

Common Loon

by *Deborah Jesseman*



Threads:

DMC Floss with 1 strand unless otherwise indicated:

310	3756
310S	3799
B5200	3808
498	3810
890	

The Loon is not completely black and white but the throat has a deep greenish tinge, which I wanted to capture as subtly as possible. Since I grew up a 'frugal New Englander' I looked in my thread stash for a 'shiny' dark green to highlight these sections. I experimented with several different combinations and ended up using Gutterman Green 8230 but feel free to see what you have. The DMC green silk I thought was too bright.



Step 1. Trace the Loon Template onto fabric of your choice. I usually use either 100% cotton or a Cotton Satin Fabric. I drew the template with the wing patterns but I learned that, for me, it is easier to trace the outline onto the fabric and embroider the wing pattern as I went along.

Step 2.

Start with the Eye using 1 strand of 498 with a padded satin stitch; using 310 and 1 strand make the pupil with a French Knot; outlin the eye with back stitch using 498.



Step 3.

The beak is next, using a backstitch along the mouth in 310...one row across and a second one from the back to about $\frac{3}{4}$ from the tip. Fill in the beak using long and short stitching in 3799. Add a couple of straight stitches in 310S for the nostril.



Step 4.

Head – fill in where marked around the eye in long/short stitches in 310. Complete the rest of the head (to where marked on the placement illustration) with 310S.



Step 5.

Neck – Fill the neck with long/short stitches in 310, going around the triangle under the chin and up to the neck stripes. Using straight stitches, make the stripes on the triangle and at the base of the neck. Fill in between the black stripes with straight stitches in 3756.



Step 6.

Top of breast – fill in this section with long/short stitches in 890. On top of this, use the 310S and green shiny Gutterman thread to make highlights, as much or little as is necessary to look like black/green velvet.



Step 7.

Lower front – fill in the front section with B5200 in long/short stitches, alternating with black stripes as per the template.



Step 8. Blend in 3799 to the end of this section, as per the template.



Step 9.

Back Feathers – Outline tiny squares with B5200 in running stitches, I used one on each side. I had to keep reminding myself that nature is not perfect so the squares did not need to be exact or uniform, but didn't always succeed. Using long and short stitches in 310, fill in between the squares for the back feathers. Complete the back by filling the squares with satin stitches using B5200.



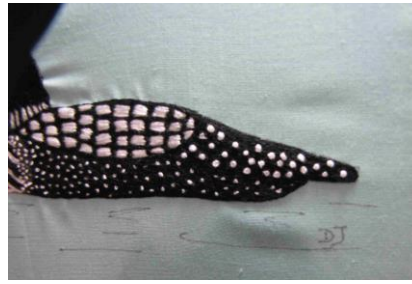
Step 10.

Bottom feathers – fill in the bottom section with 310 in long and short stitches. Complete the section with French Knots across the wing, using in B5200 with 1 strand and 2 twists. Start at the curve of the stripe, making the knots dense at this section and gradually spacing them out. Do the same with the bottom tail feathers. These are worked separately to achieve a 'winged' look.

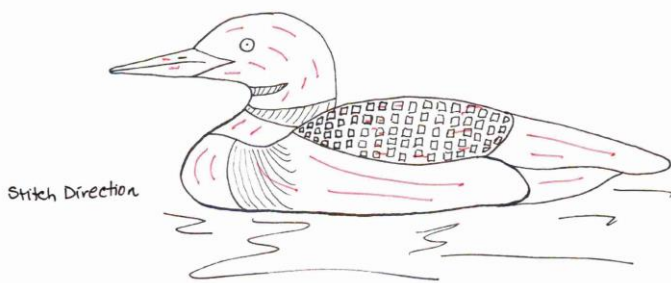


Step 11.

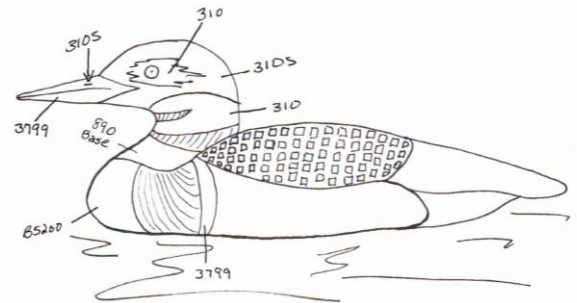
Top Tail Feathers – fill in the tail section with 310 in long and short stitches. Complete the section with French Knots in B5200 using 1 strand and 4 twists, spacing them out more as you move toward the tail.



Step 12. Finishing. Outline the back, tail and bottom feathers with back stitches in 3799 and highlight the pond water with straight stitches using 1 strand of 3808 and 1 strand of 3810 together.



Some Color designations



Loon Template

