Mama bird with peonies and a swallow

Sized for a 6 inch hoop (15 cm). The stitched design is about 4.6 × 4.7 in (11.7 × 11.9 cm).



Which color goes where: by number on page 2.

Stitch in this order

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

1. **Satin stitch**, 2 strands
   Stems, ribbon underside, tail, wing shoulders, throat, bill, sepals, daisy petals, words
2. **Long and short stitch**, 1 strand
   Ribbon tails, wing feathers, back, head, peony buds, peony petals
3. **Fishbone stitch**, 2 strands
   Leaves
4. **Split stitch**, strands by part on page 2
   Stem outlines, leaf outlines, swallow outlines, petal outlines, words
5. **Back stitch**, strands by part on page 2
   Ribbon outlines, leaf outlines
6. **Straight stitch**, strands by part on page 2
   Stamens, ribbon shading
7. **Stem stitch**, 6 strands
   Ribbon face edge

Floss

- **1 DMC 3810 Dark Turquoise**
  Stems, wing shoulders and tail (lighter), sepals, wing feathers, back and head (middle)
- **2 DMC 310 Black**
  Petal outlines, words, leaf outlines and swallow outlines and 5 more parts
- **3 DMC 780 Ultra Very Dark Topaz**
  Ribbon underside, ribbon tails, daisy hearts and peony hearts (darkest)
- **4 DMC 3822 Light Straw**
  Ribbon tails, daisy hearts and peony hearts (lightest), stamens (lighter)
- **5 DMC 783 Medium Topaz**
  Ribbon tails, daisy hearts and peony hearts (dark)
- **6 DMC 3820 Dark Straw**
  Ribbon tails, daisy hearts and peony hearts (light), stamens (darker)
- **7 DMC 3808 Ultra Very Dark Turquoise**
  Leaves, stems, wing shoulders and tail (darker), back, wing feathers and head (dark)
- **8 DMC 597 Turquoise**
  Leaves (lighter), wing feathers, back and head (light)
- **9 DMC 304 Medium Red**
  Peony petals and peony buds (dark), throat
- **10 DMC 712 Cream** Daisy petals and eye (lighter)
- **11 DMC 814 Dark Garnet**
  Peony petals and peony buds (darkest)
- **12 DMC 350 Medium Coral**
  Peony petals and peony buds (light)
- **13 DMC 352 Light Coral**
  Peony petals and peony buds (lightest)
- **14 DMC 738 Very Light Tan** Daisy petals (darker)
- **15 DMC 435 Very Light Brown** Ribbon shading

Stitches, continued

8. **French knot**, strands by part on page 2, two wraps
   Eye, daisy hearts, stamens, peony hearts

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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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 3810 Dark Turquoise	**6**	DMC 3820 Dark Straw	**11**	DMC 814 Dark Garnet
2	DMC 310 Black	**7**	DMC 3808 Ultra Very Dark Turquoise	**12**	DMC 350 Medium Coral
3	DMC 780 Ultra Very Dark Topaz	**8**	DMC 597 Turquoise	**13**	DMC 352 Light Coral
4	DMC 3822 Light Straw	**9**	DMC 304 Medium Red	**14**	DMC 738 Very Light Tan
5	DMC 783 Medium Topaz	**10**	DMC 712 Cream	**15**	DMC 435 Very Light Brown

How many strands

Split stitch. 1 or 2 strands: stem outlines, leaf outlines, swallow outlines, petal outlines; 1 strand: words.
Back stitch. 3 or 4 strands: ribbon outlines; 1 strand: leaf outlines.
Straight stitch. 3 strands: ribbon shading; 1 or 2 strands: stamens.
French knot. 2 strands: daisy hearts, peony hearts; 1 or 2 strands: eye, stamens.

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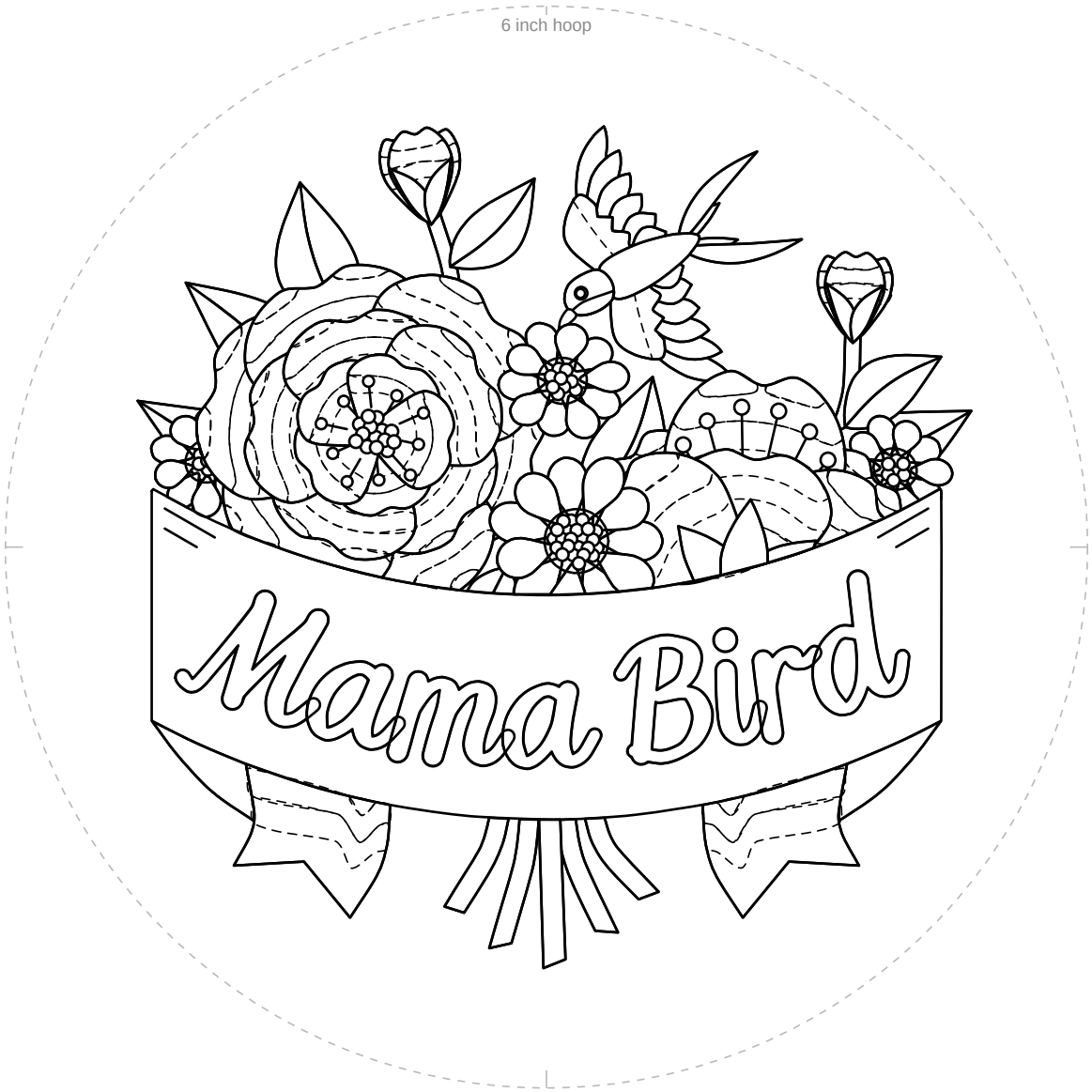
6 inch hoop

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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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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