Life is too short

6 inch (15 cm) hoop, 4.6 × 4.5 in (11.7 × 11.4 cm)



Colors by number: page 2.
Fabric: pale blue cotton or linen.

What you need

A 6 inch (15 cm) hoop.

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

An embroidery needle, size 9.

20 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. **Long and short stitch**
   1 strand, colors 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 20
   Grass, tail, far legs, coat, near hind leg, near front leg, kerchief (color 11), ear, butterfly wings, poppy petals



2. **Fishbone stitch**
   2 strands, colors 1, 3, 19
   Leaves



3. **Satin stitch**
   2 strands, colors 3, 10, 13, 14, 18
   Kerchief (color 13), eye, nose, butterfly body, daisy petals, poppy centers, letters



4. **Stem stitch**, colors 2, 4, 6, 10, 19
   3 strands: grass edge
   1 strand: brow, mouth
   2 strands: stems

5. **Back stitch**, 1 strand, color 18
   Feelers

6. **Straight stitch**
   colors 1, 2, 3, 4, 10, 14, 18
   1 strand: toes, eye highlight, lines of the poppy centers
   2 strands: grass blades



7. **Split stitch**, colors 6, 12, 16, 18
   1 strand: kerchief edge, ear edge, poppy edges
   2 strands: wing edges

8. **French knot**
   1 strand, two wraps, colors 14, 15, 16
   Kerchief dots, daisy centers



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 3347 Medium Yellow Green	8	DMC 301 Medium Mahogany	15	DMC 725 Medium Light Topaz
2	DMC 3345 Dark Hunter Green	9	DMC 402 Very Light Mahogany	16	DMC 782 Dark Topaz
3	DMC 3346 Hunter Green	10	DMC 3371 Black Brown	17	DMC 726 Light Topaz
4	DMC 3348 Light Yellow Green	11	DMC 349 Dark Coral	18	DMC 823 Dark Navy Blue
5	DMC 3776 Light Mahogany	12	DMC 817 Very Dark Coral Red	19	DMC 319 Very Dark Pistachio Green
6	DMC 300 Very Dark Mahogany	13	DMC 351 Coral	20	DMC 352 Light Coral
7	DMC 400 Dark Mahogany	14	DMC B5200 Snow White		

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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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