White axolotl bookmark

6 inch (15 cm) hoop, 1.4 × 4.7 in (3.6 × 11.9 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.

An embroidery needle, size 9.

6 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. **Running stitch**, 2 strands
   Ripples

2. **Fly stitch**, 1 strand
   Tail fin



3. **Stem stitch**
   1 strand: fin edge
   2 strands: gill stalks

4. **Feather stitch**, 2 strands
   Gills



5. **Long and short stitch**
   1 strand
   Body, head, blossom



6. **Satin stitch**, 2 strands
   Toes, cheeks, eyes, blossom center



7. **Stem stitch**
   2 strands: frame
   1 strand: back line

8. **Straight stitch**
   2 strands: eye highlights
   1 strand: stamens



9. **Padded satin stitch**, 2 strands
   Legs



10. **French knot**, two wraps
    1 strand: nostrils, stamen tips, knots of the blossom center
    2 strands: bubbles



Take out lines that still show, press face down on soft cloth.

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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 932 Light Antique Blue
2 DMC 3865 Winter White
3 DMC 3752 Very Light Antique Blue
4 DMC 3733 Dusty Rose
5 DMC 225 Ultra Very Light Shell Pink
6 DMC 3750 Very Dark Antique Blue

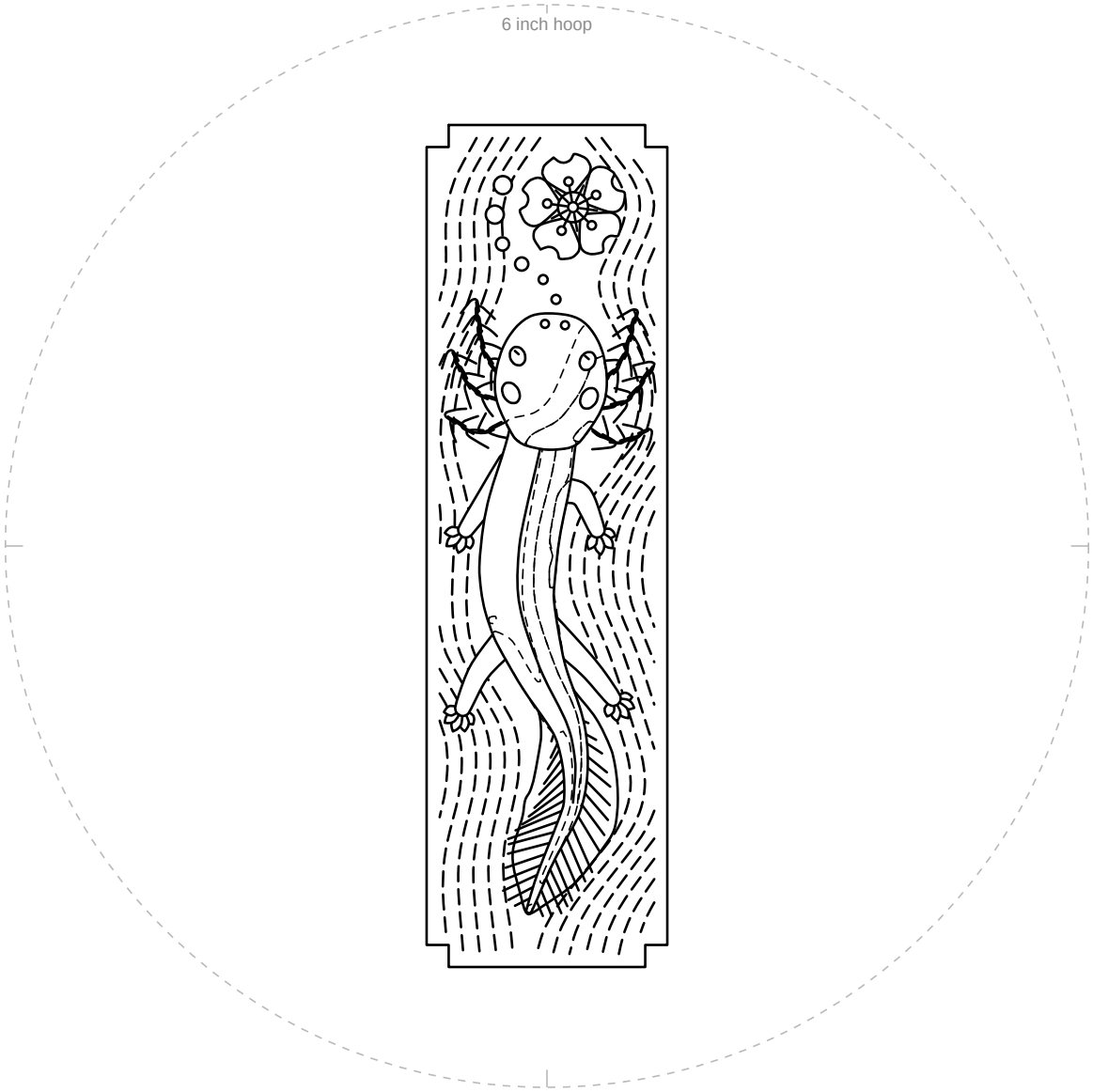
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6 inch hoop

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 dashed line is running stitch; a finer one 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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