Twelve Chinese zodiac animals in a ring

Sized for a 6 inch hoop (15 cm). The stitched design is about 4.9 × 4.9 in (12.4 × 12.4 cm).



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

Stitch in this order

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

1. **Long and short stitch**, 1 strand
   Moon, plum branch, blossom petals, rat face, ox horns, ox face, muzzles, tiger face, rabbit ears, rabbit face, dragon face, snake head, and 9 more
2. **Satin stitch**, 2 strands
   Buds, rat ears, inner ears, muzzles, noses, rat teeth, eyes, cheeks, ox ears, nostrils, ox forelock, tiger ears, stripes, dragon mane, and 25 more
3. **Couching**, 4 strands
   Gold rings
4. **Split stitch**, 1 strand
   Petal edges, mouths, coil edges, comb, pig snout
5. **Straight stitch**, strands by part on page 2
   Stamens, whiskers, mouths, eye lights, snake tongue
6. **Stem stitch**, 2 strands
   Nose ring, dragon whiskers
7. **Back stitch**, 1 to 2 strands
   Mouths
8. **French knot**
   strands by part on page 2, two wraps
   Anthers, halter knots, goat wool, nostrils, gold dots

Floss

- **1 DMC 3820 Dark Straw**
  Gold rings (lighter), goat horns (middle), neck feathers (lightest) and 4 more parts
- **2 DMC 783 Medium Topaz** Gold rings (darker), goat horns (dark), mouths (light)
- **3 DMC 739 Ultra Very Light Tan**
  Moon (light), monkey face, muzzles, ox horns and goat face (middle) and 2 more parts
- **4 DMC 3822 Light Straw**
  Moon (dark), stamens and anthers, gold dots (lighter) and 6 more parts
- **5 DMC 712 Cream**
  Moon (lightest), goat face (light), dog face and rabbit face (darker) and 3 more parts
- **6 DMC 801 Dark Coffee Brown**
  Plum branch and horse mane (middle), ox face and monkey fur (darker) and 2 more parts
- **7 DMC 3371 Black Brown**
  Eyes and stripes, plum branch, mouths and horse mane (dark), nostrils and noses (darker)
- **8 DMC 433 Medium Brown**
  Monkey fur and ox face (lighter), plum branch and horse mane (light) and 4 more parts
- **9 DMC 350 Medium Coral**
  Blossom petals (dark), comb (lighter), gold dots (darker) and 7 more parts
- **10 DMC 3712 Medium Salmon**
  Blossom petals (light), pig ears, pig face (darker) and 3 more parts
- **11 DMC 304 Medium Red**
  Petal edges, blossom petals and neck feathers (darkest) and 5 more parts
- **12 DMC 761 Light Salmon**
  Pig face (lighter), blossom petals (lightest), inner ears (darker)
- **13 DMC 318 Light Steel Gray** Rat face (darker), rat ears
- **14 DMC 415 Pearl Gray** Rat face (lighter)
- **15 DMC BLANC White**
  Dog face, rabbit face and rooster face (lighter), muzzles (light) and 10 more parts
- **16 DMC 437 Light Tan** Muzzles, ox horns and goat face (dark)
- **17 DMC 921 Copper**
  Horse face (lighter), tiger face and dog ears (darker), tiger ears, neck feathers (dark)
- **18 DMC 3853 Dark Autumn Gold**
  Tiger face and dog ears (lighter), dog patch, neck feathers (light)
- **19 DMC 959 Medium Seagreen** Dragon face (middle)
- **20 DMC 3847 Dark Teal Green** Dragon face (dark), coil edges
- **21 DMC 964 Light Seagreen** Dragon face (light), dragon snout
- **22 DMC 470 Light Avocado Green** Snake coils and snake head (darker)
- **23 DMC 472 Ultra Light Avocado Green**
  Snake head and snake coils (lighter), snake neck

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.

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Twelve Chinese zodiac animals in a ring

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. 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 3820 Dark Straw	9	DMC 350 Medium Coral	17	DMC 921 Copper
2	DMC 783 Medium Topaz	10	DMC 3712 Medium Salmon	18	DMC 3853 Dark Autumn Gold
3	DMC 739 Ultra Very Light Tan	11	DMC 304 Medium Red	19	DMC 959 Medium Seagreen
4	DMC 3822 Light Straw	12	DMC 761 Light Salmon	20	DMC 3847 Dark Teal Green
5	DMC 712 Cream	13	DMC 318 Light Steel Gray	21	DMC 964 Light Seagreen
6	DMC 801 Dark Coffee Brown	14	DMC 415 Pearl Gray	22	DMC 470 Light Avocado Green
7	DMC 3371 Black Brown	15	DMC BLANC White	23	DMC 472 Ultra Light Avocado Green
8	DMC 433 Medium Brown	16	DMC 437 Light Tan		

How many strands

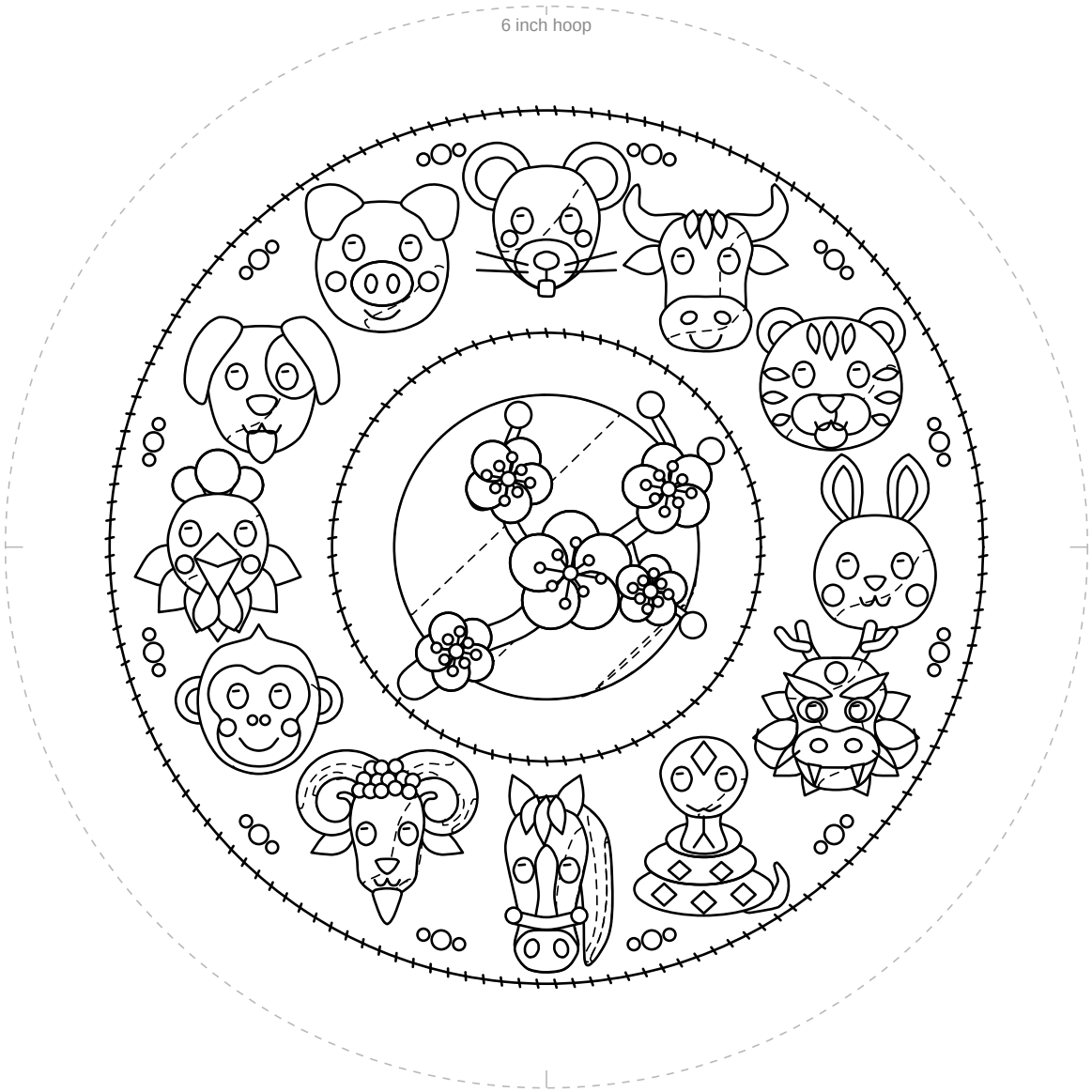
Straight stitch. 2 strands: eye lights, snake tongue; 1 strand: stamens, whiskers, mouths.
French knot. 2 strands: halter knots, goat wool, gold dots; 1 or 2 strands: anthers; 1 strand: nostrils.

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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

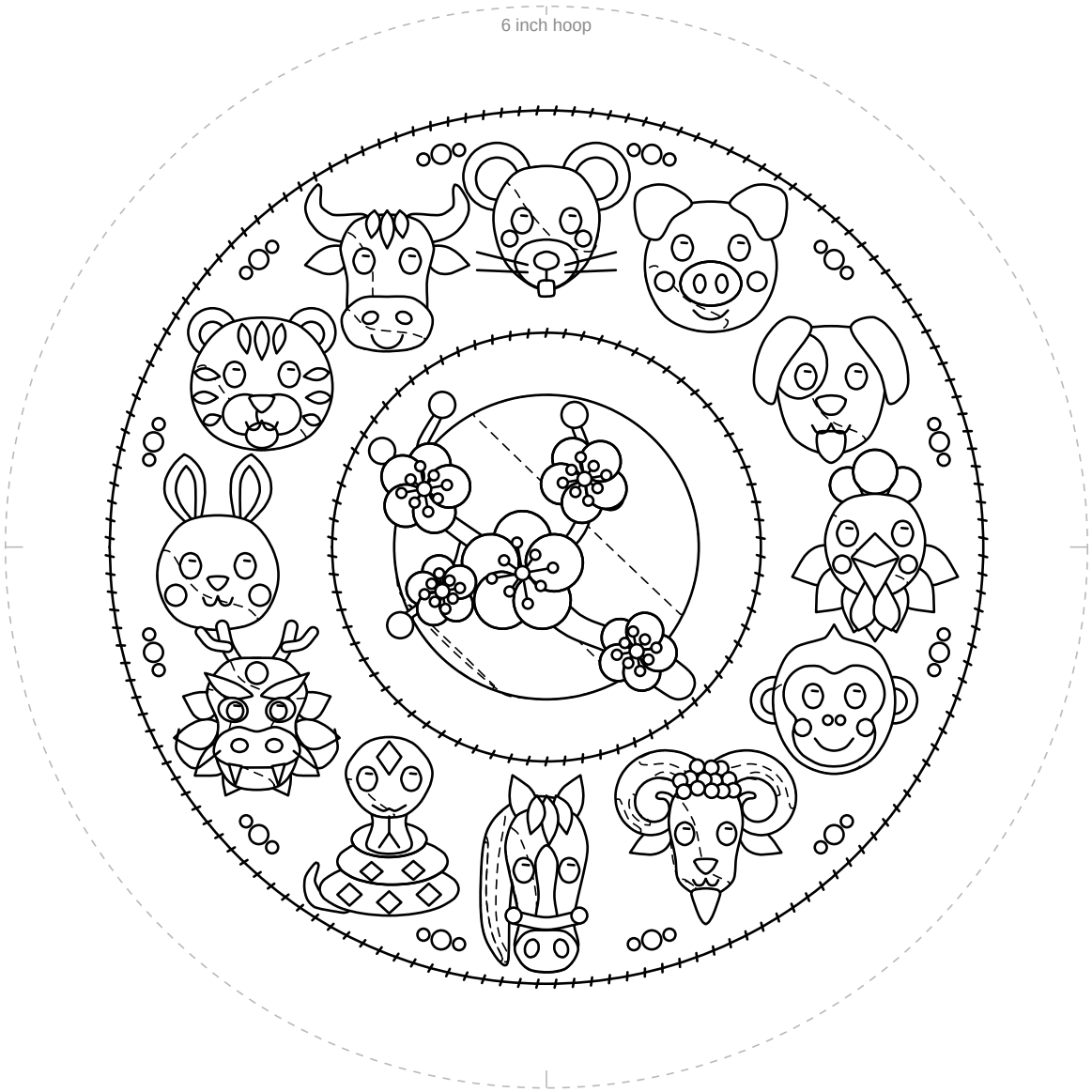
Check square: 1 inch (25.4 mm) on each side.
If it measures anything else, print again at 100% with scaling off.

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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.
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