



MINI CHALLENGE 2026
by Penny Dowdell

HOT AIR BALLOON

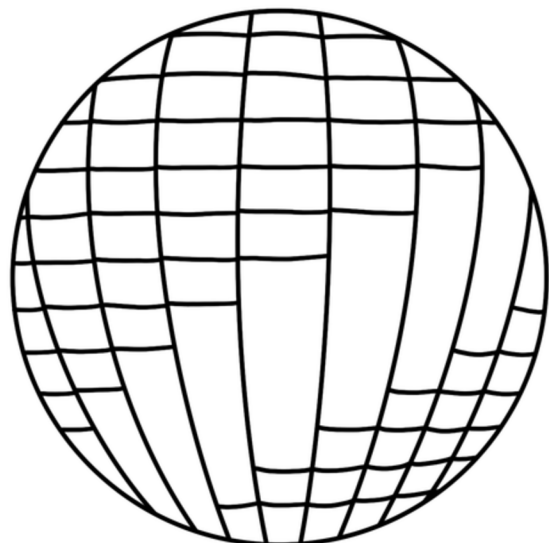
Balloons! These ethereal, magical flying machines. This week things are getting extremely CUTE as we transform an embroidery hoop into a miniature balloon! I hope you enjoy this pattern, even if it's a little different from my usual style!



THE PATTERN

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

This week we're not going to stitch outlines. But it's important to still stitch the hoop into the back first (see the handbook for more info)





Completely stitched using satin stitch, with 3 strands of thread.

DMC Colour Codes:

- DMC 3830 (red)
- DMC 977 (orange)
- DMC 744 (yellow)
- DMC 3816 (green)
- DMC 160 (blue)
- DMC 32 (purple)
- DMC 3865 (almost white)



Split back stitch around the edge with the white thread, drawing in the excess fabric to the back as you stitch.



As you add each colour, stitch over the white split back stitch and cover it completely.



After all the stitching is complete, add the miniature basket with a few strands of white thread, secured at the back of the hoop.

I used basket 'A' from this seller on Etsy:
<https://11nq.com/9v1iy9s> (I removed the handles by just pulling them off)



Finally, add some tiny felt triangles around the basket using craft glue.

You can choose if you prefer to keep the outer hoop on or off for the finished effect!



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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!