Sparrows in a garden bird bath

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



Colors by number: page 2.
Fabric: pale blue cotton or linen.

What you need

A 6 inch (15 cm) hoop.

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

An embroidery needle, size 9.

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

A water-soluble pen, and small scissors.

Onto the fabric

Fabric you can see through: page 3 taped to a sunny window, the fabric over it; trace.

Other fabric: dressmaker's carbon paper, colored side down, page 3 on top; trace with a ballpoint.

Iron-on pen: go over page 4, the mirrored page, and press it ink side down as the pen's packet says. The lines stay.

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
   Foxglove stems
2. **Long and short stitch**
   2 strands: far hedge, garden bed, bath water, stone foot (color 14), stone bowl
   1 strand: wing feathers, small wing feathers, shoulders, his breast, chestnut head, gray cap, white cheeks, black bib, tail, her breast, her head, her wing, poppy petals (color 24)
3. **Fishbone stitch**, 2 strands
   Leaves
4. **Satin stitch**, 2 strands
   Hollyhock leaves, hollyhock buds, water, water drops, stone rim, white wing bars, black mask, open mouth, beaks, eyes, splash, stone foot (color 8), wet crest, brow stripe, eyelids, poppy buds, poppy petals (color 24)
5. **Split stitch**
   1 strand: feather edges, edges of the beaks, eye rings, edges of the stone bowl, lines of the poppy petals
   2 strands: edges of the stone rim
6. **Stem stitch**
   3 strands: hollyhock stems, legs, feet, hoop edge
   2 strands: lavender stems, ripples, eye stripe, poppy stems
   1 strand: edges of the water
7. **Straight stitch**
   2 strands: eye highlights, edges of the white cheeks, edges of the eyelids
   1 strand: edges of the beaks, poppy folds
8. **Lazy daisy stitch**, 2 strands
   Foxglove buds, daisies
9. **Bullion knot**, 3 strands
   Foxglove bells
10. **French knot**, 2 strands, two wraps
    Knots of the hollyhock buds, hollyhock blooms, hollyhock centers, lavender, foam, moss, poppy centers, daisy centers

Take out lines that still show, press face down, finish the hoop or sew a pillow.

In a 6 inch hoop the shortest lazy daisy loops 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

A number is a color of the list. Fine lines show which way the stitches lie: do not stitch them.



1	DMC 522 Fern Green	9	DMC 3689 Light Mauve	17	DMC 3862 Dark Mocha Beige
2	DMC 3348 Light Yellow Green	10	DMC 340 Medium Blue Violet	18	DMC 300 Very Dark Mahogany
3	DMC 3345 Dark Hunter Green	11	DMC 3761 Light Sky Blue	19	DMC 301 Medium Mahogany
4	DMC 3346 Hunter Green	12	DMC 3760 Medium Wedgwood	20	DMC 414 Dark Steel Gray
5	DMC 3687 Mauve	13	DMC 3865 Winter White	21	DMC 415 Pearl Gray
6	DMC 3834 Dark Grape	14	DMC 3045 Dark Yellow Beige	22	DMC 420 Dark Hazelnut Brown
7	DMC 3835 Medium Grape	15	DMC 739 Ultra Very Light Tan	23	DMC 3864 Light Mocha Beige
8	DMC 3046 Medium Yellow Beige	16	DMC 3371 Black Brown	24	DMC 946 Medium Burnt Orange

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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 loop is one lazy daisy, begun at its point; 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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Sparrows in a garden bird bath

6 inch hoop

For an iron-on pen only. Go over the lines, press ink side down.



1 in
25.4 mm

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