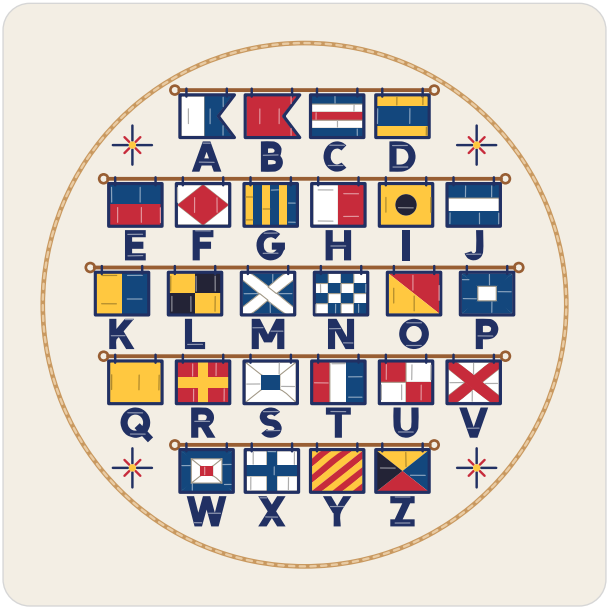
Nautical signal flag alphabet A to Z

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

Embroidery needles, size 7, and size 3 for 4 to 6 strands.

9 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. **Satin stitch**
   2 strands, colors 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9
   White fields, blue fields, letters, red fields, yellow fields, black fields



2. **Whipped back stitch**
   6 strands, colors 1, 2
   Rope ring



3. **Back stitch**, 2 strands, color 3
   Halyard eyes

4. **Stem stitch**, colors 3, 6
   3 strands: halyards
   2 strands: flag edges

5. **Straight stitch**
   3 strands, colors 6, 7
   Toggles, compass stars



6. **French knot**
   2 strands, two wraps, color 8
   Star hearts



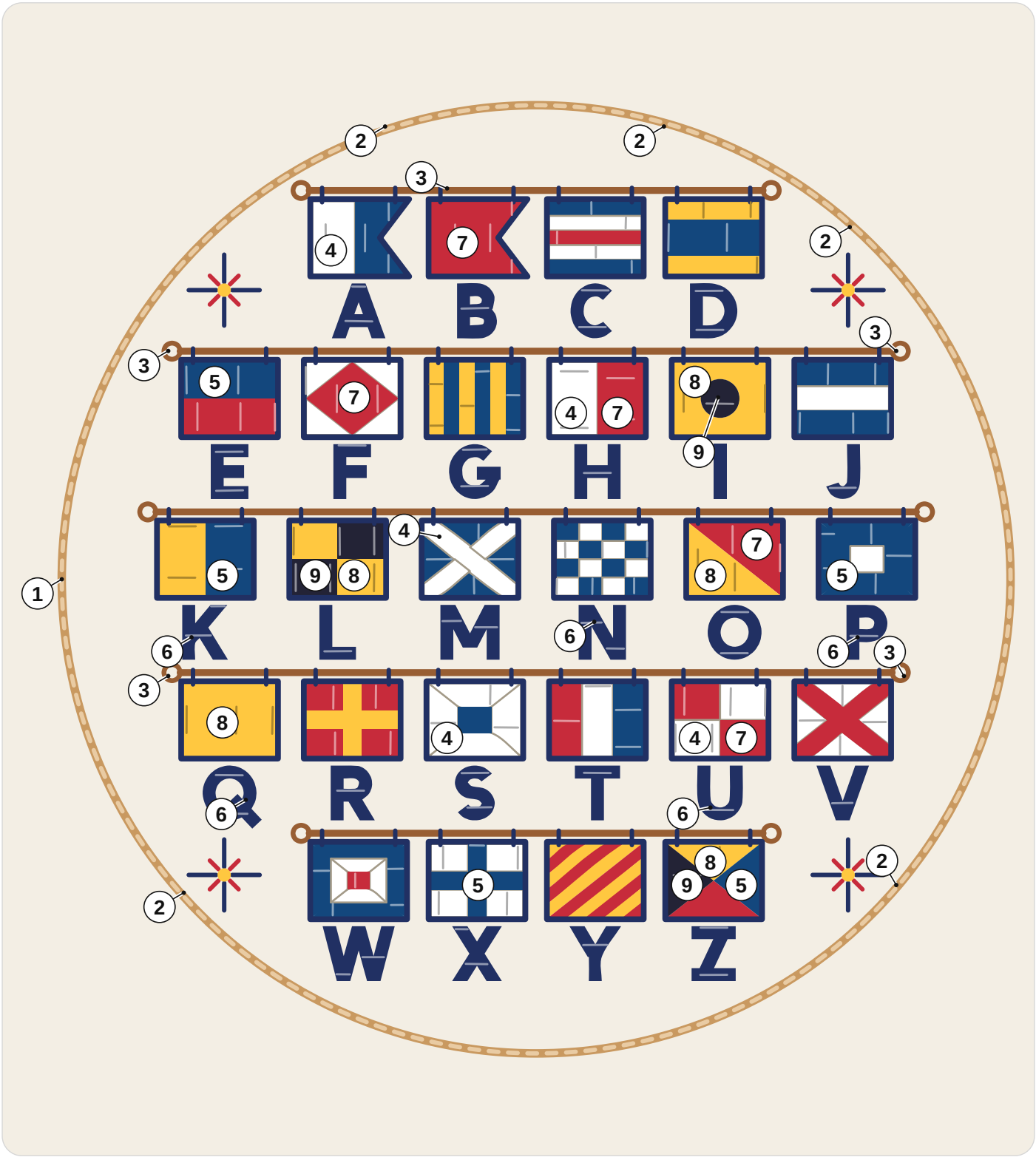
Take out lines that still show, press face down, finish the hoop.

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

Nautical signal flag alphabet A to Z

6 inch hoop

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



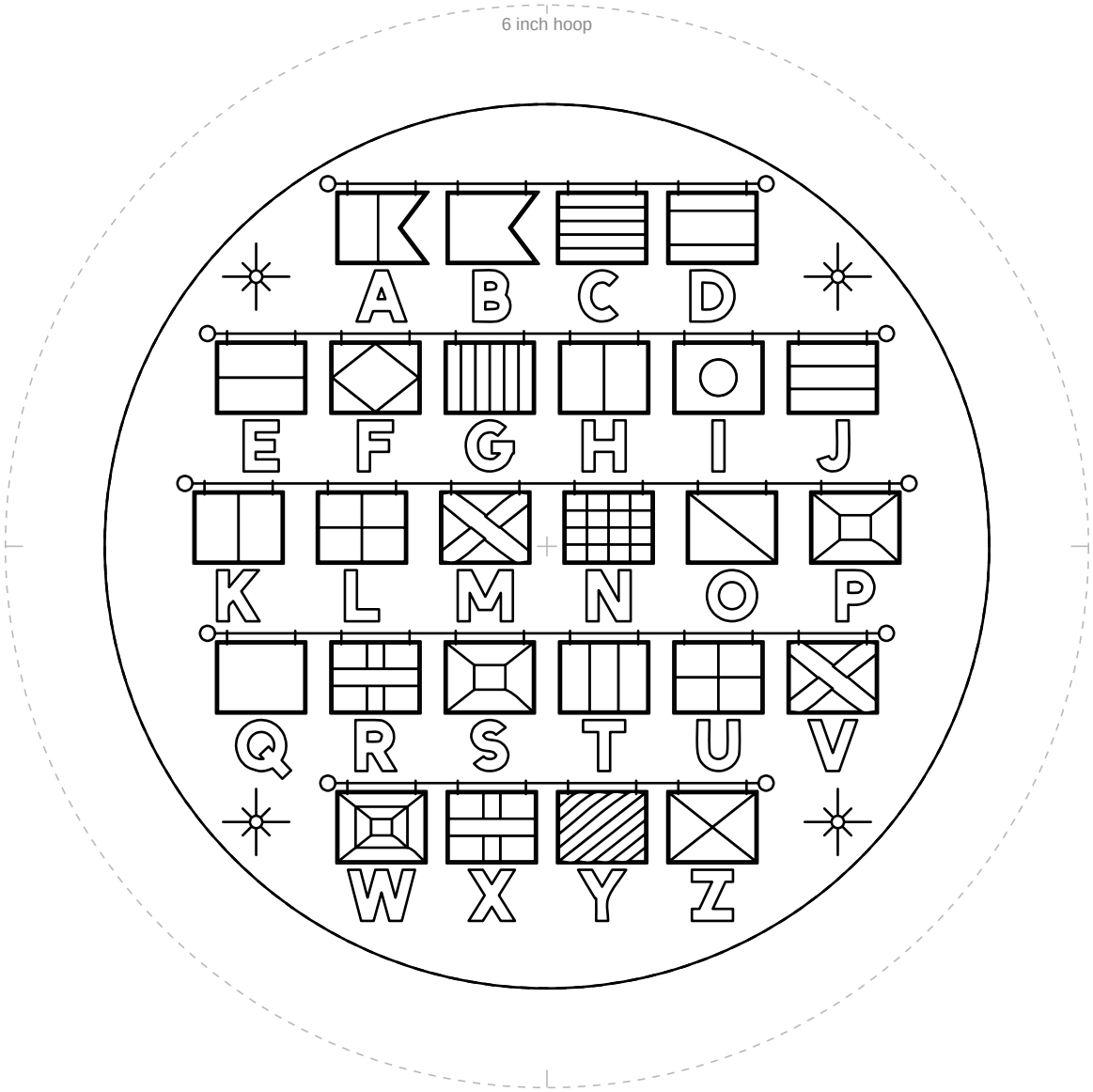
1	DMC 436 Tan	**4**	DMC B5200 Snow White	**7**	DMC 321 Red
2	DMC 738 Very Light Tan	**5**	DMC 797 Royal Blue	**8**	DMC 725 Medium Light Topaz
3	DMC 434 Light Brown	**6**	DMC 823 Dark Navy Blue	**9**	DMC 310 Black

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

Nautical signal flag alphabet A to Z

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 dashed line is whipped back stitch.



1 in
25.4 mm

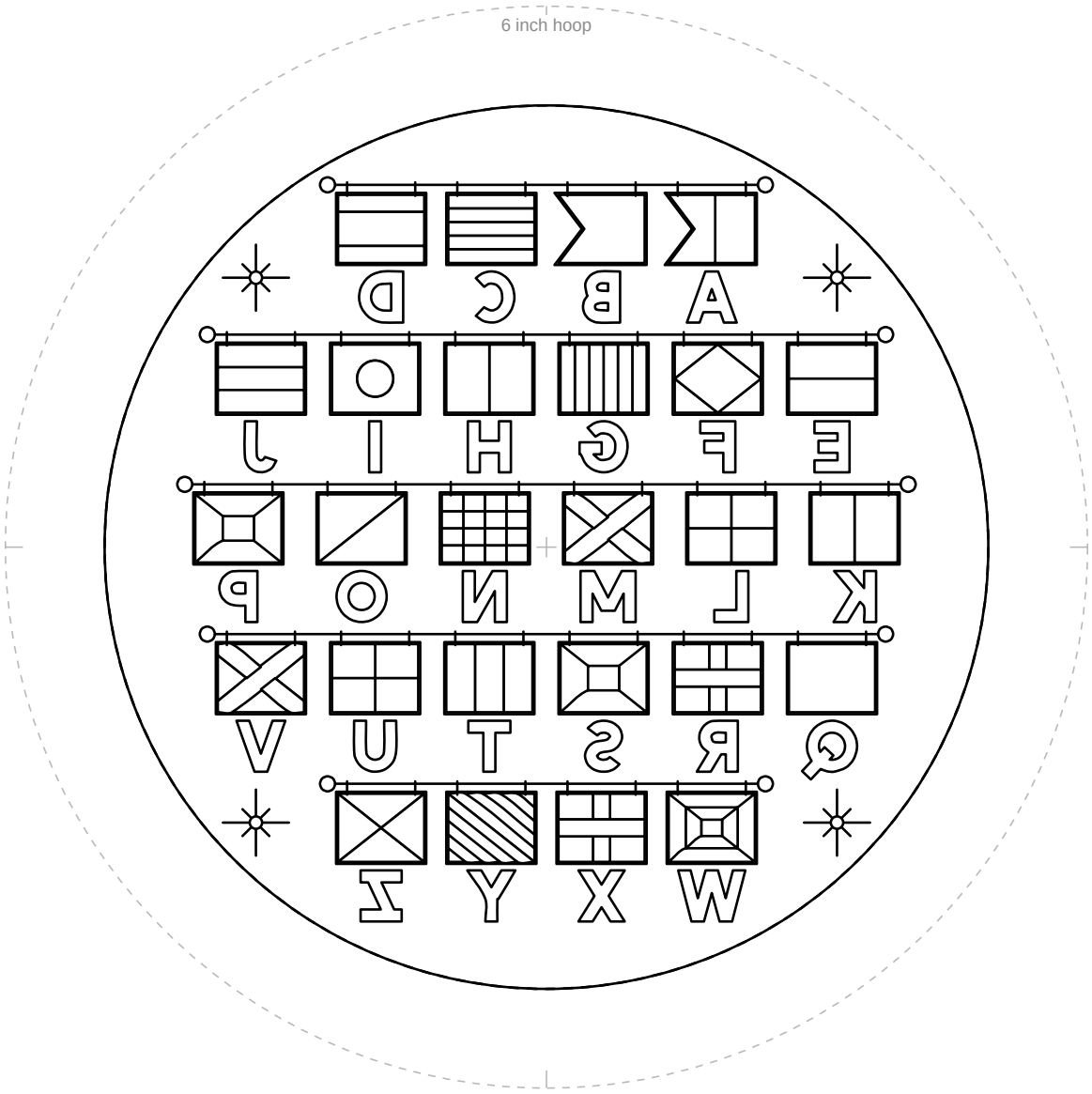
Not 1 inch (25.4 mm)? Print again at 100%.

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

Nautical signal flag alphabet A to Z

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%.

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