Sister in holly

6 inch (15 cm) hoop, 4.3 × 4.6 in (10.9 × 11.7 cm)



Colors by number: page 2.
Fabric: dark green cotton or linen.

What you need

A 6 inch (15 cm) hoop.

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

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

7 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. **Stem stitch**
   3 strands: stems
   4 strands: loop

2. **Long and short stitch**
   1 strand
   Snow



3. **Satin stitch**, 2 strands
   Letters, legs, boots, skirts, sleeves, mittens, jumpers, hair, hats, hat bands, scarf, holly leaves, cap



4. **Fishbone stitch**, 2 strands
   Braids



5. **Chain stitch**, 2 strands
   Inner ring



6. **Back stitch**, 2 strands
   Zigzags

7. **Straight stitch**
   1 strand: jumper stars, lines of the snowflakes
   2 strands: fringe
   3 strands: scarf stripes



8. **Stem stitch**, 2 strands
   Leaf stalks

9. **Padded satin stitch**, 2 strands
   Berries



10. **French knot**, two wraps
    2 strands: pompoms, braid ties
    1 strand: knots of the snowflakes



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 3752 Very Light Antique Blue
2 DMC 321 Red
3 DMC 433 Medium Brown
4 DMC 815 Medium Garnet
5 DMC 3865 Winter White
6 DMC 920 Medium Copper
7 DMC 3820 Dark Straw

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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.



1 in
25.4 mm

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

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