Samurai helmet with cherry blossom

6 inch (15 cm) hoop, 4.7 × 4.6 in (11.9 × 11.7 cm)



Colors by number: page 2.
Fabric: black cotton or linen.

What you need

A 6 inch (15 cm) hoop.

A 9 inch (23 cm) square of black cotton or linen.

Embroidery needles, size 9, and size 5 for 4 strands.

20 colors of floss (page 2): one skein of each color (an estimate from the drawing's lines and shapes).

A white pencil, and small scissors.

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.

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.

The back is seen: no knots. Start with tiny stitches; end around the backs of four or five stitches.

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. **Stem stitch**, 2 strands
   Stalks

2. **Fishbone stitch**, 2 strands
   Young leaves



3. **Long and short stitch**, 1 strand
   Bough, buds, blossom petals, stand (colors 1 and 2), fallen petal, lining, bowl, peak, turned-back wings, breast, back, throat, wing



4. **Satin stitch**, 2 strands
   Sepals, stand (colors 1 and 2), lacing, silk cord, tassel, tassel head, gold band, crown, horns, brow plate, tail, bill, eye



5. **Straight stitch**
   1 strand: stamens, lines of the tassel
   2 strands: feet



6. **Couching**, 4 strands
   Gold lines (colors 10 and 11)



7. **Stem stitch**, 1 strand
   Wing line

8. **Split stitch**
   1 strand: horn ridge, lines of the wing
   2 strands: gold lines (color 11)

9. **French knot**, two wraps
   1 strand: stamen tips
   2 strands: knots of the eye



Take out lines that still show, press face down on soft cloth.

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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 3781 Dark Mocha Brown	8	DMC 818 Baby Pink	15	DMC 815 Medium Garnet
2	DMC 3863 Medium Mocha Beige	9	DMC 745 Light Pale Yellow	16	DMC 3810 Dark Turquoise
3	DMC 733 Medium Olive Green	10	DMC 3820 Dark Straw	17	DMC 3809 Very Dark Turquoise
4	DMC 730 Very Dark Olive Green	11	DMC 780 Ultra Very Dark Topaz	18	DMC 598 Light Turquoise
5	DMC 3354 Light Dusty Rose	12	DMC 3371 Black Brown	19	DMC 3808 Ultra Very Dark Turquoise
6	DMC 3731 Very Dark Dusty Rose	13	DMC 350 Medium Coral	20	DMC BLANC White
7	DMC 819 Light Baby Pink	14	DMC 817 Very Dark Coral Red		

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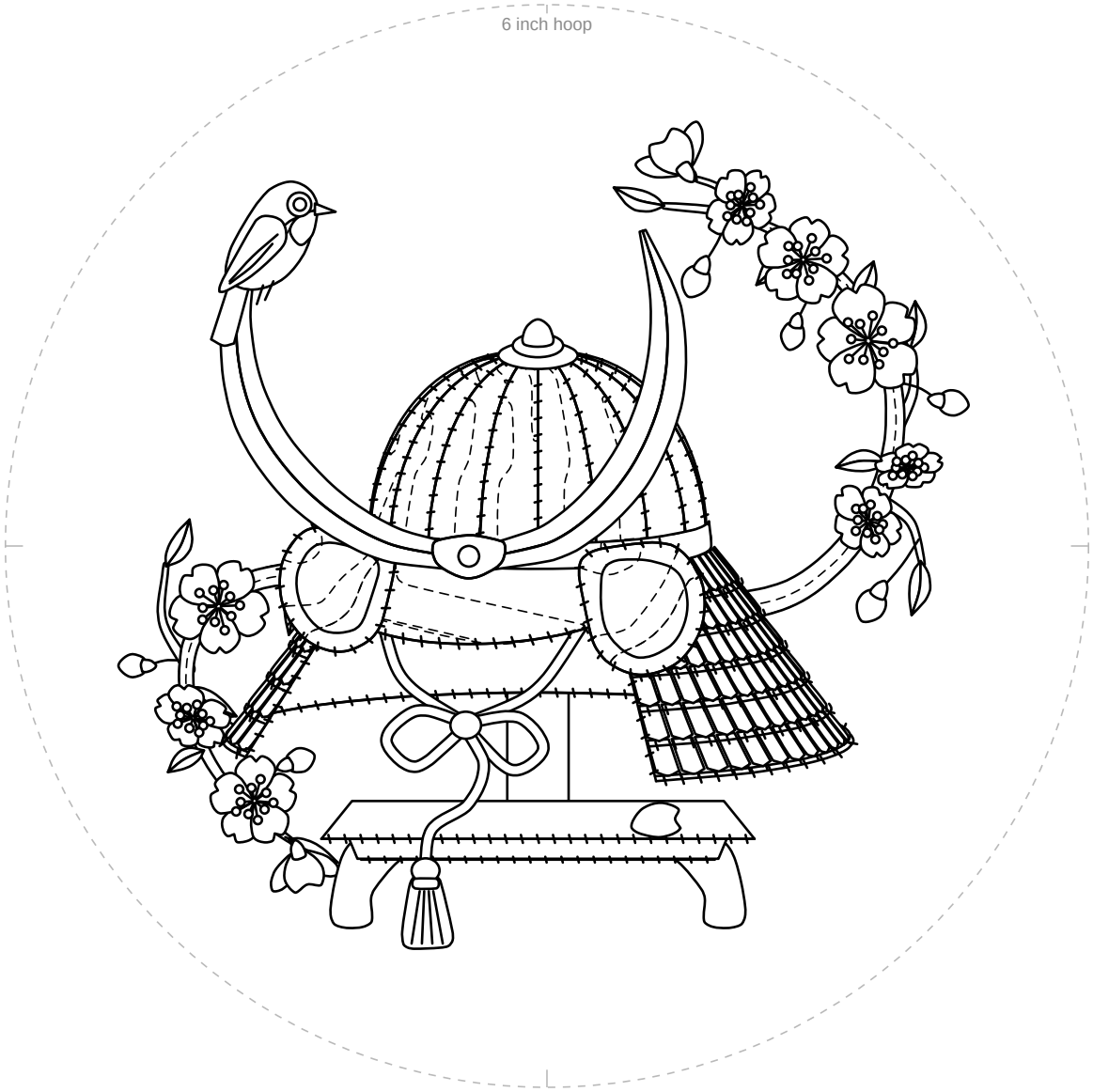
6 inch hoop

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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