Two axolotls making a heart

6 inch (15 cm) hoop, 4.3 × 4.5 in (10.9 × 11.4 cm)



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

What you need

A 6 inch (15 cm) hoop.

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

An embroidery needle, size 9.

16 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. **Straight stitch**
   3 strands, colors 12, 13
   Gill feathers



2. **Satin stitch**
   2 strands, colors 1, 4, 7, 8, 12, 14, 15
   Tail fins, toes, gill stalks, cheeks, eyes



3. **Long and short stitch**
   1 strand, colors 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10
   Arms, bodies, legs, faces



4. **Split stitch**, colors 3, 6
   1 strand: body edges
   2 strands: fin edges

5. **Stem stitch**
   2 strands, colors 3, 6, 15
   Face edges, smiles

6. **Back stitch**, 2 strands, color 16
   Bubbles

7. **Padded satin stitch**
   2 strands, color 11
   Held heart



8. **French knot**
   1 strand, two wraps, color 16
   Eye highlights



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

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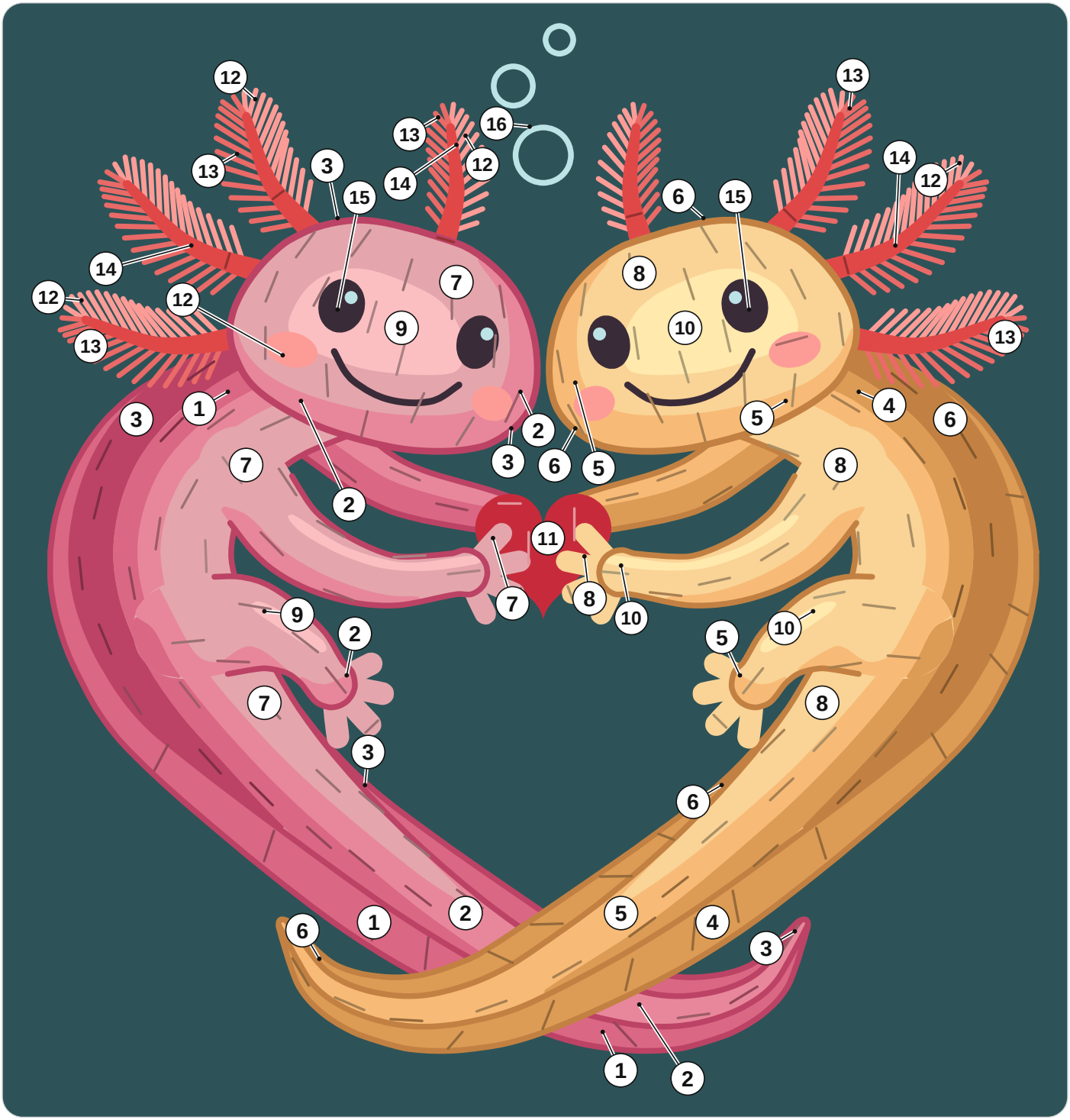
A number is a color of the list. Fine lines show which way the stitches lie: do not stitch them.



1	DMC 3731 Very Dark Dusty Rose	**7**	DMC 3354 Light Dusty Rose	**13**	DMC 351 Coral
2	DMC 3733 Dusty Rose	**8**	DMC 3855 Light Autumn Gold	**14**	DMC 350 Medium Coral
3	DMC 3350 Ultra Dark Dusty Rose	**9**	DMC 3689 Light Mauve	**15**	DMC 3371 Black Brown
4	DMC 977 Light Golden Brown	**10**	DMC 745 Light Pale Yellow	**16**	DMC 3811 Very Light Turquoise
5	DMC 3827 Pale Golden Brown	**11**	DMC 321 Red		
6	DMC 976 Medium Golden Brown	**12**	DMC 352 Light Coral		

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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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