Swimming otter under water lilies

6 inch (15 cm) hoop, 3.3 × 4.7 in (8.4 × 11.9 cm)



Colors by number: page 2.
Fabric: navy cotton or linen.

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.

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.

Buy: 13 colors of floss (page 2), one skein of each color (an estimate from the drawing's lines and shapes), an embroidery needle size 9, a 6 inch (15 cm) hoop, a 9 inch (23 cm) square of navy cotton or linen, a white pencil.

Stitch in this order

Where a stitch page says otherwise, follow this list.

1. **Stem stitch**, 2 strands
   Frame line

2. **Satin stitch**, 2 strands
   Lily stems, young leaf, nose, eye rim, eye, lily petals (colors 9 and 10), sepals, pad undersides, lily pads, frame



3. **Fishbone stitch**, 2 strands
   Root leaves



4. **Long and short stitch**, 1 strand
   Legs and webbed feet, body, throat, head, ear, lily petals (colors 9 and 10)



5. **Stem stitch**
   1 strand: stem contours, lines of the root leaves, mouth, pad contours
   3 strands: tendrils
   2 strands: otter contours

6. **Straight stitch**, 1 strand
   Eye highlight, whiskers, bubbles (color 10)



7. **Split stitch**, 1 strand
   Toe lines, leg folds, petal contours

8. **Back stitch**, 1 strand
   Bubbles (color 13)

9. **French knot**
   2 strands, two wraps
   Lily centers, knots of the bubbles



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

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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	**6**	DMC 437 Light Tan	**11**	DMC 3834 Dark Grape
2	DMC 524 Very Light Fern Green	**7**	DMC 435 Very Light Brown	**12**	DMC 783 Medium Topaz
3	DMC 3836 Light Grape	**8**	DMC 433 Medium Brown	**13**	DMC 598 Light Turquoise
4	DMC 520 Dark Fern Green	**9**	DMC 739 Ultra Very Light Tan		
5	DMC 938 Ultra Dark Coffee Brown	**10**	DMC 3865 Winter White		

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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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