Small black and white sugar skull

Sized for a 6 inch hoop (15 cm). The stitched design is about 3.4 × 3.9 in (8.6 × 9.9 cm).



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

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.

Floss

- **1 DMC BLANC White**
  Skull, side flowers and dahlia (lightest), teeth and skull edge and 4 more parts
- **2 DMC 318 Light Steel Gray**
  Skull and side flowers (darkest), dahlia (dark)
- **3 DMC 415 Pearl Gray**
  Skull (dark), dahlia (middle), crown leaves (lighter), berry sprigs and 2 more parts
- **4 DMC 762 Very Light Pearl Gray**
  Skull, side flowers and dahlia (light), eye flowers (darker)
- **5 DMC 310 Black**
  Icing dots, cheek spirals and chin curls
- **6 DMC 414 Dark Steel Gray**
  Crown leaves (darker), dahlia (darkest)

Stitch in this order

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

1. **Long and short stitch**, 1 strand
   Skull
2. **Satin stitch**, 2 strands
   Teeth, eye flowers, chin curls, cheek spirals, side flowers, dahlia
3. **Fishbone stitch**, 2 strands
   Crown leaves
4. **Stem stitch**, strands by part on page 2
   Skull edge, berry sprigs
5. **Split stitch**, 1 strand
   Socket edges
6. **Straight stitch**, 2 strands
   Berry sprigs
7. **Lazy daisy stitch**, 2 strands
   Forehead flower
8. **French knot**, 2 strands, two wraps
   Eye flowers, icing dots, forehead flower, berries, flower hearts

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.

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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. Each small loop is one lazy daisy: come up at its point. 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 BLANC White
2 DMC 318 Light Steel Gray
3 DMC 415 Pearl Gray
4 DMC 762 Very Light Pearl Gray
5 DMC 310 Black
6 DMC 414 Dark Steel Gray

How many strands

Stem stitch. 3 strands: skull edge; 2 strands: berry sprigs.

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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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