Mouth open alligator head with flowers

6 inch (15 cm) hoop, 4.5 × 4.3 in (11.4 × 10.9 cm)



Colors by number: page 2.

What you need

A 6 inch (15 cm) hoop.

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

An embroidery needle, size 9.

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

A water-soluble pen, and small scissors.

Onto the fabric

Fabric you can see through: page 3 taped to a sunny window, the fabric over it; trace.

Other fabric: dressmaker's carbon paper, colored side down, page 3 on top; trace with a ballpoint.

Iron-on pen: go over page 4, the mirrored page, and press it ink side down as the pen's packet says. The lines stay.

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. **Straight stitch**, 1 strand
   Lines of the ferns
2. **Stem stitch**
   2 strands: fern stems
   3 strands: orange stems
3. **Long and short stitch**, 1 strand
   Throat, shaded plate, foot of the neck, carnation, mouth, magnolia petals, hibiscus petals, lower jaw, head, wren
4. **Satin stitch**, 2 strands
   Fishbone plate, flower stem, orange blossoms, orange buds, bud cups, magnolia cone, hibiscus center, hibiscus column, chin plates, teeth, eye, pupil, brow, nostril, wren tail, wren wing, wren bill
5. **Fishbone stitch**, 2 strands
   Crest leaves, stem leaves, carnation cup, collar leaves, orange leaves, magnolia leaves
6. **Trellis stitch**, 2 strands
   Cheek
7. **Chain stitch**
   3 strands: chain plate, collar line
   2 strands: throat line, jaw chain
8. **Stem stitch**
   3 strands: plate edges, neck edge, jaw edges, head edges, cheek edge, wren brow
   2 strands: throat ribs, magnolia edges, lip line, eye edge, wren legs
   1 strand: lines of the stem leaves, carnation edges, lines of the carnation cup, lines of the collar leaves, blossom edges
9. **Split stitch**, 1 strand
   Hibiscus edges, hibiscus veins, tooth edges, wren edge
10. **Fly stitch**, 2 strands
    Snout scales
11. **Straight stitch**
    3 strands: eye highlight
    2 strands: wren bars
12. **Lazy daisy stitch**, 2 strands
    Loops of the ferns
13. **French knot**, two wraps
    2 strands: knot plate, cone knots, cone tips
    1 strand: blossom centers, knots of the cheek, wren eye

Take out lines that still show, press face down, finish the hoop or sew a pillow.

In a 6 inch hoop the French knots are drawn smaller than about 2 mm (a little over 1/16 in). Use one strand of floss for them there, or choose a larger 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 3364 Pine Green	8	DMC 934 Black Avocado Green	15	DMC 3042 Light Antique Violet
2	DMC 3362 Dark Pine Green	9	DMC 3012 Medium Khaki Green	16	DMC 3685 Very Dark Mauve
3	DMC 922 Light Copper	10	DMC 920 Medium Copper	17	DMC 3687 Mauve
4	DMC 918 Dark Red Copper	11	DMC 3011 Dark Khaki Green	18	DMC 3865 Winter White
5	DMC 3047 Light Yellow Beige	12	DMC 3740 Dark Antique Violet	19	DMC 676 Light Old Gold
6	DMC 3013 Light Khaki Green	13	DMC 3829 Very Dark Old Gold	20	DMC 3689 Light Mauve
7	DMC 3363 Medium Pine Green	14	DMC 154 Very Dark Grape	21	DMC 3688 Medium Mauve

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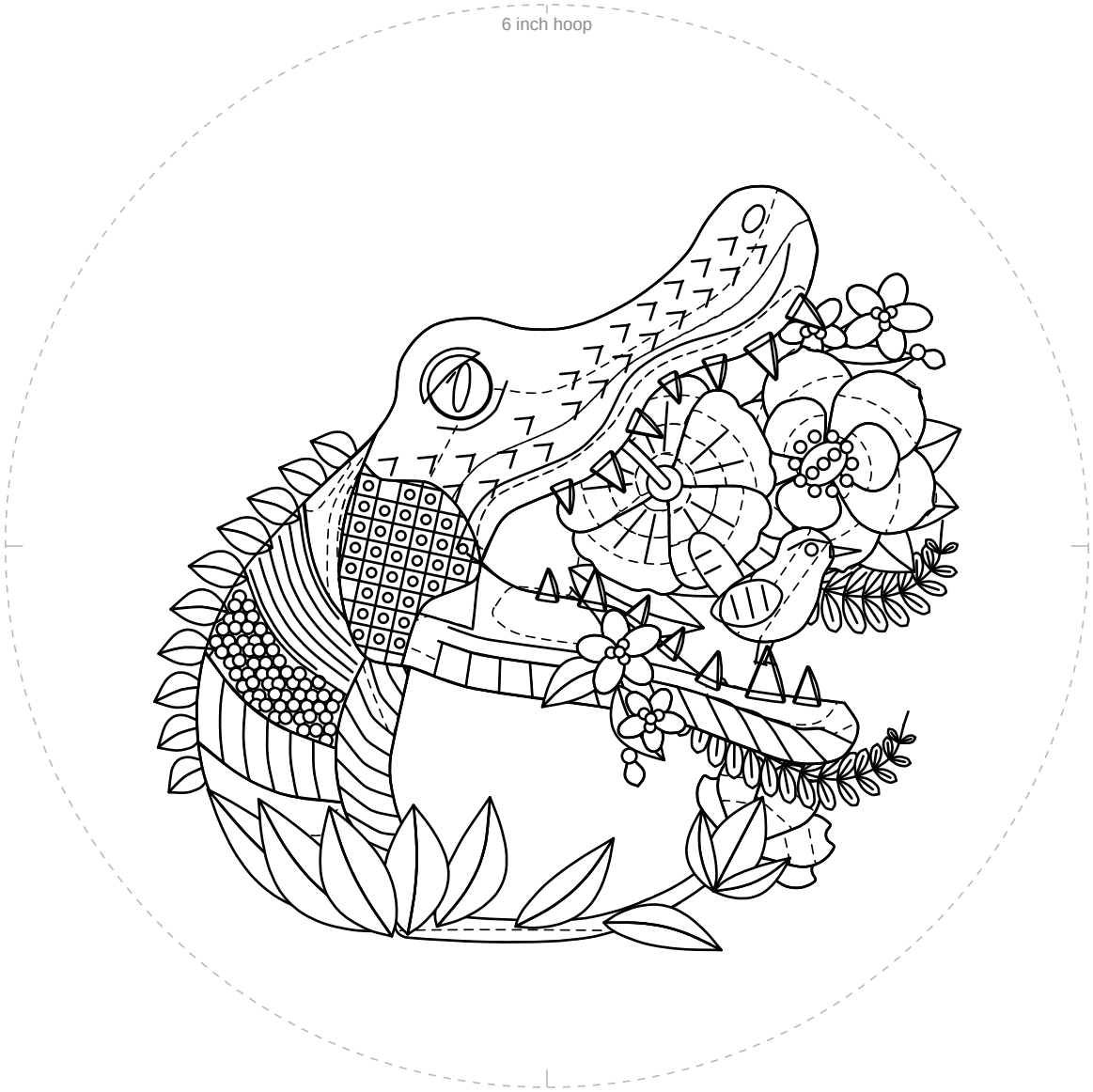
6 inch hoop

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 loop is one lazy daisy, begun at its point; 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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6 inch hoop

For an iron-on pen only. Go over the lines, press ink side down.



1 in
25.4 mm

Not 1 inch (25.4 mm)? Print again at 100%.

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