Three wise men by camel

6 inch (15 cm) hoop, 4.9 × 4.9 in (12.4 × 12.4 cm)



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

What you need

A 6 inch (15 cm) hoop.

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

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

24 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 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 14, 20, 23
   Lit sand, shaded sand, camel shadows, camel coats, shaggy chests, camel heads, cloaks



2. **Satin stitch**
   2 strands, colors 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24
   Feet, ears, saddle rugs, robes, shoes, casket, hands, sleeves, faces, beards, hair, crowns, jar, head cloths, covered cup, turbans, star



3. **Split stitch**
   2 strands, colors 2, 6, 8
   Sand ripples

4. **Stem stitch**
   colors 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 9, 11, 15
   4 strands: far legs, near legs
   3 strands: tails
   2 strands: dune ridge
   1 strand: halters, reins, turban folds

5. **Straight stitch**
   colors 5, 9, 11, 13, 16, 22
   2 strands: tail tufts, rug fringes, head bands, turban folds
   1 or 2 strands: gift details
   1 strand: camel mouths



6. **Chain stitch**
   1 strand, colors 11, 13
   Rug bands



7. **Couching**, colors 13, 16, 17
   4 strands: ring
   3 strands: star tail



8. **French knot**
   two wraps, colors 10, 14, 15, 19
   2 strands: star heart
   1 or 2 strands: small stars
   1 strand: camel eyes, gift details



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

In a 6 inch hoop the widest satin stitch shape is 1/2 in (13 mm) across. Satin stitches longer than about 12 mm (just under 1/2 in) tend to work loose: divide the shape into sections, or work it in long and short stitch.

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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 738 Very Light Tan	9	DMC 898 Very Dark Coffee Brown	17	DMC 745 Light Pale Yellow
2	DMC 435 Very Light Brown	10	DMC 3371 Black Brown	18	DMC 407 Dark Desert Sand
3	DMC 437 Light Tan	11	DMC 498 Dark Red	19	DMC 712 Cream
4	DMC 739 Ultra Very Light Tan	12	DMC 500 Very Dark Blue Green	20	DMC 741 Medium Tangerine
5	DMC 3041 Medium Antique Violet	13	DMC 3820 Dark Straw	21	DMC 909 Very Dark Emerald Green
6	DMC 3740 Dark Antique Violet	14	DMC 814 Dark Garnet	22	DMC 912 Light Emerald Green
7	DMC 3042 Light Antique Violet	15	DMC 3831 Dark Raspberry	23	DMC 301 Medium Mahogany
8	DMC 433 Medium Brown	16	DMC 783 Medium Topaz	24	DMC 743 Medium Yellow

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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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