

WANDERING THREADS EMBROIDERY



# Washington DC City Skyline Embroidery Pattern

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# Materials List

- 8-inch Fabric Square  
\*Use a slightly larger piece if planning to finish in a wooden frame. Instructions included at the end of this guide.
- 6 or 7-inch Embroidery Hoop
- Embroidery Needle:  
Size 5 or 7
- Small sewing scissors
- Needle Minder \*Optional\*
- Water Soluble Pen, or Stick & Stick Paper, or other items for pattern transfer  
\*See the Pattern Transfer Instructions.



- DMC Embroidery Floss:  
165, 169, 647, 3768
- Felt circle for finishing the back of the hoop  
\*Instructions included at the end of this guide.
- Wooden Frame \*Optional\*  
This pattern fits inside a 6" x 4" or 5" x 7" rectangle frame  
\*Framing instructions are included with this guide.

# Full Size Design

Fits a 6 or 7-Inch Hoop



## Reverse Image for Iron-On Transfer



# Embroidery Pattern Transfer Instructions

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## Light Table/ Window:

Place the pattern on a light table or tape it to a bright window. Position the fabric on top and secure in place. Trace the pattern onto the fabric using a water erasable transfer pen. The markings from this pen will remain until washed gently with water.

\*Pro tip: A computer or tablet screen makes a great light box! Simply open this PDF on your computer, tape the fabric over the pattern on the screen, and trace it. No printer needed!

## Iron On Transfer Pencil or Pen:

Iron on transfer pens and pencils can be found at many fabric/craft stores. First, print the REVERSE IMAGE pattern. Trace the pattern with the iron on pencil or pen. Place the traced pattern on an iron-safe surface and secure the fabric on top. Press a hot iron on the fabric for 5-10 seconds. Do not move the iron around. Gently lift an edge of the fabric to check that the design has transferred before removing the fabric.

\*This method will leave permanent marks that need to be covered with stitches.

## Transfer Paper:

Transfer Paper can be found at many fabric or craft stores. It is coated on one side with a powdery ink that will wash out of the fabric.

## Transfer Paper (continued)...

To use, secure your fabric to a flat, hard surface, cover with a piece of transfer paper (powder side down) and place the printed pattern on top. Trace the pattern using a pencil, or stylus. Press very firmly and make sure the paper does not move.

This method works well for transferring patterns to dark fabric. A white or yellow transfer paper shows up nicely.

## Stick & Stitch Transfer Paper

This dissolvable, sticky-backed, transfer paper can be drawn on by hand, or printed on using a printer. The pattern goes on the rough (non-sticky) side of the paper. If tracing by hand, use a light-colored pen or pencil and don't press too hard. If using a printer, make sure the setting is for plain, not photo, paper.

Once the pattern is on the paper, lay the fabric flat on a hard surface, remove the backing from the transfer paper, place the pattern on top, and press firmly. Stitch as usual.

When finished stitching, place the fabric in a shallow bowl of lukewarm water. Make sure the water completely covers the fabric. Leave it for 5-10 minutes. Shake the fabric in the water to remove any loose bits of semi-dissolved paper. Rinse and lay flat to dry.

# Embroidery Stitch Tutorials

You can follow the diagram on the next page for stitches and floss colors, or you can choose your own!

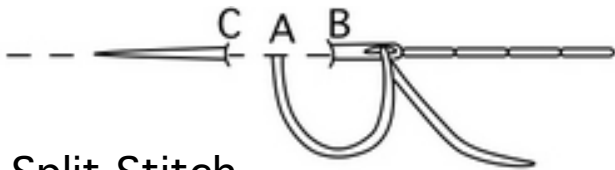
Illustrated stitch guides for the four recommended stitches are below. To view complete stitch tutorials with photos for each stitch, scan the QR code or visit:



[WanderingThreadsEmbroidery/embroidery-stitch-tutorials.com](http://WanderingThreadsEmbroidery/embroidery-stitch-tutorials.com)

## Back Stitch

Begin by bringing the thread up through the fabric one stitch length away from the starting point. Next, go back and bring the needle down at the beginning. Think of it as stitching in reverse. The second stitch is made in the same manner. Come up one stitch length away from the previous stitch and bring the needle down at the end of the previous stitch. Once you get the hang of it this stitch becomes almost like second nature.



Bring the thread up at A, down at B, and back up at C.

## Split Stitch

Make a single stitch. Next, bring the thread back up in the middle of the stitch you just made. Pull the thread all the way through and complete the stitch. Repeat the process of starting each stitch in the middle of the previous stitch. Shorten the stitches when turning corners.

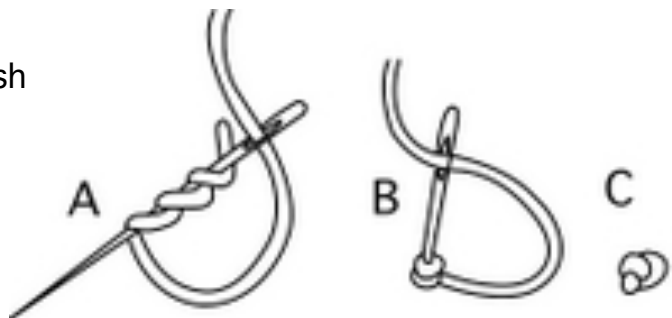
Bring the thread up at A, down at B, and back up at C.

## French Knot

Bring the needle up through the fabric to the front. Hold the thread taut with one hand, and with the other hand wrap it around the needle two or three times. (figure A)

While keeping a tight grasp on the thread, push the needle down through the fabric next to where you first brought it up. (figure B)

The finished stitch looks like a small knot. (figure c)



# Color & Stitch Guide

## Stitches:

Building Outlines: Split

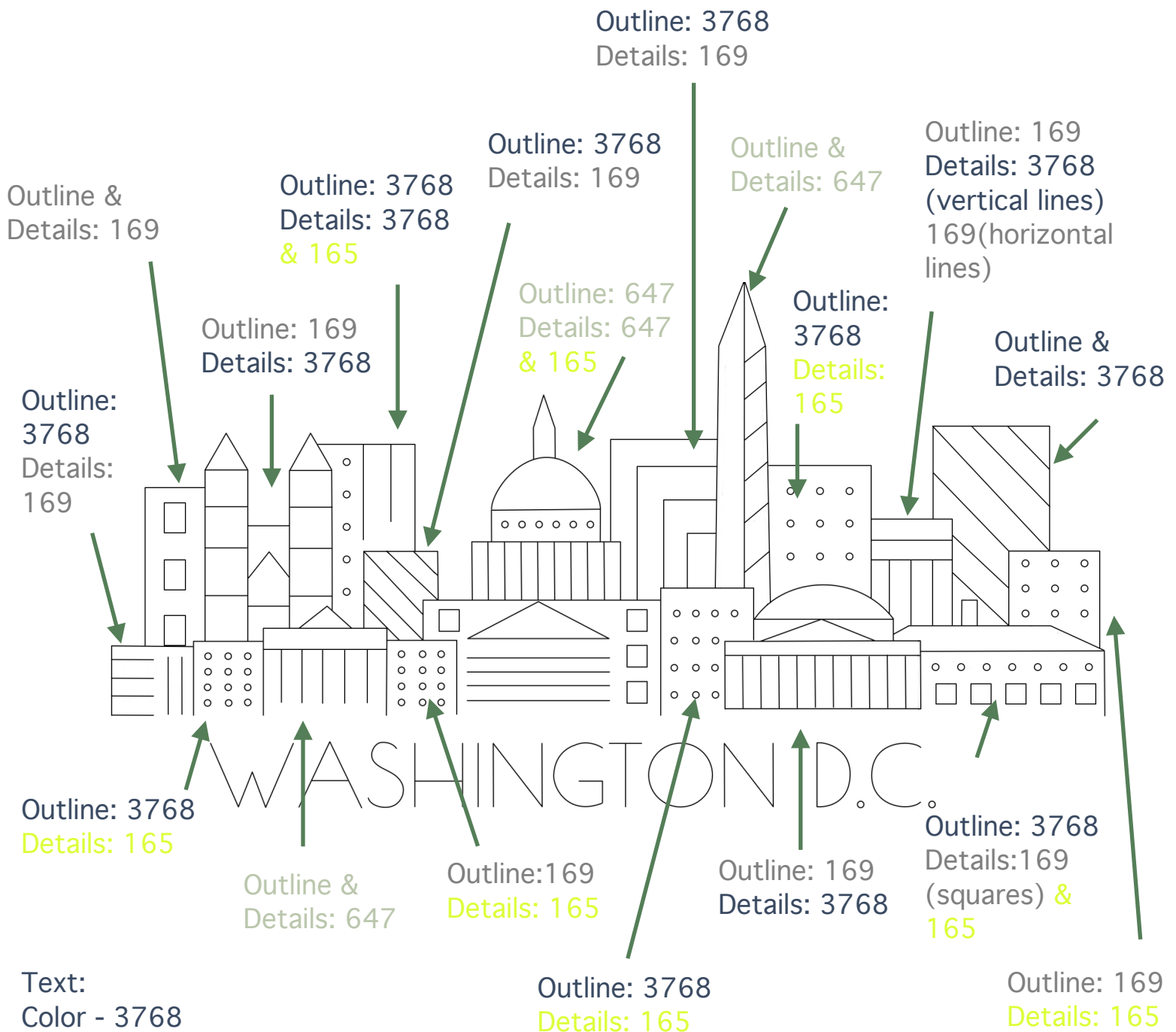
Building Details: Back

Windows: French Knot (1 wrap)

## Embroidery Floss:

DMC threads: 165, 169, 3768, 647

Use 2 strands for all stitches





# Stitching Tips

## Split Stitch - Corners

Create even corners with split stitch by ending the row with a very small stitch. In the photos below, instead of simply adding one more stitch which ends at the corner, add one small stitch just short of the corner, come back up through to “split” the stitch and complete the row with one tiny stitch. This ensures that the texture created by the split stitch doesn’t trail off before reaching the corner.



For sharp corners, start the next side of the corner with a backwards split stitch. To do this, bring the needle up one stitch length away from the corner and then back down at the corner where the last stitch ends. Now, split the stitch as usual and continue stitching.



## Stitch Order - Single or Multiple Threads

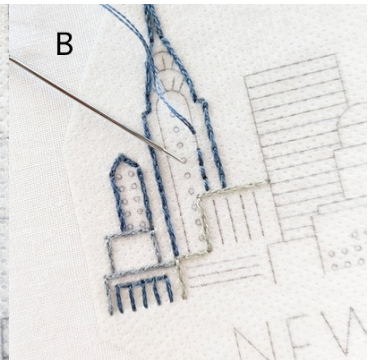
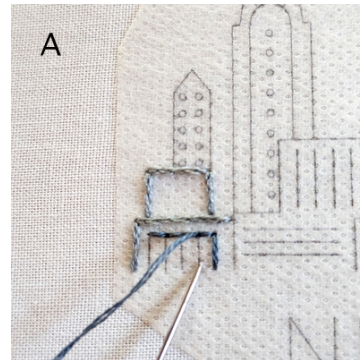
You can stitch this pattern by either using one color thread at a time, or by using multiple thread colors and keeping them loose on the back. If using multiple threads, be careful not to stitch over the thread on the back!



## Back Stitch - Length

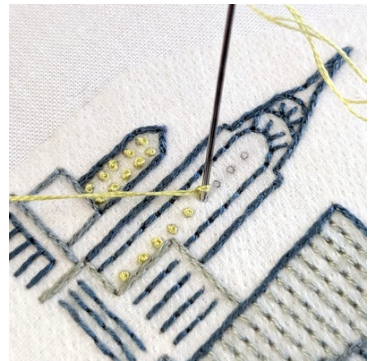
Use the same length back stitch throughout the pattern, or vary the length depending on the length of the line you are stitching.

In example A, I used the short pattern lines to determine the stitch length. In example B, I made small, even stitches.



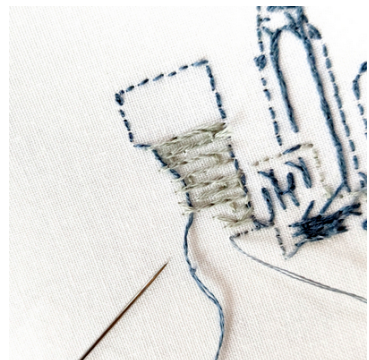
## French Knot Wrap x 1

The french knots in this pattern are small. For this reason, I recommend only wrapping the thread around the needle once when making the knot.



## Weave Threads on Back

When using multiple thread strands, weave the threads through the stitches on the back when transitioning to another part of the pattern. This will avoid long stretches of thread that could snag or pull.



# How to Finish Embroidery: Two Methods

## Frame in the Hoop

1. Using the inner ring of an embroidery hoop, trace a circle on a piece of felt and cut it out.

2. Place the finished embroidery in the hoop, stretch it smooth and tighten the screw. Trim the excess fabric around the edges roughly an inch wider than the hoop.

3. Cut off a long piece of sewing thread. Make sure it's long enough to stitch all the way around the circle. Leaving a 4-5-inch tail at the beginning, stitch around the edge with Running Stitch.

4. When you've stitched all the way around, grasp both ends of the thread and pull until the fabric gathers together. Tie a knot and cut off the excess thread.

5. Position the felt circle over the back and sew it into place with a whip stitch.

6. Continue sewing all the way around and tie off the thread.



## In a Wooden Frame

1. Cut a piece of foam board to fit the inside dimensions of your frame.

2. Position the foam board in the center of your embroidery piece. Make sure it's straight! Flip over so the fabric is on the bottom. Starting with the long sides, fold the extra fabric into the center. If necessary, trim the fabric to leave a roughly 1-4" space in between. Pull the fabric tight and secure with long pins.

3. Repeat this process on the short sides. If the corners are bunching, fold them on a diagonal and trim a bit. The finished fabric-wrapped foam board needs to fit snugly inside the frame so try your best to avoid bulky corners.

4. Secure the fabric using a simple lacing technique. Fold the extra fabric from the short sides out of the way. Insert a needle with a long strand of thread about a 1/4-inch from the edge of the fabric and weave back and forth while pulling the fabric tight. Tie off the thread at the end and start a new piece. Finish the lacing by folding the fabric from the short sides into the middle and lacing it together.

5. Remove the pins and place the embroidery board inside the frame.

6. Replace the frame backing, flip it over, and admire your handiwork!

For a framing tutorial with photos, visit:  
[www.wanderingthreadsembroidery.com/how-to-frame-embroidery/](http://www.wanderingthreadsembroidery.com/how-to-frame-embroidery/)



# Love this pattern and want to stitch more?

You are in luck! Visit [www.wanderingthreadsembroidery.com](http://www.wanderingthreadsembroidery.com) to view the full line of downloadable embroidery patterns.

- More City Skyline Patterns
- National Park Patterns
- 50 Unique Patterns for Each of the 50 U.S States
- 50 U.S. State Flower Patterns
- The Vintage Trailer Pattern Collection
- Travel Map Patterns
- Botanical & Houseplant Patterns
- Holiday Patterns including Christmas Ornaments

In addition to patterns, you will also find a full line of embroidery resources to teach and inspire:

- Step-by-Step Embroidery Stitch Tutorials
- FREE Patterns!
- How-To Tutorials Including Framing, Finishing, Embroidery Letters, and More!

Questions or comments? Send me an email at:  
[amanda@wanderingthreadsembroidery.com](mailto:amanda@wanderingthreadsembroidery.com)

I would love to see your finished pieces! You can find me on Instagram at [www.instagram.com/wanderingthreadsembroidery](http://www.instagram.com/wanderingthreadsembroidery) or on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/wanderingthreadsembroidery](http://www.facebook.com/wanderingthreadsembroidery).

Thanks so much for purchasing the Washington D.C. City Skyline Pattern and happy stitching!

~Amanda