My first Christmas with a nativity scene

6 inch (15 cm) hoop, 4.9 × 4.9 in (12.4 × 12.4 cm)



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

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.

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.

Buy: 23 colors of floss (page 2), one skein of each color (an estimate from the drawing's lines and shapes), embroidery needles size 9, and size 5 for 4 strands, a 6 inch (15 cm) hoop, a 9 inch (23 cm) square of indigo cotton or linen, a white pencil.

Stitch in this order

Where a stitch page says otherwise, follow this list.

1. **Split stitch**, 2 strands
   Halos

2. **Stem stitch**, 3 strands
   Staffs, lines of the manger

3. **Long and short stitch**, 1 strand
   Hills, field, roof, gown (color 17), mantle, robe (color 4), cloak



4. **Satin stitch**, 2 strands
   Palm trunks, posts, braces, faces, gown (color 19), hands, beard, robe (color 8), manger, child, sheep, sheep faces, star, words



5. **Straight stitch**
   2 strands: palm leaves (colors 6 and 7), straw, grass
   1 strand: rays of the child, swaddling bands, small stars, star light
   4 strands: sheep legs, sheep ears



6. **Stem stitch**
   2 strands: edges of the hills, palm leaves (colors 6 and 7), field edge, gold arch
   3 strands: headband

7. **Split stitch**
   2 strands: ridge
   1 strand: mantle edge, cuffs, edges of the words

8. **French knot**
   2 strands, two wraps
   Dates, knots of the sheep



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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A number is a color of the list. Fine lines show which way the stitches lie: do not stitch them.



1	DMC 3750 Very Dark Antique Blue	**9**	DMC 500 Very Dark Blue Green	**17**	DMC 822 Light Beige Gray
2	DMC 930 Dark Antique Blue	**10**	DMC 501 Dark Blue Green	**18**	DMC 3752 Very Light Antique Blue
3	DMC 932 Light Antique Blue	**11**	DMC 3047 Light Yellow Beige	**19**	DMC 712 Cream
4	DMC 3862 Dark Mocha Beige	**12**	DMC 3045 Dark Yellow Beige	**20**	DMC 355 Dark Terra Cotta
5	DMC 3863 Medium Mocha Beige	**13**	DMC 3046 Medium Yellow Beige	**21**	DMC 3778 Light Terra Cotta
6	DMC 502 Blue Green	**14**	DMC 3822 Light Straw	**22**	DMC 801 Dark Coffee Brown
7	DMC 504 Very Light Blue Green	**15**	DMC 3820 Dark Straw	**23**	DMC 782 Dark Topaz
8	DMC 3830 Terra Cotta	**16**	DMC 950 Light Desert Sand		

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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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