Merry in holly

6 inch (15 cm) hoop, 4.7 × 4.6 in (11.9 × 11.7 cm)



Colors by number: page 2.
Fabric: navy cotton or linen.

What you need

A 6 inch (15 cm) hoop.

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

Embroidery needles, size 9, and size 3 for 4 to 6 strands.

23 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. **Fly stitch**, 2 strands
   Fir needles (colors 2, 3 and 4)
2. **Stem stitch**, 2 strands
   Fir stems, berry twigs (color 1), lines of the sprig
3. **Straight stitch**, 2 strands
   Fir needles (color 3), berry twigs (color 1)
4. **Long and short stitch**, 1 strand
   Holly leaves, candle, flame, bow
5. **Satin stitch**, 2 strands
   Pine cones, cone scales, brass dish, brass cup, wax drips, candle top, ribbon tails, bow folds, words, sprig
6. **Stem stitch**
   1 strand: holly veins
   2 strands: dish rim (color 16)
7. **Couching**, 6 strands
   Finger loop
8. **Split stitch**
   1 strand: cone scale tips, dish rim (color 14), candle edge, wax edge, edges of the flame, lines of the bow folds
   2 strands: edges of the words
9. **Straight stitch**
   2 strands: candle rays
   1 strand: berry highlights
10. **Back stitch**
    2 strands: wick
    1 strand: ribbon edges
11. **Padded satin stitch**, 2 strands
    White berries, holly berries, bow knot
12. **French knot**, 1 strand, two wraps
    Berry ends, knots of the sprig

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 433 Medium Brown	9	DMC 988 Medium Forest Green	17	DMC 3820 Dark Straw
2	DMC 501 Dark Blue Green	10	DMC 319 Very Dark Pistachio Green	18	DMC 783 Medium Topaz
3	DMC 502 Blue Green	11	DMC 987 Dark Forest Green	19	DMC 746 Off White
4	DMC 503 Medium Blue Green	12	DMC 3348 Light Yellow Green	20	DMC 739 Ultra Very Light Tan
5	DMC BLANC White	13	DMC 898 Very Dark Coffee Brown	21	DMC 3801 Very Dark Melon
6	DMC 932 Light Antique Blue	14	DMC 435 Very Light Brown	22	DMC 815 Medium Garnet
7	DMC 3752 Very Light Antique Blue	15	DMC 437 Light Tan	23	DMC 321 Red
8	DMC 989 Forest Green	16	DMC 3822 Light 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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