Retired mermaid reading on a shell

Sized for a 6 inch hoop (15 cm). The stitched design is about 4.5 × 4.4 in (11.4 × 11.2 cm).



Which color goes where: by number on page 2.
Fabric: teal cotton or linen.

Stitch in this order

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

1. **Satin stitch**, 2 strands
   Kelp, hip band, book pages, book star, shell hinge, fingers, lips, ear, starfish, fish fins, fish stripes, fish eye, letters
2. **Long and short stitch**, 1 strand
   Shell inside, tail fin, tail, tail scales, swim top, skin, book cover, shell, hair, fish
3. **Stem stitch**, strands by part on page 2
   Kelp veins, fin rays, shell ribs, shell rim, swim top edge, eyebrow, hair edge
4. **Split stitch**, 1 strand
   Fin edge, skin edge, fingers edge, smile, hair strands, fish smile
5. **Chain stitch**, 2 strands
   Swim top stripes
6. **Back stitch**, strands by part on page 2
   Page lines, book edge, eyelid, bubbles
7. **Straight stitch**, 1 strand
   Lashes
8. **Outline stitch**, 2 strands
   Glasses
9. **French knot**
   strands by part on page 2, two wraps
   Hip pearls, earring, starfish, eye light

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 3363 Medium Pine Green** Kelp and kelp veins (darker)
- **2 DMC 3348 Light Yellow Green** Kelp and kelp veins (lighter)
- **3 DMC 3778 Light Terra Cotta**
  Shell inside (middle), shell (darkest), shell hinge (darker)
- **4 DMC 3830 Terra Cotta**
  Shell ribs, shell rim and lips, shell inside (dark)
- **5 DMC 758 Very Light Terra Cotta**
  Shell (dark), shell inside (light), shell hinge (lighter), fin edge
- **6 DMC 326 Very Dark Rose**
  Tail, tail fin and tail scales (dark), book star
- **7 DMC 815 Medium Garnet** Tail fin, tail and tail scales (darkest)
- **8 DMC 309 Ultra Very Dark Rose**
  Tail scales, tail and tail fin (light), starfish (darker)
- **9 DMC 3833 Light Raspberry** Tail, tail scales and tail fin (lightest)
- **10 DMC 3821 Straw**
  Book cover, fin rays, hip band and glasses, fish (lighter) and 3 more parts
- **11 DMC 598 Light Turquoise**
  Swim top (light), bubbles and swim top stripes
- **12 DMC 3765 Very Dark Peacock Blue**
  Swim top (dark), fish stripes
- **13 DMC 3810 Dark Turquoise** Swim top (middle), fish fins
- **14 DMC 3865 Winter White**
  Shell (lightest), book pages, hip pearls, eyebrow and eye light
- **15 DMC 407 Dark Desert Sand** Skin (middle), ear (lighter)
- **16 DMC 762 Very Light Pearl Gray** Page lines
- **17 DMC 898 Very Dark Coffee Brown**
  Skin edge, book edge, fish eye, eyelid, smile, fish smile and lashes
- **18 DMC 3774 Very Light Desert Sand** Shell (light), letters
- **19 DMC 3064 Desert Sand** Skin (light), fingers
- **20 DMC 3772 Very Dark Desert Sand**
  Fingers edge, skin (dark), ear (darker)
- **21 DMC 414 Dark Steel Gray** Hair, hair edge and hair strands
- **22 DMC 783 Medium Topaz** Fish (darker)

Three ways onto dark fabric

1. **Light shines through it**
   Lay page 3 on a bright light box, tape the fabric over it and trace the lines with a white marking pencil or pen.
2. **No light shines through**
   Print page 3 on a sticky wash-away sheet, smooth it onto fabric that can be washed, stitch through both and rinse it away.
3. **White or yellow carbon paper**
   Lay it colored side down on the fabric with page 3 on top, tape the layers and trace firmly with a ballpoint pen. Go over a faint line with a white pencil.

Page 3 is the pattern at actual size (page 4 is its mirror, for an iron-on pen on a light fabric). Print it 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 3363 Medium Pine Green	**9**	DMC 3833 Light Raspberry	**17**	DMC 898 Very Dark Coffee Brown
2	DMC 3348 Light Yellow Green	**10**	DMC 3821 Straw	**18**	DMC 3774 Very Light Desert Sand
3	DMC 3778 Light Terra Cotta	**11**	DMC 598 Light Turquoise	**19**	DMC 3064 Desert Sand
4	DMC 3830 Terra Cotta	**12**	DMC 3765 Very Dark Peacock Blue	**20**	DMC 3772 Very Dark Desert Sand
5	DMC 758 Very Light Terra Cotta	**13**	DMC 3810 Dark Turquoise	**21**	DMC 414 Dark Steel Gray
6	DMC 326 Very Dark Rose	**14**	DMC 3865 Winter White	**22**	DMC 783 Medium Topaz
7	DMC 815 Medium Garnet	**15**	DMC 407 Dark Desert Sand		
8	DMC 309 Ultra Very Dark Rose	**16**	DMC 762 Very Light Pearl Gray		

How many strands

Stem stitch. 2 strands: shell ribs, shell rim, swim top edge, eyebrow; 1 strand: kelp veins, fin rays, hair edge.
Back stitch. 2 strands: eyelid, bubbles; 1 strand: page lines, book edge.
French knot. 2 strands: hip pearls, earring, starfish; 1 strand: eye light.

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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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