



A Joyful Spring



April Wreath Hand Embroidery Pattern & Instructions



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Pattern Outline to Transfer



Pattern Dimensions: about 5.3" wide x 5.1" high (13.5 x 13 cm)

Print at 100% or "actual size".

Outline for reverse transfer



Pattern Dimensions: about 5.3" wide x 5.1" high (13.5 x 13 cm)

Print at 100% or "actual size".

Materials & Tools



- **Embroidery floss:** as listed on p. 6
- **6" Embroidery hoop** (15.2 cm)
- Piece of **fabric** about 8" x 8" (20.3 x 20.3 cm), but this can vary depending on the intended project. **Allow at least 1-2" for hoop allowance.** I used Kona cotton in "bone" colour as the main fabric, and a layer of cotton muslin underneath. Cottons and/or linens are great choices for this kind of embroidery project.
- **Marking tool** of your choice to transfer the pattern (transfer paper, water-soluble or heat-erasable pen)
- **Scissors:** fabric shears and embroidery snips
- **Needles:** you'll want some fine hand-embroidery needles, size 9 or 10 for working with 1 strand of thread, and a size 7 or 8 for working with two strands.
- **Iron and ironing board**

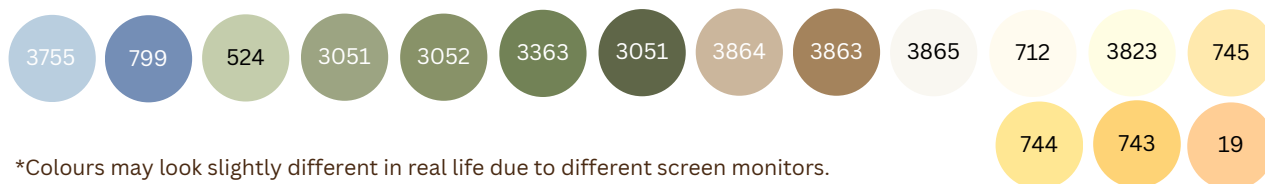


You Might Also Want:

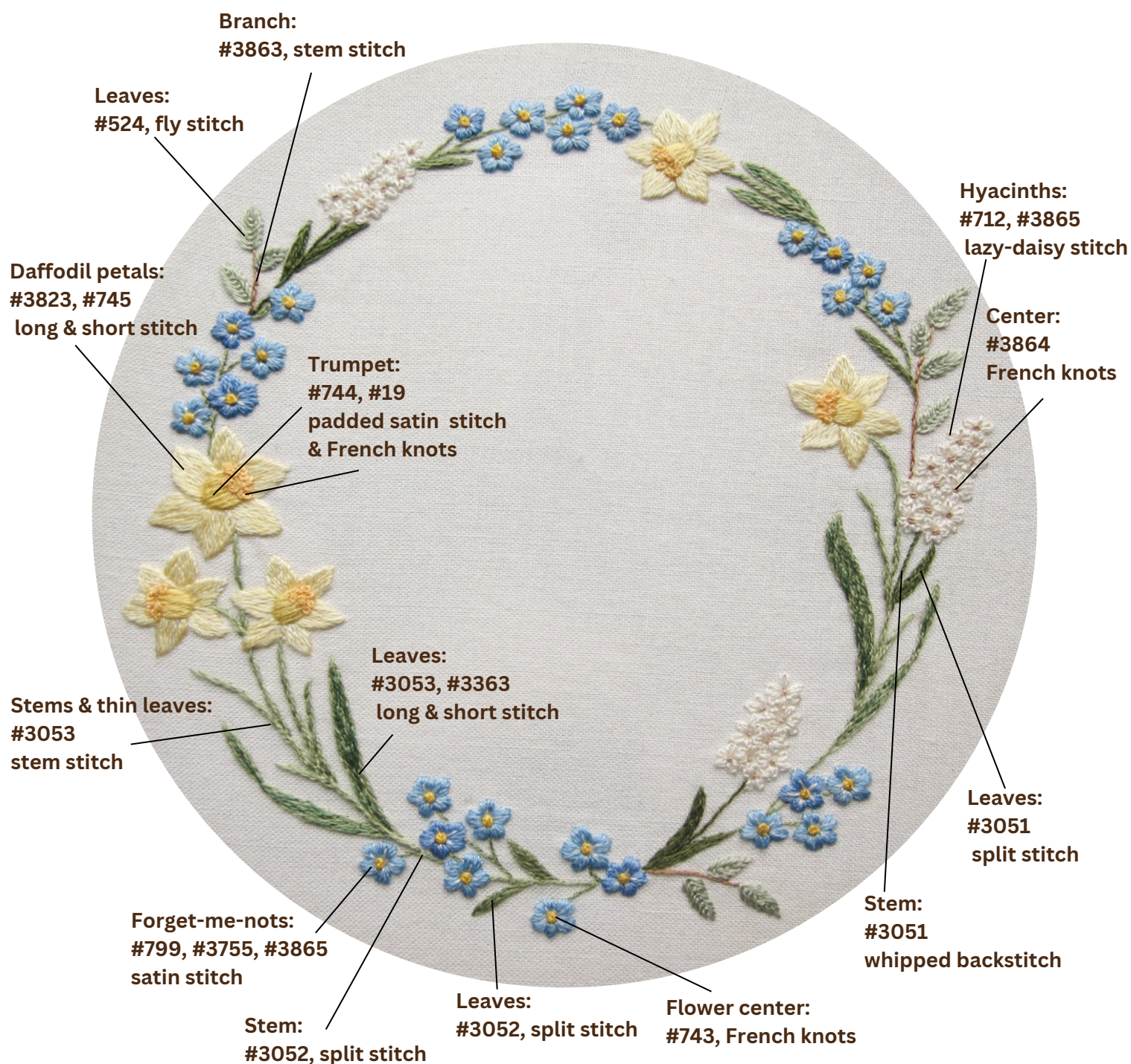
- **Pinking shears** to finish edges of fabric and prevent fraying
- **Thimble** to protect your fingers
- **Needle-minder** so you don't lose your needle!

Thread & Stitch Key

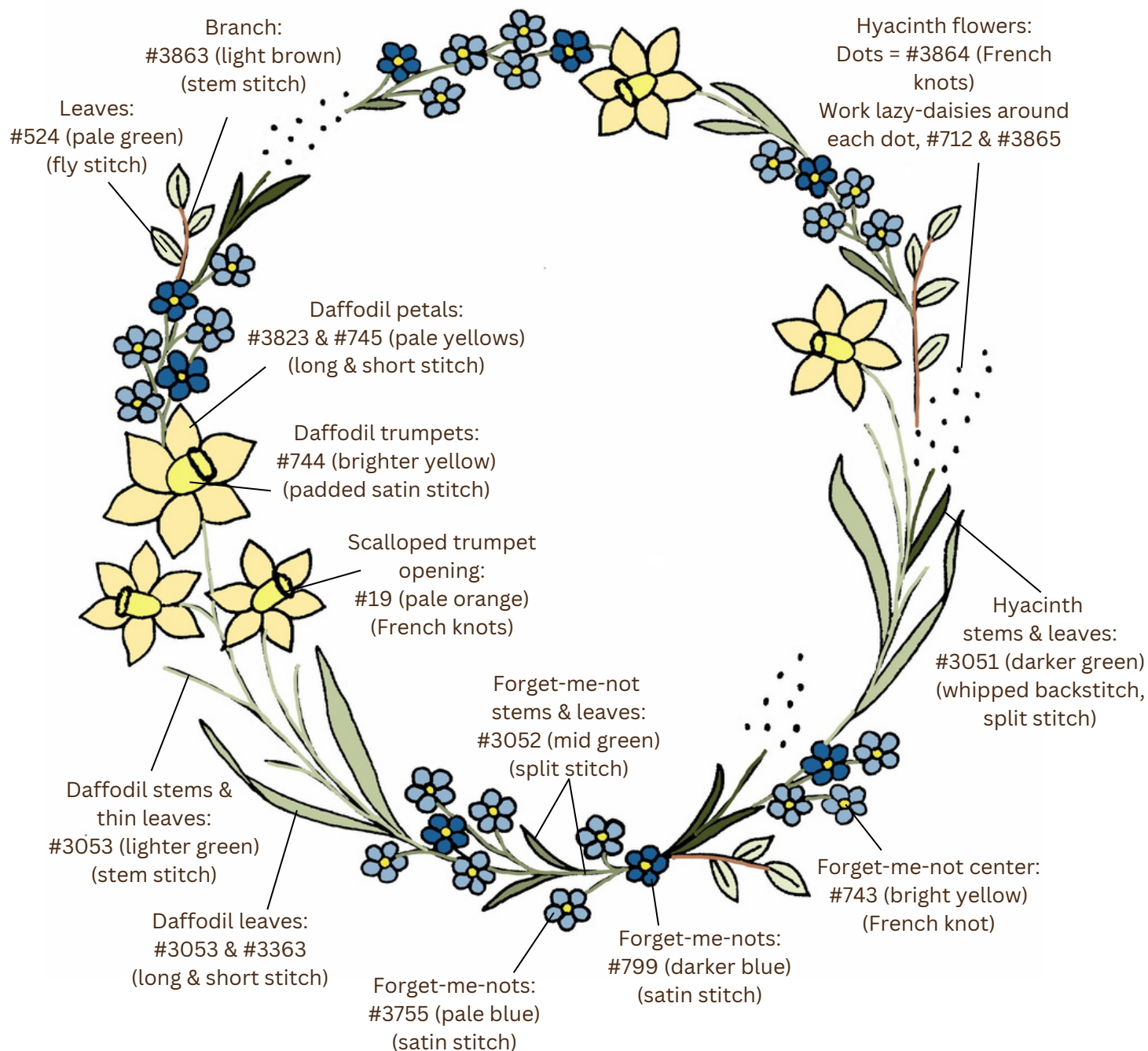
DMC 6 stranded cotton floss:



*Colours may look slightly different in real life due to different screen monitors.



Stitch & Colour Diagram

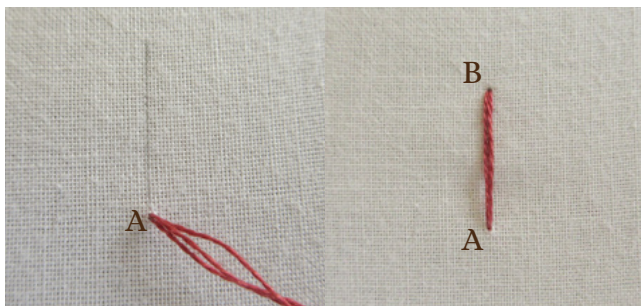


Notes:

- This diagram is intended as a **stitch and colour reference**, showing you which markings correspond to which elements on the pattern outline, and how colours are distributed. You can refer to it as you stitch, especially to see which flowers are done in which colour and to distinguish the different stems and leaves. However, feel free to place the colours as you wish, or even to use different shades.
- **The colours depicted here are NOT necessarily accurate** - some are purposefully lighter or darker to make them easier to distinguish.

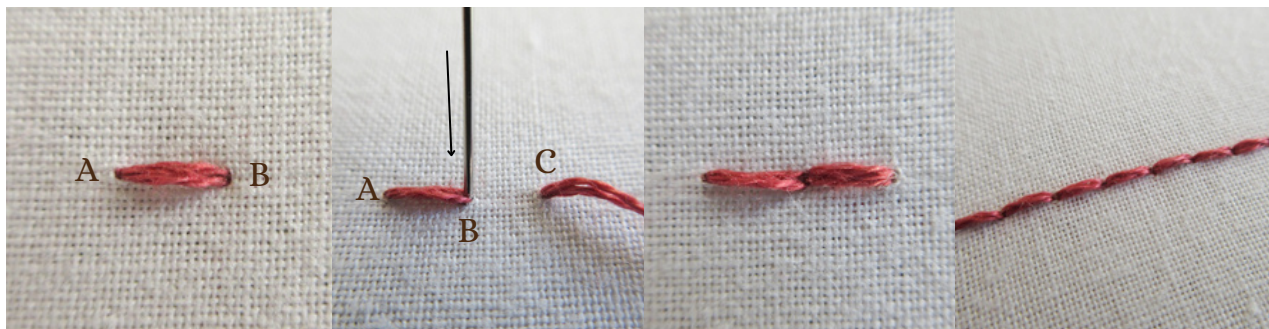
Stitch Tutorials

Straight Stitch:



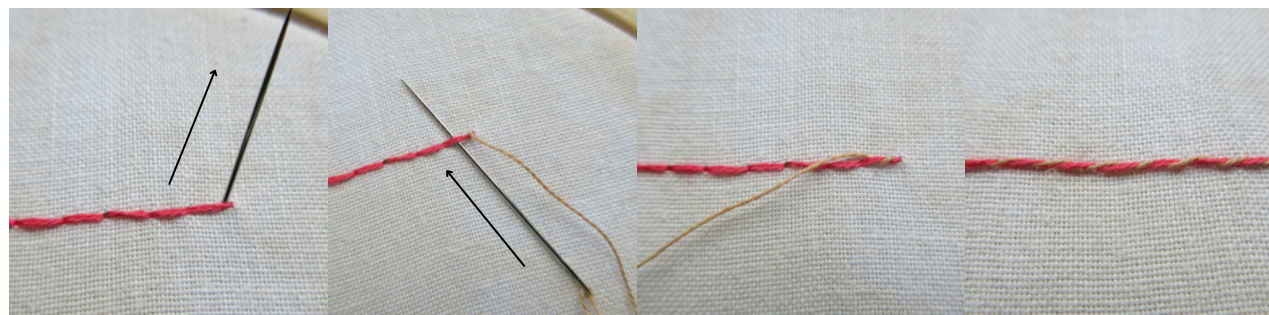
The easiest, and most basic stitch! Bring your needle up from the back at point A, as the start of your stitch. Decide on its length, and bring your needle down at point B, where the stitch will end.

Backstitch:



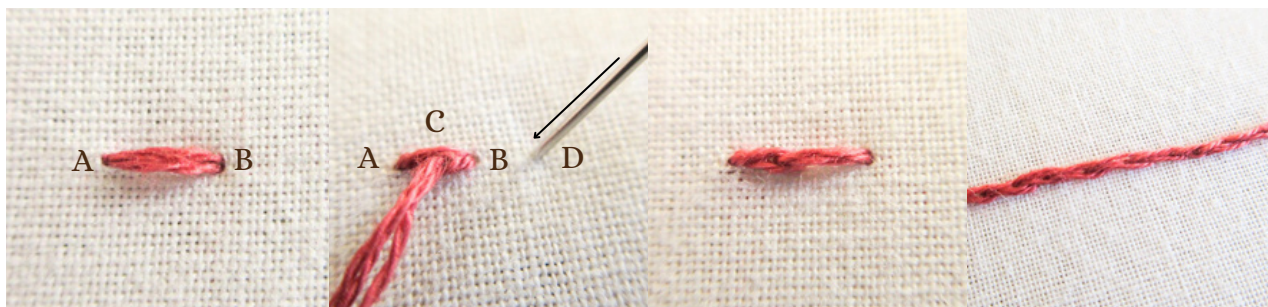
Bring your needle up from the back at point A and go back down at point B to form a straight stitch. Come back up again at point C, at a distance of the same length as the first stitch. Go down again at point B, in the same hole of the previous stitch. Repeat these steps to get a continuous line.

Whipped Backstitch:



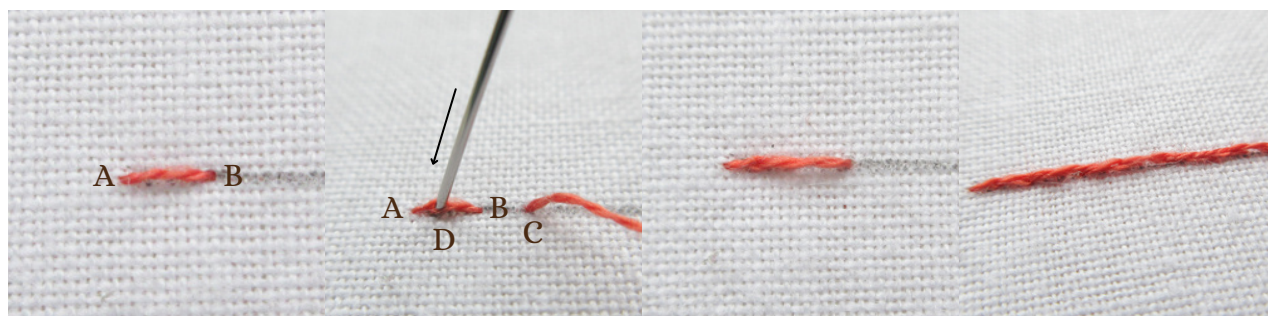
Once you have completed a line of backstitch as shown above, bring your needle up from the back at the start of the line (in the same hole or right beside). You can use the same thread or a contrasting colour, and I like to use only 1 strand. Slip your needle under the first stitch, coming either from above or below the stitch. Here, I'm coming from below. Repeat over all the stitches until you get to the end, then go back in the same hole or just beside the last backstitch. You don't want to go through the fabric as you whip, and you always want to come under the stitches from the same direction (either from above or below).

Split Stitch:



Bring your needle up from the back at point A and go back down at point B to form a straight stitch. Come back up again at point C to "split" the first stitch, right through the middle. Go down again at point D, at a distance equal to the first stitch, to form the second stitch. Repeat these steps to get a continuous line.

Split Backstitch:



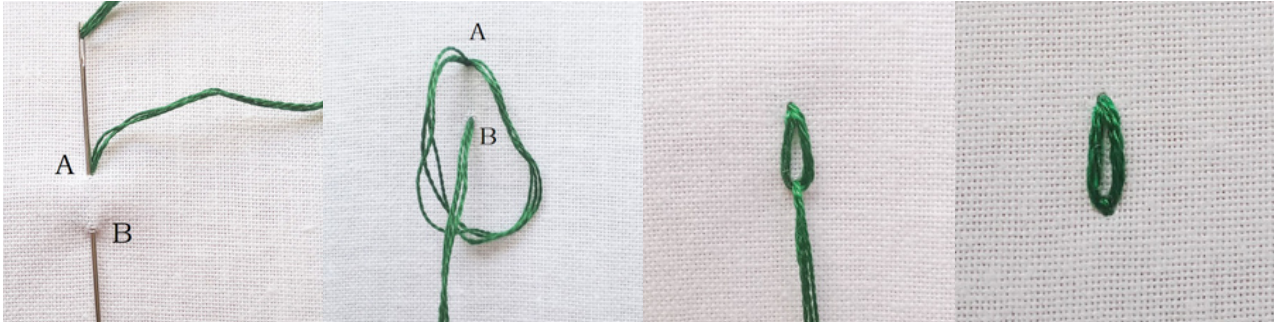
Bring your needle up from the back at point A and go back down at point B to form a straight stitch. Come back up a stitch away at point C, and then go down at point D, through the first stitch. Repeat to get a continuous line. The difference with the regular split stitch is that you will be splitting the stitches from the top by **going down** through them, instead of **coming up** through them from the back.

Stem Stitch:



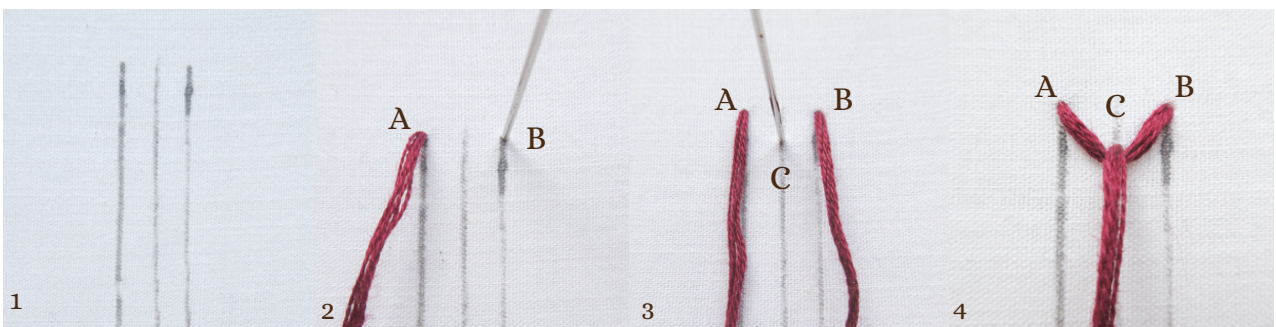
Bring your needle up from the back at point A and back down at point B, as though to form a straight stitch. Before pulling the thread all the way, come back up again at point C, right in the middle of the stitch. Pull through, then bring your needle down ahead at point D to form the next stitch. Before pulling through, come back up at the end of the previous stitch, in the same hole (point B). Pull through and repeat to get a continuous line.

Detached Chain Stitch/"Lazy-Daisy":

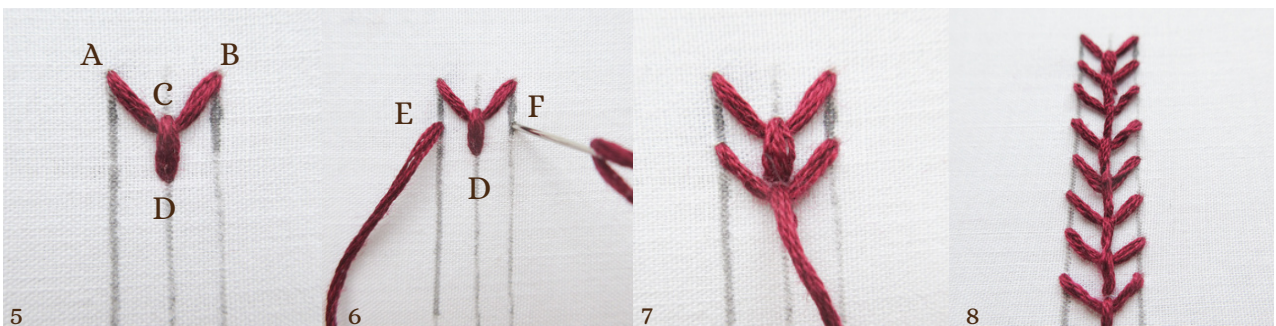


Bring your needle up from the back at point A, and pull the thread all the way through. Go back down in the same hole, and bring your needle up at point B before pulling the thread. Start pulling the thread to form a loop, catching it with your needle. Pull until the loop rests flatly on the fabric, and anchor it with a small straight stitch.

Fly Stitch:



For this stitch, I recommend drawing three vertically parallel lines, at equal distance of each other (1). Start by bringing your needle up from the back at point A, at the top of the left line, and bringing it back down at point B, at the top of the right line (2). Before pulling the thread all the way through, bring your needle up at point C on the middle line, at a distance of one stitch below A and B, to form a loop (3). Pull the thread all the way through to catch the loop (4).



Go back down at point D, just below point C, at the distance of one stitch. This is your first completed fly stitch, and you can stop there if you want a detached fly stitch (5). To make the continuous fly stitch, bring your needle back up on the left side at E (below A, and about half-way between C and D) and down on the right at F to form the loop of the next stitch (6). Bring your needle back up through D to catch the loop, and back down to secure it. Repeat these steps to get a continuous line of fly stitch (7,8).

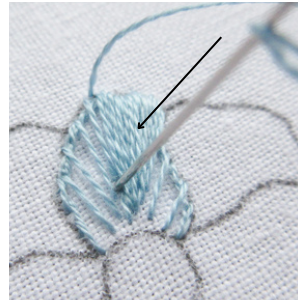
Long & Short Stitch:



1. Start by outlining the shape to be filled with an outline stitch, such as the split stitch, split backstitch, or stem stitch/outline stitch.



2. Then, place "guiding stitches" over the shape, starting from the top outside the outlined edge, and ending at various levels over the shape.



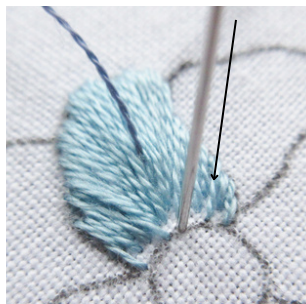
3. Start filling between your guiding stitches, making more "long" and "short" stitches nice and tight against each other. This technique really allows you to control the direction of each stitch, so place them according to the shape you're filling.



4. In this case, for a flower petal, you want them to point towards the center, so the stitches going along the sides are angled to end in a point.



5. Continue to add long & short stitches until you have a first row completed - this can be as small or as big as you want, depending on what you're stitching. Here the first row is very big, filling most of the shape.



6. To blend in a second row, start your stitches by coming up well into the first row to create a bit of overlap.



7. I always suggest starting with a stitch down the middle, and then filling one side at a time.

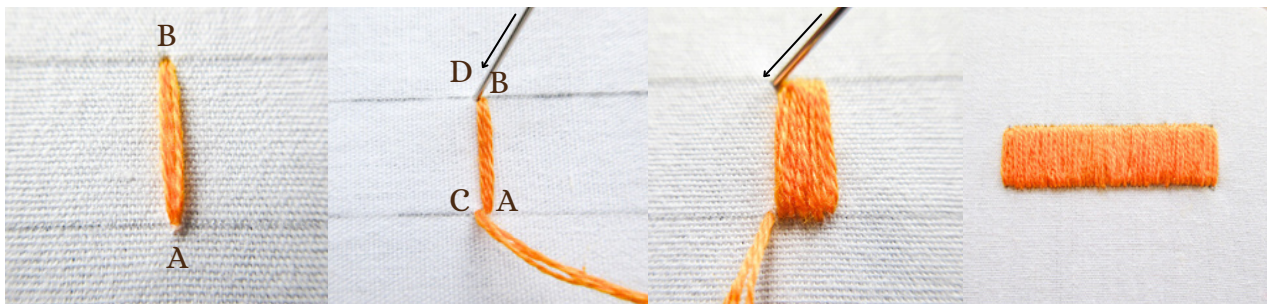


8. Fill the second row completely by adding long and short stitches that blend in the previous row. Try to lay your stitches between existing stitches rather than directly over them.

Note:

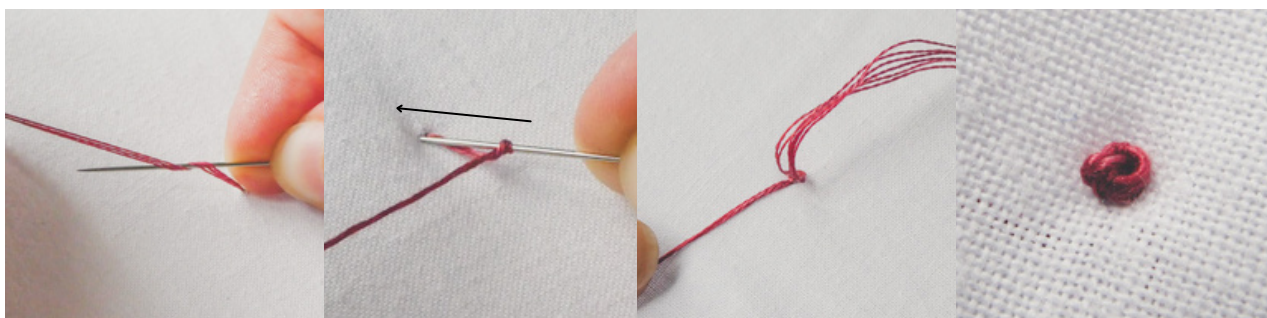
Depending on the shape you're filling, you may wish to add only a few stitches to the second row, or to work more rows. It's also possible to scatter the stitches all over the shape instead of working in rows. This becomes useful to achieve a different texture (such as animal fur or bird feathers), or to use more than one colour in a given section.

Satin Stitch:



Bring your needle up from the back at point A on the edge of the shape to be filled, and back down at point B, on the opposite edge. Once you have a nice straight stitch, come back up at point C, right beside point A. Go down at point D, right beside point B, forming a second straight stitch directly beside the first one. Repeat these steps until the shape is filled, making sure that your stitches are very close to each other.

French Knot:



Bring your needle up from the back and pull the working thread all the way through. Wrap it twice around the needle, and pull gently so that the wraps will tighten around the needle shaft, while you bring the tip right beside where you first came up. Allow the wraps to fall right to the tip of the needle, while holding the working thread tight enough so they don't unravel. Push the needle through, holding onto the thread until the knot is formed.



Preparing the Project

This pattern can be used to make wall art, journal covers, cushion covers, small bags, etc. There is almost no limit to what you can choose to do with it. If you're new to hand embroidery - welcome! - and need extra help with the following instructions or the tutorials from the last pages, be sure to have a look at my blog [The Diary of a Northern Belle](#), where I've written several blog posts and tutorials on hand embroidery (click on it directly to be taken to the website). **I also suggest reading through all the following instructions before you start the project.**

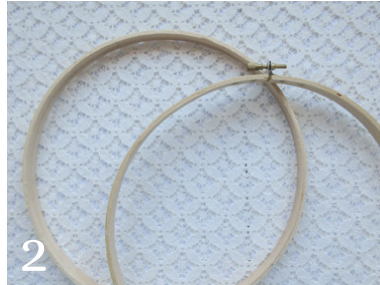
1. Start by gathering up all your materials and threads, as listed on p. 5 and 6. I recommend ironing your fabric before you start stitching, and pinking the edges to prevent fraying threads getting tangled in your embroidery.
2. To print the pattern to transfer, make sure to print at "actual size" or scale to 100%, whether you print on A4 or US Letter paper. This document is originally in A4 format, so if you wish to print the rest of it in US Letter size, you can either select "fit to paper" or "fit to printable area", or print it at 100% as well and only the copyright and page number at the bottom will be cut.
3. Transfer the pattern to your fabric with transfer paper, or by tracing it over a window or lightbox with a heat-erasable or water-soluble pen. You can also opt for reverse transferring. Print the reverse pattern image provided on p. 4 and trace over it with a pencil. Place the reverse side down on your fabric, and go over the pattern lines again to transfer the pencil marks onto the fabric. The "right" side of the pattern will be facing you as you trace it for a second time.



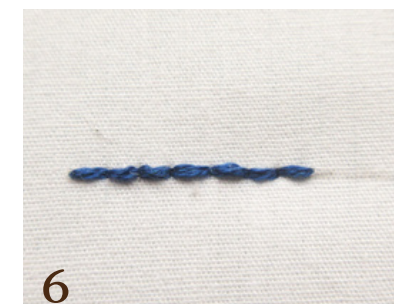
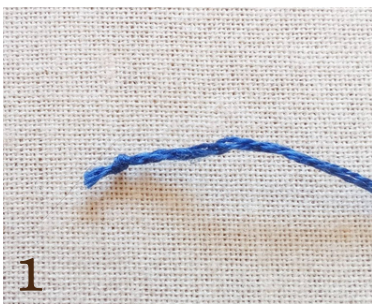
Tip:

It's better to transfer less than too much, and to keep your markings as light as possible on the fabric, especially if using pencil. This makes it easier to fully cover all markings with stitches.

4. To place the fabric in the embroidery hoop, loosen the screw to separate both rings. I highly recommend binding either the inner or outer ring with cotton tape or bias cut strips of fabric. This really helps to keep the tension even and protects your fabric. Center your fabric over the inner ring, then place the outer ring on top and push it down in place. Pull the fabric gently while tightening the screw until it is sitting drum tight. Be careful not to pull too hard, or it will distort the fabric.



5. I recommend avoiding knots at the back of the work, and starting your first stitch with a waste knot instead. A waste knot is a regular knot that sits temporarily on the good side of the embroidery. Place it along the line or inside the shape you're about to stitch, about 1/2" (1.3 cm) away from where you want your first stitch. Then make two or three very small stitches on either side (or close by, if you're filling a shape). Begin your embroidery, covering the small stitches, and snip off the knot once you reach it. Continue to stitch and cover any remaining small stitches. To end your thread, simply weave it behind existing stitches on the back.



Stitching Instructions



Forget-me-nots:



1. Start by working the stems using 1 strand of **#3052** and the split stitch. Refer to the diagram from p.7 to see which stems are the forget-me-nots' if you're unsure.



2. Still using the same colour, outline the forget-me-not leaves with split stitch, and fill with longer split stitches or long & short stitch.



3. Fill each leaf completely. You can start and end your stitches **inside** the split stitch outline.



4. Fill all the forget-me-not leaves in the same way. Again, refer to p.7 if you're unsure which leaves are which.



5. Outline each petal in backstitch and 1 strand **#3755** or **#799** and depending which flower you're working.



6. Fill each petal using 2 strands of **#3755** or **#799** and the satin stitch, worked vertically. Refer to p.7 to see which flowers are worked in which colour.



7. Fill all the petals for each flower using the same colour. Start stitches **outside** the outlined edge, and end them along the center outline.



8. Once the petals are filled, use 1 strand **#3865** to add a single straight stitch along the middle of each petal. Start through the petal, near the top, and end just along the center outline.

Suggestion:

Outlining each petal with backstitch (step 5) is optional if you find it too time-consuming. While the backstitch outline gives the petals a slightly raised and even edge, resulting in neater satin stitch, it is a step you can skip if you prefer, since the flowers are so small.



9. Repeat for each petal of every forget-me-not flower.



10. I suggest working this step once all the petals have been satin stitched first.



11. To finish the flowers, add a French knot to the center using 2 strands **#743**. Wrap around the needle twice.



12. Repeat for each forget-me-not flower all around the wreath.



Daffodils:



1. Start by working the stems and thinner leaves with 2 strands **#3053** and stem stitch.



2. Using the same colour but switching to 1 strand, outline the bigger leaves with split stitch or split backstitch.



3. Fill the leaves with a loose and scattered long & short stitch, starting and ending **inside** the split stitch edge.



4. As opposed to the tutorial from p. 11 you don't need to work in precise rows. Simply scatter "long" and "shorter" stitches over the leaf, leaving space between your stitches.



5. Fill the space left previously using 1 strand **#3363**, adding long and short stitches to finish the leaf.



6. Embroider all the daffodil leaves in a similar way. For those who have a twist, you will only need a few stitches along the top part.



7. For the flowers, start by outlining each petal with 1 strand **#3823** and split stitch or split backstitch. This time, I don't recommend skipping this step ;)



8. Start filling the first petal with long & short stitch, still using **#3823**. As with the leaves, scatter your stitches rather than making strict rows.



9. Continue to add stitches to each petal, leaving a bit of space between your stitches for another colour.



10. Loosely fill each petal of the flower, covering the split stitch edge.



11. Blend in **#745**, using 1 strand. Work long and short stitches between the previous stitches, covering any space left.



12. Add **#745** to each petal until they are all filled.



13. Outline the cup of the trumpet with 1 strand **#744** and the split stitch.



14. Loosely fill the cup with vertical satin stitches **inside** the outline, and add a few stitches to the opening at the top as well.



15. Add another layer of satin stitch to the trumpet, this time working horizontally and using two strands (**#744**).



16. Work this layer of satin stitch starting **outside** the split stitch edge and covering the first layer of satin stitches. This creates the "padded satin stitch", giving more volume to the stitches.



17. To mimic the scalloped edge of daffodil trumpets, add small French knots all around the opening, using 1 strand **#19**. (2 wraps)



18. Fill the opening with French knots, going slightly over petals if needed, and varying their level slightly so they don't lay in a perfect circle.

Hyacinths:



1. Work the hyacinth stems with a whipped backstitch and 1 strand **#3051**.



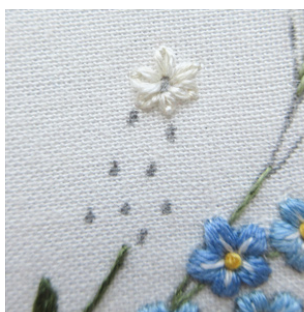
2. Then, outline the leaves with the split stitch, still using 1 strand of the same colour.



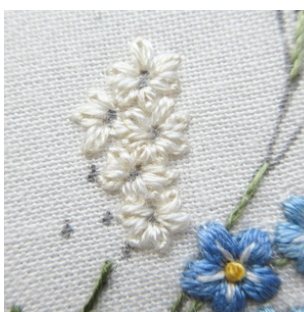
3. Fill the leaves with longer split stitches or long & short stitch, working **inside** the split stitch outline.



4. Fill each hyacinth leaf in this way.



5. For the flowers, start by working six lazy-daisy stitches around the top dot to create the top flower. Use two strands at a time - one strand **#712** and one strand **#3865**.



6. Continue adding lazy-daisy stitches around each dot to create the flowers. They will overlap a bit, so some flowers will have fewer petals. Work 4-6 stitches per flower, as needed.



7. Add stitches until you have a nice head of hyacinth.



8. To finish, add a small French knot to the center of each little flower, using 1 strand **#3864**.



Leaf Branches:



1. The last element to work are the leaf branches, unrelated to any flower. Start with the stems (branches) and 1 strand **#3863** worked in stem stitch.



2. We'll fill the leaves with a closed fly stitch. There is a fly stitch tutorial on p. 10, but for these leaves it will be a bit different. Start with a small straight stitch at the top, using 2 strands **#524**.



3. Work your first fly stitch just underneath that straight stitch, starting and ending on either side of the leaf outline.



4. When you come to hold the loop in place, make a very tiny stitch (unlike the longer ones demonstrated in the tutorial).



5. Work each fly stitch right under the last one, following the leaf outline.



6. Keep adding fly stitches until the leaf is filled. The short stitches holding down the loops will form a really neat leaf vein!

7. Repeat these steps for every leaf on the branches.



Your beautiful wreath is now complete!



Care & Finish

- Gently remove the embroidery from the hoop - unless you wish to leave it in permanently to hang on the wall - and place it on the wrong side to iron. I suggest using a press cloth or a soft towel to protect the embroidery. Avoid ironing directly on the embroidery, even on the reverse side. Use steam on the fabric around the embroidery to remove the hoop marks. Dampening the fabric lightly really helps to remove the marks, so I like to dab a little bit of water directly on those areas before ironing.
- If you used a water-soluble or other washable marking tool to transfer your pattern, you can remove any visible marks with a cotton swab and water. The marks sometimes reappear after a while, so you might need to repeat this a few times. If you used a heat-erasable pen, the heat from the iron will make the marks disappear.
- Mount the finished piece in a frame for display, or use it in a sewing project, fabric journal, or any project you'd like!



Thank You!



I hope you enjoyed stitching this pattern and I thank you for your interest in my work. Don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or concerns, and I would love to see what you create with my pattern! You can also visit my blog, [The Diary of a Northern Belle](#), for more embroidery tutorials, freebies, and fun projects.

This pattern is for personal use only and may not be copied, sold or reproduced in any way. Embroideries made with this pattern also cannot be sold or used for any commercial ends. Thank you!



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