Labor of love

6 inch (15 cm) hoop, 4.6 × 4.7 in (11.7 × 11.9 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.

23 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. **Stem stitch**
   3 strands: legs
   4 strands: the long straw

2. **Long and short stitch**, 1 strand
   Boughs, laurel leaves, turned leaves, nest, nest hollow, eggs, tail, belly, back, wing feathers, small wing feathers, shoulder, head, throat, eyebrow, eye stripe



3. **Satin stitch**, 2 strands
   Berries, eye ring, eye, bill, lettering



4. **Split stitch**, 1 strand
   Leaf ribs, egg edges, feather edges

5. **Stem stitch**, 2 strands
   Berry stalks, nest straw, loose straws, feet

6. **Straight stitch**
   1 strand: berry highlights, feather bars
   2 strands: covert tips, eye highlight



7. **French knot**, 1 strand, two wraps
   Egg speckles



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

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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 801 Dark Coffee Brown	9	DMC 3347 Medium Yellow Green	17	DMC 939 Very Dark Navy Blue
2	DMC 3031 Very Dark Mocha Brown	10	DMC 472 Ultra Light Avocado Green	18	DMC 931 Medium Antique Blue
3	DMC 433 Medium Brown	11	DMC 471 Very Light Avocado Green	19	DMC 3865 Winter White
4	DMC 435 Very Light Brown	12	DMC 782 Dark Topaz	20	DMC 738 Very Light Tan
5	DMC 890 Ultra Dark Pistachio Green	13	DMC 780 Ultra Very Dark Topaz	21	DMC 712 Cream
6	DMC 895 Very Dark Hunter Green	14	DMC 783 Medium Topaz	22	DMC 437 Light Tan
7	DMC 3345 Dark Hunter Green	15	DMC 3822 Light Straw	23	DMC 3064 Desert Sand
8	DMC 3346 Hunter Green	16	DMC 3750 Very Dark Antique Blue		

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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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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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