May birth flower, lily of the valley

6 inch (15 cm) hoop, 3.9 × 3.6 in (9.9 × 9.1 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.

An embroidery needle, size 9.

15 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.

The back is seen: no knots. Start with tiny stitches; end around the backs of four or five stitches.

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. **Split stitch**, 2 strands
   Flower stalks

2. **Long and short stitch**, 1 strand
   Leaves, flower stems, turned leaf edge, bells, sheath



3. **Satin stitch**, 2 strands
   Bell lips, buds, month



4. **Buttonhole stitch**, 2 strands
   Scalloped edge



5. **Stem stitch**
   2 strands: edge cord
   1 strand: leaf veins (colors 7 and 9)

6. **Split stitch**, 1 strand
   Leaf veins (colors 4, 7 and 9), bell mouths

Take out lines that still show, press face down, finish the hoop.

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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 BLANC White	**6**	DMC 988 Medium Forest Green	**11**	DMC 522 Fern Green
2	DMC ECRU Ecru	**7**	DMC 3364 Pine Green	**12**	DMC 523 Light Fern Green
3	DMC 3346 Hunter Green	**8**	DMC 3363 Medium Pine Green	**13**	DMC 524 Very Light Fern Green
4	DMC 895 Very Dark Hunter Green	**9**	DMC 3348 Light Yellow Green	**14**	DMC 3072 Very Light Beaver Gray
5	DMC 3345 Dark Hunter Green	**10**	DMC 772 Very Light Yellow Green	**15**	DMC 712 Cream

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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 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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