Potted prickly pear in bloom

6 inch (15 cm) hoop, 3.8 × 4.6 in (9.7 × 11.7 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.

19 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. **Long and short stitch**
   1 strand, colors 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19
   Pot, fruits, pads, petals, flower centers, fallen petal



2. **Woven filling stitch**
   3 strands, color 4
   Pot band



3. **Satin stitch**
   2 strands, colors 1, 2, 3, 6, 9, 12, 13
   Pot rim, gravel, fruit crowns, flower bases, sepals



4. **Stem stitch**
   2 strands, colors 5, 12
   Band edges, shadow

5. **Fly stitch**, 1 strand, color 10
   Spine tufts



6. **Split stitch**
   1 strand, colors 5, 12, 15, 17
   Pad edges, petal edges

7. **Straight stitch**, 1 strand, color 16
   Stamens



8. **French knot**
   two wraps, colors 1, 2, 3, 6, 16, 17, 19
   2 strands: knots of the gravel, flower eyes
   1 strand: fruit spines, stamen tips



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

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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 21 Light Alizarin	8	DMC 3835 Medium Grape	15	DMC 3854 Medium Autumn Gold
2	DMC 22 Alizarin	9	DMC 522 Fern Green	16	DMC 745 Light Pale Yellow
3	DMC 3856 Ultra Very Light Mahogany	10	DMC 712 Cream	17	DMC 722 Light Orange Spice
4	DMC 3768 Dark Gray Green	11	DMC 524 Very Light Fern Green	18	DMC 3823 Ultra Pale Yellow
5	DMC 924 Very Dark Gray Green	12	DMC 520 Dark Fern Green	19	DMC 3363 Medium Pine Green
6	DMC 154 Very Dark Grape	13	DMC 523 Light Fern Green		
7	DMC 3834 Dark Grape	14	DMC 3855 Light Autumn Gold		

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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

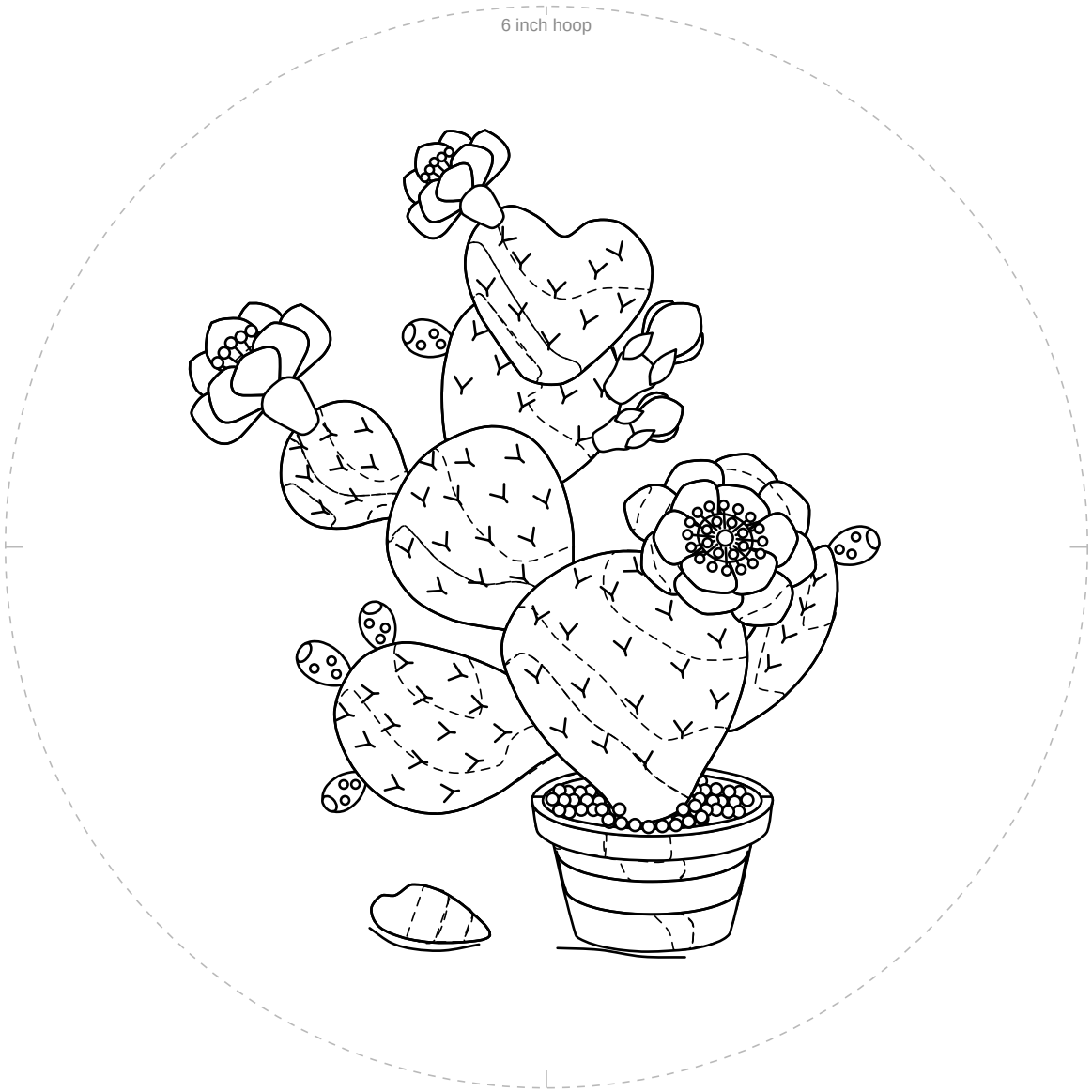
Not 1 inch (25.4 mm)? Print again at 100%.

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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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