FREE EMBROIDERY TUTORIAL + PATTERN

# Fishbone Stitch Embroidery

How to do fishbone stitch for leaves, plus a leaf wreath hoop

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| SKILL LEVEL<br>**Beginner** | HOOP<br>**5 in (13 cm)** | DESIGN<br>**18 leaves on a vine** |
| FLOSS<br>**4 DMC colours** | STITCHES<br>**Fishbone, stem stitch** | TIME<br>**About 3 hours** |

## Materials

- DMC stranded cotton: 3363, 3364, 520, 3011 (1 skein each)
- 8 × 8 in (20 cm) oatmeal linen, a 5 in (13 cm) hoop, a size 9 embroidery needle, a water-soluble pen

## Key

**Tip stitch** one short straight stitch down the centre line **2 strands** separate 2 of the 6
**Centre line** the vein: stitches cross it by a hair

Stitches are about 0.4 mm apart along the leaf. Keep them close and at the same slant.

## Fishbone stitch

| | |
|---|---|
| **1** | A short straight stitch down the centre from the tip. |
| **2** | Up on the left edge, down just past the centre line. |
| **3** | Up on the right edge, down just past the centre line. Alternate down to the base. |

## The hoop

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Trace** | Print the template at 100%, check the 1 in (2.5 cm) bar, trace the vine, the leaves and their centre lines. | |
| **DMC 3363** | 6 leaves | **(192 sts)** |
| **DMC 3364** | 6 leaves | **(192 sts)** |
| **DMC 520** | 6 leaves | **(192 sts)** |
| **DMC 3011** | the vine circle in stem stitch, first | **(73 sts)** |
| **Finish** | Rinse out the pen, dry face down, press from the back and frame. | |

# How to Do Fishbone Stitch

slanting stitches from the edge to the centre, alternating sides · a leaf fill with a vein · 2 strands

### 1 · Tip



Make one short straight stitch down the centre line from the tip.

### 2 · Edge to centre



Come up on the left edge, a little below the tip, and go down just past the centre line.

### 3 · Other side



Come up on the right edge, level with it, and go down just past the centre, overlapping the first.

### 4 · Down to the base



Keep alternating, close together. The crossing makes a neat vein down the middle.

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# Leaf Wreath · Fishbone Stitch Plan

5 in hoop · 18 leaves · 576 fishbone stitches · stem stitch vine · enlarged




Stitch the vine first, then the leaves, each from its tip to its base.

# Leaf Wreath · Floss

2 strands · oatmeal linen 8 × 8 in (20 cm) in a 5 in (13 cm) hoop

| DMC | Colour | Part | Stitches | Thread (2 strands) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **DMC 3363** | medium pine green | 6 leaves | 192 | 2.4 yd |
| **DMC 3364** | pine green | 6 leaves | 192 | 2.4 yd |
| **DMC 520** | dark fern green | 6 leaves | 192 | 2.4 yd |
| **DMC 3011** | dark khaki green | vine circle, stem stitch | 73 | 1.0 yd |

1 skein of each colour is plenty. Time: about 3 hours.

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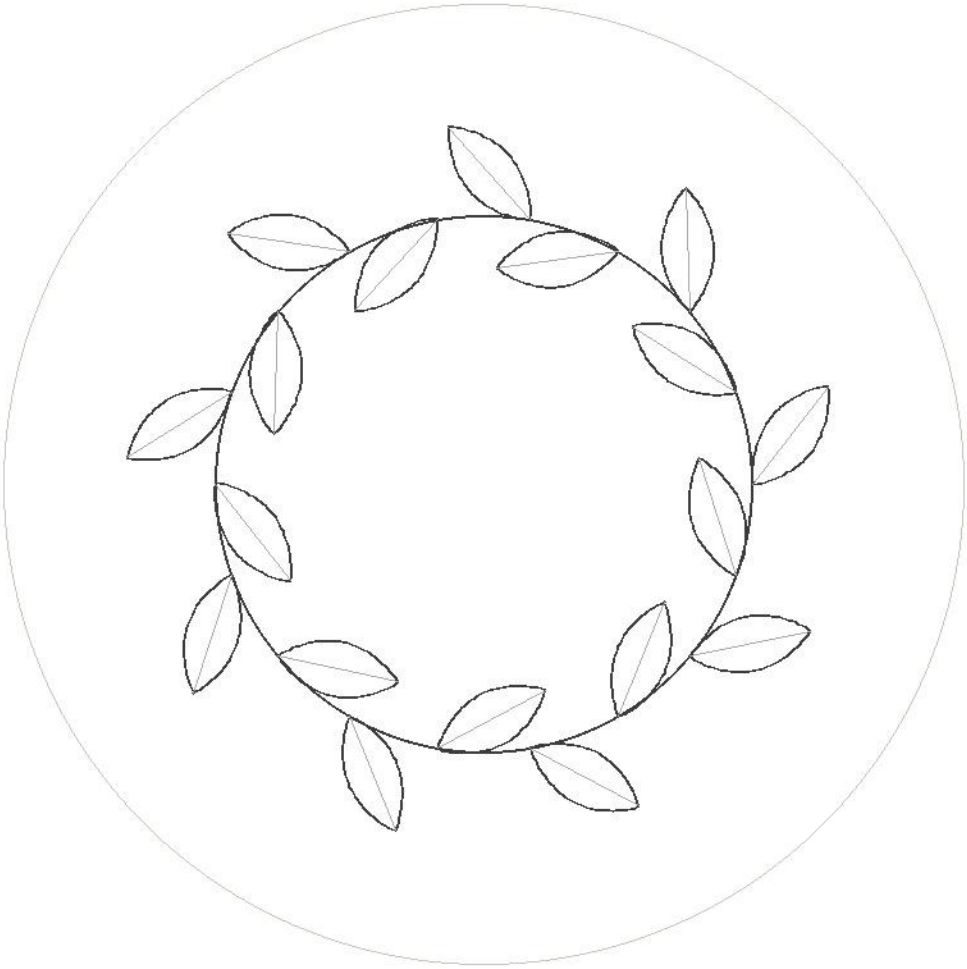
# Leaf Wreath · print at 100% (actual size)

Trace the vine circle, each leaf outline and its centre line (grey).



1 in check bar: measure it after printing