Praying mantis on a gourd vine

Sized for a 6 inch hoop (15 cm). The stitched design is about 3.9 × 4.8 in (9.9 × 12.2 cm).



Which color goes where: by number on page 2.

Stitch in this order

Filled parts from the back of the picture forward, then lines and knots.

1. **Satin stitch**, 2 strands
   Outlined leaves, filled leaves, vine, blossom, gourd, gourd edge, far legs, abdomen, wing, legs, forelegs, neck, head, eye, ladybug
2. **Split stitch**, strands by part on page 2
   Leaf veins, blossom edge, abdomen bands, body edge, leg edges, feet, eye edge, mouth, antennae, ladybug back
3. **Couching**, 3 strands
   Tendrils
4. **Straight stitch**, strands by part on page 2
   Blossom lines, foreleg spines, ladybug legs
5. **French knot**
   strands by part on page 2, two wraps
   Blossom heart, eye pupil, ladybug spots

In a 6 inch hoop the widest satin stitch shape is 1/2 in (13 mm) across. Satin stitches longer than about 12 mm (just under 1/2 in) tend to work loose: divide the shape into sections, or work it in long and short stitch.

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.

Floss

- **1 DMC 939 Very Dark Navy Blue**
  Leg edges, body edge, gourd edge, outlined leaves and blossom edge and 12 more parts
- **2 DMC 336 Navy Blue** Filled leaves (dark)
- **3 DMC 930 Dark Antique Blue**
  Filled leaves (middle)
- **4 DMC 931 Medium Antique Blue**
  Filled leaves (light), blossom lines, tendrils (lighter)
- **5 DMC 3362 Dark Pine Green** Vine
- **6 DMC 3865 Winter White** Blossom
- **7 DMC 742 Light Tangerine**
  Ladybug (lighter), eye and blossom heart
- **8 DMC 606 Bright Orange-Red** Gourd (lighter)
- **9 DMC 817 Very Dark Coral Red** Gourd (darker)
- **10 DMC 3815 Dark Celadon Green**
  Forelegs (darkest), far legs and abdomen bands
- **11 DMC 504 Very Light Blue Green**
  Abdomen and head, forelegs (lightest)
- **12 DMC 3816 Celadon Green**
  Wing and neck (darker), legs, forelegs (dark)
- **13 DMC 3817 Light Celadon Green**
  Neck and wing (lighter), forelegs (light)

Three ways to transfer the pattern

1. **Fabric you can see through**
   Tape page 3 to a sunny window or lay it on a light box, tape the fabric over it and trace the lines with a sharp pencil or a water-soluble pen.
2. **Fabric you cannot see through**
   Lay dressmaker's carbon paper colored side down on the fabric with page 3 on top, tape the layers and trace the lines firmly with a ballpoint pen.
3. **Iron-on: the lines stay**
   Go over the lines of page 4, the mirrored page, with an iron-on transfer pen, lay it ink side down on the fabric and press with a dry iron, as the pen's packet says.

Pages 3 and 4 are the pattern at actual size. Print them at 100% with scaling turned off. Then put the fabric in the hoop: inner ring under, drawing up, tight as a drum.

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6 inch hoop

How to read it

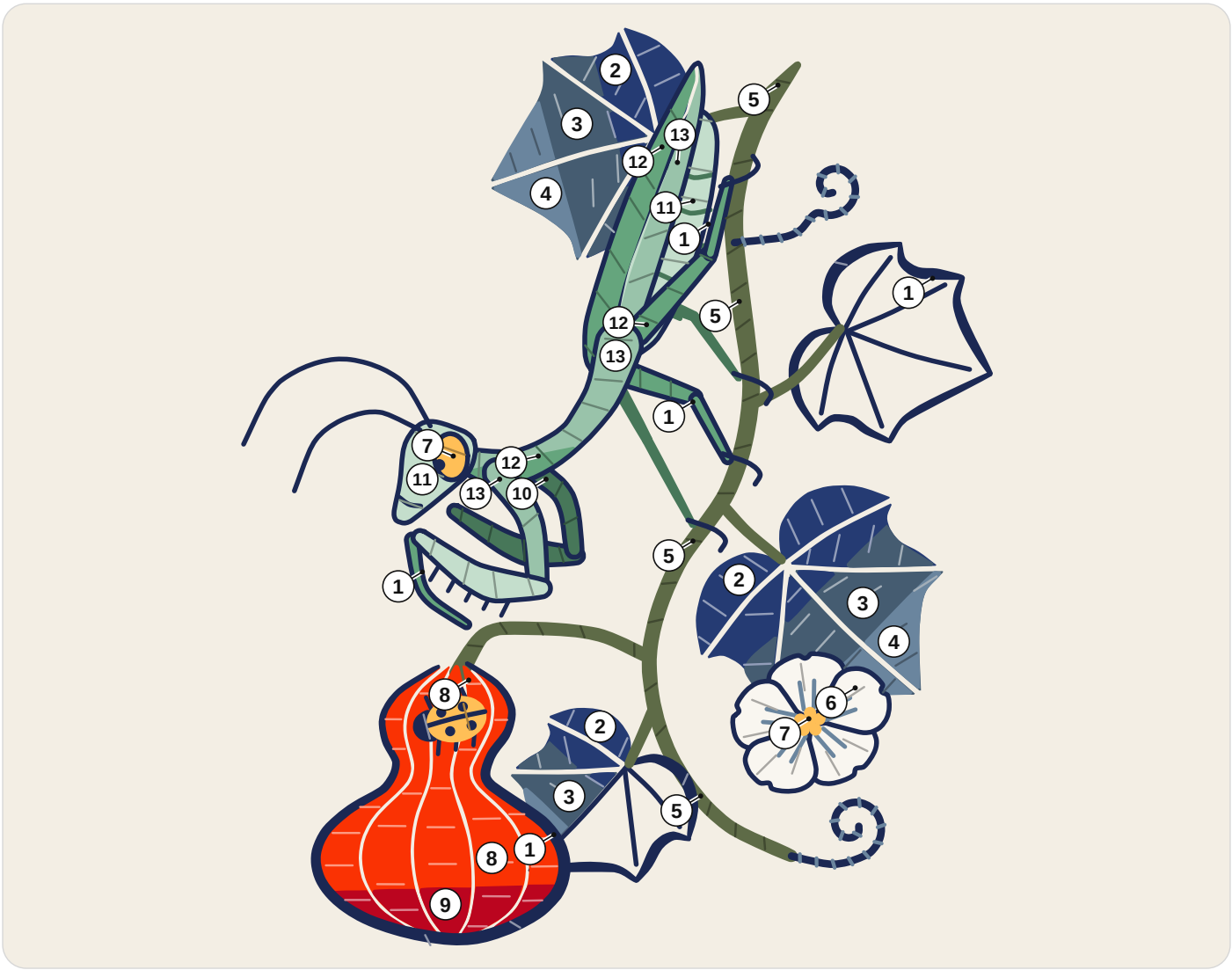
Floss is six strands. Cut 18 inches (45 cm), pull out the number given one at a time, and lay them together.

Inside a filled shape start with two or three tiny stitches, which the filling covers. Start a line with a small knot on the back. End each thread by running the needle under the backs of a few stitches.

Each small ring is one French knot. A fine broken line inside a shape is where two shades meet: trace it, do not stitch it.

A number on the picture is a color of the list of floss on page 1. The fine lines on the colors show which way the stitches lie.

Every stitch in pictures: flossfield.com/embroidery/stitches. The first time: flossfield.com/embroidery/guides/how-to-start.



1	DMC 939 Very Dark Navy Blue	**6**	DMC 3865 Winter White	**11**	DMC 504 Very Light Blue Green
2	DMC 336 Navy Blue	**7**	DMC 742 Light Tangerine	**12**	DMC 3816 Celadon Green
3	DMC 930 Dark Antique Blue	**8**	DMC 606 Bright Orange-Red	**13**	DMC 3817 Light Celadon Green
4	DMC 931 Medium Antique Blue	**9**	DMC 817 Very Dark Coral Red		
5	DMC 3362 Dark Pine Green	**10**	DMC 3815 Dark Celadon Green		

How many strands

Split stitch. 3 strands: feet; 1 or 2 strands: leaf veins, body edge; 1 strand: blossom edge, abdomen bands, leg edges, eye edge, mouth, antennae, ladybug back.
Straight stitch. 2 strands: ladybug legs; 1 strand: blossom lines, foreleg spines.
French knot. 2 strands: blossom heart; 1 strand: eye pupil, ladybug spots.

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6 inch hoop

Print at 100% and check the square below with a ruler. Fold the fabric in four: the folds meet the four ticks of the ring.



1 in
25.4 mm

Check square: 1 inch (25.4 mm) on each side.
If it measures anything else, print again at 100% with scaling off.

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6 inch hoop

Mirrored. Trace this page with an iron-on transfer pen or pencil, then press it ink side down on the fabric.



1 in
25.4 mm

Check square: 1 inch (25.4 mm) on each side.
If it measures anything else, print again at 100% with scaling off.

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