



MINI CHALLENGE 2026
by Penny Dowdell

AURORA BOREALIS

This is such a bucket list thing for me! The natural phenomenon of the Aurora Borealis is so beautiful. We're achieving it in embroidery form by gradually building up the shades of teal and turquoise.



THE PATTERN

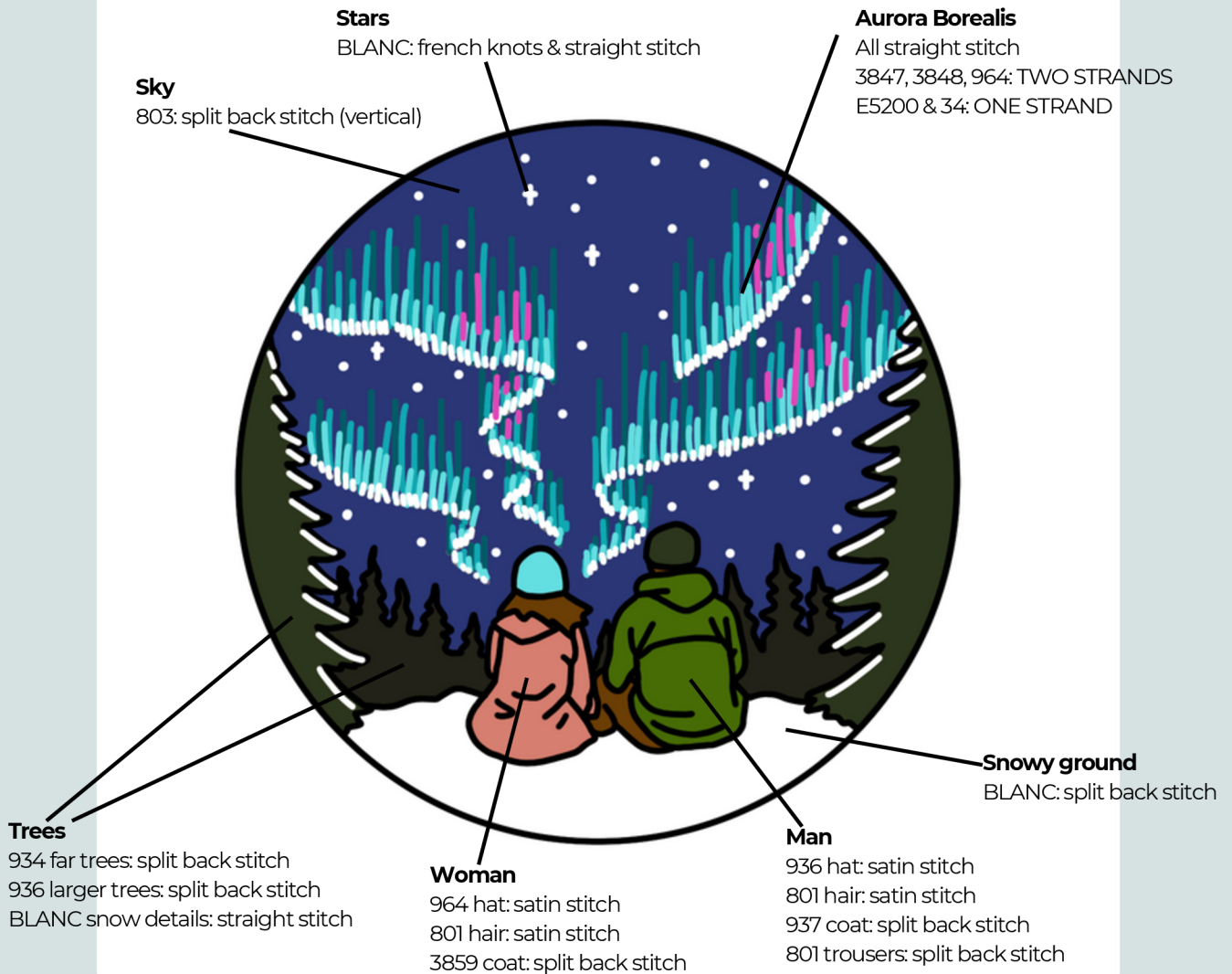
This pattern, when printed onto A4 paper, will fit a 3" hoop.

Stitch the black lines in black perle thread, size 12.

Stitch the grey lines in WHITE embroidery thread, two strands.



STITCH GUIDE



DMC Colour Codes:

- DMC 803 (dark blue)
- DMC 934 (very dark green)
- DMC 936 (dark green)
- DMC 937 (forest green)
- DMC 801 (dark brown)
- DMC 3859 (pink)
- DMC 3847 (teal)
- DMC 3848 (mid teal)
- DMC 964 (turquoise)
- DMC BLANC (white)
- DMC E5200 (sparkly white)
- DMC 34 (fuchsia)

Unless otherwise stated, stitch with THREE strands of thread.



Stitch the Aurora lines in white. Fill the sky with vertical lines of dark blue split back stitch.



Build up the Aurora gradually. Start with the darkest shade of teal, and use long straight stitches of varying vertical lengths.



As you add each lighter shade, make the stitches shorter in length. Stitch over the original white guides.



Finish with the sparkly white, or just use regular white. Add a few white straight stitches over the others.



Finally, add a few fuchsia hints using only one strand of thread.



Add the extra white details: french knot and straight stitch stars, and straight stitch snow on the trees.



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I hope you enjoyed stitching this pattern!

I'd love to see your projects! Tag me @pennydowdell on Instagram, or use the hashtag #pennysabcchallenge!

