

Mandala Hoop Embroidery Supplies Needed

Tools and Materials

6-inch embroidery hoop (for display)
7-1/2 inch 5/8 inch thick hoop for embroidery (see Hoops below)
Embroidery scissors
Size 3 or 4 Embroidery needle
Hard lead pencil
Circle drawing template (such as Berol RapiDesign R-40)
Sewer's/knitter's sliding stitch gauge
A stitch reference (book or online) for surface stitches (not counted stitches)
1 yard sturdy white or off-white 100% cotton fabric- suggested: 7 oz. cotton duck or twill*
1 yard cotton muslin fabric*
Size 8 pearl cotton (I recommend DMC)- your choice of colors, as few as 3 colors can work,

I suggest at least 6, and as many as 12 for greater variety Cotton sewing thread and needle
Iron and ironing surface

*Fabric amounts allow for different hoop sizes, for doodling, and to make more hoop embroideries. A nine-inch square of each is needed for a six-inch hoop, an eleven-inch square for a 7-1/2 inch hoop.

About Tools and Materials

Hoops. The project is made to fit a 6" hoop. Handheld hoops vary significantly in their ability to keep the fabric taut. If the fabric starts to loosen you can tighten it up, but it shouldn't be a constant battle. A recommended hand-held hoop is German-made of beechwood (see Sources of Supplies). I prefer to draw the 6" circle and use a 7-1/2 inch hoop that is 5/8 inch thick to work the design. See Sources below.

Fabric. Lighter weight fabrics such as Kona cotton, quilting fabric, etc. may be used, however a sturdier fabric will result in less or no buckling. If in doubt, try different types. My preference is a sturdy cotton canvas or twill as listed above. When the fabric remains firm as you work it is easier to focus on the stitching.

Threads. This project was designed to be worked using size 8 pearl cotton for its dimensionality and ease of use. Please note that DMC is preferred over other brands as it tends to be firmer, less "cottony" and makes a well-defined stitch. You may use any thread of your choice, but please note that results may not match the sample project.