

Anatomical Skull with Rose and Thistle Crown, Twin Crescents and Botanical Wildflower Wreath

Corrected Hand Embroidery DMC Master Guide

ADVANCED

8" / 20 cm HOOP

16-COLOR DMC

ARTWORK PREVIEW



DESIGN ARCHITECTURE

Fabric: warm ivory linen or linen-cotton evenweave with enough body for dense skull contouring, layered rose and thistle fills, wheat spikes, berry knots and fine crescent/star details.

Needles: crewel #9-10 for 1-strand skull outlines, teeth, crescent rims, stems and stars; #7-8 for 2-strand rose spirals, thistle, leaves, daisies and wheat; #7 for clustered berries and flower centers.

Strands: 1 for skull linework, teeth, fine stems, crescent edges, tiny stars and vine curls; 2 for skull shading, roses, leaves, daisies, thistle and wheat; 2-3 for berry clusters, rosette centers and textured knots.

Motifs: central anatomical skull, rose-and-thistle floral crown, rust and teal opposing crescents, daisies, wheat sprays, sage and olive foliage, black berry clusters, small stars and a loose circular wildflower wreath.

CORE STITCH DIRECTORY

Long-and-short / satin: skull planes, crescent fills, thistle head, petals and broader leaf shapes

Split / backstitch / stem: skull contours, teeth, floral stems, vine curls, crescent outlines and stars

Woven / spiral / fishbone / French knot: rosette roses, leaf clusters, berries, daisy centers and wheat texture

CORRECTED DMC PALETTE

DMC	COLOR / SWATCH	ELEMENT	PRIMARY	SECONDARY	STR.
310	Black	Black rosettes, berry clusters, deepest skull cavities and fine separators	Backstitch / French knot	Satin	1-2
3799	Pewter Gray - Very Dark	Deep skull contour reinforcement, jaw shadow and eye-socket depth	Split / Backstitch	Long-short	1-2
924	Gray Green - Very Dark	Primary blue-green skull linework, dark teal crescent and thistle shadows	Split / Satin	Long-short	1-2
926	Gray Green - Medium	Soft skull shading, teal crescent highlights and thistle transitions	Long-short / Satin	Split	1-2
3865	Winter White	Skull highlights, teeth, daisy petals and pale floral accents	Satin / Long-short	Split	1-2
Ecru	Ecru	Bone transitions, cream rose, pale petals and neutral highlights	Long-short / Satin	Straight stitch	1-2
3826	Golden Brown	Rust crescent, wheat, rose shadows and warm stem accents	Satin / Stem	Long-short	1-2
3858	Rosewood - Medium	Rust-rose petals, thistle tips and warm floral midtones	Woven / Satin	Long-short	1-2
3777	Terra Cotta - Very Dark	Deep rose shadows, warm berry details and rust crescent depth	Long-short / Satin	French knot	1-2
223	Shell Pink - Light	Soft thistle petals, rose highlights and blush floral accents	Satin / Long-short	Straight stitch	1-2
730	Olive Green - Very Dark	Deepest olive foliage, shadowed stems and leaf veins	Stem / Fishbone	Split	1-2
3011	Khaki Green - Dark	Main olive leaves, fern-like sprays and supporting greenery	Fishbone / Stem	Satin	1-2
3052	Green Gray - Medium	Sage foliage highlights, lighter leaves and delicate sprigs	Fishbone / Satin	Straight stitch	1-2
829	Golden Olive - Very Dark	Wheat heads, dark botanical accents and muted olive shadows	Stem / Straight stitch	Fishbone	1-2
729	Old Gold - Medium	Starbursts, daisy centers, small gold dots and wheat highlights	French knot / Straight	Satin	1-2
3782	Mocha Brown - Light	Pale wheat stalks, neutral stems and warm botanical transitions	Stem / Straight stitch	Split	1-2

STITCHING SEQUENCE

#	PHASE	ARTWORK-SPECIFIC EXECUTION
1	Transfer and structural framework	Transfer the skull centerline, sockets, nasal cavity, jaw and teeth first. Mark the opposing crescents, main rose and thistle crown shapes, large daisies, wheat sprays, berry clusters and the loose circular wreath path before adding small stars and curls.
2	Main focal element	Build the skull with 3865/Ecru/926/924/3799/310. Follow forehead, cheekbone and jaw planes with short directional shading, deepen eye sockets and nasal cavity gradually, and keep teeth crisp with one-strand dark separators.
3	Secondary large element	Work the floral crown above the skull: spiral the rust, cream and black rosettes, shade the thistle from dark teal to blush tips, then add the upper leaves, berries and supporting stems so the crown remains clearly secondary to the skull.
4	Foliage / supporting motifs	Develop the surrounding wreath with olive and sage leaves, fern-like sprigs, wheat stalks and daisy stems. Work stems first, then fishbone leaves and grain spikes, preserving open ivory fabric between clusters for an airy circular rhythm.
5	Small decorative details	Fill the rust and teal crescents with smooth curved satin stitches, then add daisy petals, dark berries, starbursts, tiny gold dots and vine curls. Keep these accents light enough that the skull and crown retain the strongest contrast.
6	Final accents, dimensional details, cleanup, and blocking	Refine teeth, skull fissures, rose spirals, thistle texture, daisy centers, wheat barbs, berry knots and leaf veins. Remove transfer marks and block gently. Confirm skull first, floral crown second, and twin crescents with wildflower wreath as the framing layer.

MOTIF THREAD-DIRECTION & STRAND MAP

MOTIF	DMC FAMILY	STR.	DIRECTION
Skull	3865 / Ecru / 926 / 924 / 3799 / 310	1-2	Follow bone planes; keep sockets, nasal cavity, jaw and teeth sharply separated
Rose + thistle crown	3826 / 3858 / 3777 / 223 / 924 / 926 / 310	1-2	Spiral roses from center outward; radiate thistle stitches from base toward petal tips
Twin crescents	3826 / 3777 / 924 / 926	1-2	Follow each crescent curve from inner rim to outer edge with smooth parallel fill
Daisies + wheat	3865 / Ecru / 729 / 3782 / 829	1-2	Radiate petals from centers; build wheat upward along the stalk with angled straight stitches
Foliage + fern sprays	730 / 3011 / 3052 / 829	1-2	Stem first, then fishbone leaves following each branch and circular wreath flow
Berries + stars + curls	310 / 3858 / 729 / 3826	1-2	Cluster knots tightly for berries; radiate stars and keep curls light with single-strand stem stitch

MASTER TENSION & COLOR-MATCH GUIDELINES

- Keep skull linework firm but not tight; the dark blue-green contours should define the bone structure without puckering the ivory ground or overpowering the soft interior shading.
- Use slightly relaxed tension for rose spirals and thistle fills so the floral crown remains dimensional. Keep black rosettes and berry clusters compact and controlled rather than bulky.
- Maintain flexible tension through foliage, fern sprays and wheat. Vary stitch length naturally while preserving clean ivory gaps so the wreath reads as airy, not as a solid band.
- Match the rust and teal crescents as balanced color anchors. Keep daisy petals, stars and gold dots lighter in contrast so these framing accents support rather than compete with the skull and crown.

FINAL QC LINE

Keep the anatomical skull as the dominant focal motif, the rose-and-thistle crown as the secondary hierarchy, and the opposing rust/teal crescents with daisies, wheat, foliage, berries and stars as the balanced circular frame.