May in laurel

6 inch (15 cm) hoop, 4.8 × 4.8 in (12.2 × 12.2 cm)



Colors by number: page 2.
Fabric: dark green cotton or linen.

What you need

A 6 inch (15 cm) hoop.

A 9 inch (23 cm) square of dark green cotton or linen.

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

18 colors of floss (page 2): one skein of each color (an estimate from the drawing's lines and shapes).

A white pencil, and small scissors.

Onto the fabric

Fabric that lets light through: page 3 on a bright light, the fabric over it; trace with a white pencil.

Other fabric: print page 3 on a sticky wash-away sheet, stick it on, stitch through it and rinse it away.

Or white or yellow carbon paper, colored side down, page 3 on top; trace with a ballpoint and go over a faint line with a white pencil.

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**
   4 strands: woody shoots
   2 strands: flower stalks

2. **Fishbone stitch**, 2 strands
   Blue-green leaves, olive leaves



3. **Long and short stitch**
   1 strand
   Laurel cups



4. **Satin stitch**, 2 strands
   Fluted buds, bee wings, bee stripes, bee head, letters



5. **Stem stitch**, 1 strand
   Lines of the blue-green leaves, lines of the olive leaves

6. **Straight stitch**
   1 strand: green cup, stamens
   2 strands: maroon zigzag, bee legs



7. **Split stitch**
   1 strand: cup edges, wing edges
   2 strands: letter edges

8. **Back stitch**, 1 strand
   Wing veins

9. **French knot**, two wraps
   1 strand: dimples
   2 strands: cup hearts



10. **Turkey work**, 2 strands
    Bee coat



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 840 Medium Beige Brown	7	DMC 3348 Light Yellow Green	13	DMC 819 Light Baby Pink
2	DMC 501 Dark Blue Green	8	DMC 3687 Mauve	14	DMC 746 Off White
3	DMC 502 Blue Green	9	DMC 3685 Very Dark Mauve	15	DMC 902 Very Dark Garnet
4	DMC 504 Very Light Blue Green	10	DMC 3688 Medium Mauve	16	DMC 3752 Very Light Antique Blue
5	DMC 3346 Hunter Green	11	DMC 3689 Light Mauve	17	DMC 3371 Black Brown
6	DMC 3347 Medium Yellow Green	12	DMC 3865 Winter White	18	DMC 3820 Dark Straw

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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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