You did it: a proud hen kitchen towel

6 inch (15 cm) hoop, 4.3 × 4 in (10.9 × 10.2 cm)



Colors by number: page 2.

What you need

A 6 inch (15 cm) hoop.

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

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

7 colors of floss (page 2): one skein of each color (an estimate from the drawing's lines and shapes).

A water-soluble pen, and small scissors.

Onto the fabric

Fabric you can see through: page 3 taped to a sunny window, the fabric over it; trace.

Other fabric: dressmaker's carbon paper, colored side down, page 3 on top; trace with a ballpoint.

Iron-on pen: go over page 4, the mirrored page, and press it ink side down as the pen's packet says. The lines stay.

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.

The back is seen: no knots. Start with tiny stitches; end around the backs of four or five stitches.

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. **Fishbone stitch**
   2 strands, colors 1, 4
   Tail feathers, wing feathers



2. **Satin stitch**
   2 strands, colors 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
   Beak, comb, neck feathers, wattle, small wing feathers, egg highlight, egg, feet, legs, words, heart



3. **Chain stitch**, 2 strands, color 1
   Tail feather edges



4. **Fly stitch**, 2 strands, color 3
   Tail barbs



5. **Back stitch**, 4 strands, color 3
   Eye

6. **Split stitch**, colors 1, 2, 3, 4
   1 strand: beak outline, leg outline
   2 strands: rump feathers, breast feathers, wing outline, egg outline, thigh feathers

7. **Stem stitch**, colors 1, 2, 3
   3 strands: quills, thighs
   4 strands: body outline, nest
   2 strands: ground

8. **Straight stitch**, colors 1, 2, 3, 4
   3 strands: loose straws, grass
   4 strands: rays



9. **French knot**
   2 strands, two wraps, color 2
   Ray knots



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

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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 920 Medium Copper
2 DMC 3852 Very Dark Straw
3 DMC 801 Dark Coffee Brown
4 DMC 3808 Ultra Very Dark Turquoise
5 DMC 817 Very Dark Coral Red
6 DMC 828 Ultra Very Light Sky Blue
7 DMC 3766 Light Peacock 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.



1 in
25.4 mm

Not 1 inch (25.4 mm)? Print again at 100%.

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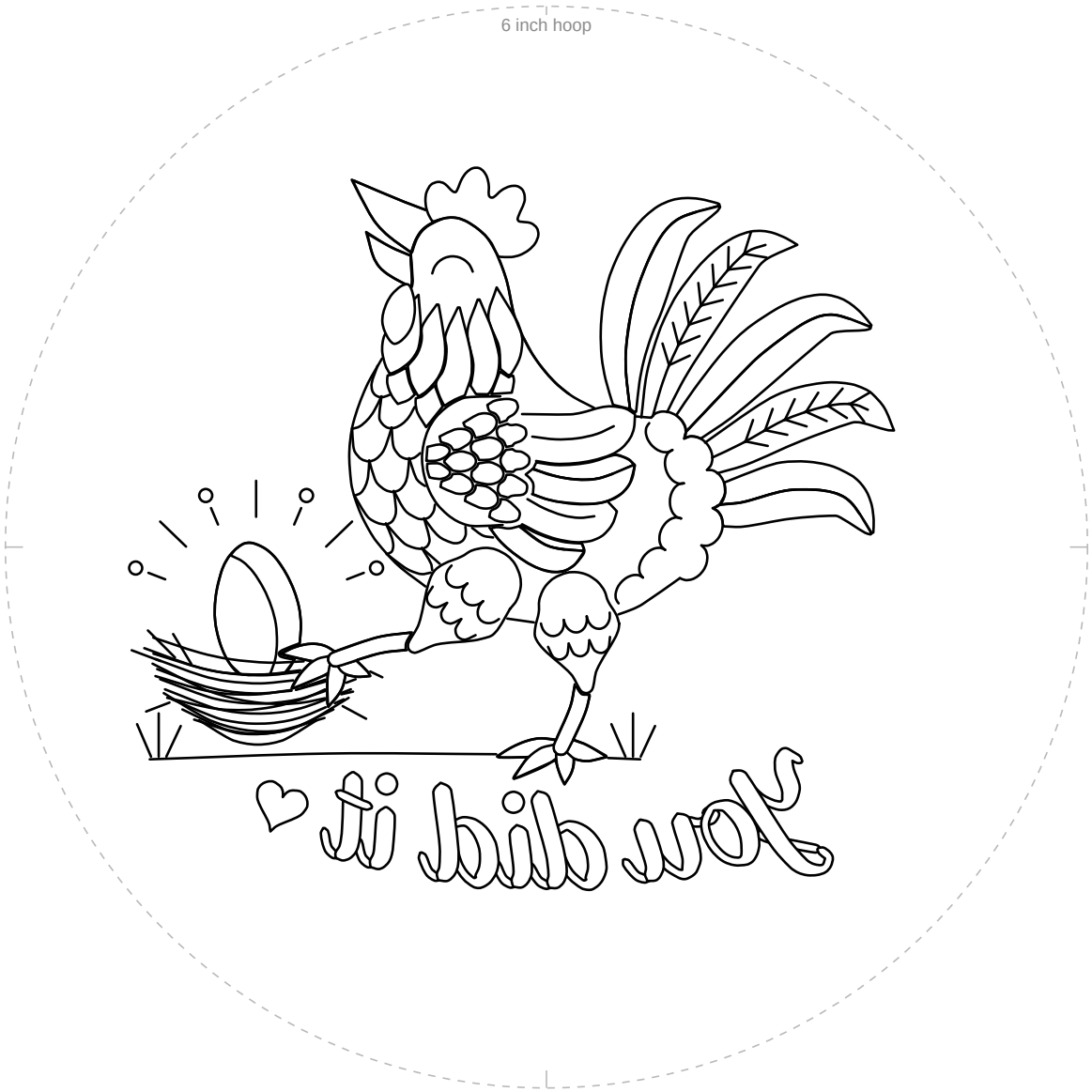
6 inch hoop

For an iron-on pen only. Go over the lines, press ink side down.



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