Mardi Gras alligator with saxophone

Sized for a 6 inch hoop (15 cm). The stitched design is about 4.3 × 4.7 in (10.9 × 11.9 cm).



Which color goes where: by number on page 2.
Fabric: black cotton or linen.

Stitch in this order

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

1. **Long and short stitch**, 1 strand
   Legs, feet, arms, tail, body, lower jaw, head, hands
2. **Satin stitch**, strands by part on page 2
   Belly, mask ribbons, teeth, nostril, eyelid, horn mouth, fingers
3. **Padded satin stitch**, 2 strands
   Belly, scutes, collar, mask, saxophone, keys
4. **Straight stitch**, strands by part on page 2
   Claws, belly bands, lashes
5. **Split stitch**, 2 strands
   Smile
6. **Stem stitch**, strands by part on page 2
   Shut eye, bell scroll
7. **Couching**, strands by part on page 2
   Mask edge, gold edge, gold rings
8. **Back stitch**, 1 strand
   Key edges, bead strings
9. **Lazy daisy stitch**, 1 strand
   Bell leaves
10. **French knot**, 2 strands, two wraps
    Collar bells, mask jewels, beads

Floss

- **1 DMC 3818 Ultra Very Dark Emerald Green**
  Body, legs, arms, tail, feet, head and hands (dark)
- **2 DMC 890 Ultra Dark Pistachio Green**
  Body, tail, legs, arms, head, feet and hands (darkest), smile and nostril
- **3 DMC 909 Very Dark Emerald Green**
  Body, tail, arms, legs, head, feet and hands (middle)
- **4 DMC 3865 Winter White** Teeth and claws
- **5 DMC 911 Medium Emerald Green**
  Tail, head, arms, body, legs, feet and hands (light), scutes (darker) and 2 more parts
- **6 DMC 913 Medium Nile Green**
  Scutes (lighter), body, head, tail, legs and arms (lightest), eyelid and 5 more parts
- **7 DMC 16 Light Chartreuse**
  Belly (darker), lower jaw (middle)
- **8 DMC 989 Forest Green** Lower jaw (dark), belly bands
- **9 DMC 772 Very Light Yellow Green**
  Belly (lighter), lower jaw (light)
- **10 DMC 552 Medium Violet**
  Collar and mask ribbons (darker), mask, beads (darkest)
- **11 DMC 3822 Light Straw**
  Saxophone (light), beads (lightest), keys, collar bells (lighter)
- **12 DMC 3820 Dark Straw**
  Saxophone (middle), gold edge and collar (lighter) and 3 more parts
- **13 DMC 554 Light Violet**
  Beads (light), mask ribbons (lighter), collar bells (darker)
- **14 DMC 310 Black** Shut eye and lashes
- **15 DMC 780 Ultra Very Dark Topaz**
  Bead strings, saxophone (dark), gold edge (darker) and 6 more parts
- **16 DMC 550 Very Dark Violet** Horn mouth (darker)

Three ways onto dark fabric

1. **Light shines through it**
   Lay page 3 on a bright light box, tape the fabric over it and trace the lines with a white marking pencil or pen.
2. **No light shines through**
   Print page 3 on a sticky wash-away sheet, smooth it onto fabric that can be washed, stitch through both and rinse it away.
3. **White or yellow carbon paper**
   Lay it colored side down on the fabric with page 3 on top, tape the layers and trace firmly with a ballpoint pen. Go over a faint line with a white pencil.

Page 3 is the pattern at actual size (page 4 is its mirror, for an iron-on pen on a light fabric). Print it 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

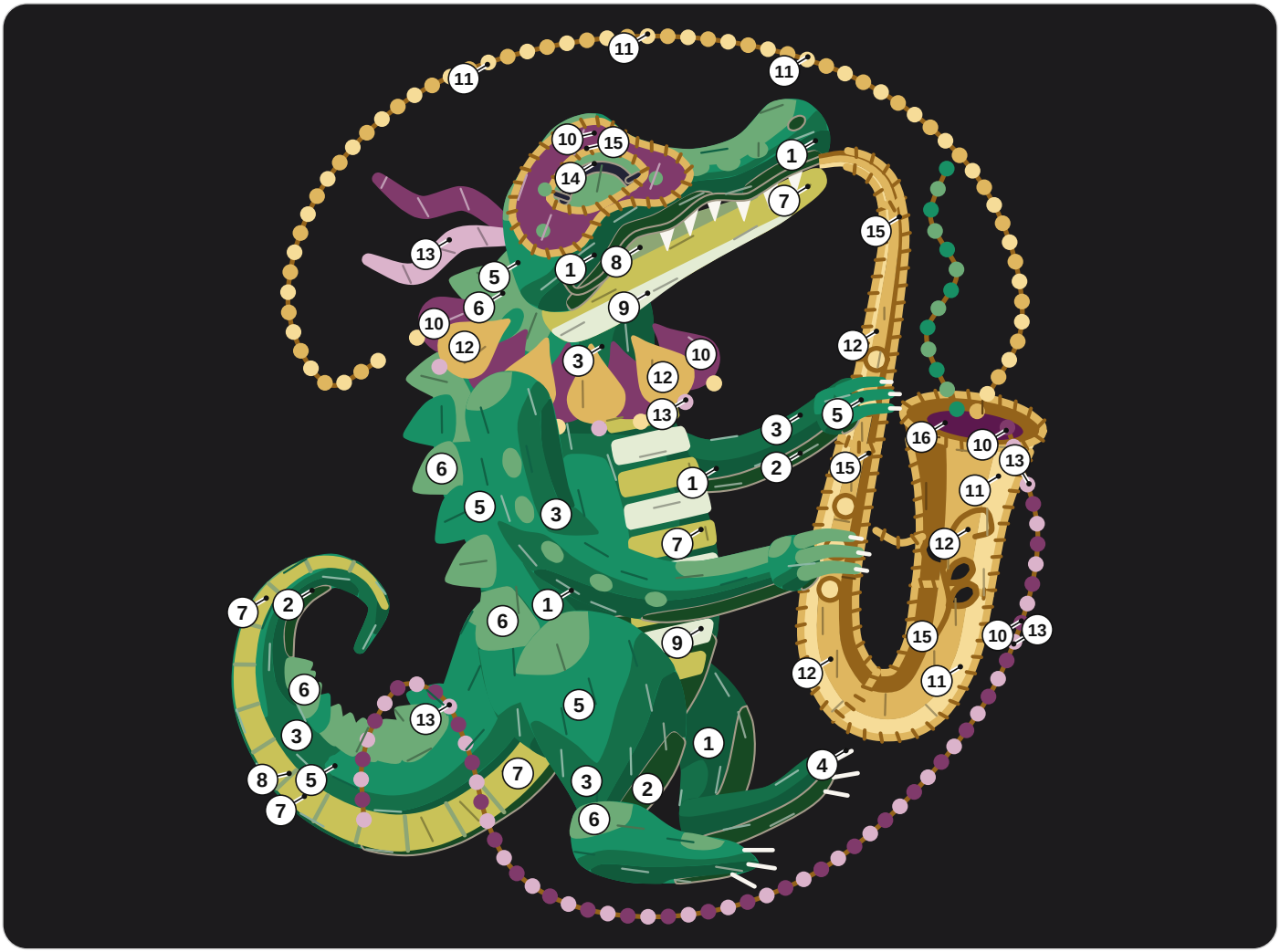
Floss is six strands. Cut 18 inches (45 cm), pull out the number given one at a time, and lay them together.

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. Each small loop is one lazy daisy: come up at its point. 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 3818 Ultra Very Dark Emerald G...	**7**	DMC 16 Light Chartreuse	**13**	DMC 554 Light Violet
2	DMC 890 Ultra Dark Pistachio Green	**8**	DMC 989 Forest Green	**14**	DMC 310 Black
3	DMC 909 Very Dark Emerald Green	**9**	DMC 772 Very Light Yellow Green	**15**	DMC 780 Ultra Very Dark Topaz
4	DMC 3865 Winter White	**10**	DMC 552 Medium Violet	**16**	DMC 550 Very Dark Violet
5	DMC 911 Medium Emerald Green	**11**	DMC 3822 Light Straw		
6	DMC 913 Medium Nile Green	**12**	DMC 3820 Dark Straw		

How many strands

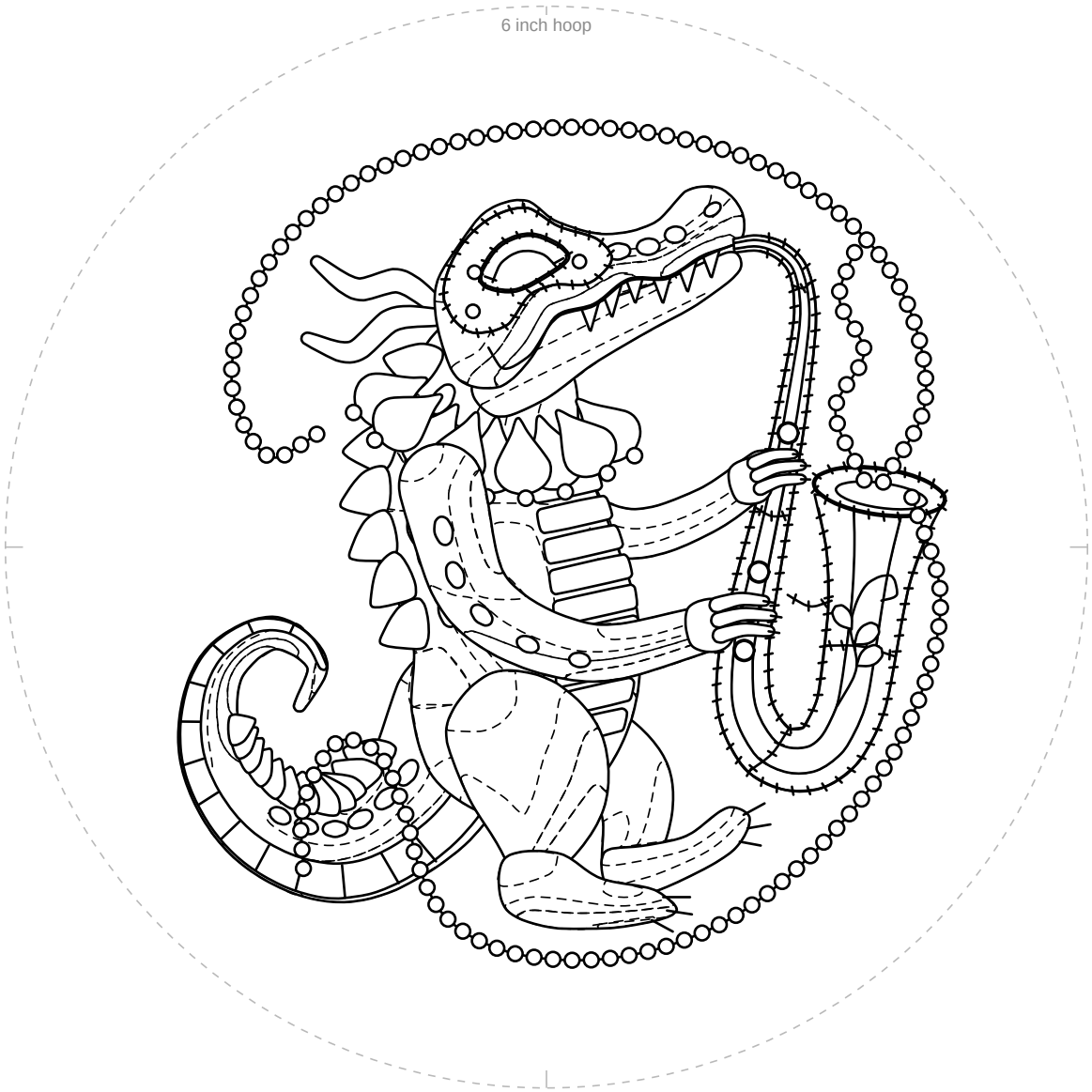
Satin stitch. 2 strands: belly, mask ribbons, eyelid, horn mouth, fingers; 1 strand: teeth, nostril.
Straight stitch. 2 or 3 strands: claws; 2 strands: belly bands, lashes.
Stem stitch. 5 strands: shut eye; 2 strands: bell scroll.
Couching. 5 strands: gold rings; 4 or 5 strands: gold edge; 3 or 4 strands: mask edge.

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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

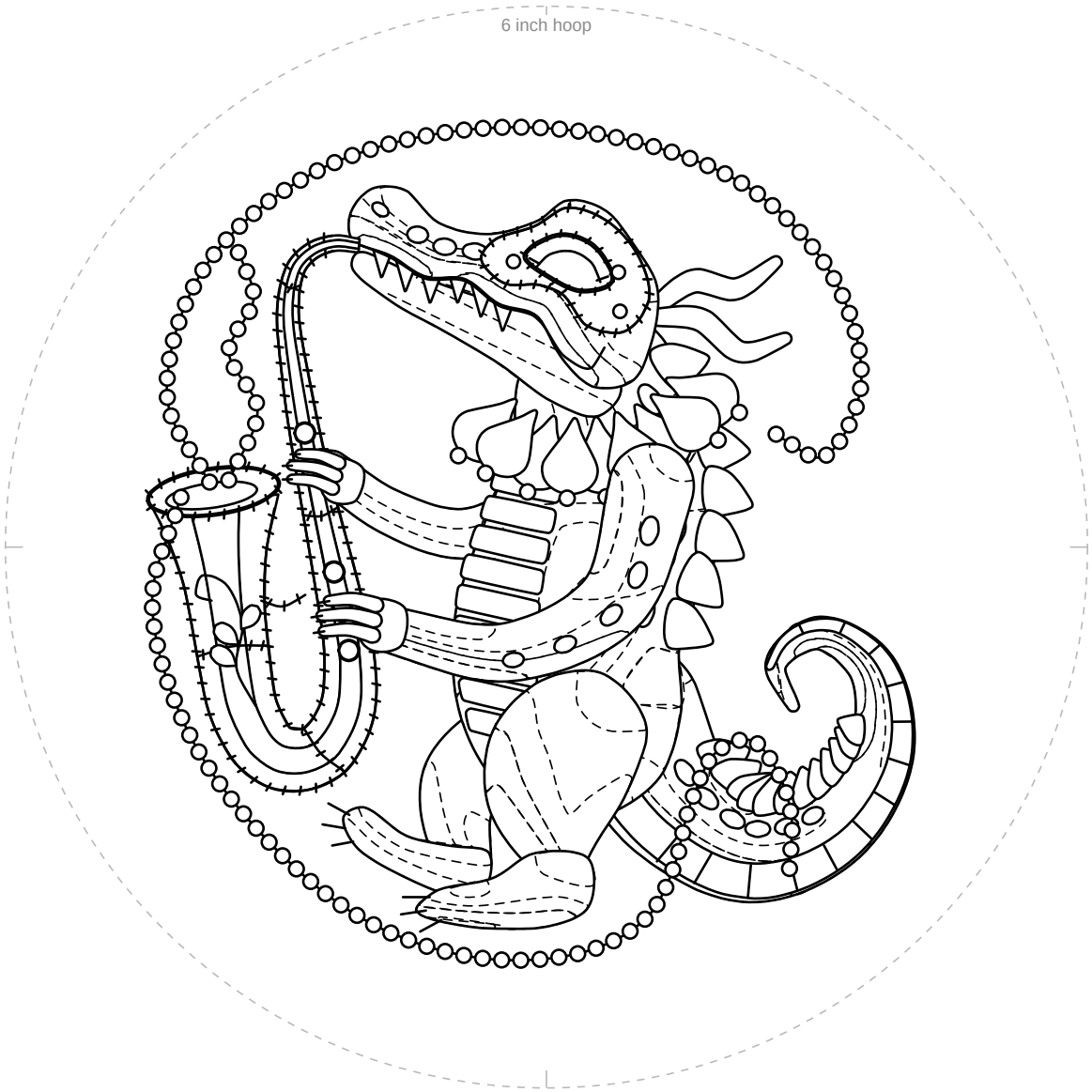
Check square: 1 inch (25.4 mm) on each side.
If it measures anything else, print again at 100% with scaling off.

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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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