

A decorative border surrounds the page, consisting of various hand-drawn, colorful shapes in shades of teal, orange, blue, purple, yellow, and pink. These shapes include circles, triangles, and abstract forms, some with internal patterns like stripes or dots.

Getting Started

Basic Materials for Embroidery

Needles:

There are various sized embroidery needles available. I tend to find that the size is based on the type of project, the material being used, and just your own personal level of comfort. The most important thing to look out for, is to make sure that the needles are specifically labeled “Embroidery” as “Embroidery needles have a slender shaft and sharp point that’s designed to pierce embroidery fabrics easily. They have a medium/long eye to make it easier to thread with multiple strands of stranded cotton.” (DMC Website)

The needles we used last night were DMC size 5 Embroidery Needles.

Thread:

There are multiple types of embroidery threads. The two main types of threads that I commonly use are, 6 Strand Embroidery Floss and Sashiko thread. There is a great little breakdown here of quite a few different types of threads:

<https://sewguide.com/hand-embroidery-thread-types/>

Some brands and types of thread have dyes that can bleed if washed; so be sure to test color fastness before embroidering items like clothing, that will be washed regularly. I like using DMC threads, as they have been fairly reliable for quality and color fastness.

Embroidery Hoops:

These come in various sizes. You want to make sure and tighten fabric enough that it is taut but not overly stretched. Over stretching the fabric will create puckering once you let it out of the hoop.

Fabric:

You’ll want to choose fabrics that do not have a lot of stretch; fabrics like cotton, linen, hemp, canvas, duck cloth, burlap, denim, cotton/linen blends, and other non-stretch natural fibers are usually best.

Other Materials:

Fabric scissors, embroidery scissors (for cutting thread, not essential but nice if you like to take your embroidery on the go), washable fabric markers, printable transfer paper (if you want to print out your own designs), needle threader, beeswax (if you want to try using it to help with thread stability and tangles), headlamp or other lighting (if you need help seeing in low light situations), Needle minder (essentially a magnet to help you keep track of your needle if you are going to be setting it down)

Needle Threader Tutorial:

<https://blog.treasurie.com/how-to-use-a-needle-threader/>

Patterns

Strand Count: 6 Strand Embroidery Floss can be separated into individual strands. In these patterns I give a suggested number of strands, not only to save on thread, but also to achieve the look you are going for. Feel free to experiment with these suggestions; more strands will equal fuller more three dimensional stitches and use more thread, less strands will equal finer more detailed stitches and use less thread.



LAVENDER FLOWERS PATTERN

Stitches used: Stems (Back stitch or stem stitch, 2-3 strands), Leaf (Satin stitch 2 strands), Flowers (Petal stitch 3 strands)

Colors: Petals (210 and/or 29), Stems and Leaves (3052)

*Strand count is a suggestion, feel free to explore and play a bit!



CHAMOMILE FLOWER PATTERN

Stitches used: Stems and leaves (Back stitch or stem stitch, 2 strands), Flower petals (Satin stitch, 2-3 strands), Flower centers (French knot stitch, 2-3 strands)

Colors: Stems and Leaves (367), Petals (3866), Flower Centers (3820)

*Strand count is a suggestion, feel free to explore and play a bit!



YARROW FLOWER PATTERN

Stitches used: Stems and leaves (Back stitch or stem stitch, 2 strands), Flower petals (French knot stitch, 2 strands)

Colors: Leaves and Stems (3052), Flowers (3866)

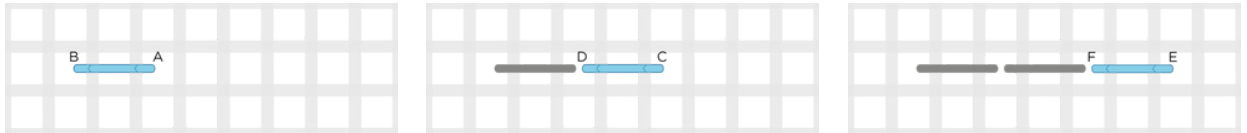
*Strand count is a suggestion, feel free to explore and play a bit!

Stitch Tutorials

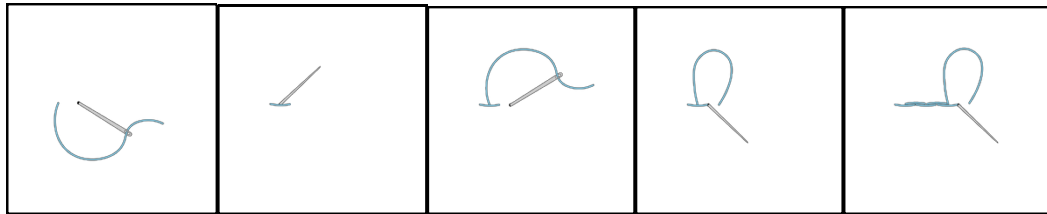
*Click on Stitch name to link to Stitch Bank Tutorial Page videos and illustrations

Basic Botanical Embroidery Stitches

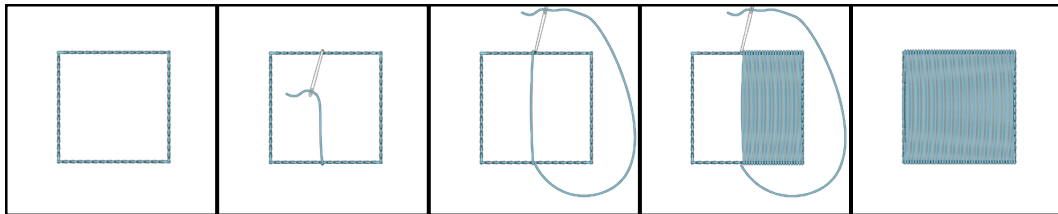
Back Stitch



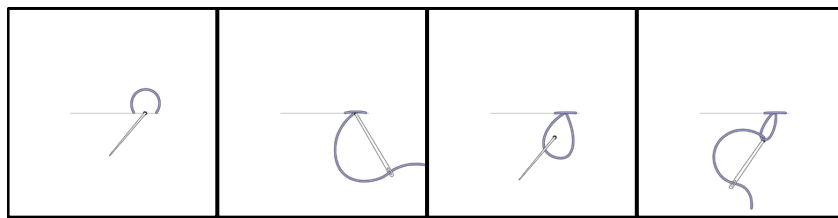
Stem Stitch



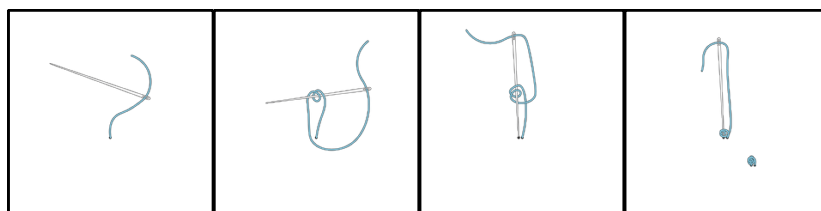
Satin Stitch



Petal Stitch



French Knot





How to Use this Kit

Stretch the fabric in your embroidery hoop (be sure to make it taut, but not too tight, as that will create puckering. Make sure edges are smooth and there are no bumps or overlap of fabric anywhere.

Choose your template transfer and peel the sticker backing off. Place your transfer over the fabric and smooth out onto your fabric (in the hoop).

Begin stitching your design

Once you are finished stitching remove your fabric from the hoop and run under gentle warm water to dissolve the transfer sheet.

Occasionally, you need to gently scrub the fabric to remove all of the transfer residue.

If there is some ink bleeding from the transfer sheet, hand wash gently with Dawn dish soap or other mild detergent to help remove any residual ink.

Dry completely and then choose how you want to display your creation! You can choose to create a patch, place it back in the hoop to hang or display, place it in a frame, or use it in another sewing project.

If you have any questions about this kit or need any additional support with your Botanical Embroidery projects, please email Lauren@thimbleandseed.com