Santa’s magic key with a star

6 inch (15 cm) hoop, 3.9 × 4.6 in (9.9 × 11.7 cm)



Colors by number: page 2.
Fabric: wine red cotton or linen.

What you need

A 6 inch (15 cm) hoop.

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

Embroidery needles, size 9, and size 3 for 4 to 6 strands.

9 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.

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 6, 7, 8, 9
   Key bow, shaft, bit, star ring



2. **Satin stitch**, 2 strands
   Ribbon tails, collars, star, little star, ribbon bow



3. **Couching**
   6 strands, colors 6, 7, 8, 9
   Couched scrolls, window edge



4. **Stem stitch**, colors 7, 9
   1 strand: shaft edges
   2 strands: bit edge

5. **Split stitch**, 1 strand, color 3
   Ribbon creases

6. **Padded satin stitch**, 2 strands
   Gold beads, tip, ribbon knot



7. **French knot**
   3 strands, two wraps, color 9
   Knots of the gold beads



Take out lines that still show, press face down, finish the hoop.

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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 3841 Pale Baby Blue
2 DMC 931 Medium Antique Blue
3 DMC 932 Light Antique Blue
4 DMC 3752 Very Light Antique Blue
5 DMC 3756 Ultra Very Light Baby Blue
6 DMC 783 Medium Topaz
7 DMC 780 Ultra Very Dark Topaz
8 DMC 3821 Straw
9 DMC 677 Very Light Old Gold

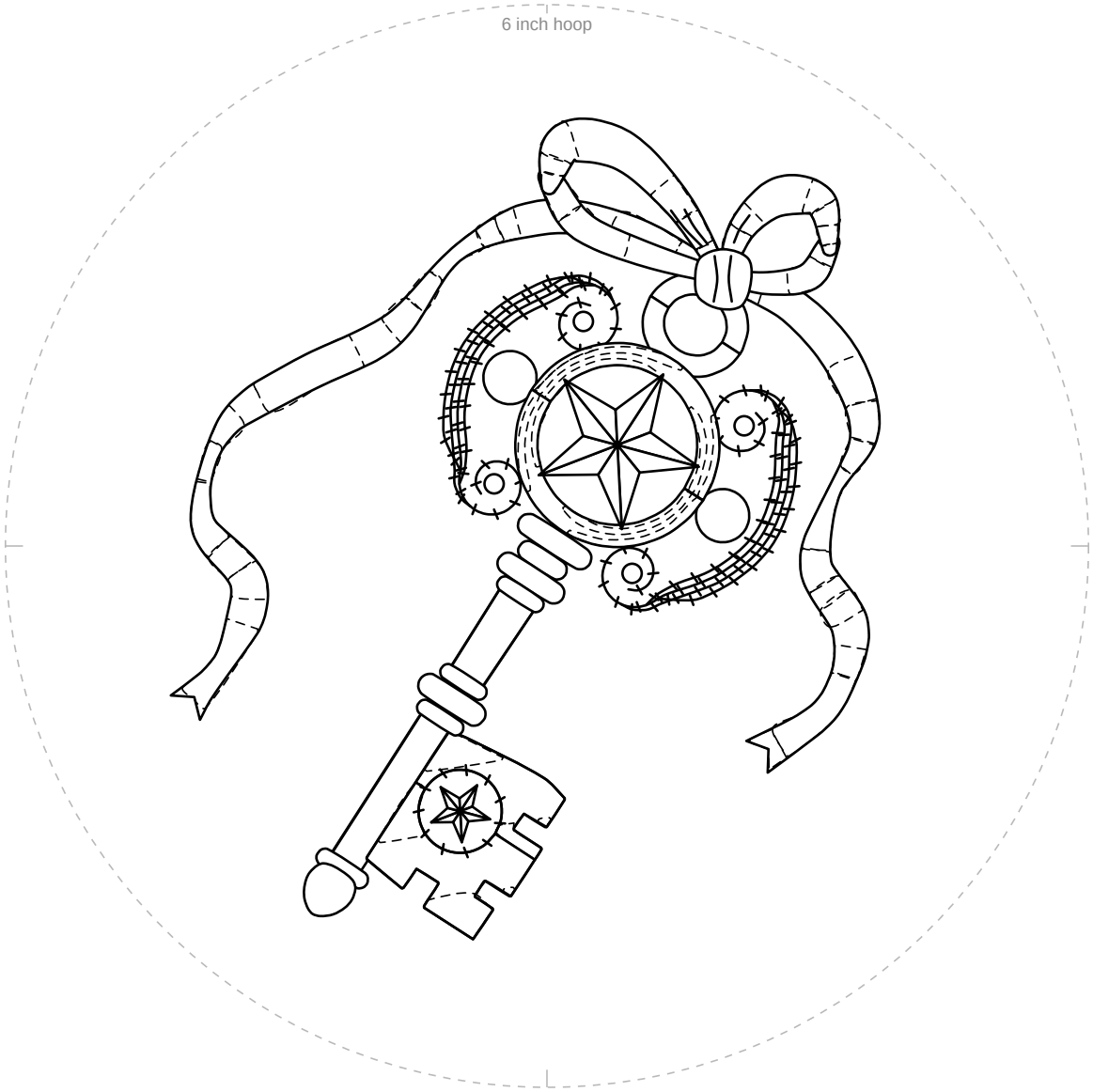
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6 inch hoop

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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