San Blas mola style tropical bird

Sized for a 6 inch hoop (15 cm). The stitched design is about 3.8 × 3.8 in (9.7 × 9.7 cm).



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

Floss

- **1 DMC 666 Bright Red**
  Frame, outer echo, tail, body, head and fruit
- **2 DMC 973 Bright Canary**
  Inner echo, legs, lower bill and eye, collar (lighter)
- **3 DMC 946 Medium Burnt Orange**
  Middle echo, wing edge, upper bill and crest, collar (darker)
- **4 DMC 3804 Dark Cyclamen Pink**
  Maze
- **5 DMC 702 Kelly Green**
  Tail bars and wing bars (darker)
- **6 DMC 3846 Light Bright Turquoise**
  Tail bars and wing bars (lighter)

Stitch in this order

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

1. **Satin stitch**, 2 strands
   Frame, inner echo, outer echo, tail, body, head, collar, crest, wing edge, wing bars, tail bars, upper bill, lower bill, fruit, legs, eye
2. **Chain stitch**, strands by part on page 2
   Middle echo, maze

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.

What you need

Intermediate. A 6 inch (15 cm) hoop, and a 9 inch (23 cm) square of plain cotton or linen, in black. Embroidery needle: size 7 for 2 or 3 strands, size 5 for 4 (a lower number is a thicker needle). Skeins: one of each color is enough. An estimate for the 6 inch hoop, from the length of each line and the area of each filled shape, with a fifth added for tails.

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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.

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 666 Bright Red
2 DMC 973 Bright Canary
3 DMC 946 Medium Burnt Orange
4 DMC 3804 Dark Cyclamen Pink
5 DMC 702 Kelly Green
6 DMC 3846 Light Bright Turquoise

How many strands

Chain stitch. 4 strands: middle echo; 3 strands: maze.

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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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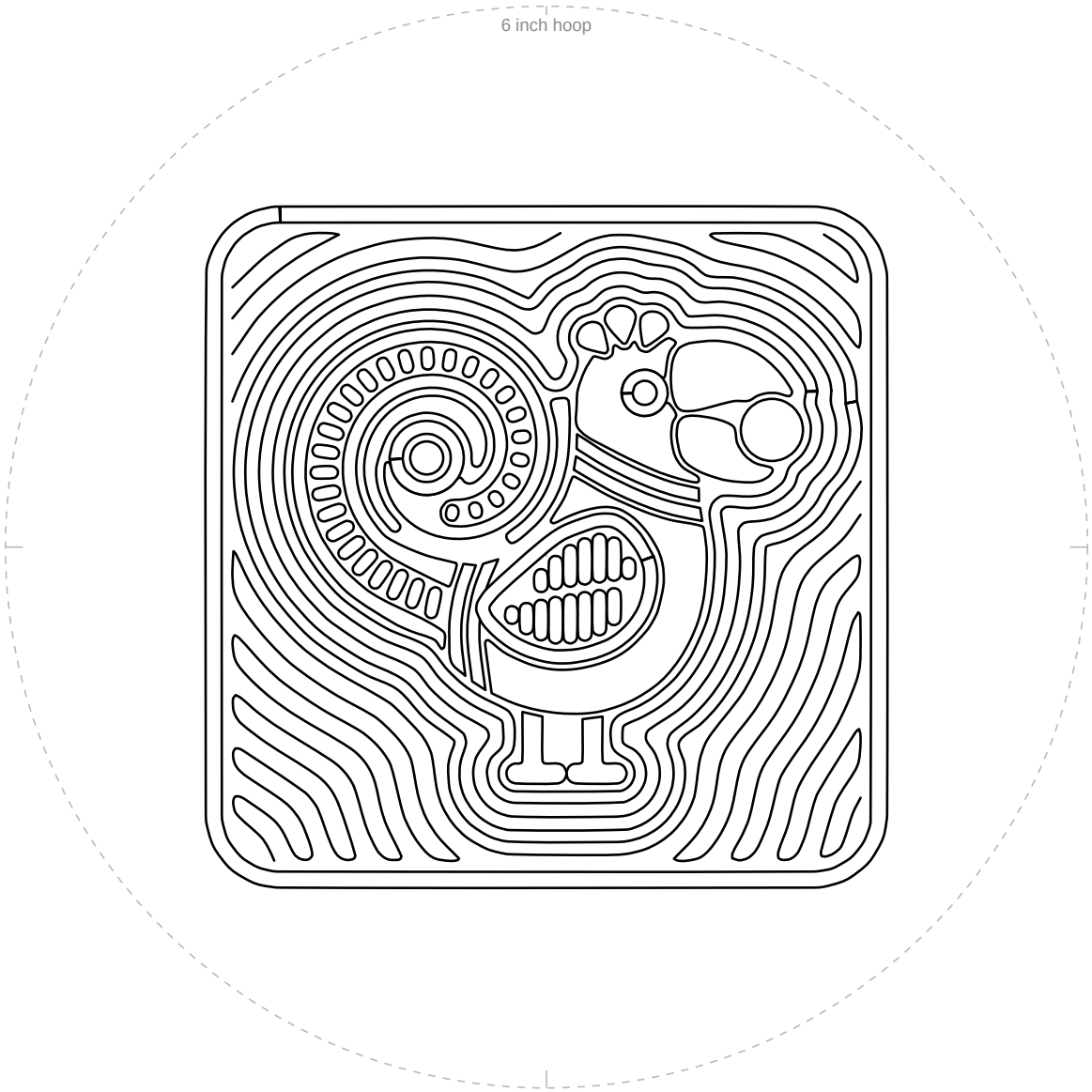
6 inch hoop

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



1 in
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