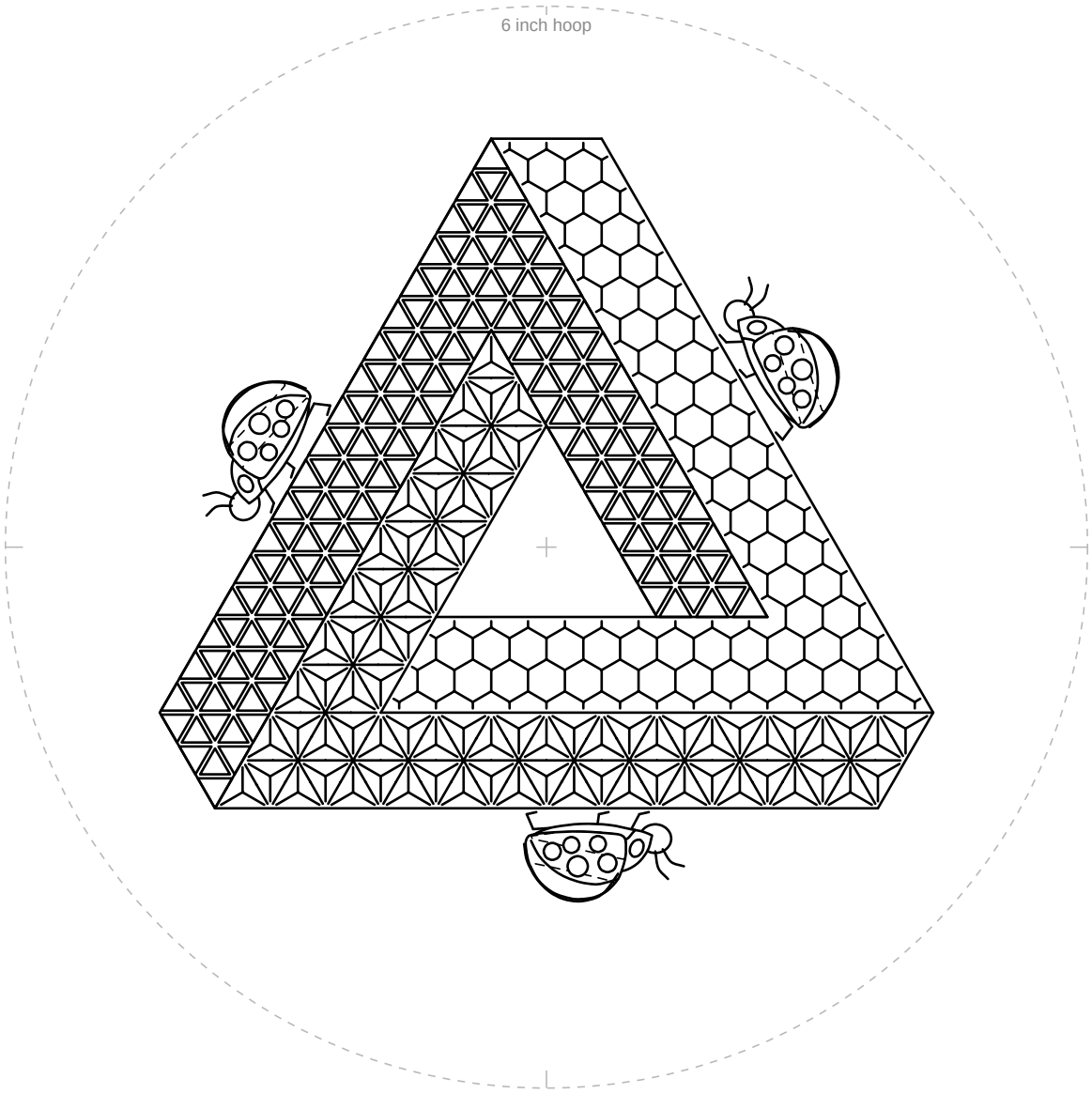
Impossible triangle

6 inch hoop

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



1 in
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