Nativity shadowbox layered scene

6 inch (15 cm) hoop, 3.5 × 3.7 in (8.9 × 9.4 cm)



Colors by number: page 2.
Fabric: navy 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: 24 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 navy cotton or linen, a white pencil.

Stitch in this order

Where a stitch page says otherwise, follow this list.

1. **Long and short stitch**
   1 strand
   Far hills, middle hills, near hills, mary dress, mary cloak, mary sleeve, joseph tunic, joseph cloak, joseph sleeve, swaddling (color 13), bank



2. **Woven filling stitch**, 4 strands
   Manger



3. **Satin stitch**, 2 strands
   Brace, roof beam, box walls, faces, mary hood hem, mary cuffs, joseph hood hem, hands, joseph cuffs, beard, manger legs, halo, swaddling (color 13), manger rim, lamb ears



4. **Straight stitch**
   1 strand: thatch straws
   2 strands: thatch fringe
   3 strands: straw



5. **Stem stitch**
   2 strands: hill edges, frame lines, edges of the mary cloak, mary cloak folds, edges of the mary sleeve, edges of the joseph cloak, joseph cloak folds, edges of the joseph sleeve, edges of the halo
   1 strand: wall edge, swaddling bands

6. **Split stitch**, 1 strand
   Wall corners, edges of the mary dress, star rays, lamb outlines (color 9)

7. **Back stitch**, 1 strand
   Closed eyes, lamb outlines (color 9)

8. **Padded satin stitch**, 2 strands
   Star, posts, thatch, frame, lamb heads



9. **Turkey work**, 2 strands
   Grass



10. **French knot**
    2 strands, two wraps
    Fleece



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

For your own stitching, gifts and handmade pieces you sell. Do not resell or share this PDF or copies of it.

Nativity shadowbox layered scene

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 930 Dark Antique Blue	9	DMC 938 Ultra Dark Coffee Brown	17	DMC 798 Dark Delft Blue
2	DMC 931 Medium Antique Blue	10	DMC 832 Golden Olive	18	DMC 809 Delft Blue
3	DMC 932 Light Antique Blue	11	DMC 830 Dark Golden Olive	19	DMC 918 Dark Red Copper
4	DMC 3752 Very Light Antique Blue	12	DMC 834 Very Light Golden Olive	20	DMC 920 Medium Copper
5	DMC 3822 Light Straw	13	DMC 3865 Winter White	21	DMC 922 Light Copper
6	DMC 3820 Dark Straw	14	DMC 842 Very Light Beige Brown	22	DMC 936 Very Dark Avocado Green
7	DMC 435 Very Light Brown	15	DMC 3773 Medium Desert Sand	23	DMC 469 Avocado Green
8	DMC 433 Medium Brown	16	DMC 796 Dark Royal Blue	24	DMC 471 Very Light Avocado Green

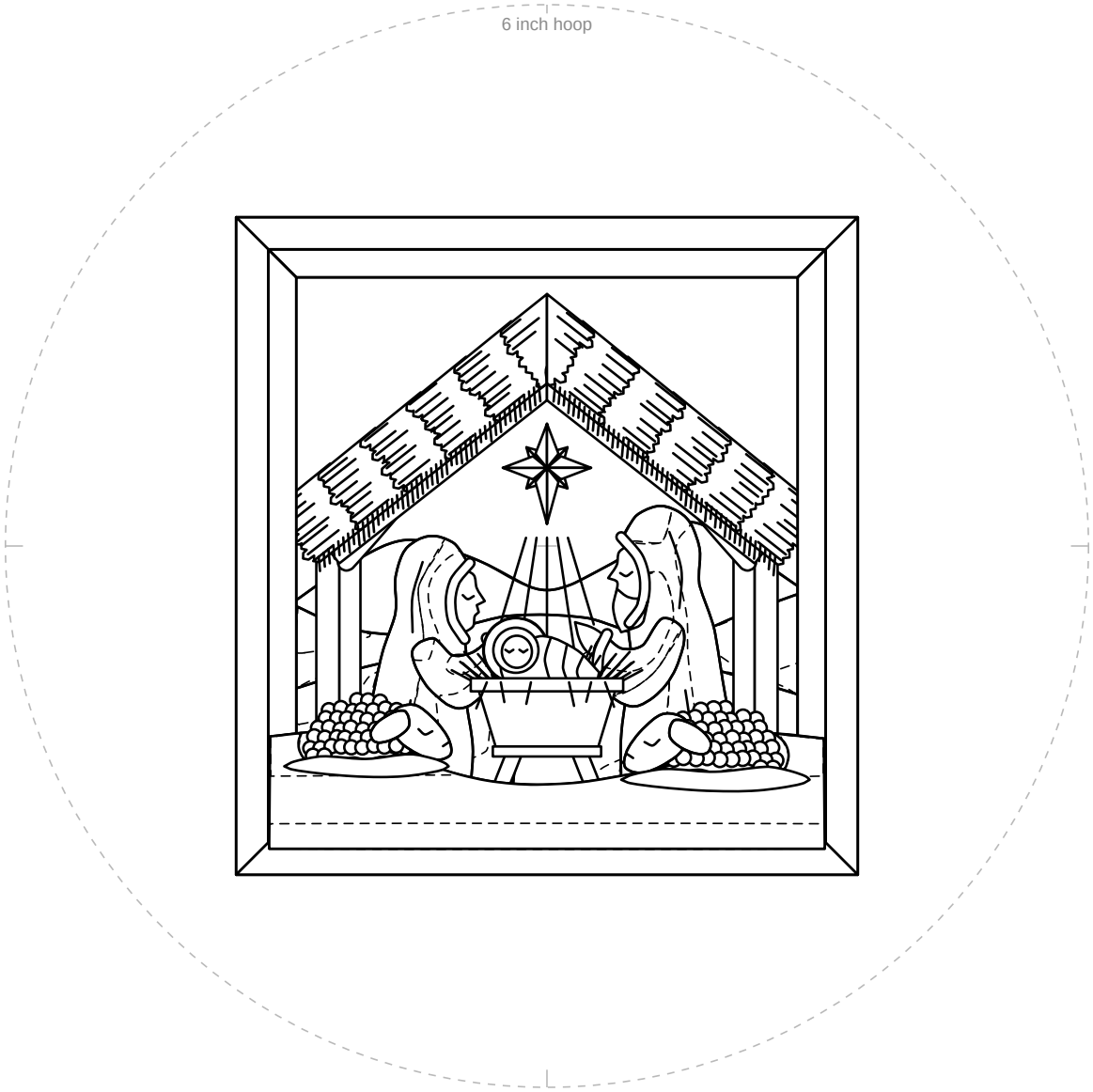
For your own stitching, gifts and handmade pieces you sell. Do not resell or share this PDF or copies of it.

Nativity shadowbox layered scene

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%.

For your own stitching, gifts and handmade pieces you sell. Do not resell or share this PDF or copies of it.